

God Makes Everyone Perfect

Lesson: Celebrating Special Needs

Grades 1-3 Lesson



Goal:

Students will learn about the amazing potential for people with special needs and disabilities and the importance of respecting those who are different from us.

Lesson:

God makes each person special—a unique creation whom He planned from the beginning of time. God does not make mistakes. He made everyone perfect! In our world, it is so important that we learn to respect the dignity of every human person, no matter our differences. Unfortunately, people with disabilities experience a great amount of discrimination, including bullying. If we cannot recognize their dignity, then we need to change our perspective and recognize the incredible lives of those around us. People with disabilities deserve the same love and support as everyone else. God has a special plan for every single person, no matter what our abilities.

Watch or Read:

You are Special tells the story of a little boy made of wood who is treated like an outcast until someone tells him to go visit the man who made him, who loves him just the way he is!

Discussion:

Who is Punchinello?

Why was he given gray dots?

Who were given gold stars?

How did Punchinello feel once he received all of the gray dots?

What did the Wemmick who had no stickers tell him to do?

Who is Eli the Wood-carver?

What did Eli tell Punchinello?

Reinforce the message that, because God makes each one of us and creates us for a reason, he gives us all of the gifts that we will need to fulfill our purpose in this life. If someone is born with a disability or a special need, or, like different like Punchinello, it must mean that God's plan for that person will use that special need and create something wonderful out of it!

Ask students if they know anyone with any special needs (in a wheelchair, Down syndrome, autism, blind, uses a cane). Ask them what great things that person can do, even with their special need. Reinforce the gifts of love and friendship that everyone can share, each in their own special way!

Watch:

Sesame Street and Autism

Sesame Street: Lauren Goes to School

Discussion:

What is autism? Do you look different if you have it?

Can you be friends with someone with autism?

What is special about Lauren? What does she do in school that is different?

Can any of Lauren's classmates be her friends too?

How can you help someone with autism or another special need know that he or she was made special by God?

Activity:

Learn a tiny bit of what it's like to have a special need or a disability:

- Have students draw a self-portrait using his or her non-dominant hand.
- Have students close their eyes and be very quiet for 30 seconds. Make different sounds or play them from a computer, like ringing a bell, knocking on a door, or barking like a dog. Have them open their eyes and ask them about the different things that they heard.

Sing and Dance:

Sing along with Will.i.am's "What I Am" with the Sesame Street Cast

Further Action:

Join in the fundraising opportunity to benefit Children's Rehabilitation Institute of TeletonUSA, an organization that offers free services to any child with neurological and musculoskeletal disabilities. Offering envelopes will be sent to all schools for distribution to families. Find out more at: <http://teletonusa.org/>

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for creating each of us unique and special.

Help me to be kind to people who are different from me.

Help me to welcome new friends and never leave anyone out.

Amen.

