

God Makes Everyone Perfect
Lesson: Celebrating Special Needs
Grades PK, TK and Kindergarten 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.

Sing and Dance:

This Little Light of Mine

Watch or Read:

The Crippled Lamb tells the story of a little lamb born with a disability who didn't know what his purpose was until one night he stumbled into a barn and found a newborn baby who needed a cozy wool blanket to keep him warm!

Discussion:

What was special about Josh? Did he think his specialness was good or bad?

How was Josh treated by other lambs and sheep?

Who did Josh find in the barn? What did the baby need?

What did Josh give to the baby?

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, like Josh, 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: We're Amazing 1, 2, 3

Discussion:

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

Can you be friends with someone with autism?

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

Activity:

No one will never know exactly what it feels like to have a disability or a special need if born without one. But, we can do certain activities to learn a little bit. As time allows, students can do one or both of the following activities:

- 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.

Further Learning:

If the class is interested in this topic, another good resource book is: *We'll Paint the Octopus Red* – 6 year old Emma is excited to meet her baby brother who has Down Syndrome and learns there is nothing he can't do

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1890627062?ref_=cm_lmf_tit_1

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.

