

CELEBRATING SPECIAL NEEDS

GRADES 1-3- Lesson II

Goal:

Students will learn about the importance of respecting those who are different from us. Students will learn about recognizing that every person is unique and made in the image of God, loved for who they are, and their physical appearance or abilities cannot change that.

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. Every person is made in the image of God but many people are treated like they are not. Unfortunately, people with disabilities experience a great amount of discrimination, including bullying. When we cannot recognize their dignity as children of God, 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 are.

Bible Story:

[Creation of the World](#)



Love, to be real,
it must cost
- it must hurt
- it must empty us
of self

Discuss:

- What was the most special creature that God created? A: humans
- Who does God make humans in the image of? A: God

Ask students to repeat this verse after you:

So God created human beings in his image.

In the image of God he created them.

He created them male and female.

God blessed them and said, “Have many children and grow in number.

Fill the earth and be its master.

Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky.

Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth.

- God continues to create new human beings and He makes them perfectly unique. He never makes mistakes.

Ask students to give examples of things that make them special. Things like our interests and our hair color make us different. There are also differences called disabilities and they can come in many different forms. Ask students if they know anyone with a disability. Ask students what types of disabilities they know about.

Some disabilities are physical which can be *missing an arm or leg, having a crippled limb, or being in a wheelchair.*

Some disabilities are in the mind like *autism or depression.*

No matter what abilities a person has they are always made in the image of God just like everyone else. We are all made in the image of God and that gives us dignity which means our lives should be honored and respected. People with disabilities are often treated like they don't have dignity and that leads to bullying and unfriendliness. God doesn't make mistakes and people with disabilities were made exactly how He wanted them to be.

Watch:

[The Boy and the Dog](#)

Discussion:

- Why does Nick like the dog at first but then decide he doesn't because of its disability?
- How does Nick treat the dog once he realizes it's disabled?
- How should Nick have treated the dog when he saw its disability?
- When does Nick start to like the dog again?
- What do we learn about Nick when he gets up to play with the dog?
- Do you think maybe other kids are unkind to Nick because of his disability? Could that have caused him to show unkindness to the dog?

Watch:

[Nick has Autism](#)

Activity:

1. [Go to this link](#)
2. Scroll almost to the bottom to "Activity Workbooks" and click your grade
3. For each student print the activity sheets
 - a. For grades K-1 pages 3, 4, 6, 8, 13
 - b. For grades 2-3 pages 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

Discussion:

Ask students to recap what they learned about disability today and how people with disabilities should be treated. What does it mean to have dignity? Disabled people have the same dignity as everybody else because we are all made in the image of God.

Prayer: *In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*

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.