

CELEBRATING SPECIAL NEEDS

GRADES PK-K – Lesson 1

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. God has a special plan for every single person, no matter what our abilities are.

As Christians, it is important that we learn to respect the dignity of every human person, as made in the image and likeness of God.

Unfortunately, people with disabilities are often treated poorly by others, and may experience discrimination and bullying. God invites each of us to recognize the incredible gift and dignity of every person, no matter their abilities. Rather than rejecting or being mean to those who are different than us, we can with love and support. We all have unique gifts and struggles, which offer opportunities to help each other.



If you only knew
what I have
in my heart.

-St. Margaret of Castello.

Watch/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. God does not make mistakes! If someone is born with a disability or a special need, like Josh, God's plan for that person will still create something wonderful!

Ask students if they know anyone with any special needs (in a wheelchair, Down syndrome, autism, blind, uses a cane). How does that person use their gifts? What do you have in common with them? Ask them to think of a time someone different from them made them smile or feel loved. Reinforce the gifts of love, joy, and friendship that everyone can share, each in their own special way! Tell the students about how they, and everyone, were created by God and are one-of-a-kind.

Activity:

- God made each of us special! Have the students form a circle and take turns coming up with a fun and unique action. Have the rest of the group join in for each action while saying the person's name who created it. Repeat the actions and names until everyone has gone. Explain that this is one way we can see how special each person is and the beauty of our differences!

Prayer:

*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.