

# CELEBRATING SPECIAL NEEDS

## GRADES 4-6 – Lesson 2

**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.



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

**Bible Story:** Read [Genesis 1:27-30](#)

**Discuss:** *Focus on Verse 27*

- On the sixth day of creation, God created humans, the greatest of his creations. Why were humans the greatest? *Answer: Made in His image and likeness*

- God creates each one of us uniquely and perfectly as He wants us. God doesn't make mistakes!
- Being made in the image of God means that each one of us has dignity. Does anyone know what dignity means? *Answer: Dignity is about understanding that each of us is made in God's image. Every person has an innate human dignity no one can take away. Human dignity is given freely to all human beings: whether saint or sinner, imprisoned or freed, powerful or weak.*
- Does anyone know what a disability is? Does anyone know someone with a disability? If so, what are they?
- Disabilities can come in different forms: physical or mental. Physical disabilities include missing an arm or leg, having a crippled limb, being in a wheelchair, etc. Mental disabilities are in the mind like autism, depression, or Asperger's Syndrome.
- Society often views disabled people as less than which leads to bullying or being left out of social groups. If each person is made in the image of God how should all disabled people be treated?

**Watch:** [Nick Vujicic Motivational Speech](#)

### Activity:

- What are some stereotypes that people often have about people with disabilities?
- How does Nick confront those stereotypes?
- What can we learn from Nick's refusal to give up?
- What would you think of Nick if you saw him on the street? Would your original judgments be correct?
- Is Nick's life any less valuable than anyone else's? Why would some people say that?
- How would you respond to someone who thinks disabled people have less value? How can we talk to others about how we are each made in God's image?

**Watch:** [Disabilities: How to Cope With Them & Support Others](#)

### Discussion:

- What are some polite ways to ask someone about their disability? If you ask, make sure it is a person who you are getting to know or you are friends with, not a stranger.
  - When you find out you should ask if there are any ways you can assist them.
- When you talk with someone about their disability make sure it's in a neutral tone.
  - Don't get too excited and ask invasive, inappropriate questions.
  - Also, don't act disgusted or say something like "I'm glad I don't have that."

### 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 4-5 pages 10 (read out loud), 11, 12
  - b. For grades 6-8 pages 11 (read out loud), 12, 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:

*Loving God,  
you teach us that the power of the Holy Spirit means more than any human limitation or weakness.  
Through surrender to your will, may we bear witness to the truth  
that the source of our human dignity  
is not the outward condition of the body, but our likeness to the Creator.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

*Lesson adapted from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace*