

# CELEBRATING SPECIAL NEEDS

## GRADES PK-K – 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:** [Creation of the World](#)

### Discuss:

- What was the most special creature that God created? *Answer: Humans*
- Who does God make humans in the image of? *Answer: 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*.
- People with disabilities are made in the image of God just like everyone else. Again, God makes everyone unique and never makes mistakes. Unfortunately, many people with disabilities are treated with unkindness because of their disabilities but it is our job as Christians to treat them like the children of God they are.

**Watch:** [Sesame Street - Meet Julia](#)

**Discussion:**

- What did you learn about autism? How did Julia's autism affect some of the activities?
  - She was more sensitive about certain things like the feeling of paint on her fingers and hearing loud noises.
  - Sometimes she took longer to respond to things
  - She liked to flap her arms.
  - She was very good at painting, etc.

- What were ways that Julia was like Elmo, Abby, and Big Bird?
  - She liked to play and paint.
  - She likes to have fun and make friends.
- It's important to be friendly and kind to those different from you even if you don't understand the differences. Elmo, Abby, and Big Bird love being friends with Julia! How would Julia feel if they were mean or unfriendly to her because she is different?
- When you meet someone different than you what should you do? (make friends, learn about your differences, etc.)

### Activity:

Have students draw a picture of themselves holding hands with someone who is different than them. Tell students to draw different activities around them that they would both like to do together (football, dancing, drawing, etc.)

**Sing and Dance:** [The Butterfly Song](#)

### 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.*