



You Are Special

LESSON 4

I Am God's Child



THEME:

God made us the way we are, so we should treat each other like we are all God's masterpieces.



BIG IDEA FROM BOOK:

God loves us just the way we are, so we should love others in the same manner.



BIG IDEA FROM LESSON:

My words can hurt; we need to treat people like God would treat them.



KEY VERSE:

GALATIANS 3:26

You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.



KEY VERSE FOR PRESCHOOL:

GALATIANS 3:26

I am a child of God.

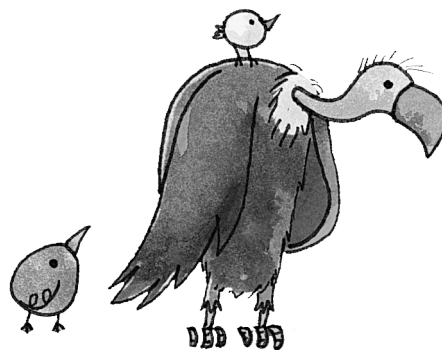


LESSON OUTLINE:

WELCOME: Coloring Sheet	5 minutes
STORY: Read <i>The Tallest of the Smalls</i>	10 minutes
VERSE: Galatians 3:26	5 minutes
SONGS: "I Am Special" and "God Made Me Special"	5 minutes
LESSON: My Words Can Hurt	10 minutes
CRAFT: I'm Important	10 minutes
GAME: Musical Blessings	5 minutes
ACTIVITY: All of Me.	5 minutes

Materials Needed:

- WELCOME: Coloring sheet (1 per child), crayons
- STORY: Copy of book *The Tallest of Smalls*
- VERSE: A lightweight ball, such as a beach ball
- SONGS: Songs downloaded to a media player with portable speakers
- LESSON: Paper, any color (1 piece per child)
- CRAFT: Puzzle piece template, cardstock (1 sheet per child), and crayons
- GAME: Chairs and music





WELCOME

5 MINUTES**Materials Needed:**

- Coloring sheet (1 per child)
- Crayons

As children enter the classroom, offer them a coloring sheet and crayons while they wait for friends to arrive. Greet each child.



STORY

10 MINUTES**Materials Needed:**

- Copy of book *The Tallest of Smalls*.

Before reading the story, explain or demonstrate the concept of stilts. Make sure the children understand that stilts make you seem taller than you really are.

Read the book *The Tallest of Smalls*.

Comprehension Ideas:

1. After reading “tall stilts upon which a Stiltvillian can strut,” demonstrate strutting. Have the students get up and strut around the room.
2. After reading “never get picked,” ask how they think it might feel to never get picked.
3. On the page where Ollie is up on stilts, demonstrate “looking down your nose” and have the students try it. Do the same with “smirked.”

After finishing the book, ask:

How did Ollie feel about himself before he was given stilts? (*common, which means “not special”; dull, which means “boring”; not as cool as the people with stilts*)

When Ollie was given stilts, the book says, “He knew that he mattered.” Was it



really the stilts that made Ollie matter? *(no)* As a matter of fact, what happened when Ollie was up on the stilts? *(the birds landed on him and he couldn't stay balanced, so he fell)*

Jesus was not one of the people handing out stilts in Stiltsville. In fact, he told Ollie, "Keep your feet on the ground, choose low over high." What did Jesus tell Ollie to help him know he mattered, even without stilts? *(allow time for answers, then go back a page from the end and reread, "You're precious, my Ollie, not too short or too small; I made you, remember, you're mine after all.")* Doesn't that feel good to hear? Jesus made us just the way he wanted us to be! We should always remember what it says in our verse.

You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

—GALATIANS 3:26

What does this verse tell us we have to do to be God's child? Give children a minute to make a few guesses. Then say, Those are good guesses, but here's the great news: we don't have to do anything! We don't have to walk on stilts. We don't have to look a certain way, be a certain height, or have a certain skill. We just have to have faith in Jesus Christ. It's Jesus that makes it possible to be God's child.

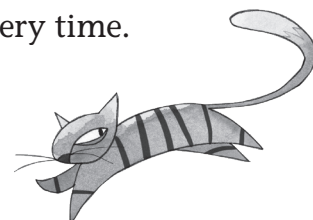
VERSE

5 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- A lightweight ball, such as a beach ball

Separate the students into two teams. Say, **Galatians 3:26** and toss the ball to one of the teams. They say the first word of the verse as they toss it to the other team. The second team says the next word as they toss it back to the first team. If a team doesn't know the word, the other team gets a point and the game starts over. Start with a different team each time so they don't get the same word every time.





SONGS

5 MINUTES

I Am Special

(to the tune of "Frère Jacques")

I am special *(point to yourself)*

I am special

Don't you see? *(make binoculars with your fingers)*

Don't you see?

Someone very special *(hold hands out to sides, palms up)*

Someone very special

'Cause God *(point up)* made me *(point to self)*

God made me!

God Made Me Special

Sagebrush Kids

I know that I am special

I know because

God made me special

Because of his great love.

He made my arms and legs

So I could swim and run

I'll swim, swim, swim

And run, run, run

Of me, God made just one!

I know that I am special

I know because

God made me special

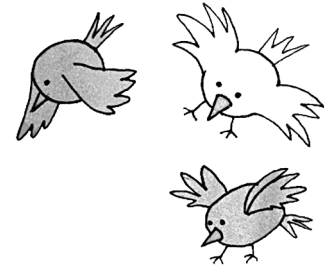
Because of his great love.





He made me with a mouth
So I could laugh and sing
Ha ha ha, la la la
I've been specially made by him!

I know that I am special
I know because
God made me special
Because of his great love.



LESSON: MY WORDS CAN HURT

10 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Paper, any color (1 piece per child)

Say, **In the story we read today, the people of Stiltsville made Ollie feel left out by not giving him stilts, and they made him feel embarrassed when he fell. But Jesus came along and comforted and encouraged Ollie with his words. The words we use when we talk to people can help them, but sometimes they might hurt them.**

Distribute one piece of paper to each student.

Say, **We are going to see what happens when we don't say kind things to people.**

Say, **I would like everyone to hold their paper in their hands. Now say something mean to it. Demonstrate by saying, "I don't like your shape! You're such a rectangle!" Now let's crumble it up a bit. Say another mean thing to your paper. Let's crumble it up some more.**

Continue this until their papers are completely crumbled up. They can even step on them.

After everyone's paper is in a tight wad, act like you feel bad for what you have done to your paper. Start to open your paper back up. Say things like, **Oh no! What have I done? I'm so sorry!** and encourage the students to do the same to their papers. Say, **Try to flatten out your paper and make it look like it did when you first got it.**



Can you do it? They will tell you that it can't be done. Say, **Maybe we should tell it that we are really, really, really sorry and we will never do it again?** Continue to try to flatten it out and make it new. After a few more tries, admit that it can't be done.

Say, **When we say mean things to people, this is what we are doing to one of God's masterpieces. We make marks and dents that can never be taken back. We can apologize and try to make things better, but we can never undo the damage we have done. God wants us to love each other just like he loves us. He has made each one of us in a special way, and we need each other.**

CRAFT: I'M IMPORTANT

10 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Puzzle piece template
- Cardstock (1 sheet per child)
- Crayons

Preparation:

- Print puzzle piece template on cardstock. Cut it out.

Distribute copies of the puzzle piece. Ask the students to write their names in the middle of the piece. Depending on the age of the class, you may need to write it for them. Ask them to decorate their piece with all of their favorite things. Have them draw their favorite food, toy, animal, book, color, etc. Once they are finished, talk about how each one is different. Assemble the puzzle on the floor and say, **Even though each one is so different and unique, they look beautiful when they are all put together!**



GAME: MUSICAL BLESSINGS

5 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Chairs
- Music

Play a standard game of Musical Chairs but with this slight variation: each time a child is “out,” everyone must give that child a compliment.

Most students will want to play Musical Blessings again. Try to make it harder by not letting them repeat a compliment!

ACTIVITY: ALL OF ME

5 MINUTES

My hands are for clapping (*clap*)

My arms can hug tight (*hug yourself*)

My fingers can snap (*snap fingers*)

Or turn off the light (*mime turning light off*)

My legs are for jumping (*jump*)

My eyes help me see (*point to eyes*)

This is my body (*hands up*)

I love ALL of me! (*twirl*)





PUZZLE PIECE TEMPLATE

