



You Are Special

LESSON 1

I Am God's Friend



THEME:

You are special



BIG IDEA FROM BOOK:

God made me special, and I can trust what God
says about me more than what others say.



BIG IDEA FROM LESSON:

Knowing God is my friend helps me when my feelings get hurt.



KEY VERSE:

ROMANS 5:11

Now we are...very happy. . . .
Through Jesus we are now God's friends.



KEY VERSE FOR PRESCHOOL:

ROMANS 5:11

We are God's friends.

LESSON OUTLINE:

WELCOME: Coloring Sheet	5 minutes
STORY: Read <i>You Are Special</i>	10 minutes
SONGS: “I Am Special” and “God Made Me Special”	5 minutes
LESSON: We Are God’s Friends	10 minutes
VERSE: Romans 5:11	5 minutes
CRAFT: You Rock!	10 minutes
GAME: Sticker Relay	5 minutes
ACTIVITY: God Thinks I’m Special	5 minutes

Materials Needed:

- WELCOME: Coloring sheet (1 per child), crayons
- STORY: Copy of book *You Are Special*
- SONGS: Songs downloaded to a media player with portable speakers
- LESSON: 4 large round stickers, 4 paper circles the same size and color as the stickers, and a Bible
- VERSE: 24 Styrofoam cups and a black marker
- CRAFT: Medium-size rocks (1 per child), markers, paint and paintbrushes
- GAME: 2 identical sheets of stickers, 2 pieces of paper, and tape
- ACTIVITY: Star template, yellow paper, tape, and markers



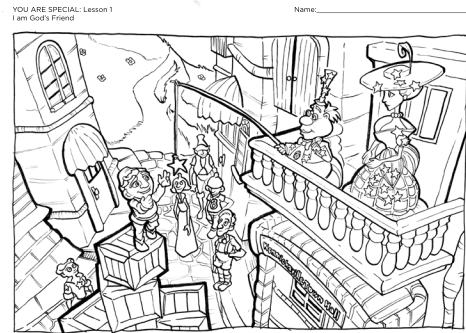
WELCOME

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 and start talking about the things that make them special.



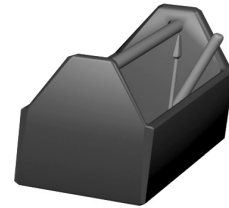
STORY

10 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Copy of book *You Are Special*

Read the book *You Are Special*.



Before reading, ask children to think about what makes them special. Accept and encourage answers such as, “I am smart,” “I am brave,” and “I am kind,” and redirect answers such as, “I have a pretty dress,” or “My hair is curly.”

Page-by-Page Comprehension Ideas

1. What kind of people live in Wemmicksville? Do you think this is a true story? Why do you think Eli was sad?
2. Why did the Wemmicks give some people gold stars and others gray dots? How do you think they decided which one to give?
3. Why do you think Punchinello always had the most gray dots?
4. (After “He tried to reach the star. Whoops!”) What do you think happened next?
5. If you were a Wemmick, what would you have done when Punchinello fell? (Hopefully, they’ll say they would have helped him.)
6. Why didn’t stickers stick to Lucia?

7. (No question)
8. Who created you? Do you think he knows your name?
9. (No question)
10. (No question)
11. How did Punchinello lose his gray dots? Do you think he is happier now?

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 to heaven*) 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

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: WE ARE GOD'S FRIENDS

10 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- 4 large round stickers
- 4 paper circles, the same size and color as stickers
- Bible

Bring up 2 leaders. Introduce them to the class by adding “-inello” or “-nello” to their names, such as, “This is Joshinello and Lisanello.”

PRESCHOOL VARIATION

Use 2 dolls, and modify the dolls' names by adding “-inello” or “-nello” to their names.

Turn to the first leader, and as you teach the lesson, stick a sticker on him or her when directed. Use his or her pretend name.

Say to the class, **Today's lesson is about two pretend children, Joshinello and Lisanello. Joshinello is sad.** Ask the leader to look sad. **Joshinello's friend is playing with someone else right now, so he thinks his friend doesn't like him anymore.**

Stick a sticker on the leader. **Joshinello was playing with a toy, and when he wasn't looking, someone came and started playing with it, so Joshinello thought he was being mean to him.** Stick a sticker on the leader. **Then Joshinello's mom reminded him that he needed to pick up his Lego blocks, and he stomped around and said, "I can't do anything right!"** Have your leader stomp, and stick another sticker on him, in a funny place such as the ear or the nose. **Later, when Joshinello's dad said he'd have to wait until after dinner to play a game with him, Joshinello got very, very sad** (tell your leader to rub his eyes like he's crying) **because he wished his dad would pay attention to him right then!** Stick another sticker on the leader, in another funny place. **Joshinello! You have so many stickers on you! Class, why did all these stickers stick to Joshinello?** (*He got his feelings hurt.*) Joshinello seems to get his feelings hurt pretty easily, doesn't he? Do you think that every time your friend plays with someone else, it means they don't like you anymore? (*NO!*) Do you think that if someone plays with a toy you were playing with, they're always being mean? (*NO!*) Do you think if your mom has to remind you to clean up, it means you are a bad kid? (*NO!*) What about if your dad says you have to wait—does that mean he doesn't want to play with you? (*NO!*)

Turn to your other leader. As you teach this part of the lesson, act like you are sticking a paper circle on your leader when directed, and allow it to fall to the ground. Use his or her pretend name.

Say to the class, **Well, let me tell you about Lisanello here. Lisanello feels special.** Ask the leader to look happy. **Lisanello knows something that Joshinello doesn't seem to remember. Lisanello knows who made her. Do you know who made Lisanello?** (*GOD!*) **When Lisanello wants to know what God thinks of her, she reads God's book. What is God's book?** (*The Bible*) Pick up a Bible, open it, and read the adapted version of today's verse. **In the Bible, Lisanello reads:**

ROMANS 5:11

Now we are...very happy. . . . Through Jesus we are now God's friends.

So, Lisanello knows she can be happy. Why? (*Because she is God's friend.*) **When you have God for your friend, do you think he helps you not to feel lonely?** (*Yes.*) Press a paper circle on the leader, and let it fall to the ground. **When you are friends with God, does that make you want to be kind and share with your friends?** (*Yes.*) Press a paper circle on the leader. **When God is your friend, does he help you obey your mom, even when you don't feel like it?** (*Yes.*) Press a paper circle on the leader. **When you and God are friends, does he make you feel loved and special?** (*Yes.*) Press a paper circle on the leader. **So,** (hug your first leader with the stickers stuck on him) **if you don't want to have those hurt feelings stick to you, remember what the Bible tells us. Let's say it together: Romans 5:11, Now we are very happy. Through Jesus we are now God's friends.** Pick up the paper circles and drop them over your second leader to demonstrate again that they don't stick.

VERSE

5 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- 24 Styrofoam cups
- Black marker

Preparation:

- Turn the cups upside down and write the words of the verse on the band at the lip of the cup, one word per cup. Make two sets.

PRESCHOOL VARIATION

Create two sets of the following cups (including both the words and the pictures):

- Cup 1: We (draw a few smiling faces)
- Cup 2: are (write the letter R)
- Cup 3: for God's (draw a throne)
- Cup 4: friends (draw 2 stick figures holding hands)





Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a set of cups. See which team can stack their cups in the right order first.

CRAFT: YOU ROCK!

10 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Medium-size rocks (1 per child)
- Markers, paint and paintbrushes

Give each child a rock. Have the kids paint or write with markers the words, “You Rock!” on them. Allow them to decorate the rocks with paint.

PRESCHOOL VARIATION

Write “You Rock!” on the rocks ahead of time. Have the children paint the rocks.

If time allows, go outside and have the children hide the rocks around the church. Tell them that days from now, or weeks from now, someone will find their rock and it will bless them!

Alternate Option: Tell the children to give the rock to someone and tell that person God loves them and made them special. Explain how this is a way to bless someone else.

GAME: STICKER RELAY

5 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- 2 identical sheets of stickers
- 2 pieces of paper
- Tape

**Preparation:**

- Tape 2 pieces of paper on the wall at one end of the room.
- Do a quick review of what the stickers meant in the book *You Are Special*. Divide the class into two teams. Give the first person in each line a sheet of stickers. They will run to the other end of the room, peel off a sticker, and put it on the paper. Then they will run back and give the sheet of stickers to the next person in line. The first team to get all their stickers on their paper is the winner.

ACTIVITY: GOD THINKS I'M SPECIAL**5 MINUTES****Materials Needed:**

- Star template
- Yellow paper
- Tape
- Markers

Preparation:

- Using the star template, cut out several stars for each child.
- As a wrap-up activity, have the children write (or dictate to a helper) what makes them special in God's eyes. Put one attribute on each star. Tape the star on the front of the child's shirt. Hopefully when the parents arrive, each child will be covered in stars!

STAR TEMPLATE

