

Lesson 9

God Made Us Special

Bible Basis: Genesis 1:27-30; Psalm 139:13-16

Lesson Focus: God made us special.

Where Learning Happens



Set up areas for play before children arrive.

Bible Step

Talk Time

■ *Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids*—Photo Poster 6

Bible Story Time

Genesis 1:27-30; Psalm 139:13-16

Bible Review Step

Bible Story Review Time

■ *Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids*—Photo Poster 6, Story Card 9

Music Time

“GOD MADE ME SPECIAL”

■ *Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids*—CD, CD player

Craft Step



“I Am Special”

■ Drawing paper, washable markers, foam meat trays, dishpan with soapy water, paint shirts; *optional*: craft smock for teacher

■ *Starting Steps* for Lesson 9 for Goodbye Time



This symbol appears whenever preparation takes more than five minutes. A list of classroom supplies for the quarter is included on page 5.

Teacher Devotional

Read Genesis 1:27-30 and Psalm 139:13-16. These verses emphasize that God made people according to a special plan. People were made in the image of God.

Psalm 139:16 tells us that God knew us before we were even formed. We truly are God’s special creation. Pray for the children in your class that they will understand that God made them, and that He sees them as something special.

Take some time to remind yourself of your incredible value in God’s eyes. Thank God, your Creator, for His special plan in making you and for His great love for you.

Understanding the Bible

What does it mean to be made in God’s image? Some think we are in the image of the all-knowing God because we have high mental abilities. Others say we reflect God’s image because we can behave morally, as God always does. Still others believe we are in God’s image because we rule over creation, just as God rules over everything.

The image of God in humans was defaced through sin. But Genesis 9:6 and James 3:9 suggest that all people still bear God’s image to some degree. As believers become more Christlike, the image of God is increasingly restored in them (2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:9-10).

In Psalm 139, the psalmist shows that God knows the nature and deeds of human beings. Even as a child is in the womb (Isa. 44:2, 24), God has a purpose for that child. He knows and blesses each individual (Eph. 2:10).



Your children spend all of their time in this lesson moving, exploring, choosing, and playing in the learning environment. The learning environment is simply the books, toys, blocks, music, stories, and activities your children interact with from the moment they arrive until they go home. While children are busy exploring and playing, you can gather together a small group to hear the Bible story from Genesis 1:27-30 and Psalm 139:13-16. You can also walk around the room, visit the children at different activities, and use the story mat to present the Bible Story Review.

This lesson is designed to allow toddlers and two year olds to play independently, freeing you to present the Bible Step, Bible Review Step, and Craft Step either to individuals or to small groups throughout the class time.

Where Learning Happens

Table—

The table can be used for a free-play activity, snack, or the craft. For directions on setting up today's craft activity, see *"I Am Special" in the Craft Step, page 50.*

Rug—

This is the place to gather children together for small group activities, depending on the size of your group. Invite them to the rug for the Bible Step, *page 48. Today's Bible story is "God Made Us Special" from Genesis 1:27-30 and Psalm 139:13-16.*

This is a good place for sharing stories or movement and Music Time, *page 49. Sing the song "GOD MADE ME SPECIAL" this week.*

Care Area—

Take time for each child's physical needs, including rest room breaks and diaper changes. Provide water and a snack.

Books—

A choice of books to explore pictures and words.

Blocks—

Different sizes and shapes for building and creative play.

Toys—

A variety of toys appropriate for two year olds to encourage play. *Set up an unbreakable mirror or glue several sheets of foil to construction paper with the shiny side showing. As the children look at their reflections, point out eyes and hair that make each child unique. Hearing such comments will help the children understand the Bible story from Genesis 1:27-30 and Psalm 139:13-16.*

Home Living—

Several baby dolls, blankets, play food, dishes, and utensils for children to imitate what they see in real life. *Encourage children to care for the dolls. Have them show love to the dolls to help them relate to today's Bible story, "God Made Us Special."*

When Teaching the Bible to Toddler/2s...

In today's Bible story, the children learn that each of them is created uniquely by God. Toddlers love to learn about themselves by exploring with their senses. Give children enough time to play with the different books and toys in your classroom. As you play with the children, name what they are doing with their various senses.



Lesson 9 Focus: God made us special.

Bible Step

Talk Time

■ Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—Photo Poster 6

Toddlers love to look at photographs that show children. Showing what they know about their eyes, ears, hands, and feet helps them connect to the Bible story, “God Made Us Special,” from Genesis 1:27-30 and Psalm 139:13-16. Invite small groups (no more than four children) to the rug for Talk Time. Use this rhyme to help capture their attention.

Clap, clap, clap.

Pat your knee.

Clap, clap, clap.

Look at me.



Photo Poster 6

*Show Photo Poster 6. **These are eyes.** Point to the boy’s eyes in the poster.*

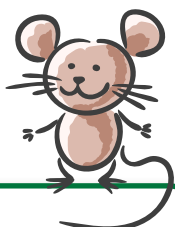
***Show me your eyes.** Have the children point to their eyes. **These are ears.** Point to the ears in the poster. **Show me your ears.** Children should point to their ears.*

Here are his hands and feet.** Point to the boy’s hands and feet. **Show me your hands and feet.** Have children wave their hands and point to their feet. **We learned that God made our eyes, ears, hands, and feet. Today we’re going to learn that God made us special.

Bible Story Time

■ Genesis 1:27-30; Psalm 139:13-16

Toddlers and two year olds are often told they are special. In today’s Bible story, they learn that they really are made special—by God! Have your Bible open to Genesis 1. **Our story this week comes from the Bible, God’s special book.**



Story Questions

Ask the following questions to review the Bible story:

1. How did God make us?
(Special)

2. Who made us special?
(God)

The Bible tells us that God made us.

God made us special.

God made our eyes so we can see.

(Point to your eyes.)

God made our ears so we can hear.

(Point to your ears.)

God made our hands to touch and hold and clap.

(Clap your hands.)

God made our feet to stand and walk and run.

(Touch your feet.)

God made us special from our head to our toes!

(With the children, point to your head, then your toes.)

Whether you are telling the story to one child or a small group, repeat the Bible story. Repeating the actions with you will help the children learn and remember.



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Bible Review Step

Bible Story Review Time

■ Materials: Photo Poster 6, Story Card 9

Touching and moving things are good ways for toddlers to learn. Encourage the children to point to different parts of Photo Poster 6 as they help you retell the Bible story.

Anytime after you have done the Bible Step, you can do the Bible Review Step. Keep the small group you have already gathered at the rug or visit children at different activities and tell the Bible Review story.



Attach Story Card 9 to the back of Photo Poster 6. Have the children point to the body part on the poster as it is mentioned in the story.

The Bible tells us that God made us. God made us special.

Who made our eyes so we can see? (God) Show me the eyes God made. *Have a child point to the eyes on the poster.*

Who made our ears so we can hear? (God) Show me the ears God made. *Have a child point to the ears on the poster.*

Who made hands so we can touch and clap? (God) Show me the hands God made. *Have a child point to the hands on the poster.*

Who made feet so we can stand? (God) Show me the feet God made. *Have a child point to the feet on the poster. God made us special.*

Repeat the story to each child or small group. Young children need to hear and do things more than once.



Photo Poster 6 and
Story Card 9



Music Time

■ Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—CD, CD player

Music filled with energy and action is perfect for toddlers. They learn the way they like best—using their whole bodies and lots of energy! This song reinforces the Bible story from Genesis 1:27-30 and Psalm 139:13-16 about how God made us special.

“GOD MADE ME SPECIAL”

The complete song is on the CD in the Creative Teaching Aids packet. The words and movements can be found on page 72 of this teacher’s guide.

Toddlers love to hear the same song repeatedly. Be sure to repeat the song “**GOD MADE ME SPECIAL**” to help children learn it.



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Craft Step

I Am Special

The process of doing a craft is one way toddlers and two year olds learn. They discover how paint or ink prints by working with them. Encourage each child to create more than one “I Am Special” print as time allows. All

the things your children create are treasures. Send them all home.

Materials: Drawing paper

Washable markers

Foam meat trays

Dishpan with soapy water

Paint shirts

Optional: Craft smock for teacher (an oversized man’s short-sleeve shirt, a large apron, or a lab coat can work)

Before Class: Cut the drawing paper into strips about three inches wide. Put a strip of paper and a foam meat tray at each place at the table.



Craft Time:

Help the children put on paint shirts. You may wish to wear a craft smock to protect your clothes. **Today we are going to make fingerprints. Our fingerprints show we are each special. God made us special.**

Color a square on each child’s foam tray with a marker. You don’t need to use dark markers such as black. Most lighter ink colors will make good fingerprints. Show the children how to press their fingers on the marker ink and then onto the paper strip to make fingerprints. Let the children make several prints before reinking their fingers. Encourage them to make more than one strip of prints.

As the children work, talk about today’s Bible story. **The Bible tells us that God made us special. God made our eyes to see. He made our ears to hear. God made our hands to touch. He made our feet to stand. God made us special.**

Have the children wash their hands.



Goodbye Time

As they leave, tell all the children, individually, you are glad they came. As you say goodbye, ask, “**Who made us special?**” Send each child home with his or her very own *Starting Steps*. One side connects each child’s family to today’s lesson; the other side includes a devotional, parenting tips, and an amusing anecdote.