

WEEK ONE – FEBRUARY 2025 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: They Say It's Wonderful | Psalm 139:1-14; Genesis 1:26-28; Ephesians 2:10

Bottom Line: God made you, knows you + loves you

Memory Verse: "How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What

you have done is wonderful. I know that very well." - Psalm 139:14 (NIrV)

Virtue: Uniqueness – Learning more about yourself so you can make a difference

Series Overview: Have you ever thought about what makes you, you? We all have different backgrounds, families, or favorite colors. We all enjoy different sports, foods, vacations, and have different friends and experiences in life. Even twins have different fingerprints! Together, all of those pieces make up who we are. But we can't understand who we are and what we were created to do without first understanding the way God sees us. Every single one of us was created in the image of God. But even as image bearers, we were created as unique. There is only one you, and this month we have the chance to explore how God can use the ways we were created to make a difference.

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Bottom Line: God made you, knows you, and loves you. Have you ever done one of those icebreaker questions that asks what is one thing no one else knows about you? You can probably think of at least one or two fairly quickly, but here's the thing: God knows us better than anyone else, including ourselves. We were created by God with so much love and care. Because of that we can live holding on to that truth that we are seen.

8:45 - 9:00 | 10:45 - 11:00 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Connection Centers

Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders

What You Need: Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

- PRE-CONNECTION TIME
 - O Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Think about the ways God has made you unique. Thank God for making you and your few and knowing you deeply. Ask God to help you remind your kids that God made them, knows them, and loves them. Pray that your time together is a chance for the kids to discover more about how special they are and how they make a difference.
- DURING CONNECTION TIME
 - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
 - Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet
 - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these:
 - "What's something nice you did for someone this past week?"
 - "What's something that made you happy this week?"
 - "Can you tell me about something you are thankful for?"
 - "What's your favorite thing to do with your family?"
 - "What's the best part of your day when you are at school?"
 - "Who do you like to play with at home or school?"

• AFTER CONNECTION TIME

- Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf
 - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
- o Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 - 11:15 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

Opening Activity

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Unused rolls of toilet paper; timer

- Gather the kids together in your group space.
- Share some of the following facts about toilet paper:
 - o It was first sold in England in 1880.
 - o Originally, it was sold in sheets like Kleenex®.
 - o It was first called "Medicated Paper for the Water Closet."
 - The average person uses 100 rolls a year.
 - o In a person's life, about 384 trees are used to make all the toilet paper they need!
- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a toilet paper roll.
- Explain to kids that each group will collaborate to unravel the toilet paper roll as quickly as they can as you time them.
- When everyone is ready, shout, "Go!" and start the timer.
- Cheer the kids on while they're unraveling.
- Call out each group's time on the timer as they finish unraveling their roll.
- When each group has finished unraveling, invite each group to share the time it took them to complete the challenge.

• Save the unraveled toilet paper for the "Unique Pictures" Activity!

What You Say:

"Great teamwork, friends! That was quick! It was awesome watching you all work together to unravel the toilet paper quickly. [Transition] Today, we'll discover something way more important than toilet paper . . . and it's something that never runs out! Let's go find out more!"

9:15 - 9:50 | 11:20 - 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: We start the month in Psalm 139:1-14 where King David has just written a psalm about God's love for us. Since the beginning, we were created in the image of God. God knew and formed the deepest parts of us, and as image bearers, God loves us no matter what.

9:50 - 10:10 | 11:50 - 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Unique Pictures

[Live For God | Application Activity]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Unrolled toilet paper from "Opening Activity"

- Divide the kids into groups of two or three kids.
- If you did the Opening Activity, make sure the groups are different.
- Give each group a pile of unrolled toilet paper.
- Challenge groups to create a unique picture of something from today's Bible Story using only toilet paper.

- Give groups a few minutes to work on their picture.
- As kids are working, use some toilet paper to create a cross for a later part of the conversation.
- After a few minutes, instruct the kids to stop and sit down by their picture.
- Invite groups to share what they made with the entire group.

What You Say:

""Wow! These are amazing! Each one is so unique, just like each of you. I can't pick just one as the most unique design because they're all so different and creative!

"Now, I want to show you all my picture. What do you think it is? (Allow kids a moment to look at your picture and invite responses.) That's right! I made a cross. God loves us so much Jesus came and gave His life so we could be friends with God forever! And on the cross, Jesus paid the price for everything we've done wrong. Now, those who follow Jesus don't have to do anything to earn God's love. God loves us no matter what, including the unique way God created each of us. Uniqueness is all about learning more about yourself so you can make a difference. So remember, [Bottom Line] God made you, knows you, and loves you."

In Your Own Way!

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: N/A

- Divide kids into pairs.
- Instruct the pairs to stand back-to-back.
- Inform the kids that you will count to three.

- Explain that after you count to three, the kids are to turn around, face each other, and act out the scenario you call out (listed below) in their own way.
- Count to three and call out one of the following scenarios (or come up with your own):
 - Wave hello
 - Smile
 - Wiggle your nose
 - Untie and tie your shoe
 - Throw a ball
 - Run in place
 - Play your favorite sport
 - Hop on one foot
 - Help someone in need
 - Play an instrument
- After you've shared a scenario and the kids have acted it out, encourage the kids to observe how they acted out the scenarios similarly or differently.
- One by one, go through each scenario, pausing between each one to give kids a moment to discuss their differences.
- After kids have acted out several scenarios, gather them together to discuss.

What You Say:

"God made each of us unique! We aren't meant to be like anyone else. Just like you and your partner acted out the scenarios differently, we also have our own unique skills and ways of doing things in life. But that's great because God is excited about you being YOU!

"We can appreciate and celebrate our differences because God made each of us one of a kind! You see, [Bottom Line] God made you, knows you, and loves you more than you could ever imagine. God loves us so much Jesus came so we could have a relationship with God that lasts forever. Jesus paid the price for our sins (the wrong things we do) when He died on the cross. When we follow Jesus, we don't have to do anything to earn God's love. It's the best gift ever!"

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a time when you and another person realized you did something differently and still got the same results.)

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share this week's Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] God made you, knows you + loves you.