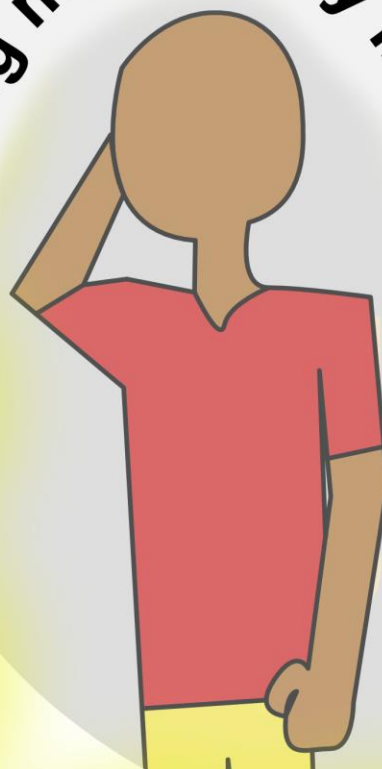
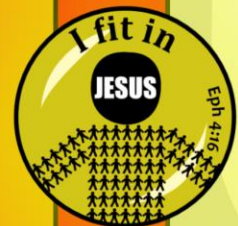


WHO AM I?

Finding my identity in Christ



Contents:

Letter to the leaders	3
Lesson 1: My identity is found in God	4
Lesson 2: God knows me.....	9
Lesson 3: I am made in God's image	13
Lesson 4: I am chosen by God	17
Lesson 5: I am loved by God.....	22
Lesson 6: I am God's masterpiece	26
Lesson 7: I have a purpose	31
Lesson 8: I belong and I fit in to God's family	36
Lesson 9: I am a child of God.....	40

WHO AM I (FINDING MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST)

© Cornerstone Church Johannesburg
Revised 2024

This curriculum, including its media pack are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. This means that this work may be copied and distributed freely as long as the work is credited to Cornerstone Church and that the work is never sold in any way or form. This work cannot be used for commercial purposes.

The work may also be altered or adapted, provided that it is made clear that the alteration or adaptation is not part of the original work and not endorsed by Cornerstone Church Johannesburg, unless the work is endorsed which would be agreed upon with Cornerstone Church Johannesburg.

If you alter, transform, or build upon this work, you may distribute the resulting work only under the same or similar license to this one.

See the details of this Creative Commons license at
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Scripture references are taken from:

Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. All rights reserved.

HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®) © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved.

All artwork is created in house or found on one of the following free image websites:

<https://www.freebibleimages.org/>

<https://christiancliparts.net>

<https://www.freepik.com/> Copyright © 2010-2023 Freepik Company S.L.

All rights reserved.

Letter to the leaders

From the moment we are born, we are given a name and a surname and are born into a family and culture. This is the beginning of our identity. Or is it?

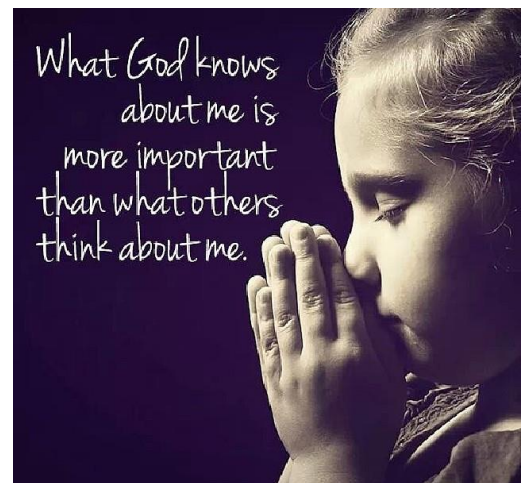
Before all this God was knitting us, choosing us and making good plans for us. He knew us and saw us before even our parents did. Doesn't this make our lives so much more incredibly meaningful.

If we are to know who we are then we need to know our Creator and what He says about us. When we know that our Creator is our Father who knows us; has made us in His image; has chosen and adopted us into His family; He loves us; has sent His son Jesus to make us into His masterpiece and that He has a purpose for us, then we will never be shaken or confused about who we are.

As Children's Ministry leaders we partner with parents to teach and remind children what their identity in Jesus is, who they are in God's eyes. In a world that wants to confuse children about who they are, it has never been more important to reaffirm who God says they are and who He has made them to be.

Never assume children believe in and have accepted Jesus as their Saviour. Create comfortable and safe environments for them to do so.

To help children reaffirm what God says about get a mirror to use for this series. Each week add a light bulb with the week's verse and main idea so the children can look into the mirror and declare out loud the identity God has given them.



In preparing, we noticed some verses are commonly used out of context when talking about identity. Please make sure to read what the verse is actually saying and not what we would like it to say. Another common error was to make our identity all about what we do or our purpose, but this is only part of what God is saying.

Come each week expectant and ready to answer the question "What am I trusting God to use me for today." Be ready to be used by God to help children realise they are God's children and that is who they are!

Lesson 1: My identity is found in God

Main focus for the lesson:

- Our Identity is found in our Creator, God.
- We can find our identity in God's Word, the Bible.

1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 139:13–16 (NIV)

"13'For You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 16Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. '"

Idea to teach the verse:

Read the verse to the children a few times. Highlight the following things to the children:

God created them, every part of them from the colour of their eyes, height, hair and skin (outward appearance) to their personality, what they love to do and what they are good at (inmost being).

God intended for them to be born, each child was specifically made and planned by God.

Not only did He plan and create each of them, but He also made each of them wonderfully!

Bring a mirror to class, print out the mirrored key statements from the memory verse. Let the children take turns to stand by the mirror and read what it says as they look at themselves in the mirror.



2) Hands On

What you will need:

- 2 Leaders
- A lunchbox that isn't see-through and can be locked or taped closed.
- Inside the lunchbox pack anything to make it feel full as you won't actually open it.

Leader 1 walks into the room and shows the children the lunchbox and explains that Leader 2 made the lunch for her to eat later. Wave at Leader 2. It is important to acknowledge that Leader 2 is in the room and is available. The aim of the skit is for Leader 1 to look everywhere else to find out what is in the lunchbox except asking the person that made it, Leader 2, who is

right there. Leader 2 can try and interrupt but Leader 1 must ignore him and look everywhere else for the answer.

Leader 1:

I can't wait to see what is in this lunchbox. I'm sure that there is a hamburger, coke and chips in the lunchbox." (*shake the lunchbox, sniff it*) I can't wait to eat it later, I wonder what it is.

Walk around to different children and keep asking and getting different answers.

What is in the lunch box? What did Leader 2 make? What do you think is in there?

Continue to look for the answer in so many other places but don't ask Leader 2:

Let me try and phone someone. Maybe they know. *Take out your phone and pretend to call someone and ask them.*

Let me post a photo of the lunch box on Instagram and see if someone can tell me what is in the lunchbox.

Let me google "what you should have for lunch" then it can just be that.

Eventually gives up. Who do you think can tell me what **is** in my lunch box?"

The children should respond that Leader 2 can.

How does Leader 2 know what is in my lunch box?" (*Children reply because he made it*)

Oh so if I want to know what is inside, I should ask the person who made it? (*Point to Leader 2*)

Leader 2

Yes, that is right. The best person to ask is the person who made it. Come let me tell you all about your lunch. You are going to love it.

Both walk out.

Conclude: This series we are going to be looking at our identity or who we are. If we want to know who we are where do you think we should go looking? The best person to ask is the person who made us.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Teddy / felt puppet
- Bible
- Stuffing
- Bible verse and pictures strips



Before you begin cut up the verses and slip them into your Bible where the verse is found. Have the empty teddy ready to be stuffed and made as you teach.



If someone asked you "Who are you? What is your identity?"

Where would you go to look for the answer? (*Let them answer*)

Use a few specific examples of where your children may be looking for their identity.

The aim is to get to where they should be looking and that is to Jesus, who made them!

Would you go to your birth certificate?

Nationality (I am South African)

Position in family (I am the oldest sibling)

Language I speak at home (I am English)

Would you go to your school report?

School (I am in Primary School)

Extra murals (I am a soccer player)

Grades or marks (I get academic awards)

Would you go to others?

Friends (I am popular or I am "specific name's" friend)

Movies, social media, adverts, YouTube, TikTok (What I must have or do to be "cool" or "clever" or "strong")

Would you ask yourself?

Mirror (I am tall)

Feel (I am worried)

Surely you know yourself well and can say who you are?

BUT if I do something wrong today is that who I am. The one that missed the ball. And then tomorrow I catch the ball and so it changes. Am I now "the ball catcher". And I always dress or look a bit different so then who I was would have to change again.

While we use many of these things to describe what we are like or what we are good at, they do not tell us who we are. They are not our identity.



This is my friend, Roosefelt.

Roosefelt has been looking everywhere to find his identity, just like you and me. So where can we go to find our identity? Would you ask God? Yes, we go to the one who made us.

In order to help Roosefelt we need to find out what God says about our identity. Where do think we can find out what God says about our identity? Yes, His Word, the Bible.



Flip through your Bible and get the children to tell you to stop when they see one of the Bible verse strips you have already placed inside. Read the verse and get them to decide what God says about them. Then get one child to add a bit of stuffing to Roosefelt as they say, for example, "We are chosen."

Once each child has had a chance to add a bit of stuffing you can do the rest until Roosefelt is nice and puffed up.



Bible verses of who God says we are: *(Find Bible verse slips in the media pack)*

You are forgiven	1 John 1:9 'But if we confess our sins to Him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.'
You are a masterpiece	Ephesians 2:10 'For we are God's masterpiece . He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.'
You are a child of God	Galatians 4:7 'Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child . And since you are His child, God has made you His heir.'
You are made in God's image	Genesis 1:27 'So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God He created them ; male and female he created them.'
You fit in	Ephesians 4:16 'He makes the whole body fit together perfectly . As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.'

You are loved	Ephesians 3:18 ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, <u>how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is.</u>
You are wonderfully made	Psalms 139:14 'I praise you because I am fearfully and <u>wonderfully made</u> ; your works are wonderful' (NIV)
You are treasured by God	Deuteronomy 14:2 'You have been set apart as Holy to the Lord your God, and He has chosen you from all the nations of the earth to be <u>His own special treasure.</u>
God has a plan for your life	Jeremiah 29:11 ' <u>For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord.</u> "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'
You belong to God's family	Ephesians 2:19 ¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are <u>members of God's family.</u>
You are protected by God	Psalms 91:2 'This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my <u>place of safety</u> ; He is my God, and I trust him.'
You are victorious through Christ	1 Corinthians 15:57 'But thank God! He gives us <u>victory over sin</u> and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.'
You are known by God	Psalms 139: 1 'O Lord, you have examined my heart and <u>know everything about me.</u> '
You are chosen	1 Peter 2:9 'But you are not like that, for you <u>are a chosen people.</u> You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession.'



WOW, can you see that as Roosevelt heard, understood and believed everything God says about him and his true identity, he was filled up. The change on the inside even began to show on the outside.

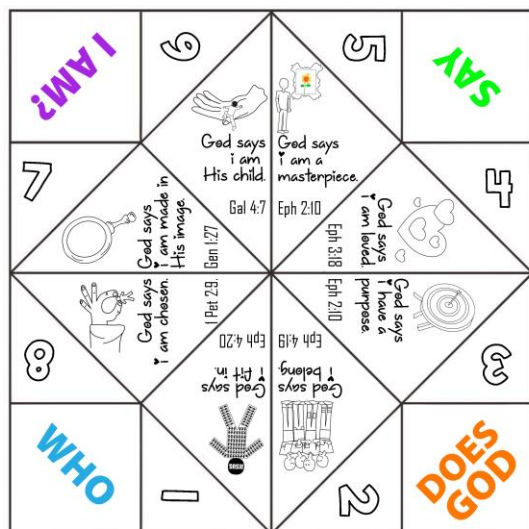
As we listen to what God says about our identity, we grow and change too. Keep reminding yourself who God says you are. And remember the perfect place to find that out is to go to the one who created you. Go to God, He will tell you and show you who you are.

4) Review Questions

- Where can we go to find our identity? *(To our creator, the One who made us, GOD. He knows us completely as He made us.)*
- There are many verses in the Bible that tell us who God created us to be, what our identity is. Which of the ones we read today encouraged you the most? Which of these do you struggle to accept? *(Allow them to safely share what they need help with and pray with them and encourage them to try and learn some of these verses off by heart)*
- How can you help a friend or family member who doesn't know what God says about them? *(Send them verses, tell them, point them to Jesus.)*

5) Crafts

Option 1: Quack Quack



Option 2: Wonderfully made by God



Punch holes around the paper plate. Tape one end of the wool to the back of the paper plate or tie a knot. Put tape on the other end of the wool to make it easier to thread in and out of the holes.

Children then draw themselves in the middle of the paper plate and use the wool to show that God knit them together in their mother's womb.

Lesson 2: God knows me

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus knows everything about me.
- Jesus understands because He has experienced the things we go through too.

1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 139:1-6

- ¹ O Lord, you have examined my heart
and KNOW everything about me.
- ² You KNOW when I sit down or stand up.
You KNOW my thoughts even when I'm far away.
- ³ You SEE me when I travel
and when I rest at home.
You KNOW everything I do.
- ⁴ You KNOW what I am going to say
even before I say it, Lord.
- ⁵ You go before me and follow me.
You place your hand of blessing on my head.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too great for me to understand!

Idea to teach the memory verse.

- Tell the children when they hear the word “know” to put their hands on their head and when they hear the word “see” to make binoculars in front of their eyes.
- Read the passage from the Bible. Each time emphasise the words KNOW and SEE.
- Pretend to be doing each out as you ask the following:
 - Does He know when you sit up?
 - Sit down?
 - Does He know when you're far away?
 - Travelling around like going to school?
 - Resting at home, like playing games? Etc.
 - Does God know everything you do?
 - Yes, God knows everything about you.
- Does God know what you're going to say before you say it? (*Yes, God knows everything about you.*)
- What is this Psalm telling us? (*God knows everything about you. He even knows you better than you know yourself!*)
- How does this Psalm make you feel about yourself? *It is good to feel known and understood, especially by God. It is great to know that He knows everything about us, good and bad, and loves us so much. It should make us want to go to Him, the one who knows us so well to find out more about who we are rather than anyone else.*

2) Hands on

Ask them if they have anything in common with your friend as you read out the facts about him. You will only reveal near the end that your friend is Jesus. This is to help them see that Jesus understands because He went through the same things we do.

I am going to tell you about someone I know. As I'm telling you about my friend, I want you to think about if you have experienced any of the things he has been through. Raise your hand if you have anything in common with my friend.

- My friend had brothers and sisters who he had to live with and share stuff with. (Mark 6:3) Who of you have siblings that you live with and have to get along with? So you guys know what that's like, don't you?
- My friend had to obey his parents. Once he got lost and his parents were cross with him when they found him. (Luke 2:48) Has that ever happened to you? Have your parents ever been cross with you for something?
- My friend felt sorry for his friends when they were sad, he even cried one time. (John 11:35)
- When he was little he had to move to another country. (Matthew 2:13) Have you ever had to move places? Moving can be hard.
- From as young as 12 years old, my friend knew that God was calling him to do something important. (Luke 2:49) Do you think God has called you to do things for Him? (Yes.)
- My friend felt worried about something. He prayed. (Luke 22:44)
- Some people didn't like him. They hated him even though he didn't do anything wrong. (Isaiah 53:3) Do you know what that feels like?
- My friend was tempted to do something wrong once. (Luke 4:2) Have you ever been tempted to do something you know you shouldn't do?
- One of his friends betrayed him! (Mark 14:44) Have you ever had a friend who didn't act like a friend should?

Have you got anything in common with my friend? Have you gone through any of the same experiences that he went through? I'm sure some of you might even know my friend. Let me tell you a few more things about him.

- My friend wasn't born in a hospital, he was born in a stable. (Luke 2:7) Do you know my friend?
- My friend has so much in common with me but there is one thing very different. My friend was perfect. He never sinned. He never did anything wrong. (1 Peter 2:22) Do you know who my friend is?

Yes! The friend I was talking about this whole time is JESUS!

Can you see that we experience the same things that Jesus went through in His life?

Jesus was a person just like us. The only difference was that Jesus never sinned. When He was here on earth, He felt joy, sorrow, excitement, disappointment, rejection, love, friendship and belonging, all the same things that we go through.

God knows us and everything we are going through right now. There is nothing that you have been through that Jesus doesn't already know and understand.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

In the times of the Bible names were really important and often they were chosen because they identified who you were. Even Jesus' name means "God saves"!

Our story today is about a man named Simon. Well that was his name but at the very moment that Jesus met Simon, Jesus changed his name to Peter.

John 1:42 says.

⁴² Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter")

Imagine someone you just met changing your name! But remember we read in Psalm 139:1-6 that Jesus knows everything about us. Even before it has happened. Jesus knew who Simon was going to become and so He changes his name to Peter which means “rock”.

So let's find why Jesus named him this. I am going to read some things about Peter. If you think Peter is doing something well, I want you to give Peter a thumbs up. If you think he's messing up, then give Peter a thumbs down. Are you ready to listen carefully?

- Peter left everything he was doing to follow Jesus. *(Thumbs up, Peter!) Luke 5:11*
- When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water towards them, He called out to Jesus. And when Jesus told him to come to Him, Peter got out of the boat and in faith started walking on the water too. Do you think that was good of Peter to trust Jesus? *(Thumbs up, Peter!) Matthew 14:22-29*
- All of a sudden, Peter got scared. He took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the big waves around him. At that moment he began to sink. *(Thumbs down, Peter!)* But Jesus knew Peter and pulled him up out of the water. Do you think Jesus called him “rock” because he would sink like a stone? No. Jesus knew who He would make Peter become. Let's find out more. *Matthew 14:30-33*
- When Jesus asked His disciples who people thought Jesus was, Peter was the one with the right answer: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” *(Thumbs up, Peter!) Matthew 16:16*
- Straight after Jesus then said to Peter “Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build My church...” Wow, Jesus was telling Peter that he would have a great revelation and understanding of who He is. And because of this revelation, he would be someone that helped many others know and love Jesus to. *(Thumbs up, Peter!) Matthew 16:18*
- Peter told Jesus that he would always be by His side, that he would even die for Him. *(Thumbs up, Peter!) Matthew 26:35.* But Jesus knew Peter and He told him he would deny Him.
- When Peter saw what the soldiers were doing to Jesus, Peter was scared and he denied even knowing Jesus. *(Thumbs down, Peter!) John 18:17; 25; 27.* I wonder how Peter must have felt after that day. He must have thought he was not worth the name of “rock” like Jesus had called him. I am sure he would have doubted that that is who he could be. But Jesus knew Peter and who he would become.
- When Jesus came alive again He had lunch with Peter on the beach. Jesus knew what Peter had done, but to Jesus that was not who Peter was to be. Jesus had a conversation with Peter and Peter was able to tell Jesus three times that he loves Him. *(Thumbs up, Peter!) John 21:15-17.* Without Jesus, Peter's identity would be a failure but because of Jesus' mercy Peter would become someone who would help others know and love Jesus.
- Jesus knew everything Peter was going to do and say before he did, the good and the bad. And Jesus knows us, everything about us! We, like Peter, do things that please God. We also do things that are sinful and not what God wants us to do. Without Jesus, we remain sinners and no more. But because of Jesus, we become those who help others know and love Jesus. Because of Jesus we become so much more.

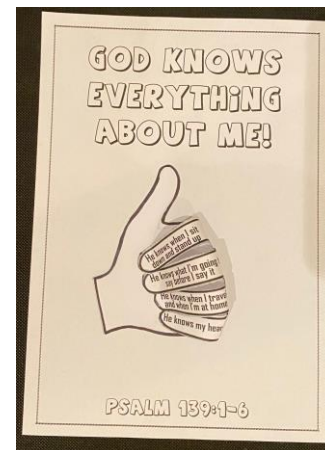
- So if you want to know who you are, who will you ask? *Jesus because He knows who we are and who He makes us become.*

4) Review Questions:

- How does it make you feel knowing that God knows everything about you, the good and the bad? *(Makes you happy that He understands, makes you nervous that He sees the wrong things you do, makes you amazed that He is so great and knows all that and still loves you.)*
- Do you think the things you have done decide who you will be forever? *No, Jesus restores us.*
- Do you think the things others say about you is who you are? *No, Jesus does*

5) Craft

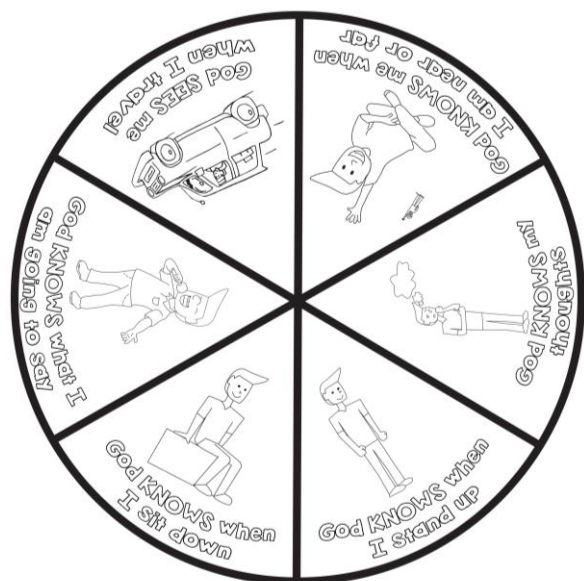
Option 1: Thumbs up Craft



Children will cut out the hands with the verses on them. Then they stick the back of the hand to the page and curve the fingers into a fist.

Option 2: God knows everything about me spinner wheel

Cut out the shapes from the template and use a split pin to make it into a spinner. They will use their spinner to remember God knows everything about us as we read in Psalm 139:1-6.



Lesson 3: I am made in God's image

Main focus for the lesson:

- I am made in God's image.
- God has made us to be a reflection of who He is.

1) Memory Verse

- Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make human beings in Our image, to be like Us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." ²⁷ **So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.**

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need: Multiple copies of the images scattered around the room.







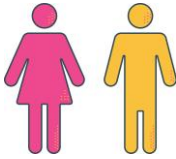


Who knows what an image is? Yes, it is a picture of someone or something. If we want to look at our image then we will go to a mirror, right? A mirror shows what we look like, it shows us our reflection.

The Bible tells us that we are made by God, He created us with His very hands. We are made in His image. He created us to reflect Him, just like the mirror reflects our image. He wants us to reflect His love, gentleness, kindness and goodness to those around us. If we want to know more about God's image and know who He is, then we need to spend time with Him and read the Bible.

Read verse 27 to the children, showing them the matching pictures for each part. See table below.

You could also say the verse in a different order but meaning the same thing.

E.g. Human beings were created by God, in His own image. God created both male and female, in His image, He created them.

		
God created	Human beings	In His own image
		
In the image of God	He created	Them
		
Both male and female	He created	Them

2) Hands On

Cover a bowl of fruit, or something the children are familiar with. Tell the children what is under the cover and ask them to draw it. They obviously won't know what colour the bowl is or the exact fruits that are in the bowl but encourage them to draw what they think is in the bowl.

When the children have drawn it, uncover the fruit bowl and ask them if their picture looks like what the original bowl looks like? It probably doesn't.



Ask them if it would have been easier to draw the bowl of fruit if you knew what it looked like? Yes. We would have known how many fruits there were, what colour they were, what colour the bowl was. The pictures that the children drew might look similar but it's not the same as the original bowl of fruit.

It is the same with us and God. God says that we are created in his image but if we don't know what that image is, then we won't know what we are to be like.

To know who we are we need to know who God is because we were made by Him and in His image. The wonderful thing is that the Bible is all about God. The Bible tells us all about God's character.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

“Genesis 1:26-27 ²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make human beings in Our image, to be like Us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” ²⁷ So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.

What does it mean that we are made in God's own image?

Does it mean we all look like God? Do we all have the same hair, eyes, nose, bones and skin like God? If we look around the room, we can see that we all look very different. So it is clear that the verse is not saying that we are physically made to look like God. (Note: God is spirit John 4:24)

Stand with your back to the children. In one hand hold an item close to you so that they cannot see the actual item. With the other hand face the mirror so that they can see the item in the mirror's reflection.

A mirror can help us understand what an image is. If you look in this mirror what do you see? (let them name the item)

What you are seeing in the mirror is an image of the item. It is not the item itself, but you know what the item is by seeing its image.

In ancient times an image, or statue, was placed outside a temple. The people would look at this image and know who this temple was made for. So without anyone saying anything or even going inside they knew what it represented and whose temple it was. Instead of statues, God made us to be His image. God is saying the whole world is His temple and people show the God whose temple this is.

Let's use an example you may understand. What do you expect to find if you see this image? (*McDonald's*) We know when you see this sign you expect to find a specific type of food.



So God is saying I have made you so that when people see you, they will see what I am like.

When we read the Bible we see the personal nature of God and how we are made in His likeness. (James 3:9 – made in God's likeness)



God thinks

The Bible tells us that God thinks. His thoughts are very complex, yet He thinks about me! Psalm 139: says He thinks about us more than the grains of sand!

Psalm 139:17-18

¹⁷ How precious are Your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! ¹⁸ I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, You are still with me!



God made me to think

I love knowing that God made me to think too. Whatever we think about, whether it is about God, others or even ourselves, if these thoughts are to be like God's then they need to be good thoughts that are pure, right, honourable, excellent and worthy of praise.

Philippians 4:8

⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.



God loves

The Bible doesn't just say God loves; it says God is love. 1 John 4:8
God loves perfectly and God loves you.

1 John 3:1

¹ See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are!

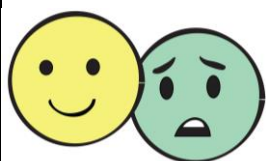


God made me to love

God made me to love and the way we love others shows them God's love.

1 John 4:12 says,

¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.



God feels emotion

God feels compassion (Psalm 103:8), He cares about people and what they are going through. God feels happiness and is glad and rejoices when someone chooses to love Him.



God made me to feel emotion

It is so wonderful that God has given us emotions too so that we can care about others, laugh with others and show others how God cares and rejoices over them.

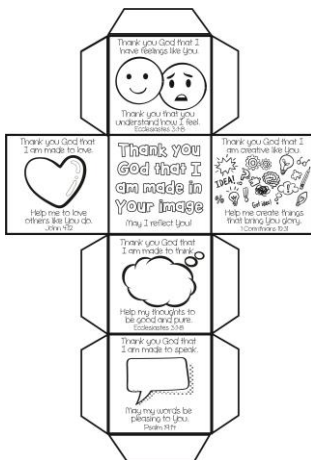
Each one of us would want to be the perfect reflection of God but we cannot do it on our own and God doesn't expect us to. Thankfully, God has given us Jesus who takes away our sins and makes us more perfect like He is. God has also given us the Holy Spirit who lives in us, leads us and helps us to be more like God. How incredible is it to know that we are the image of God the very reflection that says to everyone look here, this is what God looks like. How wonderful it is that God made us in His image and we get to reflect His image to the world.

4) Review Questions

- What does it mean to be made in the image of God? *(That we reflect who He is to others.)*
- What are some of the things you reflect about God?
- What has God given us to help us be a good reflection of Him. *(He has made us like Him, He has given us the Holy Spirit who shows fruit like love, patience, goodness. He has given us the Bible to tell us how to be a good reflection and He has given us Jesus as the perfect reflection of God.)*

5) Crafts

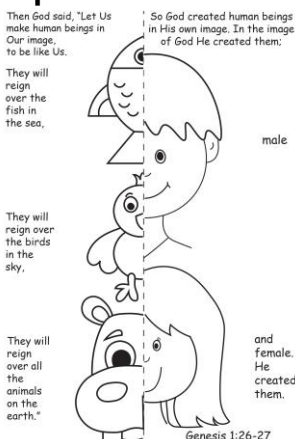
Option 1: Dice - Thank you that I am made in Your image



- Cut out the template.
- Make a fold on all the solid lines.
- Put glue on each flap that will go on the inside.
- Fold and stick the shape into a cube.

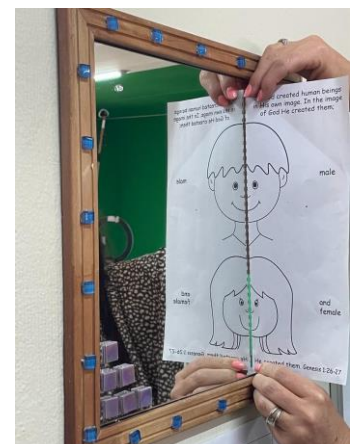
Children can use the dice each day to remind them that they are created in God's image and they can ask God to help them reflect Him.

Option 2: Mirror image verse



Read Genesis 1:26-27 with the children. Use the picture to help them remember what it says.

Once the children have coloured the picture, they will fold along the dotted line. The fold will then be pressed along a mirror to show the full image.



Lesson 4: I am chosen by God

Main focus for the lesson:

- God has chosen you to be His.
- Us being chosen has nothing to do with what we have done. God chose us even before anything was made.

1) Memory Verse

- 1 Peter 2:9

“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Write down all the names of the children on little pieces of paper. Put all the names into a bucket or hat.

Allow the children to take turns drawing a name from the hat and read the name out. Everybody then repeats the verse inserting the child’s name into the beginning.

For example: “THEMBI, you are a chosen people. You are a royal priest, a holy nation, God’s very own possession.”

Continue until every person’s name has been read out.

If there are a lot of children, you may choose to divide up into smaller groups.

Discussion:

What does it mean to be chosen? (*Discuss examples such as picked for a sports team, school play, academic award, Olympic team etc.*)

What did these people have to do to be chosen? (*Practice really hard, be really talented, be smart or be the best sports player in your country or be a strong leader.*)

How does it feel to be chosen? It feels good doesn't it?

What do we have to do to be chosen by God? (*Allow the children answer*)

Did you know that you don’t have to do anything to be chosen by God? You don’t have to prove yourself to God with fancy clothes, good marks, trophies or any other accomplishment that you deserve to be chosen by Him. In fact, God chose us before we did anything.

Because we are chosen by God we are a royal priesthood. This means we give our lives to God. We put Him first and worship Him with everything we say and do. And because of Jesus what we give is pleasing to God.

Because we are chosen by God we are also a holy nation. Our lives, because of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, become holy and without sin.

Because we are chosen by God we are also God’s own possession. That means we belong to Him. We are part of His family.

As wonderful as it is to be chosen to be part of a team or play, how much greater is it to be chosen by God Himself, the Creator and King of everything?

2) Hands on

Play a variation of the game “Duck. Duck. Goose!”

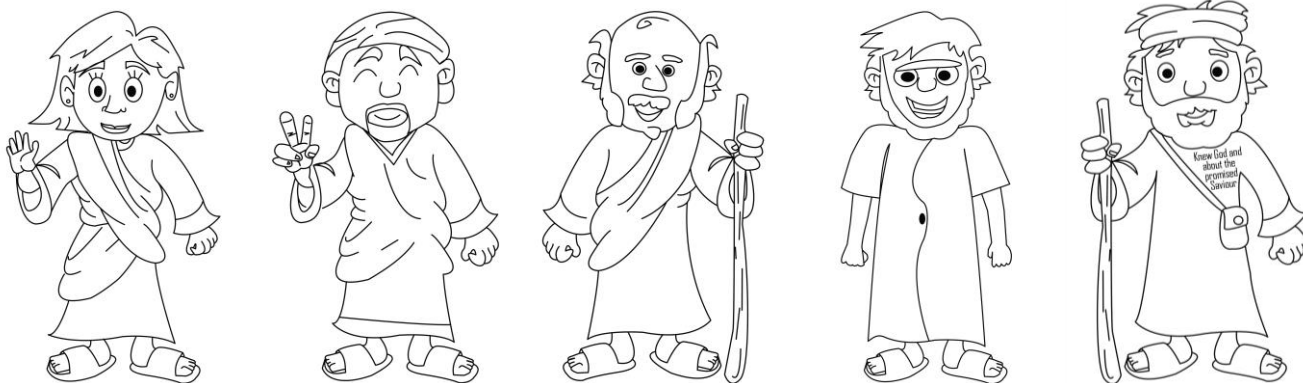
- Children sit in a circle. The leader (Person who is “on”) walks around the outside of the circle tapping each child lightly on the head or shoulder.
- Instead of saying “Duck, duck, duck...” the leader repeats the verse “For you are a chosen people. For you are a chosen people.”
- Eventually the leader taps one person and shouts, “YOU ARE CHOSEN!” and that person gets up and tries to catch the leader.
- If the leader manages to get away and takes the person’s seat in the circle, that person is now “on” and the game begins again.
- If the leader gets caught they must say the whole verse and they are then “on” again.

Remind the children that they are chosen not because of anything that they have done but because of God Himself!

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Laminated people
- A black marker pen
- Something to rub off the marker pen



Have the laminated people stuck up on the wall. One of them will be Paul but you won't tell them his name yet.

Hmm we have some people stuck up here. I wonder which one I should choose to tell you about. Let me choose this guy. *(Choose Paul but don't let them know his name yet. Point out that he has “Knew God” and “Knew about the promised saviour” written on him).*

This guy was brought up in a family that knew God. He studied the Old Testament and knew everything that God said about the promised Saviour. He knew what the Saviour would be like and what He would do.

Do you think God would choose someone like this to be part of His family? Do you think God would choose someone like this to be a part of His plans? *(We would probably say yes)*

Let me tell you a bit more about this guy. This is what this guy believed. *(Use the black marker pen to write what he has done wrong)*

He was confident that people who believed in Jesus should be killed. *(Write “believers are bad”)* He wanted to stop people following Jesus *(Write “Stop people from following Jesus”)*.

And this is what this guy did. The Bible says he threatened believers with every breath. *(Write “threatened and made believers scared”)*. He had many men and woman who loved Jesus thrown in prison. *(Write “Arrested people that loved Jesus”)* He even had believers killed *(Write “Killed believers”)* And he didn't want to stop hurting Christians so he kept making plans to have more killed and more arrested. *(Write “horrible plans”)*. Everything he was doing was against God and we call this sin. *(Write “Sin sin sin”)*



This is what others were saying about him. “He is doing terrible things to people who believe in Jesus.”. “He has been given authority by the priests to arrest people that love and pray to God.” And all that they were saying was true. Acts 9:13-14 (*Write sin sin sin*)

Would you choose someone like this to be part of your family? Or part of your plans? Do you think God would choose someone like this to be part of His family? Do you think God would choose someone like this to be a part of His plans?

Well here is the amazing thing about God. He doesn't choose us because of what we know or don't know. And He doesn't choose because of what we have done right or what we have done wrong.

Ephesians 1:4 says,

⁴ Even before He (God) made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes.

And how does He make us holy and without fault?

Ephesians 1:5

⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through **Jesus Christ**. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.

Through Jesus. God brings us to Him through Jesus.

So this guy is actually Paul from the Bible. Paul did all these horrible things. But this did not mean that Paul was no longer chosen by God. Even while Paul was on the road to Damascus to try stop people from loving Jesus, Jesus showed Himself to Paul in a bright light. And from then on Paul's life was completely changed. He now saw Jesus as King and loved Him.

Let's read what Paul says about himself in Galatians 1:13-16

Galatians 1:13-14

¹³ You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

Paul knew he didn't deserve to be chosen. He even says, “I did my best to destroy God's church, even more than everyone else.” But that is not only what Paul knew about himself. Let's keep reading.

Galatians 1:15-16

¹⁵ But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by His marvellous grace. Then it pleased Him ¹⁶ to reveal His Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.

Paul knew *when* he was chosen. When was he chosen? (*Before he was even born*)

Paul knew *how* he got chosen. It wasn't what he had done right or wrong. He did a lot wrong. He was chosen because of *God's marvellous ...? (Grace)*

Grace is getting something you don't deserve. He deserved to be punished for these sins but instead Jesus died for him so that he could be forgiven. (*Wipe away all the marker pen*)

Paul knew Jesus chose to *reveal* Himself to Paul. Paul had been telling everyone not to believe that Jesus is the saviour, but on the road to Damascus Jesus showed Himself to Paul so he could see who He really is. Acts 9:5

Paul knew the *plan* God had chosen for him to do. (*Tell others that Jesus is the one Saviour*)

Paul knew he was chosen. It became his identity. Even when we read the letters he wrote look how he starts them.

Galatians 1:1

1 This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

Ephesians 1:1

1 This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus.

What does this teach us about ourselves?

Are you chosen by God? Yes! (1 Peter 2:9)

When were you chosen? Before you were born. (Ephesians 1:4)

Did you deserve to be chosen? No, we have all sinned. And our sin means we don't deserve to be chosen. (Romans 3:23) A little laminated person of us would also have sin written all over it.

BUT we are chosen. So who made it possible? *Jesus*

Jesus chose you to be His, He made it possible for you to be forgiven and be close with Him. He chooses you to tell others about Him. This is your identity!

Get them all to say, "I am chosen by God."

4) Review Questions:

- Have you ever been chosen for something? How did that make you feel?
- How does it make you feel knowing you have been chosen by God to be His and do His plan?

5) Craft

Option 1: Handprints

Children dip and put their handprint on the page to remind them that they have been chosen.

I am chosen by God

I am chosen by God



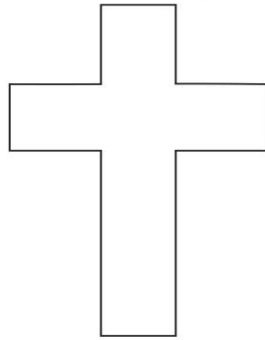
Just like Paul we can say...
"But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by His marvelous grace. Then it pleased Him
"to reveal His Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. Galatians 1:15-16"

Just like Paul we can say...
"But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by His marvelous grace. Then it pleased Him
"to reveal His Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. Galatians 1:15-16"

Option 2: Finger paint Cross

Children fill the cross with their fingerprints. Remind them they are chosen and made holy by what Jesus did for them on the cross.

I am chosen by God



Ephesians 1:4
Even before God made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes.

I am chosen by God



Ephesians 1:4
Even before God made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes.

Option 3: Activity Page: What does God say about you?

¹⁵ But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by His marvelous grace. Then it pleased Him ¹⁶ to reveal His Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.
Galatians 1:15-16

⁹ "... for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession."
1 Peter 2:9

⁴ Even before God made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.
Ephesians 1:4

Read these verses and draw a speech bubble around the things God is saying about you.

I am chosen to be a part of God's family

Jesus wanted to choose me, it gives Him great pleasure

I was chosen by God before He made the world

Jesus chose to reveal Himself to me

I am chosen to be God's own possession

I am chosen to be holy and without fault

I am a chosen holy nation

I am chosen to be close to Jesus

I am chosen to tell others



I AM CHOSEN TO BE IN CHRIST

I am chosen by grace and not because I deserve it

I am a chosen royal priest

Lesson 5: I am loved by God

Main focus for the lesson:

- I am loved by God.
- God helps me understand how much He loves me by telling me, showing me, adopting me and filling me with the Holy Spirit.

1) Memory Verse

- Ephesians 3:18

¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His (God's) love is.

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Lay the pictures out in a hop-scotch pattern. Children will say the verse as they each take turns to do the actions as they jump on, next to and over the pictures.



Action	Verse
Start by standing on one leg with flexed muscle arms	(Pic 1) May you have the power
Hop onto the other leg and put your hands on your head	(Pic 1) to understand
Spin	(Pic 1) as all God's people should
Stand with legs split wide on the right and left of the picture	(Pic 2) how wide
Stand with legs split one in front and the other over the picture	(Pic 3) how long
Jump over the laminated page as high as you can onto the next picture	(Pic 4) how high
Stand on the laminated page and block your nose and go down like you are sinking	(Pic 5) how deep
Jump on the picture and hug yourself	(Pic 6) God's love is
Jump off and the next person takes a turn	Ephesians 3:18

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- 2 eggs (One labelled "God" and the other "Me")
- Bowl
- Whisk



1. Here I have two eggs, one is us and the other is God. Do you know that God loves you so much that He made you in His image? *(Hold the two eggs up and show that they are alike)*





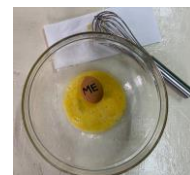
2. But then we sinned by doing things that were against God. This sin separated us far away from God. *(Move the ME egg far away from the GOD egg, even into another room.)* What does God say about us now? Romans 5:10 says we are enemies of God. Ouch. I don't want to be God's enemy, do you? And that's not the identity God wants for us either.



3. But God still loved us so much and showed this love for us while we were still sinners that He sent His son Jesus to die on the cross for us. *(Break the GOD egg into the bowl.)*



4. When we believe in what Jesus did for us, our sins are taken away and He says we are forgiven. We become "Citizens" of His kingdom, and He calls us His "servant". That's much better than being God's enemy! Wow, it's so amazing that the God who created everything calls me a citizen of His Kingdom. *(Place the uncracked ME egg into the bowl not broken.)*



5. Can you see that we are close to God again and that's good but I can still remove this ME egg from the bowl at any time. God says I want even more than that! He says, "I want you to be My child, I want everything that is mine to be yours, I want nothing to separate us ever again." *(Crack the ME egg into the bowl and mix them together.)* Now these two eggs are joined together forever and you can't separate them again. Because of what Jesus did, we can never be separated from God again. God fills us with His spirit, calls us co-heirs and He calls us His children and that is who we are.



3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- The red heart
- A piece of paper
- Poster paint

Ephesians 3:18 ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is.

God wants us to understand that we are loved by Him and how great the love He has for us is. To help us understand His love for us let's look at some ways that God shows He loves us.

God TELLS us He loves us.

Hold the red heart behind your back.



I am holding a red heart behind my back. Do you believe me? *(Let them answer.)* What if I told you more than once that I have a red heart behind my back? *(Repeat it quickly over and over a few times.)* Would you believe me? *(Let them answer.)* What if someone else told you that I have a red heart behind my back? *Choose a volunteer, show them the heart and get them to tell the children.*

Some of you believed me immediately that I have a red heart. Some of you believed me only once I said it over and over again or until someone else said so.

God really wants us to understand that we are loved by Him and so there are over 300 times in the Bible that He tells us! Do you believe that He loves you?

God SHOWED us He loves us.

Show the red heart so they can see it.

But God doesn't just tell us that He loves us. He showed us too.

Romans 5:8 ⁸But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Wow, dying for us really shows that He loves us. Dying for us while we were sinners and didn't deserve it shows us even more how great His love for us is.

Now do you understand how much He loves you? But that is not all. Listen to this verse and see how God tried to help us understand how much He loves us.

God ADOPTED us.

Read the verse from the Bible. Use a piece of paper and paint to demonstrate what adoption meant in Roman times.

Ephesians 1:5

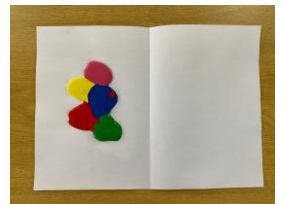
⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.

The word "adoption" is used here because in Roman times people would have known how much this meant you were loved by God.



Let's pretend this piece of paper represents a Roman father. This father has so many things *(As you name each thing add different coloured paints to one side of the page)*. This father has wealth, that means he is able to care of his children and give them what they need. This father has an inheritance, that means he has things that belong to his children

because he has given them to his children. This father has authority, that means he has power to influence people and change situations.



Do you see all these things the father has?

When a Roman father adopted a child, that meant the father had chosen this child. He loved and wanted that child. And everything that the father had then belonged to the child as well *(Fold the page in half so that the other side is also full of paint)* The people of this time would have also known that it was law that once a child was adopted this was forever.



We know that God is the perfect Father. Ephesians 1:5 tells us:

- God decided to adopt us into His family.
- God brought us to Himself through Jesus. *(open and refold the page to show that we are brought to the father)*
- God wanted to do this. It made Him happy to do so, it gave Him great pleasure.
- God makes us His forever.

Everything that God our Father has, He has given to us.

If we need anything we can ask and He will generously provide for all our needs.

God also has a great inheritance and because we are His children that inheritance is ours.

God's power is living in us as He has given us the Holy Spirit to do things we would never be able to do on our own.

God FILLS us with His Holy Spirt.

Hold up the painted page and show that the one side looks the same as the other.

Ephesians 1:13

¹³ ...and when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago.

And if this wasn't enough to help us understand His love for us, He identifies us as His own. He has given us His power and authority by giving us His Holy Spirit to live inside us and to make us like Him.

Wow! God has told us, shown us, adopted us as His child and filled us with the Holy Spirit all because He loves us.

Do you think you understand God's love for you? *(Let the children answer.)*

I hope you understand a bit more but do you know what is so amazing about God's love?

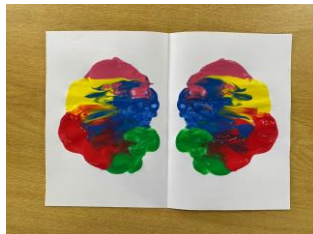
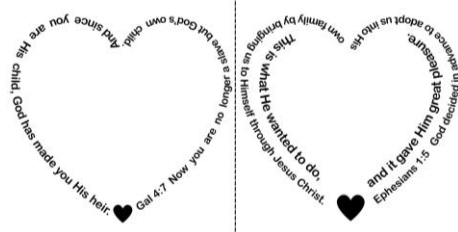
Ephesians 3:19 says. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, **though it is too great to understand fully.**

4) Review Questions:

- The next time you see scrambled eggs what is it going to remind you of? *(God loves me and because of Jesus I am joined with God forever)*
- The next time you see paint what should you remember? *(God loves me and everything that is His is mine also)*
- The next time you see a red heart what is it going to remind you of? *(God loves me because He tells me so in the Bible. He showed me so through Jesus.)*
- Will God ever stop loving you? *(Never. Romans 8:37-38)*

5) Craft

Option 1: God loves me heart



- Read the verses around the hearts to remind them of how God has showed us love.
- On the left heart let the children blob paint for all the things that God, our Father, has.
 - God our Father has wealth, that means He has everything to help our needs.
 - God our Father has authority, that means He has power to influence people and change situations.
 - God our Father has an inheritance, that means He has things that belong to His children because He has given them to His children.
- Fold the paper as you remind them that God has adopted us and has brought us to Him through Jesus. Everything the Father has, He gives to us too.

Option 2: God loves me mobile

Cut out the circles, find the matching pairs and stick them back to back.

Attach string and hang them to make a mobile.



Lesson 6: I am God's masterpiece

Main focus for the lesson:

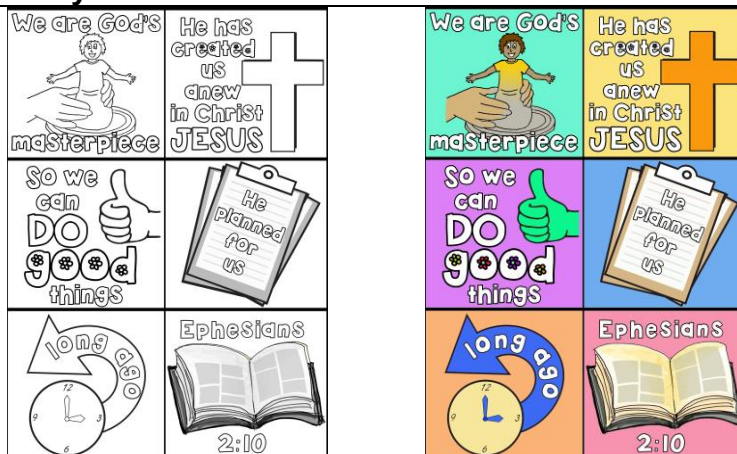
- I am God's masterpiece.
- I am a masterpiece because of what Jesus has done for me.

1) Memory Verse

- Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's masterpiece, He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago".

Idea to teach the memory verse.



Give each child a set of the cards found in craft option 1 and display a big, coloured set for them to refer to.

- Get the children to lay their cards, in order, in front of them. As you say the verse together get them to tap each card.
- Once they are familiar with the cards and the verse ask them the following questions and they will hold up the card that has the answer.
- After they all hold the correct card up get them to repeat the answers together.

- 1) Who is the masterpiece? (Card 1) *Get them to reply, "I am God's masterpiece".*
- 2) Whose masterpiece are you? (Card 1) *Get them to reply, "I am God's masterpiece".*
- 3) Who made you into a masterpiece? (Card 2) *Get them to reply, "Jesus made me a masterpiece".*
- 4) Why did God make you a masterpiece? (Card 3) *Get them to reply, "I am a masterpiece so I can do good things".*
- 5) Who planned these good things for His masterpiece? (Card 4) *Get them to reply, "God made plans for me".*
- 6) When did God make the plans for His masterpiece? (Card 5) *Get them to reply, "God made plans for me long ago".*
- 7) Where do we find this verse in the Bible? (Card 6) *Get them to reply "Ephesians 2:10 tells me I am God's masterpiece."*




2) Hands On

Have some fun as a leader arrives with scruffy hair and shows a picture of the "masterpiece" they want their hair to look like. They try and make their hair look like that on their own. (*Have clips, brush, spray, scissors etc.*) Conclude that this is not something they can do on their own. They need a professional hairdresser to be involved.



A masterpiece is something that is extremely well made and seen as a great achievement. An artist will refer to their best work as a masterpiece.

I have some pictures. Can you help me separate them into what they started as (before) and the masterpiece they now are (after). (*Clay – ceramic pot; wood – carved box; art tools – painting*)

Before		After
		
		
		

Were the lumps of clay, log of wood, and paint masterpieces? No. Could they be made into masterpieces? Yes. Did this clay just become a beautiful ceramic pot? Did this piece of wood just become this stunning carved jewellery box? Did this paint just become this painting? No, each of them needed the artist or person to purposefully make them into the masterpiece that they are.

Add in the following pictures in between.



God calls us His masterpiece. We are made His masterpiece by the most perfect creator of them all, Jesus. Nothing we do makes us His masterpiece. We are masterpieces because He has makes us a masterpiece.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Stick up the words “before” and “after”.

In the letter that Paul wrote to the Ephesians he tells them what they used to be like. *Begin with all the **before** pictures, placing them one under the other as you read the verse and explain what they mean as shown in the table below.*

But he also tells them that they are God’s masterpiece. Does this look like a great work? Do you think this is how God made them to be? *No.*

Let’s read Ephesians 2:10 again and see what is missing.

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s masterpiece, He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago”.

They were created anew in Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross He changed them. Again in Ephesians we see what they were like **after** they believed in Jesus.

*Go through all the **after** pictures and verses. Stick them next to the before picture, one under the other as shown in the table.*

Does this now look like a “masterpiece” God would make? *Yes!*

Which one do you want to be like? How the Ephesians were before or how they were after? *After.*

Remember how the clay couldn’t become a pot without a potter or the paint couldn’t become a painting without the artist. Well we need Jesus if we are going to be God’s masterpiece. We cannot do it without Him. The best thing is Jesus is the perfect masterpiece maker. When we believe Jesus is God’s son who died for our sins and is now alive in Heaven listen to what the Bible says happens.



2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)









¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

You are no longer how you were before. That is gone forever. You are now a masterpiece.

*Go through each one and ask “When you believe in Jesus are you... (name something from the before column). Each time they will answer “No, I am a masterpiece” and you will remove the **before** picture.*

Table of pictures and verses.

BEFORE		AFTER	
	DEAD that means separation and no eternal life with God. Ephesians 2:1 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.		LIFE (eternal life with God.) Ephesians 2:4-5 But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.

	<p>FOLLOW SINFUL NATURE Ephesians 2:3 ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature.</p>		<p>FOLLOW GOOD PLANS Ephesians 2:10 ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.</p>
	<p>FAR AWAY/APART Ephesians 2:11-13 ¹¹ Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders... ¹² In those days you were living apart from Christ... ¹³ Once you were far away from God...</p>		<p>NEAR/UNITED Ephesians 2:13 ¹³ But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.</p>
	<p>STRANGERS Ephesians 2:19 ¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners...</p>		<p>PART OF GOD'S FAMILY Ephesians 2:19 You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.</p>
	<p>PLANS HIDDEN Ephesians 2:12 ² You did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. Ephesians 3:5 ⁵ God did not reveal it (the plan of unity) to previous generations...</p>		<p>PLANS REVEALED Ephesians 3:5 ³ But now by His Spirit He has revealed it to His holy apostles and prophets.</p>

4) Review Questions

- Are you a masterpiece? *(If you believe in Jesus, then you are God's masterpiece. If you do not believe in Jesus, then you are not yet God's masterpiece.)*
- How do you become a masterpiece? (Romans 10:9-10 ⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.)
- Do you think there is anything better to be than God's masterpiece? *(No way. Look at all the wonderful things around us. How perfect they are, yet we are the masterpiece.)*
- How can we help others become a masterpiece? *(We need to take care that we do not judge people for their actions but instead keep telling them about Jesus. Jesus makes us a masterpiece and Jesus makes us His holy temple. We introduce others to Jesus.)*

5) Crafts

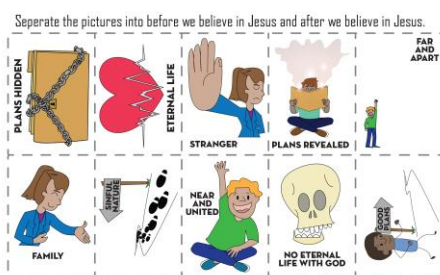
Option 1: Memory verse cards

Children cut and colour their own set of memory verse cards. They can add them onto a string and hang them at home to remember that they are God's masterpiece.

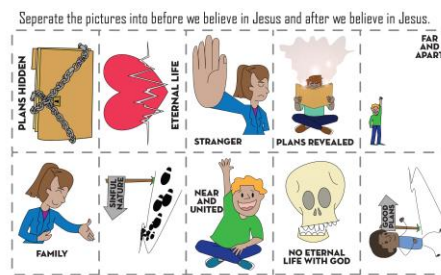


Option 2: I am God's masterpiece

Separate the pictures into before and after believing in Jesus. Stick the after cards at the bottom of the activity page to show that you are now God's masterpiece.



I am God's masterpiece



I am God's masterpiece



Option 3: Baking Craft

Make face iced biscuits. Stick the memory verse cards on the paper plate so they can remember they are God's masterpiece.



Lesson 7: I have a purpose

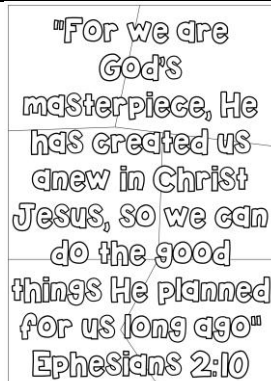
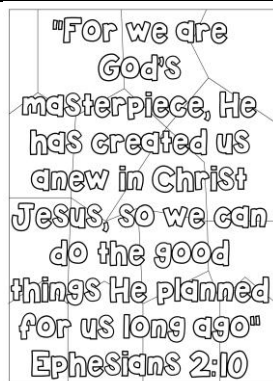
- God has made me with a purpose.
- I must do the good things God has planned for me.
- God is faithful to make these plans work.

1) Memory Verse

- Ephesians 2:10

“For we are God’s masterpiece, He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago”.

Idea to teach the memory verse.



- Choose the template suitable for your age group and make copies of the puzzle on different coloured paper. Print enough so that when you cut it into pieces, every child can collect one.
- Hide the pieces or play a game where they have to each collect one piece.
- Once they each have a piece let them find the group of people with the same colour as them.
- Once they have built the puzzle let each group say the verse, add actions to the verse or even make a song or rap to remember the verse.

2) Hands On

What you will need:

- Hat
- Microphone (prop)
- Bible with verse pre-marked

First make sure the children understand what the word “purpose” means. Then pretend you are a game show host and they are the contestants. Each time give them two options to choose from. They could do an action to show their specific choice. Then read the verse from the Bible and together work out what God says their purpose is.

Welcome to **WHAT’S YOUR PURPOSE GAME SHOW**. The *purpose* of the hat I am wearing is make me look really good. And the *purpose* of this fake microphone is to make you think this is a game show. And the *purpose* of this game show is to help you find out “What’s your purpose” Not just any purpose but the reason God made you and what He wants you to do. So I am going to give you a scenario and you will need to decide **what’s your purpose**. Are you ready?

Scenario 1: Someone asks you “Do you have a purpose?”. The correct answer is ...

A - Yes, God created me to do the good things He has planned for me.

B - No, I don’t have a purpose yet.

Let’s check what the Bible says: Ephesians 2:10 God has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

(Answer A – God made us with a purpose and planned good things for us long ago.)

Scenario 2: Someone asks, "How do you know what your purpose is?" The correct answer is...

A - I just copy what everyone else is doing.

B - I let God change the way I think and learn what His will is for me.

Let's check in the Bible for what God says: Romans 12:2 ² Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

(Answer B – God shows you what His will is for you when you let Him change you)

Scenario 3: Someone asks, "When do we do the good things God has planned?" The correct answer is...

A - Do them whenever you can.

B - Do them when you feel like it.

Let's check in the Bible for what God says: Galatians 6:9-10 ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up ¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

(Answer A – Our purpose is to do the good things God has asked whenever we have the opportunity.)

Scenario 4: Someone needs food or clothes. What's your purpose?

A - To get as many likes as possible for the photo I posted of me being generous.

B - To be generous so that people will thank God.

Let's check in the Bible for what God says: 2 Corinthians 9:12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

(Answer B – Our purpose is to be generous so others have the things they need and will thank God)

Scenario 5: Someone doesn't know Jesus. What's your purpose?

A - To do nothing.

B - To tell them about Jesus.

Let's check in the Bible for what God says: Romans 10:13-14 ¹³ For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴ But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?

(Answer B – Our purpose is to tell them who Jesus is and what He has done. Notice not to save them, Jesus does that)

Scenario 6: Someone has done nothing to deserve to be loved. Can you think of someone like that? What's your purpose?

A - Love them.

B - Tell them why they do not deserve your love.

Let's check in the Bible for what God says: John 13:34 ³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

(Answer A – We don't just love them, we love them like Jesus has loved us. That is a lot.)

Scenario 7: What's your most important purpose?

A - Do the best I can.

B - Love God

Let's check in the Bible for what God says: Matthew 22:37-38 ³⁷ Jesus replied: "'You must Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

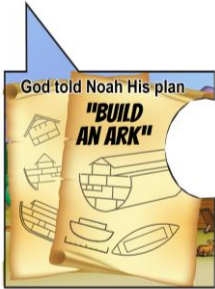
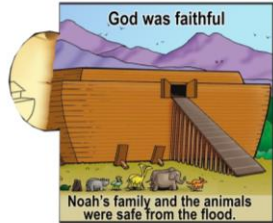
(Answer B – Our greatest purpose is to love God and one of the ways we do this is to do the good things He has planned for us.

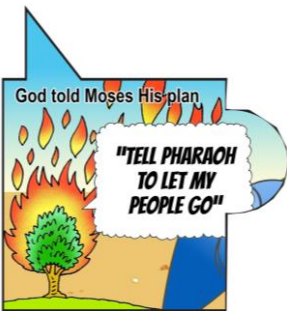
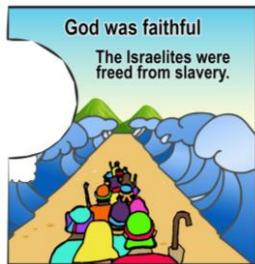
Thank you contestants. Now that you know you have a purpose are you ready to do it?



3) Bible Story + Lesson

There is not enough time to tell each of these stories. The aim is to use these examples to get three main points across each time:



- 1) **God has** good plans for us to do.
- 2) **BUT!** It is easy to find an excuse of why we shouldn't or think we can't do God's plan.
- 3) We do it because they are the good things God has planned for us and **He is faithful** to make the plan work!

God told Noah the plan	BUT	God was faithful
<p>God told Noah His plan. "Noah I want you to build a huge ark (boat) so you, your family and these animals will be safe when I send a big flood.</p> 	<p>Noah had never seen rain so he didn't know what a flood or a boat even was.</p> <p>Do you think he should still do God's plan?</p>	<p>Yes! Noah did God's plan and God was faithful. He kept Noah, his family and the animals safe.</p> 
We need to do God's plan even if it doesn't make sense.		

God told Moses the plan	BUT	God was faithful
<p>God spoke to Moses through a burning bush and told him His plan. "Tell Pharaoh to let my people go and I will set them free from slavery."</p> 	<p>Moses said he wasn't good at speaking and he couldn't do this because it was too hard.</p> <p>Do you think he should still do God's plan?</p>	<p>Yes, Moses did the plan and God was faithful and set the people free.</p> 
We need to do God's plan even when we think we can't.		

God told Abraham and Sarah the plan	BUT	God was faithful
<p>God told Abraham and Sarah that He would make them into a big strong famous family with as many people in it as there are stars in the sky.</p> 	<p>Sarah and Abraham were very old. Too old to have children. And God's plan wasn't happening yet.</p> <p>Do you think they should do the plan their way or wait for God to do the plan?</p>	<p>They tried to do it their way and make it their plan. But God was faithful to forgive them and still made them into a great nation like His original plan for them.</p> 

We need to do God's plan His way.

God told Mary the plan	BUT	God was faithful
<p>God told Mary she would give birth to Jesus, the one whose kingdom would never end.</p> 	<p>But Mary was not married and she did not know how God could do this plan.</p> <p>Do you think she should agree to be part of God's plan? Yes! Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let this thing you have said happen to me!" Luke 1:38</p>	<p>And God was faithful. Jesus was born and He made a way for us to be part of His Kingdom that would never end.</p> 

We just need to say "yes", even when we don't understand.

There are many stories in the Bible of people doing the good things God had planned for them. These stories are testimonies of God's faithfulness and how He makes the plan work out so well. The exciting thing is that God says He has good things planned for us to do too. That is part of our identity: A person God made with a purpose to do good things He has planned for us. That should make you feel really good. The King of everything, who has the best plans ever says He wants you to play a part in His plan.

How do we know what our purpose is? Or what the plan is? Jesus tells us His plans for us so we need to spend time with Him. We pray, read the Bible and we listen to what He says.

God is telling you the plan	BUT	God is faithful
<p>The Bible is filled with the good plans that God has for us. Love Him, love others, believe in Jesus, be generous, tell others, worship, pray etc. He has made us with a purpose to do these things and so much more. He also has plans that are unique that He has asked just you to do.</p>	<p>There are things that stop us from doing these good plans. We could try do them our way. Or have fears that we can't do them or that the sacrifice to do them is too much.</p> <p>Do you think we should do them?</p>	<p>Yes! God has made us with a purpose. God has good plans for us. And just like He has been faithful to all His other plans, He will be faithful to help us too.</p>

We just need to say "yes", God does the rest.

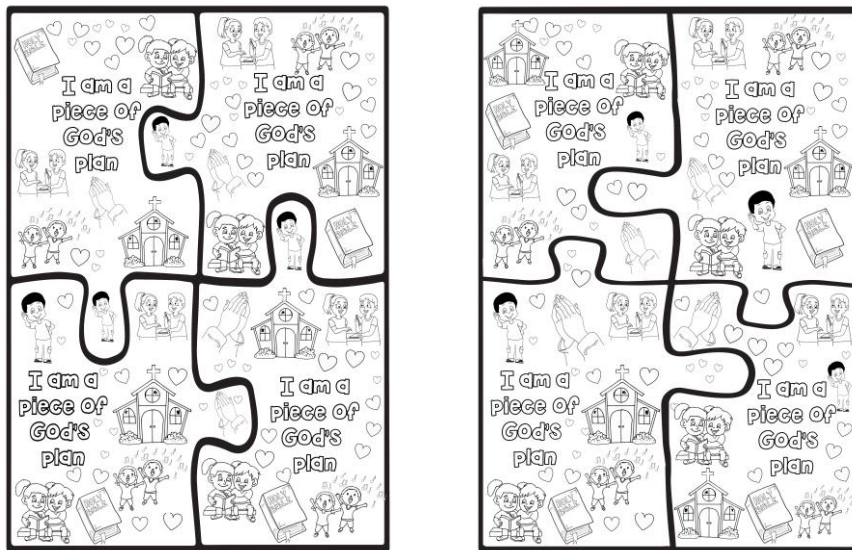
4) Review Questions

- How does it make you feel to know God has a purpose for you?
- What are some of the good plans God has for us as believers? *(Be part of the church, tell others your testimony, tell others what Jesus did for them, pray for others etc.)*
- What are some of the good plans God has for you specifically?
- Share a time when God was faithful to use you as part of His plan? *(Could be as simple as invite a friend to church or pray for healing)*

5) Crafts

Option 1: I am a piece of God's plan (puzzle)

Cut the puzzles into pieces and give each child one piece. Let them decorate and stick it up to remind them that they are a piece of God's bigger plan as they love others, love Him, tell others about Him and do all the other plans God has for them.



Option 2: Activity Page

Challenge the children to get busy with God's plan for them and as they do each challenge they colour in the picture.



Lesson 8: I belong and I fit in to God's family

Main focus for the lesson:

- I belong because Jesus makes me a citizen and a family member of His Kingdom.
- I fit in because Jesus joins me with others to His house and His Holy Temple filled with the Holy Spirit.

1) Memory Verse

- Ephesians 4:16

“Jesus makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

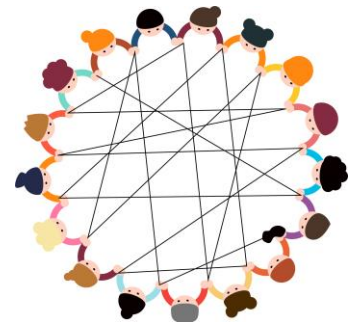
Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- A ball of string or wool.

Get the children to sit in a circle and begin by reading the full verse to them from the Bible. Then explain. Each one of us in this circle looks different, comes from different families, is good at different things and likes different things. But because of Jesus we fit together perfectly. We fit so well together that as each part does its special work, we become a healthy growing body.

- Give the ball of string to one child, they should hold the end of the string, say the first part of the verse. “Jesus makes”
- Then gently toss the ball of string to anyone else in the circle. That child will then say the next part of the verse “the whole body”. They will then hold onto the string and gently toss the ball of string again to someone else.
- Keep on repeating the verse until the ball of string is fully unravelled and a big web is formed between everyone.
- Make sure to help the kids where they need it.



2) Hands on

Show the children pictures of things that don't fit in or don't belong.



Today I am going to need you guys to help me. I am going to need you to tell me what doesn't really fit into each picture.

Just like those animals or objects in those pictures, sometimes we can feel like we don't fit in. And, just like the dog who put his face into the bread or the cat dressed up as a penguin, we can try to change how we look on the outside in order to feel like we belong. We can try and change what we wear to be more trendy, we can cut our hair so people think it looks nice and sometimes we can even pretend to act in a way that isn't really us. And sometimes, even after

all that effort we still feel like we don't fit in. Sometimes we can feel like the bright yellow rubber ducky in a lake full of swans.

But God says that we do belong. God says that we fit into His Kingdom. Let's look at what God says about us and how we fit into His kingdom.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

You will need:

- Pictures of foreigners, citizens, strangers and family members.
- Building blocks

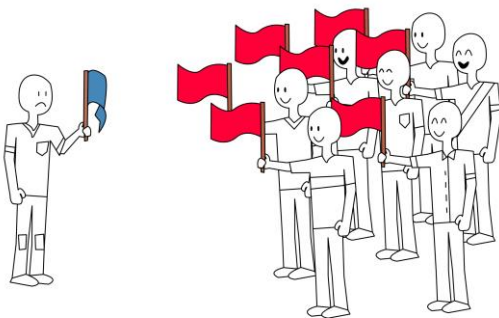
Show the pictures as you ask the following.

What would you rather be? A foreigner or a citizen?

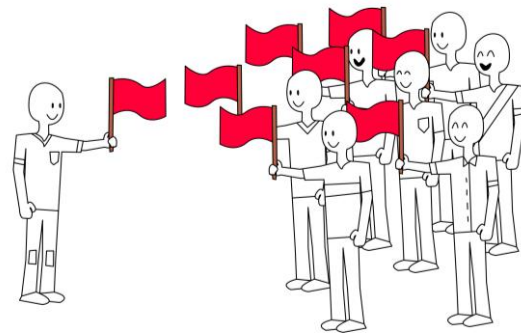
A foreigner does not belong to the country and isn't allowed to be there for very long. They can't work there. They can't live there. They can't have a family or own anything there. Sometimes, they don't understand the language. Do you know that another word for a foreigner is an alien? That is how much they do not fit in and are not welcomed.

A citizen on the other hand is a person who legally belongs to the country. They can build a house there. Have a family there. Own land and build a house there. And because they are a citizen the rest of the country will protect them.

Foreigner

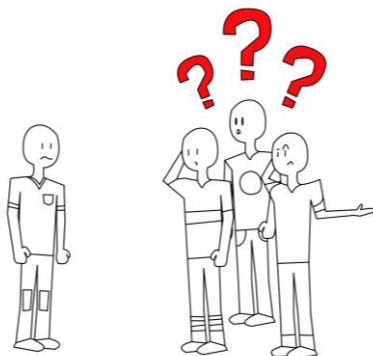


Citizen



Would you rather be a stranger that nobody knows or a member of a family?

Stranger



Family



We want to belong. We want to be a part of something. We want to fit in.

In the Bible we read about two groups of people. The Jews. These people were born as Jews and knew God and so followed His rules. And there were the Gentiles. These people didn't know God and so they did not follow His rules. These two groups of people were very different to each other. They grew up with very different beliefs, very different traditions and would not spend time with each other.

If a Gentile was to come and meet with the Jews, they would feel like a stranger or a foreigner. And Jews would feel the same if they had to be with Gentiles.

But then Jesus changed all of that. He died on the cross and came alive again so **all** sins could be forgiven and **all** people could be with God.

The good news of what Jesus had done was to be told to the Jews. And this same good news was to be told to the Gentiles too. Why? Because God wanted all of them to accept His gift of forgiveness by believing in Jesus. God wanted all to have eternal life with Him. He wanted all of them to be citizens, people who belong, to His Kingdom. God wanted them all to be members of His family.

Ephesians 2:19

¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

To God it doesn't matter where you are born, what upbringing you have had or how different you are to others. This good news is for you too. And when you accept Jesus, you become citizens of God's Kingdom, you are a member of His family. You belong.

Ephesians 2:20 goes on to tell us that because of Jesus, we fit in.

Ephesians 2:20

²⁰ Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through Him, you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit".

Use the blocks to build a tower and explain the verse.



Let's pretend these blocks are many different people. The verse says that because of Jesus we are carefully joined together. It says we are His house. Each one of us fit. *(Build a tower out of the blocks)*

We are becoming a holy temple for God with the Holy Spirit living in us.

Remove one block.

Do you see that space? This is where you fit in. The house or the temple doesn't fall apart because Jesus is the cornerstone, the very one that holds it strongly together. But we can see that God is saying I have made this space just for you. Will you fill it?



These verses tell us something very important about ourselves and can help us answer two questions we might ask ourselves?

Do I belong? *Yes, because of Jesus I am a citizen and family member of His Kingdom.*

Do I fit in? *Yes! Because of Jesus, I am joined with others and I am His house. And because of the Holy Spirit I am becoming a holy temple for God.*

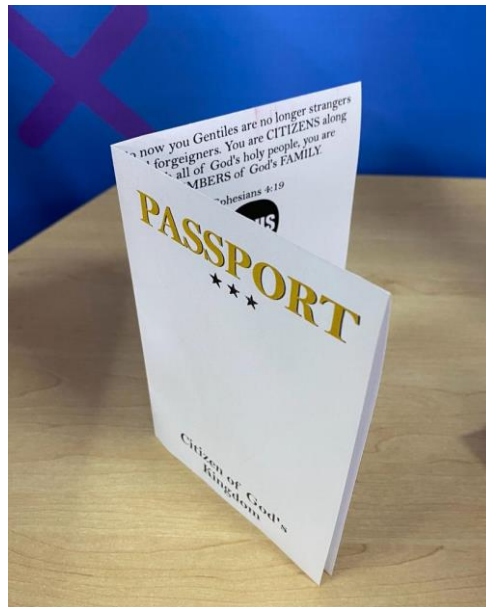
4) Review Questions:

- How do you change from being a stranger and a foreigner to God to rather being a citizen and family member of God's? *(It is Jesus that makes us a citizen and a family member. We accept His gift of forgiveness He gave when He died on the cross and rose again. We do this by believing in Him and telling Him that we do.)*
- Are you a citizen and a family member of God's Kingdom? *(If no, would you like to be? If yes, how does that make you feel?)*
- Have you ever felt like you do not belong or you do not fit in? What are you going to remind yourself the next time you feel that way? *(I belong because Jesus makes me a citizen and a family member of His Kingdom. I fit in because Jesus joins me with others to His house and His Holy Temple filled with the Holy Spirit. Ignore the lies and remember these truths!)*

5) Craft

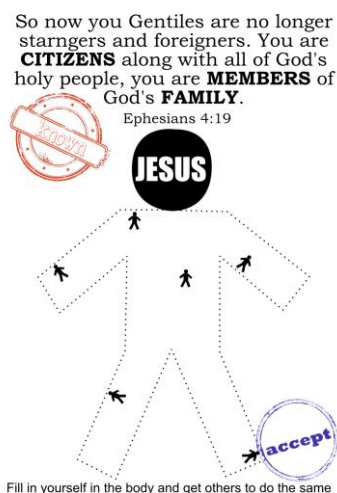
Option 1: Identity Passport

Have the children fill in and decorate their own "citizen of God" passport. Fold it to make it into a little book.



Option 2: Jesus makes the whole body fit together

Children draw themselves in the body. Then let them go from person to person to draw themselves onto each other's too.



Lesson 9: I am a child of God

Main focus for the lesson:

- I am God's child and that is who I am.
- Because I am God's child, I am secure in everything He says about me. I belong because Jesus makes me a citizen and a family member of His Kingdom.

1) Memory Verse

- 1 John 3:1

"See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are!"

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

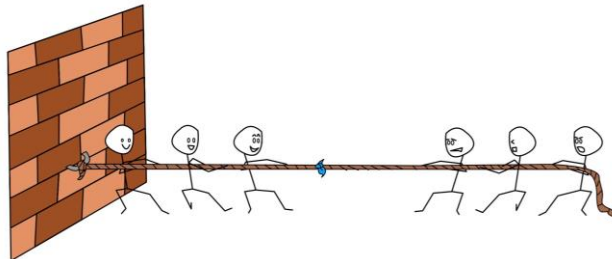
- Tug of war rope (or Polyprop webbing as a cheaper alternative)
- Whistle
- Something to secure the rope to (a wall/pole)



Set up the rope beforehand by securing one end of the rope to a pole or a wall.

Now divide children into two groups. Let each team take hold of their side of the rope. Use a whistle to signal the beginning of the tug of war. The team on the side that is secured to the wall will obviously win. The team that is pulling on the other side will never win.

After a while blow the whistle and let the children swap over and play the game again.



Get the children to sit down and ask:

Which side of the rope did you want to be on? Obviously on the side that is tied to the wall. God says anyone that believes in His son, is His child. (Galatians 4:7) Are you God's child? Do you believe in Jesus? If you do then you are God's child. You are like the person on the team with the wall.

Do you think there is anything that could stop you from being His child?

Read 1 John 3:1 from the Bible. "See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are!"

God says we are His children, this is what we are. Being secure in who God says you are, is the same as standing on the side of the rope which is attached to the wall. We know who we are in God's eyes and therefore nothing anybody else says can change that!

This series we have learnt what God says about His children.

Ask the children the following questions: Each time the answer must be “Yes! That is what He calls me and that is what I am!”

- Are you wonderfully made? Are you God’s masterpiece? “Yes! That is what He calls me and that is what I am!”
- Does God know you? “Yes! That is what He calls me and that is what I am!”
- Are you made in God’s image? “Yes! That is what He calls me and that is what I am!”
- Are you loved by God? “Yes! That is what He calls me and that is what I am!”
- Are you chosen? “Yes! That is what He calls me and that is what I am!”
- Are you God’s masterpiece? “Yes! That is what He calls me and that is what I am!”
- Do you have a purpose? Are you God’s masterpiece? “Yes! That is what He calls me and that is what I am!”
- Do you belong and fit into God’s family? “Yes! That is what He calls me and that is what I am!”

We can be secure in everything God says about us, this is our identity in Jesus!

2) Hands on

Use the following game to help the children see that God has made each of His children unique!


<i>For younger children: Ask the questions below and have them stand up if the question applies to them.</i>	<i>For older children read out the statements to the children and have them get into groups with friends that have the same things in common with them. Find others that...</i>
Are you wearing closed shoes today?	Have the same shoe size as you.
Is your favourite colour “...”?	Have the same favourite colour as you?
Are you “...” years old?	Are the same age as you.
Who loves to run?	Have the same birthday month as you.
Who loves to go to school?	Are the same height as you?
Does your name start with the letter “...”	Have the same number of siblings as you.
Is your favourite ice-cream flavour “...”?	Whose name starts with the same first letter as yours.
Is your favourite sport “...”?	Do the same extra murals/sports as you.

Did you notice how you and some of your friends had things in common? Were there things where you and your friends were not the same? Yes, because God has created us all to be different, He has made us all unique and we need to be secure in who we are. We are God’s children and no matter what happens or who says what, nothing can change that. *Show the children pictures of things that don’t fit in or don’t belong.*

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- 1 glass jar with a lid that can seal tightly.
- A bowl of water beads (also called squishies or orbeez) They will need to be soaked in water from the night before.
- A glass of water labelled Holy Spirit.
- 1 Lego character (or any other toy person that can fit into your jar).

Instructions	Picture of step
<p><i>(Start with the toy person in the jar.)</i></p> <p>Our identity and who we are cannot be decided by what others say about us or even what we say about ourselves. Our identity and who we are is not decided even by what we do. These things keep changing. One day someone says something nice and the next they say something different and so who we are would change. <i>(Shake the jar)</i></p> <p>One day we do really well and other days we mess up so again our identity would have to change again. We would be all over the place. <i>(Shake the jar again)</i></p> <p>We would be very confused about who we really are.</p>	<p><i>Shake the toy person in the empty jar.</i></p> 
<p><i>(Take the toy person out of the jar)</i></p> <p>To know who we are and what our identity is we go to the One who made us. We go to God. God tells who we truly are. Our verse today told us that we are His children.</p> <p>Can you remember some of the things that God has said about you in this series? <i>(Bring out each of the light bulbs on the mirror one at a time and let them name what they are)</i></p> <p>These are all the things God says you REALLY are. <i>(Add some water beads to the jar, then the toy person and then some more water beads as you refer to all the identity light bulbs. Try and get it so that the toy is standing upright.)</i></p>	<p><i>Build the craft and fill the jar with water beads and the toy person.</i></p> 
<p>Do you think what people say will change who you really are? <i>(No)</i></p> <p>Do you think what you do will change you from being God's child? <i>(No)</i></p> <p>Our identity as God's child does not change because God says that when we become His children we are sealed with His Holy Spirit. <i>(Pour in the water and seal the jar with the lid)</i></p> <p>Let's read this Ephesians 1:13-14</p> <p>¹³ In Him you also, when you heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.</p> <p>We are children of God, that is what we are! We are who God says we are. <i>(Like each one of the light bulbs say.)</i> And when we realise our identity, we are secure. We stand firm. No one and nothing can move us. <i>(Shake the jar)</i></p>	<p><i>Pour in the water, seal the jar and shake.</i></p> 

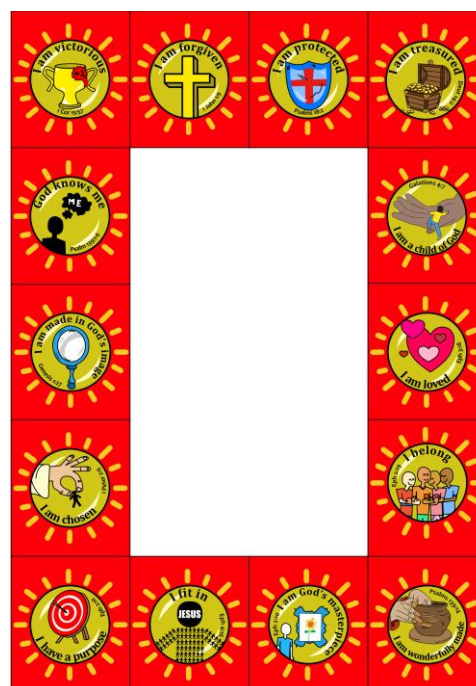
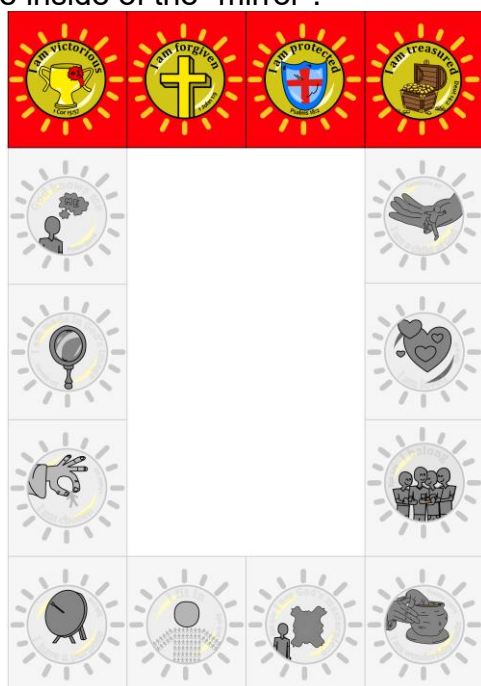
4) Review Questions:

- Who does God say you are in 1 John 3:1? *(He says I am His child)*
- How many of the things God has said about you can you remember? *(I am wonderfully made, God knows me, I am made in God's image, I am chosen by God, I am loved, I am God's masterpiece, I have a purpose, I belong and fit in)*
- Do you think it is important for us to know who God says we are? *(Yes, when we know who God says we are we will be secure and not confused)*

5) Craft

Option 1: Mirror and light bulb craft

Cut out the inside of the "mirror".



Place the different identity light bulbs in bowls around the room or table. Have the children collect all their missing light bulbs and stick them onto their "mirror" frame.

Encourage the children to stick their frame onto a mirror at home so that they can be reminded of the identity God has given them.