

# Chapter 2

## IT'S A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

### GAMES, ACTIVITIES & IDEAS

#### GAME 1

##### GOD MADE YOU & GOD MADE ME!

Children love to be the center of attention. Here's a game that allows them to reflect on how God is not only their Creator but also how He made them uniquely on purpose...

Have the children sit in a circle with you in the center. Read aloud Genesis 1:27. Then teach this rhyme: *"God made Adam, God made Eve, God made all the people we see!"*

Roll a ball back and forth between you and the children after each phrase of the rhyme.

**Then lead children in this variation:**

*"God made Adam, God made Eve, God made [an adult helper's or your name], and God made [child's name]."*

Roll the ball to the child you name, and then have the child roll the ball back to you. Repeat this process until each child has had at least one turn. Slightly increasing the speed will increase the fun!

Then tell them you have ANOTHER verse about how God made them to be unique (one-of-a-kind, special).

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**Read Psalm 139:14 to them:**

*"I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way." (ICB)*

Then begin rolling the ball back and forth, repeating the rhyme together and asking the children to include something special about themselves.

**Here's an example:**

*"God made Adam, God made Eve, God made [an adult helper's or your name - (Cindy with blue eyes)], and God made [child's name - (Brandon with freckles)]."*

Then repeat the two verses (Genesis 1:27 and Psalm 139:14 and remind them that God created them on purpose and for a purpose and that He loves them just like they are!

## GAME 2

### JESUS LOVE YOU

Play the familiar game of Duck, Duck, Goose, but instead of saying "duck, duck, goose," have the child who is "It" say, "Jesus loves, loves, loves YOU!"

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In this game, children sit in a circle. The child who is *It* walks around the circle and pats each child's head while saying only one word in the phrase.

When the child says "you," the child whose head is tapped jumps up and chases *It* back to the tagged child's space. If the tagged child catches *It*, the child who's *It* must sit in the middle of the circle until someone replaces him or her. The new child is *It* and continues the game.

Remind children to make sure everyone gets a turn because Jesus loves everyone in the circle.

Afterward, read aloud Jeremiah 31:3 (ICB)...

*"And from far away the Lord appeared to his people. He said, 'I love you people with a love that will last forever. I became your friend because of my love and kindness.'"*

## GAME 3

### CELEBRATION CIRCLE

Play this game to celebrate each child's unique abilities. Have children join hands and walk in a circle as they sing this song to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell": God made you special,

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God made me special, amazing and wonderful, just look what you can do!

Each time the song is sung, have a different child tell one of his or her talents and then move to the center of the circle for the remainder of the game. Continue singing until you're the only one left in the circle.

#### GAME 4

##### AMAZING SPINNERS

For each child, cut a three-inch circle from poster board. Punch a hole in each side of the circles. Help children thread a rubber band through each hole. Pull each rubber band through itself and tighten the rubber band until firmly fastened to the circle.

Form pairs. Help children each write "I'm" near the top of their circles (or pre-write the circles in advance). Have partners exchange circles and draw their partner's picture on the lower half of his or her circle on the "I'm" side.

Turn circles over with "I'm" at the bottom. Help children each write "special" on the top half of their circle, just above the rubber band holes.

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Have partners return their circles to each other. Show children how to put their forefinger and middle finger of each hand through the rubber bands and wind the circles tight, using the thumb and middle finger of each hand. When children let go, circles will spin. "I'm special" will appear.

#### ACTIVITY 1

##### SPECIAL CHAIRS

Before children arrive, tape "special" signs to each chair. Greet children at the door and [point]say: *You are special! And we have a special place for you to sit.*

Have children sit in the special chairs and share Psalm 139:4...

*"I will give thanks to you because I have been so amazingly and miraculously made. Your works are miraculous, and my soul is fully aware of this."*

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#### ACTIVITY 2

#### IN GOD'S IMAGE

Form pairs. Have partners decide who'll be the "model" and who'll be the "mirror." Standing face to face, have the models move about and have the mirrors imitate their actions. After several minutes, switch positions so the model is now the mirror.

[point] Ask:

- How was this activity similar to or different from
- looking in a real mirror?
- What do you see when you look into a real
- mirror?
- How do you feel about what you see when you look into a real mirror?

Read aloud Genesis 1:27 and Psalm 139:13-16...

*"So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female."*

*Genesis 1:27 (ICB)*

*"13 You You made my whole being. You formed me in my mother's body. 14 I praise you because you made me in an*

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*amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well. 15 You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, 16 you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old." Psalm 139:13-16 (ICB)*

[point]Ask the following question and have each child answer:

- What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
- How does being created in the image of God make each of us special?
- What is one special quality God created in you that can't be seen in a mirror?

Explain to the children how God created us to image Him well and we do that when we obey His Word.

### ACTIVITY 3

#### FRIENDLY FRAMES

Take a picture of each child with an instant-print camera. Have the kids each glue their picture onto a slightly larger piece of poster board. Have kids decorate the edges of the poster board with items such as beads, yarn or glitter.

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Lay the pictures on the table and give each child a fine-tip marker. In the space between the edges and the picture, have kids write positive descriptive words on one another's picture, such as "friendly" or "nice smile."

Have children each write one good thing about themselves on their picture frame and talk about how God calls us to love one another and one of the ways we love one another is to respect each other's differences.

Read John 13:34 to the children and close in prayer.

*"I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you." John 13:34 (ICB)*

## ACTIVITY 4

### PRAYER OF ESTEEM

Have kids hold hands in a circle. Walk around the outside of the circle and place your hand over each child one at a time. When you place your hand over a child's head, have children pray and thank God for that person.

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Encourage children to be specific in their prayers, such as “God, thank You for Tim’s sense of humor” or “Thank You for Alyssa’s kind heart.” As the prayers wind down, move to a new child and continue praying until you’ve prayed for each child and named something special about each of them.

#### ACTIVITY 5

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

You’ll need: Graham crackers, icing, knives, M&M’s candies, licorice laces and red hot candies.

Directions: Form pairs. Have partners each create their partner’s portrait, using the food supplies. Kids can ice their graham crackers and then use the candies to create faces. Encourage kids to be positive and kind.

Then have partners trade portraits and chow down.



\* ***IT'S A BEAUTIFUL LIFE*** is a story that was written to accompany ***The Making of a Mom*** by Stephanie Shott through Revell Publishing. ***IT'S A BEAUTIFUL LIFE*** accompanies Chapter 2 of ***The Making of a Mom*** and is to be used to minister to children during KIDs Group while their moms are in their MOM Group.

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- \* Additional resources are available to help foster this chapter's life lesson in the hearts of children. Please see KIDs Group Resources for more resources for this and other chapters written for children that will parallel ***The Making of a Mom***.
- \* You may make copies of this resource for your KIDs Group, but selling or duplicating any part of this story for the sake of selling or publishing is strictly prohibited.
- \* Many games and actives were adapted from <http://childrensministry.com/articles/i-am-special/>.