

Junior Soldiers

Unit 2 : Lesson 4



I'm Special! You're Special!

PURPOSE : To help the children understand they are special to God and that God loves it when we treat others like they are special too.

'You are the one who put me together inside my mother's body, and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvellous! Of this I have no doubt.'

Psalm 139:13 & 14 (CEV)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Psalm 139

You are Special by Max Lucado

Sometimes when we consider the grandness of God—who created the universe, who exists in a unique way, who is all-knowing and all-powerful—we can come to the conclusion that God could not possibly have the time or interest to care for one mere human. In the midst of Junior Soldier lessons about the doctrines and church life and big issues, this lesson is intended to highlight to Junior Soldiers that God still knows and loves each of them intimately.

Each Junior Soldier should finish this lesson confident of God's love and also aware of their own unique personality and value. They may even begin to grasp what is a deep theological truth: that part of the reason God is considered so great is because he does know and love each of us individually.

Before this lesson, think about the children you teach and the unique things you know about each child in your care. Thank God for them individually. God is doing something wonderful in them and it's a privilege that he is choosing to use you as his instrument to help disciple young Christians.

- Book – *You are Special* by Max Lucado,
- Mr Men or Little Miss card game,
- *Guess Who?* game
- Pre-cut hand prints for take home activity
- Cards for matching game
- Card and textas for “Who am I?” game
- Shoe box full of different items
- Photo frames (cardboard, foam or pine)
- Foam letters or sticker letters for the frame activity
- Camera and printer for taking and printing photos
- Badge-making machine
- Card or paper for bookmarks and badges
- Stickers, letters and textas for bookmarks and badges
- A3 paper, textas, crayons or pastels
- Laminator for bookmarks



Connecting In

Same or Different ...

Play the game *Guess Who?* or a matching game using ‘Little Miss or Mr Men Cards’. (You can buy or use any card games with characters on).

- *Guess Who?* is played in pairs and involves describing the attributes of the characters in the game.
- The matching game is played as a large group and children are given one card with a character on it. They must find all the other people with the same cards as them by asking questions as they walk around the room. ‘Do you have glasses on your person? Does your person have a pink ribbon?’ If the answer is ‘Yes’, they keep asking questions. If not, they move on to another person to ask questions. The game ends when one group has found all their characters or when all the groups are together.

Link: When we were playing the games, we were looking for things that were the same or different about the characters. There are some things about us that are the same—like we have a heart, hair, eyes etc.—but there are also lots of things that are different. Some of the things we can see, like hair colour and height, but some things we can’t see like our favourite possessions at home or attitudes like patience. God has made us and crafted us all differently and for a particular purpose. We are special!



The Main Thing

You Are Special ...

Read *You Are Special* by Max Lucado.

Talk about the way God has made us uniquely different to everyone else for a reason and that He is the positive voice that we need to listen to, not ‘the world’.

- Why do we listen to what others say and think?
- Whose opinion or voice should we be listening to?
- Refer to Psalm 139 : 14 ‘I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.’

- What are some of the things that make you unique or different from others in your group?
- What would God say about you?
- What do you think God would want you to say about others?

“Who am I?” game

Give each child a piece of paper or card where they can draw or write five clues about themselves. They are to do this in a space on their own so that the whole group can play a guessing game. When everyone has finished their card the leader will read out the clues and see how many people can guess who it is.

(Each child lists five clues about themselves. The first clue could be to do with their family; I am the youngest person, the second clue could be to do with an interest; I love to play soccer, the third clue could be to do with a favourite food or colour, the fourth clue to do with a favourite book or hobby; I love to read Roald Dahl books, the fifth and final clue to do with church; I play drums in church.)



Tying In

Below you will find five activities to either rotate through or choose some that will suit the make-up of your group.

Activity 1: I'm special statements.

Each child is to think about and complete the statements by writing or drawing why they are special in the specific context.

- I'm special at school because...
- I'm special at home because...
- I'm special in my family because...
- I'm special in...because.
- Pray using these statements: For example 'Thank you God that in my family I tell jokes and help to clean the fish tank'.

Activity 2: I am special

Provide the children with A3 sheets of paper and textas/crayons or pastels for this activity.

Write the letters of your name down the left hand side of a page and write one word or a short phrase, starting with that letter of your name, to describe you on each line. Encourage the kids to decorate their page and hang them in the church foyer.

Activity 3: Bookmarks and badges

Make badges or bookmarks to reinforce 'specialness' – you might like to supply some stickers, letter stickers and textas, card and paper for making either bookmark or badges. You might like to laminate the bookmarks once finished. See some examples below.

- I am fantastic because God doesn't make junk
- I am somebody special
- I am loved by God
- I am made in an amazing way

Activity 4: 'I'm special' frame

Take photos of each of the children. It would be great if you choose to do this activity if you could print the photos out straight away to be put in the frames. Provide the kids with some sort of picture frame for this activity. It could be a cardboard border or a foam frame or just some cheap pine photo frames that the children can decorate and add sticky letters to the edge. Put the photos in frames with the words "I am special" around the border using either foam letters or other sticker letters to decorate.

Activity 5: Shoebox filled with 'special'

Have a variety of items in a shoe box or gift bag and get the children to choose an item which reminds them of something they like to do and are good at. Encourage the children to share what it is, why they like doing it, when they do it and then thank God for making them special in that way.



Home & Beyond

Take home some pre-cut hand prints, enough for each family member. During the week, take time to talk with your family and ask them to share with you things that make each person special. Write or draw something on each finger of the hand cutout.

You might like to print Psalm 139: 14 in the middle of the hand prints or encourage the children to look up the verse and write it on the hand print.

