

WONDERFULLY ALIKE

Key Concept

Often when we look at each other we see differences. We see differences in the way that we look, the way that we act and the way that we think. It can be difficult at times to see what we have in common with another person. When God looks at us he sees something that we all have in common. We are all made in his image. This quality of God-likeness that we have within us is the quality that makes us wonderfully alike. It is this quality, above everything else, which makes us wonders.

Key Scripture

So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women.

GENESIS 1:27 (CEV)

Preparation and Supplies

You will need

- A small collection of items that are precious to you for various reasons – include one that has monetary value. For example:
 - Movie tickets from first date → A toy from your childhood
 - Photo of someone special → A piece of jewellery
- Whiteboard, marker and eraser OR 21 sheets of A4 paper
- Playdough – enough for each child to have some
- Toothpicks – one per child
- An A5 sheet of paper or cardbaord for each child
- Markers, pencils or crayons
- Small mirrors – one per child OR Several large mirrors to share

Prepare

- Write the memory verse on the whiteboard
OR write one word on each sheet of A4 paper



Connecting in

Last week we spent time thinking about what it means to be inclusive. Today we are continuing with our theme of wonder as we learn about an element that makes us all alike.

I wonder how alike you all are. What do you have in common with other people in this group? I'm going to say a category and I want you to form a group of two or more people that are like you in the following ways.

Activity – People like me

Find at least one other person in the room who:

- *Has the same colour hair as you*
- *Is the same height as you*
- *Is wearing the same colour as you*
- *Likes the same sport as you*
- *Has the same number of brothers and sisters as you*
- *Goes to the same school as you*
- *Is the same age as you*
- *Is afraid of the same thing as you*
- *Likes the same subject as you*
- *Has the same favourite animal as you*

Discussion and teaching – People like me

Ask the children to sit down again.

How were you like others in the group?

Were you surprised by how much you had in common with others?

I have brought some items to show you.

Show the children the collection of 'precious' items that you have prepared.

Take a careful look at them and try to work out which of them you think are precious.

Ask the children why they think the item they have chosen is precious to you. Allow time for responses.

Hold up the items one at a time and briefly explain why that item is precious to you. For example:

- These movie tickets are precious because they remind me of a special evening.
- This photo is precious because the person in the photo is someone I love.
- This toy is precious because it gave me lots of happiness when I was a child.
- This jewellery is precious because it was given to me by someone I really care about.

Sometimes an item that is precious and wonderful to one person is thought of as ordinary and unimportant by another person. All of these items are different but they have one thing in common – they are all precious and wonderful to me.

Memory Verse Activity

God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people. So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient.

COLOSSIANS 3:12 (CEV)

Last week we began to learn COLOSSIANS 3:12. If you can remember it, say it out loud slowly as I write it on the board.

Write the verse on a whiteboard. Ask the children to read the verse out loud. Erase a couple of words. Ask the children to say the verse again. Continue until the children can say the verse without assistance. (Alternatively, write each word on a separate sheet of paper and remove a couple of pieces of paper at a time.)

The Main Thing

All people are different but we have something in common - we are all precious and important to God.

Often when we look at each other we see differences. We see differences in the way that we look, the way that we act and the way that we think. It can be difficult at times to see what we have in common with another person. When God looks at us he sees something that we all have in common. GENESIS 1:27 tells us that “God created humans to be like himself”. We are all made in his image. This quality of God-likeness that we have within us is the quality that makes us wonderfully alike. It is this quality, above everything else, which makes us wonders.

“Each of you is now a new person. You are becoming more and more like your Creator, and you will understand him better. It doesn’t matter if you are a Greek or a Jew, or if you are circumcised or not. You may even be a barbarian or a Scythian, and you may be a slave or a free person. Yet Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.”

COLOSSIANS 3:10-11

*If asked about circumcision, be prepared to give an age-appropriate answer. For example, “circumcision is a Jewish ceremony that sets males apart from those in other cultures”.

COLOSSIANS 3:10 *lists some groups that were thought of as opposites*

- *Greek or Jew*
- *Circumcised or uncircumcised*
- *Barbarian or Scythian*
- *Slave or free*

Via had many different groups in her school...

(PALACIO, 2012, P.92)

- Super popular
- Brainy
- Jocks (sporty)
- Rich
- Druggies
- Mean
- Goody-goody

What are some of the different groups in your school or in our community?

Jesus showed us that it doesn't matter who we are, we are valuable because we are made like God. It doesn't matter the colour of our eyes (or whether we have eyes at all), our height, our talents, or the family that we come from. We are valuable because we are children of God.

Activity – Changing the message

Hand out pieces of playdough and toothpicks.

I wonder if there are times when you forget how very valuable you are. Maybe you can think of a time when you felt like (or when someone told you that) you were a loser or hopeless or pathetic or a waste of space. Write a word or two in the playdough with your toothpick to describe how you felt at this time.

Give the children a minute to draw or write a message in the playdough.

It can be hard to know how truly valued you are when the world is sending you so many messages about how you need to measure up, fit in, work hard enough, get everything right, or do what is cool, in order to be accepted. However, God's value system is not based on anything we can do to make Him love us more. Take your playdough and squash it up, destroying the words that you have written. When we remember how valuable we are because of our God-likeness we can wipe away those false messages.

Now write the word 'loved' in your dough.

Because our value is not based on us deserving it, we can also never mess up bad enough for God to stop loving us or love us any less than completely. We can be confident, not afraid to make mistakes, forgive ourselves and others, feel loved even when someone is not kind towards us.

Take your dough and form it into a person. Remember that you are forming it out of dough marked with love.

Every person is loved by God. Every person is valuable because they are made in the image of God. We are made in the image of the God of Wonders. We are all wonders

Tying In

*Think about a person you know that seems very different to you.
Perhaps you find it difficult to understand or get along with this person.*

Draw a picture of this person or a picture of something that represents them. For example, if they love playing soccer you might draw a picture of a soccer ball.

*In the middle of your picture write the word 'God'.
Every person has been created to be like God.
Where do you see God in this person?*

This week, when you come across people that you find it difficult to understand or get along with think about how you can see God in them.

Prayer activity

Pass out small mirrors to each child.
Ask the children to look in the mirrors.

Invite the children to repeat this prayer after you...

When I look in the mirror, remind me that I am your child, that I am made like you and that this makes me valuable.

When I look at others, remind me that they are also made like you and that they are valuable.