

PRETEEN
FEBRUARY 2025

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN UNIQUENESS AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

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

CORE INSIGHT: The theological foundation for UNIQUENESS

Identity based on God's Image

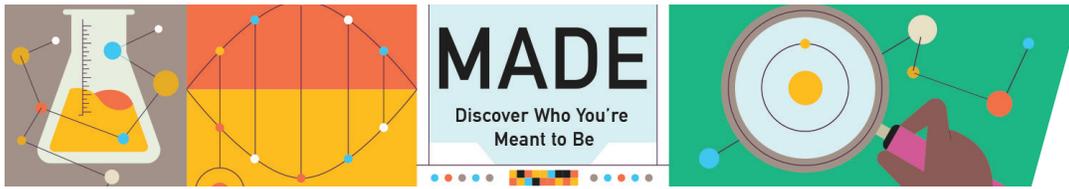
I am created in the image of God and have unique potential and worth.

God is one of a kind—with no beginning and no end. Everything God has created is unique, including people. Every person is an original reflection, made in the image of God.

UNIQUENESS has to do with learning more about yourself so you can make a difference

HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT UNIQUENESS WITH KIDS

This topic of uniqueness has the potential to bring up many different emotions and responses between kids as well as leaders. What a beautiful opportunity to love others where they're at while conveying the truth that they were created in the image of God. As kids learn this month about the different ways they are unique, create a safe space for those who may be wrestling with whether they're good at anything or who may have even gotten bullied for being different and unique. As a caring leader, you can be a voice of support and God's love for a child who has felt insecure. Direct them to the proper people to talk to should there be a need to do so.



FOR LEADERS ONLY (CONTINUED)

WEEK 1

Key Question: How would you describe yourself? If you were to ask your friends what's one word they would use to describe you, what would they say? Would you agree with them? Often times we assign labels to ourselves or think less of ourselves than others do. We hope this question will help preteens begin to look at themselves the way that God looks at them.

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

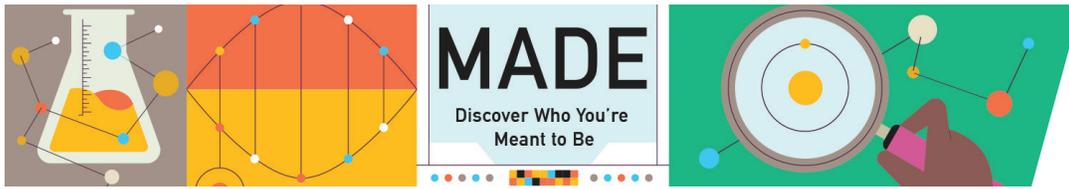
Bottom Line: God made you, knows you, and loves you. Have you ever done one of those icebreaker questions that asks what is one thing no one else knows about you? You can probably think of at least one or two fairly quickly, but here's the thing: God knows us better than anyone else, including ourselves.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

WEEK 2

Key Question: What's unique about you? Have you ever heard the phrase, "There's something different about you," and weren't quite sure how to take that? Is that a good thing or...Sometimes being different and unique might seem like a bad thing, but God has created each and every one of us uniquely and for good. Our hope is that this question opens preteens up to love the unique ways God created them.

In week 2, we head to **Exodus 3-4:15** for the story of Moses. Moses had been through a LOT in his life. He was born as an Israelite but raised in the Egyptian Pharaoh's household, and when he grew older, Moses sinned and ran away from his home. Yet God saw Moses and had created him for more than he could ever imagine. Even though Moses didn't see how special he was, God used Moses to make a difference in the lives of so many people.

Bottom Line: God made you to make a difference. Is there something you've always wanted to do but were too scared to do because you thought either someone else was better at it or that you weren't good enough? Sometimes our fears can get in the way of the good God wants to do through us, but God has called us for so much more. We can make a difference because that's how God created us.



FOR LEADERS ONLY (CONTINUED)

WEEK 3

Key Question: What are your gifts? Has anyone ever told you that you were really good at something? Maybe it was a sport or the way you solve problems. Our prayer is that preteens will begin to explore the different gifts and talents they have and how they can use them to help others.

In week 3, we head to **Acts 16:13-15**, where we find a successful businesswoman named Lydia. On Paul's second journey, he headed to Philippi where he found Lydia and a group of women gathered together to pray. Paul shared the news of Jesus with Lydia, and she used her gifts to serve the believers.

Bottom Line: Use your gifts to make a difference. Can you sing or dance? Maybe you are great at encouraging others or helping them with their homework. Everyone has something they can offer or contribute to this world that helps someone else, whether it's a big gift or a small one. So how can you use your gifts to impact someone else today?

WEEK 4

Key Question: Who has made a difference in your life? Is there someone in your life who has always been encouraging or who has helped you out of sticky situations more than a time or two? God has put people in our lives not just for our own enjoyment but so that we can make a difference to those we interact with. Our hope is that as preteens think through this question, they will be able to recognize the people in their lives they too can impact.

We end the month in **1 Timothy 4:12**, where we learn about Timothy and the work he did with Paul. Timothy was young, and he could have let that stop him from helping Paul carry out the mission of sharing Jesus with others. Yet Timothy chose to be brave and let God use him to teach others about Jesus in spite of his age.

Bottom Line: You can make a difference right now. Can you think back to the first time you helped your adult complete a big task such as painting the house or moving? Or maybe you helped to load the dishwasher or folded laundry? Your adult was probably really happy about having you help even when it didn't seem like much to you. God can use whatever we have, no matter the age to help someone else.