

I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE I AM *fearfully & wonderfully made*



CHANGING  HEARTS

Materials Needed: Bible, photos: bat, alligator

Let's talk about some of God's creation.

(Show picture of a bat.)

- Who can tell me what kind of animal this is?
- Tell me some facts you know about bats. (discuss)
- Who created bats so wonderful?
- Here is an interesting fact about bats. Did you know that even though bats can do all the wonderful things we just talked about, they can't walk? The leg bones of a bat are so thin they cannot walk on them!

(Show picture of an alligator.)

- Who can tell me what kind of animal this is?
- Tell me some facts you know about alligators. (discuss)
- Who created alligators so wonderful?
- Here is an interesting fact about alligators. Did you know that even though alligators can do all the wonderful things we talked about, they can't run backward? They actually can't move backward at all!

Let's listen to God's Word in the Bible. (Read Psalm 139:13-14 Nlrv)

You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother's body. How You made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise You for that. What You have done is wonderful. I know that very well.

—Psalm 139:13-14 Nlrv

This Bible verse tells us God made you! God made you exactly the way He wanted you to be made. (Point around the room.) God made you and you and you and me! God did not make any two people exactly the same. Not even twins are exactly alike; twins are unique.

Think about all of the people in this room. Some of us may love blueberries, some of us may not. Some of us may be fast on a bike; some of us may not be fast. Some of us are good singers or readers or artists. Some of us are really good at being kind. Either way, God made us and loves us just the way we are.

Let's take some time to look at likes and dislikes and other things that may or may not be the same for everyone here in this room. (As the leader, join in and raise your own hand when you can answer yes. Comment occasionally, i.e. "No, I don't have blue eyes." "No, I don't like cookies.")

Raise your hand when you agree or have the characteristic I mention.

- Do you have brown hair?
- Do you have red hair?
- Do you have blue eyes?
- Do you have freckles?
- Do you wear glasses or contacts?
- Do you use a wheelchair?

See, God did not create us alike at all, but He did create us all wonderful. Let's try some more.

- Do you like the color red?
- Do you like science class?
- Do you like math class?
- Do you like brussels sprouts?
- Do you like mangos?
- Do you like really loud music?

Did anyone answer yes to all those questions? If so, stand up. (If no one stands up, pick one of the questions above and have that group stand up.) *Teachers, would you say these students standing are all alike? No, of course not. Can you name something special about this student? (Point to a student.)... and this student? (Point to another student.)*

See, God did not create us to be alike, but He did create us all wonderful. God also gave each of us a unique set of gifts and talents, and He wants us to use those gifts to praise Him and bring Him glory.

We may have to work very hard to read, but God has plans for us. Our ears might not work well and we may use hearing aids, but God has plans for us, too! Maybe noises are upsetting to us and we have trouble focusing when it is loud; God has plans for us. Maybe we are blind; God still has plans for us. God made each of us just the way we are, and He has plans for all of us.

I have one last question for you. Have you been *Wonderfully Made* by God? If so, raise your hand. Yes! (Point around the room.) You and you and you and you have all been *Wonderfully Made* and God has plans for you.

If time permits, ask several students to help you read all of Psalm 139.

Let's pray.

Prayer: Dear God, You have done amazing work creating each person. We praise You that we are all wonderful. We praise You because we know we are all Your children. We know You love us and have plans for us. Help us remember that all people were made by You exactly the way You wanted them to be made. Help us see the gifts and talents in all people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.