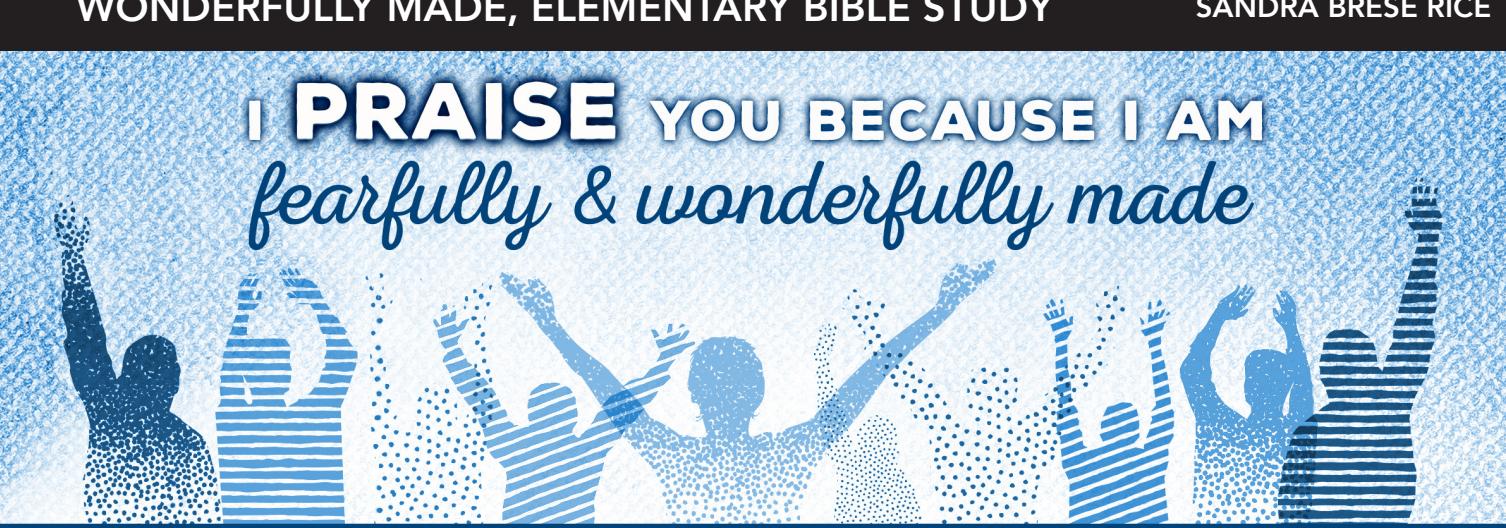


# I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE I AM *fearfully & wonderfully made*



CHANGING  HEARTS

## Materials Needed

- Bibles for each student, colored pencils or markers, Wonderfully Made activity sheet, if possible—internet access and connection to projection screen

## Opening Prayer

Dear God our Creator, thank You for creating me. Thank You for making me exactly the way You wanted me made. Help me understand that You see me as wonderful. Help me see others as wonderful, too. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Opening Story

Before we begin studying God's Word, I'd like to tell you a story. This is not a true story; it's made up. But I'm telling it to help you understand that we are all wonderfully made.

Once upon a time there was a wise old owl. This owl was so wise that all the animals in the jungle came to him when they needed help or advice. As it is in many jungles, a group of very young animals were playing hide-n-seek together. There was an elephant, a giraffe, and a hummingbird.

After some time, the elephant got very upset with the game. The hummingbird always won the hiding part because she was so tiny; the tall giraffe always won the seeking part. She could see every place the elephant hid without having to move! The elephant became discouraged and began to cry. "I'm terrible at games," he said. "There must be something wrong with me!"

The giraffe and the hummingbird felt sorry for the elephant, but they didn't really know what to do. Elephant was right; he was terrible at hide-n-seek. So, the young animals went to the wise old owl to ask how to help Elephant be better at hide-n-seek. They thought it was an easy request – make Elephant good at hide-n-seek!

Owl, however, did not make elephant better at hide-n-seek; instead, the owl asked him questions.

He said, "Elephant, I hear you are upset. Why are you so sad?"

"I am terrible at games. There must be something wrong with me," sobbed Elephant.

"Oh, my," said Owl, "that is upsetting. I wonder why it is you feel you are terrible at games."

"I can't hide because I am so big, and I can't seek because my huge ears get in the way every time I twist and turn my head around quickly!"

"Hmm," said Owl, "I think I know the answer." The wise old owl looked the elephant straight in the eye and said, "Elephant, you were not created to play hide-n-seek."



Elephant was shocked! He couldn't believe what Owl had said! How could he say he wasn't created for hide-n-seek? He was a jungle animal; didn't all jungle animals play hide-n-seek?

"I knew there was something wrong with me," said the elephant sadly.

"That is where you are wrong, dear Elephant," said Owl. You may not have been created for hide-n-seek, but you have been created for other things. I happen to know that you have an amazing sense of smell. As a matter of fact, you can smell water up to three miles away!"

"Oh, I can't do that," said Hummingbird, "and water is really important for me!"

"Elephant, you were created to smell! Speaking of water," said Owl, "Elephant is a wonderful swimmer!"

"Oh, dear," said giraffe, "I am not good at swimming at all. Water knocks my balance out of whack!"

"Elephant, you were created to swim!" smiled the Owl.

Suddenly, the group of young animals understood the wise old owl.

"How boring life would be if we were all exactly the same!" said Hummingbird.

From that day on, the friends played games – all sorts of games. Sometimes Giraffe won the game, and sometimes Hummingbird won the game. And sometimes, yes sometimes, Elephant won the game, especially if it involved swimming!

### Discussion Questions

- How did Elephant feel at the beginning of the story? Why did he feel that way?
- Have you ever felt like Elephant? If so, when?
- Owl did not make Elephant good at hide-n-seek, but what did Owl help Elephant understand?

### Bible Study/Activity Sheet Time

#### Read Psalm 139:13-14 NIV

*"You [God] created the deepest parts of my being. You [God] 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."*

The Bible says God made us exactly the way He wanted us to be made. God sees us as wonderful.

- How does it feel to hear God made you exactly the way He wanted you to be made?
- How does it feel to know God thinks you are wonderfully made?
- Think about people with disabilities. Maybe you know someone who is blind or has trouble hearing. Maybe you know someone who has Down syndrome or uses a wheelchair. (Give students time to think about this.) God made them exactly the way He wanted them to be made, just like you! How do you think God sees people with disabilities? Do you think God sees them as wonderfully made?

God made every single person exactly the way He wanted them to be made. God sees every single person as wonderfully made. God created each person to have things they are good at; these are called gifts or talents. Some of you may be great swimmers, and some of you may be great at hide-n-seek. Others of you may be a great friend or a patient listener or very kind to others. Some of you can write, some of you can read, some of you can draw, some of you have an amazing smile that lights up a room. God gave us different gifts and talents but loves us all and knows we are wonderful. Think about this...how boring life would be if we were all created exactly the same!

(Put students in groups to generate discussion and ideas for activity sheet.)

**Directions:** Create your own story by using the comic strip below. Draw and write about who you are.

**Watch the YouTube video:** Psalm 139 Reflectors Reading (2:06)

### **Closing Song**

**The Butterfly Song (If I Were a Butterfly)** Words and Music by Brian Howard

VS 1

If I were a butterfly  
I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings  
If I were a robin in a tree  
I'd thank you Lord that I could sing  
If I were a fish in the sea  
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee  
But I just thank you Father for making me, me

### CHORUS

For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile  
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child  
And I just thank you Father for making me, me

VS 2

If I were an elephant  
I'd thank you Lord by raising my trunk  
If I were a kangaroo  
You know I'd hop right up to you  
If I were an octopus  
I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks  
But I just thank you Father for making me, me

VS 3

If I were a wiggly worm  
I'd thank you Lord that I could squirm  
If I were a fuzzy, wuzzy bear  
I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy, wuzzy hair  
If I were a crocodile  
I'd thank you Lord for my great smile  
But I just thank you Father for making me, me

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### **Closing Prayer**

Dear Lord God, we praise You because You made us exactly the way You wanted us made. Thank You for our gifts and talents. We know we are wonderfully made. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Create your own story by using the comic strip below. Draw and write about who you are.

