

Use this guide to help your family learn what God has to say about individuality.

**First, watch
this week's
video!**

**Individuality:
Discovering
who you're
meant to be so
you can make
a difference**

Memory Verse

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 139:14, NIV

Bible Story

Matthew
Matthew 9:9-13

Bottom Line

Knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.

Activity

Color-Coded Candy

What You Need:

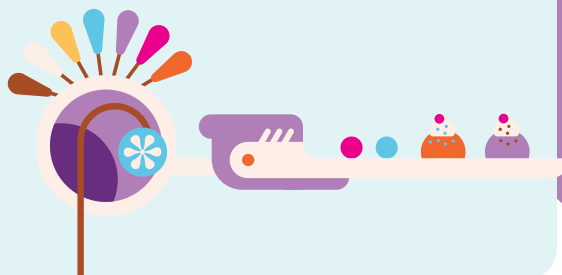
A small bag of multi-colored candy

What You Do:

Open the bag and have each person take a few pieces of candy. For every color you draw out, you each have to answer the following questions:

- Green: What is one job or chore you have?
- Red: What is one thing you enjoy doing?
- Orange: What is one thing you don't like to do?
- Purple: What is a book or movie you like?
- Yellow: If you could make or invent anything in the world, what would it be?
- Blue: What's one thing you really like about yourself?

Say, "It was fun to chat and learn more about ourselves and each other! When you know how God made you, you can start to see yourself the way God sees you!"



Talk About the Bible Story

What was the name of the man who Jesus saw at the beginning of the story?
(Matthew)

What two words did Jesus say to Matthew when He saw him? ("Follow me.")

Why was it surprising that Jesus wanted to eat dinner at Matthew's house?
(Matthew was a tax collector, which meant that people didn't like him or trust him. By eating with Matthew, Jesus was showing everyone that Matthew and people like him were valuable.)

What do you think God sees when He looks at you? What does it mean to see yourself the way God sees you?

Parent: Talk about a time when you did something wrong and it made you feel like you didn't measure up. What did you do to feel better? How were you able to change how you saw yourself?

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"God, thank You for sending Jesus so that we can know You and follow You. Thank You for this reminder that You see all of us—including our mistakes and mess-ups—and You love us completely. Please teach us to see ourselves the way You see us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Individuality is discovering who you're meant to be so you can make a difference.

DAY 1

Read Matthew 9:9

This week, we talked about a guy from the Bible named Matthew. One day, Jesus stopped at Matthew's tax collector booth and said, 'Follow me.'

Matthew didn't wait! He didn't ask a million questions before saying, "Yes." Right then, Matthew chose to follow Jesus.

Matthew was disliked because he was a thief, taking more taxes than he should and keeping the extra for himself. People back then didn't see Matthew the way Jesus did. Matthew went on to do amazing things, even writing one of the most famous books of the Bible!

Guess what? Jesus sees the potential in you.

Knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself. He saw something in Matthew that no one else could see! And just like he did with Matthew, Jesus can use you to do important things.

DAY 2

Read 1 John 3:16

Jesus did something no one else could do. He gave His life so that we could have a relationship with God forever. This is how we know what real love is. Jesus gave His all for you and for me to prove just how much He loves us.

And guess what? When God made you, He gave you the potential to show His love to others too. But in order to show this kind of love to others, we have to accept Jesus' love for us first.

Grab a piece of paper and draw a large heart on the page. Write out the words of today's verse in the center of your heart and cut it out. On the back, write out a prayer to God. Ask Him to help you understand His love for you so that you can love others.

DAY 3

Read Ephesians 5:1-2

Have you ever tried to build something without instructions? It's much easier to see an example or have step by step instructions, isn't it?

Guess what? When it comes to showing love to others, we have an awesome example to follow! **God made you and loves you.** He sent Jesus to give His life for you so that you could be forgiven. And when you begin to discover the unique way God made you, you can make a big difference in the world around you.

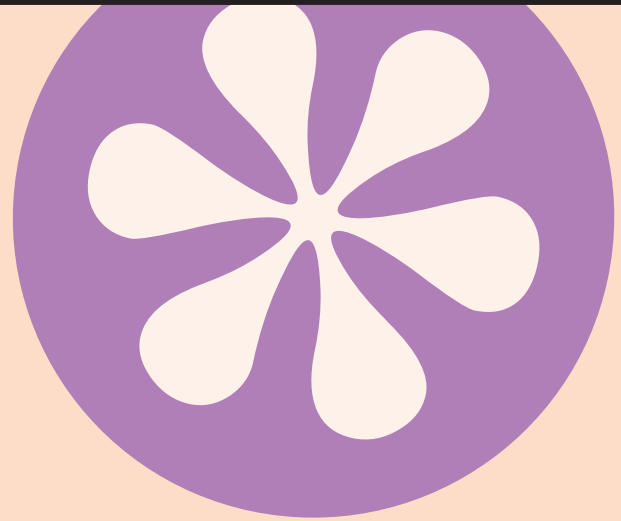
Grab your Bible and draw a box around the words "Follow His example" from today's verse. Remember these words this week. When you're tempted to say or do something unkind, repeat these three words and ask God to help you follow Jesus' example.

DAY 4

Read 1 Samuel 16:7

What are some things that make you smile? Puppies? Popsicles? Cool lizards in your backyard? Grab a piece of paper and draw or make a list of the things that bring you joy.

Do you realize that if Jesus had a list of things that make Him smile, your name would be on it? **You are deeply loved and valued because God made you.** Knowing Jesus changes the way you see yourself because you are one amazing creation.



Knowing Jesus changes
how you see yourself.

