

WEEK 3

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God made us different on purpose.

BIBLE

Cain and Abel:
Genesis 4:1-16

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Made for Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Made in the Image" (Yancy & Little Praise Party feat. Erskin Anavitarte)
 - "Brick After Brick" (Sovereign Grace Music)
 - "Creation Song" (Saddleback Kids)
 - "God Makes Everything" (Rain for Roots)

ACTIVITY | Playing Favorites

- All of us are so different! Let's see what makes us different.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lay down a line of tape on the floor long enough for your whole class to stand on comfortably. Have kids line up on the tape line. Call out different attributes. Have kids step or jump off the line if it sounds like them. Some examples are color of hair, things they love to do, color of their shirt, if they have a sibling, and foods they like. After playing, show kids [this video](#) [0:15-7:27] of learning to deal with jealousy. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Place cardboard blocks or boxes on one side of the room and designate a building station on the other side of the room. Have toddlers skip, hop, bear crawl, etc., as they cross the room to get a block. Then have them stack the blocks at the building station. Throughout the activity, encourage them with phrases that put emphasis on the effort they are making, the qualities they are exuding, or simple observations.
- We don't all look the same and we don't all like the same things. God made us that way and that's why it's so cool!

ACTIVITY | Different is Special!

- Today, we are going to learn about how our differences make us special. Hmm . . . I wonder, **what makes you special?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids sit in a circle. Go around the circle and invite kids to get comfortable with each other by sharing a special thing about themselves or their family. For example, "I am [name] and I'm special because I can sing." Then move on to the next kid. Afterward, get even more comfortable with each other by playing a game of the human knot following instructions in [this video](#) [0:10-0:23].

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Play a modified game of the human knot following instructions in [this video](#) [0:24-0:44] before circling up and doing a fun call and response. Toddlers can take turns declaring, "I am special!" then the rest of the group exclaims, "You are special!" back to them.

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 4:1-16 (Cain and Abel)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids sit around a pile of LEGO Duplo bricks as you tell the story from Genesis 4:1-16. You can build items on top of a [LEGO baseplate](#) during the story to make it more sturdy. Feel free to use [this video](#) of today's story shown with LEGOs as an additional teaching tool before you tell the story or to review afterward.
- **Who remembers the name of the first people God made?** Yes, Adam and Eve! Today's Bible story is about their two children, Cain and Abel.
- [Read Genesis 4:2b-7. Have kids give you bricks in two colors of your choice. Make two hearts like this to represent Abel's and Cain's hearts. Use a dry erase marker to draw an angry face on one heart.]
 - Abel took care of the animals and Cain grew food in the fields. They were both important jobs.
 - When it came time to give an offering to God, Abel gave the very best of what he had with a thankful heart.
 - Cain did not. God knew that Cain didn't give to God with the right attitude. After God accepted only Abel's gift, Cain became very angry.
- [Read Genesis 4:8-12. Take away the heart that represents Abel's heart.]
 - Cain was jealous because it looked like God loved Abel more, but really God loved them both the same. But Cain was so angry that he did something terrible. He attacked his brother, and Abel died.
 - When God asked Cain where his brother was, Cain pretended like he didn't know.
- [Read Genesis 4:13-16. Have kids give you bricks in a color of your choice. On the LEGO baseboard, build a flat, single layer shape of a large heart outline that goes around Cain's heart]
 - God still loved Cain, and even though Cain had to leave the place he called home, God made it so he wouldn't get hurt.
- Instead of being angry or jealous, Cain could have been happy for Abel. Or he could have learned how to give to God with the right heart next time. Cain forgot that God loved him and his brother the same, and because of what he did, his life was never the same.

BIG IDEA | God made us different on purpose.

- Let's build our Big Idea out of LEGOs!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use LEGO Duplo bricks to "build" the Big Idea! Print a set of the Big Idea words on repositionable labels, 1 word per label. Place word labels on the sides of the bricks, 1 word per bricks. As you build the Big Idea, invite the kids to say the words with you. After you build the tower, you can practice it a couple more times using hand motions.
- The Big Idea is . . .
 - **God** [Point upward.]

- **Made** [Hammer fists on top of each other.]
- **Us** [Point to yourself.]
- **Different** [Make a silly face.]
- **On purpose.** [Two thumbs up.]

VIDEO | Make It or Break It, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of Cali's World.

ACTIVITY | The Different Dance

- **God made us different on purpose.** Let's dance together to celebrate the goodness of everyone's wonderful differences!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to make up different dance moves together. Play a song, like "[We're All Amazing](#)" ([London Rhymes](#)), and invite everyone to add their own unique dance moves to the choreography. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have toddlers dance along to [this video](#). Run through some of the phrases and dance moves beforehand so they can do them easily when it comes up during the song. Use the last twenty seconds of the video [1:57-2:17] to point to each kid and say, "God made [kid's name]!"

PRAYER

- Dear God, Thank you for making me different on purpose. I am happy you made me this way! Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Waffle Faces

- Today, we are talking about all of the wonderful things that make us different, after all, **God made us different on purpose!** It isn't an accident that you have green eyes or curly hair, or love play dough, or don't like broccoli. God made you the way you are!
- **What will you build your face with?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hand out one toaster waffle on a plate per kid. Set out bowls with various toppings for kids to use to make their eyes, nose, and mouth on top of their waffle. For example, M&Ms, blueberries, sliced strawberries, pretzel sticks, etc.

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids sit in a circle. Have them pass around a shape sorting cube as you play music. They can point out and put in the different shapes as they pass them around. When the music stops, ask them one of these questions!
- **What were the names of the brothers in our Bible story today?**
- **How were they different?**
- **What makes you different?**
- **How is your neighbor different from you?**
- **How can you show love to someone even if they are different?** [Share some examples: If they are shorter, I can help them reach something up high. If they can't read, I can help them read. If they have different hair, I can tell them it's pretty, etc.]

ACTIVITY | The Me God Made

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each child an adhesive acrylic mirror square and a piece of cardstock. Have them look at themselves in the mirror, then attach the mirror square to the middle of their paper. They can use pom poms, pipe cleaners, foam stickers, wax sticks, yarn, and any other supplies you provide, to decorate around the mirror.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Help toddlers make a handheld mirror by using glue dots to attach [mirror board circles](#) to a jumbo craft stick. Have kids place foam stickers on the craft stick to decorate.
- **God made us different on purpose**, and everything God made is good. Each of you is wonderfully made, and when you look in the mirror, it can remind you that you are special in God's eyes no matter what!

MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 3:4 (NIV)

- **"For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a group, practice saying the memory verse in different ways, such as being loud or quiet, going fast or slow, using silly voices or the hand motions. Then take turns seeing if kids can say the verse in their own "different" way.
 - **For every house** [Hold hands over head like a house.]
 - **Is built by someone** [Hammer fists on top of each other.]
 - **But God** [Point upwards.]
 - **Is the builder of everything** [Stretch arms out to the side.]
 - **Hebrews 3:4** [Hold hands out like an open book.]

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

ACTIVITY | The Amazing Madrigals

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the music video, "[The Family Madrigal](#)" from *Encanto*! Point out how different every family member is and how that's a wonderful thing. Put out some classroom instruments and let kids play and sing along!

ACTIVITY | Magnetic Blocks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put out magnet tiles, such as Magna-Tiles, for kids to play with and build different things. For added fun, set up a lighted table or LED tracing pad to illuminate the magnetic tiles as they build.

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God made us different on purpose.

BIBLE

Cain and Abel:
Genesis 4:1-16

QUESTIONS

Have kids sit in a circle. Have them pass around a shape sorting cube as you play music. They can point out and put in the different shapes as they pass them around. When the music stops, ask them one of these questions!

- **What were the names of the brothers in our Bible story today?**
- **How were they different?**
- **What makes you different?**
- **How is your neighbor different from you?**
- **How can you show love to someone even if they are different?** [Share some examples: If they are shorter, I can help them reach something up high. If they can't read, I can help them read. If they have different hair, I can tell them it's pretty, etc.)

ACTIVITY

Give each child an adhesive acrylic mirror square and a piece of cardstock. Have them look at themselves in the mirror, then attach the mirror square to the middle of their paper. They can use pom poms, pipe cleaners, foam stickers, wax sticks, yarn, and any other supplies you provide, to decorate around the mirror.

God made us different on purpose, and everything God made is good. Each of you is wonderfully made, and when you look in the mirror, it can remind you that you are special in God's eyes no matter what!

MEMORY VERSE: "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything."
— Hebrews 3:4 (NIV)

[Click here](#) for a memory verse sign language tutorial video you can share with your families and volunteers!