

# God Made Me Special

## Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

### Lesson 2, ages 4-5

#### Lesson 2 Goal

- Your child will learn that God made each of us unique and special and that he is very happy with what he has made.

#### Key Points

- God made each of us and loves us.
- God is really happy with how he made us. We are very special to him.



#### Parent Reflection

Who am I? Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? These are some of the most universal questions of our human existence—questions each of us faces at one time or another. Perhaps the best way to begin answering these questions is to say that we are, in our very essence, an expression of God’s love. Out of love he created us, and out of love he reveals himself to us. It makes sense then, that we should search for and desire to know God. In his *Confessions*, Saint Augustine states, “You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

We live in a culture obsessed with self-interest and self-esteem. Unfortunately, the type of self-esteem we find in secular culture is often based on feeling good about one’s self “just because.” However, this type of self-esteem is shallow and easily shattered.

As Christians, we have deep and lasting reasons for feeling good about ourselves. Our faith tells us that God made us good. Just after God created human beings, the Genesis account states, “God saw everything he had made, and behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31). We are created to do good things—to show love for God and for others. And, freed from Original Sin through Baptism, we have the grace to be everything God made us to be if we are open to his call.

#### Reflection Question

In what ways am I already living the life God made me to live?

## Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

### Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- one piece of bread
- gingerbread cookie cutter
- new watercolor paintbrush
- paper cup containing mixture of one tablespoon of water and milk and one drop of food coloring
- small paper plate
- toaster

- Optional: butter with butter knife and cinnamon sugar
- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

### Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).
- Prepare the mixture and place in the paper cup.

## Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: “Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, “Today we will read part of a psalm from the Bible. A psalm is like a poem or song to God.

*“I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! My very self you knew.” (Psalm 139:14)*

*“With this psalm, we are telling God that we know he made us. We say that we are wonderful because of him. As part of our prayer today, let’s say one thing especially good about ourselves. I’ll start, and you can have a turn. After each of us speaks, we will pray the psalm together by saying, “I praise you, God! You have made me to be wonderful!”*

## Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

State your “wonderful trait,” and then lead your child praying, “*I praise you, God! You have made me to be wonderful!*” When finished, pray the following:

*“Dear God, we praise you for making such wonderful things. Thank you for making me. Thank you for loving me. Amen.”*

## Discovering

**God Created All People.** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about how God created people.

Ask your child, “Name one way you care for God’s creation.”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

## Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child's understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

### 1. God Created a Beautiful World for Me.

Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

**2. Wonderfully-Made-Me Toast.** Have your child cut out a gingerbread person shape out of the bread and place it on a plate. Invite him or her to paint their features on the bread using the food coloring mixture. Take the bread and toast it. You may want to butter the toast or sprinkle it with cinnamon sugar.

**3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Joseph of Cupertino.** Show your child the picture of Saint Joseph of Cupertino on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Joseph to your child (see page 4).

Ask your child:

- What special gift did God give Joseph? (*When*

*Joseph prayed he was lifted off the ground, like he was flying.*)

- What did other people finally learn about Joseph? (*That he was wonderful, because God had made him that way*)
- Do you ever do things that make you feel clumsy? (*Suggest breaking things accidentally, forgetting something, etc.*)

Say:

- Everybody makes mistakes. When you do, can you remember that you are like God, so you are wonderful.

Have your child write and draw about Saint Joseph using Activity Master #2.

## Sending

**Pray with your child.** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

*“Dear God, we praise you because you made us to be like you. Help us to be kind and loving. Bless and keep us safe. Amen.”*

## Saint Joseph of Cupertino

### Wonderful Joseph

Long ago there lived a boy named Joseph. He was clumsy. He dropped dishes. Often he got angry. Joseph could not learn easily. He forgot his chores. He walked around, his mouth open, staring at nothing.

His mother shouted, "Joseph, stop wandering and do your chores!"

The shoemaker who hired Joseph shouted, "I have tried hard to teach you to make shoes! You cut the leather wrong, or you sew wrong—or you forget and do nothing!"

The people in town laughed at him and said, "Look at that silly boy!"

Nobody seemed to understand that Joseph was wonderful because God had made him. But

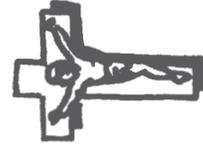
Joseph prayed often. He knew that God loved him.

He asked if he could be a priest. The other priests knew about all the mistakes Joseph made. "We'll see," they said. "For now, just take care of this donkey." So Joseph took care of the donkey and talked with God. He prayed more and more. Pretty soon, the priests saw what God knew: that Joseph was wonderful!

Joseph spent hours each day talking to God. Then God would give Joseph a miracle. Joseph was lifted off the ground while he prayed, as if he could fly!

Many, many people saw Joseph pray like this. Finally, everyone understood that Joseph was wonderful, because that is how God made him!

**DRAW**



**Saint  
Joseph,  
pray for us!**