



Date: _____
Series: God Made Everything
Summer Year 1, Lesson 1

God Made Me

Bible Event: Isaiah 43:1b

Take Home Point: *GOD MADE ME – *God cares for me.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: We belong to God who brought us into his family by sending Jesus as our Savior.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn that because God made us, we belong to him and are special to him. We are not special because of anything we do, or how many things we have – we are just special because we belong to God. And we are so important to God that he sent Jesus so that we would be part of his family forever. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD MADE ME – *God cares for me.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to its precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before starting the video. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting children to see what happens by watching the video. You could also introduce the video by inviting children to keep an eye out for special actions or words they will see during it.

Introduce the video with a brief puppet presentation featuring Judy.

Judy comes onstage with a doll. She is feeling very important. This is just one of her dolls. She has lots of dolls and a huge dollhouse and the most doll clothes of any of her friends. Having lots of neat stuff must be how people get to be important. The presenter asks Judy if she really thinks that's what makes people important. Is it really how many things you have? How many things belong to you? Judy guesses it's not, but wonders what does make you important. If it's not how many things belong to you, then what is it?

The presenter explains that it's not what belongs to you, it's who you belong to. Judy wants to know who that is. The presenter invites Judy and the kids to watch today's video to see if they can figure out the answer. Afterwards, we'll talk about it some more.

Distribute snack bags of snack mix (cereal, pretzels, raisins, etc.) for the children to eat during the video.

Show the entire video *You Are Mine: The Animated Story*, produced by Impact Productions/Creative Trust Workshop, 2002. Begin the video at the opening title "You Are Mine," 5 minutes and 21 seconds from the start of the tape due to previews. Stop it as the ending credits begin. The length of the video is 24 minutes, 25 seconds.

Conclude with the following:

Punchinello worked very hard to fit in with the other Wemmicks by collecting balls and boxes. He thought that if he had lots of things, he would feel important. But he was wrong. The only thing that really made him feel important was that he belonged to Eli, the one who made him. Well, who made us? God made us. Who do we belong to? God! We're important because we belong to God. That's what makes us special. We are not special because of how many things we have – we are special because God made us and loves us. In fact, God loved us so much, that he sent his own Son Jesus into the world so we could be part of his family forever.

So, whenever we are feeling down or worried about fitting in with others, or how many dolls or balls we have, we just need to remember that those things don't make us important. Belonging to God is what makes us special. Remember: *GOD MADE ME – *God cares for me.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: This zone is skipped this week, since snack was included in the Bible Event.

Drama Zone: Practice giving others compliments. Have a “special chair.” Have children take turns sitting in the chair. The other children must give that child a compliment, tell him/her that he/she is special or remind he/she that he/she belongs to God. Remind children that we’re all special because we belong to God.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to explain to each other what makes them special (*belonging to God*).

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of God Made Me from today’s Bible event.

Craft Zone: Copy the attached template for each child. Have them draw a picture of themselves with crayons and markers. Copy the template on cardstock and attach a magnet to the back, if desired.

Play Zone: Provide boxes and balls for the children to play with, reminding them of Punchinello. They can stack the boxes as tall as they can or practice bouncing the balls into the open boxes. Remind children that no matter how tall the boxes are stacked or how many times you can bounce a ball, God loves you the same. We all belong to God and he cares for us.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include *You Are Special* and *You Are Mine* by Max Lucado.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “God Made Me” coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes onstage minding his own business. The presenter is happy to see Bubba because he has a quiz for him. Bubba gets panicked, but the presenter assures him that he'll do well. It's about today's video. He just has a few questions for Bubba to answer, with the kids' help.

1. **What was Punchinello trying to collect?** (*Boxes and balls.*)
2. **Who made Punchinello and who did Punchinello belong to?** (*Eli.*)
3. **Who made us?** (*God.*)
4. **Who do we belong to?** (*God.*)
5. **Are we important because we have lots of stuff or because we belong to God?** (*Because we belong to God.*)

The presenter congratulates Bubba and the kids on doing so well on the quiz. He concludes by explaining that God loves us so much that he gives us families to help take care of us, even though we belong to him. He also loved us so much that he sent Jesus to give his life for us so that we could be part of God's family forever. That is how special and important we are to God. He is the reason we are special! Remember: ***GOD MADE ME – God cares for me.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Quantity (4)

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- Judy puppet holding a doll
- video: *You Are Mine: The Animated Story*, produced by Impact Productions/Creative Trust Workshop, 2002— order from http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111_2956.vhtml
- snack bags of snack mix (cereal, pretzels, raisins, etc.)

Action Zones:

Drama:

- chair

Craft:

- coloring page (see template)
- crayons and markers
- cardstock and magnets, optional

Play:

- small bouncy balls (tennis balls, rubber balls, etc.)
- boxes of various sizes

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books
- recommended books: *You Are Special* (order from: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0891079319/qid=1127481831/sr=2-1/ref=pd_bbs_b_2_1/002-1331796-6652867?v=glance&s=books) and *You Are Mine* (order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/1581342764/ref%3Dpd%5Fsl%5Faw%5Falx-jeb-9-1%5Fbook%5F4534858%5F1/002-1331796-6652867>) by Max Lucado

Puppet:

- various puppets

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

God says,

"YOU ARE SPECIAL...

**...BECAUSE YOU
BELONG TO ME"**