

WEEK 2

GOD MADE ME IN HIS IMAGE GOD KNOWS ME ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

For You formed my inmost parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:13-14

KEY IDEAS

1. God knew you before you were born.
2. God knows what is best for you.
3. God has given you talents and gifts for His glory.

KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 2
Supporting: Jeremiah 1:4-10 (the call of the prophet Jeremiah)

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

that God knows us before we are ever born and has a great purpose for each of our lives.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

encouraged that the God of the universe knew them and loved them before they were born.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

identify ways that God has made them unique and given them a purpose.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to learn more about the purpose God has planned for them by learning His word and obeying Him.

INTRODUCTION

God's word says that He knew us before we were ever born and He knitted us together in our mother's womb. God carefully created each and every person with unique features, talents, and purpose. We don't have to search far and wide to learn the purpose that God has for us. All we have to do is to know His word and obey it and use the talents and gifts He has given us to worship Him! Proverbs 3:5-6 says that if we trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding, but acknowledge Him in all our ways, then He will guide our paths. God's will for us is simple, to love Him and obey His commands, and He will lead us to fulfill His plan for our lives because He knows what is best for us! God gave Adam and Eve a purpose to multiply on the earth and He gave Jeremiah a purpose to proclaim the word of God to the people so that they would turn back to Him! God has a special purpose for each of us, too.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Bring in a mirror. Have each child take turns looking themselves in the mirror and describing what they see. Make sure the characteristics pointed out are positive, not negative. Remind them that even though each person looks different, we are all made in God's image and likeness. God is so creative that He is able to make every person on the planet look different, with the exception of twins, of course! But even then, there are differences that make each twin unique and special. Think of how many people are on the planet (roughly 7 billion!). That's a lot of different people!

KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis chapter 2 and Jeremiah 1:4-10 and use the following ideas for guided discussion.

- God knew you before you were born.
 - How did God know you before you were born? God is the Creator of all things. He created DNA, cells, and genes that we know make up the color of our eyes, the shape of our nose, and what height we'll be. God knows every hair on your head, and He knew that you would be born before the world was ever formed. God is all knowing and that includes you!
 - How does it make you feel to know that God knew you before you were ever even born?
- God knows what is best for you.
 - If God knew you before you were born, do you think we can trust that He knows what is best for us, too?
 - If God knows what is best, what should be our response? Why do we doubt? As sinners, we have a desire in our flesh to do what we want and think is best. But God knows and sees more than we do and He is perfect in all He does. By trusting in Him, we are trading our limited understanding and poor plans for His perfect one.
- God has given you talents and gifts for a purpose, to glorify Him.
 - What are some of the talents and gifts God has given to you? How can you use those to bring Him glory?

Activity

Place a few M&Ms or skittles in front of each kid and provide each of them a straw and plastic cup. Instruct them to put all of the candy into the cup using only the straw. See if they can devise ways to complete the task (ex: they might bend the straw and use it like tweezers or chopsticks). See how far they get and then demonstrate if necessary. Explain that sometimes the task God gives us seems impossible or difficult, but God knows us better than we do and He equips us by the Holy Spirit when we are believers to do what He asks us to. Jeremiah doubted God's call on his life because he felt he was too young and couldn't speak well, but God knew better and told Jeremiah that He would give him the words to speak. We can trust that when God calls us to something, He knows us well enough to equip us with all that we will need to accomplish it.

Prayer

Spend time praising God for creating us with purpose and for caring for us and knowing us better than we know ourselves. Ask God to help us trust Him when He asks us to do something for Him that seems scary or hard.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Psalm 139:13-14.

Take time helping your child identify and write down a list of things that he/she is good at, including special talents and abilities and God-given gifts. In what ways can your child use those things for the glory of God? Spend time talking about how everything we do should be for the glory of God and not men. God has given us these things and He deserves the praise. (1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossian 3:23)

DISCUSSION

- **How does God equip us for what He asks us to do?**
When we have placed our faith in Jesus, God has given us His Holy Spirit to live in us and help us to do His will. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength and all the tools we need to do the Lord's work. For Jeremiah, God put the words in his mouth that He wanted him to speak. (Jer. 1:4-10)
- **Why does it matter that we are obedient to what God asks us to do?**
We do not obey God for what we can get from Him or to avoid punishment. Rather, our obedience to God should come from our genuine love and gratefulness to God for what He has done for us. Jesus paid the ultimate price for our freedom and salvation, and if we truly love and accept Him for that sacrifice, we will want to do anything He asks of us because we trust that whatever He asks will be for our own good.

PRAYER

Spend time in prayer with your child thanking God that He knows us completely and loves us no matter what. Thank God for the talents and gifts He has uniquely given to you. Ask God to help you find more ways that you can honor and serve Him with those talents and gifts.