



Week 1 Children's Moment Resources: God's Purpose for You | 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Lessons & Illustrations:

- 1) God has a special purpose for each person – including you and everyone you know. God has picked you for something special based on just exactly who you are. God doesn't pick us because of what we look like or what other people think or say about us, but because of what is in our hearts and how we live our lives.

Ideas to illustrate:

- Bring in some costume pieces that are typically associated with a profession (e.g., nurse/doctor, detective, or even a musical instrument/microphone to give the impression of being a musician). Have one adult or older youth dress up and another who is in "normal" clothes. Ask the kids which one is a nurse/doctor/detective/musician, etc. Ask, "why"? Describe how we cannot know what someone is good at just by looking at the clothes they wear or what they look like. (Dressing up like a doctor does not mean you have what it takes to be a doctor!) God taught Samuel that David was supposed to be King because of who he was on the inside, even though his brothers looked more like kings.
- Find two (or more) different objects of equal value that the kids will be able to tell are of equal value (e.g., \$5 fast food gift card, \$5 dollar store gift card). Wrap them in different sized boxes and colored paper. Ask the children which gift they would choose. Have them unwrap the gifts. Once unwrapped, explain how even though one looked bigger or more exciting than the other(s), the gifts are of the same value. That does not mean they are the same. They have different purposes (they are for different stores). But they are both of equal value. We all have



our own different purpose, and we are all equal value, but you cannot always tell from the outside what that purpose is.

Call to Action: Today, list three things that you are good at and three things that your friend is good at.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for making each of us unique. Thank you for giving each one of us something special to do in our lives. Thank you for making us different. Help us to remember who you made us to be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Week 2 Children's Moment Resources: Equipped | 1 Samuel 17:31-40

Lessons & Illustrations:

- 1) God gives people different talents and skills that help to make us who we are. When we try to be like other people instead of being ourselves, it is harder to do things. Their skills don't fit us and ours don't fit them! God gives us what we need to be ourselves, so we don't have to try to be something we're not.

Ideas to illustrate:

- Get children to put on adult sized clothing (big shoes would work particularly well) and ask them to accomplish a simple task (like walking across the front of the church). Explain how we can do things better and more easily when we use what "fits" us. God gives us what we need to be our own person and do things in our own way.
- If you have children of different ages, consider using a small chair made for a toddler and a chair made for an older child to contrast different people using different things. A two-year-old might be able to sit in a bigger chair, but it would be harder. An eight-year-old might be able to sit in a toddler chair, but it would be uncomfortable. We do not have to be something we are not. God equips us – gives us the equipment we need – to be us and to do the things that make us who we are.

Call to Action:

All you must do this week is to be you and to love others for who they are too.

Consider having children name one positive thing about themselves and have the other children cheer/clap for them.



Prayer: Dear God, thank you for giving me the things I need to be myself. Help me to remember that I don't always have to do things the same way other people do, and they don't have to do things the same way I do. Thank you for making me who I am. Amen.



Week 3 Children's Moment Resources: Supported | 1 Samuel 20:1-17

Lessons & Illustrations:

- 1) We need help from other people as we grow and become the people God made us to be. We can also be there to help other people become who God made them to be. We do not have to do it alone.

Ideas to illustrate:

- Have the children try a three-legged walk or race and reflect on how they must rely on each other and work together to move forward.
- Find a task that is easier to do together than alone (e.g., a simple 10-piece puzzle). Have a volunteer try to do it alone first and then get them to do it together. Compare the experiences.

Call to Action: Spend time with your friends. If your friend is doing something (e.g., a project or a chore), ask how you can help them. If you are doing something hard, try asking for help.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you! Thank you for giving us people to help us on our way! Help us to know when to ask for help and help us to give help when it is needed! Thank you for Jesus and for your love for us! In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



Week 4 Children's Moment Resources: Affirmed | 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 12

Lessons & Illustrations:

- 1) It's okay if you don't know right now what you want to be when you grow up or what your gifts and talents are. It's a process and it takes time.

Ideas to illustrate:

- You might make a comparison between a preschool aged child, a child in third grade, and a child in tenth grade on reading levels. The preschooler is learning letters and sounds, the third grader might be learning some bigger words, and the tenth grader might be reading complex novels. Learning and growing does not happen all at once. It takes time and patience. Note: Be aware of any children or adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities for whom this illustration might not work and consider using a different illustration, if necessary or more appropriate for your context.
- Bring in some baking ingredients or different baked goods. Talk about how the same ingredients can make lots of different things, but to go from having a bunch of ingredients to having a cake, cookie, or sweet bread, for example, takes time and steps in between. You must find a recipe, measure, mix, heat the oven, put it in the oven etc. Becoming what you are meant to be or what you could be takes time – and there are choices and options! But you must do all the in between steps.
- To make this an intergenerational illustration – select (either on the spot or in advance) a couple of adults to “interview” during children's time. Ask them what they do or did for a living. Ask them when they figured out what they would do (to show that you do not always have to know from a young age).



Call to Action:

Go home and think about what ingredients make you who you are and just know that you can do whatever you want to with all these different ingredients. You do not have to have it figured out yet.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you! Thank you for giving us all the pieces we need to follow what you have designed us to be! Help us to know exactly what that is, and to be okay trying different things along the way! Bless our path and our end point! Amen.

Additional Components:

To extend this lesson to Sunday School, bring paper bags for each child. Have them cut out (or cut out in advance for them) paper images of a bag of sugar, an egg, flour, water in a measuring cup, butter, etc. Have the children write one “ingredient” on each cut out that makes them who they are (e.g., kind, smart, funny). They can take home their paper bag with all the ingredients that make them who they are. Or have them bake gingerbread men and decorate them with different ingredients, representing different qualities they have.