



God's Very Good Idea: A True Story About God's Delightfully Different Family

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Reading and Activity Guide

BEFORE READING

+ What good idea have you had today? Or this week? *Maybe it was something nice you did for someone or a creative way to have fun with friends or even a spark of imagination while working on an art project.*

DURING READING

- + What was God's very best idea when creating the world?
- + What are some of the differences that God gave people?

+ The book said some people like to read, while others like to ride a bike! If you had to describe yourself, what would you say you like to do? *If you're reading with more than one child, take note of things multiple people like and which things are enjoyed by only one unique person. It's important for children to see that there are areas where we are alike and connect with each other, but also, God created people to enjoy different things and that's great, too!*

AFTER READING

+ *How amazing that even though we ruined God's idea and don't always love God or other people, that doesn't stop His plan to rescue us?! Because Jesus loves us and died on the cross for us, He not only loves us, but loves others through us. God made us to love others. How can you show love to other people—whether they look or speak like you or not?*

+ *God also made us to enjoy other people. Who are some people that you'd like to get to know? Maybe you play piano and someone at church is really good but you've never talked to them about it. Maybe the kid who lives down the street plays basketball just like you, but you've never asked to play together. Maybe another kid at school likes to read at recess, but you've never asked what the story is about.*

+ *Look at that picture of the dinner table; this is a picture of God's family enjoying loving one another. Who is someone in your neighborhood that you could invite to be a part of this family of God?*

Springboard Activities:

Activity #1: Loved to Love - After you identify that person or family, do something nice for them. Options include bringing over a meal or dessert, raking their leaves, or giving them a compliment. Don't stop here, though! What are some ways that you can continue doing nice things for them next week? How about the week after that? As you continue to do nice things for them, you are showing them the love of Jesus. You are part of God's wonderful plan.

Activity #2: Pretty Puzzle - Complete a puzzle as a family or class! As you work, notice how each piece is slightly different; no two puzzle pieces are the same. They're all important, though, and every single one is needed in order to complete the puzzle. This helps us remember that God created people to be different; no two are the exact same. We're all loved by our Creator (that's God!) and together, we are part of His family!

You may choose to purchase this coloring and activity book that pairs with the story to continue learning!

