

## LESSON



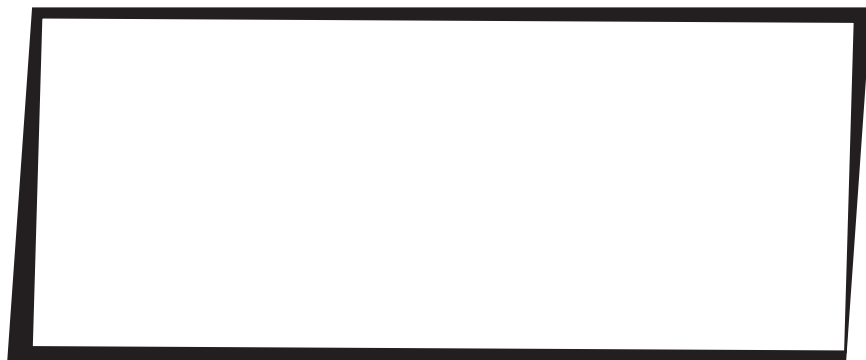
# JESUS' PLANS AND YOU

## How Is Your Life With Jesus?

How is your new life with Jesus? Did you meet more people in God's family? Have you read anything interesting in God's Word? Did you memorize a Bible verse? Have you prayed? Did God answer your prayer? Remember, he loves you very much.

## THINKING ABOUT GIFTS

Have you ever received a gift? Draw a picture or write a description of one of the best gifts you have ever received.



God has given gifts to his people, even beyond the gift of salvation. These gifts are invisible, but they are very important and exciting. This lesson will help you learn about God's gifts and you.



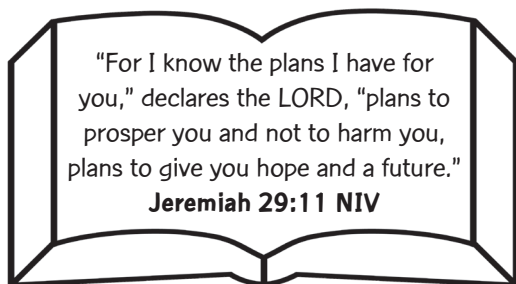
# WHO MADE YOU?

Read Psalm 139:13-16 below. This poem was written to God (he is the "you" in this passage).

- <sup>13</sup>For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup>I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place.  
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
- <sup>16</sup>your eyes saw my unformed body.  
All the days ordained for me  
were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.

## WHO MADE YOU?

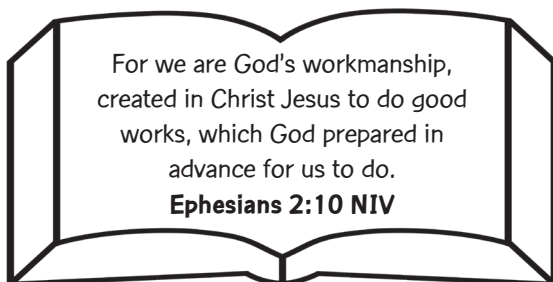
God created and designed you! The way you are made is exactly the way God wanted you to be. You are special. There is no other person quite like you. And God has good plans for your life.





# GOD CREATED YOU WITH GIFTS

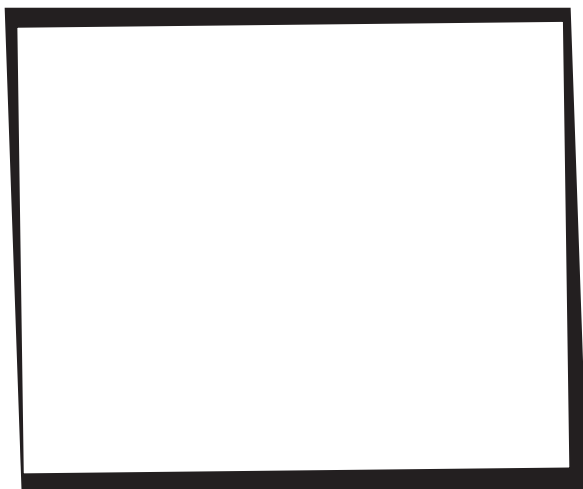
Before you were born, God designed you with certain abilities or talents for his purposes.



What is it that you love to do? What are you really good at? Draw a picture of yourself doing that here:

Are you ...

- An athlete?
- A quick learner?
- Shy and  
tenderhearted?
- A quiet thinker?
- Friendly?
- Very kind?
- Strong?
- Musical?
- Mathematical?
- What else?



These are all abilities that God has created in you. Before you became a believer, these abilities were there. But now you realize that God has given you some of these gifts or abilities to use for his purposes. **What will God do through you?**



# WHAT ARE GOD'S GIFTS?



The Bible contains several lists of spiritual gifts. Circle some of the names of gifts that God gives in the two scripture passages below. We've done the first one for you.

**Ephesians 4:11 NIV:** It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers.

**Romans 12:5-8 NIV:** So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

These gifts might seem very grown up. But God gives gifts to kids, too. What gifts has God given to you? It may take some time to discover. But we know God will show you as you seek him.

**What will God do through you as you grow in him? It will be an adventure to see how he uses you!**



# WHY DOES GOD GIVE GIFTS?

## TO BRING HONOR TO GOD

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 4:11 NIV**

## TO BUILD EACH OTHER UP

To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

**Ephesians 4:12 NIV**

## TO SERVE OTHERS

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

**1 Peter 4:10 NIV**

## TO FULFILL GOD'S PLAN FOR THE WORLD

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

**Acts 1:8 NIV**



# A BIBLE STORY

## PETER'S LIFE STORY

Peter followed Jesus as one of his closest disciples. Here are several verses telling parts of the life story of Peter (also called Simon).

### **Peter Follows Jesus. (Mark 1:16-18)**

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.

### **Peter Walks on Water to Jesus. (Matthew 14:28-31)**

<sup>28</sup>"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup>"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

### **Jesus Sees Something Special in Peter. (Matthew 16:16-18)**

<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup>Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

### **Peter Denies He Knows Jesus. (John 18:25)**

<sup>25</sup>As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."

### **Peter Preaches with Power. (Acts 2:38-41)**

<sup>38</sup>Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." <sup>40</sup>With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup>Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.



**THINK  
ABOUT  
THIS**

- ◆ Peter also wrote part of the Bible, prayed for a dead person to come to life, and more.
- ◆ Did Peter always get everything right the first time? Did Jesus still use him? Why do you think so?



# WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Now it's time for you to think and pray. Ask yourself these questions (write your thoughts and answers in your journal, if you have one):

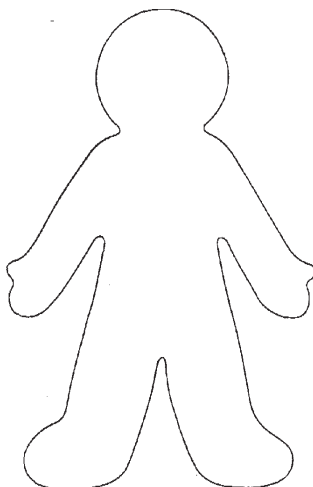
**What things do you like doing?**

**How could God use those talents and abilities?**

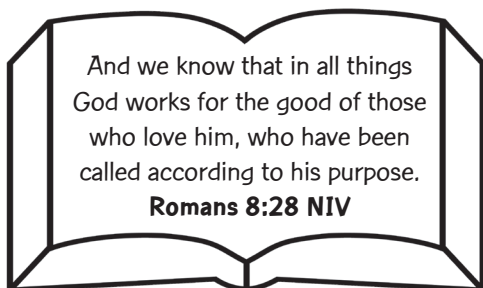
**What would you like to do for God?**



Finish this drawing to look like you. Show yourself serving Jesus in some way.



During your quiet moments with Jesus, ask him to show you what he wants you to do. You might be surprised as he speaks to your heart. He has plans for you, even if there are times you do not know how he is working.





## SOMETHING TO DO...

### WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL

What gifts has God given you? What task does he have for YOU to do with these gifts? Write ideas and questions you have about this in your journal.

### ASK YOUR QUESTIONS

Do you have more questions about Jesus' plans for you? Write your questions here or in your journal. Pray. Ask another person in God's family to pray with you about God's answers.

?

---

?

---

### TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Talk to Jesus anywhere. Ask for his directions. Ask him to help you know what he wants you to do. Be ready to do whatever he asks today (even if it's small), as practice for following him anywhere.

### A Bible Verse to Remember

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

**Jeremiah 29:11 NIV**