

YEAR LEVEL	Foundation
TITLE	I Am Special, So Are You
STRAND	CHRISTIAN MORALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
SUGGESTED DURATION	3-5 weeks
ENDURING QUESTIONS	What does it mean to be Christian? How do I choose to share God's love with all?



Unit Focus

In this unit students will explore and express their unique identity. They will be asked to identify what makes them unique, to understand their individuality, and to thank God for the life given to each of them. Students will develop a sense of respect, wonder and an appreciation of diversity.

Achievement Standards

By the end of **Foundation**:

Students identify ways that Christians love and care for others as God asks. They express ways in which they share their God-given gifts with others.

Unit Outcomes

By the end of this unit students should be able to:

1. Identify that God has given them a unique personality.
2. Express thanks to God for their life and uniqueness.
3. Recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others.

Key Understandings for Students

- I am special and unique.
- God loves me.
- I am part of God's creation.
- We are created in God's image.
- Each of us has a unique personality.
- Jesus loves each of us.
- We experience God's love in the love we receive from our parents, families and others.

Student Context

Children come to school from a wide range of cultural, religious and social backgrounds. Differences in child-rearing practices, and the variety of child-care and pre-school provisions that families use provide different kinds of learning experiences.

In this period of early childhood, children are led by natural curiosity to engage in a direct hands-on exploration of their world, expressing themselves through talking, drawing, creating, moving and above all, playing. The content and experiences of this unit are closely linked to the development of students in this stage.

Theological Background for Teachers

- Each of us is unique and has received the gift of life from God. We have been created in the image and likeness of God, and are each creative, gifted and talented. We have been graced with intellect, with creativity and with the freedom to use and express these gifts and talents. By using our gifts, talents and creativity, we enhance our own growth and contribute to the community. It is also our responsibility to respect and encourage the giftedness of others.
- God did not create us in isolation. Called by God to become unique and gifted individuals, we are blessed with people who help us to discern our unique identities. We are oriented to relationships with other people, so that we can share our unique giftedness, thereby revealing God's love and goodness.
- God knows us fully and loves us unconditionally.

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity

Read *Koala Lou* (Mem Fox) to illustrate how we are special. Talk about the story and ask the students to draw their favourite part of the story. The teacher can write a sentence to explain the art. Display.

- Talk about how our name is special to us and to our family. Students take a question home and ask their parent/s or family member why they were given that name. The answer can be recorded on **(Appendix 1)**. Make a name display using Appendix 1 after students have traced around the outline of their name and decorated it. Display.
- Make a "Book About Me", include photos, hair/eye colour, height, etc. and list some of their gifts and talents. Children share books at home and in class. (Teacher may determine what is required for the contents)
- Watch the Youtube clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kxytcfixCE>) of the song "God Made Me Special.". Make up actions to go with the song.
- Students draw a picture to share something special about them, e.g. something special that I can do...

The teacher records the sentence under the picture. Share these with the class and display so everyone hears and sees what is special about this learning community.

- Write a Thanksgiving prayer: "Thank you God for making me special. Thank you God for making each of us special." Place this prayer on the Prayer Focus and pray in Prayer time.
- Discuss how we are all unique in different ways. Some of us may come from different countries, have different coloured skin, etc. God loves us all and wants us to love and care for each other. Our differences make our community unique. Children trace two hands, in one they write/draw how others help them; in the other how they help others. Cut out the hands and make a "Circle of Hands". In the centre write "We are all loved by God. God made us special."

Prayer Ritual

Gather in a circle around the Prayer focus. Ask students to think about each person in the class and how special they are.

Pray the following Prayer:

Student response is **"Thank you God"**

For all loving and kind things we do for each other. (R)

For all the learning we share. (R)

For all the care we show to each other. (R)

For God's love. (R)

Students thank the person either side of them, using their name, e.g. "Thank you, Mary for being you."

Appendices

Appendix 1: Name Outline