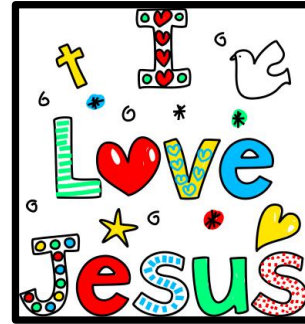


We are “ONE TEAM, GOD’S TEAM”!

You Are Wonderfully Made



We are all **“Wonderfully Made by GOD”** and made in **HIS IMAGE!** GOD created each one of us with differences in our bodies. GOD created some of us to be boys and some of us to be girls. HE created some of us with tall bodies and some with short bodies. He even designed differences in the color of our hair, our skin and our eyes. HE also created us with different abilities, such as the way we move and play sports, the way we think and the way we learn. GOD has a purpose for creating each one of us uniquely. God is a good maker.

While God designed and created our bodies, it’s important to know that we live in an imperfect world. GOD allows differences in our lives that might impact how our bodies look, how our bodies work, how we talk, and how we think. Sometimes in this imperfect world, our bodies can be impacted by an illness or injury. Our weaknesses can make it difficult to do the things we want to do, like play a sport, do our schoolwork, eat food, or talk with others.



Moses' Story...

Did you know that many of God's chosen people in the Bible had body differences that caused physical challenges? Let's learn about **Moses**, God's chosen prophet, who had difficulty with speech:



God gave Moses a challenging job to do. He asked Moses to go to Egypt and ask Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free. Pharaoh was holding the Israelites as slaves of Egypt, and they were suffering. When God asked Moses to speak to Pharaoh, Moses responded to God by saying, "Lord, I am not a good speaker. You know that I speak slowly and don't use the best words". But the Lord answered Moses by reminding him that He was the one who created Moses. God said to him, "Who made a person's mouth? And who can make a person deaf and not able to speak? Who can make a person blind? Who can make a person able to see? I am the one. So, go. I will be with you when you speak. I will give you the words to say."

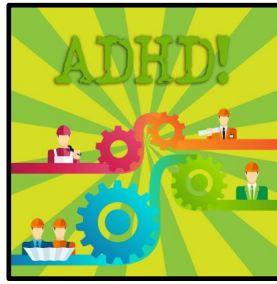
God had a big job for Moses to do. Moses didn't think he could handle this big job, because of his difficulty with speech. But God didn't need Moses to be perfect, God needed Moses to trust and depend on Him. God would give Moses everything he needed to do this big job.

Moses was created in **God's image** and was "**Wonderfully Made**", even though he had difficulty with speech.

Being created in God's image does not mean that people are perfect, but rather that people must trust and depend on Him. We are enough, because God is enough. And as God tells us in 2 Corinthians 12: 9-11, "When we are weak, then we are strong because God's power is made perfect in weakness".

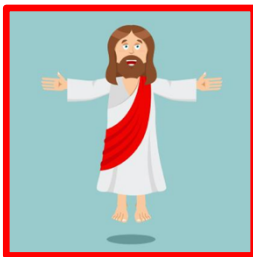
God Cares About Our Feelings

Sometimes our weakness can feel very difficult. We all have unique abilities, both physically and in the way we think. GOD knows us intimately, and HE loves us deeply. He understands how we feel, even when we feel frustrated or sad about some of the differences in our body or our skills.



GOD loves all of us equally, even though we have many differences. We are all deeply loved by GOD, and He has a plan and purpose for our lives, no matter what our strengths and weaknesses are. He wants us to share His love and light with the world with the bodies we have. He will always help us!

One Team, God's Team!



God wants us to love and care for one other even if we look or act differently. HE also wants us to be encouragers around people with differences and not avoid them or make fun of them. GOD doesn't want us to ignore others or pretend they aren't there.

All people are created in the **IMAGE OF GOD**, and we are all on the same team – **GOD'S TEAM!** Remember that we are **ONE TEAM, God's Team!** When GOD made us, HE made us with strengths and weaknesses. HE made us to *need* friendship and encouragement from others, and He designed us to *give* friendship and encouragement to others.



Be An Encourager!



So, when we see one of our teammates (like a friend or team player, or family member) who might talk differently, or might be in a wheelchair, or might need help with walking or learning, we need to be an *encourager*.

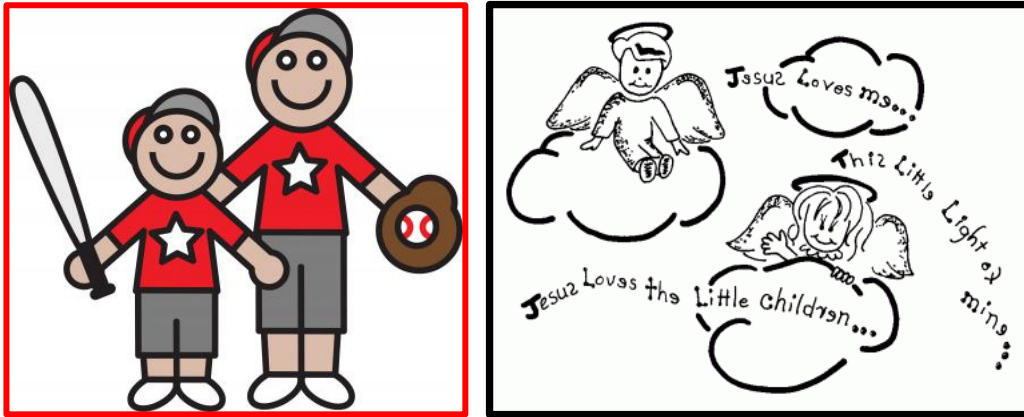
How can we be an *encourager*?

- We can tell them they are doing a good job and keep trying!
- When they make a shot at the goal, but it misses, we can tell them, “Great shot! Keep trying, and you will get this!” Don’t give up!
- We can help them by showing them how to do a new skill.
- We can remember to think about how they might feel, so we don’t laugh at them or make fun of them because that could hurt their feelings.
- We can remind them that God knows how they feel, and HE loves them and will help them.
- We can join them while they are having their snack or lunch.
- You can ask your friend how they are feeling and ask them if there is any way you can help them.
- You can also ask an adult how you can support your friend.



So, remember that we are **“One Team”** – **“GOD’S Team”**. We are all created with strengths and weaknesses. Some of us have weaknesses that might show more than others. But JESUS knows we have areas of weaknesses, and HE promises to help us always! One of the ways HE helps us is to bring caring friends and teammates in our lives. **GOD** can use our teammates to help us be stronger. **GOD** uses our teammates to remind us of **HIS LOVE**.

The Body of Christ



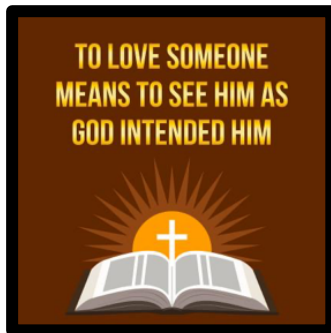
The **BODY OF CHRIST** is designed to be uniquely different, but we are all designed to be dependent on **JESUS**, and on one another for friendship, love, and compassion. We all have different spiritual gifts, and we are designed to be a team that works together. We are like a puzzle. When you are putting a puzzle together, remember that each piece of the puzzle is important in order to see the whole picture of the puzzle.

Just like a puzzle, a team needs all of its team members in order to make that final beautiful picture. Think of a soccer team for example: They need their goalie, their defenders, their midfielders, and their goal scorers. They also need a coach! The whole soccer team works together. They always need to listen to their coach. **Our coach is JESUS!** We need to listen to Him when HE talks to us because HE created us to need HIM. GOD wants us to pray to **HIM** and talk to **HIM**, tell **HIM** how we feel, and ask **HIM** for help. **JESUS is also our coach's coach!**





So, remember, that you are **“Wonderfully Made”** by **GOD**, and **GOD** has plans for **you**. We are all on **One Team – GOD’s TEAM!** We work together to encourage and strengthen each other through our faith in God so we can be **“all HE created us to be”**! Encourage and love your friends and teammates so they can grow up knowing GOD better each day and know how much GOD loves every one of us.



JESUS LOVES YOU WITH YOUR UNIQUE BODY AND MIND. HE CAN USE YOUR WEAKNESSES TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE LEARN TO LOVE HIM WHEN THEY SEE HIS POWER WORKING THROUGH YOUR WEAKNESSES.

“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

