

PARENTS,

Today the entire church asked the question, “Does life have a purpose?” For many of us, what we really want to know is “Does my life have a purpose?”

But there’s a more basic question that our kids are asking: *Do I matter?* Please take time this week to answer this question for your children with a resounding **YES!** Yes, you matter! You matter to this family! You matter to your friends! At church, at school, on your team, and every place you find yourself—you matter! And most of all, you matter to God.

Here’s the catch: the message we all hear is that we matter because of what we *do*. For kids, this gets translated as they matter when they are good—when they are well-behaved or get good grades, when they clean their rooms, memorize a Bible verse, win the match, or perform well.

But that’s not why our children matter and that’s not why you and I matter. None of us matter because of what we do—we matter simply because of *who we are*. And as God’s “handiwork” we have each been intentionally designed to be who we are. Consider the unique personality traits of your children—the great qualities that you see growing in them, and even some of the qualities that cause some frustration.

Whether you choose to set aside some special time as a family, or wait until it’s just two of you in the car, take some time this week to affirm each child for who they are—that God intentionally designed them with these personalities and traits, that they matter because of who they are and not because of what they do, and that God can use them for great and wonderful things.

LIFE TRUTH

I am
valuable
because
God made me
and loves me.

MEMORY VERSE

Know that
the Lord is God.
It is he who
made us,
and we are his . . .
give thanks to him
and praise his name.

Psalm 100:3–4

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Name something you are good at.
- 2 Do you think you matter because of what you do and what you are good at?
Parents: Talk with your kids about the hurtful message that we’re only valuable because of what we can do, earn, or achieve. If you have an example of when you’ve believed this lie, share it with your kids.
- 3 What makes you different or unique? Name a character or personality trait.
Read Ephesians 2:10. The word “handiwork” refers to a great piece of art – a masterpiece. We are each a masterpiece! None of us is perfect, but God has intentionally designed each of us to be who we are, and we are valuable to Him.
- 4 Name something you especially like to do.
- 5 Think of something you could do that uses your unique traits, personality, and talents to partner with God and make a difference in His world.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Provide materials for your family that will allow them to create something (play-dough, Legos, paper & markers, etc.) and give them some time to create a masterpiece of their own.

After several minutes, give them a chance to show them off, and then ask: *Would you consider your creation a masterpiece? Why or why not? God created you as a masterpiece. You are valuable because God made you and loves you!*