

## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY IN THE CHURCH

### LESSON 1

#### WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT



| Bible Story   | Message that will be taught * |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Mark 10:13-16 – We are all different, but Jesus loves us and wants to be our Friend | Jesus loves all children      |

\*The goal of a Bible lesson is to teach the children a specific Biblical message. Children learn through repetition, and therefore this message should be repeated throughout the lesson.

### TEACHING AIDS

A display of fruit and vegetables and/or pictures of different animals.

Pictures from a children's Bible story book or the internet of Jesus with the children.

### INTRODUCTION

*(Illustrate that we are all different by showing the children pictures of different animals and ask which one they like best; let them touch and smell a display of different fruits and vegetables and ask which one they like best; let them share what activities they are good at and what is hard for them to do. Share some of your own strengths and weaknesses.)*

Do you mind loud noises or heights? What if you are in a small place or surrounded by many people? We are all different. Sometimes we like different things, sometimes we are good at certain things but find something else very difficult to do. However, Jesus loves all children the same! He does not care if we are not good at certain things.

## STORY

One day, Jesus was very tired and He was resting a bit. Remember, when Jesus was on earth, he was a human just like us, and He also got tired. Just then, some children came to see Jesus. They were so excited and could not wait to meet with Jesus and to talk to Him. However, the disciples thought that Jesus needed to rest and did not want to disturb Him. They told the parents to take their children away. But Jesus heard that – and He got very upset! He told the disciples to bring the children to Him so that He can take them in His arms, hug them, talk to them and bless them. You see, Jesus enjoys the company of children. Children are important to Jesus and He loves them very much!

Jesus never said they must only bring the pretty ones to Him, or the clever ones, or those children that can behave themselves or sit still all the time. Jesus knows we are all different, and He still loves each one of us.

- Some children can't sit still for very long
- Some children can't talk easily
- Some children need special help to be able to learn at school
- Some children are scared of bright lights, or loud noises, or lots of people

*(If you have permission, you may use examples of specific children in the class)*

And that is okay. Jesus still loves all children, it does not matter what they can or can't do. He will never get tired or be too busy to be your friend, because you are special to Him.

## ACTIVITIES

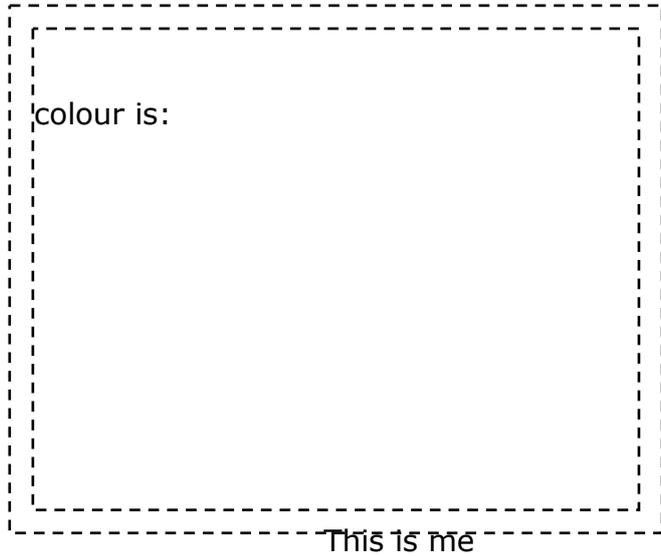
- Give the children old magazines so that they can cut out pictures to make a collage of things they like and don't like, or things they are good at or find difficult to do. Explain that, just as everyone's collage is different, so we are different too.

### Materials needed

- Blank A4 pages to do the collage on
  - Scissors
  - Glue
  - Old magazines
- Children can also complete and colour the attached poster

# This is ME!

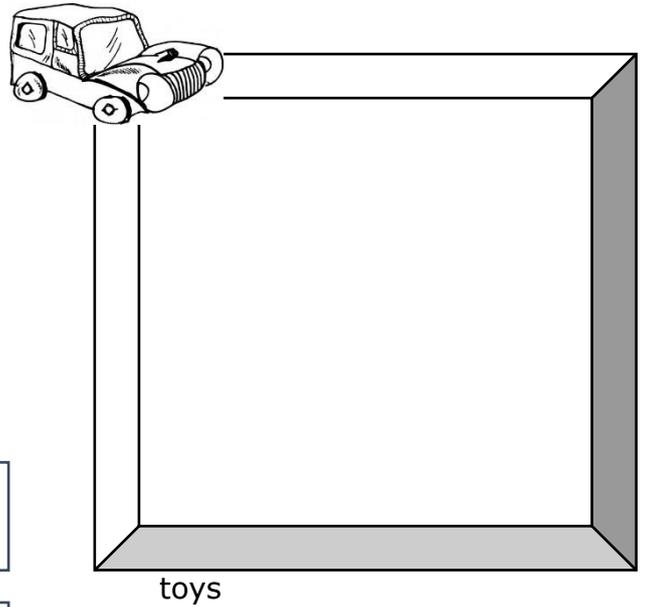
colour is:



This is me



My favourite



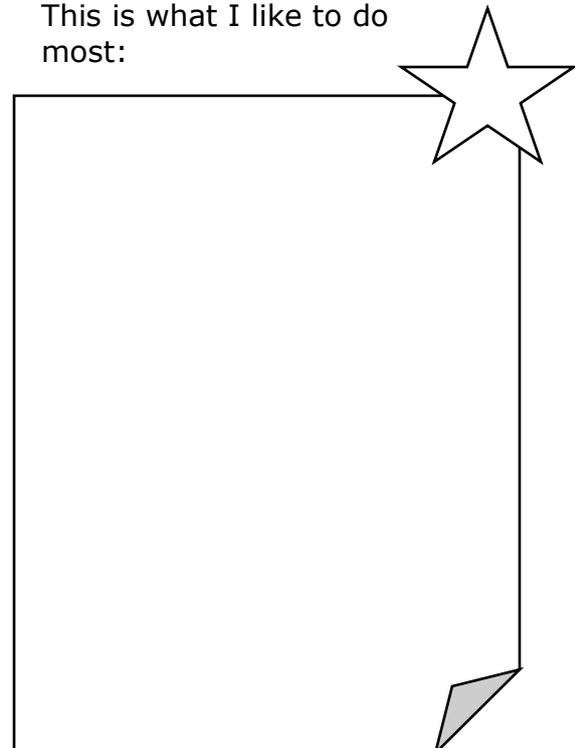
toys

I am good at:



- 1
- 2
- 3

This is what I like to do most:



This is my favourite food:

