



Created • Redeemed • Called

Life Sunday Children's Message

Bible verse: "But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine'" (Isaiah 43:1).

Objective: To have the children better understand that their value and the value of every human being comes from God who **Created** them, **Redeemed** them, and **Called** them.

Materials:

- Three 8.5" x 11" pieces of construction paper: one with the word "Created," another with "Redeemed," and the third with the word "Called."
- Fetal models or pictures of babies at different stages of development in the womb. (A 12-week fetal model—with Young One card—is available at www.cph.org. Item LFL1303.)
- Picture of Jesus on the cross.
- Picture of Baptismal Font.

Lutherans For Life has Makers' Markers bookmarks for children that emphasize how special they are. (Item LFL700BM. Available at www.cph.org.) You may want to obtain some of these to hand out at the end.

Message: We want God's Word to teach us today that we are all very, very special to Him. I noticed when you were coming up here that some of you are boys and some are girls, some are taller than others, some of you have dark hair and some of you have light hair, and we have a whole bunch of different colors in the clothes you are wearing. But do any of these things make us special to God? **[NO!]**

I want you to put your listening ears on and listen to God's Word as I read. I want you to listen for three things *God has done* that make us special. **[Read verse.]**

Did you hear the three things? **[Field answers and hold up the proper word when it is mentioned. You may have to help them understand that "created" and "formed" are the same.]**

Wonderful! We have all three—Created, Redeemed, and Called. Say those with me—Created, Redeemed, and Called.

[Hold up only "Created."] The Bible says God created each one of us. He shapes and forms us with His hands as we are growing up inside our moms. Did you know there was a time when God was creating us that we looked like this? **[Show fetal model or picture.]** We kept growing and soon we looked like this. **[Repeat according to number of models or pictures.]** Then we were born and kept growing to the size we are today. Yes, you are special because God created you with His hands. You could have a tag on the back of your neck like we see on our clothes. Your tag would read, "Handmade by God." Wow! You are special!



Then the Bible tells us that God loved what He made with His hands so much that when we were lost in sin, those bad things we do, He sent Jesus to redeem us. "Redeem" means to buy back with a price. What was the price Jesus had to pay to buy us back from sin? **[Yes, He died on the cross. Show picture or point to crucifix if one is in the chancel.]** In order to do this, Jesus had to grow up inside His mother's womb, just like we did! Can you believe it? Jesus was once this big, and this big **[showing models or pictures]**. He needed a body and hands and feet so He could be nailed to the cross and die for us as the price to redeem us. You were bought with a price, Jesus' own blood. You are special!

So, let's review. You are special because you are _____ **[Created]**.

You are special because you are _____ **[Redeemed]**. Very good!

So, Jesus died to redeem us, but did He stay dead? **[NO!]** He rose again from the dead. He ascended back up into Heaven and sent His Holy Spirit who does the third thing that makes us special. He calls us!

This happens in the waters of Holy Baptism. **[Show picture of font or point to font in the church.]** There God washes away our sins and calls us to be His special children.

So we are all special, each one of you is special for those three reasons—Created, Redeemed, and Called. Say them with me again—Created, Redeemed, Called.

So, does it matter how tall you are or whether you are a girl or a boy or what kind of clothes you wear? **[NO!]** You are special because—say it with me—you are Created, Redeemed, Called.

Does it matter whether you are good at sports or music or math or spelling? **[NO!]** You are special because you are—say it again—Created, Redeemed, Called.

Does it matter whether you are healthy or sick, whether you wear glasses or not, whether you can even walk or not? **[NO!]** You are special because you are—again—Created, Redeemed, Called.

Does it matter whether you are born or not born **[hold up fetal model or picture]**? **[NO]** Does it matter whether you are young or very, very old and maybe in a nursing home? **[NO]** You, and every human being is special because, here we go again, you are Created, Redeemed, Called.

So, you should never think less of yourself because you are—let's hear it again—Created, Redeemed, Called. And, you should never think less of anyone else for everyone is special because of those three things—one more time—Created, Redeemed, Called.

Let us pray. Thank you, Father, for creating me. Thank you, Jesus, for redeeming me. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for calling me. You make us special! Help us see everyone as special because of what You have done. Amen.