

I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE I AM *fearfully & wonderfully made*

CHANGING  HEARTS

Goal: To know we are all God's wonderfully made creation. Even though we are tragically flawed by sin, we are mercifully redeemed by Jesus Christ.

Author comments: It needs to be made clear that all people are tragically flawed by sin. It also needs to be made clear that disabilities, whether physical, mental, or emotional, are not sinful flaws or a result of sin. People with disabilities are sinners just like anyone else; they are also mercifully redeemed by Christ on the cross. Redemption from sin does not remove disabilities in any of us, but rather brings us forgiveness of sins, assurance of eternal life, and moves us to respond with a life of good works in Christ, sharing our God-given gifts and talents.

Bible Passage: For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

—Psalm 139:13-14 NIV

Wonderfully Made

1. God created the universe, world, nature and order.
 - Great variety, living in harmony
 - Vegetation: Trees, leafy plants, flowers, vegetables
 - All heavenly bodies: sun, moon, planets, stars, comets
 - Powers in nature: Wind, water, thunder, sunshine, order not chaos
 - Animals: Very different but all wonderfully created

2. God created people, the crowning of His creation.
 - Created in the image of God: holy, sinless, perfection in all things: communication, relationships, spirituality
 - Variety: Male and female, each with own strengths and abilities, different but equally valued
 - Each individual is uniquely and wonderfully created.
 - Within his/her mother's womb by God Himself
 - God puts us together just as He wants us to be.
 - **Transition:** Just as everyone shares the same Creator and His wonderful love, we also share another gift from our loving Father: forgiveness from our sins.

Tragically Flawed by Sin

1. Adam and Eve were perfect at their creation.
 - Listened to the devil in the form of a serpent
 - Disobeyed God; sinned
 - Kicked out of *Garden of Eden*
 - World now full of weeds and thorns. People would have pain and sickness. People sin.
2. We too have weaknesses, failures, and are flawed by sin.
 - We may not see, hear, walk or think the same, but all are wonderfully created by God.
 - Some may not walk physically, but can walk beside you in troubles and temptations.
 - People of all abilities can be strength-givers, faith-helpers, gifts and talent-sharers to others; they can also be receivers of same.

We Can Rely on God's Promises

1. God promises to save His people from sin: Genesis 3:15.
2. God promises us
 - All the promises of Jesus our Savior apply to us, including:
 - We are members of the Savior's eternal kingdom.
 - We are forgiven from our sins.
 - We are all mercifully redeemed by Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus was born in Bethlehem in fulfillment of Scripture.
 - Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead in fulfillment of Scripture.
 - In all this, Jesus takes our sins, guilt, and punishment away from us.
 - Adam and Eve were forgiven.
 - We are forgiven.
 - In Christ we have eternal life in heaven; we will be holy and sinless forever.