

BIG IDEA

As your child learns about the world around him, ground your preschooler's identity in who God created him or her to be.



KEY SCRIPTURES

- *You are fearfully and wonderfully made* (Ps. 139:13-14).
- *You are made in God's image* (Gen. 1:27).
- *God created us as girls and boys/men and women* (Gen. 1:27).
- *You are a child of God* (1 John 3:1).



KEY QUESTIONS YOUR PRESCHOOLER IS ASKING

- Who am I?
- What is this big world around me?
- Why are people different?



AT THIS AGE MOST PRESCHOOLERS WILL ...

- Label themselves as a boy or a girl.
- Have a stable sense of their gender identity.
- Learn gender role behavior, i.e. doing "things that boys do" or identifying certain toys as "for girls."



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- A preschooler is *curious*. He learns by using all of his senses to explore the world around him.
- A preschooler is *sensitive*. Though she cannot verbalize her feelings, a preschooler can read the emotions and feelings around her. She needs a consistent, positive environment to help her grow.
- A preschooler is *literal-minded*. He thinks in terms of what he has seen and experienced. He understands words only in their concrete meanings. The use of symbolic or figurative language at home or church may confuse him.
- A preschooler *explores limits* for two reasons. First, she wants greater independence. Second, she wants to be reassured that her environment is safe. Frequently, preschoolers who push the limits do so because the limits are always moving and changing. When parents and teachers have different expectations for

behavior, the child is confused and will automatically begin to search for new boundaries. As the child questions limits in her experiences, provide firm but loving guidance to ensure safety and a secure environment.



COACHING TIPS

- Listen to your preschooler's feelings. Help him identify his emotions. Discuss the causes of and solutions to bad feelings.
- Remind your child of God's truths often. Encourage ways for her to remember the difference between her feelings and God's truth.
- Emphasize that differences do not make a person better or worse. Discuss differences she notices in others. Explain that God made everyone unique.
- Continually affirm that God designed him to be who he is.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- **GOD MADE YOU SPECIAL.** What are some things you love to do? Let your child know God created her with special talents and gifts. Provide opportunities for her to explore those talents and gifts.
- **WE GO TO CHURCH TOGETHER.** What do you like to do at church? Use any family moment to emphasize the importance of family identity rooted in Christ.
- **WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS TO DO TOGETHER?** Family activities, whether on a drive or at the dinner table, are perfect opportunities to model and discuss the role of different values you observe in your family.



SAY OR PRAY

- God created you and said everything He made is good.
- God created you for a special job.
- God created you as a boy or a girl.
- God created many different kinds of people.