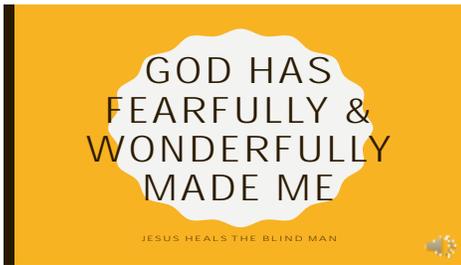
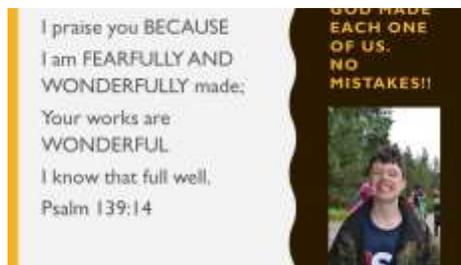
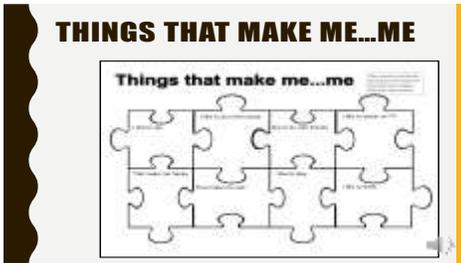


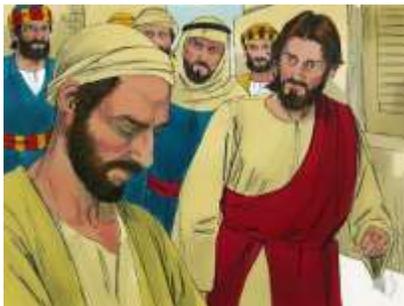
God has fearfully and wonderfully made me.



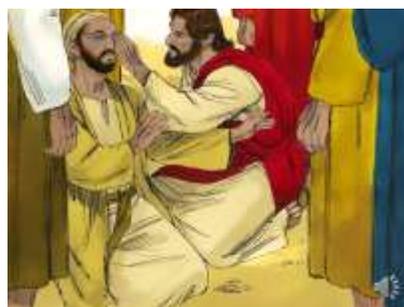
Before you get to the lesson today take a minute or two to fill out the “Things that make me...me” sheet, you can download it or just fill in the blanks with a friend while you look at it on the screen. This is just a quick sketch of who you are, there is so much more to us. Sometimes we feel like God has made a mistake in our lives. We aren’t able to do things others do, or look the way others look. But God doesn’t make mistakes.



In Psalm 139:14 David praises God because he is fearfully and wonderfully made. And that is true for all of us. God made us wonderfully, our bodies are so complex and each is individual with something different to bring to the world. We are going to look at person in Bible who maybe felt that his life wasn’t what God intended and because of something he did, God was punishing him with blindness. Lets see what Jesus had to say about that.



As Jesus was walking through Jerusalem he saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked, “Teacher, is this man blind because he did something wrong or was it that his parents did wrong? Jesus replied, “His blindness is not because of his sin or his parents.”



“Neither his parents or he caused his blindness because they sinned,” Jesus continued. “This happened to him so that the works of God might be displayed in him. I am the light of the world,” Then Jesus spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva and put it on the man’s eyes, “Go” Jesus told him, “Wash in the Pool of Siloam.” The man felt his way through the narrow streets to the pool.

God has fearfully and wonderfully made me.



“When he washed the mud from his eyes – he could see for the first time in his life.

His neighbors and friends asked, “Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?”

Doubters said, “No, he only looks like him.”

“It’s me? The man exclaimed and explained what had happened.

“Where is the person who healed you?” they asked

The man did not know.

They took the man to some Pharisees who asked what had happened

“He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “I washed it off and now I can see!”

When the Pharisees realized the miracle had taken place on the Sabbath some thought this miracle could not be from God but others insisted it had to be.

They sent for the man’s parents. “Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

“He is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. But we don’t know how he can now see.

The Pharisees summoned the man again. “Tell the truth,” they ordered. “We know the man who did this is a sinner.”

“I don’t know whether he is a sinner,” he replied. “But I do know I was blind but now I can see!”

“How did he open your eyes?” they demanded.



God has fearfully and wonderfully made me.



“I have already told you,” The man told them, “Do you want to become His disciples too?”

The Pharisees hurled insults at him.

The man protested, “If the man who did this was not from God, he could not have healed me.”

“How dare you lecture us,” The proud Pharisees retorted. “You were full of sin from birth!”

Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard the man had been thrown out he went looking for him. “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” Jesus asked.

When Jesus heard the man had been thrown out he went looking for him.

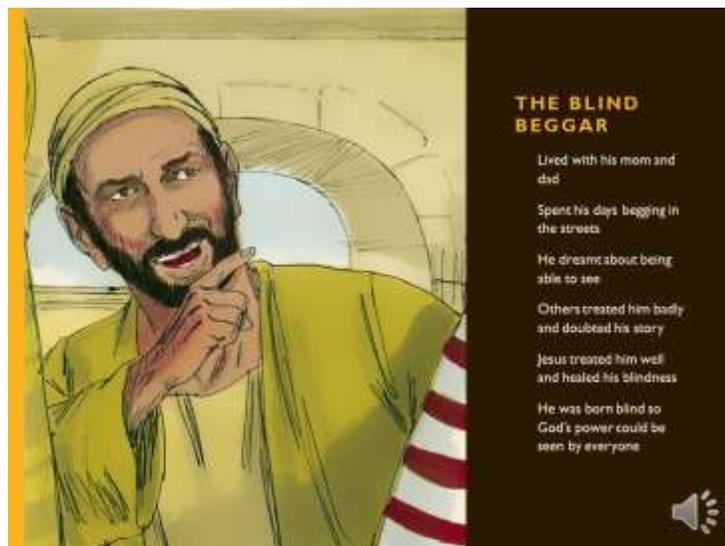
“Do you believe in the Son of Man?” Jesus asked.

“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

“You can see him now,” Jesus replied. “In fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

“Lord, I believe,” the man said and worshiped Jesus.

So, who was this man born blind?



God has fearfully and wonderfully made me.



Have you ever thought that your special needs were given to you so that God's power could be seen through you?

Imagine this is a stained glass window, sometimes you see stained glass in a church or in a house. IF there is no light shining through you can see the basic outline of the glass but it's not very colorful or pleasing to look at. We are like that stained glass window. We have many sections or parts of our lives and people can see the basic outline when they see us and get to know us.



Others can see our talents, the things we do well. Maybe for you it's art, or maybe you sing well. Maybe you play basketball and score lots of points.



Disabilities come in all shapes and sizes, they maybe things that others can see when they first see us like Downs or being wheel chair bound. Others have things that we can't see as well, like heart defects or anxiety. Those are areas of our lives that need special care, but they are just a part of who we are.



Fear is also something can be a part of your life, fears of the dark or spiders are fears many people have. But maybe your afraid of meeting new people or situations that you haven't encountered yet. Fear is a common experience for every person.



God has fearfully and wonderfully made me.



God also provides us with many joys in our lives. The family you have, the friends you hang out with, the animals we can pet and care for. Maybe one of your joys is being outside in nature, or eating something yummy. Joy is a wonderful part of our lives.



Our faith is also something that is part of us. Who is our faith in? Is our faith in God, or do we have more faith in ourselves or the people around us. We show who we are to the world around us in these and many more areas of our lives. God wants to shine through us. When we make God the Lord of our lives he takes all the parts of our lives for his glory and he shines through those areas.



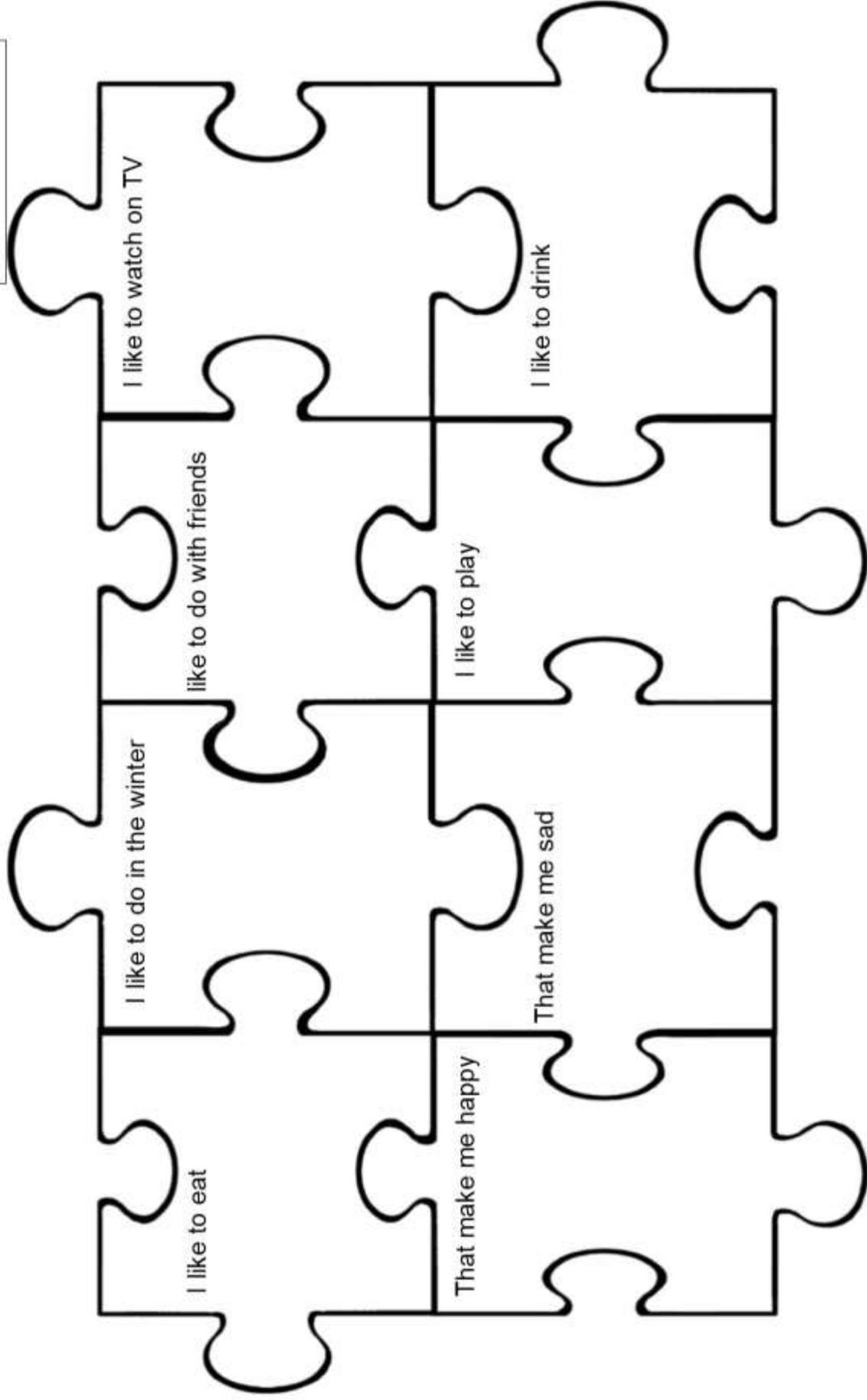
God wants to shine through your life. He wants to be seen in your talents, he gave them to us in the first place. He wants to be seen through our disability and fears. God gives us strength and power to do get through the hard times that can hold us back. God will not heal everyone of their disabilities like he did for the Blind man, but he will use your disability so that you can be a light in this world. Our joys come from God, when we let people know about all the good things God has done in our lives we are letting God shine through our joys. And lastly our faith. Who are we trusting? When we trust God he will shine through our faith to others who need to know about Jesus.



I Corinthians 5:19 is a great reminder of how God shines through us. HE tells us that "my grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in your weakness." God's strength wants to shine through our weaknesses. Our weaknesses are there on purpose so that we can show God's strength. How cool is that.

Things that make me...me

Take a moment to fill out the puzzle pieces with things that would fit in each category. Then share with someone.



Digging In Questions

True/False

1. Jesus thought the man's parents had sinned and that is why the man was born blind.
2. Jesus was able to heal the blind man.
3. The Pharisees and other people gave the blind man a hard time.
4. The man was born blind to show God's power through him.
5. We all have talents, joys, fears, and disabilities that can be used by God.
6. God's power is seen through our weaknesses.

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are some of the Talents, Disabilities, Fears, and Joys that you have.

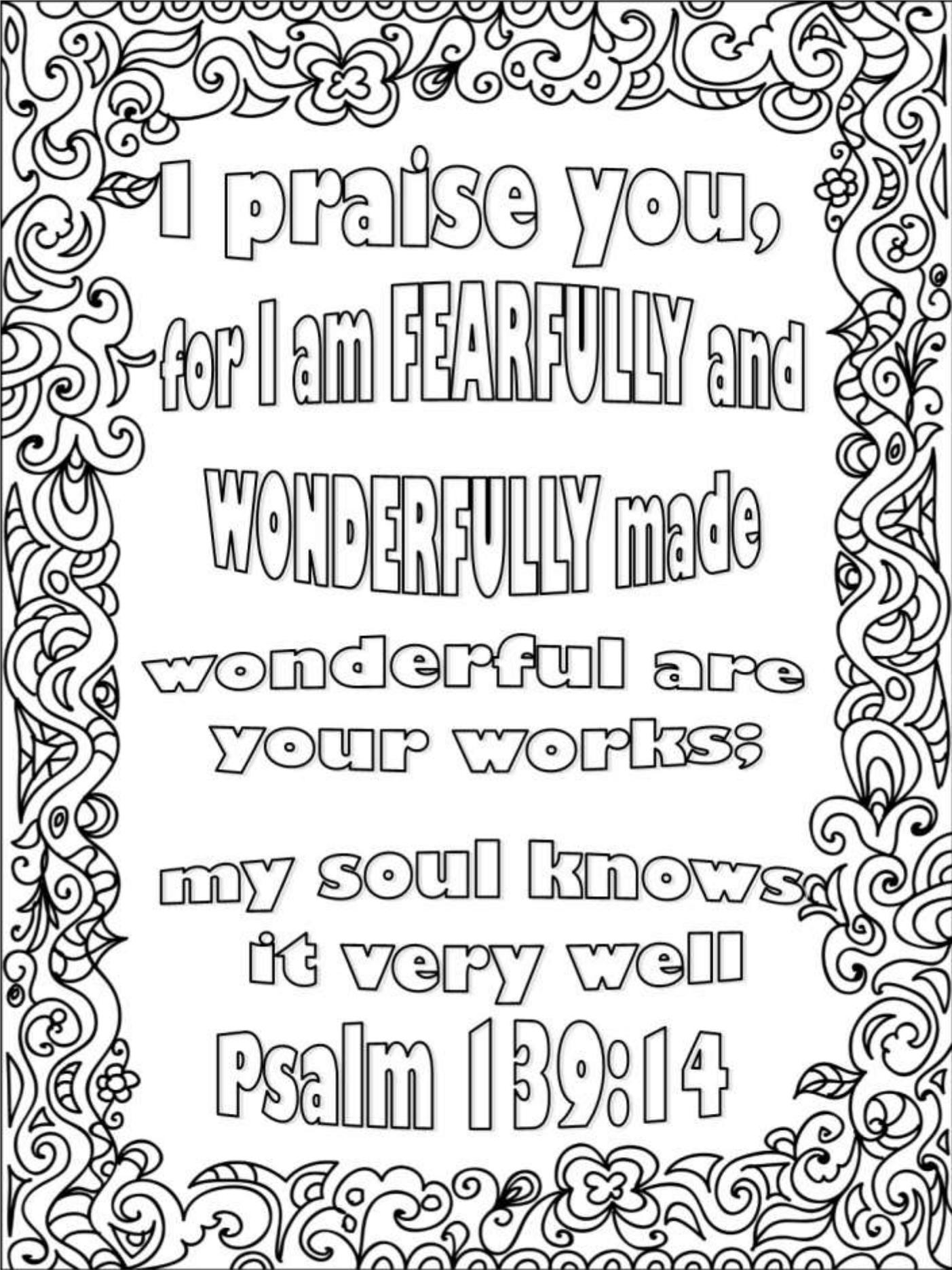
Talents	Disabilities	Fears	Joys	What do I have trust in?
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2. How can I use my talents to let Christ shine through my life?
3. How can I use my fears to let Christ shine through my life?
4. Is there an area of my life where I need God's strength?

Ask God to give you the strength when you are feeling weak and let his power shine through you.

Answers to the True/False Questions:

1. False 2. True 3. True 4. True 5. True 6. True



I praise you,
for I am FEARFULLY and
WONDERFULLY made
wonderful are
your works;
my soul knows
it very well
Psalm 139:14