

The Wemmicks

Lower Primary School Workshop/Assembly

Introduction

This activity focuses on how special we all are. Max Lucado has written a number of books. One is about the fictional Wemmicks and is called 'You are Special'. It was published in the UK by Candle Books (ISBN-10: 1859855423 ISBN-13: 978-1859855423).

The short story can also be found online using 'Wemmicks' in an internet search engine. The story is about the Wemmicks, small wooden people carved by a woodcarver named Eli. Each Wemmick is different, and all are able to do different things and have special gifts. The story revolves around Punchinello who does not feel special at all, until he meets the woodcarver, Eli, who tells him how special he is; something which changes his life.

The story also perhaps reminds us of the line from Isaiah in the Old Testament, 'See, I have carved you in the palm of my hand.' (Is 49:16)

Group work.

Find some pictures of the great things that make people special. Like Pope Benedict, Mother Teresa, a Priest (perhaps your local Parish Priest/Assistant) a doctor, a nurse, a fireman, a teacher, a police officer, a mother/father or a grandmother/grandfather.

- Ask the children why are they special?
- What makes them special?
- You could ask the children to bring in a picture of someone who they feel is special to them, and why?

The Gospel Reading (John 10)

Jesus said 'Whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. The one enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.'

Reflection

- From the Gospel story Jesus is saying he is the Shepherd and his sheep follow him. Following Jesus can sometimes seem easy, sometimes difficult.
- Ask the children to think of examples why it is difficult to follow.
- Ask if the children can see a similarity between the Wemmicks story and the gospel. Just as Eli knew each of the Wemmicks, so to in reality God knows us by our name, and who we are too. That makes us special, we are all special in God's eyes, he made us, and loves us.
- The 'special' people we identified before are in fact pretty much like us. We too have a vocation to do something special for God. For God either everyone is special or no one is.

Prayer

This is a prayer that the children can write out or say together

***O God, you've called me by my name,
You know me through and through.
You love me and you care for me
No matter what I do.***