

Special Needs Emphasis Day – Children’s story   
Sabbath, 21 April 2018

Prepared by Akseniya Liberanskaya

**“We Are All Precious to Him”**

***(based on 1 Samuel 16:7)***

**Preparation and resources**

*Pictures or PPT of different world currencies.*

*Currency notes in hand, some smooth and newly printed, and identical denomination dirty, worn and torn notes.*

*Pictures of people with physical and mental disabilities, for example, with crutches or a white walking cane, in a wheelchair, a child with Down syndrome.*

**Presentation**

Children, wouldn’t it be wonderful if you had an opportunity to actually see how money is made—how it is printed—and even better, if we could get some free samples, like when you go to the Cadbury chocolate factory?

*[Show samples of currencies from different countries]*

Each country of the world has its own money with different notes of different colours and sizes.

*[Show sample of a clean new note]*

Who knows what this is?

*[Most will say “money!”]*

I’m sure you would enjoy going shopping with this clean, smooth money, wouldn’t you?

*[Show a clean note in one hand and the old, crumpled note]*

But what about this one? Which note would like to have to have to go shopping with: the new one or the old one?

*[Some will get it but focus on the one who says the “new” responses]*

Children, you just saw two different notes, one new and clean and the other dirty and crumpled, even torn and worn out.

But even though one was old and did not look clean and smooth, it did not lose its value like an old bike or item of clothing. It is just as valuable as the new clean one, despite how it looks, and people use both the new and the old bills to buy exactly the same things.

In our church, in your school, and at the shopping mall you will see different types of people.

*[Show them pictures of people with disabilities in a wheelchair, walking with crutches, or a blind person with a walking stick, and name people who may have such physical disabilities in their church or school.]*

Some who might look and act different to you—some may have obvious physical or mental problems, some may be elderly people, and some may be walking with a white cane because they are blind, or using sign language because they are deaf. Being in such situations, they may feel alone, worthless and left out. They might think that they are neglected and so not very valuable.

Many times, this happens just because people look different, speak differently, or walk differently, etc. and we may think that they are not as smart and important as we are. But it doesn’t matter how different people may look, because God loves everyone in the world, and they are just as valuable as you are.

Be mindful to treat everyone the same, regardless of how they look or act. This is what Jesus did. He looked inside them, not at how they looked on the outside. This will make Him, the person and you too, happy.

The Bible says (1 Samuel 16:7) that Jesus doesn’t see people like humans see them, because we look at how they are on the outside, while Jesus looks into their heart*.*

So don’t ignore people or be unkind to them because of the way they might look or because they act differently, but always be a friend to them and involve them in everything we do. Like that old crumpled note, they are just as valuable as a brand new freshly printed one.

*[Prayer]*