



**YOU ARE
WORTH IT!**



PREVIEW

The goal of today's lesson is to encourage students to see that their worth and value comes from God and is not based on how others may see them or even how they see themselves. Everyone deals with self-identity. God desires for each of us to find our identity in Christ. Our value is not determined by how others see us or even by how we see ourselves; it is based on what God says about us. We are marked "valuable" by Him. He does not show favoritism, and neither should we. We should view every person as valuable and worthy.

PRAISE

Hold out a handful of pennies and ask which one is worth the most. (Hopefully they will say, "They are all worth the same.")

Pretend to argue with them that you think the shiniest ones are worth more than the dirty or old and worn pennies. Finally, ask them how they know each of the pennies is worth the same. Answers may vary, but lead them to understand that they are "all pennies" and that each one is marked with the value of one cent.

Give each student a penny to hold. Just like each of these pennies has the same worth, each human being, as God's highest creation, has the same worth in God's sight.

PARABLE

Read Ephesians 2:10.

Many Bible translations use the word "workmanship." What do you think this word means? (Pause and take answers from club members.) The dictionary defines workmanship as the degree of skill with which a product is made or a job done. Artists, cooks, craftsmen, or builders will feel differently about their work than someone who was not involved in the creative process. They are proud of their work and may be upset if anyone criticizes their design or product. The New Living Translation states the verse this way: "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." We should be like the psalmist who prayed, "I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14, NKJV). In Genesis 1:27, God set human beings apart from all other creation by making them in His image. And when that image became damaged by sin, God still valued His human creation. Our value and worth to Him did not change—so much so that God deemed each of us worthy of sending His son to die for our sin.

Read Romans 5:8.

The penny object lesson at the beginning of this lesson demonstrates that God didn't wait for us to get all shiny and clean. We are of worth to Him even while we are dirty and dingy.

PRESENT

Have each student look closely at their penny. Ask how many of them have the words "one cent" marked on them. (The answer: all.) Every penny is worth the same, just as every person is worth the same to God. He does not have favorites.

Read Romans 2:11.

Would anyone like to paraphrase this verse for us? (Answer: God does not show favoritism.)

Have students read the words written over the head of Abraham Lincoln on their pennies. Read together out loud: "in God we trust." Because we are of such value and worth to God, He sent Jesus to die in our place because of our sin. This means Jesus took the punishment we deserve. All God asks is that we turn away from wrongdoing and come back to Him by believing and trusting in Him. In God we trust. In God we have our breath. In God there is no end. In God we cannot lose.

Read Ephesians 2:8–10.

Each time you see a penny remember that you matter to God. He loves and values you and wants you to put your trust in Him every day. Also remember that every person matters to God; therefore, they also should matter to us. We love others because Jesus first loved us.

PRAY

Thank You, Jesus, for the reminder that we are not worthless in Your eyes. There are days when we are going feel like failures, days when we feel like those dirty pennies, but in Your eyes we are still worth as much as the new shiny pennies. Our actions do not determine the value You place on us. Our past does not have to define us. You have called us out of darkness, out of sin, out of shame, and into Your marvelous light. Knowing who we are in You gives us confidence. Bless everyone in this room today and bring us back together once again. In Jesus' name, amen.

PLUS

Challenge your club members to keep their pennies in a place they will see them every day as a reminder that no matter the state they are in, they are valuable to God.