

Read Psalm 139:17-18.

What is your favorite thing about yourself? Write it down in the space below: _____

What is your least favorite thing about yourself? Don't worry, no one else will see these answers but you.

We all have things about ourselves that we love and things we wish were different. Sometimes we even compare ourselves to others. You might find yourself saying, "I wish I was as fast as _____ or as tall as _____ or as funny as _____."

Did you know that the God who made you to be exactly who He wanted you to be, knows you? Did you know that He thinks about you?

Have you ever played on a beach or in a sandbox? Ever tried to count up all those individual grains of sand? If you could count them up, whatever that crazy high number comes to would be less than the number of times God thinks about you.

Grains of sand on the beach < God's thoughts about you

Basically, you are always on His mind. There isn't a thought you think, a word you speak, or a feeling you feel that God doesn't know about. That's why you can be confident in who you are and why you shouldn't waste one single minute wishing you were someone else. God made you and He loves you. Remember, I can have confidence because I am known.

**I can have confidence
because I am known.**

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Read Isaiah 43:1.

A new classroom on the first day of school
Tryouts for a sport you've never played before
A party where you only know one or two people

We've all been in situations where we feel like we just don't belong. But one thing that's important to remember is that you never have to walk into any of those situations alone. God is with you. No matter where you go, no matter what you face, you can have confidence because you belong to God.

So every time you walk into a situation that's new, or unfamiliar, or maybe even a little bit scary, remember the last four words of today's verse: "You belong to me." Repeat those words to yourself and remember that God is with you. God loves you. You belong to Him. I can have confidence because I belong.

Think back to the last time you walked into a situation where you felt out of place. Talk to God about it. Thank Him for the reminder that no matter the situation, He is with you and you belong to Him.

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Read Psalm 86:5.

Write out of the words of today's verse in the space below:

According to this verse, who is forgiving and good?

Now circle the word, "all." Who is the "all" in this verse?

Think about the last person you had a hard time forgiving. Maybe it was the show-off on your ball team or the older kid in your neighborhood who picks on everybody. That's who Zacchaeus was to the people in his day. He got rich while other people were poor. No one liked or trusted him.

But that all changed the day Jesus came to town. Jesus looked up in the tree and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I'm must stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5 NIV). The crowd who overheard Jesus inviting Himself over couldn't believe it! "Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner" (Luke 19:7 NIV), they said.

God's forgiveness isn't just for the people you like or approve of. God's forgiveness is for all. Remember, the Bible tells us that every single one of us has messed up and we all fall short of how holy God is. That means that even if we wanted to do all the right things all the time, we'll never be perfect and holy as God is perfect and holy. God's forgiveness was for Zacchaeus and it's for you. Remember, I can have confidence because I am forgiven.

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Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Ask your parents to show you some of their favorite pictures from when you were a baby. Go ahead, I'll wait.

Can you believe you were ever that small? At one time, your biggest challenge was to hold your head up, say your first word, or take a step on your own. It's crazy to think about just how much you've changed since then. But as much as you've changed on the outside, did you know there's change that can happen on inside too? It's true. Just look at Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus used his position as tax collector to get rich while other people were poor. No one trusted him. No one thought he could change. But then something amazing happened. Zacchaeus met Jesus. And because of Jesus' forgiveness, Zacchaeus immediately took steps to help all the people he'd hurt.

Guess what? That same forgiveness is available to you. Jesus came to change us from the inside out. When you choose to put your faith in Him, you become a new creation. Nothing can separate you from God ever again. That's how loved you are. So remember, I can have confidence because I can change.

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