

The background is a vibrant teal color, decorated with numerous small, colorful confetti pieces in shades of white, yellow, pink, and blue. The confetti consists of short, parallel lines of varying lengths and colors, scattered across the entire page.

MADE BY GOD

A DEVOTIONAL

Dear Crossing Kids families,

In February, people in our city, workplaces, and schools will learn about Black History Month. You might wonder, “What does that have to do with the church?” More than you might think. In the bible, God’s word teaches about Imago Dei, the idea that everyone is made in his image. He made each person different from others, yet each person is made in his image. The reality is that many of us are prone to forget this truth when it comes to standing up for or supporting people who might be different from us or who are a part of different organizations and churches than us.

When Christians around the world pray the Lord’s Prayer, we all pray a line that says, “on earth as it is in heaven.” What might it look like to glimpse God’s kingdom on earth now, even in the middle of what often feels like a broken and divided world? We think it could look like loving God and loving others and treating each person like they are made in the image of God (because they are!). But bringing about God’s kingdom on earth now doesn’t have to look the same for everyone. For some, it might look like having a sign in your yard or attending a march for a cause, but for others, it might start much simpler with conversations in your home.

We invited guest writer Michael Porter Sr. to create this devotional for families. This devotional goes along with the book *Made by God* and is designed to help you facilitate conversations with the kids in your home and begin thinking about how you might love God, love others, and bring about God’s kingdom here on earth. Michael is a father of eight kids and serves as an elder in our church. We are thankful for his insight and perspective as a person of color and are excited to share his work with you. We are praying for you as you use this resource with your family.

-The Crossing Kids Team



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WRITTEN BY MICHAEL PORTER SR.

Read **MADE BY GOD** together as a family, then use these questions to guide your discussion.

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pick some questions in each section to discuss with your family or go through all of them over the next few weeks. We know this might look different for each family depending on the ages and stages of the children in your home.

What do we know about God, his word, and the people around us?

In the book *Made by God*, Tony Evans says that there is something special and unique that all kids have in common. What is it? (*God made all people with the ability to be like him. This special mark makes each one of us equal and very valuable!*)

What are some ways that people are the same? (*Everyone has value and worth. Everyone has thoughts and feelings, hopes and dreams. Everyone does good and bad things and needs God's forgiveness.*)

What are some ways that people are different? (*Boys/girls, eye color, hair color, skin color, speaking different languages, like different food, interested in or good at different things, etc.*)

What do our differences mean for the world around us?

Is it a bad thing that people are different? Why or why not? (*Genesis 1:31 says, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good..." This means that God sees all our differences as something VERY GOOD!*)

What are some things you can do to get to know people that are different from you? (*Ask them questions about themselves, invite them to lunch or church, do a fun activity together, etc.*)

What is racism? Why is it wrong? (*Racism is thinking less of and being mean to people because of where they are from, the color of their skin, how they talk, etc. Racism is wrong because God made us both the same and different. He LOVES the differences, or he wouldn't have made us this way!*)

Luke 6:31 says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Could this help to make the world a better place? If so, how? (*Discuss*)

What do we have to look forward to in the new heaven and the new earth?

Say: One day, Jesus will return and make the world look how he created it.

Read Revelation 7:9:

"After this, I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands."

According to this verse, what will the new earth be like? (*It will be a world full of people with different skin colors, hair, and eyes. They will speak different languages and yet live together in peace. They will praise God together as one united, gloriously diverse world!*)

What does this teach us about who God is and what he is like? (*God doesn't show favoritism. He loves people regardless of their skin color or where they are from. He is good, loving, and wants a relationship with all types of people.*)

PRAY TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

God, I am sorry I have not always been kind to other people. When someone looks or talks differently than me, I have not always seen them as you see them – as one of your special and valuable people, just like me. Thank you for helping me learn to love and respect everyone, no matter where they're from or what language they speak. I am excited about and look forward to when you return to make all things as they should be! Amen.

