

## **Lesson 26 - I'm Special**

### **Aims**

- \* To know that we can be happy because God's loves us.
- \* To learn that each person is special to God.

### **Materials**

- \* "The Prince Who Never Smiled," from A Child's First Steps to Virtues, by Emily Hunter
- \* Picture to cut, paste and colour
- \* Heart-shaped stickers or heart shapes to cut

### **Lesson Outline**

1. Introduction
2. The Prince Who Never Smiled
3. Discussion
4. Activities - act out the story, play 'keep your cool', colour a picture
5. Review the aims
6. Prayer

.....

### **1) Introduction**

- \* What makes you happy? Ask the children all the things that make them happy. Christmas, birthdays, presents, getting sweets, visiting grandparents, someone saying nice things about us, being first in a competition, playing a sport, a funny joke, funny people, watching a movie, having an outing, pocket money, a bedtime story, etc...
- \* What makes you smile? God wants everybody to be happy. Today's story is about what makes us happy

### **2) The Prince Who Never Smiled**

There once was a king who had a son who never smiled. He had everything he needed, but he wasn't happy. The king offered a reward to anyone who could make his son smile. Many tried, but they all failed. After searching for many miles a poor peasant girl, called Marabelle, was found. She was well-loved, always happy and she loved God very much. She believed she could make the prince smile. She told him that God is full of love and He loves each person, including the prince himself. When the prince realized that God loves him, he smiled for the first time. Everyone celebrated. Marabelle received a reward and later she was to marry the prince.

### **3) Discussion**

- \* What kind of things do you think the prince had that could have made him happy?  
*money, a big castle, servants, his own horse*
- \* Who tried to make the prince smile and what did they do?

*jester - danced, pranced (exaggerated movements), funny faces*

*magician - rabbits from as hat, balloons from his sleeves*

*baker - lots of pastries*

*tailor - a suit of clothes*

\* Why couldn't the prince smile?

*He didn't feel God's love*

\* What made the prince smile?

*to know he is loved by God*

\* What does the story teach us?

\* *We can be happy, because God loves us. We are all God's children. Because we are God's children each one of us is special to God. He made each person different. Some are tall and some are short. Some are white and some are black. Some have beautiful voices and some have beautiful faces. But he loves each and everyone of us. That's what makes us special!*

#### **4) Activities**

\* Act out the story. Try different ways to get the prince to smile

\* Play "Keep your Cool" Children stand in a line, hands behind their backs, looking straight ahead, trying not to smile. Teacher tries to get them to smile. If they do they must sit down, until only one person, the winner, is left.

\* Cut the happy face of the prince. Attach over the sad face, so it can be raised and lowered to reveal a happy or sad face. Colour the picture. Add heart-shaped stickers for decoration.

#### **5) Review the aims of the lesson**

\* To know that we can be happy because God's loves us.

\* To learn that each person is special to God.

#### **6) Prayer**

Say a prayer to thank God for His love and making us special

# THE PRINCE WHO NEVER SMILED



There once was a king who had a son who never smiled. As the king grew old, he realized he was soon to die and his son, the young prince, would take over his kingdom. "But what kind of a king will he be if he never smiles?" the king reasoned. "And won't his people feel sad every time they look at him?"

So the king sent out his messengers throughout all the kingdom announcing that a chest filled with gold would be given to the one who could make the young prince smile. When the people heard this, they were excited. Each one wondered, "Could I be the one to make the prince smile? Could I be the one to win the chest of gold?" One by one they eagerly sought an appearance before the prince.



First came the jester dressed in his brightly colored costume. He danced ... he pranced ... he made funny faces ... but the prince did not smile.



Next came the magician. With great flourishes, he made rabbits appear and disappear from his hat. He pulled bright balloons out of his sleeves. But the prince did not smile.



Then came the baker carrying a silver tray filled with cream puffs, tarts, and frosted cakes. He proudly presented them to the prince. But the prince did not smile.



Next came the tailor. With a grand sweep of his hand, he spread before the prince the most elegant suit of clothes ever seen in the kingdom. "These are yours!" he exclaimed. But even that did not make the prince happy enough to smile.

Over and over again, people came before the prince. Over and over again they failed to make him smile.

What the people did not guess was that the prince wore a sober face because he thought no one really loved him. His mother had died when he was a small boy, and his

father, the king, was so busy ruling his kingdom that he found no time to spend with the prince.

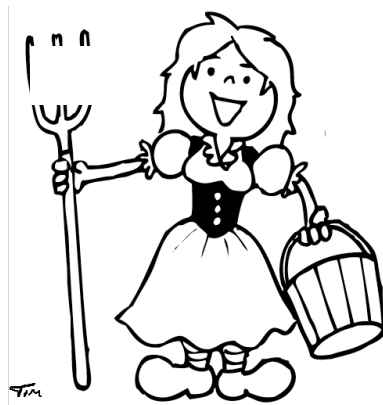
The hired governess who took care of the prince treated him well. "But," reasoned the prince, "she takes care of me only for the payment she receives - not because she loves me!"

When the prince rode down the street on his white horse, all the people in the kingdom bowed and smiled. But the prince told himself, "They bow and smile only because the law of the land requires that they honor me - not because they love me!"

But no one knew that the prince felt unloved. They knew only that he never smiled. And with each person who failed to make him smile, the king grew more and more desperate.

"Surely," he said, "there is someone in all my kingdom who can make my son smile!" So the king once again sent out his messengers. But this time he sent them to the farthest point of his kingdom.

In a small cottage at the border of the kingdom lived a peasant girl named Marabelle. Everyone who knew Marabelle loved her. And Marabelle loved everyone she knew. She loved every creature of the woods, every bird, every rabbit, every squirrel. She loved all people everywhere and all creatures everywhere because she loved God.



When the king's messengers arrived at Marabelle's humble cottage, she listened carefully to what they had to say. As she heard their words, her heart leaped within her, for she knew exactly what would make the prince smile.

Marabelle cried out, "Please, sirs, take me with you to the palace! I know I can make the prince smile!"

The king's messengers looked down at the peasant girl. A poor country girl like this? they thought. With no talents? No skills? No gifts to offer? How could she possibly be the one the king is seeking?

Reading their thoughts, Marabelle turned to her parents and pleaded, "Tell them, Father! Tell them, Mother! Tell them to take me to the palace. I know I can help the prince!"

Believing their daughter, the parents nodded to the king's messengers. And the young peasant girl was taken to the king's palace and immediately ushered into the court to appear before the prince.

Whereas all the others had made grand, flourishing entrances, Marabelle walked quietly and humbly down the royal carpet until she stood squarely before the prince. A hush fell over the room. Even in her simple peasant dress, the young maiden looked beautiful. Marabelle tilted her head upward to look directly into the prince's eyes. He returned the gaze, looking deep into Marabelle's eyes.

At last she spoke ... softly ... and slowly ... but with sweet pleading in her voice. "Dear prince, " she began. . . .

*Heed, I pray, the words I say,  
for they are very true!  
God above is full of love, and He  
loves me and you!*

The palace grew quiet. The prince breathed heavily as he pondered these wonderful words he had never before heard. God loves me? Someone really loves me? Every eye in the room was fastened upon the prince.

Leaning back in his chair, the prince drew a deep breath. His mouth relaxed. Suddenly his eyes lit up. Slowly over his face crept a big ... happy ... smile! The king burst out in cheers!

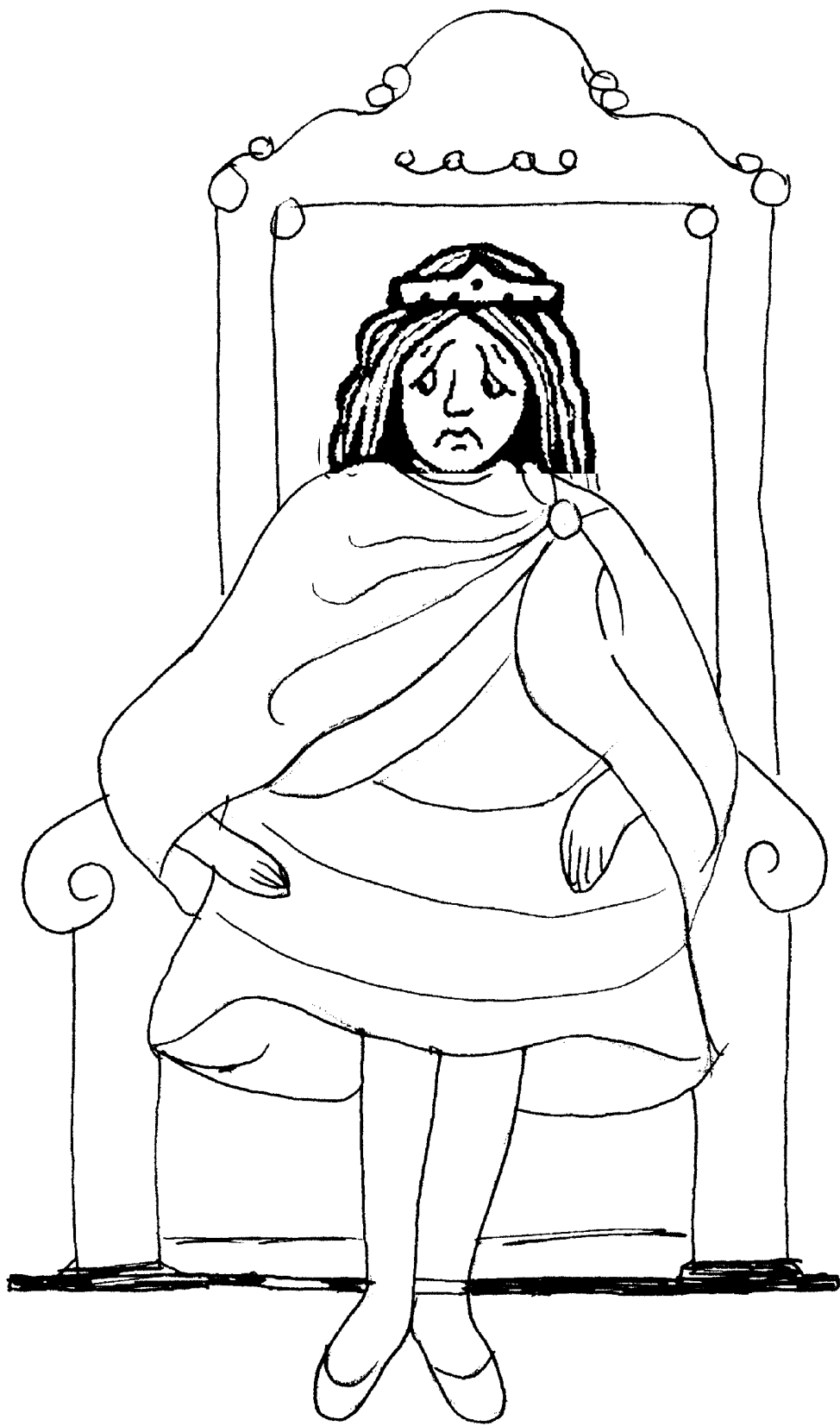


His messengers cheered, too! The buglers blew their bugles! Trumpets sounded! Soon the entire city was astir with the wonderful news! "The prince has smiled! The prince has smiled!"

All through the city, the bells rang out! All the people knew without a doubt that the prince had smiled.

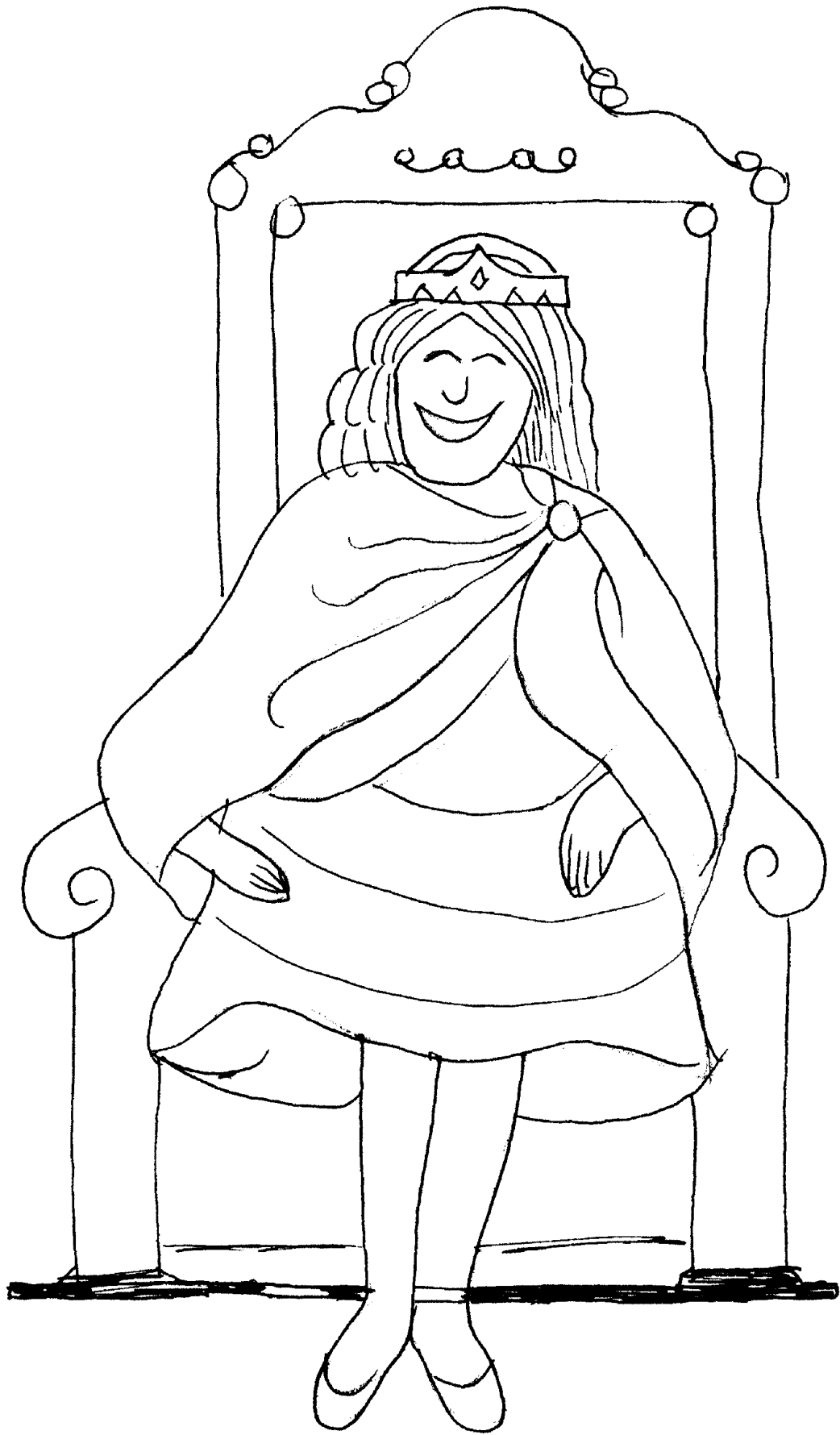
That same night a great feast was held to award the chest of gold to the one who had made the prince smile. Marabelle received it humbly, and after making certain that her parents were provided for, she distributed the gold among the poor people of the kingdom.

The king soon died, and the prince took Marabelle to be his bride. They lived happily ever after, ruling over the land and encouraging all their people to love and serve God.









# God Made me Special



