

GOD MADE

Shai Linne

Illustrated by
Trish Mahoney

ME AND YOU



Celebrating God's Design for Ethnic Diversity

For Sage, Maya, and Ezra.
You are fearfully and wonderfully made. May
you all come to love and serve the God who
created you in His image for His glory.

GOD MADE **ME** AND **YOU**

Celebrating God's Design for Ethnic Diversity

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The illustration shows a school building with a red brick wall on the left and a white building with teal windows and a yellow door on the right. A yellow school bus is parked in front of the building. A speech bubble points to the author's name. The background is a light blue sky with stylized green trees.

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“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

Revelation 7:9-10

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

Thank you for taking the time to read *God Made Me AND You* to your child. This book was written to help you teach your child about the beauty of God’s design for diversity in His image-bearers, with a particular focus on ethnic diversity.

I wrote this little book because I am convinced from Scripture that ethnic diversity is not something that should be begrudgingly tolerated but rather enthusiastically celebrated! Passages like Revelation 7:9-10 speak very loudly to God’s ultimate purpose in the gospel—a redeemed, ethnically diverse people worshipping God together for all eternity.

God was intentional in the ways He made us to differ from each other. Like the facets of a jewel, the glory of God shines all the more brightly as the light of His gospel is reflected through different vessels. Conversely, God has determined that without ethnic diversity, we lose the ability to see God shine in particular ways that would have only been possible had there been diversity (Ephesians 2:14-19).

Sadly, in the realm of ethnicity, sin has done what it usually does. It has taken something meant to glorify God and distorted it. The sins of racism, bigotry, and ethnic pride have manifested themselves in many ways in our racially-charged culture, both historically and in the present day. These social sins are learned by children, often from family members, media, or peers.

The gospel offers us a new way. Not just for us, but for our children. When the Lord Jesus stretched out His hands on the cross, He did it not only with particular people in mind, but with particular people groups in mind (Revelation 7:9). The Son of God is so glorious, nothing less than the nations would suffice as His chosen community of worshipers. As Christians, we have the privilege of participating in what God is doing in redemptive history! We also have the responsibility to teach our children this kingdom perspective. Countercultural, biblical views don’t just happen. They must be taught.

I pray that the Lord will use this book to help all who read it see the purposeful beauty in how God made us all different, and that it would lead to a lifelong embrace and pursuit of ethnic diversity for the glory of God.

Grace and peace,
Shai



Our story begins on a typical day
in Bible class after recess and play.
The children are there, but Ms. Preston is late.
They're talking and laughing out loud as they wait.

Two of the boys
were not too polite,
They teased other kids
with all of their might.

They teased one boy
for the clothes he would wear,
And one poor girl,
they made fun of her hair.
One boy cried
when they laughed at his skin,
It was just at that moment,
Ms. Preston walked in!





"I'm sorry I'm late...
Hey, what's going on?
And why are you crying, Todd?
Tell me what's wrong!"

Todd didn't speak up,
but Abigail Moore
told Ms. Preston
what happened moments before.

After she learned
what the children had witnessed,
She told the two boys
to ask for forgiveness.



Then she spoke to the class, "Now kids, listen here.
I've said it before, but I'll make myself clear.



RULES

1. Respect others
2. Be kind
3. Listen
4. Follow directions

**All God's creatures
must be respected.**

**Bullying of any kind
won't be accepted.**



It's a privilege for you to attend this school,
You will be expelled if you can't keep this rule!"

“Don’t be afraid
to ask me any questions,
But let’s start with how
this relates to our lesson.

We’re in Acts,
following Paul the Apostle
As he travels through Greece,
proclaiming the gospel.

Acts 17, in the 26th verse,
Says ‘God made from one man
each nation on earth.’



What that means is we all have the same origin,
Wherever we’re born, we come from the same kin.
Though many people find this hard to believe,
Our very first parents were Adam and Eve.



To bring many from one is what God decided—
In this way, the whole human race is united.”