

READ★PRAY★WONDER★PLAY

A GUIDE TO SHARING STORIES WITH CHILDREN

No One Else like You

By Siska Goeminne & Merel Eyckerman

Even in a world of over seven billion people, there is no one else like you. This story begins with that astonishing fact and invites children to consider the diversity and splendor of the world and their place in it. Between the detailed illustrations of the book and the ideas shared, there are a variety of directions for families to follow as they read this book together. Consider pausing at the end of each page to invite the child(ren) you are with to reflect or share their thoughts. As you look at each page of illustrations, have your child share which part of the illustration catches their eye. Because it is such a big topic, you may find your child coming back to this book repeatedly, so don't feel the need to cover the whole breadth of the book each time you read it.



★ ★ WONDER TOGETHER ★ ★

- As you read all the descriptions of the places people live at the beginning of the book, how would you describe where you live? How would you describe where you would like to live?
- What is something that you have in common with many other people? What is something about yourself that reminds you that there's "no one else like you"?
- How did reading this story make you think differently about the world we live in and the people in it?
- *With Older Children:* The author wrote about all sorts of topics—from where we live to how we look to the ways people express themselves. What additional topics would you include if you were the author?

★ ★ EXPLORE THE STORY ★ ★

- While we may often think about our place in our families or teams or classes, we don't often think about our place in the world. Reflect together on what it means to be just one of the billions of people on earth.
- The book has a rhythm where descriptions showing the variety of people and ideas begin with the words, "some people..." and then continue with an alternate way of being that starts with "others...". Choose one such page and discuss how you connect with the descriptions on that page.
- The author describes the seven billion people as being like "little ants in the grass." Create a picture to illustrate this metaphor (or one of your own!) showing what seven billion people might look like.

PRAY

Creator God, you not only made each and every one of us in your image, but you created each and every one of us in ways that make us unique. We are thankful for the diversity and unity of your creation. Amen.



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★ ★ DIG DEEPER ★ ★

Unlike many books written for children, *No One Else like You* is not centered on a story. There are no characters to empathize and identify with, and there's no central plotline to follow; rather, this book takes a wider view in looking at and exploring the entire world and the people in it. And just as there are seven billion unique individuals in the world, there are numerous ways to explore this book.

As you consider how to engage more deeply with *No One Else like You*, some strategies for getting started include:

- Connect with your child's learning style and interests:
 - Look up statistics around population density, age distribution, or other trends that you can find data on with a mathematically inclined child.
 - Take your bookworm to the library to look for other books on people of the world: different family configurations, jobs people do, or world cultures and religions.
 - Explore the science of what makes people unique, including hair and eye color, height, and other genetic or environmental factors.
- Tie in the message that there is "no one else like you" with the Christian understanding that humans are created by God in God's image by exploring this idea in Scripture. Some suggested verses include:
 - Psalm 139:13-14 (fearfully and wonderfully made)
 - Jeremiah 1:5 (before I formed you, I knew you)
 - Ephesians 2:10 (we are God's handiwork)
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (the gifts of the Spirit)
- The author brings a perspective that almost feels like an outsider looking on an exotic life form in the descriptions of simple habits, characteristics, and day-to-day occurrences. Using the "Some people . . . / others . . ." framework that the book follows, create descriptions (in writing and/or drawings) of aspects of daily life within your household.

MORE TO READ & DO

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE

ADDITIONAL BOOKS THAT ENCOURAGE BEING YOURSELF OR SHOWING EMPATHY

- [*The Dress in the Window*](#), by Robert Tregoney and Pippa Curnick
- [*I'm Fabulous Crab*](#), by Nicki Greenberg
- [*Bruno's Hat*](#), by Canizales
- [*Binkle's Time to Fly*](#), by Sharmila Collins and Carolina Rabei
- [*Who Is My Neighbor?*](#), by Amy-Jill Levine, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Denise Turu

Guide written by Becky D'Angelo-Veitch and created in partnership with PC(USA)'s initiative "[Around the Table](http://pcusa.org/aroundthetable)" (pcusa.org/aroundthetable).



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