



THEME: **Strengths and Gifts**

ABOUT THIS CLASS: The theme for this Frolic Family Faith Class is **Strengths and Gifts**. You will read the Frolic storybook titled *Hal and the Very Long Race*.

Prep Time

Strengths and Gifts in the Bible

In the creation story in Genesis, God created the world and said, "It is good." After creating humankind, God declared, "It is *very* good." Psalm 139 gives a personal and intimate account of God knitting together our inward parts in a mother's womb. David, who is credited with writing this psalm, was wonderfully created by God with many strengths and gifts. When David was just a boy, God chose him to be the new king of Israel. As a young child, David trusted God to protect him and volunteered to fight the giant, Goliath. With God's help and his slingshot skills, David won!

A Parent's View of the Theme

Almost from birth, parents begin to discover their child's unfolding and budding strengths and gifts—maybe it's an easy-going disposition, a contagious smile, a sense of curiosity, or an extroverted personality. Whatever it is, there is no doubt that each child is uniquely created in the image of God with distinctive strengths and gifts. In a world full of measurement standards and plenty of competition, the ongoing challenge and joy for parents is helping their child discover, name, and celebrate their own unique giftedness. In this world where God the Creator has wonderfully made all things, every unique person can be celebrated!

A Child's View of the Theme

Young children are embarking on the exciting, challenging, and sometimes frustrating adventure of learning many different things—like communication, language, and physical movement—in a short period of time. Along with discovering what they can do, they are discovering what they cannot do (yet!). Little ones watch older children and grown-ups and immediately want to do the same things that the "big kids" do. With practice and time, children will master more and more of these tasks, while also finding their own unique God-given strengths and gifts that make them the same as but different from everyone else—a wonderful reflection of God's own self!



Bible Verse

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

—Psalm 139:13-14



Today's Ritual

Invite parents and children to sit facing each other holding hands with legs extended or crossed. With a rowing arm motion, repeat the following chant.

**God made you,
God made me,
God loves you,
And God loves me.**





Make copies of the Coloring Page and place on a low table with crayons and blank paper.

For Leaders

Strengths and Gifts Coloring Page on page 252, crayons, and blank paper

Supplies

This center supports coloring skills. For toddlers.

Let's Color Together

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Let's Color Together

Caregivers, while you do this ...

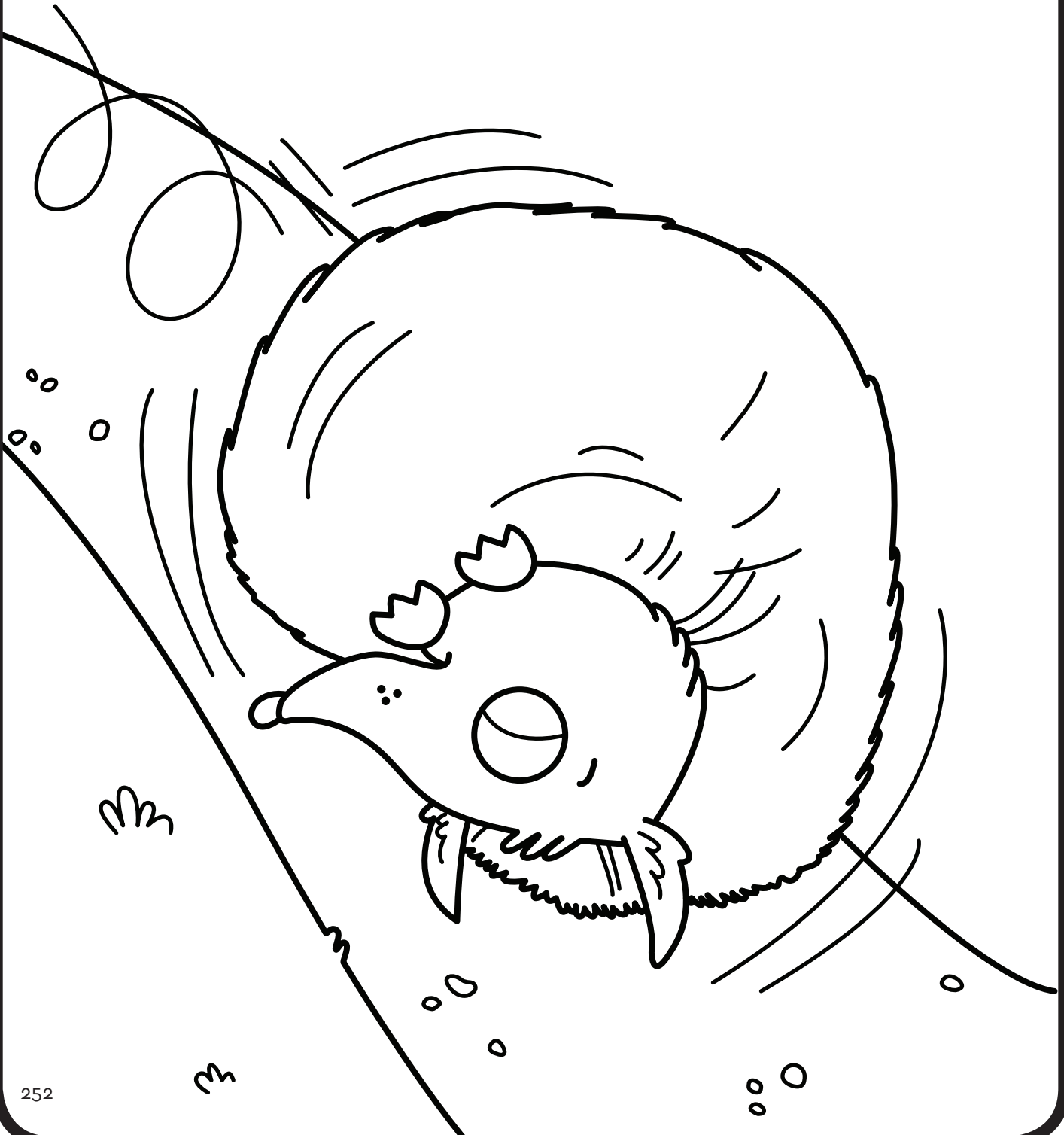
Encourage your child to color the images from the book. Delight in their colorful creations!

Your child is learning this!

- When I color, I develop my fine motor skills.
- Using crayons helps me learn the names of colors.
- **When I color pictures from this story, I remember that God made me and I can do many things.**



Hal rolled so fast he couldn't see anything.





Create a cozy reading nook with pillows or cushions. Display the Frolic story and board books and other books. Place letter blocks nearby. Point out that *H* is for *H*all and *R* is for *R*ace.

For Leaders

Frolic books, other books, letter blocks, and cushions or pillows

Supplies

This center supports **early literacy**. For infants and toddlers.

Let's Read Together

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Let's Read Together

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Enjoy reading together. Point out letters on the blocks. Spell your names and other words together.

Your child is learning this!

- When I hear you read, I learn about letters, sounds, and words.
- When I handle books, I am learning about features of books and print.
- When I see letters that I can manipulate, I am learning about letter sounds and words.
- **When I hear stories about what others can do well, I learn that God made me to do some things well too.**





Mark a start and finish line with painter's tape, about 10 feet apart. Set out a roll of crepe paper to be used at the finish line.

For Leaders

Painter's tape and crepe paper

Supplies

This center supports **large motor skills**. For infants and toddlers.

The Race

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The Race

Caregivers, while you do this ...

Find ways for your child to race that they do well, like crawling, rolling, somersaulting, skipping, and being flown like an airplane in your arms. Have a non-competitive race from one line to the other. Have two people hold crepe paper at the finish line that children can race through.

Your child is learning this!

- I'm learning how exercise is healthy and good for my body.
- When I practice how to move different parts of my body together, I learn about coordination.
- **When I race with my friends, I see how God made little bodies to do amazing things.**





Cover a child-height table with plastic. Set out art supplies.

For Leaders

Plastic table cover, colorful construction paper cut into strips, white paper, glue sticks, and hand wipes

Supplies

This center supports **creativity** and **fine motor skills**. For toddlers.

Artist's Corner

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Artist's Corner

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Tell your child that one of the gifts God has given us is creativity. Have your child tear strips of paper into pieces and create a picture by gluing torn pieces to a sheet of white paper. Talk about the different colors that God has made. Practice naming the colors. Ask your child what picture they are making and praise their creation.

Your child is learning this!

- When I glue small pieces of paper, I am using my fine motor skills.
- When I make art with different colors, I learn the names of colors and discover how they look together.
- **When you tell me creativity comes from God as a gift, I learn to connect a fun activity to faith.**





Place balls in a basket or tub. Set it in an open area on the floor.

For Leaders

Basket or tub and soft balls of various sizes and colors

Supplies

This center supports **large motor skills**. For infants and toddlers.

Rock 'n' Roll

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Rock 'n' Roll

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Sit on the floor facing each other and roll a ball back and forth. Each time you receive the ball, name a gift that God has given you or something you do well. Parents with infants can move the ball back and forth in the infant's field of vision. Can they follow it with their eyes? Reach for it? Hold it?

Your child is learning this!

- When I roll the ball, I am learning how round objects move and how to manipulate them.
- Playing with balls helps me develop hand-eye coordination.
- **Spending fun time with my caregiver strengthens our relationship with each other.**





Set up kitchen supplies, food, and table and chairs where children and caregivers can interact with them.

For Leaders

Children's kitchen supplies, toy food, and a child-size table and chairs

Supplies

This center supports socio-emotional development and self-care skills. For toddlers.

Playing House

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Playing House

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Explore the gift of cooking and serving. Invite your child to use the kitchen to cook a meal and serve it to you. Talk about people you know who are great at cooking and sharing their food with others. Talk about ways your child is good at helping in the kitchen and at home. Thank God for people who share food, care, and love with your child and others.

Your child is learning this!

- When we prepare food together, I am learning to communicate about a shared activity.
- I learn how to help in the kitchen by exploring kitchen toys.
- **When I cook for others, I am learning about the faith practice of service.**





Set "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah," track 14 on the Frolic Faith Music CD, on repeat. Create a space for children and parents to dance and sing together near the music source.

For Leaders

Frolic Faith Music CD, music source, and hand-held instruments

Supplies

This center supports large motor skills and creativity. For infants and toddlers.

Musician's Melody

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Musician's Melody

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Explore the gift of music. Sing, dance, and use the instruments to play along. Observe what your child is doing, and tell your child about the gifts God gave them. For example, "God made you very good at twirling!" "God gave you the gift of singing." "God made your body great at dancing!" Give thanks to God for the gifts of music and movement.

Your child is learning this!

- When I sing, my vocabulary grows and I learn more about rhythm and melody.
- When I dance, I exercise my body in healthy ways.
- **When I sing "Hallelujah," I am learning a word of praise to God.**





Set all supplies out on a child-height table. Be sure all items are larger than 2 inches to avoid choking hazards.

For Leaders

Assorted natural items, such as rocks, leaves, water, sticks, flowers, and sand

Supplies

This center supports **nature appreciation**. For toddlers.

Nature Station

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Nature Station

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Explore the items from nature together. What do they look like and feel like? Which ones are heavier and which are lighter? What colors do you see? God gave many people, like gardeners and park rangers, the gifts of caring for nature. Ask your child what they enjoy about being outside.

Your child is learning this!

- When I explore things from nature, I am learning about how different textures feel.
- Talking about caring for nature helps me learn I can do things to help.
- **Exploring nature helps me experience the world that God created.**

