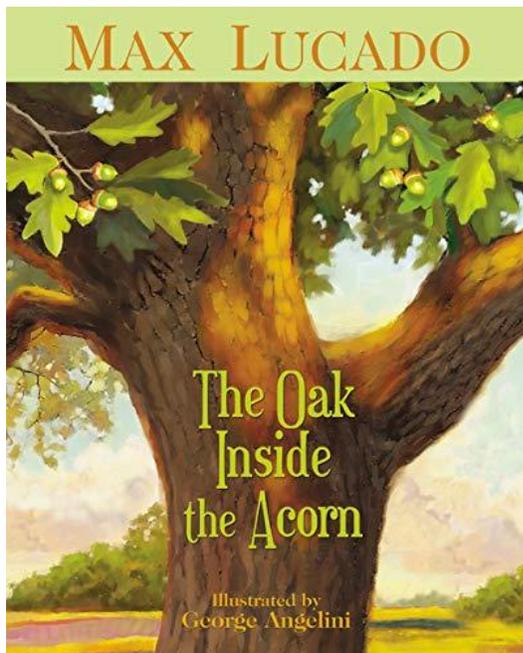


March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>



Big Idea - God made one version of you, so be the best you that you can be!

Essential Questions - What is the best version of you? How can you be an “oak of righteousness”?

Memory Verse - They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. Isaiah 61:3

Activity - Splendorous Zines

### **The Encounter**

Good Morning, welcome to our fourth Faith Formation Encounter. We are so glad you are here!

### **Book as the Hook**

Today we are going to read a condensed version of this book called, The Oak Inside the Acorn by Max Lucado. Read the book.

#### **Slide 3**

The little acorn looked at the world around him. He said to his mother...the world looks so big and I am glad I am here with you.

#### **Slide 4**

His mother - the oak tree said I am glad too but when your time comes to go into the world you will be fine. The little acorn said - I will be afraid. Mother Oak reminded little acorn that within you is a great oak - just be the tree God made you to be. An oak in me??? I am so small he thought - How could I ever be a tree?

### **Slide 5**

The time to let go came sooner than little acorn wanted. A truck accidentally bumped into the tree and shook it and Little Acorn couldn't hang on - into the back of the pick-up truck he fell. His mother the oak tree told him that he couldn't hang on forever and said what she always said - within you is a great oak - just be the tree God made you to be.

### **Slide 6**

Little Acorn had a bumpy ride and chatted with a small orange tree off to be planted in an orange grove. He found out that an orange tree's job is to grow delicious oranges.

### **Slide 7**

The farmer took the orange tree to be planted and little acorn was left alone for a while - he missed his mother. When the farmer came back he swept out the truck and out flew little acorn, he landed in soft dirt.

### **Slide 8**

Right beside orange tree who wondered what happened to him. He wasn't sure what to do next but the orange tree said to just settle in and God will make you grow. So he did just that.

### **Slide 9**

After a very long rest, Little Acorn woke up and stretch upward - he wound up popping out of the dirt into the sunlight. Guess what? Little Acorn is now Little Oak! He remembered what his mother told him...within you is a great oak - just be the tree God made you to be. Maybe she was right!

### **Slide 10**

Little Oak was mixed up - he thought he would also be able to grow oranges but he tried really hard and couldn't.

### **Slide 11**

He was so nervous when the farmer came to collect the oranges because he had nothing to give. But the farmer said to him - I have just the place for you and dug him up. His friend the orange tree said goodbye my friend.

### **Slide 12**

The farmer didn't take little oak too far away. He chose a spot behind a big white house. Little Oak liked his new home a lot.

### **Slide 13**

In his new spot he noticed the flowers around him - daisies, roses and Pink Petunia asked him if he grew flowers. Well maybe, he thought but he tired and he tried and couldn't- he just grew taller and taller.

### **Slide 14**

Finally he decided to rest - his leaves were dropping.

### **Slide 15**

When the sun warmed his branches little oak awoke, only, he wasn't very little any more. He was starting to become a big oak.

### **Slide 16**

Many years passed and each year he grew bigger and bigger and wider and wider until everything in the farmer's yard looked up at him.

### **Slide 17**

Now everyone called him Big Oak. He was the tallest and the widest and the biggest but he still wondered what he was supposed to do. He couldn't grow oranges or flowers he just kept getting bigger and bigger - he wasn't sure why.

### **Slide 18**

He awoke one spring morning to find someone hanging a rope and attaching a swing to his branch. When the little girl started to swing he felt a tug but barely because he was so big and so strong.

### **Slide 19**

As the days and years went by - the little girl would come to visit and swing and laugh. Each year they both grew taller and

stronger. Little girl talked to him and he listened - he had become the tree God made him to be.

Slide 20

Little Girl was becoming big girl and she didn't swing quite as much but Big Oak still loved when she came to visit.

Slide 21

Big girl was now as tall as his lowest branch. She is growing up - the rose bush said to big oak and soon she will leave.

Slide 22

The big girl would come to visit lately and just lean against big oaks strong trunk - she was wondering who she was and what she is supposed to do. Big oak wanted to tell her what his mother used to say to him - within you is a great girl just be the person God made you to be.

Slide 23

One day big girl was so sad. It is hard to let go she said out loud. Big oak was listening and he had an idea - he looked won his branch at a little acorn and said I have a special job for you.

Slide 24

He let his branch shake more than the others and the little acorn popped loose and landed right in big girl's lap. She held it up and asked Big Oak - were you ever this small? Of course you were. You grew into a great oak from a little acorn. All you did was become what God made you to be. Do you suppose that is what God wants me to do? Big Oak wanted to shout YES but he didn't have to. Of course he does! Now it is time for me to let go and become the person God made me to be.

Slide 25

Big girl smiled and placed the acorn in her pocket and began walking away. She stopped and turned and looked at the swing and the tree house and Big Oak and walked over to him and placed a hand on his trunk. Without a word, she said good-bye. Without a word, Big Oak said the same.

**Next**

Let's talk about what we heard in the story. It was hard for Little Acorn to believe he would ever be a big oak tree. He couldn't grow oranges like the orange tree or flowers like the rose bush. He just grew and grew until he became Big Oak, and his branches were big and strong-but still he didn't know what he was to do. Then one day Big Oak found that his strong branches were just right for a very special purpose. What was his purpose? Right! His branches were so strong that he could hold a swing. Exactly!

What can all of us take away from this beautiful story? Right! Every person is tasked with learning why they were created and discovering the unique gifts that make them special. This story teaches us about the incredible miracle inside each and every one of us while reminding us that we were created by God for a special purpose. Finally - here is our big take-away...God made one version of you, so be the best you that you can be!

### **Memory Verse**

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. Isaiah 61:3 What do you think this verse means? How does it connect to our story? I think we are called to be oaks of righteousness, meaning we are firm in our faith, we have strong faith and show faithful durability like an Oak Tree. Think about ways that you can you be an oak of righteousness.

### **Project**

This morning we are going to create Splendorous Zines. The zines are going to be all about you and what makes you special. What miracles are inside of you? Why did God create you? What is the best version of you? How can you be an oak of righteousness? You can answer those questions and more in your little book.

## What you will need

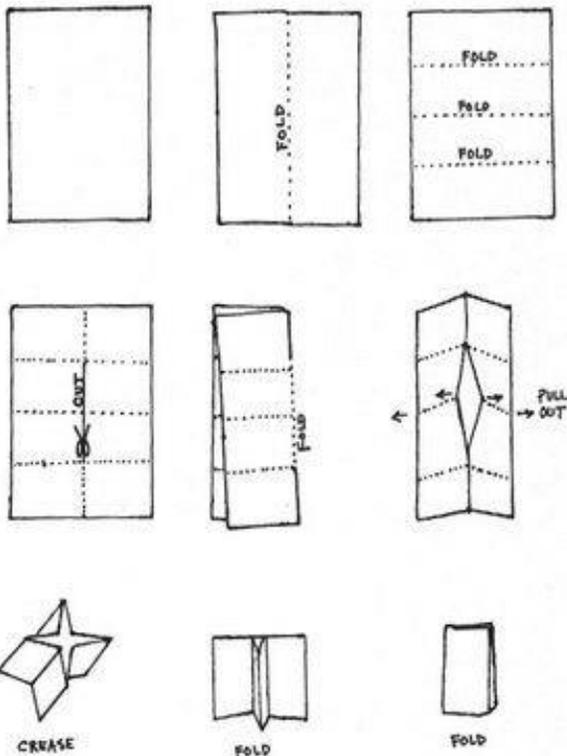
A piece of paper

Scissors

Crayons, Markers or Colored Pencils

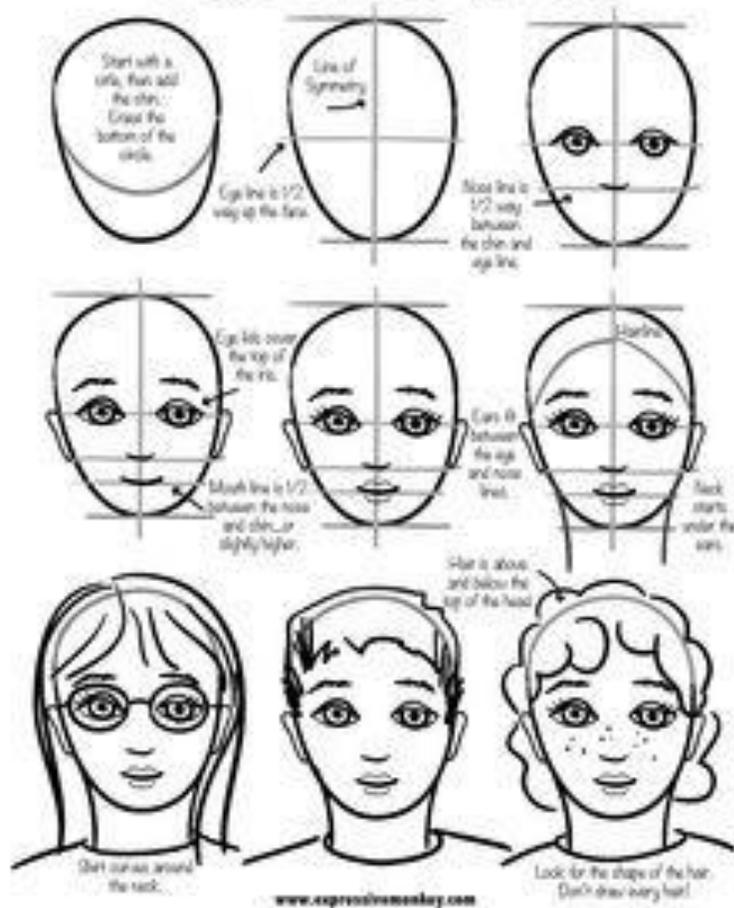
## Steps

1. First we have to fold our piece paper a special way.



2. On the cover, draw a picture of you. Do you remember how to draw a self-portrait? We can help you with that.

## Proportions of the Face



3. Next, fill the inside with pictures and/or words all about you. Answer some of the questions posed earlier. What makes you special? What miracles are inside of you? Why did God create you? What is the best version of you? How can you be an oak of righteousness?

We won't have time to finish our splendidous zines this morning but I would like us all to at least finish the cover and one page to share with the rest of the group, if we have time.

### Close

Let's end with a repeat-after-me prayer.

Dear God

Thank you for this wonderful story  
Help us to be the best we can be  
and be oaks of righteousness.  
All God's People said.  
AMEN

