

# Values Matter Discovery Starters

## We Value People

### 14. VALUE THE INDIVIDUAL

YWAM is called to value each individual. We believe in equal opportunity and justice for all. Created in the image of God, people of all nationalities, ages and functions have distinctive contributions and callings. We are committed to honoring God-given leadership and ministry gifts in both men and women.

[Gen 1:27](#); [Lev 19:13-16](#); [Deu 16:18-20](#); [Psa 139:13-16](#); [Mar 8:34-37](#);  
[Act 10:34-35](#); [Gal 3:28](#); [Eph 6:5-9](#); [Heb 2:11-12](#); [Jam 2:1-9](#)

### Value 14 – Value the Individual: Handmade by God

#### Biblical Foundation:

*You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body  
and knit me together in my mother's womb.  
Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!  
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.  
You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,  
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.  
You saw me before I was born.  
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.  
Every moment was laid out  
before a single day had passed (Psa 139:13-16).*

#### Discovery Starter:

Every time a new generation of computers is created we stand in awe of how more data is stored in an ever smaller space. But our greatest technological accomplishments pale in the light of God and his astounding creativity. The human genome project was finished in April, 2003. We now know that each human cell has about 6 feet of DNA coiled within it. When you add up the DNA strands in all cells there are "around 10 billion miles of DNA inside of" every person!<sup>1</sup> What does 10 billion miles look like? Well, the earth's circumference is just under 25,000 miles. If you circumnavigated the globe at the equator once every day, it would take you about 1,096 years – nearly eleven centuries – to travel 10 billion miles! Jaw-dropping amazing!

Consider this. The sun is about 94 million miles from the earth. Our DNA would cover about 53 round-trips between the earth and the sun. According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the man who owns the title of "most air miles flown by a passenger" is Fred Finn, a British businessman now in his 70s. Fred has flown some 15 million miles in his life!<sup>2</sup> But if he had flown all those miles on a voyage to the sun, he'd have gotten less than 1/6 of the way there! Fred Finn would need about another 640 lifetimes to fly the distance covered by the DNA each of us possess in our bodies! Mind-boggling extraordinary!

God's design for each of us is certainly "wonderfully complex"! No one is mass-produced. Each individual is unique. God creatively shapes the DNA of every individual so that we each have unique finger prints, retina prints, and voice prints. Not only that but God has crafted each one of us with a one-of-a-kind blend of gifts, talents, and callings. We are skillfully and lovingly handmade by God. We are each an unrepeatable treasure marked with the image of God, more valuable than all the wealth in the world (Mar 8:34-37).

### **Keep Going:**

Take some time to do a little internet research. Did you know that the average human body contains some 7 octillion (that's 7 followed by 27 zeroes!) atoms? Did you know that the retina of your eyes contain 137 million light-sensitive cells? Did you know that your nose can detect about a trillion different smells? Did you know that there are more brain cells in your head than there are stars in the Milky Way? Did you know that you have over 60,000 miles of blood vessels in your body? Did you know...?

Explore. Discover. Learn. Then allow yourself to be amazed and worship the great God who designed you in such an amazing way. Worship and as you do so, recommit your life to him, to live it fully for the wonderful purposes for which he designed you.

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1. Dr. Barry Starr, A Long and Winding DNA, Feb 2, 2009 on <https://www.kqed.org/>
  2. <https://airlinegeeks.com/2019/01/13/the-worlds-most-travelled-man/>

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