

Can You Look a Little Deeper?

Can you look a little deeper? That is the question I want to ask you. Before you answer, I need to tell you the story of a very special girl, who just happens to be my sister. She is eleven years old (two years younger than me) and she has a condition called Down Syndrome. Having this condition causes certain things that could, by some, be considered unusual. For instance, she still has trouble pronouncing most words. Even though she is in fifth grade, she still has problems with simple math. And even in the morning I still have to give her baths. Yet despite all of this she is the best blessing my family has ever received and I just wish that people could look a little deeper to see what I see.

If you take the time to look a little closer, you see more than struggles. Here are some of the things you just might notice. She is filled with kindness. My sister tries to take care of our family in so many little ways. For example, she sets the table for us before most of our dinners at home. And when she does, she takes the time to write out name tags for each family member. We never go anywhere in the car without her immediately noticing if one of us has forgotten to buckle our seat belt. She is very worried about our safety. On movie nights at our house, she started a tradition of getting everyone a drink before the movie starts. At our church she joyfully greets everyone she knows, and even people she has never seen before. She has brought so many strangers up to me so that I could also meet them. The reason she does this is she just loves people.

And because she loves them she wants her family to know them too. So many people have told our family that getting to see my sister on Sunday is the highlight of their week.

Every person, including special needs individuals, is unique in his or her own way. God has given each of us special gifts. My sister was blessed with joy and kindness just as other special needs children have been. We should look beyond the limitations of all people and look for the gift that God has placed in them. My prayer for you is that you can look a little deeper. Can you?

Paige Nichols