

ALLEY SG – August 12-14, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Do Something (We Are God's Creation) • *Ephesians 2:10*

Today's Key Question: What are you good at?

Today's Bottom Line: God created you for a purpose.

Monthly Memory Verse: *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)*

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Fun-size bags of Skittles (one for each kid)

What You Do:

- Remind kids of our memory verse, "*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV).*"
- Ask kids to share what they remember learning in Large Group about this verse.
- Give each kid a small bag of Skittles®.
- Ask kids if they have any allergies and if so, make sure they don't eat the skittles.
- Tell kids to reach into their bag and, without looking, grab one Skittle.
- Using the suggested section breaks below, invite kids to share what Ephesians 2:10 means to them.
 - Green: *We are God's handiwork.*
 - Red: *He created us to belong to Christ Jesus.*
 - Orange: *He created us to do good works.*
 - Purple: *God prepared these works in advance for us to do in adv.*
 - Yellow: (The entire verse) *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
- Help kids think about ways Ephesians 2:10 applies to their life.
 - In what ways are we God's creation or handiwork?
 - Why do you think God created people?
 - What do you think are some of the "good works" God created you to do?
 - What skills do you have that could help you do good things for God?
- Remind kids that God created them with gifts and abilities so that they can be creative. No one else can serve God exactly the way they can. Each of them has a job and a mission that begins with knowing and following Jesus. They were created to love and serve the One who gave them this life to live.
- Encourage kids to stay connected to Jesus and, if they ever feel discouraged with themselves or wish they could be like someone else, to stop and ask God to help them believe the words of Ephesians 2:10. YOU are God's creation. YOU were made to belong to Christ Jesus. You were made to do the good works that God prepared YOU to do.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: "Pocket Purposes" Activity Page, 2 bowls (per bin)

What You Do:

- Place half of the "Pocket Purposes" in one of the bowls and half in the other.
- Choose one of the kids to reach into the bowls and take out one card from each one.
- After they read what's on both cards, let the group come up with some purposes those gifts might have in someone's life.
- If needed, prompt ideas with a few questions:
 - How could that combination of gifts be used to serve or help someone?
 - What would you enjoy doing if you had those skills and wanted to use them for good?
 - How do you see a kid with these gifts using them to tell others about Jesus?
- Let each kid have a turn picking the cards and sharing ideas.

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Is it possible for people to miss the purpose God has for them? Explain.
- Is there one specific purpose God has that is the same for EVERYONE? If so, what is it?
- How do you think our purpose might change as you get older?
- Does believing that God created you on purpose and for a purpose make a difference in the way you live? Why or why not? If it does, in what ways?
- If the only verse you knew was Ephesians 2:10, what would you know about God based on that single verse? What would you know about people in general? What would you know about yourself?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Give everyone a few minutes to look up Psalm 139:14. Assist kids who may need help finding the verse.
- Discuss the verse by letting kids share what they think it means. Ask them how Psalm 139:14 makes a difference in the way they think about themselves and others.
- Remind kids that every person God created has been given a purpose. Each kid is *amazing* because God created them to be.
- Unpack the concept of God-given gifts and abilities by reminding kids that God created each of us to contribute to the world in some way. One of the best ways is to use what you're good at to do good and to show God's love to those around you.
 - What are some things you've figured out that you're good at?
 - What do you enjoy doing and are naturally interested in?
 - How can you get better at those interests and abilities? (*Offer specific suggestions if kids are unsure of ways they can develop their strengths.*)
 - When you think about the things you're good at and the stuff you're most interested in, how do you see those gifts being used in ways that help others see Jesus in you?
- Say Psalm 139:14 together encouraging kids to remember that they are made in an AMAZING way by an AMAZING God who loves them and has AMAZING plans for them.

5. Pray

- "God, You are so good. Thank You for loving us so much that You spent so much time and attention on crafting us together. Remind us that You made us wonderfully. From our head to our toes, from our gifts to the way our brains are wired, You created every part of us to perfectly fit the dreams You have for us. Help us live out the purposes You have for us and tell everyone we meet that God created them for a purpose."