

ALLEY SG – August 5-7, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Unwritten (Creation) • *Genesis 1–2:3*

Today's Key Question: How are you creative?

Today's Bottom Line: God created you so you can be creative.

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. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Pens, "Creativity Profile" Page (1 per student)

What You Do:

- Give each of the kids a pen and a copy of "Creativity Profile" Activity Page then spread out around the area.
- Without letting others see their answers, tell kids to circle the boxes that describe things they feel they are good at and put an "X" in the ones they are not.
- Let them know that they can also use the blank boxes to write in additional skills that are not included in the other boxes.
- When finished, have them write their name on the line provided and then fold their papers in half.
- Collect all the papers and pass them out again in random order.
- Invite kids to take turns reading from their page without revealing whose profile it is.
 - They can say something like, "This person is good at [read the boxes that are circled] but not as good at [read the boxes that have the "X" in them]."
- Before revealing who the person is, let the others guess which kid they think the profile belongs to.
- Continue until all the profiles have been read.
- Remind kids that God has given each person their own special brand of creativity.
- They may already know what some of their talents are, or maybe they have gifts just waiting to be discovered.
- Encourage kids to pay attention to the things they enjoy doing.
 - What are they good at—without even trying?
 - Encourage them to ask some people who know them best to suggest things they feel they're good at. Sometimes family members, teachers, coaches, or Small Group leaders can see things in us that we don't see.
- Challenge kids to keep discovering and developing their creativity by trying new things to find out what they're good at and ask God to show them ways to use those skills to show others who God is.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Nothing

What You Do:

- Remind kids that we were created in God's image. That means we're a reflection of everything God is. That doesn't mean we ARE God. It just means that our ability to think creatively mirrors or reflects God's awesome creativity.

- Review the story of creation by asking half of your group to be the “mirrors” and stand together along a wall or other area in the room.
- Ask the remaining kids to stand face-to-face in front of a kid who is a “mirror.”
- Explain that you will call out a day of creation and something God made on that day.
- The kids facing the “mirrors” will use slow movements to act out that part of creation. The “mirrors” must imitate their actions as closely as possible—like they’re actually looking in a mirror.
- With each day of creation, let kids switch roles and partners. If you have an uneven number of kids, allow two kids to stand in front of one “mirror.”
 - Day One: daylight and darkness
 - Day Two: sky
 - Day Three: land, seas, plants, trees
 - Day Four: sun, moon, stars
 - Day Five: birds, fish
 - Day Six: animals, people
 - Day Seven: rest
- When finished with the review, discuss the story together.
- Ask:
 - Where do you see God’s creativity in the world?
 - What does it mean to be created in God’s image?
 - Why do you think God made us with the ability to be creative?
- Wrap up by reminding kids that they were created to be creative. With imagination, God made all kinds of animals and plants, planets, and lands and then got even more creative. God made US—on purpose, in the image of God, and out of God’s perfect imagination.
- Challenge kids to remember that they can do the things God has designed them to do. We were created to mirror God’s creativity, but more importantly, we are to mirror God’s *character*.

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- What would you say is the best part about being creative?
- How might the world be different if God had not created us with the ability to imagine?
- God made each of us a unique creation with different skills and experiences. While we are all very different, what are some ways everyone is the same?
- In what ways can you use your creativity by helping others know God? How would that make your own life better and more interesting too?

4. Verses to Take with You

**We are teaching the NIV version of the verse this month (print out of verse sent – keep all month). The Bibles in the carts are NIV. If you are going to have kids use the Bible, the verse will read differently.*

What You Need: Paper (1 per student), markers, die (few per group), “One-of-a-Kind Creation” Page (8 per group-keep for all services)

What You Do:

- Remind the 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:
 - What does Ephesians 2:10 tell us that we all have in common?
 - Every person is made by God, but what are some skills and experiences that make each of us unique?
 - Why do you think God included creativity in the way we were designed?
 - What are some ways you can put your creativity and imagination to work to do good things for God?
- If time, Set out markers then give each kid a sheet of paper and a copy of “One-of-a-Kind Creation” Activity Page. Tell them we are going to use some of the creativity God gave them.
- Let kids take turns rolling the die and then drawing the corresponding part of their “One-of-a-Kind Creation”.
 - Instruct them to draw their creature’s parts similar to what they rolled but allow them to have a little creative freedom within the part pictured.
- Tell kids to pass the die after one roll then use the time to draw until the die comes back to them for another turn. Each kid gets five turns.
- Encourage kids to give their creation a name and share their pictures with one another.

5. Pray

- *“Dear God, thank You for making us in Your image and for giving us the ability to be creative. Help us to use our creativity to think of ways we can serve others. You have created us to be creative, so please help us use our skills and talents to do the work You have created us to do. In Jesus’ name, amen.”*