

CITY LG – August 26-28, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Pure Imagination (The Tabernacle) • *Exodus 25:8-9; 28:1, 3; 31:1-11, 35:21, 25, 34; 39:42-43*

Today's Bottom Line: Use your imagination to honor God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *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)*

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, everybody! I'm so glad we're all here together in the CITY all month long, we've been talking about creativity.

SLIDE: Virtue

Creativity is using your imagination to do something new.

SLIDE: Theme

We are blessed to have all the volunteers like ____ and ____ (*name a few small group leaders*)! Our team is full of incredibly awesome leaders who are really good at so many things. I want to take a minute to talk about what our leaders are best at doing.

Communicator asks a small group leader (or two) what are some things they are good at.

These leaders are SO great! But what about you? When you think of your life and all the ways God has wired you, what are you really good at? Let me know your answer to this question by raising your hand.

Communicator calls on a few kids.

Wow! Look at this list. Clearly, we are sitting in a room full of talent! Each one of us has been made to create in different ways. God has gifted you with the creativity to build, paint, solve, dream, and play in school, at home, or at work! And now the question is, how can we use those skills to be creative for God. Today, we're looking at a really great story of creativity in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) It shows how God can work through us with all of our skills as we work together!

This story is about God's people, the Israelites, as they traveled through the desert together. Before this, the Israelites had been enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years. But the people cried out to God for help . . . and God sent a man named Moses to lead them out of Egypt.

Check it out...

VIDEO: Bible Story (10:35)

I think it's so cool how God had a big job for the Israelites to do, and God gave ALL of the people a chance to use their creativity and imagination to finish it!

The people worked hard and built the tabernacle just as God had instructed them. They followed directions, but they were also able to use their creativity to make the tent beautiful and special. Bezalel and Oholiab were able to oversee much of the project and teach others to help as well.

We can see how the Israelite people used the creativity and imagination that God had given them. And of course, that's something WE can do today! Remember . . .

Video : Bottom Line
SLIDE: Bottom Line

Use your imagination to honor God.

We can honor God by showing God's love to the people around us. And there are unlimited ways that we can do that.

The tent that the Israelites built was a place where they could gather and worship God. Later, God's people would gather in a temple. In fact, even Jesus would go to a temple to worship God as well. Today, we come to church to worship God. When we put our faith in Jesus as our Savior, we have God's Holy Spirit living inside us. And because of the Holy Spirit, we can now worship God anywhere, anytime!

I'm so glad to know that God is always with us and that God MADE us with the imagination to do good things for the people around us.

Let's look back at our memory verse. Say it with me.

SLIDE: 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)

Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You for making us in Your image. Thank You for giving each of us the ability to IMAGINE. Help us remember that our imagination is a gift from You, and that we can use it to show the world what You are like. We can see how the Israelites did that when they followed Your instructions to build the tabernacle together. We know that we can trust You no matter what. And we are so thankful! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING:

This summer, our offering money will go to families in Kenya. Take a look at this video of an area in Kenya called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

Turkana video #1

Our offering money will help them make food baskets for the families who live in Turkana. The food baskets will be such a blessing to the children and families in this community who have no resources! If you have any offering you can bring it up now.