

Hey ClubE!

Good Morning, my favorite people! This summer is coming to a close fast! Soak up every minute-- go outside, spend time with family, and be creative! Speaking of being creative, today we are learning about God's creativity and what that means for you and me today! I can't wait to hear what you've learned after today's lesson.

1. Watch my [short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today.
2. Sharing time. Our question today: Have you ever gotten a birthday card? If so, what was your favorite thing about that card and why?
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to it [here](#)) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Optional: Do activity!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

Storytime!

Hi, everyone! In the New Testament we can find quite a few letters written by a man named Paul. Paul wrote to believers in different churches. He wanted to encourage them as they tried to follow Jesus. Side note about Paul—he hadn't always been a Jesus-follower himself. But once he DID decide to put his faith in Jesus, he made it his life's work to encourage others to believe, too. In fact, he traveled all over to teach people and share with them what it meant to follow Jesus. Paul started a church in Ephesus. The churches back then didn't really look like ours do now. In fact, the believers usually just met in homes. So, this is actually great. After Paul started the church in Ephesus, he left . . . but later he went back to stay for several years. The believers in Ephesus were from different backgrounds. The one thing they had in common was that they believed in Jesus and that He had died and come back to life. As Paul went around telling people about Jesus, he was so bold that he actually got in trouble with the Roman government. They didn't want people talking about Jesus. So, Paul ended up in jail in Rome. But even though Paul had good reason to complain, he used his time creatively. He wrote letters to the churches he had started. He reminded them that God created us to do good things for others. Check out what he wrote as it's recorded in Ephesians 2:10. "We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do." Let's stop there for a second. That's really good stuff.

All right—let’s dig into what Paul wrote. We are God’s creation. All throughout the Bible, we read that God not only created us, but He made us in His image. That means that God made us to be like Him. And since God is creative, WE can be creative, too! We are God’s creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. When we put our trust in Jesus, it changes the way we see the world. Our relationship with Jesus is what helps us see the needs around us—and makes us want to help. Let’s finish reading what Paul wrote.

“We are God’s creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do. Now we can do good works.” That means we can use our creativity to do good works that God planned for us to do. We can use the gifts God gave us to help the people around us. God created each of us. He has planned out good works for each of us—good works that can encourage others and show them God’s love!

The creativity God gives us isn’t just about art and music. God has designed YOU in a unique way to love Him and love others. That’s what Paul meant by ‘good works.’ He meant that we can use the unique way that God has designed US to show love to other people. For some people, those creative good works ARE things like drawing, songwriting, or painting incredible works of art. For someone else, creativity might look totally different—like building a robot, designing cool apps and games, or making people laugh . . . or inventing 127 new uses for pool noodles! No matter how God made you creative, you can use that creativity to help others. But before you can use your creativity, you need to believe that you’re creative in the first place. And I’m here to tell that it’s true! God created you, so you can be creative. Let’s thank God for making us creative!

Let’s talk about it!

- Do you think you’re a creative person? Why or why not?
- We are to love other people and to tell others of the Good News of Jesus. Do you think we can do this without being creative?
- It’s pretty cool to think that God is the ultimate Creator and we are created by him. How does this make you feel?
- God is so proud of his creation. He’s proud of you! Pray and ask God to show you how YOU can be creative this week and use it to encourage others.

Pray

“Dear God, thank You for creating each one of us, and thank You for making us creative like You! It’s so cool how You gave each of us unique and different ways to use our creativity. Help us figure out how You made us creative, then help us see the needs around us so we can

use our creativity to do good works for others. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen."

Game time!

Ephesians 2:10 Reflection

"You are God's special creation. There's NO ONE exactly like you. And you know what? God created you, so you can be creative. And God wants you to use your creativity to change the world around you! You can come up with creative ideas because God created you, so you can be creative."

WHAT YOU NEED: Cardstock, markers, crayons, and colored pencils

WHAT YOU DO: • Trace your hand on cardstock or paper

- Review Ephesians 2:10 and unpack the phrase, "We are God's handiwork."
- Explain that being God's handiwork means that we are created by God and that we are His special, favorite creation—we are His masterpiece, His BEST work of art! God created us, we can be creative, too.
- Think of ways you are creative. (i.e. art, dancing, or music, solving puzzles, building amazing things with blocks or toys, being a whiz at technology, thinking of ways to help animals, caring for the world God made, cheering up someone who is sad, or helping friends get along)
- Write how you're creative in handprints and the ways that you're creative.
- Add colorful designs, shapes, or patterns.
- Your creativity is the only limit!

Picture this!

WHAT YOU NEED: Mirrors, dry erase markers, erasers or tissues

WHAT YOU DO:

- While looking in the mirror, challenge kids to draw or trace your own face
- Lay the mirrors out and challenge your family to identify who is represented in each portrait.

"Each portrait looks different, which shouldn't be a surprise since each of us was created differently. We were all created differently, but one big thing we have in common is that we were all made in God's image.

Just be creative!

WHAT YOU NEED: A variety of “construction” items such as craft sticks, plastic cups, connecting toys, or building blocks

WHAT YOU DO : • Build what you want! Your creativity is the only limit!