



PRETEEN

AUGUST 2023

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CREATIVITY AND GOD'S CHARACTER, SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

When we look outside and see the beautiful world around us, we're reminded that God is great, powerful, and creative. From the birds flying high in the sky, to the planets orbiting the sun, to animals scampering around the earth, everything we see points to God's immense creativity. Jesus used creativity in the way He told parables, performed miracles, and helped His followers understand more about what it means to be part of God's kingdom. On top of that, we're created in God's image. We can solve problems, create art and music, and design skyscrapers high into the sky. When we create, we reflect the image of God to the world around us.

CREATIVITY is using your imagination to do something new.

HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT CREATIVITY WITH KIDS

Talking about creativity with kids can be tricky. Here are two things to think about. First, often kids only hear about creativity in connection to artistic endeavors like painting, playing music, or dancing. But creativity is about so much more than that. Use this month as an opportunity to talk about all the ways God made people creative. Second, as we start to talk about how God made us creative, kids will inevitably start comparing themselves to one another. Some kids might even feel like they're not creative at all. This is a great chance to remind kids that God made everyone unique. Each of us has something different about us that is creative, and sometimes it takes time to figure out what that is. We're all on a journey to discovering how we can use the ways God made us creative to make a difference in this world.

WEEK 1

Key Question: How are you creative? Because we're created in God's image, every single person alive is creative. We're all just creative in different ways. We want kids to start thinking about the ways God made each of them creative. It might be that they're great at a skill like painting or dance . . . but they also might be quick on their feet to figure out how to help a friend. There are all sorts of ways people are creative. We pray that as kids discover how God made them creative, they'll also consider how they can use their creativity to show God's love to others.

We kick off this series in **Genesis 1-2:3** as we help kids discover something about the beginning of the universe. Looking around at creation, one can't help but notice God's creativity. From nothing, God spoke the universe into existence. With no detail left out, creation shows us the brilliant creativity of a God Who is big enough to create the world, and personal enough to love us no matter what.

Bottom Line: God created you so you can be creative.

We pray that kids will start looking at the world more closely and notice God's amazing creativity—from the uniqueness of animals to breathtaking landscapes throughout the world, not to mention the expansive universe filled with solar systems galore. We want kids to discover not only the wonder of creation, but also the way they reflect the image of God when they put their creativity into action.

WEEK 2

Key Question: What are you good at? Many people assume that if they're not artistic or musical, they're not creative . . . but that's not true. We are created in the image of God, Whose creativity has no limits. All of us are creative in some way; we might just need some help discovering how that's true. We hope preteens will discover how they can put their creativity to use.

Next, in **Ephesians 2:10**, we discover how we reflect God's creativity. Paul reminds us: "We are God's creation.



FOR LEADERS ONLY (CONTINUED)

He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.” (NIRV) Because we are created in God’s image, we have the ability to create. Whether it’s through the arts or the sciences or simple problem-solving throughout the day, God created us with a purpose to use our gifts and talents to make a difference.

Bottom Line: **God created you for a purpose.** Kids are just starting to figure out how they are wired, what they enjoy doing, and how God has uniquely gifted them. We pray that as kids discover more about how God created them, they would start to understand more about how they play a part in what God is doing in the world.

WEEK 3

Key Question: **How have you seen someone solve a problem?** One of the most exciting parts about creativity for preteens is that they can discover ways to use their creativity to help others and solve problems of their own. At this phase of development, kids may not realize that creativity can work that way. Through this question, as preteens remember how others have solved problems, we hope they’ll be inspired to use their creativity to solve problems in the world around them.

In week three, we head to **Genesis 40-41**. We’ll spend time looking more closely at an important creative moment in Joseph’s life. While Joseph experienced many ups and downs throughout his time in Egypt, God cared for him and gave him what he needed to survive the impending famine. Joseph’s creative problem-solving led to Pharaoh making him second in command of all of Egypt. The plan worked, and the people were saved!

Bottom Line: **You can use what God gave you to solve problems.** We often think about creativity only in terms of the creative arts. But creativity is so much more than that! When we use our God-given abilities to solve the problems we face, we are tapping into what it means to reflect the image of God. We pray that kids will see that no matter how they’re gifted, God can use their creativity for good.

WEEK 4

Key Question: **What are creative ways to honor God?** Throughout the month, we’ll help kids discover all sorts of ways they can use their creativity. But we also want them to start to understand how they can use their creativity to worship God. We hope this question sparks some fun ways that preteens can use their creativity to honor God—not only through singing, but also with the way they use creativity to show God’s love to others.

We wrap up the month looking at passages in **Exodus 25, 28, 31, 35, and 39**. We see what happened as the Israelites built a place where they could gather and worship God. Moses instructed God’s people to build a beautiful tabernacle as a place for God to dwell among them. God gifted all sorts of artists, wood and metal workers, and seamsters to use their creative gifts to worship God.

Bottom Line: **Use your imagination to honor God.** God gave us amazing minds that have the potential to do all sorts of creative things—including how we worship God. We hope that kids discover that honoring God is so much more than singing worship songs. We can honor God when we do our best, keep growing in our creative abilities, and use our talents and abilities to love others the way God loves them.