



## TEACHING OUTLINE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Do Something** We Are God's Creation Ephesians 2:10

### 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.

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.

### TEACHING GUIDE:

**KEYSCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 2:10

Looking at creation and how we God made us unique in his image.

The Idea that the creator created us to be creative and to create things.

This message should be 15- 18 min. More time for small group is key. Remember the lead small model.

"God has created you to do good things in unique ways. Whatever your creativity might look like, you can't go wrong by showing love to the people around you—just like Paul encouraged the Ephesians. In fact, part of the good we're created to do is share Jesus' love with others. When we understand Jesus' death and resurrection benefits everyone, we should willingly dream up creative ways to share Jesus' story with others!"

### LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** "As we prepare to head to groups, start thinking about this question:

### SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"What are you good at? The best way to understand your purpose is by asking questions to those who know you best! As you grow closer to Jesus, you'll be able to creatively dream of ways to use your gifts to show God's love to the people around you! If you don't know the answer to this question, no worries. You'll be able to discuss this further with your Small Group Leaders. But before we leave, let's pray together!"

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God created you for a purpose.

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you good at?

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"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."  
Ephesians 2:10, NirV



WEEK  
**TWO**  
AUGUST 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

**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**

**"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."**  
Ephesians 2:10, NIV

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

**Creativity—Using your  
imagination to do  
something new**

**BASIC TRUTH**

I can trust God no matter what.

**LARGE GROUP**

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

Host enters . . .

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

**WELCOME**

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Mutant Mayhem, Haunted Mansion), a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

**OPENER**

**HOST:** "Good day to you, friends! When you pause to think about all the other places you could be right now, you should be very pleased with yourself! Why? Because this place, in my humble opinion, is the very BEST place to be!

"My name is [Name of Host], and welcome to [Name of Environment]! In this space, we get to learn some of the BEST truths ever, have fun with the very BEST people, join the absolute BEST small groups, and play the BEST games. In fact, this would be the BEST time to segue to the very BEST game to be played in the BEST place with the BEST people! Would anybody out there like to play a game called 'Best Of The Best'? (Allow response) Great.

**SLIDE: "BEST OF THE BEST"**

"Let's all play together! To play, we need you to gather with your Small Groups!

Host gives the room a moment to gather around their small group leaders.



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“Here’s how ‘Best Of The Best’ will work. I’ll call out an action or attribute. You’ll need to survey your Small Group to find the person who can represent the action or attribute the BEST and send them to the stage. Once on stage, we will determine who represents the action or attribute the BEST! If your Small Group’s representative is the BEST, your group will be awarded one million points! The Small Group with the most points at the end wins! Make sense? (Allow response) Great! Let’s play!

**AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC**

*Host calls out actions or attributes from ‘Best Of The Best Categories Page’ (see “Getting Ready”) and gives Small Groups a moment to select a volunteer from their Small Group to come to the stage. The individual who does it the BEST on stage is awarded points for their whole Small Group. This should be fun and light-hearted. If a judge is needed, consider inviting the Communicator or Worship Leader to the stage. If there is no clear winner on the last round, make it worth lots more points so there is a clear winner at the end.*

(After the game.) “YES! I have played loads of games in the past, but this game is the BEST OF THE BEST! I never knew this group was so talented and funny and loud! Thanks so much for playing our game. However, there was one group that outperformed the rest and has earned the title ‘Best Of The Best’ champions! Let’s give them our very BEST round of applause! (Allow response)

“Great applause! Let’s keep a good thing going! Stand up to sing loud as we worship our amazing God!”

*Host exits as Worship Leader enters.*



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## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hi, everyone! I love being here with all of you. Jesus is everything we need. Don't ever forget it. Let's kick off this time of worship and lift our voices as we sing to Jesus together. Here we go!"

**AUDIO: "EVERYTHING TO ME" / TRACK 9 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO: "EVERYTHING TO ME" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO**

"Yes, Jesus is everything we need. We believe it. So good! Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL**

"Last week we taught you a song called 'So Creative.' We are made in the image of God, and God is more creative than we can ever imagine. That means we can be creative too. And that's exciting to think about! Let's celebrate the creativity of our God as we sing.

**AUDIO: "SO CREATIVE" / TRACK 6 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO: "SO CREATIVE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO**

"Listen these words about God from Psalm 105:3-4: '*Praise him, because his name is holy. Let the hearts of those who trust in the Lord be glad. Seek the Lord and the strength he gives. Always seek him.*' (NirV) I want to draw close and seek God every day. I want to follow God with everything I've got. Sing this with me."

**AUDIO: "I RUN TO YOU" / TRACK 6 FROM MAKE A MOVE**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO: "I RUN TO YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO**



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## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Host has changed clothing and is wearing the exact same outfit as Communicator. Hair, glasses, shoes, etc. should be similar as well. Host enters as Worship Leaders exit with the same mannerisms and vocal cadence.*

### INTRODUCTION

**HOST:** "What's up, everyone? I'm REALLY excited you're here! In fact, I'm so excited that I wore my FAVORITE outfit and my FAVORITE kicks. Plus, I'm having a REALLY good hair day! Look at how good my hair is today! When you look good, you FEEL good! And I'm FEELIN' good, or my name isn't [Name of Communicator]!"

"Show of hands. Have you ever noticed that I, [Name of Communicator], have a really, REALLY large head? But I just say that it's just full of knowledge I can pass on to you."

*Communicator rushes to the stage and looks at Host suspiciously. Host freezes staring face to face with Communicator in the same pose. Communicator slowly begins to move hands and then legs. Host mirrors Communicators actions. The more ridiculous the mirrored action the better! Search "Lucille Ball & Harpo Marx Mirror Routine" on YouTube for inspiration. After a minute, Communicator stops to have a conversation.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Um. [Name of Host], what are you doing?"

**HOST:** "What do you mean strange person who looks like me and talks oddly similar to me?"

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Did you say I have a really big head?"

**HOST:** "No! Not at all! I just said, 'I, [Name of Communicator], have an abnormally large noggin.' But I said nothing about you, mysterious person!"

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Why are you trying to be me?"

**HOST:** "Maybe we are twins?! Is your mom's name [Name of Communicator's mom], too?"

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Leave my mom out of this! I was just looking for [Name of Host] because their car is being towed right now!"

**HOST:** "What? Towed?! NOW?"

*Host rushes off stage.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Never park in front of a fire hydrant folks!"

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "I mean . . . I show up a couple minutes late to the stage, and I've got [Name of Host] trying to take my job! Let the record show that I'm not frustrated in the least bit with [Name of Host] even if he said I have a big head!"



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"I'm pretty sure many of us have thought it would be really cool to be someone else or wished we had the talents of someone else!

*Communicator should tell a personal story. Use the following paragraph as an example, or share it as a hypothetical situation.*

"For example, I remember as a little kid wanting to play basketball just like Michael Jordan! I tried. I wore his jersey and practiced on my jump shot while sticking out my tongue. I even lowered the basketball goal and worked on dunking like MJ! As hard as I tried, I never played with the same skill, creativity, and precision of the GOAT.

"Maybe you've watched YouTubers come up with creative ideas for trick shots and saw them make the one that made them viral sensations! For some of you, it might have made you wish you had the talent and creativity to come up with something similar! Others in the room love to sing or dance. Maybe you've seen competitors on singing shows display amazing talents! It made you wish you could belt out the high notes and sing your own creative version of songs you love just like those on the reality shows.

"If that is you, I'm so glad you are here today! Sometimes when we compare our creativity to other people's creativity, it can make us feel like we're not talented or good enough! And that feeling like you're not as good or as talented as someone else can be the worst!

"But what if God created you to do something entirely different? What if your creative expression will look different than the most successful YouTuber, dancer, or artist? And how can you even discover the unique creativity God has given you? And when you find out, how can you make the most of it?

"These are great questions—ones that, to be honest, we might still be asking ourselves years from now. But that doesn't mean we can't start searching for answers and finding ways to put our creativity into action now! Thankfully when we have questions like this, we have a great starting point for discovering the answers: the Bible. Remember, the Bible is a collection of books, letters, and poetry that God inspired people to write so other people can learn about the amazing life God has for us through Jesus. Let's head there now and see what we can discover together."

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Today we start in the New Testament. If you've been around here recently, you'll remember a guy by the name of Paul, who's also known as Saul. Few names struck fear in the hearts of early Christians as this man. As a Pharisee, Paul felt it was his responsibility to stop the spread of Christianity. Jesus was no longer walking on earth, but more and more people were believing Jesus is the Son of God. To stop Christians from gathering or discussing the story of Jesus, Paul arrested Jesus-followers.

"But it didn't work. The more Paul and others persecuted followers of Jesus, the more the truth about Jesus would spread as believers fled to other parts of the world. However, everything changed for Paul while on a journey to arrest Christians in a town called Damascus.

"Paul had an encounter with Jesus while on the road, which completely changed his life forever. After this experience, Paul demonstrated relentless determination to share the story of Jesus with everyone he encountered.

"As Paul traveled, he would occasionally start new churches. Paul visited a major Roman city named Ephesus several times. Ephesus ended up becoming a location where Paul started a church. For two years, Paul taught at this church



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where both Jewish and non-Jewish people chose to follow the way of Jesus. After a couple of years, Paul left and continued traveling throughout the world. Some time on his journey, he was arrested. While he lived under house arrest, Paul used part of his time to write a letter to the people of Ephesus to remind them about some important ways they could keep following Jesus. Eventually, this letter became the book of Ephesians in the New Testament of the Bible.

"In the letter, Paul wrote something that can help anyone who wants to know how they can discover the ways to use their unique creativity! Listen to what Paul wrote.

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 2:10 (NirV) and read.*

*"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."*

"How cool is that?! Not only are we created in God's image, but God made us to belong to Jesus! Before the world was formed, God knew you and loved you! God also made you to look different, sound different, and live differently than the person next to you. Plus, God has prepared great works for all of us to do! The good you do and create for God may look completely different than those around you!

"To illustrate my point, let's welcome [Name of Host] back to the stage! *(Allow response)*

*Host enters stage having changed back to normal clothing.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Welcome back to the stage. As you can hear from the kids, they love you. We are blessed to have someone like you to add so much fun and creativity to our space."

*Communicator uses this opportunity to point out and affirm the differences between themselves and the host. From clothing style to strengths on stage to favorite foods.*

"What are ways you are creative?"

*Host answers question by thinking of ways they are creative. Some answers could be typical like painting pictures or creating videos on social media. Other answers could be non-typical like creating dance routines to songs or inventing new meals with whatever food is in the pantry.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** "I love all the ways you express the creativity God has given you! How do you use your creativity to do good works for others around you?"

*Host answers question to include any ways they creatively use their gifts to point people to Jesus.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** "That's awesome! We are so different and use creativity in different ways to help others know Jesus! Thanks for coming out to help us better understand the ways God made you for a purpose."

**HOST:** "Thanks for having me! Oh— [Name of Communicator], sorry I said you have a huge head."

*Communicator laughs it off and dismisses the host.*



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## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “When Paul wrote the letter to the church of Ephesus, the truth of what he wrote wasn’t only for those early followers of Jesus. They are true for you and me, too. Let’s take one more look at Ephesians 2:10.

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 2:10 (NirV) and read.*

*“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.”*

“God wants you to use your creativity to do great things for others!

“For example, let’s say you love dancing. Your parents have allowed you to take ballet, tap, jazz, and hip-hop. You love dance so much you dream of new dances for any song you hear. When your Small Group Leader recognizes your gift of dance, she asks if you would be interested in coming up with motions to new worship songs for younger kids at the church! This uses your gift of creativity to help others engage in worship! Pretty cool, right?

“Maybe you absolutely love baking! From breads to cakes to cookies, you love any excuse to try a new recipe. When you learn your neighbor isn’t feeling well, you don’t hesitate to whip up some of your famous sugar cookies topped with the fancy icing. Not only will your neighbor be impressed with your creative cookie painting, but more importantly, they will also get to see you serving others like Jesus!

“What if you have amazing handwriting? You’ve mastered the skill of cursive writing. When your mom signs up to host a baby shower for your aunt, you volunteer to address all the invitations! This allows your creative gift to bless others you love!

“God has created you to do good things in unique ways. Whatever your creativity might look like, you can’t go wrong by showing love to the people around you—just like Paul encouraged the Ephesians. In fact, part of the good we’re created to do is share Jesus’ love with others. When we understand Jesus’ death and resurrection benefits everyone, we should willingly dream up creative ways to share Jesus’ story with others!”

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As we prepare to head to groups, start thinking about this question:

### SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

**“What are you good at?”** The best way to understand your purpose is by asking questions to those who know you best! As you grow closer to Jesus, you’ll be able to creatively dream of ways to use your gifts to show God’s love to the people around you! If you don’t know the answer to this question, no worries. You’ll be able to discuss this further with your Small Group Leaders. But before we leave, let’s pray together!”

### SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**