



TEACHING OUTLINE

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

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.

"Using your imagination to love God and love others better is one of the best things you can do! As we get ready to head to our small groups, we want you to think about this one question."

TEACHING GUIDE:

PLEASE DO NOT FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO READ ALL SCRIPTURE.

"What are creative ways to honor God? You were made in the image of God, and there's nobody else on earth just like you! This means your creativity and skills and ideas are unique to you. There are creative ways you can honor God unlike anybody else in this world! We can't wait to see what you come up with. Let's pray and head to our small groups!"

This message should be 15-18 min.

"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 benefit 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

Use your imagination to honor God.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are creative ways to honor God?

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



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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The Tabernacle
Exodus 25:8-9; 28:1, 3; 31:1-11,
35:21, 25, 34; 39:42-43

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are creative ways
to honor God?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use your imagination
to honor God.

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to Christ Jesus. Now we can
do good works. Long ago
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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: "Howdy to you and the folks all around you. My name is _____ [Pause to allow the audience to say the Name of Host], and thanks for joining us today in _____ [Pause to allow the audience to say the Name of Environment]."

"Say! This room is pretty good at filling in my missing words. Like you've already done, I want you to help me fill in the blanks. I'll read off a couple of options, and the audience will get to vote with their voices for their favorite choice. I'll insert the words you choose into a project I've been working on.

Host gives the audience the following choices and circles them on the 'Messy MadLib Story' printable:

- Crazy hat or tutu;
- head or feet;
- moon walk or cha cha real slow;
- lemon or onion;
- yodeling or burping on command;
- jelly or mayonnaise.



WEEK
FOUR
AUGUST 2023

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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Host notes the loudest crowd response between each pair.

"Great job, everybody! I want to use all these choices you made to highlight one of your favorite Small Group Leaders! Let's have [Name of Small Group Leader] join me for something special.

Host brings to the stage a small group leader who is fun and willing to do WHATEVER it takes to reach kids!

"I want to play a game called 'Messy MadLib!'

SLIDE: "MESSY MADLIB"

"I will read a semi-not-true-ish biography about [Name of Small Group Leader]. As the story is read, we will pause to let our beloved Small Group Leader demonstrate the action on-stage that is read! Make sense? (Allow response) Good! Let's read.

Host reads the MadLib from the story printable. Host should pause after reading each underlined section. Host should direct the Small Group Leader to perform the specific action. The 'Messy MadLib' should be silly, lighthearted, and fun!

"WOW! I never really expected [Name of Small Group Leader] to play 'Messy MadLib' so well! Like I said, each of you are blessed to have an amazing Small Group Leader like [Name of Small Group Leader]! Give a spirited round of applause for [Name of Small Group Leader] and all the other small group leaders in this room! (Allow response)"

Host dismisses Small Group Leader to their seat.

"Speaking of awesome people, I would love for you to welcome [Name of Worship Leader] to the stage! Let's all get ready to sing really loud and worship God together!"

Host exits as Worship Leader enters.

Host walks in reverse to exit as Worship Leader enters.



WEEK
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WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "It's been great to learn about creativity this month. I love thinking about all the ways Jesus is so good to us. Let's stand and celebrate as we sing to Him today, 'You're everything to me.' 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

"Yeah, so good! Great singing, everyone. Before we continue in worship, check this out.

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

"Our God is an amazing Creator . . . and we are made in God's image. When we use our thoughts and imaginations to create, that's an important way that we can praise God. Let's be the creative people God has made us to be! Sing this with me.

AUDIO: "SO CREATIVE" / TRACK 6 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU
OPTIONAL VIDEO: "SO CREATIVE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"Every day, we can choose to follow God and live the way God created us to live. Psalm 19:14 is one of those verses that I want to live out in everything I do: 'Lord, may these words of my mouth please you. And may these thoughts of my heart please you also. You are my Rock and my Redeemer.' (NirV) Let's lift this up in worship."

AUDIO: "WHAT I CHOOSE" / TRACK 8 FROM MAKE A MOVE
OPTIONAL VIDEO: "WHAT I CHOOSE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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FOUR
AUGUST 2023

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PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit. Communicator has large dry-erase board and markers available on stage.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Welcome, friends! Before I came to the stage, I was thinking about the team we have in [Name of Environment]. Like [Name of Host] has already said, we are blessed to have all the volunteers! Our team is full of incredibly awesome leaders who are really good at so many things. I want to take a minute to write down what our leaders are the best at doing.

Communicator takes a few moments to name a couple of volunteers who have special talents like singing or playing an instrument. Communicator writes down the specific talents on the dry-erase board.

“I could use some help with this project. What is your Small Group Leader the best at doing? If you have an answer, raise your hand and let me know.

Communicator calls on a few kids and writes down the appropriate answers.

“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 and writes down the appropriate answers. Communicator steps back and looks at the list and highlights several talents written down.

“Wow! Look at this list. Clearly, we are sitting in a room full of talent!”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “The list on our white board is incredibly diverse! We’ve got athletes, artists, engineers, master LEGO builders, mathematicians, scientists, gamers, musicians, and the list goes on. 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!

“I realize we were unable to get everyone’s talents on the white board, but I want you to think about what you’re good at one more time. As you think about it, ask yourself this question: Are your talents just for you or should they serve a greater purpose?”

“In other words, if you are really good at sports, does your athleticism only exist to fill up your walls with trophies and medals, or is there a way to honor others with your athleticism? More specifically, is it possible to use your talents to bring honor to the One who gave you the ability—God? And if so, what might that even look like?”

“This is a pretty important question—one that people have been asking for thousands of years. Thankfully, in the Bible, we can read how people used their creativity to honor God. Let’s check out one of those moments today!”



WEEK
FOUR
AUGUST 2023

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “First, a little back story. For hundreds of years, the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt. The work they endured was grueling, and Pharaoh was cruel. They needed out of the situation! God heard the cries of the Israelites and rescued them by sending Moses to lead them out of Egypt. After a number of miracles, including some plagues and the parting of the Red Sea, God’s people were led to freedom in the desert.

“Once in the desert, God continued to show the Israelites love by providing both water and food when they didn’t have any. But God wanted to do more than that! God wanted to live among them, so He called Moses to come to the top of a mountain called Mount Sinai. After journeying to the top of the mountain, Moses met with God and received many instructions including the plans to build a tabernacle. That might be a word you’ve never heard before. A tabernacle was a place where the Israelites could meet with and worship God as they traveled to the Promise Land.”

“God told Moses,

Open the Bible to Exodus 25:8-9 NIV) and read.

“Have them make a sacred tent for me. I will live among them. Make the holy tent and everything that belongs to it. Make them exactly like the pattern I will show you.”

“God wanted the Israelites to make a tent! However, it was no ordinary camping tent. Rather, this was to be a structure where God would live with the Israelites! God gave specific instructions to make this tent elaborate and beautiful. To do so, the people were invited to participate. It required the help of the most skilled craftsmen to work together.

Communicator sets up a large poster or notepad. Communicator places the poster on an easel sitting on a painter’s tarp. Communicator places out the various “brush” options and the paints.

“I want you to get a picture of the Tabernacle and some of the furnishings the people would build. To do so, I’ll call up several volunteers to help me. If I have you come up here, select a paint brush, pick a paint color, and paint the object quickly on a poster! Make sense? (Allow response) Great! Just a heads up, though. I couldn’t find any brushes. Instead, you can select one of the alternative ‘brushes’ on the stage.

Communicator calls up a volunteer to select a paint “brush” to paint a large tent.

“At the start of this project, God chose a couple of men named Bezalel, the construction boss, and Oholiab, the helper. Both were given the knowledge of all kinds of skill and crafts and were chosen to oversee all the construction. They had support from the Israelites who helped this ambitious project by using their special creative gifts from God. Plus, the Israelites pooled their resources to supply the project with precious metals, thread, animal hides, oil, fragrant incense, special rocks, and gemstones. When the Tabernacle curtains were being made, they used twisted linen, multiple colors of yarn, and even goat hair!

Communicator calls up a volunteer to select a paint “brush” to paint tent poles.

“Using acacia wood, some made sturdy upright tent frames to support the tent fabric.



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FOUR
AUGUST 2023

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PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

Communicator calls up a volunteer to select a paint "brush" to paint an ark.

"During construction, the people made a special box called the ark of the covenant to store some of the Israelites' most sacred objects like the Ten Commandments. The box was made of wood but covered in pure gold! On top were two angels made out of hammered gold.

Communicator calls up a volunteer to select a paint "brush" to paint a robe.

"God instructed Aaron, Moses' brother, and his family to serve as priests for the Israelites. Skilled garment makers made special sacred clothing for them to wear.

Communicator calls up a volunteer to select a paint "brush" to paint a table and bowl.

"Part of the construction included furniture like a table and bowl.

"The people developed skills and used their ability to creatively build a house for God. Fine yarn was spun into linen. Someone developed the ability to make incense for the altar of incense in the tabernacle. It truly was a team effort! Each component was made right to God's specifications! In fact, the Bible says,

Open the Bible to Exodus 39:42-43 (NIV) and read.

"The Israelites had done all the work just as the Lord had commanded Moses. Moses looked over the work carefully. He saw that the workers had done it just as the Lord had commanded. So Moses gave them his blessing."

"Once the tabernacle was completed, everything was in place, and the priests were ready, a cloud covered the tent. It was God! The tabernacle was filled with God's glory for all to see!"

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "For hundreds of years in the desert, the tabernacle served a major role in the life and culture of the Israelites. Not only was the tabernacle a place for the people to gather and worship God, but it was also a place where God dwelled. The tabernacle continued to serve this purpose until King Solomon built the temple to act as the central place of worship in Jerusalem.

"Today, we come to church to gather with others to worship God, learn about God, and experience God. But this building is not the dwelling place of God like the Tabernacle was. After Jesus walked this earth and died on the cross for us, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within all of us! God dwells within us now! How awesome is that?!"

"This story is an amazing example of people working together and using their creativity and imagination to honor God. Although God provided the Israelites with specific instructions, God's people were able to dream up ways to execute the plan using their talents. For example, the craftsmen knew gold needed to be woven into the fabric of the high priest's garments. They needed to creatively experiment different ways to make gold in the garment a reality. Or when the curtains were made for the tent, the skilled weavers needed to create and pull together a huge amount of fabric. Folks needed to spin massive amounts of raw material. Then the people had the complicated job of weaving the yarn into fabric! But they were instructed to weave the image of cherubim into the fabric! This required skill and creativity!"



WEEK
FOUR
AUGUST 2023

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

“Creativity is more than wild inspiration. In this story, we can see God’s people leverage their creativity and skill through the planning, preparing, and executing God’s plan for the tabernacle. When we look around this room, it is full of amazingly talented and creative people!

“Like the Israelites in our story, we want you to use your imagination and skill to honor God. When you want to honor God in your neighborhood, it could mean thinking of ways to serve an elderly neighbor like redoing their flower beds. Or maybe you can make your little sister a one-of-a-kind coloring page of her favorite Bible story that she can color while she’s waiting for you to come home from school.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Using your imagination to love God and love others better is one of the best things you can do! As we get ready to head to our small groups, we want you to think about this one question.”

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

“What are creative ways to honor God?” You were made in the image of God, and there’s nobody else on earth just like you! This means your creativity and skills and ideas are unique to you. There are creative ways you can honor God unlike anybody else in this world! We can’t wait to see what you come up with. Let’s pray and head to our small groups!”

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