

Today's Suggested Schedule—August 2020, Week 1

Today's Bible Story: Everywhere You Look (Creation) • *Genesis 1–2:3 (supporting: Genesis 2:7, 21-22)*

Today's Bottom Line: There's no limit to God's creativity.

Monthly Memory Verse: *LORD, you are great. You are really worthy of praise. No one can completely understand how great you are. Psalm 145:3 (NIRV)*

Monthly Life App: Creativity—Imagining what you could do because you're made in God's image

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Today's Bible Story: Everywhere You Look (Creation) • *Genesis 1–2:3 (supporting: Genesis 2:7, 21-22)*

Today's Bottom Line: There's no limit to God's creativity.

Monthly Memory Verse: *LORD, you are great. You are really worthy of praise. No one can completely understand how great you are. Psalm 145:3 (NIRV)*

Monthly Life App: Creativity—Imagining what you could do because you're made in God's image

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Take a moment to praise God for His infinite creativity. Thank Him for the creativity that shows up in literally every aspect of our world. Ask God to guide you as you lead kids to discover that creativity today, and pray that kids would stand in awe of it as well.

1. Early Arriver

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

What You Need: Offering container, LEGO® blocks

What You Do:

- Invite kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- Gather kids in a circle.
- Place a container of LEGO blocks in the center of the circle.
- Challenge kids to use the blocks to make an object.
- Encourage kids to be creative or make something from the list below.
 - A tree
 - Something that flies
 - Something using only six blocks
 - A food item
 - A star
 - A dragon

2. Opening Activity

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Creative Creation Pictures” Activity Page or (*optional*) mobile device to search and show pictures of the animals; paper, markers

What You Do:

- Hand out the paper and markers.
- Choose a few animals from the list below and call them out to the group.
- Encourage kids to take their best guess as to what those animals look like and choose one to draw.
- Tell them there’s no wrong answer! They should just draw whatever pops into their mind when they hear the name of the listed animals.
- After a few minutes of drawing, let kids show the group their drawings and the name of the animal they attempted to picture.
- Then, show kids what the animals actually look like via the “Creative Creation Pictures” page.
- Creatively created animals:
 - Venus Fly Trap (if possible, search the internet for a video of this animal in action!)
 - Brown Eye Moth
 - Platypus
 - Pointed Saw Fish
 - Blue Poison Dart Frog
 - Seahorse
 - Bush baby
 - Stick Insect
- If time allows, ask kids if they can think of other examples of weird, crazy, or cool things in nature.

What You Say:

“Just look at all the different things we can see in nature—things that seem ordinary and things that seem extraordinary. **[Transition]** Let’s head to Large Group to hear what the variety of things in the world shows about God.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

1. Story Sculpting

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

What You Need: Play-Doh®

What You Do:

- Gather kids together.
- Give each kid a ball of Play-Doh.
- Ask kids to sculpt something with the Play-Doh that relates to the story.
- Allow kids to create more than one object, if they choose.
- Work alongside kids as they sculpt, and consider sculpting something related to “On the seventh day, God rested” like a pillow or a bed.
- With each Play-Doh creation, challenge the group to identify the sculpture and how it relates to the story.
- As a group, put the sculptures in order of the story.

What You Say:

“Creation is the greatest work of art of all time and all of you are part of it. We look at the world, and we see that God is creative because of everything He made. From nothing, He made everything. All we have to do is look at the different types of plants, the variety of animals and fish, or the vastness of the sky to know **[Bottom Line] there’s no limit to God’s creativity.** And look at each of us. God made all of us in His image, and none of us are exactly the same—not even identical twins! Everywhere we look, we can see **[Bottom Line] there’s no limit to God’s creativity.**”

2. Limitless Creativity

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

What You Need: “Creation Category Cards,” pencils, timer or mobile device

What You Do:

- Give kids a pencil and a “Creation Category Card” page.
- Give kids two to three minutes to write an example for each category.
- Encourage kids to be creative with their answers.
- Start with the first category and allow kids to take turns sharing their example with the group.
- If kids provide an example that matches no one else’s example for that category, award them a point.
- Emphasize the variety of answers for each category.
- The kid with the most points wins.
- To increase the challenge, play again, but all examples must start with the same letter which you choose.

What You Say:

“When we look at the world, we see that God is creative. God didn’t make just one slimy thing. He didn’t make the world one color. He made so many different things that we can’t even count them all. **[Bottom Line] There’s no limit to God’s creativity.** God’s creativity doesn’t end with the world He made either. God’s creativity shines through each of you. God made each of you in His image. God made you to think, feel, and act just a bit like Him. Imagine what you could do because you’re made in His image.

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time you were struck by God’s creativity. Maybe you were star-gazing and you were amazed at the number of stars in the sky. Or you volunteer at an animal shelter and seeing all the different types of dogs reminds you of God’s creativity.)
“What’s something in the world that reminds you of God’s creativity?”

*3. Creatively Great

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bibles, butcher paper with memory verse, markers, tape

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Look up Psalm 145:3 using the tips below and read it together.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 145. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 145.

- Tape butcher paper with the verse to the wall.
- Underline the word “GREAT” in the verse and emphasize that there is no limit to how great God is.
- Divide the group into three teams and instruct them to line up across the room from the memory verse.
- Assign each team a color of marker and give the correct color of marker to the first person in each line.
- When you say, “Go,” each team sends one teammate to the mural to write one word that could replace the word “great” in the memory verse.
 - For example, “LORD you are **wise** . . . No one can completely understand how **wise** you are.”
 - Other examples include: wonderful, faithful, joyful, forgiving, amazing, patient, loving.
- As it becomes challenging to think of words that haven’t been written already, allow teammates to help each other.
- The first team to have everyone on their team write a word on the paper, wins!
- After the game is over, review and read through the words as a group.

What You Say:

“Only God is worthy of our praise. We can praise Him because He is great. We can praise Him because He is creative and (*words from the mural*). We can’t even begin to understand how great God is. God’s greatness has no limits just like **[Bottom Line] there’s no limit to God’s creativity**. When I look at the words you wrote to describe God, it reminds me how much God wants us to know Him. God wants us to know Him so much that He sent Jesus so we have a way to be with Him, now and forever.

God wants us to know Him so much that He gave us the Bible so we can read about Him. God wants us to know Him so much that He gave us creation. When we look around, we can see Him and His creativity in everything.”

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: An activity that creates space for personal processing and application

What You Need: Mirror, dry erase marker

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Encourage kids to take time this week to look around at all the things God has made.
- Pass the mirror and a dry erase marker around the circle.
- Instruct kids to write their name on the mirror, look in it, and say, “Thank You, God, for making me in Your image.”
- When the mirror returns to you, close in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, You are great! And You alone are worthy of our praise. We can’t even understand how great You are. When we look around at all the things You made, we can see that there’s no limit to Your creativity. Thank You, God, for making each one of us in Your image. God, remind us every time we look in the mirror that we were made to reflect a bit of You to the world. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show their families the mural they created together during the “Creatively Great” activity.