

Unit 1: Masterpiece

Faith Focus: God is creative.

We are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. (Ephesians 2:10)

SESSION 3

GROW IN FAITH

God Creates Us to Be Unique—Psalm 139:1-18

This passage of Scripture can provide us with comfort and peace as we better understand how we are created and loved by God. We are also made of God's love. These poetic words tell the inner workings of our human creation and God's intricate role in our lives from the very beginning. The psalm also states that God made us with purpose and we are wonderful. God is embedded in everything we do, and it is important to remember our value even when there are hard times or we are scared. This is a psalm children can carry with them to always remember God's word and God's love.

- Encourage children to name ways they are loved by God.
- Explore ways children can share God's love with others.
- Remind the children God is always with them.

SUPPLIES

crayons

markers

permanent markers

pencils

scissors

glue sticks

star stickers

felt in at least two colors

dowels or sticks

tape

butcher paper

art paper

yarn

hole punch

assorted art supplies

TV and DVD player or streaming device

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Is Creative

Unique Quilt Squares
(Self-Reflection)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

FUN WITH FAITH

Weaving Together
(Fine Motor Skills)

Group Quilt
(Collaborative Art)

Your Special Name Room Sign
(Craft)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15), Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23), and Unit 1 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Fall Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the heart sticker on the Session 3 space.

SAY: God created everything in the universe, and God created people. Today we explore how God created each of us to be unique.

ASK: What do you like about how God created you? What do you love about yourself?

Faith Focus—God Is Creative

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, crayons, scissors, glue

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23). Photocopy "Who I Am" (Leader Guide—p. 28) for each child.

- Show children the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is "God is creative."

ASK: How was God creative when making you unique?

- Invite the children to color the person to represent themselves, then cut out the images and glue them to the outline to represent who they are.

Unique Quilt Squares

Supplies: Activity Sheets, pencils, crayons or markers, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Unique Quilt Squares" (Session 3 Activity Sheet) for each child.

SAY: God created each of us to be unique. That means no one is exactly like anyone else. All of us have our own personalities, ideas, and hearts.

ASK: What is unique about you? What do you like about how God created you?

- Give each child a quilt square.
- Invite the children to draw or write something that they love about themselves in the center of the quilt square and then cut the square out.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB kids' Bible

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Show children where the Book of Psalms is in the Bible.

SAY: Psalms is a book of the Bible that many people read to find comfort and to learn about God and themselves.

- Read Psalm 139:1-18.

ASK: What does the psalm say God knows about us? When and where is God with us? How does the psalm say God cares for us?

Tip: Today's passage may not be found in a children's storybook Bible. You may choose to show the Session 2 video before reading the passage in the Bible.

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 3 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

ASK: How are the people in the video uniquely created? Do any of the people in the video remind you of yourself and how you are unique?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, star stickers

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14) and Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) if you haven't already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: When God was making everything, God was very creative! God used imagination to make all people, and to make each of us different.

ASK: What is a "masterpiece"?

SAY: If there is a work of art or music or creativity that is amazing, sometimes people say it is a "masterpiece." All of us are God's "masterpieces."

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Instruct children to each place a star sticker on the poster in the section for this session.
- As each child places a sticker, invite them to say, “I am God’s masterpiece.”

FUN WITH FAITH

Weaving Together

Supplies: felt in at least two different colors, adult scissors, dowels or sticks, tape

Prepare Ahead: Cut felt into strips to measure about one inch by nine inches.

SAY: The Bible story today tells us that God knew how we were woven together or knitted together before we were born.

ASK: Do you know anyone who sews, weaves, knits, or crochets?

- Group the children into pairs. Give each child a dowel/stick and eight strips of felt, four in one color and four in another.
- Show children how to tape a narrow end of four strips of felt to the dowel or stick.
- Help the children weave the other four strips of felt through the four strips on the stick. Weave together in an “over, under, over, under” pattern.

ASK: How did it feel to weave something? Was it challenging? Did you enjoy it?

Group Quilt

Supplies: butcher paper or wall space, tape, quilt squares made earlier, markers (optional)

SAY: Each of us made our own quilt square, and it was beautiful on its own. I wonder what it would look like if we all joined our squares to make one big quilt.

- Invite the children to hang the quilt squares up on a wall or tape them to a large piece of butcher paper to make a quilt out of all of them.
- You may wish to invite the children to decorate a special border that represents their class or group around the edges of their quilt.

ASK: Are any of the squares the same? How are they different?

SAY: When all of our quilt squares are joined together, it is even more beautiful!

Your Special Name Room Sign

Supplies: plain art paper cut into four by eight rectangles, crayons, markers, permanent marker, scissors, hole punch, yarn, other assorted art supplies as available/desired

SAY: God made every person in the world. There is only one YOU, and that is amazing! Everything from your eyes to your laugh to your heart is one of a kind.

ASK: Do you know if there is a story behind your name? If there is, what is it?

- Give each child a paper rectangle and help them write their names on the paper. Use permanent marker to make the name stand out.
- Have children decorate their names using the art supplies.
- When they are finished, use a hole punch to make a hole on each end of the rectangle. Thread the yarn through the holes and then tie knots at the ends.

ASK: Where will you hang this sign with your name? What do you hope it shows people about you?

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21). Make copies of the Unit 1 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 91–92) if needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: God created everything that exists, and that includes you! We can praise God because we are all uniquely made!

- Invite the children to gather in a circle with you. Invite them to pray with their eyes open and imitate your hand motions.

PRAY: Repeat after me and do the motions as I do them: “Holy God, thank you for making me unique (*hands open with palms flat facing up*). Help me love myself (*hands over heart*), help me love others (*hands sweeping outwards from chest to sides*), and help me love your beautiful creation (*hands sweeping over head in an arch*). Amen.”

- Send the Unit 1 Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child who hasn’t received them.
- Send home any activities or items made during today’s session.

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 3 Who I Am

Color the person to represent you. Then cut out the circles and glue them to the outline to represent who you are and what you like. Draw other images if you wish.

