

## 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.

- Discuss the powerful words found in this psalm.
- Help relate the passage to the children's relationship with God.
- Remind the children that each person is created by God and everyone is loved.

### SUPPLIES

*pencils*

*scissors*

*glue sticks*

*crayons*

*markers*

*sticky notes*

*construction paper*

*tape*

*TV and DVD player or streaming device*

### SESSION OUTLINE

#### COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Is Creative

Solve the Puzzle  
(Math)

#### FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

#### FUN WITH FAITH

Class Paper Quilt  
(Collaborative Art)

My Own Psalm  
(Writing)

Move Through the Psalm  
(Movement/Storytelling)

#### 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) and Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23) 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 mosaic heart sticker on the Session 3 space.

**SAY:** We are learning that God is creative. God created the whole world and everything in it. We know God created each person with different talents, skills, passions, and purpose.

## Faith Focus—God Is Creative

*Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack*

*Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23).*

- Show children the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster.

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

**ASK:** In what ways did God create each of us uniquely? Does anyone in this room have special talents or skills?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

## Solve the Puzzle

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

*Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Solve the Puzzle" (Session 3 Activity Sheet) for each child.*

- Invite the children to solve the equations.
- Have the children cut out the squares and use the numbers to glue each one onto the correct equation to reveal a picture.

**SAY:** God created each person with deep love and care. Let's find out how the poets in the Bible understood God's ability to create every single person uniquely.

# FAITH CONNECTIONS

## Read the Story

*Supplies: CEB kids' Bible*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read Psalm 139:1-18 in a CEB kids' Bible.

**ASK:** In what ways does the author of this psalm believe God knows them? How do you think that makes the author feel?

## 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.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, in small groups, or all together.

**ASK:** What was your favorite part of the Bible story?

## Faith Response

*Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons*

**Prepare Ahead:** 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) 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:** We have faith that God created us to be unique. We are not like any other person. And God loves us just the way we are.

**ASK:** What ways do you think God created you to be unique?

- Place the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

**ASK:** What do you see on our poster so far?

- Have each child write on the sticky note one way he or she believes that he or she is unique.
- Instruct the children to stick their notes on the next section of the poster.

# FUN WITH FAITH

## Class Paper Quilt

*Supplies: construction paper, crayons, tape*

*Prepare Ahead: Find a place on the wall where your class can post their squares to create a quilt.*

**SAY:** Each one of us is known by God. God loves everything about us. We believe that God wants to help us care for each other and for the world by using our own unique gifts and talents. It could be our love of basketball or our beautiful singing voice. It could even be our quiet, calm, peaceful personality.

**ASK:** How do you think God might want you to use your unique self to care for others?

**SAY:** Let's spend some time thinking about how unique we are. Then we will build a quilt together to see all the ways that God has blessed our group to care for each other and the world.

- Give each child a piece of construction paper.
- Invite each child to draw or write things that make her or him unique.
- Encourage children to help each other consider what might be unique about each of them.
- Once the children finish drawing, place the papers on the wall touching each other to build a paper quilt that highlights each unique person in the class.

**ASK:** What kinds of unique gifts do we see on display? How might God use this class to love the world and everyone in it?

## My Own Psalm

*Supplies: pencils*

*Prepare Ahead: Make copies of the reproducible "My Own Psalm" (Leader Guide—p. 28).*

**SAY:** God wants us to create too. The author of this psalm wrote a poem a long time ago that we still read today. When we create things out of our love for God, we help others understand more about who God is and how God loves us.

- Invite the children to fill in the prompts on the "My Own Psalm" page.
- Encourage each child to share his or her work when finished.

## Move Through the Psalm

*Supplies: CEB kids' Bibles*

**SAY:** The psalmist, or author of the psalm, uses lots of verbs, or action words, to talk about God in this Scripture passage. Psalms use language that encourages our imaginations. Using our imaginations is a great way to connect to God's creativity. Let's use our bodies and our imaginations to retell this passage.

- Divide the children into three small groups.
- Assign each group a portion of Psalm 139:1-18 (group one, verses 1-6; group two, 7-12; group three, 13-18).
- Invite the groups to read through their verses and create a miming play to act out the psalmist's words while one group member narrates the psalm. For example, in verse two, the psalmist says, "You know me when I sit down and when I stand up." As a narrator reads the psalm, the children might sit down and stand up.
- Let the groups share their plays in order.

## 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). Photocopy the Unit 1 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 91-92) if needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

**SAY:** Faith is believing in things we cannot see and being certain that those things are true. We cannot see God, but we do see God's creation. We see the wonderful ways God created our friends and neighbors. We know that God loves us, just like the psalmist says. And through faith we believe that God created us uniquely and wonderfully so that we might care for all of God's creation. We learned all this through a psalm. There is a more modern poem that helps us remember to put our faith in God's love.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- Invite the children to sing the song "Jesus Loves Me" together.

**PRAY:** Dear God, thank you for knowing us. Thank you for creating us to be unique. Thank you for sending your Son to love us just as we are. Amen.

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child who hasn't received one.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

## REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 3 My Own Psalm

Write your own psalm using pictures or words by finishing each sentence in the word balloons below.

God, I know you are good because

In my life, you have

I praise you because

Help me with

Thank you, God, for