

READ JOHN 1:3



DAY 4

All of us are creatures of habit. Have you heard that phrase before? It means we like to live our lives with a pattern. We do things pretty much the same way again and again and again.

Maybe your weekday goes something like this:

- You wake up at 6:30 (later if you're lucky!).
- You put on your school clothes, you track down your shoes, you fix your hair (and there never seems to be enough time).
- You wait at the bus stop or you catch a ride.
- You go to your classes.
- You hang out with the same friends at recess.
- You sit with the same people at the same place at lunch.
- You do your homework.
- After school, maybe you have practice, or maybe you play basketball in your yard, or hang out with friends.
- You spend some time reading—maybe your Bible, or these devotional cards.

We probably missed some things. Your normal day isn't exactly like this, but the point is, your routine is your routine. It's what you do. It's regular, everyday life. And maybe it doesn't seem like there's a lot of creativity involved in regular, everyday life.

But you know what? Sometimes the best creativity comes within a routine. A painter has to keep to the four corners of her canvas. A pianist can only make the sounds a piano can make. It's what you do with what you've got!

So it really comes down to attitude. You can look at your day as the same boring thing every day . . . or you can see it as a new, exciting opportunity with each new morning. You can remember that God created it for YOU—on purpose!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Do you ever struggle with thinking your routine is boring?
2. How do you think God sees each new day?
3. How does it help you to have an attitude of excitement and creativity when you think that everything you see—every new day—has been created by God?

CREATIVITY



Imagining what you could do
because you're made in God's image.

READ GENESIS 1:1

DAY 1

A blank page. An empty canvas. An unwritten melody.

In the beginning, there was nothing. But then God decided to create. He made EVERYTHING we know, everything we see, and everything we can taste, smell, touch, and feel.

Think of it this way. Have you ever sat down with a blank piece of paper, and just created? Maybe you drew some doodles or designs, or maybe you put some words together to form a poem.

Creativity is imagining what you could do because you're made in God's image. After all, God is the ultimate Creator. He used His imagination to create the incredible world that's all around us. And since we're made in His image, we can create too! It's all part of the amazing way He created us.

Today, start with a blank page and see what you can create.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What's your favorite way to create?
2. Do you ever get "writer's block," where you struggle to come up with words or ideas? How do you find some new inspiration?
3. Creativity isn't just about art. What are some ways you need creativity to find new ideas or face challenges in your life?

Week 1
4TH-5TH





READ JOB 12:7-10

DAY 2

Imagine, for a minute, that you had a brand-new creative assignment:. Create the greatest theme park the world has ever known.

Wouldn't that be so FUN? Where would you start? What would the theme be? What kind of rides would you have? How late would it stay open?

You know that excitement you feel when you dream about the things you love? That's a sign of the creativity God gave you!

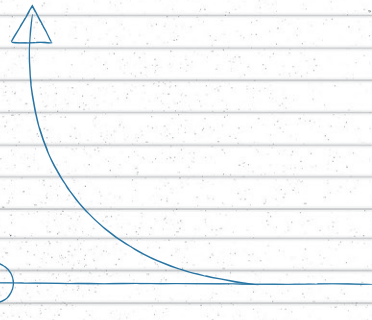
Think of what it must have been like for God to create the world! I mean, really, we can't imagine it. But in a massive, magnificent, God-size kind of way, He used His massive, magnificent, God-size creativity to create things like animals, birds, fish, and people.

We know that when God created the world, He said it was GOOD! And in a way, when we dream about creating the most awesome theme park ever, it's kind of the same idea. It's the joy of creating and imagining the things that we love. We get that joy from Him! And every day, we can discover how God can use US and our creativity and imagination to bring life and hope to the world.

Think of ways you can bring joy and excitement to the tasks you need to do and to the people around you!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. When was the last time you felt joy and excitement about creating something? What was it?
2. How would it change your attitude if you thought of each day as a chance to create and imagine something amazing?
3. How do you think God can use your enthusiasm as you creatively serve the people around you?



READ PSALM 95:4-5

DAY 3



Close your eyes and picture the most unbelievable, incredible, jaw-droppingly beautiful view you've ever seen. Maybe you saw it in person, or maybe it was a picture. Either way, you couldn't believe your eyes.

Now think about your own backyard, or a park near you. What do you love about it? What are the little things that make it special to you?

God's creation is all around us. You can see His creativity in the grand, spectacular vistas and in the simple joys of a summer breeze or a relaxing rain shower.

And what we see is just a tiny part of the big picture. Think of all the sunsets we don't notice. Think of all the amazing places in the world that we may never get to see for ourselves. And then think of all God knows. He owns the tallest mountain peaks and the deepest parts of the ocean, and everything in between!

Today, write down three things that you have experienced that make you appreciate the way God created the world.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why do you think we often miss the incredible things God created that are all around us?
2. What can you do, in the regular rhythm of your life, to stop and notice all the things God created?
3. How does it help you trust God more when you see the amazing world He's made?



30 cm

God made

EVERYTHING.

CREATIVITY

Imagining what you could do
because you're made in God's image.

READ PSALM 139:14

DAY 1

Think for a second about the people who really *know* you. Your best friend knows you. Your mom or dad, or your other relatives know you. Your siblings sure know you—the good, the bad, and the ugly!

The truth is there are only a few people in the world who know the REAL you, not just things *about* you. When we think we “know” people we can easily make a label for them instead of getting to know the real them.

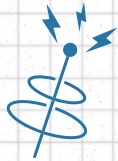
It's easy to label people, but we know those labels don't tell the whole picture. Each person is WAY more complex and wonderful and special because **God made us in His image**. He's the only one who *really* knows each one of us, deep down. And He loves us more than we can possibly imagine!

That's why this verse says you can **praise God** and thank Him. He made you completely unique, He knows everything about you, and because of that, He knows what's best for your life!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What kind of labels do you think people put on you when they don't really know you? Is that fair?
2. Why does it feel good to be really known by the people who are closest to you?
3. What are some ways you can see how God has made you in an “amazing and wonderful” way? Because He absolutely did!

READ PSALM 100:1-3



DAY 4

You know what's worth *celebrating* today?

The life God gave us is full of joy, hope, fun, laughter, and love! He created us to walk through life with close relationships like our friends and family who love us and are there for us whether things are good or bad.

Not only that, God has given each of us the gift of creativity—something inside that expresses who we are. And that looks different for everybody! Being created in God's image means that we can love and laugh and create and build and enjoy His creation.

It's important to remember to celebrate God with a song in our hearts to “Come to Him with songs of joy.” It doesn't have to be an actual song, but music can certainly help!

Here's a suggestion, pull up the lyric video for Jamie Grace's song “Beautiful Day.” She used *her* creativity to sing a song of praise to the God who made her. Songs like that are a great way to remind you to celebrate God's creation and the way He's created YOU to enjoy it!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What are some songs that help you praise and thank God?
2. What are some other ways—besides music—that we can thank and praise Him for the way He made us?
3. How can the things WE create honor the one who created us?

Week 2
4TH-5TH





READ GENESIS 1:27

DAY 2

When was the last time you created a character? Maybe you like to build with LEGOS, and you've given your LEGO® people names and backstories. Maybe you've created a video game character and given them different strengths and weaknesses. Maybe you like to draw, and you have a character (or group of characters) that you like to draw in different situations.

It's fun for us to create characters and to give them *characteristics*, the things that make them unique. That can be as simple as giving your avatar super speed, or finding a new hat for your LEGO® guy.

The amazing thing is that when God created the world, He didn't just stop at the natural world—oceans and trees and mountains and galaxies. He didn't just stop when He created polar bears and glowing jellyfish and praying mantises. **He created people.**

This verse says that God created human beings "in His own likeness." Other translations of the Bible say, in His own image." That means YOU were created in the image of God! He knew what He was doing when He made YOU the way you are!

The IMAGE of God in us gives us the ability to IMAGINE, and that imagination allows us to create remarkable things. God created you in an "amazing and wonderful" way and He gave you the ability to think, dream, and create.

When you feel small or unimportant, remember that you're made in the image of your perfect, all-powerful, CREATIVE heavenly Father!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why do you think it's fun for us to create characters?
2. Why do we need to remember we've been created in the image of God? How does that change the way we live?
3. Do you think God enjoys seeing how different and unique we all are?

READ ROMANS 8:38-39

DAY 3

There are lots of things about God's creation that are absolutely, 100% AMAZING.

Just to name a few . . .

- Space is totally silent, since there's no atmosphere and no way for sound to travel.
- The sun is about 109 times the diameter of the earth. And there are stars that are 1,800 times as large as the sun!
- The earth is not only spinning right now, it's also traveling around the sun at 67,000 miles per hour.
- 70% of the earth's surface is covered in water.

Then there are all the amazing facts about animals. Like the fact that houseflies always hum in the key of F, ostriches can run faster than horses and dogs' nose prints are as unique as human fingerprints.

But the MOST amazing fact about God's creation is really very simple. It's the fact that He **loves** us. He didn't just make an amazing universe, an amazing planet Earth, and amazing animals. He made us and He cares about each one of us personally. Nothing can separate us from His love.

Impress your family with some of these facts and while you're at it, remind them about the one MOST important fact!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. How is God's love for you such a great demonstration of His creativity?
2. Have you ever felt bad about something you've done wrong?
3. How does it make you feel to know that God forgives you—that nothing could ever separate you from His love?

God made YOU.

READ ISAIAH 64:8



DAY 4

Have you ever been to a place where you make or paint pottery? It's harder than it looks, isn't it? It seems like you should be able to just form a cool coffee mug with your bare hands, but like anything else, it takes lots of practice.

What about Play-Doh®? Have you ever sat down to build something awesome with your little brother or sister and ended up just making a bunch of blobs? (Just for fun . . . if you have some Play-Doh® in your house, grab some and see what you can create with it.)

In these verses, the prophet Isaiah talks about our relationship with God in a pretty descriptive way: we're the clay, and God is the one who forms us into who we are. And thankfully, God *really* knows what He's doing!

The cool part about this is that you are a living, breathing work of art. God didn't just make you the way we are and leave it at that. Every day of your life, He continues to shape you and help you grow to be more and more like Him. He can change you, and help you to make wise choices. He can *change* your story. He can take something awful and make it into something *awesome*.

Is there something in your life right now that's confusing—something you don't understand? Ask God how He might be using it to grow and shape you in a way you never imagined before.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Have you ever worked on a project that you really cared about? What made that project so special to you?
2. Have you ever thought about you, yourself being a work of art for God?
3. How can you open yourself up even more to let God shape you and change you?

CREATIVITY

Imagining what you could do
because you're made in God's image.

READ GENESIS 2:19

DAY 1

Do you have a nickname? Have you ever come up with a nickname for someone else?

We almost can't help coming up with fun names for each other. Even when it's silly or when we're poking fun at each other, it's really a way of showing that we care. And guess what? It's another example of the creativity God put inside us.

We know that's true because God actually allowed Adam to name the animals in the Garden of Eden. He could have just said, "This is a giraffe." But He loved the man He created enough to let *him* do it.

In the same way, God allows us to be creative because He loves us. He knows that creating is *fun* and satisfying. He made us with the ability to dream and imagine. When we remember that creativity comes from Him, we understand that He's given it to us for a purpose:

- To make the world a better place.
- To help the people around us.
- To show others who He is.

Today, ask God to help you find new ways to take part in His creative work and showing His love to the world.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why is it important to remember that all our creativity comes from God?
2. What are some ways, like coming up nicknames, that you like to use your imagination?
3. How does it make you feel when you finish a creative project? Do you think that satisfaction is something that comes from God?



Week 3
4TH-5TH



READ ROMANS 12:5-6

DAY 2

The Guinness Book of World Records is full of really amazing (and random!) accomplishments—like the largest bubblegum bubble, or the person with the widest mouth.

And then there's YOU! You are **unique**. There has never been anyone like you in the history of the world. God created you as an individual, with your own specific gifts. And because of that, there are things *you* can do that no one else can do.

That means there's a purpose for our creativity. Each of us has a responsibility to use our creativity to do what only we can do in this world. And when we all do that together, we work like one body to accomplish what God wants us to do. He invites us to use our individual gifts *together* for His greater purpose.

Ask your parents what they think your gifts might be and how you could use those gifts as you learn how to serve others.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Think about your closest friends. What are some of their unique creative gifts that you can see?
2. How about your family? What are their gifts?
3. Have you ever done something together with your friends or family where you all got to use your different gifts in a creative way?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:10

DAY 3

Think of some of the most famous buildings and structures in the world. The Eiffel Tower. Big Ben. The Empire State Building. The Pyramids in Egypt. The Great Wall of China. The Sydney Opera House. The Golden Gate Bridge. (Google them if you'd like to see some pictures—they're pretty amazing!)

You know what's true of all the architects of those famous works? They used their creativity. They imagined a new way to solve a problem. And they built something that inspired people.

Now let's look at something a little bit different. Google the Stata Center at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. What do you think of it? What are some words that come to mind? How do you think the buildings make the students feel as they learn and create?

You know what's interesting about the Stata Center AND all those other famous landmarks? All of them need to have a strong foundation underneath. That's what keeps the Stata Center standing, just like the Golden Gate Bridge. The architects were able to dream and create because they knew there was a solid design holding everything up.

All of your creativity is built on the rock-solid *foundation* of your relationship with Jesus. When you remember and recognize that He's the one holding it all together and that all your creativity really comes from Him, that gives you the freedom to dream, imagine, and make the world a better place.

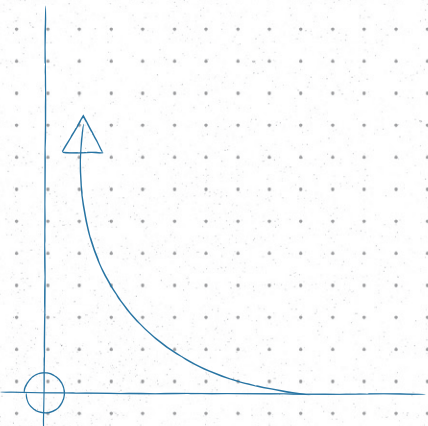
Thank God for being the foundation of your creativity.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Would you say that God is the foundation of your life? Why?
2. How does that change your outlook on the things you face every day?
3. How can a relationship with God help you to find new, surprising solutions to problems you see?



God made you to
IMAGINE.



READ 1 PETER 1:3



DAY 4

Artists talk about “creating a masterpiece.”

The cool thing about following Jesus is that He’s already written the masterpiece. He IS the masterpiece! Jesus lived a perfect life. He died on the cross for our sins. When He rose from the dead, He confirmed that He was who He said He was, the Son of God.

Because of who Jesus is, we have a new birth and a living hope. And that hope has inspired lots of people over the years to follow Jesus’ lead in remarkable, creative ways.

We can see how artists have created beautiful paintings, poems, songs, movies, and so much more—all inspired by their faith in Jesus.

We can see how people have found creative ways to serve the people around them through churches, mission teams, and simple acts of love and kindness.

The world is full of pain, trouble and brokenness, all caused by sin. But we know that’s not the end of the story. We know there’s *always* hope, joy, and life because of what God has done to restore His creation forever.

Let your life always reflect the living hope you have in Jesus.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. How can our “living hope” in Jesus carry us through a tough time?
2. How can it help to remember that the things we’re experiencing are all part of God’s big story?
3. Your parents probably know some great examples of people who used their hope in Jesus to create great art or to serve people in a unique way. Ask them to tell you about some of their favorites.

CREATIVITY

Imagining what you could do
because you’re made in God’s image.

READ ROMANS 5:18

DAY 1

Have you ever broken something important and it was never the same again? It’s awful when that happens. All you want to do is put things back together—to go back in time and stop before it’s too late. But you can’t. You can’t just fix it and make that mistake go away.

It’s SO good to know that our relationship with God is totally, completely the opposite. When we mess up, we know for SURE that He’ll forgive us.

You see, way back in the beginning, Adam and Eve broke the rule God had set up. They ate the fruit from the tree. And when they did, they broke the perfect relationship God had with His creation.

But God didn’t want it to stay that way. He made a way to restore the broken relationship. Because that’s what God made us for to begin with; He created us for a relationship. We sin, just like Adam did. We mess up, just like Eve did. It’s part of being human. But our sin doesn’t have to separate us from God, because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Jesus, God’s perfect Son, took our sin on Himself so that we could have a right relationship with God. All we have to do is believe!

Thank God for the way He’s restored our relationship with Him, even though we sin.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What does Jesus’ sacrifice show you about how much God loves you?
2. Can you think of a time when you asked God to forgive you for something you had done wrong? Did you ever have to wonder if He would?
3. Can you think of a time when you chose not to sin? How did God help you to resist?



Week 4
4TH-5TH



READ ROMANS 12:5-6

DAY 2

In these verses, Jesus was talking about how much God loves us. He talked about sparrows (birds), and how God cares about them and knows everything that happens to them because He created them.

What does that say about God's love for YOU?

God is so creative! He knows every detail about you. He made you, so He knew what your personality would be like, what your interests would be, and all the ways He could work in your life as you follow Him.

If you ever doubt that, just remember that He knows how many hairs on your head. Did you catch that? The number of hairs on your head!

God knows *you*. He's in the details! And the flipside is, God made you to know Him. He didn't want your relationship with Him to be a mystery. He wanted you to know exactly how much He loves you and cares about you.

After all, God sent Jesus to make a way for you to have a personal relationship with Him. He knows you well enough to know that's what you *really* need, deep down. When you believe and trust in what Jesus has done for you, personally, you can receive forgiveness for your sins and the promise of eternal life.

Write this down on a post-it and stick it by your bed: **God made you to know Him.**

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. How does it show God's creativity that He knows you so personally?
2. Why do you think it's so important to God that you know *Him* personally too?
3. God knows everything about you and He loves you! How can you follow His example in your relationships with your family and friends?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

DAY 3

Do you have a lemon or maybe some lemon juice in the fridge? If you do, go ahead and squeeze a little bit of it in a glass.

Take a sip.

Refreshing, right? Umm . . . not so much.

If you really want a refreshing summer treat, you're going to have to add some sugar, water, and ice. Go ahead and fix yourself a glass. Now we're talking!

Did you know that when you put your faith in Jesus by deciding that you believe *for sure* that He died on the cross for your sins, and that He rose again three days later—it *transforms* you? It's true! Like sugar, water, and ice transformed that sour, awful lemon juice into the ultimate taste of summer.

When a person believes in Jesus, they are a new creation. That means something changes about them. They stop living for themselves; they start living for others. They stop worrying about the things they've done wrong; they live in the freedom that comes from God's forgiveness. They're not scared about the future; they see a bright tomorrow filled with new chances to use God's creativity in the world.

What about you? Are you living like a **new creation**?

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why do you think we should be able to clearly show that we're a new creation because of Jesus?
2. How do you think other people react when they see the change that's happened in us?
3. What are some ways that you'd say God has transformed you since you put your faith in Jesus?

God made you to
KNOW HIM.