

THEME VERSE

2018-19

“Know that the LORD, he is God;
It is he who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.”

⊕ Psalm 100:3



DECORATIONS

Decorate using a construction theme. Set out construction cones. Hang caution tape. Hang yellow orange and black balloons. OR Decorate the space so that it looks like you are in a creative studio. Choose a theme such as pottery and clay, metalworking, paint and canvases, etc.

ACTIVITIES

CLAY CREATION

Pass out clay or play dough to each kid. *Option:* Have kids make the playdough. Kids will create a person with their clay/playdough. Have kids take turns around their table/group sharing about the person they are making: What is their name? How old are they? What is their job? If they are still in school, what do they want to be when they grow up? Where do they live? What is their favorite thing to do?

- **What were you thinking about when you made your clay person?** (Take responses.)
- **How do you feel about the clay person you made?** (Take responses.)
- **How do you think God feels about you and all the people He has made?** (Take responses.)

"ALL ABOUT ME" BOOKLETS

Have kids fill out the “All About Me” booklets. Print the booklets 2-sided and fold in half to create a 4-page booklet. You may download two versions, one for younger elementary and one for older elementary kids. They will answer questions and/or draw pictures. They will use these booklets to describe themselves and how God has made them.

After kids have finished or have been working for at least 5-7 minutes, have kids divide into smaller groups and share two things that they think the other kids in the group should know about them. (Encourage them to share something they described about themselves in their booklet.)

TIN FOIL CREATIONS

Give each kid an 8" x 8" piece of aluminum foil, pen and toothpick. Have kids compare their pieces of aluminum foil. The foil pieces should appear the same since they haven't started designing them yet.

Give kids a few minutes to create a design on their piece of aluminum foil. They can use the pens (leave the cap on) and toothpicks to create indentations and/or holes to create patterns and a beautiful design. After the kids have finished their creations, compare them again. Notice the differences that make each design unique and congratulate the kids on their creations.

- **Why did you design your piece of tin foil this way?** (Take responses.)
- **How do you feel about how it turned out? Why?** (Didn't have the skills; Needed more time; etc.)
- **Why do you think God made the world?** (Take responses.)
- **Why did God call what He had made “good?”** (He could do a good job; He could make just what He wanted; He had all the time He needed; etc.)

SONGS

Sing songs about God as our Creator or songs that joyfully praise God.

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DEVOTIONAL

Read Psalm 100:1-5.

- **What are some of the words used in this Psalm to describe God?** (Good; Merciful; Maker; Lord; True; Loving; Faithful; etc.)
- **What do you know about God? What words would you use to describe God? What things has God done?** (Take responses.)

Option: Have kids work together in groups of 3-4 kids to create a collage poster that shows what the kids know about God. They can write words that describe His character and attributes. Or they can draw pictures of things He has made or done (i.e. - they may choose to draw a scene from nature to show how God created the world or a picture of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea). You may choose to include time to add to these throughout the club year to see how much the kids have learned about God. Hang them in the club rooms or hallways! (If you do this activity, read Psalm 100:1-5 again.)

- **How do you think the writer of this Psalm felt about God?** (Loved Him; Wanted to Praise Him; Thankful for what He had done; etc.)

Earlier we experienced “creating.” Now we’re going to talk about God creating us. Reread Psalm 100:3.

- **Who do we belong to?** (God.)
- **Why do we belong to God?** (He made us and we didn’t make ourselves.)

Let’s find out why God made us. Read Isaiah 43:7.

- **Why did God make people?** (For His glory.)

Another word for glory is honor. Let’s act out what that means. Select a kid to stand next to you and bring out your prizes (such as badges, ribbons or trophies). **Congratulations! You’re the winner of the Kid of the Year Award!** One by one, display the prizes you brought.

Pretend-humorously-that this kid made or achieved them all. **All of these items bring “glory” to the Kid of the Year because they are examples of good things this kid can make and do.**

- **If there were an award ceremony for God, what might be on display there?** (Things God made: stars, planets, trees, animals, people, etc.; Items to represent things He’s done; etc.)

When we made our (tin foil or clay) creations, we praised you, the designers. Your creations reflected your creativity and personality. In a similar way, everything that God has made brings Him praise and honor.

Here are more verses that show how God made us. Read Psalm 139:13-14. Have someone describe what knitting is (careful work, uses a pattern, etc.). Bring in something that was knitted, such as a scarf or hat. If possible, bring in something that is in the process of being knitted and something that is finished.

- **What do you think it means that God “knit” you?** (Worked carefully; Had a plan; etc.)
- **What word here describes the result of God’s “knitting?”** (Wonderful.)

Read Isaiah 64:8. Have someone describe how a potter works (shapes clay with hands, keeps shaping and reshaping until getting the right result).

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- **What does it mean that God is like a potter and you are like clay?** (God keeps working on me; God has a plan for me; God made me just the way He wanted me; etc.)

The psalmist wrote, "Your works are wonderful." A modern writer said this differently: "God doesn't make junk!"

- **What situations might make you feel like junk?** (When someone is mean; When I do poorly at something; When someone teases; When others seem better; etc.)
- **How can you use what you've learned today to help you?** (Remember God made me and is pleased; Thank God for making me special; etc.)

Let's look back at our verses one more time. Reread Psalm 100:3.

- **The psalm writer knew that He was made by God—and that gave him reason to celebrate. What are some of the actions that the writer encourages us to do since we know that we belong to the God who made us?** (Make a joyful noise; Serve the Lord with gladness; Sing praises to Him; Be thankful; Praise His name.)
- **Besides just being made by God and the ideas we just listed, what are some ways that we can bring God honor and glory?** (Take responses.)

If you have done the "All About Me" booklets, have kids get them out. **Each of you has been knit together specially by God. We are all unique and God loves each of us.**

- **How can we use the things we wrote about ourselves in our booklets to bring God praise?** Discuss ideas like they can invite their neighbors or friends

from school to club or church; They can play a sport they enjoy fairly and try their best; etc.

Divide into pairs. Have kids pick one thing they wrote about themselves in their booklet. Their partner will pray that they will use that to bring God glory. After a minute or two, switch so that each kid has a chance to pray and to be prayed for.

Close by thanking God for who He is—that He is good, loving and faithful and for how He has made each of us.

BIBLE MEMORY

Memorize Psalm 100:3. Make up motions for each phrase in the verse. For example: know—point to head, God—point up, made—clasp hands, we are His—hug self, people—pat top of head, sheep—bend down on all fours.

Read the verse and do the motions slowly at first and then more quickly. Erase the key words and repeat. Have kids erase other words one by one until everyone can say the verse.

GAMES

SHEEP PEN

Divide kids into groups of 5-10 kids. Have each team line up behind a cone. Draw a box (sheep pen) on the ground using tape about 10 feet away from each cone. Make the box smaller for older kids and/or larger for younger kids. Dump cotton balls (sheep) on the ground scattered between the cones and the sheep pens. You should plan to have at least 5 cotton balls for each kid. Smaller groups will have time for more cotton balls for each kid.

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Kids will run one at a time and grab one cotton ball (sheep) and return it to the sheep pen. They will tag the person behind them so that they can do the same. Continue for five minutes or until all of the sheep have been returned to their pen.

MAKE A CREATURE

Before the game, fold several sheets of plain paper into three sections.

Each player is given a sheet of folded paper and unfolds it. They will draw the head of a creature (animal, fish, etc.) on the top section. Have them extend two lines of the neck over a bit into the middle section so the next person can see where the head left off. When they finish, have them fold the top section back so that it cannot be seen and pass the paper to the person on their right.

Player #2 draws a body in the middle section, extending the two lines into the third section to show where the body left off. Player #2 folds the middle section of the paper. Player #3 draws the legs on the bottom section. When they have finished, have them open up their papers so everyone can see the creatures they have made.

Option: Once everyone has had a chance to look at the creatures, fold them up and put them in a bowl. Divide kids into two teams of no more than five kids per team. If you have more kids, divide into multiple groups of teams. Have one kid at a time grab a paper in that bowl and say words or phrases to help their team guess which creature they have. They may not use words that are part of the name of any of the animals. Each kid has a 30 second turn to do as many as possible. For the next round, kids will try to act that animal out for the other kids to guess. For a third round, kids are only able to say one word to help their team guess what the creature is.

SNACKS

SHEEP SNACKS

Pass out two large marshmallows, three mini marshmallows and four pretzel sticks to each kid. They will create their own sheep using these materials. They can lick the marshmallows to get them to stick together. While they are working and eating, discuss the idea that we are like sheep with God as our shepherd.

CREATIVELY MADE

Pass out one full graham cracker to each kid. Have a variety of colored/flavored frosting or cream cheese for kids to choose from. They will use plastic knives and toothpicks to create a design on their graham cracker. Option: provide small candies or fruit to help kids decorate.

*If using candy, keep allergies in mind (such as nut allergies).

Discuss how they feel about what they have made. How does God view what He has made (specifically them)?