

✘ Creative Activities ✘

YOUNG PERSON SPENDS THREE OR MORE HOURS PER WEEK
IN LESSONS OR PRACTICE IN MUSIC, THEATER, OR OTHER ARTS

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Eph. 5:18-20: “Be filled with the Spirit... singing and making melody.”

- Describe a creative activity you participated in as a child. How did you get involved? How might it have shaped you?
- How do you incorporate creative activities into your life?
- What are the benefits of creative activities for children? Youth? Adults?
- Hindered or helped? How has T.V. and other media affected people's creative ambitions?
- As people grow from child to adult why might some give up on practicing creativity?
- How can your creative activities be used to glorify God?
- Does God favor certain creative activities over others?
- What could happen to a world where art, music, dance, etc. were limited or even banned?
- If creativity is gifted from God, are there ways we should or shouldn't use it? Why?
- Why does God delight in our creative activities?
- How are creative activities encouraged or discouraged in your church?
- Why do people judge or criticize others creativity?
- How does your comparison to other people's creative abilities hinder or help your abilities?

✘ Chat Time! ✘

So What?

What is a gift each person had in the group?

How might this gift be used in praising God?



Candle Time

Light a candle. Turn off the lights. Open with prayer. Invite participants to bring creations they made to sit beside the candle symbolizing using gifts for God. The candle symbolizes the incense lifting up to God. Close with prayers of blessing for each person.



EXPLORE

- Psalm 150:1-3 Sing to the Lord a new song...
- Psalm 139:13 ...knit me together in my mother's womb
- Psalm 30:12 My soul may praise you and not be silent
- Psalm 40:3 He put a new song in my mouth...
- Numbers 18:29 ...you shall set apart every offering due to the Lord
- John 6:27 work for the food... that endures for eternal life



Leader Page

Discussion Goal

All Creative Expressions are Gifts from God!

Background

Creative activities can be compared to gifts: they are activities that are gifts to other people from God. As a child most everyone is involved in some activity, be it orchestra, dance, or soccer. These creative activities help children express themselves creatively. These activities also offer an outlet to the stresses life presents us. When we were little, our creative activities appeared as a natural expressions of who we were as individuals, without much thought to how our activity compared to other's creative activities. However, somewhere along the way of developing our creative activities as adults, we lost that special ability to be happy with our gift and started to compare it to other's gifts.

Often, our creative activities help shape what we do in our future, be it our career or hobbies. Do all creative activities come from God? The answer is yes. God made us when we were in our mother's womb and knows us intimately. Therefore, he knows what our likes and dislikes are as well. The point is that all gifts are from God whether we are a gifted sculptor or a rock-n-roll drummer. God created everything to be good, but also gave us the choice as to how we use them. How can we encourage youth to use their God-given creative abilities for God? Invite youth to identify the reasons why their gift should be used to glorify God. Identify that as a member of the Body of Christ, all are connected and obligated to bring forth their God-given abilities to the altar.

Motivate

Place a pile of art materials and objects that could be resources for creativity. Give participants a list of the supporting verses. Play some soothing music of your choice Light a candle and sit quietly for a few moments. Tell participants that this is their chance to express themselves creatively. Tell them to reflect on the Bible verses as they express themselves in the way they feel most comfortable. They can write, create poems, draw, fold the paper and make objects, or do nothing. Ask participants to think about how these verses better define some gifts or creative activities with which they have been blessed with.



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Opening Meditation

Psalm 150 :1-3

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

Psalm 139:13

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psalm 30:12

so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Psalm 40:3

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Numbers 18:29

Out of all the gifts to you, you shall set apart every offering due to the Lord; the best of all of them is the part to be consecrated.

Numbers 18:32

You shall incur no guilt by reason of it, when you have offered the best of it. But you shall not profane the holy gifts of the Israelites, on pain of death.

John 6:27

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

Cut up the questions into strips and place in a paper bag. Let each participant draw one question and lead the group in discussing it. When they are done, the next person does the same.

How do you incorporate creative activities into your life?

What are the benefits of creative activities for children? Youth? Adults?

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