

# THANKS TO OUR TALENTED AUTHORS!

Brant Baker  
Glynis Belec  
Georgia Bergstrom  
Katy Borgstadt  
Jody Brolsma  
Carolyn Cauffman  
Patti Chromey  
Rick Chromey  
Gay Correll  
Andrea Couch  
Susan Dietrich  
Kay Eaton  
Laurie Edwards  
Kandi Elliott  
Kim Estes  
Amanda Garrett  
Nanette Goings  
Sheila Halasz  
Kathy Jackson  
Tara Jernigan  
Christine Yount Jones  
Vivian Jones  
Janel Kauffman  
Emeta Kraemer  
Gary Lindsay  
Susan L. Lingo  
Neil MacQueen  
Dalinda Marshall  
Brian Mason  
Joy Mason  
Tim McCracken  
Karen McDuff  
Ken McDuff  
Laura Meyers

Karela Moffat  
Barbie Murphy  
Lori Niles  
Kevin Olson  
Nancy Paulson  
Melinda Reid  
Bev Scott  
Julie Shaffer  
Dawn Smith  
Mark Sprague  
Sue Steele  
Judy Stewart  
Esther Stockwell  
Genie Stoker  
Susan Taulbee  
Janice Thatcher  
Peter Theodore Jr.  
Debbie Thompson  
Barbara Vogelgesang  
Jim Vogelgesang  
Susan Waterman Voss  
Marilyn Waldron  
Heather Ward  
Teresa Welch  
Rick White  
Jennifer Root Wilger  
Keith Wilson  
Michelle Wolf  
Chuck Yeager  
Carol Younger  
Malinda Zellman

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# INTRODUCTION

No children's ministry program is complete without devotions as an integral component. But devotions that kids enjoy—and remember—aren't always easy to come up with.

That's why we've done the work for you! We've taken 110 of the best devotion ideas from Children's Ministry Magazine and put them all into one easy-to-use book. Gleaned from issues spanning the past 10 years, these creative devotions are more than just fun and easy to lead; they also teach kids important Bible truths they'll actually remember.

Children's ministry experts from all over the country have contributed these devotion ideas, so we know they work! The helpful indexes make it possible to search by Scripture reference or by age level, so finding the most effective devotion for your lesson will be easy.

Use this collection of best devotion ideas

- as an instant resource when you need an instant devotion,
- to plan devotions for your next special event,
- to fill in the gaps of your curriculum, and
- to offer as a resource to help volunteers in their planning of events.

Keep this book handy—you'll use it often!

# CREATION STATIONS



## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

You'll need for each child a flashlight, a balloon, a cup of dirt, and a snack.



## FOR EXTRA IMPACT:

- Let kids each make a creation collage using craft supplies such as yarn, ribbon, buttons, fabric scraps, leaves, and stickers.
- Have kids form pairs and explain their collages.
- Teach kids the words to this prayer:

*Thank you, God, for the world you made.*

*I will praise you every day.*

## ALLERGY ALERT

Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

**Kids celebrate God's creation.**

Text: Genesis 1:1–2:2

## DIRECTIONS

Designate seven stations. Place the following props, one for each child, at the stations: a flashlight (Station 1), a balloon (Station 2), a cup of dirt (Station 3), and a snack (Station 7). Have children leave the props at each station.

**Station 1:** In the beginning, God said, "Let there be light." (Turn off the lights, and turn on the flashlights.)

**2:** On the second day, God created the sky. (Inflate and release balloons.)

**3:** God made the seas and land. (Smell and touch the dirt in the cups.)

**4:** On the fourth day, God created the sun, moon, and stars. (Recite "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.")

**5:** God made living things, including birds. ("Fly" around the room.)

**6:** God made people in his own image. (Shake each other's hand, and say, "Pleased to meet you.")

**7:** God rested and made the day holy. (Have kids enjoy a snack while resting.)

# THE IMAGE



## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

You'll need a Bible and an instant-print camera and film.



## FOR EXTRA IMPACT:

- Take pictures of each child, and put the photos on a bulletin board with this heading, "We are all created in God's image."
- Ask: What does it mean to be created in God's image? How can knowing that you're created in God's image change the way you act?
- Close in prayer, asking God to help kids grow more like Jesus every day.

Kids learn about respecting others.

Text: Genesis 1:27

## DIRECTIONS

Take one child aside ahead of time, and quietly explain that you'll take a picture of him or her and then destroy it.

Take a picture of the volunteer. As it develops, discuss how it's an image of the person. Admire the picture for a minute, then crush it, throw it on the ground, and step on it. Respond to the children's reactions.

Say: It's just an image. I didn't hurt the real person. Why would anyone be upset about what I did?

Read aloud **Genesis 1:27**. Say: People are created in God's image; it's like we're pictures of God.

Ask: Did I treat our friend's photo with respect and dignity? Why or why not? How do you think God feels when we don't treat people, who are made in his image, with respect? What kind of respectful words should we say to people who are created in God's image?

Say: You are created in God's image. Every day you are becoming more and more like him as you grow in Christ. Let's show respect for God by the way we treat each other.



**THIS IS A SAMPLE**  
**The number of pages is limited.**

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