two or more®

Small Church Curriculum for Kids™

Quarter

5



Ages 3-12

All Kids Together

LEADER GUIDE

two or more®

Small Church Curriculum for Kids®

Leader Guide

All Kids Together

R·E·A·L™
RELATIONAL EXPERIENTIAL APPLICABLE LIFELONG

Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:

Relational
Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential
What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

Applicable
The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Lifelong
Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

Two or More®

Small Church Curriculum for Kids®

All Kids Together

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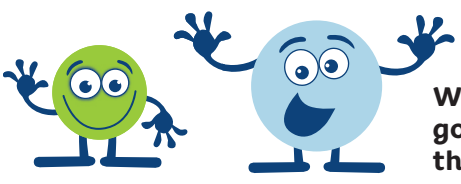
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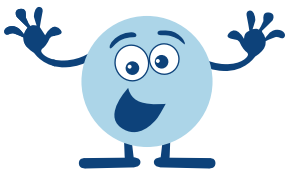
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We're Spot and Dot, and we're going to help you as you lead kids through these Bible lessons.

Is Christmas or Easter coming up? You can access your free digital holiday lessons in the Digital Download Center. If you want a printed copy, order one online at group.com.

Welcome



WELCOME TO TWO OR MORE

The children's curriculum specially designed for small churches!

Small Churches Rock!

We see you, small churches. And we love you!

For too long, you've had to adapt curriculums that are geared for big groups of kids or that felt like big productions—when you have totally different needs and strengths.

And that's why we created Two or More—to help you shine!

With Two or More, you can rest assured that every lesson is designed just for you. Every lesson will...

- be simply laid out and easy to follow—easy to glance at quickly to maintain eye contact with kids
- be geared for smaller, mixed-age groups of kids
- help you capitalize on your greatest strength: your ability to foster relationships

...all while helping kids know Jesus and build lifelong faith!

Here's a fact: One of the greatest emotional needs kids have is to feel *seen*, *known*, and *loved*. To have that sense of "I belong here" and "people would notice if I weren't here."

Those needs can be hard for big churches to fill. It takes a lot of intentionality for big churches to create small groups and make every child feel like he or she has a place.

But for you? That's your greatest strength! When you have only a few kids, you can't help but connect with them! Every child who comes into your church is seen, known, and loved.

Maybe you've thought that unless you grow in number, your efforts are of limited value—like teaching only a few kids isn't really making a big impact. But consider this: Jesus loved small. Sure, he taught big crowds. But he really invested his time in a relationship with 12 followers. And even among them, he had three he mentored even more closely.

When a boy brought Jesus a small offering of fish and bread, Jesus made it work. When Jesus saw a mustard seed, he said *that's* what faith should be like. When one sheep went missing, he noticed—and cared a lot.

Jesus can do a lot with small.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You may be wondering...can I really teach effectively when I have 3-year-olds and 12-year-olds in the same class?

Yes!

Two or More ensures that every lesson will be impactful to a child of any age.

Here are the ingredients of our secret sauce to ensure kids across age ranges are impacted:

- **Mentoring.** Older kids help younger kids, giving older kids a leadership role and responsibility.
- **Adaptability.** We've provided tips if you need to skew for a mostly younger or mostly older group.
- **Movement.** Because kids are moving, they're engaged—and kids of all ages need to move.
- **Authenticity.** You'll find thought-provoking, personal questions that don't ask kids to recite facts or knowledge.
- **Simplicity.** Kids learn *one* easy-to-remember Bible point each week.
- **YOU.** Because you're there, loving every one of them, kids will walk away feeling seen, known, and loved.

Plus, you'll find that while each quarter of Two or More includes bite-size themes, you'll work through the Bible, both Old and New Testament, every year! This approach helps you give a strategic, thoughtful faith foundation to kids in your ministry.

We've curated the most small-church-friendly parts of Dig In curriculum, adapted it just for you, and designed it in a glanceable layout that you're sure to love.

TWO OR MORE LESSONS



So, what can you expect as you dive into Two or More?

Check In

This section was designed to really hone in on the small church's ability to see and know kids. Each week, there's a general question about how kids are doing—a chance for them to share openly. And because you only have a few kids, there's time for *everyone* to share.

Set the Stage
To set the stage, you'll ask a more fun, imaginative question that helps kids gear up for the day's Bible point or story.

Experience the Bible
Kids won't sit passively and listen to you tell a Bible story. The Bible comes to life in an experiential way! With simple, effective experiences, kids get to unpack what happened in the Bible...and why that matters today.

Hands-On Discovery
We surveyed small churches and found that most of you *love* to do crafts or science experiments. In Hands-On Discovery, kids get their hands busy and make exciting crafts or see how science can point us to God. But these crafts and object lessons aren't merely busy work—they're intentional experiences geared toward discovery and life application.

Play a Game
Yes, you can play games! Even with mixed ages. Even with only two kids. You'll never see a game in Two or More that requires you to break into teams...because we know your small group may *be* a team! But we also know that kids love to play *with you*. So, no matter how many kids you have, join in the fun to help build relationships! Plus, every game wraps up with questions that help kids make a connection to the Bible point.

Activity Pages With a Purpose
Coloring sheets and puzzles are nothing new in children's ministry. But *these* puzzles are! That's because these aren't time-fillers to set out and keep kids quiet. Each puzzle is an experience that...you guessed it...leads to discovery. And because you have mixed ages, you'll find a puzzle option and a coloring option that appeals to whatever skill level kids have.

Pray Together
Of course, prayer is important! And this section models that by helping kids get involved in praying, rather than simply hearing their teacher pray. With your smaller group, it's a great chance to give *every child* a turn to pray.

BONUS: Explore More
We know that some churches are pressed for time, and may not even be able to use all the experiences above! But we also know that sometimes, you have more than an hour to teach, and we want to make sure every moment counts. Your time with kids is limited and precious, so don't rely on disconnected games and activities to "fill time." Instead, use this intentional experience that furthers kids' exploration of the Bible point.

BONUS: Sing Together
We know that some small churches have kids in "big church" for worship, and others don't. So if you need to incorporate worship music in your lesson, we've got you covered with all-included downloadable music videos and audio tracks in the Digital Download Center. Need a DVD? The Best of Dig In DVD, available at group.com, has all the same great songs you'll find online!

Don't feel like you have to do *all* the options. With Two or More's one-point learning, you're guaranteed to cover the point of the lesson, no matter how far you get!



God Makes People

Genesis 2:4-7, 18-23; Ephesians 2:10

Lesson 1

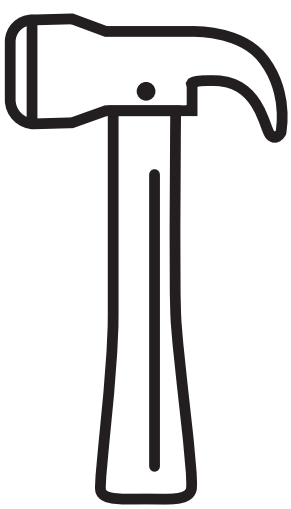
Teacher Background

What Happens: God creates people in his image. As God's most treasured creation, people are in charge of the garden, and God tasks Adam with naming the animals he created. God creates Adam first and then creates a helper just for him: Eve.

Why It Matters: Kids may range from very self-confident to very insecure. A lot of it will depend on their age; as kids hit the preteen years, they'll start to feel gawky and wonder why they're not tall enough or why they're too tall, why they're not as skinny as someone else, or why they're so clumsy. Help kids see how carefully and uniquely God made each of us. We are his masterpiece!

Think About: What are three great things about the way God made you?

Pray for kids to know how specially God made them.



Point

We are God's masterpiece.

Key Verse

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Ephesians 2:10

QUICK TIP

Avoid drawing attention to kids' physical features, which may hit on their own insecurities. For example, avoid having kids line up by height or form groups by hair color.

Date:_____

This Lesson **at a Glance**



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER
CHECK IN Connect about the week.	The importance of friendships at church.
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Study God's masterpieces: themselves!	The intricate and purposeful way God made us.
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Learn Ephesians 2:10 as they sculpt things God created.	God's greatest masterpiece is people.
PLAY A GAME Draw animals.	God took his time to create them well.
ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE Connect the dots.	How our creativity can reflect God's.
PRAY TOGETHER Pass on a blessing.	We are God's masterpiece.

BONUS OPTIONS		
	EXPLORE MORE Find out what amazing qualities they have.	What the Bible says about who we are.
	SING TOGETHER Sing worship songs together.	How to celebrate God.

	MINUTES	EASY SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
	5		
	5		
	10	☐ Bible	
	10	☐ modeling dough	
	10	☐ paper plates (5 per child) ☐ washable markers ☐ painter's tape ☐ clock or timer ☐ upbeat music (optional) ☐ music player (optional)	
	10	☐ "God Makes People" Activity Page (page 15) ☐ pencils	
	5		

	10	☐ sticky notes ☐ pens	
	10	☐ worship music ☐ media player	☐ Download songs from the Digital Download Center.

CHECK IN (5 MINUTES)

- Thank kids for coming and have kids shake hands with a friend using the *back* of their hands.
- Make announcements and collect offering.
- Celebrate any birthdays by having kids sing the words "happy birthday" like opera singers.

ASK: What do you want to tell everyone today? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share! For groups of more than six, have kids share in pairs so everyone has a turn to talk.



Celebrate Small

In a small group like yours, finding out what kids have created is a great way to get to know something significant to them!

SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Today you'll discover that you're very specially created; you're God's masterpiece!

ASK: What's something *you* made that you're proud of? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: Sometimes we make things and wish they turned out better. Sometimes we make things, like what you shared about, that came out amazing! We're so proud of what we made! That's how God feels about you. When God made you, he didn't wish you turned out better. You're his masterpiece! Let's find out more from the Bible.

EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES
- Bible

Quick Tip

Showing kids a real Bible and reading part of the story directly from the Bible helps kids know this isn't just a made-up story—it's found in God's Word!

DISCUSS

SAY: In Ephesians 2:10, the Bible says: "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

God was really happy with the way he made humans—so happy that he calls us his masterpiece! Since God likes the way he made you so much, I have a question for you.

ASK: What's one thing you like about the way God made you?

SAY: Let's take things all the way back to the beginning, when God made the first people, and discover why it's true that we are God's masterpiece.

EXPLORE LUNGS AND FINGERPRINTS

Read Genesis 2:4-7.

SAY: Wow! Humans are the only creation God breathed his own breath into. That's amazing! Let's explore the masterpieces we are by taking deep breaths.

Lead kids in taking deep breaths.

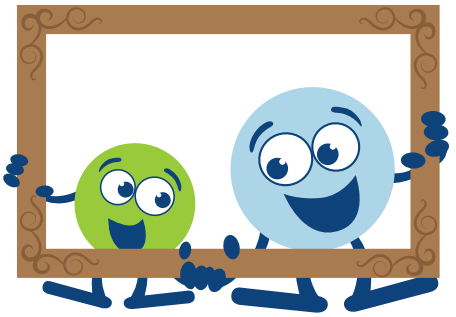
ASK: Show me with your hands—how much air do you think fits in our lungs?

SAY: Thanks for those guesses! And the answer is: Human lungs can hold about 6 liters of air. That's the same as three big soda bottles! Wow!

➡ **We are God's masterpiece.** Every time we breathe, we can think of the special way God made us, breathing his own breath into our lungs.

Let's see what God did next.

✝ Read Genesis 2:18-20.



SAY: God brought all the animals to Adam. But none were as special as Adam! Take a good look at your hands. Notice the creases and wrinkles and fingerprint lines.

ASK: Tell me about what you see.

Repeat by having kids experiment with bending their elbows and knees and feeling their faces.

EXPLORE HEARTBEATS AND RIBS

SAY: The way God made humans was special. None of the animals had all the features you just felt. And there was something else even more special about the way God made people.

Have kids place their hands on their hearts and feel their heartbeats.

SAY: Now, all mammals have heartbeats. That's not unique to people. But what's in our hearts is special. Sometimes we use the word *heart* to mean our souls—our thoughts and feelings. Our hearts—our souls, thoughts, and feelings—reflect God's image. That means we have his ability to love and show kindness, his ability to celebrate and to encourage.

Your heart beats more than 100,000 times a day! It pumps blood to almost every cell in your body. That means every time your heart beats, the image of God and his love is flowing through you. Wow! ➡ **We are God's masterpiece.**

Back to the creation story, none of the animals were a good helper for Adam, so let's find out about Eve!

✝ Read Genesis 2:21-23.

SAY: Wow! God was so impressed with his masterpiece—Adam—that he used Adam's rib to make another human—Eve. Let's feel and try to count our ribs.

Allow time for kids to feel their ribs.

SAY: If you counted right, you counted 12 ribs on each side. Those ribs are pretty special! They move kind of like the handle on a bucket, swinging up when you breathe in. Go ahead, take a breath and feel your ribs move! Pause.

➡ **We are God's masterpiece.** Everything about the way he made us was just the way he wanted us to be.



HANDS-ON DISCOVERY (10 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES
- modeling dough



SCULPT MASTERPIECES

SAY: God made a world full of colorful plants, furry animals, and tall trees. And then he made the best thing of all—people! Let's learn a Bible verse that tells something about the people God made.

Hold up a Bible.

The Bible is one big book that's filled with a bunch of little books. The verse we'll learn comes from a book called Ephesians. Listen!

Ephesians chapter 2, verse 10 says, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

A *masterpiece* is something that's the finest, best, most spectacular creation. Today, if an artist or builder makes something that *everyone* is talking about, we might use the word *masterpiece*. This verse says we are God's greatest creation. Wow! Let's create as we learn this verse.

- Give each person a handful of modeling dough.
- Say a category such as "Make something that lives in the water."
- Kids have one minute to sculpt anything that lives in the water.
- After one minute, have kids show their "masterpieces" to everyone else. Together, lead kids in saying, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus." Say one phrase at a time so kids can repeat after you.
- Then call out another category. Ideas for categories include
  - flowers
  - things you'd find in the sky
  - things that have fur
  - things people eat
- After several rounds, let kids sculpt people! Say the verse as a whole group as you hold up your human sculptures.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: How do our creations compare with God's masterpiece? Why?

ASK: How does it feel to know you're an amazing creation, made by God's hand?

SAY: ➡ We are God's masterpiece. God created us and then made us new through Jesus' forgiveness. And he has special work for us to do!

Quick Tip

If you have mostly preschoolers, use an abridged version of Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's masterpiece."

PLAY A GAME (10 MINUTES)

DRAW ANIMALS

SAY: Since we're exploring how ➡ we are God's masterpiece, let's see if we can do some masterpiece building ourselves!

- Give each kid five paper plates and a marker.
- You'll call out an animal, and kids will work together to draw that animal. Individual kids will draw just one part of the animal (tail, head, feet, and so on) and then tape the parts they've drawn up on the wall to assemble their animal. Since they'll do five drawings, there are no do-overs if kids don't like their sketches.
- Kids will have just 60 seconds to draw after you've announced the animal.
- Keep this game fast-paced by keeping time and having kids race to tape animals on various walls of the room before time runs out.
- If you've chosen to play music, start it now.
- Call out any four of the following animals (or add to this list!): fox, eagle, hippo, giraffe, python, centipede, elephant. For the fifth animal, call out your own name.
- After playing, as a whole group wander around the room admiring the artwork—especially the portrait of you!

TALK ABOUT IT

SAY: I think you did it: You captured the beauty and majesty of nature. Though your portraits of me leave a *little* to be desired.

ASK: What would have helped you do an even better job of creating artistic masterpieces?

SAY: It's hard to do your best work when you're rushed—and I rushed you.

When God created his masterpieces—that's us—he took his time and did masterful work. He made you on purpose; every piece of who you are is good and given to you for a reason. All of you, from top to bottom, inside out, can point to our awesome God.



SUPPLIES

- paper plates (5 per child)
- washable markers
- painter's tape
- clock or timer
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Quick Tip

Use inexpensive, non-coated paper plates.

Quick Tip

Preschoolers may be confused about drawing just a part of an animal and may draw the whole thing. That's OK! The point is chaos!

Quick Tip

This game easily scales to your group size. Just two kids? Assign one child the front half and one child the back half of an animal. Four or five kids? Let them divvy up which parts they'll each draw. If you have more than five kids, you can break into smaller groups to work together.

ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE (10 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES

- "God Makes People" Activity Page (page 15)
- "God Makes People" Coloring Page (page 16)
- pencils
- crayons

SAY: ➡ **We are God's masterpiece! When God made people, he made us in his image—and that's amazing! Let's make our own masterpieces.**

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will connect the dots any way they'd like.

ASK: Show what you drew, and tell why you made that as your masterpiece.

ASK: What made this experience different from a normal connect-the-dots puzzle?

SAY: If I gave you a numbered connect-the-dots puzzle, you'd all end up with the same picture. And you wouldn't have put your own thoughts and personality into it! The way you connected the dots shows something about your creativity. And the way God made us shows us an image of who he is! ➡ **We are God's masterpiece.**

Quick Tip

For younger kids, provide the Coloring Page and crayons as an alternative.

PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



Celebrate Small

Your small size is a huge advantage in being able to pass on personal blessings that make kids feel seen and loved.

Have kids sit with you.

Pass this blessing on to a child: [Name of child], ➡ **you are God's masterpiece**.

The child who received the blessing will then pass the same message on to another child, and so on until it gets back to you. You may need to say it with younger kids to coach them in remembering the words.

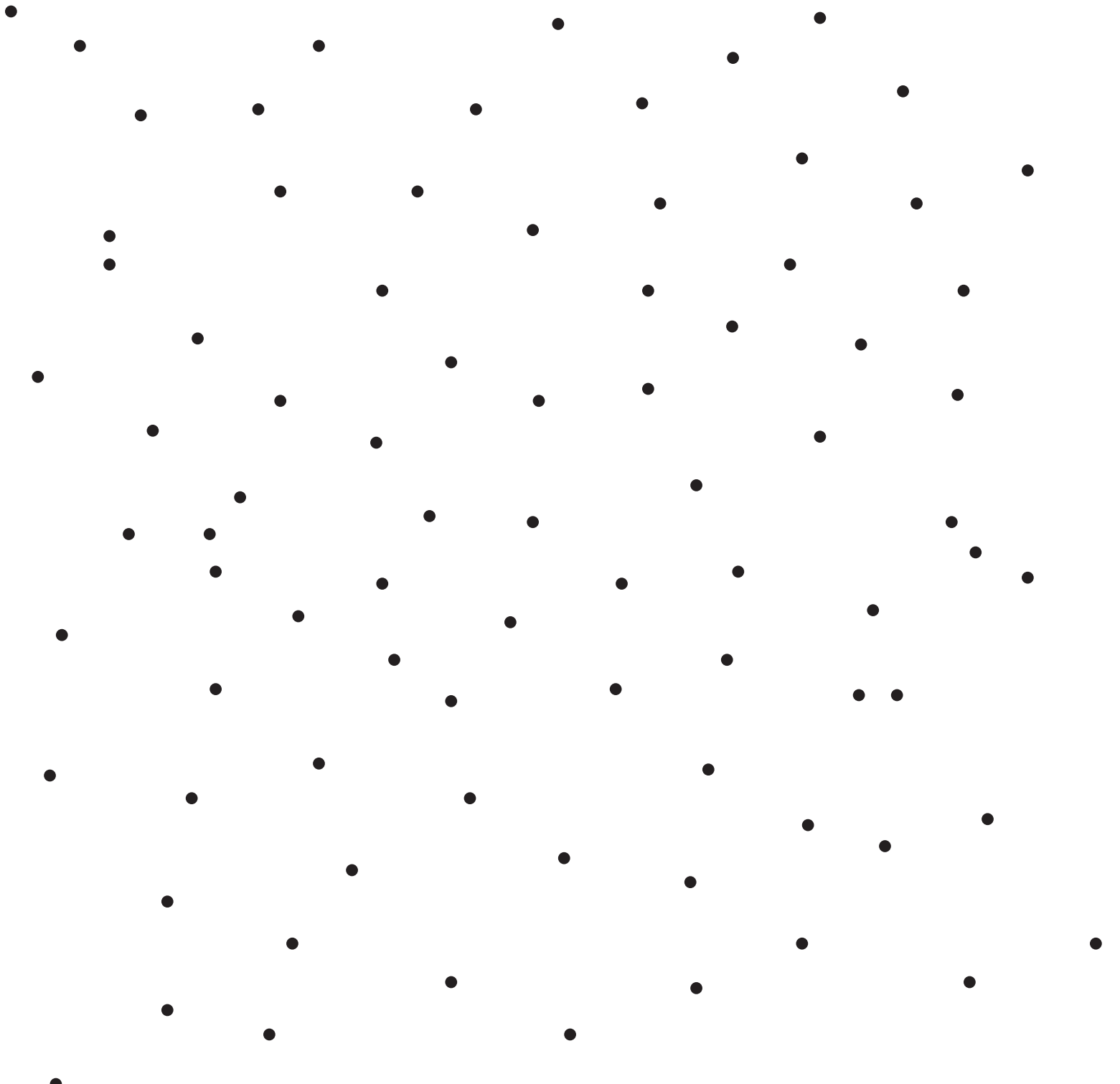
PRAY: God, thank you for making everyone in this room. I can see how carefully and specially you made each masterpiece! In Jesus' name, amen.



God Makes People

Activity Page

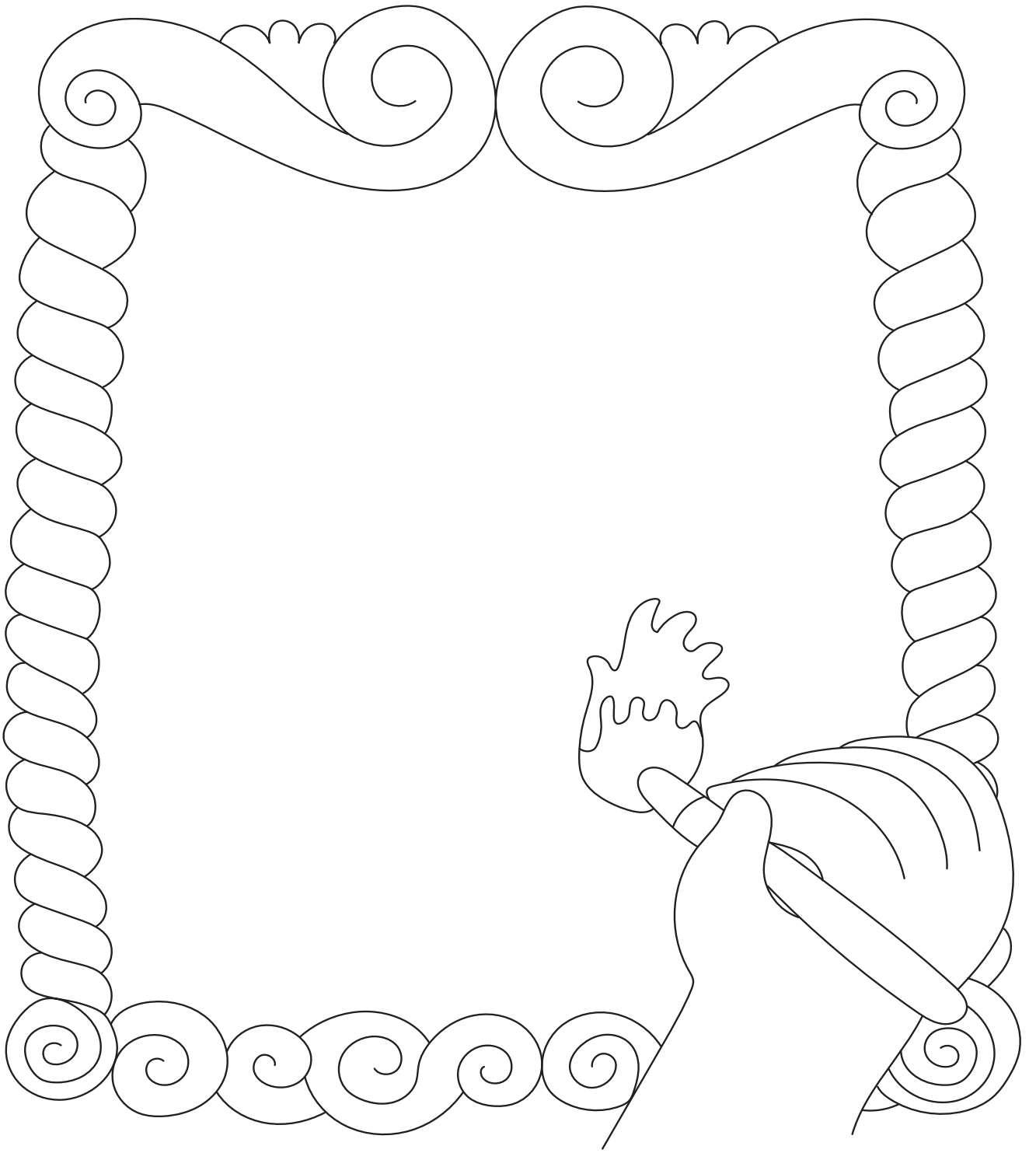
There are no numbers on this connect-the-dots puzzle—so connect as many as you want, in any order, to create your own unique masterpiece!



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God Makes People

Coloring Page



Genesis 2:4-7, 18-23; Ephesians 2:10: After God made everything else in the world, he made people. He formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him! He made woman from the man's rib. And he made both men and women in his own image! *We are God's masterpiece!*

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BONUS OPTION **EXPLORE MORE** (10 MINUTES)

SET IT UP

SAY: Today we're learning that we are God's masterpiece. A masterpiece isn't just some doodle you drew in the margins of your math notebook. A masterpiece is a carefully planned, perfectly crafted work of art.

Maybe you've never thought of yourself that way. Maybe you don't feel very perfectly crafted. Maybe you sometimes feel like God made some mistakes when he made you.

You might wonder, *what's so great about me*? Let's explore what the Bible says.

DIG DEEPER

Distribute a stack of five sticky notes and a pen to each person.

Read 1 John 4:9: "God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him."

Have kids draw a heart on one sticky note.

Read 1 John 1:9: "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."

Have kids draw a cross on another sticky note.

Read 1 John 3:1: "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!"

Have kids draw a stick figure child on another sticky note.

Read Matthew 10:31: "So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows."

Have kids draw money or a dollar sign on the fourth sticky note.

Read Philippians 4:13: "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."

Have kids draw a lightning bolt on the final sticky note.

SAY: Now let's put labels on each other to remember what we learned. Find a partner and put a sticky note on your partner for each thing we just learned. I'll guide you through it.

If needed, partner with a child yourself. Then read the following affirmations, pausing for kids to put the corresponding labels on their partners after each one.

SUPPLIES

- sticky notes
- pens

Quick Tip

If your church prints nametags on labels, use some blank ones instead of sticky notes. Kids will relate even more to those labels showing who they are.

Quick Tip

You might want to use larger sticky notes (such as 4x6 inches) to make it easier for preschoolers to draw.



- **You are loved!** (heart)
- **You are forgiven!** (cross)
- **You are a child of God!** (stick figure)
- **You are valuable!** (money)
- **You are powerful with God!** (lightning bolt)

ASK: How do those labels make you feel?

ASK: Which labels are the most special, and why?

SAY: ➡ You are God's masterpiece. You are loved, you are valuable, and you are a child of God!

BONUS OPTION SING TOGETHER (10 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES
- worship music
- media player

EASY PREP
- Download songs from the Digital Download Center.

Sing worship songs with your kids.



Spend 13 weeks diving into these exciting topics with your small group of kids!

Made for a Purpose			
1	God Makes People	Genesis 2:4-7, 18-23; Ephesians 2:10	We are God's masterpiece.
2	God Gives Gideon Strength	Judges 6–7	We are strong with God.
3	God Goes Ahead of David's Army	2 Samuel 5:17-25	We need God's guidance.
4	Esther Has a Purpose	Esther	We each have a purpose.
Jesus: Just Getting Started			
5	Jesus Speaks With Teachers	Luke 2:41-52	Jesus is wise.
6	John Baptizes Jesus	Matthew 3; Luke 3:21-22	Jesus is God's Son.
7	Satan Tempts Jesus	Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13	Jesus shows us the right way.
8	Jesus Calls Disciples	Mark 1:16-20; John 1:35-51	Jesus can change our lives.
The Holy Spirit's Power			
9	God Sends the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:1-13	The Holy Spirit gives us power.
10	God Gives Peter Power to Heal	Acts 3	God helps us be bold.
11	God Helps Stephen Forgive	Acts 7	God helps us forgive our enemies.
12	God Sends Philip to an Ethiopian	Acts 8:26-40	The Holy Spirit gives us direction.
13	God Changes Saul's Life	Acts 9:1-19	Jesus changes our lives.

With Two or More®, you can build relationships with kids of all ages and engage in meaningful experiences whether you have two…or a few!



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