two or more®

Small Church Curriculum for Kids™

Quarter

5



Ages 3-5

Only Preschoolers

LEADER GUIDE

two or more®

Small Church Curriculum for Kids®

Leader Guide

Only Preschoolers

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®

Only Preschoolers

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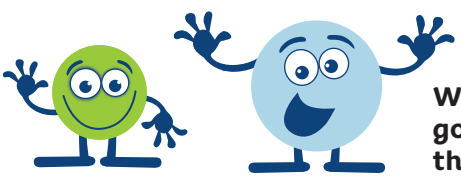
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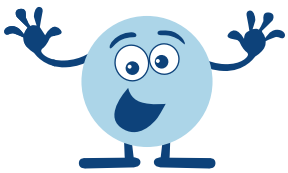
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We're Spot and Dot, and we're going to help you as you lead kids through these Bible lessons.

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 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...will this really be age-appropriate for my preschoolers?

Yes!

Two or More ensures that every lesson is simple and applicable for preschoolers.

Here are the ingredients of our secret sauce to make lessons meaningful for preschoolers:

- **Simplicity.** Kids learn one easy-to-remember Bible point each week.
- **Discussion**. We help preschoolers process discoveries and share their own stories through simple, preschool-friendly questions.
- **Application.** We make sure preschoolers know *why* the Bible story matters to them with application that makes sense in a 3-year old's world.
- **Movement.** Because kids are moving, they're engaged, and you'll keep their short attention spans.
- **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 have only 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.

Color and Create
Coloring sheets provide a visual preschoolers can enjoy and take home. These coloring sheets also include the Bible passage and a summary of what they learned, so parents can get a quick glance at what their kids are learning. Plus, some coloring sheets involve adding extra fun elements!

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! If you do use media, this is a great opportunity to involve teenagers as leaders—most teens know a lot about technology!

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. Some preschoolers are bold and make new friends quickly, while others are shy and prefer solo play. 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.

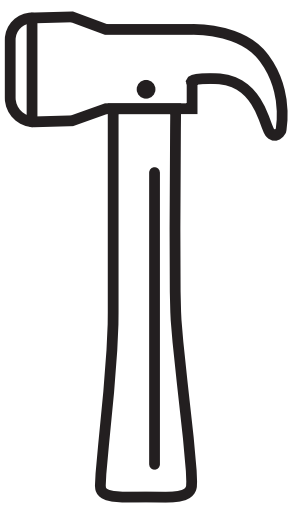
Point:
We are God's masterpiece.

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 See God's creation come from nothing and find out they are God's masterpiece.	How God made the world.
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Make props to use in photos.	God sees us as a masterpiece.
PLAY A GAME Sing an active song.	How to use our bodies to praise God.
COLOR AND CREATE Color a picture of the Bible story.	What happened in the Bible story.
PRAY TOGETHER Thank God for making all of them.	We can be thankful for how God made us.

BONUS OPTIONS		
	EXPLORE MORE Make modeling dough people.	God made us just the way he wanted us.
	SING TOGETHER Sing worship songs together.	How to celebrate God.

	MINUTES	EASY SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
	5		
	5		
	10	☐ Bible ☐ 11x17 sheet of white paper ☐ tissue paper (1 green, 1 blue, 1 yellow, 1 red, 1 brown) ☐ scissors (for adult leader)	☐ Make this creation scene. Pile 1 sheet of tissue paper per color top to bottom, as described on page 11.
	10	☐ colored card stock ☐ glue sticks ☐ crayons or markers ☐ fun stickers	☐ Make a sample craft to show kids. ☐ Cut the card stock into 2x8½-inch strips.
	10		
	10	☐ "God Makes People" Coloring Page (page 15) ☐ crayons	
	5		

	10	☐ Bible ☐ modeling dough (1 handful per child) ☐ paper plates (1 per child)	
	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 preschoolers sing a birthday song off-key.

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.

SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Today we'll learn ➡ we are God's masterpiece. A masterpiece is a wonderful thing someone made, like a beautiful painting or building. Let's begin by talking about wonderful things we've made.

ASK: What's the coolest thing *you* ever made? Share your own quick answer first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: Those sound like masterpieces! And God feels that way about you—➡ you are God's masterpiece! He made you, and he thinks you're wonderful. Let's learn more about that.

EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- 11x17 sheet of white paper
- tissue paper (1 green, 1 blue, 1 yellow, 1 red, 1 brown)
- scissors (for adult leader)

EASY PREP

- Make this creation scene. Pile 1 sheet of tissue paper per color top to bottom, as follows: green, blue, yellow, red, and brown. Cut a slit in the center of a sheet of white 11x17 paper, and place the slit over the pile of tissue paper. Loosen the slit so you can pull 1 sheet of tissue paper through the slit at a time.

EXPLORE PLANTS AND TREES

Gather kids around the creation scene you made.

SAY: We're exploring that ➡ we are God's masterpiece. Let's do something fun to help us understand what that means.

Show the Bible.

SAY: The Bible tells us how God made us and the whole world. It says he made the world from nothing. Point out the sheet of white paper. **It was kind of like this plain paper.**

Pull the green tissue paper through the slit.

SAY: God made the land and plants appear when there were no trees or land or plants at all.

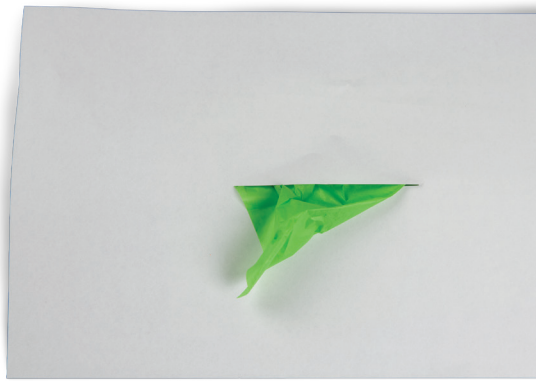
Form one end of the tissue paper into a tree trunk by twisting it, and then create a treetop by spreading out and shaping the other end of the tissue paper.

SAY: Let's make this treetop sway in the wind.

Let kids pass around the green tissue paper tree, swaying it from side to side. When the tree makes it back to you, set it aside.

EXPLORE WATER

Pull the blue tissue paper from the slit.



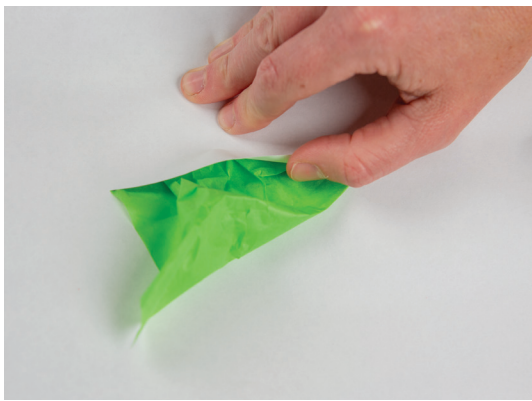
SAY: God made the water in the ocean and rivers, and even the water that falls from the sky. He made water appear when there was no water at all.

Hold the tissue paper on one end and wave it up and down like a wave, and then have kids pass it around and each take a quick turn waving it.

EXPLORE THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS

Pull the yellow tissue paper through the slit.

SAY: God made the sun and moon and the whole sky from nothing!



Create a sun by balling up the tissue paper. Allow kids to pass it around, and encourage them to pretend it's hot like the sun by passing it quickly.

EXPLORE BIRDS AND ANIMALS

Pull the red tissue paper through the slit.

SAY: God made the birds in the sky, too. Birds are all different colors, like this red cardinal bird.

Invite kids to make tweet noises. Fold the red tissue paper in half and hold it at the crease so it has "wings." Flap the wings, then let preschoolers do the same.

Pull the brown tissue paper through the slit.



SAY: God made the animals to live on the land and fish to live in the sea.

Hold the brown tissue paper in front of your face and make a bear noise, then have preschoolers do the same.

EXPLORE PEOPLE

SAY: God loved all of what he made, but there was one he called his masterpiece.

Look inside the slit and notice there's nothing else in there. Ask kids what they think God's final creation could be.

SAY: I don't need tissue paper to show God's last creation because our room is already full of God's masterpiece! ➡ We are God's masterpiece. That means we are his favorite part of creation.

Lead kids in jumping, wiggling, and running in place.

SAY: People are so special and important. He made us beautifully. A masterpiece is an amazing work, and that's what we are to God—something wonderful that he made! God made you exactly how he wants you, and he did it on purpose. When he looks at you, he says you are a wonderful masterpiece!

HANDS-ON DISCOVERY (10 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES
- colored card stock
- glue sticks
- crayons or markers
- fun stickers

EASY PREP
- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cut the card stock into 2x8½-inch strips.

SAY: Sometimes when people paint a masterpiece or take a beautiful photo, they like to put their artwork in a frame. God is proud of how he created us. Since ➥ we are his masterpiece, let's make frames for ourselves!

- Give each preschooler four different colors of card stock strips. Help kids use glue sticks to glue the ends of the strips together to form a frame.
- Kids can draw pictures on their frames.
- Let kids add fun stickers to both sides to finish off their masterpieces.
- After kids finish, encourage them to hold their frames up to their faces for their friends to see.

SAY: You can use these frames to take pictures of God's most amazing creation—you! ➥ You are his masterpiece.

Quick Tip

As a bonus, with parent permission, take photos of kids in their frames and send them out to parents.



PLAY A GAME (10 MINUTES)

TALK ABOUT OUR BODIES

SAY: God made every part of us.

Share your favorite part of how God made you. You may love the color of your eyes, your sense of humor, or the shape of your toes. (Feel free to make it silly.)

ASK: What's your favorite part of how God made you? Kids may say they like their hair, their smile, or the way they sing.

SAY: God made each one of you special. ➡ You are his masterpiece!

USE OUR BODIES IN A SONG

SAY: Let's sing a fun song about the way God made us.

Sing the following song to the tune of "Father Abraham":

God made people.

He made us all.

God made every part of us.

➡ I'm his masterpiece,

and so are you.

So let's all praise the Lord

with our right arm. *(move arm up and down for the remainder of the song)*

Each time you sing the song, list each of the previous movements and add one of the following movements as well:

- left arm (move both arms up and down for the remainder of the song)
- right foot (lift the right leg up and down)
- left foot (march for the remainder of the song)
- head (nod head)
- tongue (encourage preschoolers to sing the song one last time with their tongues out)

Repeat the song from the beginning as time allows, or you could add additional movements before the tongue if you'd like.

SAY: God made our arms and our feet and even our tongues. He made us exactly the way he wanted us to be, and he loves us just the way we are.



Celebrate Small

Because of your small group, you can find out what *all* of your kids like best about themselves. Use those attributes to continue to build kids up!



COLOR AND CREATE (10 MINUTES)

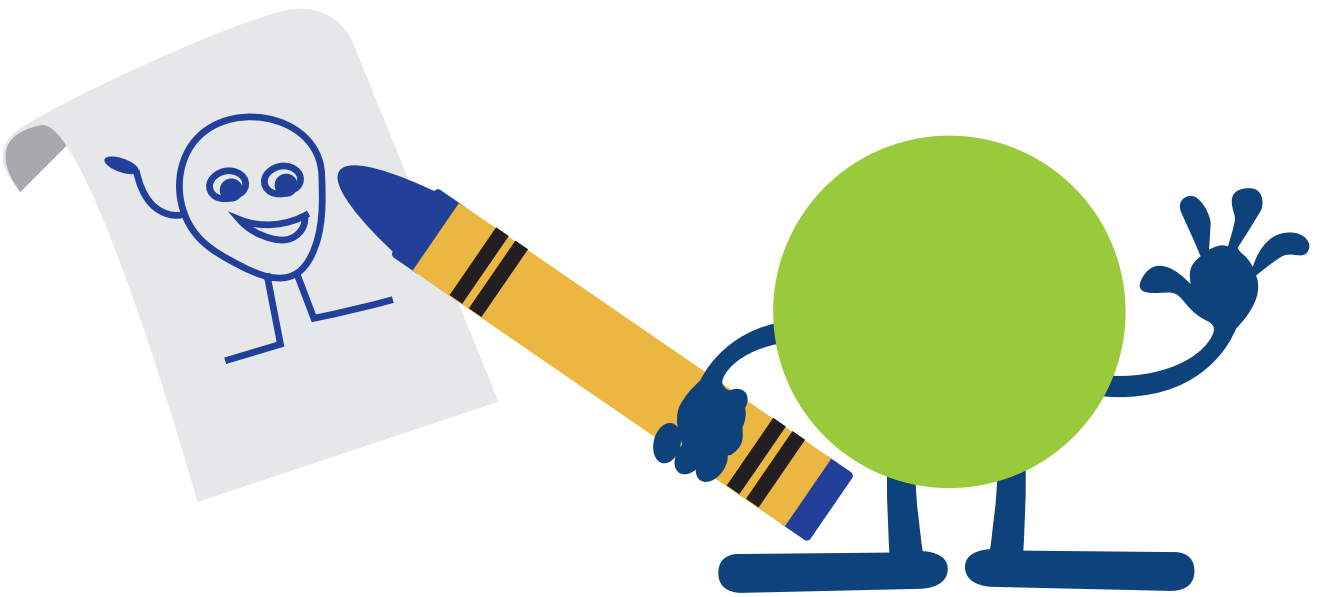
SUPPLIES

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

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons.

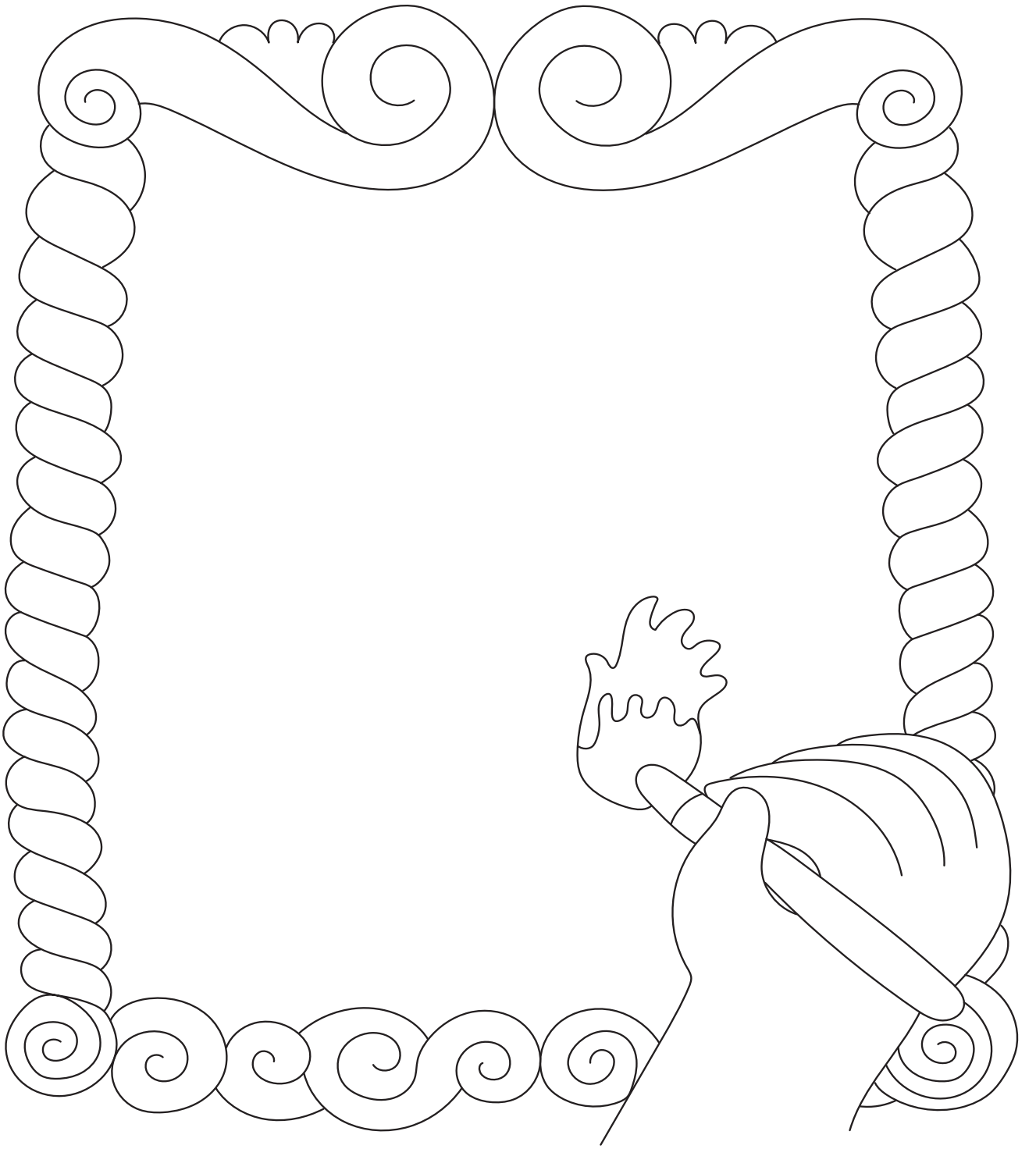
SAY: ➡ We are God's masterpiece. That means God made us—and he's really proud of how we turned out! God made the first two people, and then he kept making more. Sometimes people call paintings a masterpiece, so let's draw ourselves as if God is painting us.

Allow time for kids to draw self-portraits.



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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PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



SING A SONG

SAY: Today we learned that ➥ we are God's masterpiece. God made every part of us exactly how he wants us. We are wonderfully made—our heads, shoulders, knees, and toes!

Lead kids in singing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" with the motions in this way:

God, thank you for my *(prayer hands)*
Head, shoulders, knees, and toes! *(touch each body part as it is said)*
Knees and toes! *(touch knees and then toes)*
Knees and toes! *(touch knees and then toes)*
Eyes, and ears, and mouth, and nose. *(touch each body part as it is said)*
God, thank you for my *(prayer hands)*
Head, shoulders, knees, and toes! *(touch each body part as it is said)*

Repeat as time allows.

THANK GOD FOR OUR INSIDE

SAY: God made our bodies, and he made our minds and hearts. ➥ We are God's masterpiece. Even the things we think and feel are important to God. Let's thank God for making our inside—our hearts and minds, too.

Lead kids in a brief prayer and then close.

SAY: I'm so happy all of you masterpieces were here today to learn about God. I hope to see you next week, too!

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

TALK ABOUT CREATIONS

SAY: Today we heard about wonderful things God made from nothing. He made trees and oceans and animals. Then God reached down and carefully used his hands to shape his most amazing creation—his masterpiece, people!

Give each child a handful of modeling dough on a paper plate.

SAY: We can use our hands to shape this dough into all kinds of fun things.

Share about something you've made with modeling dough or any other sculpting supply.

ASK: Tell about something you like to make with dough like this. Kids may say they like to make a face, a shape with cookie cutters, or a snake.

MAKE A MASTERPIECE

SAY: Let's use this dough to make little people. First, we'll make a head.

Show kids how to take a small piece of dough and roll it into a ball.

SAY: God made your head. He gave you a face with eyes and a nose. God made your face special. No one else's face is just the same. ➥ You are God's masterpiece!

Have kids take another small piece of dough and set it aside. Lead them to roll the remaining dough into another ball and then flatten it a bit on the plate to make a body. Encourage kids to put the dough head on the top of the body.

SAY: We made a body for our little person. God made our bodies. He made them just the way he wanted them to be. ➥ We are God's masterpiece.

Show kids how to divide the remaining piece of dough into four smaller pieces. Then lead kids to roll each piece on a hard surface to make long, skinny pieces for arms and legs. Help kids attach the arms and legs to their people on the plates.

SAY: God gave us arms and legs, just like we gave our little people arms and legs. God carefully put each part of your body together in an amazing way. Listen to what the Bible says.

Read Psalm 139:13-14.

SAY: God didn't just make the parts we see on the outside. God made all the parts of who you are—the way you look on the outside and how you think and feel on the inside. And God loves the way he made you. ➥ You are his masterpiece!

In fact, God loves you *so* much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die for you! And Jesus came back to life. The fact that God sent Jesus shows us just how much God loves and values us!

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- modeling dough (1 handful per child)
- paper plates (1 per child)



Celebrate Small

Guided activities like this go much more smoothly in smaller classes because you can help preschoolers as needed!



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 preschoolers!

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 preschoolers and engage in meaningful experiences whether you have two...or a few!



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