

ACTIVITY 2. Creationary

ALL SUPPLIES ARE IN YOUR BOX

What You Need: “Thumbtationary Cards” (Activity Page), water-based inkpads, fine-tipped markers, paper, magnifying glasses, wet wipes, hard objects for kids to place their papers on (if needed)

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a variation of Pictionary®, using a set of “Thumbtationary Cards” (facedown), paper, an inkpad, and markers.
- Show kids how they can use their thumbprints or fingerprints—plus a marker—to draw pictures. You might illustrate a flower, a snail, or a spider.
- *NOTE: If there isn't a firm surface available, have a clipboard, small dry erase board, or hardback book available to press down.*
- One by one, allow each kid to have a turn drawing a card from the “deck” (being sure the others can't see) and using their thumb and/or fingertips and markers to create the item shown while everyone else guesses.
- When everyone has taken a turn, invite them to use the magnifying glasses to examine and compare their fingerprints. You can even ask kids to describe their prints, such as: “One of mine kind of makes a U,” “One of mine is swirly,” or, “Mine curve round and round.”
- Emphasize that no two people have exactly the same fingerprints. Each person's fingerprints are unique!
- Guide kids to wipe their fingers with the wet wipes.

What You Say:

“What were some of the things you drew? (*a cat, a cloud, a sun, a tree, a dog, a fish, a bird, a flower, a caterpillar, an elephant*) What do all those things have in common? (*Pause.*) Yes! They're all things made by God!

“The Bible tells us that EVERYTHING God made points to Him. So, when you **[Bottom Line] FOCUS** (*binocular motion*) **on what you can see**, you can see how amazing and wonderful God is!

“And you know what else? God called everything that He made good, but when He made His final creation—His masterpiece—He said it was VERY good. Do you know what God called very good? (*Pause.*) Yes! When God made people, He said His last creation was VERY GOOD.

“If God called people very good, what do you think God thinks about YOU? (*Pause.*) Yes! The Bible tells us that you are amazingly and wonderfully made! And God loves you more than you could ever imagine!

Yes, everything God created is there to point us to HIM. From the tiniest atom to the largest galaxy, we can see evidence of God—if we look. His fingerprints are everywhere for us to find. The more we LOOK, the more we discover; and the more we discover, the more proof we'll find of God's care, love, and power.”

“So, **[Bottom Line] FOCUS** (*binocular motion*) **on what you can see**. When you do, you'll see an amazing God!”

ACTIVITY 3. Verse to Take with You

SUPPLIES ARE IN YOUR BOX: ping pong ball from Activity 1. You supply the hair dryer and extension cord

What You Need: Bible, ping-pong ball, hair dryer, extension cord (if needed)

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible and look up Hebrews 12:2.

Finding verses with a multi-age group: Guide all kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd-3rd grade) to find Hebrews in the list under "New Testament." When the kid finds Hebrews, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it aloud, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find Hebrews. Ask older elementary kids (4th-5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their own Bibles. When they all find Hebrews, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 1, and give time for all the kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers, and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 2 in chapter 12. Then read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers; or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.

- Read the verse together.

NOTE: Try this experiment ahead of time to work out any bugs.

- With a hair dryer set on the cool setting, turn it up to high. Point the hair dryer toward the ceiling and carefully put the ping-pong ball into the air stream. When done correctly, the ball will float in mid-air.
- Look up <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2deFgyj3XQ> or similar YouTube® videos by searching "how to float a ping-pong ball on air."
- **Form** a circle in an area that allows kids room to pass the hair dryer while it is plugged in. (If needed, use an extension cord to make this possible.)
 - If your meeting space isn't large enough for a circle, choose one kid to stand near the wall where the hair dryer is plugged in and have the remaining kids line up behind him.
- **Demonstrate** how to use the hair dryer (cool setting only) to keep the ball afloat in midair.
- **Pass** the hair dryer around while still keeping the ball floating in the air.
- **Challenge** kids to keep the ball afloat as you guide them in reciting Hebrews 12:2 and then, without dropping the ball, pass the hair dryer to the next kid who will also say the verse.
- **Continue** around the circle until everyone has said the verse.

What You Say:

"God sent Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. So, in Hebrews 12:2, *Let us keep looking to Jesus* is a way to say we can keep looking to know God. One way to know God is to **[Bottom Line] FOCUS on what you can see.** We talked about how creation points to God. Here is the cool thing: we are part of God's creation. God made people because He loves us very much and wants to share His love and His creation with us. Focusing on all the people we can see in our lives points us to a God we can't see and points us to a God who wants us to know Him."

AMAZING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER KIDS

If you have 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Read Hebrews 11:1. Explain how this experiment illustrates the kind of faith talked about in this verse.
- If we could SEE God, do you think everyone would believe in Him? Why or why not?
- What do you see around you that helps you believe in God even though you can't actually see Him?
- Why do you think God made it so that we need faith to believe in Him?

ACTIVITY 4. WRAP UP w Focus Notebooks and 3D glasses

What You Need: Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Focus Notebook. **KEEP THESE FOR ALL 5 WEEKS**
- Show kids how to use the 3D glasses to focus on the pages and designs in the book.
- Explain that each week you will use the Focus Notebooks as part of prayer time.
- Ask kids to turn to page three in their Focus Notebook.
- Ask kids to write "God, I see You when I focus on . . ." on the top of page three or their index cards. *Note: If you have younger kids, you can pre-write it for them, or quickly write it for them in the moment.*
- Encourage kids to list and/or draw things they can see in creation that point them to God.

What You Say:

"Remember to take a closer look at the world around you. **[Bottom Line] FOCUS on what you can see** because all of creation—including you—points us to God. Let's pray.

"God, You are amazing! You are so creative! We just have to look at the number of colors in the world to see Your creativity. You love us so much! We just have to look at all the ways You feed us and all the wonderful things You created for us to enjoy. Thank You for showing us who You are in Your creation. Amen!"

(Put Focus Notebooks back in the box for next week)