

Identity MS| YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE

The Originals

When God made you, He didn't mass-produce you. He formed you, fearfully and wonderfully, as His own masterpiece. The world will tell you that you've got to copy someone else to fit in—wear their armor, chase their standard, live their story. But God says you belong as you are, because He made you on purpose. And when you live as His original, you discover what His Word has always said: You are chosen, created, and never alone. Our prayer is that students will see it, feel it, and believe it—they are chosen, created, and never alone.

CORE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

Identity, Purpose, Transformation

RESPONSE

Confidence, Truth

EMPHASIZED RELATIONSHIPS

God the Creator

MEMORY VERSE

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10 NIV).



Bottom Line

YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE

Topic

Identity

Scripture

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV):

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

25 min

Teaching

5 min

Introduction (ME)

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Tension (WE)

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Truth (GOD)

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Application (YOU)

What You Need

No supplies needed

Say: "In seventh grade I stood in front of a famous painting called 'The Last Supper.' Honestly, it looked boring at first glance. Then I stepped closer and noticed tiny details I had missed—the faces, the hands, the shadows. Every detail mattered. That moment helped me realize God does the same thing with people. He notices what the quick glance misses. Every detail of your life matters to Him. You are not background. You are part of the art."

Say: "Here's where it gets real. Most of us don't feel like a masterpiece. We scroll and start comparing. We edit pictures because we don't believe we're already a masterpiece. We act confident in the hallway while having no idea what's happening inside. We avoid people or get avoided because we don't know what to do with different. The fast glance tells us who's 'in' and who's invisible. The fast glance lies."

Read Ephesians 2:10 (NIV): *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

Say: "We are God's handiwork. That word means handcrafted. One-of--one. God made you in Christ Jesus with care and purpose, and prepared good works for you to walk in. That's not hype; that's truth. And it isn't just about how you see yourself, it's also about how you see the person in front of you. The classmate you scroll past, sit past, or walk past is one-of-one, too. If we only look from a distance, we miss God's art right in front of us."

Say: "The museum taught me that quick glances miss masterpieces. So does life. When the scroll, the mirror, or the hallway pushes you to edit yourself or avoid someone else, answer with truth. You are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. And so is the person next to you."

"Here's your simple challenge for today. After this, take a selfie and caption it, 'I am His masterpiece.' Then, when you see the next person, look them in the eye and tell them, 'You are His masterpiece.' It feels awkward for two seconds and then it feels right."

5 min

Landing (ME)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"This week, try to see people as God sees them—as unique, beautiful pieces of art. Write down one person you will try to see differently and commit to treating them as a masterpiece.

"Let's go back to that museum field trip. I didn't get it then, but I understand it now. Each painting was unique, special, just like each one of us.

"So, here's your challenge. Take a selfie after this, and when you look at that picture, remember that you are looking at God's masterpiece. And the next person you see, tell them, 'You are God's masterpiece.'

"And remember, YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE.

"Let's bow our heads. 'Dear God, help us see ourselves and others as Your masterpieces. Amen.'

"Thank you, everyone. Let's go out there and see the beauty of God's art in ourselves and others."

30 min

Groups

The aim of this discussion is to help students replace quick, surface judgments and comparison with a slower, truer view: everyone they meet is God's one-of-one workmanship. We want them to see themselves and others as handcrafted by God, created in Christ Jesus for good works He's already prepared.

5 min

Think About This

What You Need

No supplies needed

Middle schoolers live in scroll speed. Filters and editing can make them doubt that they're already a masterpiece. Remind them that God notices the details the quick glance misses, and that how we treat people changes when we believe each person is part of God's art.

15 min

Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

1. Warm-up: Name one small win from this week or one thing you genuinely like about how God made you that isn't about appearance. (Leader note: Easy on-ramp. Model grounded, non-appearance examples like kindness, humor, effort, including others. Keep tone light and affirming.)
2. Where does comparison talk the loudest for you right now—on your phone, in the mirror, in the hallway, or on a team—and what does it usually say? (Leader note: Normalize the experience. Watch for shame language; redirect toward honesty without self-insults. Name the filter/editing pressure.)

10 min

Try This

What You Need

No supplies needed

3. Read Ephesians 2:10 together. Which words stand out to you—workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, good works, prepared, walk in them—and how do they change the way you see yourself this week?
(Leader note: Tie identity to purpose. God's art comes with a way to walk.)
4. If you could redraw one part of your life, what would you change—and what would you leave the same?
(Leader note: This is the emotional question. Guard privacy; invite brief, sincere answers. Affirm what they'd keep as evidence of God at work.)
5. When have you felt avoided or been the one avoiding, and what might change if you believed that person is God's one-of-one masterpiece?
(Leader note: Gently name why we avoid—awkwardness, difference, fear. Move from confession to a simple next step.)
6. What short sentence of truth will you tell yourself when comparison starts, and where will you say it—mirror, lock screen, bus stop, before practice?
(Leader note: Coach them to keep it short and real, e.g., "I am one-of-one, made on purpose," "God's work in me is real.")
7. Name one person you'll see up close this week and one small action you'll take—say their name, save a spot, make eye contact, or invite them in.
(Leader note: Keep it specific and doable. Celebrate plans without pressure.)

Challenge Statement: Once a day, write one thing that makes you different in a good way and one way you'll show it tomorrow. Keep it simple and real. Let that habit remind you that you're one-of-one—and so is everyone you meet.