

Connect with God

Engagement Activities

God is good and I'm his good creation.

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

Choice #1: Spend time with God in Nature!

Find a quiet, natural area outdoors and go on a walk. Walk slowly and allow yourself to notice all the details you possibly can, and enjoy everything that you discover! As you walk, consider this: What does God's creation reveal about God? What does God's creation reveal about his love for creation? At the next crew club session, share your findings with your crew!



Bible verse: "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you, God's child, not much more valuable than they?" Matthew 6:26

Choice #2: Pray in color!

There are so many different ways to pray! Grab your favorite set of colored pencils, crayons, and markers and use them as you talk to God! Draw images and pictures of your prayer requests, using the colors below as you pray for specific people and for the world.



With the color **RED**, draw your prayers for your family and friends.

With the color **ORANGE**, draw your prayers for your teachers and leaders.

With the color **YELLOW**, draw your prayers for those who are sick, weak or in need of help.

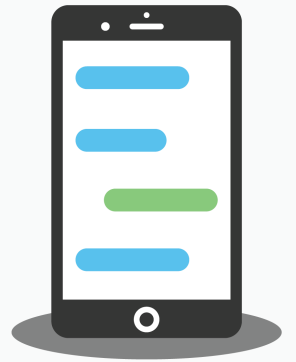
With the color **GREEN**, draw your prayers for the world God has created.

With the color **BLUE**, draw your personal prayers.

With the color **PURPLE**, draw and celebrate what God has done in your life and in the lives of those you know.

Choice #3: Start a texting encouragement chain!

Son, daughter, friend, grandma, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, mentor, role model...When we call someone one of these titles, it can express that we celebrate and honor that person's role in our life. Send a text message to someone who holds a special place in your life and share with them why they are important to you. Encourage them to pass along the encouragement to someone else that they want to honor!



Afterwards, consider this: What do you imagine God speaks over you? Craft a text message that you think God would send to you and keep it somewhere where you can go back and look at it.

Choice #4: Write a sidewalk chalk message!



Go to a friend's house or a neighbor's house and write an encouraging message or a Bible verse in chalk!

Choice #5: Memorize 1 John 3:1!

Memorize the Bible verse. You may want to write it on an index card and keep it with you throughout the month. You may even want to look up a different translation!

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

New International Version

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

English Standard Version

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

New King James Version

Throughout the month:

- Pray over the verse slowly, considering each word that makes up the verse and what it means. Give thanks to God that he wants to call us sons and daughters!
- After you memorize the verse, consider how it might apply at different moments throughout your day.
- Keep an index card with the verse inside one of your school notebooks or somewhere you see often.

Choice #6: Journal!

Utilize a journal, choosing on of the following ideals to guide you:

Keep a gratitude journal: Each day, record a list of things your grateful for.

Keep a prayer journal: Write (or draw!) your prayers and look back at previous prayer requests to see how and when God answered your prayers.

Journal your life story: As you record your story, consider the ways that God has made you or your story unique.

Record "God-Sightings": Bring your journal with you throughout the day. Record any instances where you see God at work in your life or in the lives of those around you.



Choice #7: Ask God: What does God love about you?

Spend time in silence listening to God as you ask him this question: What do you think of me? As you listen to what God says, keep in mind this verse:

"For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs." (Zephaniah 3:17 NLT)

Afterwards, consider the following questions: Is what God thinks about you different than what you think about yourself? What about how others think of you? Whose voice matters?

Choice #8: Be You!

Ask two or three people that know you really well about what they think are characteristics and natural talents that are most unique to you. Take a moment and celebrate the unique way God has made you! Then, come up with a way to serve others with your own unique characteristics or talents.



Examples:

- Provide free childcare for a family you know.
- Bake cookies and deliver them to families in your neighborhood.
- Help rake the leaves for a neighbor.
- Help younger students with homework after school.
- Spend time with someone you know who lives alone.

What else can you think of?