

Create



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.

Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.

Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Breath of God

Ask someone to read Genesis 29:15-28. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: God makes beautiful things out of the messiness of our lives.

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing**, **Visual**, or **Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✔ Create — Writing

I love antiques. I especially love to read people's description of antiques for sale... they can make something so old and worn sound so appealing and charming. For example, "Antique car for sale. Serviced regularly, runs well, a few nick and dings that can easily be touched-up, good mileage, and nice comfy, worn leather seats." OR "Antique dining room table for sale. Oak table, seats eight, sturdy, a few dings adding to its Shabby-Chic character. Eclectic style." Write a description, much like these descriptions of antiques for sale, of yourself. Include the good things about you and the not-so-good things. Let this be a whimsical and light-hearted way to explore your own short-comings.

✔ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create one of these visual items:

There is nothing messier than painting with mud! Create a piece of art using mud and dirt as your finger paint. (If you do not have access to mud and dirt, use different shades of black, brown, and grey paint. Add glitter or sand into the paint for the texture of mud/dirt.) But first, decide what image

you'd like to represent God or Christ. Then paint that image on either canvas or paper with mud. Write somewhere on the art, "God is present in the messiness of our lives."

Graffiti is an art form that is sometimes considered messy because it's canvas is usually the side of a building and is not welcomed by the building's owner. None the less, graffiti is so interesting and creative. Graffiti artists are usually very talented and their art usually tells a story or is very symbolic. Create your own graffiti using markers, paint, or spray paint that symbolizes who you are and how God has been faithful to you, even through your mistakes and messiness in your life.

✔ Create — Outside the Box

Using the art supplies provided, create outside the box.

For this Outside the Box, some extra materials are needed for creating A.R.T. or Artfully Recycled Trash. Gather all types of items from your recycle bin OR gather items considered "trash" from around your church or bible study space. Create a piece of art, something beautiful, something personal, something significant out of the trash. While you create an image of a flower, the sea, the sun, a heart, a hand, a face... think about how God is always creating beautiful things out of the messiness of life. Then, write a description of your art. Include in the description the title of the art, what it represents, and any story behind its significance.

✔ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and explain their meaning, or tell the stories behind them.

✔ Close

Offer a prayer thanking God for making beautiful things out of the messiness of our lives. Ask God to help you see beauty in the ugliest of places, people, situations.

by Carra Hughes Greer