

# 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, chalk, 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 Isaiah 40:1-11. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

**Say:** Isaiah reminds us that God is always constant. We can look to God, even when we feel outcast and ostracized from our community. Isaiah reminds us that in those times, God does not leave us. Isaiah calls us to prepare a way for God to come to us.

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

## ✔ Create- Writing

“A voice is crying out: ‘Clear the Lord’s way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!’” This verse from Isaiah 40:1-11 cuts to the core of Isaiah’s message here—God is present in our lives, even in the wilderness...we just need to make a way for God to reach us. Write about the “wilderness” you find yourself in currently. What about your “wilderness” could hinder you from fully experiencing and being present with God? What could you do during this Advent season to help you focus on God in the midst of this wilderness? When you have finished writing about your wilderness, write this verse at the bottom of your page as your prayer, “A voice is crying out: ‘Clear the Lord’s way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!’”

## ✔ Create- Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

This is the second Sunday in Advent where we celebrate “Peace.” Our text today from Isaiah

describes finding God in the midst of the wilderness. One’s “wilderness” or time of chaos, struggle, or hardship can seem exactly opposite to this Advent celebration of “Peace.” Create a piece of art using the “mosaic style” using colored paper, magazine clippings, newsprint, etc. depicting this yin and yang of “wilderness” verses peace. Think of the “wilderness” and chaos that surrounded Mary leading up to the birth of her babe, Jesus, and the Peace he would bring to humanity for centuries to come.

## ✔ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

## ✔ Close

Offer a prayer asking God to bring peace in the midst of our wilderness. Thank God for the hope we can have in the coming Prince of Peace.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group’s special gathering place).

By Carra Hughes Greer

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