

“The Wonder of Creating Hands”

“The Wonder of Hands” is a devotional series for Iowa District West preschool and early childhood ministries. The devotional series continues the theme from the District’s August conference. Directors are invited to use the devotion personally, share during a staff devotional time, or make copies to share with associates for their personal devotional time. The devotions might also be used for Board meetings or other gatherings of ministry leaders and partners. Please feel free to make copies and share. God-willing a new devotional theme will be shared the beginning of each month during this school year.



September 2013

Celebrating God’s Creating Hands

Can you picture God with hands? Scripture informs us, “*God is a spirit*” (John 4:24), and that He is not confined to our bodily form. However Scripture also describes the eyes, ears, and hands of God so that we might understand and picture His work. We celebrate God’s hands. While the rest of creation simply appeared at God’s speaking, Genesis 2:7 describes God taking dust in His hands and forming man. Later God’s hands form woman around Adams rib. God’s hands created Adam and Eve.

God’s hands continue to create human life. The Prophet Jeremiah was reminded, “*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you*” (Jeremiah 1:5). The Psalmist celebrates, “*For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made*” (Psalm 139:13-14). God’s creating hands made you. Perhaps we minimize His creating power with our reflections: “I wish I was taller, shorter, thinner, blond, prettier, younger, etc. Each of us is a unique and beautiful creation of God.

God’s creating hands made every child in your classroom. We may note that some of them have “special” physical or emotional conditions. In reality every child is a special creation of God. We have the privilege of reminding them that God created them and He did a great job.

Celebrating the Creating Hands of the Early Childhood Educator

Are you creative? We tend to limit our responses when we only consider the use of our hands to create a piece of art, an attractive bulletin board or other visual piece. Some early childhood educators are artistically creative and we praise God for those gifts. Praise God for the pictures your hands draw and the activity pieces your hands cut. Early childhood educators are also God’s creating hands when their hands take the hands of children and lead them to a new learning center or new activity. They are God’s creating hands when they extend the handshake to welcome a parent or grandparent to the center. They are God’s creating and comforting hand when they gently touch the staff member who may be dealing with a family crisis. They are God’s creating and powerful hands when they fold them in prayer asking for His blessing on the classroom, families, congregation and other entities of the early childhood ministry

Created by God of muscle, bone, tissue, blood vessels and skin our hands are wonders. Used by God to serve and bless His children our hands are wonderful. Thank You, God, for creating hands.

Hand in Hand—Reflections and Discussion

+ Respond: “I like my eyes, hands, hair, _____.” In what ways do you rejoice in God’s creation of you? Share creative compliments of His creation of others.

+ Think of every child in your classroom or program. In what sense is each a unique creation of God? How can you remind each child of God’s special creation of them?

+ How are you using your created and creative hands to serve God in your setting?

Holding God’s Hand in Prayer

“Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord, to Thee; ...Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.” Amen. (LSB #783 vs. 1-2)

Authored by Rev. Bob Riggert, Iowa District West Early Childhood Cabinet