

FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith

Creativity v.



Underachievement

Approaching a need, a task, or an idea from a new perspective.

How does a person of faith embrace Creativity? - By understanding that God is the source of all creativity.

Being creative requires that you be passionate about that which you are creating. Can you imagine how difficult it would be to be creative about something for which you didn't have any feeling? God is love and the source of all love and passion. The foundation of every character quality is love.

God has given us abundant creativity if we but tap into the security his Love offers us to do his will. When you feel loved and secure it is much easier to take a risk and think outside the box.

This month, find a new, creative way to spread the Kingdom.

To Practice Creativity I Will:

- ♥ use my talents for good
- ♥ see things from more than one perspective
- ♥ use principles to solve problems
- ♥ learn all I can
- ♥ look for new ways to be a person of character

Any others appropriate to your family?

God's Word on Creativity

"And he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze,

Exodus 35:31-32

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

1 Corinthians 3:10

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

"Jesus sent them out with these instructions: 'Don't go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, but only to the people of Israel—God's lost sheep. Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure the lepers, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!'

Matthew 10:5-8

King Solomon Teaches Us About Creativity

King Solomon was a very wise King (965-926 BC). God had told Solomon he could have anything he wanted, and Solomon did not ask for money or power. He asked that God would give him a wise heart so he could be a good king. This was a very creative request.

One day Solomon was faced with a problem. He had to be creative to solve the problem. Two women had brought one little baby to Solomon. Both women said they were the baby's mother. Solomon did not know these women before this and he did not know the baby. How could Solomon decide who was the mother of the baby? He said he would cut the baby in two pieces and give half to each of the women. This seems very mean, but Solomon knew what would happen. The real mother of the baby said "please give the baby to the other woman, but save his life." Solomon knew that this was really the mother of the baby. Solomon knew that the real mother would love the baby so much that she would give it away rather than have it killed.



Creative Lunch

Schedule a lunch meal when the family can have a meal that will be memorable. You can serve foods and eat them with a different utensil such as forks for soup. Serve hot dogs and eat them with corn skewers instead of a bun. See who can eat the most of the hotdog and still have it held together with the skewers. Have open face Peanut Butter sandwiches and provide all kinds of goodies for making a face on the sandwich such as raisins, mini-marshmallows, cheese curls, or whatever they can think of. When the meal is over, talk about the importance of creativity when approaching a task, a need or a problem. Brainstorm some of the problems that the family faces on a routine basis - sharing a bathroom, getting out the door on time, chores, etc. Can you come up with some creative solutions to these problems? Brushing teeth in the kitchen, create a “launch pad” by the door so everyone has a place to stage everything for the morning, etc.

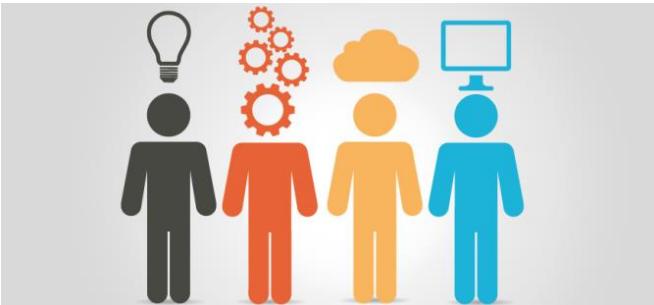
Sometimes our faith sets us apart from our more worldly neighbors. Sometimes the ability to think creatively helps us think differently than a purely secular person would think. Consider the “meal” that is shared at church, breaking bread together, and what an “out of the box” concept that is.



POSTER IDEA:

Creativity

Approaching a need, a task, or an idea from a new perspective.



“and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze”

Exodus 35:31-32

With what skills has God filled you?

Dear Jesus,
We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of Creativity in your life. We remember how you used stories and parables to teach your lessons. Help us to embrace our roles as your servants here on Earth and be all that we can be. Remind us to use our talents for good and to look at things from more than one perspective. May we learn, with your help, to use principles to solve problems. Teach us to look for new ways to be people of character. Guide us to learn all that we can. Help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father.

Amen.

Other ways to teach character in the home:

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.

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For more activities that can be adapted for family use, visit www.charactercincinnati.org/quality_resource.php?q=creativity