

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS - SESSION 5

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Short of time?

These are the core activities – topic introduction, Bible basics, real life application, time to reflect – taking action, and the prayer. If you have more time, then pick and mix additional activities from those below to add to these core ones.

What are we trying to achieve?

By the end of this session, your young people should have an understanding of how they were made uniquely by God and how he calls us all to use our skills and talents wisely to do good things.

Topic introduction

Note to leaders: Share this introduction with the group to set the scene for the activities and discussion to follow.

Length of activity: 5-10 minutes.

Sometimes our everyday lives can become a bit mundane and boring. How often have you sat at school or at home bored and wishing time would fast forward? However we don't have to look far to find a bit of colour, excitement or wonder in our lives. The world is literally full of creativity and innovation which can excite and inspire us.

Spend a few minutes as a group discussing your favourite songs, films, books, TV shows etc. How does it feel to sit down and watch a brilliant film, read a thrilling book, or listen to a song that really resonates with you or gets you dancing/singing?

All our favourite films, songs, TV shows etc have been created by gifted people who often have incredible talents that make them great at what they do. Christians believe that these creative talents and skills aren't an accident, but have been gifted by God. God has made each one of us unique and special. God gives us our talents and skills so we can use them for his work, to do good and to help others. We'll explore more about that later on in this topic.

The Royal family are passionate about creativity and innovation. It is well known that many members of the Royal family, including the Queen, enjoy the arts. The Queen herself is Royal Patron to the Royal Academy of Art, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), the Royal Academy of Music and other organisations and charities dedicated to promoting creativity and innovation.

Quirky question

Length of activity: 5 minutes.

Ask your young people the following question and have a short discussion using their answers.

If you could trade places with a movie star, singer, artist, author etc, who would it be and why?

Activity – Who Am I?

What you'll need: Paper, pens, a bowl and a timer.

Length of activity: 15 minutes.

This activity is a mash-up between Charades, Articulate and Pictionary, and a great way of using your words, actions and drawings creatively to communicate.

Before you can start the activity, you will need some names of famous people on small slips of paper. Ideally find about 30 names to play. Either write the names yourself beforehand or get the young people to write a few each before starting. Split your young people into even teams; 2-4 teams are ideal.

There are three rounds to the activity. In each round one person will pick out names from the bowl and try to get their team to guess correctly. One team should go at a time, with each team having 30 seconds a go, before passing to the next team. Keep giving teams 30 seconds each, until all the names have gone from the bowl. You can only pass on one name per go. A team gets one point per correct guess.

Round 1 - Talking Round - You can describe the famous person to your team using words only. You cannot say the person's name or what it sounds like.

Round 2 - Acting - Using the same names again you need to act out the famous name without speaking or making any noises.

Round 3 – Drawing – Again, using the same names, this time you can only use a pen and paper to draw clues for your team to guess from. No talking or writing of words allowed.

A round only finishes once all the names have been guessed correctly. The rounds should get harder as you go through the activity, but as the names remain the same, this should help. The winning team is the team with the most points after all three rounds.

Activity – In the Picture

What you'll need: Arts and crafts materials and/or cameras

Length of activity: 15 - 30 minutes.

Get creative and encourage your young people to create an image or self-portrait. This should be an opportunity for them to use and explore their creative skills, whilst also considering what makes up their identity, including their talents, skills and interests.

Explain to the group that the self-portrait should highlight something(s) that they are passionate about or makes them unique. For example this might be a love of sport, the fact that they can play an instrument, a passion for cooking and so on. This may mean that the self-portrait is an image of them doing something (rather than just sitting on a chair).

Allow the group to use a creative medium that best works for them. This might be using art materials (paints, pencils etc) or it could be using photography or film. Give the group a set period of time to create their image and then ask them to share the creations with the group.

Bible basics – We are God's Handiwork

What you'll need: A Bible.

Length of activity: 5 minutes.

Read Ephesians 2:10 to your group or get one of them to read it.

We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do..

Before looking at this verse in more detail, ask the group for their initial thoughts. What do they think the verse is saying?

Different versions of the verse use slightly different words. Some versions use handiwork, others use 'accomplishment', 'creation' or 'masterpiece'. For many it can be difficult to believe that God not only uniquely created you, but also views you as a masterpiece. The definition of a 'masterpiece' is a work of outstanding artistry, skill, or workmanship. Do you appreciate the fact that you are a masterpiece uniquely created by God? Are you using God's handiwork to do his work?

Real life application – Amanda Gorman

Note to leaders: More information about Amanda Gorman can be found online.

What you'll need: YouTube Video & Projector / TV (Optional)

Length of activity: 5 - 10 minutes.

Amanda Gorman is an American poet and activist. In 2021 she delivered her poem 'The Hill We Climb' at the inauguration of US president Joe Biden. Aged just 22, this made her the youngest ever poet to take on this role.

Amanda uses her creative skills to use words powerfully to shine the spotlight on important issues. She challenges people to think and inspires others to make positive changes. If the group have time, take 5 minutes to watch an example of Amanda's work. Good poems to [watch her perform](#) are 'Earthrise', a poem about climate change and our need to act and [the poem](#) she delivered at the US President Joe Biden's inauguration -

As a group, discuss:

- 👑 What did the group think of the poem(s)? How did it/them make them feel?
- 👑 How has Amanda used her God-given talent to do 'good works'?
- 👑 As well as Amanda's poem, what other creative skills could the group see in the video? (Photography, video editing, sound, lighting etc).

Time to reflect – Thinking it through

Length of activity: 10 minutes.

There are over 7 billion people on earth, yet not a single person was created by God to just exist and then die. Everyone has talents, skills and gifts given to them by God for a purpose. God wants you on his team, using your skills to fight in his corner.

Ask the group how they feel after they have created something they are proud of? Often this might be after spending a long time creating it, perfecting it and making sure it is 100% right. That pride and happiness is exactly how God feels after he creates each of us. We are perfect in his eyes.

There is literally nobody on the planet who is the same as you. No-one looks like you, thinks like you and acts exactly like you. God created just one of you, so you could use your personality, skills and talents in unique ways.

Everyone has a role to play. There are no reserves or spares in God's team.

Time to reflect – Taking action

Note to leaders: Encourage the group to stop and think. This activity would benefit from taking place in a quiet space, which can be made dark.

What you'll need: Candles and a lighter.

Length of activity: 10 minutes.

Hold up a candle and ask the group what is it and what is its purpose? Place the unlit candle in the middle of a room (close the curtains first to make it as dark as possible) and then turn off the lights. Ask the group what has gone wrong? Why isn't the candle making a difference and lighting up the room?

Once the group has explained that you need to light the candle, do this and observe the difference.

A candlemaker doesn't make a candle for it to sit in the dark and not shine a light. The candle is given a wick right through the centre, which is designed to be used to hold a flame to help shine a light. We are just the same. God hasn't created us to sit idly by doing nothing. We are called to go, make a difference and shine a

light. Amanda Gorman uses this thinking at the end of her inauguration poem where she finishes with the line, "For there is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it"

Finish by giving each person a candle and encouraging them to light it and place it in the middle of the room too. As they do so, encourage them to say a prayer and to reflect. What are your unique skills and talents? Are you using those skills to benefit others? What is God calling you to do with them?

Challenge – Time to Act

Note to leaders: This activity might involve thinking and planning during the initial 15 minutes and then being delivered in a following week.

What you'll need: Pens and paper

Length of activity: 15 minutes

How can you use your God given skills and talents to make a difference and do good in the world around you?

As a large group brainstorm different ways and then decide on a project / activity to take on. This doesn't have to be a major project, but instead can be a simple act such as baking for your church family or something similar.

Also spend some time reflecting on what thing(s) you could do outside of the group, in your own private life, to live out Ephesians 2:10.

Let us pray – A Prayer to our Creator

Note to leaders: Share this prayer with your group.

Length of activity: 1 minute.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for creating us uniquely, with a purpose and a plan. To know that you spent time making us into a masterpiece is amazing. Help us to remember that you created us with incredible gifts and skills. Help us to also remember that you gave us these gifts for a reason. Give us the knowledge, confidence and passion to use everything you gave us to do your work.

Amen.

Further Ideas

Speech Writing Challenge - encourage the young people to write a speech for the Queen, for her to use on the Platinum Jubilee - maybe make a video of them performing it.

Rise Up & Serve

Invite the young people to learn, perform and record the Platinum Jubilee anthem 'Rise Up & Serve' – find out [more here](#).

70 Acts of Service

The Queen has served the UK and the Commonwealth for 70 years. To honour her, let's join together in [70 Acts of Service](#) during 2022.