

Artistic Expressions of Faith 2023: Bless the Lent We Actually Have

Quilt Square Project–Youth

General instructions to the teachers/leaders of the various age groups:

- Use the 8" x 8" square cardstock which the Art Team will provide. If additional squares are needed, they can be found on a table with an art display in the Gathering Space.
- Using the prompts below and using art media of their choice (crayons, markers, jewels, collage, washable paint for thumb prints, photography, whatever), encourage the youth in your class to create their own artwork that conveys the theme(s) that has been assigned to your class. How might the theme be expressed on the cardstock? Suggest they use their God-given creativity to use colors and images to express their feelings. You can look at our sample display for ideas.
- There will be some squares available with outlines that can be colored, or if desired, simply write a key word (such as ALONE or LOVE) and have the youth decorate it in some way that shows their feelings about the concept, something like WordArt. Another idea is to write a poem or a few sentences about that feeling, or creatively write a Bible verse or two about feeling that way.
- Write the theme word and their name on the front of each square.
- Avoid using the outside edges of the square (keep about ¼" allowance) as those edges will be covered up when assembling the paper quilt.
- Put the completed squares for your class in the box with the hanging file folders on the display table in the Gathering Space by April 23rd.

Each teacher/leader will be given the following prompt(s) for their respective age groups:

3 years–PreK

Blessed are the curious

Listen to the story from John 3:1-17. Nicodemus wondered what Jesus meant when he said that he could be born again. What makes you wonder? What are some things that you wonder about? What does that make you want to do? Or think about a time when you explored something new. How do you feel when you wonder or explore? Create something of your very own that describes feeling curious, and how Jesus helps you when you feel that way. Remember, this is your own square and it's going to look different from your neighbor's because you are YOU and they are somebody different. If you aren't comfortable creating a totally unique design, you can use a pre-printed design of different images of faith (a cross, a dove, a rainbow, and an open tomb) and you can fill in the shapes and use the space however you like.

Grades 1–6 (2 choices)

Blessed are those who feel alone

Read Psalm 23. In this familiar psalm, we are shown how Jesus is our Shepherd who helps us when we feel alone. Have you ever had a time when you felt all alone? How does that feel, to feel all alone? How does Jesus help you when you feel all alone or left out? How might you put those thoughts and feelings down on paper? Create your own unique artwork that shows your thoughts and feelings about feeling alone and how Jesus helps you when you feel that way.

Blessed are those who mourn

Read John 11:1-44. In this story, Jesus' good friend, Lazarus died and Jesus mourned his death by weeping. Have you ever had a grandma or grandpa, an aunt or uncle, a close friend or a pet pass away? Have you ever lost your favorite stuffed animal or something else special to you? How does it make you feel when you mourn or grieve like that? How does Jesus help you when you mourn? How might you put those thoughts and feelings down on paper? Create your own unique artwork to show your feelings about all of this, and how Jesus helps you when you mourn.

Fusion

Blessed are those who hope still

Read John 20:1-18. The story is about how Jesus rose from the dead, so let's talk about hope. Lots of people think about hope as something that you wish will happen or want to happen, but as a follower of Jesus, hope is more than that. It's expecting with certainty that God will do what God has said. It's something you can depend on, something you can trust will happen. So, when are times when you felt that you've needed hope? Maybe someone (or something, like a pet) you love gets sick. Maybe you have a hard time at school with a certain subject and can't seem to figure it out. How does Jesus help you when you hope in God? How can you express your feelings about hope on paper? Create your own unique artwork that shows your feelings of hope, and how Jesus helps you when you feel that way.

Grades 7–12 (including confirmation class)

(2 choices)

Blessed are those who feel rejected

Read Matthew 21:1-11. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and later in the week he would suffer and die on a cross. Even his own followers rejected him. Think about times when you felt rejected. Maybe you've felt this way at school when other kids won't let you sit at their table. Maybe you've tried out for something (like the lead in a play, a team, or cheerleading) and you really wanted to get in but didn't make it. Maybe your best friend turned on you. Maybe you were bullied on social media. How does it make you feel to be rejected? How does Jesus help you when you feel rejected? How might you put those thoughts and feelings down on paper? Create your own unique artwork to show your thoughts and feelings of being rejected, and how Jesus helps you when you feel that way.

Blessed are the imperfect

Read Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus was faced with temptations, but used his trust in God to help him face the temptations. Have you ever felt that you don't measure up to other people, that you don't fit in, or that you're not good enough? Have you ever made mistakes or felt that you can't do anything right? Maybe you feel different from other people. Maybe there are things that other people can do that you can't do. What do you do when you feel that way? How does Jesus help you when you feel imperfect? How might you express that on paper? Create your own unique artwork to show your thoughts and feelings of being imperfect, and how Jesus helps you when you feel that way.