

# CUSTOM CREATIONS

Elementary  
Week 3

## **READ: Acts 16:13-15**

When I was a kid, I remember one time I made people out of popsicle sticks, yarn, glue and colored pencils. I was always making crafty messes and leaving glitter, glue, and paper scraps all around. I should have been better at cleaning up my messes. I really just did this for fun, for pure enjoyment because I had ideas. One day my mom showed these popsicle people to my grandma who was so impressed with my creation that she asked if she could have them and make her own and show her children's class at church how to make them.

Of course, I said yes, and I remember her saying something along the lines of how gifted I was, and wasn't even aware of it. This was years ago, I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and I thought she was just exaggerating. It was easy to do that and it didn't even feel that creative for me, yet it was so encouraging to hear that. As I went through middle school, high school and now into my adulthood, I am left wondering why God gave me such weird skills that were good for nothing, like why couldn't I just be better at science, or volleyball?!

Years later, I started an internship at a church and was put in charge of crafts for preschoolers. One day, I thought of a very similar activity and this memory came rushing back. This silly skill I had was being used by God. My grandma saw that in me and encouraged it even though I was just a kid. God was at work in ways I was never aware of ever since I was a kid.

It is convicting in two ways for me. First, how dare I question who God made me to be and say that his work was not good. As it says in Isaiah 45:9b, "Does the clay not say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' or 'Your work has no handles'?" Second, am I encouraging the kids I work with every weekend in their unique giftings that I get to see?

**What are some of your gifts that God has given you?**

**As you were growing up, were there people who encouraged you to use your gifts? How?**

**If not, how could have those people encouraged you?**

**Are there kids you see in kids ministry whose gifts you can encourage this week?**