

Priceless! You are a Masterpiece!

God's Masterpiece

Just recently while on vacation, my husband and I had a day to explore Ft. Lauderdale. We went downtown to a touristy area, and we strolled by lots of fancy restaurants, and trendy stores, and quite a few art galleries with "modern" art and sculptures. It was fun to see what some considered art.



I have no artistic ability whatsoever, so some of the pieces that looked just like paint splatter, I figured even I could do that. And to see the price tags—ouch! I guess I can spill paint on a canvas, call it art, and sell it for big bucks! There were a few pieces that

I would have loved to be able to purchase, and then there were others that I wondered who would want such an atrocity and where would one put it in their home. I know—no home is complete without a painted hippo sculpture.

In Ephesians 2:10 NLT Paul writes, **"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.** What makes a piece of art a masterpiece? It isn't a what—but a who. The Artist, the Creator, makes it a masterpiece. I am sure whoever painted this precious hippo prides themselves in their artwork, and whoever someday buys this hippo, they will display it proudly.

Just as I question if the graffiti covered hippo is artwork, I often look at myself and question God's handiwork. How can I be a masterpiece? I hesitated to show the picture of me and the hippo. It is not very flattering (and oh I want to make some hippo comments). I may not like what I see in the mirror, but to God He sees me as a masterpiece! He created me in His image (Genesis 1:27). He created me in my mother's womb and made me wonderfully and fearfully (Psalm 139:13-14). He is the Potter and I am the clay (Isaiah 64:8), and He made me with purpose and intention.

It isn't just what is on the outside that makes me God's masterpiece. Ephesians 2:1-3 tells about our sorrowful state before Christ: dead in our sins, gratifying the craving of our flesh, and deserving of wrath. But that is when God, the Master Artist, stepped in and turned us into masterpieces: **But because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved** (Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV) I am a masterpiece because of what God did for me, through His son Jesus Christ. I was dead and He made me alive. He created me anew for a purpose—to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10b NIV). He is the Master Artist, and we are His Masterpiece and we are to live our lives, displaying the recreation He did in us, so that others will come to know the Master Artist as well! So although I may not like the picture, I can hold my head up high knowing I am God's masterpiece and I gladly and willingly display His beautiful work in and through my life.



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Conversation Starters



Gather with some friends and spend some time going deep with conversation around the fact that you are God's masterpiece.

- ◆ When you hear "masterpiece" what comes to mind? What makes something a masterpiece? What works of art would you consider to be a masterpiece?
- ◆ God is an amazing artist. What do you think is the most beautiful thing God created? Why?
- ◆ Do you consider yourself to be God's masterpiece? Why?
- ◆ God is still creating. He is shaping you and creating you to be more like Him. What has God been creating in your life lately? Does it make you feel comfortable? Why or why not?
- ◆ What is an experience in your life that at the time appeared to be a big mess but as you look back on it, you see how God made something beautiful out of it?
- ◆ What lessons did you learn in the process of Him turning a mess into a work of art in your life?

"You are a masterpiece, fashioned expertly by God Himself. When you think of all that God has created, that is an amazing thought." Derek Prince

Additional Resources

Check out our website for more resources to help you focus on your identity - You are loved: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Bible Study: *God's Masterpiece* by Major Cheryl Kistan

Blog: *You are My Masterpiece* by Commissioner Colleen Riley

Craft: *Creating a Masterpiece* by Captain Aimee Docherty

Devotional: *Masterfully Quilted* by Captain Ryan Boyd

Check out our Playlist of songs that speak of our identity in Christ:

WM 2024-2025

Priceless: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7xLxDn8lLdAq4je3D5L4YK?si=547054ac7309495c>

Pray with Clay

For this month's prayer activity, get some clay or play dough. This is an interactive prayer time where you will pray as you play with clay. As you play with the clay, and shape it, prayerfully ask yourself the suggested questions and then listen to what God has to say to you.

Hold the clay in your hand. Begin your pray time meditating on this verse:

And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand (Isaiah 64:8 NLT).

Visualize yourself as the clay; and that you are in God's hands. Praise Him for the fact He is the potter and He's in control of shaping you into who He wants you to be.

Knead the clay to soften it. Where does God need to soften you? Are there any hard attitudes that need to be dealt with?

Pound the clay. What frustrations are you facing right now?

Crumble the clay. Where is your life crumbling right now?

Roll the clay. As you do, what burdens you need to roll onto God and allow Him to carry?

Flatten the clay. What attitudes need to be flattened out of you?

Shape the clay. What is God shaping in your life right now? What is He creating new in your life? What are you shaping your clay into? Why did you choose that shape? What is God saying to you?



God is the Master Artist, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth!

Flourishing in the Word

God is the Artist and we are the Masterpiece. This month's reading plan will help you discover all about God, our Creator.

Mar 1	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Mar 17	Isaiah 42:1-9
Mar 2	Genesis 2:4-25	Mar 18	Isaiah 45:18-25
Mar 3	Job 12:7-25	Mar 19	Isaiah 64:1-12
Mar 4	Psalms 8:1-9	Mar 20	Jeremiah 10:1-16
Mar 5	Psalms 19:1-14	Mar 21	Jeremiah 18:1-10
Mar 6	Psalms 33:1-22	Mar 22	Jeremiah 32:16-27
Mar 7	Psalms 90:1-17	Mar 23	John 1:1-5
Mar 8	Psalms 95:1-7	Mar 24	Acts 17:16-28
Mar 9	Psalms 96:1-13	Mar 25	Romans 1:18-25
Mar 10	Psalms 100:1-5	Mar 26	Ephesians 2:1-10
Mar 11	Psalms 104:1-35	Mar 27	Colossians 1:15-23
Mar 12	Psalms 121:1-8	Mar 28	Hebrews 11:1-6
Mar 13	Psalms 136:1-9	Mar 29	Revelation 4:1-11
Mar 14	Psalms 139:1-18	Mar 30	Revelation 21:1-27
Mar 15	Psalms 146:1-10	Mar 31	Revelation 22:1-21
Mar 16	Isaiah 40:12-31		

Flourishing Ideas from the Territory

Anchorage Korean, AK started a weekly knitting group and includes a time of Bible study.

Centralia, WA enjoyed an inflatable obstacle course that was set up for the kids.

Fairbanks, AK sent encouragement cards and small gifts to teachers and staff at the elementary school closest to the corps.

Mat-Su Valley, AK are currently studying the book *The Power of a Woman's Words* by Sharon Jaynes.

Murrieta, CA celebrated the Jewish feast of Rosh Hashanah during the fall. Perhaps celebrate one of the spring Jewish holidays: Purim (March 13-14), Passover (April 12-20) or Shavuot (June 1-3)

Petersburg, AK ladies enjoy watching the show "Outlast" together. They gather at the corps, watch the show, fellowship, eat, and then talk about it afterwards.

San Gabriel, CA ladies are being intentional about the older women teaching the younger women.

San Pedro, CA started a quarterly newsletter to be used as an outreach tool to invite other women to join them.

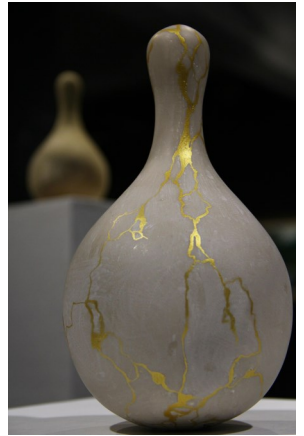
Spokane, WA did a Bible study on the book of Philemon.

Kintsugi—Beauty in the Broken

Kintsugi is Japanese art that repairs broken pottery with gold, rendering a new piece of artwork. The word literally means to “join with gold.” It takes what was broken, and restores it to something new, something different, something beautiful. The beauty is that the brokenness is evident. It isn’t trying to glue the vase back together again, hoping that nobody will notice that it was broken. Rather kintsugi is emphasizing the fact that it was broken, but is now whole again.

What a beautiful picture of what God does for us. We all have parts of our lives that feel broken and shattered—events that nearly destroyed us. Often we want to hide the broken parts of our story, and shove them aside and do everything in our power to not let anyone else see the evidence of brokenness.

But instead of that being the end of the story, our Master Artist, our Heavenly Father, lovingly puts the pieces back together with His grace, His kindness, His patience, forgiveness, and all the other gold-like attributes of His character. He skillfully puts the pieces back together in a new way—we are different, we are better! We have evidence that God has worked in our lives. He wants us to display the work He has done in us for others to see. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:7, ***But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*** Let the beauty of your brokenness be displayed so that others can see God, how He turned a mess into a message, a test into a testimony, a trial into a triumph and a victim into a victory!



“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10 NLT



Identity Statements

God is the master artist and you are His masterpiece! Here are some identity statements for you to claim, memorize and meditate on.

Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands. Psalm 119:73

Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8

But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Jeremiah 18:4

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us new in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 NLT
