

Chapter 4 Activity: Made With a Purpose

By Karen Noal



Teaching Goal: God gives us special abilities to be used for ministry.

Scripture: Psalm 139:13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Exodus 31:3 ...and I have filled him with the spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.

Exodus 31:1-11 List of names of skilled workers and work needed to be done for the tent of meeting (where the Israelites were going to worship).

Materials: Paper
Pencil or marker
Peanut with shell
LEGOS, blocks or other age appropriate building materials

In Advance: Put the peanut in your pocket, out of sight.

☺ Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. ACTIVITY #1: Even before we were born, God designed each one of us with special abilities and skills. His plan is for us to discover those special abilities and use them for His purposes. Invite a volunteer to read Psalm 139:13. **Here is an example from the Bible of people with special abilities who used them for God's purposes:**

A long time ago when Moses led the Israelites, they needed a place to worship—a church. God knew that many people would be needed and that they would need special abilities and skills to complete what He wanted done. God provided the skills and knowledge to the people he had chosen to do His work. Some people think that only preachers or teachers are important to God's work. That's not true. God needs people with all kinds of abilities and skills. Invite a volunteer to read Exodus 31:3.

Let's build a building with these blocks. If we were to build a church what kinds of materials would we need and what kind of skills would be needed to complete the building? *Help children to recognize all that goes into a building and how many skills are needed to make it. Architect, cement and brick layers, carpenters, plumbers, furnace and A/C installers, carpet layer, decorator etc.* While children are building, tell them about everything and everyone that was needed to build the Old Testament tent of meeting. Exodus 31:1-11.

Materials

Gold, Silver, Bronze
Stones

Skills

Artistic Designers
Stone Cutters

Wood	Carpenters
Tents	Tent Makers
Ark	Craftsmen
Furniture	Furniture Makers
Clothing	Tailor
Perfumes & Incense	Scent Maker

God provides people with skills and He wants us to use our skills and abilities to serve Him.

B. ACTIVITY #2: Be sure you have the peanut in your pocket. **I have something in my pocket that has never been seen or touched by anyone anywhere ever before!!! Would you like to guess what it is?** Play this up. Get the children to wondering how it got in your pocket if no one has seen or touched it before. After a few minutes of not being able to guess, pull out the peanut. Children will at first say they've seen a peanut before. Crack open the peanut. **You may have seen a peanut before but this particular nut has never ever been seen or touched by human hands. It grew inside of this shell, and this is the very first time the shell has ever been opened.**

Like this ordinary peanut shell, we are ordinary people but we have something inside of us that maybe no one has ever seen before. God has given us skills and abilities that He wants to be able to use in our lives. He gives us knowledge and new skills every day. We might not be able to see it in ourselves or in other people but it's there, just like no one had ever seen the inside of this peanut.

Few skills can be learned overnight. It takes time and practice. God is building skills in you now that He will use later. We need to be ready when God wants to use our skills.

C. ACTIVITY #3: **Can you identify special abilities and skills that you have that can be used to serve God? Let's make a list of things you are learning to do and ways that God might use your abilities later.**

Examples:

Learning numbers	Help with accounting at church Manage money better in order to give
Cook	Help with meals for special events Cook for others, show hospitality

Memorize "...you knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13

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