

Being Creative

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Reading: Psalm 103:1-5

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up; it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forever more

Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3

I Am The Lord (Do Not Fear)

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you
And the waves will not overcome you

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you
I have called you by name; you are mine

I am the Lord your God
I am the Lord your God (I am)
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior
I am the Lord (do not fear)
I am the Lord (do not fear)
I am the Lord (do not fear)
I am the Lord (do not fear)

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you
And the flames will not consume you

Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

Reading: Mark 2:18-22

From the beginning, God reveals himself as creative. Without any specific reason that we know, God creates the world and everything in and around it in the first two chapters of Genesis. God calls Abram out of a country that worshipped idols and grows his family into a new nation: Israel. When Israel turns its back on God, God speaks through the prophet Isaiah to tell them He is once again “doing a new thing.” And of course, we see so much of God’s desire to create something new through the life of Jesus.

In Mark 2, the people around Jesus know he believes in the same God as them, but the way Jesus obeys his Father looks different than the way they’re used to. While those people are a bit disoriented by something unfamiliar, Jesus assures them that God is doing something new.

Sometimes we get stuck in a rut and assume God is done doing new things. And it’s true that we can trust in God to be constant. But throughout history, God has shown us that He will go to great lengths and work in various ways to call people into relationship with Him. So, as we adjust to a different way of life for the time being, we can have faith that God’s love is constant and will never leave us. At the same time, we believe our creative God is always working through different circumstances and challenges to call people back to Him. In light of all this, consider a few questions:

- When we create/make new things, we're doing something that God enjoys to do as well. What sort of creative things do you like to do?
- Where do you see God making or doing new things in the past few weeks?
- What new opportunities do you have to love God, love people, and make disciples now that you might not have had a few weeks ago?

New Wine

In the crushing, in the pressing, You are making new wine
 In the soil I now surrender; You are breaking new ground
 So I yield to You and to Your careful hand
 When I trust you I don't need to understand

So make me Your vessel, make me an offering
 Make me whatever You want me to be
 I came here with nothing but all You have given me
 Jesus bring new wine out of me

In the crushing, in the pressing, you are making new wine
 In the soil I now surrender; You are breaking new ground
 You are breaking new ground

'Cause where there is new wine there is new power
 There is new freedom and the kingdom is here
 I lay down my old flames to carry Your new fire today

Prayer Prompts:

- Thank God for being constant—always loving, always caring, always calling us back to Him. Thank Him for doing new things and going above and beyond for us.
- Ask God to show you new ways to love Him, love people, and make disciples.
- Think about someone you know who needs to know about Jesus. Ask God to help you be a good friend to them and take a step toward talking to them about Jesus.