

Trash to Treasure

By Paul Turner- Disciple Project Ministries

Geared toward: Middle School

Theme: Purpose

Supplies: Small trash cans, markers, glue, pipe cleaners, and any other arts and craft supplies you want to offer, and some rubber gloves.

Opening Illustration

Explain to the students that there is an artist in London who literally takes trash and turns it into art. If you have internet access show some of the pictures on your computer or iPad or you can print the picture off and pas them around.

Click here -----> [Street Artist Makes Art Out Of Trash](#) to see the pictures of trash/art

Click here -----> [Art is Trash Blog](#) To see the artists blog and more pictures

Opening Game: Have a small office trash can filled with trash for three teams of three. If you have pre-filled the trash cans with your own stuff (clean garbage if you will) such as Styrofoam cups, soda cans, etc, then the gloves may not be necessary but if you are taking real garbage cans filled with who knows what, I recommend handing out gloves.

Tell the three teams that they will have 5 minutes to take the trash and make some kind of art out of it. Offer a prize. Take pictures and post them. Display the art somewhere in your youth room.

Lesson

Ask your students:

Do you ever look in the mirror and think of yourself as less than God's creation?

Do you call your yourself unflattering names like ugly or trashy?

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1

What does the writer mean when he says, of God, "He makes everything beautiful in it's time?"

We are all in process. Some of you grew taller over the summer or experienced some other kind of change on your way to growing up. Just because you are in a different part of the growing up process it does not mean you are any less beautiful.

Read: Ephesians 2:10

We are God's workmanship, his works of art, prepared to do good things. Do you ever feel like you were meant to do something or born to do something like play sports, sing, etc.? That may be one kind of good work you can do. How many of you like to serve others, or you like to entertain people at your house, or share Jesus with other people? Those are other ways God may have prepared you to do good works. In other words, God doesn't make trash, He only makes beautiful works of art that have a purpose.

Wrap Up: You can show a video from Sermon Spice called [God Restores](#)

Ask: Can anyone name some people from the Bible who God recycled from something others thought were trashy to something useful?

You could refer to lepers (Luke 17:11-19) or Zacchaeus the tax collector (Luke 19:1-10)

if God can do this in the lives of these people, and countless others through-out scripture, can't God do it for us as well.

Close in prayer.

See the online version of this on my You Tube Show: [The Tuesday Panic](#)