

TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION (TFT) RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Continuing Christian Education at Home

TFT can be summarized through the phrase: **"See the Story: Live the Story"**

We need to recognize that we are all part of God's Story. We are part of His Grand Narrative! And we are all invited to play a role in this unfolding Story. Once we know this fact, then our next step is to figure out how to play our part in this Story. TFT provides 10 ways to think about this and we call these ways Throughlines. We can be on the lookout for Throughlines in all areas of our life: on a walk outdoors, in the media that we consume, in the science that we study, in the books that we read. But it is not enough to just talk about the Throughlines, we need to invite students to BE the Throughlines. For example, as we learn about Community Building, we need to create opportunities to BE Community Builders.

You have probably heard about TFT already, as your child's teachers use this framework. The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (<https://pcce.ca/>), with the help of some of our fantastic member schools, has created some resources to help you integrate TFT into this new learning journey at home. Each week you will receive a new resource that will provide a Throughline for your family to dive into. The resource package will include an overview of the Throughline, Scripture connections, related songs, activities and digital resources. But what we are most excited about are suggestions for Formational Learning Experiences (FLEx), where your family will not just learn about the Throughline, but will have an opportunity to BE the Throughline. As your family engages in the activities, we invite you to post photos to Instagram and Twitter using the hashtags: #LivingtheStory #YourSchoolName #PCCE. Follow PCCE on Twitter and Instagram ([@prairiecentre](#)). It will be exciting to see what other families in our Prairie Centre community are doing. Maybe you'll get a great FLEx idea from someone in Fort McMurray or Portage LaPrairie.

As you begin the transition to working with your child at home, here are a couple Family Rhythms we encourage you to add to your routine:

1

MORNING MEETING

Spend a few minutes once per day and try these three things:

- **Name:** welcome each person by name so that everyone hears their name spoken in a positive manner. You can include a question for everyone to answer: your favourite part of yesterday, something you're looking forward to today, your favourite pizza, an emotion that you're feeling right now, a favourite joke. Let your children select questions too.
- **Game:** include something fun that gets people laughing and/or moving. There are lots of websites with team-building type activities if you want to try a few new things. Brain science recommends doing 10 minutes of vigorous physical activity at the beginning of the day to optimize learning and reduce behaviour management.
- **Frame:** end your circle with a reading that frames the learning for the day. You could use a scripture from the Throughline resource or another reading you find. Again, include your children in selecting and reading. Include a prayer time.

2

FRIDAY REFLECTION TIME

Take some time each Friday to reflect on the week. The attached resource has some questions to guide this discussion as it relates to the Throughline of the week. Reflections can be done orally, in written form, video, acted out - be creative!

WEEK 2 - BEAUTY CREATING

SUMMARY

As image bearers of a creative God, students will glorify and praise God by creating that which is beautiful or miraculous. This creativity that students offer as a sacrifice of praise will be acknowledged as something that isn't optional but a joyful duty.

GOING DEEPER

When we look at the world around us, the plants, rocks, animals, sea creatures, insects, the skies and beyond and especially people and their intelligence and capabilities... it shouts that our God is a God who loves diversity, complexity, and creativity.

Schools must draw attention to God's creation and its wonder and weirdness. We must stop and look and wonder, and create the opportunities to see the beauty, delicacy, oddity and miracle in everyday things.

God created people to be creative beings. We are image bearers of this creative God! Glorifying and praising God by creating is a joyful duty of being an image bearer. In fact, Christ says that if we don't praise God, the rocks themselves will cry out. Praising God through the act of creating is not an option – or an elective or "frill."

But how does God mean for us to use this creativity – what's its point?

Obviously, beauty creating offers praise to God. God created humans capable of creating beauty and responding to beauty. God gave us this world to enjoy, to play in, to explore. We also realize, when we see this beauty, how much God loves us.

But there's more. Being an image bearer means having the ability and responsibility to discover, respond to, develop, use, and improve the world that God has placed us in. Beauty creating enriches our lives. The natural creative desire and ability God gives each child needs to be stimulated, encouraged, and developed in as many different ways as possible.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES **Could be used for devotions or memory work.**

Genesis 1:31a

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

Colossians 1:16

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. here is one body and one Spirit."

Exodus 31:3-5

"I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills — to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts."

Other Passages to Ponder:

- **Philippians 4:8**
- **Ephesians 2:10**
- **Psalms 8**
- **Psalms 27:4**
- **Genesis 5:1**

WEEK 2 - BEAUTY CREATING

SONGS

You can use these as part of your morning devotions or to play in the background during work

- [GOD OF WONDERS](#) (THIRD DAY)
- [BEAUTIFUL](#) (MERCYME)
- [YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL](#) (PHIL WICKHAM)
- [HOW GREAT THOU ART](#) (CHRIS RICE)
- [HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD](#) (CHRIS TOMLIN)

ACTIVITIES

Ideas that you can connect to the learning that is happening or encourage in your student's free time.

- Make cards for seniors, pastors, waste removal workers, health care workers, etc.
- Create a mural (assign different parts to your group)
- Plant/maintain flowers and trees
- Beautify an area
- Write a poem for somebody
- Write a story (try out [Storybird](#))
- Create/memorize some jokes and tell them to someone who needs encouragement
- Create your own Youtube video of [Creation Calls](#)
- Learn/compose a song to sing and ask for feedback from someone you trust
- Practice an instrument and perform a song for someone
- Research, learn how to take good pictures and start a photography portfolio
- Make a digital scrapbook for someone
- Start a Youtube channel that celebrates Biblical beauty
- Build something useful for someone
- Paint/sketch - Develop your own recipe and try it out

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Digital books, devotion ideas, online resources, blog articles, etc.

Student Focused:

- [Storybird](#) - Digital story writing website (Div 2,3)
- [Starry Night Dominoes](#) - Video (Div 1,2,3)
- [Art for Kids Hub](#) - Youtube tutorials (Div 1,2,3)
- [Cateater](#) - Stop motion video creator (\$) (Div 3,4)
- [Joytunes](#) - Tips & Resources to learn an instrument (Div 3,4)
- [Diversity Dance Routine](#) - Youtube video (Div 1,2,3)
- Streets of [Italy singing](#) during COV-ID19 lockdown

Teacher/Parent Focused:

- [A Great Collection of Beauty Creating Articles](#) - (Why We Need Artists, How True Art Points to God, Is Beauty Objective?, etc.)
- [Beauty for Ashes](#) - Youth Group lesson plan
- [Isaiah 61 Scavenger Hunt](#) - Printable & Lesson
- [Make Something Interesting](#) - Blog
- [Hymnary](#) - A catalogue of Christian hymns
- [Beauty & the Gospel](#) - Blog article
- [Digital Photo Challenge](#) - Photo challenge game

FORMATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES (FLEX)

These are experiences that connect our learning/work to real people/problems (to go beyond our normal classroom walls). These are authentic opportunities for students to practice living the Kingdom story.

Use some of the ideas in the "Activities" section above and create something that brings joy to someone outside your home. It would be great to reconnect with the person/group you connected with for last week's Community Building focus. Here are a couple of other great ideas:

- [#chalkyourwalk](#) - write encouraging chalk messages, inspirational quotes or hopeful Scripture passages on your neighborhood sidewalks. Post them on social media.
- Paint rocks with positive pics or words and leave them around your neighbourhood.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS/SENTENCE STARTERS

It is said that we don't learn from doing, but from reflecting on what we do. Give students time and space to reflect on their experiences and learning this week.

- How did you respond to beauty this week?
- What did you learn about beauty creating in your school work this week?
- Why should we create beauty?
- Who is someone that inspires you to create beauty? Tell me about them.
- When have you created something that made someone happy?
- Where did you see beauty this week?