

# Create



## ✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide pens/pencils, paper, and envelopes for the writing option. Identify a non-profit or group in which to direct the letters for the writing option.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

## ✓ Breath of God

Ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 62:1-7. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

**Say:** In Isaiah 62:1-7, we hear the prophet Isaiah reminding the people that their desolation will be restored into belonging. These words are a powerful reminder that God is a God who restores even the worst of situation. They also remind us that, like Isaiah, we must not keep silent. As followers of a God who restores, we must also be about the business of restoration, and that starts with standing up for those who are hurting, cast out, and in need of God's restoration.

**Ask:** When have you felt like you did not belong to a group?

Invite each participant to choose either the Writing or Visual approach. Spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

## ✓ Create- Writing

Invite writers to write a letter to a designated individual, group, or organization. These letters can contain words of encouragement and hope for someone who is in a difficult situation, or these letters could be directed at a group or organization advocating for change.

## ✓ Create - Visual

Ask each group to make a small token that they can take with them to remind them to stand up for others and be part of God's restoration. Artists can create a small picture, sculpture, or other visual art

piece to remind them of the importance of advocacy.

## ✓ Share

Call the group together. Allow participants to share their creations with the large group.

**Ask:** How can we do a better job of advocating for others and sharing God's love?

Close with prayer.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place.)

By Noelle Owen

## Church Websites

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