

T H E M A K E R
cultivating
A N D
creativity as a
B E A R E R S
remedy to
O F L I G H T
darkness

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This contemplative piece will encourage you to consider and implement the process of creativity in all areas of your life. As image-bearers of God, creativity is our birthright, given to us from the Creator Himself.

Let's explore this together.

Engaging in new ways can feel unsettling. Know that God is with you as you engage in this practice of contemplation.

Remember that:

*perfection is not the goal,
connection is.*

creativity
LIGHT
is our
MAKER
birthright

We are created beings living in a created world that the Maker Himself has declared is "good". His story begins with 5 simple words: "when God began to create" (*Genesis 1:1 CEB*).

When God began to create He did so with intentionality, designating purposes to His creations.

When God began to create He lavished His creations with beauty.

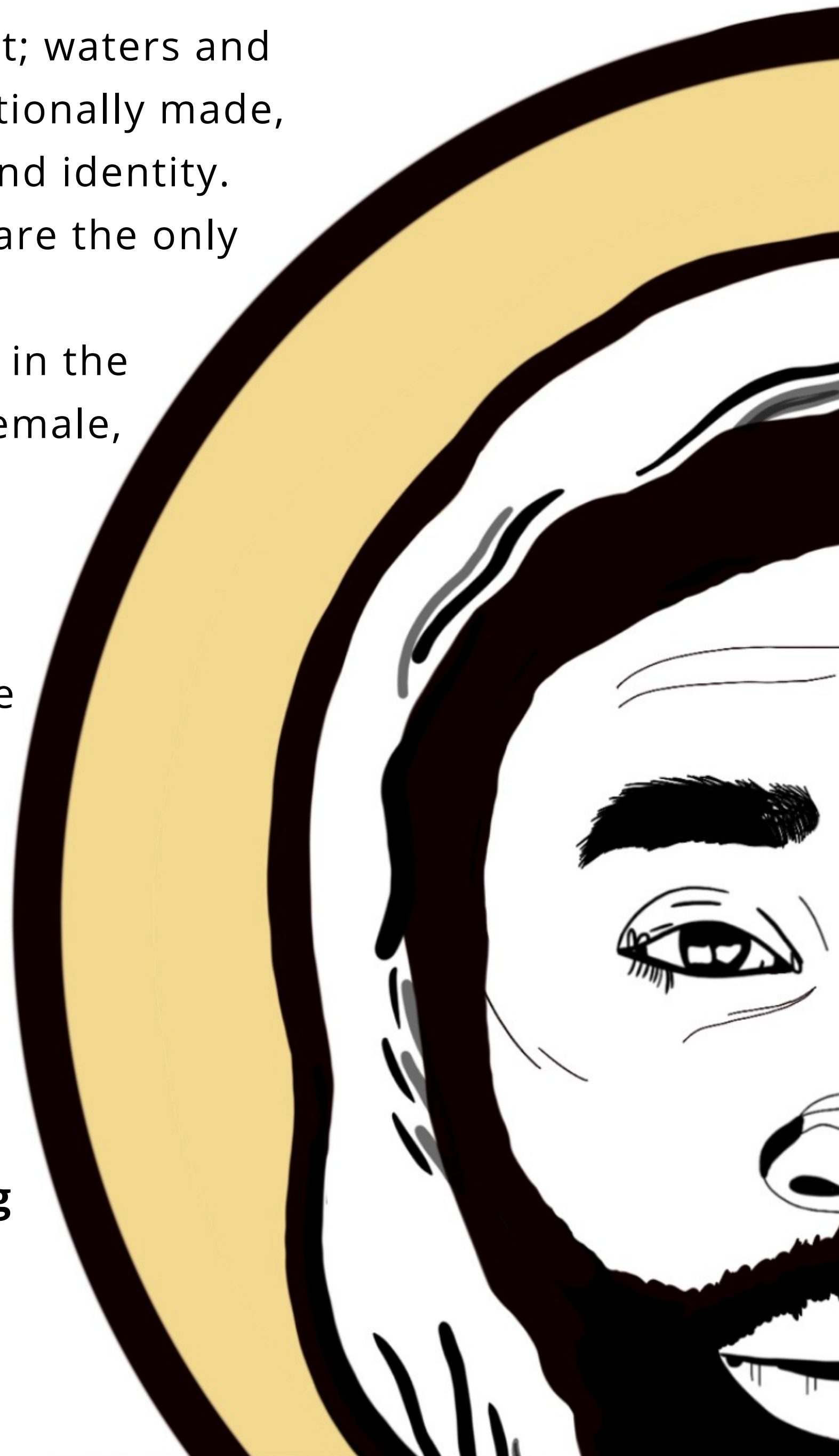
When God began to create He instilled identity in each one.

Separating light and darkness; day and night; waters and sky; living things and living beings. All intentionally made, and woven together with purpose, beauty and identity. While creation reflects God's goodness, we are the only image-bearers.

"God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female, God created them" (*Genesis 1:27, CEB*).

Made in the image of a good God. Made in the image of a Creator, who breathes light and life. Made with the ability to breathe life into the mundane. Made with the ability to be light, grounded in identity - grounded in the love of a Father.

We are created beings with a birthright to creativity. **We are created beings with the ability to breathe light and life into our world, just like the Father has been doing since its conception.**



creativity as a
LIGHT
remedy to
BEARER
darkness

I am not an artist, but I am a creative. There is a distinction. My life is not built around the products of creativity, but rather the process of creativity. The process of joining with the Holy Spirit in all aspects of my life. To tackle parenting, leadership, pastoring, marriage, friendship - all of it - in creative ways. I meet needs around me by partnering with the Holy Spirit and developing new programs or initiatives. With the prompting of the Holy Spirit I take risks; I try new things; I reach out to strangers; I tackle injustice around me. I love my child by partnering with the Holy Spirit and asking for inspiration to ignite joy, compassion and patience in my parenting.

I partner with the Holy Spirit as I lead others, reflecting the nature of the Father and offering grace to myself and others when the mark is missed. With the Holy Spirit, I assertively engage with conflict and seek to find solutions or reconciliation. Light continually bursts into the earth when God's creations, when His Image-bearers, understand and engage their identity as creatives. When they lead, love and serve in creative ways. I am made in the image of God.

You are made in the image of God.

I am a light-bearer. You are a light-bearer. We each have the capacity to create. We each have the capacity to breathe life back into dark spaces. We each have a brightness that has been woven within us: we are created beings with the purpose to create. **Through creativity, we will bring Light Himself into the darkness.**



initiating CULTIVATING *creativity* THE LIGHT

It can take time and effort to initiate creativity within our everyday lives. Instead, we may find ourselves stuck in everyday rhythms, feeling disempowered by our schedules, abilities or lack of connection. You may be thinking: "I don't have the time or space to get 'creative' " or perhaps, "I don't know how to tangibly do that". Let's explore that in partnership with the Holy Spirit.

Let's center ourselves!

We were not created to live alone. Instead, we have been given unlimited access to the Holy Spirit within us. The Father delights in connecting with us. Take a moment to center yourself before God. He looks at you, His creation, and says that *you are good*. Ask Him for His vision to look closely at your life. Ask Him for His wisdom to discern where creativity may bring light back into this world.

in response:

In response to spending some time with the Father. Let's explore some questions with the Holy Spirit. To begin, take a few minutes and read the two pages of prompts before this page (Light Maker + Light Bearer). You may wish to respond to the questions below in your head, on paper or through art. However you choose to respond, do so with confidence, believing that God is present.

May you partner together and breathe life back into spaces void of the Light. May the creativity inside you become activated as you consider what it means to live life as a created being who leads, loves and serves in creative ways.

consider:

1. As your Image-Bearer, how is creativity woven within me? How can it be used as a tool to bring your nature to this earth?
2. What is my posture towards creativity? Do I believe it is apart of my identity? If so, how does it impact my daily life? How could it be a greater impact?
3. Where do you want to breathe life back into my life? What does partnering with you look like in this process?

HELP

mundane

- Where do you travel weekly? What would it look like to take a new path? Try it and see where God's creation delights and inspires you.
- What is something you have wanted to try but have put off? Do it! Make an action plan with tangible steps if needed.
- What is going on in your community? Think of a current issue and ask God: "how can I breathe life and light back into this space?". In partnership with Him, do it.
- Does your environment make you anxious, frustrated or lifeless? How can you cultivate an environment that encourages joy and peace? Then consider: how can you invite others into this space?

relationships

- Consider your weekly schedule: add in intentional time with your children or spouse.
- Think of a challenging relationship: ask God, "how can I better reflect your nature?"
- How is parenting going? How are you reflecting the nature of God to your children? Where do you need help?
- Connect with a friend: plan an online games night, monthly check-ins, read a book together. How can you cultivate creativity in your friendship(s)? Talk it out with one another and of course, with the Holy Spirit.
- How can you surprise a friend this month? Who would you like to encourage?
- Who is someone you would like to pursue this season? How will you do this?
- Consider a problem in your relationship(s). Ask the Holy Spirit for vision and problem-solve, together. Make an action plan and write it down.

employment

- What is something you have always dreamed of doing in your workplace? What is a way that you can bring this dream to life?
- What is a current organizational need that you could help fulfil using your giftings or abilities?
- What is something that isn't going well within your work environment? What would it look like to have challenging conversations or perhaps, address this issue? Process with the Father.
- Is your employment draining you? What do you need to continue to be a light in this space? Consider: asserting boundaries, a more reduced schedule, a brighter space to work in, more help, confiding in a safe person about your struggles, seeking a new way forward.

ministry

- Are you operating in auto-pilot? What would it look like to re-engage and be present and intentional with your ministry?
- How and why are you serving? Are you serving out of necessity, frantically seeking to meet the needs of a ministry or Church? Are you serving out of delight and in ways that feel empowering and/or healthy? Re-consider how you want and need to spend your time and energy. How can you be the best light-bearer?
- As a light-bearer, what new path do you feel God wants you to follow? What darkness does He want you to help illuminate? How can you lead others along the way?
- What is a darkness that is present within your Ministry or Church? What does it look like to be a light-bearer in this space? How can you partner with God to breathe light and life within it?
- How are you prioritizing your family or relational needs within your ministry? How are you keeping your own light burning brightly? Consider your self-care routine.