

Memory verse: Ephesians 2:10 – *“I praise You, O Lord, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.”*

Continuing Theme: *God wants you to be creative! He created YOU, ME, and all the unique animals in the world around us. God gave us an imagination and He wants you to use it. Create!*

Lesson- READ about some unusual animals God dreamed up:

The African Giraffes

There's a very special animal in Africa that can help us learn something about creativity. The **giraffe** is the tallest mammal on earth, and instantly recognizable from its colorful spot pattern. But no two **giraffes** have the same spot pattern - they are each a unique design by God the creator, just like you! **Giraffes** use their long necks to munch on leaves in the trees. Adult **giraffe's** necks can grow to be up to six feet long! All that height means that giraffes can see far away across their surrounding terrain.

Imagine what the world might look like if you were 20 feet tall and could see everything around you! Today, we're going to use our imaginations to pretend for a few moments that we are **giraffes**, stretching our long necks up to the trees and munching on some **acacia (ukA-shu) leaves**. *(Stand tall, extending your neck to pretend you are a giraffe munching on leaves, etc., encouraging the children to join you.)*

Pretend you are a giraffe at the Columbus Zoo, eating leaves at the top of a tree there.. As we're munching on these delicious leaves, what kinds of things can you see on the ground? *(people, other animals, the zookeepers...)* What do you see in the distance? *(Allow a short amount of time for children to improvise answers and imagine what they see.)*

What is the highest place you have ever been? *(Plane? Hill? Tall building? On Dad's shoulders?)* When you got a chance to look at your world from up high, you could see all sorts of things in a new way. Sometimes it's easy for us to get hung up on a small detail that keeps us from seeing the big picture. If I only looked at the giraffe's tongue, I might miss how big its eyes or ears were. What about how long its tail was? It's important to notice EVERYTHING God

made to make the giraffe, and US, uniquely special. **Let's not be in such a hurry. Let's take the time to see ourselves as God sees us.**

If you ever feel scared or lonely or lost, remember that God is always looking at you with love. God is taller than any giraffe, or any other super tall creature He has created. God is always watching over you. God created you for a specific purpose to do. AND God wants you to be His good friend. Isn't that the greatest!

Can you say this wonderful verse from [Psalm 139:14](#)? Can you close your eyes and whisper it? (Parents, please lead them through it in sections) Can you SHOUT IT AT THE TOP OF YOUR VOICE? Can you make up a tune and sing it? Can you say it all by yourself? How did God make you?

"I praise You, O Lord, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well."

Remember what we say every week?

Our God is incredible and He LOVES, LOVES, LOVES YOU and ME!

PRAYER: (Close with prayer and reminder of God's work in our lives.)

Dear God,

Thank You for loving us. You take away our fears when we give them to You. Thank you for making us all brothers and sisters through Your love. Help us to share Your love so others will want to come into the Kingdom of God, too. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Great VIDEO for "God hovers over us"

(DIRECTIONS: *Highlight the whole web address of one of the videos below, right-click on it, COPY, open your internet (Explorer, etc), right-click on the address blank, PASTE, then open it on your computer screen and run it.*

#1 video – Watch "The Dot" AGAIN before doing the activities

https://www.amazon.com/Dot-Thora-Birch/dp/B07DHVPZDQ/ref=sr_1_4?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1543074954&sr=1-4&keywords=peter+reynolds

#2 video – "Giraffe information song" : <https://youtu.be/S9ICLFNZ3dM>

#3 video – "Giraffes": <https://youtu.be/HLXvtgLpsH8>

#4 video "5 Giraffe facts": <https://youtu.be/zcAGRDTjEGA>

MUSIC CHOICES for "God hovers over us"

(DIRECTIONS: Highlight the whole web address of one of the videos below, right-click on it, COPY, open your internet (Explorer, etc), right-click on the address blank, PASTE, then open it on your computer screen and run it.

Song #1: God is watching over you": <https://youtu.be/rZqoNHJwb88>

Song #2 "God is with us": <https://youtu.be/IPdDB2jIMjc>

Song #3 "Praise Ye the Lord!" <https://youtu.be/WuODF9Kbgnw>

****Learn the books of the Bible at: <https://youtu.be/ixMvFdeo-F0>**

Creativity: Activities for "God hovers over us"
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Prep Ideas: tape measure, 18 length of string. thin painter's tape,

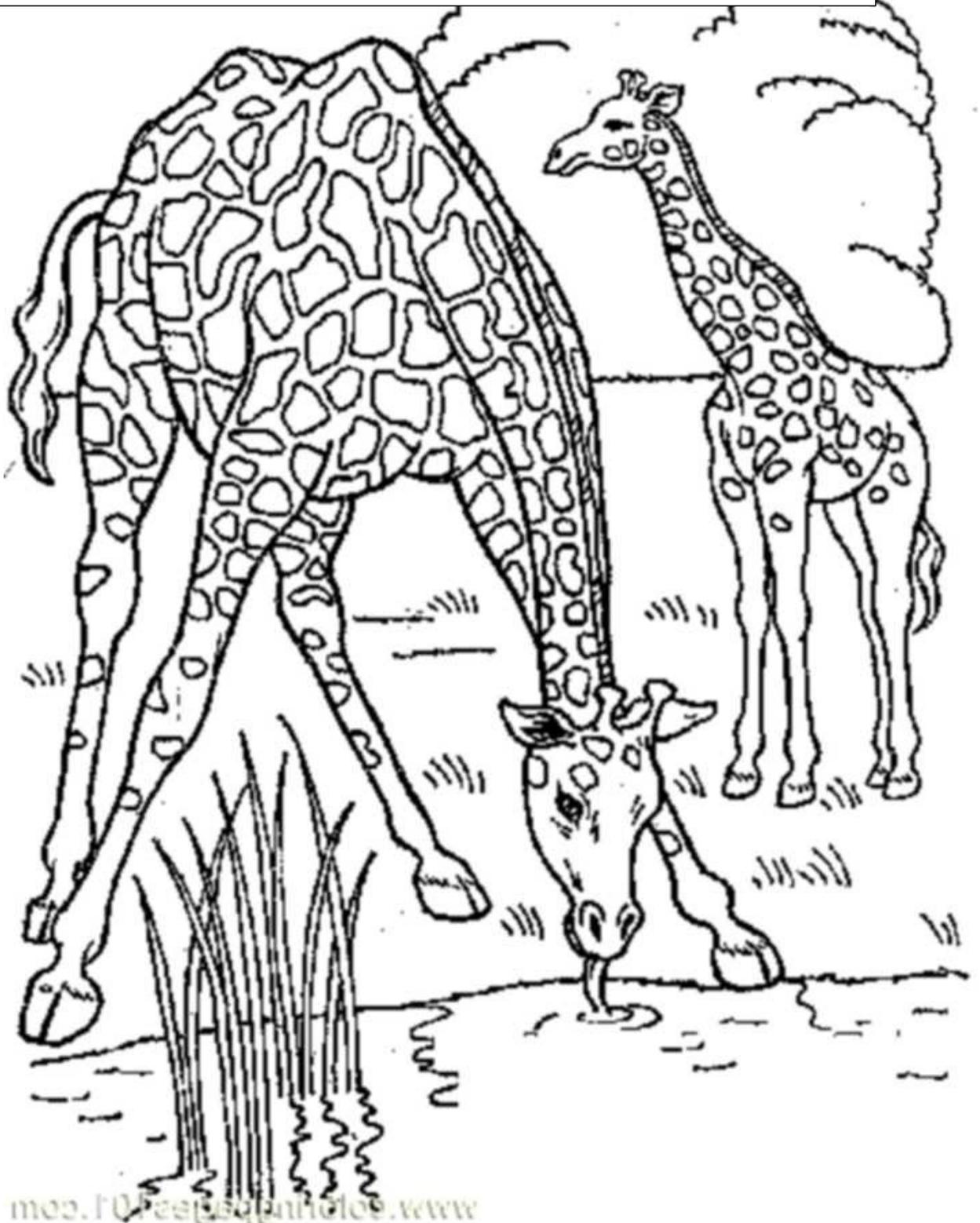
- 1. Measure out 18 feet on the floor. Mark the start w a piece of tape. Mark the length w tape at every 6 feet (*infant giraffes are around 6 feet tall at birth*). Put an tall object like a chair at the end so it can be seen. Have your child lie down on their stomach in line with the giraffe size. By being on their stomach, they can look ahead to see how tall the giraffe is compared to them. *Option: Use a string or yarn to measure out 18 feet.***
- 2. Have them step out the length. "A giraffe is ___ of my steps tall." Adults can do this, too.**
- 3. Perspective: Put an object on the floor. Have the child climb up and observe how different the object looks when you are higher, like a giraffe. (*How do they think they look to God.*)**
- 4. Creativity: Resist Dot Art** Today we are looking at the big picture that might be hidden in our art. What makes you think of God? A word, a shape, an abstract pattern? Sometimes we can use dots to create other things.

If you were painting a wall and wanted stripes on it, you could use painter's tape. Then after you were done painting, you'd remove the tape and see the stripes that were left unpainted.

That's like the idea we are doing today, only using the tape to create shapes and words. Then you "dot" the page. After you have dotted the rest of the page, and removed the tape, everything becomes clear!

Use thin painter's tape to make a pattern, shape or word that helps you think about God. Then use the markers to make dots all over the paper. Be sure to make enough dots at the edge of the tape so the pattern, shape or word will be visible when you take off the tape. Remove the tape and... Surprise!

African giraffes can be 14-18 feet tall. To bend down and get water, they have to spread their legs. They also have to have another giraffe keep watch so lions don't attack while they are in such a position. Try spreading your legs and bending over to touch the ground. Now try to quickly stand up and run away before a lion gets you. It isn't easy. That's why God made it so they don't have to drink every day. Then they won't be in danger every day. God created them well, just like He created us well!



Shapes Maze!

Color in the 's to find the path to the tree.



JUNGLE MAZE

Help the giraffe make it back to his friends at the end of the maze.

