

Artist for Jesus

Lesson

Begin by asking children if they have ever seen a monument. Remove from the backpack some samples or photos you have brought. Perhaps there is a famous monument in your town that the children would know. Perhaps the children have seen one in a community cemetery. Ask children if they've seen a bronze monument. Tell the children that the bronze monument had to first be sculpted in clay before it could be sent to be cast in bronze and then put on display. Say, "The person who sculpts a monument is an artist who is highly skilled and loves to do that kind of detail work.

"Let me tell you about such an artist. His name is Terrell O'Brien and he lives in Wyoming. Terrell is a sculptor. He loves to go out in nature and take photographs of animals and other things in nature. He then comes home to take lumps of clay and cut into them to sculpt the things he saw. It takes a long time to do a sculpture, and it takes much patience. As Terrell works, someone who comes in to see him may not know what he's sculpting — but Terrell does. He knows exactly how the completed sculpture will look when he's finished.

"Terrell is a truly talented artist and sculpting is his job. He makes money to take care of his family by being a sculptor. But, he has another job that he loves even more. He is missionary pastor of Warm Valley Baptist Church in Pavillion, Wyoming. Terrell is a Mission Service Corps missionary. A Mission Service Corp missionary is someone who makes money in a job other than ministry because the missionary role he or she has does not provide an income.

"Just as Terrell sees a lump of clay and knows that with some work it can become a beautiful creation, he also knows that people can be shaped into what God wants them to be when they trust God and serve Him. That's why he is a pastor-teaching and sharing Jesus with the people in the community so they will follow Christ. Isaiah 64:8 says that God is our potter and we are His clay. We are the work of God's hands. Terrell loves knowing that God is still working in his life to make him a better follower of Jesus.

"Let's pray for Terrell and the work he does as an artist. Let's also pray for the work he does as a missionary pastor leading people to know Jesus so they can love and serve God all their lives." Close in prayer.

● **Focus:** God uses our talents and skills to serve Him.

● **Key Verse:** Isaiah 64:8

● **Purpose:** To illustrate how God provides us with special skills and gifts that we can use in missionary service.

● **Objects Needed:**

- Small bronze statue or large photos of bronze statues

Isaiah 64:8

“Yet Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we all are the work of Your hands.”