

EVEN
MORE

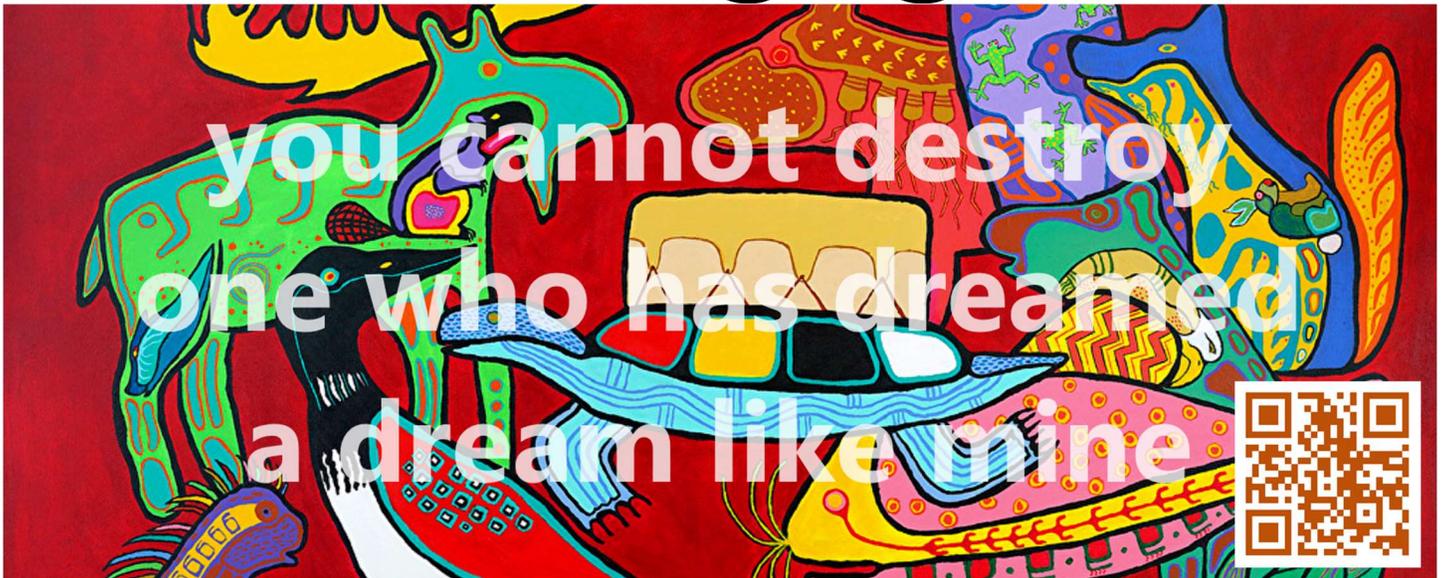
BOUNDLESS

bannerblue.org
Supplemental
Resources for
the 2022 ELCA
Youth Gathering

Unit 2

This activity works well as an intro to the Psalm 104 passage in Session One after the team building activity (p. 31), or use it however you like!

Artistic Engagement



Explore Art – Boundless Creation – Petroglyphs, Carvings, Paintings



- Check out this intro to **Dakhóta and Ojibwe (Anishnaabe) Art** from the **Minneapolis Institute of Art's** Gwen Westerman. Gwen eloquently describes how Minnesota is a Dakhóta place with a long and rich history. You should take the time to visit www.native-land.ca. The site allows you to view and acknowledge the people who have lived in North America for generations. Look up Minneapolis, Minnesota. Also look up your own hometown. *How can you acknowledge the people who came first in your land?*



- Check out these contemporary portrayals of the **Ojibwa Woodland Art Style** by Gordon Coons. His depictions of animals, birds, and fish are wonderfully colorful and intricate. Coons carefully crafted each image to mimic ancient petroglyphs and carvings while endowing each creature depicted with a colorful soul. *How can you acknowledge the animals who came first in your land?*
- Don't for a second think that all Native American art is Woodland Art or limited to depictions of nature. Check out this awesome **All My Relations** collection of contemporary art in Minneapolis.



Make Art – Boundless Creation – Tattoo Stamps

Use washable markers and a custom stamp to make temporary tattoos that channel the spirit and strength that resides within you, and all living things.

Supplies Needed: printer paper and a printer, washable markers, foam sheets, scissors

Instructions:

1. Print out the **silhouette templates** of animals, sea creatures, and birds.
2. Carefully cut out your chosen template(s).
3. On a foam sheet big enough for your template, trace the animal that you cut out. (You can skip steps 2-3 by printing the silhouette onto a sticker sheet and sticking it to the foam sheet).
4. Next carefully cut out the shape of the animal that is now traced on the foam sheet.
5. With washable marker, completely color one whole side of the cut out foam animal shape. Make sure to cover the foam edge-to-edge. You can do this all in one color or create a design like Gordon Coons' Woodlands Style animals.
6. Firmly press the colored side of the foam directly onto bare skin for at least 30 seconds. Make sure you are pressing the entire cutout animal including its tail and toes. Remove the foam sheet and marvel at your amazing temporary tattoo (The tattoo can be washed off with soap and water).
7. You can even wash off the foam stamp and use it again with a different color or combination of colors.



What do Tattoo Stamps have to do with Boundless Creation?

No disrespect to the awesomeness of these tattoo stamps, but they cannot compare to the work of art that is the creature that each one represents. God is definitely an artist. Just look around you and it's clear. You can be standing at the top of a mountain and see absolute masterpieces in all directions. You can sit in a room with your youth group, and still see absolute masterpieces in all directions. That's right, you are the masterpiece that God is working on right now. Your tears and your laughter are brushstrokes. Your thoughts and dreams are new colors added to the palette. You are a daily new subject for God to paint, because God isn't done creating you. When you make art too, we hope that you appreciate the connection a creator has to the created. Another word for that connection is love. In case you haven't heard it said yet today, God loves you. God loves you with the strength of a thousand elephants, the courage of a thousand lions, the grace of a thousand eagles. You are loved. Is it dorky to say it that way? Yep. But what God has created is more incredible, and boundless, than words can describe, so embrace the dorkiness and join with the author of Psalm 104 in shouting out how awesome creation is.