



CONNECTING WITH CREATION DEVOTIONALS

By: Stephanie Diep

Fall Color Reflection

Opening Prayer: Lord, open our eyes to the colors around us, open our hearts to reflect on your love, and fill us with your spirit. Amen.

Green

Look around you, what do you see that is the color green?

Jeremiah 17:7-8 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

What does the color green represent in this passage?

God gives us life and the things we need to thrive and be healthy. Reflect on this as you look around at the color green.

Red

Look around you, what do you see that is the color red?

Isaiah 1:18 "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool".

This verse shows God's ability to cleanse people from sin. What other passages in the Bible evoke the color red and what does it represent?

Red is the color of blood, commonly affiliated with love. As you see the color red around you, reflect on how great is God's love that he gave his son to die for our sins.

Yellow

Look around you, what do you see that is the color yellow?

Matthew 6:28-33 Jesus said, “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Though this passage doesn’t mention a specific color, I ask you to imagine a field of golden wheat, the yellow kernels of sweet corn, the yellow hues of a prairie in autumn, the fields of Golden Alexandra that are abundant in this region of Michigan, the yellow leaves of autumn trees. What do the flowers represent in this passage?

The Lord loves beauty and even when we have little, we can give praise and thanks that God provides for our needs. As you see the color yellow around you, reflect on how you can better trust God to provide and stop worrying about tomorrow and live each day happy in the present.

Brown

Look around you, what do you see that is the color brown?

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

What does God intend to tell us in this passage?

God’s love will always be there for you, even when your pet dies, when a loved one passes, and one day when you are taking your last breath. As you look around at the withering leaves, take comfort in God’s enduring love and knowing that the cycle of death also leads to new life.

Rainbow

Look around at all the colors you can see.

When Noah's ark finally arrives on dry land after the great flood. God says, "I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh." Genesis 9:13-15

What does the rainbow represent to God?

In this passage, the rainbow is God's promise to protect humanity and all of creation. The rainbow also connects the heavens with the earth, it is a thing of beauty, and it includes a diversity of colors.

As a quick review:

Green represents to lush life that God gives us. Red is the color of love and reminds us of Jesus's sacrifice. Yellow is the beauty and blessings God provides for us each day. Brown reminds us that things of this world are transient but God's love endures forever and he is with us to the end and beyond. And the rainbow shows us that God loves beauty and diversity and he has promised to protect humanity and all living things.

End with a coloring prayer: Use a coloring page or doodle on blank paper.

Think of each mark of the pen or stroke of a colored marker/pencil as a small non-verbal prayer. The goal of the doodling and drawing is not to make a beautiful work of art, but to create a visual prayer. Drawing/doodling invites the body into the prayer, gives the eyes and hand something to do, and helps to focus attention when words don't come readily. You may write a name of someone you want to pray for or things you are grateful for. Maybe each color helps you focus your mind on a specific topic while using that color. Feel free to take as much time as you like to complete your prayer or work on it a little bit each day over a week.

When you have finished coloring, look at the picture as a whole. God has given you a diversity of experiences and emotions that continuously shape you. What your picture looks like now could be different in the future; we are always growing and learning new things.