



Recreating Classical Biblical Paintings

Perhaps you've seen social media accounts of people creating classical paintings with whatever items they have around their home. Now is your opportunity to stage a few of your own biblical scenes, as interpreted by classical artists.

If you aren't familiar with this style of recreating art, check out some popular examples:

- <https://www.instagram.com/tussenkunstenquarantaine/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/covidclassics/>
- <https://blogs.getty.edu/iris/getty-artworks-recreated-with-household-items-by-creative-geniuses-the-world-over/>

Now that you've seen some examples, try to create your own versions of these biblical paintings. Use the people in your family, pets, dolls, stuffed animals, and everyday household objects to create your own version of the biblical scenes. The original artists did their own interpretation, and you can do your own as well.

Once you're satisfied with your re-creation, take a picture of it to send to your youth director, pastor, or friends or to post online.

The Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci

The Last Supper is described in all four gospels. This is where Jesus washed the disciples' feet (according to John), declared that one of his disciples would betray him, and said the words we still recite in communion, "This is my body. This is my blood." Read Luke 22:7-38 for more context.



Solomon and the Queen of Sheba by Giovanni De Min

The queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's fame and wisdom, and she came to question him herself. He answered all her questions and impressed her so much that she gave him many gifts. You can read the story of the queen of Sheba and Solomon in 1 Kings 10.



Judah and Tamar by Rembrandt

Tamar was the daughter-in-law of Judah, having married his son. When her husband died, she was promised to the second son, who also died. She was then promised to the third son, but was told he wasn't old enough to marry yet. Tamar waited, but eventually disguised herself in a veil to spy on whether her promised husband was actually grown up. But while she was still disguised, Judah himself came along and propositioned her. You can read the whole scandalous story in Genesis 38.



Return of the Prodigal Son by Rembrandt

Jesus told the story of two sons, one of whom asked for his father's inheritance, which he quickly squandered in reckless living. Poor and destitute, the son returns to his father to beg to be taken in as a hired hand. The father will hear none of it, and accepts his son with open arms and a party. You can read the whole parable in Luke 15:11-32.



Samson and Delilah by Lucas Cranach the Elder

Samson was a strong and mighty warrior, until he met Delilah. She was conscripted to find out his weakness. Once Samson revealed that his hair held his strength, Delilah cut his hair at the next opportunity. This painting depicts Delilah's hair-cutting efforts, but you can read the whole story in Judges 16.



Belshazzar's Feast by Rembrandt

This is a creepy story. King Belshazzar threw a great festival. Everyone was eating and drinking and enjoying themselves when suddenly a hand appeared and started writing on the wall. The king was terrified and searched for someone who could interpret what the writing said. You can find out what happened in Daniel 5.



David and Goliath by Orazio Gentileschi

David and Goliath is a classic Bible story: David, so young and small, up against a giant. David won by slinging a stone that hit Goliath between his eyes. When Goliath fell, David beheaded him. This painting captures that moment between slinging the stone (see the sling on the ground?) and the beheading. Read the whole epic story in 1 Samuel 17.



The Annunciation by Fra Angelico

The Annunciation is when the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would bear a child by the Holy Spirit. If you look at Mary's face, you can see her shock and confusion. She's taking it all in, but in the end, she is prepared to go along with God's plan. Read the full story at Luke 1:26-38.



The Adoration of the Kings by Jan Gossaert

The three wise men went through a harrowing journey to get to visit Jesus. They had already visited King Herod to tell him of Jesus' birth. Herod tried to get them to tell him where Jesus was, but after they saw Jesus, they were warned to stay clear of Herod. This moment is when the wise men presented their gifts to Jesus. It's an epic story, fully depicted in Matthew 2.



Transfiguration by Raphael

Leaving the crowds behind, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain, where he was transfigured before them. His clothes turned dazzling white, and Moses and Elijah appeared. The disciples freaked out, and then the moment passed just as quickly as it had started. Other gospels depict the story, but you can read a version in Matthew 17:1-9.



Sistine Madonna by Raphael

This painting doesn't really have a scriptural basis. It just pulls together a few religious images: Jesus and Mary; Saint Sixtus and Saint Barbara (who lived later); and two little angels, called putti. You can see more putti obscured in the background as well.



The Calling of St. Matthew by Caravaggio

Jesus called many disciples while they were working their regular jobs, and Matthew was a tax collector. According to Matthew 9:9-13, Matthew was sitting in a tax collection booth when Jesus called him. Immediately Matthew got up to follow him. Jesus gained a disciple, but many people complained that he had tax collectors among his followers.

