

Lesson 2

Let There Be Light | Contrast

Bible Verse: *And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night." - Genesis 1:14a*

Think of a dark night. Is it hard to see objects and people? Think about light entering in and creating contrast. Give thanks to God for a world filled with light and contrast.

Q Contrast is a noticeable difference between two things: light and shadow, textures, colors. Look around you - where do you see contrast?



Contrast is a building block of art. When you create something, contrast helps the viewer identify objects, shapes, colors and textures.

"The Calling of St. Matthew" painted by Italian Baroque artist, Caravaggio, is an example of contrast. The tax-gatherer Levi (the future Saint Matthew) is seated at a table with his four assistants, engrossed in counting the day's coins. A piercing beam of light cuts through the room, originating from just above Jesus and leading the viewer's eye across the canvas. Jesus, accompanied by Saint Peter, points directly at Matthew. Upon hearing the call, a shocked Matthew points to himself as if to ask, "Who, me?" He sits frozen between two worlds: his old life, symbolized by his hand still gripping the money on the table, and a new spiritual path.

"The Inspiration of St. Matthew" also by Caravaggio, depicts Matthew at work, inspired by an angel. The angel counts off points on its fingers, as if dictating the exact information for the Gospel text. God works through all of us and like the rays of light shining in on Matthew in the first painting, so too does God shine through the weakness of human nature as He transforms us to communicate His own goodness to the world.



Art

Supplies

Black markers
White paper

1. **Art Project:** Using black markers on white paper, draw a night sky with a moon and moon beams. Have your beams light up a favorite object of yours on the ground.
2. Write the Bible verse from this lesson somewhere on your drawing.