

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

Devotion | Week 1 Day 1

Innovation by Design

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11

Meet Ethan.

He is fearfully and wonderfully made.

Ethan is an eighth-grade student at St. John Lutheran School in Rochester, Michigan and he is a lover of technology. Gaming and computers are a big part of his life and he is very talented in these areas.

Many adults have a hard time understanding the value of technologies in the hands of children. Kids today are lured by flat screens and the marvels that exist inside of them. As a result, inactivity has become a significant problem for our youth. These are the stories that make the headlines and provide fuel for the arguments of where this next generation is going wrong. But look beyond the surface and you'll see amazing learning opportunities and outlets for creativity which exceed the opportunities that existed even a decade ago.

The times are a changing and we must follow along. In the 1800's the telegraph allowed us to type out messages through a system of sounds and send them to other people miles away. Over time the technologies improved, allowing for voices and later images to be broadcast in real time to recipients around the globe. Today we can do all three and much more using a device that is wireless, portable, and powerful. Imagine what we'll be able to do tomorrow! It's mind blowing to think of how quickly we've advanced society in recent years. Consider how long each of these technologies took to reach 50 Million Users and you see what I mean:

Telephones:	75 years
Radio:	38 years
TV:	13 years
Internet:	4 years
Cell Phones:	3 years
Angry Birds Space App:	35 days (that's right... DAYS!)

Amazing right? Eh..... I mean, don't get me wrong, it is impressive. It's not fast at all when you compare it to the greatest innovator of all-time! How great is He you ask? Forget 50 million users. We're talking six measly days to start with absolutely nothing and to create.....well, everything! Genesis 1:31-2:2 confirms this:

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.”

Even Mark Zuckerberg on his best day couldn't touch this. Not only did God the Father create the universe in its intricate detail in under a week, He did so using mere words. Talk about speaking something into existence! But it doesn't stop there. God not only completed the design and construction of His creation but He also populated it with every kind of living organism imaginable. They were perfectly crafted in every detail with God Himself knowing everything there is to know about each and every creature He made.

But wait: there's more!

God saved one part of His creation for last. A part so special that He made it in His own image and likeness. From that moment, God chose to be in close relations with mankind. Even when we sinned and cast ourselves away from the ability to be with Him, God's love for us provided us a path toward salvation. The stain of our sin leaves us hopeless. But as Jeremiah's words remind us, God created us with a plan in mind. We weren't accidents or mere happenstance but a dearly loved creation which God bought back at a steep price; the death of His Son. Through Jesus our hope is restored and our future with God in heaven for eternity is assured.

Go and serve Him confidently, knowing that God is prospering your work in the kingdom.