

CRAFTS

Kids LOVE
to Make!



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and carefully. Happy, upbeat children's songs will increase enthusiasm and keep the kids working at a good pace.

Allowing kids to make choices. Don't expect every craft to look like a cookie-cutter copy of every other craft. Allow for choices in color and materials used.

Providing encouragement rather than criticism. Craft time is not about perfection. It is about learning with involvement and enjoyment.

IDEAS you can use

Joseph's Coat of Many Colors

 Cut a neck hole at the bottom of a brown grocery bag. Open the bag up by cutting a line from the neck hole in the center of one side of the bag to the top of the bag. Cut two arm holes on both sides of the bag. Have the children color or paint their bags. When they are dry have the children model their beautiful coats. You could also bring in scraps of different fabrics or ask the kids to bring in scrap fabric from home, i.e. a shirt they have grown out of or an old dish towel. The children can glue these fabric scraps on their grocery bag coats.

Taken with permission from Danielle's Place @ www.daniellesplace.com

Ministry *Direction*

Why make time for crafts in children's ministry?

Think back though to your earliest memories of church. When looking back, what are some of your favorite memories? Can you remember making those "special treasures" to take home and show mom and dad? Those crafts were wonderful to you not because of how much they cost or the materials that were used, but because you made them yourself.

Time used for crafts during children's ministry doesn't have to be just a busy time. It can be a time of fun and adventure. More importantly, it can be a time of learning that re-enforces the Bible truth that you are trying to get across. By allowing the children the opportunity to use their own imagination to express what they have learned, it will leave an indelible mark in their heart and their minds.

Making crafts is also a good way to connect with the parents of the children in your ministry. When sharing with mom and dad what they made at church or Bible club, your children will also be sharing the Biblical truth they have learned that week.

Watch out for

When planning craft activities make sure that the activity is age appropriate. For younger children who are in preschool and early elementary, difficult crafts with many steps probably aren't going to work very well. Remember that their attention span is only about 1 minute per year of life so plan appropriately. Your older children will be able to handle a project with many steps that will take longer to finish.

When planning craft activities consider the cost of the activity. There are lots of fun ideas to use that will not break the bank. Natural items such as seeds, leaves, vegetables can be collected easily and can be used in a variety of craft activities. Many household items can be recycled for craft activities—margarine tubs, plastic spoons and knives, baby food jars, fabric scraps, buttons, grocery bags, etc.

Don't stress kids out by expecting them to emulate a perfect sample craft that was made by an artistic adult.

Create an enjoyable environment for making crafts by—

Playing background music that will set an appropriate mood for the project. Quiet, peaceful worship songs will encourage kids to work quietly

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Heavenly Mobile

Cut out sun, moon, and star shapes or allow the children to draw their own. Have the children cut them out and decorate them with buttons, jewels, glitter, felt-tip markers, etc. Tie the shapes on to a paper plate or a large plastic lid with a hole cut out of the middle. For older children, use salt dough and cookie cutters to create shapes. Have the children decorate them with markers or paint.

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Five Steps to Knowing God's Word

Give each child a piece construction paper, large enough for them to be able to trace around their hand. Without spreading fingers too far apart, have the children trace around their hand and then cut out the shape. After they are finished cutting out the hand shape, have a volunteer read each the verses shown below and as a class discuss each one. As the verses are discussed, have the children write the corresponding words: Hear, Read, Study, Memorize and Meditate on the fingers. On the other side of the hand, write the verse references. When the children have finished, suggest that they keep their hand cut-out in their Bible to use as a bookmark and a reminder of the five steps to knowing God's Word.

- **Romans 10:17 (Hear)** *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*
- **Revelation 1:3a (Read)** *Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy.*
- **Acts 17:11 (Study)** *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*
- **Psalm 119:11,13 (Memorize)** *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin*

against you. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

- **Psalm 119:15 (Meditate)** *I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.*



Picture It All For Jesus

Materials needed:
5 or 6 small items each child should bring from home;

Shoebox lids, or similar box lids for each child;
Rubber cement, glue sticks

Hole punch

Yarn or string

Colored construction paper(optional)

Note: Because children must bring several items from home, this craft must be planned and communicated a week in advance.

What you will do

The children should be asked at the end of class the previous week to bring 5 or 6 small items from home next week. These items should remind them in some way about Jesus, and should be no larger than three or four inches in size. During class, the kids will glue them onto the inside of a box lid to create a three-dimensional picture. You may want to give some examples of items they can bring, such as a comb, small action figure, photograph, trinkets, a plastic spoon, broken wristwatch, cross, large nail, candy, etc. Let the children know that if they have a difficult time finding items that remind them of Jesus, to bring whatever they can find so they have at least five items.

What they will do

Give a box lid to each child. If desired, have them line the inside of the lid with colored construction paper of their choice. Punch two holes at the top of the lid and tie on yarn or string to make a hanger for the picture. Then have the children use the rubber cement to glue to the different items they brought from home onto the inside of the lid.

The children can also write short explanations

next to each picture. You may want to help with this. Almost any item can be related in some way. For example, a comb could be a reminder to "always look your best for Jesus", a broken wristwatch could be "Jesus is everlasting", a small army action figure could represent that "we are part of God's army", a plastic spoon for how "Jesus feeds us", and a piece of candy could even remind you of "how sweet Jesus is" in our life.

When finished, have each child display his or her picture and share with the class how each item reminds them about Jesus.

Resource Review

www.daniellesplace.com This site is dedicated to teaching children through crafts and activities. You will find hundreds of inexpensive crafts and activities for children. Most of the crafts and activities on this site are Bible-based and are great to use in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, preschool, and home school. You will find complete Bible curriculum with math, reading, phonics, writing, science, and learning games included.

Crafts & More for Children's Ministry

Karyn Henley, Lois Keffer

Your kids will beg to learn more about the Bible! That's because with these 86 fun, active-learning activities, your children will take part and be involved! Simply do the activity, then read and discuss the Bible story! Perfect for Sunday school, vacation Bible school, children's church, and after-school programs. **Price:** \$16.99(USD)

Bible Story Crafts & Projects Children Love

20 Bible stories spring to life for elementary children with these easy-to-lead art and craft ideas. You'll use cooking activities, sculpting and modeling ideas, wearable art, and more fun stuff...there's an activity to grab the attention of every child. **Price:** \$16.99(USD)