



Children's Ministry Curriculum

Additional VBS Craft Ideas

WELCOME!

The Tree of Life children's curriculum located in your Church Resource Kit contains a list of DIY crafts for each day, with a brief set of instructions.

Visit our website and Pinterest page for pictures of these crafts and additional DIY craft ideas.

If you prefer to purchase premade craft sets, the Pinterest page also includes ideas of craft kits from other sources.

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GOD'S GOOD CREATION YO-YO

YOU NEED

- Pencil or dowel, 1 per student
- Wrapping paper
- Crayons or another drawing medium
- Glue, tape & scissors
- *Optional:* Stones or other paperweights; small, loom-size rubber bands

GET READY

- Cut the wrapping paper into long, narrow strips, approximately 4 inches × 3 feet.
- Gather supplies and set them out.
- Make a sample to show the students.
- *Note:* Students will need a large work space for this project. If table space is limited, move classroom furniture to create space on the floor for them to work.



INTRODUCE THE CRAFT

Say: In the beginning, by the power of His Word, God created the world in six days! He formed creation on the first three days and filled it on the next three. *Briefly review the days of creation.*

Ask: What is one of your favorite parts of God's creation? *Allow for several responses, such as dogs or friends. If a student names something that God did not directly make, such as a toy, point out that God created the materials used to make the object.*

Say: God summed up what He made by saying it was very good. He continues to care for His world and to give us many blessings to enjoy. Today, you'll create paper yo-yos to remind you of all the blessings given to you in God's creation.

DO THIS

- Place the 4-inch end of the paper along the side of the pencil or dowel. Tape in place. Run glue between the pencil and the paper to adhere the paper to the pencil.
- After glue dries, wind the paper around the pencil/dowel with the printed side facing in. This will train the paper the opposite way it was on the roll.
- Unroll the paper, blank side up. Put weights on the end.
- Divide the 3-foot length of paper into six sections by folding it in half, then unfolding and tracing over the scored line. Fold each half in thirds and draw lines to create six sections total.
- Sketch the six days of creation in the six spaces. Shade Day 1 half black and half bright to represent darkness and light. Day 2 may be a sky and wavy lines for water. Day 3 may show the earth or plants. Day 4 may show the solar system or a sun above the earth. Day 5 may be filled with fish and birds. Last, the space for Day 6 is for animals and people.
- Roll the paper around the pencil with the creation sketches facing out. Secure with a rubber band for transport. Enjoy the yo-yo to recall God's blessings in creation.

SALT DOUGH HANDPRINT

YOU NEED

- Dough ingredients (salt, flour & warm water)
- Measuring cup, mixing bowl & wooden spoon
- Large nails & red ribbon, 1 foot per student
- Oven, parchment paper, pie pans & cookie sheets for baking
- *Optional:* Camera, Mod Podge, printer & photo paper, zipper bags
- *Note:* If you have students with wheat allergies (celiac disease, etc.), substitute $\frac{1}{2}$ cup rice flour and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup potato starch for wheat flour.

GET READY

- Make dough, using 1 cup flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup warm water for each child. Keep dough in an airtight container until use.
- Set out parchment paper, a ball of dough, and a pie pan with flour in it for each child to use to dust hands before making handprints.
- Bake handprints on site, or prepare slips with directions that say: “Bake at 300° F for about 2 hours.” Send these home with the prints. Make a sample ahead of time to show the students.
- *Optional:* Take individual, wallet-size photos of students.

INTRODUCE THE CRAFT

Say: Today, you will make handprints out of dough. The dough reminds us of the dust God used to create Adam. Then God breathed life into him. Only God can give life to something that is not alive. He gives all of us life too.

The handprint you make can remind you that God created you with unique interests, abilities, and characteristics. You will use a nail to make a hole in the craft and thread it with red ribbon so you can hang it on a wall.

Ask: What can the nail hole remind you of? *Jesus was nailed to a cross to save us from our sins.*
What can the red ribbon remind you of? *Jesus shed His blood on the cross for us.*

Say: Jesus did not stay dead. He rose again and promises that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life with Him in heaven.

DO THIS

- Knead your dough and make it into a ball. Flatten the dough into a pancake that is a little bigger than your hand.
- Dust your hand with flour; then press it into the middle of the pancake with your fingers spread apart.
- Use a nail to carve your name and the date in the space around your handprint.
- Use a nail or pencil to make a hole about half an inch from the top of your pancake. When your project is dry, the ribbon will go through this hole to hang the handprint on a wall.
- Give handprints to your teacher to bake at 300° F for about 2 hours or until they are dry.
- *Option:* Put handprints in a zipper bag and place on disposable pie tin to take home and bake there.



THE BLOOD OF DEATH AND LIFE MEDALLION

YOU NEED

- White foam sheets
- Cups
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Red yarn
- Pen or pencils
- Tape or thumbtacks

GET READY

- Gather the supplies.
- Make a sample, and hang it on the doorframe with a thumbtack or a piece of double-stick tape or tape rolled in a loop.
- For younger children, pretrace, precut, and prepunch the foam circles.



INTRODUCE THE CRAFT

Ask: When you think of blood, do you think of life or death? *Accept answers.*

Say: Bloody scrapes and injuries can be scary. They remind us that life is fragile; destruction and death are real. Yet your body requires blood to live. Without blood, there is no life.

The children of Israel were saved by the blood of a lamb painted on their doorways. You, too, are saved by the blood of a lamb. It is the blood of the perfect Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, that covers you with salvation.

Today you'll make a medallion to put on your doorframe at home. It can remind you that you do not need to fear death anymore because Jesus shed His blood on the cross for you to give you eternal life.

DO THIS

- Trace around the cup on the foam. Cut out the circle.
- Punch four holes in the circle, one each at the top, bottom, left, and right sides of the circle. Gently fold the circle in half and punch a fifth hole in the center of the fold.
- Cut three lengths of red yarn, each about 1 yard long.
- Tape the three pieces of yarn together on one end. The tape will act as a needle to make the stitching easier.
- Tape the other ends of the yarn to the center of the circle, just above the hole. This will be the back of the circle.
- Stitch a cross in the circle:
 1. With the back of the circle facing you, string the yarn down through the center hole and up through the left hole.
 2. Stitch the yarn down through the center hole and up through the top hole.
 3. Stitch down through the center hole and up through the right hole.
 4. Finally, stitch down through the center hole and up through the bottom hole.
- Tie the yarn in a knot on the back of the circle. Let the tails of the yarn hang long, but trim off the tape “needle.”

VBS DAY 3

BAPTISM SHELL FRAME

JESUS IS BAPTIZED INTO GOD'S PLAN

Matthew 3:13–17

YOU NEED

- Metal or light-colored picture frame to fit a Baptism certificate or photo, 1 each
- Craft glue
- Blue glass gems, 4 each
- A variety of small shells
- Masking tape & pens
- *Note:* Choose frames with a flat, wide surface to make it easier to glue items onto them. Many Baptism certificates are $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches, but ask to borrow a blank certificate from your church office to be sure you get the right size of frame; or use 4 × 6-inch frames to hold Baptism photos.

GET READY

- Set up a place for the students to leave their frames to dry.
- Put a frame, bottle of glue, and four gems where each student will be working.
- Put shells in shallow pans where your students can reach them.
- Make a sample to show the students.



INTRODUCE THE CRAFT

Say: John baptized Jesus in a river. Baptisms can still be done in a river, but today most churches have a font to hold the water. Other churches have a pool in the church. The amount of water is not important. What's important is using water and God's Word.

Ask: What happens in Baptism? *The pastor puts water on the person and baptizes him or her in the name of the Trinity. God washes away sin and makes the person His child.* Show sample frame.

Say: Today, you will make a frame to display your [Baptism photo or certificate]. Put the blue gems on each edge of the frame so they would look like a cross if you connected them. This reminds us of how the pastor makes the sign of the cross over us when we are baptized, showing we belong to Jesus. You can also add some shells to the frames to remind you of your Baptism.

DO THIS

- Put masking tape on the back of the frame, and write your name on it.
- Take the glass and back portion out of the frame, and set them to the side so you will not get glue on them while decorating the frame.
- Glue four gems on the frame so that they form the ends of a cross, keeping in mind which side of the frame will be the top when you use it.
- Glue shells on the frame, being sure that glue is on the edges that make contact with the frame.
- Let dry completely before putting the glass and back pieces into the frame, along with your Baptism photo or certificate.

VBS DAY 4

BUTTERFLY CLIP

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION COMPLETED

Luke 23:26, 32–46

YOU NEED

- Binder clips, metallic or with a pretty-colored clamp
- Scrapbook paper
- Colored Mylar or plastic paper, such as index dividers available at dollar stores
- Scissors & pencils
- Clear-drying craft glue
- *Optional:* Bobby pins, tape

GET READY

- Set out supplies.
- Make a sample to show the students.

INTRODUCE THE CRAFT

Ask: What are some decorations you see in stores around Easter? *Let students tell.*

Say: Sometimes, we think about bunnies and eggs as symbols of Easter, don't we? But the Church has its own symbols for Easter to remind us of the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

Ask: What are some of these symbols? *Lily, lamb, empty tomb, butterfly.*

What makes a butterfly a good symbol of the resurrection? *The little caterpillar seems to be dead inside its chrysalis, but then it emerges gloriously alive.*

Say: Today, you will make a butterfly clip. The resurrection, Jesus' victory over death and coming back to life, shows us that Jesus' sacrifice for our sins was accepted by God. We are filled with hope and joy knowing that, as Christ has been raised from the dead, we will also rise to eternal life!

DO THIS

- Cut out four small wings from scrapbook paper. Two wings must face front; two wings face back. Achieve this by cutting out one wing and then tracing it for a second wing. Flip the wings over and trace them onto the scrapbook paper; then cut out wings 3 and 4. Or trace the template twice on one side and twice on the second side before cutting out the wings.
- Cut out two large wings from the Mylar/plastic paper.
- Use glue to sandwich two small wings, both facing out, around one arm of the clip. Repeat with other arm.
- Use a small amount of glue to adhere the Mylar wings in front of the scrapbook-paper wings.
- Let the butterfly dry. Clip it on a bedroom curtain or a sturdy cut flower or houseplant, or wherever you like.
- *Option:* To make antennae, open a bobby pin to create a narrow V shape. Place a small piece of tape on the point of the V. Open the binder clip and stick the bobby pin on the inside middle wall of the clip. Or glue antennae in place after the wings are attached.



VBS DAY 4

JESUS LIVES GARDEN TILE

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION COMPLETED

Luke 23:26, 32-46

YOU NEED

- Newspaper & smocks or aprons
- White or off-white unglazed square tile, 1 each
- Acrylic craft paint & paintbrushes of various sizes
- Paper plates & pencils
- Clear varnish or outdoor Mod Podge
- Water source & paper towels or cloths for cleanup
- *Note:* Choose whatever size tile is affordable (e.g., 4- to 6-inch tiles cost about 10 to 25 cents at home-improvement stores). Or ask church members for leftover tiles from home-improvement projects.
- *Option:* If you use large tiles, children can brush paint onto one of their hands and put a handprint on their tiles.

GET READY

- Cover tables with newspaper; help students put on smocks or aprons.
- Set out paper plates to put small puddles of the acrylic paints on.
- Set out paintbrushes and tiles.
- Make a sample to show the students.

INTRODUCE THE CRAFT

Say: Jesus came back to life on Easter.

Ask: Why is that important? *Accept answers.*

Say: By coming back to life on the third day, Jesus proved that He has power over both sin and death. It also showed that God the Father accepted Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. We can trust that He will be able to raise us when He returns on the Last Day to take everyone who believes in Him to heaven.

Today you will make a garden tile to remind you of how Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to Mary Magdalene in the garden. You can put the tile in your garden or yard at home to remind you that Jesus died for your sins but did not stay dead. Print "Jesus Lives," "Alleluia!" or "He is risen" on your tile to remind you of the first Easter.

DO THIS

- Think about your design before starting. You can lightly draw your design in pencil before applying paint.
- Paint your tile.
- Let the paint dry.
- Apply a coat or two of clear varnish or outdoor Mod Podge to seal the paint onto the tile.
- *Note:* Since the paint needs time to dry, your leader may choose to apply the sealer later. You can pick up your tile after the sealer dries.



VBS DAY 5

HEAVEN BANNER

THE END OF OUR STORY

Revelation 21:1–8; 22:1–14

YOU NEED

- Gold fabric, such as lamé, approximately 1 yard per 12 students
- Scissors
- Scrap paper
- Colorful jewels or sequins
- Craft glue
- Nonbendable drinking straw
- Ribbon or string
- *Optional:* Depending on the fabric you select, you may need to use decorative tape, clear nail polish or another anti-fray solution on the cut edges. Or use gold paper as a substitute for gold fabric.

GET READY

- Cut the fabric into rectangles, approximately 9 × 15 inches.
- Address potential fraying as needed, using tape, an anti-fray solution, or clear nail polish around the perimeter.
- Make a sample to show the students.



INTRODUCE THE CRAFT

Say: Jesus is our Lord and Savior. He gave His life for us so that we can live with Him forever. Through Baptism and God's Word, God has made you His child. Your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life! That means that you and all who believe in Jesus as Savior get to live with Him forever! The last two chapters of Revelation wondrously describe what we can expect in the new heaven and the new earth.

Ask: What does the Bible say about heaven? *Accept answers.*

Say: Today you'll make a golden banner covered with glimmering multicolored jewels to remind you of your home with Jesus.

DO THIS

- First make the hanger: Place the straw along the top edge of the fabric. Fold the fabric over the straw and tape or glue the folded edge in place so it creates a pocket for the straw. String the ribbon through the straw and knot.
- Lay out the jewels or sequins in a design that reflects one of the heavenly descriptions in Revelation 21–22, such as the river of life, the tree of life, the Alpha and the Omega, an angel, the Book of Life, or the Lamb. *Teacher:* Read the text aloud as students design their banners.
- To make the banner pictured here, cut a cross from scrap paper and place jewels around it in a stream to represent the river of life. Remove the scrap paper to reveal the cross in the negative space.
- Apply glue sparingly to adhere the jewels and sequins in place. Take care not to glue the banner to the table!
- Once the glue is dry, hang the banners where the congregation can enjoy them.

VBS DAY 5

GLORY SUNCATCHER

THE END OF OUR STORY

Revelation 21:1–8; 22:1–14

YOU NEED

- Recycled or inexpensive CDs
- Permanent markers
- Craft glue
- Fishing line or string
- Newspaper & smocks or aprons
- *Optional:* Rulers
- *Option:* Use clear plastic lids, such as those from some brands of yogurt; use transparent tape or a hole punch to attach the string.



GET READY

- Collect used CDs, or purchase new ones. Students will need two recycled CDs or one new CD.
- Prepare a sample suncatcher to show the students.
- Lay out newspaper to cover work surfaces, and help students put on smocks or aprons.

INTRODUCE THE CRAFT

Say: Today you will make suncatchers. When you see the sun glisten around them, remember that Jesus paid for your sins on the cross. He gives you forgiveness and a new home with Him, where you will see Him in all His glory!

DO THIS

- Use permanent markers to decorate both sides of a CD with a cross or other symbols of Jesus' veiled glory, such as an open Bible, a shell and water, or the cup and host, to illustrate Word and Sacrament. You may wish to use a ruler to draw straight lines.
Note: The marker ink may be gummy for a short time before it completely dries.
- If using recycled CDs with lettering on one side, decorate two CDs. Apply craft glue on one CD and place the other CD on top, so both decorated sides are showing.
- Cut a length of fishing line or string. Double it over and thread it through the hole in the center of the CD to make a loop. Slip the ends of the string through the loop to allow for hanging.
- If using a clear lid instead of CDs, decorate just one lid. Punch a hole or make a slit in the plastic and thread string or fishing line through it, or use tape to adhere the string for hanging.