

THE
ENCYCLOPEDIA
of
BIBLE
CRAFTS
for
Preschoolers

Group
Loveland, Colorado

Group resources actually work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



Relational

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.

The Encyclopedia of **BIBLE CRAFTS** for Preschoolers

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The encyclopedia of Bible crafts for preschoolers.

p. cm.

Includes indexes.

ISBN 978-0-7644-2621-6

1. Bible crafts. 2. Christian education of preschool children. 3. Bible-Study and teaching (Preschool)--Activity programs.

I. Group Publishing.

BS613.E535 2004

268.432--dc21

2003011362

20 19 18

18 17

Printed in the United States of America.

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INTRODUCTION

In the beginning of class, Jane created her world. Oh, it didn't turn out looking like the magnificent perfect world that God originally created. But it was Jane's world just the same, cut from various colors of craft foam and glued together seemingly at random onto a misshapen circle. Jane, a preschooler, was the beaming creator as she ran to show her mom at the end of class. "Look, Mommy! God made the world, and so did I! Will you hang it from my ceiling when we get home?"

Many preschoolers are just like Jane. They're excited to explore God's Word through all their senses—creating, smelling, baking, squishing, and tasting! *The Encyclopedia of Bible Crafts for Preschoolers* provides you with nearly 200 proven crafts from major Bible stories in the Old and New Testaments. You'll find "WOWS That Work" tips to help you extend learning and creating, an index that will help enhance your Bible lessons when using FaithWeaver™ Bible Curriculum or Hands-On Bible Curriculum™, easy step-by-step instructions for leaders, and a "Preschool Connection" section that will help make Bible learning a REAL experience.

The Encyclopedia of Bible Crafts for Preschoolers is an essential tool for any preschool teacher interested in helping children explore and understand the Bible. You can use this book with your Sunday school, children's church, midweek meetings, home schooling, Christian preschool programs, or any other time preschoolers are gathered together. So get ready for unique, motivating crafts that will inspire your children to learn about the Bible in no time!

WOWS that work

The "Easy Steps" boxes are photocopiable so that your preschool helpers can follow them to help children create amazing crafts. We suggest that you enlarge the copies about 300 percent for easier readability.

GENESIS

GOD MADE THE WORLD

Genesis 1:1-31

What Kids Will Do: Create three-dimensional panoramic scenes of the creation of day and night, land and water.

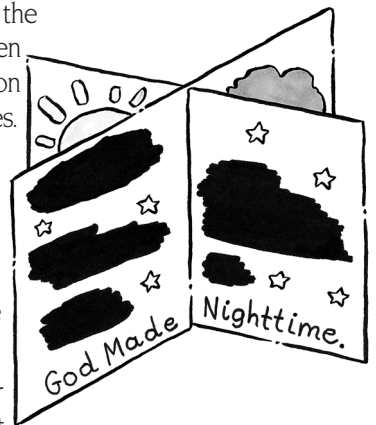
What Kids Will Need: white poster board, colored construction paper, glue, crayons or markers, scissors (You may want to provide star stickers also.)

Preparation Place: Cut poster board into two 8x10-inch pieces. Make slits in the center of the *bottom* of one and the center of the *top* of the other. Hold the pages perpendicular to each other, and connect the two pieces by sliding the slits into each other.

EASY Steps

CREATION CRAFTS

1. Give each child a poster board "book" that you made before class. Show children how to lay the book flat so two pages are facing them. Write, "God made daytime" across the two pages. Then instruct children to create a picture of daytime across the two pages by tearing construction paper into shapes such as sun, clouds, and blue sky. Let children glue the shapes to the pages.
2. Children may flip to another opening, where you'll write, "God made nighttime." Have children glue torn pieces of black construction paper to represent night. You may want to provide star stickers to add to the picture of night.
3. Let children open to two more pages. Write, "God made the land and plants." Children may tear construction paper to make trees, flowers, plants, and land. Help children glue the shapes to the poster board.
4. Let children open to the last two pages. Write, "God made the ocean." Have children tear blue construction paper to make the ocean and then tear paper to represent creatures that live in the sea. Children may glue these into the last blank pages.



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PRESCHOOL CONNECTION

When children have finished, collect craft supplies. Read Genesis 1:1-23 aloud from the Bible so children know the passage is in God's Word. Then ask:

- **What is your favorite thing that God made?**
- **How can you thank God for making that?**

Say: **God has made so many wonderful things. You can use your panoramas to thank God for everything he made. Let's pray and thank God for such a wonderful world.**

As children pray, let them point to things they've added to their crafts and thank God for making those things.

GOD MADE THE WORLD

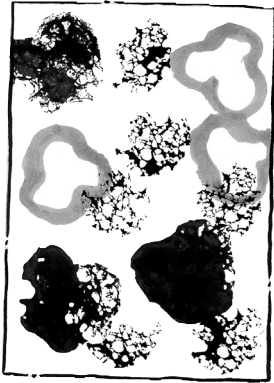
Genesis 1:1-31

What Kids Will Do: Use vegetables to make picture reminders of the vegetation God made.

What Kids Will Need: construction paper; paper towels; washable paint; shallow paper plates; forks; knife; vegetables and fruits such as broccoli, potatoes, green peppers, apples, oranges, and kiwi fruit

Preparation Place: Place a few folded paper towels on a paper plate. Pour a few tablespoons of paint onto the folded paper towels, and spread it around to saturate the "pad." Cut each fruit or vegetable so that a creative pattern is revealed. Stick a fork into the uncut side of the fruit or vegetable to create a handle for children to use.

EASY Steps PLANT PRINTS



1. Show children the fruits and vegetables you've cut. Point out the interesting shapes and the seeds that are exposed in some of the fruit.
2. Encourage the children to press the cut side of the fruits and vegetables into the paint and then press them on their papers to make prints.
3. As children work, remind them that God made everything—even the plants that grow these fruits and vegetables!

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PRESCHOOL CONNECTION

When children have finished their projects, collect craft supplies, and set the pictures aside to dry. Open your Bible to Genesis 1:11-13, and show children the words. Explain the story in your own preschool-friendly words. Ask:

- Why do you think God made plants like the ones we used in our craft?
- How are these plants the same? How are they different?
- What is a favorite fruit or vegetable you like to eat?

Say: **I'm so glad God made yummy fruits and vegetables! They taste good and help keep our bodies strong and healthy. When you look at your Plant Print, you might get hungry. Then you can eat some tasty fruits or vegetables and thank God for his wonderful creation!**

WOWS that work

Bring in fruits and vegetables that you've washed and cut into bite-size pieces. Let children taste some of the fruit and vegetable pieces and thank God for this good food.