

**Kids
of All Ages**

BIG BOOK

of
Bible Crafts



Creative crafts enrich Bible learning!

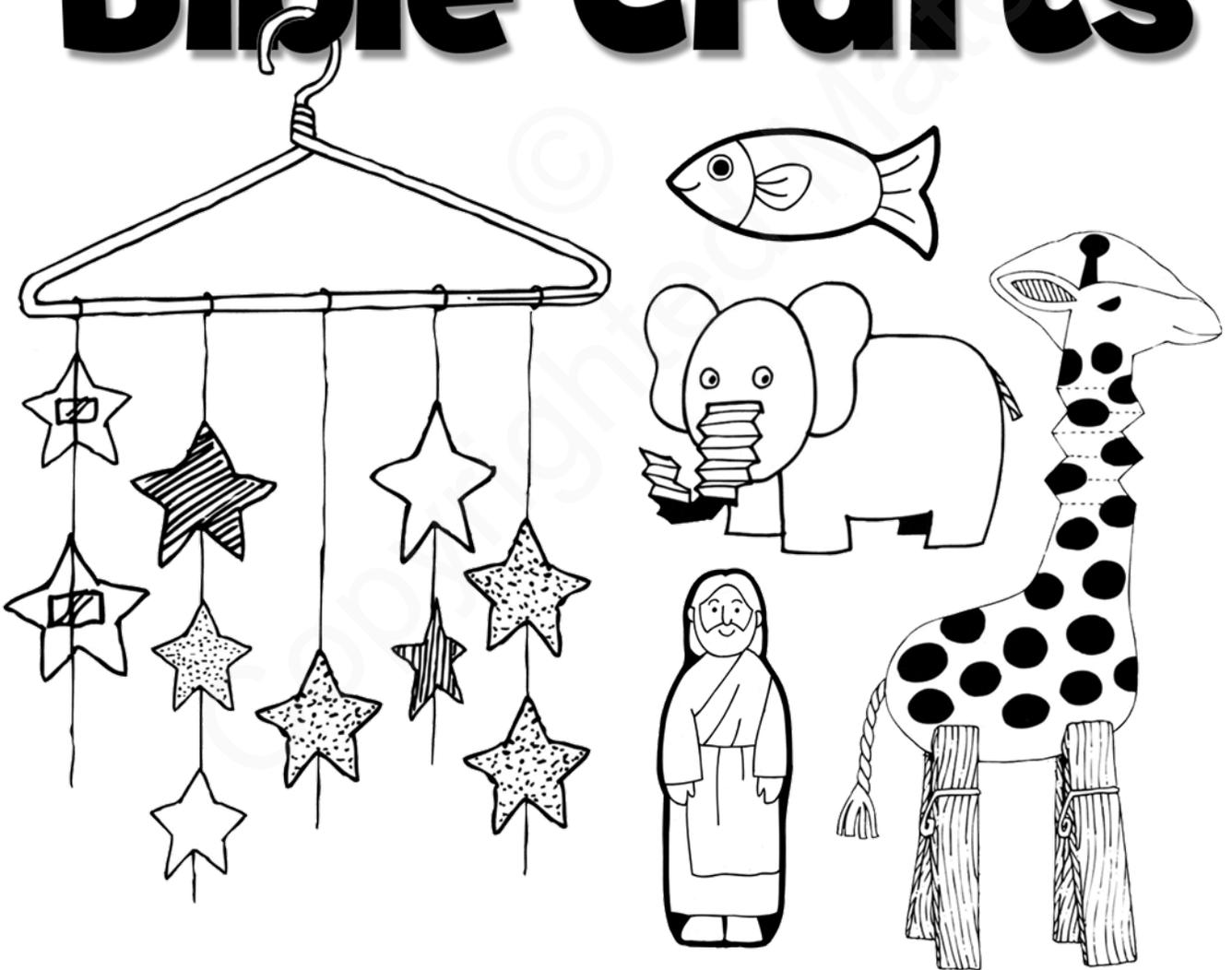
Reproducible

Kids
of All Ages

BIG BOOK

of

Bible Crafts



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transforming lives together

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BIG BOOK OF BIBLE CRAFTS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

Published by David C Cook
4050 Lee Vance Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918 U.S.A.

David C Cook U.K., Kingsway Communications
Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 6NT, England

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ISBN 978-0-8307-7239-1

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The content included in this book was originally published in *Bible Crafts & More Ages 3–6* by Standard Publishing in 2005 © Standard Publishing, ISBN 978-0-7847-1784-4; *Really Big Book of Cool Crafts for Kids* by Gospel Light in 2005 © Gospel Light, ISBN 978-0-8307-3847-2; *The Big Book of Bible Crafts* by Gospel Light in 2000 © Gospel Light, ISBN 978-0-8307-2573-1; and *Hot Crafts for Cool Kids for Ages 9–11* by David C Cook in 2009 © David C Cook, ISBN 978-1-4347-6722-6.

Cover Design: James Hershberger
Illustrators: Lynne Davis, Chizuko Yasuda, Marilee Harrald-Pilz,
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Printed in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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Bible Verse Crafts

Helping children memorize God's Word can be especially fun when combined with a craft that the children take home.

Choose from these crafts to teach specific Bible verses.

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How to Use This Book

The activities in *Big Book of Bible Crafts for Kids of All Ages* can be done in any order and easily fit into any curriculum. Simply use the Contents pages to match a project with the lesson you're teaching. The crafts can also be used at home to teach and reinforce Bible stories and lessons.

The book is divided into two sections—crafts for young children (preschool and kindergarten) and crafts for elementary children (grades 1–6). In each section, the Bible-related crafts are arranged in biblical order. Crafts based on stories from the life of Jesus are arranged in chronological order.

For each craft, you will find:

Materials

The materials you will need to gather for the craft are listed in this section. Most projects use only basic materials, along with some items easily found at craft, hardware, or discount stores.

As you prepare for the number of children doing the craft, remember to have extra pieces in case of mistakes or lost pieces. Replenish basic supplies, such as glue, scissors, markers, etc., as needed.

Before Class

This section provides instructions for any preparations you need to do. In addition to copying patterns, precutting materials, etc., make up a sample of each project to be sure the directions are fully understood and potential problems are avoided.

Simplification and Enrichment Ideas

Tips have been added to some crafts to help you adapt the crafts for children with varying skill levels. You can adapt a craft for younger age levels by utilizing the simplification ideas. Use the enrichment ideas to challenge older kids to go a step further with their crafts.

Instructions for Children

Step-by-step instructions are given for what the children are to do. As children create their crafts, look for times when you can talk about the ways God shows His love to us. Ask open-ended questions. Listen with interest to the answers and give the children opportunities to ask questions of their own.

Talk About

The projects in this book include thought-provoking, age-appropriate questions and conversations that can help you enhance craft times. The conversations for a project may relate to a Bible story, a biblical principle, or a Scripture verse. It may include interesting facts related to the craft. Share these conversation suggestions with other adult helpers so they can use them with individual children or small groups. Always have a Bible open to the proper passage when reviewing a Bible story or reinforcing a specific verse.

Tips

Crafts are an excellent way for children to express their creativity while they build relationships with others. When children are focused on using their hands to create a project, they are often more relaxed and willing to talk or listen than they might be in formal classroom settings. Following a few helpful tips can make craft times successful for everyone!

Select and Adapt

Children may become discouraged when a project is too difficult for them. Finding the right projects increases the likelihood children will be successful and satisfied with their finished products. Begin your selection by focusing on crafts designed for the ages of your children, but don't ignore projects for older or younger ages. Remember that elementary-age children enjoy many of the projects geared for preschool and kindergarten children. And younger children are always interested in doing "big kid" things. Plan on working along with the children, helping with tasks they can't handle alone.

Feel free to alter the craft materials and instructions in this book to suit your children's needs. Adapt crafts for younger or older children by using the simplification or enrichment ideas provided.

Plan for including children with special needs. Discuss with parents or caregivers the kinds of crafts their children can be successful at doing. Provide adaptive scissors and large crayons that can be held with the whole fist. Bingo daubers work great

for adding color to a project! Be aware of a child's sensitivity to various textures and smells. Watch for signs of frustrations and provide less-structured projects for the child—modeling dough, collage materials, etc.

Be Prepared

If you are planning to use crafts with a child at home, here are some helpful tips:

- Start with projects that call for materials you have around the house. Make a list of items you do not have so you can gather them.
- If certain materials seem too difficult to obtain, a little thought can usually lead to appropriate substitutions. Often your creative twist ends up being an improvement over the original plan.

If you are planning to lead a group of children in doing craft projects, keep these hints in mind:

- Choose projects that allow children to work with a variety of materials.
- Make a sample of each project to be sure you understand the instructions so you can avoid potential problems.
- For a larger group, you may want to adapt some projects by simplifying procedures or varying the materials required.

- Plan your project selections far enough in advance to allow time to gather all needed supplies. Many items can be acquired as donations from individuals or businesses, if you plan ahead and make your needs known.

Encourage and Show Interest

Encourage creativity in each child! Always remember that for a child, the process of creating is more important than what the final product may look like to an adult. Provide a variety of materials with which children may work so they may make creative choices on their own. Don't insist that children "stay inside the lines" or make their projects "look just like the sample."

Show an interest in the unique way each child approaches a project. Avoid the temptation to say, "That's cute." Instead, affirm the choices the child has made during the process. ("I see you like to paint with blue." "You really used lots of circles.") Treat each child's work as a masterpiece. The comments you give a child today can affect the way that child views art in the future, so be positive. Being creative is part of being made in the image of God, the ultimate creator!

Be sure to encourage students to personalize their crafts. Listen carefully so you can bounce off students' comments or ideas as they work. Sometimes spontaneous discussion is the most meaningful.



Make It a Message

Many projects can easily become crafts with a message. Invite older children to create slogans or poetry they may print on their projects. Print out the words younger children dictate to you. Print on a whiteboard or piece of paper words to be written on a craft, allow children to copy what you have written. Provide copies of an appropriate poem, thought, or Bible verse for children to attach to their crafts.

Make It Fun

Don't forget that craft time should be a relaxed and fun time. If the unexpected happens, keep your sense of humor and encourage kids to enjoy the process and the interaction of the group.



Leading a Child to Christ

One of the greatest privileges of serving in children's ministry is to help guide children to become members of God's family. Pray and ask God to prepare the kids you know to understand and receive the good news about Jesus. Ask God to give you the sensitivity and wisdom to communicate effectively and to be aware as opportunities occur.

When talking with children about salvation, use words and phrases they understand; never assume kids understand a concept just because they can repeat certain words. Avoid symbolic terms that will confuse literal-minded thinkers. As you watch and pray, you will see kids developing relationships with God.

Here are some questions you can ask and things you can discuss with a child who is interested in accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Encourage the child to look up and read the Bible verses along with you.

Read John 3:16. **Why did God send Jesus to earth?** (God loved us so much that He wants us to have eternal life with Him.)

First John 3:1 says that God wants us to be His children. But sin, doing wrong, separates us from God. Read Romans 6:23. **What do you think should happen to us when we sin?** (die) **But what is God's gift to us?** (eternal life in Jesus)

Jesus willingly died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3. **But Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. After three days, He came back to life! Jesus died so that we can live forever in heaven with Him.**

Are you sorry for the wrong things that you've done? If you are, what should you do? Read 1 John 1:9. **Our sins are wiped away when we're truly sorry for what we've done and when we turn to God.**

Read Ephesians 2:8. **How are we saved?** (by God's grace, through faith) **Christian faith is a life-long adventure here on earth. With Jesus as Lord of our lives, we build a life of submitting to God, following Jesus, and keeping in step with the Spirit.**

At this point, continue to talk with the child about accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Include what your church teaches about how this happens. If you have any questions about salvation, talk with your pastor or children's ministry leader.

God wants every person to accept the free gift of eternal life that He's offering. What do you need to do about this?

Craft Recipes

Flubber

- 3 c. warm water
- 2 c. white glue
- 3 tsp. borax
- food coloring (*optional*)

Mix 1½ cups warm water and the white glue in a bowl. In a second bowl, mix 1½ cups warm water and the borax. If adding food coloring, add it to the water and borax mixture, one drop at a time.

Pour the borax mixture into the glue mixture. Use a metal spoon to lift and turn the mixture until only a teaspoon of liquid remains. Pour off the excess liquid. Store the mixture in an airtight container.

Goop

- ½ c. cornstarch
- ¼ c. water
- food coloring (or tempera powder)

Mix the cornstarch, water, and food coloring. Pour the mixture onto a tray or into bowls. Allow the children to explore! Store the mixture in an airtight container.

Modeling Dough

- 2 c. flour
- 1 c. salt
- ½ tbsp. cream of tartar
- ¼ c. cornstarch
- small drop of oil
- 1 c. cold water
- food coloring (or dry flavored gelatin)

Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar, cornstarch, and oil. Knead the dough and slowly add cold water until the dough is soft and forms a ball. Divide the dough into smaller portions and add food coloring, one drop at a time. Store the prepared dough in airtight containers.

Putty

- ⅓ c. laundry starch
- 1 c. white glue
- food coloring, scented oil or extract (*optional*)

Pour the starch into a bowl. Mix in the food coloring and scented oil or extract, if desired. Slowly pour the glue into the starch, stirring the mixture as the glue is added. The mixture should begin to clump together.

Let the mixture rest three to five minutes. Then pour it onto a cookie sheet or countertop and knead several minutes. If the mixture is sticky, add a small amount of starch. The putty should not stick to fingers or playing surface. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

Sugar Dough

- 2 c. sugar
- 3 c. flour
- 1 c. water
- food coloring, scented extract (*optional*)

Mix the sugar, flour, and water together. Stir in a few drops of food coloring to color the dough, if desired. Add a few drops of scented extract to make it smell nice. Knead the dough until it is smooth. Store in an airtight container.

Textured Paint

- 2 c. gray (or desired color) tempera paint
- ½ c. grit or sand
- 4 tbsp. white glue

Mix all the ingredients together. Store in an airtight container.

Section One

Preschool–Kindergarten

Crafts for Young Children

Remember these guiding principles as you work on any craft with young children:

- The process the child goes through is more important than the finished product.
- Don't override the child's delight of experimenting with color and texture.
- Avoid the temptation to do the project for the child or to improve on a child's efforts.
- If you have a child who seems frustrated with some of the limitations of working on a structured craft, the frustration may be a signal that the child needs an opportunity to work with more basic, less-structured materials: blank paper and paints, play dough, abstract collage shapes and objects that can be glued onto surfaces such as paper or cardboard.

Using Glue

Purchase glue in large containers (up to one-gallon size). Since preschoolers have difficulty using glue bottles effectively, you may want to try one of the following procedures:

- Pour small amounts of glue into several shallow containers (such as margarine tubs or the bottoms of soda bottles).
- Dilute glue by mixing a little water into each container.
- Have children use paintbrushes to spread glue on their projects.

Cutting with Scissors

- Provide blunt-tip scissors that the children to use when cutting is required for a craft.
- Remember some of the children in your class may be left-handed. Have two or three pairs of left-handed scissors available.
- Precut fabric, felt, or ribbon for younger children.



“Things God Made” Book

Materials

- craft foam in various colors
- wide-tip permanent marker
- resealable plastic bags (5 per child)
- flat nature items (leaves, flowers, small pebbles, several per child)
- craft glue
- scissors
- stapler
- ruler

Before Class

Cut the craft foam into 7” x 12” rectangles, one for each. Cut a variety of small craft foam triangles and squares, about 1” in size. Lay five resealable bags directly on top of one another with openings facing the same directions. Staple the bags together at the bottom, opposite of the openings (sketch a).

Instructions for Children

- Fold the 7” x 12” foam piece in half to make a book cover. Use a marker to print “Things God Made” on the front cover.
- Lay the bags inside the folded cover with the stapled edges along the fold. Staple all layers together along the fold (sketch b).
- Glue foam shapes around the edge of the front cover to make a border (sketch c).
- Select and place nature items in the bags.

Enrichment Idea

Take children on a nature walk to collect items for their books.

Talk About

We can learn about God by looking at the wonderful things He has made. What is one of your favorite things that God made? We can also learn about God by listening to the stories from the Bible.



Hot Air Balloon Mobile

Materials

- mobile patterns (pp. 15–16)
- white card stock
- old sponges
- acrylic paint in a variety of colors (including light blue, yellow, and orange)
- pencil
- ruler
- scissors
- hole punch
- string
- newspapers
- shallow containers
- plastic clothes hangers (preferably child-size, 1 per child)
- paint shirts
- wet wipes
- spring clothespins (*optional*)

Enrichment Idea

When dry to touch, allow the children to turn their pieces over and sponge paint the opposite sides. Allow time for all the pieces to dry.

Talk About

If you were on a hot air balloon ride, would you like to fly above the clouds, in the clouds, or below the clouds? What do you think you would see in a cloud? What might you see above the clouds? Below the clouds? Genesis 1 says God made the sky on day 1. He made the sun on day 4. Children can hang their mobiles at home as reminders that God made the world.

Before Class

Copy the mobile patterns onto the card stock and cut out the pieces. You will need one balloon, one sun, and two clouds for each child. Cut sets of four strings in various lengths from 5" to 12" (one set for each child). Punch a hole at the top center of each mobile piece. Cover the work area with newspaper. Pour the paint into shallow containers. Cut the sponges into 2" squares. Dampen the sponges.

Simplification Idea

Show young children how to pinch a sponge square in a clothespin. They can grasp the clothespin with the whole fist and then dab the sponge into the paint to lightly paint the desired area.

Instructions for Children

- Use the light-blue paint to sponge-paint one side of each cloud. Use the yellow and orange paint to sponge-paint one side of the sun. Use a variety of colors to sponge-paint one side of the hot air balloon. Let all the pieces dry. Then slip a string through the punched hole in each piece. Tie the pieces to a hanger (see sketch).

