

# Rain Forest Terrarium

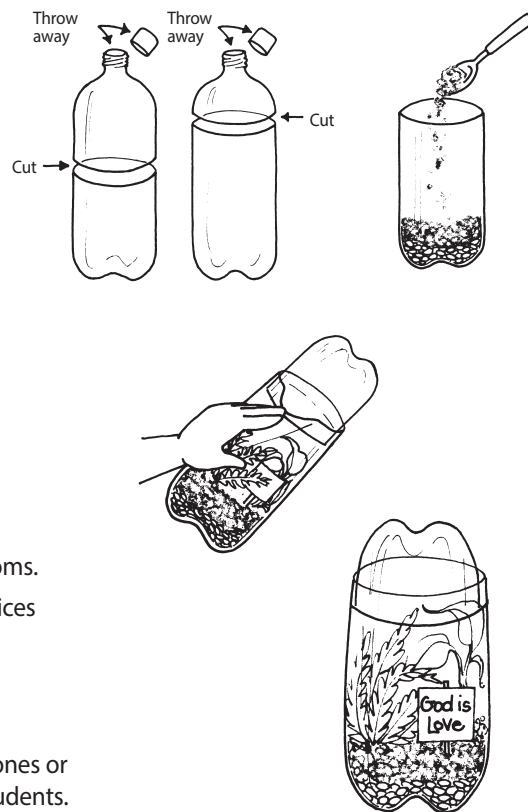
## Lesson 1: God Creates the World

### You Need

- 2 2-liter plastic bottles
- Knife
- Small stones or aquarium gravel, washed
- Potting soil
- Small green plants
- Newspaper & large spoons or paper cups
- Watering can or jug filled with water
- Strips of construction paper & tape or labels & markers

### Get Ready

- Cut the top portion off two 2-liter soda pop bottles and discard. Keep bottoms.
- Purchase or ask for donations of small plants, several per project; good choices include pothos, ivy, mosses, small ferns, and philodendron.
- Collect small stones, or purchase and wash aquarium gravel.
- Cover areas where students will work with newspaper.
- Give each student two bottom halves of a bottle; set out the dirt, plants, stones or gravel, water jug, and spoons or cups in a central area for easy access by students.
- Make a sample.



### Introduce the Craft

**Say** In the beginning, God created the world in six days! He formed creation on the first three days and filled it on the next three.

Review the days of creation.

**Ask** What is one of your favorite parts of God's creation? Allow for several responses.

**Say** God summed up what He made by saying it was very good. He continues to care for His world and gives us many blessings to enjoy. Today, you'll make a rain forest terrarium. The water in the soil will evaporate and collect on the top and sides of the dome. As the water cools, it drips down onto the plants, watering them like rain. The plants in the terrarium produce oxygen and go through the process of photosynthesis.

Your terrarium can remind you of all the blessings God "rains" on you in His creation and His ongoing care for it and for you.

### Do This

- Fill the bottom of one bottle with a 1-inch layer of washed gravel or stones.
- Use paper cups or spoons to cover the gravel with about 2 inches of potting soil.
- Plant several small plants in the soil and water them.
- Turn the other half of a water bottle upside down and fit it inside the base of the first one to form a dome. (You may have to slightly squeeze in the sides of the top bottle.) Press it down as far as it will go into the soil.
- Print the Bible Words for today or Genesis 1:11–12 on labels or strips of construction paper to attach to your terrarium: "God said, 'Let the earth sprout vegetation,' . . . And God saw that it was good." *Option:* Print "Thank You, God, for our world" or "God is love" on the label.
- At home, place your terrarium in a sunny spot, but not in direct sunlight.
- Remove the dome for a short time every week to reduce the moisture inside and to trim the plants if they grow too large.

# Garden Promises

## Lesson 2: God Creates Adam and Eve

### You Need

- Small clay or plastic plant pot
- Wooden paint stirrer stick or ruler
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrush, water cups & water
- Permanent markers
- Acrylic spray (adult use only)
- Beans or other fast-sprouting seeds
- Potting soil & newspapers to cover work area
- *Option:* Use colored plastic rulers instead of wooden paint sticks and paint. Print Bible Words on labels to attach to the sticks.

### Get Ready

- Cover the work area with newspapers.
- Set out materials.
- Make a sample.



### Introduce the Craft

**Say** God created the Garden of Eden as the perfect place for Adam and Eve to live. In this garden, God made all kinds of trees and plants grow. When Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send a Savior to help them.

**God makes us grow too. He makes us grow in faith and love for Him. Today, you will make a potted plant to remind you of this. You can remember God's love for you every time you water your plant and as you watch it grow.**

### Do This

- If using a wooden paint stirrer or ruler, paint it, and let it dry.
- Use a fine-point marker to print "God . . . makes things grow" or "God . . . gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:7) on the stick or ruler. Leave at least an inch blank at the bottom of the stick for it to go into the soil. *Option:* Print the words on a label to attach to your stick.
- Spray the stick with acrylic spray to waterproof the stick (adults only). Let it dry.
- Decorate the pot. Add your own designs to personalize your pot. Print "Grow in grace" or the words of Job 33:4 on it: "God has made me, and . . . gives me life."
- When the pot is dry, add potting soil and seeds.
- Water well, then add your finished growth stick.
- At home, place the pot in your garden or in a window that gets good sunlight.

# Slithering Snake

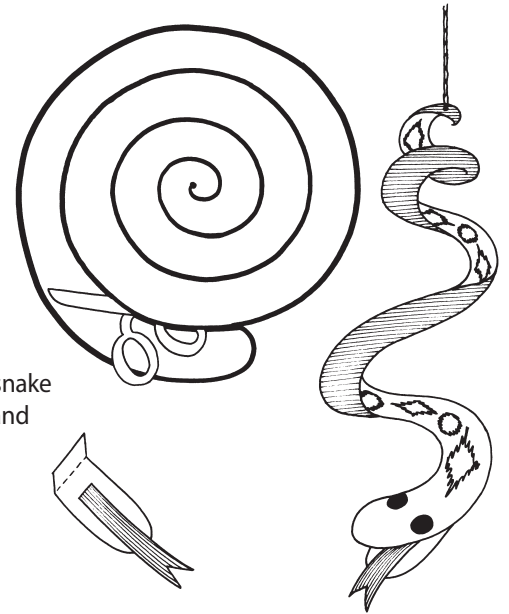
Lesson 3: Sin Enters the World

## You Need

- Construction paper, 9" × 12", or paper plates
- Red paper
- Scissors
- Pencils & markers
- Yarn
- *Optional:* Give each student two rulers to make a cross. Have them attach their snake to the cross as a reminder of Jesus' saving act on the cross to defeat sin, death, and the devil.

## Get Ready

- Set out supplies.
- Make a sample snake.



## Introduce the Craft

**Say** The devil took the form of a serpent (snake) and tempted Eve and Adam into sin. Because of sin, nothing was perfect anymore. Show sample. **Today, you'll make a slithering snake to remind you of how sin came into the world.**

**But that's not the end of the story, is it? God loved His creation so much that He made clothing for Adam and Eve and sent them away from the garden with the promise that someday the woman's offspring would crush the serpent's head. God kept that promise and sent Jesus to be victorious over the devil, sin, and death!**

**If you want, you can coil your snake around a wall cross at home, or put two rulers together to make a cross and coil your snake around it to remind you of Jesus' saving act.**

## Do This

- Make a dot in the middle of the paper or paper plate.
- Draw a spiral circle radiating outward from the center dot to make the snake's body.
- When you get near the edge of the paper or plate, round the line to meet the nearest line of the spiral (this will make the head).
- Add eyes and designs to the snake's body with markers.
- Cut out the snake along the spiral lines.
- Trace around the head on the same color of construction paper or a leftover scrap from the plate to make a mouth. Cut out the mouth.
- Fold a tab along the straight edge of the mouth about ¼ inch, and glue the tab underneath the head so the mouth "opens."
- Glue a scrap of red paper inside the mouth for a tongue.
- Poke a tiny hole in the tail of the snake. Thread a piece of yarn through the hole and tape it on the back side.
- Hang your snake. Watch it slither in the breeze.

# God's Child Pin

Lesson 4: Cain and Abel

## You Need

- Jigsaw puzzle pieces, 1 per student
- Metallic acrylic paint
- Paintbrush, water cups & water
- Fine-point black permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Glitter & colored stones or gem shapes, 1 per student
- 1" pin back, 1 per student
- Newspaper
- *Optional:* Provide gems to match birthstones: January—deep red; February—deep medium purple; March—pale blue; April—white; May—bright green; June—light purple; July—deep garnet red; August—yellow-green; September—deep blue; October—pink; November—yellow-brown; and December—turquoise.

## Get Ready

- Cover work area with newspaper.
- Make a sample.



## Introduce the Craft

**Say** God punished Cain for his sin and put a mark on him. The mark was a sign of God's protection. It showed that God still loved Cain and cared for him even after he sinned.

**God never stopped loving Cain. Even with all your sin, God never stops loving you either. Jesus' hands were marked with blood as He was nailed to the cross. Now, as His baptized children, we are marked with God's forgiveness.**

**Ask** What does the pastor say and do when he baptizes someone? He marks a cross on the person and says that the cross marks the person as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

**Say** In Christ, God loves and forgives us. He preserves us in faith. Today, you'll make a God's child pin. You can wear it as a reminder that God has made you His child through Baptism and His Word.

## Do This

- Choose a puzzle piece that resembles a human body.
- Paint the puzzle piece.
- If you like, sprinkle glitter on the wet paint.
- When dry, add a face and other details with a marker.
- Glue a colored stone or gem in the center. Let dry.
- Glue the pin-back to the body back and let it dry.

# Dove of Hope

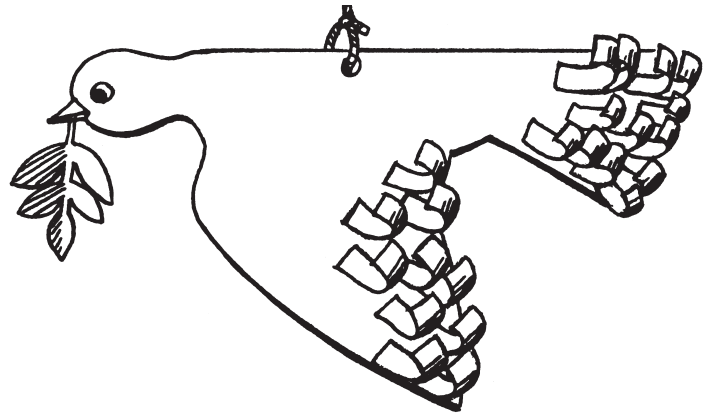
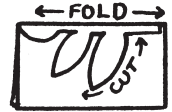
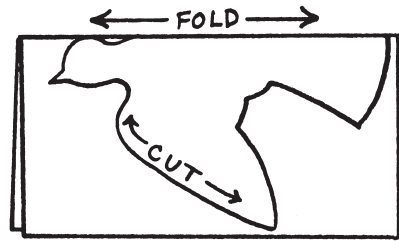
## Lesson 5: Noah and the Flood

### You Need

- White & green construction paper
- Pencils & markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Hole punch
- “Dove of Hope” pattern (end of activity)

### Get Ready

- Duplicate and cut out the “Dove of Hope” pattern.
- Set out supplies.
- Make a sample.



### Introduce the Craft

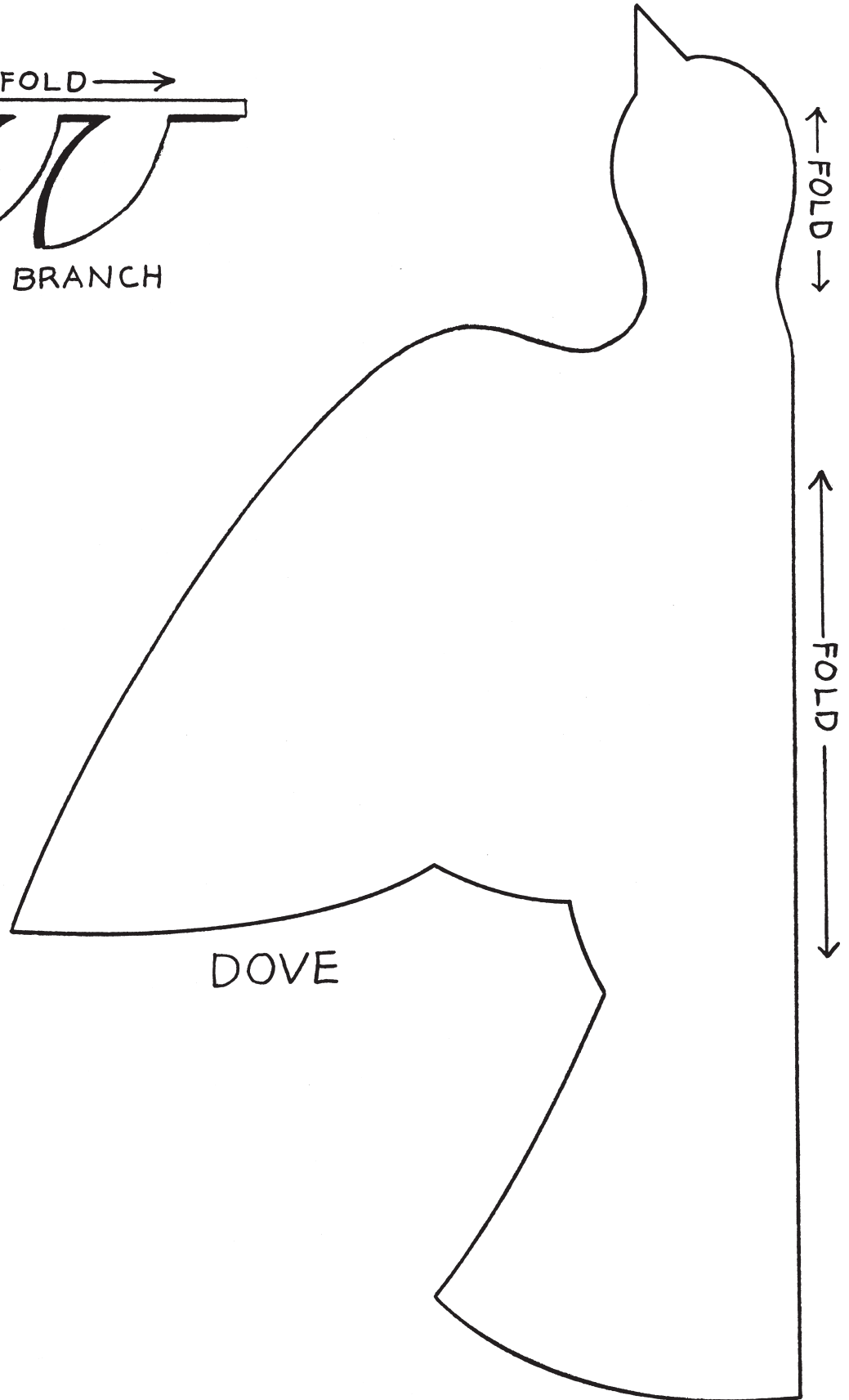
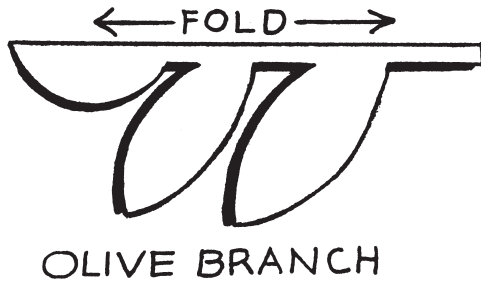
**Say** In the account of Noah and the flood, we see God’s judgment on sin. God spared Noah and his family, however, because they believed in Him. After the rain stopped, Noah sent out a dove. When Noah sent a dove out of the ark the second time, it flew over the flood and came back with an olive branch—a sign that the water had gone down and plants were growing again. Later, God put a rainbow in the sky. He promised Noah that He would never send another big flood to cover the earth.

**Because of sin, you and I deserve death too. But God promised to send a Savior to rescue us from sin. Today, you will make a paper dove of hope. It can remind you that God keeps His promises. He has forgiven your sins for Jesus’ sake and promises to give all who believe in Him a beautiful home in heaven.**

### Do This

- Fold a piece of white construction paper in half lengthwise. Place the dove pattern on the fold. See diagram. Trace and cut out the dove. Don’t cut on the fold!
- Color the beak and eyes.
- Fold a piece of green construction paper. Place the olive branch pattern on the fold as shown. Trace and cut out the olive branch. Glue it in the dove’s beak.
- Cut narrow strips of white construction paper. Curl the strips by drawing them across the full edge of a scissors.
- Glue the curled strips on the wings of the dove for feathers.
- Punch a hole in the top center of the dove. Cut a piece of yarn. Tie it through the hole for a hanger.

# "Dove of Hope" Pattern



# Star Bubble Maker

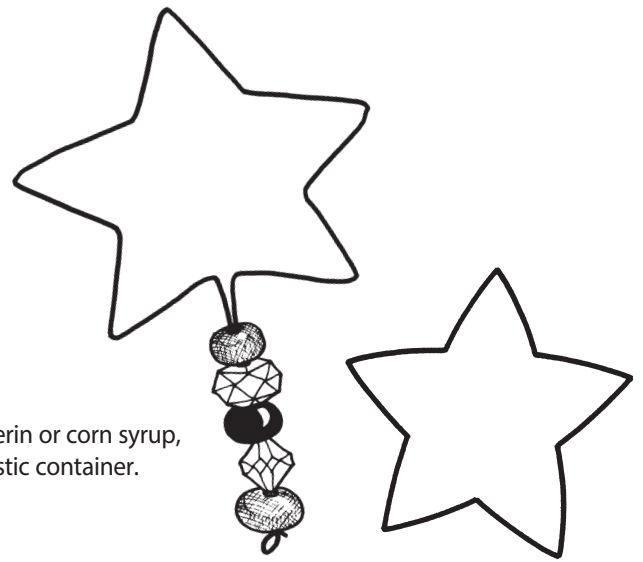
Lesson 6: God's Covenant with Abram

## You Need

- 22- or 24-gauge wire, 1 yard per student
- Large star-shaped cookie cutter
- 5 large acrylic beads
- Needle-nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Bubble solution, purchased or homemade
- *Optional:* To make bubble solution, you will need 2 teaspoons glycerin or corn syrup,  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup water,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup Dawn or Joy dishwashing detergent, and a plastic container.

## Get Ready

- Gather supplies.
- If you are making the bubble solution, combine ingredients in a plastic container, and stir gently to mix.
- Make a sample.



## Introduce the Craft

**Say** God uses everyday things that we see, touch, and taste to give us faith—His Word, the water of Baptism, and the bread and wine of His Supper.

**God helped Abram to understand His promises by using everyday things in Abram's life too.**

**Ask** What did God tell Abram to count? *Stars*

**Say** God told Abram he would have more children than the stars he could count. Today, you'll make a star-shaped bubble maker to remind you that God's promise to save Abram is our promise too. Jesus is one of Abram's descendants, but He is our Savior!

**At home, you can use your bubble maker to blow bubbles to share the joy of your salvation in Jesus. Count the bubbles you blow. For each one, name a promise God gives you.**

## Do This

- Bend wire around a cookie cutter, leaving 12-inch ends on both sides.
- Twist the ends together a few times with the pliers.
- Thread beads onto both wires.
- Twist the wires together to make a knot to keep the beads from falling off.
- Twist the remaining wires together to make a handle.
- Dip your star-shaped bubble maker into bubble solution. Blow gently or wave to make bubbles.

# Saved-by-Jesus Pottery

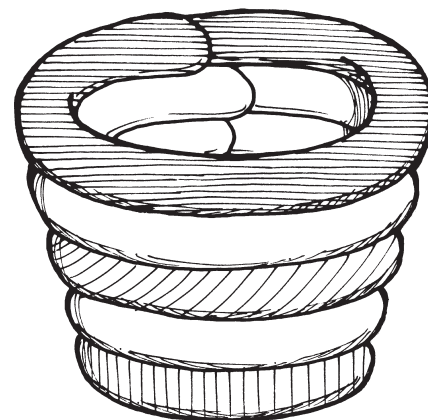
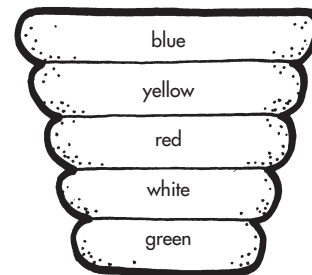
## Lesson 7: Abraham's Visitors from Heaven

### You Need

- Green, white, red, yellow & blue polymer clay (Sculpey III brand works well!)
- Plastic knife
- Waxed paper, cookie sheet & oven access
- Message of salvation papers or cards (see below)
- *Option:* Use brown clay to make an earthenware pot. Add a clay handle.

### Get Ready

- On half sheets of paper or 4 × 6 cards, print what each color of clay represents:  
*Green:* God created a beautiful, perfect world and two perfect people, Adam and Eve.  
*White:* Adam and Eve sinned and ruined God's perfect world. Life became colorless and difficult. Sin separated us from God, but He had a plan to save His people. That plan included God coming to Abraham with the promise of a son, a family from which the Lord Jesus would be born.  
*Red:* God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus shed His blood and laid down His life on the cross to bring us back to God.  
*Yellow:* Three days later, Jesus came alive again. Those who believe in Jesus as their Savior receive forgiveness of sin. He makes us perfect in God's eyes.  
*Blue:* In Baptism, God claims us as His children (Galatians 3:26–27). Believers in Jesus will live with Him forever—now and in heaven someday.
- Make a sample pot.



### Introduce the Craft

**Say** In today's Bible account, God came to Abraham with the promise of a son, a family that continues on for generation after generation all the way to our Lord Jesus. Abraham was a gracious host. When he saw the three strangers, he invited them to sit under a cool tree and hurried to get food and drink for them.

**Today, you will make a little clay pot as a reminder of this dinner meeting. It can also remind you that Abraham's promise of salvation is our promise too. Through Baptism, God makes us part of His family. He forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. You can also use your pot to tell others the message of salvation made possible by Jesus.**

### Do This

- Cut a 1-inch square of each clay color. Beginning with green, work each color of clay in your hands until it is pliable.
- On waxed paper, roll the green clay into a snake shape. Wind it into a 1.5-inch base for a pot.
- Next, form the white clay into a slightly larger spiral. Press it onto the green spiral.
- Form the red clay into a slightly larger spiral. Press it onto the white spiral.
- Continue, adding the yellow and blue clay. Rub your fingers gently along the sides of the pot to make sure that the spirals are well connected.
- Place the pot on a cookie sheet.
- Have an adult bake the pots according to manufacturer's instructions. Let pots cool completely.
- Put the message of salvation paper or card inside the pot.
- *Option:* To make a brown clay jug or cup, follow the same procedure using only brown clay. Also make a small half spiral. Attach it to the pot for a handle.



# Wooden Cross

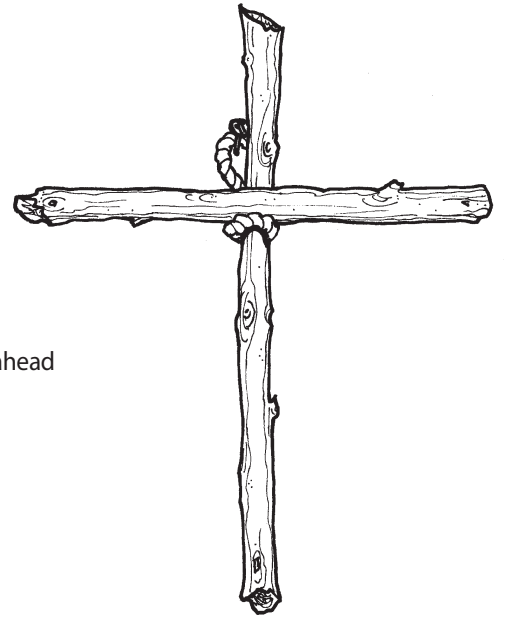
Lesson 8: Abraham and Isaac

## You Need

- Sticks & twigs
- Masking tape
- Wood glue
- String or twine

## Get Ready

- Gather sticks or twigs smaller than 10 inches, enough for your class, or arrange ahead of time for students to take a walk and gather their own.
- Make a sample.



## Introduce the Craft

**Say** The entire Bible points us to Christ through various means. For example, sacrifices in the Old Testament prepare us to know that a sacrifice must be made for our sins. Today's story of Abraham and Isaac parallels and foreshadows the sacrifice of Jesus and gives us a rich picture of the love of God the Father, who did not spare His only beloved Son, but offered Him up as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Through faith in Him, we have forgiveness of our sins and eternal salvation.

**Ask** What did Abraham and Isaac take along for their sacrifice? **Wood**

**Say** Today, you'll use sticks and twigs to make a wooden cross, which is a symbol for the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf. Whenever you see the cross you've made, thank Jesus for dying for your sins and giving you new, eternal life.

## Do This

- Plan a cross design using sticks and twigs that have been gathered.
- Fasten the items together using masking tape or twine until you are satisfied with the design.
- Use wood glue to join the sticks and twigs together permanently. Don't glue the masking tape or twine to the sticks.
- When completely dry, remove the masking tape and strings.
- Use new string or twine to hang your finished cross on a wall or tree branch outside.

# Lashed Family Photo Frame

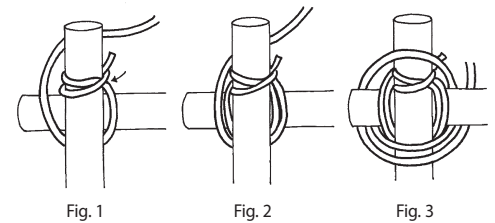
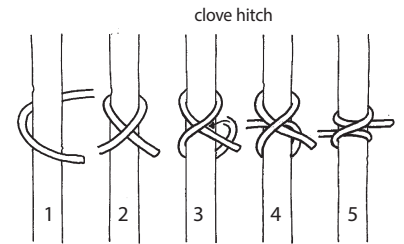
Lesson 9: Isaac and Rebekah

## You Need

- 4 sticks per student, all about the same length, or 2 each of the same lengths
- Twine, jute, string, or yarn
- Construction paper
- Family photo

## Get Ready

- A week ahead, ask students to bring a family photo for this project; alternately, they can put a photo of themselves or their family in their frame at home.
- Collect sticks.
- Make a sample.



## Introduce the Craft

**Say God helped Abraham's servant find a good wife for Isaac, one who would believe in the one true God as Isaac did.**

**God gives us our families, too, and blesses us through them. Today, you'll make a lashed photo frame. You can put a family picture in it to remind you that God loves us and blesses us through our families.**

*Note:* Families are gifts from God, but sin continues to wreak havoc in families today. Affirm the forgiveness God gives us through Jesus' death and resurrection and other ways that He provides for our needs when our families fall short.

## Do This

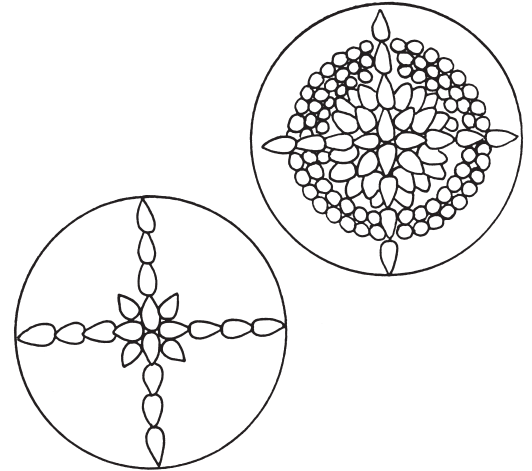
- Follow the five steps in the diagram to tie a clove hitch on one stick.
- Lash a second stick to the first by pulling the string over the horizontal stick and behind the vertical stick (fig. 1).
- Continue, pulling the strings tightly as you work (fig. 2).
- Push the loose end between the sticks and knot it (fig. 3).
- Repeat on each corner to make the frame.
- Cut paper to fit the frame, and glue it to the back. Glue your photo on the paper.
- At home, place your family photo on your dinner table. Before or after you eat, include a thank-You prayer for God's blessings to your family.

# Cross Collage

Lesson 10: Jacob and Esau

## You Need

- Dry lentils, beans, or pumpkin seeds
- White paper plate or cardboard circle, 1 per student
- Tacky glue & scissors
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Metallic thread or yarn
- Newspapers
- *Optional:* Additional small seeds or rice; acrylic sealer



## Get Ready

- If using pumpkin seeds, wash and dry them. Bake at 200°F for 25 minutes to kill insect eggs or larvae.
- Set out lentils, pumpkin seeds, other dried beans, and the like in bowls.
- Cover work area with newspaper.
- If using cardboard circles, cut them out ahead of time, one per student.
- Make a sample.

## Introduce the Craft

**Say Jacob and Esau's story features two important meals: a stew made from lentils and a goat dinner. Jacob, a great father of God's people, was a sinner! He used these delicious meals to deceive and swindle and lie. But God in His mercy used Jacob in spite of his sin.**

**Families don't always get along. Sometimes we fight and hurt one another. Like Jacob and Esau, we sin too. Just as He did for Jacob and Esau, God works for our good, forgiving us and giving us faith and salvation through the perfect work of His Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Today, you will make a cross collage using lentils or seeds. You can hang your collage at home as a reminder of today's Bible story and how Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that we are forgiven.**

## Do This

- Trace a simple pattern that incorporates a cross on your paper plate or cardboard circle.
- Glue dried lentils, beans, or pumpkin seeds to the plate to make the desired pattern. Add additional smaller seeds or rice, if desired.
- When glue is dry, paint, if desired, or leave natural.
- Glue a metallic thread or piece of yarn to the back as a hanger.
- *Option:* Spray with clear, acrylic sealer.

# Stone Paperweight

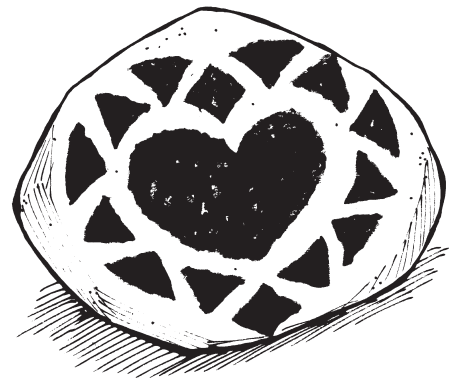
## Lesson 11: Jacob's Dream

### You Need

- Medium-sized stone with smooth surface, 1 per student
- Crayons
- Metal cookie sheet
- Aluminum foil
- Oven mitts & oven
- Old sock
- Newspaper

### Get Ready

- Find or ask students to bring medium-sized smooth stones to class.
- Cover work area with newspaper. Also have a thick layer of newspaper to put stones on when they come out of the oven until they are cool.
- Cover cookie sheet with aluminum foil.
- Enlist adults to help put stones in oven and take them out.
- Make a sample.



### Introduce the Craft

**Say** Jacob was on his way to his uncle's to find a wife. At night, he lay down on the ground, resting against a flat stone for his pillow.

**Ask** What did Jacob see? A ladder with angels ascending and descending on it

**Say** The Lord stood at the top of the ladder and told Jacob, "I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." This comfort, God's presence now and forever, was not just a promise for Jacob. God continues to reveal Himself and His plan of salvation to us today through His Word and Sacraments.

Today, you'll make a stone paperweight. When you use your paperweight, you can remember that our Lord is with you too. He speaks to you through His Word. He saves you through Jesus' death and resurrection.

### Do This

- Rub crayon heavily on your stone, making Christian symbols and geometric designs.
- Place the stone on a foil-covered cookie sheet.
- Have an adult put the cookie sheet of stones in the oven. Bake at 200 degrees for 15 minutes.
- Have an adult take the stones out of the oven. Cool slightly on a thick stack of newspaper.
- When your stone is almost cool, slip one of your hands into an old sock. Use it to polish your stone. This will make the melted-crayon design shine.

# Family Face Puppets

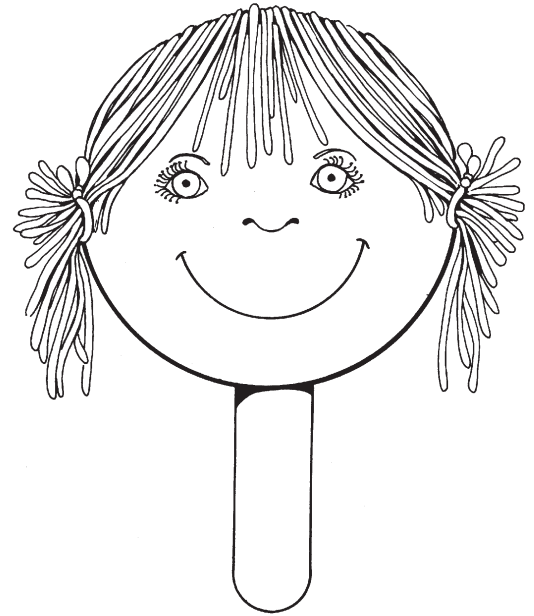
## Lesson 12: Jacob's Family

### You Need

- Small paper plates
- Scissors & glue
- Markers or crayons
- Wiggle eyes or buttons
- Yarn in assorted colors
- Gems & other embellishments
- Small craft sticks
- *Option:* Dowel rod & note card, 1 per student

### Get Ready

- Set out supplies.
- Make a sample.



### Introduce the Craft

**Say God loved Jacob and gave him a family to love and care for. God gives us families and many blessings too. In our Bible story, Jacob and his family played tricks on one another. They weren't always kind and loving.**

**We aren't always kind and loving either. Sometimes we say and do mean things to the people in our family too. But God loves and cares for us so much that He sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life and then died on the cross and rose again to take away our sins. Because of Jesus, God forgives our sins!** Show sample.

**Today, you'll make paper plate faces of you and your family. Use them at home to remember to thank God for your family and to pray for them.**

*Note:* Families are gifts from God, but sin continues to wreak havoc in families today. Affirm the forgiveness Christ gives.

### Do This

- Use the pencil to draw your eyes, nose, and mouth onto a plate. Add buttons or wiggle eyes.
- Pick yarn color to match your hair. Cut the yarn in pieces and glue to the plate. Add other embellishments, as desired.
- Make a paper plate face for the other members of your family (your mom, dad, brother or sister, grandparent, and so forth).
- Glue each plate to a craft stick
- Write your name or the name of your family member on the stick that matches the person's face.
- *Option 1:* Make a family mobile. Attach yarn to each family face plate instead of craft sticks. Hang the plates at varying lengths from a dowel to make a mobile of your family. Write "God bless our family" on a note card to hang from the dowel. Use the mobile at home to remind you to pray for each family member.
- *Option 2:* Make paper plate faces of the key people in the Bible story to use in retelling it.

# Traveling Pouch

Lesson 13: Esau Forgives Jacob

## You Need

- Old pair of blue jeans or overalls with back pockets
- Scissors
- Needle & navy-blue thread
- 1 yard of braided cord
- Fabric paint
- Buttons, rickrack, gems & other decorations
- Craft glue
- Blank note cards & Bibles or note cards with Bible verses written on them

## Get Ready

- Ask for donations of old blue jeans.
- Make a sample.
- *Note:* Craft stores and craft departments of discount stores sometimes sell ready-made pockets; alternately, check at goodwill for used jeans or overalls with pockets you can cut off.



## Introduce the Craft

**Say** After many years, God told Jacob to take his family back home to the Promised Land. So Jacob and his family packed up all their belongings, gathered their animals, and began the long trip.

**Ask** What do you think Jacob might have been thinking as he got closer to home? He was afraid Esau would still want to hurt him.

**Say** Sin separates us from God and results in broken families and failed friendships. But Jesus' forgiveness restores our broken relationship with God and heals our broken relationships as well. God, who forgives us, helps us show love and forgiveness to those who hurt and sin against us.

Today's craft, a traveling pouch, is a reminder that no matter what we do or where we go, Jesus keeps loving us and gives us His forgiveness.

## Do This

- Cut around the back pocket of an old pair of jeans, taking care to leave seams so the pocket stays intact.
- Use a needle and thread to stitch braided cord to the sides to make a strap.
- Decorate the outside of the pouch with fabric-paint designs, including crosses or hearts and geometric patterns.
- Glue or sew on buttons, rickrack, gems, and other decorative items.
- Add a Bible-verse note card, or write favorite Bible verses on note cards to insert in the pocket of your pouch. Use your pouch to store belongings and the cards with Bible-verse promises.