

I Spy Salvation's Story Craft Ideas

Lesson 1

Craft—Bible-Words Place Mat

What you do: For each project, you need an 11 × 17-inch piece of colored poster board or a 12 × 18-inch sheet of craft foam, pencils, markers, a Jesus sticker, other religious stickers, ribbon, and scraps of wrapping paper. Write “My help comes from the Lord” on the board, or supply foam letters in sandwich bags for the children to glue to their place mats. Make a sample place mat to show the children.

Options: Print the words in bubble letters on the place mats ahead of time. If using poster board, cover finished place mats with clear vinyl adhesive paper, cut into 13 × 19-inch sheets. Punch spaced holes around the edge of the poster board or craft foam, and give kids ribbon or yarn to “sew” in and out of the holes for a decorative finish.

Ask Do you remember our Bible Words? Let's say them: “My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2). God helps us because He loves us. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to take away our sins. Today, you'll make a place mat with the Bible Words on it.

To make the project, give each child a piece of poster board or craft foam. Have the children copy the Bible Words in the center with a pencil, making the letters at least one inch high, or give them foam letters to stick to it. Help younger children as needed. Have kids color the letters with a marker or crayon. Place the Jesus sticker near the words. Use the other stickers, the scraps of wrapping paper, and ribbon to decorate the place mat.

Craft—Pencil Towers

To Prepare: Make pencil towers (holders). Collect the following materials for each student: a tube container, wrapping paper or construction paper, tape, scissors, decorative duct tape, 3 × 3-inch cardboard squares, and permanent markers.

Cut wrapping paper or construction paper the length and width of the tube's circumference. The piece should cover the outside of the tube. Glue the decorative paper to the outside of the tube. Then have students write on duct tape one or more of the names for God from Activity Page 1 in various scripts. The students can tape the duct tape names for God in random fashion on the outside edge of the tubes. You could also apply the strips of duct tape before writing the names. To stabilize the pencil container, tape the tube to a 3 × 3-inch base.

Say This tower simply shouts the name of the Lord! During the week when you grab a pencil from this container, think of how God is your strength.

Lesson 2

Craft—Floating Basket

What you do: For each project, you need a wooden craft spoon, a 3-inch square of fabric, a large Styrofoam or paper cup, yarn or chenille wire, raffia, markers, glue, scissors, and a ruler.

Cut Styrofoam or paper cups to desired basket height (about 2 inches high). Give each child a craft spoon, fabric, cup, and yarn or chenille wire. Set out markers and glue. Make a sample of the project.

Option 1: Cut an even number of slits down the side of the cup to the base. Cut ½-inch strips of construction paper long enough to weave around the cup. Weave the paper strips in and out around the cuts. Alternate the weave until you get to the top of the cup. Tape or glue ends inside.

Option 2: Use plastic produce baskets (the kind fruit or cherry tomatoes come in at the grocery store) instead of cups. Have children weave chenille wire, thick yarn, or ribbon in and out of the plastic mesh

to make a woven basket for baby Moses. Tip: Attach ribbon or yarn to a safety pin to use as a “sewing needle.” To keep ribbon or yarn in place so it doesn’t unravel, tie one end to a corner of the basket. Show your sample.

Say Moses’ mother made a strong basket for baby Moses so no water could get in. God kept Moses safe this way so he could grow up and deliver God’s people from the bad king.

God loves and protects us too. He gives us people to watch over us and help us. Best of all, He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin. You can use this craft to tell the story of the floating basket to your family or someone who doesn’t know the story.

Have students use the felt-tip marker to draw a face on one end of a spoon. Glue yarn or chenille wire around the cup to make the basket. Glue pieces of raffia or yarn inside the basket for bedding. Place baby Moses in the basket and cover him with the cloth square.

Craft—Woven Picture

To Prepare: Make a woven picture from the shell on Activity Page 2 in the Level B Teacher Guide, construction paper, wrapping paper or magazine pictures, ribbon, and yarn. For the base, use one piece of 9 × 12-inch construction paper and the baptismal shell cut from Activity Page 2. Cut 1- to 2-inch-wide the weaving strips from colorful construction paper, wrapping paper, or magazine pictures. Consider weaving yarn or ribbon strips also.

To make the base or warp, fold a 9 × 12-inch sheet of construction paper in half the long way (hot dog style). Then make a series of parallel cuts. Begin by holding the fold in your hand. Cut from the fold to the edge, stopping before you get to the edge.

The lateral strips are the weft or filling. Show the students how to weave under and over alternating strips and tighten them as they go so they stay in place. For variety, weave in ribbon or yarn. Secure the ends with a dot of glue or tape.

Say Moses’ mother prepared a strong and secure basket to hold Moses. As she wove, she may have prayed that the Lord would protect her son. By giving up her son, she hoped to save him, and that’s just what happened. Through a river and a princess, God saved the floating baby. By giving up His Son, God saved you. Jesus came to deliver all of us from evil.

Challenge the students to think of ways to show how God saved them. They can make and add crosses or they can add the Bible Words. They may want to color and use the shell and water drops from Activity Page 2.

Organize the finished projects together in your classroom. Consider taking a digital picture of the display and sending it through e-mail to the families of your students.

Lesson 3

Craft—Cross Suncatcher

What you do: You will need ½-inch wide sheer, iridescent red ribbon, two 8-inch squares of waxed paper per child, two 9 × 12-inch sheets of construction paper per child, and a towel and iron for adult use.

Cut ribbon ahead of time. Each child will need one 5-inch length of ribbon, one 7-inch length of ribbon, and one 12-inch length of ribbon. Prepare frames for younger children by cutting a 7½-inch square from the center of both sheets of construction paper. Make a sample project.

Option: Use pressed flowers to make the cross in the suncatcher. Press fresh flowers between the pages of a heavy book for a few days. Remove them when they are dried out.

Say Rahab believed in God, and she helped the spies. She hung a red cord in her window so God’s people would know not to hurt her. Today, you will make a cross suncatcher to hang in your window. Show your cross suncatcher. The cross reminds you that God sent Jesus to save you from your sins.

To make the project, have children lay the 5-inch and 7-inch ribbon in a cross pattern on an 8-inch square of waxed paper. (If using flowers, have the children arrange the flowers in a cross pattern on the waxed paper.) Cover this with another 8-inch square of waxed paper. Have an adult place a towel on top of the waxed-paper layers and iron over them until the wax melts. Remove the towel and let the papers cool.

Create a frame by measuring and cutting a 7½-inch square from the center of two sheets of construction paper. Place the waxed-paper square between the construction-paper sheets. Glue the paper around the square to make the frame. Attach the 12-inch length of ribbon to the top for a hanger. Older kids can write on the bottom of the frame, “The Lord is merciful” (Psalm 103:8).

Craft—Wall Hanging

To Prepare: Prepare a sample of the wall-hanging craft. Cut 12-inch lengths of red cord or ribbon—three for each student. Tie the tops together on a key ring (split ring). Leave the other ends free. Students will string alphabet pony beads and heart pony beads on the strands.

To begin, ask the children to sort the alphabet beads to find the letters needed for the words “God have mercy” and as many heart beads as desired. On each strand, the students string the letters of one word. They add heart beads where desired. Secure the ends of the strands with knots.

Say Like the people of Jericho, we sometimes refuse to fear and trust God. We, too, deserve God’s anger, or wrath. Instead of destroying us, God is merciful. His mercy is greater than His wrath.

Because of Jesus, He forgives our sins and gives eternal life to all who repent and fear Him. Because of Jesus, we have the gift of salvation. This happened to Rahab. This happens to us.

When you see this craft, pray the words “God have mercy” and know that He will.

Ask your students to think about where they might put their craft. Talking about a location helps insure the project’s use at home.

Lesson 4

Craft—Wire Sculptures

To Prepare: For this section, use various colors of pliable, 22-gauge, plastic-coated copper wire (available at craft stores or on the Web), craft beads (optional), scissors, Styrofoam rectangle bases, and the suggestions on Activity Page 4.

Before class, practice shaping the coated wire by watching instructional videos on the Web or by following the patterns on Activity Page 4. Let your students manipulate the wire before focusing on the project. They can try spelling words or making a cross.

Say The wire sculptures we make will help us remember our Bible Words. [God says,] “You will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you” (Jeremiah 29:12).

Have your students use two wires to form the outline of folded hands. Then tell them to cut out and tape the Bible Words between the overlapped thumbs.

Follow the sketches. Show how to attach the Bible Words inside the folded hands.

Say When Jesus died on the cross, He purchased your robe of righteousness. He provided the garments of your salvation. Now, the devil cannot bully or harm you anymore.

Although you have sad days, you have God’s promise that He cares and helps. You can call upon Him and come to Him. That’s what Hannah did at Shiloh. He heard Hannah, and He promises to hear you too!

Craft—Prayer Picture

What you do: Make a copy of Resource Page 3 from the Level B Teacher Guide for each child. Cut off the top section with the handprint. Cut out the handprint and discard it. This will make a handprint stencil.

See the illustrations on the bottom of Resource Page 3. You will also need colored cardstock, dot paints or dot markers (paint tubes or markers with round ends for making dots), fine-line markers, stickers, tape, scissors, yarn, and a hole punch. Make a sample.

Say Today, you will make a prayer picture. Show sample. You can hang your picture in your room. It can remind you to pray, and it will help you remember that God hears your prayers.

Have students tape the handprint stencil over a piece of cardstock, centering the hand outline close to the right edge. Have children use dot paints or markers to cover the entire hand design. Do not make the paint too thick. Allow a few minutes to dry and then remove the stencil. Have them print “God hears my prayers” next to the hand, giving help as needed. Decorate the edges of the picture with small stickers. Punch a hole in the top corners. Help the children thread yarn through the holes and tie to make a hanger.

Lesson 5

Craft—Stained Glass Trifold

What you do: For each project, you will need a 9 × 12-inch piece of blue construction paper, a 6 × 9-inch piece of white paper, crayons (white and colored), tape, scissors, cooking oil in a bowl, cotton balls, and newspapers. Make a sample, following the directions at the end of the section.

Show your sample stained glass picture.

Ask In our Bible story today, who said, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord?” Allow for answers. Yes, the angels praised God with these words, and the temple shook and filled with smoke. How did Isaiah feel? (He was afraid because he knew he did wrong things and was not worthy to be in God’s presence.)

What did God do to show Isaiah he was forgiven? (He sent His angel to touch Isaiah with the coal.)

God forgives our sins for Jesus’ sake too. He makes us His children through Baptism and His Word.

Angels praise God. We can praise God too. We can sing and pray and live as God’s children.

Today, you will make this stained glass picture. You can stand it up at home to remind you of our Bible story. Our holy God forgave Isaiah and sent him out to tell others about God’s love. God forgives your sins, too, for Jesus’ sake. God sends you out to show love and tell others about Jesus.

Give each child a piece of construction paper, a piece of white paper, and a white crayon. Set out brightly colored crayons, scissors, tape, and cotton balls for group use. Place the bowl of cooking oil on newspapers.

Lightly fold the blue construction paper in half vertically to find the center (it will be 6 × 9 inches). Unfold and smooth out. Now fold each 6-inch side in to touch the middle fold. Crease the edges; then unfold. You will have two 3 × 9-inch side panels and a large 6 × 9-inch area in the center. Cut out the center area, leaving about a 1-inch frame around this panel.

Have the children draw something on the white paper that shows “God is Lord” (e.g., a crown, cross, heart). Tell them to outline their drawing in black crayon, then color the picture in bright colors, pressing down hard. They can fill in the corners with colored shapes.

When they have finished coloring, have them place their picture face down on the newspaper. Dip a cotton ball in cooking oil, and rub it over the whole picture. (The teacher should do this for younger children.) While the picture is drying, have the children write “Holy, Holy, Holy” on the left panel with a white crayon and “is the Lord” on the right panel.

Tape the picture to the back of the middle area so that it shows through the frame. Read the words on it together.

Option: Copy Activity Page 5 for each child. Let the children color the figures, then help them cut out the figures and tape them to upside-down paper cups to make storytelling figures. Encourage the children to use the figures to tell the Bible story to their family or friends.

Craft—Envelope Messages

To Prepare: Make copies of Resource Page 5 in the back of the Level B Teacher Guide. If possible, copy it on red paper. You will also need scissors. Write the words of Psalm 51:10 on the board: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

Today, have the students assemble an envelope and message. The message will remind them that God forgives them and sends them out too.

Say While Isaiah was serving in the temple, God gave him a wonderful vision of the Lord on His throne and the angels around Him. What happened next? (Isaiah felt unworthy to be there and confessed that he had “unclean lips” [v. 5].) God forgave Isaiah’s sins. God sent Isaiah off with His message.

God also touches us and makes us clean. He sends us out, like a letter with a message. Show Resource Page 5. Notice that the letter and envelope are all one. The open envelope looks like a cross. It is a reminder of where Jesus paid for our sins. The letter reminds us that God forgives our sins and restores us. We, too, can say, “Here I am! Send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

Have the children cut out the craft, fold it on the dotted lines, and write the words of Psalm 51:10 in the heart. The heart goes on the inside of the envelope. On the front, the students write their names in fancy scroll and this week’s Bible Words. When they finish, show them how to overlap the edges to secure the back of the envelope.

Lesson 6

Craft—Bible Words Scroll

What you do: You will need legal-size paper or brown paper bags. Each child will need two 10-inch dowels, markers, religious stickers, masking tape, and ribbon or string. Make copies of Resource Page 5 from Level A Teacher Guide and cut apart the pictures, so each child can put two or three on their scroll to “read.”

Use brown paper bags, cut to 8½ × 14 inches or to desired size, or stain legal-size papers with coffee to age them. Do this step ahead of time, or let kids do this at the beginning of class. If children do the step, tell them that they will hear about something very old in the Bible story, so they are going to make their papers look old.

To stain the paper to look like parchment, pour brewed or instant coffee in a dish. Put newspapers on your work surface. Put waxed paper over the newspaper and tape in place. Lay the sheet of paper you are staining on top of the waxed paper. Take a piece of sponge or cotton ball and dip it in the coffee, then paint the surface of the paper, just enough to stain it. Turn the paper over and paint the other side. Let the paper dry (about 30 minutes) or use a blow dryer to dry it.

Introduce the project and show your sample.

Say Today, we read God’s Word from the Bible. The Bible tells us the Good News that Jesus died on the cross and rose again to take away our sins. In Bible times, though, God’s Word was written on scrolls like the one we heard about today. The scrolls were made of animal skins or parchment paper. Once the words were written on them, they were rolled up. Today, you’ll make a Bible-times scroll like this. Show sample.

Have children carefully tear the edges of their paper to make them ragged. Give help to younger students. Tell them to orientate the paper so it is horizontal, then tape or glue several of the rebus pictures from Resource Page 5 to their papers. They may want to color them ahead of time.

Older children can write today’s Bible verse, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,” on the bottom of their paper. Children can use markers and stickers to decorate their scrolls; then tape a dowel to each end of the scroll paper. Show them how to roll the paper from each end toward the middle. Tie the closed scroll with a length of ribbon or string.

Craft—Mosaic Bookmarks

To Prepare: Bring to class construction paper scraps, scissors, glue sticks, a paper punch, and ribbon. Provide individual copies of Activity Page 6 from the back of the Level B Teacher Guide to make a Bible bookmark.

On the Web, look for examples of religious mosaics to show your students.

Pass out Activity Page 6 and the other supplies. Tell the children they are going to use a mosaic technique to fill in the design on the front of the bookmark. Show them any examples.

Say A mosaic is a picture or design made with small colored pieces. We will use small bits of colored construction paper glued to this page to decorate the outside and inside of the picture of this open Bible. The color bits can remind you of the power of God’s Word.

As you glue bits and pieces, talk with your friends. Of what might the various colors remind you?

What color could remind you to repent? What color could remind you of God’s mercy and forgiveness? What color could remind you that God’s Word is always true?

To complete the bookmark, fold Activity Page 6 on the dotted line. Use a paper punch to make a hole at the top. Punch through both pieces of paper and away from the top edge. Loop a 10-inch length of ribbon through the hole in the top. All the Bible Words for this curriculum will be shown on the back of the bookmark. Students and families can practice them so the “word of Christ” may dwell in them.

Ask In what book might you use this bookmark? (Bibles, Bible story collections, devotion books)

Lesson 7

Craft—Get-Well Card

What you do: You need Activity Page 7 from the Level A Teacher Guide, crayons or markers, yarn or raffia, small Band-Aids (enough so each child gets at least three), construction paper, and decorating supplies (e.g, scraps of tissue paper, buttons, or old puzzle pieces) to make get-well cards. Supply cookie cutters or other patterns shaped like a cross, heart, or flower. Option: Supply terra-cotta pots (any size), soil, and small plants or flowers.

Say The man in our Bible story couldn’t walk. He lay by the pool for a long, long time, hoping to get better. Then one day, Jesus came by and healed him. Today, you can make a card for people who need healing, people who are sick or in the hospital or in a nursing home. You can remind them that Jesus loves them too. Hand out Activity Page 7. **First, give the child hair and color the child’s clothing. Give children yarn or raffia to glue to the child for hair, or they can color hair.**

Let’s pretend this child is sick or hurt. Hand out Band-Aids. Does your child have a sick tummy or a sore arm? What else might be wrong? Put a Band-Aid on the spots that are hurting. When we get a scrape, a Band-Aid might help it feel better. When we feel sick, medicine may help us feel better. God gives us moms and dads and Band-Aids and medicines and doctors and nurses to help us when we feel bad.

But who heals us and makes us better? Jesus! Draw crosses on the Band-Aids to show that it is the power of Jesus that heals us and makes us better. Read the Bible Words. Jesus is God’s Son. He heals our diseases. He forgives our sins because He died on the cross for us.

Now let’s make this picture into a get-well card for someone who needs to hear about Jesus and His love. Give kids a piece of construction paper and have them glue the Activity Page to it. The construction paper gives added weight and interest.

To make a card, have kids fold the paper in half with the design to the inside, then trace around cookie cutters in the shape of a cross, heart, or flower to make a design on the blank front of their cards. Give help as needed. Have the children glue buttons or puzzle pieces or tissue paper to the outline. Older kids can write a personal message on the card. Younger children can just sign their names.

Option: To make gifts to go with the cards, give the children a terra-cotta pot. Have them decorate the pots by gluing buttons or other decorations to the rims. Give them potting soil and a small flower or plant to put inside.

Craft—Paper Beads

To Prepare: Provide individual copies of Activity Page 7 from Level B Teacher Guide. Also, you will need markers, glue or glue sticks, twist ties, and scissors.

Make beads from rolled-up paper as reminders of the rolled-up bed. Hold up Activity Page 7 and point to the triangles.

Say We will roll up these triangles and make four beads. Before we do, let's talk about the words on the triangles. Note the sins (tell a lie, say mean words, ignore God's Word, disobey leaders) **identified on the triangles. Remind the children that Jesus has come to heal us too. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has taken away our sin, our crippling disease. He sends us out to serve others in His name.**

Say Let's draw a cross on each triangle to remember that Jesus forgives our sins. Like the crippled man, we can roll up our worries and walk away. We can serve others in Jesus' name.

Students use markers to decorate the long skinny triangles. For attractive beads, make sure they color out to the edges. Next, cut out the triangles. Then starting with the wide end, roll the paper around a pencil. At the halfway point and again at the end, secure the roll with a drop of glue.

Once the beads are finished, string two of them on twist ties (such as the kind used for garbage bags) and attach them to their shoes as a reminder that Jesus has the power to heal them and send them walking away.

Lesson 8

Craft—Bible-Verse Magnet

What you do: Make magnets using 5 × 5-inch squares of poster board, copies of the heart on Resource Page 6 from the Level A Teacher Guide, fine-tip markers, magnet strips, glue, and ink pads or other decorating supplies. Have wet wipes available to wash fingers. Use craft scissors (the ones that cut scallops and other shapes) to make a decorative edge around the poster-board squares.

Use scissors to make scallops or other decorative edging around the poster board. Show the children how to ink their index finger and make prints around the edge of the 5 × 5-inch poster board to look like a frame. Have wet wipes for them to clean the ink from their fingers.

Give the children fine-point markers to add dot eyes and a mouth to make faces on some of their finger prints. Option: You can use a variety of rubber stamps, sequins, or other decorating supplies, instead, to decorate the border.

Hand out the cutout hearts from Resource Page 6, and say the Bible verse together. Have the children color the heart, then glue it to the center of the poster board. Glue 4-inch magnet strips to the back. As the kids work, review the story and God's love for us. Have children make a magnet to keep and one to give away to share Jesus' love with the person.

Option: Make magnets out of plastic canvas. For this option, you will need plastic canvas, waxed paper, colored glue, strip magnets, sequins or plastic beads, and glue. Cut the canvas 3 × 3 inches to make hearts; cut it 3 × 4 inches to make crosses. Use the heart and cross outlines on Resource Page 6 for patterns.

Place the canvas on waxed paper. Use glue to outline a heart or cross on the canvas. See figure at left. Give help as needed to younger kids. Fill the outlined heart or cross with colored glue. Add sequins or

plastic beads in the glue for decoration. Let dry (about 30 minutes). Attach magnet strips to the back of the shapes to make refrigerator magnets.

Craft—Luminaries

To Prepare: Bring to class paper bags, tissue paper, scissors, glue sticks, and electric tea lights. On the Web, look for a variety of cross images.

Help students make luminaries from the paper bags and tissue paper.

Say Today, we will make a luminary. This lamp can remind you of two things: Jesus' compassion for you and the way He uses you to love others.

What symbol reminds you of Jesus' love for you? Accept answers, but suggest that the cross symbolizes Jesus' compassion for us. Jesus won the forgiveness of sins for us. He binds us up and restores to us eternal life.

What symbol could we use for love or compassion? Accept answers, but suggest the heart as a universal symbol.

Say The light in the luminary shines through the opening. God's love shines through us. In our words and actions, others see God's love and sacrifice.

Give each student a paper bag, scissors, a glue stick, and tissue paper. Show them how to cut out hearts and crosses, taking care not to make the holes too big. Show them how to use a glue stick and attach tissue paper over the holes. When all the holes are covered, place an electric tea light inside.

Option: Children can use colorful markers to write the Bible Words on the outside of the luminary.

Lesson 9

Craft—Storytelling Figures

What you do: Copy Activity Page 9 from the Level a Teacher Guide for children to make their own story figures. Let them color and cut out the figures. Make them into storytelling figures by taping the figures to upside-down paper cups. Review the story as they work.

Option: Make footprint bookmarks. Use the footprint on Resource Page 6 as a pattern, tracing around it onto felt, construction paper, or poster board. Cut out footprint.

Use markers to write the Bible Words on the footprint: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" or [Jesus says,] "Learn from Me." Give children sequins or small pompoms to glue to the foot for toes.

Tell the children that they can use the footprints as bookmarks in their Bibles or Bible story books to remind them that we go to Jesus for eternal life. He died on the cross and came alive again to give us eternal life. Believing in Him is the only way we can get to heaven.

Craft—Feet Circles

To Prepare: Make individual copies of Activity Page 9 from the Level B Teacher Guide. Use markers to draw concentric circles and swirls to decorate the feet. The colorful circles on the inside of the foot represent the eternal blessings we receive from God's Word. Use the dark swirls on the outside of the foot to represent the cares of this world that spiral us out of control and lead us to anxiety and despair.

Say Everyone has feet. Feet can be on the go, walking or running. Feet can be at rest too. In our Bible account, what were Mary's feet doing? (They were resting at Jesus' feet so she could listen to His Words.) **What were Martha's feet doing?** (They were moving because she was busy.) **Today, we will decorate these feet to remind us to rest our feet and listen to God's Word. We will use spirals in dark colors on the outside to remind us of all the things that try to crowd out spending time in God's Word. What are some of those things?** Accept answers. **To remind ourselves that the Lord has the words of eternal life, we'll use concentric circles in a variety of colors.**

When the students finish, mount the artwork on black construction paper.

Lesson 10

Craft—Praise Pennant

What you do: Gather craft foam, felt, or cardstock; paper for a template; markers or craft paint; and ribbon, a paper punch, scissors, and tape. Option: Have available 12-inch dowels, smiley-face and crown stickers, glitter glue, self-sticking foam letters, and other decorating supplies.

To make a pattern for the pennant, cut a piece of paper into an 8½-inch square. Fold the square in half, and cut on diagonal to make a triangle (8½ × 9 × 9 inches). For larger or smaller pennants, follow the same procedure, but use bigger or smaller squares. Use the paper triangle to cut pennants from felt, craft foam, or cardstock. Each child will need at least one. Write the following phrases on your board for the children to copy: Hosanna! Jesus is King! Praise God!

Show you sample pennant.

Say Tell me once again what people shouted when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey.

(Hosanna) Hosanna is a praise word. When we praise someone, we are letting the person know that we are happy with what he or she is doing. We are going to make a praise banner today. We praise Jesus because we are happy that He loves us and died for us. He is our Savior and King.

Give children one or more pennants, and have them copy one of the phrases onto each pennant, or set out self-stick letters for them to apply to their pennants. They can decorate their pennants as they choose.

To hang the pennant, give children a 16-inch length of ribbon to glue to the 8½-inch end of their pennant. The ends should extend beyond each side so it can be hung.

Suggest to the children that they hang the banner in a spot where they can see it every day. It will remind them that Jesus is our Savior and King; we can praise Him for His love.

Option: To make a pennant to hold, have children put glue along the edge of the 8½-inch side and lay a 12-inch dowel over it. Fold the felt or paper over the dowel to make a seam around the dowel. Set a weight on it to hold it in place until the glue is dry. When it is dry, glue a length of ribbon along that edge for a decorative finish.

Craft—Praise Rocks

To Prepare: Use smooth rocks, paper plates, acrylic paints, permanent markers, wipes, and paintbrushes.

Design praise rocks. Place a smooth rock on a paper plate and paint the rock with the acrylic paints.

When the paint dries, students can use permanent markers to write words of praise for Jesus found in today's Bible account. They can also add palms.

When the rocks are dry, send them home or use them to decorate a church entrance or garden. While the children are working, discuss the Lord's Prayer.

Ask Which part of the Lord's Prayer talks about God's kingdom? Together say the beginning of the Lord's Prayer, stopping after "Thy kingdom come." **God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit. For many of us, that happened at Baptism. At that moment and by God's grace, we believed God's Word.**

Say When Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem, the people anticipated His reign in an earthly kingdom. Later, they would learn that Jesus is the one true King of heaven and earth. He is worthy of praise and worship now and forever.

Lesson 11

Craft—Garden-of-Gethsemane Story Strip

What you do: You will need copies of Activity Page 11 from Level A Teacher Guide, construction paper, scissors, markers or crayons, tape, stickers, and an X-Acto knife (for adult use only).

Ahead of time, make a viewer for each child as follows: Draw two parallel lines, 4 inches long and 3 inches apart in the center of the construction paper. Use an X-Acto knife to cut the lines so the story strip can be inserted. Print “Jesus Prays” on your board for the children to copy.

Show your sample viewer.

Say Today, you will make a story strip about Jesus praying in the garden. You can use it to tell the Bible story to your family or friends.

Hand out Activity Page 11, and have the children color the pictures, and then cut on the solid black line to make two strips. Help the children tape the two strips together to make one long strip. Give each child a piece of construction paper with the precut slits. Have them print “Jesus Prays” above the slits, giving help as needed.

Give them markers and stickers to decorate the construction-paper frame. Help them insert the strip into the frame so the pictures go over the top of the paper and can be seen one at a time.

Craft—Spirit Sword

To Prepare: Use poster board, scissors, markers, and the pattern from Activity Page 11 from Level B Teacher Guide for today’s craft. On the Web, find a picture of the symbol Spiritus Gladius to show your students.

Say In the garden, Jesus faced evil—betrayal, violence, cowardice. When we face evil, we may act like Judas, Peter, or the other disciples. We may lack courage, fall asleep, or even do worse things.

How thankful we are that Jesus did what was necessary to save us. He didn’t run away. He didn’t strike back. He served His Father’s will and fulfilled the Scriptures. He died that we might live forever.

In today’s Bible account, a disciple used a sword wrongly. We’re going to talk about using a sword in the right way. It is God’s sword—the one He gives us to face evil. It’s called the Spiritus Gladius or “spirit sword.” God’s sword makes you strong, for with it, you can fight against sin and the devil.

On the board, write Ephesians 6:10–11, 17. Look up and read these words.

Invite your students to use the pattern on Activity Page 11 and other materials to develop their own symbol to show that the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. If possible, show students the patterns for the Spiritus Gladius you found on the Web.

Students can also outline the sword image on the activity page with a cross as a reminder of Jesus’ steadfastness and His sacrifice for them. They can add the Bible Words: “[Christ Jesus] loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Display the finished crosses in your classroom or hallway.

Lesson 12

Craft—The-Bible-Tells-Me-So Reminder

What you do: Copy and cut out the Jesus and Bible figures on Resource Page 9 from Level A Teacher Guide for each child. You will also need two 9-inch paper plates or two pieces of construction paper for each child, cut into 9-inch circles, and a paper fastener. Also supply markers or crayons, stickers, and other decorating supplies. Make a sample to show.

Tell children that today’s project will remind them that Jesus promises in His Word that He is with them. Show your sample. If you did not cut the Bible and Jesus figure out ahead of time, have children do this now.

Have children trace the dot-to-dot cross, and color the cross, bubble letters, and butterfly on the Bible. Then have them glue the Bible to the center of a paper plate or construction-paper circle.

Give them the Jesus figure to color and glue to the center of the second paper plate or construction-paper circle.

The circle with the Bible will go on top of the circle with Jesus, opening like a clamshell to reveal Jesus. To achieve this effect, have children cut the circle with the Bible in half through the middle of the Bible. Overlap the two halves along the top edges, and use a paper fastener to fasten them to the circle with Jesus on it.

Hold the circles together with the Bible closed. Read the Bible Words. Then open the top circle to reveal Jesus. Read the Bible Words on this circle.

Say The Bible tells us that Jesus died to pay for our sins and rose on the third day. Then Jesus went back to heaven to prepare a place for us. Have children open Bible circle. Surprise! Jesus is alive. He says, "I am with you always." Jesus talks to us in His Word, the Bible, and reminds us of His love. He hasn't left us alone. He still cares for us and helps us. He still listens to our prayers and answers them. He forgives our sins.

Encourage children to use the craft to tell others about their Savior Jesus and His love.

Craft—Bible Bread

To Prepare: Make individual copies of Activity Page 12 from the Level B Teacher Guide. Set out markers, scissors, glue, and craft paper.

Have the students color the picture of the bread with the Bible Words and the picture of Jesus found on Activity Page 12. Then they cut each picture along the lines. Alternating the slices from the two pictures, the students glue them side by side (one Jesus slice, one Bible Words slice) on a piece of craft paper. When all the pieces are in place, the students fold the craft paper back and forth along the lines as if making a fan. When they hold up the opened paper, they should see Jesus one way and the Bible Words the other way.

Say Without God's Word, we are like those men walking along the road; we are unable to see Jesus. But thanks be to God that Jesus also comes to us through His Word and Sacraments. There we learn of Jesus' suffering and glory. We see Jesus in His Word and believe in Him.

Encourage the students to take home the craft, explain what it means to another person, and have that person sign the back of the fan.

Lesson 13

Craft—Witnessing Kite

What you do: You need 12 × 18-inch poster board cut into a kite shape, glue, crayons or markers, people stickers (various races and ethnicities), construction-paper scraps, yarn, and a stapler.

Cut poster board into a kite shape for each child. Cut the yarn or tissue paper into 12-inch lengths. Print "Tell the Good News" on paper or the board for the children to copy. Purchase multi-ethnic people stickers from a school supply store or a Christian bookstore. Set out glue, crayons or markers, construction paper, yarn, and a stapler. Make a sample kite to show the children.

Ask What does a kite need to fly? (Wind) **What did the sound of the big wind in our story mean?** (God the Holy Spirit had come to be our helper. He would make Jesus' disciples brave to tell others about Him.) **What did the Holy Spirit help Jesus' friends do?** (They told the good news of Jesus' dying for the sins of the world.)

The Holy Spirit came to live inside you when you believed in Jesus. When was that? (At Baptism or through God's Word) **He helps you to live as God's child and tell others about Jesus too. You can hang your kite at home to remind you that the Holy Spirit is your helper. He makes you brave. He makes you strong to share Jesus' love with others.**

Have children print, “Tell the Good News” in large letters on the center of the kite. Give them people stickers and markers to decorate the kite. Make a tail for the kite by gluing small scraps of construction paper to yarn. Staple the tail to the bottom of the kite.

Option: Make a windsock by rolling the decorated poster board into a cylinder shape and taping in place. Attach strips of tissue paper to the bottom and a ribbon on the top for hanging.

Craft—Pentecost Pinwheel

To Prepare: Before class, make copies of Activity Page 13 from the Level B Teacher Guide.

Make a Pentecost pinwheel from Activity Page 13 that teaches how the Holy Spirit works to build up the Body of Christ. Use crayons, scissors, and chenille stems.

Have the students color the pinwheel flames and cut them out. Then have them glue down the outside tips marked with an x in the center, holding the tips until they are secure. Next, they wrap one end of a chenille stem around the top of a pencil and poke the other end from the back side to the front of the pinwheel. The students wrap the chenille stem on the inside around and around, so it looks like the center of a flower inside the pinwheel.

As the students work, discuss the blessing of the Holy Spirit’s work.

Say Through His Word and in Baptism, God grants us repentance and His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies us. This pinwheel can remind you of those four amazing and powerful things the Holy Spirit does in your life.

He called you by the Gospel. He has gathered you into the Church. He has enlightened you with the saving knowledge of Jesus. Now you can trust in Him, rejoice in Him, and find comfort in Him. The Holy Spirit makes you holy. He works daily in you to renew you.