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# Contents

|   |    |  |    |
|---|----|--|----|
| Introduction                                    | 4  | Little Lamb Pen                                | 35 |
| Banquet Candlesticks                            | 5  | Luminarias                                     | 37 |
| Bendable Felt Folks                             | 6  | Memory Clips                                   | 38 |
| Bible Bouquet                                   | 8  | Napkin Ring Reminders                          | 39 |
| Bible Cover                                     | 9  | New-View Paperweight                           | 40 |
| “Big Catch” Paperweight                         | 10 | Resurrection Drum                              | 41 |
| Butterfly Appliqué                              | 11 | Resurrection Shaker                            | 42 |
| Chariot-Wheel Bible Review                      | 13 | Shepherd’s Pouch                               | 43 |
| Christian Symbol Knob Hangers                   | 14 | Slithering Snake                               | 44 |
| Cross of Christ                                 | 15 | Spinning Cross Top                             | 45 |
| Cross Suncatcher                                | 16 | Spiral Scope                                   | 46 |
| Dancing Puppet                                  | 17 | Spirit Wind Sock                               | 47 |
| Deliverance Jar                                 | 19 | Storm Stiller                                  | 48 |
| Fish  | 20 | Sweet-Smelling Jar                             | 49 |
| Fish Plant Messengers                           | 21 | Terra-Cotta Creations                          | 50 |
| Floral Bouquet                                  | 22 | “The Wonderful Mystery<br>of God’s Love” Frame | 51 |
| Flying-Fish Kite                                | 23 | Travel Tote                                    | 52 |
| “Follow Me!” Keychain                           | 24 | Treasure Bracelets                             | 53 |
| Free Indeed Butterfly                           | 25 | Trinity Chime                                  | 54 |
| Garden Promises                                 | 27 | Twirling Fish                                  | 55 |
| Glittering Pendant                              | 28 | Vines  | 56 |
| “God’s Love Is out of This World”<br>Wind Chime | 29 | “We Are the Church”<br>Photo Album             | 58 |
| Heart Pouch                                     | 30 | Wire Mobile                                    | 60 |
| Heavenly Hydroponic Garden                      | 32 | Wisdom Wire Stars                              | 62 |
| Heavenly Globe                                  | 33 | Scripture Index                                | 63 |
| Jesus Wreath                                    | 34 |  |    |

# Introduction

This book offers an assortment of clever craft projects. Each project reinforces Bible themes and Christian concepts by connecting with a Bible verse or story. And each is intended to help teach fundamental skills and give children a creative outlet for the expression of their faith.

The projects offered here are made with simple and easily obtained materials. They are designed for a classroom with a tight budget and for teachers who are looking for creative ways to integrate faith into craft activities. Each project page includes a materials list, a drawing of the completed project, and a Bible connection. Additional Bible connection options are provided in the Scripture Index. Reproducible patterns are provided where appropriate. Use these patterns with children who are too young to create their own or as starting points for older children. Some crafts do require more adult assistance and are better suited for older children.

These clever projects have been chosen for their applicability to the Christian classroom. Use them as they are presented here, or use them as idea starters to supplement your program. Feel free to adapt them as necessary to fit your students' interests and abilities.

Above all, allow children to come up with their own unique interpretations of the projects. Don't expect them to produce copies of what you've done or of the illustration you give them. Our God is creative, and we encourage you to nurture that creativity among your students as well.

**The Editors**

# Banquet candlesticks

## Supplies

Wooden beads,  
wheels, and spools  
(1 or 2 for each stick)

Acrylic paints

Paintbrushes

Cup of water

Paper towels

Long chenille wire

Craft glue

Dimensional paints

Birthday candle  
and plastic holder

Large metal  
washer

## Directions

Stack wooden pieces with the spool on the bottom, then a wheel, then a bead. Add another set or an extra wheel and bead, if desired. Disassemble. Paint the wooden pieces with acrylic paints. Let dry. Cover a chenille wire with craft glue. Fold it in half and thread it through the holes in the wooden items (in your prearranged order) to glue them together to form the candlestick. Let dry. Trim off any excess chenille wire. Decorate with dimensional paints. Let dry. Put a birthday candle in a plastic holder. Slide the holder through a metal washer and into the hole in the top bead of the candlestick. Only adults should light the candle.

## Bible connection

“When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Luke 14:13–14

Celebrate student birthdays and Baptism anniversaries with banquet candlesticks (but do so carefully!). As the candles are lit, thank God for sending Jesus, the Light of the world and the Way to heaven. Wrap up the activity by singing a song such as “This Little Gospel Light of Mine” or “Light One Candle.”



# Bendable Felt Folks

## Supplies

Tracing paper  
1 4" x 4" piece of felt  
3 straight pins  
Pencil  
Scissors  
2 chenille wires  
Fine-tipped permanent markers  
Sewing needle  
Thread to match the felt  
Cotton ball  
Felt or fabric scraps for clothing  
Craft glue

## Directions

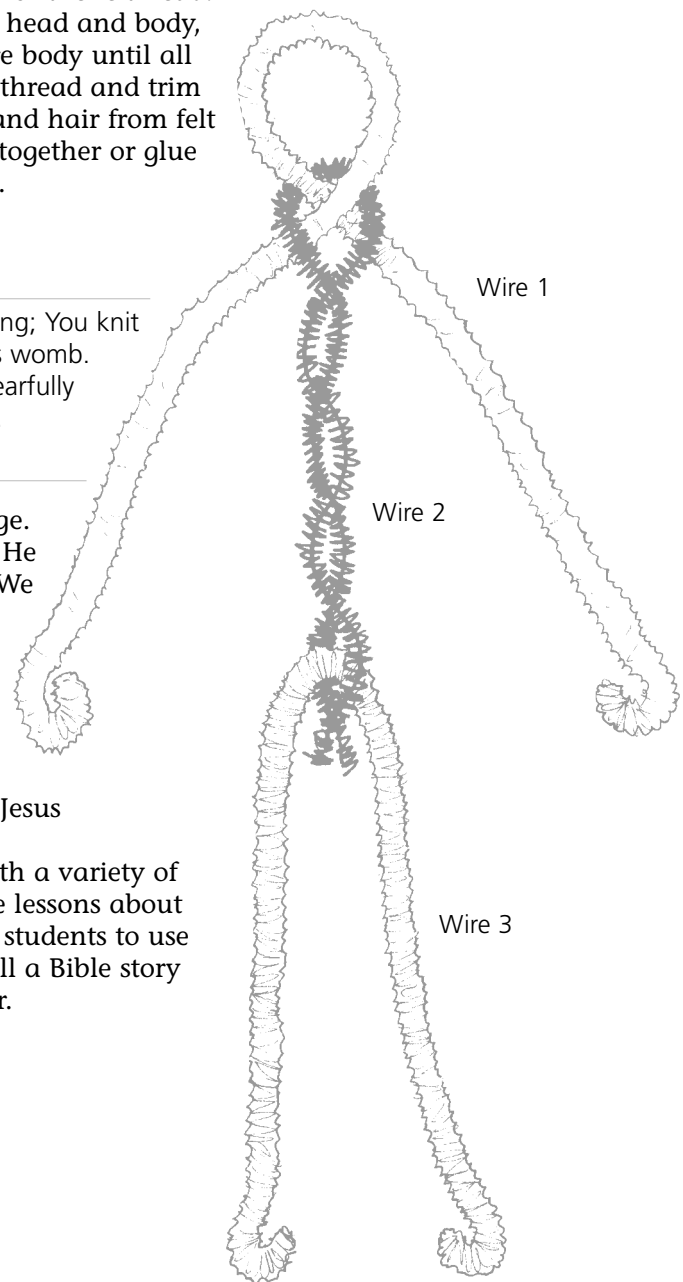
Trace the person pattern on tracing paper and cut it out. Pin the pattern to the felt. Cut out two identical figures. Cut one chenille wire in half. Bend the three chenille wires to make a wire figure. Trim the wires as needed. Set aside. Use fine-tipped markers to draw a face on one felt figure. Place both figures together with the face turned out. Thread a needle and knot one end of the string. Starting at a shoulder, use an overcast stitch to stitch the front and the back head pieces together. Stop about three-quarters of the way around to insert the pipe cleaner head and a cotton ball as stuffing for the felt head. Continue sewing around the head and body, adding more parts of the wire body until all sides are stitched. Knot your thread and trim the end. Cut clothing items and hair from felt and fabric scraps. Sew these together or glue them to the figure as desired.

## Bible Connection

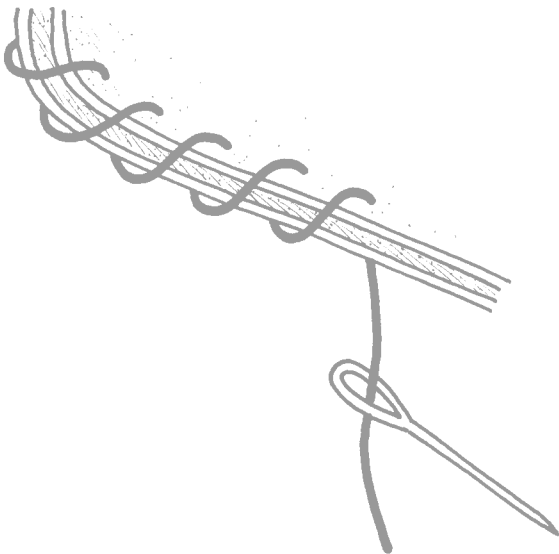
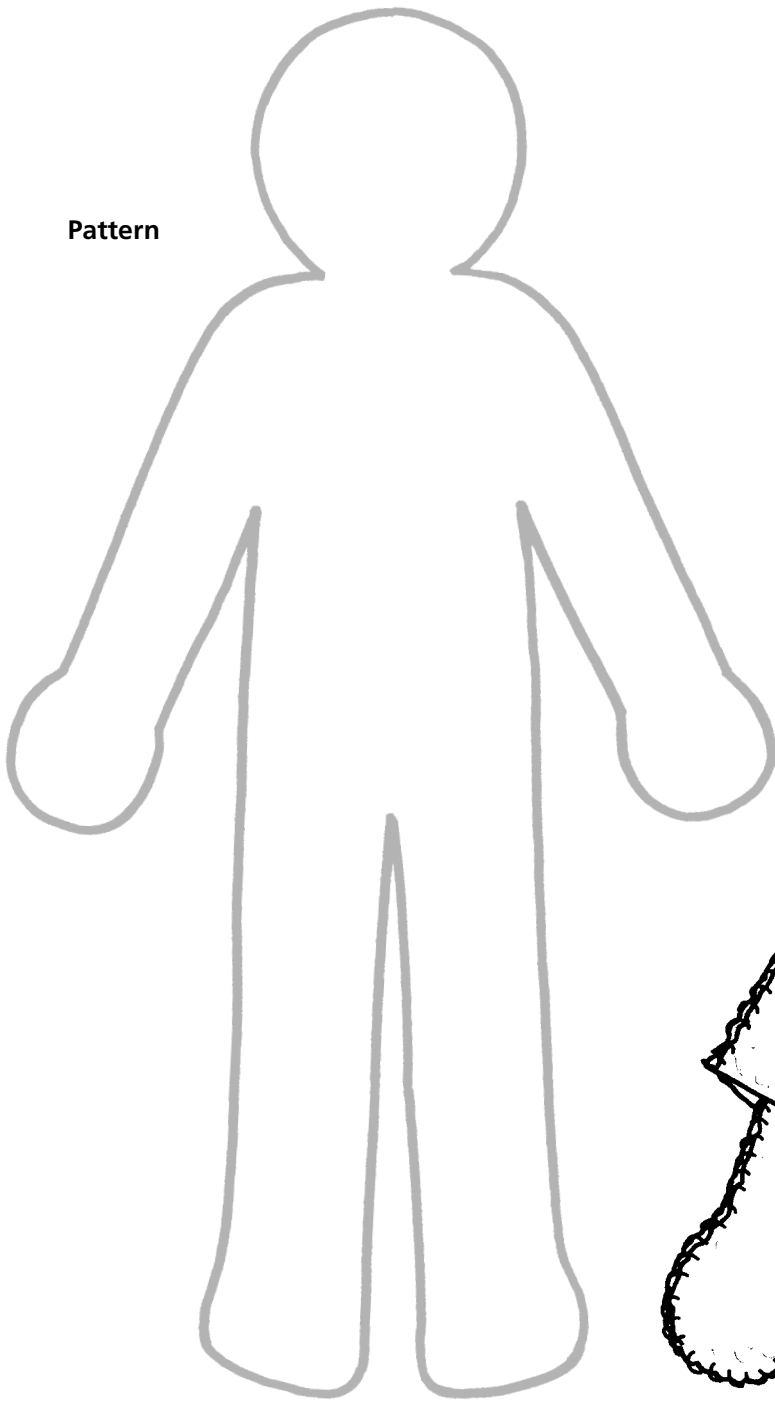
For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Psalm 139:13–14

God made us in His image. He knows us inside and out. He knows everything about us. We can trust in Him to care for us, to always love us, and to always provide for our needs. We know God will keep all His promises to us because He kept the greatest promise of all when He sent Jesus as our Savior.

This craft can be used with a variety of Bible stories and with science lessons about the human body. Encourage students to use their bendable felt folks to tell a Bible story to a friend or family member.



Pattern



# Bible Bouquet

## Supplies

4 long-handled wooden spoons

Green acrylic paint

Mug or cup

Paintbrush, water cups, and water

Assorted flat wooden craft shapes (sold by the bag in craft stores)

Acrylic paint

Fine-point black permanent marker

Wood glue

Wood beads, colored or plain

Bible verses

## Directions

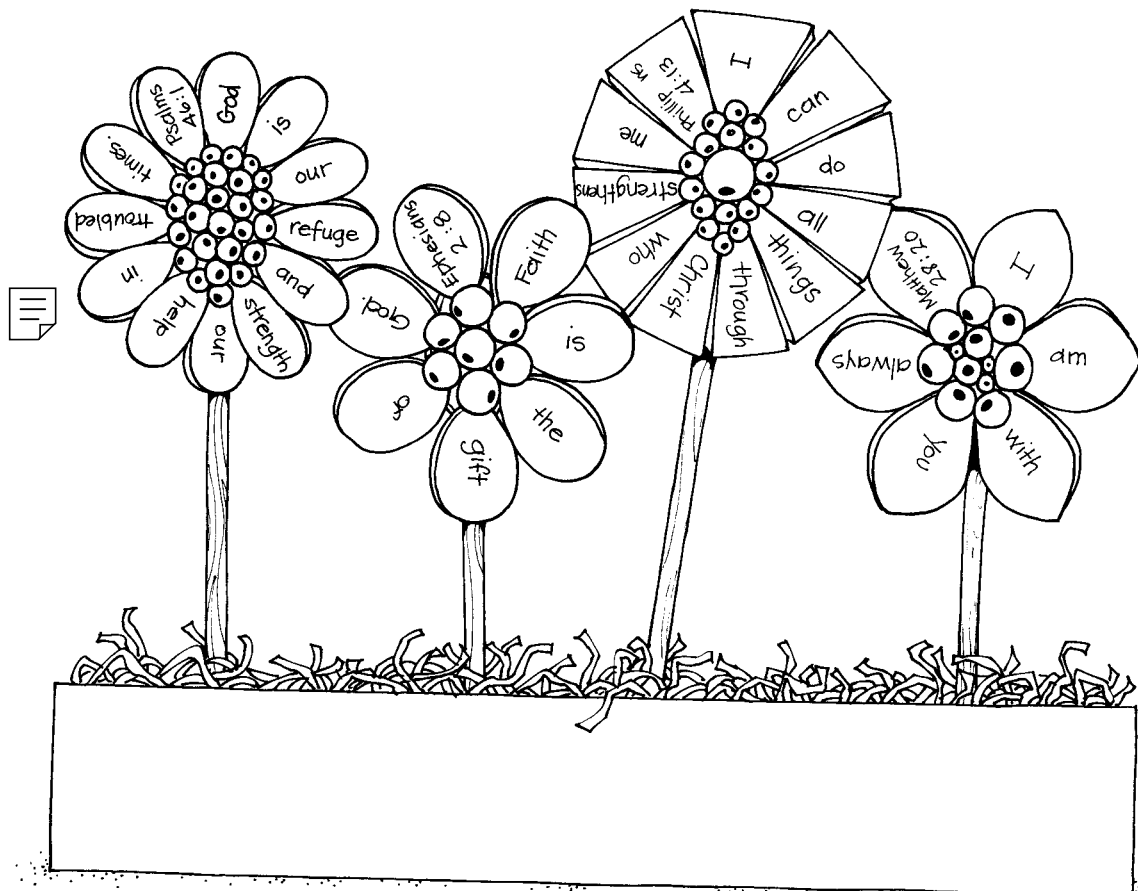
Paint the wooden spoon handles as flower stems (green). Set them, handle-side-up, in a mug or cup to dry. Select several Bible verses of encouragement that have at least five words (suggestions included in the Bible connection). Paint the wood beads. For flower petals, paint wooden craft shapes on both sides with bright colors. Let dry.

Use the marker to print the Bible verse on the petals, one per petal, one verse per flower. Lay the spoons on a flat surface. Use wood glue to attach the petals around the back of the bowls of the spoons. Let dry. Glue a cluster of beads in the center of each flower. Let dry.

## Bible Connection

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17

Print one or more of these Bible verses on the flower petals: Psalm 46:1, Psalm 116:5, Matthew 28:20, Ephesians 6:10, Philippians 4:13, Philippians 4:4. Or let students choose their favorite verse. Encourage students to share Jesus' love and encouragement as they give the bouquets to a friend, family member, or others.



# Bible cover

## Supplies

Bibles (1 per student)

Rulers

Plain muslin or broadcloth

Rubber bands, ¼" thick  
(2 per student)

Squeezable fabric paint  
and/or fabric markers

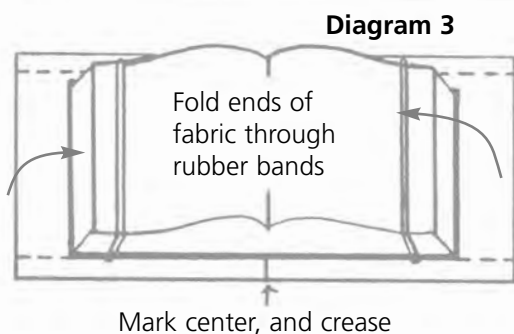
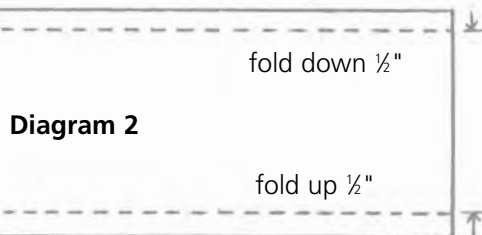
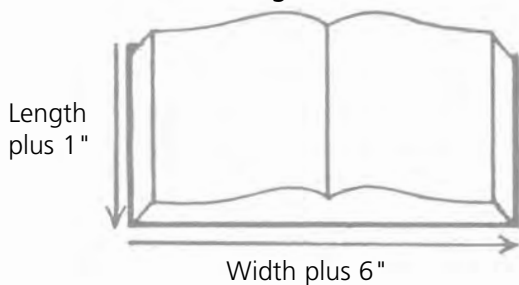
Iron (adult-use only)

Ironing board or thick pile  
of newspapers

## Directions

Follow these directions for any size Bible. Open the student's Bible and measure the entire length and the width of its cover. Add 6 inches to the width measurement and 1 inch to the length measurement. Cut fabric to the size determined by the direction above. Fold the top and bottom edges of the fabric 1/2 inch. Press flat to make hem and iron. Lay the Bible in the center of the iron-hemmed fabric. Slip rubber bands over the front and back hardcover of the Bible. Fold 3 inches of each side of the fabric width over the front and back covers of the Bible and through the rubber bands. This will identify where the center of the Bible cover is. Make a small crease to mark the center and remove the fabric from the Bible. Fold the fabric at the center. Use squeezable fabric paints or fabric markers to decorate the front cover of the fabric. Use Christian symbols and bright colors. When the paint is dry on the front cover, the back can be painted as well. When paint is completely dry, place the cover back over the Bible and through the rubber bands as explained in the above directions.

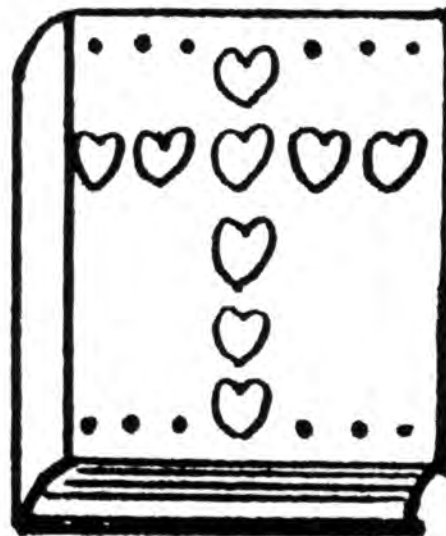
Diagram 1



## Bible connection

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.  
Psalm 119:105

As the students complete the craft, talk about how the Bible is God's letter of love to everyone in the world. The Bible is the most important book we could ever read because it tells us about forgiveness of sins and salvation through Jesus, our Savior. These Bible covers help identify our Bibles as precious to us.



# "Big catch" Paperweight

## Supplies

Newspaper

Fist-sized, flat, smooth stones (available at many garden centers)

Black fine-point permanent markers

Thick craft glue

Toothpicks

Yarn, various lengths and colors

Small wiggly eyes

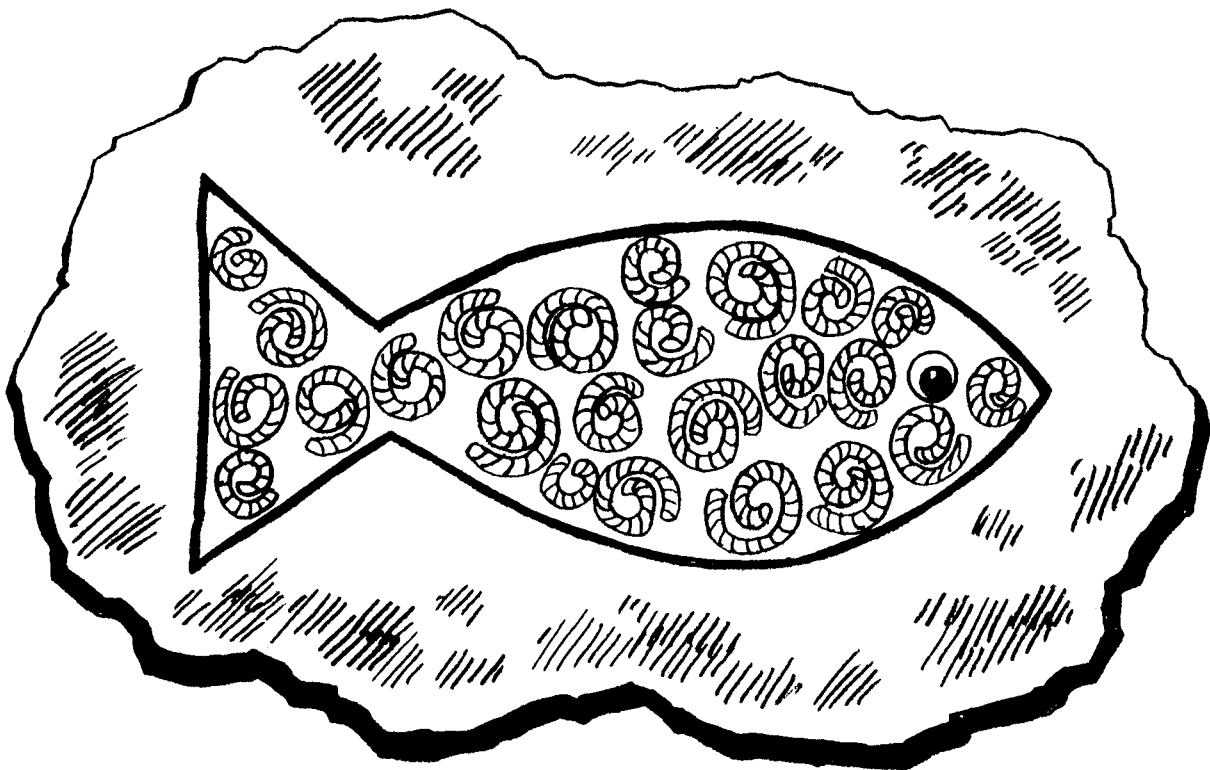
## Directions

Cover the work area with newspaper. With black permanent markers, trace a fish shape on the flat side of a stone. Use a toothpick to spread craft glue on the entire inside of the fish design. Fill the fish shape with coiled yarn pieces, working along the edges and from the outside to the center. Use toothpicks to help place the coils as closely together as possible. Continue until the entire shape is covered. Use different yarn colors and textures for different parts of the fish (e.g., tail, head, fins). Glue one wiggly eye to the head of the fish.

## Bible Connection

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."  
So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.  
Luke 5:10-11

This craft makes a great activity for the Bible story "Fishers of Men" (Luke 5:1-11). When used at home, the paperweights can remind the students that Jesus invites them to "fish for men" for Him. Shared with others, they can help the students tell their friends and families about the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus. Adapt the project by using other shapes appropriate for other Bible stories.



# Butterfly Appliqué

## Supplies

Colorful fabric scraps

Background fabric square

Iron-on adhesive bonding material

Scissors

Embroidery floss

Embroidery needle

Glitter paint

Iron (adult-use only)

Towel or ironing board

## Directions

With a grown-up's help, iron the background fabric and fabric scraps so they are smooth. Use the pattern on page 12 to cut out the butterfly's body and wings from the fabric scraps. Cut a piece of iron-on bonding material to fit each fabric piece. Position the fabric pieces and the bonding material so the background fabric is on the bottom, the bonding material is in the middle, and the colorful fabric is face up on the top. Carefully iron the pieces so the bonding material fuses to the fabric. When the pieces are cool, use the embroidery floss threaded in the needle to sew an appliqué stitch all around the butterfly. Embellish with glitter paint for spots and the tops of the antennae. Finish the edges to make a wall hanging.

**Options**—Use the alternate pattern to make a dragonfly appliqué. Stitch your appliqué block as a patch on a canvas bag to make a book bag or a gift bag.

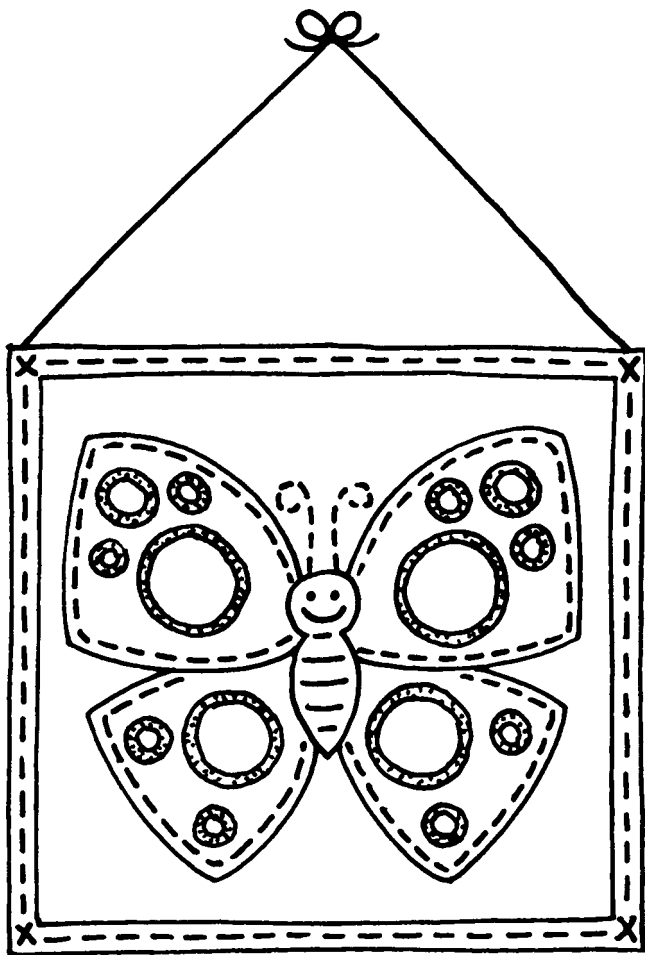
## Bible Connection

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

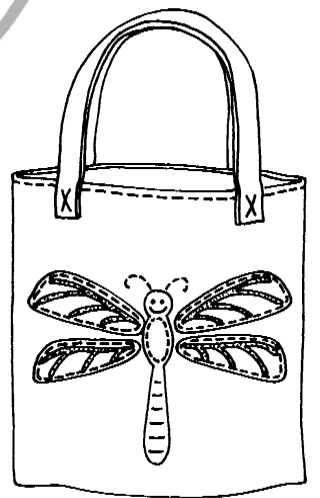
When we see a butterfly, we are reminded that Jesus rose from the grave to reign eternally in heaven with God the Father. In Jesus' death and resurrection, He conquered sin, death, and the devil for all believers in Him for all time.

Instead of an Easter basket, have the students make a butterfly bag for gifts, books, and candy to share with a loved one. (Bags are not suited for carrying Easter eggs!) Or the appliques can be attached to a canvas bag to make a prayer bag. In it, have the students keep a list of people for whom they can pray. Students can also add a butterfly to a note card to send to someone special they are praying for.

Prayer is one of God's special gifts to us. It is our opportunity to talk with our heavenly Father, to ask for His forgiveness, to thank and praise Him, and to ask for His help in our lives and in the lives of others. He will hear us and will answer our prayers in His own way and in His own wisdom and in His own time.



Patterns



# Chariot-Wheel Bible Review

## Supplies

16" diameter corrugated pizza wheel or cake base

16" diameter circle of card stock

Ruler

Scissors

Small awl (adult-use only)

Paper punch

Paper fastener

Pencil

Markers

## Directions

Trace the corrugated circle on card stock. Cut it out, then cut a wedge-shaped window in the card stock, as shown in the drawing of the completed wheel. Draw spokes on the circle to make it look like a chariot wheel. Have an adult use an awl to poke a hole in the center of the corrugated wheel and in the center of the paper wheel. Connect the card stock wheel to the corrugated wheel with a paper fastener. Turn the paper wheel so the window is at the top of the corrugated wheel.

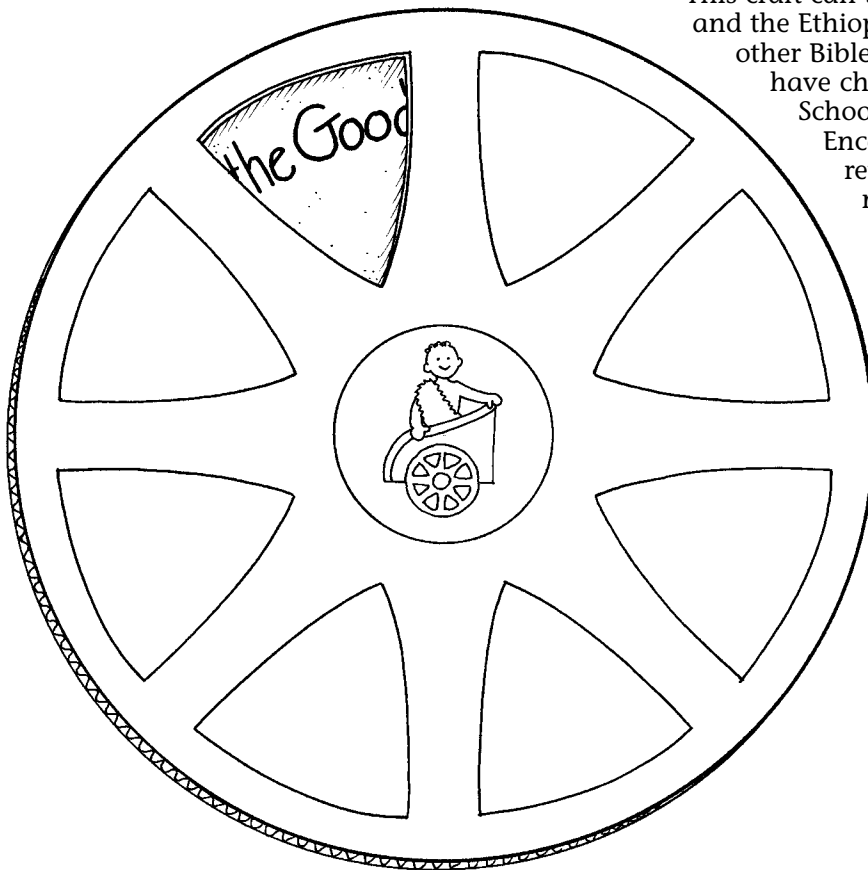
Inside the window, on the corrugated wheel, sketch the first scene of a Bible story or print the first word of a Bible verse. Color the picture or trace over the word with markers. Continue turning the window clockwise around the corrugated wheel as you draw more scenes of a Bible story in chronological order or add more words from a Bible verse in order. Include about ten scenes in the Bible story, or a Bible verse with 10 words.

## Bible Connection

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. Acts 8:35

This craft can be used to tell the Bible story of Philip and the Ethiopian, or it can be adapted for use with other Bible stories and verses. An option is to have children cut scenes from old Sunday School leaflets instead of drawing scenes. Encourage students to use their Bible review wheel to tell a friend or family member the Good News of Jesus.

Another effective use of this craft is as a memory work tool. Have students write words or phrases of the week's memory verse then turn the wheel as they memorize it.



# Christian Symbol Knob Hangers

## Supplies

Craft foam or felt

Permanent markers

Key ring

Brass paper fastener

Scissors

Sequins and other trims

Craft glue

## Directions

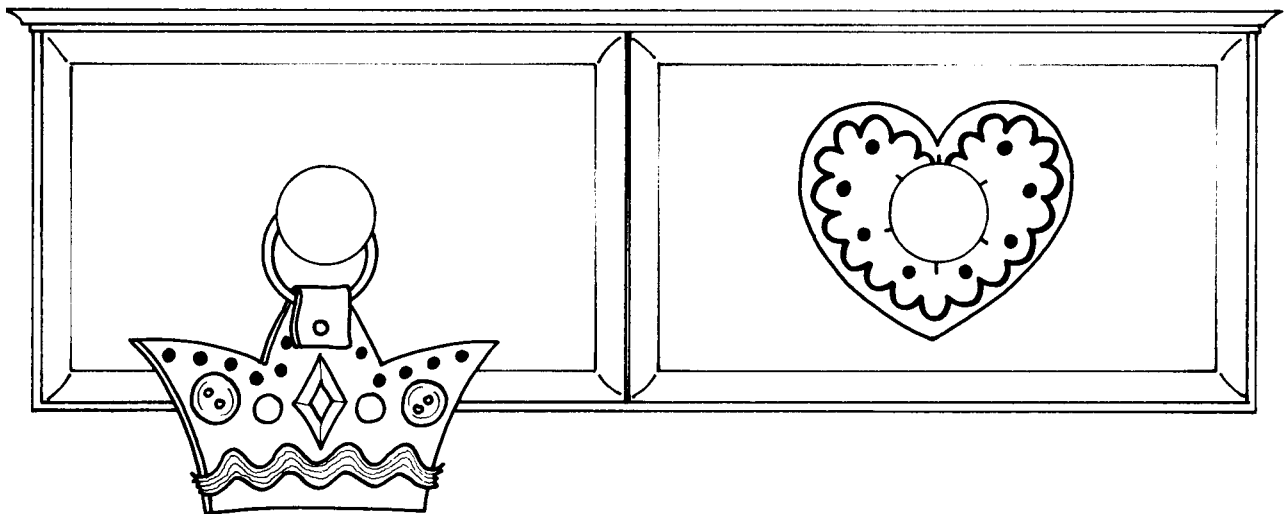
Cut Christian symbols and shapes from craft foam or felt. (See the patterns below.) If cut from felt, include some extra material at the top, fold over a key ring, cut a small slit in both layers, and fasten together with a brass fastener. For craft-foam shapes, cut an asterisk-shaped hole in the center for hanging. Decorate shapes with markers or glue on trims. Hang on a cabinet or drawer knob.

Make seasonal hangers or use the symbols included here to coordinate with memory work or other Bible verses and concepts.

## Bible Connection

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15

This well-known verse from Joshua is often used for Christian artwork, plaques, and other decorations in homes. Have students take their completed crafts home to hang on the knobs of often-used cabinets and drawers as reminders that they are God's children and that He daily helps them serve Him and others.



Enlarge patterns to desired size.

# Cross of Christ

## Supplies

Sticks and twigs

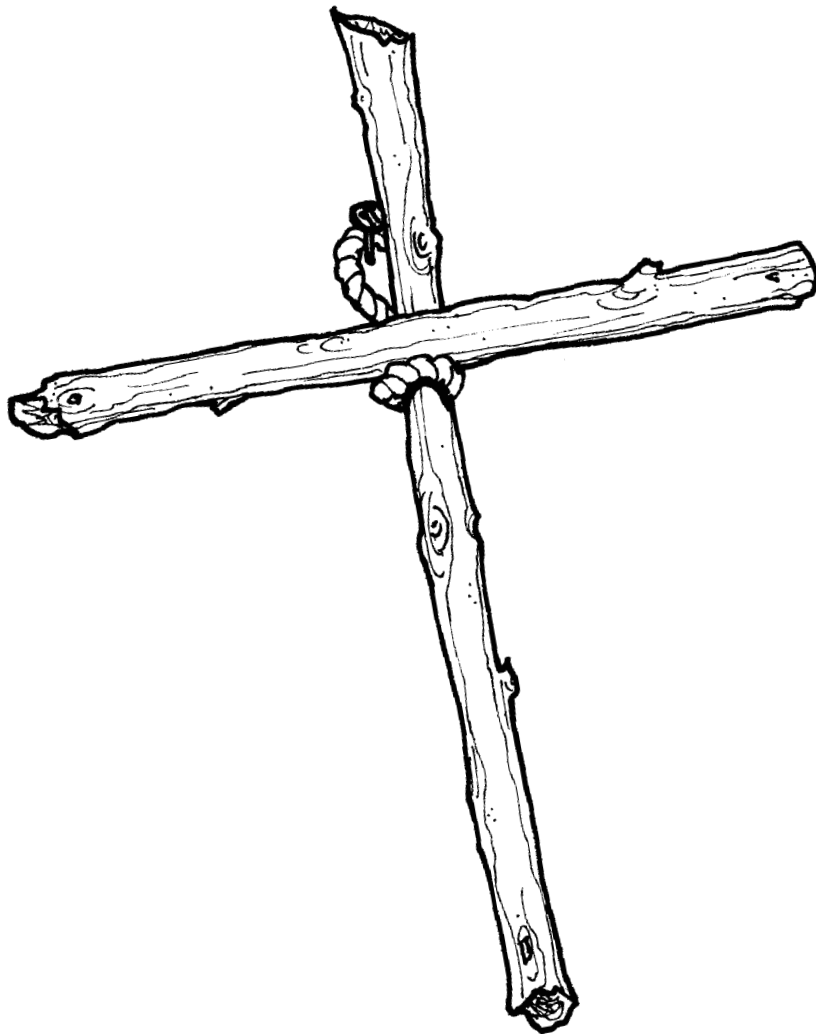
Masking tape

Wood glue

String or twine

## Directions

Take a walk and gather sticks and twigs smaller than 10 inches long. Plan a cross design using the sticks and twigs. 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 the finished cross from the wall or from tree branches outside.



## Bible Connection

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14

Jesus died and rose for us. The cross is a symbol of the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf. When Jesus was crucified on the cross, our sins were crucified there with Him. Because of what Jesus did for us, we no longer belong to the world, sin, or Satan. Instead, all who believe in Jesus as their Savior belong to God forever. Remind students that whenever they see the cross they made, they can thank Jesus for dying for their sins and for giving them a new, eternal life.