

**Jesus Dies and Rises
to Save Us**

NEW TESTAMENT 4

EXPRESS



Craft Booklet

Directions

This booklet has fun craft ideas that extend learning and help students apply the lessons to their lives. Set up your area as follows:

- Make a Crafts site sign to set on an easel by the Crafts site.
- Locate your Crafts site near a sink or bathroom, or have wet wipes available to wipe sticky hands and clean up spills.
- Set up enough tables so kids have space to work on their crafts. Cover the work area with plastic tablecloths or newspaper. Set up another table where projects can dry.
- Have pencils, markers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, glue, tape, and other common classroom supplies available each week.

Look in the Craft Patterns folder on the Express Activities & More CD when a lesson calls for a pattern or template. Make copies of these before class begins.

Skim the supply lists in each lesson at the beginning of the quarter to find items you need to gather or do ahead of time. For Lesson 1, ask congregation members to donate cardboard tubes and plastic caps, or begin saving these now. Also, start collecting sticks for Lesson 2 unless you will purchase dowels. For Lesson 8, consider asking members for ceramic tiles.

Option: Make photocopies of the “Do This” box for helpers and students, using heavy paper or cardstock. Trim to size, and set out with supplies.



Concordia Publishing House
3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • www.cph.org

Lessons 1, 4, 10, and 12 © 2013, 2017 Concordia Publishing House.
Lesson 2 © 2017 Concordia Publishing House.
Lessons 3, 5, 11, and 13 © 2015, 2017 Concordia Publishing House.
Lessons 6–9 © 2014, 2017 Concordia Publishing House.

All rights reserved. Unless specifically noted, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House.

The purchaser of this publication is allowed to reproduce the marked portions contained herein for use with this curriculum. The resources may not be transferred or copied to another user.

Crafts by Sarah Koehneke and Heather Melcher

Edited by Lorraine Groth

Scripture quotations from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Cross Explorations® is published by Concordia Publishing House. Your comments and suggestions concerning this material are appreciated. Email us at sundayschool@cph.org.

Treasure Tree

Lesson 1: Jesus and Zacchaeus



You Need

- Cardboard tubes from paper towels or wrapping paper
- Plastic milk or juice jug caps
- Green painter's tape or masking tape & green crayons
- Green tissue or crepe paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

Get Ready

- Begin collecting cardboard tubes and plastic caps. Ask congregation members to contribute.
- Cut wrapping-paper tubes into 10-inch sections.
- Gather supplies and set them out.
- Make a sample to show the students.



Palms for Paradise

Lesson 2: The Triumphal Entry



You Need

- Found sticks, about 12–18 inches long, or slim wooden dowels
- Scissors
- Green vinyl tablecloths
- *Optional:* Permanent markers

Get Ready

- Cut the tablecloth into squares, approximately 1 × 1 foot, one for each child.
- Precut the square into strips, approximately 1 inch wide, for young students.
- Make a sample and set out supplies.



Treasure Tree

Lesson 1: Jesus and Zacchaeus

Introduce the Craft

Say Zacchaeus might have had plenty of money, but he was still “poor.” How could this be? He likely didn’t have many friends. Tax collectors were hated because they worked for the enemy Roman government and often demanded more money, which they kept for themselves.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Like all of us, Zacchaeus was a sinner in need of God’s grace. Jesus gave him the gifts of forgiveness and salvation. Show your sample tree.

Today, you’ll make a Treasure Tree. You can save coins inside its trunk. The tree can remind you of Zacchaeus and how God is the giver of all good gifts. Money does not make you truly rich. Jesus made you rich when He was lifted up on a tree—a tall wooden cross—where He saved you.

Do This

- Use your fingernail to mark each tube with a line approximately 4 inches down from the top of the tube.
- Cut into the tube from the top down to the 4-inch mark, making three equidistant cuts down the tube; then splay each segment out to make three main tree limbs.
- Make shallower cuts into the three limbs, bending them up and down to make smaller branches on the tree-limb tips.
- Fold the green tissue paper into several layers. Cut small pieces from the tissue, and glue the pieces onto the ends of the branches to make leaves.
- Use a plastic milk jug cap to seal off the bottom of the bank. Depending on the size of the tube and the cap, the cap may fit inside or around the base of the tube/trunk. Secure the plastic cap with tape, and color the tape green, if needed, to look like grass.
- The bank will become sturdier as it is filled with coins.

Cross Explorations® Express Craft Booklet New Testament 4 © 2013, 2017 Concordia Publishing House.

Palms for Paradise

Lesson 2: The Triumphal Entry

Introduce the Craft

Ask As Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, what was the crowd of people doing? **Accept answers.**

Say The crowd honored Jesus by spreading garments and branches on the road. They were rejoicing and shouting, “Hosanna!” *Hosanna* means “save us now!” They were calling for Jesus to save them, and that is exactly what He was riding into Jerusalem to do. Jesus is our Savior and King too!

Today, we’ll make palms and shout our praise, rejoicing in Jesus, who triumphed over sin for us and gives us a home with Him in the heavenly Jerusalem.

Do This

- Cut the square of vinyl tablecloth into strips that are approximately 1 inch wide. This will yield 8 to 12 strips.
- Lay the strips down on the table. Keep one strip long. Cut about 1 inch off the next strip, 2 inches off the third, 3 inches off the fourth, and so on. Continue cutting each strip another inch shorter until you have a set of graduated strips. They should look like steps.
- Beginning at the middle of the stick, tie the strips on in order, from largest to smallest, with a simple knot. Try to make the knot in the middle of each vinyl strip so both sides are even. Once all the strips are knotted on, the branch should look like a palm frond.
- *Optional:* Write “Hosanna!” or “Save us!” on the frond with a permanent marker. Trim the end of each leaflet to a point for a more realistic looking palm.

Cross Explorations® Express Craft Booklet New Testament 4 © 2017 Concordia Publishing House.

Felt Wallet

Lesson 3: The Widow's Offering

3

You Need

- Felt
- Thread
- Needles
- Scissors
- Velcro strips with adhesive backing
- *Optional:* Beads, buttons, or other decorations to sew or stick to the wallet flap

Get Ready

- Ask some people in the congregation who like to sew to help kids with the craft this week.
- Cut felt into 9 × 6-inch rectangles (half a standard sheet of felt).
- Cut Velcro into strips that are about 5 inches long. Keep the two Velcro pieces attached to each other so students will get one of each strip.
- Make a sample to show the students.



Lord's Supper Bookmark

Lesson 4: The Lord's Supper

4

You Need

- 3/8-inch-wide satin ribbon in burgundy and white
- 3/8-inch-wide organza ribbon in burgundy and white
- White cardstock, cut 2 1/2 × 11 inches
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Pens, pencils & fine-tip markers
- *Optional:* Stickers of Christian symbols

Get Ready

- Fold cardstock strips in half so they are 2 1/2 × 5 1/2 inches long. Using a pencil, draw a horizontal line 3 1/2 inches from the folded line on top half only.
- Draw four vertical lines, about a half inch apart, between the horizontal line and the folded line. Starting at the fold, cut on the vertical lines through both pieces of paper. *Note:* For younger students, omit weaving and decorate the bookmark with stickers.
- Print the Bible verse on the board for students to copy onto their bookmarks: "My body . . . My blood . . . for the forgiveness of sins." Matthew 26:26, 28
- Set out supplies and make a sample craft. Demonstrate how to weave the bookmark.



Felt Wallet

Lesson 3: The Widow's Offering

3

Introduce the Craft

Say The widow gave all she had. Her gift showed she trusted God to love and care for her. Jesus gave all He had too.

Ask What did He give? He gave His life to pay for our sins. In response to God's love in Jesus, we give offerings too. What can you give? Accept answers.

Say Today, you will make a wallet to put your offering money in for church. You can write notes about ways you can serve your church family or others and put those notes in the wallet with your money. Using your time and talents in this way is also an offering.

Ask Does giving an offering earn God's love or forgiveness? No. We don't earn God's approval with our offerings. We give to God out of thanks because He forgives us for Jesus' sake and provides everything we have.

Do This

- Fold felt so that you will have a pocket that is about 4 inches deep. The extra material will be the flap that folds over the pocket to keep the wallet closed.
- Hand-sew each side of the wallet together (no need to turn inside out because the felt won't fray).
- Remove adhesive backing and attach a Velcro strip to front of pocket (where flap will fold over). Press thoroughly onto fabric.
- With Velcro strips fastened, peel up the end of the remaining Velcro strip, and cut off about an inch. This will make it easier to open the wallet.
- With Velcro strips still attached, peel away the release liner on the remaining strip of Velcro to expose the sticky part. Carefully fold the flap down onto it. Press down to be sure the Velcro sticks well. Sew a few stitches into the Velcro pieces to help them stay attached to the felt.
- *Option:* Sew or stick decorations to the wallet flap.

Cross Explorations® Express Craft Booklet New Testament 4 © 2015, 2017 Concordia Publishing House.

Lord's Supper Bookmark

Lesson 4: The Lord's Supper

4

Introduce the Craft

Ask What do people eat and drink when they receive Holy Communion? Bread and wine. These are things we see. What else does Jesus give us along with the bread and wine that we can't see? Jesus' body and blood for forgiveness.

Say The bread does not turn into body and the wine does not turn into blood, but Jesus' body and blood are present with the bread and wine.

Demonstrate how to weave strips of ribbon through an unfinished bookmark. Then show finished sample, pointing to the ribbon streamers.

Say The satin ribbons can remind you of the bread and wine, which you see in Holy Communion. The organza ribbons can remind you of Jesus' body and blood, which you do not see, but which are still there.

Do This

- Cut satin burgundy ribbon into 4-inch lengths for weaving.
- Cut both colors of the satin and organza ribbon into 6-inch lengths to use as streamers for the bookmark.
- Open cardstock. Starting at the top of the cut section, weave burgundy ribbon over and under the strips.
- For the next row, go over and under the opposite strips. Continue this pattern until done. Adjust spacing as needed. Fold ends to inside and tape in place.
- Fold the bookmark in half again. Apply glue to the inside of one end. Place the ends of the remaining ribbons on the glue, with the long ends hanging off the cardstock. See photo.
- Press the cardstock ends together, keeping the end of the ribbons glued inside it. (Most of the ribbons will be hanging out of the bookmark.)
- Print the Bible verse on the bookmark.
- *Optional:* Decorate it using markers or stickers.

Cross Explorations® Express Craft Booklet New Testament 4 © 2013, 2017 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture: ESV®.

Forgiveness Rooster

Lesson 5: Peter Denies Jesus

5

You Need

- Styrofoam balls in two sizes (for head and body)
- Toothpicks
- Small feathers
- Pipe cleaners (red, orange, yellow, black)

Get Ready

- Lay out supplies.
- Make a sample to show the students.



Red Handed

Lesson 6: The Passion of Christ

6

You Need

- Red paint, such as tempera
- Art paper
- Cardstock or poster board
- Paper plates
- Wide paintbrushes & scissors
- Newspaper & smocks or aprons
- Water source & paper towels or cloths for cleanup
- *Option:* Make a magnetized frame to display your handprint. You'll need thin cardboard (such as cereal boxes), decorative tape (such as painter's tape or duct tape), and adhesive magnet strips (or magnets & glue).

Get Ready

- Make a sample to show the students.
- Cut out crosses in advance for younger students. Have adult helpers available to help young children, or partner them with older children.
- Cover tables with newspaper; help students put on smocks or aprons.
- *Optional:* Precut frames by cutting 5 × 7-inch windows into 7 × 9-inch rectangles of thin cardboard.



Forgiveness Rooster

Lesson 5: Peter Denies Jesus

5

Introduce the Craft

Ask How do you think Peter felt after he lied and said he didn't know Jesus? *Accept answers.*

Do you ever deny Jesus? How? *We deny Jesus by the wrong things we think, say, and do and by not thinking, saying, or doing what we should. We deny Him when we fail to put God first.*

Discuss examples: we say nothing when someone makes fun of Christians; we use bad words to blend in with non-Christians; we fail to serve.

Say We all sin, no matter how much we love Jesus. Our sinful actions deny Jesus, but Jesus never denies us. He keeps on forgiving everyone who believes in Him.

Today, you'll make a rooster as a reminder that Jesus keeps loving and forgiving you even when you sin and are not a good friend to Him.

Do This

- Use a toothpick to fasten the head to the body.
- Insert feathers into the body to make wings and a tail.
- Fold pieces of pipe cleaner to make the crest, eyes, beak, and feet, and push them into the Styrofoam.
- *Note:* It works best to keep the legs very short so that the rooster can balance.

Cross Explorations® Express Craft Booklet New Testament 4 © 2015, 2017 Concordia Publishing House.

Red Handed

Lesson 6: The Passion of Christ

6

Introduce the Craft

Ask What does it mean to be caught "red handed"? *It means you are caught in the midst of a crime with the "blood" (often figuratively) on your hands. Even if you haven't committed a serious crime, how are you "red handed"? We all steal, waste, fight, hurt, and are cruel to people, even those we love. In disobedience, we are red handed in sinfulness all day long! How was Jesus red handed? Accept answers.*

Say Jesus never sinned. He kept God's Law perfectly. But His hands were red when He was nailed to the cross. There, His blood flowed for your sins and the sin of the world.

Today, you will make red handprints with a twist. When you look at your red-handed sin, you'll also see Jesus on the cross, taking the punishment for you, so you can be forgiven and have eternal life through Him.

Do This

- Cut out small crosses from the cardstock, no larger than 2 × 1 inch wide. The bars of the cross should be thin, approximately ¼ inch. You will need a cross and a piece of paper for printing.
- Find a partner. Each pair will need a paper plate with a small amount of paint, a brush, and cleanup supplies.
- Paint a thin coat of red paint on your partner's hand. Immediately place the cut-out cross on top of the paint in the palm of the hand. Print hand on paper, using firm pressure, and then pull the hand straight up. Clean the hand. Switch partners and repeat.
- *Option:* To make the frame for displaying the handprint, apply decorative tape in stripes on the precut cereal-box frame. Adhere magnets to the back of the frame for hanging on the fridge or any magnetic surface.
- *Tip:* If the handprint is slightly marred, cut around the print and glue it onto paper.

Cross Explorations® Express Craft Booklet New Testament 4 © 2014, 2017 Concordia Publishing House.