

VBS Crafts (Messiah 2017)

WWJD/Cross Necklace (3-yr/PreK/K):

- Individual letter beads for the letters W, J, and D (I got mine on Ebay from seller Shenlong19)
- Glow-in-the-dark and/or neon pony beads
- Nylon cord, cut into 26-inch lengths
- Wood or plastic crosses (I found mine at Hobby Lobby)
- Sectioned plates or muffin tins to hold beads
- Tape

Tape one end of each cord to the table, so that the beads don't slide off. Have the kids pick out 3 colored beads to start. Then ask them to add a W bead. Then they can pick out 2 more colored beads, then another W bead, then 1 more colored bead, then the cross. After the cross, they add 1 more colored bead, a J bead, 2 more colored beads, a D bead, then 3 more colored beads. Tie the necklace for the kids before you give it to them (don't try to tie it behind their necks...someone always makes a sudden movement and beads go everywhere).



Painted Cross Brick (3-yr/PreK/K):

- 3"x 6" pavers (I got mine at Menards...they are called Belgian Reversible pavers, usually around 36 cents each, but they go on sale often)
- Indoor/Outdoor acrylic craft paint (no more than 6 colors)
- Foam paint brushes
- Foam plates for paint
- Glass gems
- Elmer's Glue-All

- Wax paper
- Sharpie

Give each child a brick on a sheet of wax paper. Write their names on the wax paper with the Sharpie. Put a small amount of paint onto the foam plates, 3 colors to a plate. It works well to have 4 children share 2 plates, then each child in that group has access to all 6 colors. Try to keep one brush per color and urge them to take turns and share, but you might have to provide multiple brushes for the most popular colors. The kids can paint the top of the brick and all 4 sides, but the back can be left plain. Once the brick is painted (it does not have to be completely dry for the next step), the adult helpers draw a simple cross on the top of the brick with the glue. Each child can pick out 7 glass gems. Have the kids place the glass gems along the glue lines to form a cross (one in the center, one on top of the center gem, one on each side of the center gem, and three under the center gem). Allow the bricks to dry overnight before the kids take them home



Stone/shell/twine Hanging Cross (3-yr/PreK/K/1st-3rd):

- Long, wide popsicle sticks (Hobby Lobby)
- Short, wide popsicle sticks (Hobby Lobby)
- Twine, cut into 16-inch lengths
- Small black or dark gray stones (Hobby Lobby)
- Tiny seashells (Hobby Lobby)
- Elmer's Glue-All
- Q-tips
- Sharpie

Make sure the kids' names are written on the back of the large popsicle stick with Sharpie. Tie each end of the twine to the ends of the shorter popsicle stick. This is how they can hang up the cross when it's done. Then glue the shorter stick across the top of the long one to form a cross. Wait about a minute for the glue to set, then they can use a q-tip to apply glue to the stick and add the stone and shells. NOTE: It is helpful (and probably necessary) to glue

together the crosses and tie on the twine for the little kids ahead of time, so all they have to do is glue on the rocks and shells.



Tissue Paper Crosses (3-yr/PreK/K):

- Tissue paper, cut into 1-inch squares (I got pre-cut tissue squares at the Dollar Tree...but they need to be picked apart)
- Black 8x10 paper or cardstock
- Clear contact paper
- Scissors
- Plates or bowls to hold tissue paper squares

PREP: The black paper will need to have a cross shape cut from the middle. The cross should be cut from the center, with the top, bottom, and each arm ending about an inch or so from each edge of the paper. Contact paper should be cut into 16x12 inch sheets, leaving the backing intact.

Fold each sheet of contact paper in half, then peel the backing apart from HALF of the contact paper. Press one of the black sheets of paper (with the cross cut out) onto the exposed contact paper. The kids can fill in the inside of the cross cut-out with tissue paper. Tell them to “cover up all the sticky parts” inside the cross, so that the cross is filled in completely. Then remove the rest of the contact paper backing, and carefully fold it over the top of the tissue papered cross. It helps to start at the crease and slowly press as you fold the rest of the sheet over. Finally, use a scissors to cut around the cross, leaving a 1-inch border. NOTE: It is helpful to put a piece of thin masking tape on the back of the cross (on the black border, so it doesn’t show through the center) and write the child’s name on it.



Rainbow Windsocks (3-yr/PreK/K):

- Blue paper or cardstock
- Curling ribbon in various colors (Dollar Tree), cut into arm-lengths
- Cotton balls, pulled apart into loose “cloud-like” pieces

- Double-stick tape
- Scotch or masking tape
- Hole punch
- Yarn, cut into 14-inch lengths
- Glue sticks

PREP: Using a simple word processing program, type out the phrase “God Keeps His Promises!” and copy/paste it. You should now have two identical phrases on the screen. Go to Page Layout and make sure your page is oriented as “landscape” rather than “portrait.” Space the two sentences so that if you cut the paper in half horizontally, each half will have a sentence in its approximate center. Print onto blue paper. Cut the paper in half. You should now have a stack of blue papers, about 4x10, with the phrase “God Keeps His Promises!” printed down the center of each. Punch holes in the top of each paper so that when the paper is rolled into a tube, you can string a piece of yarn through both holes to hang it up.

At each child’s place at the table, put one of the blue printed 4x10 papers, upside down. Write their names on the paper. Apply a strip of double-stick tape across the bottom of each paper. Each child can add ribbon by sticking each color to the tape. When each child has added two of every color (in any order), apply a strip of regular tape to the top of the double-stick strip, to hold the ribbons in place. Turn the paper over. The kids can use the glue sticks to add cotton ball fluff as clouds. When the clouds are on, roll the paper into a tube and tape it closed. String the yarn through the holes on top and tie it.



Sand Cross Necklaces (1st-2nd):

- Colored sand
- Empty plastic cross necklaces (Hobby Lobby)
- Tiny sand funnels (Hobby Lobby)
- Foil pans
- Condiment cups (with lids)
- Tiny plastic spoons (Dollar Tree, by the “fancy” plastic party supplies)
- Elmer’s Glue-All

Separate the sand into the condiment containers and put the containers into the foil pans. This way the kids have access to all the colors, but the mess is contained. Each kid gets their own spoon and their own funnel. Put the funnel into the top of the cross container. Add sand one spoonful at a time. When the cross appears full, tap the side of the cross to help the sand settle. Continue until the sand will not go down any further into the cross. Put a drop of glue into the cap of the cross and screw it on. NOTE: Remind the kids to NOT shake their crosses as they are filling them or the colors will mix.

Mustard Seed Necklace/Keychain (1st-2nd/3rd-5th/6th-8th):

- 0.5 ml glass corkscrew bottles (Amazon...sold by Eamall)
- Mini eyelet screws (Amazon...sold by Yueton)
- Round (15x12 mm) "Faith" charms (Amazon...sold by "Joe's Gift Finds, Inc")
- Black 2.0 mm necklace cords (with clasps) (Amazon...sold by Beautiful)
- Mustard seeds
- Colored aluminum rings (JoAnn Fabrics and Crafts, by the jewelry making supplies)
- Small jump rings (also from JoAnn's...you want them thin enough to bend with fingers, but not so tiny that you can't grip them.)
- Lanyard pulls or keyrings (Walmart)
- Blank business cards (or just blank pieces of cardstock, cut to business card sizes)
- Stick-on magnet strips

Put a mustard seed into the bottle, press the cork in. Holding an eyelet screw in one hand and the bottle in the other, twist the bottle onto the eyelet (it's easier than trying to twist the eyelet). Open a jump ring slightly, add the cork bottle and a "faith" charm, then close the jump ring. Slide the jump ring onto a necklace cord. For a keychain, pull open and add an aluminum ring(s) to the jump ring, then slide the last aluminum ring into a lanyard pull or a keyring. The kids can also write out Matthew 17:20 "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you." Add a magnet to the back of the card.



Resurrection Garden (1st-5th):

- White plastic serving bowls (2-pack at the Dollar Tree)
- Empty 4-inch round potting cups (or terra cotta pots)
- Sand
- Grass seed (SOAK IN WATER FOR AT LEAST 3 DAYS PRIOR TO PLANTING GARDEN)
- Potting soil
- Small decorative rocks (Dollar Tree)
- Long and short popsicle sticks (for making crosses)
- Small wood rectangles (Michaels)
- Wood picks (Michaels)

- Elmer's Glue-All
- Q-tips
- Fine-tip sharpies

Mix the soaked grass seed into the potting soil, and add water until the soil is consistently damp throughout (think freshly watered garden). A 2-cubic foot bag of potting soil mixed with about 4 cups of soaked grass seed in an 18-gallon plastic tote will fill at least 35-40 resurrection gardens.

The easiest way to do this is by creating an assembly line. First, the kids take an empty bowl, write their names on the side, and fill the bottom 1/3 with sand. Then, nestle an empty pot or potting cup sideways into the sand (there should be sand in the bottom and around the sides...this is the tomb). The top of the tomb should be slightly higher than the edges of the bowl. Next, add the soil around the sides and back of the tomb, and mound it over the top. There should be at least ½ inch of soil on top of the tomb, but more is better. Add rocks in front of the tomb on the sand, and on the sides around the entrance to the tomb. **MAKE SURE THEIR NAMES ARE ON THE BOWL**, and set the garden aside.

Assemble the popsicle stick crosses. Write an Easter-themed phrase on the wood rectangle (He is Risen, Jesus is Alive, etc), and glue the rectangle to a wooden pick. Let the glue set for about a minute, then stick the crosses and sign into the garden. The garden needs to be watered daily, and the grass should sprout in about 3 days (if it's planted on a Tuesday, there will be sprouts by Friday).



Hymnal Page Light Switch Covers (3rd-5th):

-Old hymnals (Messiah has a box labeled “beyond repair, use for crafts”) or photocopied hymnal pages

- Modge-podge (glossy)
- Foam paint brushes
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Plastic light switch covers (18 cents each at Menards)

Each child needs a pencil, light switch cover, and a hymn page to begin. Place the switch cover onto REVERSE side of the hymn page they wish to use. Trace the outside of the switch cover and the rectangular opening in the middle (where the actual switch goes). Remove the switch cover from the hymn page, and draw a larger rectangle around the outside of the trace lines (this larger rectangle should be about a ½ inch larger than the rectangle created by tracing the switch cover). Cut out the largest rectangle. You should now have a rectangular piece of hymn paper with a switch cover traced on it. Now cut the corners off. You should now have a shape that looks like the image on the right.

Brush a thin layer of Modge Podge over the entire front surface of the switch cover. Turn the hymn page over, so you can see the non-traced side, and center it over the switch cover. Smooth it down over the switch cover and gently press out any air bubbles. When it's smoothly applied, turn the switch cover over. Apply Modge Podge to the back sides of the edges of the hymn page, and fold them over onto the back of the switch cover. Press gently. Don't pull or press too hard or the edges will tear. Turn the switch cover back over and hold it up to the light to find where the screw holes are. Use a pencil tip to push through the paper and open the screw holes. Finally, spread a very thin layer of Modge Podge over the entire front surface of the switch cover.



Sharpie Tiles (1st-5th):

- White 4x4 ceramic tiles
- Colored sharpies
- Rubbing alcohol
- Wooden picks (like for the resurrection gardens)
- Masking tape
- Felt (cut into 1-inch squares)
- Elmer's glue-all
- Q-tips
- Modge Podge SPRAY (gloss)

PREP: Cut the masking tape into strips (one long and one short per tile) and stick it to the tiles in the shape of a cross.

First, glue a felt square to each corner on the BACK of the tile. Turn the tile over. Color the tile with the Sharpies. When the tile is colored, dip the wooden picks into the rubbing alcohol and apply drops to the tiles. The alcohol will cause the ink to run and blur in interesting ways. No matter how wet the tiles get, do NOT pick them up. The alcohol will evaporate on its own and leave the color behind. If the tile is tipped too far, the alcohol will run off the tile and take the color with it. Once the tile is dry (at least along the masking tape edges), the tape can be removed. When the tile is completely dry, coat with glossy Modge Podge spray.



Yarn Cross Frames (1st-2nd):

- Yarn of various colors
- Empty 5x7 picture frames (no glass or backing)
- Stick-on felt flowers (Hobby Lobby)
- Buttons
- Elmer's Glue- All
- Popsicle sticks

PREP: It is helpful to have the kids pick out the color they would like to use the day before they do the project. Then their chosen color can be measured out ahead of time. Each child needs 10 yards (or 10 arm-lengths) to wrap the frame vertically, and 7 arm-lengths to wrap horizontally. Measure out 10 yards, then wind it around a popsicle stick and set it aside. Then, do the same with the 7-yard length. The day of the project, give each kid a stick of 10 yd, a stick of 7 yd, and two 6-inch lengths of yard in their chosen color.

Tie the loose end of the 10-yd length to the top of the frame. Wind the yarn around the frame vertically until it is completely off the popsicle stick and onto the frame. Tie the loose end to another strand. Repeat horizontally for the 7-yd length. Find the front of the frame. Use one of the 6-inch lengths to pinch the top right and bottom left corners together in the center, and tie it. Use the other 6-inch length to pinch the top left and bottom right corners together, and tie it. Stick a felt flower to the center. Glue a button to the center of the flower.



Fabric Cross Frames (3rd-5th):

- Strips of fabric (6 inches wide and at least 2 yards long)
- Empty 8x10 picture frames (no glass or backing)
- Yarn (cut into 6-inch lengths)
- Stick-on felt flowers (Hobby Lobby)
- Buttons
- Elmer's Glue-All
- Glue gun (optional)

Lay the fabric across the table (if the table is horizontal, lay the fabric vertically). Place the frame RIGHT SIDE UP on the center of the fabric. Lift the ends of the fabric into the air above the frame so that they meet, then pass each other. Lift the bottom end, and wrap it to the left. Lift the top end and wrap it to the right. The fabric should now be twisted in the middle, with the ends laying horizontally across the frame. Flip the whole thing over, and grab the ends. Pull them tight and tie them together, double knot. NOTE: if the kids have trouble tying the ends, use the hot glue gun to attach the ends together. Cut off the excess. Flip it back over. Use the 6-inch lengths of yarn to pinch the corners together in the center and tie them (pinch top right to bottom left and tie, then top left to bottom right and tie). Stick a flower to the center, and glue a button to the center of the flower.



Stepping Stones (6th-8th):

- Quick set concrete mix
- Power Grout (does not need to be sealed, and is indoor/outdoor)
- Foil cake pans (3-pack at Walmart for 88 cents)
- Foil pans with high sides for mixing concrete (Dollar Tree)
- Paint stir sticks (free at Menards)
- Rubber gloves
- Elmer's glue-all
- Sponges (Dollar Tree)
- Buckets for water
- Glass gems/mosaic tiles
- Decorative stones/shells (Dollar Tree)
- Popsicle sticks
- Plastic drinking glasses (8 oz) or foam coffee cups
- Templates that fit the center of the stone (I made a cross, a dove, and a fish)
- Pencils

Give each child a premeasured (4 cups) amount of concrete mix in a foil pan (NOT the cake pan). Fill a plastic or foam cup with water and gradually add it to the concrete mix, stirring well with the paint stick between each addition of water. The scrape the bottom of the pan with the stick to make sure there are no clumps of mix. The mix should be able to be poured rather than spread, but not too thin. When all the concrete mix is incorporated with the water, pour it into the cake pan. Tap the sides of the pan to bring air bubbles to the top. Let it set for at least 1 hour, then peel the cake pan off and flip the stone over to dry overnight.

Trace a template with a pencil. Glue the glass gems, etc. to the stone to form the center shape (cross, dove, fish), and glue differing gems, etc around to form the background. The kids can be as creative as they like as long as the shape in the center is clear. Let dry overnight.

Each kid should put on rubber gloves. Then give each kid a premeasured amount (6 Tablespoons) of grout and a premeasured amount of water (3 Tablespoons). Gradually add the water to the grout while mixing with a popsicle stick. The grout should have the consistency of brownie batter when it's ready. Then, use GLOVED HANDS to scoop up the grout and work it into the spaces between the gems, etc on the stepping stone. Wipe as much excess grout off the top of the gems as possible when all the cracks are filled. Let the grout sit for about 5 minutes, or until it is no longer shiny. When it is dull, use a damp sponge to wipe as much of the grout from the surface of the gems as possible. Rinse and wring out the sponge often. Let dry overnight.

Using a damp sponge, wipe off any remaining grout dust and polish the gems. It takes a couple of days to fully cure before it can be exposed to the elements, but once it's completely set, the stone can remain outside year-round.

