

Transform your church into a bustling Bible-times village without breaking the bank!

Simple Synagogue Ark

What you'll need:

- small bookshelf
- cutting mat
- cardboard
- Wooden Plastic Table Cover*
- straight edge
- black gaffer's tape
- clear packing tape
- utility knife
- black poster board
- fabric
- scissors
- bronze or gold permanent marker
- door handle template (available from group.com/vbsTools)



What You'll Do:

Step 1: Remove shelf if needed.

Step 2: Cut cardboard to fit the front of the shelf.

Step 3: Measure the cardboard and cut it in half.

Step 4: Cover the cardboard with Wooden Plastic Table Cover, making sure the wood grain is vertical. The doors will be opened and closed, so make each side look nice.

Step 5: Add Wooden Plastic Table Cover to the inside panel of the cabinet with rolled clear packing tape.

Step 6: Add folded fabric to the bottom of the cabinet.

Step 7: Trace and cut door handles from the black poster board, using the template.

Step 8: Attach the door handles with black gaffer's tape.

Step 9: Create three hinges from black gaffer's tape for each door.

Step 10: Use bronze or gold marker to add nail heads.

Step 11: Add a scroll and the menorah from the Giant Decorating Posters on top of the cabinet.

Find more decorating
ideas and videos at
group.com/vbsTools.

Synagogue Scroll

What you'll need:

- two 12"-long wooden dowels
- 4 candlesticks $1\frac{7}{8}$ " x $1\frac{3}{4}$ " with $\frac{7}{8}$ " holes (the size of the dowel needs to fit inside the candlestick)
- Non-Tear Scroll Paper*
- hot glue gun
- gold-colored spray paint
- dropcloth
- gloves

What You'll Do:

Step 1: Hot glue the dowels into the candlestick holes. Let dry.

Step 2: Spray paint the wooden pieces gold.

Step 3: Put a line of hot glue on the dowel and attach the Scroll Paper. Repeat on the other dowel. Let dry.



On-the-Spot Shelves—3 Ways

What You'll Need:

- 2 child-size wooden chairs
- 6 fence pickets

What You'll Do:

Step 1: Slide the wood into the slats under the seats and along the seats of the chairs.

Step 2: Add clay tablets.



Wooden Crate Shelves

What You'll Need:

- 2 wooden crates
- 6 fence pickets

What You'll Do:

Step 1: Turn the crates over.

Step 2: Insert pickets into the slats.



Cinder-Block Shelves

What You'll Need:

- 4 or more cinder blocks
- 6 or more fence pickets

What You'll Do:

Step 1: Build 2 stacks that are 2 cinder blocks high, and space them so the fence picket can span the distance between the stacks.

Step 2: Place the fence picket in the holes of the blocks and on top of the blocks.



Carpet Cobblestones

What You'll Need:

- indoor/outdoor carpet (3 different colors)
- scissors

What You'll Do:

Step 1: Begin with a piece of carpet about 14-16 inches square.

Step 2: Using sturdy scissors, cut out stone shapes from the carpet.



Marketplace Well

What You'll Need:

- 2 large cardboard boxes
- clear packing tape
- scissors
- utility knife
- Bricks from Poster pack*
- Water Fabric*

TIP: Our boxes were from Home Depot, "large" 27x15x16.

What You'll Do:

Step 1: Tape the bottoms of the boxes closed, and leave the tops open.

Step 2: Fit the boxes together so that the flaps of the bottom box and the flaps of the top box are weaved together to create a tall sturdy box. (Stack the boxes with the open ends together. The long edge flaps are outside. For the short edge flaps, one flap is inside and one flap is outside.)

Step 3: Cut a hole about 18x12 inches in the center, leaving a 3-4" frame all the way around the top of the box.

Step 4: Cut off the small white edge from the poster. Wrap the box with the poster. You don't need to wrap the bottom of the box.

Step 5: Finish the well by cutting individual bricks to cover the open spots. Use rolled clear tape to secure.

Step 6: Tape the water fabric to the inside of the box.

TIP: Save the rest of the bricks for the details of your main set.



Nearly Free Palm Trees

What You'll Need:

- cardboard
- utility knife
- cutting mat
- zip ties
- paint stirring sticks
- hot glue gun
- green paint
- dropcloth
- gloves
- paint roller
- carpet tube
- lunch-size paper bags
- scissors
- drill
- #8 x 1" self-drilling lath screws
- carpet tube stand
- Palm Leaf template (download from group.com/vbsTools)



What You'll Do:

Step 1: Put the carpet tube on the stand.

Step 2: Cut a hole in the bottom of each paper bag.

Step 3: Cover the carpet tube with paper bags by sliding them onto the tube and crumpling them.

Step 4: Cut leaf shapes out of cardboard.

Step 5: Cut V shapes in the leaves to give them texture.

Step 6: Hot glue 4 or 5 paint stirring sticks together, creating one 90-degree angle and a couple of smaller bends. (need picture)

Step 7: Paint the leaves and paint sticks green on both sides. For added detail, add white paint "veins" to the leaves.

Step 8: Hold the paint sticks on the leaf, and poke two holes along the stick.

Step 9: Score the cardboard, where the stick bends. The scored side is the top side.

Step 10: Insert zip ties into the holes.

Step 11: Zip tie the sticks to the leaves. Cut off the excess "tails."

Step 12: Insert palm leaves into the top of the carpet tube. Attach the last leaf on the outside of the tube by using a drill and screw or a large zip tie to attach the paint stick of the leaf to the carpet tube.

No-Sew Grain-to-Go

What You'll Need:

- burlap
- stapler
- cardboard
- newsprint or scrap paper
- oats
- scissors
- utility knife
- hot glue gun



What You'll Do:

Step 1: Create a sack by stapling or sewing the edges of the burlap shut. Fold the burlap in half. Fold the raw edges on the sides and staple. For the staple method, fold and fold again. Leave the end open.

Step 2: Turn the bag inside out. Roll down the top and staple.

Step 3: Cut a wavy oval shape from cardboard, just smaller than the opening of the burlap sack.

Step 4: Place a layer of glue on the cardboard, and while it is still hot cover it with oats.

Step 5: Fill any empty spots with more glue and oats.

Step 6: Allow to dry.

Step 7: Stuff the burlap sack with paper.

Step 8: Place the cardboard oval in the opening and make any adjustment necessary to the cardboard.

Step 9: Glue the cardboard in place.

Poster Pack Pottery

What You'll Need:

- foam core
- cutting board
- utility knife
- spray adhesive
- dropcloth
- Giant Decorating Posters*
- scissors

What You'll Do:

Step 1: Cut object from poster.

Step 2: Spray back of poster object.

Step 3: Press onto foam core.

Step 4: Trim around edge.

Step 5: Cut triangle easel for stand.

Step 6: Attach easel to back with spray adhesive.



Trash-to-Treasure Pottery

What You'll Need:

- spray paint (multiple colors and made for plastic)
- secondhand store pottery
- dollar store plastic trays
- dropcloth
- gloves

What You'll Do:

Turn vases, pitchers, and plastic dollar store items into old-looking treasures. Shopping hint: Look for the shape of the item, not the color or material.

Step 1: Begin by spray-painting the back or bottom of each item first. Let dry.

Step 2: Then spray paint the top and sides. Multiple light coats will help achieve a rich, deep color and help ensure the finish is smooth without runs.



Tribe Sign

What You'll Need:

- Crew base and stand
- zip ties (2)
- utility knife
- Tribe Sign mounted on foam core

What You'll Do:

Step 1: Poke 2 holes in foam core at the top and bottom.

Step 2: Insert zip ties.

Step 3: Attach the Tribe Sign to the pole, making sure the top of the pole is covered.





