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INTRODUCTION

It's been said that you just can't do children's ministry without crafts. We agree!

That's why we've taken 110 of the best craft ideas from Children's Ministry Magazine and put them all into one easy-to-use book. Gleaned from issues spanning the last 10 years, these creative crafts are not only fun, but also easy to do.

Children's ministry experts from all over the country have contributed these craft ideas, so we know they work. And each craft is illustrated, so you'll never have to guess the next step. The helpful indexes make it possible to search by the Scripture reference or the name of the craft, so finding the perfect craft will be a snap!

Use this collection of best craft ideas

- to find crafts for your next special event,
- to fill in the gaps of your curriculum,
- as an instant resource when you need an instant craft,
- as a resource to help volunteers in their planning, and
- as an emergency resource when you need a quick, creative idea.

Keep this book handy—you'll use it often! It's a craft lifesaver for Sunday school, children's church, midweek programs, vacation Bible school, and camps.

Now go get crafty!

ANIMAL ARKY



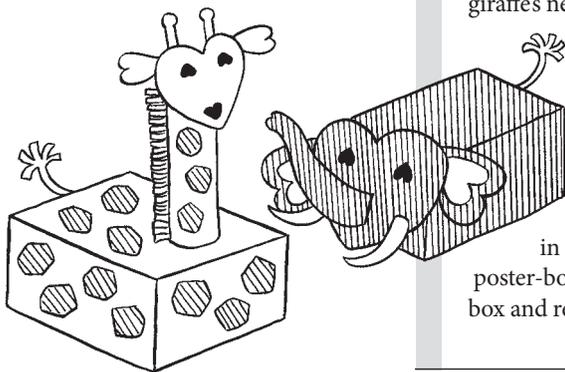
WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

You'll need two large boxes; butcher paper; cardboard; yellow and gray acrylic paint; yellow, pink, orange, and black poster board; white, yellow, orange, and black tempera paint; paintbrushes; orange construction paper; coat-hanger wire; hot glue gun; clear packaging tape; scissors; newspapers; and paint shirts.



FOR EXTRA IMPACT:

- Paraphrase **Genesis 6-9**.
- Let kids color a large box as an ark. Kids can act out the story of Noah and the flood.



Kids learn about Noah's ark with this cooperative craft.

DIRECTIONS

Cover your work area with newspapers, and give children paint shirts to wear. Help children paint and decorate the animals. Allow the animals to dry before moving them.

For the elephant—Cover the box with butcher paper by wrapping it like a present. Then paint the box with gray acrylic paint. Using sturdy cardboard, cut out one giant heart for the head and two medium-size hearts for the ears. Paint these gray. Cut out pink poster-board hearts for the inside of the ears. Using black poster board, cut out two black hearts for the eyes, a 10-inch tail, and 1-foot tusks. Cut out two 41x2x28-inch pieces of poster board for the trunk. Paint these gray. Then curve a coat-hanger wire and tape it between the two pieces so it'll appear that the trunk is curved. Tape the trunk pieces together. Glue all these items to the box and reinforce them with clear packaging tape.

For the giraffe—Cover the box with butcher paper. Then paint the box yellow. Roll a sheet of yellow poster board into a tube for the giraffe's neck, and tape it. Glue fringed orange construction paper to the giraffe's neck. Using sturdy cardboard, cut out one heart-shaped head, and paint it yellow. Cut out smaller poster-board hearts for the giraffe's ears, mouth, and eyes. Cut out its antlers and tail. Cut a "neck" hole in the cardboard box and insert the poster-board tube. Glue all these items to the box and reinforce them.

BABY MOSES BASKETS



WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

You'll need large biscuit shredded-wheat cereal, marshmallow creme, Nutella hazelnut spread, melted butter, mixing bowls, mixing spoons, wax paper, jelly beans, and red shoestring licorice.

ALLERGY ALERT

See page 10.



FOR EXTRA IMPACT:

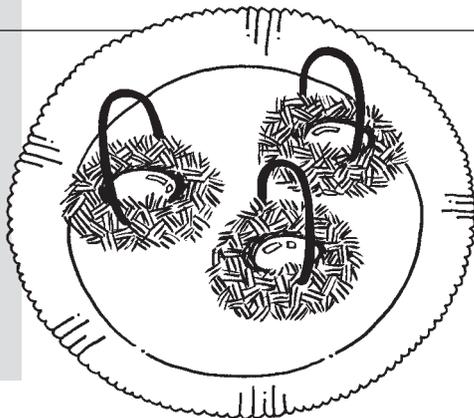
- Mix blue food coloring into marshmallow creme, and have kids each spread some on a paper plate. Place the basket on top of the blue marshmallow "water."
- Read aloud **Exodus 2:1-10** as kids eat their snacks.
- Read aloud **Mark 6:30-44**. Have kids make the baskets and fill them with Goldfish crackers and white jelly beans to represent Jesus feeding the 5,000.

Kids love making these edible treats as they learn about Moses.

DIRECTIONS

Have kids form groups of four and work together to make baskets. Have groups place 1 cup of crumbled shredded-wheat cereal in a bowl. In another bowl, they should stir 1 cup of marshmallow creme and 1 tablespoon of Nutella into 1½ tablespoons melted butter until the mixture becomes syrupy. Groups should pour the marshmallow mixture over the shredded-wheat cereal, and mix all the ingredients together.

Have kids form four balls of equal size from the mixture and place them on waxed paper. Have each child press a thumb into a ball to make a "basket." Kids can use a 3-inch piece of a red licorice whip to for a handle and attach it by sticking it into the top sides of the "basket." They should put a jelly bean in each basket to represent baby Moses.



BALAAM'S DONKEY

ALL AGES



WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

You'll need brown paper lunch bags, pink tempera paint, construction paper, yarn, large wiggle eyes, scissors, glue, and miniature marshmallows.



FOR EXTRA IMPACT:

- Ask kids: Have you ever been scolded? How did you feel? How did the donkey's scolding help Balaam?
- Ask kids: Why does God want us to obey his commands?
- Read aloud **Colossians 3:20**. Ask kids why it pleases God when we obey our parents.

Kids learn about Balaam's experience with these cute talking donkeys.

DIRECTIONS

Have kids cut the donkey's muzzle and ears from construction paper. They can use glue to attach wiggle eyes, muzzle, and ears to the paper bag. Kids should use yarn to make the donkey's reins and mane. Have them paint the inside of the donkey's "mouth" with pink tempera paint and glue on marshmallow teeth.

Read aloud **Numbers 22:21-34**. Then say: When Balaam's donkey wouldn't obey him because it saw the angel of God, Balaam became very angry and scolded it. When God let the donkey speak, it asked Balaam why he'd gotten so angry. Then God opened Balaam's eyes so he could see the angel standing in the way. Balaam finally understood why his donkey wouldn't obey him.

Ask: How do you think Balaam's donkey felt when it was being scolded? What did Balaam learn from his experience?

