

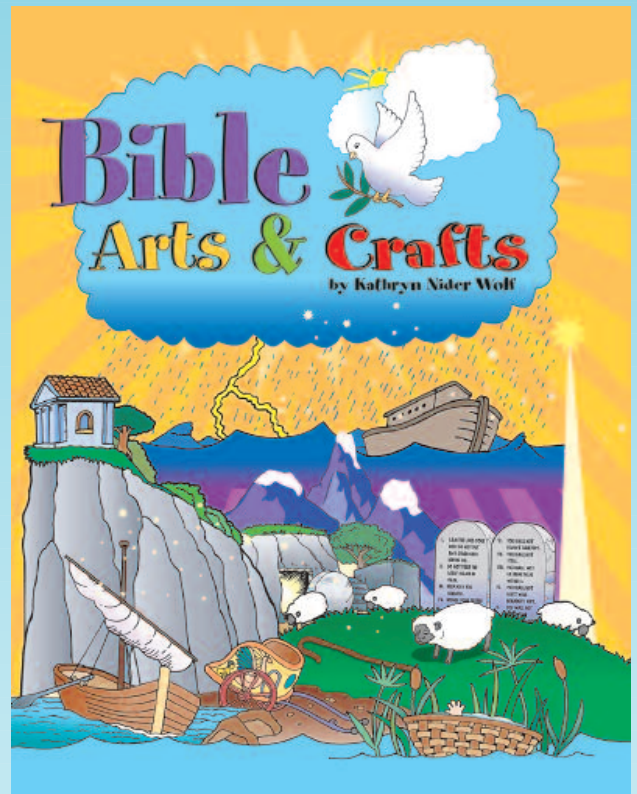
Bible Arts & Crafts

By Kathryn Nider Wolf

Teach traditional Catholic beliefs through crafts that enrich each Bible story. With defined learning objectives, these teaching activities are educationally sound, developmentally appropriate, and fun for youngsters as they discover their faith heritage. Teachers and parents will find lists of materials, easy-to-follow directions, and lots of guidance in creating meaningful learning activities grounded in Catholic tradition.

Ideal for classrooms, group settings, and families, activities include:

- The Great Flood – Noah’s Ark Mobile
- Moses on Mt. Sinai – Ten Commandments Cookies
- Flight from Egypt – “Let My People Go!” Bumper Sticker
- The Annunciation – Coffee Filter Angel
- The Last Supper – Cup of Wine Mosaic
- Pentecost – Chalk-stenciled Doves



32 pages, 6" x 9" #3511

Old and New Testament stories highlight God’s commandments and covenants. Teacher notes offer age-appropriate activity variations as well as insights into cognitive abilities and emotional understanding at different age levels. Thematic art ideas stimulate discussion of the Scripture both in the classroom and at home.

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- Joseph and His Jealous Brothers – Robe Bag Puppet (pages 10-11)
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Joseph and His Jealous Brothers

Genesis 37, 42-45

Jacob had twelve sons, but Joseph, his youngest son, was his favorite. One day the loving father gave Joseph a beautiful new robe of many colors. Joseph's brothers were jealous of all the special attention he got. They didn't like his boastful attitude either. In fact, they hated Joseph so much that they wanted to kill him. One brother, Reuben, tried to save Joseph. He suggested the brothers grab Joseph and throw him into a deep pit instead of killing him. Imagine how scared Joseph was in the bottom of that pit! What was going to happen to him?

The brothers decided to sell Joseph as a slave to some traders passing by on their way to Egypt. Joseph wouldn't be dead, but he would be out of the family and far away. They took Joseph's robe and covered it with goat's blood and told Jacob that a wild animal had eaten his son. Imagine how sad Jacob was when he heard his youngest son was dead!

Many years later, Jacob sent ten of his sons to Egypt to buy grain because his people were hungry. The brothers didn't know it, but Joseph had grown up to become the governor of the land. When they bowed down to him and asked to buy food, Joseph recognized his brothers. He was angry and called them spies. But Joseph could not stay mad at his brothers. Instead, he forgave them. Joseph realized that God had sent him ahead to help his people. Joseph hugged his brothers and told them to bring his father and his whole family to Egypt to live. So they did and Jacob had his sons together again.



Teacher Notes:

Young children will find this Bible story a little scary so focus on how much Jacob loved his son. Help children to see that feelings of anger and jealousy toward brothers and sisters are common, especially when a new baby arrives.

Older children can re-enact the story. Discuss sibling rivalry and feelings of jealousy. Ask them to think of times when they felt that a sibling got special attention or when they were jealous of another child. Emphasize that we never want to intentionally hurt our brothers and sisters and can forgive them when we are hurt.

Joseph's Robe Bag Puppet

Objectives:

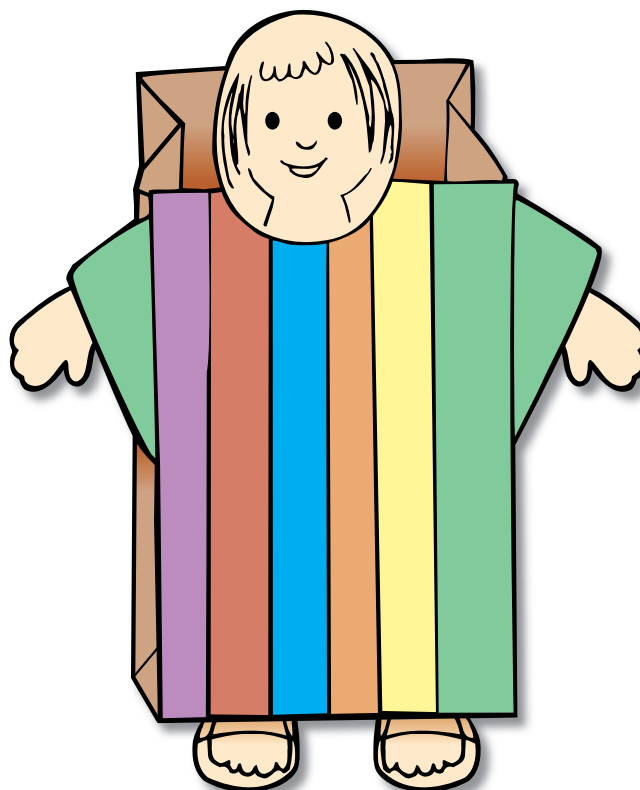
- Children will cut and paste to make a paper bag puppet of Joseph in his coat of many colors.
- Children will identify feelings of jealousy, fear, sadness, and forgiveness and express feelings about their siblings.

Materials: one brown lunch bag per child; 1 in. x 9 in. colored construction paper strips; head, arms, and feet patterns reproduced on white paper for each child; scissors; brown or black yarn; school glue or glue sticks; crayons; slips of paper labeled with feelings

Preparation: Reproduce the patterns on page 82 on white paper for each child.

Procedure:

1. Provide the pattern page and scissors for each child to color and cut out the pieces.
2. Have each child use crayons to draw the eyes, nose, and mouth features and to color the face, arms, and feet.
3. Give each child a brown paper lunch bag. Demonstrate how to glue the sleeves of the coat to the front of the bag as shown.
4. Have each child overlap and glue the paper strips lengthwise on the front of each bag from the fold up.
5. Have each child open his bag to stand up, and then glue on the head, arms and feet as shown. Children may cut and glue yarn to add hair.
6. Distribute the feelings cards for the children to place inside the bag puppets to take home and discuss with parents.



Jesus Is Baptized

Matthew 3:1-17

What a scene it was at the Jordan River! People came from all across Judea, walking for miles in the desert, and lining up on the riverbank to see John the Baptist. He looked a little strange dressed in clothing made of camels' hair with a leather belt around his waist. The word was that he ate locusts and wild honey, but he also had a reputation for being a powerful preacher. He baptised people by dipping them in the water. He washed them clean of their sins and told them to get ready for the Messiah.

John was also a cousin of Jesus. One day, Jesus came to John to be baptized. Jesus went into the river. John realized that Jesus was sent from God. John put Jesus under the water. Just as Jesus emerged soaking wet, the sky split open and the Holy Spirit came down to Jesus looking like a dove above his head. Then God spoke from heaven in a voice that shook the earth: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Everyone who saw the dove come down from heaven and heard the voice of God that day knew that Jesus had the Holy Spirit in him.



Teacher Notes:

Young children are intrigued by our church ritual of baptism. They want to know how and why. They can understand that baptism is a sacrament that welcomes them into God's family. Be prepared for plenty of questions about the Holy Spirit as they assimilate this new information.

Children age six to ten like to perform, and this re-enactment will give them a visual reminder of what happened at Jesus' baptism. Older children can act out this dramatic scene from the Bible, adding special sound effects.

The Holy Spirit Door Hanger

Objectives:

- Ž Children will recall the events of Jesus' baptism and act out the scene.
- Ž Children will identify the dove as the symbol of the Holy Spirit.
- Ž Children will recall their own baptism and make a dove door hanger as a reminder that God's spirit is always with them.

Materials: examples of the Holy Spirit depicted as a dove, one dove pattern (page 93) per child, one 4 in. x 9 in. strip of colored tag board per child, scissors, crayons or markers, 3-in. circle template, pencil, laminating film if desired

Preparation: Reproduce the dove pattern on page 93 on white paper for each child. Precut the tag board into strips, one per child.

Procedure:

1. Discuss the atmosphere on the banks of the Jordan River. Ask, "Do you think the scene was crowded? Hot? Dusty? Quiet? Exciting? What would you have seen, heard, smelled, and touched as an onlooker in the crowd? How did John baptize people? What happened that was unusual when Jesus was baptized? What would you think as you walked away?"
2. Ask, "How were you baptized?" Explain the full emersion method and compare to the baptism of infants at the baptismal font. Explain that the Holy Spirit comes to us at baptism.
3. Show examples of how the dove is used as a representation of the Holy Spirit or take children go to the narthex and sanctuary if possible to look for symbols of the Holy Spirit.
4. Provide each child with a strip of colored tag board and a dove pattern to cut out.
5. Have each child trace a 3-in. circle with pencil on his tag board strip and cut out as shown. The child glues the dove to his door hanger and writes a message, "The Holy Spirit Is In!" Children may use crayons or markers to decorate their door hangers. Laminate for durability if desired.

