

Mobile “Son” Catchers

Kids work together to create a sun catcher mobile as they remember that the Spirit guides us in times of change.

Resource Type: Art

Story Name: The Ascension

Learner Level: Grades 3-4

Supplies:

Clear contact paper

Scissors

Fishing line or string

Tissue paper

Cookie cutters or stencils

Pens or pencils

Hole punch

Pony beads

Clothes hanger

Markers (optional)

Construction paper (optional)

Set Up:

Cut out two 6-inch (15 cm) squares of contact paper per kid. Cut an 8- to 12-inch (20-30 cm) length of fishing line or string per kid. Place supplies in a central location.

Instructions:

Before the ascension, Jesus asked his disciples to continue his work here on earth. But Jesus didn't just need help from his disciples—he needs help from us today, too! We are called to be disciples and to teach others all about Jesus. Part of teaching and telling others about Jesus is showing others that we are Christians. The sign of the cross is a symbol of our belief in Christ, and today you will be creating a special cross sun catcher to hang in our classroom window or somewhere else here at church. This sun catcher can help us remember that we are Christians and that Jesus isn't gone forever. Jesus said, “Save my place,” so we know he's coming back.

- 1. You are going to be working with contact paper, which is very sticky, so it is important that you plan out your design before you remove the backing from the contact paper. Take a few moments lay out your design with the backing still on the paper. Make sure your design includes some kind of tissue paper cross.**
- 2. When you have a plan, remove the backing from one of the pieces of contact paper, lay it on the table with the sticky side facing up, and lay the tissue paper in place to make your design. Remember, once you place the tissue paper on your sticky contact paper, you won't be able to move it.**
- 2. Next, remove the backing from the second piece of contact paper, hold it over your design with the sticky side facing down, and lay it over the design to cover it.**
- 3. Now, decide what shape you will cut for your design. Choose a stencil, trace around it, and cut out the shape.**
- 4. Punch a hole at the top of the design and gently loop a piece of string through the hole.**
- 5. Choose three or four beads to thread onto the length of your string, then tie a knot at the end to hold them in place.**

6. When you are finished, you can attach your string to this coat hanger to help create a mobile that we'll hang in our classroom.

What a great sun catcher mobile we made! I love watching the sun catchers move back and forth and seeing the mobile change. I hope this mobile will always remind us that the Spirit guides us in times of change.

If you have less time . . .

Instead of creating sun catchers, simply have kids use markers to draw cross-themed artwork on construction paper. Hang their completed designs from the coat hanger to finish.

If you have more time . . .

Encourage each kid to make an extra sun catcher to give to someone or hang at home.

What Do We Have in Common?

Kids discover how they are similar and different as they remember that the Spirit guides us in times of change.

Resource Type: Activity

Story Name: The Ascension

Learner Level: Grades 3-4

Supplies:

Large pieces of construction paper

Pencils or markers

Small pieces of paper

Whiteboard or mural paper (optional)

Markers

Tape or pushpins (to display findings)

Set Up:

Place supplies in a central location.

Instructions:

When Jesus rose into heaven, he told us he would be back again . . . but he didn't tell us to just sit back, do nothing, and wait for him. Jesus has work for us to do! God knew that God would need many workers in the world, so each of us was created by God with unique talents and abilities. And God doesn't want us to keep our talents to ourselves. God wants us to use them to help and teach others about God's message and about Jesus. Let's work together to learn more about what makes each of us unique and what we have in common.

1. Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4 kids each. Give each group a piece of construction paper.
2. Instruct groups to create a sort of Venn diagram on their sheet of construction paper: a big circle in the middle of the paper, surrounded by smaller circles, one per kid.
3. Give kids time to learn about each other – sharing things that they do, like, and believe. Anything that kids in a group have in common should be written in the large circle. Things that make individual members unique should be written in the smaller circles of the people to whom those apply. Anything

that some, but not all, of the group members have in common can be written in the space between the big circle and the smaller circles.

4. Allow time for each group time to present their diagram to the class. Talk about what makes each kid in your classroom unique and discuss the things that many kids have in common.

We sure do have a lot in common with each other—but each of us is unique, too! Each of the things on your chart is a unique gift from God that makes you who you are. Even when we're changing and growing into new people, we can bet that the Spirit guides us. The Spirit guides us in times of change!

If you have less time . . .

Complete the chart as a class on a whiteboard or large piece of mural paper.

If you have more time . . .

Allow more time for discussion among group members.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for the words you've passed on to us through the disciples and the Bible. We know that you give us the strength to witness to others. Help us to take our job seriously and to do the best we can to tell others about you.

Amen.