

Jesus' Story Quilt

Kids create a handprint quilt to help tell Jesus' stories and remember the lesson focus: "Bye-bye, Jesus. See you soon."

Resource Type: Art

Story Name: The Ascension

Learner Level: Ages 2-3

Supplies:

Construction paper
Scissors
Markers
Posterboard
Mural paper
Washable paint

Paper plates
Foam paintbrushes
Paint shirts
Wet wipes

Set Up:

Cut construction paper into 8-inch (20 cm) quilt squares. Print each kid's name at the top of one square. Make sure you have enough posterboard area to accommodate all of the kids' quilt squares when they are mounted together. Cover tables with craft mural paper to simplify cleanup. Pour paint onto paper plates and place foam brushes nearby. Create an extra square for the center of the quilt entitled, "We Tell Jesus' Stories."

Instructions:

Right before Jesus rose into heaven, he told his friends to tell others about him. Then he said good-bye. When we say good-bye, we wave. We are going to give Jesus a good-bye wave with our handprints in a special art project today. Let's get started!

1. Help each kid into a paint shirt.
2. Lightly paint the palm of each kid's hand, then help him or her press the painted palm onto the quilt square that you have labeled with that kid's name.
3. Clean kids' hands with wet wipes and remove paint shirts
4. **Now I'd like you to think of your favorite stories about Jesus. What can you tell me about that favorite story?** Allow time for kids to respond. **If you can't think of a favorite story, can you tell me something you know about Jesus that makes you feel happy?** Use the Spark Bible to help remind kids about the stories they've heard in class this year.
5. Use a marker to write on each kid's quilt square about what he or she recalls.
6. Mount the quilt squares on posterboard. Hang the "quilt" in your classroom or in a hallway for the entire congregation to enjoy.

This quilt looks great! I know this will help us tell others about Jesus. Bye-bye, Jesus! See you soon!

If you have less time . . .

Use Spark Coloring Pages of familiar Bible stories as quilt squares. Invite kids to color the pages, then print their thoughts about Jesus below the picture.

If you have more time . . .

Talk to the Christian Education Director about hanging the quilt in your building prior to class time. As a class, travel together to hang your artwork in a place where the whole church can enjoy it.

Discovery Bags

Kids play with sealed discovery bags as they remember the lesson focus, “Bye-bye, Jesus. See you soon.”

Resource Type: Activity

Story Name: The Ascension

Learner Level: Ages 2-3

Supplies:

Quart-size ziplock plastic bags, one per kid
Permanent marker (adult use only)
Scoop or spoon
Tiny objects or trinkets (large sequins, doll-sized objects, game pieces, paper clips, foam shapes, beads etc.)
Adhesive labels

Rice, dry, uncooked
Computer
Printer
Small crosses
Duct tape
Food coloring (optional)

Set Up:

Dye rice with a few drops of food coloring a day before assembling discovery bags (optional). Use a permanent marker to label one bag with each kid’s name. Use a computer to print the following warning on each of the bags for parents and guardians: “Some small items in this bag could be choking hazards for your child. Please monitor your child as he or she plays with this bag in case the bag is torn or punctured.” Fill each ziplock plastic bag $\frac{3}{4}$ full with dry, uncooked rice. Add 5-7 trinkets and one small cross to each bag. Zip the bags closed and reinforce the seal on each bag with duct tape.

Instructions:

Jesus said “good-bye” to his disciples and went to heaven, but we know that Jesus will come back someday. We’ll see him soon! Let’s take a closer look at some things that go away but come back again.

1. Hand out the discovery bags.
2. **Each of these bags holds some special treasures. When you shake up your bag, the treasures disappear, like Jesus did when he went to heaven. But if you shake your bag again, you will discover that the treasures are back.**
3. Invite kids to explore the discovery bags and try to find the special trinkets in each bag. When a kid finds the cross, talk together about Jesus’ love and his promise to come back someday soon.
When we shake the bags and can’t see the treasures, we can be sure that we’ll see them another time. Jesus went to heaven and we said, “Good-bye,” but he will be back, too! Bye-bye, Jesus. See you soon!

If you have less time . . .

Limit the time kids have to explore their bags.

If you have more time . . .

Use food coloring to dye the rice prior to sealing bags. The trinkets will be harder to find.

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.