

Dig Into Crafts!!!

When children experience Destination Dig VBS, they will discover artifacts that uncover the truth about Jesus. They will also read scripture from the Old Testament that prophesy about who Jesus is and connect those verses to New Testament scripture that fulfill God’s promise about sending us a Savior. We will be looking at craft examples for preschool-6th grade that will reinforce the Bible story and Biblical truths about God revealing Himself to us through His Son Jesus. Because we are limited on time, I will focus on one craft for each age group for each day. I will also give helpful hints that may not be listed in the VBS craft leader guides.

**Day 1-Biblical Truth: Jesus came as God promised.** Children will learn that in Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2, prophets revealed that God would send us Jesus. These scriptures predicted how and where Jesus would be born. The crafts for day 1 will focus on the findings of the ancient scrolls found in Qumran and the events surrounding Jesus’ birth.

**Preschool Craft:** Children can make a scroll jar and directions are in the 3s-Kinder Crafts Rotation Leader Guide.

**Suggestions:** Oriental Trading has premade scrolls you can buy ($9.99 for 12 including dowel rods) or you can print off scroll template and buy dowel rods or maybe a Chinese restaurant can donate chopsticks. For younger children, they can have Isaiah 9:6 “For a child is born unto us” written on their scrolls and decorate with stickers (LifeWay theme stickers are $4.49 for 140 stickers or Oriental Trading theme stickers are $7.99 for 300). Older preschoolers can trace dotted letters of the Isaiah 9:6 scripture.

**Biblical and Life Application:** Preschoolers can make the connection that these jars were actually found in caves that had scrolls inside. Teachers can explain that scrolls are like the Bibles we have now to read about God’s Word. People in the past treasured God’s Word and we should do the same today by reading the Bible and learning more about Jesus.

**1st-4th Craft:** Children can make an Isaiah Scroll Ornament and directions are listed in the Crafts Rotation Leader Guide. This is a great keepsake for children and their parents to remember the Christmas story and connect it to God’s promise in the book of Isaiah as they hang this special ornament on their Christmas tree for years to come. This ornament comes in a pack of 10 in LifeWay’s craft pack for $4.99.

**Suggestions:** use a tan/brownish crayon longways with the label peeled off to make the scroll look ancient; tie the string on the dowel rod ahead of time; have wipes available; use Q-tips to put the glue on the ends of the dowel rods when adding beads (while the glue dries, show children the pictures of the Qumran caves and the scrolls and discuss the prophesies about Jesus’ birth from Isaiah and Micah and/or they can practice writing the verse in Hebrew).

**Biblical and Life Application:** Teachers can explain that scrolls are like the Bibles we have now to read about God’s Word. People in the past treasured God’s Word and we should do the same today by reading the Bible and learning more about Jesus.

**VBX Craft:** Kids can make a translucent nativity ornament. Directions can be found in the VBX Leader Guide and a template is attached to this packet (it’s a perfect size for a mason jar lid). This is a very simple ornament, but it is unique because it is translucent and different than other types of ornaments.

**Suggestions:** play Christmas music while kids make the craft; attach a clothespin to the cotton ball to help spread the oil; allow kids to make several so they can give as gifts to neighbors or friends that may not believe; fine a variety of cord or ribbon to embellish the outside of the ornament; add a decorative tag on the ribbon or cord that has Isaiah 7:14, 9:6 or Micah 5:2 scripture written on it as a reminder that God promised the world of this special birth.

**Biblical and Life Application:** The ornament reminds us of God’s promise: sending us a Savior to deliver all people from their slavery to sin. This promise was fulfilled with the birth of Christ. Leaders can point out that the ornament allows light to shine through it and that kids can also can let the truth of Jesus shine through them to lead others to Christ.

**Day 2- Biblical Truth: Jesus demonstrated God’s power.**  Children will learn that Jesus is meeting the physical needs of the blind man, but this miracle also symbolizes what Jesus can do for all of mankind according to Psalm 146:8 and Isaiah 35:5-6.

**Preschool Craft:** Children can make a chalk silhouette using pottery templates. Directions are listed in the 3s-Kinder Crafts Rotation Leader Guide. Tape the templates on manila or white paper and children can use colored chalk to color over the pottery, which will make a design around the pottery. Peel the template off, and children will discover the outline of the pottery is left behind. Since this is a quick craft, children can also help make a mud bag that will be a tactile activity to remind them that Jesus used mud to heal the blind man.

**Suggestions:** play “Open the Eyes of My Heart” song; if you choose to do the chalk silhouette, older preschoolers can pretend they just unearthed the jars that held the scrolls at the Qumran caves. Use larger paper for children to use several pottery templates and they can use a crayon for sand and colored chalk to create a sunset in the background; the mud bag-probably make the mud bag ahead of time; copy pictures of Jesus, the name of Jesus, pictures of the story to place under the bag so children can see the picture once they start moving their finger on the mud bag.

**Biblical and Life Application:** Discuss with preschoolers that the blindman Jesus healed could see those colors after Jesus healed him. Ask children where they can see those colors (ex. Sunset, sunrise, rainbow, reflection in the water, etc.) Have children hold their picture in their lap, turn the lights off, ask children to hold their picture in front of their face, then turn the lights back on. Remind preschoolers they can be thankful for eyes to see such wonderful colors.

**1st-4th Craft:** Children can make the Jesus Heals Eyeglass Case that can be purchased from LifeWay. (Craft pack has 10 for $5.49). Directions are in the Crafts Rotation Leader Guide. **Suggestions:** take time to poke out the holes before Day 2 of VBS (use tip of a pencil to poke out); print “Jesus has the power God promised” and glue or print on sticky label to add on eyeglass case with other stickers; buy cheap sunglasses (kids going to camp can use this to hold sunglasses or masks-this can help promote camp); tell children the case can be hung on the back of a car seat to keep track of sunglasses; play “Open the Eyes of My Heart” song; if you choose to do the chalk silhouette with the older children-can pretend they just unearthed the jars that held the scrolls at the Qumran caves. Use larger paper for children to use several pottery templates and they can use a crayon for sand and colored chalk to create a sunset in the background.

**Biblical and Life Application:** When children make these eyeglass cases, they can be reminded that Jesus healed the blindman and Jesus wants us to “see” Him and have the faith that the blindman had when he was healed. Jesus didn’t heal the blindman just to heal his eyesight. Jesus wanted him to know where that power of healing came from. Point out that the verses in Psalm 146:8 and Isaiah 35:5-6 prophesied Jesus coming to save us and opening the eyes of the blind. Anyone who does not know Jesus as their Savior is blind to the gift of everlasting life.

**VBX Craft:** Kids will make a “Wide-Eyed Stress Ball” and a review “Puppet” for “Jesus Healed the Blind Man”. The stress ball directions are in the VBX Leader Guide and a template of the review “Puppet” is attached to this packet.

**Suggestions:** use sand to fill the balloon instead of clay. Use a jumbo craft stick to attach to the blindman’s template for kids to hold when reviewing story, and add small Velcro on either side of the eye holes and to a pair of sunglasses (template also attached). After reviewing the story, kids can add glasses onto the blindman’s template to show that he sees the light of Jesus. Kids can experience missional living by reviewing this story with preschoolers the next day or use the review puppet to help tell the story for a Backyard Bible Club, etc.

**Biblical and Life Application:** Leaders can discuss Jesus has power over all creation. He can relieve any stress we have in our life and He can bring healing to what hurts us most in life. The blindman was trapped in blindness, but choosing to have faith in Jesus to perform such a unique miracle, allowed this man to not only be healed, but to rejoice and claim that Jesus was God’s Son. We can walk in faith and watch how God can help us in our time of need and share those stories with others.

**Day 3- Biblical Truth: Jesus was betrayed and rejected.** Children will learn that scripture in the Old Testament predicted how Jesus would be betrayed and rejected by men. This is a precious story where Jesus has a meal with His closest friends, knowing He won’t be with them much longer, and He will have to endure the sacrifice on the cross and separation from His heavenly Father. Children will understand that Jesus had the desire for His disciples to be His example here on earth and He showed them how to be servants. Jesus followed God’s plan and wants us to follow Him and be His example like He demonstrated to His disciples during the last supper.

**Preschool Craft:** Preschoolers can make the pottery shard frame and directions are listed in the 3s-Kinder Crafts Rotation Guide. LifeWay has packs of 10 for $5.99. Preschoolers can create a footprint and frame it using the pottery shard frame. Since this is a quick craft, they can also use clay to make pottery

**Suggestions:** use a large stamp pad for the footprint; use modeling clay to create pottery and put it in baggies so children can reuse and make other types of pottery (Amazon has Crayola Model Magic, 75 pkgs. For $40.99

**Biblical and Life Application:** Jesus ate a special dinner with His friends and used a bowl very similar to what preschoolers will create with the clay. Leaders can tell children that Jesus told the disciples that night that they needed to serve others like He did during His ministry on earth. Leaders can tell preschoolers that their footprints represent us walking like Jesus did and serving and loving others.

**1st-4th Craft:** Children will make the Roman Mill Game. These directions are in the Crafts Rotation Leader Guide.

**Suggestions:** use the Dig Site Water Pouch (LifeWay craft pack-10 for $5.99) to hold the Roman Mill game. Reduce the size of the game (an example is attached to this packet along with directions of the game), laminate the game and have children put it inside the water pouch. Children can use the I Love VBS stickers or use stickers from LifeWay or Oriental Trading (mentioned in Day 1). Use 2 different colors of transparent bingo chips as game pieces from Amazon (1,000 pieces for $12.99) or use flat rocks or beans.

**Biblical and Life Application:** Jewish authorities took Jesus to be tried by the Roman governor. The Romans had games similar to this one. When kids play this game, they can be reminded that Jesus chose to follow God’s plan even though He knew the pain He would receive from the Roman government. We need to be reminded of what Jesus gave up in order to complete the promise God had for us from the very beginning.

**VBX Craft:** Kids will make a jump rope. The directions are in the VBX Leader Guide. This can be a craft they keep or one they want to donate to a church’s Children’s Ministry, camp, foster home, etc.

**Suggestions:** use milkshake straws; write Matthew 20:28 on the straws after they have been cut; use colorful Duct tape with designs for the handles; tape a plastic needle on one end of the rope to help thread the straws and beads.

**Biblical and Life Application:** Leaders can emphasize the importance of serving others and following Jesus. When Jesus had the Last Supper with His disciples, Jesus wanted them to understand their purpose in serving. When kids make this craft, they can discuss how they may want to serve others this summer while they are not in school and make a summer plan. Write their ideas down and create a list for them to revisit at a later time.

**Day 4- Biblical Truth: Jesus died and rose again.** Children will understand that Jesus fulfilled God’s plan to be our Savior and this plan was God’s promise that was predicted in Isaiah 53:5,9-11. When children make types of crosses on this day, remind them that the cross not only represents how Jesus died for us, but also to remind us that He conquered death and is alive.

**Preschool Craft:** Children will make a Sand I-Spy Bottle. Directions for this craft is in the 3s-Kindergarten Rotation Guide. After children put sand in the bottle, they will choose a few small items to put in the bottle. After the items are put in the bottle, attach the Jeremiah 29:13 verse, share that with the children and tell them to search for the items just like Mary and the disciples searched for Jesus when they ran to the empty tomb. For early finishers, you can have a sand table set up or a large tub or individual bowls filled with sand and hidden objects for children to search and find.

**Suggestions:** use fancy scrapbooking scissors to cut I Spy Bottle Template.

**Biblical and Life Application:** We need to search for Jesus like Mary searched for Him. We can do that by reading the Bible, going to church and praying.

**1st-4th Craft:** Children will also make the Sand I-Spy Bottle. They can also make a magnetic cross bookmark to use for their Bibles, prayer journals, devotion, etc. This craft can be purchased from LifeWay. The craft pack has 10 for $4.99. The directions are in the Crafts Rotation Leader Guide. Remind children that Isaiah predicted Jesus would conquer death in Isaiah 53:10-11. **Suggestions:** use white paint pens or colorful gel pens to decorate; pack comes with stickers that represent the steps of The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me from LifeWay, which is a more in depth version of the ABC’s.

**Biblical and Life Application:** This bookmark is a reminder to children that Jesus loves them so much, He was willing to pay the penalty for our sins so we could know Him and be with Him forever. Children can use this bookmark in their Bibles to help them find their weekly Bible verse, favorite story, etc.

**VBX Craft:** Kids will make a string art Easter cross. Directions for this craft are attached to this packet.

**Suggestions:** you can add different colors by securing the lengths of the previous yarn to the new one & continue weaving. As your weave gets a little thicker, gently pushing down the yarn to free up a little more space on the nails

**Biblical and Life Application:**  The story of Jesus doesn’t end at the cross or at the tomb. The tomb was empty and Jesus’ followers were searching for Him. When we search for Him, we can look at the cross to remember the gift He has given everyone: everlasting life! It is a beautiful gift, just like the kids decorated their cross in a beautiful way. Each cross is different, and even though we are different from each other, Jesus died on the cross, rose up from the tomb so that people from all different backgrounds can receive His gift.

**Day 5-Biblical Truth: The Bible is True.** Children will learn that God called Philip to share the good news of Jesus to an Ethiopian that couldn’t read the scrolls. Remind children that we are going back to the scrolls that were found in the Qumran caves. The Ethiopian didn’t know how to read Isaiah 53:7-8 mentioned in our Day 3 lesson. When the Ethiopian found out what Jesus did for us on the cross, he believed in Jesus and took the next step with baptism.

**Preschool Craft:** Children can make the sand art craft using Jesus’ name on colorful cardstock. Directions for this craft are actually for Day 4 in the 3s-Kindergarten Crafts Rotation Leader Guide. This craft can be used with colorful sand to be sprinkled on letters spelling Jesus and other designs on the cardstock.

**Suggestions:** punch holes prior to Day 5 so children can add string or a pipe cleaner/chenille stem so the sign of Jesus can hang. Children can also add beads to the yarn or chenille stem. You can also use magnetic tape on the back for the craft to be displayed on the refrigerator.

**Biblical and Life Application:** Preschoolers can be reminded that the Ethiopian wanted to know more about the man mentioned in the Isaiah scrolls and Philip told him it was about Jesus. The Ethiopian was so excited to know how much Jesus loved him that he decided to follow Jesus and got baptized. \*\*\*You can do an object lesson to help preschoolers understand what baptism is (Example is attached to this packet. Children also can be as excited as the Ethiopian when they learn and read about Jesus!

**1st-4th Craft:** Children can make the pottery shard frame. The directions are in the Crafts Rotation Leader Guide. (LifeWay has a pack of 10 for $5.99). They can also make the Jesus sign from the 3s-Kinder Crafts Rotation Leader Guide.

**Suggestions:** after making the frame, children can write “For I am not ashamed of the gospel.” Romans 1:16 using a dry erase marker or permanent marker. If children want to use the frame to write different verses each day or each week, then use a dry erase marker. When making the Jesus signs, use the directions from Day 4 in 3s-Kinder Crafts Rotation Leader Guide. Use colored cardstock for the sign. Punch 2 holes at the top ahead of time so children can use chenille stems or string to hang the sign. Add beads to decorate.

**Biblical and Life Application:** Sand can represent the journey the Ethiopian had to take and the desert road that Philip found him, riding in a chariot on his way back to Ethiopia. We need to have the same desire as the Ethiopian did to find out more about Jesus. The Ethiopian was baptized to show how much he wanted to follow Jesus and begin a new life. We need to take steps to begin our new life with Jesus as our Savior and not be ashamed of the gospel.

**VBX Craft:** Kids can make a large scroll.

**Suggestions:** use the large scroll from Oriental Trading mentioned in Day 1 Preschool craft. Take contact paper and place in middle of scroll (do this ahead of time). Kids can use this to write Bible verses to help with memorization or they can list prayer concerns.

**Biblical and Life Applications:** Kids need to be intentional with the gospel like Philip was. He didn’t hesitate to share the prophesy about Jesus written in that scroll to the Ethiopian. We need to learn scripture so we can share the Bible to others. We also need to pray for the lost and ask God how He can use us to reach others.

**Helpful Hints for Craft Rotation:**

Put crafts in a baggie for each child and organize by class and have a crew leader for each group take the crafts and distribute at the end of the day or week. Each class could have a box labeled with their grade level to make it easy for CREW leaders to carry the crafts.

Send home a list of crafts and how they connect to the Biblical truths the children have learned during VBS and how the crafts can be used at home. Send the Family/Parent devotion booklet with the craft list. These resources will help parents know what their child learned each day and will help start conversations at home to help develop the church-family connection.