

WORSHIP ART EXPERIENCES WITH CHILDREN

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Religious art is that which depicts Biblical themes. It is art that is produced in an attempt to illustrate, supplement, and portray in tangible form the principles of Christianity.

One area in which children can become involved in Christian art is through the study of religious paintings.

Common themes often seen in Christian art:

- Adoration of the Magi
- Adoration of the Shepherds
- Angels
- Annunciation
- Arrest of Jesus
- Ascension of Jesus
- Baptism of Jesus
- Christ in Majesty
- Crucifix
- Descent from the Cross
- Holy Family
- Madonna
- Madonna and Child
- Nativity of Jesus
- Pieta
- Resurrection appearances of Jesus
- Sanhedrin trial of Jesus
- The Last Judgment
- The Last Supper
- The Raising of the Cross

We open new windows for children when we provide the skills necessary to encounter a work of art and discover the hidden story that is revealed to them in a personal and authentic way.

Interpreting art with young learners need not be a complex operation to be a meaningful experience. The key is to help learners uncover the unique story and meaning they discover about the art on their own.

After reading or studying a Bible story, look at a related Bible-story picture. Challenge learners to find images and feelings in the picture that support the story.

Helpful questions:

- What do you see when you look at this picture?
- What do you think is happening in this picture?
- What else do you see happening?
- If you were able to step inside this picture, where or who would you be?
- How do you think you would be feeling if you were part of this picture?
- What do you think the artist wanted us to feel or understand about this picture?
- Is there anything else you see in this picture?
- How does this picture help you understand the Bible story?

Additional questions for older students:

- Does the picture add new insights or awareness about the Scripture?
- Identify what in the painting supports your view of what the picture is saying.
- How has the artist conveyed action (calm or stormy seas, serenity, or violence)?
- How has the artist conveyed feelings of anger, fear, forgiveness, reconciliation, love, or God's grace?
- What other methods do you see that the painter used to his or her advantage to achieve a particular mood (color, contrast of light and dark, distorted figures or proportion, etc.)?

Another form of analysis is to compare several different prints on the same subject. Try to include classical, modern, and ethnic prints when doing this. Learners may compare a number of images of the Nativity, the head of Christ, or the Last Supper. Allow learners time to choose their favorite and then defend their choice. Why were they drawn to a particular image? Children will learn to see how an artist has interpreted a Biblical theme or event they have learned about through their study of Scripture.

If you are responsible for setting up an art curriculum for your classroom or school, incorporate a unit based on famous religious paintings.

When discussing a work of art with children, there is a plan to follow which will get them into the painting.

Describe the painting.

- Here you look carefully for details in the subject of the painting.
- The question to ask is: What do you see?

Analyze the painting.

- During this step you would focus on the elements and principles of design. The question is: How is the work organized?
- Discuss such things as colors, lines, shapes, balance, and focal point.

Interpret the painting.

- The question is: What does the painting say to you?

Discuss the historical aspects of the work.

- Provide information about the artist and the style of the art. The question is: What do we know about the painting?

BULLETIN BOARDS

Bulletin boards are designed to help motivate children to worship and serve God, to introduce topics of study, and to teach Biblical concepts.

Things to consider:

- The message must be clear and to the point.
- The board must be attractive, interesting, and current.

BACKGROUNDS

Choosing the correct materials and color is very important. It is the background which often sets the mood of a board. The most practical backgrounds are large (24x36) sheets or rolls of construction paper. Large sheets of corrugated paper are also useful. They can be rolled up and stored for use at a later time.

Other possibilities:

- gift wrapping
- foil
- tissue paper
- shelf paper

wall paper--tweeds, paneling, brick, or rock add interest in texture
Try not to use bright floral designs, plaids, or stripes which can detract from the message.
burlap--comes in many colors and can provide a different texture or contrast

BORDERS

You may want to complete the background by adding a border. This is especially true if your board is not framed. Think also about texture. Vary the texture of the background and the border. Also consider a variation in color. The border may be of the same texture and color as the lettering used for the message.

LETTERING

It should be to the point and not too long. Above all, the caption must be legible. For the busy teacher, letter patterns are a must. These may be obtained in several sizes from school supply companies.

There are also letters available which are ready to punch or cut out as you need them. A more expensive, but very convenient letter is the pin-back plastic display letter. They are available in several styles and sizes which come in storage trays and can be used for years.

PICTURES

Pictures are one of the most effective tools in illustrating bulletin board themes. Be a collector. You can obtain pictures from several sources.

Old Ideals magazines (20-30 pictures per issue). The Christmas, Easter, and special issues usually include religious pictures. (This is no longer in print, but you may find old copies available.)

Women's magazines are good for pictures of family activities.

National Geographic has excellent pictures for background information on countries in which we do mission work. There are occasionally articles relating in some way to Bible history.

Calendars are an excellent source for pictures. Most religious calendars are good.

Sunday bulletins provide interesting pictures that can be used with many designs. Check with your pastor because many times the church office will receive examination packets of bulletins which you may ask for after they have made their selections.

Enlist the help of volunteers in your congregation who would be willing to be on the look-out for pictures which you might use in the classroom

CUTOUTS AND SILHOUETTES

Some themes can be illustrated best with cutouts and silhouettes. School supply stores carry a variety of images which could work well with many religious bulletin boards. There are several good pattern books which can be purchased. Religious coloring books are very useful. Make a transparency of the objects or images you wish to use. Enlarge these to the appropriate size and cut them out for the bulletin board.

OBJECTS

Many small objects found around the home will add interest to a bulletin board. These three-dimensional items may be such things as ribbons, cotton, Easter grass, straws, pipe cleaners, yarn, plastic flowers, greeting cards, leaves, or flags. Larger objects can also be used, but thought must be given to how these will be attached to the board.

Enlist the help of your students as much as possible. When they become involved, they will take ownership of the ideas being displayed on the bulletin board. Younger children could make objects which could be used as borders. Older children can construct the entire bulletin board. Divide the class into small groups. Set up a schedule and theme for each group. For example, if your bulletin board follows the seasons of the church year, the assignments might be as follows:

- group one: Reformation
- group two: Thanksgiving
- group three: Advent
- group four: Christmas
- group five: Epiphany
- group six: Lent
- group seven: Easter

group eight: Good Shepherd or Ascension
group nine: Pentecost
group ten: Trinity

Once a new bulletin board is up for display in the classroom, take time to discuss it. Get children involved in ideas presented on the bulletin board. If, for example, religious symbols have been used, discuss the importance of the symbols to our faith life. Don't just put up a bulletin board without discussing it. Help children see the meaning of the design so each day when they look at the bulletin board, certain truths of God's Word will be uppermost in their minds.

COLORS

See Christian Worship, pages 157-161

In traditional churches, the year is color-coded:

Green--the color of new life; in particular the triumph of life over death;
As a liturgical color, it is often a default setting, used when other colors are not.
Used from the second Sunday after Pentecost through the end of the Pentecost season.

Purple--used for the seasons of repentance-- Advent and Lent

Blue--often used during Advent; traditionally associated with the Virgin Mary and also with Jesus;
Blue is the color of the sky and represents heavenly love. It is also thought of as the color of hope.

White--Christmas--used through the twelve days of Christmas and through Jan. 6th; also used on the last Sunday after Epiphany; used also from Easter Sunday through Ascension; used on Trinity Sunday and the first Sunday after Pentecost; used for the last two Sundays of the End Time Season.

The Bible contains several references to white as the color of purity and innocence ("Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow"). It also shows spiritual transcendence; Jesus' clothes became dazzling white during the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:2), and the angels at the Resurrection were dressed in white.

(Matthew 28:3).

Red--Pentecost (remembers the red of the fire of Pentecost); also used for the first two Sundays of the End Time Season; it also represents the love of Jesus.

Black--used on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday; in some places it is also used for funerals; it represents sickness, death, and the devil, but also mourning.

UNIT PROJECT: Several art lessons could be devoted to the study of the liturgical colors and the church year. Such a project would also incorporate the study of symbols.

Develop a blank circle graph (see sample, Appendix A) which is divided into sections appropriate in size for the various seasons of the church year. Duplicate a copy for each student.

Color each section the appropriate color. Markers, pencil colors, or water colors work well. If using watercolor, first go over the radii with a black crayon. The crayon line acts as a fence and keeps the watercolor from running.

Cut out a symbol for each season and glue these in the proper spaces. Symbols could also be drawn or traced on the graph and colored with markers. Use a black marker to label the seasons and special days. Suggestion: Give older students the angle measurements for each section and have them construct their own circle graph. This could be done on a circular piece of pizza cardboard.

THE CHURCH BUILDING

Take time in the curriculum to develop a unit on the terminology associated with the physical structure of the church building. Help children realize that architecture is also an art form, and the church building was designed by an artist who works in this field of art.

Terms to know:

Nave: the main body of the church where the congregation takes part in the service.

Pews came into use after the Reformation when the importance of sermons developed. Sermons were often very lengthy and the congregation needed to rest its weary legs. Prior to that, the people would stand throughout the entire service.

Chancel: beyond the nave; usually separated from the nave by a step

Sanctuary: beyond the chancel; contains the altar (A broader definition is the general worship area where the congregation sits.)

Lectern: placed near the division between the chancel and nave; it holds the Bible for reading during the services

Pulpit: these were introduced into Western churches around the 14th Century;

the place from which the sermon is preached to the people; this is the focus for preaching

(Note: many of our churches today no longer use a pulpit; the pastor comes down into the nave to deliver the sermon, thus putting him closer to the people.)

Altar: the heart of the church

it has two principal reference points:

1. a sacrificial altar

At the time of Jesus' ministry, animal sacrifice as atonement for sin was performed on the altar. Christian writers from St. Paul onward saw Jesus as having been like a sacrificial lamb in his crucifixion and death. The altar remembers and, in a sense, repeats that sacrifice.

2. a table

It is a table for a communal meal, again remembering the Last Supper.

Narthex: the entryway to the nave

Unit: Teach the vocabulary of the church building. Interesting historical information can be found on the Internet. For example, type in "church sanctuary" and you will find a wealth of information to share with students.

Project: Have learners draw a floor plan in which they label the parts of a church. Label a diagram. (Appendix B)

Children could draw or construct a model of a church building of their own. They could make drawings of the various parts of the building: the altar, the lectern, the pulpit, etc.

A common practice is to build a church with the entrance on the east. This is, however, not a fixed rule. Facing eastward for worship, the direction the sun rises, is a practice which has its roots in Scripture. ("the glory of the Lord was coming from the east," "they saw a star in the east")

Candles

Often children are unaware of the liturgical purpose for candles which are present in church. Develop a lesson to acquaint them with the symbolic use of candles.

Candles have a number of symbolic meanings:

They can represent the light of life itself.

They represent hope--like a single light flickering in the blackness.

They symbolize a message that illuminates the world.

They are used to signify alertness and readiness, like the wise bridesmaids in Jesus' parable who kept their lamps lit to welcome the bridegroom.

A Paschal candle is a single, tall candle that is lit on Easter Day and burns each Sunday through the Easter season. It stands as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus--the light of hope. It is often placed by the font and lit during Baptisms. In some churches, its flame is used to light a candle that is presented to the newly baptized person.

During the season of Advent, candles can be used in an Advent wreath--a tradition that dates from around the 9th Century.

The Advent wreath is made up of four candles joined together by a single candleholder.

week one--hope

week two--peace

week three--joy

week four--love

Some churches include a fifth candle for lighting on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The first three candles are usually purple, the color of penance; the fourth is pink, and the last one, often placed in the center of the wreath, is white.

A pair of seven branched candlesticks are often found in the chancel or near or on the altar. Reference is often made to the seven branched candlestick God commanded Moses to make.

Perpetual Flame--some churches keep a candle burning in a red lamp to symbolize the continual presence of God.

PROJECTS:

Stained-Glass Candleholder

Materials: white glue, water, container for glue, paintbrush, clear drinking glass, various colors of bright tissue paper, black permanent marker, baby food jar lid, votive candle

Directions:

Mix 2/3 glue and 1/3 water. Paint a small area of the drinking glass with glue. Cover the glue with a torn piece of tissue. Paint glue over the tissue and add more tissue, overlapping the colors of paper. Continue in this way until the glass has been covered with tissue. Then cover the whole glass with one more coat of glue. Allow it to dry. Use a black permanent marking pen to add words. (Jesus, the Light of the World.) ("Jesus Is the Light") Place the baby food jar lid in the bottom of the glass as a holder for the votive candle. Insert the votive candle.

Masking Tape Candleholder

Materials: baby food jar (the beginner size), masking tape, wax shoe polish (brown, blue, or burgundy), rag, candle.

Directions: Remove label from the baby food jar. Tear masking tape into various sizes and shapes, each about 1" in diameter. Stick these pieces onto the jar and smooth them down. Overlap the tape. Continue until you have covered the entire jar. Use a rag to apply shoe polish in thin layers, first covering a small area of the jar with polish and then rubbing off the polish. This will create a mosaic affect. Let the polish dry. Insert the candle. It may be necessary to anchor the candle to the base with melted wax. This should be done by an adult. This small candleholder is ideal for use in a family devotion center.

Punched-Tin Candleholder (for older students only)

Materials: empty tin cans (soup size or larger), water, old towels, hammer and large nail, votive candle, a hot pad or trivet, tracing paper, rubber bands

Directions: Fill an empty can with water and freeze it. Remove the can from the freezer and place it on towels. Use a hammer and nail to punch holes into the can. Let the ice melt, dry the can, and add the candle. Set the can on a hot pad or trivet before lighting the candle. **WHEN THE CANDLE IS LIT, DON'T TOUCH THE CAN-- IT MAY GET HOT!**

Recommended Option: draw a church symbol on tracing paper and use rubber bands to attach it to the frozen can. Punch holes along the lines on the design.

MOSAICS

The wonderful thing about mosaic is that you can choose to make simple replicas from a variety of low-cost materials or make real mosaics.

CONSTRUCTION PAPER

Supplies: squares and snippets of lightweight construction paper in a variety of colors, one sheet of heavier paper or cardboard in a contrasting color, glue

Preparation: Cut squares and snippets of construction paper. Use a pencil to draw a symbol or some other Scripture-related design on the background paper. Glue pieces of construction paper on the heavier paper or cardboard in any pattern. It's better to spread a small amount of glue on a small portion of the background material rather than on each individual piece of mosaic. Remind learners as they glue to leave open spaces to symbolize the grout. If the picture begins to curl, cover the surface with weights for a few days.

EGG SHELL MOSAICS

Supplies:

an egg-coloring kit, black construction paper, liquid glue, patterns of shapes and designs

Preparation:

Have children save WASHED egg shells and bring them to school on a specified day. Prepare the eggshell dye according to direction on the kit you have purchased. Break shells into pieces, soak them in the colored dye until the desired shade is achieved, and dry them thoroughly on paper towels. Store separately by colors in clean, empty, plastic margarine tubs with covers. Draw or trace a pattern onto black construction paper. Glue pieces of eggshell on to the traced patterns or drawn designs. It works best to put glue on a small portion of the design and apply the egg shells to one area at a time. Allow to dry flat in a cool place.

ART FOAM MOSAICS

Supplies: various colors of art foam cut into small pieces in various shapes, poster board, liquid glue

Directions: Cut the foam into small pieces. Draw or trace a symbol or design on the poster board.

Glue the foam pieces to the poster board in mosaic style.

PREPACKAGED MOSAIC SQUARES

Purchase prepackaged mosaic squares made from stiff cardboard. Glue these to heavy cardboard.

NATURAL PEBBLE AND SHELL MOSAIC

Supplies:

pebbles or shells, heavy cardboard, thin wood, or foam core squares for base, strong adhesive

Preparation: If you will be using heavy cardboard or thin wood squares for the base, you may want to paint them in advance with a light coat of rock paint. Allow to dry. Apply the pebbles or shells. Experiment with adhesives to make sure you are using one that is strong enough for the materials you have chosen.

OTHER MATERIALS WHICH COULD BE USED FOR MOSAICS:

gummed paper, seeds, buttons, cereal

MOSAIC WALL MURAL

Supplies:

mosaic material of your choice; glue;
backing material which is the size you desire for the mural (Cardboard from a large appliance box should be strong enough. If you want to keep and display the mural, you may want to invest in a 4' x 8' sheet of fiberboard or plywood.)

Preparation: Depending on the age and abilities of your learners, use pencil to draw designs on the background surface before class. Lay the background material out on a table so learners can work from all sides.

A wall mural such as this lends itself to having several age groups working together to complete a project. Themes for a wall mural can vary. If it is a seasonal one such as might be used at Christmas, each student could do an individual mosaic and these could then be put together on a larger frame. Another suggestion would be to have each student do a particular scene from a Bible story or related Bible stories. For example,

- Building the ark
- Gathering the animals
- Animals and people on the ark
- The dove and olive leaf
- Leaving the ark
- The rainbow

Display these together on a larger background.

STAINED GLASS PROJECTS

Because of the potential for injury in handling real glass, none of the following projects work with actual stained glass. A demonstration of how a stained glass piece is made, however, would add interest to the learning session. Perhaps there is a member of the congregation who works in this medium. Ask this person if he/she would be willing to bring in the necessary supplies and demonstrate what is involved in this art form.

TRANSPARENCY STAINED GLASS

Supplies:

one overhead transparency for each student, colored permanent markers

Preparation:

Draw a design or religious symbol on a sheet of white paper. Divide the design into sections, similar to what you would see in a stained glass piece. Place the transparency over the drawing paper and color the sections with the markers. Outline the areas with a black marker to resemble the lead in a stained glass piece.

GLASS STAINED SUN CATCHERS

Supplies:

prepared acrylic patterns, several colors of glass stain, paintbrushes

Apply glass stain to the acrylic patterns according to the instructions on the patterns and/ or the glass stain. Allow to dry. Hang or place in window.

CONSTRUCTION PAPER/ISSUE PAPER STAINED GLASS WINDOW

This project is not recommended for young children.

Supplies:

9" x 12" or 12" x 18" sheet of black construction paper
x-acto knife (blades are sharp, so learners need to learn how to use them)

various colors of tissue paper

Procedures:

Draw a design or symbol on the black construction paper. Divide the design into sections, leaving one-half inch wide "lead" borders around each section. Use the x-acto knife to cut out the sections that will resemble the colored glass. Have a good stack of old newspapers under the construction paper when cutting with the knife. After the sections have been removed, select a variety of colors of tissue paper. Cut (or tear) a piece of tissue the size of each section. Glue these to the back of the paper.

MELTED WAX STAINED GLASS SYMBOLS

Supplies:

crayon shavings, symbol templates, two sheets of waxed paper per learner, pieces of stiff paper for making templates (tagboard works well), newspapers, iron, brown paper grocery bags, paper hole punch, string, scissors

Preparation:

Using a pencil sharpener, a potato peeler, or a small paring knife, make several piles of crayon shavings. Each pile should be a different color. Cut sheets of waxed paper about a foot long.

Create symbol templates from tagboard-- Resurrection symbols, butterflies, Christmas symbols, etc. Give each student a section of newspaper. Place a sheet of waxed paper on top of the newspaper. Sprinkle crayon shavings onto the waxed paper. Place the second sheet of waxed paper on top of this. Put this crayon "sandwich" on top of a brown paper bag. Put another layer of brown paper on top of this. Go over this with a medium to hot iron to fuse the waxed paper together and melt the crayon. Let each learner choose one of the templates and place it on his/her colored wax paper. Use pencils and trace around the edges. Cut out the shape to create a stained glass symbol. Finish by adding a hole punch at top and inserting a string to hang it.

TRANSLUCENT BABY OIL STAINED GLASS

Supplies:

Duplicate a religious picture on white drawing paper for each student ,
fine point permanent markers (in vivid colors), cotton balls, baby oil, newspapers, paper towels

Directions: Place the stained glass design on newspapers. Color in the designs with the permanent markers. Dab the cotton balls into the baby oil and gently rub oil over the surface of the picture. Blot between paper towels and additional newspapers until the oil is absorbed and the picture is translucent. A black construction paper frame could be put over the picture. These are most effectively displayed in windows.

TIME LINE ACTIVITIES

CHURCH YEAR TIME LINE

To acquaint learners with the church year and the colors and symbols associated with it, a time line could be made for the classroom or some other area in the church or school. Have children participate in making the time line. They can add the color for each service and add appropriate symbols for each season or festival of the church year.

At the beginning of the school year, make the time line for the entire school year. Another approach would be to add to the time line each week, do one season at a time, or do one month at a time.

The information displayed would be as follows: (See Appendix C for church year themes)

Symbols			Leave space on top for symbols.
Sunday or Special Services			Midweek services for days like Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Ascension can be inserted where appropriate.
Color			
Theme			

For some seasons such as Lent, several symbols could be used: the Cross, the Lamb, the Crown of Thorns, etc. However you decide to approach the making of the time line, it is important to refer to it frequently.

HOLY WEEK TIMELINE MURAL

A timeline mural can be done by assigning each student a particular event to illustrate, or dividing the class into groups and having each group do several of the scenes. Materials can vary, depending on how you wish to approach the project, and the age level of the children involved.

Have each student or group work on 12" X 18" white drawing paper. The images can be drawn and colored with crayons or markers, or they could be done by cutting images from scraps of colored construction paper to form a scene from the life of Christ. Another possibility is to use images from church bulletins.

Events which could be assigned:

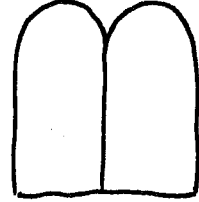
- Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey
- Jesus throws the moneychangers out of the Temple
- Jesus teaches in the Temple courtyard
- Plot to betray Jesus
- The Last Supper
- Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Jesus is arrested
- Jesus is crucified
- Jesus is buried
- Jesus is resurrected from the dead

When all the panels have been completed, hang them next to each other to tell the story of Holy Week.

A timeline mural could be made for various Biblical stories. Break each story into scenes and assign each scene to an individual or a group.

Other examples which would lend themselves to a timeline mural:

- Creation
- Moses
- Israelites in the Wilderness
- David
- The Nativity
- Paul
- Jesus' Miracles



Clay Tablets

The Syrians in ancient Mesopotamia created one of the earliest forms of writing by using a wedge-shaped stick to press simple shapes into soft clay. Clay tablets and styli provided some of the first writing materials for the Israelites.

Clay tablets had many advantages, not the least being that they were inexpensive and that clay was easily obtained. Another advantage was the ability to make changes in the text by simply dampening and smoothing out the surface of the tablet and rewriting. Once dried, the tablets' durability was long-lasting. However, its cumbersome nature made storage difficult.

Project: Modeling Clay (this will not harden)

- Supplies: modeling clay
rolling pin (or unopened cans of soup, vegetables, or juice)
craft sticks

Give each learner a piece of modeling clay and a rolling pin (or can) and instruct them to roll the clay flat into a 'tablet.'

Use a craft stick or wooden stylus to write a Bible verse on the tablet.

Project: Self-hardening Clay Tablet

Give each learner a lump of self-hardening clay, a roller, a butter knife, and a stylus. Have them roll out the clay and cut it with the knife into two small tablets. Older children can use the stylus to write short forms of the Ten Commandments.

Younger children could use Roman numerals and put the numbers 1-3 on tablet one and 4-10 on the second one. They could also write 'Love God' on table one, and on the other print 'Love Others.'

Illuminated Pages

Scribes and masters of design worked cooperatively to create manuscripts that truly are works of art.

A variety of scripts and calligraphy techniques were created to add personal character to individually hand-produced manuscripts. Often scribes lettered the text, leaving spaces for illuminated letters and illustrations that were completed later by a master designer who was skilled in highly detailed work. Colored inks were created from natural dyes and set with the white of an egg.

Grades 6-8: Teach a unit on calligraphy. The Gothic alphabet is fairly easy to learn. Use felt-tipped calligraphy markers. Once the students have become proficient with the letter formations, teach about illuminated letters.

The culminating project would be to have students select a Bible passage or hymn verse and design a page which begins with an illuminated letter followed by the text.



COLORED ILLUMINATED LETTERS

Supplies; samples of illuminated letters
markers (fine-tipped) or pencil colors

Show samples of illuminated letters from pictures in a book. Have learners design and color the letter they have chosen. (Each learner could use the first initial of his/her first or last name.)
Have each student use a pencil and trace around a cut-out shape of the letter he/she has chosen.
(Students could also draw their own letters rather than tracing an outline.) Create decorations in and around the letter. This project has no text. Students are simply learning how to illuminate a letter.

DECORATED ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT (Appendix D)

Select a Bible passage or a phrase from a hymn. Type this out for students, enlarging the print and leaving space for an illuminated first letter. Students could illuminate the first letter of the title of the hymn they have been assigned. Have learners draw and illuminate the first letter and perhaps add a border design. Sketch the ideas in pencil and then use fine-tipped markers or colored pencils to add color. Crayons do not work well for this project because it is difficult to get a point fine enough to do detailed work.

SETTING UP AN ART LIBRARY

Consider setting up part of your library for items of a religious nature. Begin on a small scale. Start with what is possible and build upon it as time goes on. Ask church members for help in collecting things.

Take inventory of existing church/school resources which may be available. This includes, but is not limited to: architectural features, stained glass windows, sculpture, mosaics or tile work, paintings, prints, and framed pictures, textiles (such as vestments and tapestries), altarware, communion and baptismal vessels.

While these items will not technically be a part of your art library, they will deeply enhance it and will illustrate the importance of religious art in our worship and relationship with God. Look for artistic and cultural artifacts that could be used in display or as object lessons when teaching Bible History. Gather such items as:

vessels of wood and clay, baskets of all shapes and sizes, mosaic, stained glass, a clay lamp, a leather pouch and sandals, prayer shawls, other Bible time items

Collections of creches and crosses are wonderful seasonal additions.

Look for books which talk about religious art and artifacts.

The three-volume set of Imagining the Word by United Church Press, and DK Annotated Guides' Art: The World's Greatest Paintings Explored and Explained by Robert Cumming are among some of the most versatile. Other favorites include The Medieval Craftsmen series published by the University of Toronto Press, and, for practical project ideas and historic context, Marketplace 29A.D. A Bible Times Experience by Betty Goetz and Ruthe Bomberger and The Time of Jesus by Lois Rock are also worth considering.

An inexpensive source for contemporary art can be found in religious calendars. Check out several different calendars each year. The art varies widely and you may gain several treasures in a single year.

Magazines that may be helpful to explore:

US Art

Christianity and the Arts

Images

Religion and the Arts Magazine

Smithsonian

National Geographic

BANNERS

Select a theme for the banner(s). What message do I want to portray?

Keep the images and the text simple. You want the viewer to focus on the message and not be overwhelmed with too much information or too many ideas.

The size of banners differs, depending on where they are to be placed, but when children are making them, you might want to keep them smaller to prevent boredom or loss of interest. Plan banners for a specific space.

After discussing the theme--Christmas, for example--have children draw a sketch of their ideas. Allow them to decorate according to the theme.

Things to consider:

What will be used for the background material?

What material will be used for images and lettering which will be attached to the background? (If you want the banners to be durable so they can be used again, select the appropriate materials.) Banners made from paper, for example, are generally for a one-time display.

What kind of trim, if any, will be added to the banner?

What colors will make the banner colorful and vibrant? If it is a banner for Lent or Good Friday, for example, you may not want to use vibrant colors. Match the color to the message. Can the colors be coordinated with the liturgical season?

Steps for constructing a banner

Decide what message you want the banner to communicate.

Choose the Scripture, if any, that you want on the banner.

Print the text, letter by letter, on the desired material. Cut out the letters.

Choose the image(s) you would like to use for your banner. Use an overhead projector to make these the desired size. Cut out the images.

Lay out the design on a flat surface. Arrange the design until you have something visually pleasing.

Glue the images and letters to the background. Select a glue which is appropriate for the materials you are using for the banner.

BANNER IDEAS

BANNER FLAGS

Cut a large triangular shape from the desired background material. If using paper, images can be cut from various materials and glued on to the background. Children could also draw and color directly on the background. Markers produce the most vivid colors. Other media could include crayons, oil pastels, and tempera paint.

If fabric is used, (muslin, for example), children could draw on the fabric with crayons. Heat-set the crayon by pressing with a warm to hot iron. Various types of fabric crayons or fabric paint could also be used.

FELT SYMBOL BANNER

Use a piece of felt as large as desired. Cut a symbol from a contrasting color of felt and glue to the background with fabric glue. The symbol could also be sewn on to the background with a simple running stitch. A sharp scissors is needed to cut felt.

FOAM BANNER

Choose a sheet of craft foam in the desired color. Cut the necessary shapes from contrasting colors of foam. Glue these to the background. Add words with glitter-glue pens, or colorful gel pens or markers.

CONSTRUCTION PAPER BANNER

Trace (or draw free-hand) symbols on construction paper. A sheet 6" or 8" X 18 works well for the background. Trace letters to form a word or phrase. Cut out and glue the letters and symbols to another sheet of construction paper.

TISSUE PAPER BANNERS

A lesson that teaches various names for God or Jesus can precede the making of banners. Use a long, narrow piece of tissue paper for the background. Cut letters from a heavier paper and glue these to the background.

IDEAS FOR PROJECTS USING RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS

MOSAIC

(See previous information regarding mosaics.) Depending on the materials which were used, the completed piece could be spray painted with gold, silver, or any other appropriate color.

ORNAMENT

Cut a symbol from cardboard. Cover the entire shape with aluminum foil. This works well for Christmas stars. Punch a hole in one point of the star, attach yarn, and hang the star from the ceiling in the classroom or hallways.

CARDS

Use card stock paper and reduced-size Christmas symbols. Cut the symbol shape out of Christmas wrapping paper and glue to the front of the card. Add a message on the inside of the card and include a Bible passage. These cards could be sent to shut-ins, new people in the congregation or community, or missionaries.

DECORATE A CHRISTMAS TREE

1. Make cardboard shapes and cover them with foil.
2. Place a pattern on a double layer of felt. Cut out the felt shapes and glue or stitch the edges together, leaving an opening on one side so you can stuff polyfill into the ornament. When the ornament is stuffed, close the shape with glue or by stitching it shut. Add string to hang the ornament.
3. Chrismons (information follows)

WINDOW DECORATION

Make colored transparencies for symbols of the church year. Enlarge symbols so they fit nicely on an 8 1/2" X 11" sheet of paper. Place a transparency over the symbol. Outline with black permanent marker. Turn the transparency over and add color with permanent markers. Display these in the windows in school and/or church. Make a new symbol for the beginning of each new liturgical season.

A variation would be to cut a circle from a transparency. Draw the design or symbol on the transparency with permanent colored markers. Cut two circles from black construction paper. These should be slightly larger than the transparency circle. Cut out the centers of the black circles to make a frame for the ornament. Glue the transparency circle between the two black construction paper frames.

T-SHIRT

Have each student bring a pre-washed white T-shirt to class. Decide on a symbol which will be used for the design (descending dove, for example). There are many different types of fabric crayons or paints which can be used for the T-shirt. Follow the directions for the type you select. Provide each student with a copy of the symbol. Color this and iron the pattern onto the T-shirt. Include also the name of your school or congregation. Caution: some types of

crayons require that you do the design and lettering in reverse so when you iron it on the fabric, it comes out the correct way.

This is effective if done throughout the entire school. Choose a different colored T-shirt for each classroom. The same symbol could be used throughout the school, or a different one could be chosen for each room. These could be worn for field trips.

STAINED GLASS

Choose any symbol for this project. Outline the symbol on a sheet of white drawing paper with a black permanent marker. Use the marker to define sections in stained glass style. Use crayons to color each section. The harder you press on the crayons, the better the stained glass will be. Place the picture on a stack of old newspapers. Drench a cotton ball in vegetable oil and rub it completely over the colored side of the symbol. Place the symbol on a fresh layer of newspaper to dry. This will take a couple days. When the paper has dried, make a frame for the stained glass piece. Use black construction paper or posterboard. Display the symbols in a window that gets a good amount of light.

TILE COASTERS

Give each student a ceramic tile (plain white is best). Have them select a symbol pattern and use a permanent marker to outline it on the tile. Completely color the symbol with permanent markers. Let the tiles dry long enough so the marker does not smear. Cover the tile with clear adhesive paper. Glue a square of felt to the bottom, covering the adhesive paper.

This project makes a good gift for parents. Each student could do four coasters with a different symbol on each one. Make sure they know the meaning of each symbol they use so they can explain it to the person using the coaster.

CLAY SYMBOL PENDANT

You will need self-drying clay for this project. Give each person a small lump of self-drying clay. Knead until soft and then shape into a square, circle, rectangle, or abstract shape. Use a wooded stylus to impress a symbol design into the clay. Put a small hole on the top so the piece can be used as a pendant, or press a safety pin into the back to use it as a pin. Let the clay dry. These can be painted or left in their natural clay-colored state. Cover each piece with a coating of shellac. Caution: an adult should do this in a well-ventilated area.

FISH NET

Explain the meaning of the fish as a Christian symbol. Use a concordance and make a list of passages that contain the words fish, fishermen, fishing, etc. Give each student a different Scripture reference. Each person looks up his/her passage and neatly prints it out on a fish pattern which has been photocopied. Older students could draw their own fish shape. Use pencil first to get the letters spaced evenly and of uniform size. Then go over each letter with a black marker. Once the passage has been lettered, the fish could be colored with pencil colors. Put up a fishnet and attach the cut-out fish to it. This could be displayed in either the church or school.

SYMBOL BOOKMARKS

Chose several symbol patterns and make reduced size photocopies, small enough to fit a bookmark which is approximately 1 1/2" X 6." Place the symbol at the top of the strip. Add a Bible passage and decorate the bookmark with pencil colors. Either laminate these or cover them with clear adhesive paper. Punch a hole at the top and thread a piece of yarn or ribbon through the hole. Tie it securely.

DISCIPLE SHIELDS

Duplicate the shields for the twelve disciples. Add color to each shield. You can use crayon, pencil colors, markers, oil pastels, and/or watercolors. The symbol could be colored with crayon and a watercolor wash painted over the shield.

Use a long piece of wide ribbon and glue or staple the shields to the ribbon. If the symbols are small, all twelve can be put on one length of ribbon. With larger shields, group them on two or three ribbons.

CHRISMONS

Use various traditional symbols of the Christian faith as the motif of the ornaments. You will need plastic grid, yarn, and needles with a large eye. The use of chrismons is popular in many churches to retain a sense of the sacred amid the secularization of this important holiday. www.umcs.org/chrismons/patterns/index.htm is a good web site for ideas

UNITS OF STUDY
RELATING RELIGIOUS THEMES TO ART

SYMBOLS

The study of religious symbols lends itself well to organizing units of study for the art class. A unit consists of about four lessons which are taught consecutively and which relate to a specific theme.

In each lesson, students would study the appropriate symbols and then engage in some type of art project related to what they have learned.

TRINITY

- Lesson One: Symbols for God the Father
- Lesson Two: Symbols for God the Son
- Lesson Three: Symbols for God the Holy Spirit
- Lesson Four: Symbols for the Trinity

FOUR EVANGELISTS

- Lesson One: Matthew
- Lesson Two: Mark
- Lesson Three: Luke
- Lesson Four: John

THE APOSTLES

The study of the symbols for the Apostles can be broken up into several units. These could be assigned to different classrooms.

I.

- Lesson One: Simon Peter
- Lesson Two: Andrew
- Lesson Three: Bartholomew (Nathanael)
- Lesson Four: James (the Greater)

II.

- Lesson One: James, Son of Alphaeus (the Younger)
- Lesson Two: Judas, Son of James (Thaddeus)
- Lesson Three: John (the disciple whom Jesus loved)
- Lesson Four: Matthew

III.

- Lesson One: Philip
- Lesson Two: Simon the Zealot
- Lesson Three: Thomas
- Lesson Five: Judas Iscariot
- Lesson Six: Matthias

These could be grouped in any combination, and the lessons could be arranged in sets of three, rather than four.

CROSSES

- Lesson One: Anchor Cross
- Lesson Two: Cross Crosslet
- Lesson Three: Jerusalem, or Crusader's Cross
- Lesson Four: Cross and Crown

SYMBOLS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Lesson One: Arc and Rainbow
- Lesson Two: Dove with Olive Sprig
- Lesson Three: Lamb
- Lesson Four: Tablets of Stone with the Ten Commandments

SYMBOLS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Lesson One: Alpha and Omega
- Lesson Two: Dove
- Lesson Three: Lamp
- Lesson Four: Butterfly

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY

- Lesson One: Manger
- Lesson Two: Angel
- Lesson Three: Star
- Lesson Four: Christmas Rose

LENT/EASTER

- Lesson One: Palm Branch
- Lesson Two: Rooster
- Lesson Three: Crown of Thorns
- Lesson Four: Lily

PENTECOST

- Lesson One: Flame
- Lesson Two: Descending Dove

SACRAMENTS

- Lesson One: Shell
- Lesson Two: Cup and Grapes
- Lesson Three: Wheat and Bread

NUMBERS

A study of numbers which are associated with Biblical concepts can be the basis for an interesting unit of study. Learners could make a number booklet and in some way illustrate each of the concepts presented.

Lesson One: One/Two

One: a single circle represents eternity--no beginning, no end; considered by the Greeks to be the perfect shape. The number also expresses the unity of God.

Two: reference to the natures of Christ--human and divine. This also refers to the two Testaments--Old and New.

Lesson Two: Three/Four

Three: symbol of the Trinity--equilateral triangle

Four: the four Evangelists; also the number of rivers that flowed from Eden (Gen. 2:10-14)

Lesson Three: Five/Six

Five: symbolized the five wounds that Jesus suffered on the cross (four nails in his hands and feet and the spear in his side).

Six: represents the six days of creation

Lesson Four: Seven/Ten

Seven: a number that appears repeatedly throughout the Bible; God resting on the seventh day; Jacob bowing seven times before his brother Esau; God ordering that the lampstand for the tabernacle during the Exodus should have seven branches.

Ten: Ten Commandments

Lesson Five: Twelve/Thirteen/Forty

Twelve: twelve disciples; twelve tribes of Israel

Thirteen: the number present at the Last Supper

Forty: the Exodus--forty years in the wilderness; the temptation of Jesus--forty days spent in the wilderness.

Other Suggested Projects

MOBILE: Make mobiles of pictures from a Bible story, or have students draw out the scenes of a story on 3X5 blank index cards. Hang the cards vertically in order, with the title of the lesson on top. Use later for review of that lesson.

SONG: Illustrate a song with pictures from magazines or pictures which the students draw on their own.

FREEHAND DRAWING: Rather than use coloring book pages, have students draw a scene from the Bible story.

GIFTS FOR THE CONGREGATION (OR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS):

There are a number of items which could be made and given as gifts. Many books are available which relate to religious crafts. Use your search engine to locate "religious crafts." Many of these are inexpensive to make, and students could "mass produce" these to hand out to the congregation members on special Sundays or holidays.

Two suggested projects would be bookmarks (discussed earlier) and a witness bracelet or necklace.

Witness jewelry:

Materials needed: beads (black, red, white, blue, green, yellow, and clear)
leather cord for bracelets or heavy string for necklaces

Procedure: In either case, begin with a knot, then string beads in the following order: black, red, white, blue, green, and yellow.
After the yellow bead, tie another knot. Use the clear bead to fasten the two ends of the string or cord together.

Meaning of the jewelry:

KNOT: represents when you were born. Psalm 51:518

BLACK: represents spiritual darkness because of sin. Rom. 3:23

RED: represents the blood Jesus shed to pay the penalty for our sins. Rom. 5:8
WHITE: represents forgiveness and cleansing to those who trust in Christ. Acts 3:18
BLUE: represents public profession declared by Baptism. Acts 2:41
GREEN: represents spiritual growth which occurs as we pray, worship, read the Bible, etc.
2 Pet. 3:18
YELLOW: represents heaven and glory with Christ. Rev. 21:1-3
KNOT: represents the end of life when every person will stand before God. Heb. 9:27
CLEAR: represents Christ's clear call to repent and put our faith in Him alone. Jn 14:6

HELPFUL RESOURCES

PICTURE STUDY

How to Read Bible Stories and Myths in Art

Patrick De Rynck
Abrams, New York 2008

Dover Publications, Inc.

Mineola, New York

120 Great Paintings of the Life of Jesus

DVD and Book
Ed. Carol Belanger Grafton 2008

Christian Art and Imagery

CD-ROM and book
Alan Weller 2009

SYMBOLS

Symbols of the Church

Ed. Carroll E. Whittemore
Abingdon Press 1959
A handy reference for the meaning of symbols

Symbols of Faith

Marcia Joslin Stoner
Abingdon Press 2001
This book has many symbols which can be used in a variety of art activities. Suggested activities are given in the book.

BANNERS

Banners for Worship

Carol Jean Harms
Concordia Publishing House
St. Louis 1988

An excellent book containing 100 banner designs and instructions on selecting colors and making banners. Many ideas are simple and easy to make. Many ideas here could be adapted for bulletin boards.

CALLIGRAPHY

The Illuminated Alphabet

Theodore Menten
Dover Design Library
Dover Publications, Inc.

Learning Calligraphy

Margaret Shepherd
Collier Books 1977

An excellent resource book for teaching and learning different styles of lettering.

Capitals for Calligraphy--A Sourcebook of Decorative Letters

Margaret Shepherd
Collier Books 1981

STAINED GLASS

Dover Publications

Stained Glass Coloring Books

Cathedral Stained Glass

The Life of Jesus

The Miracles of Jesus

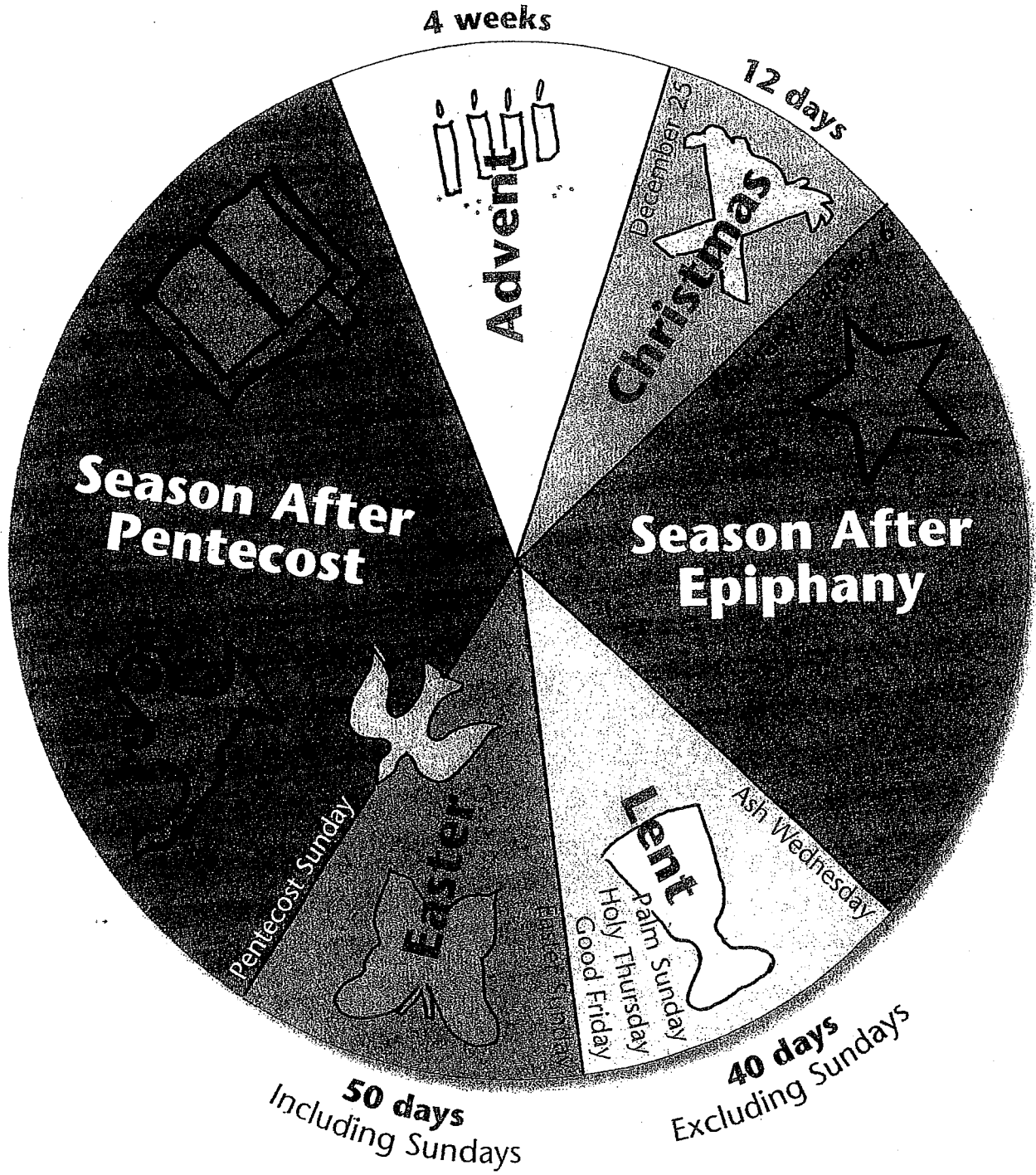
Old Testament Scenes

Angels

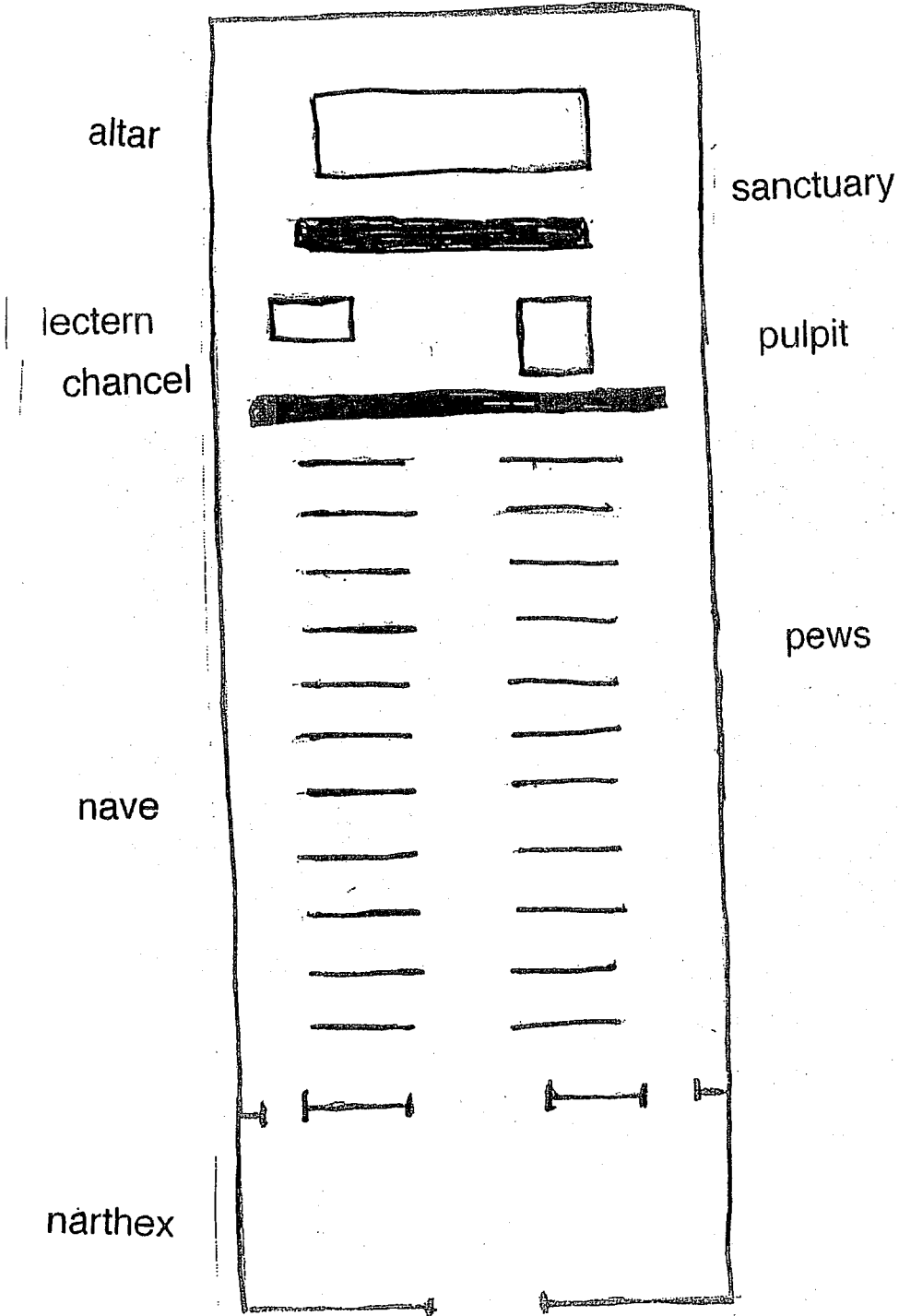
Nativity

Angel Ornaments

APPENDIX A



APPENDIX B



APPENDIX C

PERICOPE THEMES

... which could be used by a member to invite a friend, saying, "Our worship this weekend is all about ...":

SERIES A 2010-11

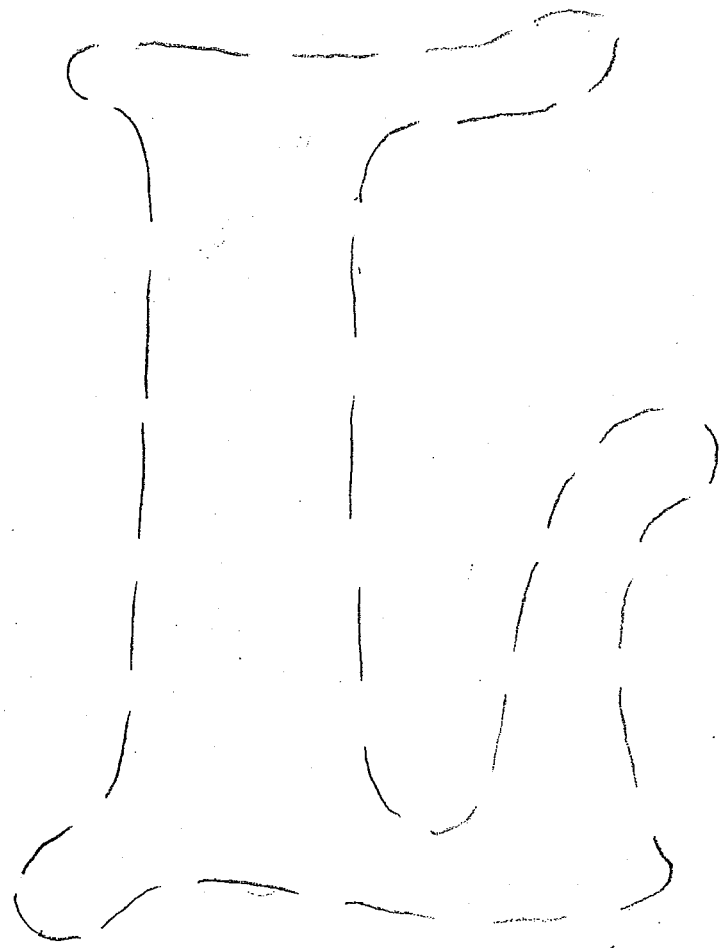
Adv 1	Getting Ready for THE END
Adv 2	Advent Blessings
Adv 3	The Lord Is Near
Adv 4	God is with Us
Xms E	The Christ-Child Is Born
Xms D	The Word Became Flesh
Xms 1	Joining in God's Family
NYE	Unfailing Love
NYD	His Name Is Jesus
Xms 2	How to Get Really Rich
Epiph	The Light for the World
Ep 1	Equipped to Serve
Ep 2	A Savior for All
Ep 3	Light amid Darkness
Ep 4	Walking Humbly with the Lord
Ep 5	Let Your Light Shine
Ep 6	Doing God's Will
Ep 7	How to Love even Enemies
Ep 8	When No One Else Cares, God Does
Transf	The Glory of the Lord
A. Wed	How to Be Right with God
Lc 1	Victory over Satan
Lc 2	The Heart of the Bible's Message
Lc 3	Spiritual Sight
Lc 4	Spiritual Healing
Lc 5	Life out of Death
P. Sun	The King Is Coming!
M. Th	Jesus Came to Serve & Save
G. Fri	Jesus Died for Us
E. Dawn	The Song of Victory
Easter	Life Forever Guaranteed
Ea 2	Joy
Ea 3	Hope
Ea 4	The Good Shepherd
Ea 5	The Only Way to Heaven
Ea 6	Living for the Lord
Ascen	Jesus Is Always with Us
Ea 7	Protection from All Harm
Pent	The Holy Spirit
Pe 1	What God Is Like
Pe 2	Sick to the Bible
Pe 3	God's Mercy
Pe 4	Life with a Purpose
Pe 5	Living in Spite of Flack
Pe 6	Living Life without Fear
Pe 7	Real Rest
Pe 8	Miraculous Seeds
Pe 9	Looking Forward to the Final Harvest
Pe 10	Real Wisdom
Pe 11	God Supplies Our Needs
Pe 12	Overcoming Doubts & Fears
Pe 13	Mercy for All
Pe 14	Being Rock-Solid
Pe 15	Going God's Way
Pe 16	Faithful Watchmen
Pe 17	Forgiveness
Pe 18	Expect the Unexpected
Pe 19	Repentance
Pe 20	How to Live a Fruitful Life
Pe 21	God's Feast
Pe 22	God's Global Plans
Pe 23	The Power of Love
Pe 24	Serving God
ET 1	Confident Christianity
ET 2	The End of All
ET 3	How to Become a Saint
ET 4	Christ the King

SERIES B 2011-2012

Adv 1	Getting Ready for THE END
Adv 2	Repent
Adv 3	Sharing Good News
Adv 4	Forever with the Lord
Xms E	The Christ-Child Is Born
Xms D	The Word Became Flesh
Xms 1	Joining God's Family
NYE	Unfailing Love
NYD	His Name Is Jesus
Xms 2	The Rarest of Rulers
Epiph	The Light for the World
Ep 1	Baptism
Ep 2	Serving God
Ep 3	Life's Biggest Change
Ep 4	Power
Ep 5	Hope
Ep 6	Healing for the Body
Ep 7	Healing for the Soul
Ep 8	Marriage Made in Heaven
Transf	The Glory of the Lord
A. Wed	How to Be Right with God
Lc 1	Overcoming Temptations
Lc 2	Following Christ
Lc 3	Repent
Lc 4	Faith
Lc 5	The New Covenant
P. Sun	The King Is Coming!
M. Th	Joined Together by a Meal
G. Fri	Jesus Died for Us
E. Dawn	The Song of Victory
Easter	Life Forever Guaranteed
Ea 2	Trust
Ea 3	Mission Possible: Proclaim
Ea 4	The Good Shepherd
Ea 5	Fruits of Faith
Ea 6	Consistency
Ascen	Jesus Is Always with Us
Ea 7	Prepared, Protected, Propelled
Pent	How to Get Fired Up
Pe 1	What God Is Like
Pe 2	Real Rest
Pe 3	God's Big Plan for People
Pe 4	The Growth of God's Kingdom
Pe 5	Creation
Pe 6	God's Generosity
Pe 7	Dealing with Opposition
Pe 8	The Basis & Basics of Ministry
Pe 9	Compassion
Pe 10	Fellowship with God
Pe 11	How to Get Real Soul Food
Pe 12	The Source of Soul Food
Pe 13	Believing in the Right Thing
Pe 14	Choices
Pe 15	Obedience
Pe 16	Joy & Praise
Pe 17	The Problem of Suffering
Pe 18	God's Tests
Pe 19	Sharing & Caring
Pe 20	Marriage
Pe 21	The Right View of Money
Pe 22	Selfless Serving
Pe 23	Spiritual Sight
Pe 24	The Power of Love
ET 1	The Core of Christianity
ET 2	The End of All
ET 3	How to Become a Saint
ET 4	Christ the King

SERIES C 2012-2013

Adv 1	Getting Ready for THE END
Adv 2	Joy
Adv 3	Living a Fruitful Life
Adv 4	The Real Ruler
Xms E	The Christ-Child Is Born
Xms D	The Word Became Flesh
Xms 1	Joining God's Family
NYE	Unfailing Love
NYD	His Name Is Jesus
Xms 2	God's Mercy
Epiph	The Light for the World
Ep 1	Anointed to Serve
Ep 2	Marriage Made in Heaven
Ep 3	Deliverance
Ep 4	Speaking the Truth
Ep 5	Witnessing
Ep 6	Blessings for Believers
Ep 7	Loving Others
Ep 8	Faith & Love
Transf	The Glory of the Lord
A. Wed	How to Be Right with God
Lc 1	Victory over Satan
Lc 2	Standing Firm & Going Forward
Lc 3	Repent
Lc 4	Pardoning Love
Lc 5	A New Kingdom
P. Sun	The King Is Coming
M. Th	The New Covenant
G. Fri	Jesus Died for Us
E. Dawn	The Song of Victory
Easter	Life Forever Guaranteed
Ea 2	The Keys to Heaven
Ea 3	Jaw-Dropping Power
Ea 4	The Good Shepherd
Ea 5	Loving One Another
Ea 6	Living with God
Ascen	Jesus Is Always with Us
Ea 7	Commissioned by the Lord
Pent	Speaking God's Language
Pe 1	What God Is Like
Pe 2	God's Global Goodness
Pe 3	Turning Sorrow into Joy
Pe 4	The Core of Christianity
Pe 5	Confessing Christ
Pe 6	How to Be Other-Centered
Pe 7	A Harvest of Love
Pe 8	The Power of Love
Pe 9	The Family
Pe 10	Prayer
Pe 11	Being Heavenly-Minded
Pe 12	Forward Thinking
Pe 13	Faith on Trial
Pe 14	Only One Way to Heaven
Pe 15	Learning Humility
Pe 16	Know the Lord; Know Yourself
Pe 17	Love for the Lost
Pe 18	Wise Management
Pe 19	What Money Is Really Worth
Pe 20	Living by Faith
Pe 21	Change
Pe 22	How God Answers Prayer
Pe 23	Seeing Reality
Pe 24	Forgiveness
ET 1	True Freedom
ET 2	The End of All
ET 3	How to Become a Saint
ET 4	Christ the King



ET

VS

EVER WALK

WITH JESUS