



Art For The Nations
www.artforthenations.org

“In the beginning God created...” Genesis 1:1

*** Instructions for art projects (all supplies included in one bag):**

The following four simple projects are designed to affirm each artist’s worth, to remind them of the beauty that can be found in God’s world and to assure them that there is a loving Father who desires they become a part of his family. Each project stands alone – each can be tied to a Christian message when possible. The “directions” are guidelines only, NOT rules to be followed! Have fun with your art students of all ages!

*** PROJECT #1: YOUR NAME is important because you are important**

“For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother’s womb” Psalm 139:13
Begin by having your aspiring artist spell their name for you and write it in the small sketchbook or notebook in your bag (*keep this page so you can later pray for the child*). Help them draw their name in large bubble letters on a piece of the 9” x 12” white paper. Let the artist color the letters and add designs with markers and crayons. Help them glue glitter and sequins on their name sign.

*** PROJECT #2: FINDING BEAUTY, LOOKING UP to see evidence of our Creator**

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” Genesis 1:31
Encourage your student to look beyond their immediate surroundings and study the sky above them. Give them a piece of blue paper, crayons and markers to draw their interpretation of the sky then glue pieces of cotton balls onto the cloud shapes – praise their artistic efforts. *If you teach someone to look for beauty, you have given them a valuable gift.*

*** PROJECT #3: PEOPLE WHO CARE, THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16
(Use fan-folded colored paper with outline of a person printed on it) Help your artist cut around the outline being sure not to cut on the folds by the hands and feet. Unfold the chain of people and encourage your artist to decorate each person. *If possible, hold hands and pray with your little artist.* [NOTE: The “scrap” paper cut from around the head can be used to make a crown! The shape cut from around the legs can make overalls/clothing for the paper doll.]

*** PROJECT #4: A CHAIN OF PRAISE AND PRAYERS**

“O LORD, truly I am your servant...; you have freed me from my chains. I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD.” Psalm 116:16, 17
Encourage the older children to write a praise or prayer request on the strips of colored paper; the younger children may want to decorate them. Tape the strips of paper into a chain of loops. *If possible hang the chain so the children will be reminded of their prayers*

Alternate project ideas

* PROJECT #1: YOU WERE CREATED TO SOAR

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

If you are working with older children, or with adults, this project may be made more complex by using the white paper to fashion a basic paper airplane then have the artist open it and creatively design their name on the inside. On the wings and tail of the airplane write "Father", "Son" and "Holy Spirit" or other names or symbols for the Trinity. Refer to the verse above as a promise from God that our spirit, our souls, can soar towards Him no matter what earthly challenges we face.

* PROJECT #2: HELPERS FROM HEAVEN

"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. Matthew 18:10

Especially if you are working with a translator or can speak the language, use the verse above to remind the children that God has given them their own angel in heaven, and, for believers of all ages the Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we are unable even to pray (*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:25-27*)

Use the blue paper and the cotton balls to create a collage of an angel with fluffy wings or a dove symbol for the Holy Spirit.

* PROJECT #3: ALL PEOPLE CAN JOIN THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS

Cut out the paper people as usual then use the leftover scraps to make fish, coins or any other shapes that could represent what people do in their daily lives (we know that Jesus' disciples came from a variety of backgrounds) – paste these shapes onto the paper people to represent who is "eligible" to follow Christ. Refer to the time when Jesus met a prostitute and forgave her of her past sins because she was willing to forsake them and follow him: *John 8:11-13 "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin. When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

* PROJECT #4: A REMINDER THAT JESUS LOVES YOU

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:13-15

Use any extra paper chain strips to make bracelets for the children. Let them decorate each strip with a cross or bible verse and tape them around their wrists.