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GET IN THE MIX

VBS 2021 | VIRTUAL CRAFTS



CRAFTS | DAY 1

Bible Story: Who is Jesus? • John 10:14 and John 14:6

Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I am known.

Memory Verse: “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12 (NIV)

COSMIC SUNCATCHERS (GRADES K–5)

With a few supplies you probably have in your home, you can create these stunning sun-catchers. All families need is white glue, food coloring, a leftover plastic lid, toothpicks, and string!

What You Need:

- White glue
- Food coloring
- Toothpicks
- Plastic lid (any leftover round lid—like from a tub of yogurt, sour cream, or butter)
- Hole punch or pencil (to poke a hole in the suncatcher to thread string through for hanging)
- String or yarn

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Pour a generous amount of glue into your plastic lid and make sure to cover the entire inner surface of the lid. The suncatcher will be as thick as the glue you pour, so be sure not to make it too thin.
- **Step 2:** Have kids put drops of food coloring around the glue.
- **Step 3:** Using a toothpick, swirl the colors around in the glue. Stop swirling before the colors get too combined or the final result will be muddy and brown, unless that’s what a child wants.
- **Step 4:** Let the glue dry. As the colors settle, they will expand and create a tie-dyed effect. Depending on how much glue used, the sun-catcher will take one to three days to fully dry. You will know it’s ready when the edges start to peel away from the lid.
- **Step 5:** When the glue is fully dry, peel the sun-catcher out of the lid, poke a hole through the top, add a string, and hang in a sunny spot. The suncatcher will work best if it’s kept inside and hung in a window. White glue is water-soluble and will deteriorate if left in the elements outside.

What You Say: “Knowing Jesus makes us feel known. Feeling known makes us confident. **[Make it Personal Parents! Tell a story about feeling known by Jesus.]** Let’s say our bottom line together. **[Bottom Line] “I can have confidence because I am known.”**

CRAFTS | DAY 2

Bible Story: The Calling of the Disciples • Luke 5:1-11; 27-32

Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I belong.

Memory Verse: “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12 (NIV)

1. DUCT TAPE DISCIPLE BRACELETS (GRADES K-1)

All you need to make these one-of-a-kind bracelets is duct tape and washi tape. Kids will be making two bracelets—one to keep and remember their day at Push Play VBS, and one for a friend who was not able to be there. Kids will be challenged to give a bracelet to a friend, to tell them about how Jesus called the disciples, and to share anything else they learned at VBS this week. These bracelets are fast and easy to make—children should have plenty of time to make several of them. Depending on your supplies, consider allowing children to make more than two. Friendship bracelet kits can also be ordered online if that is a better fit for your VBS.

What you need:

- Duct tape (in lots of colors and patterns)
- Washi tape (the more colors and patterns, the better)
- Scissors

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Have kids cut a piece of duct tape that is 9” or 10” long. Fold it in half, sticky sides together. Each kid should have a long skinny strip of tape.
- **Step 2:** Instruct kids to wrap the folded strip of tape around their wrist, making it big enough for them to get their hand through. Trim and tape the two ends together with another piece of duct tape. There should be a complete loop that can easily slide on and off the child’s wrist.
- **Step 3:** Decorate! Let the kids cut and rip the washi tape/decorative duct tape to make patterns and designs.
- **Step 4:** Invite kids to make a second bracelet. They will keep one of their bracelets and give the other to a friend who is not at Push Play VBS.

What You Say: “Have you been having fun at Push Play VBS? (allow for responses) What have been some of your favorite parts so far? (allow for responses) God has been doing incredible things here. In our Bible story today, Jesus asked His friends to follow Him and help tell the world about God. In today’s craft, you have made two bracelets—one for you to keep and wear, and one for you to give a friend who isn’t at VBS this week. When you give your friend the bracelet you made especially for them, be sure to tell them about what you did and what you learned at VBS. Be sure to share how you have confidence because you belong. **[Make it Personal] (Talk about a time when you told a friend about Jesus.)** Let’s say today’s **[Bottom Line]** together: **“I can have confidence because I belong.”**”

2. FINGER-KNITTING DISCIPLE BRACELETS (GRADES 2–3)

Finger knitting has become all the rage as we've been at home this past year. Kids have been finger-knitting blankets and even sweaters. In today's crafts, kids will use finger knitting to create special friendship bracelets—just using yarn and their fingers. They will have fun learning how to weave and create a one-of-a-kind bracelet. Kids will be making two bracelets—one to keep and remember their day at Push Play VBS, and one for a friend who was not able to be there. (If there is not enough time to make two bracelets, instruct kids to make one to give a friend.) The kids will be challenged to give a bracelet to a friend, to tell them how Jesus called the disciples, and to share anything else they have learned at VBS. Friendship bracelet kits can also be ordered online if that is a better fit for your VBS.

What you need:

- Yarn (in lots of fun colors)
- 3 straws per child
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- Wooden skewers

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Tape the ends of 3 straws together so that they are side by side, just like in the photo below.
- **Step 2:** Cut three pieces of yarn, about 3 times the length of your straws. Thread one piece of yarn through each of the straws using the wooden skewer to push it through. Tie the ends of the three pieces of yarn into a knot. Leave a little extra yarn after your knot—about 2 to 3 inches—so you can tie them into a bracelet at the end.
- **Step 3:** Tape the straws to the table using masking tape.
- **Step 4:** Using another piece of yarn from the ball of yarn, tie a knot around the top straw.
- **Step 5:** Start weaving. Take your yarn under the middle straw, then over the bottom straw. Then go under the bottom straw, over the middle straw, and under the top straw. Repeat the pattern: Go over the top straw, under the middle straw, and over the bottom straw. Repeat. Every 3 to 4 lines, push your yarn towards the tape, and pull the yarn to make sure the loops are snug. Continue until the straws are covered in yarn.
- **Step 6:** Cut the yarn, then tie it in a single knot around the straw you finished weaving on. Don't double knot it yet. You just want it to stay in place while you pull it off the straws.
- **Step 7:** Remove the tape holding the straws to the table. Then remove the tape holding the straws together. Carefully slide the woven loops off the straw. Push them off towards the end of the three pieces of yarn that were knotted together before you started weaving. Find the end of the yarn where you finished weaving, and tie it in another knot around the yarn it was woven around. This time you can tighten the double knot to keep it in place. You should have 4 pieces of yarn at the end where you finished. Tie them into a knot, as close to the woven bracelet as you can.

What You Say: "Have you been having fun at Push Play VBS? (allow for responses) What have been some of your favorite parts so far? (allow for responses) God has been doing incredible things here. In our Bible story today, Jesus asked His friends to follow Him and help tell the world about God. In today's craft you have made a bracelet. You can choose to keep the bracelet, or you can give it to a friend who isn't at VBS this week. When you give your friend the bracelet you made for them, be sure to tell them about what you did and what you learned at VBS. Be sure to tell them how you have confidence because you belong. **[Make it Personal] (Talk about a time when you told a friend about Jesus.)** Let's say today's **[Bottom Line]** together: **"I can have confidence because I belong."**

CRAFTS | DAY 2

3. FINGER-KNITTED DISCIPLE BRACELETS (GRADES 4-5)

Did you know you can make a bracelet from yarn and drinking straws? You can! And they are simple too. Kids will have fun learning how to weave and create a one-of-a-kind bracelet. Kids will be making two bracelets—one to keep and remember their day at Push Play VBS, and one for a friend who was not able to be there. (If there is not enough time to make two bracelets, encourage kids to make one for a friend who wasn't able to be there.) The kids will be challenged to give a bracelet to a friend, to tell them how Jesus called the disciples, and to share anything else they have learned at VBS. Friendship bracelet kits can also be ordered online if that is a better fit for your VBS.

What you need:

- Thick yarn (the more colors the better)
- Scissors
- Fingers

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Make sure craft volunteers watch the Finger Knitting craft video. It's much easier to understand by watching the video than by reading the instructions. If possible, consider having a laptop or tablet to show kids the video. This will help if someone is a visual learner. This is a very simple craft. Once you get the hang of it you can knit very quickly.
- **Step 2:** Have kids start by tying a slip knot near the end of the yarn that they have chosen. Leave about 6 inches of yarn after the knot. Place the loop over your pointer finger and tighten it a little.
- **Step 3:** Take the 6-inch length of yarn and move it out of the way. You'll need it so you can tie your bracelet at the end.
- **Step 4:** Using yarn from the ball of yarn (not the 6-inch end), weave the yarn under your middle finger (you must go under your middle finger), then over your ring finger, and under your pinky.
- **Step 5:** Wrap the yarn around over your pinky, under your ring finger, over your middle finger, and under your pointer finger. You'll end up with a loop on each of your four fingers. Push the loops to the same spot on your fingers so they line up in a straight line.
- **Step 6:** Wrap the yarn (which will be coming from under your pointer finger) over and across all of your fingers, above the line of loops that you just finished weaving. You'll be left with one loop on your pointer finger. Then move on to your middle finger, and do it again—take the bottom loop, lift it up and over the yarn that you laid over your fingers, then over your finger, and to the back. Repeat for your ring finger and your pinky. You should be left with one loop on each finger.
- **Step 7:** Now take the yarn and lay it over your fingers above the loops, just as you did before. Starting with the bottom loop on your pinky, lift it up and over the yarn that you laid over your fingers, and then over your pinky and to the back.
- **Step 8:** Keep lifting the bottom loop on each finger up and over in this way. Every time you finish a row you should be left with one loop on each finger. Then take the yarn and lay it over your fingers above the loops, and lift the loop on each finger up and over it. Repeat until your woven yarn is long enough to wrap around a wrist.

- **Step 9:** Cut the yarn, leaving about an 8-inch length at the end. Take the end, and pull it through the loop on the last finger you knitted. If you finished on your pinky, pull the end through first there. If you finished on your pointer finger, pull the end through there. Once the end has been pulled through the loop, take that loop off your finger. Then push the end of the yarn through the loop on the next finger. When it's through that loop, take the loop off your finger. Repeat for all your fingers, pulling the yarn through each of the loops before you take it off your finger. Take the two loose ends of yarn and tie them together. Trim the ends.

What You Say: "Have you been having fun at Push Play VBS? What have been some of your favorite parts so far? (allow for answers) God has been doing incredible things here. In our Bible story today Jesus asked His friends to follow Him and help tell the world about God. In today's craft you have made a bracelet. You can choose to keep the bracelet, or you can give it to a friend who isn't at VBS this week. When you give your friend the bracelet you made for them, be sure to tell them about what you did, what you learned at VBS, and how you have confidence because you belong. **[Make it Personal] (Talk about a time when you told a friend about Jesus.)** Let's say today's **[Bottom Line]** together: **"I can have confidence because I belong."**

CRAFTS | DAY 3

Bible Story: Zacchaeus, Part 1 • Luke 19:1-10

Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I am forgiven.

Memory Verse: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12 (NIV)

TRANSFORMING PUDDING SLIME (GRADES K-5)

A soothing cross between slime and play dough, this edible pudding slime recipe smells almost good enough to eat! And it's taste-safe! Families will watch how very few simple ingredients can be transformed into something fun to play with and taste. As families play with the slime, they will discuss how they can be transformed by God's forgiveness.

What You Need:

- 1/4 cup instant pudding mix
- 1 cup corn starch
- 1/3 cup warm water
- Mixing bowl
- Mixing spoon

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Mix the instant pudding mix and half of your cornstarch.
- **Step 2:** Add 1/3 cup water and stir until slime begins to form. (It will be very sticky at this point.)
- **Step 3:** Knead the slime for 3 to 5 minutes until it becomes the consistency you like. Use leftover cornstarch to help the slime from sticking.
- **Step 4:** Enjoy stretching and playing with your slime.

What You Say: "Can you believe you can make slime out of pudding? It's incredible how it transformed from something you can eat, into something you can play with. Jesus' forgiveness is just as transforming. In our lesson today, we saw how forgiveness transformed Zacchaeus. How can His forgiveness transform us? (allow for responses) Let's say today's **[Bottom Line]** together: **"I can have confidence because I am forgiven."**

CRAFTS | DAY 4

Bible Story: Zacchaeus, Part 2 • Luke 19:8-9

Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I can change.

Memory Verse: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12 (NIV)

BORAX CRYSTALS (GRADES K-5)

Kids will get to watch crystals grow in a day. We have been learning all week that we can be confident in Christ. Today we have learned about Jesus' life-changing forgiveness. Kids will create and watch a borax solution change and into crystals.

What You Need:

- ½ cup Borax
- 3 cups boiling water (Keep out of the reach of the children.)
- Pipe cleaners
- Cookie cutters (in any shape you like)
- Thin ribbon or string
- Popsicle sticks
- Mason jar
- Scissors

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Take a pipe cleaner and bend it around the cookie cutter you've picked. Once the pipe cleaner is wrapped around the cutter, twist the two ends together. Cut off the excess pipe cleaner.
- **Step 2:** Tie one end of a piece of thin ribbon or string around your shaped pipe cleaner.
- **Step 3:** Hang the string over a popsicle stick, and dangle the pipe cleaner inside a 2-cup mason jar. You can grow two crystals in one jar.
- **Step 4:** Boil a pot of water.
- **Step 5:** Mix the borax and boiling water until the borax is completely dissolved.
- **Step 6:** Pour the boiling water into the mason jars until the tops of the pipe cleaner shapes are covered. The crystals will grow on the ribbon as well, so don't fill the jars completely.
- **Step 7:** Repeat the process if you want to grow multiple crystals.
- **Step 8:** Wait 24 hours and check, you should have crystals! Remove, pat dry with a paper towel, and enjoy.

What You Say:

"It's amazing to watch things change and grow. God wants us to change and grow as we follow Him. We learned in today's lesson that meeting Jesus changed Zacchaeus. In what ways have you changed while doing Push Play VBS? (allow for responses) **[Make it Personal] (Talk about a time in your life when you changed as a person because of Jesus.)** Let's say today's **[Bottom Line]** together: **"I can have confidence because I can change."**

CRAFTS | DAY 5

Bible Story: The Story of the Lost Sheep • Luke 15:1-7

Bottom Line: I can have confidence to make a difference.

Memory Verse: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12 (NIV)

CONFIDENCE TELEPHONE (GRADES K-5)

Kids are incredible storytellers. This simple and quick craft turns into a great way to have fun telling a story. Once complete, they will be able to tell today's Bible story to their whole family using light! What a great way to end an incredible week of VBS!

What You Need:

- Two paperclips
- Two paper cups
- About 3 yards of string
- Pin

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Using a pin, poke a small hole in the center of the base of both cups.
- **Step 2:** Tie one paperclip to one end of the string. Pull the other end of the string through the hole in one of the paper cups. The paperclip should be inside the paper cup.
- **Step 3:** Insert the other end of the string through the hole in the bottom of the second paper cup. Insert it from the outside end of the cup. Pull enough string through the hole to enable you to tie the second paperclip to the end of the string.
- **Step 4:** Pull the cups apart so that in each cup the paperclip rests flat on the floor of the cup and the string is tight.
- **Step 5:** Take one cup, and have a family member take the second cup. Walk away from each other until the string is taut. Take turns speaking into the cup while the other listens thru their cup.

What You Say:

"You are a storyteller! And when you tell the story of Jesus, you are making a difference. You can tell people how much Jesus loves them. Today's craft is a fun way to be confident and tell your family and friends about The Lost Sheep. Now that you know how to make these, you can make your own about any Bible story you want to tell. Let's say today's **[Bottom Line]** together: **"I can have confidence because I can change."**