

Sunday School Ideas December 2006



“Top reason our kids come to church? Teachers who care!”

“Sunday after Sunday, our teachers share their gifts—loving hearts, listening ears, friendly faces and caring hands.”

“Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best.”

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it”
(Proverbs 22:6, *New International Version*).

Thanks for a year of great giving and teaching!

Love, Ann Gustafson Frake frakefam@bright.net



The Building of Bethlehem



The neighbors didn't even ask—they are so used to me hauling weird stuff into the backyard and working on Sunday school projects. I started with my year-long collection of boxes from under the basement stairwell. I (spray) painted them “desert sand” to hide the printed colors and labels. I thought it would take two cans of spray paint, but I had to hop on my bike and ride down to the hardware store to buy two more in order to finish the project in one swoop.



Here are Chelsea, Elizabeth, Cody, and Kayla helping to paint door and windows on the boxes after I mark them in permanent magic marker.



Chelsea stacks them up to dry.

Charlie and I paint the backdrop on paper bags.



These wise men and shepherd helped me place Christmas lights inside the boxes. About a third of the windows are cut out of the buildings. Also, because the boxes are not joined in any way (glued, taped, or stapled into place), we rebuild Bethlehem each week.

We are going to use these buildings for two Christmas programs at two churches. The boxes nest inside each other and I have two trips to the trunk of my car to pack up the lot. They can be displayed on pianos, altar stairs, on baptisteries, etc. Flexibility is their strong point. A high school class could make a very sophisticated version.

We are adding stars, helping “palm” trees (made with the outlines of hands), donkeys, and flannelgraph Bible people every week this quarter. If I were making Jerusalem, I would build it on the table and we would all sit on the floor looking up.

Thanks to Dylan, Owen, Zach, and Austin—the best helpers around!

Other ideas for Bethlehem



Lamb Treats

I don't know what real shepherds ate, but I think they would have loved these cute cupcakes!

Ingredients

- Cupcakes
- White mini marshmallows
- Plain icing
- Tube of decorating gel/icing or decorative items such as chocolate chips



Method

- Spread icing on top of cake.
- Create eyes and mouth using decorating icing or chocolate chips.
- Cut mini marshmallows in half and place around the "face" for wool.

On the Lighter Side



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Send some jpeg pictures of your Sunday school class! frakefam@bright.net

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Spanish sites:

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http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/curriculum_sp_nt.htm

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