

Word Aflame Idea Exchange



March 2008

This is the messy month of rain, mud, and wind. It's a great month to do an art project! A big, messy, up-to-the-elbow art or cooking project will cheer the glummiest person waiting for spring!

Try some happy, goopy, glorious, glue-in-your-hair teaching.

Easter is early this year. Use some of our projects for invitations.

I love Sunday school!

Ann Frake



Any scrapbookers with Sunday school ideas out there? Send ideas to frakefam@bright.net because we love them!

I didn't have any "Easter" scrapbook paper, but I experimented on my local library die-cut machine and found that even ugly paper makes great eggs. If one child doesn't like the pattern, he can paint, color, or mark the white side.

We liked drawing chicks inside, and we thought of so many captions for this project that we're listing them here. I know you'll think of a dozen more. Add a church label and they make great invitations!

- You're Eggstra Special! (inside: Jesus loves you!)
- Easter Surprise! (inside: Jesus is alive!)
- New Beginnings Start with Jesus (100% Fresh Start)
- Really, Really Fresh Eggs (inside: Our Sunday school is full of surprises.)
- Hunting for a real treat? (inside: Our Sunday school is hopping!)





Easter is a busy time, but these stained glass windows (especially if you get a gloomy, rainy Easter) help make an ordinary Sunday school room a cathedral.

- We used regular construction paper, folded in half the long way, and folded in half again, the long way.
- Cut out geometric shapes along both sides—triangles, squares, circles.
- Unfold and paste scraps of colored tissue paper (\$1 bundle at any dollar store) across the holes.

The windows look great. You can also add a silhouette of each child's praying hands with a caption, "(Owen) knows how to pray."

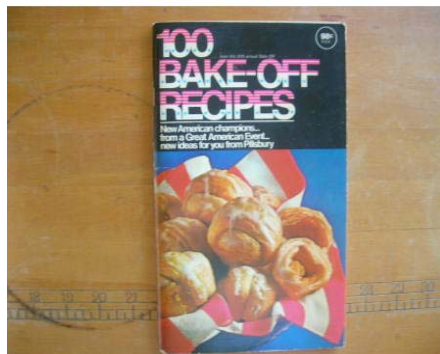




Resurrection Rolls

Here's a Sunday school user-friendly recipe for these rolls.

I remembered this recipe from when I was eight years old. My mom (Lorraine Gustafson) made it from the new 1969 Bake-Off recipe book. The distinctive "hollow" middle triggered my memory. The picture of the recipe is on the cover. Way to go, Mom!



Magic Marshmallow Crescent Puffs

Edna M. Walker of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, was the \$25,000 GRAND PRIZE WINNER in the Pillsbury Bake-Off Contest (1969) with this recipe.

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 (8 ounce) cans Pillsbury refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 16 large marshmallows
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 teaspoons milk, or as needed

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Spray 16 medium muffin cups with nonstick cooking spray. In small bowl, combine sugar, flour, and cinnamon; mix well.

1. Separate dough into 16 triangles. For each roll, dip 1 marshmallow in melted butter; roll in sugar mixture. Place marshmallow on shortest side of triangle. Roll up, starting at shortest side and rolling to opposite point. Completely cover marshmallow with dough; firmly pinch edges to seal. Dip 1 end in remaining butter; place butter side down in sprayed muffin cup.
2. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. (Place foil or cookie sheet on rack below muffin cups to guard against spills.) Cool in pan 1 minute. Remove rolls from muffin cups; place on wire racks set over waxed paper.
3. In small bowl, blend powdered sugar, vanilla, and enough milk for desired drizzling consistency. Drizzle glaze over warm rolls.



Upside Down?

If you store your craft paint bottles upside down, they seal themselves and do not dry out, especially if you're down to half a bottle of paint or less. Plus, it is easier to see the color (why are all those caps white?). On sale, I can purchase these paints two for \$1. These are nice for older classes or small classes.

I have a **big** class of kids. We purchase **big** bottles of tempera paint online and they ship a box. (Welcome to rural northwest Ohio—the closest Dick Blick store is hours away.)

Just my opinion:

I have one lone jar of powdered tempera paint. It has languished on my shelf for three years. I would have to be desperate to use it. It's not as convenient as the liquid, perfectly smooth, already mixed paint.

10 Good Ideas For Teaching Bible Stories

Debra Hathaway, Children's Editor
Word Aflame Publications

1. Story Sorting—Cut out the pages of a Bible storybook and show the pictures as you tell the story. Then mix up the pictures and let the students put the pictures in order and retell the story. If you don't have a Bible storybook, use simple drawings or clip art.



2. Clothesline Characters—Select a story that has several characters. Cut simple robes from butcher paper or newspaper. Embellish the robes as desired (add jewels, sash, color to rich clothing; patches, tears, dirt to poor). Hang all of the robes on a line stretched across the classroom or a corner. Identify each character/robe. Ask one child to stand behind the character you mention in the Bible story. Each time a different character speaks or acts the child moves to that particular robe. A story with a lot of characters will keep the child hopping. Students will want you to tell the story again and again so each one can have a turn to stand behind the robes.

3. Hats, Imaginary Masks—Use a different hat for each character or turn the hat a different direction as you mention each character.



Use imaginary masks in stories that have a lot of emotion. Cover your face with your hands. As you slowly pull your hands away from your face, put on the “mask” of that emotion—anger, sadness, gladness, surprise. Or let students make the masks as you tell the story.

4. Echoes, Refrains, Repeated Action—Ask children to echo certain statements you make as you tell the story. Look for repeated actions or phrases in a Bible story and create a refrain that children can repeat (e.g., Creation story: “And God saw that it was good.” Children could say, “It was good, really good.”).



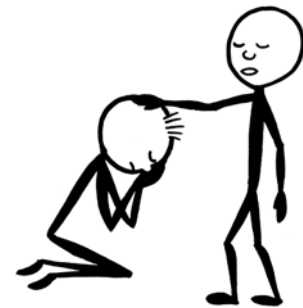
5. Drama, Role Play, Pantomime—Let children act out the story. You may want to read the Bible story first to familiarize students with the story, and then let them act it out the second time. Tell them to listen closely as you read the story and think of ways they can show the action. Use props and costumes for more impact.

6. Puppets—Anything can serve as a puppet: spoons, socks, paper cutouts, etc. Familiarize the students with the story and let them retell it using the puppets.



7. Manipulatives (Clay, Pipe Cleaners, Paper)—Mold clay, bend pipe cleaners, or cut paper as you tell the Bible story. The children will be entranced as they watch you illustrate the story.

8. Chalk Talks, Overhead Projector—Illustrate the Bible story by drawing on the chalkboard or a transparency on an overhead projector. If you have limited art abilities, use simple stick figures. Your students will be forgiving if you tell the story creatively.



9. Flannelgraph, Dioramas—Flannelgraph has been around a long time, but young children still like it and love to play with it. You tell the Bible story first using the flannelgraph, then let the children remove the flannelgraph figures and replace them as they tell the story.

Make a simple diorama (stage setting) with a shoebox and figures made from Popsicle sticks or wooden spoons. Add background scenery as needed. As you tell the Bible story, place the figures or objects on the “stage.” Older children will enjoy creating their own dioramas.

10. Story Sack—Put various items from the Bible story in a brown paper sack. As you tell the story, pull out each item and show it to the children. They will be anxious to see what you pull out next.

These ideas first appeared on the Word Aflame “Tools for Sunday School Teachers” CD.

Click and connect to cool Sunday school teachers.



Idea Exchange Forum:

<http://www.upci.org/wap/discussions/>