

Crafts

Craft: "Clay Heart Transformation"

Objective: Teach children how God can transform our hearts and lives to follow Him, just as a piece of clay can be shaped and refined.

Materials List:

- Air dry clay
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- Small rolling pins (or cylindrical objects like jars)
- Paints (acrylic or tempera)
- Paintbrushes
- Small plastic or wooden crosses
- Permanent markers
- Paper plates or cardboard pieces (as work surfaces)
- Wet wipes or soft cloth

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Introduction:

- Begin with a brief discussion. Explain how God has the power to change us from the inside out, just as clay can be molded into something new.

2. Rolling Out the Clay:

- Give each student a piece of air-dry clay and place it on the work surface.
- Ask them to roll it out using the rolling pin until it is about 1/4 inch thick.

3. Cutting the Heart:

- Have the students use heart-shaped cookie cutters to cut out a heart from the flattened clay.

4. Shaping & Molding:

- Encourage the students to gently press and mold their clay hearts, personalizing them by creating textures or slight indentations.
- Discuss how God personalizes His love and relationship with us, shaping us in unique ways.

5. Adding the Cross:

- Have the students press the small cross into their clay heart. Explain how inviting God into our hearts changes everything.
- Leave the cross embedded or remove it, leaving an impression, signifying God's lasting impact.

6. Decorating:

- Allow the clay hearts to dry slightly until they are firm to touch.
- Let the students paint their hearts using whatever colors they see fit, representing joy, love, and the light God brings into their lives.

7. Final Touches:

- Once the paint is dry, children can use a permanent marker to write words or phrases on the heart, such as "Love," "Hope," or "Faith," highlighting qualities God nurtures in us.

8. Drying:

- Leave the clay hearts to air-dry completely on the work surface.

Reinforcing the Lesson:

The "Clay Heart Transformation" craft is a tangible representation of how God works in our lives. Like clay, hearts are moldable. The process of creating and changing the clay heart parallels the change God brings into our lives. Each step of the activity ties back to the lesson — shaping (God's guidance), placing the cross (His presence), decorating (flowering as a result of faith), and eventually setting (solidifying our faith and trust in His plans). This hands-on experience helps solidify the message for young students.