Crafts

Hands-on Craft: "Cities of Refuge Map"

Materials List:

- Large sheet of construction paper or poster board
- Colorful markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Printed images of cities or simple cut-out shapes labeled as: Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth, and Golan
- Small stones or pebbles
- Stickers or stamps
- Copy of the Bible or a printed excerpt of Joshua 20

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Preparation: Begin with a brief discussion about Joshua 20, focusing on the concept of cities of refuge and their purpose for those who accidentally committed offenses.

2. Map Layout:
- Provide each student with a large sheet of construction paper or poster board. This will serve as their "Map of Refuge."
- Encourage students to use markers or crayons to draw a rough outline of the biblical land on the paper. They can refer to a map in the Bible or create a simplified land drawing.

3. City Placement:
- Hand out the printed images or cut-out shapes labeled with the names of the six cities of refuge: Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth, and Golan.
- Instruct students to glue these onto their map in their approximate biblical locations. Discuss with them how these cities were distributed to ensure accessibility for all.

4. Decorative Elements:
- Allow students to decorate their maps with stickers or stamps to symbolize safety and refuge, using stars, hearts, or other symbols.
- Ask them to place small stones or pebbles around each city, emphasizing their protective nature.

5. Labeling and Final Touches:
- Have students label each city clearly and possibly add major landmarks or regions mentioned in the text.
- Encourage creativity by letting them color and embellish the surrounding areas.

6. Review and Reflection:
- Once the maps are completed, gather students to revisit the lesson. Discuss how the cities offered protection and refuge, relating it to the lesson of forgiveness and justice.
- Allow students to share their maps and explain the symbolism or decorations they've chosen.

Reinforcement of the Lesson:

This craft reinforces the lesson by providing a visual and interactive representation of the cities of refuge. As students physically place and label each city, they gain a better understanding of their locations and significance. Discussing the purpose of these cities helps reinforce the ideas of safety, justice, and God's provision. Additionally, by integrating creativity and personal reflection, students can internalize the biblical principles in a memorable and meaningful way.