

Crafts

Craft: Absalom's Tree and David's Tears

Objective:

To help children understand the story of Absalom's death in 2 Samuel 18 and King David's sorrow, through a creative and hands-on activity.

Materials Needed:

- Green construction paper
- Brown construction paper
- Blue tissue paper or blue crepe paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers
- String or yarn
- A hole punch

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Create the Tree:

- Have each child cut a large tree shape out of the green construction paper. This will represent the forest where the battle took place.
- Use the brown construction paper to cut out a trunk and branches, and glue them onto the green tree.

2. Make Absalom's Hair and Body:

- Cut out a small figure from leftover construction paper, roughly the size of the tree branches.
- Use string or yarn to create Absalom's long hair. Encourage creativity in how they attach the yarn to the figure to show him hanging from a branch.
- Glue the figure and yarn hair onto the branches of the tree.

3. Add David's Tears:

- Cut or tear small pieces of blue tissue paper.
- Roll the tissue into small balls or tear-drop shapes to represent tears.
- Glue the blue tissue "tears" at the bottom of the tree to symbolize King David's grief over Absalom's death.

4. Decorate and Personalize:

- Encourage the children to use crayons or markers to add additional details, such as leaves on the tree, and a background or scene of the battle.
- Have them write "David Mourns Absalom" or a relevant verse from 2 Samuel 18 on their craft.

Reinforcement of Lesson:

This activity visually and kinesthetically reinforces the story of 2 Samuel 18 by illustrating the pivotal moment of Absalom caught in the tree and the resulting grief it caused his father, King David. The craft provides a tangible means for students to connect with the narrative and understand the emotional impact of Absalom's actions and the battle. Engaging in this hands-on project helps solidify core themes of the scripture, such as the consequences of actions, love, and

mourning.