

# Crafts

## Craft Activity: Making an Altar of Thanksgiving

### Materials List:

1. Shoebox or small cardboard box
2. Construction paper (variety of colors)
3. Scissors
4. Glue or tape
5. Markers or crayons
6. Stickers (optional)
7. Metallic paper or foil (for the "sacrifice")
8. Small stones or pebbles
9. Paper cups or small containers
10. Straws or popsicle sticks
11. Printable labels or markers for labeling

### Step-by-Step Instructions:

#### 1. Prepare the Altar Structure:

- Take a shoebox, or small cardboard box, and turn it upside down to serve as the base or altar.
- Use construction paper to cover the box, ensuring that it resembles an altar. You might opt for earth tones or stone colors to enhance the effect.

#### 2. Decorate the Altar:

- Allow the students to decorate the altar using markers, crayons, or stickers. Encourage them to draw symbols or images that represent faith and thanksgiving.
- Cut and glue strips of metallic paper or foil onto the top of the altar to represent the fire or offering.

#### 3. Creating the "Sacrifice":

- Use small stones or pebbles to symbolize the sacrifices made to God.
- Have students place these stones on top of the foil, discussing what sacrifices we make today (like helping others or being kind).

#### 4. Make a Thankful Offering Container:

- Give each student a small paper cup or container.
- They can use markers to label it with an "Offering of Thanks" and decorate the outside with drawings or stickers.
- Position these at the altar as a reminder to always have a thankful heart.

#### 5. Story Symbolism:

- Cut out straws or popsicle sticks and glue them upright at each corner of the altar, resembling the pillars or posts that might have surrounded an ancient altar. Optionally, you can attach a small banner or flag at the top of each stick with words like "Faith," "Obedience," "Thanksgiving," and "Repentance."

### Reinforcement of the Lesson:

This craft activity ties into the story of '2 Samuel 24,' where David builds an altar to atone for his sin and give thanks to God. As they construct their own altar, students learn about the importance of recognizing our wrongdoings, seeking forgiveness, and expressing gratitude. The hands-on

experience of building and decorating allows children to connect with the story physically, creating a memorable representation of the lesson. Encouraging discussions about modern-day "sacrifices" and acts of kindness helps reinforce themes of repentance and thanksgiving in their everyday lives.