Crafts

Craft Activity: Jeroboam's False Gods

Objective:
Create a clay "idol" to help students understand the story of Jeroboam from 1 Kings 14 and the consequences of idolatry.

Materials Needed:
- Air-dry clay (one small lump per student)
- Wooden crafting sticks or plastic utensils (for shaping)
- Cardboard squares (one per student, to use as a base)
- Small containers of paint (assorted colors)
- Brushes
- Paper towels or wipes (for cleanup)
- Paper and pencils

Instructions:

1. Introduction (5 minutes):
Begin by briefly explaining the story of 1 Kings 14, focusing on how Jeroboam turned away from God by creating golden calves as idols. Discuss the concept of idolatry and why it's important to worship only God.

2. Forming the Idol (10 minutes):
- Distribute a lump of air-dry clay to each student along with a cardboard square.
- Ask the students to mold their clay into a small figure or object, representing the concept of an "idol." Encourage creativity; the idols can be abstract shapes, animals, etc., as long as they resemble something that could be worshiped.

3. Adding Details (5 minutes):
- Using wooden sticks or plastic utensils, have the students carve details into their clay figures to personalize their idols.
- Let them know that these are not objects of worship but serve as reminders of the mistake Jeroboam made.

4. Painting (10 minutes):
- Once the idols are shaped, give students some paint and brushes to decorate their creations. This step highlights how Jeroboam's idols were outwardly adorned but were not true objects of worship and led to consequences.

5. Discussion and Reflection (10 minutes):
- While the clay dries, facilitate a discussion where students reflect on the importance of staying true to their faith, using paper and pencils to jot down or draw their thoughts about what loving and following God means to them.
- Encourage students to share their reflections with the class if they feel comfortable.

6. Cleanup (5 minutes):
- Allow time for students to wash their hands and clean up their workspaces.

Reinforcement of Lesson:
Through this craft, students engage in a tangible way to understand the concept of idols and the error of false worship. By making their own "idols," they learn that while these objects might appear attractive, they hold no real power. The reflection activity helps students internalize the lesson, emphasizing the importance of faithfulness to God.