



PRESS ▶ PLAY
GET IN THE MIX

VBS 2021 | CRAFTS



CRAFTS | DAY 1

Bible Story: Who is Jesus? • John 10:14 and John 14:6

Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I am known.

Memory Verse: “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12 (NIV)

GET READY

We have also provided *Step-By-Step Videos and Photos* for each craft, *Virtual craft option*, and *STEAM Challenge option*. Be sure to watch and share the content with your craft leaders so everyone will have a great time during the craft rotation.

Whichever activities you choose, provide a way for kids to place their names on their projects before they begin. Also provide an appropriate covering for your work area(s), such as newspaper or plastic tablecloths. You'll thank yourself later!

We have included a S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Challenge as an option. This activity can be done in groups or individually. The STEAM Challenge can be an “extra” for kids who finish their crafts early, or it can be used instead of the craft activity for older kids. It is up to you and your budget if you want this to be a take-home STEAM activity or if you use it as a rotation and have children reuse materials (when it's possible).

*****Virtual Option. This year we wanted to include a virtual craft option for each day. This craft option uses supplies that are typically found in a home. It is our hope that we equip you with everything you need to provide an incredible week of VBS for families in your church and community—whether that's in your church building, a local park, or even their home. Remember: crafts are fun and there is no right or wrong way to do them. The goal is to help families be creative together and learn about God.*****

CRAFT OPTIONS

Prepare ahead of time for Craft Rotation for VBS:

1. SALT PAINTING (GRADES K-1)

- Raised salt painting is an all-time favorite kids' craft that is loved by all ages. Glue, salt, paper, and watercolors are all you need for this craft. Kids can make their own designs or follow one provided. This different way of painting will get kids thinking of Jesus in a different way.

2. TISSUE PAPER PAINTING (GRADES 2-3)

- Painting in completely different ways gets our minds ready to see other things in new ways. Kids will have fun with this new version of paint and resist art. As kids learn about who Jesus is, they will be able to draw about what they have learned and reveal it through painting with tissue paper!
- You will need to purchase "bleeding tissue paper" or confetti circles that bleed their color for this craft. Both can be found online or in craft supply/office supply stores.

3. STRING ART (GRADES 4-5)

- This craft enables kids to create beautiful three-dimensional art and explore who Jesus is. This take-home will be a reminder that "Jesus is the way, the truth, and the light."
- You can purchase string art crafts online if that option is best for your VBS.

STEAM OPTION

STEAM is an acronym for the fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Kids all across the country are experiencing learning in a new creative way. These "challenges" are made to either be done in teams or individually. If you choose to use the STEAM option, tailor it to fit your church's needs. This can be done in place of a messy craft or in addition to a craft. You may use this as an additional activity for children who finish fast or for children who may not be able to handle craft time well.

PAPER HELICOPTER (GRADES K-5)

Kids love to make and fly paper airplanes. We will be taking paper airplanes to the next level and make a paper helicopter! This is an awesome STEAM experiment for your VBSers because the helicopters are easy to make and fun to play with.

VIRTUAL OPTION

This craft option will use supplies that would typically be found in a home or using things that can easily be put together in a "craft kit" to send home to families.

COSMIC SUNCATCHERS (GRADES K-5)

With a few supplies you probably have in your home, you can create these stunning sun-catchers. All families need is white glue, food coloring, a leftover plastic lid, toothpicks, and string!

CRAFTS | DAY 1

CRAFT OPTIONS

1. SALT PAINTING (GRADES K-1)

What you need:

- Black construction paper or Salt Painting Printable
- White glue (Each child will need access to a white glue bottle. However, it would be easy for two children to share one bottle of glue.)
- Salt (about ¼ cup per child)
- Small bowls for salt
- Plastic spoons (for children to sprinkle salt)
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes
- Cookie sheets or trays (This is for pouring off excess salt to reuse for another group.)

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Print the Salt Painting Printable—one per child. However, this is just as beautiful and fun done on plain black construction paper. Kids will start by “drawing” a picture on their black paper with the white glue or tracing the picture on the Salt Painting Printable with the white glue. Encourage them to make a continual stream of glue instead of dots.
- **Step 2:** Have kids use a spoon to sprinkle the salt over the glue, being sure all of the glue is covered in a thick layer of salt.
- **Step 3:** Pour off the excess salt onto a cookie sheet. Save any excess salt for the next group.
- **Step 4:** Now comes the fun part! Have kids paint over the salt/glue with the watercolor paints. Because the salt is so absorbent, when they touch their paintbrush to the salt, the color will spread like magic. Encourage kids to be gentle so they don’t disturb the wet glue under the salt.
- **Step 5:** Set their creations aside to dry.

What You Say: “While you are painting, do you see how the color spreads once it hits the salt? See how the salt moves the color from one place to another? That is just like Jesus! He is the way to our heavenly Father. Jesus is like the salt, and we are just like the paint. When “we,” the paint, come into contact with Him, He carries us to God His Father. When you know Jesus, you can be confident that God knows YOU! **[Make it Personal] (Share a personal story about how you feel “known” by God.) [Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known.**”

Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they’re learning!

What You Say:

“What are some things that make you feel confident?”

“What does being KNOWN mean to you?”

“Who do you know who is confident? What makes them seem confident?”

2. TISSUE PAPER PAINTING (GRADES 2–3)

What You Need:

- White cardstock or watercolor paper (This craft needs sturdy paper. Regular craft paper or printer paper will not work.)
- Bleeding tissue paper cut into small squares (Regular tissue paper will not work. Bleeding tissue can be found online at Staples, Amazon, Michaels, and teaching supply sites.)
- Spray bottles of water (multiple bottles—2 children can share one bottle)
- White crayons

What You Do:

Dye from the paper will stain hands and surfaces, so protective care should be taken.

- **Step 1:** Instruct the kids to draw a picture with a white crayon on the white paper. Their picture will be revealed later. Invite the kids to draw whatever they'd like—encourage them to draw something they've learned in Large Group or Small Group today. The more detailed the picture is, the better it will turn out.
- **Step 2:** Have kids **lightly mist** the cardstock or the watercolor paper by spraying it with a spray bottle filled with water.
- **Step 3:** Apply the tissue paper squares on the moist paper. The kids can apply them any way they'd like. Be sure to encourage them to completely cover their paper with colored squares, so no white paper shows through.
- **Step 4:** **Lightly** spray water again. **Do not** soak the tissue paper. However, be sure every piece of paper gets wet.
- **Step 5:** Allow the papers to sit for a few minutes. Right before the rotation is over, have kids remove and discard wet tissue and reveal their drawing underneath.
- **Step 6:** Set the papers aside to dry.

What You Say: "Let's say today's **[Bottom Line]** together: **"I can have confidence because I am known."** You are known by Jesus. In our craft today, we revealed your beautiful drawings by using colored tissue. Jesus' love is like that colored tissue. His love reveals who we are—and we are beautiful works of art! When you take this craft home, remember that you are known by Jesus, and because of that you can be confident in who you are."

Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning.

What You Say:

"What are some things that make you feel confident?"

"What does being KNOWN mean to you?"

"Who do you know who is confident? What makes them seem confident?"

3. STRING ART (GRADES 4–5)

What You Need:

- Small pieces of wood or sturdy corkboard (one piece per child)
- Nails (at least 5 per block)
- Small hammers
- Colored yarn or string
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Pen/pencil

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Using a ruler, invite the children to mark out a cross shape in the center of the wood.
- **Step 2:** Demonstrate to the kids how to hammer the nails into the points of the cross, and one into the center. Be sure the nail is deep enough into the wood that it won't come out, and also high enough for the yarn to wrap around.
- **Step 3:** Invite the children to hammer the nails like you've shown.

- **Step 4:** Allow kids to pick their yarn color and tie a double knot to on point of the cross, then use the yarn to create the cross shape. Show the kids how they can wrap the yarn around each nail to bring their cross to life. Kids can layer multiple colors of yarn on their cross.
- **Step 5:** Once they are satisfied with their cross, have the children tie a double knot at one of the nail points to hold the yarn in shape. Cut excess yarn.

What You Say: “Let’s say today’s **[Bottom Line]** together: **“I can have confidence because I am known.”** You are known by Jesus. In our craft today, we revealed a cross with colored yarn to connect the nails on your wood blocks. Jesus’ love is like that colored yarn. His love reveals who we are—and we are beautiful works of art! When you take this craft home, remember that you are known by Jesus, and because of that you can be confident in who you are.”

Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they’re learning!

What You Say:

“What are some things that make you feel confident?”

“What does being KNOWN mean to you?”

“Who do you know who is confident? What makes them seem confident?”

STEAM OPTION

PAPER HELICOPTER (GRADES K–5)

What You Need:

- Paper Helicopter Printable (one helicopter per child)
- Scissors
- Makers, crayons and color pencils
- Paper clips (one per helicopter)

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Print out the Paper Helicopter Printable (Each printable has multiple helicopters on it.) (Be sure to have a volunteer cut each paper helicopter apart so it’s easier to hand out. Do not have the volunteer completely cut out the helicopter, just cut them apart.)
- **Step 2:** Have kids color and decorate their helicopters on both sides.
- **Step 3:** Instruct kids to **cut** out their helicopter on the solid cut lines. (Be careful to leave the dotted lines alone.)
- **Step 4:** Instruct kids to **fold** panel B along the dotted line toward the center. Next, **fold** panel A along the dotted line toward the center on top of panel B. **Fold** panel C along the dotted line downward. **Fold** the two rotor panels (D and E) along the dotted line so that one bends forward and the other backward. These will become the blades of the helicopter. Add the paper clip to the uncut/unfolded end of the helicopter to add weight and help the helicopter spin.
- **Step 5:** Time to **play!** Instruct kids to drop their helicopter and watch it spin. Invite kids to drop them from multiple heights—like from above their heads, below their waist, or even from standing on a chair.

What You Say: “As we watch our helicopters fly, we can see that the shape of the paper helicopter keeps it in control as it falls. And the shape is the shape of a cross. We can have confidence that the paper helicopter is going to be controlled as it falls because of its shape. In the same way, we can have confidence in Jesus because we are known by Him. **[Make it Personal] (Tell a story about how Jesus makes you feel known.)** Let’s say our bottom line together. **[Bottom Line] “I can have confidence because I am known.”**”

Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they’re learning!

What You Say:

“What are some things that make you feel confident?”

“What does being KNOWN mean to you?”

“Who do you know who is confident? What makes them seem confident?”

VIRTUAL OPTION

COSMIC SUNCATCHERS (GRADES K–5)

Supplies for this project should be easily found at the home of the family participating in your Virtual VBS.

What You Need:

- White glue
- Food coloring
- Toothpicks
- Plastic lid (any leftover round lid—like from a tub of yogurt, sour cream, or butter)
- Hole punch or pencil (to poke a hole in the suncatcher to thread string through for hanging)
- String or yarn

What You Do:

- **Step 1:** Pour a generous amount of glue into your plastic lid and make sure to cover the entire inner surface of the lid. The suncatcher will be as thick as the glue you pour, so be sure not to make it too thin.
- **Step 2:** Have kids put drops of food coloring around the glue.
- **Step 3:** Using a toothpick, swirl the colors around in the glue. Stop swirling before the colors get too combined or the final result will be muddy and brown, unless that's what a child wants.
- **Step 4:** Let the glue dry. As the colors settle, they will expand and create a tie-dyed effect. Depending on how much glue used, the sun-catcher will take one to three days to fully dry. You will know it's ready when the edges start to peel away from the lid.
- **Step 5:** When the glue is fully dry, peel the sun-catcher out of the lid, poke a hole through the top, add a string, and hang in a sunny spot. The suncatcher will work best if it's kept inside and hung in a window. White glue is water-soluble and will deteriorate if left in the elements outside.

What You Say: "Knowing Jesus makes us feel known. Feeling known makes us confident. **[Make it Personal Parents! Tell a story about feeling known by Jesus.]** Let's say our bottom line together. **[Bottom Line] "I can have confidence because I am known."**