February Kid’s Crafts

Kid’s Craft 1 – Burying the Alleluia

During the season of Lent, we pay extra attention to our relationship with God. We focus especially on our sins. Sins are the ways that we might hurt ourselves, others, creation, or God by what we say or do or choose not to say or do. As we pay extra attention to our sins during Lent we know that Lent is a time to tell God that we are sorry and we need God’s forgiveness. This means that many of the fun, joyful, party-like things we do at church at other times of the year we choose not to do during Lent. One of those fun things is saying the word, “Alleluia!” Alleluia means “God be praised.” It is a word of celebration and joy. It is a word that shows how much we love God. It’s little like shouting “hooray!” at a birthday party. During Lent we choose to “bury” the Alleluia to help us focus on our sins instead of the party of being with God.

Some churches literally bury the Alleluia by taking a banner that says “Alleluia!”, putting it in a box, and burying in the ground outside. Other churches simply choose not to say the word “Alleluia” during Lent.

This Lent we encourage you to bury the Alleluia somewhere at home. In your kits are supplies to make your own “Alleluia!” banner. Sometime after Sunday, February 14th (the last Sunday before Lent) and before Ash Wednesday on February 17th (the first day of Lent) you should bury your Alleluia banner. You can seal it up in a bag and bury it outside or you can bury it by placing it under your bed or the couch. Then on Sunday, April 4th (Easter Sunday) you can pull your banner out and hang it up! On Easter Sunday we get to celebrate and have a party because God forgives us and loves us! On Easter Sunday we can shout and sing, “Alleluia! God be praised!”

Provided Supplies:

* colorful paper
* ribbon

Other Supplies:

* hole puncher
* crayons/markers
* glitter, stickers, other decorations

Instructions:

* You will need 8 or 9 pieces of paper for each letter of the word ALLELUIA (the 9th piece is if you want to add an exclamation point! to the end)
* You can cut each piece of paper into a shape of your choice like a rectangle, triangle, or heart. The shape needs to be big enough that you can draw the letters on it.
* Put 1 letter on each piece of paper.
* You can add extra decorations like stickers and glitter.
* Ask an adult to help you punch two holes in each piece of paper at the top corners.
* Put your pieces of paper in the correct order to spell ALLELUIA!
* In order thread the ribbon through the holes of each piece of paper to create a banner.
* Admire your banner and sing “Alleluia!”
* Choose where to bury your Alleluia during Lent. On the appropriate day, bury your banner with your family.
* On Easter Sunday hang your banner up and sing “Alleluia!” again!

Kid’s Craft 2 – Prayer Jar

During Lent, we focus on prayer and ways that we can deepen our relationship with God and with all of creation. As Christians, we know that we sometimes do things that hurt other people or the earth. Lent is a special time for us to turn back to God, to say that we are sorry, to pray for forgiveness and for God’s help to do better, and to practice ways of living that honor God, people, and creation.

This month your craft will also help you pray in words and actions during Lent! We can pray in lots of different ways—by using our words, by using art, and through our actions. You will be making a “prayer jar” that will help to guide your prayers each day this month.

Provided Supplies:

Cup

Cardstock

Other Supplies:

Scissors

Markers, crayons, or pens/pencils

Construction paper, glue, tape, etc.; anything you want to use to decorate your jar.

Instructions:

1. You have received a cup in your kits. You can decorate your cup however you like! I made mine with purple construction paper, because purple is associated with Lent, but you can make it look however you would like—decorate it so that it stands out and reminds you to pray every day.
2. With a grownup’s help, cut your cardstock into strips wide enough to write on.
3. Use markers, crayons, pencils/pens to write something for you to do or pray for on each of the strips of cardstock. You can either do just 28 strips of cardstock for the month of February, or, if you want, you can make 40 prayer prompts for all of Lent! Some examples for your prayer prompts are provided below, but you can think of your own, too, or change them to make them work for you!
4. Place your strips with the prayer prompts in your jar. Every day, choose one prompt from the jar and do what it says to guide you in prayer!

Here are some examples for your prayer prompts!

1. Write a list of 5 things you are thankful for and then give thanks to God.
2. Pray for the members of your family today.
3. Pray for your teachers.
4. Pray for doctors, nurses, police, or other people who help keep us safe and healthy.
5. Do something nice for someone today
6. Call or send a card to someone who lives alone.
7. Donate some food or clothes to an organization that helps people in need.
8. Do something to care for God’s creation today.
9. Remind someone you know that God loves them.
10. Help with chores around the house (if you already do chores, do something extra!)
11. Say a prayer for your friends.
12. Pray for your pastor.
13. Read one of your favorite Bible stories.
14. Ask God to forgive you for your sins.
15. Whenever you feel like complaining today, talk about it with God instead.
16. Tell your friends something nice about them, or write them a note or draw a picture saying how much you appreciate them.
17. Leave a card or thank-you note for your mail-person.
18. Notice 5 things in nature that you are glad God created and thank God for the gift of creation.
19. Say a prayer to God before each meal.
20. Whenever you use water today, thank God for the gift of baptism.