Holiday Helps

WINTER 2011–12

Ideas for Elementary Classrooms

Use these little animals to remind friends and family of God's great gifts, promises, and love!

"God Cares" Critters

What You'll Need

- Styrofoam® balls (½ ball per child)
- chenille wires
- construction paper
- scissors
- tape
- glue
- washable paint
- paintbrushes
- toothpicks
- wiggly eyes or beads

What You Do

1. Provide each child in your classroom with half of a Styrofoam ball, cut before class. Have the children paint the foam balls the colors of their favorite animals.

2. When the paint is dry, kids can create fun critters by gluing on wiggly eyes or pressing beads into the foam for eyes. Markers can be used for drawing on mouths and other facial features. Chenille wire can be cut and used for legs, ears, tongues, and so on. The chenille wire can be pushed directly into the foam, but glue can be used to reinforce the wire or to attach other decorations to the outside of the foam balls. Feet or paws can be cut from construction paper. For added fun, provide stickers, feathers, and other "fluff"!

3. Have the kids write Bible verses or words of encouragement on precut squares of construction paper, or provide a selection of prewritten notes. Use tape to attach a toothpick to the back of each note about an inch from the bottom of the paper. Push the free end of the toothpick into the top of the foam. Send these creatures home as reminders of God's great love. Encourage children to give their creations to friends or family members!

Another Idea!

Have kids list ways to use the critters. They could be handed out at a retirement center or given to a children's hospital! Vote on a project and let the kids serve Jesus in this way.

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