

Stained Glass Window Project

This project will take 2-3 sessions to complete. Suitable for ages 9-14.

This is a beautiful project that families will display year after year. The time that it takes to find the materials and prepare the project are well worth the effort. The candle shining through the picture shows how the Lord came into the world as a light to shine in the darkness.



Materials needed for each child

- A piece of Plexiglas (clear thin plastic sheet) approximately 5" x 9" (13 cm x 23 cm) (Cut sections from a large sheet for a group)
- A piece of scrap wood approximately 5" x 9" (13 cm x 23 cm) for base
- Sandpaper
- Either a piece of fabric with a stained glass design medallion you can cut out (look at Christmas fabrics in store—preferred) OR a picture of a stained glass window you can color. The stained glass pictures must fit inside the dimensions of the Plexiglas
- Glue to stick your stained glass picture to the plastic
- Black paint (acrylic works well)
- Foiling glue (special glue that dries in a raised bead)
- Foiling paper (will stick on the foiling glue)
- Short fat candle in non-flammable container (such as a tea light or a votive candle in glass or metal cup)



Making the project

1. Glue selected stained glass picture to one side of the Plexiglas. The back side of the picture should be glued to the front of the Plexiglas. Make sure the image is centered slightly up from the bottom of the Plexiglas as this will fit into a groove in the wooden base for display.
2. Paint around the stained glass picture with black paint so that the remainder of the plastic surface is covered. Be careful to use a thick layer so that no light will show through later. Allow to dry.
3. Hold the project so that the right side of the picture is facing you. Use the foiling glue to outline the picture. Allow to dry thoroughly. (If you are using this project with a Sunday School class, allow to dry until the following class.)
4. Take sheets of foiling paper. Place over dry foiling glue and rub until the shiny finish covers all the glued areas. The picture will now have a three-dimensional look of stained glass.
5. The wooden base should be cut out and grooved for the students, but they can do the finish sanding. (An adult should use a circular saw to cut a groove the thickness of the Plexiglas in the wood approximately 1" (3 cm) from the front of the board. The groove will run lengthwise on the board.) Students should smooth off the corners and surfaces of the board with sandpaper.
6. Assemble the project. Place the finished Plexiglas panel in the groove of the board. Place the candle in a flame-proof holder behind the picture.