

John's Vision of the Tree of Life

Adapted from the Early Childhood Program
For Ages 2-6

"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of the street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

(Revelation 22:1-2)

John saw the Tree of Life—a special tree in the middle of the Holy City—with his spiritual eyes. (The Tree of Life is also mentioned in the Garden of Eden in the book of Genesis.) Many details about the Tree of Life are included in the quote above. As your children create each part of the project, you may find it helpful to read aloud these verses from the Lord's Word. We hope this project will help children learn about this story with affection.

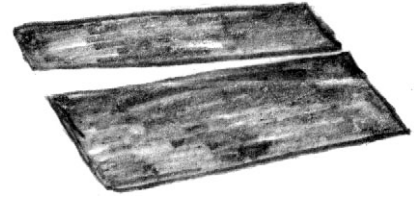
Suggested Materials:

- glue
- thin tipped dark marker
- stapler
- green felt for grass and leaves (about 6" x 9")
- yellow felt for the background (about 8" x 11")
- brown (or avocado color) felt for the tree
- a variety of colored felt for pieces of fruit
- blue glitter for the river
- gold glitter for the throne
- small envelope
- piece of cover stock or poster board (about 8" x 11")

Project instructions:

1. Attach the yellow piece of felt to cover stock or poster board to make a sturdy background for the picture. The envelope can be stapled to the back to hold the little pieces of fruit that the children will make.
2. Print out the pattern page (see below) and cut out the tree pattern. Lay the pattern on the 9" x 12" felt and trace around it with a thin tipped dark marker. Cut it out. (If you wish, you may design your own tree; however, be careful to have it fit with the other parts of the picture.)
3. Cut out the fruit shapes from the thick paper. Talk with the children about which fruits will be traced on to which piece of colored felt. Trace around them with a thin tipped dark marker. Cut the fruit out. Be sure to end up with 12! (Again, you can design and cut out your own fruit, if you wish.)

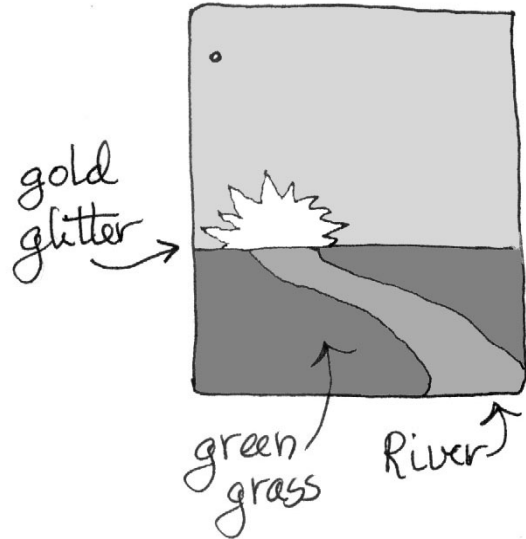
4. Cut the green 6" x 9" felt into 2 rectangles as shown. The larger rectangle should be about 4 x 9 inches. This will become the grass behind the tree.



5. Cut out the leaf shape from the thick paper. Lay the pattern on the smaller rectangle of green felt. Trace around it with a thin tipped dark marker and cut out. Repeat until all of the felt is used. (Again, you can design and cut out your own leaves.)

6. Have the children lay the green "grass" felt at the bottom of the yellow background felt as shown. Glue down.

7. Pour a good amount of glue above the green grass on the left side. You could use a popsicle stick, the end of a spoon, or a ripped piece of cardboard to spread the glue into the sunburst shape shown. Then apply gold glitter and let dry.



8. Pour a good amount of glue on the green "grass" and spread it into the shape shown to create the river. Be sure to use lots of glue, so that it will really look like a river when it is dried. Apply blue glitter, covering the glue thoroughly, and let dry.

9. Lay the Tree of Life over this picture, adjust if necessary, and glue down. Let dry.

10. Let the children put the fruit and leaves onto the Tree of Life. (When not being used or displayed, these pieces can be kept in the envelope on the back of the yellow felt board.)

Activity instructions:

Begin by asking the children why the tree is on a yellow background? (It was inside the golden Holy City.) Let the children place the leaves and fruits on the tree. They may enjoy naming the kinds of fruits as they put them on the tree. Perhaps have the children talk to you about good things they do which make other people happy: these are like "fruits." When placing the leaves, the children could share ways they can cheer others. When the children are finished, the pieces can go into the white envelope so that they are ready for the next time.

