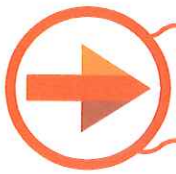


Here are three fun ways that you can teach Helping Hands how to make baskets. Adapt the activities to meet the needs of your Helping Hands or create your own activities.





The following activities partially fulfill the requirements for the Basket Maker award.

ACTIVITY

1

Twig Basket

15

MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 20-24 straight twigs or sticks per child (twigs or sticks should be approximately the same length)
- Craft glue
- Newspaper
- Pine cones (optional)

Begin by asking the Helping Hands if they can think of any Bible stories that mention a basket. (Genesis 40:16, Exodus 2:3, and Amos 8:11 are just a few examples.) Explain that people have been making baskets for a long time. Ask the children what materials they think were used to make baskets in Bible times. Then show them a completed twig basket.

Give each child 20-24 twigs and a sheet of newspaper. To begin, place two sticks on the newspaper about 4-8 in (10-20 cm) apart. Place two more twigs on top of the first twigs to form a square. Glue the top twigs to the bottom twigs. Glue several more twigs between the top two twigs. This makes the bottom of the basket.

Now it's time to start building the sides of the basket by gluing two twigs to alternating sides, building a "log cabin." Keep adding twigs until the basket is at least 4 in (10 cm) high. When completed, glue on small pine cones for decoration.



Jute Coil Basket

15

MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

Begin by asking the children to describe baskets that they may have at home. Ask them what they are used for. Then share that people all around the world make baskets to use in their homes. Show pictures of baskets made from natural fibers by people from various cultures. Now show the children a completed jute basket like the one they will make.

Give each child a plastic bowl and have him or her place the bowl upside down. Starting at the edge of the bowl that is touching the table, have the children wrap a piece of jute around the bowl. Then they put a line of glue on top of the jute and coil more jute around the bowl. Continue until they get to the other end of the bowl. The goal is to apply the glue to the jute and not the bowl. They will then form smaller and smaller coils of jute on the bottom of the bowl. If children have trouble wrapping the jute around the bowls, cut the jute into small lengths for them.

Once the bowl is covered in jute coils, gently lift the coil basket off of the bowl. The children may need an adult to help remove the coil basket. If you don't do this, the jute coils may stick to the plastic bowl. Keep the basket upside down until it is dry.

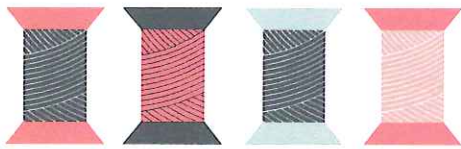
2

ACTIVITY

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Jute (4 ply or larger)
- Plastic bowls
- Craft glue
- Scissors
- Pictures of baskets from around the world





ACTIVITY

3

Woven Berry Basket

15

MINUTES

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1 pint (473 mL) plastic berry baskets
- Yarn (various colors and textures)
- Scissors



WHAT YOU DO

Begin by reading Corinthians 9:15 (CEB): “Thank God for his gift that words can’t describe!” Discuss what the verse means. Now show the Helping Hands a completed woven berry basket. Tell them that they will make a basket to give to someone as a gift. When they get home they can fill the basket with flowers, cookies, favorite Bible verses, or whatever they want to give to someone.

Give each child a basket and have them select some yarn. Begin weaving at an inside bottom corner of the basket. Leave about a 0.5 in (1 cm) end so they can later tuck the yarn end under the woven yarn. Weave the yarn over and under the plastic slats of the berry basket. Always start new pieces on the inside of the basket and tuck the tail into the woven yarn. Encourage the children to be creative with their own designs. Continue until the entire basket is covered.

TIP

Some children may not weave as quickly as others. If they don’t finish their basket, send them home with enough yarn to finish the project on their own.



Award: Basket Maker

To complete this award, check the requirements on p. 129 and add activities as needed.