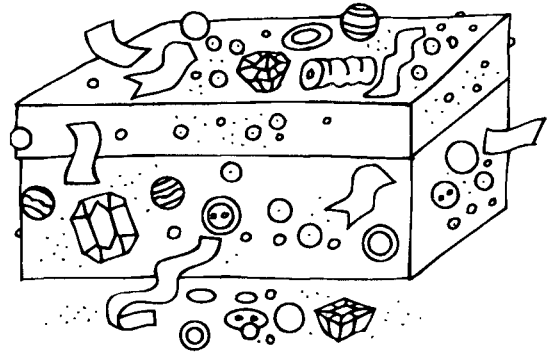


## The Beautiful Box

The Ark of the Covenant was a rectangular chest made of wood overlaid with gold. It was forty-five inches long; twenty-seven inches wide; and twenty-seven inches high. In class have the children use a tape measure to mark off these measurements. This will help them visualize this holy object.

### Materials:

Bible one box per child gold spray-paint  
tape measure ruler or yardstick  
white glue or craft glue ribbon glitter  
sequins colored tissue craft jewels buttons



### Instructions:

During the weeks before class collect boxes with lids. Try to collect boxes that are all about the same size. Spray paint them inside and outside with gold paint. Let them dry thoroughly. Note: the fumes of spray-paint can be dangerous. Do not allow the children to assist with this task.

Place the glue and decorative items on tables where the children can easily use them. Demonstrate how to glue on ribbon, bits of cloth, etc., to make their boxes special. Let them decorate their box and let the boxes dry completely.

When dry encourage the children to think of items they would like to keep in their boxes (pictures, poems, a special prayer request, etc.). Discuss the things that God wanted put inside this special box (the tablets of stone, the manna, Aaron's rod). Explain that they are going to make a special box themselves, for their "treasures." Encourage the children to add items to their boxes that will remind them of their relationship with God.

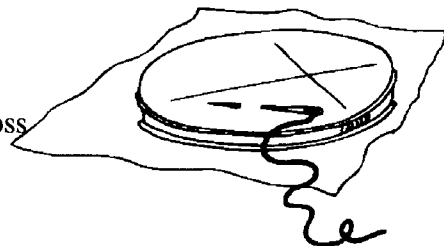
## The Embroidery

Embroidery is an art that can add beauty to something very plain. It is simply a pattern of a decoration sewn onto cloth using a needle and colored thread. In biblical times its use increased the value of an item and made it more valuable.

The Tabernacle and the Temple used this art. It was used on the garments of the priest, and the curtains of the Temple. Usually people who had embroidery on their clothes were wealthy or of importance. Read Exodus 35:30 thru 36:1.

### Materials:

hoops (5-inches in diameter) needles embroidery floss  
muslin scissors pencils

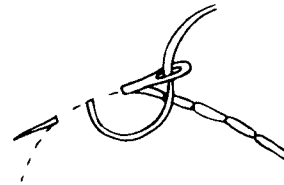


### Instructions:

Cut the muslin in ten inch squares. Cut the floss into eighteen- to twenty-four-inch lengths. Separate the floss into a three-strand length. Wind the thread around a strip of cardboard to keep them from getting tangled. Transfer a pattern onto the cloth with pencil.

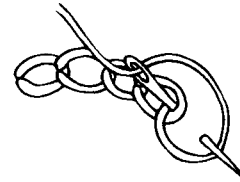
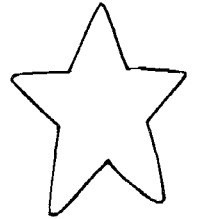
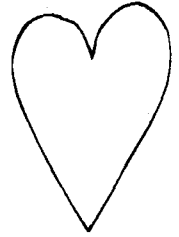
Give each child a square of muslin and an embroidery hoop. Demonstrate how to open the hoop and place the cloth on the hoop, then tighten the cloth. Explain how this will make the material easier to work. Give them a pencil and have them draw a simple design on their muslin—suggest simple designs such as a star, a fish, a heart, or a flower (see examples). Let them choose a color of floss and help them thread the needle. Demonstrate or tie the knot for them at the end of the floss. Show them how to make a backstitch and the chain stitch. Help them tie off when they have finished their sewing, or want to change color of thread.

If this craft is too difficult for your younger children, use purchased sewing cards that use heavy yarn and large plastic needles. With these kits children outline a picture with yarn and mistakes are easily corrected. Older children can master a chain stitch if you have the desire and patience to teach them.



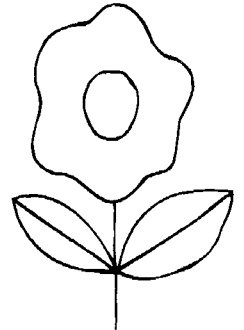
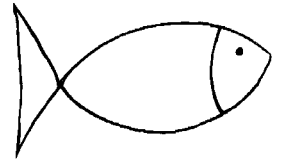
#### BACKSTITCH

From the bottom side of the fabric, bring thread through onto the pencil drawing; then go backward on your stitch through the top of the fabric. Bring the needle through again a little in front of your first stitch. Then pull your stitch backward and down through the fabric, pushing the needle in at the point where it first came through.



#### CHAIN STITCH

Bring the thread out at the top of the pencil drawing, and hold it down with your left thumb. Bring the needle through the fabric where it last emerged, and poke the needle point through a short distance away. Pull the thread through, keeping the working thread under the point.

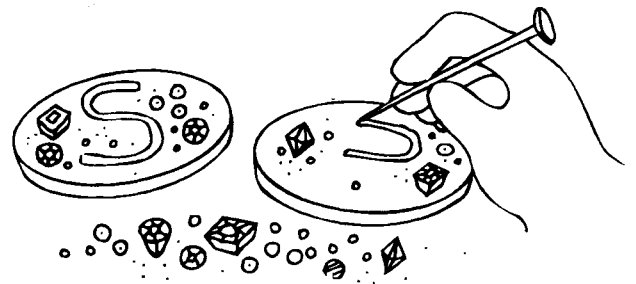


## The Engraving

God chose two expert artisans, Bezalel (Bee-zah-lel) and Oholiab (o-Ho-lee-ab), to engrave beautiful items for the Tabernacle (Exodus 31:3-5). 1 Kings 6:14-35 offers a vivid description of the carving and engraving that decorated Solomon's Temple.

### Materials:

plaster of Paris    water    plastic margarine-lid  
(one per child)    mixing bowl    plastic spoons  
newspaper    nails    magnet strips    pencils  
craft jewels (optional)    glue    glitter (optional)



**Instructions:**

Mix plaster of Paris and water according to the directions on the package. (Tip: usually you mix two-parts water to three-parts plaster. Water cleanup is easy.)

Let them spoon wet plaster into lids to mold their plaques. Allow to dry twenty to thirty minutes before the plaque can be “engraved.” After sitting for five minutes a magnet strip can be pressed into the back. Make a few extra plaques in case someone drops or breaks their plaque.

Hand out newspaper and nails. The nail is used as a “stylus”. A stylus is the instrument the engraver uses to make the strokes that create the image. Demonstrate how to use the point of the nail to carve their name, or a design, onto the plaque. Show them how to carve parts of each letter in short, light strokes, repeating each stroke until the letter is clearly engraved. They can use glue to join the jewels and glitter onto the plaque.

Read the words of Isaiah 49:15,16 to them: “Can a mother forget her baby...and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See [pause], I have engraved you on the palms of my hands”

*Affirm to them:* “God cares about us! We are precious to Him, and He never forgets us. Take your plaque home and find a place to put it where you will see it everyday. Whenever you look at it, remember that God has engraved your name in the palm of His hand.”

### The Incense

Incense played an important part when God’s people worshiped at the temple. The priests burned sweet smelling incense morning and night. Once a year on the Day of Atonement the high priest took incense into the Most Holy. Then the priest would offer prayers of forgiveness for the sins of the people. Only priests could burn incense, and they could only burn it in the Temple. If anyone else burned incense, the penalty was death!

**Materials:**

Bible apples lemons oranges  
paring knife paper plates plastic knives  
clean baby food jars w/lids permanent markers  
dried flowers or leaves (optional) vanilla extract  
oil of cloves oil of peppermint liquid potpourri  
microwave oven pencils and scrap paper

**Instructions:**

If you would like to dry the fruit beforehand, spread fruit slices on a cookie sheet and bake overnight in an oven with the temperature set on warm. Let cool and store in storage bags.

Give each child a paper plate, and a baby food jar. Have them put their initials on the bottom of

the jar using the permanent marker. Let them choose from the dried fruit (flowers and leaves are optional), for the ingredients they would like to use.

Allow them to place their dried fruit into the baby food jars. Let the child choose one of the scents to add to their mixture. They will need just a few drops of a flavoring, but a larger amount of liquid potpourri.

Seal the jars and shake to mix all the ingredients.

This craft allows us to make a fragrant blend of ingredients that you can simmer in a potpourri pot or on a stove. This can remind us that our prayers are as incense to God.

An interesting fact is that frankincense was one of the gifts brought by the wisemen to the infant Jesus as a gift. It was a fitting gift for it was one of the ingredients priests used to make the incense for the Temple. And also appropriate because Jesus is our great High Priest (Hebrews 6:20).

*Tell them:* “Today we have made a fragrant blend of ingredients that you can use in a potpourri pot or simmer on the stove. Have an adult help you pour it into the top of a potpourri burner or into a saucepan, and add an inch or two of water. When the water begins to simmer, the fragrance will rise and fill the air. When you take your fragrant mixture home, you might use it when you want to spend a special time with God. The steam from your mixture can remind you that your prayers go straight to our High Priest and God the Father.”

## The Lamp

**L**ight is important. Without it we stumble in darkness. We can hurt ourselves. The light in the Holy Place was provided by the Golden Lampstand. It was a very essential and beautiful thing. It was the only light within the darkened enclosure.

Before the kids arrive, turn off the lights and close the blinds or curtains. The uncustomary darkness will tickle the curiosity of the group. You might begin by saying: “I thought a darkened room might help us imagine what it would be like to perform tasks without light.”

### Materials:

baby food or large pimento jars with lids    Philips screwdriver for a punch  
hammer    scissors    lamp wicking (available at craft stores)  
household sponges    newspaper    acrylic craft paints  
old margarine tubs    large bottle of inexpensive olive oil  
matches    small fan or hair dryer (optional)



### Instructions:

Clean and dry one glass jar for each child (remove label). Using the hammer and screwdriver punch a hole in the center of each lid. Turn the lid over and flatten the backside of the punched hole with your hammer (to flatten any sharp edge created by the punch). Cut the lamp wicking to four-

inch lengths—a package of wicking usually contains three eight-inch wicks, enough for six wicks of this length. Before “crafty” time cover worktables with newspaper; pour paint into old margarine tubs; dampen sponges; and place jars on the table. Have wicks, oil, and matches on hand.

Show them how to use the sponge to “paint” their jar—pressing the sponge lightly into the paint and dabbing the loaded sponge onto the jar. Overlapping the colors looks pretty. Let them decorate the lids. Let the jar and lid dry. Use a small fan or hair dryer to speed up the drying process if you desire.

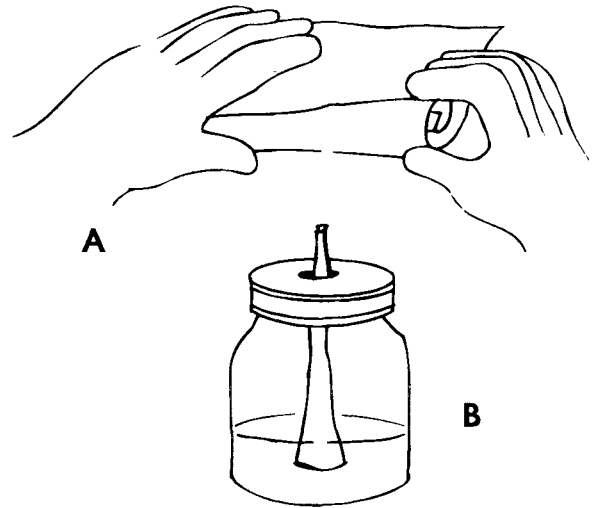
Pour a half-inch of oil into each jar. Give a wick to each child, and have them dip the wick several times in the oil to soak them. Have them roll the wick tightly to create a thin end (see illustration A). Show them how to insert the skinny end through the bottom of the lid (see illustration B). Screw on the lid tightly. Allow to sit a few minutes to absorb more oil.

Carefully place the lamps in a cluster on the floor. Have the children form a circle around the lamps and then you light the lamps.

*Open a Bible to Psalm 119:105 and say:* “Psalm 119:105 talks about God’s Word. It says, ‘Your word is a lamp to my feet.’ I would like you to look at the lamps as we pray.”

*Sample Prayer:* “Thank you God for your Word (pause), for your love (pause), and for the light you bring into our lives (pause), Amen.”

Encourage the children to take their lamps home and repeat the prayer with their families. Note: Caution the children to only use the lamp when an adult is present.

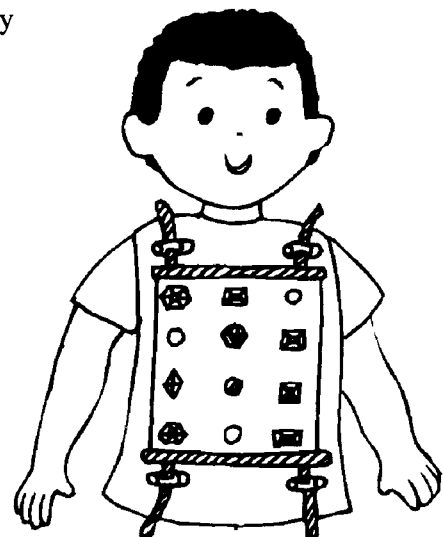


## The Priest

The priest were the spiritual leaders of God’s people. They wore clothes similar to those of everyone else, but God commanded the high priest to wear several special items over these clothes. One of these items was called the breast-piece. It was worn over the chest of the high priest. Exodus 28:15-28; 39:8-21.

### Materials:

squares of felt in an assortment of blue, purple, and red  
gold cord, ribbon, decorative trim, or yarn  
blue cord, ribbon, decorative trim, or yarn



large safety pins    black markers    glue    plastic craft jewels in a wide variety of colors

### **Instructions:**

Cut felt into 9x9-inch squares. If you are using precut felt pieces that come in 8x11-inch squares, trim to an 8x8-inch square. Cut gold and blue cord into lengths that match a side of the square of felt. Be sure you have one felt square, two gold cords, two blue cords, four safety pins, and twelve jewels per child.

Each craft jewel should be about the diameter of a penny or larger, and flat on one side, so it can be easily glued to the felt. These jewels are available at most craft stores.

The craft jewel colors you have available may not entirely be representative of the stones but don't worry, do the best you can. The important thing is to point out the importance and value that God places upon His children.

*To assemble:* Let each child choose one piece of felt, two gold cords, two blue cords, and twelve jewels.

1. The breastpiece is to be a red, purple, or blue square. On the back of the felt piece mark the child's name for identification.

2. *First row:* Glue down three jewels. Represent each "jewel" with a color of: ruby (red), topaz (yellow) and beryl (use pink or white) jewels.

3. *Second row:* Glue down three jewels. Represent each "jewel" with a color of: turquoise (aqua blue), sapphire (use dark blue, or purple), and emerald (green).

4. *Third row:* Glue down three jewels. Represent each "jewel" with a color of: jacinth (orange), agate (white), and amethyst (purple or violet).

5. *Fourth row:* Glue down three jewels. Represent each "jewel" with a color of: chrysolite (yellow-green), onyx (pinkish), and jasper (green).

6. The gold cords attach to the breastpiece at the top and the blue cords attach to the breastpiece at the bottom. Glue one piece of gold cord along the edge at the top, and the blue cord along the edge of the bottom. Divide the second piece of cord into two pieces and attach to underside of felt (see example).

This breastpiece was made of gold, and blue, purple, and red yarn, and fine linen cloth. On the cloth they mounted four rows of precious stones—one to represent each of the tribes of Israel. Each jewel had the name of the tribe it represented inscribed upon it. They are as follows: Ruby—Reuben; Topaz—Simeon; Beryl—Levi; Turquoise—Judah; Sapphire—Issachar; Emerald—Zebulun; Jacinth—Dan; Agate—Naphtali; Amethyst—Gad; Chrysolite—Asher; Onyx—Joseph; Jasper—Benjamin. Jacinth is an orange gem, chrysolite is yellowish-green, and beryl can be found in a variety of colors (green, yellow, pink, and white). □