

M.P. Wigglesworth's
Three-Ring
CIRCUS

See incredible feats of faith!

CRAFTS





Welcome and thank you for your willingness to work in the crafts area this year! In this packet you'll not only find the instructions on how to create all the crafts for the week but also lots of helpful tips and hints to make **M. P. Wiggleworth's Three Ring Circus VBS** the best it can be and tons of fun.

SPIRITUAL

- The best place to start is always prayer. Before you begin planning for the week of VBS spend some time talking to God about the children He plans to bring and how you can help reach each one of them. You can ask your director for a list of children who have pre-registered and pray for them by name.
- Each day, kids will watch a cartoon about the performers at the circus that will display how to begin and then show their faith in their daily lives. (You can find a summary of each story, the Bible lesson, and verse for the day on your Week Overview.) Each craft ties into the circus theme or story of the day. Explain to the children why they're making the craft they are, and, if they've already had their lesson time, use the opportunity to ask them about it and reinforce what they learned.
- A great way for kids to see faith in action is through prayer. While crafts isn't usually an area where kids are used to praying you can change that. End your time together with a quick prayer thanking God for the fun you've shared.
- While craft time is meant to be fun and give kids a chance to be creative, it is first and foremost (like all areas of VBS) intended to help children grow spiritually. Keep that in mind as you interact with the other leaders, take time to get to connect with each child, and study the Bible stories and verses during the week.
- VBS is certainly made to deepen children's relationship with the Lord, but it's also an opportunity for adults to do the same. Ask your director for copies of the lessons and devotions. You too can be reminded of some incredible truths, strengthen your faith, and be better prepared to share with the kids each day.

EXPERIENCE

- Kids will love the awesome crafts you teach them to make, but you can make craft time a real experience. Start by naming your craft area something like Curly the Clown's Craft Corner.
- Decorating is a great way to get kids excited. You don't need much. Sectioning off a small area and decorating that makes a little go a long way. Make your craft room look like a back stage area by hanging clown costumes, wigs and shoes around or create the feel of a circus tent by covering the walls and floor with canvas drop cloths. Use your imagination and the possibilities are endless.
- Creating a character for yourself is another fun way to reinforce the circus theme. Paint your face like a clown, pretend to be a stagehand as you clean up, or show your muscles like a strong man.
- Set up an example table. By letting kids see what crafts are coming up throughout the week you get them excited to come back.



PRACTICAL

- Make a sample of each craft ahead of time. It not only gives you an example to show the kids, but also provides you with a better understanding of what parts may take more time or be more difficult.
- Get preparation help. Before VBS begins, gather a few fellow church members to help you with prep, like cutting, printing, or separating small parts into baggies for each child. More hands makes for lighter work, but also gives others a chance to be involved.
- For crafts with many small parts put together individual kits in sandwich bags. Then simply pass out one to each child on the day of.
- Start each day by lining the tables with butcher paper. Tape it down underneath the table top. When kids finish their crafts early pass out crayons and allow them to color on the paper.
- Take large old T-shirts and cut a slit up the entire back. On the days with messier crafts let the youngest classes wear them as smocks.
- Always keep wet wipes on hand and help make sure kids are cleaned up before heading out of craft time.
- Keep paper towels and old bath towels nearby to mop up spills or wipe down kids.
- Ask the teachers bring the kids' workbooks to crafts to be used if they finish something early.
- Have several large garbage cans easily accessible.
- Make labels with the children's names on them ahead of time. Stick them on a portion of their crafts to save time identifying them later.
- Use your best judgment when it comes to prep. We make a few suggestions of what to do beforehand, but your group might require that more or less work be done ahead. If this is your first time leading crafts talk to someone who has done it before.

NEEDED MATERIALS - EVERY DAY

- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Old bath towels
- ☐ Old T-shirts
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Wet wipes
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Garbage cans



DAY 1 - CIRCUS TENT FRAMES

NEEDED MATERIALS

- ☐ Cardstock frames (1 per child)
- ☐ 4x6 photograph of each child
- ☐ 1 Inch pieces of magnetic tape (2 per child)
- ☐ Scotch tape
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Glitter (optional)
- ☐ Glue (optional)
- ☐ Scissors

TO DO AHEAD

- ☐ Print a cardstock frame for each child. For the smallest children cut them out completely, including the tent flaps.
- ☐ If you're not using precut magnetic tape, cut 1 inch strips till you have enough to give each kid two pieces.

DIRECTIONS

Take a picture of each child during craft time. During the week have a 4x6 of each photograph printed.

Pass out the frames and scissors. Have the children cut them out. Next, let them color their circus tents with crayons or markers. Turn the frames over and attach the magnetic tape. If you're using glitter let them glue it on after adhering the magnets. When the frames are decorated help the children fold the tent flaps open.

Later in the week when the frames are dry, turn them over and tape each child's photograph into his or her frame.

VARIATIONS

Leave off the magnetic tape. Open the tent flaps and the frame will stand on a table by itself.



DAY 2 - CLOWN COSTUMES

NEEDED MATERIALS

- ☐ Brightly colored 11x17 foam sheets (1 for every 2 children)
- ☐ Cardstock bowties (1 per child)
- ☐ Elastic string
- ☐ Large pompoms
- ☐ Small brads (2 per child)
- ☐ Large paperclips (1 per child)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole Punch
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Scotch Tape
- ☐ Foam stickers or sticky gems (optional)
- ☐ Hot glue (optional)
- ☐ Foam clown noses (optional)

TO DO AHEAD

- ☐ Draw a circle (11" diameter) on each foam sheet.
- ☐ For the youngest classes cut the circles out entirely and cut each one in half. For the older classes simply cut the sheet down the middle with one half the circle on each piece.
- ☐ Print out the cardstock bowtie pattern (1 tie per child), and cut out for the younger classes.

DIRECTIONS

Pass out a half foam circle to each child. For the older children let them cut off the excess themselves.

Roll the foam into a cone hat shape. At the point where the foam overlaps push in and open two brads to hold the hat into place. Next, using the hole punch, punch two holes, one on either side of the hat. Cut a piece of elastic string for each child and help tie one end in each of the holes to create a neck strap. Finally, allow the children to decorate the hats with a pompom on top and any other pompoms, foam stickers, markers, they wish.

When the hats are completed pass out the bowties, paperclips and scotch tape. For the older classes allow them time to cut out the tie. When completed turn them over. Open the paper clip just wide enough that you can slide a piece of tape in (as you would a sheet of paper) and adhere it to the back of the tie. This will create the clip so kids can attach it to their shirt fronts.

Turn the ties back over and allow the children to decorate them with the available accessories (markers, pompoms, stickers, etc.).

Pass out a foam clown nose to each child to complete their look.



DAY 3 - BALANCING ACROBATS

- ☐ Cardstock acrobats (1 per child)
- ☐ Sinker (1 per child)
- ☐ Pipe cleaner (1/2 per child)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils
- ☐ Scotch tape
- ☐ Masking tape (optional)
- ☐ Tiny googly eyes (optional)
- ☐ Glue sticks (optional)

TO DO AHEAD

- ☐ Print out the acrobats on cardstock. Separate the acrobats, and for the youngest classes cut them out entirely.
- ☐ Cut the pipe cleaners in half.

DIRECTIONS

Hand out the cardstock acrobats. Let the older classes cut out the shape completely. Next, let the children color in the character. Fold the pattern on the dotted line. Fold in the tabs as well.

Pass out the pipe cleaners and sinkers. Insert one end of the pipe cleaner through the loop in the sinker, and twist it in place leaving a long portion of the pipe cleaner.

Lay the acrobat pattern opened up and face down. Lay the sinker at the crease in the foot. Twist the pipe cleaner so that it stretches across the acrobat's body, then tape it in place. Use masking tape if you feel it will be more secure.

Fold the acrobat closed, and using a small amount of scotch tape, tape the character closed. Fold the tabs around the sinker and tape in place as well.

If you wish, add the googly eyes with a glue stick now.

When the characters are finished they will balance like acrobats off the end of any flat surface (table, counter, etc.)



DAY 4 - LION CAGE SPINNERS

NEEDED MATERIALS

- ☐ Double sided cardstock lion and cage (1 per child)
- ☐ Yarn in a variety of colors
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole Punch
- ☐ Scotch tape

TO DO AHEAD

- ☐ Separate the cardstock printouts. For the youngest classes cut them out completely.
- ☐ Also, for the younger children, cut 6" pieces of yarn (2 per child).

DIRECTIONS

Have the older classes begin by cutting out the cardstock circle. Once they are cut, have the children punch a hole on each one of the O's at the top and bottom.

Next allow the children to color in the lion on one side of the spinner.

Let the kids in the older classes each choose three colors of yarn. Have them cut a 12" piece of each. Tie the three strands together at one end and secure that end to the table with a small piece of tape. Help the kids braid the three strands and then tie it once they reach the end. When one rope is braided, do a second.

Using the rope braids, or the pre-cut yarn (younger kids) fold one string in half. Put the folded end through the hole creating a loop. Lace the loose ends through the loop, then pull tightly. Do the same at the other end.

Hold the strings close to the spinner and begin twisting faster and faster. As you do the lion will start to look as if he is inside the cage.



DAY 5 - FINGERPRINT PARADE POSTERS

YOUNGER CLASSES

NEEDED MATERIALS

- ☐ 11x17 Cardstock Posters (1 per child)
- ☐ Finger paint
- ☐ Watercolor paints
- ☐ Brushes
- ☐ Cups or pans of water
- ☐ Hairdryer (optional)

TO DO AHEAD

- ☐ Print a cardstock poster for each child.

DIRECTIONS

Pass out the blank posters to the children. Begin by letting them paint the posters to their liking. As each child completes his or her poster help that child dip his or her fingers in finger paint and add the missing details to the poster (ie: George's hair, the polka dots on Curly's dress, and the balloons on their strings). If need be use a hairdryer to dry the paint more quickly.



DAY 5 - VERSE PENNANTS

OLDER CLASSES

NEEDED MATERIALS

- ☐ Cardstock pennant pattern
- ☐ Brightly colored cardstock or construction paper (2 ½ sheets per child)
- ☐ Cardstock verse page (1 per child)
- ☐ Cardstock accessories page (1 per child)
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Scotch tape
- ☐ Crayons or makers
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Stickers (optional)
- ☐ Sequins (optional)
- ☐ Glitter glue (optional)

TO DO AHEAD

- ☐ Print the cardstock pennant pattern
- ☐ Cut sheets of construction paper in half, then trace the pattern and cut out five pennants per child. If you're using colored cardstock simply print the pattern on the cardstock and cut them out, eliminating the tracing portion. Print the cardstock verse and accessory pages so you have one for each child.
- ☐ Cut a string of yarn approximately 2 ½ feet long for each child.

DIRECTIONS

Give the children each five different colored pennants, a strand of yarn and their verse and accessory pages. Help the kids fold the top of each pennant over the yarn and tape it down. When all five pennants are hung have them turn the banners over. Next, cut out the verses and glue one to each triangle. When all the verse are in place allow the children to decide how to decorate the rest of their pennant, both with the accessory page and the added materials (ie: stickers, glitter, sequins, markers, etc.). To use the accessories simply cut one out and attach to the string by folding over the tab on the top and taping it down as you did with the pennants.



FOR THE WEEK

TOTAL MATERIALS NEEDED

To print FROM included materials

- ☐ Cardstock frames (1 per child)
- ☐ Cardstock bowties (1 per child)
- ☐ Cardstock acrobats (1 per child)
- ☐ Double sided cardstock lion and cage (1 per child)
- ☐ 11x17 Cardstock Posters (1 per child)
- ☐ Cardstock pennant pattern
- ☐ Cardstock verse page (1 per child)
- ☐ Cardstock accessories page (1 per child)

To PURCHASE

- ☐ 4x6 photograph of each child
- ☐ 1 Inch pieces of magnetic tape (2 per child)
- ☐ Brightly colored 11x17 foam sheets (1 for every 2 children)
- ☐ Elastic string
- ☐ Large pompoms
- ☐ Small brads (2 per child)
- ☐ Sinker (1 per child)
- ☐ Pipe cleaner (1/2 per child)
- ☐ Finger paint
- ☐ Brightly colored cardstock or construction paper (2 ½ sheets per child)

ITEMS GENERALLY FOUND ON HAND

- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Scotch tape
- ☐ Large paperclips (1 per child)
- ☐ Hole Punch
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Yarn in a variety of colors
- ☐ Watercolor paints
- ☐ Brushes
- ☐ Cups or pans of water

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Sequins
- ☐ Hairdryer
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Tiny googly eyes
- ☐ Foam stickers or sticky gems



- ☐ Hot glue (optional)
- ☐ Foam clown noses (optional)
- ☐ Glitter (optional)