

Lent 4: God's Steadfast Love

Date: 22nd March, 2009

Reading: Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22:

The steadfast love of the Lord

Bookmark

You will need:

- ♦ laminating strips 15cm X 3.5cm – you will need two strips per child
- ♦ hole punch
- ♦ a range of materials to decorate the inside of the bookmarks:
 - pressed flowers
 - confetti
 - stamps or stickers
 - stars, butterflies and other table 'confetti' shapes (from party shops and craft shops)
 - sequins
 - magazines or small pictures printed from clip art.
- ♦ scissors
- ♦ clear craft glue
- ♦ ribbon
- ♦ laminator

Preparation:

- ♦ Cut plastic strips.
- ♦ Pre-heat laminator as you start assembling the bookmarks.
- ♦ Punch holes around the long and top edges if sewing not laminating.



Ability level: fiddly and will take some time, but is simpler using the laminator; younger children may need some help holding things in place, knotting the ribbons, feeding it through the laminator etc.

This can also be done with acetate – OHP film or clear plastic from box lids: use dabs of clear glue to hold the loose pictures etc. in place, then either sew around the edges (punch holes round the long sides and the top before decorating) or use decorative sticky tape to hold the plastic strips together.

What to do:

- ♦ On one plastic strip arrange dried flowers, stamps, stickers, confetti, pictures cut from magazines, clip art, etc. I put pictures of a similar size on the plain backs of stickers so there would be a coloured picture showing on each side of the bookmark.
- ♦ If you are not using the laminator, you may find it helps to keep them in place with a **small** dab of clear-drying craft glue suitable for use on plastic. Allow some time to dry.

Laminating:

- ♦ Put the second plastic strip on top of the decorated strip.
- ♦ Hold the bookmark carefully so the plastic stays straight and the pictures don't slip as you feed it through the laminator.
- ♦ Punch a hole in the centre of the bottom of the bookmark .
- ♦ Make a loop with the ribbon, thread the loop through the hole and then thread the ends of the ribbon through the loop to make a knot.

If sewing:

- ♦ Sew the two strips together around the two long edges and the short edge in between.
- ♦ Securely knot the thread at the start and finish. You may be able to tidy away the ends in between the strips.
- ♦ Punch a hole in the other end.
- ♦ Loop the ribbon through as above.

Alternative:

- ♦ Seal the edges with decorative sticky tape.

Let the pictures reflect the good things that God provides for us every day. The children might think of things other than flowers, animals and other things from nature – bread, sunshine, friends...



Originally adapted from a craft idea by **Lynn Templar** from Tasmania, **KN March 1996 page 17**

This version adapted from a Christmas craft published in **KUCA e-News Vol 1 No 3: Spring 2008 page 26**

This would also adapt well to make a lovely **Mother's Day** gift.



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