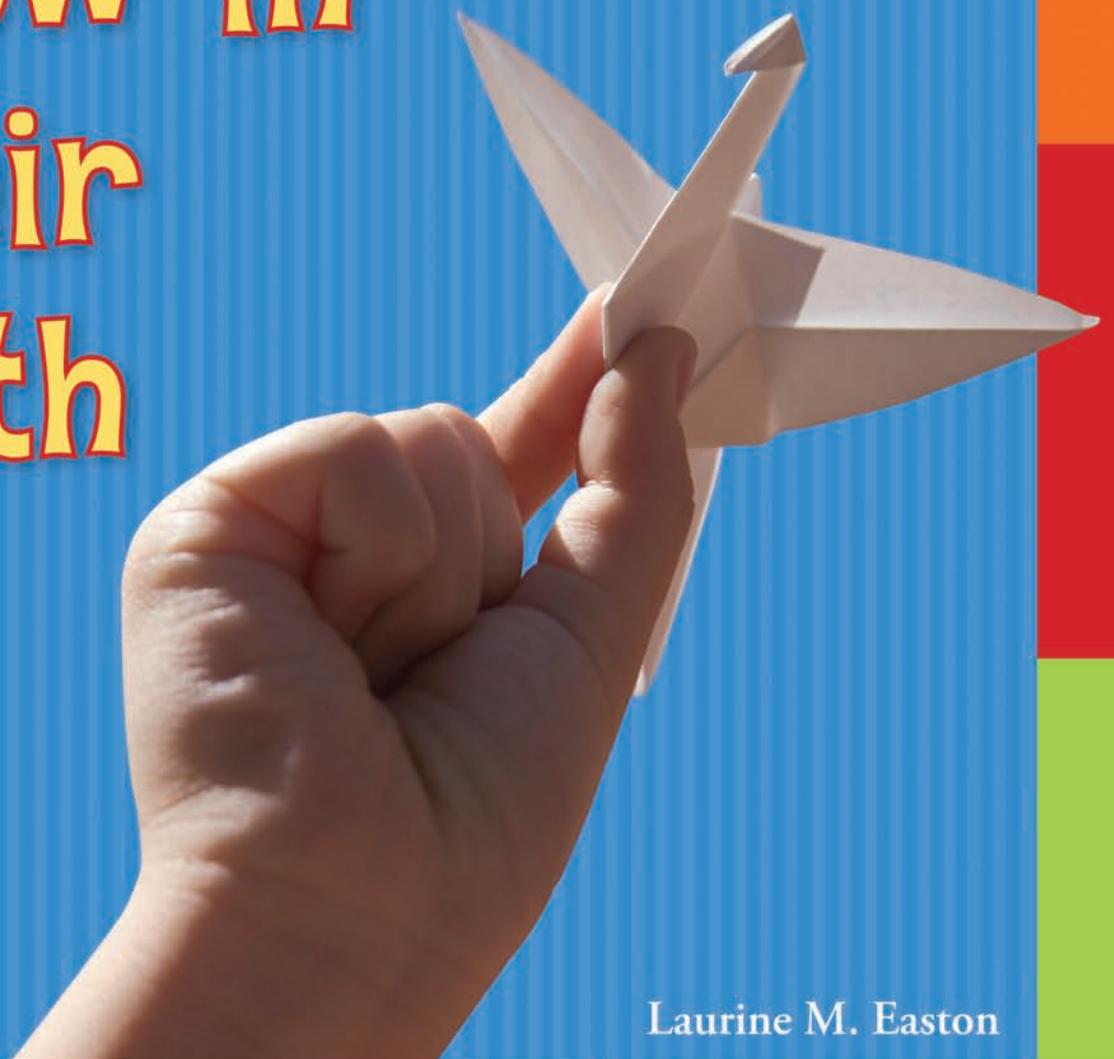


CRAFTING FAITH

101 CRAFTS to Help Kids Grow in Their Faith



Laurine M. Easton

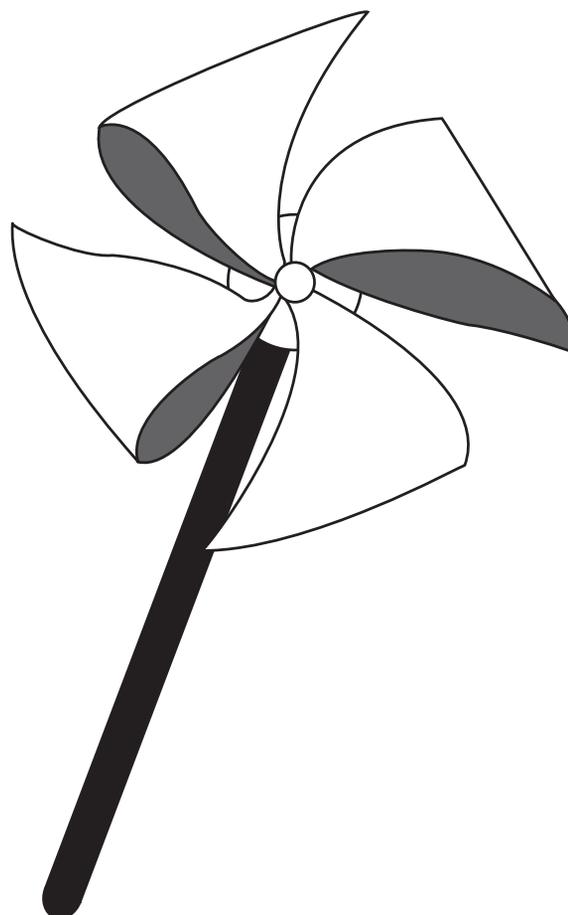


Pinwheels

Grades 1–4

Materials:

Colored construction paper (7½" square)	Stapler or glue
Pinwheel pattern (see page 29)	Pencils
Plastic straws	Scissors
Hole punch	Paper fasteners or pins



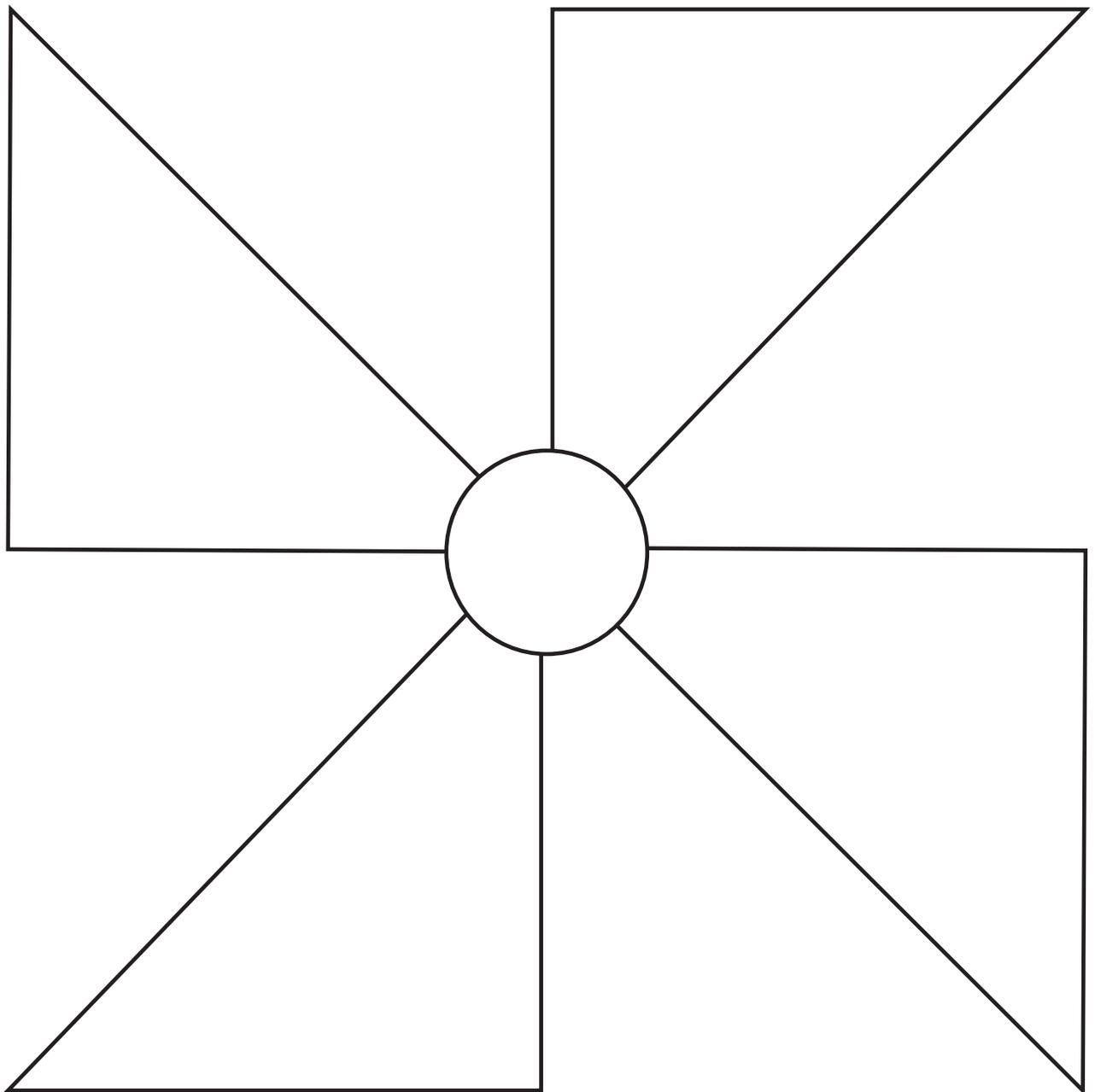
FAITH CONNECTION

The wind is an idea that can help us understand the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit in symbols of fire and wind. The wind cannot be seen and yet the effect of the wind is very real to us. The Holy Spirit is God's presence with us. As the students make the pinwheels and watch them turn in the wind, remind the students that the Holy Spirit is moving in their hearts.

Directions:

1. Trace the pinwheel pattern on a square piece of colored construction paper. Then cut it out. Gently fold up each section from the tip to the center and staple or glue all four at the center.
2. Punch a hole through the center of the pinwheel and through the top of the straw in order to insert a paper fastener through both items. Spread the paper fastener's prongs on the back side of the straw to secure it in place. Pins may be substituted for fasteners.

Pinwheel Pattern





New Year Crackers

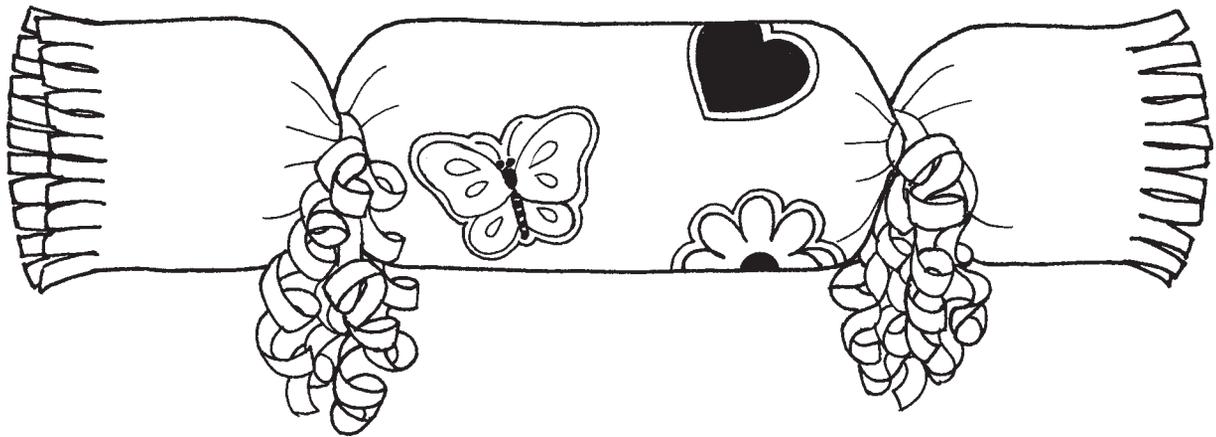
Grades 1–8

Materials:

Psalm quotes	Cardboard tube (such as a toilet paper tube)
Crayons or markers	Tissue paper
Candy	Tape, twist ties, or ribbon

FAITH CONNECTION

Show the children how to make the New Year crackers as gifts for people who are sick.



Directions:

1. Distribute copies of the following quotations from Psalms.
Gracious is the LORD and just; yes, our God is merciful (Psalm 116:5).
May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us; we have put our hope in you (Psalm 33:22).
2. Have the children color and decorate the Scripture verse message.
3. Tell them to put the message and a few candy treats into the cardboard tube.
4. Help the children wrap the filled cardboard tubes with the tissue paper, securing the tissue paper at the ends with tape, twist ties, or ribbon.
5. Allow each child to have one treat.
6. Stickers can be added to the wrapped tubes as decoration.
7. When the children finish, have them bring their gifts to the prayer center.



Suncatchers

Grades 1–8

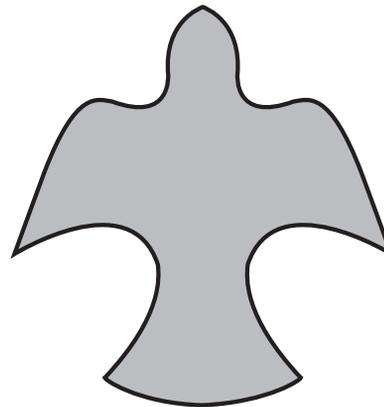
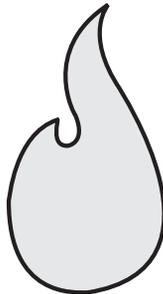
Materials:

Crayon shavings	Newspapers
Wax paper	String
Acrylic or tempera paint	Iron and ironing board
Patterns (see page 103)	Optional: Dark construction paper, glue

You will want to use aides with the younger students.

FAITH CONNECTION

The Holy Spirit is God's presence within us. "I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you" (Ezekiel 36:26–27). Our attitude and actions are shaped by the loving presence of the Holy Spirit that is God's life within us.



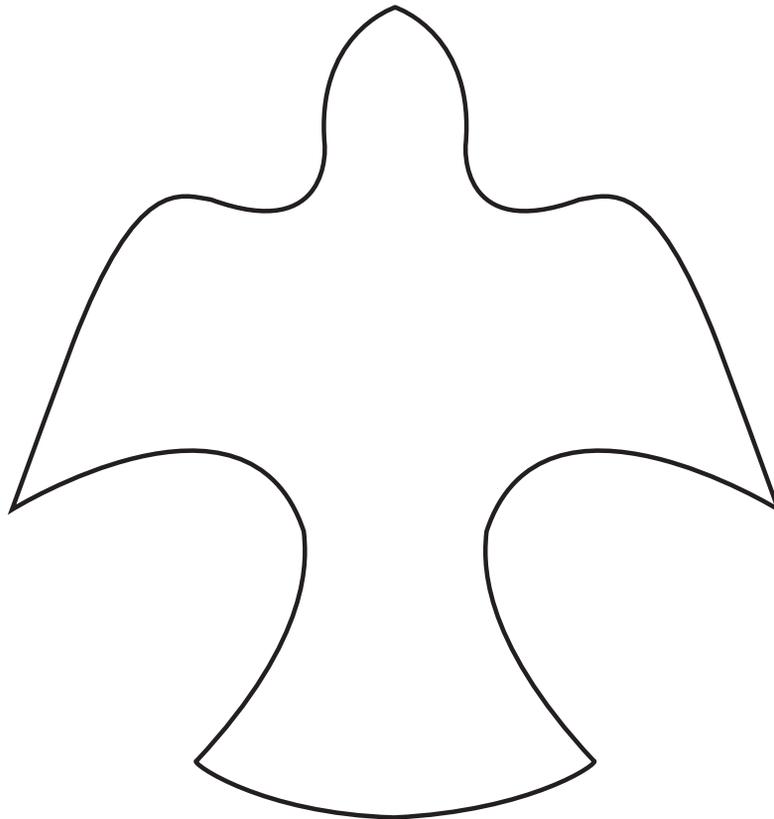
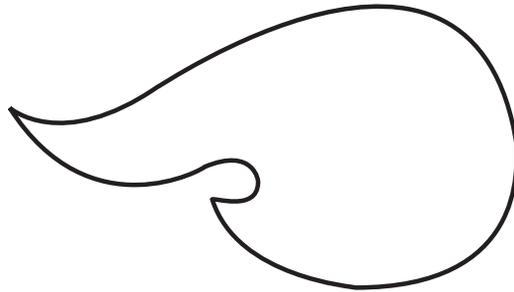
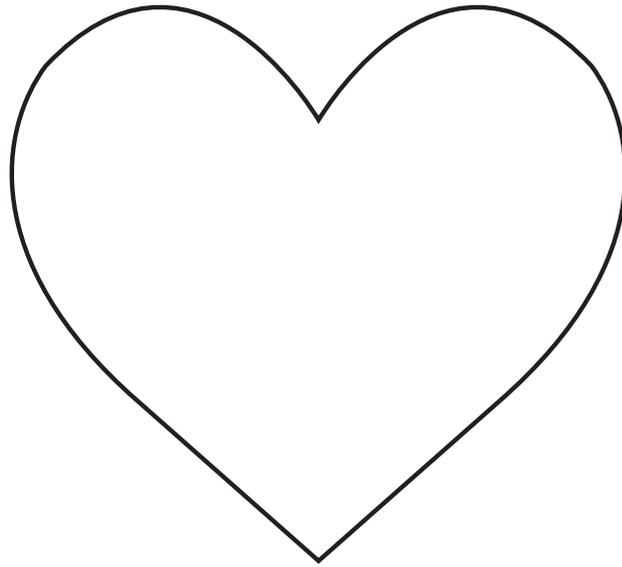
Before Class:

Prepare patterns and make samples for the students to see.

Directions:

1. Spread newspapers over working surface.
2. Place a pattern on the newspaper to serve as a guide.
3. Lay a piece of clear kitchen wax paper on top of the newspaper according to the size desired.
4. Drop shavings of crayons onto the wax paper, keeping within the lines of the pattern.
5. Lay another piece of wax paper on top of the crayon shavings.
6. Place the sandwiched sheets between layers of newspaper and press with a warm iron for a stained-glass effect. Only adults should do the ironing.
7. Mat with or glue on dark construction paper or display in a window by trimming around the symbol and attaching a string for hanging.

Suncatchers Patterns





Say It with Tambourines

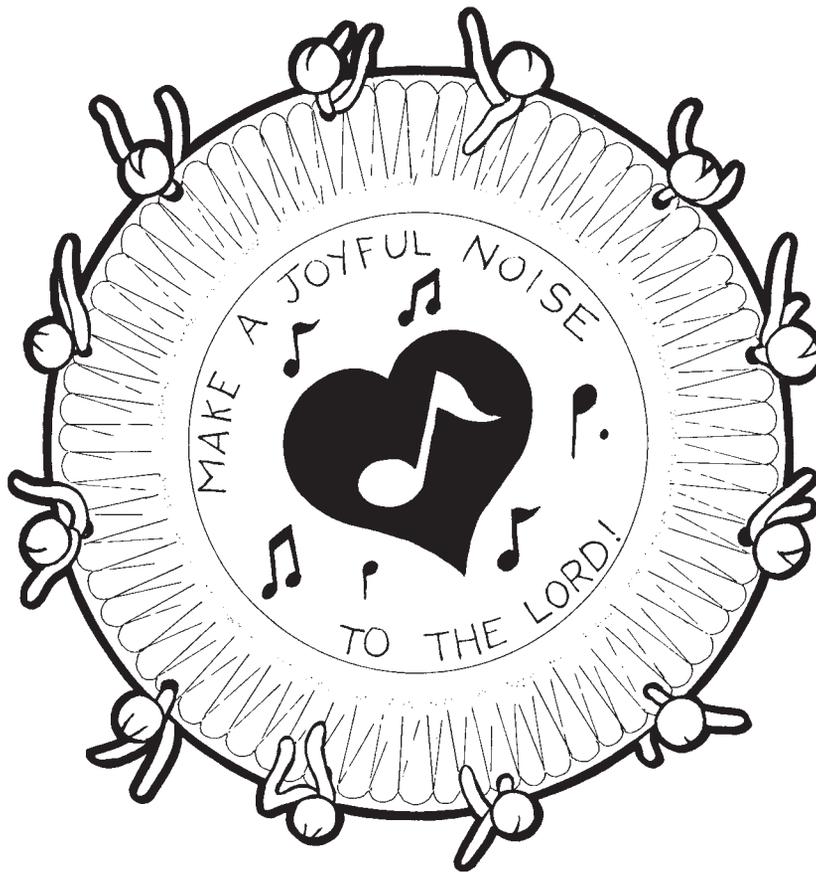
Grades 1–4

Materials:

Paper plates, 2 per student	Crayons or felt-tip markers
Paper punch	Yarn
Jingle-style bells, 12 per student	

FAITH CONNECTION

Read Psalm 150:1–6 and talk about the various instruments that are mentioned as ways of giving praise to God. Invite the children to make an instrument with which to praise God.



Directions:

1. Hold the faces of two paper plates together and punch twelve holes around the edges.
2. Use a piece of yarn to tie a bell at each hole.
3. Use crayons or markers to decorate.
4. Pray Psalm 150 together and make a joyful noise with the tambourines.

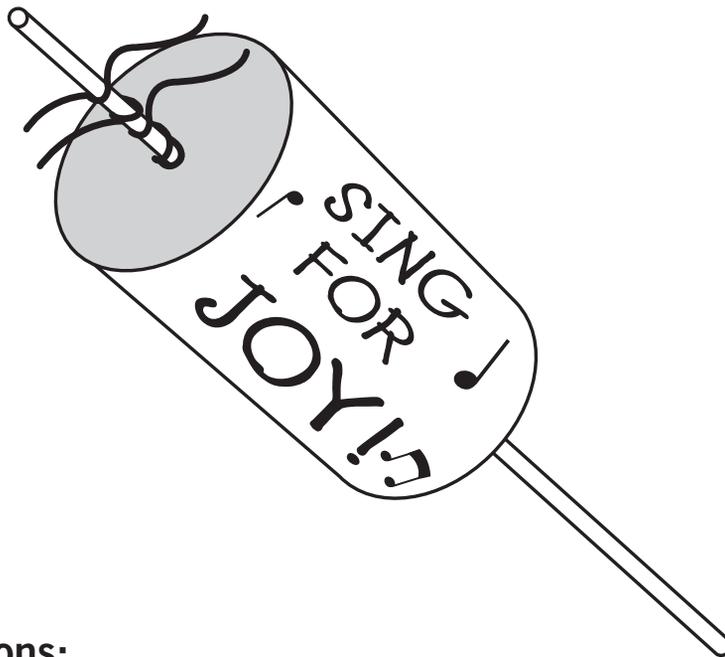


Rhythm Maracas

Grades 1–4

Materials:

Salt carton	Construction paper
Dried beans	Dowel rod
Tape	Optional: Yarn for decorating



FAITH CONNECTION

Read Psalm 150:1–6 and talk about the various instruments that are mentioned as ways of giving praise to God. Invite the children to make an instrument with which to praise God.

Directions:

1. Put a few dried beans in an empty salt carton. Tape the carton shut.
2. Cover the carton with construction paper.
3. For the handle, make a hole in the top and bottom of the carton and push a dowel rod through the carton.
4. Sing a happy song about God's goodness and play the maracas to accompany the singing.

Optional: Tie pieces of yarn on one end of the dowel rod.

Alternative: Invite the children to make rhythm maracas to add to the celebration of the Mass. Distribute two plastic cups and a handful of dried beans to each child. Guide the children to put the beans in one cup. Then have them place the second cup upside down on top of the first cup. Help the children tape the cups together. Then wrap the maracas in aluminum foil or plastic wrap. Invite the children to decorate their maracas and write their names on them. You might encourage the children to shake their maracas when singing songs during a lesson.