

Holiday Helps

Ideas for Elementary Classrooms

Use this whale container as a message holder and gift box to remind someone of God’s saving power and love!

Whale Surprise Box

What You’ll Need

- takeout boxes (1 per child)
- wiggle eyes (2 per child)
- tissue paper
- construction paper
- glue
- ribbon
- scissors
- small wrapped candy
- pencils or markers

What You Do

1. Provide each child with a closed takeout box and a sheet of colorful tissue paper. Cut triangular-shaped “fins” from construction paper
2. Set the box with the open end down in the center of a sheet of tissue paper. Lift the paper over the sides, bunching the excess tissue paper at the top of the box. Use a length of ribbon to secure the bunched tissue at the top of the box. When the box is laid on its side, the extra tissue paper forms the whale’s tail! Fold and glue the fins to the sides of the whale, near the tail. Glue on eyes and other cutout shapes, such as circles or a tongue. Cut a length of ribbon long enough to extend about 1" on both sides and across the bottom of the takeout box. Glue the ribbon to the box as shown, creating the whale’s “mouth.”
3. Help the children cut small “blowholes” in the tops of their whales. Place a small, wrapped piece of candy on a half sheet of blue or white tissue paper. Bunch up the paper around the candy and push the tissue (with the candy inside) into the blowhole. Write fun messages on slips of paper and hide them inside the spout of “water.” Use the whale to tell someone the story of Jonah. At the end of the story, ask the listener to lift the tissue paper out of the blowhole. The candy and surprise messages will be revealed, just as God revealed His surprising love to Jonah by caring for Jonah.

Another Idea!

This whale surprise box makes a fun Father’s Day gift. The message hidden inside the spout of water can read: “You’re one whale of a dad!”

