

Making a Family Cross

By Beth Gier

Work together to create a piece of art that will serve as a focal point for family devotional times, as well as tell a visual story about your family.

For

Young Family

Season

Fall

Needed

Large, unfinished wooden cross (found at craft stores) or materials to make your own cross shape—Styrofoam sheet or corrugated cardboard and utility knife or sharp scissors; hot glue gun; assorted small items that represent something important to your family, such as: buttons, shells, silk or dried flowers, ribbons, beads, small stones, small photos, seeds, charms, and so on.



Figure 1 <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

Prepare in Advance

- Gather supplies.
- Protect your work surface.
- Warm up the hot glue gun.

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin:

Creator God, help us to experience the joy of working together to create something meaningful and beautiful for our family. Bless our time together. Amen.

2. If you've chosen to make your own cross, cut a cross shape from the Styrofoam or corrugated cardboard. If you need a pattern, use cross clip art from your computer or search for it online.
3. Decorate your cross by gluing your collected items to it. **Be very cautious when using hot glue around young children.** Talk about what each item represents to your family as you attach it. For example, a shell might remind you of a family trip to the ocean, which perhaps could begin a conversation about water and baptism or the story of Jesus calming the sea. Let the Spirit be your guide!
4. When the cross is finished, decide together on a place to hang it.
5. Gather near your cross and say this prayer aloud:

God, we pray this cross will serve as a symbol of our family's love for one another and for you. We give thanks we are able to work together to create beautiful things. May our work be pleasing to you. Amen.