

## Eggshell Ornaments for Christmas Prophecies

This is a wonderfully adaptable project and can easily be used by different ages of children.

**Materials:** *(needed for each student)*

- 1 egg
- a button
- 2-3 inches trim that is of ¼ inch or less wide
- gold thread for hanging
- hot glue gun
- gold spray paint

Choose one of the Christmas prophecies and select something to go inside the egg that is a symbol of the prophecy or pictures the fulfillment of the prophecy. You could use a small picture from a used advent calendar, a picture cut from an old Christmas card, or a small ornament Christmas figure. You could also make your own picture or use Sculpey to model something to put inside the egg.

**Preparing the Eggs:** (Can be done by older students, but the teacher should prepare for younger ones)

- ◆ Rest a whole raw egg in one hand. Using a small sharp pointed pair of scissors pierce the side of the egg and cut an oval-shaped hole in one side. Embroidery, manicure or medical scissors work well. *(Hint—if you poke the egg in the center of the oval area, you will be able to cut out a little messiness in the cutting. This is a lot easier than it sounds.)*
- ◆ Pour out the egg. Wash out the shell. Let the inside dry out overnight. (Note: When planning one of these projects for a class, you might want to prepare your eggs this way at home for a few weeks ahead of time, saving the shells.)
- ◆ Use hot glue gun to fix a button to the pointed end of the egg. If you are planning to sit your finished egg on a table or windowsill you need to use a larger button for stability. If you egg will hang from a tree or window, a small button is fine.
- ◆ When glue is firm, spray paint the outside of the egg gold. It may take several sessions to get the entire surface evenly painted.
- ◆ Measure trim to fit the opening on the front of the egg. Use the hot glue gun to attach the trim. *(Hint—choose trim that bends around corners easily. If you choose a flat ribbon this will be difficult. Woven trims, rickrack etc are easier to work with. Make sure the trim won't melt with the hot glue.)*

**Project:**

1. Have students paint the inside of the shell a plain color. Poster or acrylic paints are fine. If you want a night sky effect, you may have the students sprinkle glitter over the wet paint for a starry effect. If you are mounting samples of gold frankincense and myrrh for wisemen, you may wish to choose different colors for each of three eggs. You can use colors that correspond to the special meaning of the three gifts. Allow to dry. *(Hint—if you are using these to illustrate a lesson, you may wish to start the lesson by having the students do the painting. Let the eggs dry while you are teaching, and return to the rest of the project at the end of the lesson.)*
2. Fill the egg with your choice of decoration. Use green playdough or clay to anchor advent calendar pictures or small figures in the bottom of the shell. Hot-glue figures to hang from the top of the shell. You can spray paint wooden discs and use the hot glue gun to fasten to the bottom of the shell. Use the wooden disc as a base to glue figures or other objects.
3. Finished eggs can be hung from a Christmas tree, or put on a shelf. Fasten hanging thread if you wish to hang from a tree.