

Make: A Model of the Lord's Bounty

I Kings 17:7-16: The Widow Feeds Elijah

Students will make a model to demonstrate the Lord's unending gifts.

Supplies Needed for Each Student

- strips of blank paper approx. 14" (36 cm) or longer
- quotation strip printed on colored paper (see attached sheet - for ease of handling, you may want them to be longer strips)
- tape
- pen or pencil

Teacher Preparation

If possible, photocopy the quotations onto both sides of the paper before cutting the strips apart. The activity will work if the paper is printed on one side, but the effect is more interesting if it is printed on both sides.



Completed Mobius Strip

Project Directions

1. Did your parents ever say to you (or to a jealous younger sibling) that just because they love someone else doesn't mean that they love you any less? Parents who have a second, third, fourth, etc. child don't love the first one any less, although they may have less time to spend on each one. Making a new friend doesn't mean you care less for your other friends.
2. Sometimes there isn't enough food or water for everyone in a certain part of the world—just as in the story of Elijah, there are droughts and famine. But that doesn't mean that the Lord's love for every person is measured out or that He doesn't have "enough" to go around.
3. Love is a spiritual quality—a gift from the Lord—and spiritual things don't end. For example, our spiritual lives will go on for eternity, even though our natural lives—and our physical bodies will end. Our spiritual gifts to each other also don't have to have boundaries although our natural gifts, those dependent on time and money, do. But a husband and wife can continue to love each other more and more deeply throughout their lives on earth and on to eternity.

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4. One model of something that is unending—eternal—is a Mobius (moe-bee-us) strip or Mobius band. It was discovered by two German mathematicians in 1858. We're going to make our own Mobius strips to model the Lord's unending bounty.
5. Have all students take one of the blank strips of paper and hold it straight out in front of them.
6. Now have students twist one end of the strip over once (see picture).
7. Keeping your hold on both ends so the strip stays twisted, bring the two ends together and tape them. You now have a Mobius Strip!
8. Take a pencil or pen and starting at the taped seam, draw a line along one edge of the strip. The line will return to the seam but on the "other side" of the strip. If students continue drawing, the line will eventually meet its origin point in an unending loop.
9. If a small insect were to crawl along the line, it would keep going in circles forever! So something that is finite—a piece of paper—has infinite possibilities, not unlike the oil and flour from which the widow made food for Elijah or like our own lives on this earth.
10. Finish the activity by having students form a Mobius strip out of their quotation strips. Read this longer version of the quotation aloud: The Lord has appeared of old...saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love..." (Jeremiah 31:3).

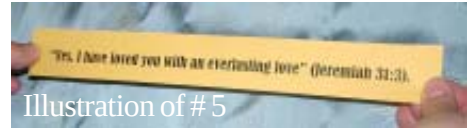


Illustration of # 5



Illustration of # 6



Illustration of # 7



Illustration of # 7



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