Learn by Doing

Choice Salt Clay Oil Lamp



Children will make simple models of lamps from salt ceramic, play dough or clay. Lamps will not be filled or lit, but you can add tissue "flames" to help children picture how they would have worked.

1. What does your family do when it gets dark in your home?
2. Today we use electric lights when it is dark. Long ago people did not have electricity, and so they burned candles, or made lamps out of clay. They filled the lamps with oil and put wicks in the lamps to burn the oil and light up the room.
3. We are going to make lamps like the ones the virgins carried when they went to meet the bridegroom.
4. Give each child a small ball of salt ceramic, play dough or clay to work with. Start by rolling it into a fat "sausage" on a table or between two hands, and then pinch each end so that it looks like a leaf.
5. Shape a handle at one end and a pouring spout at the other. Use thumbs to make a "well" in the clay.
6. *Optional*: Older children might like to press patterns on their lamps using toothpicks or forks.
7. Practice walking and holding lamps. Imagine what having a light in the dark would have felt like—and how excited the virgins must have been to see the bridegroom.
8. Put each lamp on a paper plate with the child's name on it. The lamps will air dry in a few days.

***Note*:** Lamps will not hold oil and are not designed to be lit.

Materials Needed for Each Child

A fist-sized lump of salt ceramic, play dough or clay to make a lamp (see recipes on p. 2); a paper plate; marker
Optional: toothpick or fork to decorate the lamp

Prepare in Advance

Purchase or make clay or playdough. Gather supplies.

New Church Concept Put into Practice

Unless the will and intellect, or affection and thought, or charity and faith, enter into and clothe themselves in works or deeds when possible, they are like puffs of air which pass away, or like mirages which fade and vanish. Furthermore, they remain for the first time in a person and become matters of life when the person puts them into practice and does them. See *Divine Love and Wisdom* 216



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Salt Clay Dough and Play Dough Recipes

Salt Clay Dough *(no cooking needed—easy to make in class)*

Ingredients and supplies

- 1 cup salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup water (add food coloring here if desired)
- ½ teaspoon powdered alum
- 1 teaspoon cooking oil (helps keep dough fresh and pliable)
- mixing bowl and spoon
- cup to measure ingredients

Directions

Mix all ingredients together in order given. Knead and shape as desired.

Play Dough *(make ahead of time)*

Ingredients and supplies

- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- ½ cup salt
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar
- food coloring
- saucepan
- spoon for stirring
- 1 cup flour
- cup to measure ingredients

Directions

1. Combine water, oil, salt, cream of tartar and food coloring in a saucepan. Heat until warm.
2. Remove from the heat and add flour.
3. Stir, then knead until smooth. The cream of tartar makes this dough last six months or longer.
4. Store the dough in an airtight container or freezer bag.



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