Learn by Doing



Choice You Clothed Me

The prodigal son’s nice clothes became dirty and worn out. When he returned to his family, his father gave him a new coat, sandals and a ring. Children will create their own garment to wear. Choose from a variety of materials and methods (see *You Clothed Me Methods,* p. 2). Make a sample before the lesson.

1. What do you think the prodigal son’s garment or robe looked like? What colors do you think it had?
2. Everyone is going to make a garment like the one the father gave to his son to celebrate him returning home safely to his family.
3. Show your sample to the children and discuss their options for decorating their own garments. Give the children their garments and offer help decorating as needed.
4. Allow garments to dry if needed. While they are drying, discuss the ways clothing helps us.
5. How do clothes help us? (Clothes protect us from the sun, wind, rain, cold, etc.)
6. Just as clothes protect our bodies, true ideas from the Lord’s Word protect our minds. Each thing you learn can be like a shirt, a dress, pants, or shoes for your spirit. For example, the idea that we should love others protects us from loving only ourselves and becoming very unhappy. Can you think of other ideas from the Word that protect us? (e.g. love the Lord with all our heart, love father and mother, do not tell lies, do not hurt marriage, do not want to have things that belong to others, etc.)
7. I am going to put your garments on each of you—just as the father did to his son in the story. As I put the garment on you, I will ask you to try to think of one idea from the Lord’s Word that helps protect your mind.

Materials Needed

Choose a garment from the options offered on p. 2, *You Clothed Me Methods.* The materials you will need are listed with each method.

Prepare in Advance

Gather materials and create a sample garment to show the class.





© 2022 General Church of the New Jerusalem

You Clothed Me Methods

Paper Bag Garment

Materials Needed: one paper grocery bag for each child; scissors for the teacher; *your choice*: crayons, markers, or paints; *optional*: stickers, feathers, trim, beads and glue for decorating



Do in advance

1. Turn paper grocery bags inside out so no writing shows on the outside.
2. Cut a straight line from the bag's bottom to the top, in the center of one of the wider sides.
3. Cut a hole for the neck.
4. Cut armholes.

Do in class

1. Give each child a garment, and show the children the choices for decorating their garments.
2. Allow time for paint and glue to dry if needed.

Recycled Shirts

Materials Needed: *Your choice* of T-shirts turned inside out so logos do not show *or* men's shirts with collar and sleeves cut off; fabric scissors for the teacher; fabric crayons, markers, or paints. *Hint*: put a piece of cardboard or plastic bag under the fabric layer being decorated to prevent the decorations from bleeding through when working with markers or paints.

Do in advance

1. Prepare shirts by cutting off collar and sleeves if needed. You do not need to finish the raw fabric edges after cutting off collars and sleeves.

Do in class

1. Give each child a shirt.
2. Show the children the choices for decorating their garment.
3. Allow time for paint to dry if needed.

Cloth Garment

Materials Needed: Rectangle of fabric in a plain color or with a simple design that is not too showy—fabric should be long enough to fit over a child's head and down to the waist or knees, approximately 33-42" (84-107cm) long and 12-16" (30-40cm) wide; fabric scissors for the teacher; *your choice*: crayons, markers, or paints; *optional*: feathers, trim, beads and glue for decorating

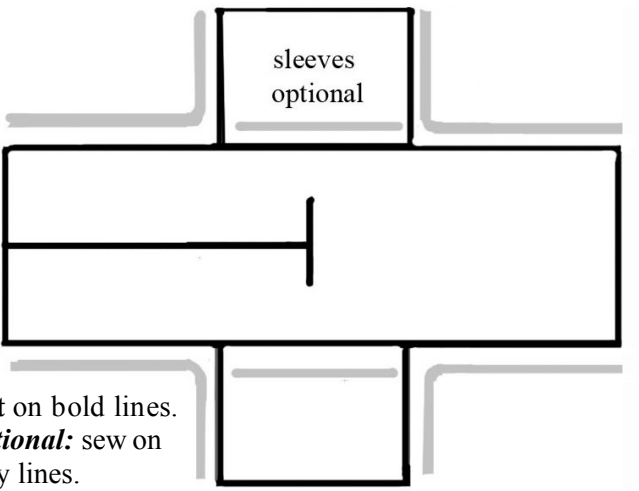
Hint: old sheets, pillow cases, tablecloths or inexpensive remnants work well for this project.

Do in advance

1. Gather supplies. Cut out garments using layout at right. It is not essential to sew the sides of the garment together.

Do in class

1. Give each child a garment.
2. Show the children the choices for decorating their garments.
3. Decorate. Allow time for paint to dry if needed.



Cut on bold lines.
Optional: sew on grey lines.

© 2022 General Church of the New Jerusalem