

CRAFT

Delightful Doorknobbers

Faith . . . is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

- Add a Bible verse or message using markers.
- Decorate with markers and other embellishments.

Note

These are a great way to spread the Word of God to neighbors, or as a reminder of God's great love for us.

You Need

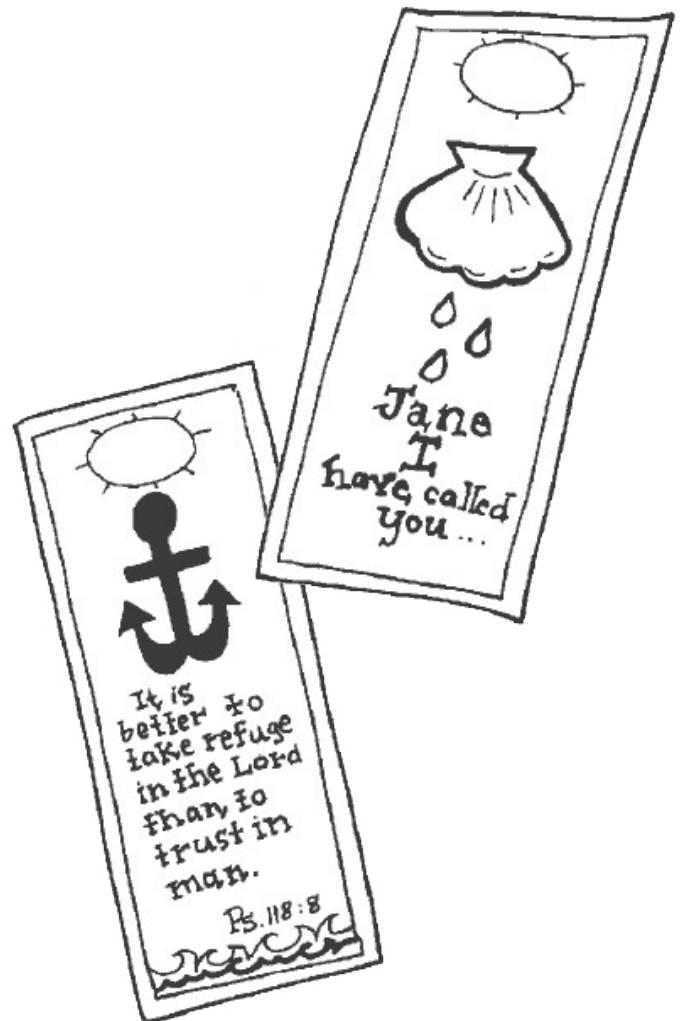
- Construction paper in a variety of colors (2 sheets per doorknobber, 1x 4.5" x 12" and 1x 4" x 11")
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Craft glue
- Markers
- Embellishments, such as ribbon, stickers, glitter or rickrack

Introduce the Craft

Read Ephesians 2:8

Do This

- Fold the smallest piece of construction paper in half.
- Draw one or two symmetrical shapes along the fold (such as hearts, crosses, crowns, flowers, or butterflies). Be sure to leave room at the top for the doorknob hole.
- Cut out the shapes.
- Unfold the paper and glue it to the larger sheet of contrasting color construction paper.
- Cut a hole at the top for the doorknob.



SNACK

S'more Snack Mix

Jesus Gives Bartimaeus Sight

Mark 10:46-52

You Need

- A zip-top bag for each child
- Mini marshmallows
- Chocolate chips
- Honey graham cereal
- Optional additional mix-ins: dried cranberries, coconut flakes, sunflower seeds
- Blindfold
- Chair

Introduce the Snack

Read Mark 10:46-52

Say The Bible talks a lot about faith, but we need to know what faith is. In the Bible, Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Having faith means knowing something is real, even when you can't see it. Blindfold child.

Ask Can you see me? **No.** Are you sure I'm here? **Yes.** How do you know? **Hear you, feel your hand.**

Say You know I'm here because you can hear me/feel my hand/etc. Then, quietly place a chair behind the child. I have a challenge for you. I put a chair here behind you. You didn't see the chair before I blindfolded you. You can't see it, hear it, or feel it now. I'm going to ask you to sit down. Do you think you're going to fall on the floor or sit in the chair? Allow the child to respond; then ask to sit down and take off the blindfold.

That was harder! You had to believe I had a chair here so you wouldn't fall. You had faith in something you couldn't see.

Today's Bible story is about a man named Bartimaeus, who was blind. Jesus gave Bartimaeus faith in a God he couldn't see. Jesus gives us faith. Bartimaeus couldn't trust God on his own, and he couldn't heal himself. We can't trust God on our own, either. Through His Word and in our Baptism, God gives us the gift of faith to believe in Him, even though we can't see Him. In faith, we confess our sin, receive God's forgiveness, follow Jesus and help and serve others every day, right now, right where we are. As we grow in our faith, we want to serve more and more and more!

Do This

Say There is a camp treat people make that everyone wants more and more and more of, so we serve more and more and more! Do you know what it is? S'mores! Today, we're making a snack like s'mores.

Demonstrate as you explain:

- Open your bag. Put in two scoops of cereal. Add a scoop of marshmallows and a scoop of chocolate chips. Those are the things you need to make s'mores: graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate. Yum!
- Now add other things, if you like. Close the bag. Shake it to mix everything.

Hold up your finished example and say, now you have S'more Snack Mix! We thank God for faith and for our food! Lead children in a prayer.

Say God gave Bartimaeus faith, and Jesus healed him. Jesus gives us faith and provides all we need! By faith, Bartimaeus followed Jesus. By faith, we follow Jesus and help others!

EXPERIMENT

Faith: A Strong Gift

Faith . . . is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

You Need

- Transparent tape
- Colored construction paper

Get Ready

- Practice to make sure you know how to make a paper cylinder that can hold the weight of the Bible—and how to explain to kids.
- Experiment to find out how many Bibles your cylinder can support. Try using four cylinders under the corners of your Bible. Now how many Bibles can you stack on the paper?

Introduce the Activity

Read Ephesians 2:8

Say The Bible verse tells us faith is a gift of God.

Do This

Today, I have some colored paper for you. As you hold a sheet of paper perpendicular to the ground and try to balance your Bible on top of it, say, Work to see if you can come up with a way to fold, bend, or shape the paper to make it strong enough to hold a Bible off the ground. I'll give you a few minutes to try.

After a few minutes, say, It looks like things aren't going so well. That's not surprising. The paper represents us. On our own, we are weak, like the paper.

We can't save ourselves or live as God commands. But what does our verse say? "Faith . . . is the gift of God!" Jesus gives us faith!

The paper isn't strong enough to hold up a Bible on its own. I'm going to give you a roll of tape. I'll give you some time to see if you can find a way to make the paper hold up the Bible using the tape. What you say next will depend on whether the children figured out how to make the paper hold up the Bible. Adapt as appropriate.

After a couple of minutes, say, There is one way you can shape the paper so it will hold up the Bible—or maybe even more than one Bible. As you explain, demonstrate with your own piece of paper, tape, and Bible. First, roll the paper into a cylinder. (Note: depending on your paper, you may need to fold the paper in half first.) Use a piece of transparent tape to hold the cylinder closed. Then you can set a Bible on top of the cylinder. The paper can't hold up the Bible on its own, and it can't even keep the cylinder shape by itself. It needs the tape. We can't have faith on our own. We need God's gift of faith. JESUS GIVES ME FAITH.

The Science Behind It

A cylinder or tube-shape is the strongest because the weight of the book is evenly distributed. Children may figure out how to make a square column. This may hold the weight of the Bible, but it will collapse much sooner than the cylinder. You can always try stacking multiple Bibles on one cylinder and on one square column for comparison. Also try using four cylinders to hold a large stack of Bibles!