

TIPS FOR BEING ON THE CRAFT TEAM

You're the color conductors, the imagination igniters, and the ultimate creative crew! Prepare to transform your Arts & Crafts station into a hub of discovery and expression as we Live It Out: discovering how to live and love like Jesus did! Your role is essential for helping kids visually process lessons, express themselves, and create tangible reminders of what they're learning.

SET THE SCENE FOR CREATION

Make your craft space inviting and inspire awe before the first brushstroke.

- **Prep Like a Pro:** Before kids arrive, have all materials laid out, organized, and ready to go! Pre-cut tricky shapes, pre-portion supplies, and have examples ready. A smooth start means more creative time!
- **Show & Tell:** Display a finished (or partially finished) example of the day's craft. This gives kids a clear vision and sparks their excitement. "Today, we're going to make awesome 'Kindness Catchers' like this one to help us Live It Out by spreading kindness!"
- **Create a Welcome:** Greet each child with a smile and an encouraging word as they arrive. "Welcome, artist! Ready to create something amazing today?"

GUIDE THEIR GENIUS, DON'T DICTATE

You're there to facilitate their creativity, not just show them how to follow directions.

- **Clear & Concise Instructions:** Demonstrate each step slowly and clearly, breaking down complex crafts into smaller, manageable parts. Use simple language that K-5th graders can understand. "First, we'll glue the heart here, like Jesus loved everyone!"
- **Encourage Personal Flourish:** While giving instructions, emphasize that it's their creation. "This is your art! Feel free to add extra glitter, use different colors, or make it unique to you – just like Jesus made each of us unique!"
- **Circulate and Connect:** Don't just stay at the front. Walk around, offer help, give specific praise, and ask questions. "Tell me about the colors you chose!" "How does this craft help us remember to Live It Out?"
- **Troubleshoot with a Smile:** Glue won't stick? Scissors won't cut? Respond with patience and a problem-solving attitude. "No worries, let's try this together!"

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MAINTAIN A SMOOTH + SAFE FLOW

A fun craft station is an organized and safe one.

- **Tool Time Rules:** Teach proper use of tools (scissors, glue guns if applicable, paintbrushes). "Remember, scissors always cut away from our fingers, just like we try to cut out unkind words from our lives!"
- **Mess Management:** Accidents happen! Have paper towels, wipes, and a designated "mess zone" ready. Teach kids how to clean up their own space as they go. "We're going to Live It Out by helping keep our creative space clean for everyone!"
- **Supply Station Savvy:** Show kids where to find extra supplies and where to put things away. Encourage them to return items so others can use them.
- **Patience is Key:** Some kids will finish quickly, others will take their time. Have a "fast finisher" activity ready (like a coloring sheet related to the theme, or a simple drawing prompt) so everyone stays engaged.

CONNECT ART TO THE "LIVE IT OUT" THEME

Every brushstroke, every piece of glitter, can reinforce the message of living and loving like Jesus.

- **The "Why" Behind the Art:** Before starting, briefly explain how the craft connects to the day's lesson or the "Live It Out" theme. "Today, we're making 'Courage Shields' because Jesus showed incredible courage, and we can Live It Out too!"
- **Prompt Reflection:** While they're working, ask questions that link their creation to the theme. "How does this craft remind you to be kind/brave/loving?" "What part of this helps you remember to Live It Out?"
- **Share Their Stories:** Encourage kids to briefly share their finished creations and what they mean to them. This validates their work and helps solidify the learning.
- **Celebrate Every Creation:** Every single craft is a masterpiece from a child who is learning to Live It Out. Celebrate their effort and their unique expression!

You are planting seeds of creativity and faith at Kids Camp! Your enthusiasm and guidance will help our campers Live It Out by transforming lessons into tangible, beautiful expressions of their journey with Jesus. Get ready to get messy, get creative, and have an absolute blast!