

Art Extra - Serve and Follow

Scripture Reference: John 12:20–33

Rain Sticks for God

Kids create their own rain sticks as they remember, "I'm growing up with Jesus."

Supplies:

- Paper towel roll, 1 per kid
- Shiny sticker paper
- Tape
- Markers
- Duct tape, various colors
- Construction paper, various colors
- Scissors
- Rice
- Beans
- Un-popped popcorn (corn kernels)
- Streamers (optional)
- Rain stick (optional)

Set Up:

If possible, borrow a real rain stick to share with students. Place supplies in a central location.

Instructions:

In the Bible story today, we heard about Jesus' call to serve and follow. Jesus and his disciples were leaders of the church, and we can bet that they traveled a long way to talk to and serve the people of God. They went on long journeys together and separately—and I bet sometimes they ran into a little rain. Today, we're going to make rain sticks to help us remember the trips that Jesus and his disciples took as they taught and grew up together. A rain stick looks like a staff on the outside, but when you tilt the stick, it sounds like it's raining! Demonstrate if possible.

1. Have kids cover 1 end of their roll/tube with colored duct tape.
2. Fill part of the tube (no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full) with beans, rice and un-popped popcorn kernels.
3. Add duct tape to seal the open end.
4. Invite kids to use the materials available to decorate the outside of their rain sticks. Encourage kids to write words like "serve," "follow," "Jesus," and "love" on their rain sticks.

When you use your rain stick, be reminded of Jesus' call to serve. We're all on long journeys of faith together. Just like the disciples, I'm growing up with Jesus. And so are you!

If you have less time. . .

Fill and seal the rain sticks prior to kids' arrival, then allow kids to decorate their sticks to finish.

If you have more time. . .

Make rain storms with your rain sticks. Gather kids and have them move their rain sticks around, creating storms from a light rain to a heavy thunderstorm.