

Making a Banner for Christmas



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An Intergenerational Activity

Several weeks before Advent, plan an intergenerational event to create a banner for the weeks of Advent and the Christmas season. To enlarge the designs to create applique pieces, photocopy this sheet onto a sheet of acetate, project on a wall using an overhead projector, then trace patterns on newsprint.

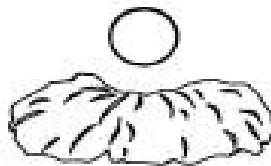
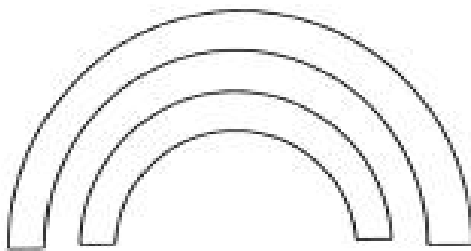
When complete, hang the completed banner in a worship area or make the pieces of the banner with velcro strips on the back and use the banner as a large Advent calendar, adding pieces Sunday by Sunday until Christmas arrives.

Suggestions for banner making:

- Before beginning, discuss what you want to communicate. What will the banner say about your faith?
- It is best to use symbols and simple words.
- Because the banner is an expression of love for God, make it as beautifully crafted as possible. Use velvet, denim, upholstery fabric or drapery. Also consider poplin, twill, satin and polyester/rayon blends. Avoid felt as a background as it will droop, sag and fade.
- It is best to sew (rather than glue) the symbols and words on the banner. (Glue has a short life span.) If older children and youth are involved with the sewing, younger children may participate by tracing and cutting out symbols. All ages should be involved in helping with the design.

Suggested colours for pieces:

Hay—yellow; manger—brown; head of Christ—purple, bottom arc—red; second arc—yellow; third arc—green, fourth arc—indigo. If desired, apply glitter or sequins to make the rainbow reflect light.



This design pulls together two important symbols—God’s promise to be with us (the rainbow from the Old Testament) and God’s promise to live among us (the manger from the New Testament).

