Why Crafts?
At Festival Crafts, you use fun, unique crafts to help kids learn the Bible stories and Take-Home Points. Craft making engages hands and hearts so that God’s Word sticks. Kids explore God’s Word, grow in faith, and have fun! When you and your helpers know the daily Bible stories and the Take-Home Points, you connect your craft with God’s Holy Word. These crafts are “kid approved.” Kids who tested the crafts loved working on them.

How Does Festival Crafts Work in VBS?
Festival Crafts is one of five sites kids will visit after Opening. They’ll travel in Teams (groups of six) with their Team Leader. You could have five Teams (thirty kids plus their Leaders) at your site during each 20-minute rotation. Team Leaders assist you as needed. Check with your VBS Director about rotation sizes so you have enough materials and the right number of craft helpers.

What Do Craft Leaders Do?
Craft Leaders gather materials and prepare crafts for each lesson. They instruct the kids on how to make the craft. Use “Putting It All Together” in this leaflet and your study of the daily Bible story and the Take-Home Point to connect the craft to the lesson’s theme. Your clear witness to Jesus, our victorious Savior and King, makes a difference in the hearts and lives of kids. You and the Team Leaders help the kids complete the craft. Provide a variety of craft supplies to engage the imaginations and creativity of kids. Many churches have a supply closet or craft stash with great resources to offer.

What You Need: Supplies, Materials, and Resources
The resources in the Festival Craft Leader Guide make it easy to be an effective Site Leader.

Check out the instructions in Lessons 1-5. Bonus craft ideas are on the back page. Learn to “Share the Take-Home Point,” using the directions found on the page for Lesson 2.

Supply Lists are listed in this Festival Craft Leader Guide. Calculate what you will need for all five lessons using the Master Supply List for Crafts on the Director CD. These crafts and some supplies are available at vbs.cph.org. Use local sources to complete your list.

Ask your Director for materials. This includes poster sets for the Bible story and materials on the Director CD, including Leader Devotions, the Decorating Guide, a detailed job description, signs with the Take-Home Points, and other resources.

Ask your Director for a Majestic Music Passalong CD/ DVD and a CD player. Play the great VBS music while kids work. Play “Victory’s Won” (Track 1) for transition music as kids arrive and leave.

Your Advance Planning
Do these things before VBS starts and be a step ahead:

Pray for the kids and VBS staff at Mighty Fortress! Know that we’re praying for you at CPFH!
Read the Bible stories, Take-Home Points, and Leader Devotions (Director CD) for each lesson.
Gather craft supplies with the Master Supply List.
Recruit volunteers. The Crafts site is a popular place!
Ask for donations to stretch your craft budget. Ask your congregation early on to donate any and all supplies.
Attend training with Mighty Fortress volunteers.

Things to Do Every Lesson
Arrive early to ensure everything is in place for your lesson. Get an update on the number of kids expected.
Set out craft supplies. The Master Supply List helps.
Review how to introduce and demonstrate the craft.
When kids arrive, introduce yourself and your helpers. Show a finished craft and give directions.
As each group leaves, prepare for the next group.
At the end of your time, clean your area and get ready for the next session. Check supplies.

Your Site Setup and Decorating
Set up tables and chairs for thirty-five people. Set up an extra table for supplies.

The Festival Crafts site uses DIY Tournament Tents; Medieval Table Covers; DIY Shield Centerpieces with the Shield Decor; wicker baskets and DIY GoBletts to hold craft supplies; and features a horse from the Decorating Posters. Ask your Director for printed copies of the decorating ideas on the Director CD. Get a copy of the Festival Crafts Sign from the Director CD for your site. Leaders can inspire kids’ creativity by wearing a medieval costume. Post the Bible Story Posters and the five Take-Home Point Signs for easy connections for the kids.

Adapting for Special Needs
Kids with special needs are very welcome at VBS! The role of the Craft Leader is to give enough support so the student can accomplish the craft, but no more than is needed. Kids with special needs can and should work alongside their peers.

Ask your Director about kids with special needs enrolled in VBS. Consider whether any modifications are needed to the five crafts. Keep these as minimal as possible. Plan to provide one-on-one support. Encourage students to work as independently as they are able. A Craft or Team Leader should be available to support the students with step-by-step directions, additional explanations, assistance with materials, or encouragement. Check if the students are satisfied with the progress and the outcome.

Supply List

Mighty Fortress Sand Art board, 1 per person
Paper clips or toothpicks
Spoons
Sand (sold separately) & containers for sand
Picture hanger or magnet, 1 each (optional)
Tape or glue (optional)
Sandwich zipper bags
Finished sample craft

Make It!
Gather supplies. Put your name on the back of the craft.

Use a paper clip or toothpick to pull up part of the sand art board, exposing the sticky, die-cut shapes. Start with smallest area and/or lightest colors first. Hold the board over a container to catch excess sand. Apply sand in the color of your choice on the revealed adhesive section. Continue to expose more sticky shapes, and apply colored sand until entire board is covered. Tape or glue a picture hanger or magnet to the back. Put it in a zipper bag for the ride home.

Putting It All Together
Welcome kids as they arrive. Introduce yourself and any volunteers working in your area.

SAY: (Cup hands around mouth.) HEAR ME! HEAR YE! SHOUT! GOD IS MIGHTY! TEAMS: (Point up.) SHOUT! GOD IS MIGHTY! (Make V with fingers.) THE VICTORY IS WON! SAY: The wall around Jericho looked big and intimidating too! On your own, you cannot knock them down. But God is mighty! He sent His Son, Jesus, to fight the battle and win the victory against your biggest enemies—sin, death, and the devil. He promises to be with you and fight for you now too. He has the power to knock the fears out of your lives, so that you can live victoriously in His strength, power, and love.

At home, when you see your sand art, thank God for sending Jesus to win the victory over your enemies. Or give your Mighty Fortress Sand Art to someone who is afraid or has troubles. Tell the person about our mighty God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. That’s something to shout about!

Share the “Make It!” instructions and any additional instructions with the students. Point out the supplies, and let the kids create. Craft Leaders and Team Leaders help and encourage individuals as needed.

Mighty Fortress Sand Art

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57