

FOR GIRLS Like YOU

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023



MEET
Brooklyn

A GIRL LIKE YOU
WHO ADDS

Sew **MUCH LOVE**
TO EVERYTHING SHE CREATES!

HAPPY
**HANDMADE
HOLIDAYS**

Our readers share their
favorite crafted gifts

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SEW IT! BOW IT!

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We Wish You a Merry Christmas!

As this issue celebrates the holiday season with stories of making homemade gifts and happy memories of giving, the Pitts Sisters want to share their holiday thoughts and wishes for you!

Hi friends! This year has been so amazing! One of my favorite memories was our high school soccer team's tournament trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee. I have made so many new friends this year and have been growing in my relationship with Christ so much. I wish you all the same—and a very **Merry Christmas!**

-Olivia

JOY

This year has been a full year of fun and joy! One of my favorite memories was going to the Opryland Hotel in Nashville with my friends to celebrate our graduation of 8th grade. It was a blast because we got to go to the Soundwaves water park the next morning! Christmas is getting close, and I am so excited to celebrate Christmas again because it's one of my favorite times of year. So, with that being said ... I wish you girls a **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

-Camryn

This year flew by, and I can't believe it's almost over! I spent a lot of time in Dallas. It was good for my heart to be back somewhere I used to call home. One of my favorite moments was working at Pine Cove Christian Camps and getting to walk alongside girls a few years behind me. I watched God do incredible things, and it really spurred me on to finish this year well. As we wrap up 2023, I am filled with gratitude for all that God has done. His beauty is all around, and I've learned to slow down to capture it. I pray you see His beauty in the newness of what is to come and the reality of what has been.

Merry Christmas.

-Alena

A made with love gift that I have received is a picture scrapbook from my family! It has photos of me since I was a little baby all the way to 16! There were encouraging and loving notes from all the people who love me in there. This has inspired me to make something like this for my grandma for Christmas! I hope you have a chance to make something special for someone special to you! And that you have a **Merry Christmas!**

-Kaitly

Wishing you a happy handmade Christmas and a great new year of giving to others!

**ALL YOUR FRIENDS at
FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU**

WHERE IT'S AT

Made with Love

FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU

November/December 2023

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Sew Much Love

Meet Brooklyn—a girl like you who loves to sew and make things for everyone she loves—at Christmas, and all through the year!

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Handmade Happiness

We're hoping for a happy handmade holiday after reading all of your stories of favorite crafted gifts given and received!

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Crafting Friendship

Calyn Daniel wrote the book ... on friendship! This Christmas, she shares her ideas on how crafting together helps build stronger friendships.

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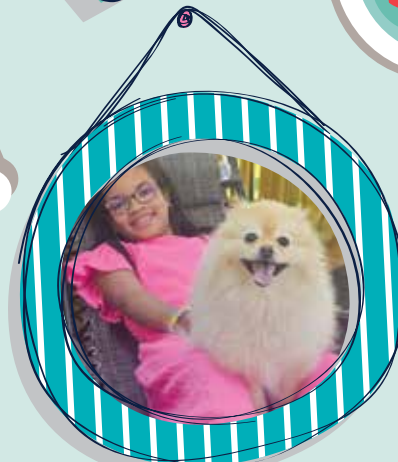


The Gift of Friendship

God has helped me through all of my life. I have had some surgeries and seizures, and my favorite verse is:

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." PHILIPPIANS 4:13 This is a picture of me and my friend Caroline. We have been friends since kindergarten. I love her and am glad Jesus gave me her as a friend.

-Anniston, 14



Christmas Wish List

Merry Christmas from my dog Cuddles and me! My dog Cuddles is a Pomeranian. She loves eating, barking, playing, going on walks, and chasing me. She is always getting into mischief. One time, she tore off part of the cover to the dictionary! This is Cuddles' Christmas list:

Toys, Kibble, Treats, A friend,
Something to chew

Merry Christmas **FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU!**

-Emilee, 9 and Cuddles, 2

Sunshine & Rainbows

I drew a picture of a rainbow and the sun because I love all of God's creation and what He does for us. I love **FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU**, all the crafts inside it, and how it talks about Jesus our Savior. I also like all the **FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU** devotional books. I got one for my birthday, and I love it!

-Virginia, 9

SPRINKLES

SPRINKLE JOY. SPRINKLE FUN. SPRINKLE BEAUTY.



So Sweet!

I love poetry and singing. I feel happy and excited when I write poems. I wrote a poem about candy because I like candy, and I decided to submit this so I could share it with you!

CANDY

Candy, candy, oh so sweet,
Little sized but what a treat.
Circular or even square,
It's all candy, no one cares.

Candy, candy, what to pick,
Chocolate ones or some to lick.
Bubble gum is way too sticky,
Getting out of hair is very tricky!

My favorite is a Reese's cup.
I see one I eat it up.
But black licorice is not good,
I wouldn't eat one if I could.

A sweet tooth is not the best,
Sometimes it will need a rest.
Too much candy is not great,
Soon you'll have a tummy ache.

-Gracie, 10



I've Got Butterflies

I have been reading the **FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU** for years! I especially love the craft section. Creating things is one of my favorite hobbies. I want everyone who is reading this to know that God loves you sooo much!

-Harper, 12

Fun Facts!

I love **FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU** and I'm so excited to be in this magazine! Fun facts about me: I have been on the front page of a magazine, seen Carrie Underwood in real life, and realized that I'm a great cook ... especially when it comes to eggs. I live in New Madison, a small town in Ohio, home of Olympic star Clayton Murphy. I'm someone who is a true girl ... but still making mistakes on the way. I thank **FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU**

for giving me a chance to share about myself. I would like to tell everyone that you aren't alone. God is always with you!

-Adeline, 10



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! We'd love to showcase your paintings, poems, songs, stories, drawings, photographs, anything! And we'd like to see you! Email your entries and photo to sprinkles@forgirlslikeyou.com!

I AM



AVA LEIGH
11 years old
Funny. Social. Generous.



#Forever Changed!



Family Fun Time



Favorite vacation ever!



My cuddly and adorable Ginny!

A GIRL LIKE YOU
AVA LEIGH

A Girl Like You

Tell us about your family. My mom, Angie, homeschools my brother and me. My brother's name is Evan, and he is 8. Evan loves learning about World War II and likes to play army. My dad, Taylor, plays on the worship team at my church.

Tell us about your pets! I have two cats, one is my brother's and one is mine. Their names are Ginny (mine) and Scratch. They are so sweet and social and cuddly and adorable.

What are your favorite hobbies? Gymnastics, making videos, acting, dancing and singing.

What do you want to do or be when you grow up? I want to be a gymnast, a mom, a dancer, and a singer.

What is something you want all girls to know about God? That God is ALWAYS with you and even if you feel like He doesn't love you, He will love you for life, girl!

What are three things you are grateful for today? That we have all that we need, and we live in the best neighborhood with the best people, and **FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU!**

What is something that nobody would ever guess about you? I take six dance classes and I'm on level 7 in gymnastics.

What is one of your favorite memories? Going to Paris, France with just my grandparents for three weeks last year. It was the best trip ever!

Do you have an unusual talent or ability? I am very flexible, and my body can bend in really weird ways. I am also a speed reader.

Where is your happy place? The dance studio and my room.

What are some things on your bucket list? Meet Salish Matter, Sofie Dossi and the Pitts sisters!

What has God been showing or teaching you lately? He is teaching me how to be a great leader. I am

taking a class on leadership, and I am realizing that I have a desire to lead in some way.

What is one of the coolest things you have ever seen or done? I went to the top of the Eiffel Tower. The elevator on the side was made of glass and I could see below me as we ascended, which was a bit scary.

Is there a question you'd like to answer that we didn't ask? What is your favorite show? *Dance Moms!*

FIVE FUN FACTS ABOUT ME!

1. I am good at swimming.
2. I'm very flexible.
3. I am good at baking and cooking.
4. I have a great memory.
5. I love babysitting.

GIFTS TO REMEMBER

A favorite gift that I have received is a shadow box that my grandpa made me (he's a carver). My name is written in it with lights. When you turn it on, my name lights up the inside of the box. A gift I have made is a booklet for my mom that we add to every year for Mother's Day. My dad, brother and I write notes and put pictures from the year in it, and my mom loves it.



My Favorites

Color: Pastel colors and earthy colors
Singer/Band: Olivia Rodrigo and Taylor Swift

Book: Babysitters Club and A Series of Unfortunate Events books
Food: Mac and cheese and PIZZA!

Thing To Wear: Ripped jeans or shorts and athletic tops and t-shirts

Vacation: Paris
Class in School: My cake-decorating class
Bible Verse: John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

GOD'S girl

WYNTER'S
WORDS

DEVOTIONALS & MORE TO GROW YOUR FAITH



Perfectly Imperfect

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12

I was never perfect as a little girl. And I didn't suddenly become perfect when I became an adult and then a mom. I'm the mom who ...

-  Buys a kit to create our own gum, only to burn it in the microwave.
-  Takes three days and a slew of YouTube videos to figure out how to turn rubber bands into a beautiful work of art and a colorful accessory using a Rainbow Loom.
-  Tries to bake an edible cookie bowl. I can't even think of the proper words to describe how horrifically this ended. Pure chaos as a party of 10 girls tried to scoop ice cream into a pile of burnt crumbs.
-  Paints nails ... and cuticles.
-  Always has to do double the amount of suggested flour to keep the homemade play dough from becoming a permanent placemat.
-  Forgets to turn on the oven light when making a Shrinky Dink, causing us to entirely miss the point—the shrinking.
-  Successfully bakes reindeer cupcakes but then arrives too late to the class party, missing the unveiling and enjoyment of my work.

Thankfully, my daughters never expected me to be perfect. Even better, God doesn't expect us to be perfect. He knows that we are going to make mistakes and that we often try things without knowing exactly what we're doing.

It might not seem like it now, but one day you will look back and laugh at your mistakes and the things that went wrong. I've spent enough time with girls your age to know that one of Satan's greatest tricks is to try to make you feel like you are not good enough, or smart enough, or strong enough. I've got good news for you. God never expected you to be perfect. That's why He sent Jesus. As you press into Jesus—as you grow in Him and as you become more like Him—God will graciously give you the very perfection only He can give. He will make your “not enough” more than it could ever be without Him!



From *I Am Yours*
by Wynter Pitts.
Courtesy of
Harvest House
Publishers.

DEAR God.

Thank You that no matter what mistakes I make in life,
You don't expect me to be perfect. Thank you for Jesus, who was perfect for me and is
an example of what it looks like to be perfect. As I grow in Him, will You grow me and
help me to be more like You? May Your grace always be my motivation.
In Jesus' name—AMEN

GO Girl!

WITH JACKIE MARUSHKA



GO Girl!

Gifts of Love

The holidays are a special time for making memories with family and friends, celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas, and often we do this through expressions of gratitude and gifts.

While it's fun to save your allowance to buy gifts for people you love, it can also be fun to make your gifts!

Some of the most special gifts I've ever received, and given, are the ones someone made for me and the ones I made to give to others. I especially like making gifts that remind my favorite people of times we spent together.

A good place to start is to think of the person you'd like to make something for. **Then think of what makes them happy.** Maybe they like flowers, pinecones or group photos, or maybe there is a memory of a time you spent together that you could paint on a smooth rock which could be used as a paperweight.

One Christmas I made ornaments of paper cut to look like snowflakes and put photos of myself with each of the people I was giving them to. These gifts are simple, but I believe it is the time and thoughtfulness that make the difference.

Another thing you can do that is very simple is write a note in a card you make. Some people pick a Bible verse that reminds them of the person receiving the gift and others write a prayer. These gifts, especially when the homemade card is either colored or has artwork you think the person will like, will show you are paying attention to

the details about who they are. Many people appreciate that—I know I do!

Another idea is a personalized bookmark. These are nice gifts for the holidays, but also work during any time of the year. They can use the bookmarks for reading books, Bible studies, journals and more!

Another idea: Find a coffee mug at a yard sale to decorate with a Scripture, personal message or artwork. You can easily mark on most coffee mugs with permanent-ink markers available at most craft stores. If you want to go a step further, you can fill the mug with candy.

Any of these ideas are fun and will be appreciated because you took the time to think about the person and make the gift unique to them.

If you are having a hard time deciding what to craft, ask God for some inspiration. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down

from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." JAMES 1:17

And finally, before you give the gift to the person you've spent time making this for, say a prayer that they will receive it as the blessing you intended it to be. And that **they know they are special and that the gift will bring joy whenever they use it or look at it.**

Remember though, regardless of what you create, if you put your heart into it, it'll be just perfect!





JOKES. FUNNIES & MORE!

Here's a funny from Naomi!

What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet?

Supplies!

What did THE PUMPKIN SAY AFTER THANKSGIVING?

Good-pie everyone!

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

Orna-mints!

WHERE CAN YOU FIND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR YOUR KITTY?

In a cat-alog.

WHAT DO CHRISTMAS TREES DO BEFORE THEY GO OUT?

They spruce up!

What is a dentist's favorite Arctic animal?

A Molar-bear!

Once I tried TO PAINT THE SKY,

but I blue it!

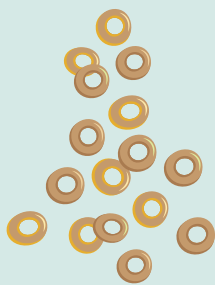
GIGGLE GIFTS

HERE ARE SOME HILARIOUS "GIFTS" YOU CAN MAKE—FOR LOL GIVING!

Place each "gift" in a small sandwich bag, fold a piece of card stock over the top and staple. Then design the label with markers or in any creative way you like!



Candy Cane Puzzle
a candy cane broken into several pieces



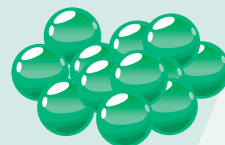
Donut Seeds
a handful of Cherrios



Air Guitar Strings
nothing!



Original iPad
a small notebook with a googly eye glued to the cover



Grinch Pills
a bunch of any green round candy

SEND US YOUR FAVORITE LOLS! What jokes make you laugh? Have a great riddle to stump us? Have you drawn a cartoon you'd like to share? Anything funny at all—we want to hear from you! Email LOL@forgirlslikeyou.com!



TRUE

girl

WITH **DANNAH GRESH**

TRUE GIRL

Unwrap Your Gift of Giving

If you're anything like me, I love receiving a thoughtful gift. But you know what I love even more? Giving one! There's just something about taking the time to make something special for someone special. The great thing is, whether you're a crafty gal or a baking queen, you can explore the art of gift giving using the *gifts* God gave you!

THE POWER OF A HEARTFELT GIFT

You know what's super cool? Making someone smile with a gift that you put your heart and soul into. That's the secret sauce to gift giving—it's all about love and care! When you give a present that you've poured your creativity into, it's like wrapping up a piece of your heart and sharing it with someone special.

GIFT-GIVING IDEAS TO SPARK YOUR IMAGINATION

- **Customized Cards:** You don't have to be Picasso to create a beautiful card. Draw a fun picture, write an encouraging message, or add a splash of color with markers and stickers.
- **Baked Treats:** Who can resist the smell of freshly baked cookies or another homemade sweet treat? Whip up some desserts, decorate them with love, and deliver them with a smile.
- **Crafty Creations:** Create friendship bracelets, paint rocks with inspiring messages, or even design your own t-shirts. The possibilities are endless!
- **Garden Goodies:** If you have a green thumb (unfortunately, I don't!), share the love of nature with potted plants or hand-picked flowers. Attach a sweet note to make it extra special.
- **Music Mix:** Make a playlist of your favorite Christ-centered songs. It's like giving the gift of His joy all wrapped up in music notes!

Remember, being creative with gift giving isn't just about making your friends and family smile (though that's amazing). It's also about showing God's love to the world! By sharing your talents and creativity, you're spreading His kindness and warmth.

THE JOY OF GIVING BACK

You can also use those gift-giving abilities for something extra special. Why not join forces with a charity or local organization to make gifts for or give gifts to those in need. Whether it's making care packages for the homeless, crafting blankets for sick children, or collecting toys for underprivileged kids, you can make a big difference with your creativity. Reach out to your church or community group and ask if there's a project you can get involved in. Together, you can help spread God's love and hope, one gift at a time!

Happy crafting, happy giving! I pray your heart is filled as God fills the hearts of others through you.

—Shani McKenzie
True Girl Lead Teacher



TrueGirl

Share this great idea with your mom for a gift idea this Holiday Season. We may have just what you're looking for. Go to mytruegirl.com/ subscription and check out our True Girl Subscription Box!





GOES INTO EVERY
LITTLE THING **Brooklyn**
MAKES WITH HER HANDS—
AND GIVES WITH HER HEART!

A Note from Mom

My daughter, Brooklyn, did not get her love for sewing from me! She learned how to sew from watching others sew. **Over time, Brooklyn discovered the joy of creating things and giving those gifts to people she cares about.**

Throughout her life, God has developed beautiful gifts in Brooklyn. It's happened through our kind neighbor and friend, Jodi, who has spent countless hours teaching her about sewing. It's happened from moments of frustration when a project didn't work out, to moments of joy when they did. **It's happened from learning that the Lord calls us to love others and doing just that by sewing things with love and giving them to people.**

Brooklyn has brought so much joy to my life. She has a compassionate heart and is always asking me if I need help with folding laundry or anything. When she hurts someone's feelings, she apologizes and she's quick to forgive others too. Brooklyn loves quality time, is joyful, and makes me laugh. Brooklyn makes you feel like you matter when you're with her—it's like time stops because she is fully listening and enjoying her time with you.

She sows and sews love wherever she goes, and I am so grateful to be able to be her mom!



A few things
Brooklyn has
made.



Hi! I'm BROOKLYN

**... AND I LOVE MAKING THINGS! I HOPE
YOU'LL FIND SOMETHING IN MY STORY THAT
YOU'D LOVE TO MAKE TOO.**

A few years ago, I wanted to know how to make things after seeing a friend handknit a beautiful blanket. Later, a friend showed me how to crochet and I started doing that a lot too. Next, I wanted to try sewing, so I saved my money and bought a beginner sewing machine. I loved it, so for Christmas I asked for a more advanced one and I have used it ever since.

If you want to start sewing, or want to get better at it, it may help to find someone (an adult, parent, friend, etc.) who can learn with you or help you. For example, my neighbor, Mrs. Jodi, is an amazing seamstress. She has helped me through a lot of projects and I am very grateful for her.

One of the things I love about sewing is getting to create things, but my favorite part is when I finish. I feel so accomplished! When I give a gift I created to someone, I love seeing the look on their faces when they receive it. It makes me feel so good inside, and Christmas is a great time to give, so, let's start crafting!

Brooklyn, 12
Funny. Joyful. Creative.

MY NAME

Brooklyn means beautiful babbling brook. My parents both liked the name, but remember how they came up with it differently. My mom thinks they found Brooklyn in a book of baby names, and my dad thinks they heard my name in a movie!

MY FAMILY

I have two siblings, Bates and Gracie, and my mom and dad. And, I have a dog named Bristol. I love having quality time and going on road trips with them. I also love doing our Friday Pizza & Movie Night!

MY DOG

Bristol, a HUGE Rhodesian Ridgeback, just turned 3. She is very playful but is also protective and likes to make sure our family is safe! Food is the way to her heart, especially cheese sticks!

WHEN I GROW UP...

I want to be a pro ballet dancer, start my own sewing business, and be a nurse. All at one time.

I WANT ALL GIRLS LIKE ME TO KNOW THAT ...

God cares, values and loves you deeply.
He knows you're special.

TODAY I AM GRATEFUL FOR ...

My family (including my dog)
My awesome best friend
God's grace

MY HAPPY PLACE

In Destin, Florida, boogie-boarding with my cousins.

MY UNIQUE TALENT

I alter my family's clothes when they need me to, and sew things like zipper pouches, stuffed animals, blankets, clothes, pillowcases, headbands, scrunchies, and many more things! I also sewed a baby dress for one of my favorite teachers who was getting ready to have a baby!

ON MY BUCKET LIST

To work at Hobby Lobby, go to Keystone, Colorado again, be a successful pointe dancer, and see moose and whales. Also, to hold a koala, and to go to a Taylor Swift concert.

LATELY, GOD HAS BEEN SHOWING ME

That talking to God strengthens your relationship with Him.

COOLEST THING I'VE EVER DONE

White water rafting in Colorado! It was fun and crazy!



Favorites!

Color: Bubble gum pink and teal
Song: "Old Friends" by Ben Rector

Singers: Taylor Swift, Ben Rector,
 Phil Wickham and Matt Maher

Book: *A Long Walk to Water* by
 Linda Sue Park

Food: Key lime pie!

Thing To Wear: Pajamas!

Vacation: Beach trips with my
 family

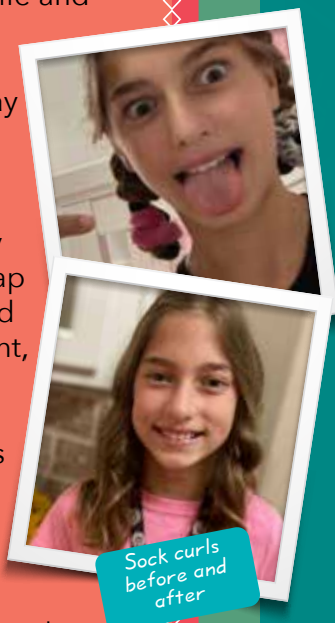
Class in School: Math

Bible Verse: Jeremiah 17:7

"BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO
 TRUSTS IN THE LORD, WHOSE
 CONFIDENCE IS IN HIM."

Five Fun Facts About Me!

1. I'm training to be **en pointe** in ballet.
2. I've moved five times in my life and have lived in Colorado, Virginia and South Carolina.
3. I was born on April Fool's Day and it sometimes lands on Easter.
4. I enjoy doing fun styles on people's hair and curling my own. I learned that if you wrap each side of your hair around a sock and sleep on it at night, you'll have beautiful curls when you wake up!
5. I am up for trying new things like new foods, sewing projects, jumping in the pool when it's freezing, hiking and exploring new places! But, I also enjoy being at home and spending time with my family and friends or doing creative projects.



Sock curls
before and
after



Let's GET CRAFTY!

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE FUN THINGS
 I'VE MADE THAT YOU CAN TRY TOO!

(For complete instructions, go to
forgirlslikeyou.com/BrooklynCrafts)



SCRAPPY COLLAGE

I love this idea for my room—a pretty board to collect things I love that I can look at every day! I learned about this in a sewing book and then added my own ideas to it. My mom helped me with some of it as well, so it was fun to do together! I love that it is unique and that I get to pick a variety of fabrics to put on the board. It's also fun to choose photos and verses to include that are special to me.

POMPOM CHRISTMAS GARLAND



STAR CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

I'm excited to hang this pretty new ornament on our tree this year. It's so fun to make something beautiful that everyone can enjoy. This is my first time making the star, and I learned about it on a beginner's craft page! I have sewed designs on other items, but not this specific one. A Christmas stocking my grandma "GG" sewed for me and the quilt my other grandma "Mimi" sewed for me showed me how cool sewing is. I also learned about sewing techniques from my neighbor, as well as from YouTube tutorials. I love how there are so many different designs you can sew on your star! It's also cool how each design is unique, just like you and me!

I first learned how to make pom-poms from a craft tutorial. Then, I thought it would be pretty to hang in my room as a decoration. With Christmas coming up, I loved the idea of doing a red, white and green pom-pom garland to get in the Christmas spirit! I've made lots of pom poms for my family and friends. They're fun to make and to give to people to hang on their backpack, to put out for decoration, on the end of a zipper, or just to play with and hold!

I love that they're so fluffy and soft, and that you can create them in different colors, patterns and designs! I've even made a panda and koala pom-pom!



SCRUNCHIES

I first learned how to make scrunchies in Created for a Purpose summer camp. I really enjoyed making one at camp, so I tried making them again at home and they were a success!

I liked watching the scrunchie scrunch up and then be a completed one! I've made scrunchies for myself and for friends, and love giving gifts like these away as birthday gifts. It makes people feel special that they receive a handmade gift! I also love customizing scrunchie designs for friends and myself from my different fabrics. I love that they're very useful and fun to wear on my wrist or hair!



From My Heart TO YOURS

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another.

1 PETER 4:10

You know how it says that it's better to give than to receive? Well, I really think that's true. When I've made and given gifts from my heart it brings me more joy than getting a present!



TRIPLE HUGS

I am a triplet! My brother was born one minute before me, and my sister was born a minute after me. I was only 2.5 pounds when I was born (three months early) and had to have several life-saving surgeries. I stayed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for four months. I am so thankful to the Lord for healing me. My dad and mom say I'm a fighter! Last Christmas, my grandma "GG" gave me an idea—and the supplies—for how I could give back to other preemie babies and their families. They're called TINY HUGS—large, soft gloves that help babies who are born early feel like their mother is there "hugging" them. So far, I've made and given away six!

HOLDING YOU CLOSE

When my grandpa, "Papa T" went to be with Jesus, I wanted to give GG, my grandma, something beautiful to comfort her. I made a pillow cover out of a

shirt Papa T wore all the time. I know it helps her feel his love and joy whenever she looks at it.

A TALE OF HOPE

We volunteered one day at Families of Hope, a place that provides blankets, clothes and other necessities to children who have to go into foster care. I noticed that each child got a blanket when they came there, so I decided to make a Mermaid Tail blanket for a girl. I got a fleece cozy blanket from Hobby Lobby, cut a mermaid shape and sewed the two sides together. Then I added a note to the blanket to remind the girl that Jesus loved her. This was a small way to show love to someone going through a difficult time. The staff at Families of Hope said that the mermaid tail blanket went right away!



Brooklyn's mom, Linsey Driskill, wrote a book about beautiful hearted women in the Bible. One of them reminded her of Brooklyn!

Beautiful-Hearted GIVING

One of the most beautiful things about Brooklyn is that she doesn't brag about her talents—she uses them humbly to love the Lord and others. What talents or gifts do you have that you can love others with? It doesn't have to be big. Remember the widow who gave all she had—just two small coins—to the Lord? Jesus told the disciples how she gave out of love. Start small. Love someone with your gift and watch how the Lord continues to grow that gift, and more importantly, your heart.



Read the whole story about the widow and her gift at forgirlslikeyou.com/beautifulheartedwomen



Made with Love

SPREADING JOY
with Handmade Gifts



Everyone agrees. **The best gifts are the ones made from the heart.** They are not store bought, manufactured in a faraway country, nor ordered online. The gifts given are original, personal, and made with love. **They are ... created.**

FUN FACT: Did you know the fifth word in the Bible is create? *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* I love this! His artwork surrounds us every day in the beauty of creation. Think about the color of the ocean, the wings of a butterfly, or the pattern in a simple leaf. Imagine the creativity of God when He designed a zebra's coat, the colors of a rainbow, or the breathtaking views of the mountains.

The word *create* is also used when God was designing you! You are created in His image (GENESIS 1:26), and He calls you His masterpiece. (EPHESIANS 3:10) **Not only are you a work of art but a reflection of His very image.**

When we put these two important truths together, the creation of heaven and earth plus the creation of you, the overwhelming evidence is the unconditional love that God has for us.

This unique gift of love is imitated when we make gifts for one another. God has made you to create. When we take the time to create, it shows we care.

When you make a gift for someone, you are sharing His artistry reflecting the handcrafted love of the Master Creator.

So go and create! The thoughtful time you spend creating will be the best gift you could ever give.

It's not manufactured.
It's not store bought.

It's made from a heart of love.

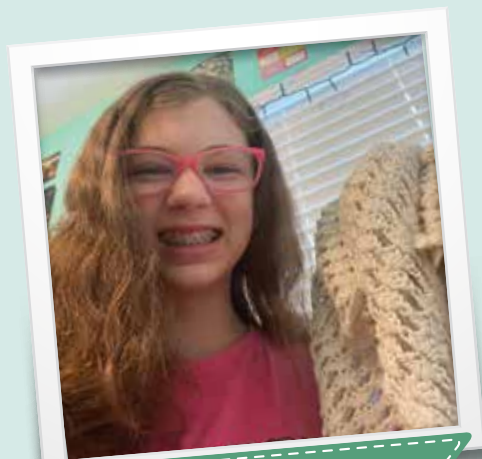
—Annie Pajcic

Turn the page to read about *your*
favorite gifts from the heart!

I made this gift for my mother, and it was so special because it was one of the last crafts I made with my old teacher! I made it out of clay, then I painted over it. It's made with 100-percent love!

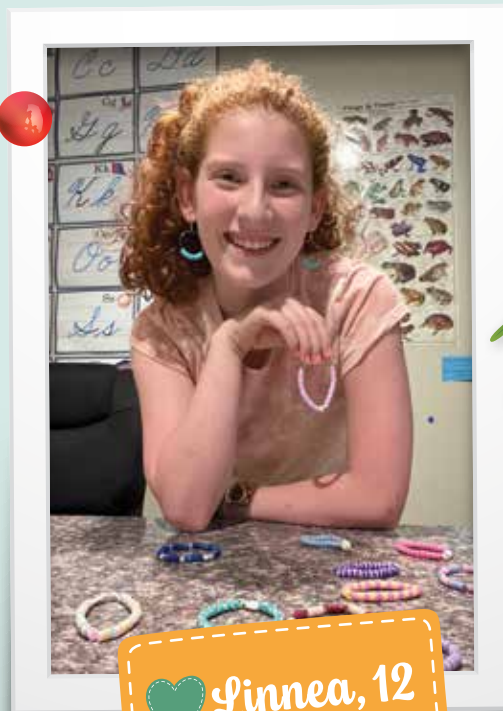


♥ Hannah, 9



♥ Faith, 14

This is my baby blanket. My grandma crocheted it for me when I was a baby. I have had it for 14 years and have appreciated it a lot—especially since my grandma went to live with God for eternity. This homemade gift means so much to me for the fact my grandma made it especially for me, and it reminds me of her and all the love and care she put into making it for me! Thanks for giving me the chance to share it with you!



♥ Linnea, 12

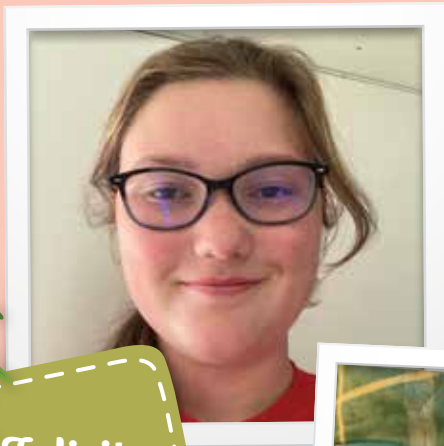
For Christmas this year I am making my family and friends handmade clay-bead bracelets! I have a kit we got through Amazon. I've also been working hard on making lots so I can donate them to our church yard sale to benefit their benevolence fund! I also love to edit and make videos as if I would post them on YouTube, but I don't. And sometimes I send edits to my friends!

I love to craft!

I started to make these earrings because I like to express myself and because I see many others do too. I take a real earring back and clip it to whatever I wish—paper shapes, hot-glue molds and even trinkets that I find around the house. I really enjoy making funky ones like corn, and the frame ones I'm wearing in the picture! I made these for the girls at school and a few at church. I love to see the joy on their faces when they put them on!



♥ Sofia, 11



Felicity,
14

Christmas has always been one of my favorite holidays, even though I live in Florida where it rarely snows. The last time I was in **For Girls Like You** was last Christmas! (In the Sprinkles section.) Last year I put together framed photos of my dad and his siblings and parents. We saw them in West Virginia for my aunt's wedding. Later I sent the photos to all my aunts and uncles who were there. And, a really awesome gift I've received was this blanket from my grandmother! I hope you all have a Merry Christmas!





♥ Audrey, 9

This is my blanket, "Vanilla," that my great-grandmother made for me when I was born. She also made blankets like these for my cousins and siblings. It's special to me because I've had it my whole life and my great grandma doesn't sew anymore. I love to watch movies and snuggle with my blanket. And I can't wait to hear about everyone's special gifts!



Lauren, 10

I like to do a lot of things. I like to bake, cook, cross stitch, felt, swim and read. A gift that is most memorable for me is when my brother came back home from college to visit me! I was watching TV when he casually walked out and said, "Good morning." I was in shock. My brother was here, standing in my house, right in front of me! A gift I gave to someone that is most memorable is when I gave my aunt two felted mice that I made! They were made of wool, and they were very cute.



♥ Sally, 10

I love making gifts for "Operation Christmas Child" at my church!

I help a group of people from my church make lots of different crafts and toys and we pack them in shoeboxes. The shoeboxes are sent all around the world and given to kids to tell them about Jesus and His love for us.

We make jump ropes out of old t-shirts, potholders, bracelets, "fuzz balls," shrinky-dink bookmarks, and hair bows. My favorite things to make are clay-bead bracelets and bookmarks. I also enjoy painting and making gifts for my family. I sew, paint, draw, decorate, bake and craft. I like giving homemade gifts because it makes the person who you are giving it to feel special because they know you put your time and effort into the gift.



AVERY: I first wrote this book as a Mother's Day gift, but it is a great idea for Christmas too. I wrote a book of all the people who love my mom because I wanted my mom to feel special. In it I tell her that Dad loves her, my sister loves her, and I love her! I tell her Jesus loves her too!

I wrote out all her friends who I know

love her, that Granny loves her and other family members, and even that our dog Waffles loves her. I was so surprised that a book I made would make her so happy! I think it did because it was my very own idea.

ABBY: For a Christmas gift for my parents, I like to make a lyric book of my favorite Christmas songs, like "O Come, All Ye Faithful." I write out all the lyrics and illustrate it too. I've also made books for "Joy to the World" and "We Three Kings." I'm learning to play the guitar, so I also play the song for them on Christmas. It is a special gift because Christ is my greatest treasure.



♥ Elise, 14



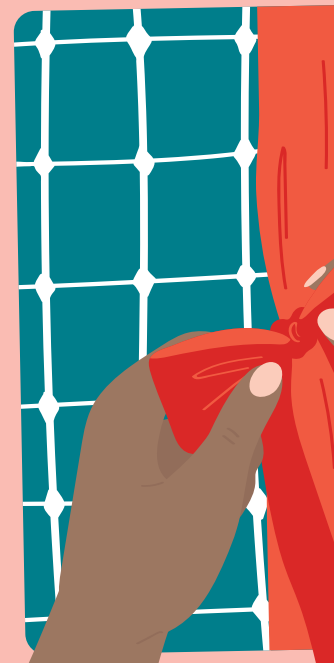
When I was 8, I learned how to knit from a needle arts class at our homeschool co-op. When my AHG troop went to a nursing home and sang Christmas carols that year, I decided to knit a bunch of red and green coasters and hand them out to the residents. I got to meet a super sweet lady named Lucy. Weeks after

we visited, a friend of my mom's who knew Lucy went to visit her for her birthday and noticed my coaster in her room. She asked Lucy about it, and she remembered me well! The friend sent this picture to us of Lucy holding the coaster and it made me so happy to know that she had kept it! Looking back on it years later, they were pretty oblong and wouldn't work well as coasters since I had just learned, but I'm sure they blessed the people I gave them to and were treasured!



♥ Evelyn, 13,
Paige, 12 &
Reese, 10

We received the beautiful gift of crocheted blankets for Christmas. They are so special to us because they are each of our favorite colors made by our Grama Tam. We love to snuggle with them during the cold Michigan winter months!





Cami, 10

I make bracelets.

My business name is **Joyful Jewelry** and I have them listed on Facebook. Both my mom's and my middle

name is Joy, and my mom has a business called "Joyful Sweets" where she sells decorated cookies, so that's how I came up with the name for my business. As well as selling the bracelets, I have also given them away to many people. For example, a girl with cancer, my cousins, my aunt, my mom and dad, brothers, teachers and many more people as well! I really like giving the bracelets to people because it makes them happy, and it gives me joy when I give them away! In the words of Jesus: *"It is more blessed to give than receive."* ACTS 20:35



Reese, 12



I love making things for my friends—especially bracelets and other

items like that. I am very creative. I like to mix up colors and various patterns or sizes. I made some earrings for my mom, my aunt and my friends, and many other people received gifts I made of bracelets, earrings, keychains, anklets, etc. I make these for anyone who wants them. These are special to me because I make them of colors that I like and patterns that I enjoy! I love Jesus so very much! I think making jewelry is a talent that He has given me to glorify Him.



Crafting FRIENDSHIP

MAKING FRIENDS AND
MEMORIES TOGETHER

BY CALYN DANIEL



Hi, I'm Calyn.

I'm 14 years old and in eighth grade. I enjoy cooking and am a competitive gymnast. I enjoy spending time with my friends and, like you, want to make memories with my friends. I wrote **Let's Be Friends:**

A Tween Devotional on Finding and Keeping Strong Friendships because I didn't want girls to feel alone, like I have when it comes to finding friends who have the same values and ideas for what a good friend is. I believe that when you are kind to others and show respect to others, even if they are different from you, you will be able to have friends who will be honest with you and stand by you. One of the ways I've seen my own friendships grow is by spending time together doing something we can do together. Making crafts and gifts with friends can bring you closer, and I want to share some ways you can do this with your friends.

As we create friendships of love and kindness, we want to pour into them and make special moments.

However sometimes we're not sure what that can look like and how we can value our friends. We want to connect with them and make the friendship stronger, but how do we take those steps? We should take the steps the way we did with our relationship with God. Being patient with your friends and knowing when the time is right.

In Galatians 5:25, God says *"Since we are living by the spirit, let us follow the spirit's leading in every part of our lives."* Because God gave us a spirit of trust and patience, we should follow Him and wait for Him to

tell us when to connect. The reason we should wait is because sometimes friends we meet may not be who we are supposed to be around. We put our faith in God so He can put the same faith in our friends.

I have learned that creating memories with friends is not to "save" your friendship but rather to deepen and strengthen your friendship. In other words, you shouldn't have to be using these memories for friends who aren't responding to you or treating you well just to keep being friends with them but use these memories as a tool to gain and grow new friends who do respect and treat you well.

Being with your friends can truly express who you are. It is also seen in the Bible in Matthew 18:20: *"For where two or three gather as my followers, I am among them."* God delights in those who gather in His name. He wants you to be with your friends, for you to value them and love on them. What are ways we can connect with our friends? **We can connect the most with our friends when we are put in a situation that we ALL must work together in to achieve something.**



Crafting with my friends!



Here is an excerpt from my book with ideas on making wonderful gifts with or for our friends!

CREATING MEMORIES AND MEANINGFUL MOMENTS

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Creating with my friends helps me to remember...

Crafts I can make with or for my friends include...

PROJECT:

TO MAKE FOR:

- ☐ Candles with a friend's favorite scent
- ☐ Christmas tree ornaments with our photo
- ☐ Handmade greeting cards, notecards, and special occasion cards
- ☐ Bible verse cards

PROJECT:

TO MAKE FOR:

- ☐ Friendship bracelet with a friend's favorite colors
- ☐ Luggage tag
- ☐ Decorative bags with colorful drawings for gift-giving
- ☐ Bookmarks
- ☐ Magnets for lockers
- ☐ Paint a mug with a Scripture verse
- ☐ Sketch book with places I have been and drawings or encouraging notes
- ☐ Key chain
- ☐ Decorative photo board
- ☐ Paint a canvas of a friend's favorite item



Friendship
Makes Life
Sweeter

From *Let's Be Friends* by Calyn Daniel and Blythe Daniel. Courtesy of Harvest House Publishers.

DEAR
TERRA,

I want to be a good gift giver, but sometimes I just get jealous of what others receive and feel overwhelmed by what I don't have instead of what I do have. How do I not get jealous, especially during this time of year?

LOVE, TESSA, 11

All Good Gifts

us understand what we need or want from God or those we love. Instead of feeling guilty or shamed (thinking *I am a bad person*), you can go to God in prayer and talk to Him about the desire of your heart.

Psalms 139:23-24 says: "Search me and know my heart: test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead in me in the way everlasting." Journal about the things you are learning about yourself as you consider the people, things, and gifts you want. Maybe you are jealous of a friend's mom and dad because you wish your parents were still married? Maybe you are jealous of the way a friend always has the right pair of jeans and shoes to wear each day and your family doesn't have that kind of money. Whatever it is, be honest with God and let His heart remind you that the longings in you are in His care. Instead of trying not to be jealous, go to the One who knows your heart and mind the best and allow Him to lead you in a healthier direction. Journaling can be a helpful practice of prayer.

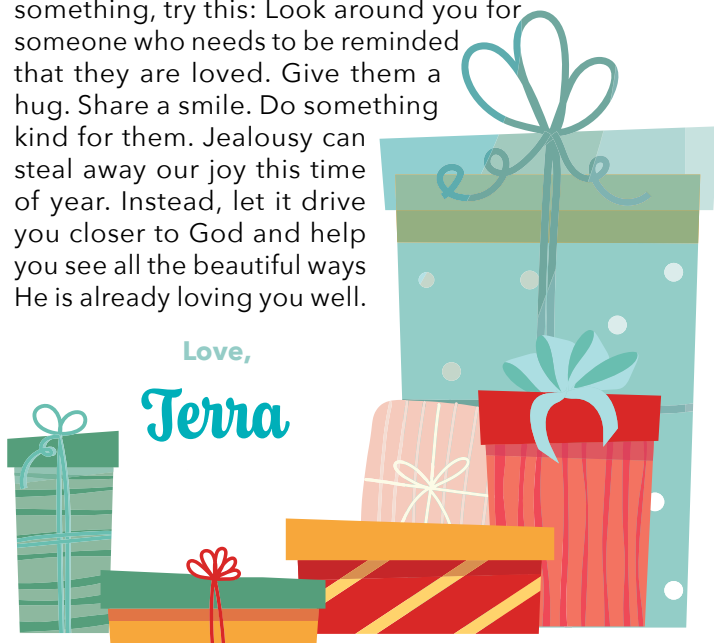
Psalms 37:4 says: "Delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desire of your heart." God is a good Father who loves to give good gifts to His children. He says that He wants you to have relationship with Him and

"delight" in Him. Delight means to take great pleasure or joy in something. When you are so focused on the things you want, get bossy with your heart and remind it to focus on God and the ways He has already given you many things. Watch the colors of the sunset. Listen to a bird sing over you. See the leaves changing color and take a deep breath of the cooler air. Be grateful for the warmth of a good hug. There are many things we do have, and God's presence is one of my favorite gifts God gives us. We are NEVER alone. Never. (Read Isaiah 41:10.)

A Courageous Girl knows she is loved and loves others well; she doesn't get angry at her emotions or let them lead her actions. Instead, she learns how to bring those to God and to safe people in her life to find comfort and care. The next time you get jealous of someone or something, try this: Look around you for someone who needs to be reminded that they are loved. Give them a hug. Share a smile. Do something kind for them. Jealousy can steal away our joy this time of year. Instead, let it drive you closer to God and help you see all the beautiful ways He is already loving you well.

Love,

Terra

courageous
girls
ROOTED IN GRACE

Terra Mattson is a counselor, author and founder of **Courageous Girls**. To learn how to be a Courageous Girl and start your own group, ask your mom or caregiver to go to mycourageousgirls.com or have her read Terra's book, *Courageous: Being Daughters Rooted in Grace*.

faith SERVICE. FUN.

WITH AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

OUR CREED: "As an American Heritage Girl, I promise to be Compassionate, Helpful, Honest, Loyal, **Perseverant**, Pure, Resourceful, Respectful, Responsible and Reverent."

Making It Through

Did you know there are American Heritage Girls all around the world? Many AHG International members are from missionary or military families and **PERSEVERANCE** is something they know a lot about! What if you found out that your dad's job required him to move ... to another country? And you might only have two weeks' notice to pack your things, say goodbye to your friends, and move across the ocean to your new home? For military families, this life of PERSEVERANCE is normal because these situations happen often. As a military daughter, you would make friends with other kids who don't always speak the same language as you, learn a new city or area, new foods, new ways of traveling from place to place, new everything! And places that seemed scary at first, would become ... well, your home! That is a lot better than giving up and hiding! God's Girls don't have a pass to give up when it comes to spreading the gospel message or showing Christ's love. So, in all things, God's girls must PERSEVERE with a never-giving-up heart.

MEET SISTERS



**MAKAAYLA (12)
& ISABELLA (10)**

Trailblazer Membership in American Heritage Girls and that word "Trailblazer" is appropriate because they had to learn new ways in an unfamiliar place when their family moved to Japan.

Because Okinawa has typhoons (huge thunderstorms with lots of wind and flooding rains) and earthquakes, homes must be able to withstand those tough conditions. "Our house is built from concrete blocks, so that makes it unique from United States houses," Makayla says.

Like those houses built to withstand high winds, heavy rains and earthquakes, God is growing Makayla and Isabella into PERSEVERANT girls through every new experience.

TRAILBLAZERS IN OKINAWA, JAPAN

Makayla and Isabella's dad works as a Marine at a military base in Okinawa, Japan. They have lived there for two years. The sisters are part of the

In the Japanese culture, the girls must attend separate schools. Isabella sees this as a challenge, and has seen God working to help her "to not be afraid, and to meet new friends" For Makayla, "not being able to read anything in town" has been hard. For a girl who speaks and reads English, Japanese letters and words look completely different!

For Makayla, **PERSEVERANT** means to "keep on keepin' on." Isabella describes this same idea as "don't give up!" The move to Okinawa wasn't the first for Makayla and Isabella's family, and it likely won't be the last. These perseverant girls keep forging ahead—learning, growing and smiling—knowing that God is giving them the tools they need, caring for them, protecting them, and giving them all His joy along the way!

Favorite
Bible
Verse:

"Love
the Lord
your God
with all
your heart
and with all
your soul and
with all your
mind."

MATTHEW 22:37

—Natalie Ambrose

Christmas Tree Ornament

SUPPLIES

Slice of a 4x4-inch Christmas Tree Trunk or Wood Block (1"x 4"), Paint: Green, Yellow, Blue, White and Brown; Pencil, Christmas Tree Template, Paint Brush, Ribbon, Berries, Glitter, Raffia or Twine, Scissors, Hot Glue and Low Temp Hot Glue Gun, Optional: Staple Gun and Staples

This Christmas Tree Ornament is the perfect gift and keepsake that can commemorate each year's Christmas. And the materials are easy to find! Using a slice of your Christmas tree's trunk or a block of wood, you can paint the image of a tree and embellish it with ribbons, garlands, glitter and berries! Each year can be a reminder of CHRISTmas and the gift of His miracle birth.



1. Choose a slice of a Christmas tree trunk or a block of wood for your base. TIP: Go to the Christmas Tree Lot where they have lots of slivers lying around. They will be happy to share them! Another idea is to use a block of wood found at any craft store.



2. Using your template as a reference, draw the Christmas Tree on to your trunk or block of wood in pencil.



3. Paint your tree. After it dries, add some "snow!" Mix a little white paint with water and tap the end of your brush with your finger over your tree. Test out an area on a separate piece of paper beforehand to get your rhythm. Option: Embellish your tree with glitter!



4. Glue a bow on your tree slice or block using ribbon, twine, raffia, and/or berries. To hang on the tree: Make a loop of twine and hot glue the ends to the back of the tree trunk. Make the loop big enough to hang on the tree!



This is a great craft to do with your friends!



THOUARTEXALTED

Visit thouartexalted.com. ThouArtExalted, founded by Annie Pajcic, combines art and God's Word online and in every issue of For Girls Like You!



STEMgirls

STEM
GIRLS

SCIENCE FUN WITH THE DENTON DUO

Lydia and Bethany

Udderly Unique Gifts

MAKE YOUR OWN CRAFT PLASTIC—FROM MILK!

Many times scientists look to things in God's creation to inspire new inventions or materials—that is the case with PLASTIC. Did you know that in the early 1900s they had plastic?! **Instead of being made from petroleum or polymers like today, the plastic from 1900 to 1945 was made from milk!** What was made from this special plastic called casein plastic? Buttons, buckles for bags and belts, beads and jewelry, pens, mirror handles, fancy hair barrettes and combs. Even Queen Mary of England had beaded necklaces made from casein plastic!

You might be wondering; how does milk turn into plastic?!

Well, all plastics are made up of repeating molecules that hook together to form a chain called a polymer. Different polymers make different things ... some might make nylon for tights or elastic for rubber bands, other polymers make hard plastics, and some make flexible plastics. The molecules that are linked determine the type of plastic you get. Milk has a protein called casein. When the casein forms a long chain, it makes a plastic.

LET'S TRY IT!

You don't have to be a materials scientist or lab-trained chemist to make your own plastic at home. All you need is warm milk and vinegar. Any kind works, but rice and white vinegar work without changing the color of your milk. We used 2% cow's milk because that is what we had on hand.

- * Heat up one cup of milk in the microwave until it is steaming—about 90 seconds. For white plastic, add in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of vinegar.
- * Almost immediately, you will see the milk start to clump into "curds and whey." If you want your plastic to be colored, add about 15 drops of food coloring before you add the vinegar.
- * These curds will pull away from the liquid and you can scoop them out with a fork or pour them into a paper towel to drain away the liquid.



- * Knead the curds like dough for five to 10 minutes. This will break them into very small pieces, and you will wind up with a casein plastic "dough" that is very easy to mold and shape.
- * Now for the fun part! Mold the plastic into shapes, squish it flat and use cookie cutters to cut it out and make an ornament or roll it into little beads and poke a hole to run string through. What do you think you will create? We like to make ornaments for the special people in our lives.
- * Leave the plastic to cool and dry for at least 72 hours. Once it is dry, you can paint or decorate it with acrylic paint. Unlike milk, this plastic won't go bad, and you can keep the treasures for a long time.



WHAT IS HAPPENING?

When you add the vinegar to the hot milk, the ACID makes the protein in the milk unfold and the casein can hook together and start forming long chains. These chains get tangled and form the curds.

Scientists are coming back to looking at plants and making lots of really amazing plant-based plastics, including using algae and corn to make something called BIOPLASTIC. Why? Well bioplastics break down quickly compared to regular plastic and this is much better for our environment!

God has truly blessed us with many amazing plants and the knowledge to use them to make amazing things.

O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of your possessions!

PSALM 104:24

**BEFORE YOU
GO**

**I am BLESSED because I was uniquely
handmade by the King of Kings!**
Unknown

**Whatever
YOU DO,
work at it
WITH ALL YOUR
HEART, as
working for
the Lord.**

COLOSSIANS
3:23

**...they saw the child
WITH MARY HIS MOTHER,
AND THEY FELL DOWN AND
WORSHIPED HIM. THEN
OPENING THEIR TREASURES,
THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS,
GOLD AND FRANKINCENSE
AND MYRRH.**

MATTHEW 2:11

**Let all
that you do
be done in
LOVE.**
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

**That's the
thing with**

HANDMADE ITEMS.

**They still have the
person's mark on
them, and when you
hold them, you
feel less alone.**

Aimee Bender

**Every GOOD AND
EVERY PERFECT
GIFT is from
above, coming
down from the
Father of the
heavenly lights...**
JAMES 1:17

**It's not
HOW MUCH
WE GIVE but
how much
LOVE we put
into GIVING.**

Mother Teresa

Let Your *Creative* Side Run *Wild!*

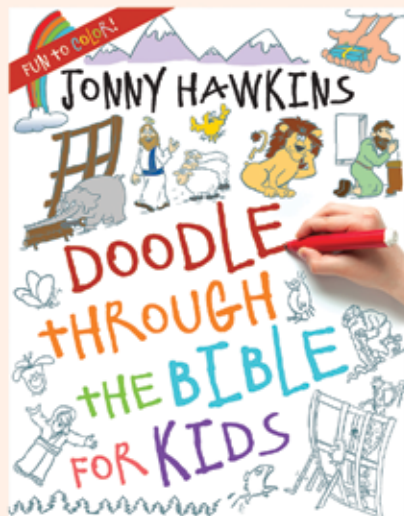
Add one of these fun books to
your Christmas list this year.



Add your artistic touches to these
fun designs that help you remember
to spend time with God.



Write, draw, reflect, and
connect with your Creator!



Discover oodles of doodles and a
load of fun as you sketch some of the
Bible's most memorable scenes.



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COMING
SOON

HI! I'M SUNNY

