Kindom Crafters

Reviewed by Juniper LaNunziata

Kindom Crafters: Snapshot

Kindom Crafters is one of Building Faith's top picks for VBS for 2024. Its theme is building community, and it engages Minecraft to focus on different aspects of community building. Instead of "kingdom" of God, which contains shades of monarchy, imperialism, and patriarchy, the curriculum uses "kindom" to emphasize the mutuality and equality of the whole Christian family. It offers a vision of God's kindom that actively makes room for all people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, economic statuses, and disabled and non-disabled identities. It is a good option particularly for a director on a budget who is comfortable creating their own materials, props, and decorations.

Kindom Crafters: The Basics

- **Theme**: Building Community

- **Publisher**: **Chalice Press**, 2023 (**Christian Church/Disciples of Christ**)

- **Intended ages/grades**: suitable for elementary children; could be adapted for youth and intergenerational groups

- **Format**: onsite

- **Number of sessions**: 5

- **Types of activities**: worship with simple songs, Bible storytelling, wondering, games, crafts, snacks

- **Starter kit cost**: $75

Kindom Crafters: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Welcoming Is Building**
  Genesis 18:1–8, Abraham and Sarah's Hospitality

- **Day 2: Fixing Is Building**
  Genesis 45:1–15, Joseph and Family Reconnect

- **Day 3: Choosing to Build Together**
  Ruth 1:16–19, 4:9–10a, Ruth and Naomi's Chosen Family

- **Day 4: Build Everywhere**
  Matthew 4:18–23, Jesus Calls Disciples

- **Day 5: Keep Building**
  Acts 2:1–12, Pentecost Starts Building the Church

Kindom Crafters: Where It Shines

A fun and justice-focused theme

This curriculum's attention to justice sets it apart from many others. The Minecraft theme is cool and will be exciting to many children.

Meaningful choice of scriptures

The scripture stories chosen are important for building sacred communities. They cover both the Old and New Testaments. Bible storytelling also includes wondering questions based on the work of Sonya Steward and Jerome Berryman to get children to think about sacred stories and their own stories in a new way.

Activities that engage children in scripture

Each part of the day ties into the day's theme, including the snacks. On the first day, for example, which focuses on Abraham's and Sarah's hospitality, children prepare a snack for the person in line behind them, rather than for themselves.

Kindom Crafters: What We Miss

More ideas or resources for design and decoration

With no provided graphics, the curriculum leaves a lot of decorating to the imagination of the director. This would be a plus for some, but it might cause anxiety for others.

Additional activities for longer programs

If your VBS program is longer than 2 hours each day, you may need to add supplemental games or activities.

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