IDEAS GONE WILD

Sample pages from Holiday Ideas & Original Bible Skill Boosters, Learning Centers Beyond Compare

mr. mark's
CLASSROOM
Ideas Gone Wild

From Mr. Mark—

Welcome to Mr. Mark’s Classroom! I hope you enjoy this book of ideas. You will discover a sample pages from three of my classroom idea books; *Holiday Ideas 365, Bible Skill Boosters, and Learning Centers Beyond Compare*. If you are a kid’s minister, teacher, and/or parent, we all need fresh ideas for teaching our preschoolers and children. You will enjoy these new ideas to use with your kids or share with other teachers.

I’m a Children’s Pastor in Oklahoma City with 30 years of experience. My calling is to champion Kid’s Ministry. I love creating & teaching teachers, children and preschoolers. My wife and I have five kids of our own and we feel super blessed to serve the Lord together all these years.

Be sure to see my “Kid’s Ministry Time Saver Notebook” for tons of reproducible pages you can give to teachers. It makes teacher training “on-the-go” a reality. My other websites might also benefit you.

- **ClassroomSwag.com** is filled with ideas for decorating your classrooms and ministry space. It also contains theme decorations, resources and photo galleries of some terrific classrooms and ministry spaces I have visited. New—“Knock Knocks” Door poster of the month club. Comes in the mail and you hang it on your classroom door for instant welcome power with no creative effort.

- **VBSDecorations.com** has decorating ideas for past and future VBS themes. I provide a variety of instructional videos, photos, and pictures so you can create a spectacular VBS.

- **Classroom405.com** is a place for training and equipping today’s Kid Min leaders and teachers. There are great free training videos or you can join our 405 Community for our monthly training hour from the comfort of your chair. No travel or expenses. Perfect, if you’re on a budget and still desire fresh new training.

Your life is a gift in Kid’s Ministry. Let’s go and make it count!

MrMarksClassroom.com  
Mark Jones
Holiday Ideas 365!

A Full Year of Craft Ideas for Every Teacher

mr. mark's classroom
You’re Cute as a Button!

Make an adorable valentine door hanger on the cheap!

- Cardboard, construction paper
- Computer and printer to print the greeting
- Buttons
- Glue

1. Cut out heart shapes from cardboard and construction paper.
2. Print the greeting from computer and cut the paper into a heart shape.
3. Assemble and glue the paper hearts together
4. Glue buttons around the heart.
5. Poke a small hole with a push pin into the top of the cardboard heart on both sides to hold the wire.
6. Bend wire through the holes and curl around a pencil.

Monster Valentine Box

Use an empty tissue box to make a cute valentine box for the classroom!

- Empty tissue box (any size or hole type)
- Wrapping paper
- Tape, glue, scissors
- Large googly eyes

1. Look at your tissue box and its opening and decide how you want your monster to look.
2. Wrap the box in colorful wrapping paper, leaving the hole open.
3. Decorate the box with googly eyes, ribbon, construction paper, etc. to make your monster.
4. Valentines can be inserted into the monster’s mouth.
**“He is Risen” Corsage**

Make an Easter corsage to give away to a mom, a grandma, or a senior citizen. The decorative ribbon declares “He is Risen!” for all to see.

**The Big Idea**

- Paper baking cups
- Jumbo (diameter) drinking straws
- Cotton swabs and markers
- Ribbons and a fine point Sharpie marker

**Things to Gather**

1. Fold the baking paper in fourths. Open back up to a half fold and trim one quadrant from each fold point so that the arc of the circle is cut flat and a point forms on one side when open.

2. Color the head of the swab yellow and the stick green. Open the trimmed baking cup and center the swab along the center fold; crinkle and twist the curved bottom of the baking cup around the swab stick, taping it in place. Shape with fingers to cup around the swab.

3. Cut the straw (green straw works best) into a 3” piece. Cut a section of tulle about 4” x 8”.

**Put it Together**

- **Criss-Cross Collage**

  Kids will create unique art using cross shapes and colors. Great talk time about how many crosses were at the crucifixion. Talk about the facts of the cross and the timeline of Jesus’ death as they color.

**The Big Idea**

- White paper
- Cross shapes cut from cardstock
- Markers
- Scissors

**Things to Gather**


2. Let kids lay the crosses on their paper and trace them, overlapping in several places.

3. Now kids can color the crosses, but every time they cross a line they must change colors.

4. Encourage kids to use lots of colors and even patterns to make each space look different.
**Tear Tissue Art**

Make a beautiful bouquet of flowers for your mother on Mother’s Day. Very colorful and fun but a little stinky.

**The Big Idea**

- Bright colors of tissue paper
- One piece of white paper
- Distilled vinegar
- Paint brush

**Things to Gather**

1. Select some bright colors of tissue paper. Tear or cut the paper into fun shapes.
2. Arrange the tissue paper shapes on a sheet of white paper. Paint over the pieces of tissue shapes with vinegar. Brush lightly or the tissue might tear.
3. Overlap some of the shapes so they change colors.
4. Keep adding tissue pieces until you have created you masterpiece for your mother.
5. Gently remove the pieces after it has dried slightly. The color will have stained the paper.

**Put it Together**

- Newspaper strips
- White copy paper
- Thinned white glue
- Squares of colored tissue

1. Roll some newspaper into a ring (bracelet). Use masking tape to hold it together.
2. Cut strips of copy paper and dip into white glue that is slightly thinned with water.
3. Wrap the strips of paper around the newspaper ring until the bracelet.
4. Add squares of colored tissue around the bracelet and paint the strips of tissue with thinned white glue.
5. If you want, you may draw or paint designs on your bracelet.

**Bracelet**

Make a beautiful bracelet for you mother on Mother’s Day. She will love wearing something her kids made just for her.
Independence Day

Flags

Celebrate your favorite veteran with this fun and personalized flag!

- Blue paper
- Yellow, red, white, and blue paint
- Glue
- Cotton Swabs

1. Paint the palm of your hand blue, every other finger red, and the remaining fingers white. Press your hand down on the paper.
2. Cut out the handprint in a rectangle.
3. Glue the backside of your flag handprint to the stick.
4. Add dots for stars by dipping the cotton swab in yellow paint and making stars.
5. Let dry. Wave proudly!

Pom Pom Paddle Game

You and a friend can enjoy summer by batting the pom poms back and forth to each other!

- Two paper plates
- Two paint stir sticks
- Glue and/or duct tape
- Pom Poms

1. Decorate plates and stir sticks.
2. Glue and/or tape the paper plates to the stir sticks.
3. Play Pom Pom Paddle!
Handprint Turkeys

The handprint turkey can be a great craft for you to do with your kids for Thanksgiving. You can also talk about your family traditions at Thanksgiving.

- Construction Paper
- Brown craft or tempera paint
- Colorful feathers
- Black marker

1. Paint the child’s hand with the brown paint.
2. Place her hand on the paper and make a handprint.
3. Squeeze out a dot of glue on the fingerprint.
4. Put the colorful feathers on the glue.
5. Glue the eye on the thumb print.
6. Use a black marker to draw feet and a beak.

Turkey Clip

The turkey clip can be pinned to a family member or friend and they must name something they are thankful for.

- Paper plate
- Construction paper (fall colors)
- Scissors
- Glue

1. Cut a quarter of the paper plate for the backing
2. Cut small strips of construction paper as feathers
3. Glue the feather strips on the paper plate
4. Glue the clip on to the paper plate.
5. Glue the eyes on the clip and draw a beak.
Bible Skill Boosters

Fun, Easy Games for Training Kids to Use God's Word

Mark Jones and Lynn Jordan

mr. mark's classroom
**Domino Line Up**

Kids will choose the correct words and line up the verse.

**What’s Needed?**

- Dominoes
- White mailing labels
- Permanent markers

1. Write the words for two Bible verses on labels. (same number) of words or phrases
2. Stick word labels of the first verse. On the smooth side of the domino
3. Add the second verse to the opposite side.
4. Invite kids or teams to line up the focus verse by choosing from the words of both verses. Time player for more challenge.

**Hang It Up!**

Children hang the verse in order on a clothesline using clothespins.

**What’s Needed?**

- Cut shirt shapes from paper and write Bible verse words on each
- Clothesline
- Clothespins

1. Tie a clothesline from chairs or doorknobs or anything the child can comfortably reach.
2. Provide a container of clothespins
3. Bible verse shirts
4. Children clip the shirts in order on the clothesline.
Shady Line Up

Kids work together while looking through sunglasses to put the Bible verse in order.

What’s Needed?

- Sunglasses and sheath for each word or phrase of the verse
- Mailing labels

1. Write the words or phrases of a verse or the books of a division on each mailing label.
2. Cut out the small word and stick it to the front of the sunglasses.
3. Insert glasses in sheath.
4. Kids pull out their glasses and look at the words. Then they put them on.

Let’s Play!

Puzzled Bible Verse

Kids put together puzzles with the Bible verse printed on it.

What’s Needed?

- Pre-cut, blank, white puzzles (available from teacher supply stores)
- Permanent markers

1. Write the Bible verse on the puzzle blank for the kids.
2. Have kids scramble the puzzle and then solve.
**Band-Aid Verse**

Kids will arrange themselves in the correct verse order using the Band-Aids on their faces.

**What’s Needed?**
- Band-Aids
- Permanent markers

**Let’s Play!**
1. Write words of the verse on Band-Aids.
2. As kids arrive, place a bandage on each kid’s cheek.
3. Challenge the kids to ask questions and work together to discover which word they have on their cheek and stand in the correct order.

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**Domino!**

Kids will arrange candy boxes in order like dominoes, then push the first box and watch them topple.

**What’s Needed?**
- Boxed candy (like Nerds)—2 sets
- Markers

**Let’s Play!**
1. Write the phrases of the verse on candy boxes.
2. Challenge the kids to arrange the verse in the correct order, domino-style.
3. See which group can be the first to arrange, then topple the verse.
**Off The Chain**

Kids will make a chain with the words of the verse.

**What’s Needed?**
- Foam pipe insulation tubes
- Metallic permanent marker
- Scissors

1. Cut 2 slices of pipe insulation for each word of the verse.
2. Print the words on half of the slices, leaving the other half blank.
3. Challenge the kids to use the blank slices to link the printed slices together in the correct order.
4. Make 2 sets and let the kids race.

**Let’s Play!**

**Cooperation Cans**

Kids will work together to stack cans with the words of the verse.

**What’s Needed?**
- Several clean, empty food cans and lids
- Markers
- Paper
- Tape

1. Print the phrases of the verse on labels. Wrap the labels around the cans. (Alternate sizes of cans for easier stacking.)
2. Form teams of 2 or 3 kids. Each team will need 2 rubber bands for each kid plus one team band that can stretch around the cans.
3. Instruct each kid to loop his rubber band inside the team's band. Show the kids how to pull together in order to stretch the teams band around the can and move it into place.
**Flip Your Lid**

Kids will turn lids over to reveal the verse.

**What’s Needed?**

- Lids—plastic
- Markers

**Let’s Play!**

1. Write the words of the verse inside plastic lids.
2. Lay out the lids, word side down.
3. Allow the first kid to choose a lid and reveal the word inside. If it is the first word of the verse, continue. If it is not the first word, replace it and move to the next player.
4. Continue play until the entire verse is revealed in order.

**Ransom Note**

Kids will cut the words of the verse from newspapers and magazines and piece them together “ransom note” style.

**What’s Needed?**

- Newspapers and magazines
- Blank paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick

**Let’s Play!**

1. Find and cut out the words of a verse from the newspaper and magazines.
2. Use the glue stick to piece the words together on the blank paper to form the verse.
Learning Centers Beyond Compare

Great Ideas for Teachers - Fun Activities for Preschoolers

Mark Jones
Matching Colors

God made everything and created so many pretty colors!

What’s Needed?

- Construction paper: whole sheets and die cut shapes

Let’s match!!

1. Ask preschoolers to take turns picking up a shape and placing it on the sheet that is the same color. Ask them to say the color name. “Thank you God for making such pretty colors!”
2. Choose die cuts of objects that pertain to your current lesson or unit.
3. For older preschoolers, place objects around the room and play “I Spy.” The first one to see the object retrieves it and places it on the paper.

Pom Pom Push

This is a fun game for little fingers. Push the pom poms through the holes.

What’s needed?

- A plastic recycled container such as a frosting container (shown), whipped topping or ice cream container
- Glue gun
- Various sizes of colorful pompoms

Let’s play!

1. Use the glue gun to melt various sized holes into lid.
2. Children can push the pompoms through the holes. The little pompoms will fit through any hole, but the larger pompoms may only fit through one hole.
3. You may want to use this game to count points during class. You can have a child push a pom pom each time the class has listening ears, when someone answers correctly, when you see someone being kind, etc. When the container is full, the class receives something special!
Outdoor Kitchen

Rearrange the homeliving center to create a space for outdoor kitchen activities. Lead children to thank God for families and food.

What’s Needed?

- Large metal drip pan—find in automotive
- Outdoor kitchen items such as pan with metal rack for grill, grill tools and other kitchen equipment
- White foam sheet (packing material)
- Scissors

Let’s cook!

1. Turn homeliving furniture towards wall and put away items to focus on making a space for outdoor kitchen activities.
2. Use the brown markers and foam to make “meat” shapes.
3. Place other items in the area to create an outdoor feel.
4. Place the drip pan and outdoor kitchen items on the floor. (See picture.)
5. Guide children to use the items to role

Stocking the Pantry

This is great for setting up a preschool kitchen with no budget!

What’s Needed?

- Gather clean, empty food and household containers
- Stuffing, such as newspaper
- Tape

Let’s play!

1. Stuff flimsy boxes with paper and tape lids shut to make boxes more sturdy.
2. Preschoolers can buy groceries and stock the pantry.
3. Preschoolers can pretend they are collecting food for the food pantry to help families in need.
4. Talk about how God provides for us and how we should help others who may need our help.
**Peg People**

Kids will enjoy reenacting the story or pretending with these peg people.

**What’s needed?**
- Peg clothes pins
- Chenille stems
- Fabric scraps
- Small hair elastics

**Let’s make it!**
1. Cut strips of fabric 1 inch wide and 2x the length of your clothes pin. Then cut 1 inch off the length.
2. Cut a chenille stem the same length as the length of your pin. Wrap the stem just below the knob of the pen. This will be your arms.
3. Fold the fabric in half and make a small slit in the center at the fold.
4. Push the top of the pin through the slit. Secure the fabric with an elastic band just below the arms.
5. Cut another piece of fabric to attach to the head with another elastic band.

**Light it Up!**

Promote literacy by building words using colored pegs.

**What’s needed?**
- Colored peg toy like a LiteBrite
- Black construction paper
- White crayons

**Let’s play!**
1. Write messages on the black construction paper using the white crayon.
2. Show children how to use pegs to punch out the messages on the lite board. The words will light up as they spell.
3. Encourage them to take blank pages and construct their own messages.
**How Much Does It Weigh?**

Create a simplistic scale using a hanger and plastic bags.

**What’s Needed?**
- Plastic hanger
- Two plastic sacks
- Two plastic lids
- Various items for kids to weigh

**Let’s weigh!**
1. Place a plastic bag on each end of the plastic hanger and suspend the hanger.
2. Label one lid “heavy” and one lid “light”.
3. Have kids place two items in the scale and then place the labels under the appropriate bags.
4. Have children keep a chart of the heavy and light items.

**Slinky Echolocation**

Explore echolocation utilizing a slinky and some string.

**What’s needed?**
- Metal slinky
- String or yarn

**Let’s listen!**
1. Tie two pieces of yarn to one end of a slinky.
2. Take each piece of yarn and wrap around your index fingers.
3. Insert your fingers into your ears and listen to the sound waves as they travel up the slinky. Then have your students try it out.
Numbers and Words

Plan an activity in the blocks center using numbers and words to make a connection to the Bible story. God Gave Rules to Moses (Exodus 19-20).

What’s Needed?

- 10 wooden blocks
- Self-adhesive address labels
- Black marker OR computer/printer to make labels

Let’s match!

1. Hide labeled blocks on the shelf among the other blocks.
2. After all the blocks have been found, involve the children by putting the blocks in order.

Ten Commandments—using appropriate wording for children

1. Do not worship anyone but God. God is the only God.
2. Do not worship anything you have made.
3. Always say God’s name in a respectful way.
4. Work on six days. On the seventh day, rest and worship God.
5. Honor and respect your mother and father.

Parking Lot

Gather supplies for a parking lot to allow children to use cars to “park” on the lot. Expand the activity to include familiar signs on and near a parking lot.

What’s needed?

- Large, metal drip pan—find in automotive dept.
- Yellow masking tape
- Scissors
- Small cars

Let’s play!

1. Cut strips of the masking tape to make “lanes” on the pan for a parking lot.
2. Place the pan and cars on the floor in the blocks center.
3. As children enjoy “parking the cars,” talk about creating buildings for the parking lot using the blocks.
4. Mention familiar places and parking lots. Talk about signs that might be seen.
5. Read what God promised in Genesis 28:15: I am with you everywhere.