

# Holiday Helps

Ideas for Elementary Classrooms

Use this fun craft to help kids appreciate God's blessings and share those blessings with others.

## Fall Tree Buckets

### What You'll Need

- paint pails or gallon ice-cream buckets (1 per kid)
- scissors
- permanent markers
- 9" x 12" sticky-back foam sheets (or craft foam and craft glue)
- optional: real leaves, glue dots

### What to Do

1. Have kids work together to trace each person's forearm and hand (with fingers spread) three times on brown sticky-back foam, making the shapes of tree trunks with branches. Cut these out.
2. Trace and then cut out 12 or more leaves from colorful foam sheets, using the pattern provided. Stick the leaves to fingertips on the "tree branches." Or, collect real leaves and use glue dots to adhere.
3. Line up the trees around the side of a pail, taking note of how much of the trees touch the pail (the branches will probably protrude above the lip of the pail). Peel backing off the tree trunks up to the lip of the pail and press onto pail, spacing the three trees around the pail.

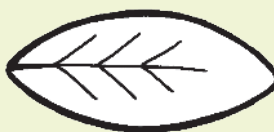
Kids can use their buckets in different ways throughout the season.

- Use the pails as trash cans to collect trash and clean up God's world. Is there a nearby park or school or street that needs cleaning? Set a date to do this together.
- Use the pails as "Sharing Buckets." Fill each bucket with snack items and a bottle of water. Encourage kids to give their buckets to community workers or volunteers. Include a thank-you note in each pail.
- Use the pails as collection buckets. Kids can toss extra change they have into the buckets. See how much money can be collected in a given amount of time for a specified project.

### Another Idea!

Before adhering leaves to branches, encourage kids to print on each leaf something God created or something for which they are thankful. Write "Thank You, God!" somewhere on the bucket.

Copy and cut out this pattern. Give one leaf to each kid for tracing onto foam.



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