READY TO USE CRAFT

# Beginnings

The four stories explored in this month’s Together sessions all focus Genesis. Use these craft ideas to explore these themes, either as part of a Together session or at a craft club or event.

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### ****TOGETHER SESSION ONE****

Nature vases

**You will need:** cardboard boxes from the recycling bin; felt-tip pens; pencils or scissors; access to an outside area

Creation is the ultimate beginning and this craft celebrates the colours and textures of the creation outside of our front doors.

Cut roughly A5-sized rectangles from the cardboard and draw a vase or plant pot on each piece (see photo). Use a pencil or scissors to poke a few rows of holes above the top of the ‘vase’ you have drawn. Go out for a walk into nature and see what you can find to make a vase of flowers. Poke the flowers and leaves through the holes you have created. What is your favourite thing that you have seen on your walk? Who will you give this vase to so that they can enjoy creation too?

### ****TOGETHER SESSION TWO****

Rainbow Skittles

**You will need:** plates; Skittles sweets; warm water

When God sends the rainbow as the flood dries up, the world has an entirely new beginning. This craft celebrates the colour and the wonder of that moment.

Arrange the Skittles around the edge of the plate. Pour some hot water onto the plate to cover its surface. Pour it carefully so that the Skittles stay in place. Wait and the Skittles will gradually release their colour into the plate’s centre. Try the experiment by placing the sweets in different places on the plate and watch the colours mixing in new ways. Where are the new beginnings in your life?

### ****TOGETHER SESSION THREE****

Star stamping

**You will need:** black paper or card; paint (at least two colours); star-shaped cookie cutters

God promises Abraham a new family that will give him as many descendants as there are stars in the sky.

Dip the edges of the star-shaped cookie cutters into the paint and use them to stamp stars onto the black paper. Wipe the cookie cutter clean and then stamp stars of a different colour over the top of the first set of stamps until the page is filled by lots of overlapping stars. How many stars can you see? How do you think Abraham would have felt about his future after what God had said to him?

### ****TOGETHER SESSION FOUR****

Exploding colours

**You will need:** a large sheet of white paper or a sheet to paint on; a variety of colours of paint; clear vinegar; bicarbonate of soda; small sealable bags (roughly 2.75 by 4in)

Warning: do this craft outside as the paint will fly!

Fill a bag about one-third full of vinegar and squirt a little bit of paint into it. Quickly add a heaped quarter teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda and immediately seal the bag. Be quick or you will be too late.

Let the bag lie on the paper and wait for the explosion of colour. This might be quick or it might take some time. Repeat with different bags of colour until the sheet is filled with explosions of colour. If you are wearing nice clothes, make sure to cover them or stand well out of the way. This is amazing fun but is very messy.

Think about the crazy, colourful artwork you have created and the power of the explosions. How do you see God working in amazing and powerful ways in Joseph’s life when he takes up a new beginning in Egypt?

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