



Promise Plaque

Overview: We created this plaque as a response to the second unit of the [God, Our Father Friendship Bible Study](#), which tells the stories of Noah, Abraham and Sarah, and Isaac and Rebekah. The memory verse for this unit is God's promise: "I will be your God" (Genesis 17:7). We chose this theme for our art, using the verse and the symbol of the rainbow to represent God's promises.

The following directions will describe the project in two parts: first, the group project of creating the painting, and second, the one-on-one project of creating the plaques.

Group project: the painting

Materials:

- Stretched, gessoed canvas, 3' x 4' (available at craft stores)
- Gesso (Liquitex Basics makes an inexpensive gesso that is available in a variety of sizes.)
- Tissue paper (enough to cover canvas)
- Acrylic paints: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, white, and black. (We used Liquitex Basics; even less expensive acrylics such as Delta Ceramcoats could be used.)
- Paintbrushes (3 medium-large round art brushes; 3 small-medium house painting brushes)
- Water dishes (3)
- Cloths for cleaning brushes (3)
- Plastic bowls for paints (6)
- Drop cloth

Directions:

1. In order to create more texture on the canvas:
 - apply gesso to an area about the size of a piece of tissue paper.
 - lay a piece of tissue paper over the wet gesso, allowing the paper to wrinkle some.
 - lightly brush another layer of gesso over the tissue paper.
 - repeat until the canvas is covered as desired.

2. Once the surface of your canvas is dry, you're ready to paint. Place a drop cloth under your work area. Have water dishes available for rinsing brushes and cloths for cleaning and drying brushes. Begin by painting a faint rainbow using watered-down, lightened versions of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Colors should be light enough so that when names are painted overtop (step 4), they will show up. Next, paint the verse ("I will be your God." Genesis 17:7) in a deep color—we chose deep blue.

**We had a mentor do steps 1 & 2 in advance. You could choose to involve the whole group.*

3. Once the rainbow and verse have dried, you are ready to finish the painting. Place red paint in one plastic bowl, green in another, and blue in another. These colors will be used to paint participants' names in the rainbow: the red over the red/orange area of the rainbow, the green over the yellow/green area, and the blue over the blue/purple area. Use the three round art brushes for this.

In the other three bowls, mix three different shades of sky blue. These will be applied to fill all of the remaining white space on the canvas. Using different shades will create a more interesting, mottled look, as will painting with brushes that are quite dry and overlapping the shades. Have at least three house-painting brushes available.

Ask three participants to work on the painting at a time. Each person will paint his/her name on the rainbow and paint part of the sky.

**We did this step in one session, but you could break it up if your group is large. Use the hand-over-hand technique to assist anyone needing help.*

Individual project: the plaques

Materials:

- Photos (3.5" x 5", 1 per plaque)
- Ticky tack (enough for a small piece in each corner of each photo)
- Plexiglass (cut into 4.5"x 6" pieces, 1 per plaque)
- Screwdrivers
- Screws (small, 4 per plaque)
- Board (cut into 5.5" x 7" pieces, 1 per plaque)
- Sandpaper
- Markers
- Rulers
- Wire (to make 1 hangar per plaque)
- Wire cutter
- Epoxy glue (To attach wire hangars; or use glue guns; or purchase stick-on hangars.)
- Paper plate and popsicle sticks to apply epoxy

Directions:

1. Prepare the materials you'll need:
 - Once the painting is dry, take a photo of it. Print one 3.5" x 5" copy for each participant.
 - Cut the boards, which will serve as the back of the plaques, into 5.5" x 7" pieces. We used old, weathered fencing, which made us think of Noah's ark.
 - Cut the plexiglass into 4.5" x 6" pieces. Drill a hole (appropriate for the size of the screws you selected) in each corner of each piece of plexiglass. You'll want to have plenty of plexiglass to allow for some breakage when you cut.
2. Set up stations around the room to do the following:
 - Sand any rough sides on the board.
 - Write name on back of board and mark center of board (for placement of hangar).
 - Attach photo to board using ticky tack in each corner.
 - Place plexiglass over photo and drive a screw through each hole.
 - Cut wire with wire cutter and form into a loop, twisting the ends together. This will be attached to the back of the plaque as a hangar.



- Mix enough epoxy to attach loop hangar and apply.
- Set plaques aside while the epoxy dries.

***Demonstrate the steps to the entire group before they dive in, but you may also want to familiarize several people with the process in advance so that they can serve as helpers.**

3. When the project is completed, find a place to display your canvas where the whole congregation can enjoy it. Consider including a sample plaque and a written explanation of the project as part of your display.