



Praise Sticks

Materials:

- Lengths of 1" (2.5 cm) satin and wired ribbon in various colors
- Sewing machine or needle and thread
- 1" (2.5 cm) plastic rings
- Dowels, 18" (45 cm) in length
- Drill
- Eyelet screws
- Wood glue
- Fishing lure turnbuckles

Directions:

1. Cut ribbon in lengths twice the desired finished length. (Cutting on a 45-degree angle will prevent frayed edges.) You'll want four or more lengths for each praise stick; at least one should be wired ribbon.
2. Stack ribbons neatly with one wired ribbon on the outside. Slip the stacked ribbons through the plastic ring, folding the stack of ribbons in half. Machine or hand stitch to hold ring and ribbons in place as shown below.
3. Drill a small "starter" hole in one end of the dowel, and use pliers to screw the eyelet screw into the end of the dowel where you've drilled the "starter" hole. If the dowel splits, undo the eyelet screw, squirt a little wood glue into the hole, and rethread the eyelet screw.
4. To attach the ribbon ring to the dowel, clip one end of the fishing lure turnbuckle to the plastic ring and the other end to the eyelet screw as shown below. (You can purchase fishing lure turnbuckles in sporting goods departments—check the fishing tackle section.)
5. Stroke the wired ribbons between your thumb and forefinger to gently curl the wired ribbons. This will generate a springy effect and maximize ribbon bounce. (If the praise sticks lose their spring, stroke and re-curl the wired ribbons; they will refresh indefinitely.)

—Ellen Tanis, Lakeshore Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Holland, MI. Used by permission.