



## World Day of Prayer

Prepared by the WDP Committee of Vanuatu

March 5, 2021

“Build on a Strong Foundation”

Children’s Programme

**Preparation for Leaders (including extra activities)**

It would be helpful as Leaders of the children’s programme to familiarise yourselves with the country background information, Bible Study and Worship Service written by WDP Vanuatu. These resources are a base to develop the children’s activities. If you are able, prepare a PowerPoint to share pictures from Vanuatu.

Have a look at a world map together and give the children time to locate Vanuatu, giving them an idea of the distance from their own country.

If possible, bring some fresh root vegetables, fruits and other food products that are cultivated in Vanuatu. If you wish, serve the food items to the children.

The Bible Story basis this year is Matthew 7:24-27 – the Parable of the Two Housebuilders. It is a story that is very visual and great to engage children in role play, games and other creative activities.

Remember that the focus of the parable is not the construction of the house, but the foundation. The ones who act on Jesus’ words are like a wise builder choosing a solid foundation. Jesus speaks about making choices to live wisely, and children can relate to that in many ways.

*Before starting the Bible story, give each child a part to play in the story. Ask two children to be the builders; one to be the rock (keeping still on all fours, their back steady and flat); one to be the sand (keeping soft and floppy on all fours, swaying a little); and everyone else to make noises for the wind and rain of the storm! Provide suitable ‘building blocks’ like shoe boxes, cereal boxes, or Jenga blocks..*

*Alternative: Have two teams of builders, one team building their boxes on a big flat tray and the other building on a large soft cushion.*

Tell the story with your own words or read the Bible text while the children act out the story in their own way. Ask the children what they think about Jesus’ advice, “Everyone who hears my words and does what I say will be like a wise person who built their house on a rock.”

In this story, the two foundations of the houses are like two ways we can behave after hearing Jesus’ teaching:

The wise response is to trust and obey Jesus, helping us stay secure even when times are hard.

The foolish response is to ignore and forget Jesus’ teaching, so when we most need it, we have nothing to hold onto.

### Activities for younger children

- a. Arts & crafts ideas: Woven paper basket, table placemat or ball. (pages 2&3)
- b. Complete the definition of what it is to be wise (Activity Sheet 1). Colour in the people!
- c. Join the dots to find the building on the rock (Activity Sheet 2).
- d. Bible story illustrations (Activity Sheet 3) with follow up activities and things to talk about.

## Arts & crafts ideas: Woven paper basket, table placemat or ball

The placemats made by the children could decorate the table for your local World Day of Prayer service. Make these colourful woven mats in the colours of the Vanuatu flag - red, green, black and yellow. You may use any combination of card, paper, fabric, or recycled material like magazine pages or junk mail for this activity.

Placemats can be made by weaving flat A4 sheets, continuing the technique for the basket base, below. Balls can be made by scrunched up a newspaper sheet, adding new sheets one at a time by wrapping around the already-balled shape and taping around the outside when your ball is big enough. Finally, add coloured paper as the last layer if you wish.

Vanuatu children are very resourceful when it comes to filling their days with adventure and games. Their favourite game is to make their own balls to kick and throw to each other. Traditionally the balls are made from the leaves of the Pandanus Palm. They like to play football with this ball, even though it is smaller than the official football.

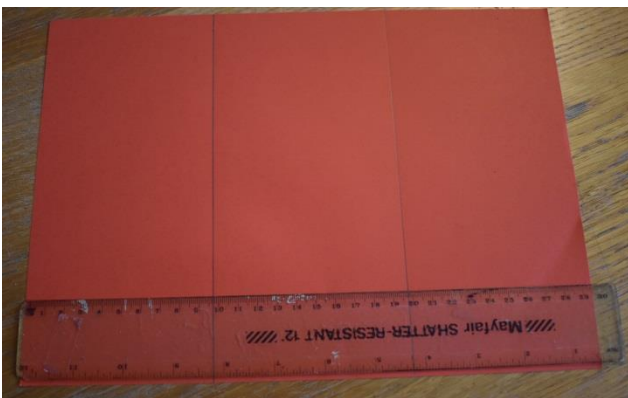
It is important for Vanuatu children to learn how to weave. As they grow older, they use this skill to make baskets, mats and even their homes. This simple project teaches the foundational skills for weaving.

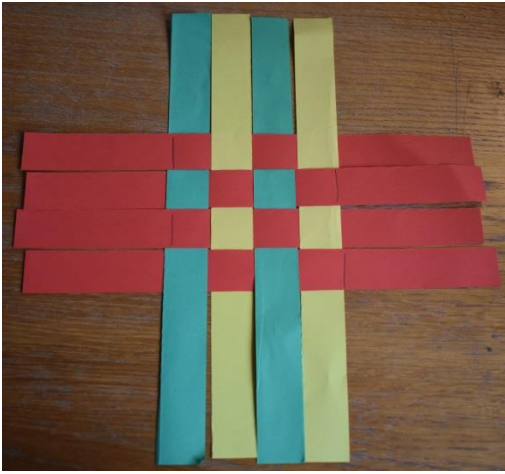
### Simple Paper Basket

1. **Prepare strips of paper to weave your basket.** Choose three sheets of A4 paper in any of the flag colours - red, yellow, green, black.



On one of the sheets of paper to become the base of your basket, draw a horizontal pencil line 9.7 cm from the top and another one 9.7cm from the bottom. These lines will help when laying out the base. Then cut the paper lengthwise into 8 strips of equal width.



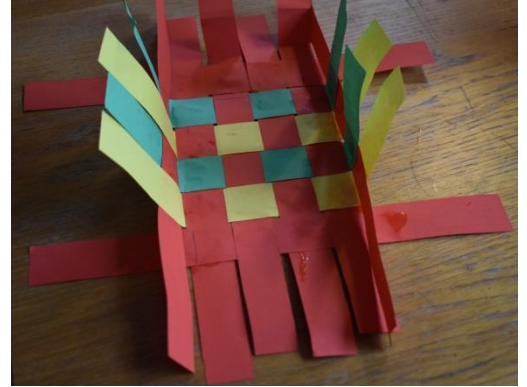


- Weave the base of your basket.** Lay out two lines of 4 strips of paper (including the one marked in pencil) next to each other so that the lines on each strip are face up and form one continuous line. Starting at the top line, weave another strip of the same colour through the strips you've laid out, over one strip and under the next.

You should now have a 4x4 woven square that fits just inside the lines you marked. (*For placemats, keep adding woven strips from here on, into a full flat square.*)

- Fold up the strips sticking out the sides of the basket.**

It can be helpful to put a touch of glue to hold the strips in place. This will make the next steps easier.

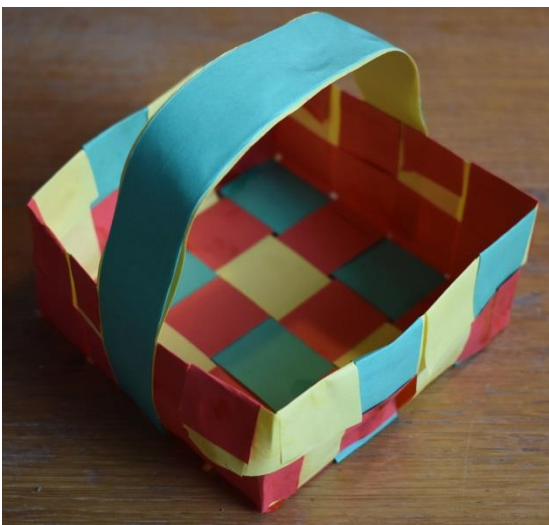
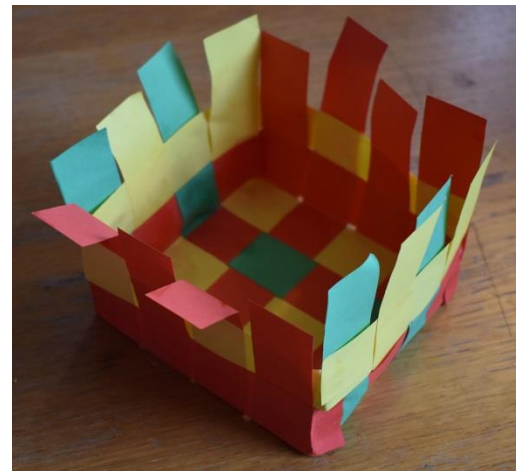


Cut off the pieces that extend beyond the corners after the four sides are folded up. Hold in place with a dot of glue.

- Next, weave new strips of coloured paper between the now vertical strips of the base, folding it to fit around the corner of the basket.**

You will need to use almost two strips to make it all the way around the basket. You can simply tape or glue the two pieces together. Weave the strip all the way around the basket. When the two ends meet, tape or glue them together.

If you wish, repeat the above step, weaving with another strip of the same colour, making the sides higher.



- Finishing your basket.**

Fold over any remaining loose strip ends, gluing or taping them down to make the top rim firm.

If you wish to add a handle, simply tape or glue each end of two differently coloured strips of paper to opposite sides of the basket.

# WORDSEARCH

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