

May 17th, 2026

Theme:

We are called to be separate from the world

Object:

A clear bottle with a top, water, vegetable oil, food coloring. Fill the bottle about 1/3 full with water, and add enough brightly-colored food coloring to make it readily visible. Add vegetable oil until the bottle is about 2/3 full. The oil will float on the water, but when the jar is shaken vigorously, the oil and water will appear to become one. But, if left to stand for a brief period of time, (about 30 seconds) they will separate again.

Scripture:

John 14:15-21

Children's Sermon: In the World - Not of the World (John 17:16,18)

There are two things in this bottle. Can you guess what they are? Colored water --- and oil. When we look at this bottle with oil and water in it, the first thing that we notice is that they remain separate from one another. Now, watch what happens when I shake the bottle. The water and oil appear to become one.

Have the oil and water really become one? Let's let the bottle stand for a little while and see what happens. Look! The water and oil have become separate again. That shows us that even when they were all mixed together, they were never really one.

This bottle is a pretty good picture of what Jesus wants us to be like in this world we live in.

Before Jesus was crucified, he prayed for his disciples. He prayed that as they lived in the world, they would not become part of the world. He wanted them to add the gifts he had given them to the world -- just as the water added some color to the oil -- but he did not want them to become stained by the world. He wanted them to remain the person God made them to be. He wanted them to know his love and to share that love with others (John 17:16,18).

This prayer is for us too. Jesus said that just as his Father sent him into the world, he has sent us into the world. We must live in this world, but Jesus has called us to be separate. Just as this colored water remains separate from the oil, Jesus wants us to be separate from the world.

Dear Jesus, help us, as we live in this world, to remain faithful to your call to be separate from the world.

Craft one: "Oil and Water Sensory Bottle Craft"



Materials

- Clear plastic bottle with lid
- Water
- Vegetable oil or baby oil
- Blue or green food coloring
- Glitter or small beads (optional)
- Funnel (optional)
- Paper towels for cleanup

Instructions

1. Fill the bottle about 1/3 full with water.
2. Add a few drops of blue or green food coloring and mix gently.
3. Slowly pour oil into the bottle until it is about 2/3 full.
4. Add glitter or beads if desired.
5. Screw the lid on tightly.
6. Shake the bottle and watch the oil and water mix temporarily.
7. Set the bottle down and observe how the oil separates from the water again.



Jesus Prays for His Disciples



I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

John 17:9 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 17:6-11 (NIV).

B L X K A Z F F A T H E R X P
 G L S S M Y O U R S E N J R E
 M O K E E C P T N D A B A P R
 I N C T D G W I E G A V E M X
 N G V M P O A Y T G X X W R E
 E E Y J N M E A N V D B V K P
 E R K K E B W I C C H O L Y L
 I C U R O H H O A C L R J X R
 S S E N T T P H R M E D T C W
 G L O R Y O T R Y D P P N O H
 P W A R N C I D O D U R T M L
 W O E A Y Y L Q A T I W A E Z
 V V W O Q R R B E V E B L Y D
 E T F E O S Y W I K I C S W V
 A T T W R J Y R G I X P T I X

POWER	GLORY	ACCEPTED	WORD	YOURS
EVERYTHING	KNOW	PRAY	MINE	GAVE
PROTECT	OBEYED	HOLY	NAME	SENT
LONGER	FATHER	COME	WORLD	REMAIN

Jesus Prays for His Disciples



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have _____ your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the _____ you gave me and they _____ them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I _____ for them. I am not praying for the _____, but for those you have _____ me, for they are yours. All I have is _____, and all you have is _____. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, _____ them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be _____ as we are one.

John 17:6-11

accepted
given

mine
obeyed

one
pray

protect
words

world
yours