

Five Gifts of Discipleship Bottlecap Cross

A craft for all ages using the icons representing the Five Gifts of Discipleship.

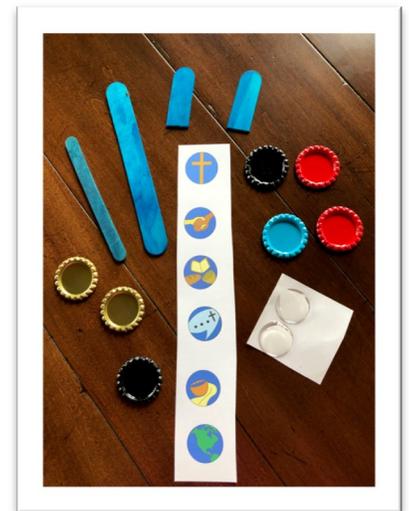
Objectives: To provide a visual reminder of the Five Gifts of Discipleship using a hands-on activity.

Audience: Upper elementary to adult

Duration: Depending on how the materials are prepped, 20 to 60 minutes

Materials/Preparation Needed:

- Printed copies of the Five Gifts of Discipleship Icons including cross (found at www.faithfulteaching.org or also attached) There should be six icons for each participant. Cardstock is a good option to print on. Do not use regular weight paper.
- Bottlecaps (These can be purchased already flattened online and in multiple colors or you can collect your own.)
- Clear Epoxy Dot adhesive stickers
- Mixed media glue (make sure it can be used with paper, wood, and metal)
- Large colored wooden craft sticks—you will need at least one wooden craft stick plus two 2 inch halves (see picture) for each person
- Small colored wooden craft stick—one for each person
- 1 inch paper punch (optional)
- Magnets or cording (optional)



Depending on the age of the participants, some of the materials should be prepared beforehand. For example, instead of just printing out the icons and letting people cut them out, they could be punched out beforehand and ready to go.

The wooden craft sticks should be cut to the appropriate size. Take a wooden craft stick, measure 2 inches from one end and cut. Repeat with the other side so you have two 2-inch pieces with rounded ends. The one full size and two halves will be put together to form the base for the cross.

If you collect your own bottlecaps, you may want to flatten them to avoid people getting cut on the edges. The bottlecaps can be flattened with a hammer (time-consuming) or if you have access to something like a Cuttlebug.

Craft directions:

1. Download the icons and print them out. After you download them from the website, resize them so that they are 1.2" in height. This will make the icon itself the 1" size you need. Cut out the icons using a 1-inch paper punch. This gives you a clean edge. Alternatively, you can cut them out using scissors, but it is easier AFTER you attached the Epoxy dots than before. (See next step.)
2. Attach the Epoxy dot to the icon. If you have punched the icons out beforehand, hold the Epoxy dot in your hand upside down and line up the icon with the edges. Press together. (Suggestion, use a tissue or the clear plastic that comes with the dots to cover the top of the Epoxy dot so you avoid getting fingerprints on it.) Repeat with all the icons. If you are cutting the icons out after you attach the Epoxy dot, place the dot over the icon so you can see that the edges are lined up and press gently down. Now cut out the icon but be sure not to cut the Epoxy dot.
3. Next, select 6 bottlecaps to use for your icons. The example has 5 silver bottlecaps and 1 gold bottlecap. Gently squeeze some glue into the middle of the cap and spread around. Drop the icon into the center and gently press (again, think about using a tissue to keep the fingerprints to a minimum.) Repeat with other icons and bottlecaps. Let dry for a couple of minutes. (Note: the cross will not be completely set for 24 hours of drying time, but this allows it to set enough to handle.)
4. Lay out your wooden craft sticks in the form of a cross with the long one as the upright and the two halves as the arms. **DO NOT GLUE YET!** Lay out the bottlecaps to your satisfaction with the cross icon in the middle where the wooden sticks meet.
5. Now carefully remove the cross icon and dab glue on the four wooden sticks directly where the cross icon will sit. Place the cross icon back onto the glue and wooden sticks and gently press.
6. Lift up each of the icons and place glue on the wooden craft stick underneath and replace the icon gently pressing down. Repeat until all are in place. Let set about 10 minutes. (If you are doing this as part of a larger activity, this would be a good time to have guided conversation.)
7. After the cross is set, glue a smaller craft stick (ideal would be same color) along the arms to provide stability. You are done—just let it set for 24 hours!
8. Other options.
 - Add an adhesive magnet to the back so that the cross could be hung on a refrigerator.
 - Add a loop of cording so that the cross could be hung.
 - Make the bottlecap icons, but place magnets on the back of each piece. Participants can add each piece on the refrigerator as they study that gift.



(Water cross used by permission of the ELCA)