

1E

Shirt of Many Colors – Intergenerational Activity

In our Bible story, Joseph was given a long robe to wear. Traditionally, it was thought to be a very colorful robe. Work with your church family to make colorful tie-dye T-shirts! Use these directions below.

Supplies

- cotton T-shirts in various sizes
- large tubs or containers
- rubber bands
- string and marbles (if available)
- fabric dye in many colors
- bucket of soapy water
- paper towels
- tables with plastic tablecloth
- drop cloths
- soda ash (if possible)
- smocks
- nitrile gloves in various sizes

Before You Begin

1. Prewash the T-shirts. This will help the dye set better.
2. You may choose to set up the activity outside or in an area of the church building that is ideal for a messy activity.
3. Set up the tables with plastic tablecloths on them. Put drop cloths on the floor if needed.
4. Invite the participants to wear old clothes or provide smocks if available.

Different Designs to Try

1. Start in the middle of the shirt and twist until a spiral shape forms. Wrap the shirt tightly with four rubber bands to hold the shape. The rubber bands divide the shirt into "pieces of pie." Dye each "piece of pie" a different color.
2. Scrunch your shirt starting at one end and working your way across the fabric. Keep the shirt as flat as you can and secure with rubber bands. Dip one side of the shirt into a color. Flip the shirt around and dip into another color. Don't overdo it. Leaving white spaces makes a better pattern.
3. Start in the middle of your shirt. Pinch a bit of fabric and hold it with a rubber band. Place another rubber band below the first. Continue in this way until the shirt is in the shape of a tube. Dye different parts of the tube, leaving white spaces.

