** Making a Family Cross** 

 **By Beth Gier**

**Work together to create a piece of art that will serve as a focal point for family devotional times, as well as**

**tell a visual story about your family.**

**Needed:**

**Large, unfinished wooden cross (found at craft stores) or**

**materials to make your own cross shape or**

**Styrofoam sheet or corrugated cardboard and utility knife or sharp scissors; hot glue gun; assorted small items that**

**represent something important to your family, such as: buttons, shells, silk or dried flowers, ribbons, beads,**

**small stones, small photos, seeds, charms, and so on.**

**Activity Plan:**

**1. Say this prayer aloud to begin:**

***Creator God, help us to experience the joy of working together to create something meaningful and***

***beautiful for our family. Bless our time together. Amen***

***.***

**2. If you’ve chosen to make your own cross, cut a cross shape from the Styrofoam or corrugated**

**cardboard. If you need a pattern, use cross clip art from your computer or search for it online.**

**3. Decorate your cross by gluing your collected items to it. Be very cautious when using hot glue**

**around young children. Talk about what each item represents to your family as you attach it. For**

**example, a shell might remind you of a family trip to the ocean, which perhaps could begin a**

**conversation about water and baptism or the story of Jesus calming the sea. Let the Spirit be your**

**guide!**

**4. When the cross is finished, decide together on a place to hang it.**

**5. Gather near your cross and say this prayer aloud:**

***God, we pray this cross will serve as a symbol of our family’s love for one another and for you. We***

***give thanks we are able to work together to create beautiful things. May our work be pleasing to you.***

***Amen.***