

SCREAMING ROCKS

What you need to do this project:

- Large rounded rocks (one for each group member)
- Colored pencils
- Brushes
- Acrylic paints
- Clear varnish
- Drop cloth
- Polaroid camera and film (optional)



I got this idea from a sermon I preached one time on the rocks in the Bible. I started out with the pillar of stones, gathered from the bottom of the Jordan River, stacked up as a reminder of when the Lord parted the waters and let Joshua and the Israelites enter the promised land (Joshua 4: 1-9, 19-24). We then went to Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ and that Jesus in turn told Peter that he is the rock on this rock Jesus will build his church. (Matthew 16: 13-20). We finished with Jesus entering into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey. As the people are praising Him, the Pharisees rebuke Jesus and tell him to ask the disciples and followers to be quiet. Jesus reply is, I tell you if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out (Luke 19: 35-40). All these passages incidentally would be great for the teaching portion of this project. Today, people just like the Pharisees, want us to shut up about our faith, they want to silence us and make us go away. This project is a reminder not to let the rocks cry out for us.

To start, gather some rocks. These should be the large rounded kind found in the woods or down by a river bank. You may want to take your students on a gathering trip where they can pick out the perfect rock. Please note, if this is the case, please be cautious while turning over rocks, in some parts of the country, snakes and other animals hide under rocks.

Once you have a perfect rock for each group member, take them back to your facility and thoroughly scrub the rocks with water to remove any dirt and allow them to dry thoroughly. While the rock is drying, take the polaroid camera and take a photo of each group member in their best screaming face, or if you prefer just have each member sketch out a screaming face. When the rock is dry cover it with a base coat of white acrylic

and when the base coat is dry, have the students sketch the faces on the rocks. Then help them to paint the image. When the paint is dry take the rocks to a well ventilated area and cover them with several coats of clear varnish. As you work, talk about the above passages. Discuss the Joshua passage and look at how rocks were used as a reminder of what God has done in our lives. This is a great thing to use as a reminder since rocks are solid, stable and permanent. Discuss how the rock that the church is built upon is the declaration that Jesus is Lord. Ask how we can be Rock Solid for God. Ask if their faith is the kind of faith that God could build a church on. Finally, discuss ways that your students can keep the rocks from crying out for them.

When the rocks are done, display them in a prominent location. You might even do a service where someone brings a message on not letting the rocks cry out (a great encouragement for people to leave their comfort zone and go into all the world). Then one by one have your students carry their rocks to the front of the sanctuary and tell what they will do to keep their rock from crying out for them. Leave the rocks on display somewhere in the church as a reminder to the people to go out and share the Gospel. When it is time to take the display down, return the rocks to the students and ask them to keep them as a reminder to be a good witness and to seize the opportunities to share the Gospel.

