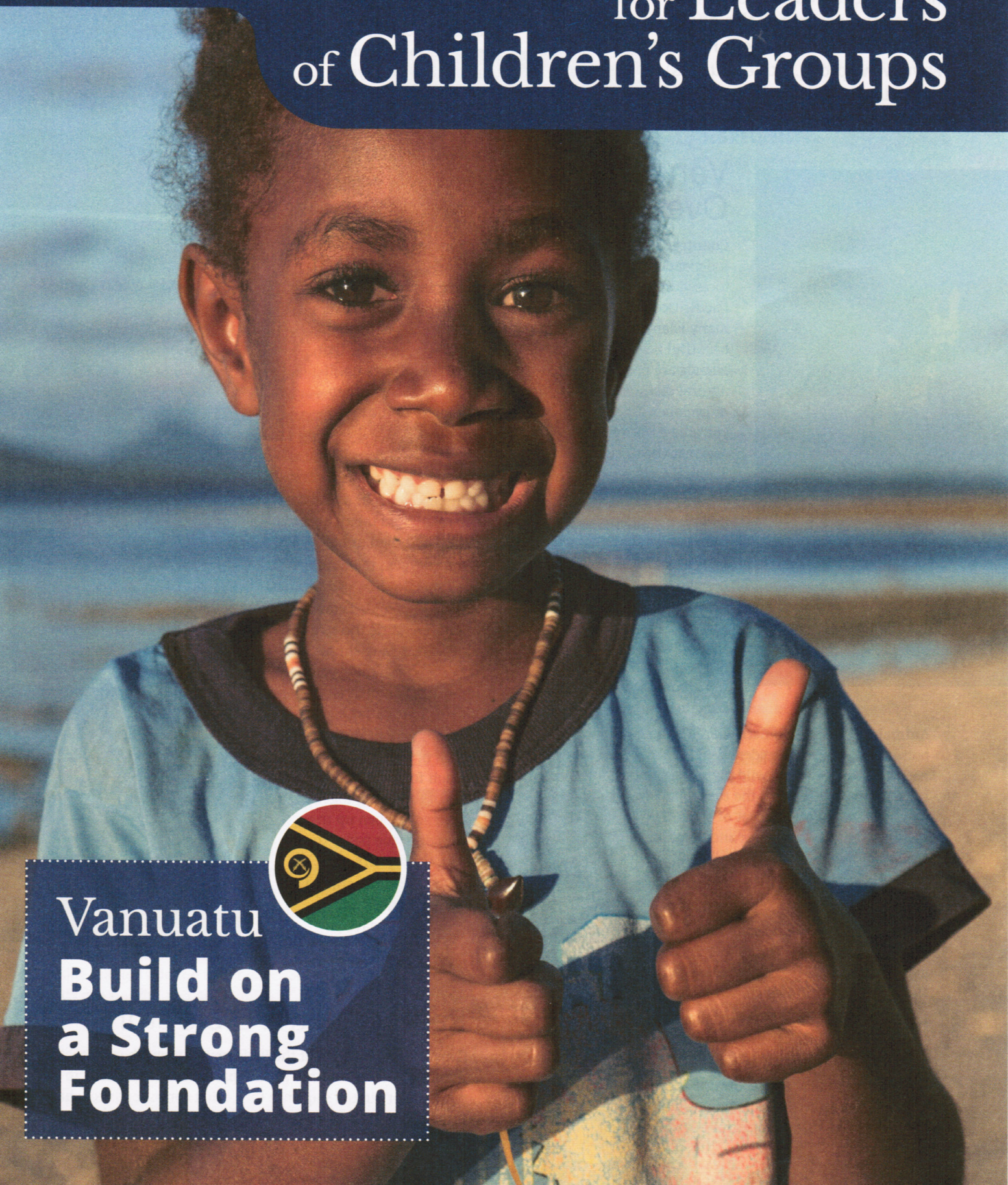




# Resources

for Leaders  
of Children's Groups



Vanuatu  
**Build on  
a Strong  
Foundation**





# Games to play and things to make

Here are the instructions for the crafts – you will find more information on our website, such as the **script for the children's service**, and the printouts. Look in **Resources** ([www.wwdp.org.uk/resources](http://www.wwdp.org.uk/resources)) where you will find a **Creative Ideas for 2021** section.



## Vanuatu Overview

**Country:** Vanuatu is an independent country located in the South Pacific Ocean. It has many islands and beautiful beaches. The islands are prone to natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and volcanic eruptions. The severest Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu on 13th March, 2015.

**Climate:** Vanuatu has only two seasons: A hot and humid season from November to March ending in heavy rains and cyclones; a dry season from April to October when the climate is temperate.

**Animals:** There are no native large mammals, poisonous snakes, or spiders. Wild pig and fowl are native to Vanuatu. The wild pig is very important to Vanuatu culture, with the tusks included as a national symbol on the coat of arms. The region is rich in sea life, with turtles and dolphins, and many species of fish.

**Food:** Most of the fruits and vegetables are organically cultivated. The beef is amongst the best in the world.

**People:** The native people are mostly Melanesians. There are also people from other Pacific Islands living in Vanuatu. Others include Asians, Australians, Newzealanders and French.

**Languages:** There are many languages in Vanuatu. Each child will speak their local language at home, and learn Bislama, English or French in school.

**School:** Many children live in rural areas with no schools. Some have to walk long distances to attend school or leave their villages for boarding school.

## Flower garlands

There are many ways to make flower garlands using real or artificial flowers. Here is one easy suggestion. This could easily be done as a team effort, one child cutting paper, one folding, another tying to the string, yet another unfolding the paper to form the flowers.

### YOU WILL NEED

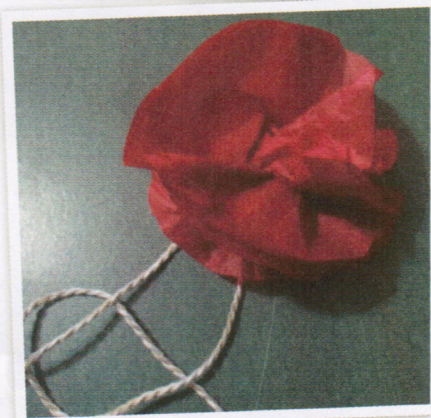
- Tissue paper, string or cord and scissors

Second hand tissue paper from wrapping things will do, secondhand string from veg box deliveries or other sources will also do. If you can get precut circles of tissue paper that would speed things up. If not, cut the tissue paper into squares about 10–12 cm.

### WHAT TO DO

1. Take three or four squares of paper and fold them, as one, in half and then in half again.
2. Cut a curve on the unfolded corner.
3. Scrunch the folded corner together and tie the string around this (any simple knot will do, if you know your knots a clove hitch is good for this application).
4. Attach plenty of these to one length of string that is long enough for a garland. Tie the ends of the string together. Then gently open up the layers of tissue paper to create the flowers.
5. Hang the garland around some one's neck and brighten their day.

© Stephanie Grant 27/11/19



## Rearrange the Bible story

Copy a simple version of the Bible text. Cut out the verse numbers. Divide this into several parts. Ask the children to put the story in the sequence they think corresponds to what Jesus taught. Let them share the sequence they created.



## Woven paper boxes

Weaving is a very important skill for children in Vanuatu to learn because so many things people use in village life are made by weaving such as baskets for holding all sorts of things, houses, balls to play with.

Lots of weaving projects are possible using paper strips. Placemats would be simple and colourful. Here are instructions for baskets, this is a bit more complex than a flat mat but is an excellent opportunity to work together in pairs. One person can hold the work while the other weaves.

### YOU WILL NEED

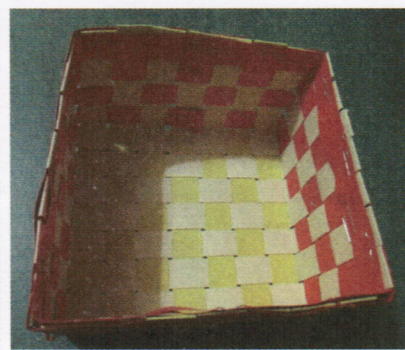
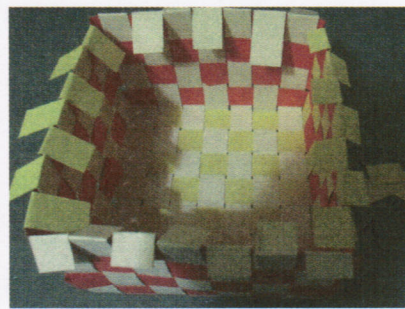
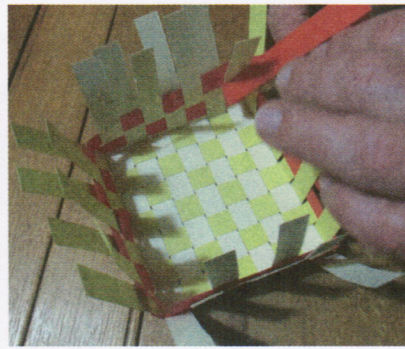
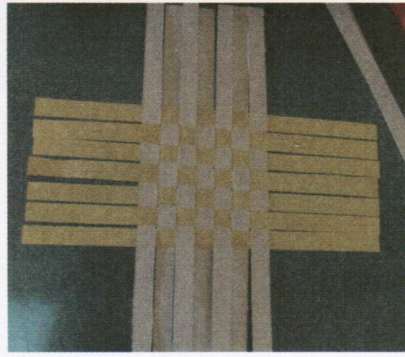
- Three sheets A4 thick paper or thin card, cut lengthways into 1.5cm wide strips.

Many variations are possible. I've used materials that are readily available. Glossy magazine paper would be an alternative to using new card or paper. Where the paper needs to be fixed together glue or sticky tape or staples all work. Use whichever suits your circumstances.

### WHAT TO DO

1. Begin by weaving the base of the basket. Straightforward under/over/under/over with the next strip going over/under/over/under (ie alternating with the first). Gently push the strips as closely together as possible. I use seven strips each way. The ends need to project evenly on all sides – they become the sides of the square basket. This size gives a base about 10cm square with the ends projecting about 9cm each way. Especially on the first few rows having an assistant hold the paper in place is a considerable help.
2. Fold the ends over close to the edge of the woven area and then partially unfold them so that they are vertical and ready to form the sides of the basket.
3. Join some strips in pairs to give extra long strips. Each double length strip forms one layer of the weaving for the sides of the basket. Folding the strip to the dimensions of the basket before weaving makes it easier. There will be an overlap of about the length of one side, this strengthens the structure.
4. To weave the sides an assistant is almost essential to hold the basket in shape while allowing the weaver access.
5. When the sides are woven far enough push the weaving down gently but firmly, then fold over the ends of the strips to tidy and secure the structure. A handle can be made by attaching a strip of paper from side to side at this stage. Finish by attaching strips of paper inside and outside the upper edge. Surplus ends can be trimmed off.

© Stephanie Grant 31/12/19



## Recipes

Please check for allergies first!

### Coconut Cake

#### INGREDIENTS

- 200g Caster sugar
- 60g ground almonds
- 4 egg whites
- 500g shredded coconut

#### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 170C/gas mark 3
2. Beat egg whites until stiff
3. Add sugar gradually and whisk again till stiff and shiny
4. Fold in almonds and coconut
5. Spoon mixture into a baking tray
6. Bake for half an hour, until beginning to turn golden.



### Lap Lap

A dish made from grated root crops or plantain

#### INGREDIENTS

- Green bananas
- Large Sweet potato
- Spinach
- Chives
- Chicken pieces
- Coconut milk
- Salt & black pepper
- Onions
- Oil
- Garlic
- Large banana leaves to wrap it in or just serve as a casserole

#### METHOD

1. Brown the ingredients in olive oil.
2. Add coconut milk and seasoning and simmer for about forty minutes.

## Find the Story

On strips of paper write verses of the story, bury in sand, then let the children find it and read, while the small children create gestures to express the story from Matthew 7:24-27.



### Origami House

With houses featuring in the story, this simple origami house is offered as a craft activity. A message can be written on the finished model. It might be the bible verse, or some action a person is intending to take, or another appropriate message.

#### YOU WILL NEED

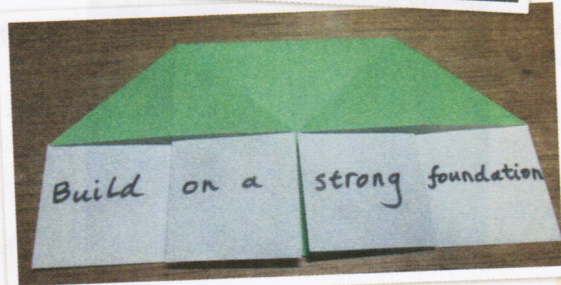
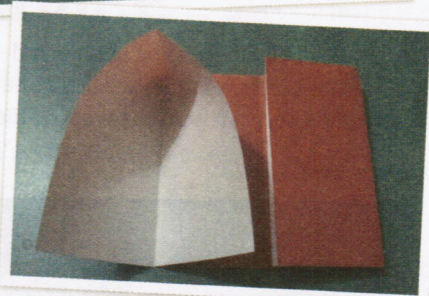
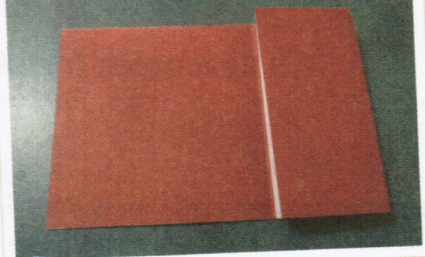
- A square of paper, white on one side.

Origami paper is good and comes pre-cut in accurate squares, but squares cut from pre-used wrapping paper can also be used.

#### WHAT TO DO

1. Place paper white side up.
2. Fold in half horizontally, forming a rectangle with the coloured side showing.
3. And in half again, forming a square.
4. Unfold the last fold.
5. With the existing fold to the top and the unfolded side towards you, fold the sides to the centre.
6. Lift and open, then squash flat.
7. Repeat on other side and add your message.

© Stephanie Grant 27/11/19



### Sand Drawings

#### YOU WILL NEED

- A large tray and children's play sand

#### WHAT TO DO

1. Shake the base of the tray so that the sand is even.
2. Explain that local Vanuatu people use sand patterns to tell ancient stories.
3. Demonstrate a pattern and explain that children shouldn't lift their hands as they go but try to create a pattern in one continuous movement. There is material on the Internet about Vanuatu and sand patterns which you may find helpful.

### True or False

Put your hand up, if I say something that is true. The answer is in the brackets.

1. God sent Jesus to teach people about building houses and sheds. (False)
2. Jesus said, "Hate your enemies and hate your neighbours." (False. Love your enemies and pray for those who mistreat you)
3. Jesus said that people who 'hear and obey' his teachings are wise. (True)
4. The house that was built on the sand was strong. (False)
5. The house that was built on the rock was strong. (True)

### Houses on Rock and Sand

#### YOU WILL NEED

- 17 lolly sticks for each house. Cut 12 of these in half
- A tray of children's play sand about 5cm deep
- A rectangle of grey or brown plasticine about 5cm x 20cm x 12cm
- PVA glue

#### TO MAKE THE WALLS

1. Push 6 cut lolly sticks, cut-side down, into the sand/plasticine to make the back wall
2. Push 3 cut lolly sticks into the sand/plasticine on either side of the back wall to make the sides.
3. Push 4 cut lolly sticks into the sand/plasticine to make the front wall, leaving a space for the door.

#### TO MAKE THE ROOF

4. Place 5 uncut cut lolly sticks lengthwise side by side and add a layer of PVA glue
5. Stick 8 cut lolly sticks widthwise on to this bottom layer
6. Put the roof carefully on top of the walls

Once the first house 'on sand' is assembled use a hairdryer and a small jug of water to simulate the effects of wind and rain and observe what happens! It is probably preferable to start with the water in the jug, and then get the children to stand well back, since dry sand may blow into people's eyes.

Repeat the process with the second house 'on rock'. You'll find the roof comes up in both cases, but this is often the case in reality. You could have a discussion about how people could avoid this.

