

Taiwan Bubble Tea & God's Word

Background

Bubble tea, also known as boba tea, has been an important part of Taiwan's tea culture since the 1980s. Recently, while visiting a tea stand near my church in Chiayi City, Taiwan, I noticed a few things about bubble tea that reminded me of scripture and my job as a missionary and teacher. Here's how the popular drink helps me remember scripture as I share God's love with my community in Taiwan.

1. The Milk Tea – Remembering God the Father

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27 (ESV)**

God made all people, loves them, and wants them to be with Him forever in Heaven. When I see the milk tea, I remember the sweetness of a great and loving God. I want to tell everyone how He made our incredible world, takes care of us, and loves us more than we can imagine!

2. The Straw – Remembering God the Son

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6 (ESV)**

Jesus, God's Son, is our loving Savior. He died on a cross to take away the sin that separates us from God. When I see the straw poking out of the cup, I remember how Jesus gave His life to save us. I want to tell everyone how He beat sin, death, and Satan. Only Jesus can save us. He is our redeemer and friend!

3. The Boba Pearls – Remembering God the Holy Spirit

For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. **Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)**

The Holy Spirit gives us our faith, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus. When I see the boba pearls, I remember how the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel, helping us live our lives according to God's Word. I want to tell everyone the Good News, God's gift of salvation through His Son, Jesus. I want to share the joy of life in Christ!

Taiwan Bubble Tea Craft

(Estimated Time – 15 minutes)

Objectives

- The children will hear three scripture verses related to sharing the Gospel.
(Genesis 1:7, John 14:6, Ephesians 2:8)
- The children will create a Taiwan bubble tea craft to recall the related Bible verses.
- The children will summarize the message of the Bible verses related to sharing the Gospel.

Materials

- 9 oz paper cups (tan, off-white, or white color)
- Construction paper (tan, off-white, or white color)
- Scrap paper – any color
- Black markers
- Scissors
- Glue (bottles with a sponge applicator tip work well)
- Single Hole Paper Punch (optional)
- 2 ½ inch paper punch (optional)
- Paper or plastic straws cut in half (regular or wide diameter)

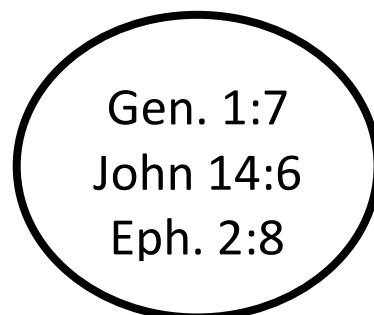
Step 1

(Share the background story, and “Remembering God the Father” with the children before or during steps 1-4. Display the scripture verses in a large space or print them on paper for the students to see.)

- Using a black marker, write the scripture verse references on the bottom of the cup.

Teaching younger children?

- Write or print the verse references for the bottom of the cups before the students arrive.



Step 2

- Turn the cup upside down on the construction paper. Using a black marker, draw a wide circle around the cup. (Don't worry if it's not perfect.)
- Cut out the circle, making sure it's still a little larger than the cup opening.

Teaching younger children?

- Prepare the circles before the students arrive. (A 2 ½ inch paper punch works nicely.)



Step 3

- With a scissors, cut small incisions around the perimeter of the paper circle.
- Using the tip of a scissors or the paper hole punch, make an opening for the straw.
- Fold the perimeter of the circle upward, preparing it for the cup.



Step 4

- Crumple scrap paper to fill the cup $\frac{3}{4}$ full. (Two half sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper work nicely.) Place the paper in the cup. This is the "milk tea."
- Apply glue to the up-turned edges of the paper circle.
- Place the paper circle on top of the crumpled paper. Gently press the up-turned edges of the paper against the sides of the cup. (Younger ones will likely need some assistance.)



Step 5

(Share “Remembering God the Son” with the children before or during step 5.)

- Place a straw into the paper circle opening on top of the cup.



Step 6

(Share “Remembering God the Holy Spirit” with the children before or during step 6.)

- Using a black marker, draw and fill small black circles on the bottom 1/3 of the cup. These are the “boba pearls” resting on the bottom.

Congratulations! You’ve finished the Taiwan Bubble Tea Craft project. Enjoy your “tea” and the knowledge that God made you, saved you, and gives you your faith!



Mindy Thews
Missionary & Teacher
Concordia Middle School
Chiayi City, Taiwan