

UNRAVELED

SEEKING GOD WHEN OUR PLANS FALL APART

CURRICULUM FOR AN INTERGENERATIONAL ART PROJECT

PROJECT DESIGNED BY
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INTRODUCTION

Imagine the Communion Table changing throughout the series. First, torn fabric dresses it. Beautiful in its decomposition, this Table installation represents our hopes and dreams unraveled, the way our life and plans sometimes disintegrate under our feet, leaving us scrambling for the footing God is leading us toward. Throughout the worship series, the congregation will take torn strips from the Table installation to create beautifully-woven fabric medallions. In worship, members can write prayers on fabric strips that will get woven into the medallions. Throughout the series, the unraveled components in the Table installation will diminish and transform into beautiful woven, round tapestries. This project tangibly portrays God's presence in our moments of unraveling as well as the promise that God hems us in—behind and before. When our plans fall apart, may God weave us together with love.

FROM THE ARTISTS

"This has been an unraveled year for me. We moved suddenly for a career opportunity. I have approached the entire year with an awareness of God. I have searched for her in the eyes of each of the thousands of new people we have met. The feeling of scrambling for my footing has played out day in and day out as I have bent my mind to new routines, a new job, a new life that God has called us to engage. As we looked for art ideas for the Unraveled series, this weaving project resonated with me because the product is beautiful, despite the fact that it is made from torn fabric. Any time I make art for the worship space, beauty is at the top of my priority list. I believe that the space where we prepare for the presence of God must be our best work. It must be our gift to God." —HANNAH GARRITY

FROM THE ARTISTS *(continued)*

“When life falls apart, your unraveling is an end, but not the end. This project helps us embody the promise of the great weaver—that our loose ends can be woven into something new, something beautiful. The process of unraveling and being woven back together is not linear or predictable; this project allows us to bear witness to both these spaces at once.”

—LISLE GWYNN GARRITY

OBJECTIVES

- Provide opportunities for all age groups in your church to participate in a theologically-grounded art project.
- Explore the *Unraveled* theme through visual creation and tangible elements.
- Produce a beautiful final piece of art with depth and meaning.



MATERIALS

1. 1-3 large **hula hoops** (34” diameter or larger) to use as hula hoop looms. *Decide how many fabric medallions you hope to create throughout the series. You will need one hula hoop per fabric medallion.*
2. **Fabric** (in the *Unraveled* color palette) that is easy to tear into strips. Purchase at least 3 yds of each color. *We purchased 3 colors (3 yards each) in a polyester blend often called “china silk” because it is beautiful and very easy to tear. You can purchase it online here. That was enough fabric to create one fabric medallion. Purchase more fabric if you create more medallions and/or pass strips to members to write prayers on during worship.*
3. **Scrap fabric** (in the *Unraveled* color palette) to create the Communion Table installation. *If you have a sewing group or scrap fabric closet at the church, scavenge it and select scraps with a variety of textures and patterns. Choose fabric you consider beautiful.*
4. **White or dark blue fabric** to wrap around and cover the hula hoop looms to make them presentable for worship.
5. **Thick wool yarn** (in the *Unraveled* color palette) for adding to both the Communion Table installation and the fabric medallions.
6. **Ribbon** (gold or white) that is about 2” thick to create the hula hoop looms.
7. **Scissors** for cutting fabric.
8. **Masking tape.**
9. **A basket** to collect fabric strips during worship.

PREPARATION (PRIOR TO THE FIRST SUNDAY IN THE SERIES)

GET COORDINATED & CUSTOMIZE YOUR APPROACH TO THE PROJECT:

- Assign 2-3 adults to serve as **Project Leaders** who will help gather supplies, prepare the project, and invite others into the creative process. They will shepherd the flow of the project to keep it moving forward throughout the series.
- **Announce the project** in your church newsletter. You may use language from the introduction above to introduce the project to your community.
- Use our accompanying *Unraveled: Time with Children Prompts* document to **plan out the Time with Children in worship**. The children will engage with the art project to explore themes of unraveling and weaving throughout the series.
- **Decide how you will integrate this project into your worship** series. Since the series is customizable in order and duration, determine:
 - How many hula hoop looms you wish to create over the course of the series.
 - When during worship you will practice “unraveling” by taking pieces of fabric from the Table installation and collecting them in baskets to weave into the looms after worship. We have provided options for doing this during the Time with Children, but you could also invite members and/or worship leaders to “unravel” components from the Table installation during other moments in worship such as the:
 - Opening Prayer
 - Prayer of Confession
 - Prayer of the People
 - Communion Liturgy
 - Hymns
- **Decide who will help with weaving the fabric medallions, and when the weaving will occur after worship each week.** The weaving will take time, so pace it out and invite many hands to help!