

Joy Tees

Joyfulness is contagious! When you are happy, others around cannot help but feel happy as well. Create your own tee to share your joy before uttering a word. This project is adaptable for use with families, small groups/life groups, choirs, youth groups, etc. Plus, it makes an awesome statement when worn together while serving others!

Here is what you will need:

(You should have old tees or paint smocks so no one ruins their clothing while creating the tee.)

- a black tee shirt for each person (long or short sleeve, whatever their preference)
- painter's tape or masking tape
- cardboard (to put inside the shirt to protect the back)
- small spray bottles
- bleach
- tablespace to work, or a parking lot outside if it is warm enough

Prepare in advance:

You will need a space to work away from other cloth/fabric surfaces (i.e.: tablecloths, carpets, etc.) If you are working as a large group, a fellowship hall, gymnasium, cafeteria, or even a parking lot works great, as you will want proper ventilation. Fill each spray bottle with approximately ½ cup of bleach.

Lay each tee shirt out. Place a piece of scrap cardboard inside the body of the tee shirt, or any area that may be decorated.

Using painter's tape or masking tape, cut and rip various sized pieces, spelling out the word "JOY" on the shirt. Be creative with placement. It can be put anywhere on the shirt, as long as there is cardboard in between the shirt layers. Press the tape to insure adhesion.

Put on gloves and (optional) paint smock. Using the spray bottle with bleach, stand directly over the shirt and gently spray over your design. It is best to lightly spray directly down onto the shirt, rather than at an angle. Be careful NOT to lean against surfaces with bleach. Do not overspray bleach onto carpets, other cloth, or soft surfaces, as it will remove the color from them.

After waiting about five minutes, gently pull back a corner of a piece of tape, to see if you have achieved your desired effect. If you would like more color difference, replace the tape and spray one more time.

Gently remove the tape. Put it directly into a trash bag without it touching the rest of the shirt.

Hang to dry. Brush off any residue that may form. Rinse and dry your shirt and wait for the compliments to roll in! Wash the shirt the first 2-3 times by itself, or with other shirts made the same way, so that bleach does not take the color from other clothing.

