

# NICE BUT A LITTLE MESSY

## Remind yourself that a thing of beauty takes patience

This little activity is great for children and families of all ages (see alternative ending) BUT it is especially meant for husbands and or wives who don't really want to give up on their marriage. It will not replace good advice, emotional support, trust in God or any of our other resource pages but it can be hung in your window as a **reminder** that the sun is always shining and that God's will is that it should shine through us casting a rainbow of love onto those around us.

Making suncatchers and hanging them in the window is such fun that you may want to make more than one and call them Christmas ornaments. Once the kids start they won't want to quit. All you need is Elmer's Glue and a little food color.

Cut an eight inch square of wax paper and put it on a paper plate. Add 2 tablespoons more or less of white glue. Finally two or three drops of food color and using a toothpick stir with just three or four circular strokes. (Children will want to stir and stir because it is fun. This will make their final product kind of brown instead of a rainbow but the joy of experimenting is perhaps the best part of childhood. When they see how pretty yours turns out (the one you stirred only three times) they will want to try it again anyway.) Set the paper plates on top of the fridge for a whole week and clean up your glue mess.

At the end of the week peel off the wax paper and cut the now plastic glue to any shape you want or leave it in its natural shape. Carefully pierce it with a paintbrush handle or nail and put a string thru the hole. Your sun catcher is ready to hang in a window. **The moral to the story is that marriage (love) is like Elmer's glue, sticky at first but if you give it enough time it will hold anything together. If you start over with a new project (partner) there WILL be a new mess, perhaps a worse one. Good marriages like all worthwhile crafts require some clean up time and much patience.**

**But, duh,** most of us already know about love, and about patience and it isn't helping. The only thing that it did was wear us out and bring us closer to giving up... which is what the Sun catcher is all about... reminding us to trust in God's light shining through us and accomplishing what we cannot. Sun catchers just don't do well without the sun. We just don't do well without God.

**May God bless you, your children and your sun catcher as you do your best to dangle your hearts in the light of THE SON (the sun) and reflect the rainbow of his love on those around you.** When it isn't working call a friend. When it seems like it will never work call two friends. When you want to get out and "start over" consider starting over with the same person. It could lead to the most beautiful rainbow of all.

We understand that statistics about divorce are not the whole story, that each divorce is different and that one rule does not fit all BUT following are a few thoughts that might help you make up your mind.

1. Among white males the divorce of your parents is the single factor **most likely** to predict a teenage suicide.
2. Real or imagined parental rejection is the number one predictor that a child will spend time in a juvenile correctional facility.
3. Children from disrupted marriages are 70 per cent more likely to be suspended from school.
4. In spite of the fact that so many adults report feeling better afterward the actual statistic is that their lives are shortened 2.4-10 years and they are over ten times as likely to be admitted to a psychiatric hospital.