

Level 1- City of Jerusalem Building Directions



City of Jerusalem Mute and 3-D Relief Map



City of Jerusalem showing topography

(NOTE: The booklets shown in this picture ARE NOT Level I Materials)

The Level I City of Jerusalem includes the flat mute board and the 3-D Model with raised surfaces (the topography), moveable walls and buildings that were part of great events in the life of Jesus that happened there: His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The Rome City of Jerusalem is not encased in a box, nor does it have a lid. Open sides afford the child more accessibility to work.

This material is intended to provide the child with an impression of this most important city in Israel. It is not, and does not need to be, an exact replica. There are many resources available to help you explore the City of Jerusalem as you make this material. Biblical atlases, internet searches, Bible commentaries are just a few. Sources will show that the walls and boundaries of Jerusalem have changed throughout history.

The City of Jerusalem in the Rome Atrium (pictured) is very large and is not moved. Place it near the liturgical materials and Cenacle, because of their link to events in Jerusalem. *(As it is pictured, it is in the Level III atrium. However, because of the way those atria are situated, it is accessible to all three levels.)* The Level I children need access to the City of Jerusalem.

There are many ways to build the City of Jerusalem.

Use the resources and supplies that are most readily available to you.

These directions provide helpful building suggestions and convey what is essential to preparing your material. See the Level II on-line Materials Manual pages, as well.

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DETERMINE the SIZE your City of Jerusalem will be

Each of the maps (as pictured) are approximately 24 x 36 inches. Consider your atrium space. Is it possible to have a City of Jerusalem as large as this one that Sofia and Gianna have made? Does it need to be proportionally smaller?

MAKE a BLUEPRINT. Download the City of Jerusalem Blueprint and enlarge it to determine what the most appropriate size for your space is. [Make two copies of the final size. One as a base template and one to cut apart for patterns.]

FIND or CONSTRUCT a PLATFORM/TABLE that will support the mute (flat) and relief maps when they are situated side by side. This material needs a permanent, dedicated space in the atrium. The City of Jerusalem is heavy, so be sure the base is very sturdy.

ASSEMBLE TOOLS and SUPPLIES (Use the blueprint to measure amounts of wood needed for walls, building and the bases.) Use the template to measure the total length of the wall pieces and the size the bases need to be.

Wood Strips - 1 inch x 2 inch (Walls)

Plywood - .5 inch to .75 inch thick for two bases

Assortment of small wooden blocks or wood scraps for buildings and to embellish walls

Painters Tape (removeable) to hold pieces while glue dries

Assortment of flat styrofoam pieces (.25 inch, .5 inch, .75 inches thick) for building elevations

Cellophane (to wrap moveable pieces)

Spackling Paste

Small candle with candle holder

Small flat, round stone

Small crucifix

Assortment of acrylic paints

PREPARE the BASES Two identical rectangles made with .5 to .75 inch thick plywood (for relief and mute). Fine sand and/or fill rough edges with Spackle/plaster.



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PREPARE the WALLS

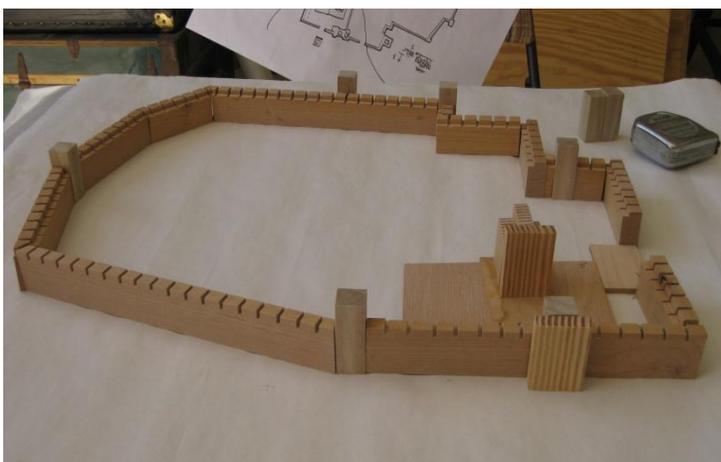
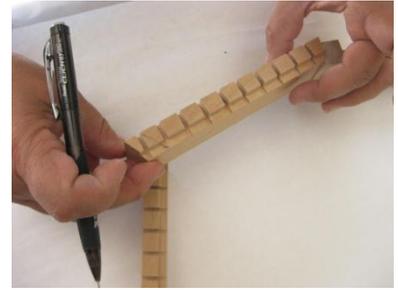
NOTCH what will be the top of the wall every .5 inches across the top of the 1 x 2 inch strip. Cut about .5 inch into the wood to give the appearance of fortress walls.

FORM WALL SECTIONS. Cut the blueprint wall sections apart and use as patterns for forming wall sections. Cut lengths of the 1 inch x 2 inch notched strips according to the patterns. Add blocks and/or other pieces of wood for detail.

GLUE together with wood glue. (TIP: Put glue on the edges of the wood to be glued. Put the pieces together, then pull them apart for 10 seconds or until the glue becomes tacky, and then put them back together again.) Use the painters tape to hold the pieces together while the glue dries.

Continue to do this with each section of wall.
DO NOT GLUE THE SECTIONS TOGETHER.

NOTE: *No two sections of wall are the same.* Each fits into **ONLY** one particular place. The sections do not have to be an exact match to this blueprint. Review the pictures of Sofia and Gianna's City of Jerusalem Walls and Moveable Pieces online to help you think about this more.



PLACE separate Wall sections on the **BLUEPRINT** (the base of the City).

With a saw, sandpaper or Exacto knife, make any adjustments necessary so the sections form a cohesive wall around the city.

Trace an outline of the walls onto the wood base of the city.

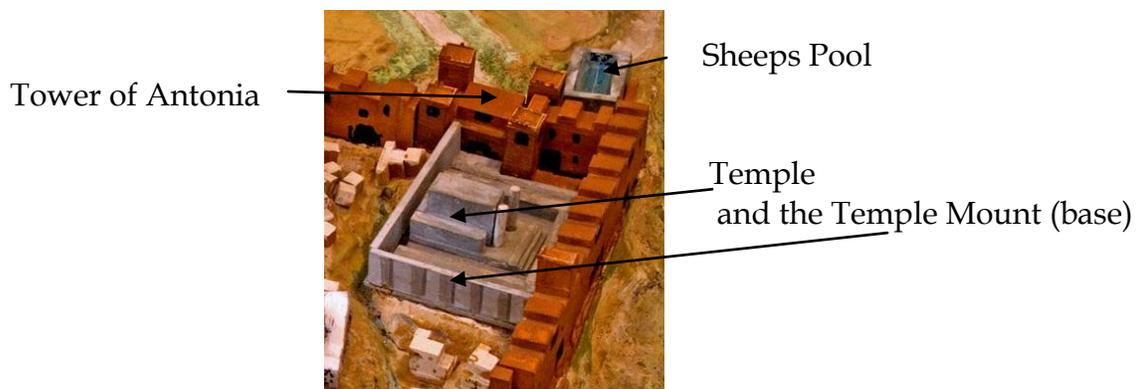
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PREPARE the MOVEABLE BUILDINGS

USE the BLUEPRINT to determine the footprint (size) of each moveable piece.
Examples of footprint sizes.



CONSTRUCT each building with wood blocks, wood scraps, and glue. Sculpty or modeling clay could also be used to form the moveable buildings. Refer to the online pictures (City of Jerusalem Walls and Moveable Pieces) for ideas.



PLACE on the BLUEPRINT of the base, to see that the pieces fit in the space. Make any corrections necessary. Trace the outline of the footprint of each building onto the wooden base.

PREPARE WALLS AND PIECES FOR IMPRESSIONS

Make sure all glue has dried thoroughly.

Sand, fill in any places on the walls and moveable pieces that need repair; and remove the painters tape.

WRAP each WALL SECTION and MOVEABLE PIECE separately, in cellophane. Set aside.



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CONSTRUCT the TOPOGRAPHY OF THE CITY



Use flat styrofoam pieces to build the Upper City of Jerusalem where the children will place the Cenacle, House of Caiaphas and Herod's Palace. Check to see that there is ample space for these three buildings to fit.

The Wall is slightly higher than the styrofoam that forms the Upper City.

The bottom piece of styrofoam is larger than the top, to form a hill/slope when plastered. The STEPS/STAIRS connecting the Upper and Lower City will be fashioned into this hill.



Use flat styrofoam pieces to build up the Temple Mount. This is the highest part of the City of Jerusalem. It must be large enough to hold the Temple. As you can see in the picture - the bottom piece of styrofoam is large enough to include the entire corner of the Wall, from the Tower of Antonia to past the Temple. Across to the left of the Temple Mount, outside the walls of the city, the styrofoam is shaping the Mount of Olives and the Kidron Valley.



Use styrofoam pieces to form Mount Calvary and the tomb in the hillside.

USE a generous amount of WOOD GLUE to

attach the styrofoam pieces together.

Use extra pieces of styrofoam to fill in as needed to form slanted hillsides.



ALLOW GLUE TO DRY THOROUGHLY before going on to the next steps.

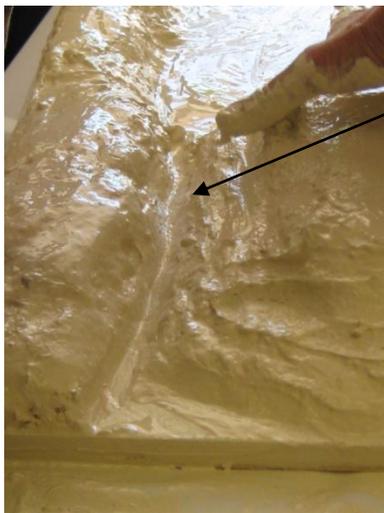
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COATING the TOPOGRAPHY of the CITY



Some products that may be used to coat the hills and valleys of the City of Jerusalem include: Joint Compound, Spackling Paste, Paper Mache, Drip 'n Drape. It helps to use a product that is very durable and fast drying.

Mix the "mud" according to directions.
Generously coat the Styrofoam and base board.



Add water to keep the "mud" durable, and carve in the waterways and pathways.

Carve niches to form steps from the Lower City to the Upper City. Press into the mud with the flat end of a screw driver or small chisel. You may need to press again as the mud dries and firms up.



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While the “mud” is wet, press the cellophane-wrapped walls and moveable pieces and press them into the “mud” enough to make an impression. Leave the pieces in place while the “mud” sets and dries.

The picture below shows what the impressions will look like after they dry and are painted. They help the child to place the walls and pieces.



After the mud has dried, remove the moveable pieces, remove the cellophane. Clean up the impressions with an Exacto knife, or fine grade sand paper (250 - 400 grade). If necessary, “remud” areas that need to be smoothed over and/or filled in.

Paint with acrylic paints. See pictures in the Level II online Materials Manual: Level II – City of Jerusalem Moveable Walls and Pieces. Also refer to the How to Paint Page. Be sure to remove dust as you paint. A finishing coat of Verathane Polyurathane will extend the life of the life of this material. Coat the permanent relief model, the flat base and all pieces.