

Handmade by Jesus

Have you ever made your own paper?
It's not as hard as you might think.

First, you start with some **waste paper**, like shredded printer paper, or cardboard egg cartons, or scraps of construction paper. If the paper isn't already torn up, **rip it up** into small pieces and put the pieces into a jar with water and **soak it overnight**.



Then put the soggy mess into a **kitchen blender**, and blend it into a **slurry**. Pour some of the slurry in an even layer onto a **wire screen** (for example, a grease splatter screen from your kitchen). Place the screen over a dishpan or sink and let the pulp **drain** and **dry** completely.



Finally, **press the dried sheet** between two heavy books to flatten it. Presto! **You've made paper!** And you've created a useful, beautiful item from something that might have been tossed into the garbage.

Handmade paper is special because it feels and looks wonderful. It can be made in interesting colours. And some handmade cards even have wildflower seeds embedded into them, so you can plant the card after you read it and you'll get a garden of blooms!

The best part about something handmade is that it shows you put care and time into making it. It wasn't just churned out by a factory. Handmade paper is always worth more.



The Bible tells us about special creations. It says:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! – 2 Corinthians 5:17

That means when we ask **Jesus Christ** to take charge of our lives, **He turns us into a brand new creation**. Before He remakes us we are like the scrap paper. But Jesus knows how to work with us and to **shape** us for **heaven**. Heaven was **crafted by Jesus' hand** to share with those who belong to Him. **Anyone who wants to live there must also be crafted by His hand**.

It's the biggest & best blessing to be ...

