How to make an Illuminated Manuscript

Choose a favorite Bible passage, poem, or quote, and use the steps below to create an illuminated masterpiece!



What You'll Need:

A sheet of paper (normal printer paper works, but you can use fancier paper if you so desire) A pencil

Black pen or thin marker

Small paintbrush

Gold metallic craft paint

Extra paint colors or markers (red, green, blue, etc.)

Optional: Use the printable template provided below (Isaiah 9:6) to create your illuminated manuscript.

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Step 1: Gently tear edges of paper to create an old, handmade paper look.

Did you know? Paper that looks rough on the edges is called 'deckled' edges.



Step 2: Draw (or print) the outline for the first large letter of your manuscript on the top left corner.

Tip: Draw your the letter with a pencil before tracing over it with a black pen.



Step 3: Write out the remainder of your text using a sharp pencil.

Tip: use a ruler and pencil to make guidelines across your page that you can erase later.



Step 4: Fill in the pencil outlines with a black pen or marker (you can use other colors if you would like).



Step 5: Use a small, pointed paintbrush and gold craft paint to fill in the outline of the first large letter.



Step 6: Using the same methods listed above, decorate the rest of the page in the space around the letters.

Be creative! You can draw vines, flowers, nature scenes, people, animals, or just make up a design!



Step 6: Decorate, decorate, and decorate some more! Add final touches to your piece with different colored paints or markers, gold paint, or even glitter!

The more detail, the better when it comes to an illuminated manuscript.

Voila! You now have a beautiful, Medieval style Illuminated manuscript!



Hint: An illuminated manuscript makes a great gift, Christmas card, or wall decoration.

or unto us a child ís borm, umto us a son is giben: and the gobernment shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The might bob, The eberlasting Father, The Aprince of Apeace.

~Isaiah 9:6