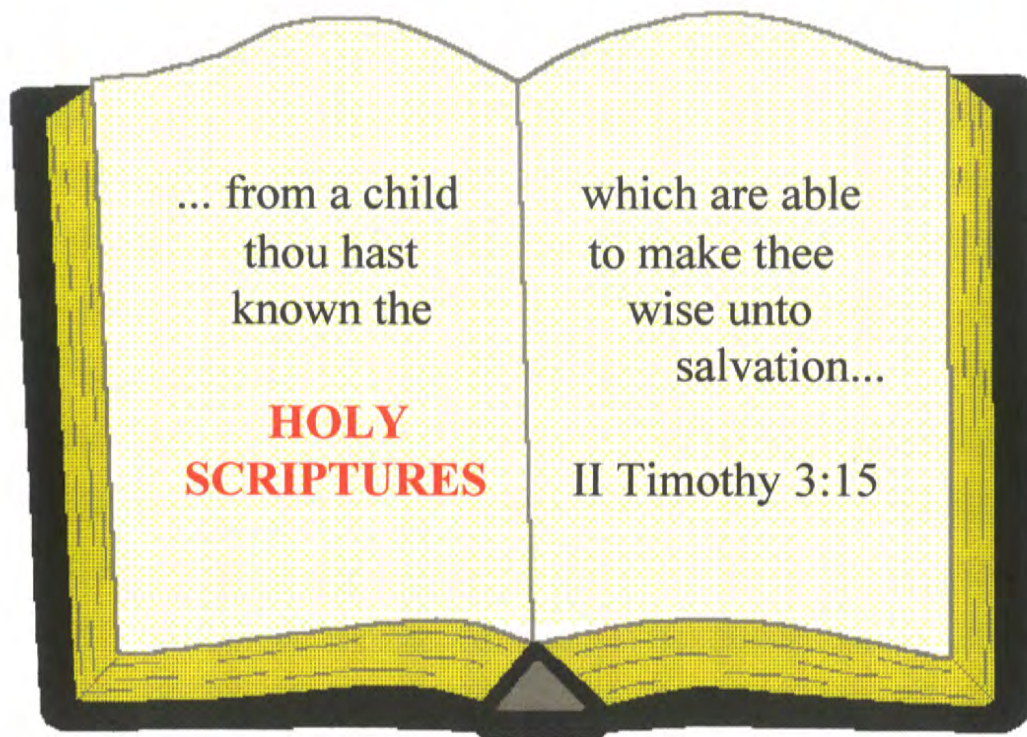


TRAIN UP A CHILD



New Testament Volume I
Preschool Kindergarten
What Is the Bible?

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

NEW
TESTAMENT
Volume I
Preschool
Kindergarten

TRAIN UP A CHILD

NEW TESTAMENT

VOLUME I

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Pre-school / Kindergarten

AUTHOR: Betty Penn

ARTWORK / ILLUSTRATIONS:

Cheryl Harris, Cody Harris and Betty Penn

Pupil Worksheets are reproducible for classroom use.

May, 1999



4311 Peeler Bend Road ♦ Benton, AR 72019 ♦ (501) 776-1939

TO THE TEACHER:

“And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them: and His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

The lesson material in this volume is designed to acquaint the child with the Bible, how it came to us, and what it teaches about specific things. One lesson, entitled, WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL, can be used the Sunday before Thanksgiving, followed by the section on the birth of Jesus. Although teaching about the birth of Jesus is appropriate at any time of year, I suggest that you use this in connection with the Christmas season. While the minds of children are filled with jingle bells, Santa Claus, and snowmen, they need to be taught about the Son of God.

The pictures to color and activity pages are reproducible for classroom use. The three-ring binder makes it easy to remove and copy pages, and can be easily added to with material you have collected from other sources.

Included are suggested attendance projects for November and December. The figures for the December attendance project have also been enlarged for use on a bulletin board. Copy them on different colors of construction paper, then cut out the appropriate sections and layer them together. This not only makes them colorful, but also more sturdy.

My intention and desire is to help you as you prepare to teach. Please do not use the printed lesson as an excuse to not have to study. Read the scriptures suggested for each lesson, study them, and be prepared before you enter the classroom. There is so much to teach and so little time available; maximize the teaching, and minimize the coloring. Do much of the activity preparation before class time so that you may use your time in teaching.

I express my appreciation to Cheryl Harris for her help with the artwork and illustrations.

May God bless you as you prepare, and as you teach children the eternal truths of God's Word.

Prayerfully submitted,



Betty Penn

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WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; Revelation 1:11

When we come to church, we study the Bible. What is the Bible? It is the word of God. It tells us what God wants us to know about Him. It tells us about Jesus, the Son of God. The Bible teaches us how we should live our lives. It teaches us about the church, and how we should act as a church. The Bible teaches us that Jesus started the church when he lived on the earth, and we should believe what Jesus taught the first church to believe.

The Bible was written by men whom God chose to write down the things that God wants us to know. Some of them, God told what to write. Some of them, the Holy Spirit caused them to know in their minds what they should write. In the Old Testament, the prophets were men that God told what to say to the people. Some of them also wrote down what God told them to tell the people so that we can read it and know things that happened a long, long time ago.

The Bible has 66 books in it. It is like a book shelf with 66 books that are all bound into one book. It is divided into two parts: the Old Testament, and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books, and the New Testament has 27 books.

It took many years to write the Bible. Moses wrote the first book in the Bible. It is called Genesis. The book of Genesis tells us all about when God made the earth and the animals. Then it tells us that God made the first man and woman who lived on the earth. Their names were Adam and Eve. Moses did not live when Adam and Eve lived, but God told him all about it so he could write it down. Now, we can know what happened because Moses wrote it down just like God taught him.

It took about fifteen hundred years to write the Old Testament. It only took 60 years to write the New Testament. Some of the apostles wrote books that are in the New Testament. Half of the books were written by the apostle Paul. These were letters that he wrote to the first churches to tell them what they should believe. The apostles heard Jesus teach about the things of God, and they taught the churches what Jesus said. Sometimes they became confused and did not remember what the apostles had taught them, or they did not understand what the apostles said, and they believed things that were wrong. The apostle Paul could not be at every church all the time, so he wrote letters explaining things that the people did not understand. When the people read Paul's letters in their church, they were reading part of the Bible. God caused Paul to know exactly what to write so that it would all be true. We can read the same letters that Paul wrote to these churches and know what God wants us to do.

The Bible is the most important book in the world. It should be read more than any other book. We please God when we study His word. God is pleased when you come to church to learn about Him.

The Bible tells us about mothers and fathers who loved God and took their children to God's house to worship Him. It tells us about children who were anxious to see Jesus and talk to him. It tells us about children who learned the word of God when they were young. When they grew up they knew how to serve God and how to worship God.

When the word of God was written, it was not printed in a book like our Bible today. It was written on scrolls. A scroll was a long piece of parchment, or animal skin, that was rolled on two sticks, one at each end. They unrolled from one end and rolled it at the other end as they read.

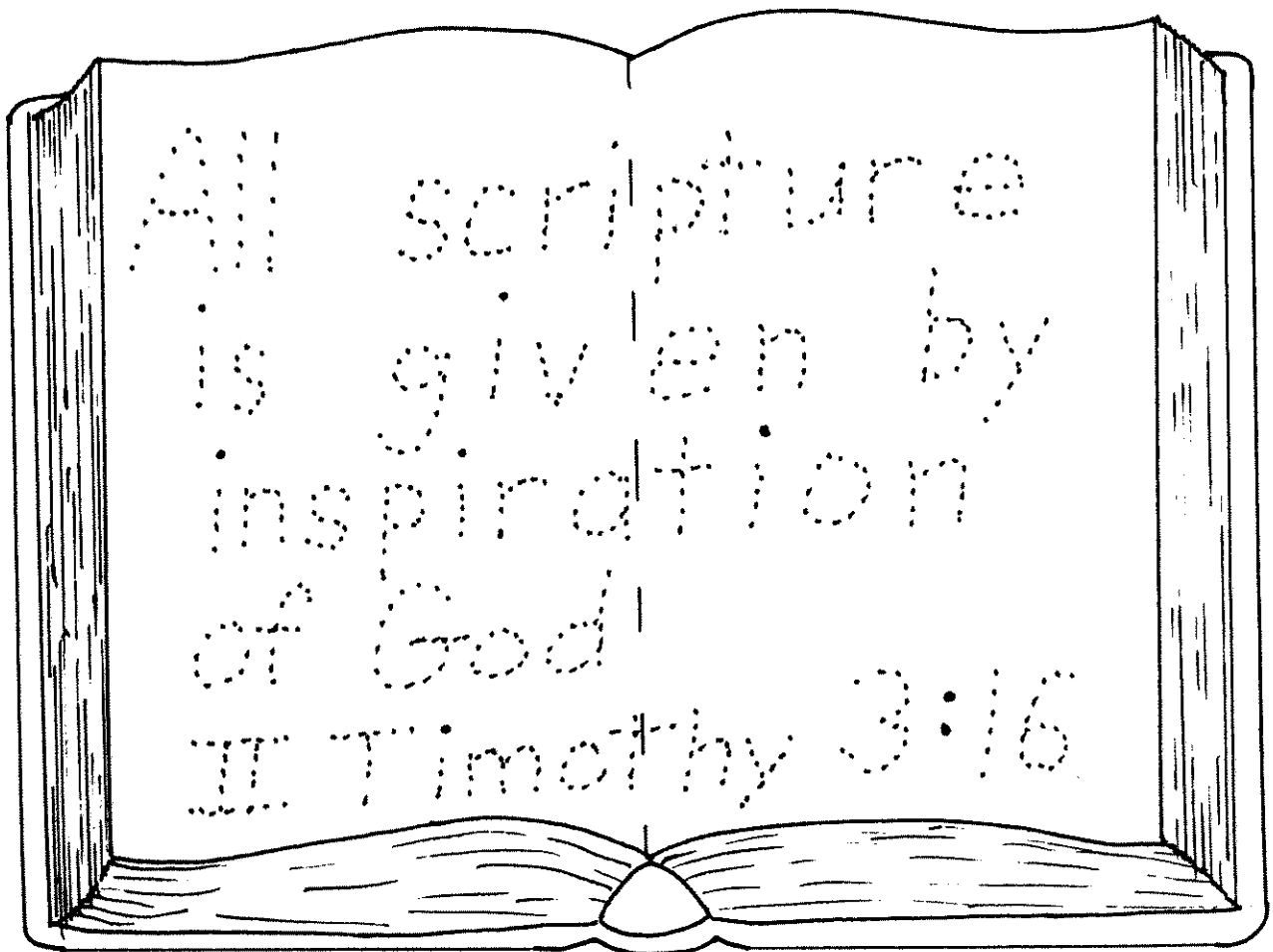
MEMORY VERSE: II Timothy 3:16

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Follow the dots:

39 books OT
27 books NT
66 books Bible



→ cut out along outside lines →

The word of
God was written
on scrolls.

As the people
read from the
scrolls, they
unrolled from
one side and
rolled it up
on the other.

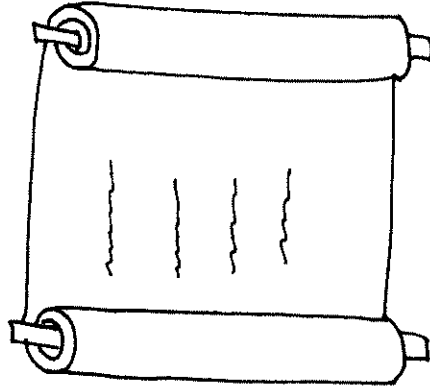
↖ glue straw on each end ↗

Cut out paper strip for scroll.

Cut paper straws into 4-inch pieces.

Place one at each end, and glue in place. Roll up from both sides.

For larger scrolls, cut strips of construction paper or printing paper, and glue on unsharpened pencils or dowel sticks. (Do not use sharp points for small children.)



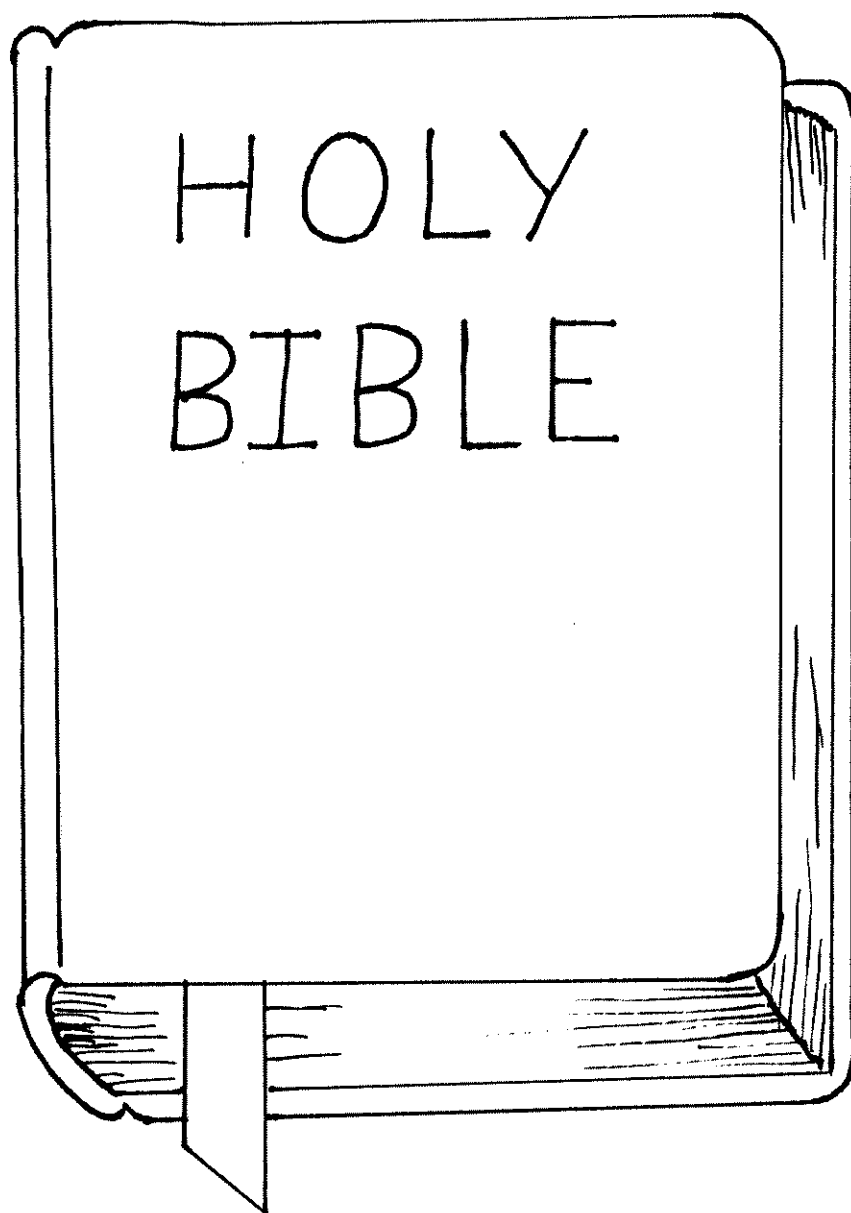


Many years ago God's Word was written on scrolls.
They told of the prophecies that Jesus would come.



Today we have the complete Word of God - - - the Bible.
It tells us that Jesus did come into the world to live.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?



WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?

II Peter 1:21

The Old Testament is the first part of our Bible. It has 39 books. The first book is Genesis and the last book is Malachi.

In the book of Genesis we learn about the beginning of everything. When God first created man, He taught him how to worship. Adam and Eve sinned; they disobeyed God. Because of their sin, they could not go to be with God in eternity without a Saviour. God promised them He would send His Son to die on the cross and pay the price for their sins. To teach them about Jesus, He told them to offer animal sacrifices on an altar. For many, many years this is how the people worshipped God. The fathers were the priests for their families. They built an altar out of rocks stacked up on top of each other. They placed sticks of wood on top of the rocks. Then they placed an animal on the wood and burned it as a sacrifice to God. When the animal was killed, this taught the people that Jesus would have to die for their sins, as the animal had died in order to be offered as the sacrifice. The blood of the animal did not forgive their sins, but it showed that they had faith in the blood of Jesus that will forgive sin.

For many years the people did not have a Bible, but God spoke out from heaven and told them what He wanted them to do. Sometimes He sent angels to tell them what He wanted them to know. Later He chose men to be prophets, and He told the prophets what to tell the people.

After many years the people neglected to worship God at the altar, so God used one man to start a new nation of people that He could teach how to worship Him. This was the nation of Israel. God told them to build a tabernacle. They were to come to the tabernacle to offer their sacrifices and ask for God's forgiveness. There were men called priests who served God at the tabernacle. The people brought their animals to the priests to be killed and offered on the altar at the tabernacle. Many years later when Solomon was king of Israel, God allowed him to build a temple. The people were commanded to bring their sacrifices to the temple to offer them to God.

The people in the Old Testament worshipped God differently than we do. They believed in Jesus to forgive their sins just as we believe in Jesus to forgive our sins, but their worship services were different. They first worshipped at the stone altars, then the tabernacle, and then at the temple. All of this taught them the same thing --- that Jesus would come into the world to live and die for their sins. The animals pictured the sacrifice that Jesus would make on the cross. We do not offer sacrifices today. God kept His promise, and Jesus came into the world and lived as a man so he could die for our sins. We don't need sacrifices to teach us, because we have the Bible to tell us that Jesus did come and die for us.

When Jesus lived on the earth, he started his church. The people in the first church taught their children and their friends the truth about God. For 2,000 years, people have been teaching others the truth in order to keep the church alive. As older people die, the younger people grow up, and they keep the church going. It is important for you to learn the truth so you can help keep God's church alive when you grow up. There are many groups of people who call themselves churches that do not teach the truth as it is written in the Bible. They teach what they want to believe about the Bible. We need to learn what the Bible really says so that we can always teach the truth. God gave us the truth when he directed the minds of men who wrote the Bible so that they wrote down exactly what He wanted them to write.

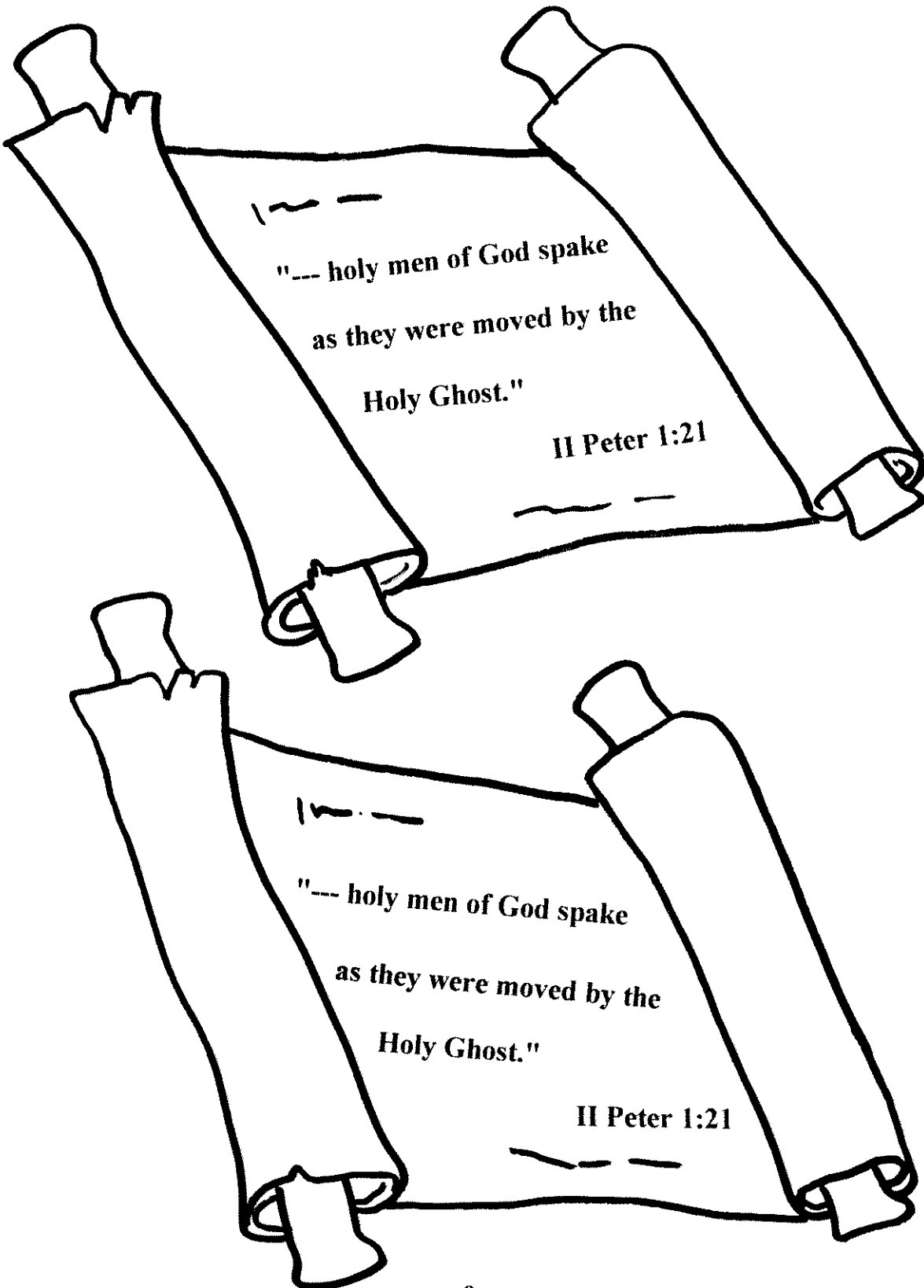
Our picture today shows us the three ways that the people worshiped in the Old Testament, and how we worship today.

MEMORY VERSE: II Peter 1:21

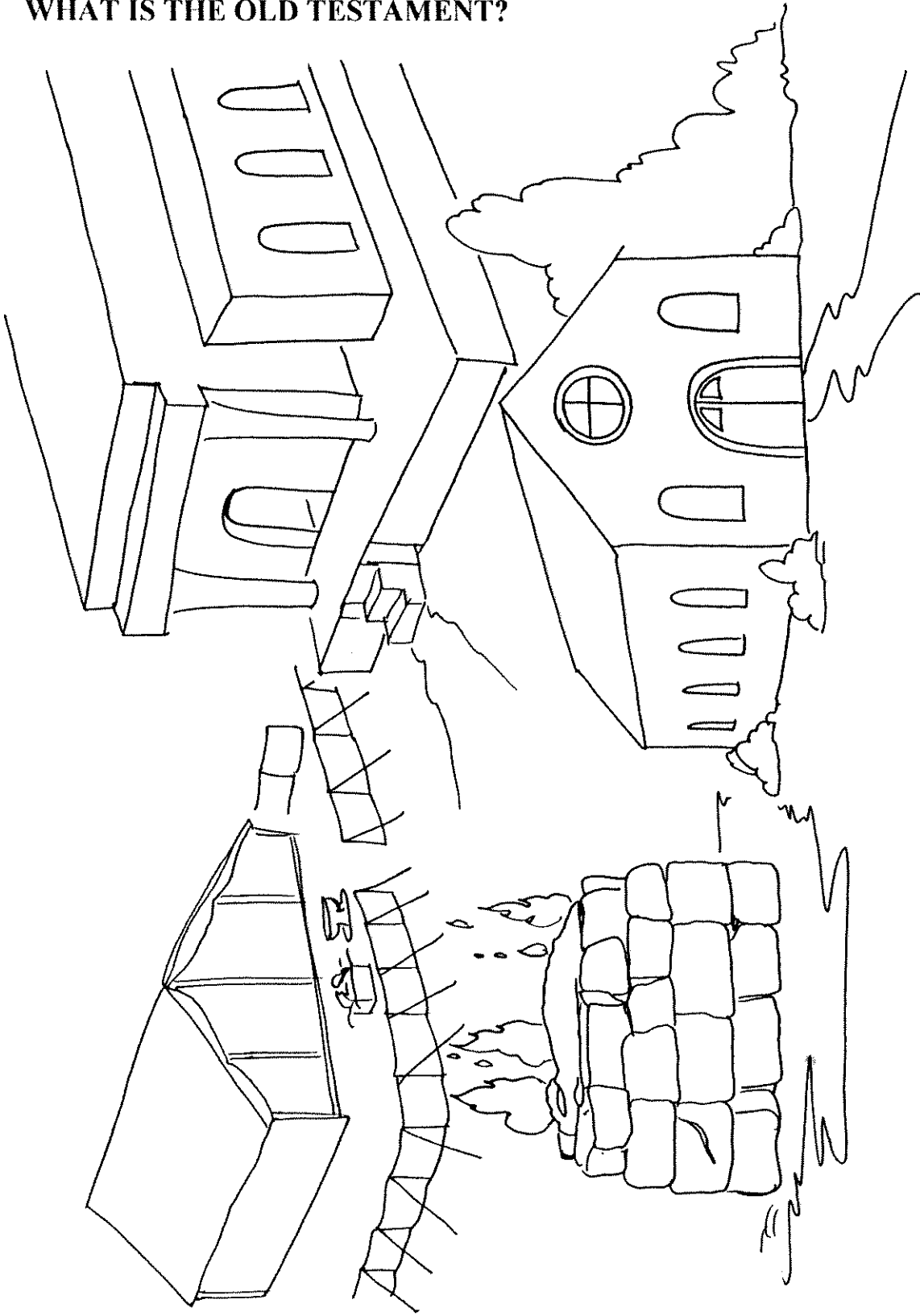
"---holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE



WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?



The Old Testament tells us that people first worshipped at a stone altar. Then they built a tabernacle; then a temple. Today we worship as a church.

WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?



Old Testament fathers read to their children from a scroll.

WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT?

II Timothy 3:16

The New Testament is the part of the Bible that tells us the most about Jesus. The Old Testament tells about people who lived a long, long time ago, and how they worshiped God. They offered sacrifices to show that they had faith in God to send His Son into the world to pay the price for our sins. We don't do that today, because the New Testament teaches us that Jesus has already come into the world. It teaches us that He died on the cross to pay the price for sin, so we don't need sacrifices anymore.

The New Testament tells us about the life of Jesus. He was God's Son, and He was perfect. That means He never did anything wrong. We do wrong, so we need a Savior. Because He did not ever do anything wrong, He could be our Savior. We need the Bible to teach us about Jesus.

The New Testament does not have as many books as the Old Testament. It only has 27 books. These books were written by 8 different men, but they all tell the same true story. This is because God caused them to know what to write so that there would not be any errors in the Bible. It is the word of God, and it is all true.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all wrote about the life of Jesus. They teach us about His birth. He was God's Son, and his mother was named Mary. When Jesus grew up to be a man, He told people about His father, God. He taught them to trust in Him for forgiveness of their sins. The first 4 books of the New Testament tell us the things Jesus taught the people.

Sometimes He taught them in the synagogue (like when we go to church). Sometimes He went into their homes to teach them. He always taught them the truth about God, and we have it all written down in our Bible. The first 4 books are called the gospels, because they tell us about His life. He did many miracles to prove that He had the power of God, and was God's Son. He taught the people about God's love. He taught them to love each other. The gospels tell us how He died on the cross for our sins, and how He came back to life again. He went back to heaven where He lives today. The gospels teach us that we can go to heaven to live with Him someday.

The book of Acts teaches us about the church. Jesus started the church when He lived on the earth. When people accepted Him as their Savior, John the Baptist baptized them. Then Jesus started the church with those people whom John had baptized. There has been a church in the world ever since Jesus started the first church. The Bible tells us how we should act as a church.

Many of the books in the New Testament were letters that the apostle Paul wrote to churches telling them what they should believe.

Jesus started the first church while he lived on the earth. After his crucifixion, the church remained in Jerusalem for some time. As people moved away from Jerusalem, there were other churches started where they moved to. People in other cities heard about the gospel and sent for the apostles to come and teach them, so more churches were started. The apostle Paul went to many towns where there was not a church. He preached to the people, and when they believed in Jesus and were baptized, he organized more churches. He could not be at all of these churches to teach them all of the time, so he wrote letters to them telling them what they should do. We have these letters in our Bible to tell us what to do.

The last book in the Bible is the book of Revelation. It tells us things that will happen some day, that only God would know. He told John the things to write down in the book of Revelation.

All the things that Jesus did when he lived on the earth are not written down in the Bible. When the people saw Jesus do miracles, they believed that he really was the Son of God. We have the miracles written down in the Bible so that we will know that he really is the Son of God. John said that if all the things that Jesus did were written down, the world would not be big enough to hold the books it would take to write them in. But we have enough written to teach us all we need to know about Jesus, and about the love of God.

The Bible is God's Word, and we must read it and study it if we are to know about God.

MEMORY VERSE: John 20:31

"But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,----"

WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT?



Holy Bible

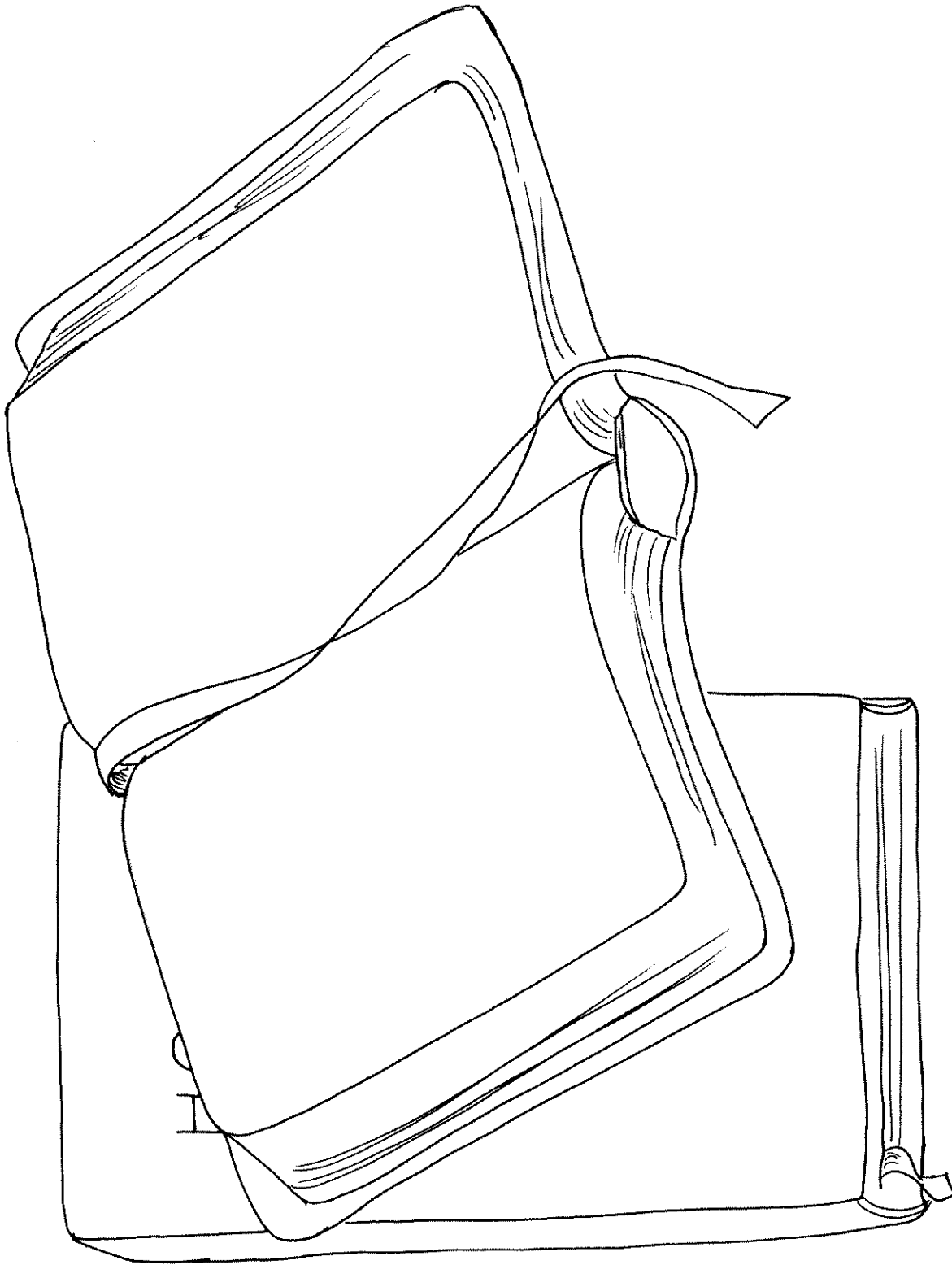
II Timothy 3:16

All scripture is
given by inspiration
of God - - -

John 20:31

But these are
written that ye
might believe that
Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God - - -

WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT?



WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Matthew 4:18-22; 10:2-4; 28:18-20; Acts 1:15; 2:1-4, 41, 47

The first four books of the New Testament tell us about the coming of Jesus into the world. The next book, the book of Acts, tells us about the church that Jesus started while He was in the world. The Jewish people went to the temple and offered sacrifices when they worshiped. This taught them about the sacrifice Jesus would make when He came. When Jesus died on the cross, He did away with sacrifices. We do not offer sacrifices today because He has already been sacrificed for our sins. When we come to church today, we sing songs of praise to Him. We pray, and we read His word, the Bible. We listen to His word taught, and we listen to a sermon from the word of God by our pastor.

Why do we have a church today? Because Jesus started the church when He was on the earth. God sent a man named John to baptize the people who believed that Jesus was the Messiah, or the Son of God that God had promised to send into the world to be our Savior. Jesus was baptized by John to show that He would die, be buried, and rise again from the grave. When a person is baptized today, they are buried beneath the water and raised up to show the burial and the resurrection of Jesus. When we have faith in Jesus' blood to forgive our sins, we are baptized, buried beneath the water as Jesus was buried, and raised up to walk a new life, a godly life. Then we become a member of the Lord's church. Jesus took the people who were baptized by John and started the first church. John was called 'John the Baptist' because he baptized. We call our church a Baptist Church because we believe what the Bible teaches about baptism. We believe it is like John baptized, by placing people under the water to show a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

The first church did not have a building like we have today. Jesus went to the temple to observe the sacrifices and the feasts that were required by the law. After the crucifixion of Jesus, the Jews continued to go to the temple to pray and to teach, but they no longer offered sacrifices. They continued to go to the synagogues in all the towns where they traveled with Jesus. After Jesus was crucified, the apostles taught and preached in the synagogues and in the temple, but the church did not meet there. The church met in homes, or by the seashore, or wherever they all got together. The building is not the church. It is only the house where the church meets. The church is the people who meet at the church house.

The first church had about 120 members. Acts 1:15 says, "*the number and names together were about an hundred and twenty*". On the day of Pentecost, the time when the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the church, Peter preached a great sermon. People from many different nations were in Jerusalem that day, and heard the message that Peter preached and understood it in their own language. The Holy Spirit gave the church the power to speak languages they had not studied. When the people heard the message of Jesus, and believed what Peter preached, they were baptized. There were about 3,000 members added to the church that day.

The early church did not just meet on Sunday. They must have met every day of the week. The Bible says God added to the church daily those that believed. The Jews worshiped on Saturday, the seventh day of the week because that is what God commanded them to do. God created the earth in six days, and on the seventh day He rested. He told the nation of Israel to do their work in six days, and the seventh day would be a day of rest and worship. We worship on Sunday because that is the first day of the week, and Jesus arose from the grave on the first day of the week. We believe the early church met on the first day of the week. We believe the apostle Paul taught the church to worship on the first day of the week.

God promised that there would always be a true church in the world. Jesus told the church to preach the gospel to all nations, baptize them, and teach them the things of God. He promised, "*I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*". It is important that we come to church and learn the truth so that we can help keep the true church alive for our children. God wants us to come to church, and sing songs of praise to Him. He wants us to read His Word, and study, and pray. Jesus loved the church so much that He died for it. He is pleased when He sees a church that is teaching and preaching the truth. Some day He will reward us for being faithful to Him.

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 3:21

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end."

WHAT IS THE CHURCH

Copy on heavy paper or glue to cardboard to make it stiff enough to stand.

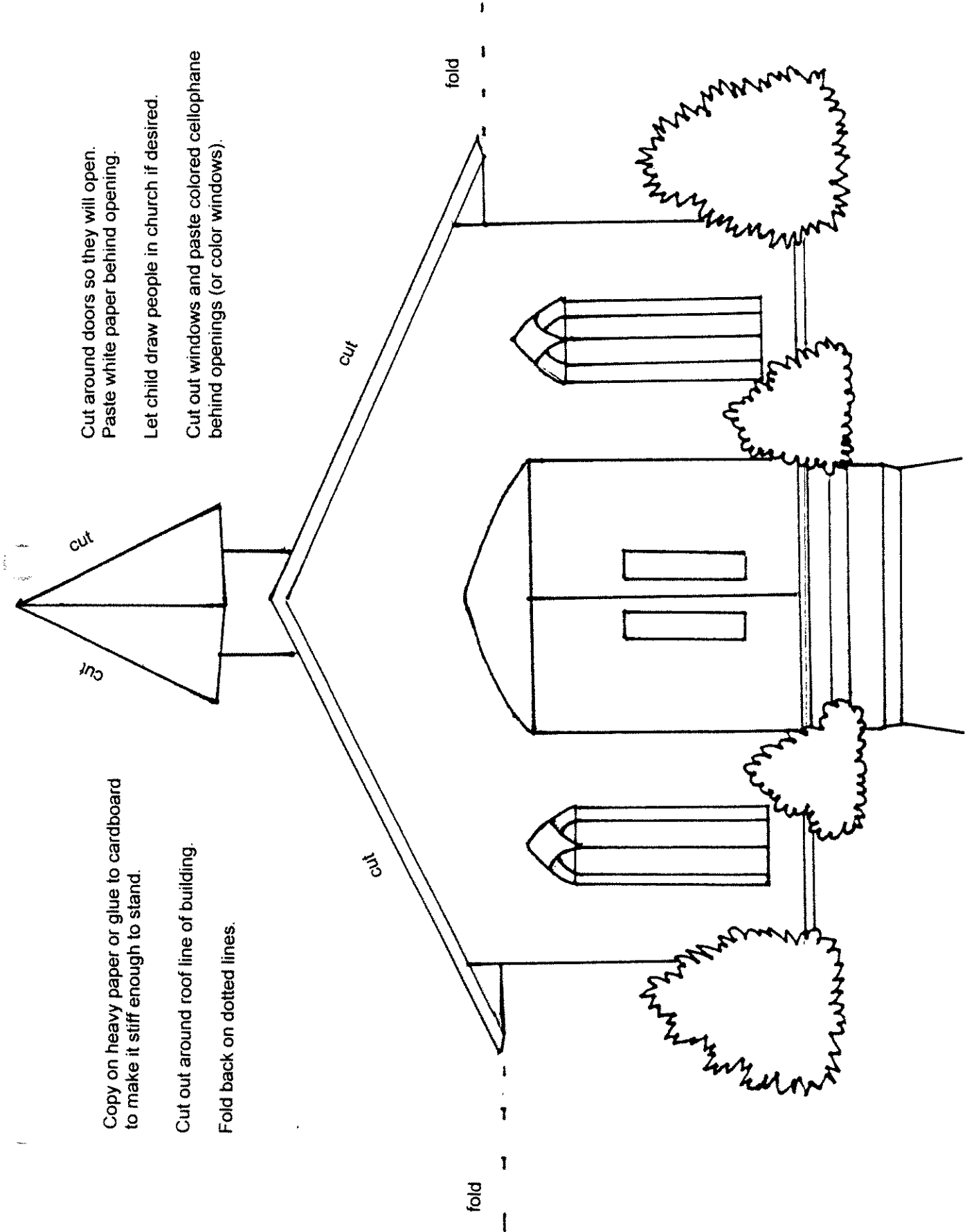
Cut out around roof line of building.

Fold back on dotted lines.

Cut around doors so they will open.
Paste white paper behind opening.

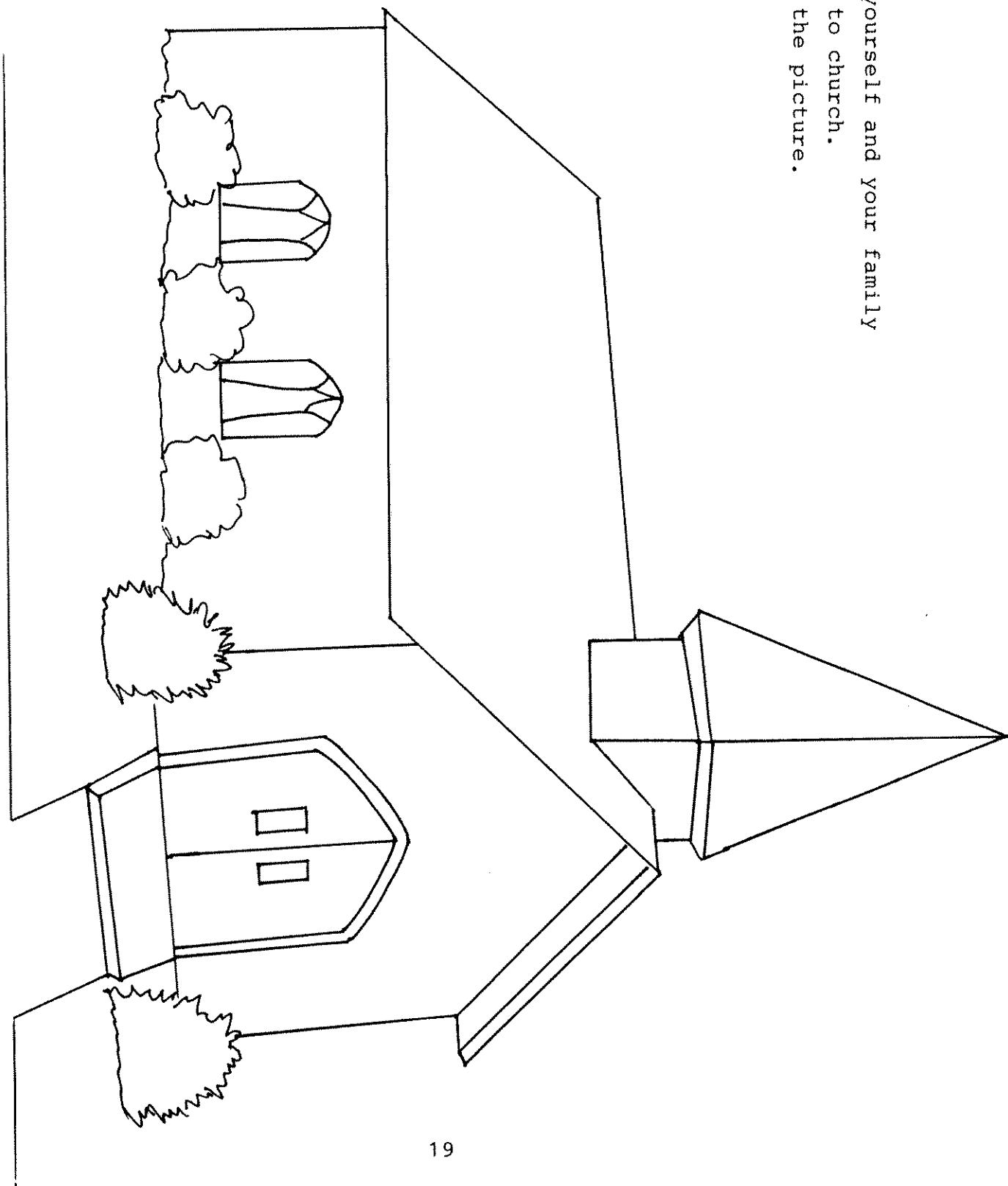
Let child draw people in church if desired.

Cut out windows and paste colored cellophane behind openings (or color windows).



Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus
throughout all ages, world without end. Ephesians 3:21

Draw yourself and your family
going to church.
Color the picture.



WHAT IS THE CHURCH?



TO ASSEMBLE CHURCH

Copy all pieces on heavy paper, or copy and paste on cardboard before cutting out.

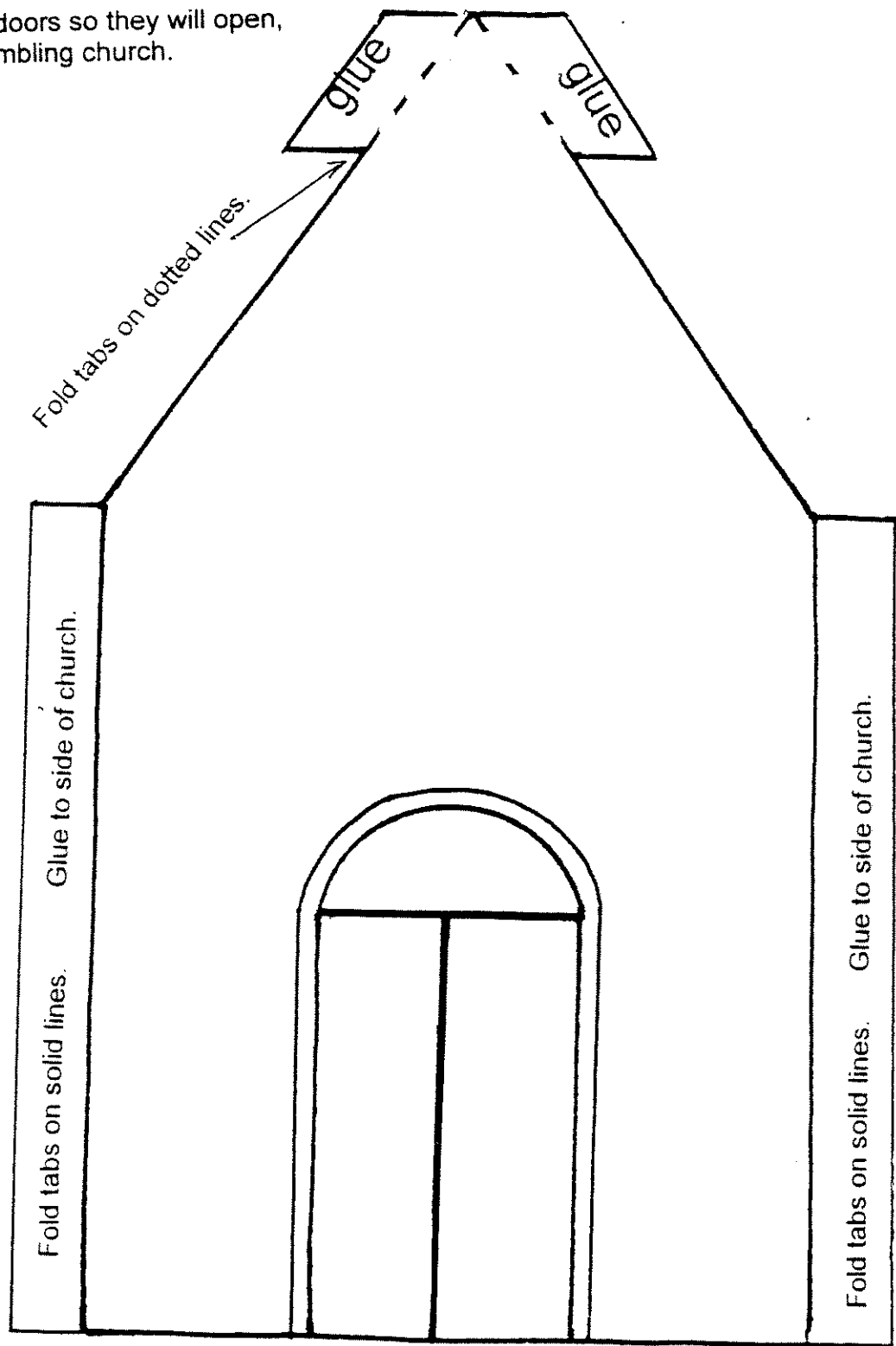
1. Cut out all pieces of church.
2. Cut out windows and doors before assembling.
3. Fold across top of one side piece on solid line. Cut slits in roof for steeple.
Paste two side pieces together at the peak of roof. Fold on dotted lines.
4. Fold back tabs on sides of church front and back.
Paste to inside on side pieces of church.
5. Fold under tabs at roof line and paste under roof.
6. Fold steeple on all solid lines.
Bring edges together and paste tab under side to form steeple.
Insert tabs through slits in roof to position steeple and paste to inside.

Assemble trees and bushes to stand outside of church.

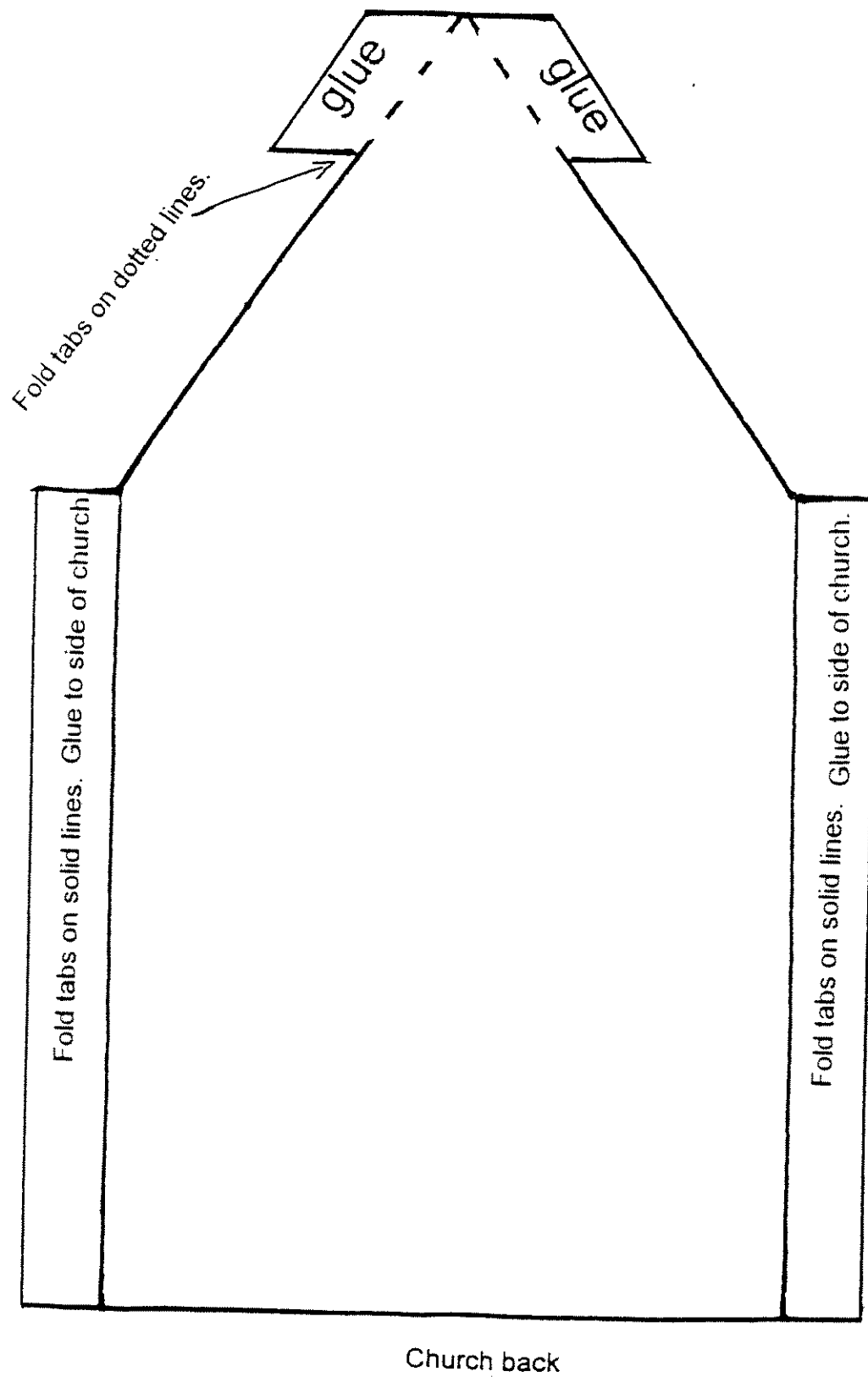
Assemble pews and place inside church.

Make chenille wire people to sit on pews.

Cut around doors so they will open,
before assembling church.

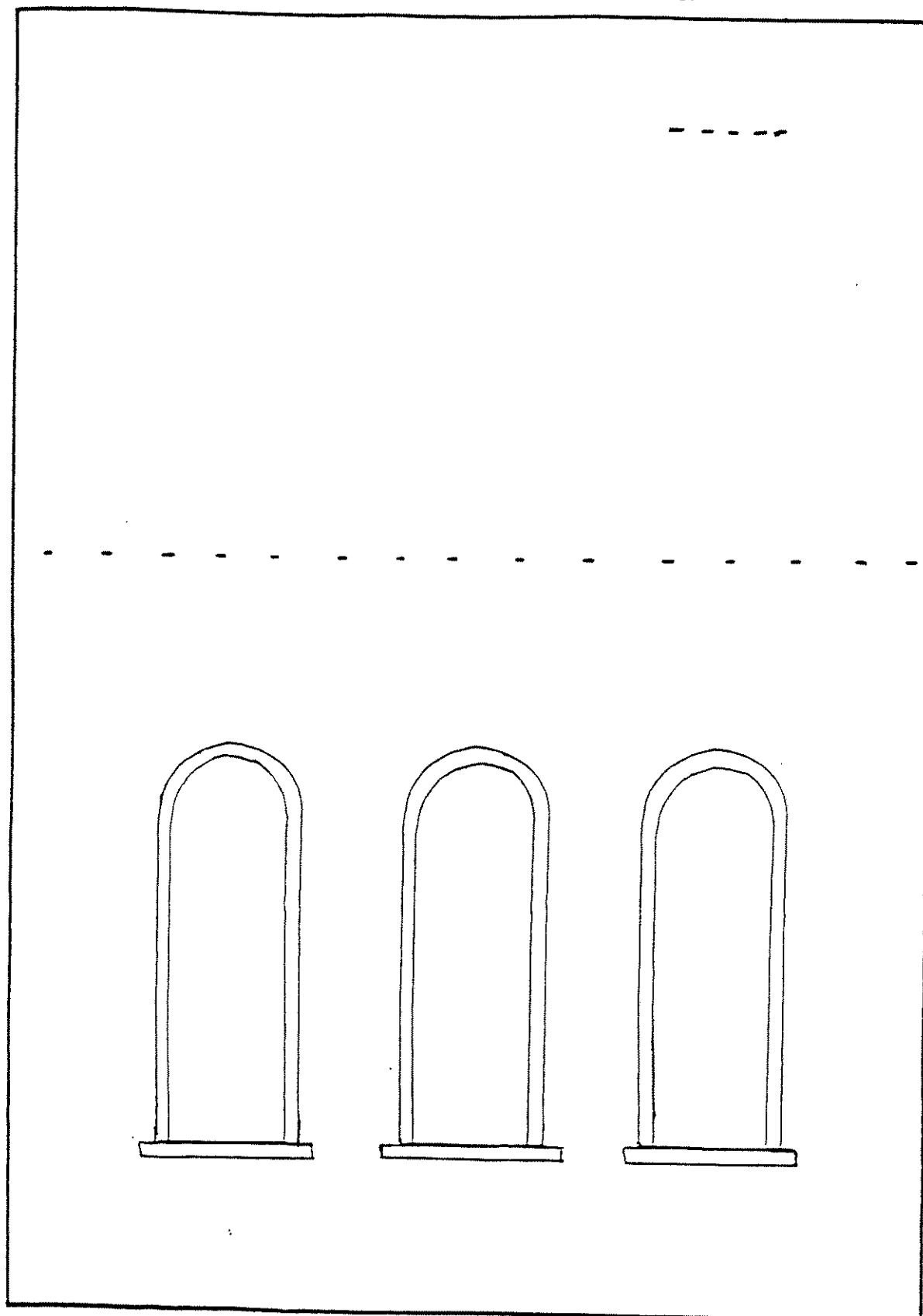


Church front



Cut out windows before
assembling church.

Cut $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 inch piece of colored
paper or cellophane and paste on
inside behind windows.



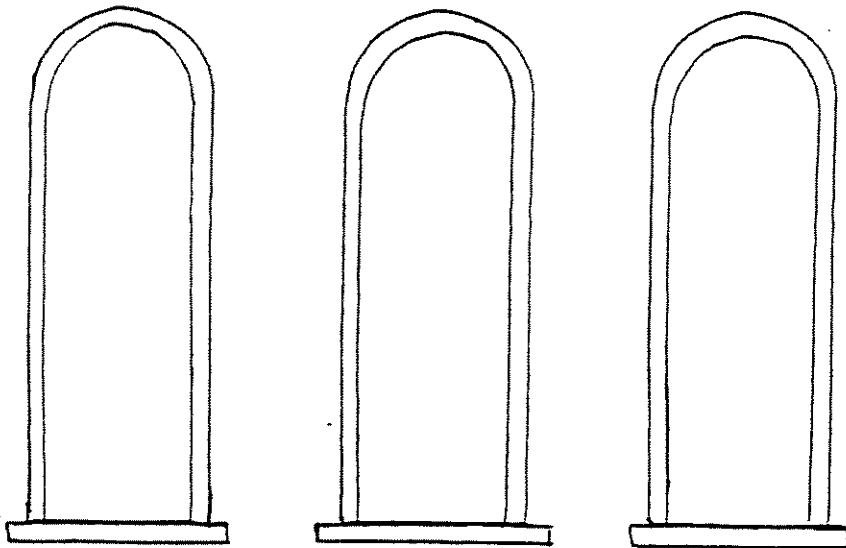
Cut slits in roof toward
front of building to insert steeple.

Fold on dotted line

side of church

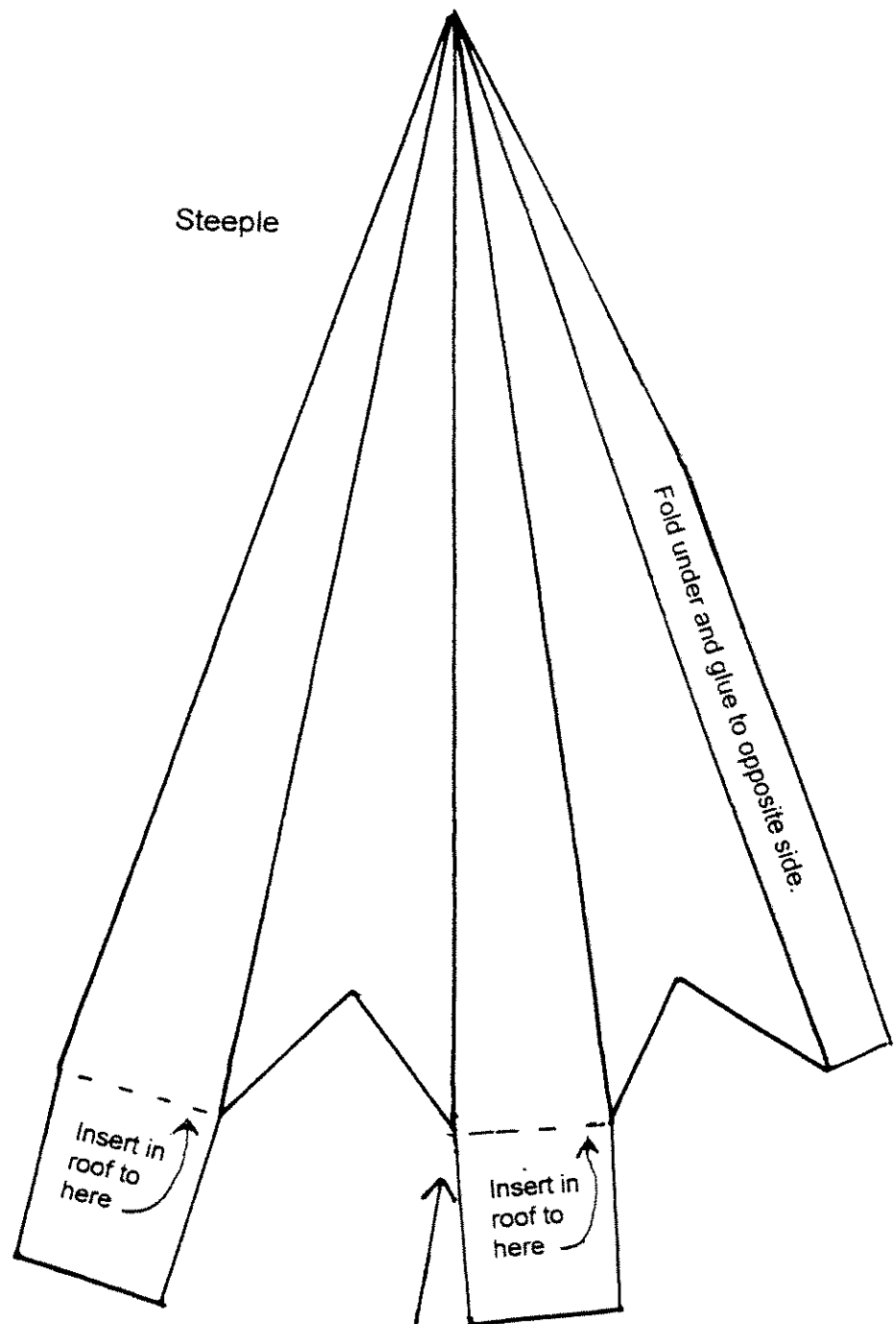
20 (d)

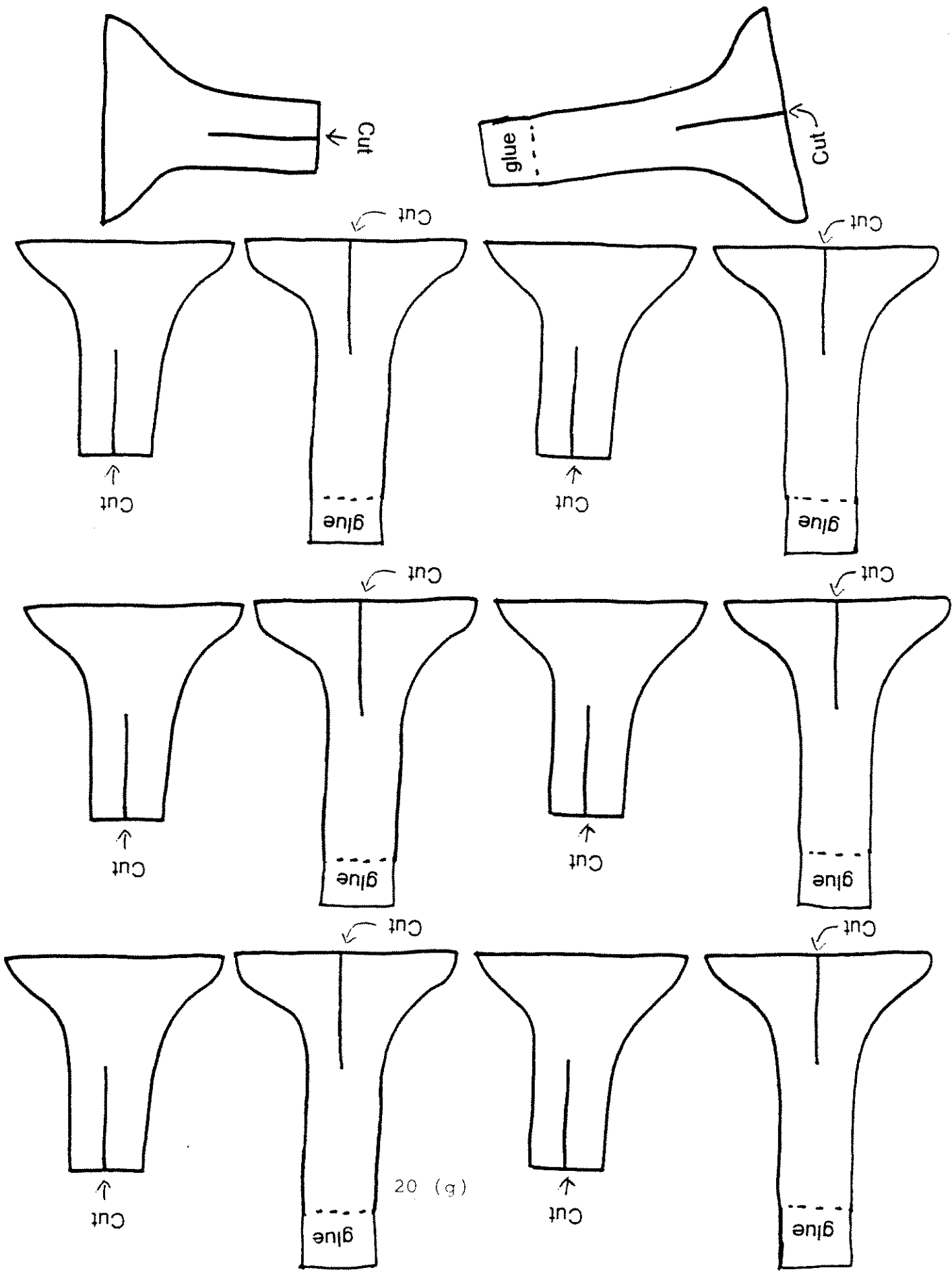
Fold under and glue at peak of roof.

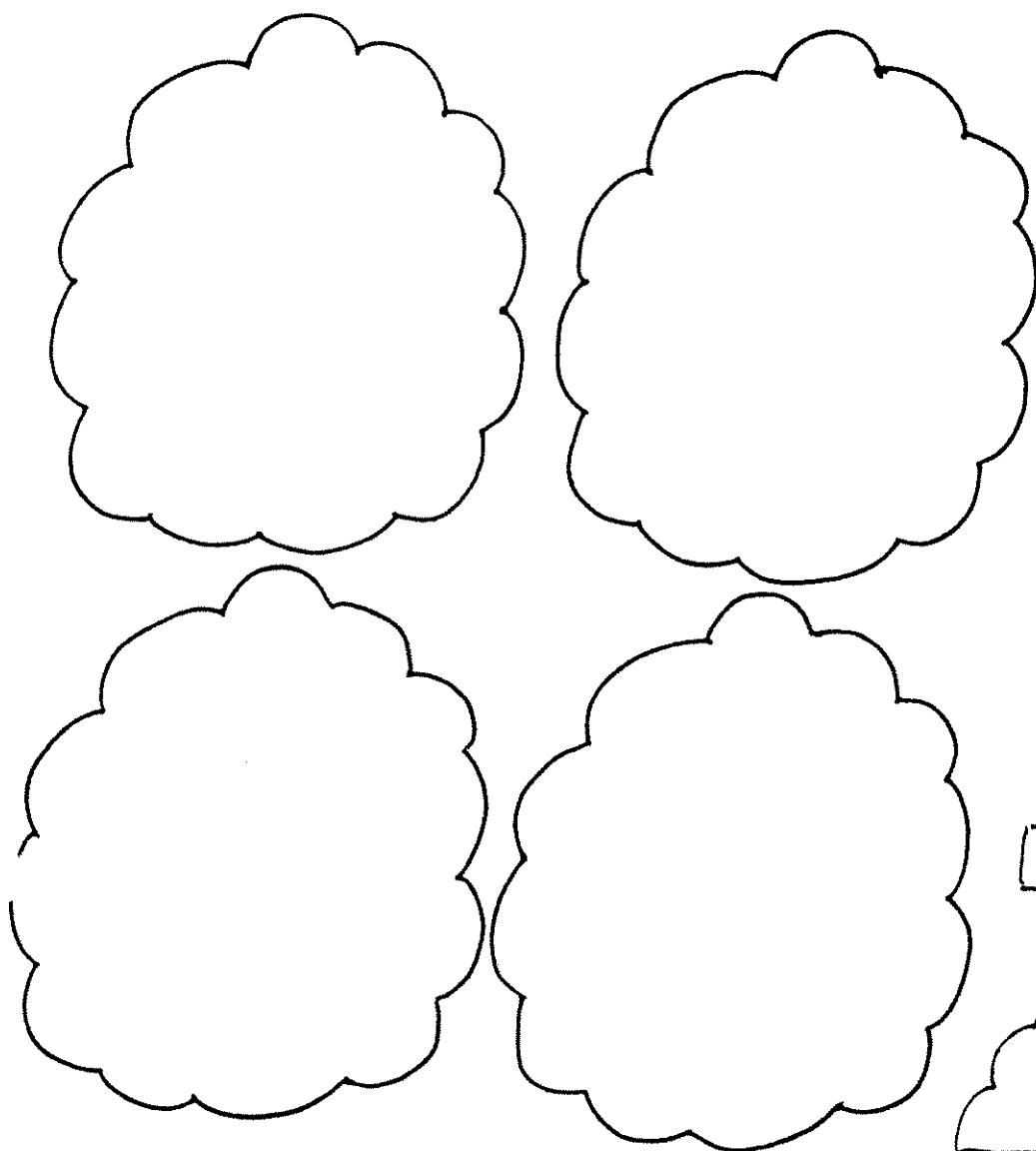


Cut slits in roof toward
front of building to insert steeple.

Fold on dotted line



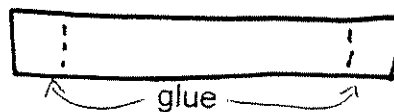
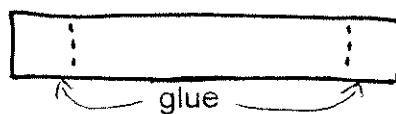
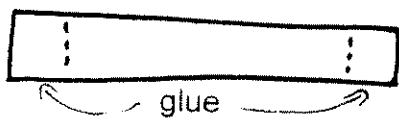
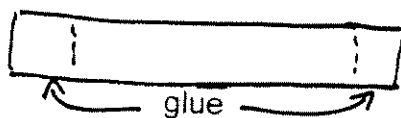


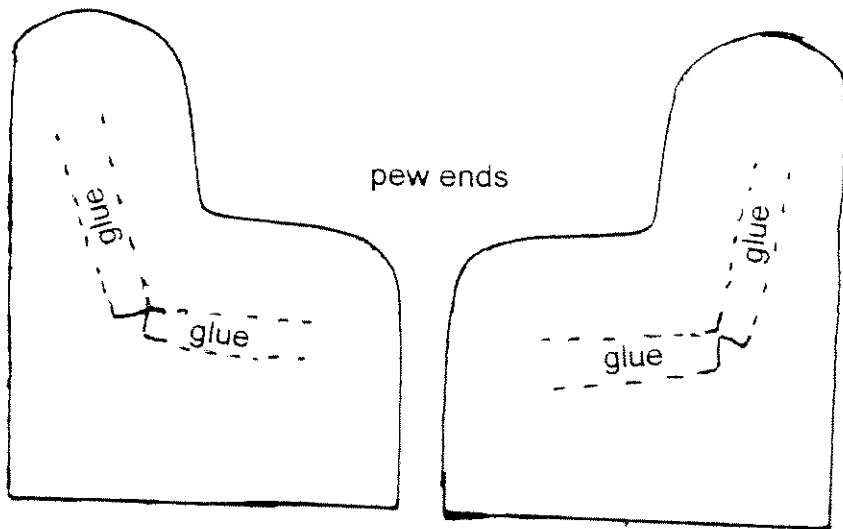


Cut tree tops from green construction paper.

Cut bushes from green construction paper.

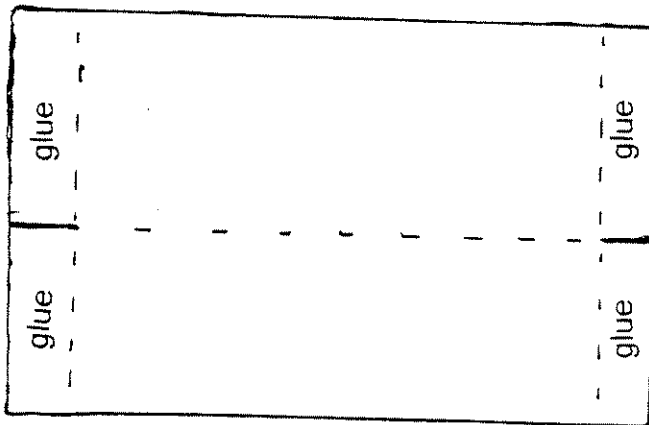
Cut green strips, curve, fold in ends, and glue to back of bushes to make them stand.





Cut 2 ends for each pew.

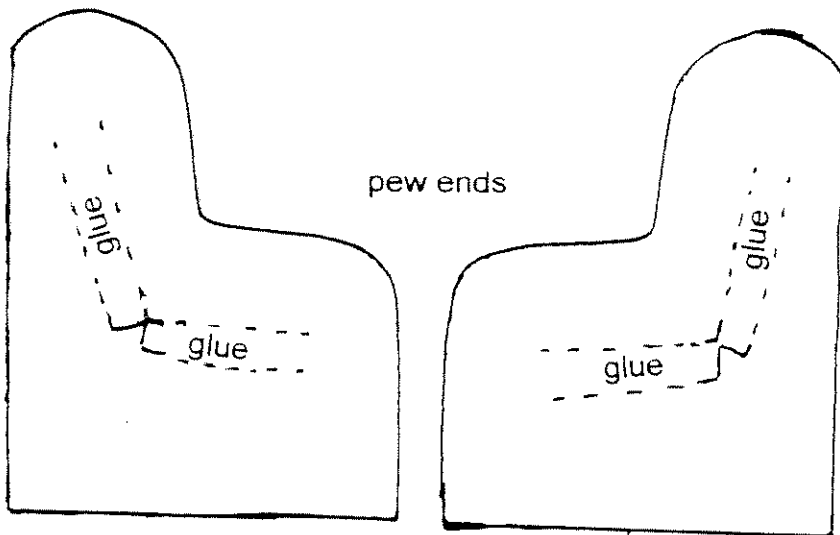
pew seat and back



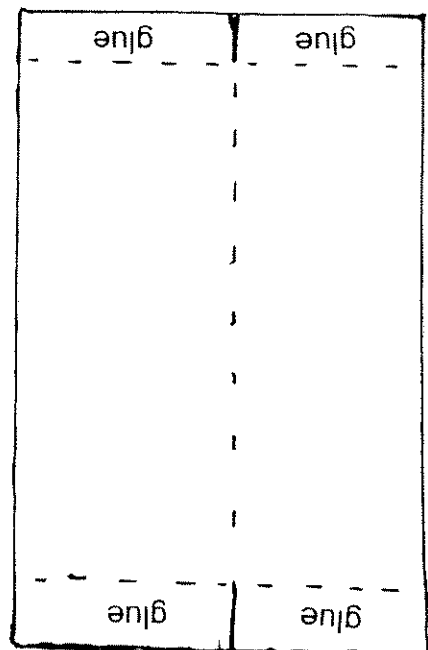
Fold back edges on seat and glue to inside of each pew end along dotted lines.

Make as many as desired for each child.

Add chenille wire people.



pew seat and back



If you want doors to open, cut them before assembling church.

Color windows, or cut out and paste colored paper or cellophane on inside before assembling church.

Copy on heavy paper.
Cut out church
Fold roof on dotted lines, and
glue under opposite pieces.

Cut slits in roof toward front of building to insert steeple.

⑦ no side.

Fold 1

For ease in glueing, fold here first.

Then fold other two sides.

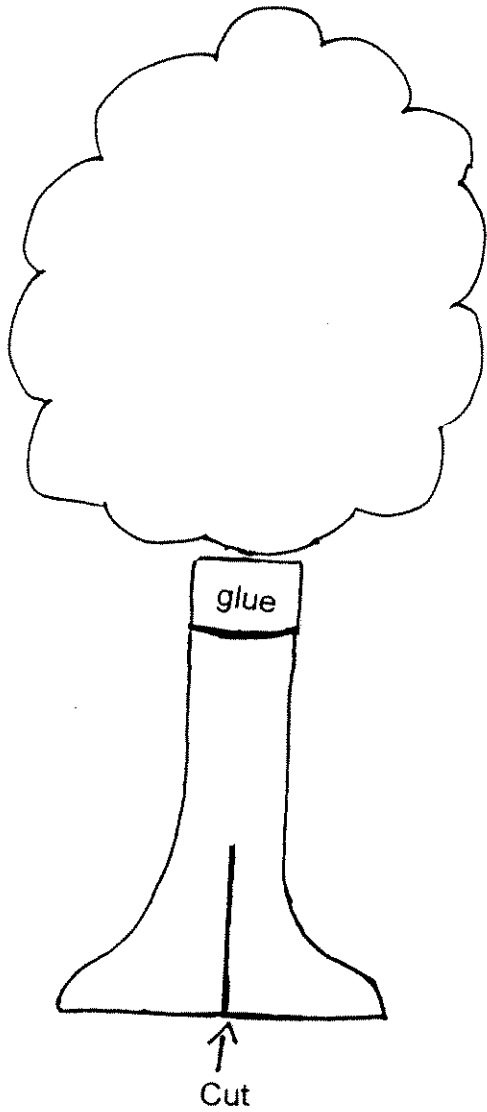
Cut slits in roof and glue ends of steeple to inside of roof toward front of building.

glue along peak of roof

glue
glue

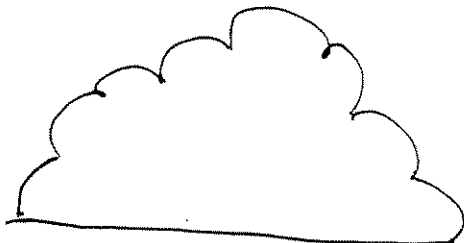
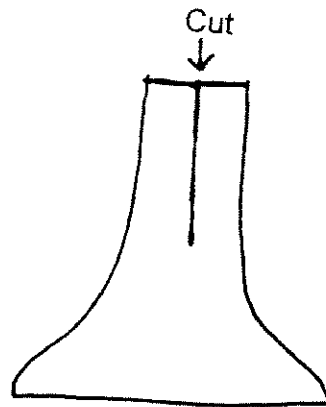
glue
glue

glue to side of church front



Cut tree trunks from brown and
tops from green construction paper.

Cut on solid line of trunk and put
together to make tree stand up.



Cut bushes from green.
Cut green strip, curve, fold in ends,
and glue to back of bush to make stand.

WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

Matthew 3:1-6, 13; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 1:5-25, 57-60, 80; John 1:6-7, 15-28

The Bible tells us there was a man sent from God whose name was John. He was a special person. He was sent to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus into the world. He was named John, and called John the Baptist because he baptized people.

God sent his angel, Gabriel, to speak to a man named Zacharias. Zacharias was a priest who served God at the temple. The priests went into the temple to burn incense on a special altar inside the temple, while the people waited outside for him to return. When the priests served God at the temple, they wore a special kind of clothing. On the hem of their robes there were pomegranates (a kind of fruit) embroidered in blue, purple, and crimson. In between each pomegranate was a golden bell. When the priest walked about in the temple, the people who waited outside for him could hear the bells tinkling, and they knew he was okay. No one could go into the temple with the priest. He was all alone. As long as the people could hear the bells, they knew that he had not gone into the temple and died before the Lord.

Zacharias' wife was named Elizabeth. They were both very old, and had no children. They wanted a son very much. They had prayed for many years for God to give them a son. Now that they were old, they had decided that they would never have a son. One day when Zacharias was burning incense in the temple, God sent the angel, Gabriel, to tell him something. When Zacharias saw the angel, he was afraid. The angel told him not to be afraid because he had good news for him. He said that he and Elizabeth would have the son they had been wanting. Zacharias could not believe this good news. He asked how he would know this would really happen. Maybe he was just dreaming this. Maybe he just thought he saw the angel. Gabriel said he would give Zacharias a sign to prove to him this was real. He would not be able to speak a word until his son was born. The angel said this child would be filled with the Holy Spirit from the time he was born. He would be a powerful person, and do something no other man had ever done. He would be the first man to baptize people.

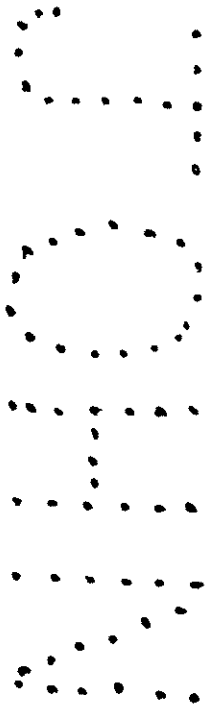
When the Jewish people went to the temple to worship, they did not worship like we do. They brought animals to offer unto God as a sacrifice. When the animal was killed and its blood was shed, it taught the people that Jesus would die, and His blood would be shed for the payment for their sins. They showed their faith in God to send His Son to die for their sins by bringing the animal as a sacrifice. This kind of worship was going to change. After Jesus died on the cross there would be no need for animal sacrifices any more. The people would change the way they had been taught to worship for hundreds of years. The people believed that God would send His Son someday. Now the time had come, and God needed someone to tell the people that God had kept His promise, and Jesus had been born. Now the people needed to believe that Jesus was the Son of God, and ask him to forgive them of their sins. Then they needed to be baptized to show that they had faith in him.

When John baptized people, he placed them under the water to show that Jesus would be buried, and then they were brought up out of the water to show that Jesus would come back to life again. No one had ever baptized people before. John was the first, and God sent him for this special purpose. The people of Israel were looking for a king to come and set up his kingdom on the throne of David. David had been a great king, and the people were looking for another great king to sit on his throne. They were anxious for this king to come, because he would free them from their enemies. They wanted a great king who would give them everything they wanted. God knew that they would not accept Jesus as His Son because he would not come as a king. He would first come to die for their sins. Then someday he will come back as our king. God needed someone to come before Jesus and prepare the hearts of the people to accept Jesus as the Son of God, and as their Savior, and to change their way of worship.

The promise that Gabriel made to Zacharias came to pass just like he said it would. When Zacharias stayed in the temple so long, the people began to worry about him. When he finally came out and could not speak, they knew something special had happened. Zacharias finished his service at the temple, and went back to his house. He and Elizabeth waited many months, and soon their son was born. He could not speak a word until the baby was born. The Jewish people did not name their baby boys until they were 8 days old. All of the friends and relatives of Zacharias and Elizabeth were so excited that the baby had been born. When the day came to name him, they all began to call him Zacharias after his father. Elizabeth said, *"Not so; but he shall be called John."* This is the name that the angel had told Zacharias to give his son. All the people could not understand why they would give him a name like John. No one in the family had ever been named John before. They insisted he should be named after his father. Zacharias motioned that he wanted something to write on. He wrote, *"His name is John."* Immediately he could speak again. He had obeyed God by naming his son John, and now he could speak again. This was the sign that his son really was sent from God to be a special person, and do a special work for God. Zacharias praised God and thanked Him for giving him this son.

MEMORY VERSE: John 1:6

"There was a man sent from God whose name was John."



Connect the dots and finish
the picture.

WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

The angel appeared to Zacharias
and told him John would be born.



WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

John was sent from God
to baptize.



WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES? 1. BAPTISM

Matthew 3:1-8, 13-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:3, 7-8, 16, 21-22; John 1:26-34

The church has two ordinances: baptism and the Lord's supper. Today we will study about baptism. What is baptism, and why should we be baptized?

The first Baptist was a man named John. God sent him to baptize those people who repented of their sins, and asked God to forgive them. The message that John preached was, *"Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* God sent John for one specific purpose: to baptize the ones who believed in Jesus, so Jesus could take them and start the first church. John had authority from God to baptize. Today, the church has the authority from God to baptize.

What did John do when he baptized? He baptized in the Jordan River because there was a lot of water there. There was enough water to completely bury the person being baptized under the water and bring him up out of the water. John took the person out into the river, and buried him beneath the water. This was a picture of the burial of Jesus. Then he raised him up out of the water. This was a picture of the resurrection of Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world, he was buried. In three days he came back to life again, and came out of the grave. He went back to heaven, and that is where he is today.

When someone comes to our church and says they have been saved and wants to follow Jesus in baptism, our pastor takes them into the baptistry and baptizes them. (If a church does not have a baptistry, they can use a river, stream, pond, lake, or anywhere that there is enough water to completely bury the person.) When they are placed under the water, it is a picture of the burial of Jesus. When they are raised up out of the water, it is a picture of Jesus being raised back to life. Baptism does not save us, but it shows that we have been saved and want to follow the teachings of Jesus. When the church baptizes people, we are following the teachings of Jesus. After Jesus was crucified, and before he went back to heaven to live, he told the church to go into all the world and preach the gospel, then to baptize those who believed in Jesus, and to teach them the commandments of Jesus.

When John baptized people, he told them that there was one greater than he who would come after him, and he would not even be worthy to untie and remove his shoes. One day when John was baptizing in the Jordan River, Jesus came to him to be baptized. John said, *"I should be baptized by you. Why do you come to me?"* Jesus said it was the will of God for John to baptize him. John took Jesus out into the river and buried him beneath the water. Then he raised him up again. This was a picture that he would die, be buried, and come back to life. When Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit of God in the form of a dove came and lighted upon Jesus. A voice spoke out from heaven and said, *"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."* There are three parts of God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was baptized, all three parts of God

were made known to man at the same time. Jesus was God's Son, the voice that spoke from heaven was God the Father, and the dove that came down and remained on Jesus was the Holy Spirit.

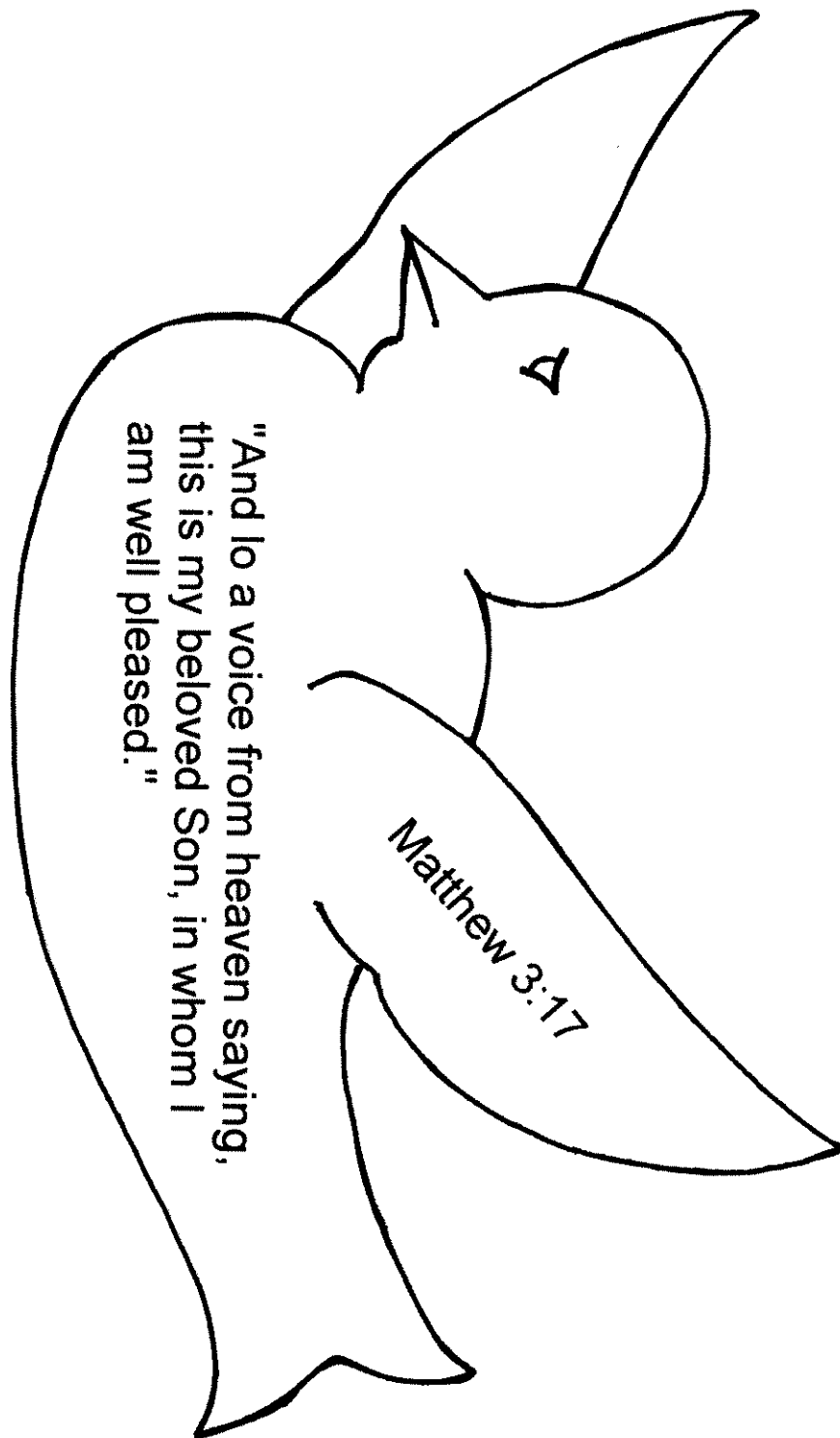
After Jesus had been baptized, John began to tell the people, *"This man is the one who is the Son of God."* John said, *"When God sent me to baptize, He told me, the one on whom the Spirit descends like a dove and remains on him, this is the Son of God."* John saw the dove descend, and he heard the voice of God, so he told the people, *"And I saw and bear record (or witnessed) that this is the Son of God."*

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 3:17

"And lo a voice from heaven saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES? 1. BAPTISM

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE



WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES? 1. BAPTISM

John baptized Jesus
in the Jordan River.



WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES? 1. Baptism



John the Baptist was sent from God to baptize those who repented of their sins.

WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES? 2. THE LORD'S SUPPER

Matthew 26:1-2, 17-20, 26-30; I Corinthians 11:1-2, 23-28

We believe there are two ordinances in the church: baptism and the Lord's supper. In our last lesson we learned about baptism, and today we will learn about the Lord's supper. What is the Lord's supper, and why do we observe it?

When Jesus was about thirty years old he came to John the Baptist to be baptized by him in the Jordan River. After we are saved, we follow the example of Jesus and are baptized, and become a member of the church. After we become a member of the church, we can take the Lord's supper. Jesus began the Lord's supper with his disciples, the twelve apostles, a few days before he was crucified. He told them to continue to do this in memory of his death, burial, and resurrection. The apostle Paul taught the church at Corinth to observe the Lord's supper. We observe the supper today according to these instructions.

The Jews were looking for God to send His Son into the world. They thought when he came, he would be their king, and sit on the throne in Jerusalem and rule over them as a king. When he was born in a stable in Bethlehem, and not in a palace in Jerusalem, they did not accept him as the Son of God. Because many Jews were following him and believed what he taught, the rulers of the Jews wanted to have him crucified. Jesus knew what was in their hearts. He knew he must die for the sins of the world, and he knew the time had come.

He was going to Jerusalem with his disciples to observe the feast of the passover. They did this every year to remember the time when God brought them out of the land of Egypt and gave them their own land to live in. The feast lasted seven days. On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus told them that when they got there he would be betrayed and crucified. They did not understand what he meant. On the first day of the feast, he told his disciples to go to a certain house and prepare the meal. In the evening Jesus came and they ate the lamb and the unleavened bread that had been prepared for the feast. They killed a lamb for the passover feast, because the night they left Egypt, each family killed a lamb and put the blood over the door and on the doorposts on each side of the door to their house. The death angel passed over each house that had the blood applied to the door. The blood of the lamb saved them from physical death. It pictured the blood of Jesus that would be shed for their sins, to save them from spiritual death. They used unleavened bread because it pictured Jesus without sin. Leaven is what makes bread rise. Leaven was a type of sin, so when they did not put leaven in their bread, it pictured Jesus without any sin. Since he had no sins of his own to die for, he could die for our sins.

After they had eaten the passover supper, Jesus took the unleavened bread and broke it. He told them to all take a piece and eat it. It was a symbol of his body that would be broken (or die) for them. Then he took the fruit of the vine, (the juice of the grape), and told them to all drink it. It was a symbol of his blood that would be shed on the cross for their sins.

He told them to continue to do this until he returns to the earth.

The apostles were a part of the first church, so this command was to the church. We are supposed to observe the Lord's supper today for the same reason. Jesus said, *"Do this in memory of me."* Luke 2:19 and 20 tells us, *"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, this is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."* After they took the supper, they sang a hymn and went out into the night. That night Jesus was captured by the soldiers and taken away to be tried, and later crucified.

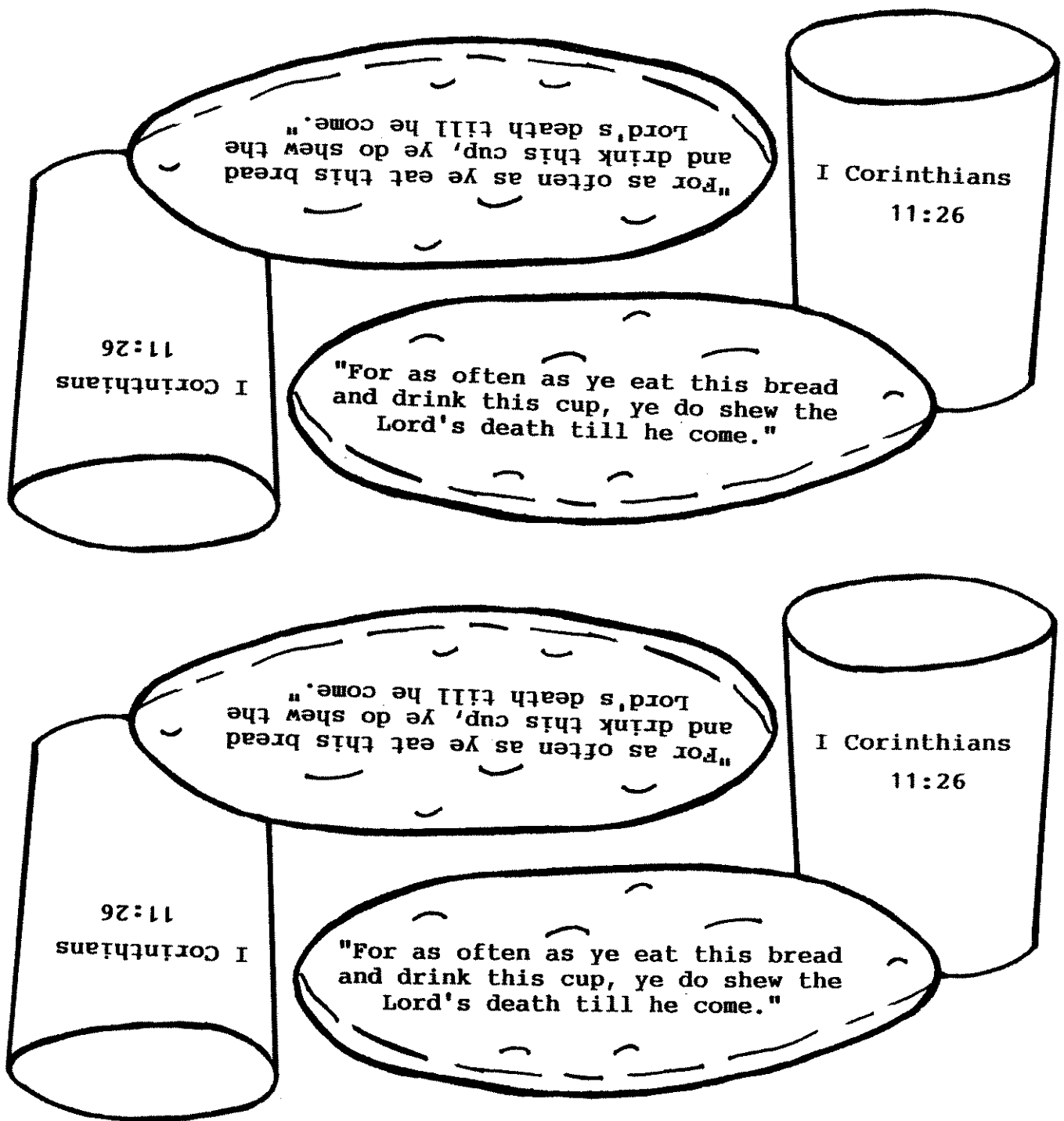
When the apostle Paul wrote the letter of I Corinthians to the church at Corinth, he told them about observing the Lord's supper. He told them the same night that Jesus was betrayed, he took the bread and broke it, and said, *"Take, eat: this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."* Then he told them Jesus took the cup, and said, *"This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as you drink it, in remembrance of me."* Paul told the church, *"As often as you do this, you show the Lord's death until he returns."* Jesus didn't say how often to observe the supper, and Paul didn't tell the church at Corinth how often they should do it. Each church decides for themselves how often to observe the supper, but when we do it, it is for the purpose of showing the picture of the Lord's death to pay the price for our sins. When we take it, we are showing others that we have received Jesus into our hearts, and are trusting his broken body and his shed blood to forgive our sins.

MEMORY VERSE: I Corinthians 11:26

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death til he come."

WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES? 2. LORD'S SUPPER

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE



WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES? 2. The Lord's Supper



WHAT IS PRAYER?

Matthew 6:5-8 Luke 18:10-14

Prayer is talking to God. When we pray, we talk to God. God is in heaven, but He can hear us when we pray. He hears us, He sees us, and He knows everything we do. So God hears us when we pray, and He answers our prayers in a way that is best for us. Sometimes we ask for things that we don't need, and sometimes we ask for things selfishly, so God does not always answer like we think He should. God knows best, and He knows what we need even before we ask. Praying is not just asking for things. When we talk to God we also thank Him for things He has done for us.

One day Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked Him, *"Lord, teach us to pray."* They wanted to know how to pray. They wanted to know what they should pray for. Jesus prayed when He lived on the earth. The disciples knew that many times Jesus would pray and talk to God all night. God was Jesus' heavenly Father, and He prayed to Him, so the disciples wanted to know how to pray also.

First of all, Jesus told them some things that they should not do when they prayed. He said, *"Don't be like the hypocrites."* A hypocrite is someone who pretends to be something that he is not. The synagogue was where people went to worship. Jesus said the hypocrites loved to stand in the synagogues and pray loudly so everyone there would hear them. They liked to stand on the street corner and pray loudly so everyone would hear them. They thought it would make them look like good people if others saw and heard them praying. Jesus said that is all the reward they would get. God would not answer their prayers. Jesus said to go into a quiet place all by ourselves to pray. *"But you, when you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father which is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."* Jesus did not mean we have to go into our clothes closets and close the door before we can pray. He meant to go somewhere away from everything else that would get our attention. We must shut everything else out of our minds just like shutting the door to our closet. If we are in a quiet place all by ourselves, then we will not be thinking about other things, only about God. These are our private prayers, just between us and God.

Jesus also taught us how to pray in public. Our public prayers are when we pray before mealtime or before we go to bed, and we are with our family, or with others. Our public prayers are also when we pray in church. When we pray in church, we should not be thinking about other things, only about God. When someone leads us in prayer, we should listen to what he is saying to God, and let that be our prayer, too. In this way we are praying as a group. Our thoughts are alike, and we are asking the same thing of God as a group. We should pray privately. This is praying by ourselves, no one but us and God. We should also pray publicly. This is praying with other people.

Jesus told a story of two men who went into the temple to pray. One man was called a pharisee, and the other man was called a publican. The pharisees were men who thought that by keeping the laws of God, they were good, and would go to heaven to be with God when they died. They did not think they had to repent of their sins, and be forgiven. When the pharisee went into the temple to pray, he stood, and did not bow his head before God. He started telling God all the bad things that he did not do. He said, *"God, I thank you that I am not like other men. I don't do bad things. I don't take money from people that does not belong to me. I treat people fairly. I don't cheat people. I am thankful that I am not like this publican."* A publican was a person who collected taxes, and many times they took more money than they should, and kept some of it for themselves. The pharisee began to tell God all the good things that he did. He said, *"I keep the law by fasting. I even fast twice a week. I give ten per cent of my possessions to help the poor."* the publican stood way off to the side, and bowed his head, and said, *"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."* The publican knew that he did things that were wrong, and he asked God to forgive him. He asked for God's mercy. He didn't tell God any good things that he did, because he knew he had done wrong and wanted to be forgiven. God did not hear the pharisee's prayer, because all he did was brag about how good he was. God heard the publican's prayer, and He forgave him of his sins. The Bible says that he went down to his house justified, or forgiven.

Jesus also told the people not to use 'vain repetitions' when they prayed. To use 'vain repetitions' is to repeat ourselves over and over again. Jesus said that the idol worshippers do this. When they pray to a statue, they think if they beg over and over, the statue will finally hear and answer their prayer. Jesus said that God knows what we need even before we ask for it. When we ask God for something, He hears us and knows us, and knows if we need what we are asking for. Many times God does not give us what we ask for because it is not good for us to have it.

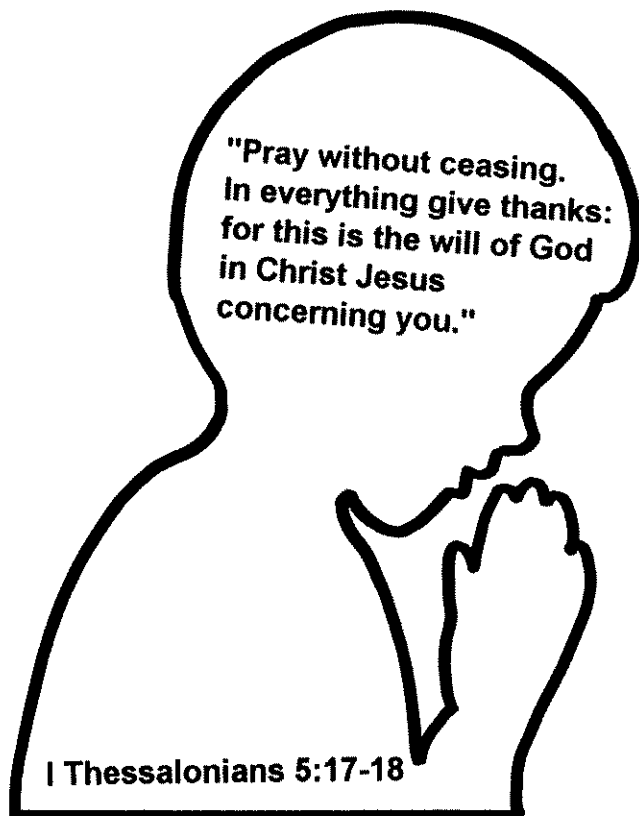
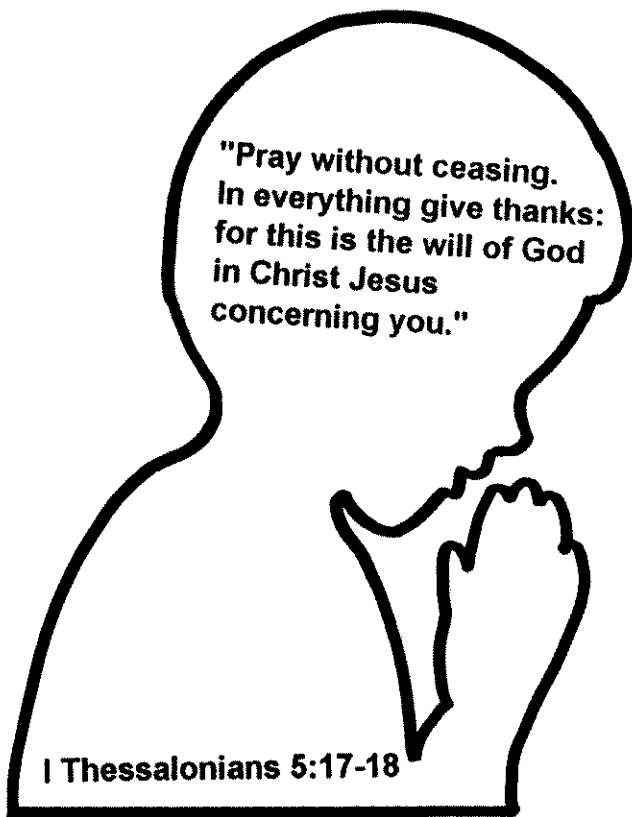
When we pray, we don't just ask God for things. We also thank God for the things He has done for us. Whenever we pray, we should thank God for things He has given us, and ask Him to protect us, and help us to serve Him. We should always ask Him to forgive us of our sins. We make our prayer to God in the name of Jesus because he is God's Son and our Savior. It is because he loved us enough to die for us that we can go to God in prayer. So we end our prayers by saying, "in Jesus' name, Amen." Amen means "let it be so", or may the things that we have asked for happen as we have asked.

MEMORY VERSE: I Thessalonians 5:17-18

"Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

WHAT IS PRAYER?

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE





JESUS TAUGHT THE DISCIPLES TO PRAY

Matthew 6:9-13 Luke 11:1-4

One day when Jesus had finished praying, his disciples said to Him, *"Lord, teach us to pray."* They knew that Jesus prayed all the time to his Father in heaven. They wanted him to teach them how they should pray. Jesus told them, *"This is how you should pray":*

"Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." When we pray, we pray to God in heaven. God is our heavenly Father. The word hallowed means holy, or to be respected or revered. We should always speak of God in a respectful way. We should always reverence the name of God. When we pray, we say, *"You are our Father in heaven, and your name is holy or special."*

"Thy kingdom come." The first thing Jesus said to ask of God was for the kingdom of God to come to the earth. Jesus was born to the Jewish nation. God promised to send His Son to die for the sins of the world. He would be born king of the Jews. The Old Testament prophets told that Jesus would sit on the throne of His father David. David had been king of Israel and sat on a throne in Jerusalem. The Jewish people thought that when God sent His Son, he would become king of Israel, and they would be free from all their enemies. First, Jesus had to come as our Saviour. He had to come and die on the cross to pay the price for sin. It was not time for him to sit on the throne and rule as king from Jerusalem. He had to die for our sins. After he was crucified he went back to heaven, and that is where he is now. Someday he will come back to the earth. When he comes back again, he will be our king. He will sit on the throne in Jerusalem and rule the earth for one thousand years. This will be a good time. Sin will be put down, and people will worship Jesus during this time. It is a time we should look forward to. We should be anxious for this time to come. Jesus said to pray for the time to come when his will shall be done on earth just like it is in heaven.

"Give us this day our daily bread." Jesus said to pray for God to give us food to eat. This does not mean we do not have to work to earn money to buy food. We don't expect God to put food on our table every morning when we get up. We ask God to bless our land so food will grow. We ask God to give us good health so we can work and earn money with which to buy food. We should not ask for more than enough for one day. If we are God's children, God promised to take care of us. God did not promise to make us rich, or give us more than we need for each day. God wants us to trust Him to protect us and to take care of us. We should not do things for God because we expect Him to do something for us in return. We should serve God because we love Him. Then He provides for us because He loves us. If we are not wealthy it does not mean that God does not love us. We do not give our money at church expecting God to give money back to us. We have money to give at church because God has already blessed us. God wants us to trust Him each and every day for what we need. He does not give us a lot and then forget about us for a long time. He takes care of us each and every day with what we need for that day, if we trust him.

"And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Our debts means our sins, wrong things that we have done. When we sin we should ask God to forgive us. We do sins every day. We do wrong things every day. We are sinful beings, and there is no way we can be perfect. That is why Jesus had to come and die for us; because we do things that are wrong. God loves us enough to forgive us when we do wrong. But we must ask for His forgiveness. When we are sorry for something we have done, and we ask God to forgive us, He has promised He will. When someone does something bad to us, and asks us to forgive them, we should forgive them. If we do not forgive others, we do not have a right to ask God to forgive us. When a person does something that hurts us, if they say, *"I'm sorry,"* we should not be mad at them. If we stay mad at them it means we did not forgive them. When we forgive them, we must forget about what happened. If we do not put it out of our minds, and forget about it, we have not forgiven them. In Matthew 6:14-15, Jesus said if we forgive other people, God will forgive us, but if we do not forgive other people, God will not forgive us.

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." There are so many bad things going on all the time around us, that we must be careful not to do bad things ourselves. So many things tempt us to do wrong. We must ask God to help us not to be tempted to do wrong. We should not go places with bad people, or we will also do bad things. We must not watch bad things on TV. God will help us avoid evil if we ask Him. So we should ask Him to lead us away from bad things, and help us do good things.

"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen." We know that God is forever. We know that God has power over all the earth. We should give God glory in everything we do. We should praise Him for everything He does. We should thank Him for His goodness to us. When we say "amen" at the end of our prayer, it means we want God to answer our prayer like we have asked. "Amen" means "let it be so," or "let it happen as we have asked." We make our prayer in the name of Jesus because he is our Saviour. So we should end our prayers with, "In Jesus' name we pray," or "we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

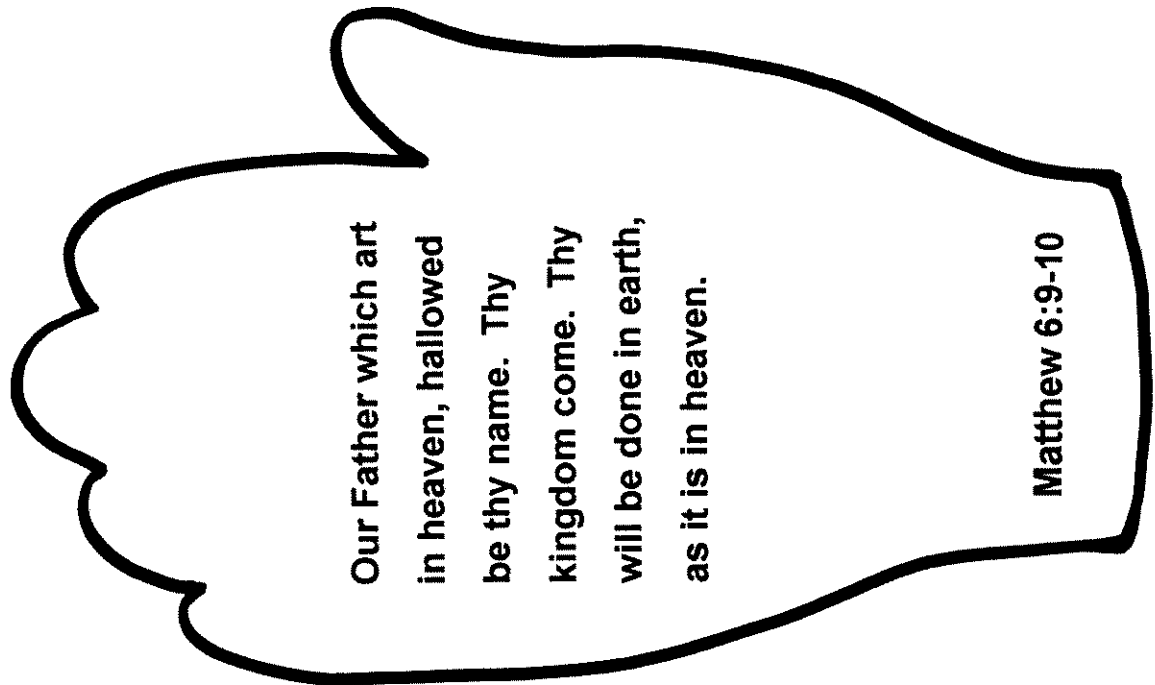
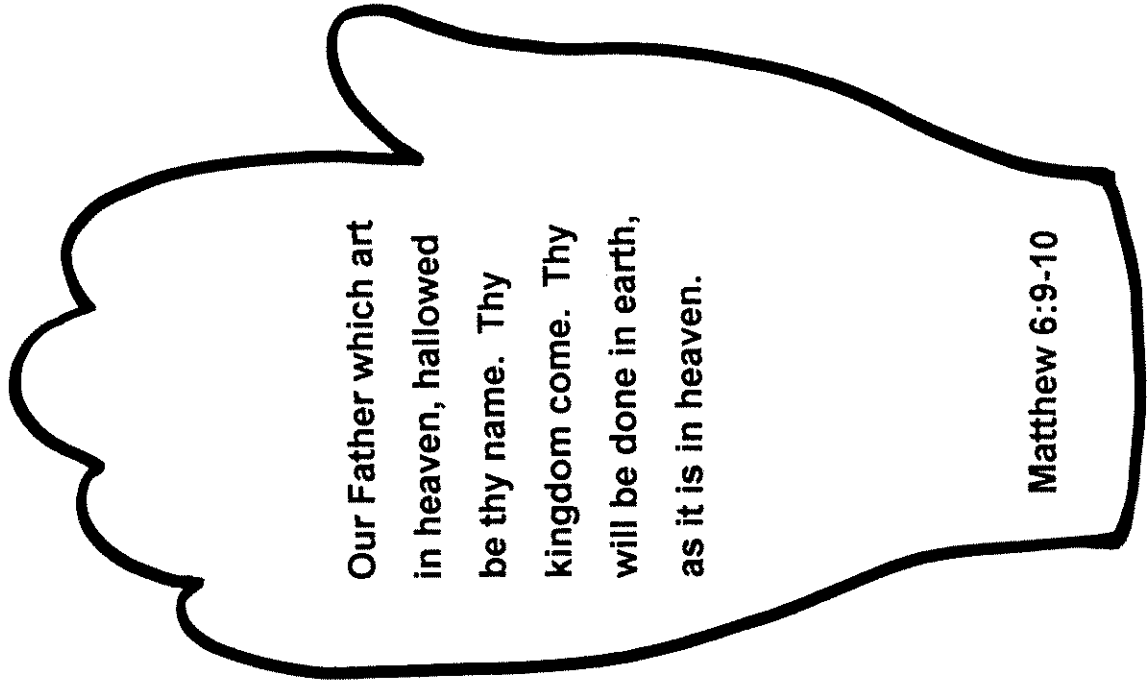
We can use this model prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples to help us know how to pray. We should ask him only for the things that we need in order to serve Him better, and we should always thank Him for His goodness to us.

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 6:9-10

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

JESUS TAUGHT THE DISCIPLES TO PRAY

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE



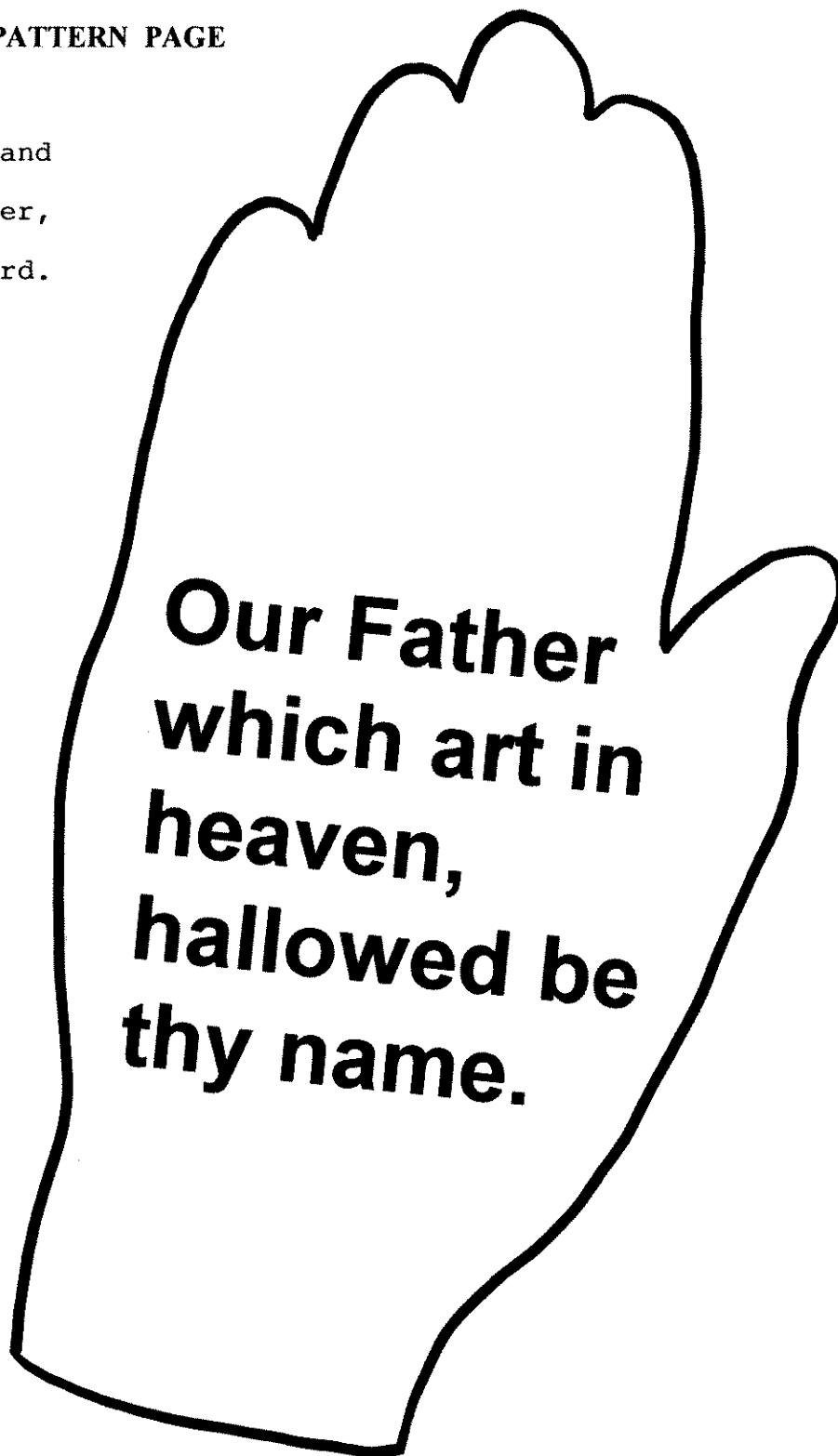
JESUS TAUGHT THE DISCIPLES TO PRAY

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE

Copy these six hand pattern pages on construction paper, cut out, and use for bulletin board.

OR


Make one set for each child, and fasten together with a brad at the fingers.








**Give us this
day our
daily bread.**



**And forgive
us our debts,
as we forgive
our debtors.**



**And lead us
not into
temptation,
but deliver
us from
evil:**



**For thine is
the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
forever.**

Amen.

JESUS TAUGHT THE DISCIPLES TO PRAY



WHO WERE THE APOSTLES?

Matthew 4:18-23; 9:9; 10:1-15; Mark 1:16-21; 2:14; 3:13-19
Luke 5:10-11, 27-28; 6:12-16; John 1:43; Romans 11:13

In the beginning of time, the father of the family was the patriarch, or the one responsible for teaching his family about God. He built an altar and offered animal sacrifices on the altar to teach his family that God would send His Son to die as a sacrifice for our sins. The blood of the animal did not forgive their sins, but it taught them that the blood of Jesus would take away their sins. Later, God chose the nation of Israel to be His special people, and He chose one group of people to be priests. They built a tabernacle, and later a temple as the place of worship. The priests served at the tabernacle and later the temple. The people came to them to offer the animal sacrifices for them. The animal sacrifices taught the people that Jesus would die on the cross. After he came and died on the cross, there was no need of animal sacrifices anymore.

God sent John the Baptist to preach to the Jewish people and tell them that the messiah, or the saviour, had come. When John preached that Jesus was the messiah, and people repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus as the messiah, he baptized them. This showed that they believed in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. After Jesus was crucified, they would no longer offer the animal sacrifices. Their whole way of worship would change. Most of the Jews would not accept the change. They were looking for a king, not a saviour. So they crucified Jesus because he claimed to be the Son of God; he did not come as a king.

When some of the people whom John preached to believed his message and he baptized them, they became followers of Jesus. This was the reason John was born; so when it happened, his job was finished, and he died. Jesus took the followers who had been baptized by John, and they became his disciples. Now that John was dead, Jesus needed more men to preach that he was the Son of God, and convince the Jews to accept him and change their way of worship. Jesus started his church with the people that John had baptized. The church now had the authority to baptize.

Peter and Andrew were two men who had been baptized by John. They were fishermen. They caught fish in order to make a living. One day Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee where they were working. Jesus called them to leave their boats and their nets, and follow him. Instead of fishing, Jesus wanted them to be preachers. He said, *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* Peter and Andrew followed Jesus. A little farther down the seashore, Jesus saw James and John helping their father, Zebedee. They were also fishermen. Jesus called them to leave their nets and follow him, and he would make them to be fishers of men. James and John also followed Jesus. One day he walked by where a man named Matthew was sitting at a table collecting the taxes from the people. He was a publican, or a tax collector. This is the way he made his living. Jesus said to him, *"Follow me"*. Matthew left his job as tax collector, and became a follower of Jesus.

One day when Jesus' disciples had followed him up into a mountain where he taught them, he chose twelve men from among the disciples to be apostles. The apostles were the first preachers in the church that Jesus established. These are the men that Jesus chose to be apostles: Simon, whom Jesus named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, the tax collector, James and his brother Judas (Jude), the sons of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus. All of these men came from different occupations, but they all left their jobs and followed Jesus. They walked and talked with Jesus for three years. They saw the miracles he did to prove that he was the Son of God. They heard his teachings. They all loved Jesus very much except Judas, and the Bible says he was a devil from the beginning, or was possessed of evil. He pretended to love Jesus, but in his heart he never accepted him. After Judas betrayed Jesus, he went out and killed himself. Later (after Jesus was crucified and went back to heaven) God called Saul of Tarsus (whom He named Paul) and he became the twelfth apostle to take the place of Judas.

When Jesus chose these twelve men to be apostles (preachers), he told them to go to the Jewish cities and preach to the Jewish people. People of the nation of Israel were called Jews. People who were not Jews were called Gentiles. Jesus said for the apostles not to go to the Gentiles, only to the Jews. God had promised He would send His Son into the world to the Jewish people, so he wanted the apostles to go to the Jews and convince them to accept him as the Son of God. Later the apostles preached to the Gentiles, but first God wanted the Jews to accept Jesus as their messiah.

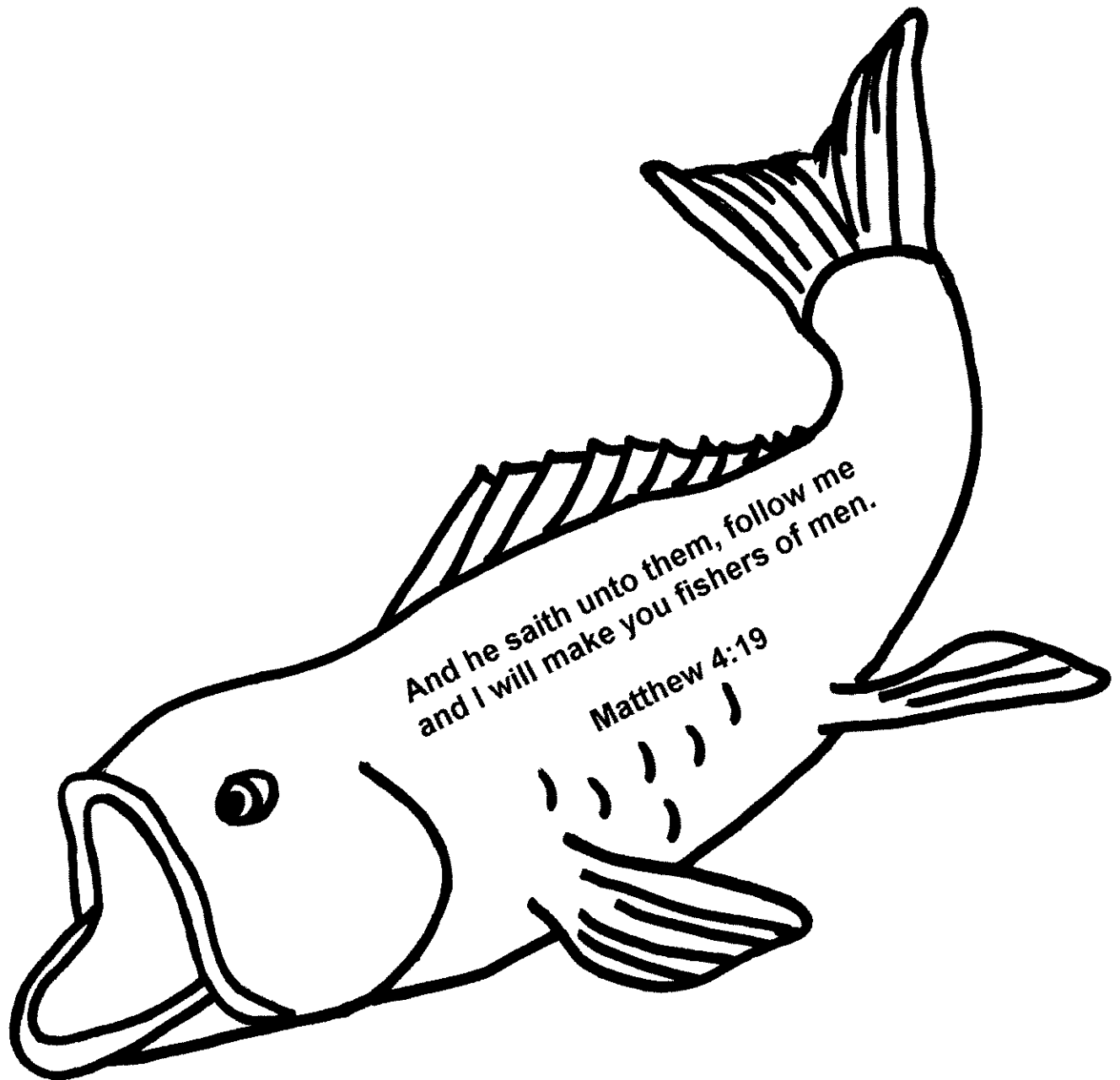
Jesus had power of God to do miracles. He gave this power to the apostles so they could also do miracles. The reason Jesus did miracles was to prove he was God's Son. The reason the apostles did miracles was to prove the message they preached about Jesus was true; he really was God's Son. The apostles had the power to heal sick people, make blind people see, make deaf people hear, make crippled people walk, raise people from the dead, and cast out evil spirits. They did this until the Bible was written. Now we do not need for preachers to be able to do miracles to prove that Jesus is God's Son. We can read in the Bible and know all we need to know about God. Preachers who claim to do miracles today are false preachers. Churches who claim to have power to do miracles are false churches.

When Jesus sent the twelve apostles out to preach, he told them not to take anything with them; no money, no food, no change of clothes, and no extra shoes. They were to be taken care of by the people they preached to. When they went into a city and someone believed the message they preached, they went to their house and stayed there and taught them. The people provided their food and shelter. When they went to a city and the people would not listen, they were supposed to leave that city and shake the dust off of their feet at the city gate. This was a sign that they brought them the message of Jesus and they refused it. The first church was made up of Jews. The church today is mostly Gentiles.

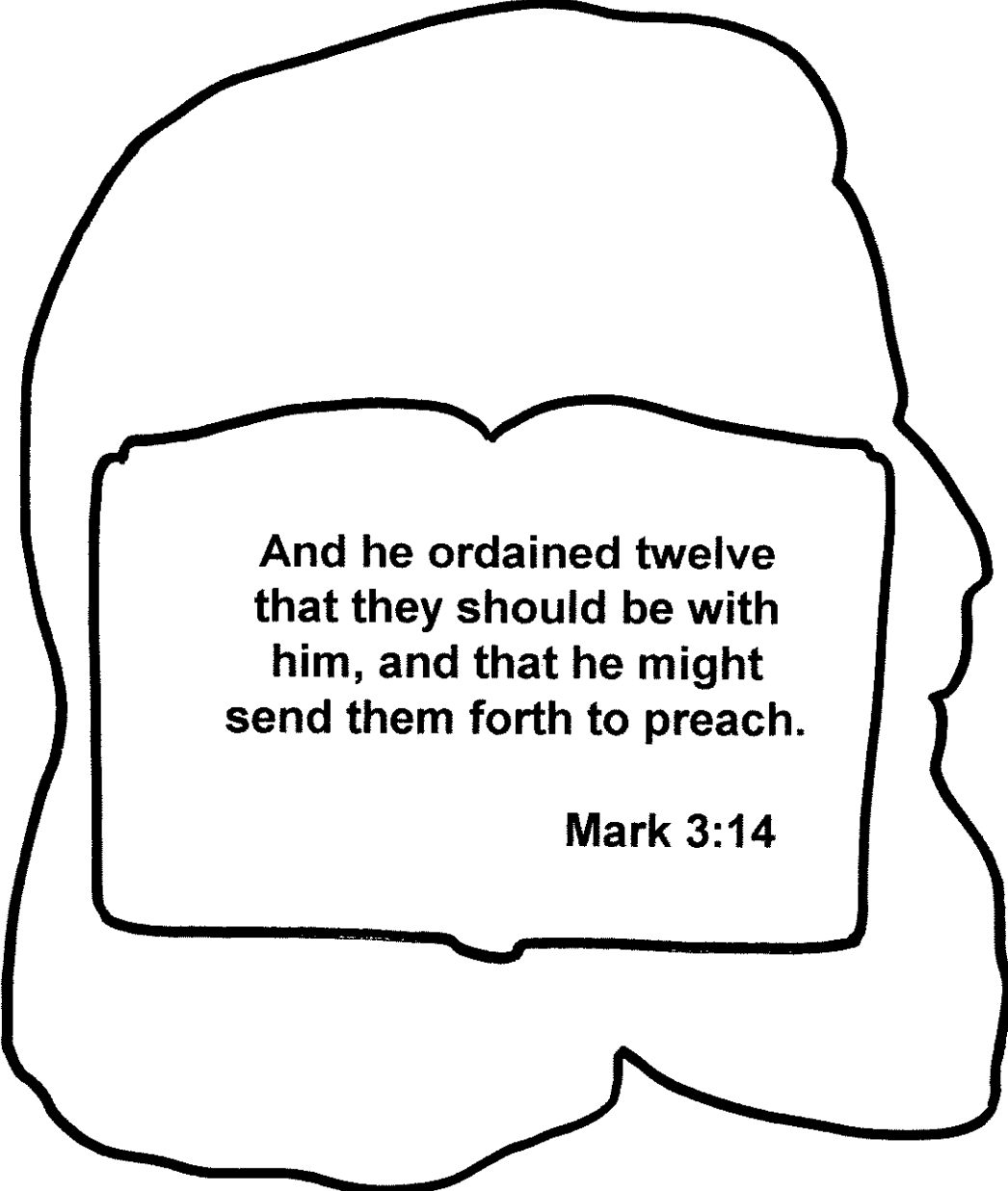
MEMORY VERSE: Mark 3:14 "And he ordained twelve that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach."

WHO WERE THE APOSTLES?

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE



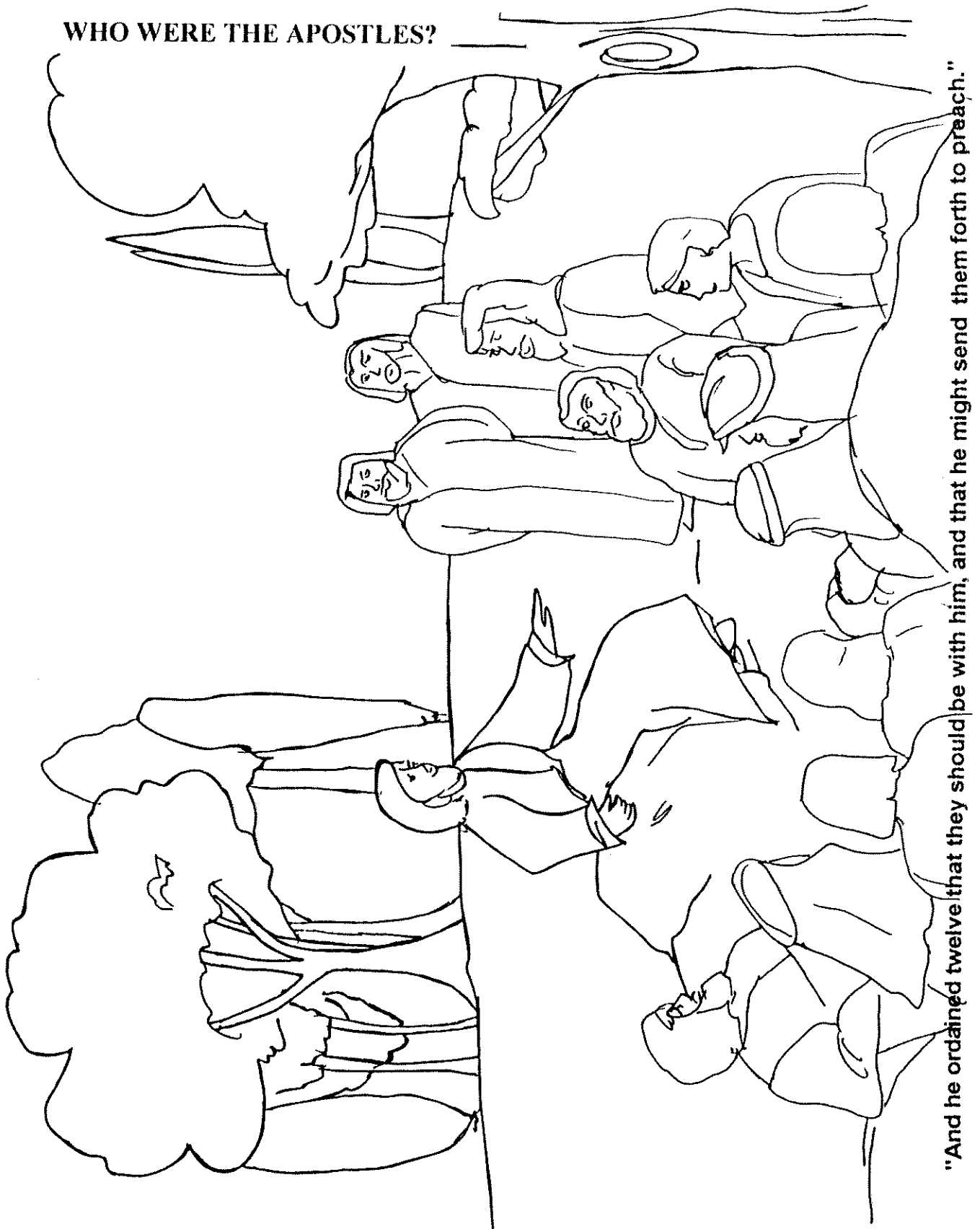
WHO WERE THE APOSTLES?



**And he ordained twelve
that they should be with
him, and that he might
send them forth to preach.**

Mark 3:14

WHO WERE THE APOSTLES?



"And he ordained twelve that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach."

WHAT ARE ANGELS?

Psalm 104:4; Hebrews 1:7, 13, 14, 2:5; Revelation 5:11, 12:7-9;
Isaiah 14:12-14; Jude 9; Daniel 3:28, 6:22, 10:13; Luke 1:19, 26;

Angels are spiritual beings that God created. Spiritual beings do not have bodies like you and I. The angels are intelligent spirits; they do not need bodies. God made the angels a long time ago, long before he made people on the earth. God made the angels to serve Him. Some of the angels served God by caring for the earth that He had made. Some of the angels serve God by caring for us, as His children, to protect us from evil.

God made three groups of angels. Each group had a leader, or a head angel, called an archangel. The three archangels were named Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer. Lucifer was the most beautiful of God's creation. His name means bright and shining one. Because of Lucifer's jealousy, he sinned. Lucifer did not want to just serve God. He wanted to be a part of God. He wanted to be like God, be as powerful as God. He was jealous of Jesus as God's Son; he wanted to take that place. Lucifer said in his heart, *"I will ascend above all the other angels, and make a throne for myself that will be equal with God."* When he did this, which was the first sin, he could not stay in heaven with God. He was cast out of heaven to the earth. Because he was angry, he destroyed God's perfect earth that He had made. God had to recreate the earth. This is when He made man to live on the earth. Man was made perfect. Lucifer decided to destroy man, so he caused him to sin. When he sinned, he was no longer perfect; some day he would die. When he died, he would be separated from God forever. God loved man and did not want him to be separated from Him, so He promised to send His Son to die for us. When we accept Him as our Saviour, we will not be separated from God after we die; we will live with Him forever. Lucifer was created an angel, but when he sinned, he became the devil, or Satan. He is the one that causes all of the bad things that are in the world today.

Another archangel was Michael. He serves God by helping and protecting people who are God's children. God's angels do not come to people today and talk to them. They exist all around us, but we do not see them. We do not hear them talk to us. In the Old Testament we read about many times that Michael and his angels came to earth to help God's people. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace because they would not bow down to the king's statue, and worship him, God sent His angel to protect them from the fire. They came out unhurt. When Daniel was thrown into the den of lions because he would not pray to the king, God sent His angel to close the mouths of the lions so they did not hurt him. On one occasion, Daniel said, *"Michael came to help me."*

The archangel that we read in the Bible about more than Michael, was named Gabriel. Gabriel was the angel that God sent to bring messages to men. In the Old Testament we learn that angels came to Abraham, Lot, Moses, Balaam, Gideon, David, Elijah, and Daniel. Michael came to protect Daniel, but Gabriel came to inform Daniel. In Daniel 8:16, Daniel said he

heard a voice that said, *"Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision."* The angel Gabriel also appeared to people in the New Testament: Mary, Joseph, Mary Magdalene and the women who came to Jesus' tomb, Zacharias, Peter, Cornelius, and Paul. Zacharias was a priest serving God in the temple when Gabriel came to him and told him that John the Baptist would be born. Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that Jesus would be her son. Gabriel appeared to Joseph and told him that Jesus would be born to Mary. He appeared to the shepherds the night Jesus was born and announced his birth to the world, then many angels appeared with him and sang praises to God. The angel came and rolled back the stone from the tomb where Jesus was buried, and told the women that Jesus was risen. The angel brought the apostles out of prison when they had been placed there because they preached about Jesus; Acts 5:19. In Acts 12:7, it tells how the angel brought Peter out of prison. In the tenth chapter of Acts the angel came to a man named Cornelius, and told him to send for the apostle Peter to come and teach him about God. Then the angel appeared to Peter and told him to go to the house of Cornelius and preach to him about God.

When the angels came to bring a message from God, they looked like any other man. They were not creatures with wings and halos like we see pictures of them drawn today. They looked like people and they talked like people. God gave them bodies to use so they could come to the earth and bring messages from Him. When they finished speaking, they disappeared. They did not need bodies anymore.

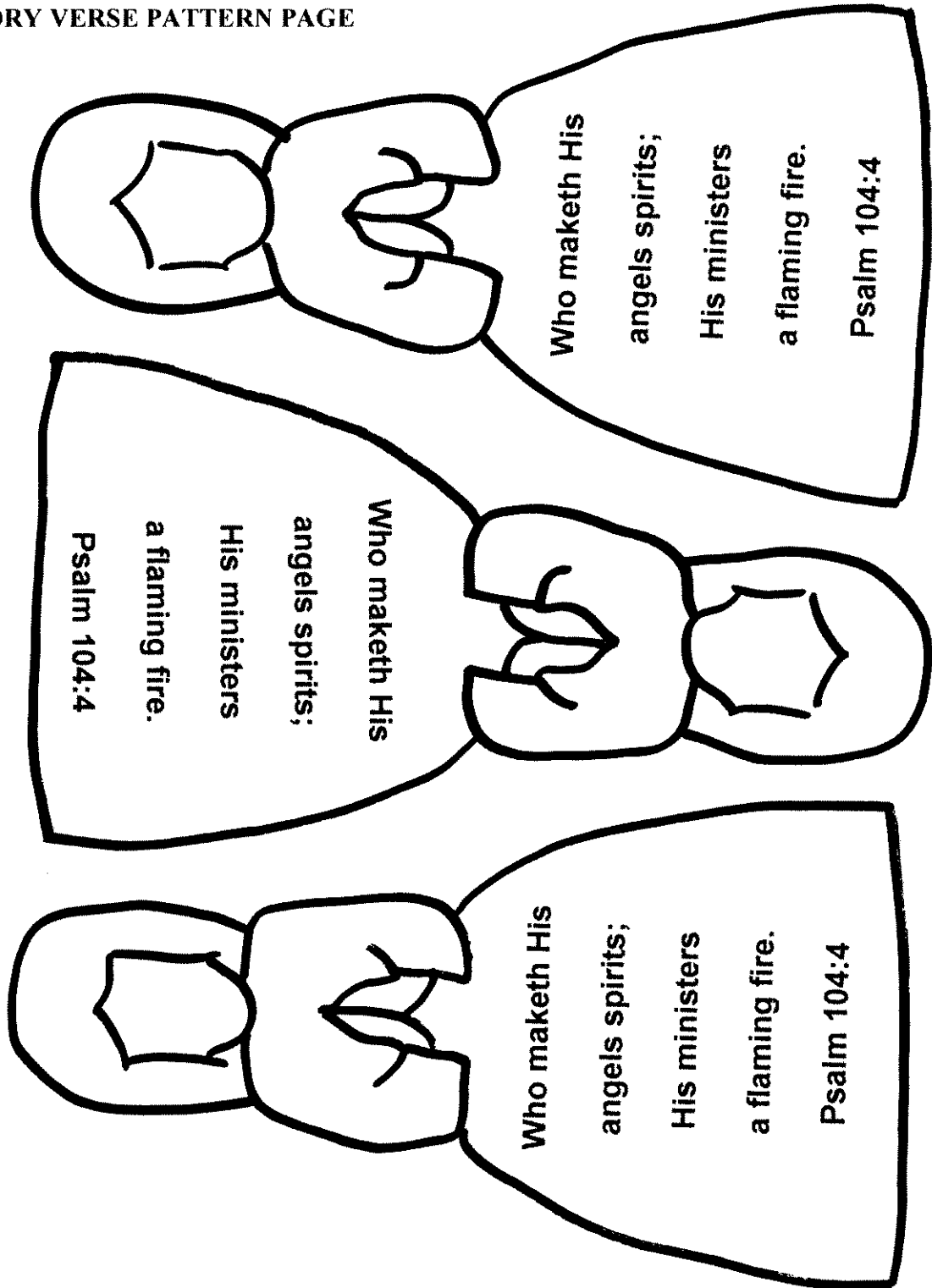
God does not send angels to speak to us anymore. He does not need angels to bring His message. We have the Bible to read. It tells us all we need to know about God. A long time ago people did not have the written word of God, so God had to send His angels to bring His messages to man. After Jesus lived on the earth, the books of the New Testament were written. After all of God's word was written down, God quit sending angels to give messages to men.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 104:4

"Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:"

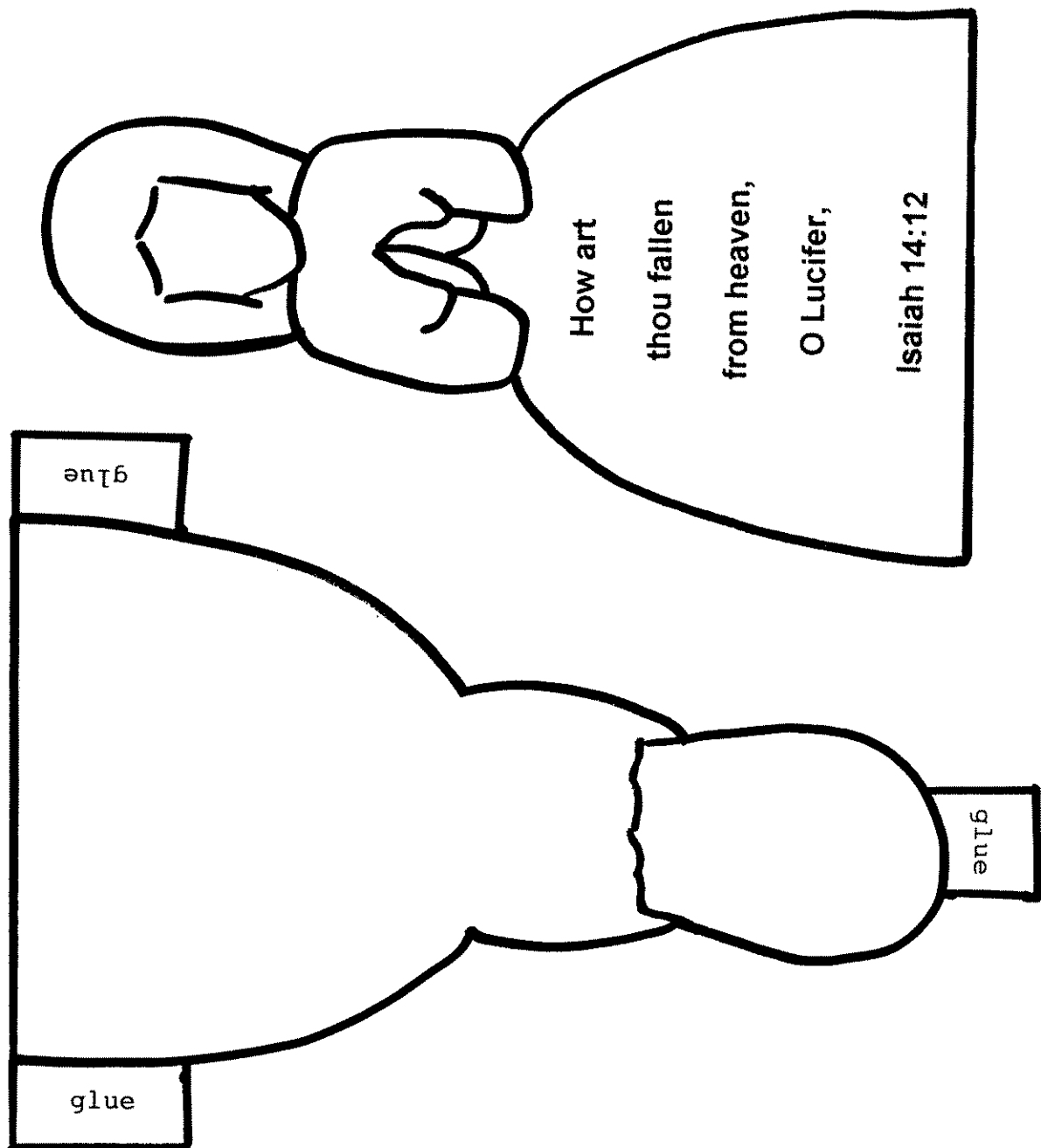
WHAT ARE ANGELS?

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE



WHAT ARE ANGELS?

Copy on heavy paper. Cut out and glue back to front at tabs, to make it stand.





THREE ARCH ANGELS: Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer

BIRTH OF JESUS

Suggestion for December attendance project:

Cut a 6" by 10" cardboard (or posterboard) for a base.

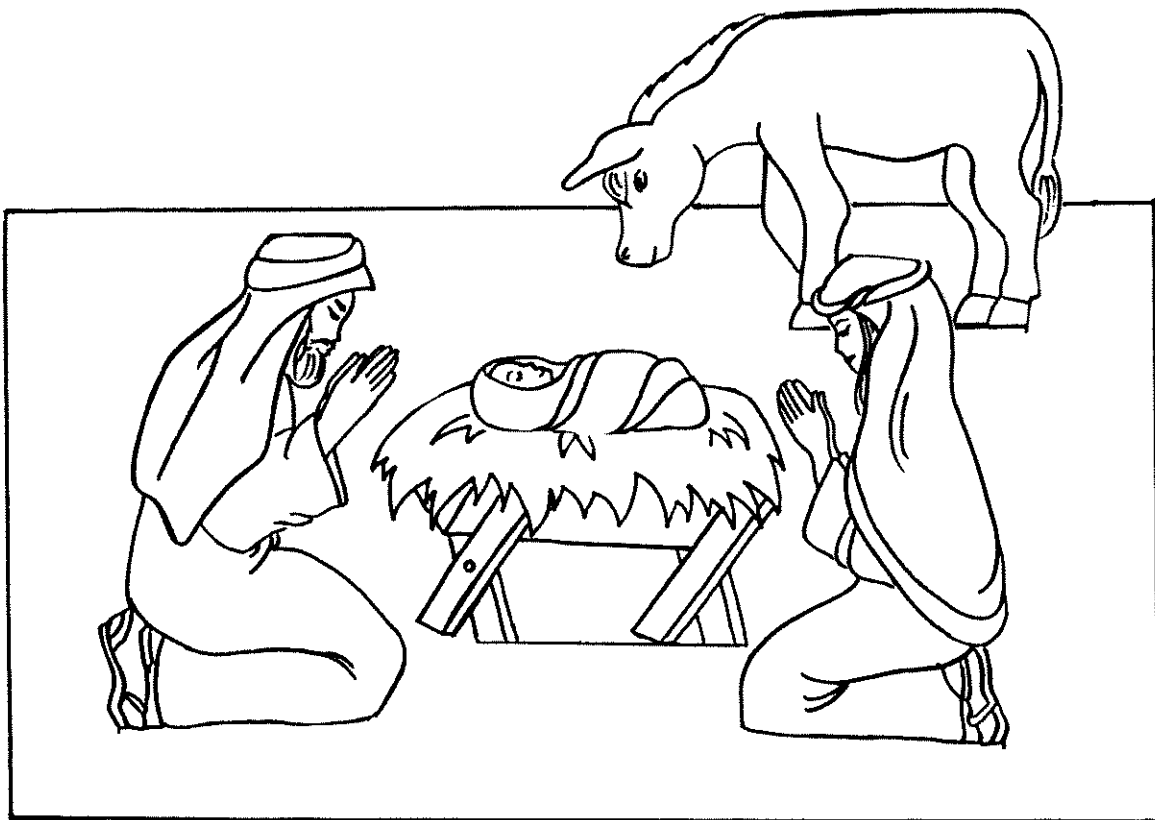
Let child color and cut out each figure.

Glue the tabs at the bottom together to make them stand.

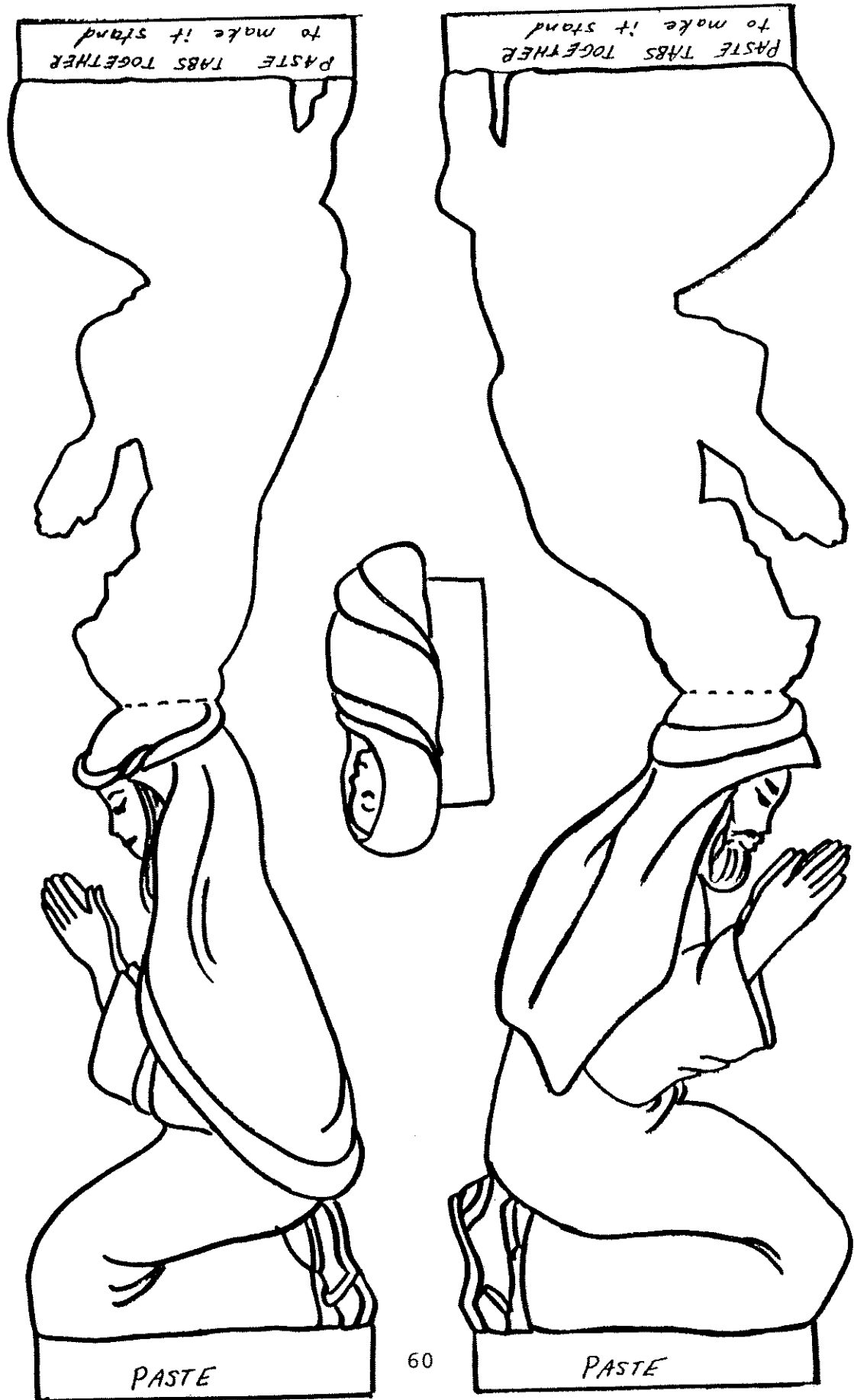
Glue them standing on cardboard base.

Glue dried grass or fine cut short strips of yellow or tan paper for hay under the manger.

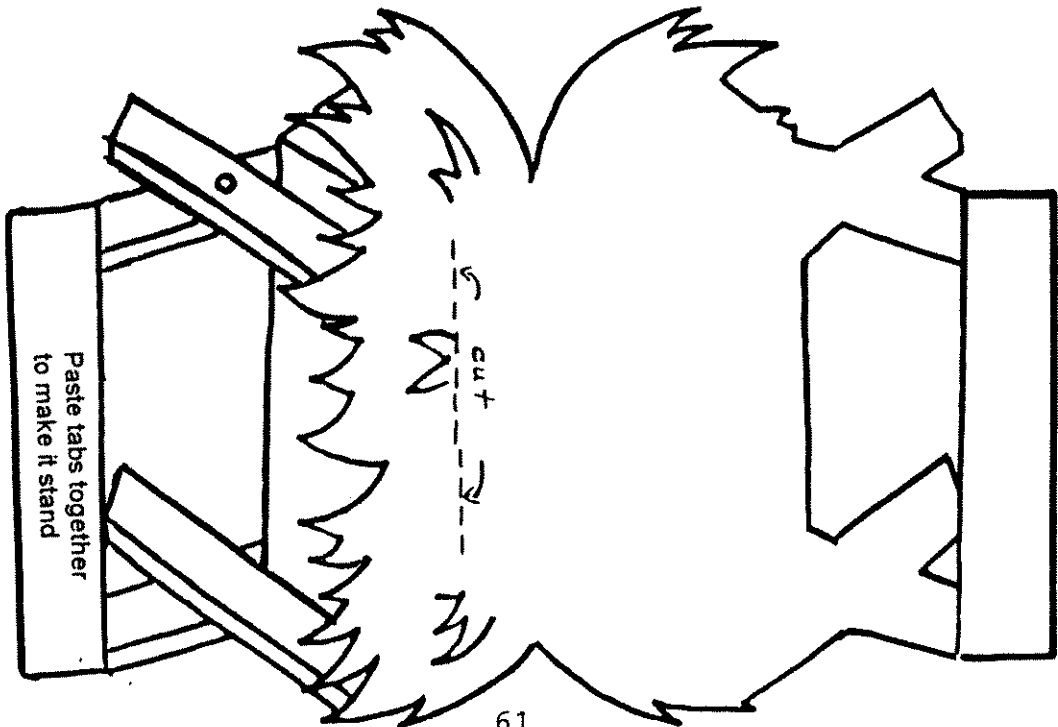
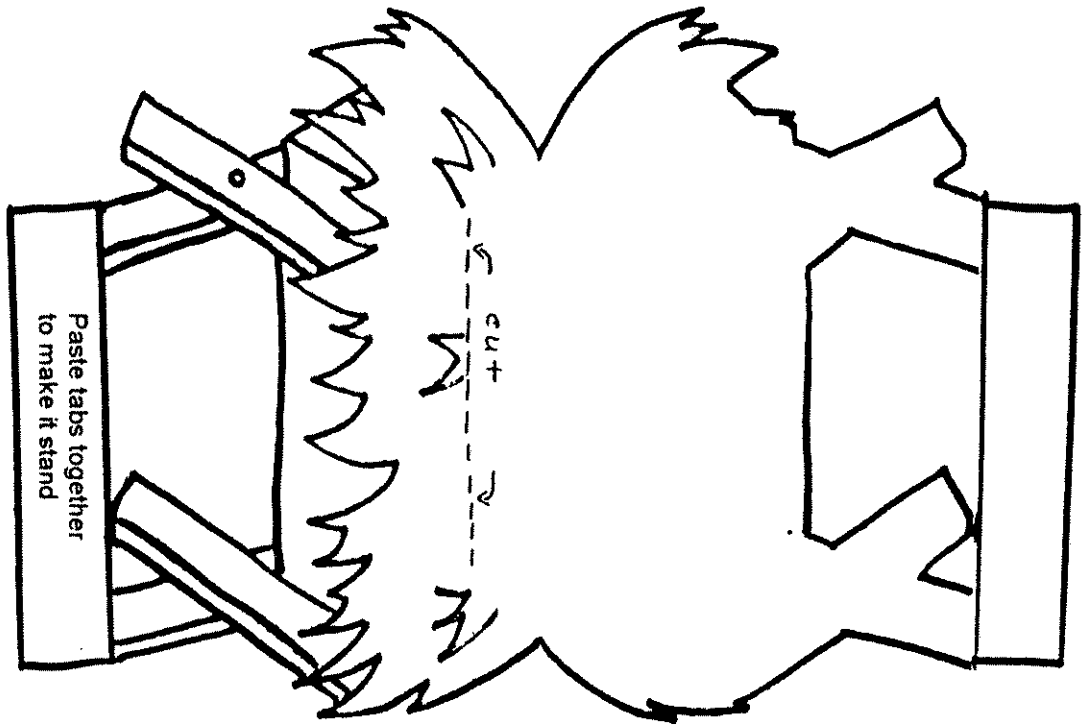
Clothing and hay for manger can be copied on different colors of construction paper, cut out, and layered on each figure rather than coloring.



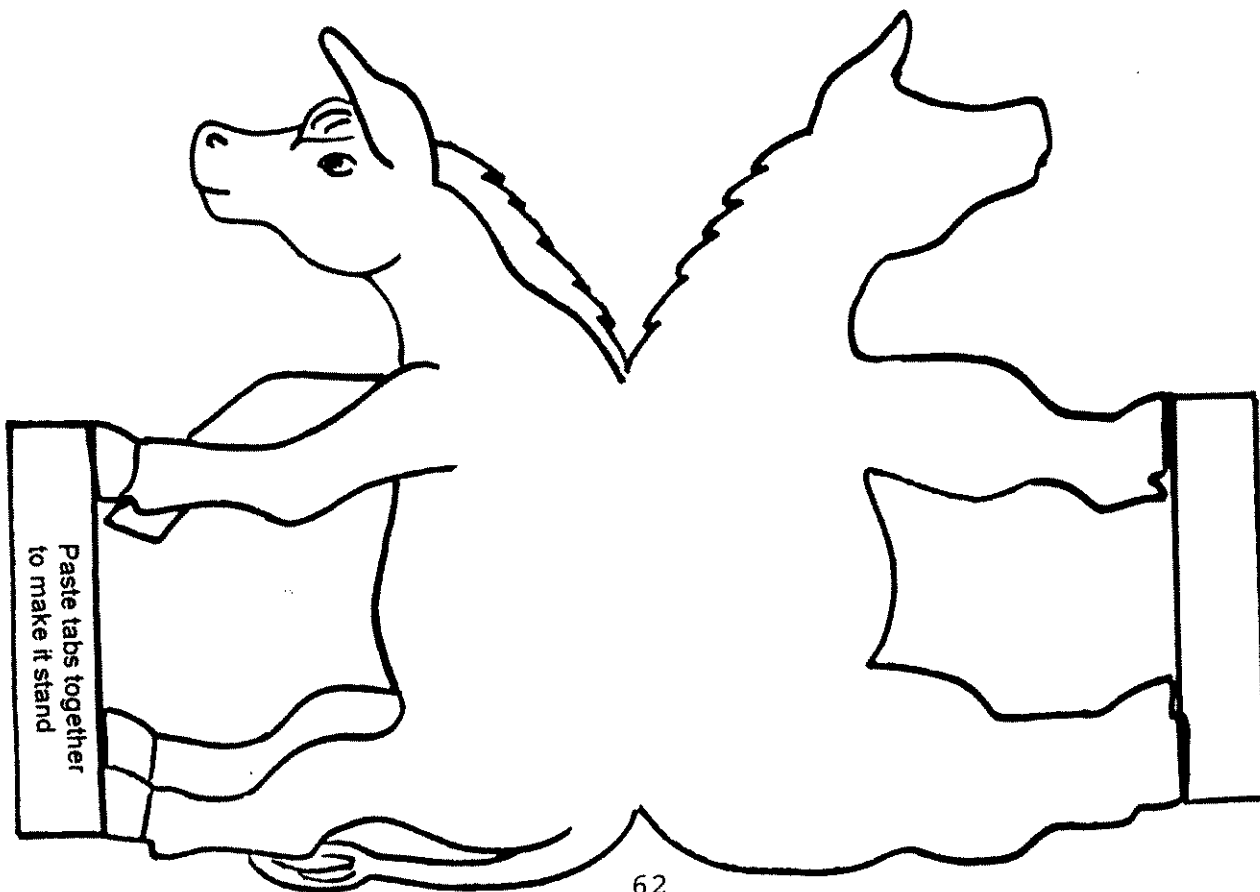
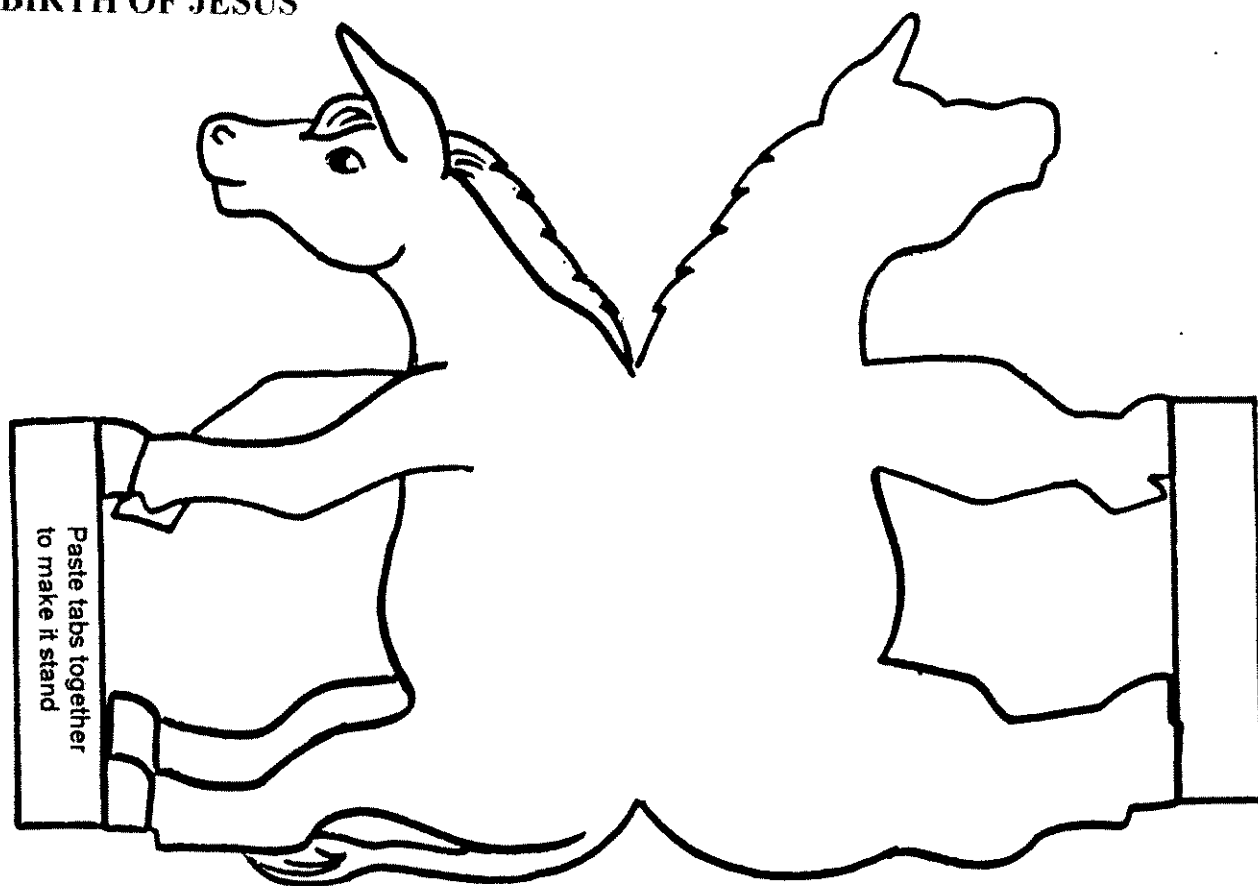
BIRTH OF JESUS



BIRTH OF JESUS



BIRTH OF JESUS



THE ANGEL SPEAKS TO MARY

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2;

A long time ago God promised that He would send His Son to live on the earth. The time had finally come for God to keep His promise. The time had come for Jesus to be born. There was a young woman named Mary that lived in the city of Nazareth. Mary was a virgin; she was not married. She was engaged to a man named Joseph. He was a just man, a righteous man. Before the time came for them to be married, God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God. The prophet Isaiah had said that Jesus would be born of a virgin, and they would call him Emmanuel, which means 'God with us'. He would be the Son of God, and would be God living on earth. In order to live on the earth as a man, he had to be born as a little baby and grow up to be a man. God chose Mary for this purpose.

When God created the angels, He created them to serve Him. Some of them served Him by bringing messages to man. Before the Bible was written, God sent angels to tell people what He wanted them to know, or what He wanted them to do. One day the angel Gabriel came to Mary. When she saw him, she was frightened. He told her not to be afraid, because he had good news for her. He said, *"Fear not, Mary, for you have found favour with God:"* God had chosen Mary for the most important thing in the world. Mary was a good person; she was a righteous person. She served God faithfully. She knew that God had promised to send His Son to live in the world someday. She believed God's promise. God had chosen her to be the mother of His Son. When the angel told Mary that she had been honored by God more than any other woman who had ever lived on the earth, she didn't know what he meant. She didn't understand. The angel said, *"Don't be afraid, Mary. God had chosen you to be the mother of His Son."* Mary sure didn't understand now, because she was not married. She planned to marry Joseph, but they were not married now. When two people get married, then they can have children. The angel told her this would not be Joseph's son, it would be the Son of God. He would be special. He would be the saviour of all the world. The angel said to name Him Jesus, which means 'saviour'. The angel said, *"He will be great, and will be called the Son of God. Someday he will sit on the throne of his forefather David, in Jerusalem, and rule as king over all Israel."*

Mary loved God, and was willing to serve God in any way that God wanted her to. She had been taught the commands of God by her parents, and she was a faithful servant of God. She accepted the visit from the angel as being sent from God, and she believed his message.

The angel also came to visit Joseph. Because Joseph was soon going to take Mary for his wife, he must know about this wonderful thing that was going to happen. Joseph would have the responsibility of raising, caring for, and teaching this child. He must care for him as his son. The angel told Joseph not to worry about marrying Mary, because this child would be the Son of God. One night Joseph was sleeping, and the angel Gabriel came to him in a dream, and said, *"Joseph, don't be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. This baby that she*

will have will be the Son of God. When he is born, you shall name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." The angel explained to Joseph that Jesus would be born this way in order to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah. A long, long time ago Isaiah said, *"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel."* Emmanuel means 'God with us'. He would be the Son of God. He would be God living on earth with men. In order to do this he had to be born as a baby and grow up to be a man. Then he could die for our sins, so that we can become children of God.

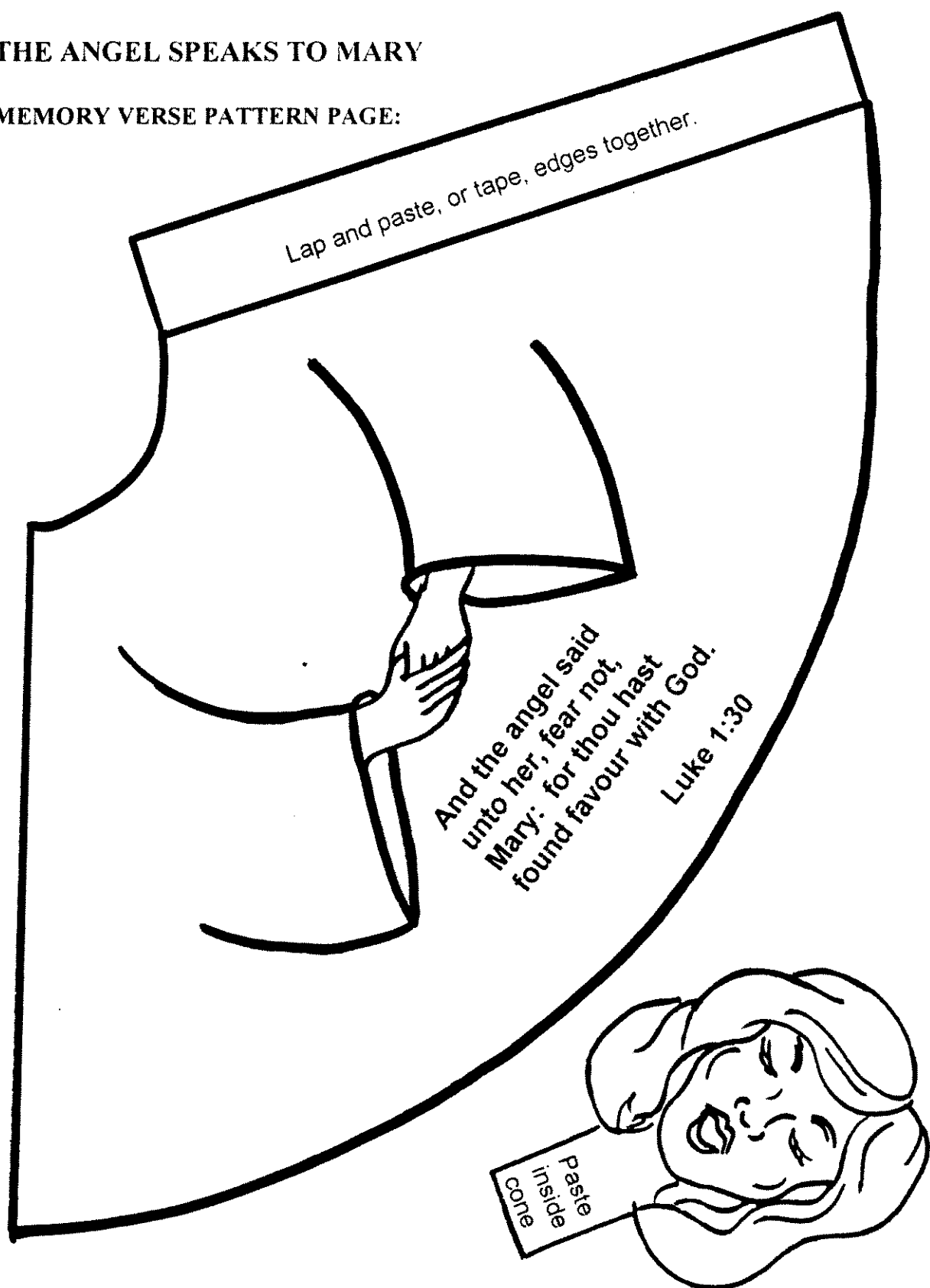
Joseph obeyed the angel, and got up from his sleep, and went to get Mary. He took her to be his wife. He loved her and cared for her until Jesus was born. Then he loved and cared for Jesus as his own son. Mary and Joseph had many more children, but Jesus was special because he was the Son of God. Mary was thankful that God had chosen her for this special purpose. When her baby was born, she named him Jesus, as the angel had said for her to do. She loved and cared for Jesus as she did her other children, but she knew in her heart that he was different. He was the promised Son of God. The angel had told her, and she believed what he said, that she would be the mother of the Son of God.

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 1:30

"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God."

THE ANGEL SPEAKS TO MARY

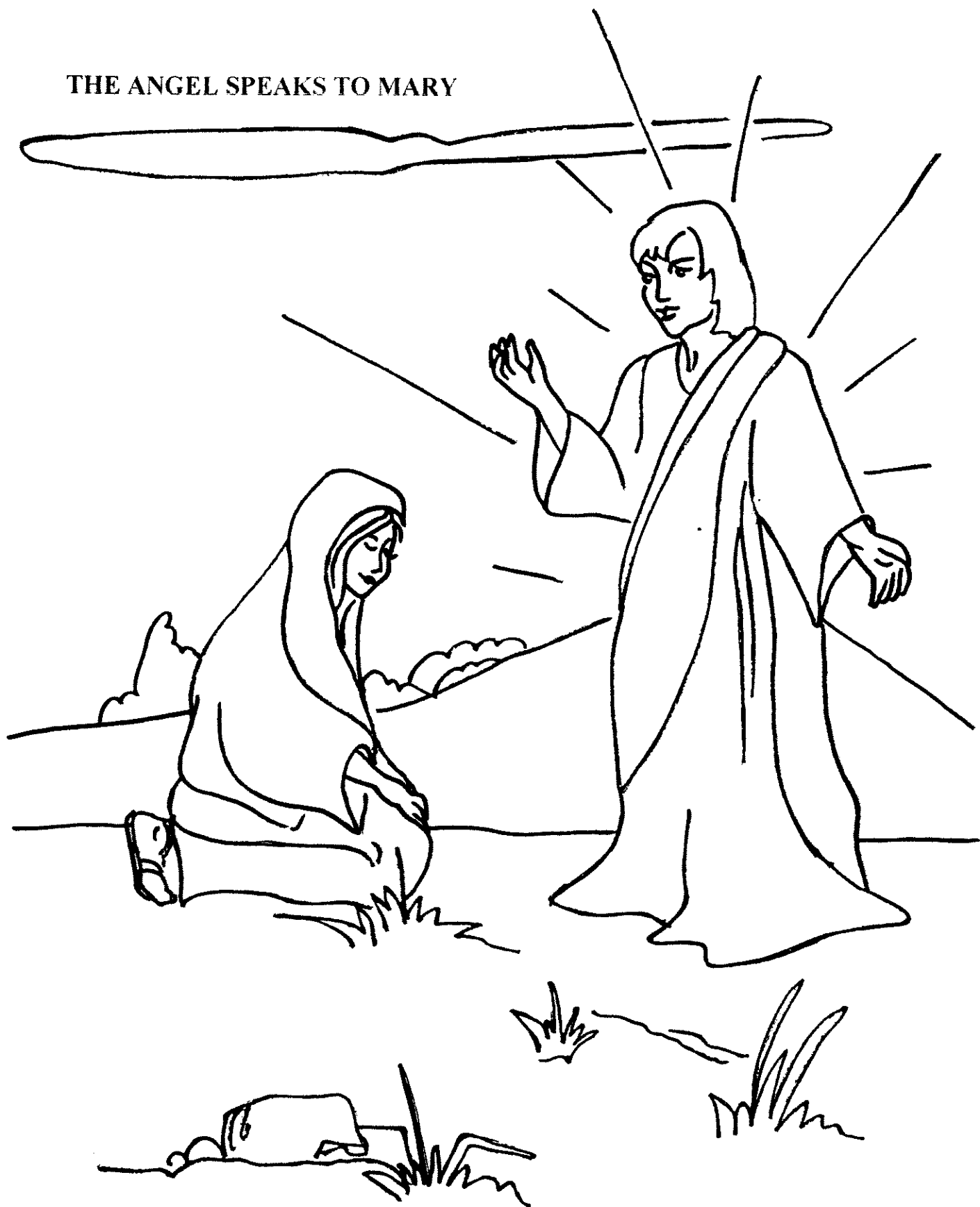
MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE:



THE ANGEL SPEAKS TO MARY



THE ANGEL SPEAKS TO MARY



The angel told Mary she would have a son, and she should name him Jesus.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1- 7; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2;

Mary and Joseph lived in a little town called Nazareth. It was about 85 miles from Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The prophets had said many years before that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

At the time when Jesus was born, the nation of Israel was under the rule of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire had conquered most of the world, and the people had to do what they told them to do. The ruler of the Roman Empire was a man named Caesar Augustus. He was not a good man. He was a mean ruler. He made life hard for the Jewish people. One day he made a ruling that all the world should be taxed. This meant the Jewish people would have to start paying a lot of money to the Roman government. In order to know how much to pay, they must go to the city where their fathers had lived, and register. Mary and Joseph were descendants of David. Bethlehem was the city of David, so they had to make a trip to Bethlehem and register to pay their taxes. Everyone had to go, so this meant that Mary must make the trip with Joseph.

They prepared for the long trip. The people a long time ago did not have the ways to travel that we have today. There were no cars, or trains, or airplanes. When they traveled, it usually meant they must walk. If they were very wealthy, they might have a camel to ride, or a wagon to ride in. When Mary and Joseph made the trip to Bethlehem they had a small donkey; so Mary rode on the donkey and Joseph walked. The donkey also carried their bedroll, and their food and water for the trip. Walking was slow, so it took several days to travel the distance to Bethlehem. Many other people were also going to Bethlehem to register to pay their taxes.

When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, the town was filled with people. The streets were crowded. Joseph began looking for a place to stay. The place for travelers or visitors to sleep was called an inn. Joseph found his way through the streets to the inn. When he arrived at the inn, he learned that all the rooms were full. They had traveled a long way, and Mary was tired. They had to have a place to rest, and to spend the night. But there was no place for them to sleep. There were no empty rooms. Someone else had already taken all of them. Other people had gotten there first, and all the rooms were full. The inn had a stable for the animals of the people who were traveling. The animals also needed a place to stay where they would be protected, and could not just wander off, or be frightened away. When the people traveled with their camels or donkeys, they could not just leave them in the streets while they slept, so there was a stable where the owner could give them food and water, and they would be protected. The inn was usually small rooms built around a court with a well for drawing water, and a place where the animals were unloaded. The animals were sheltered in stalls on the ground level, with rooms above for the people to sleep. The stable also may have been in a shelter or a cave beside the inn.

The Bible doesn't tell us about the stable, or the innkeeper. It just says that when Jesus was born, Mary *"laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn."* A manger was a container for holding the feed for the animals to eat. These were in stables, or stalls. We know that this was where Mary and Joseph spent the night, and this was where Mary lay the baby Jesus when he was born, because there was no room for them in the inn. Joseph must have cleaned out the manger, and place in it clean sweet-smelling hay to make a soft bed for Jesus.

That night, while the people of the town slept and Mary and Joseph rested in the stable, God chose to send His Son into the world. It was that night in Bethlehem that Jesus was born as a little baby. Jesus came into the world so he could die for our sins. He had to be born as a little baby so he could grow up to be a man. This was the way, and the time and place that God chose to send him into the world. That night when Jesus was born, Mary knew that he was the Son of God. Joseph knew that he was the Son of God.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus was born, Mary *"wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger"*. A long time ago, when a baby was born, the mother would 'swaddle' the baby. This meant she would take a piece of cloth, like we would use a baby blanket, and wrap the baby snugly in the cloth. Then she would take strips of cloth and tie around the baby to keep him wrapped. This was called 'swaddling clothes'. Jesus' first bed was a manger in a stable, but God watched over him and Mary that night. This was according to God's plan. God knew where he was and kept him safe.

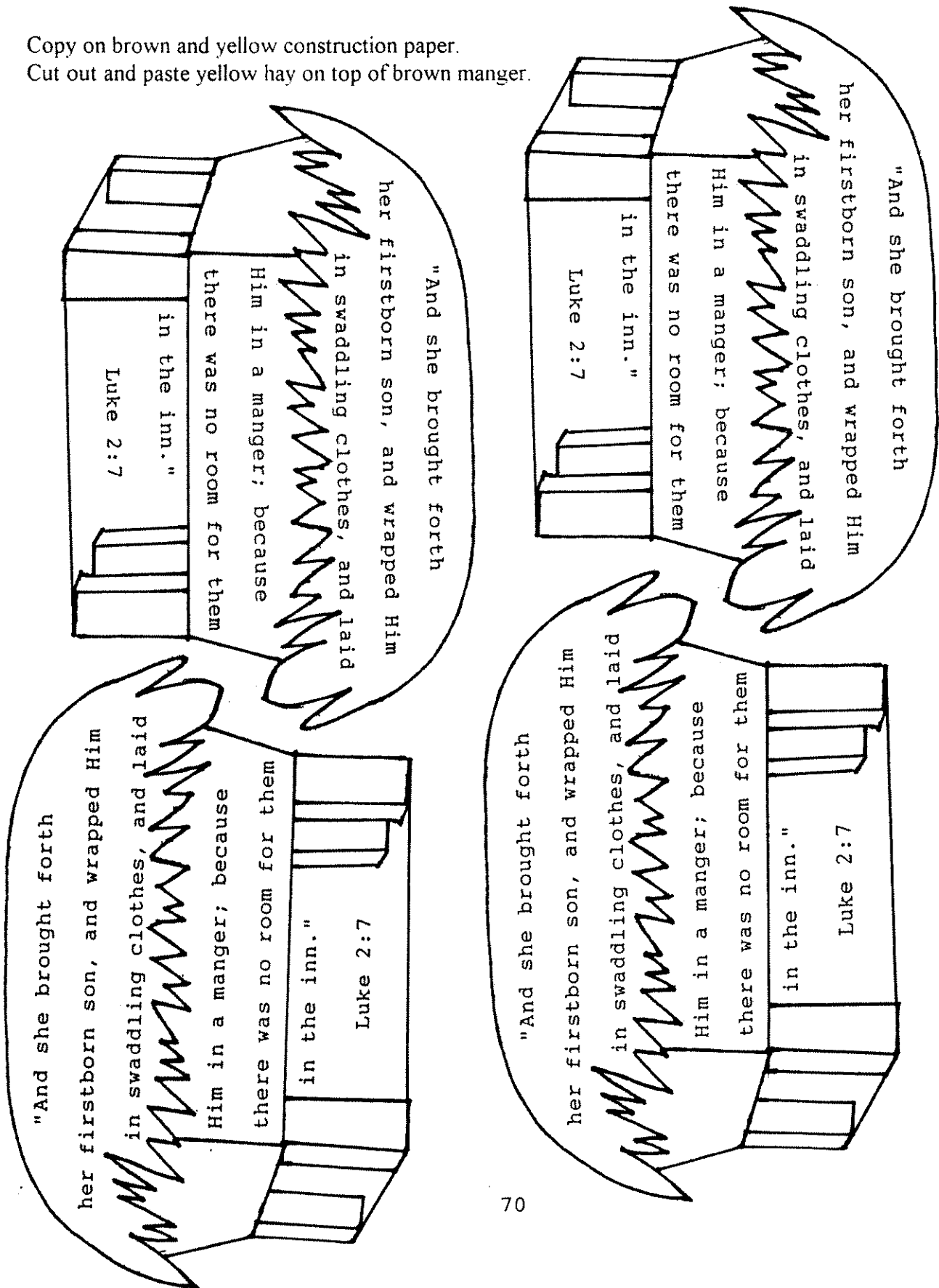
MEMORY VERSE: Luke 2:7

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE

Copy on brown and yellow construction paper.
Cut out and paste yellow hay on top of brown manger.





Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem

THE BIRTH OF JESUS



"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

THE ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8-20

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, it was a very special night. Something special had happened; something that had never happened before. Many babies had been born for thousands of years, but never a baby like this one. For this was the night that God chose to send His Son into the world. God had promised the Jewish people many years before that He would send His Son through their descendants. They had waited and waited for the Messiah to be born. Finally the time came for God to keep His promise. Mary and Joseph had gone to Bethlehem to register to pay their taxes. While there, Jesus was born. Because the town was so crowded with people, there was no place in the inn for Mary and Joseph to stay. So they stayed that night in the stable. When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger. The manger was the feed box for the animals. It served as his first bed because there was no other.

God chose a spectacular way to announce the birth of Jesus to the world. Mary knew he was the Son of God, and Joseph knew that he was the Son of God; but to the rest of the world, he was just another baby born to a Jewish woman. Out in the fields outside of the city of Bethlehem, the shepherds cared for their sheep as they did every night. The shepherd had to lead the sheep to green pastures for them to find enough grass to eat. He had to lead them to a still, clear stream or pool of water so they would have water to drink. There were also wild animals out in the fields. In the darkness of night was when they hunted for their food. So the shepherd had to watch over his sheep in the night to protect them from the wild animals who were waiting in the darkness for a chance to catch a lamb and eat it. Nighttime meant danger. The shepherd must prepare a place of safety, like a sheepfold, and gather the sheep in for the night. Then he must stand guard against the packs of wild animals. On the night that Jesus was born, the shepherds were in the fields keeping watch over their flocks, and God sent an angel to tell them that Jesus had been born.

The shepherds were out in the field with their sheep. It was dark. They were listening and watching for the danger that was present in the darkness all around them. They were listening for the cry of a hungry animal as he signaled the other animals that he had spotted a stray lamb. They were watching for the swift movement of a wild animal as it came near the flock of sheep. Suddenly, in the darkness, the sky lit up with a brilliant light. An angel from God appeared in the sky. The glory of God shone round about them. It was as if they were in a spotlight. They were frightened. They were very frightened. They didn't know what was happening.

The angel that appeared in the sky spoke to the shepherds, and said, *"Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."* The angel said, "Don't be afraid, I bring you good news." The angel had not come to frighten them. He had come to tell them something wonderful. Then he gave them the good news: *"For unto you*

is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." The angel told them that God had sent Jesus, His Son, the Messiah, into the world. He had been born in Bethlehem. God had kept His promise, and Jesus had been born. The angel said they would know it was true if they went into the city, because they would find him lying in a manger.

Suddenly the sky was filled with angels. They were singing praises to God. They were rejoicing that this great thing had happened. They praised God, and sang, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."* Then the angels went away into heaven, and left the shepherds wondering at what they had seen and heard that night. They knew it wasn't a dream, because they all saw it and heard it. It had really happened. The angels had told them that Jesus had been born. They said to each other, *"Let us go into Bethlehem and see this great thing that has happened, that the Lord has made known unto us."* They believed the angels were sent from God, and they believed their message. They wanted to see this baby that had been born. They wanted to see the Son of God, and worship him.

They hurried as fast as they could into the city. They probably looked for the inn, because there would be a stable there. Sure enough, they found Mary and Joseph. And they found the baby right where the angels had said he would be, lying in a manger. When they saw for themselves, they knew and believed that this was the Son of God. They knew what the angels had told them was true. They worshipped him, and as they left, they told everyone they saw about this child. They told everyone what had happened; how they had been in the field in the darkness and the angels had appeared unto them and told them that Jesus had been born, and if they would go into Bethlehem they would find him lying in a manger. They were so excited! They told everyone that they went to Bethlehem and found the baby lying in the manger exactly as the angels had said. They wanted everyone to know the good news. They knew God had spoken to them, and that this was the Saviour. All the people that heard the shepherds wondered at what they said. Did the angels really appear to them? Or were they frightened out in the darkness, and thought they saw something, and heard voices talking to them? Did God really reveal to them the birth of His Son? They wondered, but Mary knew. The Bible says she remembered all these things, and thought about them in her heart.

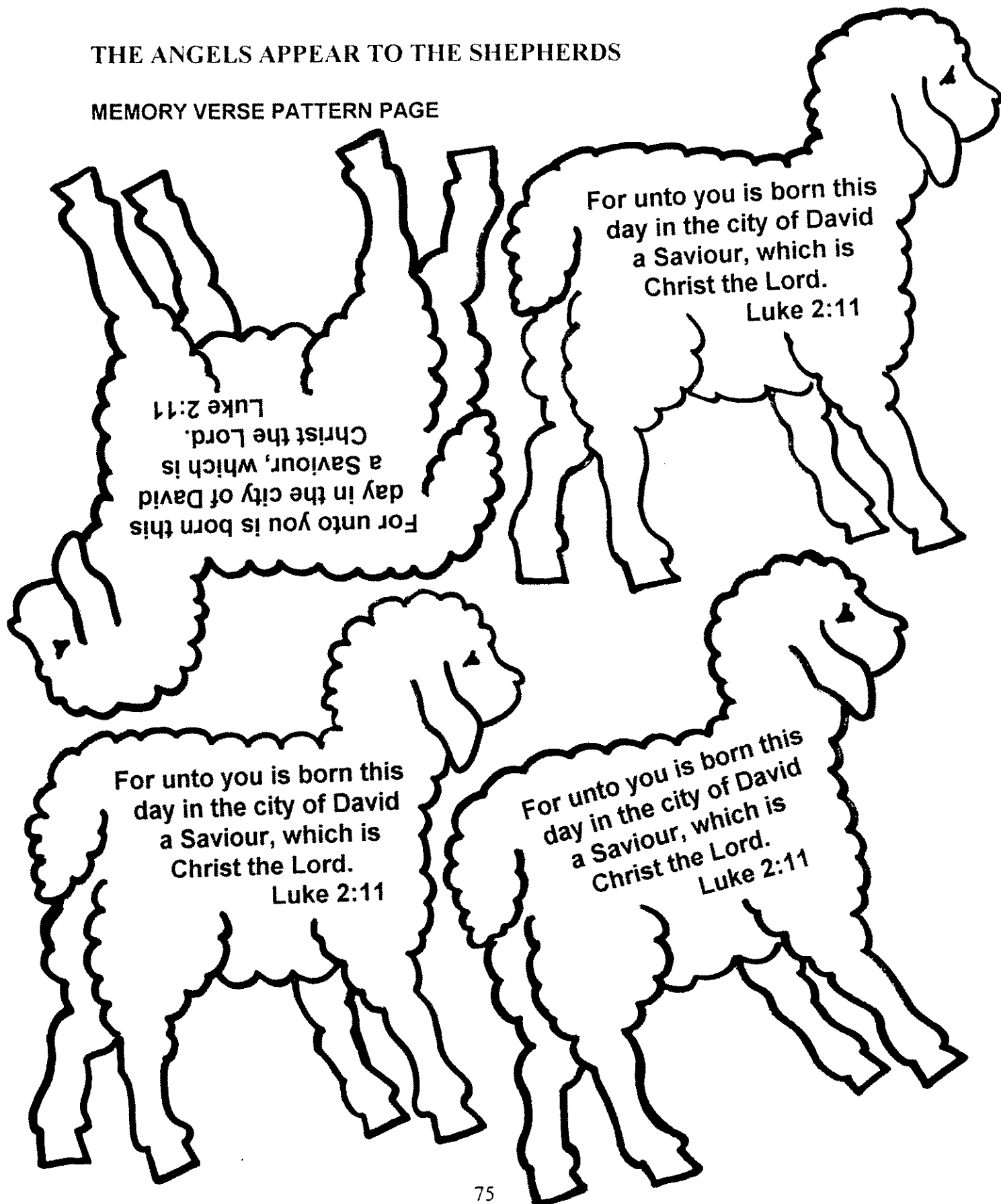
The shepherds returned to their sheep, and they praised and glorified God for all the things they had seen and heard. They praised God that He had chosen them to be the ones who first heard the message that Jesus had been born.

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 2:11

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

THE ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE





The angels announce
the birth of Jesus.

JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE TEMPLE

**Luke 2:21-40; John 21:25; Numbers 18:15-16; Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16;
Leviticus chapter 12, 27:6**

Luke 1:31---When the angel appeared unto Mary and told her she would have a son, he said to name him Jesus.

Leviticus 12:3---According to the laws that God gave to Moses, when a Jewish baby boy was born, he was not named until he was eight days old.

Luke 2:21---When Jesus was eight days old, he was named 'Jesus' according to the command of the angel.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Mary was unable to travel to return to their home in Nazareth, so apparently Joseph found a house in Bethlehem where they could live. When a Jewish woman gave birth to a baby boy, she was to stay home for forty days (nearly six weeks), then she was to bring an offering unto the priest who would offer it up unto God for her. After she had brought an offering, she could go about her normal activities.

Leviticus chapter 12 tells the laws that God gave to Moses concerning the birth of a son or a daughter. The mother could not enter the sanctuary for forty days; then she was to bring a lamb for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or turtledove for a sin offering to the door of the tabernacle, and the priest would offer them as an offering for her. If she was poor and could not afford a lamb, she could bring two pigeons or two turtledoves.

Exodus 13:1-2. God told Moses to sanctify unto Him the firstborn of every creature, man or beast. So the first Hebrew child of every family was to be dedicated to God, and redeemed with a sacrifice. Mary and Joseph kept the commands of God; so when Jesus was forty days old, they took him to Jerusalem to the temple to offer their sacrifices. They were poor and could not afford to buy a lamb, so they brought two pigeons or two doves. They also brought five shekels of silver redemption money. Exodus 13:11-16; Leviticus 27:6; Numbers 18:15-16.

When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple, there was an old man there whose name was Simeon. He had looked longingly for many years for God to send His Son. The Holy Spirit had revealed unto Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Christ child. He had been led this day to the temple by the Holy Spirit. When he saw the baby, he knew immediately that it was the Christ child. He took him in his arms and blessed him, and prayed that now God would let him die in peace, because he had seen the fulfillment of God's promise to man that He would send His Son as their redeemer. Mary and Joseph were surprised at what he said, and he revealed to them that he knew this was God's Son. Then an elderly lady came in, whose name was Anna. She was eighty-four years old. She had been

married for seven years and her husband died. After his death, she did not leave the temple. She lived there, serving God at the temple, fasting, and praying. She was a prophetess. When she came in, she immediately knew this was God's Son. She gave thanks unto God. She spoke to all those who were looking for a redeemer in Israel, telling them that God had kept His promise, and His Son had come into the world.

Luke 2:39-40 tells us when they finished the sacrifices, and their responsibility at the temple, they returned to Nazareth and Jesus grew up strong in spirit and in wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. Then his parents took him back to the temple when he was twelve years old. The account of Luke skips several years between the time Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to offer the sacrifices, and when they took him back to Nazareth to live. The Bible tells us very little about Jesus from the time Mary and Joseph took him to the temple when he was about six weeks old, and again at twelve years old. We can assume he was raised as any other Jewish boy, according to the laws of Israel. What he did as a child is not important. It was his birth and his death on the cross that were important. In John 21:25, John tells us that it would be impossible to write down everything that Jesus did in his lifetime. John does not even tell us the details of Jesus' birth, but begins with his baptism. Mark also begins with his baptism. Matthew leaves it up to Luke to tell us the details of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, and the angels announcing his birth to the shepherds, and their coming to Bethlehem to find him. Luke does not tell us of the wise men coming from the East in search of the new king of Israel. So we must read all of the first four books of the New Testament to learn what we know about the birth and early life of Jesus.

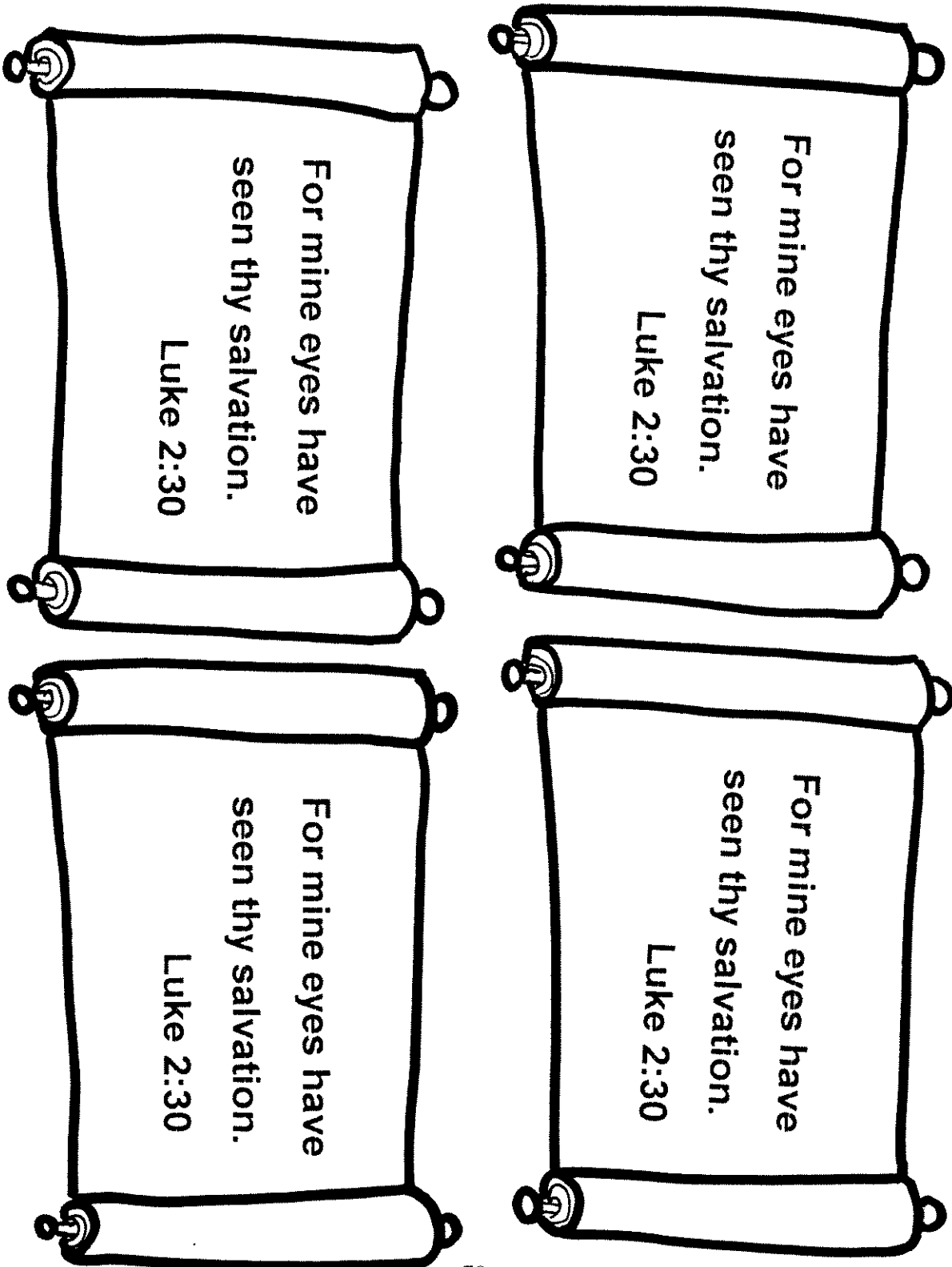
Matthew tells us that when Mary and Joseph finished their sacrifice at the temple, before they returned to Nazareth, they went back to Bethlehem. Sometime during the first two years of his life in Bethlehem, the wise men found him. Then he was taken to Egypt for a few months or years before he returned to Nazareth. We must read all of the scriptures to learn the whole story of the birth and life of Jesus. He was born in Bethlehem, visited the temple in Jerusalem, went back to Bethlehem, and then fled to Egypt before coming to Nazareth where he grew up.

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 2:30

"For mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE TEMPLE

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE





Joseph brought two young pigeons to the temple to offer the sacrifice
for Jesus when he was forty days old.

THE WISE MEN SEEK JESUS

Matthew 2:1-23; Isaiah 60:1, 3, 6; Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:15;

When Jesus was born, the Jewish people were under the rule of the Roman government, but they also had their own king. His name was Herod. He ruled the Jewish people from his throne in Jerusalem. The king's palace and the temple were in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph had taken Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem when he was about six weeks old. They came to offer sacrifices for him. King Herod knew nothing about this visit. He did not even know Jesus had been born until the wise men from the east came looking for him.

According to the prophecy in the Old Testament, when Jesus was born, a new star would begin to shine in the sky as a sign of his birth. There were astronomers (men who studied the stars) who lived somewhere east of the land of Israel, possibly in Mesopotamia, Persia, Arabia, or even farther away. They were called wise men because of their knowledge. They studied the stars. They probably spent their lifetime reading and studying the sacred books, or scrolls, and ancient writings of brilliant men. They possibly had read the writings of the Jewish prophets, and were at least familiar with the Jewish religion. Apparently they knew that the Jews worshipped a God in heaven. They knew that the Jews believed that this God would send His Son to live on the earth and rule as king of their land, Israel. Isaiah prophesied of this star, and of Gentiles (people who were not Jews) who would follow this star. He spoke of kings who would come, and of camels that would bring gold and incense.

The wise men may have been the kings of these eastern countries. When they saw the star in the sky, they studied the writings, and decided that this was a sign that the new king in Israel had been born. They came to pay their respects and bring gifts to this new king. Naturally they came to the palace in Jerusalem where the king of the Jewish people lived. If this was a new king, he would probably be King Herod's son. The wise men did not come to the manger to find Jesus. After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph did not return to Nazareth, but stayed in the city of Bethlehem. When the wise men saw the star and studied to find out what it meant, they decided to make the journey to Israel to see this new king. It probably took several days or weeks to prepare for the trip. Then they traveled many miles by camel caravan. Many weeks or months had passed by the time they reached Jerusalem.

They came straight to the palace and inquired of King Herod, *"Where is he that is born king of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."* Herod did not know what they were talking about. Herod did not even know about the birth of Jesus. Herod was not a king who served God. He did not teach the people to obey the commands of God. He did not attend the temple worship. He did not consider the promise of God to send His Son into the world. This is why he did not know about the birth of Jesus.

Herod was troubled by what the wise men said. Was there a new king born in Israel? This was something he should find out about. He sent for the scribes and the chief priests. The

chief priests should know. They taught the people about the laws of God. The scribes would surely know. They spent day after day copying the scrolls by hand. They copied the laws of God, and the writings of the prophets. The writings of the Old Testament had been transcribed from Hebrew into the Greek language. These were very knowledgeable men. Surely they could tell the king how to answer the wise men. The king demanded of the scribes and the chief priests where the Christ child should be born. Micah had prophesied that he would be born in Bethlehem.

Herod was a mean and cruel man. He was concerned about this 'new king' that had been born. He spoke secretly with the wise men and asked them exactly when they saw this new star. He wanted to know when and where the child had been born. He determined in his heart that this was the Christ child, the promised Messiah, and he feared that he would grow up and take away his throne, so he must be destroyed. He could not tell the wise men this, so he lied. He said for them to go and find the child, and come and tell him so he could go and worship him also.

When the wise men came from the east, they followed the star as far as Jerusalem. It seemed that God sent this star especially to guide them. When they left the king's palace the star led them to Bethlehem. It came and stood over the house where Jesus was. When the wise men came into the house and saw Jesus, they fell down on their knees and worshipped him. They opened their treasures they had brought with them, and gave him gifts fit for a king. We don't know who many men there were, but because there were three gifts mentioned, we usually say there were three wise men. We do know that they brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold represents royalty, and was used to make objects for the king, and also for money. Frankincense was sap from a tree that they dried and used to make incense. It produced a very sweet smell when burned. It was used in the worship of God. Myrrh was also a sap gotten from a tree, and was used in anointing oils. Moses was commanded to anoint the tabernacle and its furnishings, and to consecrate Aaron and his sons to the office of priests. Sometimes it was used to embalm dead bodies, and was also mixed with wine for a medicine.

After the wise men presented their gifts to Jesus, they did not go back and tell King Herod. God appeared to them in a dream and told them not to return to King Herod, but to go home another way. God knew that King Herod did not want to worship Jesus, but he wanted to have him killed. So the wise men did not go back to Jerusalem but went home another way. God also appeared to Joseph and told him to take Mary and Jesus and go to Egypt to live until the king died, and it was safe to return to the land of Israel.

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 2:2

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

THE WISE MEN SEEK JESUS

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE

Where
is
He
that is born king of the Jews?
for we have seen His
star in the east,
and are come to
worship Him.
Matthew 2:2

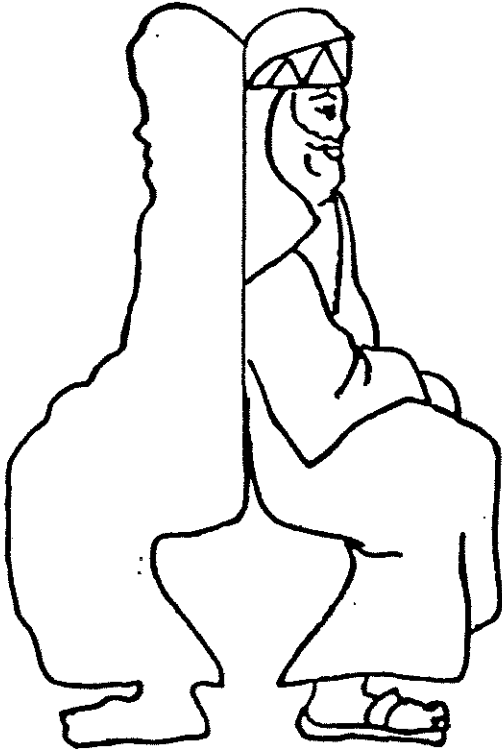
Where
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for we have seen His
star in the east,
and are come to
worship Him.
Matthew 2:2

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and are come to
worship Him.
Matthew 2:2

THE WISE MEN SEEK JESUS

Copy on white construction paper so child can color and cut out, or use patterns from following pages.

Glue top portion of man together so he will sit on hump of camel.

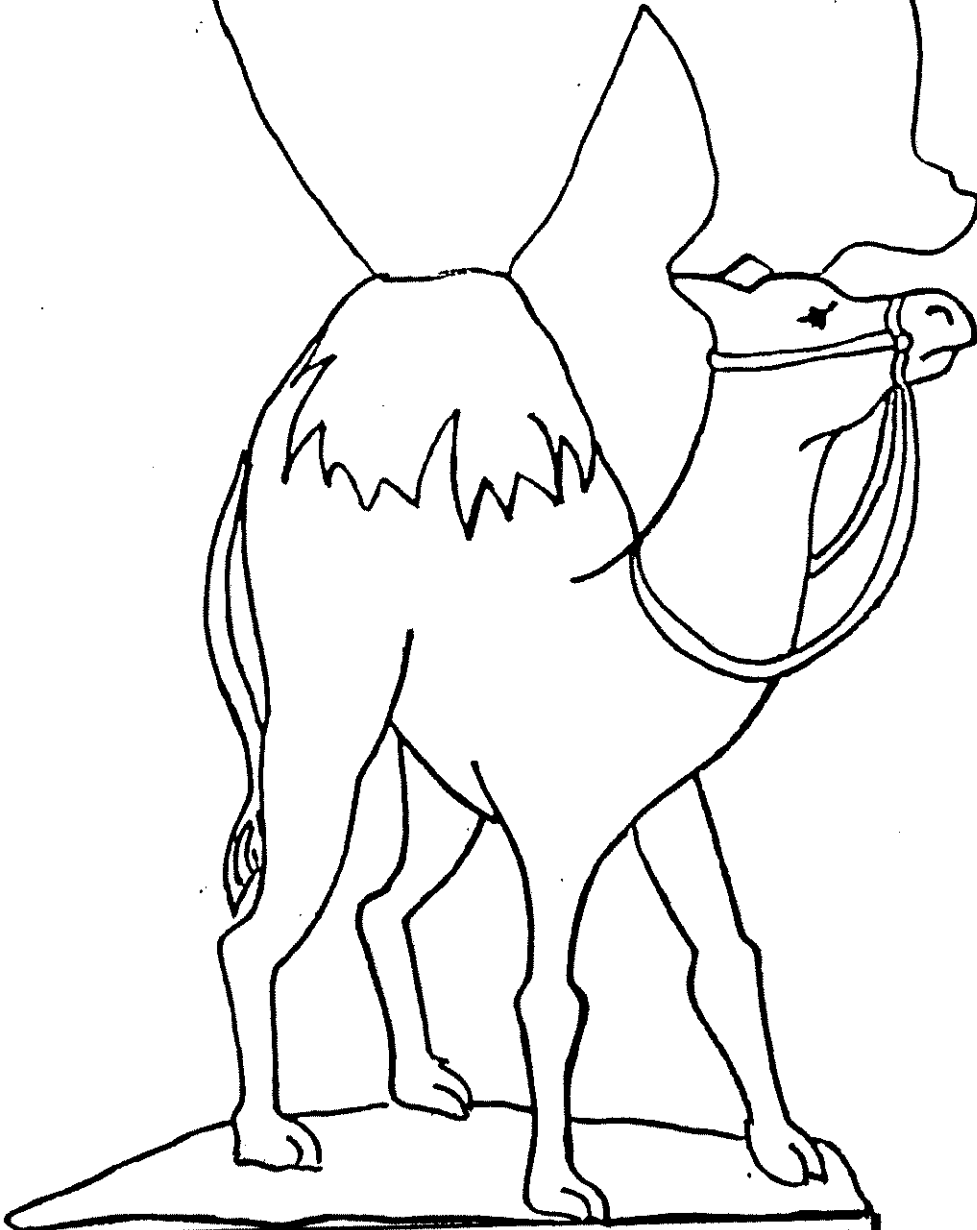


glue between
body sections
of camel

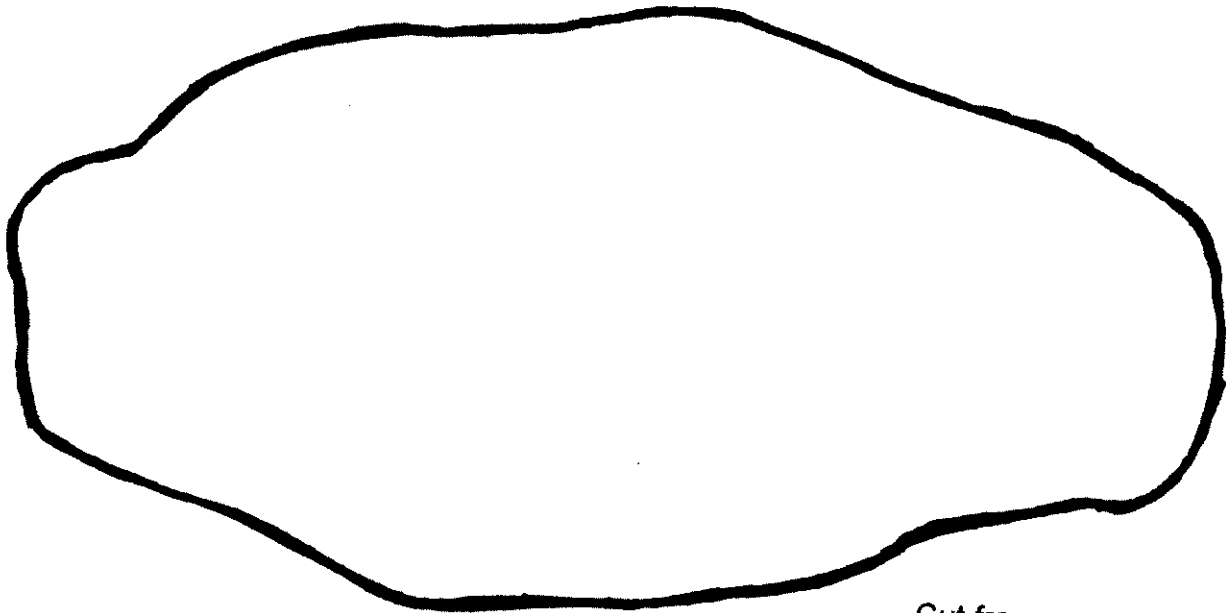


Fold under and glue on green

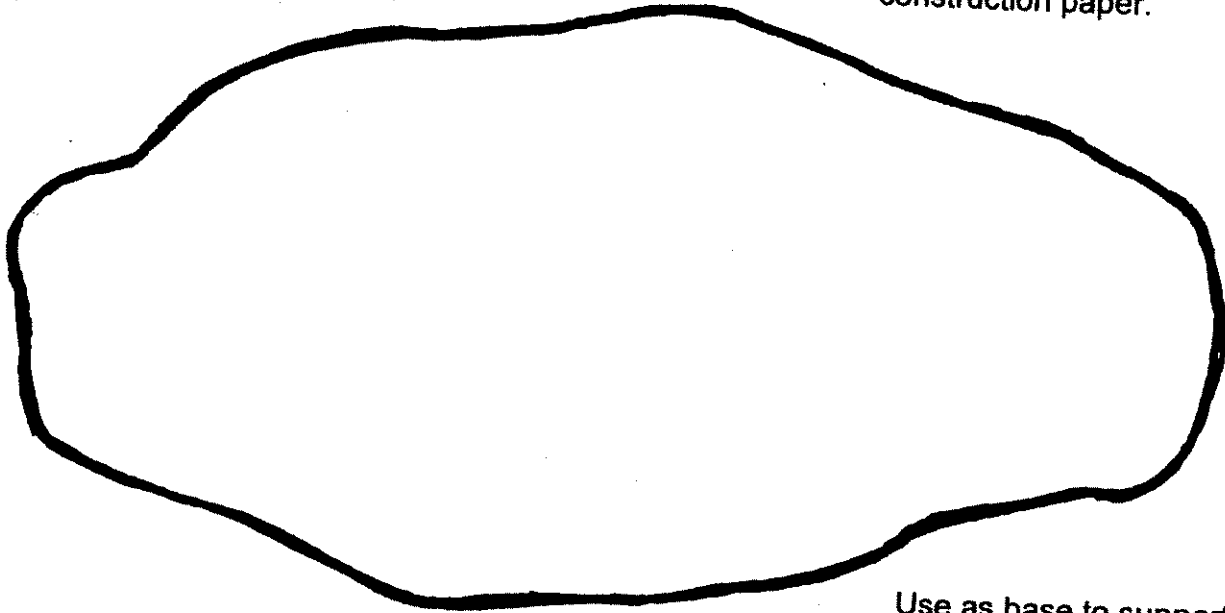
Copy camel on tan paper,
and man on white or beige.



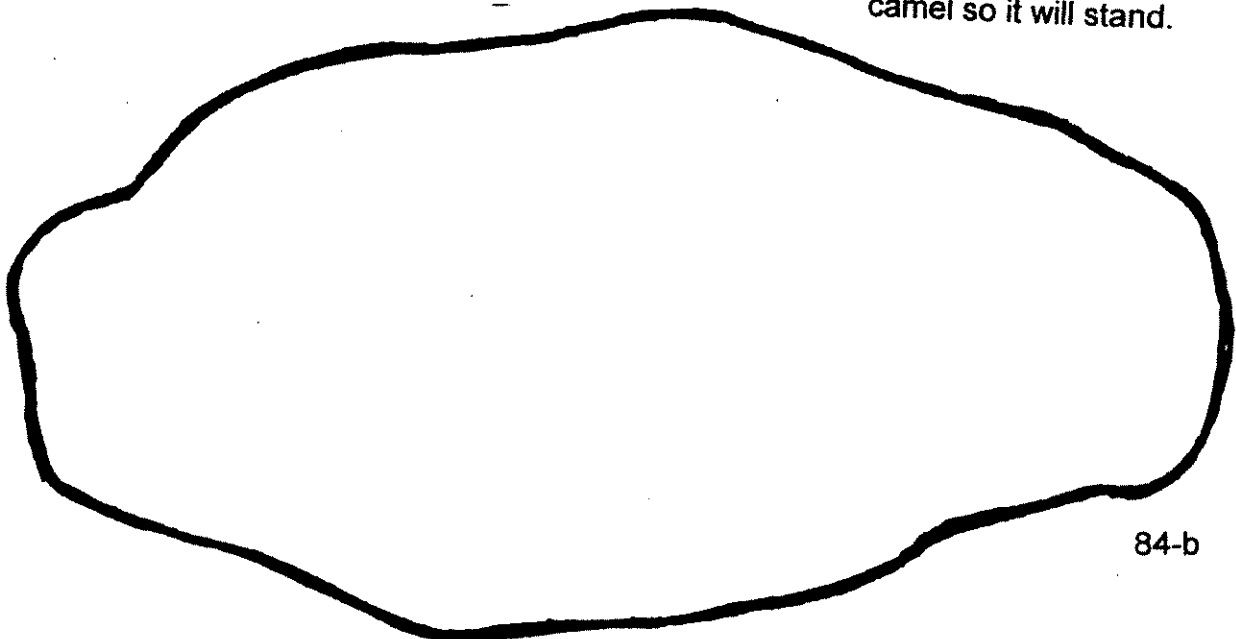
Fold under and glue on green
base from following pattern page.



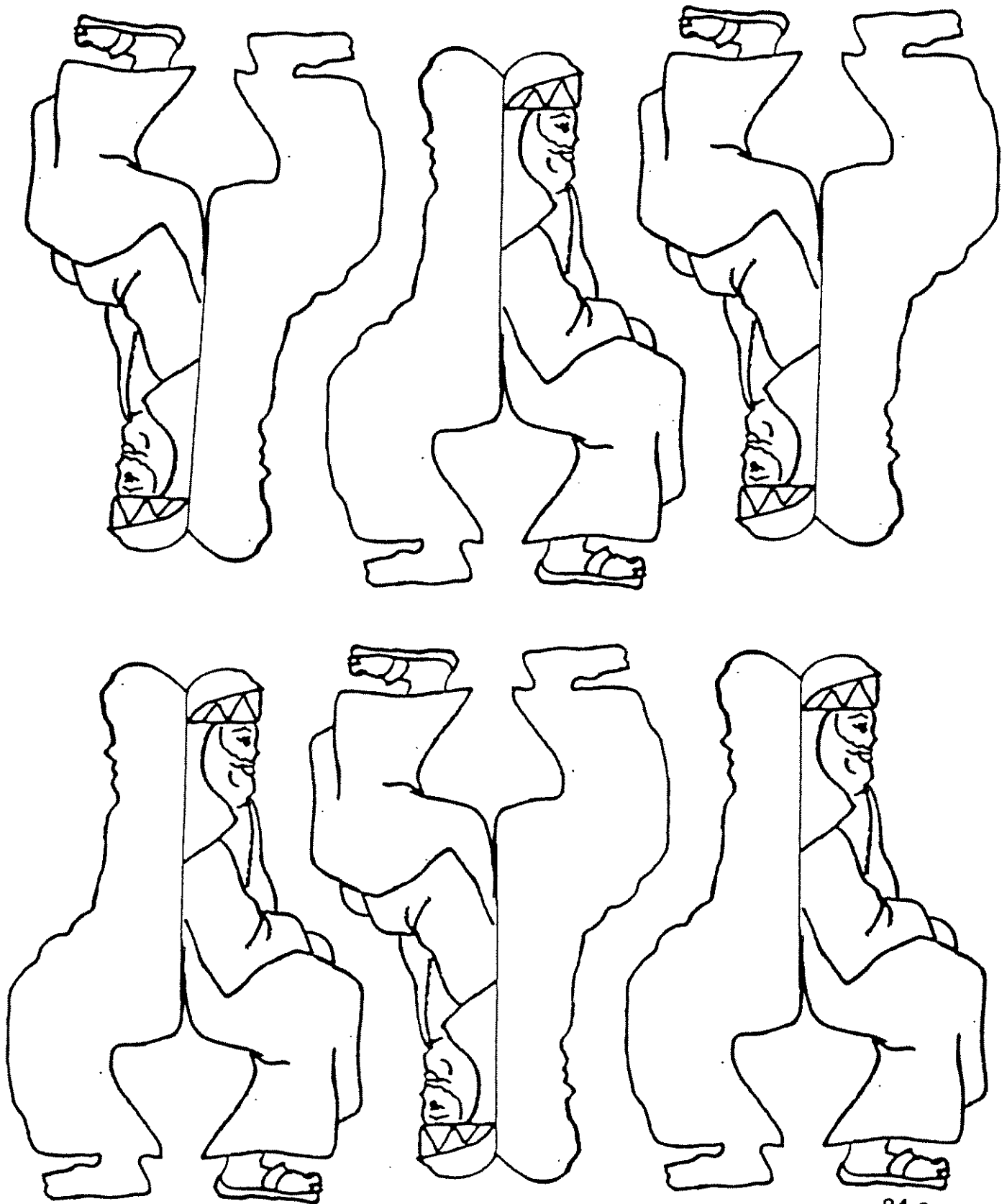
Cut from green or tan
construction paper.



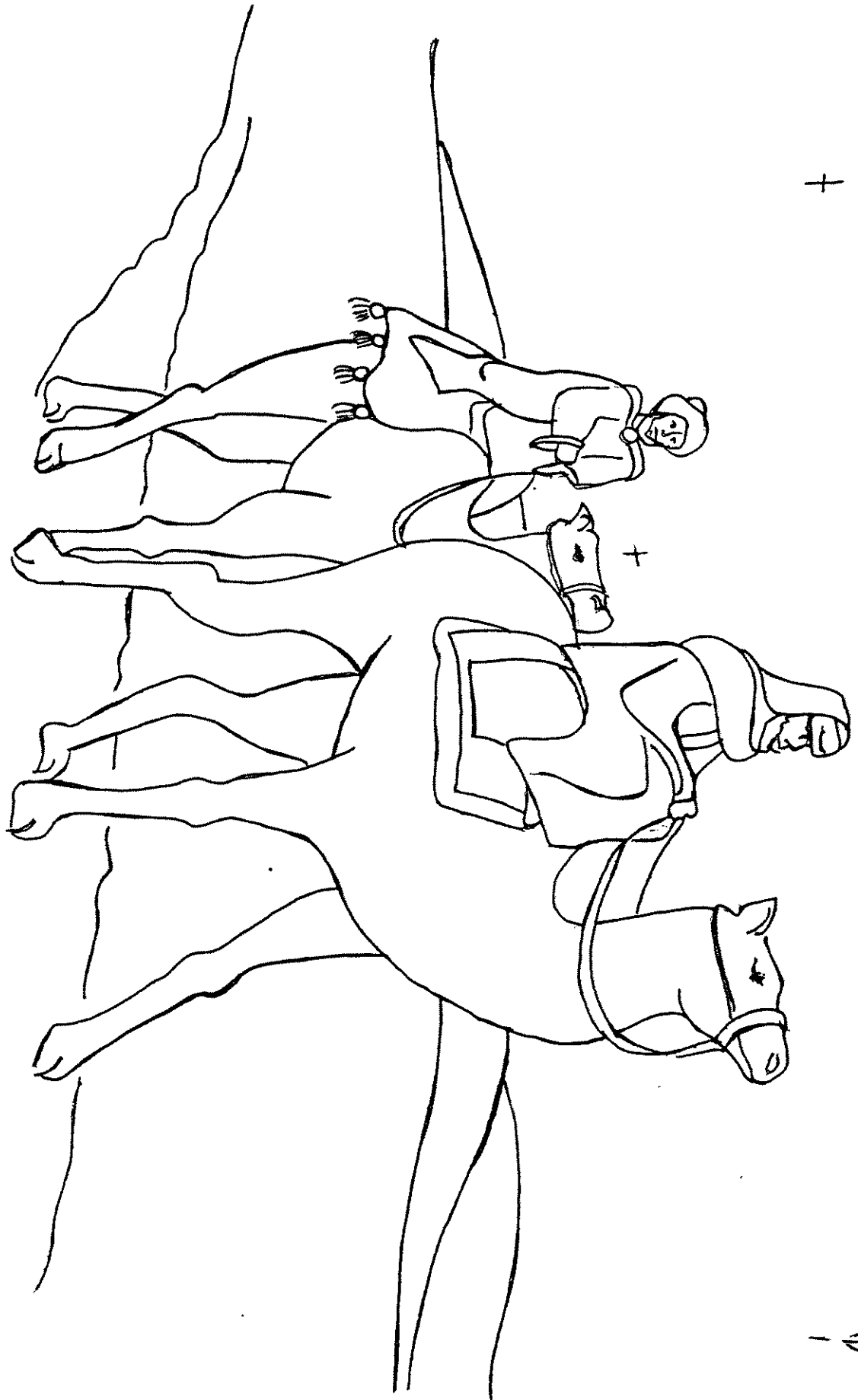
Use as base to support
camel so it will stand.



Glue top portion of man together
so he will sit on hump of camel.



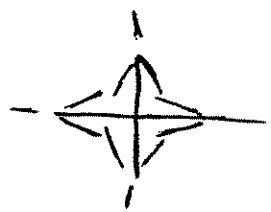
THE WISE MEN SEEK JESUS



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FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

Matthew 2:1-8, 12-23

When the wise men came to Jerusalem looking for Jesus, they came to the palace of King Herod. If the baby they were searching for was born to be King of the Jews, he must be in the palace of the king. They asked King Herod the question, *"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"* They explained why they had asked: they had seen his star in the east and had come to worship him. This upset the king. Jesus was not a descendant of King Herod. When a new king came into power and sat on the throne to rule the people, he usually destroyed all of the family of the previous king. Herod saw this as a threat to his kingdom. He saw it as a threat to his family. He was not a good king. He did not worship God, and he did not teach the people of Israel to worship God. Mary and Joseph had brought Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem when he was forty days old to offer the sacrifices for him according to the teachings of the law. Herod did not know about this visit. The high priest recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah, and knew it was prophesied that he would be the king of Israel, but Herod did not know this. Herod inquired of the chief priests and the scribes where Jesus was to be born. They told him it would be in Bethlehem. He called the wise men privately and asked exactly when they saw the star. He sent them to Bethlehem to find the child. He said, *"Go and find him, and come back and tell me so I can go and worship him also."*

When the wise men found Jesus and started home, God warned them not to go back and tell Herod. So they returned home by another road, and did not go back through Jerusalem. God knew that Herod did not want to worship Jesus. Instead he planned to have him killed so he could not grow up and take over the throne. God also appeared in a dream to Joseph and told him, *"Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."* God knew Herod's evil heart. God protected Jesus from him. Joseph obeyed. He got up at night and took Jesus and Mary and went to Egypt. They would hide in Egypt until God told them it was safe to return to their home. This fulfilled the prophecy of Hosea (11:1), *"out of Egypt I have called my son."*

When the wise men did not return after a reasonable period of time, Herod decided that he had been outsmarted. He decided they were not coming back. Surely they had found the Christ child by now, and they were not going to tell him. He became angry. He had asked the wise men exactly when they saw the star, and he figured up about the time that Jesus had been born. He knew it would have been about two years or less. In his anger, he ordered all of the infants under the age of two years to be killed. This would surely get Jesus. He sent his soldiers throughout all the area of Bethlehem with orders to kill every child two years old or younger. He did not care that many innocent children would be destroyed. He was such a mean and evil man that all he wanted was to kill Jesus, and he did not care how many other children were killed trying to find Jesus. He wanted Jesus dead because he feared for this throne and his power. Jeremiah prophesied of this great slaughter of infants in Jeremiah 31:15.

By this time, Mary and Joseph were safely in Egypt. We do not know how long they stayed in Egypt, but probably a few years. The Israelites had lived in Egypt for four hundred years, had been slaves, and miraculously delivered by the power of God. They were brought back to the land of Canaan and lived for several hundred years before Jesus was born. Surely no one would think to look in Egypt for Jesus. Mary and Joseph were safe there until King Herod died. Herod lived the remainder of his life secure in the fact that he had destroyed Jesus. This 'new king of the Jews' was not a threat to him or his kingdom.

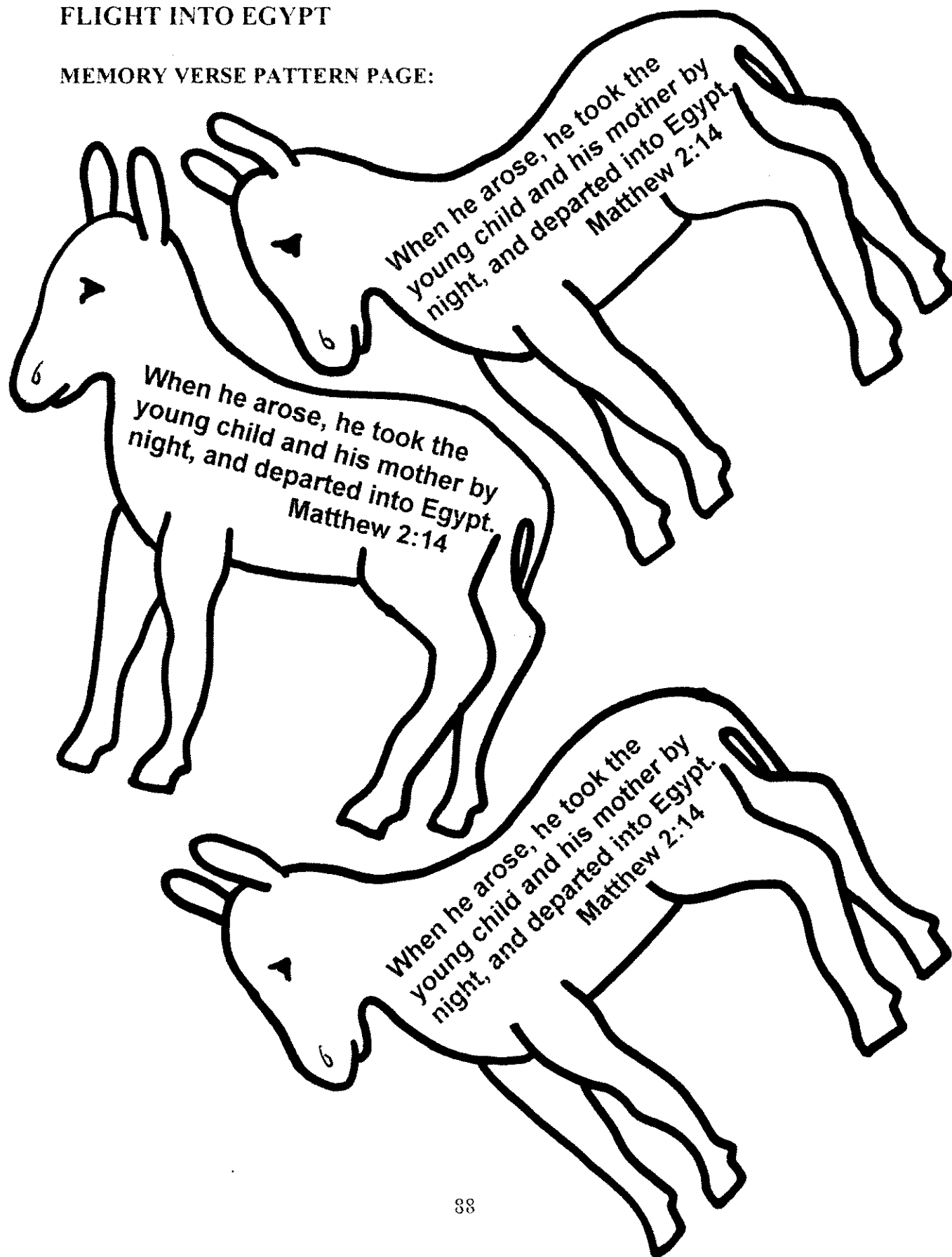
When Herod died, God appeared again to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus and go back to the land of Israel, because the king who sought his life was dead. When Joseph got back into the land of Israel, he heard that the son of King Herod, Archelaus was now king. He was afraid to go into the area around Bethlehem and Jerusalem because he feared the king. God warned him of danger, and he went into Galilee. He returned to the city of Nazareth from which they had come. Nazareth was a small, insignificant town from which nothing important had happened in history. This was the place God chose for Jesus to grow up. Jesus lived in Nazareth until he began his ministry on earth, when he was about thirty years old.

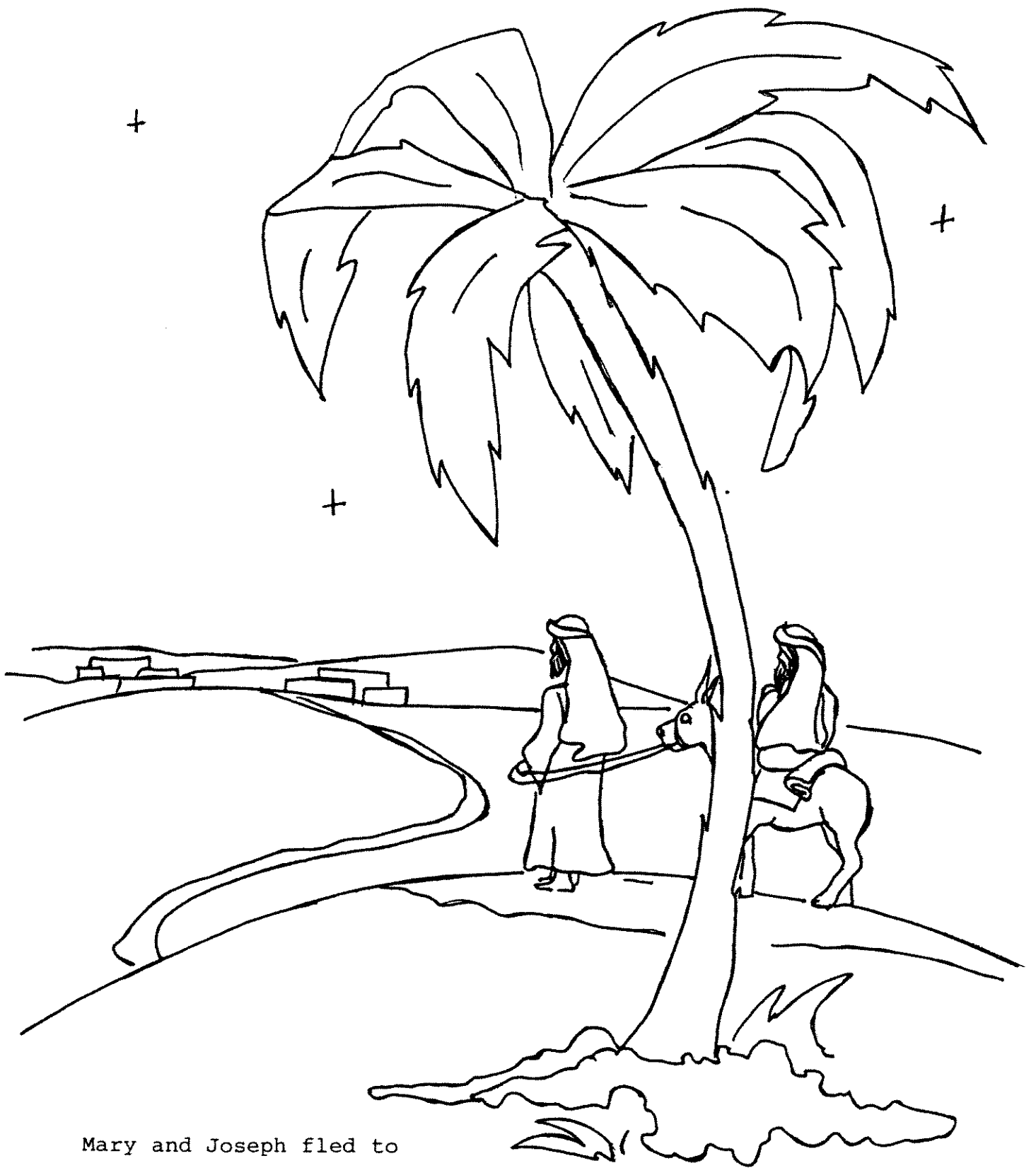
MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 2:14

"When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt."

FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

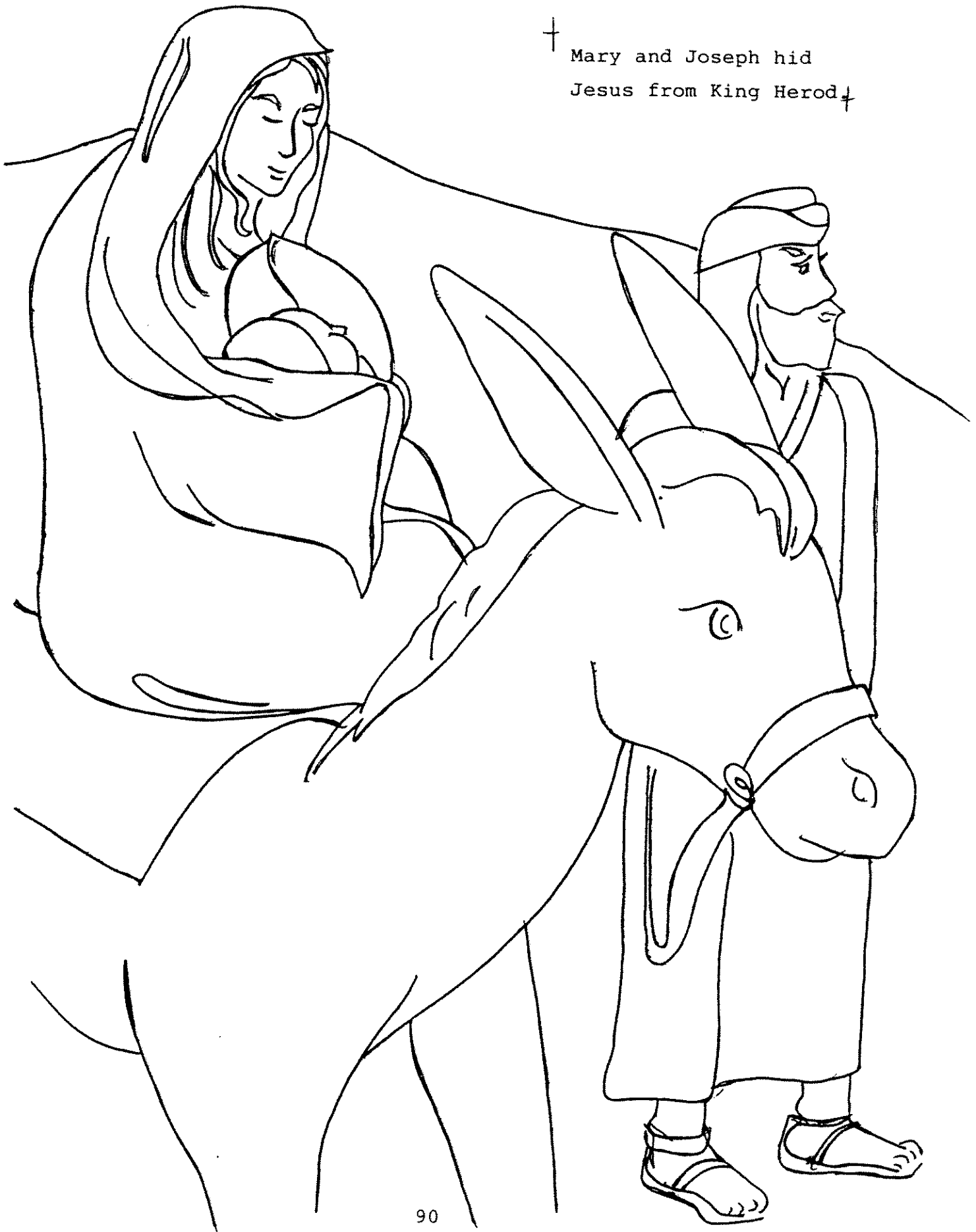
MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE:





Mary and Joseph fled to
Egypt in the night.

† Mary and Joseph hid
Jesus from King Herod †



JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE AT AGE TWELVE

Luke 2:41-52; Exodus 12:1-20; 23:14-17; 34:23; Leviticus 23:5, 6, 15, 16, 34; Deuteronomy 16:1, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17;

As Jewish parents, Mary and Joseph observed all the laws of Israel. They took Jesus to the temple when he was forty days old to offer the sacrifices that were required by the law for the firstborn son of every family. The next account of Jesus being taken to the temple was when he was twelve years old. After the age of twelve, a Jewish boy was no longer considered a child. When he had his thirteenth birthday he was considered a young man, and was responsible for observing the laws and all the ordinances of their religion as a man.

We know that Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover every year. We do not know that Jesus did not attend until he was twelve, but this is the first that the Bible tells us of, so we assume that it was his first feast. The Feast of the Passover was observed every year to remember the time that God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, where they had been slaves to the Egyptian people, and gave them a land of their own. God sent many plagues on the Egyptians because their pharaoh would not let the Israelites go and worship Him. The last plague was the death of the firstborn. In order for the Israelites to escape this plague, they were commanded to kill a lamb and put the blood over the door and on the door posts to their houses. When the death angel came over the land that night, he would see the blood and not take the life of the firstborn of that family. They were to cook and eat the meat from the lamb, and prepare for a long journey. In memory of this time, and to give thanks to God for sparing their lives and delivering from slavery, each Jewish family was to eat the Passover Feast once each year. The time came for this feast, and Jesus went with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem.

The town was crowded, as many, many people came to observe the Passover. Thousands of People came for this feast each year. Mary and Joseph traveled with other people from Nazareth. Friends and family members traveled together. There was probably a large group of people made up of Jesus' relatives and friends. The children did not always stay with their parents. They often walked along with their cousins, or friends. They traveled about eighty-five miles from their home, so it took them several days to make the trip.

When they had finished the observance of the Passover and the seven days of the feast, they returned toward their home in Nazareth. Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph did not know that Jesus had stayed behind. They supposed he was with some of the other boys his age in the company of people they were traveling with. They traveled a full day. When it was nighttime and they stopped to rest, they began looking for Jesus. They could not find him. They asked their relatives, and Jesus was not with them. They asked all of their friends, and no one had seen Jesus. When they could not find Jesus anywhere among all of the people they were with, they became very concerned. Then they looked frantically, and no one had seen Jesus.

They knew they must go back to Jerusalem. Maybe they would find him somewhere along the way. They had traveled a full day's journey, and it took another day going back. When they reached Jerusalem on the third day, they found Jesus right where they left him, in the temple. Jesus had not gone anywhere. He was sitting among the teachers and the scholars in one of the rooms of the temple. He was listening to them teach. He was not only listening attentively to what they taught, but he was also asking them questions; questions they did not expect from a boy his age. They could not understand him having such a vast knowledge of the things of God. They were surprised at the questions he asked and the answers he gave. Luke 2:47 says, *"all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers"*.

When Mary and Joseph found him, they were amazed at his actions. They could not understand his being in the temple with the scholars. They did not understand why he would be talking with them, and asking them questions. Mary scolded Jesus, and said, *"Son, why have you done this to us? Did you not know we would be concerned when we did not know where you were? We were afraid. Your father and I have looked everywhere for you sorrowing."* Jesus answered Mary's questions with a question. *"And he said unto them, how is it that ye sought me? Did you not understand that I must be about my Father's business?"* Jesus asked them why they were concerned; why they were worried about him. He knew why he came into the world, and he thought they must surely understand. He asked, *"Why were you worried, and why were you looking for me? Did you not know I would be at God's house, doing the work of God?"* Jesus came into the world to do the things of God, and he thought Mary and Joseph understood this, but they did not.

He went with Mary and Joseph and they returned to their home in Nazareth. The Bible tells us that he was subject to them, or he obeyed them, and that his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. She knew he was the Son of God, but she did not understand all that this meant. The Bible doesn't tell us much about the years when Jesus was growing up, because his childhood was not what was important. The important part of his life was what he taught, and what he did when he died for our sins. Luke 2:52 tells us, *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature (age and size), and in favour with God and man."* All Jesus did pleased God, and also man. He was a perfect young man, because he was "perfect". He did not have a sin nature, so he did not have a flaw in his character. He never committed a sin in all of his life. Everything he did was right. This amazed people, but Mary knew. *"She kept all these sayings in her heart."* He was the Son of God.

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 2:46

"And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions."

JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE AT AGE TWELVE

MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE:

And it came to pass, that
after three days they found
him in the temple, sitting in
the midst of the doctors,
both hearing them, and
asking them questions.

Luke 2:46

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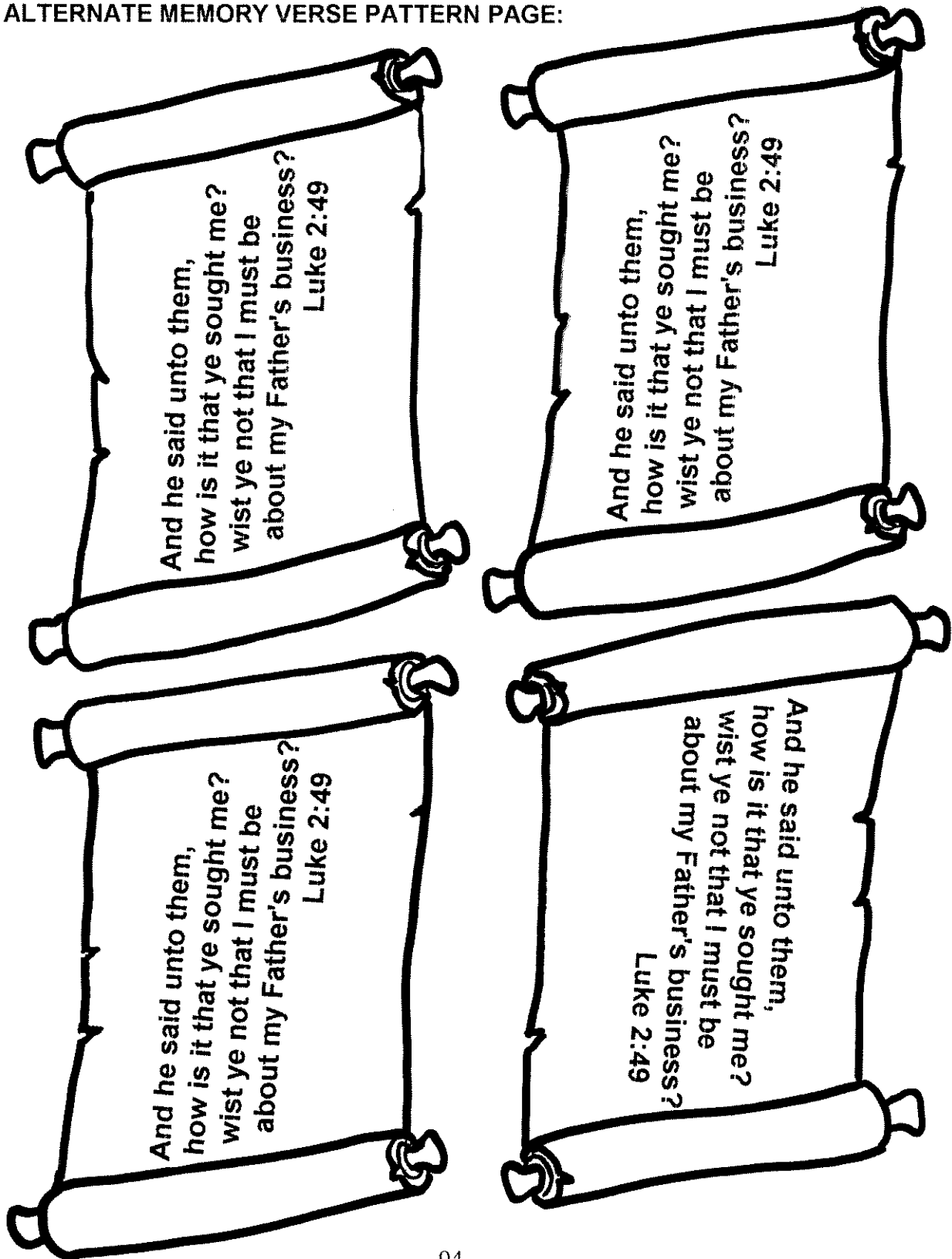
Luke 2:46

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after three days they found
him in the temple, sitting in
the midst of the doctors,
both hearing them, and
asking them questions.

Luke 2:46

JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE AT AGE TWELVE

ALTERNATE MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE:



JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE AT AGE 12



WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL

**Psalm 100, 105:1-2, 95:1-3, 19:1, 75:1; 136:1-3;
Matthew 26:26-27; Mark 6:41, 8:6; John 6:11; Acts 27:35; I Timothy 4:4;
Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:6;**

Psalm 92:1, *"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:"*

We are taught throughout the Bible to give thanks unto God. Psalm 95:1-3, *"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods."* Why should we give thanks unto God? We are to give thanks because He is such a great God and has done so many things for us.

We are to talk of all the wonderful things He has done: Psalm 105:1-2, *"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works."* Psalm 19:1 tells us, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."* The heavens make us know that there is a God, and all the things in the earth are the things that He has made. When we look around us and see the things God has made, we know there is a God. We see that God is near. For this reason, Psalm 75:1 tells us, *"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."* We are to tell the wonderful things that God does for us. The remainder of Psalm 105 tells of all the wonderful things that God did for the nation of Israel from the time he made a covenant with Abraham until He brought them into the land of Canaan.

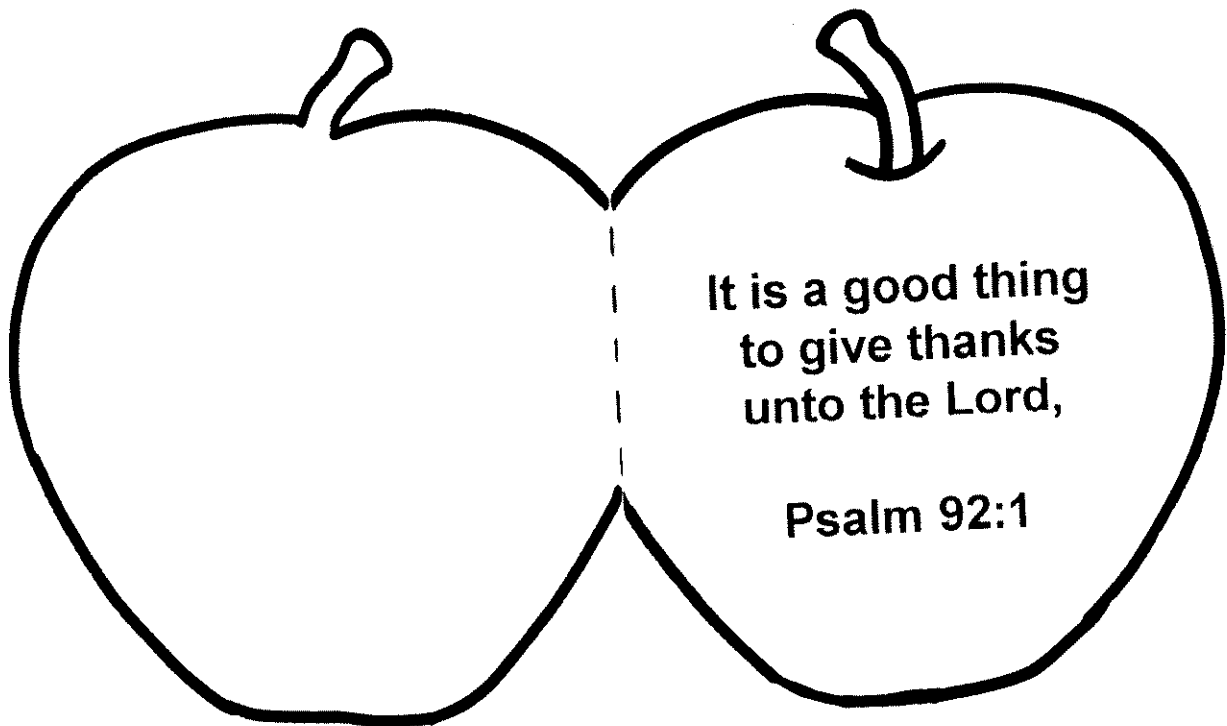
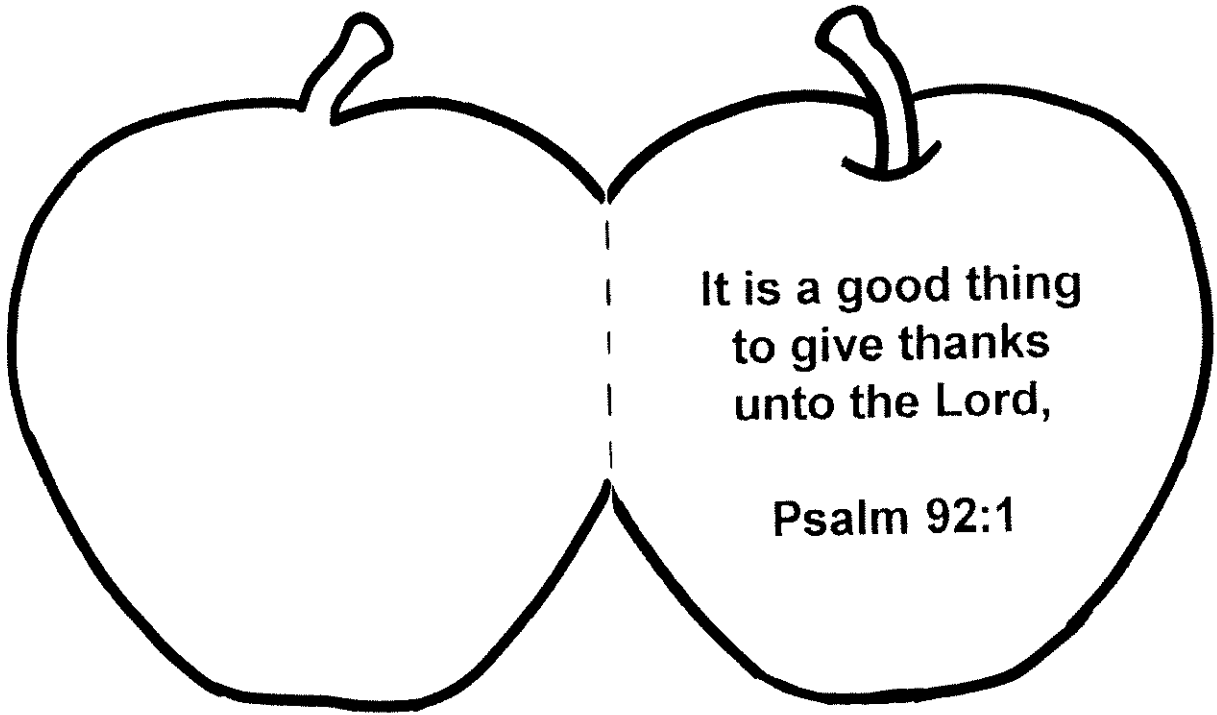
The Israelites did not always obey God. Many times they sinned, disobeyed His commands, and even worshipped idol gods, but God did not deny them. They did wrong, God punished them, they repented, and God was good to them. They did wrong again, God punished them again, and when they repented again, God forgave them and showed them mercy. Psalm 106:1 says, *"Praise ye the Lord, O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever."* Even though Israel sinned, God's mercy endured forever. Psalm 107:1 repeats the same verse: *"O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever."* We find these same words in the first and last verses of Psalm 118: *"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever."* The first three verses of Psalm 136 repeat this same verse three times. The Bible emphasizes over and over again to give thanks unto the Lord. So we are not only to thank God for the things He has made, and His goodness to us, but also because He shows mercy to us, and forgives us when we do wrong. Psalm 50:14-15 tells us to offer unto God thanksgiving and keep the promises we have made to Him, and when we are in trouble, we can call on Him and He will help us.

The New Testament also teaches us to be thankful. When Jesus ate the last supper with his disciples he gave thanks for the bread and the wine before they took it. On two occasions Jesus multiplied the bread and the fish in order to feed thousands of people with just a little food. He took it, gave thanks, and broke it. As he broke it, it multiplied so that all the people were fed.

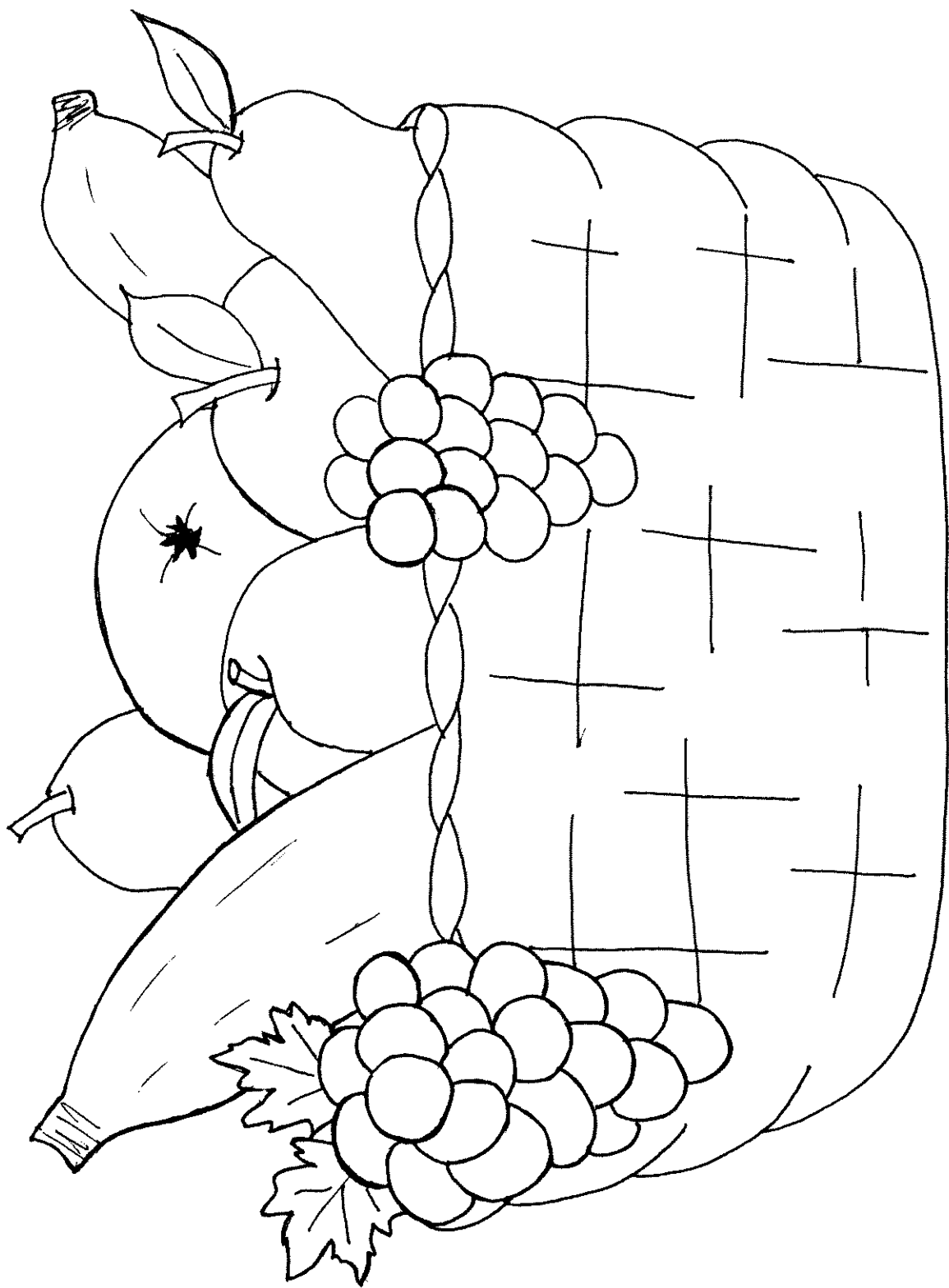
In the 27th chapter of Acts we read of the time when the apostle Paul was in a terrible storm, and was shipwrecked. The owners of the ship and the other passengers were frightened, and had not eaten for fourteen days because of the storm. Paul assured them that they would all be safe; that God would protect them. Then *"he took bread, and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat."* This encouraged the other men, and they also ate. The Jewish people had certain things they were forbidden to eat under the law, but after Jesus came and died, these laws were removed. Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:4 that all food was good, and should not be refused as long as they *"received it with thanksgiving."*

What should we be thankful for? Philippians 4:6, *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."* Whatever it is we ask for, we should thank God. We should thank God for everything He gives us. All of the good things we enjoy are blessings from God for which we should be thankful. God gives us our parents to care for us. We should thank Him for them. Our parents provide a good home for us to live in. We are warm in the winter, and protected from the rain. We should thank God for this. We have plenty of food to eat so that we are healthy, and not hungry. We should thank God for our food, because He sends the sunshine and the rain to make it grow. Then God blesses us with jobs to provide the money to buy the food. We should be thankful we have enough money to buy the clothes we need. We have medicine to make us well when we are sick. All of these are blessings from God for which we should always be thankful. Most of all, we should be thankful for Jesus who died for us. Can you think of something else you should be thankful for?

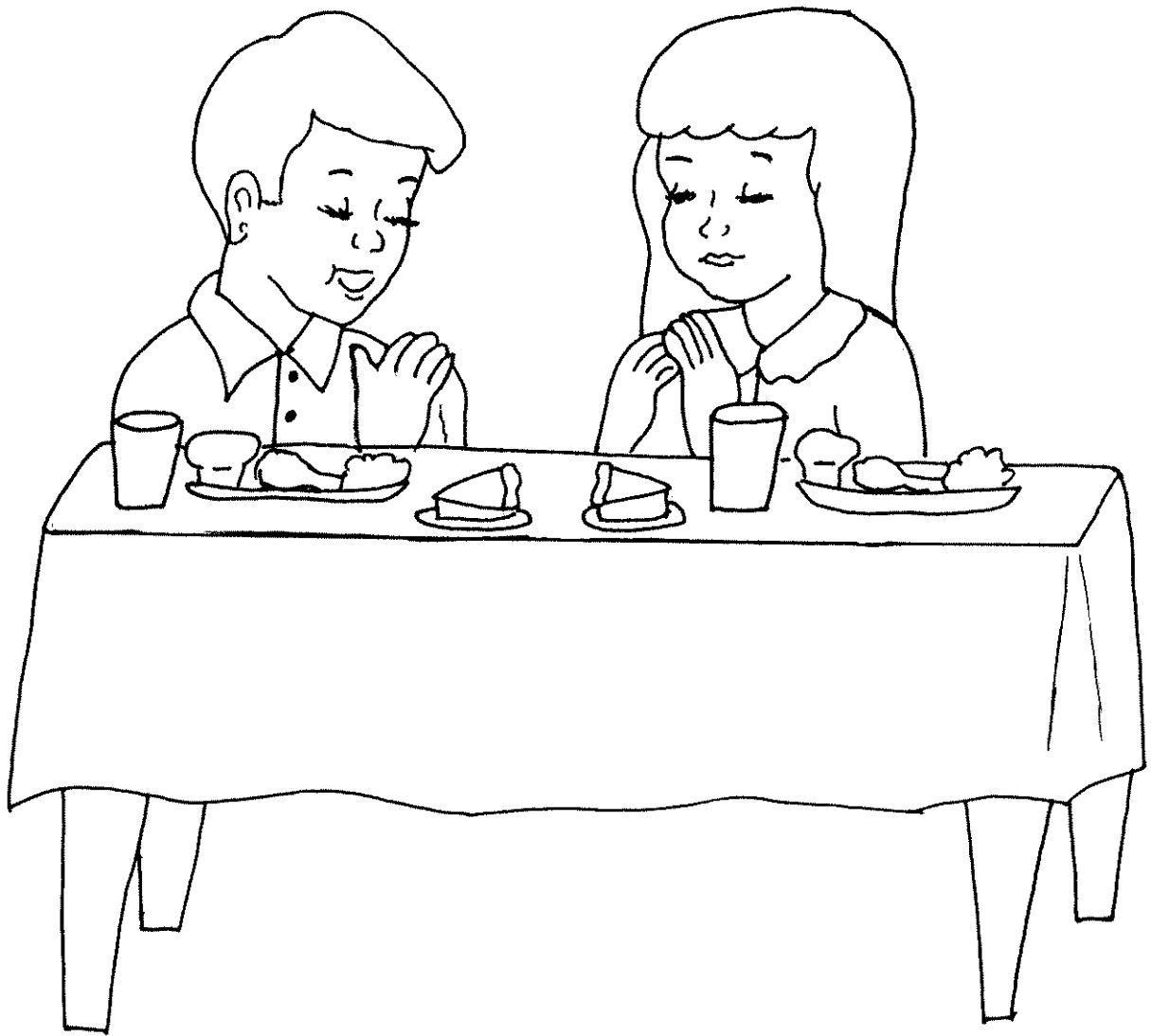
MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 92:1 "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord,"



WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL



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Psalm 92:1 "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord,"

THANKSGIVING

Suggested Attendance Project:

Copy baskets on brown or tan construction paper.

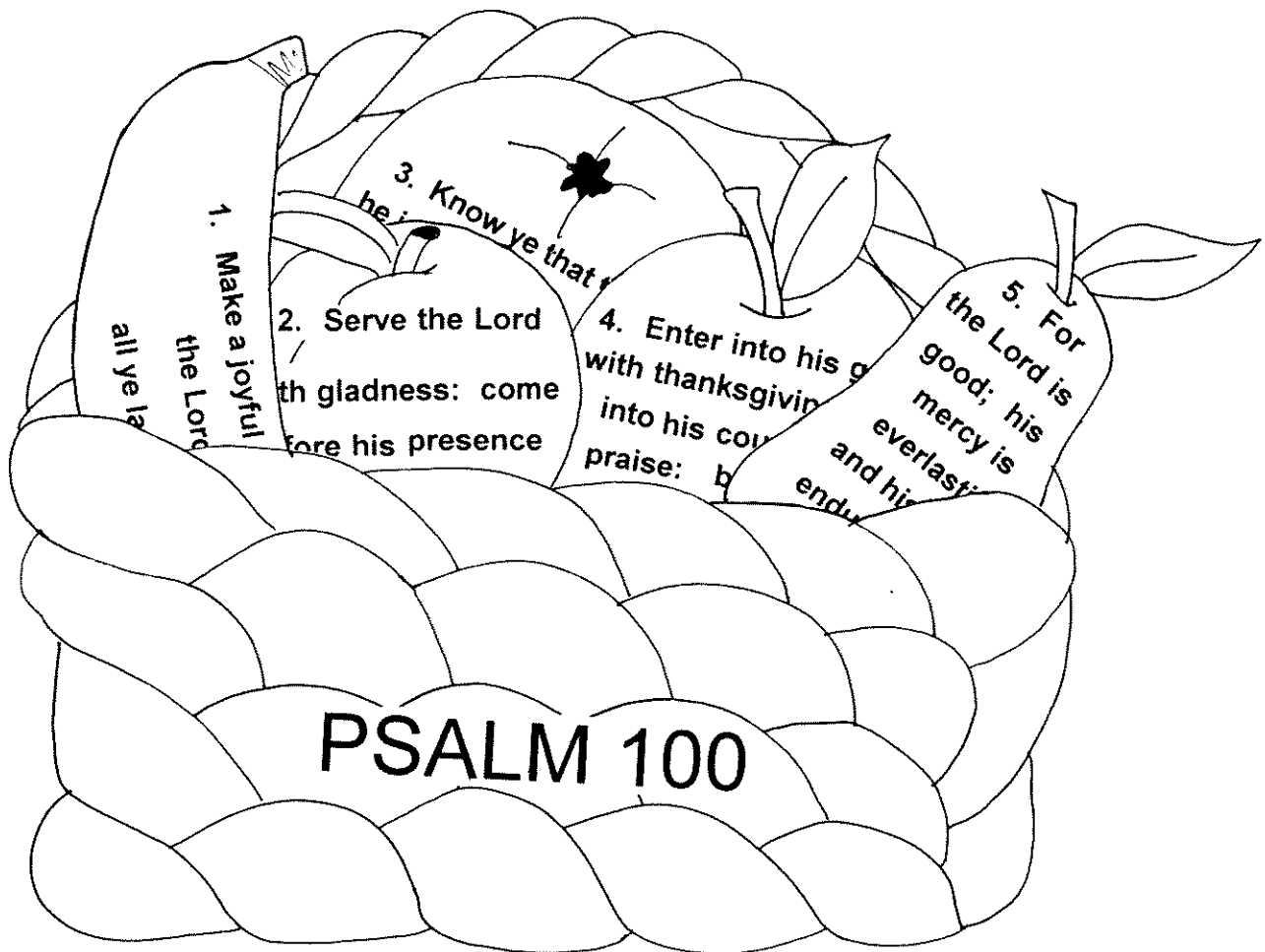
Cut out and cut slit for opening to insert fruits.

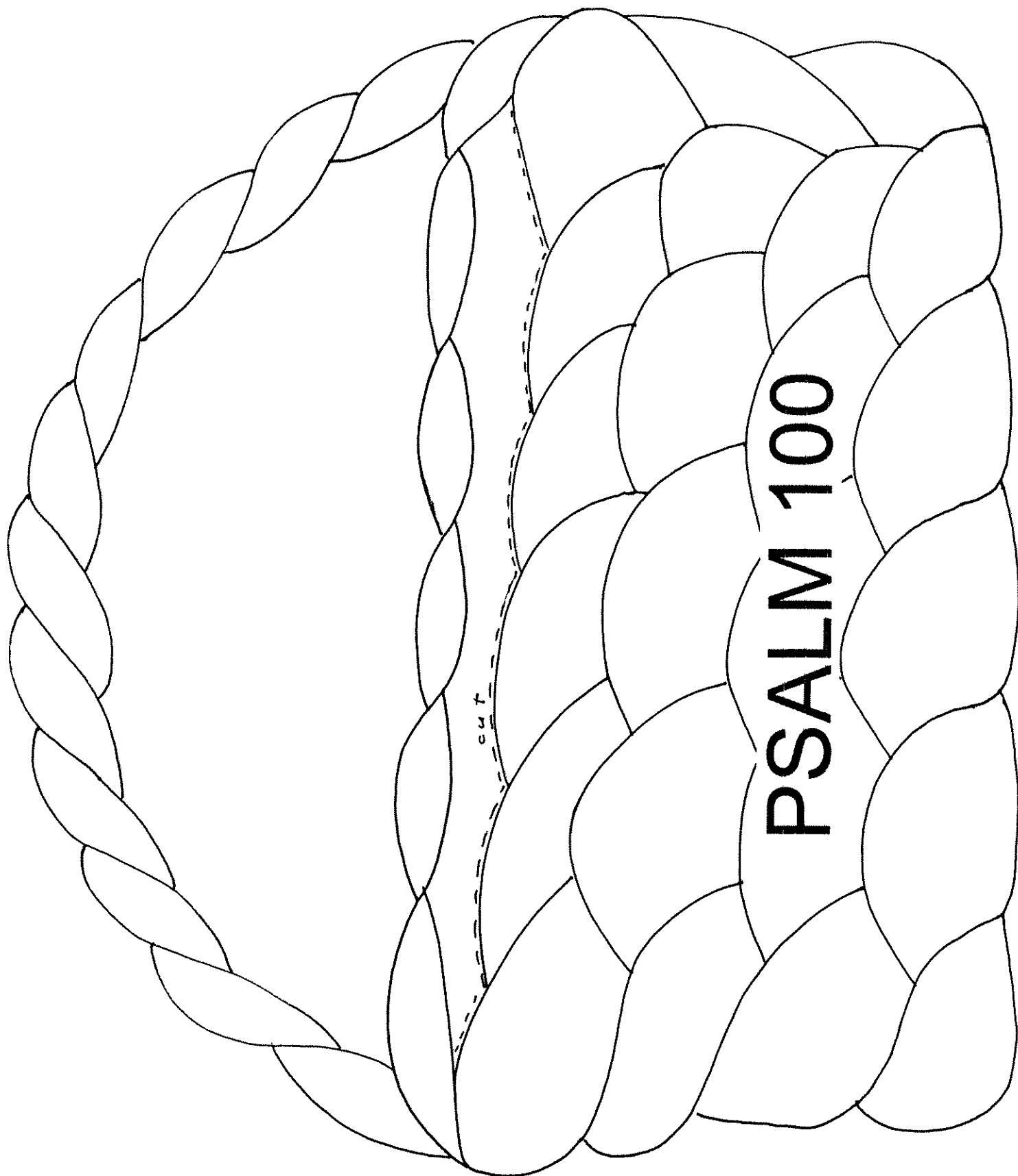
Cut back out of heavy paper or cardboard.

Glue together at edges and handles, being careful not to close up opening.


Copy fruit on appropriate colors of construction paper.

Cut out one for each Sunday and insert into opening in top of basket.

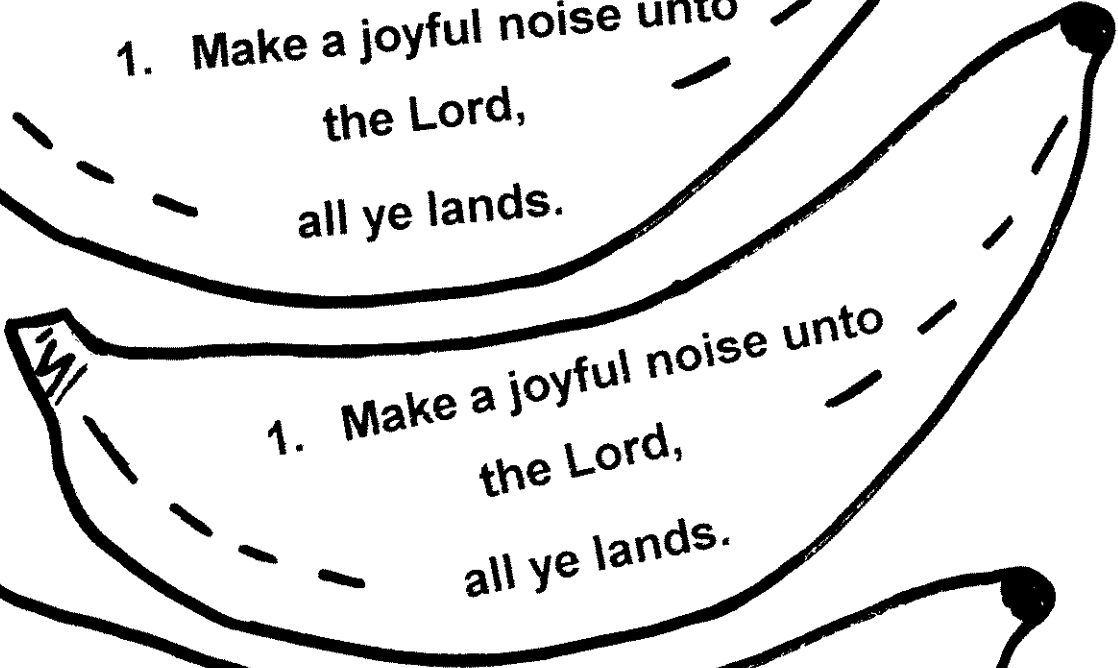




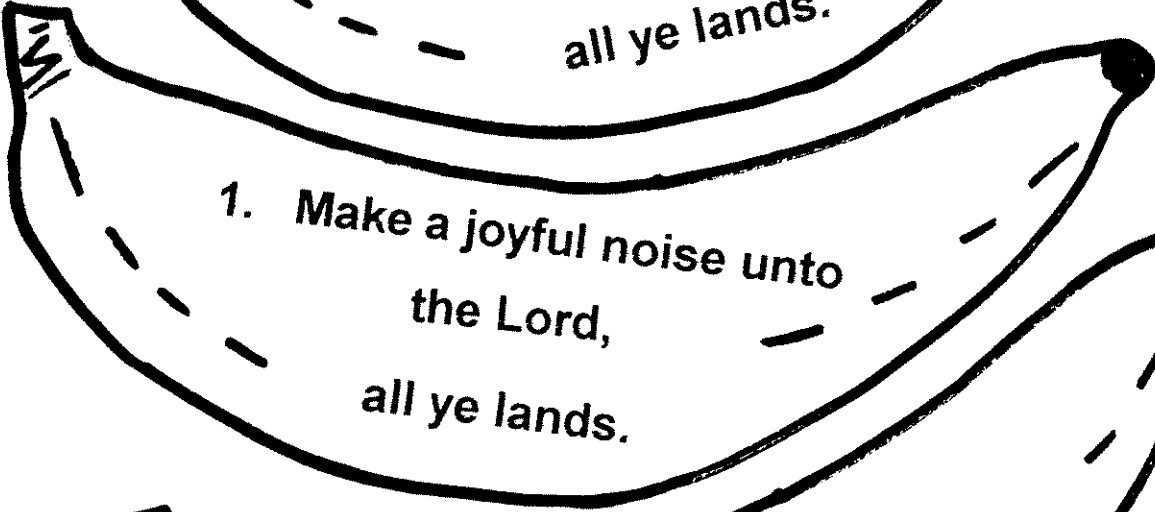
PSALM 100



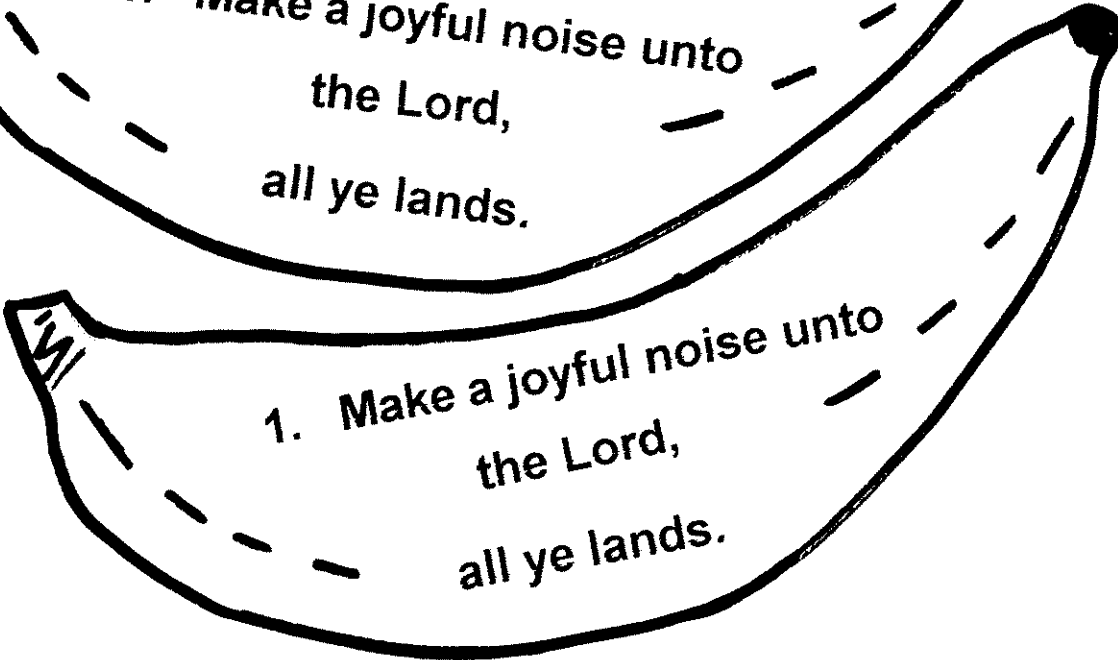
1. Make a joyful noise unto
the Lord,
all ye lands.



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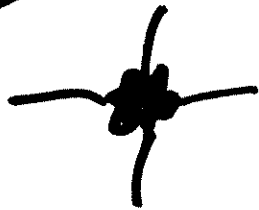


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PSALM 100



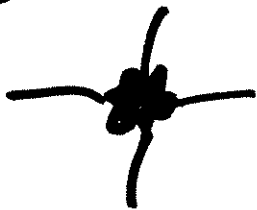
PSALM 100



3. Know ye that the Lord
he is God: it is he that hath
made us, and not we
ourselves; we are his
people, and the sheep
of his pasture.



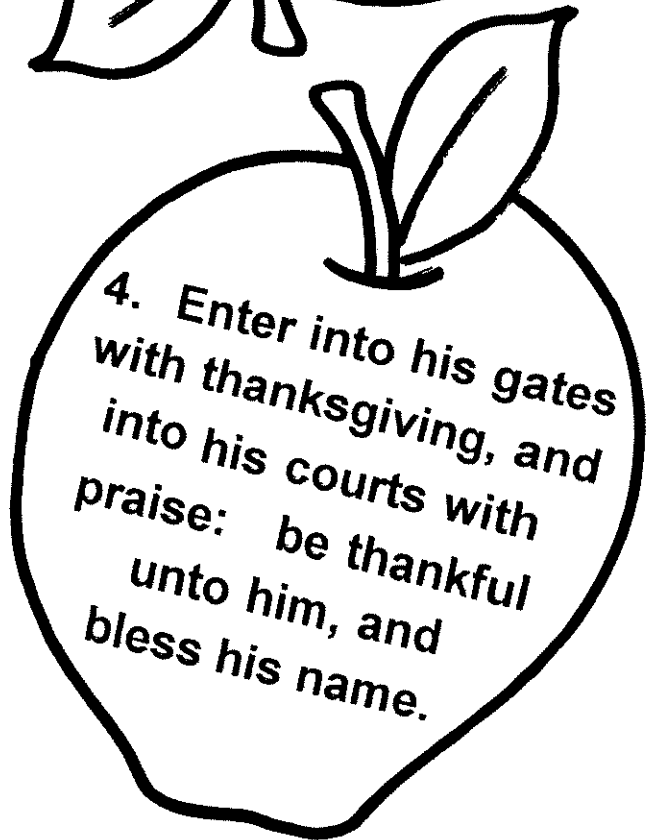
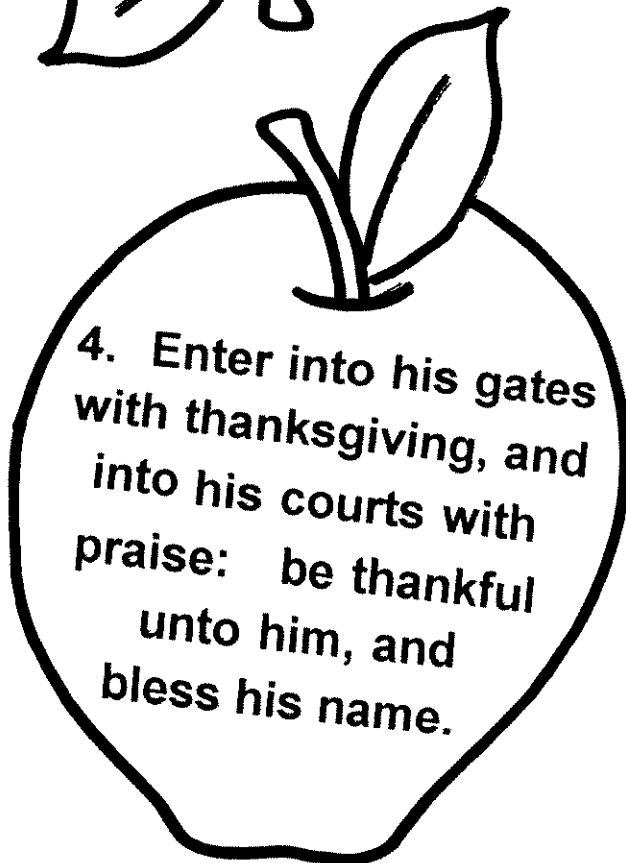
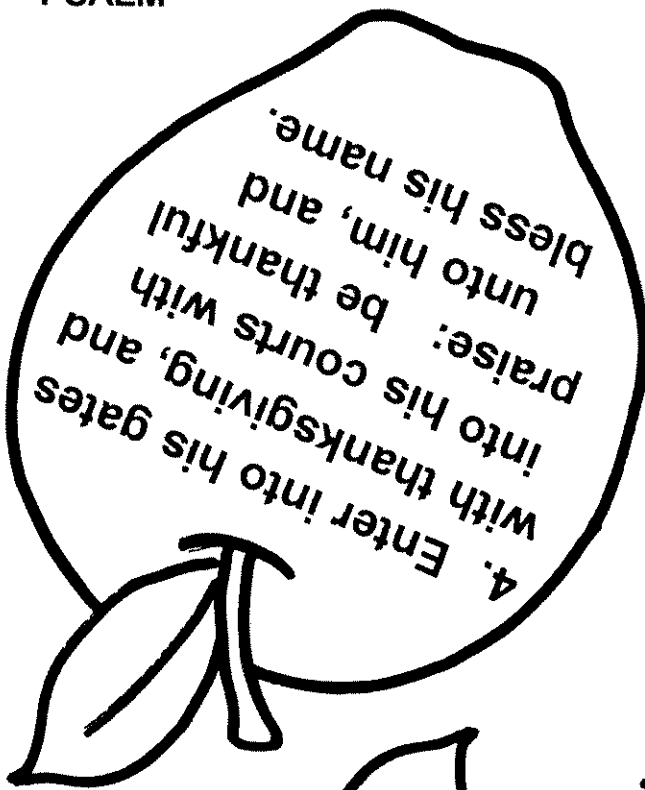
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