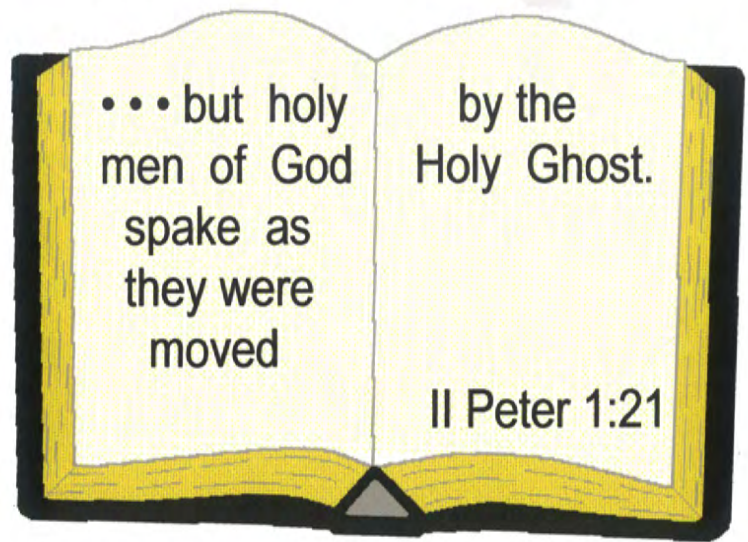


The Bible ... God's Word

Vacation

Bible

School



A series of lessons for **Beginners**

The Bible ■ ■ ■ God's Word

A series of five lessons
designed for

Vacation Bible School

for

BEGINNERS

Author: Betty Penn

Artwork & Illustrations: Cheryl Harris, Cody Harris, Betty Penn



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

Note to the teacher

Included in this notebook is a five-day series of lessons:

- Lesson 1: What Is the Bible?
- Lesson 2: What Is the Old Testament?
- Lesson 3: What Is the New Testament?
- Lesson 4: What Is the Church?
- Lesson 5: Who Was John the Baptist?

After the lessons, there is a:

- Weekly Memory Verse Project
- Suggestions for a Closing Program
- Suggested songs for the week.

The lessons are produced in three-ring binder format for convenience in removing pages for copying.

Worksheets are reproducible for classroom use only.

Since the worksheets are black and white rather than color, I suggest you use different colors of copy paper for each worksheet for variety.

Lessons 1, 2 and 3, or Lessons 1, 4 and 5 are also compatible for three-day Camp Lessons.

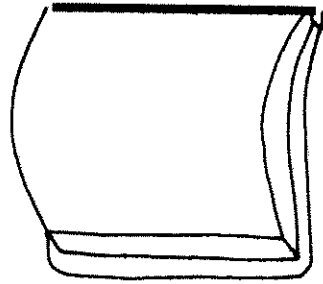
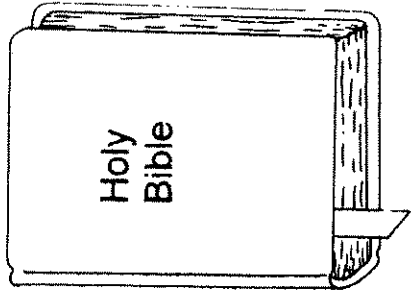
May God bless the use of these lessons as they are used to teach young people the truths of God's Word.



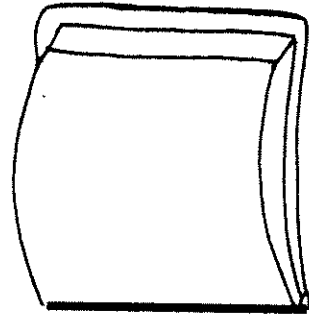
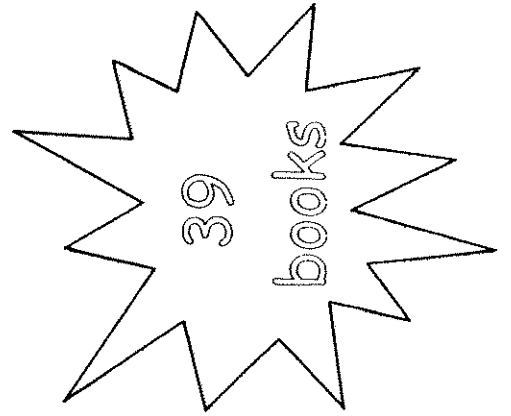
Betty Penn

THE BIBLE

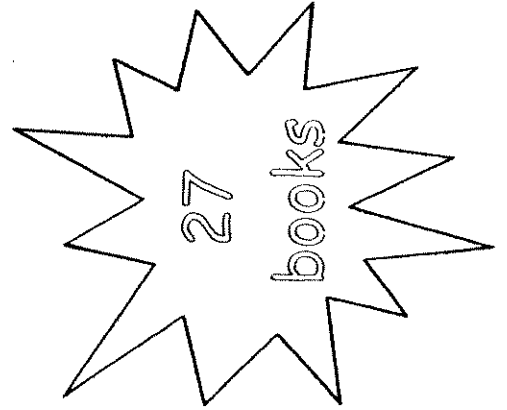
GOD'S WORD



Old
Testament



New
Testament



Program Suggestions

Theme Song:

First child:

The Bible has 66 books, all in one book. It has two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

II Peter 1:21 "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Group sing:

THE MORE WE READ THE BIBLE

Second child:

The Old Testament has 39 books. The first book, Genesis, tells us about the beginning of all things.

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Group sing:

HOLY BIBLE, BOOK DIVINE (Great Hymns Of the Faith p. 179)

(American Baptist Hymnal p. 353)

(The Broadman Hymnal p. 237)

Third child:

The New Testament has 27 books.

II Timothy 2:15, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Group sing:

THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MY HEART (Great Hymns Of the Faith p. 177)

(The Broadman Hymnal p. 389)

Fourth child:

Jesus started his church while he lived on the earth. The twelve apostles were the first preachers.

Matthew 16:18 "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Group sing:

I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID (Broadman 309) and **I WAS GLAD** (Salvation Songs for Children #1 p, 97)

Fifth child:

John the Baptist came to baptize those whom Jesus took and started the first church.

Matthew 3:1 "In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea."

Group sing:

Chorus: TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS (chorus) (Great Hymns Of the Faith p. 106)

(American Baptist Hymnal p. 169) (The Broadman Hymnal p. 367)

SUGGESTED SONGS

The following is a list of suggested songs for Beginner, Primary, Junior ages:

Books of the New Testament

God's Word In My Heart Action Songs For Boys and Girls #1 p.53

Holy Bible, Book Divine Great Hymns Of the Faith #179

I Was Glad When They Said Broadman #309
and **I Was Glad** Salvation Songs for Children #1 p. 97 (Use as verse and chorus)

Tell Me the Story Of Jesus (chorus) Great Hymns Of the Faith #106
American Baptist Hymnal #169
The Broadman Hymnal #367

The Bible Stands Great Hymns Of the Faith #178

The Books Of the Bible (found in the Singspiration Series)

The Books of the Old Testament

The Church's One Foundation Great Hymns Of the Faith #186

The More We Read the Bible

Thy Word Have I Hid In My Heart Great Hymns Of the Faith # 177
The Broadman Hymnal #389

Lesson 1: WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Scriptures: II Timothy 3:16-17 II Peter 1:21 Revelation 1:9-11 Hebrews 1:1-2
Acts 1:16 I Corinthians 2:13

Aim: To teach what the Bible is, why we have the Bible, and why we need to study in order to know what it teaches.

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: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

The Book of Books

In our lesson today we want to learn about the **Bible**. When we are asked, “What is the Bible?”, we say, “It is **God’s Word**”. What do we mean by God’s Word? The Bible is the message that God has given to man, so that we may know about God. The Bible contains **66 books**, and tells us all we need to know about God to believe in Him. It tells us all we need to know about Jesus to believe in Him. The Bible tells us how the world began. It tells us why there is a sun in the sky, and a moon and stars at night. It tells us where we came from, and what will happen after we die. It tells us why we are sinful, and how Jesus came into the world to forgive our sins, so that when we die, we can go to be in the presence of God. It tells us of a wonderful place called heaven, where there will not be any sin, or sickness, or anything harmful. It tells us of God’s love for us. It tells us how we should live our lives. The Bible is the most important book in the world.

Inspiration

II Timothy 3:16 tells us that the Bible was inspired by God. What do we mean by inspiration? We mean that God caused the men who wrote the Bible to know exactly what to write so that there would not be any errors. **II Peter 1:21** tells us that men wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit filled the minds of the men so that what they wrote down was what God wanted us to know.

Two Divisions

The Bible is divided into two groups: the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**. The Bible is like a library or a book shelf. It has many books, but we have all of these books bound into one ‘book’. The Bible is made up of **sixty-six** books. The Old Testament has **thirty-nine** books in it, and the New Testament has **twenty-seven** books in it. All of them agree with one another. The Bible was written by about **forty** different men over a period of time that covered about **sixteen hundred years**. During the Old Testament times God chose certain men to be prophets. God told the prophets things that would happen, and things that He wanted the prophets to tell the people. In the Old

Testament the prophets told of things that would happen in the future that only God could have told them about. The New Testament tells us about things that happened exactly as the prophets said.

The Beginning

The book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible. The word '**genesis**' means '**beginning**'. Genesis tells us of the beginnings of all things. Genesis 1:1 tells us, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*" Then it tells how God created the sun to rule the day, and put the moon and stars in the sky to shine at night. He created all the things that grow on the earth. He made them with seeds that fall to the ground so that new plants can grow from them, and things will keep on growing. Genesis tells us how God made the first animals on the earth, the first fish in the sea, and the first birds that fly in the sky. Then it tells of His greatest creation, when He made Adam and Eve, the first two people who lived on the earth. Genesis tells us about the first sin. God created Adam and Eve perfect, but they disobeyed God and sinned. This caused them to be imperfect, and separated from God. So He promised them a Savior.

In the beginning man did not have a Bible, or the written Word of God, so God spoke directly to man. Then He sent **angels** from heaven to bring messages to man. Later God chose prophets to tell the people what God wanted them to know. The **prophets** in the Old Testament prophesied of the coming of the Son of God. They told where he would be born, and why he would be born. In the New Testament the writers told of the birth of Jesus, and it was exactly as the prophets of old had prophesied. Everything in the Bible agrees. There were forty different men who wrote the Bible, but everything they said agrees with the others.

Old Testament

The Bible was not written all at one time. It came about slowly. Adam was created about four thousand years before Jesus was born. Adam did not write down the things that happened in the book of Genesis. About two thousand five hundred years later, the events of the lives of the early people who lived on the earth were written down by Moses. God revealed to Moses, through the Holy Spirit, all the things that He wanted us to know. Then Moses wrote down the things that happened during his lifetime. So the first of the Bible as we know it today was written about fifteen hundred years before Jesus was born. The **prophets** and other writers added to these books, and they were kept at the temple. The **scribes** copied these writings so that more people could have them. It was a full-time job of the scribes to copy the scriptures.

The leading men in the Jewish religion decided which of these writings should be included in what we know as the Old Testament. There were writings of the prophets that were not considered to be inspired writings, so these were not included. God directed the prophet **Ezra**, along with the most intelligent men of his time, and they made the final decision of which writings were considered to be the sacred writings before the time of Jesus. After the time of Ezra, no other books were added, and none were taken away from the ones he had assembled. Before the birth of Jesus, time was counted B.C., backward from His birth to the creation, which covered about four thousand years. After the birth of Jesus, we count time forward as A.D. So we live about two thousand after Jesus was born.

New Testament

The first book of the New Testament was written about thirty-eight years after Jesus was born. It was the book of **Matthew**, and it tells about His birth, His life, and His death. The last book of the New Testament is the book of **Revelation**, and it was written about ninety-six years after the birth of Jesus. While the **Old Testament** took about **fifteen hundred years** to write, and covered four thousand years in history, the **New Testament** took only **sixty years** to write, and covered about one hundred years in time. The Old Testament tells the history of man from the beginning until God chose the nation of Israel as His special people. Then it covers the history of the Jewish nation until Jesus was born. The New Testament tells us of the birth and life of Jesus, and then it tells us about the church He organized while He was on the earth. Half of the books in the New Testament were **letters** that the **apostle Paul** wrote to churches telling them what they should believe, and how to conduct themselves as a church. This is where we get our instructions for our church today. All of the books were not written in the order in which they are found in the Bible. It was about three hundred years later, when the faithful and intelligent men of the early church took the writings of the men who had followed Jesus, and the letters that the apostle Paul had written to churches and others, and assembled them into what we now know as the Bible.

Review

In review, the Bible was written over a period of about sixteen hundred years, beginning about fifteen hundred years before Jesus was born, and finished about one hundred years after His birth. It was written by about forty different men, all of whom we believe to have been inspired by God. This means God caused them to be able to write everything correctly, so that there were no errors in the original writings of the Scriptures. These books considered to be inspired were, by the direction of the Holy Spirit, gathered together into one book.

The Old Testament was written mostly in **Hebrew**, the language of the Jewish nation. The New Testament was written mostly in **Greek**, the language spoken in that area of the world when Jesus was born. The Bible we use today is called "the King James authorized version". King James, king of England, appointed forty-seven men who were considered to be great scholars of England to translate the Bible from the Greek and Hebrew languages into the English language. It took five years, and was completed in 1611 A. D. When the early settlers came to America, they adopted English as the national language and brought with them the King James version of the Bible. There have been other translations made in recent years, but the King James version is the one used more than other versions.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Worksheet 1

Words to learn for today:

Write each word three times.

Bible

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Old Testament

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

God

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

New Testament

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

word

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Holy Spirit

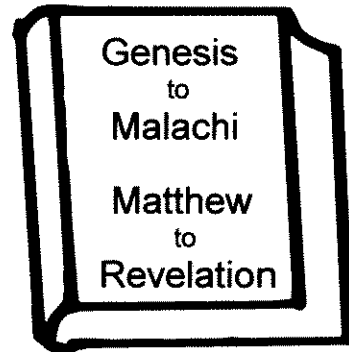
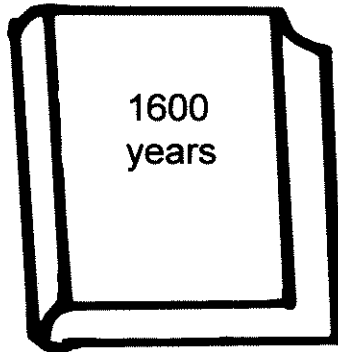
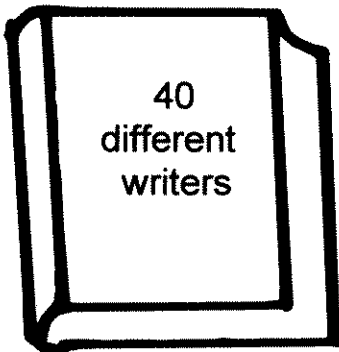
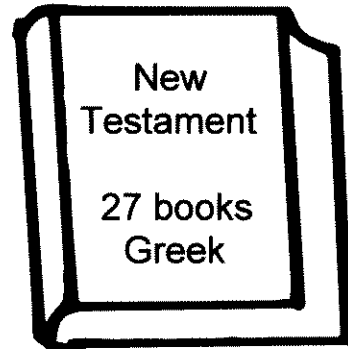
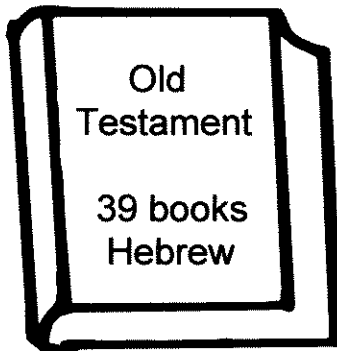
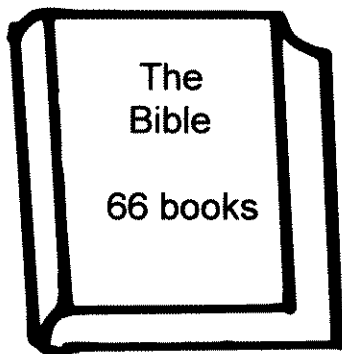
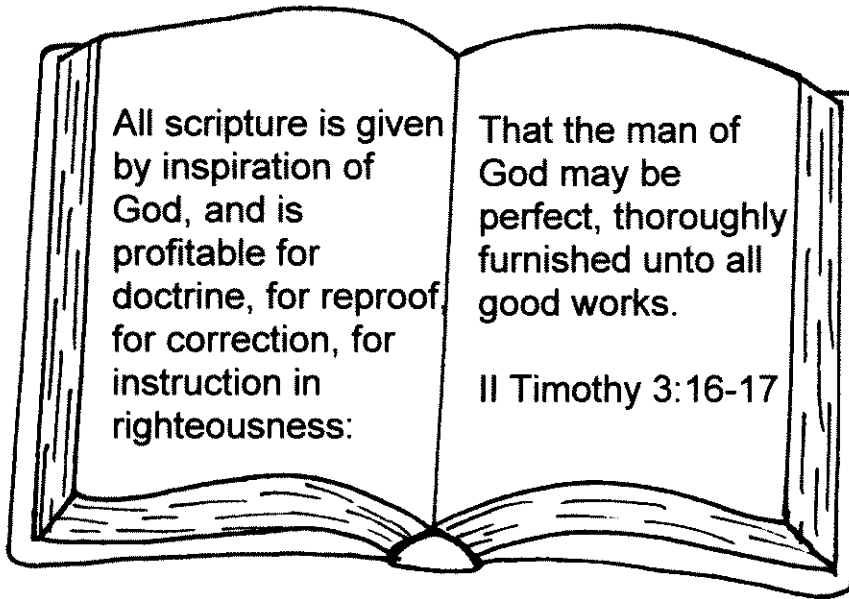
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

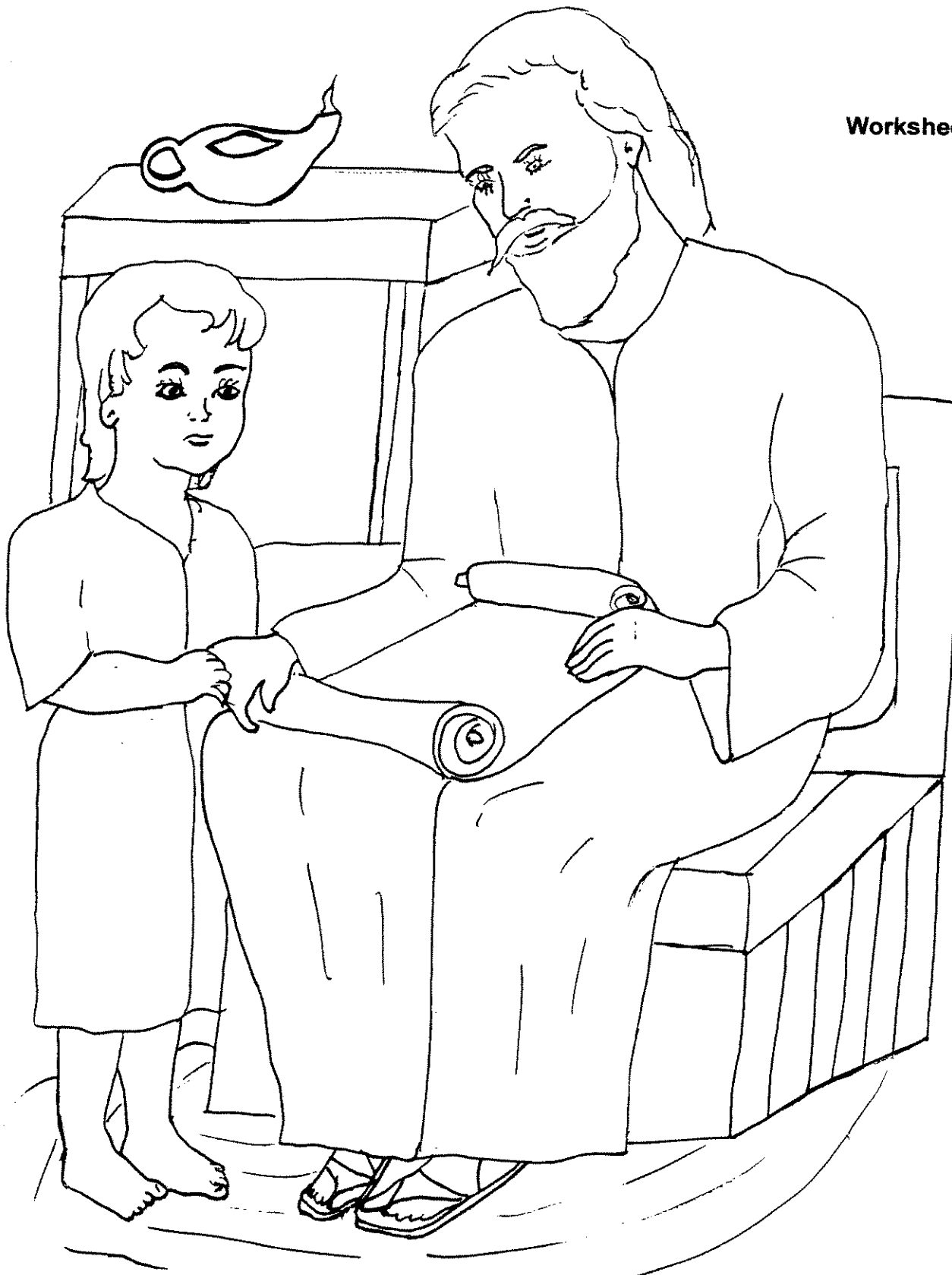
Jesus

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

scroll

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____





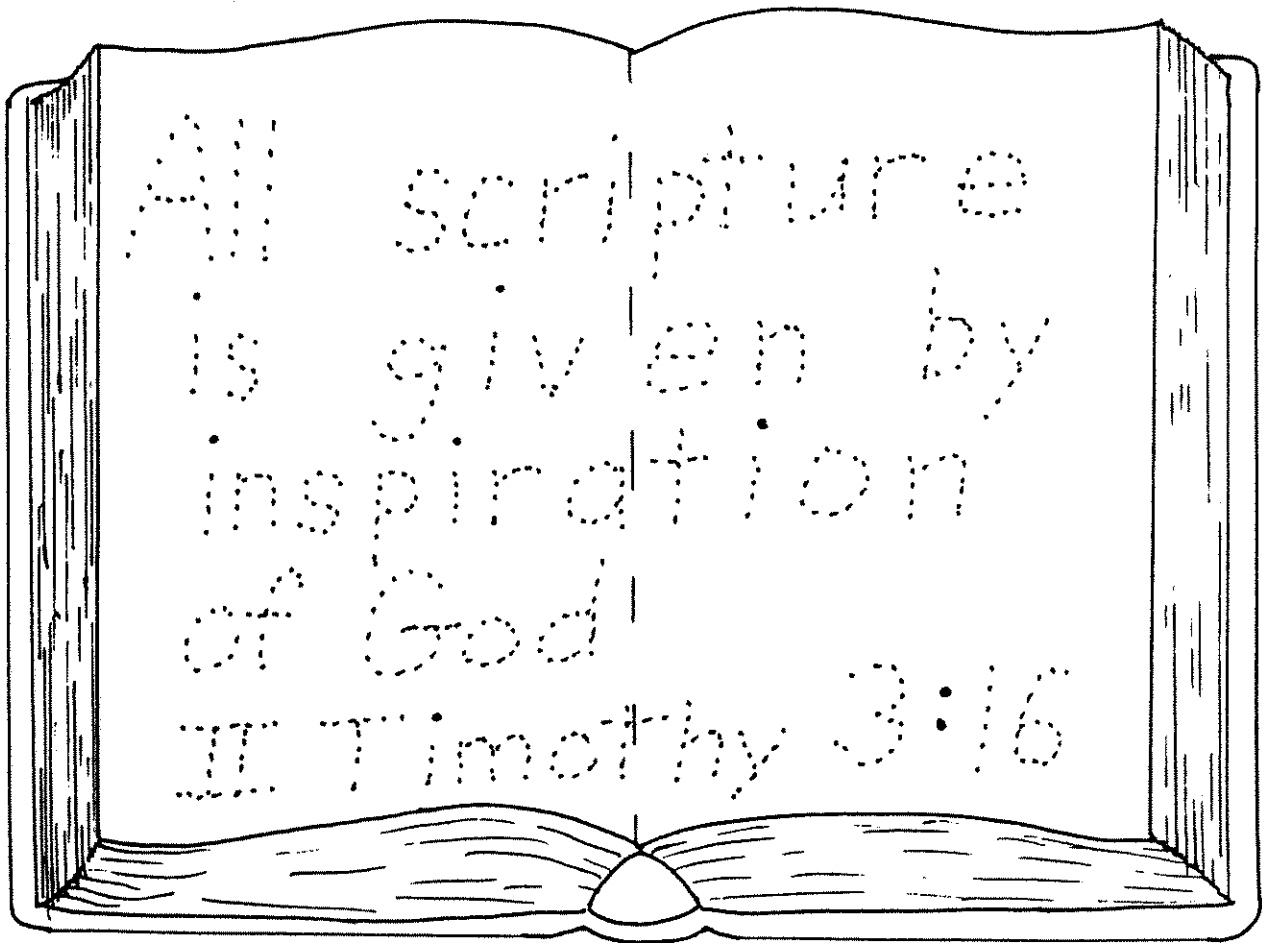
Many years ago *God's Word* was written on scrolls.
They told of the prophecies that Jesus would come.



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

Connect the dots:

39 books OT
27 books NT
66 books Bible



WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the lesson: backward, forward, upside down or diagonally.

N D F A Z H J P O K J N
 O K Q O K D B I B L E P
 I I H C A L A M N W I R
 T N E M A T S E T D L O
 A G 1 6 0 0 Y E A R S P
 L J M O S E S M 1 B R H
 E A H T B T I A 6 S E E
 V M G E A Y S T 1 S T T
 E E R M B T E T 1 O I S
 R S E P Z R N H A I R E
 J N E X P O E E D Y W H
 T L K Q T F G W N G F A

1600YEARS

GENESIS

MALACHI

OLD TESTAMENT

1611AD

GREEK

MATTHEW

PROPHETS

BIBLE

HEBREW

MOSES

REVELATION

FORTY

KING JAMES

NEW TESTAMENT

WRITERS

WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the lesson: backward, forward, upside down or diagonally.



- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1600YEARS | GENESIS | MALACHI | OLD TESTAMENT |
| 1611AD | GREEK | MATTHEW | PROPHETS |
| BIBLE | HEBREW | MOSES | REVELATION |
| FORTY | KING JAMES | NEW TESTAMENT | WRITERS |

Lesson 2: WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Aim: To acquaint the student with an over-all view of the Old Testament.

Memory Verse: II Peter 1:21

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Inspired

The **Bible** is God’s Word - - - **all** of it. It was **inspired** by God and written by men. God caused men to know exactly what to write so there would be no errors. It was not written all at one time. It took about sixteen hundred years, and was written by about forty different men. Yet everything written during the last sixty years agrees with what was written by men who lived hundreds of years before.

First Part

The Bible has two parts: the **Old Testament**, and the New Testament. Today we will study about the Old Testament. It is made up of **thirty-nine** books. We call them the Jewish scriptures or the Jewish manuscripts. They were written by Jewish people, mostly in the **Hebrew** language because that is the language the people spoke. The Old Testament covers about four thousand years in time. The first book in the Old Testament was written by Moses about twenty-five hundred years after Adam and Eve were created. By this time God had chosen the descendants of Abraham to be His special people, and they spoke the Hebrew language. The scriptures were written on **scrolls**, and the originals were kept at the tabernacle and then at the temple by the priests. The **scribes** were men who served at the temple by copying the scrolls. They did not have computers, or typewriters, or the modern printing press, so all the copying was done by hand. It was very slow, and so there were several men who served as scribes. The scribes knew the scriptures better than anyone, because they spent hours and hours copying them by hand. They kept the originals at the temple so they could protect them, and the copies were used by the people. They were commanded to copy the laws and teach them to their children. Joshua erected a monument of stones and copied the laws God gave to Moses on the stones; then they were read to the people, including women and children: **Joshua 8:32**. When God told Moses that some day He would allow the Israelites to have a king, He commanded the king to copy the law in a book, from the writings in the scrolls which the Levites (the priests) kept. He was to keep it with him and read from it every day, so he would learn how to serve God and know what His commandments were: **Deuteronomy 17:18-19**.

There are thirty-nine books in the Old Testament. The first book was written about fifteen hundred years before Jesus was born. The last book was written about four hundred years before Jesus was born. Before the time of Jesus, time is counted backward. So from 1500 to 400 B.C. was

about **eleven hundred years** that it took for all of the Old Testament to be written. There were many more writings by good men, but only the thirty-nine books were determined to be inspired books, so they make up the Old Testament.

Books of Law

Moses wrote the **first five books**, and we call them the **books of law**. God revealed to Moses all the things that happened during the first twenty-five hundred years that people lived on the earth, and Moses wrote it down just as God wanted him to. The first book is the book of **Genesis**. Genesis means 'beginning'. It covers the creation of all things, and tells us about the people from Adam and Eve to Noah, when a great flood destroyed all the people except Noah's family, because of their disobedience to God. Many years later the people were once again so sinful God decided to raise up a new nation of people to be His special people, and teach them how to worship and serve Him. This new nation was the descendants of one man, Abraham. The book of Genesis ends with the story of Joseph, when the descendants of Abraham, called the Jewish people, or Hebrews, had gone to Egypt to live and had become slaves to the Egyptians.

The **second book**, **Exodus**, tells about the Jewish people from the time of Moses, when they left Egypt to go back to the land God had chosen for them. These events happened during Moses' life, so he wrote down everything exactly as it happened. God told him all the **laws** to write down, and he wrote them in the book of **Leviticus**. The books of **Numbers** tells about the nation of Israel and how God blessed them when they worshiped Him, and how He punished them when they disobeyed. **Deuteronomy** is a repeating of the laws God gave to Moses. The people who received the first laws all died in the wilderness because of their disobedience to God, and a new generation of people were born in the wilderness. The laws were retold to them in the book of Deuteronomy. These four books, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, cover less than two hundred years, and were written to and for the Jewish people. Very important information is in these books.

Books of History

The next **twelve** books in the Old Testament are called the books of **history**. They were written by **eight** or more men. They tell us the history of the nation of Israel. They tell about their judges and their kings, and the building of the temple by Solomon. They teach us the history of the nation of Israel from Joshua to about four hundred and fifty years before Jesus was born. They are the books of **Joshua through Esther**.

Books of Poetry

There is also **poetry** in the Bible. The next **five** books, **Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes**, and **Song of Solomon**, are called books of poetry. **Moses** wrote the book of **Job**. It was probably the third book written, but it is the eighteenth book in the Old Testament. **David** wrote most of the **Psalms** about one thousand years before Jesus was born. **Solomon** was the wisest man who ever lived, and he wrote most of the **Proverbs**, which are **wise sayings**.

Prophecy

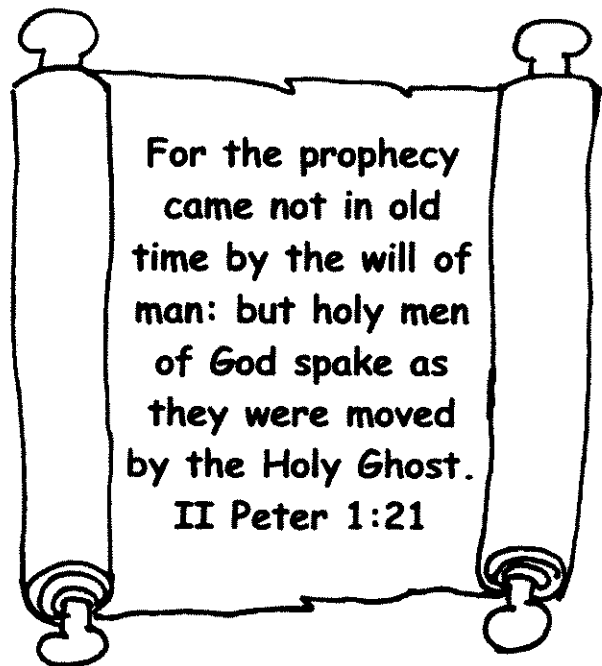
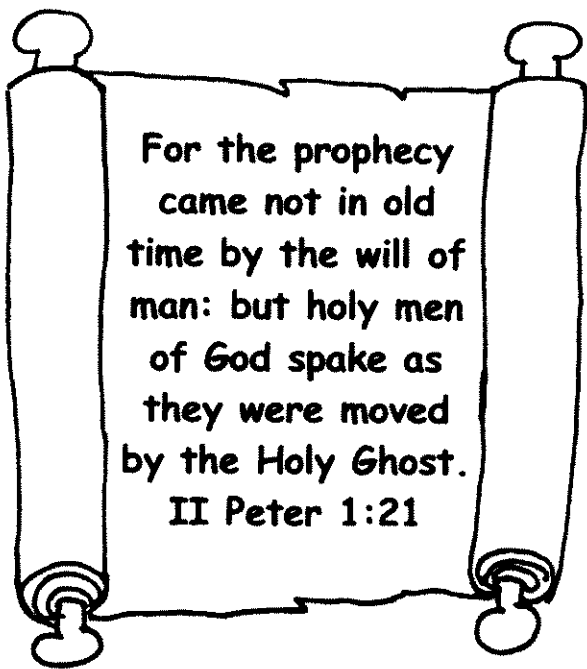
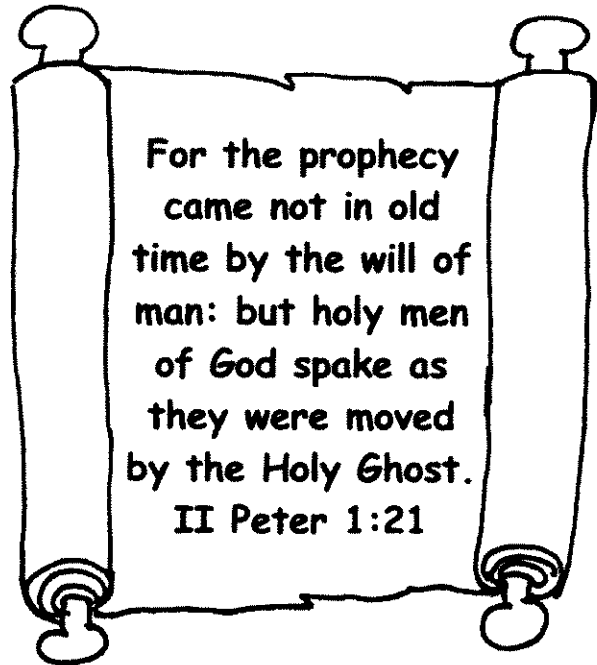
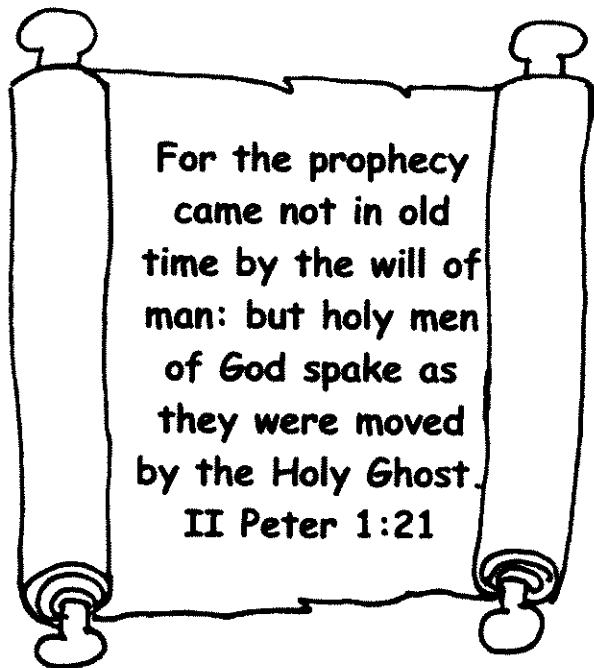
All of the remaining books in the Old Testament are books of prophecy and cover about four hundred and sixty-five years. The first **five** books are called **major prophets** because they prophesied more and greater things than the rest. The last **twelve** books are called **minor** prophets. Some of them are very short. Joel and Haggai are only two chapters. Obadiah is only one chapter. Nahum and Habakkuk are three chapters. **Malachi** is the **last book** in the Old Testament. There are no writings for the last four hundred years before Jesus was born.

Types of Worship

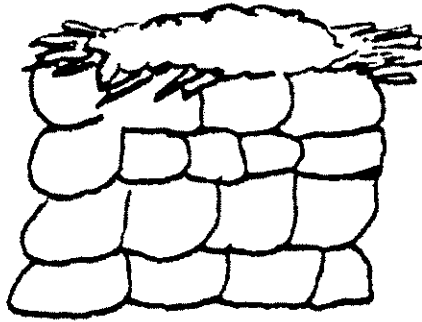
In the Old Testament, the men **first** worshiped God at an **altar** they built out of stones, on which they offered **sacrifices** to show they believed God would send His Son as a sacrifice for all men. Each man was the **priest** for his family. Then God chose the nation of Israel, and told them to build the **tabernacle** for worship. God chose one man to be a **high priest**, and He also chose one of the tribes of Israel, the tribe of **Levi** to be priests. They offered the sacrifices for the people at the tabernacle. Later the people worshiped at the **temple** until the birth of Jesus. Jesus started the **church** as we know it today, and did away with sacrifices at the temple.

We do not have priests today, because Jesus is our High Priest. We do not offer sacrifices because Jesus made the supreme sacrifice when He died on the cross for our sins. When we repent of our sins and trust the blood of Jesus to pay the price for our sins, we become a child of God. When we follow the Lord in baptism to show our faith in His death, burial, and resurrection, we become members of the Lord's church. We worship God today as a church.

Make a copy on parchment colored construction paper for each child,



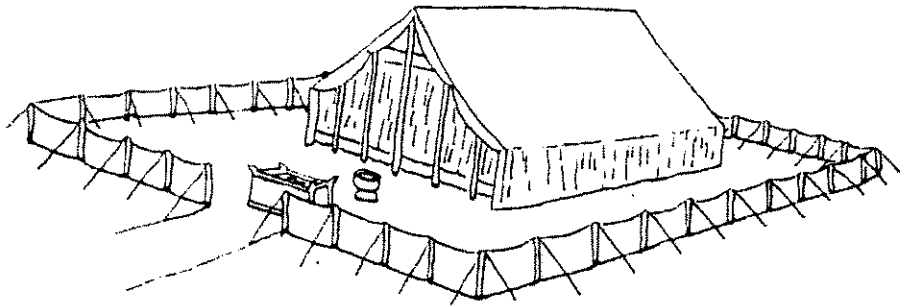
Ways the Bible taught to worshiped God:



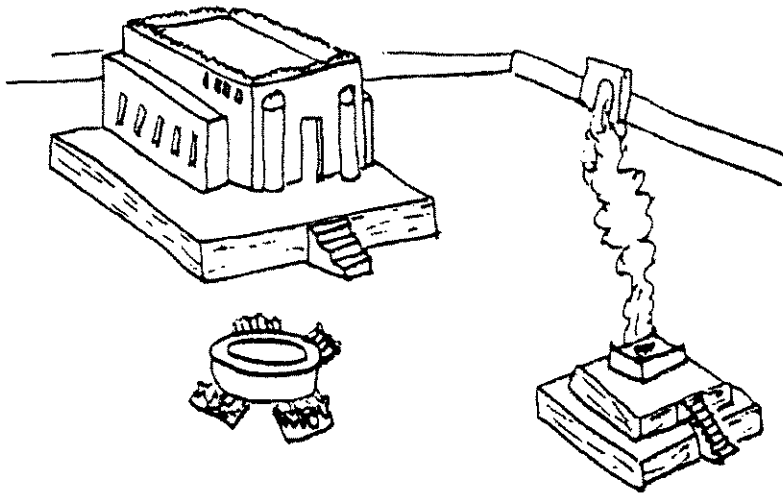
In the beginning people worshiped God at a stone altar by offering an animal sacrifice so show the sacrifice that Jesus would make for the sins of mankind.

altar

The Israelites worshiped in a tabernacle (tent) that they could move with them as they traveled in the wilderness.



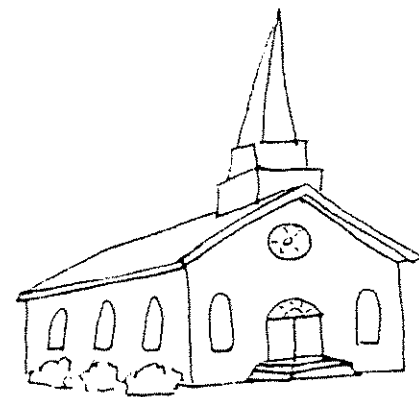
tabernacle



King Solomon built a temple in Jerusalem.

temple

Today we worship God as a church.



church

WORD SEARCH

Find the first 14 books of the Old Testament, forward, backward, or upside down.

S D I C H R O N I C L E S L J
 E E L E V I T I C U S I I E O
 L U S R E B M U N H H K S U S
 C T I S A M U E L T S I E M H
 I E S G N I K I I U V N N A U
 N R S U D O X E A R N G E S A
 O O S E G D U J L I X S G I V
 R N N Z N Y K I D X N S A I H
 H O K E P T J C T A E K N U B
 C M V V W B F B K J K R L D F
 I Y C V E N R F D R G S J I V
 I U S E Q S G F O M L G A L G

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| GENESIS | JOSHUA | I KINGS |
| EXODUS | JUDGES | II KINGS |
| LEVITICUS | RUTH | I CHRONICLES |
| NUMBERS | I SAMUEL | II CHRONICLES |
| DEUTERONOMY | II SAMUEL | |

WORD SEARCH

Find the first 14 books of the Old Testament, forward, backward, or upside down.

S	D	I	C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E	S	L	J
E	E	L	E	V	I	T	I	C	U	S	I	I	E	O
L	U	S	R	E	B	M	U	N	H	H	K	S	U	S
C	T	I	S	A	M	U	E	L	T	S	I	E	M	H
I	E	S	G	N	I	K	I	I	U	V	N	N	A	U
N	R	S	U	D	O	X	E	A	R	N	G	E	S	A
O	O	S	E	G	D	U	J	L	I	X	S	G	I	V
R	N	N	Z	N	Y	K	I	D	X	N	S	A	I	H
H	O	K	E	P	T	J	C	T	A	E	K	N	U	B
C	M	V	V	W	B	F	B	K	J	K	R	L	D	F
I	Y	C	V	E	N	R	F	D	R	G	S	J	I	V
I	U	S	E	Q	S	G	F	O	M	L	G	A	L	G

GENESIS

JOSHUA

I KINGS

EXODUS

JUDGES

II KINGS

LEVITICUS

RUTH

I CHRONICLES

NUMBERS

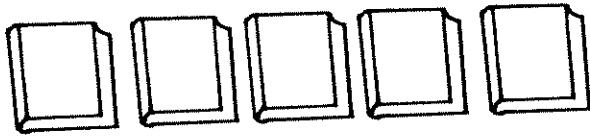
I SAMUEL

II CHRONICLES

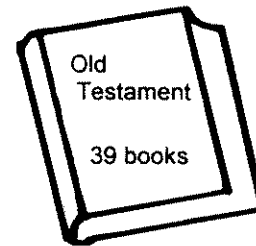
DEUTERONOMY

II SAMUEL

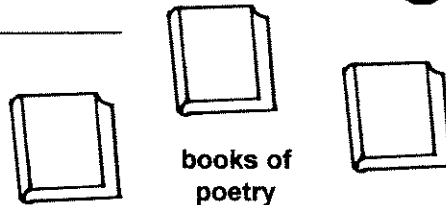
What Is the Old Testament?



Count the books of law. _____

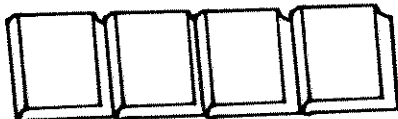


How many books were written by Moses? _____

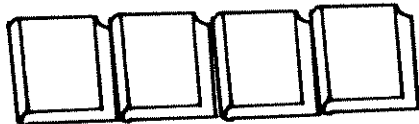


Count the books of poetry. _____

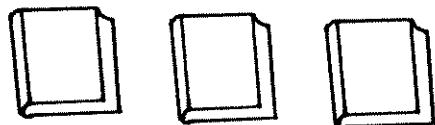
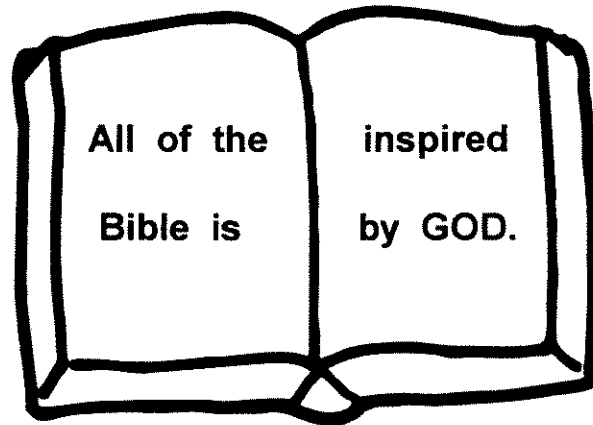
Count the books of history. _____



BOOKS OF



HISTORY



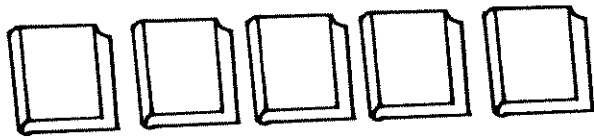
How many books are major prophets? _____



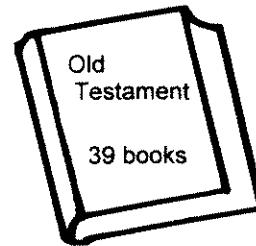
How many books are minor prophets? _____

What Is the Old Testament?

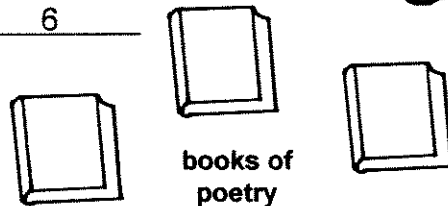
Worksheet 4 Answers



Count the books of law. 5

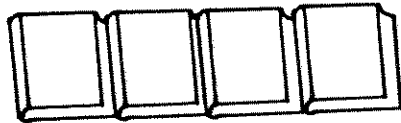


How many books were written by Moses? 6

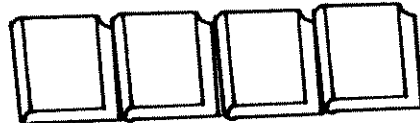


Count the books of poetry. 5

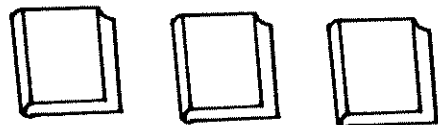
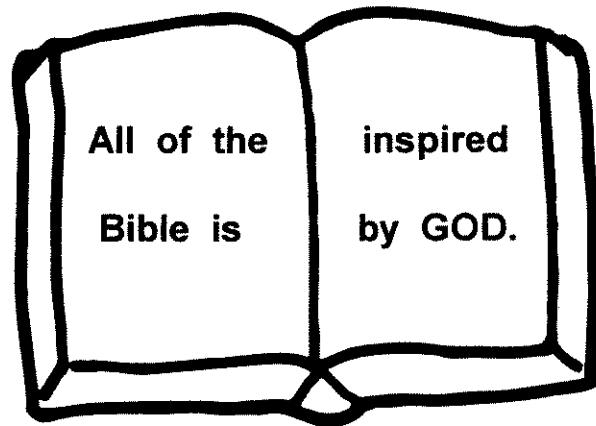
Count the books of history. 12



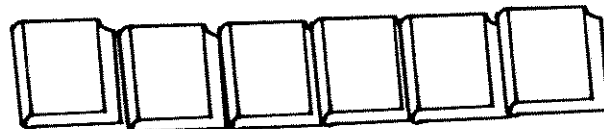
BOOKS OF



HISTORY



How many books are major prophets? 5



How many books are minor prophets? 12

Lesson 3: WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Scriptures: II Timothy 3:16-17 Revelation 1:9-11

Aim: To acquaint the student with the over-all view of the New Testament.

Memory verse: II Timothy 2:15

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Introduction

The Old Testament took much longer to write than the New Testament. It only took about **sixty years** to write the **New Testament**. It was written by **eight** different men. The New Testament begins with the birth of Jesus, and tells us about His life, His death, and His church. Apparently, the first book, the book of **Matthew**, was the **first** one written. The last book, **Revelation**, was the last book written. The other books in between do not follow in the order in which they were written.

The Gospels

The New Testament is made up of **twenty-seven books**. When we study about the New Testament, we divide it into **four parts**. The first four books are called the **gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**. Each one of the gospels was written by the man whose name it bears. These four books tell us of the birth, life, and death of Jesus. All four do not tell exactly the same events, so we must study all of them to learn about the life of Jesus, from the time the angel appeared to His mother, Mary, and told her Jesus would be born and would be the Son of God, to His ascension back into heaven. The gospels tell the world that Jesus was the Son of God that was promised in the very first book in the Bible, the book of Genesis. For four thousand years people had been waiting for the coming of the Son of God to pay the price of sin. For fifteen hundred years the Jewish people had been looking for their king to come. He would be a descendant of David, and would put down all their enemies and give them everything they wanted forever. The four gospels tell us that Jesus did not come as a prince, the son of a king, born in a palace. He was born in the small town of Bethlehem, not Jerusalem. He was a descendant of King David, but would not immediately take possession of the throne and rule as king. He must first come as the Savior. The Jews were looking for a king, so they did not accept Jesus as the Messiah. These four books in the Bible tell us that He really was God's Son, and He really was the Messiah. They tell us how the Jews rejected Him, and had Him crucified because He claimed to be the Son of God. From these four books we learn how Jesus was crucified, but after three days, He arose from the dead. He stayed on the earth for forty more days, then ascended back into heaven.

The gospels also tell about the church that Jesus started when He was on the earth. Jesus called twelve men to be **apostles**, or the first preachers. John the Baptist was chosen by God to reveal to the world that this man named Jesus, of Nazareth, who was known as the son of Mary and

a carpenter named Joseph, was really the Son of God, and the Messiah that the Jews had been looking for. When some of the Jews accepted the message John preached, John baptized them by immersing them in the Jordan River. Then Jesus took these people who had accepted Him, repented of their sins, and had been immersed by John, and He assembled them into the first church. The book of **Acts** tells us about this **church**, and what they believed. Jesus taught the apostles while he was on the earth so they could teach the church after he was gone back into heaven, because all of the Bible had not been written when the church began.

The Epistles

The rest of the New Testament, except for the book of Revelation, is made up of **epistles**. An epistle was a **letter**. Most of the epistles were written by the apostle **Paul**, and nine of these were written to churches. While the first church was in Jerusalem the people were persecuted, or mistreated, because they had accepted Jesus as the Son of God, and many had to leave their homes and move to other places to live. When they moved they continued to preach the truth, so more churches were started. When the apostle Paul began preaching, he traveled to many places and preached the gospel of Jesus, and organized churches. He could not stay in one place all the time, so he wrote letters to the other churches instructing them in the truth. If they had a problem, they would send for Paul, and if he could not come, he would write them a letter. We have these letters today to teach us what we should believe, and how we should conduct our church. **Paul** wrote **letters** to the **churches** at **Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse, and Thessalonica**. Some of Paul's letters were written to individuals (Timothy, Titus, Philemon) telling them how they should act, and what they should teach.

Other Writers

The book of James was written by **James**. I and II Peter were written by **Peter**. The book of Jude was written by **Jude**, and the books of **John, I, II, and III John, and Revelation** were all written by **John**. The epistles are followed by the **last book** written, the book of **Revelation**. It was written by **John** when he was an old man. He was being punished for preaching, and was imprisoned on an island. God gave him a vision of things that would happen in the future, and told him to write down what he saw in a book. The book of Revelation tells us things that will come to pass in the future.

Its Purpose

When we read the New Testament we learn about Jesus. We learn what He taught the people while He lived on the earth. We learn about the miracles that He did to prove that He was the Son of God, and had the power of God. We learn how to be saved. We learn why we should be baptized. We learn what we should believe as a church. We learn where Jesus is now, and what will happen to us when we die.

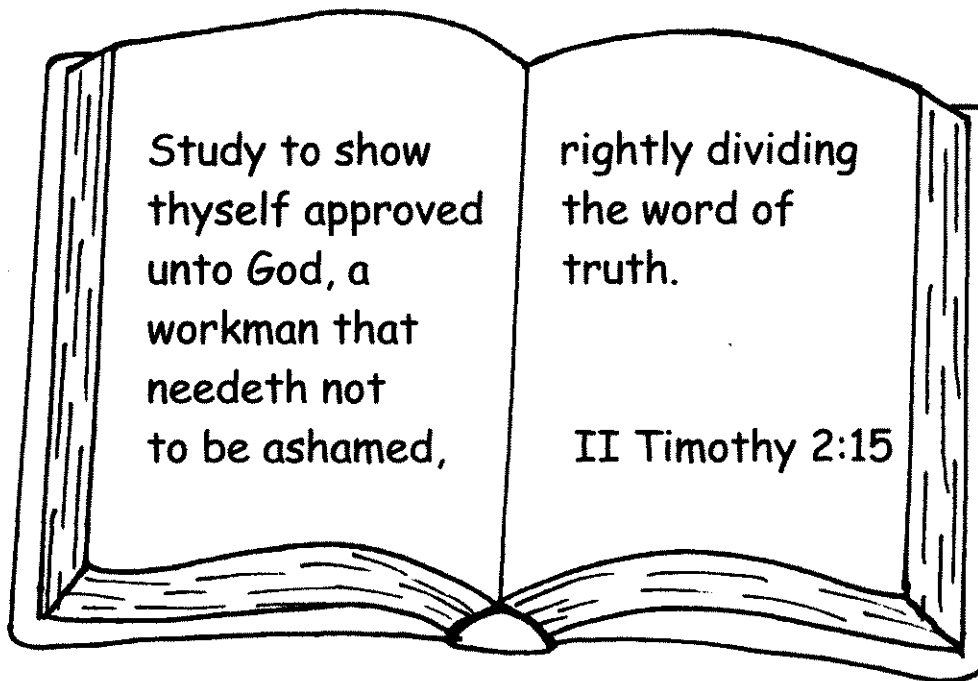
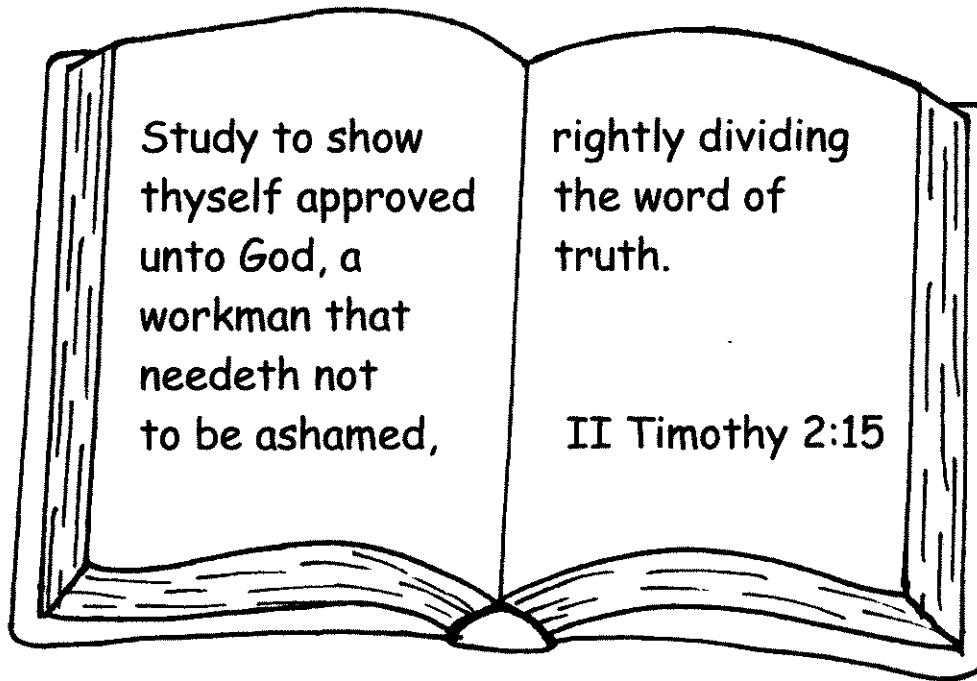
The Bible tells us that, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

II Timothy 2:15 tell us to *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* The Bible is all we need for our doctrines (the things we believe). It is all we need to correct us when we do wrong. It is all we need to instruct us in doing what is right, and if we believe and follow its teachings, we will know everything we need to know to make our lives pleasing in the sight of God. If we do not know, it is because we do not study and try to know. The only way we can be pleasing in the sight of God is to know His Word and obey it. If we do not understand what the Bible teaches, we will be ashamed before God because we have not done what He commanded us to do.

Psalm 119:11 tells us, *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”* The Psalmist said, *“O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.”* *“I will meditate (study, think about, learn) thy precepts”* *“I will not forget thy word.”* Someday we will be ashamed before God if we do not study His Word and know His will for us.

The Bible is the most important book in the world. It is the one that we should love above all other books. It is God’s Word written to us. God does not need angels to tell His message anymore; He has written the Bible. More than anything else, the Bible tells us of the wonderful love that God has for us.

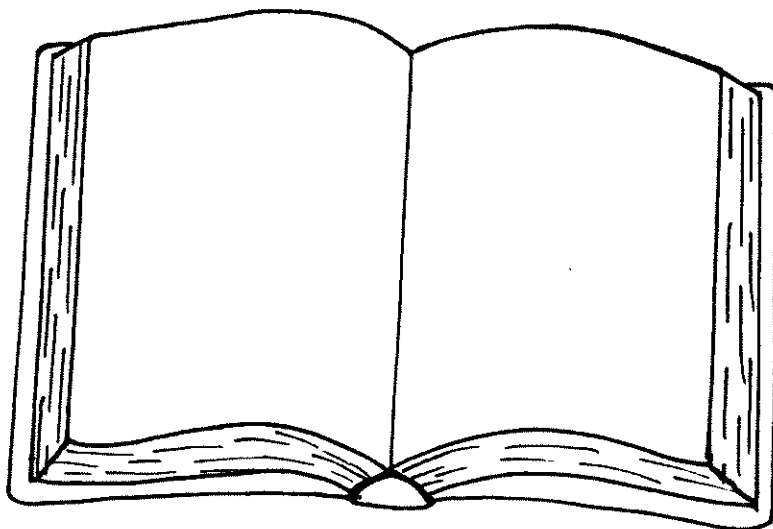
Make one from construction paper for each student.



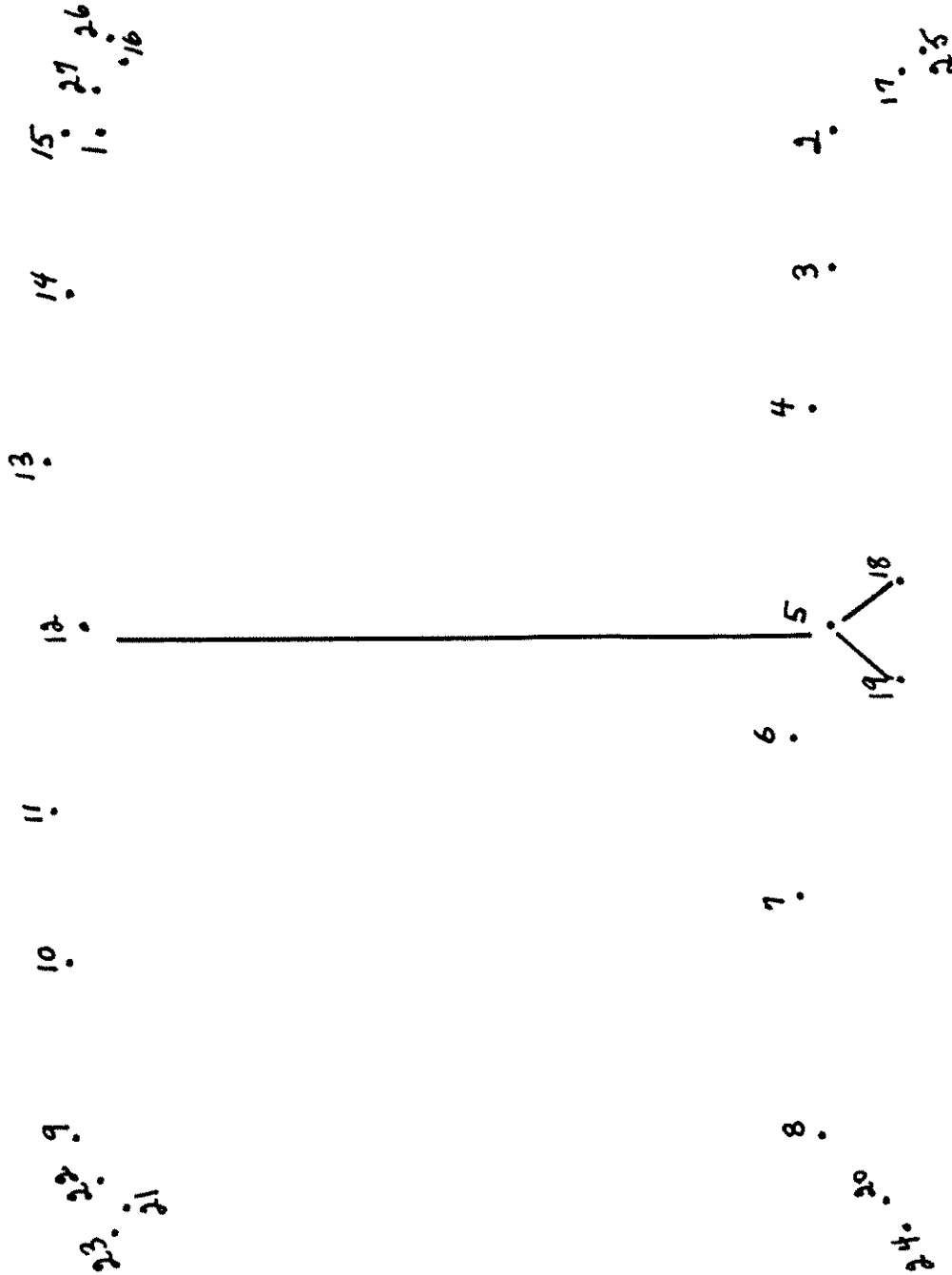


The writers of the Bible wrote on scrolls. They were large, and it took many of them to contain all the books of the Bible.

Today we have all the books of the Bible in one book.



Connect the dots



Mark out all the letters "Z". Then use the letters that are left to make the words. Write the scripture on the lines below.

A group of 3 z's separate the words.

AzIzIzzzsczrzizptzuzrrezzzizszzzgizvzenzzzbzyzzzinzszpzirzaztiz
oznzzzozfzzzGzozdzzzanzdzzzizszzzpzrozfzitzazblzezzzfzozrzz
zdozcztriznzezzzfzozrzzzreppzrzoozfzzzfzozrzzzcozrzzrezcztizo
nzzzfzozrzzzinzsztruzcztizoznzzziznzzzrizgzhztzeozuzsznzezss
zztzhzatzzztzhzezzzmzaznzzzozfzzzGzozdzzzmzazyzzzbzezzz
pzezrzfezcztzzzthzozrzoZuzghlzzyzzzfuzrznizshzedzzzuznztOz
zzazllzzzgzoozdzzzwzozrkzszzz

Mark out all the letters "Z". Then use the letters that are left to make the words.
Write the scripture on the lines below.

A group of 3 z's separate the words.

AzIzIzzzsczrzizptzuzrrezzzizszzzgizvzenzzzbzyzzzinzszpzirzaztiz
oznzzzozfzzzGzozdzzzanzdzzzizszzzpzrozfzitzazbzlzezzzfzozrzz
zdozcztriznzezzzfzozrzzzreppzrzoozfzzzfzozrzzzcozrzzzezcztizo
nzzzfzozrzzzinzsztzruzcztizoznzzziznzzzrizgzhztzeozuzsznzezss
zzztzhzatzzztzhzezzzmzaznzzzozfzzzGzozdzzzmzazyzzzbzezzz
pzezrzfezcztzzzthzozrzozuzghlzyzzzfuzrznizshzedzzzuznztzoz
zzazllzzzgzoozdzzzwozrkzszzz

All scripture is given by
inspiration of God and is
profitable for doctrine for
reproof for correction for
instruction in righteousness
that the man of God may
be perfect thoroughly furnished
unto all good works.

Lesson 4: WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Scriptures: Matthew 4:18-22 10:1-7 28:18-20 Mark 1:1-9
Acts 1:15 2:1-4,41,47 Ephesians 2:20-22 5:23,25

Aim: To instill in the students the importance of remaining true to the teachings of the Bible and maintaining a true church in the world today.

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 3:21

“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.”

John the Baptist

God sent a man, born a few months before Jesus, to prepare the hearts of the Jewish people to receive Jesus as the messiah they had been looking for. This man’s name was **John**. He came preaching in the wilderness area that **Jesus of Nazareth** was the **Son of God**. When the Jews who heard what John said, believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and they repented of their sins, John **baptized** them as a way of identifying them as followers of Jesus. **Mark 1:5** tells us that John baptized them in the **Jordan River** after they had confessed their sins. When John baptized them, he placed them under the water and raised them up out of the water. This was a **picture of the burial and resurrection** of Jesus. When Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross, He was buried like any other person who died. But in three days He by His own power came back to life again, and came out of the grave. Baptism is a picture of His being buried and rising again. When the time came for Jesus to tell the world who He was, the first thing He did was come to John and be baptized. John was called ‘**John the Baptist**’ because he **baptized** people. He was named John; the people called him ‘John the Baptist’, or ‘John, the one who baptizes’, as a way of identifying him. We call our church a **Baptist** church because we believe in baptizing people like John did. What we believe about baptism makes us different from other denominations, or churches.

The First Church

Some of the Jewish people believed that Jesus was the messiah, and came to John to be baptized. **Jesus took these people and started the first church**. Jesus began calling men to follow him when he **called** the four fishermen, **Peter** and his brother **Andrew**, and **James** and his brother **John**. He told them to leave their occupation of fishing, and become preachers for him. Jesus called **twelve** men to become the first twelve **preachers**, or **apostles**. Jesus started the church with these twelve apostles and other people who had been baptized by John and followed him. The church is a living body, **Ephesians 2:20-22**, made up of **living stones**, continually growing and being added to, growing into a holy temple, or **habitation**, dwelling place, for the spirit of **God**. God dwells in the midst of the church. As people are baptized, they are added to the church. Beginning with the twelve apostles, it has continued to grow since the time of Jesus. Jesus is the head of the church. The members are the body.

Its Purpose

The definition we use today for a church is a group of people who are baptized believers, and have agreed to work together to carry out the 'great commission'. What is the great commission? **Matthew 28:18-20** tells us of a command that Jesus gave to the apostles to preach the gospel to all the world. When people were saved, they were to baptize them, then teach them all of the commands of God. After Jesus started the church, the **apostles** had the **authority** through the **church** to **baptize** people. The church today has the authority to baptize. The church is a special group of people because they have been **bought** by the blood of Jesus. **Ephesians 5:23** tells us Jesus is the **head** of the church. The pastor is not the head of our church. He is our **leader**. He has been **chosen** by God to be a **preacher**, and he has been **selected** by our church to be our **pastor**. Jesus is the head of the church. The church is referred to in the Bible as the **bride of Christ**. When Jesus comes back to the earth someday to rule as our king, the church will be in a place of **rulership** with Jesus. We will rule with him for one thousand years. When we meet as a church to worship, we are following the command of God. When we baptize people who come to us repenting of their sins, and confessing that Jesus is the Christ, and when we help men in other countries to preach the gospel and organize churches in other lands, we are following the command of God.

Its Activities

The book of **Acts** tells us about the **first church**. They did not meet in the temple. The Jewish people met in the temple, and Jesus went there to preach and teach them. There was only one temple, but there were many synagogues. Many years earlier the Jews were conquered by their enemies and scattered into many other nations. They did not have access to the temple at Jerusalem, so the custom of synagogue worship began. Wherever there were several Jews, they instituted a synagogue. **Jesus** went into the **synagogues** on the **Sabbath** and read the **scriptures** and **taught** the people. We pattern our way of worship today after the synagogue worship. The synagogue had a ruler, one responsible for the activities that went on in the synagogue. There was a closet where the scrolls of the law and other sacred writings (prophesies) were kept. There was an elevated area with a table where the scrolls were brought and laid out. Someone was responsible for **reading the scrolls** to the people. After they were read, they were rolled back up and put away. After the scriptures were read, someone **explained** the reading to the people. They were taught the scriptures. The synagogue was a place of learning. Many times **Jesus** went into the **synagogue** on the **Sabbath** and **read** the scriptures and **explained** what He read to the people. The Jews were already accustomed to synagogue worship, so they **patterned** their worship as a **church** after the synagogue. We continue this custom today. We come to church to study the Word of God. Our pastor reads the scriptures and explains them to us. There were those responsible for offering **prayers** at the synagogue. We have men who lead in public prayer in our church services. They **sang**, or chanted the **psalms** at the synagogue. We sing songs of praise in our services.

Location

The first church did not have a building to meet in. They met in **homes**, or by the **seashore**, or **wherever** they could **assemble** as a group. For several hundred years churches did not have

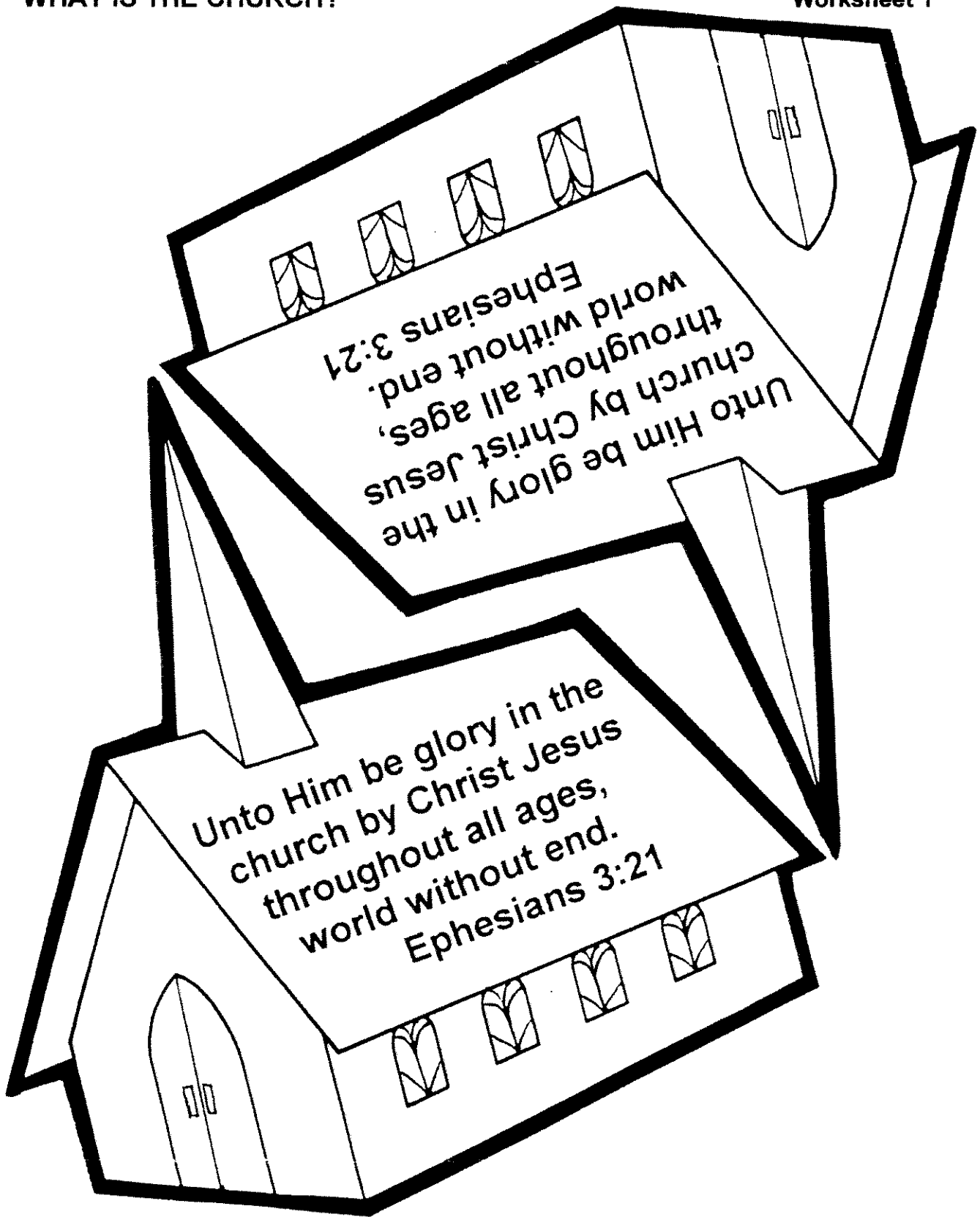
buildings. The church building is not the church. The **church** is the **people** who meet together. Many times in history people had to hide in order to meet as a church and worship God. They were persecuted, or killed because they believed what the Bible taught, and they had to meet in wooded areas, or meet at night in fields, or hide in caves to worship. Their faithfulness kept the true church alive for us today. Jesus promised, "The gates of hell would not prevail against the church."

Power From On High

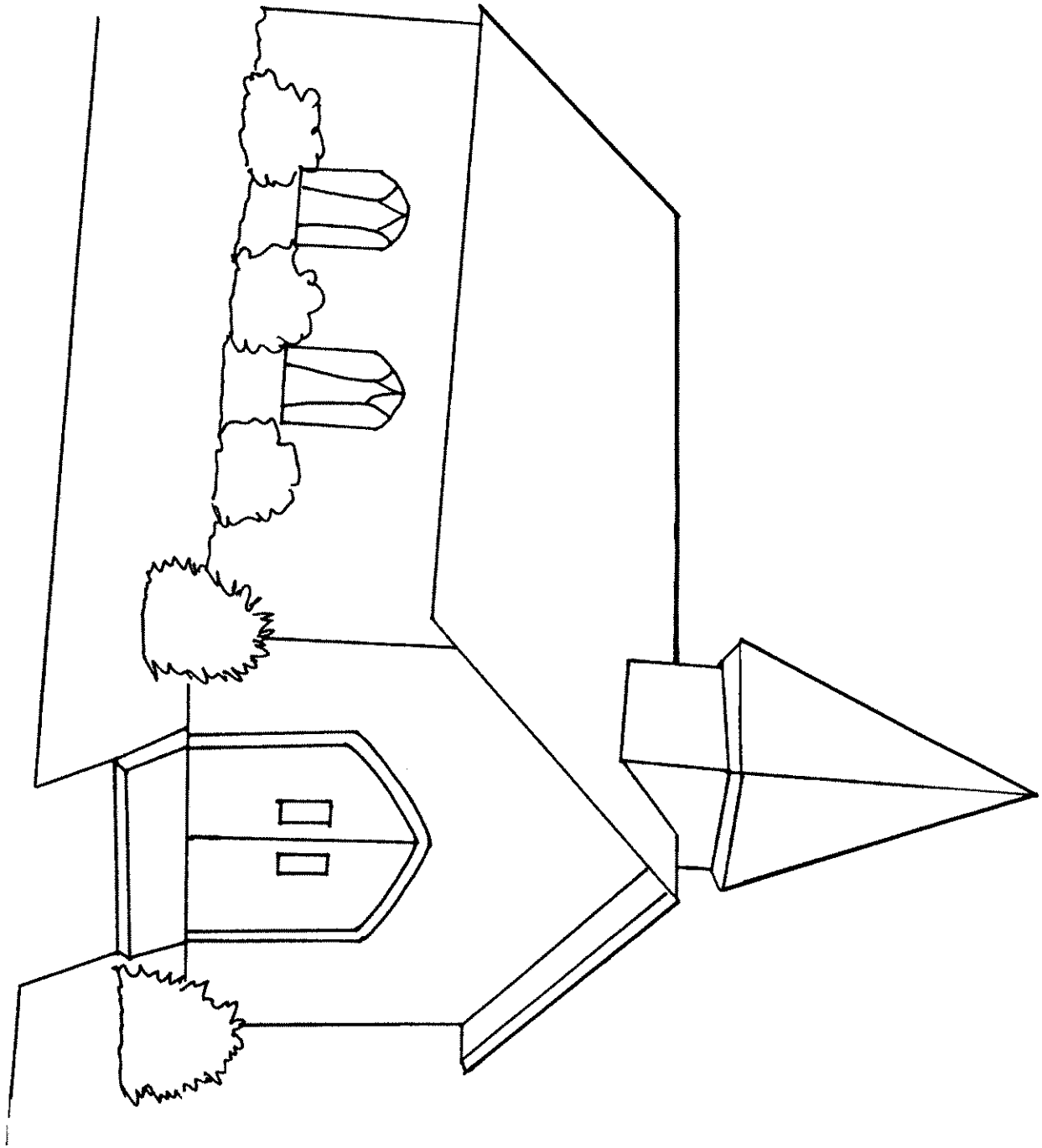
What does the book of **Acts** tell us about the first church? There were about **one hundred and twenty** people who believed that Jesus was the messiah, had been baptized by John, and had followed Jesus. After Jesus was crucified and arose from the dead, he stayed on the earth for **forty days**, appearing to people, and letting them know that He really was alive again. After Jesus went back to heaven, the church met every day, wondering what they should do now that their leader, Jesus, was gone. Before He left, He told them to stay at **Jerusalem** until He sent them power from God. **Ten days** after He left, He sent the **Holy Spirit** to be in their midst and give them power. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the church is called the day of **Pentecost**. The Holy Spirit gave them **power** to speak a language they had not learned. Jesus wanted the gospel spread to all nations, and when the Holy Spirit came upon the church, there were people at Jerusalem from different countries, and they spoke different languages. Peter preached a great sermon that day, and every person heard his message in their own language. No matter what language they spoke, they understood what Peter said in their own language. About **three thousand** of the people who heard the message Peter preached believed what he said about Jesus, and were **baptized** and **added** to the **church**.

Now the church had over three thousand members. They continued to teach and preach every day. They sold their possessions and divided what they had among themselves so that everyone had what they needed. In **Acts 2:47** we learn that the Lord **added** to the church **daily** those who were saved. As the people from other nations went back home, they carried the gospel with them. When the Jews from Jerusalem moved to other places, they took the gospel with them. The apostle Paul traveled around from town to town, and when the people accepted the message he preached, more and more churches were started. God promised that there would always be a church in existence somewhere in the world. We have a true church today because someone, somewhere, continued to believe what the Bible teaches, and passed it on to us. It is **important** that we come to church and **learn the truth** about God so that we can keep the church going for those who are born after us. Not every group that claims to be a church teaches the truth. We must study our Bibles and know what the truth is so that we can continue to be a true church that is pleasing to God.

Why do we worship on Sunday and not on Saturday like the Jews did? We believe Jesus did away with the Sabbath as a day of worship when He did away with the law and the sacrifices. Jesus arose on the first day of the week, and we believe the early churches met on the first day of the week under the teaching of the apostle Paul. So we pattern our worship after the early churches. Any where and any day of the week that we meet as a group we are a church. We believe that Paul taught the church to assemble on the first day of the week, so our custom is to set aside the first day of the week for a day of rest and a day of worship.



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



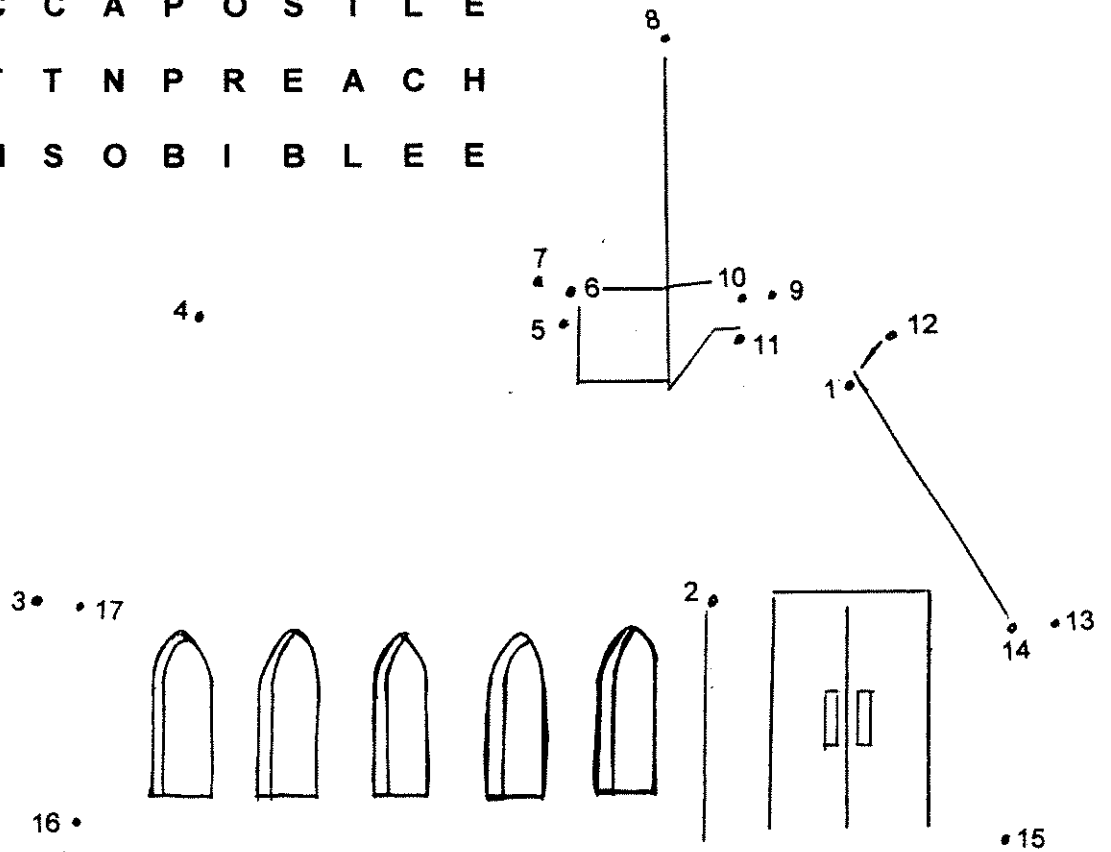
WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

WORD SEARCH

Circle the following words:

CHURCH JESUS BAPTIZE APOSTLE ACTS PREACH
HOLY SPIRIT BIBLE PRAY SING STUDY

J E S U S A N B O U R S
P H P O I B E S I N G T
R Q M C H U R C H R C U
A H O L Y S P I R I T D
Y C V B A P T I Z E X Y
U H H C C A P O S T L E
X U B T T N P R E A C H
D R V N S O B I B L E E



WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Worksheet 3 Answers

WORD SEARCH

Circle the following words:

CHURCH JESUS BAPTIZE APOSTLE ACTS PREACH
HOLYSPIRIT BIBLE PRAY SING STUDY

J	E	S	U	S	A	N	B	O	U	R	S
P	H	P	O	I	B	E	S	I	N	G	T
R	Q	M	C	H	U	R	C	H	R	C	U
A	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	D
Y	C	V	B	A	P	T	I	Z	E	X	Y
U	H	H	C	C	A	P	O	S	T	L	E
X	U	B	T	T	N	P	R	E	A	C	H
D	R	V	N	S	O	B	I	B	L	E	E

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Worksheet 4

The next 10 pages are patterns to make a church house from heavyweight paper.

The first 8 are for a large church with pews, chenille wire people, trees and bushes.

The last 2 pages are for a smaller building, if you prefer to make it rather than the large one.

You may want to make the large church as a weekly project.

TO ASSEMBLE CHURCH BUILDING

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

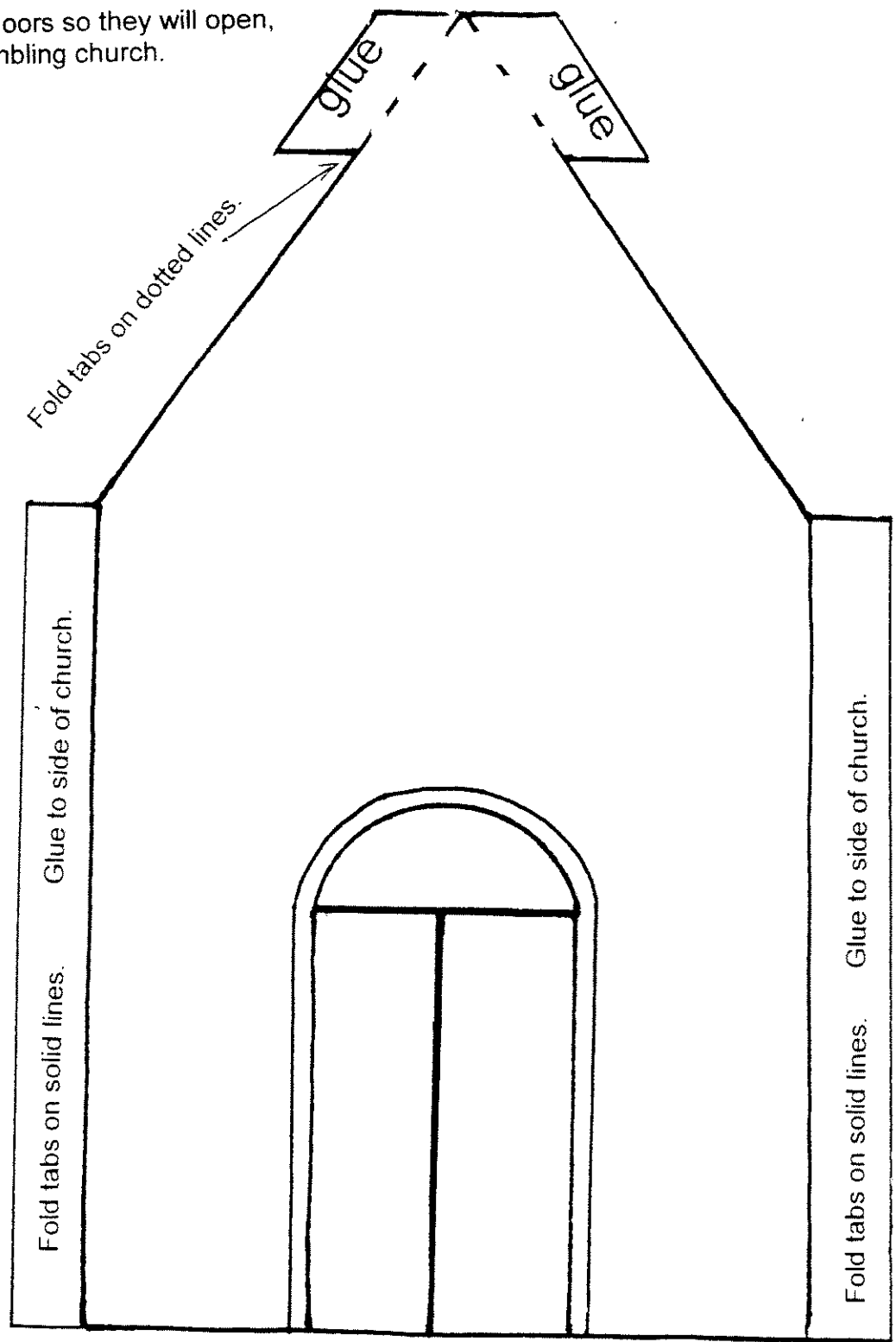
1. Cut out all pieces of church.
2. Cut out windows and doors before assembling.
3. Fold across top of one side piece on solid line. Cut slits in roof for steeple. Paste two side pieces together at the peak of roof. Fold on dotted lines.
4. Fold back tabs on sides of church front and back. Paste to inside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

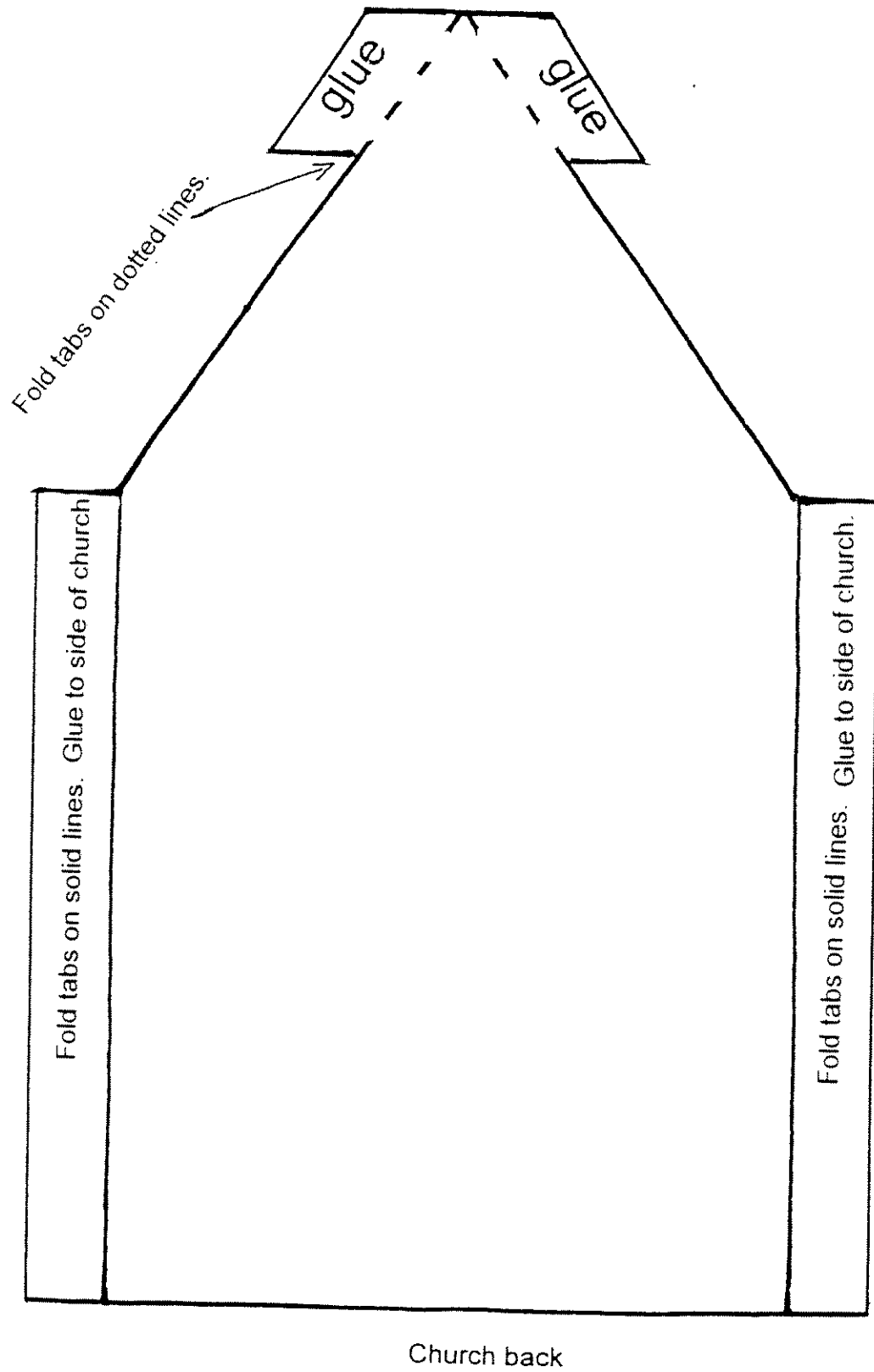
Assemble pews and place inside church.

Make chenille wire people to sit on pews.

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

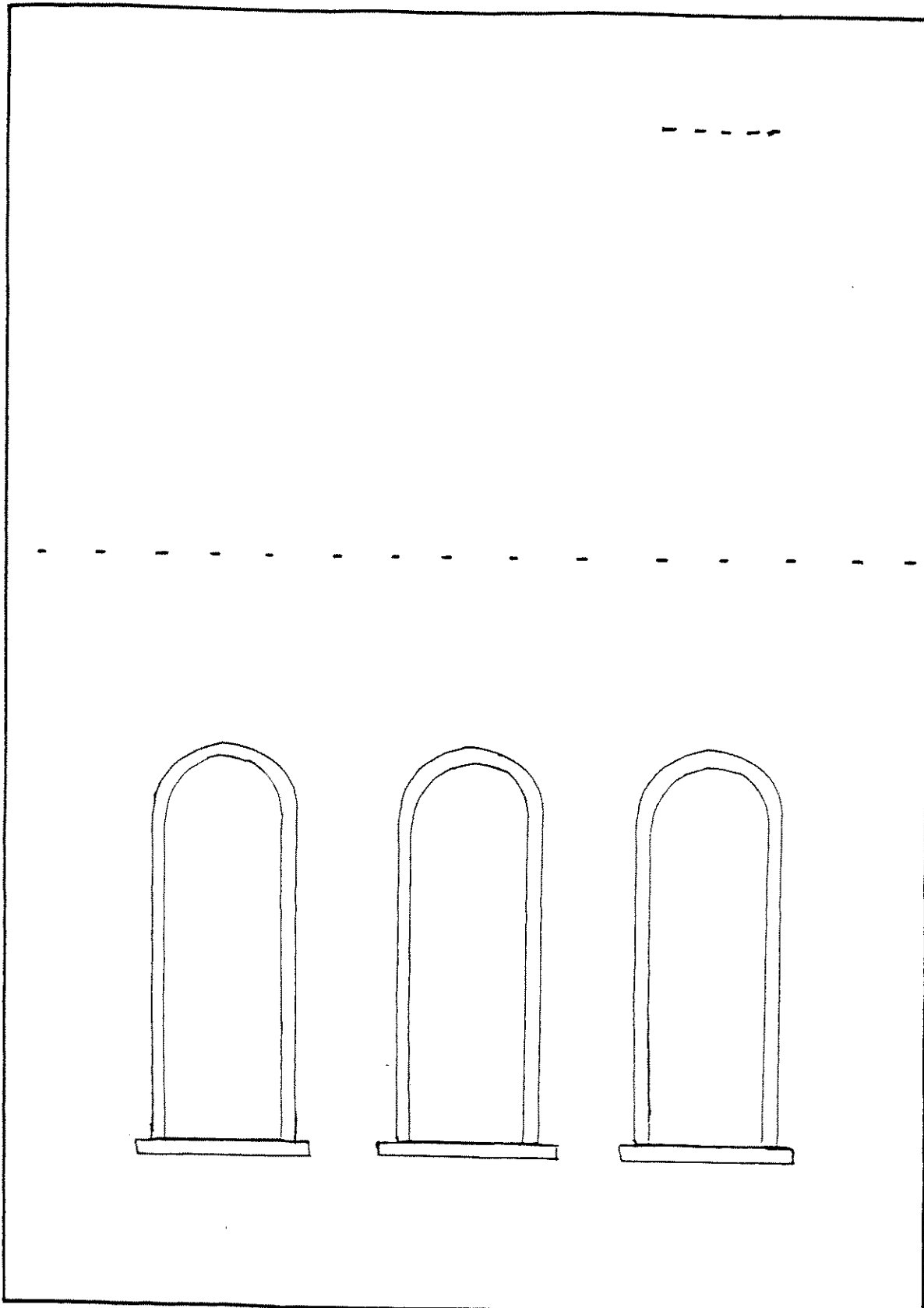


Church front



Cut out windows before assembling church.

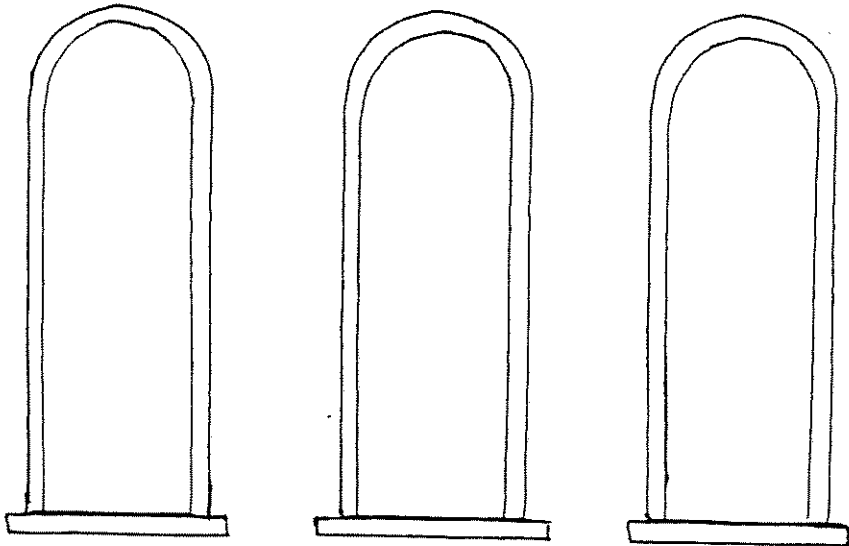
Cut 3 1/2 by 5 inch piece of colored paper or cellophane and paste on inside behind windows.



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

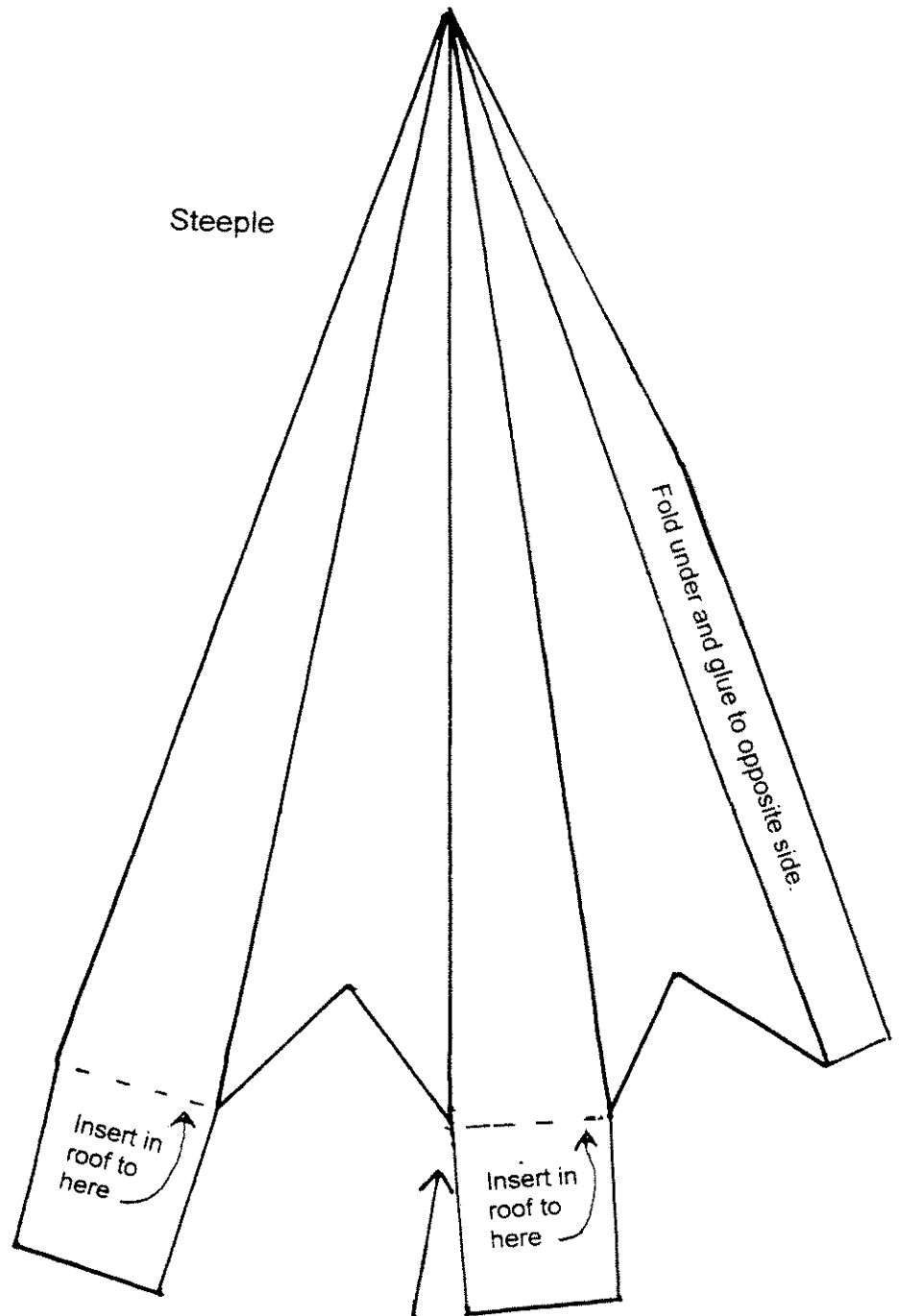
Fold on dotted line

Fold under and glue at peak of roof.

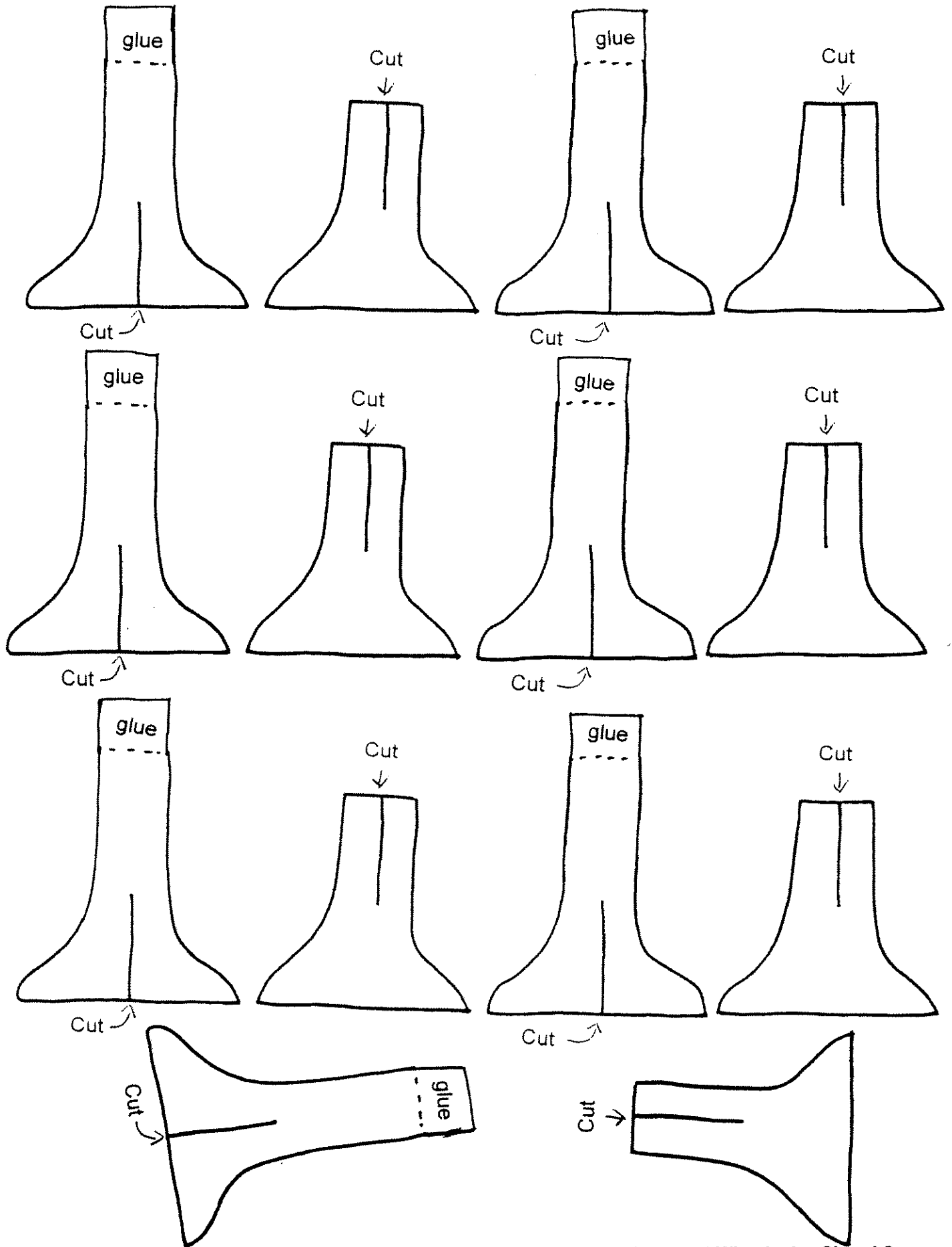


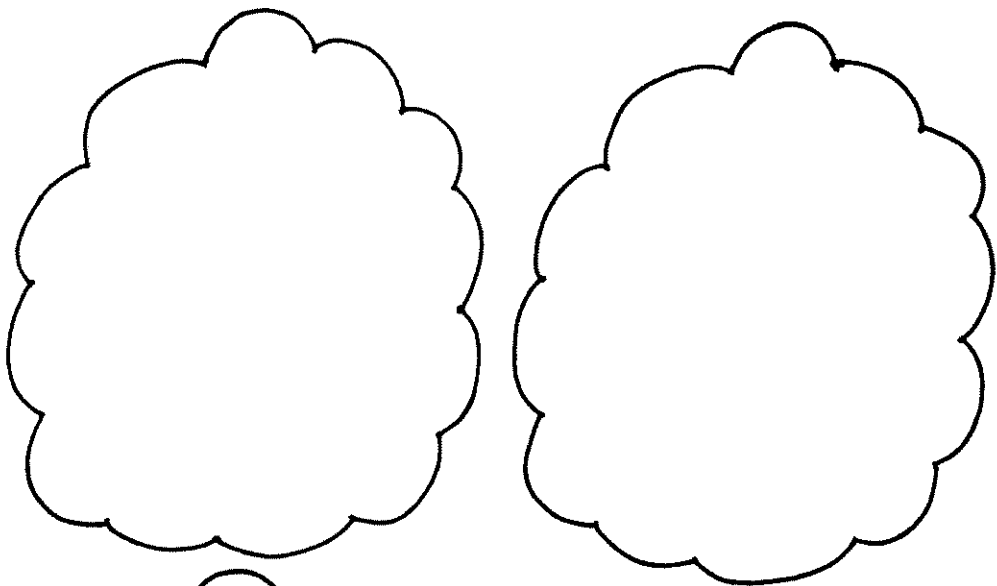
Cut slits in roof toward front of building to insert steeple.

Fold on dotted line

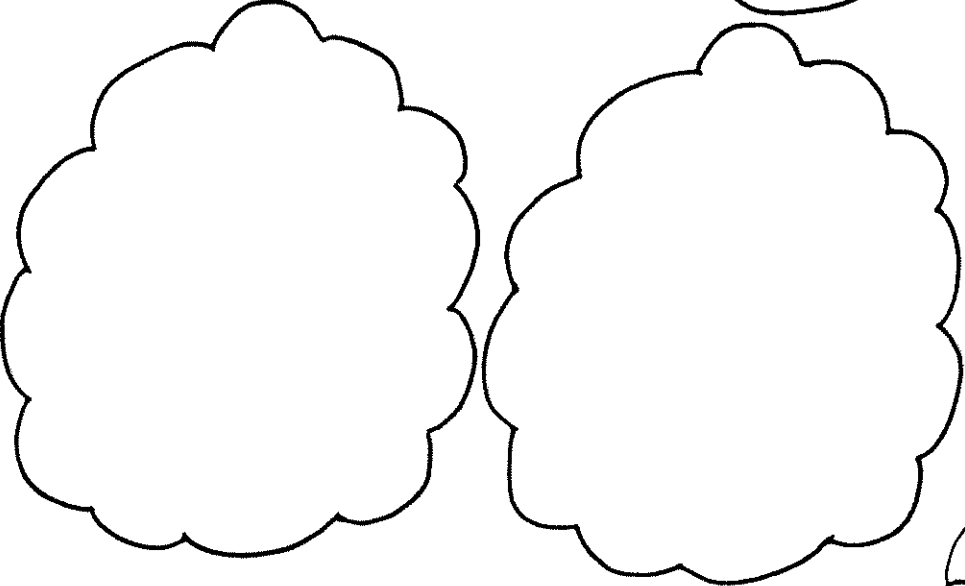


For ease in glueing, fold under tab,
and make second fold here
Paste and then fold on other two lines.



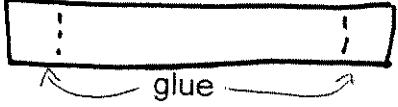
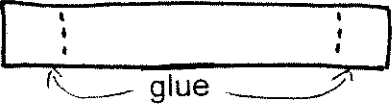
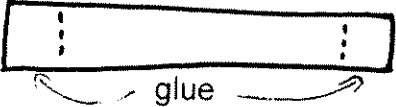
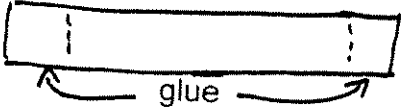


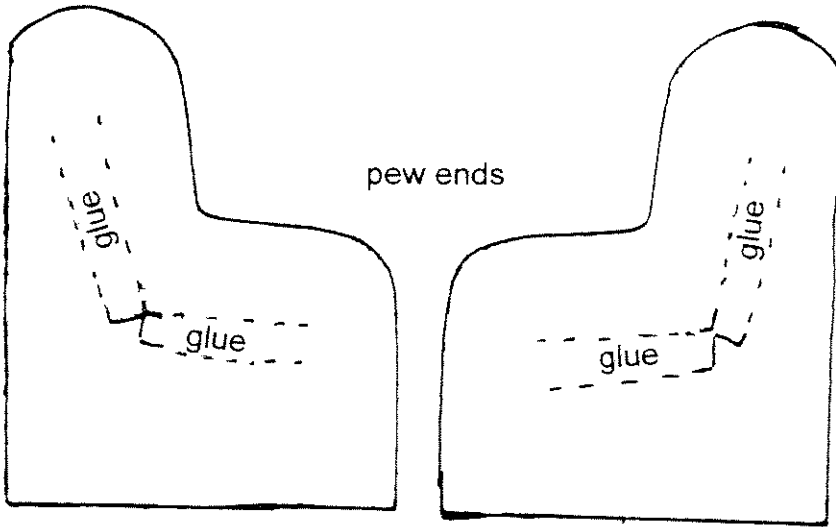
Cut tree tops from green construction paper.



Cut bushes from green construction paper.

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

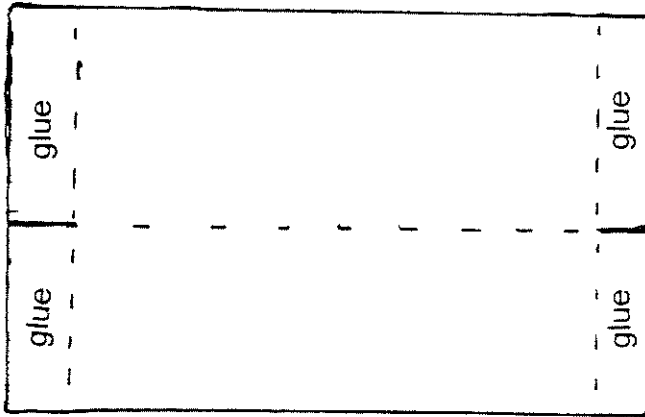




pew ends

Cut 2 ends for each pew.

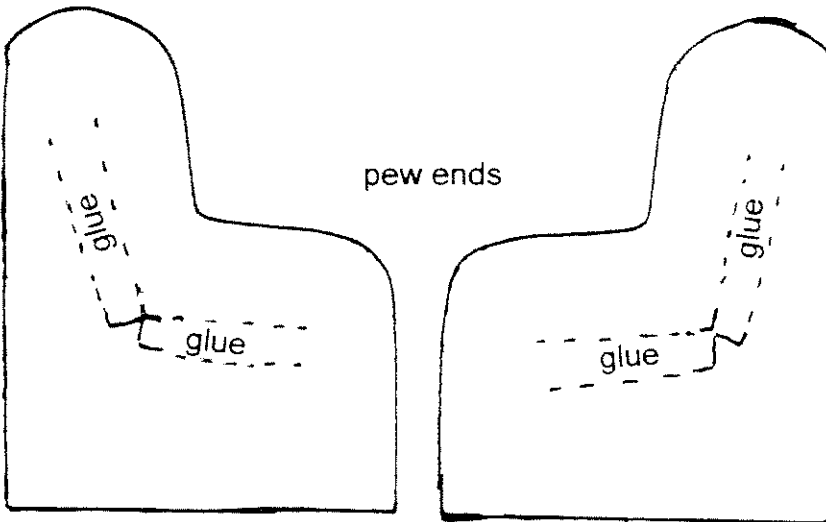
pew seat and back



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

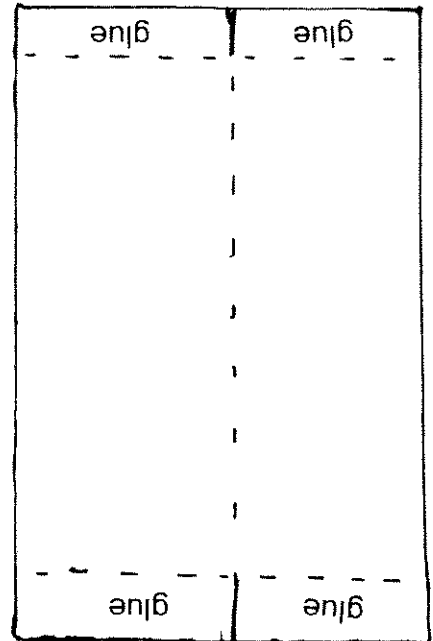
Make as many as desired for each child.

Add chenille wire people.



pew ends

pew seat and back

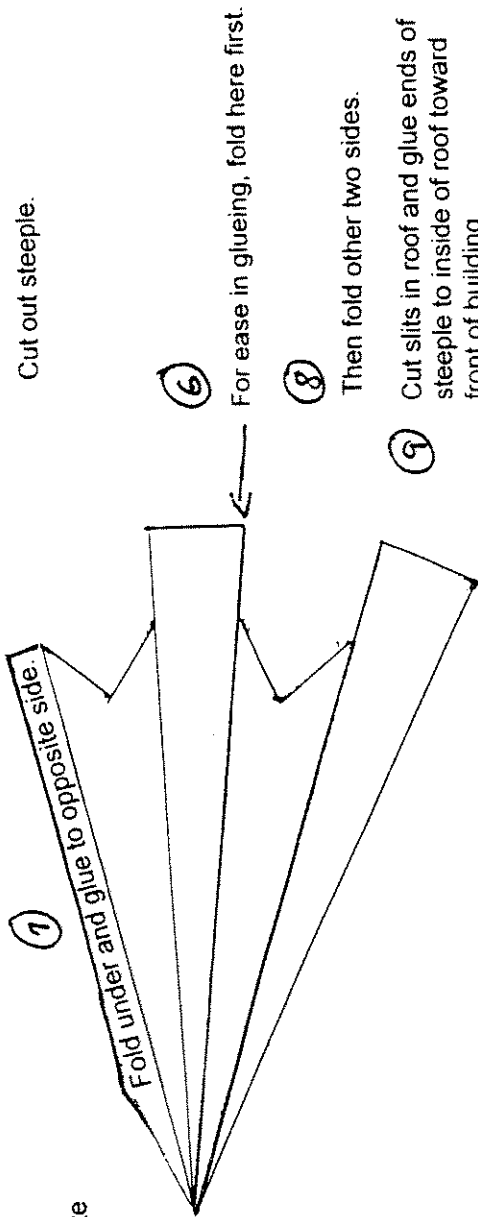


Lesson 4 What Is the Church?

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.

If desired, color church before assembling.



1

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

5

Cut out steeple.

6

For ease in glueing, fold here first.

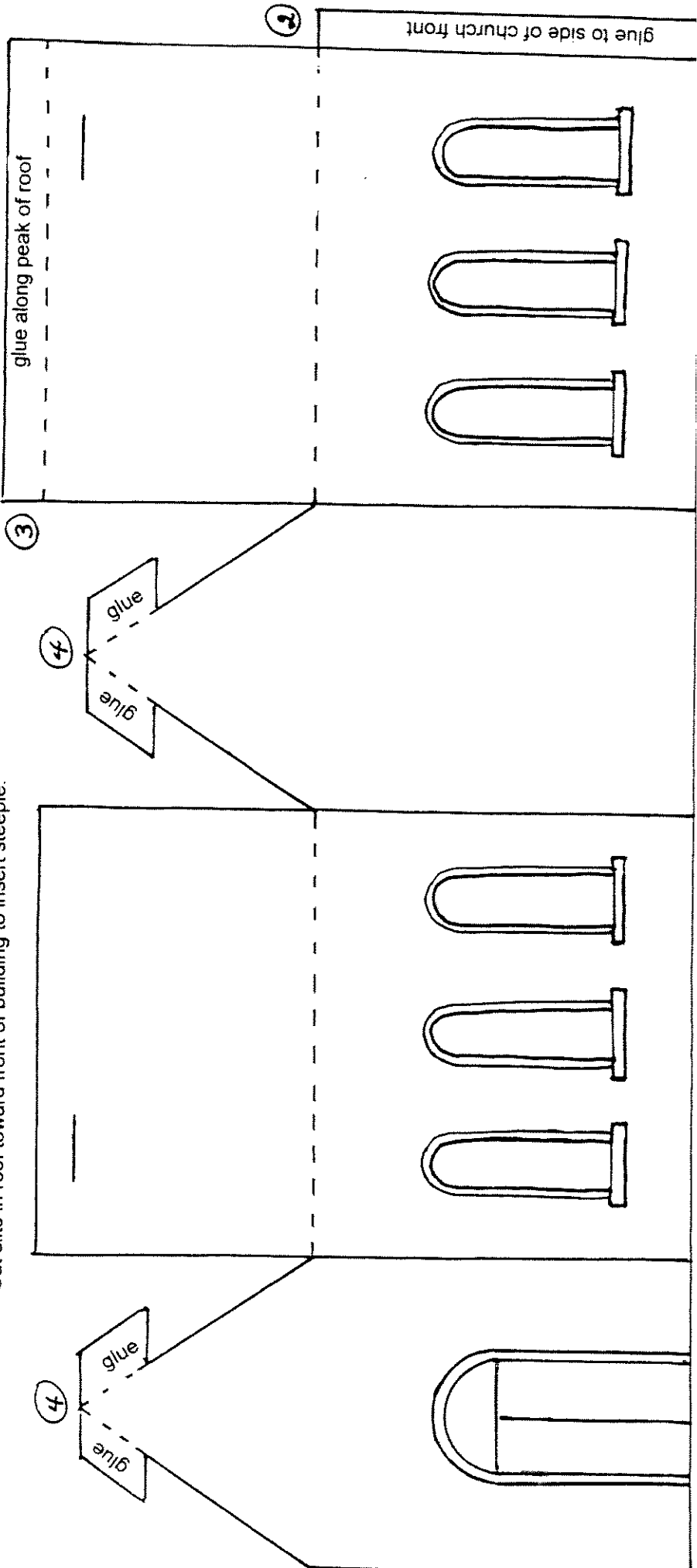
8

Then fold other two sides.

9

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

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



3

glue along peak of roof

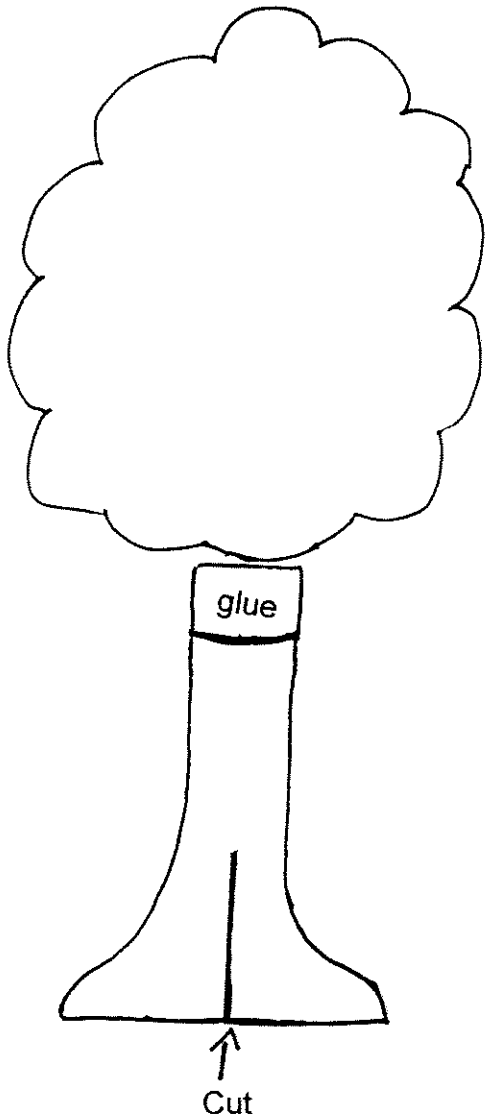
glue to side of church front

4

glue

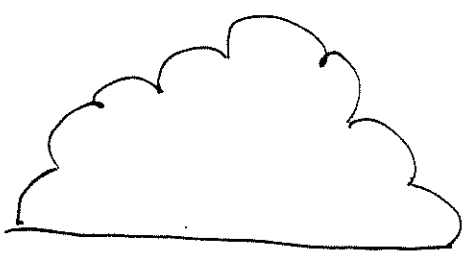
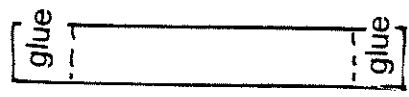
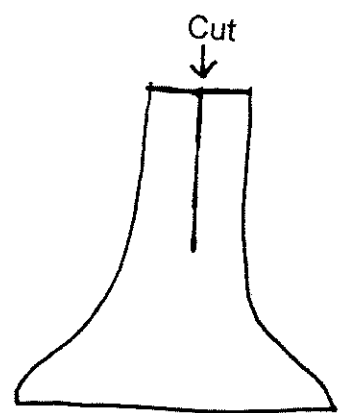
4

glue



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.

Lesson 5: WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

Scriptures: Luke 1:5-25, 57-66, 80 Exodus 28:33-35, 30:1-10 I Chronicles 23:13

Aim: To acquaint the student with the one sent from God to prepare the hearts of the Jewish nation to receive Jesus as the Son of God, and prepare the material for the organization of the first church.

MEMORY VERSE: John 1:6

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.”

About 400 years since the last book in the Old Testament was written, and several hundred years since any prophecies had been made about the coming of the Son of God, it was now time Jesus to be born. God needed someone to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus. He needed someone to announce to the world that this was His Son, the Messiah, and to prepare the hearts of the people of Israel to receive Him as the Promised One.

Zacharias, the Priest

The first chapter of the book of Luke tells us of a man named **Zacharias**. He was a descendant of the tribe of **Levi**, the tribe of **priests** in the Old Testament. His wife, Elizabeth, was also a descendant of the tribe of Levi, of the daughters of Aaron, who was the first high priest in the nation of Israel. Luke tells us, *“And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.”* No fault could be found in their lives or their service to God. They had a good life and were well respected people, but one thing was missing that would make them very happy. They wanted a child very much. They were both getting to be very old and but did not have any children.

The Promise of A Son

Each family in the tribe of Levi had a certain part of the worship for which they were responsible. Zacharias' responsibility as a priest was to go into the Holy Place in the temple every day to burn incense. One day when Zacharias went into the temple, **Gabriel**, an angel of the Lord appeared, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. Zacharias probably had never seen an angel before, and when he saw him, he became frightened. The angel said, *“Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.”* Zacharias had prayed for many years for a son. The angel assured him God had heard his prayers, and they would be answered. He would have a son. This child would be filled with the Holy Spirit from the time he was born. God had chosen the nation of Israel to be His special people, but He knew they would reject His Son as the messiah. The angel said that John would prepare a people for the Lord. This people he prepared would be the church.

The Sign

Zacharias could not believe that he would really have a son. He was an **old man** and his wife was an **old woman**. They thought the time was long past that they should ever have a child. Zacharias did not doubt God, but he doubted himself. Was this really happening, or was it just a dream? How could they know that all of this had really happened? How could they know it was not just a dream? Zacharias asked Gabriel, "How shall I **know** this will happen?" The angel said, "*I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings.*" He identified himself as Gabriel, the angel God used to send messages to men, and said because Zacharias did not believe him, and in order to prove that this really happened, he would not be able to speak until his son was born. The people waiting outside the temple for Zacharias became anxious because it took him so long in the temple. They could not hear the bells around the hem of his robe jingle as he walked. They did not know what was happening. Then when he came out, he could not speak. The people assumed that he had seen a vision that had left him speechless. As soon as his time of service in the temple was finished, he went to his own house, and told his wife, Elizabeth, the good news. He must have written down what had happened, because he could not speak until the child was born.

The Birth Of John

After several months Elizabeth's baby was born. It was a little boy, just as the angel had said. The neighbors and relatives were all very excited. When a Jewish boy was born, they did not name him until he was 8 days old. When the time came to name him, the relatives all called him Zacharias after his father. Elizabeth said, "Not so; but he shall be called **John**." They could not understand. "*And they said unto her, there is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.*" Why would they name him John? There had never been any family members named John. Where had they gotten this name? They asked Zacharias what he wanted to name the child. Zacharias wrote, "*His name is John.*" Immediately he could speak, and he began to praise God.

His Mission

John was sent to go before the Lord to **prepare the way** for the coming of the Son of God. When a king traveled, he sat in a 'seat' on a 'platform' that was carried on the shoulders of many men. The roadways were rough, rocky, and crooked. Before the king traveled, they would send men before him to prepare the road for his safe passage. If the men carrying the king stepped in a hole, or stumbled over rocks, the king would be in danger. If there were large rocks, they would dig them up and remove them. They would fill in the holes left by the rocks, to make the ground level and smooth. Sometimes trees must be cut down to make the road straight. They would go before him and prepare the roadway so the men carrying him would not have anything over which to stumble. They would cut down the humps, and fill in the holes; make the crooked ways straight, and the rough ways smooth. This was the purpose of John; to prepare the way (the hearts) for the coming of the messiah. By his preaching he would remove any obstacles over which the Jews would 'stumble'.

The law was intended to teach the people that they were sinful and in need of a Savior. But the Jews thought that by keeping the laws they became righteous in the sight of God. John came to tell them that they were sinful, and in need of forgiveness. He taught them they needed to be baptized to show the great sacrifice that Jesus would make: His death, burial, and resurrection. When they

offered animal sacrifices it taught them of the sacrifice of Jesus. This was all going to change. The law of Moses would be taken out of the way, and after the crucifixion of Jesus, there would be no more animal sacrifices made at the temple. Their whole system of worship would change. They would not do the things they had always done, and their fathers before them had done. They would no longer offer an animal to show they trusted God to forgive their sins. They would no longer burn incense. They would no longer observe holy days, and feasts. Their entire system of worship would change. Their minds had to be prepared for this change. They had to believe it was not being done away, but being fulfilled. The whole purpose of what their fathers had believed and taught was coming to pass. They had to accept this change of worship and not feel they were denying God, but were accepting the truth about God and about Jesus, God's Son.

John began baptizing people in the Jordan River, because there was enough water there to completely bury the person under the water. This pictured the burial of Jesus. When the person was raised up out of the water, this pictured Jesus coming back to life. John was called "the Baptist" because he was the first person to baptize people. This had not been done before. He gained a lot of attention, and many people came to see him out of curiosity. He would not baptize everyone who came to him. First, he made them prove by the way they lived that they had repented of their sins, then he baptized them after he was sure they had already repented.

John stayed in the desert area until God told him it was time to announce Jesus to the nation of Israel. He grew up in the wilderness around Judea. He wore clothing made from **camel's hair**, a rough, common type fabric, with a **leather belt** made from the skin of an animal tied around him. He ate **locusts** and **wild honey**. Locusts were not an unclean food. They were permitted under the law that God gave to Moses concerning the foods that the Israelite people could eat. He did not sleep in a soft bed, and wear fine clothes. He did not eat rich foods. He had clothing sufficient to keep him warm, and cover him as he slept at night. He ate what he found in the wilderness, sufficient to keep him filled and healthy. He lived in the world for one purpose, and that was to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus. Jesus said that besides Himself, there had never been a greater man live than John the Baptist. **Matthew 11:11**. John was about 30 years old when God told him it was time to begin preaching. (**Mark 1:2**)

His Ministry

The ministry of John was not very long. He had preached for about six months when Jesus came to him to be baptized. When Jesus called out some of the men whom John had baptized, to be apostles, or preachers, then they began to baptize by the authority of Jesus. Some of the Jews came to John and asked him why they were also baptizing, and John said, "*There is one greater than I who will come after me, and he must increase, but I must decrease.*" John knew he had come to prepare the hearts of the people to receive Jesus, and he had done that. He did not want attention. He did not want followers. When Jesus started his church, he gave them the authority to baptize, and so John had completed his purpose.

His Death

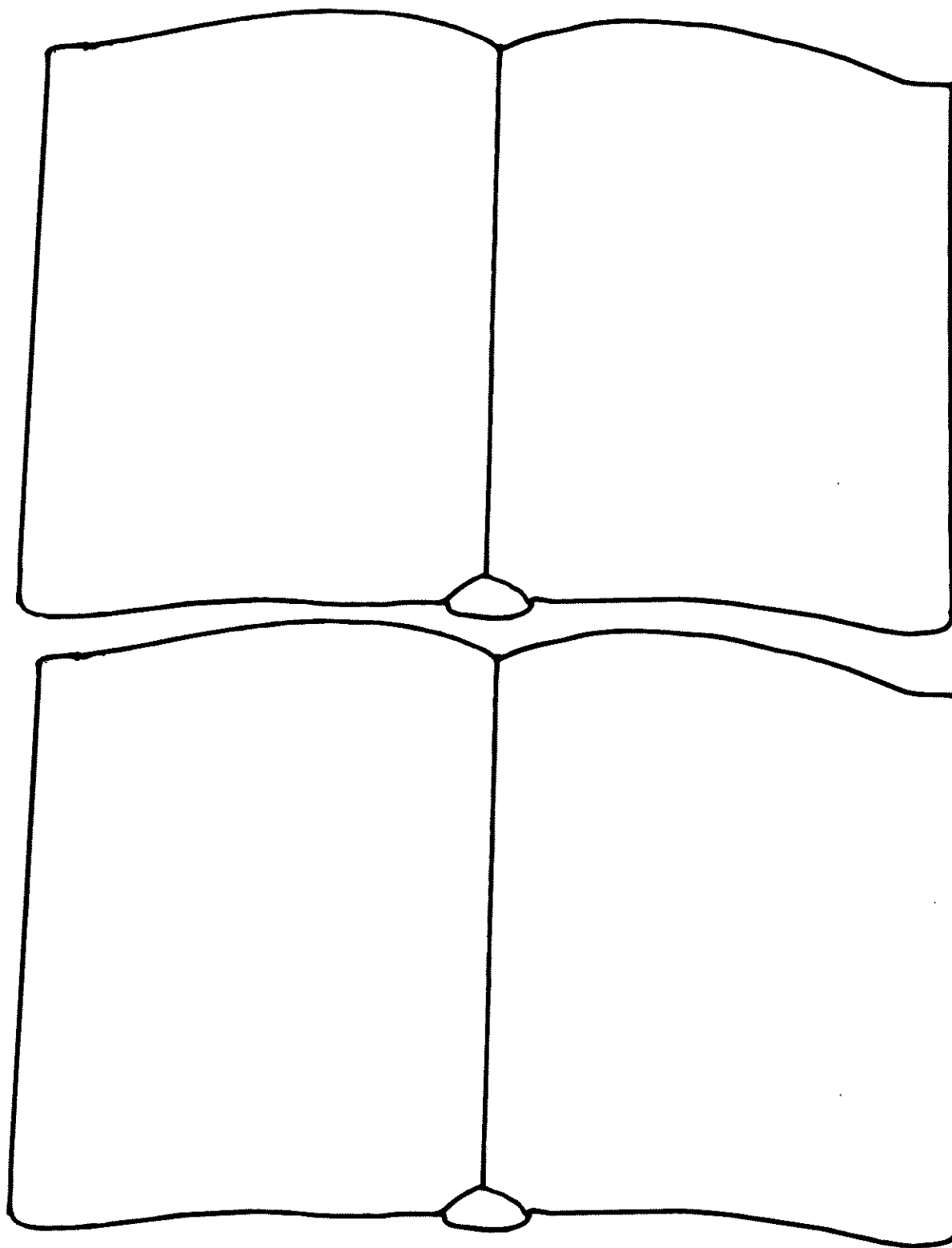
Matthew 14:1-12 tells us of the death of John the Baptist. Sometimes God uses ungodly men to work His will. The ruler of the area was named Herod. He was not a godly man. He had taken his brother's wife to be his wife, and John told him this was wrong in the eyes of God. It was against the laws of the Jewish people. Herodias hated John because he had condemned them for their sins, and would have had him killed, but Herod instead placed him in prison. After some time, the king had a birthday, celebrated with a huge feast and invited all of his important friends to attend. For entertainment, the daughter of Herodias came and danced before them, and pleased the king very much. In return, Herod asked what she would like to have as a reward. Herodias saw this as an opportunity to get rid of John the Baptist, so she told her daughter to ask for his head on a charger. A charger was a tray, or large platter, on which they served their food at a feast. She came back to the king, and said, "I want the head of John the Baptist brought to me on a charger." The king was very sorry at her request, but because of the promise he had made to her before all of his guests, he could not refuse to grant it. He immediately sent the executioner to the prison and had John beheaded. They brought the head on a charger and presented it to the young girl. She took it to her mother.

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

John knew what his purpose in the world was, and he knew that he had served that purpose.

WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

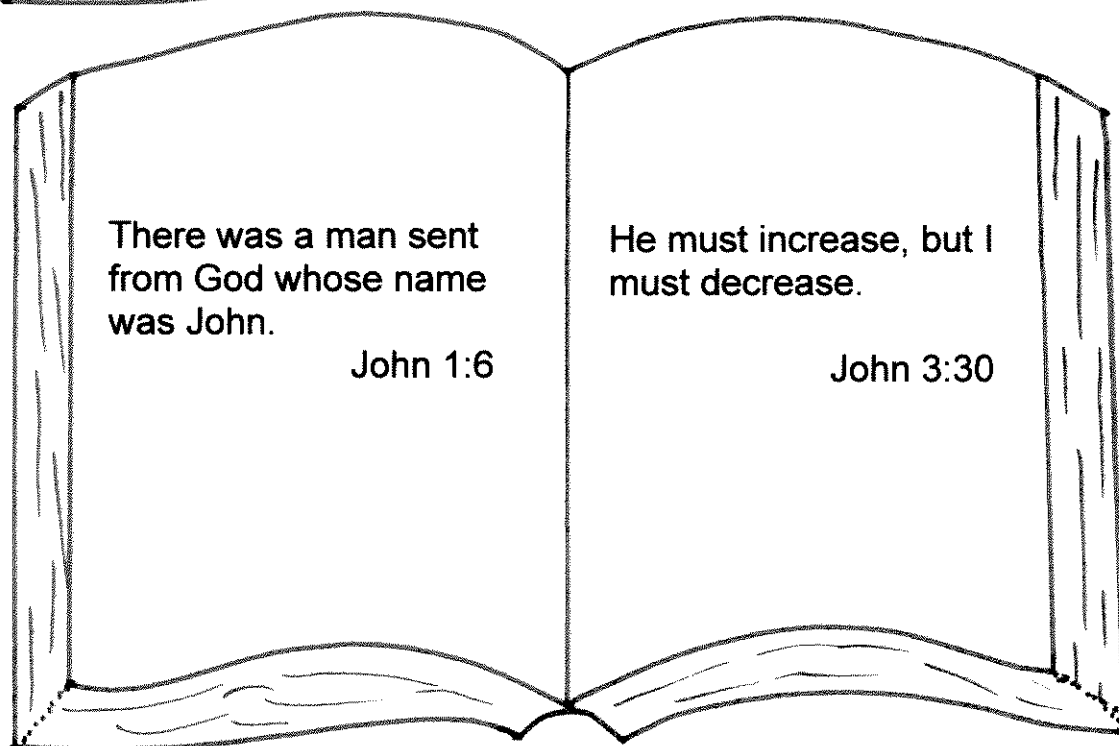
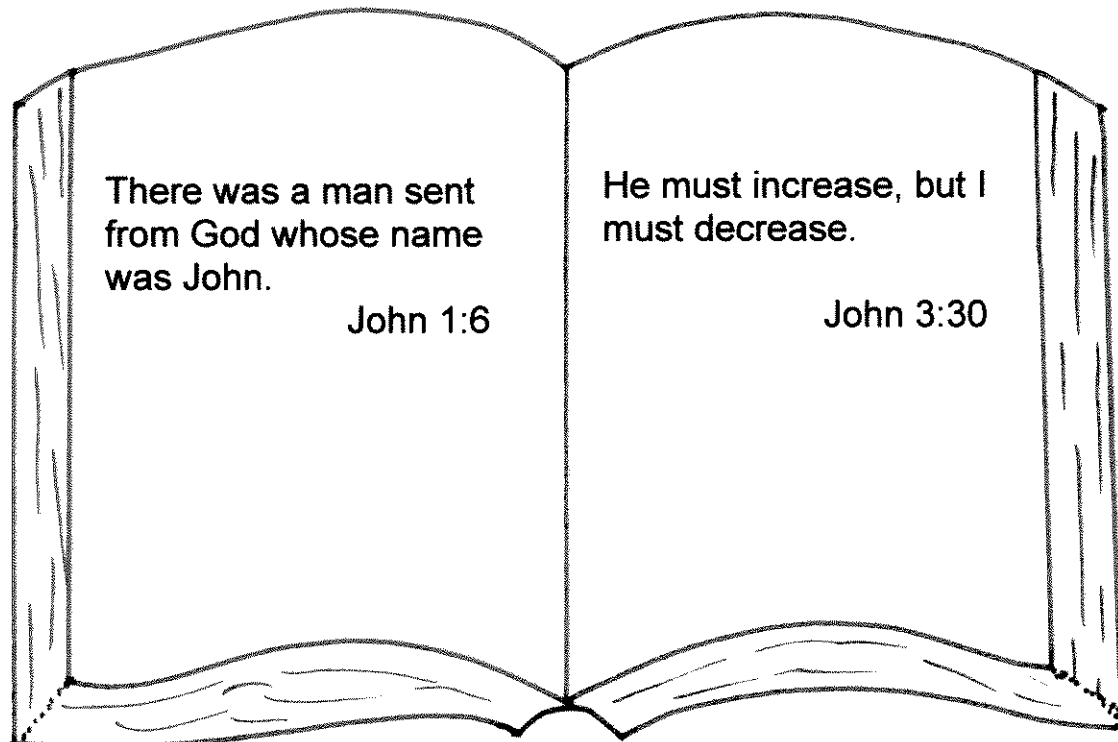
Cut one from black construction paper for each student.



WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

Worksheet 2

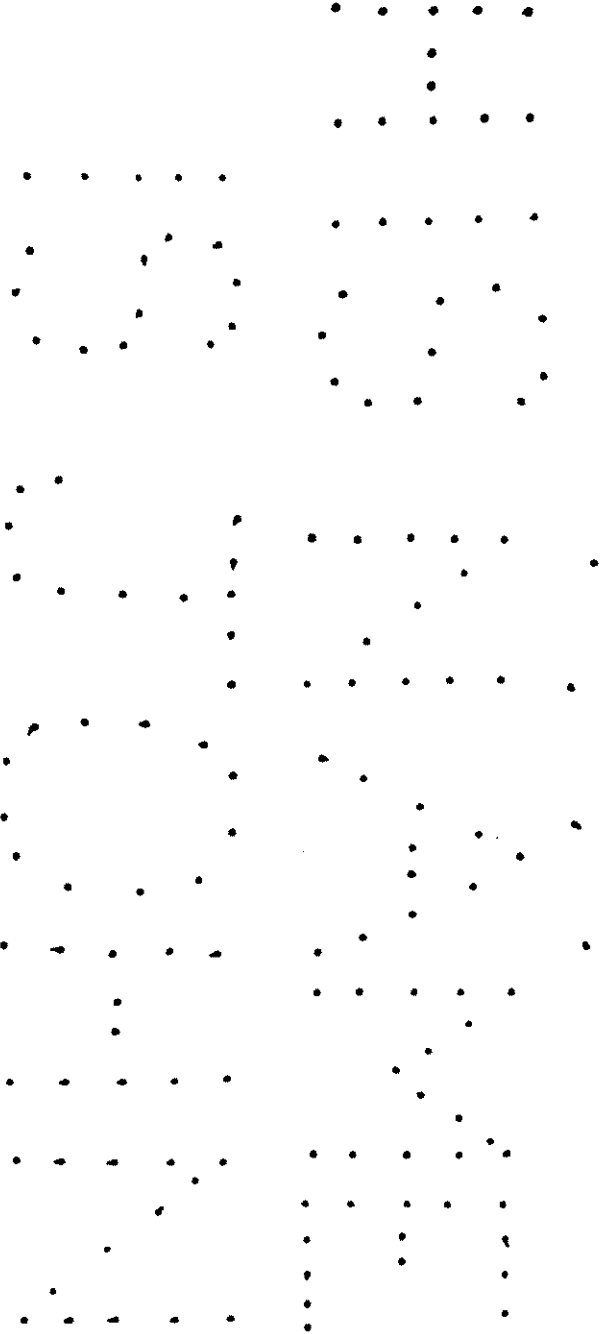
Cut one from white or parchment colored paper to paste inside black cover.
Add red ribbon.





The angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias in the temple.
"And the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."

Connect the dots to finish the picture.



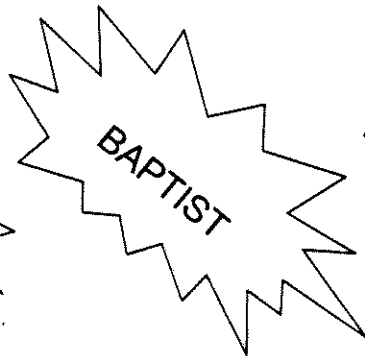
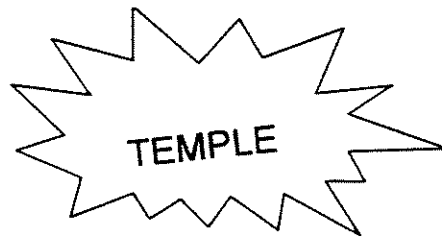
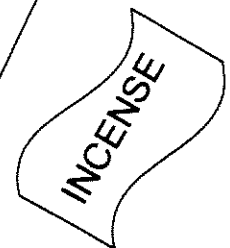
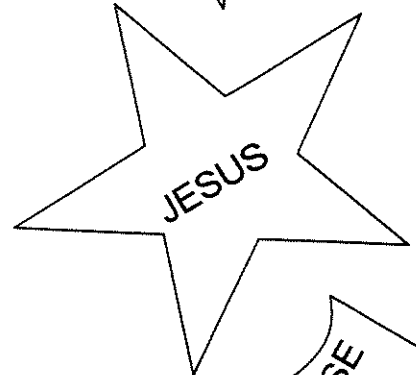


WORD SEARCH



Circle the words found in our lesson.

G	H	S	M	R	U	E	U	Z	J	F	L
A	N	G	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H
Y	W	D	E	W	B	C	G	F	S	N	H
I	G	A	E	N	H	O	J	I	U	I	A
N	Y	N	M	A	V	E	T	O	S	Z	W
C	V	E	R	G	L	P	S	N	L	T	M
E	Z	I	T	P	A	B	E	O	P	F	C
N	A	V	M	B	I	B	I	K	G	Y	T
S	L	E	F	O	P	F	R	S	Y	Q	N
E	T	X	D	X	J	Y	P	I	T	D	D
C	A	E	I	A	R	V	G	D	E	I	C
E	R	T	Y	A	H	S	G	Z	S	L	U

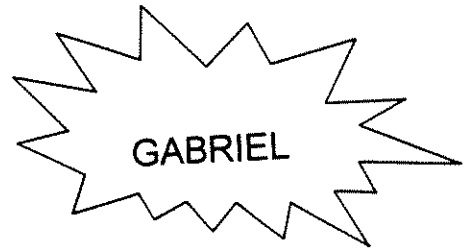


Who Was John the Baptist?

Worksheet 5 Answers

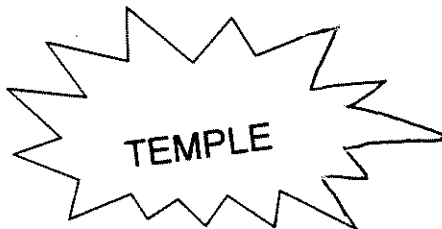
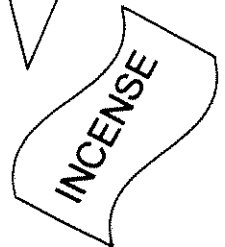
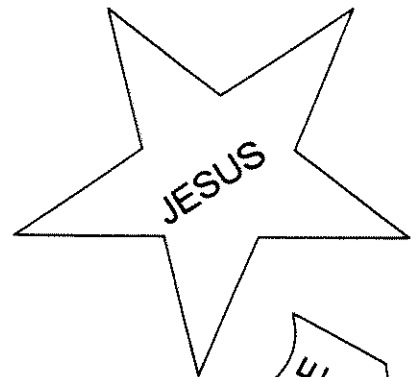


WORD SEARCH



Circle the words found in our lesson.

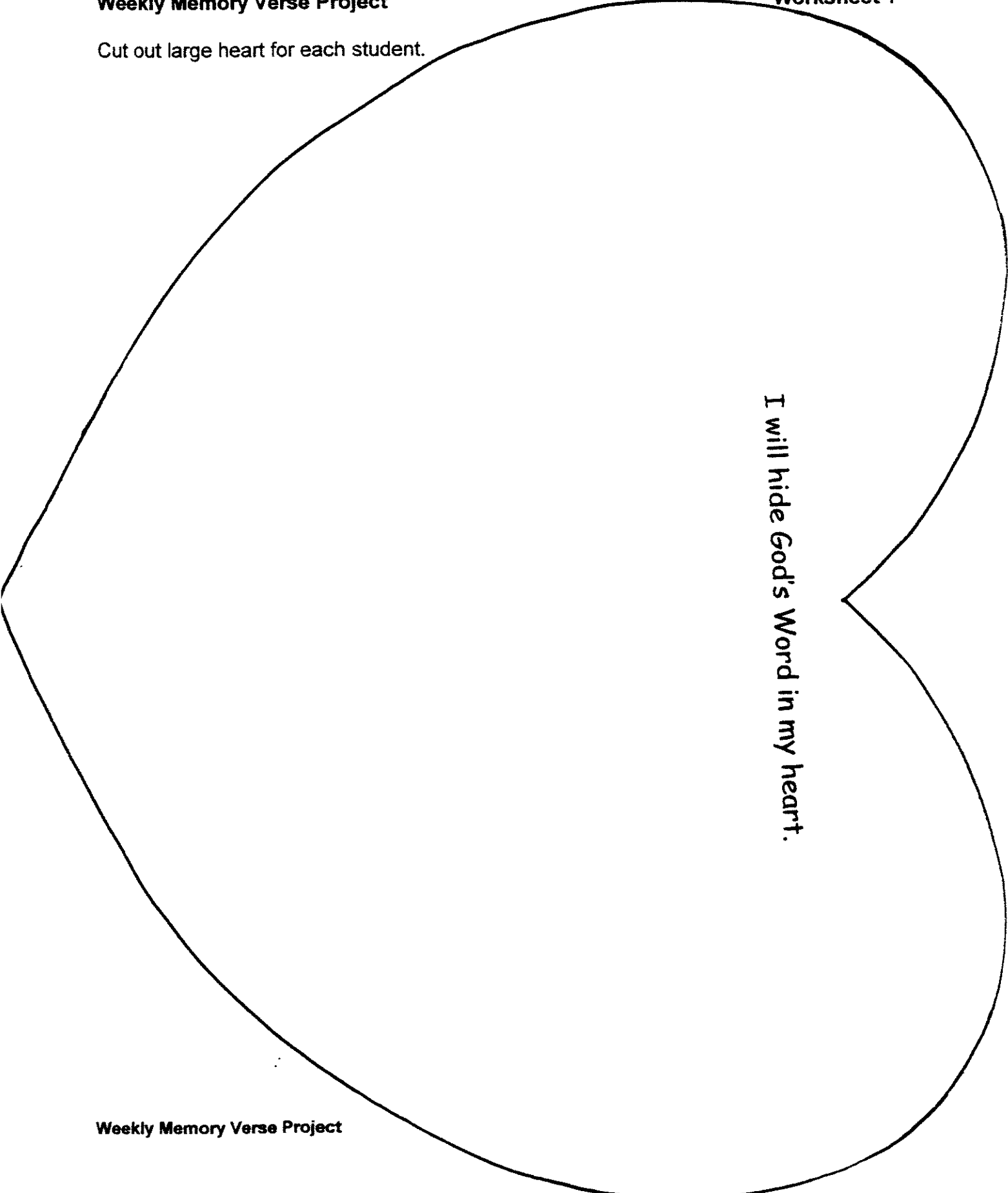
G	H	S	M	R	U	E	U	Z	J	F	L
A	N	G	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H
Y	W	D	E	W	B	C	G	F	S	N	H
I	G	A	E	N	H	O	J	I	U	I	A
N	Y	N	M	A	V	E	T	O	S	Z	W
C	V	E	R	G	L	P	S	N	L	T	M
E	Z	I	T	P	A	B	E	O	P	F	C
N	A	V	M	B	I	B	I	K	G	Y	T
S	L	E	F	O	P	F	R	S	Y	Q	N
E	T	X	D	X	J	Y	P	I	T	D	D
C	A	E	I	A	R	V	G	D	E	I	C
E	R	T	Y	A	H	S	G	Z	S	L	U



Weekly Memory Verse Project

Worksheet 1

Cut out large heart for each student.

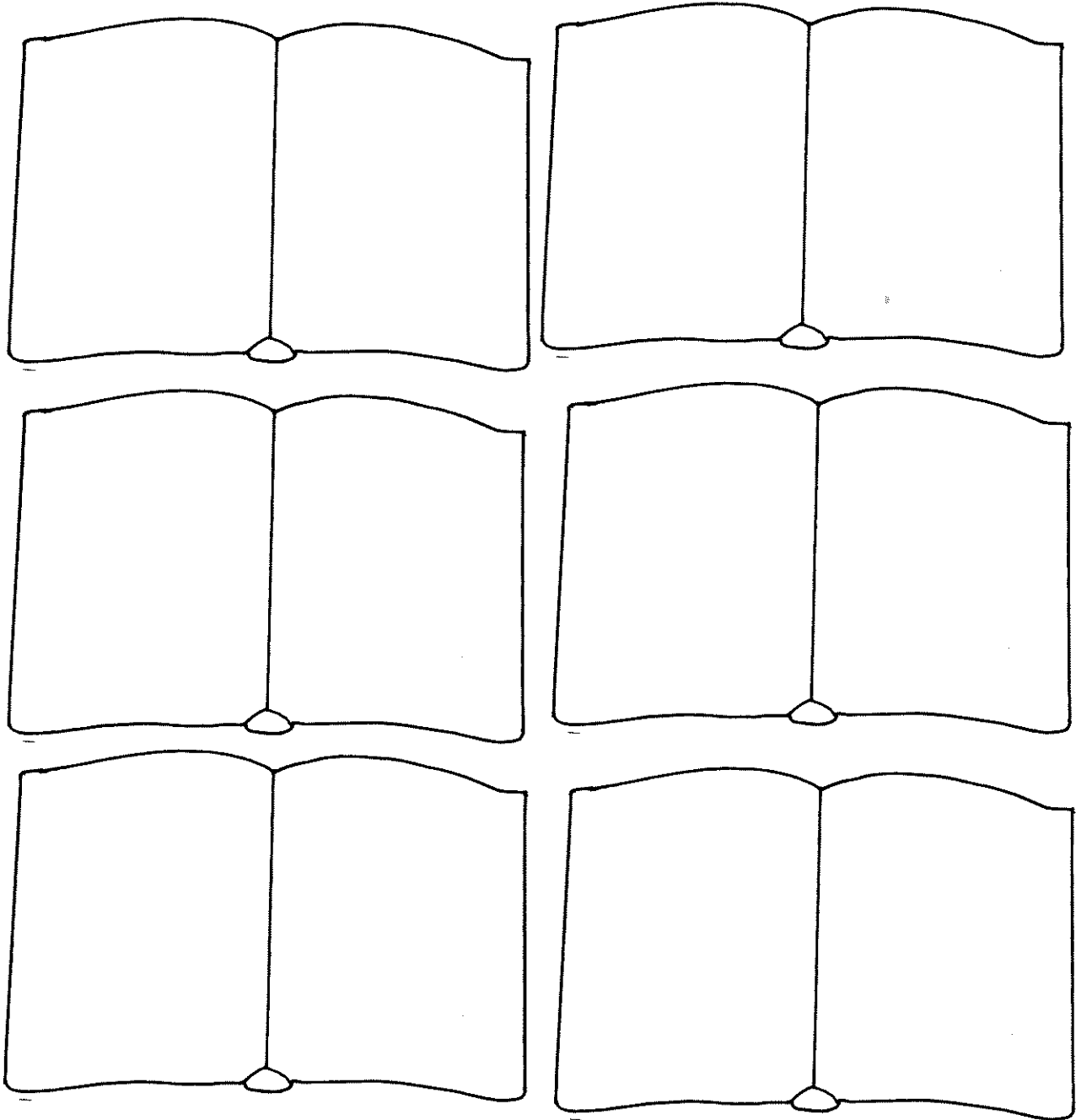


I will hide God's Word in my heart.

Cut out lower portion of heart and paste to large heart along outside edges to form a pocket.

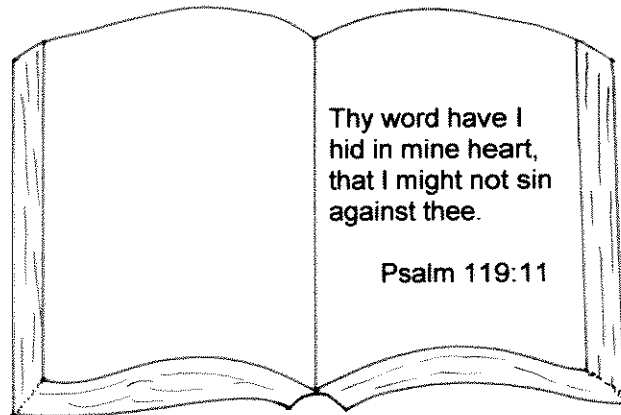
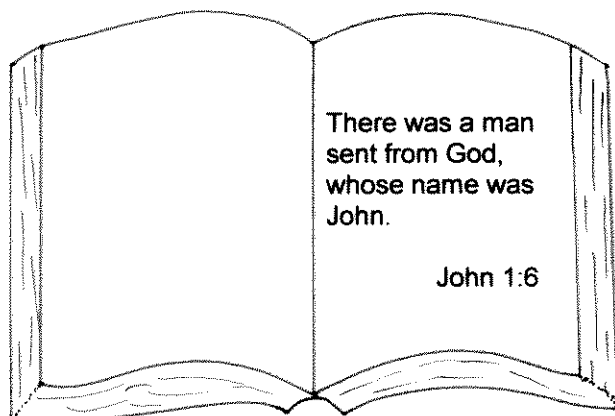
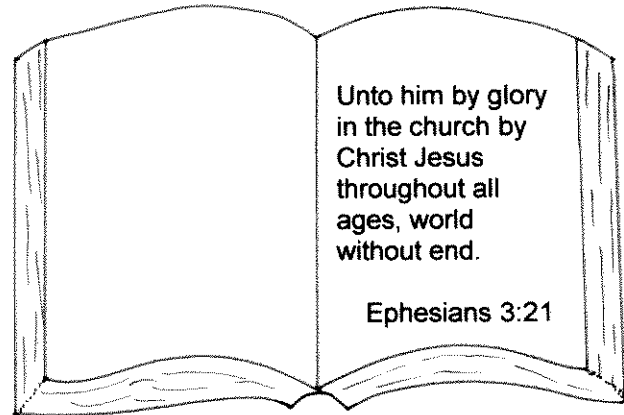
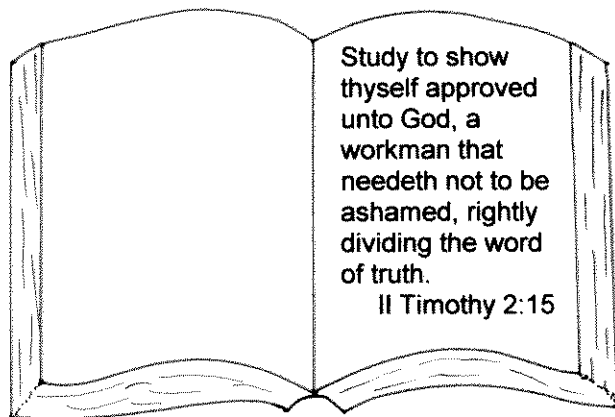
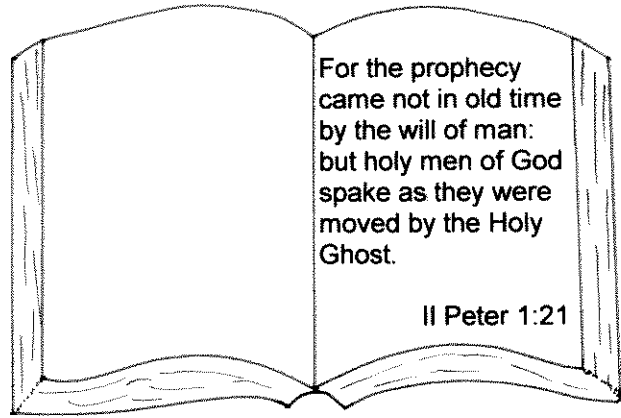
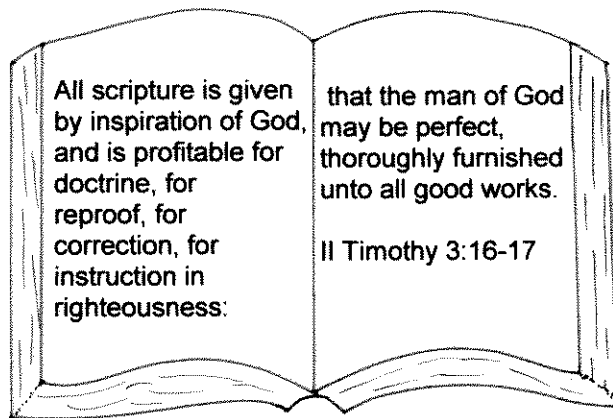
Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin
against thee.
Psalm 119: 11

Make one black Bible cover for each student for each day.



Print memory verses on white paper. Cut out and glue inside black cover. Fold.

Place memory verse in heart each day the student is present.



(Use as a bonus verse)