

Teaching Aids

SESSION 1

Letter to Families



Dear Families,

Welcome to the Fall 2023 quarter of *Shine: Living in God's Light!* We begin with stories from Genesis, focusing on the family of Abraham and Sarah. This family had many challenges, as all families do today. They struggled to get along and love each other well. They weren't sure if God was going to come through for them. They also learned to make peace and to trust God's promises. The book of Exodus follows the story of the Israelites as they suffered in slavery and then were led to freedom. After many years, they finally came to the Promised Land.

These ancient stories have much to teach about who God is and what it means to be the people of God. We can learn more about living in community with others. Through times of struggle and times of joy, we can draw strength from our relationship with God and each other.

As a parent or caregiver, you have an important role in your child's faith formation during this phase of life. Share what you like best about the Bible stories. Say simple prayers with your child. Listen to your child's ideas about who God is. Incorporate faith conversations into your daily routine. This can be as simple as saying "Look at that beautiful tree that God made!" or "I am feeling sad right now. I am going to tell God how I feel." This conveys that a relationship with God is not a "church thing," but a part of everyday life.

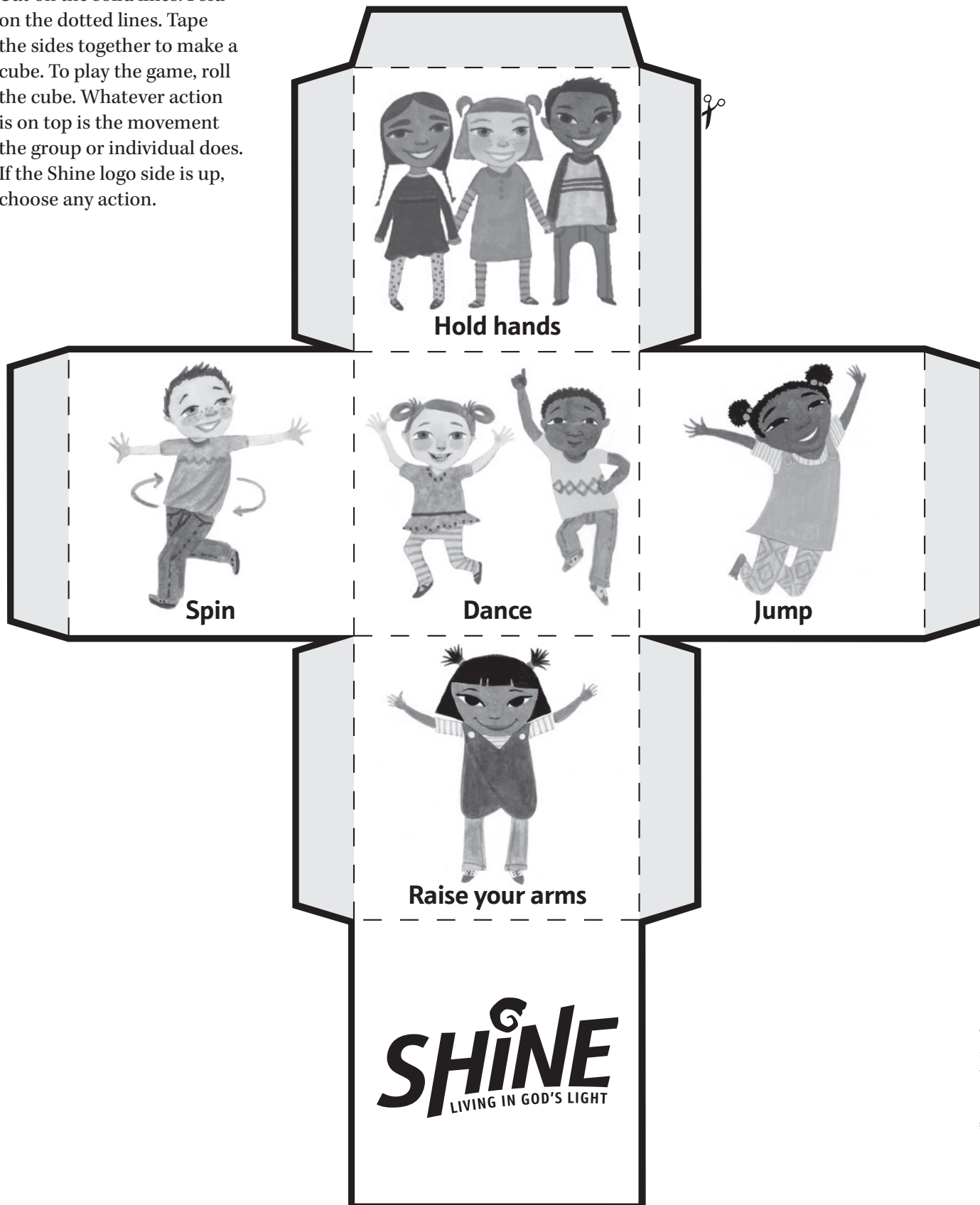
Blessings to you and your family as you explore God's story together!



SESSION 1

Move Cube

Cut on the solid lines. Fold on the dotted lines. Tape the sides together to make a cube. To play the game, roll the cube. Whatever action is on top is the movement the group or individual does. If the Shine logo side is up, choose any action.

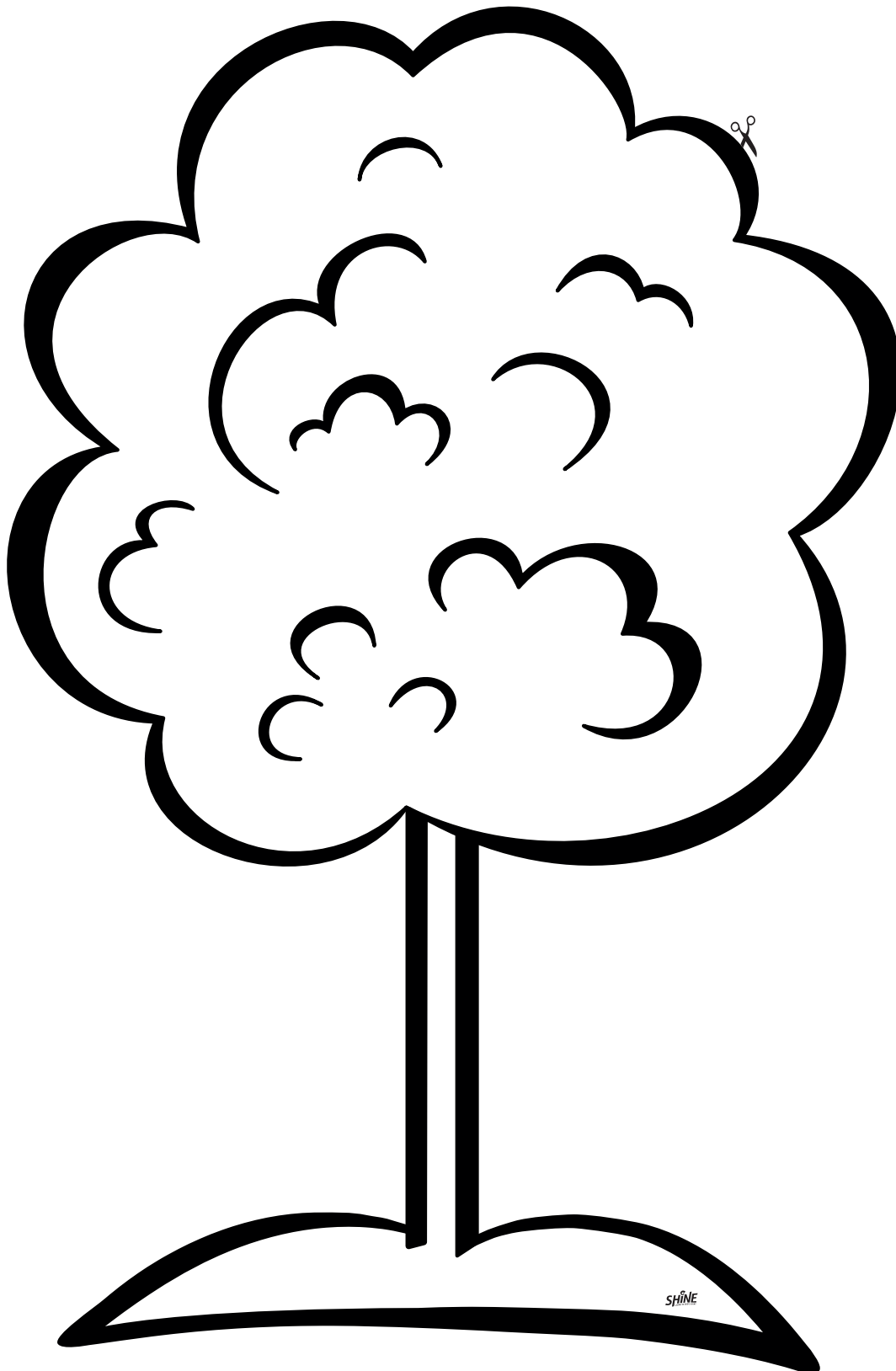


Illustrations by Kate Cosgrove

SESSIONS 1, 2

Tree Template

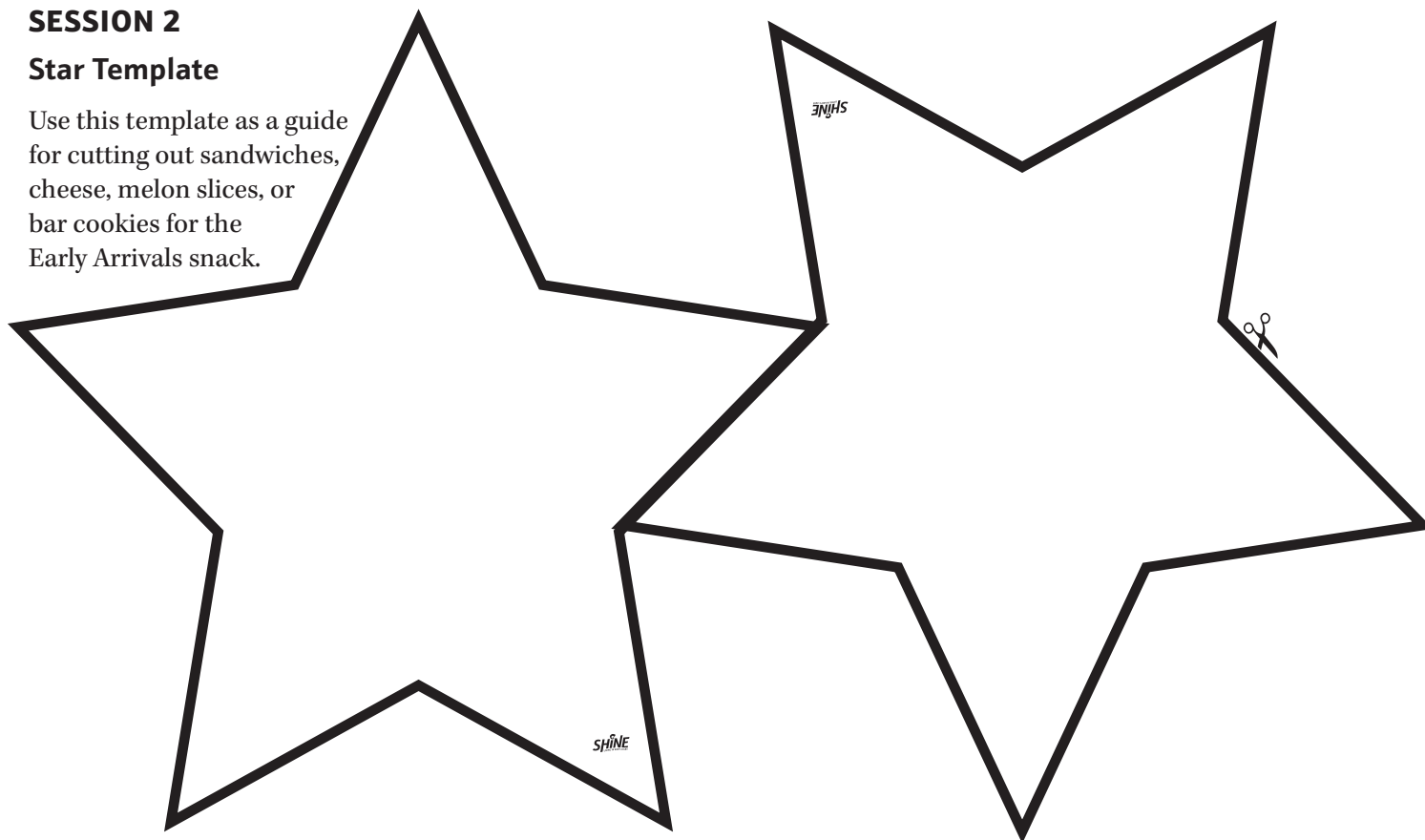
Copy and cut out the Tree Template for use as a storytelling prop.



SESSION 2

Star Template

Use this template as a guide for cutting out sandwiches, cheese, melon slices, or bar cookies for the Early Arrivals snack.



SESSION 3

Seed Soup



SEED SOUP

Soak beans in a large pot of water for 8 hours or overnight. Drain water and rinse beans before cooking.

To cook: Place beans in a large pot. Add 6 cups / 1.4 L of water. Simmer gently on low heat until beans are tender, about 2 hours. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Add options from the list below if desired, and cook for another 15–20 minutes.

Make it your own! Other tasty options to add: diced tomatoes, bouillon cube, bacon, sausage, sautéed onion, garlic, parsley, cumin, paprika



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SESSION 3

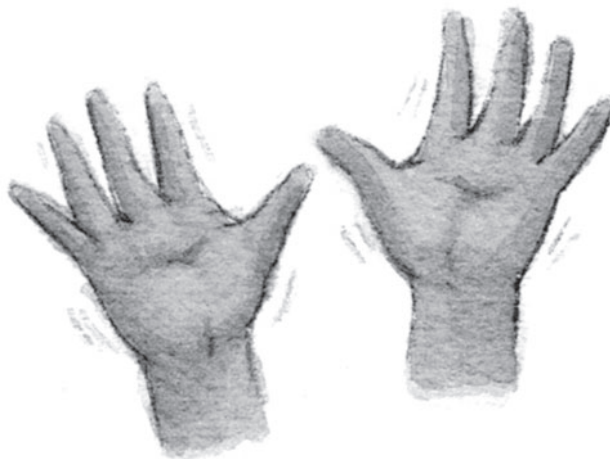
"Calm Down" Cards

Copy and cut out the cards for use in Responsive Play (Move).



Take a step backwards.

SHINE



Count to 10 on your fingers.

SHINE



**Put your hands on your belly and breathe.
Feel your belly go in and out.**

SHINE



Stretch as tall as you can.

SHINE

Illustrations by Len Epstein, Gary Undercuffler, and Gabhor Utomo

SESSION 3

Jacob and Esau Puppets

Copy and cut out one set of puppets for each person for use in Share the Story (Re-play).

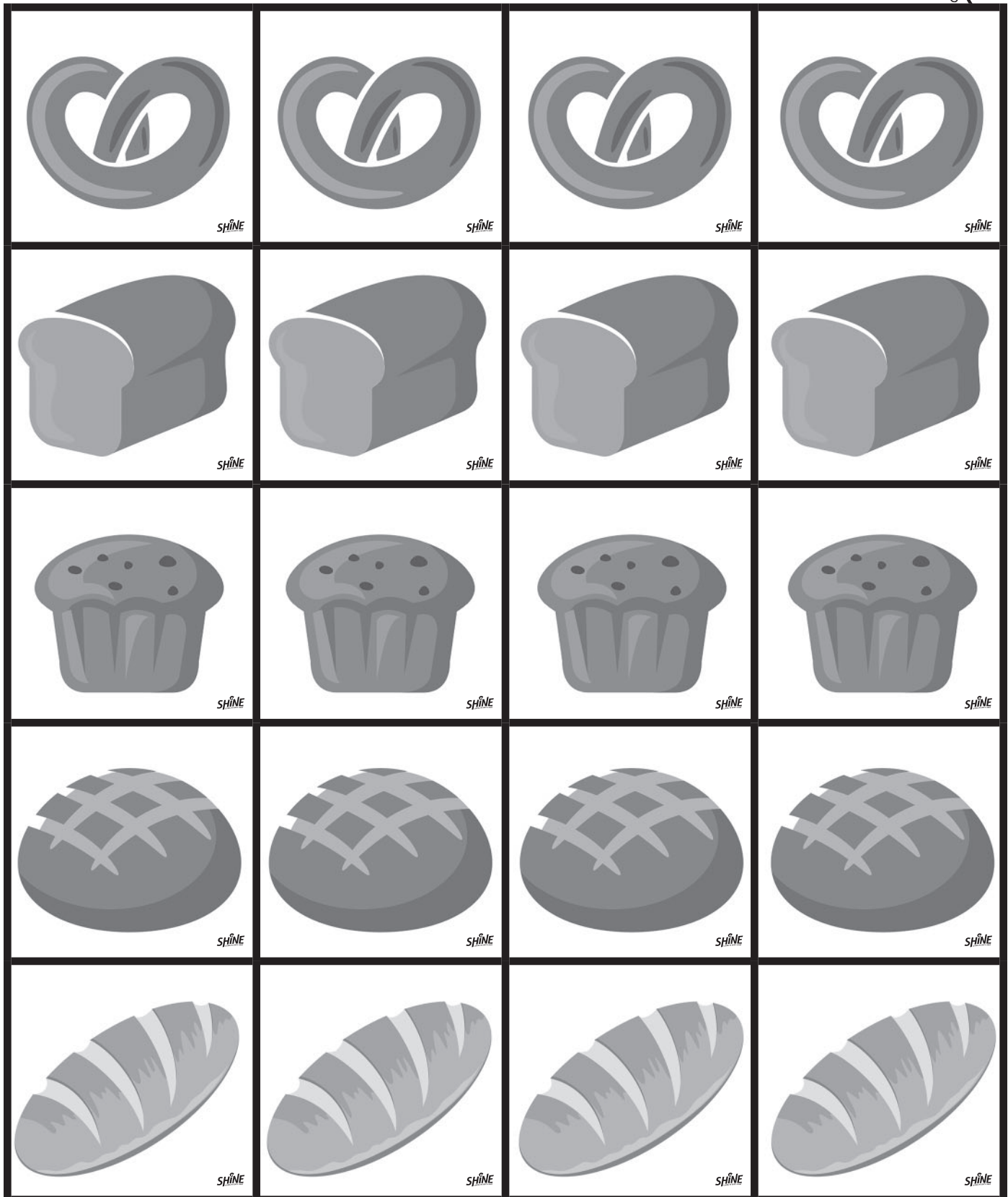


Illustrations by Len Epstein

SESSION 5

Bread Pictures

Print enough copies so each child can have one of each type of bread). Use in Responsive Play (Create).



SESSIONS 5, 6

Dream Cards

Copy and cut apart the cards for use as a storytelling props.

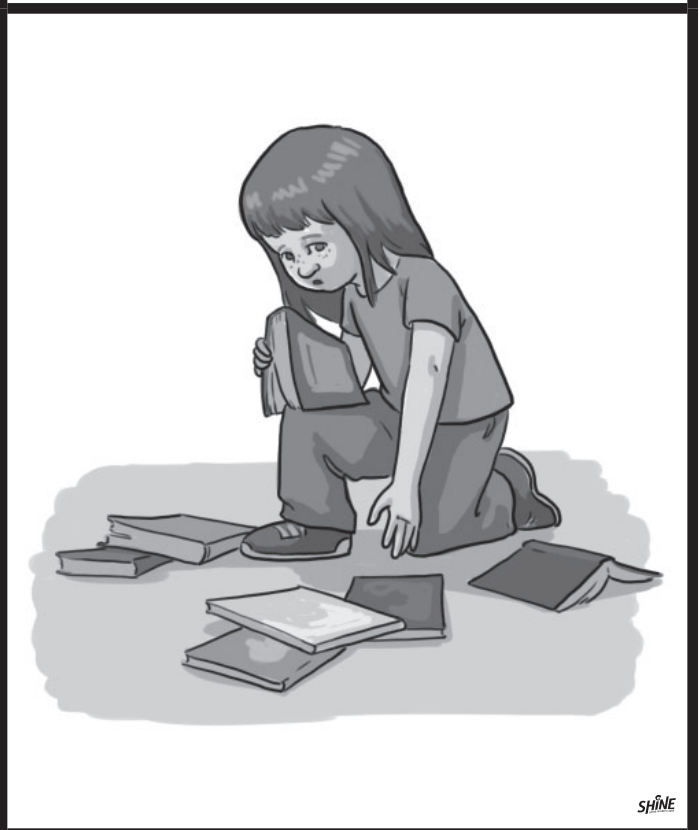
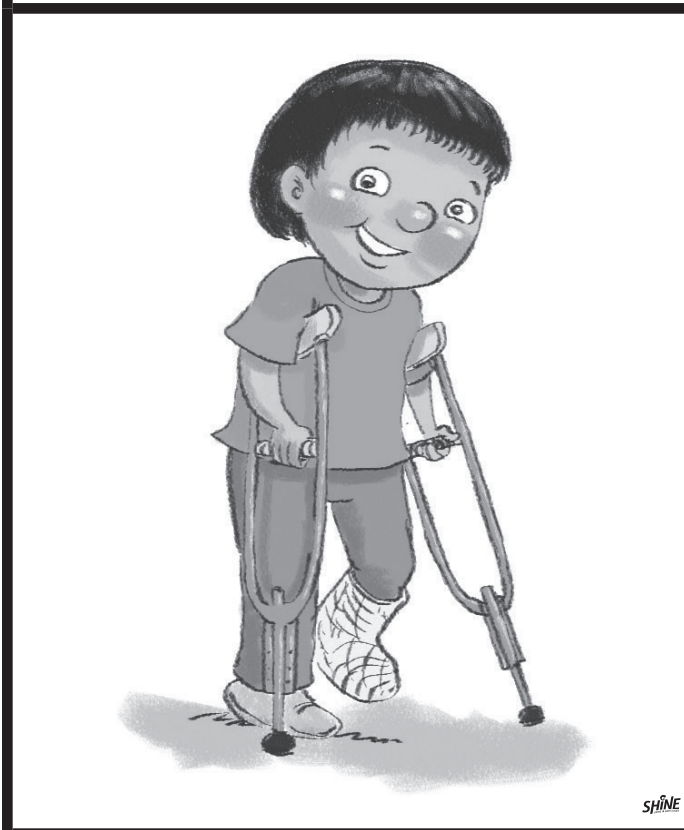


Illustrations by Len Epstein

SESSION 7

"Make Peace" Cards

Copy and cut apart the cards. Post them around the room at children's eye level for Responsive Play (Make Peace).

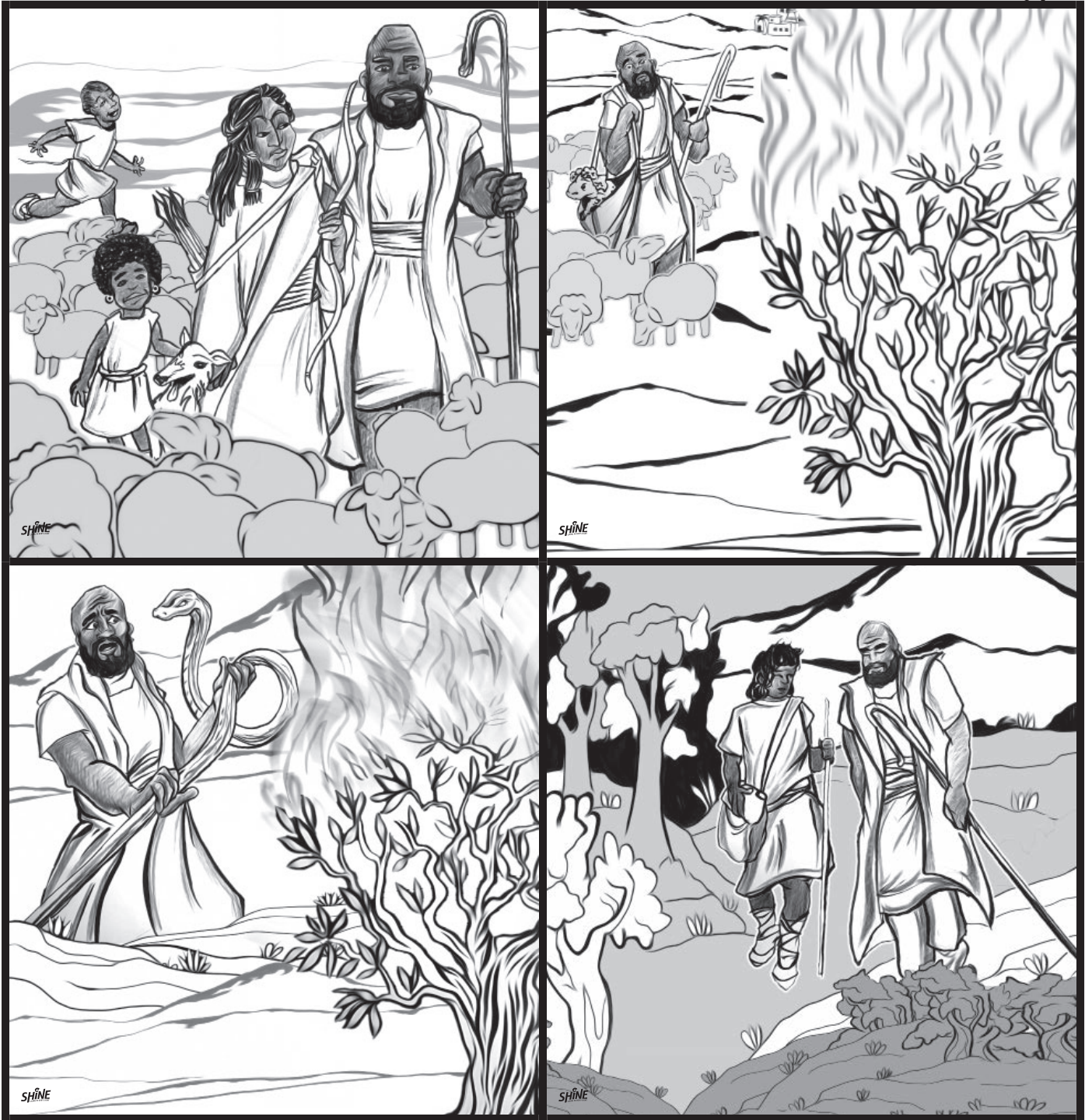


Illustrations by Bob McMahon and Gabhor Utomo

SESSION 8

Story Cards

Copy and cut apart one set of Story Cards for each child for use in Share the Story (Re-play.)



Illustrations by Dave Huth

SESSION 8

"I Can Help" Song

Sing each verse to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." Add your own verses as desired.

If someone is stuck, I can help.
If someone is stuck, I can help.
If someone is stuck,
I can go and help them out.
If someone is stuck, I can help.

If someone falls down, I can help.
If someone falls down, I can help.
If someone falls down,
I can go and help them out.
If someone falls down, I can help.

If someone is thirsty, I can help.
If someone is thirsty, I can help.
If someone is thirsty,
I can go and help them out.
If someone is thirsty, I can help.

If someone _____, I can help.
If someone _____, I can help.
If someone _____,
I can go and help them out.
If someone _____, I can help.

SESSION 1

"God Goes with Us" Song

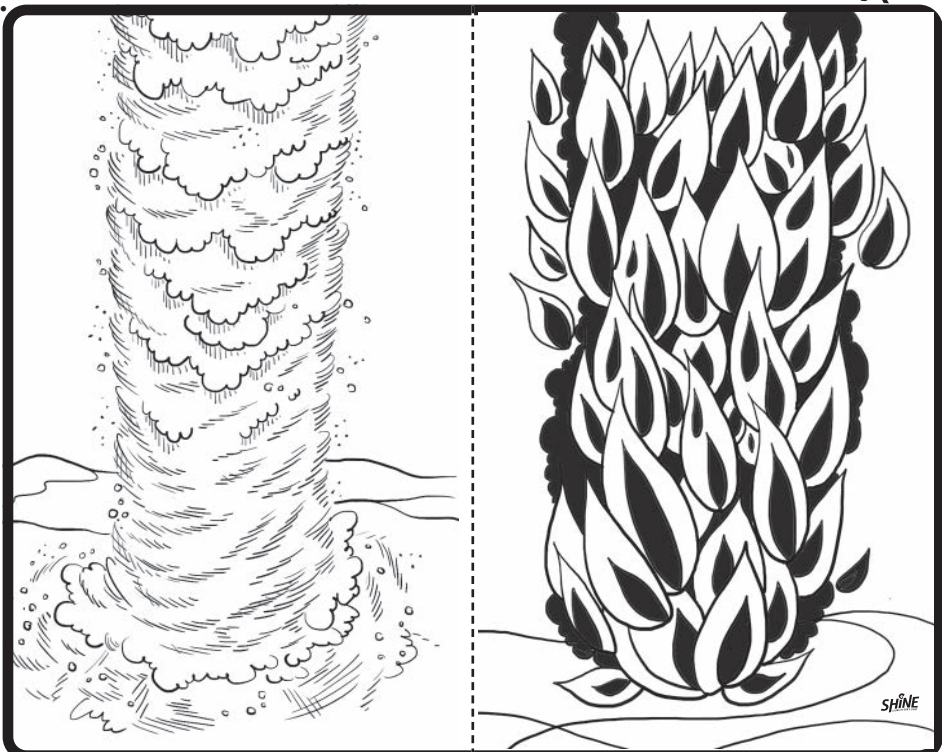
Sing this song to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down" during Responsive Play (Move).

God goes with us everywhere,
everywhere, everywhere.
Left and right and up and down,
(reach left, right, up, then down)
God goes with us.

SESSION 10

"Cloud and Fire" Prop

Cut the solid lines around the outside of the "Cloud and Fire" Prop. Make a handle by taping a craft stick onto the back of the pillar of fire. Fold the prop along the dotted line and tape it so that the craft stick is inside.



Illustrations by Len Epstein

SESSION 10

Celebration Puzzle

Copy the puzzle onto card stock, one per child, for use during Responsive Play (Create). You may want to precut the pieces depending on the skill level of your group and amount of time you have for the activity.



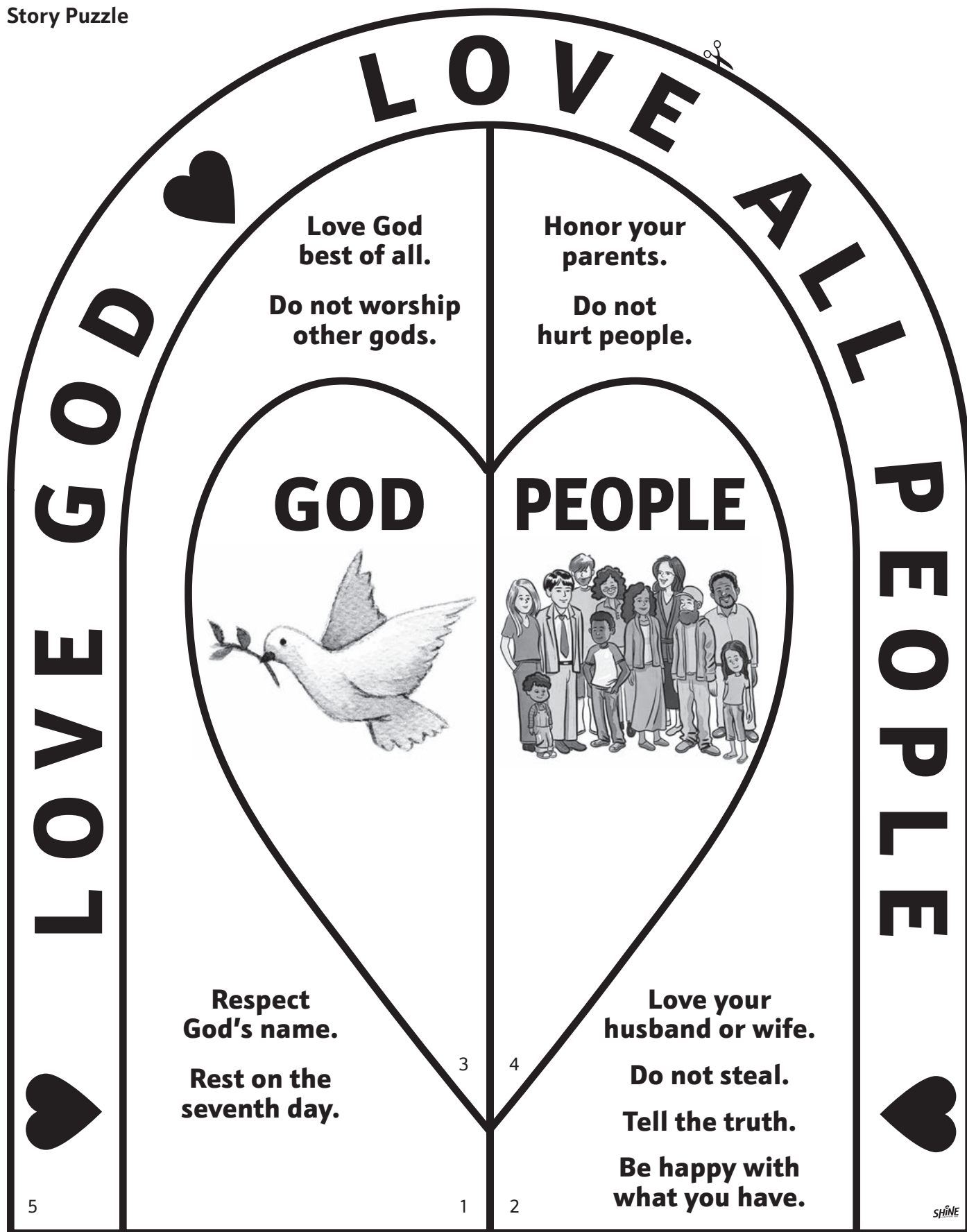
We will celebrate and praise you, Lord!
You are good to us, and your love never fails.

—Psalm 106:1 (CEV)



Illustration by Ray Dirks

SESSION 12
Story Puzzle



Illustrations by Jesse Graber and Gabhor Utomo