

Teaching Aids

SESSION 1

Letter to Families



Dear families,

Welcome to the Winter 2023–24 quarter of Shine! For the next 13 weeks, we will be exploring stories from the Gospels of Luke and Mark in the New Testament. The stories leading up to and including the birth of Jesus start our Advent and Christmas focus. The rest of the quarter we look to the lessons found in the stories of Jesus' ministry.

Children will bring home an Advent calendar in the first session which has simple, fun activities to do at home as a family in preparation for Jesus' birth. Feel free to adapt the activities to things that work better for your family as needed.

Pray Together!

Children will be introduced to listening prayers, praise prayers, breath prayers, and prayers for others this quarter. Try each of these types of prayer as a family. Watch for prayer activities that come home from children's booklet pages that can aid your prayer time.

Craft Together!

Decorate a Christmas tree with family photos for the Advent season. Place photos of your family in simple photo frames to hang on the branches of your tree. Children can make frames from craft sticks or cinnamon sticks. Decorate them with buttons, ribbon, or whatever you have around the house. Pass on stories of your own family history and traditions as you craft and decorate together.

Serve Together!

In many of the stories in the second half of the quarter, Jesus meets people's needs. He heals people who are sick, teaches people who want to learn, and feeds people who are hungry. Think about how your family can work together to meet the needs of someone in your community. Perhaps you can donate to a food pantry, visit a nursing home, create "get well" cards, or make a meal for someone in your congregation who is sick.

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



SESSION 1
Animal Cards

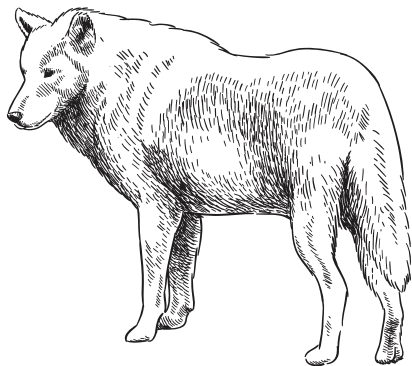
Copy and cut pictures apart. Use as directed in Encounter and Explore (Move).



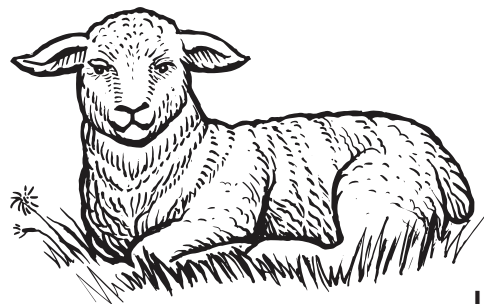
Leopard



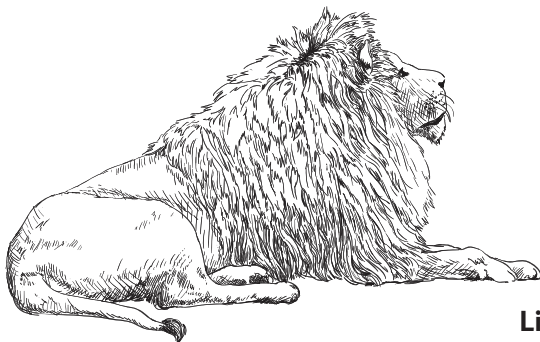
Goat



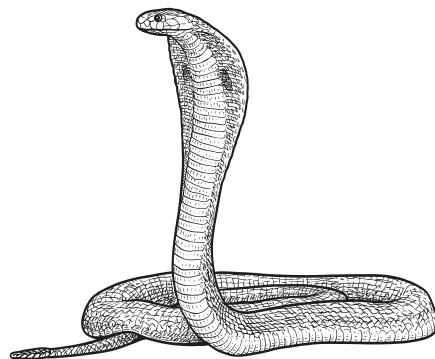
Wolf



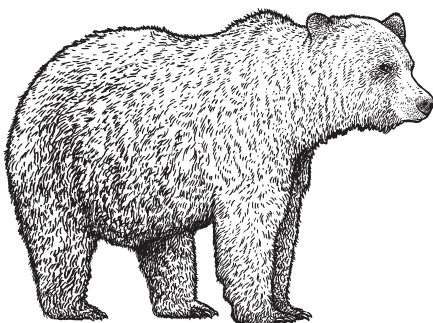
Lamb



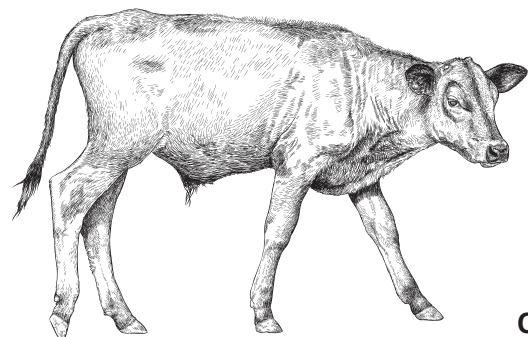
Lion



Snake



Bear



Calf

SESSION 2
Charades Cards

Cut out the Charades Cards below and fold them in half for use in Explore (Move).



<p>catching a frog</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>	<p>washing the dishes</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>	<p>playing baseball</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>
<p>walking the dog</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>	<p>sharpening a pencil</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>	<p>driving a car</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>
<p>riding a bicycle</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>	<p>answering a call on a cell phone</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>	<p>eating an ice cream cone</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>
<p>finding a five- dollar bill</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>	<p>hearing good news</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>	<p>playing the drums</p> <p>SHINE <small>LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT</small></p>

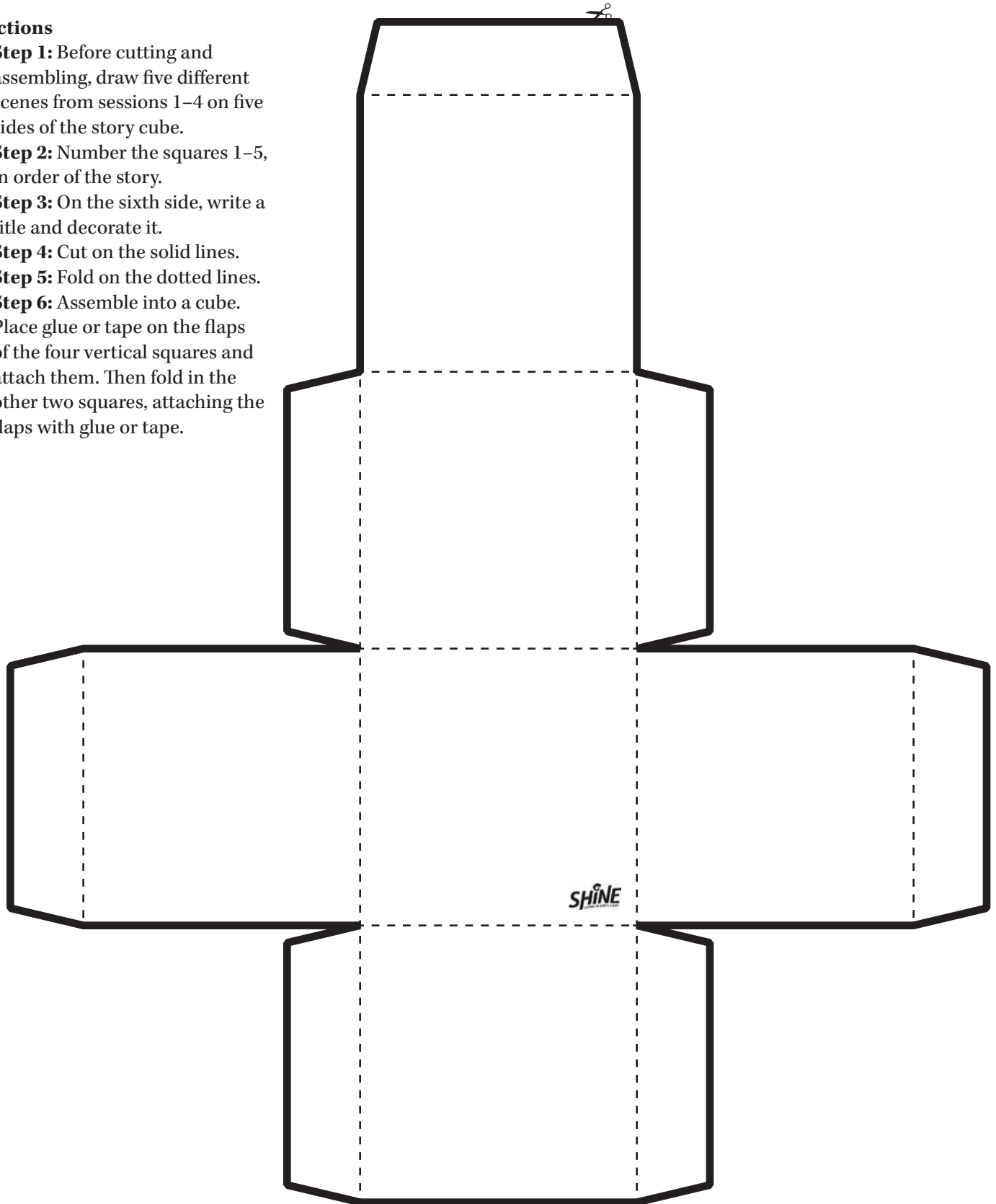
SESSION 4

"Story Cube" Template

Copy the template onto card stock, one per child, to use during Explore (Create).

Instructions

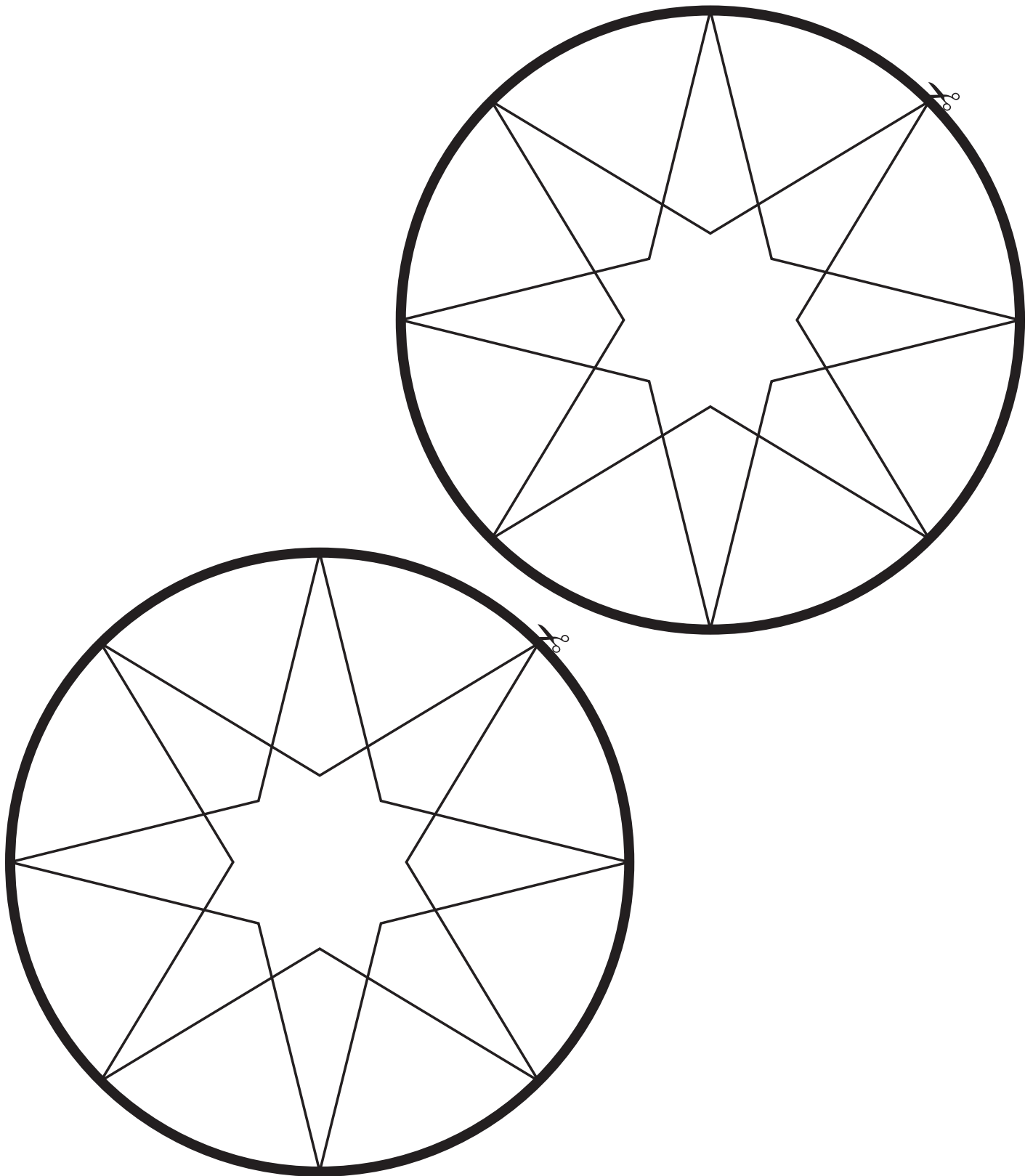
- ☐ **Step 1:** Before cutting and assembling, draw five different scenes from sessions 1–4 on five sides of the story cube.
- ☐ **Step 2:** Number the squares 1–5, in order of the story.
- ☐ **Step 3:** On the sixth side, write a title and decorate it.
- ☐ **Step 4:** Cut on the solid lines.
- ☐ **Step 5:** Fold on the dotted lines.
- ☐ **Step 6:** Assemble into a cube.
Place glue or tape on the flaps of the four vertical squares and attach them. Then fold in the other two squares, attaching the flaps with glue or tape.



SESSION 5

Epiphany Star

Copy and cut out one circle for each child for Explore (Create). Copy and cut out just one circle for Explore (Move). Use as directed in Explore.



SESSION 6

Water Scenarios

Read these questions during Connect to Each Other.

Have you (or someone in your family) used water this last week to:

- brush your teeth?
- comb/brush your hair?
- take a bath or shower?
- rinse a plate or bowl after breakfast?
- take a drink?
- wash the dishes?
- wash clothes?
- water plants?
- give a pet a bath?
- wash a vehicle or go to a car wash?

SESSION 11

Flatbread Recipe

Follow recipe instructions and use as indicated in Explore (Create).

Flatbread

- 2 cups / 128 g all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp / 2 g baking soda
- ½ tsp / 2 g baking powder
- 1 tsp / 4 g salt
- ½ tsp / 2 g sugar
- 1 cup / 236 ml milk
- 1 T / 15 ml oil

1. Combine first five ingredients together in a large bowl.
2. Combine milk and oil and heat until warm in microwave. Stir into flour mixture.
3. Turn out onto a floured surface and knead dough. Add more flour as needed until it is soft and smooth. Let dough rest for about three minutes.
4. Divide dough into 12 balls.
5. Give each child a piece of dough and have them press the balls flat between their hands.
6. Brush an electric skillet with oil as needed and heat to 400° F / 205° C. Cook dough about three minutes per side.

SESSION 8

"Good News!" Strips

Copy and cut out strips for use in Explore (Create). Have children choose one to glue around their megaphone.



Good news! God loves you!

Good news! God loves me!

Good news! Jesus cares for me!

Good news! Jesus cares for my friends and family!

Good news! God loves you!

Good news! God loves me!

Good news! Jesus cares for me!

Good news! Jesus cares for my friends and family!

SESSIONS 9, 10
Bible Memory Phrases

The Bible memory passage is printed twice, once per column. Make copies. Cut the columns apart first and then the individual strips. Mix up the strips and then paper-clip each set together. In session 9, every two or three children will need a set of phrases. In session 10, one set is needed for the whole group.












I praise you,	I praise you,
Lord, for	Lord, for
being my guide.	being my guide.
You have	You have
shown me the	shown me the
path to life,	path to life,
and you make	and you make
me glad by	me glad by
being near to me.	being near to me.
—Psalm 16:7a, 11a (CEV)	—Psalm 16:7a, 11a (CEV)

SESSION 9

"Pick Up Your Mat" Bookmark

Use the directions and pictures to make a sample bookmark for Explore (Create). Cut three strips of paper and one piece of card stock per child. Assist in folding as needed.

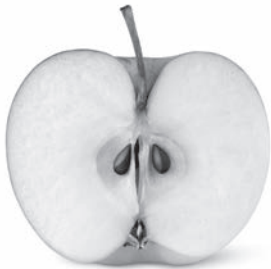







 <p>Step 1: Cut three 1 in x 11.5 in / 2.5 cm x 29 cm strips of paper.</p>	 <p>Step 2: Glue two strips together at the corners.</p>	 <p>Step 3: Glue the third strip vertically on top of the horizontal strip as shown.</p>
 <p>Step 4: Fold the far left strip toward the right, so that it is parallel to the top strip (horizontal).</p>	 <p>Step 5: Fold the top strip down so that it is parallel to the left strip (vertical).</p>	 <p>Step 6: Repeat steps 4 and 5 until completed as shown.</p>
 <p>Step 7: Cut off the ends.</p>	 <p>Step 8: Fold down the ends to square them off.</p>	 <p>Step 9: Glue to a 3 in x 6½ in / 7.6 cm x 16.5 cm piece of card stock.</p>
<p>Step 10: Draw five hearts or add heart stickers to remember the five friends.</p>		

SESSION 10

Seed Cards

Copy and cut apart for use during Connect to Each Other.



	<p>One semi-dwarf apple tree can produce up to 500 apples in one season.</p>		<p>A sugar maple tree can grow to be over 100 ft / 30 m tall!</p>
	<p>One avocado tree can produce 400 avocados in a year.</p>		<p>The average strawberry has around 200 tiny seeds.</p>
	<p>In 2017, Canada was the largest lentil-producing country with 4.11 million tons / 3.73 million metric tons of lentils!</p>		<p>The double coconut (<i>coco de mer</i>) is the largest seed in the world. It can weigh up to 39 lb / 17.6 kg!</p>
	<p>One bushel / 35 L of wheat contains about one million individual kernels.</p>		<p>The seeds of the epiphytic orchid are thought to be the smallest in the world. One seed weighs about one 35 millionths of an ounce (1/35,000,000th) / 0.81 micrograms.</p>

SESSION 10

"Four Types of Soil" Images

Copy and cut apart the images and place them on the fabric as you read the story from page 210 in *The Peace Table*.



Illustrations by Kate Cosgrove

SESSION 11
"Silly Story Words" Form

Have a partner fill in the blanks below by providing words that match the part of speech indicated. When finished, read "A Very Odd Picnic" on page 11A in your booklet using the words your partner provided.

place _____

plural noun _____

plural noun _____

number _____

number _____

adjective _____

plural noun _____

number _____

food _____

food _____

food _____

food _____

verb _____

adjective _____

number _____

plural noun (type of container) _____

SESSION 12

Blessing Circles

Copy and cut apart for use in Bless, one or two circles per child.

