

Teaching Aids

SESSION 1

Letter to Families



Dear Families,

In this quarter your child will be learning stories about Jesus and the early church. In the first half of the quarter, children will follow the passion story of Jesus—his procession into Jerusalem, the Last Supper with his disciples, his arrest and death, his resurrection, and his ascension. In the second half of the quarter, children will hear about the birth of the early church at Pentecost. They will follow Philip and Peter as they teach about Jesus and hear about Paul's conversion. Finally, they will travel with Paul and meet people who became part of the church. They will watch the early church grow from a small group of Jewish followers into a group that included Jews, Gentiles, Ethiopians, women, and many others.

Pray Together!

Spiritual practices are an important part of each session. This quarter we will be praying prayers of lament, prayers of praise, and intercession prayers. Consider setting up a child-friendly prayer space in your home that includes a comfortable chair or pillows, art supplies, a cross, or prayer stones. Spend time as a family praying for each other and invite your children to pray too.

Read Together!

The stories of Jesus' journey to the cross bring up many emotions: joy, anger, sadness, despair, and gladness. Read books together that encourage children to express their feelings. Some suggested titles are: *When Sadness Is at Your Door* by Eva Eland, *Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me* by Daniel Beaty, *Flowers for Sarajevo* by John McCutcheon, and *A Packet of Seeds* by Deborah Hopkinson.

Play Together!

Have a board game party and invite your friends and neighbors! This is a chance for you and your family to practice hospitality like the early church. Talk about what snack foods you can offer and invite your child to help set out the food. Have your child make special invitation cards to send in the mail or hand-deliver. Ask guests to bring their favorite board or card game. Then play together with families around your neighborhood! Have fun and don't forget—cleaning up is part of hospitality. Children can practice this too!

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

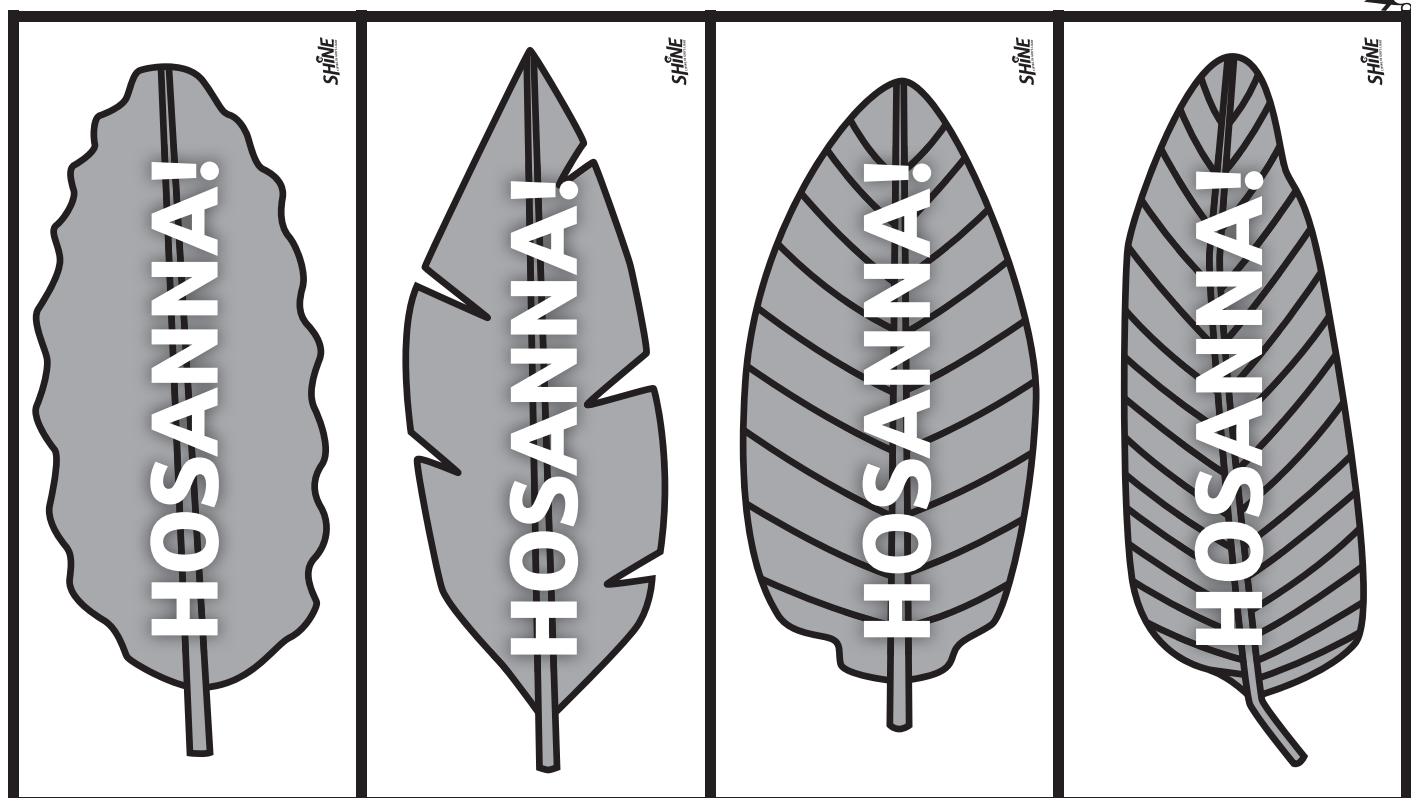


SESSION 1

Palm Leaf Exchange

Make enough copies for each child to have at least one leaf and one statement. Cut out and use as directed in Explore (Make Peace).



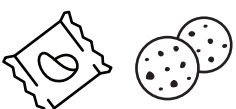




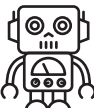


You are a good friend. <small>SHINE</small>	You are a good friend. <small>SHINE</small>	You are a good friend. <small>SHINE</small>
You make me smile. <small>SHINE</small>	You make me smile. <small>SHINE</small>	You make me smile. <small>SHINE</small>
You are a good helper. <small>SHINE</small>	You are a good helper. <small>SHINE</small>	You are a good helper. <small>SHINE</small>
You are kind. <small>SHINE</small>	You are kind. <small>SHINE</small>	You are kind. <small>SHINE</small>



SESSION 2

Make Your Choice

Copy and cut out slips. Glue them to pieces of construction paper to make signs for each stop.

<h3 style="margin: 0;">Make Your Choice #1</h3> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Live in a house = 3 coins</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>OR</p> <p>THEN</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Live in a tent = 1 coin</p>  </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Hop on one foot to the next stop or give two friends a fist bump.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">SHINE</p>			
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Make Your Choice #2</h3> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Buy chips and cookies = 2 coins</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>OR</p> <p>THEN</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Buy fruits and vegetables = 3 coins</p>  </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Act like your favorite animal to the next stop.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">SHINE</p>			
<h3 style="margin: 0;">NO CHOICE</h3> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">PAY TAXES = 2 coins</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="margin-right: 10px;">THEN</p>  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Do five jumping jacks or count to ten.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">SHINE</p>			
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Make Your Choice #3</h3> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Buy a bed = 2 coins</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>OR</p> <p>THEN</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Buy a sleeping bag = 1 coin</p>  </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Touch your toes ten times or tap your head and rub your tummy at the same time.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">SHINE</p>			
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Make Your Choice #4</h3> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">Place any remaining coins in one or more areas.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Buy a toy</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>OR</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Save coins</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>OR</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Give to church</p>  </div> </div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">SHINE</p>			

Copy the Bible memory phrases and cut out along solid lines to use with Connect to the Bible.

Search me, <small>SHINE</small>	any hurtful <small>SHINE</small>
O God, <small>SHINE</small>	way in <small>SHINE</small>
and know <small>SHINE</small>	me, and <small>SHINE</small>
my heart; <small>SHINE</small>	lead me <small>SHINE</small>
test me <small>SHINE</small>	in the <small>SHINE</small>
and know <small>SHINE</small>	way <small>SHINE</small>
my thoughts. <small>SHINE</small>	everlasting. <small>SHINE</small>
See if <small>SHINE</small>	—Psalm <small>SHINE</small>
there is <small>SHINE</small>	139:23–24 (NRSVue) <small>SHINE</small>

SESSION 3

"Writing a Lament" Guide

Copy one for each child for use with Connect to God.

Use the steps below to guide you in writing your own prayer of lament. The words in italics are some examples.

1. Begin by choosing a way to address God. (*God, Creator, Holy One*)
2. Tell God what is wrong or name something you are sad, angry, or upset about. (*I am lonely; many people in the world don't have enough to eat.*)
3. What do you want God to do? (*Please help me make a new friend; give people what they need to live.*)
4. Express trust or gratitude. (*I know you hear my prayers; thank you for caring for all people.*)
5. Ask for help with the thing you are sad or angry about. (*Help me to know that you are with me; help me be generous to those in need.*)
6. Give praise to God. (*God, you are always with me; you are a loving Parent who cares for everyone.*)

SESSION 4

Memory Stations

Use this script to read at each station during Explore (Move). Prepare the items for children to collect at each station. As you move from station to station, read the script and have children put each item in their resealable bag.

Station 1: Flower Petal or Leaf

Jesus was feeling sad. He prayed to God in the garden. To remember the garden, we will add a leaf to our bags. Let's move quietly to the second station.

Station 2: Feather

Jesus was arrested in the garden. Peter followed. But Peter told others he didn't know Jesus. A rooster crowed, reminding Peter that Jesus said he would deny him. To remember the rooster, we will add a feather to our bags. Let's move quietly to the third station.

Station 3: Index Cards and Brown Crayons or Markers

Jesus was beaten and put on a cross to die. To remember Jesus' death, use a crayon or marker to draw a cross on an index card. Put the card in your bag. Let's move quietly to the fourth station.

Station 4: Scrap of White Fabric

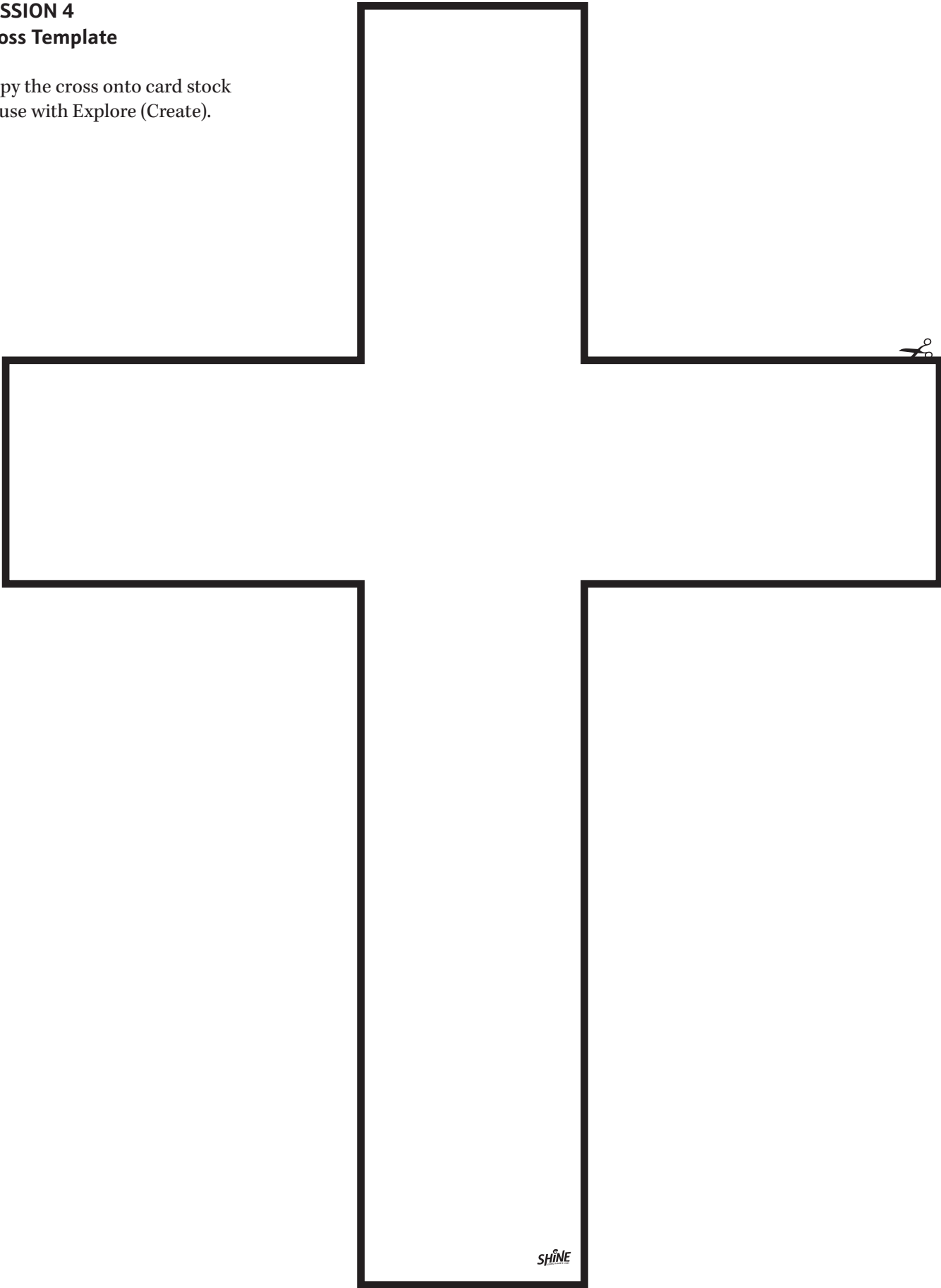
Jesus' friends wrapped his body in cloth and laid him in a tomb. To remember those who stayed with Jesus and cared for his body, we will add a piece of white cloth to our bags. Let's move quietly to the last station.

Station 5: Stone or Pebble

A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb. To remember how sad Jesus' friends were on this day, we will hold a stone in our hand for a few moments. Add the stone to your bag.







SESSION 4
Cross Template

Copy the cross onto card stock
to use with Explore (Create).



SESSIONS 4, 6
"Roll and Chat" Prompts

Make one copy for smaller groups or multiple copies for larger groups. Use as directed in Connect to Each Other.

	Your favorite thing to do outside
	Your favorite animal
	Your favorite fruit
	Your favorite subject in school
	Your favorite board or card game
	What you want to do when you grow up

SESSION 7
Flames of the Spirit

Follow the directions to assemble tissue paper flames for use in Explore (Move).

1. Cut orange, red, and yellow tissue paper into 4 in / 10 cm squares.
2. Have children make a stack with one square of each color of tissue paper.
3. Form a circle with forefinger and thumb and place squares on top of hand. Push with finger of other hand into the center of the squares and close around finger. Pull finger out.
4. Twist the bottom of the tissue paper two times and secure with a twist tie.
5. Invite children to make five "flames" each.

Step 3



Step 4



Photos by Anita Brock Bryant

SESSION 7
"Hello Around the World" Cards

Copy and cut apart cards. Use as directed in Connect to Each Other.



<div>Hola [OH-lah] <i>SHINE</i></div>	<div>Hola [OH-lah] <i>SHINE</i></div>
<div>Bonjour [bōn-ZHUR] <i>SHINE</i></div>	<div>Bonjour [bōn-ZHUR] <i>SHINE</i></div>
<div>Nǐ hǎo [NEE how] <i>SHINE</i></div>	<div>Nǐ hǎo [NEE how] <i>SHINE</i></div>
<div>Shalom [shah-LÖHM] <i>SHINE</i></div>	<div>Shalom [shah-LÖHM] <i>SHINE</i></div>
<div>Namaste [nah-meh-STAY] <i>SHINE</i></div>	<div>Namaste [nah-meh-STAY] <i>SHINE</i></div>
<div>Guten Tag [goo-ten TOCK] <i>SHINE</i></div>	<div>Guten Tag [goo-ten TOCK] <i>SHINE</i></div>

SESSION 8

"Church Community Interview" Questions

Make copies for each child to use in Explore (Discover).

Use the questions on this page to interview someone in your congregation.

1. What is your name?

2. How long have you been attending this church?

3. What do you like about our church community?

4. What are some ways the people in our church community take care of each other's needs?

SESSION 13

"Giving and Receiving" Game

Use these instructions to guide the game in Explore (Move).

Divide the group into two or three teams. Have children stand as teams on one end of the room. Give each team a Giving Bucket with 30–40 small items inside (coins, interlocking blocks, small wood blocks) and place it next to each group. Place an empty Receiving Bucket for each team on the opposite side of the room.

The goal of the game is to be the team with the fewest items in their Receiving Bucket at the end of the game. Each team will try to give away what is in their Giving Bucket by putting items in other teams' Receiving Buckets.

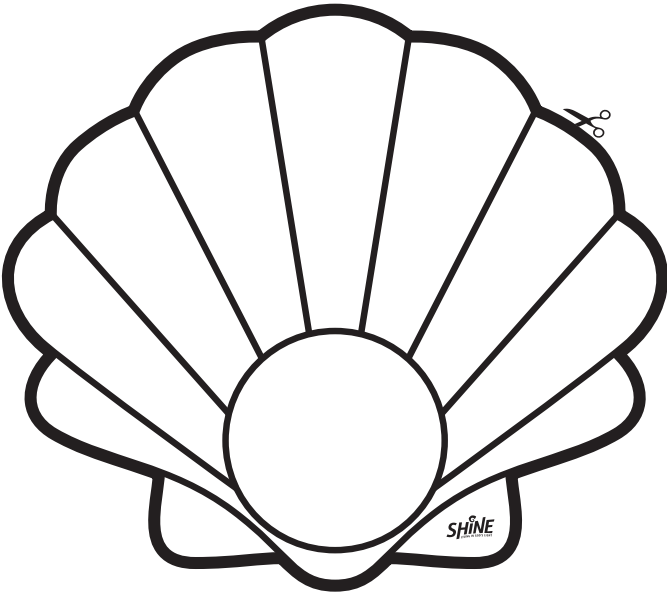
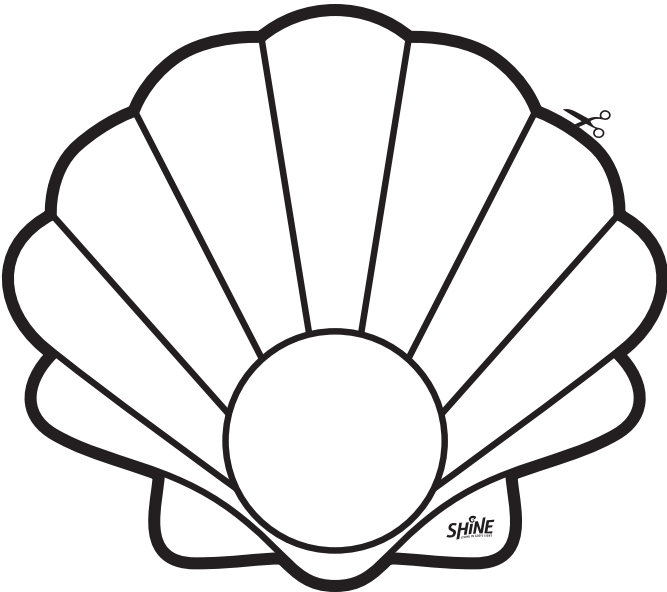
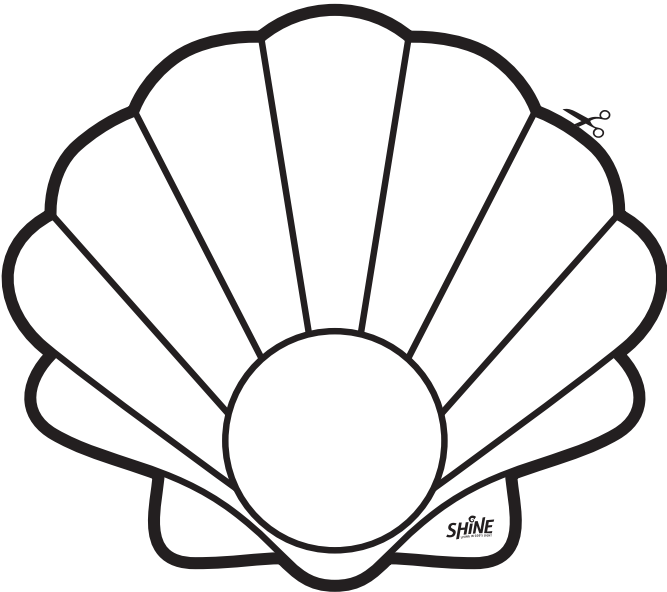
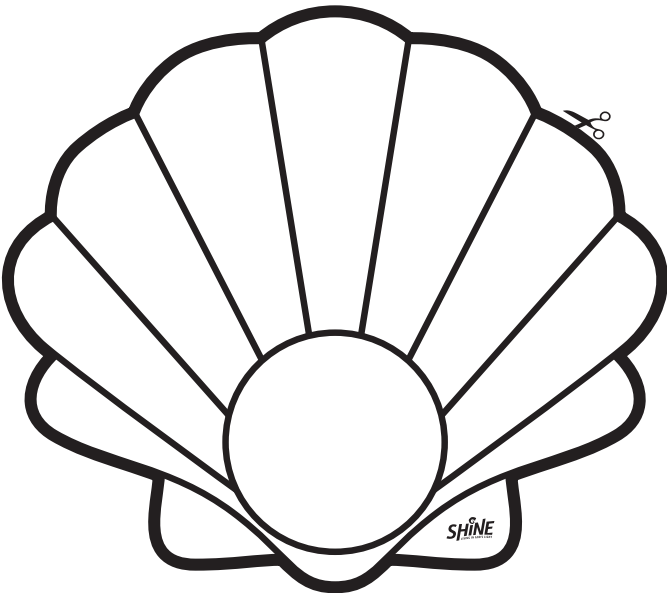
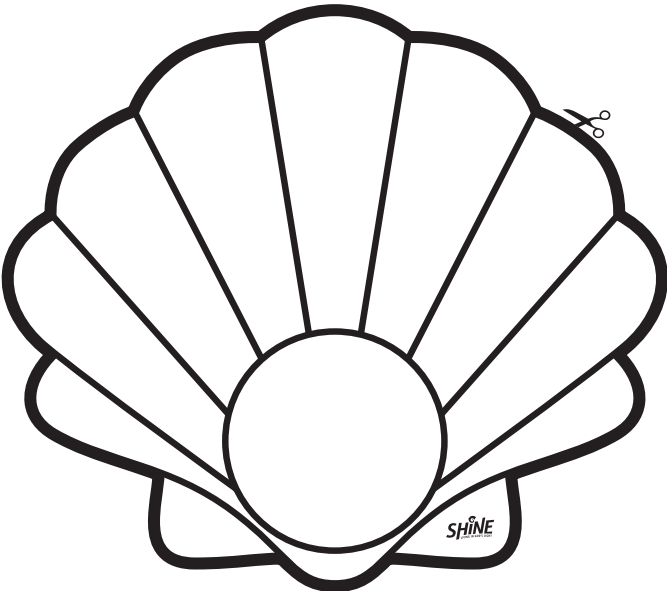
To play, players take turns scooping items from their team's Giving Bucket with a small cup and carrying to another team's Receiving Bucket, as in a relay. On the way, players may not touch other players. Players may not touch or block Receiving Buckets. Any items that are spilled must be picked up and returned to their own team's Giving Bucket.

Play for 3–5 minutes. At any time during play the teacher can say, "Receive an offering!" When this happens, one player on each team must take his or her team's Giving Bucket to his or her team's Receiving Bucket and pour items from the Receiving Bucket into the Giving Bucket. When all Receiving Buckets are empty and all players have returned to their teams, begin play again. Do this as many times as time allows.

When time is up, have each team count the number of items in their Receiving Buckets. The team with the fewest items is the winner.

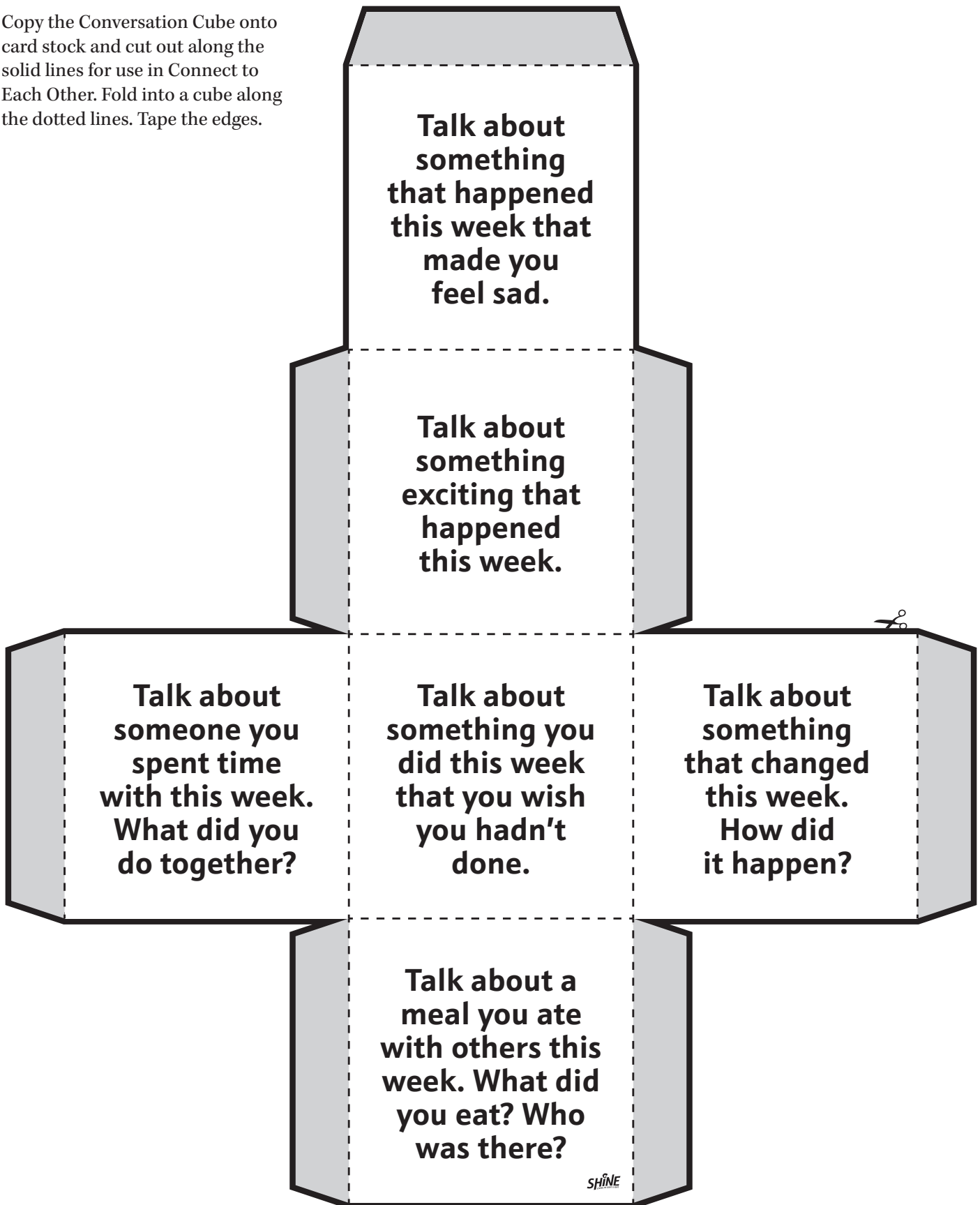
SESSION 9
Seashell Symbol

Copy onto white card stock and cut out. Make enough for each child to have one seashell. Use during Explore (Create).



SESSION 10
Conversation Cube

Copy the Conversation Cube onto card stock and cut out along the solid lines for use in Connect to Each Other. Fold into a cube along the dotted lines. Tape the edges.



Copy and cut out the Bible memory phrases along solid lines to use with Connect to the Bible.

It doesn't <small>SHINE</small>	you are <small>SHINE</small>
matter <small>SHINE</small>	willing <small>SHINE</small>
how much <small>SHINE</small>	to give <small>SHINE</small>
you have. <small>SHINE</small>	from what <small>SHINE</small>
What matters <small>SHINE</small>	you have. <small>SHINE</small>
is how <small>SHINE</small>	—2 Corinthians <small>SHINE</small>
much <small>SHINE</small>	8:12 (CEV) <small>SHINE</small>

SESSION 11

"Welcome Flower" Circles

Copy onto yellow or orange card stock. Cut out and use as directed in Explore (Create).



Photos by Anita Brock Bryant

