

# Teaching Aids

## SESSION 1

### Letter to Families



#### Dear Families,

Welcome to a new quarter of Shine! The quarter begins with six stories of Lent and Easter from the book of Mark in the New Testament. Your child will be learning about Jesus' last days with his friends and being raised to new life by God's power. This set of stories will be followed by seven stories of the early church from the book of Acts.

Remembering important events and people is important to these stories. They show active ways to worship God and to remember what God has done. For example, Jesus gives his friends a way to remember him when they share bread and drink from a cup during the Last Supper. (See session 3 on Mark 14:12–26.) Many churches continue this practice as an active way to remember what Jesus has done.

Developing simple traditions with your children helps them to remember what God has done, and it builds a sense of identity as children grow in faith. Try to incorporate simple rituals into your day, week, month, and year. These recurring experiences help children to feel loved and secure.

#### Pray Together!

Make prayer a part of your daily life.

- When you sit down together for a meal, say “Thank you” to God for the food. Sing a simple song, such as this one to the tune of “London Bridge”:

**God, you give us food to eat. Thank you, God! Thank you, God!**

**God, you give us what we need. Thank you! A-men.**

- Say short prayers throughout the day. Doing so helps children to see that God cares about our daily lives. Complicated words and long speeches are not needed in order to talk to God. Simple requests for help and quick notes of praise can be part of daily life.

#### Share Story Time!

Story time is a powerful way to connect with your child, taking a break from multitasking and the busyness of the day to simply enjoy each other's company. Children thrive when they have ongoing, consistent opportunities to share the full attention of the adults in their lives.

- Go to a public library with your child and ask the librarian for books you can enjoy with your child.
- Tell stories, even very short ones, so that children learn more about their family. You can tell children what you remember about ways you have celebrated Easter in the past. As you share, it may spark ideas for new traditions for your family.
- Read a story from a favorite children's Bible before bed.

Blessings to you and your family as you worship and learn together.

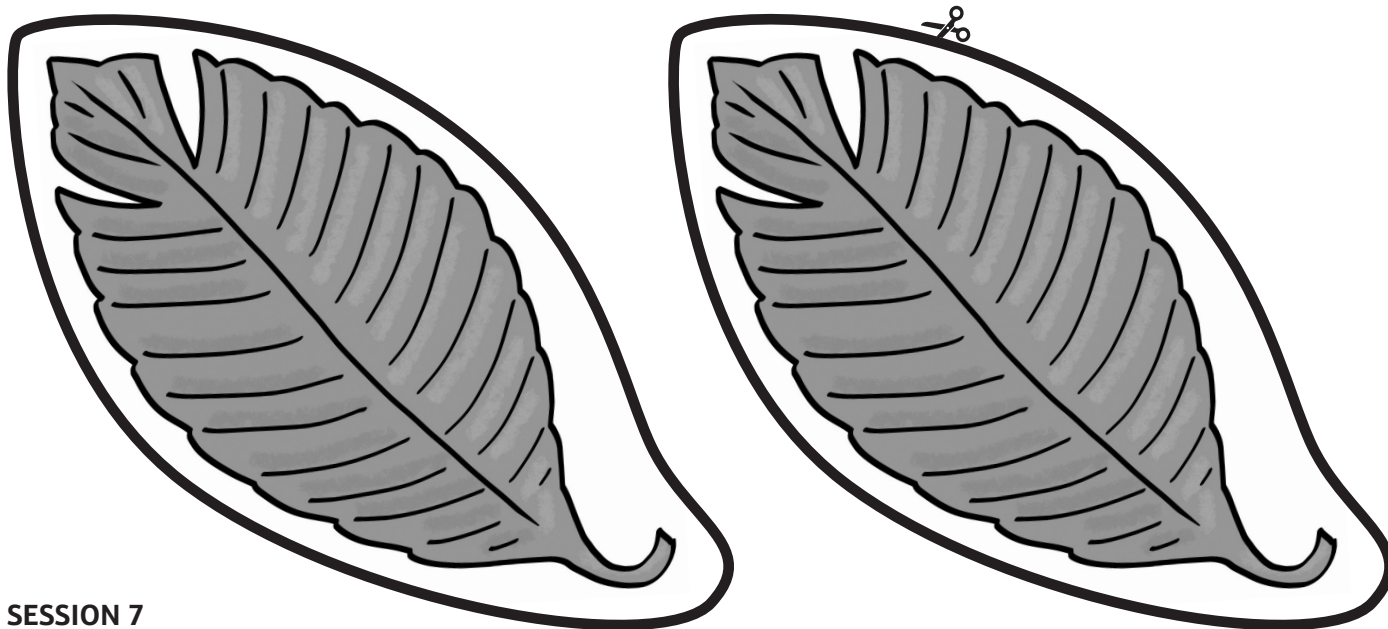
**SHINE**  
LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT



## SESSION 1

### Leaf Template

For Responsive Play (Create), use this leaf shape as a guide for cutting out leaf shapes in sponges.

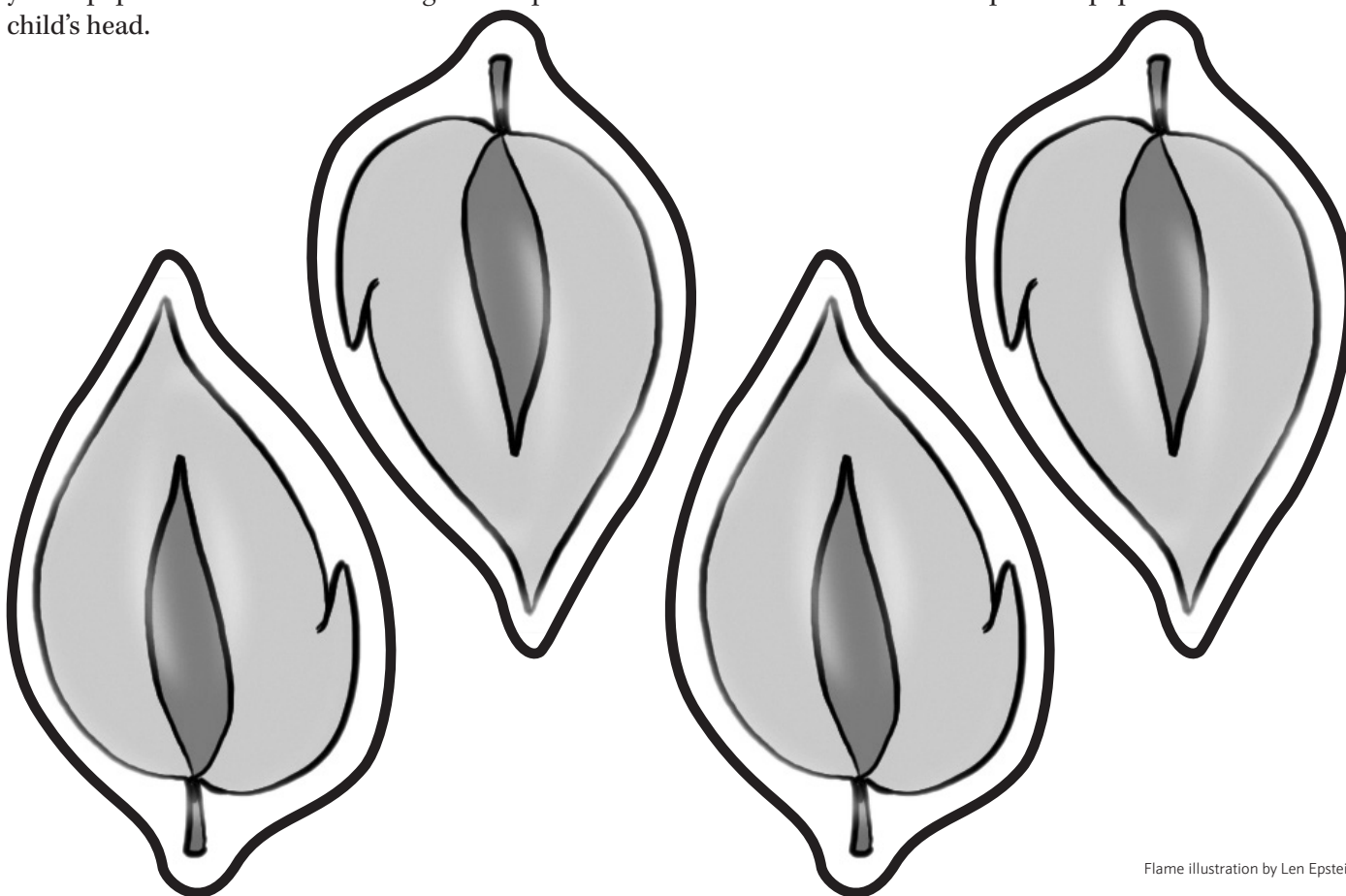


Leaf illustration by Dana Regan

## SESSION 7

### Flame Template

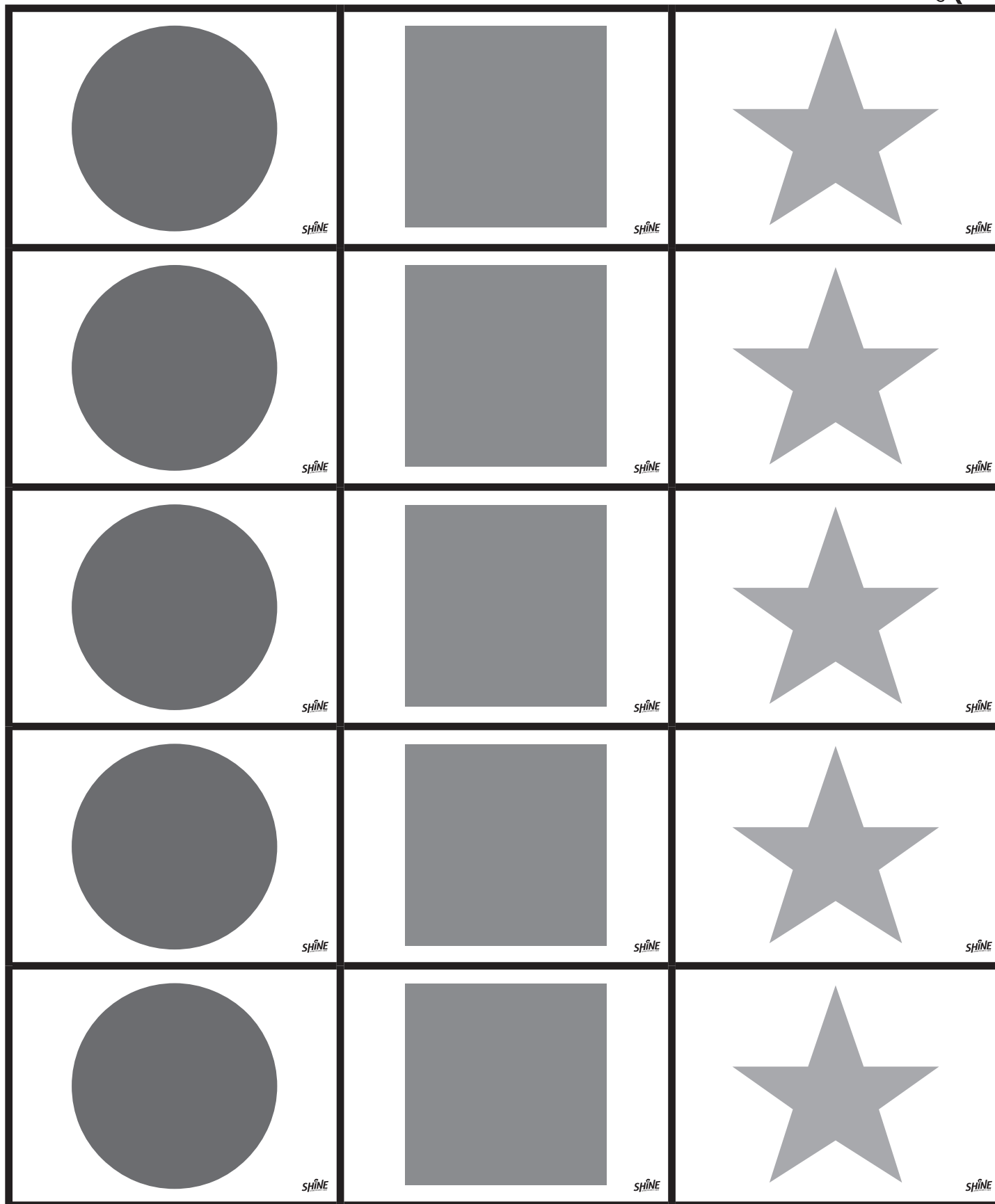
For Re-play, make copies of the Flame Template so there's one flame per person. Copy them onto red, orange, or yellow paper. Cut them out and use glue or tape to fasten a flame to the front of a strip of stiff paper sized to fit each child's head.



Flame illustration by Len Epstein

**SESSION 3, 6-13**  
**"Peace Path" Game Cards**

Print and cut along the solid lines. Use these game cards with the "Peace Path" Game (Teaching Poster).

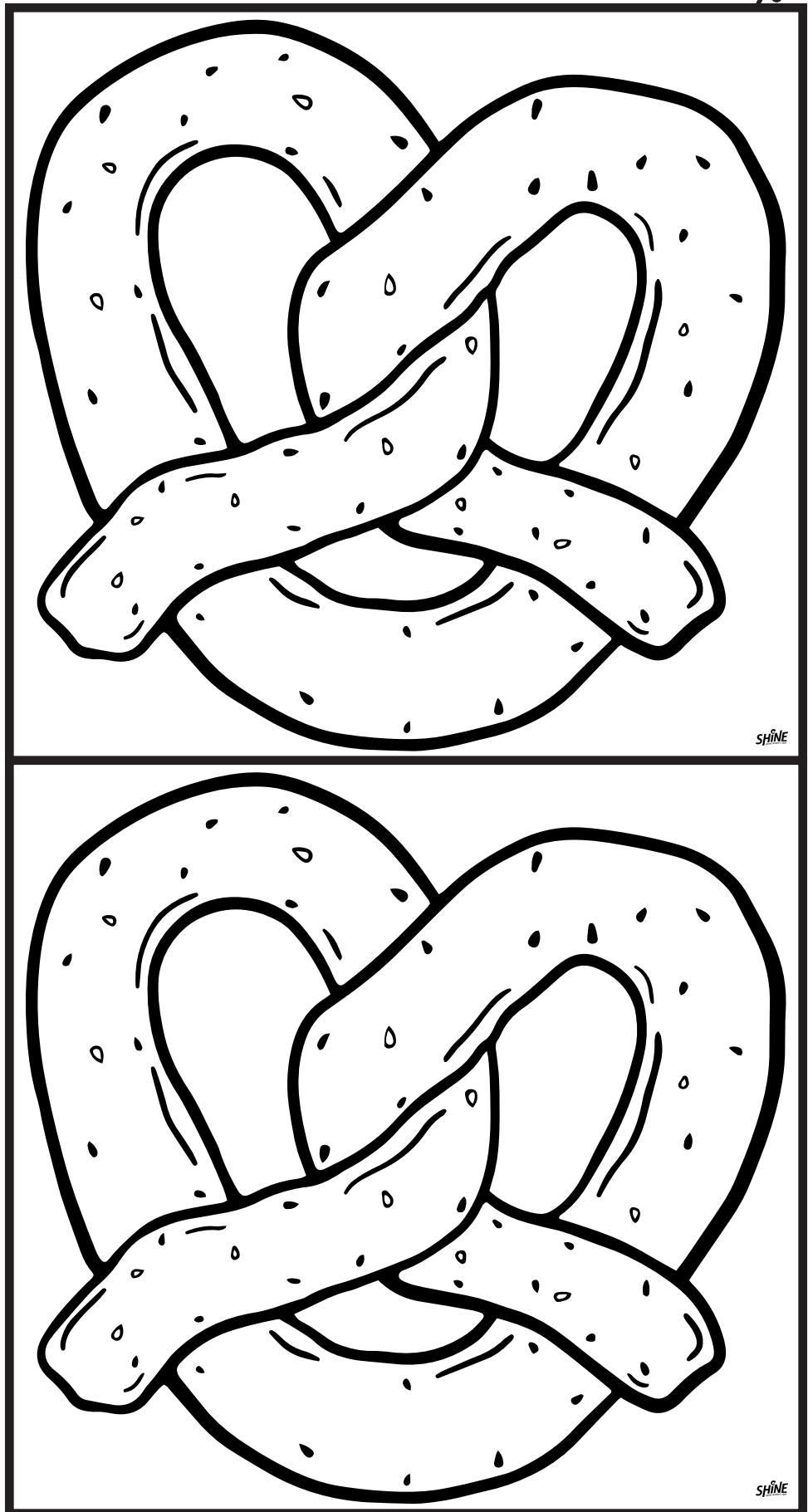




### SESSION 3

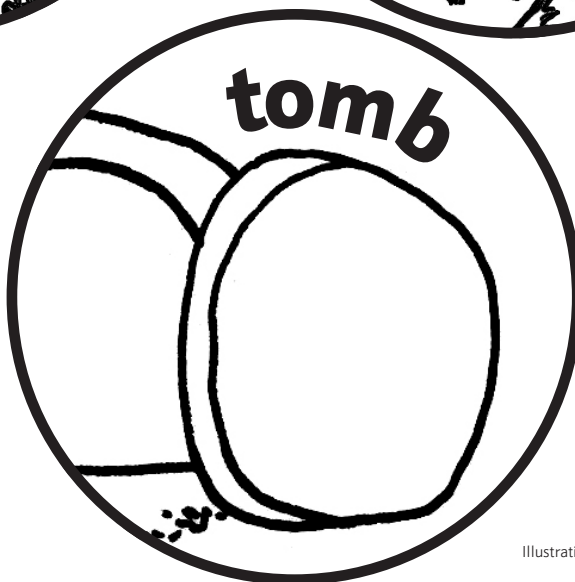
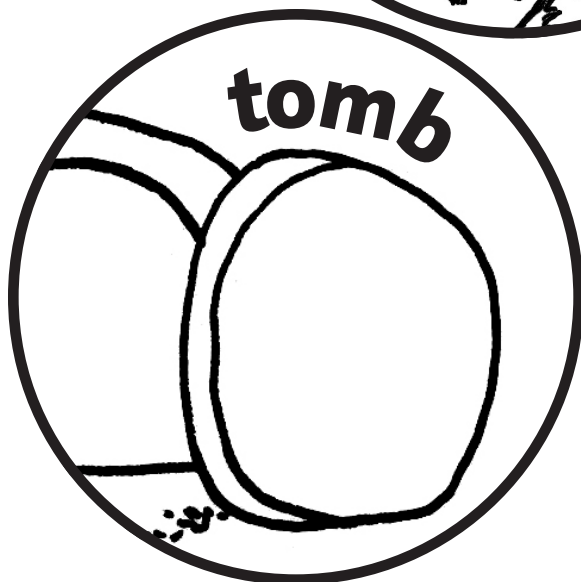
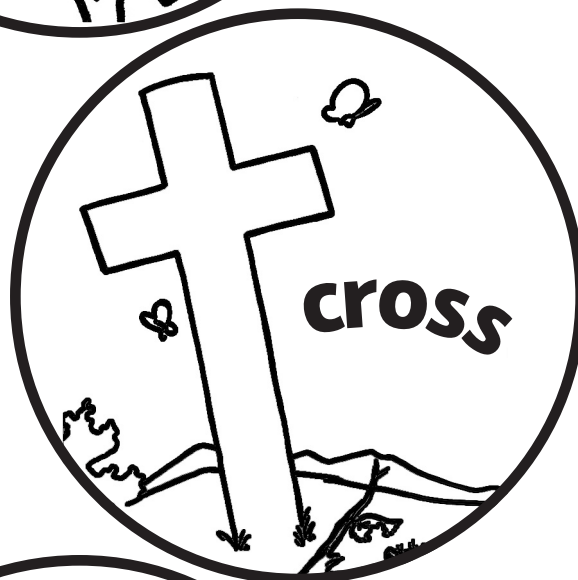
#### Pretzel Play Dough Mats

Make enough copies of these mats so that each child will have one. Cover the mats with clear packaging tape or transparent shelf liner, if desired. Children use the pretzel shape on the mat as a guide to form a pretzel shape out of play dough.



**SESSION 4**  
**Story Circles**

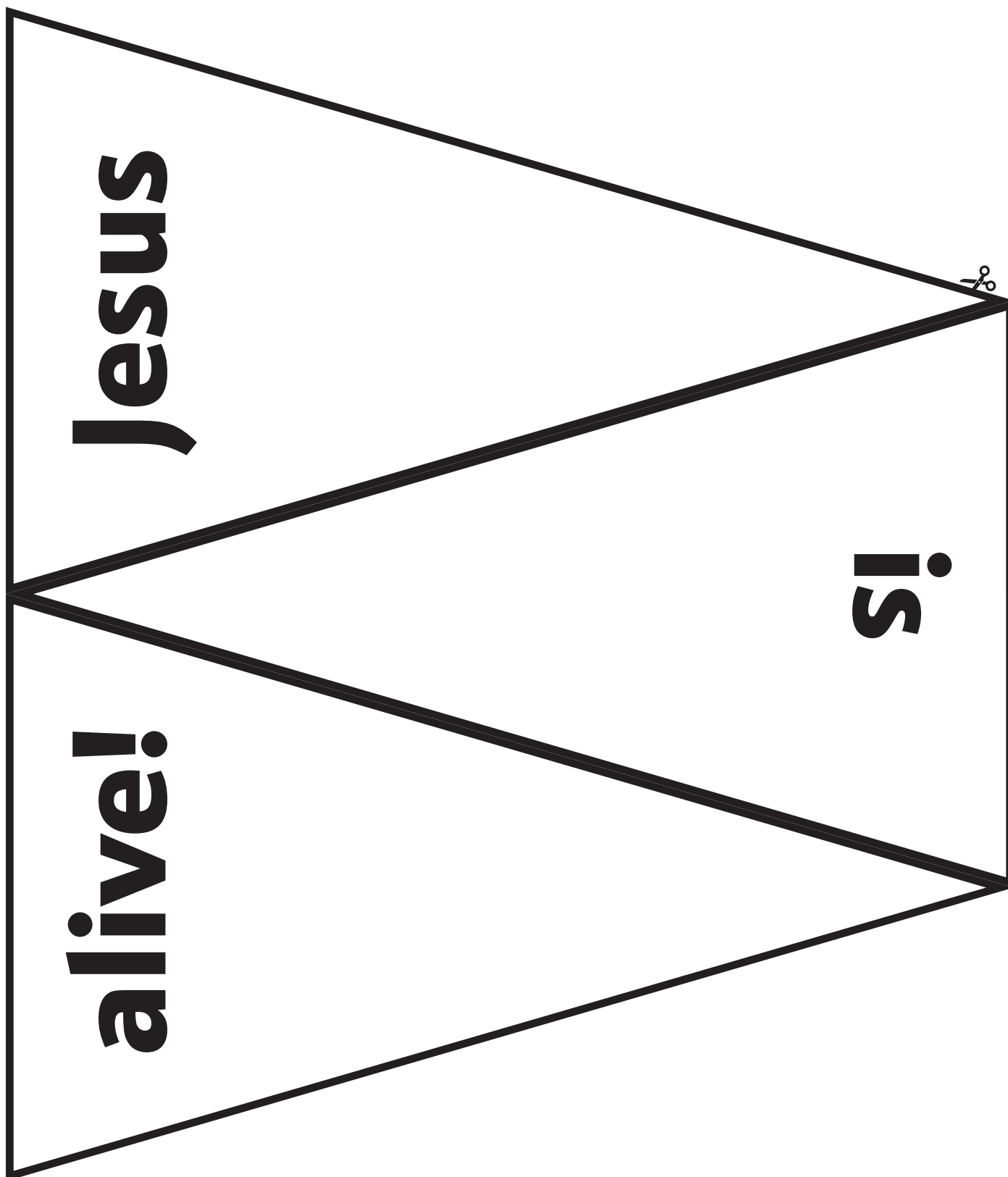
Make one set of Story Circles for each child in your group for Re-play. Cut out the circles.



Illustrations (from top) by Nancy Munger,  
David Leonard, and Kate Cosgrove

**SESSION 5**  
**Easter Bunting**

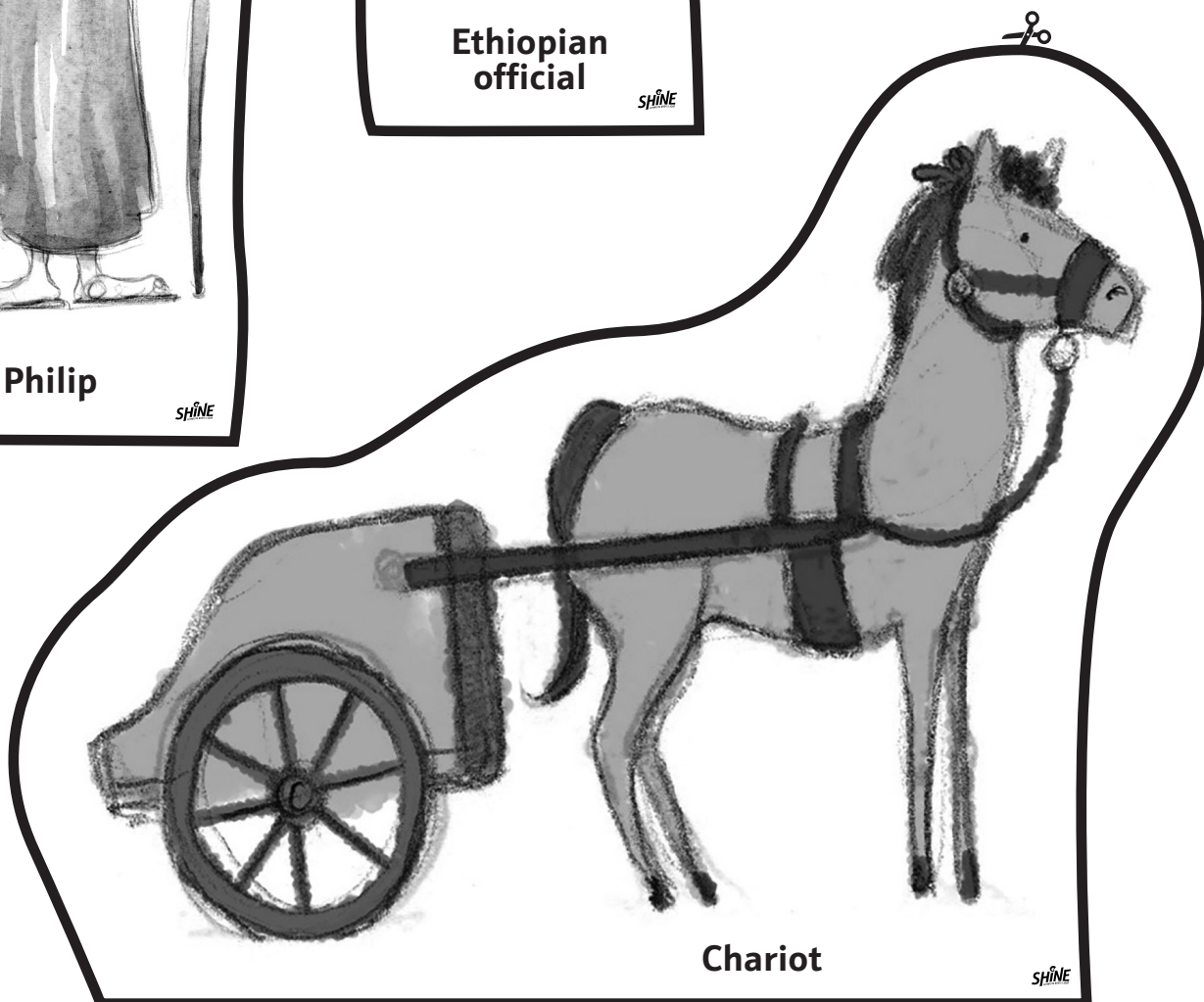
Make one copy for each child. Have children color the triangles, cut them out along the solid lines, and clip them onto a ribbon or piece of yarn to display. Celebrate because Jesus is alive!



## SESSION 9

### Philip and the Ethiopian Official Story Figures

Make a copy of these story figures for each child for use in Re-play.



Illustrations by David Leonard



**SESSION 9**  
**Prayer Wheels**

Copy the Prayer Wheel circles (pages 90-91) onto stiff paper or card stock so that each child has a set of circles. Have the children color them, and then fasten the wheels together in the middle with a round-head brass fastener.

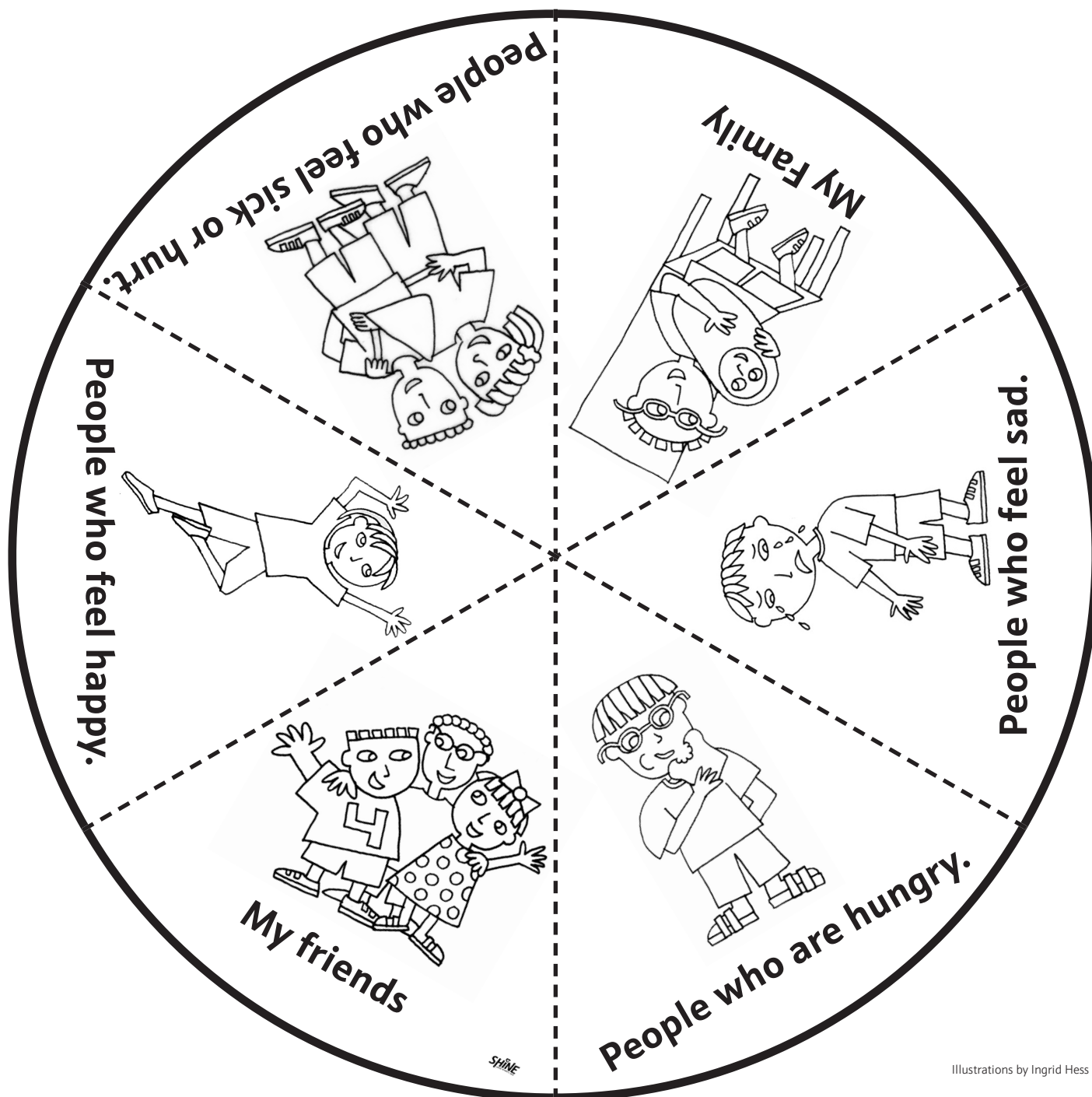


Illustrations by Ingrid Hess



**SESSION 9**  
**Prayer Wheels (continued)**

Copy the circle onto stiff paper, such as card stock if possible.



Illustrations by Ingrid Hess

## SESSION 11

### Peter and Cornelius Puppets and Animal Card

Copy one set of the Peter and Cornelius Puppets for each child, as well as one copy of the Animal Card per child. Use card stock if available. Tape each one to a craft stick so they can be held up as puppets.

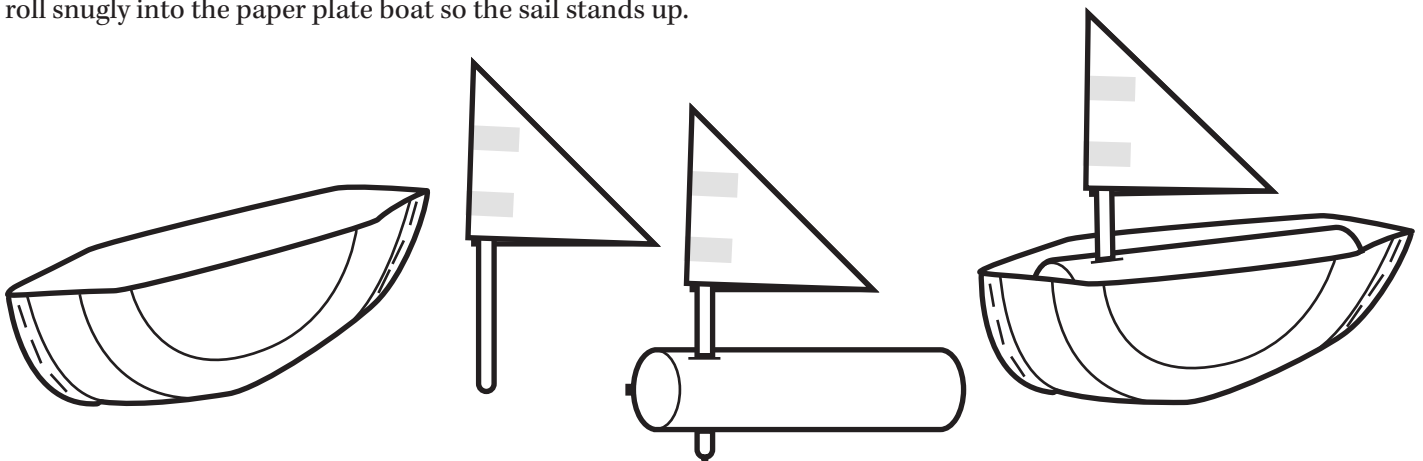


Illustrations by Rebecca Thornburgh

## SESSION 12

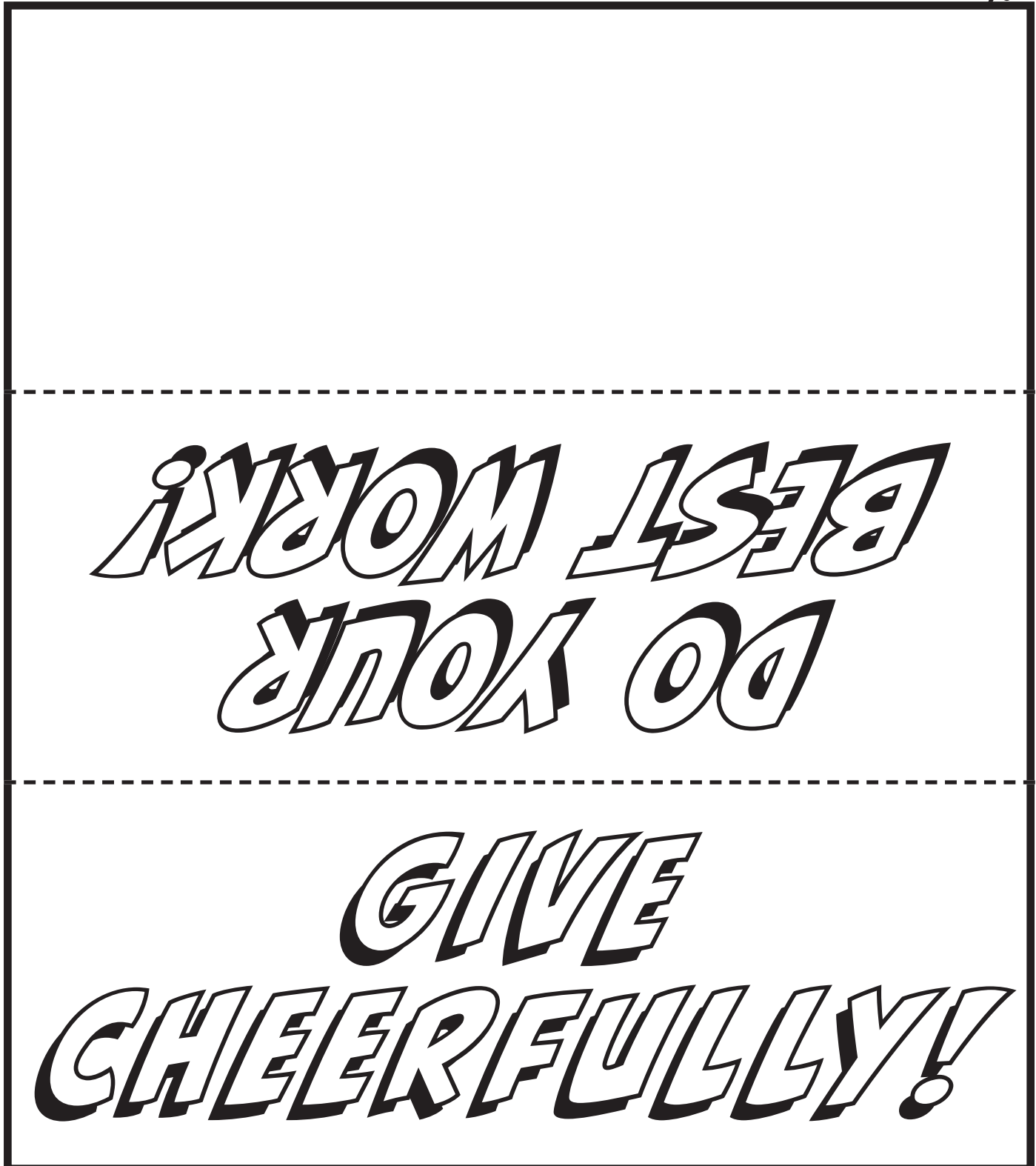
### Boat Diagram

Provide supplies for each child to make a boat in Responsive Play (Create). Cut a paper plate in half and staple the two halves together to form the boat. Make a sail by folding a triangular piece of paper around a craft stick and fastening it with tape. Cut a slit in a toilet paper roll and stick the craft stick into this slit. Then place the toilet paper roll snugly into the paper plate boat so the sail stands up.



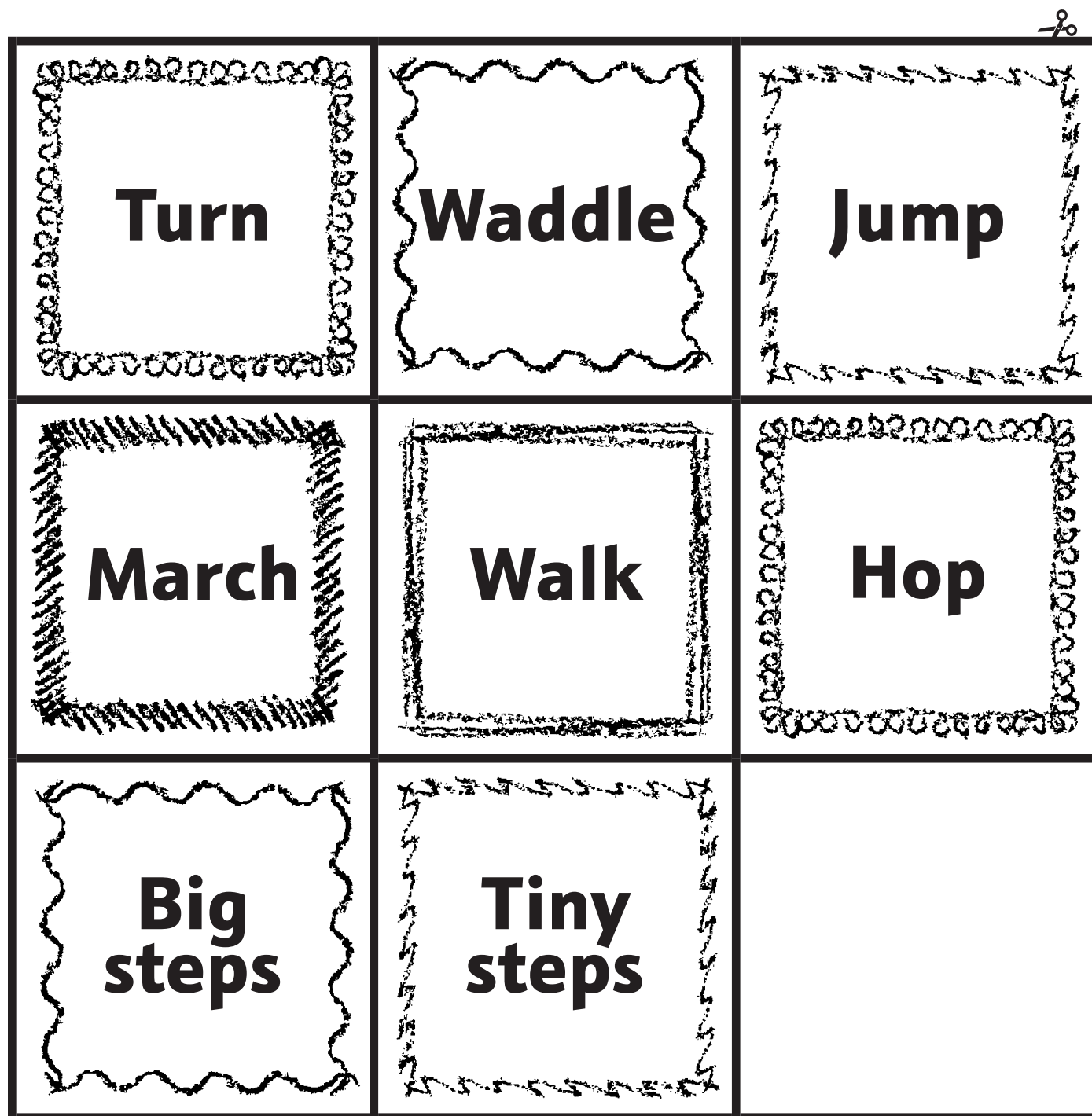
**SESSION 13**  
**Tent Template**

Make a copy of this tent for each child in your group. Use card stock or other stiff paper if possible. Cut around the outer edge of each tent. Have children decorate their tent. Then fold the tent along the two dotted lines and fasten the edge of the blank side to the edge of the other side together with clear tape.



**SESSION 13**  
**Movement Cards**

Make a copy of the cards and cut them out along the solid lines. Place them in a bowl or bag to use during the Responsive Play (Move) activity.



SESSION 13  
Story Letter

Dear friends,



I have been busy making **tents** with my friends **Aquila** and **Priscilla** for more than a



year. I go to church every week and tell people about **Jesus**.



I heard that you share what you have **happily**. Even when you do not have very much,



you share so everyone has enough! You help others learn to follow the way of **Jesus**.



There are people who **have more** than they need, while others **do not have** enough.

The people who have more can share with the people who do not have enough. Then



everyone will have a **fair amount**.



If a farmer only plants a **few seeds**, only a little bit of food will grow. But if a farmer



plants **many seeds**, lots of food will grow.

Give because you want to give, not because someone is forcing you to. God loves it



when we give **joyfully** to others.

Love from your friend,  
Paul

SHINE

Illustrations by Len Epstein, Kimberly Bowles, and Penny Weber