

# Teaching Aids

## SESSION 1

### Letter to Families



#### Dear Families,

Welcome to the Fall 2024 quarter of *Shine: Living in God's Light!* We begin with the stories and poetry of creation, focusing on the goodness and grand variety of God's world as well as God's care for all of living things. The relationships of humans with God and the earth are clear in the first chapters of Genesis, Psalm 104, and other creation texts.

The creation section of this quarter is followed by stories from the books of Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings. In these stories we meet individual people who sought to hear and do God's will—people including Ruth, Samuel, David, Abigail, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, and the gracious woman of Shunem. These people struggled to do what was right and make wise choices. They show us examples of following in God's ways of faithfulness, kindness, trust, and peace.

These ancient stories have much to teach about who God is and what it means to live in a world where God cares for all of creation. We can learn more about living in relationship with God and each other as we go through times of joy and times of trouble.

As a parent or guardian, 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 cardinal 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 worship and learn together.

#### Pray together!

Oh God, creator of  
turtles and trees,

maker of starry  
skies and bright  
shining waters,

we thank you for  
this earth that is  
our home.

We thank you for  
family and friends.

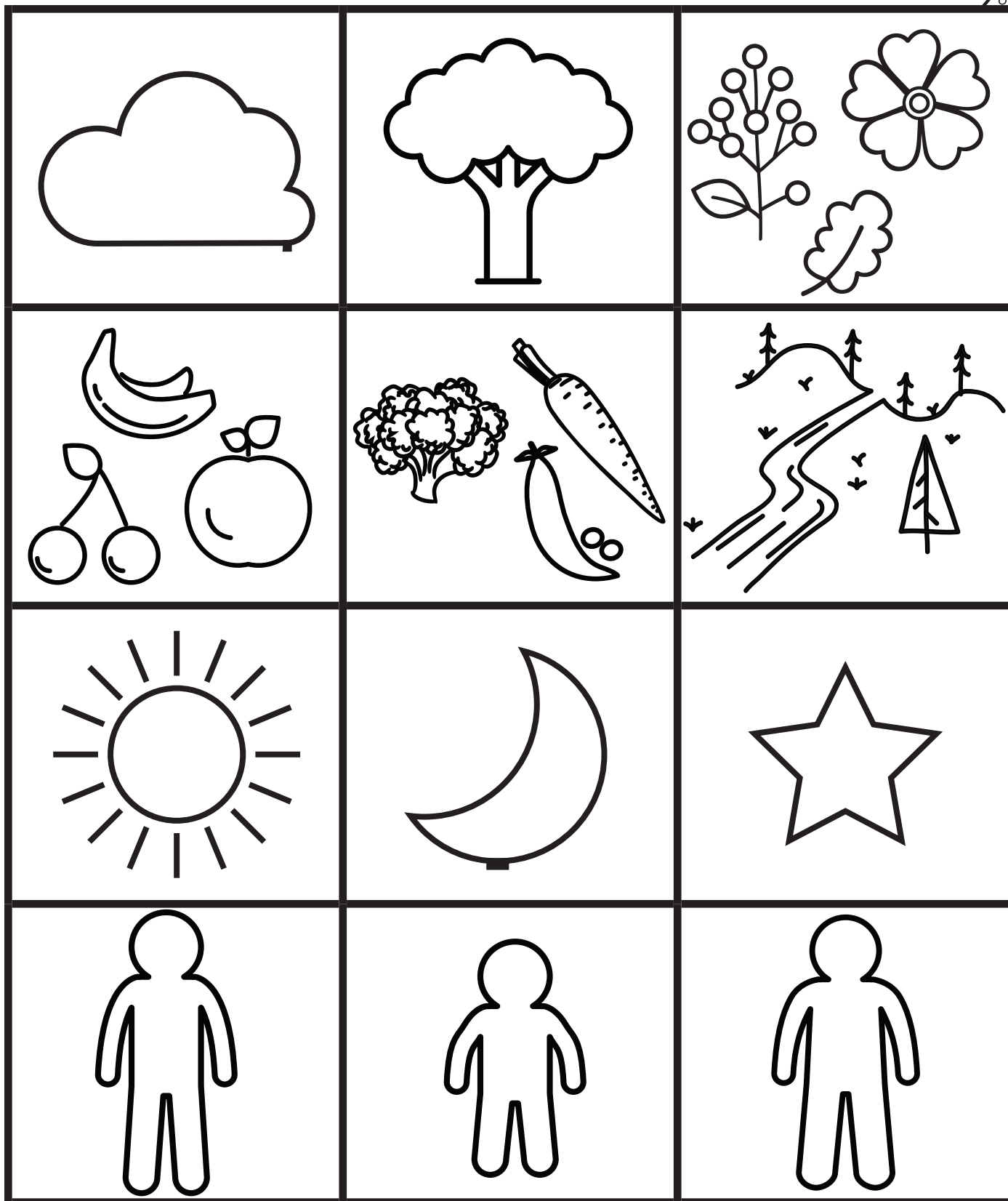
We praise you for  
your loving care.

Help us follow in  
your way of kindness.  
Amen.



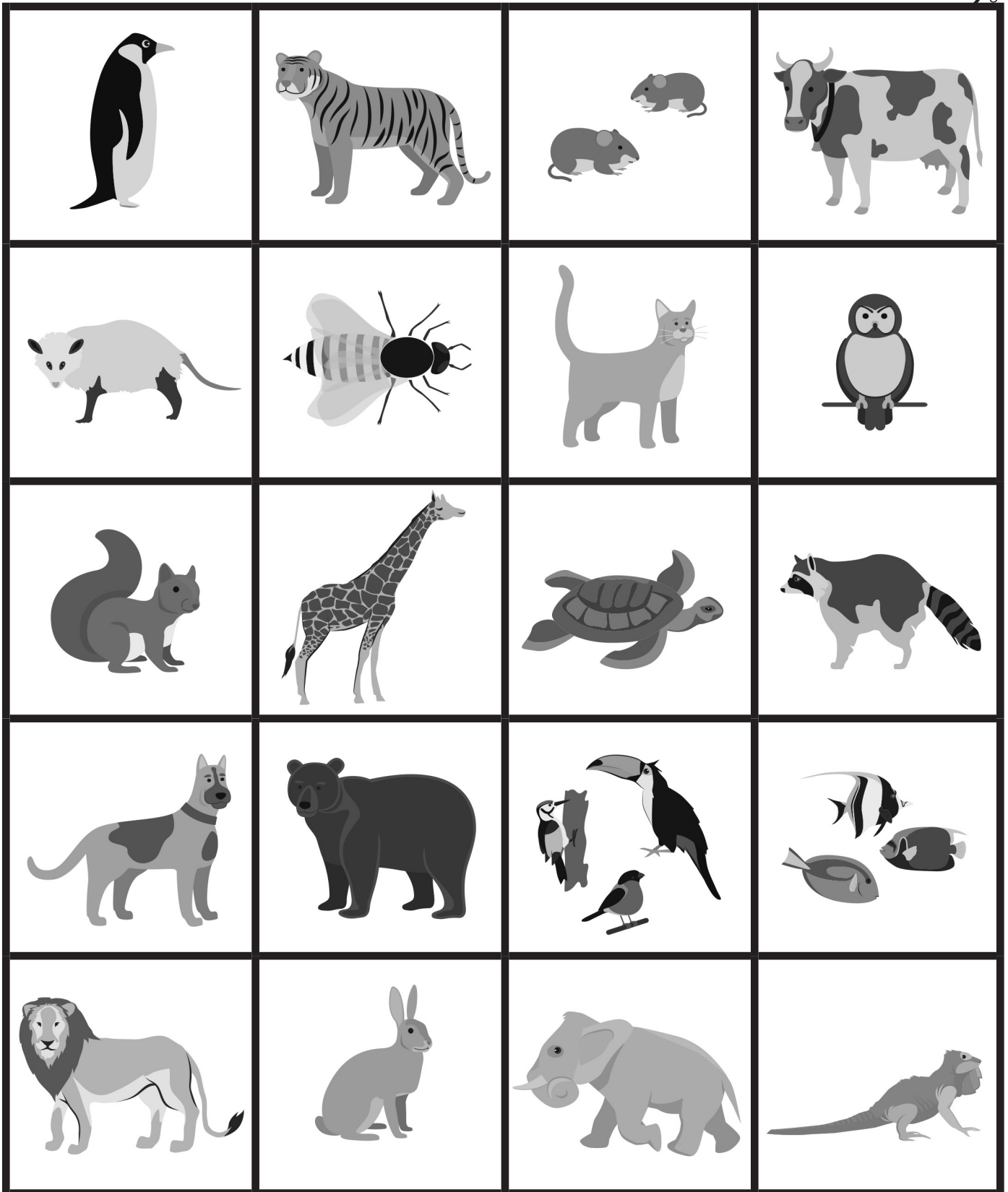
SESSION 1  
Creation Cards

Copy and cut apart cards for use in Share the Story (Re-play).



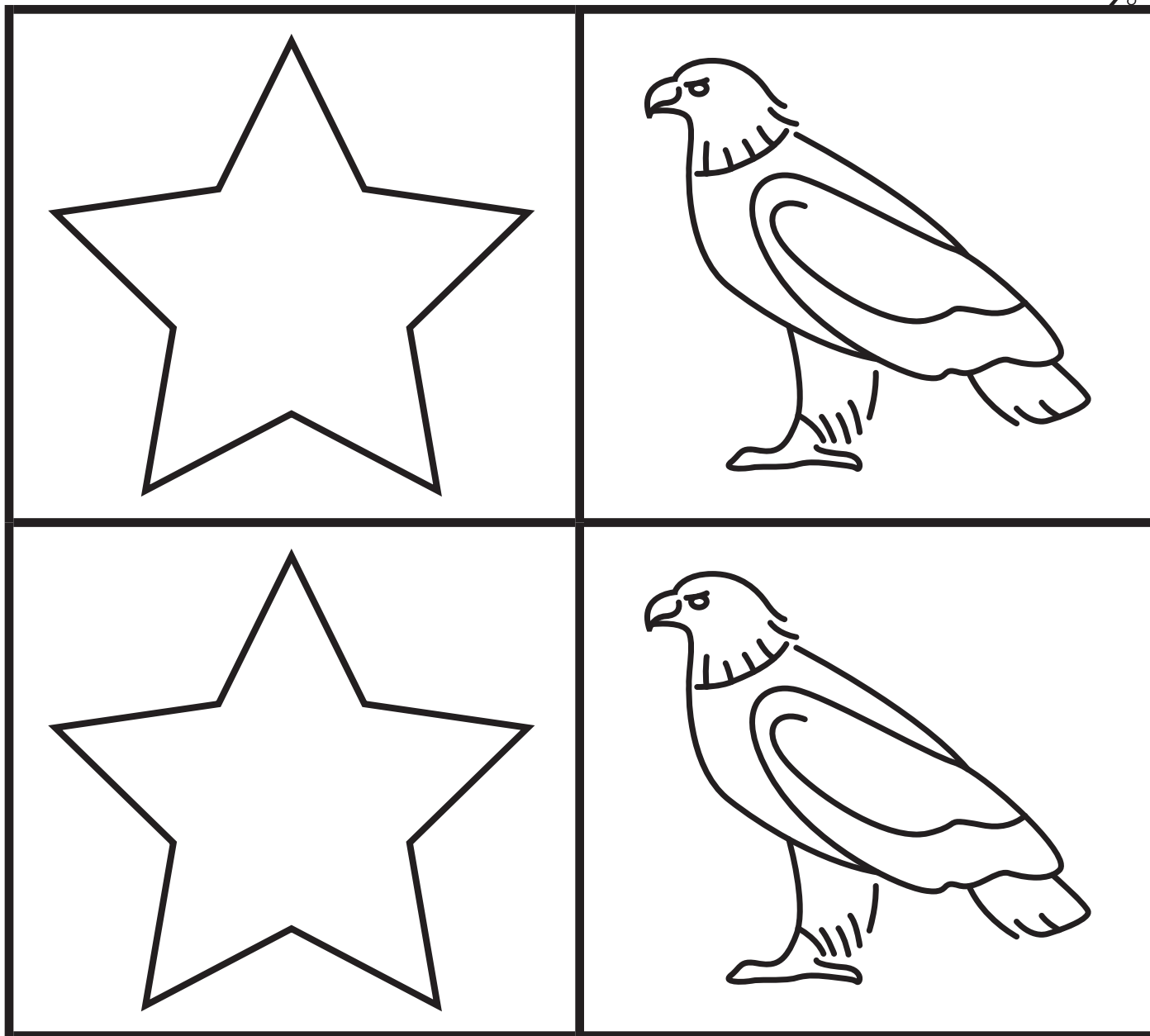
**SESSION 1**  
**Animal Cards**

Copy and cut apart cards for use in Share the Story (Re-play).

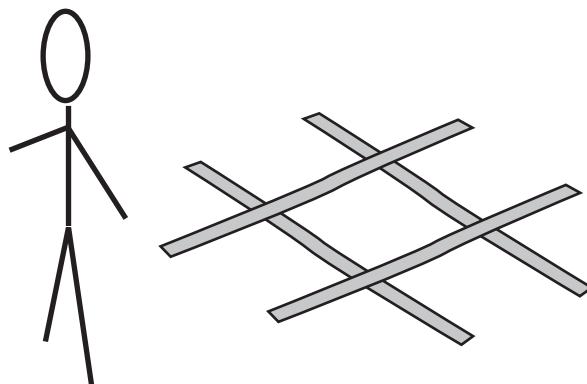


**SESSION 4**  
**Stars and Eagles**

Copy one star and one eagle for each child and cut apart; use in Share the Story (Re-play) and Responsive Play (Move).

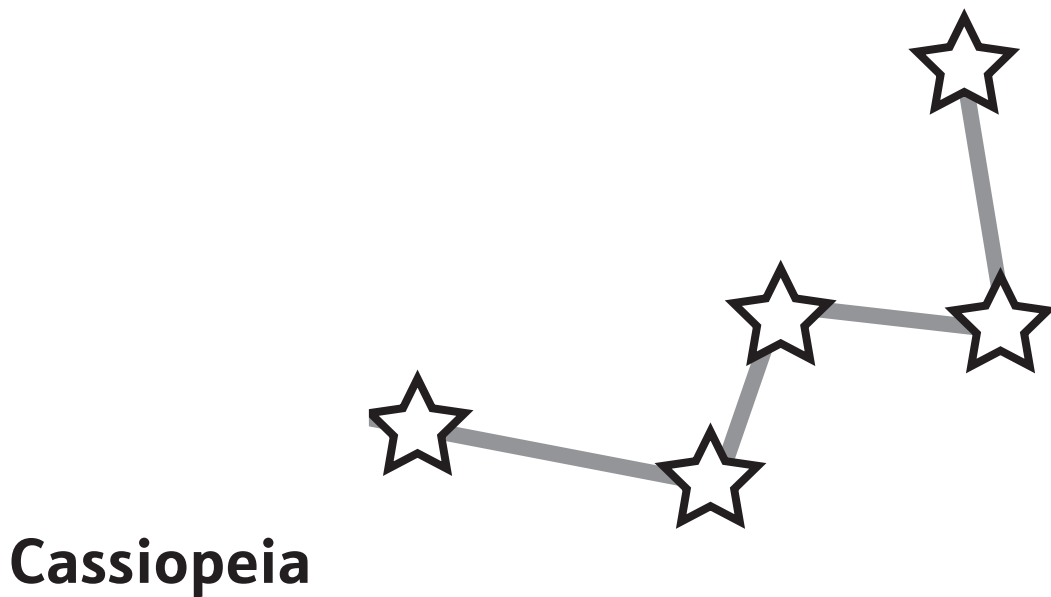
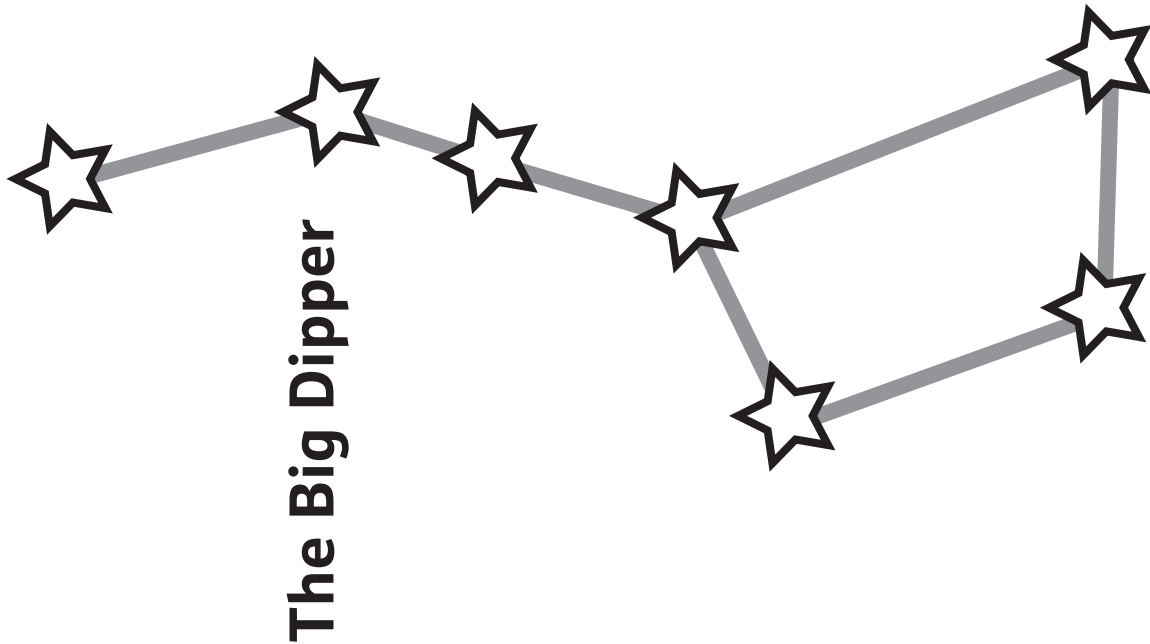


For Move, use ribbon or tape to make a giant Tic-tac-toe grid on the floor.



**SESSION 4**  
**Star Cards**

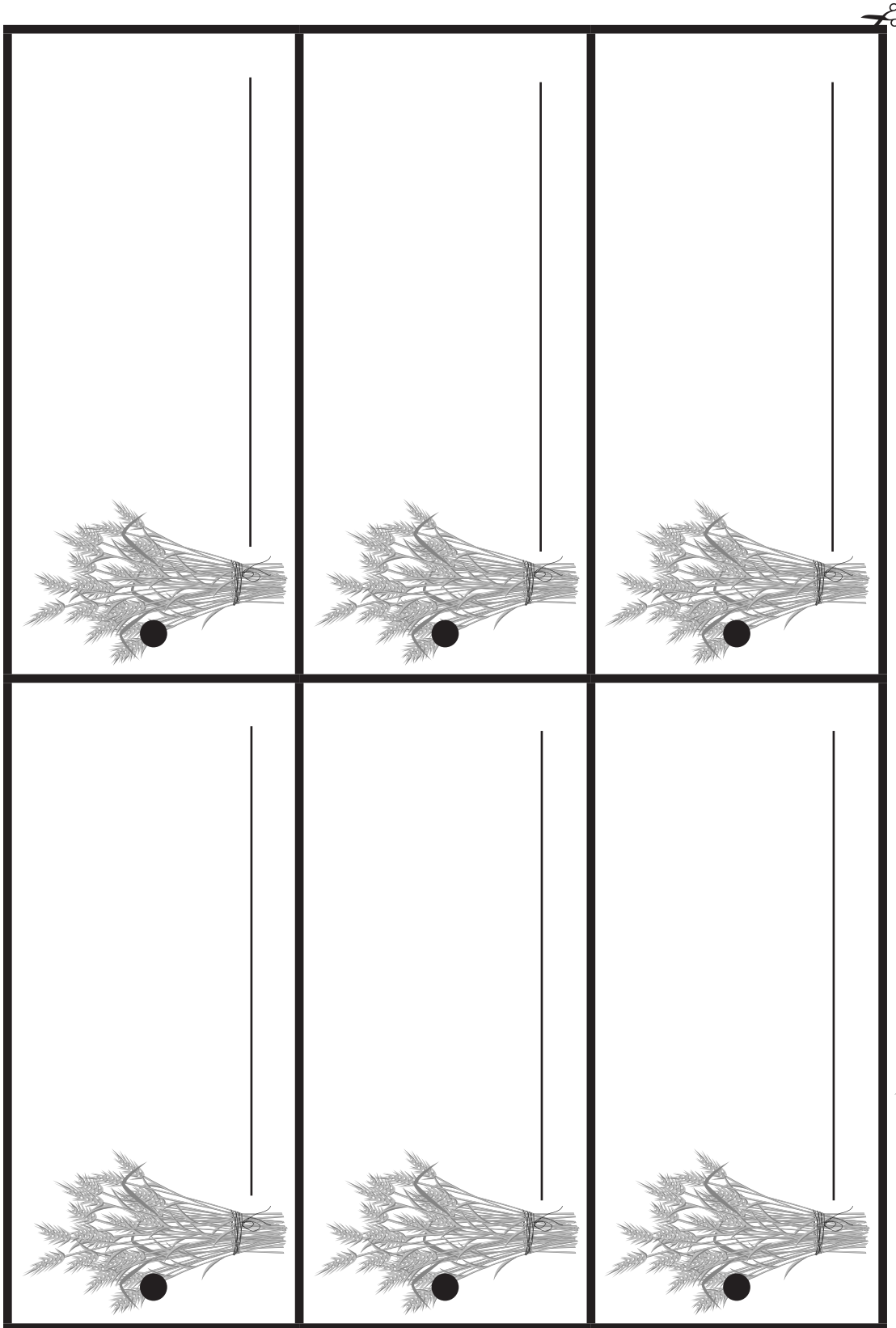
Copy and mount onto a polystyrene foam tray, cardboard, or heavy paper for use in Responsive Play (Explore). Punch holes at each star to make sewing cards. Make one set per child or several sets that can be shared among a larger group. Prepare the ends of lengths of yarn with a tight band of masking tape on one end to use as the needle for sewing.



## SESSION 6

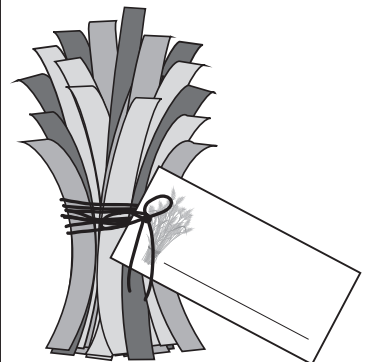
### Name Tags

Copy and cut apart the tags for use during Responsive Play (Create). Write each child's name on the tag and hole punch the end. Use string to attach it to the completed paper sheaf.



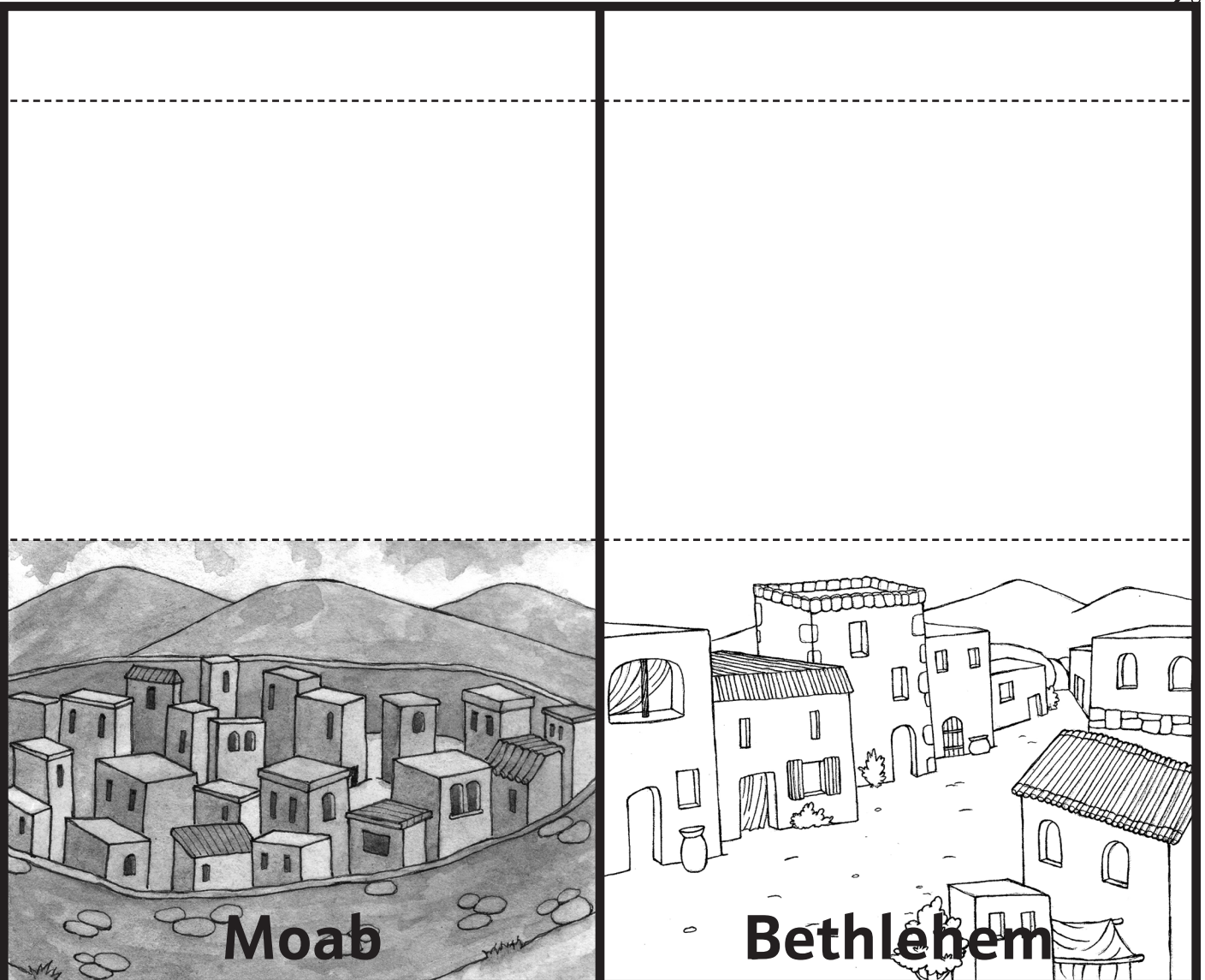
## SESSION 6 Paper Sheaves

Use a paper cutter to cut brown, tan, and/or yellow construction paper into strips about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in x 6 in (1.5 cm x 15 cm). Show children how to gather 10 or more of each color. Help them tie the middle with yarn or twine. Bend the ends as shown below. Tie a Name Tag onto the child's bundle as well.



**SESSION 6**  
**Story Props**

Copy and prepare the Story Props for use during Share the Story (Re-play). Cut Moab and Bethlehem on the solid lines and fold on the dotted lines to create a tent-like shape that will stand up. Cut the other three props, which will be laid flat.

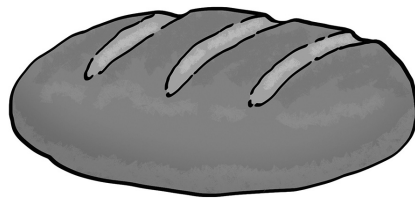


**Moab**

**Bethlehem**



**Grain**



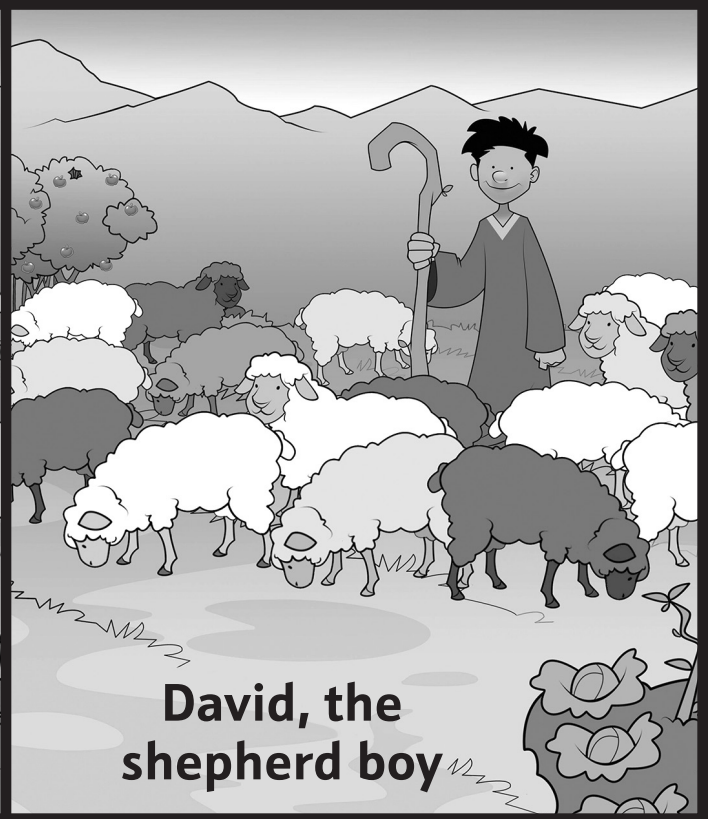
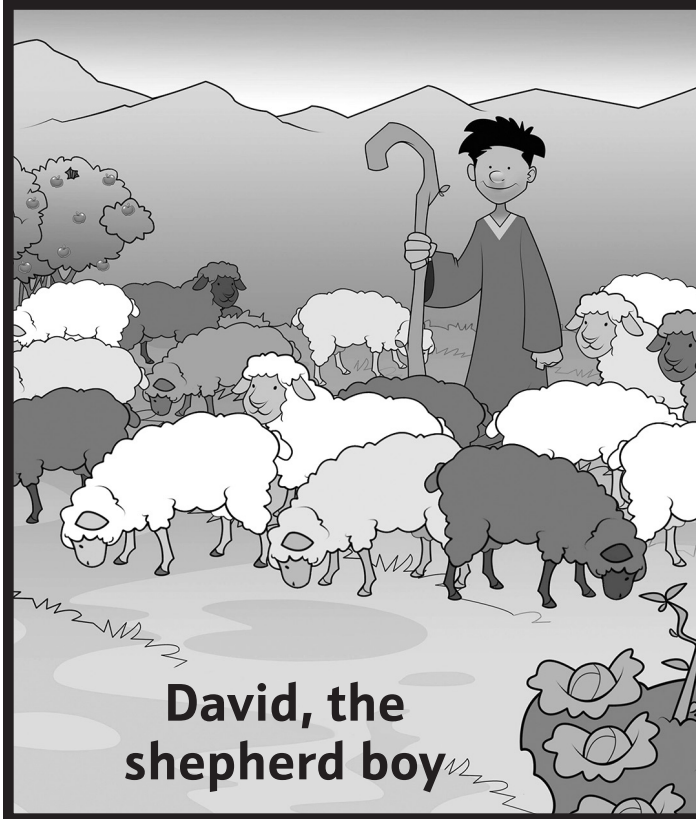
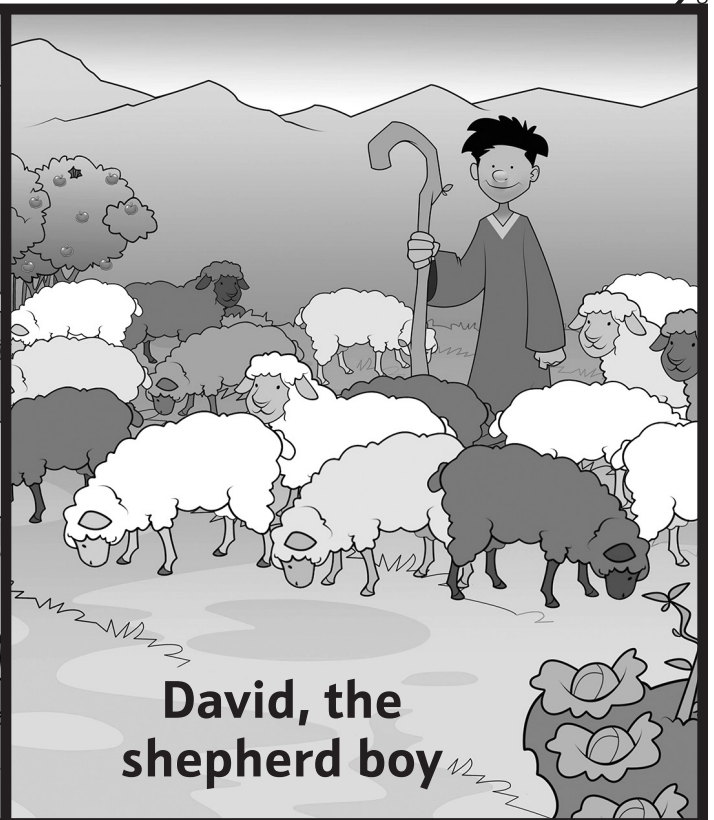
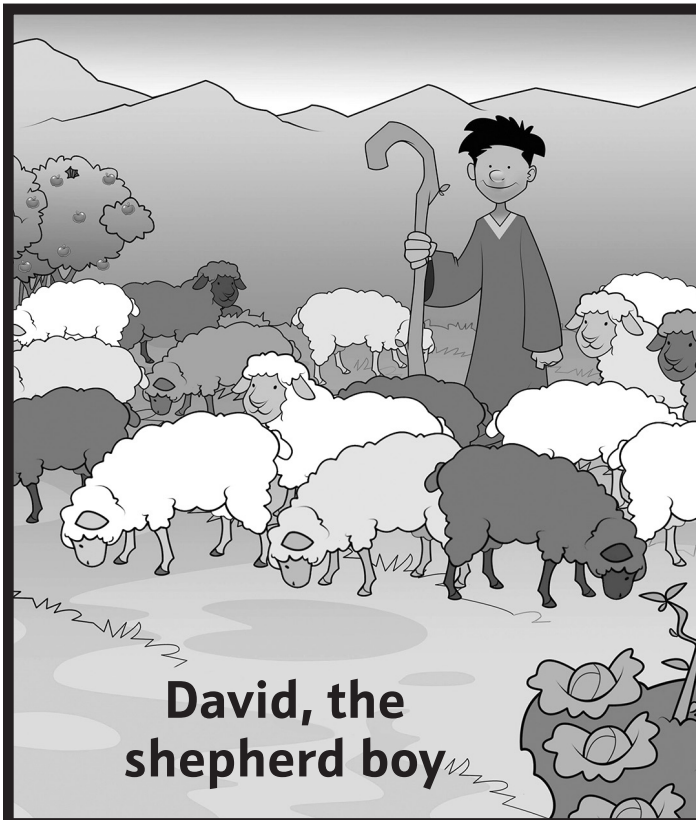
**Bread**



**Baby Obed**

**SESSION 8**  
**David Cards**

Copy one per child and cut apart; use during the Share the Story.



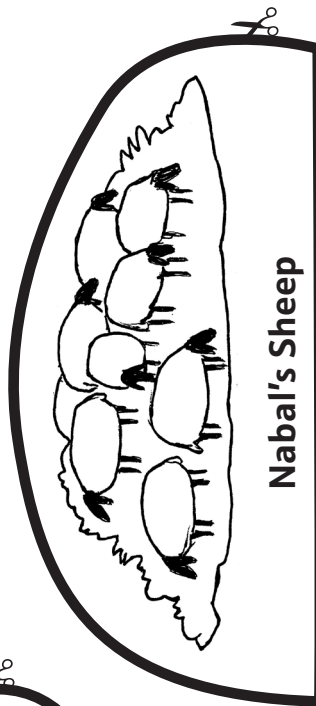


**SESSION 9**  
**Story Figures**

Copy and cut apart the Story Figures to use during Share the Story.



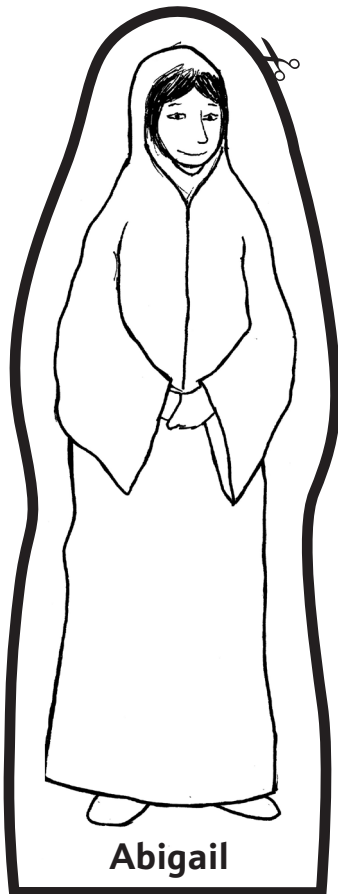
**Abigail on the Donkey**



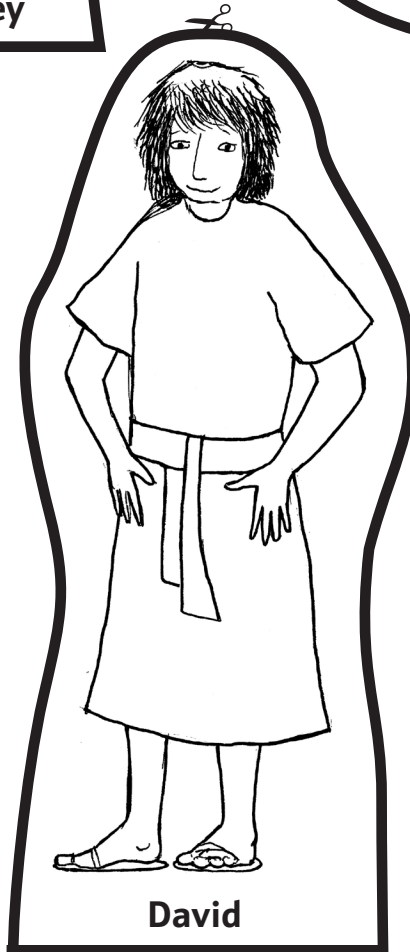
**Nabal's Sheep**



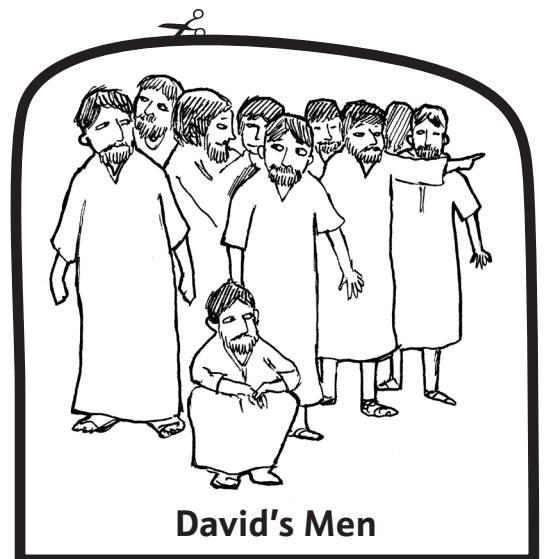
**Nabal**



**Abigail**



**David**

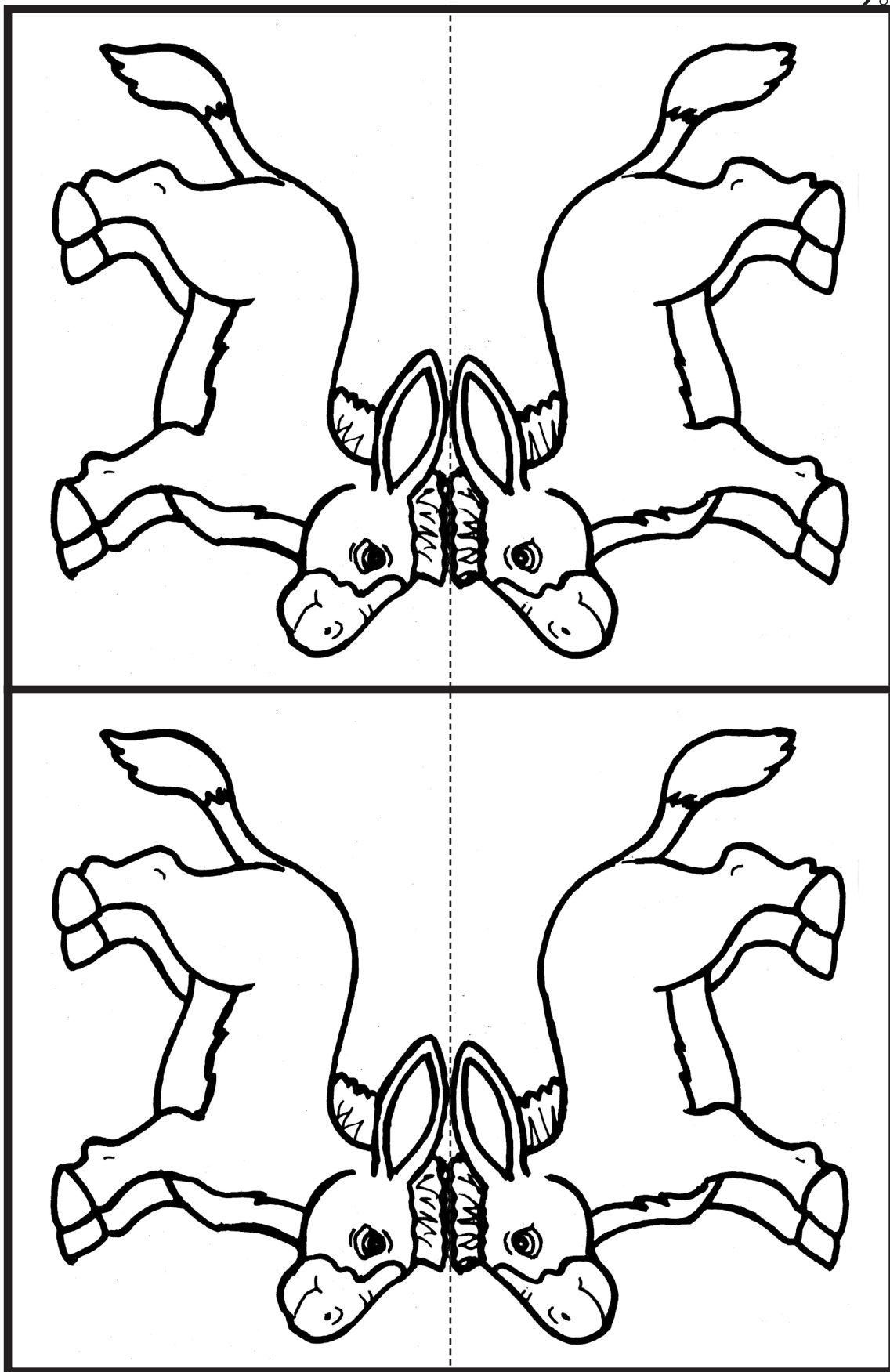


**David's Men**

## SESSION 9

### Stand-up Donkey

Copy donkeys for use in Responsive Play (Build). Each child will need one. Cut them out and fold along the dotted line to make a standing donkey.



## SESSION 10

### "Did You Ever See a Friend?" Song

During Responsive Play (Make Peace), sing the following words to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?"

**Did you ever see a friend, a friend, a friend,  
Did you ever see a friend feeling sad?  
Making a frown, head hanging down.  
Did you ever see a friend feeling sad?**

*(Pause briefly to talk. How can you show love to a friend who is sad? Have half the group pretend to be sad, while the others act out the loving responses suggested by the group.)*

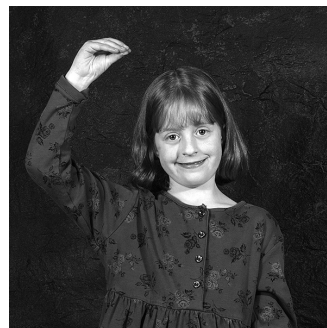
**Did you ever see a friend, a friend, a friend?  
Did you ever see a friend feeling hurt?  
Crying and sighing and crying and sighing.  
Did you ever see a friend feeling hurt?**

*(Pause briefly to talk. How can you show love to a friend who is hurt? Have half the children pretend to be hurt, while the others act out the loving responses suggested by the group.)*

## SESSIONS 10–11

### American Sign Language for "Light"

Use this sign for the words *lamp* and *light* in Connect (Learn a Verse) for sessions 10–11.



Raise your hand above and to the side of your head, with your thumb and fingers touching.



Open your hand, extending your fingers outward. The idea is for it to look like a light is flicking on, spreading out its rays.

## SESSION 11

### Wise Owl Snacks

Prepare wise owl snacks for Early Arrivals. Have extra food items available for children to choose from.

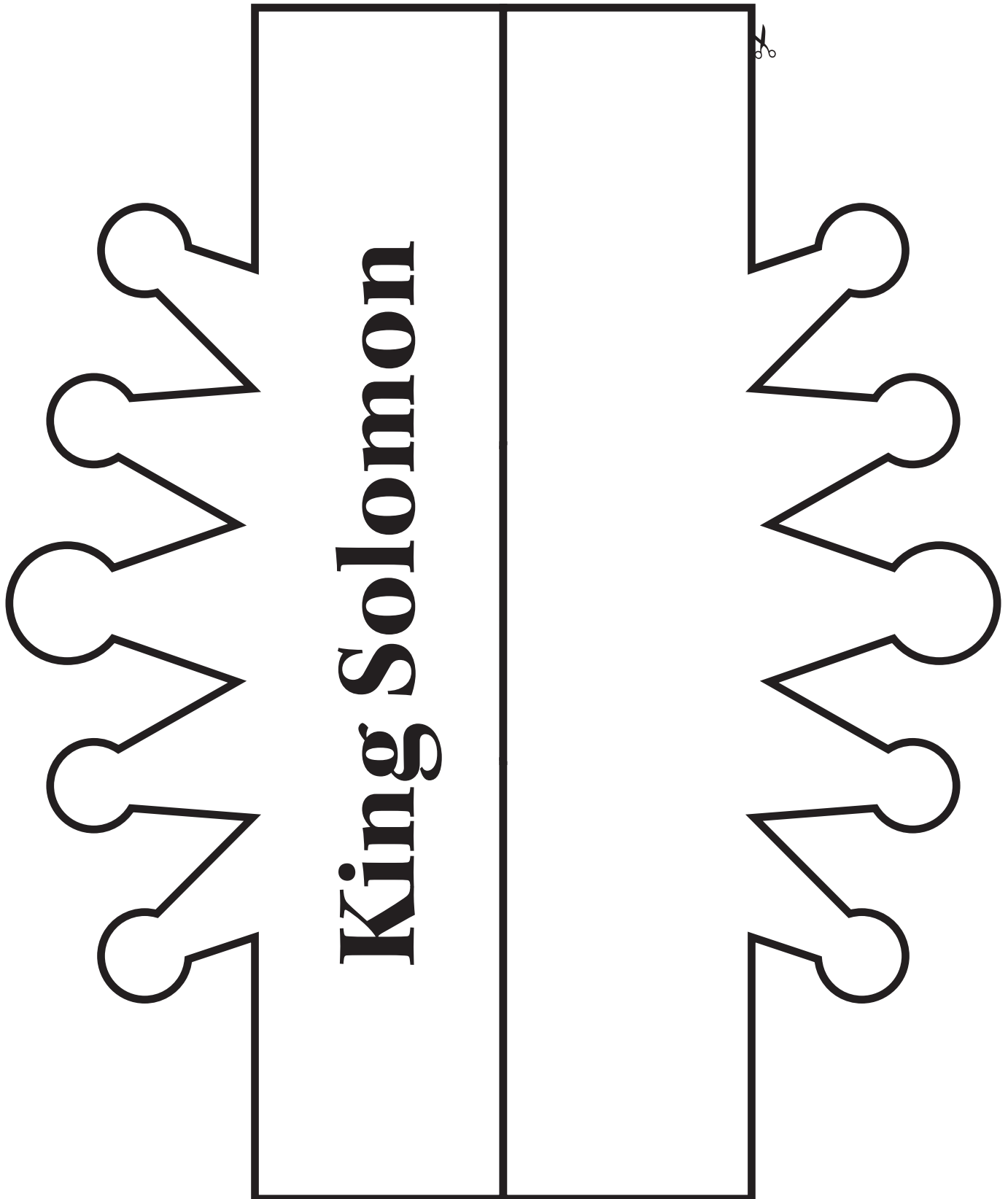
#### You will need:

- Rice cakes
  - Circle-shaped cereal
  - Peanut butter, jelly, or cream cheese (*Check for food allergies and use the appropriate spread.*)
  - Sliced banana
  - Blueberries or small colored candies
  - Thinly sliced apples
1. Spread a rice cake with peanut butter, cream cheese, or jelly (depending on allergies).
  2. Have children lay two banana slices near the top of the circle for eyes.
  3. Place blueberries or small colored candies in the middle of the banana slices to complete the eyes.
  4. Put a thin apple slice along each edge for wings. Place them right beneath the banana eye.
  5. Stick circle-shaped cereal in between the apple slices.



**SESSION 11**  
**Make a Crown**

Copy the crown patterns on yellow paper and cut out for use in Responsive Play (Create). You will need two sections of crown for each child.



**SESSION 13**  
**Bible Story Cards**

Copy and cut apart the cards to use during Share the Story.

