

# Teaching Aids

## SESSION 1

### Letter to Families



#### **Dear Families,**

It is exciting to read again the Advent and Christmas stories and find new ways to introduce them to young children. This is a special time in the life of our faith community, and it is also a very special time for families. The stories in the Bible provide a refreshing perspective during the busy-ness, shopping, and sometimes chaotic pressure of the holidays. Allow these stories to help you and your children slow down, breathe, and soak in the wonder of the season.

From the Advent and Christmas stories, this quarter moves into the life and stories of Jesus as told by Luke. We learn how Jesus taught us to live and love one another. While these stories are powerful at any age, it is especially poignant to remember that these children are likely hearing them for the first time.

#### **Pray Together!**

Create some meaningful family prayer traditions or rituals. Your prayers may relate to certain times of day, such as mealtime, bedtime, or greeting the day. Or they may be connected to certain places, such as at the dinner table or in the beauty of nature, or in another special place in your house. Use prayers from *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible*, prayers you may remember from your childhood, or simple words straight from your heart!

#### **Read Together!**

Enjoy reading and wondering about the Bible stories together. “I wonder whom you would be in this story. What did you like best about the story? I wonder what this story tells us about God.” Be open to the new insights and perspectives that reading with young children brings to the story!

#### **Play Together!**

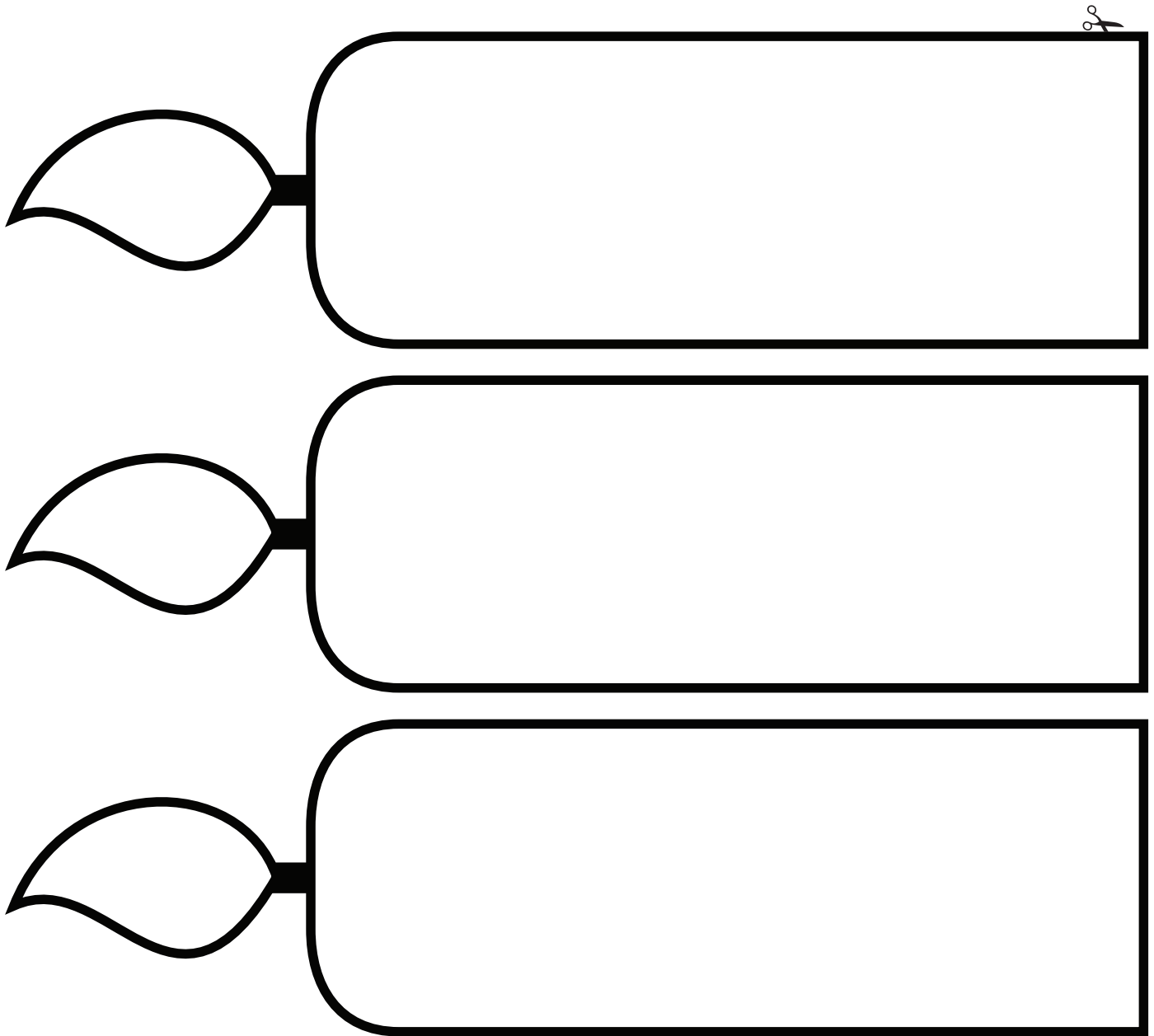
Join in with your child as they play. Your playfulness, kindness, and attention will mean more to the compassionate and healthy development of your children than anything else or anyone else can give to them.

Remember that you are your child’s first and most important teacher! Blessings to you and your family as you worship and learn together.



**SESSIONS 1-5**  
**Candle Template**

Copy and cut out one candle for each child for use in Connect (Pray) in sessions 1-5.



**SESSION 2**  
**Movement Ideas**

Use these movement ideas during Responsive Play (Move). Choose movements that all children will be able to do.

Tap your head  
Touch your elbow  
Jump three times  
Clap two times

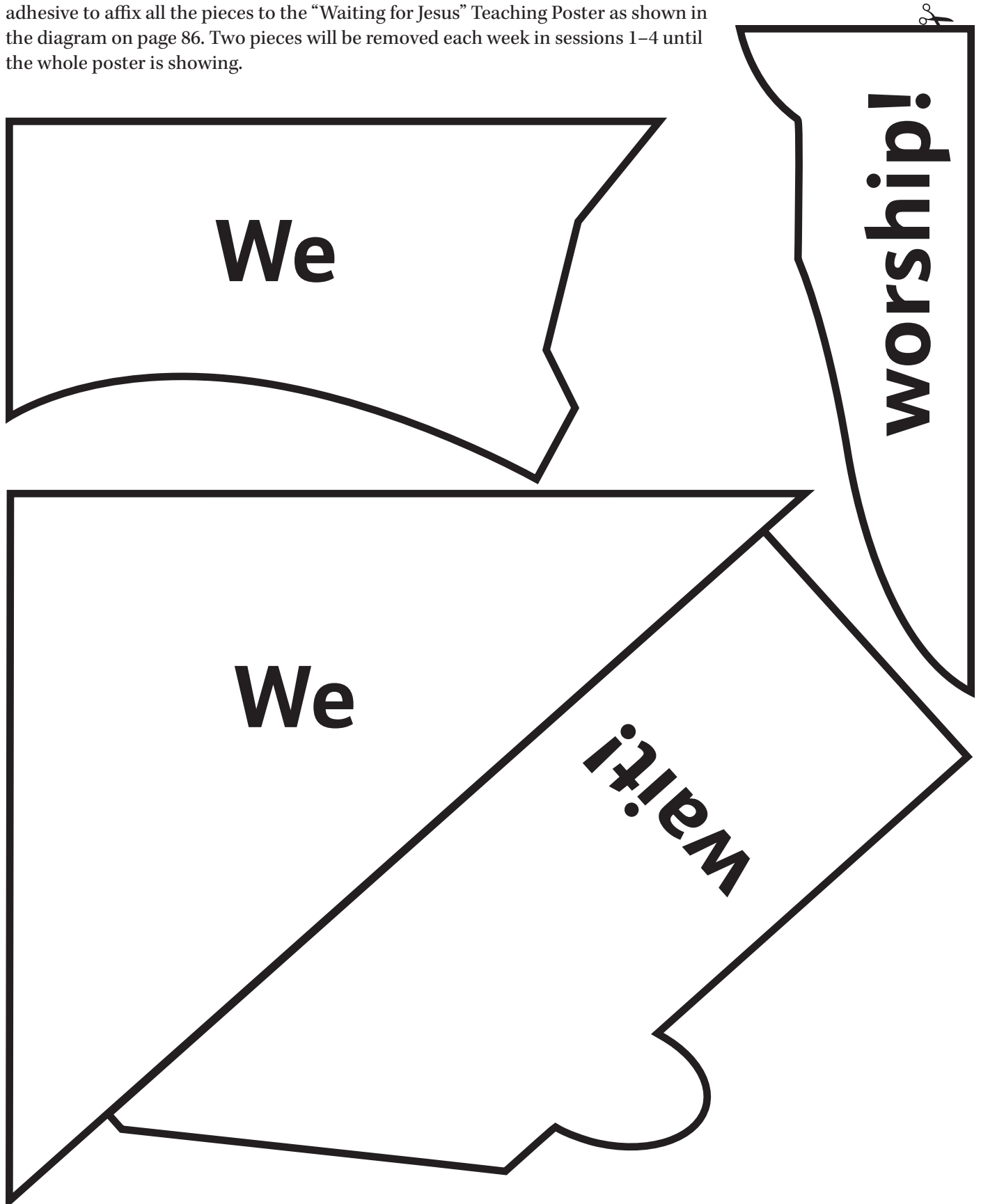
Give a high five  
Reach for the sky  
Pretend to be a bird  
Hop on one foot

Spin around three times  
Stand on one foot  
Touch your toes  
Wiggle your fingers

**SESSIONS 1-4**

**"Waiting for Jesus" Teaching Poster Instructions**

Copy and cut apart the poster pieces for use in Share the Story. Use removable putty adhesive to affix all the pieces to the "Waiting for Jesus" Teaching Poster as shown in the diagram on page 86. Two pieces will be removed each week in sessions 1-4 until the whole poster is showing.



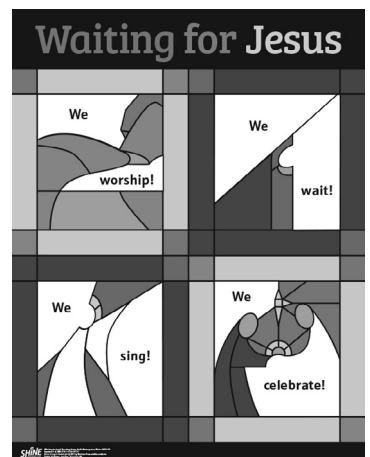
**SESSIONS 1-4**

**"Waiting for Jesus" Teaching Poster Instructions (continued)**

Copy and cut apart the poster pieces for use in Share the Story. Use removable putty adhesive to affix all the pieces to the "Waiting for Jesus" Teaching Poster as shown in the diagram below. Two pieces will be removed each week in sessions 1-4 until the whole poster is showing.

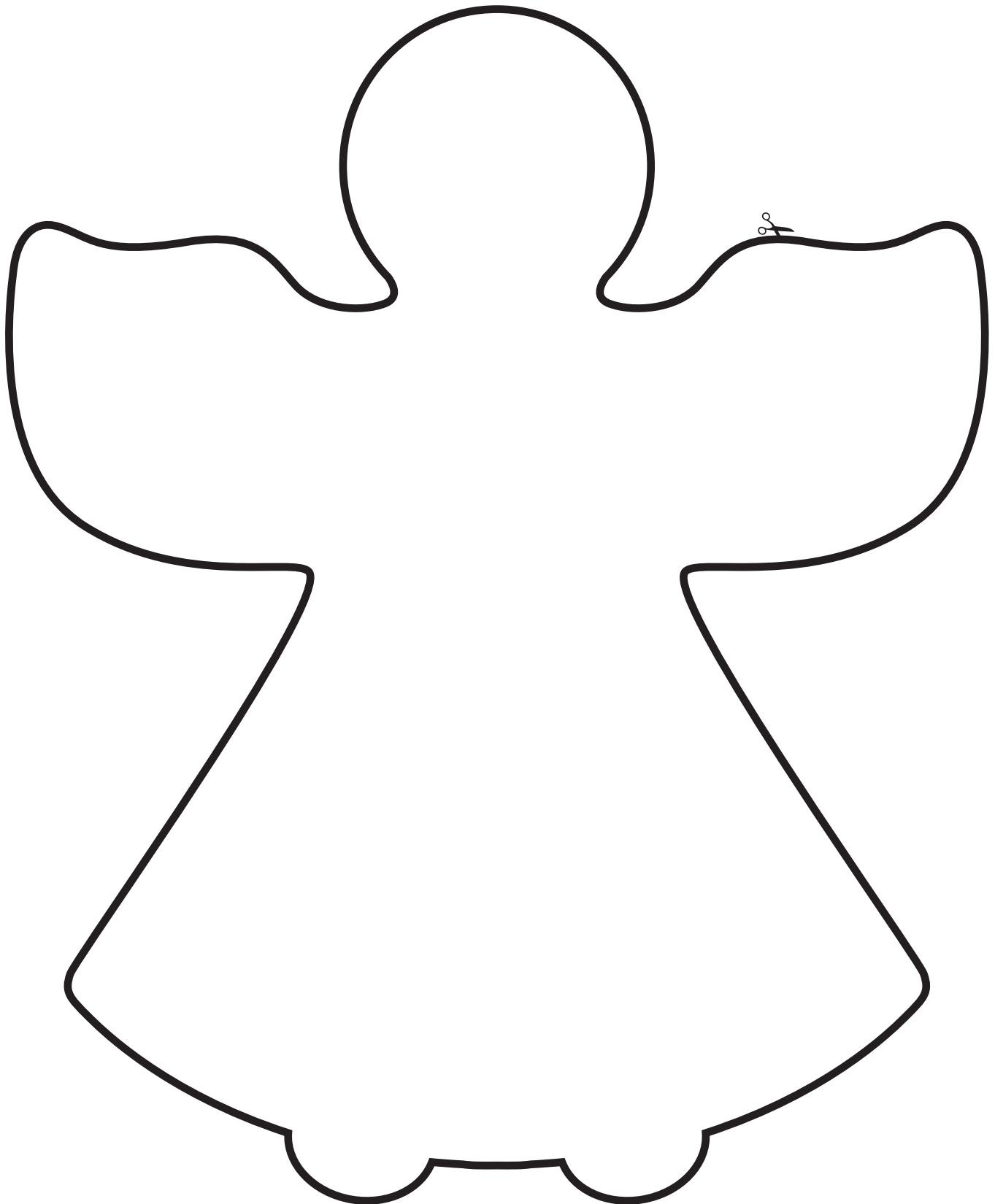


Poster with pieces attached:



**SESSION 3**  
**Angel Template**

Copy on heavy white paper and cut out, one for each child, for use in Responsive Play (Create).

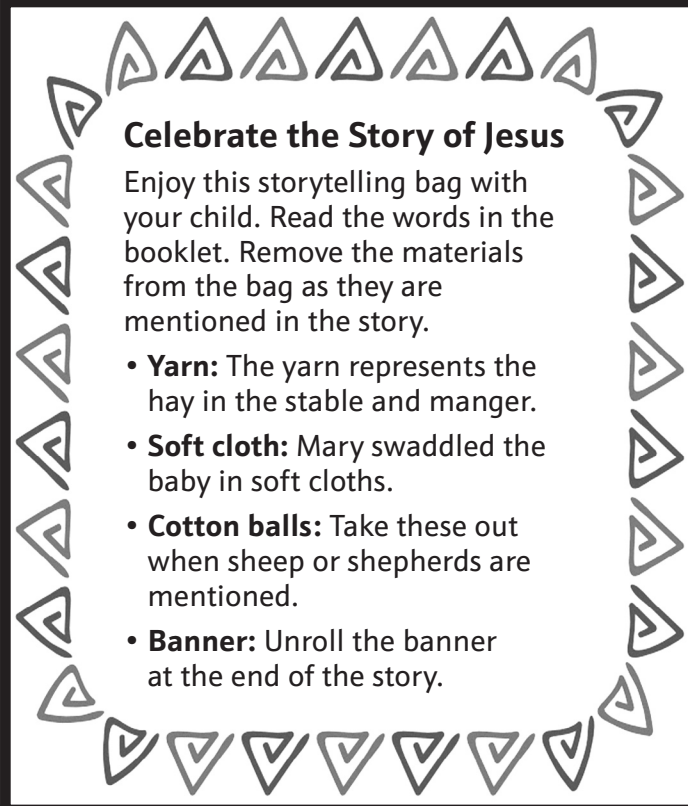
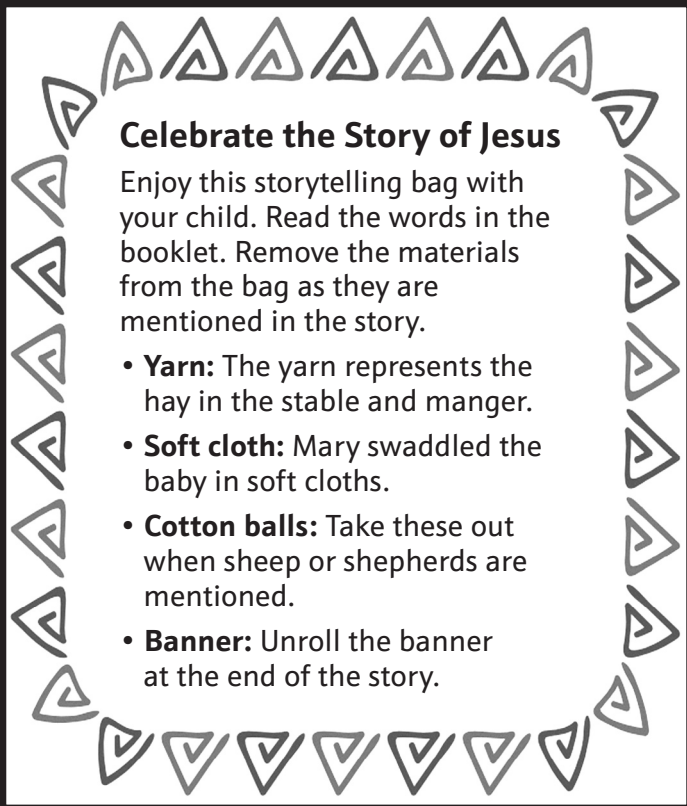
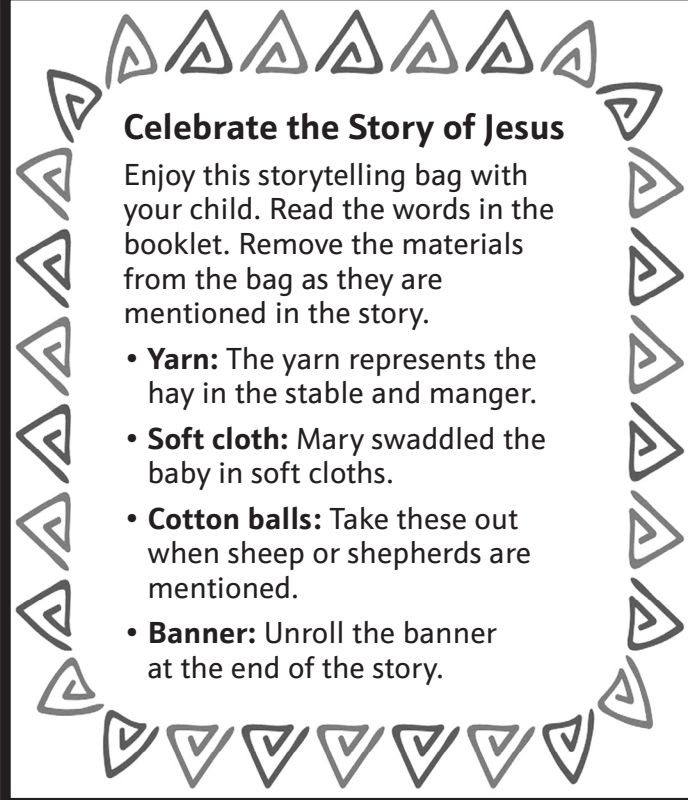



## SESSION 4

### Storytelling Bag Instruction Card

Copy and cut out cards for use with Responsive Play (Create). Tape one Storytelling Bag Instruction Card on the outside of each bag.

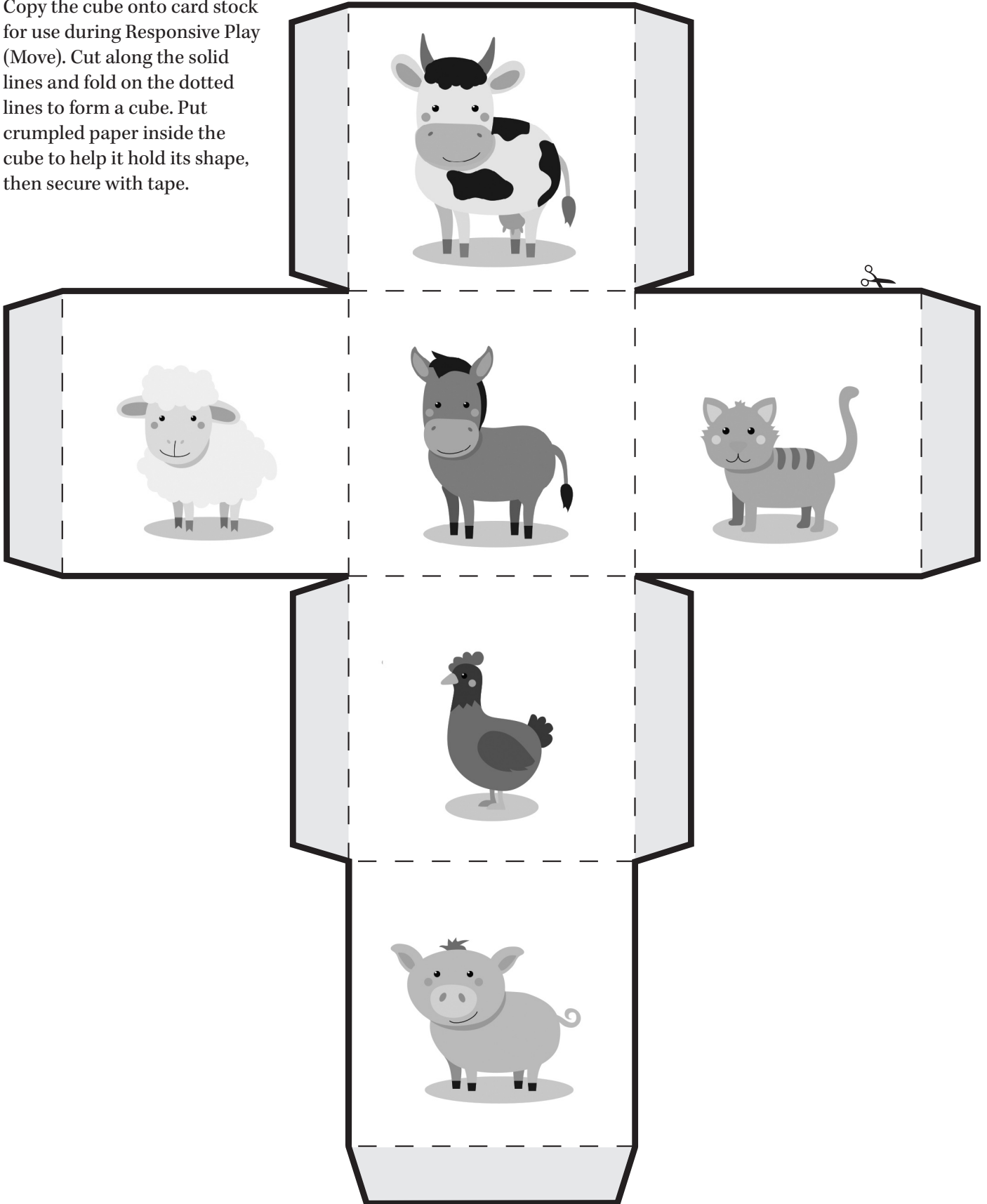


 <p><b>Celebrate the Story of Jesus</b></p> <p>Enjoy this storytelling bag with your child. Read the words in the booklet. Remove the materials from the bag as they are mentioned in the story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Yarn:</b> The yarn represents the hay in the stable and manger.</li><li>• <b>Soft cloth:</b> Mary swaddled the baby in soft cloths.</li><li>• <b>Cotton balls:</b> Take these out when sheep or shepherds are mentioned.</li><li>• <b>Banner:</b> Unroll the banner at the end of the story.</li></ul>	 <p><b>Celebrate the Story of Jesus</b></p> <p>Enjoy this storytelling bag with your child. Read the words in the booklet. Remove the materials from the bag as they are mentioned in the story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Yarn:</b> The yarn represents the hay in the stable and manger.</li><li>• <b>Soft cloth:</b> Mary swaddled the baby in soft cloths.</li><li>• <b>Cotton balls:</b> Take these out when sheep or shepherds are mentioned.</li><li>• <b>Banner:</b> Unroll the banner at the end of the story.</li></ul>
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## SESSION 4

### "Friendly Beasts" Cube

Copy the cube onto card stock for use during Responsive Play (Move). Cut along the solid lines and fold on the dotted lines to form a cube. Put crumpled paper inside the cube to help it hold its shape, then secure with tape.



## SESSION 7

### "Where Is John Now?" Fingerplay

Use for Share the Story (Re-play). Sing the following song to the tune of "Where Is Thumbkin?" Use the suggested motions or create your own. The left pointer finger will represent Jesus; the right pointer finger will represent John. All fingers will represent the crowd.

*(Begin with your left hand behind your back.)*

Where is John now? Where is John now? *(Shade your eyes with your right hand, looking from side to side.)*

Here he is! Here he is! *(Bring out your left hand, pointer finger up.)*

At the Jordan River, at the Jordan River! *(Move your right hand up and down to show rippling water.)*

With a crowd, with a crowd. *(Hold up all five fingers of your right hand.)*

John is teaching. John is teaching *(move your left pointer finger to indicate speech)*

the large crowd, the large crowd! *(Hold up all five fingers of your right hand.)*

They've come to be baptized. They've come to be baptized *(move your right hand next to your left pointer finger)*

and to learn, and to learn.

*(Put your right hand behind your back. Left pointer finger remains visible.)*

Here comes Jesus! Here comes Jesus! *(Bring out your right hand, pointer finger up.)*

He tells John, he tells John, *(move your right pointer finger next to your left pointer finger)*

"I've come to be baptized. I've come to be baptized. *(Move your right pointer finger to indicate speech.)*

Let it be so. Let it be so." *(Extend your arm toward the ceiling.)*

*(Put both of your hands behind your back.)*

In the river, in the river, *(bring out your left hand, moving it up and down to show rippling water)*

Jesus goes, Jesus goes. *(Bring out your right hand, pointer finger extended.)*

John baptizes Jesus. John baptizes Jesus. *(Wiggle the fingers of your left hand over your right pointer finger, as if placing water on it.)*

Praise to God! Praise to God! *(Extend both of your arms toward the ceiling.)*

Down from heaven, down from heaven *(begin moving your arms down)*

comes a dove, comes a dove. *(Link your thumbs and move your hands like a dove.)*

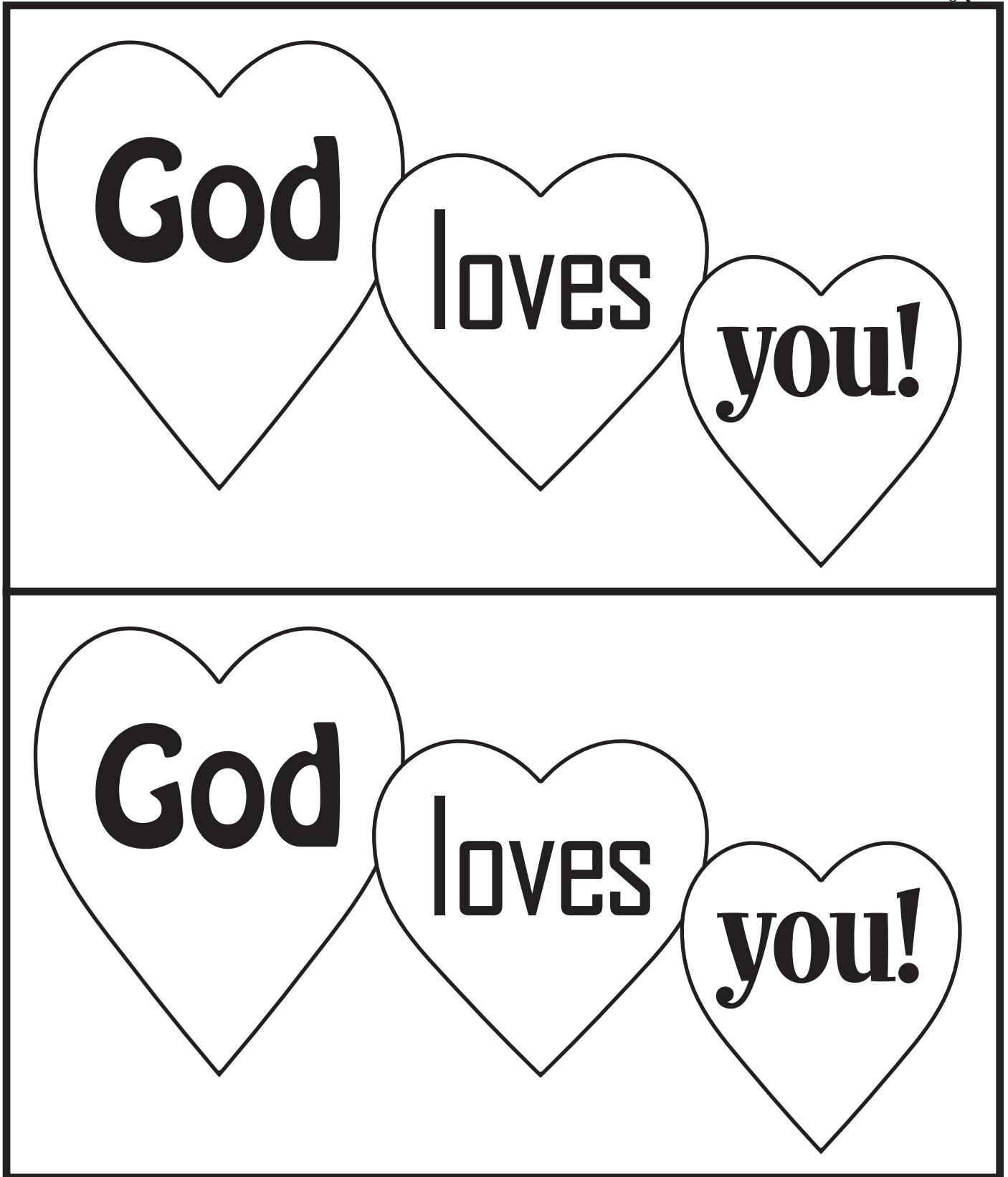
A voice says, "This is my son." A voice says, "This is my son.

I love him. I love him." *(Cross your arms over your chest.)*



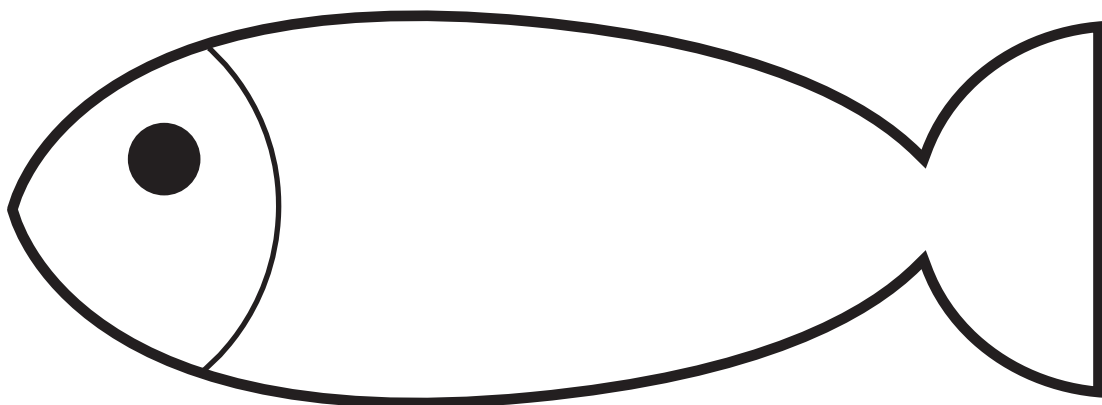
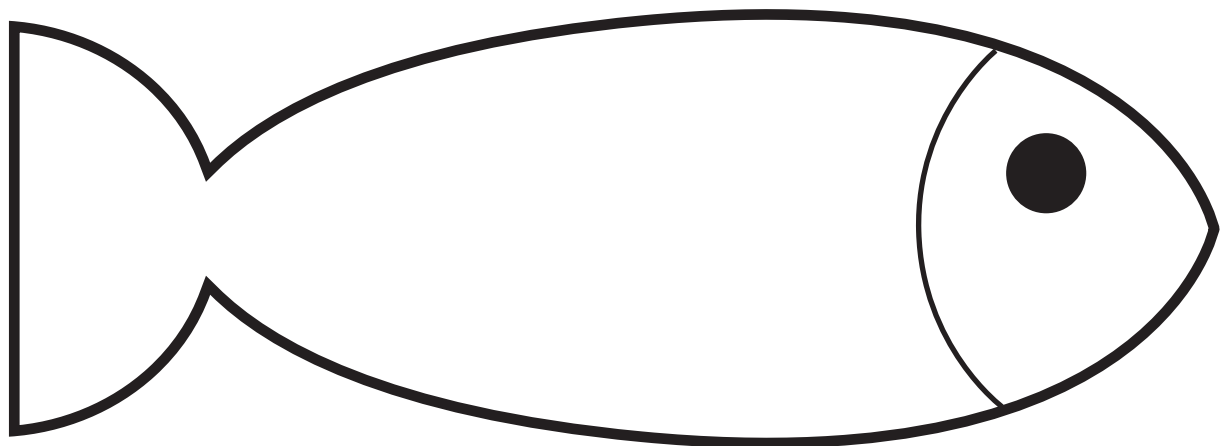
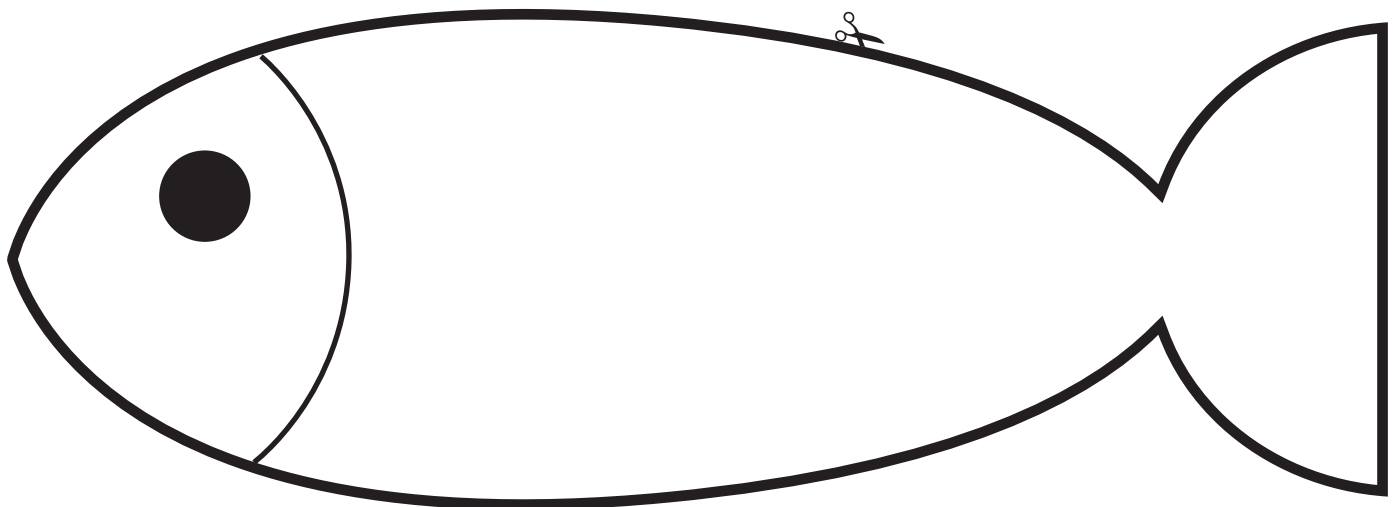
**SESSION 8**  
**Message Hearts**

Copy and cut out, one box for each child. Glue the box to each of the scrolls children make in Responsive Play (Create).



**SESSION 9**  
**Fish Template**

Copy and cut out fish for each child for Connect (Early Arrivals), Share the Story (Bible Story), and Responsive Play (Move).



**SESSION 10**  
**Blessing Shapes**

Copy these shapes for use in Responsive Play (Make Peace).

God  you,

God's   
be with you.

God  you,

God's   
be with you.

**SESSION 12**  
**Placemat**

Copy and cut out the placemat, one per child, for use in Share the Story (Re-play).

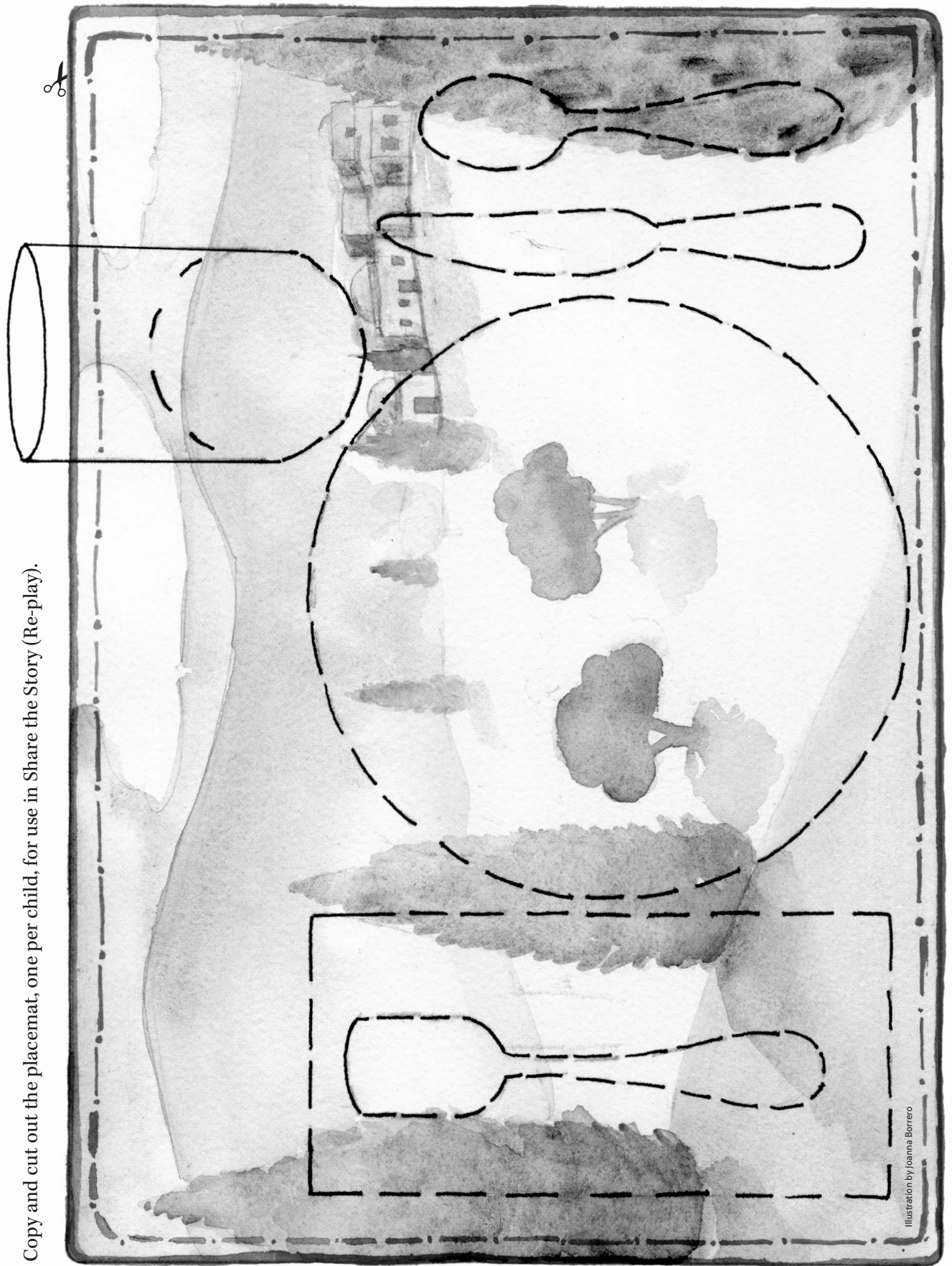


Illustration by Joanna Borrero

**SESSION 13**  
**Birds and Flowers**

Copy and cut out a bird and a flower for each child for use in Connect (Early Arrivals) and Share the Story (Re-play).

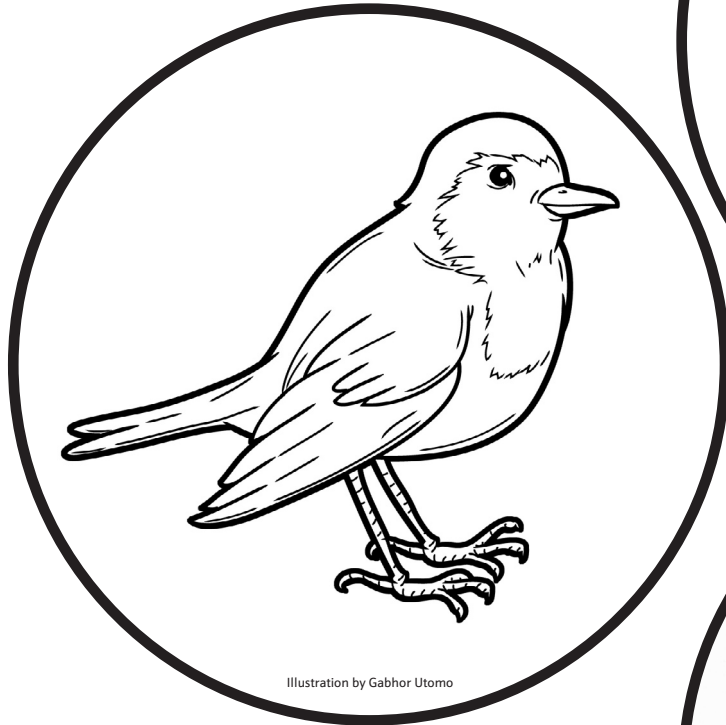


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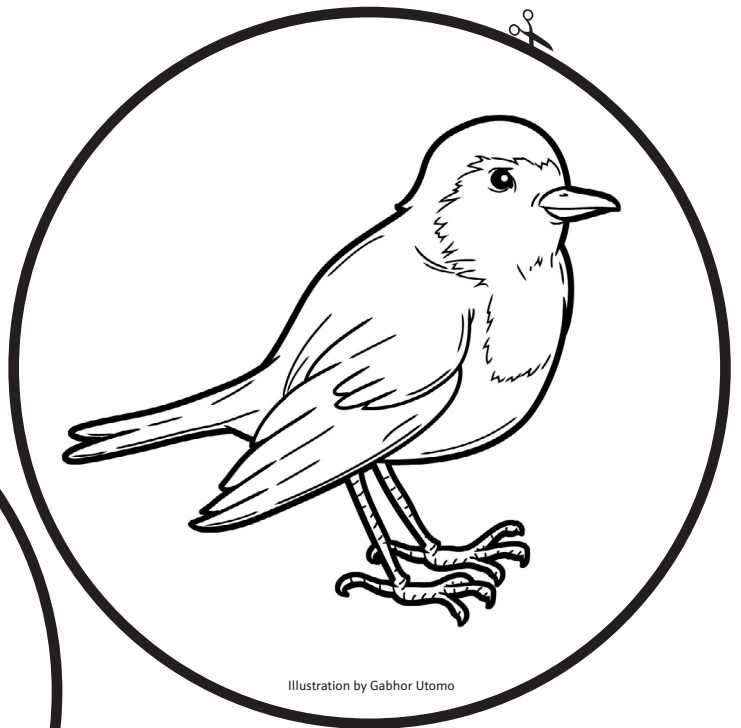


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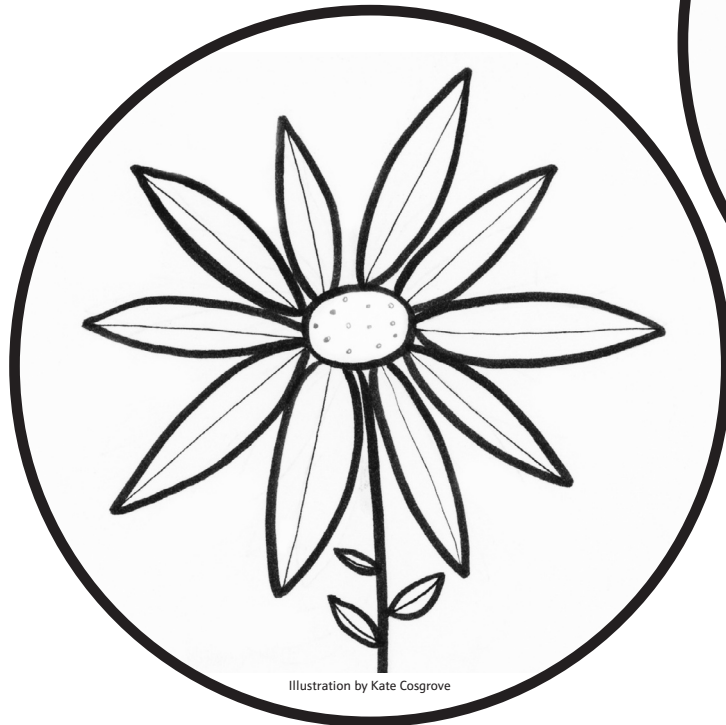


Illustration by Kate Cosgrove

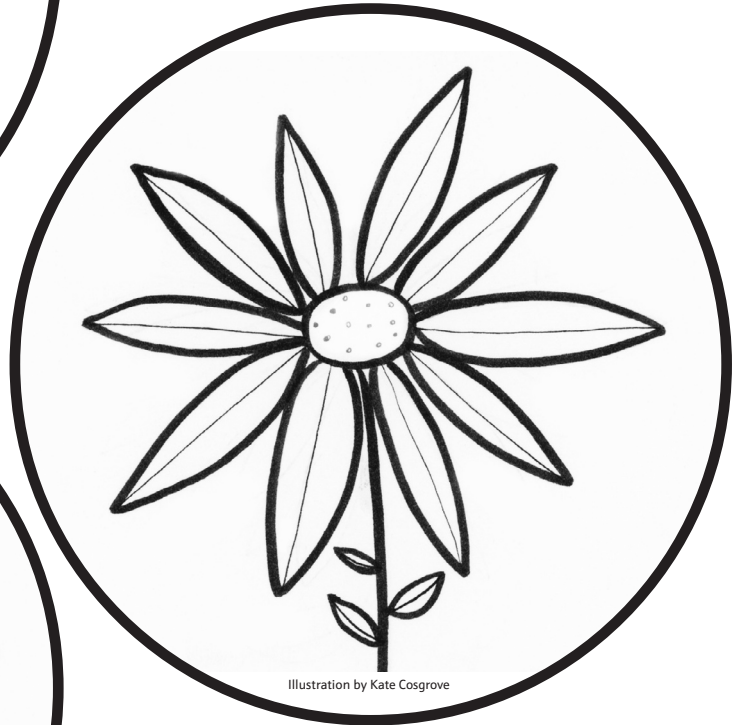


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