



# Weaving God's Promises

## LESSON 9

### Building Israel, Building the Temple of God

#### Summary of Today's Story

King David was the first king over a united Israel, one nation of 12 tribes under one king and one God. Now Solomon, David's son, sets out to build the Temple where God's people will worship.

After the Temple is completed, Solomon dedicates it to the glory of God.

#### Where You'll Find Today's Story

##### **In the Bible**

We recommend the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*.

**1 Kings 5:2 - 6:38 (Solomon builds the Temple)**

**1 Kings 8 (Solomon dedicates the Temple)**

##### **In Children's Bibles**

If you plan to use a children's Bible for storytelling, write the page numbers of today's story in the space below.

##### **In Our Sunday Lectionary**

Today's story is not told in church on any Sunday.

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## Weaving Our Story with the Biblical Story

The people settle in Israel, the 12 tribes of Israel living on the assigned parts of the Promised Land. The people are given judges to watch over them, because God does not want them to have a king like the other peoples' kings. God is to be their only sovereign.

(The stories of the judges like Gideon, Deborah and Samuel will be covered in the second year of this curriculum, under the theme of *Weaving Together the Family of God*.)

Eventually, the people clamor for a king. Saul becomes their first king, followed by David and then David's son, Solomon.

The long process of building a Temple begins under David, but it is Solomon who is credited with the actual construction of the Temple. In Deuteronomy it is commanded that the Lord should reside in—and be worshiped in—one place. That place will be the Temple in Jerusalem on the mount called Zion.

The Temple is the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant, where the tablets of the Ten Commandments are kept. So it is the Temple that will be the center of worship for Israel and the center of their religious life. Synagogues later spring up as places for religious teaching and some worship, but the center is the Temple in Jerusalem.

The Temple was a grand and beautiful structure, but unfortunately Solomon exacted high taxes and forced labor from the populace in order to build it. This later leads to rebellion by some of the tribes of Israel. The rebellion and civil war conflict eventually split the small nation into two parts: Israel, made up of 10 tribes in the North, which broke away; and

Judah, made up of the other two tribes in the South, which supported Solomon's family.

This is the beginning of the disintegration of the state of Israel, the division of the Promised Land.

This story of the creation of the nation of Israel and the building of the Temple tells us how God takes care of us and provides for us. It is the people's sins and faithlessness, lack of trust in God and pridefulness—just as it is our own sins and faithlessness, lack of trust in God and pridefulness that lead to our own alienation from God—that leads to the fall of Israel.

However, for now we will focus on the happy event in Israel's life, the building of the Temple of God. God's chosen people have found their home and are making a home for their God.



## The Episcopal Thread

Anglicans can identify with beautiful worship spaces. The noted Episcopal theologian John Westerhoff says in *A People Called Episcopalians* (New

York: Morehouse Publishing, 2002) that one of the hallmarks of Anglicanism is an eye toward beautiful worship. Perhaps it is a natural desire for people to want God's place to be a taste of the divine. But the Anglican churches, from the great gothic cathedrals to the simplicity of country chapels, are distinctive by their beauty, and their worship services by their stateliness.

Starting with the Reformation in the sixteenth century, the English church removed some of the more garish of the interior decorations of the Roman Catholic churches. But as befits the Anglican *via media* (middle way), the church did not go as far as the Protestant churches in taking away all ornament and making their worship space plain and unadorned.



## Weaving God's Beloved Community

The Israelites had the perfect chance to build their perfect society from the ground up. One of the first things they did was to make a space to worship God. God, who liberated them from slavery, was the center of their community.

In a world that reflects God's Beloved Community, the values of God would be the center of our lives. It would not necessarily (or even ideally) be a Christian world, but it would be a world that reflects some common human values such as compassion, respect, and dignity.

Topics that can be discussed with children:

Imagine that you are with a big group of people who just landed on Mars, or who just found a big empty piece of good land where nobody lives. You can make your own neighborhood from scratch. What would be the first thing you do?

What rules might you have, to make sure that people live together peacefully and everybody is happy?



### Gathering

As the children enter the classroom, give them a simple activity, perhaps building

blocks to connect the children with the building of the Temple or a puzzle related to today's story. You'll find an online resource for creating puzzles on page 2 in the Appendix (also found on the Website) along with other ideas for Gathering activities.

Older children always enjoy a few minutes of fellowship time before the class begins. This social time is important for building relationships and community.

After all the children have arrived and had a few minutes of activity or fellowship time, gather them together and say a simple opening prayer, for example:

- Thank you, Lord, for bringing us all together in church today. We pray that you might put your word in our hearts so that we may worship you all the days of our lives. We ask this in Jesus' name. *Amen.*



### Telling the Story

Before you read or tell today's story, you may want to summarize briefly how the Israelites settled in Palestine and were supervised for many years by wise men and women called judges, until finally they demanded to have a king over them, like other people had. Read aloud today's story from a children's Bible, showing the pictures, tell the story in your own words, or read from the version of the story we provide, found on pages 8-10.

After telling briefly how Saul became the first king of Israel, followed by David and then David's son Solomon, read aloud the story of the building of the Temple from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words. With all of the people's temptations to worship foreign idols and to rely on themselves rather than on God, they still see themselves as God's chosen people, and they build this grand temple for the glory and praise of God. Capture this joy in your storytelling.

You may want to use a few story aids to bring the story to life for the children. For younger children, blocks would be a good visual to illustrate the building of the Temple. You'll find other suggestions on pages 2-3 in the Appendix, also found on the Website.

At this time, you do not need to explain or discuss the story. This is the time for children to hear the story. For now, simply let them absorb it in their minds and in their hearts. Later, while having snacks, you can bring up the story again and invite the children to talk about it.



## Prayer

Set up a small worship center in your classroom.

### Materials

- small table with a cloth to cover it
- 2 candles or a single large Christ candle
- matches
- Bible
- cross
- optional:* flowers (real, fake or handmade by the children)

Have the children set up a simple altar with the materials listed above. Invite them to place on the altar any drawings or crafts that they created during Gathering time. Then light the candles.

Read one or two verses from today's scripture to help the children connect the story that they just heard with the Bible. If working with older children, you might expand the reading to several verses.

Suggestions for the reading:

*For younger children:* 1 Kings 8:12-13

*For older children:* 1 Kings 8:12-13; 56-61

Help familiarize the children with our liturgy by doing the reading as it is done in church. Read as follows:

*Reader:* A reading from the book of (*name of book*): (*Read the selected passage.*)

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*All:* Thanks be to God.

Invite the children to sit in a circle and join in prayer. Say a brief prayer yourself then invite prayers from each child in the circle:

- Ask the children to give thanks to God for what God has done for them during the past week.
- Welcome prayers for God's guidance in any areas of their lives that may be troubling (school, family, friends, etc.). Children may also pray for the needs of others.
- Ask if anyone has had a birthday or celebrated a special day during the past week and give thanks for these special occasions.
- End the prayer time by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

Carefully extinguish the candles.



## Sharing

Pass out snacks and say a simple grace, such as this

traditional Jewish grace:

- Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.  
*Amen.*

Or have the children lead the grace by saying one they learned at home or at church camp.

This is a good time, while sharing a snack, to begin talking about today's story. Children may enjoy comparing the Temple with their own church, wondering about the Ark of the Covenant or discussing the meaning of the Temple for the people of Israel.

You might even take the children on a sightseeing tour of your church, encouraging them to notice the details of the church's interior and, if the day is nice, the exterior architecture.

Some questions to ask might be:

- How does the Temple compare with our churches?
- When there is only one temple, does that make worshipping God different?
- What are some of the customs of your church that show reverence for God and for the holy things of God, such as the Israelites showed for the Ark of the Covenant?





## Memorization

If any older intermediate children have not yet memorized the books of the Bible or the Ten Commandments, a gentle prodding or encouragement might be helpful at this time. Suggestions for ways to help the children with their memorization can be found on page 15 in the Appendix, also found on the Website.



## Weaving Our Faith

Just before the end of the class, help the children weave the lesson together with their own thoughts, experiences and daily lives by asking

questions such as:

- What did we talk about today?
- Why was the Temple so important?
- What did we learn about God?
- What else did we learn today?

You may also give a brief summary of the lesson, using the Summary of Today's Story above or have the children retell the story.

Encourage the children to remember key words and phrases from the story, such as:

- *Temple*
- *King*
- *Ark of the Covenant*
- *worship*



## Closing Prayer

Before the children leave, say a closing prayer to send them into the church worship service or back to their homes with God's love and blessing. Try a simple prayer of thanksgiving, such as this one:

- We thank you, O God, for being with us here in your church, your house of worship, as you were with the Israelites in the Temple that they built for you. Help us to see your presence in all of our doings, so that we may worship you all the days of our lives. This we ask in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

End the class with a dismissal that is used in church, such as:

- The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The children respond:

- And also with you.



# Weaving God's Promises

## 1 KINGS 5:2-6:38, 1 KINGS 8

### **The people want a king over Israel**

The people of Israel are happy. They are now, finally, at home—in the Promised Land. Ever since they left Egypt, they have been on the go. They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before they got to the land that God promised to them! And when they got there, they had to fight the people who were already living there, to claim their space on the land. They fought battles with swords and knives...and even trumpets.

When they left Egypt, the people were 12 tribes, that is, 12 really big families. These were the families that came out of the 12 sons of Jacob, who is sometimes called Israel because that's what an angel named him. After those 40 years living together in the wilderness, and getting the law of the Ten Commandments, and having Moses serve as their leader, they come to their land. And when they get here, just like families, they divide up the land among the families. Each family gets a big piece of the land, so there are 12 families with 12 pieces of land. Each family has its own rules, its own little leader and its own capital city.

So now, here they are. When they first got here to this land, they wanted a king over all of them. They don't want to be 12 little families anymore, not with all those foreign people all around them who want to take over. "Everybody else around us has a king! Why not us?" they complain. It feels so important to have a king. But God does not want them to have a king. God is their only king.

But the people grumble and complain. Finally, God gives them a king. His name is Saul. But Saul does not work out as king over Israel. God does not like him. So God chooses another man to be king. His name is David.

David starts out as a young shepherd. He is still a young shepherd when God



has Samuel anoint him king over Israel. We will hear more of David's story in another lesson.

David and Saul argue and fight. Finally, in a battle, Saul dies. Then David becomes king. When he becomes king, he takes all the 12 little tribes on their pieces of land, and he makes them one big nation. Now they are not the land of Judah, and the land of Benjamin, and the land of Dan, and Asher, and Reuben, and all the other families. Now they are the land of Israel. They are not 12 households, but one big household, the House of Israel.

### **King David wants to build a house for God**

When David becomes king, he is so thankful to God that he decides he will build a house for God. For all these years, ever since Egypt, God has not had a house of his own. Like everybody else, God has had a tent to live in. But David has just built himself a nice house, a palace. Now he wants to build a house, a temple, for God. Isn't God worthy of a fine house? Wouldn't it be a good idea for us to be able to worship God in a grand temple and not an ordinary tent?

But God tells David, "All these years, I have lived in a tent. And all those years, did I ever complain? Did I ever say, 'Why haven't you ever built me a nice house?' No! I have never needed a grand house to live in. So do not build a house for me."

Then God says, "But David, instead of you making me a house, I will make *you* a house. Actually, I will make *of you* a house. With you and your children and your children's children, I will turn your family into *The House of David*. And not you, but your son will build a house for me. And I will build a kingdom for him. His kingdom will last forever and ever. "

And so, the house of David was born. Many years later, the house of David brought forth a little baby, whose name was Jesus. And his kingdom does last forever, even though it was not the same kingdom that David had in mind.

## **Solomon finally builds the temple**

After 30 years as king, David dies. His son Solomon becomes king.

Now God never told Solomon not to build a temple for God. In fact, Solomon knows—because his father David told him—that yes, a temple will be built for God, and it will be built by David’s son. So Solomon knows that he can finally build that great, rich, beautiful house for God.

When Solomon is king, he is very, very rich. He uses the very best materials to build the temple for God. He makes the building very big, and very tall, and very strong. The outside is made of giant pieces of stone. On the inside, the walls are made of cedar wood carved with fancy pictures. Then Solomon put gold all over the inside walls, and in every room, and on the altar. There is gold everywhere. It took seven years to build this giant temple. Solomon also built his own house, a palace. It was as fancy as the temple, and it had precious stones all over it. The palace took 13 years to build.

The temple and the palace also took a lot of people working, and a lot of money. Solomon had to take money from the people so he could get the materials to make the buildings. And when the materials came, he forced men to work, just like they did in Egypt. Meanwhile, Solomon got richer and richer. He also had lots of wives. And sometimes he worshiped the idols that his wives had, instead of worshiping God.

So even though Solomon built a beautiful temple for God, this did not make God happy. God does not need a temple to live in. God wants a good heart to live in. So after Solomon dies, his kingdom does not last. The people who were forced to work, the people who had to pay for Solomon’s palace and his riches—they decided they did not want Solomon’s family as their rulers anymore.

And so the kingdom of Israel falls apart. When it does, it is ready for some other, stronger nation to conquer it. And this is what happens.



# Weaving God's Promises

## SUGAR CUBE TEMPLES for Intermediate

Children make temples using sugar cubes as bricks and frosting or glue as mortar.

### Materials:

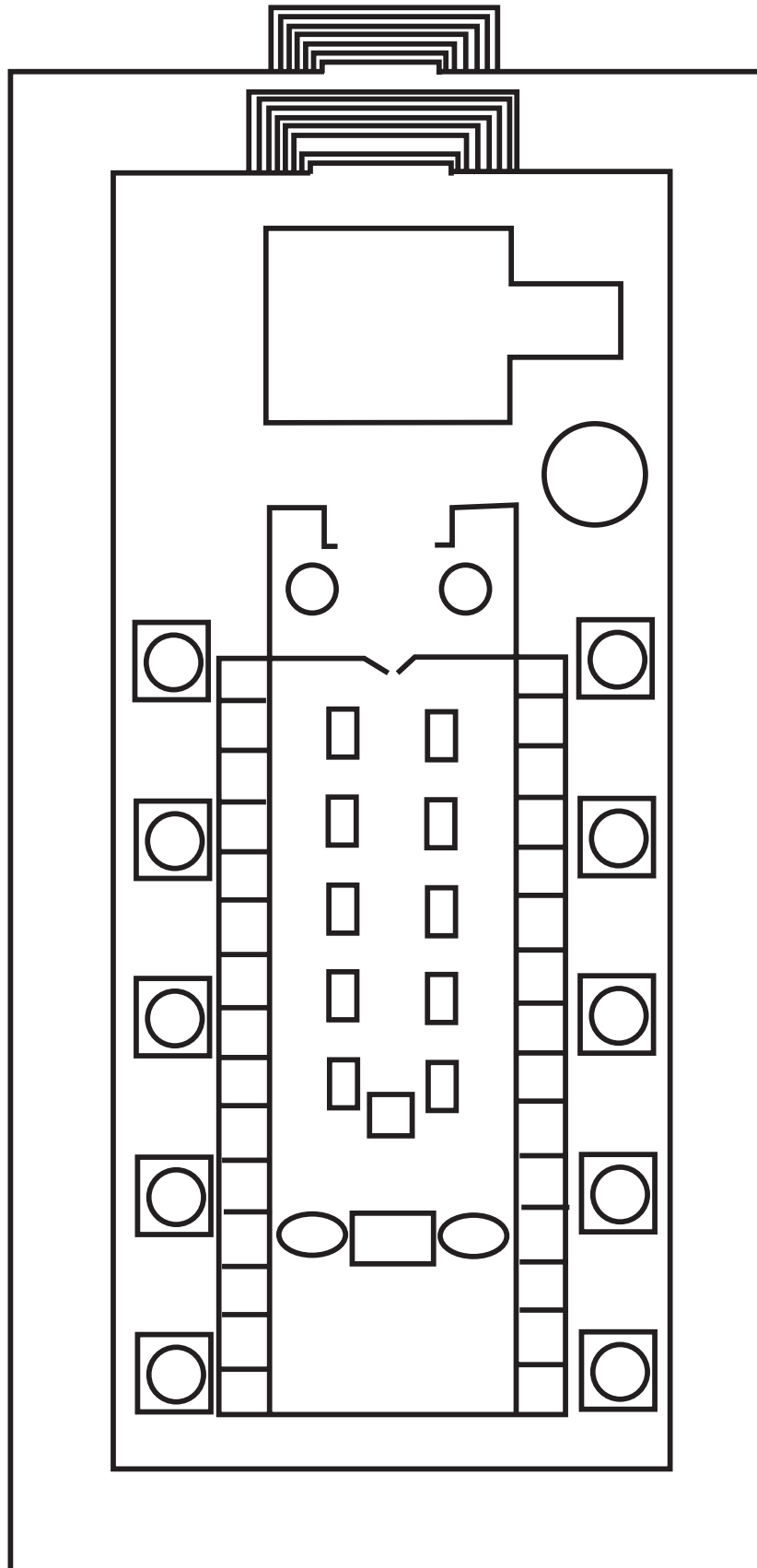
- sugar cubes, several boxes per class (ideally, 1 box per child)
- glue or white frosting
- paper cups or bowls for frosting
- flat pieces of cardboard
- plastic knives
- copy of *Temple Floor Plan* (p. 12)

### Directions:

Give each child a piece of cardboard, a supply of sugar cubes, a scoop of frosting in a cup and a plastic knife.

Invite the children to use sugar cubes and glue or frosting to build their own versions of a temple.

# TEMPLE FLOOR PLAN

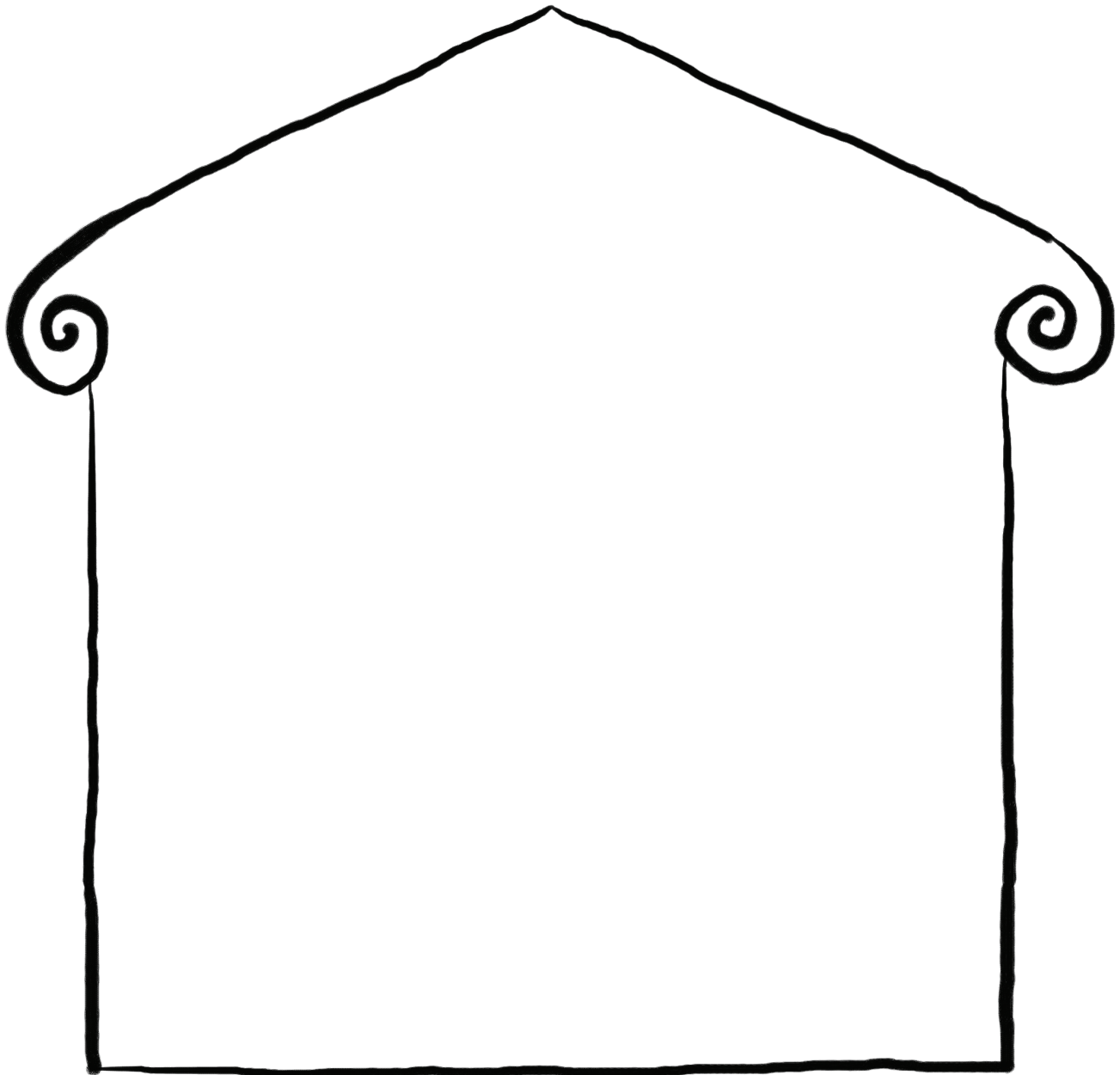




# Weaving God's Promises

## GOD'S HOUSE

Draw what you would put into God's House.





# Weaving God's Promises

## STAR OF DAVID PENDANTS for Preschool

Children make Stars of David from two triangles, then create pendants.

### Materials:

various colors of poster board  
glue  
yarn or ribbon  
hole punch  
*Triangle Patterns* (p. 15)  
scissors

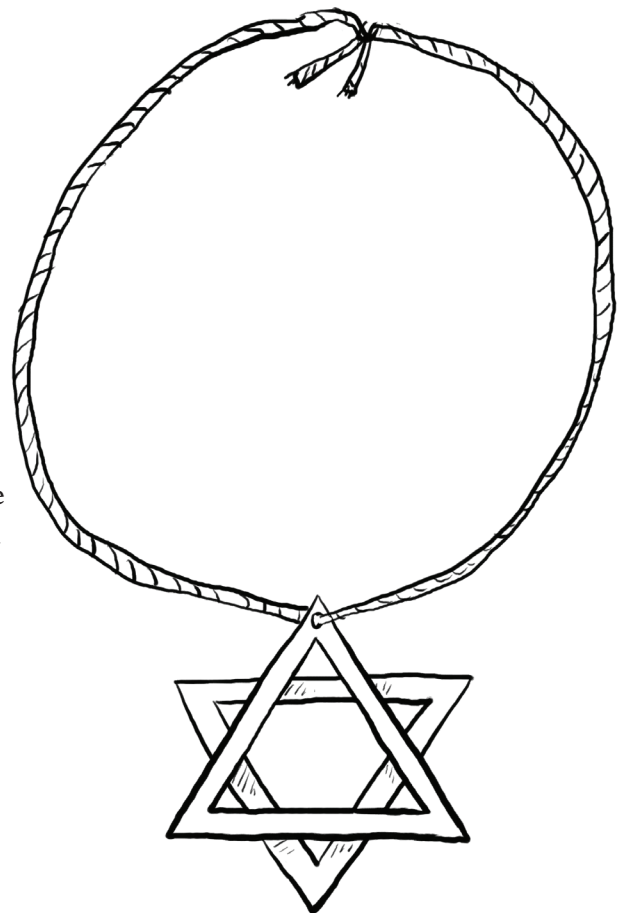
### Preparation:

Cut two 3' equilateral triangles for each child. The triangles can be the same color or different colors.

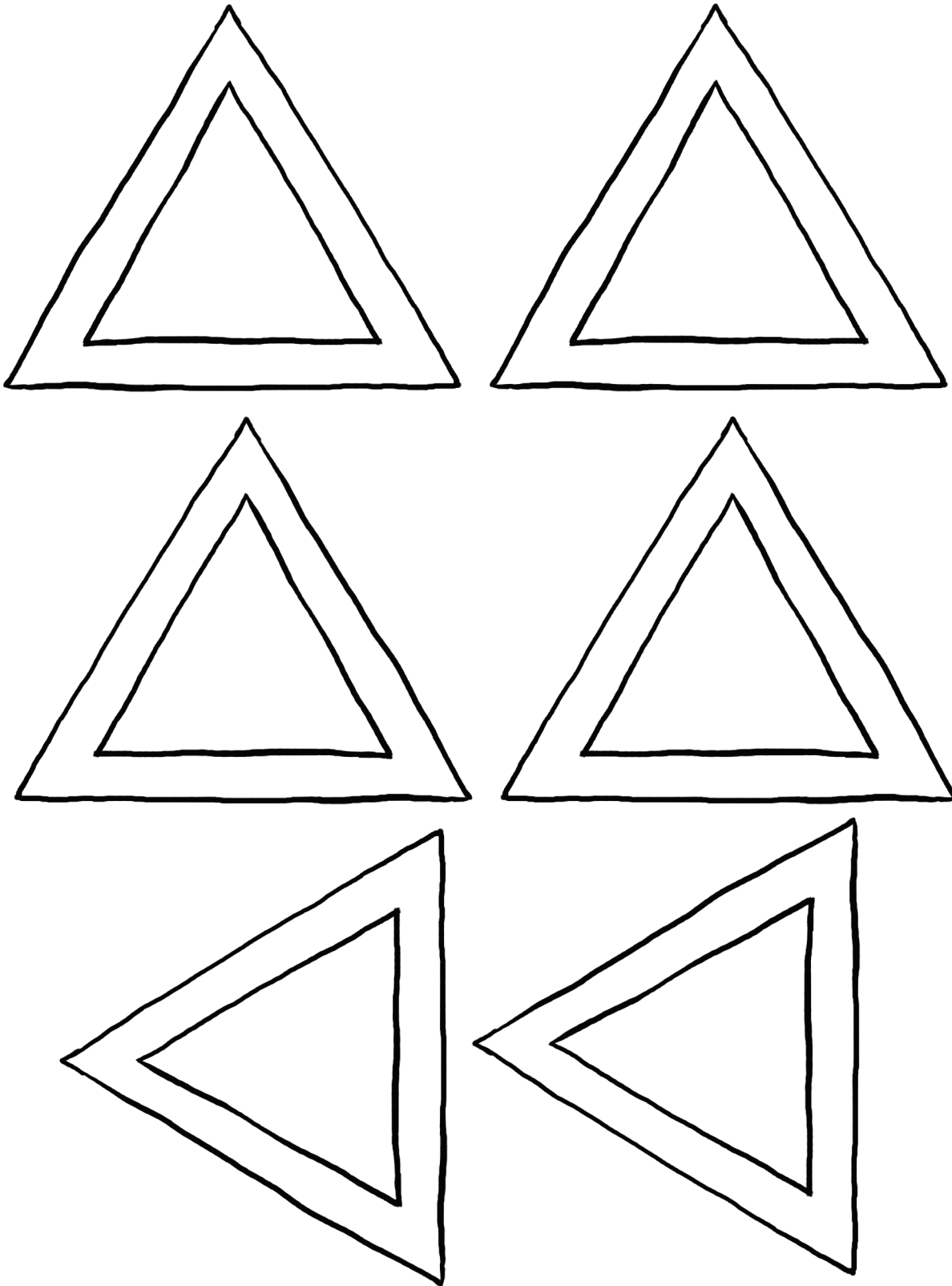
### Directions:

Give each of the children two poster board triangles and invite each child to make a Star of David pendant:

1. Ask the children to glue their triangles together so that one triangle points downward and the other points upward.
2. Punch a hole in one of the points of each child's Star of David and thread yarn or ribbon through the hole. Tie the two ends of the ribbon together and slip the Star of David pendant over the child's head.



# TRIANGLE PATTERNS





# Weaving God's Promises

## TEMPLE OIL LAMPS for Primary, Elementary

Children make oil lamps like the ones used during Bible times, both in homes and in the Temple. Fuel was made from olives, wicks from cotton or linen cloth.

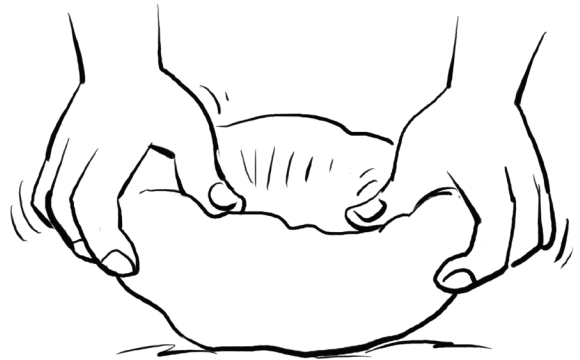
### Materials:

air-drying or self-hardening modeling clay  
newspaper or other paper to protect the table  
string  
scissors  
toothpicks

### Directions:

Give a 3-inch lump of clay to each child and invite the children to make authentic-looking oil lamps. Give the children these directions:

1. Roll the clay into a ball.
2. Press your thumb into the clay.
3. Pull the sides out from the center to make a pointy oval shape, while hollowing out the inside.
4. Pull out one end to make a spout. Pinch together the other end to make a handle.
5. Once you have the shape you want, smooth out the outside and inside of your lamp.
6. Use a toothpick to scratch your initials on the bottom.
7. Cut a piece of string about 3-4" long and place along the spout side of the lamp as a wick.
8. Allow the lamp to dry.







# Weaving God's Promises

## TEMPLE HARPS for Preschool, Primary

Children make harps resembling the harps that were played during worship in the Temple. King David also played a harp as a boy.

### Materials:

- heavy cardboard
- paper fasteners
- colored rubber bands
- crayons
- utility knife (*for teacher only*)
- Harp Pattern* (p. 18)

### Preparation:

Make copies of the *Harp Pattern* on heavy cardboard, one for each child. With a utility knife, cut out the harps.

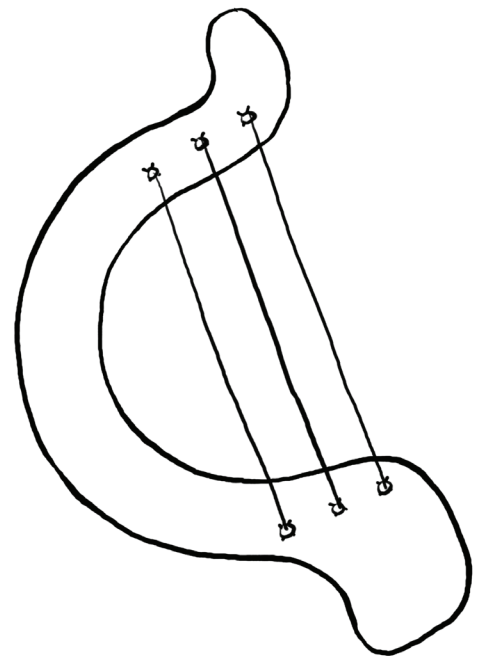
### Directions:

Hand out the *Harp Pattern* and invite each child to make a temple harp. Help younger children as needed:

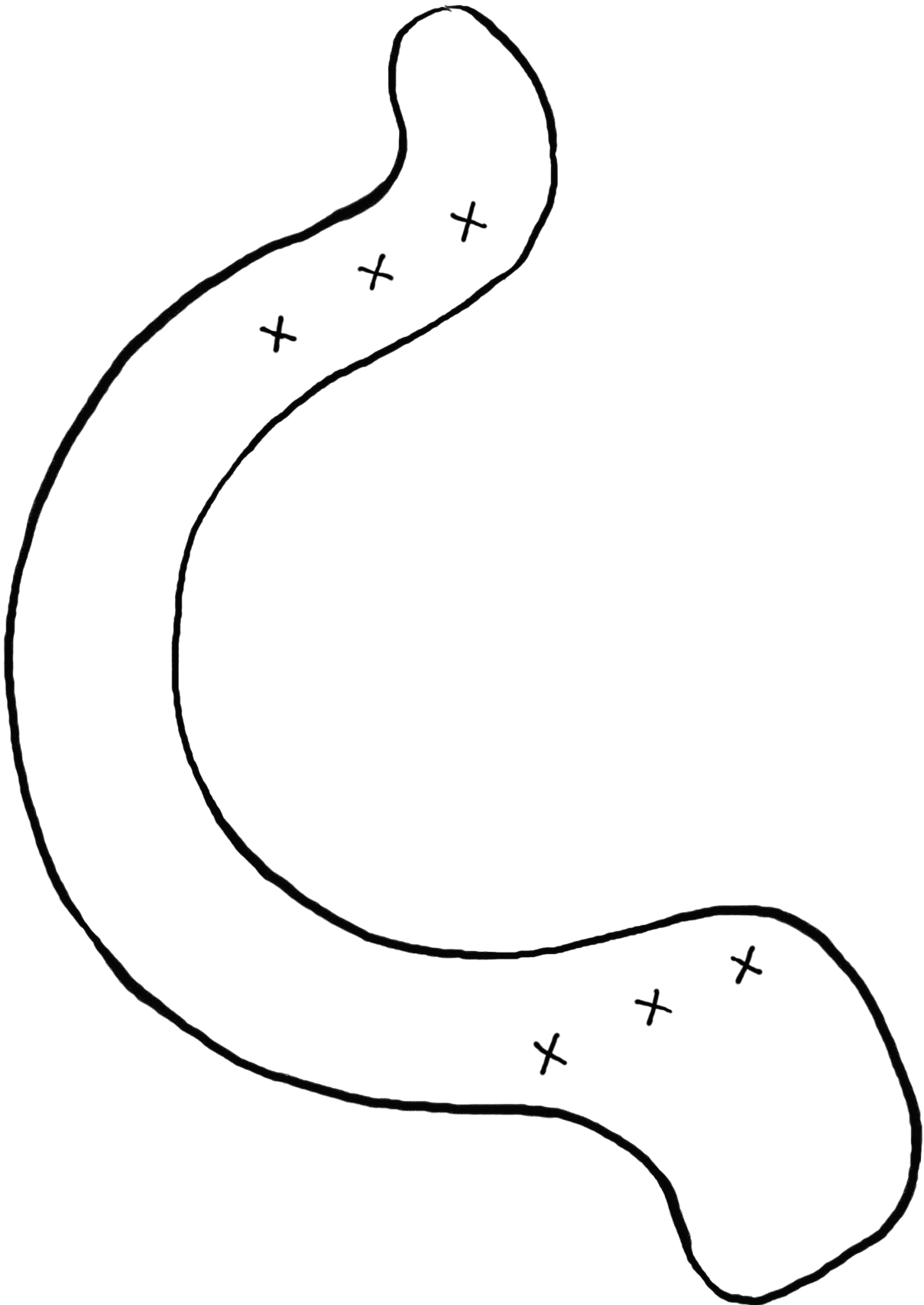
Give the children these directions:

1. Color your harp.
2. Punch paper fasteners through the harp at the "x" markings, but do not close it on the back side.
3. Hook a rubber band around the first fastener at the top of the harp. Fold the fastener back to hold it in place.
4. Stretch the rubber band down and hook it around the first fastener at the bottom. Close the fastener in the back. Repeat for the next two pairs of fasteners.

**Note:** Try making this first to make sure the cardboard is heavy enough, the rubber bands are the right size, and that you understand how to hook on the rubber bands.



# HARP PATTERN





# Weaving God's Promises

## TEMPLE CANDLES for Elementary

Children make beeswax candles and craft-stick candle holders.

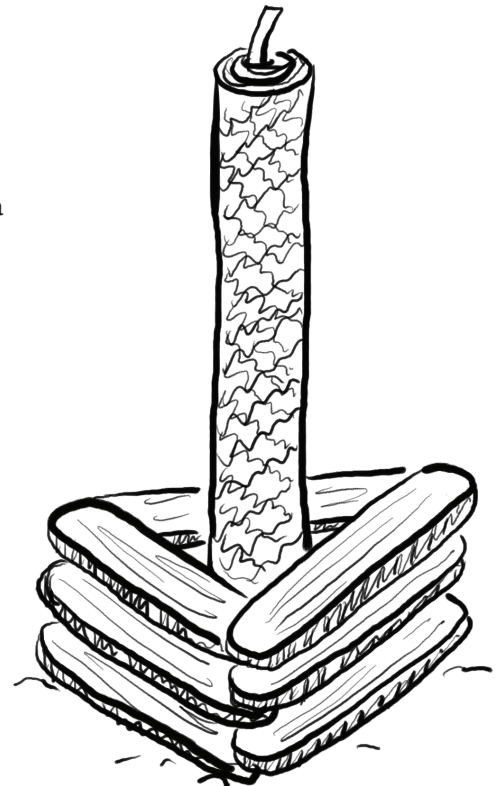
### Materials:

beeswax sheets  
wicking  
craft sticks  
glue  
hair dryer  
scissors

### Directions:

Invite the children to make temple candles. Have each of the children make two candles with candlesticks. Give the children these directions:

1. Warm up a sheet of beeswax with a hair dryer to soften it.
2. Cut a length of wicking a little longer than the length of the beeswax sheet.
3. Place the wick along one edge of the beeswax sheet, leaving the extra wick sticking out at one end.
4. Tightly roll up the sheet of beeswax, starting at the edge with the wicking.
5. To make the candle holder, stand the candle upright and place three craft sticks around it, log-cabin style. Glue them in place. Then glue on several more layers of craft sticks until they hold up the candle.





# Weaving God's Promises

## GREAT WORSHIP for Intermediate

Children complete a worksheet then participate in a discussion about what kind of worship is pleasing to God.

### **Materials:**

*Great Worship* handout (p. 21)  
pencils or pens

### **Preparation:**

Make copies of the *Great Worship* handout, one for each child.

### **Directions:**

Invite the children to participate in this Conversation Jump-Start activity. Begin by saying:

- The Israelites took much care to build their Temple just right. They wanted a building worthy of God's greatness and a worship that pleased God.
- What kind of worship do you think is pleasing to God?
- What do you like in church?

Hand out the worksheet and invite the children to answer the questions. Give them a few minutes to write in their answers.

Then jump-start a conversation with a discussion of their answers.

# GREAT WORSHIP

What kind of worship do you think is pleasing to God? What do you like in church?

## Great Music

Yes or no?

- \_\_\_\_\_ I like old hymns played by an organ.
- \_\_\_\_\_ God doesn't mind religious rock music in church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ God likes any kind of music as long as it praises God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I wish that church music was more like the music I listen to at home.

## Great Prayers

Yes or no?

- \_\_\_\_\_ I like the prayers we say in church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ God doesn't mind if I pray for my sick pet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Our prayers in church should be easier for kids to understand.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I wish that in my church, we kids could read some of the prayers and have a bigger part in praying.

## Great Worship

Yes or no?

- \_\_\_\_\_ It's okay for kids to make a little noise in church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ God likes what we do in church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It's important for a church to be beautiful.

What is the best part about your church service? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Weaving God's Promises

## WORSHIP SPACE WALL HANGING for Elementary, Intermediate

Children make a wall hanging to beautify their worship space in the classroom.

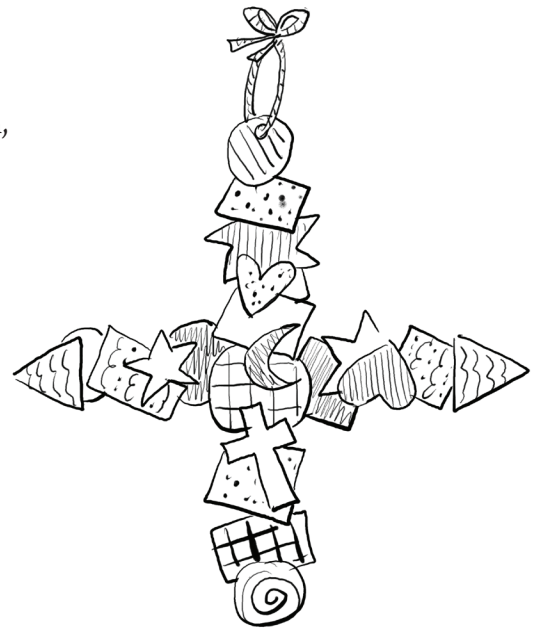
### Materials:

wallpaper samples or foil giftwrap paper  
glue  
poster board  
plain paper  
scissors  
ribbon  
hole punch

### Directions:

Invite the children to work together to make a wall hanging. Give the children these directions:

1. Cut the wallpaper or wrapping paper into different shapes about 3" - 4" in diameter.
2. Glue these shapes onto the poster board and cut out again.
3. Glue the shapes together to make a wall hanging. It could be a round (wreath) shape, a vertical shape linked by a piece of ribbon, a cross shape or other creative formation.
4. Punch a hole at the top of the hanging, thread a length of ribbon through it and tie, making a loop for hanging.
5. Hang the wall hanging in the worship space.





# Weaving God's Promises

## TEMPLE SCROLL RELAY for Primary

Children race to deliver the scroll of the word of God to the Temple.

### Materials:

paper  
masking tape, chalk or rope

### Preparation:

Roll up four pieces of paper to make scrolls.

### Directions:

Invite the children to play the Temple Scroll Relay game:

1. Mark off two starting lines about 20' apart.
2. Divide the class into two teams, then divide each team in half.
3. Half of each team stands behind one starting line; the other half stands directly opposite them behind the other starting line. The children stand one behind the other.
4. Give a scroll to the first player in each line, so that each team has two players holding scrolls—one standing behind one starting line and the other standing behind the opposite starting line.
5. At your signal, each player with a scroll runs toward the other player on their team with a scroll. When the teammates meet in the middle, they exchange scrolls, then run around each other and return to their original lines, passing the scrolls to the next players in line. The first players then go the back of the line.
6. The next set of players race to exchange scrolls and bring them back to the next players in line. Continue playing until the first players of one team reach the front of their lines. That team wins.



# Weaving God's Promises

## STAR OF DAVID for Elementary

Children make multi-faceted Stars of David.

### Materials:

yellow construction paper, 9" x 12"  
glue  
scissors

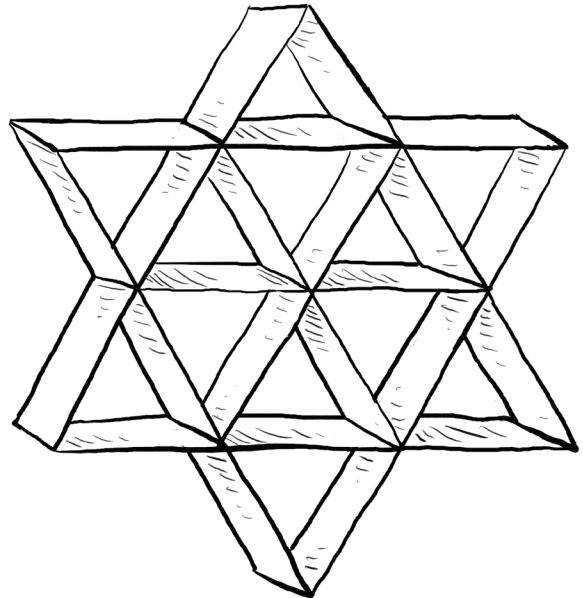
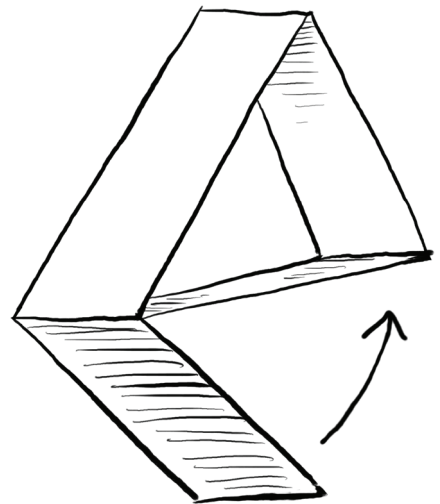
### Preparation:

Cut the construction paper into strips 9" x 1".

### Directions:

Hand each of the children 12 strips of paper and invite them to make a Star of David. Give the children these instructions:

1. Fold each strip of construction paper in half twice, to make 1" x 2 1/4" sections.
2. Make a triangle out of each strip by reversing one of the outside folds. Then overlap the two outside sections and glue the overlapping sections together.
3. Glue six triangles together into a near-circular shape. Then glue another triangle to the outside edges of each of these six triangles. See the picture.







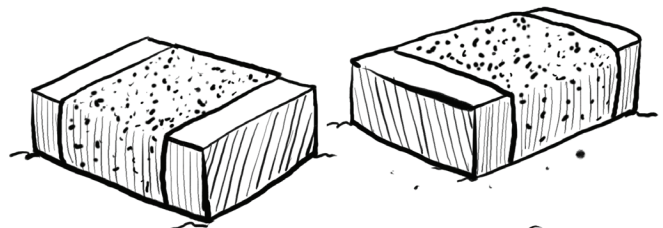
# Weaving God's Promises

## A JOYFUL NOISE for Preschool

Children help make musical instruments and then “make a joyful noise unto the Lord.”

### Materials:

- blocks of wood about the size of blackboard erasers
- coarse sandpaper
- slip-over wooden clothespins
- jingle bells
- yarn or string
- plastic cups (preferably clear)
- tape
- pebbles, rice, dried peas or beans
- optional:* acrylic paints and paintbrushes

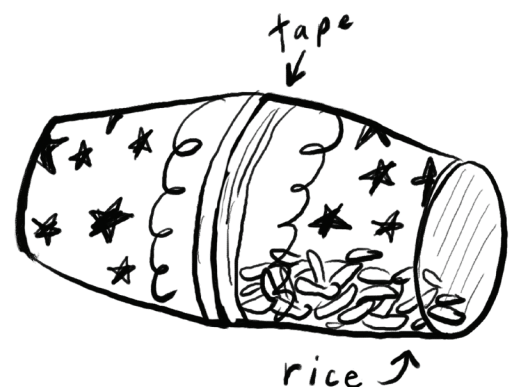


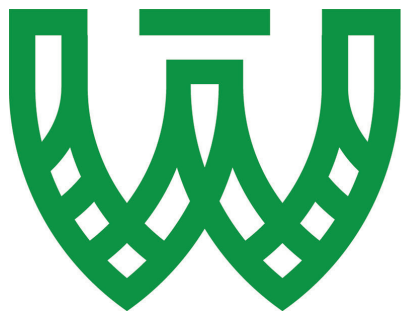
### Directions:

Invite the children to help make these musical instruments then make music:

- *Sand Blocks:* Staple coarse sandpaper over one side of each block. Rub together to make sound.
- *Bell Sticks:* String two jingle bells on yarn. Tie the yarn around the base of the rounded top of the clothespin. Shake.
- *Shakers:* Put rice, etc. into a plastic cup. Tape the cup to another cup with transparent tape. If desired, decorate the outside with paint. Shake.

Invite the children to make music.





# Weaving God's Promises

## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS for Preschool, Primary

Children make simple stained glass windows from poster board and colored cellophane.

### Materials:

Window Design (p. 27)  
black poster board  
utility knife (*for teacher only*)  
colored cellophane  
glue or transparent tape  
scissors  
hole punch  
string, yarn or thin ribbon

### Preparation:

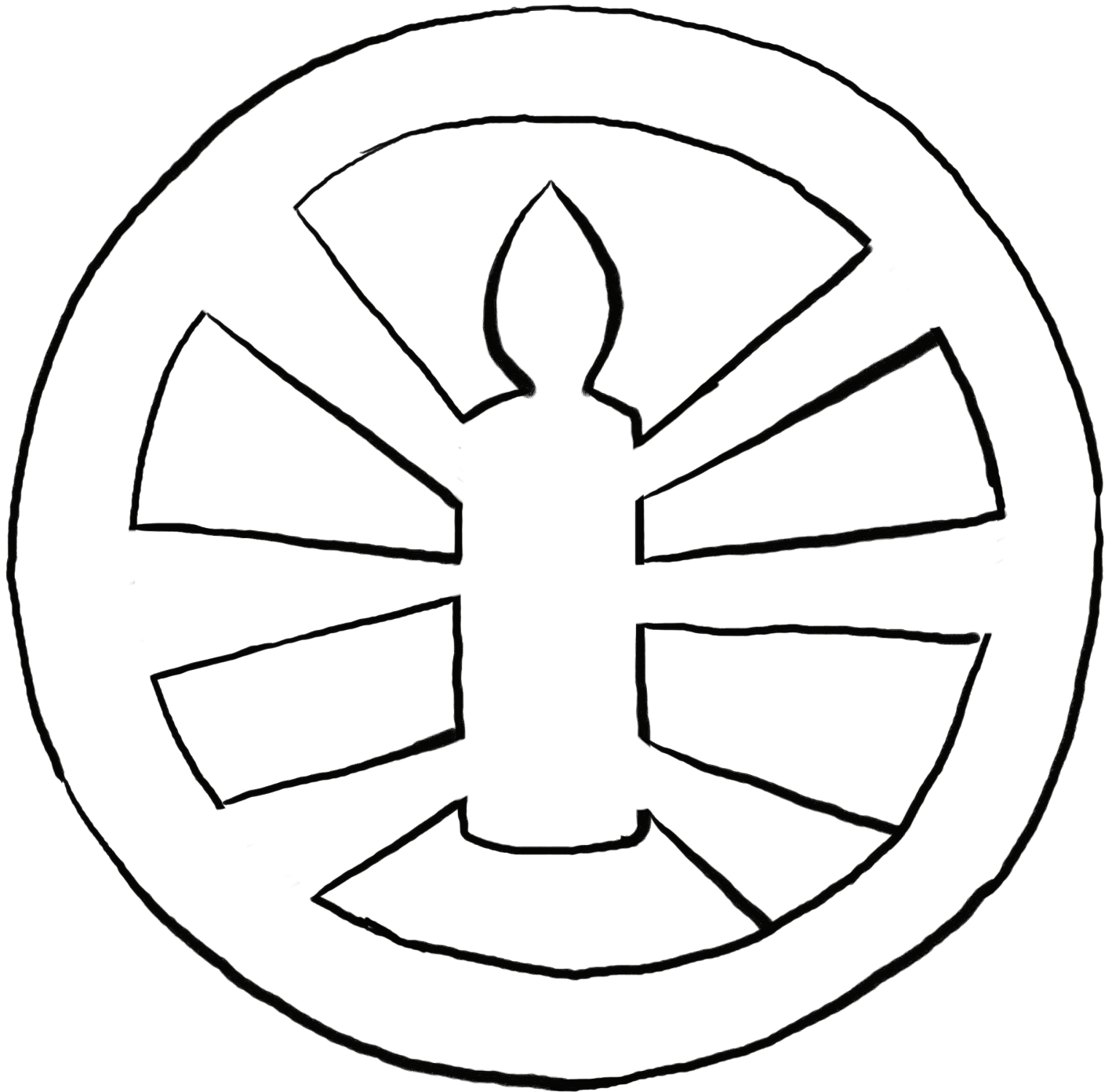
Make copies of the Window Design on black poster board, one per child. With the utility knife cut them out.

### Directions:

Hand out the black window cutouts and invite each child to make a stained glass window. Help the younger children as needed. Give the children these directions:

1. Cut cellophane into pieces that fit the window cutout.
2. Glue or tape the cellophane to the back.
3. Punch a hole at the top and string a piece of yarn, string or ribbon through the hole at the top of the window and tie.

# WINDOW DESIGN





# Weaving God's Promises

## STAINED GLASS TRANSPARENCY for Preschool, Primary, Elementary, Intermediate

Children make stained glass windows with transparent shelf paper and colored tissue paper.

The older children can make more complicated designs, the younger children can make simpler ones.

### Materials:

transparent adhesive shelf paper  
colored tissue paper  
scissors  
thick black permanent markers  
Window Designs (pp. 29-30)  
*optional:* white paper  
*optional:* pencils

### Preparation:

Make copies of the Window Designs, one for each child. Older children can use these or they can make their own designs.

### Directions:

Ask the children who are making their own designs to draw a simple design on white paper. Hand out the patterns to the rest of the children and invite each child to make a stained glass window. Help the younger children as needed.

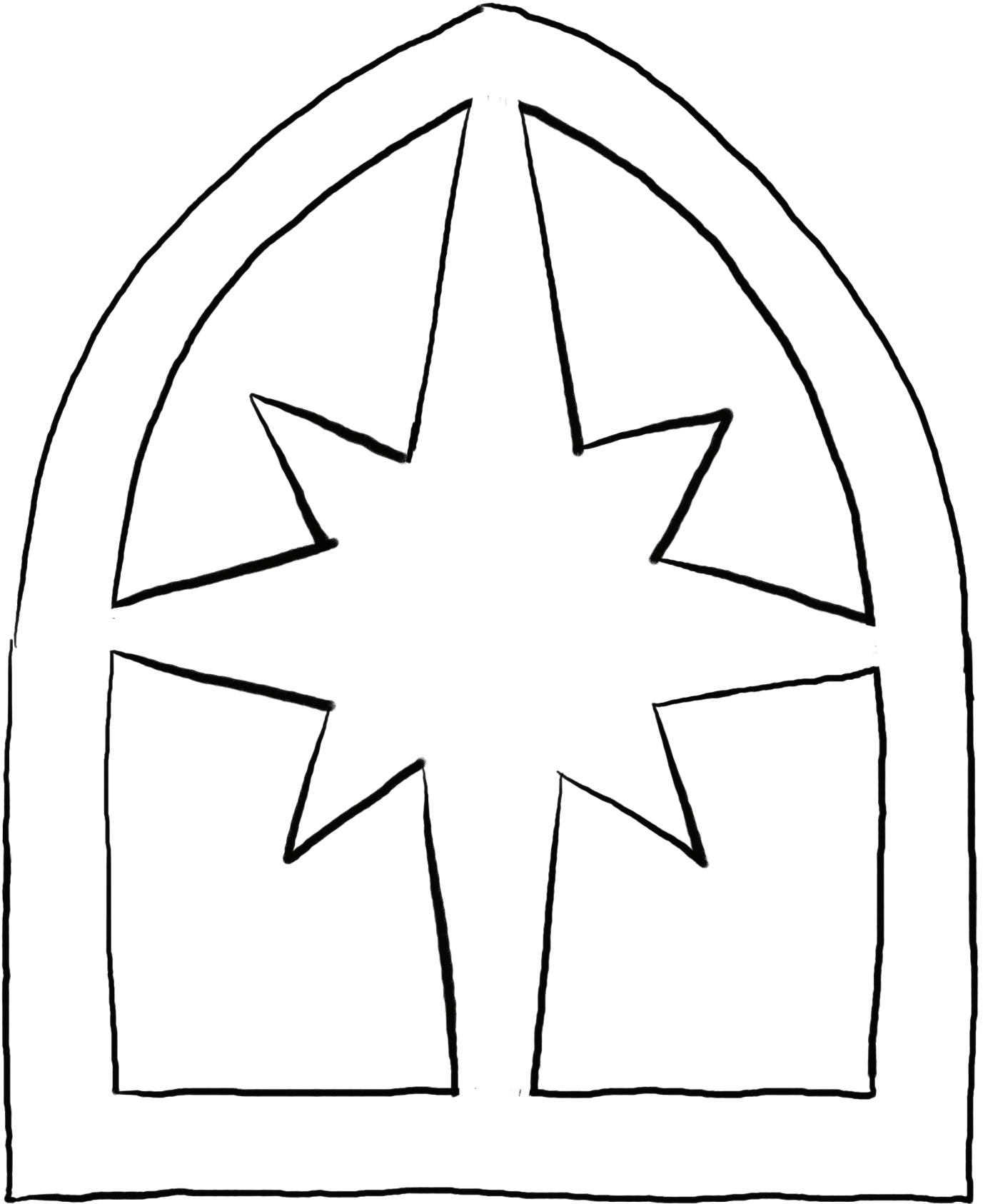
Give the children these directions:

1. Cut a piece of shelf paper about the size of your window. Use a black marker to trace your design onto the clear paper. Let the ink dry.
2. Place the adhesive paper on the table and carefully remove the paper backing, leaving the adhesive side up.
3. Cut tissue paper into small pieces and lay them flat onto the adhesive.
4. Cut out another piece of shelf paper, remove the backing and lay the adhesive side down onto the window design. Do this very carefully so it doesn't wrinkle.
5. Trim your window along the outline.

# WINDOW DESIGN



## WINDOW DESIGN 2





# Weaving God's Promises

## STAR OF DAVID PICTURE FRAMES for Primary

Children make picture frames in the shape of a Star of David.

### Materials:

craft sticks  
glue or glue gun  
paint or markers  
photo  
yarn or ribbon

### Directions:

Give each child 6 craft sticks. Invite each child to make a Star-of-David picture frame. Help the younger children as needed. Give the children these directions:

1. Glue your craft sticks together to make two separate triangles, then lay one triangle on top of the other to make a star and glue it together.
2. Trim a photo to fit the inside of the star and glue it in place.
3. To hang, attach a yarn or ribbon loop at the top.



# LESSON 9: BUILDING ISRAEL AND THE TEMPLE OF GOD



## We Believe . . .

Anglicans identify with beautiful worship spaces. One of the hallmarks of Anglicanism is an eye toward beautiful worship. The Anglican churches, from the great gothic cathedrals to the simplicity of country chapels, are distinctive by their beauty, and their worship services by their stateliness.

Starting with the Reformation in the 16th century, the English church removed some of the more garish of the interior decorations of the Roman Catholic churches. But as befits the Anglican *via media* (middle way), the church did not go as far as the Protestant churches in taking away all ornament and making their worship space plain and unadorned.

## Today's Story:



### 1 Kings 5:2-6:38, 8

The process of building a Temple begins under David, but it is Solomon who is credited with the actual construction of the Temple. The Temple is the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant, where the tablets of the Ten Commandments are kept. So it is the Temple that will be the center of worship for Israel and the center of their religious life.

The Temple was a grand and beautiful structure, but Solomon exacted high taxes and forced labor from the populace in order to build it. This leads to civil war, eventually splitting the small nation into two parts: Israel, made up of 10 tribes in the North, which broke away; and Judah, made up of the other two tribes in the South, which supported Solomon's family.

This story of the creation of the nation of Israel and the building of the Temple tells us how God takes care of us and provides for us. It is the people's sins and faithlessness, lack of trust in God and pride—just as it is our own sins and faithlessness, lack of trust in God and pride that lead to our own alienation from God—that leads to the fall of Israel.



## Words of Faith

*Temple*—the grand structure, built by Solomon, that was the center of Israel's worship

*King*—the ruler of Israel, though not what God intended

*Ark of the Covenant*—the golden case in which the Ten Commandments were kept; the Ark was kept within the Temple

*Worship*—giving honor and praise

**God is present, not only in church, but in all the events of our daily lives.**





## Sharing

Before you read or tell today's story, summarize briefly how the Israelites settled in Palestine and were supervised for many years by wise men and women called *judges*, until finally they demanded to have a king over them, like other people had.

After telling briefly how Saul became the first king of Israel, followed by David and then David's son Solomon, read aloud the story of the building of the Temple from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words. With all of the people's temptations to worship foreign idols and to rely on themselves rather than on God, they still see themselves as God's chosen people, and they build this grand temple for the glory and praise of God. Capture this joy in your storytelling.



# Weaving God's Promises

## This Week at Home



- **Build a model of the Temple.** You can find pictures of the Temple by doing an online search for "Solomon's Temple." Then, using natural materials, construction toys, scrap wood or even poster board or foam board, create a simple model of the Temple. Talk about what the Temple meant to Israel. Talk about what your church means to you.
- **Explore with household members the question, "Where does God live?"** Some may say "in church," others "in us," others "in creation." Welcome and affirm all answers... and learn from each other. Invite each person to draw a picture of God's home to share with each other. Another way to approach it? "Where do you find (encounter/connect with) God most easily?"
- **Discover how you, too, are "temples."** Centuries after this story about the building of the Temple, St. Paul will say that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. If God comes to you, how would you prepare your heart to receive God? If your heart were a church or temple, what would be in it?
- **Have everyone construct a heart**—symbolically, a place for God to live. You could use a variety of materials... whatever is available at home, like construction paper, construction toys (for example, Legos), modeling clay, etc. As you work, talk together about what else, beside God, do we hold and treasure in our hearts? Make symbols of these as well. In that case, consider inviting everyone to construct a bigger heart that could contain the smaller items. In this case, also create a symbol for God to include in your heart. How big is your "God symbol" compared to your other symbols? You could add to your hearts in the coming week as you think of other things you value.
- **Get to know other people's "temples."** Take a ride around the city, showing family members where other people worship. Include Christian churches, but also a Jewish synagogue, a Muslim mosque, etc. Emphasize our culture's rich variety of religious expression; acknowledge that the freedom to worship as we like is a great gift. Consider attending a service of another faith.



## Household Prayer

O God, we thank you for your church, where we can go and worship you together. We pray for all members of your holy church, that we may all work for your glory and for the good of all your people; in Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

