

David and Goliath

Bible Verse

I will live in the LORD's house as long as I live. (Psalm 23:6)

Bible Story

1 Samuel 17:1-51a

Leap of Faith

God's love is with me all the days of my life.

Before You Begin

Whenver someone asks us to name a child hero from the Bible, usually the first person who comes to mind is David. We visualize the scrawny young shepherd boy with the slingshot who had the audacity to stand up to the gigantic Philistine warrior Goliath. The story is all too familiar. But who were the Philistines and why were they a perpetual threat to God's people in the Promised Land?

A few years after the Israelites settled in the Promised Land, another group of people arrived in the area: the Philistines. They were a seafaring people who settled on the coastal plains of southwest Canaan where God's people had not yet developed settlements. Their very presence, however, was a threat to the Israelites. For the next six hundred years, these two groups were constantly at war.

At the time of today's story, David had been anointed by Samuel to be the next king of Israel, but Saul continued to hold the position. Saul was beginning to feel the withdrawal of God's presence in his life. When the story begins, the Philistines had gained several victories over the Israelites due to a warrior named Goliath who was nearly nine feet tall. The whole Israelite army was afraid of him. But David, who had simply come to the battlefield to bring food and supplies to his brothers, believed that, with God's help, he could defeat Goliath. And that is just what he did.

Once again, we can easily see how children could identify with David. Here he was, the youngest son of a large family, treated as someone rather insignificant (an errand boy for his father). He was a shepherd—not a soldier. But using the simple tools that were available to him, ones with which he was familiar (a sling and smooth stones), he defeated Goliath. David embraced God's plan for his life.

Children are used to being overlooked because they are young and supposedly unimportant. But in the New Testament, Jesus reminds us that it is to these children that the Kingdom of God belongs. Encourage the children to seek God's plan for their lives, reminding them that with God's help they can do amazing and incredible things.



Requires preparation.



Grow Together

Choose one or more of the following activities to do as the children arrive.

Welcome the Children

Supplies: Attendance Chart, Stickers, CD-ROM or DVD, CD player or DVD player, offering basket

- Play “Someone Small” (Track #5) and “Let the Music Play” (Track #4) as the children come into the room.
- Greet the children as they arrive and show them where to place their offerings.
- Give each child the attendance sticker for today to place on the chart.

Fun Pak Fun

Supplies: Fun Pak—p. 17, scissors, tape, glue sticks, white glue, yarn (pink, black, or gray), wiggle eyes, adhesive magnetic strip tape, small pompoms (optional), rulers

- Have the children cut out and assemble the mouse clutching the cheese.
- When the paws are released, the cheese reminds the children that even though they may be small, with God’s help they can do important things.



Go Green: Cut advertising refrigerator magnets into strips to use instead of the magnetic strip tape.


Just for Fun

Supplies: Bible Story Pak—p. 3, pencils

- The Bible Story Pak has four story and activity pages for each session. Remove the sheets for October 13. Give the children the Just for Fun page.
- Have the boys and girls find the stones that David used to kill the giant Goliath. (*Answers on p. 127.*)

Prepare the Story Puppets and Background

Supplies: Reproducibles 7a & 7b, Jesse puppet from Session 6 (see p. 52), Jesse’s four sons puppet from Session 6 (see p. 52), scissors, stapler, scrap paper, crayons or markers, tape


-  Photocopy the stick puppets and background for Session 7. Reuse the stick puppets of Jesse and his four sons from last week.

SAY: Today we will see our friend David again. This time he is in a very dangerous situation. But he knows that God is on his side.

- Have the children color and cut out the stick puppets and background. Tape each puppet to a support stick made from a folded piece of paper (see page 8).

Conversation Time

Supplies: Birthday Celebration displays (see p. 8), scissors, tape, crayons or markers

-  Identify each child who has a birthday this week and make sure you have a fall leaf and birthday gram for him or her.

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- Bring the children together. Let them briefly share any news from the week.
- Celebrate birthdays that have occurred or will occur in the coming week. Any child with a birthday can write his or her name on a leaf, color it, and add it to the tree. Also give those children the birthday gram to color and take home.

ASK: Has anyone ever told you that you were too little or too young to do something? How did this make you feel? *(Let the children share.)*

- Have each child hold up his or her dominant hand.

ASK: Which finger is the strongest finger on your hand?

SAY: It depends if you count the thumb or not. If you count the thumb, then it is strongest. Otherwise, it is your pointing finger.

ASK: Which is the weakest finger on your hand?

SAY: The pinky finger is the weakest. But even the weakest finger can do amazing things.

- Divide the children into pairs. Have one child sit in a chair while the other stands in front of the chair, facing the first child.
- Have the standing child place his or her pinky finger on the sitting child's forehead, just between the eyebrows.

SAY: When I say “stand,” I want the one who is sitting in the chair to stand up. I want the person who is standing to prevent this with only the pressure of your pinky finger. One, two, three: Stand! *(It will be very difficult, but not impossible, for the sitting child to stand up.)*

- Invite the children to switch places and try it again.

SAY: You just saw an example of how the smallest and the weakest finger on your hand was able to stop someone from standing up. In today's Bible story, someone small and insignificant does something amazing.

PRAY: Dear God, I thank you for these boys and girls. Help us to remember that even though we may be small or unimportant, we can, with your help, do amazing things. Amen.

Proclaim the Word

Visit Leaper's Pointe

Supplies: DVD, DVD player

- The DVD is optional and can be used in place of “Interact With the Bible Story” or in addition to it.
- Place the DVD in the player. Locate Session 7.
- Invite the children to sit down where they can easily see the screen.

SAY: Furleen tells how her little dog, Dimples, stood up to a big bully of a dog named Goliath. The story reminds Handyman of David and Goliath from the Bible, so Furleen, Ernie, and Handyman act out the familiar story.

- Watch the DVD segment.

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Interact With the Bible Story

Supplies: Bible Story Pak—p. 1, stick puppets and background (see p. 58), puppet stage (see pp. 9-10), tape

➊ Add the new stage background to the puppet stage.

SAY: When we left off last week, God had rejected King Saul because he had chosen to disobey God. So God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint a new king. Rather than choosing one of Jesse's older sons, however, God chooses David, a young shepherd boy. King Saul does not yet know what's going on, because he is right in the middle of a war that they are losing because of a giant Philistine warrior named Goliath. This is where David comes in.

- Assign the parts and present the story from the Bible Story Pak.

All About the Story

ASK: Why was David at the battlefield? (*His father had sent him to bring supplies to his brothers who were soldiers.*) Who was Goliath? (*a very large warrior for the other side*) What challenge did Goliath make to King Saul's army? (*Send someone to fight me! Whoever wins the fight, wins the war.*) Who finally stepped forward to meet the challenge? (*David*) What was his weapon? (*a sling and river rocks*) How did Goliath react when David stepped forward? (*He was amused.*) What happened? (*David killed Goliath.*)

SAY: David stood up to the giant Goliath because he knew that God was on his side. David may have been young, and he may have been small, but with God's help he did an amazing thing!

How Big Was Goliath?

Supplies: masking tape, bathroom scale, paper grocery bag or box, hymnals, pens, tape measure, calculator

➋ Create the outline of a figure representing Goliath on the floor using masking tape. Goliath was about nine feet tall.

- Invite the children to lie down on the figure and mark how tall they are compared to the giant using strips of tape with their names.
- Set a box or a paper grocery bag on the scale. Let the children add hymnals until it gets to 15 pounds—the weight of Goliath's spearhead. Then let the children try to lift the box or bag with the hymnals in it.
- Let the children try to determine how many of them would total up to the weight of 125 pounds, which is what Goliath's armor weighed.

SAY: Goliath was one big man, but he was no match for David who was armed with God's power.

Bible Connection

Supplies: Bible Story Pak—p. 4, pencils

- The boys and girls will complete the puzzle to discover what Goliath threatened to make of David. Then the boys and girls will determine which of the statements on the page are true. (*Answers on p. 126.*)

Serve in Love

Kid Connection

Supplies: Bible Story Pak—p. 2, Resource Pak—p. 18, tape

🕒 Display the Mission Poster for this quarter.

SAY: There are many Grow Sunday school classes all over the country. Every quarter we have a mission project to help God's people in all parts of the world. One Sunday school class may not be able to do big things, but when we combine our efforts, we discover that wonderfully amazing things can happen.

- Read the story about the class who collected money for “El Porvenir.”

SAY: Today begins our Grow in Mission project for the quarter. We will be helping Christians in Russia and Eurasia build churches so that they can come together to worship God. A church can stand out in its community and remind people that God is with them. One Sunday school class may not be able to build a church, but many Sunday school classes working together can.



Grow in Mission Envelopes

Supplies: Reproducible 7c, Leader's Guide—p. 122, Stickers, crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks, empty can to use as the Mission Container

🕒 Make a copy of the mission envelope for each child. Make a copy of the letter to parents for each child.

- Give each child the envelope pattern and the sticker window.
- Have the children stick the window sticker in the middle panel of the church and color the envelope. Cut out and fold according to the directions.
- Cut out and fold the letter to parents, and add it to the inside of the envelope.
- Show the children the Mission Container.

SAY: Each week we will be collecting money for the Christians in Russia who are building churches. You can place your money in the church envelope you just made, bring it church with you, and place the money in this can.



Worship

Gather and Sing

Supplies: Bible Story Pak Songbooks, Unit 2 Bible Story Poster (see p. 55), CD-ROM, CD player

- Locate “Someone Small” (Track #5) on the CD-ROM. Play it as an invitation for the children to come to the worship area.
- Review the words in the songbook with the children. Sing the song together.
- Review the sign language for the Bible verse for this unit (see p. 62).



SAY: Today David stood up to the Philistine warrior Goliath. Even though he was very young and small compared to Goliath, God helped him do the impossible.

- Read the Bible verse from the poster and sign the verse together.



I

Praise and Respond

Supplies: Bible Story Pak Songbooks, Leader's Guide—p. 125, Bible Story Map (see p. 12), Map Cards (see p. 12), Mission Poster (see p. 61), CD-ROM or DVD, CD player or DVD player, tape, world map or globe

- 🕒 Locate map cards 12, 13, and 14 for Session 7.

SAY: David was known for the wonderful songs he wrote and the music he played. As we learn about David, we learn that God is the music and we are the song.

- Invite the children to sing “Let the Music Play” (Track #4). There are movements to the song on page 125 of this Leader's Guide if you'd like to use them.
- Attach map cards 12-14 to the border around the map. Invite the children to read the information on the back of the pictures as they add them to the poster.

SAY: Samuel anointed David as the next king of God's people. From that day forward, God was with him in a special way. In today's story God helped David defeat Goliath, the Philistine warrior, and win a war. David knew that God was on his side. (*Recite the Bible verse and sign it together.*) Remember, you may be young, you may be small, you may feel unimportant, but with God's help you can do amazing things.

- Point out the Mission Poster for this quarter. Explain that the pictures show Sunday school classes and gatherings of Christians in Russia and Eurasia.

SAY: Like David, we may be small, and we may be young, but with God's help we can do amazing things. Grow Sunday school classes all over the country this month will be collecting money to build churches in Russia and Eurasia. (*Locate on a map or globe.*) Remember to bring your envelope home with you.

PRAY: Dear God, you know us better than anyone. You know what we can do and you will always be with us to help us do the things you call us to do. You help us do amazing things. Amen.

Live



Lord's



House



Plan for Next Week

Prepare the Story Puppets and Background (p. 64): Make one copy of Reproducibles 8a & 8b. Make sure you have the Elder 1 and Elder 2 puppets from Session 6 to reuse.

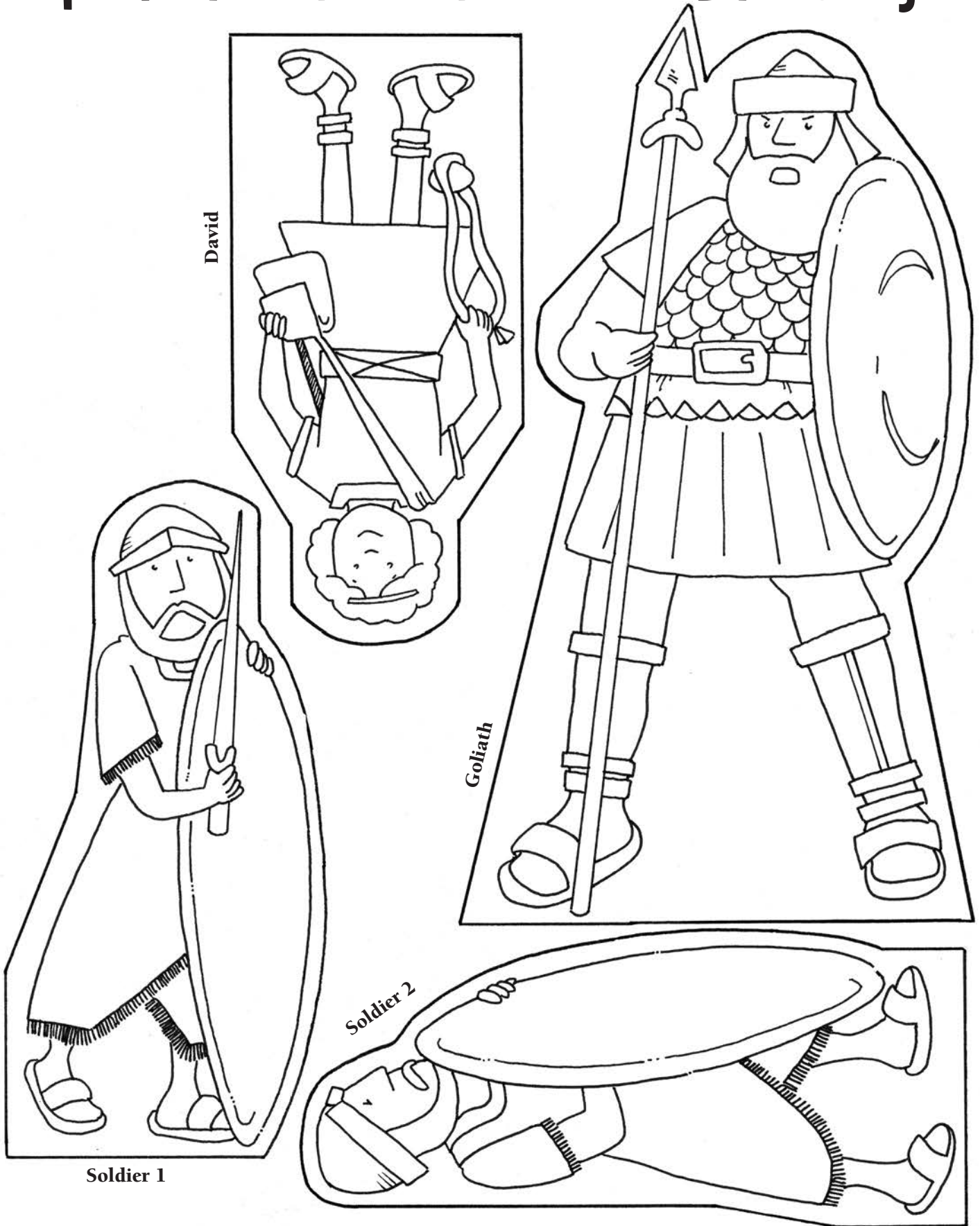
Praise God With a Joyful Noise (p. 67): Cut clear ribbed shelf liner to fit around each paper towel tube, one per child. Also cut a piece of colored paper to wrap around each tube.

Gather and Sing (p. 67): Prepare raisin cakes for your class using the recipe on page 67. Before serving them, be sure to find out about any food allergies that the children may have. You may want to prepare a substitute (such as raisin muffins) for children who are allergic to or who don't like nuts.



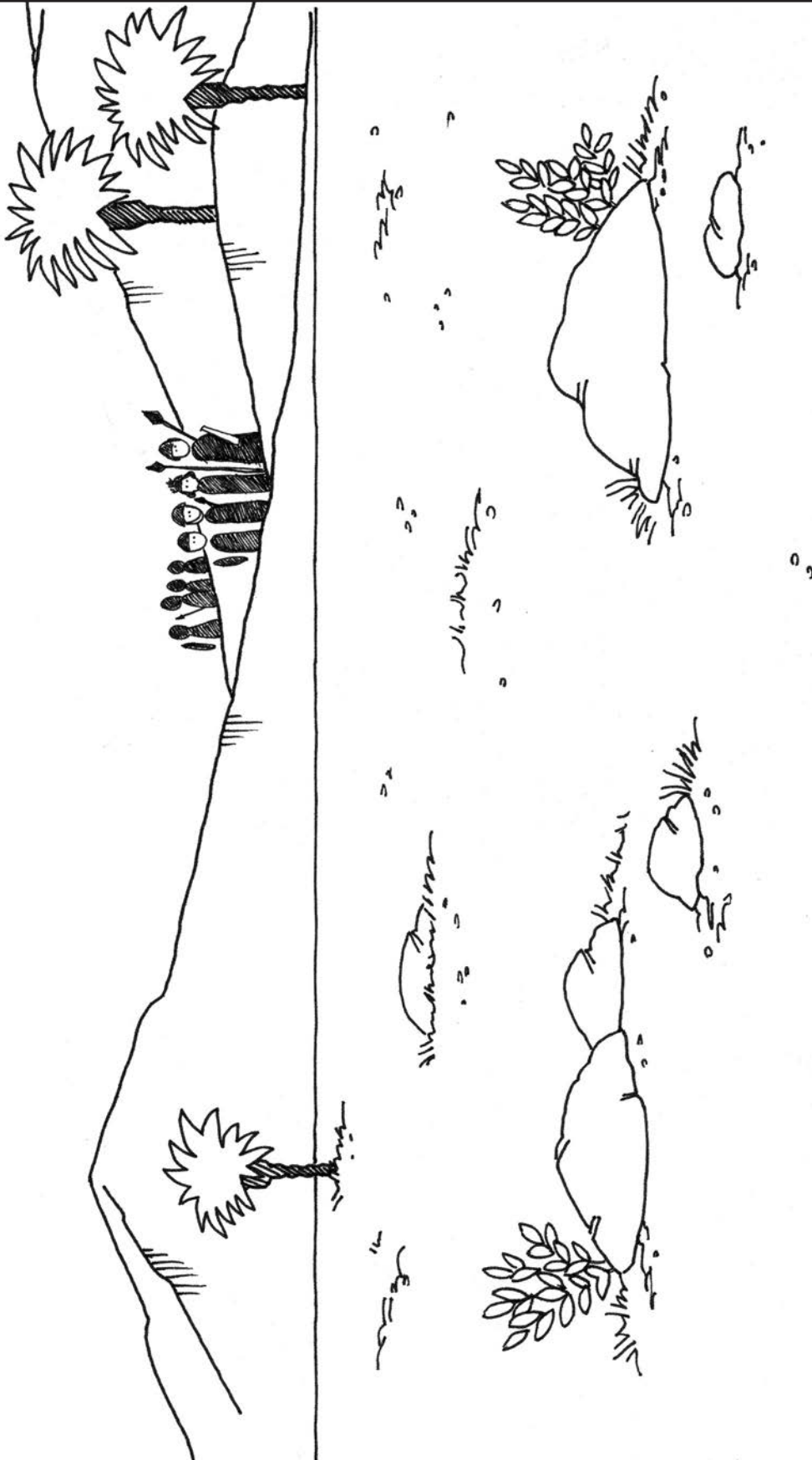
Forever
(as long as I live)

Reproducible 7a: Interact With the Bible Story



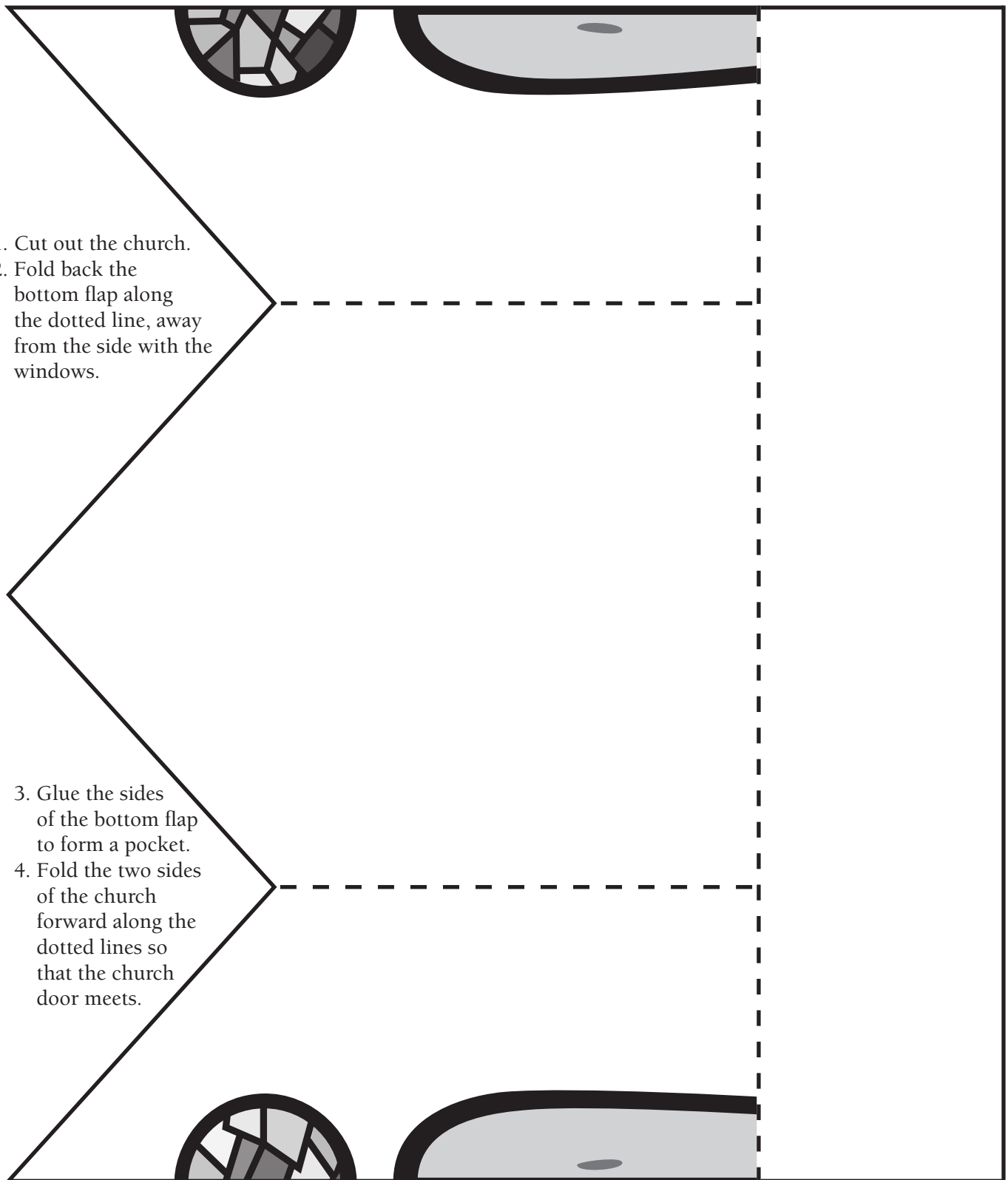
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Reproducible 7b: Interact With the Bible Story



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Reproducible 7c: Grow in Mission Envelopes



1. Cut out the church.
2. Fold back the bottom flap along the dotted line, away from the side with the windows.

3. Glue the sides of the bottom flap to form a pocket.
4. Fold the two sides of the church forward along the dotted lines so that the church door meets.