

God's Family

The Church

Lesson 3

Lesson Objectives

- The children will compare the first-century church to a physical family.
- The children will discuss things done by the first disciples that we should do today.
- The children will practice sharing as the first disciples shared.

Lesson Text

Acts 2:44-47

Scripture Memory Verse

All the believers shared everything they had.

Acts 4:32

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: First-Century House

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: God's Family

Life Application: Share and Match

Craft: My Sharing Book

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.





God's Family

First-Century House

The children will make a house that resembles one of a first-century family.

Materials

For each child:

- scissors
- markers
- crayons
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- large cardboard box
- construction paper

Preparation

1. Cut the box to look like a house as follows:
 - A. Cut the top and bottom off the box.
 - B. Cut off one of the sides of the box. See Figure A.
 - C. Cut out one window on each of the side panels.

Instructions

1. Explain to the children that the lesson is about how the first disciples lived. Show them the box and explain that they will decorate the house to look like one from the first century.
2. Talk with them about things that would and would not be in the house.
3. Make a list of things that would be in the house. Some examples are; water jugs, firewood, a low table, a bed, a cooking pot.
4. Have the children choose which things they are going to make to put into the house.
5. Have the children work in pairs or small groups to make the different items out of construction paper and then glue them into the house.
6. Give the finished house to the Bible Story teacher.

Conclusion

Talk with the children about what things they have in their homes that are the same as in the first-century house.

Teacher Tips

- Use fabric, sandpaper or other materials with the construction paper.

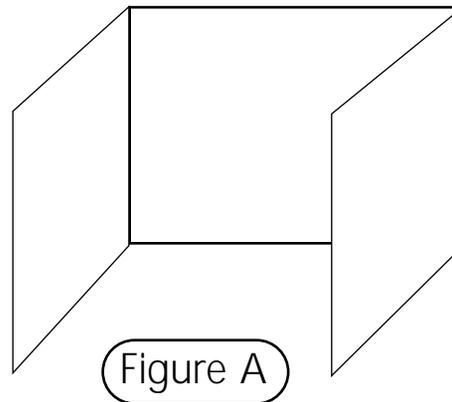


Figure A

God's Family

God's Family

The children will learn what life might have been like for the first disciples.

Lesson Text

Acts 2:44-47

Materials

For the teacher:

- cardboard house from the Preclass Activity

Serving One Another

Open the Bible to Acts 2. *Today we are going to learn more about God's family, the church.*

In the Bible we learn that the first disciples were very hospitable. Does anyone know what hospitable means? (Inviting people into your house, being friendly, offering food or drink to the people that you invite over.) The first disciples were very hospitable. The Bible says that they shared everything with each other (Acts 2:47). They used their homes to make God's family grow.

Point to the house. *Long ago, when God's church first began, houses looked something like this. The people in God's family loved to visit each other's houses and to have new friends over too!*

Whose house do you like to go to? Why? Do people come to your house to study the Bible? Let the children share. Isn't it exciting to have people come to your house and learn about God?

It was the same way in the first church! In the book of Acts, God tells us how his family, the church, used their homes to help people.

Let's listen to see how we can be just like them! The Bible says "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts" (Acts 2:46). That means that the first disciples met together everyday. They loved each other so much that they couldn't wait to see one another. They visited one another, every day. Who are the people you see every day? Are you happy to see your friends when you come to Bible class? The people in the first church felt exactly the same way! They got really excited that God loved them and gave them one another, so they visited together every day to thank God and show their love for one another.

The Bible says they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts (Acts 2:46). What do you think that means? Right. They shared their food. They ate breakfast, lunch, dinner and probably even their snacks with one another. What kinds of foods do you like to share when people come over to your house? What kinds of foods do you think they served in the first church?

When my friends come over, I make something special for them to eat. Do your families make special foods when friends come over to visit? It was the same way in God's first church. They loved to thank God together, to be with one another and to share the food God gave them.

Conclusion

How long ago did the church begin? That's right, it began hundreds and hundreds of years ago. But even though it was long ago, we still do the same things the first disciples did. Do you know why? Because by sharing and loving each other they made God happy and we want to make God happy too.

Talk with the children about other things that the first disciples did that we do today. For example; pray, read the Bible, baptize people, have church, help the poor.

Teacher Tips

- Bring pictures of food, apartments and houses so that the children can see the contrast between first-century and modern times.



God's Family



God's Family

Share and Match

The children will practice sharing with each other. They will discuss different ways that they can share.

Scripture Memory Verse

All the believers shared everything they had.

Acts 4:32

Materials

For the teacher:

- construction paper
- glue stick
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 2 copies for the teacher

Preparation

1. Color the cards on the copies of Reproducible Page A. Color each one of a matched pair identically.
2. Glue the copies onto construction paper.
3. Cut out each card leaving a border of construction paper around it.

Instructions

1. Remind the children of the first disciples and that they shared everything. Explain that they will be playing a game in which they will have to share in order to be successful.
2. Place all of the cards facedown on the floor or a table.
3. Choose one child to go first. Have that child turn over one card.
4. Choose a second child to turn over a second card.
5. If the cards match, the children then need to say what the picture is and who they could share it with.
6. If the cards do not match turn them facedown again and then choose two other children to turn over two new cards.
7. If the cards do not match the game will continue with two new children.

Scripture Memory Activity

Have each team repeat the memory verse a few times. Ask the children if it is hard or easy to share.

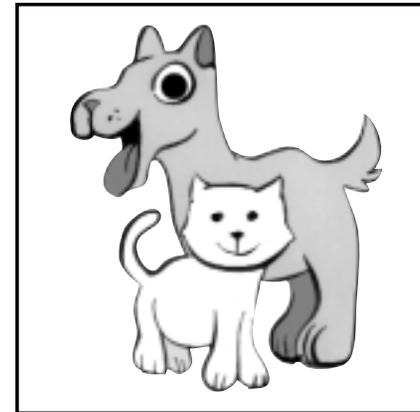
Conclusion

Talk to the children about how powerful sharing is. It makes God happy and it makes other people happy when we share. It is a great way to show God's love to people. If you are kind and share with people it will help them to want to know more about God.

Choose a child to pray and ask God to help all of the children to have sharing hearts just as the first disciples did.

Teacher Tips

- Be sure that the children work together as they play. The goal is for them to share not just the cards, but information also.



God's Family

All the believers shared
everything they had.

Acts 4:32



God's Family

My Sharing Book

The children will make books reinforcing the importance of serving and cooperating in God's family, the church.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of construction paper
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- stapler
- scissors
- black marker

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Make a book cover for each child as follows:
 - A. Cut a 7" x 5" cover from construction paper.
 - B. Fold each piece of construction paper in half.
 - C. On the outside of each cover, write: "My Sharing Book."
See Figure A.
2. Cut out the book pages from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
IMPORTANT: Do not cut out the individual pictures.
3. Fold each book page, see Figure B, as follows:
 - A. Turn the page over on its back.
 - B. Fold the page in half from left to right.
 - C. Fold the page in half from bottom to top.
 - D. Rotate the page 90° to the right so that the picture is aligned.
4. Staple the book page to the cover from the inside, as shown in Figure C.
5. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

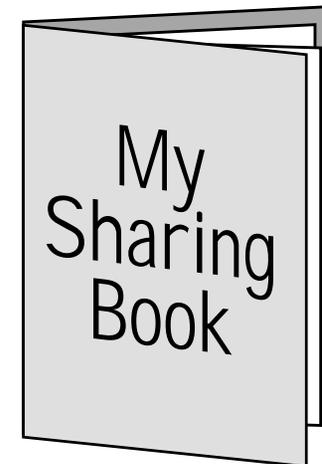
1. Show the children your model of the book. Show them the different pages and discuss the different pictures. Show them the picture that you drew on the blank page. *What are some things that you can share with others in the church?*
2. Have the children color the pictures inside their books.
3. On the blank page of their books, have the children draw a picture of what they can share with others in the church.
4. Help each child write his name on the back cover of his book.

Conclusion

Have the children share with the class what they drew in their books.

Teacher Tips

- Cut out pieces of fabric to glue onto the pictures.



CRAFT

God's Family

The Church

Lesson 3

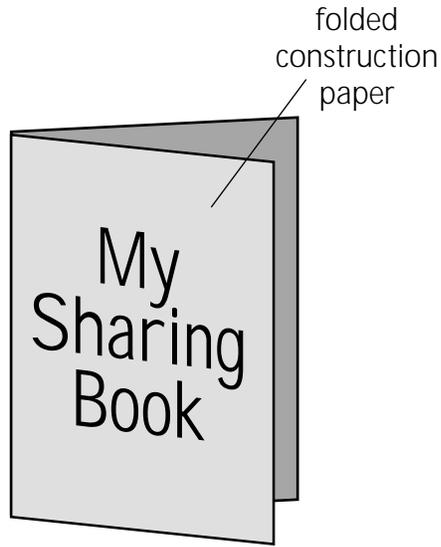


Figure A

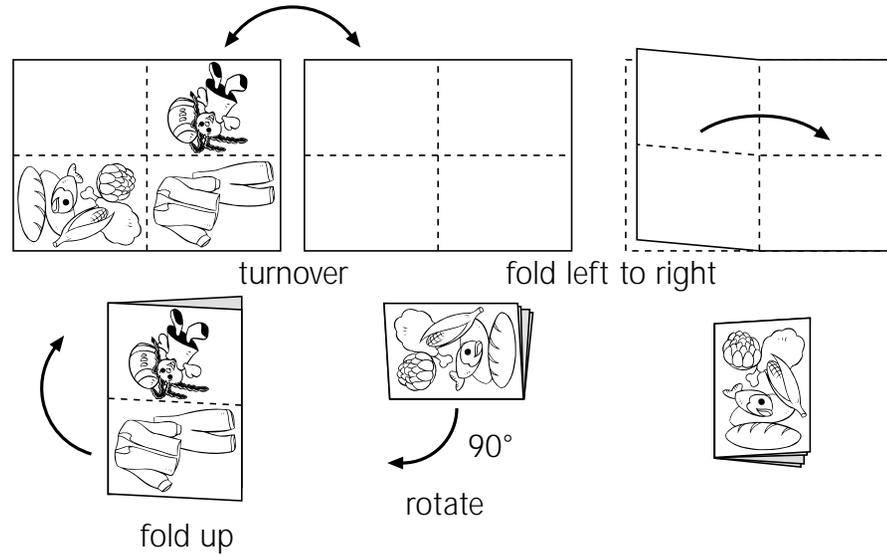


Figure B

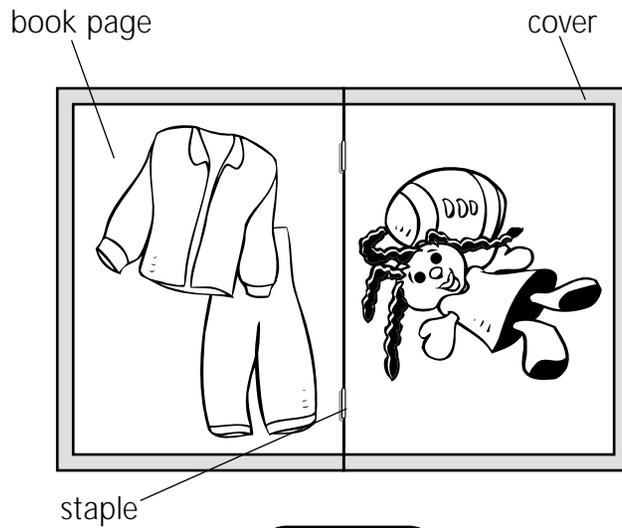
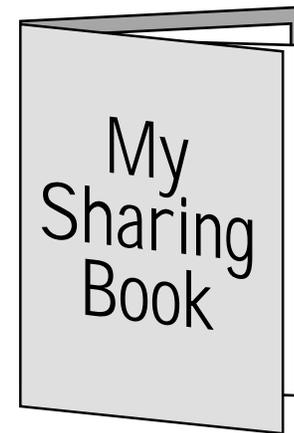


Figure C



Finished Craft





Pre class



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Lesson Text

Acts 2:44-47

Scripture Memory Verse

All the believers shared everything they had.

Acts 4:32

We Are Family

This activity will remind the children that we are all people in God's family.

Materials

For each child:

- crayons or markers
- 1 piece of construction paper
- decorative items (optional)

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Cut out the family picture from the copies of Reproducible Page C.

Instructions

1. Remind the children that they have been learning about the first-century church. *In the first church everyone was like one big family. They shared everything they had and spent time together every day. That made God very happy. God wants us to share just like they did.*
2. Give each child a picture of God's Family. Have them color it and draw in a picture of themselves.
3. Give each child a piece of construction paper. Have the children glue their pictures to the center of the construction paper to make a frame.

Conclusion

While the children work explain that they belong to two families; their family and God's family.

Teacher Tips

- Bring in decorative items for the children to glue onto their construction paper frames.



Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: We Are Family

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Game: Have a Heart

Craft: A Heart to Share

Life Application: Share and Match

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.



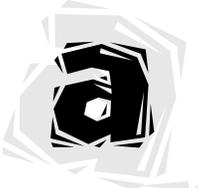
Have a Heart

The children will play a game to remind them of God's heart to help people.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 2 pieces of large, red poster board
- black marker
- scissors
- cookies



Preparation

1. Cut out one heart shape from each piece of poster board. Make each heart as large as possible.
2. Write: "Have a heart to share." across each heart.
3. Cut each heart into 10 pieces, creating two different puzzles.
4. Before class begins, place each puzzle on the floor, assembled.



Instructions

1. Divide the group into two teams.
2. Have each team choose a puzzle. Have them break the puzzle apart and give each child on the team one or two pieces.
3. Have each team work to put the puzzle back together.
4. After the teams have successfully put the puzzle together a few times, have a race.
5. Give each child on the winning team two cookies. Have them share with the team that did not win.

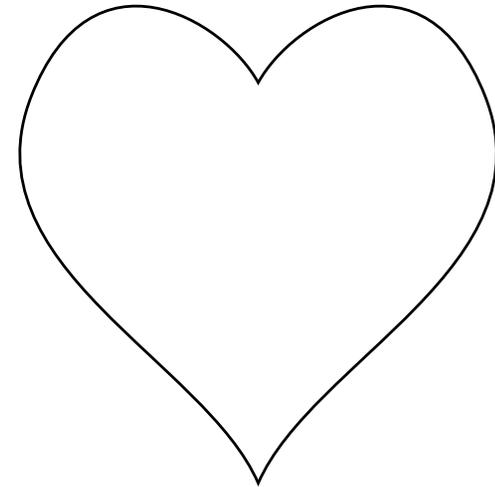


Conclusion

Talk to the children about how giving from the heart means sharing because they want to, not because they have to. Explain that God wants us to give to one another because we want to. It makes God happy when we are happy and giving.

Teacher Tip

- **IMPORTANT:** Be sure that none of the children have allergies to any of the snacks you may serve during this activity. Ask the parents at registration if their child has any food intolerance or food allergies.
- Laminate the puzzle to make it sturdier.
- If time allows, have the teams switch puzzles.





A Heart to Share

The children will make necklaces to help them remember to share.

Materials

For each child:

- glue stick
- small envelope

For the teacher:

- pink construction paper
- red construction paper
- hole punch
- marker
- scissors
- yarn

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the large and small heart stencils from Reproducible Page D.
2. Prepare a large heart for each child as follows:
 - A. Trace and cut out a large heart from pink construction paper.
 - B. Punch a hole in the top of each large heart.
3. Prepare a small heart for each child as follows:
 - A. Trace and cut out a small heart from red construction paper.
 - B. Write "Have a Heart to Share." on the heart.
 - C. Cut the small heart into four large pieces.
 - D. Place the small heart into an envelope.
4. Cut a 25" piece of yarn for each child.
5. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Give each child an envelope with the small heart pieces. Have each child put together the pieces to form the heart.
2. Give each child a large heart. Have the children glue the small heart to the center of the large heart one piece at a time.
3. Give each child a piece of yarn to thread through the hole in the large heart.
4. Help the children tie the ends of the yarn.
5. Ask each child what they like to share. Write their answers on the back of the large hearts, and then have them draw a picture of the object.
6. Help the children to write their names on the front of their hearts.

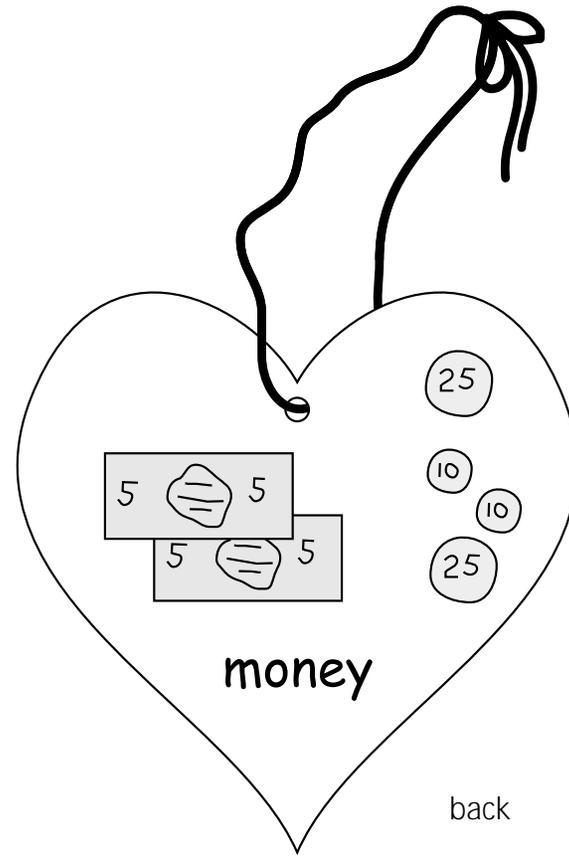
Conclusion

Have the children take turns showing their hearts to the class and telling what they would share with others.

Teacher Tips

- Feel free to use colors other than red and pink.





Finished Craft



Share and Match

The children will practice sharing with each other. They will discuss different ways that they can share.

Scripture Memory Verse

All the believers shared everything they had.
Acts 4:32

Materials

For the teacher:

- construction paper
- glue stick
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 2 copies for the teacher

Preparation

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The Church

Lesson 3

Scripture Memory Activity

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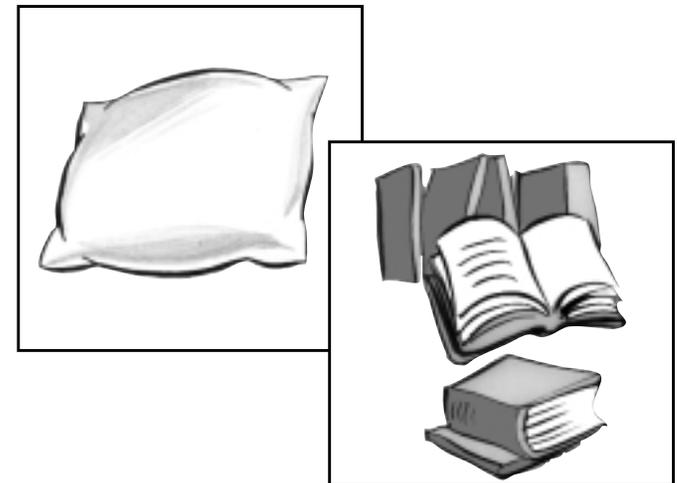
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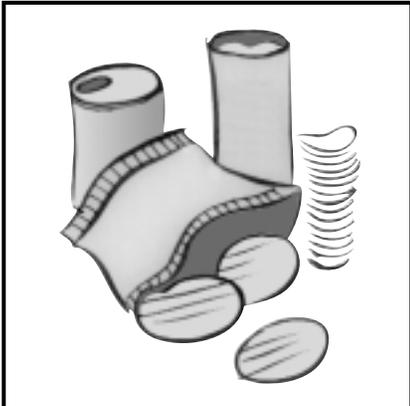
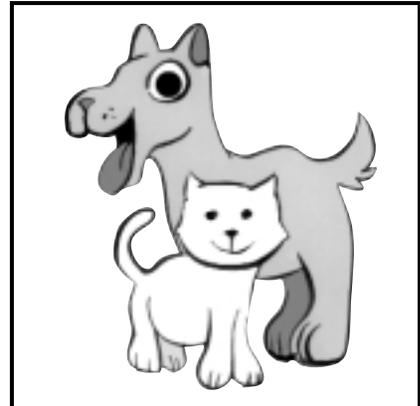
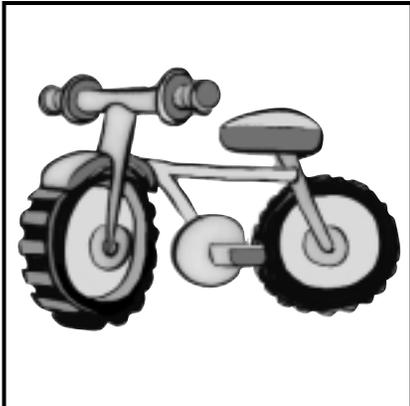
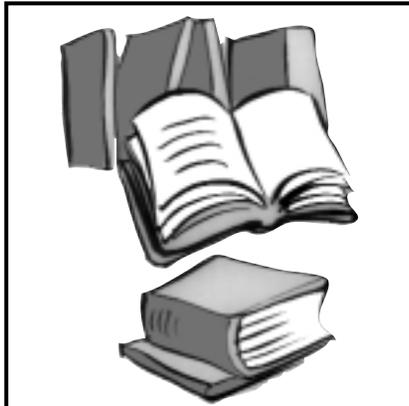
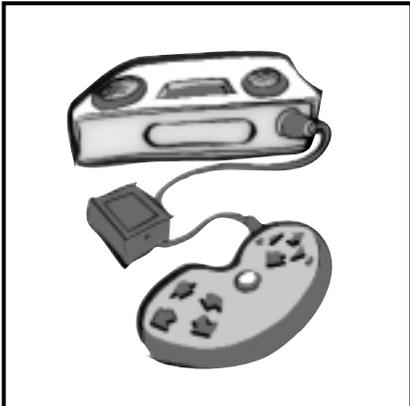
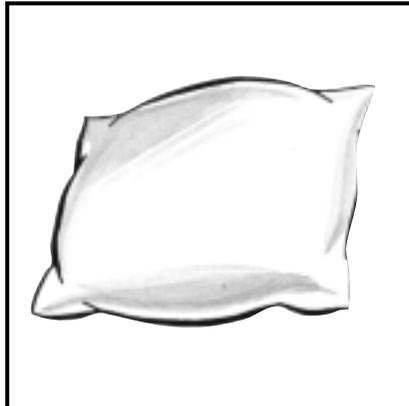


Core and Supplement/Life Application
2 copies for each teacher

Read-Observe-Remember

Page

A



cards



REPRODUCTION

Page

B

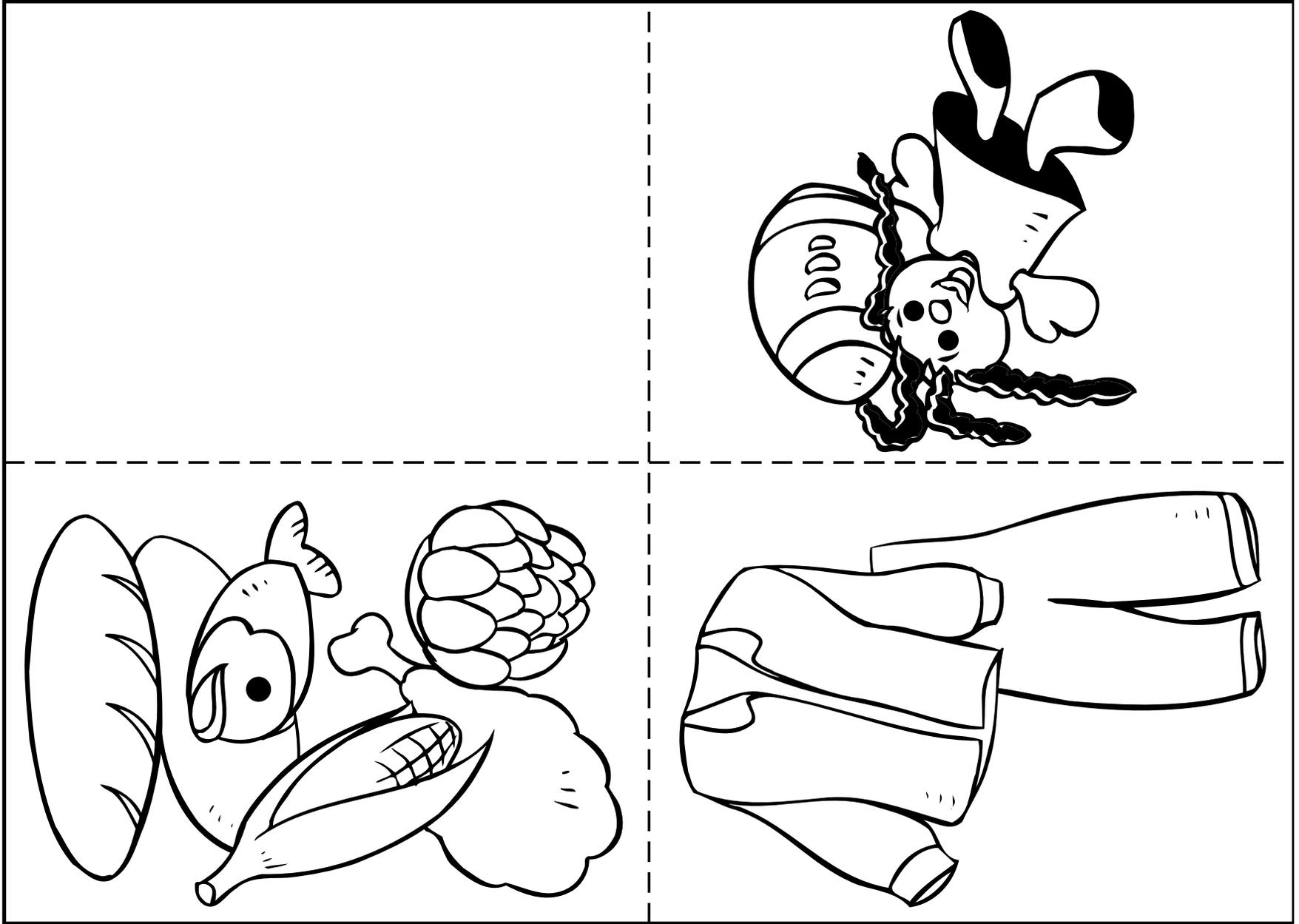


Core/Craft
1 copy for each child

The Church

Lesson 3

book pages



Supplement/Preclass Activity

1 copy for each child



REPRODUCTION

Page

C



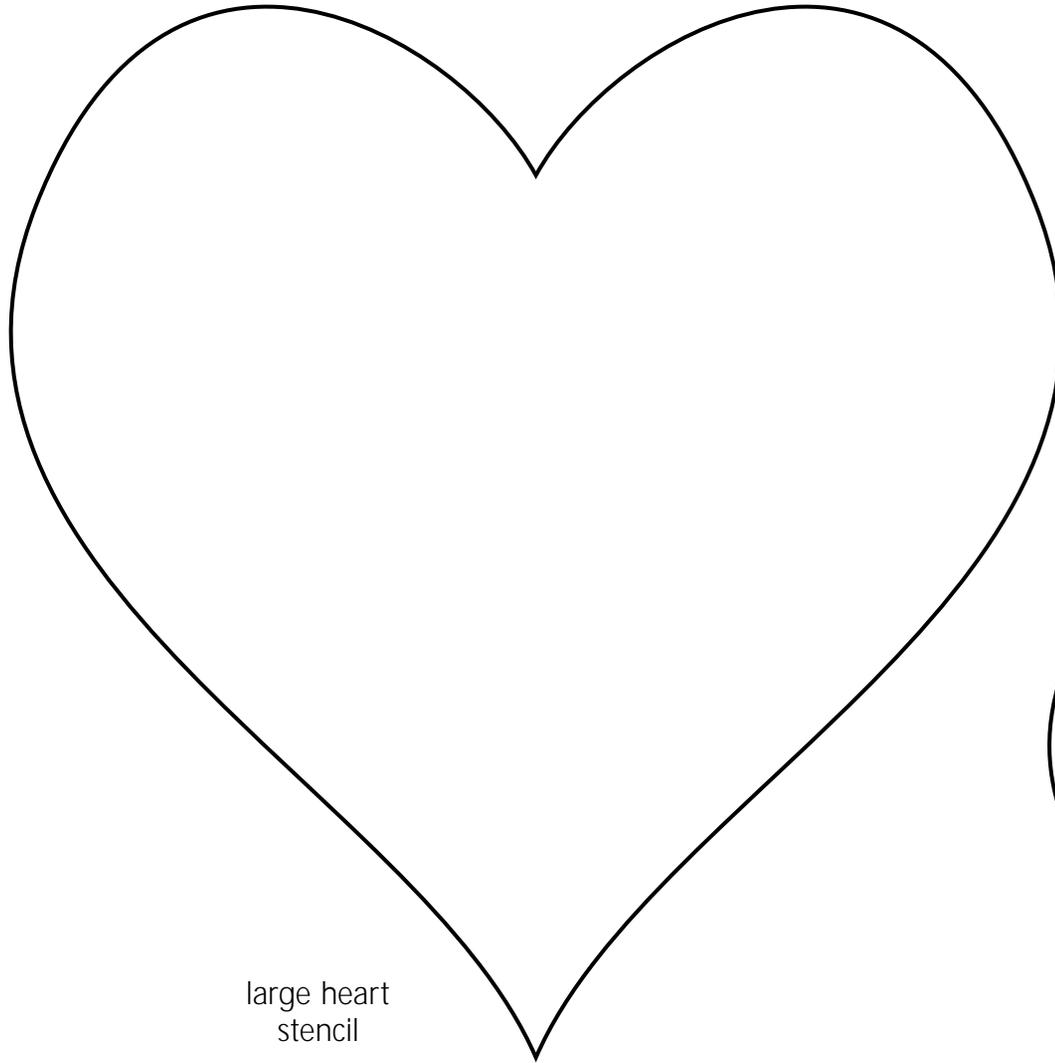
Supplement/Craft

1 copy for each child

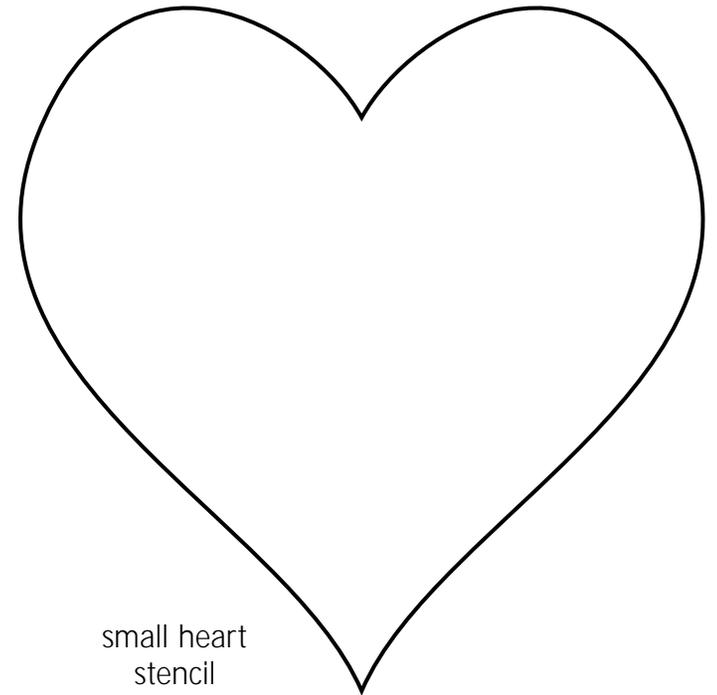
Discipleship

Page

D



large heart
stencil



small heart
stencil

