



Support material for Get Messy! Jan–Apr 2019

Jan: Where I belong

Mealtime card

- What do you remember, enjoy or look forward to about being twelve?
- Where do you most love to be and why?
- How do you know when you 'belong'?

Take-home idea

Visit a church building and spend some time there as a family. Talk about the different ways it helps you to connect with God, or whether there is a different place you like to go to feel close to God.

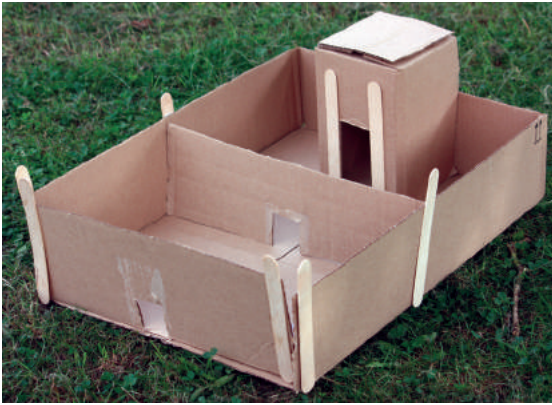
Father God, thank you that we can find special places to go where we can feel close to you. Amen

Question to start and end the session

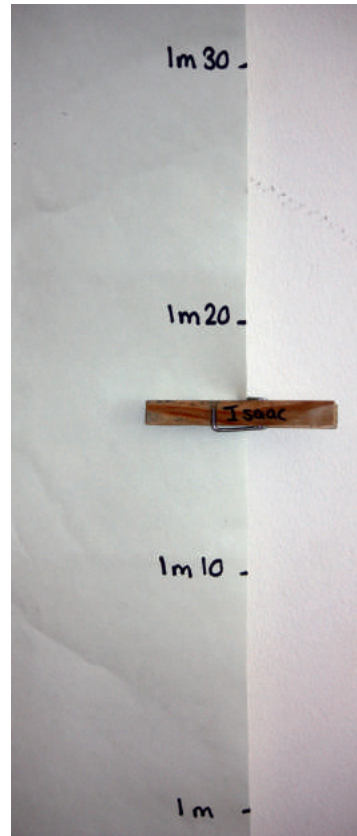
So... what does it mean to find a place where you belong?

Jan: Where I belong

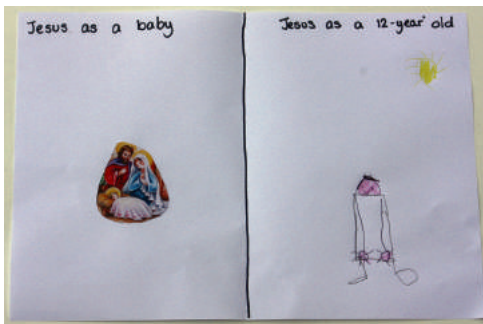
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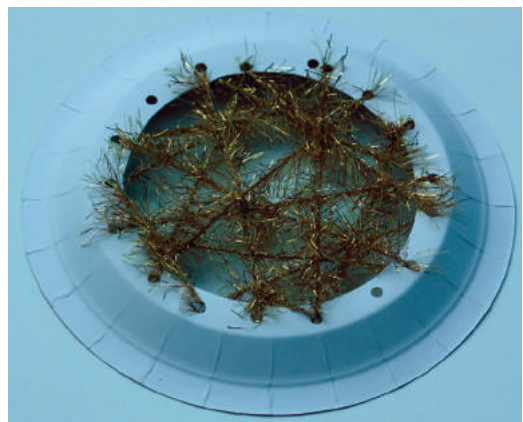
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Feb: Self-confidence

Mealtime card

- What three words would you use to describe yourself?
- If an angel appeared to you and described you, what three words would you like them to use?
- What difference does it make to know that God thinks you are incredible?

Take-home idea

Give each family an empty test tube which they should fill with water and add a few drops of food colouring to (have a variety to choose from). Put the stopper on and let them take it home, along with a single cheap white flower, for example a chrysanthemum or carnation. When they get home, they can put the flower in the test tube and watch the flower change colour as it absorbs the water over the next week. As you watch, remember that God can change us; we can receive his courage and strength, just like Gideon, when we feel weak and scared.

Question to start and end the session

So... how do you think of yourself? Brave and mighty or scared and weak?

Feb: Self-confidence

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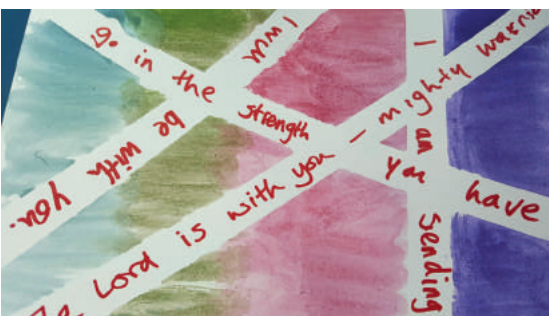
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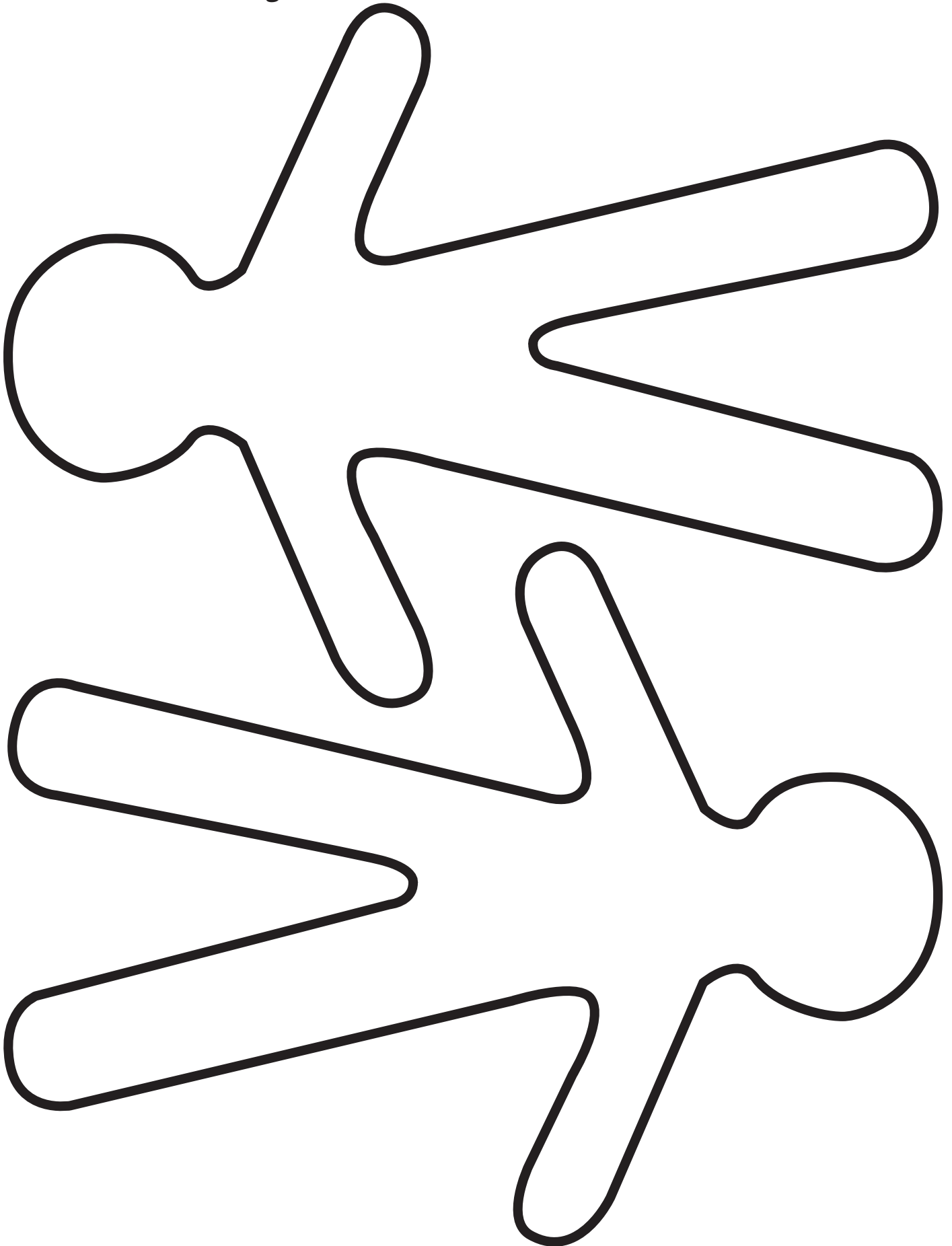


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Feb: Self-confidence

Where is Gideon hiding?



Feb: Self-confidence

Where is Gideon hiding?

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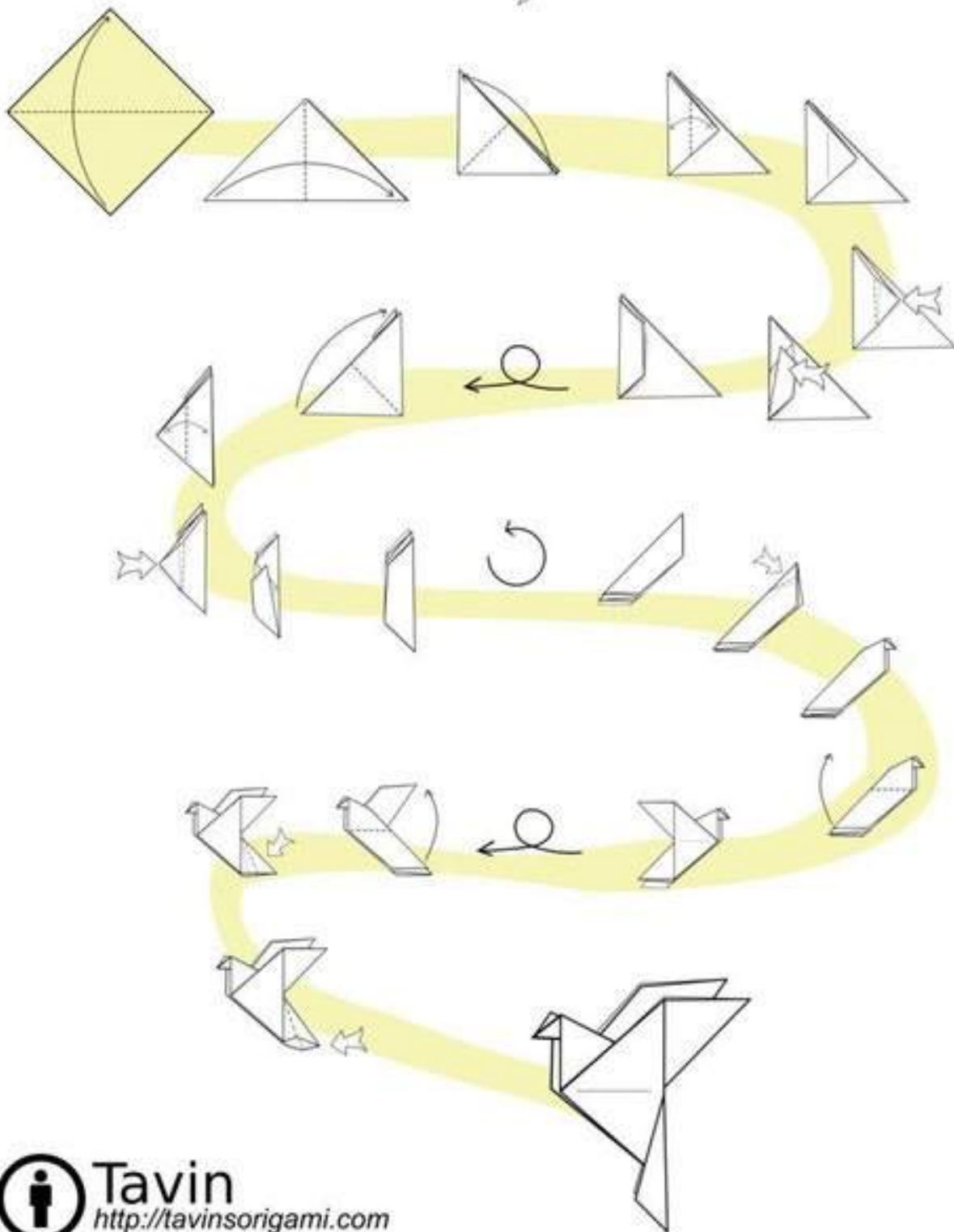
Feb: Self-confidence

Doves of peace

Peace Dove



Design: Alice Gray
Diagram: Tavin



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Mar: Dusty drawing

Mealtime card

- Who is your best friend?
- Who is the kindest person that you know?
- How can you be kind to others at Messy Church?

Take-home idea

Think of someone in your neighbourhood who needs a little gesture of kindness. What can you do to show them that Jesus cares about them? Perhaps you can make and drop off a card or some homemade cookies, or even just give them a smile. Challenge your family to complete one random act of kindness each week.

Lord Jesus, you reached out to the woman in her mess and distress, with words of kindness and not condemnation. Help us to reach out to people around us with your gift of love, as together we can change the world one person at a time. Amen

Question to start and end the session

So... who does Jesus want us to reach out to?

Mar: Dusty drawing

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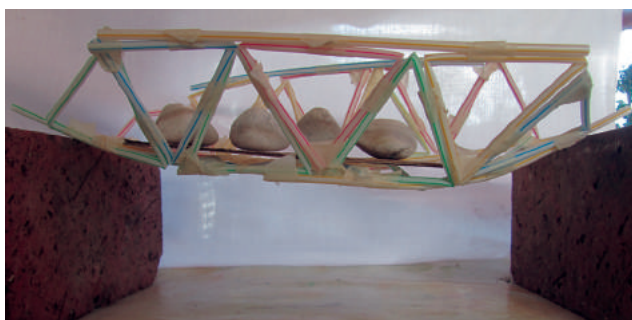
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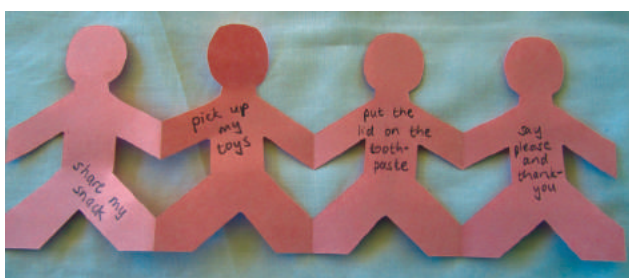
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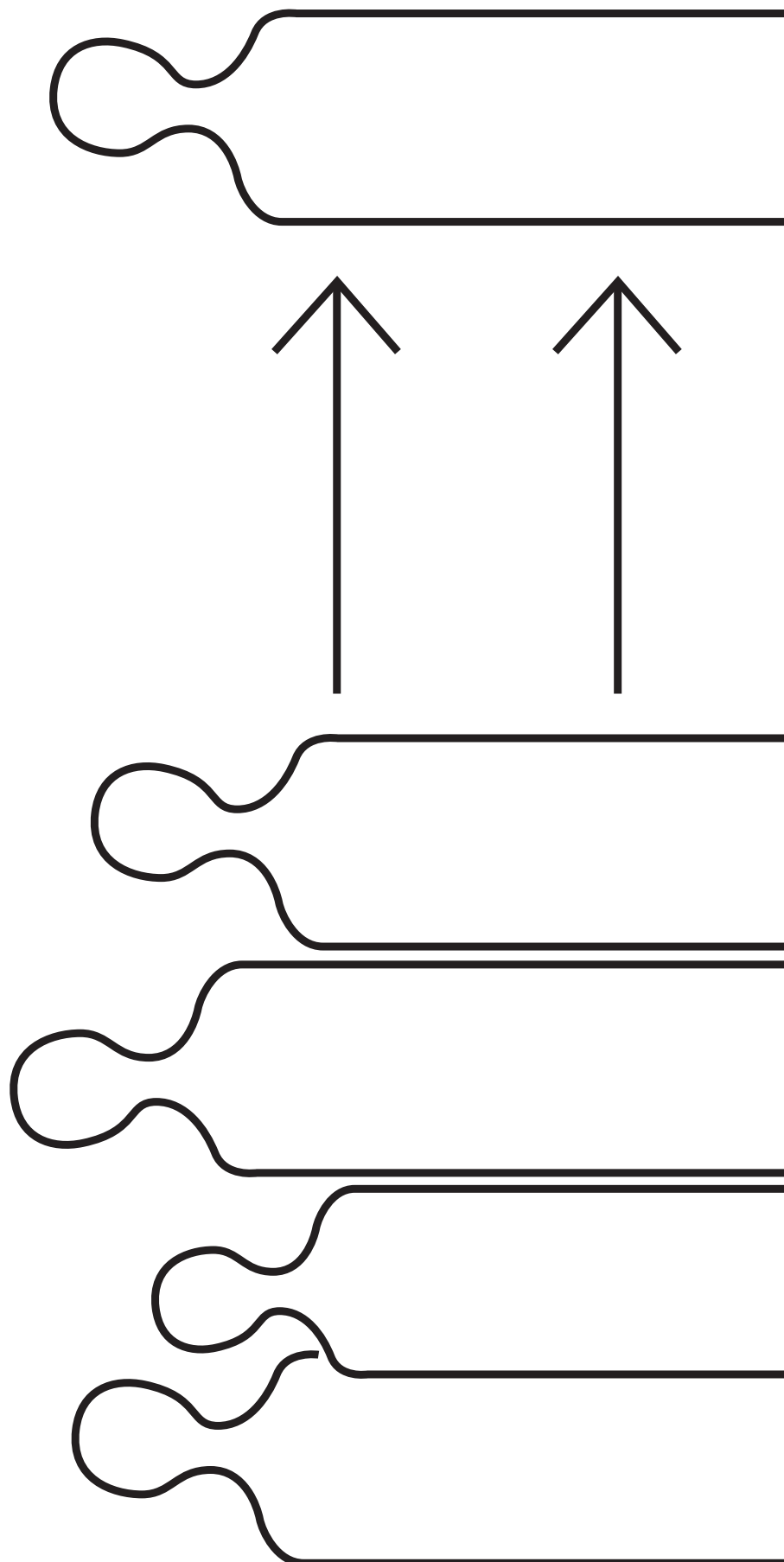


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Mar: Dusty drawing

Celebration



Apr: Always with us

Mealtime card

- What part of the Easter story do you like the best?
- When do you feel that God is closest to you?
- Is there any part of the Easter story that we could leave out and still have a complete narrative?

Take-home idea

Make your own Easter scene with figures for the different parts of the story. These can be as simple as a series of seven pictures that are hand-drawn, coloured in or taken from books, to peg figures, clay/Fimo figures or hand-carved figures, to making your own 'stop-motion' movies on your computer.

Creator God, thank you so much for Easter and for Jesus, who has shown us that nothing can stop you loving us. Thank you that you never leave us, even though we sometimes might feel like we are alone. May your Holy Spirit strengthen us to choose to follow Jesus' way, even when it is hard. Amen

Question to start and end the session

So... what in the story of Easter is most important to you?

Apr: Always with us

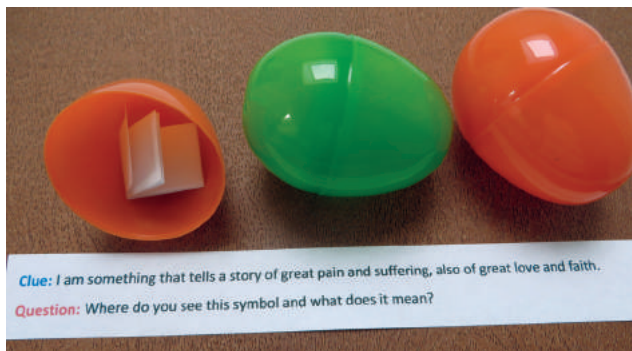
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Apr: Always with us

Easter discovery hunt examples

The cross or crucifix

Clue: I am something that tells a story of great pain and suffering, and also of great love and faith.

Question: Where do you see this symbol and what does it mean?

Baptismal font

Clue: I am something that is often filled with specially blessed water.

Question: Have you ever seen anyone baptised? What do you think baptism means?

Communion table

Clue: I am a place where people come for a special meal.

Question: Have you shared food and drink from this table? Can you write or draw part of the story of Jesus that sharing food and drink like this helps us to remember?