



Support material for Get Messy! Sep–Dec 2018

September: Which way?

Mealtime card

- What is your favourite story/stories about Jesus?
- Who do you know who is a follower of Jesus?
- What shows that people are followers of Jesus?

Take-home idea

As a family, you might like to find the stories of some people in your town who are known for helping others because they follow the way of Jesus. This may be people who help at low-cost food centres, or in family support centres, or goodwill or charity shops, counselling centres or other places. Most of the time, these people do not attract headlines, but their work truly reflects the life of Jesus. Your Messy Church leaders or minister/priest may be able to tell you some of these stories.

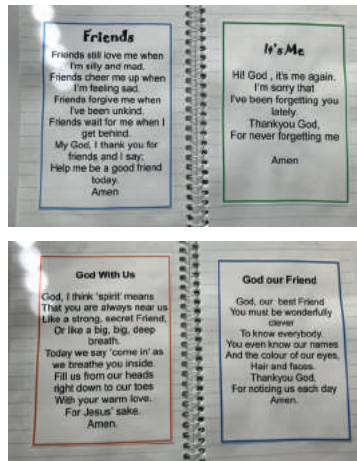
Gracious God, thank you so much for Jesus, who has helped us to know how to live in a way that brings your dream of heaven on earth to life. May your Holy Spirit strengthen us to choose to follow Jesus' way, even when it is hard. Amen

Question to start and end the session

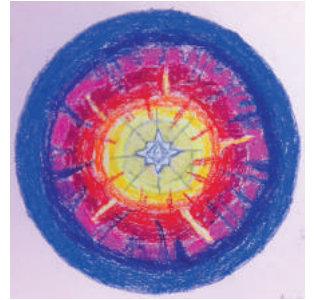
So... how do you show that you are a follower of Jesus?

September: Which way?

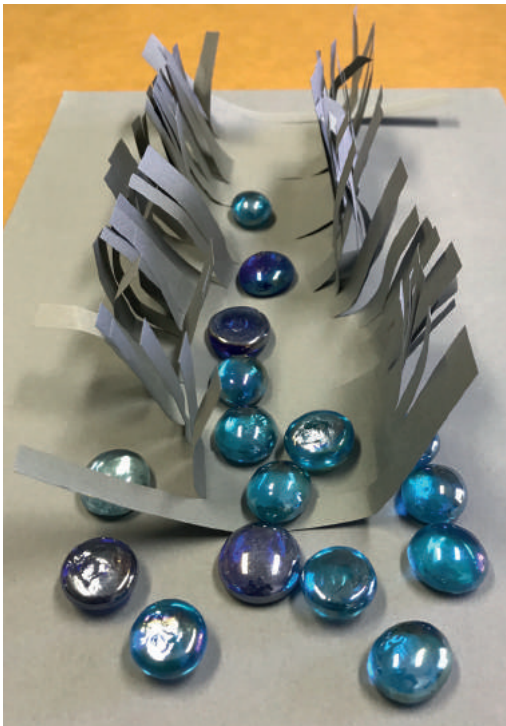
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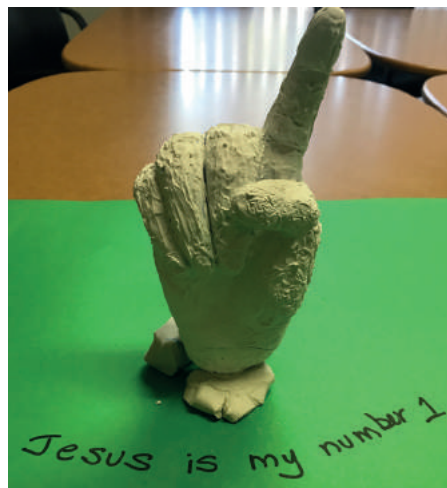
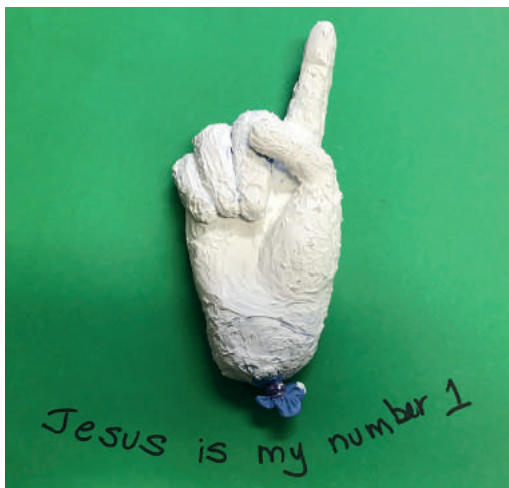
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October: Safe and sound

Mealtime card

- Have you ever been lost?
- Where do you feel safe?
- How does God keep you safe?

Take-home idea

At this time of year, when many people like to focus on dangers and things that make you feel scared, talk as a family about what things help to make you feel safe. Is there something you can do to help other people feel safe? Perhaps sort out some unwanted clothes, blankets or toys to donate to a local homelessness project or women's refuge.

Father God, thank you that you hold us safe in your arms. Amen

Question to start and end the session

So... how do you know when you are safe and sound?

October: Safe and sound

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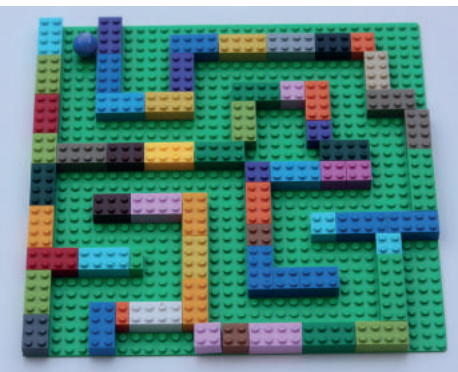
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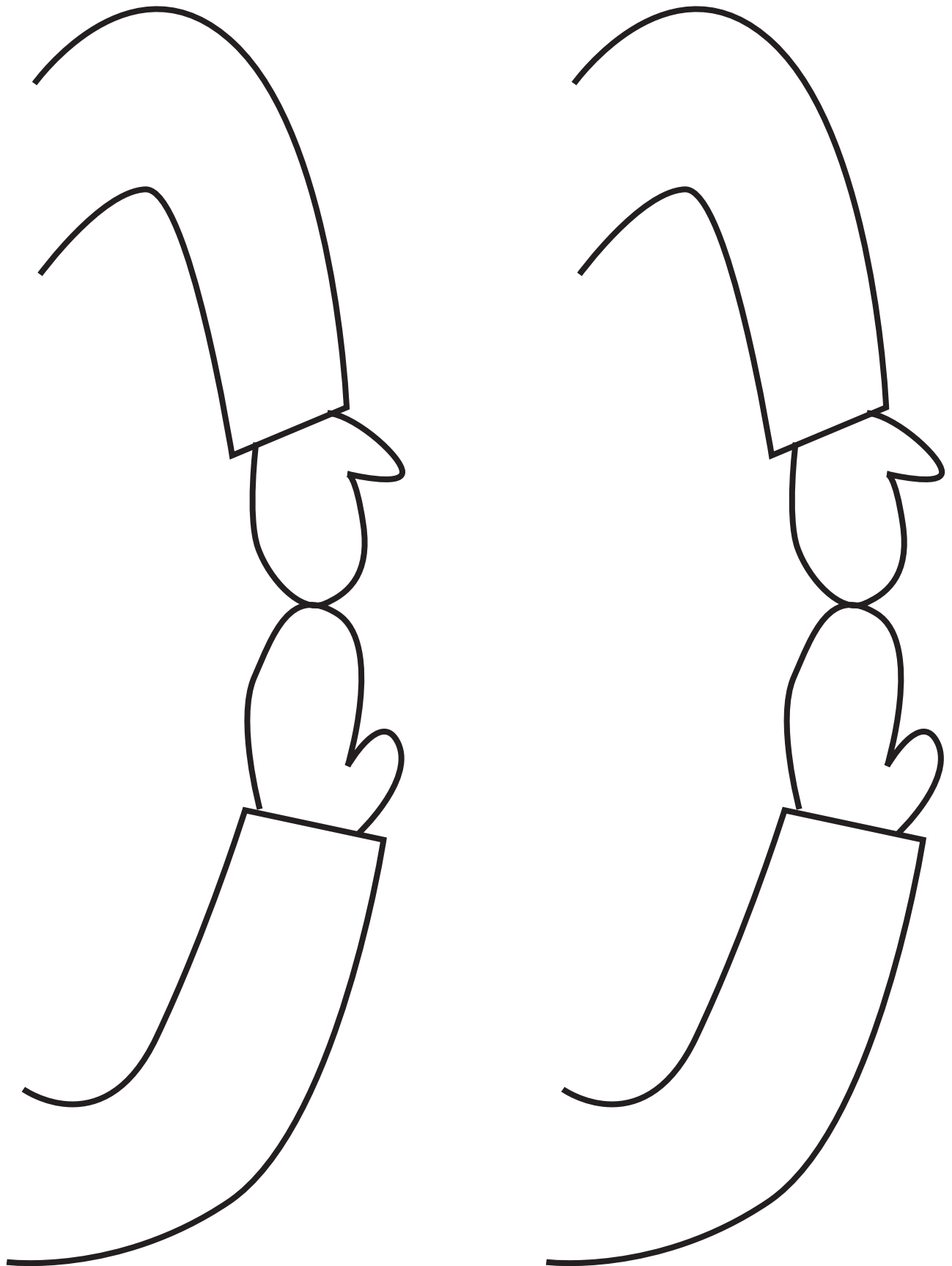


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October: Safe and sound

Safe in his arms



November: Listening and learning

Mealtime card

- Which people (or pets) do you like to remember?
- How many different ways can you listen?
- How does Jesus listen to you?

Take-home idea

Make an effort to really listen to and hear what other people in your family or friendship group are saying. This will take a few moments in your day. Remember that sometimes people can't use our mother tongue or know our language as fluently as we can, so they may use other ways to tell us things. Pay attention and listen well. Try to understand, even if you don't necessarily agree with them. Show them that you have listened.

Question to start and end the session

So... why is it important to listen?

November: Listening and learning

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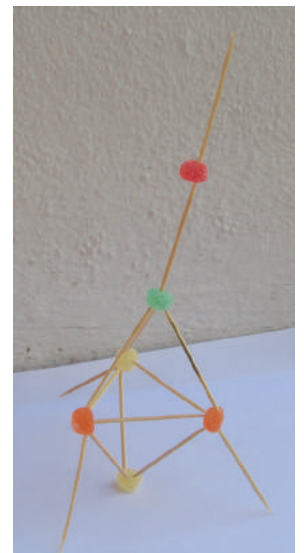
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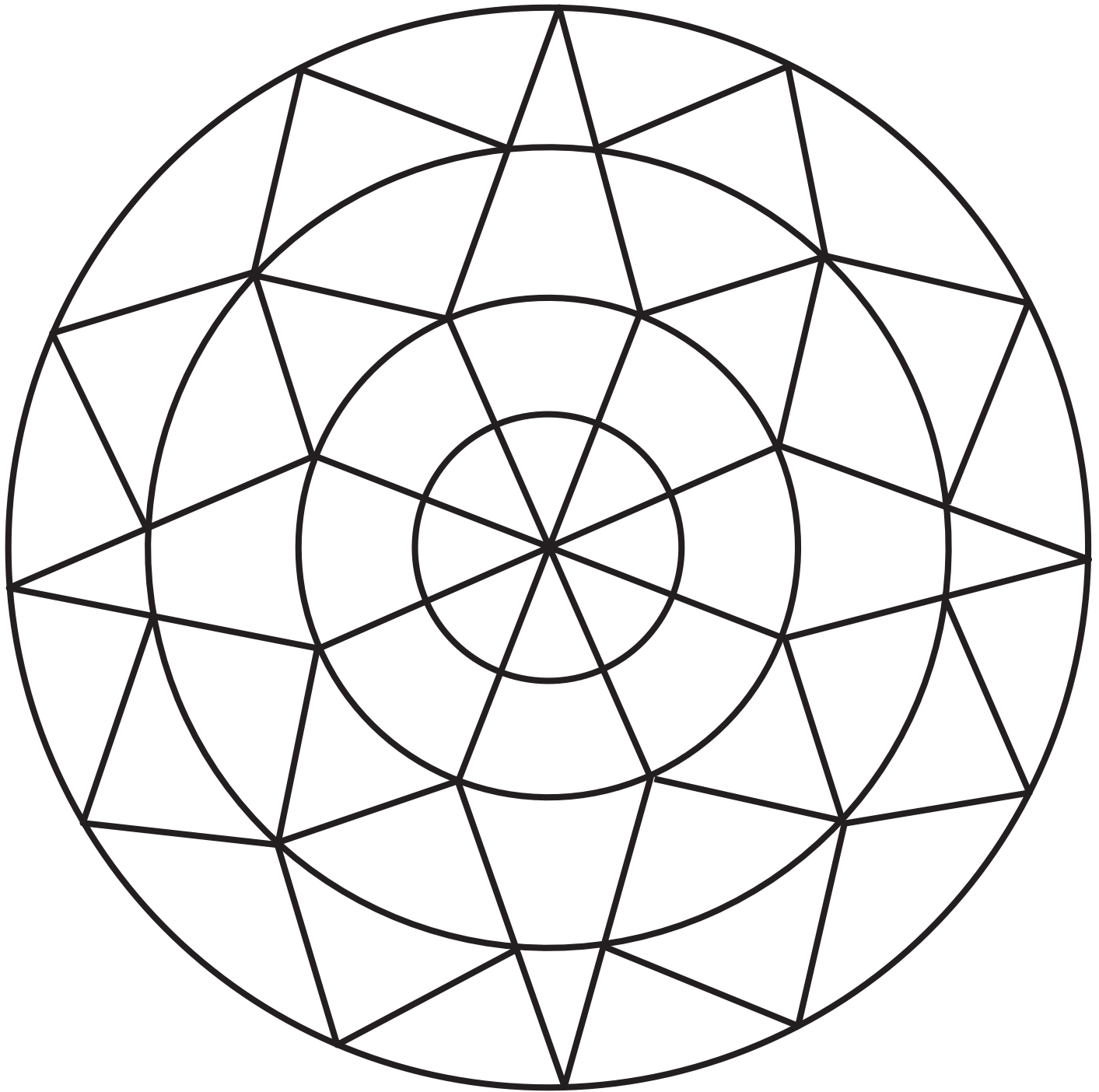


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November: Listening and learning

Rose windows



November: Listening and learning

Coded messages

Code 1:



Code 2:

Nerdlihc eht desselb susej

Code 3:

JR ARRQ GB OR DHVRG VA BEQRE GB YVFGRA

Code 1: QR Code

How the code works: A QR scanner app on any smart-phone will provide the translation!

Translation: Why is it important to listen?

Code 2: Nerdlihc eht desselb susej

How the code works: The letters in each word are reversed, and so are the words within the sentence!

Translation: Jesus blessed the children.

Code 3: JR ARRQ GB OR DHVRG VA BEQRE GB YVFGRA

How the code works: The alphabet is split into 2 parts, A–M and N–Z. The two parts are then interchanged. For example, A=N, B=O, C=P... M=Z, and vice versa: N=A, O=B, etc.
A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Translation: We need to be quiet in order to listen.

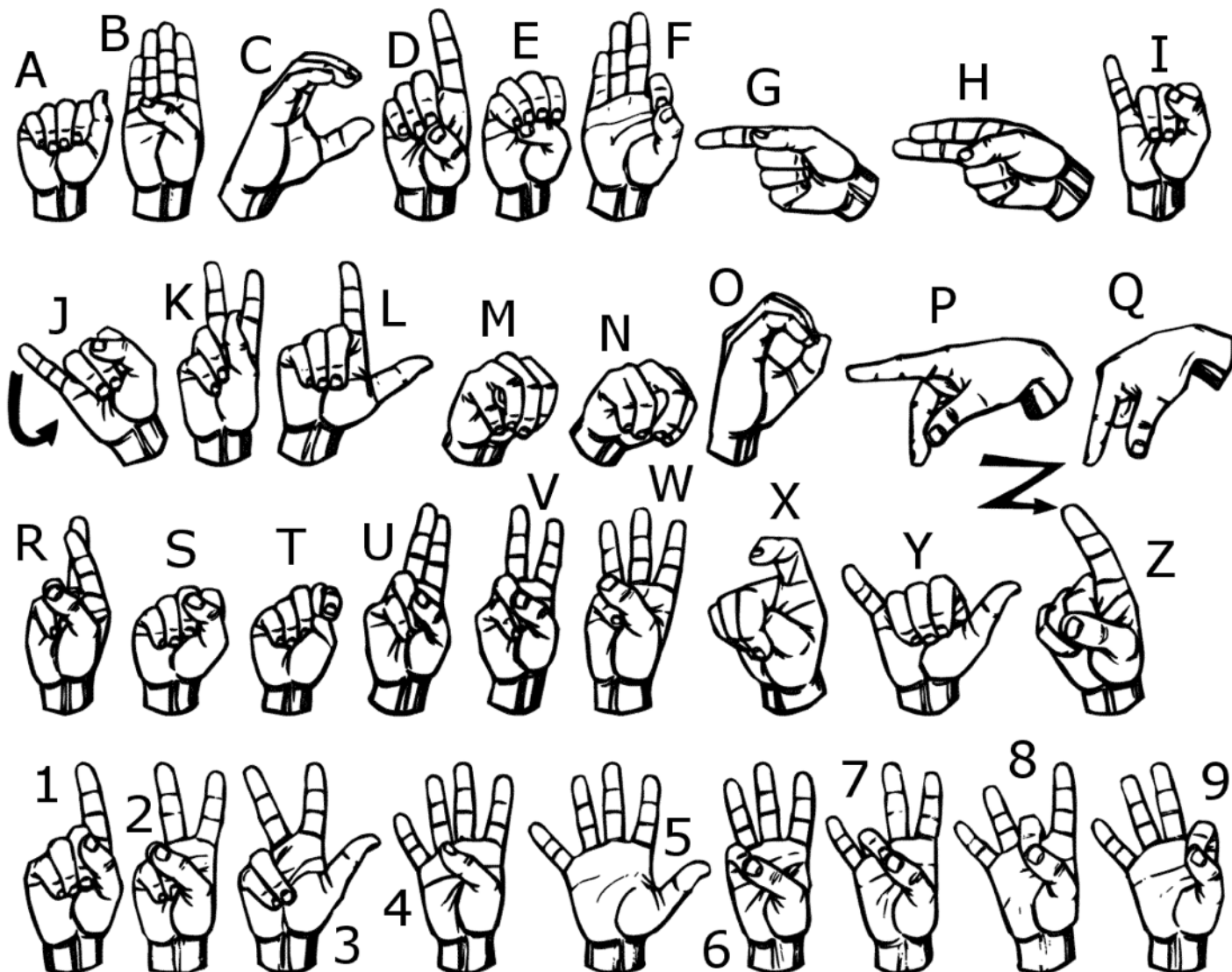
Morse code for anyone who wants to try and use it!

A	·—	N	—·
B	—...	O	— — —
C	— · — ·	P	· — — ·
D	— ..	Q	— — · —
E	·	R	· — ·
F	·· — ·	S	...
G	— — ·	T	—
H	U	·· —
I	..	V	... —
J	· — — —	W	· — —
K	— · —	X	— · · —
L	· — ...	Y	— · — —
M	— —	Z	— — ...

FIG. 32.—Morse alphabet.

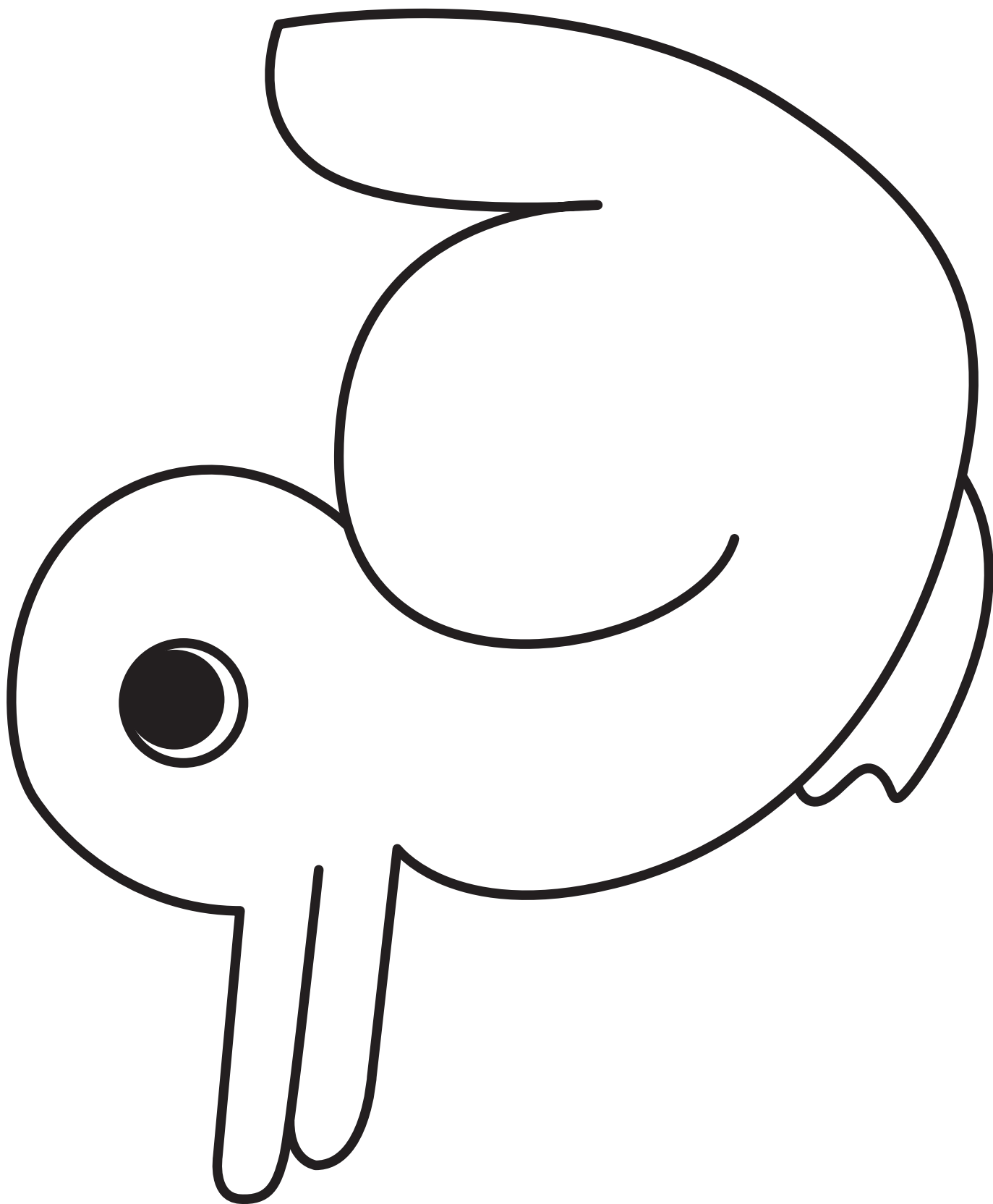
November: Listening and learning

Sign language



November: Listening and learning

Celebration



December: God so loved the world

Mealtime card

- If you could give a present to everyone at this table, what would you give them?
- If you could be one of the characters in the Christmas story, which one would you be and why?
- How will you include Jesus more in your Christmas celebrations this year?

Take-home idea

If you are holding this Messy Church at the start of Advent, encourage families to create a 'reverse' Advent box. Have a box in your home and each day add something to it that a foodbank (or equivalent) would like to receive, for example tins of food, sanitary products, packet food, toothpaste, etc. If you are running this Messy Church later in the month, you could have a 'reverse' Christmas box to fill during the school holidays and collect items for the same purpose. This will help us remember that God's love revealed at Christmas is for all, including those who need help just now in our communities.

Question to start and end the session

So... what gift does the world need today?

December: God so loved the world

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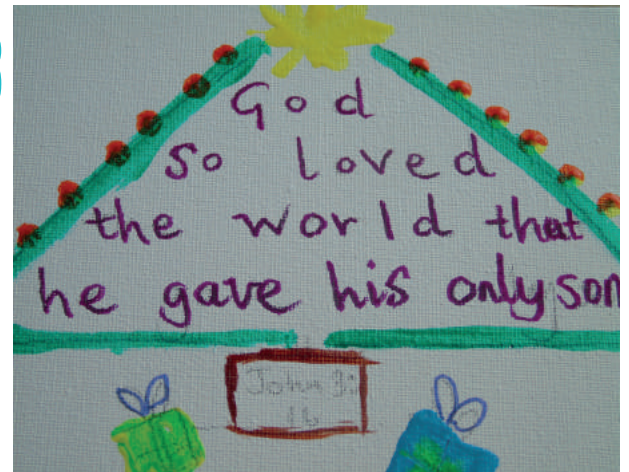
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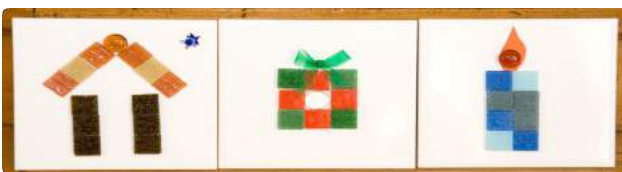
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