

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 1 - SPRING QUARTER

LESSONS 1 - 3

THEME: The Life of Jesus - His atonement

MEMORY VERSE SONG

2 Corinthians 9:7b "God loves a cheerful giver."

HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (teach the concept of "redeem")

CHORUS

There is a Redeemer

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

*It was God's Plan (It works well to use visuals with this so
Betty Luken flannels.)*

Up From the Grave He Arose

He Lives!

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6-YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Lesson 1

Title: Jesus Anointed for His Death
Text: John 12:1-8
Theme: We show our love for Jesus when we give to Him.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that we show Jesus we love Him when we give and that Jesus deserves our best gifts.
2. Know several ways he can give in order to show his love for Jesus.

Memory verse: *II Corinthians 9:7b God loves a cheerful giver.*

1. Teacher Direction

Our good deeds and our gifts do not earn our Lord's favor. He gives that freely as a gift of His grace. Once we have received His favor and understood all He has done for us, we will *want* to give to Him, out of appreciation for who He is and out of gratitude for what He has done for us. Mary and her brother and sister were among Jesus' closest friends; they knew He loved them. In the chapter of John's gospel just before this story, Mary's brother, Lazarus, who had been dead four days, was raised from the dead and restored to her by Jesus. In this story, Mary expresses her love and gratitude by lavishing upon Jesus what may have been her most costly possession. At least one onlooker criticized her action as wasteful, but Jesus welcomed her gift and commended her for it.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Bring a variety of things that possess distinct smells. In plastic sandwich bags, you could bring ground coffee, chopped onion, lemon slices, rose petals, a spoonful of cocoa, and cotton balls soaked in various liquids such as vinegar, vanilla, rubbing alcohol, and several different kinds of good-smelling perfumes. You could either let the children sample the different smells and try to describe them or keep the items hidden as they sniff and let them try to guess what it is they are smelling. End with several of the good-smelling items. Comment to the children on God's goodness for creating so many interesting things to smell and so many good fragrances.

3. Introduction

Ask the children if their mothers use perfume. Ask how their mothers put it on. Point out that people normally use very small amounts of perfume, touching just a drop or two to their wrists or necks. Tell the children that people use small amounts for two reasons: (1) a small amount is all that is needed, since perfume usually has a strong smell, and (2) good perfume is expensive and people want to make it last as long as possible.

4. Bible Story

Because God made us with noses that can enjoy good smells, people have always enjoyed good-smelling perfumes. When Jesus was on earth, people may have liked perfumes even better than they do now. Back then, good-smelling perfumes and spices cost a lot of money and people appreciated them. In fact, does anyone remember what gifts the wise men brought to Jesus when they came to worship Him as the newborn King? (Gold, frankincense and myrrh.) Frankincense and myrrh were both good-smelling

spices or perfumes. Both men and women liked good-smelling perfumes, so perfumes made good gifts. If you really loved someone, you might give him or her a little bottle of perfume. When people died, the people who loved them washed their bodies with good-smelling perfumes. Then they wrapped them in cloths, with good-smelling spices wrapped into the cloths. This was one way they showed how much they loved the person who had died.

In today's story, Jesus was visiting two sisters and a brother who were His very good friends. They are the same sisters and brother who were in last week's story. Can you remember their names? (Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.) What happened to Lazarus in last week's story? (He became sick and died.) How did Mary and Martha feel when Lazarus died? (Very sad.) What did Jesus do? (Raised Him from the dead.) How did Mary and Martha feel when Lazarus came back to life? (Very glad.)

In today's story, Jesus had come back to the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus to visit with them. Soon, Jesus would go to Jerusalem, where His enemies would arrest Him and kill Him. Jesus knew that would happen soon. He was ready to die because He knew that was how He would take the punishment for all wrong things His people had done. For now, though, He was happy to rest in the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus and visit with His friends. They made a special supper for Him there. Martha served the food and made sure everything was just right. Lazarus sat at the table with Jesus, keeping Him company.

Mary loved Jesus dearly. She was so thankful that He had raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead. Mary wanted to show Jesus how much she loved Him. She wanted to do something special or give Him something wonderful to let Him know how important He was to her. Mary had some very expensive perfume. Imagine if your Dad took all the money he earned in a year and set it aside. Imagine that he didn't buy any food or any clothes; he didn't pay any bills or buy any gas. He saved up a whole year's worth of money and used it all to buy one bottle of perfume. That's how expensive Mary's perfume was. The Bible says it was worth three hundred denarii, which is how much someone in those days would have earned in almost a year.

Mary took her perfume and went to the place where Jesus sat. She poured her very expensive perfume on Jesus' feet and then she wiped them dry with her own hair. Think of your mother, putting her little drop of perfume on her neck or on her wrist. What would happen if she accidentally knocked over the bottle and the perfume spilled? Your whole house would smell like perfume, wouldn't it? That is what the Bible says happened when Mary poured her perfume on the feet of Jesus. "The whole house was filled with the fragrance (or smell) of the perfume."

Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, became angry when Mary did this. Judas was one of Jesus' disciples but he did not really love Jesus or believe in Him. Judas loved money. He was planning to tell Jesus' enemies where they could find Jesus so they could arrest him. Judas was going to help Jesus' enemies because he knew they would give him money for doing it. Jesus and his disciples had one money box for all their money. When they needed food or other things, they took it from this money box. It was Judas' job to take care of this money box, but, sometimes, he took money out of it just to have for himself. So when Judas saw Mary pour all her expensive perfume on Jesus' feet, he thought what a shame it was to waste all that. He wished Mary had sold the perfume and given it to Jesus and His disciples to use for poor people. Then it would have ended up in the money box and he could have taken some of it for himself.

So as everyone was enjoying the smell of the perfume, Judas said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and the money given to poor people?" But Jesus answered, "Let her alone." Jesus said that by putting the perfume on Him now, it

was as if Mary was preparing Him to be buried later, after He had died for the sins of His people.

Mary was happy to give the best thing she had for Jesus. Nothing else would show how much she loved Him. There is no gift that is too good for Jesus. He is worth the very best that we have.

5. Application

Encourage the children to think of ways they can give that will show love for Jesus. For example, the children give of their time to Jesus when they come to church on Sunday mornings to worship Him and learn about Him. Ask the children how they could give money that is really their own and not their parents'--perhaps they have been given gift money for a birthday or maybe they have a little bit of allowance money. Ask them for ideas on ways they could earn money of their own to give to Jesus. (You may want to spend a few minutes explaining some of the things that are done with money collected in the offering.)

6. Review questions

- A. When Jesus was on earth, what did people do with perfumes and good-smelling spices when someone died? (They washed their bodies in perfume and wrapped them in cloths with good-smelling spices.)
- B. In whose home was Jesus visiting? (the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.)
- C. What had Mary, Martha, and Lazarus prepared for Jesus? (A supper.)
- D. What had Jesus done that made Mary so thankful? (Raised Lazarus from the dead.)
- E. What did Mary give to show her love for Jesus? (Her expensive perfume.)
- F. How long would someone have had to work to earn enough money to buy her perfume? (Almost a year.)
- G. What did Mary do with her perfume? (She poured it all on Jesus' feet.)
- H. How did Mary dry Jesus' feet? (With her hair.)
- I. Who complained about what Mary did? (Judas.)
- J. Jesus said that Mary's perfume was a way she could get Him ready for--what? (Being buried when He died.)

Note

7. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Make copies of the attached page with the perfume bottle. Using small pieces of brightly-colored tissue paper and glue or water-color paints or some other art medium, have the children decorate the bottle and trace the letters of the memory verse with crayons or markers. As they work, remind them that Mary's perfume cost as much money as a person could earn in a whole year, but that she was happy to use it all for Jesus because of how much she loved Him. Remind them that Jesus has done so much for us and is so wonderful that He deserves our very best gifts.

Make enough copies of the attached craft for each child. Beforehand, fold and cut each one where it shows to do so. Also, with a marker simply make a line on the inside lip of each "perfume bottle". This will help the children know where to glue later. Provide each child with one of these, as well as several strips of yarn (various colors) that are about 9 inches long, and a glue stick. first, show the children where you have made a marker line and ask them to put a lot of glue from their glue stick there. Then show them how to place the ends of their yarn on the glue, so that the yarn will come out of the top of the bottle like perfume. then have the children put glue all over the other side of the "bottle". they can then fold the "bottle" on the dotted line so that the end result is a perfume bottle with perfume (yarn) coming out of the top. Review the story with them and encourage them to use their pretend perfume bottles like Mary did for their family when they get home.

Note: It will be helpful to have an example made for the children to see before starting.

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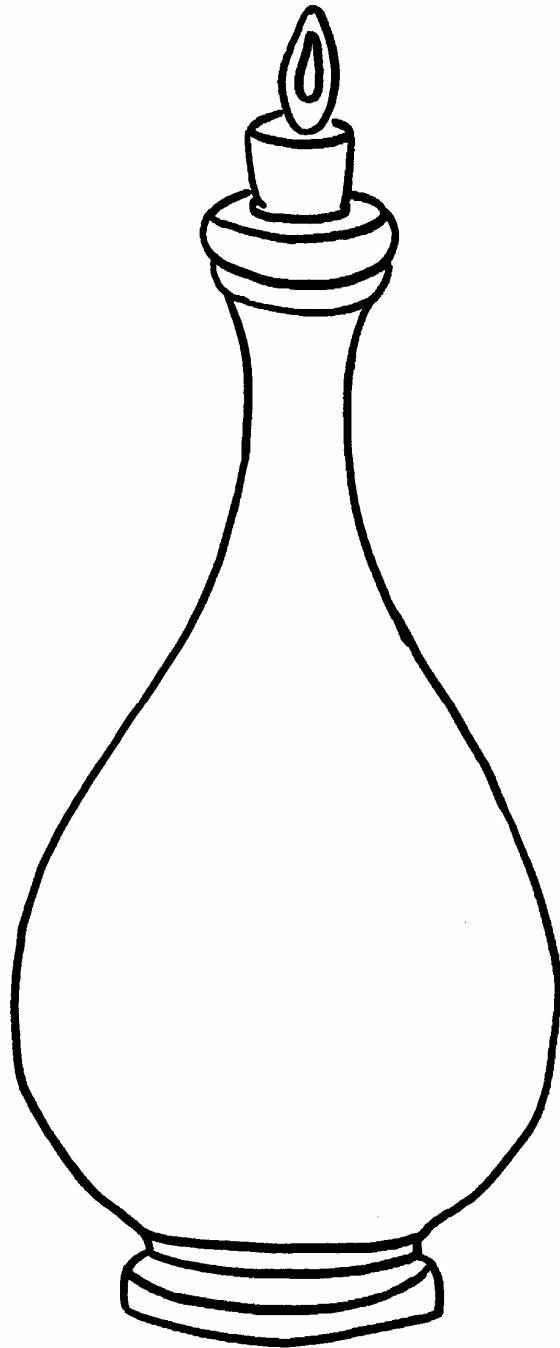
Memory verse:

God loves a cheerful giver.

II Corinthians 9:7b



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K. P. Jones



**God loves a cheerful giver
II Corinthians 9:7b**

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Lesson 2

Title: Jesus Teaches on Servanthood

Text: John 13:1-17

Theme: Jesus set the example of loving servanthood and called us to follow it.

Memory Verse: ***II Corinthians 9:7b** God loves a cheerful giver.*

Lesson Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand Jesus' example of loving service in this story.
2. Know that Jesus calls us to follow Him in serving others through love.
3. Understand that serving others is a way of giving to God.
4. Choose one particular task to do for someone else as an act of loving service.

1. Teacher Direction

Right up to the end, Jesus' disciples misunderstood the nature of His kingdom and continually bickered over which of them would be the greatest in it. Another of the gospel writers describes them as arguing that very issue at the Last Supper. Perhaps that argument arose over the problem of who would wash their feet, since there was no servant present. Jesus had told His disciples repeatedly that the greatest among them would be the one who was the servant of all, but they had not understood. In this story, He gives them a dramatic example of exactly what He meant, then calls them (and us) to follow that example.

2. Introduction

Find out from the children what are the jobs at their houses that no one ever likes to do. Discuss with them why people in their families don't like those particular tasks and what they will do to try to avoid having to do them.

3. Bible Story

In Jesus' day, there was a job no one ever wanted to do, and so that job was given to the lowest, least important servant in the house. That was the job of washing people's feet. How did most people travel in Jesus' day? (Sometimes they rode a donkey or a horse, but most of the time, they walked.) How did people go to the store? How did they go visiting? Everywhere they went, they walked. Many of their roads were not paved and were made only of dirt. Because the land where Jesus lived was a dry desert, the roads were dusty. Because it was so hot there, people usually wore sandals. By the time someone had finished shopping or visiting and returned home on the dusty roads, his feet were very dirty. They felt nasty! He would want to have them washed as soon as he walked in the door. Washing other people's dirty feet is not a very pleasant job, so the lowest servant

of the home would do it. However, what if there were no servant in a home? Who would do it then? Jesus and His disciples had been busy all day, walking about the dusty roads. Now they were gathering together in a room someone was letting them use. They were going to eat there. The food was ready, the table was set--but they were the only people there. There were no servants. Who was going to wash their feet?

All the disciples wanted their feet washed. They were sore and tired and dusty and it just would not feel right to sit down and eat without washing first. Yet there was no servant there to do it. It *had* to be done, but none of the disciples wanted to be the one to do it. Every one of the disciples could think of at least one reason why someone else should have to do it, and not him.

Then Jesus got up. He took off His outer robe and wrapped a towel around Himself, just the way a servant would have done. He poured water into a basin and went from one disciple to the next, washing each one's feet and wiping them with his towel. The disciples were shocked. Whoever *should* have washed everyone else's feet, it *shouldn't* have been Jesus! He wasn't the lowest one there. He was the greatest one there. One of the disciples, Peter, even said at first that he would not let Jesus wash *his* feet, because it just did not seem right for Jesus to have to be the One to do it. Jesus washed everyone's feet, though, and then put His own clothes back on and sat down again. Then Jesus explained to them why He had done this.

"You call Me Teacher and Lord," Jesus said. "And you are right. I *am* your Teacher and your Lord. If I, the Teacher and the Lord, was willing to wash your feet, then you should also be willing to wash one another's feet." Then Jesus went on to explain that He had shown them what He wanted them to do. He had done for them a job no one wanted to do and He had done it because He loved them. Jesus wanted His disciples to love each other that much, too. He wanted them to be willing, out of love for each other, to do things for each other that they would not normally want to do.

4. Application

Lead the children in prayer, thanking Jesus for loving people enough to be a servant. Thank Him for going far beyond washing feet even to dying on a cross for His people's sins. Then remind the children that Jesus washed His disciples' feet to show us how He wants us to treat each other. Help them to see that serving others is a way we can give to God. Encourage them to choose, this week, to do willingly the job they had said earlier was the least-liked job at their house.

5. Review questions

- A. Why did people's feet get so dirty back when Jesus was on earth? (Because people wore sandals and walked everywhere and because the roads were dusty.)
- B. What did people need to do as soon as they got back home from being somewhere else? (Have their feet washed.)
- C. Whose job was it to wash people's feet? (The lowest servant.)
- D. In our story, Jesus and His disciples were meeting to eat together. What was

- their problem? (There was no servant to wash their feet.)
- E. How many of the disciples said, "I'll wash everyone's feet"? (None.)
 - F. Who washed everyone's feet? (Jesus.)
 - G. Then what did Jesus tell His disciples? (That they should be willing to do things for each other, like He had been willing to wash their feet.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. **Ways We Can Serve.** You can either read these to the children and have them tell you what would be the choice that Jesus would want them to make at the end, or you could have them pretend the actions for each part of each little story, as well as act out the right choice at the end.

(1) Pretend you are going with your family to visit a friend's family. When you get there, you go in to your friend's room and together, you play with *all* his toys. You take everything out of the toy box and have a wonderful time together. Finally, it's time to go home. Your friend's bedroom floor is covered with toys. You could just tell him "bye" and go home. But what else could you do that would be a way to serve your friend in love?

(2) Pretend that your friends are outside playing and you want to go outside and play too. Your mother is trying to get dinner ready, but she has to keep stopping to take care of the baby who keeps fussing. Pretend that when you sit in front of the baby and talk to her, she stops fussing. You could run outside to be with your friends for a few more minutes before dinner. But what else could you do that would be a way to serve your mother in love?

(3) Pretend that you are playing with a new soccer ball your grandmother just gave you for your birthday. While you are playing, a family from church comes over to visit and there are children with them. You could go put your new soccer ball away so it won't get messed up. But what else could you do that would be a way to serve your visitors in love?

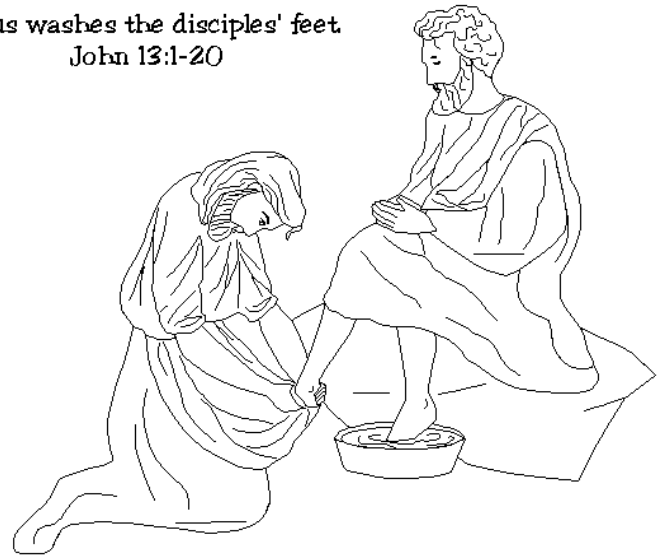
B. Write the words of the memory verse at the top or bottom of a piece of white paper, then make copies of the page. Give each child a copy and have them place their own foot on the paper so you can trace around it. Have them color the outline of their foot and trace around the letters of the Bible verse. Suggest that they set this paper in their rooms to remind them that Jesus did for His disciples the job no one else wanted to do and to remind them to give cheerfully to God by doing that job at their house that no one likes to do.

C. Make copies of the attached pictures so that each child will have one copy of the page with Jesus washing a disciples feet, and enough of the other page so that each child will get at least 6 service pictures. Cut out the service pictures and spread them on the craft table. When the children sit down, have them look at the picture of Jesus and ask what Jesus is doing in this picture. Remind them that Jesus set an example of loving servanthood and has called us to follow it. Have the children glue on pictures of ways we could follow Jesus' example and be servants ourselves. As they work encourage them to think of ways and times they've done one of these things, or what they may like to do in the future, or even that day to serve another.

Jesus served others.
He washed his
disciples feet.

I can serve others.
I can...

Jesus washes the disciples' feet.
John 13:1-20





wash the table



**call someone
who is lonely**



be a good friend



give money



make a card



make music



pray



help



share



give a gift



sing



read nicely

God loves a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:7b

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6-YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Lesson 3

Title: Jesus Teaches on Heaven.

Text: John 14:1-3

Theme: Heaven is Jesus' home and He is preparing a home there for His people, too.

Lesson Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Grow in his understanding of Heaven as something to look forward to with eagerness.
2. Put his trust in Jesus as the One who prepares heaven for us and as the only One who can prepare us for heaven.

Memory Verse: ***II Corinthians 9:7b** God loves a cheerful giver.*

1. Teacher Direction

Typically, children tend to be apprehensive when they think of Heaven for themselves. It is a good place for grandpa who was sick and who died, but young children can become frightened when they think of Heaven because it involves several of the things that are most frightening to this age group. When people go to Heaven, they usually go alone, leaving loved ones behind. Separation anxiety is still very real for many young children. Heaven is an unknown and unfamiliar place. Children appreciate what is familiar to them. This passage assures us that the One who knows us the best and who loves us better than anyone else is getting a place in Heaven ready just for us. We can only imagine how full of wonderful surprises that will be!

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Use the attached pictures of animals and their homes to lead a discussion about what makes a place a good home. Tape the pictures of animals' homes around the room. Have one child at a time come up. Give each child a picture of an animal and ask him to take the animal picture to the picture of the right home for that animal. Briefly discuss why each of the animal homes is so well-suited to the particular animal that lives in it.

3. Bible Story

Home is the place where an animal or a person is the most comfortable. It is the place that is just right for a certain animal or person to live. Why is a bird's nest not a good home for a goldfish? Why is an iceberg not a good home for you?

Do you know where Jesus' home is? (In Heaven.) Before Jesus was born as a little baby, He was alive and He lived in Heaven. He came to earth to do the

work God, His Father, had given Him to do. As it became close to the time when He would die on the cross for His people, He wanted to let His disciples know that He would be going back home to Heaven. He wanted them to know it would be good for Him to go back to Heaven, because Heaven was His home.

What is it about Heaven that makes it such a good home for Jesus? See if the children have any information about Heaven they can share and help them to see how the things we know about Heaven are just the things that make Heaven a good home for Jesus. There is no sin in Heaven. Jesus is holy and hates sin, so Heaven is a good home for Him. God the Father, whom Jesus dearly loves, is in Heaven, so Heaven is a good home for Jesus. Jesus is perfect and everything in Heaven is perfect, with no sin and no sadness, so Heaven is a good home for Jesus. All the angels and people who are in Heaven praise Jesus and obey Him perfectly. Jesus deserves perfect praise and obedience, so Heaven is a good home for Him.

Jesus wanted His disciples to know that, not only was Heaven the perfect home for Him, but He would make a perfect home ready for them in Heaven as well.

At the last supper Jesus ate with His disciples, He told them, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. And trust in Me. There are many rooms in My Father’s house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you to be with Me so that you may be where I am.” (John 14:1-3, Children’s International Version)

How many of you have your own room at home? Imagine that you were going to get a special room just for you as soon as it was ready. Imagine that someone who loved you more than anyone else in the world loved you was getting it ready for you. Imagine that this someone knew all about you--he knew just what you like and don’t like and what your favorite things are, so everything he would put in a room made just for you would be just what you would like best. Then imagine that this someone could do anything. If this person had a good idea about something to put in your special room, he could do it, no matter how hard it might be. If someone like that were getting a bedroom ready especially for you, you could be sure that when the room was ready, it would be absolutely perfect. Nothing would be left out that you might like. Everything you could ever need and everything that would make you happy would be in that room. That’s the picture we have here, where Jesus says that His Father’s house has many rooms and He is going to prepare a place there for those who love Him.

Heaven will be a wonderful home for those who love Jesus. Jesus will make sure of that!

But remember when we said that one of the reasons Heaven is the perfect home for Jesus is because there is no sin there? That could be a problem for us, because all of us have sin. All of us do things that God has said not to do. Heaven is a home for those whose sin has been taken away.

When Jesus left His home in Heaven to come to earth, He came to take away the sin of His people, so they could be at home with Him in heaven. When

He died on the cross, He was taking the punishment for the sins of anyone who would ever believe in Him. Jesus gets *us* ready for Heaven by taking away our sin and He gets *Heaven* ready for us by making a home for us there.

4. Application

Encourage the children to trust in Jesus as the only One who can take away their sin and make them ready for heaven. Encourage them to trust Him to make the perfect home ready for them in Heaven. Lead them in thanking Him for doing these things for us.

5. Review questions

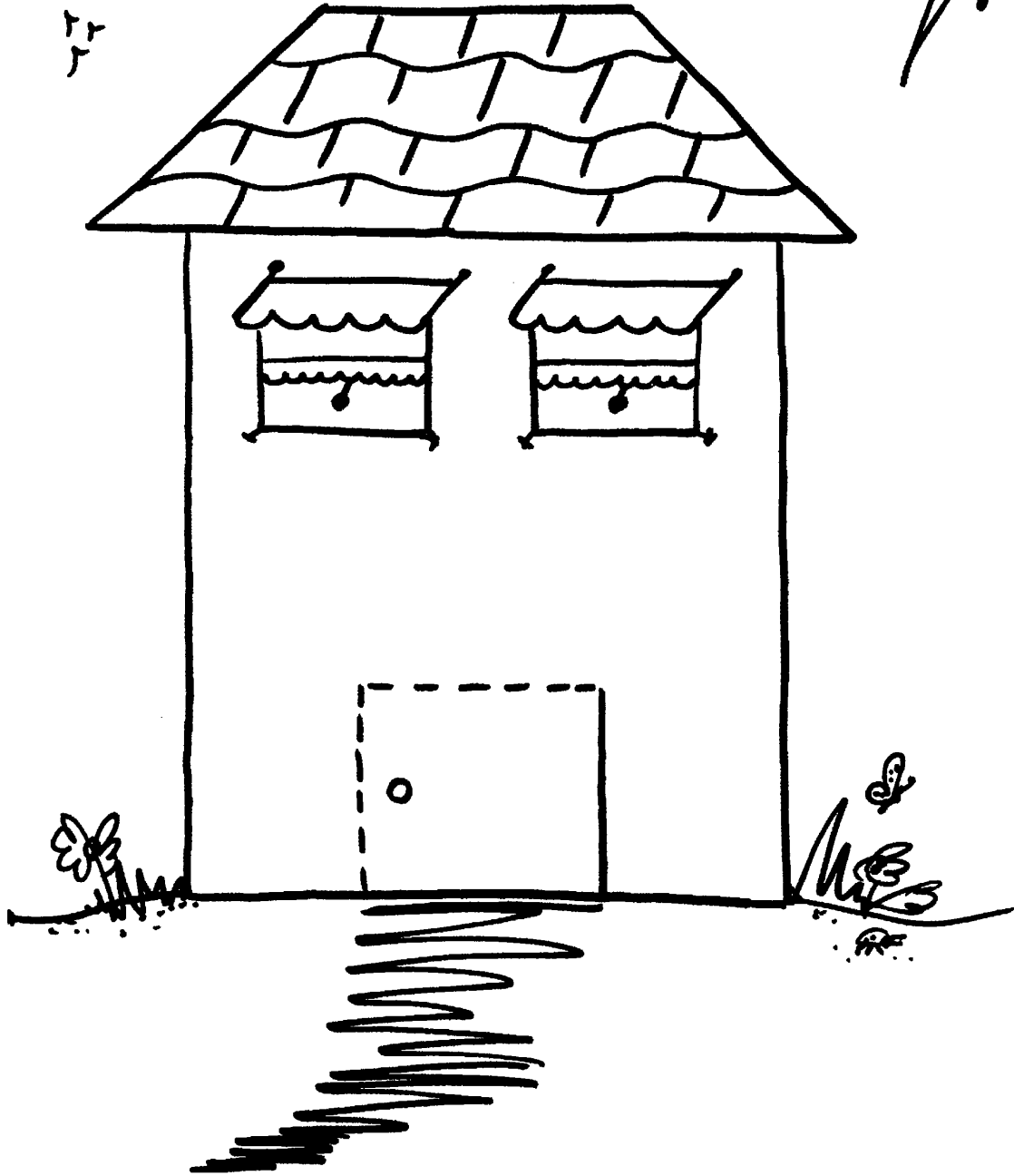
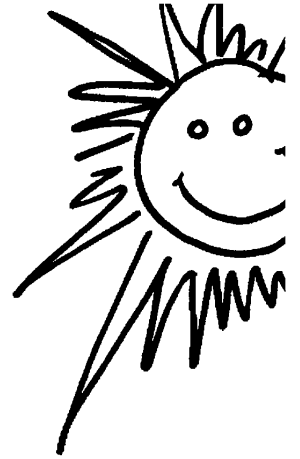
- A. Where did Jesus live before He was born as a baby and began to live on earth? (In Heaven.)
- B. Where is Jesus' home? (Heaven.)
- C. Heaven is a good home for Jesus because someone lives there whom He dearly loves. Who is it? (God His Father.)
- D. Heaven is a good home for Jesus because of something that is *not* there. What is it? (Sin.)
- E. What did Jesus tell His disciples He would do in Heaven when He went there? (Get a home ready for them, too.)
- F. Who knows and loves us better than anyone in the world knows and loves us? (Jesus.)
- G. Who can do anything? (Jesus)
- H. So if Jesus is getting a place in Heaven ready just for us, what kind of place will it be? (Wonderful! Perfect!)
- I. Jesus is getting Heaven ready for His people. What does Jesus do to get His people ready for Heaven? (Takes away their sin.)
- J. How did Jesus take away His people's sin? (By dying on the cross to take the punishment for their sin.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

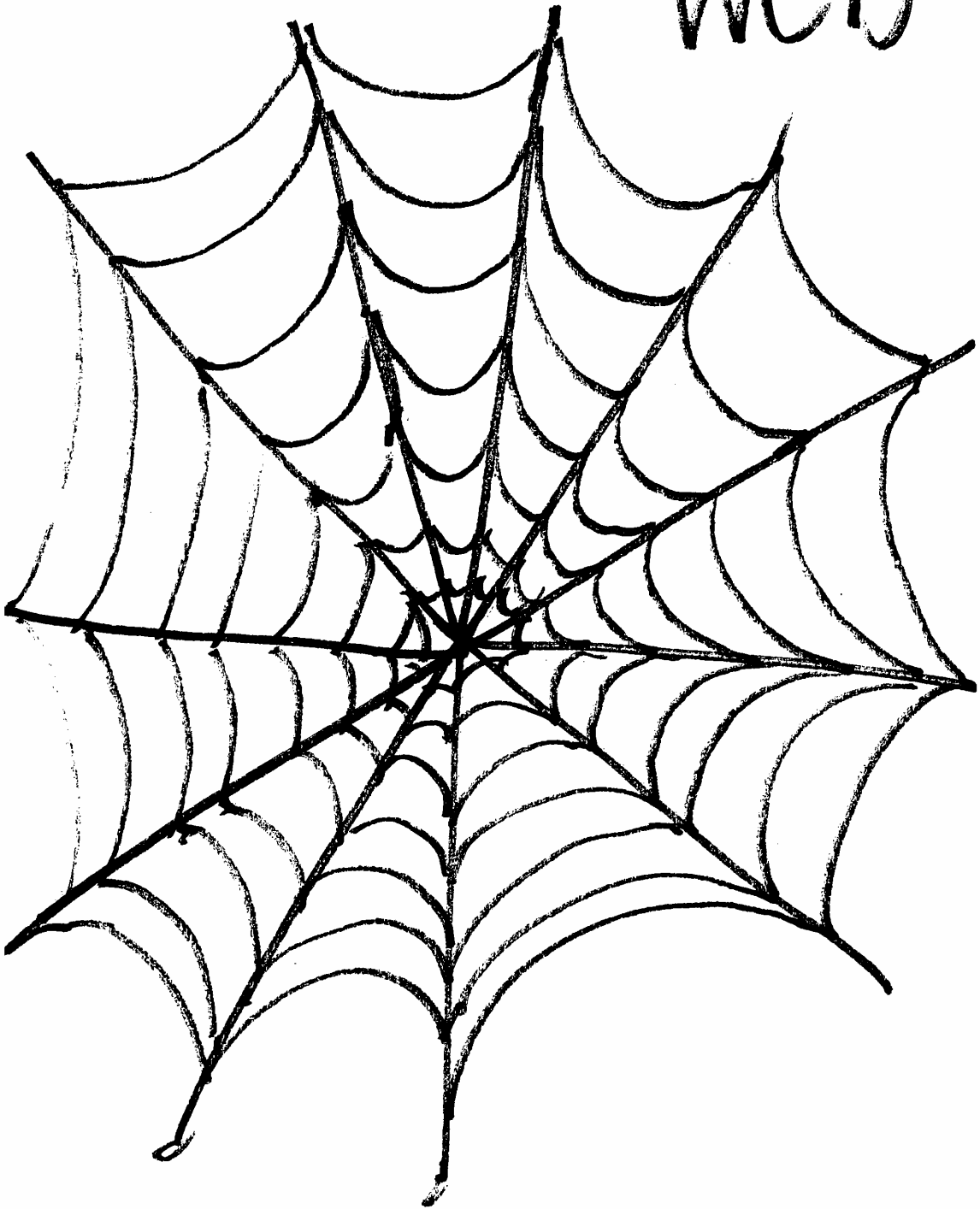
A. Lead the children in a game of "Not When They're at Home in Heaven." You will call out a phrase such as "Sometimes people are sick" or "Sometimes people are sad/crippled/blind/get mad/ act naughty" and the children are to act out these conditions. When you call out, "But not when they're at home in Heaven," the children instantly stop acting sick or sad, etc.

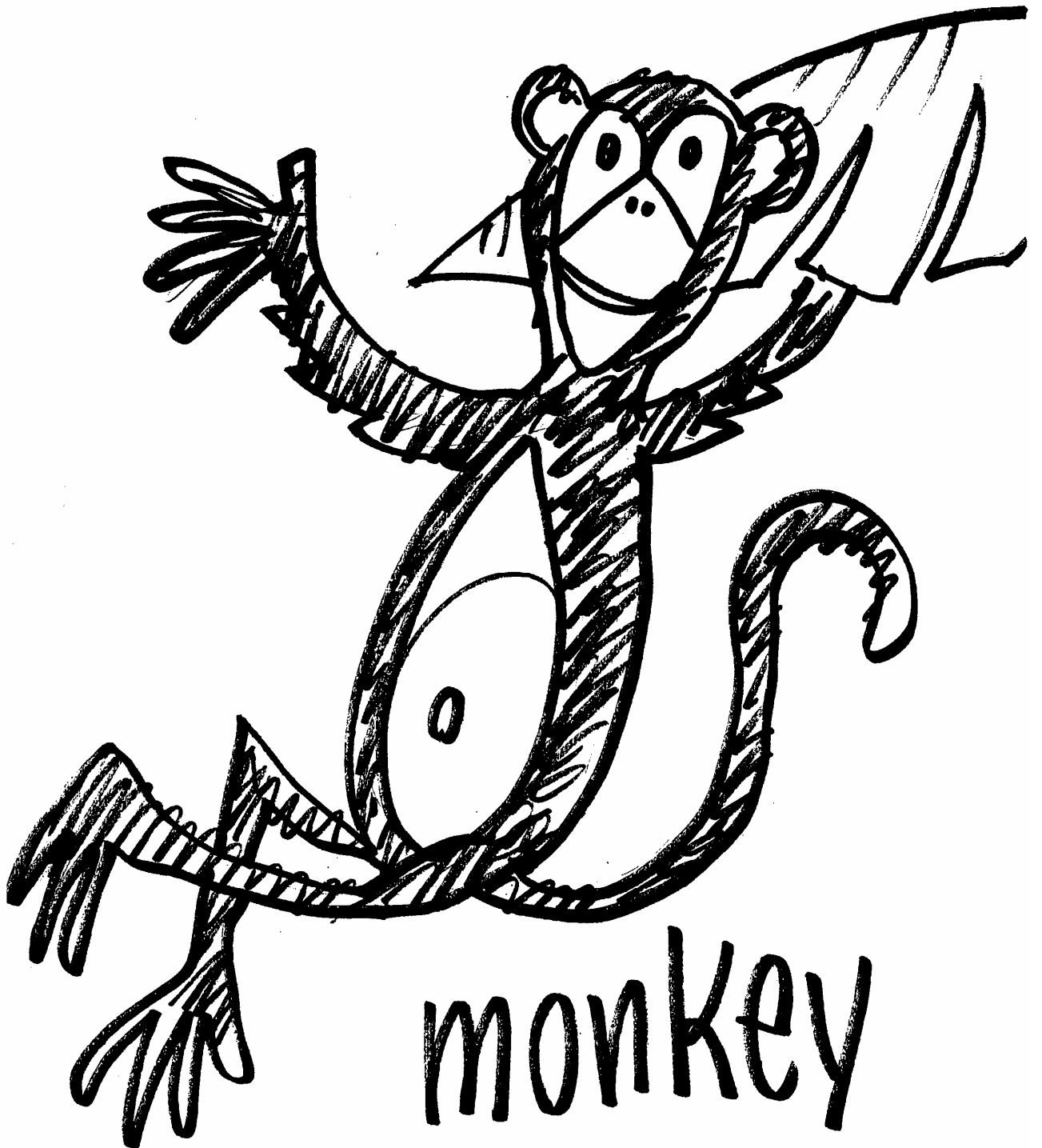
B. Photocopy enough of the attached house pictures for each child to have one. Cut the house out in advance, cutting on the dotted lines of the doors so they will open. On a different piece of paper, print the words, "There are many rooms in My Father's house. I go to prepare a place for you," leaving room on this paper for the children to glue the house. The children are to color the house and glue it to the paper on which the verse is written. As they work, talk with them about what kinds of things they would put in a room to make it a perfect room for them. Then remind them that what Jesus will get ready for us will be better than the best things we could ever imagine.

There are many rooms in
My father's house.



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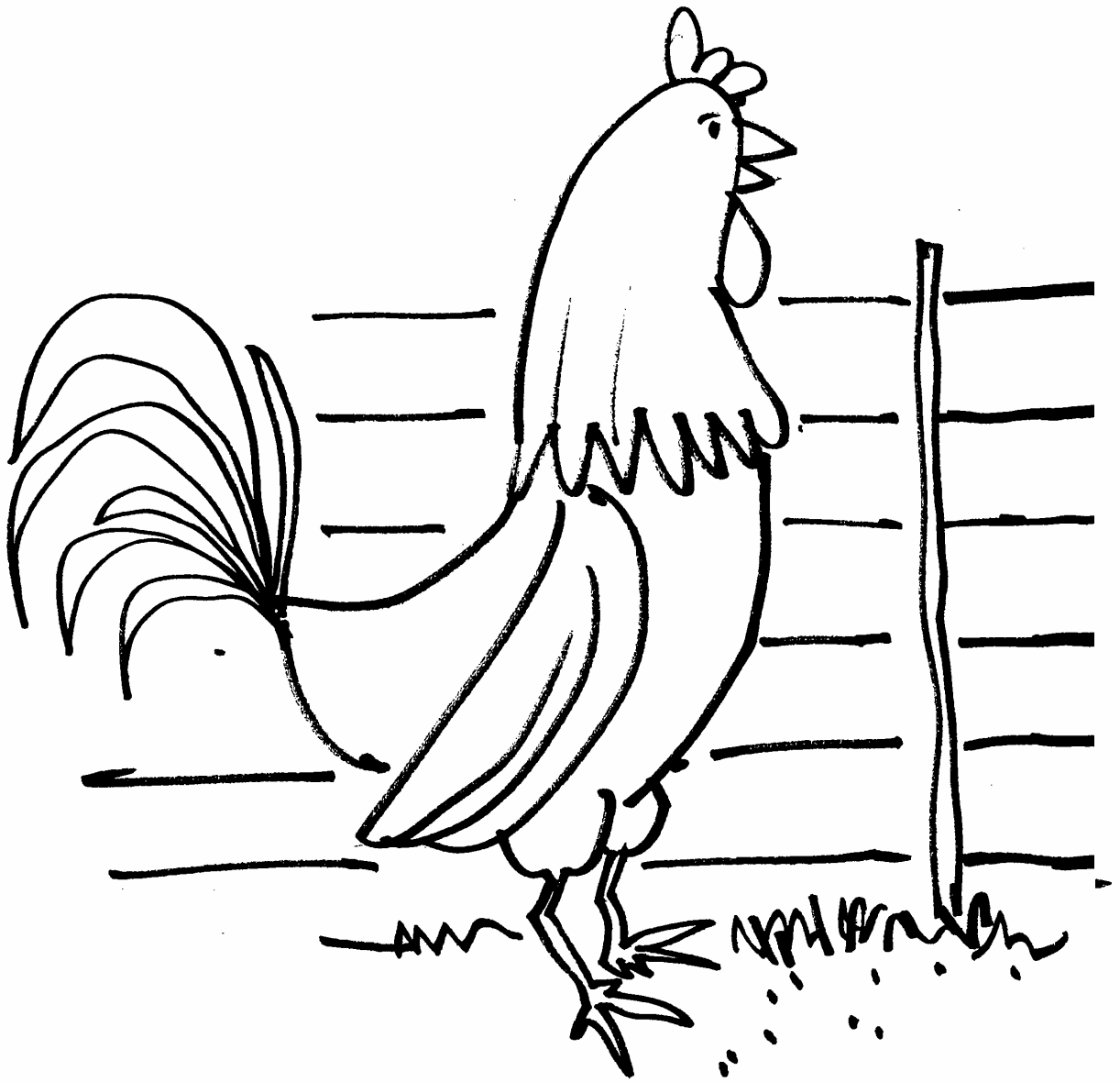






tree

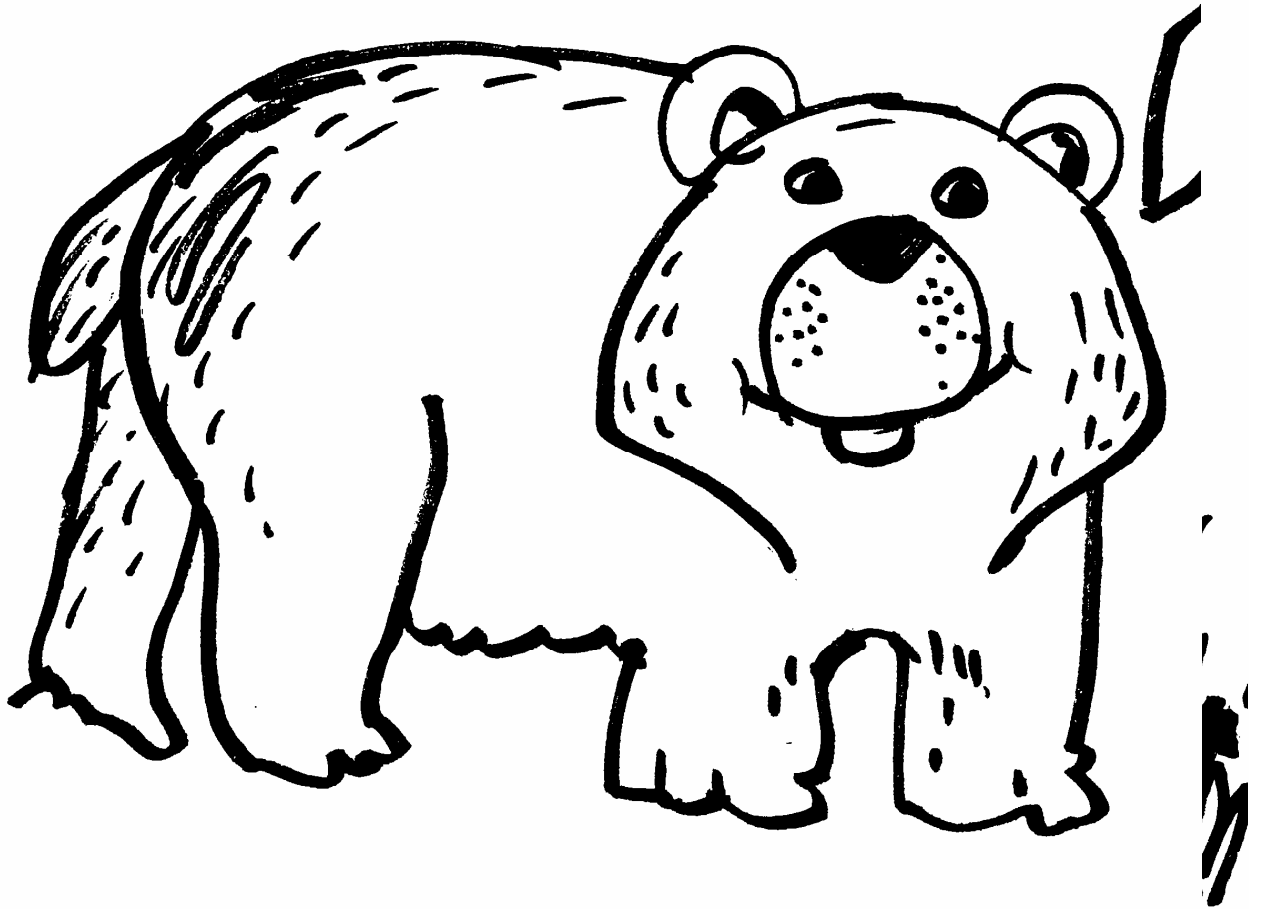
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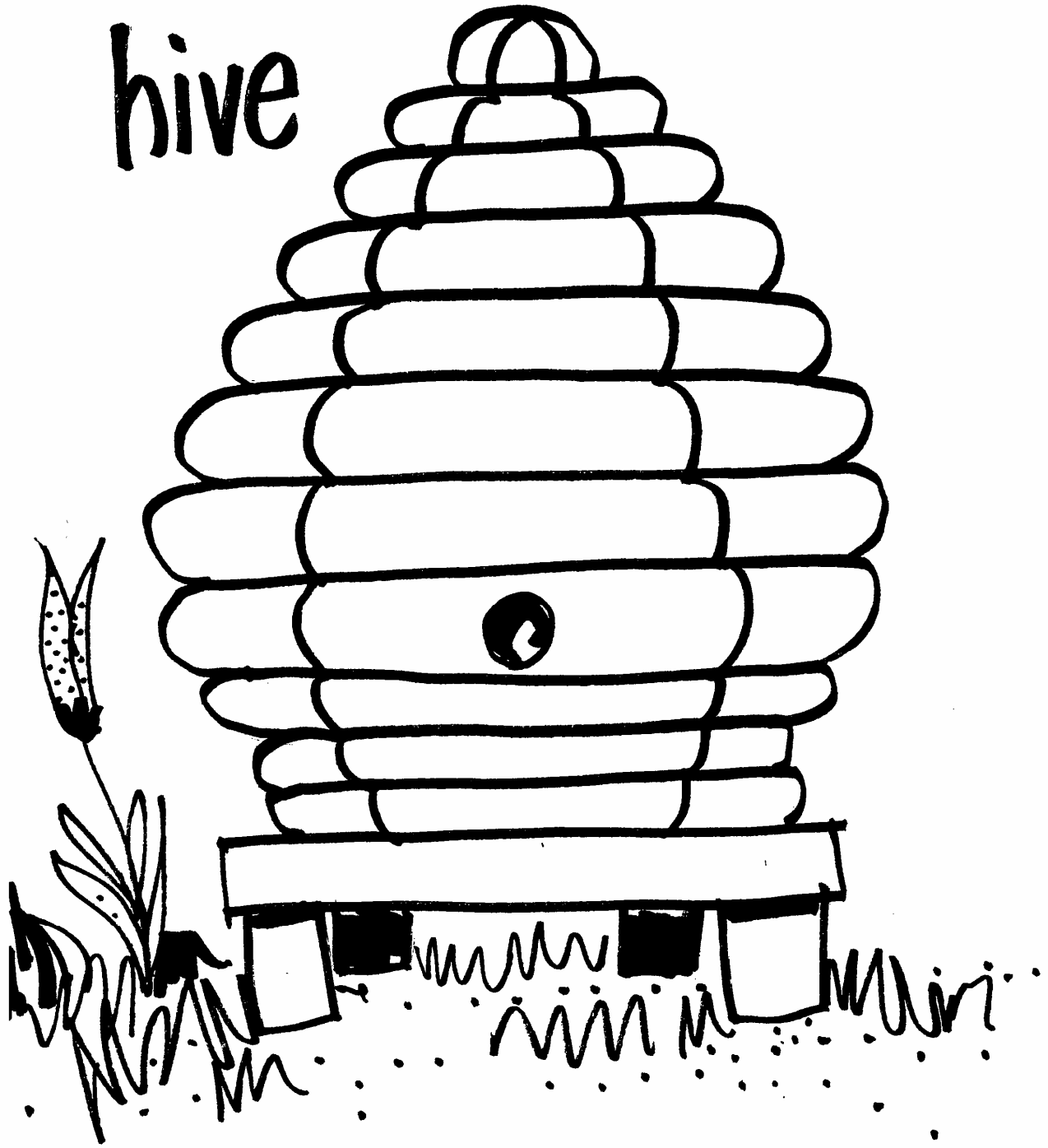
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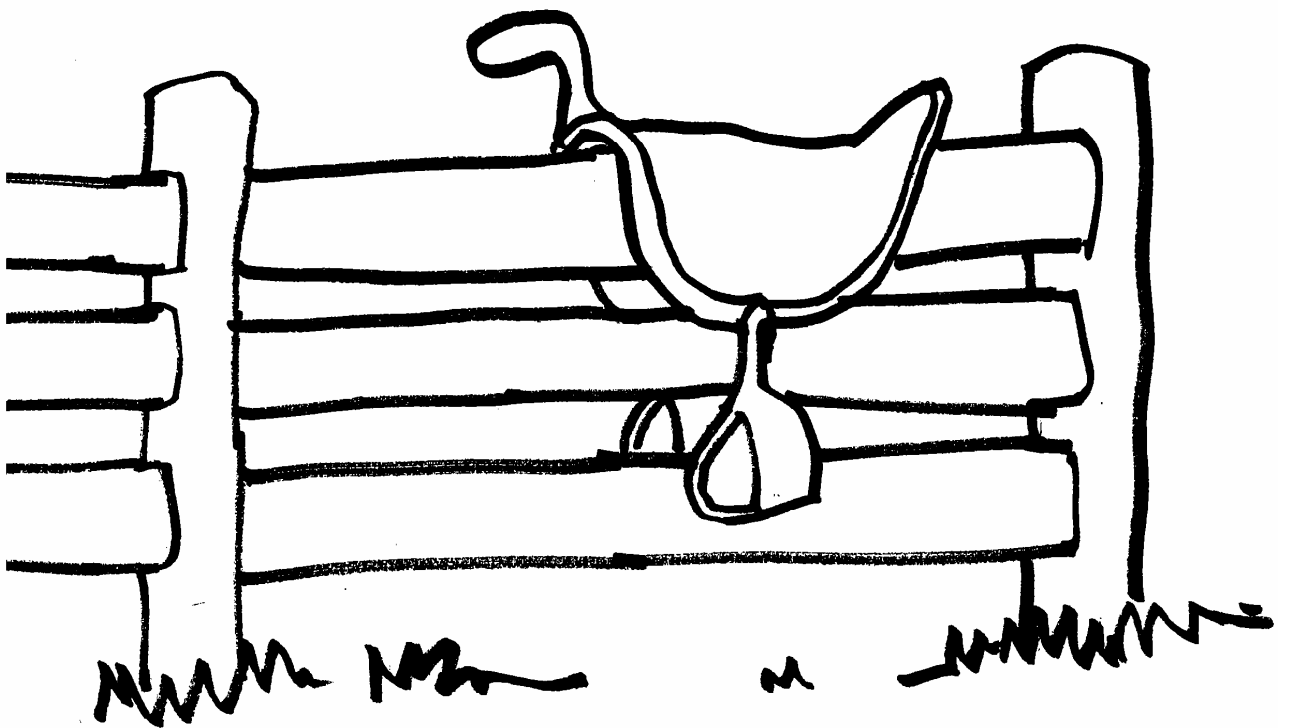
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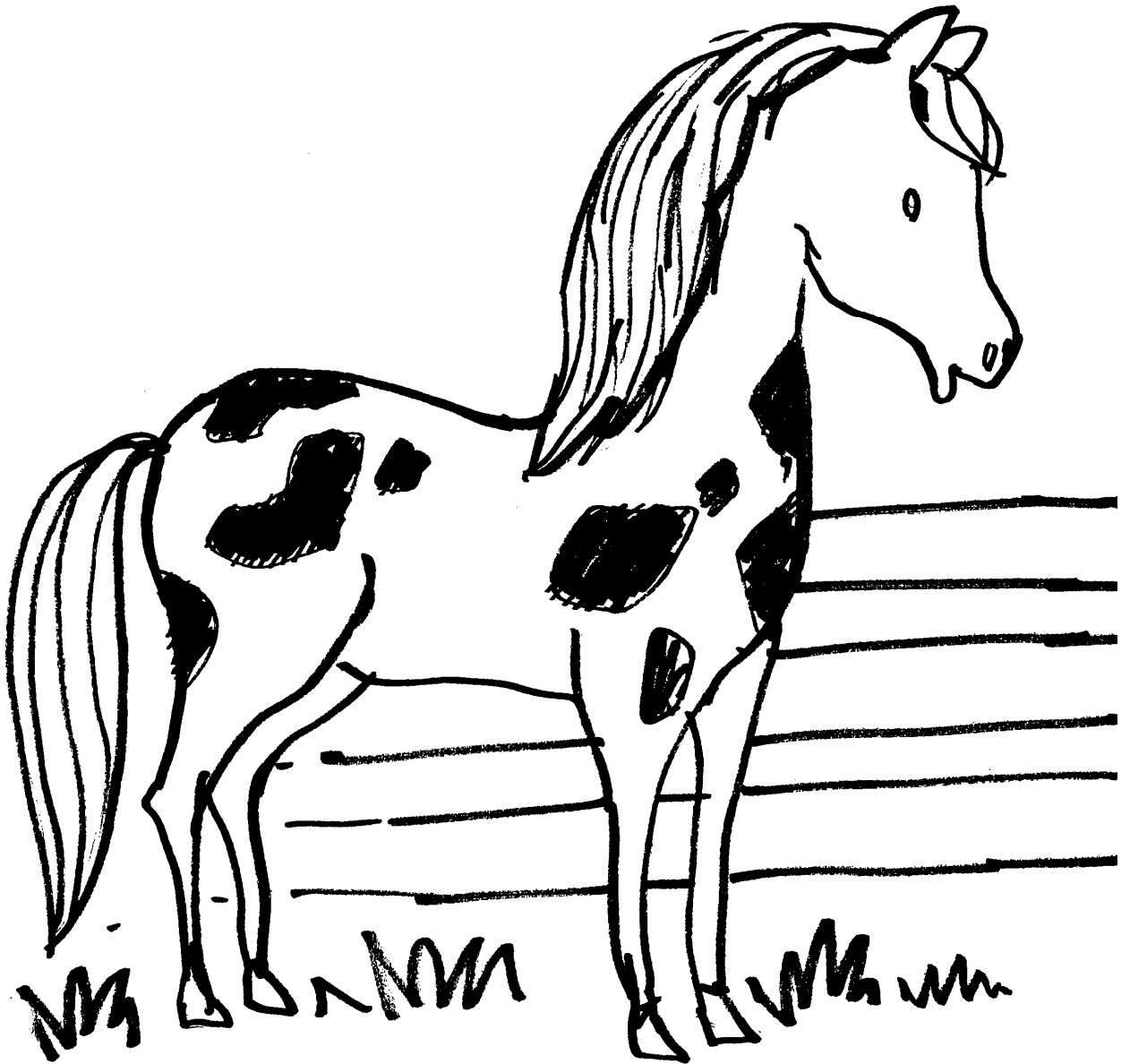
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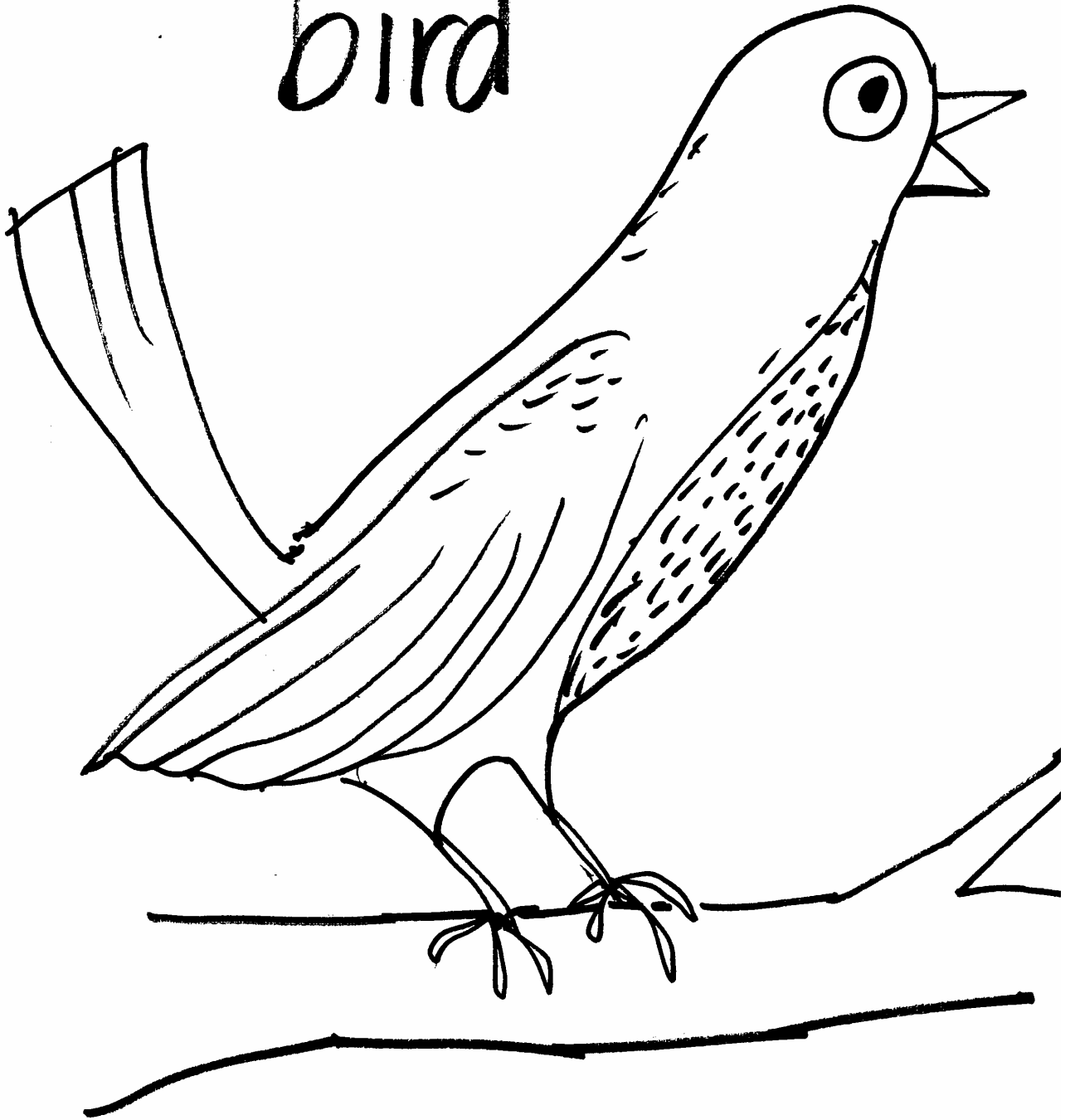
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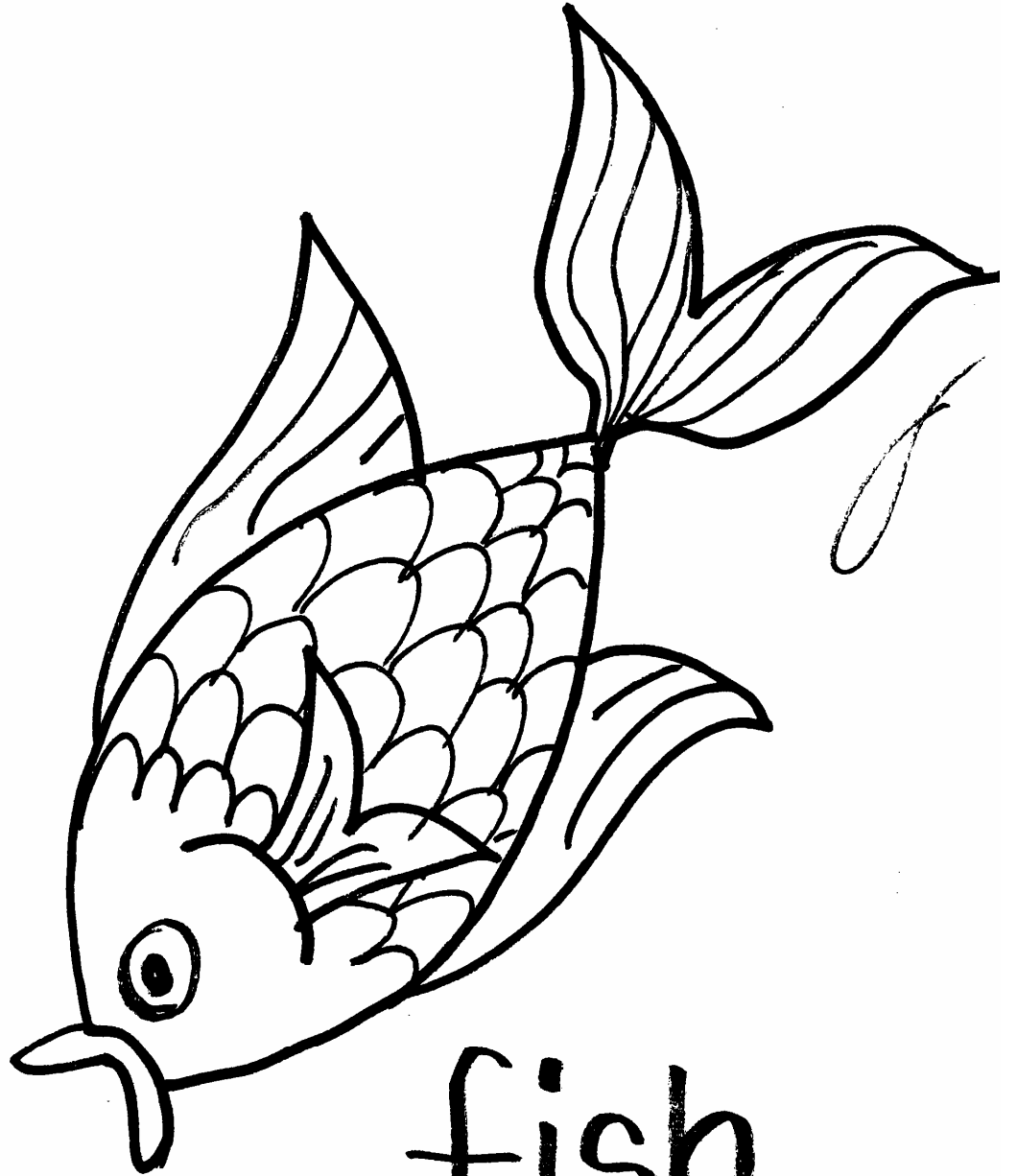


bird



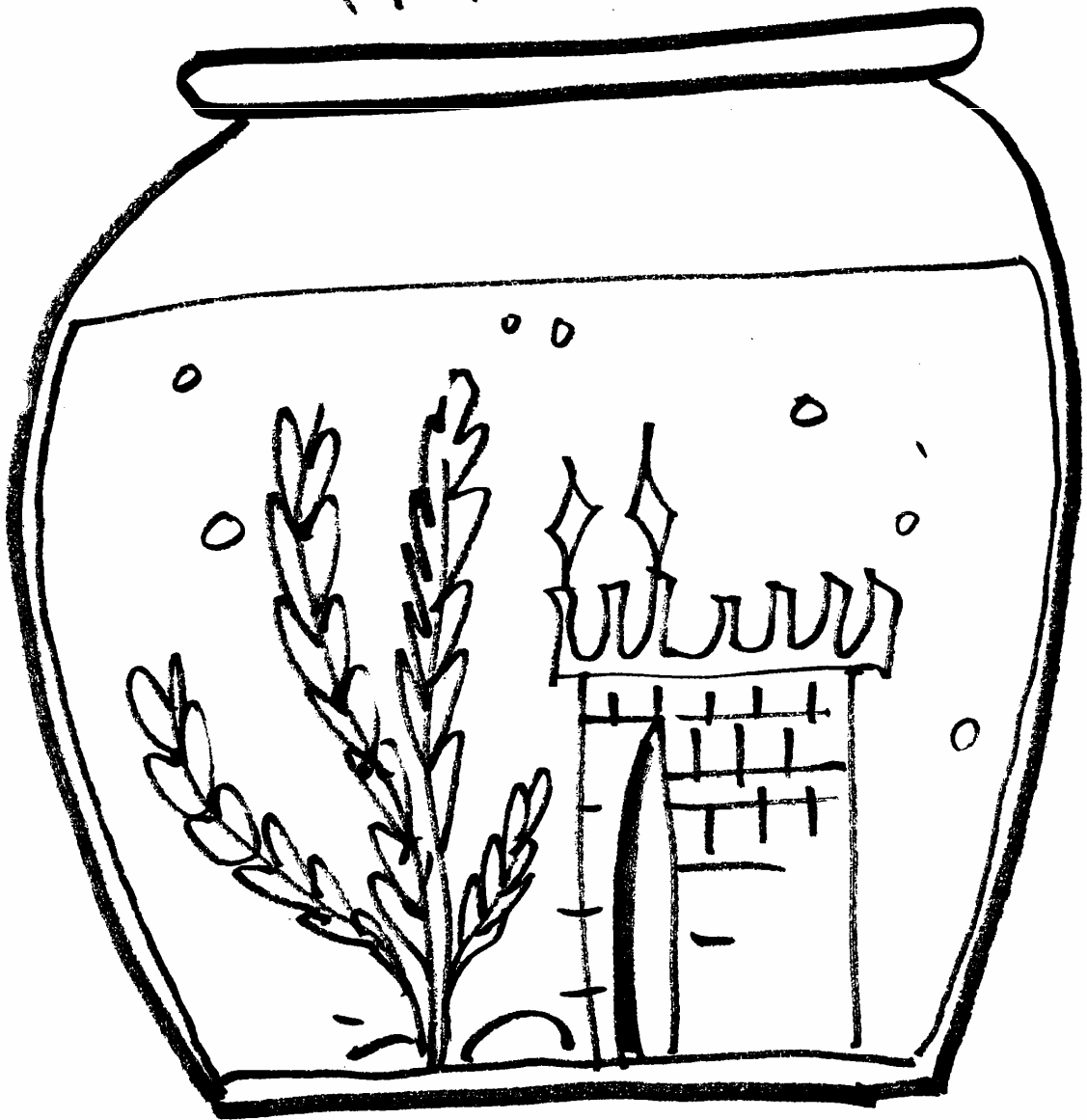
nest



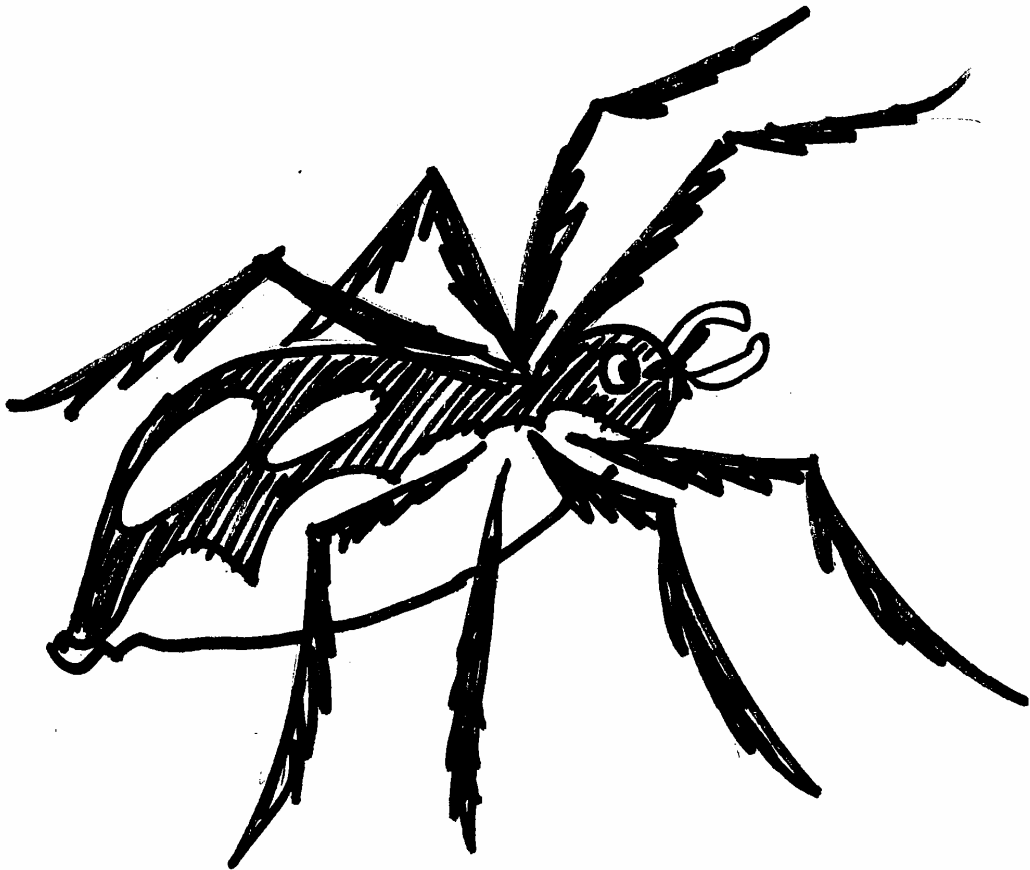


fish

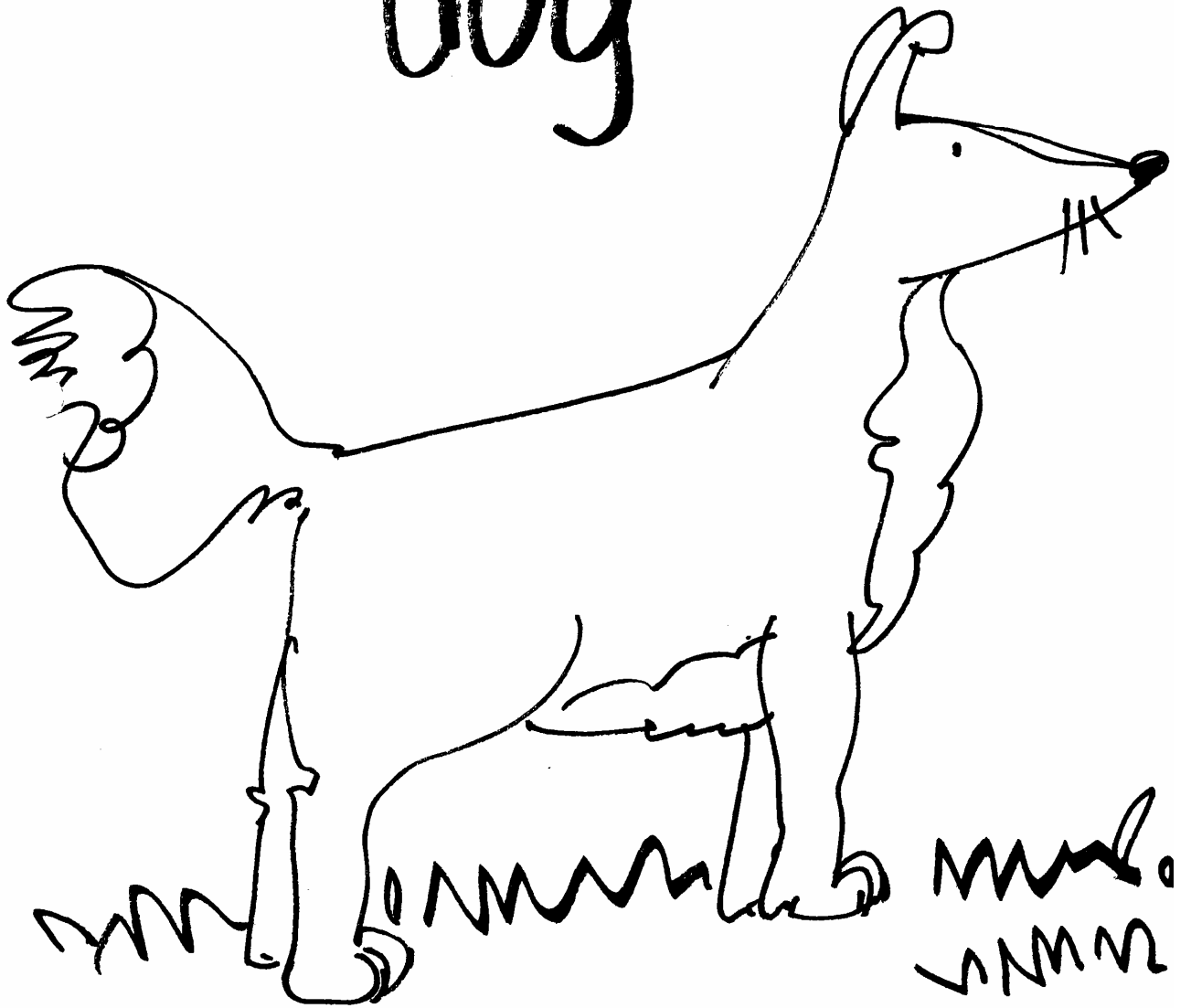
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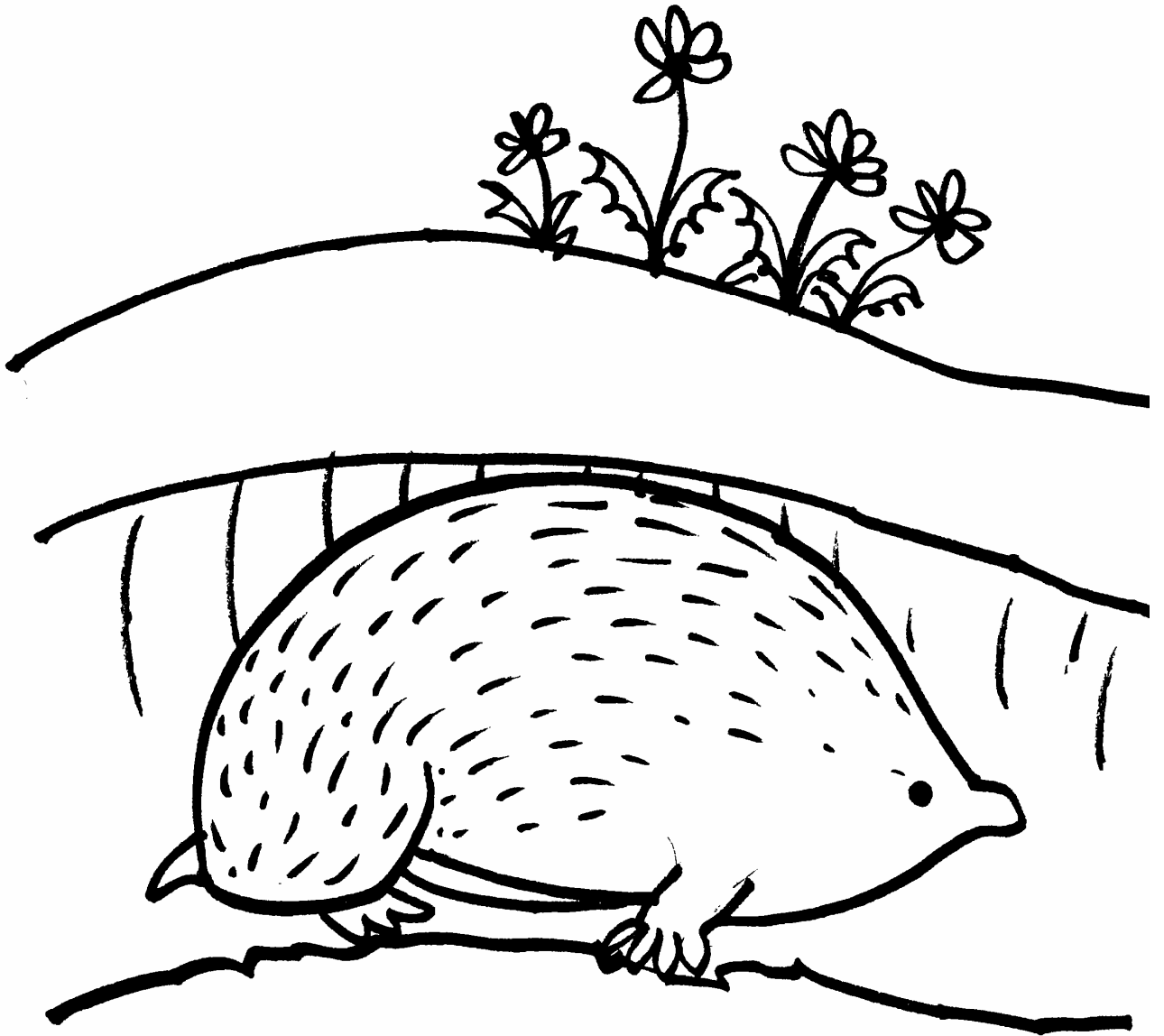


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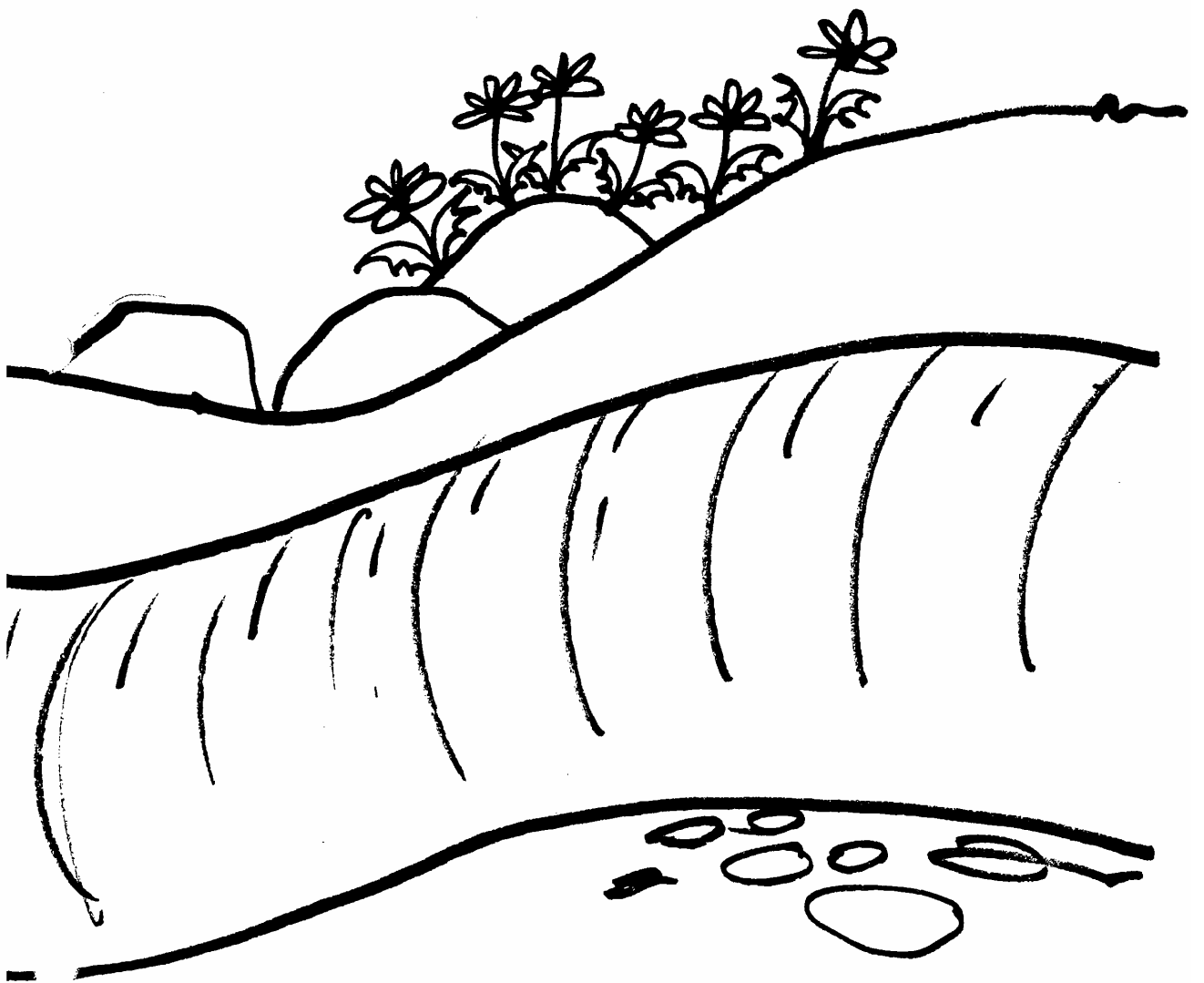




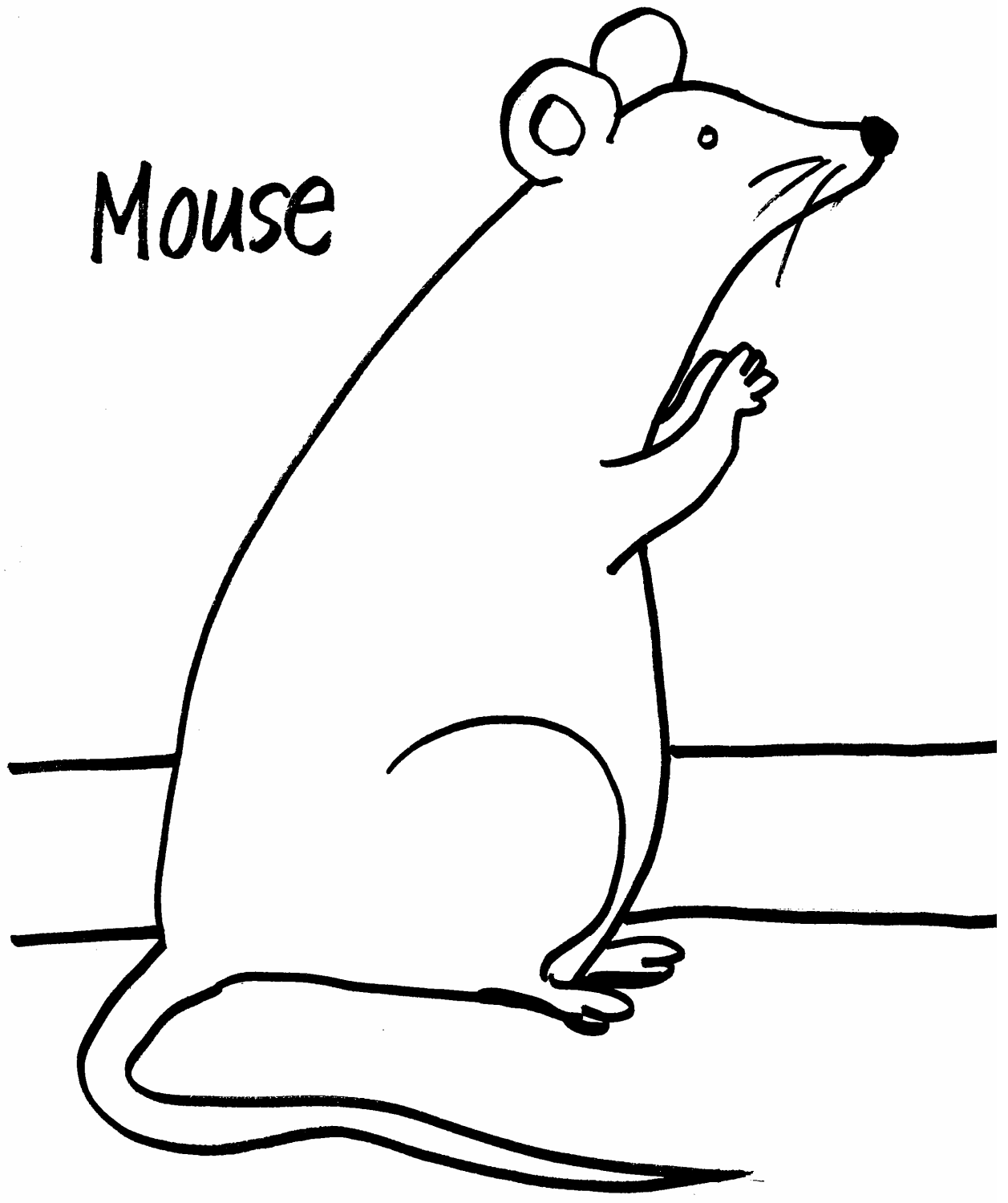
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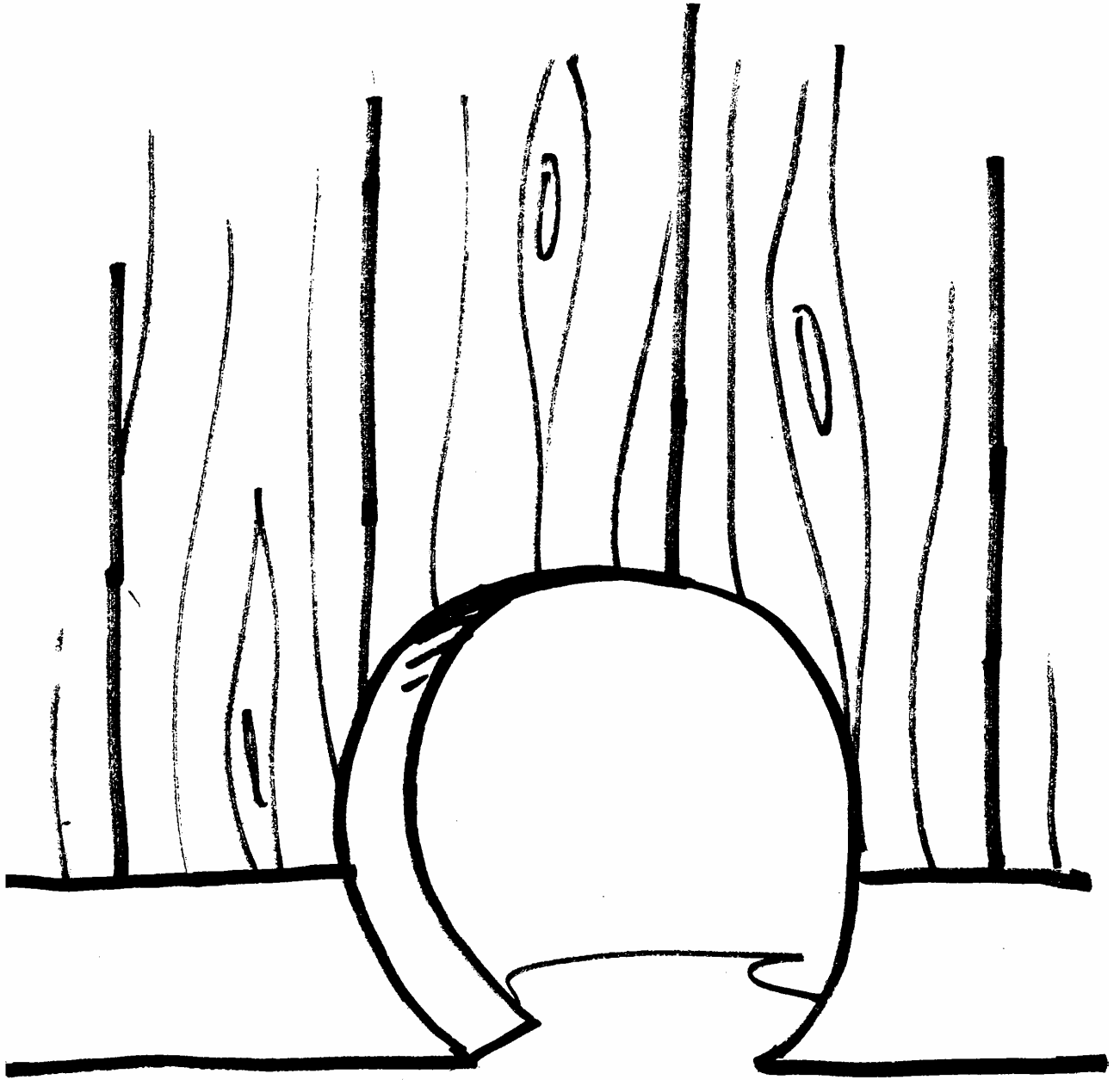


tunnel



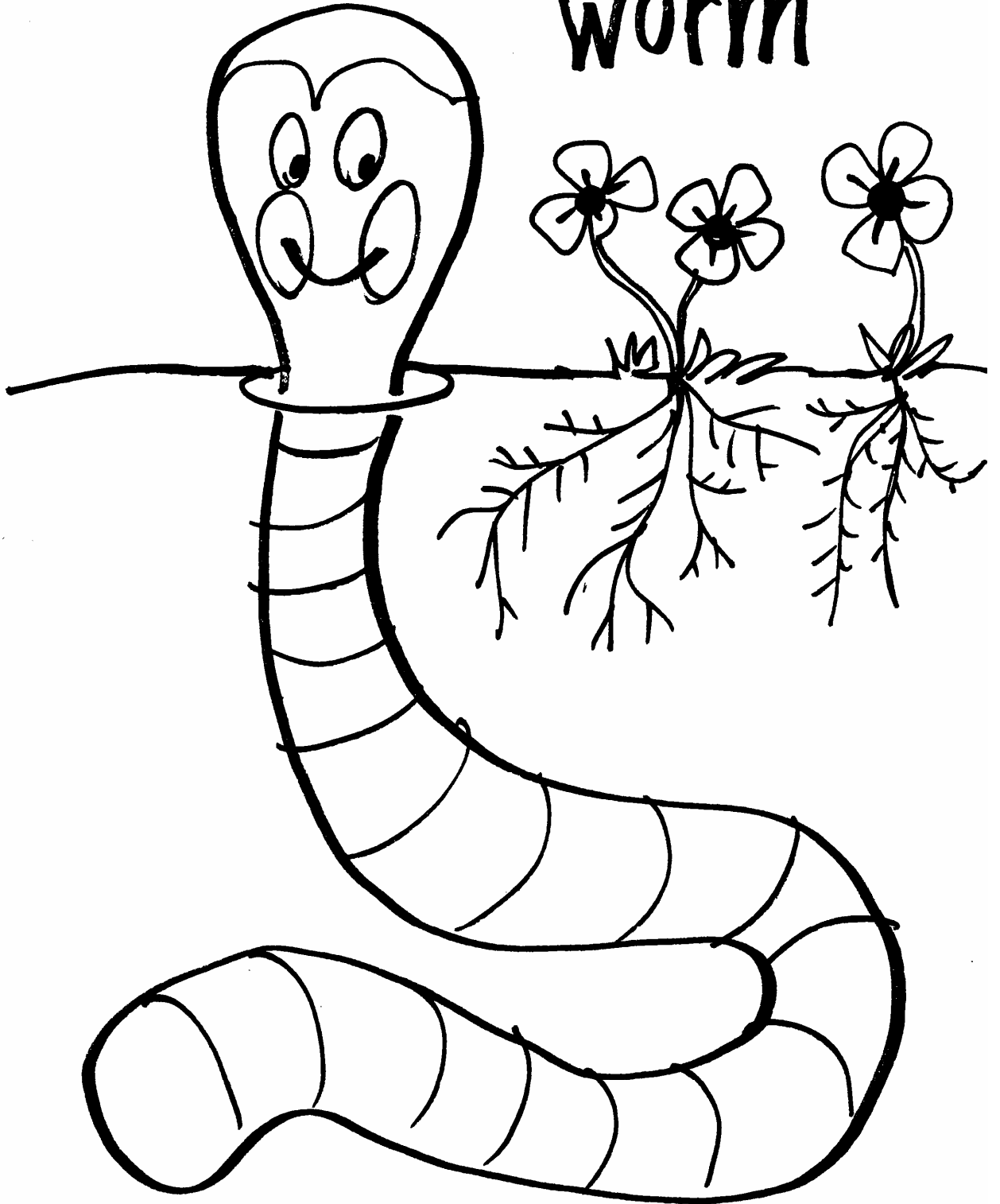
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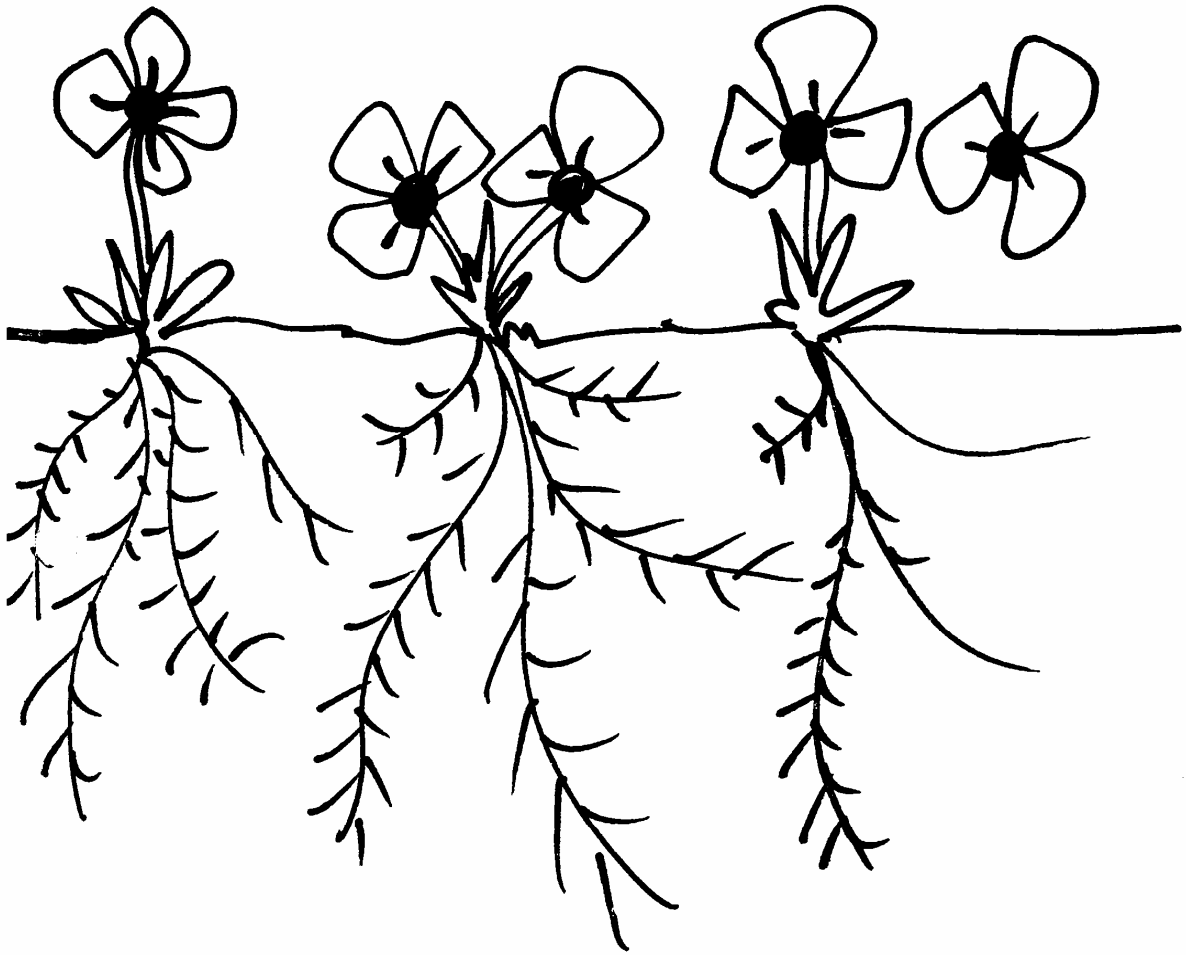




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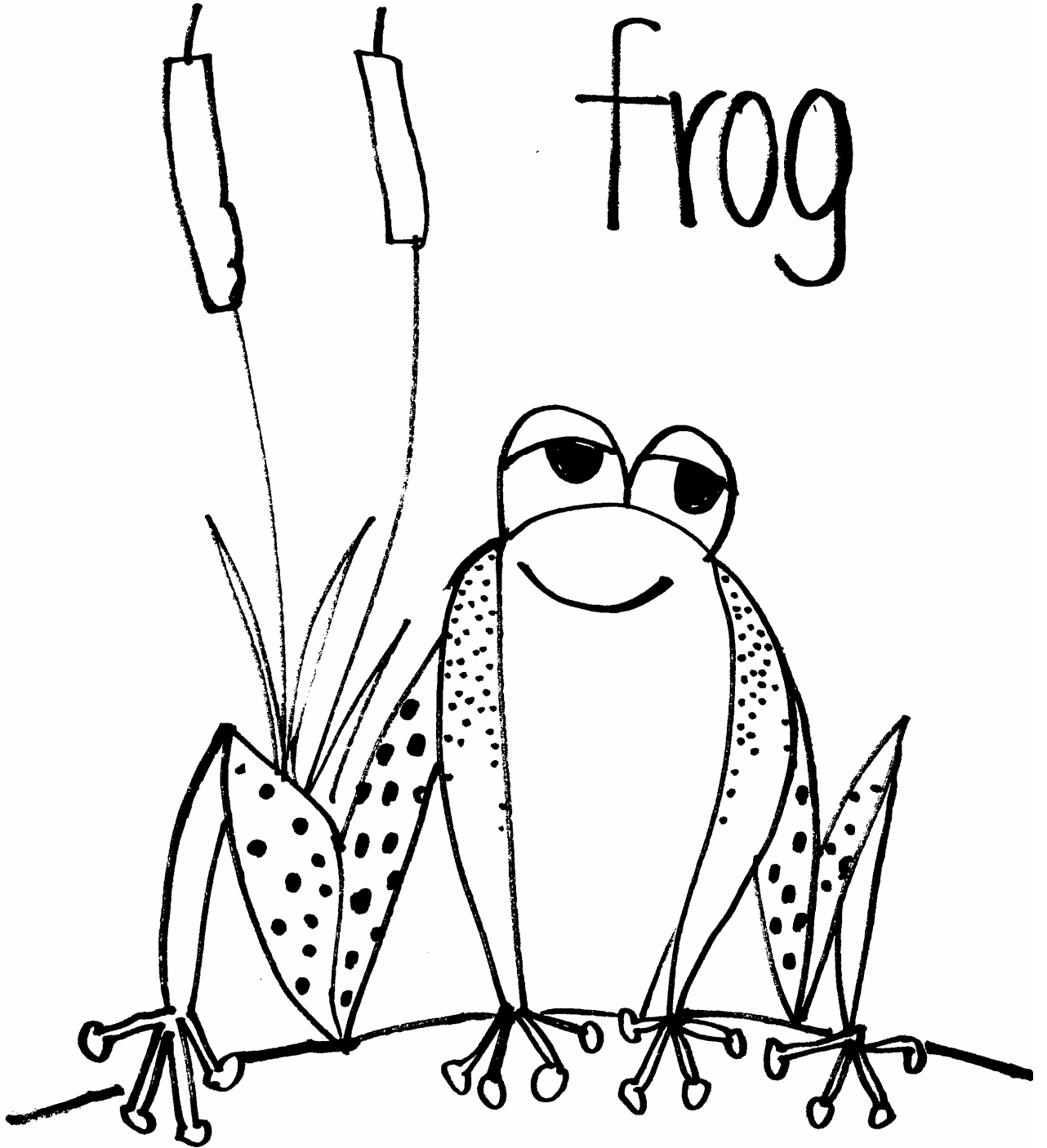
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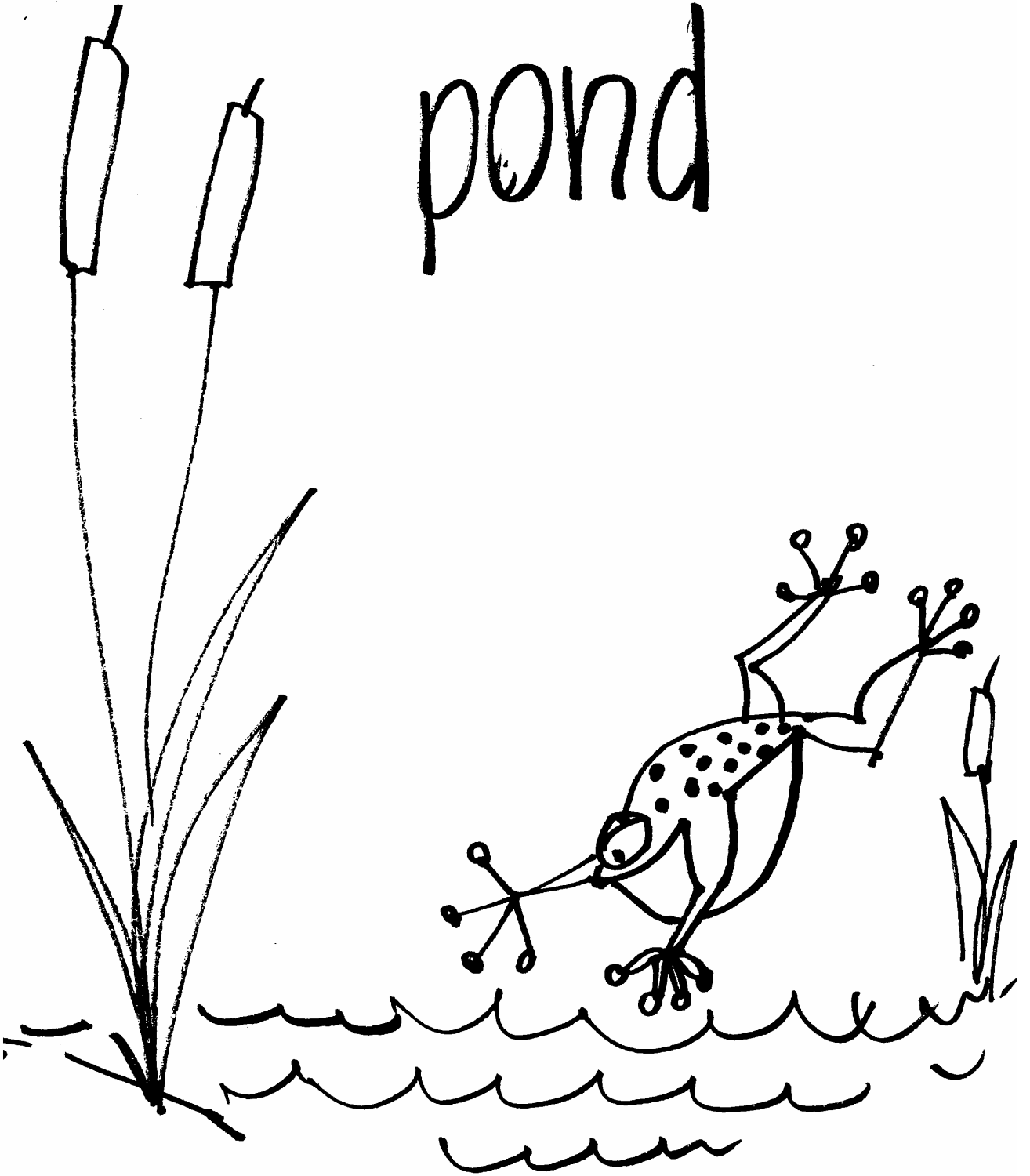


earth

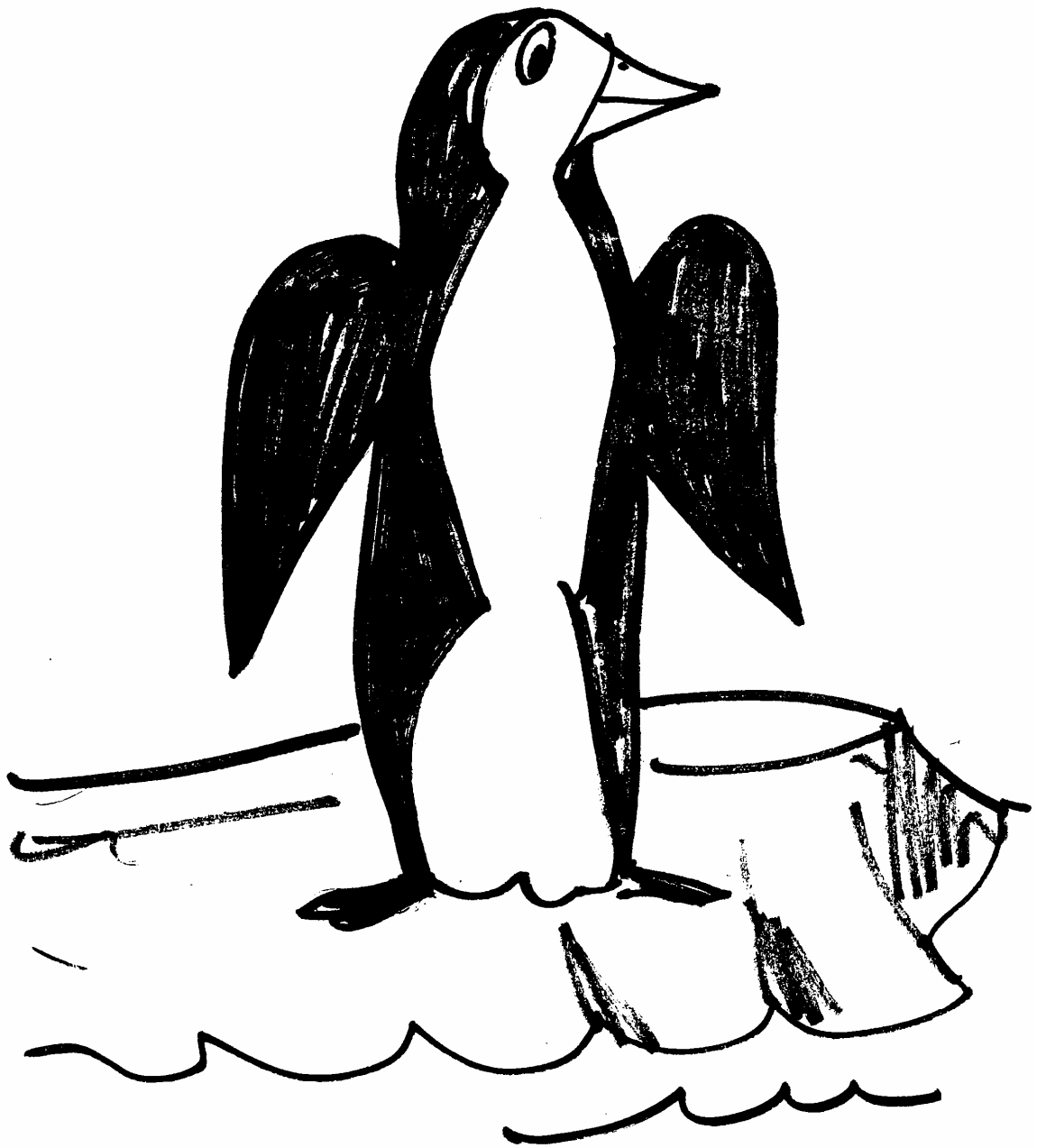
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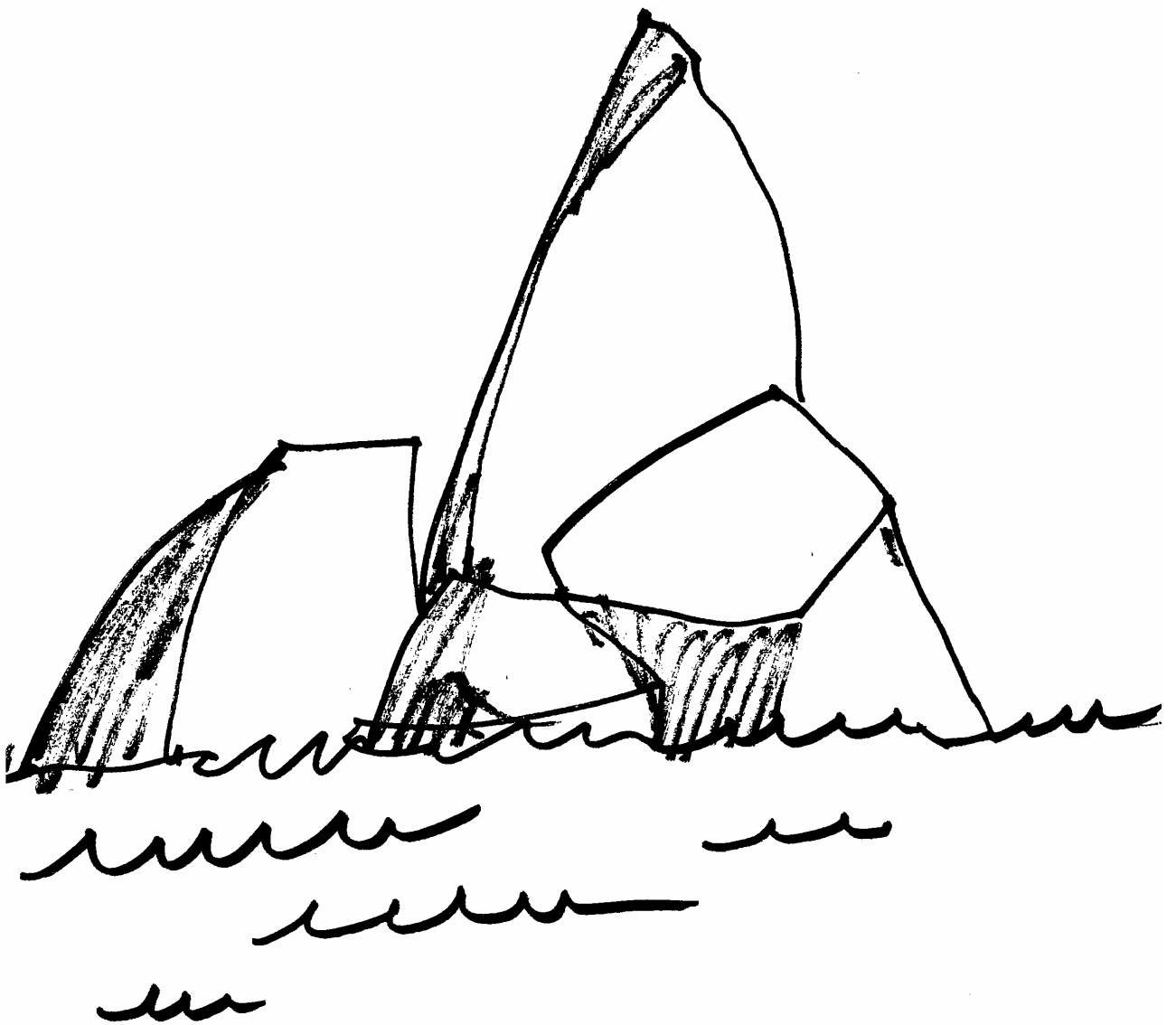
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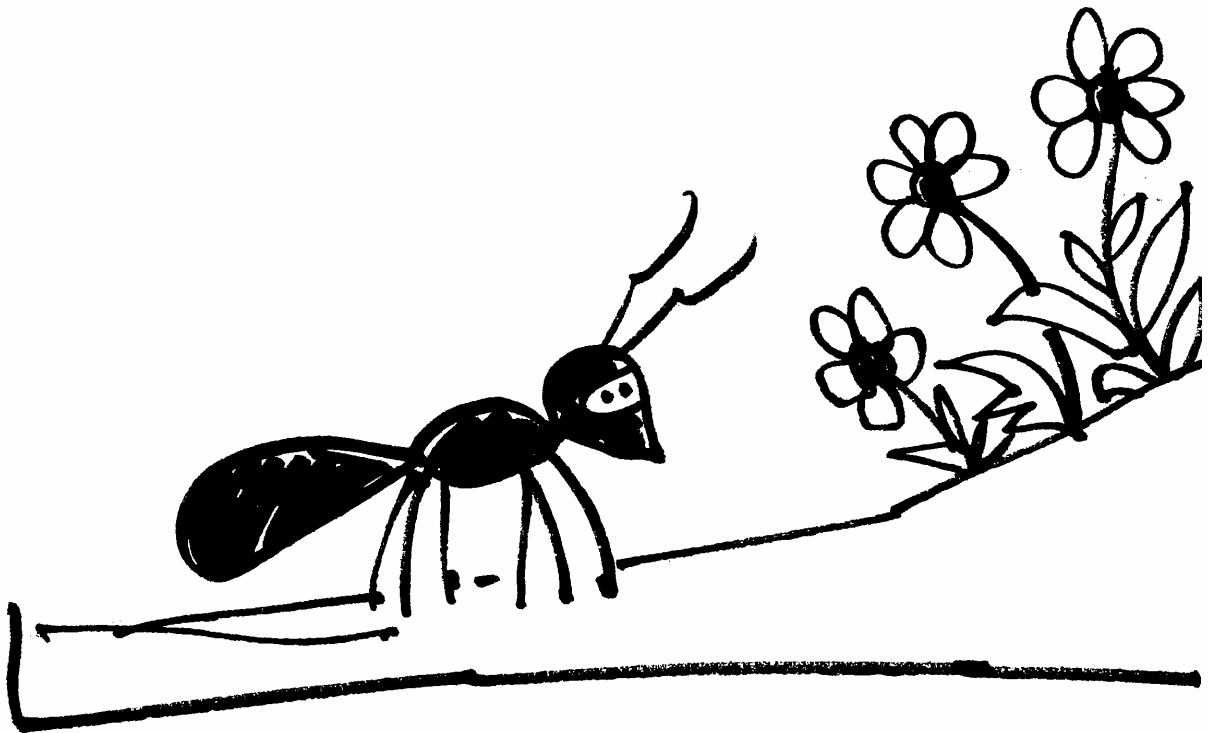
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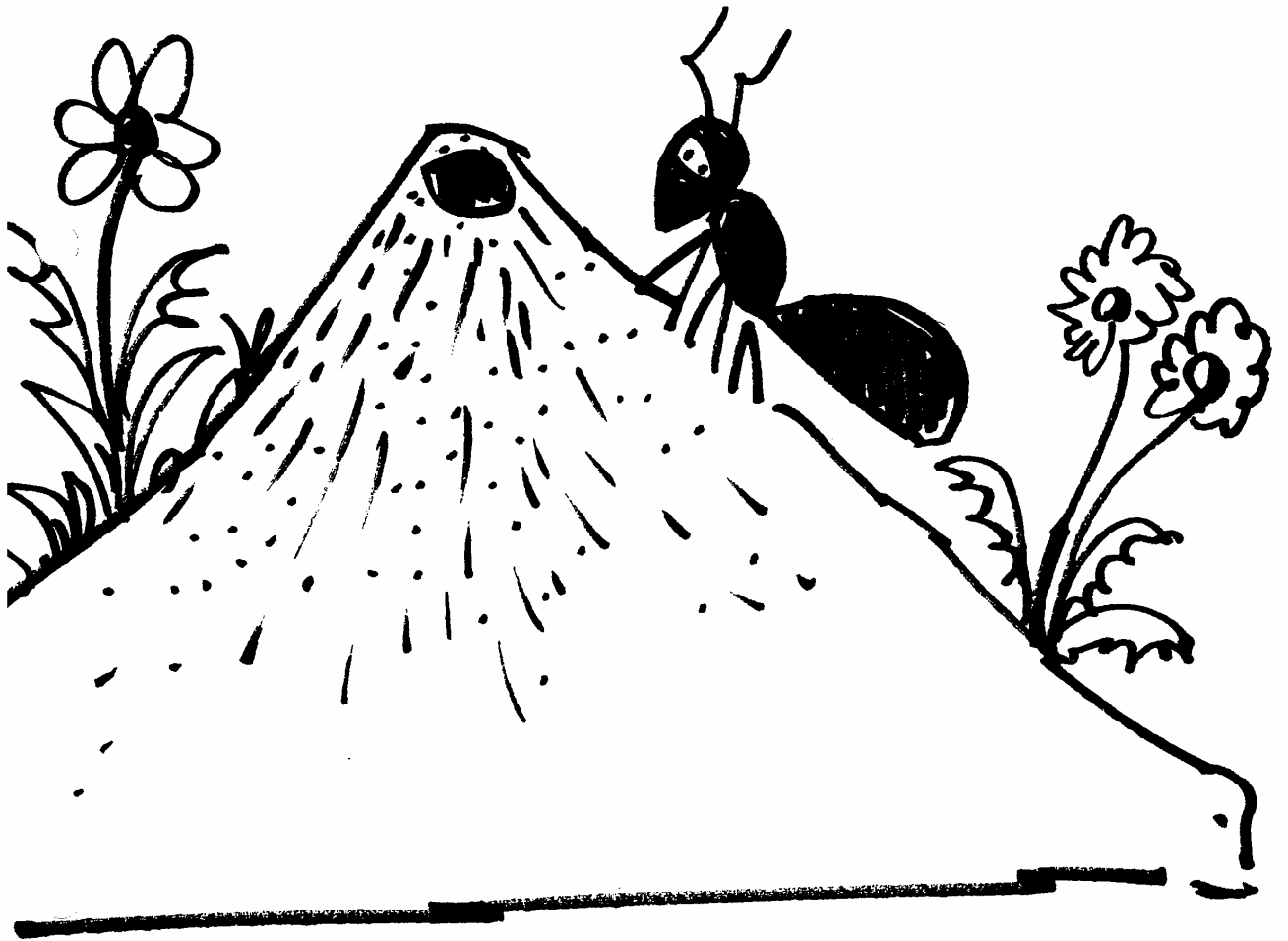
ice berg



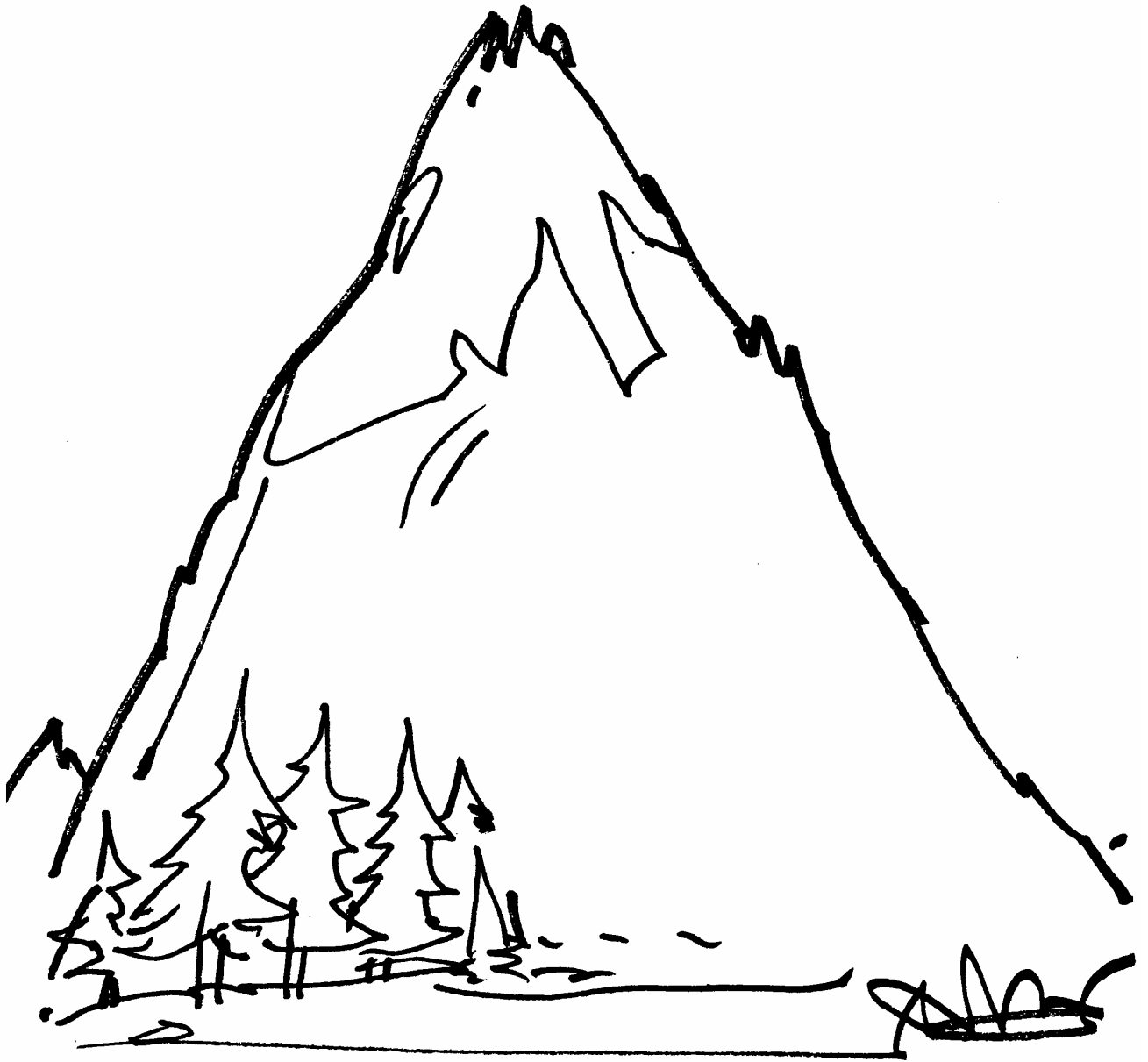
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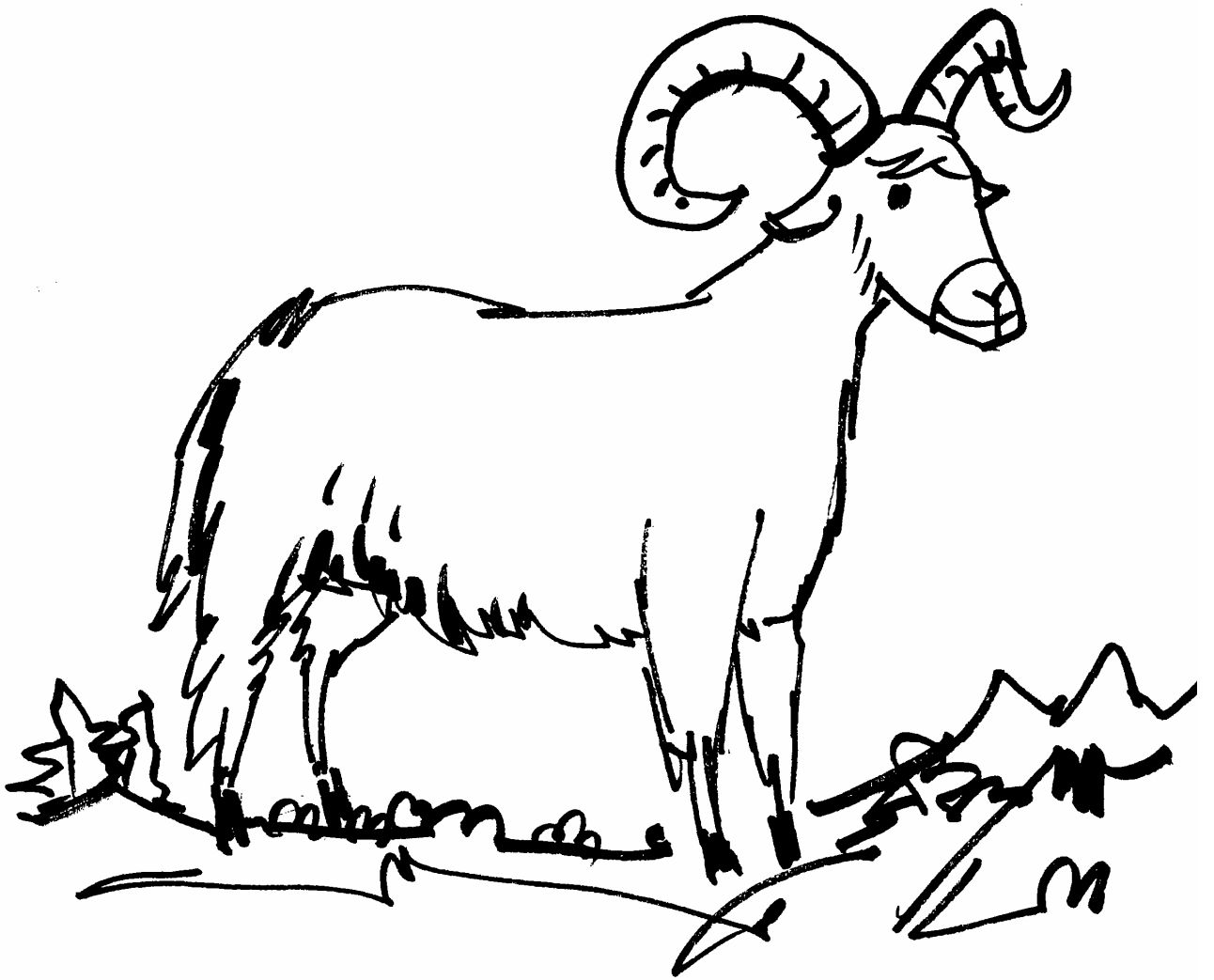
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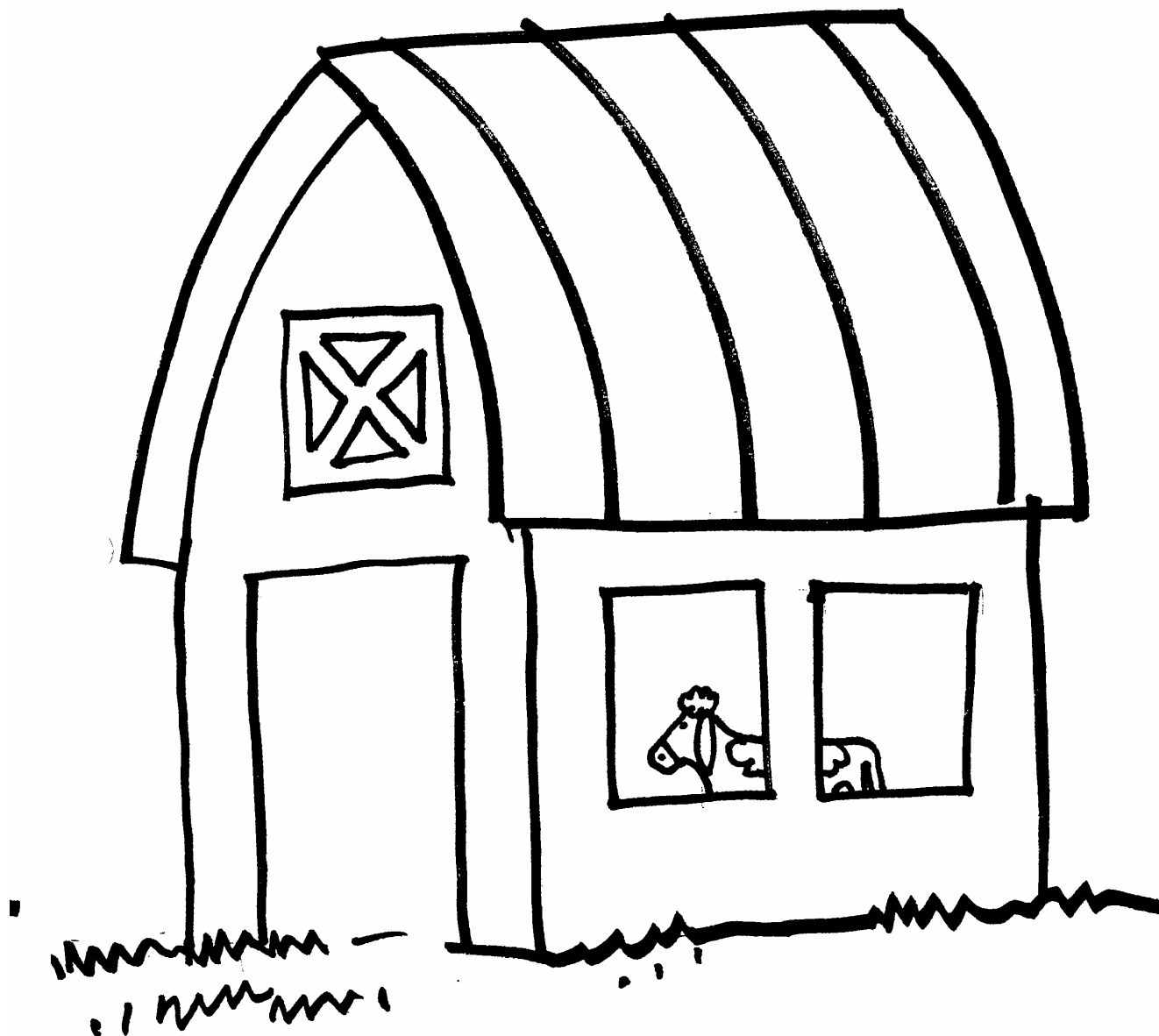


mountain



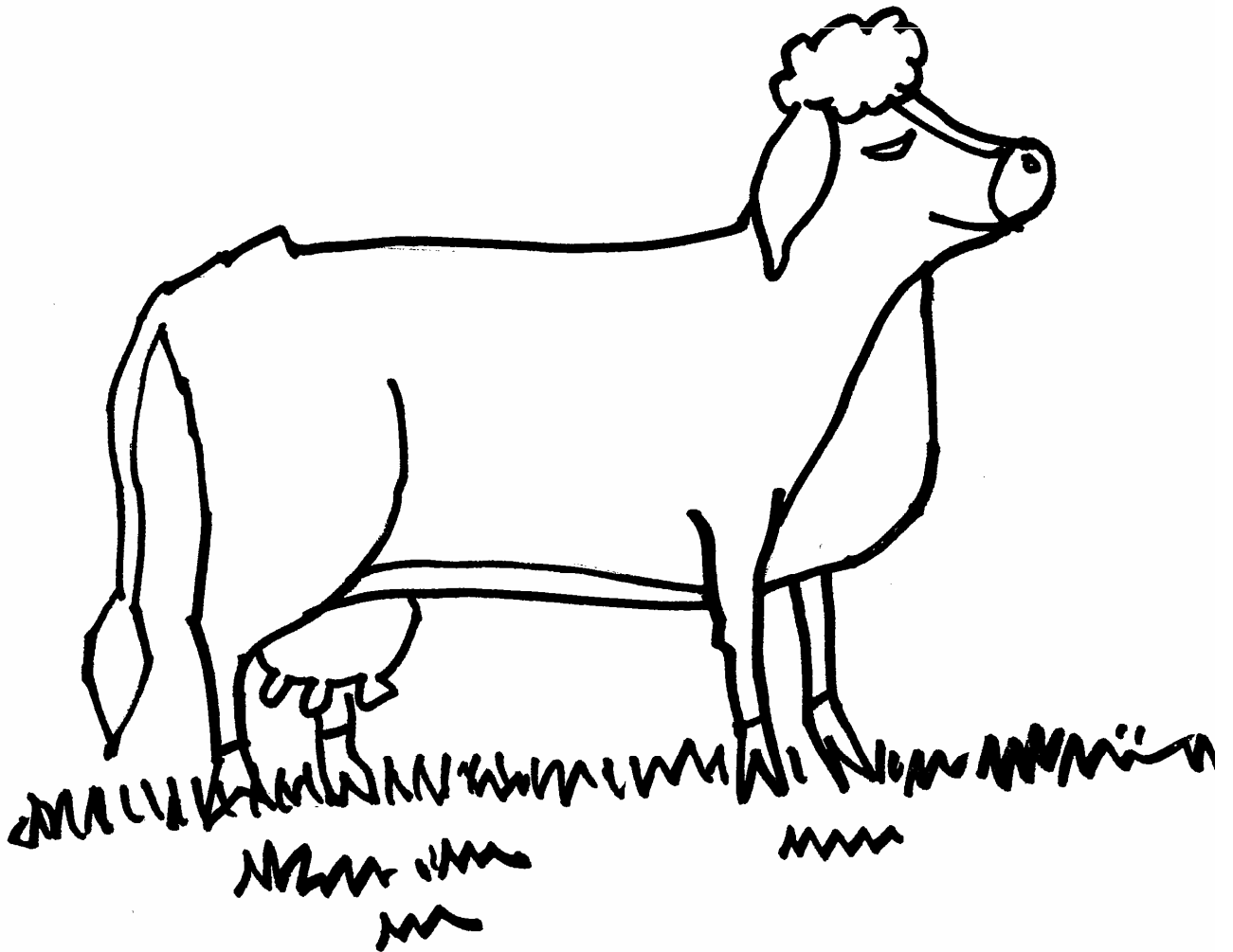
wild sheep





barn

COW



A decorative border of musical staves with colorful notes (red, green, yellow, blue, orange) surrounds the central text. The notes are stylized and scattered across the page.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC YEAR 1 - SPRING QUARTER

LESSONS 4 - 6*

(*Lesson 6 is part of this unit if May does not have 5 Sundays)

THEME: The Life of Jesus – His Resurrection

MEMORY VERSE SONG

1 Corinthians 15: 3-4 "Christ died for our sins ...
and was raised to life."

HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (teach the concept of "redeem")

CHORUS

There is a Redeemer

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

*It was God's Plan (It works well to use visuals with this song,
like the Betty Luken flannels.)*

*Up From the Grave He Arose
He Lives!*

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Lesson 4

Title: Jesus Comforts and Commissions Peter

Text: John 21

Theme: The risen Lord forgives our sin and gives us new life to serve Him.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Believe in Jesus as the One who forgives all our sin.
2. Believe in Jesus as the One who gives new life so we can live for Him.

Memory Verse: *I Corinthians 15:3-4 (excerpts) Christ died for our sins . . . and was raised to life.*

1. Teacher Direction

Peter's joy in Jesus' resurrection may have been dampened by two considerations. Having denied his Lord when Jesus most needed him, Peter may have wondered if Jesus would forgive him and love him as He had before. Peter may also have wondered if Jesus would trust him with His work. For that matter, could Peter trust himself? Having denied Jesus before, would Peter be strong enough not to deny Him again? Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15 that Jesus appeared to Peter separately soon after His resurrection. That appearance combined with Jesus' conversation with Peter in this story would have comforted Peter and would have assured him that he was forgiven and that Jesus had work for him. Because we died with Christ, Jesus can forgive all our sins, even those we consider most unforgivable. Because we rose with Christ, Jesus gives us the new life we need to follow Him in the service to which He calls us.

2. Bible Story

Peter was miserable. All of Jesus' friends were miserable, because Jesus had been arrested by His enemies, beaten, and killed on the cross. The last time Peter had seen Jesus, Jesus was dead and His friends were wrapping His dead body in cloths and placing it in a tomb. So Peter was miserable, like all Jesus' friends. Yet Peter was even more miserable than Jesus' other friends, because Peter had let Jesus down and he had never had time to tell Him he was sorry. When Jesus had been arrested, Peter had followed the soldiers and Jesus to see what would happen. Peter had followed at a distance, however, because he had not wanted the soldiers to see *him*. He had not wanted Jesus' enemies to arrest *him*, too.

Jesus had been taken into a house. Peter had waited outside. There were other people outside, too. One of them had said to Peter, "Weren't you with Jesus?" Peter had said no, that he did not even know who Jesus was. Later,

someone else had recognized Peter and had said, "You were with Jesus." Again, Peter had lied and said that he did not know Him. One more time it had happened. Someone else had said, "You're one of the men who was with Jesus." "No," Peter had said, "I do not even know Him." Just then, Jesus' enemies had led Jesus past Peter and Jesus had turned and looked at Peter. Peter had felt terrible. He had been very sorry that he had said he did not know Jesus, but it had been too late. They had taken Jesus away to kill Him, and Peter had run out into the night, crying bitterly.

So now Peter was miserable. Jesus was dead *and* Peter had said that He did not even know Him.

Then Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to many people, including Peter. Of course, now Peter felt much better. He was probably still sad though, to think of how he had let Jesus down. He wondered if Jesus would still let him be one of His disciples. He wondered if Jesus would let him help Him with His work.

One day, Peter and several other of the disciples went fishing. They fished all night, but they caught nothing. As it began to be light, they saw someone standing on the beach. It was still too dark to see the person clearly. The man on the beach called out, "You don't have any fish, do you?" When they answered, "No," the man said, "Throw out the net on the right side of the boat, and you will catch some." Peter and the other disciples did so and suddenly their net was so full of fish that it was too heavy to even pull in. When John saw how full the net was, he said to Peter, "It is the Lord."

Of course, Peter thought, it *is* the Lord. Jesus had done this before. Other times He had told the disciples what to do to catch fish and they had caught more than they could handle. Once Peter realized it was Jesus, he could not get to the shore fast enough. The boat was too slow, so Peter threw himself into the water to swim to Jesus.

When the disciples got to the beach, they found that Jesus already had a fire burning and was cooking bread and fish for their breakfast. They ate together, and when they were finished eating, Jesus turned to Peter. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love Me?" Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You." Jesus replied, "Feed My lambs." Jesus meant that Peter should take care of His people and teach them about Jesus.

Then Jesus said to Peter again, "Do you love Me?" "Yes, Lord," said Peter. "You know that I love You." "Shepherd My sheep," Jesus said. Again, He was telling Peter that he should be busy with Jesus' work.

Once more, Jesus said to Peter, "Do you love Me?" Peter was troubled because Jesus kept asking him. Once more, Peter said, "Lord, You know all things. You know I love You." "Tend My sheep," Jesus said again. Then Peter understood. He had said three times that He did not know Jesus. Now Jesus had given him the chance three times to say that He loved Jesus, and Jesus had told Peter three times that He wanted Peter to do His work. Peter understood that Jesus had forgiven him. Jesus still wanted him to do His work and Jesus would give him all that he needed to do it.

3. Application

Help the children to begin to see how wonderful it is that our sins can be forgiven *and* we can have the power to live new lives of obedience to God. Encourage them to give thanks to Jesus for dying and rising again so these things can be true for us, just as they were true for Peter. Encourage them to put their trust in Jesus as the only One through whom our sins can be forgiven and we can have new life. Help the children see that God forgives us **so that** we will serve Him all our life.

4. Review questions

- A. All of Jesus' friends were sad when Jesus died. Why was Peter especially sad? (He had said three times that he did not even know who Jesus was.)
- B. When Peter had said He did not even know Jesus and then saw Jesus looking at him, what had he done? (He had run outside crying.)
- C. When Peter and several other disciples went fishing one night, how many fish did they catch? (None.)
- D. Early in the morning, what did they see on the beach? (A man.)
- E. When the man heard that they had caught no fish, He told them to put their nets in on the right side of the boat. What happened then? (The net filled with so many fish that they could not haul the net in.)
- F. Who was the man on the beach? (Jesus.)
- G. When Peter realized it was Jesus, what did he do? (Jumped in the water and swam to shore.)
- H. How many times had Peter said that he did not know Jesus? (Three times.)
- I. How many times did Jesus ask Peter, "Do you love Me?" (Three times.)
- J. How many times did Peter answer, "You know all things; You know I love you?" (Three times.)
- K. How many times did Jesus tell Peter to feed His sheep? (Three times.)
- L. Who died so Peter--and we--could be forgiven? (Jesus.)
- M. Who could give Peter--and us--new life, to obey God and do His work? (Jesus.)

5. Learning Reinforcement Activities

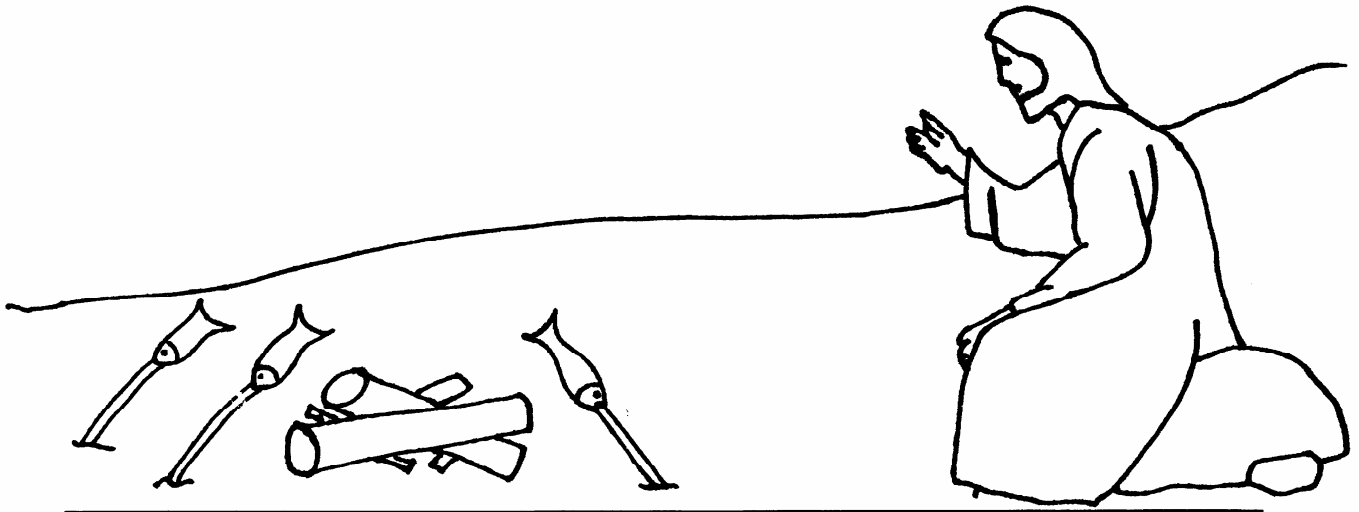
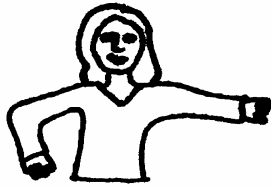
A. More briefly than before, retell the Bible story. First, divide the children into three groups. One group should be prepared to say, "No, no, no. I don't know the man" three times, when you come to the part about Peter denying Jesus. Another group should be ready to say, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You," each time in the story when Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love Me?" The third group should be ready to say, "Feed My sheep" in response to each of Peter's answers. All the children can practice crowing like a rooster so they can make that "sound effect" at the appropriate time.

B. Prepare one piece of construction paper for each child by printing the Bible verse, "We too may live a new life," on it. Have the children make two butterflies to tape onto the construction paper. To make a butterfly, fold a 6-inch pipe cleaner in half. Take a 5-inch square of brightly-colored tissue paper and lay it inside the wires of the folded pipe cleaner, gathering the tissue paper in the center. Twist the ends of the

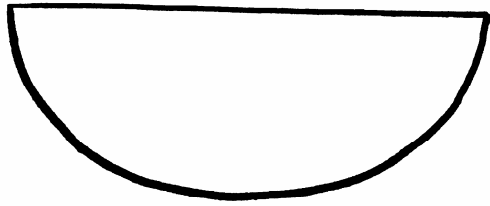
wires together. Point out how the butterfly's life changes a great deal from when he was a caterpillar. He has a whole new life. People who trust in Jesus, as Peter did, have new lives too, different from their old ones. Now they have the power to live for Jesus and obey Him.

C. Cut out enough boats, waves and fire for each child and spread on the craft table (using construction paper). Have an example to show the children where to glue each onto the John 21 scene. Let them color the scene with markers if time allows (there should be adequate time).

Lesson: John 21



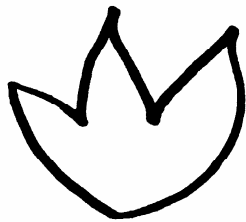
Memory Verse: "Christ died for our sins... and was raised to life." (I Corinthians 15:3-4)



ON BROWN PAPER



ON BLUE PAPER



ON ORANGE PAPER

(Fold construction paper before cutting to make more at once.)

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Lesson 5

Title: Jesus Explains that He is the Only Way to the Father
Text: John 14:1-6, with Genesis 3
Theme: Sin separates man from God, but Jesus brings them back together.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Know that because Adam sinned in the garden, people cannot be God's friends.
2. Begin to understand how Jesus is the way for sinful people to come back to God.
3. Thank God for sending Jesus.

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (excerpts) Christ died for our sins . . . and was raised to life.*

1. Learning Readiness Activity

Before class, write out two very simple sets of directions for getting to a designated place on the campus such as the chimes or one of the drinking fountains. One set of directions should be accurate, while the other set should take you in an obviously wrong direction. Begin by asking the children what someone could do if they needed to go somewhere but they did not know how to get there; they did not know the way. They could look at a map--but only if it were a good map that made it clear how to get where they wanted to go. They could ask someone for directions, but that would only be helpful if the person they asked *knew* the way *and* told the truth about the way.

Tell the children that you are going to pretend that all of you are new at church today. You need to get to the chimes to meet a friend or you are very thirsty and want to get a drink at the drinking fountain, but you don't know the way. Line up to go to the place you hope to find. Have one of your helpers give you the set of incorrect directions. Read them out loud as you go, leading the children in the wrong direction. When you have done everything the directions said to do, ask the children if these directions really told the way to where you wanted to go. Go back to the room so someone can give you the other set of directions. Again, lead the children where the directions say to go, reading them out loud as you go. When you arrive at your destination, ask the children if these directions told the right way. Ask them if these directions told the truth about how to get where you wanted to go.

When you get back to the room and get everyone seated, point out to the children that you just followed two different sets of directions to try to get to one place. One set of directions told you the right way to go; one set of directions told you the wrong way. One set of directions told you the truth; the other set told you what was not true. Read John 14:6 to the children and tell them that today you will see that Jesus is the way to something very important. He tells us the truth about how to get somewhere we should really want to go.

2. Bible Story

Long, long ago, there was only one man in the whole world. He was the first man to ever live. Do you know his name? Adam was not lonely, because there was also one woman, the first woman to ever lived, in the world. Do you know her name? Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden where they were never lonely. They were never lonely because God would come to their garden, in the cool part of the day. God would come and would walk and talk with them there in the garden. Everything in Adam and Eve's garden was perfect. Adam and Eve themselves were perfect. There was everything happy and good and beautiful in their garden and nothing sad or ugly. The best part of every happy day was the time of the day when God would come to walk and talk with them.

One day, though, something ugly happened in the garden. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. God had told them they could eat fruit from any tree in the garden, except one. The fruit from that tree they must never eat. One day, Adam and Eve looked at that fruit, remembered that God had said not to eat it, and ate it anyway. That was the first sin.

God is good and perfect and holy. He hates sin. Adam and Eve knew that. They knew they could no longer be friends with God in the way they had been before. That day, when God came to the garden, Adam and Eve hid from Him. Of course, God knew where they were and He called them to come out. Adam and Eve were very unhappy. They knew they had ruined everything. God told them they would have to leave the beautiful garden.

God still loved Adam and Eve, even though they had sinned by disobeying Him. God promised Adam and Eve that someday He would send Someone who would make everything right again. Ever since that day when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, every baby ever born has been born with a sinful heart. Every one of us disobeys God, like Adam and Eve did. None of us can be friends with God the way God meant for us to be when He made us. It is like we are all lost and cannot find the way back to God again. That would be a very sad thing--except that God kept His promise and sent Someone to show us the way back to God.

The Someone God sent was His own Son, Jesus. We've had many stories about Jesus. We've seen how He healed people and fed hungry people with just a little bit of food. We've seen how He could make dead people alive again. We've seen how His enemies put Him on a cross to die and how He stayed there and died instead of coming down. He did this so He could take *our* punishment in *our* place for all the times we disobey God. Jesus died in the place of His people so their sins would be paid for and they could be friends with God again.

One day, Jesus was talking to His disciples and telling them that He would soon be going back to Heaven to be with God His Father. Jesus told His disciples that they could be with God, too. They did not need to be lost and apart from God anymore. Jesus said to His disciples, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Remember when we were following directions to the drinking fountain? One set of directions was very wrong and one set was right and got us where we wanted to go. Many different people give many different directions about the way to God, but there is only one real way to God. Jesus is the only way to God. When we believe in Jesus as God's Son who died to take the punishment for our

sins, we are taking the only right way to God. Many people tell many different things about how to be friends with God, but only the way Jesus tells us is the truth.

Adam and Eve lost the way to God for all of us. Jesus came to be the way back to God. Believing in Jesus is the *only* right way to God.

3. Application

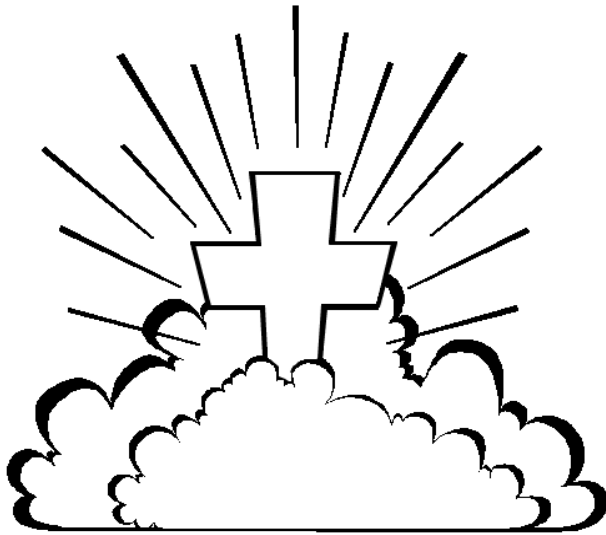
Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to God that He did not leave people lost and away from Him, but sent His Son Jesus to bring them back to Him. Encourage the children to believe in Jesus as the One who took the punishment for the times *they* disobey God, so they could come back to God and be His friends.

4. Review questions

- A. Who were the first man and woman?
- B. What was the place like where Adam and Eve lived?
- C. What was Adam and Eve's favorite time of the day? (When God came to talk with them in the garden.)
- D. What happened in the garden that was bad?
- E. How does God feel about sin? (He hates it.)
- F. Where did Adam and Eve have to go after they sinned? (Out of the garden.)
- G. What did God promise Adam and Eve? (He would send someone to make things right again.)
- H. Are all people born with sinful hearts?
- I. Do we disobey God?
- J. Our sin keeps us apart from God. Who is the only Way back to God? (Jesus)
- K. How did Jesus pay for all the times God's people have disobeyed Him? (By dying on the cross in their place.)
- L. Who tells the truth about how to be God's friends again? (Jesus.)

5. Learning Reinforcement Activities

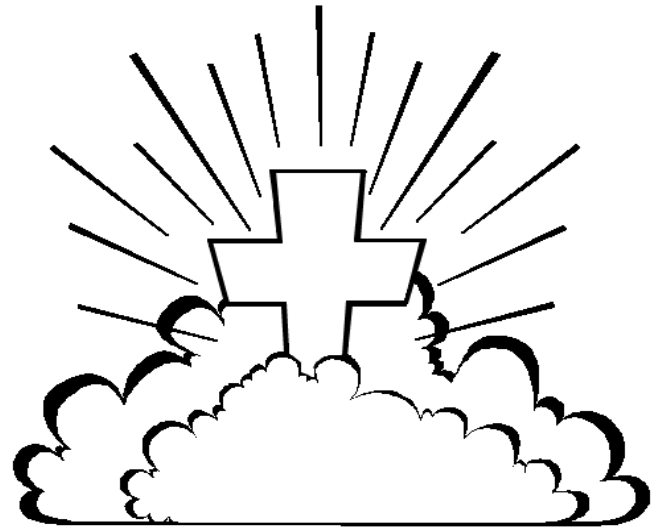
- A. Give each child a copy of the attached picture to color. Have the children follow the path from "Jesus" to "God" with their crayons. Remind them that, even though we have left God by our disobedience and are lost from Him, Jesus is the way back to God.
- B. Have the children stand to practice the memory verse. Call upon them to:
 - hop to you, then say the verse;
 - jump with both feet to you, then whisper the verse;
 - skip to you, then say the verse in a tiny, little voice;
 - crawl to you, then say the verse to you in their normal voice;
 - step sideways to you, then mouth the verse silently.
- C. Provide each child with a half sheet of construction paper taped to the top of a dowel. This will be their flag. On one side of the flag let the children glue the picture of Adam and Eve. On the other side of the flag let the children glue the picture of the cross. Then let the children color the pictures with colored pencils and/or thin markers. In discussion, help the children to understand that even as children they are sinful, but that Jesus has made a way for sinful people to come back to God.



Memory verse:

Christ died for our sins... and was raised to life.

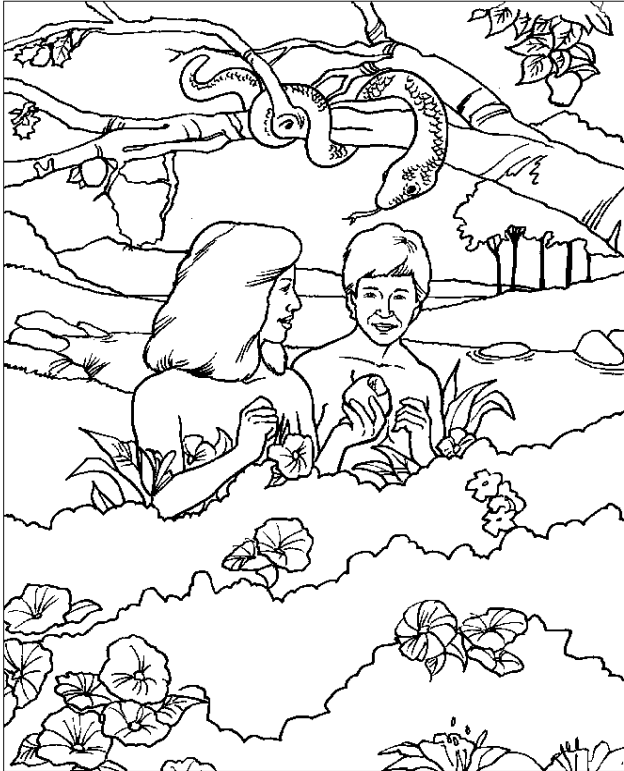
(I Corinthians 15: 3-4)



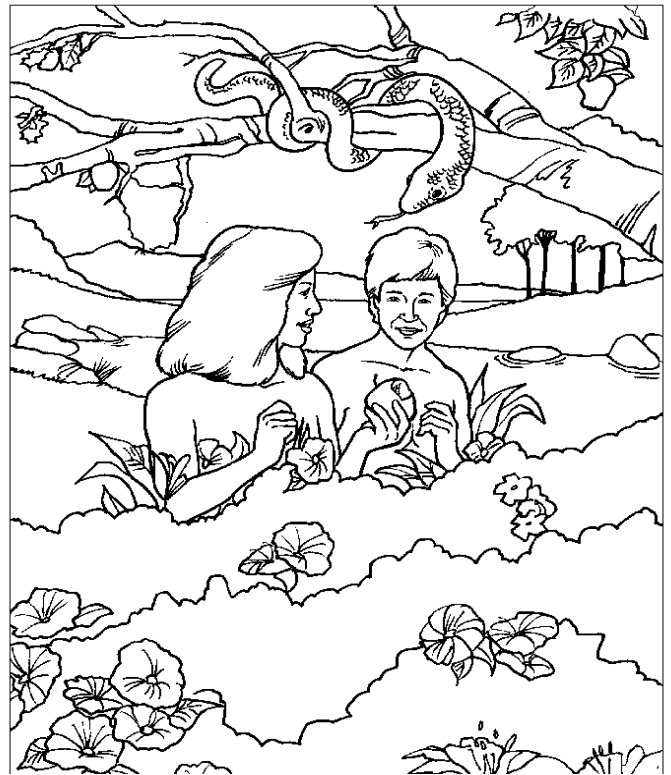
Memory verse:

Christ died for our sins... and was raised to life.

(I Corinthians 15: 3-4)



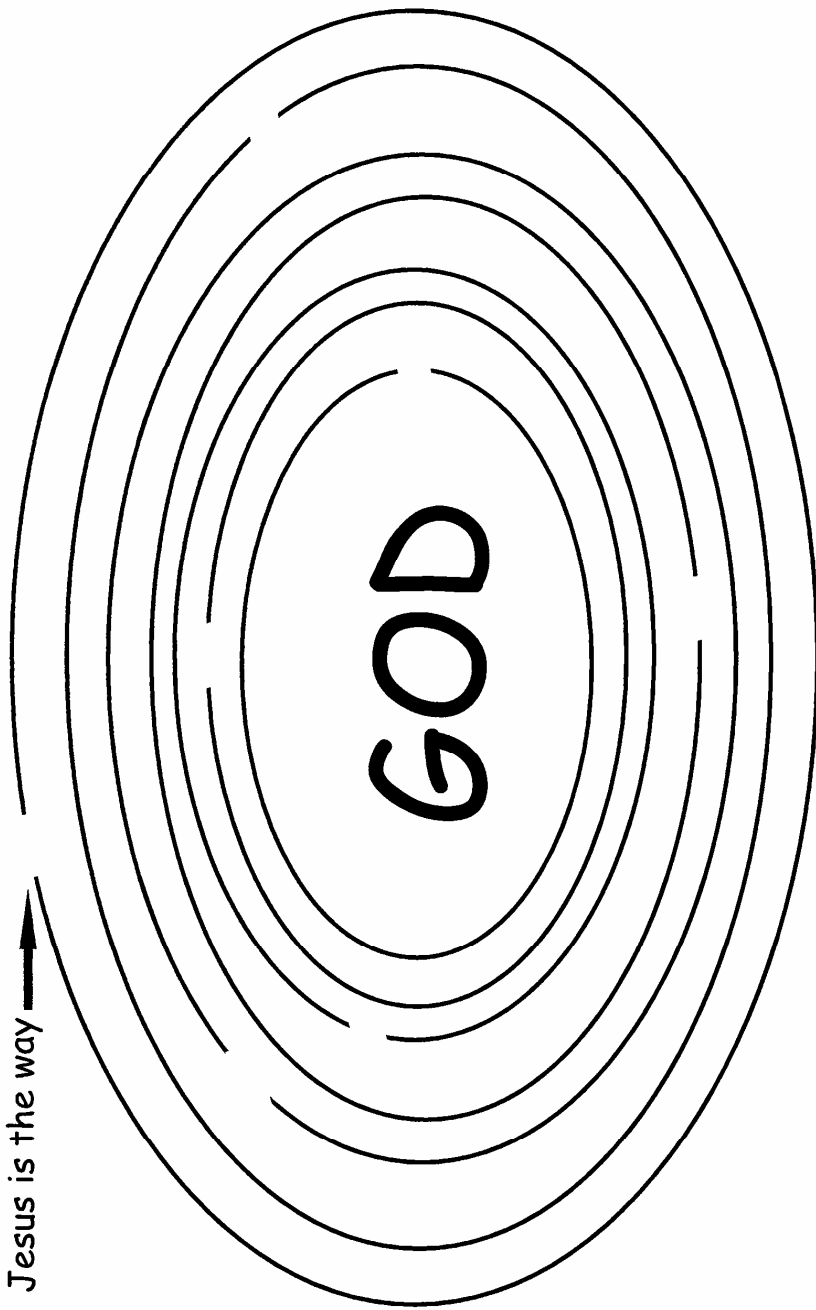
We all are sinful.



We all are sinful.

Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Jesus is the way →



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH , 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Lesson 6

Title: Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

Text: John 3

Theme: God sent Jesus to save us from the punishment we deserved and to give us eternal life.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that we all sin (or do things God is not pleased with) and that we all deserve God's punishment for our sin.
2. Understand that God, in His love, provided Jesus to save us from the punishment we deserve and to give us eternal life (a life of loving and pleasing God that lasts forever).
3. Believe in Jesus as the One who saves us from sin and gives eternal life.

Memory Verse: *John 10:11 I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

Note: You may wish to continue learning 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 if this lesson is not taught in May.

1. Teacher Direction

Jesus teaches several concepts important to Christianity in His dialogue with Nicodemus. All of them are difficult to explain to children of this age, because they are all abstract concepts. In this lesson, we focus only on the teaching of faith in God's provision for salvation from the punishment we deserve and for eternal life. There are two reasons for this specific focus. (1) Jesus used an illustration for this concept that is an Old Testament story, a story we can use in trying to help the children understand. (2) John 3:16, which summarizes the concept, is such a familiar verse. If it is not yet familiar to some of the younger children, it will probably become so soon.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

If you know of someone's pet snake you could bring, it would be a great visual aid. Pictures of snakes would be helpful too. Distribute a small amount of Play-Doh to each child and demonstrate how to roll it into a snake. Distribute a popsicle stick or a plastic straw to each child to use as a pole. Give each child one more small piece of Play-Doh and a small container (such as the very small paper cups used to serve catsup at a fast-food counter). Show the children how to pack the Play-Doh into the container, then insert the "pole" in so it will stand up. Then show them how to drape their Play-Doh snakes over the poles. Tell them to imagine the stick is a tall pole, like a flag pole, then ask, "Why would anyone want to put a snake up on a pole?" Tell them to listen for the part in today's story about a snake on a pole and see if they can learn the answer to the question of *why* it was put there.

3. **Bible Story**

Nicodemus was a teacher. Nicodemus knew God's word very well and so he taught it to other people. When Nicodemus saw Jesus, he knew right away that Jesus was a better teacher than he was. How did he know this? Nicodemus saw Jesus healing lame people and making blind men see. He knew only someone who had come from God could do those things. A teacher who had come straight from God must know much more than other people about God's word.

The teacher, Nicodemus, wanted to learn from Jesus, the best teacher of all. So one night Nicodemus came looking for Jesus. When he found him, Nicodemus said to Jesus, "Teacher, we know You are a teacher who has come from God. No one could do the wonderful things you do if God were not with him."

Jesus knew Nicodemus wanted to know more about God and so, that night, Jesus began teaching Nicodemus. One of the things Jesus wanted Nicodemus to know was why God had sent Him. He reminded Nicodemus of a story in God's word about the Israelites. Nicodemus knew that story well.

The Israelites had taken a long trip through the desert on their way to the land God had promised to give them. They had been traveling for years. There were hundreds of thousands of Israelites and no stores in the desert for buying food. There were no water fountains, and water there in the desert was often hard to find. Yet, through all those years, God had always given the Israelites everything they needed. Sometimes He made water come out of rocks for them. He caused bread to fall out of the sky every night for them, so all they had to do each morning was go out and pick it up. No enemy armies had hurt them as they traveled. They had never become lost, for God had always told them which way they should go.

With all that, you would think the Israelites would be thankful for God's care for them. Instead of being thankful, they complained and grumbled against God. They complained that the trip was too long. They complained that there wasn't enough water. They complained about the food that fell from the sky, saying, "We can't stand this miserable food any longer."

Do you think God was pleased with their complaining? Of course not. In fact, He was angry. This complaining was sin--it was doing what is not pleasing to God. What happens when you do something that is not pleasing to your mom or to your dad? (Let children share some of the consequences they have at their house for misbehavior.) **Because of the Israelites' sin, God sent poisonous snakes among them. Many snakes are not poisonous and won't hurt you, but if you are bitten by a *poisonous* snake, the poison from his bite may kill you. That is what happened to the Israelites. Many were dying from the poisonous snake bites, and they knew they could do nothing to help themselves.**

The Israelites knew that this was happening because of their sinful complaining. They told Moses, their leader, that they knew they had sinned against God and asked him to pray for them. God loved His people and wanted them to live. So when Moses prayed, God told him what to do so the people

would be saved from the snake bites. God told Moses to make a pretend snake, out of bronze. (If you own anything made of bronze and small enough to bring to class, it would be helpful for showing the children what bronze is. If not, you can just explain that bronze is a kind of metal.) Moses was to put the bronze snake up on a pole, where everyone could see it. Anyone who had been bitten by a poisonous snake would not die, but would live and get well *if* he would just look at the bronze snake on the pole. The snake on the pole was their only hope of living. Moses made the snake, and all who looked at it did not die from the snake poison, but lived. Of course, the bronze snake was not magic. A pretend snake could not have saved anyone. The people who got better lived because they believed God and did what He had said. They believed God enough to obey Him and look at the bronze snake.

When Jesus told Nicodemus why God had sent Him, He explained that He is like the bronze snake on the pole. He would die up on a cross for the sins of His people. All people have sinned against God and done what does not please Him--you have, I have, we all have. We deserve to be punished for our sin. On our own we, too, can do nothing about this. God gave the Israelites the bronze snake to look at to be saved from their punishment. God gave us Jesus to save us from punishment, too. The Israelites told the truth about their sin. They said they had sinned against God. Then they believed God and looked at the bronze snake as He had said to do. God wants us to tell the truth about our sin, too, and to agree that we have done things that God is not pleased with. God wants us to believe in His Son, Jesus, who died on the cross for us. That is how God can save us from the punishment we deserve and not punish us. Jesus is our only hope.

Jesus went on to tell Nicodemus that there is more. Whenever someone believes in Jesus, that person is not only saved from being punished for his sin, but God also gives that person eternal life. Eternal life means a new kind of life, in which we *are* able to love God and to please Him. Eternal life will last forever. When we believe in God, we will go on loving and pleasing God more and more, and will finally live with Him forever in Heaven.

4. Application

Help the children understand that *they* do what is displeasing to God and need Jesus to save them the consequences they deserve. Encourage them to believe in the solution God provided for their problem. Lead them in thanking God for sending Jesus, who saves us and who gives us eternal life so we *can* live lives that are pleasing to God.

5. Review questions

- A. What was the name of the teacher who came to Jesus? (Nicodemus)
- B. What time of the day was it when Nicodemus came? (Night)
- C. Why did Nicodemus believe that Jesus was a teacher who had come from God? (Because of His miracles--He could heal the sick and the blind, etc.)

- D. How had God taken care of the Israelites when they were making the long trip across the desert? (He had given them water out of rocks, He had given them bread from heaven, He had protected them from enemies, and guided them.)
- E. What did the Israelites complain about? (No water, the trip was too long and they were tired of the bread from heaven.)
- F. How did God feel about their complaining? (He was not pleased; it was sin.)
- G. What was the Israelites' punishment for sinning against God? (God sent poisonous snakes among them and when people were bitten, they died.)
- H. Why did God provide a way for the Israelites to be saved from the snake poison? (Because Moses prayed and because God loved them.)
- I. What was the way God gave for the Israelites to be saved? (Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. When people looked at it as their only hope, they were healed from the snake poison.)
- J. Were the people healed because the bronze snake was magic or because the people believed God and did what He said?
- K. Are there other people besides the Israelites who do what does not please God? (Yes; we all do.)
- L. What is the name for the things we do that do not please God? (Sin.)
- M. What has God given us so we will not be punished for our sin? (Jesus.)
- N. God told the Israelites to look at the pretend snake on the pole. What does God want us to do? (Tell the truth about our sin and believe in Jesus.)
- O. When someone believes in Jesus, God forgives that person's sin. God also gives the person a new life of loving and pleasing God. What do we call that? (Eternal life.)

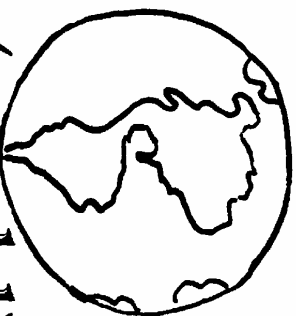
6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Use the attached page to help the children become acquainted with John 3:16. Read it with them, explaining which words the pictures represent. Then read it again, pausing at the pictures so they can supply those words. Remind the children that "believing in Him" is trusting God's solution to the problem of their sin, the way the Israelites trusted God by looking at the bronze snake. Explain that "perish" is getting the punishment sin deserves. Remind them again that eternal life is the new life God gives where we can love and please Him and grow to do that more and more. Eternal life lasts forever. Let the children color the pictures and the letters on the page.

For GOD so 

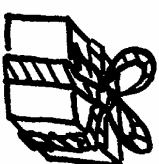
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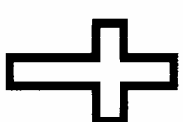


(Son)

that



believes in



(whoever)

(Him)

shall not perish but have
eternal life. John 3:16



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 1 - SPRING QUARTER

LESSONS 6* - 10

(*Lesson 6 is part of this unit if May has 5 Sundays)

THEME: Jesus teaches what it means to belong to Him

MEMORY VERSE SONG

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (teach the concept of "redeem")

CHORUS

There is a Redeemer

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

It was God's Plan (It works well to use visuals with this song, like the Betty Luken flannels.)

Up From the Grave He Arose

He Lives!

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Lesson 7

Title: Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Text: John 10:1-3, 8, 10

Theme: Jesus is the shepherd God promised His people. He came to give His sheep life.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Thank Jesus for being the good shepherd who has given him every good thing he has.
2. Believe in Jesus as the Shepherd who gives him everything he will ever need, especially a new life of loving and serving God.

Memory Verse: *John 10:11 I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

1. Teacher Direction

Using the imagery of a shepherd with His sheep, Jesus taught some important truths in the tenth chapter of John. We are going to take four weeks to look at several of these. While children can relate to and understand some of the shepherd/sheep concepts, they will not be nearly as familiar with the imagery as Jesus' first-century hearers would have been. You will want to carefully explain what the relationship between shepherds and sheep would have been.

In Ezekiel 34, God rebukes the leaders of Israel for failing to lead or provide for His people. He calls them shepherds who only take care of themselves and promises to send a true shepherd for His people. Here in John 10, Jesus says that those who came before Him were thieves and robbers but that He is the good shepherd. Jesus says the thieves came only to steal and kill and destroy, but He came that His sheep "might have life and have it to the full."

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Ask the children what a shepherd's job is. They will probably say he takes care of sheep. Ask them what kinds of things he does to take care of the sheep. He provides them with good food to eat and water to drink; he keeps them from wandering away where they would get lost or hurt; if they *do* get hurt, he takes care of their injuries so they will heal; if they get lost, he goes looking for them; he puts them in places to spend the night where they will be safe from wild animals, guarding them to be sure they are not bothered by anything. He makes sure the sheep have everything they need.

Role play a shepherd with his sheep, with you being the shepherd and the children being the sheep. Tell them it is morning and time to go find good grass to eat.

The good grass is up in the mountain pastures, so lead them, pretending to climb. Along the way, remind them that sheep have short legs for their sometimes heavy bodies and get tired. A good shepherd will not hurry them and will make sure they get the rest they need. Have your “sheep” stop to lie down and rest along the way, then continue on to the “pasture.” When you get there, tell the children that there are some weeds the sheep could eat that would make them sick, so a good shepherd will inspect the field first to make sure the grass is good for his sheep. Go ahead of your “flock” and inspect the “pasture;” then call them in to it and tell them to go ahead and eat the grass. Of course, the sheep will get thirsty, so gather them together and lead them to a place in the room that you have designated a stream. Tell the children that sheep are afraid of running water, so they will not drink from a running stream and the shepherd must dip water out of the stream and put it into a trough or container of some kind so it will be still and they can drink it. Pretend to draw and pour water for them, which they will pretend to drink. Now it is evening and time to find a safe place to spend the night. Lead the “sheep” to an area of the room that you will call a sheep pen. Have them go in one by one while you check to see if any of them have cuts or wounds from the day’s wandering. Pretend to put oil on any sores. Once they are all in the “pen,” settle down in the doorway yourself. Point out to the children that sheep are defenseless; they have short legs, so they cannot run fast. They have no claws and their teeth are not sharp. They depend on the shepherd to keep them safe.

Through this whole activity, keep pointing out that, if a sheep has a good shepherd, he has everything he needs. At the end, ask the children what would be the difference if they were sheep and you were not the shepherd, but a thief or robber. How would you treat the sheep differently? (You would steal one or more sheep to sell the wool or eat the meat, or maybe both; you would not be concerned about what was good for the sheep.)

3. Bible Story

Once, a long time ago, God’s people had a very good king. His name was King David. When King David was a boy, he had been a shepherd--a very good shepherd. He had made sure his sheep always had everything they needed. He would lead them to green pastures where they could eat good grass. He would lead them to water that was still and not running, so they could drink it. David had made sure his sheep had all the rest they needed. He was always careful to keep them safe. Once, David had fought a bear to protect his sheep and, another time, he had fought a lion.

Then when David was grown, God had made him the king over God’s people and he was just as good a king as he had been a shepherd. David took care of God’s people like he had taken care of his sheep. He made sure that the people had enough to eat. He protected them from the armies of enemy countries. David led the people in worshiping God. He was a good shepherd to God’s people. After David died, though, other kings came and they were not good kings. They taught God’s people to worship idols and to sin. These bad kings did not care about giving the people what they needed. They only cared about taking money from the people. God told these kings they were like bad

shepherds. They weren't caring for the sheep; they were only caring for themselves. God promised His people that He would give them another shepherd, who would be like King David, only better.

God kept His promise to give His people a good shepherd to take care of them when He gave His Son, Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." He said that those who had come before Him were thieves and robbers. They only came to steal and kill and destroy the sheep. But Jesus said, "I came that they might have life and have it to the full." This is one way that Jesus is the best shepherd for His people, better even than David had been. The best shepherd is the one who can give the sheep *everything* they need. David could not do that. What God's people needed the most was forgiveness for the times they had disobeyed God. They needed a new life that would make them able to say "no" to sinning against God and would make them able to know and please God instead. David could not give them these things.

Jesus is *the* good shepherd, the shepherd God had been promising all along. Jesus came bringing *everything* that we, His sheep, need. He brings forgiveness for the wrong we have done, when we believe in Him. He brings us new life, the fullest and best life of loving and obeying God. If you believe in Jesus and follow Him, you are one of His sheep and He is your shepherd. You will have everything you need.

4. Application

Point out to the children that every good thing they have has been provided for them by Jesus, the good shepherd who gives us what we need. Try to help the children to see that what all of us need the most is not *things*, but forgiveness for our sins and new life so we can know and love God and live for Him. Remind the children that only Jesus, the good shepherd, can give us, His sheep, these things we need so badly. Encourage them to believe in Jesus to give them all they need, including forgiveness and eternal life.

5. Review questions

- A. What is the job of a shepherd? (To take care of the sheep)
- B. What are some things the shepherd does to take care of his sheep? (He provides them with good food and water, keeps them from wandering, finds them if they get lost, protects them.)
- C. What does the shepherd need to look for before he can let the sheep eat? (Harmful weeds)
- D. What kind of water does the sheep need? (Still water that is not running.)
- E. Why is it so important for the shepherd to guard his sheep? (Because sheep cannot run fast and they have no sharp teeth or claws to protect themselves.)
- F. Who was the king over God's people who had been a shepherd when he was a boy? (David)
- G. What kind of king was David? (A good king who protected his people, made sure they had everything they needed, and led them in worshipping God.)
- H. What were the kings like who came after David? (They were kings who led the

- people in worshipping idols and who did not care about what the people needed.)
- I. What did God promise to give His people? (A shepherd who would be like King David.)
 - J. Who was the good shepherd God sent? (Jesus.)
 - K. Who could give God's people forgiveness of sins, David or Jesus? (Jesus.)
 - L. Who could give God's people new lives so they could love and obey God, David or Jesus? (Jesus)

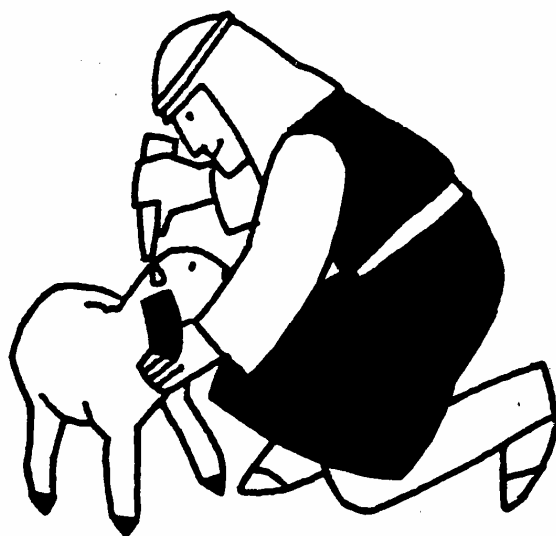
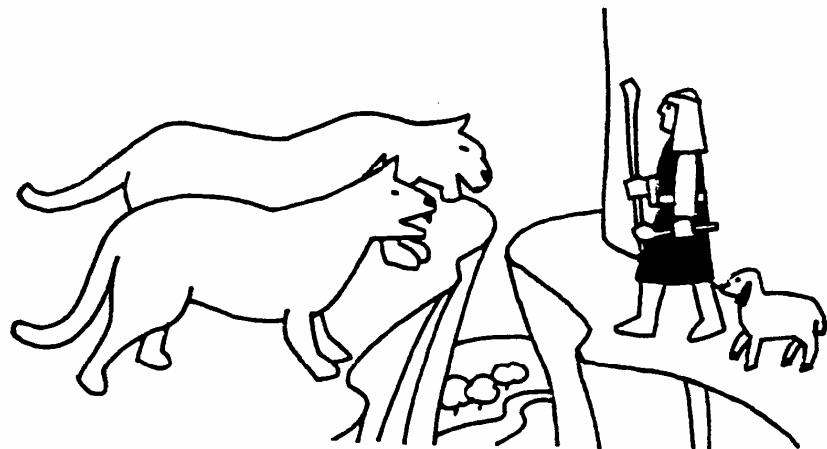
Learning Reinforcement Activity

Use the attached pictures to make little booklets for the children. As they color the pictures, discuss the pictures with them, helping them to think about what the shepherd is doing for the sheep in each picture and reminding them that if the Lord is *their* shepherd, they have everything they need.









**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Lesson 8

Title: Jesus the Shepherd Finds his Lost Sheep
Text: John 10:2-4 and 14-16 with Luke 15:3-7
Theme: Like a faithful shepherd, Jesus seeks His sheep who have wandered from Him through sin and brings them back to Himself and to safety.

Learning Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that, because of our sin, we are like sheep that have wandered from our shepherd.
2. Give thanks to Jesus as the One who brings us back to God, like a shepherd bringing sheep back to safety in the flock.
3. Ask Jesus to forgive their sin and to help them to turn from it to follow Him.

Memory Verse: *John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

1. Teacher Direction

Like a Middle Eastern shepherd to whom each sheep is precious, Jesus refuses to give up any of His sheep as lost. A good shepherd, upon realizing a sheep was missing from the flock, would not simply sit down to wait and see if the sheep would return on its own. Rather, the shepherd would go seek His sheep and would not rest until he had found it. In the same way, our Lord's role in the salvation of His people did not end with His death and resurrection. He does not now simply watch and wait and hope some will believe in Him so that He can save them. Rather, He actively seeks those who are His sheep. He orchestrates all the events of their lives so that they will hear His voice and He works in their otherwise sin-hardened hearts to enable them to hear Him calling and to respond. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, seeks and saves every one of His sheep and brings them all safely home.

2. Bible Story

Do you remember what David's job was before He was a King over God's people? (A shepherd.) **What did God promise He would send for His people?** (A shepherd.) **What did Jesus say that He is?** (The Good Shepherd.)

It is very important for sheep to stay near the shepherd. When they are with the shepherd, he will give them what they need. He will be sure to keep them safe. But if the sheep stray from the shepherd and go where he cannot see them, they will probably get hurt or be attacked by a wild animal.

Real sheep are not very smart. Real sheep *like* to stray from the shepherd. They don't understand how much they need the shepherd to take care of them. And so they will wander off every chance they get.

The Bible tells us that people are like sheep who wander away from the shepherd. There is a verse in our Bible that says, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray; we have each turned to his own way." When God made the first people, Adam and Eve, God planned to be a shepherd to them. He planned to give them everything they would need. He planned to take care of them and keep them safe. But, like sheep with a shepherd, Adam and Eve would need to stay close to God, their shepherd. They would need to follow Him. They were not supposed to stray away from Him. But Adam and Eve were like sheep who wander. They wanted to do things their way, not the shepherd's way. God told them they could eat any fruit they wanted, from any tree at all. Except, God said, there is one tree that has fruit you are not allowed to eat. Well, that was the very fruit Adam and Eve wanted. So they did what God had said not to do and ate it anyway. Do you see how they were like sheep that wander from the shepherd?

Every man and woman and boy and girl since then has done the same thing. God tells us what He wants us to do and we do what we want to do instead--like sheep that wander away instead of staying with the shepherd.

Does God want us to obey our parents? Of course He does. But sometimes we do not obey our parents. And every time we disobey, we are being like sheep that stray from God, our Shepherd.

Does God want us to be kind to others? Of course He does. But sometimes we hit other people or say mean things to them. And every time we do that, we are being like sheep that stray from God, our Shepherd.

Does God want us to share our things with others? Of course He does. But sometimes we are selfish and we want to keep everything to ourselves. Whenever we do that, we are being like sheep that stray from God, our Shepherd.

When we do what we want to do instead of what God wants us to do, it is called "sin." Sin causes us to go away from God, our Shepherd, and it keeps us away from Him.

God wants His sheep back. So He gave His only Son, Jesus, to be a Shepherd for us. Jesus is a Shepherd who will not allow His sheep to be lost and wandering. Jesus came to find all His sheep that had strayed because of sin. Jesus came to gather His sheep together and to take away the sin that separates them from God.

Jesus told a story about a shepherd. This shepherd had 100 sheep, but he noticed that one of his sheep was missing. You might think the shepherd would say, "Oh, well, I still have ninety-nine sheep. It would take a long time and be a lot of work to go find the one that is missing. And besides, that sheep is *always* wandering off. If it's lost and gets into trouble, that's just what it deserves. I'm better off without that sheep anyway."

But this shepherd was a *good* shepherd. He left the other sheep and went looking everywhere, determined to find his missing sheep. Do you think he found it? Of course he did. He would not give up until he had his sheep safe and sound again. Jesus told this story because that is the kind of shepherd *He* is. He finds His people, no matter how far away from God they have wandered in sin, and brings them safely back to God.

3. Application

Jesus came to turn us away from our sin and back to God. Do you want Him to be *your* shepherd? Believe in Him as the Shepherd God promised to send. Ask Him to turn *you* from your sin that separates you from God and to help you to follow Him.

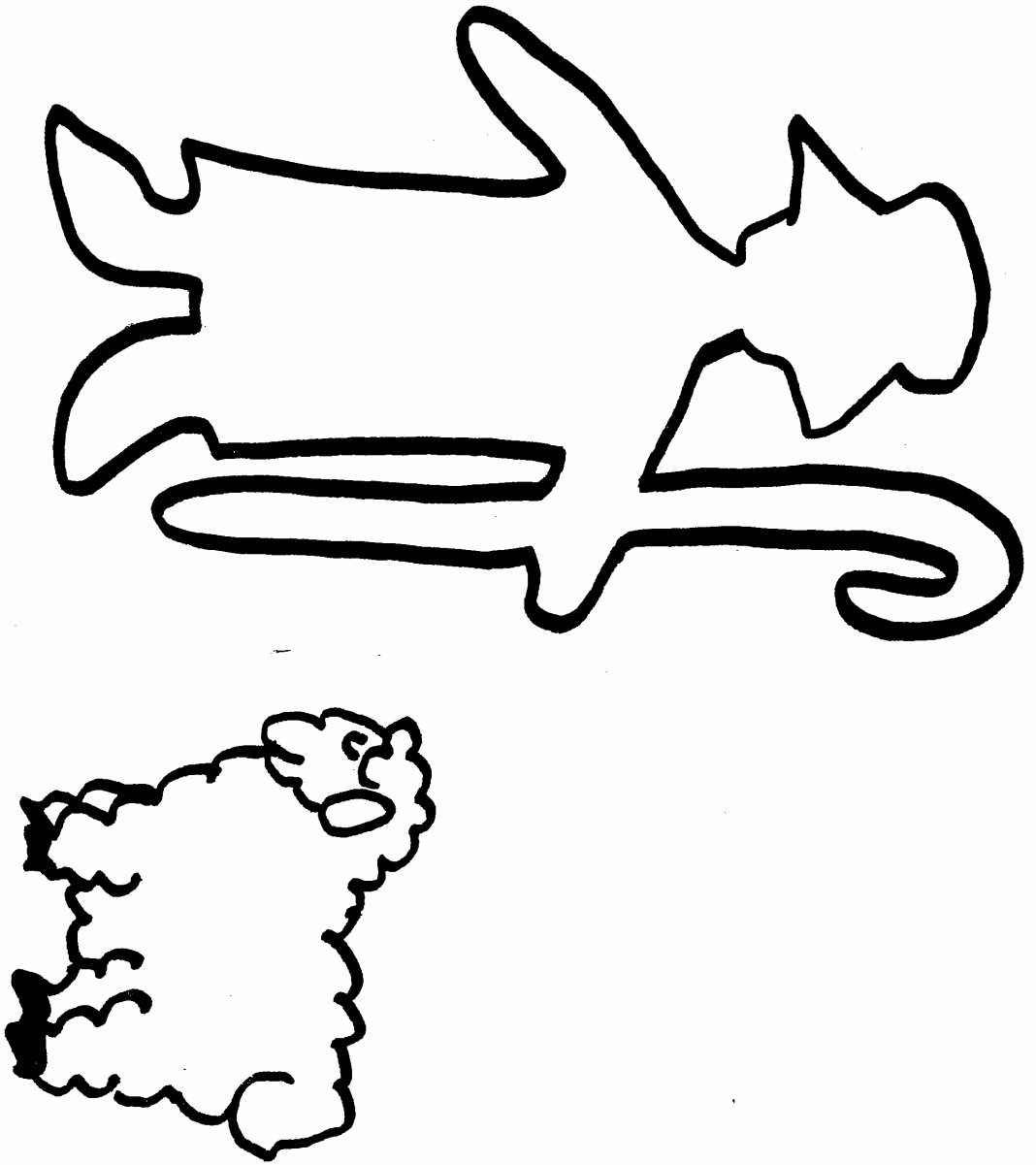
4. Learning Reinforcement Activities

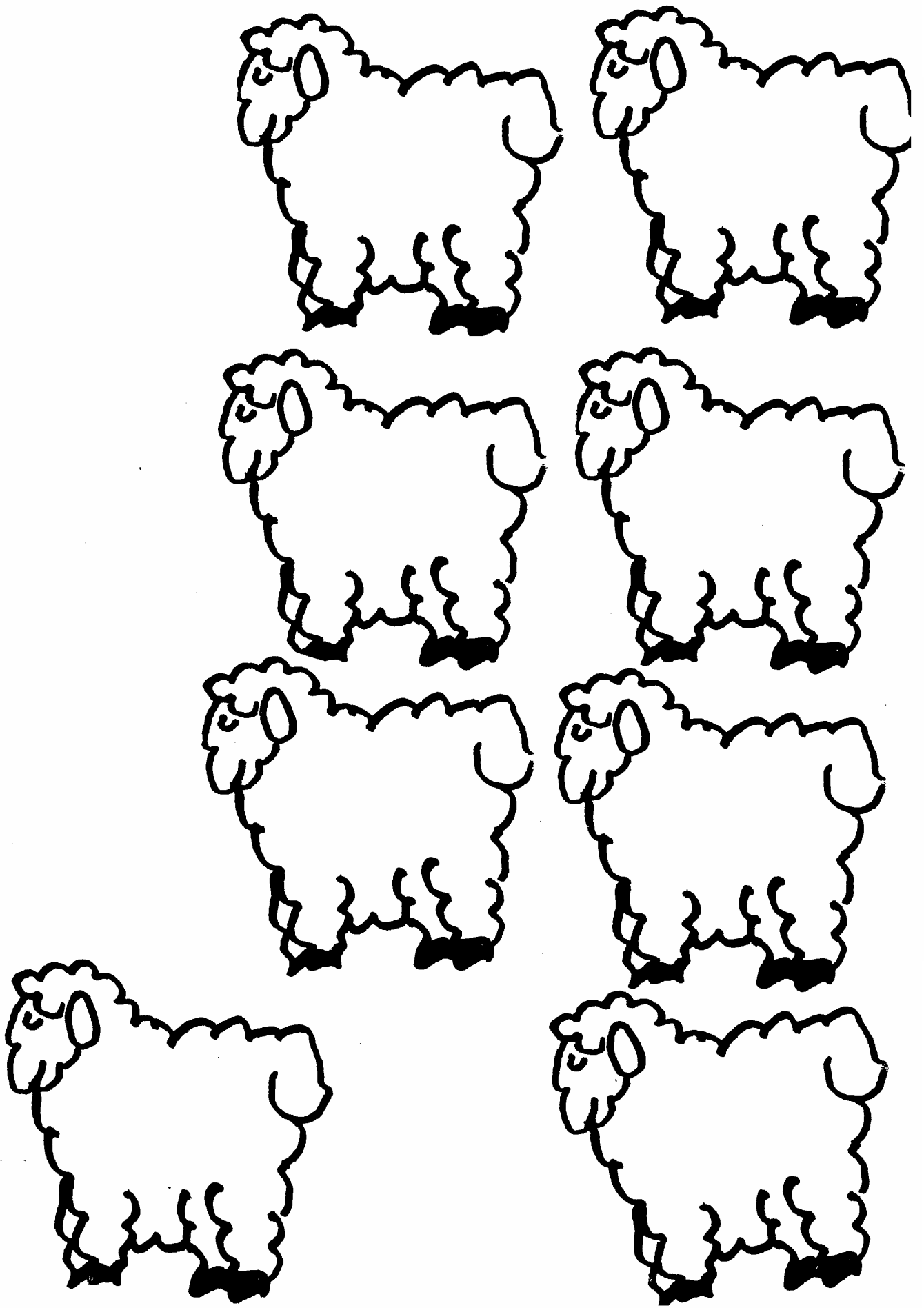
A. Find the Lost Sheep.

Before the class, cut out sheep, using the attached sheep pattern. Hide the sheep around the room. Let the children find the lost sheep. Afterward, children can take turns hiding (closing) their eyes while other children hide the sheep again. Remind the children that a good shepherd will not allow his sheep to stay lost. He will go out and look and look until the lost sheep is found. Jesus is the best shepherd. He will not allow any of His sheep to stay lost because of sin. He will do whatever it takes to bring back His wandering lambs.

B. Make copies on construction paper of the attached sheep and shepherd picture. Bring cotton for the children to glue on the sheep and possibly scraps of fabric to glue on the shepherd's robe. Children can also decorate the paper around the sheep and shepherd with grass, flowers, etc.







**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Lesson 9

Title: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who Lays Down His Life for His Sheep.
Text: John 10:11-13
Theme: Jesus love His people so much that He willingly died to save them from God's anger at their sin.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that shepherds in Bible times loved their sheep and would risk their own lives to protect them from wild animals.
2. Understand Jesus' comparison of himself to a good shepherd who willingly died to save His sheep.
3. Thank Jesus for His death to save them and put their faith in Him as the shepherd who died to save them.

Memory Verse: *John 10:11 I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*

1. Introduction

Ask one of your helpers to read the part of Shepherd #2 while you read the part of Shepherd #1. Tell the children to pretend they are sheep and to listen carefully because, after you both read, they need to choose which one they would want as their shepherd if they were really sheep.

Shepherd #1

Boy, am I tired. I can't wait until my time is up and I can go on home. I really needed a job, so I could earn some money, but I really don't like taking care of sheep. They are so much trouble. They're always doing dumb things and getting themselves into trouble and then I have to go rescue them. And you know what else? Sheep smell bad. I can hardly stand the way they smell. And when I go home, I smell like that myself, just from being around them all day. There is no way I would take care of these pesky, stinky sheep if I didn't really need the money.

Oh my goodness, who's that over there? I think it's a wolf! It is! It's a wolf and he's after that sheep that is standing over there by itself. What do I do? The man who hired me said I'm supposed to watch the sheep and be sure no wolves get any of them. But he didn't tell me what to do if a wolf really showed up. Am I supposed to go chase it off? I don't want to do that--what if it attacks *me*? Oooo--maybe if it sees me, it will attack me. I think I'll just get out of here while it isn't looking this way. (The reader sneaks off on tippy-toes.)

Shepherd #2

Mmmmmm. It's so nice sitting out here with my sheep. I love my sheep. Look how many I have. Why, I remember when I only had one mommy sheep and one daddy sheep. Then they had two babies, and little by little, my flock has grown until I have all these sheep! And look how healthy and happy they look. I

work hard to take care of my sheep and keep them looking happy and healthy like that. The dear sheep. Look at that one over there--that's the mommy sheep that had the first babies. She's old now, but she's like part of my family. I especially like that one. But then I especially like that new little baby over there, too. He was very sick when he was first born. I thought he might die, but I just gave him medicine and took care of him, hour after hour, until, finally, he grew strong. Now look at him run. I love that little guy.

Oh my goodness--what is that over there there? I do believe it's a wolf! And it's after my prize lamb--the one I'm raising to be a daddy sheep. How dare that wolf think it can bother my sheep. Where's my club? I'm going after him until he's either dead or has run so far no one will ever see him again!

Ask the children which shepherd they would rather have if they were sheep and why .

2. Bible Story

Do you know why the second shepherd cared about the sheep and the first shepherd did not? It is because the sheep did not really belong to the first shepherd. Someone had paid him to take care of them. They were not his. He was only taking care of them to get money. He did not really like them much, did he? Remember he said they were pesky and they smelled badly. But the second shepherd loved the sheep because they were his own sheep. He wasn't going to let anything happen to them.

Jesus talked about these two kinds of shepherds. He said that the shepherd who just takes care of sheep for the money will not fight for the sheep. When the wolf comes, he will run away. The *good* shepherd, who owns the sheep, will fight for them. He will even give his own life to protect the sheep. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." He is like the second shepherd. He cares about His people because they are *His* people. They belong to Him. He doesn't want anything to keep them away from Him and from His Father, God.

Do you remember why God's people are separated from Him? It is because of sin, the bad things people do that God does not like. God promised to send a Shepherd for His people who would make a way for their sin to be forgiven so that they would not be separated from God anymore. Do you know who the Good Shepherd God sent was?

It was Jesus. Jesus loved God's people so much that He was willing to die to protect them, like a good shepherd will die to protect his sheep. Jesus knew that God was angry because of the sin of His people and His people would have to be punished. Jesus wanted to protect His people from God's anger and punishment. But just like a shepherd cannot make the wolf go away unless he fights it, so Jesus could not make God's anger at sin go away unless He took the punishment Himself. When a shepherd protects a sheep from a wolf, he has to get between the wolf and the sheep. If the wolf attacks, it will attack the shepherd. When Jesus protected His people from God's anger at their sin, He got in between His people and God's anger. It was the Father's plan that He took the punishment for His people when He died on the cross. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for His sheep.

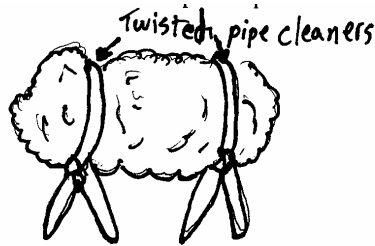
3. Application

Encourage the children to realize that *they* have sin that keeps them away from God and that God will have to punish someday. Encourage them to trust in Jesus, who died in their place to take the punishment they deserved. Lead them in thanking Jesus for being such a good shepherd that He dies to protect and save His sheep.

4. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Spend some time working with the memory verse. Explain to the children that “lays down his life” means “dies.” The good shepherd dies for his sheep. Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Roll a ball to one of them. When he catches it, he is to say the verse. He rolls it to someone else, who says the verse when he catches it and rolls the ball to someone else, etc.

B. Help the children to make sheep to serve as reminders of these lessons on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Give each child a piece of cotton batting and two six-inch pipe cleaners. Show them how to twist the pipe cleaners around the cotton to form a simple sheep.



C. Cut out a construction paper shepherd. On the board, draw a flock of sheep. Then, some distance away, draw one lone sheep who has wandered. Use the following questions to review the stories from the last few weeks. Each time a child answers correctly, the shepherd may move a little closer to the lost sheep, until he finds it.

1. What is the job of a shepherd? (Care for the sheep.)
2. What are some things the shepherd does to take care of his sheep? (Leads them to good grass and to still water, keeps them from wandering and goes to get them when they do wander, keeps them from getting hurt and takes care of their injuries when they do get hurt, protects them from enemies.)
3. Who was the king over God's people who had been a shepherd when he was a boy? (David)
4. What kind of king was David? (a good king)
5. What were the kings like who came after David? (Bad kings; they led the people into idol worship.)
6. What did God promise to give His people? (A good shepherd.)
7. Who was the good shepherd God sent? (Jesus)
8. Who could give God's people forgiveness of sins, David or Jesus? (Jesus)
9. Who could give God's people new lives so they could love and obey God, David or Jesus?
10. Who were the first man and woman? (Adam and Eve.)
11. What did they do that was like sheep wandering away from the shepherd? (Disobeyed God.)
12. What is the word for people disobeying God? (Sin)
13. What is that separates people from God, their shepherd? (Sin)
14. Jesus told a story about a shepherd who had 100 sheep. One sheep wandered away. What did the shepherd in the story do? (He left the other sheep and looked for the lost one until he found it.)
15. When one of Jesus' people has wandered from Him by sinning, does Jesus bring those people back? (Yes.)
16. Who loves the sheep most: the shepherd who takes care of the sheep for the money or the shepherd to whom the sheep belong? (The one to whom the sheep belong.)
17. Which shepherd is Jesus like? (The one to whom the sheep belong.)

18. What did Jesus say the good shepherd does for his sheep? (Lays down his life or dies for them.)
19. When might a shepherd die or at least risk his life for his sheep? (When a wolf or other animal comes to attack.)
20. When did Jesus lay down His life for His sheep? (When He died on the cross for their sin.)

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Lesson 10

Title: Jesus' Sheep Hear His Voice and Follow Him

Text: John 10:3-5, 14, 22-27

Theme: If we believe in and obey Jesus, we know we are among those for whom Jesus cares and to whom He gives eternal life.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that, in Bible times, when the shepherd called, his sheep followed him.
2. Hear Jesus' call to follow Him and respond in faith and obedience.

Memory Verse: *John 10:11 I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*

1. Teacher Direction

It is wonderful to know that the Lord Jesus Christ *will* accomplish the salvation He came to accomplish. Through His life and death in our place, Christ has done all that was necessary for the salvation of His people. He will also accomplish all that yet needs to be done in the hearts of those people to bring them to saving faith in Himself. The Good Shepherd came to find His lost sheep and bring them to safety and to fulness of life. He will call every one of His sheep and He will so work in each of their hearts that every one of them will hear His voice and will respond by following Him.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

During the week, make a cassette tape of short samples of a variety of different sounds. One by one, play the sounds for the children and let them guess what each one is. Discuss with them how they had to listen carefully to know what a specific sound was. Remind them that they have been learning about shepherds and sheep. Tell them that they will see today why it was important for sheep to listen carefully to sounds.

3. Introduction and Learning Readiness Activity

Ask the children if they have ever seen, either in real life or on television or a movie, how people move a large flock of sheep from one place to another. If someone has seen this, let them describe how it is done. Explain that sheep herders today get behind their sheep and do something to frighten them into moving away. That is how they get them to move in the direction they want them to go. They often use dogs who run alongside the sheep while barking. The sheep don't like the dogs, so they won't turn toward the dogs. That is how the sheep herders keep the sheep moving in the right direction, so they won't go the wrong way.

Then explain that shepherds in Bible times went *ahead* of their sheep and led

them. The sheep knew the shepherd and trusted him, so when he called them, they followed him. This is why it was important for the sheep to listen carefully. They had to know when their own shepherd was calling them so they could follow him. They had to listen for their own shepherd's voice and when they heard the voices of other shepherds, they were not to listen to those people or follow them. Sometimes, at night, several shepherds with several flocks might spend the night together. The sheep would get all mixed up with each other. In the morning, how would the shepherds separate their flocks? It was easy; one shepherd would start calling. All his sheep knew his voice and would come to him, but the other sheep would not come to him. They would wait until they heard their own shepherd's voice and go to him when he called.

Divide the class into as many groups as you have teachers and helpers. The teachers and helpers are shepherds and the children are sheep. Assign every "sheep" to one of the "shepherds." Each teacher leads his or her sheep around for a few minutes. Then tell the children it is night time. All shepherds and flocks come together to spend the night. Tell the children to mix together with all the other "sheep." Then announce that it is morning. The sheep are to listen for their own shepherd to call and are to come to her when she calls. Teachers take turns calling--or maybe two or three call at the same time--and the "sheep" separate and go to their own "shepherds" and follow them back to their seats.

4. Bible Story

God had promised to send a Shepherd for His people. They needed a shepherd because they had wandered away from God because of their sin. God kept the promise to send a shepherd when He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." Jesus came to bring His scattered sheep back to God, where they would be safe and cared for. Jesus said, "I came that they might have life and have it to the full."

But how would people know that Jesus was the Shepherd God had promised? They could know because Jesus was able to do many special things that other people cannot do. He was able to heal sick people and calm storms and bring dead people back to life. Jesus showed in many ways that He was the Shepherd from God. Everyone should have been able to see that. Some people did, and they believed in Him. Some people, though, did not believe that Jesus was the One God had promised to send. They did not believe, even though they saw all the wonderful things He did.

One day, some men were talking to Jesus. They said, "Now tell us the truth. Are you the one God said He would send or not?"

Jesus said, "You can see that I am. I have told you I am before. You have seen Me heal people and do other amazing things no one else can do. But you don't believe in Me. The reason you don't believe in Me is because you are not My sheep. Sheep know their own shepherd; they hear His voice and follow Him, but they won't follow anybody else. If you were My sheep, you would listen to Me and believe in Me. But you aren't My sheep. The ones who are My sheep, they know I am the One God promised to send and they believe in Me."

Are you one of Jesus' sheep? If you are, you will know that He wants *you* to believe in Him and to follow Him by being obedient to Him. Jesus has

promised to give His sheep everything they need to follow Him all their lives. He has promised to protect them and bring them finally to live with Him in heaven.

5. Application

Help the children to see that the *only* good shepherd is Jesus. They can only be safe and happy if He is *their* shepherd. Encourage them to respond to His calling by believing in Him as the Shepherd God promised and by following Him.

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Have the children repeat the memory verse together several times. Remind them that sheep had to listen carefully to be able to tell the shepherd's voice from the voices of others. Have different children take turns hiding their eyes (or blindfold them). Point silently to a volunteer to say the memory verse. See if the child who is not looking can identify who said the verse by that person's voice alone.

I am the Good Shepherd.
The Good Shepherd lays down
his life
for the sheep.

John 10:11

A decorative border of musical staves with colorful notes (red, green, yellow, blue, orange) surrounds the central text. The notes are stylized and scattered across the staves.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC YEAR 1 - SPRING QUARTER
EASTER LESSONS 1-3

THEME: The Life of Jesus - His Resurrection

MEMORY VERSE SONG

*1 Corinthians 15:3-4 "Christ died for our sins...
And was raised to life."*

HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (teach the concept of "redeem")

CHORUS

There is a Redeemer

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

*It was God's Plan (It works well to use visuals with this song,
Like the Betty Luken flannels.)
Up From the Grave He Arose
He Lives!*

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6-YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Easter 1

Title: The Triumphal Entry of Jesus
Text: John 12:12-16
Theme: Jesus fulfills the Old Testament prophecies about the King God promised to send.

Lesson Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that God's Old Testament promises to send a perfect King for His people came true when Jesus came.
2. Praise Jesus for being the perfect King God had promised to send.
3. Trust Jesus as the King who provides all they need and obey Him as their King.

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (excerpts) Christ died for our sins . . .and was raised to life.*

1. Teacher Direction

Because God is the sovereign ruler of all that is, He can predict with perfect accuracy what will happen in the future. It is not simply that He *knows* everything so that He knows what will happen. It is rather that He *rules* everything so that He causes it to happen. In this short account of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt to the acclaim of the multitude, John's emphasis is on how this action fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. In this story, Jesus does not passively wait for things that would fulfill prophecy to happen to Him; He takes the initiative to find the donkey colt and enters Jerusalem upon it "as it is written." As the Word of God, Jesus had an active role both in giving the promises to Old Testament prophets and, as the incarnate Word, in causing their fulfillment.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Let children help you prepare palm branches they will use later to role play the parade that welcomed Jesus. Here are two suggestions for making palm branches. (1) Pre-cut large pieces of green construction paper in the shape of palm branches. The children could help cut slits around the edges (like fringe). (Children more skilled in handling scissors might be able to cut out their own branches from construction paper, cutting around lines you have drawn.) (2) Pre-cut many long strips of green construction paper that children can help you tape to the end portions of paper towel rolls to make palm branches.

3. Introduction

(If you have a small American flag, bring it to use here.) Tell the children to imagine that they are watching a parade. People line both sides of the street and many people have little American flags they are waving. Ask them what kind of a parade it might be if many people are waving flags. Tell them that sometimes there is a parade

given in honor of someone. The person might be leader of the country or someone who hopes to become a leader in the country. Or he might be a hero for the country, like an army general who led his soldiers to victory or like an astronaut who has planted his country's flag on the moon. Tell the children that when Jesus was on earth, He lived in the country of Israel. Back then, there was not an Israelite flag, but Israelite people wanting to celebrate something about their country would wave palm branches. If they wanted to honor a hero or a leader of their country, they would wave palm branches in a parade.

4. Bible Story

For hundreds and hundreds of years, the Israelites had been waiting for God to send the perfect King. There had been kings in Israel before, many kings. Some of the kings had been good kings and some had been very bad--but none of the kings, not even the best one, had been perfect. Ask the children what they think a perfect king would be like. Bring out ideas like these: he would never be selfish or mean, he would always know what was the best thing to do, he would always do what was best for his people, he would always protect his people from all their enemies, he would always provide everything his people needed, he would not allow people in his kingdom to do what was wrong, etc. **God had promised that, some day, He would give His people the perfect King. His kingdom would never end, but would last forever. There were many promises in the Old Testament about God's perfect King. So God's people, the Israelites, waited for the King to come.**

When Jesus came, He was the perfect King God had promised. Jesus is not just the King of the one country, Israel; Jesus is the King over everything. He is the perfect King. He always does what pleases God. He gives His people everything they need, even forgiveness for their sins and a new heart so they can do what is pleasing to God. Jesus knew all along He was the perfect King God had promised.

The Israelite people were waiting for the perfect King, but they did not understand what kind of King He would be. They thought He would just be the king of their little country. They thought He would lead an army into battle and destroy all their enemies. That was not the kind of King Jesus would be, but when the people saw Jesus feed more than five thousand people and when they saw Him bring Lazarus back to life, they were sure He was the kind of King they wanted.

It was time for Jesus to go into the big city of Jerusalem. There, His enemies would arrest Him and kill Him. Jesus knew this would happen. He knew that part of being the perfect King was dying, there in Jerusalem, for the sins of His people. As Jesus was getting ready to go into Jerusalem, the people heard that He was on His way there. They went out to meet Him and to honor Him, believing He might be the King they were waiting for. As they went to meet Him, they cut down palm branches to wave before Him, like we might wave little American flags for an American president or an American hero.

Jesus knew what kind of king the Israelite people wanted Him to be. He

knew He was not that kind of king, but He knew He was the perfect King God had promised. He knew that all the promises in the Old Testament were about Him. Jesus knew that one of the Old Testament promises told God's people not to be afraid, because, the promise said, "see, your King is coming seated on a donkey's colt." So Jesus found a young donkey, one that had never been ridden yet, and borrowed it from its owner. Jesus got on the donkey colt and rode it into Jerusalem. Since Jesus was the King God had promised, and since one of the promises was that the King would come riding on a donkey colt, Jesus made sure the promise was kept.

The Israelite people met Him with their palm branches. Some of them waved the branches. Others laid the branches down on the road in front of Jesus and the donkey, to make a special carpet for the King to ride upon. Together, the people shouted praise to Jesus, saying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus knew He was not the kind of king these people wanted. He knew they did not yet understand what kind of King He was to be. But He knew He was the perfect King God had promised, so He accepted their praises as He rode on His way to Jerusalem.

5. Application

Help the children to see that now, with all of the New Testament to explain to us what kind of King Jesus is, we can know better than the Israelites of Jesus' day that Jesus is the perfect King God had promised. We understand what the Jews did not-- that Jesus rules in the hearts of His people, changing them and making them able to obey God. We know that Jesus rules over all things, for God's glory and for the good of His people. Lead them in praising Jesus for being the perfect King. Encourage them to trust in Him as the One who provides everything His people need and to obey Him as their King.

6. Review questions

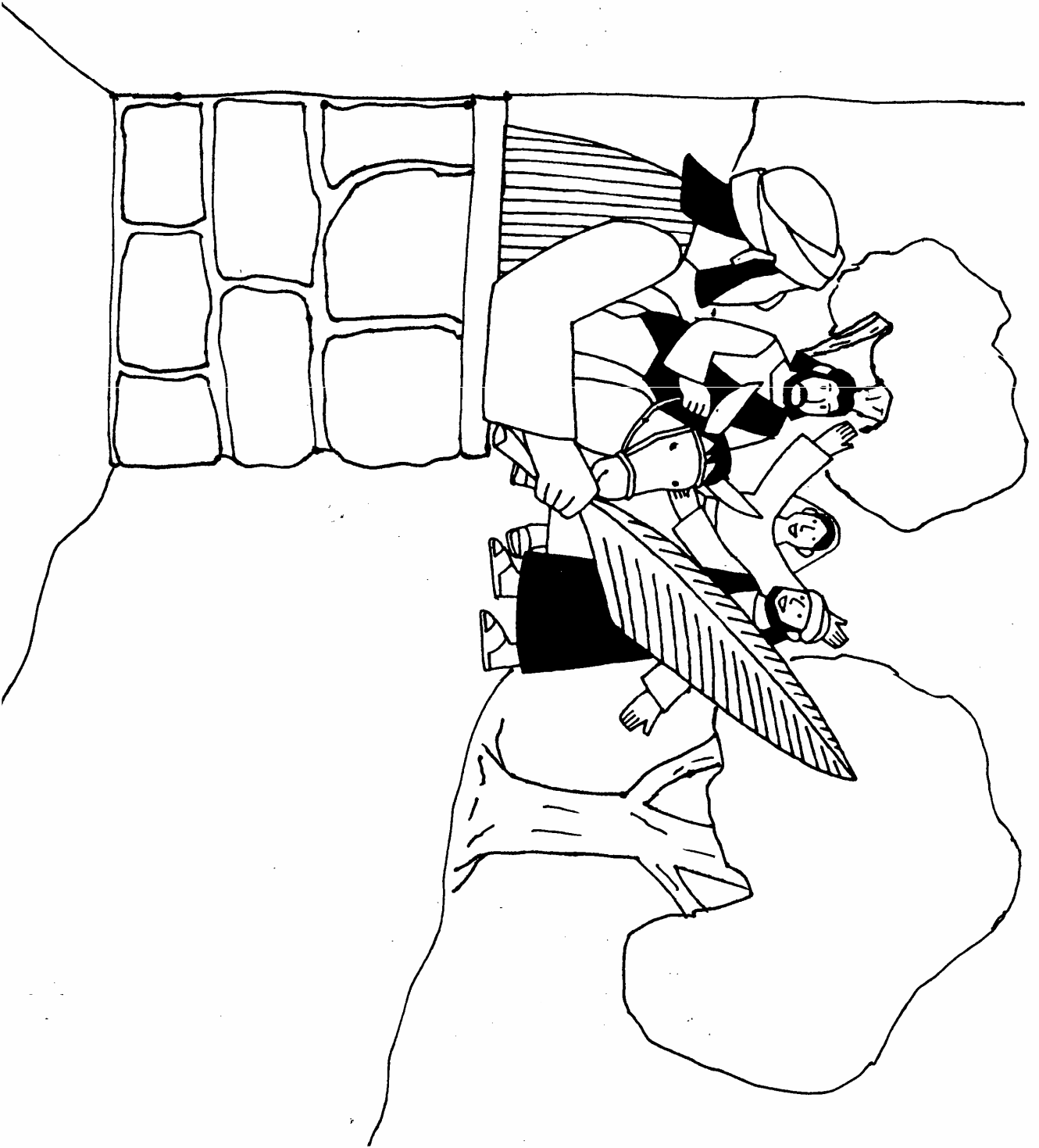
- A. What had God promised to send His people? (A perfect King.)
- B. Who was the perfect King God had promised to send? (Jesus.)
- C. What did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? (A donkey colt.)
- D. *Why* did Jesus ride the donkey colt into Jerusalem? (Because an Old Testament promise said the King would come on a donkey colt.)
- E. What did the people do when Jesus rode into Jerusalem? (Went to meet Him, waving palm branches and praising Him.)
- F. Did the people understand what kind of King Jesus would be? (No.)

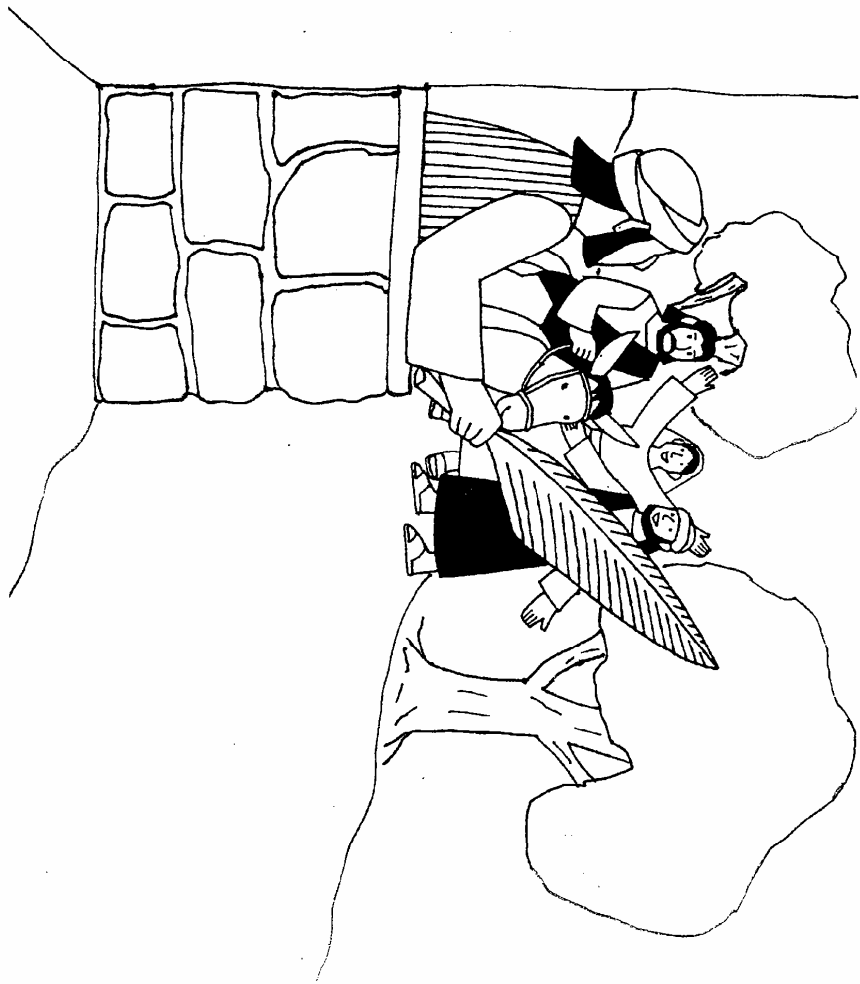
7. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Using the palm branches made before the story time, lead the children in acting out the story. They can hear that Jesus is coming and go cut down palm branches, then run to meet Him. They can go before Him in a pretend parade, waving their palm

branches and saying, “Hosanna. Blessed is the King of Israel.” If they each have two branches, they could lay one down in “the road” and wave the other. Remind the children that, for them, praising Jesus as King can be more real than for the people in the story, because they understand that Jesus is King in the hearts of His people and is Ruler of the whole universe, not just a king of one little country.

B. Make copies of the attached picture for the children to color. Have them either tear palm branches from green construction paper to glue on the road in their pictures, or give small palm branch shapes already cut from green paper, and let them glue those.





**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SPRING**

Easter 2

Title: Jesus' Death and Resurrection
Text: John 18:1-20:18
Theme: Jesus willingly died to take the punishment for the sins of God's people, then rose from the dead.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that Jesus died willingly to take the punishment for sin that His people deserved.
2. Believe in Jesus as the One whose death saves him from sin.
3. Rejoice that Jesus rose from the dead and lives today.

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (excerpts) Christ died for our sins . . .and was raised to life.*

1. Introduction

Begin the morning with a brief discussion of what special day it is today. Talk about what we do that is special today and why it is special. Tell the children that the first Christians were Jesus' personal friends. They had been very sad to see Him die, so of course they were very happy when they realized that He had risen from the dead. Not just on Easter Sunday, but often when the first Christians met each other, instead of saying "Hi," they would greet one another by saying, "Christ is risen." The answer was, "He is risen indeed." Practice this a couple of times with the children, then say it several different times at appropriate places during the morning.

2. Bible Story

Jesus always went about doing good. He showed people God's love by healing the sick and by teaching about God. He never did anything that was bad or mean. Some people did not like Jesus, though, because they did not want to believe that He was God's Son. They did not want to believe that they needed Jesus to save them from their sin. These people thought they were good enough the way they were. These people became Jesus' enemies. They argued with Him every chance they had. They made fun of Him and tried to keep people from listening to Him. Finally, they planned to have Him killed.

One night, Jesus' enemies sent soldiers to arrest Him. Jesus' disciples would have fought the soldiers, but Jesus would not let them. The soldiers took Jesus to His enemies. They made fun of Him and beat Him and finally said He had to die. Jesus' enemies handed Him over to Roman soldiers who took Jesus out to a hill outside of the city. There they nailed Jesus to a cross so He would die.

Jesus can do anything, can't He? We've had stories about Jesus making a little bit of food into enough to feed a big crowd. We've seen how Jesus could heal blind and lame and sick people, even from far away. We saw that Jesus could walk on water and bring dead people back to life. If Jesus can do anything, couldn't He have come down off the cross? Why didn't He?

Jesus did not come down off the cross because He did not want to. He wanted to die. Of course, Jesus did not like being hurt and He did not like dying. But He knew that we needed Him to die. When He died on the cross, He was taking the place of His people. He was taking the punishment all His people deserved for all the bad things they do. Jesus knew that if He paid for the bad things we do by taking our punishment, God could forgive our sin. So Jesus died on the cross because He wanted to. He died for us.

When Jesus died, of course His friends were very sad. They took His dead body down off the cross and put it in a tomb in a garden. (A tomb was a hole in a rock, like a cave, where dead people were buried.) The tomb had a big, heavy rock to roll in front of the opening, like a door. After Jesus was placed inside the tomb, the big rock was rolled in front of the doorway, to close it.

The next day was the Sabbath, a day to rest and worship God. Like everyone else, Jesus' friends rested on the Sabbath. The day after the Sabbath, one of Jesus' good friends, Mary Magdalene, went to the tomb very early in the morning, while it was still dark. Mary loved Jesus and even though He was dead, she wanted to be near Him. When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb, she saw that someone had rolled away the big stone from the door of the tomb. Mary thought that someone had opened the tomb and taken Jesus' body away, to put it somewhere else. She ran to Peter and John, Jesus' disciples, and told them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

When Peter and John heard this, they ran to the tomb to see for themselves. When they arrived at the tomb, they stepped inside. There they saw all the cloths Jesus' body had been wrapped in. The cloths were lying there, but Jesus' body was gone!

Peter and John went back to their own houses, but Mary Magdalene stayed in the garden, near the tomb. Mary was crying. It was bad enough that her dear Jesus was dead, but now she did not even know where His dead body was. As she cried, she peeked inside the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, where Jesus' body had been. One of the angels said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?" Mary must have been very sad, because she never stopped to notice these were angels or to wonder what they were doing in the tomb. All she said to them was, "I'm crying because they've taken away the Lord and I don't know where they have put Him." She turned away, still crying.

When she turned away from the tomb, she saw a man standing near her. She thought the man must be the gardener who worked in the garden. She did not realize that it was Jesus, risen from the dead. Jesus said to her, "Woman,

why are you crying? Whom are you seeking?” “Sir,” Mary said, “if you have taken Him away, please tell me where you have put Him.” Then Jesus said to her, “Mary.” When she heard Him say her name, Mary suddenly realized it was Jesus. He was alive and standing there talking to her!

Mary was so glad! Jesus told her to go back to His disciples and tell them that He was alive again. Mary was thrilled to have such wonderful news to tell! She ran back to the disciples, announcing, “I have seen the Lord!”

3. Application

Be sure the children understand that Jesus did not have to die. He chose to die to take the punishment for our sins. Help them to see that they need to trust in Him and His death in their place, so their own sins can be forgiven. Encourage them to rejoice and to praise Jesus for being able to come back to life again, to live forever.

4. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Let the children answer these questions by clapping their hands for “yes,” stomping their feet for “no.”

Did Jesus do good while He was on earth?

Did He ever do anything that was bad or mean?

Did Jesus teach people the truth about God?

Did everyone love Jesus?

Did everyone believe what Jesus said?

Did Jesus have any enemies?

Did soldiers come for Jesus?

Did Jesus let His disciples fight the soldiers?

Did people put Jesus on a cross to kill Him?

Did Jesus like being hurt and dying?

Did Jesus *want* to die for us?

Did Jesus die?

Did Jesus stay dead?

When Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, did she find Jesus’ body?

When Peter and John ran to the tomb, did they find Jesus’ body?

When Mary Magdalene could not find Jesus’ body, did she cry?

When Mary Magdalene saw Jesus, did she know it was Jesus?

When Mary saw Jesus, did she think He was the gardener?

When Jesus said, “Mary,” did Mary realize it was Jesus?

Was Mary glad to see Jesus alive again?

Did Mary go tell the disciples?

Is Jesus alive now?

Will Jesus ever die again?

B. Help the children to thread a pipe cleaner through three jingle bells to make Easter rhythm bells. Help them thread the pipe cleaner through the opening in a wooden (non-clip) clothespin and tie the ends around the clothespin’s “neck.” Let them

use their Easter bells during music time to celebrate the glad truth that Jesus rose and is alive.

C. Designate an area of the room to be the garden and have something in the garden you can call the tomb (preferably, something children can step inside. A blanket draped, tent-like, would work.). Place a sheet inside the “tomb” to represent the grave-clothes. Allow the girls to act out the part of Mary going to the tomb, running to the disciples, going back to the tomb to cry, then running to tell the disciples she had seen Jesus. The boys can play the part of Peter and John.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 1

Easter 3

Title: Jesus Appears to Doubting Thomas
Text: John 20:19-31
Theme: We can believe that Jesus died to pay for our sins and that He rose from the dead.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that Jesus' resurrection proves that He truly is God.
2. Believe in Jesus as the Son of God whose death pays for the sins of those who trust in Him.

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (excerpts) Christ died for our sins . . . and was raised to life.*

1. Teacher Direction

The gospel accounts of the death and burial of Jesus are full of details that make it clear that Jesus truly was dead and His grave fully secured against tampering of any kind. That makes it all the more significant that, so soon after His death, the story of His resurrection began to circulate freely and His enemies were helpless to refute it. All they would have had to do to stop the story was to produce Jesus' dead body. They never did this, because they could not. His body had risen. As Thomas discovered in today's story, the fact of Jesus' resurrection is well attested. Thomas rightly understood that Jesus' return to life from the dead proves His deity. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know He is God, so we know that His death was adequate to accomplish our salvation.

2. Review/Introduction

Begin by reviewing last week's story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

- A. When Jesus was on earth, did everyone love Him?
- B. In last week's story, what did Jesus' enemies do? (Sent soldiers to arrest Him, made fun of Him and beat Him, nailed Him to a cross to die.)
- C. Could Jesus have come down off the cross if He had wanted to?
- D. Why didn't He come down from the cross? (He wanted to die in our place, to take the punishment for our sin.)
- E. After Jesus died, what did His friends do with His dead body? (Put it in a tomb.)
- F. When Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early in the morning, what did she find? (The stone had been rolled away from the opening of the tomb.)
- G. What did she do? (She ran to tell Peter and John.)
- H. What did Peter and John do? (Ran to the tomb.)
- I. What did they see when they looked in the tomb? (The graveclothes, but no body.)
- J. As Mary was crying near the tomb, what did she see when she looked in? (Two angels)
- K. When Jesus appeared to Mary, who did she think it was? (The gardener.)

- L. When did Mary realize it was really Jesus? (When He said her name.)
M. What did Mary do then? (She ran and told the disciples that she had seen Jesus alive.)

3. Bible Story

That same day when Mary saw Jesus, in the evening, the disciples were gathered together in a room. They made sure the door was closed and locked, because they were afraid of Jesus' enemies. Only three days ago, Jesus' enemies had killed Jesus. Maybe they would come for Jesus' disciples too. So the disciples were very careful to keep the door locked. They were talking about the amazing things that had happened that day. Someone had moved the stone away from the door of the tomb. Jesus' body was no longer in the tomb, although the cloths His body had been wrapped in were there. Some of the women said they had seen angels who had told them that Jesus was no longer dead, and Mary Magdalene had said that she had actually seen Jesus Himself, alive again.

The disciples had a lot to talk about. As they talked together that evening, suddenly, Jesus was there in the room with them. No one saw Him come in. The locked door was still shut and locked. Yet there was Jesus, in the room with them and very much alive. Jesus said to His disciples, "Peace be with you." Then, to make sure they knew this was really Him and not someone dressed up and pretending, He showed them His hands. What do you think they saw when they looked at His hands? They saw the marks the nails had made when He was on the cross. He showed them His side, where a soldier had stabbed Him with a spear. When they saw those places where Jesus had been hurt, the disciples knew it really was Jesus.

Imagine how very happy the disciples must have been. Jesus told them that He was sending them into the world, as the Father had sent Him into the world. They would tell everyone that He had died for people's sins and had risen again. Jesus told the disciples that He would give them the Holy Spirit to help them. Then He was gone.

Ten of the disciples were very excited to have seen Jesus. One of them, however, a man named Thomas, was not there when Jesus came. Later, when the other disciples saw Thomas, they eagerly told him, "We have seen the Lord! We have seen the Lord! He's alive and we've seen Him!" That was too much for Thomas. He did not believe them. Surely he would have wished they were telling the truth. He would have thought that it would be wonderful if Jesus were alive again, but he had seen Jesus' dead body. Dead people don't become alive again. He was sure the other disciples must have been imagining things. "But we *did* see Him!" the other disciples insisted. "He showed us His hands and we saw the nail marks. He showed us His side and we saw where He was pierced by the soldier's spear." Still, Thomas would not believe it. He answered, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails and touch those marks myself, and unless I feel the wound in His side from the spear, I will not believe."

The other disciples wished they could make Thomas believe. Then he could share their joy. There was nothing they could do, though. He would have to see Jesus for himself. A week later, the disciples were again gathered together in a room. This time, Thomas was with them. Again, Jesus suddenly appeared among them. To all the disciples, Jesus said, "Peace be with you." Then Jesus turned to speak to Thomas. "Reach here your finger and see My hands," He said. "Reach here your hand and touch My side. Don't be unbelieving, but believing."

Thomas was so happy! It was really true! Jesus really was alive again! Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" Now Thomas knew that Jesus was God, because

He had come back to life after being killed. Since Jesus was God, Thomas knew that

Jesus was also his Lord, the One he must obey.

God wants us to believe Jesus rose from the dead too. That is why He gave us so many stories in the Bible from people who saw Jesus dead and then saw Him alive again. God wants us to believe, like Thomas did, that Jesus is *our* Lord and *our* God. When we believe in Jesus, as Thomas did, God forgives our sins and gives us new lives we can live for Him.

4. Application

Tell the children that Jesus told Thomas, “You believe because you have seen Me. Blessed are they who did not see and yet believed.” We can believe Jesus rose from the dead because God tells us so in His word. He gave us the stories of many who saw Him both dead and alive. Encourage the children to believe in Jesus as the risen Son of God who gives forgiveness and new life to those who believe in Him.

5. Review questions

- A. Why did Jesus’ disciples have the doors shut and locked? (They were afraid of Jesus’ enemies.)
- B. Who suddenly appeared among them? (Jesus)
- C. What did He show them? (The marks made by the nails and the spear.)
- D. Which disciple was not there when Jesus appeared? (Thomas)
- E. When the other disciples told Thomas they had seen the Lord, did he believe them?
- F. Thomas said he would not believe Jesus was alive unless he himself could touch--what? (The marks in His hands where the nails had been and the mark in His side from the spear.)
- G. A week later, when Thomas *was* with the disciples, what happened? (Jesus appeared among them again.)
- H. When Jesus showed Thomas His hands and side, what did Thomas say? (“My Lord and my God.”)
- I. Since Jesus did not stay dead, but came back to life again, what does that show us about Jesus? (He is God.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Have the children stand. Encourage them to use their bodies to show how Thomas would have felt when---

- the soldiers came for Jesus.
- people hurt and made fun of Jesus.
- Jesus died.
- Jesus’ body was put in the tomb.
- the other disciples said, “Jesus is alive.”
- Thomas himself saw Jesus and knew He was alive.

B. When Mary saw Jesus alive, she hurried to tell the disciples. When the disciples saw Jesus, they hurried to tell Thomas. “Jesus is living” is the best news! We should want to share that good news with other people too. Use the attached paper by making enough copies for each child, then letting them “write” a good news letter by connecting the dots to make the

letters. Bring envelopes and stickers. The children can put their finished “letters” in envelopes to deliver to someone they know (or to mail when they get help from home with the address).

C. Have several extra “good news letters” in envelopes. Choose a mail carrier and give him or her a bag with the extra letters in it. The mail carrier delivers his letters to children who open them and “read” them together. Choose another mail carrier and do it again, encouraging the mail carrier to deliver letters to children who have not yet received any.

