

The Unmerciful Servant

Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify the qualities of a forgiving person.
- The children will state that we should forgive others because God forgives us.
- The children will decide to be forgiving.

Lesson Text

Matthew 18:21-35

Scripture Memory Verse

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."
John 13:15

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Forgiveness Kite Tail

Welcome and Singing

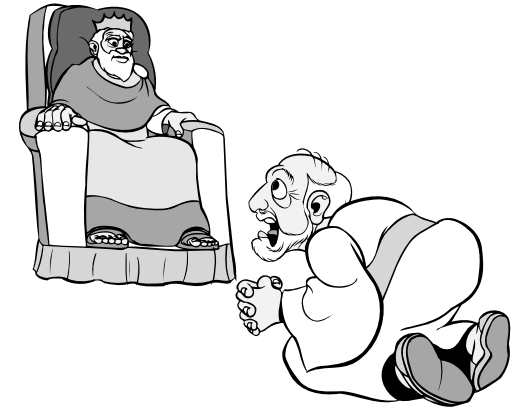
Centers:

Bible Story: Learning To Forgive

Life Application: Forgiving Hands

Craft: Forgiveness Kite

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





The Unmerciful Servant

Forgiveness Kite Tail

The children will make tails for the kites that they will complete during the Craft center.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of red construction paper
- 1 piece of yarn or string, 15"
- glue stick
- markers

For the teacher:

- scissors
- marker
- masking tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the "forgiving words" and one heart stencil from the copies of Reproducible Page A.
2. Trace and cut out six hearts for each child from the red construction paper.
3. Make a model of the kite tail following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Give each child six hearts and six forgiving words.
2. Have them glue one word onto each heart.
3. Give each child a 15" piece of yarn.
4. Have the children complete the kite tails as follows (See Figure A):
 - A. Have them place three of the hearts with the words facing down on their work area.
 - B. Have them place the yarn on top of their hearts. NOTE: Help the children to align the hearts evenly along their string.
 - C. Have them glue the string to their hearts.
 - D. Have them glue their remaining three hearts to the backs of the glued hearts with the words facing up.
5. Write the children's names on a piece of masking tape. Stick this to the ends of their kite tails and give them to the craft teacher.

Conclusion

Read the forgiving words to the children. *These are forgiving words. These are things that we do or feel when we forgive someone. If someone takes your toy and you forgive them, then you will want to share your toy with them.*

Ask them to tell you about a time that they have forgiven someone.

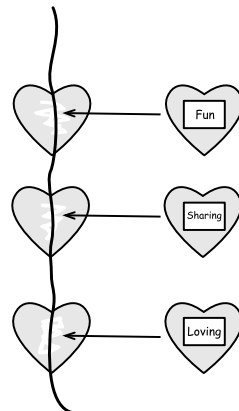


Figure A

The Unmerciful Servant

Learning to Forgive

The children will learn that Jesus wants us to forgive others just as he forgives us.

Lesson Text

Matthew 18:21-35

Materials

For the teacher:

- paper towel rolls, for bars in a window
- a cardboard box, approximately 8" x 11"
- 3 pieces of construction paper
- glue stick
- tape
- a large bag stuffed with paper
- a small bag stuffed with paper
- Bible

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page C, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page D, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Make the jail window as follows:
 - A. Cut off the top and bottom of the box so that it is an open rectangle. See Figure A.
 - B. Tape the paper towel rolls inside the front side of the box as shown in Figure B.
2. Cut out each of the copies of Reproducible Pages B, C, and D and glue them onto separate pieces of construction paper.

Instructions

Tell the story from the perspective of the servant who was thrown into prison. His attitude is one of regret for not forgiving.

Once, Jesus told a story to teach people how important it is to forgive others. I am one of the people in the story. As you can see, I am in jail. Hold up the jail window in front of your face so that you are looking out at the children. I did something that I am very sorry about.

It all started when the king wanted to have everyone who owed

him money pay him back. Have you ever owed anyone anything? When you owe something to someone, it means that they shared something with you and you promised to give it back later. It's like when you let someone borrow one of your toys, and they promise to give it back later. Well, I borrowed money from the king, so I had to pay the king his money back. It was a lot of money that I owed him, about a million dollars! That would be a bag full of money about this size. Show the children the large bag. Pick it up pretending that it is very heavy.

But, I had not paid the king back yet. So, one day he asked me to come to see him. He demanded that I pay him back the money I owed him. Show picture 1. I did not have the money, so I pleaded with the king to give me more time. I begged him on my knees. Let me read to you what happened. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go." (Matthew 18:26-27)

Yes, he canceled the debt! That means I did not have to pay him back the money at all! He forgave me for not paying him back and now I don't ever have to pay him back. Wasn't that nice?!

When I left the king, I saw a man who owed me some money. Show the small bag. He didn't owe me very much money but I insisted that he give me back my money right away! I grabbed him and even began to choke him. Show the children picture 2. He begged me to be patient with him. But I said, "No way!" He owed me my money and I wanted it back. Show picture 3. So, I sent him to jail until he could pay me back.

Some people saw what I did and told the king. They did not think what I did was very nice. Do you think I did the right thing? Wait for children to respond. The king said to me, "You are a wicked man. I told you that you did not have to pay me back the million dollars that you owed me. This man only owed you a few dollars. I forgave you. You should have forgiven him. Because you did not forgive him, I am going to put you in jail." (Matthew 18:32-34)

I did not forgive the man who owed me money. So the king sent me to jail and here I am. I want to tell you, children, that it is very important to forgive people. I should have forgiven the man who owed me money because the King had been so nice to forgive me.

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God forgives us when we do things that are wrong. We should be kind and forgiving to others. I wish I had been forgiving so that the king would not have sent me here to jail.

Conclusion

Questions to ask:

- Why was the man in jail? (He owed the king money and was unforgiving toward the man who owed him money.)
- Why do you think the man did not forgive? (Because he was being selfish thinking about his money and himself and not about how his master had just forgiven him.)
- How does God feel when we do not forgive people? (sad)
- When have you needed to forgive someone? (take responses)
- Would we go to jail if we did not forgive someone? (no, but we make God happy when we forgive others)

If your friend or brother or sister hurts your feelings or breaks your toy, they should say "I'm sorry". When they say "I'm sorry", what should we do? That's right! We should tell them that we forgive them. What if they do not say that they are sorry, do you think you should still forgive them? Yes, do you know why? Talk about how we should forgive others because God forgives us when we do something wrong.

Teacher Tips

If you do not have a box and paper towel rolls you can cut a black piece of construction paper to look like a jail window.

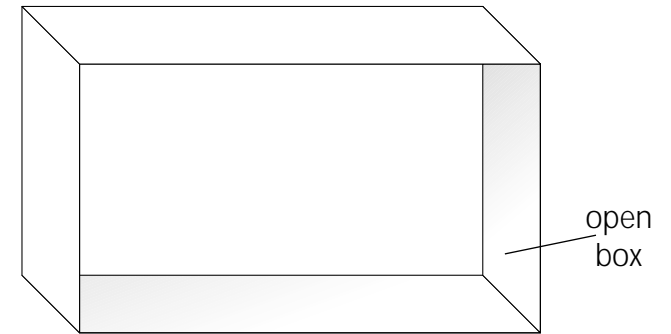


Figure A

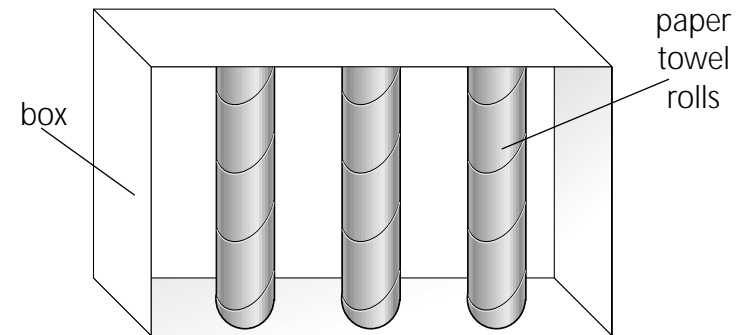


Figure B

Forgiving Hands

The children will learn through a puppet show that they need to be forgiving.

Scripture Memory Verse

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

John 13:15

Materials

For the teacher:

- water based markers

Preparation

1. Make one puppet on each hand. See Figure A.
 - A. Hand 1 is a 4 or 5 year old child (Sara).
 - B. Hand 2 is a younger brother (James).
 - C. You will act as the parent.
2. Practice the Life Application story until you are comfortable with it.

Instructions

Tell the children that they are going to hear a story about forgiveness. (Make a crashing noise.)

Hand 1: *Oh, no! Oh no! The cookies are all over the floor and the jar is smashed! What am I going to do! I'm going get in big trouble!* (Crying)

Parent: *What was that noise?* Ask the children if they heard the noise and if they know what it could have been. *Oh my! Sara, did you knock the cookie jar off the table?*

Hand 1: *Oh, Mommy, (or Daddy) I only wanted one cookie. It was an accident, I didn't mean to break it. I'm sorry Mommy!*

Parent: *That's okay. Sometimes things get broken. I forgive you Sara. I love you.*

Hand 1: *Wow! She forgave me! Gee I have a great Mom! I Guess I'll go play now. I wonder what my little brother is doing!*

Hand 2: *"Oh no!"*

Hand 1: *What's the matter?*

Hand 2: *Uh, well, I was playing with your favorite toy and I broke it. I didn't mean to, it was an accident! I'm sorry.*

Hand 1: *What! My favorite toy?*

Hand 2: *But it was an accident. I'm sorry!*

(Both hands start fighting with each other)

Parent: *Hey! Hey! What's going on here? Stop it, right now!*

Hand 1: *But Mom, James broke my favorite toy. He broke it to bits! It's all his fault!*

Parent: *Listen carefully to me. Think about how sorry you felt when you broke the cookie jar. Weren't you glad when I forgave you? Your brother is very sorry he broke your toy. It was an accident, he did not break it on purpose. When you broke the cookie jar, I forgave you. He broke your toy and now it is your turn to forgive him. Tell him you are sorry for fighting with him and that you forgive him.*

Hand 1: *You're right. I forgive you James. I'm sorry I got mad at you.* (Both hands hug.)

Hand 2: *Thanks Sara, I'll try to be more careful with your toys.*

Discuss this situation with the children. Talk about how we all need to be forgiven. Ask them about times that they have needed someone to forgive them. Point out how sometimes we need forgiveness for something we did, sometimes for something that we did not do, and sometimes for things that we said that were not nice.

Scripture Memory Activity

Have Hand 1 ask the children who knows the memory verse. Have the child stand next to Hand 1 and say it together with her. "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

Conclusion

Sometimes it is hard to forgive someone and sometimes it is easy. Do you think it was hard for Sara to forgive her brother for breaking her toy? Yes, I think it was. But God wants us to forgive people just as he forgives us.

Can you think of any friends who you need to forgive? Do you have any friends that you should ask for them to forgive you? Being forgiving with our friends will help them to want to know God.

Choose a child to pray and thank God that he forgives us when we do something wrong or make a mistake.



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Teacher Tips

- When playing the parent, be careful not to be argumentative or emotional. Be calm and reasonable, using a gentle tone of voice.
- You may choose to use real puppets if they are available to you.

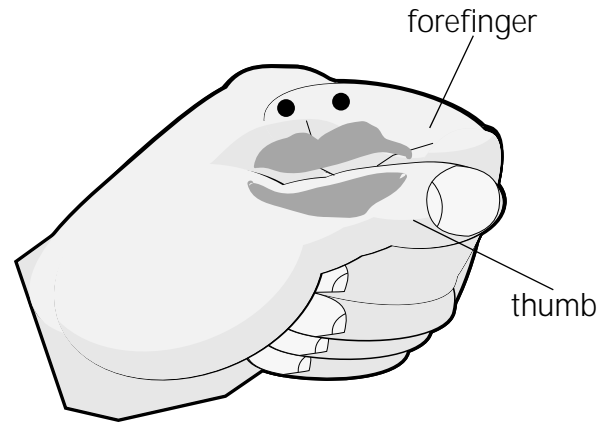


Figure A

C R A F T

The Unmerciful Servant

Forgiveness Kite

The children will make kites that will teach them words they can use to forgive others.

Materials

For each child:

- 2 pieces of red construction paper
- 1 piece of yarn, 12"
- crayons
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- kite tails from the Preclass Activity
- scissors
- tissue paper
- marker

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the half-heart stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page E.
2. Fold each piece of red construction paper in half.
3. Trace the half-heart stencil onto each folded piece of construction paper. See Figure A. NOTE: Be sure to match the flat edge of the stencil with the folded edge of the paper.
4. Cut out two hearts from the construction paper for each child.
5. Across half of the hearts, write, "A Forgiving Heart Flies High!" NOTE: Leave the other hearts blank.
6. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

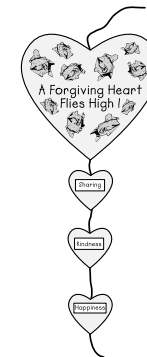
1. Give each child a heart with the written message on it.
2. Give the children the tissue paper, and have them tear it into small pieces and glue it on their hearts.
3. Have the children glue their kites as follows, see Figure B:
 - A. Give the children their yarn, and then have them glue the yarn to the back of their hearts near the top.
 - B. Give the children their kite tails. Help them to glue the yarn from their kite tails to the back of their hearts near the bottom.
4. Give each child a blank heart and have them glue it to the back of the heart with the writing. See Figure C.

Conclusion

Discuss the different words on the kites with the children. Explain that each word has to do with forgiveness. *If you forgive your friend then you will have fun playing together. If you forgive your friend then you will share your toy. If your friend forgives you then you will be happy.*

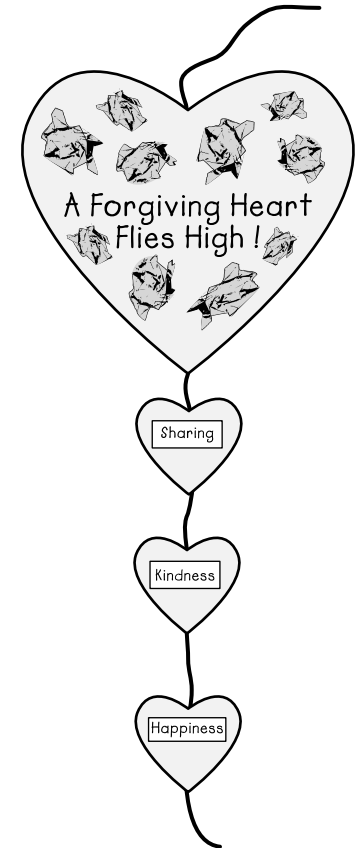
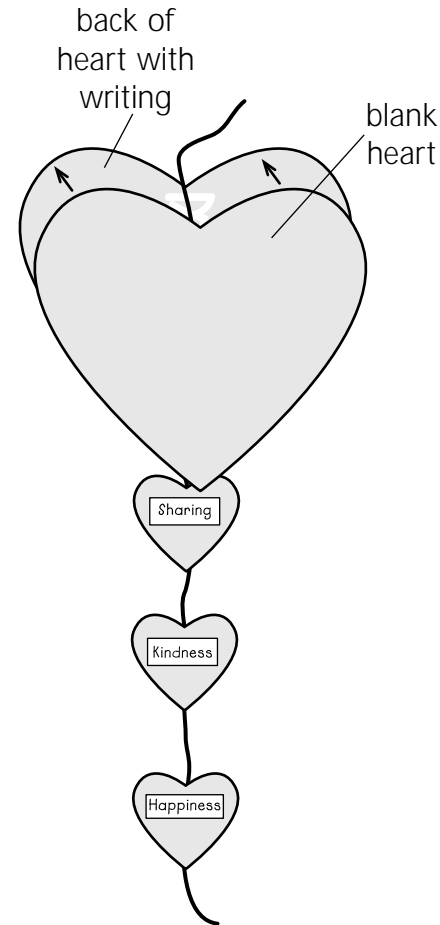
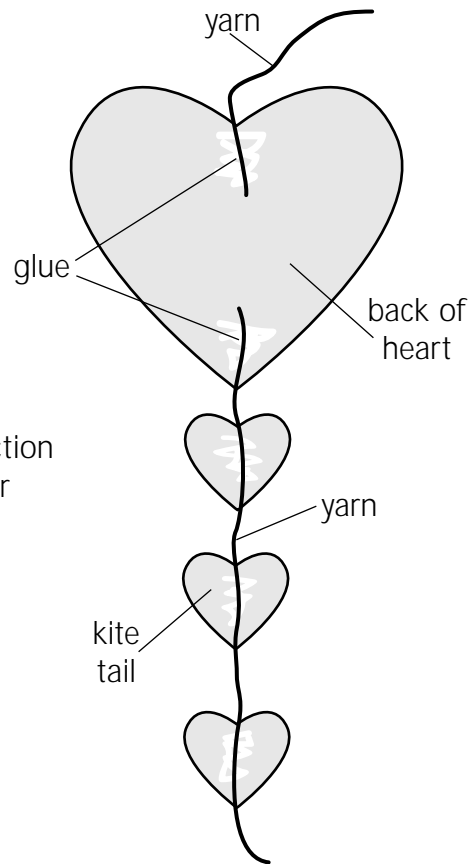
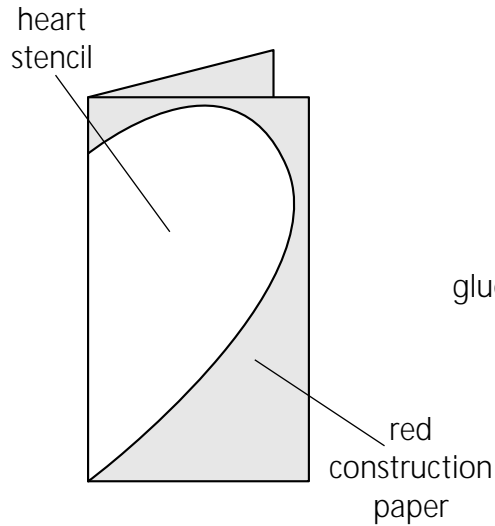
Teacher Tip

- Place tape over the strings where it attaches to the hearts prior to gluing the other hearts over them.
- Glue a magnet strip to the back of each heart so it can be hung on a refrigerator.



CRAFT

The Unmerciful Servant



The Unmerciful Servant

Friends of Jesus

Lesson 4

Lesson at a Glance supplement

4 and 5 Year Olds



Pre class



Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify the qualities of a forgiving person.
- The children will state that we should forgive others because God forgives us.
- The children will decide to be forgiving.

Lesson Text

Matthew 18:21-35

Scripture Memory Verse

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

John 13:15

Heart Gift

The children will make a gift to give to someone that they may need to ask forgiveness from or someone that they need to forgive.

Materials

For each child:

- markers
- sequins
- glue
- newspaper

For the teacher:

- flour
- water
- salt
- bowl
- wax paper
- paper towels

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Heart Gift

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Game: The Forgiving Game

Craft: Forgiving Cups

Life Application: Forgiving Hands

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

Preparation

1. Make the dough using the following recipe:
Clay Hearts Recipe
 - 4 cups flour
 - 1 ½ cups of salt
 - Gradually add water to the flour and salt and knead until it has a dough-like consistency.
 - Roll the dough out to a ½" thickness.
 - Cut out heart shapes, about 5" in size
 - Bake for 40 minutes at 250 degreesThis recipe will make enough clay for about 8 hearts.
2. Before class, spread the newspaper on the table where the children will be working.

Instructions

1. Give each child a clay heart.
2. Have the children write their names on the backs of their hearts with a marker.
3. Have the children color their hearts with markers.
4. Have the children decorate their hearts by gluing on sequins.

Conclusion

Help the children decide who they will give their heart gift to. Ask them if there is anyone they need to forgive.

Teacher Tips

Be careful not to make the hearts too large or too flat, they may crack in the oven.



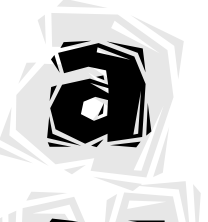
The Forgiving Game

This game will help the children to think about specific situations where they might need to be forgiving.

Materials

For the teacher:

- bright-colored paper
- a hat or container



Preparation

1. Cut the paper into 3" x 5" cards.
2. Write each of the following scenarios on a different card.
 - Your baby brother knocks your ice cream cone out of your hand.
 - Your mom has to change a promise to do something fun.
 - Your friend loses your favorite video.
 - Someone accidentally pushes you.
 - Someone tells a lie about you.
 - Someone says something mean about you.
 - Someone else blows out your birthday candles on your cake.
 - Someone cuts the hair off your favorite doll.
 - Someone takes your favorite doll.
 - Someone takes your turn in a game.
 - Someone cuts your hair and leaves a bare spot.
 - Someone puts chewing gum in your hair.
 - Someone hits you hard.
 - You are not invited to a party.
 - Someone whispers a secret and won't tell you.
 - Your mom gives away one of your favorite toys.
3. On the back of each card write one of the following:
 - Hop twice on one foot.
 - Take one giant step.
 - Take two baby steps.
 - Hop two hops on both feet.
 - Take two steps.
4. Place all of the cards into the hat.



Instructions

1. Have the children stand in a line as if lining up for a race. Explain to the children that they will play the Forgiving Game.
2. Place a piece of masking tape about 10' in front of the children as a finish line.
3. Choose a child to go first. Have her take a card out of the hat.
4. Read the scenario to her.
5. Have her decide whether or not she will forgive someone if this happens to her.
6. If she does forgive, she may do whatever it says on the back of the card. Have her say the words, "I forgive you" before advancing.
7. If she does not want to forgive then she must stay where she is.

Conclusion

Why do we need to forgive others? (Because God forgives us.)
 What did you learn from playing our game? (To remember to always forgive.)





Forgiving Cups

This craft will remind the children that God is happy when they are forgiving.

Materials

For each child:

- 2 paper cups, 9 oz.
- 1 sheet of white paper
- markers or crayons
- glue stick
- sequins or other decorating materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- Reproducible Pages:*
- Page F, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the paper cup stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page F.
2. Trace the stencil onto white paper and then cut out the shape. Cut one shape for each child.
3. Cut a 2" x 2" opening in the side of only half of the cups. See Figure A. NOTE: Leave the other cups intact.
4. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Show the children the model of the craft. Rotate the cups, showing how the craft works.
2. Give each child a white paper shape . Have the children draw a happy face and a sad face on opposite ends of the paper. See Figure B.
3. Have each child glue the paper shape around an intact paper cup. NOTE: You may need to help the children align the paper around the cup because of its irregular shape.
4. Give each child a cup with an opening cut out. Have them decorate the outside of the cups.
5. Have them place the cup with the opening on top of the intact cup. See Figure C.
6. Again, demonstrate to the children how to rotate the cup to see the different faces.

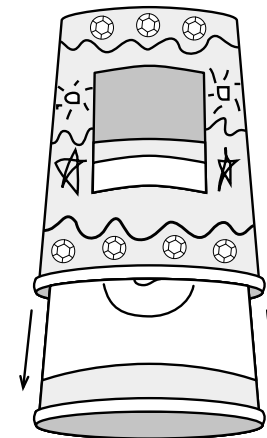
Conclusion

Ask the following questions and let the children answer by showing the appropriate face on their Forgiving Cups:

- How do we feel when we forgive someone? (happy)
- How do we feel when we are forgiven? (happy)
- How does it feel when we do not forgive someone? (sad)
- How does God feel when we do not forgive? (sad)
- How does God feel when we do forgive? (happy)

Teacher Tips

- When the children draw the faces on the paper make sure they are not drawn too close together and are drawn on the same side of the paper.
- If you use a different size cup, be sure to increase or decrease the size of the stencil.



The Unmerciful Servant

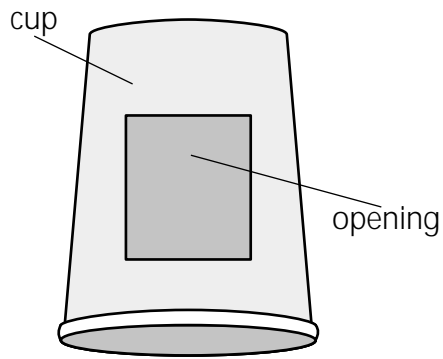


Figure A

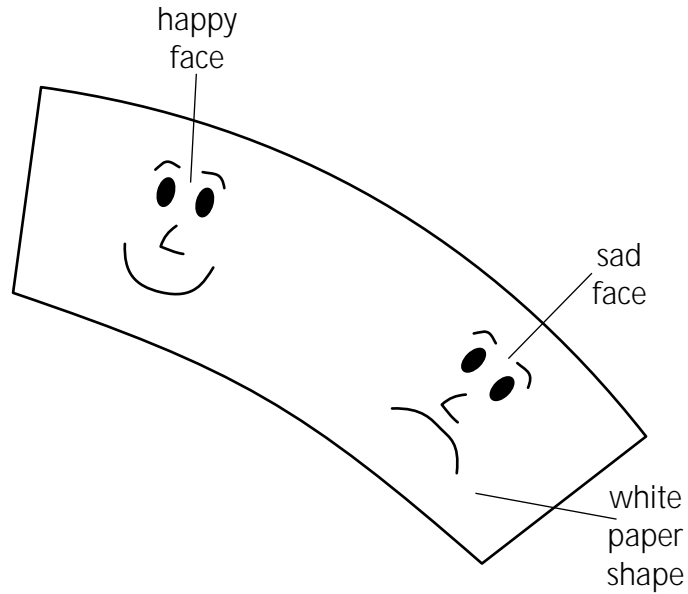


Figure B

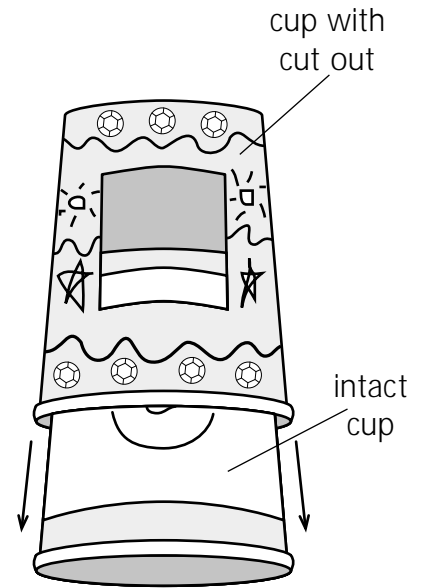


Figure C

Life

A
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N

Forgiving Hands

The children will learn through a puppet show that they need to be forgiving.

Scripture Memory Verse

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

John 13:15

Materials

For the teacher:

- water based markers

Preparation

1. Make one puppet on each hand. See Figure A.
 - A. Hand 1 is a 4 or 5 year old child (Sara).
 - B. Hand 2 is a younger brother (James).
 - C. You will act as the parent.
2. Practice the Life Application story until you are comfortable with it.

Instructions

Tell the children that they are going to hear a story about forgiveness. (Make a crashing noise.)

Hand 1: *Oh, no! Oh no! The cookies are all over the floor and the jar is smashed! What am I going to do! I'm going get in big trouble!* (Crying)

Parent: *What was that noise?* Ask the children if they heard the noise and if they know what it could have been. *Oh my! Sara, did you knock the cookie jar off the table?*

Hand 1: *Oh, Mommy, (or Daddy) I only wanted one cookie. It was an accident, I didn't mean to break it. I'm sorry Mommy!*

Parent: *That's okay. Sometimes things get broken. I forgive you Sara. I love you.*

Hand 1: *Wow! She forgave me! Gee I have a great Mom! I Guess I'll go play now. I wonder what my little brother is doing!*

Hand 2: *"Oh no!"*

Hand 1: *What's the matter?*

Hand 2: *Uh, well, I was playing with your favorite toy and I broke it. I didn't mean to, it was an accident! I'm sorry.*

Hand 1: *What! My favorite toy?*

Hand 2: *But it was an accident. I'm sorry!*

(Both hands start fighting with each other)

Parent: *Hey! Hey! What's going on here? Stop it, right now!*

Hand 1: *But Mom, James broke my favorite toy. He broke it to bits! It's all his fault!*

Parent: *Listen carefully to me. Think about how sorry you felt when you broke the cookie jar. Weren't you glad when I forgave you? Your brother is very sorry he broke your toy. It was an accident, he did not break it on purpose. When you broke the cookie jar, I forgave you. He broke your toy and now it is your turn to forgive him. Tell him you are sorry for fighting with him and that you forgive him.*

Hand 1: *You're right. I forgive you James. I'm sorry I got mad at you.* (Both hands hug.)

Hand 2: *Thanks Sara, I'll try to be more careful with your toys.*

Discuss this situation with the children. Talk about how we all need to be forgiven. Ask them about times that they have needed someone to forgive them. Point out how sometimes we need forgiveness for something we did, sometimes for something that we did not do, and sometimes for things that we said that were not nice.

Scripture Memory Activity

Have Hand 1 ask the children who knows the memory verse. Have the child stand next to Hand 1 and say it together with her. "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

Conclusion

Sometimes it is hard to forgive someone and sometimes it is easy. Do you think it was hard for Sara to forgive her brother for breaking her toy? Yes, I think it was. But God wants us to forgive people just as he forgives us.

Can you think of any friends who you need to forgive? Do you have any friends that you should ask for them to forgive you? Being forgiving with our friends will help them to want to know God.

Choose a child to pray and thank God that he forgives us when we do something wrong or make a mistake.



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Teacher Tips

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- You may choose to use real puppets if they are available to you.

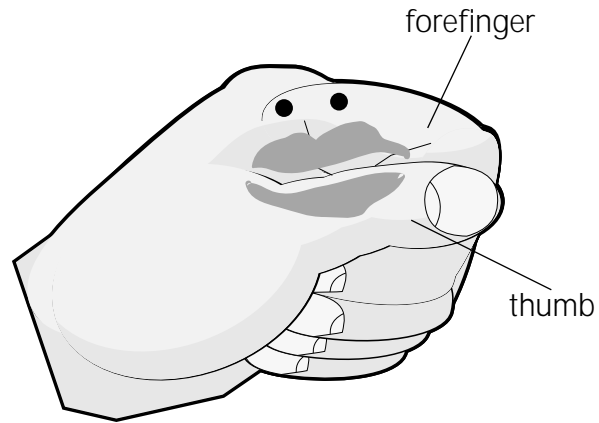


Figure A

I forgive you

Kindness

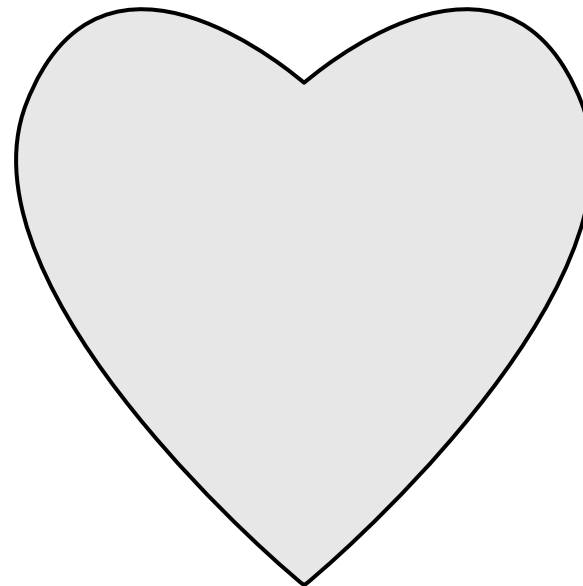
Sharing

Happiness

Loving

Fun

forgiveness words



heart stencil

Core/Bible Story

1 copy for the teacher



1

Read-Observe-Reflect

Page

B





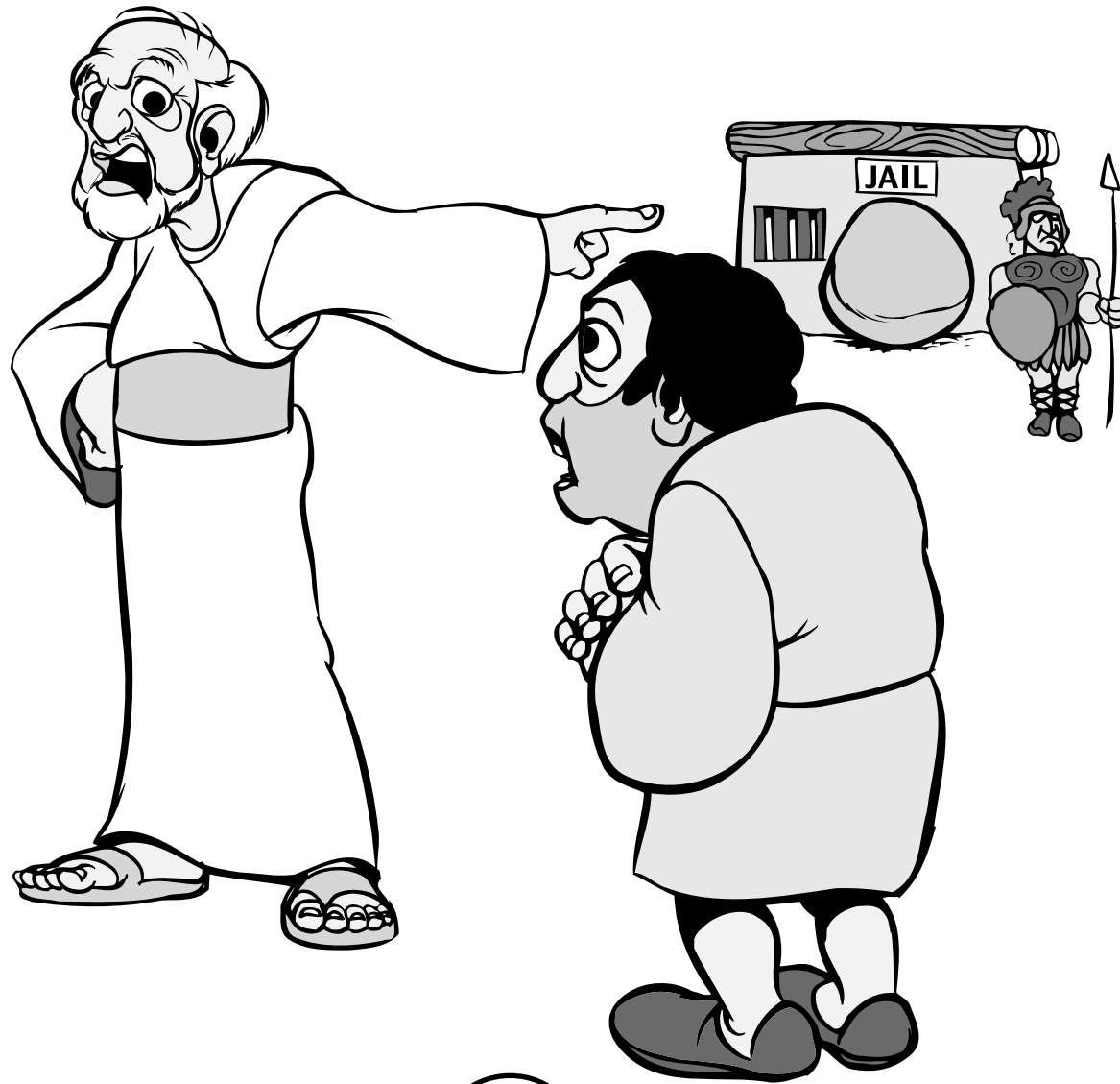
2



READ-OBEDIENCE

Page

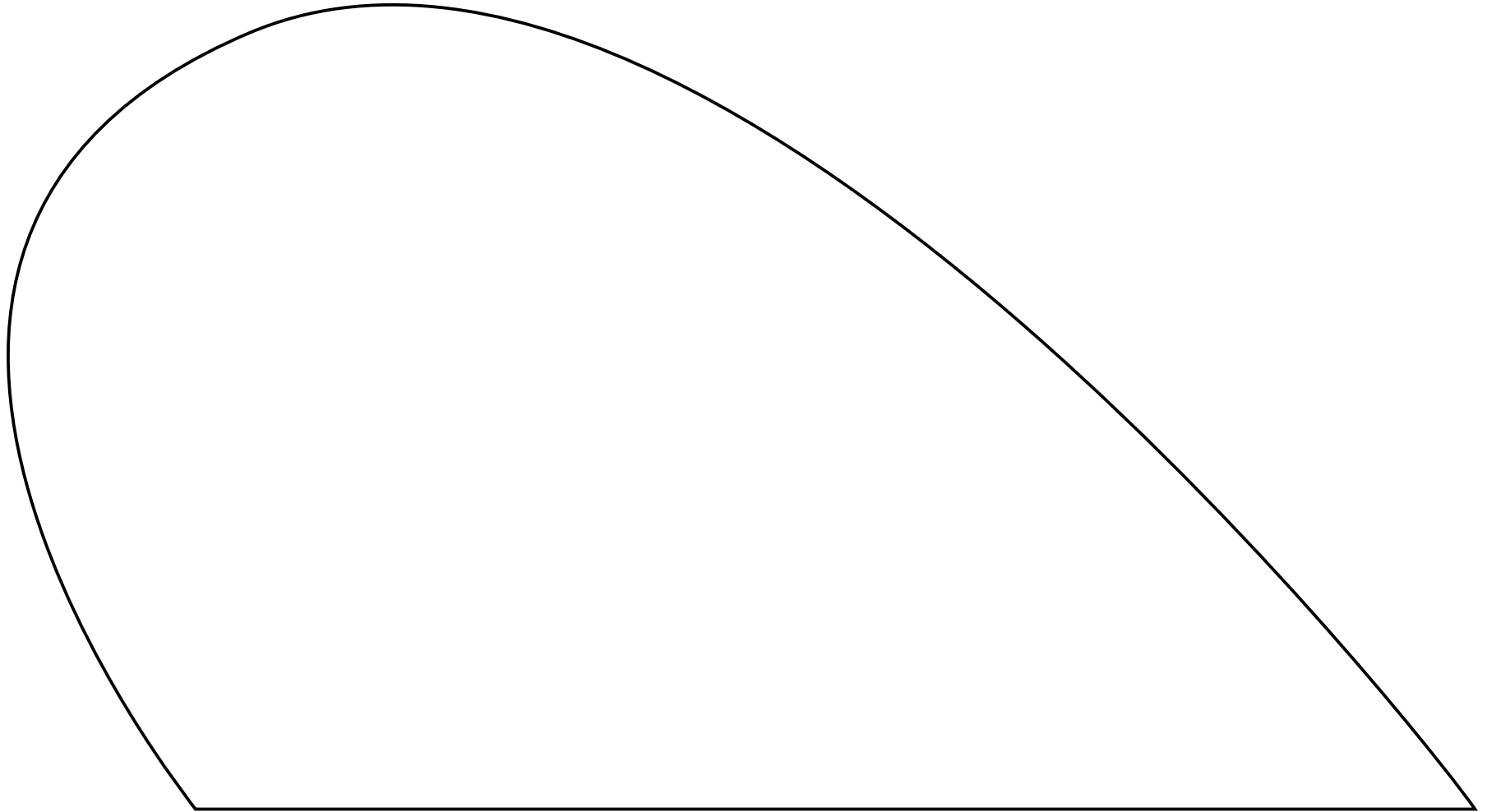
D



3



Pre-Preparation
Page
E



half-heart stencil



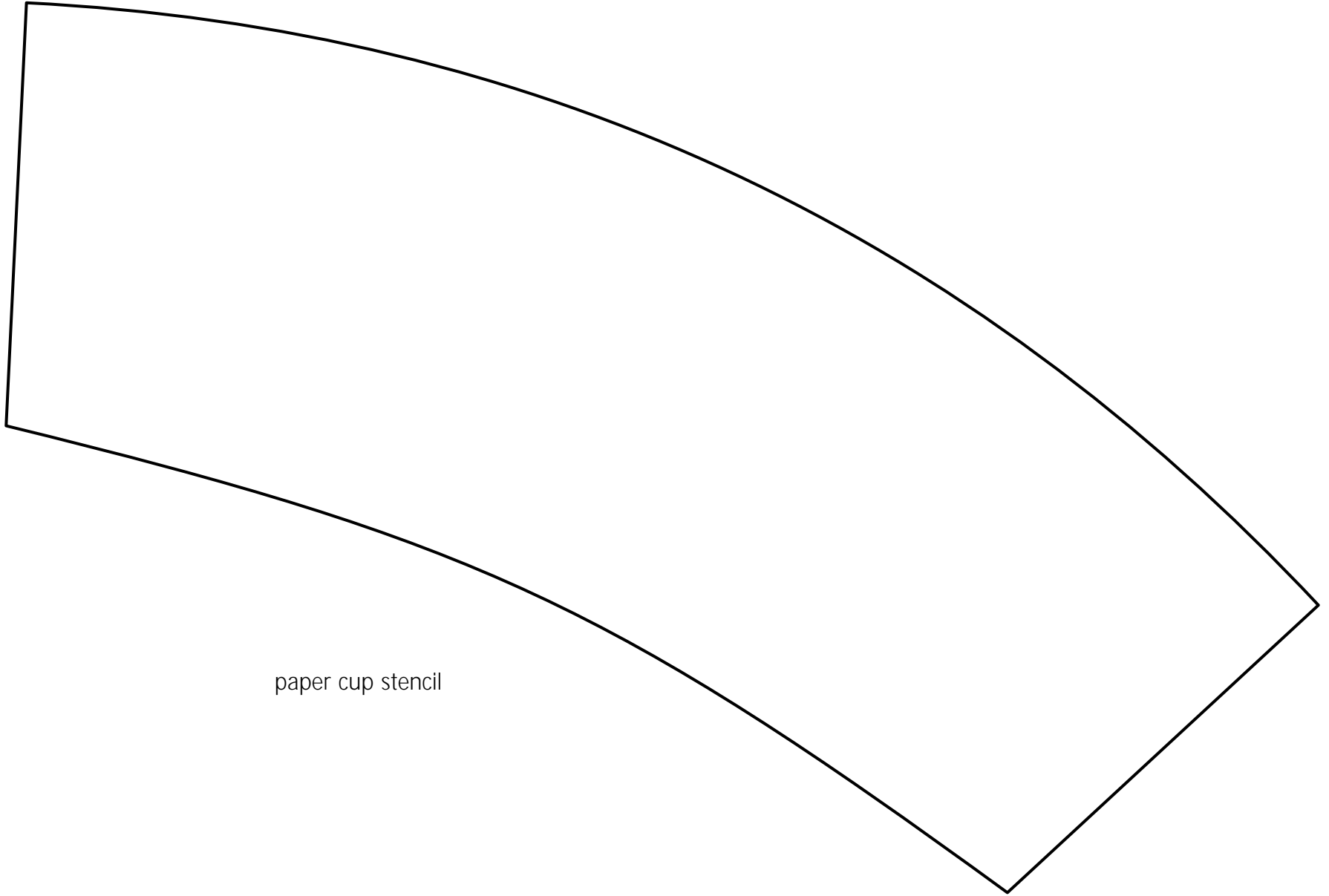
Supplement/craft

1 copy for the teacher

REPRODUCTION

Page

F



paper cup stencil



4 and 5 Year Olds