

I'm a Friend

Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Zacchaeus as a friend of Jesus.
- The children will state that Zacchaeus was happy to be Jesus' friend.
- The children will thank Jesus for being their friend.

Bible Story Text

Luke 19:1-10

Bible Truth

"You are my friends."
(John 15:14)

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activities: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Up a Tree

Life Application: Be a Friend

Craft: 'Friends' Teeter-Totter

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



I'm a Friend

Preclass Centers

As the children arrive, guide them to a preclass center. Have no more than six children at each center.

Materials

Use the materials previously selected for this unit's preclass centers.

Preparation

1. Be sure to check the condition of the materials selected for this unit's preclass centers prior to set up. Replace any broken toys, or puzzles with missing pieces as necessary.
2. Set up the centers before the children come into the classroom.
3. Assign a teacher to each center and have the teachers stay in those centers until the singing begins.

Instructions

Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme.

Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Do not allow any small toys in the classroom. First check all toys for size. You can obtain a "safety cylinder" from a pediatrician. Any object that can fit into the cylinder is too small and could cause a child to choke.
- Be involved in the group play and offer guidance as needed.
- Wear comfortable clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.
- Smile! Be childlike in heart and alert in mind.



I'm a Friend

Up a Tree

This Bible story will teach the children that Jesus wants to be their friend.

Bible Story Text

Luke 19:1-10

Materials

- 'Zacchaeus' Tree prop from Unit 5 Lesson 3, Bible Story

Preparation

1. Practice telling the story with the teaching picture and craft so that you are confident and animated and can give the children your full attention.
2. Familiarize yourself with the song.

Zacchaeus

Open your Bible in your lap. Show the teaching picture on the other side of this card. *The Bible says that Jesus traveled to many places to teach the people about God. When he came to each town all the people would run to see him. Remember how the mommies and daddies brought the children to see Jesus? What did Jesus do? That's right, he hugged them. Let's give a friend a hug. Jesus loves children.*

One day in a town named Jericho the people heard someone say that Jesus was coming to visit. Everyone ran to see Jesus. Listen to all the footsteps of the people. Pat your hands on your knees to indicate footsteps. Encourage the children make these motions with you.

In the town there was a man named Zacchaeus who was not very tall; he was short. He wanted to see Jesus very badly. Point to Zacchaeus in the teaching picture. Zacchaeus was so short that he could not see over the crowd of people. Put your hand above your eyes and look for Jesus. So, what did Zacchaeus do? He climbed a tree! Make climbing motions with your arms.

Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. Put your hand over your eyes and look up. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I want to go to your house today" (Luke 19:5). Wave your arm in a gesture to call Zacchaeus from the tree. Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus wanted to be his friend. Jesus wants to be our friend, too.

Conclusion

Sing "Zacchaeus" from the Unit 5 Song Sheet. Using the sample craft, show how Zacchaeus "climbed" up the tree to see Jesus. Show how he climbed down when Jesus called to him. *Jesus said, "You are my friends." We want to be a friend to Jesus, too, don't we? Let's say that together. "You are my friends."*

Ask the children these questions for review:

- Who did Zacchaeus want to see? (Jesus)
- Why couldn't Zacchaeus see Jesus? (He was too short.)
- What did Zacchaeus do to see Jesus better? (He climbed a tree.)
- What did Jesus say to him? (I want to go to your house.)

Teacher Tips

If time allows, ask the children to point to the teaching picture and identify both Jesus and Zacchaeus.

I'm a Friend



Life

Application

I'm a Friend

Be a Friend

The children will learn that friends say, "I'm sorry" after hurting someone.

Bible Truth

"You are my friends."
(John 15:14)

Materials

For the teacher:

- felt board figures from Unit 4, Lesson 1, Life Application.
- felt board figures and props from Unit 5, Lessons 3, Life Application.
- felt board with black background
- masking tape

Preparation

1. Roll a piece of masking tape and place it on the back of each figure and the football and food props so they will adhere to the felt board.
2. Practice telling the story in this activity using the felt board figures and the props.

Instructions

Show the children each felt board figure and remind the children of their names. *Remember this family? This is the daddy and this is the mommy. This is the brother, David, and his sister, Lesli.*

Sing "My Own Loving Family" from the Unit 5 Song Sheet.

Introduce the new figure as David's friend, Cory.

Using the felt board figures and props, act out the different roles in the following story.

"Mommy, can I have Cory over to play?" David asked his mommy one day.

"Sure," said his mommy. "Let's call him." David was so excited that his friend was coming over that he thought about it all day. He thought about it when he played ball with his sister. He thought about it when he ate his lunch. He thought about it even when he lay down for his nap.

When he woke up from his nap, he was so excited! "Is it time? Is it time?" He asked his mommy.

"Yes," she said, laughing. Just then a car pulled up, and Cory got out of the car and came to the door.

"Hi David," Cory said, smiling. "Look what my grandpa bought me. It's a football. Do you want to play with me?" Place the football prop onto the felt board.

"Sure," said David.

"Let's go outside, and I'll show you how I can kick the football really high," Cory said.

The boys went outside together and kicked the ball. When David's turn was over he wouldn't give the ball back to Cory.

David's mommy came to tell them that she had made a snack for them to enjoy. Place the food prop onto the felt board. She noticed that Cory was very sad. "Cory," she said, "what is wrong?"

"David won't give me back the football," cried Cory.

David's mommy said in a stern voice, "David, give that football back to Cory right now and come with me." David gave the football to his friend very slowly, and then he slowly walked toward his mom. "Why are you being mean to your friend?" she asked him.

David started to cry. "Cory has a football. I want a football, too!"

I'm a Friend

"But he is your friend," said mommy. "Jesus said to love one another. Are you loving Cory by sharing the football, or are you being mean to him?"

"Being mean," he said slowly.

"You need to love Cory. He came over here to play with you and to share his new football with you. You need to change your heart. Tell Cory you love him, and you are very sorry."

David went into the living room and put his arms around his friend. "I am sorry, Cory," he said. "Will you please forgive me for being mean to you?"

"Yes," said Cory, smiling. "Do you want to hold my football?"

"Yes. Why don't we go outside, and we can kick it to each other," said David. "You are a good friend, Cory."

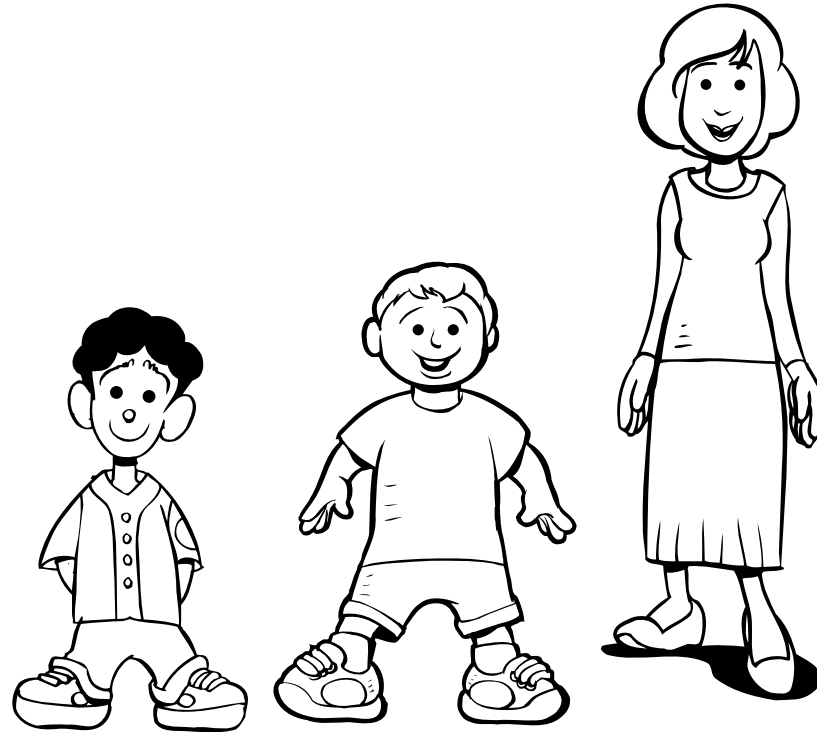
Bible Truth Activity

David needed to learn to be a good friend, didn't he? Jesus is a good friend to all of us. Jesus said, "You are my friends." Let's say this together. "You are my friends."

Conclusion

Let's thank Jesus for our friends. Thank you, Jesus, for giving us friends and for being our friend. Amen.

Who are you going to tell about Bible class today? What are you going to tell them?



Craft

I'm a Friend

'Friends' Teeter-Totter

The children will make a teeter-totter to demonstrate that friends play together.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of construction paper
- 1 brass fastener
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- black marker
- scissors
- glue stick
- dark-colored poster board

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child
- Page B, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut along the outside border of each copy of Reproducible Page A.
2. Cut out the two teeter-totter figures from each copy of Reproducible Page B.
3. Cut the poster board into 1" x 7" strips.
4. Punch a small hole in the center of each strip. See Figure A.
5. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Give each child a paper (with the writing on it) from the copies of Reproducible Page A. Print the children's names on their papers in the space provided. *Jesus was a friend; can you be a friend, too?*
2. Give the children each a poster board strip. Help them align the hole in the center of their poster board strips with the dot on their papers.
3. Push the brass fasteners through the holes, as shown in Figure B. Have the children help flatten the wings of the brass fastener on the back of their papers.

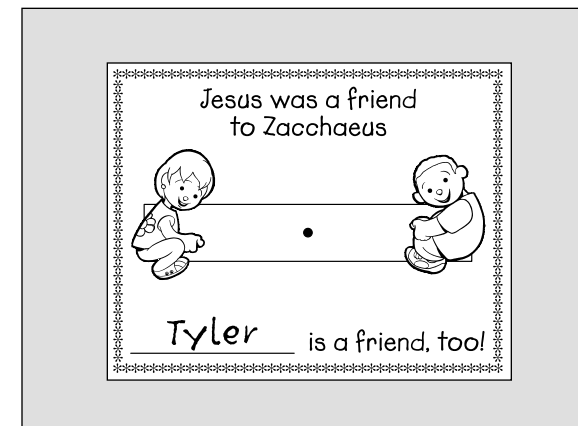
3. Help the children place glue along the edges of the back of their papers. **IMPORTANT:** Placing glue on the entire back of the papers will obstruct the movement of the teeter-totter.
4. Give each child a sheet of construction paper and have them glue their papers to the center of their construction paper.
5. Give each child two teeter-totter figures and have them glue one to each end of the poster board strip. **IMPORTANT:** Be sure the children don't glue the figures to the construction paper or the teeter-totter won't move. See Figure C. *These children are playing on a teeter-totter. This is something we can do with our friends.*
6. Give the children crayons and have them color their pictures.

Conclusion

Talk about how Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus and how the children can be good friends, too. Have the children name their teeter-totter friends. Have the children take turns showing their friends playing on their teeter-totter.

Teacher Tips

- Keep the brass fasteners in a container away from the children and attach them to each child's craft.



craft

I'm a Friend

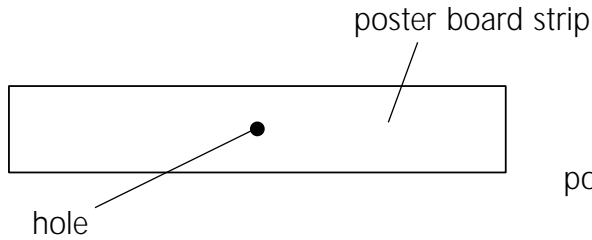


Figure A

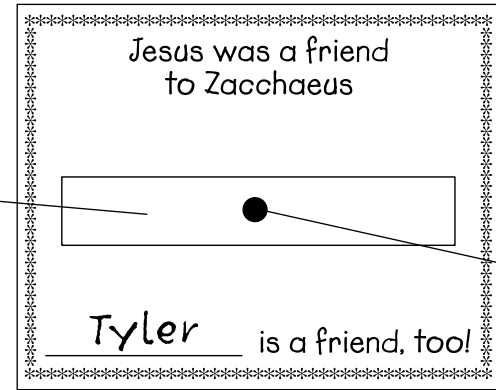


Figure B

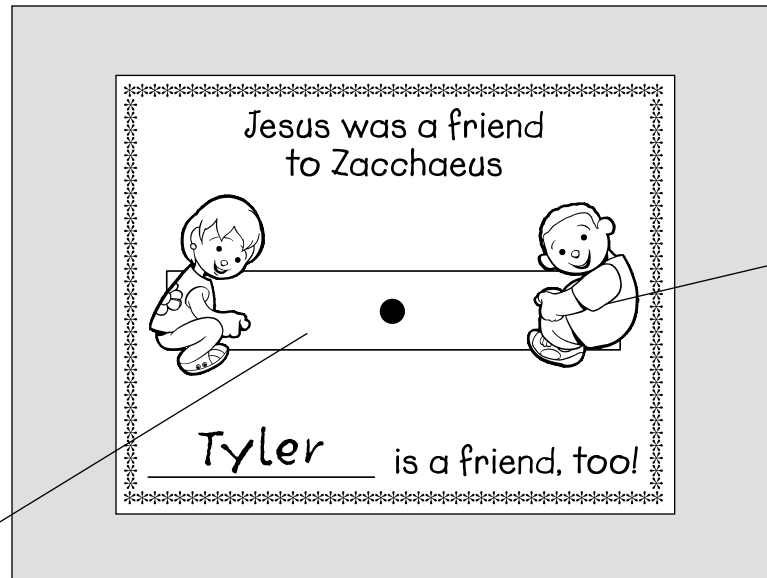


Figure C





Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Zacchaeus as a friend of Jesus.
- The children will state that Zacchaeus was happy to be Jesus' friend.
- The children will thank Jesus for being their friend.

Bible Story Text

Luke 19:1-10

Bible Truth

"You are my friends."
(John 15:14)

Preclass Centers

As the children arrive, guide them to a pre-class center. Have no more than six children at each center.

Materials

Use the materials previously selected for this unit's preclass centers.

Preparation

1. Be sure to check the condition of the materials selected for this unit's preclass centers prior to set up. Replace any broken toys, or puzzles with missing pieces as necessary.
2. Set up the centers before the children come into the classroom.
3. Assign a teacher to each center and have the teachers stay in those centers until the singing begins.

Instructions

Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme.

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: A Party for Jesus

Bible Story: Up a Tree

Craft: 'Friends' Paper Dolls

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

Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Do not allow any small toys in the classroom. First check all toys for size. You can obtain a "safety cylinder" from a pediatrician. Any object that can fit into the cylinder is too small and could cause a child to choke.
- Be involved in the group play and offer guidance as needed.
- Wear comfortable clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.
- Smile! Be childlike in heart and alert in mind.

A Party for Jesus

The children will enjoy a party for Jesus reinforcing the Bible Truth that Jesus is our friend.

Bible Truth

"You are my friends."
(John 15:14)

Materials

For each child:

- napkin
- cup
- cookies
- juice

For the teacher:

- poster board
- markers
- crayons
- party decorations or streamers (optional)
- party favors (optional)

Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the activity.

Instructions

1. Say to the children: *Zacchaeus had Jesus over to his house for a party and invited all of his friends so they could meet Jesus. Let's pretend we are having Jesus over for a party at our house. What do we need for our party? We need napkins, cookies and juice. We need a sign that says, "We love you, Jesus." What else do we need to do? Let's give Jesus a chair.*
2. Let the children help you make a sign. Let the children each add something to the sign. They can color, add streamers, etc.
3. Say to the children: *What do we want to tell Jesus? What do you think Zacchaeus wanted to tell Jesus? Yes. He wanted to Thank Jesus for being his friend. Can everyone say thanks to Jesus? Thank you, Jesus, for being my friend.*
4. Say to the children: *Let's pretend Jesus is here for our party. Come in! Come in! Let's pretend we are giving him a hug. Let's show Jesus to his chair. Jesus, would you like some juice and cookies?*
5. Serve everyone and then pray before you begin eating.

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Jesus Loves Me Lesson 4

6. Say to the children: *It was fun having Jesus at our party, but it is time for him to go. Let's all give him a hug and say goodbye. Goodbye, Jesus. We love you Jesus!*

Bible Truth Activity

Do you remember what Jesus told Zacchaeus when he came to his house? Jesus said, "You are my friend." Let's all say this together: "You are my friend." Jesus is our friend, isn't he? He also wants us to be friends to each other. Let's say the Bible Truth to each other. Repeat the Bible Truth using the children's names. For example say, Greg, you are my friend.

Conclusion

I'm so thankful that Jesus wants to be our friend. Let's thank him for loving us. Thank you, Jesus, for loving us and for wanting to be our friend. We love you. Amen.

Who are you going to tell about today's Bible class? What are you going to tell them that you learned?

Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Be sure that none of the children have allergies to any of the snacks you may serve during this activity. Ask the parents at registration if their child has any food intolerance or food allergies.
- **IMPORTANT:** Do not serve any foods that may be choking hazards, such as nuts or hard candies.
- Ask a disciple to dress up as Jesus and be the guest of honor at your party. Try to ask someone that may need extra encouragement.

Up a Tree

This Bible story will teach the children that Jesus wants to be their friend.

Bible Story Text

Luke 19:1-10

Materials

- 'Zacchaeus' Tree prop from Unit 5 Lesson 3, Bible Story

Preparation

1. Practice telling the story with the teaching picture and craft so that you are confident and animated and can give the children your full attention.
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Zacchaeus

Open your Bible in your lap. Show the teaching picture on the other side of this card. *The Bible says that Jesus traveled to many places to teach the people about God. When he came to each town all the people would run to see him. Remember how the mommies and daddies brought the children to see Jesus? What did Jesus do? That's right, he hugged them. Let's give a friend a hug. Jesus loves children.*

One day in a town named Jericho the people heard someone say that Jesus was coming to visit. Everyone ran to see Jesus. Listen to all the footsteps of the people. Pat your hands on your knees to indicate footsteps. Encourage the children make these motions with you.

In the town there was a man named Zacchaeus who was not very tall; he was short. He wanted to see Jesus very badly. Point to Zacchaeus in the teaching picture. Zacchaeus was so short that he could not see over the crowd of people. Put your hand above your eyes and look for Jesus. So, what did Zacchaeus do? He climbed a tree! Make climbing motions with your arms.

Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. Put your hand over your eyes and look up. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I want to go to your house today" (Luke 19:5). Wave your arm in a gesture to call Zacchaeus from the tree. Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus wanted to be his friend. Jesus wants to be our friend, too.

I'm a Friend

Conclusion

Sing "Zacchaeus" from the Unit 5 Song Sheet. Using the sample craft, show how Zacchaeus "climbed" up the tree to see Jesus. Show how he "climbed" down when Jesus called to him. *Jesus said, "You are my friends." We want to be a friend to Jesus, too, don't we? Let's say that together. "You are my friends."*

Ask the children these questions for review:

- Who did Zacchaeus want to see? (Jesus)
- Why couldn't Zacchaeus see Jesus? (He was too short.)
- What did Zacchaeus do to see Jesus better? (He climbed a tree.)
- What did Jesus say to him? (I want to go to your house.)

Teacher Tips

If time allows, ask the children to point to the teaching picture and identify both Jesus and Zacchaeus.





'Friends' Paper Dolls

This craft will remind the children that Jesus was a friend to many different people.

Materials

For each child:

- 2 pieces of different colored construction paper
- wrapping paper or cloth scraps
- glue stick
- small heart stickers

For the teacher:

- scissors
- marker
- yarn

Reproducible Pages:

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

Preparation

1. Cut out the paper dolls stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page C.
2. Trace the stencil onto construction paper and cut out one paper doll set for each child. Be careful to keep the two dolls connected at their hands.
3. Draw a face on each doll.
4. Cut out the dress, shirt and pants stencils from the copy of Reproducible Page D.
5. Trace and cut out a dress, shirt and pants from wrapping paper or cloth for each child.
6. Cut the yarn into 1" lengths to use as hair for the dolls.
7. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

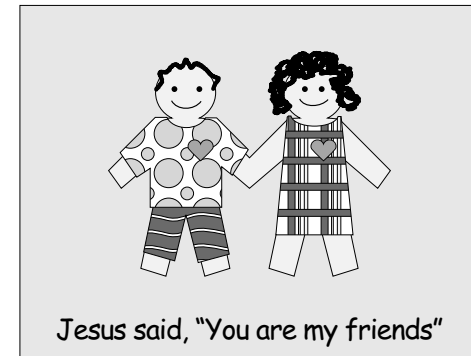
1. Show the children the completed paper dolls. *Do you think that these two dolls are friends? Why? Yes, because they are holding hands. That makes me think that they are friends, too.*
2. Give the children each a piece of construction paper and a set of paper dolls. Have them glue the paper dolls onto their paper.
3. Have each child choose a dress for the girl and glue it on one of the paper doll figures.
4. Have them choose a shirt and pants for the boy and glue them on the other paper doll figure.
5. Give the children two heart stickers, and have them glue one on each paper doll.
6. Give each child a few strands of yarn to glue onto each doll as hair.
7. On each child's picture write: Jesus said, "You are my friends."
8. Write the children's names on their papers.

Conclusion

Ask the children to share the name of one of their friends. Talk about what kinds of things we do with our friends.

Teacher Tips

- If you cannot find heart stickers, cut out small hearts from red construction paper.



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Finished Craft





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Jesus was a friend
to Zacchaeus



_____ is a friend, too!





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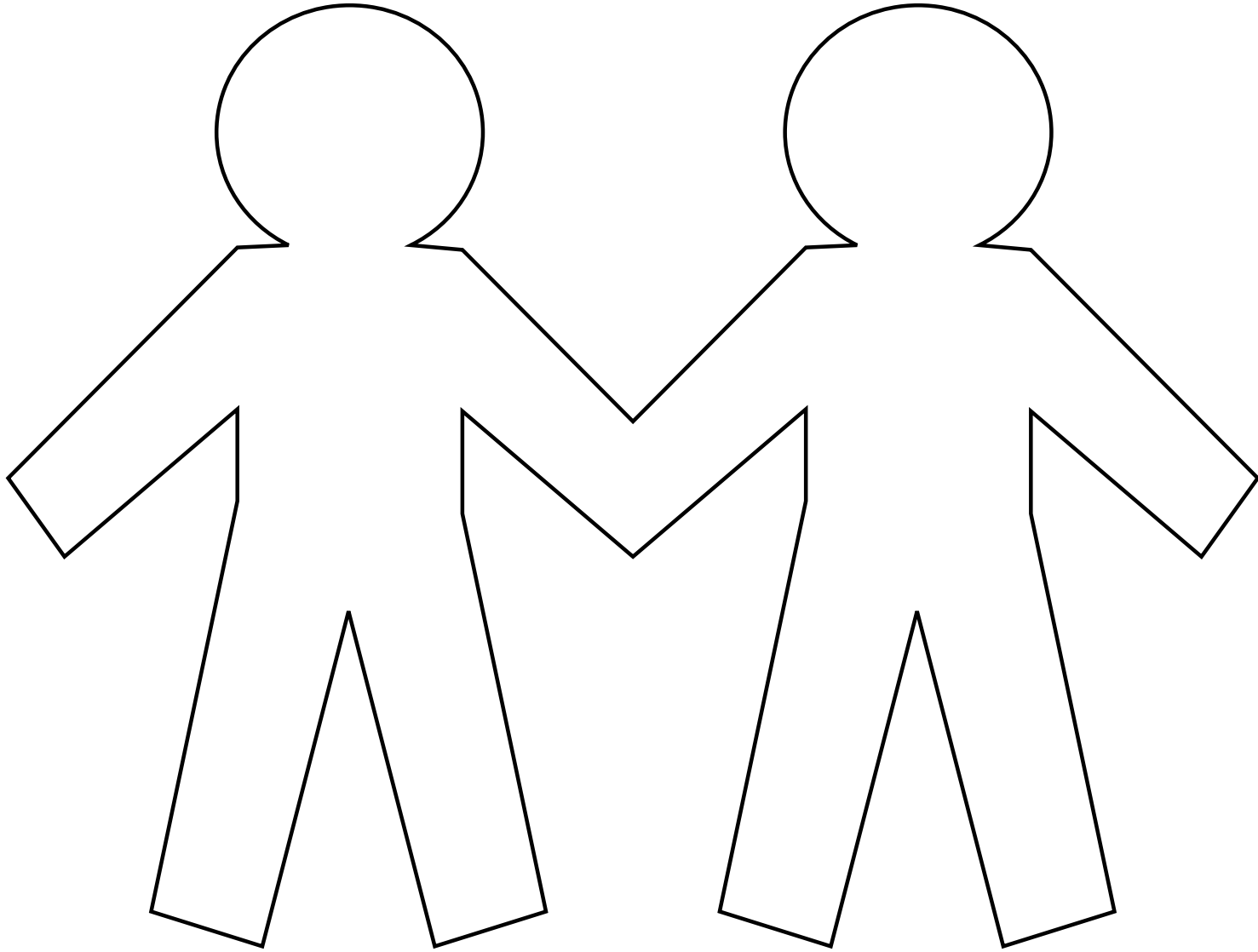


figures





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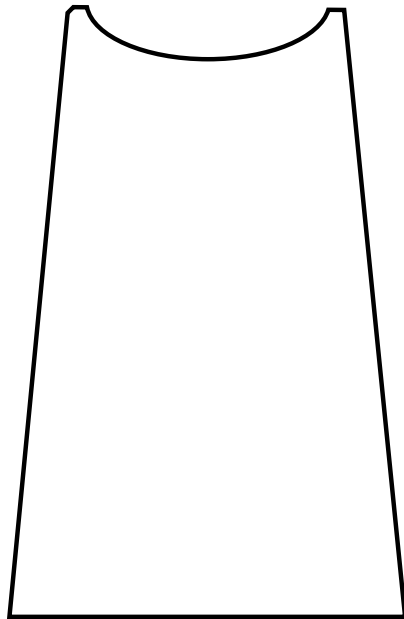


paper dolls stencil

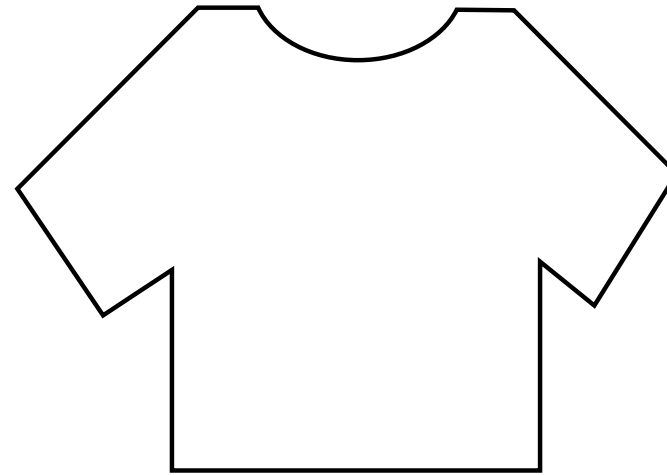




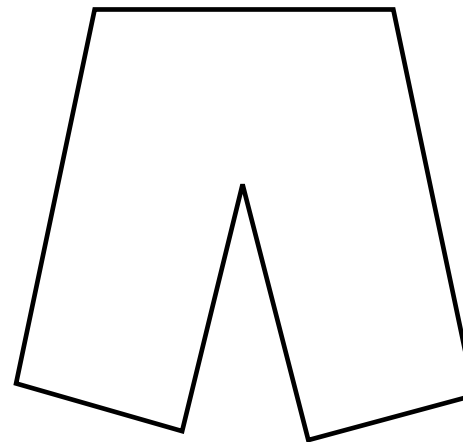
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dress stencil



shirt stencil



pants stencil

