

I Can Talk to God

Lesson Objectives

- The children will understand that praying is how we talk to God.
- The children will learn how Hannah prayed for a baby and God answered her prayers.
- The children will pray.

Bible Story Text

1 Samuel 1:1-20

Bible Truth

Pray all the time.
(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Talking to God

Life Application: God Helps Me

Craft: Baby Samuel

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



I Can Talk to God

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.

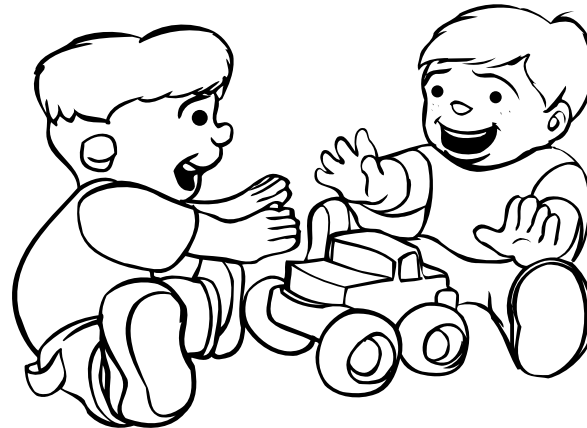
Instructions

Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme. Refer to the following example for help in directing play and asking relevant questions.

In the Housekeeping Center play with the dolls as if they are baby Samuel. Explain to the children that Hannah was Samuel's mom. Hannah prayed to God for a baby and God gave her Samuel. Talk with the children about prayer and that God loves it when we pray.

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 Can Talk to God

Talking to God

This lesson will help the children to understand that we talk to God by praying.

Bible Story Text

1 Samuel 1:1-20

Materials

For the teacher:

- Bible
- pictures from the Unit 14 Lesson 1, Bible Story
- felt board
- tape
- baby doll
- baby blanket

Preparation

1. Roll three pieces of tape and put one on the back of each picture.
2. Place the three pictures of Hannah out of order on the bottom of the felt board.

We Can Talk to God

Have the children sit on the floor in front of the felt board where they can see easily. *Have you ever prayed before? Who do you talk to when you pray? Yes, you talk to God. Have you ever prayed a lot for something you wanted? What did you pray for?*

Open the Bible. *Today we are going to read a story from the Bible about a woman named Hannah. Can you say Hannah? Guess what she wanted very badly?* Take the children's responses. *Hannah wanted a baby!*

How do you think Hannah would look if she wanted a baby very badly and didn't have one? She would probably look very sad! Can anyone point to the picture of Hannah looking sad because she did not have a baby? That's right! Have a child place picture #1 on the top of the felt board.

Now, if you were very sad, what would you do? Take the children's responses. *Did you know that God wants you to talk to him when you are sad? He wants you to talk to him when you are happy, too. Just like your Mommy and Daddy want to help you feel better, God wants to help you feel better, too.*

What do you think Hannah should do if she is sad and wants a baby? Yes, she should talk to God and tell him how sad she is. She should pray. In the Bible it says that Hannah did pray. She prayed very hard to God (1 Samuel 1:15). Who can point to the picture of Hannah praying? Have a child move picture #2 beside picture #1 on the felt board.

God is always listening to us! He listened to Hannah when she was praying, and guess what happened? God answered Hannah's prayer. He gave her a baby! (1 Samuel 1:19-20). Ask if someone would like to put picture #3 with the others. Here's the last picture that shows Hannah loving her new little baby. His name is Samuel. Can you say that?

Let's go over the story again: Point to picture #1. *Here is Hannah, she is sad because she wants a little baby.* Point to picture #2. *Here is Hannah talking to God about how she feels.* Point to picture #3. *Here is Hannah loving her new baby that God has given her! How do you think Hannah feels now? Yes, very happy. Do you think she will say thank you to God?*

Look, I have a surprise for you. Pull out the baby doll with the blanket wrapped around it. Cuddle the doll like a baby. *Let's pretend this is the baby that God gave Hannah! Let's pass the baby around, and then hug the baby.* Pass the doll around and let the children hug it.

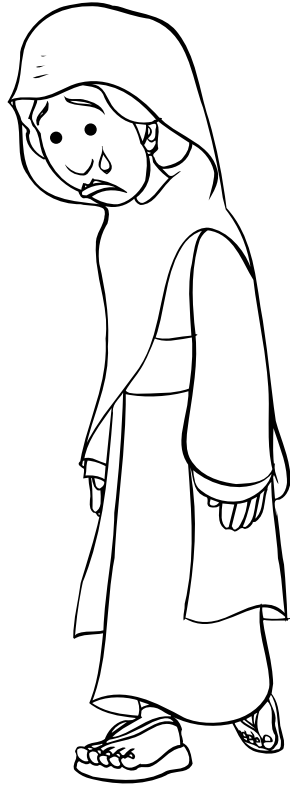
Conclusion

When Hannah talked to God what did she ask for? Yes, a baby. So if we want to let God know about something we need or how we are feeling, what should we do? Yes, we should pray and talk to God.

If there is time, take the pictures off the felt board. Give three children each a picture and help them to place the pictures in order on the felt board. Repeat until all of the children have had a turn. For older threes, allow them to hold all of the pictures, and then put them in order on the felt board.



I Can Talk to God



I Can Talk to God

God Helps Me

This activity will help the children to understand that when we need something we can pray to God and he always hears our prayers.

Bible Truth

Pray all the time.
(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Materials

For the teacher:

- Bible
- pictures from the Unit 14 Lesson 1, Life Application

Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the Life Application and the songs.

Instructions

Open the Bible. *The Bible says: "Pray all the time." Who do we talk to when we pray? That's right! When we pray, we talk to God. What do we say to God? We tell him, "thank you," for giving us everything we need. We also tell him how we are feeling.*

Hold up picture #1 of Hannah looking sad. *Let's look at this picture. Can anyone tell me who is in this picture? This is Hannah. Can you say, "Hannah"? What is wrong with Hannah? She is sad. Can anyone tell me why she is sad? She is sad because she wants a little baby, and she does not have one. What should Hannah do?*

Hold up picture #2 of Hannah praying. *Hannah is praying to God. That is what she needs to do. She needs to pray to God, and ask God, "Please give me a baby." And that is what Hannah did! She prayed to God for a baby. And guess what?*

Hold up picture #3 of Hannah with her baby. *God gave Hannah a baby. Does anyone know what her baby's name is? His name is Samuel. God loved Hannah, and he answered her prayers and gave her a baby. God hears us when we pray, and he answers our prayers because he loves us, too!*

Hold up picture #4. *Why is this little girl crying? She is crying because she does not want to go to bed. Do you ever cry because you do not want to go to bed? What do you think she needs to do?*

Hold up picture #5. *She is praying to God. She is asking God to please help her to obey her mommy and to go to sleep. Do you think God will help her to go to sleep? Let's see.*

Hold up picture #6. *Look, she has gone to sleep. She prayed to God, and she stopped crying and went to sleep. She obeyed her mommy and stayed in her bed. Her mommy will be happy, and the little girl will be happy when she wakes up. God helped her to go to sleep!*

Hold up picture #7. *What are these boys doing? They are fighting over a toy. They are not sharing. Their mommy told them to share the toy, but they do not want to share it. What do they need to do? They need to pray to God to help them share.*

Hold up picture #8. *What are they doing? They are praying. They are talking to God and asking him to please help them to share the toy, and to help them be good brothers and not to fight any more. What do you think will happen?*

Hold up picture #9. *The boys are sharing! They are happy, and they are not fighting. Who helped them to share? Yes, God did! God helps us when we pray.*

Sing "It's Time To Pray" from the Unit 14 Song Sheet. Show the different pictures as you sing.

If time allows, play a sequencing game with the pictures:

- Lay out the first picture of each set on the floor face up.
- Mix up the other pictures and lay them on the floor face down.
- Let each child pick a picture and hold it.
- Who has the picture of Hannah praying? Have that child place the picture next to the first one.
- Who has the picture of Hannah holding baby Samuel? Have that child place the picture next to the second one.
- Continue this with the other two sets of pictures until all the cards are in order.

NOTE: Save the pictures for the Unit 14 Lesson 2, Life Application.



I Can Talk to God

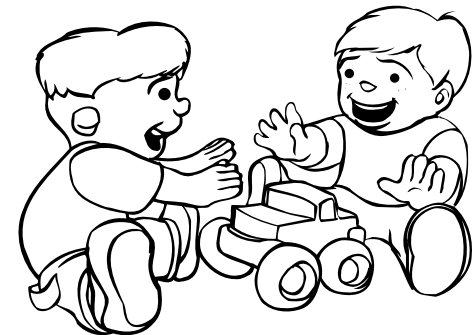
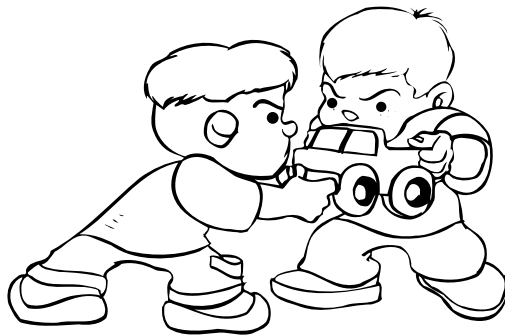
Bible Truth Activity

Hold up your Bible. *The Bible says: "Pray all the time." Let's all say that together: "Pray all the time."*

Conclusion

Let's thank God for listening and helping us when we pray. Dear God, thank you so much for listening to us when we pray to you. Thank you for helping us when we pray. Please help us to talk to you all the time about what we are feeling, when we are sad, happy, or angry. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Who are you going to tell about Bible class today? What are you going to tell them? You can help your friends if they are not sharing or are angry by telling them to pray to God.



I Can Talk to God

Baby Samuel

This craft will remind the children that God answers prayers.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 old-fashioned clothespin or doll pin

For the teacher:

- scissors
- measuring tape or ruler
- black marker
- string or twine
- fabric

Preparation

1. Using the black marker, draw eyes and a mouth on the round "head" of each clothespin. See Figure A.
2. Cut out a 4" x 4" square of fabric for each child.
3. Cut an 8" length of string for each child.
4. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Pass the model around so each child has a turn to hold baby Samuel. *Our Bible story today is about how God answered Hannah's prayers and gave her a baby. The baby's name was Samuel. Do you want to make a baby Samuel to remind you of the story?*
2. Give each child a clothespin.
3. Give each child a piece of fabric. Help each child to wrap their baby in the fabric so that its face shows. See Figure B.
4. Help each child to tie the string around the fabric, holding it in place.

Conclusion

Talk to the children about little babies and how special they are. Tell the children about how special they are to their families, just like baby Samuel was special to his mommy, Hannah. Point out the eyes and mouth on their "babies." *Who made your eyes? Who made your mouth? Who made baby Samuel's eyes? Who made his mouth?*

Pretend you are all Hannah and act out the story. Sing one of the prayer songs from the Unit 14 Song Sheet.

Teacher Tips

If time remains, play "Hannah Says" based on "Simon Says" with the children. Give commands like, *Hannah says rock baby Samuel. Hannah says lay him on the table. Put baby Samuel on your head. Oh no, don't do that! Hannah didn't say that!* Unlike Simon Says, let all the children continue to play, even when they do something that Hannah did not say to do.



craft

I Can Talk to God

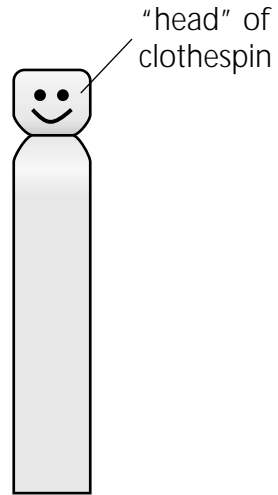


Figure A

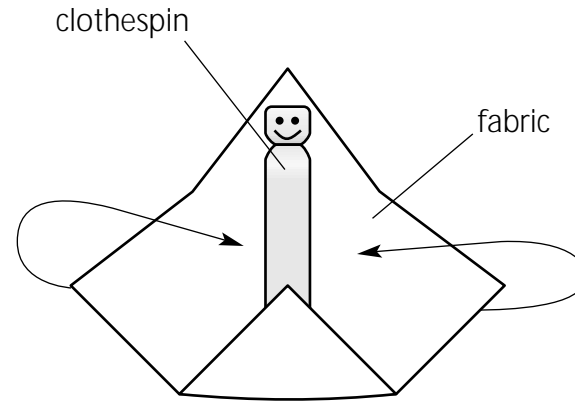


Figure B



Finished Craft





I Can Talk to God

Prayer Lesson 2

Lesson Objectives

- The children will understand that praying is how we talk to God.
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- The children will pray.

Bible Story Text

1 Samuel 1:1-20

Bible Truth

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(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

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.

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: When I Grow Up

Bible Story: Talking to God

Craft: Praying Hands

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

Instructions

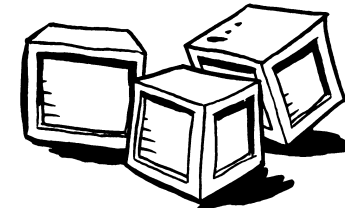
Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme. Refer to the following example for help in directing play and asking relevant questions.

In the Housekeeping Center play with the dolls as if they are baby Samuel. Explain to the children that Hannah was Samuel's mom. Hannah prayed to God for a baby and God gave her Samuel. Talk with the children about prayer and that God loves it when we pray.

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.



Life

Application

When I Grow Up

This activity will help the children to realize that as they grow up, they will always be able to talk to God.

Bible Truth

Pray all the time.
(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Materials

For the teacher:

- Bible
- clothes and hats for children to wear to play "dress up," such as: fireman's hat, construction worker hard hat and play tools, ballerina skirt, bride's dress or veil, high heeled shoes, play doctor's kit, chef's hat and apron, sports jersey, etc.

Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the instructions.

Instructions

Open the Bible. *The Bible says, "Pray all the time." Who prays to God? Ask each child, Victoria, do you pray to God? Do you know anyone else who prays to God? Weston, do you know any grown-ups who pray to God?*

Today we are going to pretend to be grown-ups! Who would like to pretend to be a grown-up?

Let the children choose clothing to dress up in. As the children dress up, interact with them about what they are wearing. They will enjoy it if you talk to them as if they were the person whose outfit they are wearing. *Victoria, you are a beautiful ballerina! Will you do a dance for me? Weston, you are a strong construction worker! Will you build me a house?*

Have the children sit in a circle and sing "When I Grow Up" from the Unit 14 Song Sheet.

As you sing the song, sing a verse for each child in your group. For example, if you have a child dressed in a ballerina skirt, have that child stand or sit beside you, as you sing a verse about growing up and being a ballerina.

Have the children remove the dress-up clothes and put them out of sight.

Bible Truth Activity

Hold up the Bible. *The Bible says: "Pray all the time." Let's all say that together: "Pray all the time." Ask each child: Victoria, if you are a ballerina when you grow up, what are you going to do? That's right! You will pray. Grown up ballerinas, who are disciples, pray to God.*

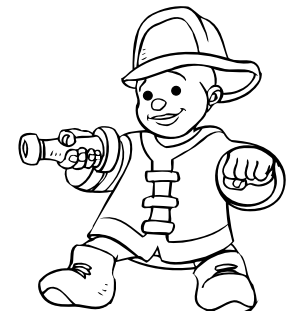
Conclusion

Let's talk to God now. Dear God, Thank you that we can talk to you about everything. Thank you, that we will also be able to talk to you when we are grown up. Please help us to talk to you all the time. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

Teacher Tips

- Be sure all of your dress-up outfits are for real adult occupations. Do not bring in any animal, cartoon or Super Hero costumes. This activity will teach the children that they will love and pray to God when they are adults.
- Have the children take turns dressing up in the different outfits, especially if more than one child chooses the same outfit.
- You may have some children who do not want to dress up. It is fine to let them watch. They will usually join in as they become more comfortable.



Talking to God

This lesson will help the children to understand that we talk to God by praying.

Bible Story Text

1 Samuel 1:1-20

Materials

For the teacher:

- Bible
- pictures from the Unit 14 Lesson 1, Bible Story
- felt board
- tape
- baby doll
- baby blanket

Preparation

1. Roll three pieces of tape and put one on the back of each picture.
2. Place the three pictures of Hannah out of order on the bottom of the felt board.

We Can Talk to God

Have the children sit on the floor in front of the felt board where they can see easily. *Have you ever prayed before? Who do you talk to when you pray? Yes, you talk to God. Have you ever prayed a lot for something you wanted? What did you pray for?*

Open the Bible. *Today we are going to read a story from the Bible about a woman named Hannah. Can you say Hannah? Guess what she wanted very badly?* Take the children's responses. *Hannah wanted a baby!*

How do you think Hannah would look if she wanted a baby very badly and didn't have one? She would probably look very sad! Can anyone point to the picture of Hannah looking sad because she did not have a baby? That's right! Have a child place picture #1 on the top of the felt board.

Now, if you were very sad, what would you do? Take the children's responses. *Did you know that God wants you to talk to him when you are sad? He wants you to talk to him when you are happy, too. Just like your Mommy and Daddy want to help you feel better, God wants to help you feel better, too.*

What do you think Hannah should do if she is sad and wants a baby? Yes, she should talk to God and tell him how sad she is. She should pray. In the Bible it says that Hannah did pray. She prayed very hard to God (1 Samuel 1:15). Who can point to the picture of Hannah praying? Have a child move picture #2 beside picture #1 on the felt board.

God is always listening to us! He listened to Hannah when she was praying, and guess what happened? God answered Hannah's prayer. He gave her a baby! (1 Samuel 1:19-20). Ask if someone would like to put picture #3 with the others. Here's the last picture that shows Hannah loving her new little baby. His name is Samuel. Can you say that?

Let's go over the story again: Point to picture #1. *Here is Hannah, she is sad because she wants a little baby.* Point to picture #2. *Here is Hannah talking to God about how she feels.* Point to picture #3. *Here is Hannah loving her new baby that God has given her! How do you think Hannah feels now? Yes, very happy. Do you think she will say thank you to God?*

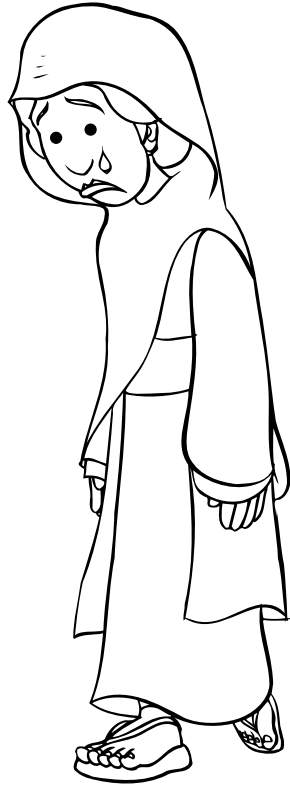
Look, I have a surprise for you. Pull out the baby doll with the blanket wrapped around it. Cuddle the doll like a baby. *Let's pretend this is the baby that God gave Hannah! Let's pass the baby around, and then hug the baby.* Pass the doll around and let the children hug it.

Conclusion

When Hannah talked to God what did she ask for? Yes, a baby. So if we want to let God know about something we need or how we are feeling, what should we do? Yes, we should pray and talk to God.

If there is time, take the pictures off the felt board. Give three children each a picture and help them to place the pictures in order on the felt board. Repeat until all of the children have had a turn. For older threes, allow them to hold all of the pictures, and then put them in order on the felt board.

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Praying Hands

The children will make praying hands from construction paper to remind them to pray all the time.

Materials

For each child:

- 2 sheets of colored construction paper
- crayons

For the teacher:

- scissors
- black marker
- glue stick or clear tape
- colored construction paper for shapes

Reproducible Pages:

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

Preparation

1. Prepare a pair of "hands" for each child as follows:
 - A. Cut out the hand stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page A.
 - B. Fold a piece of construction paper in half, and then trace and cut out two hands at once.
2. Make an "arm strip" for each child as follows:
 - A. Cut a piece of construction paper in half lengthwise.
 - B. Glue the paper ends together making a 20" x 4½" strip of paper. See Figure A.
 - C. Fold the ends together so that they meet the middle. See Figure B.
3. Cut out a scripture text box for each child from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
4. Cut eight 2" shapes from the colored construction paper for each child.
5. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

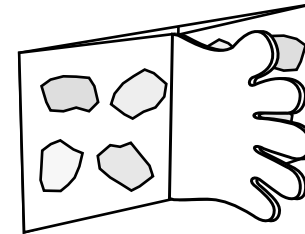
1. Show the children your model and remind them that praying is talking to God. *This craft reminds us that we can always talk to God.*
2. Give each child an arm strip and two hands. Help them to glue the hands to the arm strip. See Figure C.
3. Give the children eight construction paper shapes to glue on the outside of the arms for decoration.
4. Help each child to glue the palms together to form the praying hands.
5. Give the children each a scripture text box, and then have them glue these to the backs of their crafts.
6. If there is time, have the children color their Praying Hands.

Conclusion

Let each child share some of the things they want to ask or tell God. Tell the children to place their praying hands at home in a special place as a reminder to pray to God.

Teacher Tips

- Make sure the hands are aligned thumb-to-thumb before you help the children glue them together.



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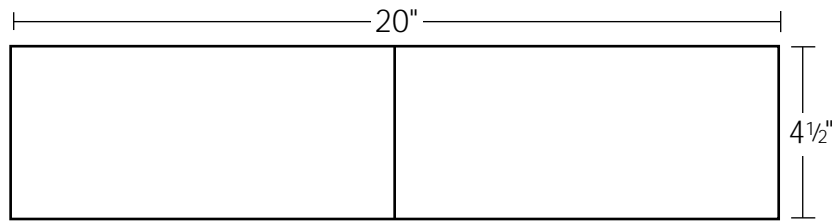


Figure A

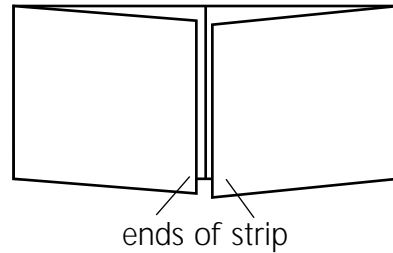
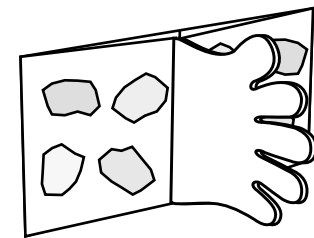
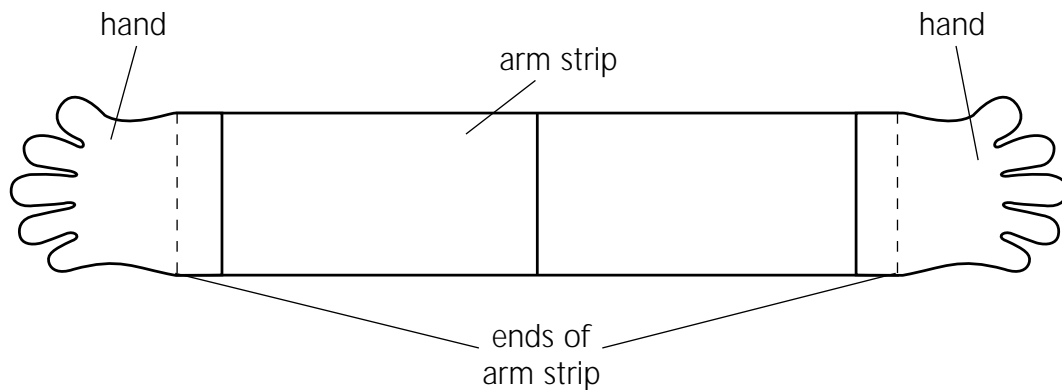


Figure B

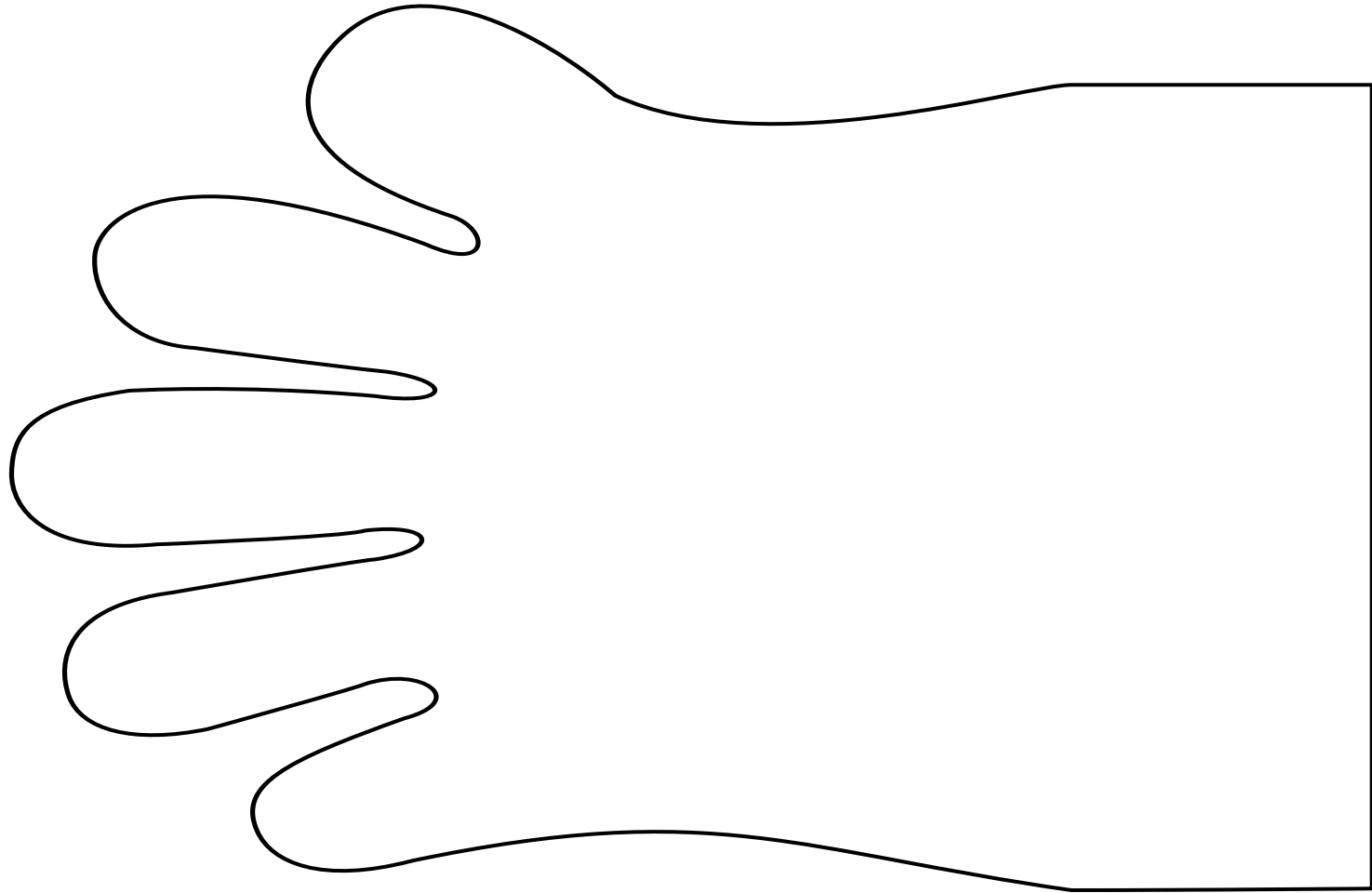


Finished Craft





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hand stencil





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PRAY ALL THE TIME.
(1 THESSALONIANS 5:17)

scripture text box

