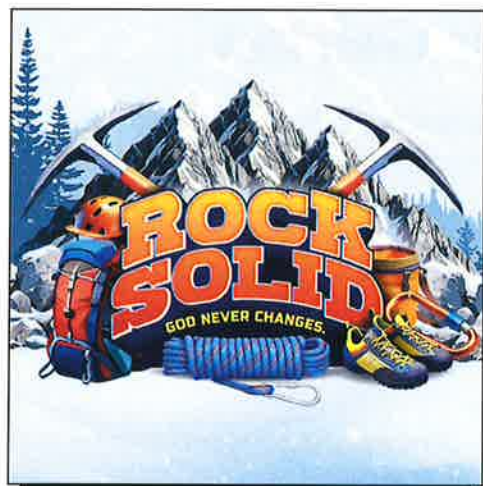




THE BURNING BUSH

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 3

FOCUS VERSES: Revelation 22:13, Psalm 90:2; John 3:16;
1 John 5:13

Summary: God's people were slaves in Egypt and were treated harshly. They called out for God to rescue them. Moses was tending sheep and saw a bush on fire, but it wasn't burning up. God instructed Moses to go to Pharaoh and demand that the Israelite people be released. When Moses asked who to say sent him, the Lord responded with, "I AM who I AM." God has always existed and always will. Eventually, the people were freed from slavery in Egypt, just like God said.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



God will forever be God.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



HOW LONG HAS GOD EXISTED?

God has always existed and will always exist. He was before everything and He has no end.



CAN WE LIVE FOREVER?

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have eternal life.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: SIGNS OF A PREDATOR

Statistics show that 90 percent of kids who have been abused know their abuser. Because churches are generally welcoming and open environments, they can attract those who seek to harm kids. People who abuse are cunning and hide what they are doing, but there are signs you can be aware of. Predators will often:

- **Show extra interest in a kid:** We want adults in our churches to invest in kids, but predators will take it too far. They may have a “favorite kid” to whom they give focused attention, including providing gifts, inviting them to special events or bringing them special treats.
- **Try to gain trust with kids and adults:** Predators may go above and beyond to earn the trust of others. They may seem to be extra-dependable or helpful.
- **Spend more time with kids than adults:** The predator may seem childish or “extra fun” but has little interest in developing relationships with other people their age.
- **Develop secrecy with kids:** The predator’s secrets may seem innocent, such as “Don’t tell your mom I gave you that candy,” but it could be a grooming tactic on kids to protect darker secrets.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: WHERE DID GOD COME FROM?

Children are taught that everything has a beginning. Babies and puppies are born, chickens come from eggs and plants come from seeds. But where did God come from? This question is one of the most commonly asked by kids. As concrete thinkers, it is challenging for them to grasp that God has no beginning. In today’s lesson, kids will learn that God is eternal. He has always existed and will exist forever. Emphasize that He has no beginning and He didn’t have to be created. Point out that this is one way God is different from people and all of creation. Help kids understand that there are parts of God that we will never fully grasp with our human minds, and that’s okay!

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Eternal: always existed and always will

Eternal life: living forever, even after death on Earth

Savior: the only One who can save us from our sins

Unchanging: always stays the same

Bible TEACHING

THE BURNING BUSH EXODUS 3



PRAY: Dear God, yesterday, today and forever, You are Lord over all! You met Moses in a burning bush, and You meet us through Your Word. Like Moses, may we trust Your holy Word. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible; teaching slides; red, yellow and orange streamers

PREP:

Tear approximately 1-inch pieces of streamers.

LEADER TIP:

Only have the kids wave the streamers when indicated in the script to reduce distraction.

Say: Many years after Joseph died, God's people, the Israelites, kept growing and growing in number, just like God had promised Abraham. A new Pharaoh ruled over Egypt who did not remember Joseph. He feared the growing number of the Israelites, so he made them slaves. The Israelites called out to God, asking Him to save them. God heard their prayers.

Say: An Israelite named Moses was tending his sheep.

Call a volunteer to come to the front of the space and play Moses. Have Moses wave to the group.

Say: Suddenly, Moses saw something incredible. An angel of the Lord appeared in a burning bush.

Show teaching illustration: Moses and The Burning Bush.

Give one red streamer and one orange streamer to every kid and lead them to wave their streamers high in the air to represent fire.

Say: Moses noticed that even though the bush was on fire, it wasn't burning up.

Have kids continue to wave their streamers.

Say: God called to Moses from the bush: "Moses! Moses!"

Say: "Here I am," Moses said.

Have Moses say, "Here I am!" The group should stop waving the streamers.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Read Exodus 3:5–6 directly from the Bible: *Then He said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

Show teaching illustration: Moses Taking off Sandals.

Have Moses take off his shoes.

Say: The Lord had seen the Israelites' suffering. He promised to rescue them, bring them out of Egypt and give them a new land flowing with milk and honey. God was sending Moses to tell Pharaoh to release the people from Egypt.

Have Moses repeat the following dialogue after you.

Say: "Me?" Moses asked. "Who am I? And whom will I tell them sent me?"

Say: "I AM who I AM." God replied, telling Moses He was the God who always was, always is and always will be.

Have the group shout, "I AM who I AM!" and wave the streamers.

Say: Because God is eternal, He could tell Moses exactly what was going to happen. Pharaoh would refuse to release the Israelites, God would send great signs and plagues, and eventually the Israelites would be freed.

Invite the volunteer to return to their seat. Take up the streamers.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God has always existed and always will. He is the only One who can make a way for us to have eternal life with Him. Just like the Israelites were trapped in Egypt, we are trapped by our sin. We need a Rescuer. God's own Son, Jesus, came to Earth to free us from our sin. Only by His forgiveness of our sin and by trusting in Him as our Savior can we live forever with God.

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

DESIGN A SHOE

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, coloring supplies

OR

FOLLOW THE LEADER

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

FIRE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, red, orange and yellow balloons (1 of each)

OR

ALPHABETICAL ORDER

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable pages, scissors

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

GOSPEL BOOKMARK

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, scissors

OR

FIRE PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, scissors, brad fasteners (1 per kid), hole puncher, red, yellow and orange colored paper (1 of each per kid)



DESIGN A SHOE

SUPPLIES:

Printable pages, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the printable pages (1 shoe per kid).

LEADER TIP: Provide extra decorating supplies like gel pens, stickers, pom-poms or glitter!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is unchanging, which means that He always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. **Discuss:** What is your favorite pair of shoes? What makes it the best?
5. **Say:** Today we will design our perfect shoe! I want to see what your perfect shoe would look like!
6. *Distribute a printable page to everyone. Allow kids to pick their favorite template.*
7. *Give kids time to design their shoe and color it in.*
8. *Invite kids to share their shoe.*
9. **Discuss:** Have you ever been to a place where you had to take your shoes off? Why?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

I love all your shoes! Today we are learning a story from the Bible where God tells someone to take their shoes off. They were standing on holy ground!



FOLLOW THE LEADER

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: If you have limited space, play “Simon Says” instead.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: If your group has mobility needs, play the game while standing in a circle.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is unchanging, which means that He always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. **Say:** Let's play “Follow the Leader”! We will march around and you will follow my instructions.
5. **Say:** Line up behind me. When I start to walk, follow behind and I will call out a direction for you to follow.
6. *Start walking and calling out directions (e.g., skip, hop, march, etc.).*
7. *Add in directions that might be difficult to do (e.g., hop on one leg, crab walk, etc.).*
8. *Continue playing as long as time allows, periodically picking new kids to be the leader.*
9. **Discuss:** Some of those directions were difficult to do. Did any of you not want to do them? What was the hardest one to do?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Sometimes God asks us to do really hard things. In our story today, He asked Moses to do a difficult task.



FIRE VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles; teaching slide; red, orange and yellow balloons (1 of each)

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide. Inflate the balloons.

LEADER TIP: Store the balloons in large trash bags to keep them under control and use for multiple services.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How did God show the Israelites that He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow?
3. **Discuss:** What did God tell Moses that His name is?
4. **Say:** God told Moses to tell the Israelites His name is "I AM that I AM." He was saying that He is God forever and the source of existence.
5. **Discuss:** How long has God existed?
6. **Say:** God has always existed and will always exist. He was before everything, and He has no end.
7. **Say:** Let's play a game to practice our memory verse!
8. **Say:** We will practice saying our verse while keeping all the "fire" balloons up in the air. If any of the balloons fall to the ground, we have to start over.
9. *Play the game, making sure to say the verse several times.*
10. **Discuss:** Is it a good or bad thing that God will forever be God?
11. **Discuss:** How can it help us to know that God will always be the same?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

It is great news that God will forever be God. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow! His love for us will never end!



ALPHABETICAL ORDER

SUPPLIES:

Bible, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out.
Mix up the cards so they are not in alphabetical order.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Have a visual of the alphabet available for kids to reference during the activity.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did God tell Moses His name was?
2. **Say:** God told Moses to tell the Israelites His name was "I AM that I AM." He was saying that He is God forever and the source of existence.
3. **Say:** Let's work together to put all the alphabet cards in order, from A to Z!
4. *Distribute cards to kids and allow them to work on putting the letters in order.*
5. **Discuss:** Which letter comes before D? Which letter comes after X?
6. **Discuss:** Which letter comes before A? Which letter comes after Z?
7. **Say:** You're exactly right. No letter comes before A and no letter comes after Z.
8. **Read:** Revelation 22:13.
9. **Say:** In the Greek alphabet, alpha is the first letter and omega is the last letter, like our A and Z. Just like there is no letter before A, no one or no thing comes before God. Our alphabet ends with the letter Z, but there is no end to God. He will forever be God.
10. **Discuss:** How long has God existed?
11. *God has always existed and will always exist. He was before everything, and He has no end.*
12. **Discuss:** Is it a good or bad thing that God has always existed and will always exist? Why?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

It is great news that God will forever be God. He is before all things, and He has no end. We know we can trust Him completely because He is God. He is good and does what is good.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: God heard the Israelites' cry for help and sent Moses to rescue them. This was part of keeping His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God was good to them, He was good to Moses and He will forever be good.

Read Psalm 118:1 directly from the Bible: *Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... WHERE DID GOD COME FROM?

Discuss: Have you ever wondered where God came from?

Discuss: A lot of people ask that question. Why would that be something people wonder about?

Discuss: What does the Bible tell us about that?

Say: When the Lord told Moses "I AM who I AM," He was reminding Moses that He had always existed and always will. He doesn't have a beginning. Because He is God, He is different from people. He was not made by anything or anyone else. He has always existed. That can be hard to wrap our minds around. Everything else that we know of has a beginning. But God is the Creator. He was not created. It is okay if we can't fully understand how that can be true. There are things about God that we will never completely understand because we are humans and He is God. Romans 11:33 says: *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!* We will never understand everything about God, but we can trust He is forever God and He is forever good.



GOSPEL BOOKMARK

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, scissors

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page on cardstock (1 bookmark per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What does it mean when we say that God is eternal?
2. **Say:** Eternal means that God always existed and always will!
3. **Discuss:** How did God rescue the Israelites?
4. **Discuss:** God sent Jesus to Earth. How did Jesus rescue us?
5. **Read:** John 3:16.
6. **Discuss:** Can we live forever?
7. **Say:** God sent His only Son to Earth for us. We all sin, but we can believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, rose again and is alive today!
8. **Say:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have eternal life with Him.
9. **Say:** This bookmark is going to help us to remember Jesus' sacrifice and remind us that we can trust in Jesus as our Savior.
10. **Explain the colors:**
 - **Grey:** Sin—We all sin and disobey God.
 - **Red:** Blood—Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.
 - **Clear:** Forgiven—Jesus forgives our sins when we believe in Him.
 - **Yellow:** Heaven—When you believe in Jesus and trust in Him as Savior, you will go to heaven.
 - **Green:** Grow—We continue to learn God's Word so we can keep growing closer to Him.
11. **Discuss:** How can we tell others what Jesus did for us?
12. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change. You are always good and always with us. Help us trust You every day. Amen.
13. **Say:** God will forever be God. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



FIRE PRAYERS

SUPPLIES:

Bible; Take-Home page; coloring supplies; printable pages; scissors; brad fasteners (1 per kid); hole puncher; red, yellow and orange colored paper (1 of each per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages on red, yellow and orange paper and cut out (1 of each per kid). Hole-punch each flame.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God talk to Moses? How did God rescue the Israelites?
2. **Discuss:** God sent Jesus to Earth. How did Jesus rescue us?
3. **Read:** John 3:16.
4. **Discuss:** Can we live forever?
5. **Say:** God sent His only Son to Earth for us. We all sin, but we can believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, rose again and is alive today!
6. **Say:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have eternal life with Him.
7. **Say:** Let's respond to God through prayer. We have orange, red and yellow "fire." You will each come and grab one orange, one red and one yellow "flame" from the fire. I will read the prompts, and you can write or draw your response to them on your flame.
8. *Pass out one of each color of the printable flames to kids.*
9. *Read one prompt at a time and give kids time to write or draw their responses.*
10. *Discuss each prompt after kids have finished.*
11. *Pass out a brad fastener to everyone and help kids thread it through their flames.*
12. **Say:** God is God forever. He loves you and wants you to live forever with Him. Choosing to follow Him is the best decision we can ever make!
13. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change. You are always good and always with us. Help us trust You every day. Amen.
14. **Say:** God will forever be God. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.

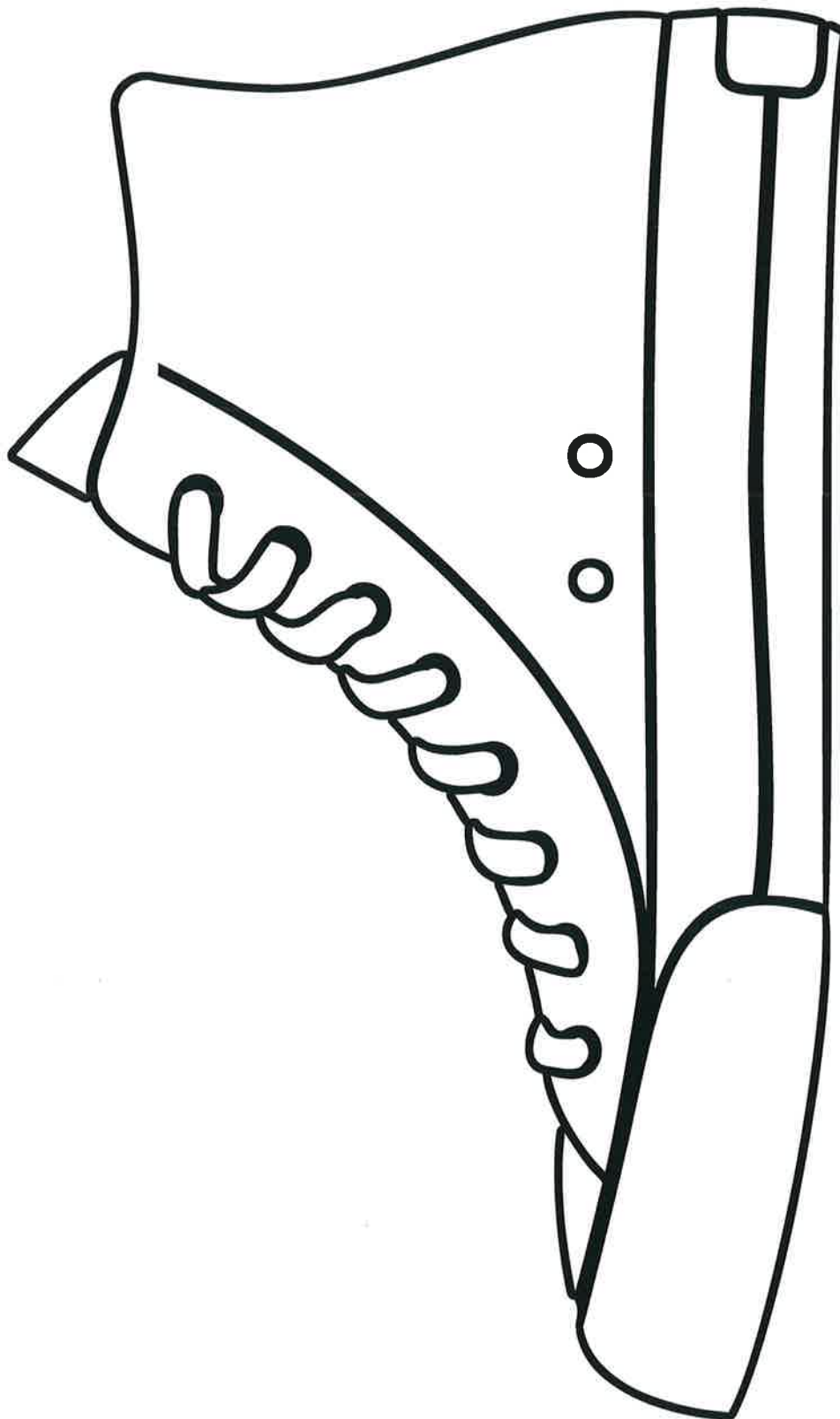


DESIGN A SHOE

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 1 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages (1 shoe per kid).



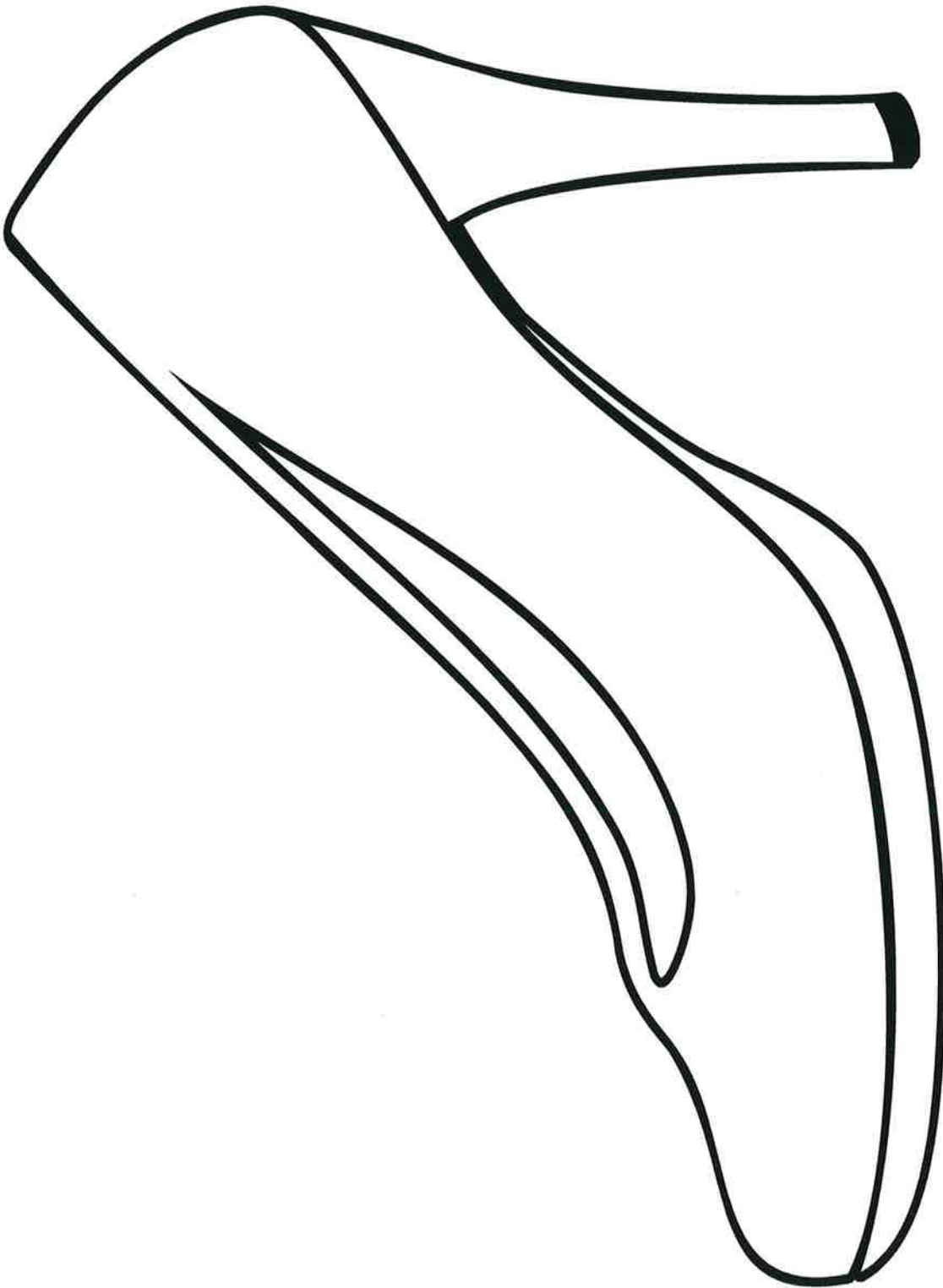


DESIGN A SHOE

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 2 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages (1 shoe per kid).



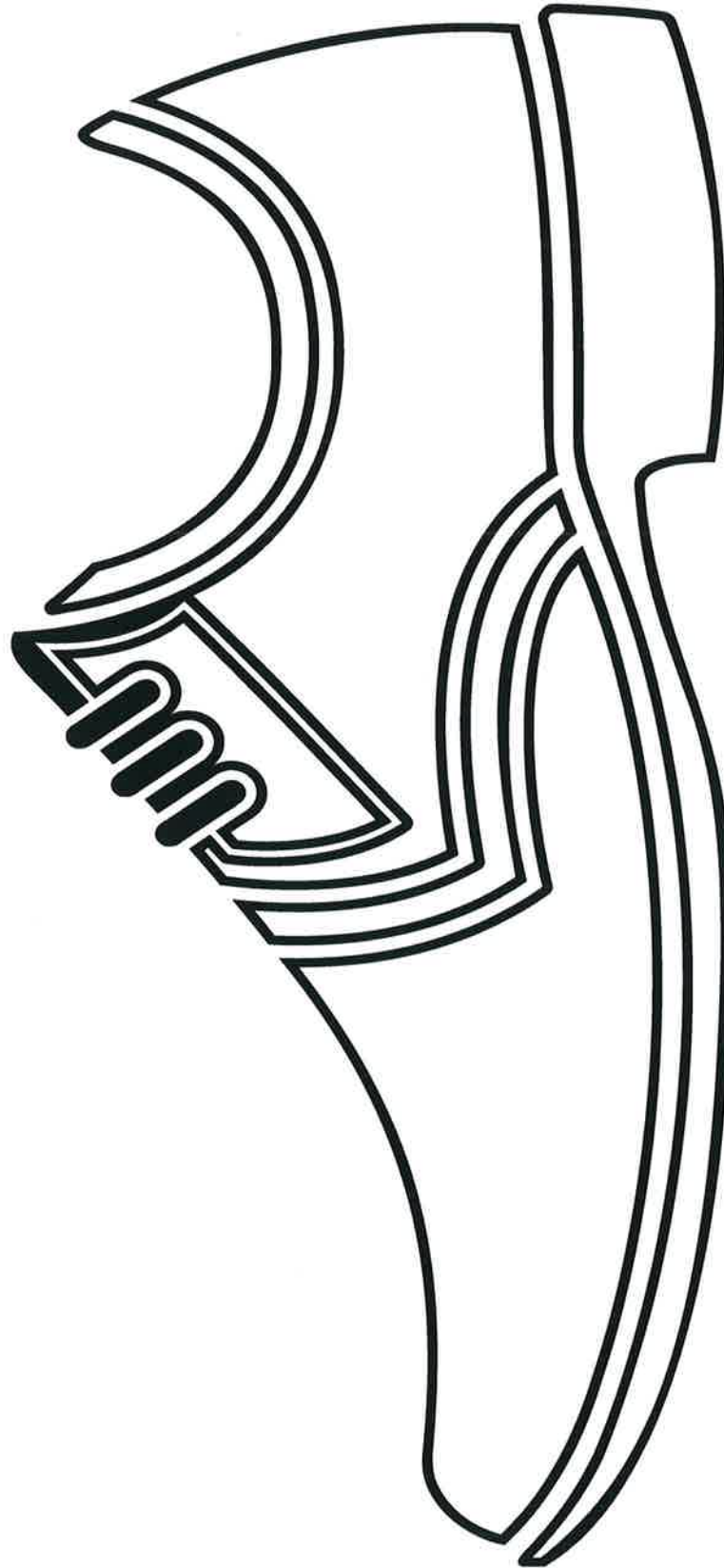


DESIGN A SHOE

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 3 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages (1 shoe per kid).



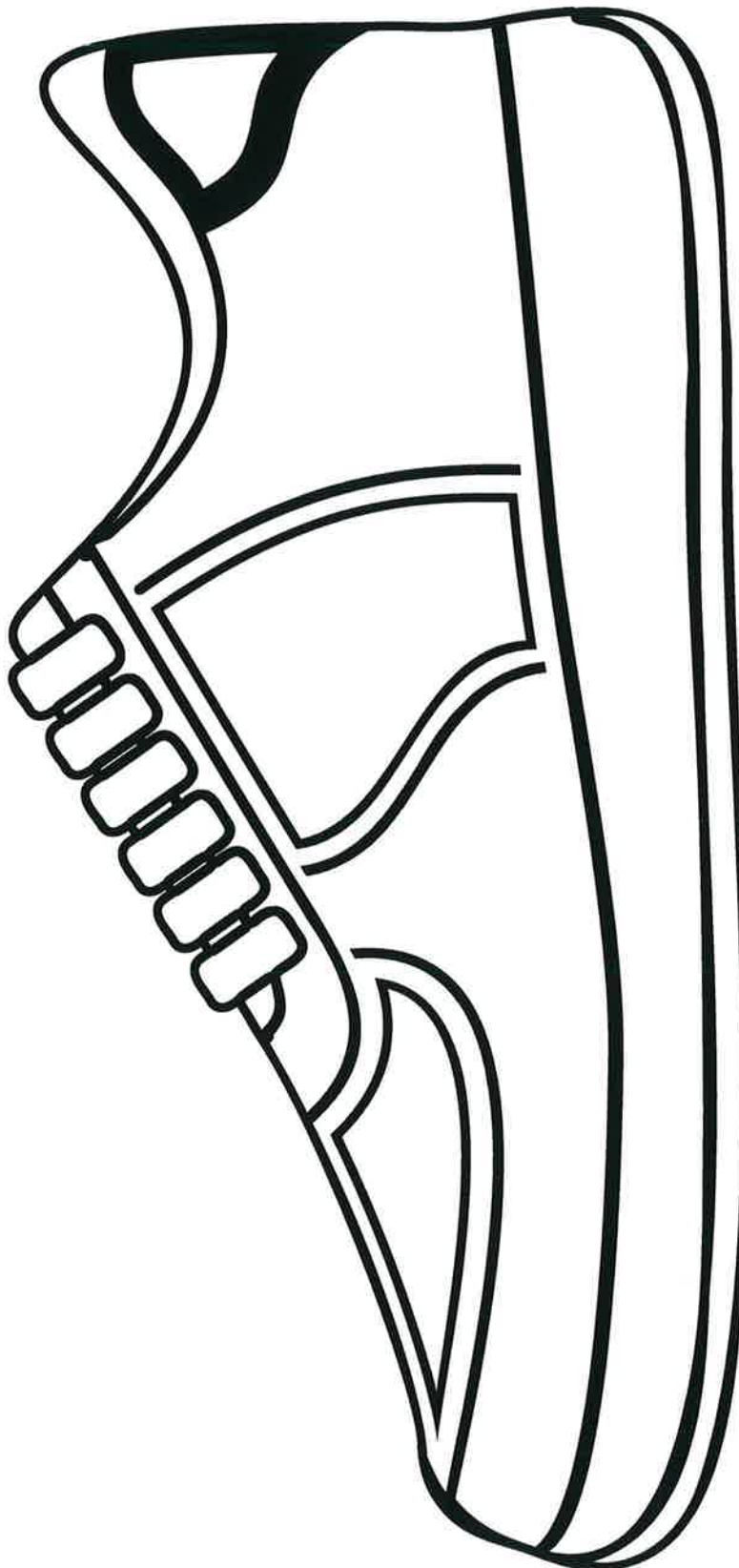


DESIGN A SHOE

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 4 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages (1 shoe per kid).



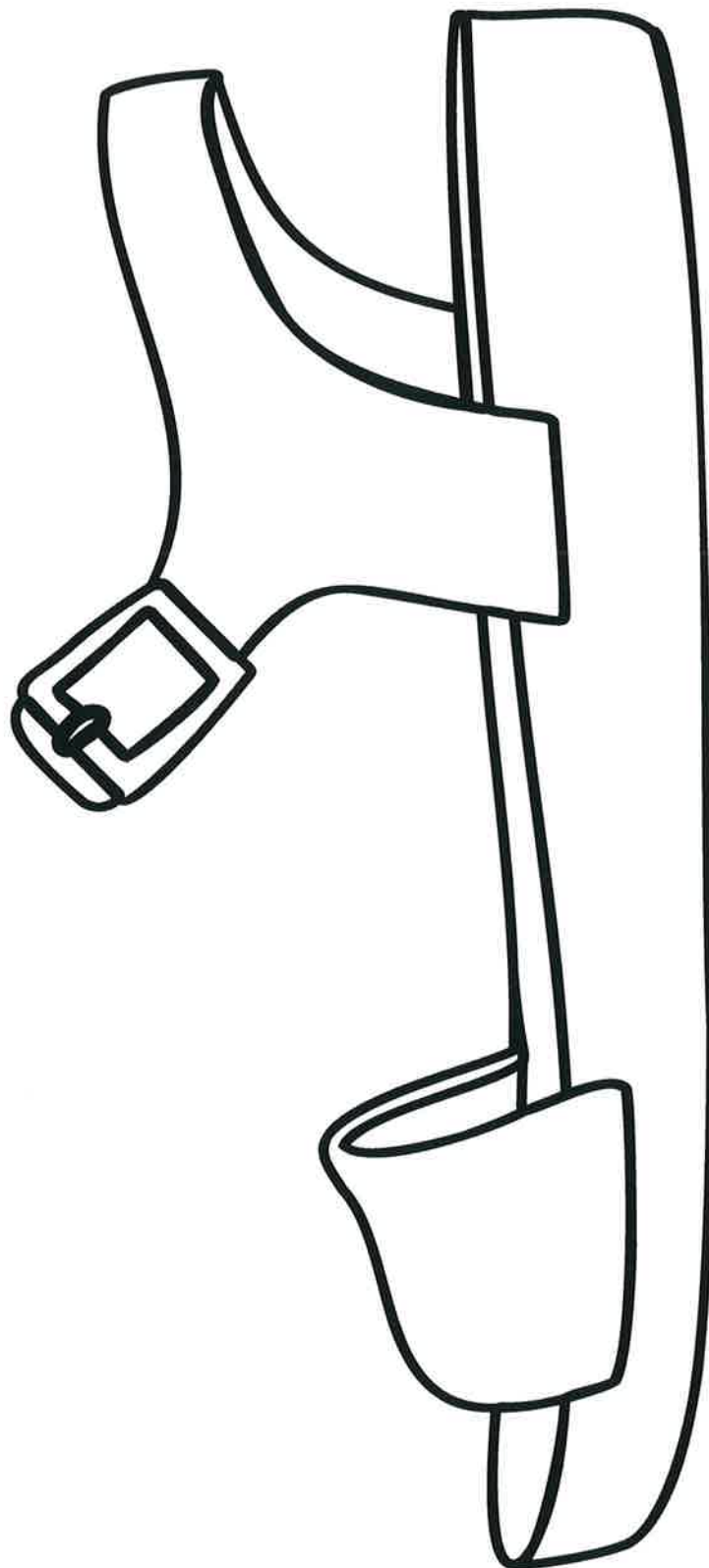


DESIGN A SHOE

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 5 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages (1 shoe per kid).





DESIGN A SHOE

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 6 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages (1 shoe per kid).





ALPHABETICAL ORDER

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 1 OF 5

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out.





ALPHABETICAL ORDER

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 2 OF 5

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out.





ALPHABETICAL ORDER

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 3 OF 5

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out.





ALPHABETICAL ORDER

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 4 OF 5

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out.

S

T

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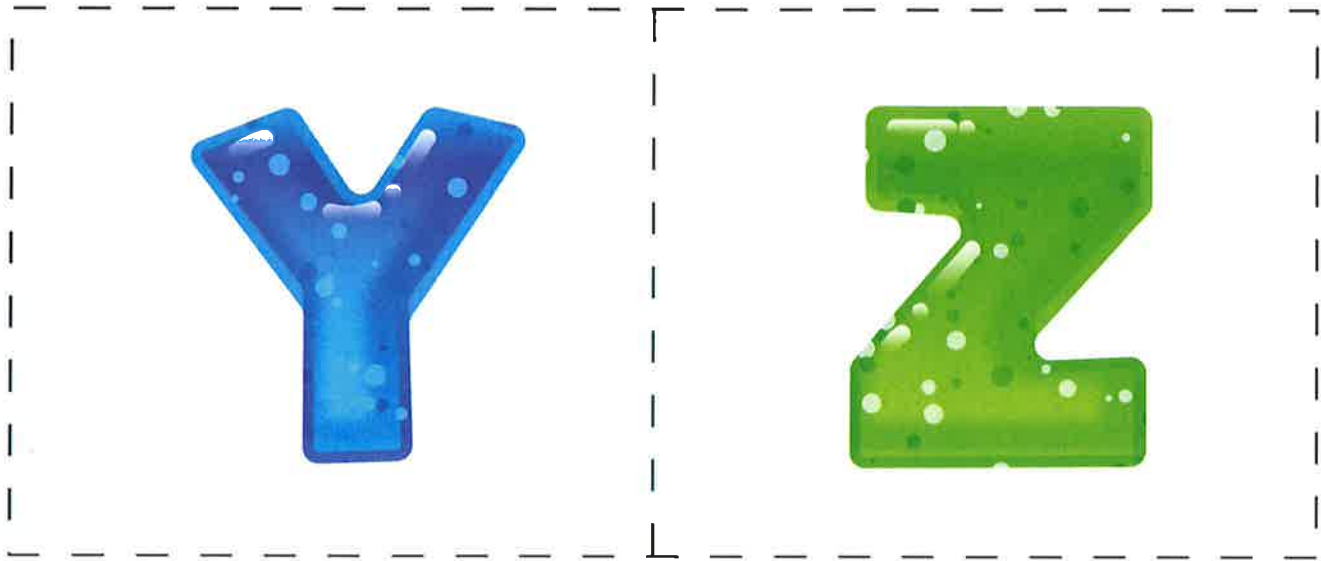


ALPHABETICAL ORDER

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 5 OF 5

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out.





GOSPEL BOOKMARK

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 1 OF 1

PREP: Print the printable page on cardstock (1 bookmark per kid).

GOSPEL COLORS	GOSPEL COLORS	GOSPEL COLORS
ROMANS 3:23 Sin - We all sin and disobey God.	ROMANS 3:23 Sin - We all sin and disobey God.	ROMANS 3:23 Sin - We all sin and disobey God.
1 JOHN 1:7 Blood - Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.	1 JOHN 1:7 Blood - Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.	1 JOHN 1:7 Blood - Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.
1 JOHN 1:9 Forgiven - Jesus forgives our sins when we believe in Him.	1 JOHN 1:9 Forgiven - Jesus forgives our sins when we believe in Him.	1 JOHN 1:9 Forgiven - Jesus forgives our sins when we believe in Him.
JOHN 14:2 Heaven - When you believe in Jesus and trust in Him as Savior, you will go to heaven.	JOHN 14:2 Heaven - When you believe in Jesus and trust in Him as Savior, you will go to heaven.	JOHN 14:2 Heaven - When you believe in Jesus and trust in Him as Savior, you will go to heaven.
2 PETER 3:18 Grow - We continue to learn God's Word so we can keep growing closer to Him.	2 PETER 3:18 Grow - We continue to learn God's Word so we can keep growing closer to Him.	2 PETER 3:18 Grow - We continue to learn God's Word so we can keep growing closer to Him.

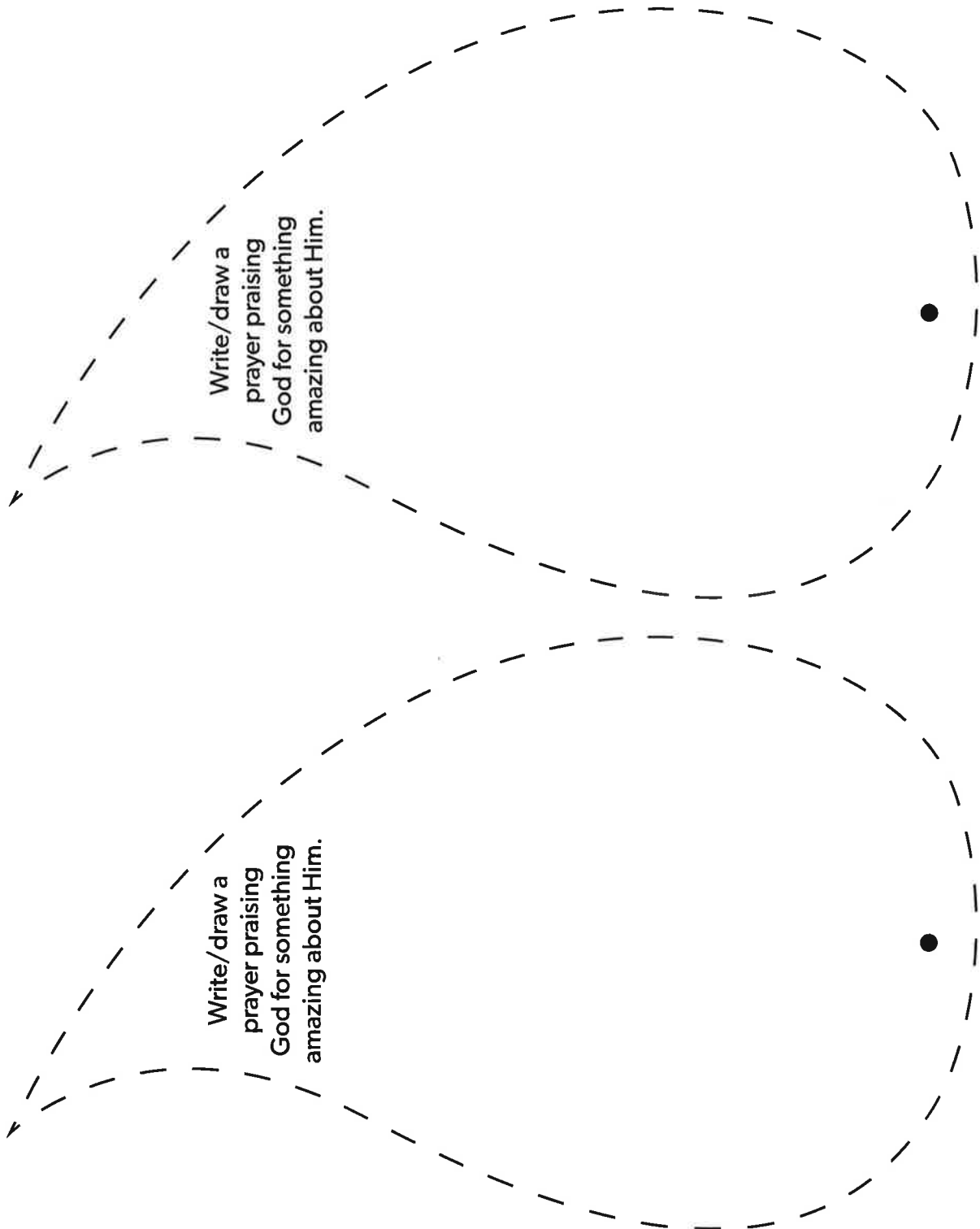


FIRE PRAYERS

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 1 OF 3

PREP: Print the printable pages on red, yellow and orange paper and cut out (1 of each per kid). Hole punch each flame.



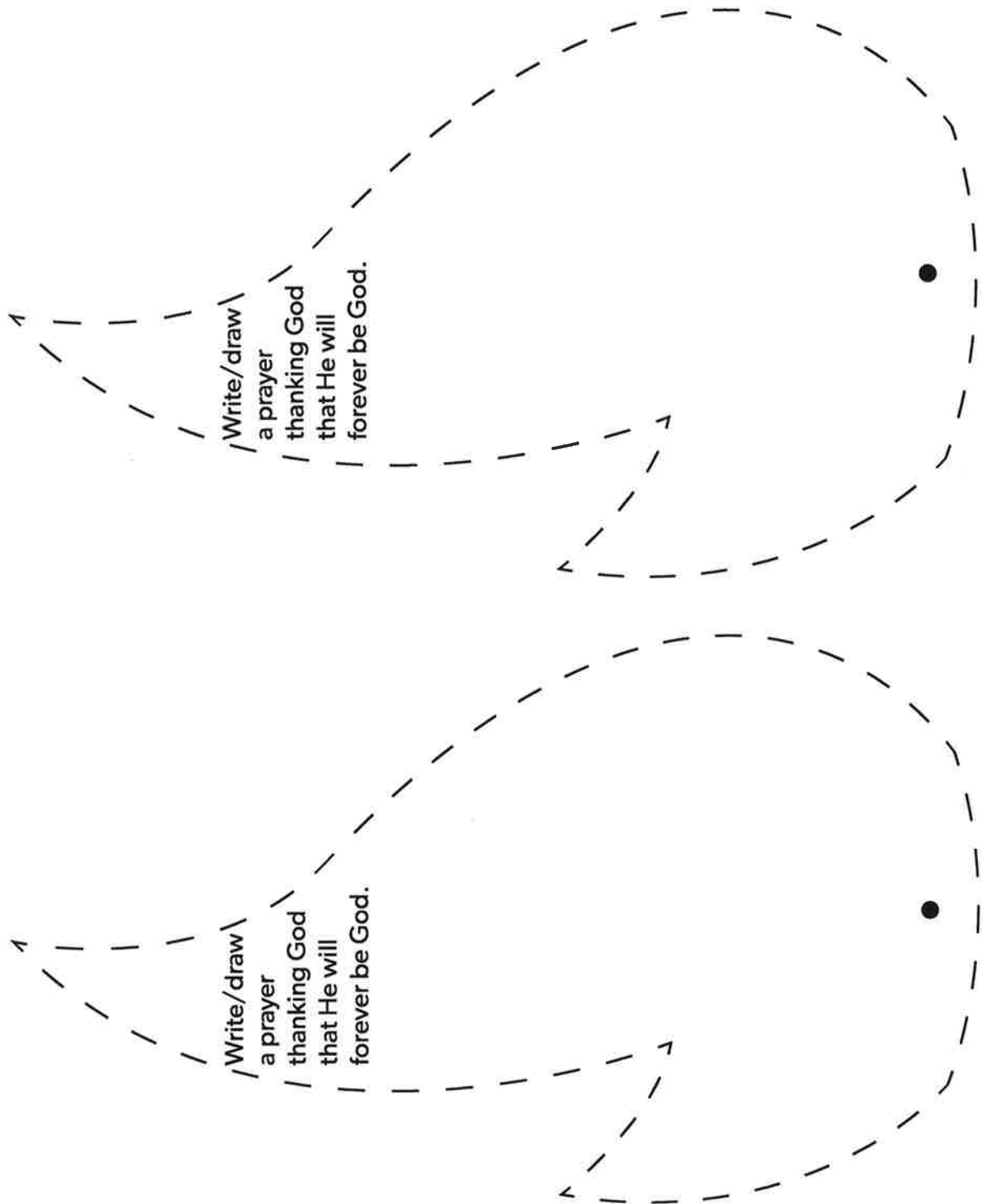


FIRE PRAYERS

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 2 OF 3

PREP: Print the printable pages on red, yellow and orange paper and cut out (1 of each per kid). Hole punch each flame.



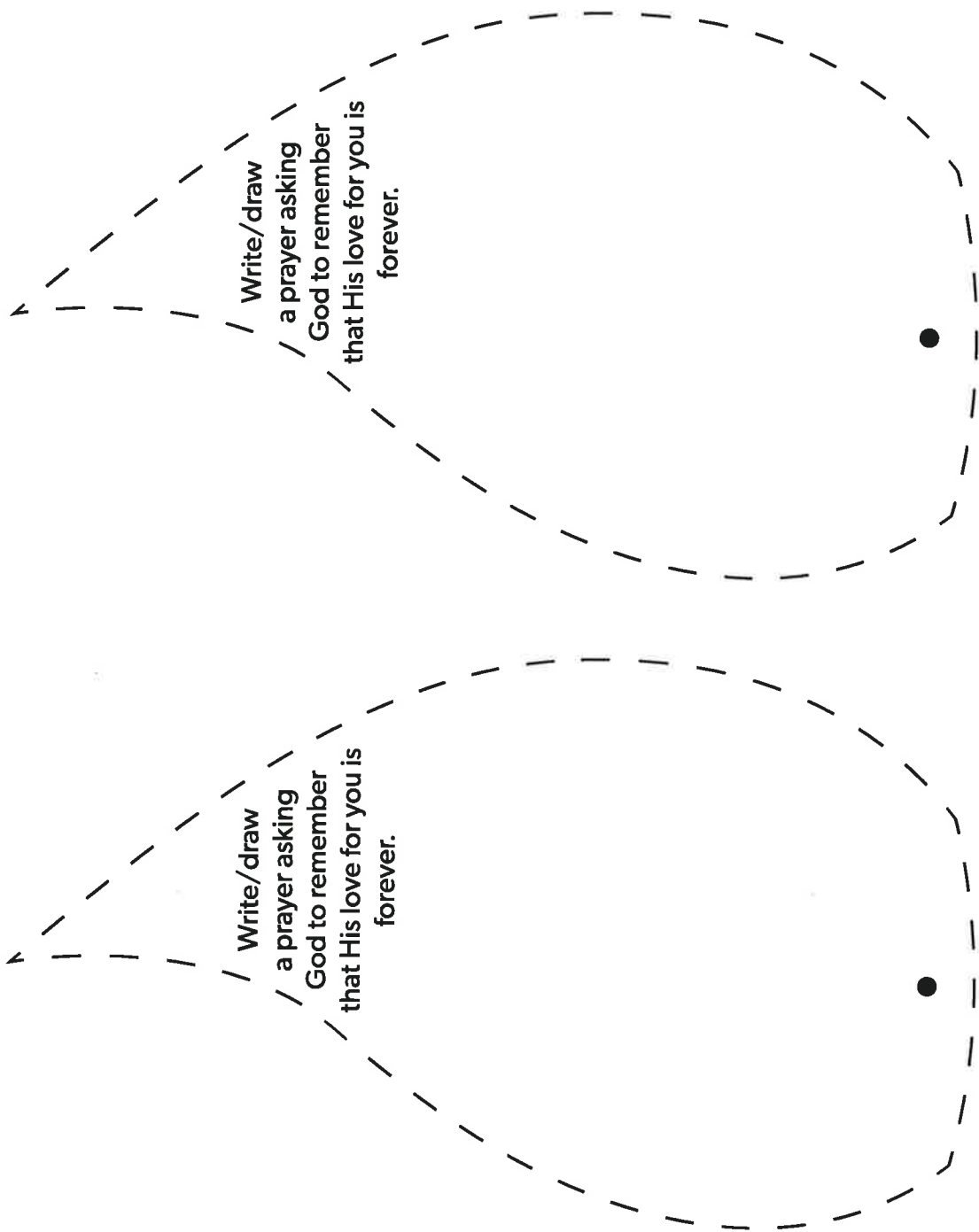


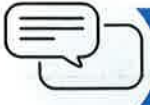
FIRE PRAYERS

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP THE BURNING BUSH

PAGE 3 OF 3

PREP: Print the printable pages on red, yellow and orange paper and cut out (1 of each per kid). Hole punch each flame.





TAKE-HOME

THE BURNING BUSH

BIBLE PASSAGE: EXODUS 3 God's people were slaves in Egypt and cried for help. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush and sent him to Pharaoh. God said "I AM," and He freed His people, just as He promised.

POINT TO JESUS: Just like the Israelites were trapped in Egypt, we are trapped by our sin. We need a Rescuer. God's own Son, Jesus, came to earth to free us from our sin. Jesus alone is our hope to live forever with our eternal God.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever.*

(HEBREWS 13:8)

FAMILIES, ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS!

?

**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOUR LEADER DID
THAT YOU LIKED?**

HE

HOW LONG HAS GOD EXISTED?

God has always existed and
will always exist. He was before
everything and He has no end.

WE

CAN WE LIVE FOREVER?

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior,
we can have eternal life.

HOW IS GOD INVITING

ME

TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

- ☐ I can talk to God about ... ☐ I wonder ...
☐ I can remember ... ☐ I can ...



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Draw an "8". Have everyone trace it with a finger. Talk about how God has no beginning or end.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Where God came from can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here. britecurriculum.com/tough-topics

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**





GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week!

Read each passage with a grown-up and answer the three questions together.



DAY 1

Read: Exodus 3:1-2

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 2

Read: Exodus 3:4-6

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 3

Read: Isaiah 40:8, 28

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 4

Read: John 1:1-5, 14

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?





TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

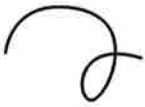
THE BURNING BUSH

COLOR THE ILLUSTRATION



FINISH THE PICTURE

Instructions: Draw one line and then pass to a friend. They will add a line and pass it back. Continue until you have drawn a whole picture!



FIND THE ITEMS

- Find the following items : heart, pencil, fish, feather, paper airplane



EXODUS 3

THE BURNING BUSH



