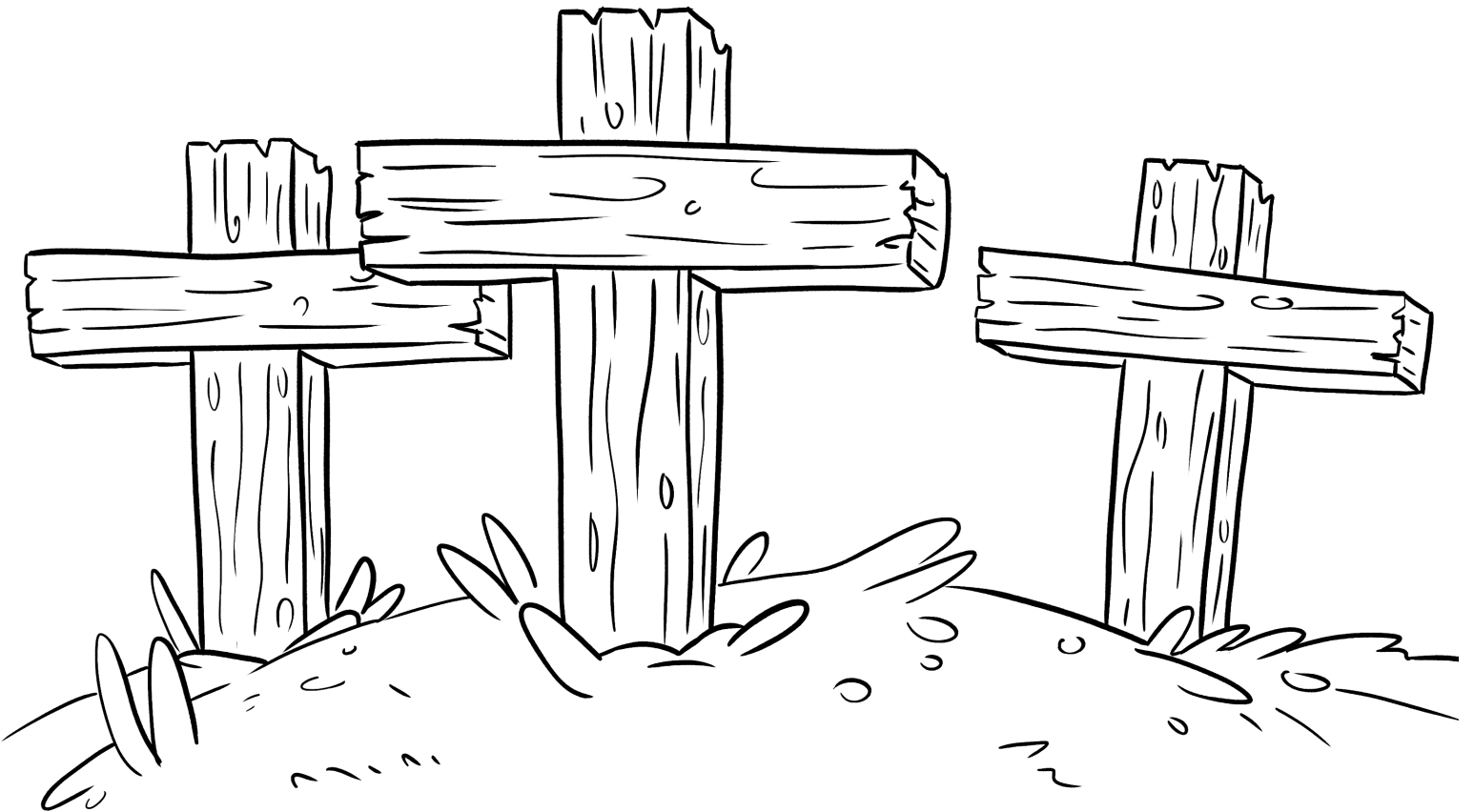


THE THREE TREES



The Tale of Three Trees

Book by Angela Elwell Hunt

Unit by Kelly Cooper

Bible

Easter Story

Read the Easter story from the Bible. You may want to read from one gospel each day for four days.

Matthew 27:55-28:10

Mark 15:40-16:14

Luke 23:47-24:35

John 19:38-20:21

→ Complete Easter Story Accordion Book

God's Plans

Discuss with your children what they want to be when they grow up? Do they know that God has special plans for them? What were the dreams that the trees dreamed? What was the master plan for each tree? Read and discuss Jeremiah 29:11. You may even want to make it a memory verse for the week. Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'

Hope

The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. Abraham was also given a dream that he almost gave up on. God promised him a son and even though he tried on his own, God was faithful and did a miracle. Read and discuss Genesis 17:1-21, Genesis 18:1-14, and Genesis 21:1-7.

How we keep the dream in our hearts is through faith and hope in God. Abraham is an example of this (see Romans 4:16-21). He had faith in God (God does not lie). He chose to believe God despite what Abraham could see and understand (Sarah was old and she had never had a child before) "in hope against hope he (Abraham) believed. There are two kinds of hope-- godly and worldly. Godly hope trusts God no matter what and trusts God's word. Worldly hope looks at things naturally based on one's own reasoning and what one can see and hear.

→ Complete What Keeps Hope Alive? mini-book

Treasure (1st Tree)

Discuss treasure with your children. What do they think of as valuable? What does the Bible say about things of value on the earth? Read Matthew 6:19-21 together and discuss. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth..." What are worldly treasures? What are treasures in heaven? What does it mean "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also?"

Jesus Calms the Sea (2nd Tree)

Read Matthew 8:23-27 together and discuss.

→ Complete Who Has the Authority . . . ? Matchbook

God Works ALL Things Together

The first tree wanted to hold treasure, but instead he was made into a manger. How was his dream fulfilled? He held the greatest treasure ever- baby Jesus! The second tree wanted to be a strong sailing ship and carry kings, but he was a smelly fishing boat instead. How was his dream fulfilled? One day he carried the King of Kings! The third tree wanted to grow tall and point to God. Instead she was cut down and made into lumber (wood used to build with). The tree felt ugly, harsh, and cruel. But was this tree beyond the reach of its Maker? How was her dream fulfilled? She was made into a cross that held Jesus and pointed people to God.

→ Complete T-books and The Tree Felt Ugly Book

You can use this story to explain Romans 8:28 with your student. Read it together. Sometimes God's good isn't what we would want or expect. Sometimes God's good is very difficult, but it is BEST.

God's Love

At the end of the story, the book says that God's love did something for each tree. Can your student remember what? Discuss this in light of Romans 8:28 and Jeremiah 29:11.

→ Complete First Tree, Second Tree, Third Tree Matchbook

God's love can change everything--including humans! Discuss the Easter story and how Jesus didn't deserve to die, but He did so we can be forgiven of our sin

(Romans 3:23). Jesus was without sin, but He obeyed His Father and gave up His life. How much of our lives does God want? Our WHOLE lives! Read and discuss Matthew 16:34, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." Discuss what it means to deny yourself and take up your cross and follow Jesus.

Science

Coniferous Trees

What kind of trees are the trees in this story? There are two basic kinds of trees--coniferous and deciduous.

The word *conifer* comes from the Latin words *conus* (cone) and *ferre* (to bear). The word literally means cone bearing. Coniferous trees have needle-like or scale-like leaves. Unlike deciduous trees they don't lose their leaves in the fall or winter. Evergreens also produce pine cones (not fruit or flowers). Some needles are very soft to the touch others are prickly and pokey.

Deciduous trees are trees that lose their leaves. An example would be a maple tree.

There are different ways to classify (or group) trees to determine whether they are deciduous or coniferous:

1. You can determine by seed.

What kind of seed does the tree have? Does this tree produce fruit and flowers, or does it produce cones?

You know what fruits and flowers are, but did you know that the pine cone is actually where the tree makes and protects the evergreen's seed? Cones are made up of many scales. Scales are a kind of shelter for the seed. When it's time, the scales of the cone open and the seeds fall to the ground. Because the seeds sit on the scales and are not totally protected, conifer trees can also be grouped as gymnosperms. The word gymnosperm means *naked seed*.

2. You can determine by leaf.

Are they thin and pokey-needles or are they broad and flat to soak up the sun?

Broad leaves have more of a surface so they can gather more sunlight. A tree with flat, wide leaves also loses a lot of water because of evaporation. There are other trees that have needle-like or scale-like leaves. We often just say that they have needles. They are long and thin. Trees with needles need less water because this shape slows down the evaporation of water so the tree doesn't lose as much. Trees with needles can grow in areas that other trees can't, but they still need just the right amount of sunlight for the tree to produce food. Conifers grow in a triangle shape so that more of the tree needs can be exposed to the sun.

How Trees Lose Their Leaves

Many trees lose their leaves when the weather gets cool. Deciduous trees have leaves that fall to the ground all at once and grow back again when the weather gets warmer. Other trees (evergreens) have leaves or needles that fall off a little at a time. These types of trees are always growing new leaves. As the needles become older, they drop off the tree to make room for new needles that will replace them.

→ Complete Tree Facts Book

Precious Stones

The first tree wanted to become a chest filled with precious stones. Precious and semi-precious stones are also known as gemstones. A gemstone is a rock or mineral that is used for adornment. It has three qualities that make it a gem vs. an ordinary rock or mineral: rarity, beauty, and durability. Being rare or particularly beautiful increases the value. How durable (or hard) it is, assures that it will last a long time. Some examples of gems are garnets, diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, and amethysts.

→ Complete Jewel Shutterfold

→ Complete What is a Gem? Simple Fold

→ Use chart to discuss semi-precious stones, if desired

Mountain Habitats

A habitat is a type of place where plants and animals naturally live and grow. If your student has studied other habitats (pond, desert, rain forest, ocean, etc.), review what you have learned together. Mountains can be found all over the world and on every continent; they are even found under the waters of the ocean! Mountains are also a habitat. Mountain habitats are different than other types of

habitats. Each mountain can have a unique set of inhabitants, so different mountains around the world are homes to different plants and animals.

This folktale probably originated in North America in the Appalachian Mountains which are a mountain range in the eastern United States, running from Pennsylvania to Alabama. Have your child find the Appalachian Mountains on a United States map. This region has a very unique culture with stories, songs, dances and games that carried on for generations.

If you'd like, learn more about the animals that live in the Appalachian Mountain habitat. What animals does your student think he might find there? Here are a few of the critters that live in this habitat:

Mammals

Beaver

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

Eastern Gray Squirrel (and many other types of squirrel)

Black Bear

Striped Skunk

White-tailed Deer

Snow-shoe Hare

Eastern Cougar

Birds

Wild Turkey

Wood Duck

Great Horned Owl

Screech Owl

Red-shouldered Hawk

Northern Goshawk

Warblers

Mourning Dove

Amphibians

Salamanders

Eastern Newt

Wood Frog

Spring Peepers

Reptiles

Black Rat Snake

Common Garter Snake

American Copperhead

Broadheaded Skink

Eastern Box Turtle

Common Snapping Turtle

Fish

Speckled (or Brook) Trout

Darters

Minnows

→ Use photos of animals to design your own lapbook component, if desired

→ Use photos of Appalachian Mountains and map to make a Appalachia mini-book, if desired

Social Studies

Occupations: People and Places

Carpenter

Discuss what a carpenter is-- a skilled worker who makes, finishes, and repairs wooden objects and structures. A carpenter (builder) is a skilled craftsman who performs carpentry - a wide range of woodworking that includes constructing buildings, furniture, and other objects out of wood. The work generally involves significant manual labor and work outdoors. You may want to mention that Joseph, Jesus' earthly Father, was a carpenter.

Woodcutter

A woodcutter cuts down trees and chops wood as a job. A lumberjack or logger is a man who harvests lumber. The term *lumberjack* is somewhat old, having been mostly replaced by *logger*. When *lumberjack* is used, it usually refers to a logger from an earlier time before the use of chainsaws, and other modern logging equipment.

Lumber yard

A lumber yard is a place to sell lumber and wood related products used in construction and home improvement projects.

Shipyard

A shipyard is a place for building, maintaining, and repairing ships and boats. Usually, a shipyard is positioned near a large inland river, harbor, or shoreline.

Language Arts

Vocabulary- Manger

The first tree was fashioned into a manger for animals. Did you know that the word "manger" probably comes from the French word "manger" which means to eat?

→ Complete Manger Simple Fold

Genre: Folktales

Stories that are told rather than read; they are passed down from one generation to another generation. Maybe your child has played “Whisper Down the Lane” before. If not, play this game to demonstrate how a story can change, sometimes only slightly and sometimes not, as it is told and retold again. As folktales are passed down, the stories take on characteristics of the time and place in which they are told, as well as the personality of the person telling the tale. Here are some common characteristics of folktales. Which characteristics do you find in *Tale of Three Trees*?

Use this list to explore other folktales.

- Universal and timeless themes or morals, such as sharing, compassion, being gullible, etc.
- They speak to our need to understand and make sense of our existence (such as tales about creation)
- About the common person, something anyone rich or poor could relate to.
- Supernatural elements that may include magic, witches, wizards, dragons and/or other mythical creatures

Read other folktales to give your child a taste of this genre. Here are some suggestions:

Best Loved Folktales of the World by Joanna Cole

Favorite Folktales from Around the World by Jane Yolen

Anansi Tales (African Folk Tales) by Eric Kimmel (and others)

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears by Verna Aardema

Russian Folk Tales by James Riordan

Give Your Child a Resurrection Basket

1. Palm leaf for Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
2. Animal Crackers for the unleavened bread of the Passover Feast.
3. Chocolate coins for the pieces of silver Judas accepted to betray Jesus. (You could also substitute with 30 silver pieces-- 30 nickels)
4. Lollipop sticks for the nails in His hands and feet. (upside down in basket)
5. Grape juice for the blood he shed. (single serving boxes)
6. Sponge for the vinegar-soaked sponge Jesus drank from.
7. Cross to represent the cross Christ died on.
8. Black cloth for the darkness that covered the Earth at His death.
9. Bath product such as bubble bath and washcloth for the perfumed shroud in which Christ was buried.
10. Hollow chocolate eggs for the empty tomb on Easter morning.
11. Green grass for the new life we have in Jesus.
12. Fluffy marshmallow candy for the cloud into which Jesus ascended.

Bake Resurrection Rolls

Read Matthew 27:57-61

These are fun rolls to make with your child and serve a dual purpose. Not only are you cooking together, but you are also teaching a Bible lesson.

Preheat Oven to 350 degrees

Ingredients:

Crescent rolls

Melted butter

Large marshmallows

Cinnamon
Sugar

1. Give each child a triangle of crescent rolls. The crescent roll represents the cloth that Jesus was wrapped in.
2. Give each child a marshmallow and tell them it represents Jesus who died on the cross for us.
3. Have them dip it in melted butter to represent the oils they anointed Jesus with.
4. Roll it in sugar and cinnamon to represent the spices they used.
5. Then wrap the marshmallow in a crescent roll just like they used the fine linen cloths.}
6. Put the wrapped Jesus in the tomb (oven at 350 degrees) for 3 days (12-15 minutes). When the rolls are cool enough, the children can look inside and see that Jesus is not there – He is risen! (The marshmallow melts and the roll is puffed up, but empty). Do not undercook, as the rolls will sink and not be hollow.
7. Now read Matthew 28: 5-8 (see the Bible lesson for more scriptures to read)

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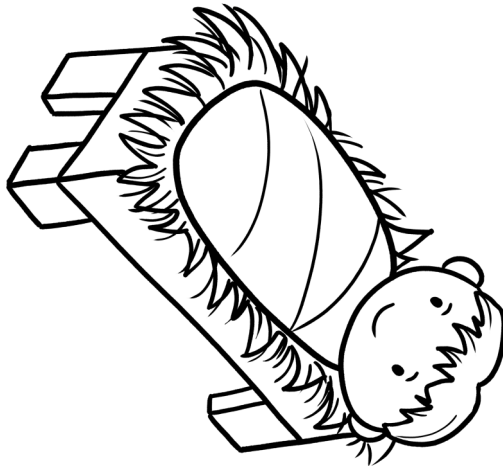
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Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold on dotted lines. First, fold the right side in. Next, fold the left side in. Finally, fold the cover down. Paste cover piece to the front.

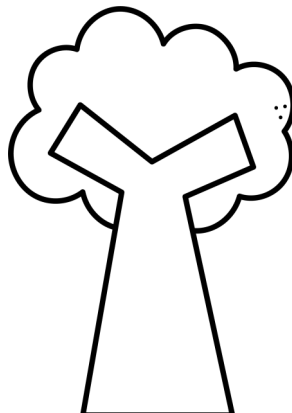
The first tree wanted
to be a

The first tree was
made into a

The first tree's dream
was fulfilled because



The First Tree

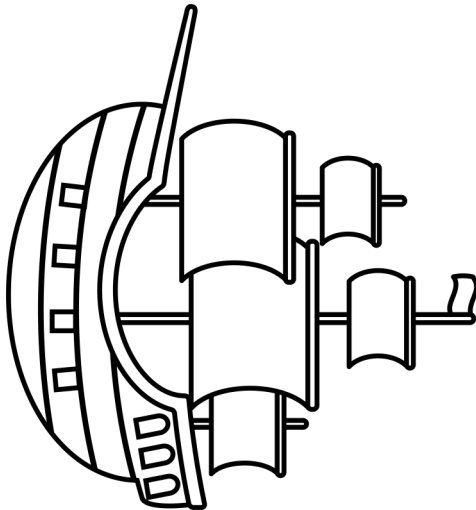


Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold on dotted lines. First, fold the right side in. Next, fold the left side in. Finally, fold the cover down. Paste cover piece to the front.

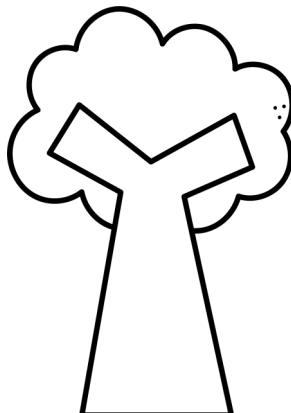
The second tree
wanted to be a

The second tree was
made into a

The second tree's dream
was fulfilled because



The Second Tree

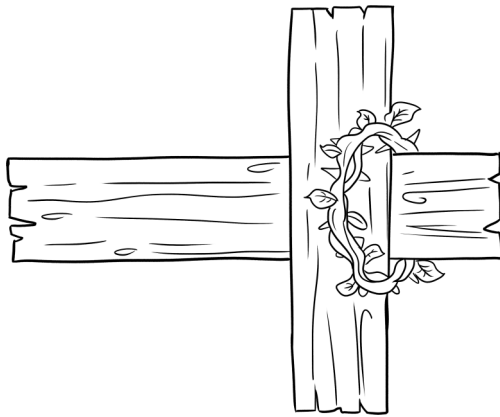


Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold on dotted lines. First, fold the right side in. Next, fold the left side in. Finally, fold the cover down. Paste cover piece to the front.

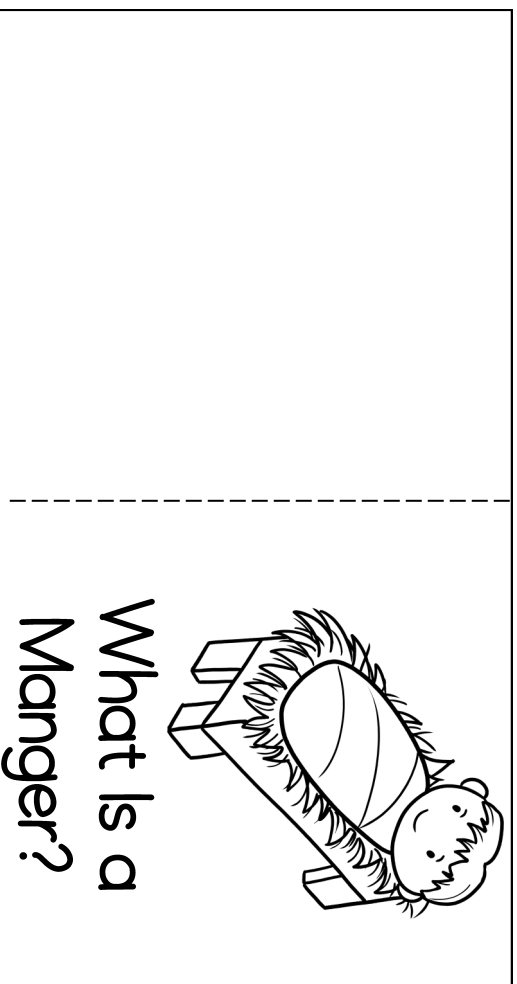
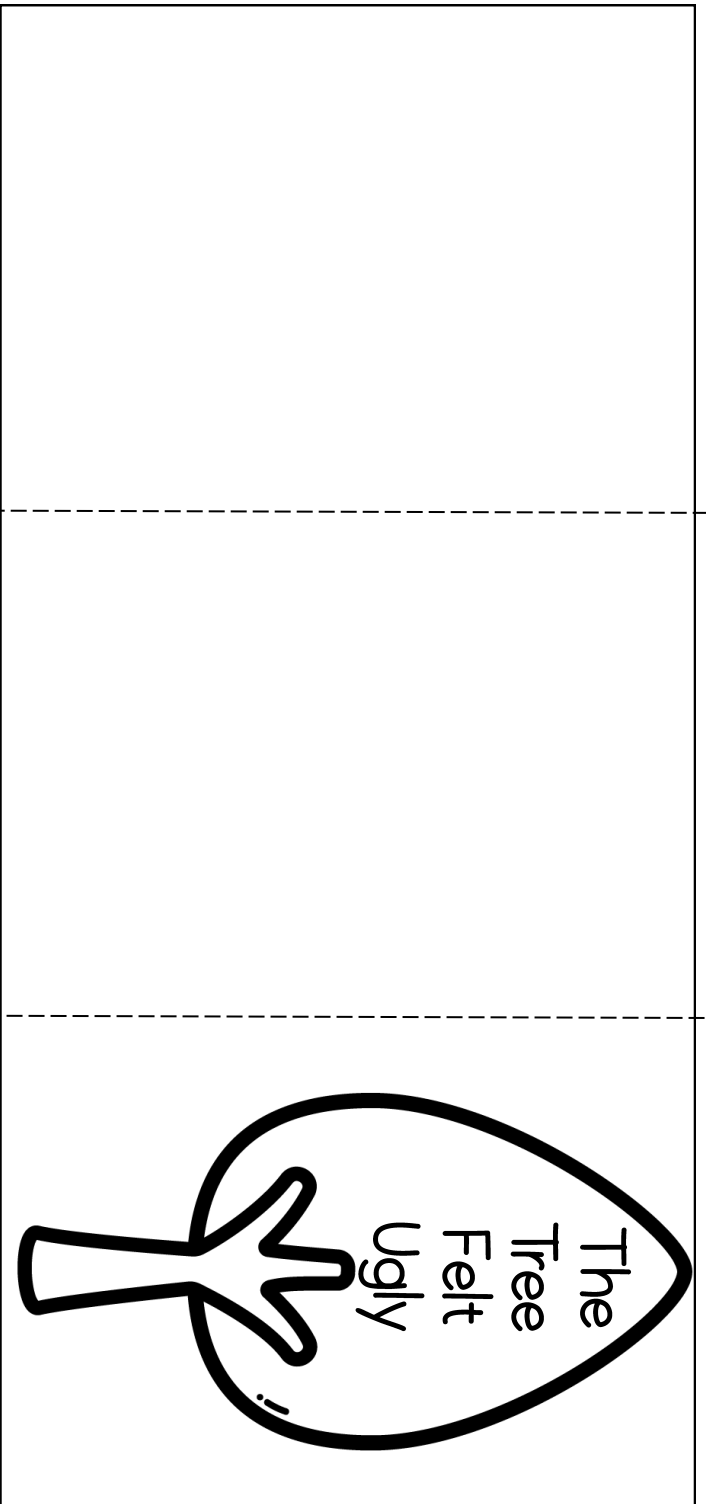
The third tree
wanted to be a

The third tree was
made into a

The third tree's dream
was fulfilled because



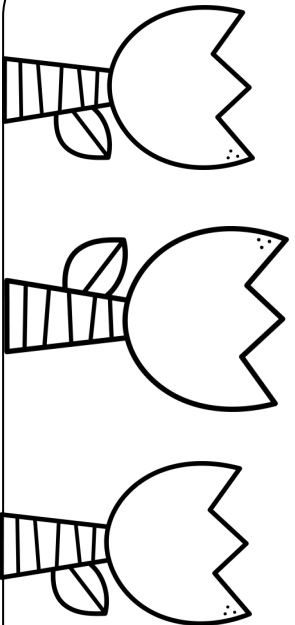
Write in the book how the third tree felt ugly, harsh, and cruel. What do the words cruel and harsh mean? Why did the tree feel this way?



Directions: Cut out as one piece. Fold in half.

Glue this area to your
lapbook or notebook.

What keeps hope alive?



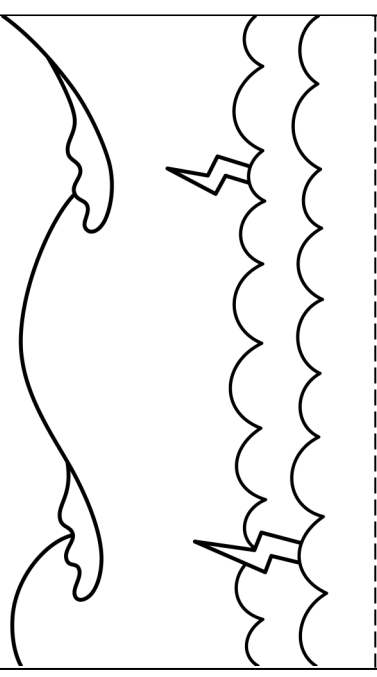
Directions: Cut out book. Fold in half.

The trees almost forgot their dreams. What helps keep dream alive?

Answer: Faith in God and the promises in His Word.

Who Can Calm
the Storm and Sea?

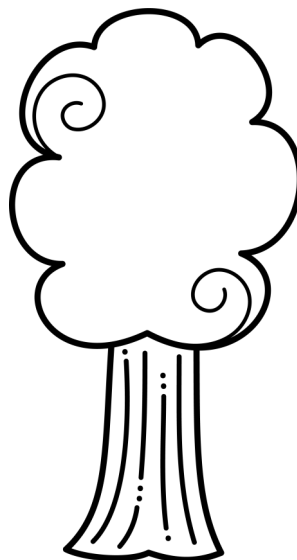
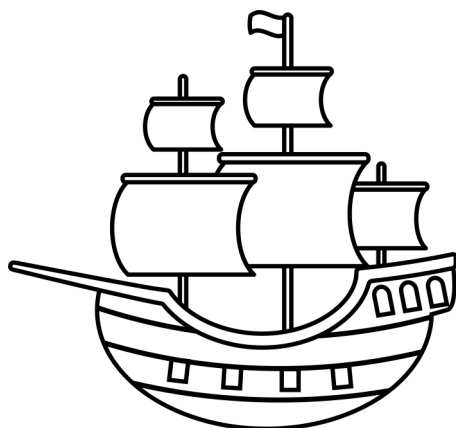
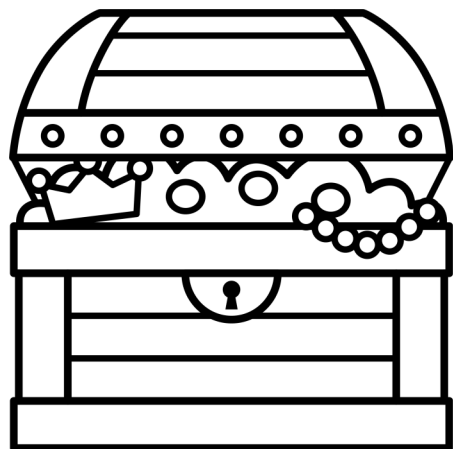
Glue this area to your
lapbook or notebook.



Directions: Cut
out book. Fold on
lines (matchbook
style).

Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold matchbook style, using the dotted lines as your guides. Open. Cut on solid lines to form three flaps.

first tree second tree third tree



Assemble the book on the previous page as a matchbook. You can choose whether or not you want flaps. Paste the answers under the flaps. Paste the verse in the large area.

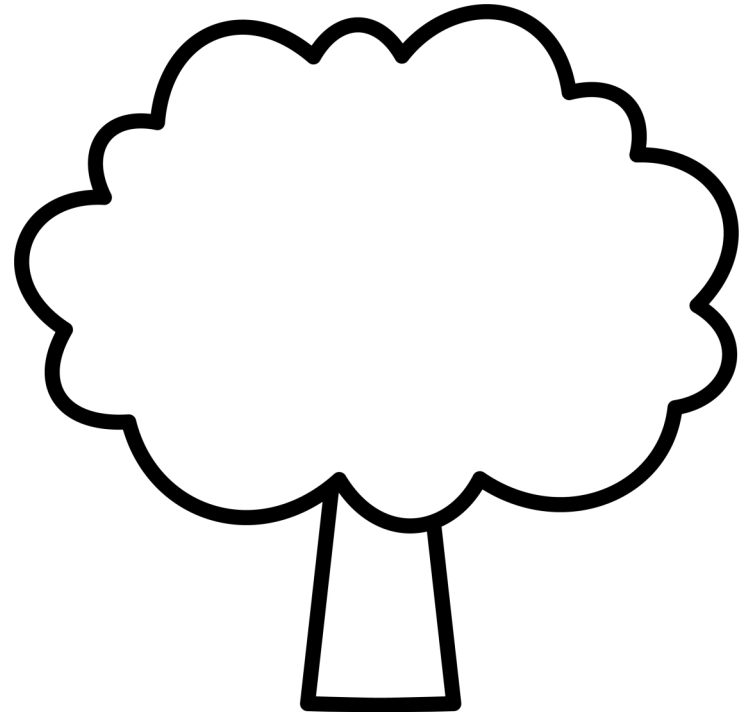
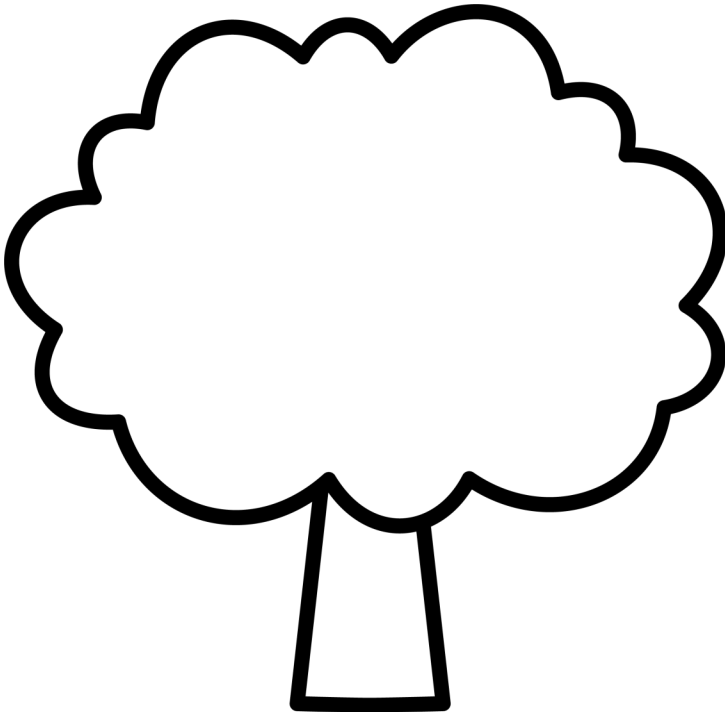
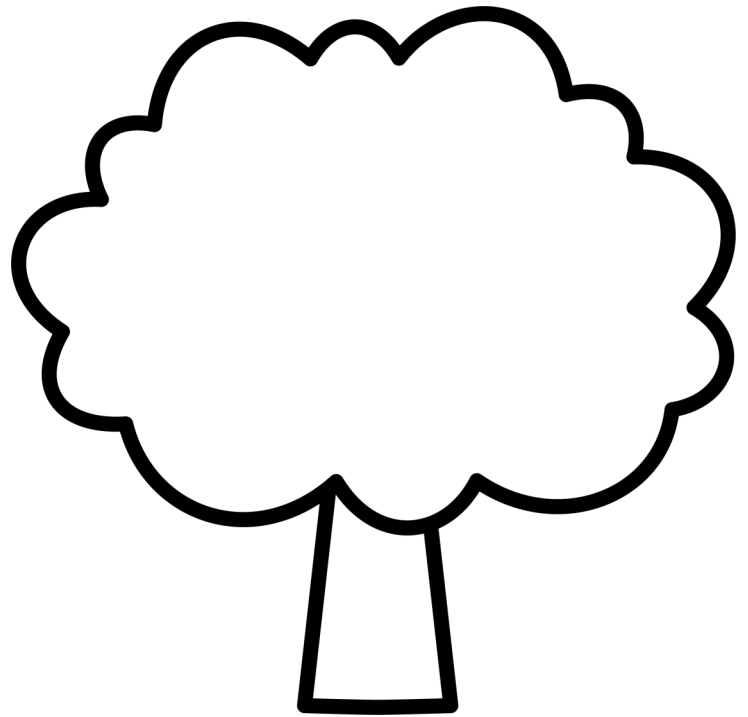
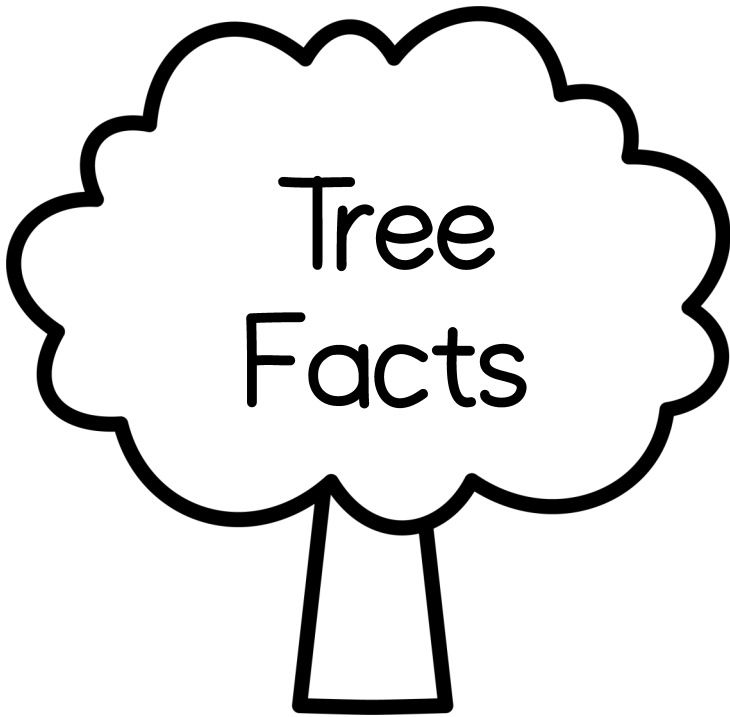
And every
time people
thought of the
third tree,
they
would
think of
God.

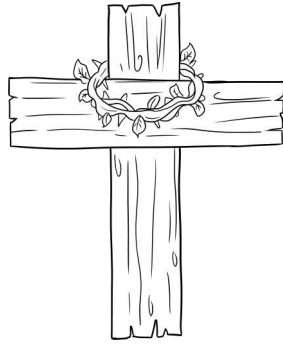
God's
love
made
the first
tree
beautiful.

God's
love
made
the
second
tree
strong.

We know that God causes all
things to work together for
good to those who love God,
to those who are called
according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28

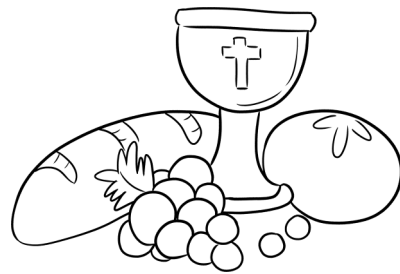
Directions: PRINT ON CARDSTOCK (if you want to make a fan). Write facts on the tree shapes. Stack together with cover on top and secure at the bottom with a brass fastener.





Directions: Cut out shapes on solid black lines. Fold on dotted lines like an accordion. Glue the back of last piece to your lapbook.

Write a summary of the story of Easter on the pages (or write scripture references from your Bible readings).



The Story of Easter



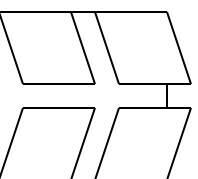
Ruby

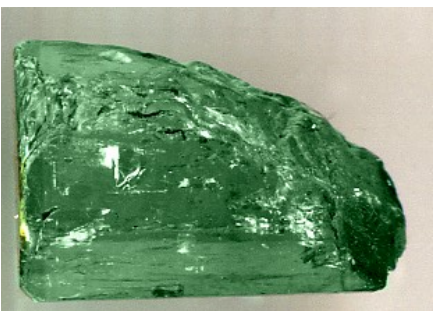
Emerald

Diamond

Sapphire

Cut out rectangle as one piece. Cut dotted lines. Fold outside flaps in (on grey lines). Paste images in the right spots under the flaps.

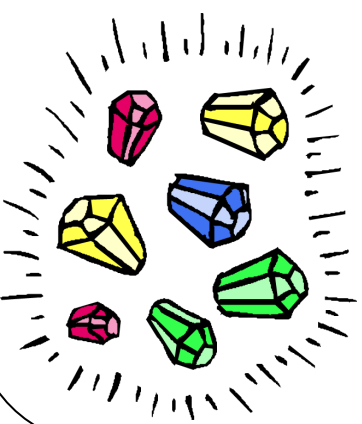


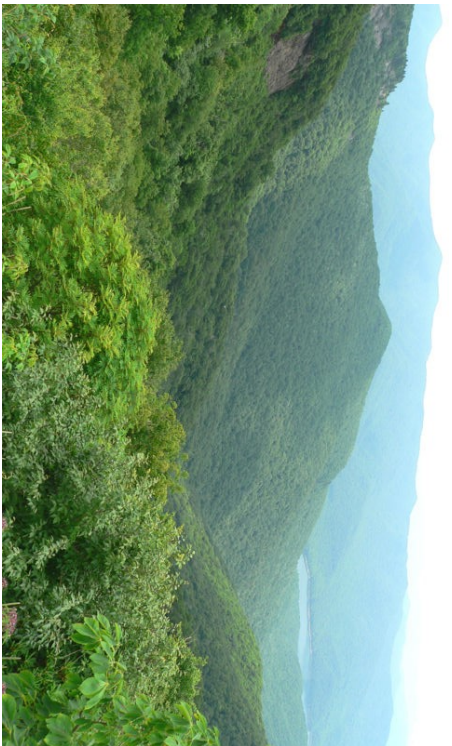
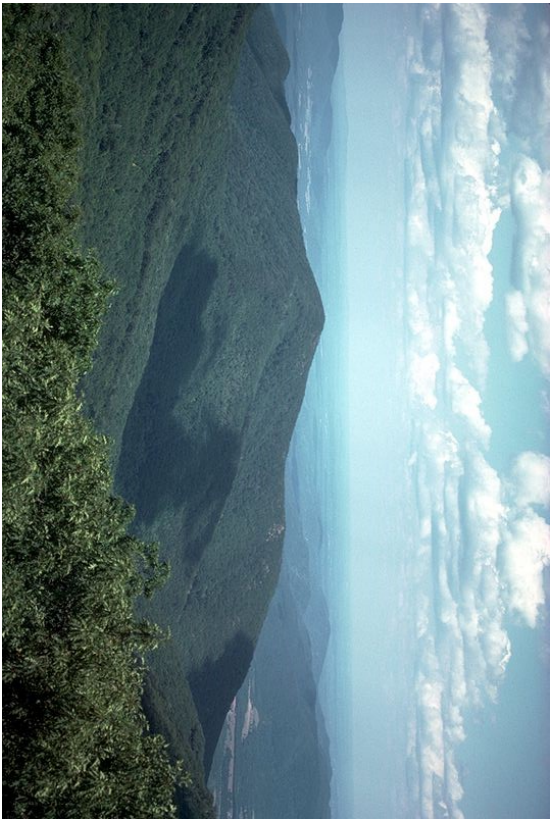


When gems are cut,
they are beautiful
and used as jewels!



What is
a gem?





The Appalachian Mountains are a range in eastern United States, running from Pennsylvania to Alabama.

Mountain: a land mass that projects well above its surroundings; higher than a hill



Brook Trout



American Copperhead



Eastern Newt



Black Rat snake



Wood Frog



Common Garter snake



Darter



Eastern Box Turtle



Great Horned Owl



Broad-headed skink

Directions: Use the pictures of the Appalachian animals as desired to make your own mini-books, fact cards, animal classification cards, or whatever else you want!



Eastern Cottontail



Eastern Grey squirrel



Wood Ducks



wild Turkey



Black Bear



Northern Goshawk



Spring Peeper



Common Snapping Turtle



White-tailed Deer



Beaver



striped skunk



Red-shouldered Hawk



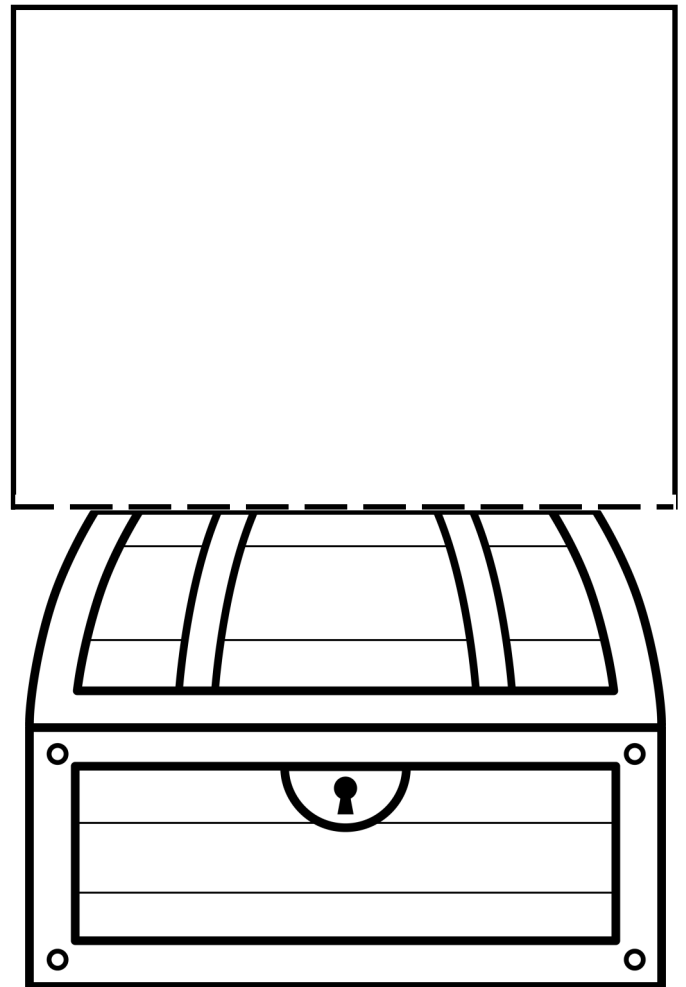
Snowshoe Hare



Mourning Dove



Barred owl



Directions: Fold in half and cut around the treasure chest shape. Write Matthew 6:21 inside the chest shape.

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Keepin' It Kawaii

