



Say  
**Yes!**  
to Kids



FAMILY SERVICE RESOURCES



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This resource was developed by and for people living and doing ministry in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

As you take time to pray for children, youth and families in your church, your community, and across the country, take time to consider how the work that we do as church in this place can reflect our ongoing commitment to reconciliation.



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# Introduction

This Family Service Resource has been created to support churches who want to participate in Say Yes! To Kids Sunday as part of their regular Family Services, or who want to try out a new form of worship with families.

Our diocese has benefited tremendously from the Anglican Foundation's annual Say Yes! To Kids campaign as money has been raised for incredible diocesan and parish ministries, and we are excited for this new way for churches to participate this year.

The Anglican Foundation of Canada has invited us to join in celebrating the presence and voices of children, youth, and families in our parishes and across the Anglican Church of Canada on a specially designated Sunday following Pentecost. If Sunday, June 2 does not work in your local context, feel free to participate on an alternate Sunday. This resource provides spoken prayers, suggested readings, creative invitations to pray, craft ideas, and other resources to equip you to put together a creative, inspiring, and engaging family service. Feel free to use this guide as a buffet, picking and choosing what works for you and leaving the rest behind.

In addition to using this resource, your parish can participate in a number of ways:

1. Designate June 2, 2024—or another Sunday in the Season of Pentecost—as Say Yes! to Kids Sunday. Announce it in the lead-up and help build excitement across the church about our Anglican children, youth, and families.
2. Invite the children and youth in your parish to help lead the service. Some suggestions are included in this resource.
3. Pray for the children, youth, and families in your parish and across the country. Pray for the local youth leaders and volunteers. Pray for diocesan youth ministry staff and for the National Youth Secretariat.
4. Take up a special collection or offering to support children's, youth, or family ministry. The offering may be used to support your own ministries, or you may wish to direct the offering to the Anglican Foundation of Canada's Say Yes! to Kids campaign, where the funds will be disbursed to exciting youth projects across the country.

You can find out more about Say Yes! To kids [here](#).

A few notes about planning a family service:

- It might be worth considering if there is a space other than your church to hold this service in, as the layout and furniture inside of many of our sanctuaries is pretty immovable and can limit your potential for creativity. That isn't the case everywhere though, so think about what your possible spaces are and go with what works.



- What this resource is suggesting isn't regular Sunday worship with families in mind, but rather an entirely different form and structure of service, planned to meet families with children and young people where they are at. It's worth giving thought to how you can create space for noise, participation, movement, and engaging various senses. Planning a family service can be an opportunity to have fun and be playful.
- A question asked of many churches who have family services is "Who can come to this? Is it just for families?" You can decide what the answer to that question is for your community, but often the answer is that it has been structured and planned for families, and that everyone who wants to participate is welcome.
- One other consideration is whether or not you will incorporate a meal as part of your time together. In many churches, this has been a really great way to build community and make it easier for families to come to the service. If you plan to do this, it's helpful to plan a menu with kids in mind, and check with likely participants about dietary needs. While it can be a beautiful addition to a family service, if including a meal will stretch beyond the capacity of those leading or making arrangements for the family service, perhaps you can opt to not include it for now, but think about how to build up to that if you continue with family services.

# One Possible Order of Service

If you already do a family service, then you can absolutely just use the resources here to fit into your typical structure. If this is brand new for you, we thought it would be helpful to give you one possible order of service outline, that you can then fill in with things from the rest of this document, or from elsewhere. This order is really just one of an infinite number of possibilities, to offer a starting place that you can change to suit your community.

- Informal activities as people arrive
  - Crafts, board games, active games that people can easily join in on, snacks available, etc.
- Gathering Song
- Collect Prayer
- Reading(s)
- Creative/Participatory Reflection
- Song
- Invitations to Pray
- Praying Together
  - Maybe Prayers of the People or similar
- Song
- Closing Prayer

# Ways to Invite Children and Youth to Participate in Leadership

- Planning the service
- Greeting parishioners.
- Participating in a procession.
- Speaking or reciting one of the Suggested Readings.
- Offering a Litany or Prayers of the People.
- Sharing a reflection or homily.
- Assisting in preparing the table/altar.
- Performing a musical number before, during, or after the service.
- Singing in a special choir for this Sunday.

Please note that this is not a comprehensive list - there are endless ways that children and youth can participate in leadership! If you aren't sure what might be a good fit, just ask them!

# Spoken Prayers

## **Collects:**

O God, our ever-loving Parent, who called to Samuel in his youth and equipped your own Son for his work in the world: bless the children and youth of [name ministry], and those who are called to serve them, with curious minds, joyful hearts, and willing hands, that together they may work for the good of your people and shine your light in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Friend and Brother. Amen.

*Anglican Foundation of Canada, 2024*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who took little children into your arms and blessed them: Bless, we pray, the children of this church/all children; grant that they may grow up to know and love you; give them each day your strength and guidance, that they may continue in your service the rest of their lives. Grant this, O blessed Saviour, for your name's sake. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer for Children, BCP 733*

God of rest and gladness, we praise you for the dignity of work and the joy of play, for the challenge of witness and for the invitation to delight at your table. Renew our hearts through your sabbath rest, so that we might be refreshed to continue in your work of restoring the world to wholeness. Amen.

*Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.*

## **Prayers of the People**

In faith and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord, responding to each petition of "Lord, in your mercy" with the words, "Hear our prayer."

Almighty God, our ever-loving Parent,

On this Say Yes! to Kids Sunday, we thank and praise you for the blessing of infants, children, youth, and young adults in our lives—for family, friends, and loved ones in every generation. Fill us with compassion and love for one another. Give us hope for the future you have planned for us. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*



In this time after Pentecost, we seek the presence of your Holy Spirit among us. We ask your blessing on the Anglican Church of Canada and on your church throughout the world. We pray for our Primate Linda, for Sandra, our bishop, and for the bishops across this country: give them wisdom and grace to lead your church. We pray out Diocesan Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator, Allie, and for Community Roots staff Sophie and Leah, for Sheilagh, the General Synod Animator for Youth Ministry, for the National Youth Secretariat, and for all those who work to build our capacity for youth ministry across the church. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

We thank you for [name of church], and for your many blessings upon us. We pray for our clergy, [name(s)], for the church staff and wardens, and the lay leaders and volunteers who serve you here in our congregation. We pray for our youth leaders, [name(s)], and for the children's and youth ministries in our church: [name ministries]. Help us to hear your voice calling us to new forms of service and outreach, especially among the children and youth in our community. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

We pray for our nation, for the government of Canada: for Charles our King, the Prime Minister, the Premier of [province/territory], the Mayor of [city/town], and elected officials at all levels of government. May they govern with wisdom and humility, seeking justice and prosperity for all people, and safeguarding our resources for future generations. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

We pray for peace in the world. Protect those who are under persecution and those who struggle for freedom and democracy. We think especially of the children and youth who have been displaced by conflict and are suffering—may violence cease and innocent lives be spared. We pray for those people in positions of political authority around the world. Stir in all hearts a desire for peace and reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the poor and those who are unemployed or underemployed. Help us to care for our neighbours and to be an open door to all in need. In our own community, we also pray for the sick, the lonely, and for all who suffer in body and mind. Ease their pain and restore their spirits. We pray for those we know with particular needs: [...] Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

We remember once again those who have gone before us in the faith, thinking especially of [...]. With them and in communion with all the saints, we give thanks to you for the hope and promise of the resurrection. Grant that we may share with them in the blessings of your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

*Adapted from the Anglican Foundation of Canada, 2024*

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

O God, you call us to your table and show us how much you love us.  
May we be strengthened in the knowledge of your call to each one of us  
and by what we receive in this Eucharist.  
We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Anglican Foundation of Canada, 2024*

### **Prayer after Communion**

God of life and freedom, we give thanks for the holy things we have received today.  
May it continue to light our hearts aflame to serve you in the places we are called to be.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Anglican Foundation of Canada, 2024*

### ***Blessing***

May our hearts be filled with the courage to say, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." May our ears always be attuned to the divine whisper, and may our feet be ready to follow the movements of God in our lives. The blessing of God almighty, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

*Adapted from Anglican Foundation of Canada, 2024*

# Suggested Readings

## **Revised Common Lectionary Readings for June 2, 2024**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) (The Calling of Samuel)

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Mark 2:23-3:6

## **Alternate Suggested Readings**

(full texts available at end of document)

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (The Shema)

Psalm 103:1-18, Psalm 23, Psalm 127 (note: for Psalm 127, the BAS 886 uses “children” rather than “sons”)

Philippians 4:4-9

Mark 10:13-16, Matthew 19:13-15 (Jesus Blesses the Children)

Matthew 18:1-5 (“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name...”)

# Godly Play Story Suggestions

If Godly Play is already part of your ministry for children and families, it can be a natural addition to your family service, with a story and then work time for everyone to participate in together. This can be especially meaningful if Godly Play is something that children have participated in, but grown-ups haven't, as children get to be the experts and invite their grown-ups in.

If it isn't part of your ministry, but you want to explore it, you can email out Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator, Allie, at [youthandfamily@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:youthandfamily@nspeidiocese.ca) for more information, or to explore the possibility of a Godly Play storyteller coming to share a story at your service.

Here are some stories that we think would work well for a Say Yes! To Kids service:

- The Great Family
- Samuel
- Jesus Welcomes the Children
- Parable of the Good Shepherd
- Parable of the Mustard Seed
- Parable of the Sower

# Creative Invitations to Pray

These prayers are in a style that is sometimes known as prayer stations. They are a tangible, tactile form of prayer that engages our senses more broadly than traditional spoken prayers.

To incorporate these into your time of worship, you'll need to take a look through this list and choose the ones that you think will work in your context. It's good to choose at least 4, but you can do as many or as few as you'd like. Then, print out instructions for each prayer you've chosen (you can download a pdf of just those here) and gather the supplies needed. On the day of your service, set up each station, leaving space between them.

When you come to the time of your service that you have set aside for this, explain each station and then invite your gathered community to enter into a time of silent prayer, participating in whichever prayers they'd like, and moving through them as they choose. There is no need to engage in each kind of prayer. Allow a set amount of time for people to engage with these prayers, and when that time is up, offer a brief spoken prayer to close this time of prayer before moving on in your service.

## Paper Chain Prayers

*Supplies Needed:*

- Strips of coloured paper
- Pens, pencils, or markers
- Stapler

*Instructions:*



Write or draw your prayer on one of these strips of paper, and staple it onto the chain as you add your prayer to the prayers of others.

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people join together in unity!  
Psalm 133:1*

## Building the Church Together

*Supplies Needed:*

- Lego

*Instructions:*



As individual people of faith, we should always be learning and growing. But no church member exists on their own, we are all part of the larger Church. This doesn't just mean the

Church in our community, but the Church throughout the world, and the Kingdom of God. As we learn and grow, we do that as part of a much bigger learning and growing thing.

Use this Lego, building on what is already here, or starting something new. Reflect on how each Lego piece is important to the whole. Pray that God will help you keep and continue to grow in your faith, and that God will do the same for the other members of the Church, here and around the world.

*For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

*2 Corinthians 5:1*

### **Sharing the Light of God**

*Supplies Needed:*

- Candles
- Matches



*Instructions:*

Light a candle and say a prayer of thanksgiving for someone who has shared the light of God with you. And light a candle and pray for yourself, that you will have courage and strength as you share your light with the world.

*I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me will not remain in darkness.*

*John 12:46*

### **Giving Thanks**

*Supplies Needed:*

- Large pieces of paper
- Markers, coloured pencils, or crayons



*Instructions:*

Draw a picture of what you are thankful for. Say thank you to God for those things.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's love endures forever.*

*1 Chronicles 16:34*



## You are Loved

### Supplies Needed:

- Large, open topped container
- Sand



### Instructions:

God loves you and you are a child of God. Sometimes we forget that God loves us so much. Draw a heart in the sand and say a prayer to God, giving thanks that God loves us and ask God to help you love others the same way.

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.  
*Romans 5:5*

## Rest

### Supplies Needed:

- Comfortable seating or cushions on the floor

### Instructions:

Sit here a while, quietly reflecting, or reading a bible, or looking at one of these books. Remember that you are invited to rest in the presence of God.

*Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*  
*Matthew 11:28*

## Your Community

### Supplies Needed:

- Sticky Notes
- A wall
- Markers, coloured pencils, or crayons



### Instructions:

Think about the children, youth, and families in your life. They might be your family, your friends, your neighbours or others that you know. Draw a picture of them, and say a prayer that they will feel loved, cared for, and supported.

Take your sticky, and put it up on the wall with all the people that others have drawn. Pray that our communities will be spaces where children, youth, and families can be cared for.

You can find printable poster to accompany these prayer stations here:

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGFHyQPvN8/4y3FX2O4kx721IVbuC3r9w/view?utm\\_content=DAGFHyQPvN8&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=publishsharelink&mode=preview](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGFHyQPvN8/4y3FX2O4kx721IVbuC3r9w/view?utm_content=DAGFHyQPvN8&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink&mode=preview)

# Craft Ideas

## **Tape Resist Painting**

### *Materials*

- Paint
- Masking or painters tape
- Art canvases

### *Instructions*

- Start by giving each person a canvas to work with
- Place pieces of tape over the canvas in different patterns or shapes
- After the canvas has been taped, colour or paint the canvas.
- After paint is dry, take the tape off the canvas and watch how the tape has made patterns on the canvas!

### *Introduction*

The experiences we have and the people in our lives all have an impact on us and all leave a mark. Today, as we think and pray about saying yes to children, youth, and families, I want you to think about who has is saying yes to you know, if you are a child or a youth. Who is supporting you, caring for you, creating opportunities for you. And if you are a grown up, who did those things for you when you were younger.

We're going to make paintings on these canvases, and we are going to use tape to leave marks on them, in the same way that people have left a mark or are leaving a mark on you.

You can use the tape to create any pattern or design that you want, and then paint your canvas. Once your paint is dry, you can peel off the paint and see what it looks like.

## **Silhouettes**

### *Materials*

- Big Paper
- Flashlight
- Coloured pencils, crayons, markers
- Stickers
- Magazines to cut up
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

### *Instructions*

- Use a flashlight to shine on a person, casting their shadow onto a piece of paper on the wall. Have someone else quickly trace their shadow. (Another option could be for everyone to trace their hand instead – less fun, but a little quicker)
- Everyone can then fill in their outline with things that represent them.

### *Introduction*

Let's take a moment to celebrate our community, and each of us that are part of it. We're going to create something that represents each of us, and then we can see what we look like all together.

We'll make an outline of your silhouette/your hand, and then you can use any of the supplies available to fill it in with things that show who you are, and then when we are done, we will put them up on the wall together to see who we are when we are all together.

## **Fingerprint Art**

### *Materials*

- Stamp pads
- Paper
- Markers

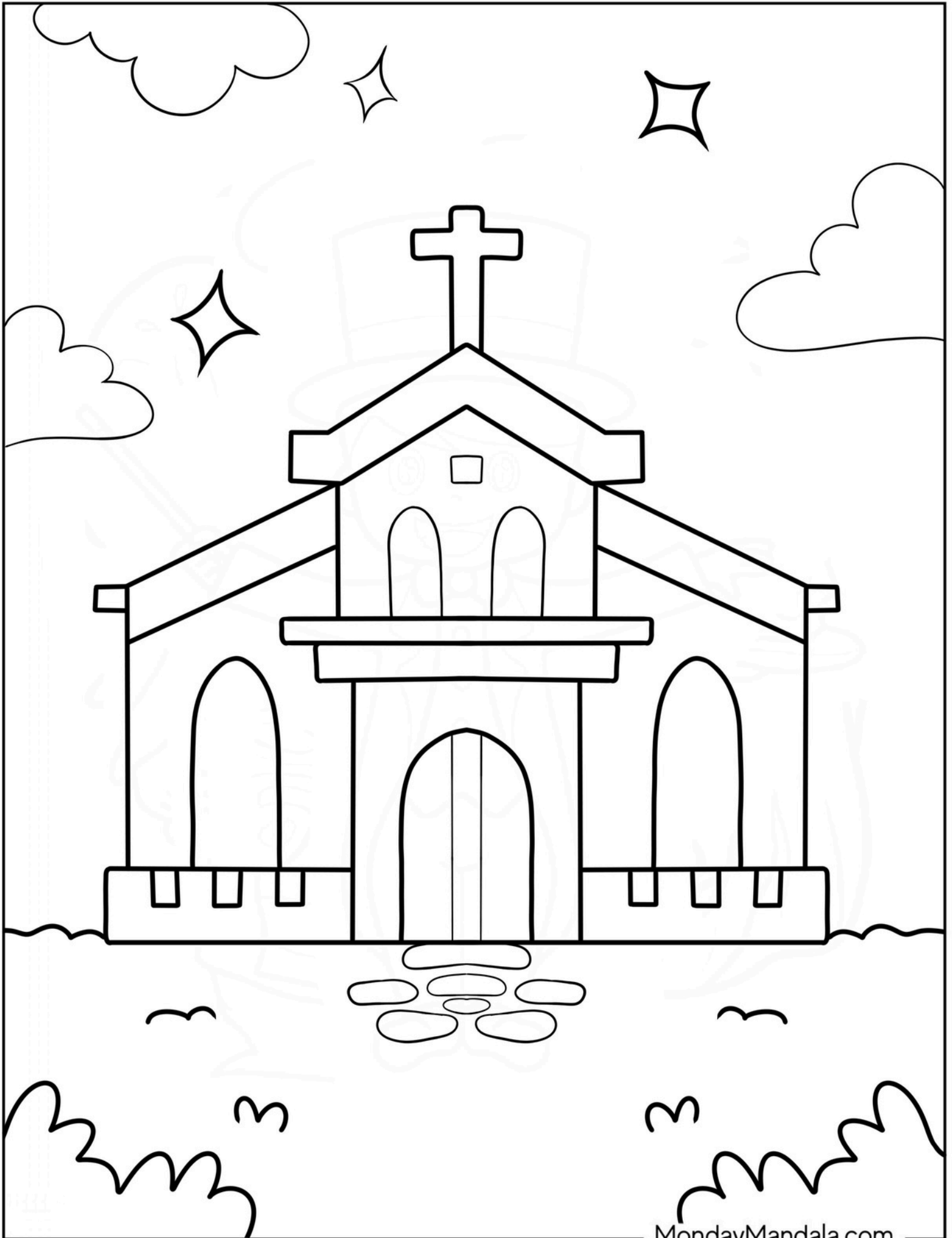
### *Instructions*

- Press a finger or thumb into a stamp pad.
- Press your inky finger onto the piece of paper.
- You can make as many prints as you like, making art entirely out of fingerprints, or you can use those fingerprints as part of something bigger and draw around them, turning them in to something else.

### *Introduction*

God made each of us unique, one of a kind. We can see that in lots of ways, but we can especially see it with fingerprints. Did you know that no two people in the whole world have the same fingerprints? So, today we are going to create art that is unique to each of us using your fingerprints.

You can make a picture that is completely made up of fingerprints, or you can use your fingerprints to be part of the picture – like leaves on a tree or the body of an animal, and then you can use markers to fill out the rest.







# GOD

OF

## PRESENCE & STRENGTH

Help us feel you here with us...

...when we are anxious and afraid

WHEN THE FUTURE FEELS

UNWIELDY

AND

UNCERTAIN

we know **nothing** is **unknown** TO YOU

# NO GOD

we know YOU ARE OUR ROCK

AND OUR COMFORT IN TIMES OF

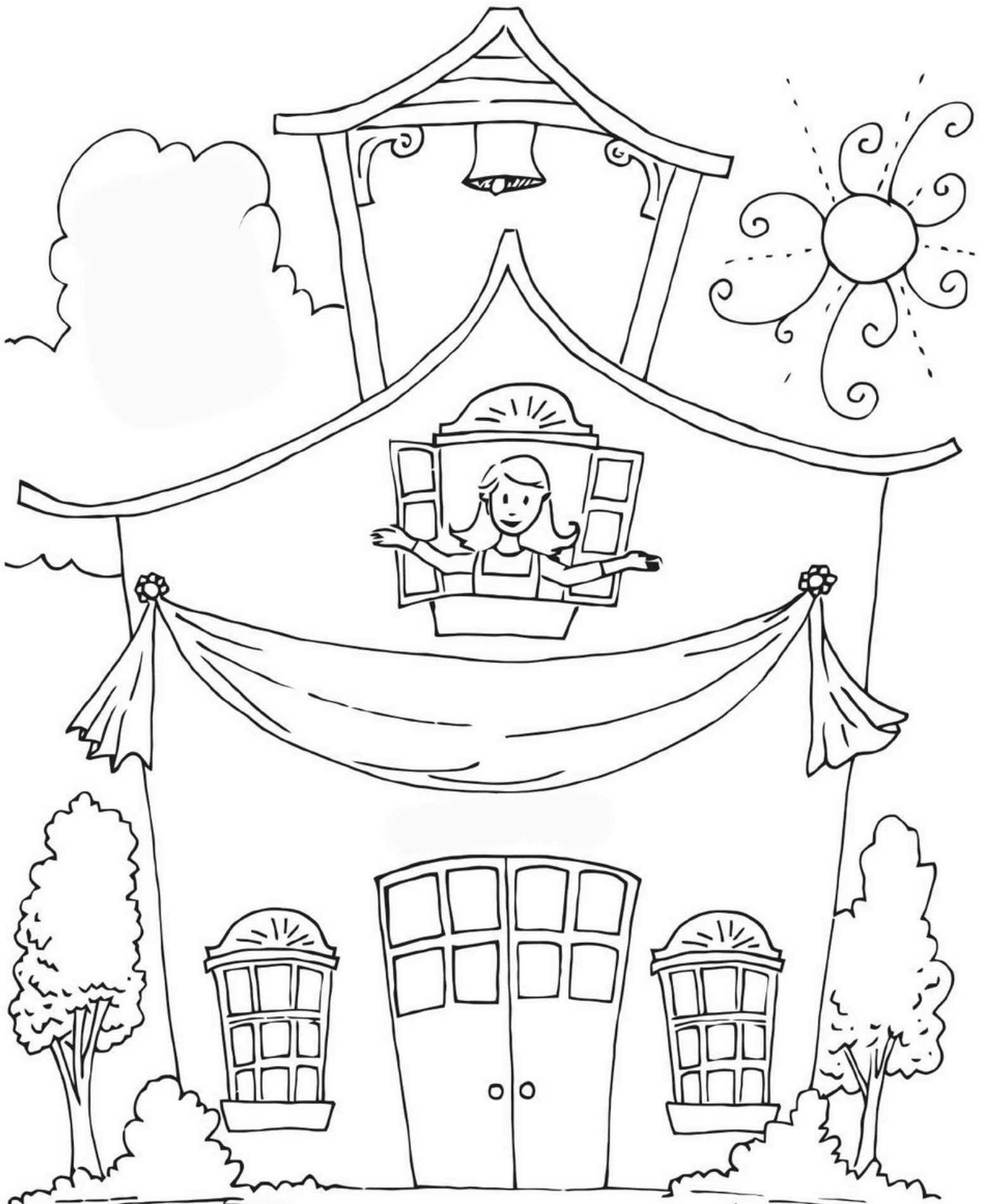
# TROUBLE.

Give us WISDOM and COURAGE...

...to make CHANGES that will help...

# THINGS GET BETTER.

# Amen.



Mandy Groce '11

ministry-to-children.com

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