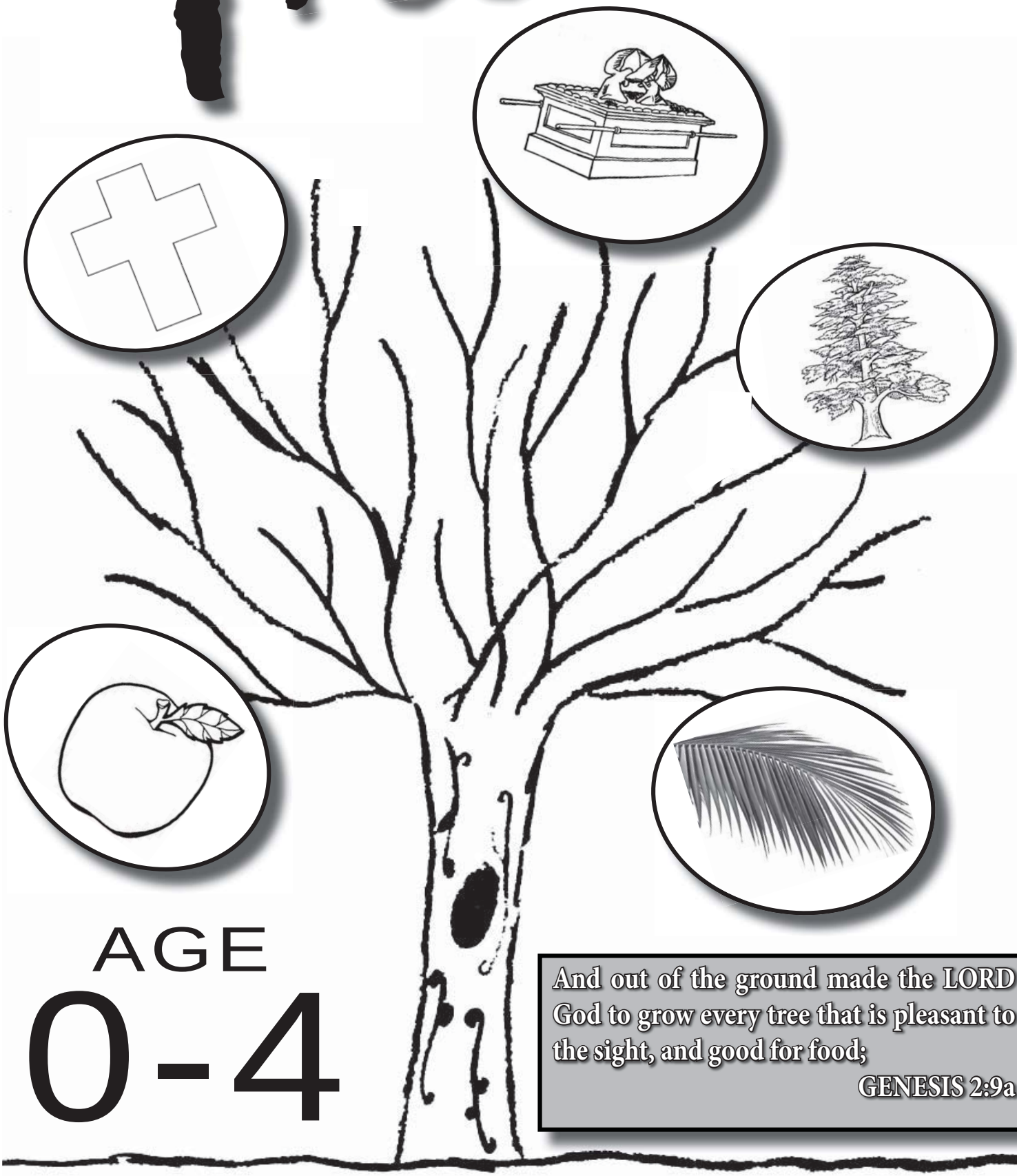
Trees



AGE

0-4

And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food;

GENESIS 2:9a

The Missionary Baptist
Vacation Bible School Literature Committee presents

Trees

Vacation Bible School Lessons for Ages 0-4
Written by Sister Michelle Corder. Artwork by Mitch Corder

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The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
Adam and Eve
Lesson Text: Genesis 2:16-17; Memory Verse: Romans 3:23

Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. God made the garden beautiful. It was filled with flowers of every color and trees that were full of delicious fruit. God came to the garden often to visit with Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve could eat the fruit from any tree in the garden except one. That tree grew in the middle of the garden and was called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God had told them that if they ate the fruit of that tree they would surely die. Because they wanted to obey God they left the tree alone.

One day Eve was in the garden and the snake tried to get her to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree. The snake told Eve she was foolish to believe that she would die. He told her that if she ate the fruit her eyes would be opened, and she would know good and evil.

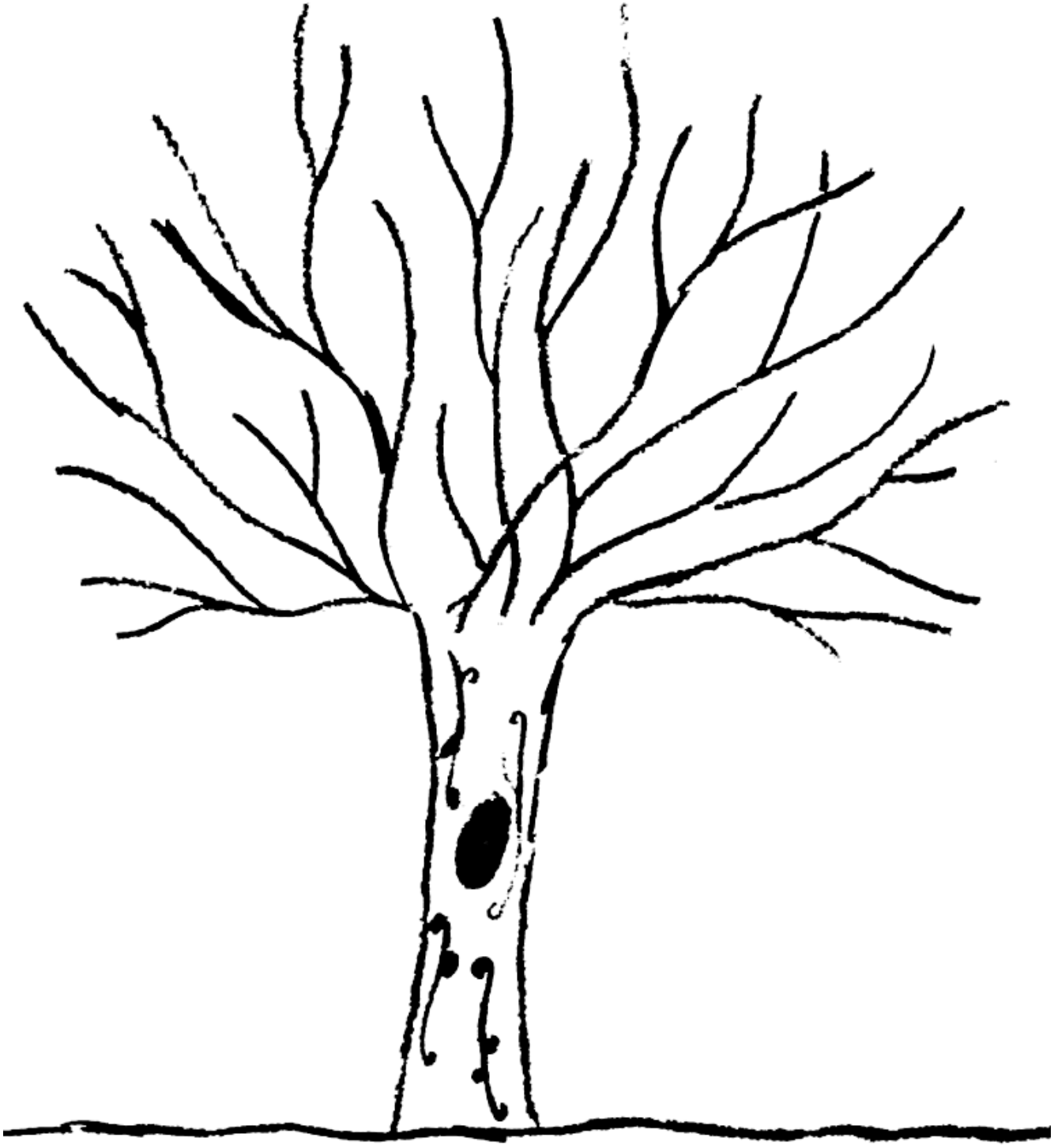
Eve went to the tree. The fruit looked good. She wanted to be wise, so she picked fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and ate part of it. Eve gave Adam a bite of the fruit. Adam and Eve were suddenly afraid. They knew that they had disobeyed God. They made clothes out of fig leaves to cover themselves and they hid from God.

When God came in the evening, He called for Adam and Eve. They slowly came out of their hiding spot. God asked them if they had eaten the forbidden fruit. Adam blamed Eve and she blamed the snake. God told them that they would have to leave the garden because they had disobeyed Him. Now Adam and Eve would have to work very hard, they would feel pain and they could never meet with God in the garden again.

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was a special tree that God made. God has a reason for every rule that He gave us. We must always obey God.

<u>FINGERPRINT ACTIVITY</u>

Photcopy the following page(or use actual page), Stamp index finger in various shades of green ink and stamp it many times on the tree for leaves (re-dipping in the ink as necessary). Stamp pinkie finger in red ink and stamp lightly to add apples to the tree.



The Cross
Jesus
Lesson Text: 1 Peter 2:24; Memory Verse: Acts 5:30

Jesus had come to Jerusalem for the feast called the Passover. It was a special celebration, and Jesus knew that this would be last time He would be at the feast with His disciples. After they ate, Jesus gave the disciples unleavened bread and the cup. He asked them to remember Him by eating the bread and drinking the fruit of the vine from the cup. After they had finished eating, Jesus talked to the disciples about lots of things He wanted them to know. Then Jesus and the disciples left the upstairs room where they had eaten. They walked through the city into a garden called the Garden of Gethsemane. The garden was in a grove of olive trees on the Mount of Olives.

When they reached the garden, Jesus had his disciples wait at the gate while He went into the garden to pray. He took three disciples, Peter, James and John with Him a little farther into the garden. Jesus was very sad because He knew He would have to leave His friends soon. He asked the three disciples to sit and wait while He went to pray.

Jesus walked a little farther into the garden and knelt down to talk to His Father in prayer. As He prayed, He knew that it was God's plan for Him to die so that the people could be saved from their sins. It was a hard thing to do but Jesus was ready to do whatever His Father wanted Him to do. Suddenly, a light appeared in the darkness. A group of soldiers were coming into the garden. Jesus knew they were looking for Him.

Jesus was arrested and He was taken before the leaders of the people. They treated Him very badly. Most of the leaders did not believe any of Jesus' teachings or that He was the son of God. They thought he should be crucified. Jesus was lead out of the city to Calvary. At Calvary, he was nailed to a wooden cross. Jesus died that day. All the people that loved Jesus were very sad. But Jesus had told them that He would rise again.

There is a legend that says that Jesus' cross was made out of wood from a dogwood tree. There is no foundation to this legend since dogwood trees don't grow in this part of the world. However, the dogwood has characteristics that

remind us of what happened on the cross. The legend states that tree was very sad that it had been used to crucify Jesus. Jesus promised the tree that it would never again grow big enough to be used as a cross. From now on, the dogwood would be slender and bent and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross--two long and two short petals. In the center of the petals and outer edge of each petal will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained red. In the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns and all who see it will remember.

Even though the Bible does not tell us exactly what type of tree provided the wood for the cross, we do know that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

COLORING ACTIVITY

There is a legend that says that Jesus' cross was made out of wood from a dogwood tree.

The Ark of the Covenant
Moses
Lesson Text: Exodus 25:22; Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 4:5

Moses and the Israelites had been traveling in the desert for about three months when they came to Mount Sinai. They set up their camp at the base of the mountain.

While the Israelites were busy unpacking and setting up their camp, Moses went up the mountain to talk to God. God explained to Moses the 10 Commandments and all the rules and laws that would tell the Israelites how to live.

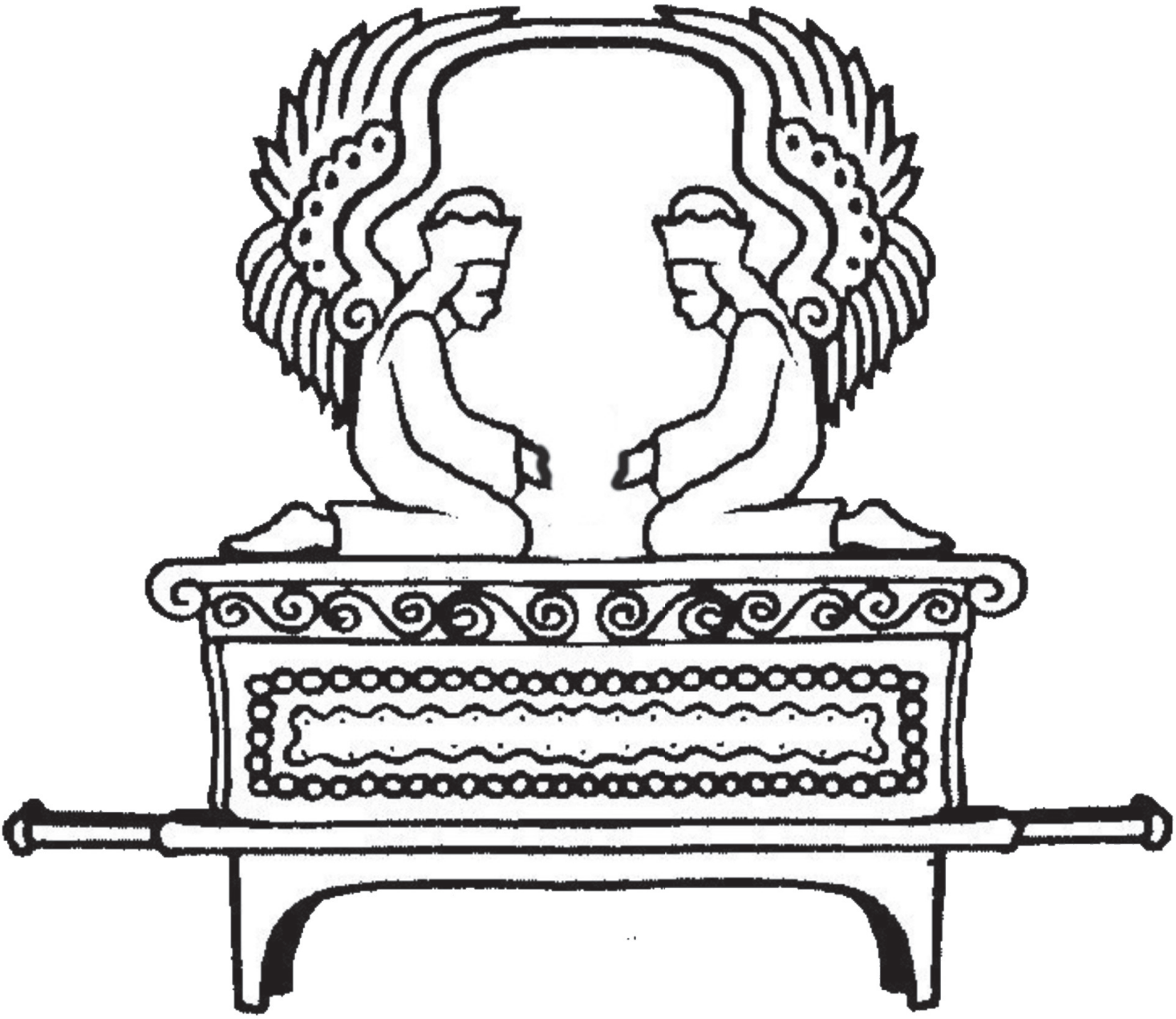
Moses came down from the mountain and told the people all that the Lord had said. The Israelites promised that they would do everything that the Lord had said.

While Moses was on the mountain, God told him to have the Israelites give an offering. From everyone who gives from the heart the offering shall be accepted. Moses was to accept gold, silver and brass, and cloths of blue, purple and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and rams' skins dyed red and badgers' skins and shittim wood, oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, onyx stones and other jewels. God told Moses to let the Israelites make a sanctuary so that He could live in their midst. They must make it exactly as I tell you.

The bible says that they shall make an ark of shittim wood. It shall be four feet long, two feet wide and two feet high. It is to be covered with gold inside and out and it shall have a gold band around it. At each corner, it shall have a gold ring and through these rings shall be a gold covered rods of shittim wood, so that the ark may be carried. The rods must remain in the rings of the ark. They shall put in the ark the laws I will give you. They shall make also a mercy seat, a lid of pure gold, four feet long, and two feet wide. At each end of the mercy seat there shall be the figure of an angel in beaten gold. And the angels shall stretch their wings upward, covering the mercy seat with them. Their faces shall look to one another and shall be inclined slightly downwards. And the mercy seat shall be put upon the ark. And there I will meet with you.

The Shittah-tree was a special tree that God made. The Ark of the Covenant was a special place where the Israelites could worship God.

COLORING ACTIVITY



And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Exodus 25:22

The Cedars of Lebanon
King Solomon builds the Temple
Lesson Text: 1 Kings 6:7-10; Memory Verse: 1 Kings 6:9

The time had come for King David to hand over his throne to his son Solomon. Solomon was very young when he became the king of Israel.

King David loved God and really wanted to build a beautiful temple for God. He spent much time designing and planning the building. But it was not God's plan to allow David to build the temple; God wanted Solomon to build it. David gave Solomon all the plans and instructions that he would need to build the temple.

Solomon sent a message to Hiram, King of Tyre, to send him beautiful Lebanon cedar trees to use in construction of the temple. King Hiram sent men into the forest to cut the most beautiful trees for God's temple.

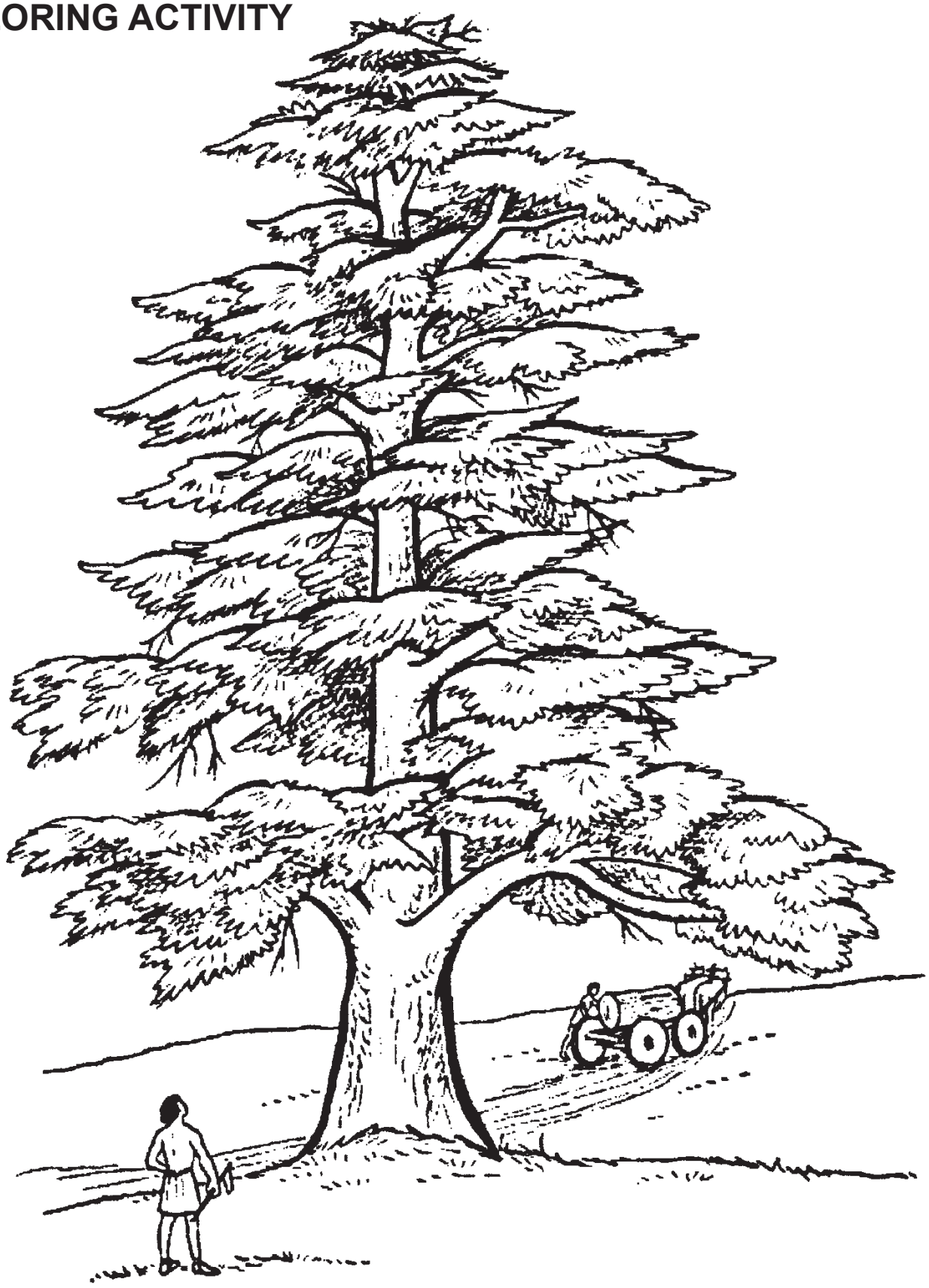
There were many, many men needed to work in building the temple. Solomon had men that cut all the cedar logs into smooth beams, men were needed to cut the big stones into smooth blocks and others were busy casting the gold and bronze. There were also craftsmen who made beautiful curtains and furniture for the temple. The stones were cut in quarries and the logs cut in the forest to their exact shape and size far away from the temple. No sound of a hammer or of any iron tool was heard at the site of the temple so that it would be quiet and respectful to God. It took all these workers seven years to build the temple.

The temple was beautiful. There were three areas or rooms. The first area was like a porch or the entrance into the temple. The next area was the Holy Place. In this area the walls were lined with cedar and angels. Palm trees and flowers were carved into the wood and all the walls were covered with gold. The third area was the Holy of Holies. The walls in this area were also lined with cedar from Lebanon and overlaid with gold. A curtain of blue, purple, red and fine linen separated this area of the temple. This room contained the Ark of the Covenant, which held the 10 Commandments. Only the High Priest could enter this room with blood for sacrifice, and he could only enter once a year.

After the temple was completed, Solomon asked the priests to come and dedicate the temple to God. Solomon knelt before the altar and prayed to God. He praised God and thanked Him for always keeping his promises. The celebration lasted 14 days. It was a special time to thank God and be joyful.

The Cedars of Lebanon were special trees that God made. They were strong and beautiful in the temple.

COLORING ACTIVITY



King Solomon built a temple to the Lord. Lebanon cedars were furnished by the King of Tyre.

The Palm
Jesus
Lesson Text: Revelation 7:9-10; Memory Verse: John 12:12-13

The city of Jerusalem was crowded with people who had come into the city for the annual Passover celebration. The Passover is the oldest and most important religious celebration to remember God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and His creation of the Israelite nation. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem too.

Jesus and His disciples were walking towards Jerusalem. As they neared the city of Bethany, Jesus sent two of the disciples into the village to find a young donkey. Jesus told the disciples to tell the owner of the donkey that the Lord has need of it and he would allow them to take the donkey.

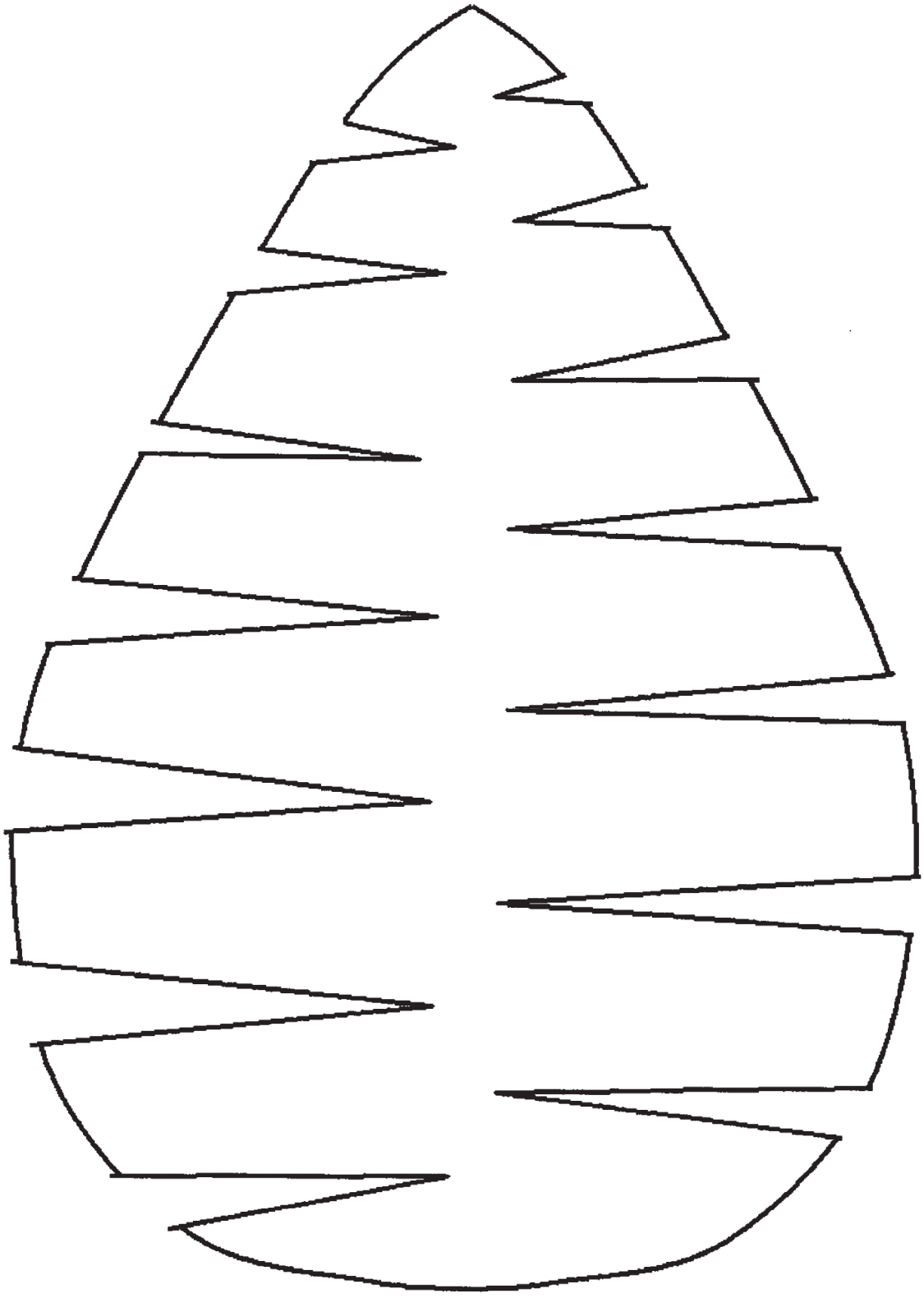
They returned with the donkey and the disciples took their coats and spread them on the back of the donkey for Jesus to sit on. He rode the donkey towards Jerusalem.

The crowds heard that Jesus was coming. The road was filled with people watching for Jesus. At last they saw him coming. The people took off their coats and laid them on the ground for the donkey to walk on. They pulled branches from the Palm trees and waved them as Jesus rode by. The crowd was shouting "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest!"

As Jesus rode through the city gates the whole city was excited. Many people did not know who he was but others knew that He was Jesus, the Son of God. The excitement did not last very long. In just a few days Jesus would be betrayed by one of His disciples and he would be crucified by His enemies.

The next day Jesus died. His death made it possible for us to repent and be free from sin. Without this sacrifice we would have no hope of spending eternity in heaven with God.

The Palm tree was a special tree that God made. The branches were used to worship Jesus in His triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Palm Frond Collage

Cover with small pieces of various shades of green tissue paper.
Cut out and glue onto black construction paper.