

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

Bible Reference: Ezra 4-6

Date: 1/25/26

Grade: PreK /Kindergarten

1st Service

Memory Verse:

**“Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us.”
Isaiah 25:9**

Big Picture Question:

How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

Christ Connection

- God’s people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people on earth. When we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go.

Schedule

- **Welcome/ Intro Activity.....5 minutes**
 - **Kindergarten in Large Group Lesson @ 9:20.....15-20 minutes**
- **Circle Time and Bible Story.....10 minutes**
- **Movement Activity.....10 minutes**
- **Craft.....5-7 minutes**
- **Music.....5 minutes**
- **Global Partner Feature.....5-7 minutes**
- **Prayer and Bible Verse.....10 minutes**
- **Snack/ Discussion Time.....5-7 minutes**
- **Group Game.....10 minutes**
- **Additional Activities.....As Needed**

Notes and Reminders

We are so grateful for YOU and all the ways you love and serve the children and families of LEFC! As we continue into 2026, our prayer is that you will be encouraged by how you see God working in your life and the lives of people around you!



SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

Like many projects, rebuilding the temple began with enthusiasm and purpose, but eventually the work stopped. Upon their return from exile, God's people were excited about rebuilding the temple and having a place to worship their God. Eventually their passion for rebuilding diminished due to the opposition they faced from their enemies. Instead, the people turned their efforts to work on their own dwellings.

God used the prophet Haggai to remind His people of the importance of rebuilding the temple. Specifically, the prophet asked the people why their houses were completed and adorned beautifully when the house of the Lord lay in ruins. Because of the encouragement of the prophet, the people returned to rebuilding the temple. This time, they would persevere through all of the challenges to complete the rebuild.

So why was the rebuilding of the temple so important for the people of God who had returned from exile? For them, the temple was the place where the presence of God dwelt among them. Following the Exodus, God's manifest presence was experienced by His people in a number of ways. He dwelt with His people in the cloud and fire that guided and protected the Israelites on their journey. He dwelt with His people in a movable tabernacle where they were able to worship. And eventually, God dwelt with His people in Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. When the temple was destroyed, it was symbolic of God removing His presence from His people. When God's people returned, the rebuilding of the temple demonstrated God was with His people, inviting them to return to Him in prayer and worship (2 Chronicles 6:36-39).

Today, we are reminded that our God does not dwell in a house made by the hands of people. When Jesus died on the cross, a symbolic act occurred in the temple. At the moment of Jesus' death, the curtain in the temple separating the people from God's presence split from top to bottom. The splitting of the curtain demonstrated our new reality that Jesus' death and victory over sin and the grave gives us direct access to the Father. Remind kids that God desires to be with them, and through faith in Christ, believers are promised His presence forever.



JUNIOR SHEPHERD HIGHLIGHT

When God's people first came back from exile, they were excited to rebuild the temple. They wanted a place to worship God again. But after a while, the work stopped. Their enemies discouraged them, and the people lost motivation. Instead of rebuilding the temple, they focused on building their own houses.

God sent the prophet Haggai to remind the people what really mattered. Haggai asked why their own homes were finished and decorated while God's temple was still broken down. His message encouraged the people to start rebuilding again. This time, they didn't give up, even when things were hard, and they finished the temple.

Rebuilding the temple was important because it showed that God was with His people. In the past, God had shown His presence in different ways—through a cloud and fire during the Exodus, in the tabernacle where the people worshiped, and later in Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. When the temple was destroyed, it showed that God's people had been separated from Him. Rebuilding it showed that God was welcoming them back and inviting them to pray and worship Him again.

Today, God does not live in a building made by people. When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain in the temple that separated people from God was torn in two. This showed that because of Jesus, we can come directly to God. Through faith in Christ, God promises to always be with His people.



OUTLINE



Welcome and Intro Activity

5 minutes

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Gather the children to sit with you around a table or on the floor. Ask children about things they are thankful for, like their family, friends, food, and toys. Pray with the children, thanking God for all the things He has given them.
- **SAY** We have so many things we can thank God for. God gives us good gifts. In our Bible story today, God helped the Israelites rebuild the temple. God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. The Israelites celebrated and thanked God for all He had done for them.

Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

Thinking Activity

- Ask the children if they've ever seen a construction site. Talk about what you might see at a construction site, such as tools, dirt, a bulldozer, hard hats, and so forth.
- **SAY** There are so many interesting things to see at a construction site. In today's Bible story, God's people were working to rebuild the temple, but their neighbors wanted them to stop building. We will see in our story that, no matter what other people do, God is more powerful than anyone!

Bible Story

- God's people were happy to be home. The people started rebuilding the temple and finished the bottom part first. But their neighbors did not want them to rebuild the temple. God's people were upset, and they stopped building. Instead of building the temple, God's people built other things —like nice houses to live in. But God wanted His people to put Him first and rebuild the temple. So, God chose a man named Haggai to talk to His people. Haggai went to the leaders of God's people and told them God's message: "Keep building. God is with you." So, the people started to work on the temple again. The land where God's people lived was ruled by King Darius. Darius had put leaders in charge of certain areas. The leader of Jerusalem was named Tattenai. Tattenai asked God's people, "Do you have permission to rebuild the temple?" God's people said yes, but Tattenai sent a letter to King Darius to find out if they were telling the truth. When King Darius looked in his records, he saw that King Cyrus had told the people they could build the temple.





- So, King Darius told Tattenai, “Let the people finish building! In fact, give them money to help them build it. No one should try to stop them. The people were so happy! They kept building the temple. The people worked very hard, and soon the temple was finished. The people celebrated and thanked God because His temple was finished.

Christ Connection

- God’s people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people on earth. When we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go.

Review Activity

- Cover the Bible Story Picture Poster with sticky notes. Ask children to share something they remember from the Bible story, and then remove a sticky note from the picture. Celebrate together when the picture of the temple is revealed.
- **SAY** What special building did we find under the sticky notes? (the temple) God’s people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people on earth. When we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go.

Movement Activity

10 minutes

Before the session, cut a pool noodle into 2-inch segments. Cut additional pool noodles if you have a large group. Set the pool noodle segments and the Bible Story Picture Poster on the floor in a corner of the room. Invite preschoolers to build the temple or a home using the pool noodle pieces as blocks. As they build, point to the picture and help them review the Bible story

SAY It is fun to build things, and it is exciting when they are finished. The Israelites celebrated when they finished building the temple. God’s people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. They were so excited to have a place to worship God! We can worship God anywhere, but one important reason we come to church is to worship together with other people who love God. Where are some other places you can pray and worship God? [Allow responses.]





Craft

5-7 minutes

Distribute a piece of heavyweight paper, craft sticks, and glue to each child. Lead children to use the craft sticks and glue to form houses on their papers. Set out crayons for children to use to draw people, flowers, and other things next to the houses they built. Review the Bible story as children work.

SAY You made beautiful houses out of craft sticks. God's people began rebuilding the temple, but they stopped because their neighbors did not like what they were doing. So, they started building houses until the prophet Haggai came to them and said, 'Keep building. God is with you.' God wanted His people to obey Him and keep Him first. The people started building again. God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him.



Music

5 minutes

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you like! You may distribute the Activity Page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

Friends From Afar

5-7 minutes

You will find today's activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month's Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included. Necessary supplies are located in your bin.





Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- God, thank You for helping the Israelites when their enemies stood in their way. Thank You for sending Jesus to make the way for people to be with You when they believe in You and turn from sin. We love You. Amen.

Bible Verse

- Read the key passage aloud. There will be a bin of blocks on the counter with the passage words written on them. Help the children stack the blocks in order of the key passage. Refer to the Key Passage Poster as needed. **SAY** Great job building a tower with the key passage! While God's people were trying to rebuild the temple, they trusted God to help them when their neighbors tried to stop them. God was with His people and helped them build the temple! God did what He said He would do, because God always keeps His promises.

Snack and Discussion Time

5-7 minutes

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were some things in the Bible story that made God's people happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. Who told the people to keep building the temple? (Haggai)
4. Why did the people stop building the temple? (They were discouraged when their neighbors didn't want them to rebuild it; they built their own homes first)
5. The temple was a place to worship God. Where do we go to worship God today? (When we trust in God, we can worship Him anywhere because Jesus is with us wherever we go.)

Note: Explain to children that Christians can worship God anywhere, but that God also wants them to gather in churches to worship with other believers.

6. How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus. **SAY** God's people began rebuilding the temple but stopped when their neighbors got upset. God sent Haggai to encourage the people to keep building. King Darius said God's people had permission to finish the work. God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. When they were done, they celebrated and thanked God.





Group Game

10 minutes

- Distribute paper cups and jumbo craft sticks to the children. Encourage everyone to work together to stack the cups to build a wall or tower. Demonstrate how to use jumbo craft sticks to connect the cups by building bridges.
- **SAY** You worked together to make buildings and bridges. God's people worked together to rebuild the temple. The temple was the special building where God's people went to worship Him. Today you came to church! Church is a special place where we come together to worship God. In today's Bible story, we will learn how God helped His people rebuild the temple.

Additional Activities

As Needed

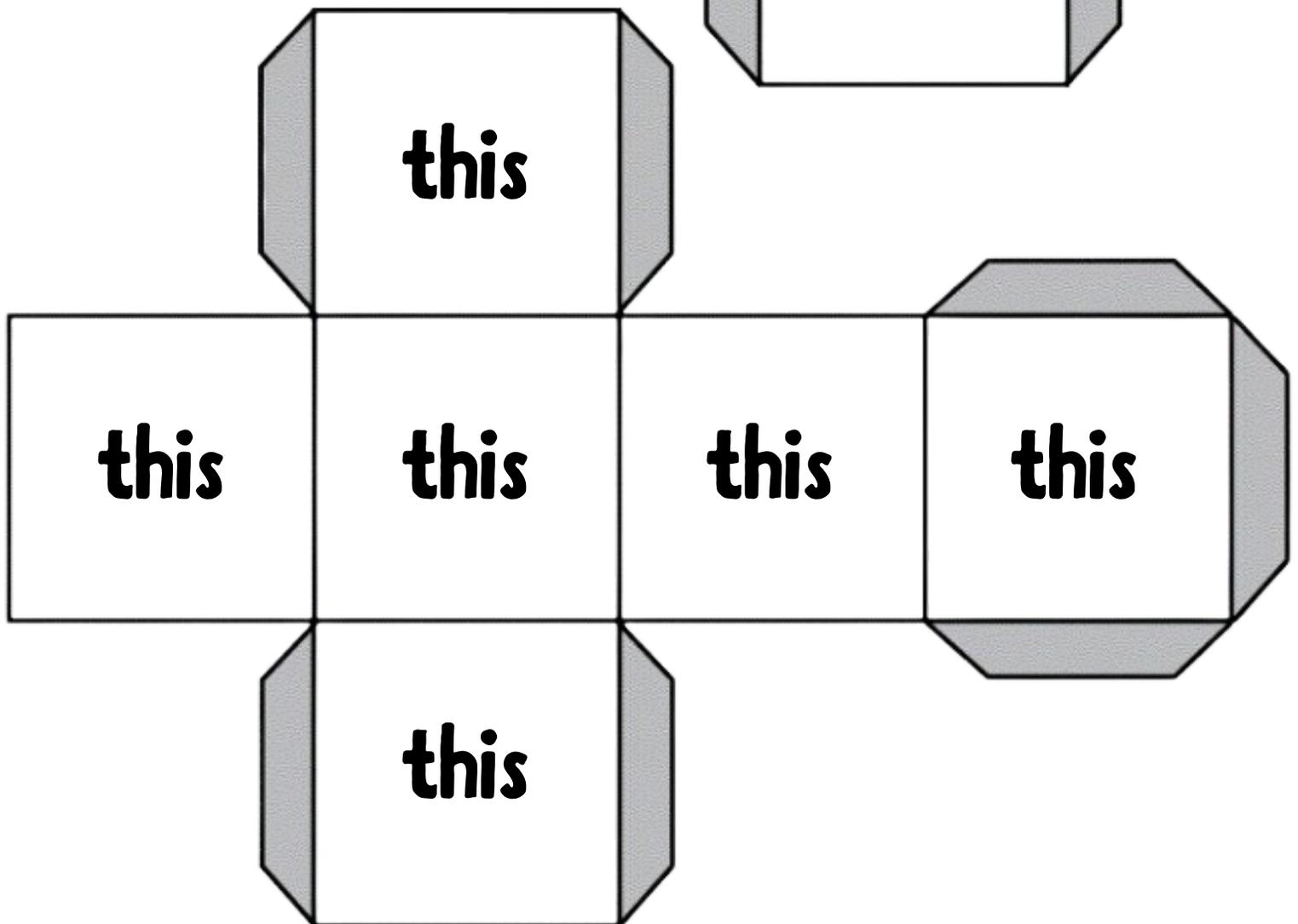
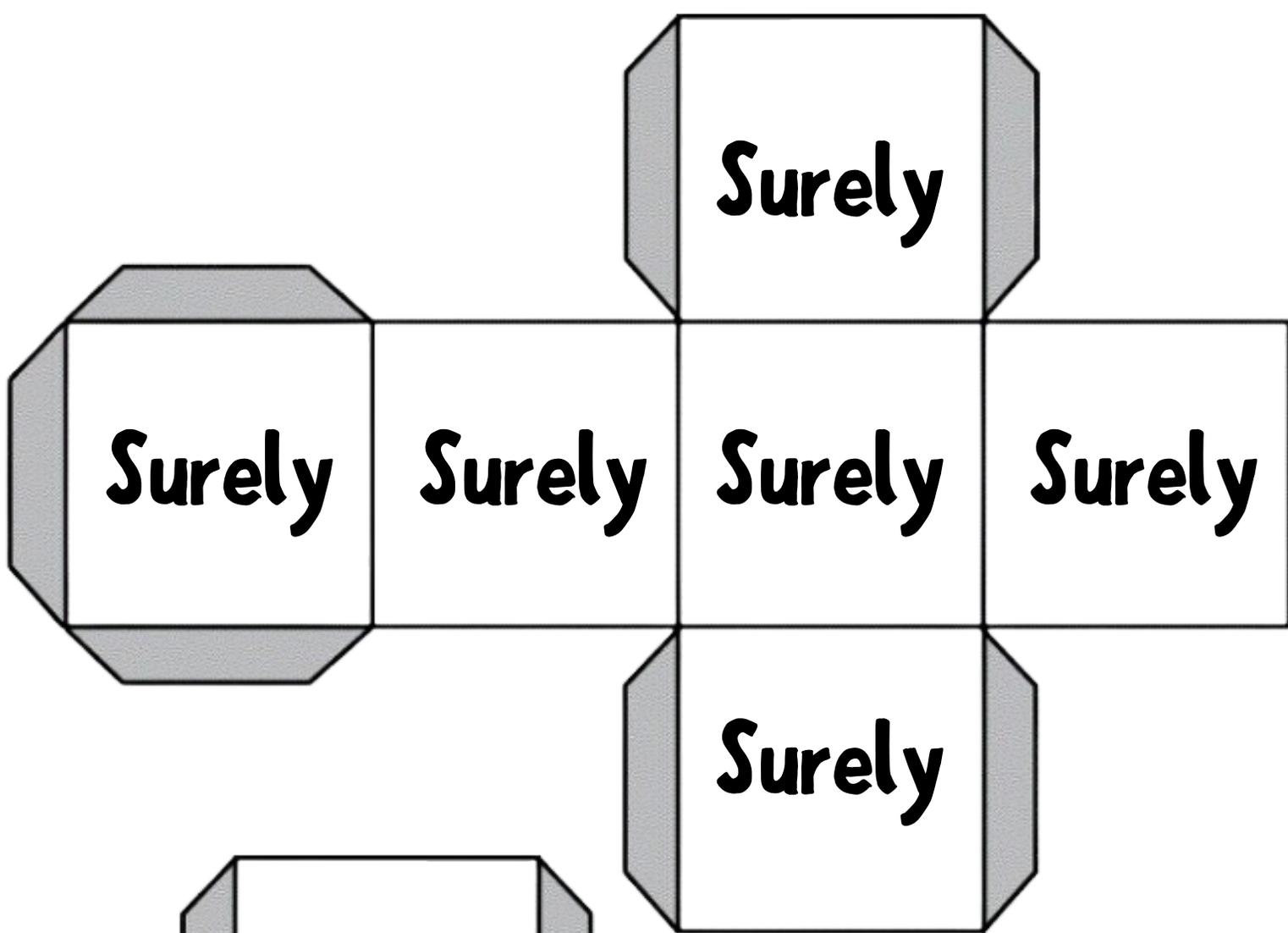
Stop and Go

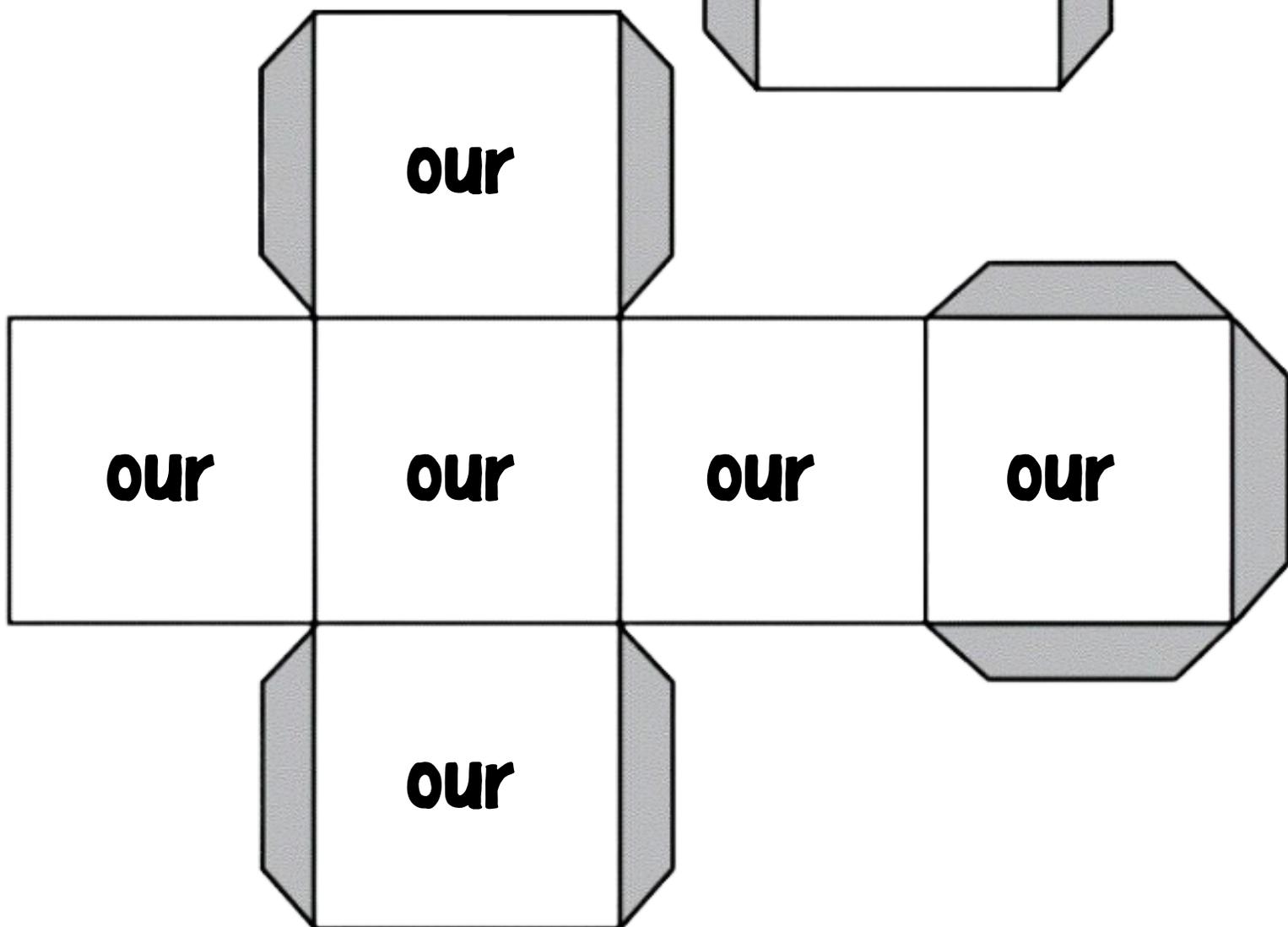
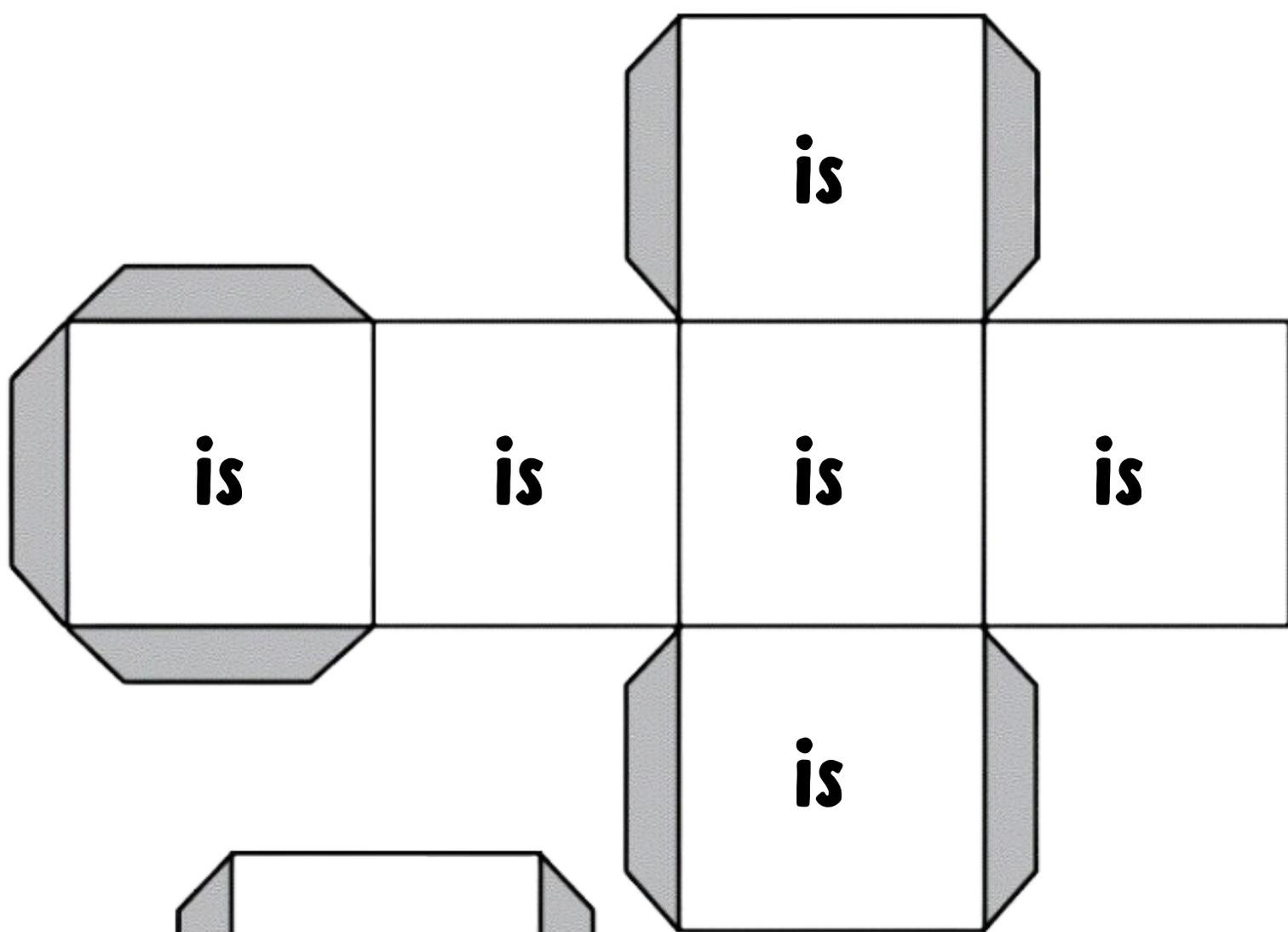
- Gather a piece of red and green **STOP** and **GO** papers. Instruct the children to move around the room performing a certain action such as jumping, skipping, tiptoeing, taking large steps, and so forth. Hold up the **GO** sign to signal when children should move, and the **STOP** sign when they should freeze.
- **SAY** Wow! You all were great at stopping and starting when you saw the signs. In today's Bible story, we learned that God's people did not work to build the temple the whole time. They stopped working and starting building other things. God sent Haggai to tell the people to keep building the temple because God was with them. God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him.

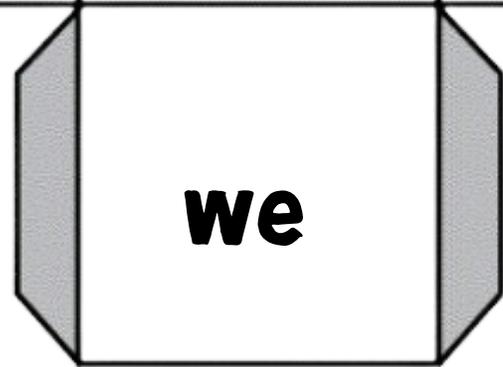
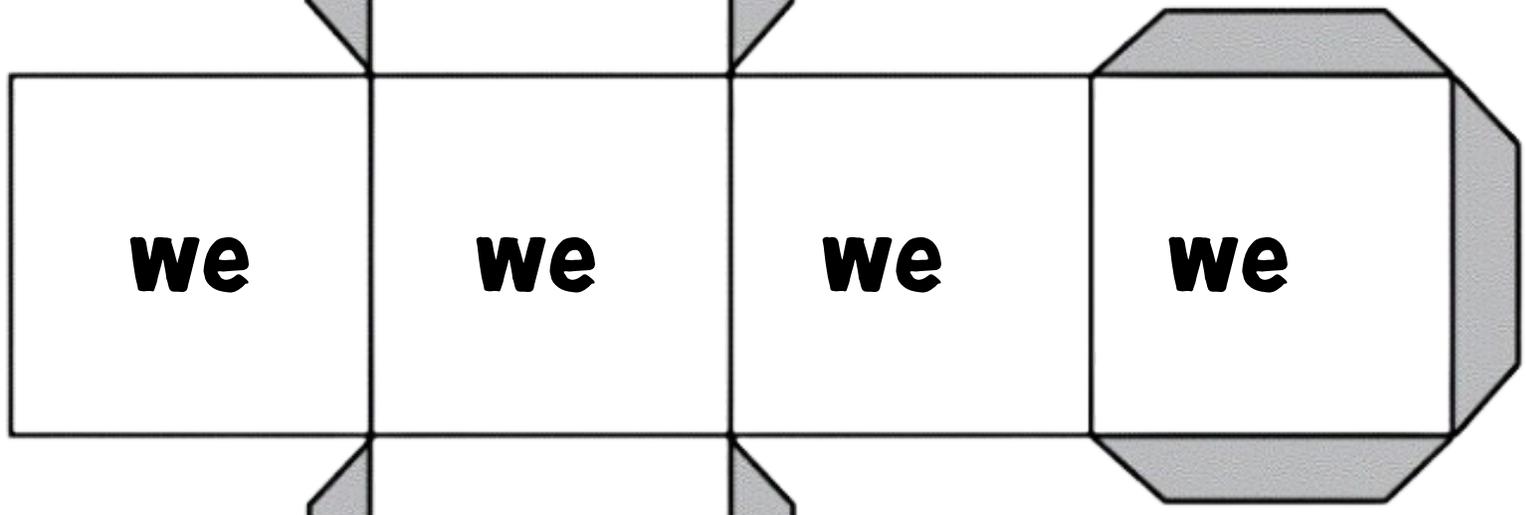
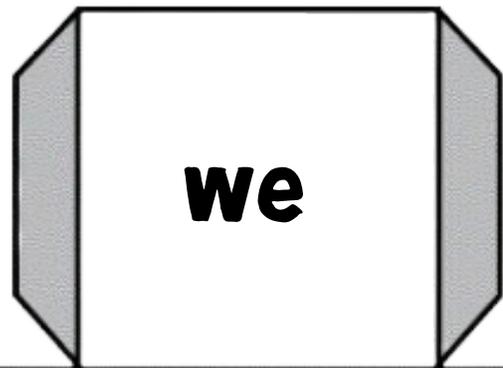
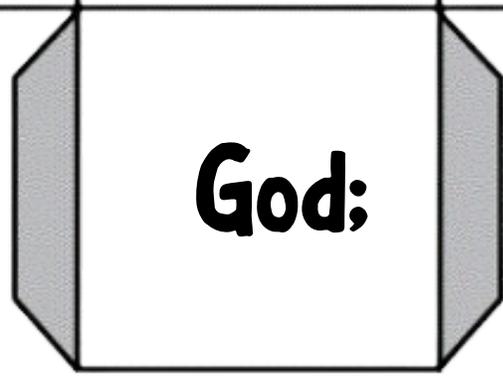
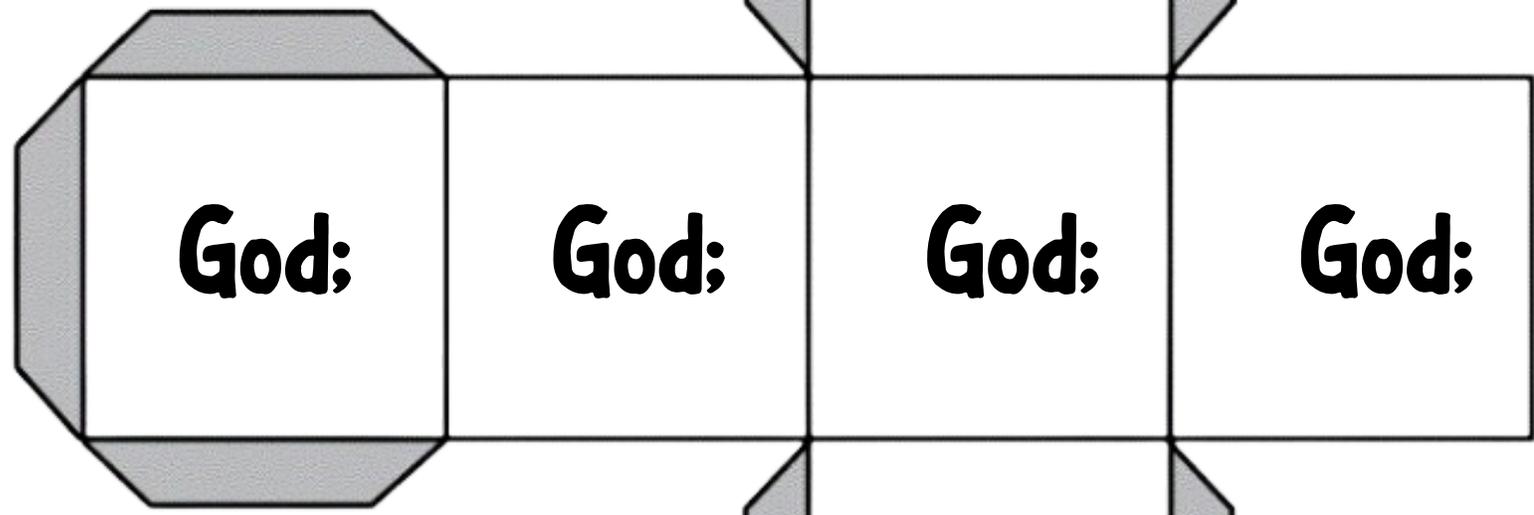
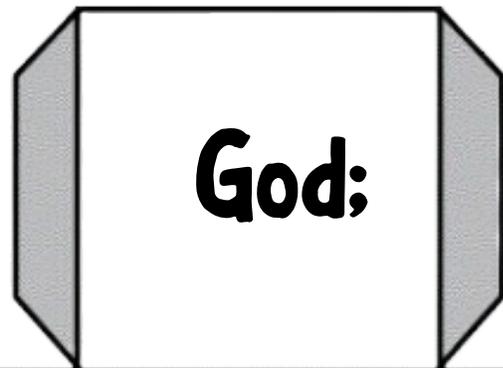
Search and Find

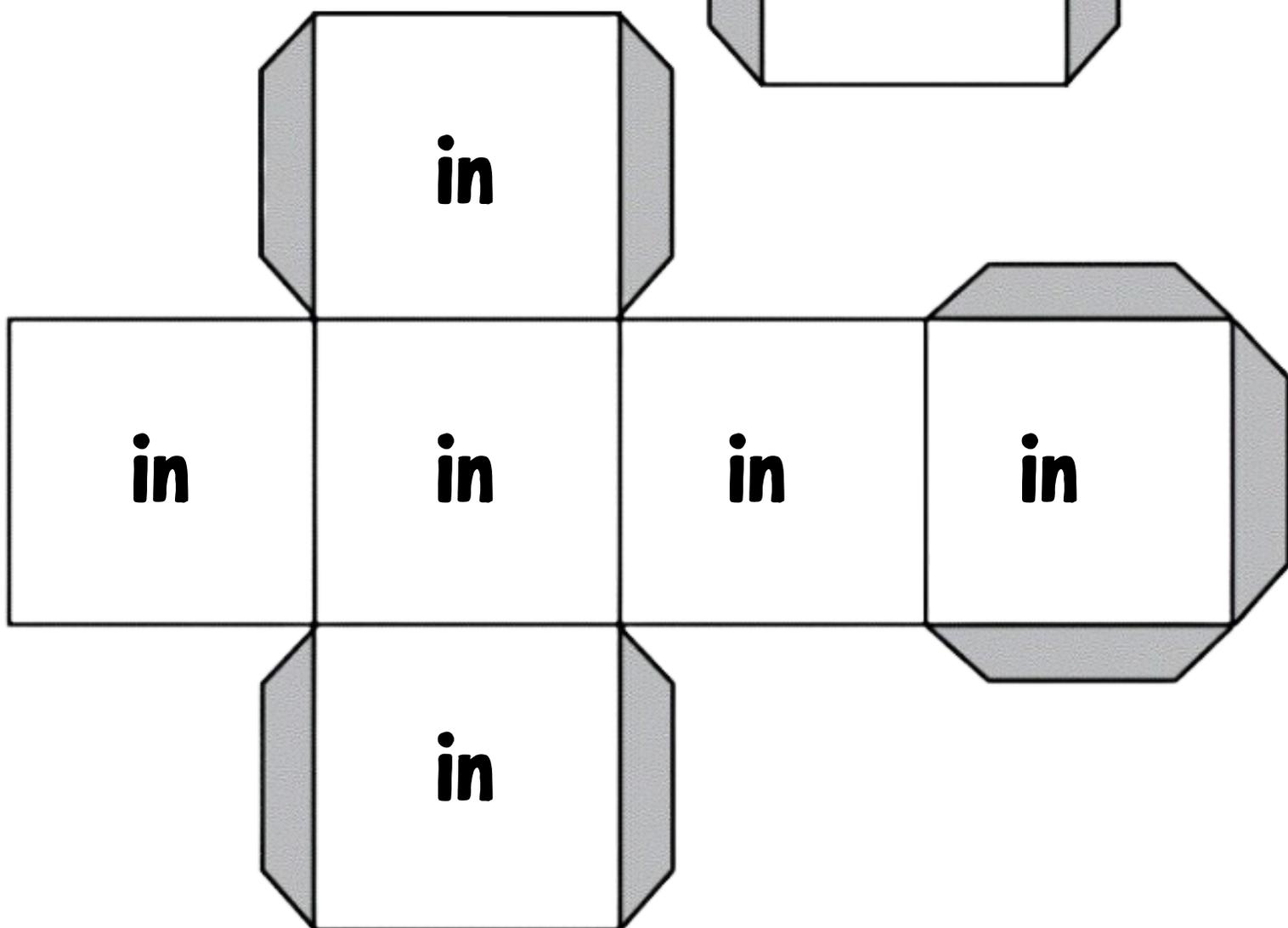
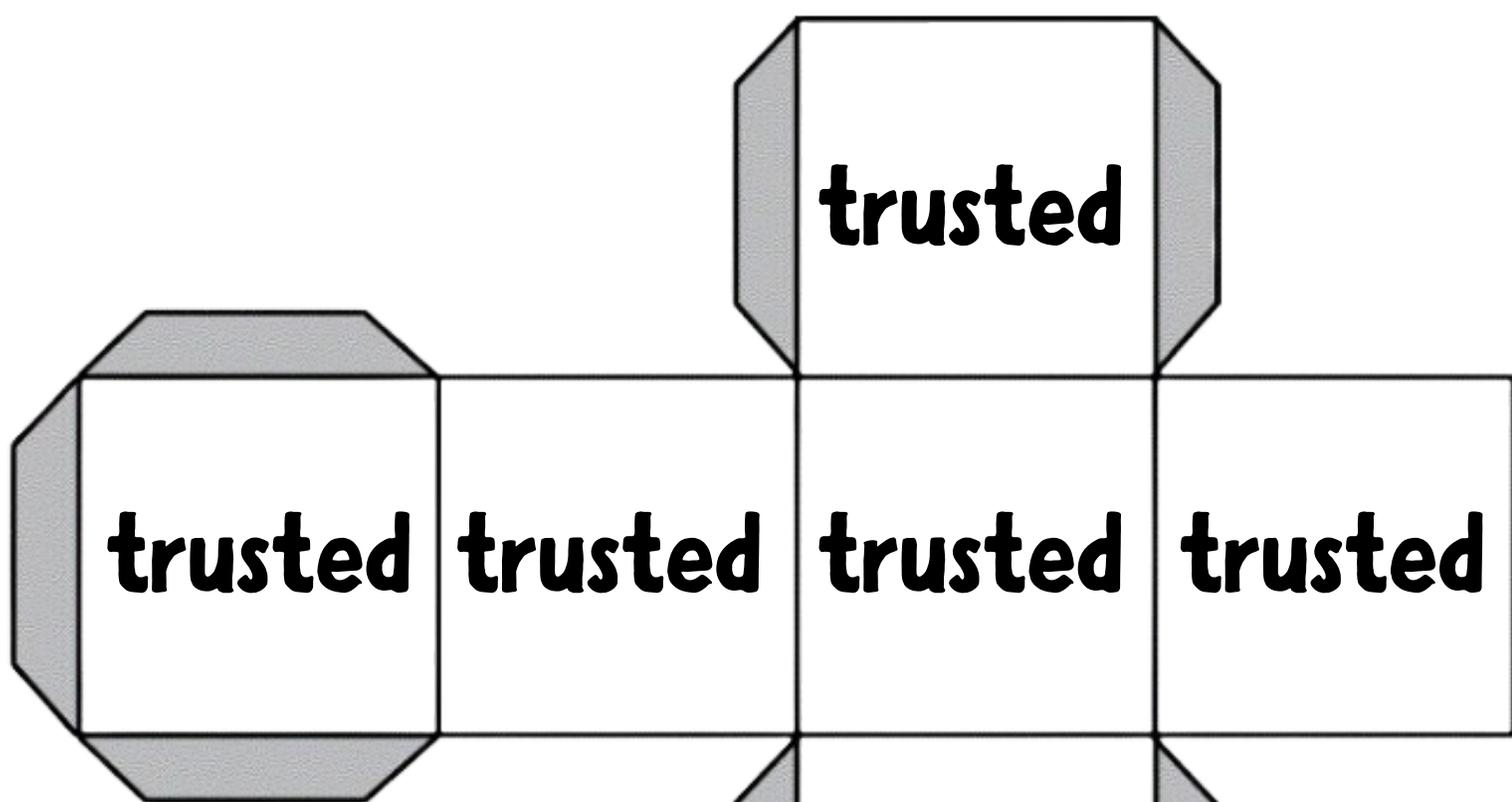
- Draw a simple temple shape on a large piece paper. Cut the temple into several large pieces. Hide the pieces around the room. Encourage children to hunt around the room and find the pieces of the temple. Help children put the pieces together to show the picture of the temple.
- **SAY** Great job finding all the pieces to the temple! God's people stopped building the temple and built other things instead. After God sent Haggai to encourage them, God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people on earth. When we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go.

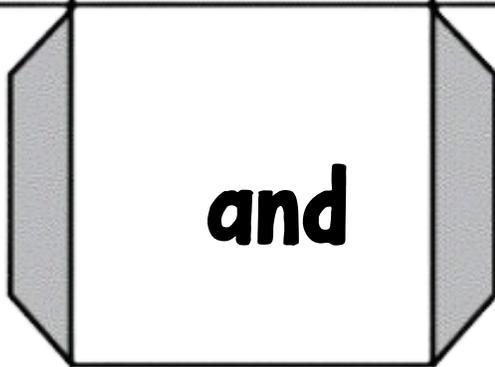
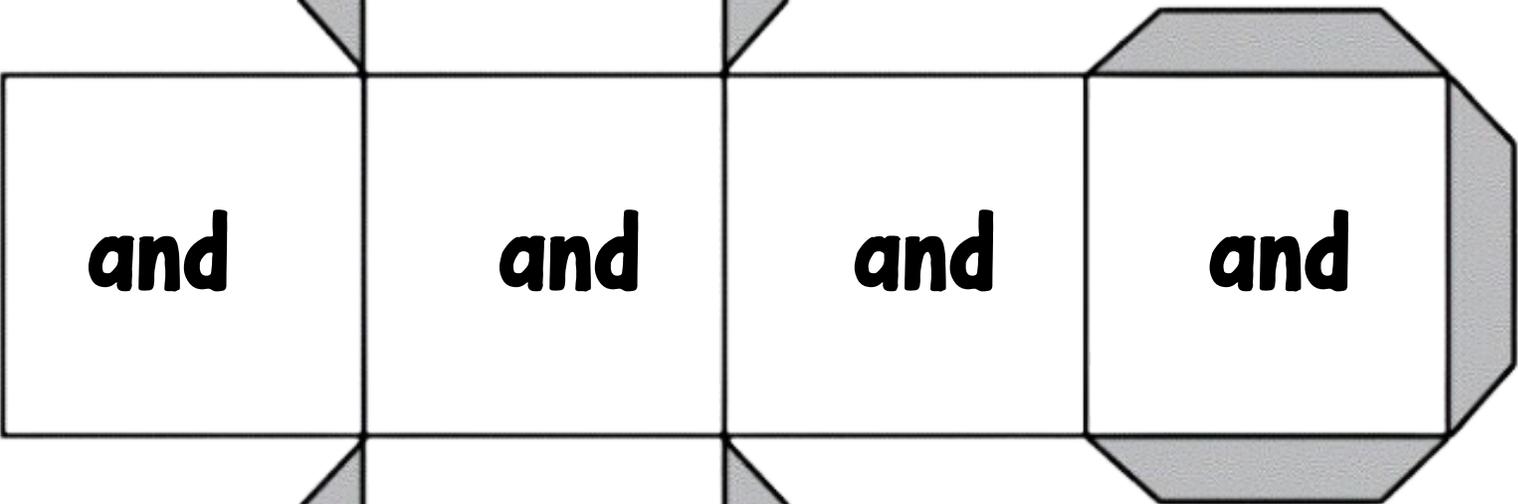
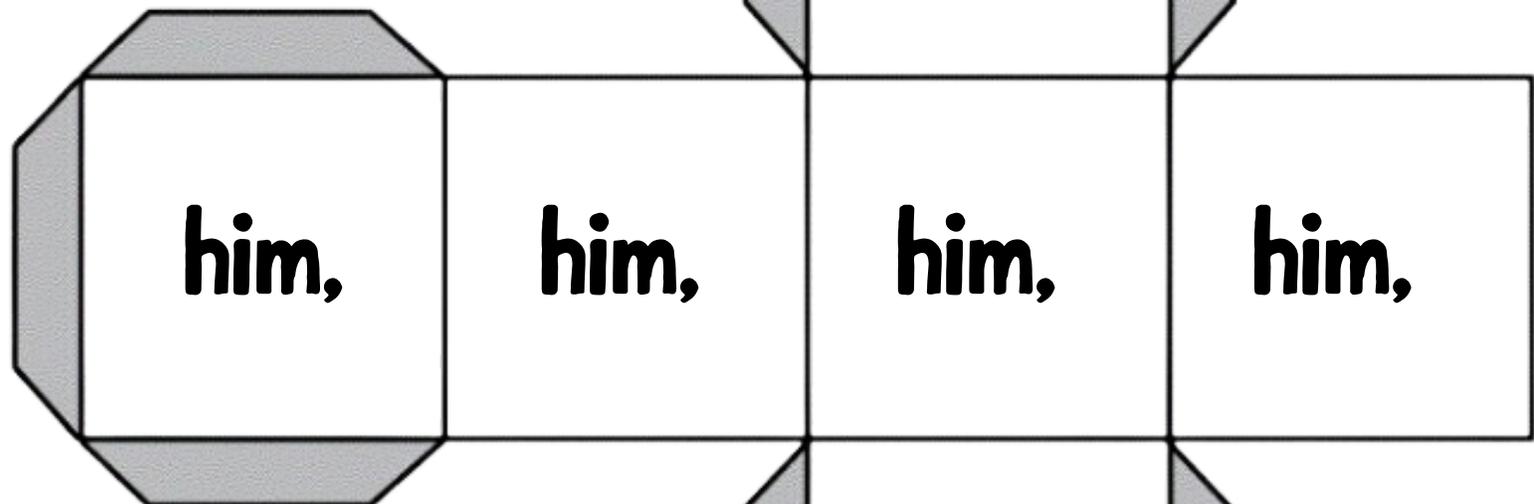


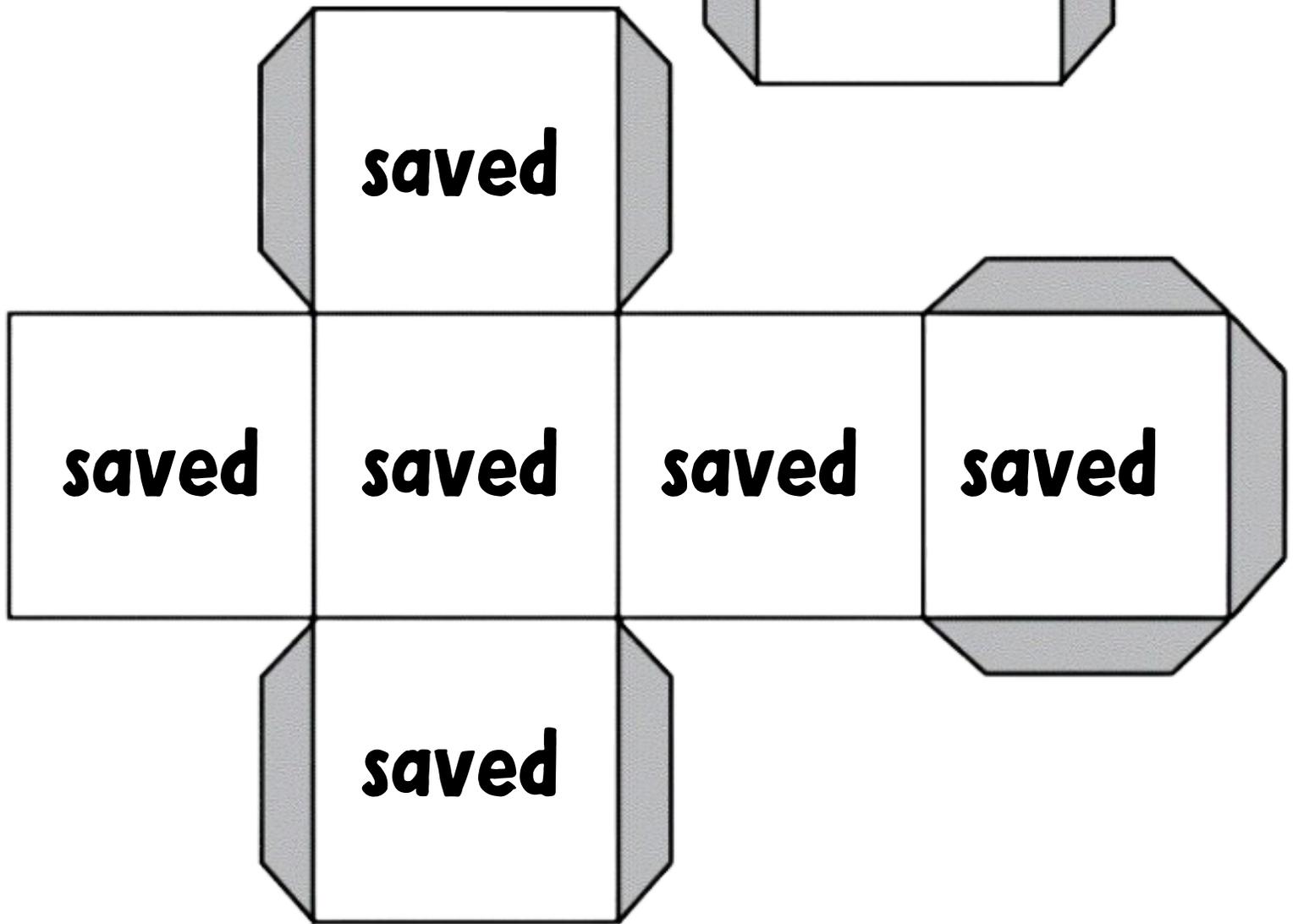
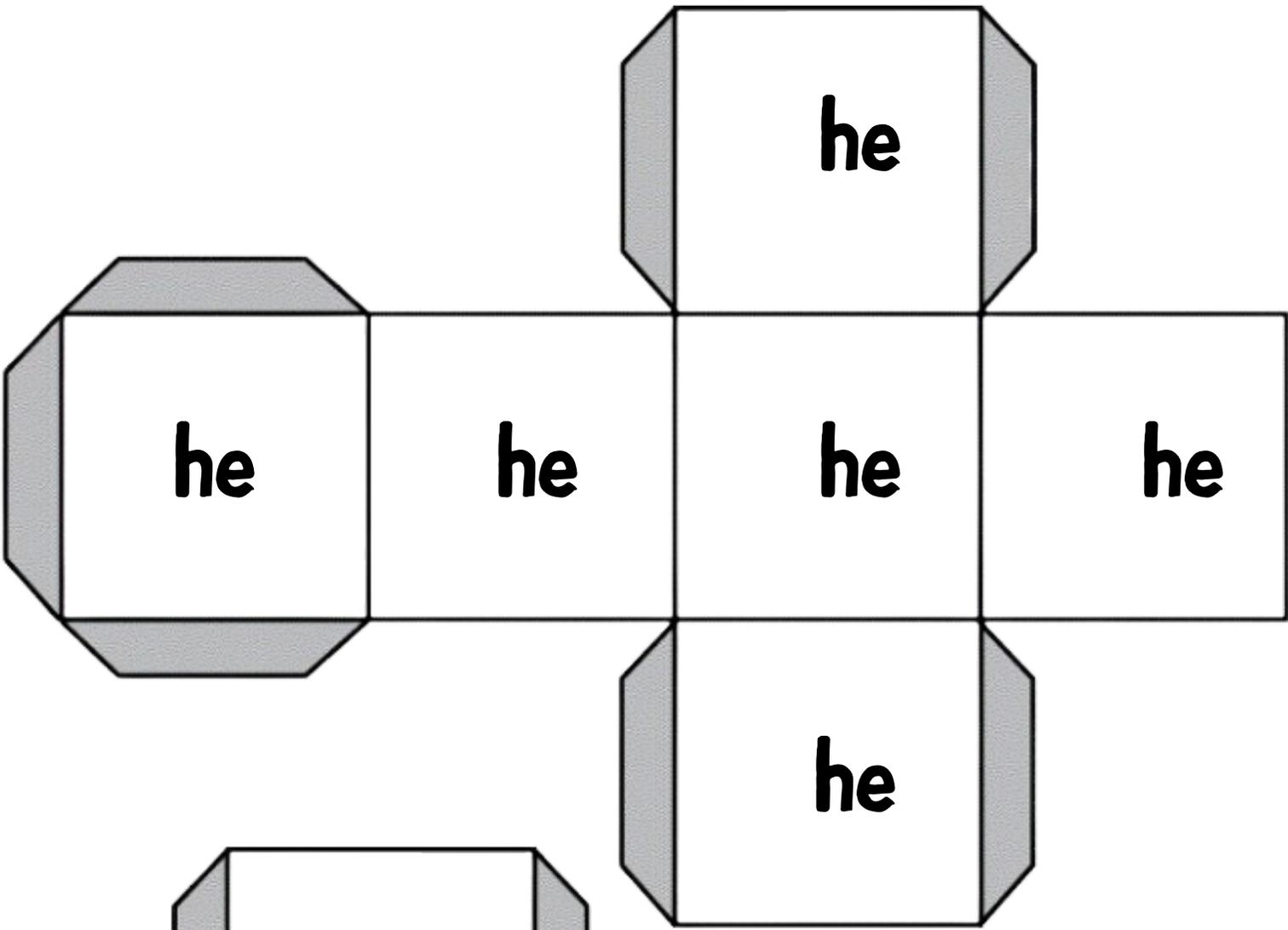












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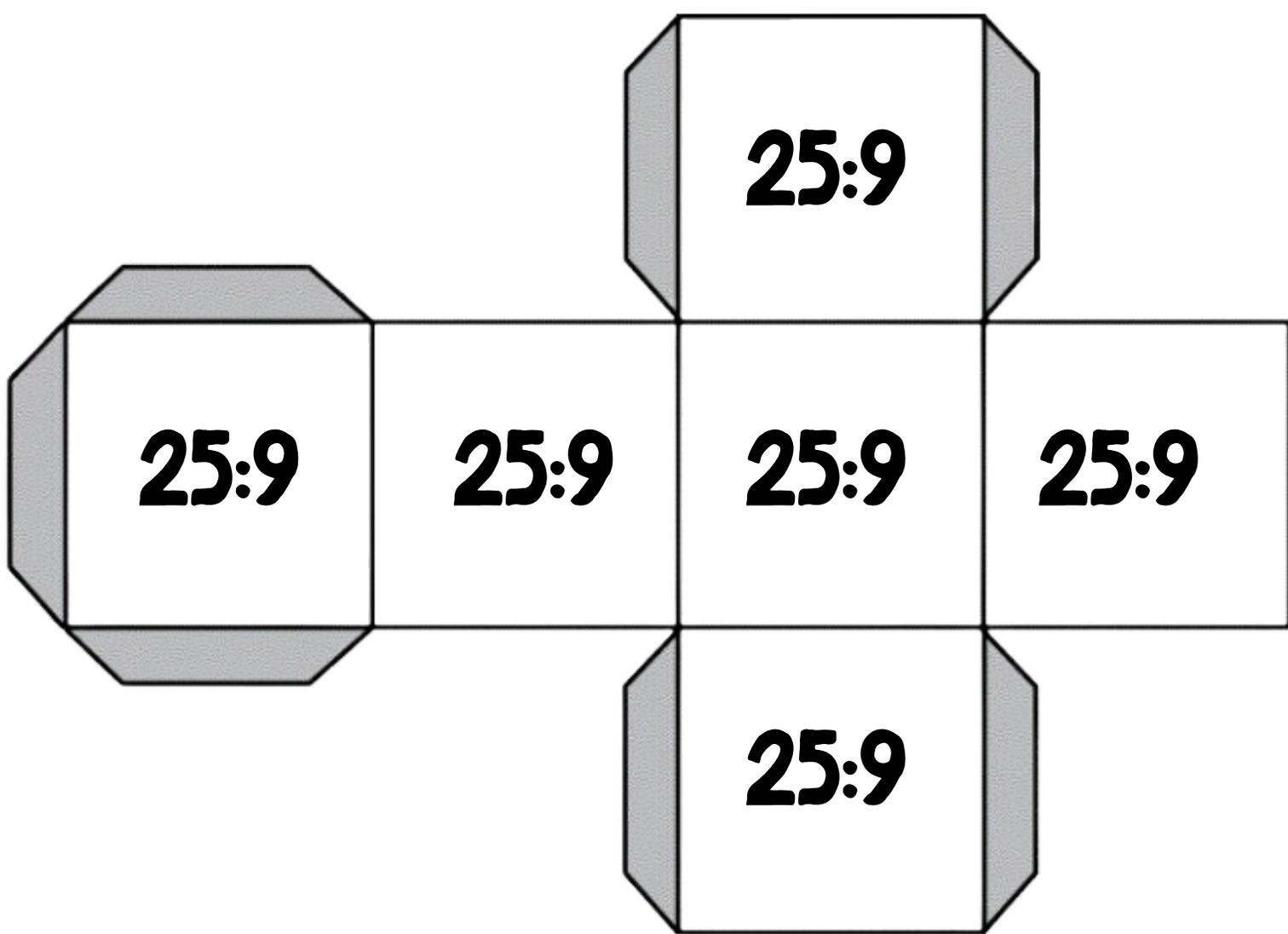
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the **GOSPEL** PROJECT



Rebuilding the Temple

Ezra 4-6; Haggai 1-2

STORY POINT: God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Long ago, people built a temple to meet with God. We do not need to go to a temple anymore to be close to God because God sent Jesus to be with us always.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: This is our God. We waited, and He saved us.
Isaiah 25:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How did God fix what sin broke? God sent Jesus.

Scan the QR code for resources to use at home!

