

John Baptizes Jesus

Bible Verse

Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)

Bible Story

Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17

Leap of Faith

Jesus teaches me how God wants me to live.

Before You Begin

John, the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, was born just before Jesus and was one of Jesus' cousins. As it was told before he was born, John would be the one to prepare the way for the coming Messiah. And that is just what he did.

John lived in the wilderness as a holy man and had many followers. He was concerned about the moral decay in the Jewish faith and called people, especially the religious leaders, to repent of their sinful practices and be baptized in the river as a sign of their repentance. Obviously, John did not make many friends among the religious hierarchy of the day.

Many people believed that John was the promised Messiah; but he told them that he was not the one but that he had been sent to "prepare the way." When Jesus came to John to be baptized, John knew that the Messiah was among them. When God's voice proclaimed Jesus as the beloved Son, John knew that the time was then.

God's love is a work in our lives from the day we are born. The sacrament of baptism acknowledges that love. Just as Jesus was claimed as God's beloved Son, a special part of God's family, we remember that we are also a special part of God's family. Sometimes, children may be unable to see a way through a wilderness of schoolwork, sports events, music lessons, and household chores. Crises such as divorce or a death in a family or among friends can also create a wilderness of stress in a child's life. They can begin to wonder whether God is really there to help them and give them what they need. Help the children know that they can trust God to be with them always in these wildernesses.



Requires
preparation.

John Baptizes Jesus

Narrator 1:

About 30 years after Jesus was born, John the Baptist, who was Jesus' cousin, appeared in the desert of Judea.

John:

Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!

Narrator 2:

Many, many years earlier, the prophet Isaiah had told about John.

Isaiah:

The voice of one shouting in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight."

Narrator 1:

John wore clothes made from camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem, Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him to confess their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River.

Narrator 2:

Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John.

John:

You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Prove that you have changed your hearts and lives. Don't start by saying that you belong to Abraham's family. An ax is ready to cut down the trees at their roots. Any tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into a fire.

Narrator 1:

John continued.

John:

For those who have changed their hearts and lives, I baptize with water. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Narrator 2:

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John could baptize him. But John tried to stop him.

John:

I need to be baptized by you, but here you come to me?

Jesus:

Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill God's plan.

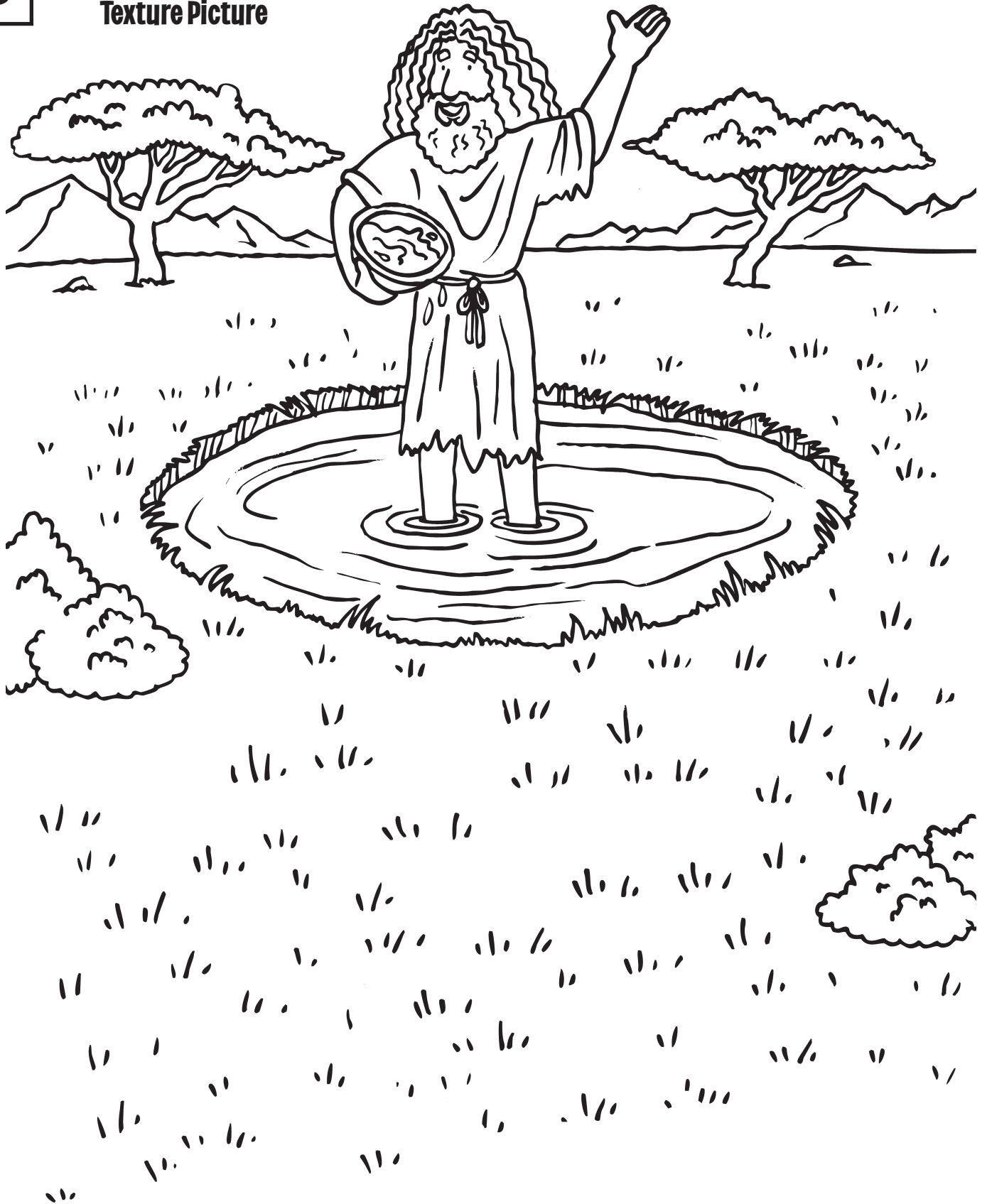
Narrator 1:

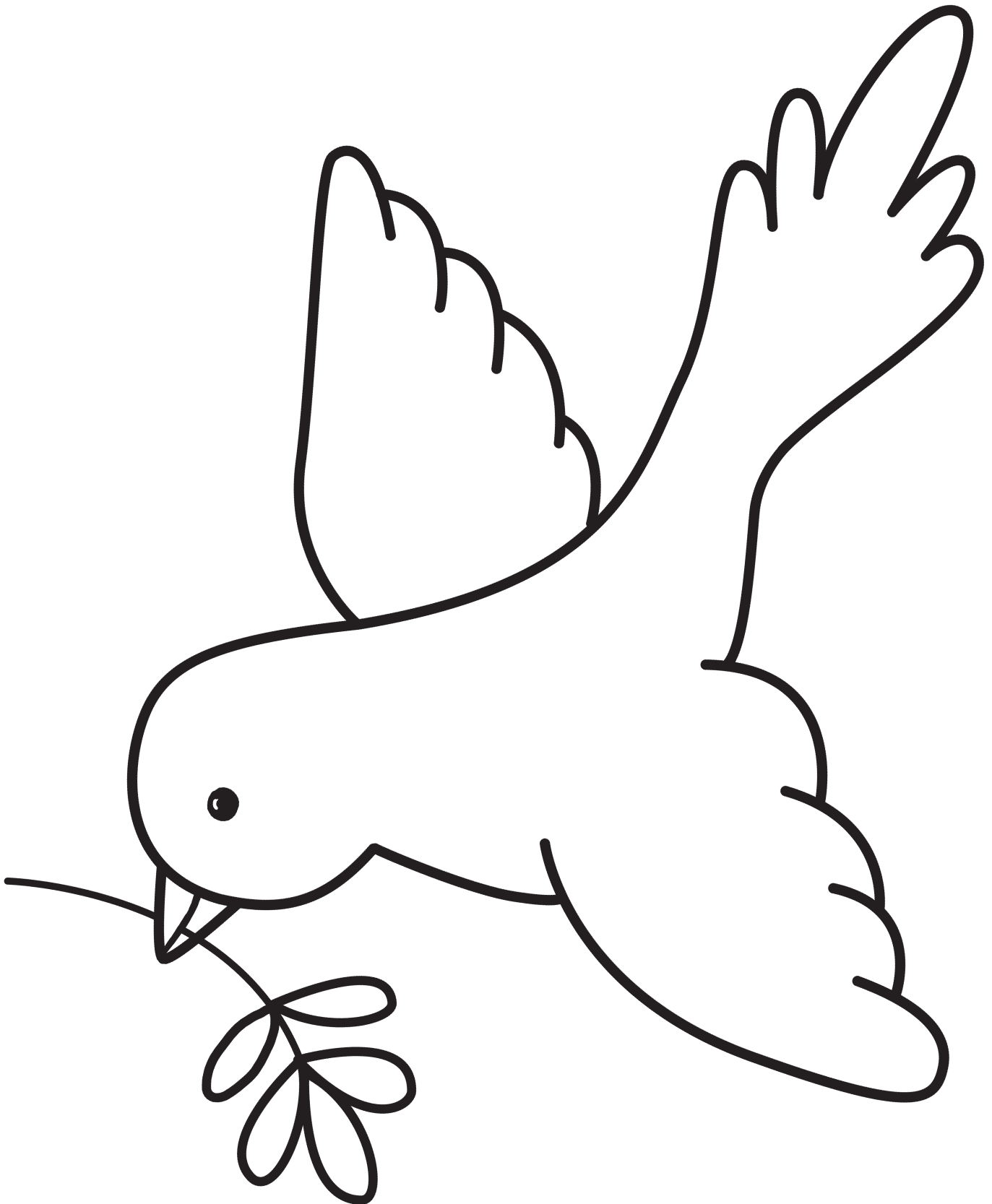
So John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water, and heaven was opened to him. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him.

Narrator 2:

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."

Texture Picture







Did you Know?

There are three ways a person can be baptized. Immersion is when a person is completely immersed in the water. This symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Pouring takes place when water is poured from a pitcher over the person’s head, and it symbolizes the outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In sprinkling, the minister scoops the water into his or her hand and sprinkles it on the one being baptized. This method symbolizes cleansing.

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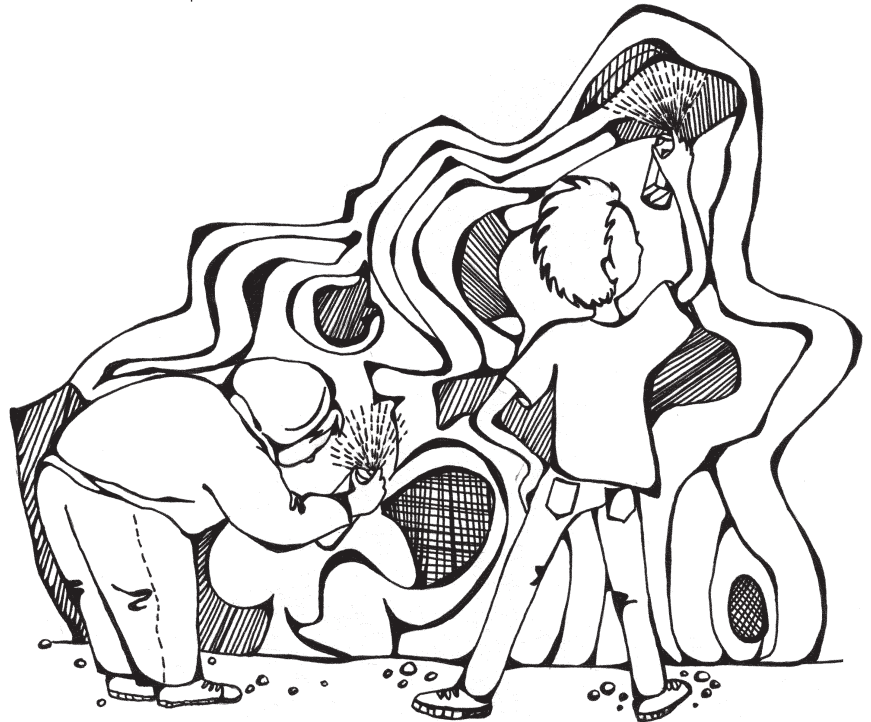
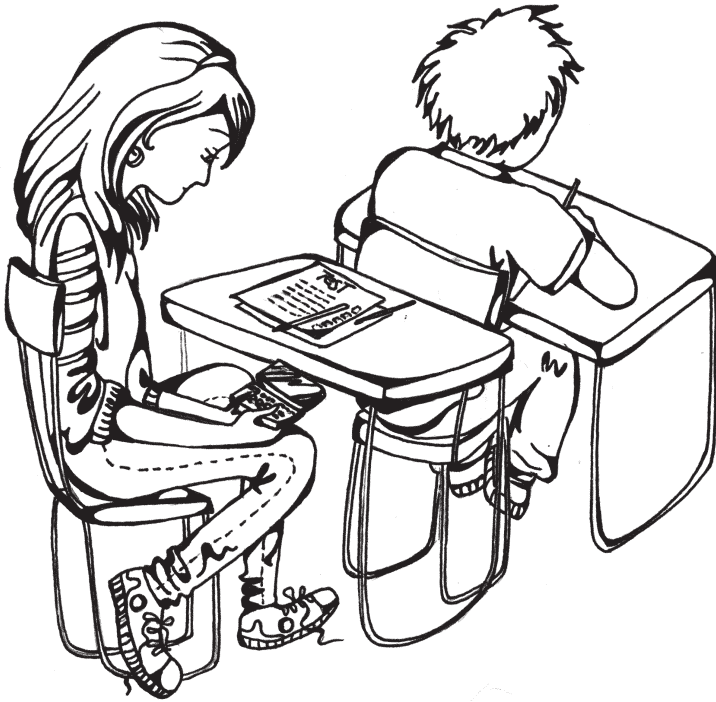
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Change Your Hearts and Lives



Change Your Hearts and Lives



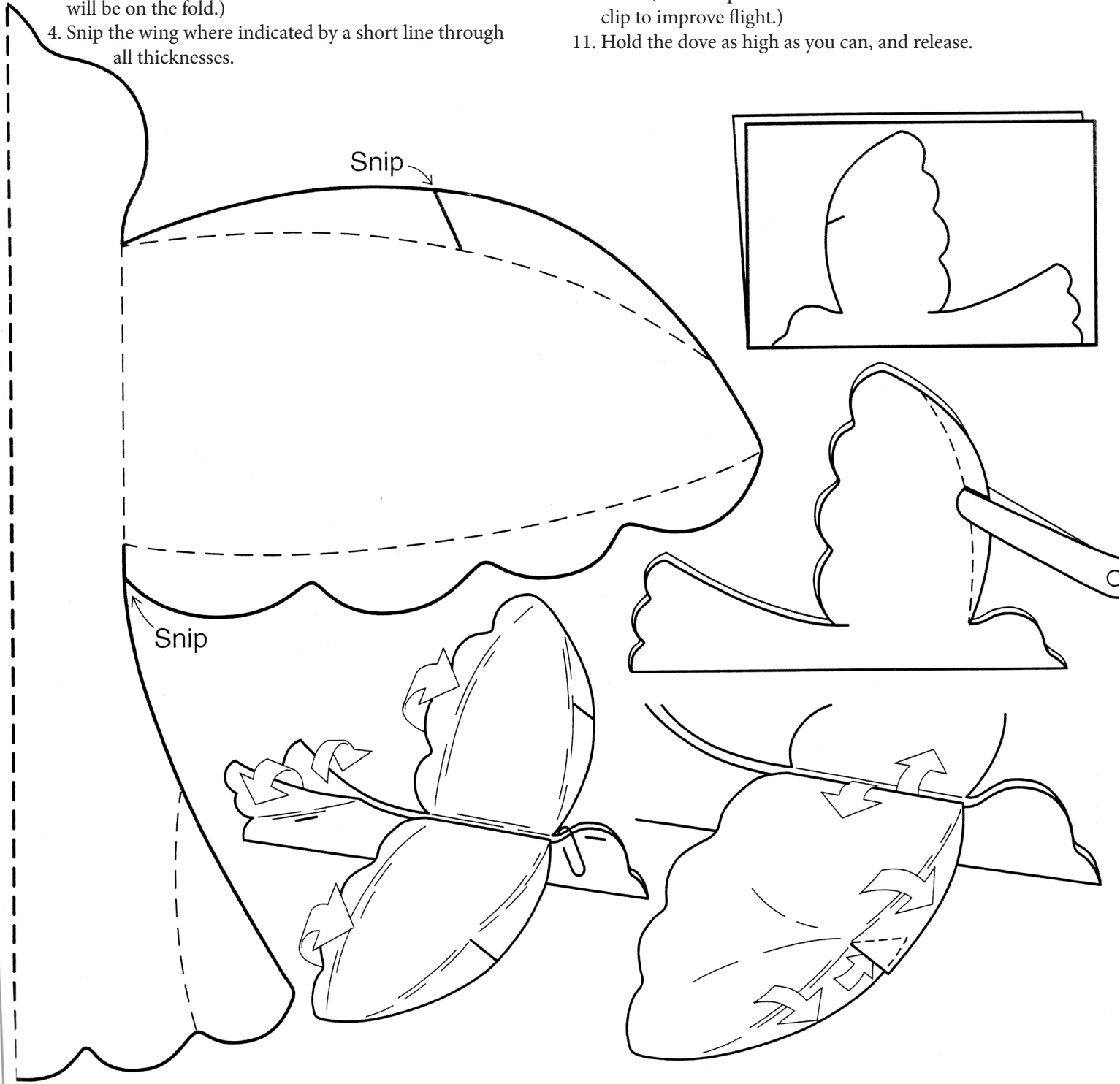
Flying Dove

You will need: white paper, stapler, staples, tape, pencil, scissors, paper clip

When Jesus was baptized by John, the Holy Spirit came down to him bodily in the form of a dove. Whenever we see a dove in church, we are reminded of the Holy Spirit, God's gift to us.

1. Fold a piece of white paper in half.
2. Place the dove body pattern on the fold. Trace.
3. Cut out the dove body. (The lower half of the dove body will be on the fold.)
4. Snip the wing where indicated by a short line through all thicknesses.

5. Draw a curved line along the edge of the folded wings as shown on the pattern, pressing firmly to score the paper.
6. Decorate the dove.
7. Bend along the scored line on the front edge of the wing.
8. Overlap the two edges where you snipped them. Secure with tape.
9. Curl the back edges of the wings upward, and the outside of the edges of the tail downward (as shown).
10. Place a small paper clip under the dove's wings behind the head. (Note: Experiment with various locations for the clip to improve flight.)
11. Hold the dove as high as you can, and release.



Bring in your kingdom so
that your will is done on
earth as it's done in
heaven.

Matthew 6:10, CEB





bring



kingdom