

God Is Love

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

PREPARE AHEAD

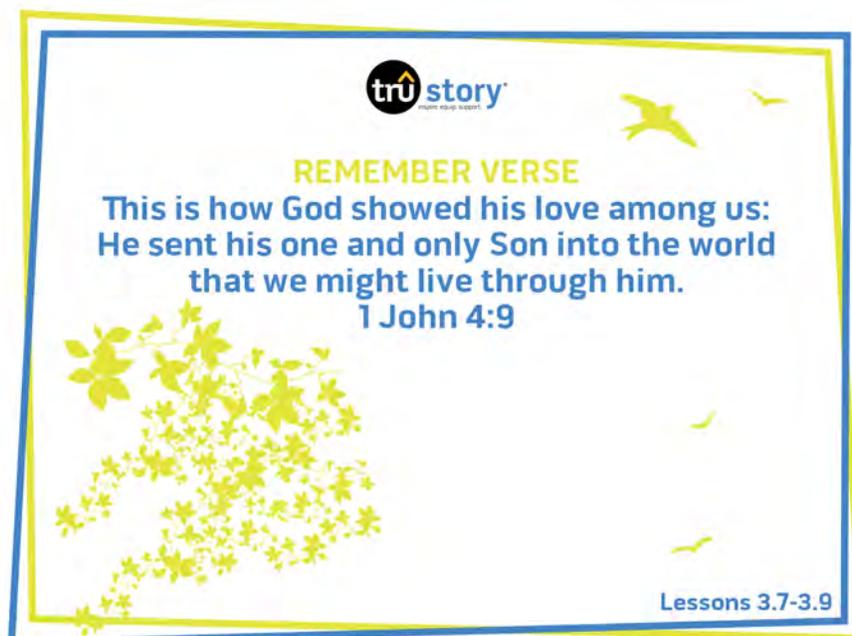
Gather some Bibles for you and your children or have a Bible app ready on your phones.

You can download the Storytelling and Worship Music Files using the following link:
<https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/lesson-dl.com/tru/TaH-God-Is-Love-Media.zip>

Print the Remember Verse cards in the Resources folder for your family to cut out and hang around your house.

Prepare the TruWorship songs to play for your family. Lyric sheets are available to help you sing along.

REMEMBER VERSE



*Use the Remember Verse Cards to help your family memorize this verse. You can also play the **Move About Verse** game in **Bonus Anytime Activities** to help memorize this verse.*



CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Create a small care package. Include granola bars, bottled water, toiletries, fast food gift cards, etc. Place the items in a large plastic bag labeled “Blessings Bag.” Encourage your family to be on the lookout for someone you could bless with this package. Jesus tells us that when we love God, we will love our neighbors, and when we love our neighbors, it expresses our love for God. Encourage your children to be on the lookout for ways to show God’s love to those around them.

INVESTIGATE TOGETHER

Watch the Storytelling Video then read and discuss the scriptures below.

Read **Luke 10:25–37**.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- **How do you think the experts on the Law felt when they heard this story?**
- **Why do you think Jesus told this parable? What was the point He was making?**
- **Whom does God call us to love?**

Jesus told this parable in response to the man who asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus described what a neighbor does—what a neighbor is like.

- **What is a neighbor? Is it simply someone who lives next door to you? Why or why not?**
- **What kind of person is a good neighbor? What types of characteristics or traits does a good neighbor have?**
- **How does Jesus’ parable help us understand what God thinks about what it means to be a good neighbor?**
- **How does God help us to be a good neighbor?**

God is love. When we have a relationship with Him, He gives us the ability to be more and more like Him. He gives us the ability to love everyone as He loves them.

Read **1 John 4:7–9**.

- **How has God shown His love to us?**
- **How does it make you feel to know God is love?**
- **What are some ways we can show love to others?**



WORSHIP

Play the videos for “Celebrate” from *Sincerely Yours* and “I Trust You” from *Your Love* and sing along as a family. Download the songs here:

<https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/lesson-dl.com/tru/TaH-God-Is-Love-Media.zip>

BLESS

Invite your children to stand in a line and take part in a call-and-response as you read the blessing from Psalm 23:1–4. Let them know that after every line you read, they should respond by saying, “God is our Provider.”

Parent: **The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.**

Children: **God is our Provider.**

Parent: He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul.

Children: God is our Provider.

Parent: He guides me along the right paths for His name’s sake.

Children: God is our Provider.

Parent: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

Children: God is our Provider.

Now go to each child individually and pray a blessing over her:

May you know that God is your Provider. May you trust in His provision and follow Him wherever He leads you.





REMEMBER VERSE

This is how God showed his love among us:
He sent his one and only Son into the world
that we might live through him.

1 John 4:9



Lessons 3.7-3.9



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BONUS ANYTIME ACTIVITIES

Here are some optional activities you could do with your family throughout the week to help remember and celebrate the promises of God from the **God Is Love** lesson.

Find the ones that look like they would work best from your family and try them out. You might just find a fun new way to build your faith together!

MOVE-ABOUT VERSE

SUPPLIES

- None

RELATE

Encourage your kids to get ready for an active Remember Verse game. First, review the verse a few times with children. Then invite them to say it while moving about in one of these ways:

- running in place
- doing jumping jacks
- moving in slow motion
- tip-toeing across the room
- skipping across the room



A HEART FOR OTHERS

SUPPLIES

- Construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- Pens
- Scissors

Optional: “Come Unto Me,” TruWorship *You Are*
Download here:

<https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/lesson-dl.com/tru/TaH-God-Is-Love-Media.zip>

RELATE

Gather kids in a circle on the floor or around a table. **Jesus’ parable about the good Samaritan showed His listeners that God is love, and He desires for us to show His love to everyone. Throughout the Bible, God reminds all who trust and follow Jesus that we’ve been made to love all people. Let’s listen to some verses from God’s Word that talk about this.** Read the verses below aloud as kids listen. You might choose to ask kids to close their eyes as they listen.

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God ... This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him” (1 John 4:7a, 9).

“The commandments ... are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Romans 13:9).

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34).

As God’s children who have a relationship with Him, we become more and more like Him every day. God gives us the ability to love others as He loves them. Let’s take some time to spread some love in this room!

Invite kids to make a paper heart from the construction paper. You may need to demonstrate folding a paper, cutting a half heart, and then opening the paper again. Children could also choose a paper and cut a border around it (zigzag, scalloped, etc.). Have children write a prayer request on the item they created. Optional: Play the worship song “Come Unto Me” quietly.

Once kids finish working, have them sit in a circle and place their hearts or other creations in the center. Read the prayer requests from each heart to your family. Then pray for each request together. Invite kids to pray out loud for the requests of their family. Encourage each child to pick up an item from the circle and keep it to pray for during the week.



SQUISH BAGS

SUPPLIES

- Resealable storage bags (1 per child, gallon-sized)
- Shaving cream (several cans)
- Food coloring
- Trash bags
- Optional: masking tape

PREPARE AHEAD

Fill each of the gallon-sized storage bags three-quarters full of shaving cream. Cover the table with the trash bags. Set the bags of shaving cream on the table with the food coloring.

RELATE

God made each one of us different. What are some of the things that make us different? Invite kids to answer. **What are some of the things that join us together?** Encourage children to share their responses. **Because of God's love, we can live in unity—that means we can care for each other. God's love spreads and joins together just like the colors in the bags we're going to make.** Point out the bags and the food coloring. Invite kids to choose a color (or two) they like and squeeze a few drops of color into their squish bag. Then have kids zip the bags (tightly) shut. Optional: Tape the opening with masking tape so it stays shut. Invite kids to gently squish the colored shaving cream to color it with the hue(s) they chose. Encourage kids to mix yellow and blue together to make green, red and yellow together to make orange, etc.



GOD IS LOVE

SUPPLIES

- Empty cereal boxes or other recyclables (shoe boxes, milk cartons, juice boxes, etc.)
- Floral foam
- Wooden blocks
- Golf tees
- Plastic building blocks
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Markers
- Modeling clay

NOTE: Feel free to use any combination of supplies suggested and add others.

RELATE

Jesus often taught His disciples by using parables or stories to illustrate His message. One day, a religious leader asked Jesus, “What should I do to inherit eternal life?” He wanted to know what God required in order to be one of His children. How did Jesus answer the religious leader? Allow kids to answer. Invite them to read Jesus’ words in Luke 10:25–27.

Jesus went on to tell a parable about who our neighbor is. Invite the kids to read the parable in Luke 10:30–37. **In the parable, what did the Samaritan do?** Allow kids to answer. **Jesus wanted to show that we should consider everyone to be our neighbors—even people whom we might find difficult to love or be around. Why do you think Jesus wants us to love everyone?** Invite answers. **Who gives us the power to love others?** Invite answers. **The Holy Spirit helps us to love others. Jesus taught His disciples that loving our neighbor means loving everyone.** Have your kids build neighborhoods from all over the world to engage with the idea of everyone being their neighbors.

Before you start, invite your kids to brainstorm neighborhoods around the world. Consider areas in their town or even in countries overseas. Remind your children about villages with huts, cities with urban neighborhoods, and rural towns. Have the kids use the supplies to build a variety of houses or other places you would find in those neighborhoods. The children might build houses, roads, parks, trees, rivers, fields—even animals.



SHAPES OF PRAYER (FOR YOUNGER KIDS)

SUPPLIES

- Modeling clay
- Toothpicks (1 per child)
- Optional: worship music

RELATE

Gather your kids in a circle on the floor. **Jesus' parable about the good Samaritan showed His listeners that God is love, and He desires for us to show His love to everyone. Throughout the Bible, God reminds all who trust and follow Jesus that we've been made to love all people. Let's listen to some verses from God's Word that talk about this.** Read the verses below aloud as kids listen quietly. You might ask kids to close their eyes as they listen.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God ... This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. (1 John 4:7a, 9)

The commandments ... are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Romans 13:9)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)

We live in a broken world full of hurting people. This world desperately needs God's love. How might God work through you to bring love to this world? Invite kids to ponder this question, and hand each child a lump of clay. Invite kids to form their lumps of clay into shapes of people or places that need God's love. They can also write the names of hurting people or places onto their clay using toothpicks. After kids have had some time to respond, invite them to share what they molded with the family. Together, pray over each of the children's prayer creations—that God would bring His love to those people or places.



WATER PRAYERS (FOR OLDER KIDS)

SUPPLIES

- Bowl (large)
- Water
- Pitcher

SET UP

Fill the pitcher with water. Set the pitcher and bowl in the center of the room.

RELATE

Gather your kids into a circle on the floor or around a table. **Jesus' parable about the good Samaritan showed His listeners that God is love, and He desires for us to show His love to everyone. Throughout the Bible, God reminds all who trust and follow Jesus that we've been made to love all people. Let's listen to some verses from God's Word that talk about this.** Read the verses below aloud as kids listen quietly. You might ask kids to close their eyes as they listen.

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves ... Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. (Romans 12:10, 12–13)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God ... This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son ... Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (1 John 4:7a, 9–12)

The commandments ... are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself. (Romans 13:9)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:34–35)

We live in a broken world full of hurting people. This world desperately needs God's love. What are the names of some people or places in need of God's love? Invite each child to respond by pouring some water into the bowl as they pray. They can pray about these people silently or out loud. After kids have responded, invite them to consider how every prayer mixes with the prayers of God's people all around the world.

We can be encouraged that even though a lot of people and places need prayer, God has called a lot of people to show His love to these people and places. Is God calling you to show love to these people or places?



PING-PONG BOUNCE

SUPPLIES

- Ping-pong balls (20–30)
- Empty tissue boxes (2, rectangular)
- Belts (2)
- Scissors

PREPARE AHEAD

Cut two slits (the width of the belt) just above the bottom edge of the tissue box (in the small end of the box). String the belt through the box. Repeat with the other box and belt.

SET UP

Fill the empty tissue boxes with ping-pong balls.

RELATE

In the parable we heard today, all the men walked down a path. They probably wanted to get to their destination quickly by traveling this route—and they probably also wanted to avoid thieves.

Split kids into two teams. Have each team line up, one behind the other, against one wall. Explain that, on your signal, one member from each team will put on the “ping-pong belt.” They’ll “bounce” to the other side of the room and back while trying to shake the ping-pong balls from the box. Each member of the team will have a chance to bounce from one side of the room to the other. Play until each member of the team has had a chance to bounce. As the team bounces, keep score (or designate one child from each team to keep score). Each ball that falls out of the box counts as one point for the team. See which team bounces out the most ping-pong balls.



BALLOON-ITURE

SUPPLIES

- Balloons (2 bags, about 50 balloons per bag) 
- Masking or painter's tape

RELATE

To help the hurt man in the parable, the Samaritan needed help from the innkeeper. We all need help to take care of and love one another.

Split into two teams and explain that they're going to use their ingenuity to create a piece of "furniture" that can hold the weight of one person—using only their bag of balloons and the tape! Set kids loose to create. They'll need to blow up the balloons and then work together to create some piece of furniture on which a child from their team can sit so that no part of her body touches the floor. Discuss: **How did your group have to work together in this game? What are some good things that come from working together and loving one another?**





STICK PUPPETS

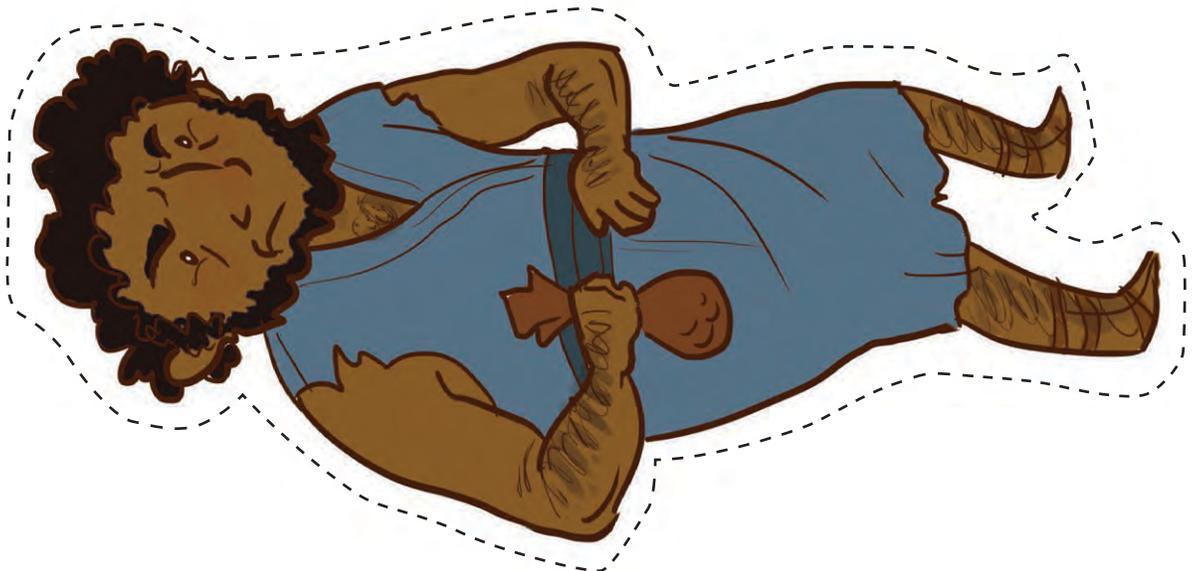
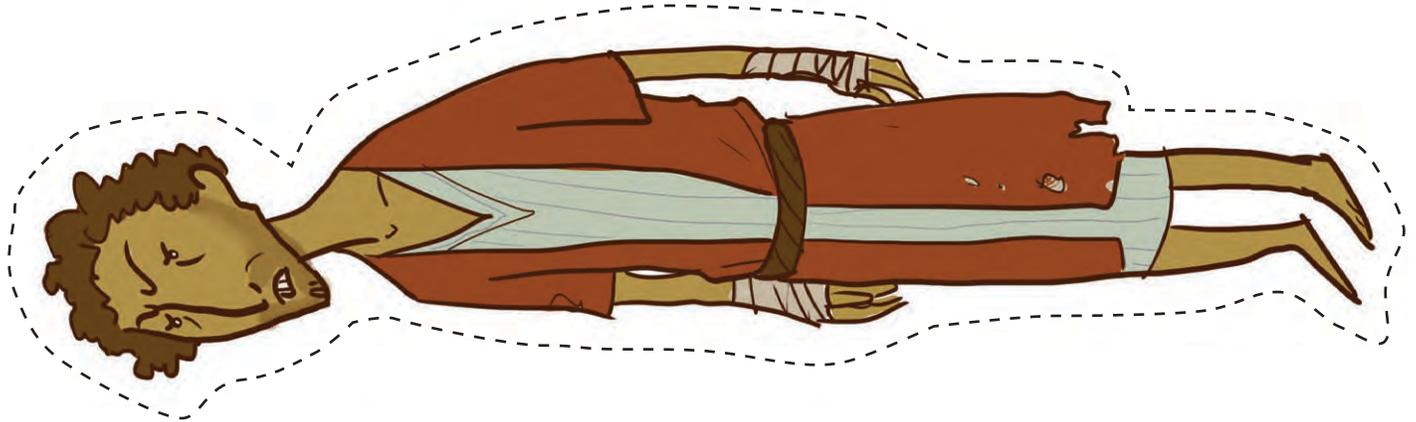
SUPPLIES

- Popsicle sticks or narrow strips of cardboard
- Character Cutouts

Create stick puppets using the character cutouts below and give puppets to everyone in your family. Then have everyone re-tell the parable of The Good Samaritan together. You could use your phone to record the puppet show and share it with your family and friends.







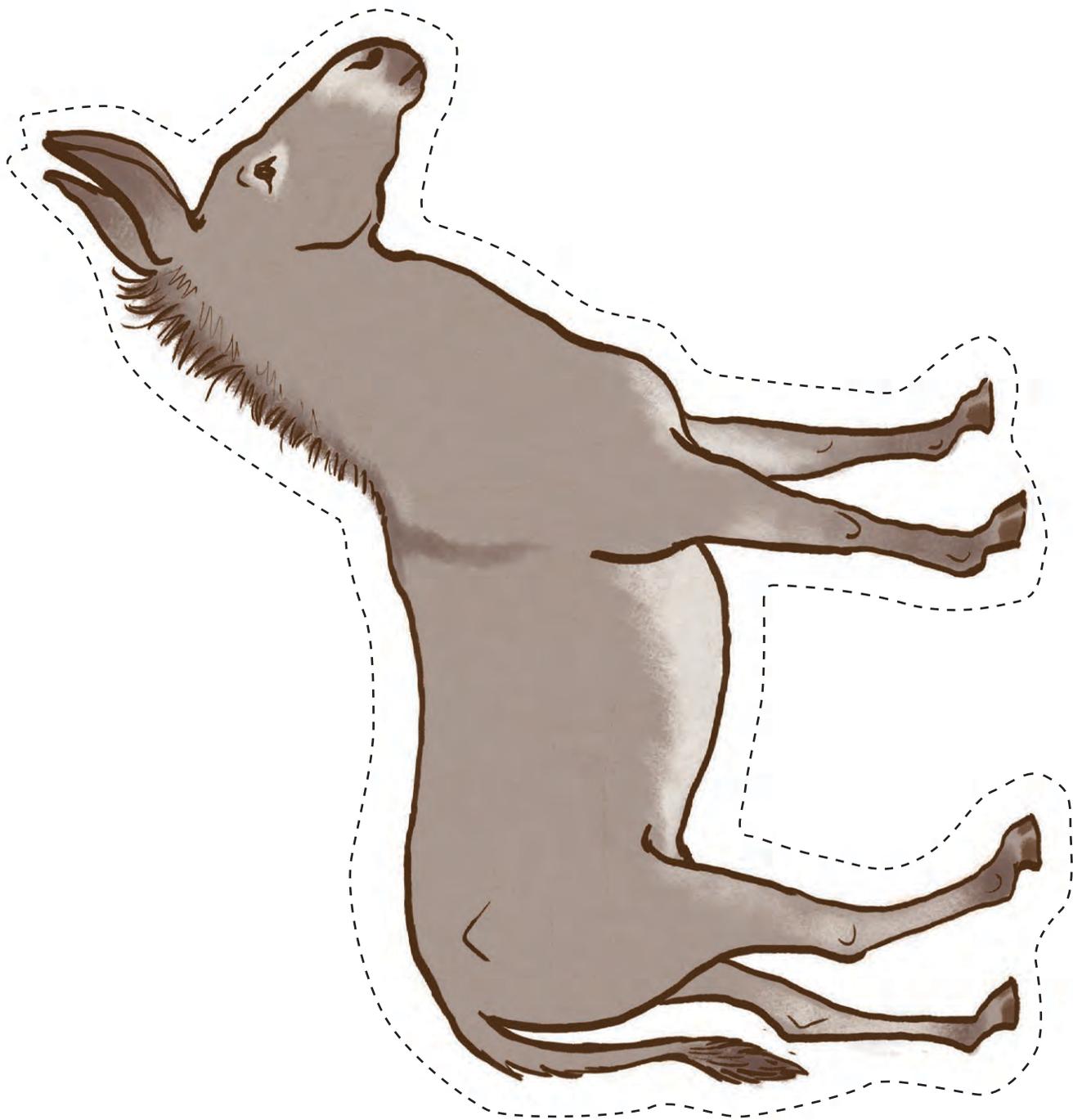




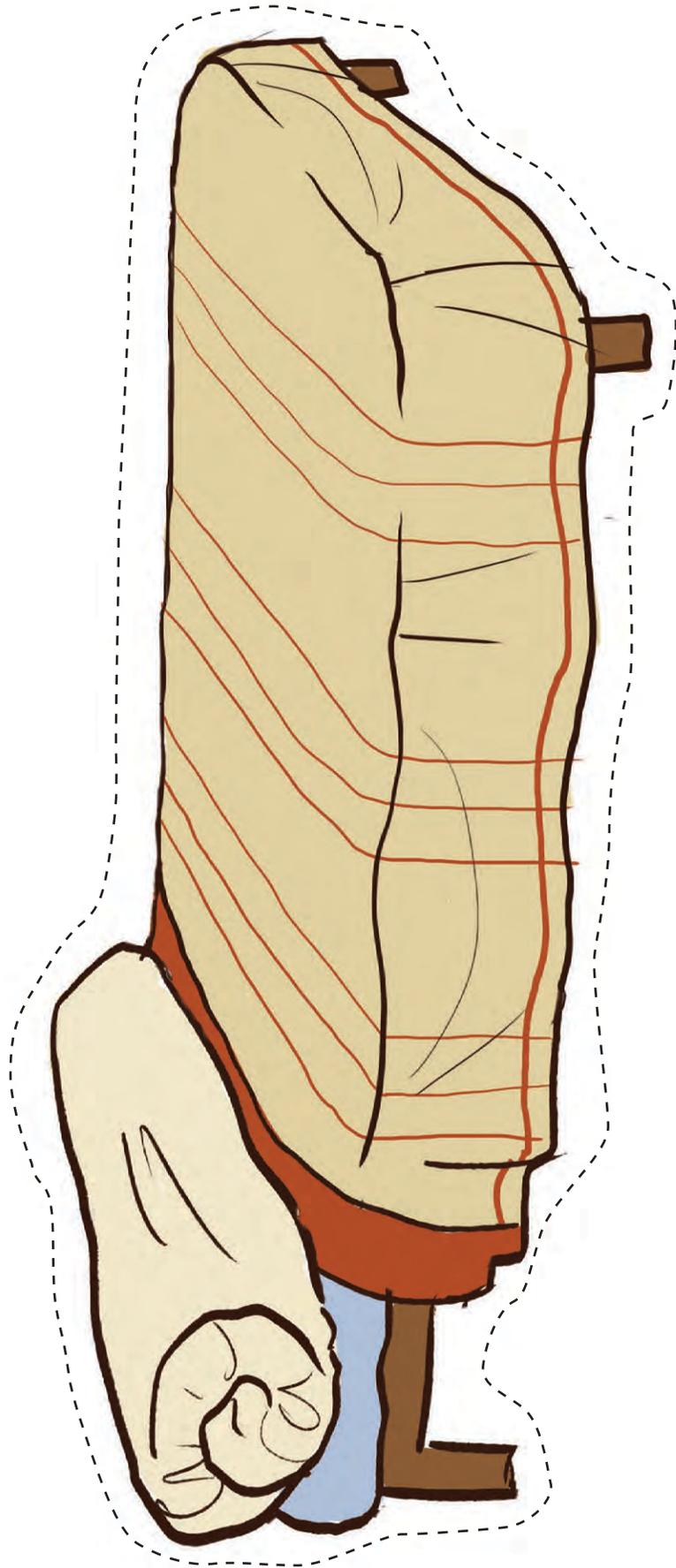














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Thank You