

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade



= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.” 1 Corinthians 7:7b (NIV)

Suggested Thematic Tracks:

① Devote Yourself to God whether Single or Married

HOOK: Marriage and Singleness Explored (*Discussion/Activity*)

Two Equal Gifts (*Activity*)

Devotion (*Discussion/Activity*)

Contentment Within Our Families (*Discussion*)

LOOK: Invite Missionaries to Class (*Presentation*)

Marriage and Singleness (*Worksheet*)

Devoted to God (*Worksheet*)

BOOK: Equal but Different Gifts (*Visual/Discussion*)

TOOK: Gift Box (*Craft*)

Devoted to God (*Take-Home Craft*)

Collage Gift (*Craft*)

➤ Complementary Activities



Hook:









① **Marriage and Singleness Explored (*Discussion/Activity*)**. Bring in photo albums from your wedding, magazines that show couples, and singles engaged in different activities. Have the students talk about the differences between those who are married and those who are single. Lead this discussion into a comparison of the daily schedules of those who are married and those who are not. What are the differences in how these people spend their time? How do things differ today from Bible times? Ask the students which one they think is better, marriage or singleness? Tell them that they will hear this morning how Paul describes the differences and why he prefers one over the other.



① **Two Equal Gifts (*Activity*)**. Wrap up two packages with similar wrapping paper and ribbon and have them sitting out where the students can see them as they enter the classroom. Explain that this morning they will hear about two different gifts. They are not gifts like you may think (a present). They represent two equal gifts given to us by God. Some people are given one gift while others receive the other. Continue to give the students clues to see if they can guess what the gifts are. Keep these two boxes out for the BOOK time activity, "Equal but Different Gifts."

 ① **Devotion (Discussion/Activity)**.  Use **1CO05.GF1** as you draw out of the students what they think it means to be devoted. Have a student look up the word in a dictionary and discuss the meaning further. Unscramble the words that describe devotion to someone or something. Ask the students: To what or to whom are you devoted? Are there things that distract them from this devotion? *Answers: faithful, loyal, dedicated, pledge, commitment, affection.*

 ① **Contentment Within Our Families (Discussion)**. ,  Give each student an opportunity to share about their family. Explain to them that everyone's family is different. God calls us to be content with the family in which He has placed us. He does not want us wishing that things were different. We should have hearts of gratitude for what He has provided for us. Tell the students that this morning they will hear how Paul was content without any family other than those who were fellow Christians. He felt that this gave him a great advantage over those who had families as he had more time to devote to serving the Lord.

 ➤ **Measure Up Incentive Memorization (Review)**. ,  Check the students' memorization at the beginning of class as they come in, and award lesson buttons and wall-hangings as appropriate. Encourage new methods of memorization with the students and parents if a student is having difficulty. Encourage hard work and success in memorizing the whole verse, making appropriate accommodations when necessary. Utilize this time of Scripture review to discuss the Biblical concepts with individual students. Shepherd the students' hearts toward a right attitude and motivation in memorization of God's truth.



Book:




Presentation Ideas –

 **One Has This Gift... (Illustration/Coloring Page)**. ,  1 Corinthians 7:7, **1CO02.GF2**

 **Another Has That Gift (Illustration/Coloring Page)**. ,  1 Corinthians 7:7, **1CO02.GF3**

 **Family Responsibilities (Illustration/Coloring Page)**. ,  1 Corinthians 7:33, 34, **1CO02.GF4**

 **Undividedly Devoted (Illustration/Coloring Page)**. ,  1 Corinthians 7:35b, **1CO02.GF5**
Pgs. 1 & 2

 **Equal but Different Gifts (Visual/Discussion)**. ,  Copy and cut **1CO05.GF6 Pgs. 1-6** in half and color the pictures before classtime if possible. Place each picture inside the appropriate gift box (marriage or singleness, described in the HOOK activity, "Two Equal Gifts"), and draw them out at the appropriate time during BOOK time. Paul said, "But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that" (7:7b). Illustrate to the students how these gifts are different but equally good. Draw out pictures from both boxes, one at a time. Discuss the different benefits and responsibilities inherent in each gift. Allow the students to predict what else might be drawn out of each gift box. Explain that people are devoted to God, whether married or single, when they are obeying His commands and meeting their responsibilities in that situation.

Bible Adventure for 1st – 6th Grades –

Last week we learned that our bodies belong to God. Paul said, "You were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (6:20). This week we will talk more about honoring God as we study what Paul had to say to the Corinthians about marriage.

The Corinthians had written Paul with some questions about marriage. Specifically, they asked whether or not a Christian should get married. Paul responded that both, being married or being single, are good, as both are gifts from God. If God has given a person the gift of singleness, that person will have the ability to joyfully honor God with his or her life while not being married. However, if God has given someone the gift of marriage, that person will have the ability to live for the Lord while being married and raising a family. God has designed both marriage and singleness, and both are good.

The people in the Corinthian church had come from a variety of situations. Some were married when they heard about Christ, some were single, some had husbands or wives who had died, and some were married to unbelievers. In addition, some were Jews, some were Gentiles, and some were even slaves. Paul urged all these people not to try to change their situation because they had become Christians. They were to be content and devote themselves to the Lord in whatever circumstance God had placed them. Because this life is quickly passing away, Paul said that a person's outward situation is not what matters. "Keeping God's commands is what counts" (7:19b).

Paul continued to discuss being married and being single. To those who were married, he instructed them not to separate or divorce. They were to work hard to make their marriages strong. He told both husbands and wives that they were responsible to, first and foremost, devote themselves to obeying God, and, secondly, to meeting the needs of their partner. To those who were single, Paul explained the benefits of their situation. He himself was unmarried and urged others to remain single if God had given them that gift. Single Christians were better able to handle the persecution and mistreatment that came their way because they did not have families to worry about. Secondly, single Christians could be less concerned about the things of this world and be more wholeheartedly focused on serving Christ. Paul explained that a married man "is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife," but a single man can live with "undivided devotion to the Lord" (7:33, 34).

Paul concluded with two important truths about Christian marriage. First, he taught that marriage is a lifelong commitment. A believer must remain married to the same person as long as that person is alive. If his or her spouse dies, he or she is then free to marry again. Secondly, a Christian must marry another Christian and never an unbeliever. How can a marriage honor God if one of the partners is unsaved and cares nothing about living in obedience to the Lord? When both are saved, their marriage can actually be a picture to the world of how Christ loves His church.

As Paul responded to the Corinthians' questions about how marriage fit in with their Christian faith, he made some very important points for us to remember. First, either being married or being single is good, and both are gifts from God. Way back in Genesis, when God created marriage, He was pleased and said it was good. He intended it for His honor and glory, and He meant it to last a lifetime. If God gives you the gift of marriage, make sure you choose someone who loves the Lord and desires to honor Him. To marry an unbeliever is to disobey God and invite tremendous grief into your life.

Being unmarried is also good. Paul himself was called to be single and pointed out that it is easier for a single person to be in places where there is severe persecution. If you are called to be single, you can rejoice in the opportunity to be wholeheartedly devoted to your Savior without any distractions. But no matter what the situation in which God has placed you, the most important thing is to be content and obey Him. This is true even in your life today, before you are thinking about whether or not to get married. Don't waste your time wanting your life to be different and desiring things you don't have. Give everything you are to loving God!

Aim Questions

1. **What was the question that the Corinthians had about marriage?** *(Should Christians get married?)*
2. **What was Paul's answer?** *(God gives some the gift of being married and some the gift of being single. Both are good and both are from God.)*
3. **What did Paul say that a believer must do, no matter what situation he or she is in?** *(To devote himself/herself to God and obey His commands.)*
4. **What are the two highest priorities for a Christian who is married?** *(To devote himself/herself to God in obedience and to meet the needs of his/her spouse.)*
5. **What are the benefits of being single?** *(He or she can face persecution without the responsibilities of a family, and can be less concerned about the things of the world, so as to be undividedly devoted to Christ.)*
6. **What are two important truths for a Christian to remember about marriage?** *(It is a lifelong commitment, and Christians should marry Christians.)*
7. **Are you devoted to God and in obedience to His commands in your current situation?**



Look:

- ① **Invite Missionaries to Class (Presentation).** 🎨, 🦋 It would be easy for the students to understand this morning's lesson if you had two different missionaries (one single and one married) attend the class. Allow them to share the differences in how they serve the Lord. Ask them what kinds of distractions they experience in their ministries. Leave time for questions.
 - ① **Marriage and Singleness (Worksheet).** 🎨, 🦋 This word scramble contains a special message related to today's lesson. Have the students solve this puzzle by crossing off the letters in the alphabet in the order that they naturally appear. Once they have finished, have them write the remaining letters in the spaces provided. The first one is done for them, **1CO05.GF7**. *Answer: But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.*
 - ① **Devoted to God (Worksheet).** 🎨, 🦋 This word search contains 12 key words that are essential for today's lesson. Have the students locate the words **1CO05.GF8 Pg. 1** to be reminded of the lesson. *Answer key: 1CO05.GF8 Pg. 2.*
 - **Aim Questions (Worksheet).** 🎨 Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **1CO05.GF9**.
 - **Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 🎨, 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. The students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **1CO05.GF10**.
 - **1 Corinthians 7:7b (Memory Verse Song).** 🎨 Words and music for today's memory verse are available upon request from Children's Ministry.
-




Took:

- ① **Gift Box (Craft).** 🎨, 🦋 Each student will need:
 - 1CO05.GF11 Pg. 1** copied onto cardstock
 - 1 memory verse tag from **1CO05.GF11 Pg. 2**
 - coloring crayons
 - glue, glitter, tissue paper, or other decorations
 - ribbon bow
 - tape or string

Have the students follow the instructions below to complete their crafts:


 1. Color the four pictures on the box.
 2. Fold and assemble the box as shown on **1CO05.GF11**.
 3. Paste the ribbon bow on the top of the gift box, and attach the memory verse tag with the tape or string.

If there is time remaining, the students may decorate their gift boxes with the decorations you have supplied. Help them to understand that both marriage and singleness are precious gifts. Discuss with the students how we should respond when we are given gifts.
- ① **Devoted to God (Take-Home Craft).** 🎨, 🦋 Assemble the devotional book for the students to take home this week, **1CO05.GF12 Pgs. 1-3**. Review what it means to be devoted to God. Have them write some of these thoughts down on the first page of the booklet. Encourage the students to read the Scripture reference and meditate on it throughout the week. Space has been provided to the right of the passage for them to write their thoughts, prayers, or life applications from this verse. The last page in the booklet leaves room for the student to take note of the distractions in their lives so that these can be committed to prayer.

 ① **Collage Gift (Craft)**. 🧑‍🎨, 🦋 Each student will need:

1 set of verses from **1CO05.GF13**
pie box
magazine
scissors
glue
wrapping paper and ribbon

Use the magazines from the HOOK time and have the students cut out different pictures of single people and married couples or families. Have them choose pictures that will fit on the sides of the gift box. After the pie box is wrapped in the wrapping paper, the students can glue their different pictures all over the gift. When these are glued down, they can glue the two Scripture verses over the two long sides of the pie box. Finally, the gift can be wrapped with a ribbon. Help them to understand that both marriage and singleness are precious gifts. Discuss with the students how we should respond when we are given gifts.

 ➤ **1 Corinthians “Measure Up” Take-Home (Incentive)**. 🧑‍🎨, 🦋 Review today’s verse and lesson theme one last time. Encourage the students to continue memorizing both of these throughout the week to earn the next button. Test their memory of past lesson themes and verses as time permits.



D E V O T I O N

Discuss with your teacher the meaning of "devotion" and then write the definition in the space below:

Unscramble the words below and talk about how they relate to "devotion"

t i f h l u a f

y a l l o

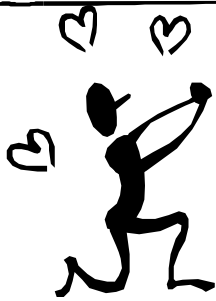
c e t e d d i d a

d e l e p g

m e m t o t m i n c

t e n a c f o i f

What are some of the ways we can become distracted, causing us to lose our focus?



D E V O T I O N

Discuss with your teacher the meaning of "devotion" and then write the definition in the space below:

Unscramble the words below and talk about how they relate to "devotion"

t i f h l u a f

y a l l o

c e t e d d i d a

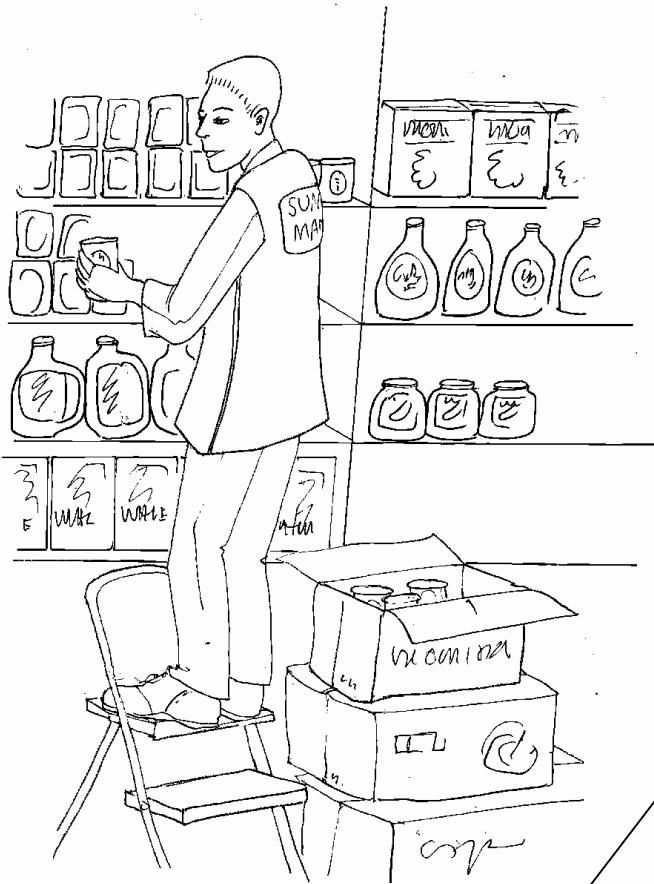
d e l e p g

m e m t o t m i n c

t e n a c f o i f

What are some of the ways we can become distracted, causing us to lose our focus?

One Has This Gift...



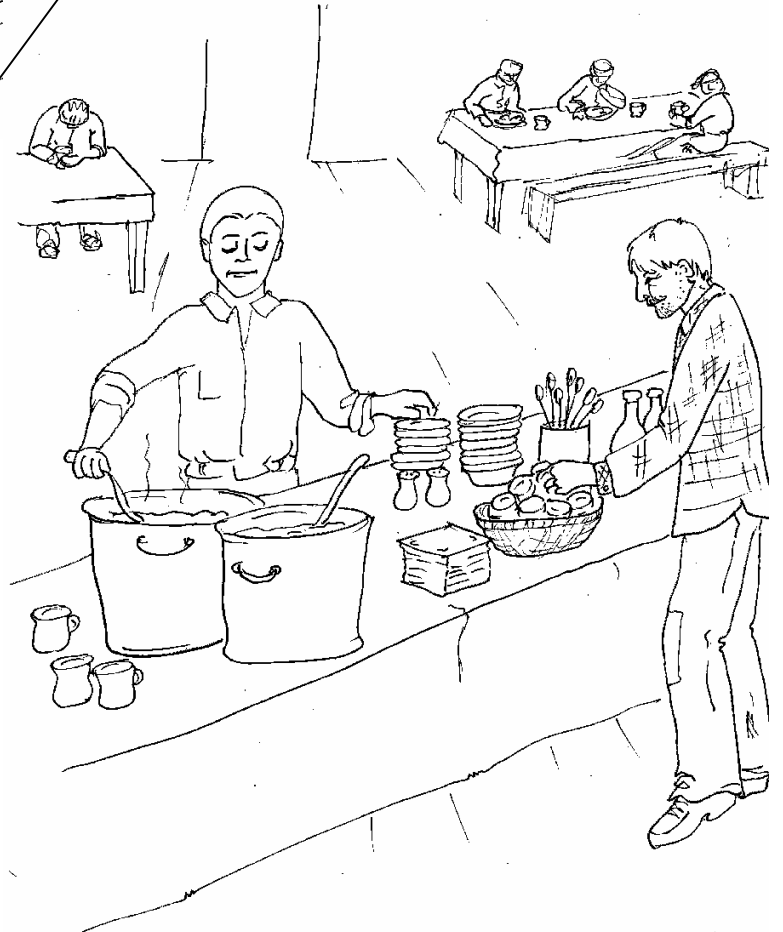
Another Has That Gift



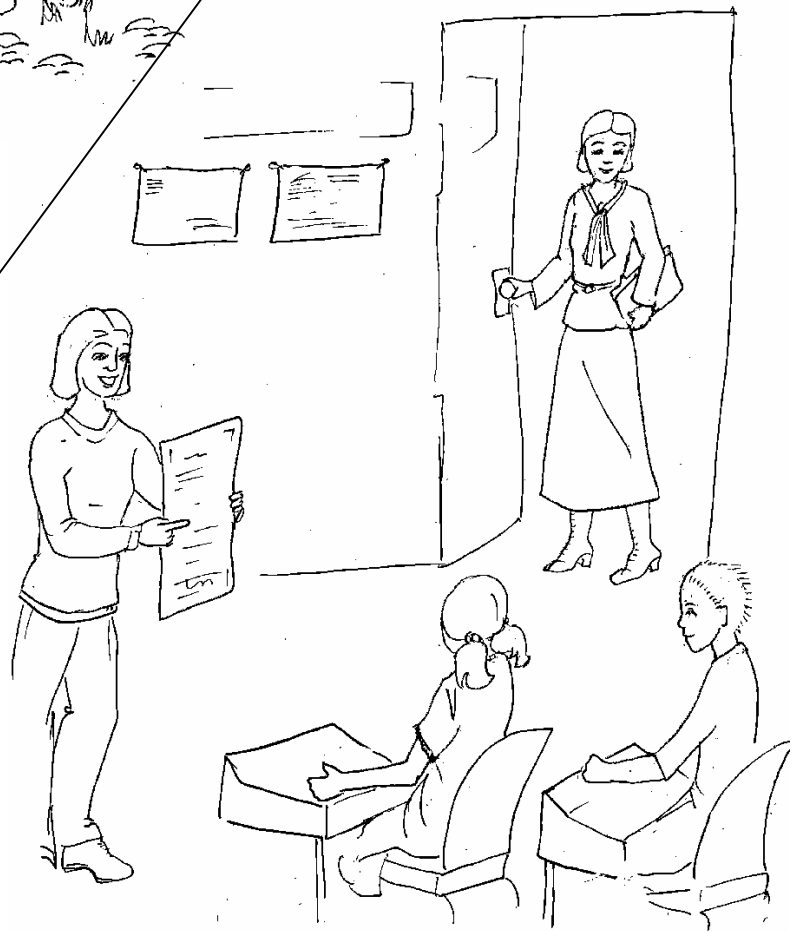
Family Responsibilities

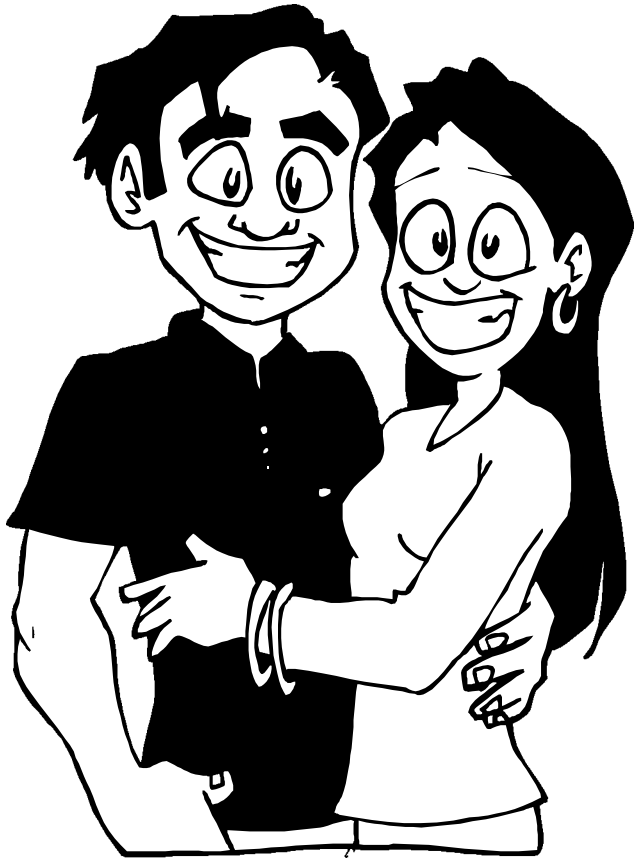


Undividedly Devoted

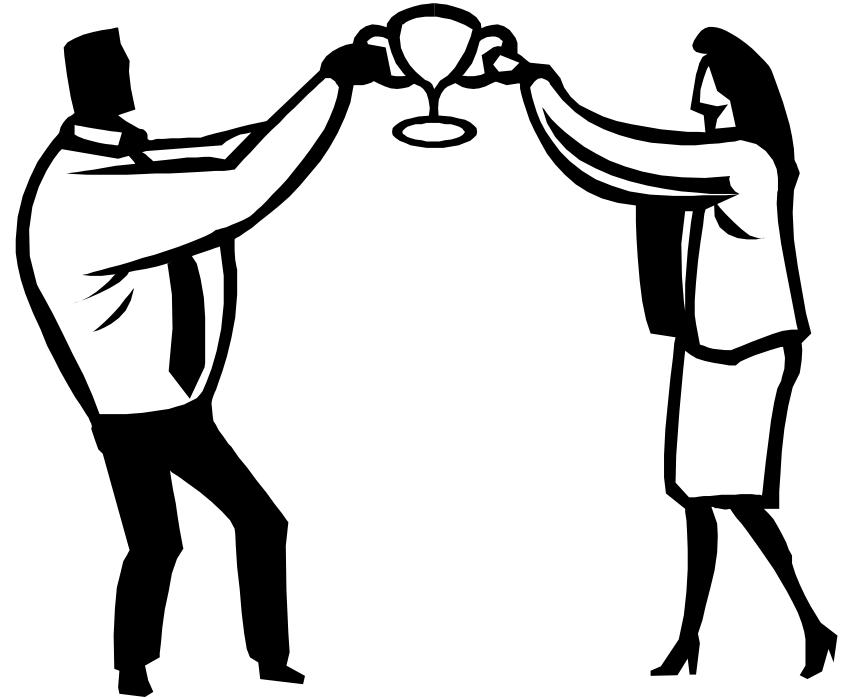


Undividedly Devoted

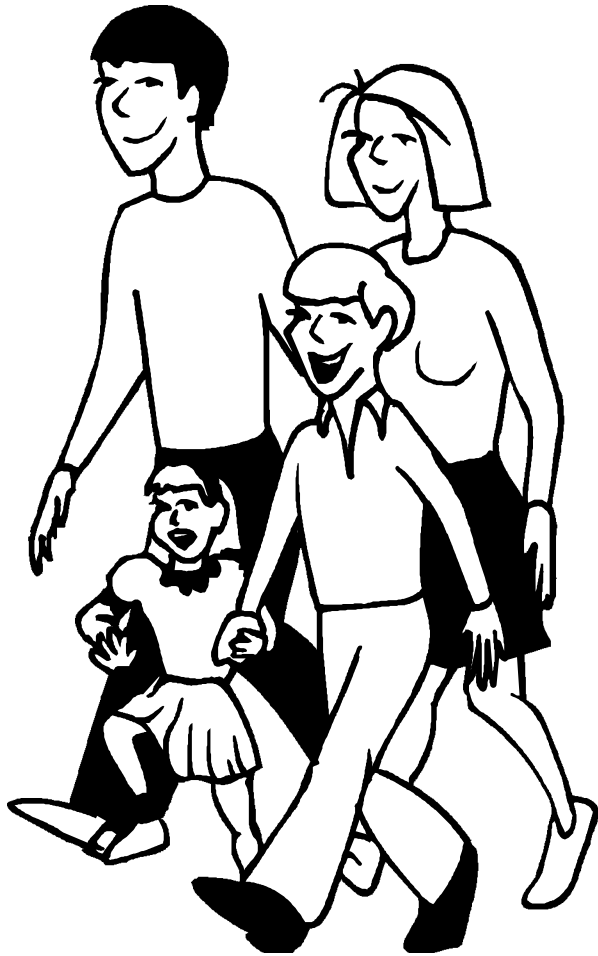




Companionship/
Intimacy



Teamwork/Partnership



Own family



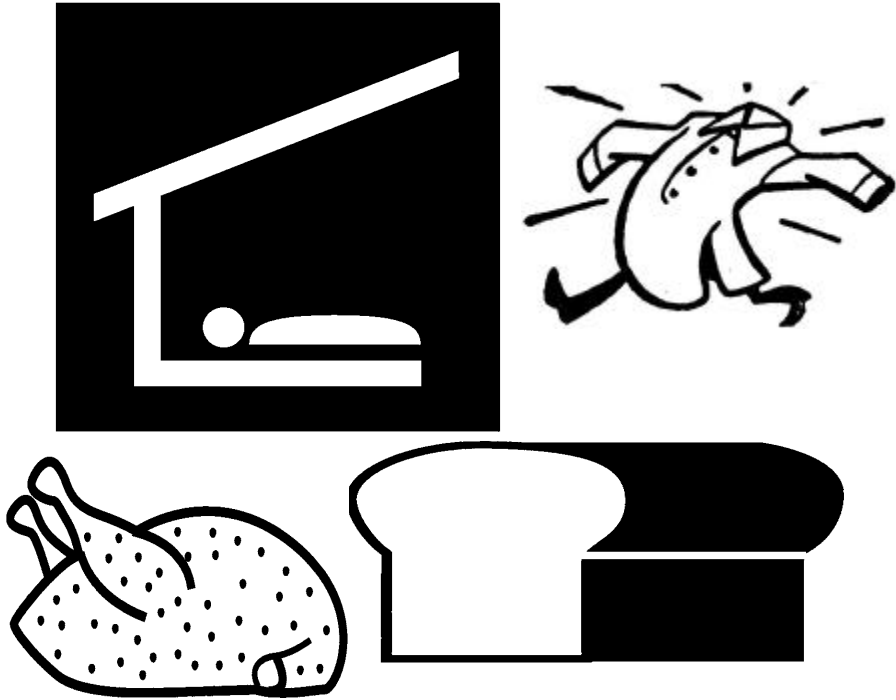
Freedom from worldly
cares and family
responsibilities



Flexibility—having less
needs



More time



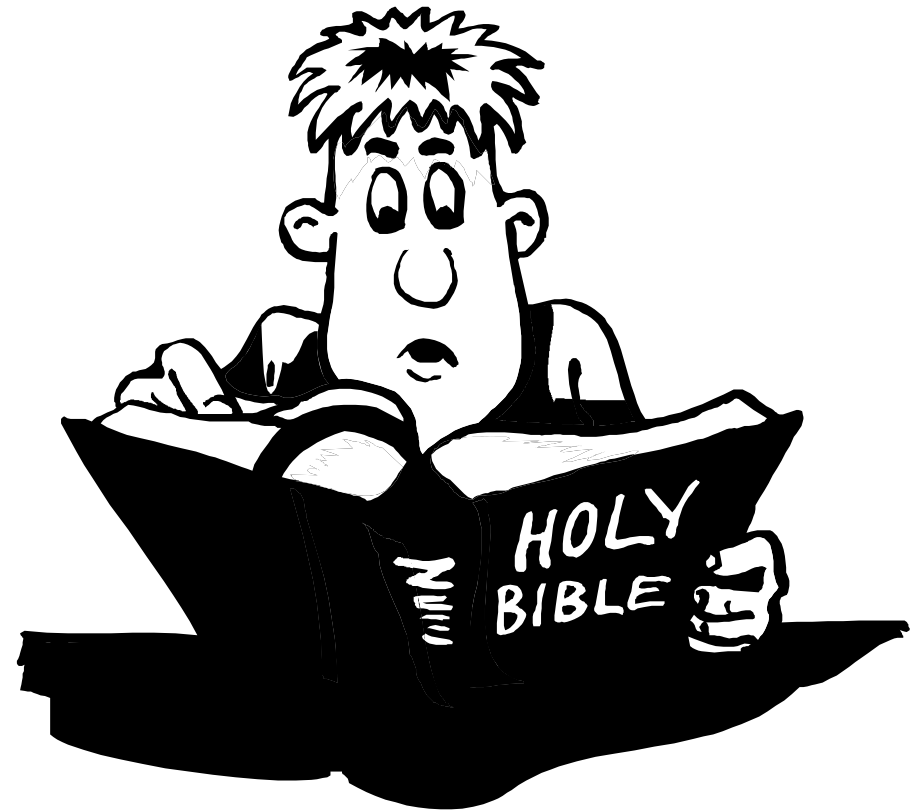
Providing food, shelter,
clothes



Teaching children



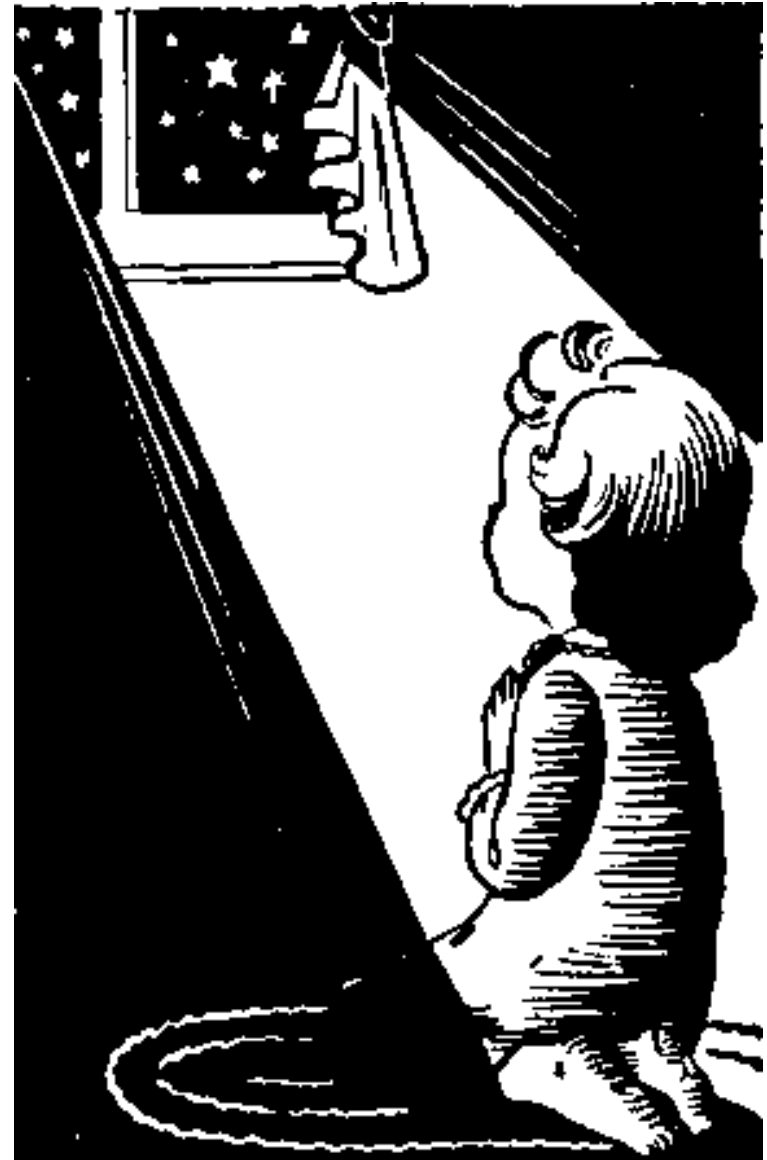
Illustration of Christ's love
for His church through
marriage



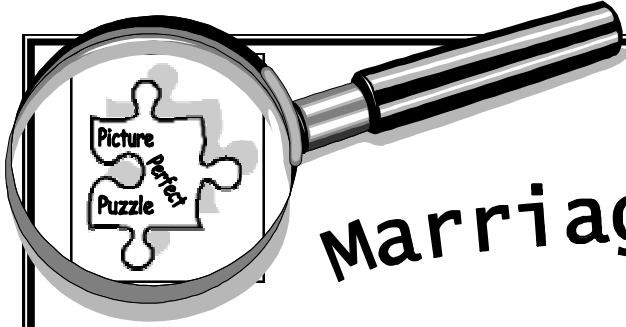
Focused and undistracted
devotion to Christ



Using freedoms
unselfishly for the
kingdom



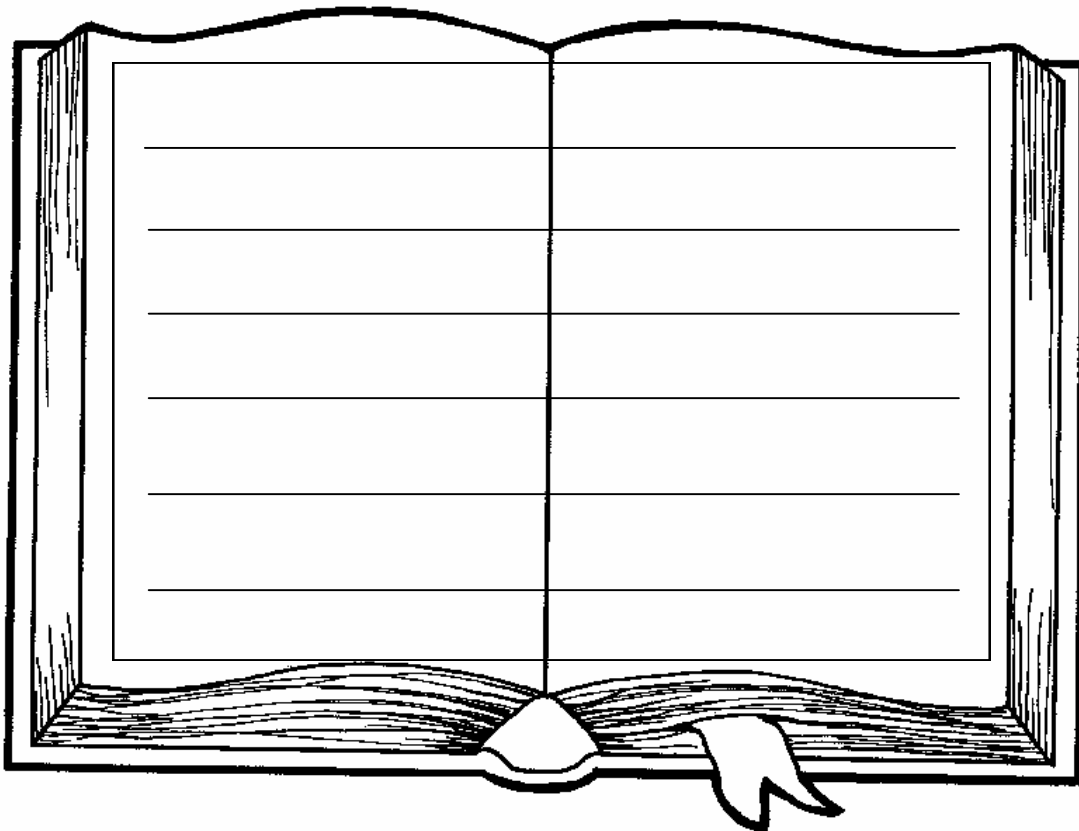
Being obedient and pure for
God

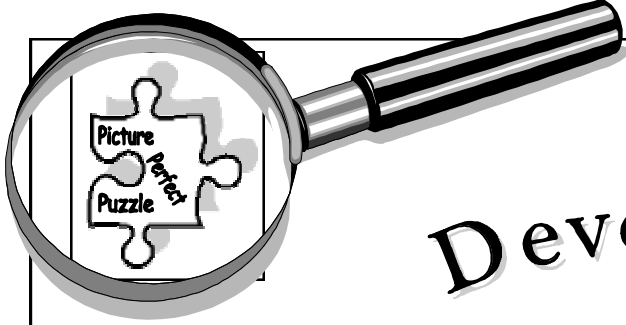


Marriage and Singleness

The word scramble below contains a special message related to today's lesson. Solve this puzzle by crossing off the letters in the alphabet in the order that they naturally appear. Once you have finished, write the remaining letters in the spaces provided below. The first one is done for you.

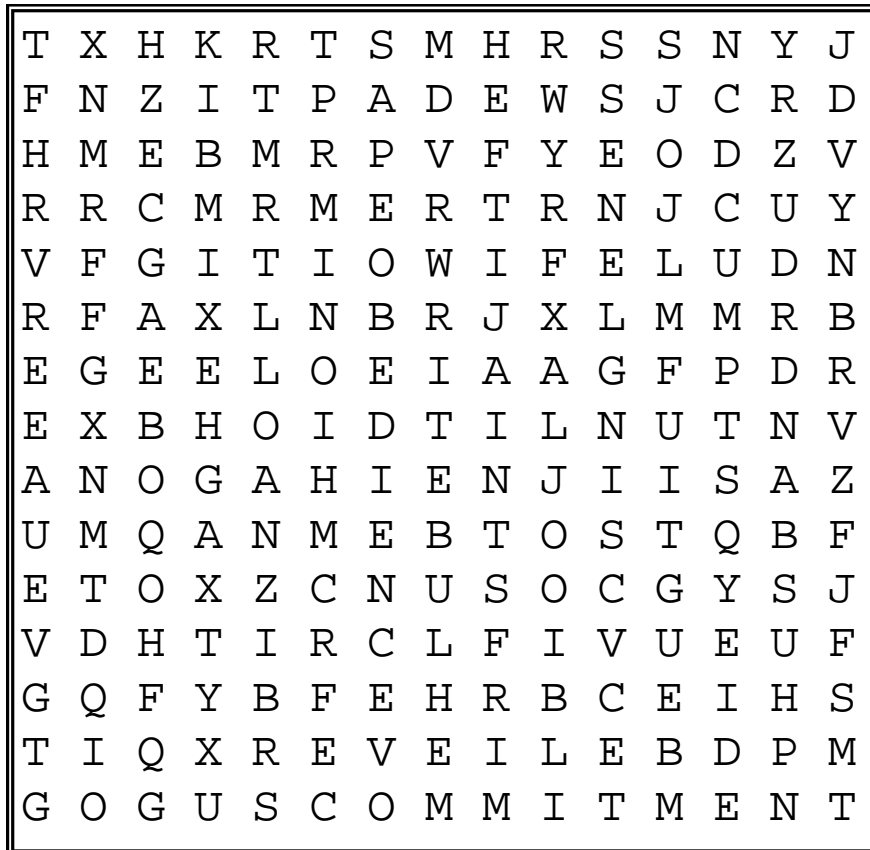
~~A~~ B B U C T D E E A F C G H H M I A J N K H L
A M S N H O I P S Q G R I S F T T U F V R W O
X M Y Z G A O B D C O D N E E F H G A H S I T
J H K I L S M G N I O F P T Q A R N S O T T U
H V E W R X H Y A Z S A T B H C A D T E.





Devoted to God

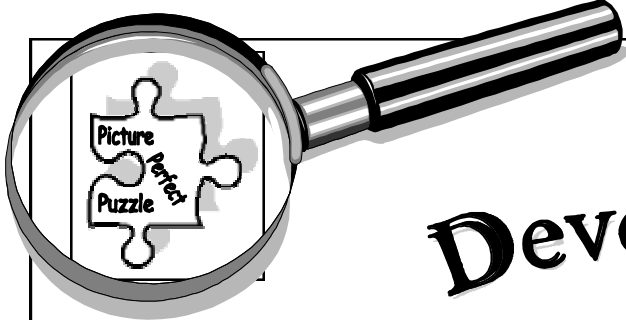
There are 12 key words hidden in the word search below. Find these 12 words and you will have a good understanding of today's lesson.



BELIEVER
COMMITMENT
CONTENTMENT
DEVOTED
GIFT
HUSBAND

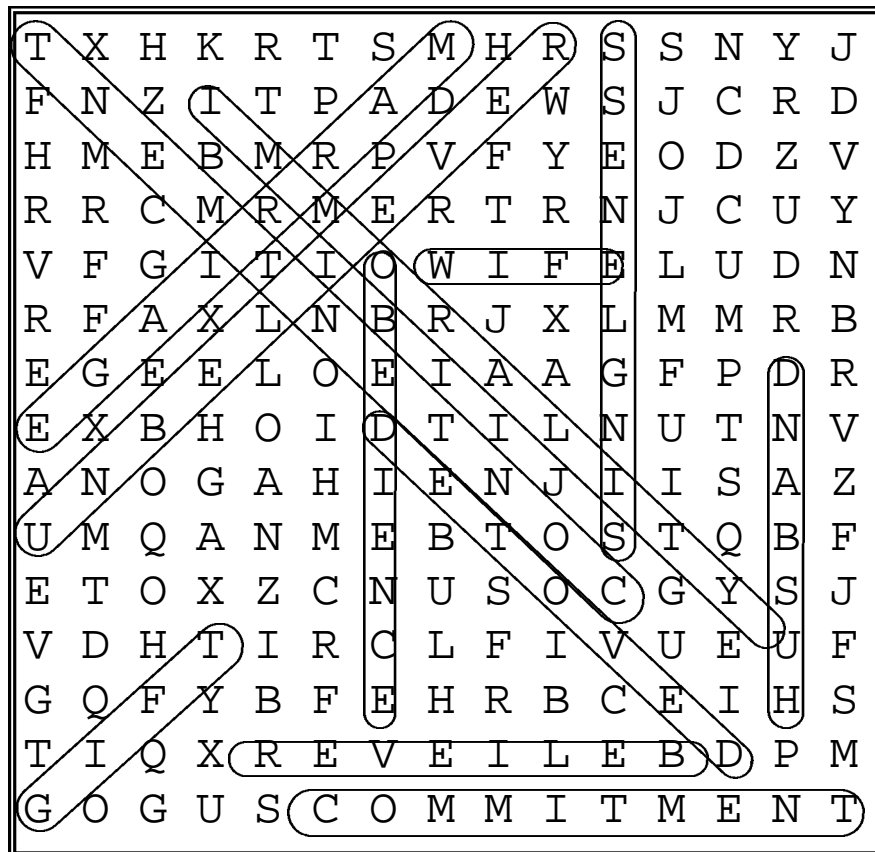
IMMORALITY
MARRIAGE
OBEDIENCE
SINGLENESS
UNBELIEVER
WIFE





Devoted to God

There are 12 key words hidden in the word search below. Find these 12 words and you will have a good understanding of today's lesson.



BELIEVER
COMMITMENT
CONTENTMENT
DEVOTED
GIFT
HUSBAND

IMMORALITY
MARRIAGE
OBEDIENCE
SINGLENESS
UNBELIEVER
WIFE



Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. What was the question that the Corinthians had about marriage?
2. What was Paul's answer?
3. What did Paul say that a believer must do, no matter what situation he or she is in?
4. What are the two highest priorities for a Christian who is married?
5. What are the benefits of being single?
6. What are two important truths for a Christian to remember about marriage?
7. Are you devoted to God and in obedience to His commands in your current situation?

No matter what the situation in which God has placed you, the most important thing is to be content and obey Him. Don't waste your time wanting your life to be different and desiring things you don't have. Give your all to loving God.



*"But each man has his own gift from God;
one has this gift, another has that."
1 Corinthians 7:7b*

Passage Review Questions
1 Corinthians 5-6

To whom does a husband's body belong? (7:3, 4)

To whom does a wife's body belong? (7:3, 4)

Did Paul desire everyone to be single or married? (7:7)

What are the two gifts concerning relationships? (7:7)

What command did Paul give? (7:10)

Is divorce acceptable for a believer and an unbeliever?
(7:12, 13)

What purpose does Paul give for a believer to stay married to an unbeliever? (7:12-16)

What is the basic rule that Paul tells all of the churches that he visits? (7:17)

What should you do about your current situation after becoming a Christian? (7:20-24)

Who bought Christians at a high price? (7:23)

From what spiritual slavery were Christians freed when they were bought? (7:23)

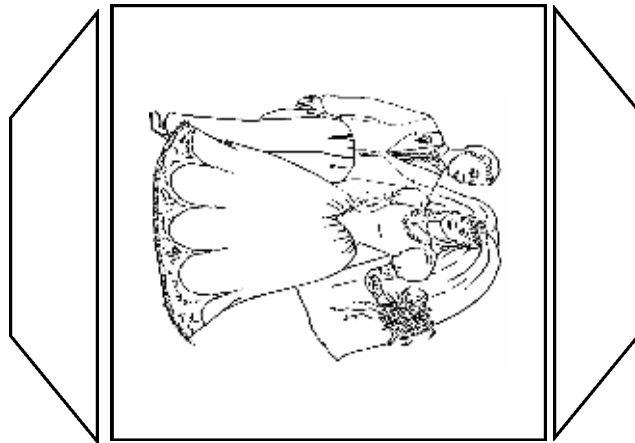
Describe the difference between a married believer and an unmarried believer? (7:33, 34)

What was Paul's reasoning for telling the Corinthian believers how to live? (7:35)

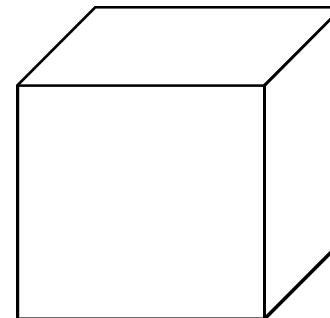
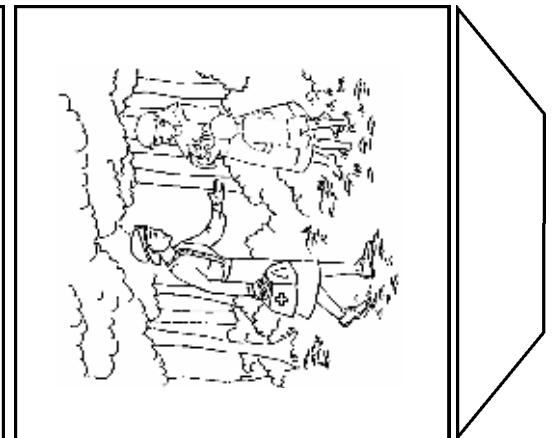
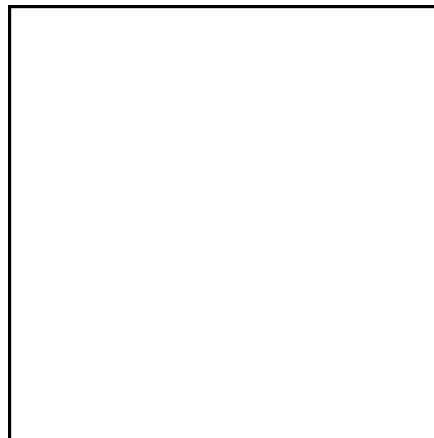
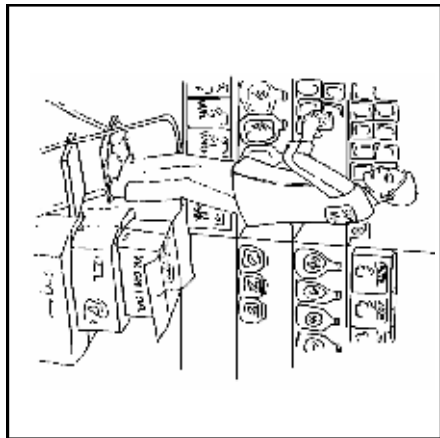
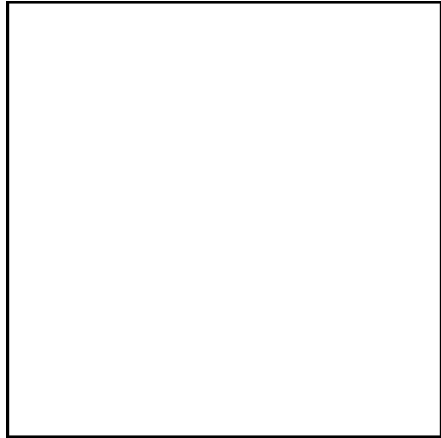
How long is a married person bound to his or her spouse? (7:39)

Is it acceptable for a Christian to marry a non-Christian? (7:39)

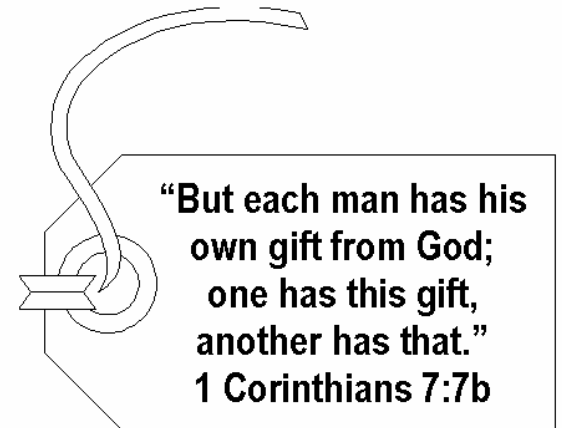
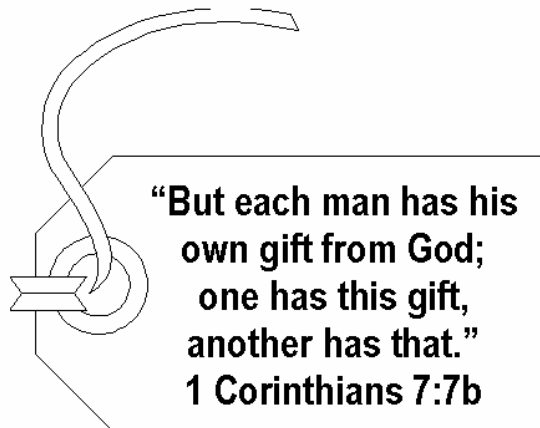
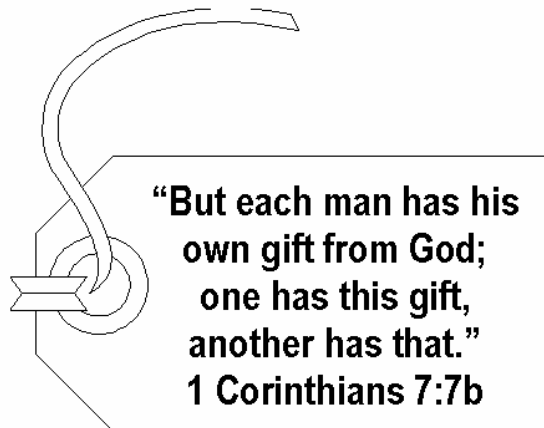
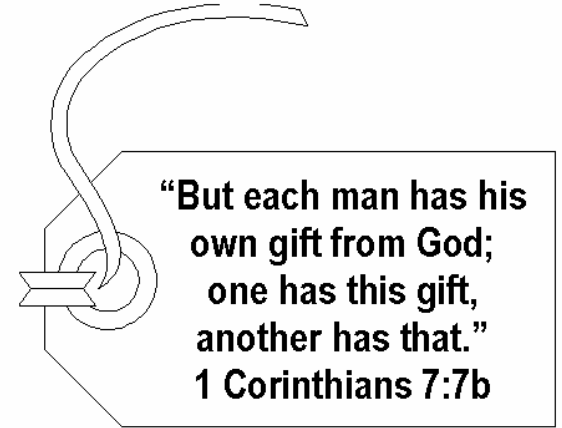
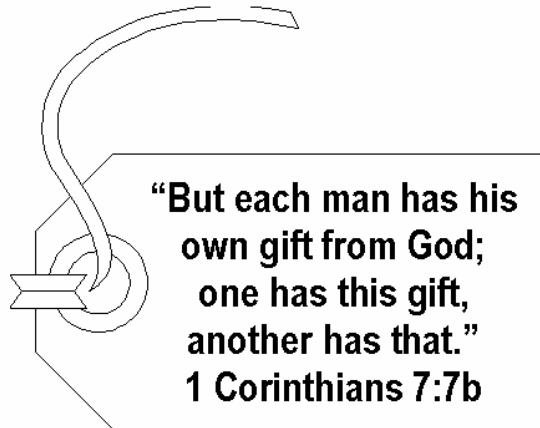
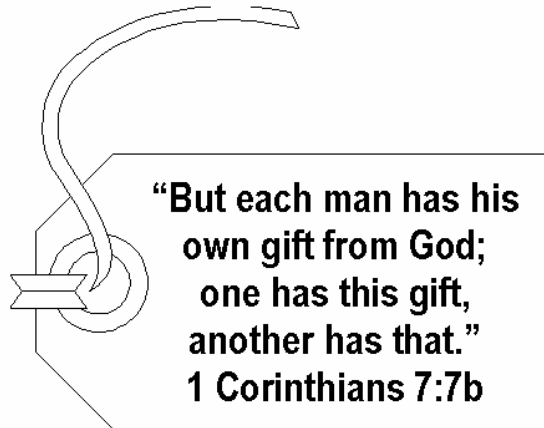
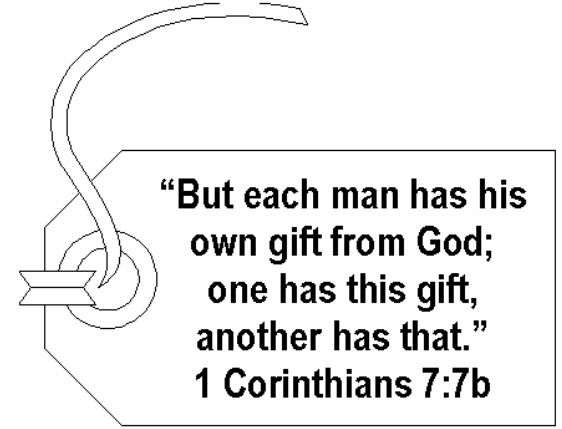
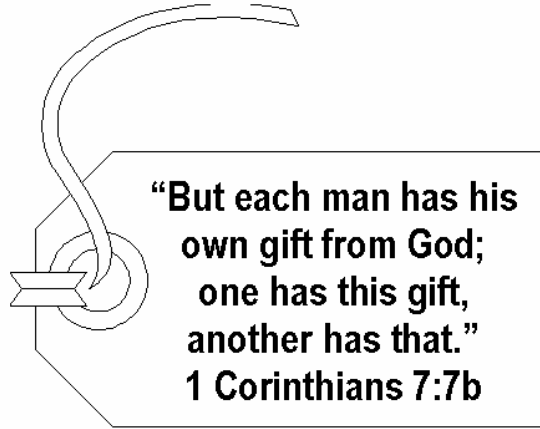
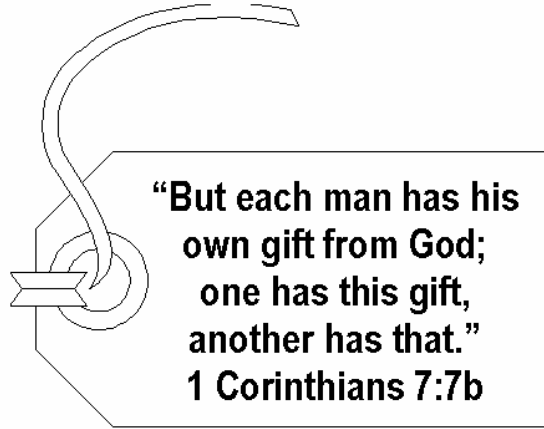
Gift Box Craft

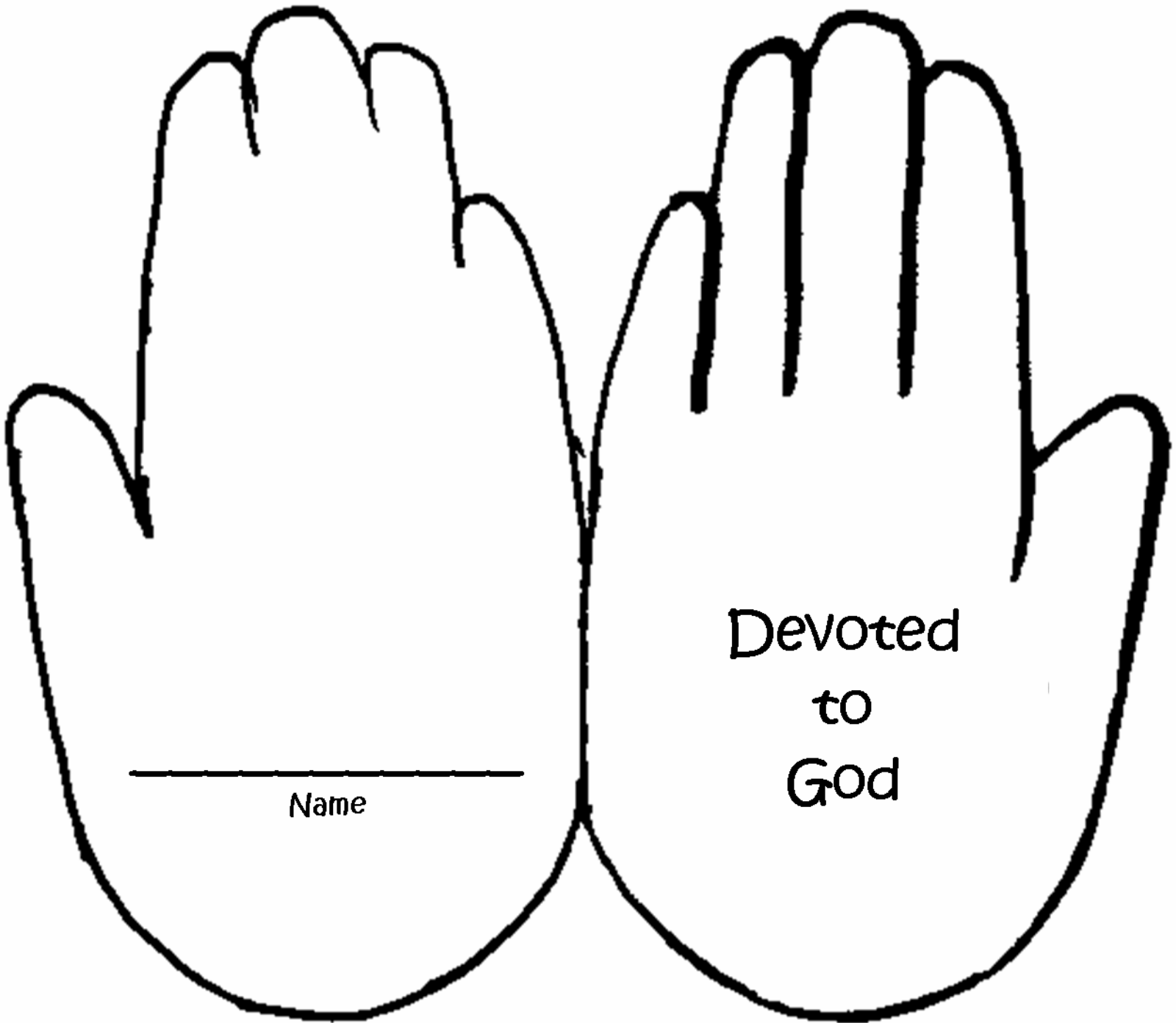


“But each man has
his own gift
from God;
one has this gift,
another has that.”
1 Corinthians 7:7b



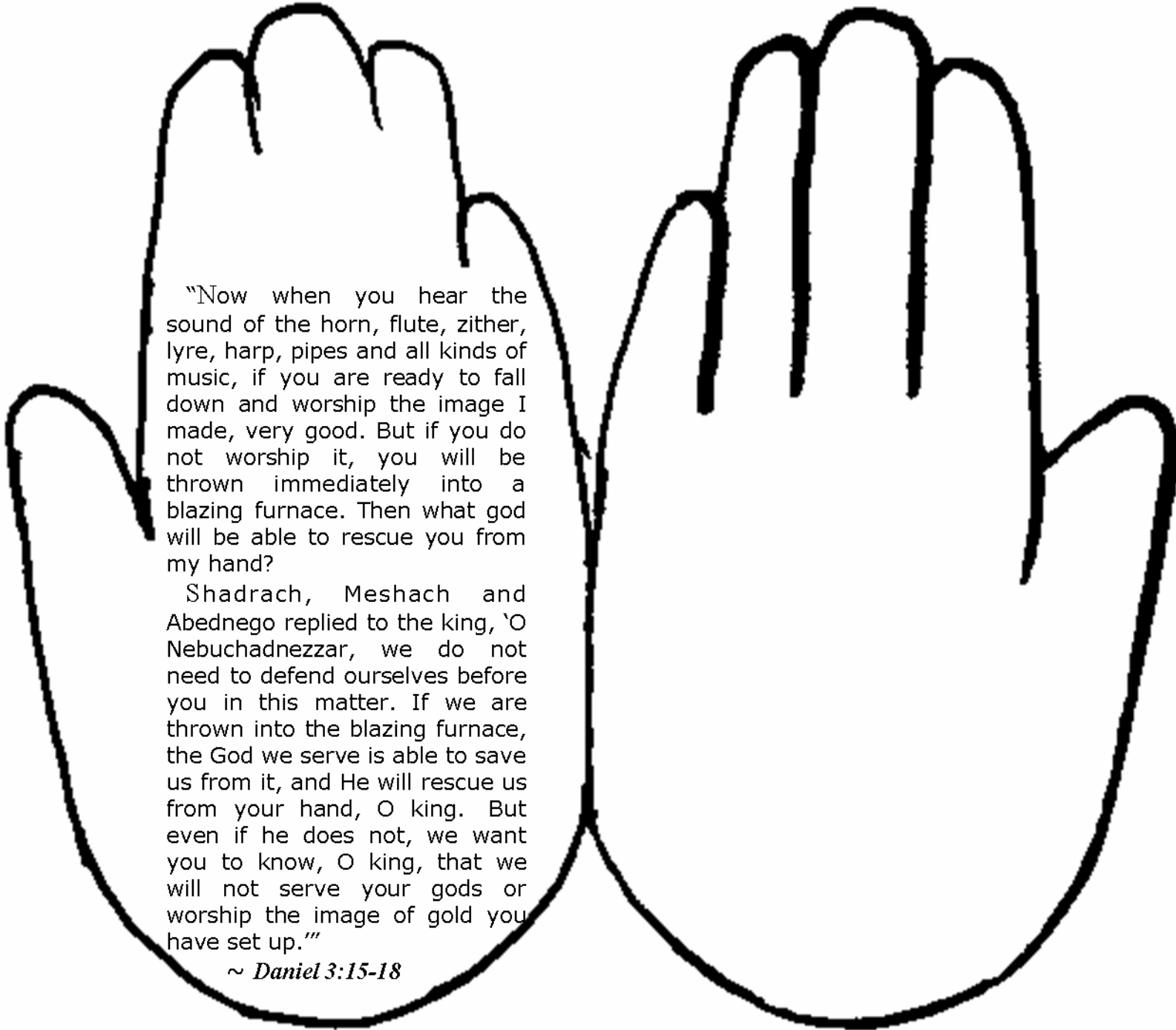
- Color the pictures on each panel.
- Fold between the lines and paste together into a cube shape by securing the tabs to the inside of the box with glue.
- Decorate like a “gift” box and then secure a small bow or curly ribbon to the top of the box.
- Tie the memory verse to the bow.





Name

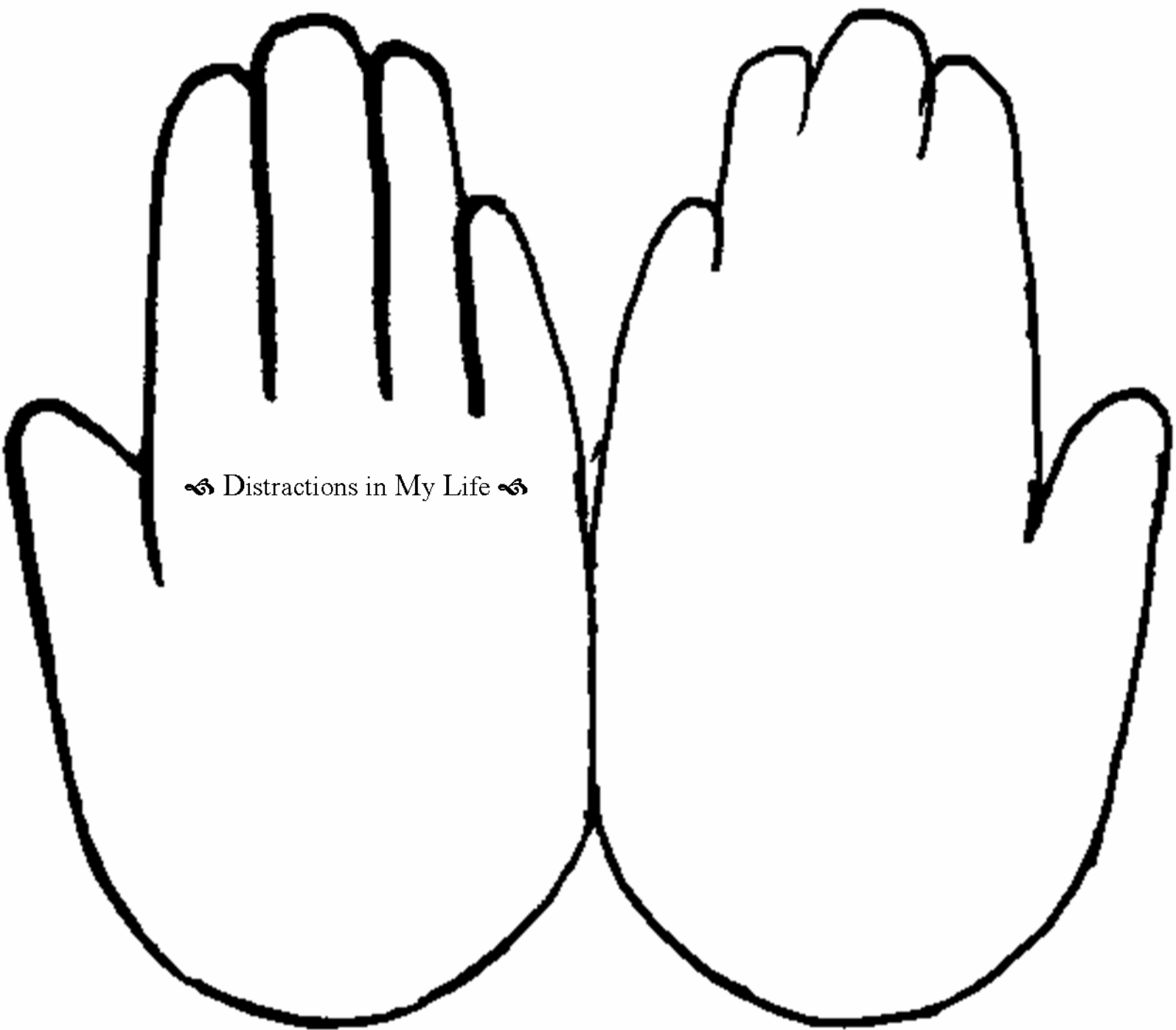
Devoted
to
God



"Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.'"

~ *Daniel 3:15-18*



☞ Distractions in My Life ☞

Gift Collage Craft

"Keeping God's commands is what counts." 1 Corinthians 7:19b

"But each man has his own gift from God;
one has this gift, another has that." 1 Corinthians 7:7b

"Keeping God's commands is what counts." 1 Corinthians 7:19b

"But each man has his own gift from God;
one has this gift, another has that." 1 Corinthians 7:7b

Gift Collage Craft

"Keeping God's commands is what counts." 1 Corinthians 7:19b

"But each man has his own gift from God;
one has this gift, another has that." 1 Corinthians 7:7b

"Keeping God's commands is what counts." 1 Corinthians 7:19b

"But each man has his own gift from God;
one has this gift, another has that." 1 Corinthians 7:7b