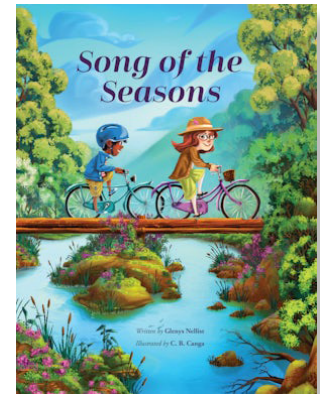


Song of the Seasons

Five-Day Curriculum

This five-day curriculum based on *Song of the Seasons* can be used for all ages and be adapted for use outdoors or indoors as a:

- ◆ Traditional VBS program
- ◆ Summer Camp Resource
- ◆ Intergenerational Event
- ◆ Homeschooling Resource
- ◆ School Curriculum Unit



Each of the Days:

- ◆ Is based on a different season. (Except for Day 1 which encompasses all the seasons.)
- ◆ Has a featured Bible verse.
- ◆ Begins and ends with a shared Gathering Time that follows the same pattern each day.
- ◆ Uses the following three stations that groups rotate around:

Bible Time: A gentle, “wondering” exploration of the Bible verse and how *Song of the Seasons* relates to it.

Art: This station is less focused on making crafts and more focused on sensory experiences. The end product is not important: the experience is.

Games: The games have been chosen carefully to avoid having just one winner. Remember that not all individuals might want to participate. Leave room for observers and consider pairing younger participants with older.

Wherever you see * you’ll find these resources included in the appendix.

A Word on Learning Styles

Children learn in different ways. What may be a comfortable setting for one child may not be to another. With this in mind, the Bible Time and Art stations begin with group time but then offer a variety of activities and settings so that children can choose what they are comfortable with. It is my hope that you will take this curriculum and adapt it to your specific needs so that all participants will feel welcomed, included, and cared for, no matter their learning style.

**For churches or organizations wishing to gift participants with a copy of *Song of the Seasons*, bulk discounts are available from paracletepress.com, or call John Jordan at 774-801-2043.



Opening Gathering Time (For Each Day)

1. *Song of the Seasons*

Begin by sharing the book using one of the following options:

- ◆ If you have screens, watch the YouTube presentation at https://youtu.be/Qx5M_PKy8y4.
- ◆ Either photocopy OR request the high-res book images (for a small fee) from permissions@paracletepress.com, along with any accompanying music (Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* would be a great accompaniment).
- ◆ Read the book aloud.

2. *Opening Responsive Liturgy*

The earth sings God a brand-new song

From grass to mountain peak,

And if you pause and close your eyes

You'll hear the seasons speak.

3. *Song Time*

"If You Love All the Seasons"* (Or choose any of the popular song/hymn suggestions.)*

4. *Prayer Time*

Ask a volunteer to pray or use the following, inviting participants to repeat each line after you.

God of all the seasons

Thank you for spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

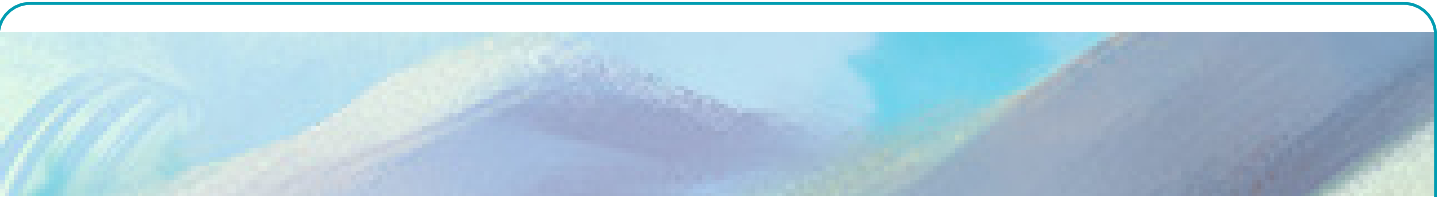
Thank you for creating our wonderful world.

Thank you for this day.

Be with us in our time together.

Amen.

5. *Dismiss Groups To The Three Stations*



Closing Gathering Time (For Each Day)

- ◆ If you have screens, play *Song of the Seasons* from YouTube as groups gather back. If not, play music, such as Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*.
- ◆ Briefly recap the season and Bible verse of the day and ask a few volunteers to share their favorite part of the day. (You could begin by sharing your favorite part.)
- ◆ Consider sharing any of the artwork from the day (with participants' permission). On Day 1, for example, showing the collaborative collage would be effective.
- ◆ Sing "If You Love All the Seasons"* or any of the suggested songs.*
- ◆ Invite a volunteer to close in prayer.

Day 1: Celebrating The Seasons

Day 1 Bible Time: Celebrating The Seasons

Focus Verse: Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.
(Psalm 98:8)

- ◆ Read the Bible verse together.
- ◆ Explain that ***Song of the Seasons*** was inspired when the author read Psalm 98.
- ◆ Ask for a volunteer to read the first line from Psalm 98 and then v. 4–8.
- ◆ Explain that the group will take a “picture walk” through ***Song of the Seasons*** and that as you turn the pages, you want them to look out for the rivers clapping their hands. Ideas for discussion:
 - ◆ Spot the bear on the first and last page.
 - ◆ Note the order in which the seasons are portrayed.
 - ◆ What animals can you spot?
 - ◆ If mountains sang, what would they sound like?
 - ◆ If you could jump into one of those pages, which one would you choose and why?

Bible Time: What You Need

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • <i>Song of the Seasons</i> | • Scissors, markers, crayons, tape |
| • Bible | • Whiteboard & markers |
| • Bible Verse Fun* | • Puppet |
| • Coloring sheets* | • Reading Corner Books as detailed |

Mini Stations:

1. Bible Verse Fun*
2. Coloring sheets*
3. Reading Corner: Set up a cozy corner with cushions, beanbags, or a tent. Include several different Bible translations or Storybook Bibles with the Creation story bookmarked. Include other titles from your library.

Suggestions:

- ◆ ***Song of the Seasons*** by Glenys Nellist
- ◆ *Here: The Dot We Call Home*, by Laura Alary
- ◆ *Finding Calm in Nature* by Jennifer Grant
- ◆ *Tree Full of Wonder* by Anna Smithers
- ◆ *For the Beauty of the Earth* by Folliott S. Pierpoint
- ◆ *When God Made the World* by Matthew Paul Turner

Day 1 Art: Celebrating The Seasons

Focus: The Colors of the Seasons

- ◆ Tell the group that you're going to name a season and you want them to say the first color that pops into their head. Stress that there are no "wrong" answers! Discuss responses.
- ◆ Flip through *Song of the Seasons*, looking at the different color palettes that illustrator C. B. Canga chose.

Art: What You Need

- *Song of the Seasons*
- Lots & lots of paint chips
- Large roll of paper or tablecloth
- Paint
- Brushes/cotton balls/sponges, etc.
- Variety of paper sizes

Collaborative Collage

The idea for this activity is that each of the rotating groups will collaborate on a giant four-seasons collage as they attend the Art Station. Using a large roll of paper, or a pale rectangular tablecloth on which you can paint, have someone draw four large, identical trees with branches in silhouette that will represent spring, summer, autumn, and winter. (Or have those already drawn. See tree template* for ideas.) Each group paints a portion of the collage, using whatever colors they choose. Think about the method(s) you want to use: brushes/sponges/cotton balls/fingers/hands, etc. The key is that they must leave areas for the next group to paint too! The goal at the end of the day is to have the collage collaboratively completed.

- ◆ Explain the two art stations to choose from today:

1. Season Color Sort

Provide lots and lots of paint chips and four trays or areas labeled: SPRING/SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER. Individuals, pairs, or small groups are invited to sort the chips into the colors of the seasons.

2. Paint the Seasons

Provide different color paints and paper of different sizes. Invite participants to choose a season and do an abstract painting to represent that season, using their fingers, brushes, cotton balls, or sponges.

Day 1 Games: Celebrating The Seasons

1. *Bible, Bible, Verse* (A version of Duck, Duck, Goose).

Sit in a circle. Remind the group of the Bible verse for today: **Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.** (*Psalms 98:8*)

Choose one person to walk around the outside of the group while everyone repeats the verse together. On every word, the person gently touches the shoulder of each person sitting. Whoever they land on for the last word chases them around the circle back to their place. Continue with the new person.

2. *Marco Polo*

One person stands in middle of the group, blindfolded, and says:

Let the rivers clap their hands.

The others respond with:

Let the mountains sing together for joy.

The one blindfolded must “find” another person. Continue until someone is caught and then that person goes in the middle.

3. *Season Shark!*

Based on the traditional game of Sharks and Minnows, the object is to reach the other side of the room, or designated area, without the Season Shark tagging you.

Have someone volunteer to be the Season Shark. They stand in the middle of the area, while everyone else faces them from one end of the area. When the Season Shark calls out a season, the others must make it to the other end of the area, moving in the designated ways below, without being tagged by the Season Shark. If they are tagged, they become Season Sharks too. Practice the following movements before playing.

SPRING: Bounce like a bunny.

SUMMER: Dash like a deer.

FALL: Scurry like a squirrel.

WINTER: Lumber like a polar bear.



Day 2: Spring

Day 2 Bible Time: Spring

Focus Verse: Sing to God a brand-new song. (*Psalm 98:1a, The Message*)

◆ Read the verse above and remind the group that these words from Psalm 98 are also the opening words to *Song of the Seasons*. Share about a time when you got something that was **brand-new**, and how you felt.

Ask: Have you ever received something that was **brand-new**? What was it? How did you feel?

◆ Talk about the fact that when God made the earth, everything was brand-new! Brainstorm all the brand-new things God made.

◆ Invite the group to wonder about the following:

- ◆ I wonder if God is still making new things...
- ◆ I wonder what those things might be...
- ◆ I wonder what new things we see in springtime...

◆ Read and think about some of the following verses that reference God making new things. (*The Message Bible* has some wonderful translations.)

Lamentations 3:22–24

Revelation 21:5

Isaiah 43:19

2 Corinthians 5:17

◆ **Option:** Take a look at *Song of the Seasons* and the days depicting spring. What stands out to you?

Bible Time: What You Need

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • <i>Song of the Seasons</i> | • Scissors, markers, crayons, tape |
| • Bible | • Whiteboard & markers |
| • Bible Verse Fun* | • Puppet |
| • Coloring sheets* | • Reading Corner Books as detailed |

Now Let the Group Choose from These Mini Stations:

1. Bible Verse Fun*
2. Coloring sheets*
3. Reading Corner: Along with several different Bible translations or Storybook Bibles with the Creation story bookmarked, display other titles from your library.

Suggestions:

- ◆ *Song of the Seasons* by Glenys Nellist
- ◆ *Bunny's First Spring* by Sally Lloyd-Jones
- ◆ *Little Mole Finds Hope* by Glenys Nellist
- ◆ *The Spring Book* by Todd Parr
- ◆ *Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring* by Kenard Pak
- ◆ *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle



Day 2 Art: Spring

Remind the group that the focus for the day will be **SPRING** and that the Bible verse for today is: **Sing to God a brand-new song.** (*Psalm 98:1a. The Message.*) Now explain the art stations to choose from today:

1. *Four Tree Seasons Collage*

This is an individual version of the giant collaborative collage completed on Day 1. On pale colored paper (not white, since the winter snow won't show up) draw four identical trees in a row, or use the tree template.* Use paint, markers, or crayon to color JUST the first tree, to represent spring. Set it aside to return to on Day 3. (Note: using broccoli dipped in paint creates a lovely tree effect.)

2. *Paint Spring!*

Provide different color paints and paper of different sizes. Invite participants to do an abstract painting to represent spring, using their fingers, brushes, cotton balls, or sponges etc.

3. *Coffee Filter Flowers*

Use the template* to draw and cut out flower shapes from coffee filters. (Or draw your own.) Drop watercolor liquid paint onto them to create lovely effects. (Eye droppers work best but are not essential.) These look lovely displayed in a window or if you're outdoors, string them together and hang from a tree.

4. *Decorate A Plant Pot*

Provide each participant with a small clay pot. Make sure they write their names underneath. Explain that on Day 3 they'll be planting seeds in them. Let them paint or color the pot, using patterns, words, or the Bible verse for today etc. (These could be used as a gift for a family member or neighbor.)

5. *Paint Chip Words*

Using the paint chip colors that represent spring to you, arrange them to spell out the word **SPRING**.

Art: What You Need

- *Song of the Seasons*
- Lots & lots of paint chips
- Large roll of paper or tablecloth
- Tree template*
- Paint/markers/crayons
- Broccoli
- Brushes/cottonwool balls/sponges, etc.
- Pale colored paper 8x14
- Variety of paper sizes
- Watercolor liquid paints
- White coffee filters
- Eye droppers
- Flower shape template*
- Small clay plant pots



Day 2 Games: Spring

1. **Bible, Bible, Verse** (A version of Duck, Duck, Goose).

Sit in a circle. Remind the group of the Bible verse for today:

Sing to God a brand-new song. (*Psalm 98:1a, The Message*)

Choose one person to walk around the outside of the group while everyone repeats the verse together. On every word, the person gently touches the shoulder of each person sitting. Whoever they land on for the last word chases them around the circle back to their place. Continue with the new person.

2. **Get The Eggs In The Nest!**

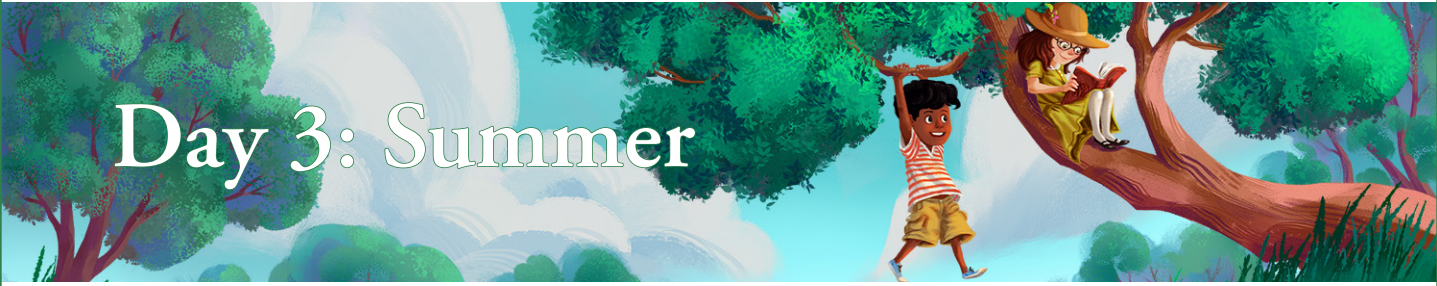
Organize participants into teams. Each team needs the same number of either ping pong balls or cotton balls laid on the floor in front of them (to represent eggs) and a bowl or basket several feet away (to represent the nest). The goal is to be the first team to successfully get all the eggs in the nest. (In this game, everyone throws at the same time.)

3. **Pick Up Sticks**

In spring, we tidy up our yards by picking up all the sticks. In this relay race, players take turns to race to a designated spot, pick up just ONE stick from the pile and return it to another designated spot near their team. Then they tag the next person to run. The winning team is the one that is first to pick up all their sticks. (If outdoors, use real sticks. If indoors, use paint sticks or Popsicle sticks. Make sure that each team has the same number of sticks.)

Games: What You Need

- Ping pong balls
- Cotton balls
- Large bowls or baskets
- Sticks: real or Popsicle or paint stirrers



Day 3: Summer

Day 1 Bible Time: Summer

Focus Verse: Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. (*Matthew 6:28a*)

◆ Read the verse and explain, briefly, the context in which Jesus said this: he was a teacher, sitting with a crowd on a hillside above Lake Galilee. He had no whiteboards or screens so he used what people could see around them to teach them about God. Jesus' message was that if God makes even the flowers so lovely, God will take care of us.

◆ Ask: I wonder what it would have been like to hear Jesus teaching?

◆ Invite participants to close their eyes, get comfortable in whatever way they like, and imagine themselves on that hillside as Jesus is teaching them about God. Read the following slowly, pausing between each sentence:

It is a warm summer's day. You are sitting on a hillside near Lake Galilee. There are seagulls flying around. You can hear the waves lapping on the shore of the lake. There's a breeze and you watch as the flowers nod up and down in the wind. You are here to listen to Jesus. He smiles a lot. He is kind. He begins to talk about what God is like.

Now either read the passage from which the focus verse is taken (*Matthew 6:25–34*) or summarize it in your own words. **PAUSE.**

◆ Ask the group to open their eyes and share what they saw/how they felt.

◆ **Option:** Take a look at ***Song of the Seasons*** and the days depicting summer. What stands out to you?

Bible Time: What You Need

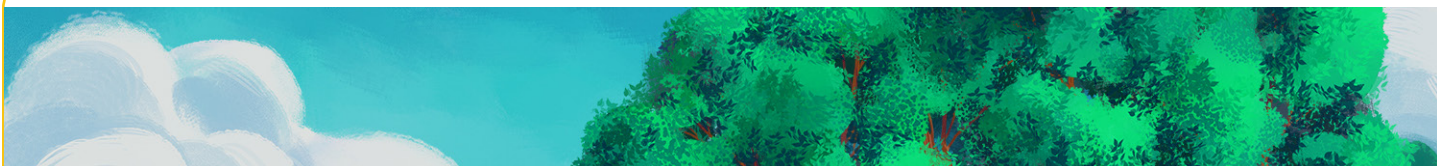
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • <i>Song of the Seasons</i> | • Scissors, markers, crayons, tape |
| • Bible | • Whiteboard & markers |
| • Bible Verse Fun* | • Puppet |
| • Coloring sheets* | • Reading Corner Books as detailed |

Now Let The Group Choose From These Mini Stations:

1. Bible Verse Fun*
2. Coloring sheets*
3. Reading Corner: Along with several different Bible translations or Storybook Bibles with this story bookmarked, display other titles from your library.

Suggestions:

- ◆ ***Song of the Seasons*** by Glenys Nellist
- ◆ *Summer Song* by Kevin Henkes
- ◆ *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen
- ◆ *Hello Summer* by Shelley Rotner
- ◆ *What a Wonderful World* by Bob Thiele
- ◆ *What Grew in Larry's Garden* by Laura Alary



Day 3 Art: Summer

Remind the group that the focus for the day will be **SUMMER** and that the Bible verse for today is: **Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow** (*Matthew 6:28a*). Now explain the art stations to choose from today:

1. *Four Tree Seasons Collage*

Continue the individual collages begun on Day 2. Today paint or color the summer tree.

2. *10,000 Flowers!*

Show the group the spread in *Song of the Seasons* that says “ten thousand flowers dance in fields.” Using a large paper roll or tablecloth, make a giant collaborative collage similar to the one made on Day 1, where everyone contributes by drawing or painting several flowers. Each group must leave space so that the next group can contribute.

3. *Flower Vase Pictures*

Show a picture of Van Gogh’s *Sunflowers* or Monet’s *Vase of Chrysanthemums*. Using the vase templates* or drawing your own, create a “Flower Vase” picture. Use paint, markers, or collage materials such as tissue paper, glue, and craft paper.

4. *Paint Summer!*

Provide different color paints and paper of different sizes. Invite participants to do an abstract painting to represent summer, using their fingers, brushes, cotton balls, or sponges, etc.

5. *Planting Seeds*

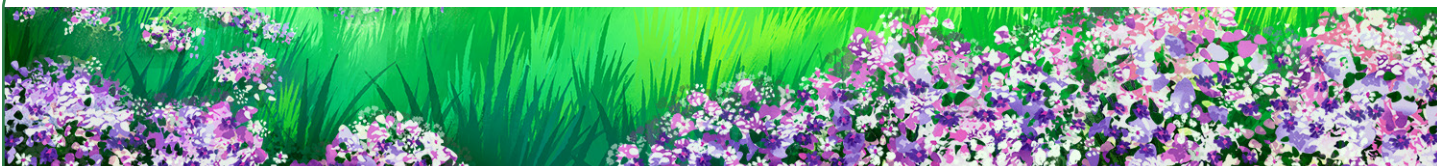
Using the plant pots from Day 2, plant sunflower seeds or any other flower seeds.

6. *Paint Chip Words*

Using the paint chip colors that represent summer to you, arrange them to spell out the word **SUMMER**.

Art: What You Need

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • <i>Song of the Seasons</i> | • Vase templates* |
| • Lots & lots of paint chips | • Paint/markers/crayons |
| • Large roll of paper or tablecloth | • Craft paper/glue/tissue paper |
| • Picture of Van Gogh’s <i>Sunflowers</i> | • Variety of paper sizes |
| • Picture of Monet’s <i>Vase of Chrysanthemums</i> | • Sunflower seeds or other seeds |
| • Brushes/cotton balls/sponges, etc. | • Potting soil |



Day 3 Games: Summer

1. **Bible, Bible, Verse** (A version of Duck, Duck, Goose).

Sit in a circle. Remind the group of the Bible verse for today: **Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow.** (*Matthew 6:28a*)

Choose one person to walk around the outside of the group while everyone repeats the verse together. On every word, the person gently touches the shoulder of each person sitting. Whoever they land on for the last word chases them around the circle back to their place. Continue with the new person.

2. **Life Rings And Water Wings!**

Summer is swimming season! In this relay race, players take turns to race to a designated spot, put on a life ring and water wings, and run back to their team. The next person helps remove the ring and wings, puts them on, races back to the spot, removes them and runs back to tag the next team member. The winning team is the one that finishes first.

3. **Marco Polo**

One person stands in middle of the group, blindfolded, and says:

Consider the lilies of the field.

The others respond with:

How they grow.

The one blindfolded must “find” another person. Continue until someone is caught and then that person goes in the middle.

Games: What You Need

- Life rings

- Water wings



Day 4 Bible Time: Fall

Focus Verse: *The earth belongs to God. And so does everything in it. (Psalm 24:1)*

- ◆ Read the Bible verse to the group. Flip through the pages of *Song of the Seasons*, paying particular attention to fall, and ask the group to think about the fact that everything they see in the images was made by, and belongs to God. Look at the two children's faces on each page. Spend some time wondering about the following:
 - ◆ I wonder how the two children are feeling as they journey through the four seasons in God's world...
 - ◆ I wonder if God wants us to enjoy this wonderful world...
 - ◆ I wonder if there's more that God wants us to do than just enjoy it...
 - ◆ I wonder how we could be part of taking care of God's world...
- ◆ Read Genesis 2:15 and talk about the idea that in the beginning, humans were meant to be gardeners with God or caretakers of the earth with God.
- ◆ Brainstorm ways that we can be caretakers/gardeners with God. Ideas:
 - ◆ Recycle
 - ◆ Don't drop litter
 - ◆ Collect litter
 - ◆ Don't waste water
 - ◆ Plant trees
 - ◆ Feed the birds
 - ◆ Make a Certified Wildlife Habitat (This would be an excellent, and quite doable project for your camp, church, or organization.) For details, visit: [Certify \(nwf.org\)](http://Certify(nwf.org))

Bible Time: What You Need

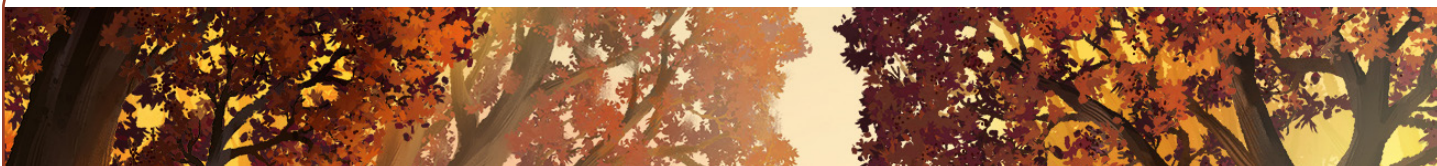
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| • <i>Song of the Seasons</i> | • Scissors, markers, crayons, tape |
| • Bible | • Whiteboard & markers |
| • Bible Verse Fun* | • Puppet |
| • Coloring sheets* | • Reading Corner Books as detailed |

Now Let The Group Choose From These Mini Stations:

1. Bible Verse Fun*
2. Coloring sheets*
3. Reading Corner: Along with several different Bible translations or Storybook Bibles with the Creation story bookmarked, display other titles from your library.

Suggestions:

- ◆ *Song of the Seasons* by Glenys Nellist
- ◆ *The Scarecrow* by Beth Ferry
- ◆ *Kids' Easy-to-Create Wildlife Habitats* by Emily Stetson
- ◆ *Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn* by Kenard Pak
- ◆ *Little Tree* by Loren Long
- ◆ *Because of an Acorn* by Lola M. Schaefer



Day 4 Art: Fall

Remind the group that the focus for the day will be **FALL**. Explain the art stations to choose from today:

1. Four Tree Seasons Collage

Continue the individual collages begun on Day 2. Today paint or color the fall tree.

2. Paint Fall!

Provide different color paints and paper of different sizes. Invite participants to do an abstract painting to represent fall, using their fingers, brushes, cotton balls, or sponges, etc.

3. Bird Feeders

Take four or five pipe cleaners and bend the bottoms to create “knots.” Thread them with Cheerios. Use a ribbon to tie them all together tightly at the top and hang in a tree for the birds.

4. Rock Painting

Provide smooth pebbles or rocks of different sizes to paint. These could be used as gifts for family members, neighbors, or friends. The idea is that encouraging messages can be added to them the next day when they are dry.

5. Leaf Art

Use the leaf templates* to create your own leaf art. Ideas:

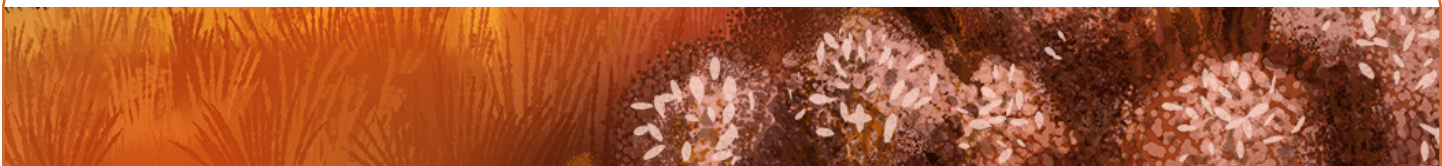
- ◆ **Leaf Garlands:** Draw around the templates on orange, yellow and brown paper. Cut the leaves out. Punch a hole in the top and string them together.
- ◆ **Leaf People:** Draw around the templates and use them as “bodies” for characters. Add eyes, hands, legs etc. You can even name your characters!

6. Paint Chip Words

Using the paint chip colors that represent fall to you, arrange them to spell out the word **FALL**.

Art: What You Need

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • <i>Song of the Seasons</i> | • Ribbon |
| • Lots & lots of paint chips | • Cheerios |
| • Paint/markers/crayons | • Rocks/pebbles |
| • Brushes/cotton balls/sponges, etc. | • Leaf templates* |
| • Variety of paper sizes | • Scissors |
| • Pipe cleaners | • Hole punch |
| • Orange, brown, yellow craft paper | • String |



Day 4 Games: Fall

1. **Bible, Bible, Verse** (A version of Duck, Duck, Goose).

Sit in a circle. Remind the group of the Bible verse for today: **The earth belongs to God. And so does everything in it.** (*Psalms 24:1*)

Choose one person to walk around the outside of the group while everyone repeats the verse together. On every word, the person gently touches the shoulder of each person sitting. Whoever they land on for the last word chases them around the circle back to their place. Continue with the new person.

2. **Build A Human Scarecrow**

In this game, teams choose one person to be the scarecrow. They must race against the other teams to dress their scarecrow using a hat/large jacket/a wig (or straw), boots, and large gloves. All the five items for each separate team should be placed at one end of the area. At the signal, one team member races to pick up **just one item** and takes it back to the team. Their scarecrow **MUST** put that item completely on (jacket fastened, etc.) before the next person races for the next item. The team completing their scarecrow first wins.

3. **Squirrel Chase**

Have two or three volunteers to be “squirrels” who hang a long tail made from fabric or paper from their pants pocket. On the signal, the rest of the group chases them and grabs their tail. Then they become the squirrels.

Games: What You Need

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Hats | • Boots |
| • Large jackets | • Large gloves |
| • Wigs (or straw) | • Long lengths of ribbon or paper |



Day 5 Bible Time: Winter

Focus Verse: For everything God created is good. (1 Timothy 4:4)

- ◆ Read the Bible verse, then remind the group that since this is the last day together, you will be reflecting on the fact that everything that God made is good.
- ◆ Together, scan through the Creation story in Genesis 1:1–31. Highlight the word “good” every time you see it. Count them. Spend some time with these wondering questions: I wonder...
 - ◆ Why the words, *God saw that it was good*, are repeated so much...
 - ◆ How God felt at the end of each day...
 - ◆ If you’ve ever made something you felt really proud of...
 - ◆ If absolutely everything God made or makes, is good...
 - ◆ If God made or makes anything that’s *not* good...
 - ◆ Since God made *you*, how it feels to know that you are GOOD...
- ◆ **Option:** Take a look at *Song of the Seasons* and the days depicting winter. What stands out to you?

Bible Time: What You Need

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • <i>Song of the Seasons</i> | • Scissors, markers, crayons, tape |
| • Bible | • Whiteboard & markers |
| • Bible Verse Fun* | • Puppet |
| • Coloring sheets* | • Reading Corner Books as detailed |

Now Let The Group Choose From These Mini Stations:

4. Bible Verse Fun*
5. Coloring sheets*
6. Reading Corner: Along with several different Bible translations or Storybook Bibles with the Creation story bookmarked, display other titles from your library.

Suggestions:

- ◆ *Song of the Seasons* by Glenys Nellist
- ◆ *Good News! God Made Me!* by Glenys Nellist
- ◆ *Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter* by Kenard Pak
- ◆ *Over and Under the Snow* by Kate Messner
- ◆ *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson
- ◆ *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats



Day 5 Art: Winter

Remind the group that the focus for the day will be **WINTER**. Explain the art stations to choose from today:

1. *Four Tree Seasons Collage*

Continue the individual collages begun on Day 1. Today paint or color the winter tree.

2. *Paint Winter!*

Provide different color paints and paper of different sizes. Invite participants to do an abstract painting to represent winter, using their fingers, brushes, cotton balls, or sponges, etc.

3. *Rock Painting*

Remind the group of the Bible verse for today: **For everything God created is good.** (1 Timothy 4:4.) Invite them to add an encouraging message to the rocks they painted the day before, using permanent marker or paint.

Ideas: You Are Good/God Made You/God Loves You, etc.

4. *Paint Chip Words*

Using the paint chip colors that represent winter to you, arrange them to spell out the word **WINTER**.

5. *Snowflakes*

◆ Make traditional snowflakes by folding coffee filters into quarters, snipping the edges and then painting with watercolors.

◆ Place a paper doily over a piece of paper. Paint over the top of the doily, then lift off to reveal the pattern.

Art: What You Need

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • <i>Song of the Seasons</i> | • White coffee filters |
| • Lots & lots of paint chips | • Liquid watercolor paints |
| • Paint/markers/crayons | • Doilies |
| • Brushes/cotton balls/sponges, etc. | • Scissors |
| • Variety of paper sizes | • Hole Punch |
| • Permanent markers | • String |



Day 5 Games: Winter

1. *Bible, Bible, Verse* (A version of Duck, Duck, Goose).

Sit in a circle. Remind the group of the Bible verse for today: **For everything God created is good.** (1 Timothy 4:4)

Choose one person to walk around the outside of the group while everyone repeats the verse together. On every word, the person gently touches the shoulder of each person sitting. Whoever they land on for the last word chases them around the circle back to their place. Continue with the new person.

2. *Snowball Stash*

Organize participants into teams. Each team needs the same number of either ping pong balls or cotton balls laid on the floor in front of them (to represent snowballs) and a bowl or basket several feet away. The goal is to be the first team to successfully get all the snowballs in the container. (In this game, everyone throws at the same time.)

3. *Time To Hibernate!*

Ask: who was hibernating in the den at the beginning and end of *Song of the Seasons*? In this game, someone volunteers to be the bear. They stand with their back to all the other players who stretch out in a line behind the bear. The line of players creeps toward the bear, saying softly *What time is it, Mrs. (or Mr.) Bear?* The bear turns around and says *One o'clock*. This pattern continues, with the players asking: *What time is it, Mr. Bear?* The bear replies with varying times, UNTIL ... at whatever point the bear chooses, she turns and answers: *Time to hibernate!* Then she chases them all. The person caught first now becomes the bear.

Games: What You Need

- Ping pong balls
- Cotton balls
- Large bowls or baskets

Appendix

Resource Sheets

If You Love All the Seasons by Glenys Nellist
(Sung to the tune of *If You're Happy and You Know it*)

If you love all the seasons, clap your hands,
If you love all the seasons, clap your hands,
Summer, Winter, Spring, or Fall,
If you really love them all,
If you love all the seasons, clap your hands.

If you love spring the best, clap your hands,
If you love spring the best, clap your hands,
If you love planting seeds,
Seeing new buds on the trees,
If you love spring the best, clap your hands.

If you love summer the best, clap your hands,
If you love summer the best, clap your hands,
If you love the summer sun,
Beaches, swimming, having fun,
If you love summer the best, clap your hands.

If you love fall the best, clap your hands,
If you love fall the best, clap your hands,
If you love the falling leaves
Red and golden autumn trees,
If you love fall the best, clap your hands.

If you love winter the best, clap your hands,
If you love winter the best, clap your hands,
If you love the falling snow,
Boots and mittens, fires aglow,
If you love winter the best, clap your hands.

If you love all the seasons, clap your hands,
If you love all the seasons, clap your hands,
Summer, Winter, Spring, or Fall,
If you really love them all,
If you love all the seasons, clap your hands.



Alternative Songs/Hymns

- Morning Has Broken
- Hymn of Promise (In the Bulb There is a Flower)
- Yes, God is Good
- How Great Thou Art
- This is my Father's World
- For the Beauty of the Earth
- The Garden Song (Dave Mallett)
- My God is So Big
- He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
- Trees of the Field
- Tree Song by Ken Miedema
- Praise Him in the Morning
- All Things Bright and Beautiful



Bible Time Mini-Stations

Set up the following three mini-stations in the area where Bible Time will take place.

1. Cozy Reading Corner

Use cushions, bean bags, pillows, or a tent to create your Cozy Corner. Switch the books out each day according to theme, using the suggestions given.

2. Bible Verse Fun!

Set up an area where groups can have fun while learning or thinking about the daily Bible verse. Print out and enlarge the “BIBLE VERSE FUN” sheet (on the next page.) Display it in a prominent place in the area so that groups can use the ideas included there.

Stock the area with these supplies:

- ◆ Several copies of the Bible Verse for the day, printed on cardstock. (See next pages)
- ◆ Whiteboard with dry erase markers and erasers, OR several small whiteboards
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Tape
- ◆ A puppet

3. Coloring Corner

Provide crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc., along with several copies of the following two coloring sheets that pertain to each day:

- ◆ Color the Bible Verse
- ◆ Song of the Seasons coloring



Bible Verse Fun!

- ◆ Cut apart the cards that have each word on them, jumble them up, and rearrange them in the correct order.
- ◆ Tape the cards to your clothing, one per person, then line up in the correct order.
- ◆ Write the verse on the whiteboard. Have a friend close their eyes. Erase one word. Can they guess the missing word? Take turns to erase and fill in missing words.
- ◆ Use the puppet to repeat the verse. Let the puppet say the first word, and a friend say the next. Take turns with the puppet.
- ◆ Make up or use known sign language for each word.
- ◆ Whisper the verse together, then repeat it, getting louder & louder. (But not too loud so that anyone feels uncomfortable!) Now repeat it again, returning to a whisper.

Let

the

rivers

clap

their

hands,

let

the

mountains

sing

together

for

joy.

Psalms 98:8

Sing

to

God

a

brand

new

song.

Psalms 98.1a

Consider

the

lilies

of

the

field,

how

they

grow.

Matthew 6:28a

The

earth

belongs

to

God.

And

so

does

everything

in

it.

Psalms 24:1

For

everything

God

created

is

good.

Timothy 4:4

LET THE RIVERS
CLAP THEIR
HANDS, LET THE
MOUNTAINS
SING TOGETHER
FOR JOY.

PSALM 98:8



SING TO GOD
A BRAND-NEW
SONG.

PSALM 98:1A



CONSIDER THE
LILIES OF THE
FIELD, HOW
THEY GROW.

MATTHEW 6:28A



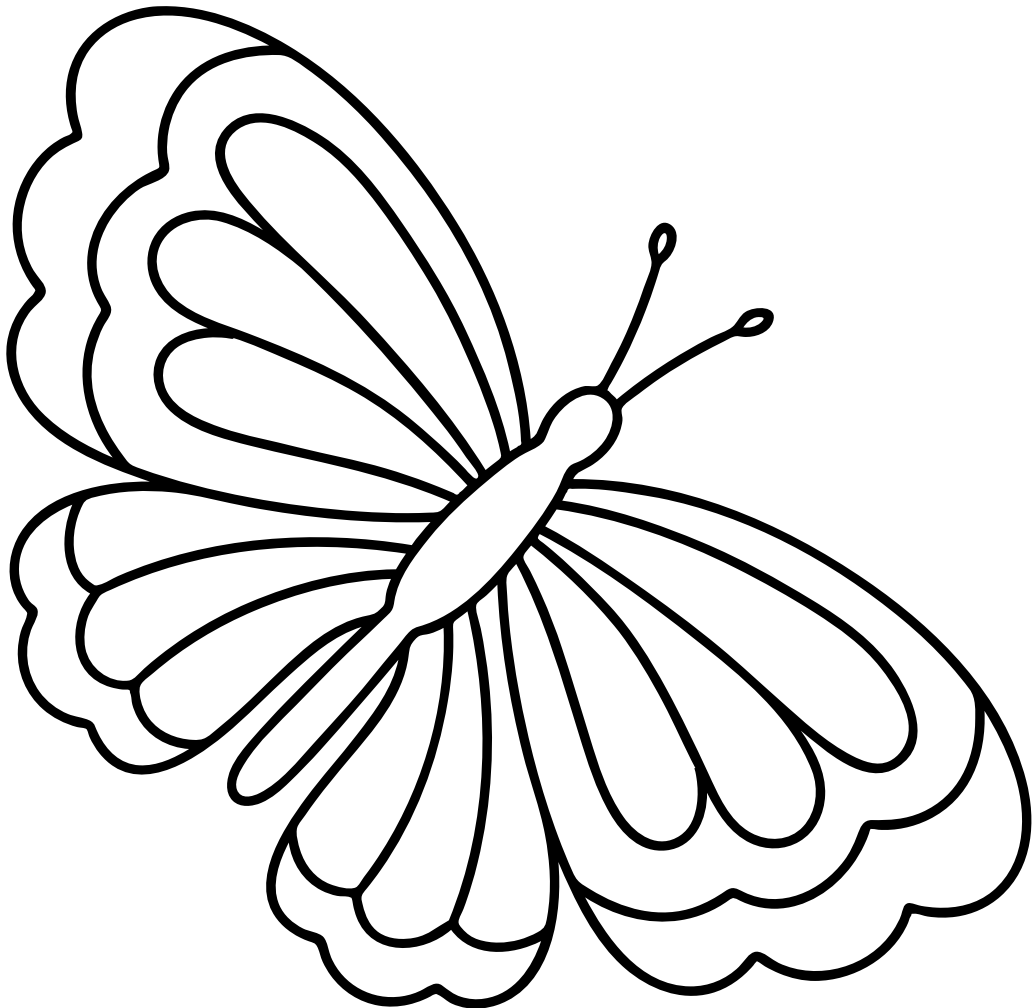
THE EARTH
BELONGS TO
GOD. AND
SO DOES
EVERYTHING
IN IT.

PSALM 24:1



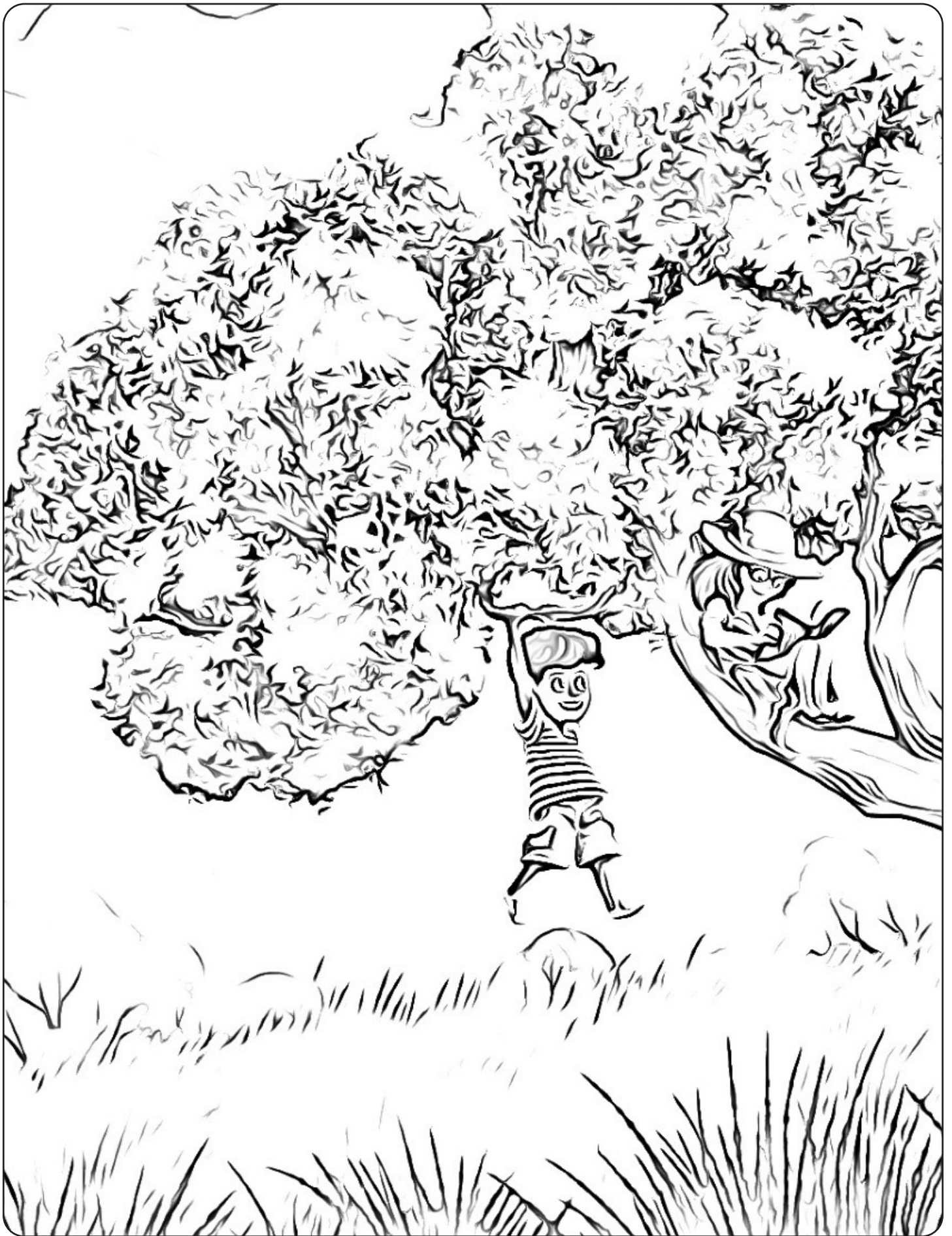
FOR EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
IS GOOD.

TIMOTHY 4:4

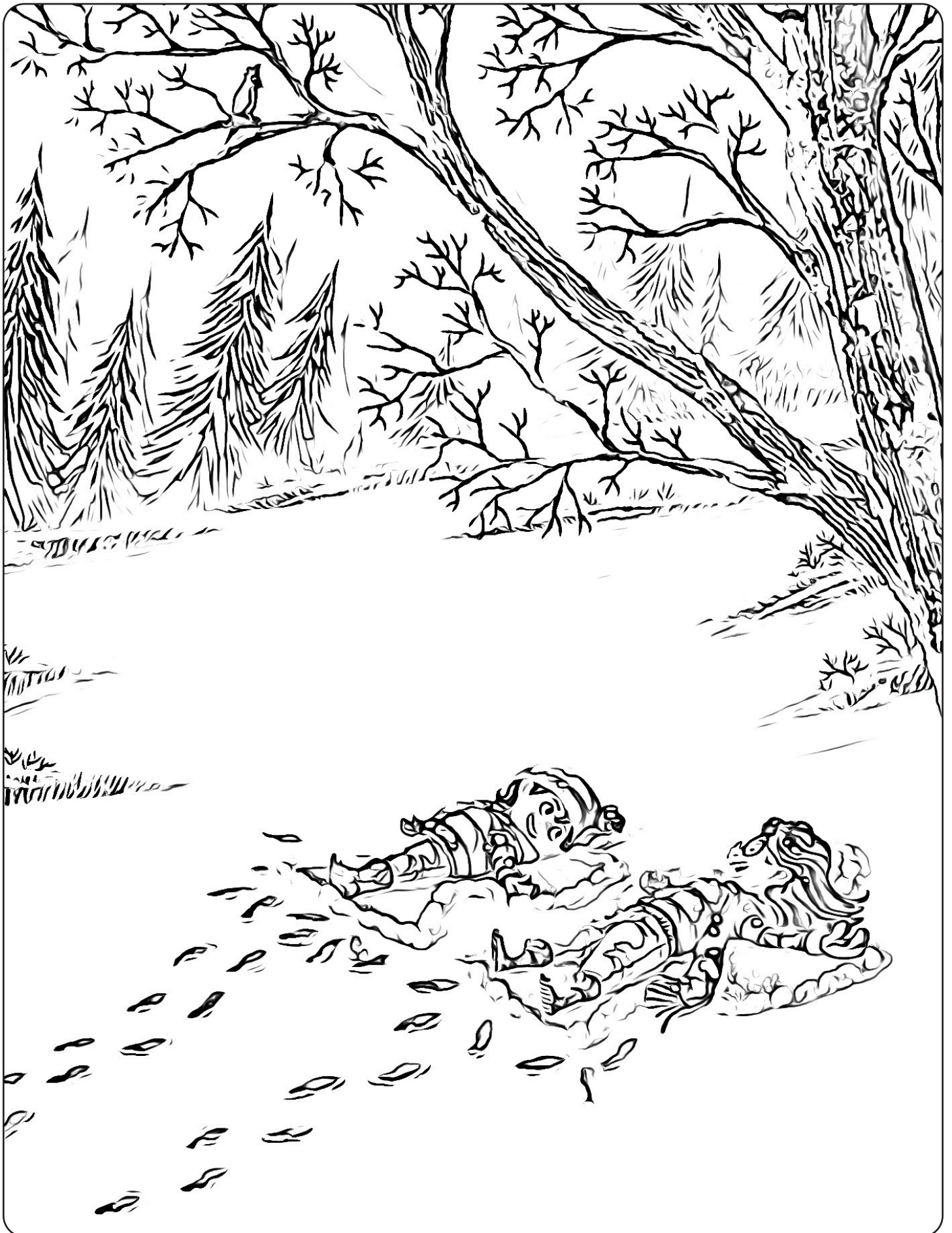




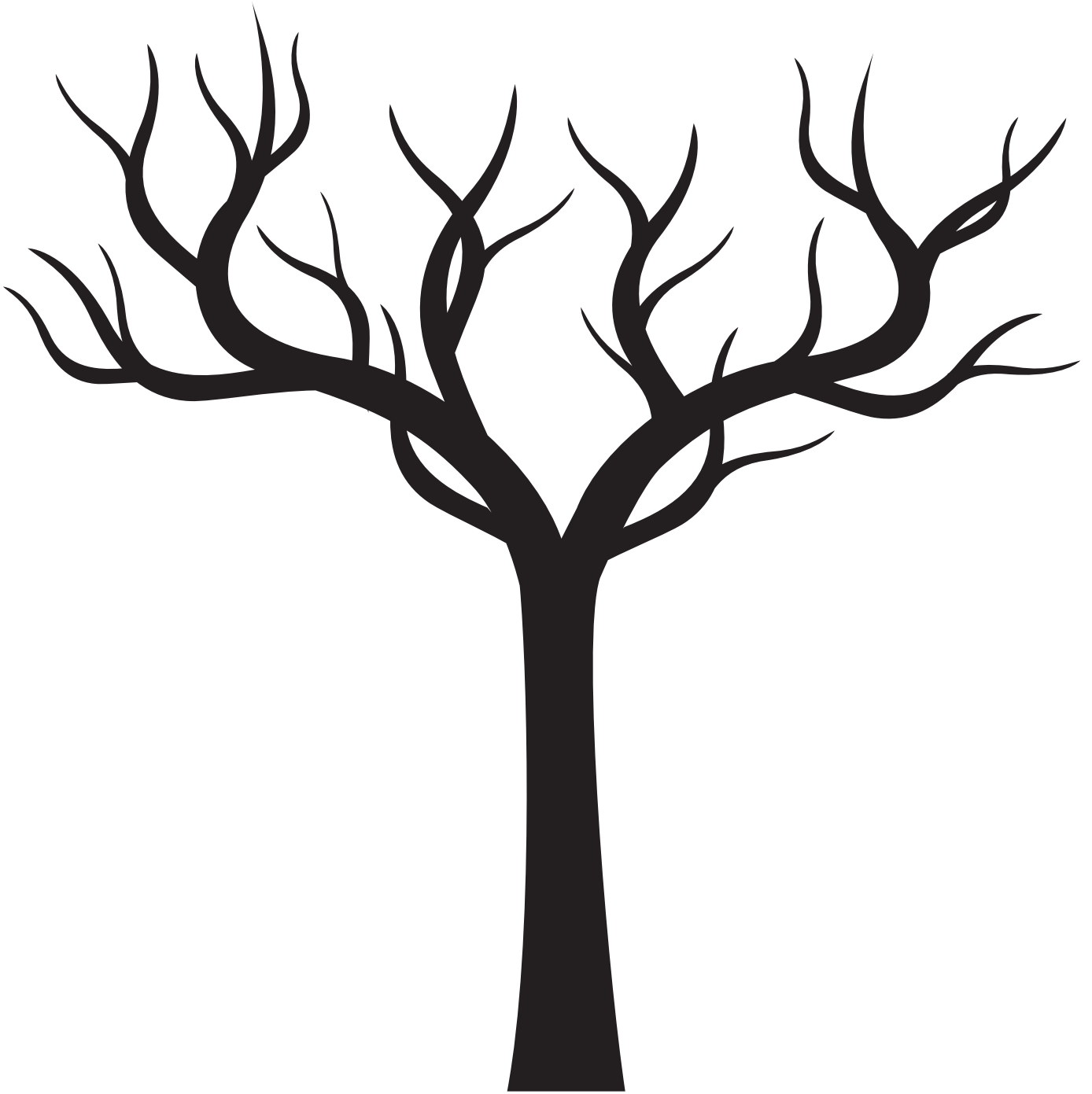




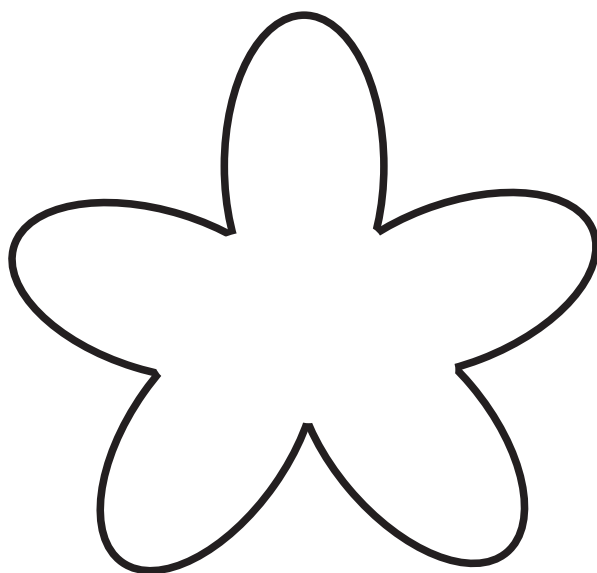
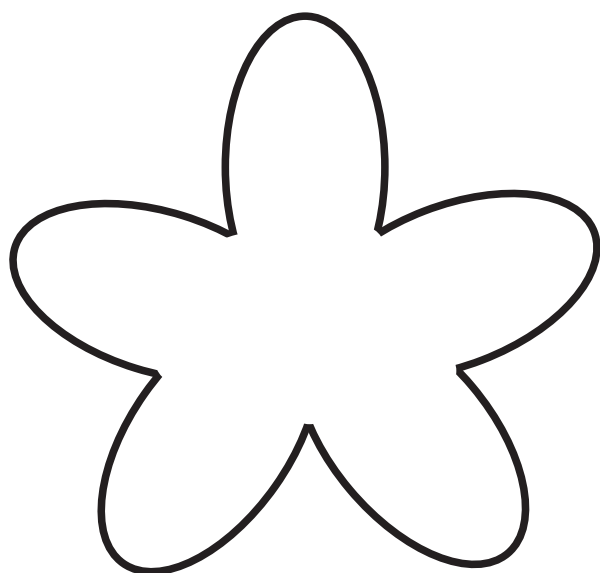
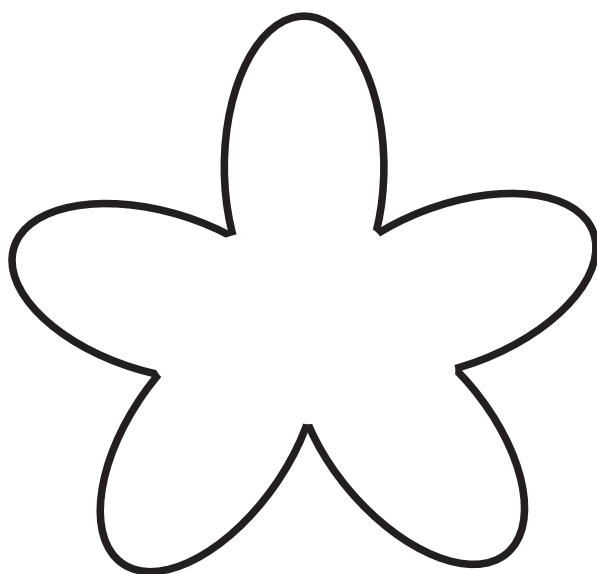
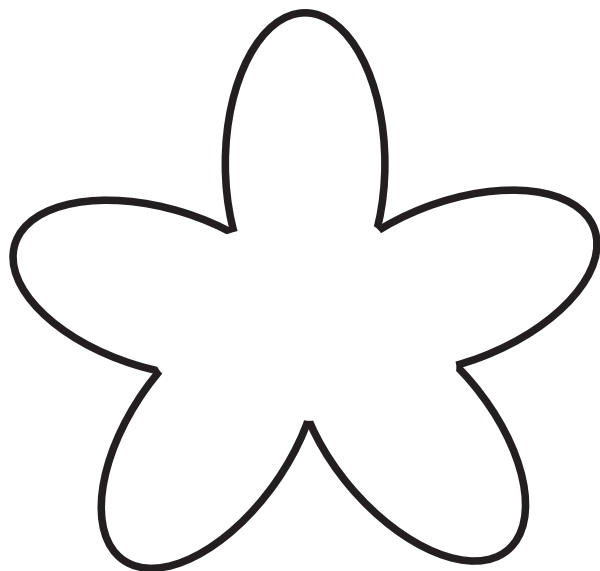




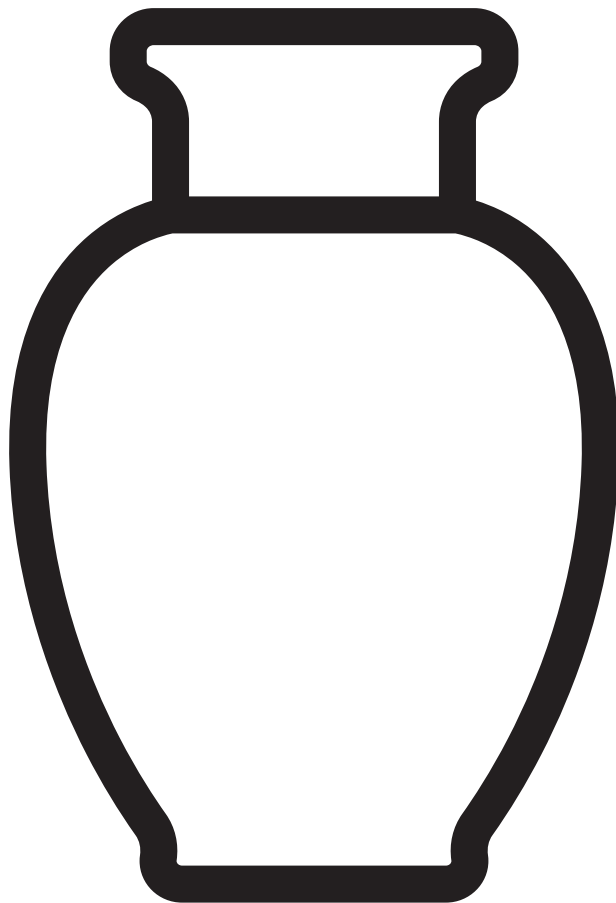
Tree Template



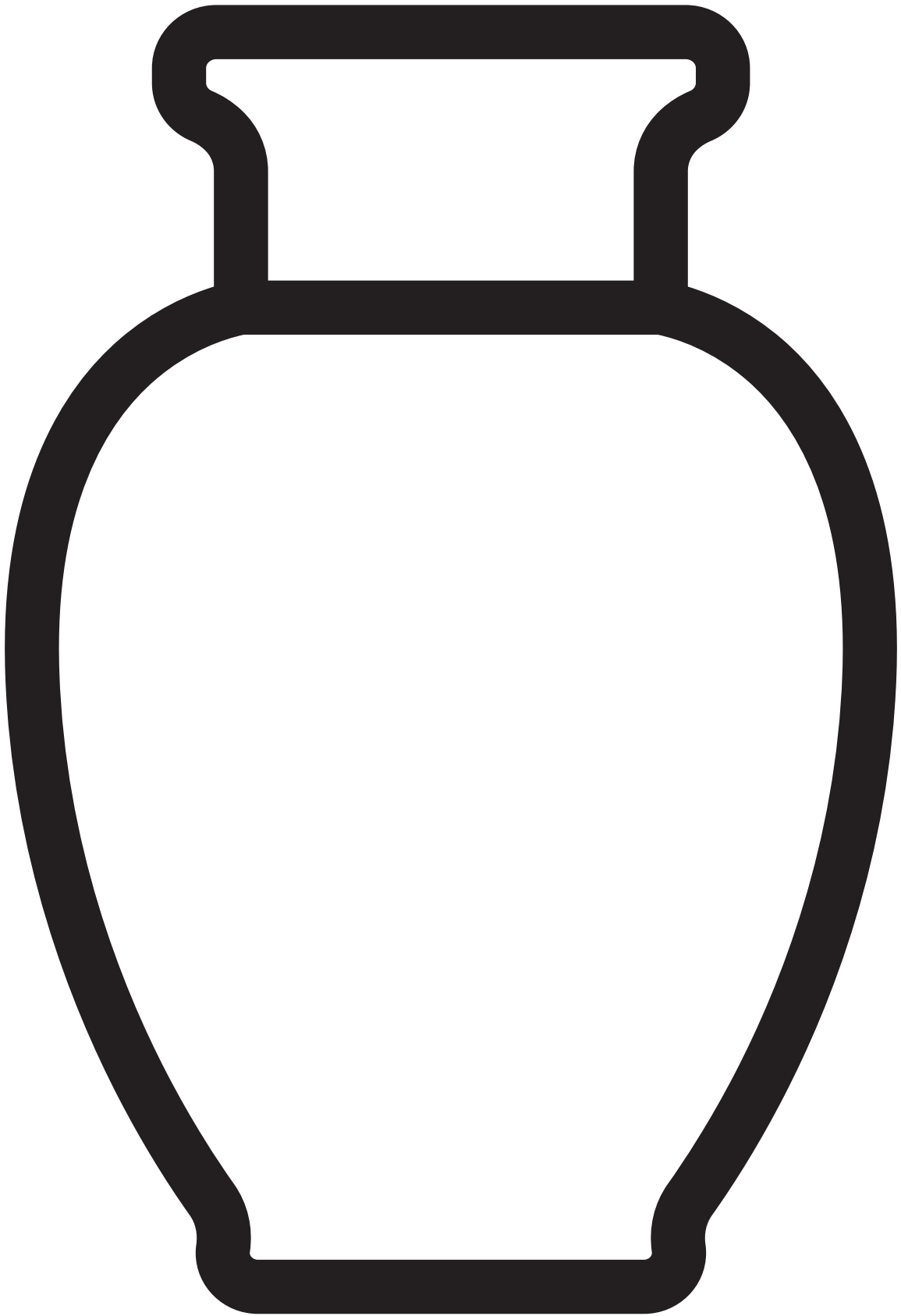
Flower Shape Template



Vase Template



Vase Template



Leaf Template

