

The altar to the Unknown God Acts 17:16-34

You will need: Plasticine, template print outs; children's Bible with illustrations of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Prepare the temple by following the craft instructions, using the pre-coloured pieces.

Theme: God is our help and rescue, and he wants people to know him.

Suggested lesson outline:

Paul walked around Athens and looked at all the idols. (Use Paul and temple image) Fold the temple image along the dotted lines to make it stand up.

Look at all these statues of fake gods.

People have all sorts of worries, and these people in Athens made all sorts of fake gods to try to help them.

They worried about their houses and farms being hit by lightning (show image 1)

So they prayed to an idol they said was in charge of the weather saying please keep us safe. (show image 2)

Do you really think a statue was in charge of the weather? Do you think it would keep them safe?

They worried about their family drowning in storms at sea (show image 3)

So they prayed to an idol they said was in charge of the sea and said please keep us safe (show image 4)

Do you really a statue was in charge of the sea? Do you think it would keep them safe?

(Get a piece of clay or plasticine) I might be worried about being picked on at school. If I make a clay model (form it into person) is it going to stick up for me and tell the bullies to leave me alone

No, that's silly. Of course it can't. It's a lump of clay. It can't help me. It can't do anything

Could these statues help these people? No, that's silly.

How was Paul going to tell the people about the true God, who could really help them.

Aha! He said. Here is an altar or statue to the unknown God.

Let me tell you all about him, so that you can know him.

So Paul started to talk to them.

These statues are made by you.

But God made the whole world and everything in it.

Paul started to tell them about Jesus.

(On the temple, turn the tab of the wheel round to reveal the Bible)

Jesus is the only one who could help them and rescue them, from the biggest problem in the whole world.

Being enemies with God because of sin: the bad stuff we do. That's even worse than a storm at sea, even worse than a lightning bolt, even worse than the bullies at school. Worse than anything we can imagine.

But God wants to help us. He wants to rescue us.

He sent his son Jesus to live, die, and come back to life, so that anyone who trusts in him, can have their sin taken away. (Find illustrated children's Bible to show death and resurrection images)

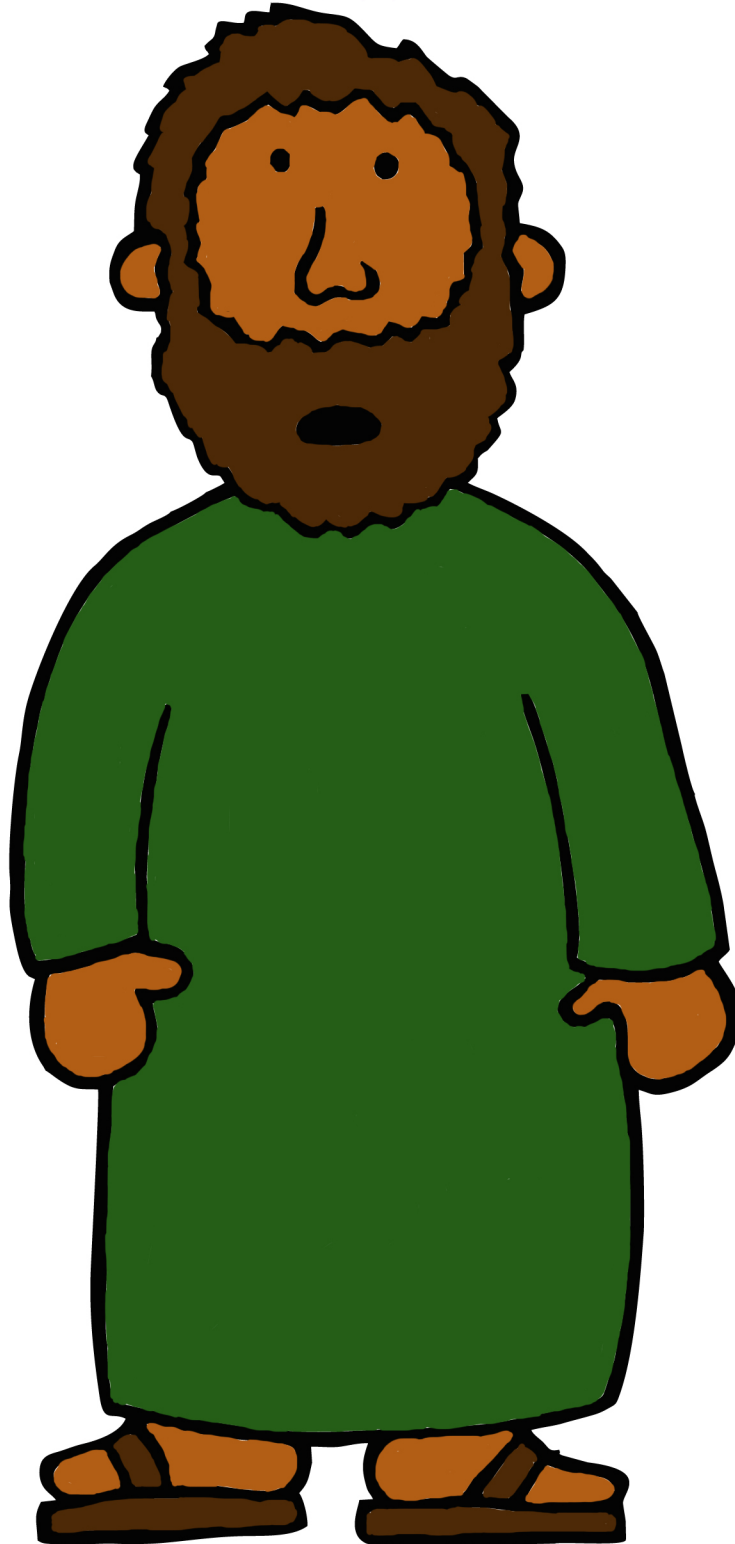
If people say, I don't want to know God, they stay his enemy forever, even after their body dies.

If people say I do want to know God, he becomes our friend, and our helper and rescuer, and we live with him forever, even when our body dies.

Conclusion: God wants us to know him. He has created a beautiful world, sent his son Jesus, and given us the Bible so he can show us who he is, and what he is like.

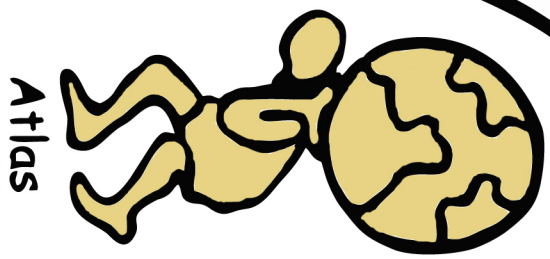
Paul

This image could be laminated, cut out and stuck on a lolly stick or popsicle stick



Temple image

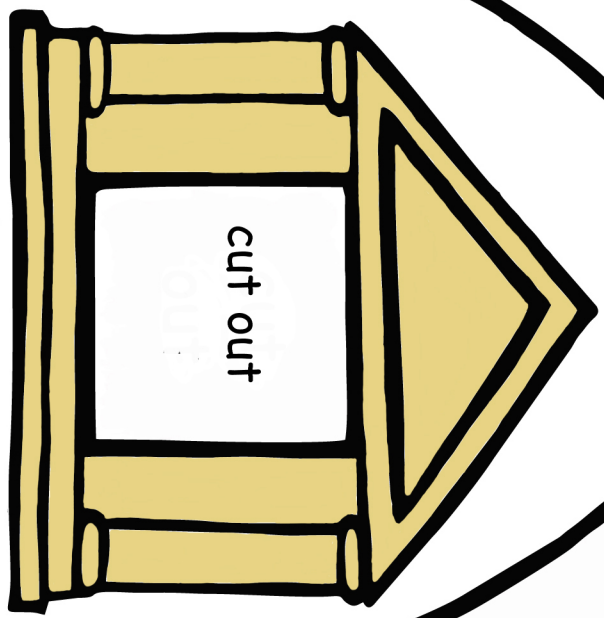
cut it out and fold it along the dotted lines to make it free standing



Atlas



Zeus

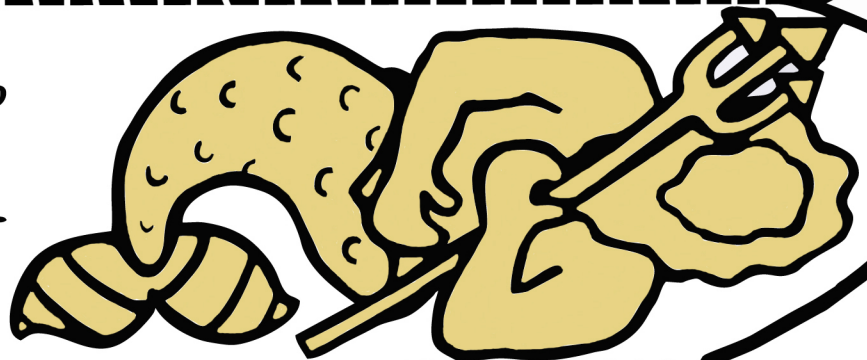


cut out

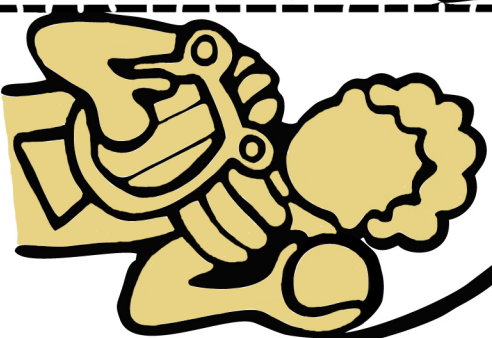
He is not far from each one of us
Acts 17:27



The Unknown God



Poseidon



Apollo

back piece

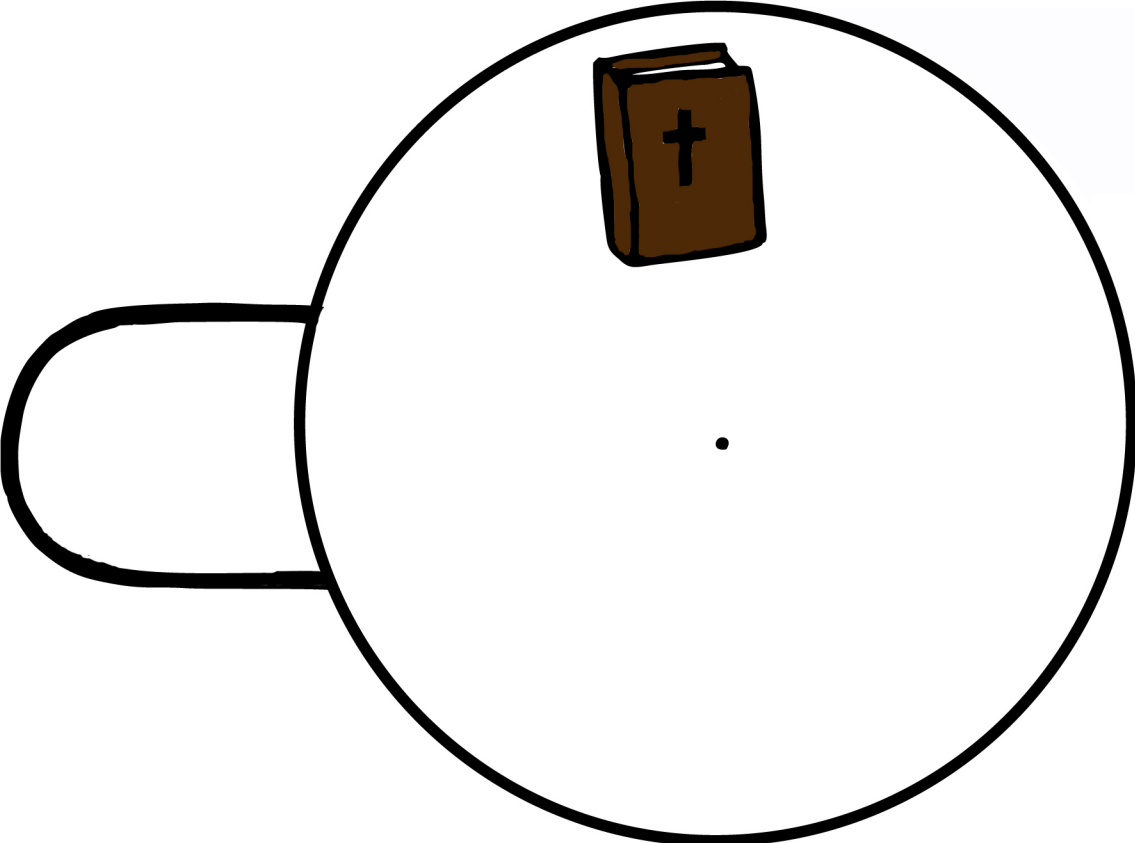
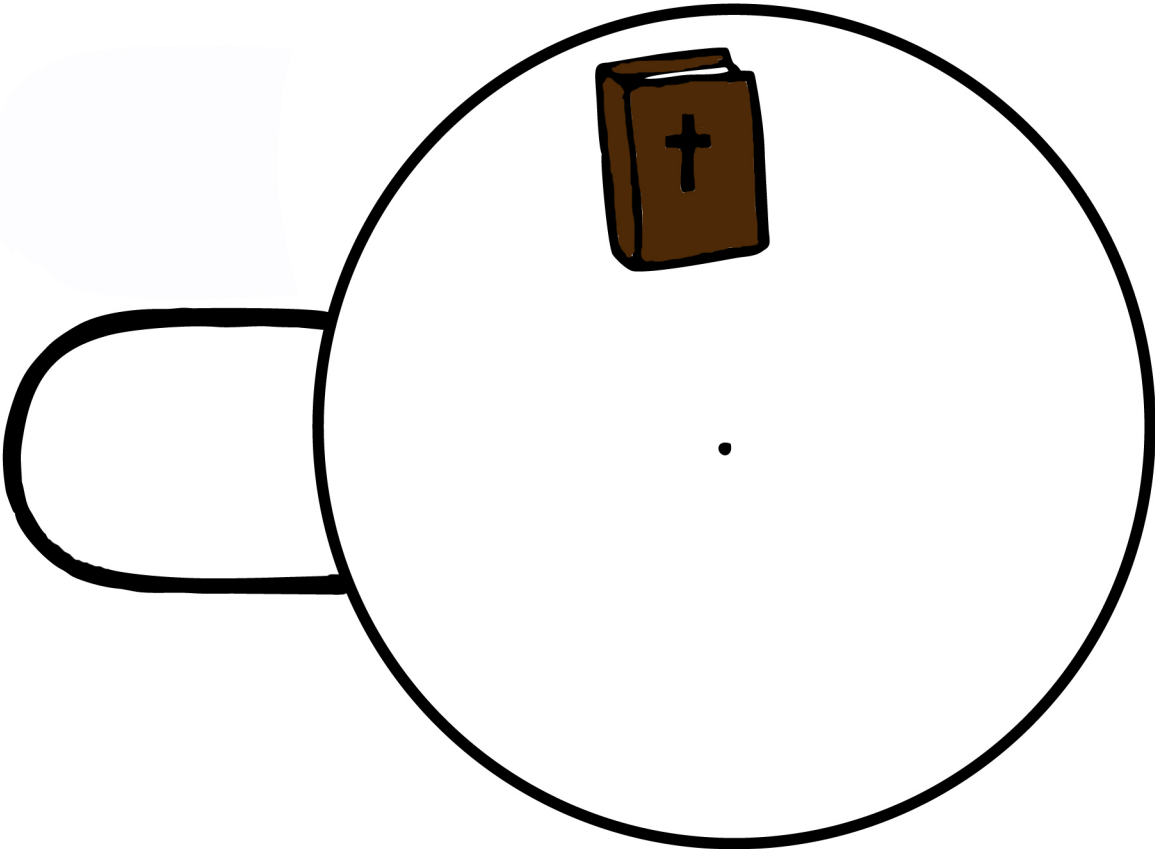


Image 1

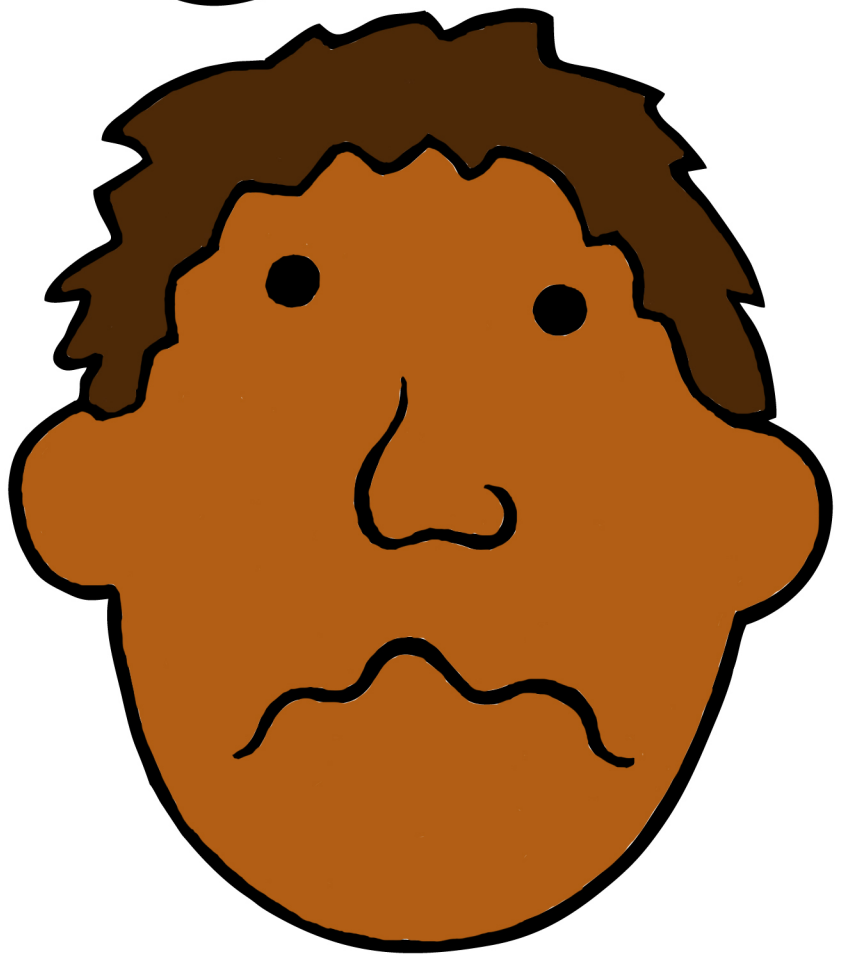


Image 2



Image 3

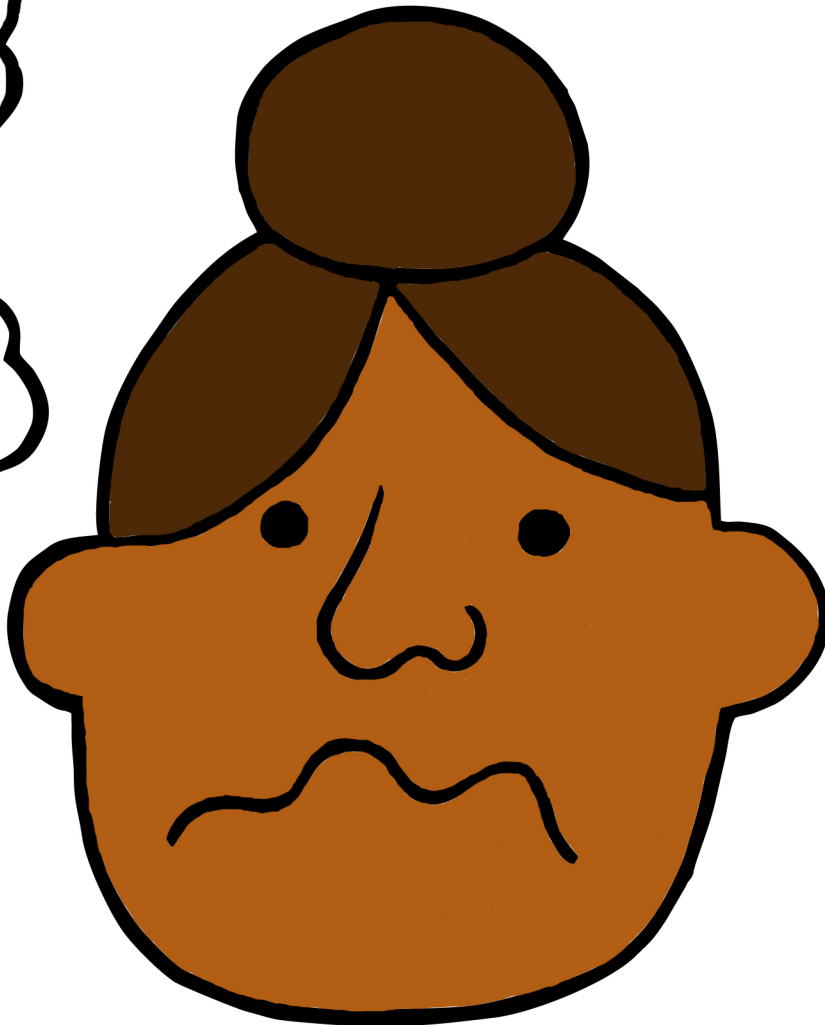
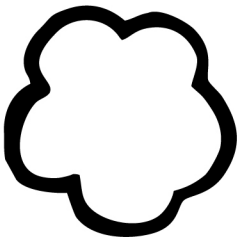
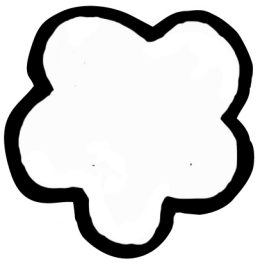
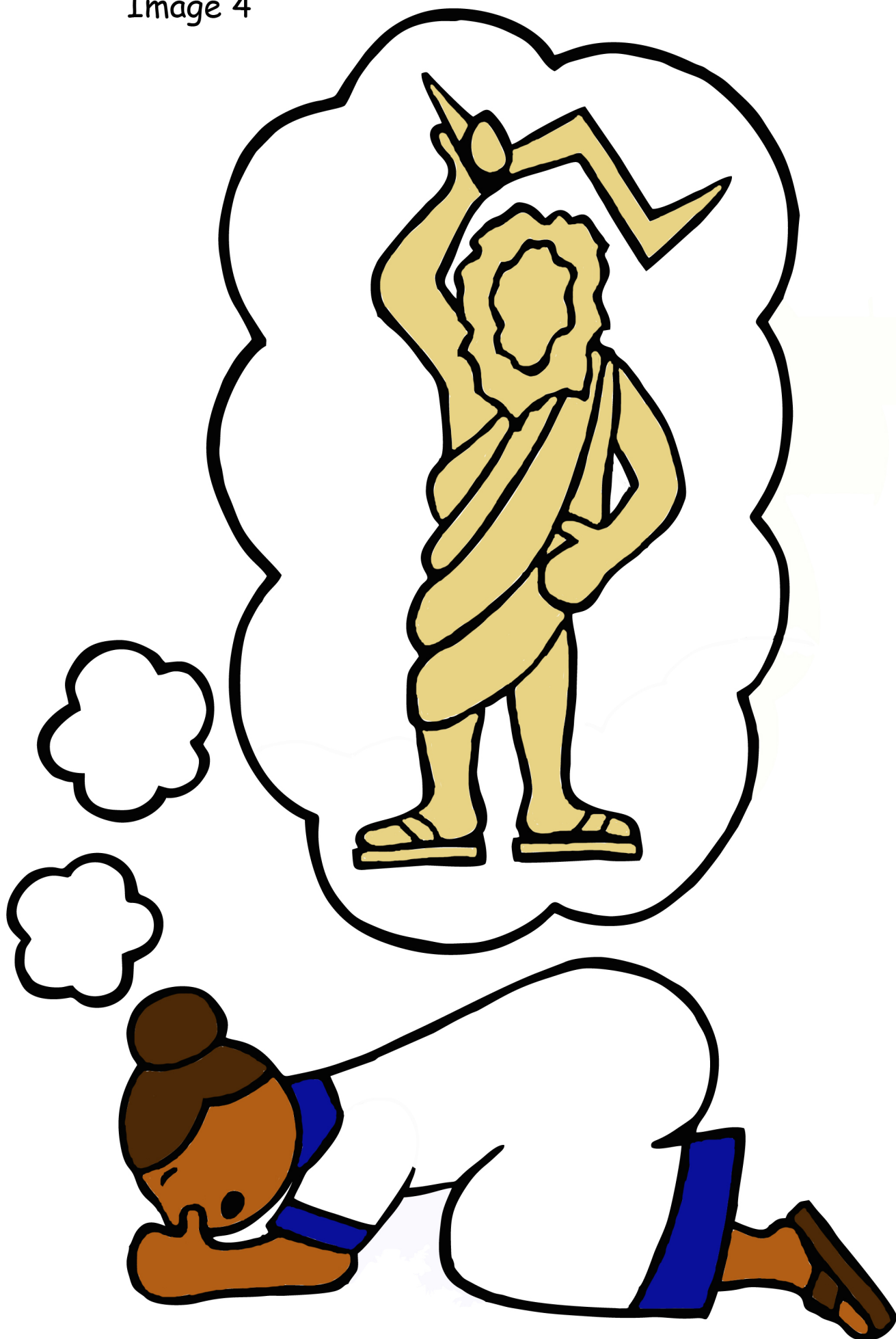


Image 4



PAUL IN ATHENS: THE UNKNOWN GOD

ACTS 17:16-34

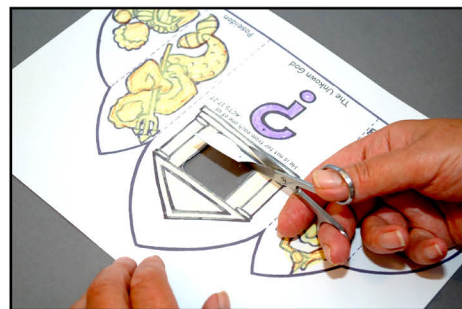


YOU WILL NEED:

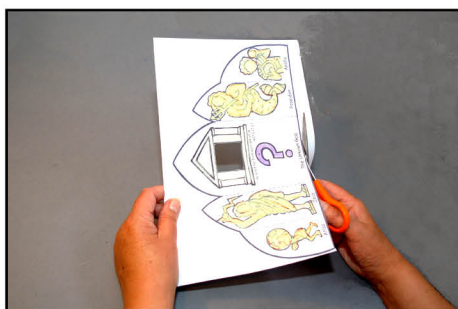
- TEMPLATE 1 AND 2 PRINTED ONTO WHITE CARD
- SCISSORS
- COLOURED PENCILS OR FELT TIPS
- SPLIT PIN OR PAPER FASTENER



STEP 1: COLOUR IN TEMPLATE 1 AND 2



STEP 2: CUT OUT MARKED AREA IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TEMPLE



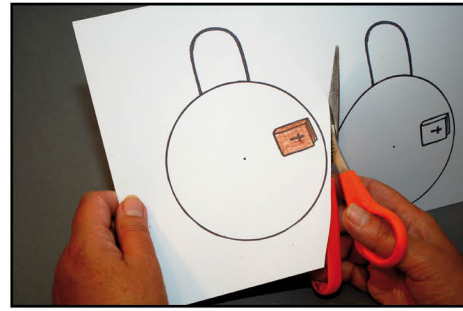
STEP 3: CUT OUT THE OUTSIDE OF TEMPLATE 1



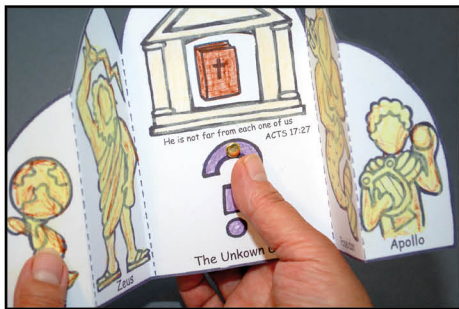
STEP 4: FOLD TEMPLATE ALONG THE INNER DOTTED LINES INWARDS



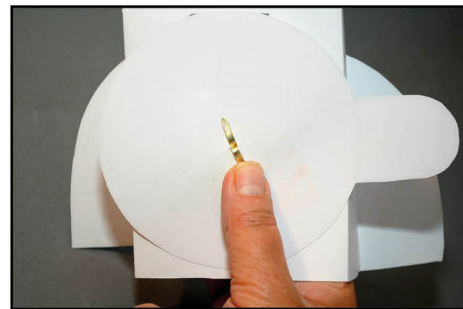
STEP 5: FOLD THE OUTER DOTTED LINES OUTWARDS



STEP 6: CUT OUT TEMPLATE 2



STEP 7: PIN TEMPLATE 2 BEHIND TEMPLATE 1, BY PUSHING THE SPLIT PIN THROUGH THE MARKED DOT (ON THE QUESTION MARK ON TEMPLATE 1 AND THE MIDDLE OF THE CIRCLE ON TEMPLATE 2)



STEP 8: OPEN SPLIT PIN OR PAPER FASTENER ON THE BACK

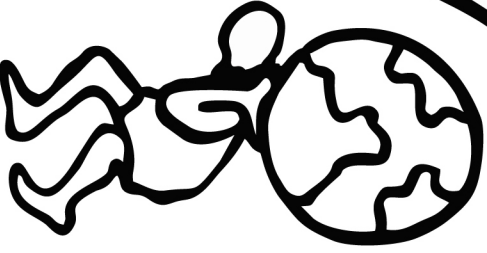


**FOR A SHORTER SESSION:
PREPARE STEP 2, 3 AND 6**



**IN A TEMPLE FILLED WITH
STATUES THAT COULD NOT
HELP THE PEOPLE OF ATHENS,
PAUL WANTED TO USE THE
ALTAR TO THE UNKNOWN
GOD TO TELL THEM ABOUT
THE TRUE GOD WHOM THEY
COULD KNOW AND WHO
COULD HELP THEM**

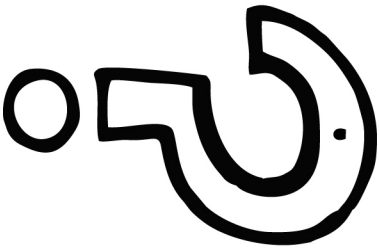
Atlas



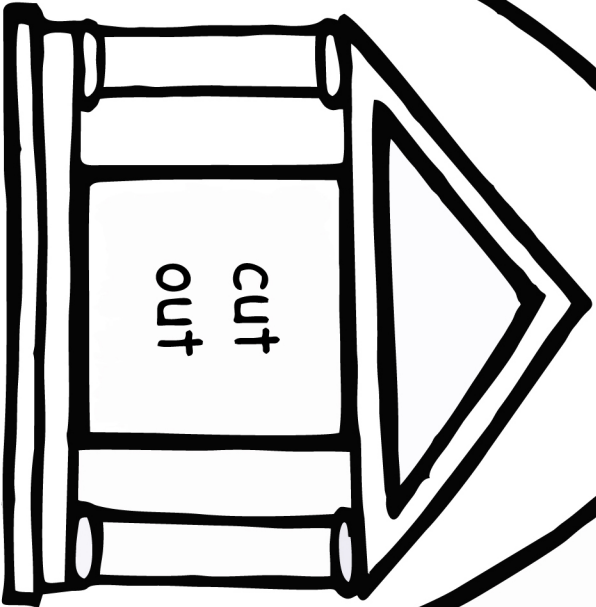
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