

Why Dorcas?

Dorcas used her gifts to help others. Many people loved her dearly because she was generous with her time and talents. When she died, Peter raised her from the dead and she became living proof of the power of God. We should try to be like Dorcas and use the gifts God has given us to help others.



Dorcas

To the leader: This is a suggested plan of study, based on a 1 ½ hour meeting. Do as many activities as time permits. All meetings can be changed or supplemented by service activities, crafts and games as planned by the leader.

First meeting (see pg 5)

Who was Dorcas; What is a miracle?

- Snack, prayer and fellowship time
- Talk about it!
- Miracles or Magic?
- Act it out!
- Pop up craft!
- Sing Friendship Circle Song

Second Meeting (see pg 6)

God's power; sharing God's love

- Snack, prayer and fellowship time
- Talk about it!
- God's Special Powers
- Let's be like Dorcas!
- We can be messengers of God's love: two gift ideas
- Sing Friendship Circle Song

Third Meeting (see pg 7)

*Using our talents to help others;
Biblical women's dress*

- Snack, prayer and fellowship time
- Dorcas used her talents
- Make it! Paper doll chains and Happy Collage
- What women wore in Bible times
- Sing Friendship Circle Song

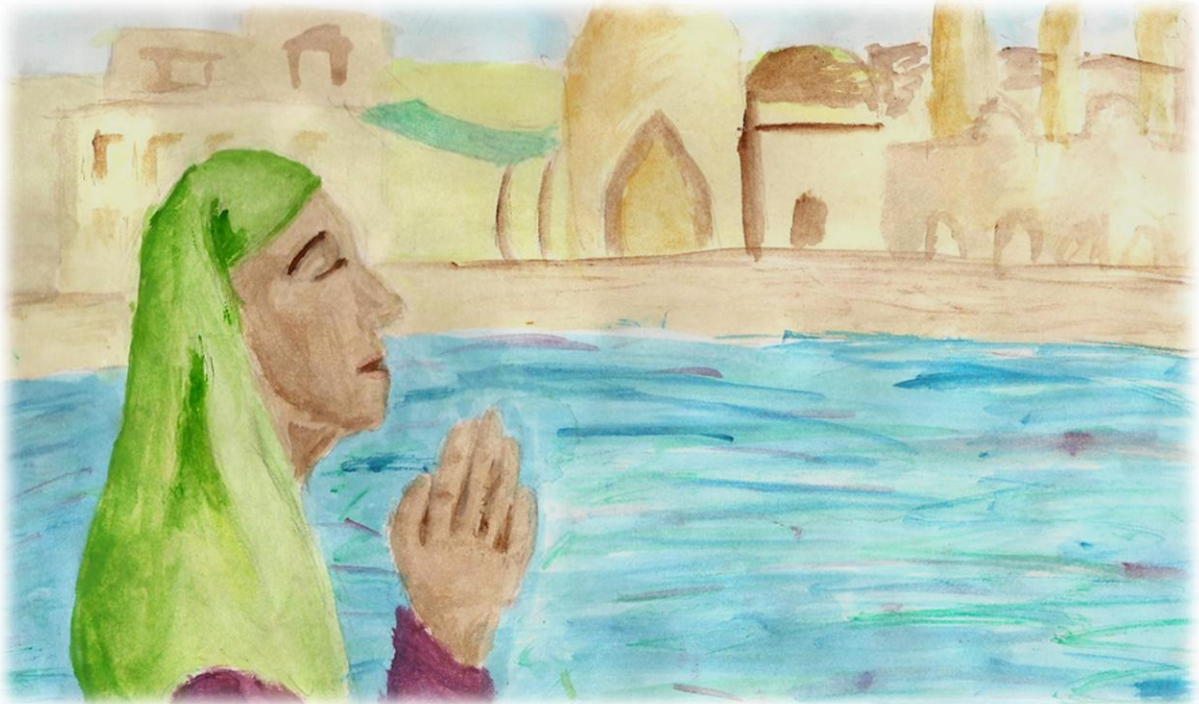
Fourth Meeting (see pg 8)

Christians are the light of the world

- Snack, prayer and fellowship time
- The Bible tells me
- Different kinds of light
- Make it! Framed prayer or votive candle holder
- Sing Friendship Circle Song

The Story of Dorcas (from Acts 9:36-42)

Dorcas was a good woman who lived in Joppa, a city by the sea. Dorcas loved God so she did many kind things for the poor, especially widows. Widows are women whose husbands have died. In those times, widows were usually very poor and alone.



Dorcas was a talented seamstress. She didn't mind spending many hours with needle and thread to create a garment for someone in need. While she sewed, she thought about God and praised Him for all of the wonderful things He has done.



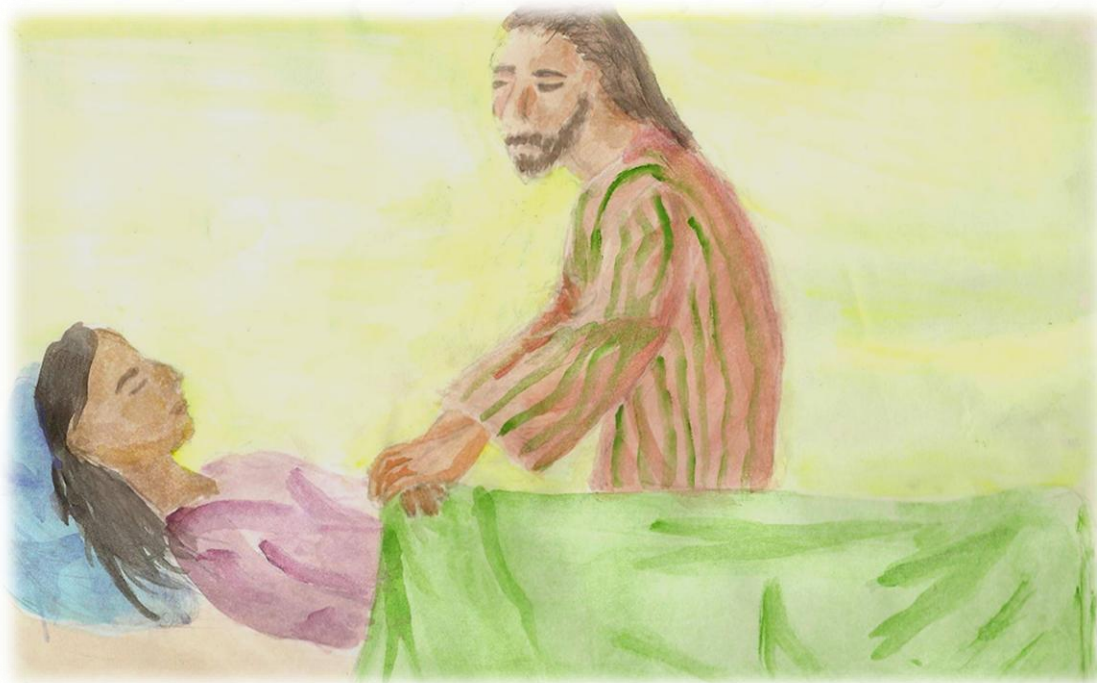
Sadly, Dorcas suddenly grew ill and died. The news traveled through the streets of Joppa that dear Dorcas had died. Her neighbors wept and wept. Dorcas' friends sent for Peter, a disciple of Jesus, to come at once. They wanted him to be with them during their grief.



When Peter arrived, he found the widows crying. They showed him the clothes that Dorcas had made for them. They told him that she had been a thoughtful neighbor and had always had time to listen to them and talk.



Peter asked to be left alone in the room where Dorcas lay. He prayed for a long time. Then he laid his hands on Dorcas and said, "Rise". Peter's prayers were answered and Dorcas got up! Everyone marveled at the power of God. Everyone was happy that Dorcas was alive and with them again.



Dorcas lived for many more years. Everyone who met her could see she was a walking example of the truth and power of God



First meeting

Who was Dorcas; What is a miracle?

Lesson Plan

Begin the meeting with time for snack, prayer and fellowship. An active game outside helps the girls unwind.

Talk about it!

Provide each girl with a copy of the Dorcas story to keep in her notebook. Read the story of Dorcas to the girls, showing the illustrations.

Miracle or magic?

Miracles show the power of God. They are a symbol of God's presence. When Dorcas died, no person would be able to bring her back to life. The miracle of Dorcas returning to life showed that Peter was a disciple of God and showed the incredible power of God.

A **magic trick** is an act that fools people. A magician uses special devices to make it appear that he is doing something that is impossible. In reality, he is creating an illusion that fools his audience.

Discuss some of the **miracles** of God such as

- the beauty of a flower
- the uniqueness of every person
- the birth of a baby

Have the girls ever seen a magic show? If you know a simple magic trick, show the girls how it really works. One common trick that they can learn is to "steal someone's nose".

Act it out!

Help the girls re-enact the story of Dorcas' life and her miraculous resurrection using simple costumes. Remember that Peter asked to be alone and prayed for God to help him. He did not show off.

Pop up craft

Make a simple pop-up card.



You will need:

- Two pieces of construction paper per child
- Scissors, glue stick, pens
- Template from Leader's List

1. Fold two rectangular pieces of construction paper in half. One piece will be the outside of the card and one piece will be the inside.



2. On the piece that will be the inside, make two 1" cuts near the middle of the fold.



3. Open the inside card sheet like a book and pop the flap toward the inside of the card by pushing on the fold line. The popped up part of the card should now look like a little chair, sitting at a right angle to the main part of the card.

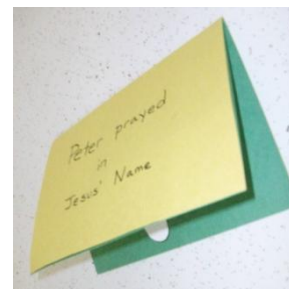


4. Use the templates in the Leader's List to copy Dorcas' headscarf, body and arms onto white paper.

5. Have the girls color and cut this out.

6. Glue Dorcas' arms to her body. Glue her headscarf to her head. Then glue the body to the flap on the inside of the card and glue the bottom portion of her body to the base of the card. See photo of finished card a beginning of these instructions. Write "God's power raised Dorcas from Death."

7. On the outside of the card, write "Peter prayed in Jesus' Name."



Sing Friendship Circle Song

Second meeting

God's power; sharing God's love

Lesson Plan

Begin the meeting with snack, prayer and conversation time. Can the girls remember the name of the woman they are studying? What happened to her?

Talk about it!

Share the story of Dorcas again. Ask the following questions:

- When did Dorcas live?
- Where do we find her story?
- What did she do to help other people?
- Why did Peter come when Dorcas died?
- What did Peter ask everyone to do?
- What special thing happened to Dorcas? How?

God's Special Powers

The power to raise a person from the dead is a very amazing power. Help the girls think of more amazing powers that God has. The power to:

- Love everyone
- Create all of the plants and animals of the earth
- Put the sun in the sky
- Heal sickness

Let's Be Like Dorcas!

Sew a doll's dress

You will need:

- Felt or fun foam, 11" x 16"
- Shears, yarn, tapestry needles
- Hole punch
- Trim and buttons (optional)

- a. Fold the felt or fun foam in half. Using the template from the Leader's page, place the shoulder part of the pattern on the fold. Cut the dress shape for each girl.



- b. With the dress shape still folded at the shoulder, punch holes



around the sides of the dress.

- c. Prepare a tapestry needle with yarn for each girl. Help them sew in and out of the punched holes to assemble the dress. Tie off the ends. If desired, buttons or trim can be glued on to the front



We can be God's messengers

Dorcas shared God's message of love by helping others. Make a gift to share with others. Do one of the following:

1. Make a pop up card, following the steps in the previous lesson and send it to someone in your congregation. Here are some ideas for cards.



*You deserve a hand!
Thanks for being an usher.*



*You are in our hearts.
Get well soon.*

2. Felt flowers
You will need:

- Colored felt or fun foam
- A variety of buttons
- Floral wire and tape



- a. In advance, cut out various flower shapes of different sizes from felt or fun foam. The easiest shapes to cut are circles using pinking shears.
- b. Thread the floral wire through a button and then through one or more flower shapes.
- c. Wrap wire stem with floral tape.



Sing the Friendship Circle Song

Third meeting

*Using our talents to help others;
Biblical women's dress*

Lesson Plan

Begin the meeting with snack, prayer and conversation time. If the girls made a gift for another person during the last meeting, discuss how the project made the girls feel and its effect on the recipient.

Dorcas used her talents

God has given different talents to different people.

- What were Dorcas' talents?
- What did she use her talents for?
- What are your talents?

What other kinds of things can we do to make people happy?

Make it!

Do at least one of the following crafts:

1. Paper doll chains

You will need:

- Large construction paper or 8 ½ x 14" colored computer paper
- Scissors, felt pens, crayons

- Prepare paper doll chains in advance. Fold colored computer paper into thirds. Draw the outline of a doll using the template in the Leader's List, extending the hands and feet so they meet the edge of the paper. Make the doll figure as large as possible so it will be easy for the girls to cut out.
- Have the girls cut out the dolls, keeping the paper folded. When they unfold the paper, three dolls will be connected.



- Ask each girl to share with you how she can cheer someone else up. Write her words on the skirt of the doll. While the other girls are waiting their turn with the

leader, they can color the faces, hair and shoes on the doll.

2. Happy Collage

You will need:

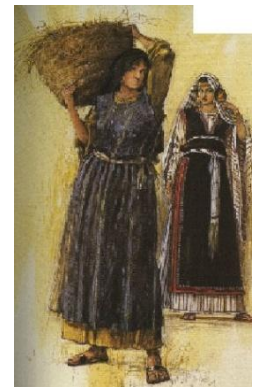
- Old children's magazines
- Scissors, glue sticks
- Large sheets of construction paper

Ask the children to flip through old magazines and cut out pictures of things that make them happy. Have them glue their pictures to a large sheet of construction paper. Title the sheets "Happy Collage" and write "Everyone was happy when Dorcas was alive again."

What women wore in Bible times

In Bible times, women wore 4 basic pieces of clothing.

- Tunic-this was a garment worn next to the body. For women, it usually reached to the ground
- Girdle-this was a wide piece of fabric that was worn around the waist to keep the tunic from getting in the way while moving around. It could also be used as a place to store money.
- Headdress-women wore a light veil to cover their heads. They usually had very long hair that they wore in braids.
- Outer garment-an outer garment was worn for additional warmth and sometimes used clothing as a blanket at night.



- ✓ Draw a picture of a woman wearing all 4 pieces of clothing. Place picture in notebook.

Sing Friendship Circle Song

Fourth Meeting

Christians are the light of the world.

Lesson Plan

Begin the meeting with snack, prayer and conversation time. Review the clothing of Biblical women.

The Bible Tells Me So

In Matthew 5:16, Jesus said “Don’t hide your light! Let it shine for all, let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father!”

Lights and mirrors!

Since we are Christians, we are God's light to the world. This means we should treat all people well and live good lives. Reading the Bible teaches us how to be good and be the light God wants us to be.

We can also be mirrors of God's light. This means we can copy the good behavior we see in others.

1. Read several clue words until they are able to guess the type of light you are describing.

Clue				Answer
Distant	Bright	Hot	Rays	Sun
Flame	Wax	Melts	Wick	Candle
Bulb	Shade	Switch	Plug	Lamp
Batteries	Camping	Beam	Switch	Flash-light
Book	True	Sacred	Read	Bible

2. Sing “This Little Light of Mine”
3. Take the girls to the church to count all of the candles in the church. What do the candles help them remember?

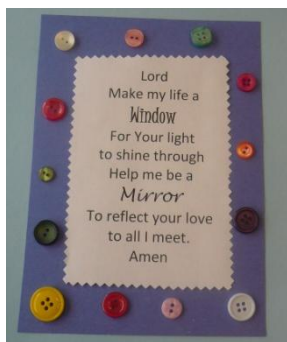
Make it!

Make one or both of the following crafts:

1. Print the following prayer on a card.

Lord, make my life a window for Your light to shine through. Help me be a mirror to reflect Your love to all I meet. Amen.

Have the girls glue the card to a small piece of poster board. Give them buttons to glue around the edges to form a frame.



2. Make a votive candle for home

You will need:

- small baby food jars
- salt
- colored tissue paper or pretty napkins
- white glue
- ribbon
- tea candles



What you do:

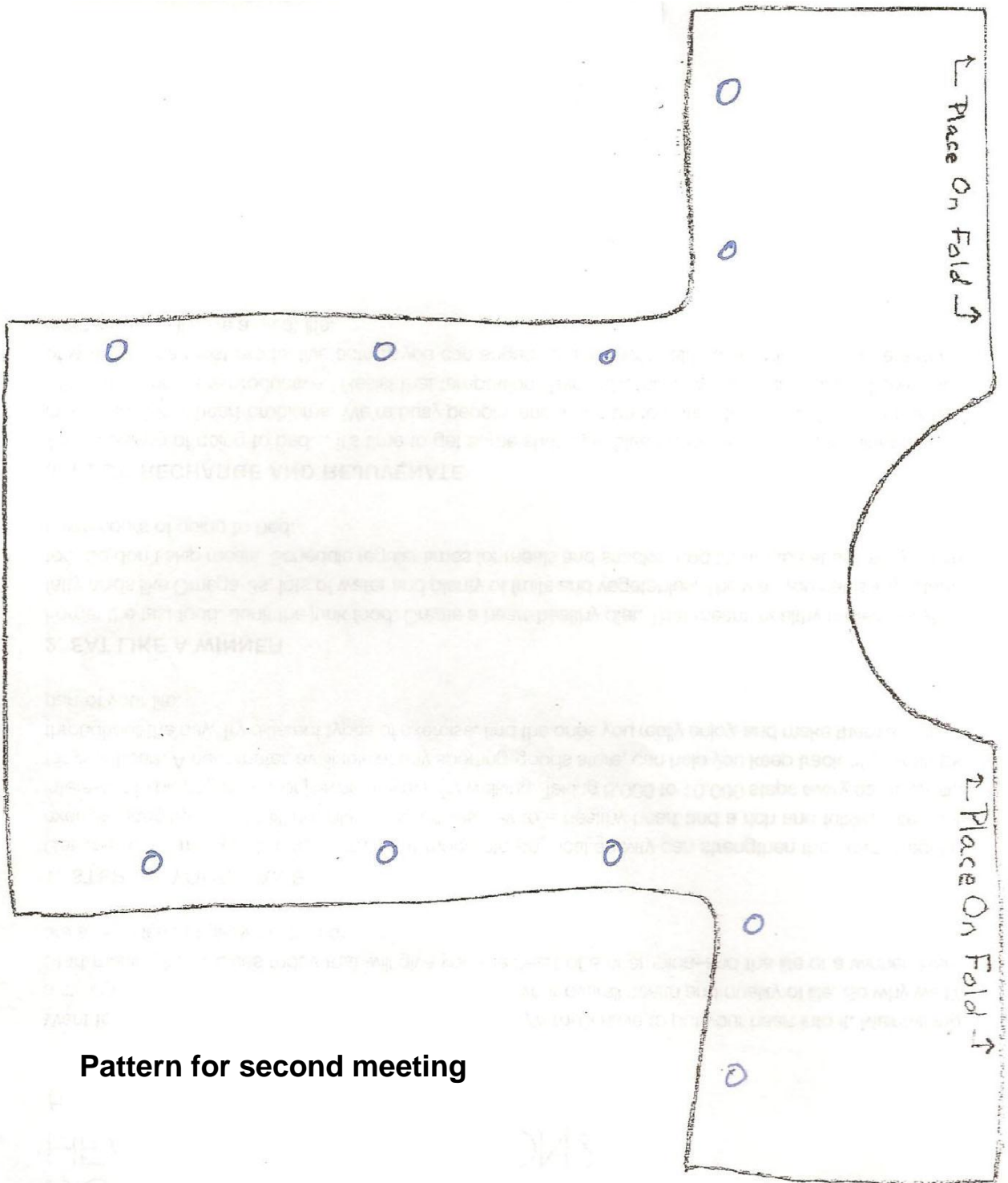
- a. Pour some white glue into a container and add a bit of water to thin it.
- b. Use a paint brush to cover the outside of the jar with the thinned glue.
- c. Cover the now-gluey jar with bits of colored tissue paper. (Encourage the girls to make a thin layer—so that the light will come through better.)
- d. CAREFULLY apply another light coat of glue on top of the tissue paper.
- e. While glue is still wet, sprinkle salt on outside of jar. This adds a textured sparkle.
- f. Tie a pretty ribbon around the top.
- g. Set them aside to dry, and before the children take them home, make sure each one has a tea candle in it.



Crafting tip: The color on art tissue paper runs when it gets wet, and gets all over fingers and clothes. This won't happen if you use gift-wrap tissue paper or the top layer of pretty napkins.

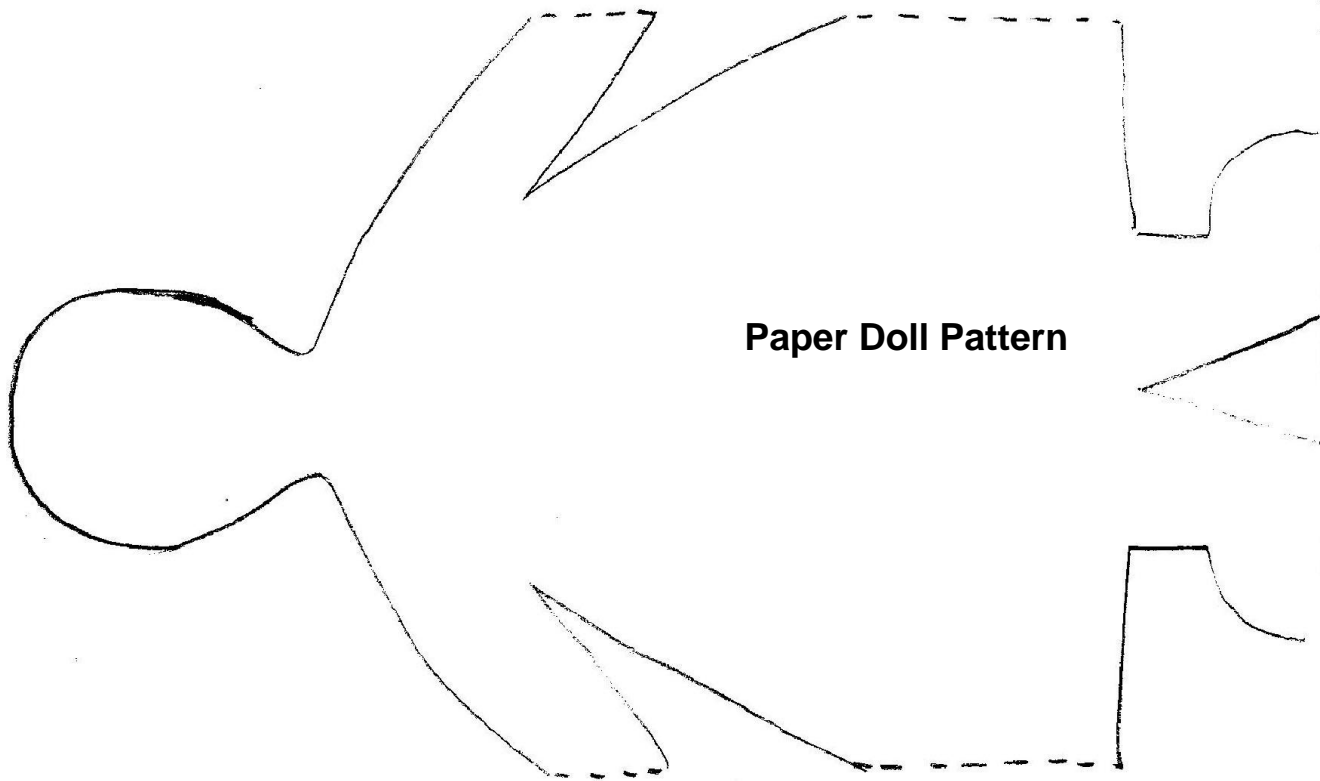
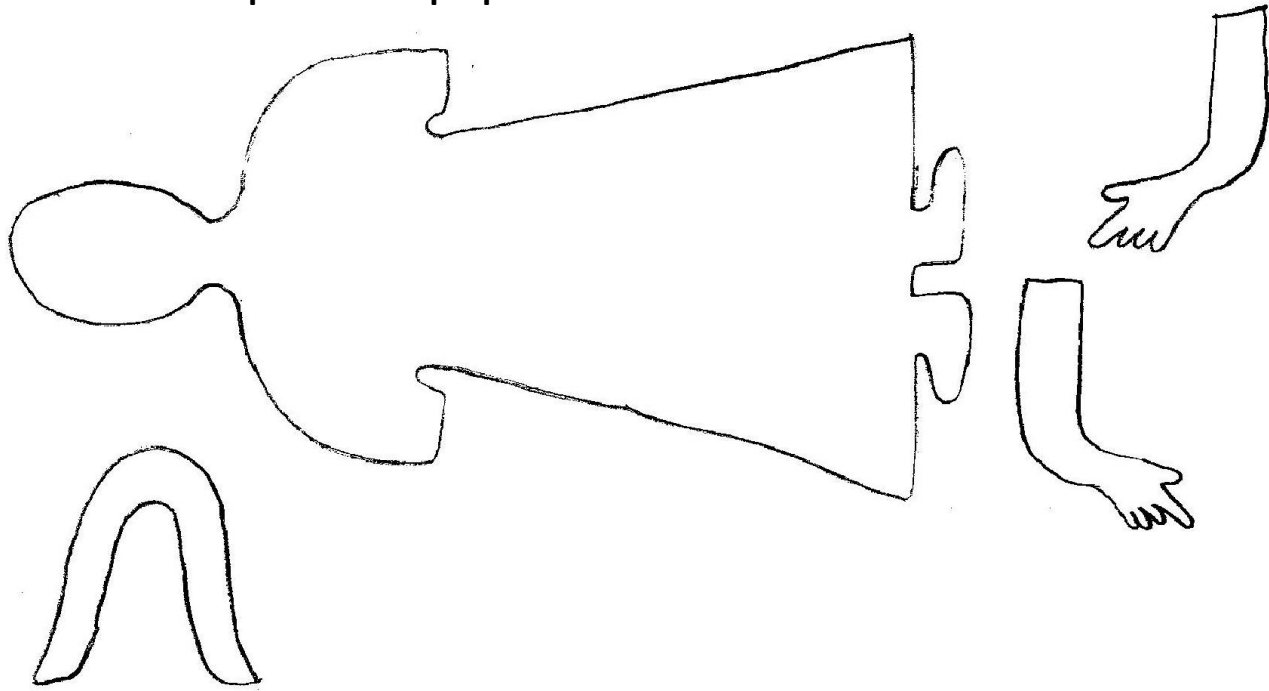
Sing the Friendship Circle Song

Leader's List



Pattern for second meeting

Template for Pop Up Card



Paper Doll Pattern