

# HANDS & FEET

serving with your children



...LOVE GOD & LOVE OTHERS...

These equipping materials came from a ministry that was started by Watermark parents of very young children. But this packet is really for any parents who want to serve with their children – probably anywhere from 2 years-old through elementary-age.

Inside you'll find some favorite project ideas, with detailed ideas and even "Reminder Pennants" to track your progress as a family. Hopefully this will springboard you to lots of other creative ideas!

If you'd like to join with other Watermark families in these sorts of service projects and your children are around 2 to 5 years old, be sure to check out "Hands and Feet Service Projects" on Facebook (the group is closed for safety, so just request permission to join!). You can also contact us at [handsandfeetprojects@gmail.com](mailto:handsandfeetprojects@gmail.com).

# WHY SERVE WITH KIDS?

by amy hulme

A consistent desire I hear from parents of young children is to have a place they can serve together with their kids. However, service opportunities are not always conducive to the preschool crowd. Often, parents who want to serve with their kids don't know where to start.

Plus, there are a few hindrances:

- \* **IT CAN BE A HASSLE TO SERVE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN.**

*You need access to a bathroom, snacks, and water, and sometimes just getting out the door on time with shoes seems like a service project in and of itself.*

- \* **PRESCHOOLERS GENERALLY CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO DO MUCH IN REGARDS TO SERVING. UNSUPERVISED.**

*A young child has to be partnered with someone else in order to do the job of one person, and even then it may not be accomplished to the same degree that one adult could do on his/her own.*

- \* **TIME IS LIMITED.**

*Whether it is due to attention span or time that they have to physically be engaged with a project, little kids have a short window of time each day that they can successfully dedicate to a service project.*

But here is why we should involve our young children in service projects, despite the hindrances:

- \* **BECAUSE OF THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS. FOUND IN MARK 12:30-31: LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS.**

*Serving with your kids demonstrates to them that your family makes loving and serving others a priority.*

- \* **BECAUSE THIS CAN BE THE BEGINNING OF DISCOVERING YOUR CHILD'S GIFTS AND HEART FOR SERVICE.**

*For example, one of my kids would love to greet and chat with people all day. The other would be happy sorting cans or clothes, and would prefer minimal interaction with people. This, of course, could change over time, but it is interesting to think that we may be seeing how God has designed them.*

- \* **BECAUSE THIS IS TRAINING THEM.**

*Just like I have my kids help with chores (that I could do faster and better myself), and we work with them to memorize scripture (even if they don't completely understand it yet), when we serve together we are laying the groundwork for them to grow into individuals who know what it means to serve others, and have a desire to do it.*

- \* **BECAUSE IT LEADS TO GREAT CONVERSATIONS.**

*One summer as we undertook a series of service projects, I had the opportunity to talk with my kids about homelessness, hunger, how sometimes people make bad choices and sometimes they are victims of other people making bad choices, excess, and environmental responsibility.*

- \* **BECAUSE IT HELPS COMBAT THE EVER-PRESENT STRUGGLE WITH ENTITLEMENT.**

*When we use our time to serve others, it shifts our focus away from ourselves.*

# A NOTE ON SERVICE, DISCIPLESHIP, & GOING IN-DEPTH

by watermark's external focus team

The leaders of Hands & Feet Projects (that produced this packet) have stated that they're committed to doing more with their kids than simply "making something" to serve others. We love that outlook!

Obviously, handmade crafts or other creations can be great service projects. But as you're raising up little servants, we should look for chances to give our kids as "in-depth" an experience as their age and understanding allow. In other words, we're discipling them – not just "doing service"!

There are a few great ways to disciple your kids and go deeper as you serve – ways you'll see carried out by the projects in this packet.

## \* BY LEARNING.

*Whatever the service project is, it's likely you can teach your kids facts and principles about the associated topics. This includes bringing in scriptural themes, as well as helping them understand the larger issues the service project connects with. (And you just might learn some things, too!)*

## \* THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS.

*It's always better to put a face to the people we're serving. So when possible, visit the people you're serving in-person, or at least help your child "get to know them" by sharing stories, showing pictures, and providing context.*

## \* BY REPETITION.

*Variety can be great for kids, and it's good to try different opportunities to find out what fits your child best. But at the same time, it can be valuable to go "deeper" into one particular form of service, too. Returning to the same activity, spending time with the same people, and serving the same people in a variety of ways can all help your child grow in understanding and affection for service.*

## \* BY REMINDER.

*One of the coolest parts of the Hands & Feet Projects – but an easy element to overlook – is the use of the "Reminder Pennants"! Whether you use pictures like these or other reminders, it's important to spend time reviewing ways your child has been learning about service.*

Remember, you're molding little hearts to be servants for a lifetime, not simply doing some service projects. These habits will help!

Special thanks to Amy Hulme, Jennifer Miller, Lisa Miller, Amanda Myers, and Sarah Munson for all their work creating this resource!

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\* Please note that lots of links to organizations and sites outside of Watermark are included in this packet. While we have found these to be useful ministries, secular organizations, and materials, please use wisdom as you pursue these opportunities.\*

...LOVE OTHERS...

# MEALS ON BIG WHEELS



## project:

Deliver meals to residents in low-income housing through the Dallas VNA. We will be doing this through Wee Volunteer, and volunteers will ride on a “party” bus together to deliver the meals.

## supplies / preparation:

- \* Meals on Big Wheels is done through Wee Volunteer. You can get a group together and reserve a private project, or sign up for a public project. Cost is \$300 for a private project (maximum of 30 volunteers), or \$10 per person for a public project. [www.weevolunteer.org](http://www.weevolunteer.org)
- \* Kids can make cards or place mats (laminating them if possible using contact paper or by taking them to an Office Supply Store) to give residents when they deliver the meals.

## devotional:

Read Matthew 25:35-40 together. Jesus tells us that when we love and serve others, we are also loving and serving Him. Discuss how you are loving and serving the residents by meeting a need for them – delivering food that they are unable to provide for themselves. By smiling and being friendly to the residents, we are hopefully helping them to feel loved and cared for. Jesus loves to see us love others. Before or after the project, pray for the residents with your children – for their health, for their continued provision, and that they would know who Jesus is.

## discuss:

- \* Who are some other people in our everyday lives we can love and serve? What can we do for them?
- \* We need to remember to be thankful for all that God has provided for us, and ask Him to show us how we can help meet the needs of others.

## additional information:

- \* Meals on Wheels is a program your family could choose to participate in on a regular basis by taking a regular route. This would be a great way to build relationships with residents you would see each time you deliver meals. Contact your local Meals on Wheels for more information.
- \* For VNA's Meals on Wheels program, visit [www.vnatexas.org/i-want-to-get-involved/volunteering](http://www.vnatexas.org/i-want-to-get-involved/volunteering). VNA's Meals On Wheels Volunteer Kitchen is located at 1440 West Mockingbird Ln., Dallas.



# BIRTHDAY IN A BAG



## project:

Gather supplies and put together a “birthday-in-a-bag” to be donated to Brother Bill’s Helping Hand or Minnie’s Food Pantry (or contact other food pantries to see if they take birthday supplies). Make birthday cards to include in each bag.

## supplies / preparation:



- \* Each bag will need a box of cake mix, a can of frosting, a gift bag to hold all the supplies, and miscellaneous party supplies (balloons, candles, streamers, hats, etc. – this is a great chance to clean out your own party stash).
- \* Supplies can be gender-specific or themed, or they can be for a general birthday party.
- \* Use markers / crayons, construction paper, stickers, etc., to make a birthday card to include in the bag. Make sure the cards the kids decorate say “God made you, and you are special!”

## devotional:

Read Psalm 139:13-14 together. God created every person and made them just the way He wanted them to be, and because He made us, the Bible says we are wonderfully made! When we celebrate our birthdays, it is a great time to remember that God made us and everything He makes is good.

## discuss:

- \* What is your favorite birthday treat?
- \* What is your favorite thing to do on your birthday? Do you feel special on your birthday?
- \* Some families don’t have enough money to be able to have a birthday treat or party, so we are putting together a bag full of party supplies to help them celebrate.
- \* Pray for the child that will be receiving your birthday bag.
- \* If appropriate for your kids’ ages, discuss families that might look different than your own (like single-parent families, families with less financial means, etc.).

## additional information:



- \* Pre-determined drop off locations will be organized to collect the Birthday Bags. If you would like provide your home as a drop-off location and deliver the bags collected at your house, feel free to contact the hands and feet leadership team at [handsandfeetprojects@gmail.com](mailto:handsandfeetprojects@gmail.com) and we can help you get you set up.
- \* If you are delivering several bags, you may want to call Brother Bill’s, or Minnie’s Food Pantry (or the food pantry where you are donating them) to make sure they are open the day/time you plan on delivering. You may also be able to get a tour of the facility, which is a great chance for your kids to see how that organization serves those in the community.
- \* Brother Bill’s Helping Hand: [www.bbhh.org/index.php?action=programs](http://www.bbhh.org/index.php?action=programs) or [volunteer@bbhh.org](mailto:volunteer@bbhh.org)
- \* Minnie’s Food Pantry: [www.minniesfoodpantry.org](http://www.minniesfoodpantry.org)

# FOOD DRIVE

## project:

Collect non-perishable food to be donated to a local food bank. This can range from setting aside part of your family's grocery budget or other funds to purchase extra food to be donated, to rallying your friends and neighbors to contribute food. Deliver the food to the food bank.

## supplies / preparation:

- \* Decide where you want to donate your food – find out their hours and if they have specific needs. Brother Bill's Helping Hand and Cornerstone Baptist Church's Kitchen are the two Watermark partners that would love to receive your food, but there are other great food pantries as well.
- \* If using your own funds, decide how much you will spend and the best place to get the most for your money.
- \* If collecting food from neighbors, make and decorate flyers with info about what you are collecting and when you will collect it, and supply an empty grocery bag for your neighbors to fill.
- \* You will need something to collect the food in – a wagon or cart, or your car if you drive. 

## devotional:

Read John 6:1-13 together (or use a children's Story Bible and read the story of Jesus feeding the 5000). There were lots of hungry people and one small boy gave what he had – two fish and five loaves of bread – to help feed them. Jesus performed a miracle and turned what would be a meal for one person into enough to feed 5000 people, plus they had leftovers! God loves when we are willing to share what we have, and He can do great things through His people, including kids!

## discuss:

- \* Can you think of a time that you were really hungry? There are people who are really hungry, every day, and places like food banks help them get the food they need. We can help hungry people by giving food to the food bank.
- \* Pray for the people who will be receiving the food – that they will have their needs met and that they will know Jesus.
- \* Pray for the workers at the food bank - that they will love their job, they will love and serve the people who come to the food bank and that they will also know Jesus.
- \* If appropriate for your kids' ages, discuss the issue of hunger. A useful Family Discipleship Guide on this issue can be downloaded at [www.watermark.org/hunger-discipleship](http://www.watermark.org/hunger-discipleship).



## additional information:

- \* If involving others, you may want to focus on one item like peanut butter. PB is a popular item at food banks because most kids like it and it's a good source of protein. Maybe organize a peanut butter drive to help stock the food bank. (Or better yet, find out with your children what the food bank is lacking or what their high need items are!)
- \* Make this project more personal by letting your kids pick out their favorite foods to donate.
- \* Suggested places you can donate food items:
  - Brother Bill's Helping Hand - [www.bbhh.org](http://www.bbhh.org)
  - Network Food Pantry - [www.thenetwork.org/Donate\\_Food/Wish\\_list\\_donate\\_food.html](http://www.thenetwork.org/Donate_Food/Wish_list_donate_food.html) (they even have a "wish list" of the current, most-needed items)
  - Cornerstone Baptist Church's Kitchen - [www.cornerstonedallas.org](http://www.cornerstonedallas.org)
  - CitySquare - [www.citysquare.org](http://www.citysquare.org)
  - Minnie's Food Pantry - [www.minniesfoodpantry.org](http://www.minniesfoodpantry.org)
  - Beautiful Feet Ministries - Fort Worth - [thefeet.org/about-us/location](http://thefeet.org/about-us/location)
  - Food 4 Kids - Plano - [web.ntfb.org/learn-more/programs/food4kids-plano](http://web.ntfb.org/learn-more/programs/food4kids-plano)
  - A Christian Food Pantry - [www.acfoodpantry.org](http://www.acfoodpantry.org)
  - 7 Loaves Community Food Pantry - [www.7loavescommunity.org/give/in-kind-donations](http://www.7loavescommunity.org/give/in-kind-donations)
- \* BONUS SUMMER OPPORTUNITY! Many students at local schools receive free breakfasts and/or lunches. But when school is out for the summer, these kids face food insecurity. So local food banks often step in. Check with a local food bank to see if there are any particular needs for these kids. You may even be able to create lunch bags to deliver to the food bank, or to serve kids directly!



# CLOSET / TOY / HOME CLEAN-OUT

## project:

Are your homes and rooms feeling cluttered?? Clear those rooms and do something great with your stuff! You can gather items from EVERY area of your home- toys, clothes, books, even kitchen and home items! The more, the better! This project includes physical delivery of "stuff" to places, because kids need to see and experience this important part of the process.



## supplies / preparation:

Paper/poster board and tape to make sorting areas for donations, if you are combining stuff with a bigger group, a large open area may be helpful. If you want to narrow your donation types (maybe just kid stuff, just clothes... that's ok too!)

## devotional:

Read 1 John 3:17 together. Our things, and excess of material things, should be held loosely. We have an ample amount of "things" that can be used to help others. Helping others is showing Jesus' love to them. Matthew 6:19,21 are also great verses to share.

## discuss:

- \* What is something you have that you are grateful for?
- \* What is your favorite thing you own?
- \* Do you have enough clothes? toys? books? Are some children missing those things? How would you feel if you didn't have another shirt if yours got dirty? Or what if you didn't have jammies and a blanket at night?
- \* Pray for the people who will be receiving the items you brought – that they will have their needs met and that they will know Jesus.
- \* Consider discussing the needs that are addressed by the organization(s) you take items to (see below).



## additional information:

- \* Baby/pregnancy/maternity items: Thrive Women's Clinic
- \* Books: Readers 2 Leaders, Questcare
- \* Toys: The Family Place, Cornerstone
- \* Hygiene / unopened medical supplies within expiration dates: Cornerstone Baptist Church in South Dallas has a clinic and accepts donations as well as Plus One ([www.7loavescommunity.org/services/plus-one](http://www.7loavescommunity.org/services/plus-one))
- \* Housewares: Interfaith Housing Coalition
- \* Furniture: A Christian Food Pantry & Thrift Store ([www.acfoodpantry.org](http://www.acfoodpantry.org))
- \* Clothing: Joseph's Coat-7 Loaves Community ([www.7loavescommunity.org/give/in-kind-donations](http://www.7loavescommunity.org/give/in-kind-donations))
- \* Food: Brother Bill's, Minnie's Food Pantry, Cornerstone Baptist Church's kitchen



# SOLDIER LETTERS

## project:

Have kids design art & letters to soldiers. This project focuses on the value of encouraging others.

## supplies / preparation:



Use markers/crayons, construction paper, stickers, etc., to create the letters. The letters do not need individual envelopes if you are mailing a bulk collection to "A Million Thanks" or similar organization.

## devotional:

Read Acts 11:21-26 together. God uses others to encourage us. We are used to encourage others. When the news of Jesus was being spread in the early church, Barnabas was used to be a source of joy to others. Barnabas stood by the truth Paul shared and he helped others. God gave Barnabas a role in the early church by encouraging! There is great power in encouraging each other. It is one of the most tangible ways to be Jesus (or be like Jesus) to those we come in contact with every day.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 is also a great verse to share.

## discuss:



- \* Who are soldiers? What are they tasked with doing? Why is their job hard?
- \* Who are some other people we can encourage? What can we do for them with our words and actions?
- \* How can God use little kids to encourage others?
- \* We need to always remember to look for people that might need to be cheered along their way!
- \* Before or after the project, pray for soldiers with your children – for their safety, for their endurance and that they would know who Jesus is.
- \* If appropriate for your kids' ages, discuss more deeply the role of those in our Armed Forces, and the way God uses government for our good. (Romans 13:1-7 is one place to start.)

## additional information:

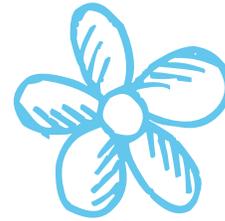
- \* [www.amillionthanks.org](http://www.amillionthanks.org) will send letters. Mail to "A Million Thanks" 17853 Santiago Blvd, #107-355, Villa Park, CA 9286. Postage donations are suggested - maybe stick a dollar inside your letter, or more if you are sending a bulk amount from a big group.
- \* "A Million Thanks" says it's OK to send scripture and prayers on their letters.
- \* Letters should be positive and cheery.
- \* If children include their address, a soldier may write back!



# PARK PICK-UP

## project:

Pick up trash and wipe down benches and picnic tables at a local park.



## supplies / preparation:

- \* Disposable gloves and hand sanitizer will be provided
- \* Please bring 2-3 plastic grocery bags, a spray bottle with water, and paper towels or rags.

## devotional:

Read the story of creation from Genesis 1 (or in a children's story Bible), and Psalm 24:1. God created the world and everything in it, and He said it was good. We can love and serve God by taking care of the things He made and gave to us.

## discuss:

- \* Look around. What is something you see that God made?
- \* What would it be like to come play at the park if no one took care of it?
- \* How can we help take care of the world around us?



## additional information:

- \* Several pre-determined groups will be organized regionally on different dates, and each group will have a leader going to a different park. If those dates/locations don't work for you, and you would like to head up a project at a park near you, feel free to contact the hands and feet leadership team at [handsandfeetprojects@gmail.com](mailto:handsandfeetprojects@gmail.com) and we can help you get one set up.
- \* Remember to tell kids to be cautious with what they pick up – if they see anything sharp (broken glass, nails, needles, etc.), tell them not to touch it and to find a grown up. Anyone too young to discern what is sharp should have an adult with them.



# FIRE STATION VISIT

## project:

Deliver handmade cards and treats to local fire stations, thanking the firemen and women for their service. If desired, call ahead and request a tour of the station to educate your kids on all that they do for us.

## supplies / preparation:



- \* Use markers/crayons, construction paper, stickers, etc., to make thank you cards.
- \* Buy or make treats to deliver to your local fire station (cookies, chex mix, muffins, etc.)
- \* If you desire a tour of the fire station, call your city Fire Department and ask to speak with the Fire Chief or Administration that schedules tours.

## devotional:

Read Luke 17:11-19 together. Discuss how ten lepers were healed, but only one returned to thank Jesus. As his followers we need to express our gratitude, not only to God for all he does for us, but also to his people who serve us in so many ways.

## discuss:

- \* Who are some other people we can thank for serving us? What can we do for them?
- \* Read Romans 8:6-11. We all fight a kind of fire every day, and that fire is sin. God gives us many tools to fight against it: the Bible, wise friends and parents, and our own conscience. Just as water fights a fire, the most important tool God gives us to fight sin is His Holy Spirit. Firefighters know they must connect to a water source through a fire hydrant or their fire truck. We connect with the power of God's Spirit through prayer.
- \* In an age appropriate way, discuss the work of firefighters and/or other public servants. Talk about courage and the best source of Christians' courage, God himself.

## additional information:



Be sure to prepare your kids ahead of time: If the firemen/women receive a call when you are there, the visit will need to end immediately and they may not get to complete their tour. Explain the reason would be so they could go and help those in need.

# SENIOR CENTER VISIT



## project:

Visit a local Senior Center (Retirement Center, Assisted Living, Nursing Home) and love on the residents by singing songs and passing out homemade cards.

## supplies / preparation:

- \* Find a local facility that you would like to visit as a family or grab some friends and go together as a small group or community group.
- \* Call ahead and ask for the Activities Director. They might want to organize an event around your visit or they might have a recommended time for your visit (i.e. just before or after mealtime in the dining room when all of the residents are gathered together).
- \* Select kid friendly songs that your kids know and love and most importantly highlight God's love and care for us. Maybe even some songs from WeeJoice (Starting Blocks Sunday morning music) like these:
  - *My Best Friend*
  - *God Cares 4 Me*
  - Joshua 1:9 ("be strong and courageous" to the tune of *Oh My Darlin' Clementine*)
  - Matthew 19:14 ("let the children come to me" to the tune of *Yankee Doodle*)
  - *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy*
  - *I'm in the Lord's Army*
  - *Jesus Loves Me*
  - *Jesus Loves the Little Children*
  - *My God Is So Big, So Strong and So Mighty*
- \* Use markers/crayons, construction paper, stickers, etc., to make cards of encouragement and love for the residents



## devotional:

Read Colossians 3:15-17 together. God loves to hear us sing songs of praise to Him. We can also share God's love with others by singing.

## discuss:

- \* What are their favorite songs that they love to sing to God?
- \* What are others ways that we can offer praise to God? (prayer, share His love with others, sing)
- \* Discuss with your kids that the residents may be about the same age as their grandparents and may not see their family very often, so they love visitors. They also love hugs and if your kids are comfortable with giving them, encourage them to do so as a way of sharing God's love with others.
- \*  Read Luke 10:25-37. Discuss how God desires us to love Him and our neighbors. And part of loving others is loving others that might be different than us.
- \* Before and after the visit, pray for the residents – that they will feel loved by the visit and that they know God's love.

# SECRET SERVICE

## project:

Find a way to serve someone in secret. This can be a family member, a friend, a neighbor, a teacher, a family in your community group – anyone. It doesn't have to be a big project, it can be something simple.



## supplies / preparation:

- \* Decide who you are going to serve, what you will do for them and when you are going to do it. As much as possible, allow your child to form these plans themselves.
- \* A parent can help kids carry out their plan – you just want to keep it a secret from whoever it is you are serving.

## devotional:

Read Matthew 6:1 together. We want to love and serve others, but not so that other people will see us and think we are good. It is nice when others notice that we are serving, but the Bible says it is even better when we are able to serve in secret and are not noticed.

## discuss:

- \* Who are some people you can serve?
- \* What are some things you can do?
- \* Who are we ultimately serving?
- \* Discuss people in your child's life - or whose work affects your child - that they are not likely to notice.
- \* If appropriate for your kids' ages, discuss the role that humility should play in service - and the danger of being proud of our own service.

## additional information:



- \* Another option: It might be fun to draw names within your family or group of friends to decide who you will serve. Your family might be able to serve another family as a group – these don't have to be done individually.
- \* This would be a fun project to do the week of Father's Day for dad or another father-figure – kids can find ways to secretly serve dad (maybe straighten his shoes in his closet, clean the trash out of his car/ wash the car, put his laundry away, hide his favorite snack in his car with a note, etc).



# DRINK COOL-OFF

## project:

Provide a cool drink to someone who needs it. (This can look a lot of different ways.) Here are some ideas:

- \* Run a cold bottle of water or Gatorade out to your mailman when he delivers the mail (would also work for UPS/FedEx workers)
- \* Deliver cold water bottles to people waiting at bus stops
- \* Deliver drinks to construction workers, trash / recycling truck workers, lifeguards or other people working outside in the heat
- \* Set up a drink stand at a park or near a running path and pass out free cups of water or lemonade

## supplies / preparation:

Purchase whatever supplies you need – water bottles, cups, lemonade, Gatorade, etc.



## devotional:

Read John 7:37-38 together. We get thirsty every day, several times a day, especially in the summer when it is hot. Our bodies need water, and getting thirsty is our body's way of reminding us that we need to drink more water. Jesus said if we are thirsty we should come to Him, but He isn't talking about coming to Him to get a bottle of water. Those verses say that anyone who believes in Jesus will have everything they need. Jesus is the living water, and when we are friends with Jesus, we can trust that He will provide what we need.

## discuss:

- \* How do we get to be friends with Jesus? (Great opportunity to present the gospel in a kid-friendly way – see below)
- \* Pray and thank Jesus for providing everything we need.
- \* Pray for the person or people you are giving drinks to, that the drink would help them not be thirsty, and pray that they would become friends with Jesus.
- \* You can also tie this project to the need for clean water around the world. Living Water International can provide great info on this ([www.water.cc](http://www.water.cc)), and don't forget to point out the water pump at Watermark's "pond" at the Dallas Campus.

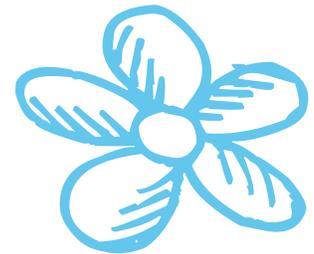


## explanation of the gospel for little hearts



We want to be friends with Jesus, but we make bad choices (sin) and that keeps us from being friends with Him. Everyone makes bad choices – everyone sins. But God did something so great – a long time ago God sent Jesus to earth, and He lived a perfect life – He NEVER sinned. God’s plan was for Jesus to die on the cross to pay for OUR bad choices, then God raised Jesus from the dead three days later. If we believe that, we get to be friends with Jesus and spend eternity with Him in heaven. The Bible says in Romans 10:9: **“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (NLT)**

**Note:** This is not something you want to pressure your littles ones into understanding or deciding to do, but it’s a great way to teach them about the gospel, whether they're ready to accept God's gift personally yet or not.



...LOVE OTHERS...

# SIDE-BY-SIDE SERVING AT CHURCH



## project:

Serve with your children at Watermark on a Sunday or during another church event. If you serve at Watermark (or otherwise), consider whether your child might be able to spend a special day serving alongside you. This could include Frontlines spots, setup for events, registration tables, or many of the places where adults serve on a regular basis.

(If this type of serving isn't available for your family, you can still "tour" with your children on a Sunday to talk about the various ways people serve in front of everyone and "behind the scenes." The Devotional and Discussion below would still apply.)



## supplies / preparation:

- \* You will need to check with the Watermark staff person who leads the area you're looking to serve in. They should
  - make sure this is a good idea,
  - decide if this is feasible for this particular day / event, and
  - share any tips or ideas with you about making this work.
- \* Remember, a lot of work goes into making Watermark's events and hospitality excellent, so there might be reasons not to involve kids in some activities.
- \* Walk around Watermark a week before to watch / talk about the ways people are serving.
- \* If you're doing this with other families, meet a few minutes ahead of serving time to discuss with the kids what their role is and to assign spots.



## devotional:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-31 together – or it may be easier to tell this like a story to the kids rather than reading it word-for-word. What does the ear do? What do your eyes do? What about your legs? Would your legs work as well if they didn't have feet attached? The Bible says that just like our bodies have different parts, and they each have a special job, the church is made up of lots of different people who do different things, and they all have a special job that makes the church work. God has given gifts to each person that we can use to serve Him.

## discuss:

- \* What gifts are we using when we greet people coming into church (or in the area of service you choose)?
- \* What other gifts do you have that you can use? How can you use those to serve your family or friends?
- \* Who are other people that serve at church and what are their gifts? (classroom teachers, storytellers, music leaders, pastor, coffee team, ushers, tech arts, etc.)
- \* If your child will understand, talk about how some service happens in front of everyone, and some are "behind the scenes." Talk about our motives/humility when we serve.

## additional information:



- \* It's important to have parents nearby any time a child is serving in this way.
- \* It is also important to contact staff members to go through the proper channels of approval in order for the kids to be allowed to serve.

# TEACHER SCHOOL SUPPLY KIT

## project:

**Project:** Gather and assemble specific school supplies for teachers at your child's school or at one of Watermark's school partners in Dallas, Fort Worth, or Plano. Make appreciation/welcome back cards to put in the bags. Pray for the teachers that will be receiving the bags.



## supplies / preparation:

- \* Contact [schools@watermark.org](mailto:schools@watermark.org) for info on lower-income schools we're partnered with and specific supplies needed. Or contact your school's administration or teacher to find out what supplies would be the biggest blessing for them!
- \* Common items often needed by teachers include Clorox wipes, dry-erase markers, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, and "great job" stickers
- \* Use markers/crayons, construction paper, stickers etc to make appreciation/welcome back cards together
- \* Assemble bags together and pray for those receiving the bags

## devotional:

Read Mark 9:33-37 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. Being a willing and cheerful servant towards others is what marks us as great in God's family. Today, we are choosing to think of the teachers before thinking of ourselves. We are spending our time and effort on them first, and putting ourselves last. Jesus is our example of being a servant, so we are like Him when we serve this way!



## discuss:

- \* What are some ways we want to be first?
- \* What are some ideas of how you can be last this week?
- \* What types of things (words and actions) would flow out of a cheerful heart?
- \* Pray for those receiving the school supply bag.

## additional information:

- \* If you have younger kids (2-5) and want to join other families for bag assembly or delivery, contact [handsandfeetprojects@gmail.com](mailto:handsandfeetprojects@gmail.com)!



# GLOW GREETERS

## project:

Greet the women being served at Glow: A Day of Beauty. Each year, Watermark hosts this ministry for women who are served by Watermark and ministry partners. Participants are given a day of pampering, including haircuts, makeup, along with the opportunity to hear about the love of Christ. Contact [externalfocus@watermark.org](mailto:externalfocus@watermark.org) for the date of the next Glow event!

## supplies / preparation:



- \* Use markers, crayons, and poster board, and create signs to hold up as the women arrive to the GLOW event. Examples of messages include "Welcome to GLOW," "Jesus loves you," "You are beautiful," "You are fearfully and wonderfully made," etc.
- \* Create a few bookmarks for the goodie bags that they women receive. Have your children color them, put stickers on them, and please include a verse to encourage these women.
- \* Greet the women with a smile, high-five, and a hug (if your child feels comfortable).

## devotional:

Read and emphasize 1 Samuel 16:7. When we think of a king, we typically think of a handsome, strong man. Samuel was looking for someone that "looked" like a King, but God choose David based on his heart, not his outward appearance. God created people to look different on the outside, and He loves each of his children so much! There is nothing wrong with looking nice, but what is on the inside is what is most important to God. Since God is our KING, and we are his children...that makes us His princes and princesses!

## discuss:

- \* Think about your friends. Do they all have the same color hair or eyes?
- \* What color hair do you have? What color eyes do you have? What about your friends and siblings?
- \* What do you think a king looks like?
- \* When do you feel pretty or handsome? Do you like to dress up like a superhero or princess?
- \* How can we have a heart like Jesus?
- \* Can we tell if someone has a heart like Jesus?
- \* Can you be too young or small to be important to God?
- \* In an age appropriate way, discuss that some people may not have the money for make up, nice clothes, or getting their haircut.
- \* Before and after the event, pray for the women – that they will feel beautiful on the inside and outside and that they will know how much God loves them.



# SERVE THOSE WHO SERVE

## project:

We will meet to deliver handmade cards and treats to Watermark Children's Ministry team, thanking them for serving.



## supplies / preparation:

- \* Use markers/crayons, construction paper, stickers, etc. to make thank you cards.
- \* Buy or make treats to deliver to the Watermark Children's Ministry team (muffins, cookies, fruit)

## devotional:

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. God has given each of us a spiritual gift, including those that serve on the Watermark Ministry Team. They glorify God, serve us and share the gospel through the church. As Christ's followers, we need to express our gratitude, to God for all He does for us, but also to His people who serve us.

## discuss:

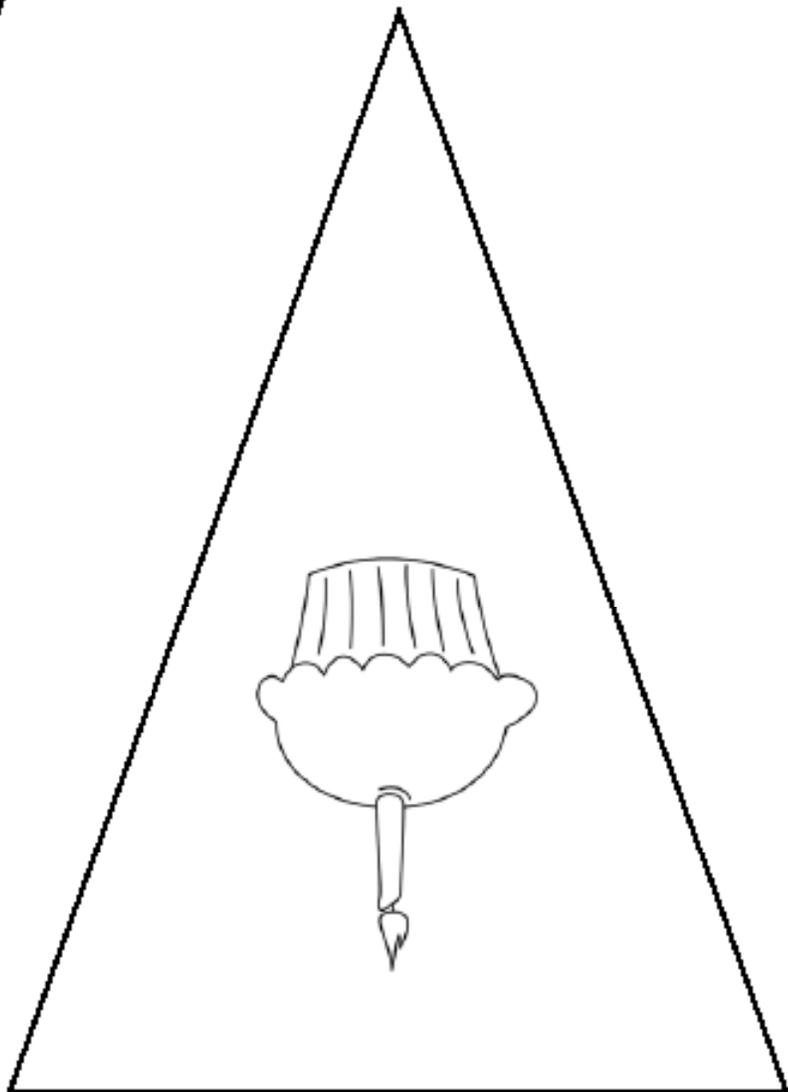
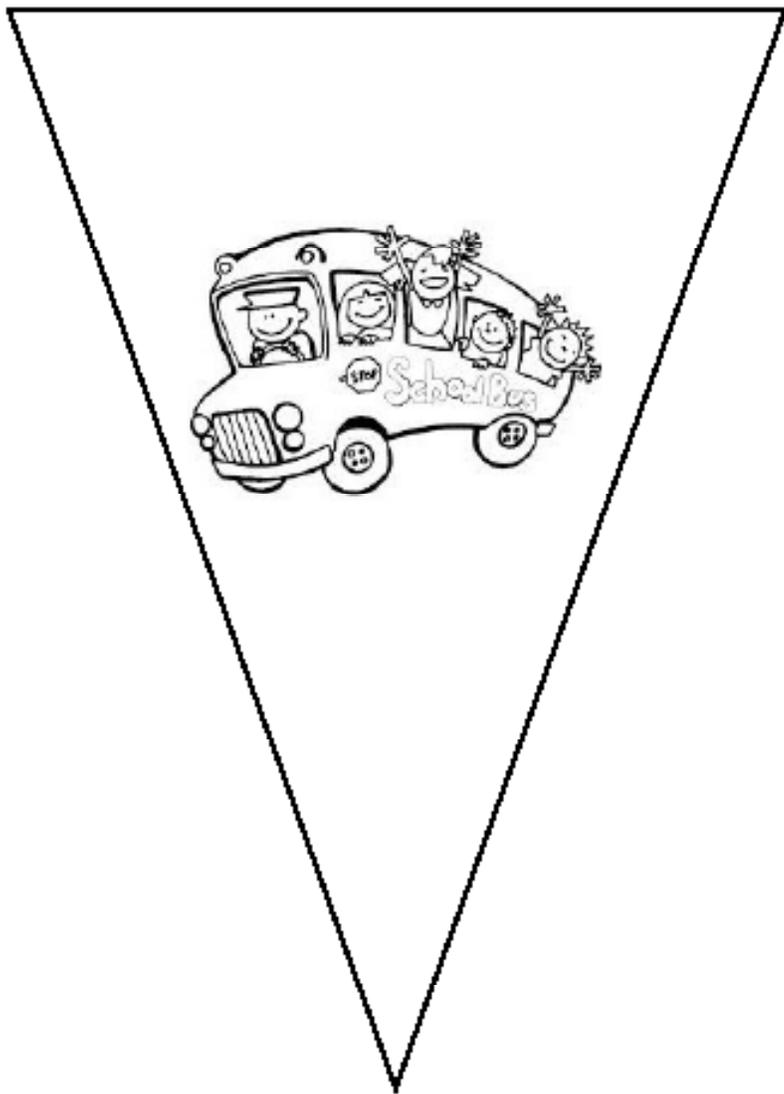
- \* How does the children's team serve and love us well?
- \* What gifts are they using when they serve us?
- \* Discuss how we can encourage and show our gratitude to those that serve us.
- \* Read Romans 10:15. Discuss how the good news of the gospel is being shared through the church. This is also a good time to reiterate the gospel message.
- \* Who else can we thank in this way?



# REMINDER PENNANTS

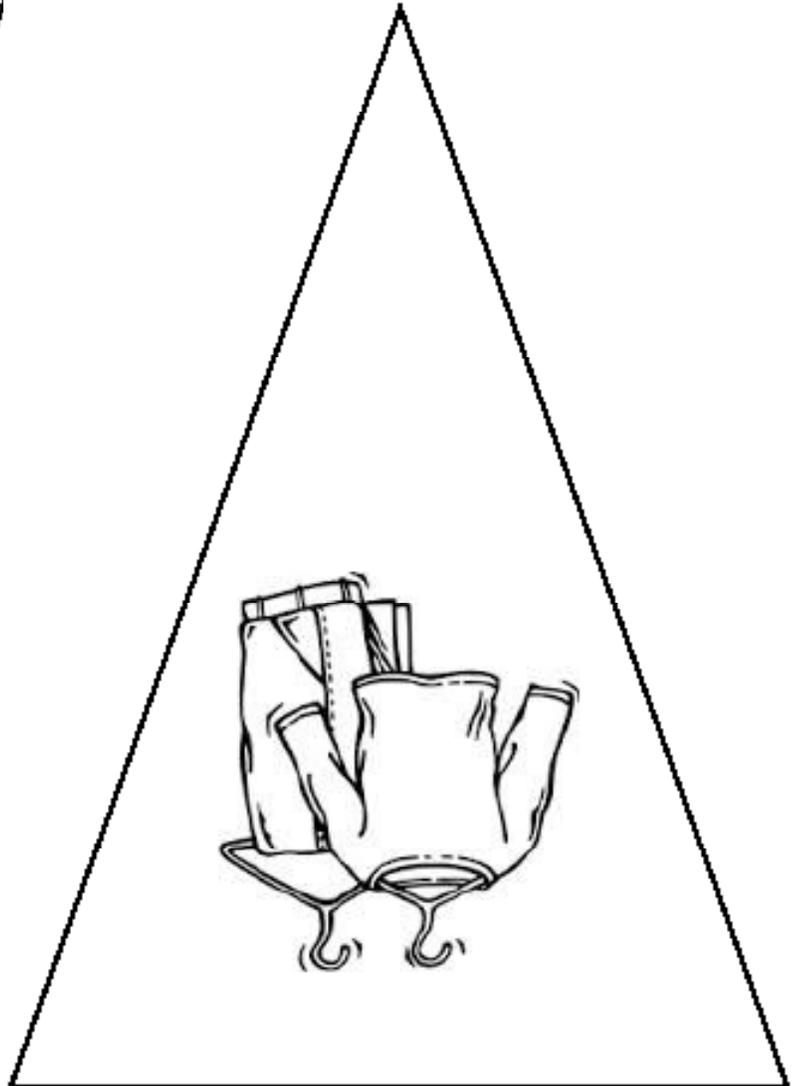
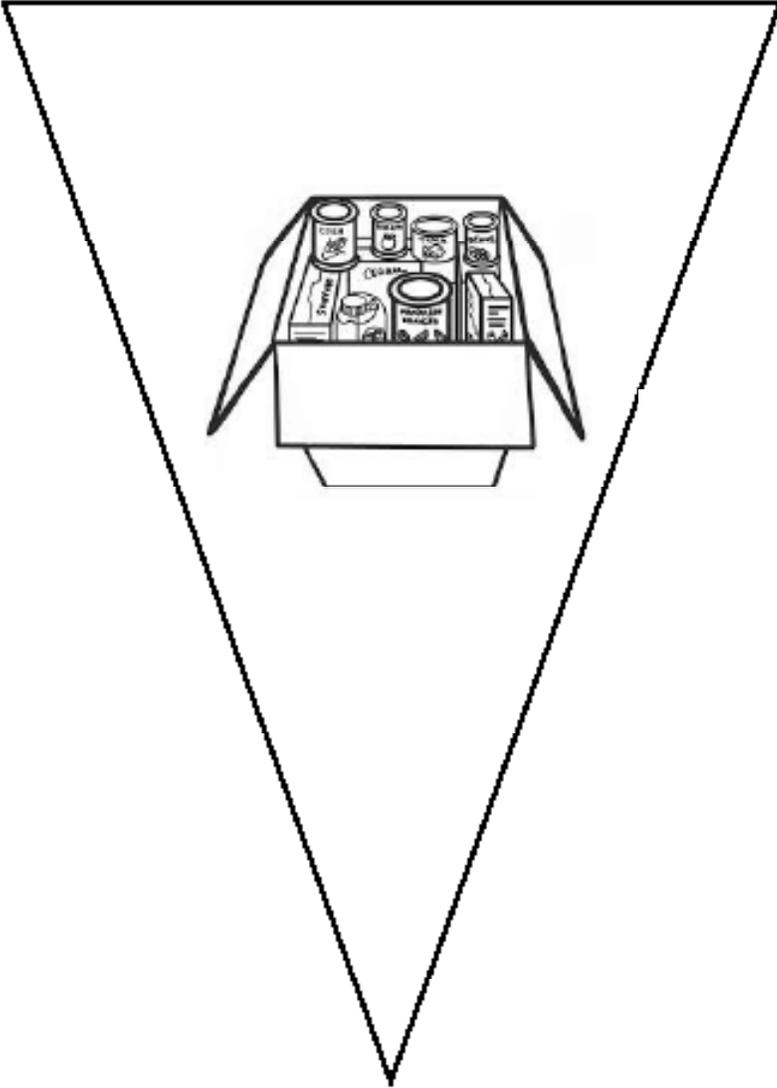
print & cut out

meals on big wheels



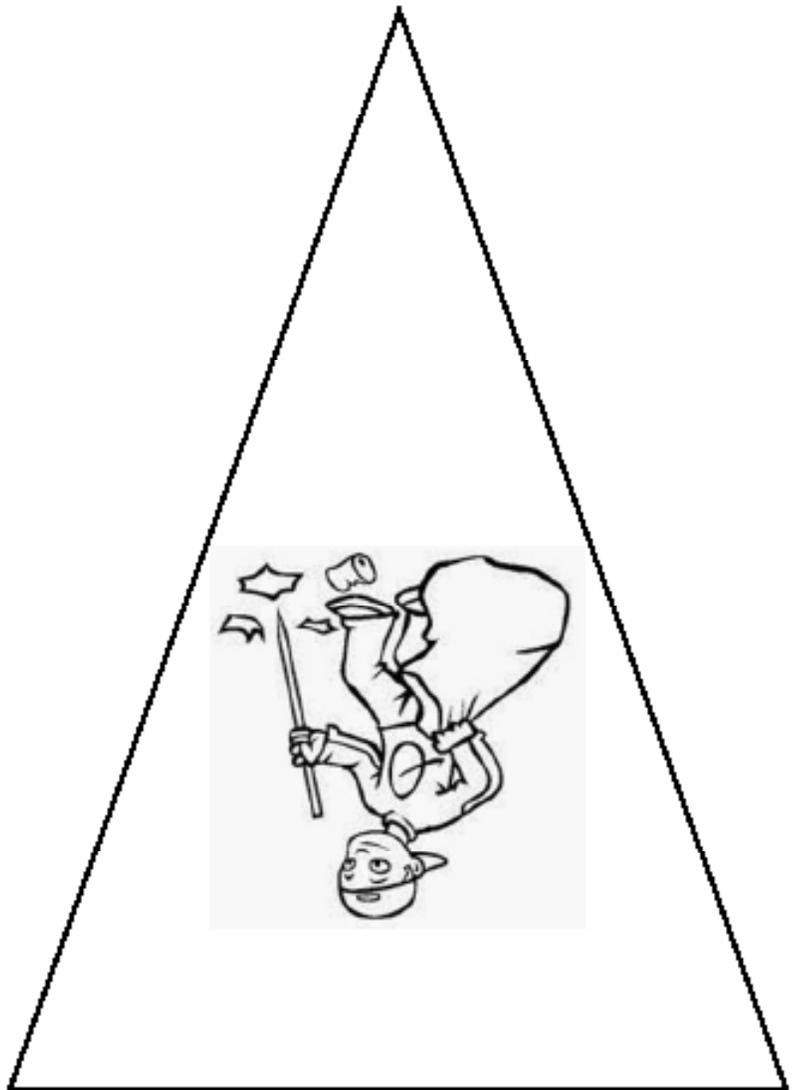
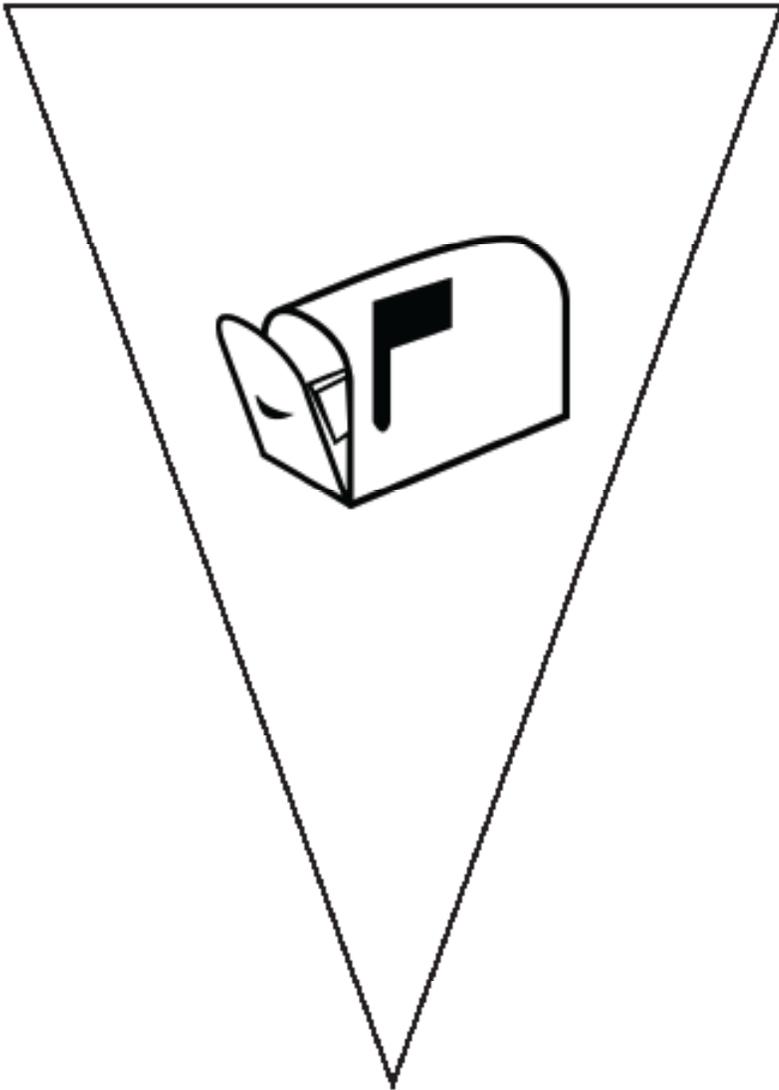
birthday in a bag

food drive



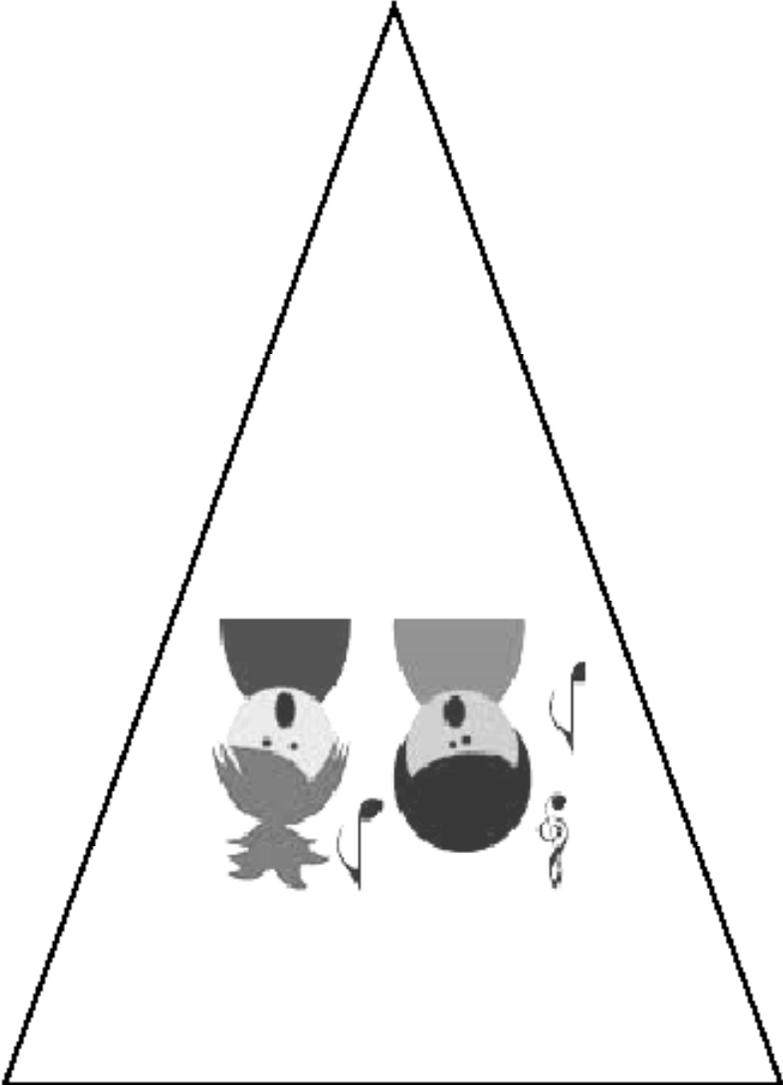
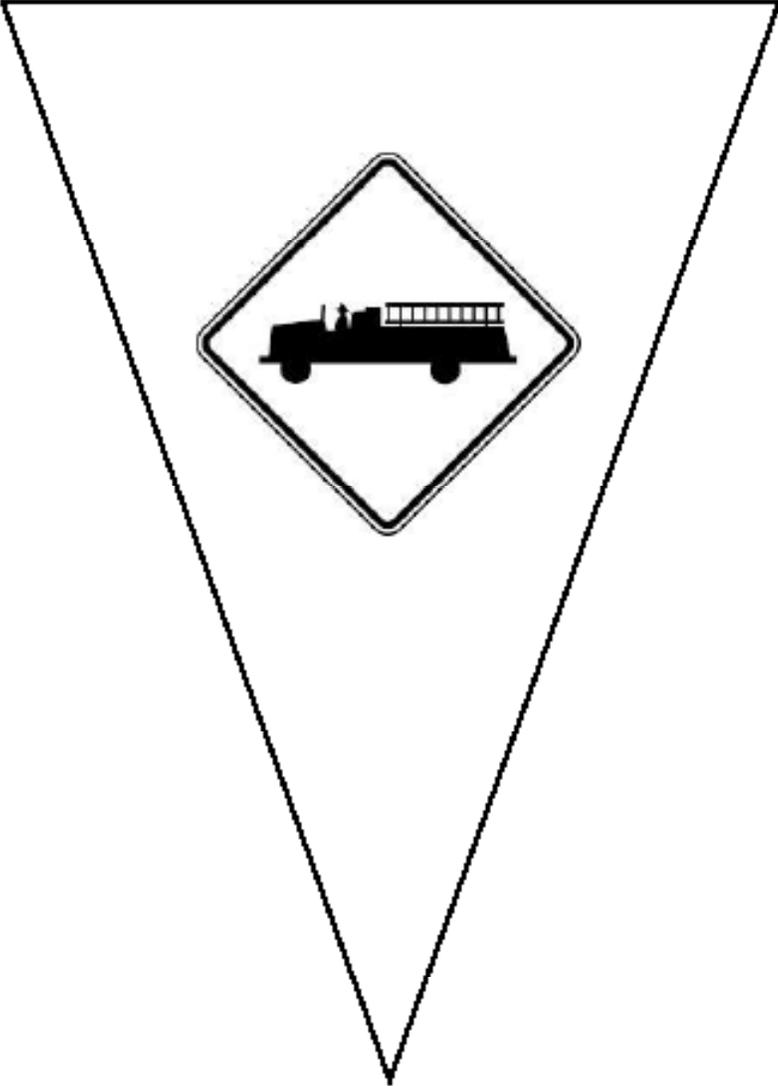
closet / toy / home clean-out

soldier letters



park pick-up

firehouse visit



senior center visit

secret service



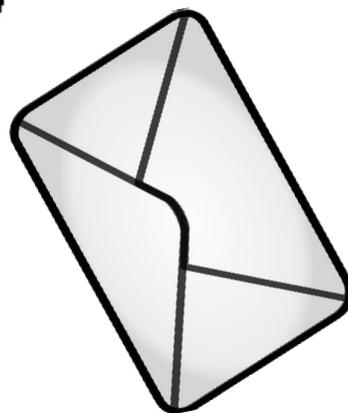
drink cool-off

side-by-side serving at church



teacher school supply kit

glow greeters



serve those who serve

LOVE...

FOOD...

LOVE...

OTHERS...