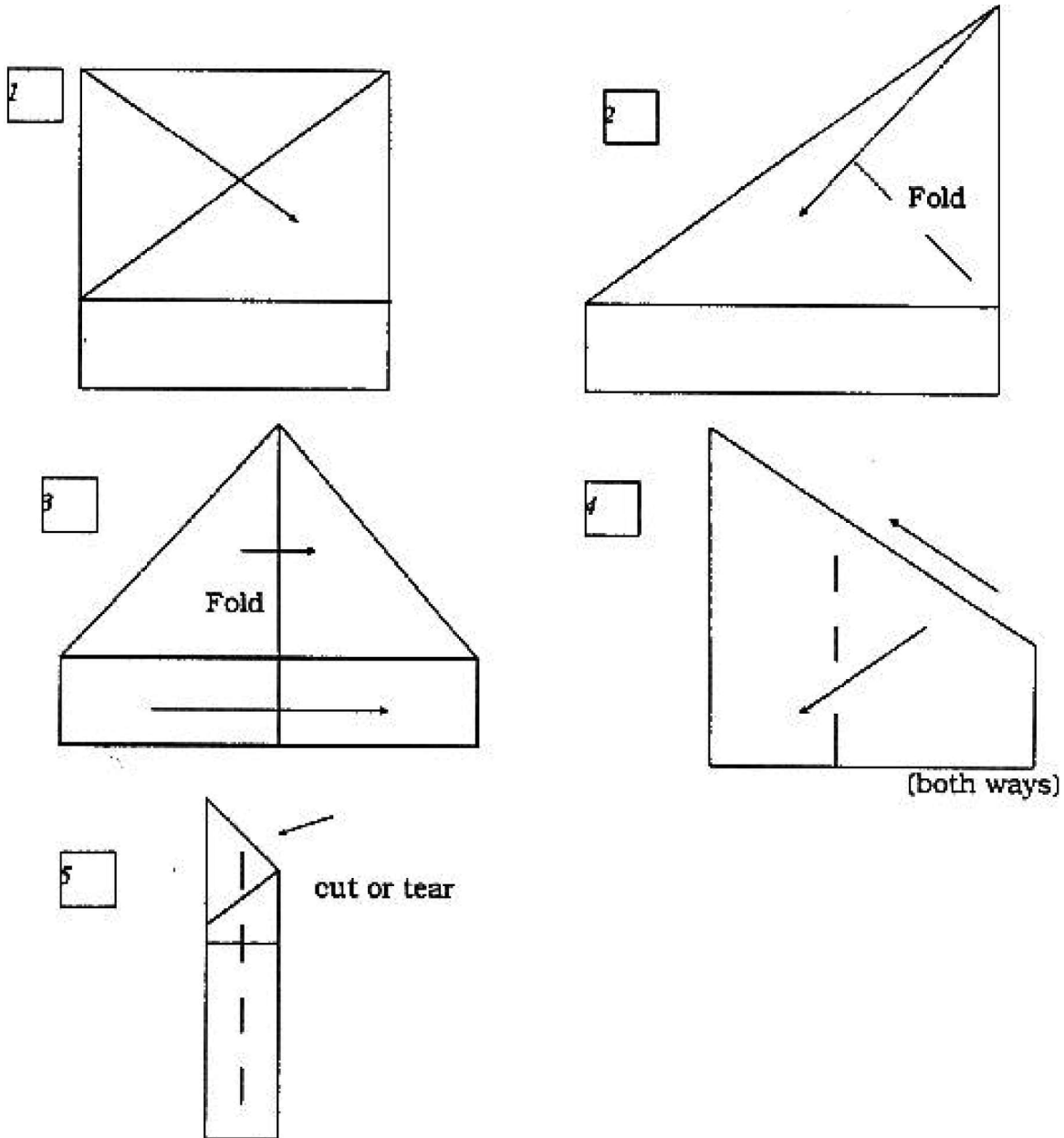


Cross Illustration

(Ask for the name & age of a child in the crowd. Insert their name and age into the story.) Samuel, you're ten years old? I have a story about a boy named Samuel who is ten years old. Samuel was a very bad boy. He would push kids down at school and cheat on his homework and say very mean things to his mom and dad. One day Samuel's friend Jimmy came over to play. Jimmy said, "Hey Samuel, can I show you this cool thing I learned at church?" Samuel didn't think there was anything cool about church, but Jimmy kept asking until Samuel finally said okay. Jimmy said, "I can tear this piece of paper one time and make a cross out of it." Samuel did not believe it! So Jimmy said he would prove it



Jimmy showed Samuel the cross, and Samuel thought that was awesome. Then Jimmy asked if he could tell Samuel a story. Samuel said okay.

(spell S I N)

Everyone does bad things. Those things are called sin. Any time we do something wrong it's sin - like pushing kids down, or cheating on homework, or saying mean things. Sin makes us feel dirty, and we can't get clean from sin just by washing on the outside.

God sent Jesus to make us clean. Jesus is perfect because he is God, and he came to make us clean by taking the punishment for all our 'bad things' (sin). Jesus took our punishment by suffering and dying for us.

Lay out the pieces beginning with the small ones (the largest piece forms the cross)

- a. the hole for the cross
- b. the sign overhead
- c. the spear in the side
- d. the thief who rejected
- e. the thief who accepted
- f. the dice for the robe

(spell L I F E)

Jesus took your sins away and came back to life! He is still alive today, in heaven!

You can live forever in heaven with Jesus too. But it doesn't just happen – you must ask Jesus. You can say “Jesus please take away all the bad things. Make me clean. I choose to follow you. Every time I have a choice to do bad things, I want to choose your way instead!”

Cross Illustration outline

1. Name of student
2. They do bad things
3. Name of friend
4. “Cool thing” from church
5. Do the fold/rip
6. Spell S I N
7. Describe sin
8. Feel dirty/ can't get clean
9. God sends Jesus to make us clean
10. He was perfect – He is GOD
11. He came to make us clean by taking the punishment for our “bad things”
12. He took the punishment by suffering and dying for us.
13. Show the cross scene
14. One thief turns away
15. Turn one thief to Jesus
16. Spell L I F E – he took your sins away & came back to life!
17. It doesn't just happen – you must ask Jesus – “Jesus please take away all the bad things. Make me Clean. I choose to follow you. Every time I have a choice to do bad things, I want to choose your way instead!”
18. ** GET THEIR INFO IF THEY CHOOSE JESUS!! **

Personal Decision Time:

- a. Which person would you be of the two thieves?
The one who saw Jesus as only a man who died?
or
The one who saw Jesus as God?
- b. Would you have wanted to talk to Jesus to admit you needed God and that you wanted to be a follower of Him?
- c. Jesus can take away all of the sins (bad things) from our lives
- d. Have you personally asked God to take away the sins of your life so that you can be a follower of him? This means that every time you have a decision to make you want to choose God's way. You choose to do what God wants and to follow him every day of your life.
- e. Yes? Great! When did you make that decision? (Then you can stop here)
- f. No? Would you like to do it right now? I can lead you in prayer.

Prayer with a child:

- a. I do bad things
- b. I want God to take them out of my life
- c. I now put my trust in you, God
- d. I want Jesus to be my leader, my God

Really emphasize this is more than just a prayer to get into heaven. This is a decision to follow Jesus every day, for the rest of life. Sometimes that will be hard. But following Jesus is the best thing. Be honest. Don't make this seem like a quick ticket to heaven.

Conclusion:

- a. Teach them to tell the story to another person
- b. Be sure they have a good church to attend
- c. Encourage them to tell their friends about Jesus
- d. Explain the importance of learning the Bible and praying
- e. Tell an adult about this decision so there is follow-up



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