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July 5-11

“Great Shall Be Their Reward and Eternal Shall Be Their glory”

1. Scripture Hop – What kind of things make us happy? Explain what “glad tidings” means. Follow instructions on page 3 below for a scripture hop for D&C 76:40-42. Discuss what it says is the glad tidings. It’s actually a combination of parts of all of those verses, so it might be a good idea to read and discuss the whole part of D&C 76:40-42 after doing the scripture hop.
2. Song/Friend Story: Sing “[I Am a Child of God](#)” and have them point to themselves whenever it has the words “I” or “me.” Remind them of how much Heavenly Father loves them.
 - Color: Have each person color a body outline (on page 4 below) to look like themselves while listening to the song again.
 - Story: Explain that Heavenly Father and Jesus love us so much that they made a plan just for us. Help them understand that this plan was made because Heavenly Father knew it could help us be happier than we were even before we came to Earth. Read “[A Vision of God’s Plan](#)” from this month’s Friend magazine.
 - I love this quote from the manual:
President Dallin H. Oaks said that if we teach “a young person the powerful idea that he or she is a child of God,” we can give him or her the “self-respect and motivation to move against the problems of life” (“Powerful Ideas,” Ensign, Nov. 1995, 25).
3. Plan of Salvation Cutouts – Give each person a spirit piece (on page 4 below). Lay out the pieces for the plan of salvation (on page 5 below) while talking about them one at a time. Have them use the spirit and body pieces to “travel” through the plan of salvation while discussing. Since our kids are young, we’ll probably spend the most time talking about earth life and the Celestial Kingdom, but I do want them to at least start feeling more familiar with the other parts of the plan. After we’ve talked about it, have each kid use their spirit/body pieces to explain the plan to us again from the beginning to review it.
 - You can also read/watch “[Chapter 26: The Three Kingdoms of Heaven](#)” from the church if you want a deeper discussion about the kingdoms.
4. Celestial Kingdom – Show picture on page 6 below. Read/summarize/discuss the bullet points on the page underneath the picture. Talk about what it would feel like to be there and how it’s important to give our best efforts so that we can be there with Heavenly Father, Jesus, and our families forever.
5. Ways God Helps Us – President Gordon B. Hinckley used to say, “Brothers and sisters, all the Lord expects of us is to try, but you have to *really* try!” The choices we make in this life are VERY important in order to help us get to the Celestial Kingdom. However, Heavenly Father and Jesus have done and currently do lots to help us as well. They want us to live with Them forever. Talk about things they do/have done for us, such as the following:
 - “God...shall subdue all enemies under His feet” (D&C 76:61)
 - He will wash and cleanse us from all of our sins (D&C 76:50)
 - Christ – Sit around a picture of Christ and read D&C 76:40-42 again. Explain that without Him, this plan would not be possible. Watch “[I Know That My Redeemer Lives](#)” church song video. Share testimonies.

6. Pin The Rays on the Sun Game – Everyone write or draw something they'll do to prepare for eternal life in the celestial kingdom on a sun ray (you can cut your own out of construction paper or use the printable pieces on pages 7-8 below). Tape a circle onto a wall (with space around it for rays). Take turns being blindfolded, spinning around in a few circles, and trying to tape the rays around the circle to make a sun. Afterward, talk about how we won't always be perfect in our efforts to prepare for the celestial kingdom, but Jesus can help perfect us in time. Rearrange all of the rays neatly around the circle. Then have everyone write their names inside the circle to signify their willingness to try to do these things.

7. Sun Treat – Make a sun treat while talking about specific things we will do now to prepare for the celestial kingdom and the rewards felt by those who make it there. You could make these with [edible playdough](#) (combine 1 cup frosting with 2 ½ cups powdered sugar). You could also make sun-shaped sugar cookies, use frosting to draw a sun shape on a graham cracker, etc.

Additional: *The Friend* magazine for this month has a super cute Plan of Salvation board game to go along with this. There is a small printable copy of it on page 9 below, or you can go to the church website to print it up ([here](#)).

Additional Ideas:

More Great Free Ideas at www.theredcrystal.org
[Black and White Plan of Salvation Cutouts from the church's website](#)

SCRIPTURE Hop

(D&C 76:40-42)

Cut apart the following strips and spread them out far enough in a room so that the kids will need to hop from one strip to another. Make sure to keep them in the correct order. Have them stand by the first one and help them say the top line out loud. Explain what it means. Then have them jump to the next one and do the same thing until they've jumped on each of them, said them out loud, and discussed them one at a time. Then have them start back at the beginning and practice saying the phrases from this verse in order while hopping from strip to strip again. Try going a little faster each time. Repeat as many times as wanted/needed. These can also be used as flash cards, taped onto the wall to practice throughout the week, etc.



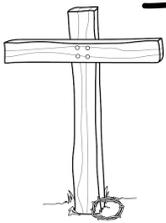
This is The glad Tidings,



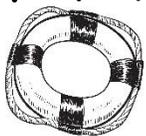
That HE came into The world,



EVEN JESUS,



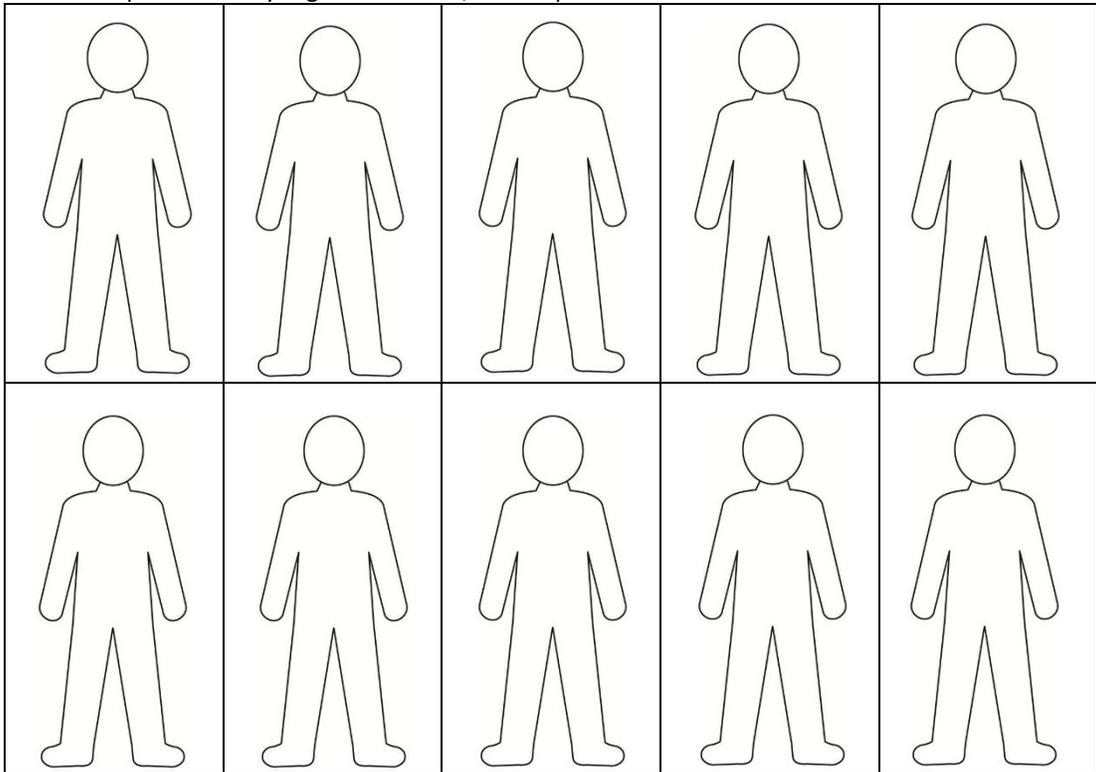
To be crucified for The world,



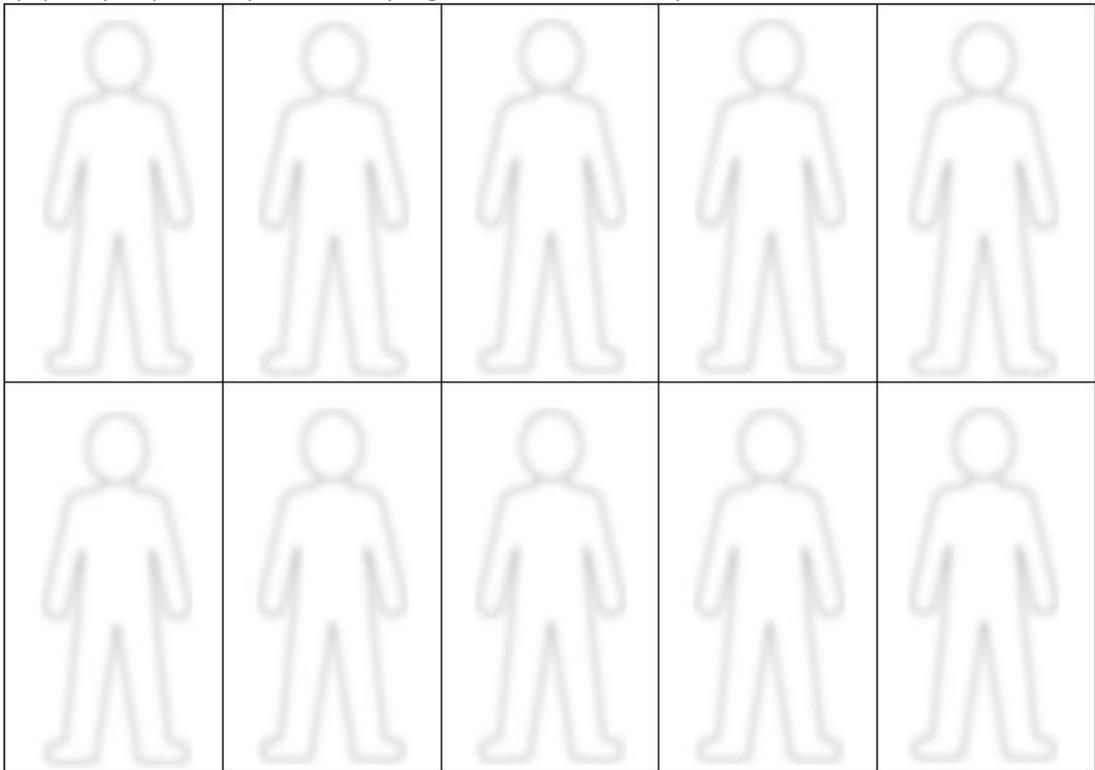
That Through Him all might be saved.

Note: The whole chunk of verses say, “And this is the gospel, the glad tidings, which the voice out of the heavens bore record unto us – That he came into the world, even Jesus, to be crucified for the world, and to bear the sins of the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness; That through him all might be saved whom the Father had put into his power and made by him.”

Body Outline Pieces: Cut apart and give one body piece to each person. Have them color it to look like themselves. Use these body/spirit pieces to “travel” through the Plan of Salvation cutouts on the following page. Use a small paperclip to put the spirit and body together at birth, then separate them at death until resurrection.

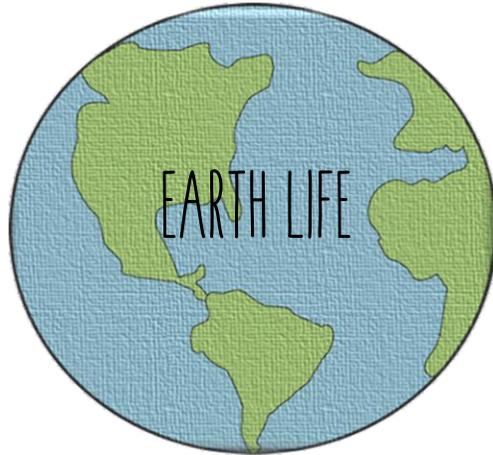
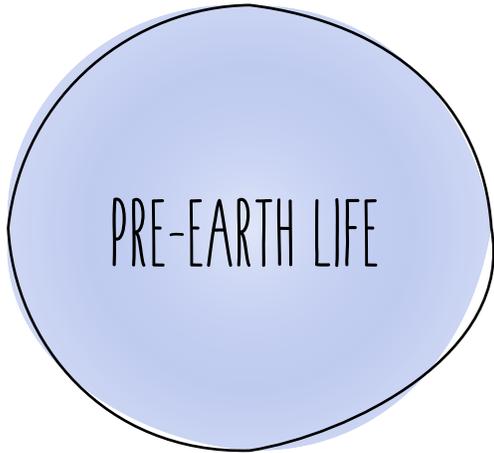


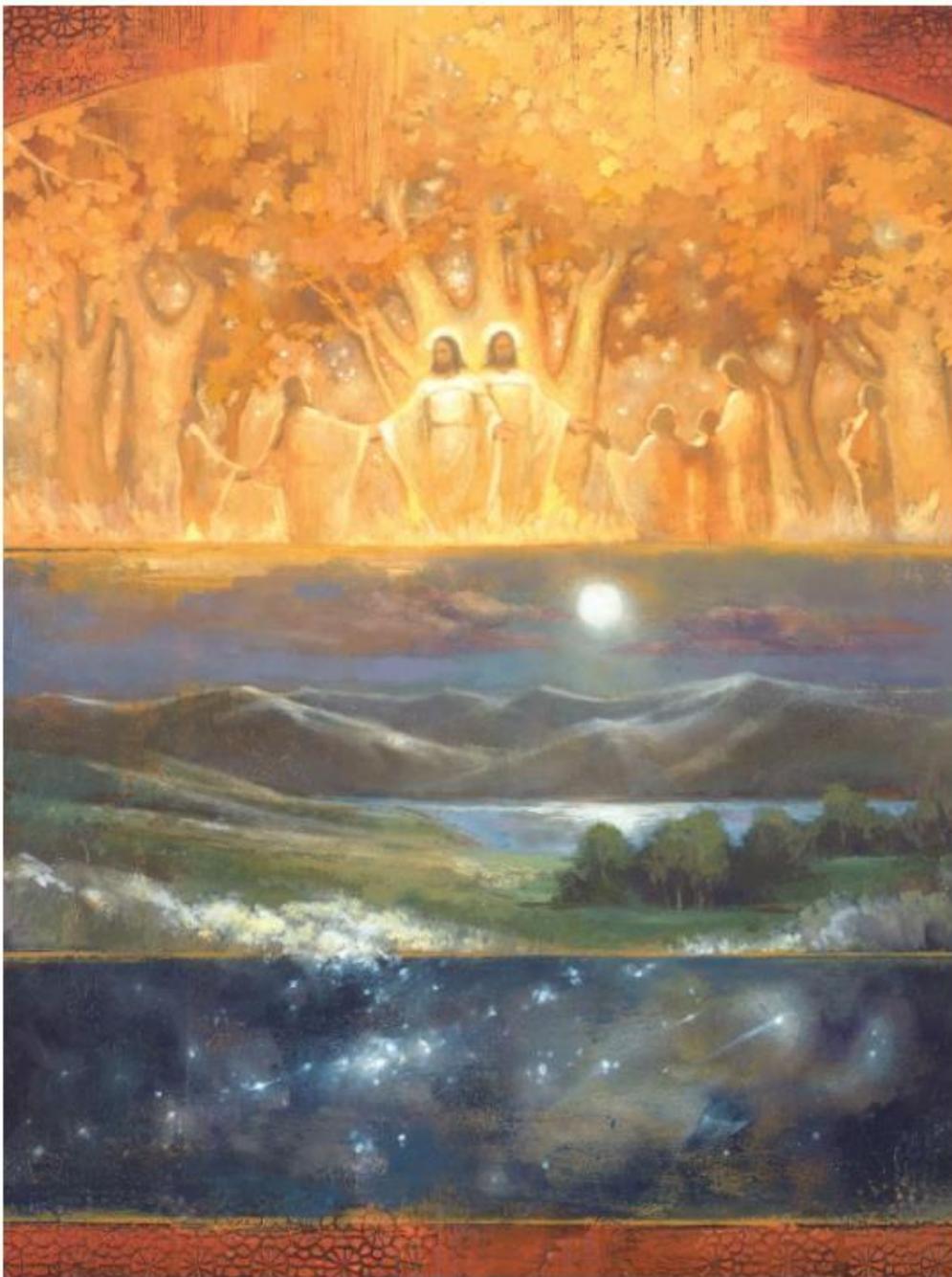
Spirit Pieces: Cut apart and give one to each person. Leave the spirit pieces blank to help visualize that we can't see our spirits right now. Start by placing the spirit piece in the pre-earth life and continue “traveling” through the Plan of Salvation. Use a small paperclip to put the spirit and body together at birth, then separate them at death until resurrection.



The Plan of Salvation Cutouts

Cut pieces apart and lay out one at a time to discuss while teaching about Heavenly Father's plan for us.





Glory by Degrees, by Annie Henrie Nader

Celestial Kingdom (Represented by The Sun):

Where Heavenly Father and Jesus are. (D&C 76:62)

People who believed in Jesus Christ during their time on earth (D&C 76:51)

People who were baptized and received the Holy Ghost (D&C 76:51-52)

People who overcame trials on earth through faith in Jesus Christ (D&C 76:53)

People who keep the commandments (D&C 76:52)

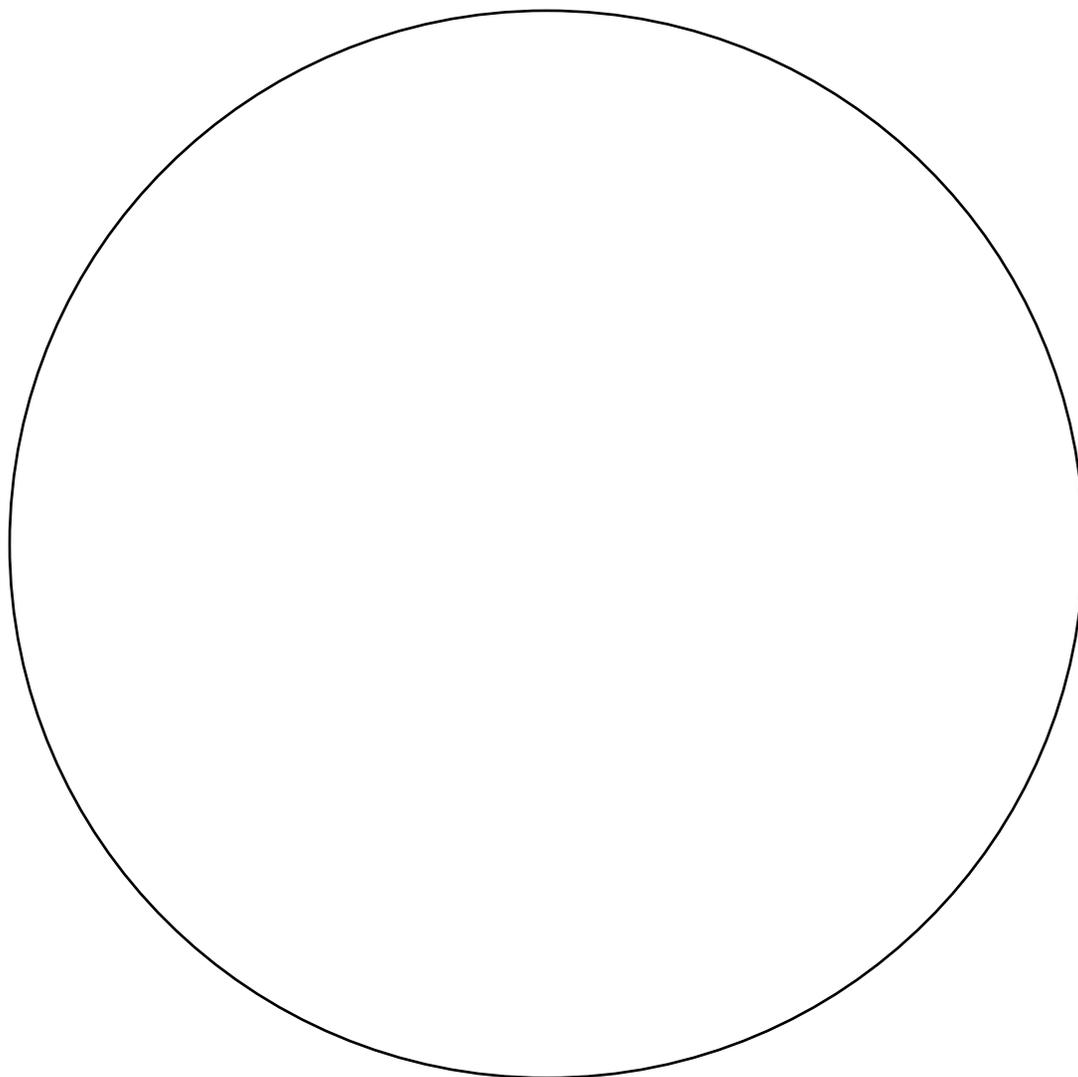
Righteous saints will become like Heavenly Father and Jesus and live with them forever. (D&C 76:69-70)

“God’s children have an eternal destiny more glorious than we can imagine.” (CFM manual)

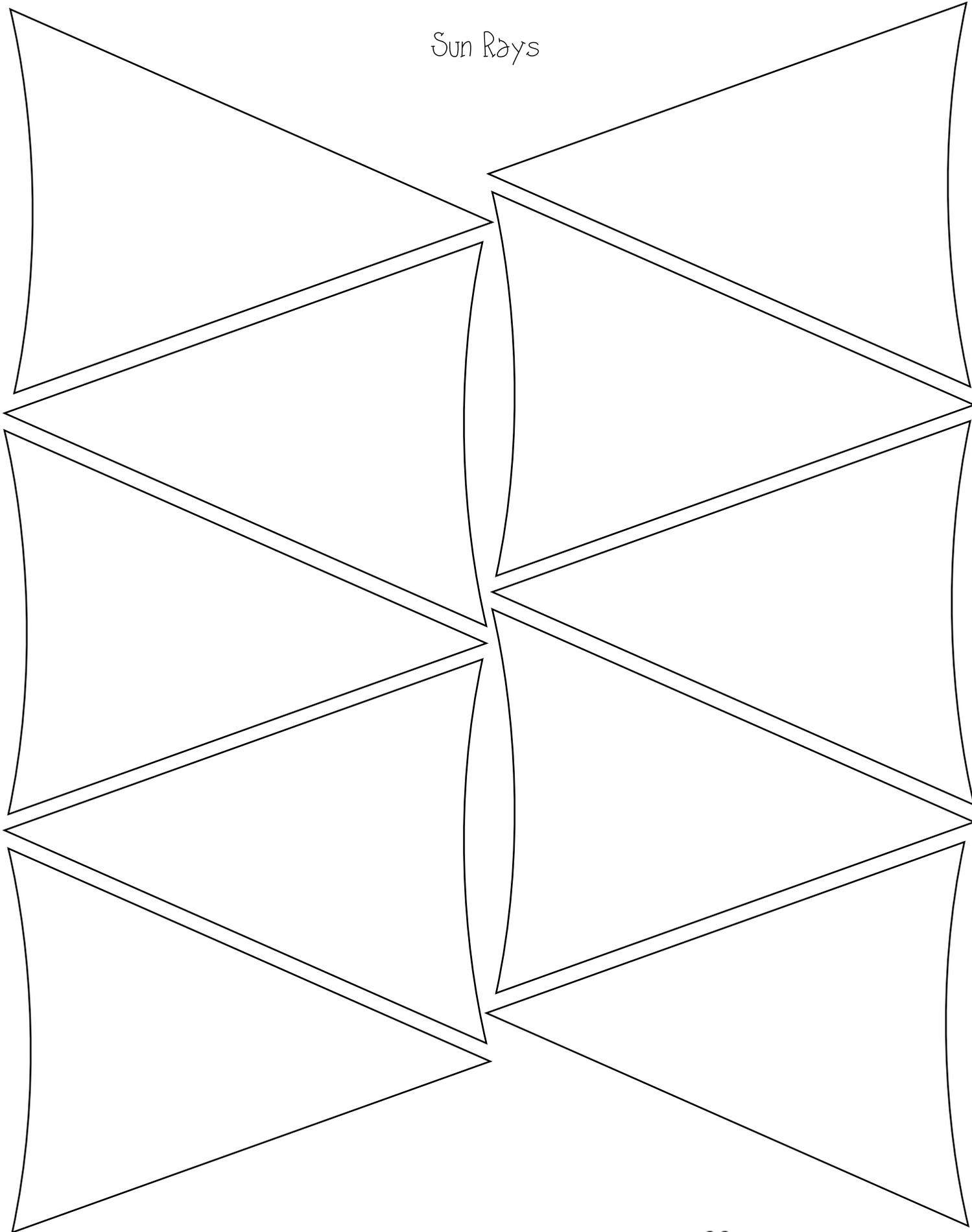
Pin The Ray on The Sun

Tape the circle onto a wall (with space around it for rays). Each person will write or draw something they'll do to prepare for eternal life in the celestial kingdom on a sun ray. Take turns being blindfolded and trying to tape the rays around the circle to make a sun. Afterward, talk about how we won't always be perfect in all of our efforts to prepare for the celestial kingdom, but Jesus can help perfect us in time (D&C 76:69). Rearrange all of the rays neatly around the circle. Then have everyone write their names inside the circle to signify their willingness to try to do these things. Add additional rays if desired.

Circle for Sun



Sun Rays



Plan of Salvation Board Game

Play this game to learn about Heavenly Father's plan. Use beans or coins as game pieces. For each turn, roll a dice or pick a number and move your piece that many spaces. When the first person passes a star, read the bubble. The next time someone passes that star, do the activity.

Celestial kingdom

Because of Jesus Christ, we can become like our Heavenly Father and live with our families forever.

Read Doctrine and Covenants 76:70.

Resurrection

Because Jesus rose from the dead, we all will live again! Our bodies and our spirits will come back together.

Sing "Did Jesus Really Live Again?" (Children's Songbook, 64).

Christ's Atonement

Jesus Christ came to earth and lived a perfect life. He knows our pains. He atoned for us so we can repent.

Sing "He Sent His Son" (Children's Songbook, 34-35).

Earth

We came to earth to gain a body, learn, and grow. We can choose between right and wrong.

Read Alma 34:32.

Pre-earth life

We lived with our heavenly parents. We chose to follow Jesus Christ and come to earth.

Sing "I Lived in Heaven" (Children's Songbook, 4).

Spirit world

After we die, our spirits keep on living. People who didn't learn about the gospel on earth can learn about it here.

Read Alma 40:11.

Start

See *Come, Follow Me* for Doctrine and Covenants 76.

Tours:

Some missionaries at the Mormon Battalion Site are offering free virtual tours and are wanting to get the word out about them. We did it, and even our young kids loved it! If you'd like to sign up, here is the link: <https://calendly.com/mormonbattalionhs>



After we did this tour, we received an email with links to many other virtual tours that seem like they would be great! Here are those additional links for anyone else who might be interested:

- Live virtual tours of New York and Pennsylvania church history sites (Sacred Grove, Priesthood Restoration site, Peter Whitmer farm, Book of Mormon publication site, etc.) [Schedule Appointment with New York & Pennsylvania Historic Sites \(as.me\)](https://www.as.me/schedule-appointment-with-new-york-pennsylvania-historic-sites)
- Historic Nauvoo Virtual Tours: <https://www.nauvoohistoricsites.org/live/>
- Joseph Smith Birthplace Virtual Tour: <https://calendly.com/josephsmithbirthplace>
- Kirtland Area Historic Sites: <https://go.oncehub.com/historickirtlandtours>
- Independence Virtual Tour
<https://calendly.com/missouriareahistoricsites/independence?month=2021-03>
- Liberty Jail Virtual Tour: <https://calendly.com/missouri/libertyjail?month=2021-03>
- Mormon Trail Center at Winter Quarters: <https://calendly.com/trailcenterschedule>
- St. George Area Historic Sites: <https://calendly.com/sghstabernacle/virtual-tour?month=2021-03>
- Mormon Battalion Site: <https://calendly.com/mormonbattalionhs>