



### **Create your own graduation cap.**

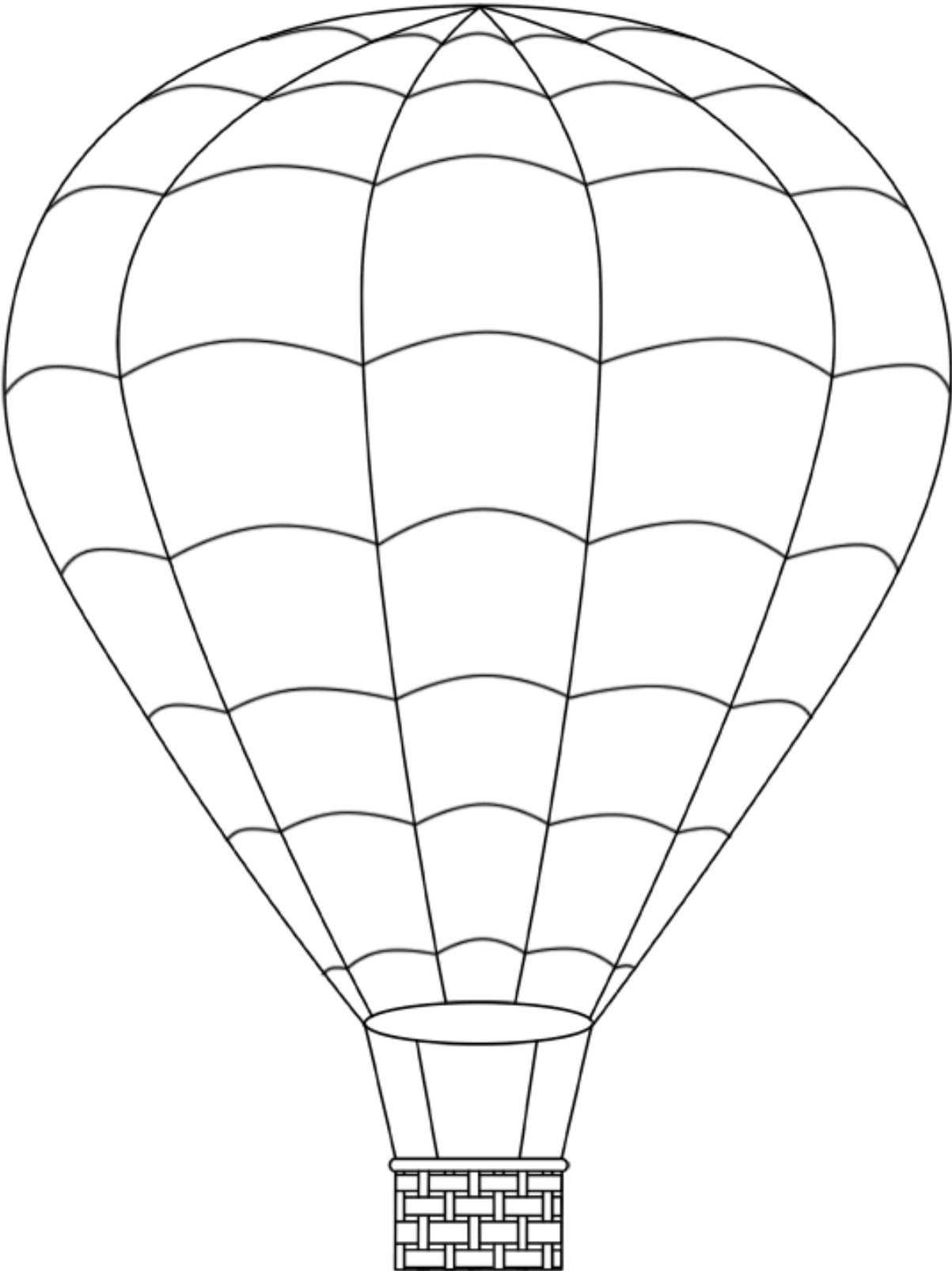
Here's what you'll need:

- Paper bowls (in the color of your choice)
- Colored cardboard or heavy construction paper (in the same color as the bowls)
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue

Trim the bowl to fit over the child's head and attach a square of cardboard over the top of the bowl with glue. Make your tassel by taking a long strand of yarn and wrapping it around your fingers a few times. Tie the ribbon together and cut the other end of the ribbons. Tie on an extra piece of ribbon that is longer than the tassel so it hangs.

Then, poke a small hole in the top of the hat (let an adult do this, of course) and pull your tassel through. Tape it on the inside of the hat. The kids can help with gluing and wrapping ribbon around their fingers. They can also decorate their hats with stickers and crayons.

At your graduation, all the kids can march to the front of the room wearing their graduation caps. Have some graduation music in the background, and it's sure to make all the parents and grandparents shed a tear... or at least laugh at the cuteness of all the kiddies.





### **THE STORY OF THE CRACKED WATER POT.**

A water bearer in China had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the House, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection. And miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw. So I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them.

For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house?

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape. Remember to appreciate all the different people in your life.

Author Unknown

## Interactive Group Activities

by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

**Sermon Title:** "A Neighbor's a Neighbor!"

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 10:25-37

**DRINK OF WATER RELAY:** Divide the class into teams. Each child must take his turn to run to the water table and drink a small paper cup of water or juice and then run back to the team for the next player to make the drink run. Continue until all the team has had a chance to drink the small cup of water or juice.

**BAND-AID RELAY:** Divide the class into teams. Each team will take turns for each player to run to the FIRST AID TABLE and will grab a Band-Aid, unwrap it, and place it on the arm or leg and then run back to the team for the next player to do the same! (Children's Band-Aids with pictures on them will make the game more fun.)

**WORD SCRAMBLE:** Before class time, the teacher will hide pieces of paper with a scrambled word from today's lesson on each paper. (Suggestions: Samaritan, parable, neighbor, priest, Levite, lawyer, robbers, love.) The children will run to find a hidden word and bring it back to the table and try to UNSCRAMBLE the word. When the word is unscrambled, the child can write the correct word on the back side of the paper and quickly run to the GOOD SAMARITAN poster board and tape the word to the board. (The teacher may have children work separately or in groups of 2 if desired.)

**GOOD SAMARITAN WORD LIST:** Children can work together as a class or in groups of 2 or 3 or even alone for older children. See how many words the children can make from the letters found in GOOD SAMARITAN within a given time limit. When the time limit is up, let the children share their list of words with the rest of the class.

**L-O-V-E BRACELETS:** Children can make a bracelet out of letter beads and plastic string to remind them to LOVE others as Jesus loves them.

**SAMARITAN SKIT:** Choose a narrator and have the children act out today's Good Samaritan story with the man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho and being attacked by robbers. Some children could be the robbers. One child can be the priest who crossed over to the other side of the road and continued on his way, as well as one child being the Levite who ignored the hurt man. One child can be the GOOD SAMARITAN and one could be the innkeeper if there are enough children. One person can be Jesus telling the story and asking the final question. (You might like to

use your smart phone to make a video of the skit or take some still photos of the children.)

**FIRST AID SAMARITAN BOXES:** Give each child a small box (A children's shoe box would do nicely.) Provide a small sponge and some paints. Have the children sponge-paint their box and allow it to dry. At the end of class, let children put some bandaids, cotton balls, q-tips, gauze, and a small sucker or a candy inside their box and write "FIRST AID TO HELP OTHERS" on the top of their box lid. Encourage children to help someone who may get hurt and to share the sucker to make them happy.

**BANDAID PEOPLE:** Give the children a several inexpensive Band-Aids to stick onto a piece of construction paper in the form of a stick person. The children will draw a head at the top of the vertical Band-Aid, hands at the end of the horizontal Band-Aid that form the arms, and feet at the bottom of the Band-Aids that form the legs. Tell children to write words from today's lesson around the Band-Aid people, such as caring, loving, kind, eternal life, heart, love, Jesus.

**SING A SONG:** LOVE ONE ANOTHER; TO BE LIKE JESUS

**SNACK TIME:** Children could go to a table with small glasses or fruit juice, crackers, cookies or cupcakes. Have the children serve the person sitting to their right and continue around the table until everyone has been served a snack today. Make sure one children "serves" the teacher with a snack as well. Encourage the children to watch for others who may have a need that they can help with during this coming week.

**Song: "Love One Another"**

[Words and Music](#) (pdf) 

[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track

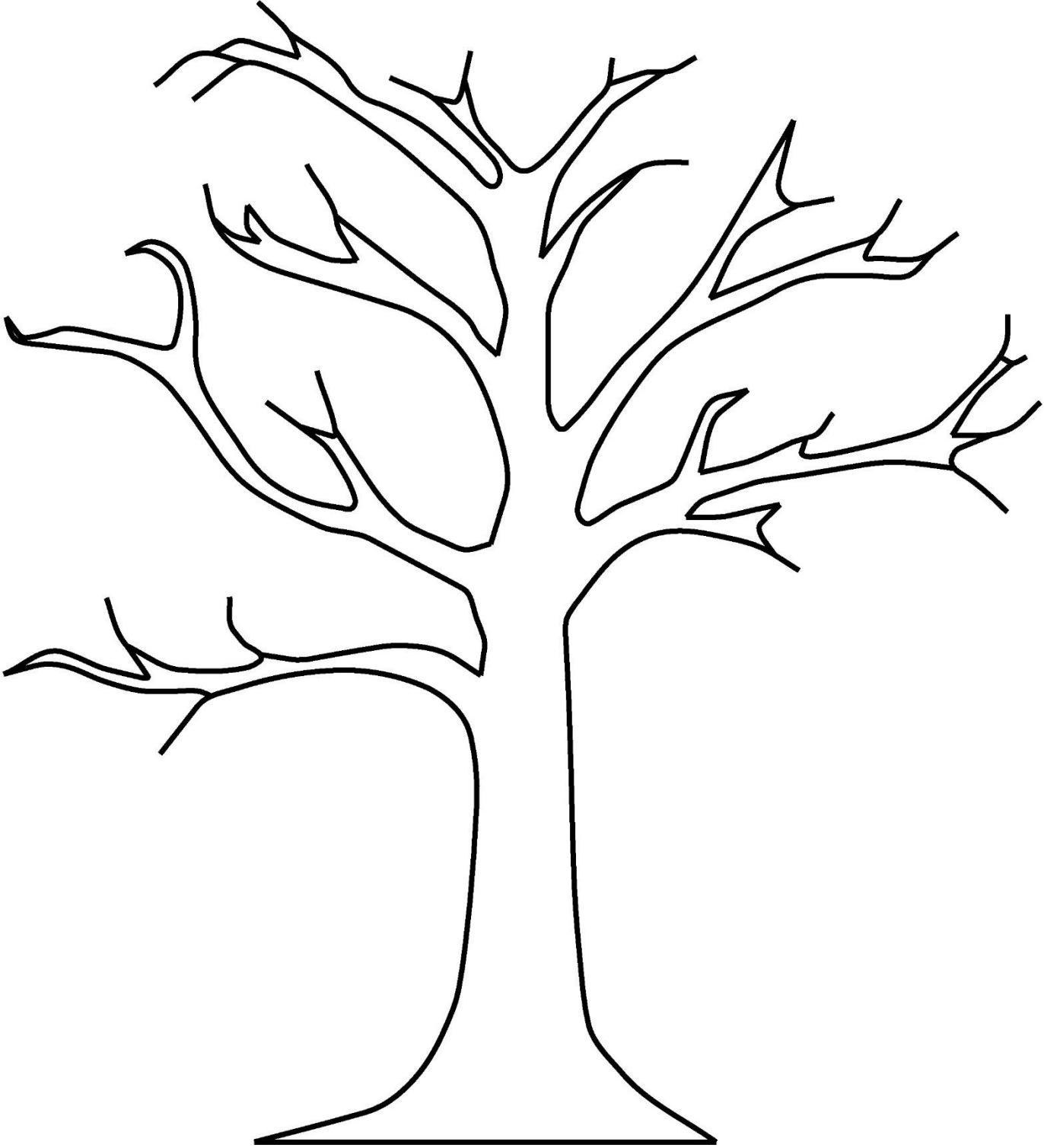
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### **About Carol Williams**

Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles tc (the clown).







## **Mashed-potato mountains**

### **fun with food**

Serve mashed potatoes and allow your children to make "mountains" with the potato. If you prefer, you can also use play dough on a cookie sheet. Sand or dirt makes a good outdoor alternative.

As your children are making their mountains, read your choice of the verses listed below. Encourage each child to act out the verses that you are reading, demonstrating God's power by squishing the mountains and making "streams flow." (Streams can be created using melted butter, gravy or water.) Use the discussion questions to talk about the magnitude of God's power and His unlimited ability to answer prayer.

### **Questions for discussion**

Have you ever seen an ocean?

Have you ever swum in big ocean waves?

Who decides where the shore of the ocean is?

Who can calm the ocean's wild waves?

Have you ever been to a desert?

Why do so few plants grow in the desert?

What do you think it would be like to go for a long walk in the desert?

Who can cause streams to flow and plants to grow in the desert?

Who is in charge of everything that happens in nature?

If God gives orders to the ocean, flattens mountains and make rivers in the desert, is there anything He can't do?

*Read Mark 11:22-24 (see below).* What did Jesus tell His disciples about prayer?

### **Key concepts**

When we think of the way God uses His power to control all of nature, we are reminded that His mighty strength has no limits. We can take courage or be encouraged, knowing that when we pray, there is nothing God cannot do.

Close by thanking God for His love, power and constancy. For example, you could pray, "Dear God, it is a comfort to know that although the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, Your love for us will not be shaken. Amen" (Isaiah 54:10).

