Preschool–Grade 5

As for Me and My House Craft

The great stone under the oak · Joshua 24:14–28 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



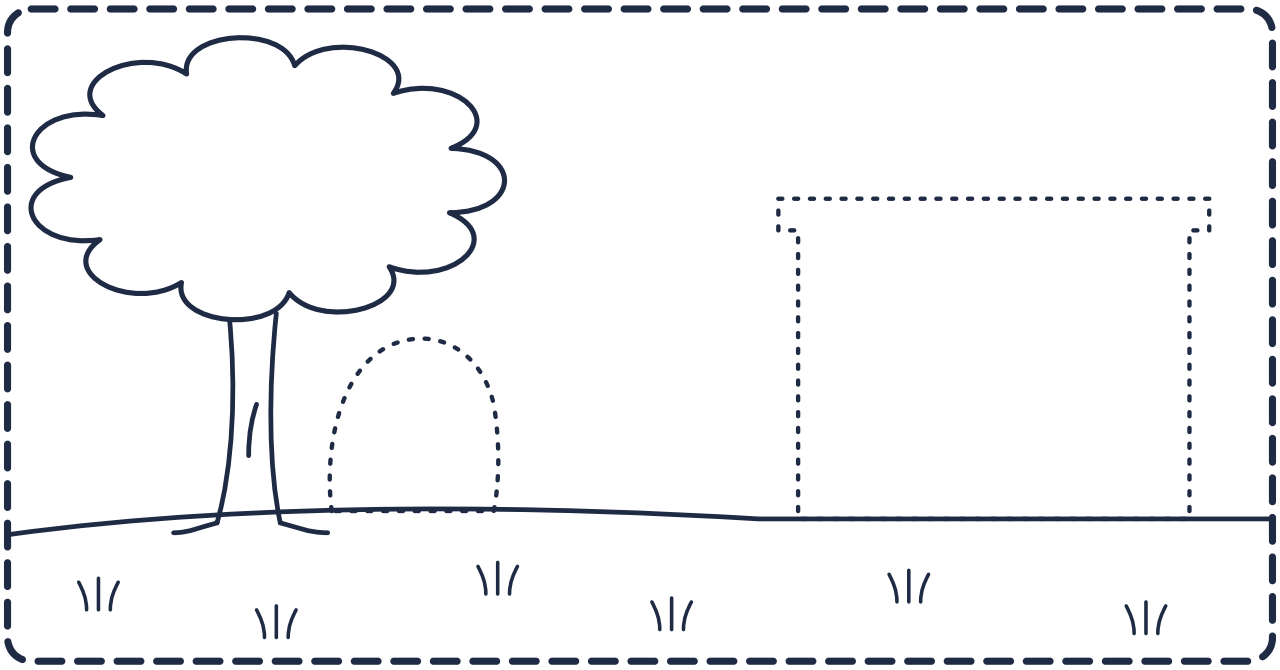
Harder

Both levels are a card with a light blue sky, light green grass and a big oak with green leaves and a brown trunk. A gray great stone stands under the oak, the witness Joshua set up (Joshua 24:26–27). Beside it stands a light brown house with a flat brown roof, and in its window is the child's drawing of their own family: "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (24:15). Medium (left): the card with the stone and the house. Harder (right): the same, plus two brown doors on the house that open to show the family.

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Name: _____

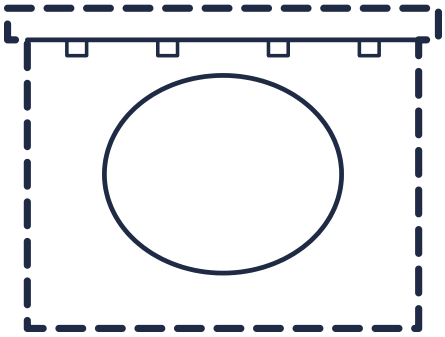
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: sky light blue, oak leaves green, trunk brown, grass light green.



stone:
color it gray



house: walls light brown, roof brown;
draw your family in the window

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

Color each piece the way its label says. Draw your family in the house window. Cut out the card, the stone, the house and the verse strip. You also need a glue stick.

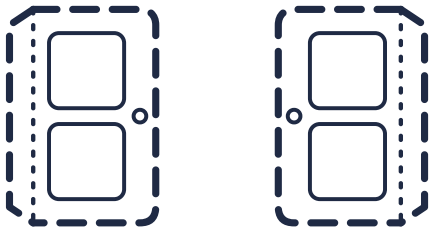
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✂ Harder level



two doors: color them brown and their panels light brown.
Cut out both doors with their tabs. Fold each tab back on the dotted line.

How to make the harder level

1. Make the card, the stone, the house and the verse strip from page 2 first, with your family drawn in the window.
2. Color both doors brown and their panels light brown.
3. Cut out both doors with their tabs. Fold each tab back on the dotted line.
4. Glue the tab of the left door on the house wall just left of the window, so the door closes over the left half of the window. Glue the tab of the right door just right of the window, so it closes over the right half.
5. Close the doors. Tell it: Joshua said, "choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Joshua 24:15). Then he told whom his family would serve. Open the doors and say it together: "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (24:15)!

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/as-for-me-and-my-house-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in light blue, green, brown, light green, gray and light brown, crayons for drawing the family, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the stone, the house and the verse strip ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces. Kids color the card, the stone and the house, draw their family in the window, and glue the stone under the oak and the house beside it (help with the glue). Help them glue the verse strip on the back.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut and glue. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level, then add the two doors from page 3 that close over the window and open to show the family. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the sky light blue, the oak's leaves green, its trunk brown and the grass light green. Leave the two dotted shapes white.
2. **Stone and house:** color the stone gray. Color the walls of the house light brown and its flat roof brown.
3. **Draw:** in the window of the house, draw your family, the people who live in your house.
4. **Cut:** cut out the card, the stone, the house and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Glue:** glue the stone on the dotted stone shape under the oak. Glue the house on the dotted house shape.
6. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card, and read it together.
7. **Tell it:** Joshua said, "choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15). Point to the stone: Joshua set up a great stone under an oak to be a witness of the people's promise to serve the LORD (24:26–27).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Where did Joshua gather all the tribes of Israel? *(Shechem, Joshua 24:1)*
- How did Joshua tell the people to serve the LORD? *(In sincerity and in truth, with a true heart, 24:14)*
- What did Joshua tell the people to choose? *(Whom they would serve, 24:15)*
- Point to the house. What did Joshua say about his house? *("As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD," 24:15)*
- What did the people answer? *("God forbid that we should forsake the LORD," 24:16)*
- What did the people promise to obey? *(The LORD's voice, 24:24)*
- Point to the stone. Where did Joshua set it up? *(Under an oak, by the sanctuary of the LORD, 24:26)*
- Why would the stone be a witness? *(It had heard all the words of the LORD, 24:27)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: fear the LORD** means honor Him as God; **sincerity** means really meaning it; **choose you this day** means choose today; **ye** means you; **the flood** in this verse means the big river; **dwell** means live; **my house** means my family; **God forbid** means never; **forsake** means leave; **covenant** means a solemn promise with God; **witness** means someone, or something, that saw and heard and can tell what happened.
- **What the Bible says:** Joshua wrote the words in the book of the law of God, took a great stone and set it up under an oak by the sanctuary of the LORD, and said the stone had heard all the words of the LORD (Joshua 24:26–27). The Bible doesn't describe the stone, the oak or the place, and no words were written on the stone. The house stands for "my house," Joshua's word for his family; the house, the doors, the grass and the colors are the craft's simple picture.
- **No one is drawn on the template:** each child draws their own family in the house window.
- **Be kind about families:** some children's families don't go to church. Joshua said "as for me" first: every child can choose to serve God and pray for their family. Never say anything that shames a child's family.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child point to their house and say, "We will serve the LORD!" (Joshua 24:15)
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free As for Me and My House lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/as-for-me-and-my-house.

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