



CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN HOMES
CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY
AND AGING

Sensing the Sacred

Jesus and Zacchaeus



Jesus and Zacchaeus

WE APPROACH GOD

*Greet each participant as they come in or as they are gathered around the table.
When everyone is present say:*

We are here today to worship God together. When we gather like this we are in a special place—a special place to be with God, to talk with God, to listen to God, and to hear the stories of God. In this place we have all the time we need, so we don't need to be in a hurry.

We will begin by greeting one another. I will say, “The Lord be with you,” and you will say, “And also with you.” Let's greet each other.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

[Pass out hymn sheet and invite participants to sing with you.]

Suggestion:

“Jesus Loves Me”

End by Singing “Be Still and Know that I Am God”

[Pick up hymn sheet.]

TELLING GOD'S WORD

When we sing “Be Still and Know That I Am God” we are getting ready to hear one of God's stories. This is the story of “Jesus and Zacchaeus.”

Stand silently and feel the story forming in you. Then roll out the purple underlay¹ as you say

(Omit this paragraph if it is not Lent)

This is the season of Lent . . . the time we get ready to celebrate the mystery of Easter . . .

¹If you are telling this story in a season other than Lent use a green underlay.

Roll out the beige road, smooth it, and place Jerusalem at the end to your left as you say:

Once every year the people of God go up to Jerusalem, the holy city of God, to celebrate the feast of the Passover, to remember how God led them to freedom. This year Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. . .

Place Jericho at the edge of the underlay near you and place the tree down the road to your left.

. . . on his way to Jerusalem. Crowds of people wanted to see him.

Place three people on the side of the road closer to you and three people opposite them

Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector.

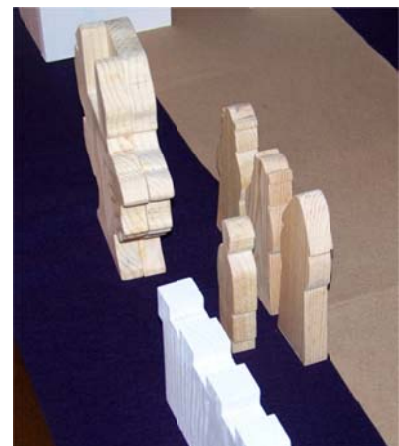
Present Zacchaeus.

People didn't like Zacchaeus. He took too much of their money. So he was very rich. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus too.

Put Zacchaeus behind the three people closest to you and move him up and down, trying to see over them.

But he was too short.

Show him trying to squeeze between them and move people close together so he can't see



And the people would not let him through. So Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree.

Move him from behind the people and up into the tree.



When Jesus came . . .

Present Jesus, and then move Jesus along the road between the people and stop him in the road, even with the tree and turn him to face the tree.



. . . he looked up . . . and called him . . . by name. “Zacchaeus, come down. I must stay with you today.” Zacchaeus was so happy, he couldn’t do anything but come right down.

Take Zacchaeus down from the tree and walk Jesus and Zacchaeus back along the road together between the people going back towards Jericho.



But the people were angry.

Take Zacchaeus and Jesus just past the people and then say:

“Why is Jesus staying with Zacchaeus? Zacchaeus does bad things. He’s a tax collector. He takes money that isn’t his.”

Move them off the road in front of Jericho and stop them, with Jesus and Zacchaeus facing each other and with Jesus’ back to the crowd.



Then Zacchaeus said, “Jesus, I will give half of everything I have to the poor. And if I have taken money that doesn’t belong to me, I will give it back and four times more.”

Jesus said, “Zacchaeus, today you are saved. You are right with God, and you are right with people.”

Turn Jesus toward the people and say:

“I, the special Son of God, have come to find and to save everyone who is lost.”



RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD:

Wondering Together

I wonder what it is like to be so short that you can’t see what you want to see?

I wonder what it is like to be someone that no one likes?

I wonder how Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called him by name?

I wonder how Zacchaeus felt when he gave half of his things to the poor?

I wonder how Zacchaeus felt when he was right with God and right with people?

I wonder what you’re wondering about this story?

Reading the Bible

Take the Bible. Say:

The Story we heard today is in the Bible. I will read it from Luke, chapter 19.

Read Luke 19:1-10

We can sing this story also. Watch me and we’ll sing about Zacchaeus and Jesus. (Pass out Zacchaeus song sheets.)²

² See a group of kids singing this song at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6XRm_o7u8A

We Give Thanks to God

Now it is time to give thanks to God. Do you have any things you would like to thank God for? Invite responses.

Now I will pray to thank God.

Leader prays weaving in participants' responses, ending with inviting participants to join in the Lord's Prayer (trespasses .

GO IN GOD'S NAME

(Pass out hymn sheet before singing and pick up after singing.)

Sing a Hymn: (Suggestion) Amazing Grace

Pronounce the Benediction:

***Receive the Benediction:** "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. (In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.) AMEN."*

Then go around the circle and wish God's blessing on each participant by name.

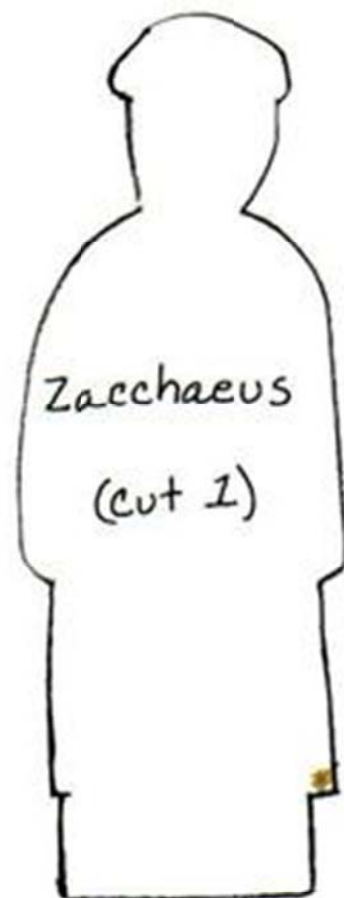
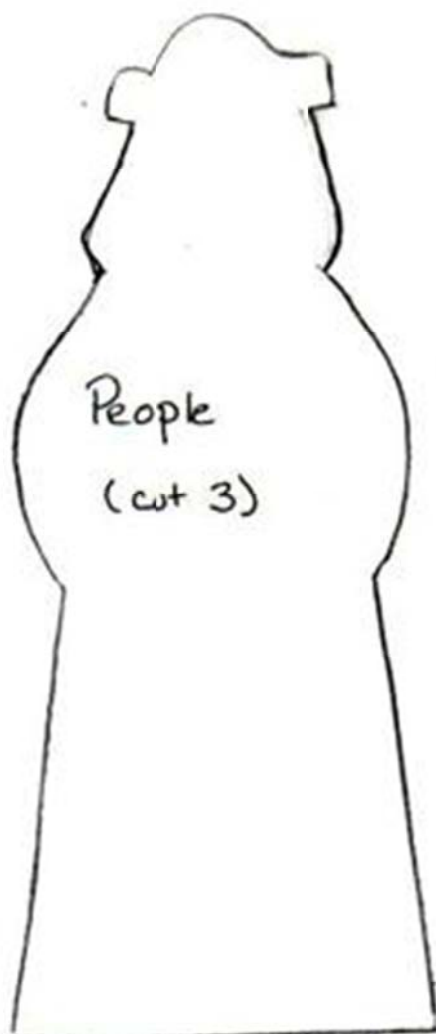
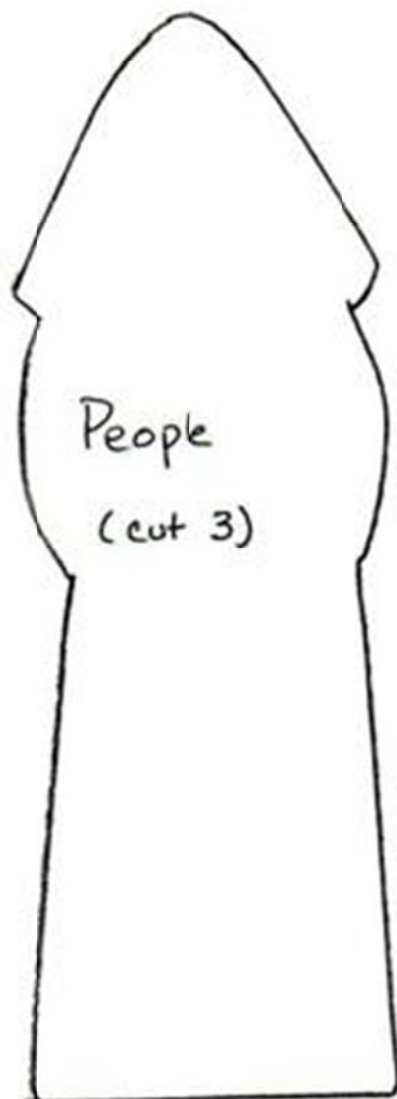
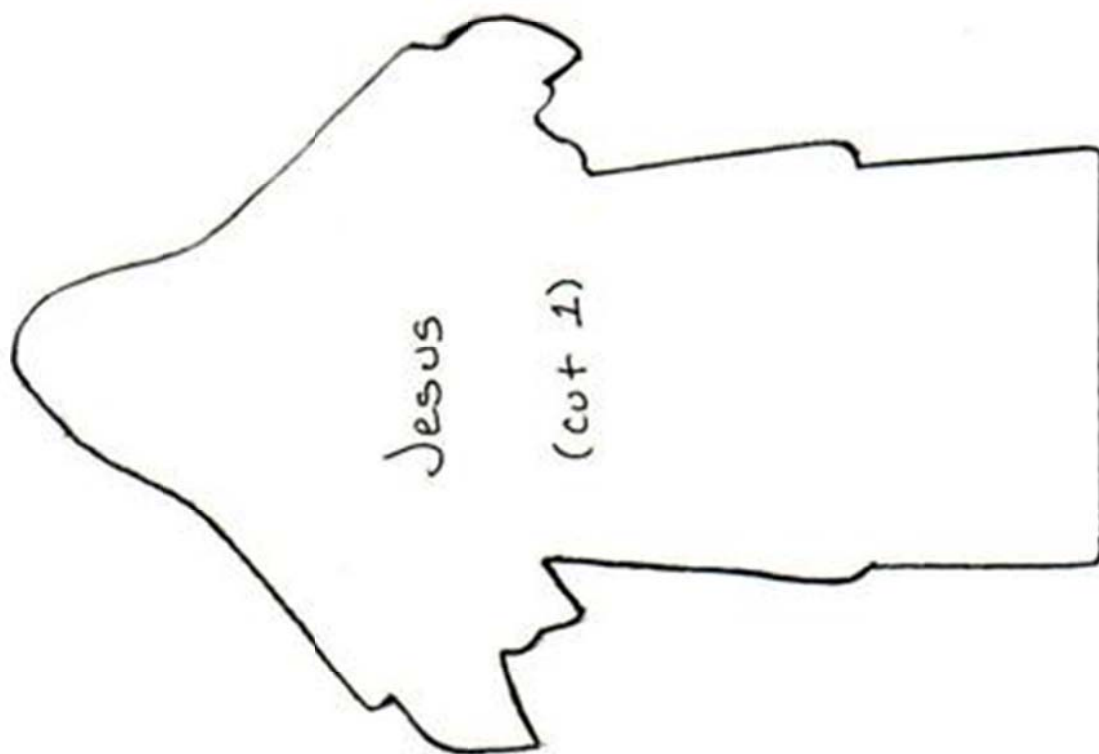
Then pack up the figures and take your leave.

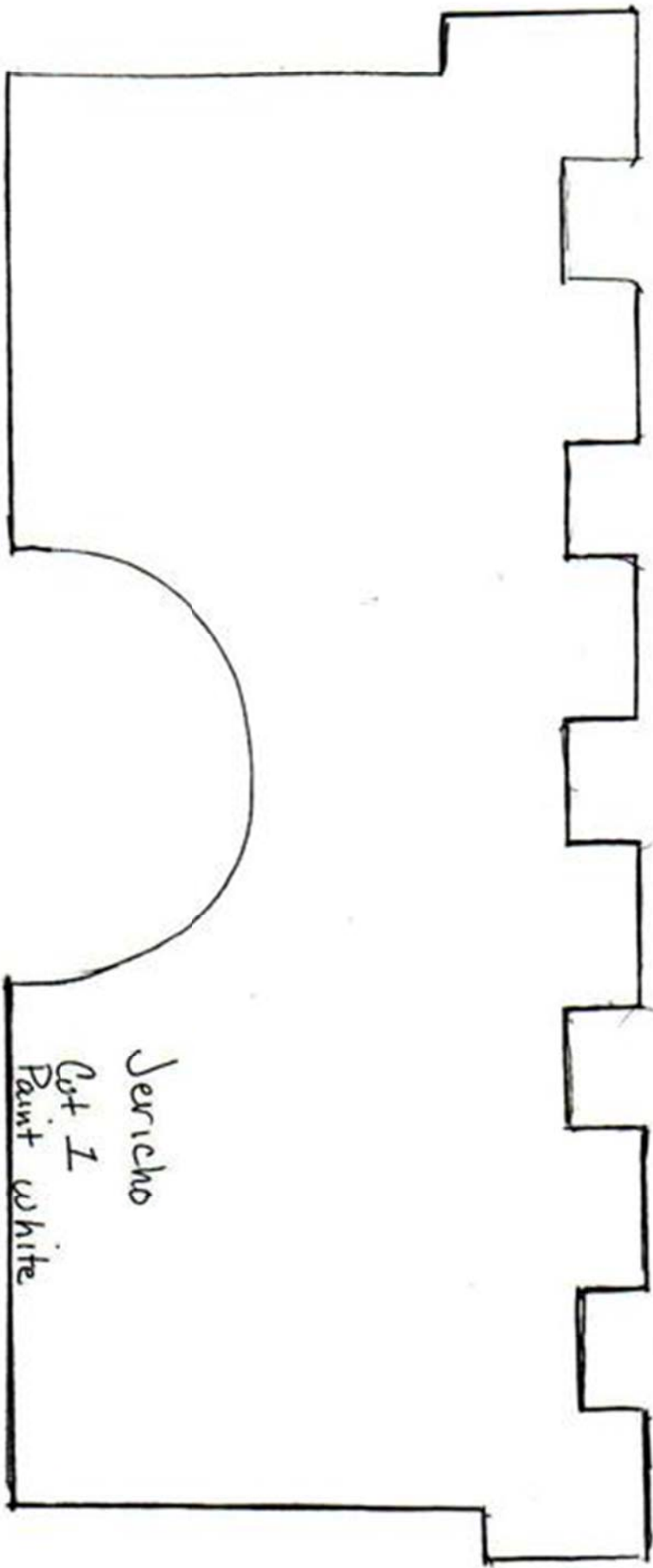
Zacchaeus Materials List

1. Tray
2. Beige felt road (48" x 12")
3. Purple felt underlay (48" x 24") For lent
4. Green felt underlay (48" x 24") For other seasons of the church year.
5. Two baskets (one for people (6)) and one for Zacchaeus, Jesus, and tree.
6. Model of Jerusalem, Jericho skyline
7. Song sheets

Zacchaeus Patterns

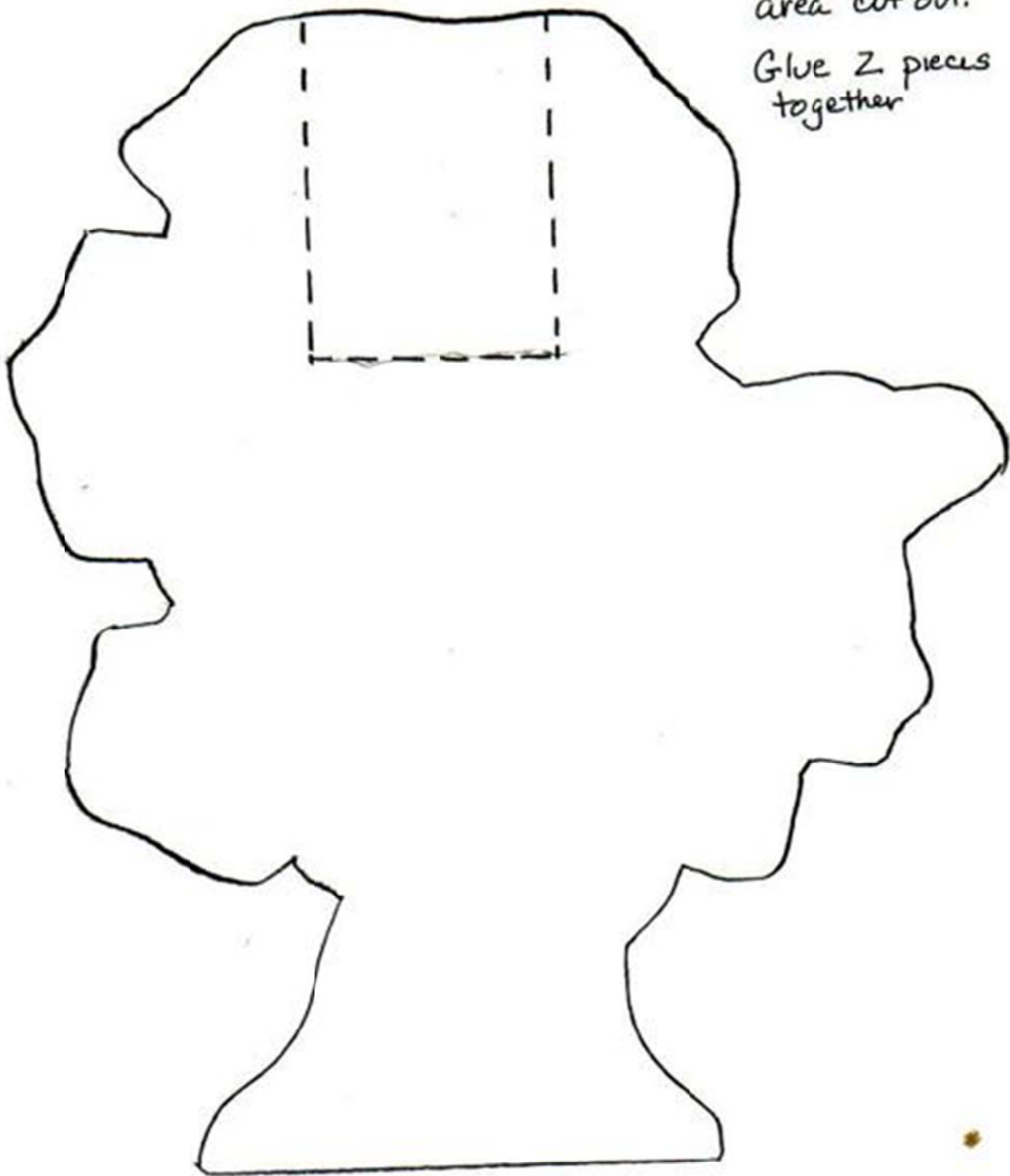
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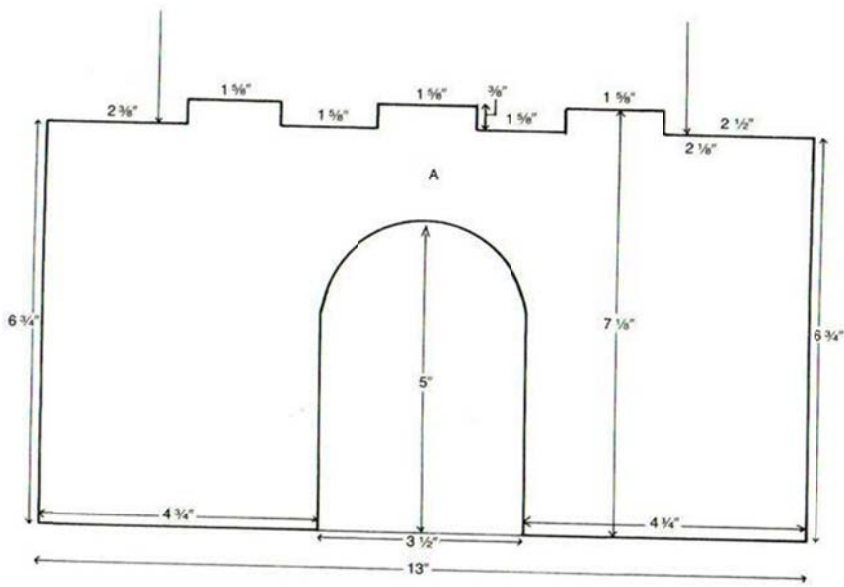
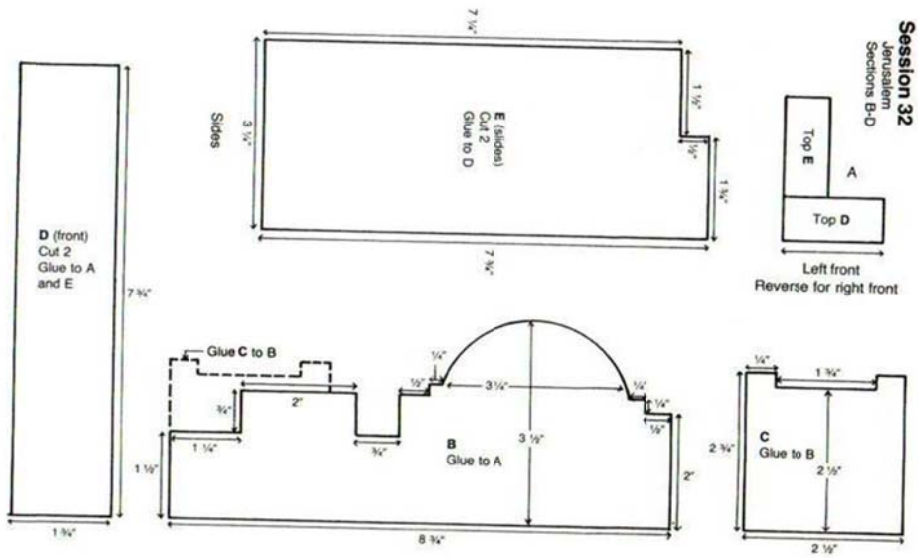




cut 2 trees -
one with dotted
area cut out.

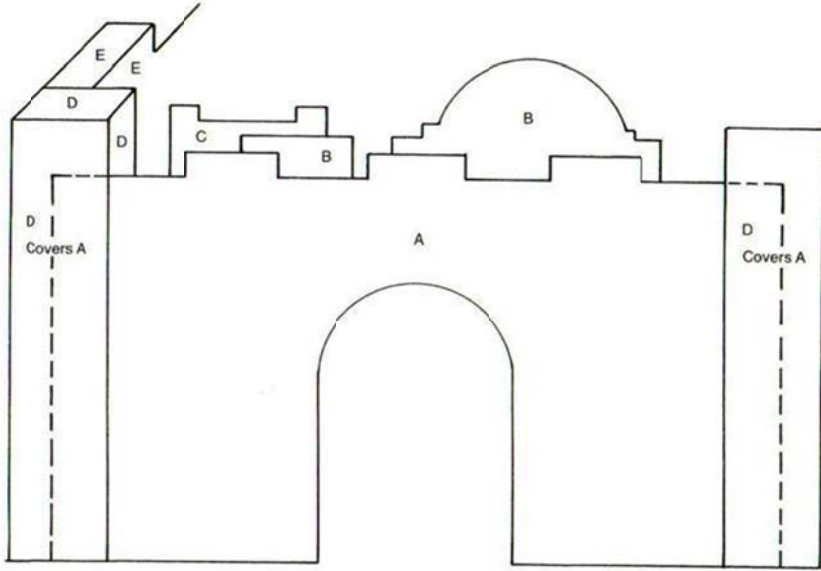
Glue 2 pieces
together





Session 32
Model of city of Jerusalem

Section A Jerusalem
13" x 7 1/8" x 3/8" (thick)



Session 32
Model of city of Jerusalem
finished view