## *Opening*
Wherever we come together,
**God is with us.**
**God is here.**

We come together to say sorry
We come together to say Thank you
We come together to ask for God's help
We come together to hear God's story
We come together to celebrate God's love.

Wherever we come together,
**God is with us.**
**God is here.**

## *Saying Sorry*
*Hold onto a stone and think about things that you have done this week you would like to say sorry for.*

God loves us and forgives us when we are sorry for wrong things we have done.
For times this week when we have made others sad.
**We are sorry.**

For times this week when we have not helped others
**We are sorry.**

For times this week when we have not looked after your creation,
**We are sorry**

For times this week when we have been selfish
**We are sorry**

*Put the stone in a bowl of water*

As we leave these things behind, may God forgive us and give us a new, clean start today.
**Amen**

## *Saying thank you*
*To join in you will need: some slips of paper, some pens and an empty jam jar (you can join in without this for the first few weeks but can then join in when you have had the time to put some things in the jar!)*
*Ask each person to draw or write down on one of the slips something they would like to say thank you for and put it in the jar. As we pray, pull a slip out of the jar and say thank you for what is written on it. Continue to fill the jar during the week.*

God, you are amazing and you have given us good things. We thank you for all your gifts to us.
Thank you for…
Amen

Thank you for…
Amen

Thank you for...
Amen

*Continue until everyone has had a chance to say something.*

### *Story and response*
Listen to this week's story or read a story from the Bible. This week is the story of Jesus and the disciples in John 15.

I wonder which part of this story you liked the most?
I wonder what surprised you about this story?
I wonder what this story makes you feel?
I wonder where you are in this story?
Do you wonder anything about this story?

### *Prayers*
In the story, Jesus leaves his disciples and goes up to heaven. The men in white, who appear at the end, tell the disciples that one day he will come back and they will see him again. The disciples are going to have to wait until they can celebrate seeing their friend again. This year we have done a lot of waiting: waiting for schools to open, waiting for shops to open, waiting for a vaccine to be available, waiting until the time when we can see our friends and family again. Now things are beginning to open up again and it feels like the waiting is nearly over. What will you celebrate being able to do or who will you celebrate being able to see again?

You will need: thick cardboard, template, scissors, pens to decorate

Draw round the template on some cardboard and cut out the shape. Decorate with pens, maybe drawing the things you are looking forward to doing again or the people you are looking forward to seeing again. Go outside and throw the boomerang. Wait for it to come back to you!

**Dear God, thank you for loving us and wanting good things for us. Thank you that every day we have more and more hope that we will see the people and do the things we love again. Help us to wait patiently for the good things we know are coming. Amen**

### *Close*
Wherever we come together,
**God is with us.**
**God is here.**

May God bless us.
May we know that we are loved
May we know that we are cared for.
May we know God's hope.
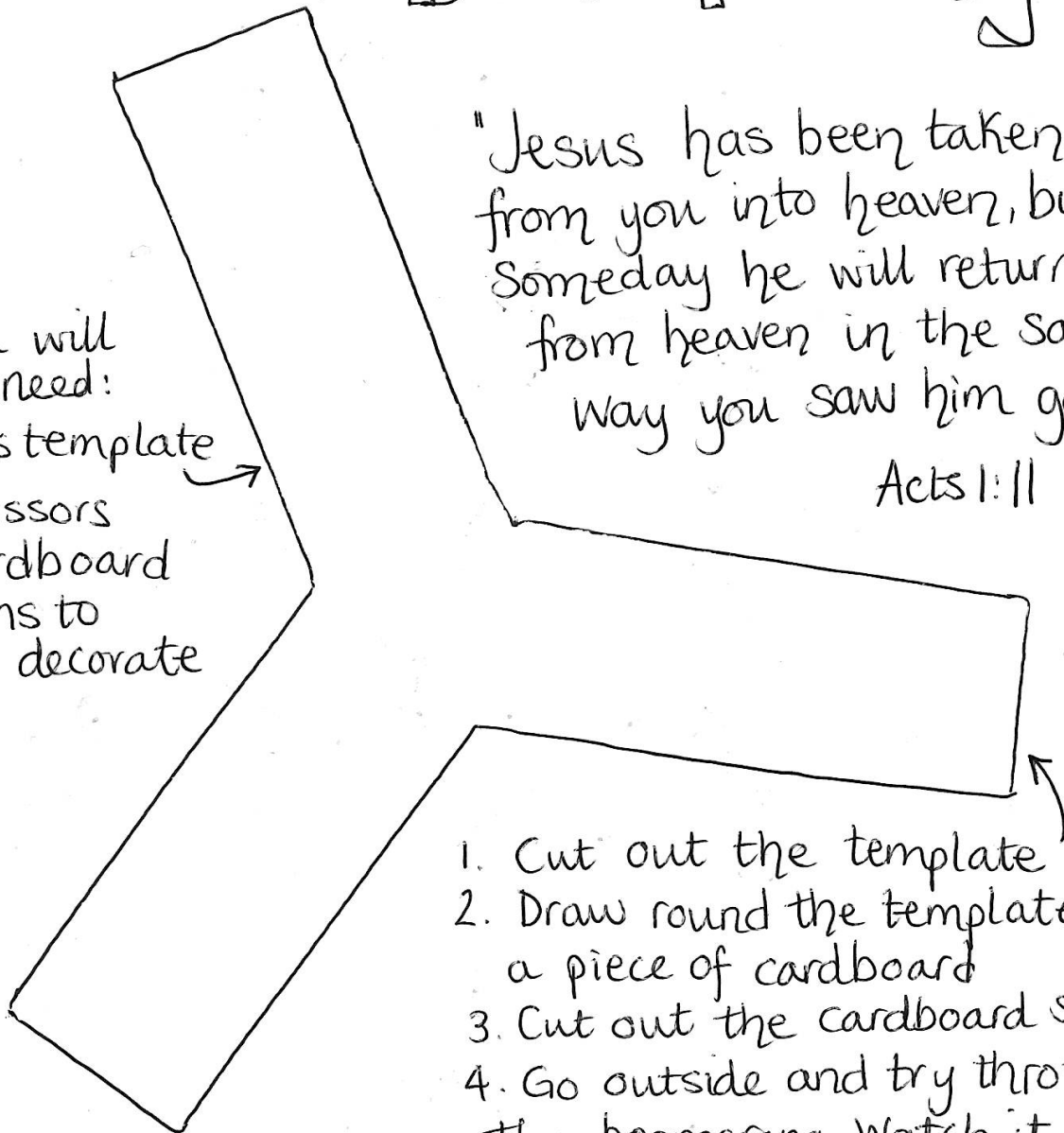
**God is with us**
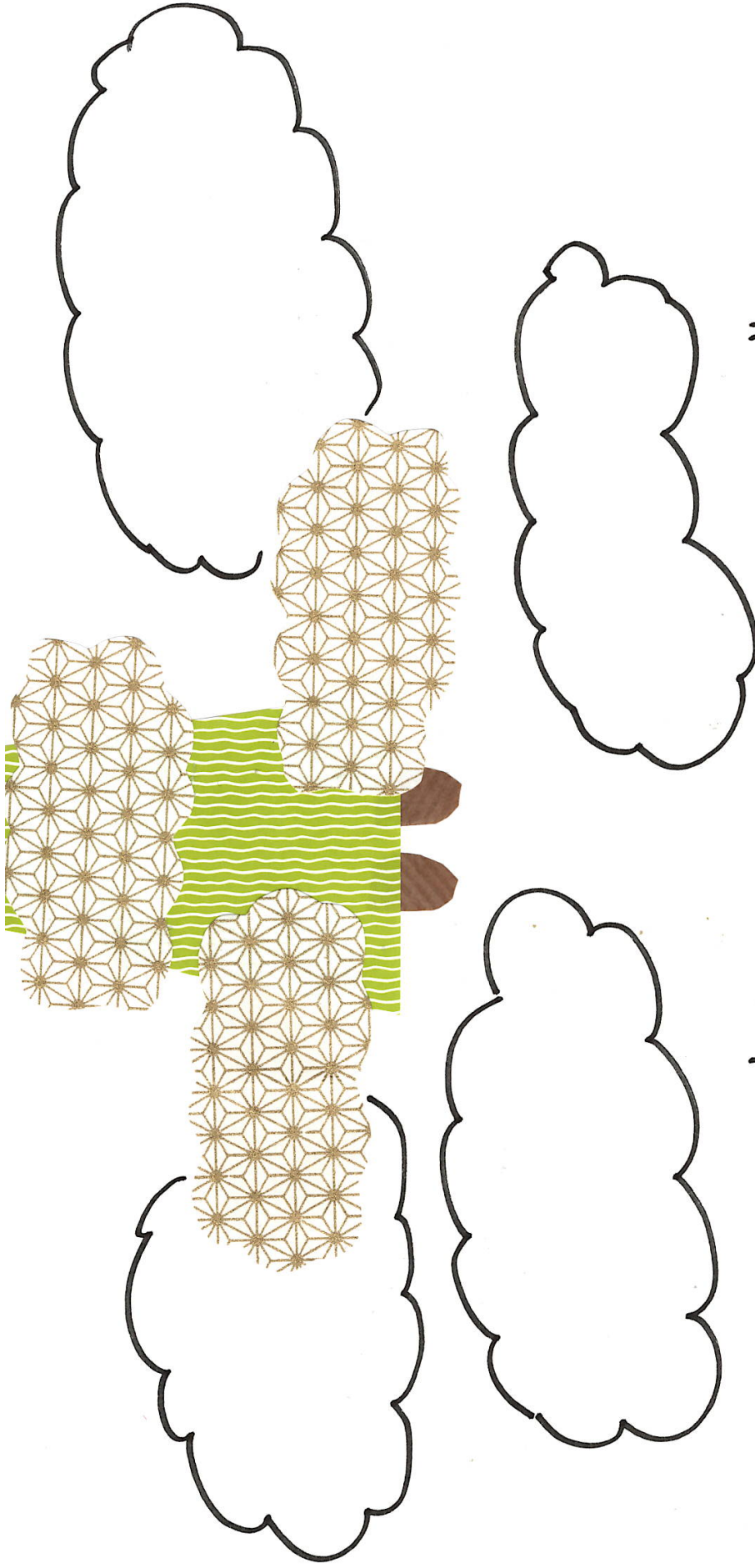**God is here**
**Amen.**

*Extinguish the candle.*

# Ascension Day Boomerang

"Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

Acts 1:11

You will need:
This template
Scissors
cardboard
pens to decorate

1. Cut out the template
2. Draw round the template on a piece of cardboard
3. Cut out the cardboard shape.
4. Go outside and try throwing the boomerang. Watch it go out and then come back. What is the best way to throw it?

Decorate the boomerang.
Think of the disciples waiting for Jesus to return.
What/who are you looking forward to seeing/doing again?

When Jesus goes up to heaven, he tells the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to come.

What are you waiting for?

What does waiting feel like?

Fill the clouds with Play dough and ask God to help people who are waiting.

# Ascension