Teaching the Gospel Spotlight

I. What is a Gospel Spotlight?

The Gospel Spotlight is a five-to-seven-minute segment, separate from the Bible lesson, where an object lesson is used to convey the message of salvation and an opportunity to respond to God's call is presented, briefly if an invitation is given after the Bible lesson.

What is taught in the Gospel Spotlight?

The message of salvation

- Who God is—**Creator/Love** (**gold** circle teaching)
- Who man is—**Sinner by nature and act** (**dark** heart teaching)
- Who Jesus is—**The person and work of Christ** (**red** cross and tomb teaching)
- What God offers—**Forgiveness and new life** (**clean** heart teaching)

Demonstration of a Gospel Spotlight

Focus Questions:

As you hear the demonstration of the Gospel Spotlight, observe the following:

1. What do you hear taught about who God is and what he is like?

2. What teaching about sin was presented?

3. What teaching was presented about the person and work of Jesus?

4. How was the terminology of the invitation verse explained?

How was the tool used to emphasize the Gospel and keep the child attention?

GOSPEL SPOTLIGHT

"Two Birthdays"

Slide 1

Did you know there are two kinds of birthdays?

Slide 2

This candle reminds me of the first time I was born.

Slide 3

And this one reminds me of the second time I was born. You can have two birthdays too.

Slide 4

Let's pretend this red box is a representation of God. What can you tell me about God? *(Allow response. Answers could include the following: He is the one who made the world and everything in it; He can do anything; He is perfectly good; He loves you; etc.)*

Slide 5

This box represents you. When you were born the first time, God gave you a body (physical life) so you can live in this world. But there is something each person is born with that stands in the way of a relationship with God.

Slide 6

You were born with a "want to" to do wrong things, wanting your own way. We call that sin. The dark box represents sin. Being selfish, disobeying your teacher, or getting angry and saying unkind words are sins. The Bible says everyone has sinned. This includes you and me. Sin separates you from God because God is perfectly good. He is holy. God loves you and wants to have a relationship with you. He made a way for you to have your sins forgiven. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to Earth to make that way.

Materials
"Cupcake" visual
"Candle" cards
"Two Birthdays" cross pieces
(See GNC *Resource Pack.)*
Whiteboard or poster board
Tape

Slide 1



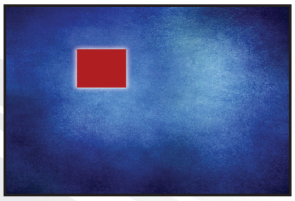
Slide 2



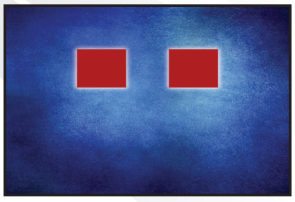
Slide 3



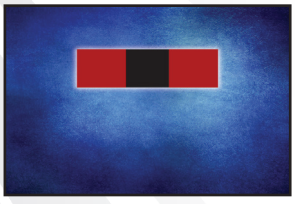
Slide 4



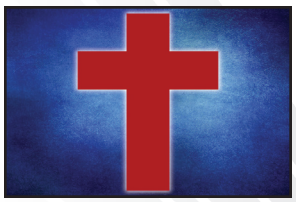
Slide 5



Slide 6



Slide 7



Slide 7

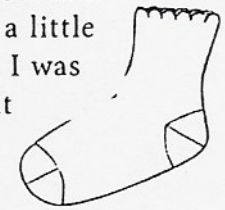
Jesus lived a perfect life. Then He willingly gave His life's blood on the cross to pay for your sins. He took your punishment. He died, was buried, then on the third day He came back to life. After 40 more days on Earth, He went back to Heaven where He reigns as King. Because of what Jesus did for you, you can be born into God's family. Listen to these words Jesus said when He lived here on Earth. *(Read John 3:3.)* This is the second birthday you need to have. To be born again means to be born into God's family (spiritual life).

The first time you were born, you were born into your physical family. When you receive the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you are born into God's family. You become His child. Listen to what God says, *(read John 1:12).* Do you have two birthdays? Have you been born into God's family? You can believe on Jesus today and become God's child. Then you'll have a second birthday, too!

Story-of-Me Box

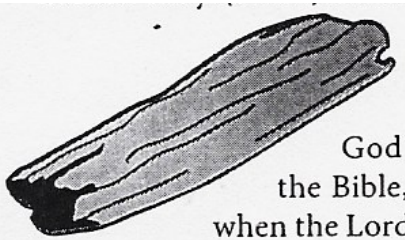
Preparation: Place the following items in a white square gift box: baby sock, piece of wood, strip of gauze, party noisemaker, TV remote control, play money (large bill).

(Show box.) Would you believe this box tells the story of my life? Look at this tiny baby sock *(pull out and show sock).* I was once a little baby just like you were. I was so cute and loving. But it wasn't long before I learned how to throw fits, disobey my parents and even steal and lie.



We are all born wanting to do bad things. No one had to teach us how. Doing bad things is breaking God's laws. That is called *sin*. Sin is a problem for everyone. No matter how good we try to be, each of us does or thinks or says something wrong. The Bible says, "All have sinned" (Rom. 3:23).

Even though you are a sinner God loves you. He created (made) you. And God wants you to be His child forever. God is holy (perfect). Your sin separates you from God. God knew you would have the terrible problem of sin. He gave you a special gift. God sent His own perfect Son, Jesus Christ, to Earth as a human baby. *(Read John 3:16.)*

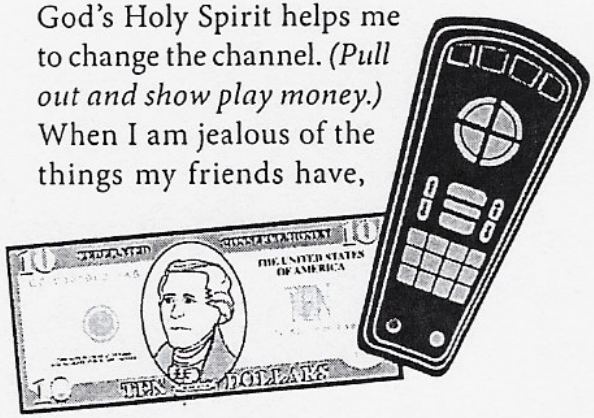


(Pull out and show wood.) God's true book, the Bible, tells us that when the Lord Jesus Christ became a man He willingly let people put nails through His hands and feet and hang Him on a wooden cross to die like a criminal. He didn't die for His own sins like other criminals—Jesus had no sin.

Jesus Christ died to take the punishment for your sin and mine. *(Pull out gauze and wrap around hand or forearm.)* Jesus' dead body was wrapped up and buried in a tomb (grave). *(Tuck wrapped forearm under opposite arm as if burying.)* If that was the end of the true story of Jesus it would be very sad. But three days later God gave Him life again. *(Unwrap forearm.)* Jesus is alive in Heaven now.

I was so glad when I heard about what Jesus did for me that I prayed and asked Jesus to save me from my sins. When I trusted in Jesus as my Savior I was set free from the punishment of sin and received eternal life. My new life began and will go on forever in Heaven after my body dies.

Jesus began to change the way I thought and acted. God the Holy Spirit lives inside me to help me turn away from sin each day (Eph. 1:13). *(Pull out and show party noisemaker.)* When I want to be sad and grumpy, God's Holy Spirit helps me be joyful instead. *(Pull out and show TV remote control.)* When I am tempted to watch a bad TV show, God's Holy Spirit helps me to change the channel. *(Pull out and show play money.)* When I am jealous of the things my friends have, God the Holy Spirit reminds me of good things God has given me. I can't do right all by myself. Neither can you. When you ask Jesus to be your Savior from sin He gives you a new life and helps you please Him.



This box holds my story. What is your story? Are you still wrapped up in sin? Will you ask Jesus to be your Savior today? You can talk to God right now. I'll be glad to help you.

—Yolanda Derstine

Copyright © 2005
Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.

Wordless Book Dialogue for Early Childhood

This is a special book with no words or pictures, but it tells a wonderful story with the colors. Would you like to hear the story? Let's begin with the beautiful gold page of our book.

(Open "Wordless Book" to **gold page**.) The color gold reminds me of a wonderful place called Heaven. Heaven is a place where there is no sadness. It is God's forever happy home. But the most wonderful thing about Heaven is that God is there. God is the Creator, He made everything (give examples) and He made you. You are very special to God. God loves you so much. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world". God is holy. He always does what is right and good. Heaven is wonderful because God lives there. But there is one thing that keeps us apart from God and that is sin. **(Mark John 3:16a with the yellow yarn)**

(Show **dark page**.) Sin is anything you think, see, say or do that makes God sad. When you disobey your mom or dad or you don't share your toys or you talk mean to someone that is sin. The Bible says, "For all have sinned." That means you and me. No one had to teach you how to sin, you were born knowing how. The punishment for your sin is being away from God forever. But God has a wonderful plan so you and I do not have to be punished for our sins. **(Mark Romans 3:23a with the black yarn)**

(Show **red page**) God's wonderful plan was to send His Son, Jesus. Jesus was born as a baby and grew up to be a man, but He never did anything wrong. Men who didn't believe he was the perfect Son of God took Jesus and nailed Him to a cross. Because He is God and never sinned, He could take the punishment for your sins and mine. The Bible says, "Christ (Jesus) died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures (just as the Bible said), and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,..." When they put the nails in His hands and feet, blood came out. That's why we use the red page. It reminds us that Jesus gave His blood to take the punishment for your sins. On the 3rd day Jesus came alive again. And now because of what Jesus did for you, you can have your sins forgiven. **(Mark I Corinthians 15:3b, 4 with the red yarn)**

(Show **clean page**) You can be made clean. (Read Acts 16:31). "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. "This verse means that if you admit that you have sinned (show dark page) and believe that Jesus died for your sins and came alive again (show red page) and you choose to believe in Jesus as your Savior (show clean page), you can be saved or rescued from the punishment of sin and be in God's forever family. Would you like to believe in Jesus today? Can I as you some questions? Why do you need the Lord Jesus? (Because I sin.) Can you name one sin that you have done. What did Jesus do for you? (He died on the cross for you.) How can Jesus become your Savior? (By believing in Jesus.) Would you like to tell God what you just told me? Tell God that you have sinned. Tell God you believe that Jesus died for you and came alive again. Tell God you want to live His way. Let the child pray in his words. **(Mark Acts 16:31 with one of the white yarns)**

What did Jesus do for you? Put child's name in the verse. "When (child's name) believed in the Lord Jesus then (child's name) will be saved." Read Hebrews 13:5b "Jesus will never leave me." (Show on fingers of hand starting with little finger..) Show Hebrews 13:6a. "The Lord is my Helper."(Show on fingers of the other hand) Jesus will help you to do what is right. (**Mark Hebrews 13:5b and Hebrews 13:6a with one of the white yarns)**

What happens if you choose to sin? You need to confess. 1. Tell God what you did that was sin. 2. Thank Jesus for dying for you on the cross. 3. Ask God to be your helper and help you not to do it again. (Show on fingers of you hand.)

(Show **green page**) Green is for growing as God's child. **G**—go to church **R**—read the Bible and pray **O**—obey what the Bible says **W**—witness, tell others what Jesus just did for you.
Say a "thank you" prayer with the child and give them a tract. **(Mark the book of Mark with yarn)**

The Flipper-Flapper[tm]

Flip the flaps of the Flipper-Flapper a few times before using it. Take special care because the center seams of the front and back flaps may still be connected. Hold it with the gold circle facing you and the two halves of the clean heart facing out with the bottom half of the heart at the bottom of the card (upside-down).

Have you ever seen a Flipper-Flapper? This tells without words what the Bible says about the true and living God who made the world. Let's look at the gold circle first. It reminds me of the sun. God created the sun and the stars and the world. God lives in Heaven, a perfect happy home. And God is perfect or holy – He always does what is right. He made you and me. And he loves you. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world." (John 3:16) God wants you to have a new and everlasting life in Heaven with Him someday. But there is one thing that keeps you apart from God. That is sin.

Fold right and left side back to show dark heart.
This dark heart reminds me of sin. Anything you think, say and do that makes God sad or breaks His laws is sin. Wanting your own way, not obeying your parents, and lying are all sins. No one had to teach you to sin; you were born with a "want to" to sin. The Bible tells us how many people have sinned. It says, "For all have sinned." (Romans 3:23a) That means you and I have sinned and the punishment for sin is to be apart from God. But God has a wonderful plan, so you and I do not have to be punished for our sins.

Fold top and bottom halves back showing red cross.
This red cross tells us about God's wonderful plan to send Jesus, God's perfect Son to earth to take the punishment for your sin and mine. Jesus came to earth as a baby and grew up to be a man, but He was different. He never sinned. One day men, who didn't believe Jesus was God, arrested Jesus, did cruel things to Him and nailed Him to a cross. When they put nails in His hands and feet blood the color of this cross came out. Jesus gave His precious blood. God's true book the Bible says, "Christ died for our sins, and that He was buried and that He was raised on the third day." (1Corinthians 15:3-4) Jesus died to take the punishment for your sins and for mine. But He didn't stay dead, He is alive in heaven today. And now because of what the Lord Jesus did for you, you can have your sins forgiven and you can be made clean.

Fold each of the sides back showing the clean heart.
This clean heart tells us that you and I can be saved from the punishment of sin and be made clean. The Bible says," Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved' (Acts 16:31a) Believe is to agree with God that you have sinned and trust completely that Jesus is the only one who can save you from the punishment of sin, then you will be saved. You can have your sins forgiven and be rescued from the punishment of sin. This is a very important decision. Do you believe that Jesus is the only one who can forgive your sins? Would you like to tell God that now? Tell God you have sinned and are sorry; that you believe Jesus is the only one who can take care of your sin problem; and that you want to live God's way with His help. (Child prays) When you truly believe in Jesus there are some promises that He gives you. "Jesus will never leave you.' And "The Lord is my helper." (Hebrews 13:5b and 13:6a, show promises on hands) If you choose to sin again, God says to tell Him what you did that that was sin, thank Jesus for dying for your sin and ask Him to help you not to do it again. When you are saved, you can get to know Him better.

Fold the top and bottom halves back returning to the gold circle. There is just one color we haven't looked at yet, the green border.
Green reminds me of things that grow. You can grow as God's child by **G**-going to church, Sunday School and Good News Club, **R**-reading the Bible and praying, **O**-obeying what God says in the Bible and **W**-witnessing – telling others about Jesus and what He did for them on the cross.

Child prays a thank you prayer, you pray for the child and give him a Gospel tract.

Use your Gospel Turnaround as you say these words.
Practice on 5 people this week! Pray for the people who heard the Gospel and tell your teachers about what happened!

Kid's Meal size

(gold circle)
God made everything; God is perfect; God loves you.

(dark heart)
You and I have sinned.

(red cross)
Jesus is God's Son; Jesus died for your sin; Jesus came alive.

(clean heart)
Trust in Jesus and be saved from sin."

(green color)
Grow as God's child and tell this good news again."

Doing motions will help you remember the words to say! (Have the child set the "Gospel Turnaround" aside while doing motions.)

"God made everything *(point outward as you turn in a circle);*
God is perfect *(point up).*
God loves you *(point to someone)."*

"You and I have sinned *(point to someone, then yourself, then make angry fist pose)."*

"Jesus is God's Son *(point up).*
Jesus died for your sin *(make cross with fingers).*
Jesus came alive *(lift hands)."*

"Trust in Jesus and be saved from sin *(touch forehead then clasp hands together and then cross fists at wrist and quickly twist & uncross)."*

"Grow as God's child and tell this good news again *(squat, then rise up; extend pointer fingers outward from mouth)."*

Super Size It!

(gold circle)

"This golden yellow circle reminds us of God – His light and His golden heaven.
God made everything; God is perfect; God loves you.
But God doesn't love everything you do."

(dark heart)

"This dark heart reminds us of living in the darkness of sin away from God's light.
You and I have sinned. ***Give examples of sins you & others do.***
Because of our sin, we deserve to be separated away from God forever."

(red cross)

"This cross reminds us of how God showed His love for you. God sent Jesus to be your Savior.
Jesus is God's Son; Jesus died for your sin; Jesus came alive.
Jesus is the Savior, the only one who can save you from sin."

(clean heart)

"This clean heart reminds us that we can be made clean from our sin. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but will have everlasting life. To believe in Jesus means to **trust in Jesus and be saved from sin."**

(green color)

"The green color reminds me of growing as God's child. You will grow in choosing to obey God.
Grow as God's child and tell this good news again."

Gospel Spotlight (Mega Full Meal Deal)

Gospel Turnaround *(***Bold** *for "Kid's Meal, Underlined for Super Size It".)*

(gold circle) This golden yellow circle reminds us of God – His light and His golden heaven. **God made everything.** God made all of Heaven and Earth. He wants you to live in Heaven when you are done living on Earth. **God is perfect.** He shines like light showing all that is right and good. God wants you to live in His light, doing what is right and good while you live on Earth. **God loves you.** God made you just the way you are, and He loves you just the way He made you. In the Bible God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jer. 31:3). But God doesn't love everything you do.

Practice saying:

***"*God made everything** *(point outward as you turn in a circle).*
God is perfect *(point up).*
God loves you *(point to someone)."*

(dark heart) Sometimes you do wrong things. This dark heart reminds us of living in the darkness of sin away from God's light. You disobey God when you disobey your parents. *(Share other examples of sin.)* God calls these bad and wrong things sin. In the Bible God says, "All have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). **You and I have sinned.** You were born with a "want to" to sin. God calls that a sin nature. No one had to teach you to sin! You know how to sin and so you do! Sin is like a terrible darkness in your heart – the real you that thinks and feels and makes choices. Sin must be punished. Because of our sin, we deserve to be separated away from God forever – never to have God's Spirit living in us on Earth and never to live in God's Heaven. But there is good news!

Practice saying:

***"*You and I have sinned** *(point to someone, then yourself, then make angry fist pose)."*

(red cross) This cross reminds us of how God showed His love for you. God sent Jesus to be your Savior. **Jesus is God's Son.** Jesus came from Heaven and lived on Earth as a person. Jesus always did everything right, His whole life, from a little boy to a man! Then, **Jesus died for your sin.** Jesus was punished for our sin when He willingly bled and died on a cross. But He didn't stay dead, 3 days later He came alive again! The Bible says, "Christ [Jesus] died for our sins…was buried and…rose again" (1 Cor. 15:3-4). **Jesus came alive!** He walked and talked and even ate food with people for 40 more days, and then He went back to Heaven. He just went right up while people watched! Jesus is the Savior, the only one who can save you from sin and save you from the punishment you deserve for your sin.

Practice saying:

***"*Jesus is God's Son** *(point up);*
Jesus died for your sin *(make cross with fingers);*
Jesus came alive *(lift hands)."*

(clean heart) This clean heart reminds us that we can be made clean from our sin. (Recite John 3:16) To believe in Jesus means to **trust in Jesus and be saved from sin.** When you believe and trust in Jesus as your own Savior, you will be forgiven – made clean from sin. God breaks you free from sin's power and the separation punishment you deserve for your sin. God loves you and wants you to trust in Jesus and be saved from sin. When you do, you will become God's child, part of God's forever family. You'll still be your parents' child and, in their family, too. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world (that means you) that He gave His only begotten Son (that's Jesus) that whoever believes in Him (that means, whoever believes and trusts in Jesus as their own Savior because Jesus died for their sin and then came alive again) should not perish (will not be separated from God now and forever because of sin) but will have everlasting life (life now and forever as God's child)".

If you would like to tell God you are believing and trusting in Jesus as your Savior, I'd be happy to help you tell God three things:

1. I know I have sinned and I'm sorry
2. I believe in Jesus as my Savior because He died for my sin and then came alive again
3. God, please forgive my sin and give me everlasting life as Your child. *(designate time and place to assist).*

Practice saying:

***"*Trust in Jesus and be saved from sin** *(touch forehead then clasp hands together and then cross fists at wrist and quickly twist & uncross)."*

(Point to green color) The green color reminds me of growing as God's child. When you become God's child, God the Holy Spirit comes to live in you while you live on Earth. He will help you grow as God's child, but you won't turn green! You'll grow in knowing God and understanding what He says to you through the Bible. You will grow in choosing to obey God and in being His witness—telling others the good news about God and Jesus your Savior. You can **grow as God's child and tell this good news again.**

Practice saying:

***"*Grow as God's child and tell this good news again** *(squat, then rise up; extend point fingers outward from mouth)."*

Gospel Fuzzies

We are the Gospel Fuzzies (3x)
With good news for you and me.

Gold tells us of God's love (3x)
He loves you and me.

Dark means I have sinned (3x)
And I can't hide from Him.

Red means Jesus died (3x)
And He rose again.

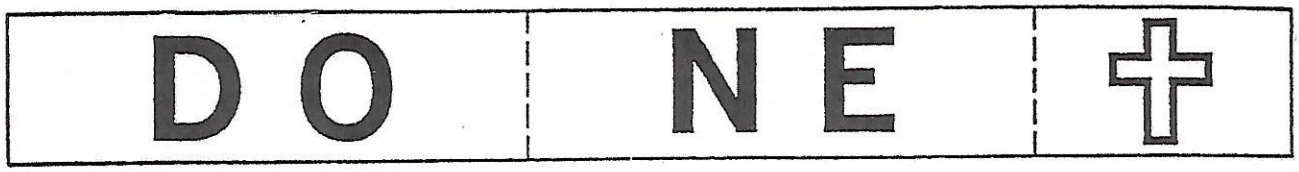
Clean means I'm forgiven (3x)
When I trust in Him.

Green means that I'm growing (3x)
More and more like Him.

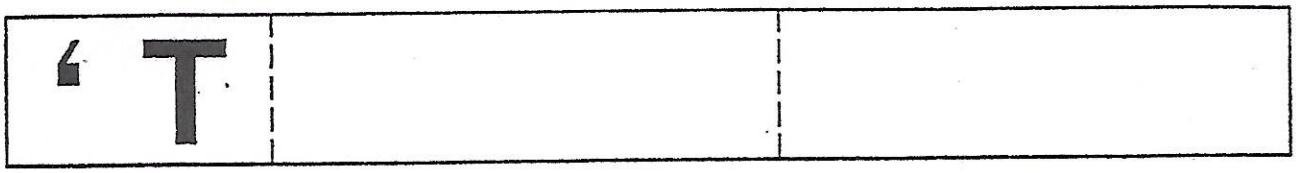


Do, Don't, Done

If I asked a group of children "How do you get to heaven?", the majority of them would say, "By being good." Here is a simple object lesson that will help you teach the truth that believing in Jesus is the only way to have your sins forgiven and go to heaven.



Front view



Back view

(Show the word "Do") Well I do lots of good things so I'm going to heaven! Is that true, that you get to heaven by doing good things. Well I do go to church and Sunday School and even Good News Club. I do learn my Bible verses and I do kind things for others, my mom and dad and even older people. God says that we can never do enough good things. In fact, God says in the Bible in Isaiah 64:6, "All our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment." God is perfect and we are not! No, you can't get to heaven by the things you do!

(Show the word "Don't") Well, it must be the things I don't do then! I don't steal and I don't lie. Let's say Romans 3:23 together, "For all of sinned." Yes, you and I do sin. We think, say and do things that displease God. Well if it is not the things I do or don't do that gets me to heaven, what does?

(Show the word "Done") It has already been done for us! Jesus died on the cross and took the punishment for your sin and mine. He could do this because He is perfect. Jesus is God the Son. I Corinthians 15:3-4 says, "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures," You must decide if you want to believe in Jesus to save you from your sin, so you can get to heaven someday. Acts 16:31 says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved," Believe is to agree with God that you have sinned and to trust completely that Jesus is the only one who can take care of your problem of sin. Now, everyone bow your heads and close your eyes. If you would like to believe in Jesus today show me by looking up at me. Now everyone open your eyes. If you looked up at me and want me to show you from the Bible how to believe in Jesus, meet me in the back of the room now while the rest of the class sings a song.

When going through this dialogue, it is not necessary to say the address for each verse. You may just say, "God's true book, the Bible, says..."

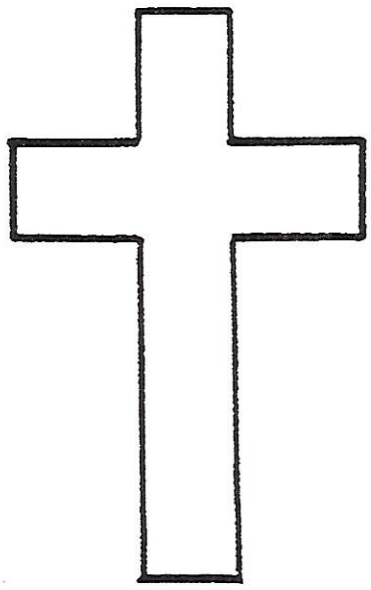
DO

Copy on coverstock or heavy paper

NE

Cut with no thin lines showing.
Leave thick lines as a border.

Fold on dotted line and glue sides together



'T