

3 Weeks

The Church



Family Study Guide

Hey, families!

Enjoy this family study guide as a supplement to the current sermon series. Our prayer is that it stirs up meaningful conversation with your kids. Get them involved as much as possible. Encourage kids (big and little) to read what they can, participate and have fun as a family!

The greatest spiritual influence will always be you. We're here for support and to cheer you on!

Sunnybrook Family Ministry Team

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WEEK 1.....	4
WEEK 2.....	6
WEEK 3.....	8



@sunnybrookkids

Week 1

Kicking it Off:

What is your earliest memory of church?

Big Idea: The church is a family

Bible Reading:

Hebrews 10:23-25

Did you know...the book of Hebrews was a letter written to encourage a group of Jesus-followers to stay strong in their faith and to remind the believers that Jesus is more important than anyone or anything else, EVER? The letter encouraged Jesus-followers to hold onto their faith in Jesus and encouraged others in the church to do the same.

Verse 25 says, "Let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope. Let us do this even more as you see Christ's return approaching."

Talk About it Together:

1. Name some of your family and extended family (relatives). You have brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and grandmas

and grandpas. You also have a church family that is related in a different, but very special way. Any guesses how? That's right, through Jesus!

2. When we put our faith in Jesus, we become part of a family of believers — the church. Just as the members of our earthly family have a responsibility to love and care for one another, members of our church family have a responsibility to love and care for one another.
3. Do you remember the pandemic days? We stayed home. A lot. For a short time, we were forced to give up the habit of meeting at church, but we found other ways to still be a church family (online services, zooming with small groups, Hope Center drive-through, etc.). You may have watched church services from home. What's the difference between watching a service online and being in a church building?

Unscramble the word below for the answer

EEOLPP

The difference is people! Church isn't just for learning things about God, it's about spending time with your church family. We help each other grow stronger in our faith and share God's love with the world, just like God made us to do. We belong together and you belong in the church family.

1. What are your memories of church during the pandemic?
2. What are some things that can keep our family from going to church? What could we do to make attending church a priority for our family?
3. What's the difference between attending and participating?

Family Activity: Look up this fingerplay if you don't know it--Here's the Church, Here's the Steeple, Open the Doors, See All the People

Game: I Spy (at church)

Be on the lookout for all that's happening at church! Church is more than a building—it's the people.

What are they up to?

- Singing
- Praying
- Serving
- Smiling
- Caring
- Giving
- Laughing
- Crying
- Hugging
- Shaking hands



Do you spy...

- Babies
- Kids
- Teenagers
- Grownups
- Grandmas & Grandpas
- Families
- Friends
- People that I know
- People that I don't know yet

Talk to God: Dear God, thank You for giving us our church family. Help us to remember that we don't have to go to church, we get to go! Amen.

Week 2

Kicking it Off:

Share a funny church memory.

Big Idea:

The church is stronger together

Bible Reading:

“Let us hold firmly to the hope we claim to have. The God who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23

Family Activity:

Play a game of Tug-of-War

What is the most important thing to do in Tug-of-War? Don't let go of the rope! What should you do with your feet? Plant them as firmly as you can!

If everyone on your team holds onto the rope, plants their feet, and pulls with all their might, you have a much better chance of winning!

Just like you need teammates to help you win at Tug-of-War, God doesn't expect you to live out your faith on your own. God knows that our faith combined with the faith of others can make an even bigger difference in the world around us. We can hold onto the hope of what Jesus has done for us together because God is faithful and will never let us down.



Talk About it Together:

1. Who helps you stay strong in what you believe? Name some people in your family or your small group who encourage you to grow your faith and hold on to hope. Who has prayed for you, encouraged you to do the right thing, or taught you something about God's love?
2. We need each other. If we don't spend time together, it's hard for us to work together and encourage each other. What are some ways we can make sure that we're spending time with other people who follow Jesus? (Going to church, spending time with your small group, hanging out with friends who love Jesus, serving, etc.)
3. The truth is, we tend to act like the people we spend the most time with. So, who do you act like? Are you spending time with friends who encourage you to show God's love with your words and actions?
4. When we live in a family, we act like our family. The church is God's family. It's not just a place to learn truth, but a safe place we can practice what we're learning.

Talk to God:

God, thank you for bringing other people into our lives, like _____ that help us grow closer to you. Help us to encourage and be that kind of friend to others. Amen

Week 3

Kicking it Off:

What could you do to make someone's first church experience a good one?

Big Idea:

The church can do more together

Bible Reading:

"Let us consider how we can stir up one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works." Hebrews 10:24

Activity:

Stir It Up

You'll need Kool Aid or some kind of drink mix. Fill a glass with water, pour in some drink mix and stir it up. Now, take a sip. Delicious, right? Those two things combined, drink mix and water, were better together. Guess what? As a follower of Jesus, you can do lots of good things. You can show love to people around you in so many ways. But imagine how much more you could do alongside other followers of Jesus!

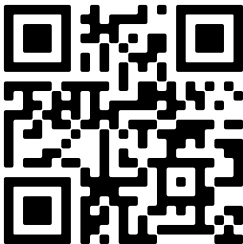
You should always be looking for ways to encourage or stir up one another to love. Think about the people you named yesterday that you prayed for. How could you encourage them to love and do good? What could you do together to show others Jesus' love?



Talk About it Together:

1. Picture Sunnybrook Church in your mind right now. Did you know that church isn't really a building? The church is actually people. You are part of the church. The church building is the place where you gather. Our faith is stronger when we work together outside its walls to make a difference in the world around us.

2. Name some of the "good works" Sunnybrook has "stirred up" in you. As a church family, we have done so much more together than we ever could alone. Check out the impact here:



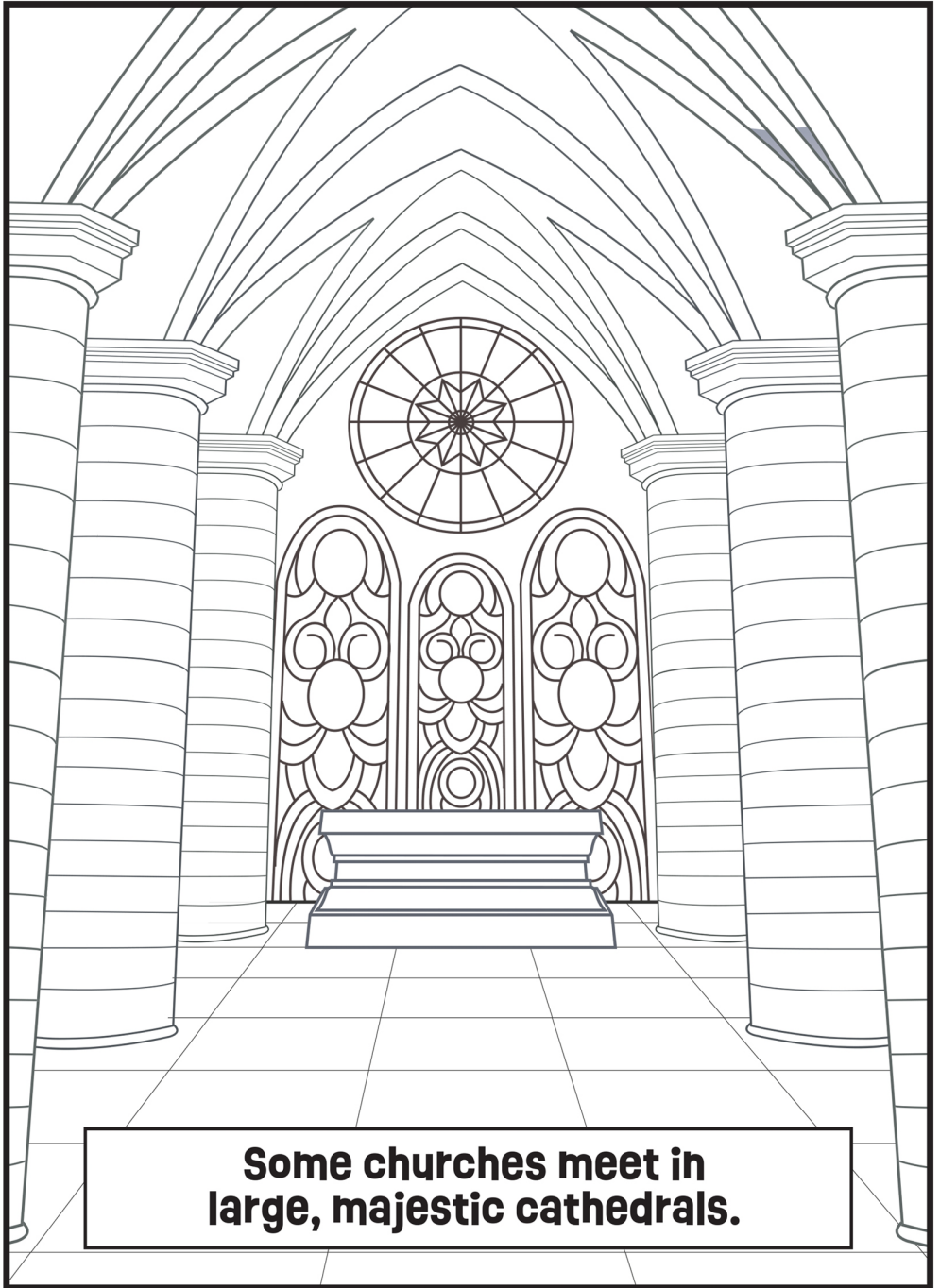
3. Grownups, if you grew up in a church, describe it to your kids.

4. What does our church building look like? Does it have a big sign out front or a steeple? Does it have big stained-glass windows? Does our church meet in a school or a movie theater? (Yes, Sunnybrook offers a service at the City Centre--old Riviera movie theater.)

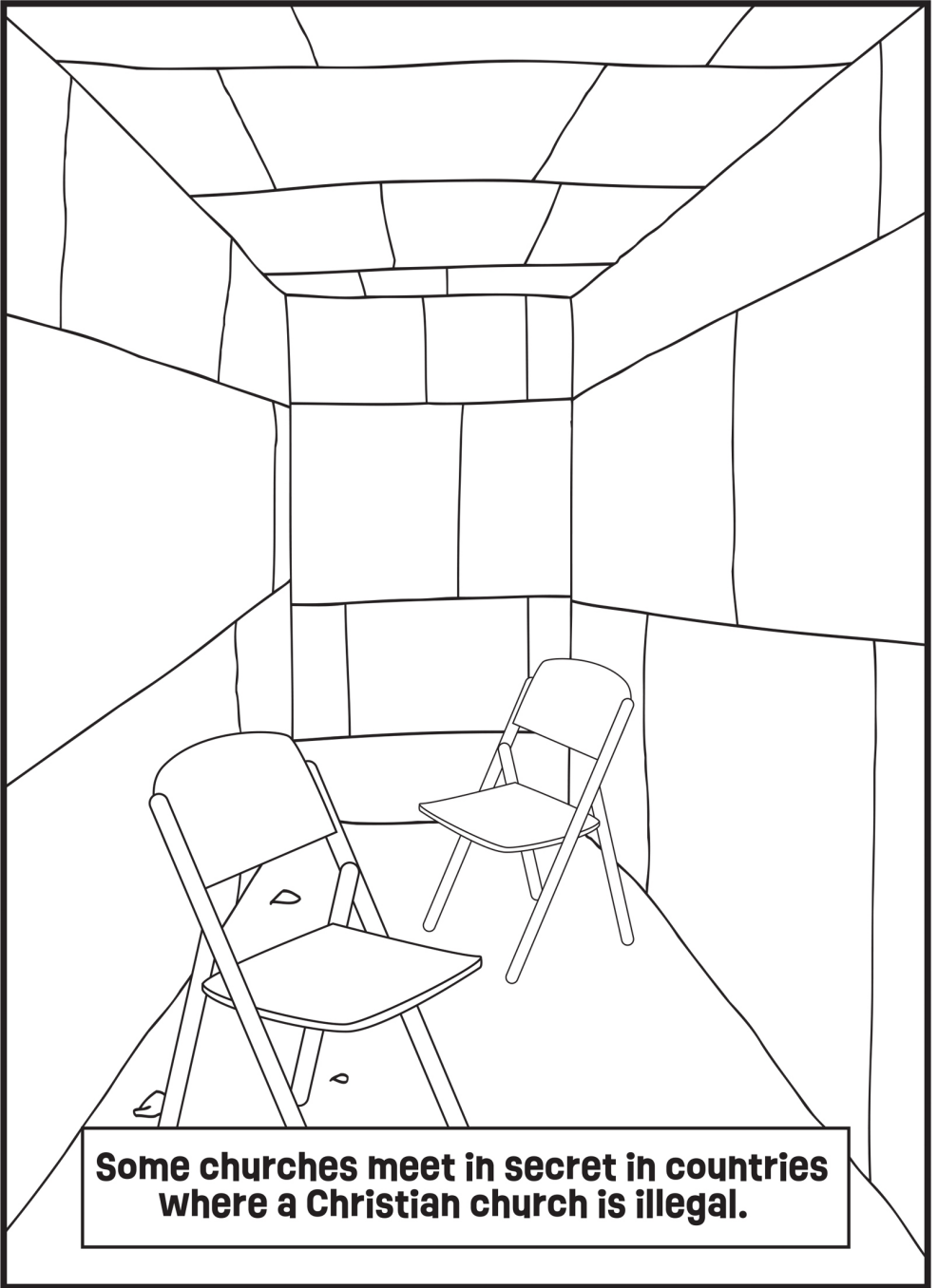
5. People worship God in all sorts of places and ways. Even though we may be different than our Christian brothers and sisters in different parts of the country or world, we have our faith in common. Jesus followers know that we can do more together, so they find ways to meet. Check out all the ways on the next pages!

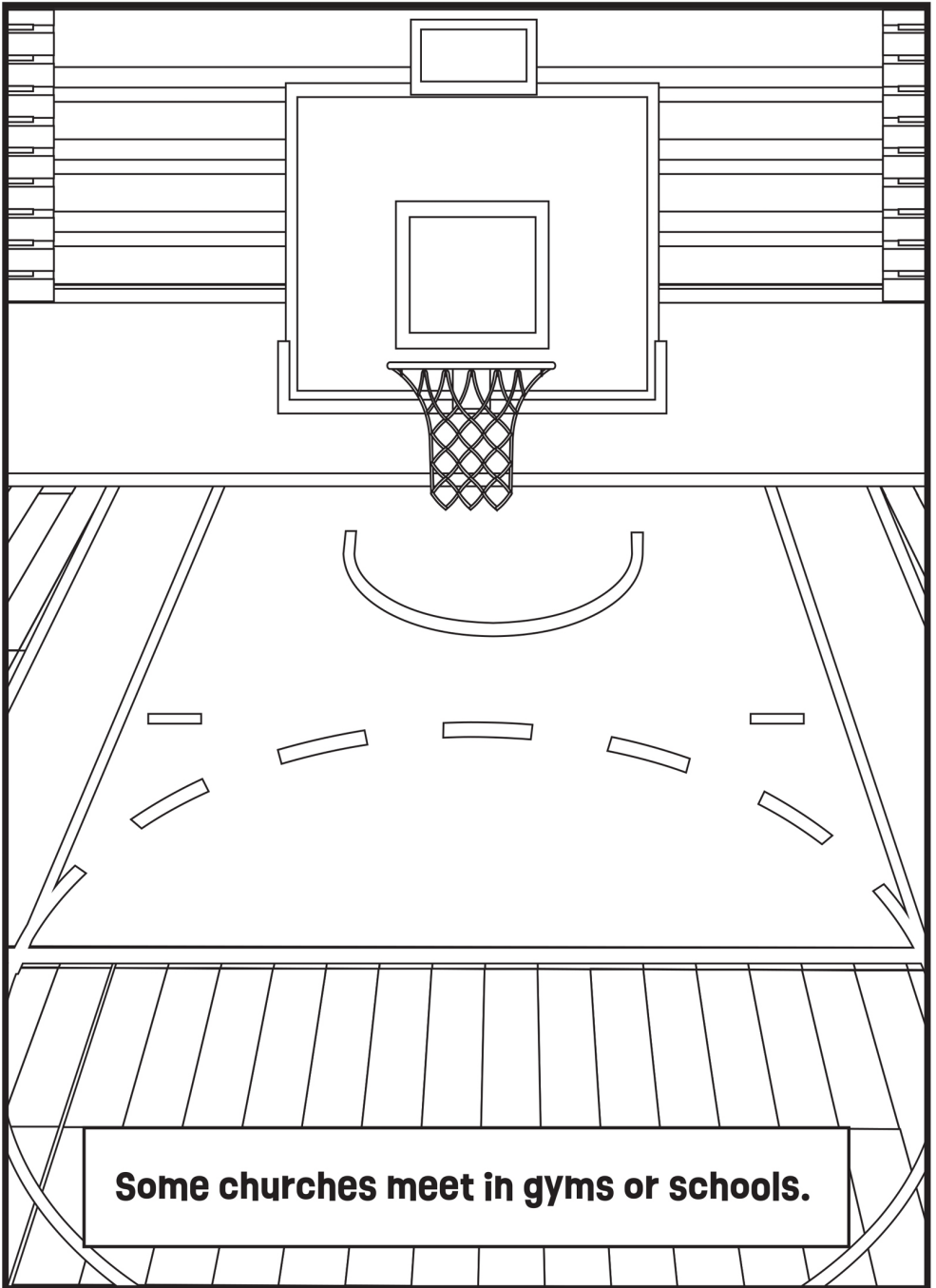
Talk to God:

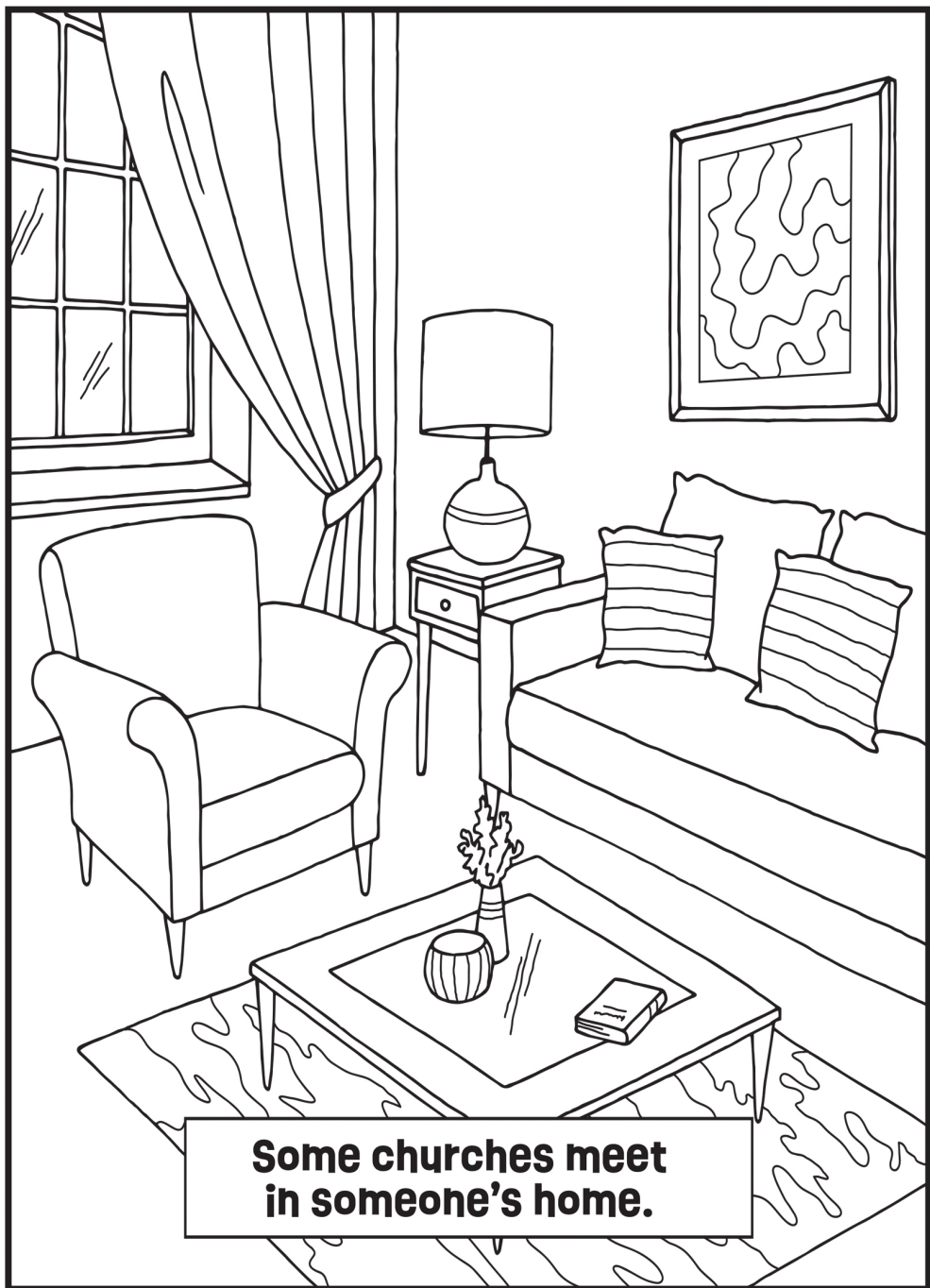
Dear God, thank you for designing such a great way for all your people to worship together and encourage each other! Whether people meet in a grand cathedral or in secret somewhere in the world, they can do more together. Help us strengthen each other's faith this week. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.



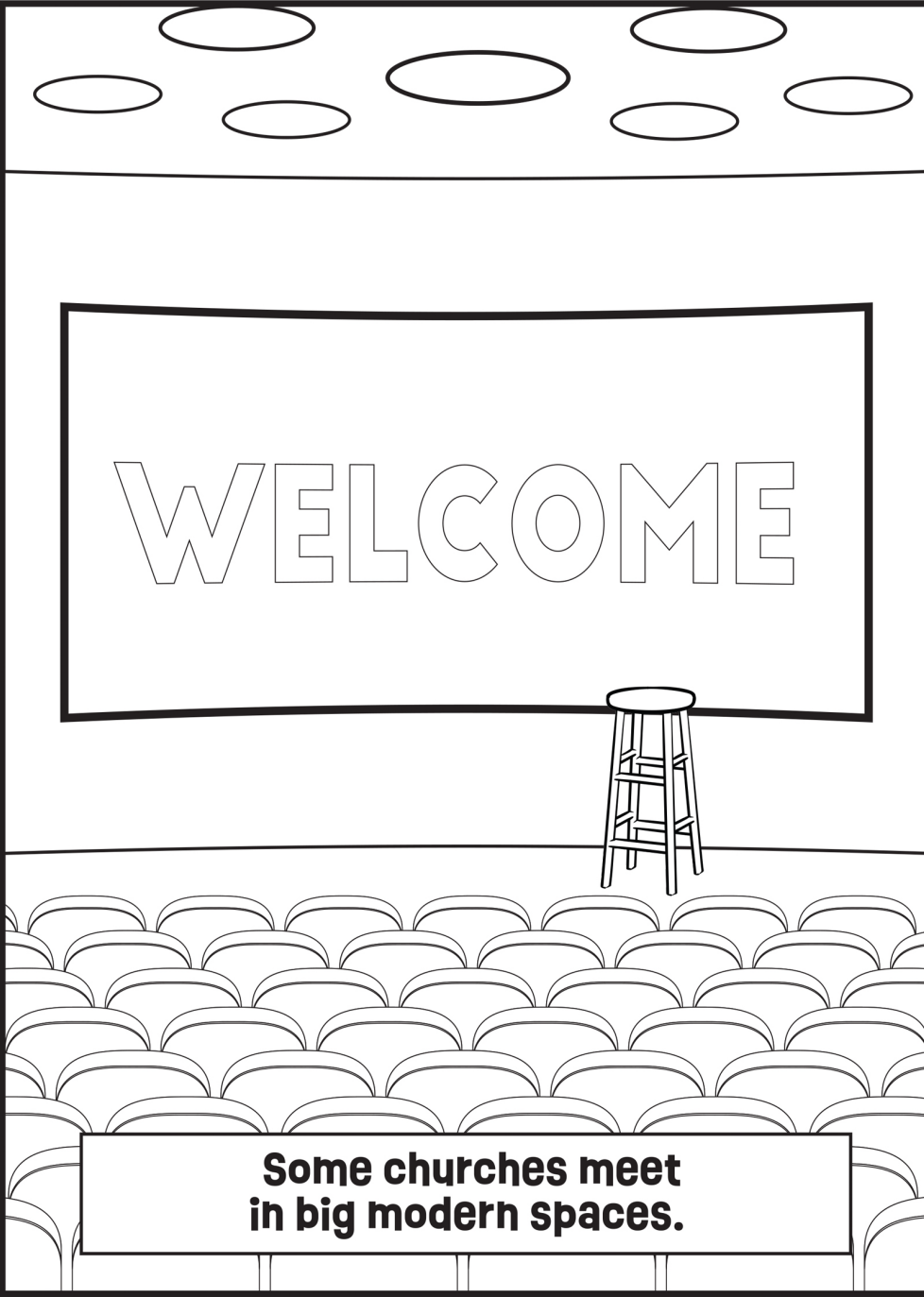
Some churches meet in large, majestic cathedrals.





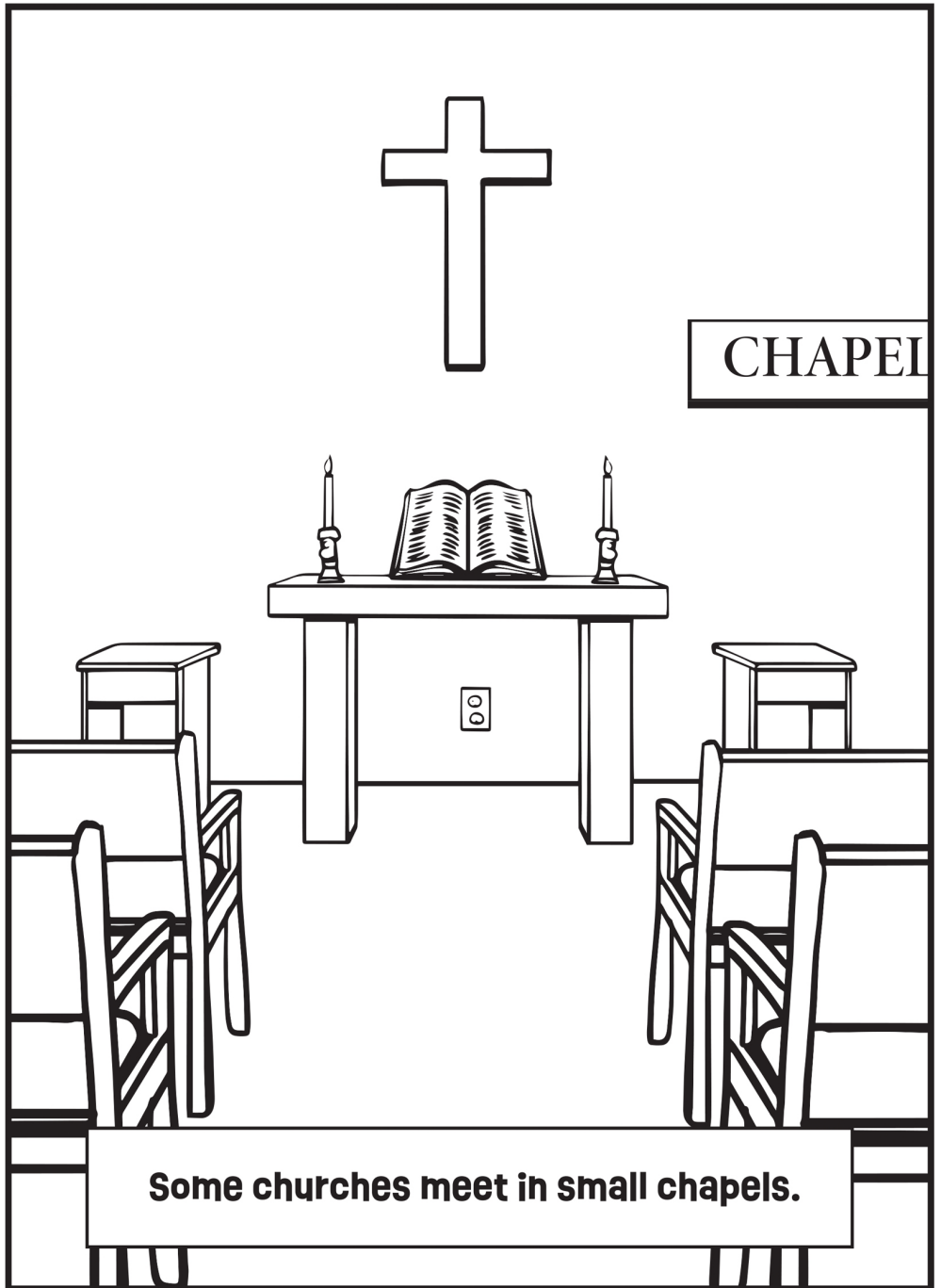


**Some churches meet
in someone's home.**



WELCOME

**Some churches meet
in big modern spaces.**



Some churches meet in small chapels.



SUNNYBROOK
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