

The Roman Centurion



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Introduction

Many people asked Jesus for help during His time on earth. One man was a Roman officer who displayed amazing faith and asked Jesus to heal his servant. We read the story in Matthew 8:5-13.

Key Points:

- God has authority.
- Distance is no barrier for God.
- We need to have faith in God.

Lesson Guide

During Jesus's life, His people hated the Romans. The Romans had conquered them, and the Jewish people had to serve them. Jesus taught His disciples to love their enemies. When a Roman officer asked for help, Jesus helped him.

Jesus showed mercy to the soldier when he asked for help. We should never be afraid to ask for God's help. We should pray over the big things and over the small things. We can pray out loud or silently.

The Roman soldier had faith that Jesus could help him and heal his servant. The Bible says that faith is the evidence of things not seen. Use a flashlight or a lamp. Turn it on. Now cover the whole thing with a sheet or piece of material. Ask the child if the light is there. Ask them how they know it is there. They can see the light, even though they cannot see the item giving off the light. They know it is there by the evidence of the light. In the similar way, faith is the evidence of a God we cannot see, but we can know for certain that He is there. Learn Hebrews 11:1.

Share how the centurion not only had faith but acted on his faith. The Roman centurion believed that Jesus could heal his servant and so he asked. Speak about how we can pray with faith and trust in Jesus' authority.

Share how the centurion was important and had authority. He was in control of around 100 soldiers, but he recognized that Jesus was more important and had more authority.

Talk about authority. Explain that authority is when someone has "the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience." (Oxford Dictionary)

Get a stack of cups of equal size. You may use disposable cups and write on them with a marker, or you may use tape with the names written on them on non-disposable cups. Write names such as "God," "Mom," "Dad," "President/Prime Minister," "Child's name," "Pet's name," etc. For younger children, select two cups at a time. Tell the child to put the cups in the proper order of authority by stacking the lowest authority on the bottom and the higher authorities above. So "Child's name" would be stacked under "President/Prime Minister" but over "Pet's Name." For older children, you may give them more than two cups.

You may also create scenarios that allow the child to determine whose authority should be obeyed, "God says read the Bible, but a friend says no. Who should we obey?" Etc.

Read Matthew 28:18. Explain how all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus.

Pray and thank God that He is always there. Ask Him to help you to always have faith in Him.



Jesus was amazed by the centurion's faith.

Jesus said he had never seen such faith in Israel and that the man was already healed.

The elders and the men rushed back to the centurion's house.

They found the servant well again.



The Roman Centurion

There was once an important Roman centurion.

He was in charge of a lot of men.

One day, his servant became very sick.

The centurion was worried. He couldn't do anything to make him better.

The servant was so sick he was about to die.



The centurion had an idea.

He had heard that Jesus had healed many people.

He asked some Jewish elders to speak to Jesus and ask Him to help.

The elders were happy to help and left to speak with Jesus.



Jesus agreed to go with the elders to the centurion's house.

When Jesus was close to the house, the centurion sent another message.

He said, "I am an important man when I send a command, my men obey. Jesus is more important than me. He doesn't need to come to my house, just speak the word."

Games and Activities

Roman exercises

The Romans knew exercise was important to stay healthy. Play a simple exercise game. Roll a dice and do that exercise for 10 seconds. Some ideas are: 1) Ride a horse, 2) Run on the spot, 3) Hold your shield, 4) Shoot arrows, 5) Sword fight, 6) Crawl to safety.

There are lots of other great resources and activities to learn about the Romans online.



The Centurion commands

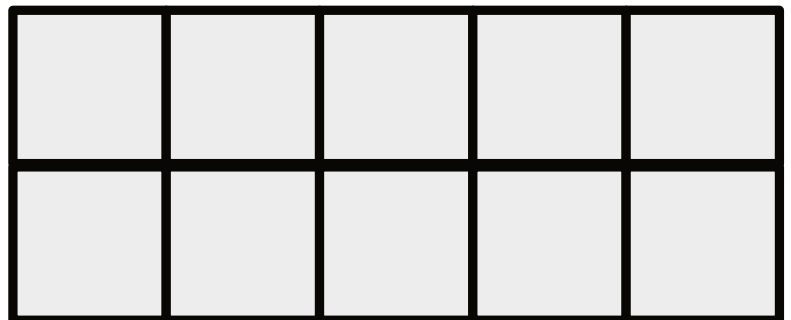
This game is a twist on the classic 'Simon says,' and will remind your children how people had to obey the centurion. When you say, "The Centurion commands" the child must obey. For example, "The Centurion commands touch your head."

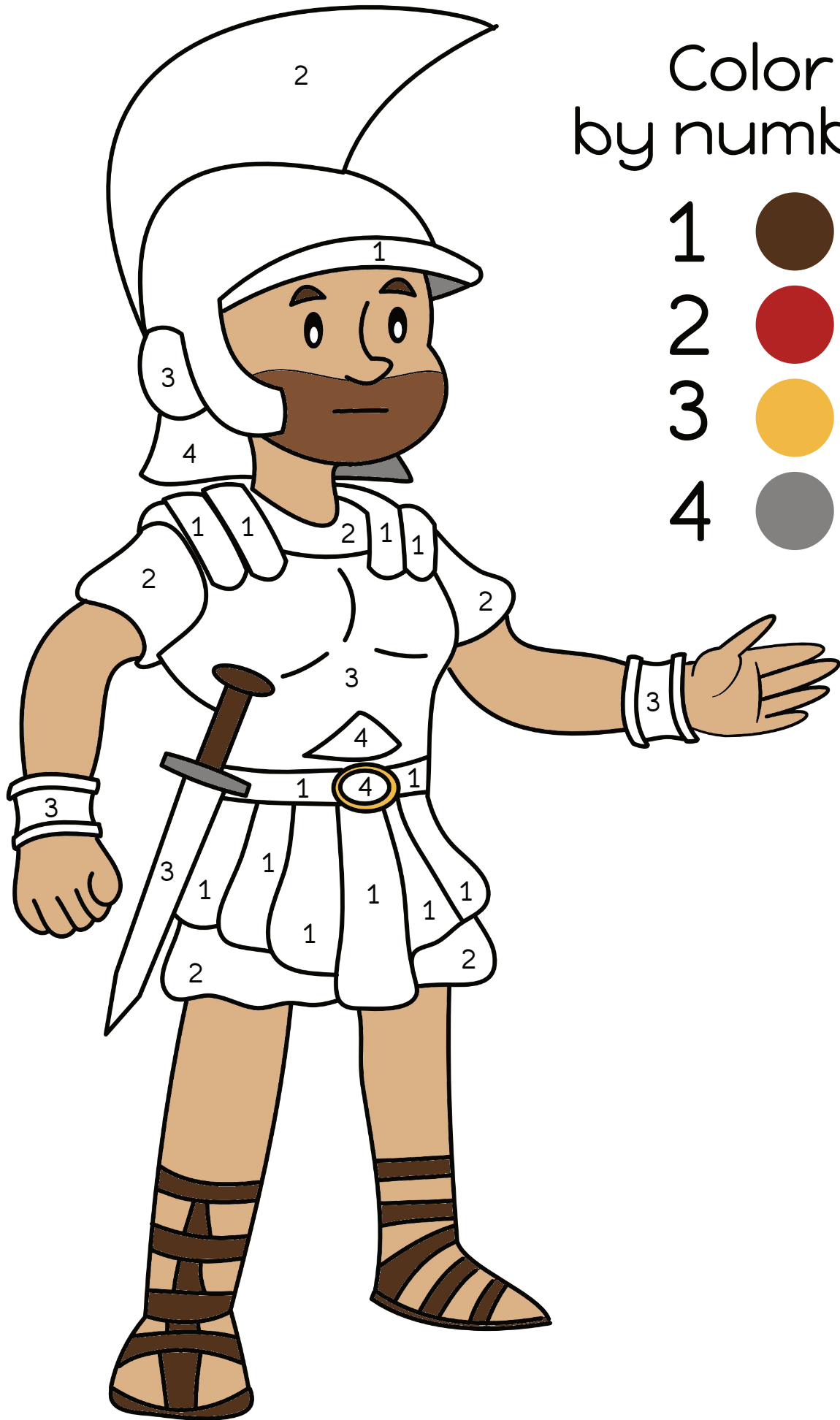
When you say a command without saying, "The Centurion commands" the child should ignore the command.

Create a 10 frame

Ten-Frames are two-by-five rectangular frames into which objects can be placed as counters to show numbers less than or equal to ten. They are a proven way of learning numbers with children. The frame can be repeated to larger numbers.

Have your child fill the 10 frames to create 10 groups of 10 objects. Use whichever objects you have (pencils, toys, pasta). Remind your child that the Centurion had command over around 100 men.





Color
by number

1 ●

2 ●

3 ●

4 ●

Cut out the cards and arrange in order

10

20

30

40

50

60

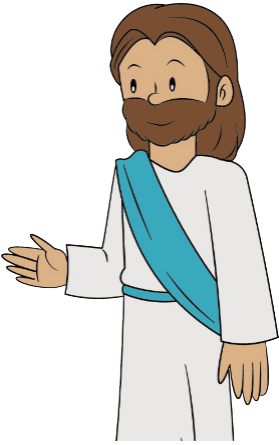
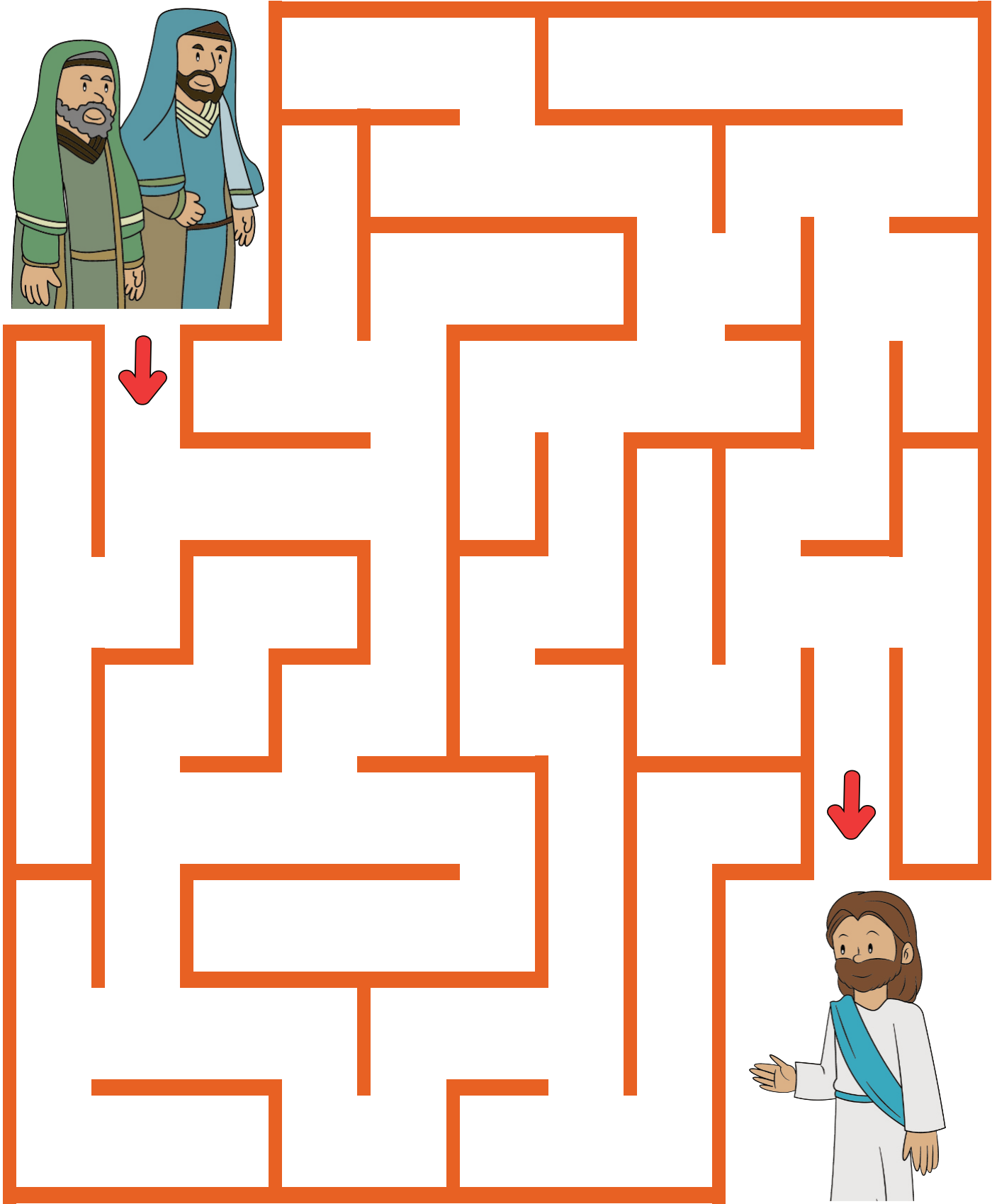
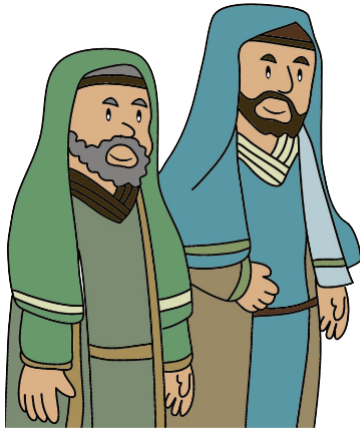
70

80

90

100

Help the elders take the message to Jesus



Label the Centurion

Helmet

Head

Hand

Eye

Sword

Arm

Leg

Belt

foot



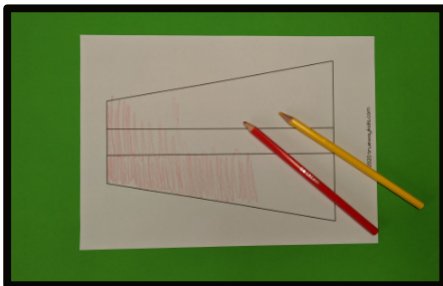
Roman Helmet

What you need

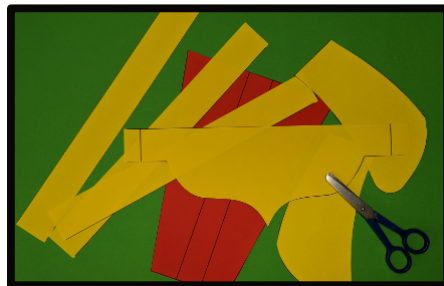
- Template pages.
- Paper or cardstock. (white or Colored)
- Scissors,
- Glue stick.
- Pens or pencils.



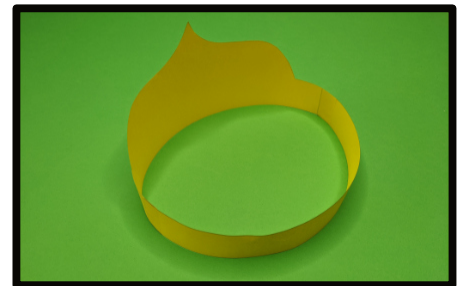
What to do



If using white paper or cardstock, color both sides. (Alternatively print onto color paper.)



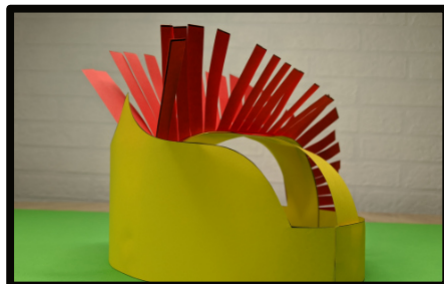
Cut out all the parts.



Glue front and strip together to correct size for child.



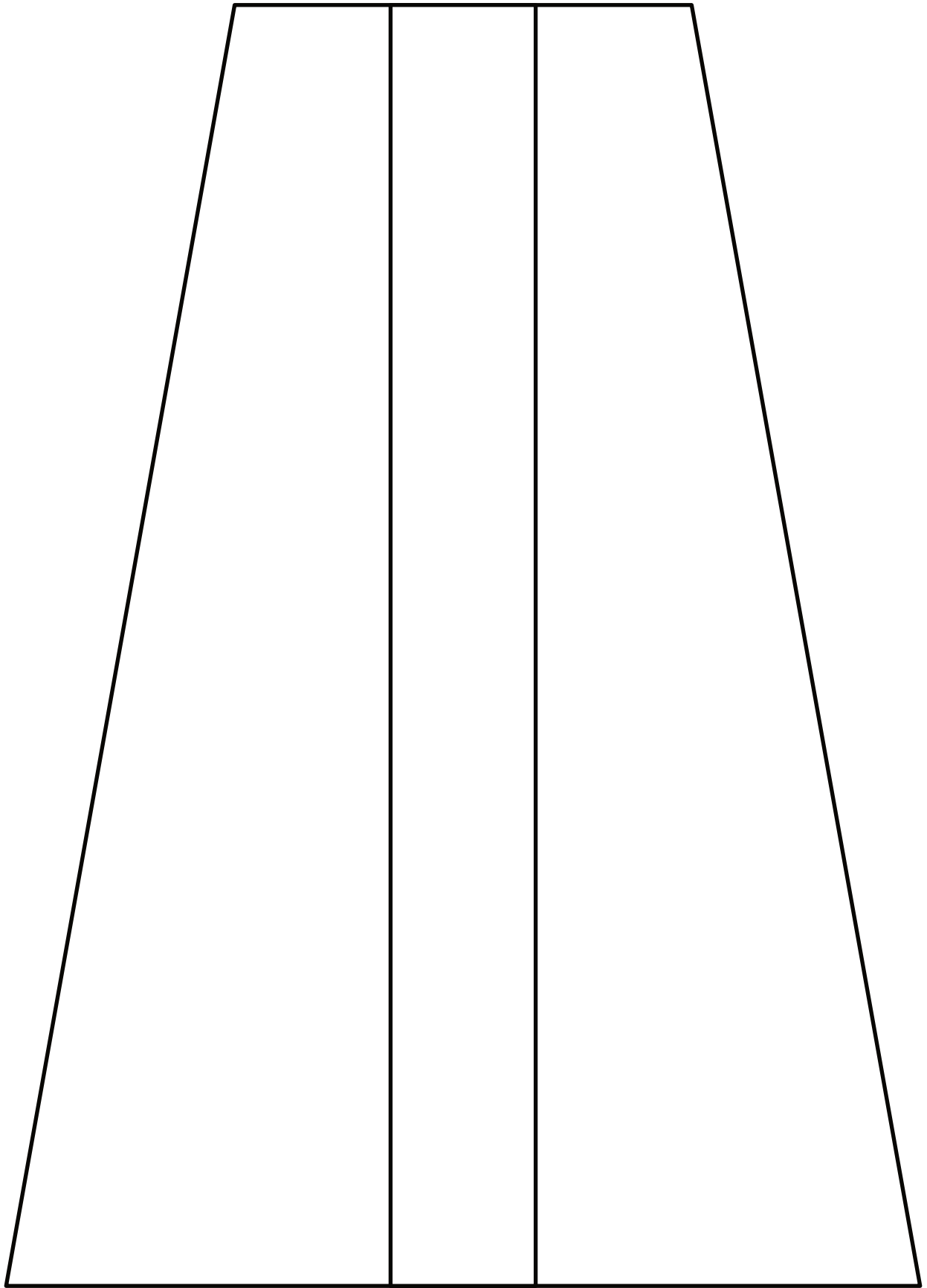
Glue the other two strips in a cross and attach.

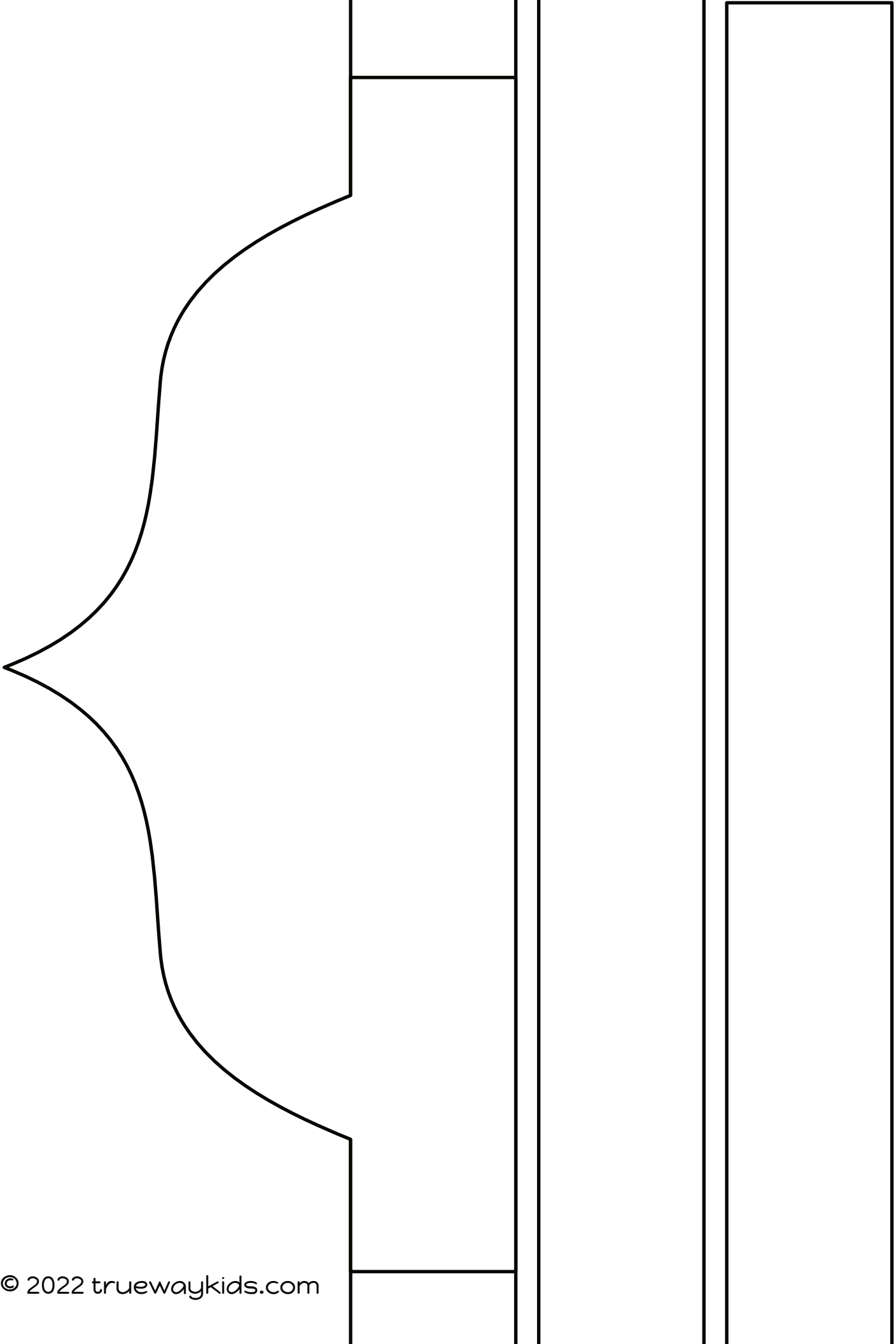


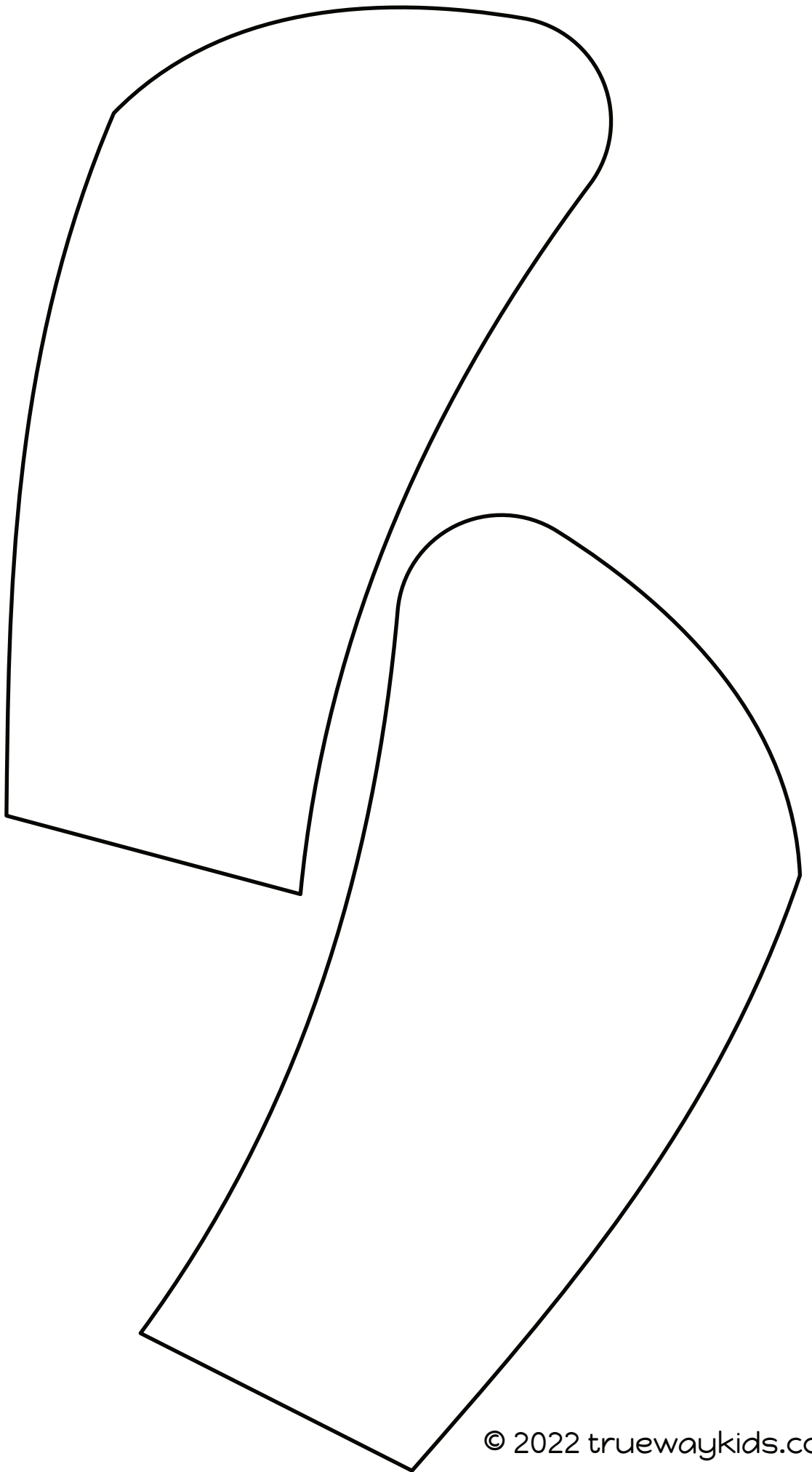
Cut strips to the center of cross piece and glue onto the helmet.

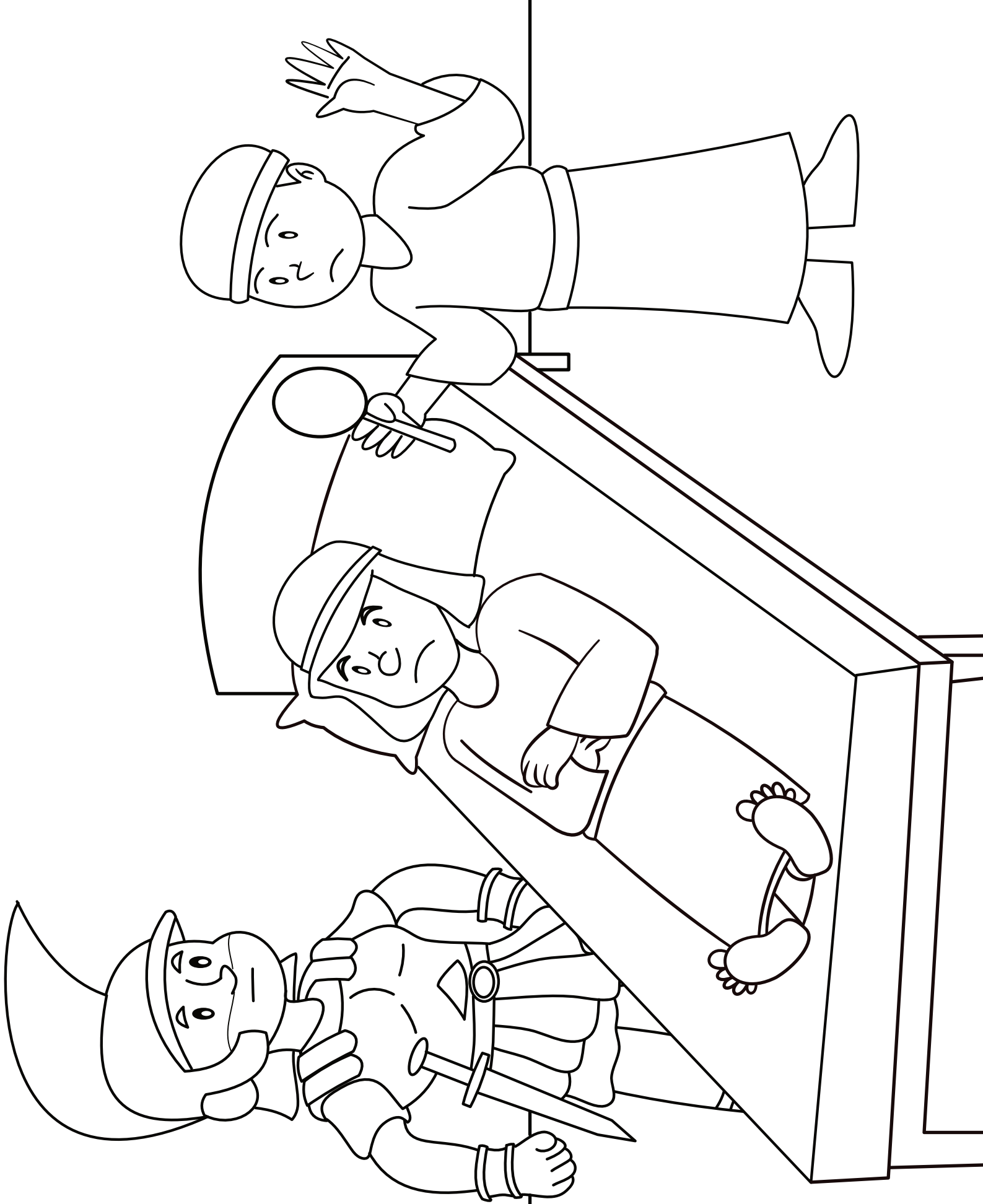


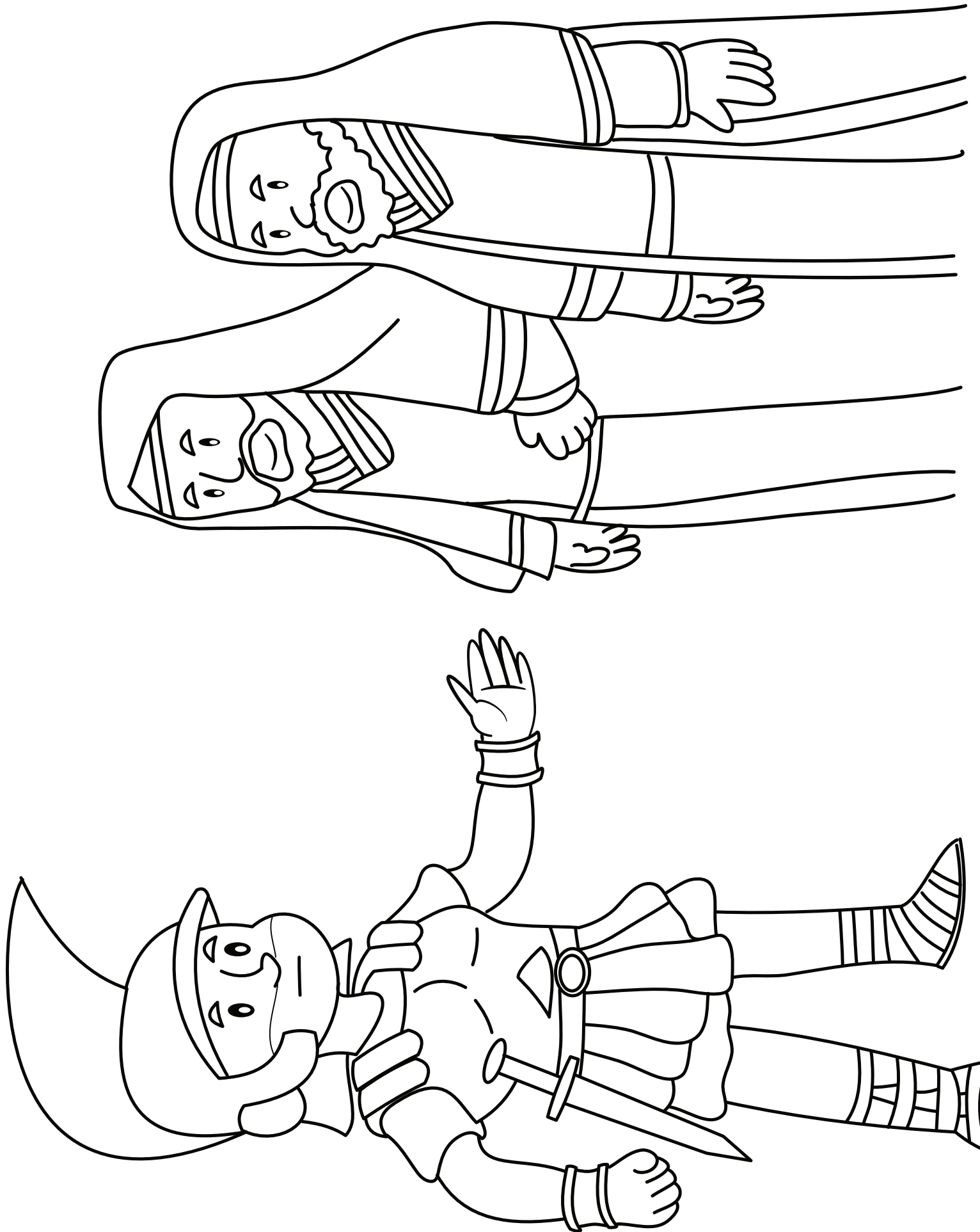
Glue on earpieces.

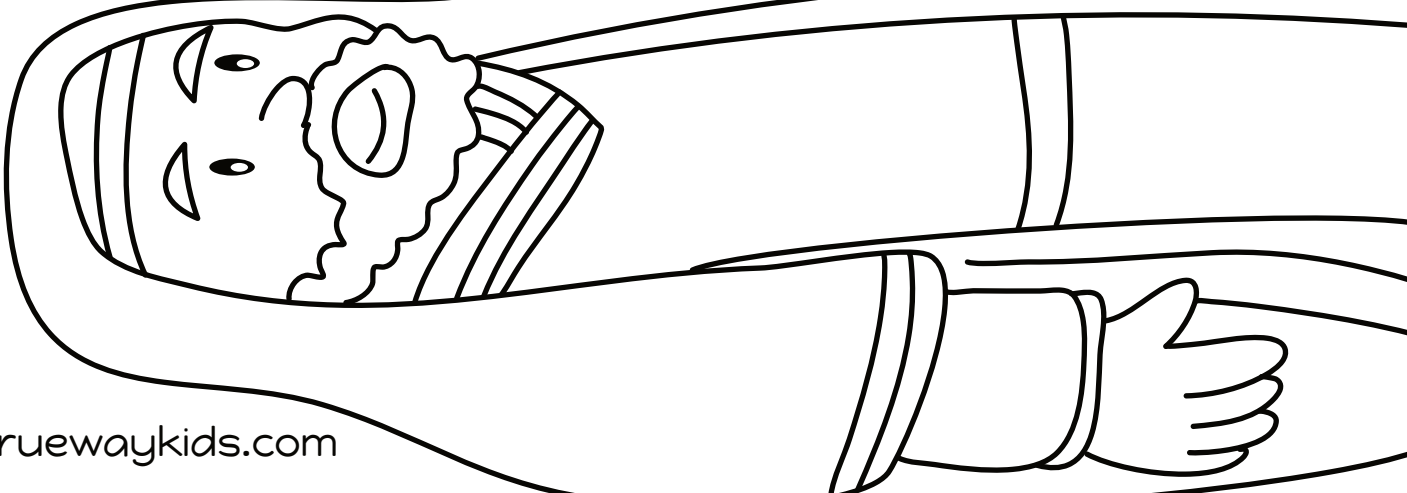
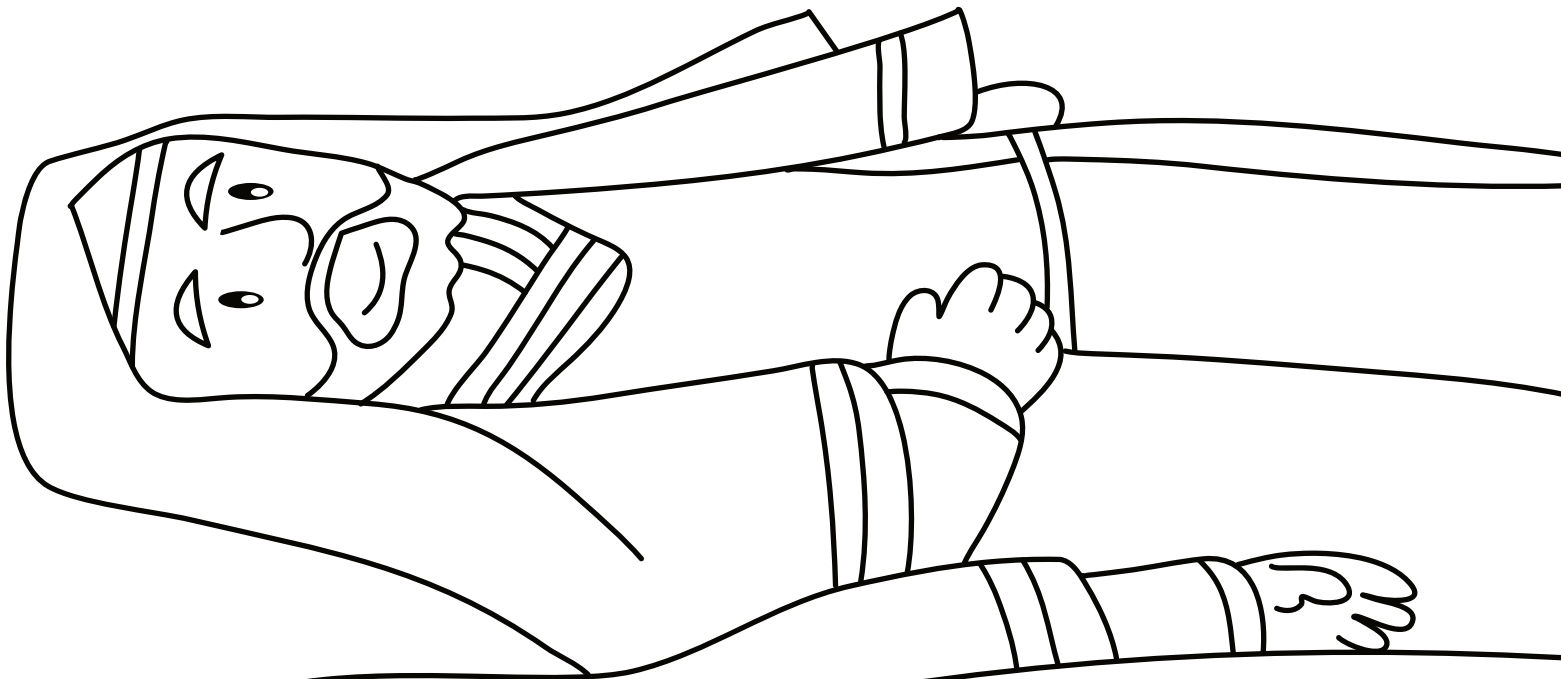


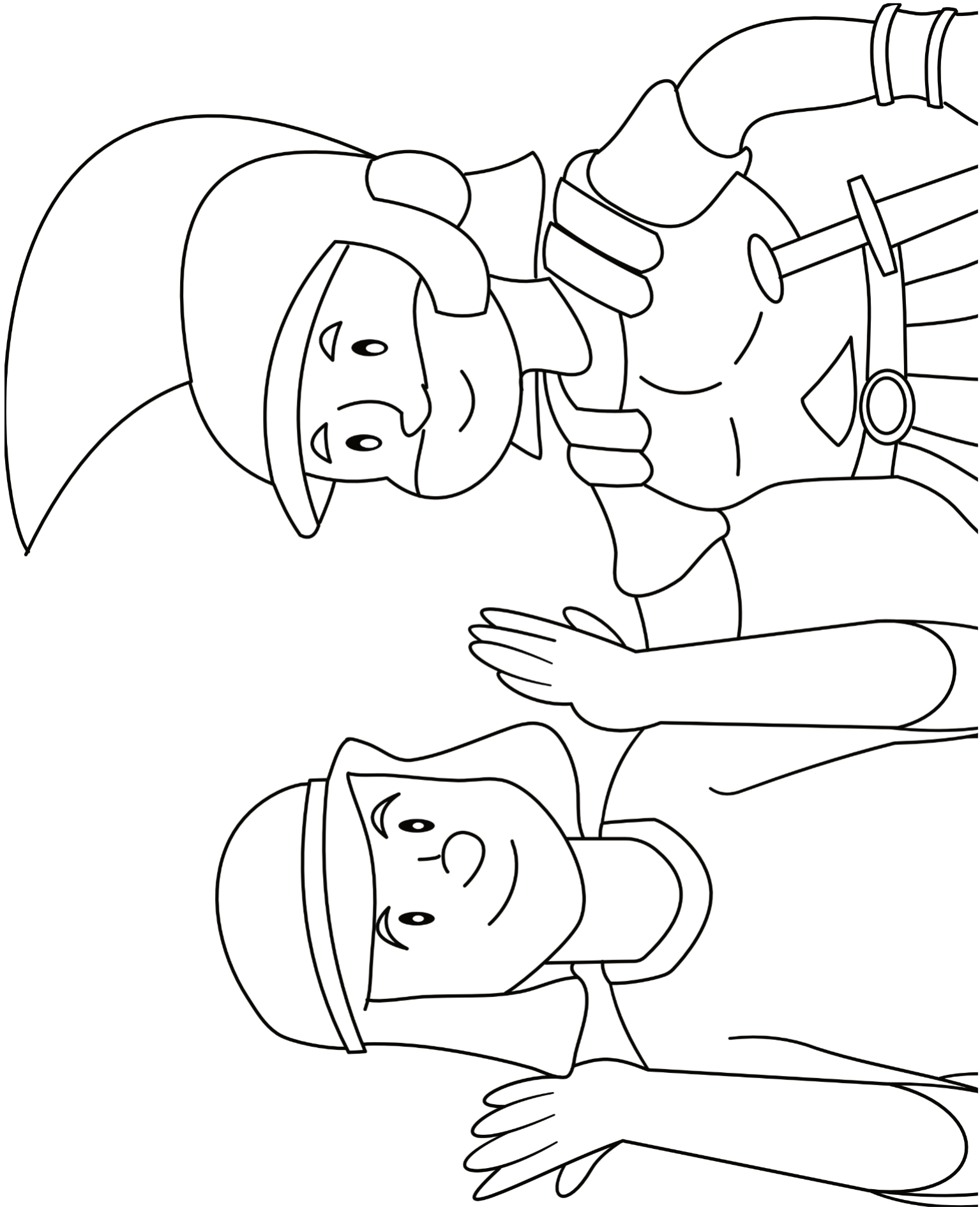












Worship Time

Recommended worship songs. Not produced by Trueway Kids. YouTube Videos to be used for personal use only.

Full Armor of God

<https://youtu.be/M3FqKD98FiQ>

Rend Co. Kids - King of Me

<https://youtu.be/ks6zl2hL2Uk>

Mighty to Save

https://youtu.be/IHBc_0Y22kM



Prayer

Thank God that He has authority over everything, and nothing is too difficult for Him. Ask Him to help you to put your faith in Him.

Next Week

The woman who touched Jesus
(Mark 5:25-34)

If you haven't already done so, sign up to receive future lessons by email.
truewaykids.com/subscribe/

