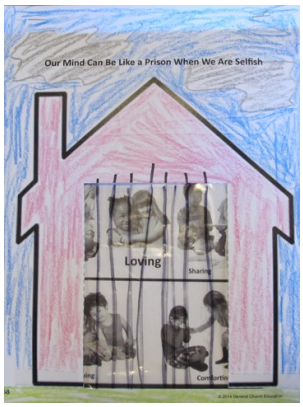
Learn by Doing

Choice Prison and House



In our story, the man possessed by demons lived in a cave. After being freed by the Lord, he went back to living in a house in the town with other people. In the Word, a house represents a person’s mind. Our minds can be like a prison when we are trapped by selfishness. But when we act in loving ways, our mind is like a wonderful house!

1. Place a copy of the *Prison Template* (p. 2) that you have prepared in advance in front of each child with the picture side showing.



2. When evil spirits send bad feelings into our minds those feelings can be like a trap or a prison. It can be hard to get out of them. They are like prison bars coming down in our minds. Let’s draw some prison bars on this house to show what this is like.
3. Using black markers, show the children how to draw stripes or bars on the plastic (see picture just above). Young children may need help with the permanent markers to prevent a big mess!
4. We can help the Lord to set us free by trying to stop thinking bad thoughts and by doing loving things for other people. What are some loving things we can do?
5. Give each child a copy of the *House Template* (p. 3). Look at all the loving things these people are doing. Talk about each activity.
6. Help the children put the *House Template* behind the *Prison Template*. Staple the pages together at the top so the first page can be lifted. Practice lifting the *Prison* page to show how helping others helps us escape from the imprisoning feelings sent by evil spirits.
7. *Optional*: Color dark clouds around the outside of the *Prison*. Make a blue sky with the sun shining on the *House*.

Materials Needed

Prison Template p. 2 and *House Template* p. 3 for each child, printed on stiff paper; wide black permanent markers; clear plastic bags (4½ x 6”; 11 x 15cm), scissors, tape, stapler, newspaper to protect table

Prepare in Advance

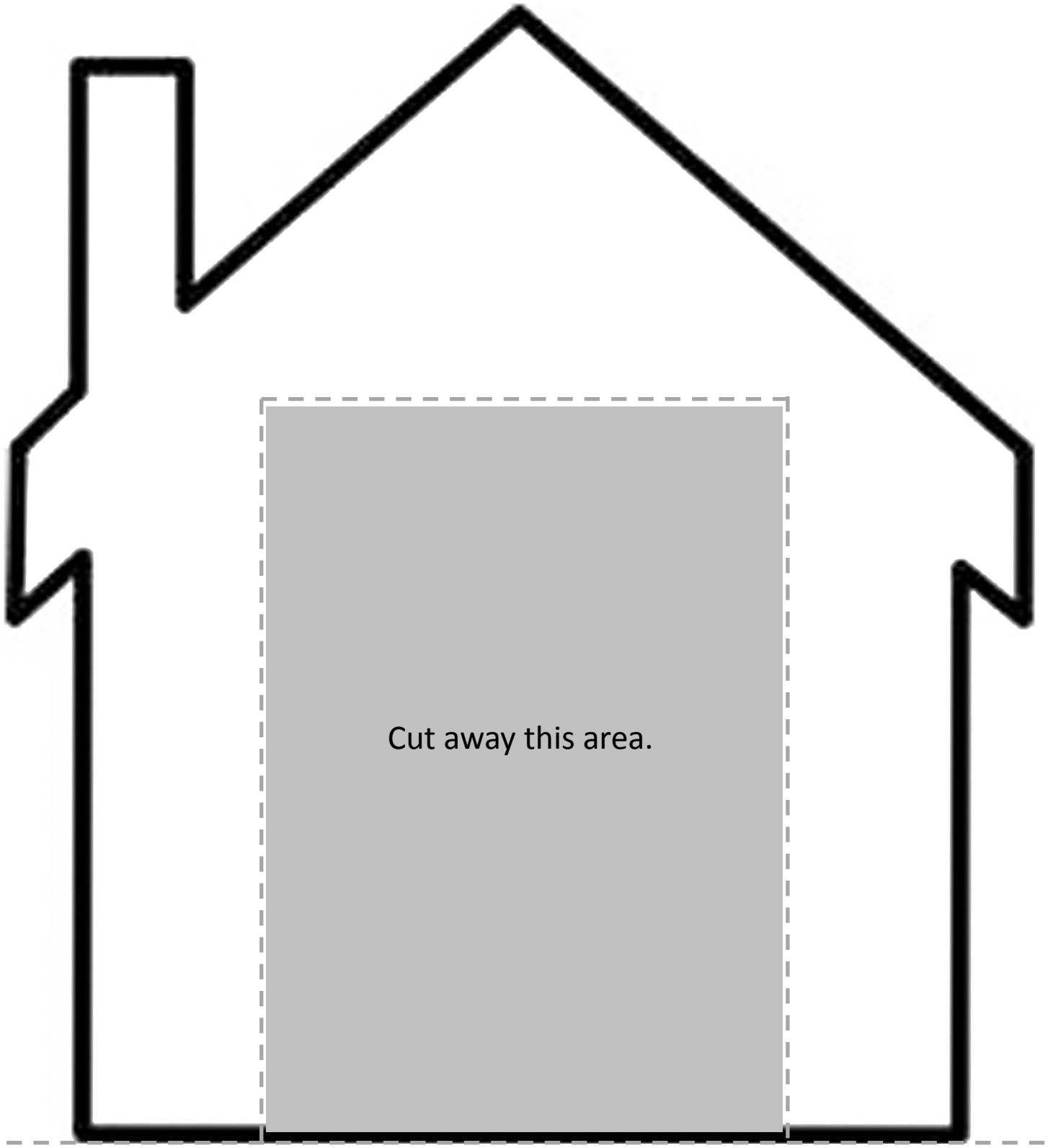
Print *Prison Template* and *House Template* pp. 2-3 on stiff paper. Cut along the dot-ted gray lines on both pages. Cut the plastic bags into two pieces along the seams. Tape one piece of plastic to the back of each *Prison Template* as shown below.





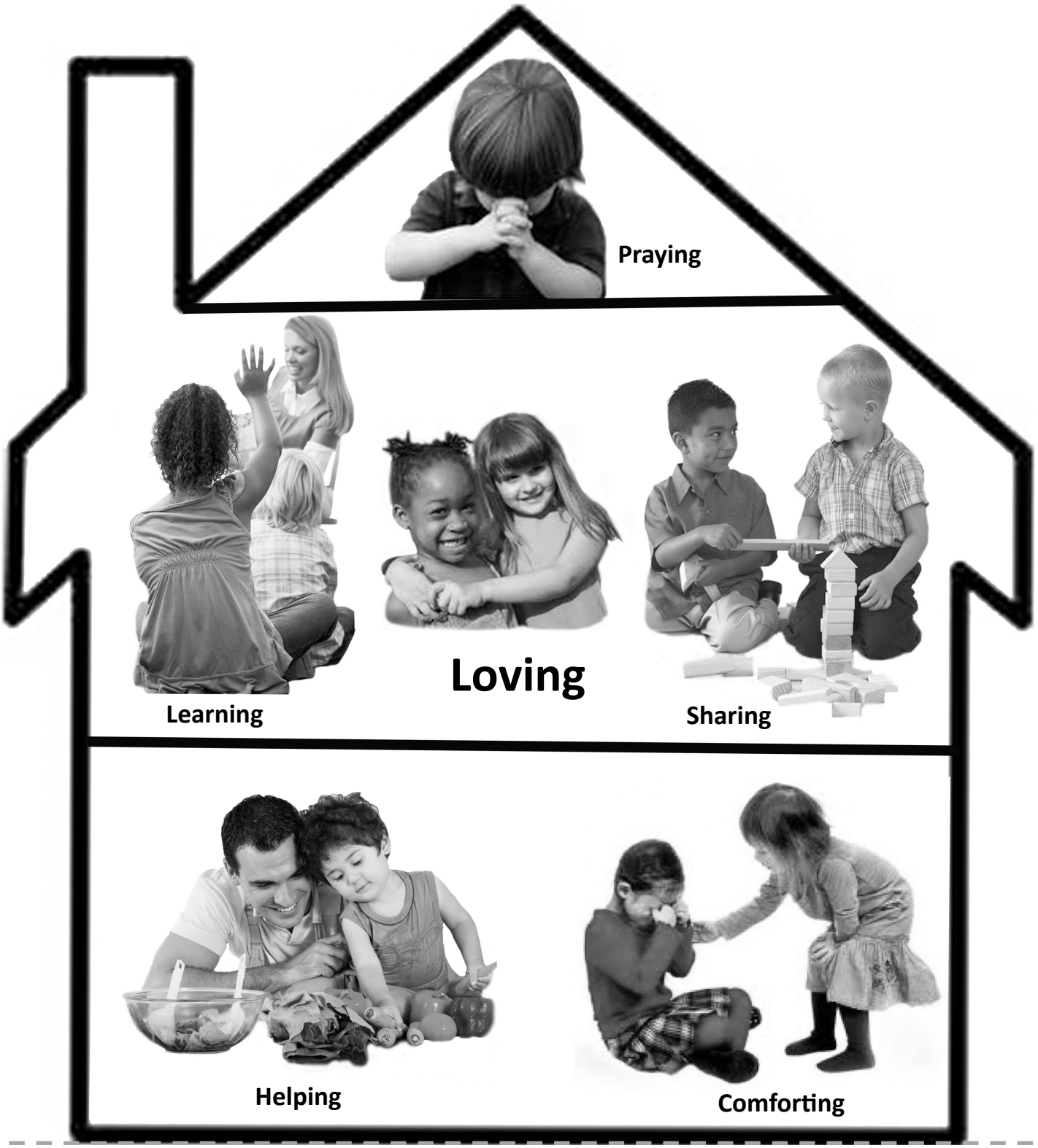
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Our Mind Can Be Like a Prison When We Are Selfish



Prison Template

Our Mind Can Be Like a Wonderful House When We Are Loving!



House Template