



The Great Supper

Luke 14:16-24

Level B

Ages 7-10

Lesson Focus: Responding to the Lord

Reading Summary: A man invited people to a great supper. When his servant went to tell the guests that it was ready, all asked to be excused. One said, “I have bought ground and must go and see it.” Another said, “I have bought oxen and I am going to test them.” Another said, “I have married a wife and cannot come.” When the servant told his master, the master became angry and said, “Go into the streets and lanes and bring in the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind.” And the servant said, “Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.” Then the master said, “Go out into the highways and hedges; fill my house. None of those who were invited shall taste my supper.”

Lesson 5		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Welcome Warm-up Activity (2-3 minutes)	Activity	Make Butter directions p. 2	jar with tight fitting lid, whipping cream (double cream), crackers to serve butter on
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word and Talk About It	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above discussion guide p. 3 teaching picture p. 5	Bible or copy of Luke 14:16-24
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Take Action prepare a feast for special guests; decide what to do when the guests send word they are not coming	Failed? Feast... directions p. 3 <i>Feast RSVP</i> p. 6 <i>Welcome Banner</i> pp. 7-14	scissors, markers or crayons, hole punch, yarn or ribbon (to string banner), tableware, tablecloth, snacks and drinks for a feast
	Make students make a set of mix and match figures to depict people who say no to the Lord's invitation and people who say yes	Who Will Come? directions pp. 3-4 <i>Person Outline</i> p. 15	crayons, markers or colored pencils; scissors; stapler <i>optional:</i> flat decorative items such as band aids, stickers (e.g. flowers, farm animals), glitter, sequins, and glue
	Coloring Picture	Invited to the Supper p. 16	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Memory Verse introduce the memory verse for the week	Memory Verse <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 17	

1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

Make Butter

Supplies needed: small carton (8oz/250ml) whipping cream (double cream), clean glass or plastic jar with a tight fitting lid, crackers

Note: Chilling the equipment and cream makes the butter form faster.

Have you ever made butter? What is butter made from? Yes, it's made from cow's milk. We are going to make some butter that we will taste later in this lesson!



Directions: Fill a jar $\frac{1}{4}$ full with cream. Screw the lid on tight. Let everyone have a turn shaking the jar. *Note:* Air space is critical! Filling the jar with more cream makes the process take longer. (In testing, it took 7 minutes for cream to turn into butter at $\frac{1}{4}$ full, but 20 minutes when $\frac{1}{2}$ full.)

As children take turns, talk about butter. The land of Canaan—which means heaven—was called a land of milk and honey. Isaiah prophesied that the Lord would eat butter and honey. Butter means celestial good, which is knowing what the Lord wants and doing it right away. (See *Apocalypse Explained* 304.3).

Continue taking turns to shake the jar while going on with the lesson. Once a ball of butter forms, drain the butter milk and rinse the butter with water. The butter is now ready to eat.

2. Focus on the Word

Read: Luke 14:16-24. A teaching picture is available on p. 5.

Have you ever been to a dinner with lots of people—maybe at Christmas or Easter? What made the meal special?

Today's story is about a master who gave a feast. He invited guests and later sent a servant to tell them that the feast was ready. What did the guests say? They all made excuses and said they were not coming. One had bought a field. Another had bought five new oxen. Another had married a wife.

How does making excuses make you or others feel? We all make excuses sometimes. It may be easy to see when other people make "excuses", but harder to see when *we* are making excuses.

How did the master respond? He was upset and angry. He told his servant to bring the poor, maimed, lame and blind. When there was still more room, he invited everyone who was out walking in the city.

The hidden meaning of this story is about the Lord inviting people to heaven. How does the Lord invite us to heaven? Through His Word.

Each excuse the guests gave represents a different excuse we might give for why we shouldn't have to do what the Lord wants. The invited guests are like people who have the Word and know what they are supposed to do, but care more about what they want for themselves than about the Lord or others.

The people invited later were the "sick". They did not have the Word and had made mistakes in life, but they wanted to follow the Lord once they found Him.

The Lord calls us all to heaven. We can follow Him by seeking out His Word and doing what it teaches. If we do this, the Lord can bless us with His happiness for ever!

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice Failed? Feast...

Have students set up for a party. Announce that you've invited special guests who will come when the party is ready. Build anticipation as you decorate. Then open an "RSVP" that says the guests are not coming. Discuss the situation and then enjoy the party.



1. Since today's story was about a feast, let's have a feast! I've invited some special guests. I told them to wait a while and come after the room is set up.
2. Have children cut apart, color, and assemble a *Welcome Banner* (pp. 7-14). Punch two holes at the top of each pennant and string the sections together to say "WELCOME TO THE FEAST".
3. Set up a table with a tablecloth and snacks. (If you made butter at the beginning of the lesson put that out to share. Take time to talk about how lovely everything looks, and how much the guests will enjoy this special occasion.
4. Once the room is ready, tell the children that you've just received an RSVP. Read the *Feast RSVP* (p. 6) to the children.
5. Discuss how it feels to prepare for guests and have nobody come. How did the master feel when the guests did not come to the feast he had prepared? What did he do?
6. What should we do? (celebrate by ourselves, invite others, etc.)
7. Let's celebrate the end of our lessons on heaven by enjoying the feast! We can remember that the Lord prepares a feast for everyone in heaven. It's up to us to say "yes" to His invitation.

Choice Who Will Come?

Students create a set of mix-and-match figures to illustrate the parts inside us that are willing to follow the Lord, and the parts of us that are not willing to follow Him. Over time, as we work to become more willing to answer "yes" to following the Lord, we become more like an angel.

1. We're going to illustrate different parts of us that are like different people in the parable. Give each student **4 copies** of *Person Outline* (p. 15).
2. Review the people that were first asked to the Feast and made excuses. Brainstorm ways in which you could illustrate these kinds of people today. (See suggestions in red on p. 4 to start thinking.) Have students

Materials Needed

Copies of *Feast RSVP* p. 6 and *Welcome Banner* pp. 7-14, scissors, markers or crayons, hole punch, yarn or ribbon (to string banner), tableware, tablecloth, snacks and drinks for a feast

Prepare in Advance

Purchase and prepare snacks and tableware. Fold RSVP.

New Church Concept God's Goal

Divine providence has as its goal a heaven consisting of people who have become angels. See *Divine Providence* 27

New Church Concept Drawn to Heaven

The Lord continually withdraws people from evils so far as they are willing to be withdrawn, and leads them to heaven; but so far as they cannot be withdrawn from evils the Lord cannot lead them to heaven. See *Apocalypse Explained* 1162

Materials Needed

4 copies of *Person Outline* p. 15 for each student; crayons, markers or colored pencils; scissors; stapler
optional: flat decorative items such as band aids, stickers (e.g. flowers, farm animals, etc.), sequins, glitter, and glue

Prepare in Advance

Gather optional decorative items as wished.

Who Will Come? *continued*

choose one of these kinds of people to illustrate for their first page.

- Repeat step 2 with the second set of people invited (suggestions in **blue** below) and with the final kind of people invited (suggestions in **green** below).
- What does the feast in the parable mean? What is the Lord inviting us to? (Heaven) How do we say yes to the Lord? (By working to become angels.) Children should make their final figure into an angel (suggestions in **yellow** below).
- Have children cut their figures apart along the solid lines up to the dotted fold lines. **Do not cut the angel page!** Stack the pictures on top of one another putting the angel at the back. Staple the uncut edges together on the left side of the page to create a mix and match book.
- Show the children how to fold back different parts of their books and have fun with the mix-matches. We don't become an angel all at once. Some parts of us answer the Lord's invitation sooner than others. We become an angel over a lifetime, by making good choices again and again.

Ideas for decorating people like those in the parable and an angel

Land buyer—fancy clothes, sequin jewels, real estate sold sign

Oxen buyer—farm animals, farm equipment, hoe, pitchfork

Just married—wedding clothes, flowers, rings

Poor—"please give food" sign, empty purse, ragged clothes

Lame, maimed—crutch, plaster cast, wheel chair, band aids

Blind—dark glasses, white cane, bandage, seeing eye dog

Highways & hedges—hiking boots, walking sticks, backpack

Angel—beautiful clothes, glitter, happy face



Choice

Coloring Picture: Invited to the Supper

Give children copies of *Invited to the Supper* (p. 16) to color.

Materials Needed

copies of *Invited to the Supper* p. 16; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

Help children learn the memory verse. Say the verse several times and invite the children to repeat it with you until they can say it with confidence.

Blessed are those who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!

Luke 14:15

Closing

The Lord invites each of us to go to heaven. He invites us in His Word. And He lets each of us choose to follow Him. If we do, He will bless us to eternity.

Give Parent Notes (p. 17) to children as they leave.



Directions: Fold this page so the message is hidden inside an “envelope”. Read as if it has just been delivered.

Dear Class,

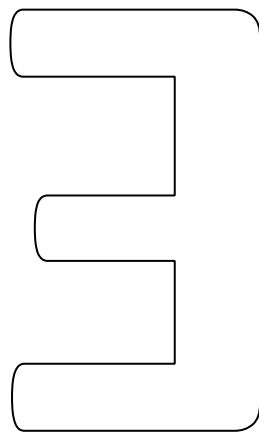
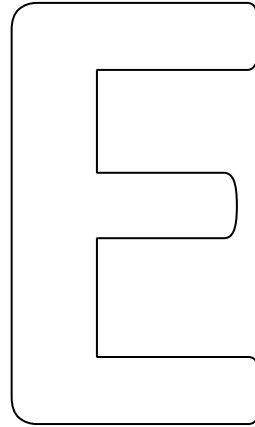
Thank you for the lovely invitation to come to your feast. I was looking forward to coming this morning but have decided not to come after all.

It turns out that it is a good day to stay home and do other things instead. I hope you understand. Have a good time!

With love,

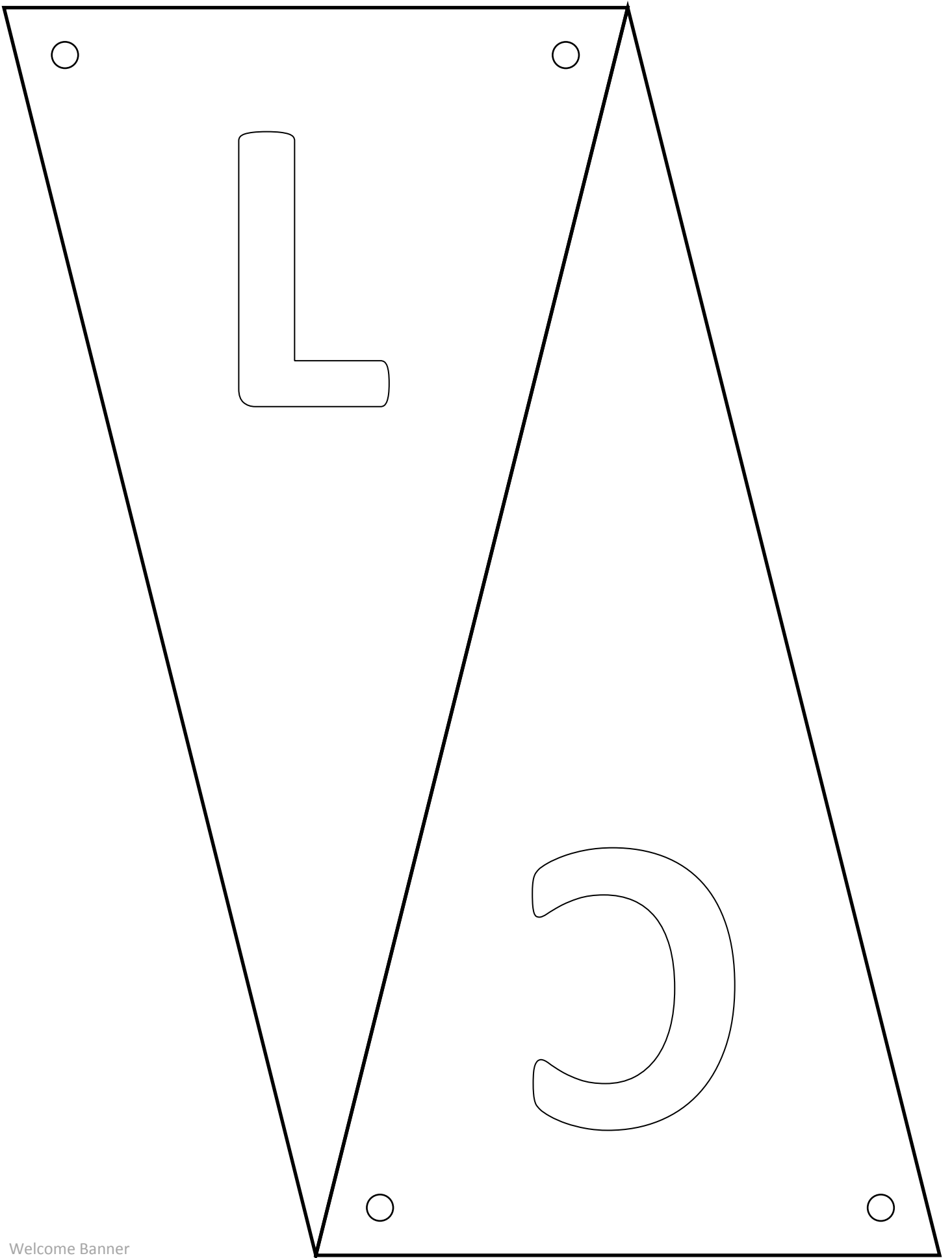
Your Guest

**Print 2 copies
of this page!**

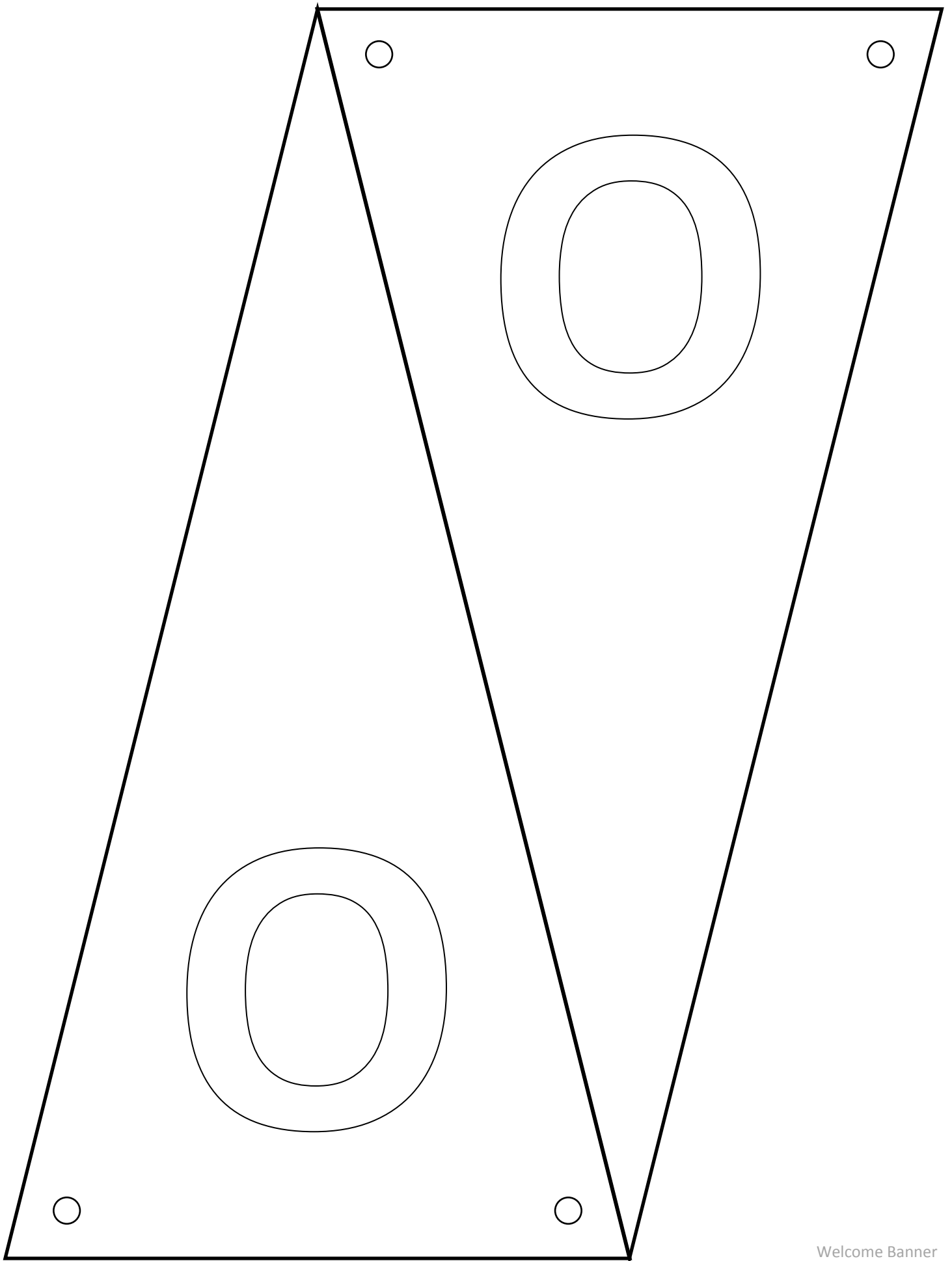


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of this page!**

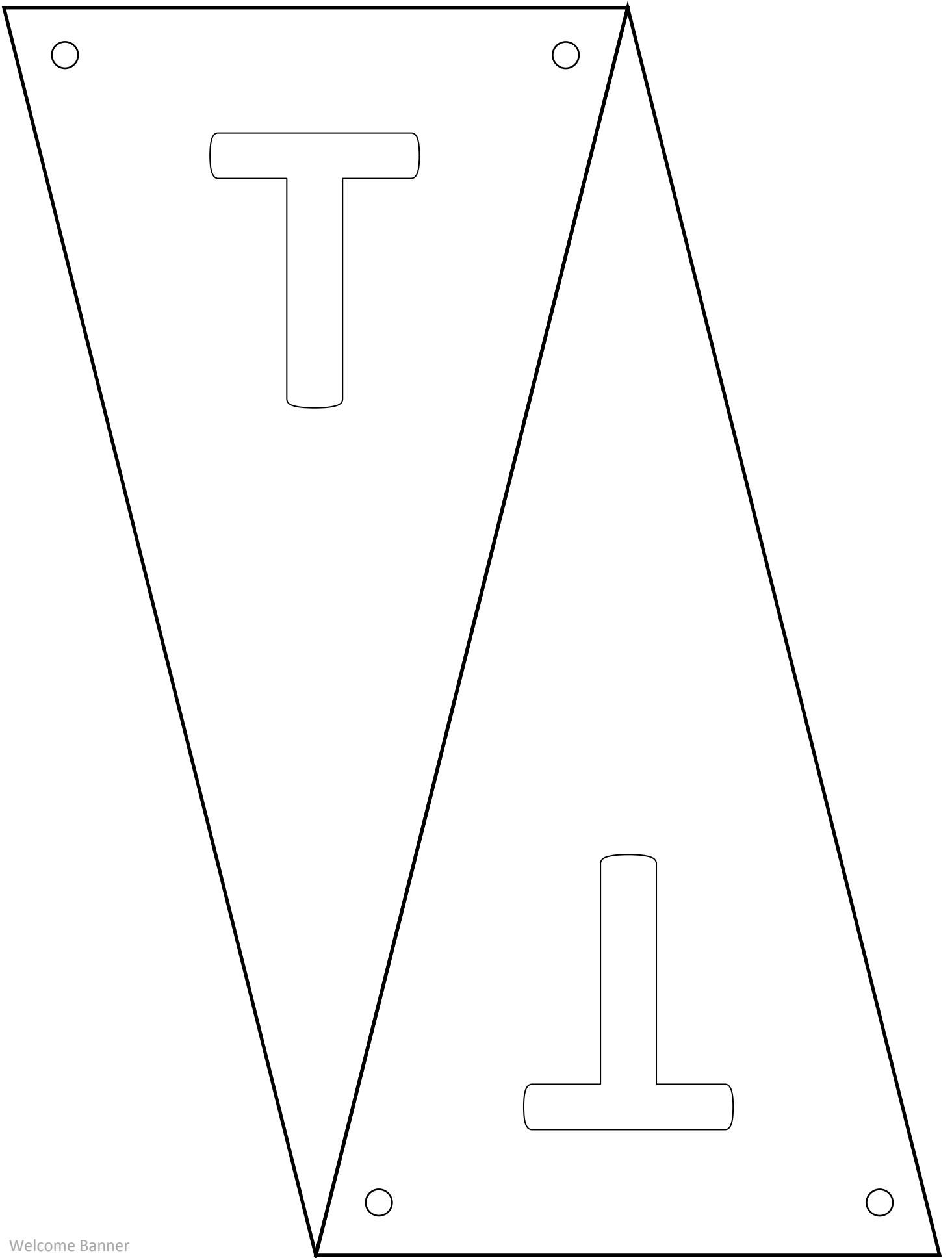
Welcome Banner



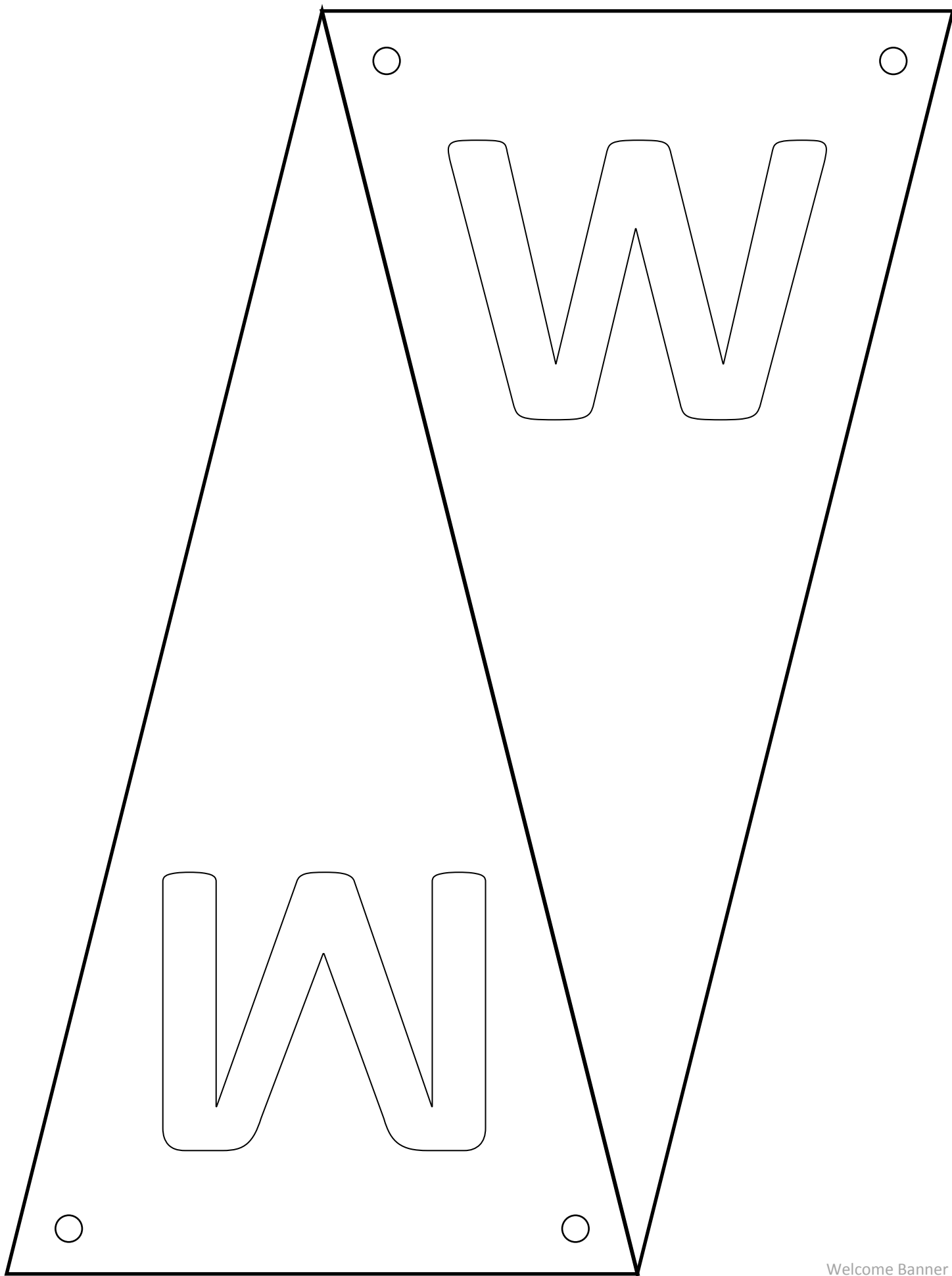
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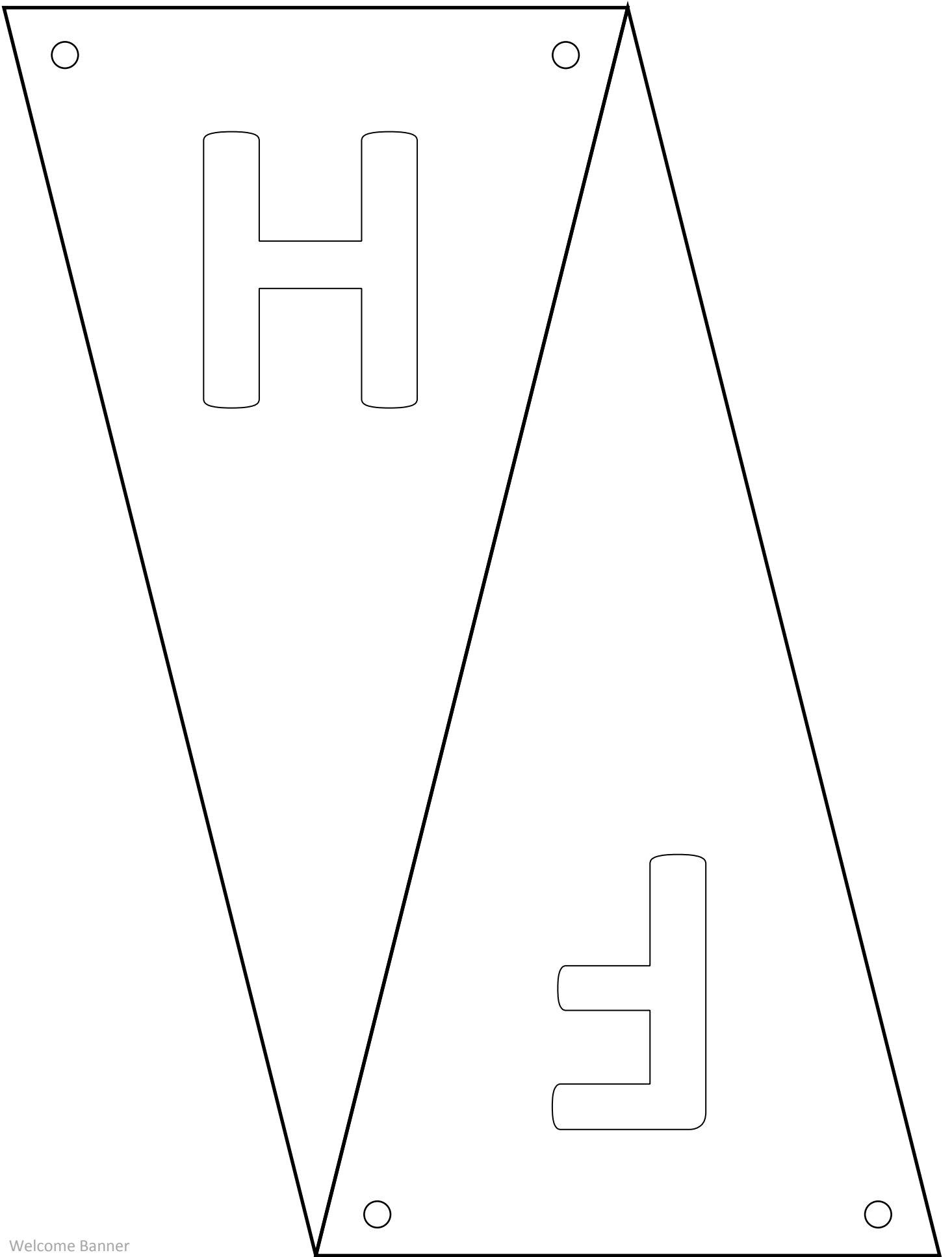
Welcome Banner



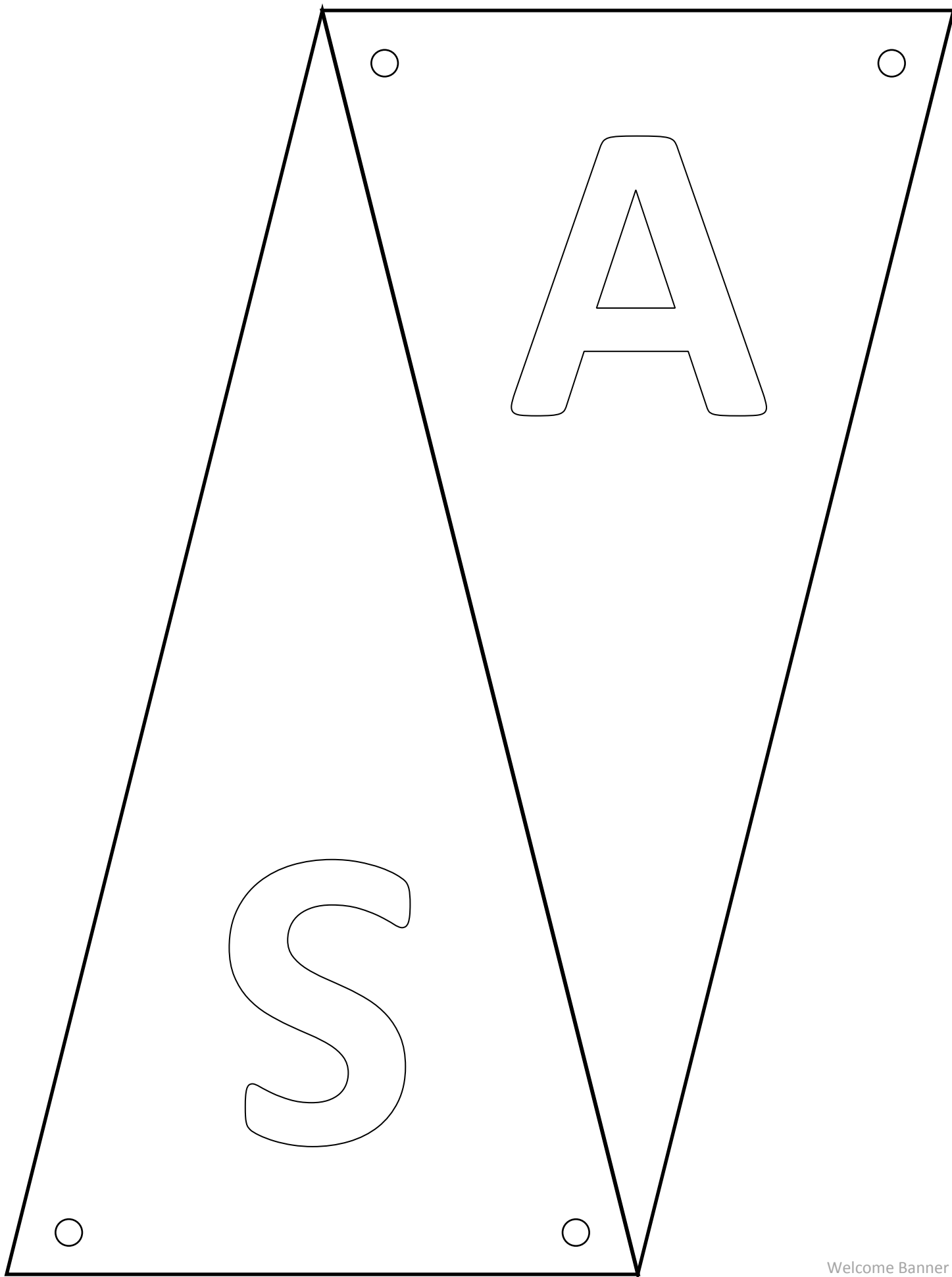
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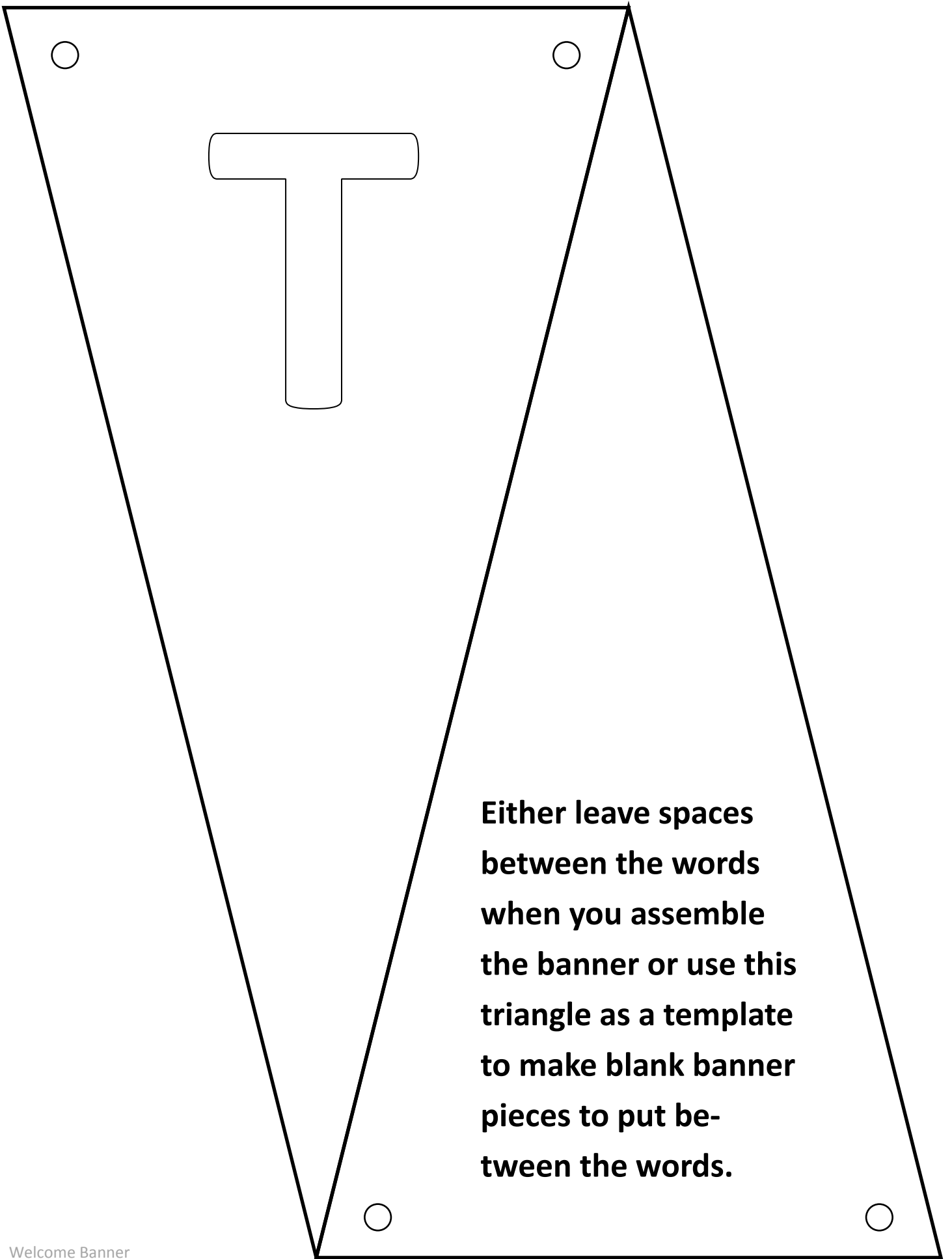
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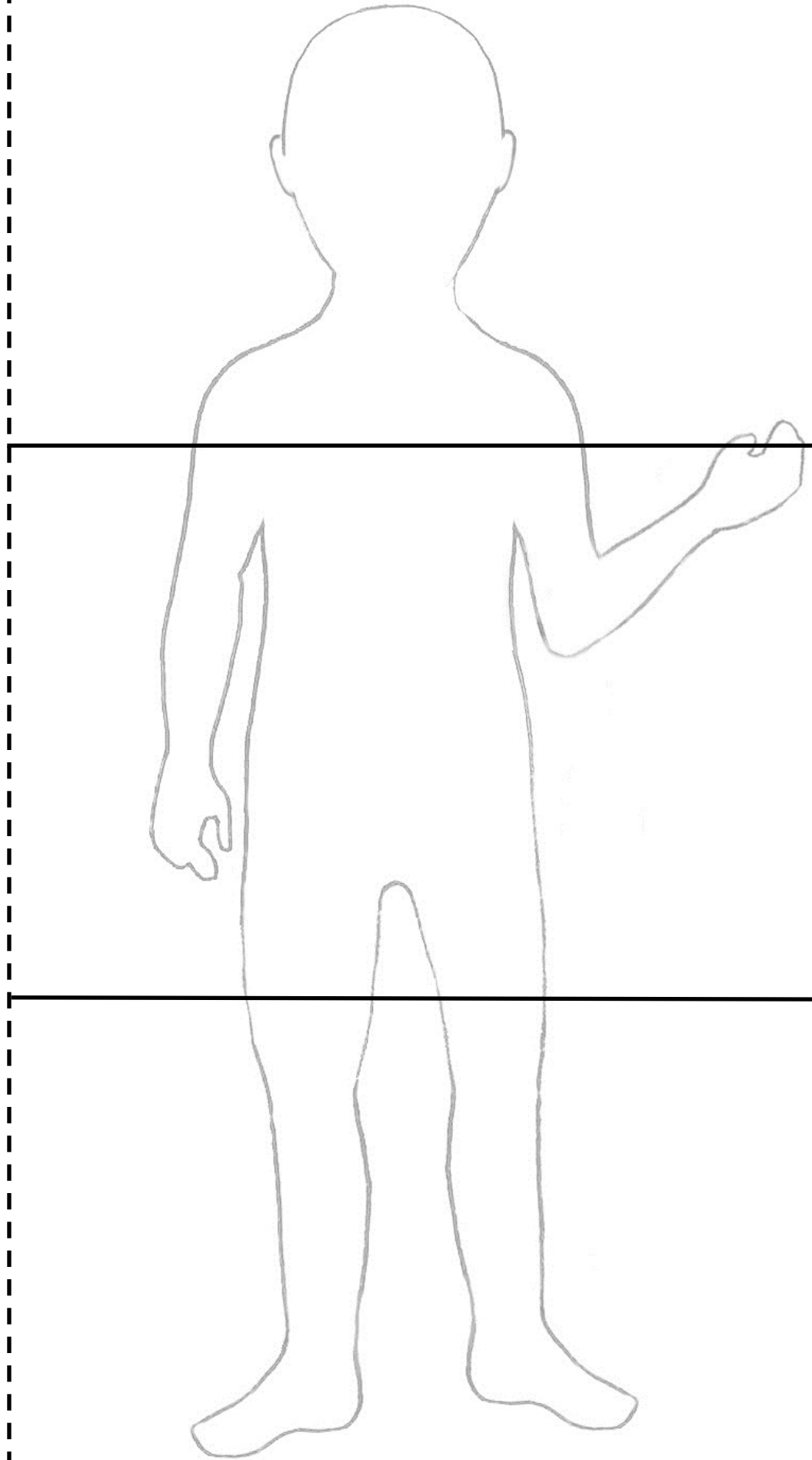


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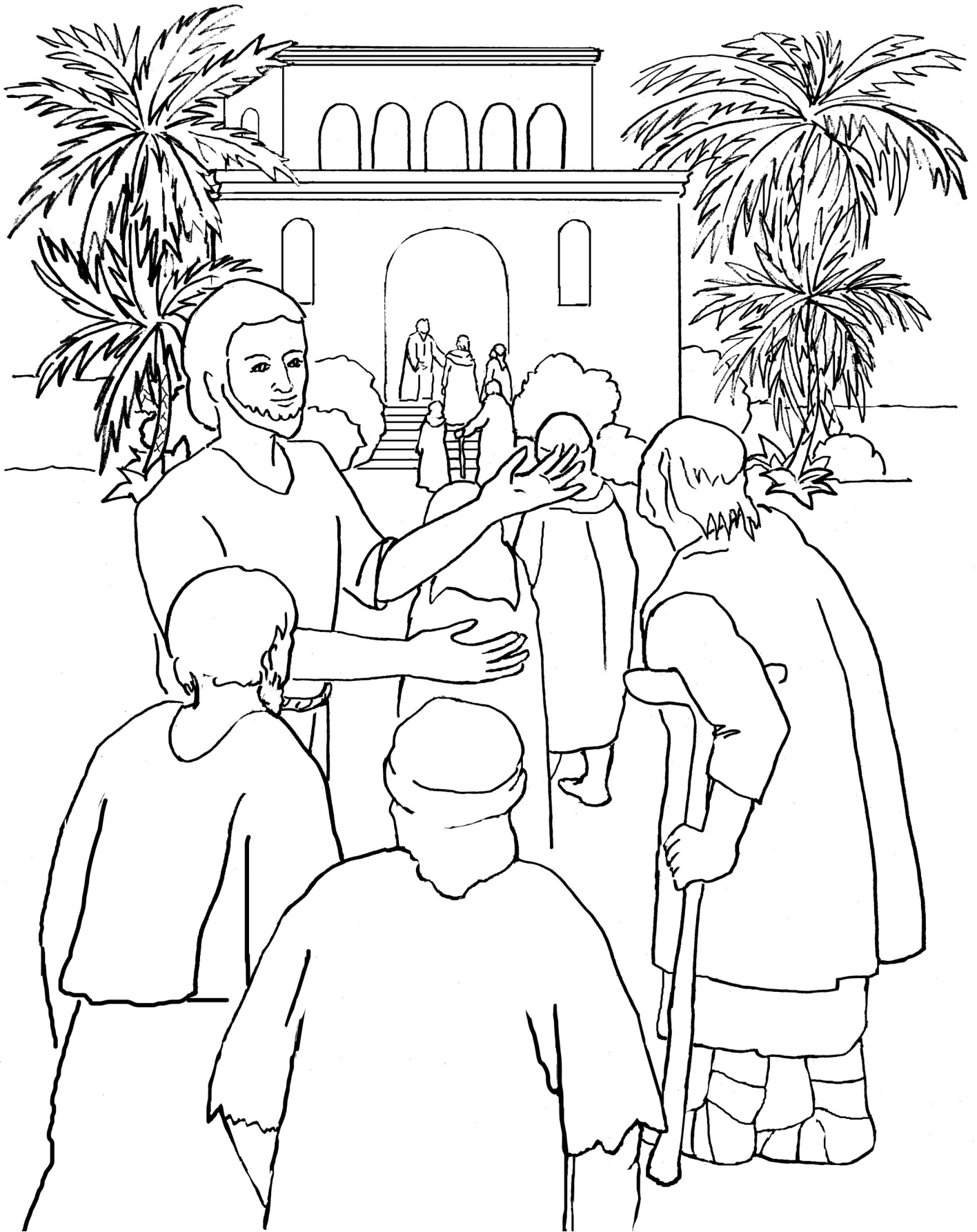


**Either leave spaces
between the words
when you assemble
the banner or use this
triangle as a template
to make blank banner
pieces to put be-
tween the words.**

Responding to the Lord's Invitation to Heaven



Person Outline



Invited to the Supper

Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,

Today was the last lesson in our series about the parables of heaven. We learned about a great feast. The people who had been invited decided not to come. Ask your child about what happened next.

We have the choice to come when the Lord calls us or to make excuses not to come.

We encourage you to help your child remember this week's memory verse by saying it once or twice a day—in the morning, at mealtime, or before bed.

Memory Verse

Blessed are those
who shall eat bread in
the kingdom of God!
Luke 14:15



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