

'Jesus Knocks' Theme - Introduction

from Revelation 3:20 (NRSV) 'Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.'

St. John the Evangelist Messy Church, Hamilton ON

Meets Third Thursday each month from September to June from 5pm-7pm

Theme from May 2015

Overview of the Evening:

- 5:00-6:00 Welcome nibblies and refreshments, check in and nametags (write out Birthday cards)
10 Activities and crafts
- 6:00-6:20 Celebration (Behold song), Story, Prayer, Grace (see p. for details)
- 6:20-7:00 Home-made pizza, veggies and fruit,
- 6:45-7:00 Dismissal and take-home (door hanger craft with extras at door and chalk for everyone)

Following Documents include:

Activities and Crafts

Celebration

Take-home

Door Painting

You need:

Wooden door (made in advance – ours was free-standing)

Poster paints

Large brushes

Water for brushes

Soapy water for hands

Towels

What to do:

Paint the door!

Talk about why people have doors – they keep things inside and they keep other things outside.

What would it be like to not have a door on your house?

Further information:

Wood was precious and expensive during the time of Jesus. Houses were made of stone, mud dried bricks, sun-dried clay over sticks. The roof beams, the door and the door posts were the only things made of wood. Houses were often a square box with only the one room. Most of the day people were outside and the house was for storage and sleeping.



Door Wreath

You need:

Circle wires

Artificial flowers on stems

Ribbon

Scissors

How to make it:

Tie artificial flowers to the base ring using short pieces of ribbon Tie a longer piece of ribbon to hang it up at home.

Talk about how a wreath can be hung on a door as a welcome to visitors – and we want to welcome Jesus! Wreaths can also be given to winners in contests and sports events – in the original Olympic Games, winners received a wreath to show their victory. Perhaps we can think of Jesus victory over the grave as he rose from the dead at Easter time when we look at a wreath.

Further information:

Wreaths were used in ancient Greece to honour the winners of athletic or poetic events. In Rome they were used as symbols of martial victory. It is thought that wreaths were hung on doors in Rome to celebrate a victory. The symbol of victory was adopted by Christians to honour Christ's victory over sin and death.

Door Hanger

You need:

Chalk-style specialty paper
Chalk in various colours

Preparation:

Using a 'Cricut' machine or a template,
cut out the door hanger shapes.



What to do: Decorate your Door Hanger using chalk. Put the finished door hanger into your paper bag to take home.

Talk about how today we are going to hear how Jesus comes to us, like knocking on our door, and it is up to us to decide if we want to let him in to be our friend. Jesus rescues us from our sin.

NOTE: You will be given some chalk to take home when you leave, so you can change the message on your door hanger.

Further information:

In our houses most everyone in a family has a room of their own with a door to hang a message door hangar. In Jesus time the house of the common people had one room with a platform at one end where all the family slept.

Ideas for other messages and designs on door hangers



Parachute Game

You need:

Small parachute with a vent (hole) in the centre

Large container or box

Lightweight small balls 4-8 players



What to do:

Players should be arranged equally around the parachute holding the handles (or edges of the parachute) – a small parachute works best with 4 to 6 people

Put one or more small balls on the parachute.

The group works together to get the balls to go through the 'door' (vent) of the parachute and into the container – but 'hands' are not allowed to touch the ball other than to put on the parachute!

'Who's behind the door?' Game

You need:

Large cardboard pieces (a used refrigerator box with 'windows' cut in works well)
Duct tape

Preparation: Create 2 or 3 'doors' in the big cardboard hinged at the top with duct tape.

What to do:

Players go behind the cardboard, one at each 'door'. If there are 2 doors, then you need 2 players. If 3 doors, then 3 players (best way to do).

Number each door as 1, 2, (and 3).

A 'contestant' has to guess who is behind each of the doors.

Talk about why it is often difficult to see Jesus in our lives. Is he hidden or is he in plain sight and we just don't look for him?

Quiet Area

You need:

Pencil crayons/crayons
Colouring sheets
Mazes
Plain paper to draw
Kids books – if possible related to the theme

Sun Catcher Window

You need:

Scissors
Clear contact paper
Cardboard window frame
Various bright coloured pieces of acetate (can use index dividers) or cellophane



Preparation: Cut frames and pieces of sticky contact paper to fit the frame.

What to do:

Place a piece of sticky contact paper with the sticky side up. Place a frame on top of it. Cut out pieces of cellophane or acetate to add to the 'window'.

(Optional) Add a second piece of contact paper on top of the finished sun catcher.

Talk about how beautiful the sun catchers let in and change the light – think about letting in the light of Jesus and how Jesus can change you.

From <http://artfulparent.com/2012/08/kids-stained-glass-art-project-with-index-dividers.html>

Further information:

Both the ancient Egyptians and Romans made stained glass objects. Metallic salts are used to stain the glass as it is formed. As early as the 7th century stained glass was being used to create beautiful windows in the Churches in Britain. Small pieces of coloured glass are arranged to form patterns or pictures. They are held together by strips of lead.

Company's Coming!

These two activities can be done on separate tables as two activities or combined as one.

Fancy Drinks for our Visitors

You need:

Plastic cup
Sharpies (various colours)
Jewel stickers
Variety of juices/soda water



How to make it:

Decorate the plastic glass and add juice/soda water.

Cookies for our Visitors

You need:

Arrowroot Cookies
Soft Icing
Sprinkles
Spreading knife

How to make it:

Spread some icing on a cookie and add sprinkles

Talk about how we welcome people into our homes and serve them special food and refreshments. What special food does your family serve to guests?

Further information:

The daily diet of the common person in Jesus' time was mainly bread, cooked grains and olive oil. Butter and cheese from goats and cows would have been eaten as well as figs and grapes. Wine was the most popular drink. The Bible mentions Jesus eating dried fish. Meat was eaten on special occasions as it was outside the common person's budget.

Key Chain

You will need:

1 shrinker plastic fish shape
Sharpies key ring scissors
Parchment paper (for on top of the shrinker plastic)
Large paper plate and permanent marker
Toaster oven set at 325° and a Timer



Preliminary Prep: Pre cut the door shapes and punch the holes. Cut paper as needed.

How to Make It:

1 Put name on paper plate
2 Using markers, put the name JESUS in the centre of the fish and add other designs if you wish. 3 Set the plastic on a piece of parchment paper. 4 Take it to the toaster oven to be 'baked' 5 Feed the key ring through the hole.

Talk about how a fish symbol has been used to identify Christians since the first century.

Further Information

Christians have used the fish symbol — also known as the ichthys (ixthus, icthus) symbol — since the first century.

The meaning of the word and symbol is very clever. The word ichthys means *fish* in Greek, but the letters are also the initials of five Greek words that mean "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour" (Iesous Christos Theou Yios Soter).

Jesus Christ told His disciples in Matthew 4:19: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." As the early Christians followed Christ's command to follow Him and lead others to the Lord, the fish symbol became a natural extension of Christ's command and also a way to recognize and identify others who knew the symbol's meaning.

From: http://www.creationtips.com/fish_symbol.html

CELEBRATION

Set Up for Celebration

In the Open Space, at the conclusion of the Activity Time, the data projector is put on a small table facing the left wall (see 'map' of the gym). The now painted door is moved into position and a small card table and several chairs are positioned to the left of the door. Everyone cleans up their last activity table and brings chairs from the stacks and/or activity tables to form a 'U' behind the data projector so they can participate in the Celebration time together. (Note that as this is happening, two volunteers push tables together in long rows and puts plastic on the activity tables from a roll of plastic to get ready for the meal)

The Celebration Team Leader, or Music Leader or other volunteer opens the gathering with a song together once everyone is settled.

Behold, Behold song

Behold, behold! I stand at the door and knock, knock, knock,
Behold, behold! I stand at the door and knock, knock, knock,
If anyone hear my voice, If anyone hear my voice, And will open, open, open the door, I will come in.

Written by: Troy Davis, Michael Weatherbe

Story Telling

A skit based on 'Jesus Knocks' based on Revelation 3:20

Characters

Narrator: John Visitors to the house (the parts could all be played by one person, or they could be different - in this case they were all played by Alan Jesus: Alan Speaker at home (Jen)

Some children (no speaking parts)

Setting

A free-standing door was constructed by MC team member Lyall, so that it separates Jesus (who is outside) from Jen and the children (who are inside). You can see the family to the left of the door and those approaching the door on the right of the door. Alan enters the area on the right of the door and Jen and the children enter on the left. You will need a table and two chairs on Jen's side of the door to represent the house.

Script by John Bowen, St. John the Evangelist Messy Church (Hamilton Ontario)

Narrator: Jesus once said, “Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.”

If we look, we can see Jesus in lots of places in the world: in a beautiful sunset, in people when they’re kind and loving, in our favourite music, and so on. Where else might you see Jesus at work? [Take a few answers.] But there is one other place in the world he really wants to be, but he won’t come unless he’s invited.

Where’s that? Jesus wants to be our friend, and to be with us for ever. He wants to be with us, to help us be strong even when things are difficult, to love us even when we feel sad, to help us know the right thing to do. But Jesus knows you can’t force someone to be your friend. [With angry face and voice:] “You WILL be my friend, whether you like it or not!!!” No: he waits patiently until we say, “Hi, Jesus, I’d love for you to be my friend.” And I’m wondering if some of us might like to do that tonight.

Think of it this way. It’s as if someone comes to your door. If someone comes to your door, and knocks, what do you do? Well, it depends who it is, doesn’t it?

[Alan comes to door, carrying clip board.] If there’s a knock at the door [he knocks], your mom or dad answer it. [Jen opens it, and says “Hi.”] But they don’t automatically ask the person in. It could be someone trying to sell them a new hot water tank, or to ask them for money, or offering to clean your windows. So what does this person want? [Alan: “I’m hoping you’re going to vote for me in the next election.”] They’ll probably be polite. [Jen: “Thank you for asking, but I haven’t decided yet who I’m going to vote for.”] But they won’t ask the person in: they’ll just talk to them on the doorstep. And then they’ll go away. [Alan: “Well, thank you for your time.” Jen: “Goodbye and good luck.”]

[Alan comes to door, carrying a pizza box.] Or suppose there’s a knock at the door [he knocks], and it’s someone different. Say it’s the pizza delivery guy. [Alan calls: “Pizza’s here!” Jen opens the door.] If it’s a cold day, your parents might say [Jen: “Hey, step into the hall while I get some money.” Alan comes through the door.] He’s not a friend, so they’re not going to invite him into the kitchen, or into the playroom. But they’ll be nice and polite, and they’ll give him the money and take the pizza [the exchange takes place], and then the guy will go away again. [Jen: “Thanks for the pizza!” Alan: “You’re welcome!” He goes back out.]

[Alan comes to door, carrying a soccer ball.] But suppose there’s a knock at the door [he knocks], and you open the door, and it’s someone from school that you kinda like, and you’ve been wondering if they liked you, and here they are knocking at your door! [Jen opens the door.] What are you going to say this time? [Jen: “Hey, Alan. Great to see you. Why don’t you come in? Come through to the kitchen. Wanna snack? Want some juice?” They go and sit at a table.] You want to show them that you want to be friends—and asking them into your house is a good way to do it—if it’s OK with your parents.

So . . . it's like that with Jesus. He wants to be our friend. [Alan comes to the door, looking 'Jesusy'.] And so he comes and knocks on the door. [He knocks.] You go to answer the door [Jen opens the door], and there's Jesus!

Now: You might not know much about Jesus. So you don't ask him in right away. [Jen: "Oh, hi. You're Jesus, right? I've heard about you."] You talk to him on the doorstep, and try to decide if he's someone you actually want for a friend. That's very sensible. You don't want to ask someone into your house unless you're sure.

Or, you might hear him knocking on the door, and you open the door, but you're not quite sure if you're ready to have him as your friend. So you say: [Jen: "Hi, Jesus. Why don't you come into the hall, and let's have a chat."] And you talk for a bit, about school, and your family, and some things that are worrying you, and he seems to understand, and you begin to feel more comfortable around Jesus. You don't ask him into the kitchen, but you begin to think, "Hmm, maybe I do want him as a friend. He seems kinda nice. Next time he comes, I think I'll ask him in."

Or, you hear him knocking at the door, and you open the door, and he says: [Alan: "Hi, Jen. I'd love to be your friend. Can I come in?"] And you've been hearing about Jesus for a long time, maybe all of your life, and you know the stories, and you know lots of people who have Jesus as their friend, and you think to yourself, "Yes, that's what I want too." And so you say: [Jen: "Hi, Jesus, I'd love for you to be my friend too. Come right in!"] They go and sit at the table.]

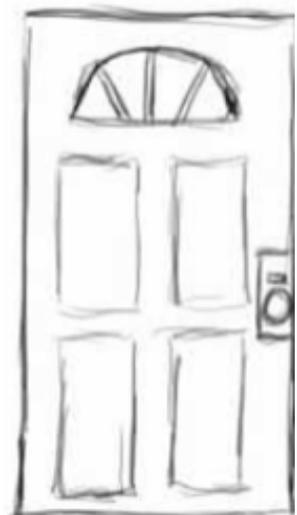
So that's how it works. And whoever we are, whatever we've done, it's as though Jesus is knocking at the door, asking to be our friend. And he promises that if we invite him in, he will come in. He promises always to love us and never to leave us.

So . . . what do we want to do? Here's what I suggest. When you go home tonight, take one of these postcards [pictures of Holman Hunt's Light of the World] to remind you of what we've talked about. (It's a very famous painting of Jesus knocking on the door, and the words are on the back.) And then talk to your mum or dad about this. Or if you are a mum or dad, talk to one another or talk to a friend about it. And then before you go to sleep tonight, say to Jesus, very quietly, something like this. (It doesn't matter the exact words you use.) "Jesus, thanks that you want to be my friend. I want to be your friend too. I know you'll be a good friend to me. Help me be a good friend to you. Thank you that you will love me forever. Amen."

Prayer

(Baggies are passed out to each family with a number of 'Door' papers and golf pencils)

Everyone wrote (or drew pictures) prayers on a 'door' asking Jesus to come into their hearts - or thanking Jesus for being in their life - or asking Jesus to tell you about how you can be a better friend to him.



When they were ready to do so, each was invited to come forward to tape their prayer on the painted door. They could put them facing up so others could see the prayers, or face down if they preferred the prayer to be private between only them and Jesus.

SONG: Jesus Knocks song (tune of 'Thomas the Tank Engine' song)

Begin with someone knocking 8 times.

There's 2, there's 4, there's 6 and more.

Someone's knocking at my door.

Who is knocking to come in

Is it stranger or a friend.

If I open I will find,

someone caring, strong and kind.

Someone who will walk with me

Jesus is my friend.

Written by: Nancy Rowe

Announcements

Any announcements are made. Reminder about the Take Home as they leave.

Birthday Cards for those having a birthday this month.

Grace: Johnny Appleseed before heading to have a yummy meal.

Discussion Card

To place on the tables at mealtime:

- What are some things we thank Jesus for in our family, at school or work?
- How are some ways we can be a good friend to Jesus?
- Are there some people we want to tell about Jesus?

Take Home (see sample flyer following)

Families receive a flyer to take home with one or more activities to connect up with the theme. In this case, one activity was the chalk-paper door hanger. As families left, they received packs of coloured chalk (and a blank door hanger if they did not have time to do that activity). Everyone also received a postcard of 'Jesus Knocking at the Door' picture with the scripture on the back.

Music Resources:

Behold Behold: Written by: Troy Davis, Michael Weatherbe (1994)

www.lyrics.com/lyric/3203782/Behold%2C+Behold For tune, search 'Behold Behold song'

Jesus Knocks Piggyback song by Nancy Rowe (tune Thomas the Tank):

Instrumental version free to download: <https://instrumentalfx.co/thomas-tank-engine-original-theme-song/> Theme song with original words also free to download

<https://instrumentalfx.co/thomas-friends-original-theme-song/>

Also, searching the internet using 'scripture' and 'songs' for example, enter 'Revelation 3:20 songs' - you will find a variety of songs.



St. John's News

Jesus Knocks!

Revelation 3:20

Rev. 3:20 (NRSV) (Jesus says) 'Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.'

Some of us have Jesus on the doorstep, checking him out. That's OK. Some of us have invited him into the hall and we're getting to know him better. That's good too. It takes time to decide if you want someone to be your friend. But he's saying, "I want to be your friend. Can I come into the kitchen? Can I share a meal with you?" For children to understand this concept, we can think in terms of having Jesus as a friend. For adults, we can think deeper and want to invite Jesus to be part of our lives and to live in us. This may be a hard concept for adults, but even more so for children, but it is all part of our life's journey.

Jesus waits for us to say yes!

Prayer... Loving God, help us to hear your voice, hear you knocking at our door and to invite you in. Help us to know your presence in our lives and to listen when you talk to us. May we remain faithful to you always. Amen

NEXT MESSY CHURCH September 2015

We hope to see you again. Please invite your family, friends and neighbours to come along too, especially those who do not have a church home! Please check our website for start-up details and date and for more information about our Messy Church: www.rockonlocke.ca

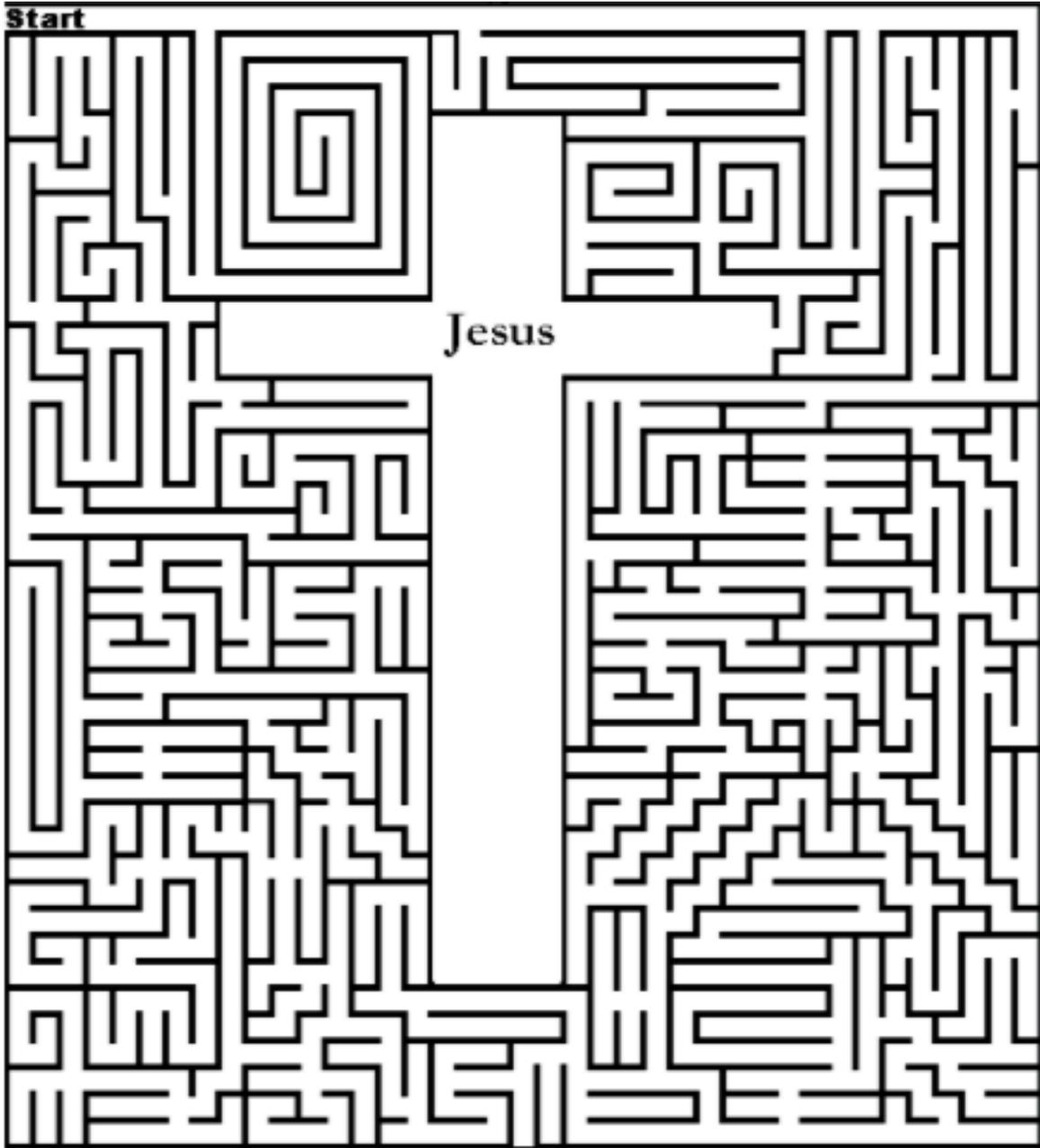
www.facebook.com/sjemessychurch

HAVE A BLESSED AND SAFE SUMMER



Take Home: Today at Messy Church, we made a door hanger with chalk. The cardstock we used is special paper for chalk. The chalked door hanger can be wiped clean with a soft cloth or paper towel so you can create a new message on it. We suggest that each week you make a new design and message (see ideas on the reverse) on the door hanger. As you do that, discuss the Bible verse and the concept that Jesus is knocking at our door and asking that we let Him in to our hearts and our lives.

Open the door to Jesus! from Revelation 3:20

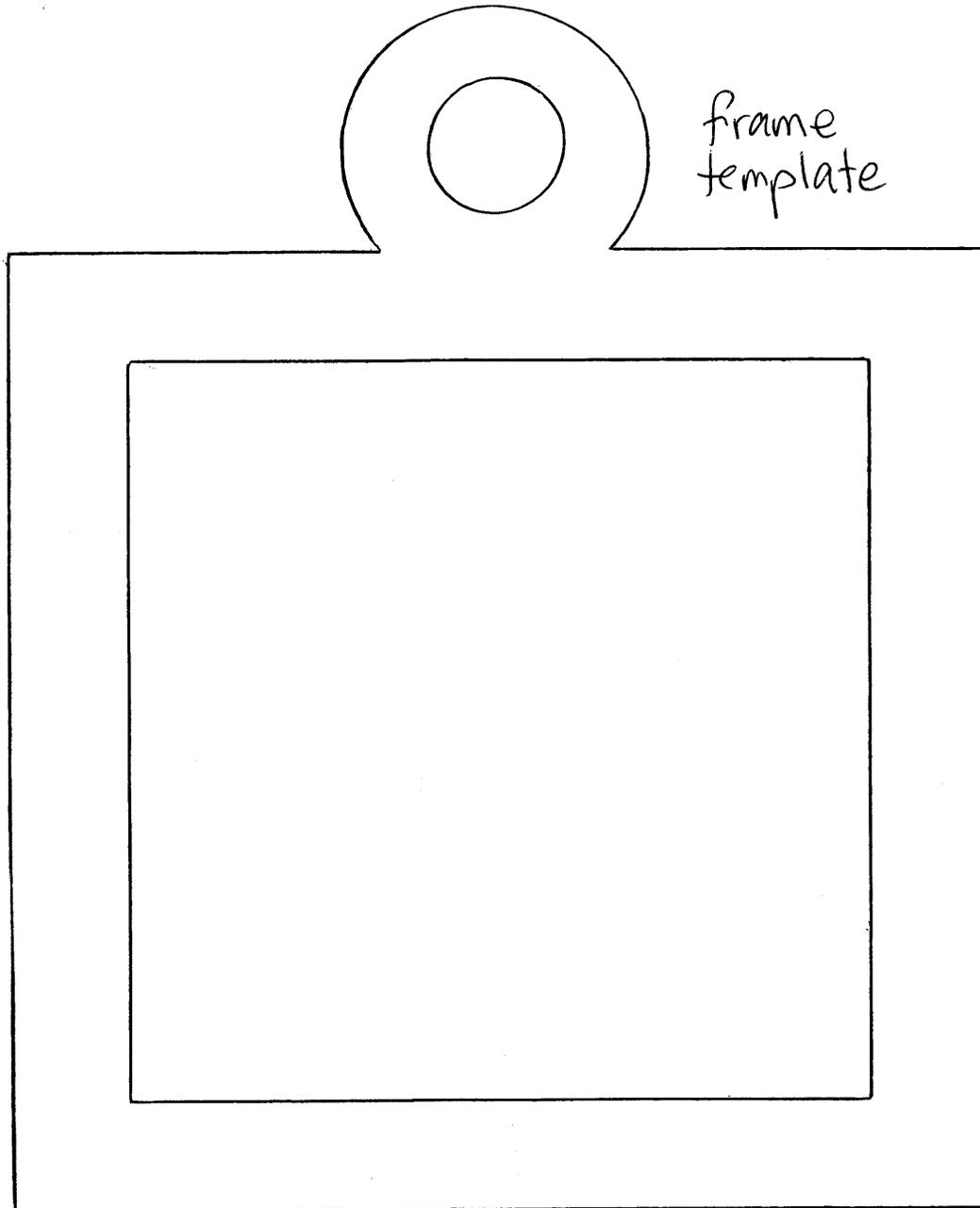




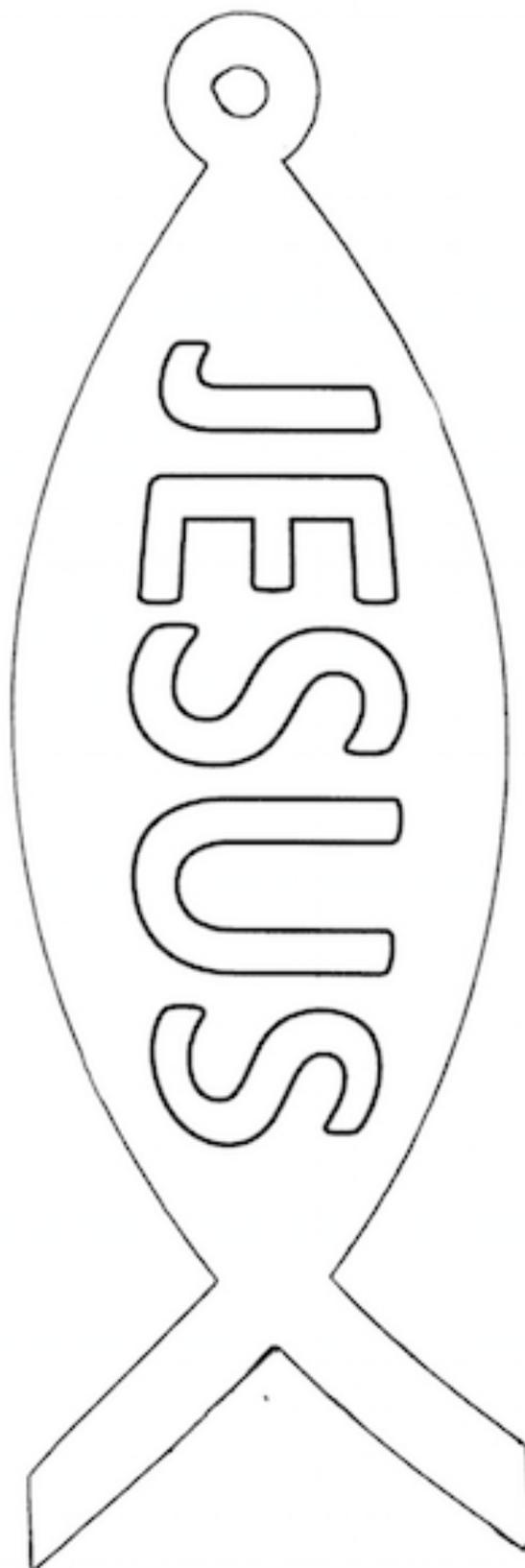
(Jesus says) 'Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.' Revelation 3:20

Frame Template and measurements

Size: outside 6 ½ in. X 6 in. Inside 5 in. X 5 in. Contact sticky paper: 6 in. X 6 in.



Fish Template



'Door' Prayer template

