

# The Promised Land

**1**

**Before you begin**, please read the introduction on the right to yourself.

**2**

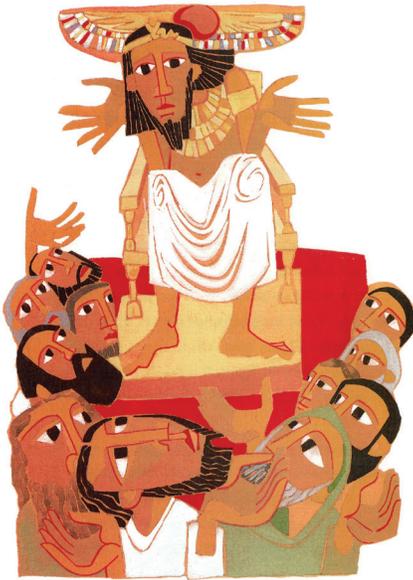
With the help of your child, prepare the meeting space. Pull out your Bible, light some candles, and add any other decoration you'd like to make the space beautiful.

Then begin with a prayer.

**3**

**Getting started.** Discuss together: What do you think is the most comfortable space in your home? Where do you go when you want to be alone and feel safe?

Read the story below out loud. If your child is old enough, he or she can read it to you. Otherwise, read it to your child. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.



Joseph and all of his brothers were Abraham's grandsons. Their children and their children's children were the Chosen People with whom God had made a special promise. Do you remember the special promise? It was called a covenant. Even though other people prayed to many gods, these people would pray only to God. God promised to always be with them.

Joseph and his brothers lived happily for many years. Their families grew and grew. Many, many years later, a new king came to rule Egypt. The new king did not like the Hebrew people, so he made them all slaves. Times got very hard for God's Chosen People, but they did not stop praying to God. And God did not leave them. God told them that they would be rescued. God promised them they would have a land of their own, the Promised Land.

2

Now discuss the story with your child. Use the following or other questions:

1. What do you think the Promised Land looked like?
2. What do you think the Chosen People liked best about having a land of their own?
3. If you could live anywhere, where would your “promised land” be?



# Dream Home

1

Read the instructions on the right with your youngster, and ask them to begin working on the activity on the next page. As they do that, continue to read below.

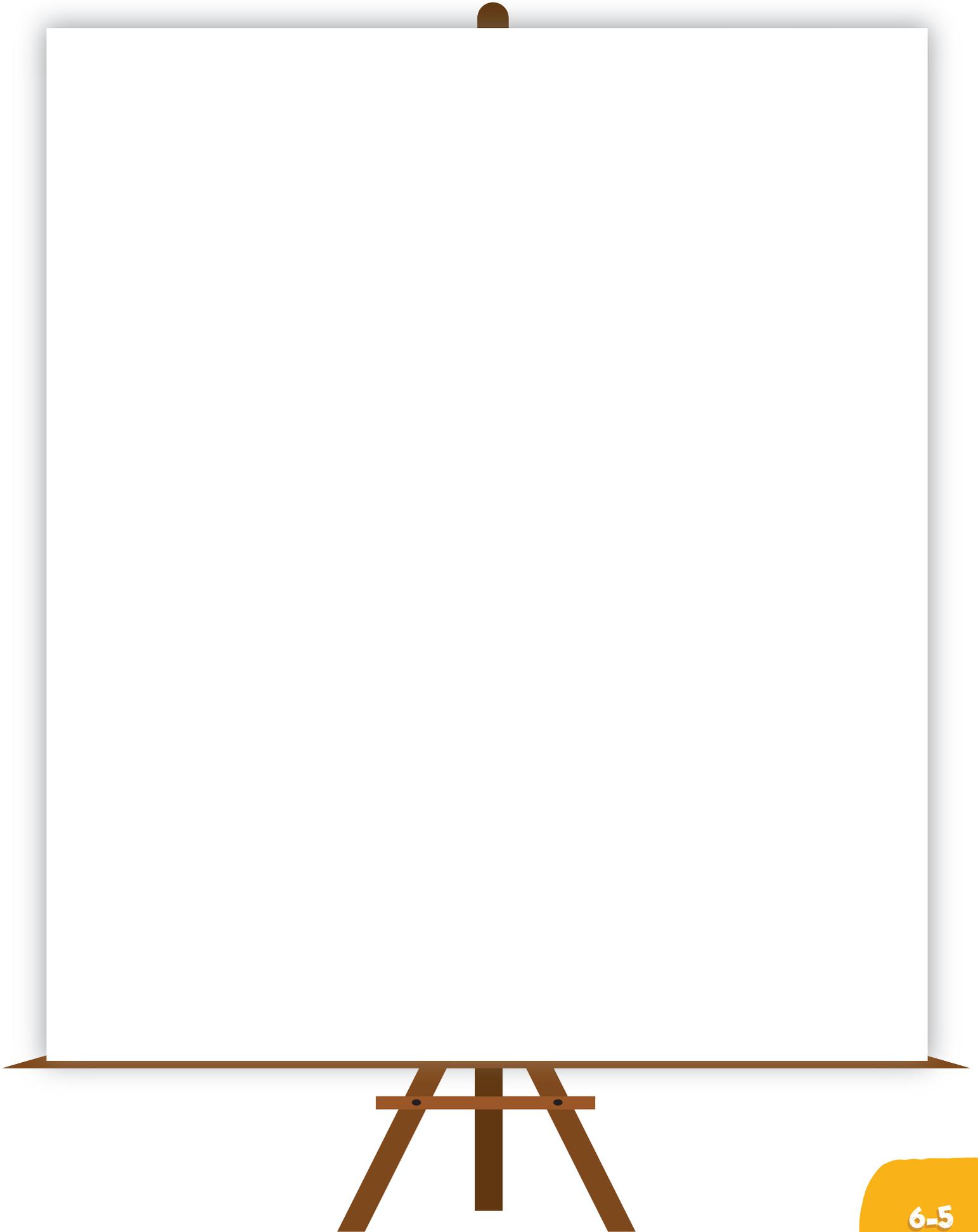
Draw a picture of your dream home on the next page. What would it look like? Where would it be? In a city? A farm? By the ocean? In a forest?

What would your house look like? What would be in it? What would you have in your bedroom? Who would live in this dream place with you? What would the most common foods be in your dream land? Draw them in.

2

**Just for you:** All people need a place where they feel they belong.

Everyone needs a place to rest, a place to hide out when things on the outside get rough. This safe place need not be a tangible space that can be measured in yards or miles. This safe place might just be one's family, a circle of good friends, or one's church. Or it could be a beautiful, peaceful place you visited once that you can go back to in your imagination. Where is your favorite place of rest?



# A Comfortable Place

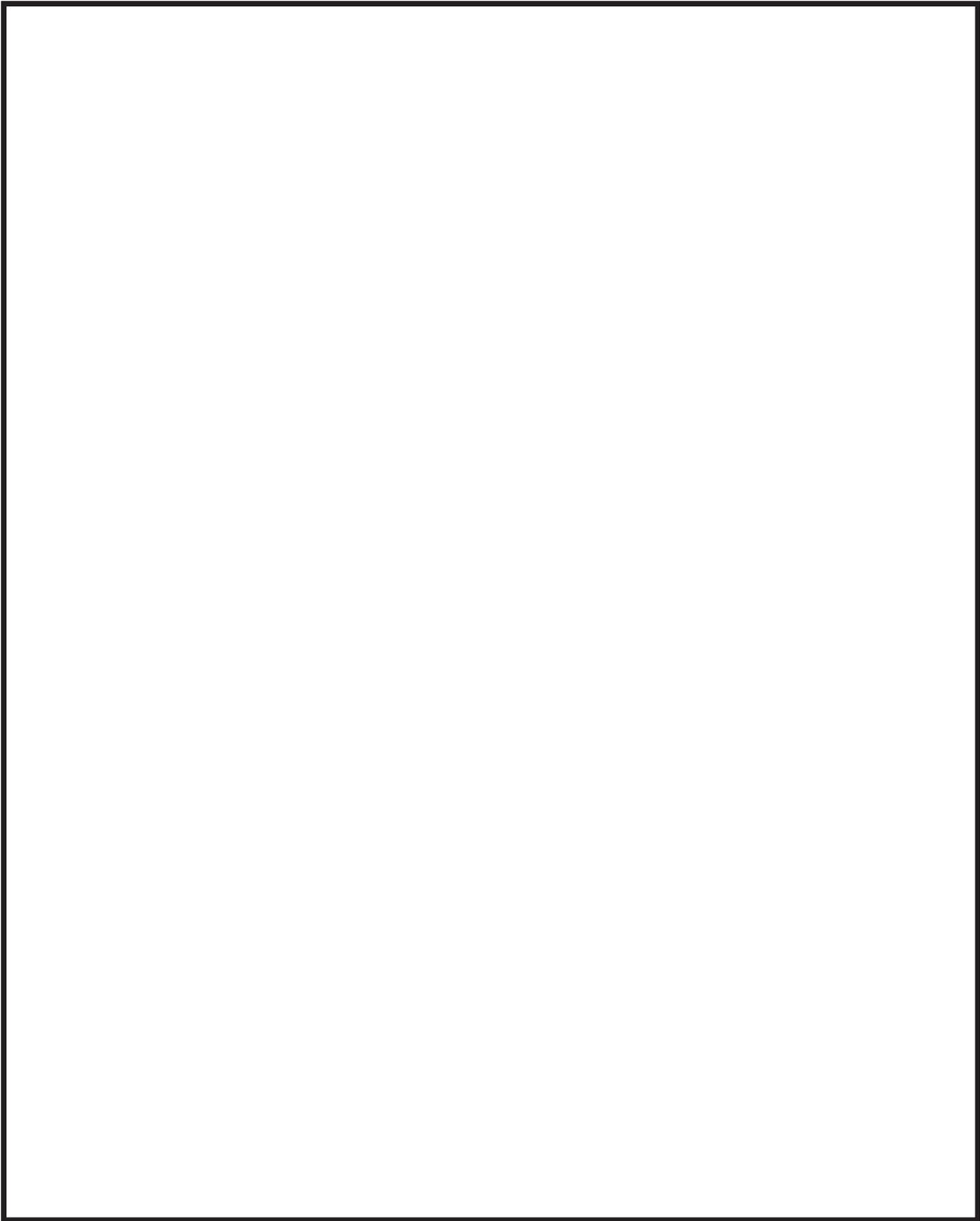
1

Together, read and follow the instructions to the right.

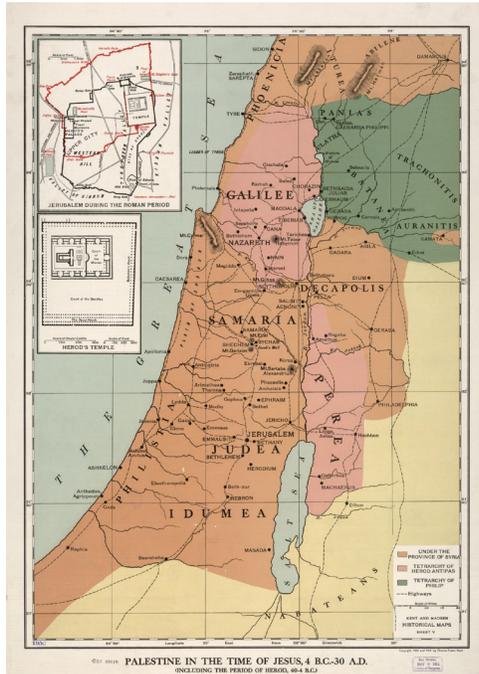
In order for the Hebrew people to become a nation they had to put down roots and settle in a place they could call home. Deep inside each of us is the need for such a settling place. Most of us try to create that secure space in our own way. We find a favorite chair or corner where we can feel comfortable. We gather pillows or reading material and mark the spot as our own. After awhile, the space becomes ours. Everyone knows that this is “Mom’s chair” or “Grandpa’s work space.”

Pretend that the sides of the rectangle on the next page are the walls of a room. Working together, design a comfortable space that you can share. Draw in windows, doors, furniture, pillows, anything you would like to make the space your own.

Listen to each other before you design the room. Make sure you work in pencil so that you can erase and make changes. This is your chance to get some hints about what each of you needs to feel settled and comfortable.



# Mapping Ancient Palestine



1

Look at a map of ancient Palestine where the Hebrews found their Promised Land. Sometimes these maps can be found at the beginning or end of one's Bible. You can also search online for maps of the Holy Land or Biblical Palestine. If possible, make a copy of the map so that you can find the places mentioned in the stories.

## Closing Ritual

2

Make the Sign of the Cross and read Genesis 17:3-8 in your Bible. Ask the children to say a closing prayer in their own words. If they are uncomfortable with this, tell them a silent prayer will be fine.

