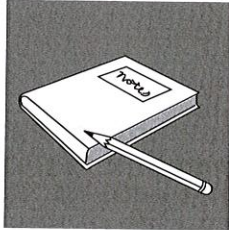


WEEK 8

God Provides

Preparation:

Read Genesis 22: 1-19 using the Bible study notes to help you.



Isaac has been born in fulfilment of God's promise. Hagar and Ishmael have been sent away (21:8-20), so Isaac has been brought up as the only son and heir of Abraham in the protected and safe environment of Abraham's home. It is apparent that Abraham is now seen as a force to be reckoned with in the land of the Philistines. He is seen as a mighty prince (23:5), wealthy (24:34), a successful warrior (14:17), prophet (20:7) and, significantly, a man under divine protection and blessing (21:22). Abraham had been obedient to the call of God and through that obedience God had been teaching Abraham about himself. Abraham's relationship with God had deepened (21:33) and he was now brought to the supreme test, learning the truth of Proverbs 3:11-12.

22:1 Some time later' - the age of Isaac is uncertain, whether a young boy, youth or young man. A youth is more likely.

22:2 Isaac is the only son so far as concerns the promise. Abraham felt fatherly affection towards Ishmael (21:11), but it is clear that Isaac had a special place in Abraham's heart.

Moriah was the place where Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem (see 2 Chronicles 3:1). In N.T. times this is in the vicinity of Calvary.

'Sacrifice him' - Abraham knew God as the eternal creator God, the one true God, and he knew God's power in judgment (19:25). He also knew God to be trustworthy and merciful (18:32). It is unclear to what extent he knew other aspects of God's character,

Lesson Aim:

To teach the need to put God first and to obey him, even when it's hard to do so.

namely his morality and justice, which are inconsistent with anything arbitrary or unreasonable in his nature.

22:3 'Early' - see also 20:14-15. It infers a habit of facing a hard task resolutely.

22:4 'Third day' - this is consistent with the travel time from Beersheba to Jerusalem.

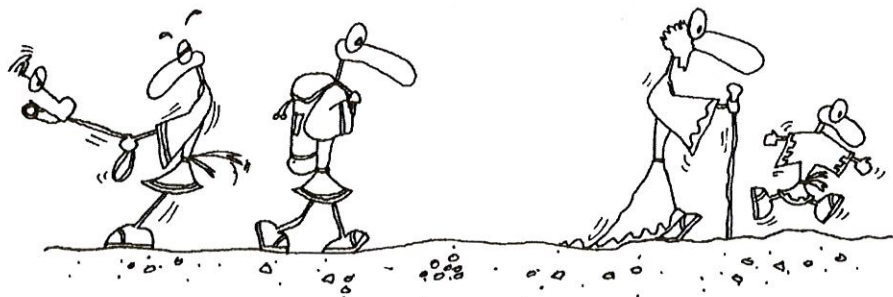
22:6 Loading of the wood onto Isaac - see John 19:17 for the parallel with Jesus carrying his own cross.

22:8 'God himself will provide' - it is unclear whether Abraham still believed that God would intervene at the last minute. More probably this was the prophetic voice of Abraham. Hebrews 11:17-19 reveals that Abraham was expecting Isaac to be resurrected.

22:9 'Bound his son' - almost certainly Isaac must have submitted to his father's will. Compare God's pattern for the chosen 'seed' - to be a servant sacrificed.

22:10-12 First Abraham demonstrated that he was prepared to sacrifice his son. Then God stepped in to prevent any harm coming to Isaac.

22:15-18 Abraham's faith was thus rewarded, but note that the promised blessing was a confirmation of God's earlier covenant promise to Abraham. Therefore, his faith was a means through which God worked to guarantee the gift he had already given. Abraham's faith and obedience showed that there can be no blessing or benefit from God's saving grace without the believer's response. This was the pattern used by the N.T. writers (see Romans 4 and Hebrews 11). Behind and around this is the gracious call and mercy of God, who provides the way for sins to be dealt with.



Remind the children of the main facts of the previous 4 weeks' stories. Go over the promises God made to Abraham and ask the children to say how God has kept those promises. Revise the memory verse.

Lesson Plan



In today's true story from the Bible we will find out if Abraham really believed God would keep his promise. At the end of the story point out that Abraham had to show he trusted God by doing what God said, even when it appeared to contradict one of God's promises.

Remind the children of the things Abraham had learnt about God over the years and how these helped him trust God when it was difficult. The older children can be shown how Isaac is a picture of Jesus.

Pictures or flannelgraph. You need Abraham, Isaac, servants, Sarah (optional), wood, an altar made of stones, a ram, a bush.

Visual aids



3-5s

- * Photocopy pages 61 and 62 for each child.
- * Prior to the lesson cut out the circle and figure of Abraham from page 61 and the hatched area from page 62.
- * Attach the circle to the back of page 61 at X using a split pin paper fastener. The circle can be rotated to show Isaac on the altar, followed by the ram God provided in his place.
- * The children glue Abraham to the right of the altar and colour the picture.

Activities



5-7s

Each child requires:

- * 1 sheet of A4 paper folded in half to make a leaflet.
- * Page 63 photocopied on paper.

Prior to the lesson write on the leaflet as follows:

front cover A _ _ _ _ _ obeyed G _ _ ,
even when it was hard to do so.
Genesis 22:1-19

back cover The Lord is faithful
to _ _ _ his promises.
Psalms

inside left telling others about Jesus

top centre retaliation
(fighting back)

bottom right telling lies.

Make sure the 3 pictures will fit on the page without obscuring the writing. The children cut out and glue the pictures onto the inside of the leaflet at the appropriate places. This needs to be done as a group activity. Discuss the 3 situations with the children, bringing out how hard it can be to do what is right and how God can help. Fill in the gaps on the front and the gap and reference on the back. You may need to write this on a board or flip chart for the children to copy. The children can colour the pictures if time permits.

7-9s

The activity involves discussing 3 situations with the children, bringing out what they should do in each situation and how they often fail. Get the children to verbalise why it is important to obey God, even when it is hard to do so.

Situation 1

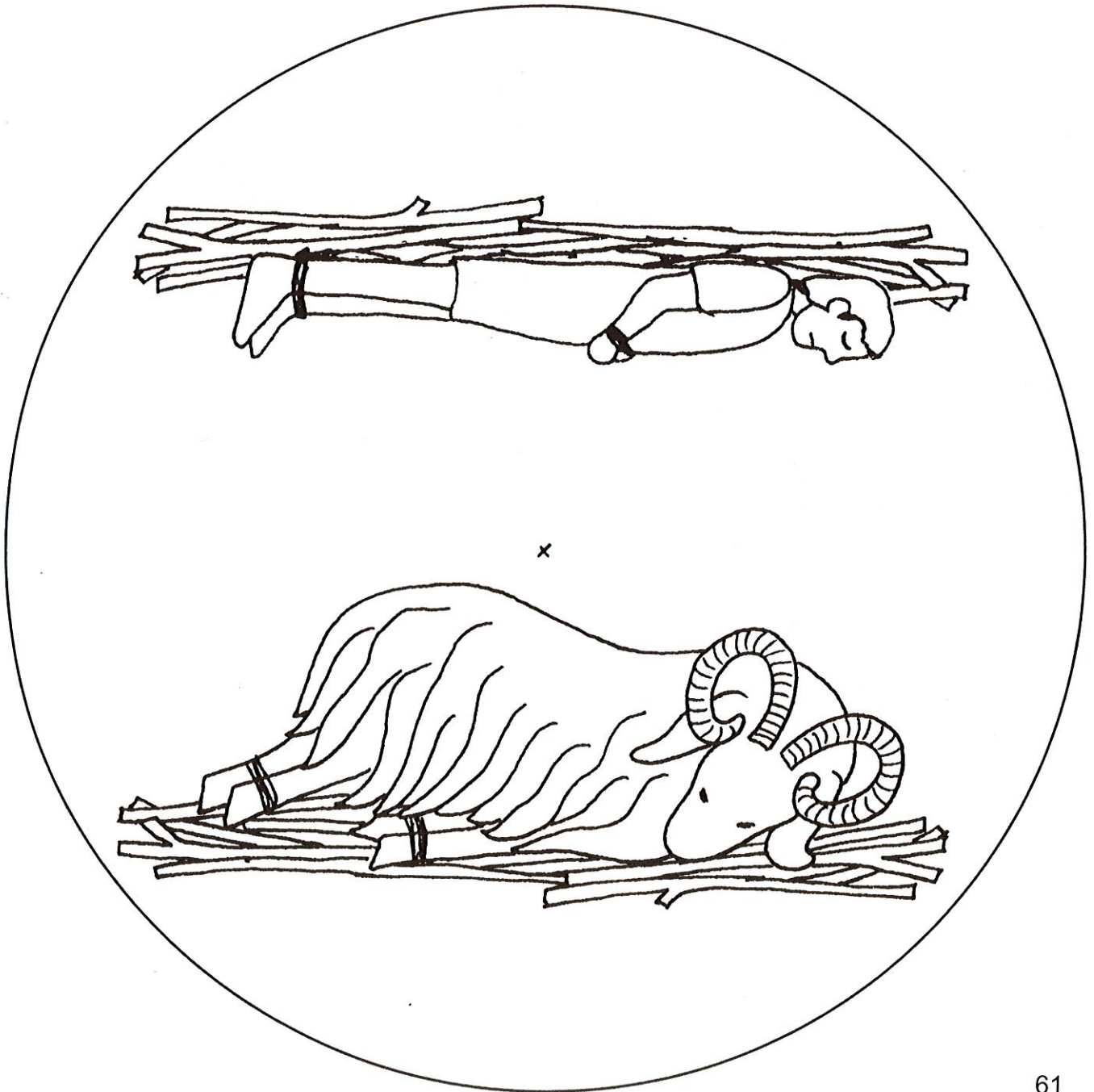
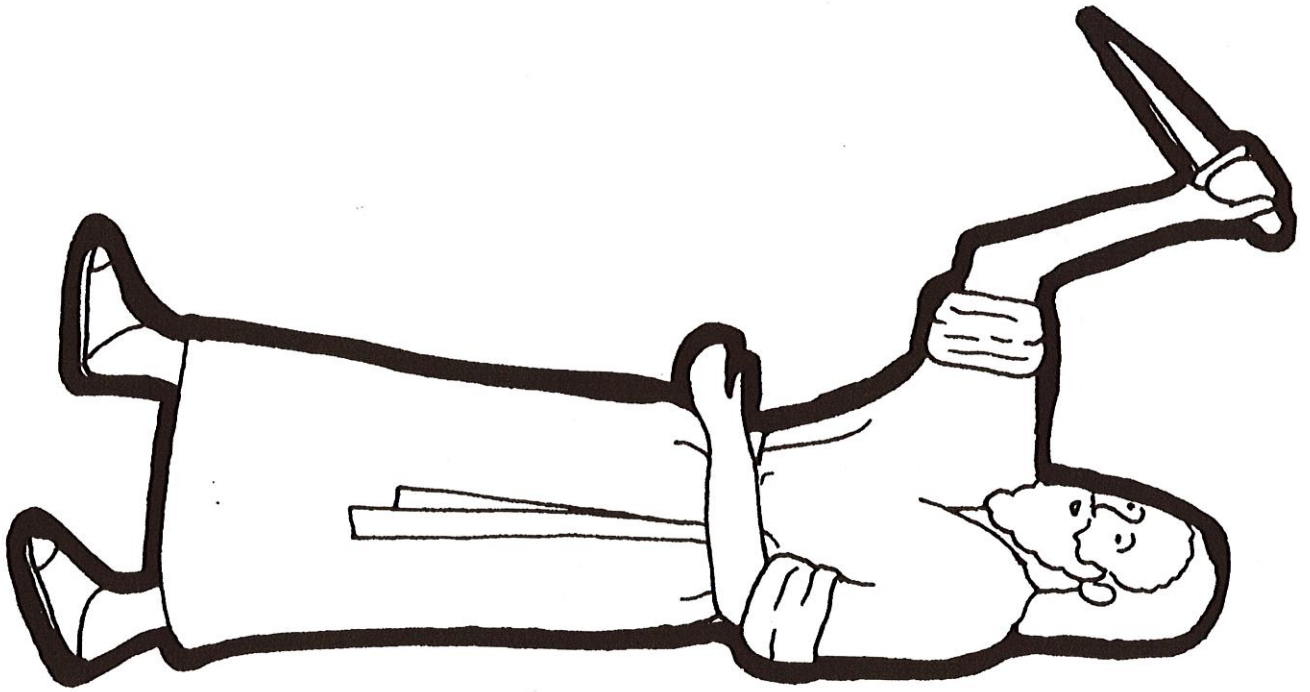
At Sunday School you have been told that you should tell your friends about Jesus. Most of the children in your class at school don't go to church. Also, there is a gang of children who decide who can join in the various games at playtime and who make other children's lives miserable if they step out of line. A new child joins your class. He tells the other children that he is a Christian and tries to tell them what it means. The other children laugh at and tease him. They talk about him behind his back when you are present. What do you do?

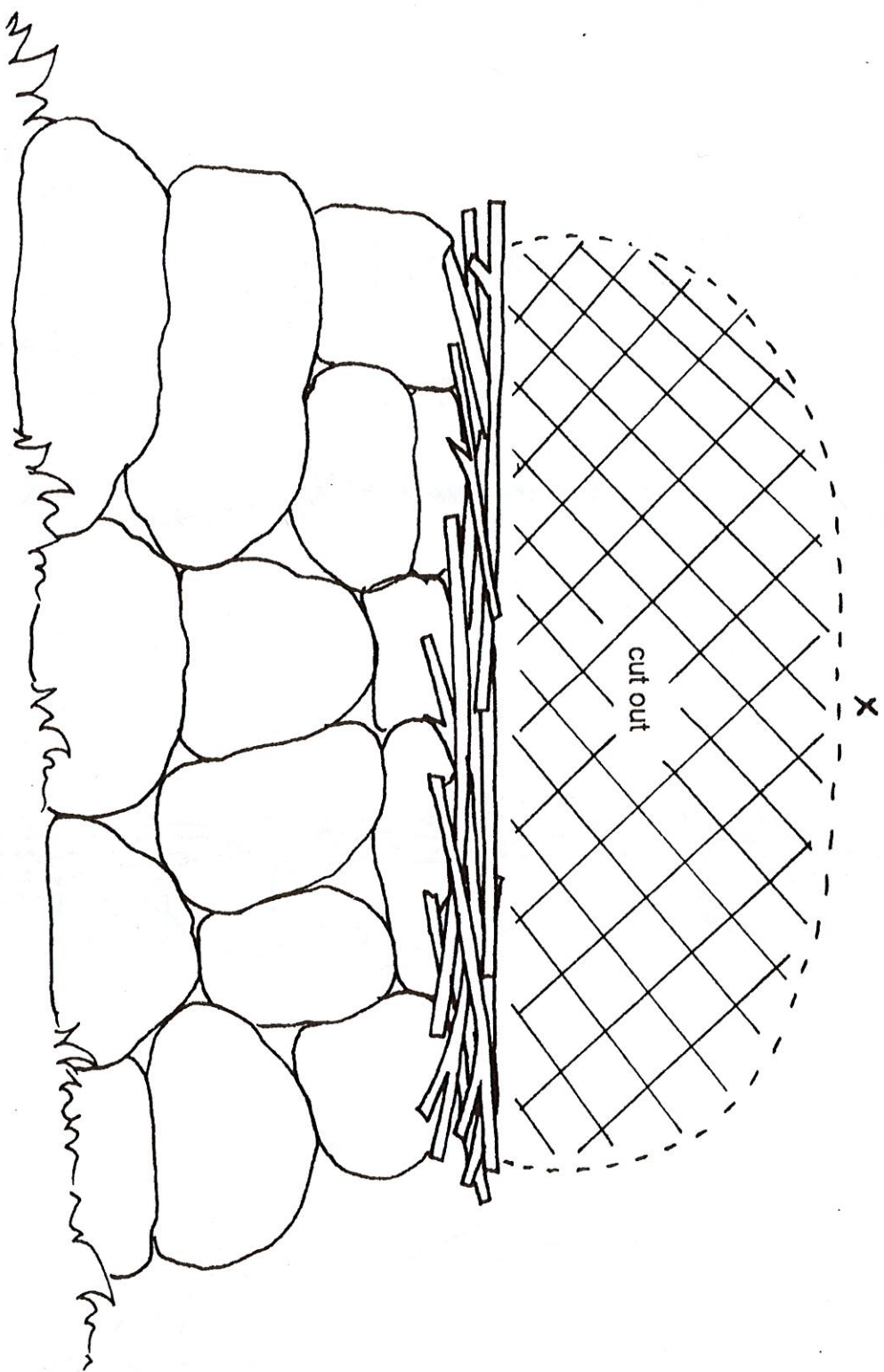
Situation 2

You are playing a game and trip over a friend's legs, cannoning into another child. That child turns on you and shouts abuse. You apologise - but it doesn't help. The child you knocked into continues to swear at you and say rude things about you and your family. You are so mad that you feel like giving that child a punch on the nose. What do you do?

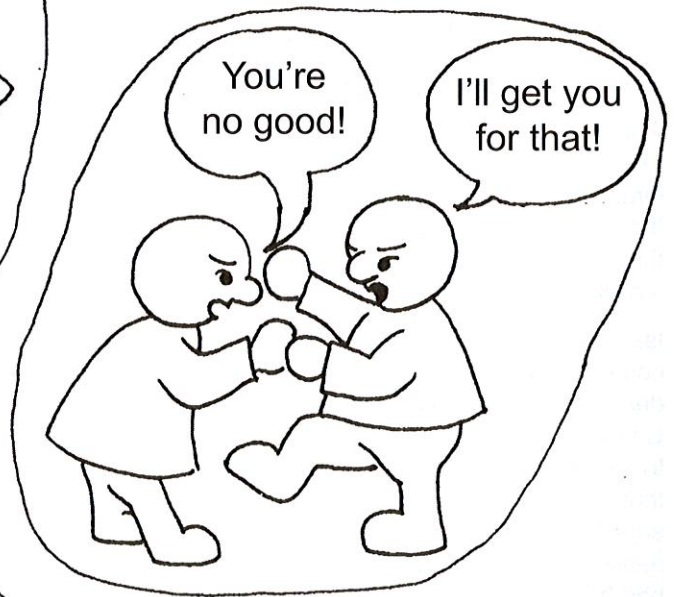
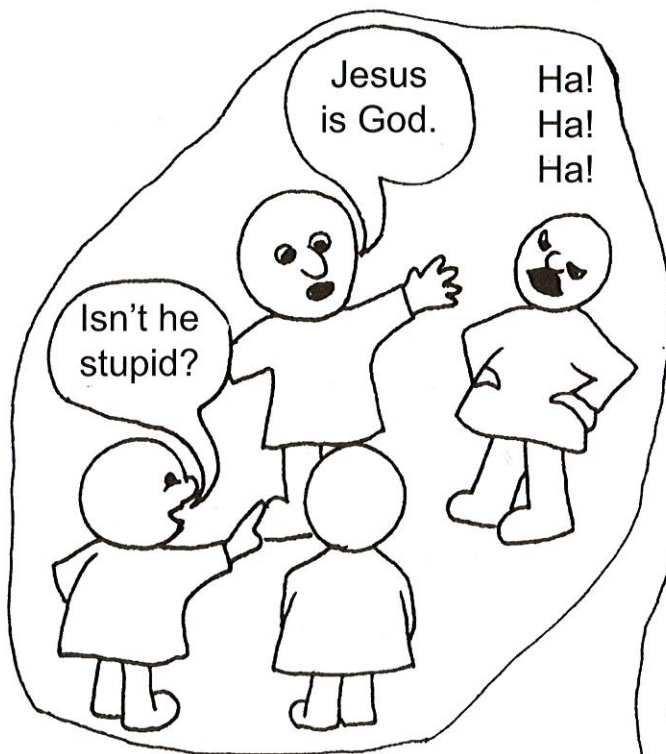
Situation 3

You have been messing about in the classroom when the teacher's back is turned. You throw a pencil at your friend. It misses and lands on the teacher's desk. The teacher did not see who threw it. You know you will get a detention if the teacher finds out you threw the pencil. The teacher asks whoever is responsible to own up. No one answers. The teacher asks you if you threw the pencil. What do you do?





The Lord is faithful to all his promises. Psalm 145:13

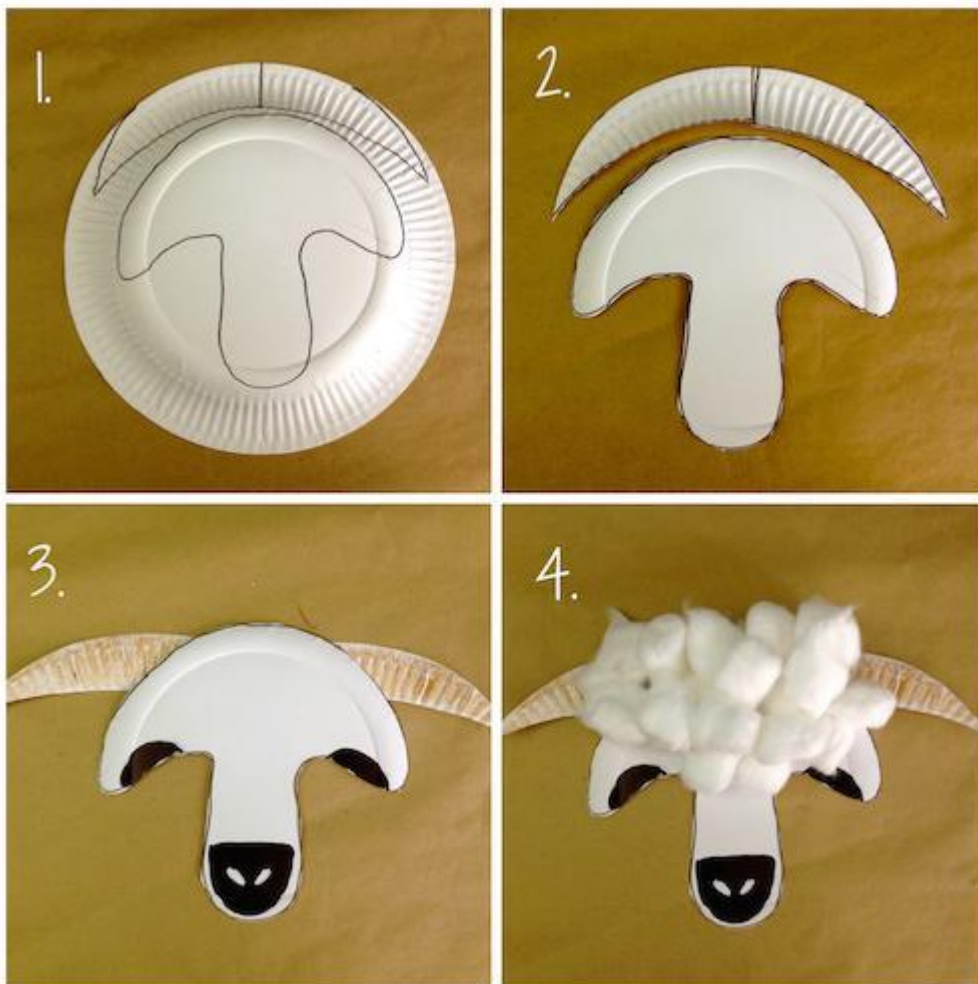


Lamb Mask

What you need

- 1 x paper plate
- two handfuls of cotton wool
- scissors
- black marker pen
- brown crayon
- 30cm of hat elastic
- stapler

Activity



Mark up your paper plate, as above.

Now cut out the pieces.

Colour in the horns with the brown crayon.

Fill in the detail for the nose and ears.

Now poke two holes in the bridge of the nose and thread the hat elastic through.

Glue a big woolly forehead of cotton wool onto your mask.

Your mask is ready to wear. Wear it so that it sits above your eyes.

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