



A Gingerbread Christmas Party

K-5th Grades

This party was written for kindergarten through fifth graders during a 1 1/2 hour session. If yours is longer, this can easily be modified. You may add more singing, snack time, play time/fellowship or even another activity.

(15 minutes) ROLL A GINGERBREAD MAN

Kids don't all arrive timely, so this is a fun introductory game that kids can play as they are arriving. Each child gets a gameboard (make copies) and a dice. I like to use big foam dice, but any dice will work. Kids roll the dice and quickly try to complete their gingerbread man. I would play a holiday movie or singing too so those that lose interest or finish quickly have something else to entertain them during these first 15 minutes.

(15 minutes) GINGERBREAD MAN COOKIE DECORATING

Set out wax paper with a gingerbread man cookie on top. Provide each child a plastic knife. Along the table(s), provide icing, M&M's, gumdrops, Twizzlers, anything you think the kids would enjoy using to decorate their gingerbread man. Write their names on a ziplock bag and set on top of their "station" so you can stuff it to take home after it sets.

(30 minutes) GINGERBREAD MAN BIBLE LESSON

Display a gingerbread man template on a poster board. You will also need tape, two eyes, a mouth, two mittens, two boots and three buttons.

Ask: When you were making your gingerbread men, what kinds of things did you do? (Gave him candy eyes and a mouth, gumdrop buttons, etc.)

Today, you created a gingerbread man. A long, long time ago, God created man and woman. **Who remembers their names?** Adam & Eve. When God created Adam and Eve he was very detailed. He gave them eyes to see, ears to hear, a nose to smell, a mouth to speak and eat (lots of cookies!), hands to do, feet to go, elbows to bend so we can play games, and so much more! He even gave every single person in the whole entire world their very own fingerprint. No one has the same fingerprint, not even twins! That was a lot of thought. God gave people something very special that he didn't give any other part of his creation. **Does anyone know what that is?** A soul. He loves us so much that each one of us has a soul.

I have a blank gingerbread man next to me (poster board man). I am going to make him perfect, just like God made Adam and Eve perfect. First, let's give the man some eyes. **What do we do with eyes?** We see with them. If we use the eyes God gave us, we look around and see when others are in need. **What are some things people might need that we can help them with?** Opening doors, picking up something they dropped, giving them food when they are sick...



LESSON CONTINUED

He has eyes to see, now he needs hands to serve so we are going to give him mittens. **What are some ways we can serve with our hands?** We can do the things we saw with our eyes like make food for someone who is sick. We can use our hands to pick up something someone dropped or open a door.

But our gingerbread man needs a way to get to people so I think we should put some boots on his feet. What do you think? Now that he has boots, he can GO and serve, just like God wants us to do. **Can we serve by sitting in front of the television by ourselves everyday? Not really. How about sitting while we play games on our tablets or phones? Not that either.** We need to go serve. That means we get up and go to where someone needs our help. Maybe our mom gets sick. She usually takes care of us but if she is really sick, she could use your help. Or maybe Mom or Dad are late getting home from work and they are really tired. We can serve them by cleaning up some messes or even rubbing their stinky feet. Maybe the elderly lady at church dropped her hat on the ground. You can walk over to her to pick it up for her. It much easier for you than her. This is how we serve. We move to where there is a need.

Oh wait! We haven't finished the gingerbread man's face! He needs a mouth to smile and bring joy to others. **What else can we do with our mouths that God would love to see us do?** Share the good news. **What good news are people talking about at Christmas all over the world?** The good news of our Savior! Remember, an angel told Mary she was going to have a baby, Jesus. She wasn't even married yet so this was a big surprise to her! An angel told Joseph too.

Back then, the government made the people go back to their hometown where everyone could be counted. Joseph had to take Mary to his town of Bethlehem to register. When they finally go there, all of the hotels were full! Where would they stay? Someone was kind and let them stay where they kept animals. Mary had her baby and placed him in a manger. Wow! Jesus was born and not in some fancy place, but He is our king. He would one day save the world.

Our gingerbread man isn't done yet. There is still something missing! The buttons! Let's give him three buttons. One is for the Father in heaven who hears our prayers. The next if for the Son who came to earth to save us all. And finally, the third is for the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, guiding our ways. We are so blessed! Our God never leaves us alone but is with us all of the time. He listens to us and helps us. He loves us so much!

At Christmas time we like to exchange gifts. Guess what. We are a gift from God, the Bible calls children blessings. And He has given us a gift. The Bible says we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And God didn't stop there! He gave us His Son to die on the cross, to be our Savior offering us the gift of grace. What an amazing God we love and serve! Each time you see a gingerbread man, I want you to think of the parts that make up this cookie. The finest ingredients, eyes, a mouth, hands and feet and our God living in us.



(10 minutes) GINGERBREAD MAN RELAY

Now that we created a gingerbread man together, let's play a game!

Divide kids into teams. You will need one person on each team to be the gingerbread man. This person stands on one end of the room. Now, have everyone else line up on the other side. Player one on each team picks up the first item (in any order) and runs to the gingerbread man placing the item on them for decoration. (Use blue painters tape for ease.) They run back and give the next player a high five. Now that player selects one item and runs to put it on the gingerbread man. Continue until the first team completes their gingerbread man AND has made it back to his line. (If you don't have enough players for teams, set a timer and see how fast they get this done. Play twice to see if they can beat their first time.)

You will need to cut out items for this relay ahead of time (OR have kids do this during the first 15 minutes of arrival instead of "rolling" a gingerbread man.

(10 minutes) GINGERBREAD MAN STICKY HAND SEARCH

Kids LOVE sticky hands. And they are cheap-less than \$10 for a pack of 72! Just go to Amazon.com and you get them in bulk. I use these for a books of the bible game on Sunday's and they beg for it.

Prepare enough gingerbread man so there will be at least one for each child. This will be on paper, probably a light brown paper. The kids will use the sticky hands to "stick" one of the gingerbread men laid out across a table or floor. Once they have theirs, they will go search for its match around the room.

(One in the room will have a picture of eyes, mittens, boots, buttons, or mouth.



(10 minutes) GINGERBREAD MAN ORNAMENT & SNACK TIME

There's gotta be food at a party! But we don't want the kids on a sugar high the whole time so serve it at the end! Have gingerbread cookies, sugar cookies, cupcakes, a candy bowl and even some fruit with dip. Let them eat and string ornaments.

You will need to prepare gingerbread man ornaments before the party, enough for each child to have one. Make sure to put in the hole to string the ornament. Provide kids with string and let them lace the ornament and tie it. Ask a few review questions to help them remember what they learned at our Christmas party.

TAKE HOME

Send home goodies with kids! They can take home their gingerbread man ornament, the sticky hand from the game and some hot cocoa with gingerbread man whipped cubes.



Roll & Draw

a Gingerbread Boy or Girl



Draw eyes



Draw mouth



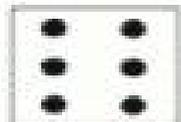
Draw nose



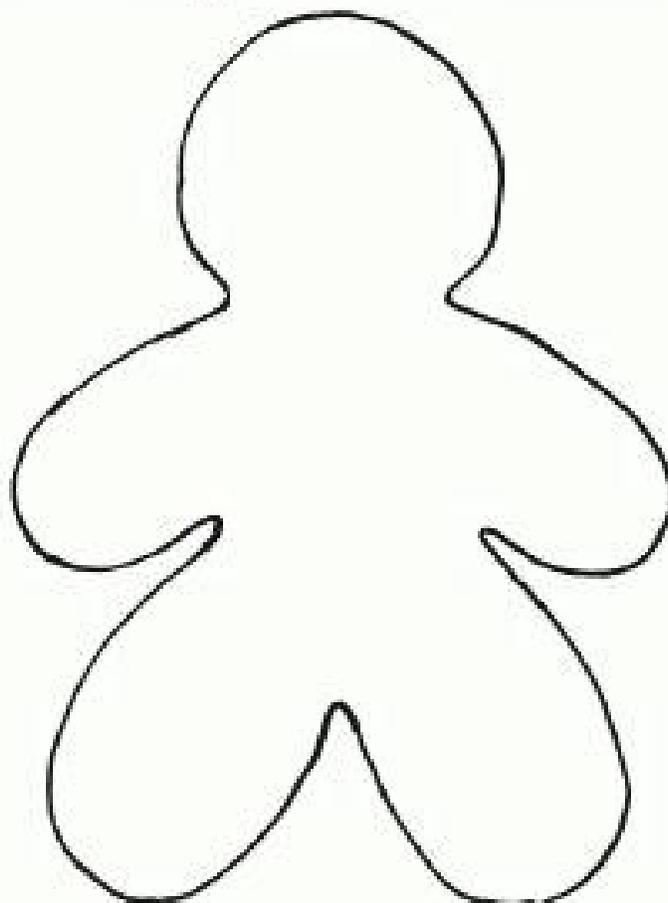
Draw buttons



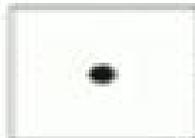
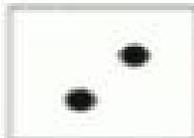
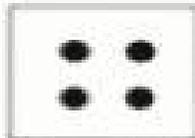
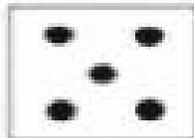
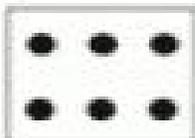
Draw hair or hat



Draw skirt or pants



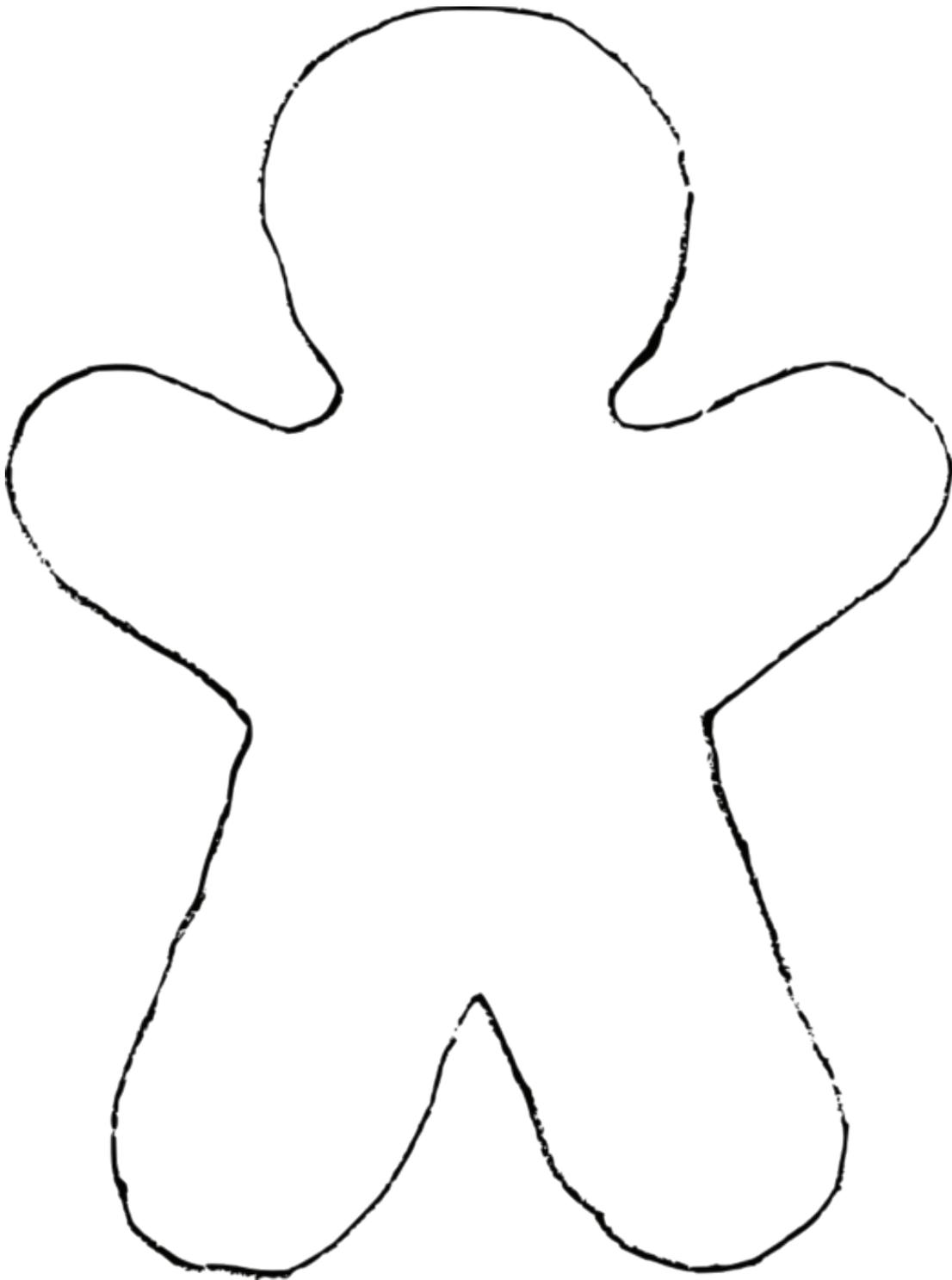
Tally your rolls.

Color the dice with the greatest number of rolls **green**.

Color the dice with the least rolls **red**.

Total up your total rolls. _____

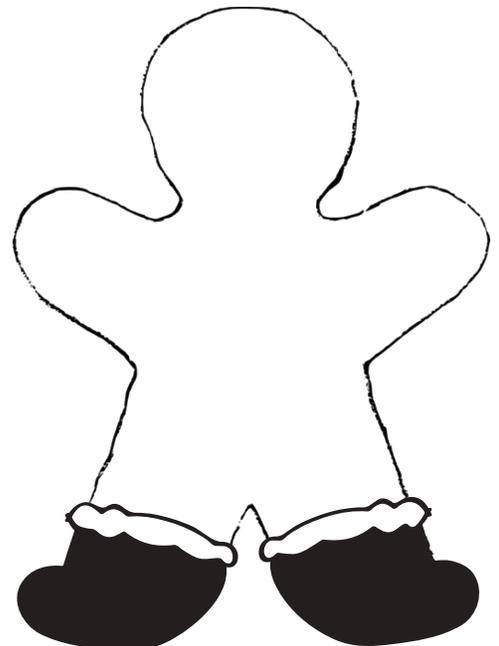
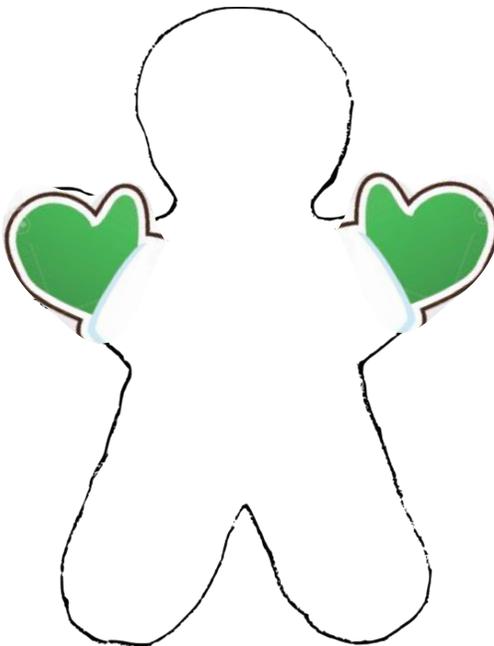
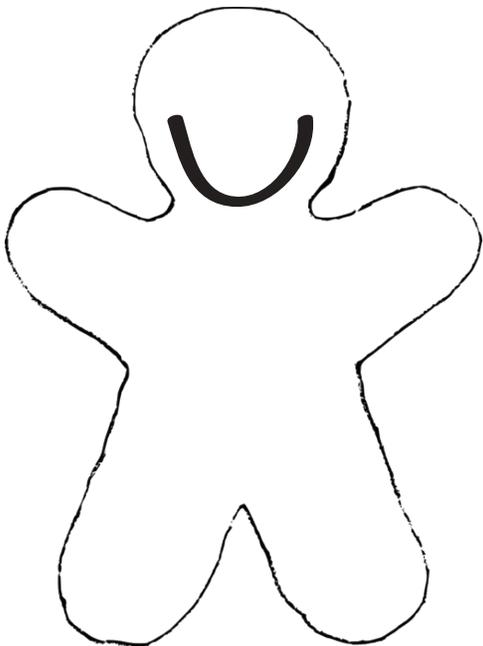
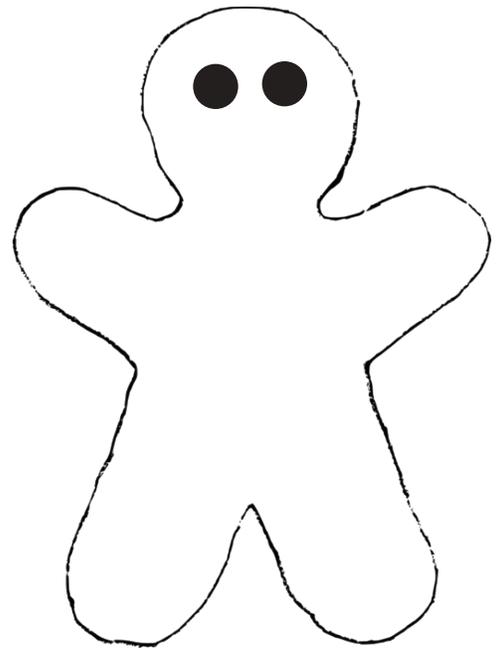
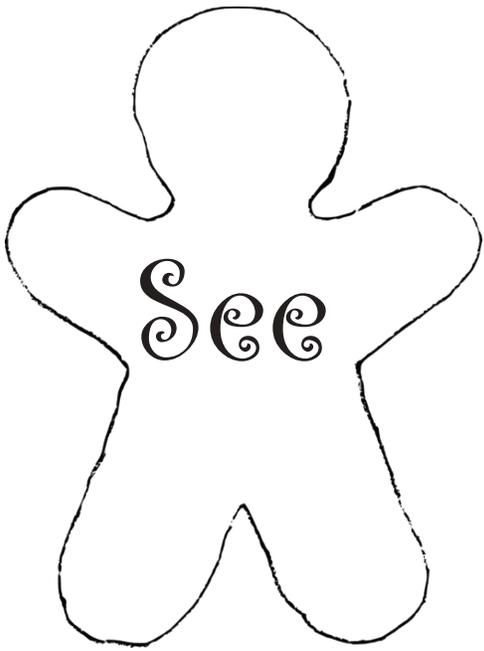


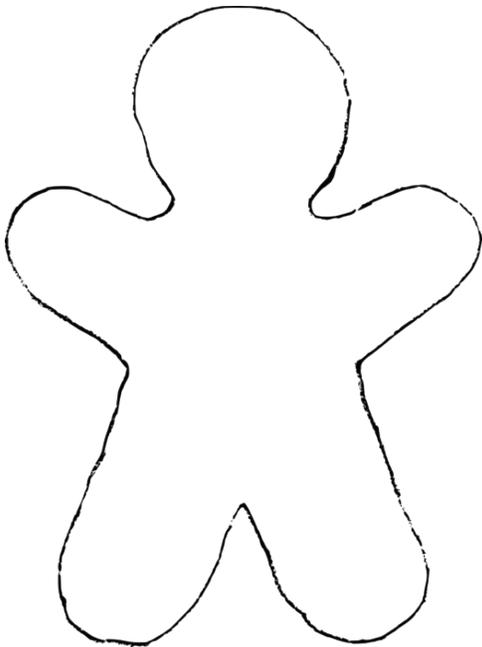
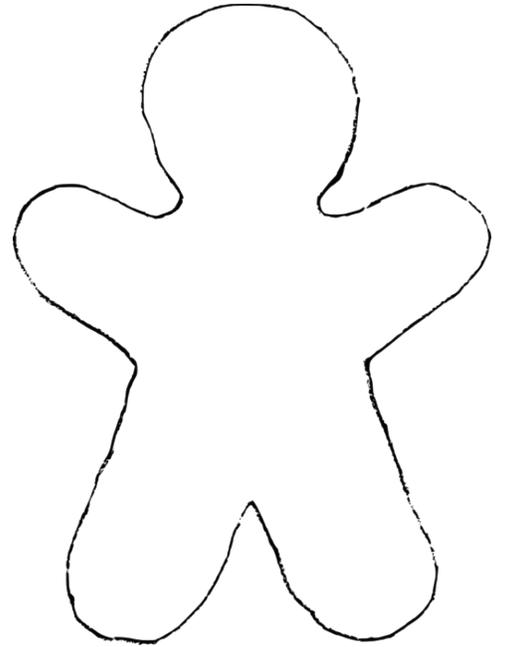
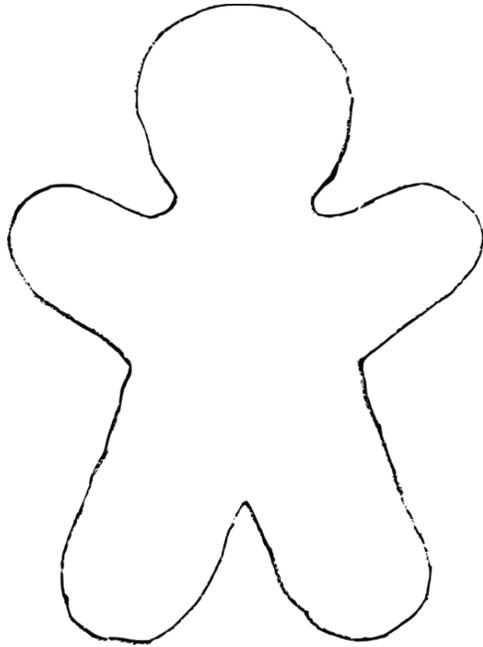
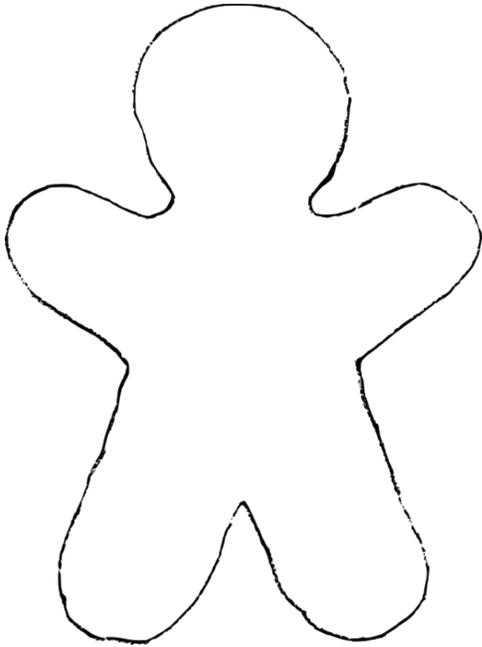
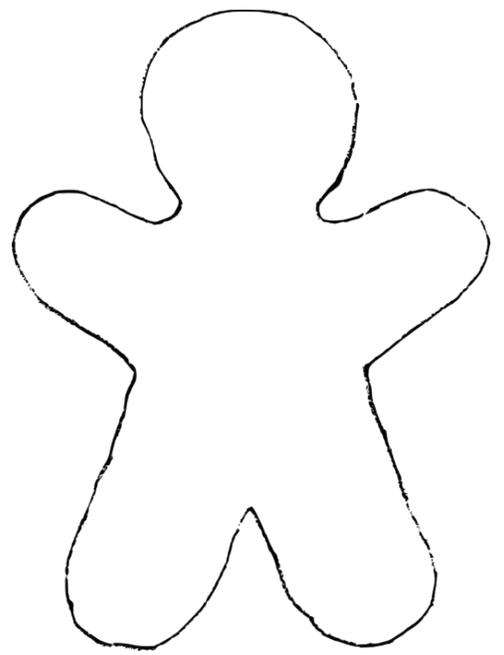
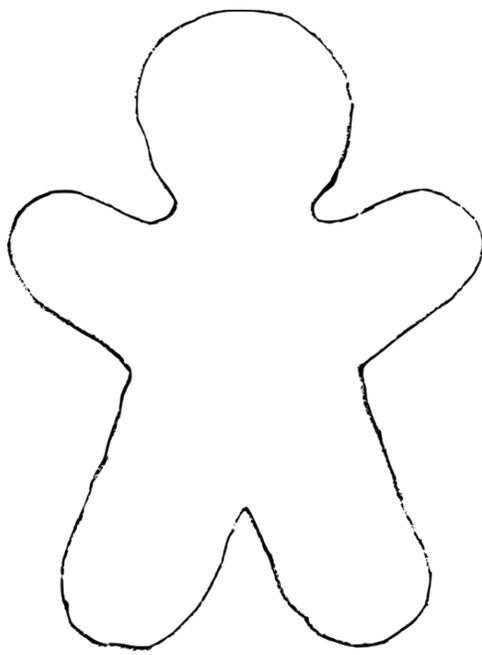
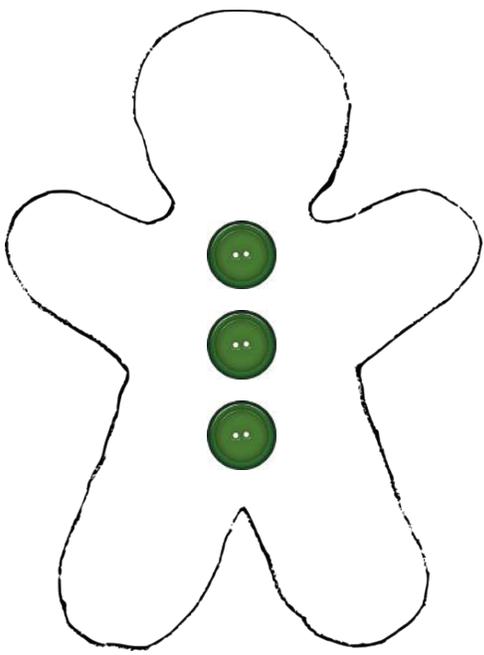
If you have a projector, you are home free. If not, here's the solution to enlarge, trace and cut out template on poster board. Tape head to bottom of small chair or stool (man dangles) . Place a light, perhaps lamp or strong flashlight behind the gingerbread to cast a shadow. Hang poster board on wall where shadow lands on it and fills the page. Now you can trace it!

Before you move your dangling gingerbread man, you need to switch out the poster board for construction paper. Now, you can size for the shoes, mittens, eyes and mouth! For shoes, just draw a line across the top of the "ankle" and trace around the rest of the foot. Add cotton to the top and you've got snow boots! Do the same thing for mittens. Eyes are easy. Once you have one, you can fold the paper over to cut out two eyes at the same time, the same size. And a mouth is pretty easy, right. Don't forget 3 buttons, it's just 3 circles with two to four dots in the middle.

Make extra sets for the relay.

Sticky Hand Search Templates- Cut on the lines or make it easy and cut in squares!





Make enough copies of the gingerbread men so each child gets at least one pair. There are blank ones here so you can make your own. Older kids can match verses with the scripture reference. You may want to add Joseph-Mary. Jesus-Baby. The possibilities are endless!

CINNAMON SCENTED GINGERBREAD MAN ORNAMENTS RECIPE

(Recipe from *Wholefully.com*. For video instructions go to <https://youtu.be/YRukTzn2amQ>)

Supplies:

1 cup unsweetened applesauce

1-1/2 cup ground cinnamon (look for the cheap, off-brand stuff, you aren't gonna eat it)

2 tablespoons craft glue, optional (I think this makes the ornaments a bit more sturdy, but you can do without it)

Mixing bowl

Drinking straw

Plastic wrap

Rolling pin

Baking racks and baking sheets

Gingerbread Man cookie cutter

1. First step, the applesauce, cinnamon, and glue go into a mixing bowl.
2. Then dig in there with your hands. This really isn't the job for a spoon, you're gonna need your fingers to get it all mixed in. Depending on a number of factors (wetness of applesauce, humidity, etc.), you might need to add more applesauce or more cinnamon to make the dough come together. You want it to be just a touch dry (because it'll dry faster), but you also want it to hold together enough to roll and cut.
3. When you can form it into a big ole ball, you're done mixing. Go wash your hands.
4. Place a ball of dough between plastic wrap. Now roll. You're looking for a thickness between 1/3" and 1/2".
5. Remove the top layer of plastic wrap, use cookie cutter to cut shape and use straw to make hole in the top for stringing. Don't get too close to the top!
6. Once all the ornaments are cut out, they go onto a baking rack on a cookie sheet, if you want to bake them to dry them. Bake at 200° oven for about 2-1/2 hours until the ornaments are dry and hard. This is the fastest method, but it also results in a little bit of curling and bubbling. (OR Air Dry but this takes a few days depending on your climate.)
7. Now they are ready for the kids to tie a string through and hang on the tree to remind them of what they learned at the Christmas party. It will smell wonderful!



WHIPPED CREAM CUBES a recipe by Carrie Sellman

1 cup heavy whipping cream
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
Baking Tray
Parchment Paper
Festive Cookie Cutters

Give several of these with a package of hot chocolate (and maybe a candy cane stir stick too).

1. Chill metal mixing bowl and beater/whisk in freezer for 15 minutes. Pour cream and sugar into bowl and mix on medium speed just until firm peaks form.
2. Line a baking tray with parchment paper and spread whipped cream out into an even layer. Freeze for several hours or overnight until completely firm.
3. Using a cookie cutter that is smaller than your mug, cut out shapes from the solid whipped cream.
4. A few tips to make the cutting process go smoothly! Between each cut out, dip the cutter into a bowl of hot water to clean off any excess whipped cream that builds up on the cutter. Shake off excess water and proceed to the next cut. Also, if your sheet of whipped cream starts to thaw and get soft, pop it back in the freezer for a few minutes to become solid again.
5. Place shapes on a separate baking tray lined with parchment paper. Once all your shapes have been cut, place tray in freezer to solidify the shapes. Once your cutouts are completely solid again, repackage into a freezer-safe container to store. <http://thecakeblog.com/2015/12/whipped-cream-cubes.html>