

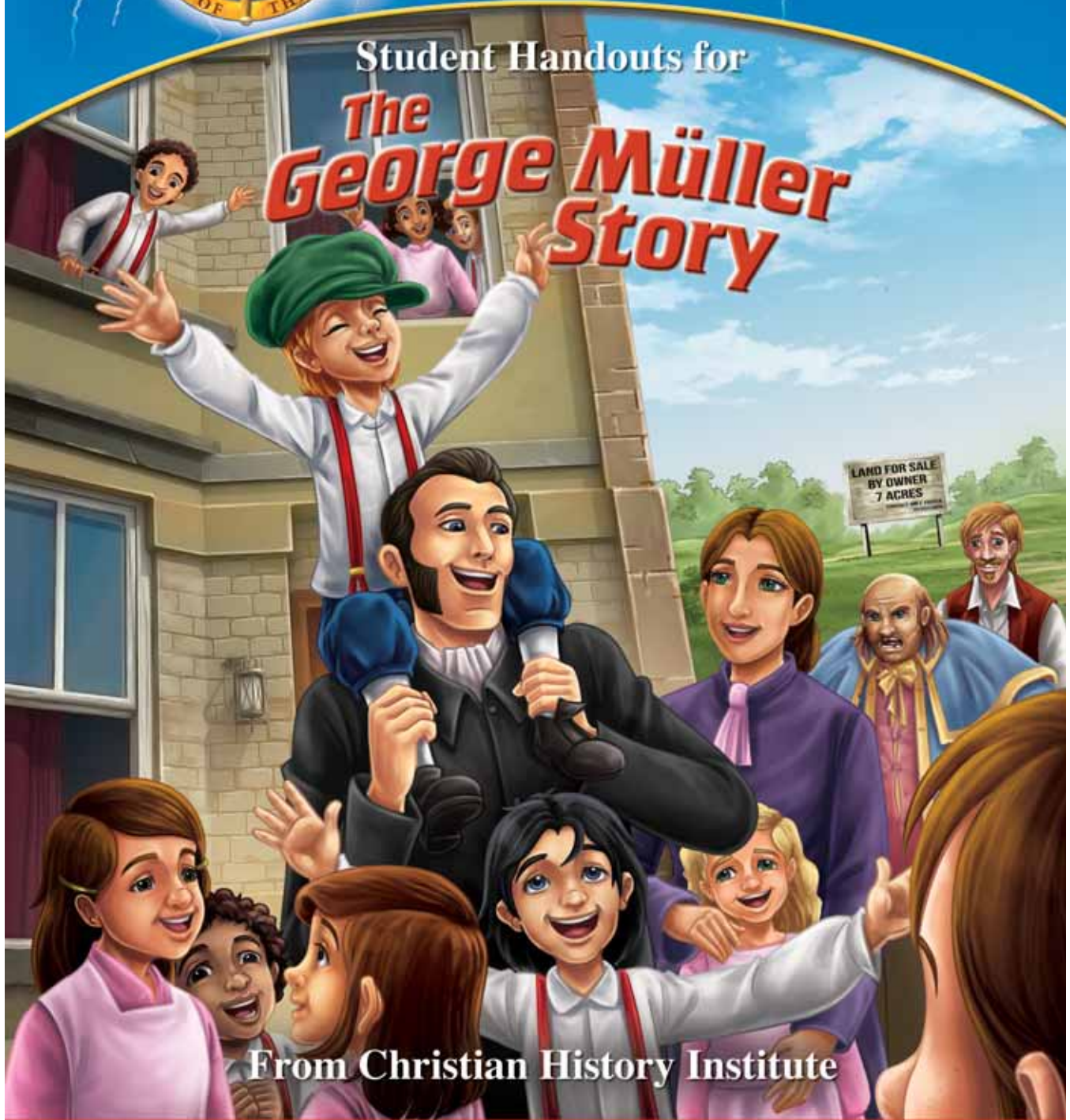


THE TORCHLIGHTERS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Student Handouts for

The George Müller Story



From Christian History Institute

S T U D E N T



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NOTE: Answer key for selected pages is on p. 23 of the Leader's Guide.



Life in the Workhouse

In 19th-century England, workhouses were places that desperately poor people went to live. In exchange for their work, they would receive food and shelter. However, they weren't a place anyone wanted to live. The work was hard and painful, there was not much food, and workhouse occupants rarely received fair wages or good medical care. Since men and women were not allowed to live together, they were also separated from their families. Children without parents were not allowed to leave the workhouse until they grew up. Common jobs in the workhouse included:

1. Oakum Picking

Oakum comes from old frayed ropes. Instead of being thrown out, the ropes could be cut into pieces and picked apart strand by strand. The pieces, then called oakum, would be mixed with tar or grease and sent to the shipyards. There it was used to fill in the gaps between a ship's wooden planks and make it watertight. The process of picking oakum was boring and painful. Untwisting each strand took hours and was hard on the hand—often the laborers would develop terrible sores and blackened fingers. Originally, picking oakum was a punishment reserved for prisoners.



Wikipedia Commons

2. Bone Crushing

This dirty, smelly job was usually given to men at the workhouse. The workers crushed the bones of horses, dogs, and other animals with a large iron bar to make fertilizer for local farms. In one awful instance recorded in history, the workers were so hungry that they ate the rotting bones themselves.



3. Stone Breaking

This physically demanding task required inmates to break stones until they were small enough to fit through a grid. The stones were sold for fixing roads.



Wikipedia Commons

4. Facility Maintenance

Women in the workhouse were often made to do all the domestic work, including washing, scrubbing floors and tables, polishing brass, and doing laundry.

Other jobs included milling corn into flour, gypsum crushing for plaster, and wood chopping.



Paper House Invitation

Invite your friends to watch **The George Müller Story** with this creative and fun craft!

You will need:

- 8x11 Construction paper or card stock
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Markers, colored pencils, and/or crayons
- **The George Müller Story** invitation (see Leader's Guide)

Instructions:

1. Turn your paper so that it is horizontal and fold in half. Unfold, and then fold the ends in toward the middle of the paper.
2. With the two ends folded in, fold down the top corners of the paper to make the roof. Trim off the two triangles on each side.
3. With pencil, draw windows, the edge of the roof, and a double front door. Cut the top of the doors on both sides of the center and fold back so that the doors "open".
4. Decorate the house! Once finished, place the invitation inside.





Dig into the Story!

Questions to get you thinking and talking after you watch
The George Müller Story.

1. What happened to Charlie?
2. What kind of work did Charlie and William have to do?
3. When George and Mary Müller found out where Charlie was, how did they respond?
4. What was surprising about the way George planned to take care of the orphans?
5. In what ways did God provide for the orphan homes?
6. What big problem did George face?
7. How did God answer George's prayer?
8. In what ways has God answered your prayers?
9. How can you trust in God for your needs today?



Dig Deeper

Thinking through hard questions

1. George Müller received miraculous gifts after praying for the things he needed to continue his work. Is there a difference between asking God for things you need and for things you want? Why or why not?
2. Life in the workhouse was hard on purpose—some people believed that the poor needed to work harder so that they would not be poor anymore. Do you think that this is true? Why or why not?
3. In many places around the world, children still work hard jobs like the ones seen in *The George Müller Story* for long hours and a small amount of money. Do you think this is wrong or unfair? Why or why not?
4. Why does George Müller's decision to pray to God for everything he needed seem too extreme or too difficult for us to also do?



Prayed and Provided

George Müller wrote down many of his prayers and the answers God gave to them in his journal, as you can see in the excerpts. Did you know there are many examples of God answering prayer in the Bible? Match the prayer with the answer God provided below!

July 12, 1838: I gave myself to prayer with brother T— of the Boys' Orphan-House... While we were praying, an orphan child from Frome was brought, and some believers at Frome, having collected among them £5, sent this money with the child. Thus we received the first answer at a time of need.

Aug. 18: I have not one penny in hand for the Orphans. In a day or two again many pounds will be needed. My eyes are up to the Lord. Before this day is over, I have received from a sister £5. She had some time since put away her trinkets, to be sold for the benefit of the Orphans. . . . May my soul be greatly encouraged by this fresh token of my gracious Lord's faithfulness!

Aug. 20: . . . Today I was again penniless. But . . . I gave myself to prayer this morning, knowing that I should want again this week at least £13, if not above £20. Today I received £12 in answer to prayer, from a lady who is staying at Clifton, whom I had never seen before. Adorable Lord, grant that this may be a fresh encouragement to me.

- | | |
|--|---|
| — 1 Samuel 1 & 2 —Hannah could not have children and prayed for God to bless her with a baby. | A. The girl is brought back to life. |
| — 1 Kings 18:20-40 —Elijah prayed God would prove he is the true God and that Baal was a false god. | B. John, the cousin of Jesus, was born. |
| — Exodus 14 —The Israelites cried out to God when the Egyptians pursued them in the wilderness. | C. Samuel, who grew up to become a great prophet in Israel, was born. |
| — Mark 5:23 —Jairus asked Jesus to heal his daughter. | D. God parted the Red Sea so that they could cross safely. |
| — Acts 12:5 —The church prayed for Peter to be released from prison. | E. An angel miraculously opened the prison doors, allowing him to escape. |
| — Luke 1 —Zechariah prayed for many years for a son. | F. God sent fire from heaven, which consumed the altar drenched in water. |



Story Mix-Up

These pictures of George Müller's story are all mixed up.
Number the pictures in the correct order.



The landlord tells George he must move.



The children play outside of the Müller orphan home.



In the workhouse, Charlie and William hear about George Müller's orphan home.



Many of Bristol's orphaned children sleep on the streets.



God provides a home! Henry, the Müllers, and the children celebrate.



God provides breakfast!
The baker brings fresh bread.



The boys try to escape the workhouse!



There is nothing to eat, but George trusts God to provide anyway.



Adopted Through Christ Interview

The Bible often uses adoption as a picture of how God invites us to be a part of his family forever—so what is adoption? Ask your special guest these questions to learn more about orphan care and adoption!

1. What is orphan care? How are you involved in orphan care?
2. How has your life been changed by this ministry?
3. What challenges do adoptive/foster parents face? What challenges do orphaned children face?
4. Can you share an experience or story of your orphan care journey?
5. How can I help care for orphans and support adoption ministries?
6. What advice do you have for people who want to adopt, foster, or support orphan care ministries?



Orphan Care Project

James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

The Bible often calls God's people to care for orphans, so how can YOU help? First, ask an adult to help you make a list of local orphan care, adoption, and/or foster care organizations and take a look at some of the ideas below.

Pray for parentless children

Talking to God about the needs of others is always a good idea! You can ask your local orphan care ministries for their prayer needs, or you can join the prayer team of a larger organization by signing up online for requests (example—lifesong.org/prayer-team). Some ways to make prayer a priority include writing requests on a calendar for each day of the week, doing a prayer walk and asking your pastor to include a time of silent prayer for orphans in your church service.



Sponsor a child as a group

There are many ministries, like Lifesong, Compassion International, and World Vision, that allow families or church groups to sponsor an orphan somewhere in the world.



Host a fundraiser

You can help provide for the financial needs of an orphan care ministry by having a bake sale, a car wash, or yard sale. You can even ask some local businesses to give a percentage of their profits to your cause. (Ask an adult for help with this!)



Write letters

You can encourage parentless children and be a friend by writing letters.



Organize a service project

Contact your local orphan care ministry about their needs, and collect donations from your community. Make journey bags, car kits, or welcome baskets. (Check out theforgotteninitiative.org for some ideas.)





Brainstorm your own with your group and write them down here:

As a group, we decided to care for orphans by...

After you complete your orphan care project, reflect on the following questions.

What did you learn about orphan care during this project?

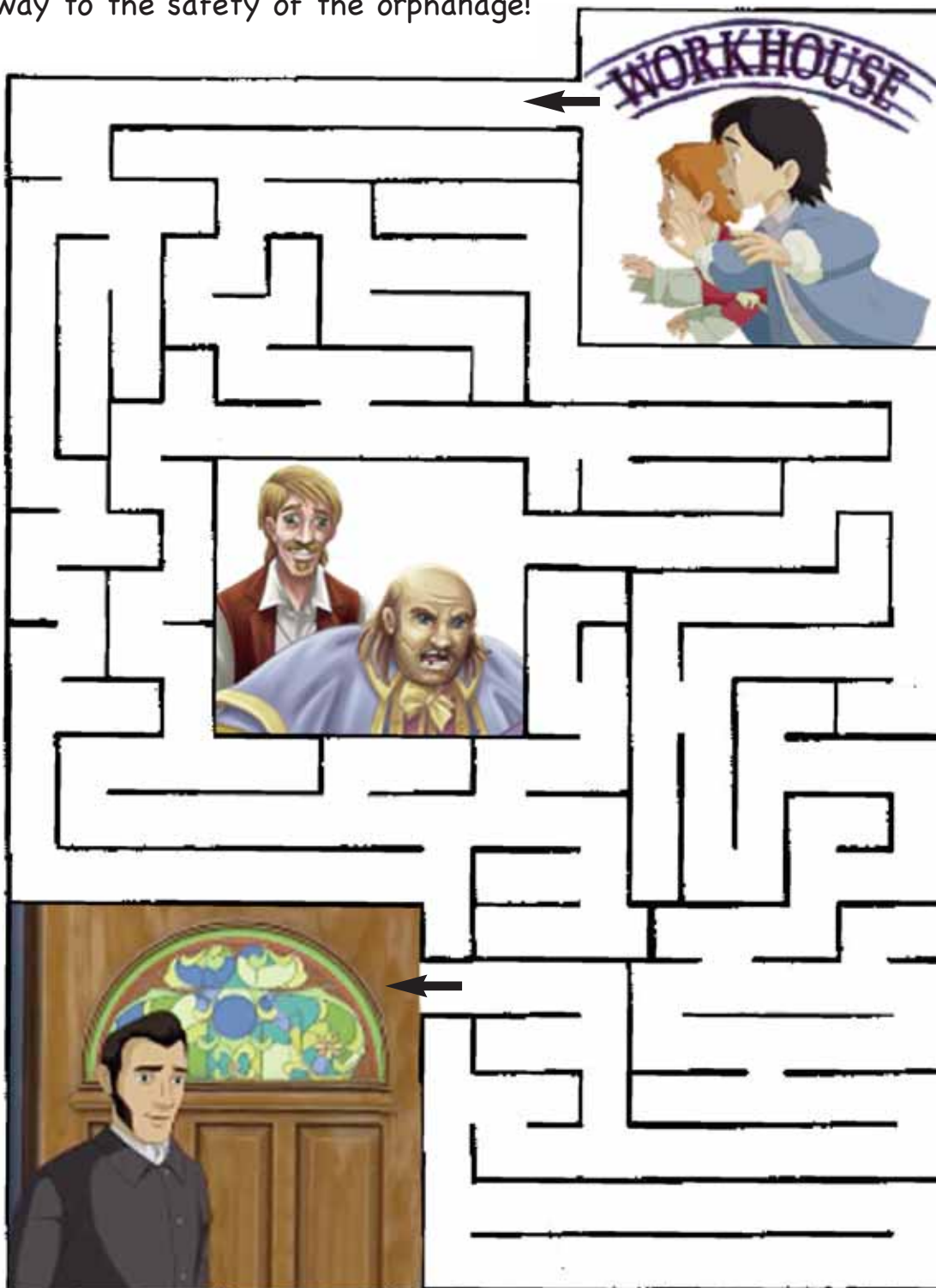
What did you find surprising or different about the needs of the ministry you supported?

Why does God care about orphans? What does the Bible teach about orphan care?



Escape the Workhouse Maze

Help the boys escape the workhouse and find their way to the safety of the orphanage!





Dwelling Place Collage

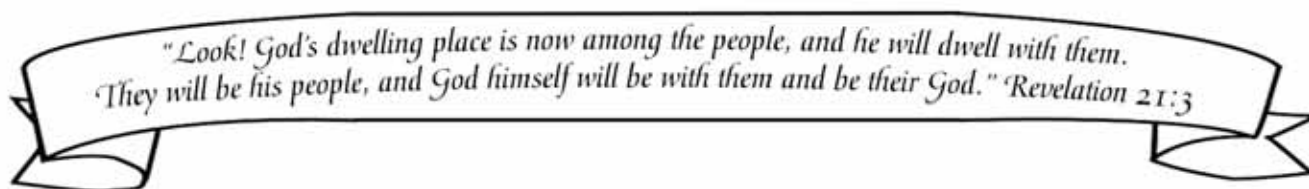
Revelation 21 offers a picture of what the heavenly city will be like. Using the supplies below and one of the templates on the following pages, consider what it means for God to make his dwelling place with us through this craft!

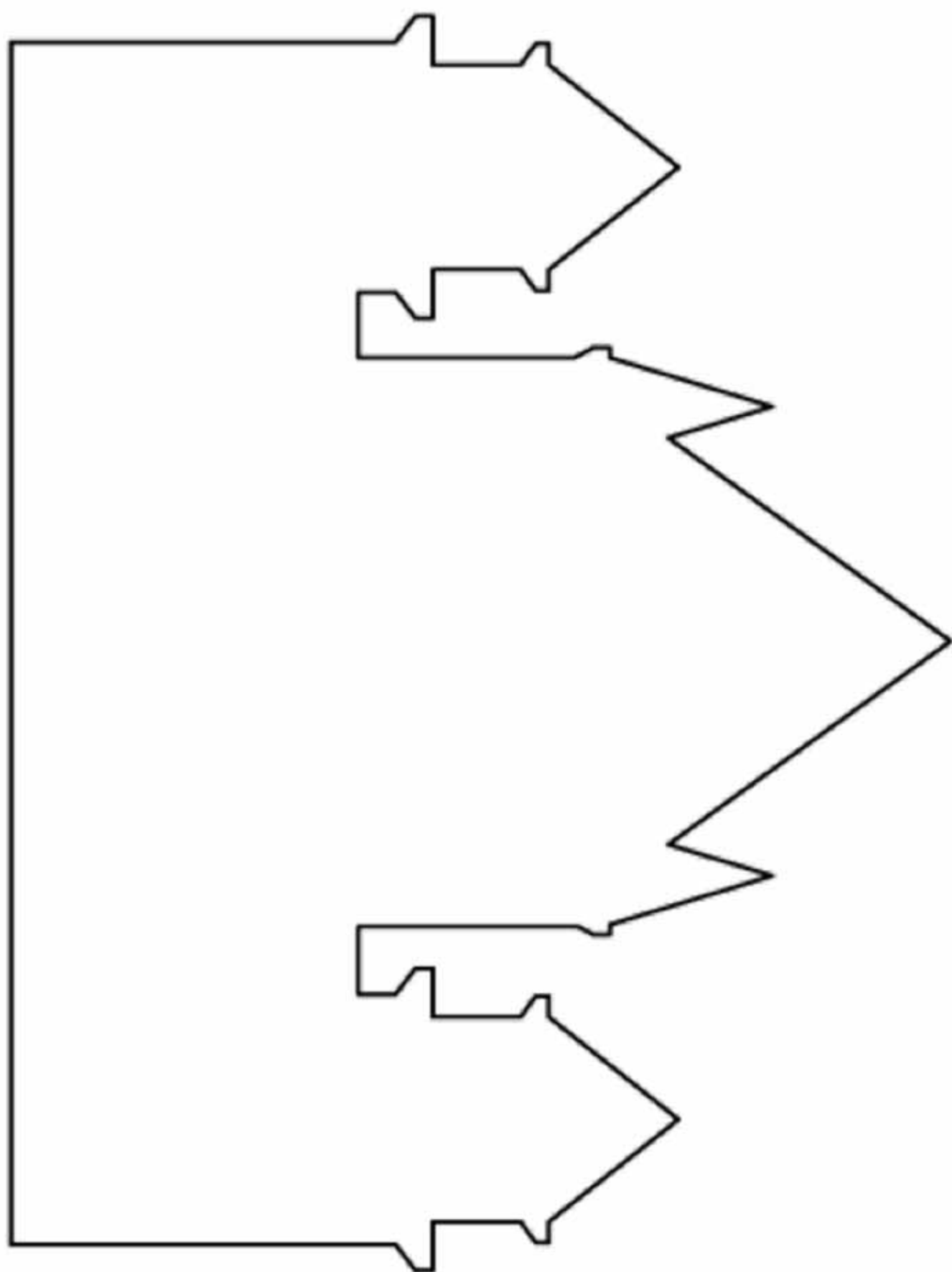
Supplies:

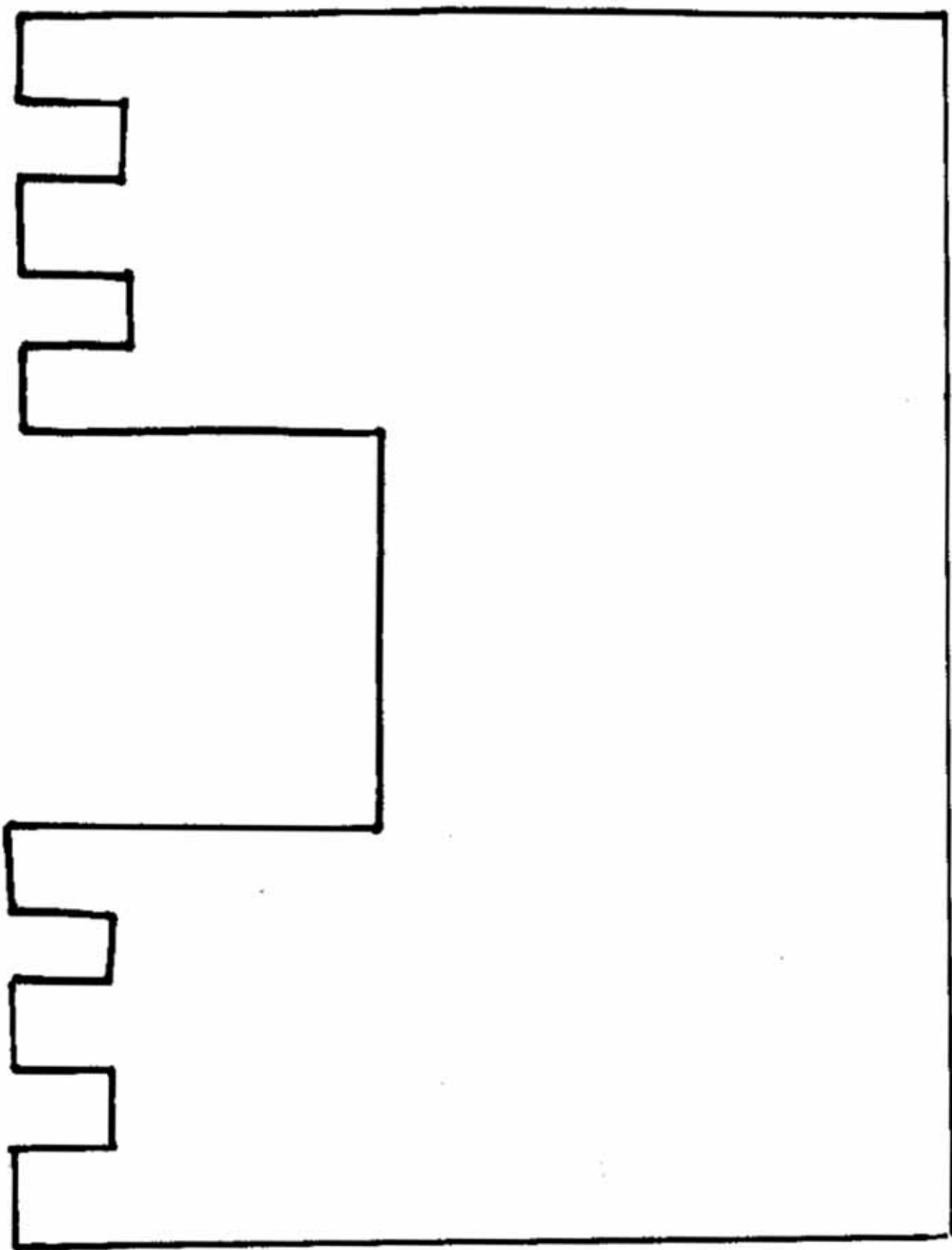
- Scissors
- Glue/tape
- Heavy cardstock
- Old magazines
- Markers/colored pencils
- Glitter, stick-on gems, etc. (optional)

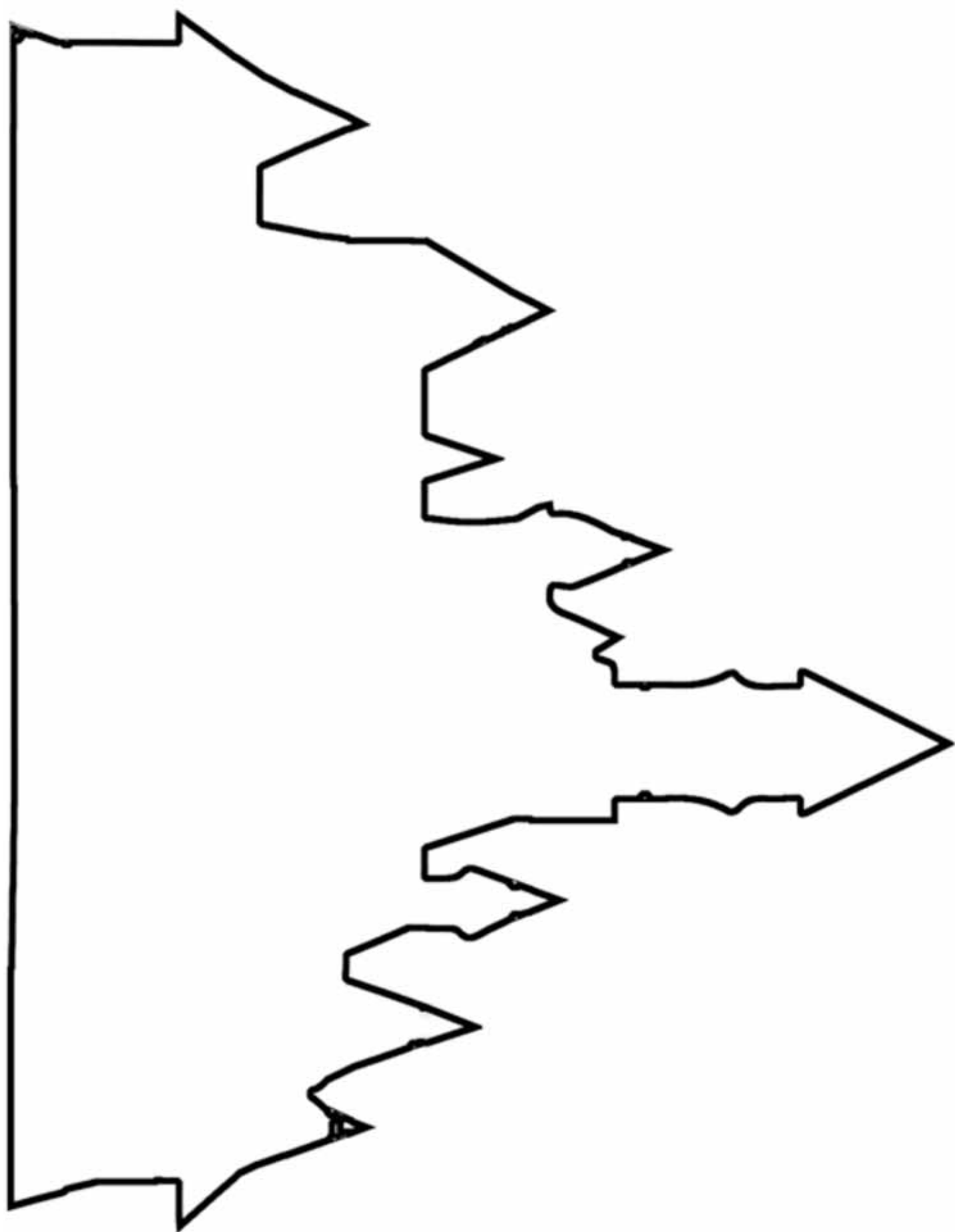
Instructions:

1. Cut out the cardstock into the shape of a city using one of the templates on the next three pages.
2. Select some words and images from the magazines that remind you of the city described in Revelation 21. Cut them out.
3. Glue or tape the magazine cut outs to your heavenly city.
4. Cut out and add the theme verse in the banner below.
5. Be creative! Decorate and design your heavenly city.











Decode the Quote

Use the key below to decode
the following quotation from George Müller.



























“

_____ / _____
            

_____ / _____ / _____
            

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
            

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
            

												
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
												
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z



Color the Scene #1



Bristol's orphans have to sleep on the streets.

"But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted...you are the helper of the fatherless." Psalm 10:14



Color the Scene #2

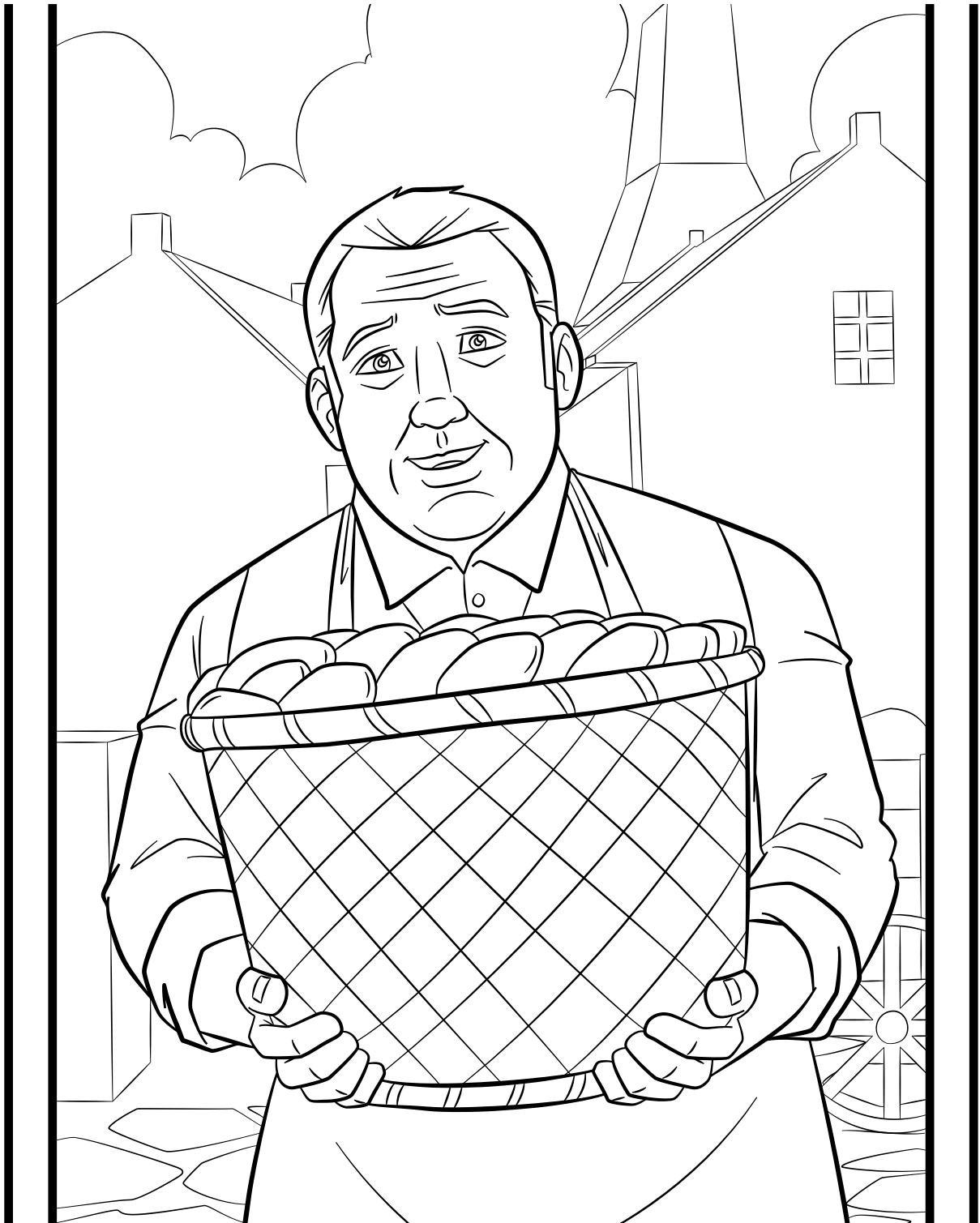


George Müller realizes he must help the orphans sent to the workhouse.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:
to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." James 1:27



Color the Scene #3



God provides! The baker brings fresh bread for the orphans.

"The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing." Psalm 34:10



Color the Scene #4



God answers George and Mary's prayers—the orphans will have a home!

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:19*