

Christian Perfection

These Children's Materials are inspired by John Wesley's sermon. The intention is for both adults and children to be studying similar Bible materials at the same time, to facilitate family discussion. These suggested materials are therefore meant to plan for the children's programme of inter-generational connect groups.

You can use these materials to plan for a children's programme of 50-60 mins (excluding worship, prayer etc). The basic components are as follows –

Bible Story/ Stories

Discussion

Activities/ Games

It is important for all facilitators to pray and prepare before the 'lesson' proper. The 'lesson' is only the beginning. May you continue to walk with the children, especially your own, over these materials after the 'lesson'.

SUMMARY

For children to understand that people are saved by grace and not by works. We can say 'no' to sin, but only with Jesus' help.

GOALS FOR CHILDREN

1. We can say 'no' to doing wrong things or sin with the help of God.
2. Our sins have been paid for by the blood of Jesus. When we sin, God will always forgive us when we are sorry.

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A. Bible Story

Use the children’s personal Bible to share the Bible verse. Ezekiel 36: 25 – 36 (focus on v.25-27)

25 ".....I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness...I will teach you to respect me completely. I will put a new way to think inside of you....And I will give you an obedient heart of flesh. **I will put my Spirit inside you. And I will help you live by my rules.** Ezekiel 36:25-27 (International Children’s Bible)

I’ll pour pure water over you and scrub you clean. I’ll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I’ll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that’s God-willed, not self-willed. **I’ll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands.** (The Message)

- It is suggested to use the International Children’s Bible for 4-6yo and The Message for 7-12yo.
- Get the children, especially the primary school children (7-12yo), to commit **Ezekiel 36: 25-27** to memory using one of the versions suggested above.

B. Discussion

Suggested Discussion Questions	4-6yo	7-9yo	10-12yo
Name an example of a wrong thing that you do when no one is looking? Why is it wrong?	√	√	√
What does it mean for you to know that your past (For example past mistakes, choices) have been redeemed by Christ? (* redeemed by Christ means that – Jesus has paid the price of all our sins by dying on the cross.)		√	√
What is one area of sin that you struggle with? How can you overcome this challenging area? (The facilitator can assure the child that this is a safe place to share. Assure the children that everyone struggles with sin, no one is an exception. It might help for the facilitator to be real by starting off with his or her struggles with sin.) How can we “restart” when we fail (again)? Is it okay to tell “half-truths” or lie to help a friend or because we are afraid?		√	√

- For 4-6yo, define sin as actions, thoughts or words that God says is wrong. For example, telling lies, stealing from friends, disobeying parents.
- For 7-12yo, help them to understand justification and salvation especially if they are 2nd Generation Christians. What does it mean to be saved and freed from sin?
- **JUSTIFICATION.** The term describes an event where a person is made right with God, when he or she believes in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The person is made right because of Jesus' blood, not because what he or she has done. Jesus used His blood to pay for our sins and make us right with God. This is the central message of the good news proclaimed by Paul.
- End with the question,
 - 4-6 yo – how can you _____ *(for example not tell lies/be disobedient etc)* since the Holy Spirit helps us to say ‘no’ to sin?

- 7 – 12 yo - do you want to live as an overcomer (person who can say 'no' to sin) in all situations?

C. Activities/ Games

Materials Needed

- Bibles, a paper doll and cut-out cross for each child, crayons or colour pencils, scissors, construction paper, tape, double-sided tape, (optional – cross-shaped erasers)
- Appendix 8.1a, 8.1b and 8.1c Child and cross
- Appendix 8.2 I am an overcomer in Christ (1 John 1:9 and 1 John 5:4-5)
- Appendix 8.3 Personal motto for being an overcomer in Christ
- Appendix 8.4 I am an overcomer in Christ memory cards

Before the start of the activity, ask the children whether they have thought through the questions asked? If they answer 'yes', proceed to the activity. If some say 'no', explain that it is not easy to say 'no' to sin. When we abide (remain) in Jesus, He will give us the strength and courage to make the right choices and say 'no' to sin.

The facilitator can share with the children his or her experience with saying 'no' to sin. The facilitator can be honest that he or she still sins despite trying not to. In such times, we can confess our sins to God by telling God we are sorry, and God will cleanse us and forgive us (1John1:9).

For 4-6yo (adapted from ministry-to-children)

- Before the lesson, prepare the following (Appendix 8.1b): cut out a paper doll for each child with two lines drawn horizontally across the middle of the doll's chest (see *red lines*). The space in between the lines has to be large enough to write a word in between the lines.
- Cut out a cross for each child (Appendix 8.1c). The crossbeam of the cross should be the same size as the space between the lines on the doll's chest.
- At the beginning of the lesson, pass out the paper dolls. Tell the children to draw themselves on it, leaving the space in between the lines blank.
- *Ask the children: What is sin? (Provide helping words – for example lying, stealing etc)*
- *Sin is anything that we do that is wrong. Sin is anything that God doesn't want us to do: it can be our thoughts, words or actions.*
- Write one wrong thing that you done, in between the lines across the middle of the paper doll's chest.
- Help children cut the section in between the lines out of their doll's chest. Then, hand them each a cross cut-out.
- Take the cross and tape it onto the chest of your doll. Use the cross to connect the two pieces of your doll. Refer to appendix 8.1a on how the cross on the child will look like.
- When Jesus comes into our lives, He helps us to say 'no' to sin and to stop doing what is wrong.
- *Optional – if you can buy cross-shaped erasers, you can get the children to erase the "sin" on the chest. Lesson – Jesus removes our sins by dying on the cross for them.*

For 7-12yo

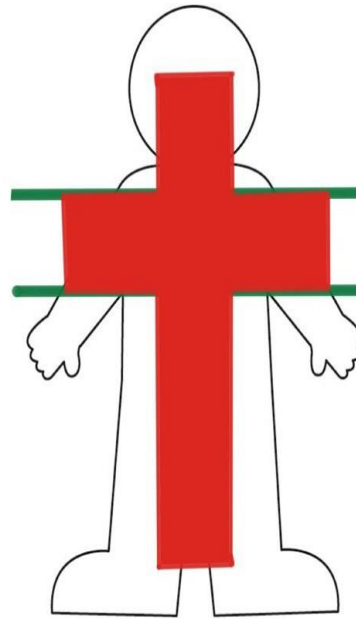
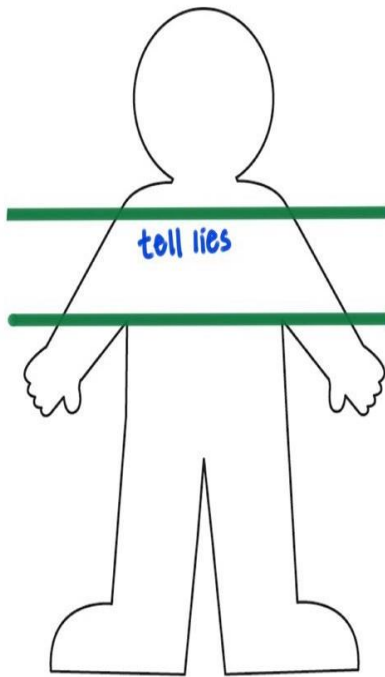
- God helps us overcome sin (say 'no' to sin) by His Spirit and His Word. His Word is a shield protecting us from the arrows of the devil. (1John 1: 9). A shield is a piece of metal that soldiers in the past used to protect themselves from the arrows and spears of the enemies during a war.

- Give each child a shield (Appendix 8.2). Use the shield to affirm the child and list one thing he or she wants to overcome.
- Cut out the shield so that the child can keep it in his or her Bibles.
- Get the children to write the scripture memory verse on the back of their shields.
- Pray that God will give each child the strength and wisdom to be an overcomer in Christ.

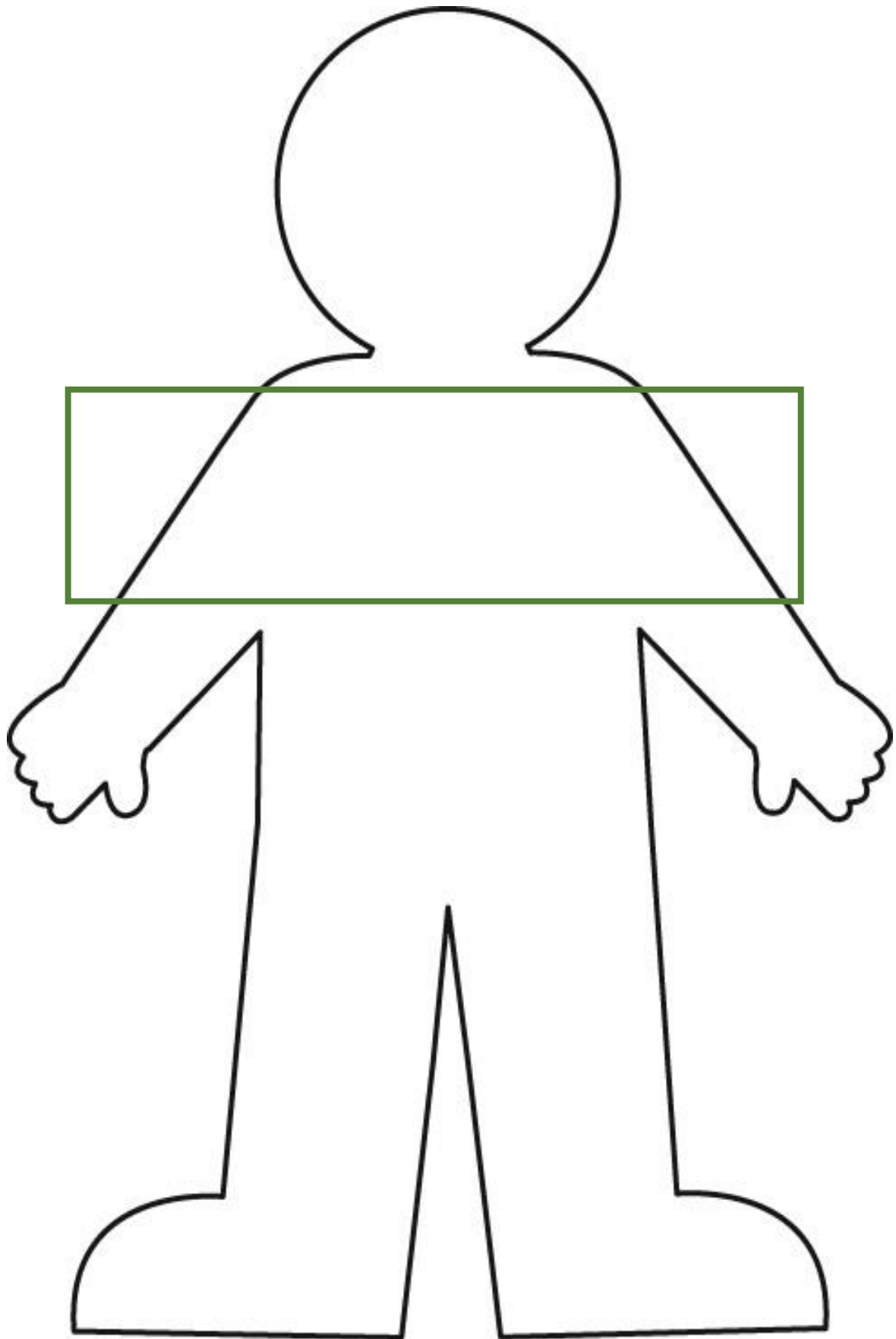
Extra activity sheet for 7-12yo

- Use Appendix 8.3 Personal motto for being an overcomer in Christ.
- Children can come up with their personal motto (or family motto) as overcomers.
- Provide memory cards (Appendix 8.4) to encourage the children.

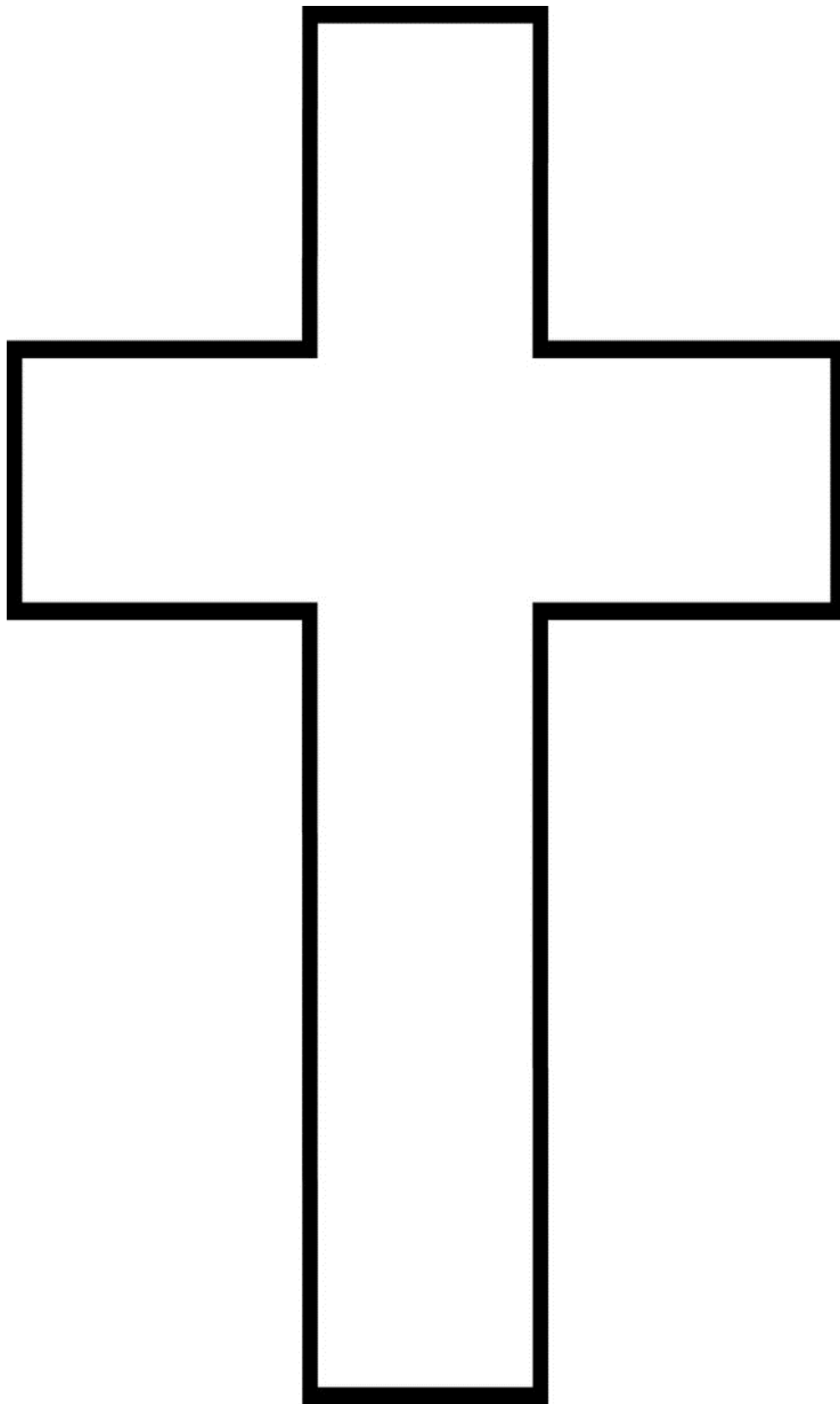
Appendix 8.1a Child and cross



Appendix 8.1b Child



Appendix 8.1c Cross



Appendix 8.2 I am an overcomer in Christ (1 John 1: 9 and 1 John 5:4-5)

I am...

(Personality): _____

(One thing you are good at): _____

(Something you are good at in school): _____

(Adjective about yourself): _____

(Physical description): _____

(One thing you do for fun): _____

(What you are feeling): _____

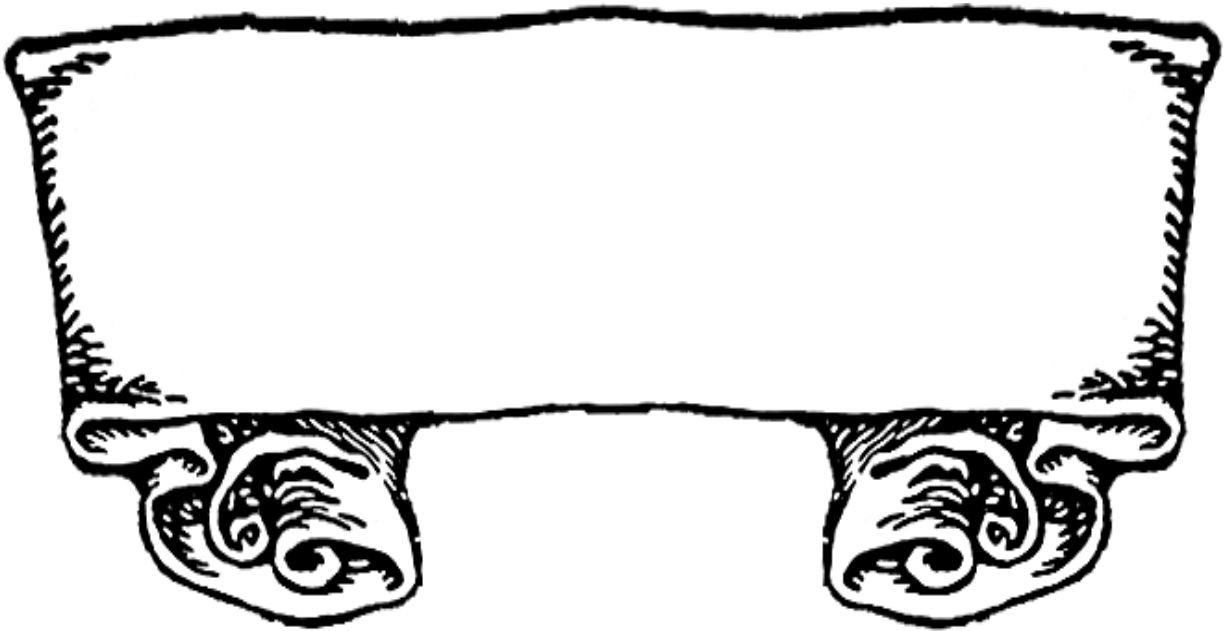
(One problem you overcame): _____

(How you help others): _____

**He equipped me to be
wonderful and strong**

Appendix 8.3 Personal motto for being an overcomer in Christ

Personal Motto

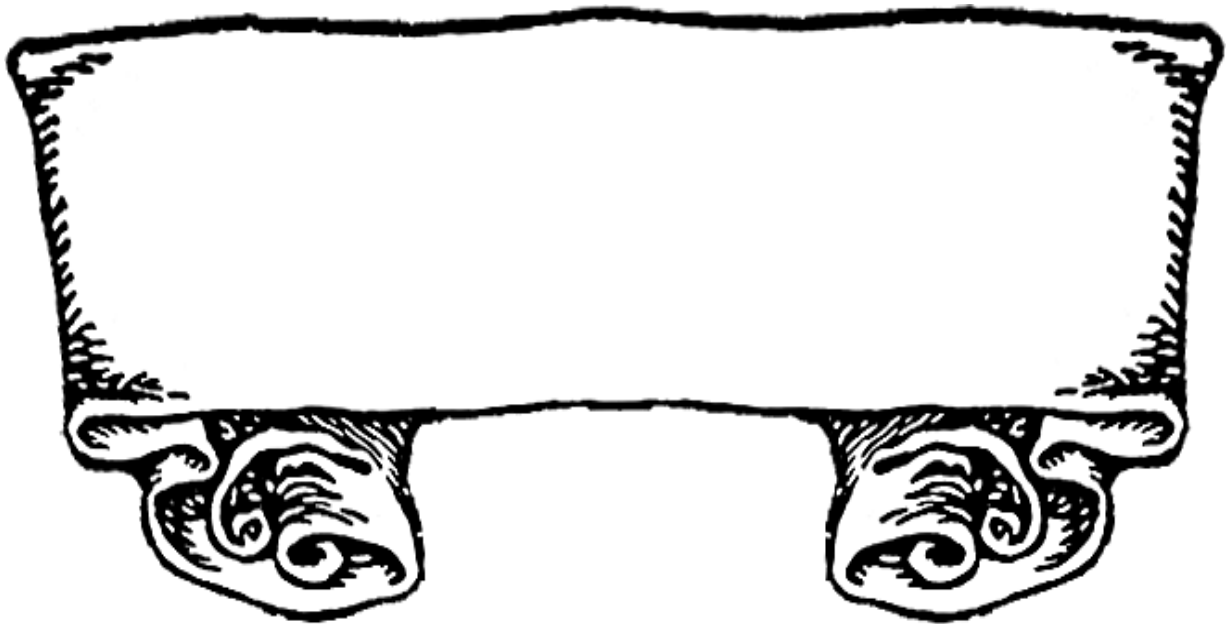


Family Motto

Eg: "Through Storms We Have Conquered"

"Honesty, Kindness, Joy"

"To Love One Is To Love All"



Appendix 8.4 I am an overcomer in Christ memory cards

