

NOVEMBER 22–28

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 135–136

HE “HAS SEALED HIS MISSION AND HIS WORKS WITH HIS OWN BLOOD”

As you prepare to teach [Doctrine and Covenants 135–36](#), look for principles that have influenced your life. Consider how the ideas in this outline might help the children learn and apply these principles.

INVITE SHARING

Invite the children to share something they remember learning this year about Joseph Smith and what he accomplished. Show pictures from this year’s [Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families](#) or from previous activity pages to help them.

TEACH THE DOCTRINE: OLDER CHILDREN

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 135

Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith gave their lives for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Hearing about the sacrifices of Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith can strengthen the children’s faith and their desire to be true to their testimonies.

Joseph and Hyrum went to Carthage, and on 25 June 1844 they were falsely accused of rioting and treason (working against the government). They and several of their friends



were put in the Carthage Jail , where mobs threatened and cursed them. In jail the brethren prayed and read the Book of Mormon. The Prophet bore his testimony of the truth of the gospel to the men guarding them.

What can we learn about the kind of person Joseph Smith was by the fact that he bore his testimony to the jail guards?

Have you ever been afraid to bear your testimony to someone?

How can we overcome this fear?

Dan Jones was one of the brethren in jail with the Prophet. On the morning of 27 June 1844 one of the prison guards told him:



“We have had too much trouble to bring Old Joe here to let him ever escape alive, and unless you want to die with him you had better leave before sundown; ... and you’ll see that I can prophesy better than Old Joe, for neither he nor his brother, nor anyone who will remain with them will see the sun set today” (History of the Church, 6:602).

Dan Jones reported this threat to Governor Ford, but the governor replied, “You are unnecessarily alarmed for the safety of your friends, sir, the people are not that cruel” (History of the Church, 6:603). Then the governor left Carthage, leaving some of the Prophet’s worst enemies in charge of the jail. That day most of the Prophet’s friends were ordered to leave the jail.

Only four men remained in Carthage Jail: the Prophet Joseph Smith; his brother



Hyrum; and John Taylor and Willard Richards, two of the Apostles . These four men had two guns that had been given to them by friends who visited them. Elder



Taylor and Elder Richards also had walking canes .

Because the governor had left Carthage and had put some members of the mob in charge of the jail, the four men knew their lives were in danger. That morning Joseph had written a letter to his family telling them that he loved them and that he was innocent. In the letter he also pronounced a blessing on his family and friends. In the afternoon John Taylor sang “A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief” (Hymns, no. 29). This beautiful song about the Savior comforted the men greatly, and the Prophet asked Elder Taylor to sing it again.

Why do you think the brethren in Carthage Jail felt comforted when John Taylor sang “A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief”?

What other things did the brethren do to bring them comfort?

What would bring you comfort if you were afraid?

Around five o'clock in the evening a mob of about one hundred men attacked the jail. Many of the men had blackened their faces with mud and gunpowder so they would not



be recognized.  (Use a marker to blacken the mobs faces).

Why do you think members of the mob blackened their faces? Explain that when people do evil things they often do not want others to see or recognize them. What choices do we need to make so we will never be ashamed to have others see our actions?


The guards at the jail were friends of the mobbers and made no serious attempt to stop the attack. Some members of the mob shot at the windows of the jail (*place the broken window on the picture*), and others ran up the stairs to shoot into the room where the Church leaders were.

The brethren tried to bar the door shut and use their few weapons to drive off the mob. Joseph Smith fired a pistol and John Taylor used his heavy cane to try to knock down the guns of the mob as they were pushed into the room through the door, but there were too many people in the mob for the brethren to defend themselves.

(Use a marker to indicate bullet wounds.)

Hyrum Smith was shot in the face by a bullet fired through the door. He fell to the floor



 , crying out, “I am a dead man!” As he fell he was hit by three other bullets. Joseph cried out, “Oh dear, brother Hyrum!” (History of the Church, 6:618).

John Taylor moved toward the open window, hoping to jump to safety. A bullet fired from inside the jail hit his leg and he started to fall out the window, but a second bullet from outside the jail hit his pocket watch with such force that it pushed him back into the room, saving his life. Elder Taylor was hit with three more bullets as he crawled



under the bed  .

After Hyrum and John Taylor were shot, the Prophet moved to the window. He was hit by two bullets fired from the doorway of the room and a third bullet fired from outside



the jail. He cried, “Oh Lord, my God!” and fell out the window (History of the Church, 6:618).

The mob inside the jail ran out to see the Prophet’s body, and Willard Richards hurried to the window. After seeing the Prophet’s lifeless body, Elder Richards ran for the door. He stopped when he heard John Taylor cry out from under the bed. He knew he would not be able to carry Elder Taylor out right away, so he hid him under an old mattress



, saying, “If your wounds are not fatal, I want you to live to tell the story” (History of the Church, 6:621). Elder Richards expected to be shot as he left the jail, but before the mob could make sure they had killed all four men, someone mistakenly shouted, “The Mormons are coming!” and the mob members fled into the woods.

Elder Richards had not been injured in the attack. This miracle fulfilled a prophecy



made a year earlier by Joseph Smith , who had told Elder Richards that there would be a time when “the balls [bullets] would fly around him like hail, and he should see his friends fall on the right and on the left,” but he would not be hurt (History of the Church, 6:619).

Joseph and Hyrum had clear consciences when they died. *What must each of us do to have a clear conscience?*

The Prophet’s brother Samuel was on his way to Carthage to help his brothers. He was chased by members of the mob along the way, and he arrived, exhausted, to find that his brothers had been murdered. He helped move his brothers’ bodies to an inn in Carthage. Tired and weak from his trip to Carthage, Samuel developed a bad fever, and he died the next month.

The bodies of Joseph and Hyrum were carried back to Nauvoo in wagons and laid out in the Mansion House. The next day, ten thousand Saints waited in line to walk past the caskets and pay their respects. The Saints grieved over the loss of the Prophet and his brother.



Lucy Mack Smith wrote of seeing her martyred sons:

“I had for a long time braced every nerve, roused every energy of my soul and called upon God to strengthen me, but when I entered the room and saw my murdered sons extended both at once before my eyes and heard the sobs and groans of my family ... it was too much; I sank back, crying to the Lord in the agony of my soul, ‘My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken this family!’ A voice replied, ‘I have taken them to myself, that they might have rest’” (Lucy Mack Smith, History of Joseph Smith, p. 324).

William W. Phelps, who spoke at the funeral of Joseph and Hyrum, wrote a beautiful poem about the Prophet. This poem later became a favorite Church hymn, “Praise to the Man.” Sing or say the words to “Praise to the Man” (Hymns, no. 27).

[Doctrine and Covenants 135](#) contains an account of the martyrdom written by Elder



John Taylor, who was wounded in the attack that killed Joseph and Hyrum. Elder Taylor said Joseph Smith “lived great, and he died great in the eyes of God and his people; and like most of the Lord’s anointed in ancient times, has sealed his mission and his works with his own blood; and so has his brother Hyrum. In life they were not divided, and in death they were not separated!” ([D&C 135:3](#)).

Have a child read the first sentence of [Doctrine and Covenants 135:3](#).

What did John Taylor mean by this statement? What were some of Joseph Smith’s great accomplishments?

Have the children follow along in their scriptures as you read the rest of [Doctrine and Covenants 135:3](#). As you read, list on the chalkboard the accomplishments of Joseph Smith that are listed in this verse. Discuss with the children how their lives would be different if Joseph Smith had not done these things.

Before the Prophet’s father died, he had given Joseph a blessing and told him, “You shall even live to finish your work. ... You shall live to lay out the plan of all the work which God has given you to do” (quoted in Smith, pp. 309–10). Joseph Smith valiantly completed his mission, doing all God asked him to do.

What is a martyr? (Someone who chooses to die rather than deny or reject what they believe in.) *Why are Joseph and Hyrum Smith considered martyrs?* (They chose to die rather than deny their testimonies of Jesus Christ and his gospel.)

Remember that some members of the mob thought that by killing Joseph Smith they could destroy the entire Church. *Why didn't the Church fall apart after the Prophet was killed?*

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 135:3

JOSEPH SMITH IS A PROPHET OF GOD.

Like all prophets, Joseph Smith testified of Jesus Christ and taught us how to come to Him. Help the children see how Joseph Smith accomplished his mission.

Why is it necessary to have a testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God?

If we do not believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet, we cannot believe the Book of Mormon is true or that the gospel of Jesus Christ has been brought back to the earth. *How can we gain a testimony of Joseph Smith?*

Not included in PowerPoint

DESIRE
ASK
OBEY
WORK
STUDY

Cut out the words and randomly place on the chalkboard . Place the statements on the chalkboard. Have the children match the words to the missing word on the statements.



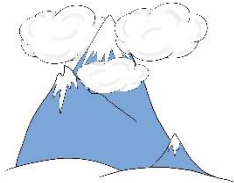
Read together [Doctrine and Covenants 135:3](#), and ask the children to identify what Joseph Smith accomplished. Write on the board what they find. Invite the children to choose one of these things and share why they are grateful for it.

THE LORD CAN BLESS ME WHEN I AM STRUGGLING.

After Joseph Smith was killed, the Saints were driven from Nauvoo. Brigham Young led them to Winter Quarters, where they prepared for an even longer trek to the Salt Lake Valley.

The Saints Prepare to Move West

In 1842 Joseph Smith had told the Saints, “Some of you will live to go and assist in making settlements and build cities and see the Saints become a mighty people in the



midst of the Rocky Mountains” (History of the Church, 5:85). The Saints began making plans to move west in the spring of 1844, and the Twelve Apostles continued this planning as soon as they were sustained as the presiding authority of the Church. They planned for the Saints to leave in April 1846, which would give them time to finish building the Nauvoo Temple and provide endowments and sealings for the members before they left. However, Brigham Young and eight other Apostles were accused of a false charge of counterfeiting, and some Saints heard a false rumor that federal troops would not allow them to move west but planned to kill them instead. These incidents made the Saints anxious to leave Illinois as soon as possible.



The first groups left Nauvoo in early February 1846, and the Apostles themselves left in mid-February. Church leaders had planned to have other groups leave during the late winter and spring, but many of the Saints did not want to remain in Nauvoo after the Apostles had left, so they started out before they should have and before they were properly prepared.

Members of the Church who did not leave with the first groups tried to sell their property in Nauvoo so they could buy supplies to move west. People from the surrounding areas came to Nauvoo to buy property at very low prices. One woman was offered ten dollars for her house and twenty acres of land. She felt this price was too low, but the buyer knew she was eager to leave, so he would not pay any more money. Many of the Saints traded their land and furniture for horses, wagons, and cattle, traveling up to a hundred miles from Nauvoo to find cattle to buy.

ACTIVITY



Give each child a copy of the worksheet and a pencil. Have the children write down things they would take with them if they had to leave their homes and travel a long distance in a wagon or handcart. Have them share their lists and discuss the items they have chosen.

Show the children the dimensions of a wagon or handcart (approximately 58 inches [147 cm] long and 45 inches [114 cm] wide). You may want to mark the space on the floor with tape or string. Ask the children to look at their lists again and determine how many of the items on the list would fit and how many would have to be left behind.

Invite the children to share and discuss their lists with their families.

STORY CONTINUE...

All the houses in Nauvoo were used as workshops for building wagons. Supplies needed



for a family of five in the first group to leave included one strong



wagon

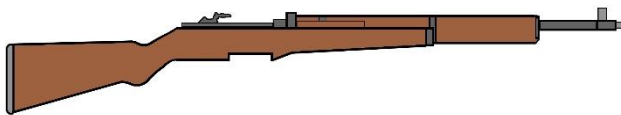
, two or three yoke of oxen



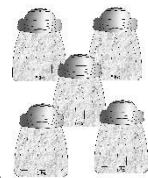
, a thousand



pounds of flour, a musket or rifle for each man



, twenty-five pounds of salt





twenty pounds of soap, and four or five fishhooks and lines. Many families contained more than five people and thus needed even more supplies.

The first part of the journey to the Salt Lake Valley was very difficult for the first groups of pioneers. It took them 131 days to travel 300 miles across Iowa. A year later another group of pioneers took only 111 days to travel the 1050 miles from Iowa all the way to the Great Salt Lake Valley.

THE BATTLE OF NAUVOO AND THE MIRACLE OF THE QUAIL

Some members of the Church stayed in Nauvoo through the summer. Some of these people wanted to harvest crops and try to sell their property; others were immigrants recently arrived from the East who were too late to join the earlier companies of pioneers. Most of these immigrants had used all their money just to reach Nauvoo.

In September 1846 about eight hundred anti-Mormon men with six cannons began to attack the people left in Nauvoo. After a few days of fighting, the anti-Mormons forced the Saints to leave Nauvoo. Five men and their families were allowed to stay to try to sell the Church members' property.

[Picture 5-41, Exodus from Nauvoo](#)



The rest left at once without any extra clothing or supplies. Most of these people crossed the Mississippi River and formed camps on the Iowa side. Some of the people were too sick to travel, and many were too poor to buy the necessary supplies to move on. Most had only blankets or branches for shelter and only corn to eat.

Why did the Saints need to leave Nauvoo?

What did they take with them when they left for the West?

What would you want to take if you were going on a similar journey today?

Many of the Saints had to sell their land and property very cheaply or simply leave it behind. They could not take much with them when they left Nauvoo. *How do you think the Saints felt about making these sacrifices to go west? What would you be willing to sacrifice for the gospel and the Church?*



One day a miracle occurred. Thousands of small birds called quail flew into the camps. The quail were everywhere. Even though the people in the camps were weak from hunger and illness, they easily caught many quail. The quail were delicious to eat, and they provided much-needed food for the starving Saints.

When Brigham Young heard about the Saints in these camps, he sent people with wagons and supplies to bring the people in the camps to other camps throughout Iowa where most of the other Saints were staying for the winter.

How did the quail help the Saints camped by the river?

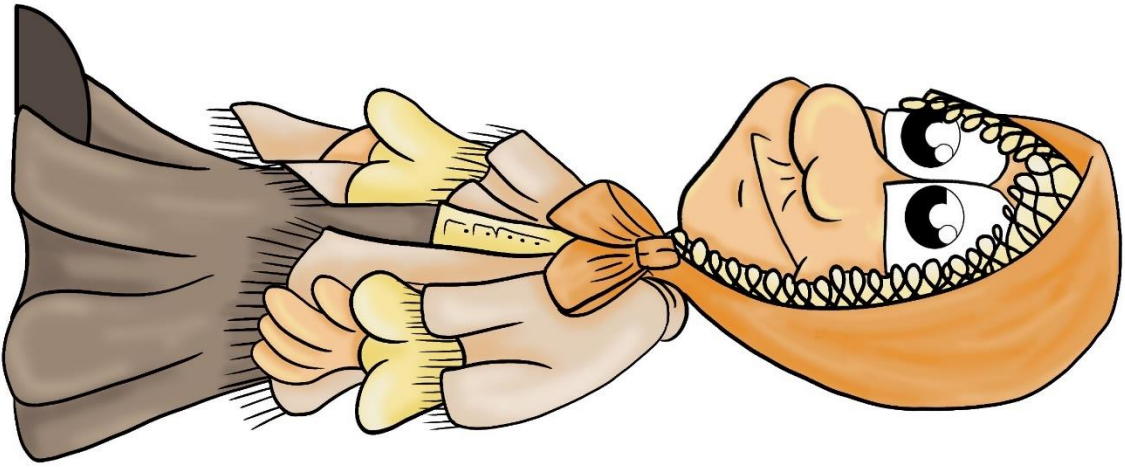
Why were the quail so easy to catch? How has Heavenly Father helped you when you needed help?

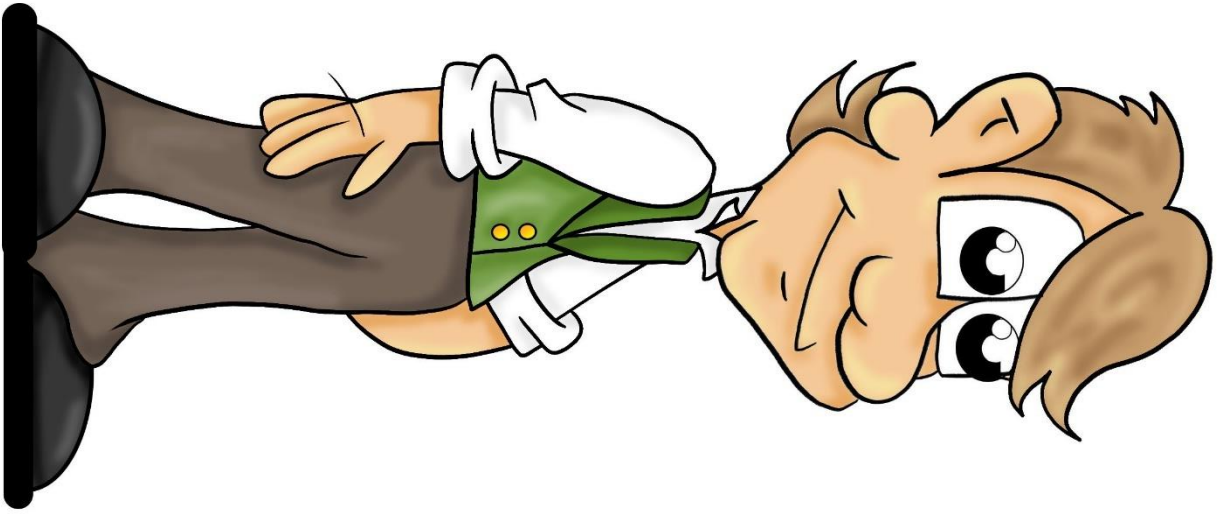
ENCOURAGE LEARNING AT HOME

Invite the children to share with their family or a friend why they are grateful for the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Improving Our Teaching

Children are active. At times you may feel that the children's energy is a distraction from learning. But you can build on their active natures by inviting them to draw, sing about, or act out a gospel principle (see *Teaching in the Savior's Way*, [25–26](#)).

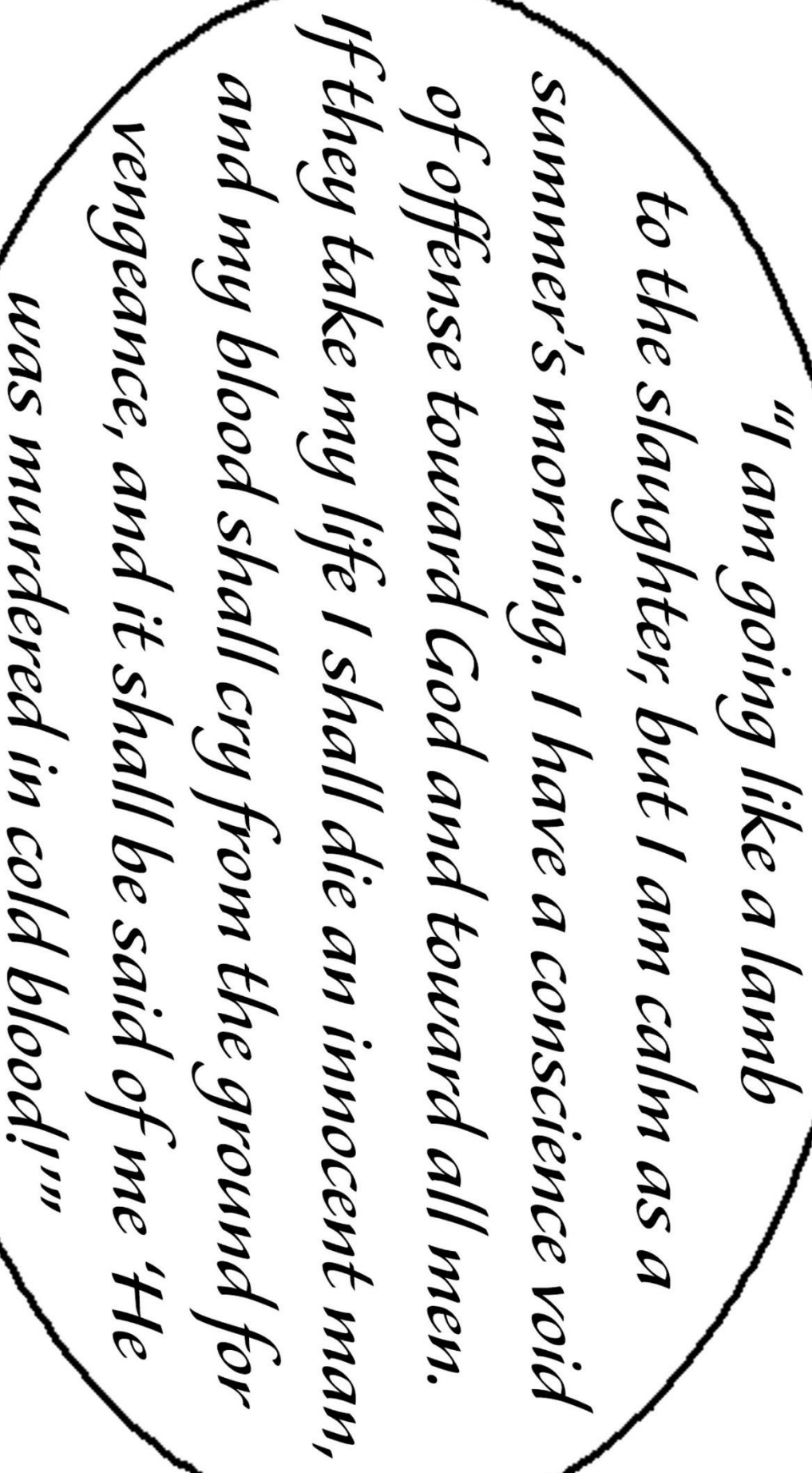




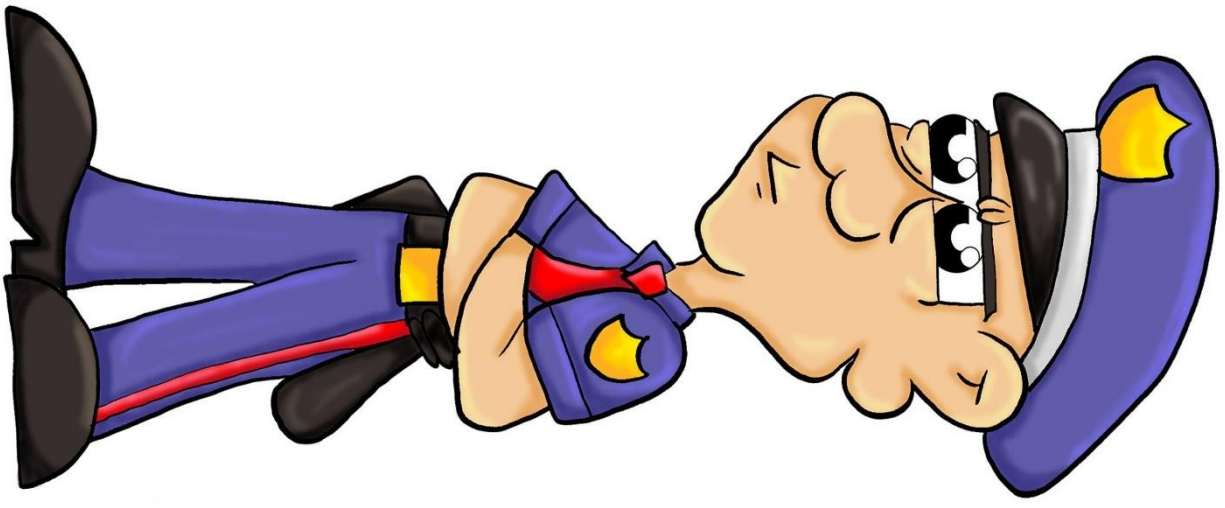


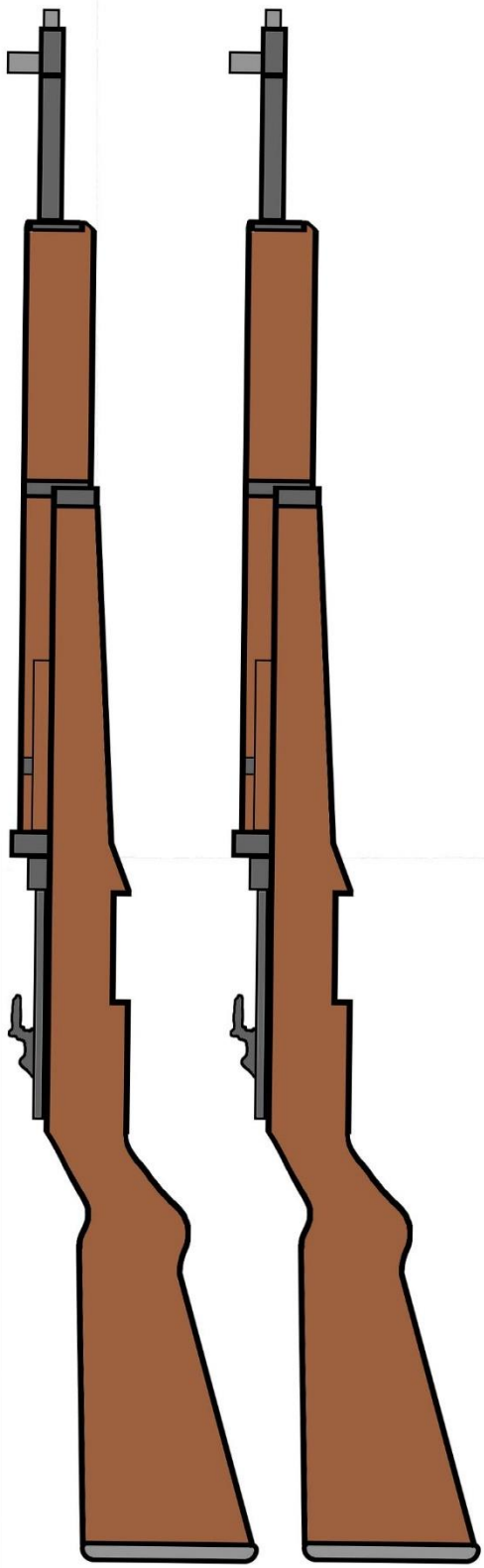
*There would be a time when
“the balls [bullets] would fly
around him like hail, and he should see
his friends fall on the right and on the
left,” but he would not be hurt.*

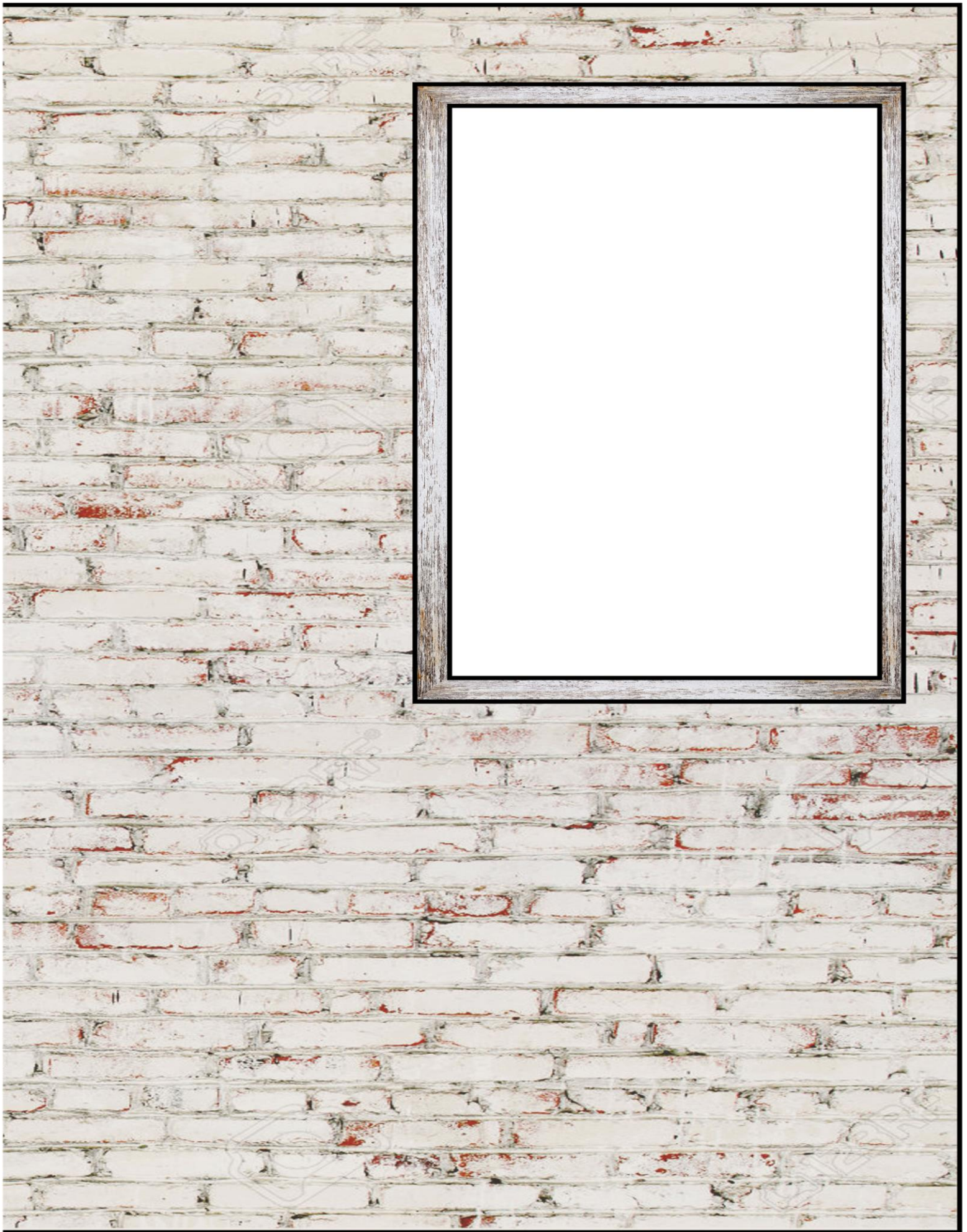
*“We have had too much trouble
to bring Old Joe here to let him ever escape alive,
and unless you want to die with him you had better leave
before sundown; ... and you’ll see that I can prophesy better
than Old Joe, for neither he nor his brother, nor
anyone who will remain with them will see the
sun set today”*

A large, hand-drawn speech bubble with a thick black outline. The bubble is roughly oval-shaped with a small tail pointing towards the bottom left. Inside the bubble, there is a single paragraph of text written in a black, cursive script font. The text is centered within the bubble and reads: "I am going like a lamb to the slaughter, but I am calm as a summer's morning. I have a conscience void of offense toward God and toward all men. If they take my life I shall die an innocent man, and my blood shall cry from the ground for vengeance, and it shall be said of me 'He was murdered in cold blood!'"

*"I am going like a lamb
to the slaughter, but I am calm as a
summer's morning. I have a conscience void
of offense toward God and toward all men.
If they take my life I shall die an innocent man,
and my blood shall cry from the ground for
vengeance, and it shall be said of me 'He
was murdered in cold blood!'"*

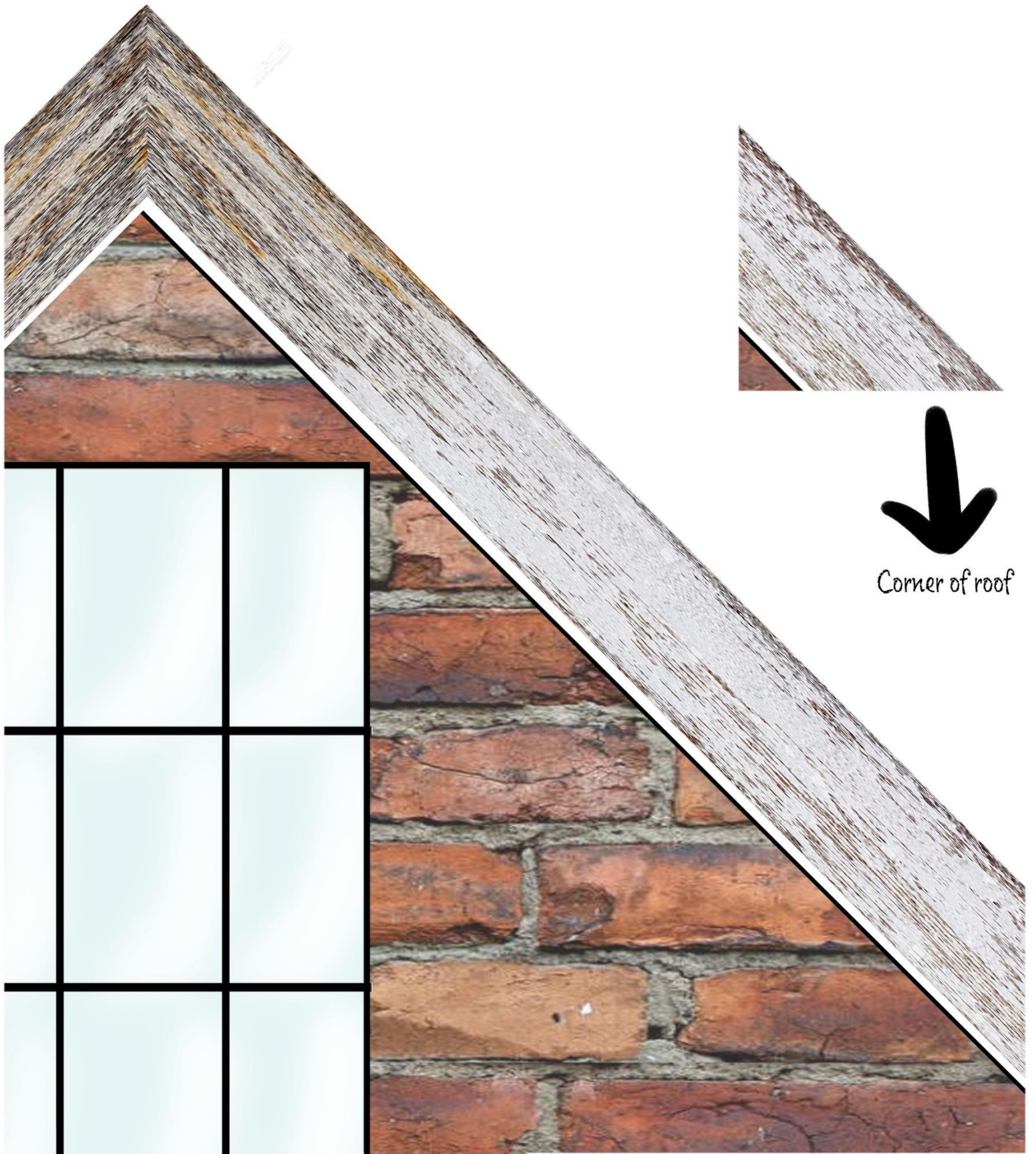


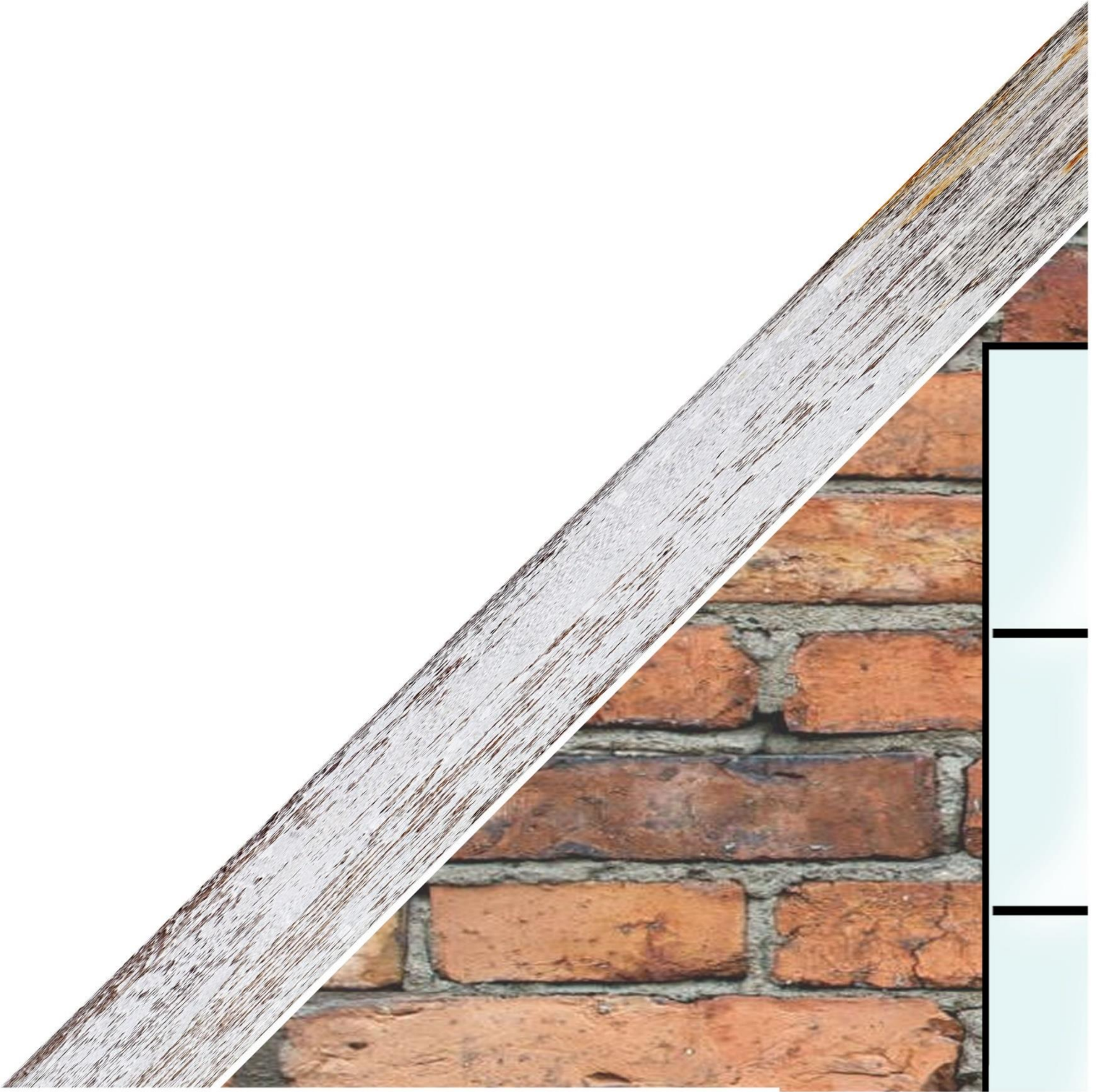


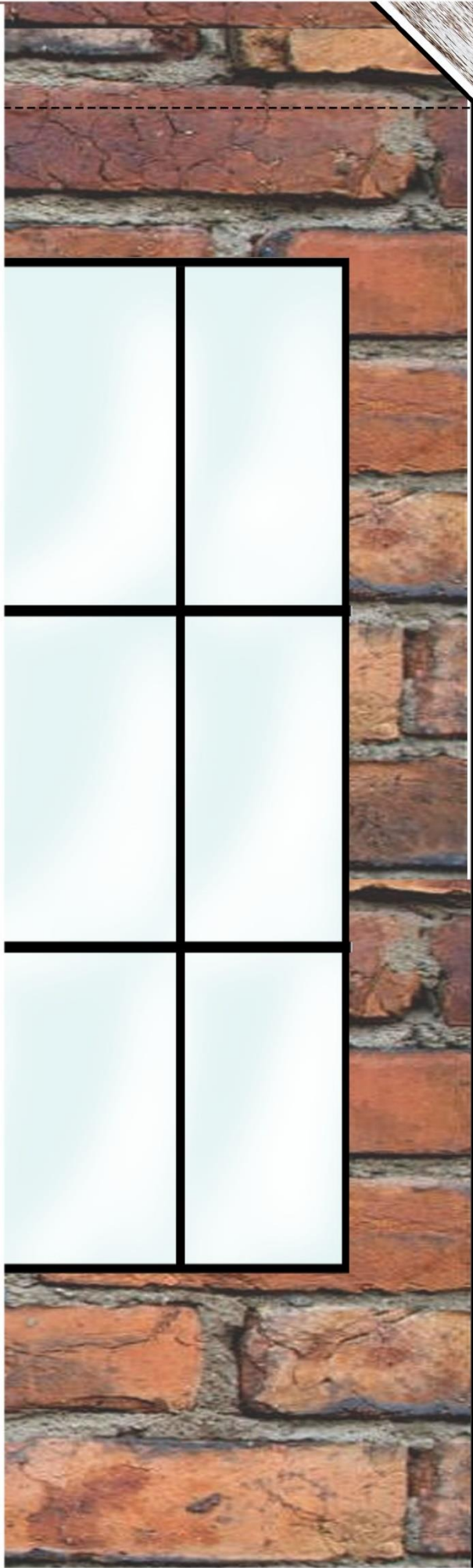


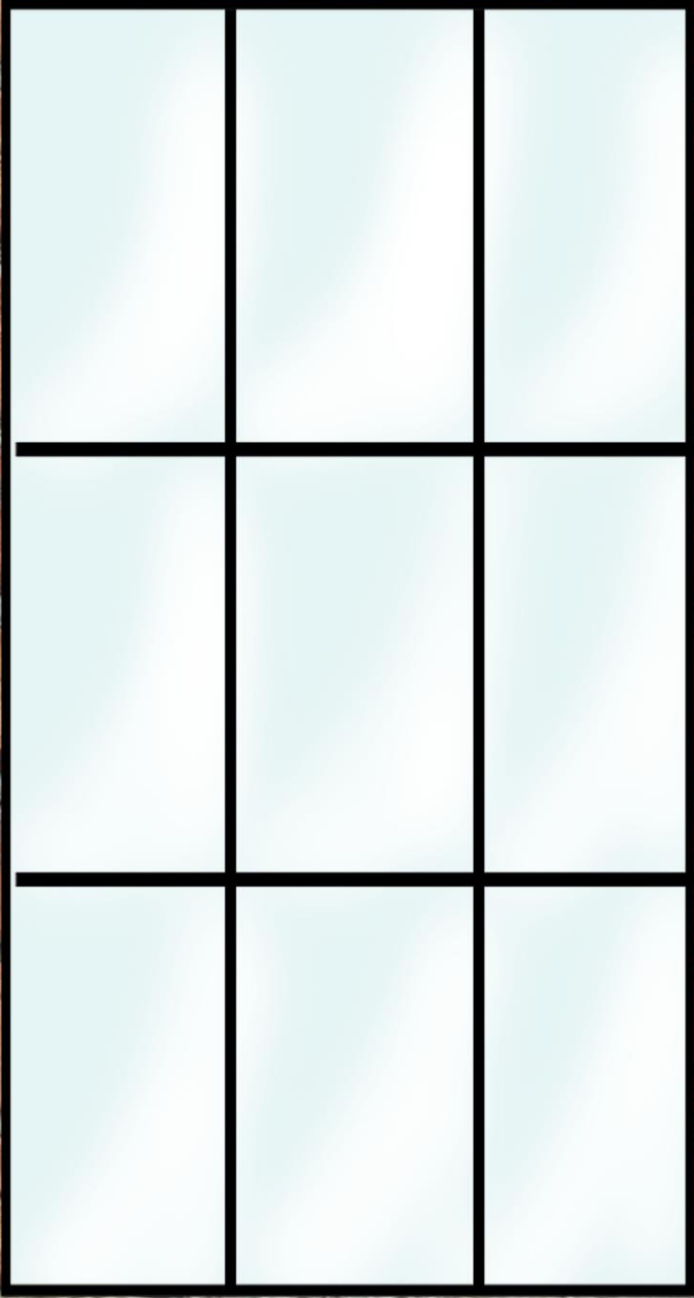
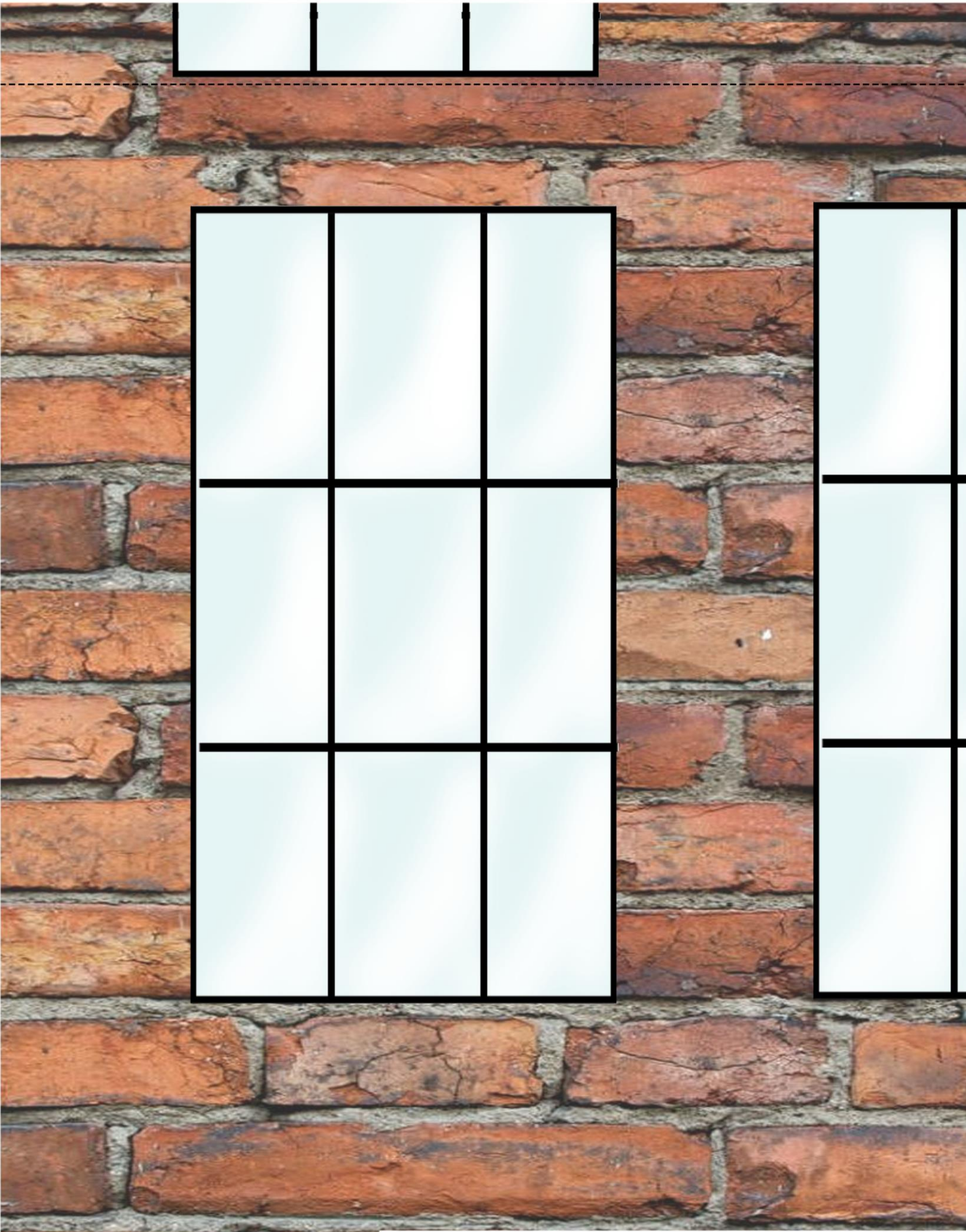


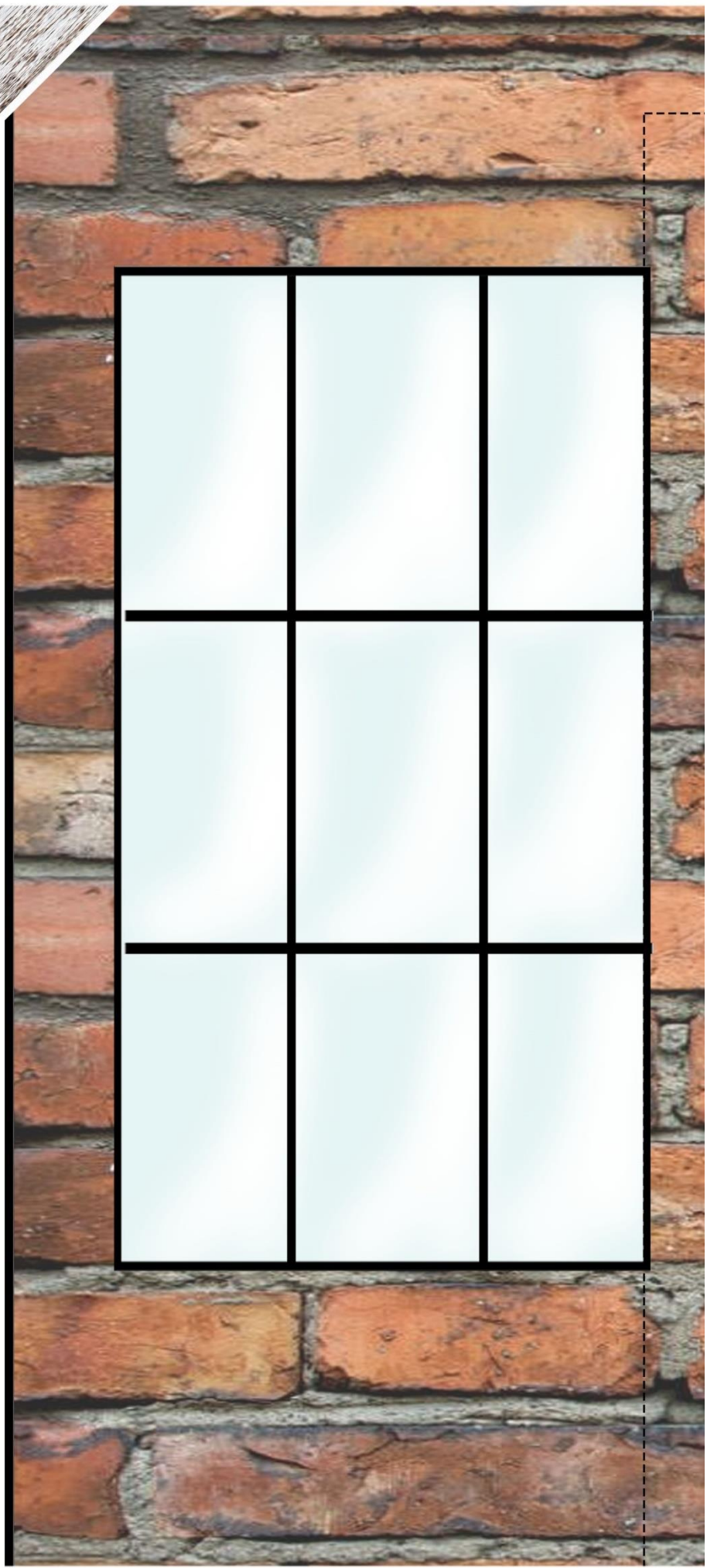


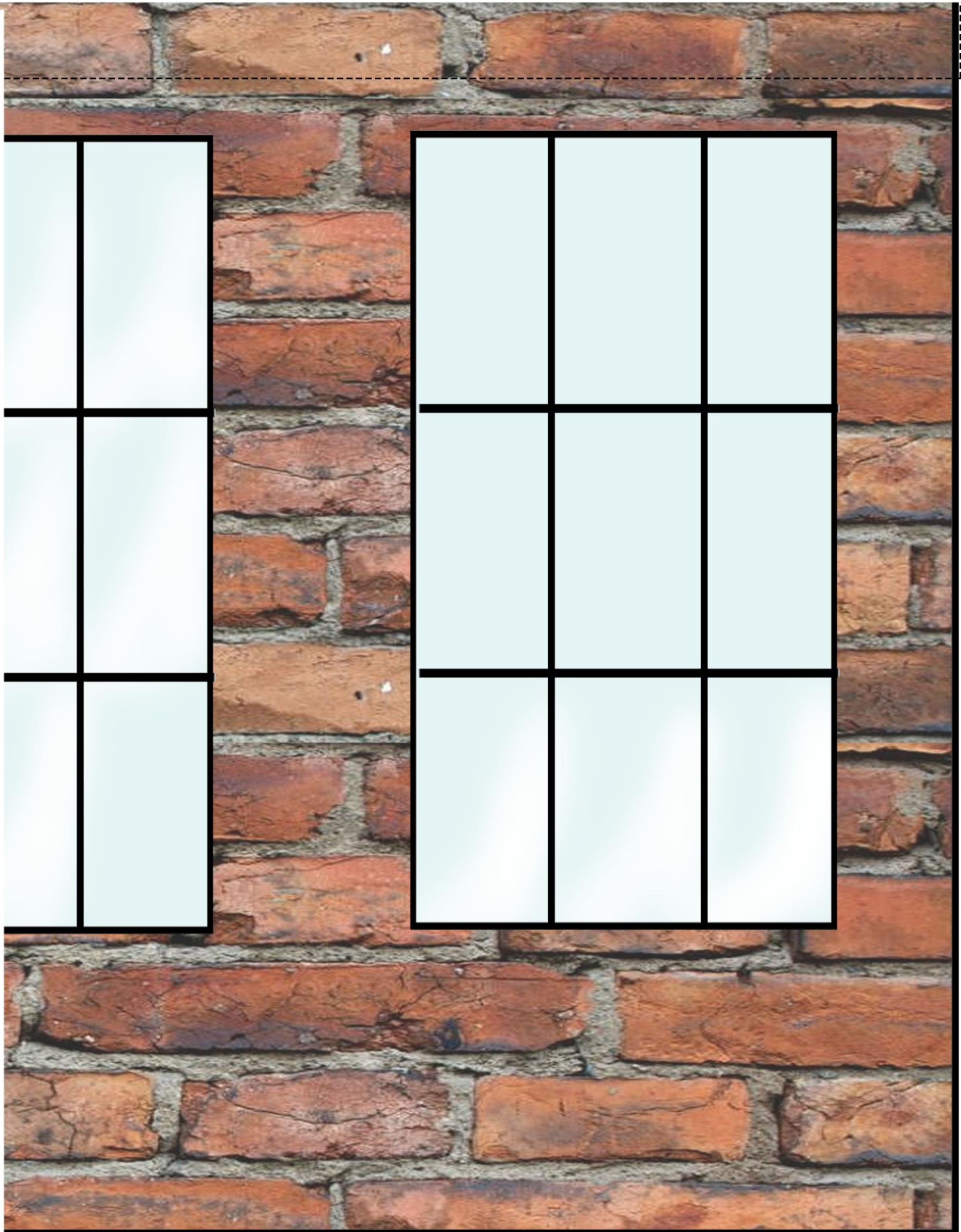














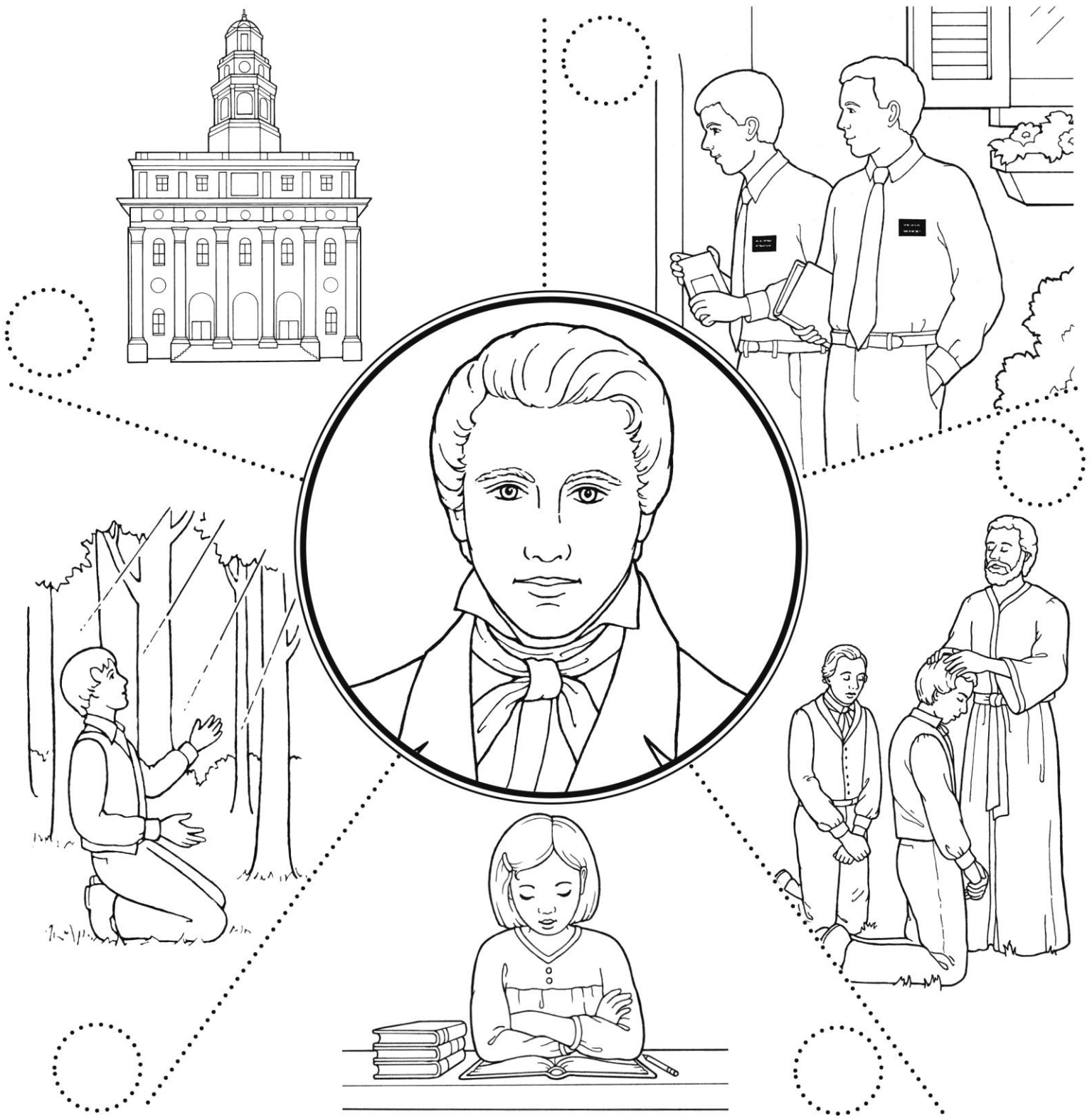
Joseph Smith is a Prophet of God (Doctrine and Covenants 135:3).

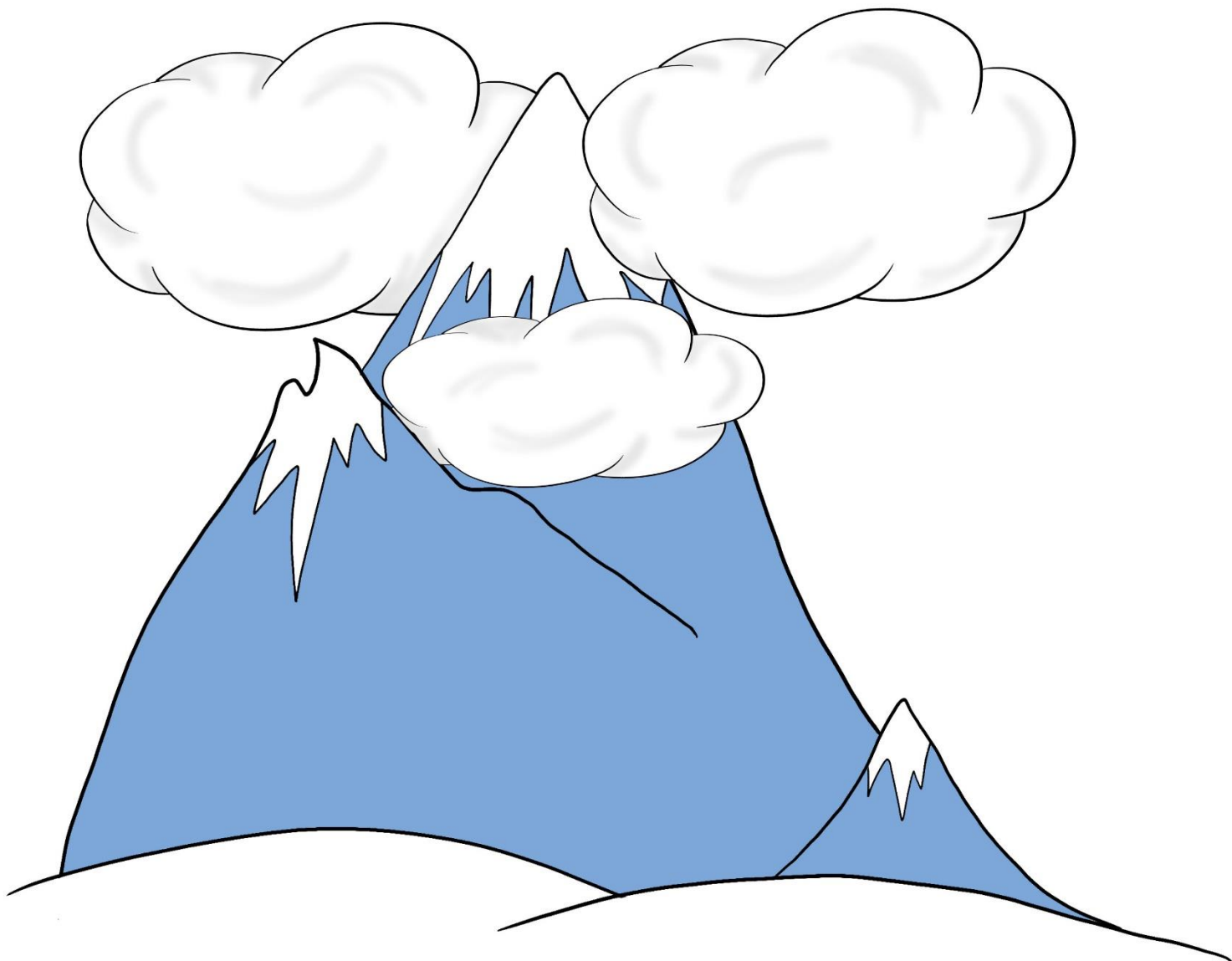
The Lord accomplished many things through the Prophet Joseph Smith that affect our salvation. Color the pictures. Match the numbered items with the pictures by writing numbers in the circles next to the related pictures.

- 1. The First Vision
- 2. The Priesthood

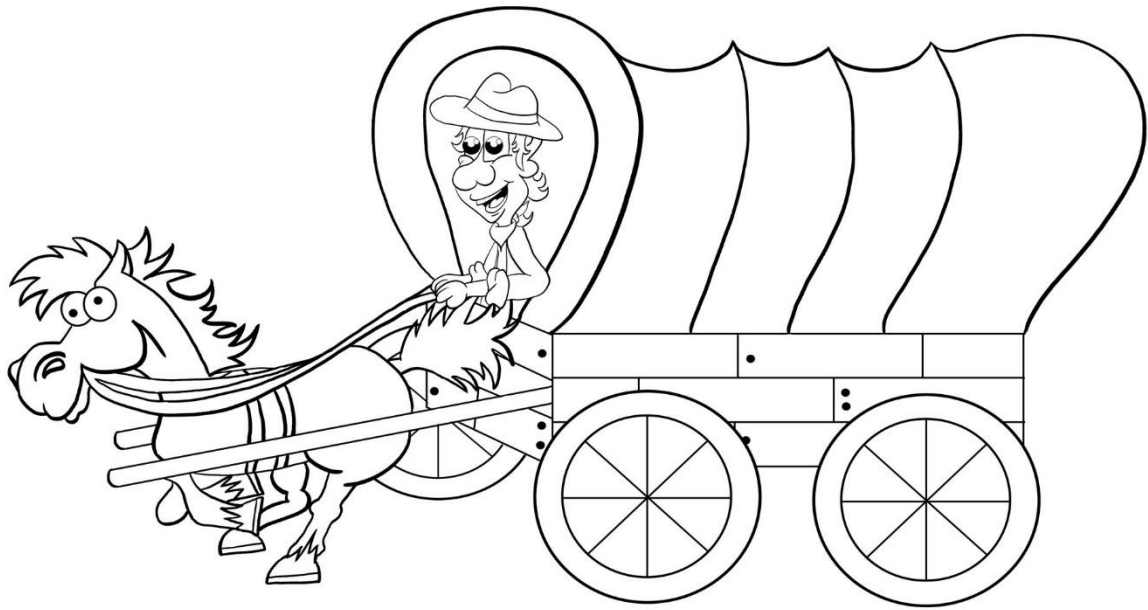
- 3. Missionary Work
- 4. Temples

- 5. The Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and other scriptures



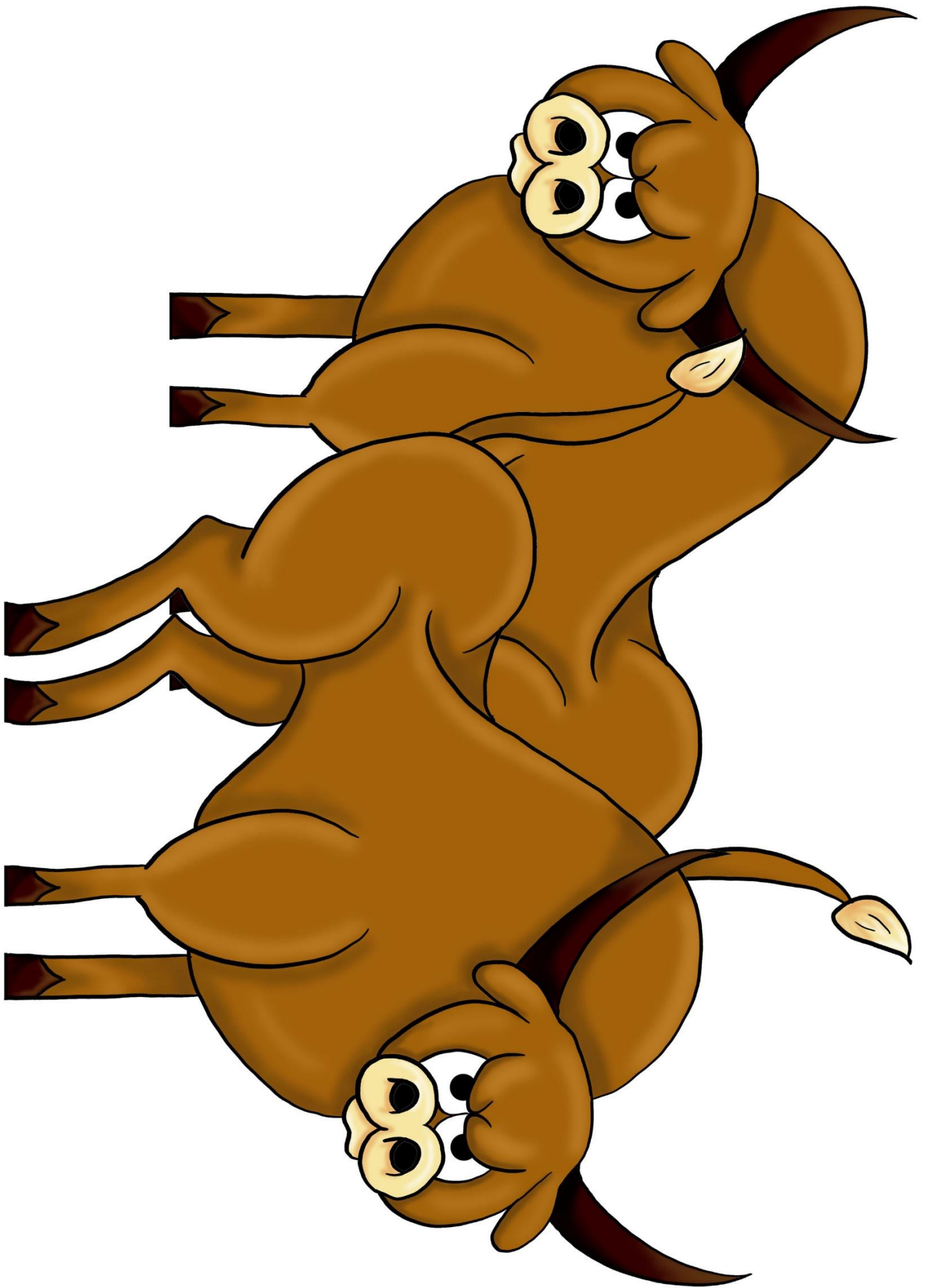




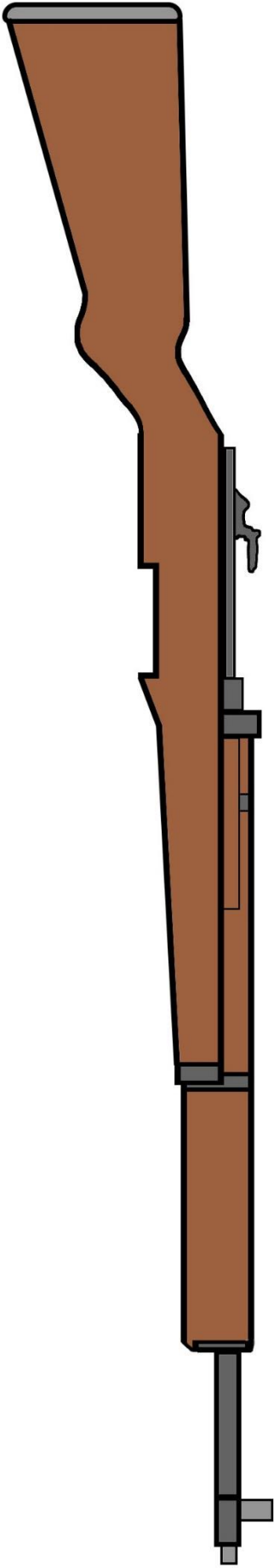


Write down the things you would take with you if you had to leave your homes and travel a long distance in a wagon or handcart.

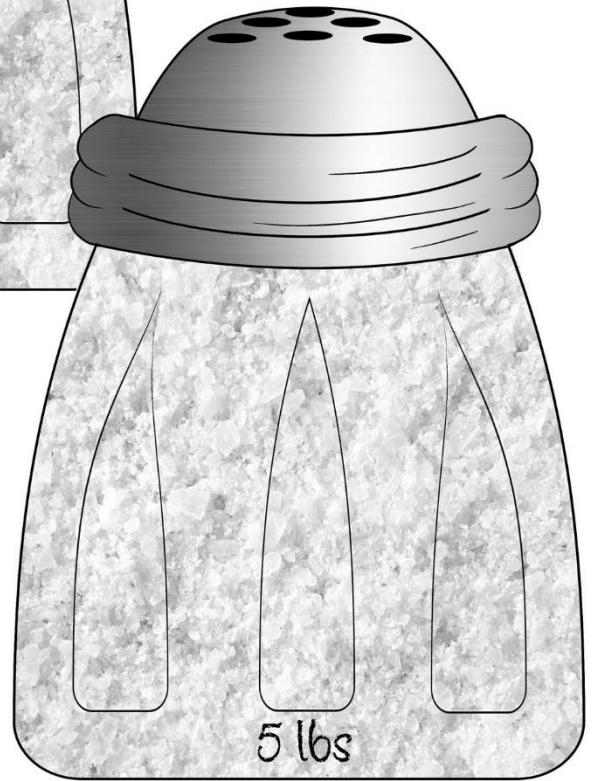
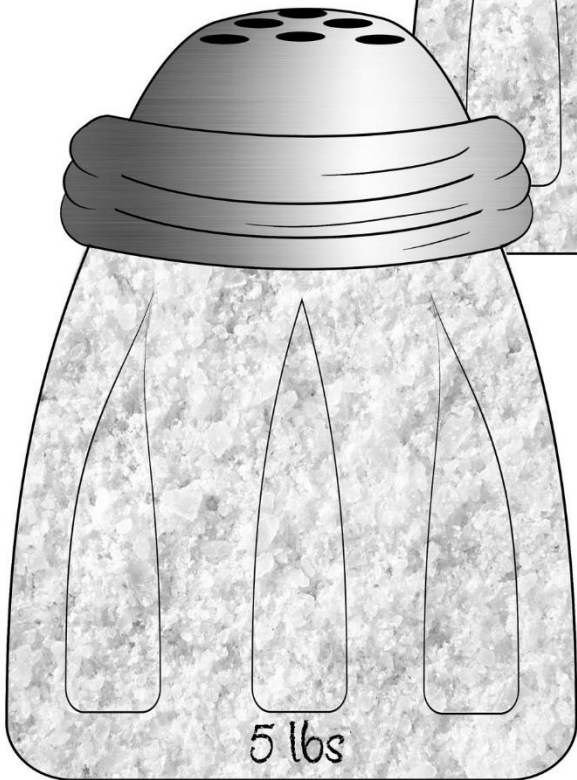
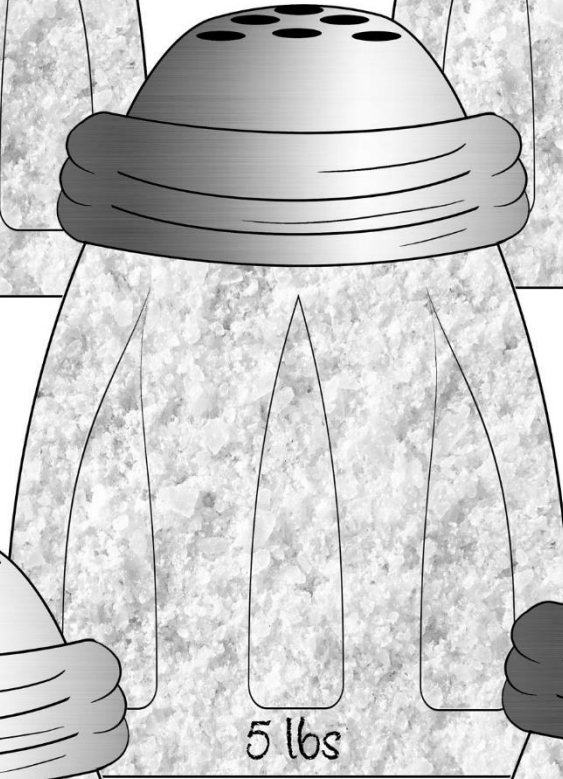
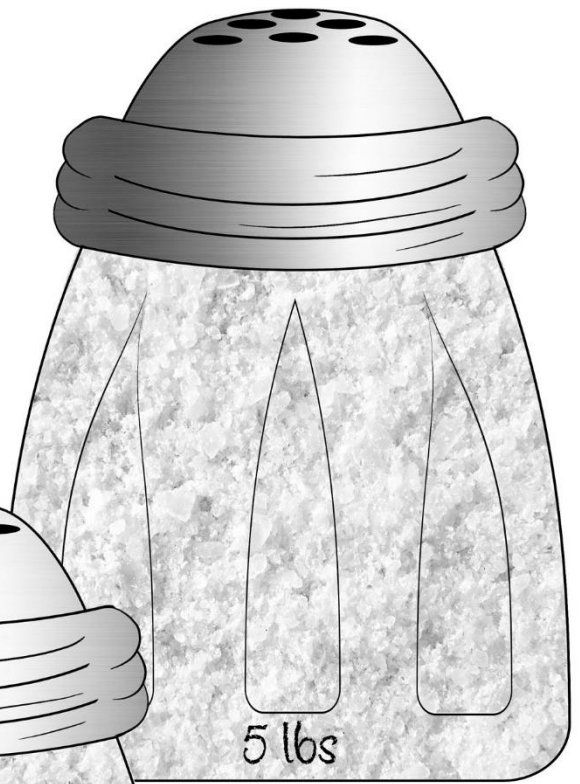
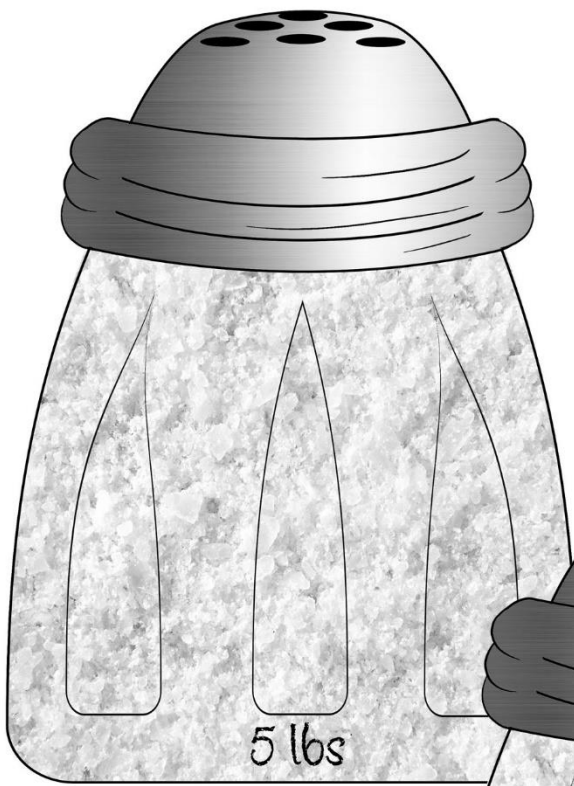














SOAP

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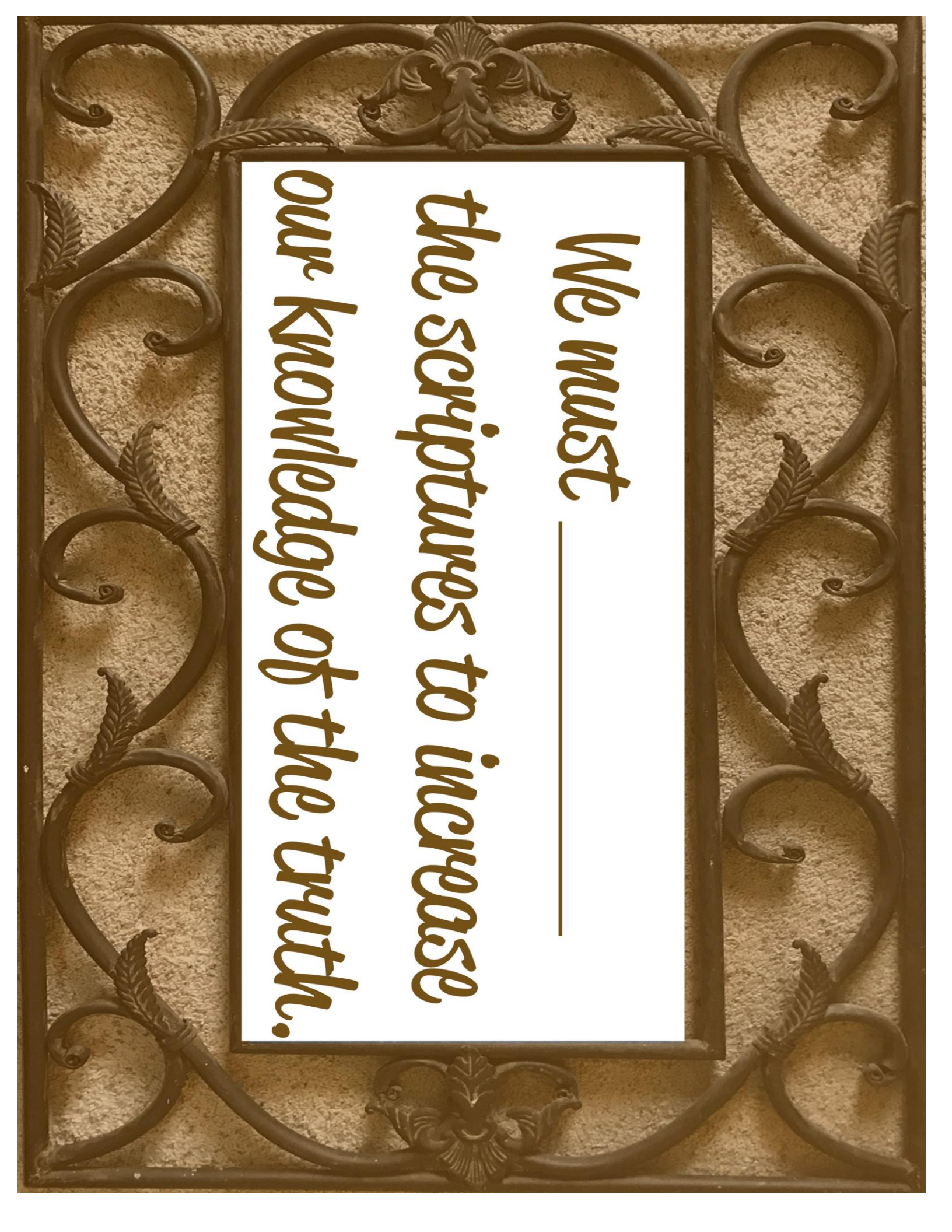
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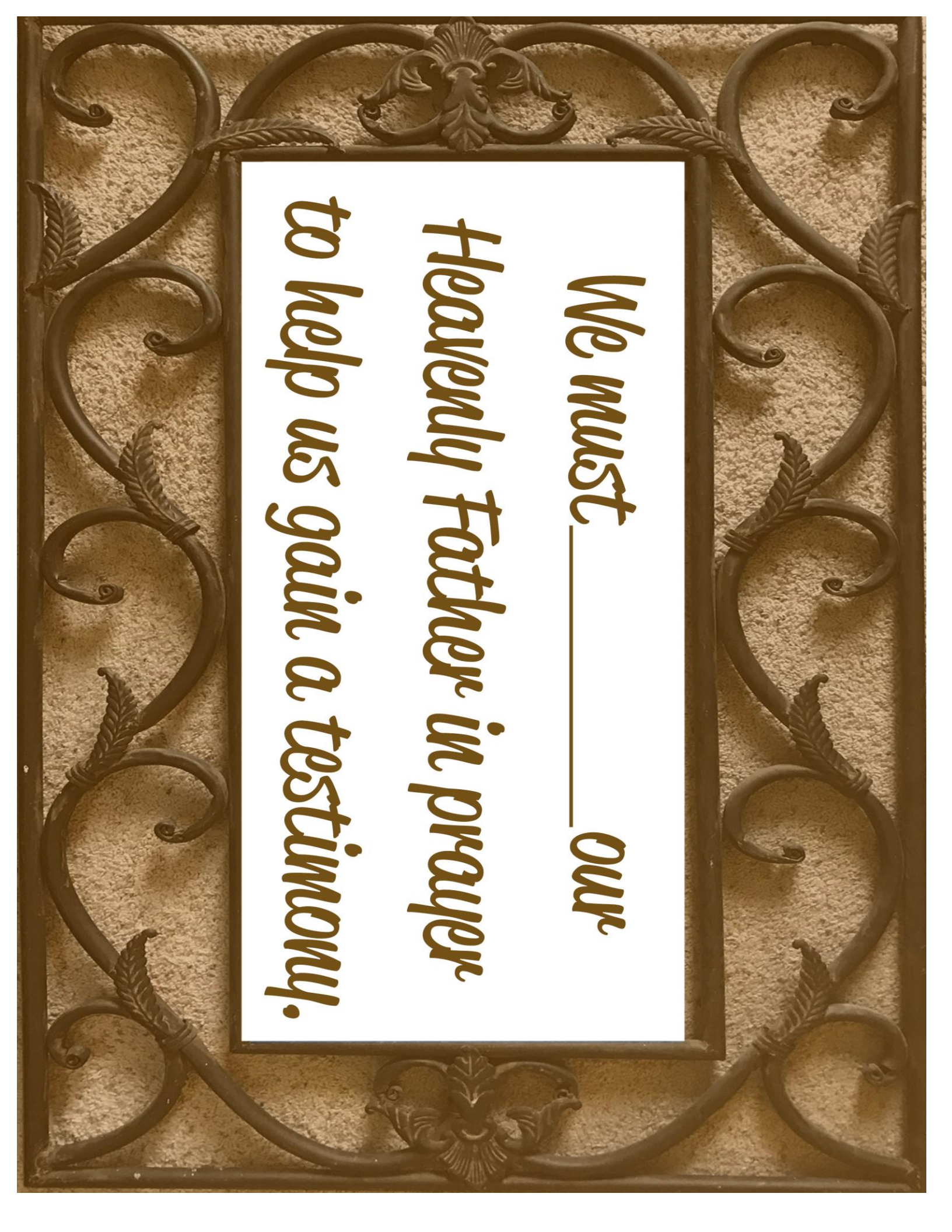
*To keep our testimony
we must _____
the commandments.*



*We must _____
the scriptures to increase
our knowledge of the truth.*

A decorative border of dark brown, ornate scrollwork surrounds the text. The scrollwork features intricate floral and leaf patterns, with a central fleur-de-lis-like motif at the top and bottom. The background is a light beige, textured surface.

*We must want a testimony
enough to _____
to gain one.*

A decorative frame made of dark brown, ornate scrollwork and floral motifs, set against a light beige, textured background. The frame encloses a white rectangular area containing text.

*We must _____ our
Heavenly Father in prayer
to help us gain a testimony.*

DESIRE

ASK

OBEY

WORK

STUDY

The background is a textured, light brown surface with a dark brown, ornate wrought-iron frame. The frame features intricate scrollwork and floral motifs. In the center, there is a white rectangular box with a thin dark border. Inside this box, the text is written in a black, cursive font. The text is arranged in three lines, with the first line being the longest and the second and third lines being shorter and centered under the first. The word 'one.' is written in a larger, bold font at the end of the third line.

*The first step in gaining
a testimony is to
_____*
one.