

Memorial Week

Activity Guide

By Eleasha Thorpe

This activity guide is designed to go along with the Bible reading schedule found at Appendix B12 of the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (2013) available free from Jehovah's Witnesses.

Whose excited for the upcoming Memorial??? We are! It's the most important night of the year and even though the occasion is a dignified and solemn celebration, the kids always look forward to it.

Reading the events of Jesus' final week can help prepare our hearts. Reading those events aloud to our kids is not always easy but they benefit too. This activity guide was designed with young children in mind but can be enjoyed by all who participate. Each activity compliments one of the portions of recommended reading each day.

Please Note: Since the Jewish lunar calendar counted days from sunset to sunset, and assuming you will be enjoying these activities before sunset, we will start counting from the daytime events of Nisan 9 which corresponds to our Tuesday March 27th. The activity for Nisan 14, then, will be on Sunday April 1st, 2018. The day after our Memorial Celebrations.

Want to start on Monday (Nisan 8)? Practice singing the songs to be used at the Memorial. Ask a local elder which songs that will be

Please read through all the activities ahead of time to make sure they will work for your family and to be prepared with supplies. Here is what you will need:

- Construction Paper or felt in gray (or brown), pink and green
- scissors, glue, tape, coloring pencils or markers
- plank of wood decking or similar about 3-4' long
- shallow plastic food container
- duct tape
- chocolate gold coins
- actual coins such as quarters or pennies, all the same except one
- flour, water, mixing bowl, measuring cups, baking pan, fork, oven
- at least 3 toy figures/persons
- shoe box or similar big enough to contain one of the toy people
- strip of cloth approx. 2"X10"

Nisan 9 – Triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Tuesday March 27

Dress up and role play.

1) Make donkey ears out of gray and pink construction paper or felt using the templates included in this guide, pages 12-13.

-Cut headband strips and large ear sections from gray (or brown, whatever you have) and cut the small ear sections from pink.

-Glue the pink sections onto the centers of the gray ears then fold in ½” from each side of each ear to sort of round the shape a bit .

-Fold up the bottoms ½” inward.

-Make a headband from the two strips of gray and size it to fit who ever will be the ‘beast of burden’ (I recommend a parent or older sibling).

-Attach the ears by gluing or taping the bottom folded section to the inside of the headband.

Bonus: get creative with your scraps and make a tail for your animal, attach with a small piece of duct tape.

2) Make palm branches using green construction paper or felt and the template in this guide.

-Fold the paper or felt lengthwise, lay template on top matching fold to ‘fold line’ and cut out leaf shape.

- Cut angled slits from outside edge, stopping ½” from fold. Open and wave!!

As a Family, act out the scene from Matt. 21:1-11. The person playing the donkey will give a piggy-back ride on hands and knees, to the person playing Jesus and everyone else can lay down the palm branches and their winter coats (because aren’t we all ready to throw those on the ground by now anyways? Haha)

Aim of the Activity: To feel the *excitement* of the crowd as Jesus rode in. Piggy-back rides are contagiously fun. Try switching up the roles for extra excitement.

Nisan 10 – Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Wednesday March 28

'Angry Jesus' game

Use a bit of duct tape to secure a shallow food container to one end of the plank. Lay the plank across something to elevate the center by enough so that the non-container end of the new 'see-saw' is about 12' from the floor. Fill the container with chocolate coins. Read Mark 11:15-17 out loud then stomp hard on the upward end of the plank sending the coins flying! Think Piñata... but with righteous indignation!

Now you have options:

- 1) let the kids loose to collect candy and eat it.
- 2) reload and take turns to see who can get the coins flying the highest.
- 3) make kids recite Jesus words from memory before they can stomp the plank

Aim of the Activity: feel the '*shock and awe*' of the scene, sense Jesus' *anger*! I suggest not telling the kids what you are up to the first time... let it surprise them, even startle them a bit.

Nisan 11 – The widow’s Contribution

Thursday March 29th

Design a personal contribution envelope

- Print one envelope template (included in guide) for each participant.
- Cut out along thin lines then fold along thick lines, do not glue yet.
- Personalise the envelope with pictures, designs or a note expressing your faith, gratitude or hopes made possible by the death of Jesus. You may sign it or remain anonymous.
- Fold and glue to create envelope.
- have child include their donation and seal the last flap.
- Bring it with you to the Memorial and place in the Contributions Box.

Aim of the Activity: to give thoughtful consideration to our Contributions.

Nisan 12 – Judas arranges betrayal

Friday March 30th

Traitor in the Room, a game

Note: Very little ones might not catch on, for them you could play a game of “Apostle, Apostle, Judas” (duck, duck, goose)

This game can be played with as few as four people but will be way more fun with a group of friends... can you say Playdate?

Set up: gather enough coins for the group, they all need to be similar EXCEPT ONE. One coin needs to be noticeably different: I suggest using all Canadian pennies, nickels or quarters and ONE American penny/nickel/quarter, but you could also mark one with a sharpie or a dab of paint. Put them in a paper bag or tuque (knit hat)

How to play:

-Players form a circle. Have one person go around to each player and have them select a coin without looking. He may look at his own coin but must keep it concealed from the other players.

-Players begin scanning the group one person at a time, making eye contact.

-Whoever selected the marked (different) coin is JUDAS THE BETRAYER. This player will start “killing” other players by blinking or winking at them (or some other agreeable but discreet action that does not make it obvious to anyone but the intended target). He/she must count to 5 before making another kill.

-If Judas makes the signal at another player, that player must ‘die’ (sit down, lay head on table, crash to floor? You pick, have fun with it, the more drama = the more distracting = the harder to solve 😊) they are now out and cannot speak or assist other players in any way.

-all the innocent Apostles (everyone with a regular coin) must be looking around with suspicion at each other trying to deduce who the killer is.

Make an accusation:

Apostles can make an accusation against another player saying to him “_____ (actual name, or stare them in the face) you are Judas the Betrayer”. If the accused is the killer then give that smart Apostle a prize! He/She just saved everyone’s life! But if the accused is not JUDAS, then the accuser is OUT and the game continues. The accused stays in the game.

-Don’t be afraid to accuse because if you find yourself face-to-face with Judas and you don’t accuse him, he just might blink at you and you are out anyway! No pressure!

How to win:

The game continues until either Judas has killed all but one apostle (Judas wins)

OR

Judas gets caught and accused. Guilty as charged! (Accusing Apostle wins)

This game is a variation of Wink. Google it for more versions

Aim of the Activity: To understand what it must have been like when Jesus told his apostles ‘one of you here will betray me’. Imagine the deep suspicion and denial!

Nisan 13 – Prepare for the Passover

Saturday March 31st

Make Memorial Bread

Together, view the video “How to Make Memorial Bread’ found on the JW Library App¹ at : Media->Our Meetings and Ministry->Meeting, Assemblies and Conventions->it is the seventh video in the line-up

How to make Memorial Bread

- 1) 1 Cup Wheat Flour (or substitute with corn, rice, barley, or similar grain flour)
- 2) Add ¼ cup of Water
- 3) Mix until dough no longer clings to the bowl
- 4) Gently knead dough on floured surface for 5 minutes
- 5) Separate into two pieces
- 6) Roll the dough until it is about 1/8 inch thick
- 7) Place on lightly oiled baking sheet
- 8) Prick dough with a fork all over
- 9) Bake in oven preheated to 450* F (230*C) for approx. 8 minutes
- 10) Break apart and serve

Aim of the activity: To help us meditate on the significance of the bread as we prepare our hearts and minds for tonight.

A New Family Tradition?

Our family happens to love lamb. One year, by chance, we had lamb for dinner on Memorial night and it quickly became our own little tradition. Do you have a family tradition for the day of the Memorial? If not, this bread could be a fun one to start.

¹ Available for free on most major App Stores, Published by Jehovah’s Witnesses

Nisan 14 – Jesus is Tried, sentenced, killed and Buried Sunday April 1st

Lay Jesus in the tomb and seal it, puppet show

Select a toy person or action figure to play the part of Jesus, dress him up.

Read through some of the passages and act out the scenes in a puppet show, use more toy people if desired. Include the scenes where Jesus is removed from the torture stake and placed in the tomb.

Wrap Jesus lovingly in the strip of cloth and place him in the shoe box.

Seal it well with duct tape to represent the stone rolled at the entrance. Now cry



Aim of the Activity: Grasp how quickly the events of Nisan 14 took place. It's amazing what can be accomplished in 24 hours! No one slept for, like, 36 hours.

Nisan 15 – Guards Posted at the Grave

Monday April 2nd

Post guards at the grave

Oh look, it's Monday again! Today's homeschool assignment is to learn what Roman guards wore.

- Dress up the other two toy figures to look like Roman guards (or make paper dolls by gluing drawings to cardboard)
- Read the account for today
- Place them at the door of the tomb.

Shhh! Just for parents: tonight, you will use the sharp knife to cut open the box and remove Jesus, then seal it back up so no one notices. Then hide Jesus somewhere fun. Make up some clue cards to help your kids find him after they discover he is missing.

This message will self-destruct in 3 seconds...

Aim of the Activity: To feel confident that nobody can steal the body of Jesus, especially not his followers. We wouldn't want them trying to make it look like he had been raised from the dead!

Nisan 16 – Resurrected, appears to disciples

Tuesday April 3rd

Shocking discovery and treasure hunt

It's time to prepare the body of Jesus for final resting with perfumed oils and such. Let's go open the tomb...

- Tell the kids to go open the tomb
- Share in the astonishment at the discovery the Jesus is missing!
- Give your kids the clues and watch them search for Jesus.

They will be thrilled to find him. Could he have more surprises for them? Sure, if you like, a small gift with their name on it would be an awesome end to all these activities. But it is not necessary. Let each family choose for themselves.

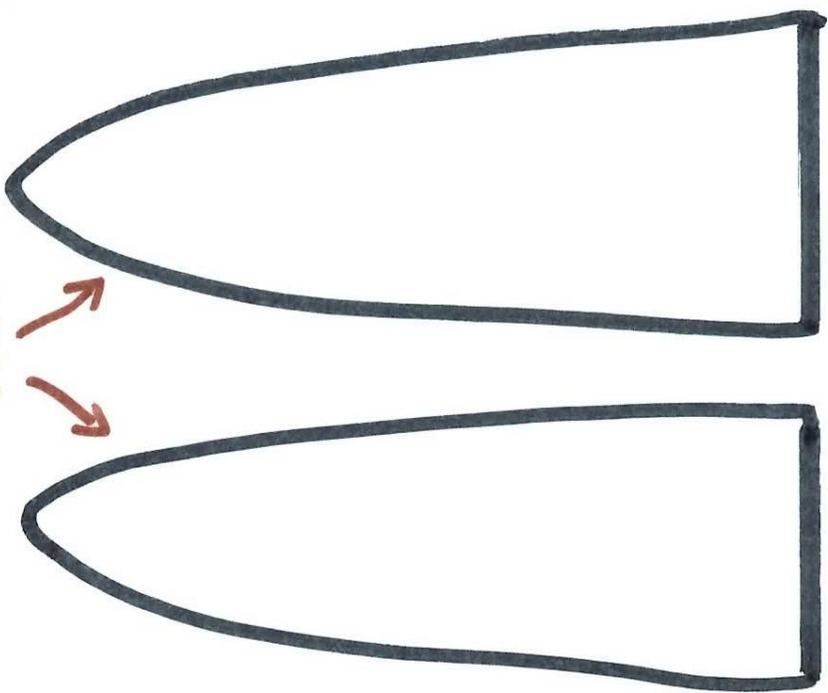
Aim of the Activity: So. Much. Joy!!!! Joy felt by Jesus friends when they see him again... Joy of family time spent reading all about it... Joy at all that we stand to gain from the Ransom being paid.

I hope you enjoyed this activity guide. Please tag me on Instagram if you post the fun you had with it @fun_family_homeschool. I also welcome feedback through e-mail at Nevradulmmnt@Gmail.com

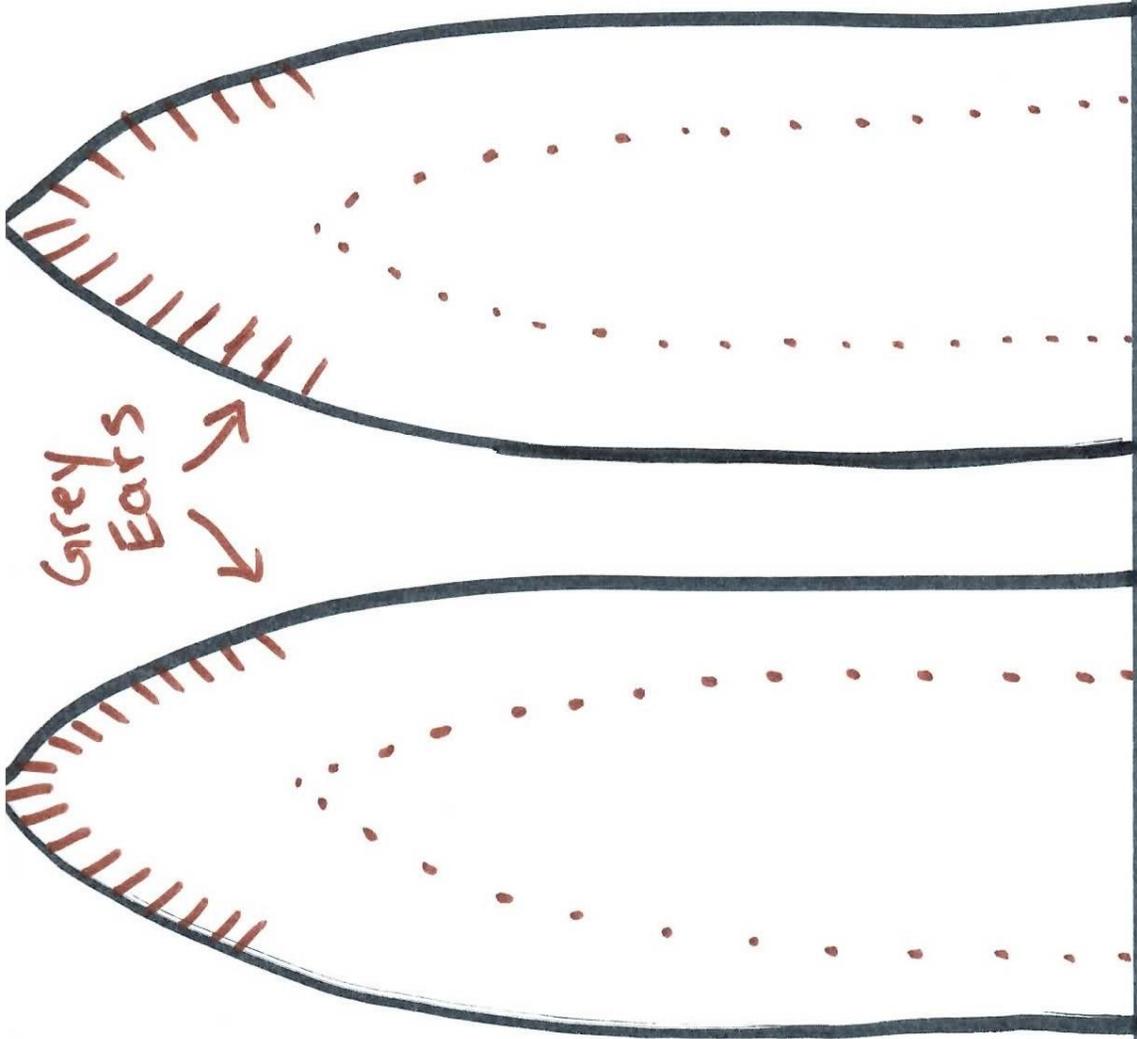
Best Wishes,

Eleasha Thorpe

Pink

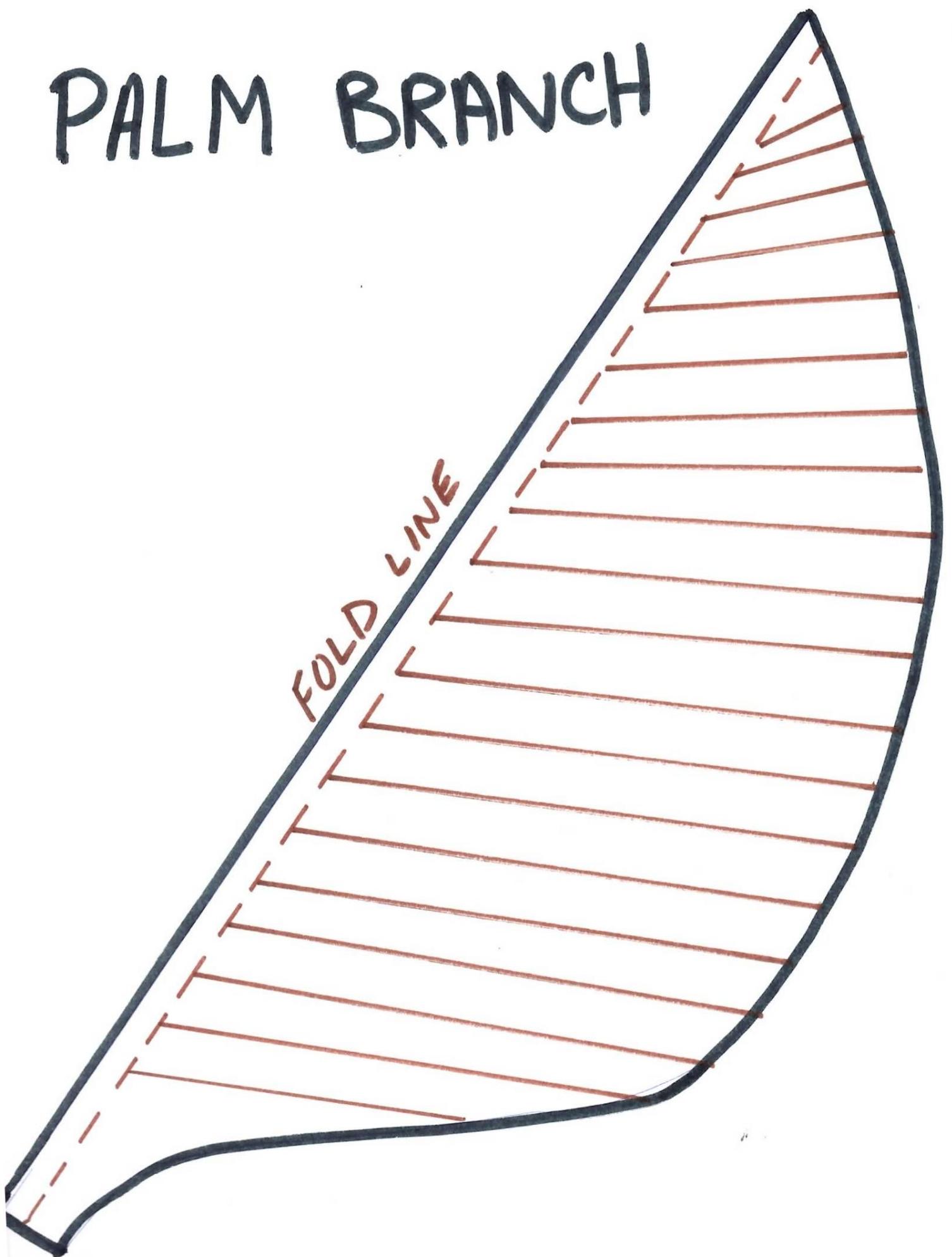


Grey
Ears



Head band strips x 2 Grey

PALM BRANCH



Contribution Envelope

