

Mission Together

Advent Activity: Prayer Lantern



Introduction

Create a quiet atmosphere for reflection, perhaps light a candle or play some gentle music. Explain to the children that you will be thinking about light.

Reflection

Ask the children to close their eyes and think carefully about light. Ask them to imagine a light they like. It might be the bright sunlight, a twinkling Christmas light or maybe a night light that helps them feel safe.

Explore together why light is important and how it makes us feel. Light helps us see. It guides us, it warms us. It can help us find our way in darkness or warn us of danger (for lights used for signals or emergencies). Light is something that is shared.

Explain that Jesus asked us to show our light and not hide it away. What might this mean? Elicit the idea that Jesus asks us to be the best we can be. He asks us to use our talents, help others and shine as brightly as we can. Our light is a gift from God and to let it shine is to honour and thank Him.

Invite the children to reflect on this. Can they think of a way they can let their light shine? Maybe they can reach out in friendship, nurture a talent, or help someone who is sad. Remember, letting your light shine doesn't mean showing it off, it means being the best you can be.

Tips

- The children could decorate the lanterns using different materials like glitter, felt tips, or stickers
- Hang the lanterns on a Christmas tree or from the classroom ceiling to create a great Advent display
- You might like to make the lanterns out of black card, cut out little windows and stick colourful tissue paper in the spaces for light to shine through

Activity

Explain that you are going to make Prayer Lanterns. On these Prayer Lanterns the children are invited to write their own Prayer of Light. This needs two important parts:

The first part should thank God for a particular source of light and explain why it is special (for example thanking God for the sun because it keeps us warm).

In the second part of the prayer the children should write how they can let their light shine (for example 'I will let my light shine by trying harder in maths lessons').

Use the lanterns to decorate your classroom and remind you of Jesus, the Light of the World.



Mission Together is part of the worldwide Missio network

Address: Mission Together, Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1NU

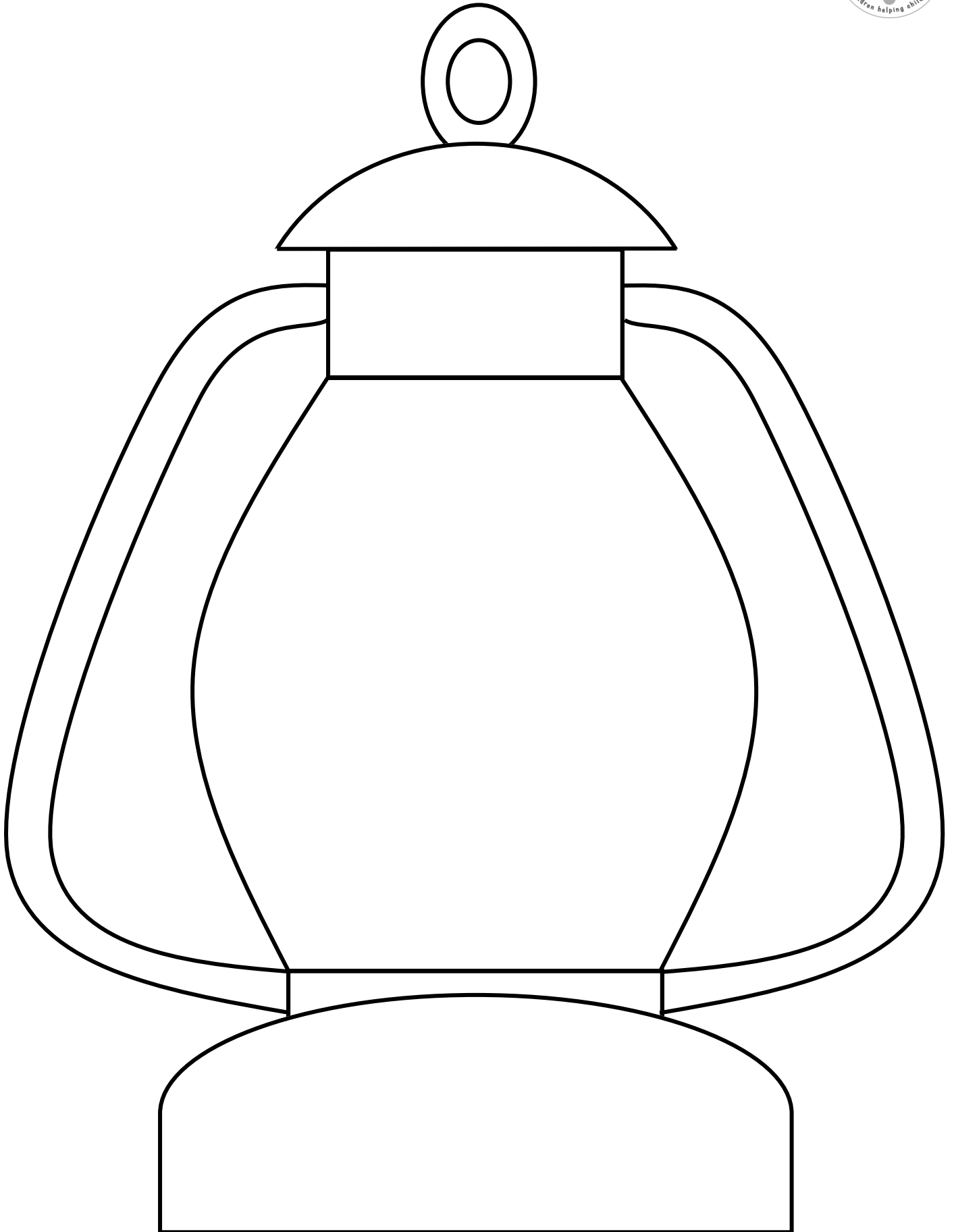
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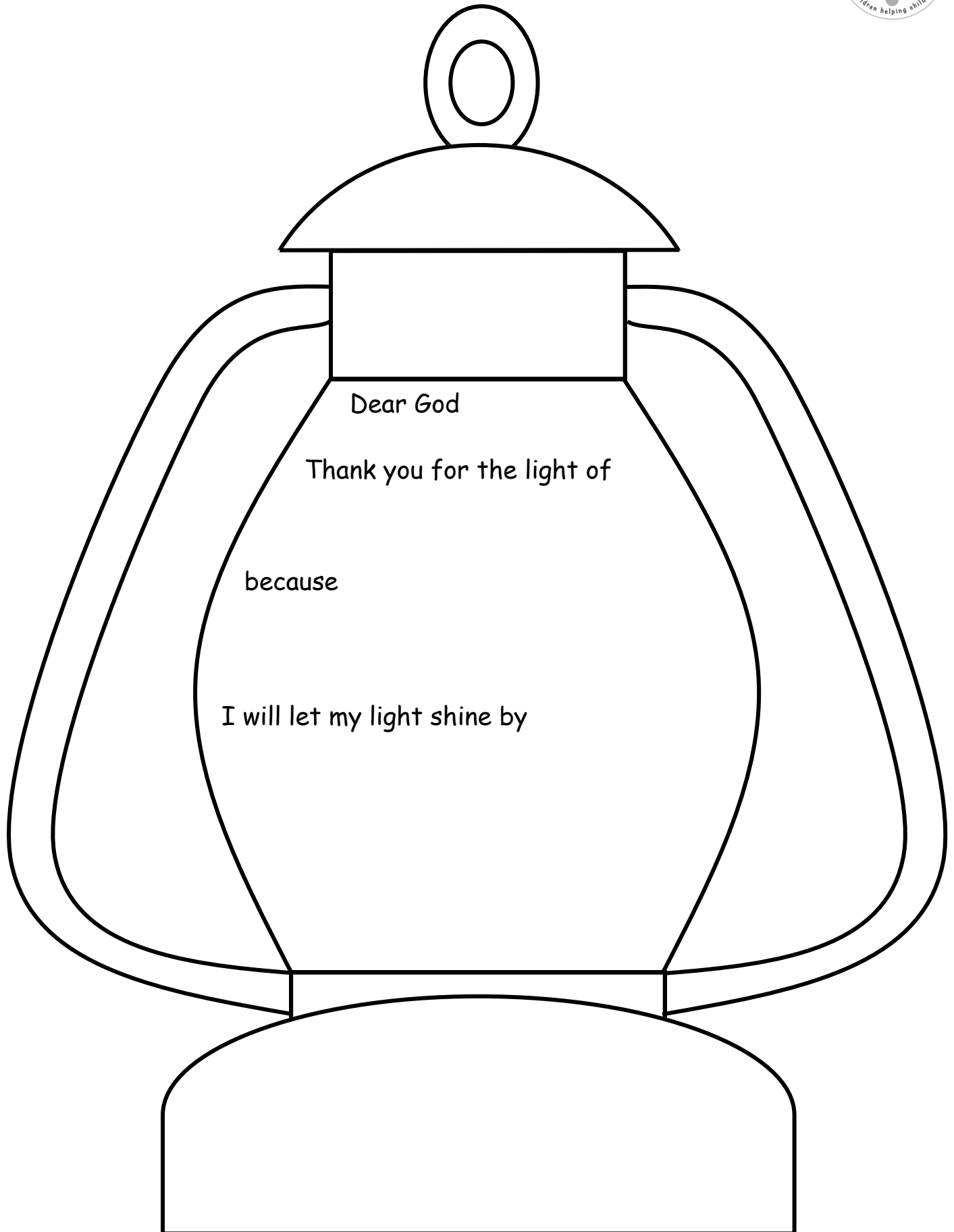
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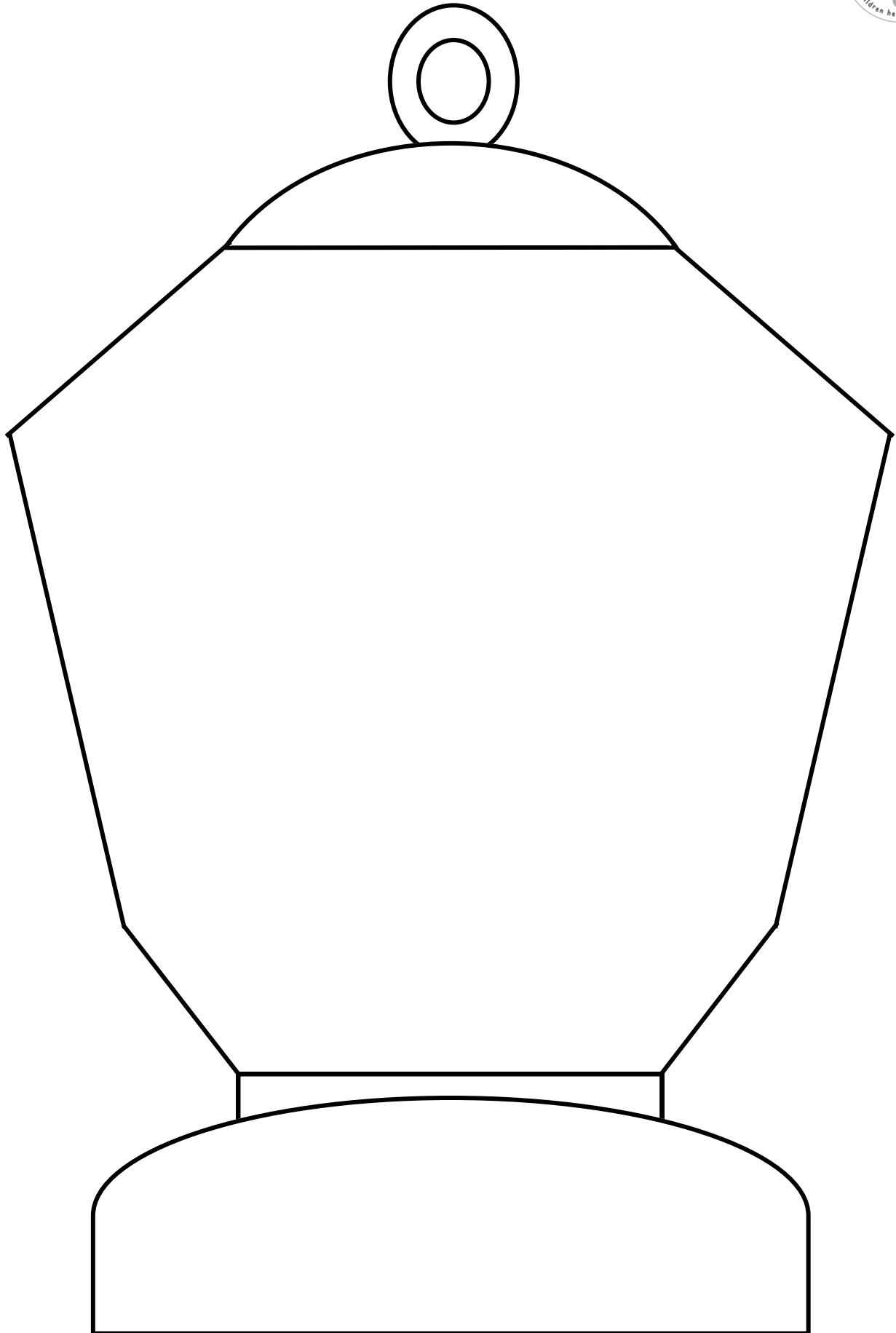
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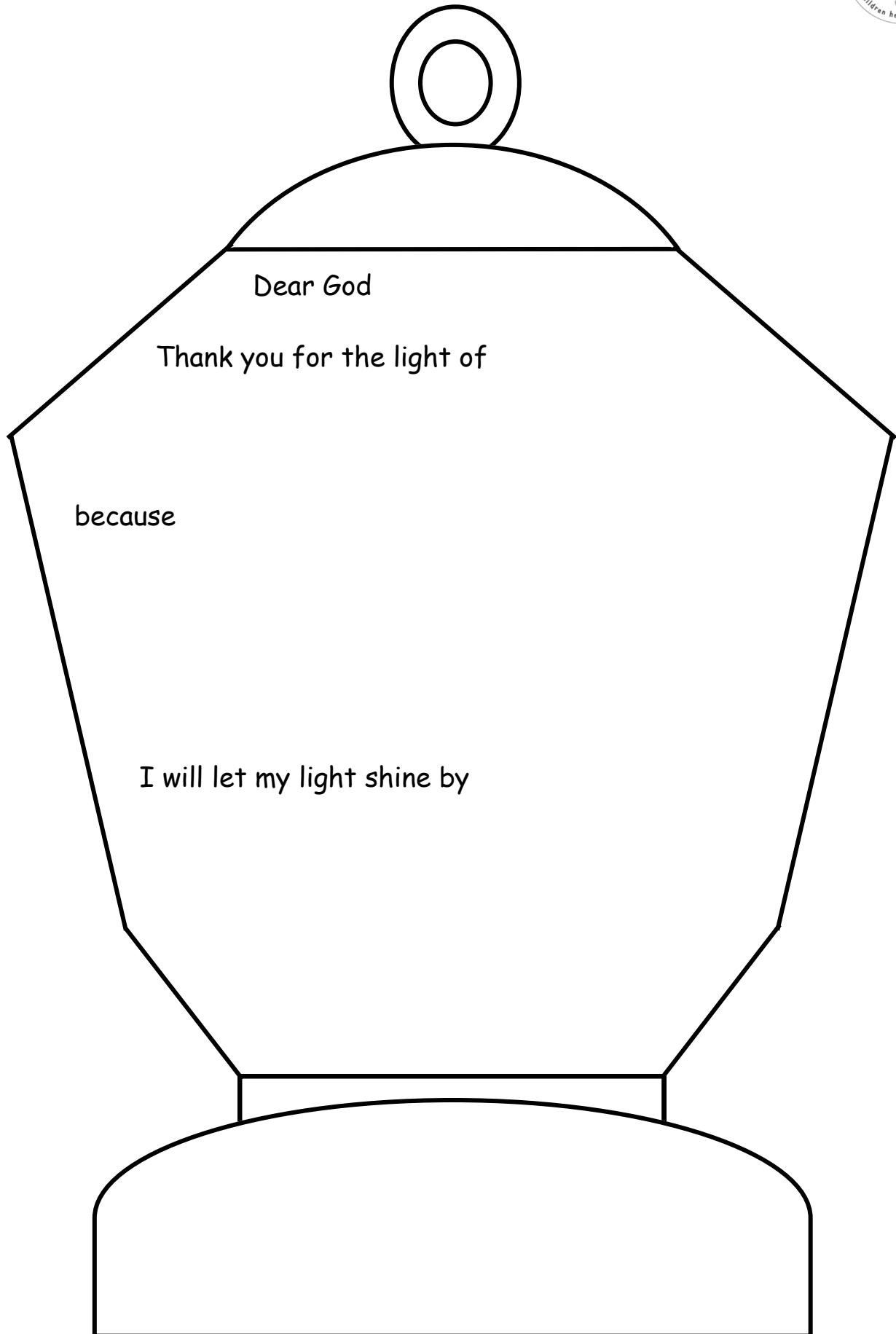
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Dear God

Thank you for the light of

because

I will let my light shine by