Bonus Activities

Older Children

Draw Together: Gather markers, paper, and string. Attach 4 pieces of string to each marker. Encourage your class to divide into groups of four and encourage children to each take a piece of string. They will have to work together to draw what you call out (ideas for what to draw include: a church, a tree, a heart, a rainbow, an animal, and a flower). Talk about how these two churches must work together to create something new.

All Ages

Who Are You?: For this game, pick several questions to ask children that are choosing between things (for example, is your favorite color blue, green, or something different? Do you love pizza, spaghetti, or something else? Do you like cake or ice cream better or neither?) When you ask children these questions, designate spots for them to stand in the corners of the room. Talk about the things we have in common.

Preschoolers

Hula-Hoop Pass: Have your class stand in a big circle. Place a Hula-Hoop on one child's arm and encourage them to join hands with the child next to them. Ask all the other children to join hands to close the circle. The object of the game is to pass the Hula-Hoop all the way around the circle without unclasping hands. Children will have to figure out how to maneuver their bodies all the way through the hoop to pass it on.

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

cbf

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Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

Theme Overview

Colonial Avenue Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA, have come together for a new beginning. They have begun dreaming new dreams of what a new congregation could look like. This session focuses on the theme of transformation.

Bible Verse

Isaiah 43:18-19

Forget what happened long ago! Don't think about the past. I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it? I have put roads in deserts, streams in thirsty lands.

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "What are your dreams for the future?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "Dreaming of the Future."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Dreaming of the Future

"Hi, Steven, it's Melissa. I've got an idea about a way forward for our two churches," said Rev. Melissa Scott, pastor of Colonial Avenue Baptist Church. "Wonderful!" said Dr. Steven Pollard, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. "I'm all ears!" "I think we should take our leadership teams to a Dawnings retreat. These retreats are designed to give congregations tools to transform how they view their ministry and missions efforts. Since we are taking our two churches and working toward a new congregation, it would be very helpful to dream with others about how our future could look," said Melissa. "That's a great idea, Melissa," said Steven. "Who would have thought that this would be possible? A year ago, we were looking for a place to land. And you guys were so kind to offer your space. And now, here we are, dreaming of a new future together! Let's get our leadership teams together and get ready." A few months later, Melissa, Steven, and their leadership teams were sitting together around a table, brainstorming how their future could look. As Dr. Stephen Cook and Mark Snipes led them, ideas for a way forward began to take shape. The congregations had spent three months discussing and praying about being open and transparent with one another. They had worked hard to grieve the past and to look with hope to the future. And now, they were discovering a way forward, where they could do more for the kingdom of God together than they ever could apart.

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: What are Calvary Baptist and Colonial Avenue Baptist working towards?
- **Ask**: Why do you think the two churches are looking for a way to move forward together?
- **Ask**: If our church could do anything, what would you want our church to do?
- **Say**: Calvary Baptist Church and Colonial Avenue Baptist Church are working towards a future together. Calvary Baptist Church sold their building and needed a place to worship. So Colonial Avenue Baptist offered them space. But then, they began dreaming of ways to unite the two congregations into a new church. Both churches needed a fresh start, and now they are looking to move forward together. They believe they can do more for the kingdom of God together than they could apart.
- **Pray**: Dear God, thank you for churches who are dreaming of what they can do for your kingdom. Help us to be open to new ideas too. Amen.

Colonial Avenue Baptist Church & Calvary Baptist Church

Colonial Avenue Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA, have come together for a new beginning.

STUDENT HANDOUT
APRIL 27, 2025

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About

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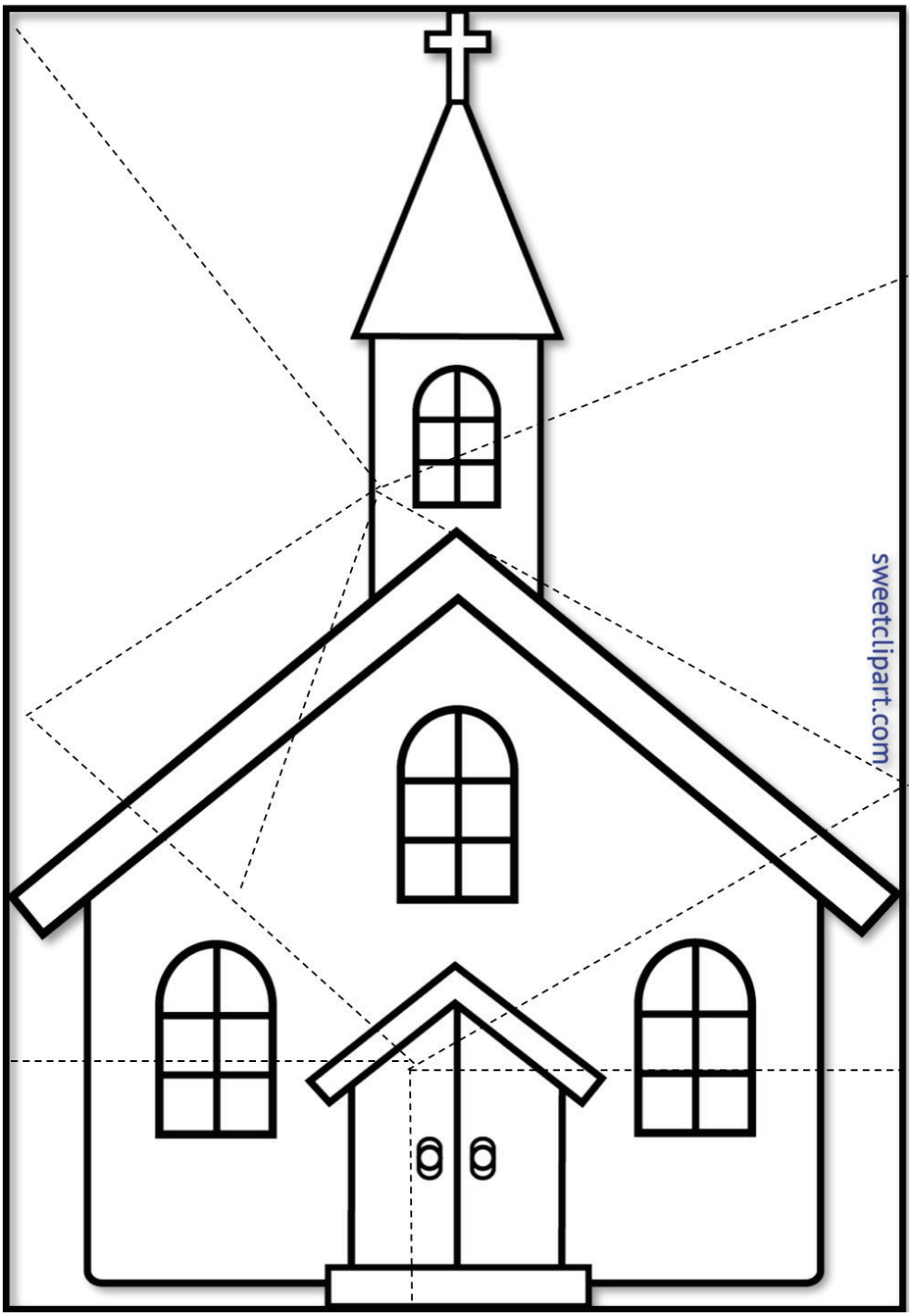
Create a Puzzle

Color the picture of the church and then cut it out along the lines. Then, try to put your puzzle back together!