



## Week 1

# HOPE IS FOUND IN JESUS

Talk with your kids about how the people of God waited long ago for Him to fulfill His greatest promise of sending a Savior to deliver them. Today, we know who our Savior is and how He delivers us, but we still long for His return. The promise of Jesus gives our hearts hope.

As you make the Tree of Hope ornament and hang it from a branch, rejoice in the hope you have in Jesus.

Say together: "We're so glad that our hope doesn't depend on what we can see but on faith in the One who sees everything."

BY **JENNY NANNINGA**  
PHOTOS AND CRAFTS BY **CARY BATES**

→→→←←←  
Create the  
Tree of Hope  
ornament as  
a family.

**"Now faith is  
the assurance of  
things hoped for,  
the conviction  
of things not seen."**

—Hebrews 11:1

# TREE OF HOPE ORNAMENT



Create three tassels, stack them and decorate a beautiful 3D Christmas ornament!



Cut a 3-by-3.5-inch piece of cardboard.



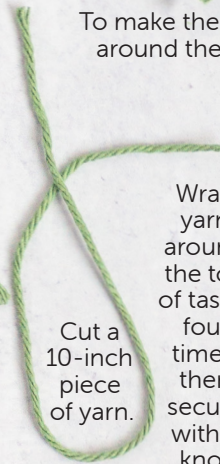
To make the first tassel, wrap yarn around the cardboard 15 times.



Cut a 10-inch piece of yarn and thread through the top of yarn wrap.



Tie a knot and cut bottom loop..



Cut a 10-inch piece of yarn.

Wrap yarn around the top of tassel four times; then secure with a knot.



Create a total of three tassels.



Apply glue to the top of each tassel. Stack the tassels by layering one tassel on top of another.



When the glue is dry, flip over and decorate with mini-pompoms and a star.



Cut a 10-inch piece of bead chain or yarn.



Thread the chain or yarn through the top tassel and tie off with a knot.

## GET CREATIVE

- These trees look great as a garland paired with wooden beads.
- Wrap the yarn more for a thicker tree.
- Use colorful pomps for a nontraditional look.

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## Week 2

# GOD'S PERFECT PEACE

As Christians, the Prince of Peace lives inside us, filling us with His supernatural peace. His peace helps us remain still and calm in spirit when troubles rage around us. As you craft your paper ornament, talk with your kids about finding peace in our perfect Peacemaker, not in imperfect circumstances.

Say together: "Peace is found in God and not in our circumstances."

BY **JENNY NANNINGA**  
PHOTOS AND CRAFTS BY **CARY BATES**

**"For he himself is  
our peace, who  
has made the two  
groups one and  
has destroyed the  
barrier, the dividing  
wall of hostility."**

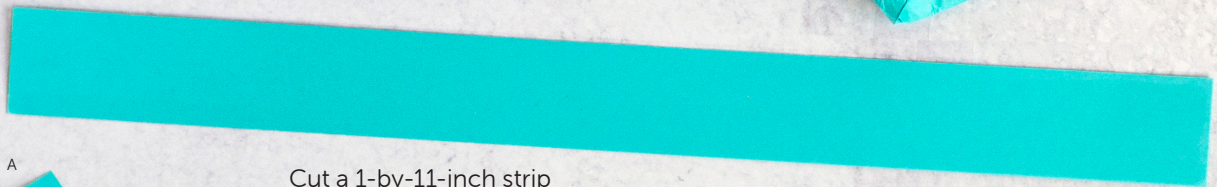
**—Ephesians 2:14**

**→→←←**  
Make this Bird  
of Peace  
ornament  
together.

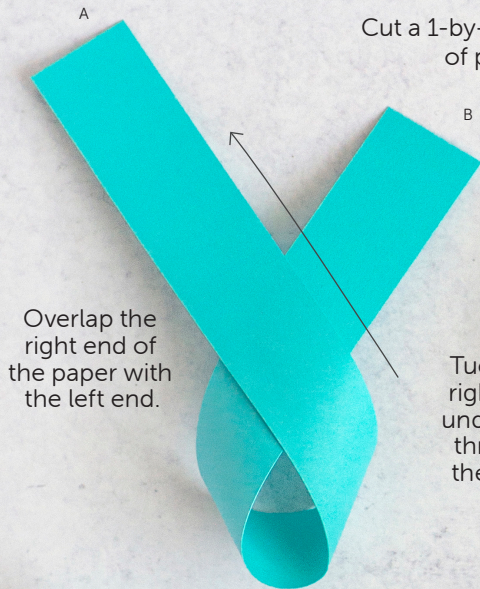
# BIRD OF PEACE ORNAMENT



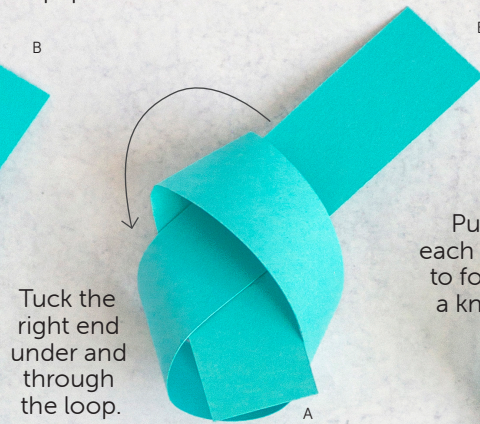
Make a simple, handmade ornament by tying a knot in a strip of paper.



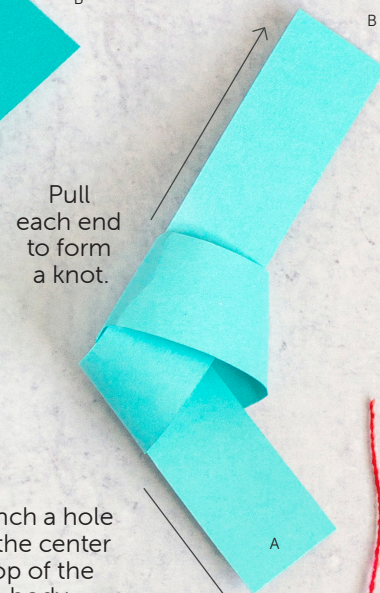
Cut a 1-by-11-inch strip of paper.



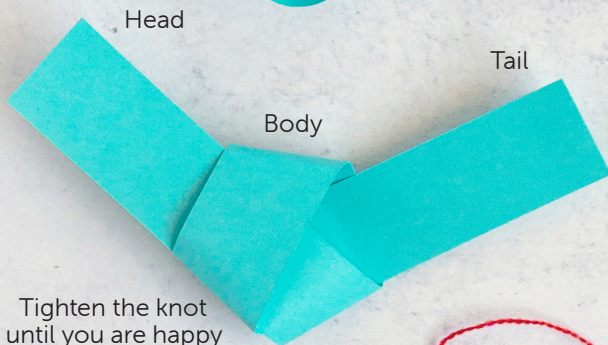
Overlap the right end of the paper with the left end.



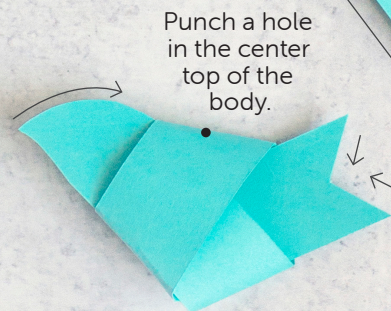
Tuck the right end under and through the loop.



Pull each end to form a knot.

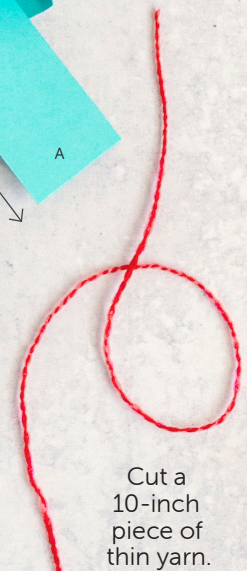


Tighten the knot until you are happy with the body shape of the "bird."

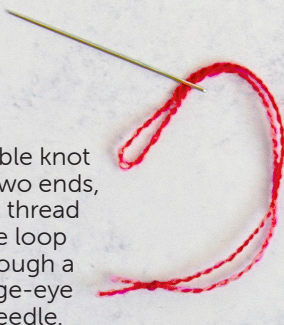


Punch a hole in the center top of the body.

Notch one end for the tail and round the other end to shape the head and beak.

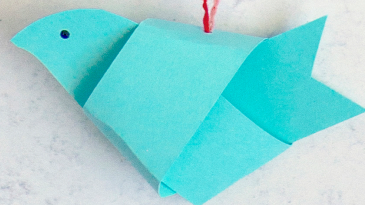


Cut a 10-inch piece of thin yarn.



Double knot the two ends, and thread the loop through a large-eye needle.

Thread the yarn through the hole, and add an eye with a marker or pen.



## GET MORE CREATIVE

- To add texture, crinkle the paper strip before folding.
- For variety, experiment with different paper widths to create larger and smaller birds.
- Use the birds as present toppers, garland or gift tags.

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## Week 3

# JOY COMES FROM GOD

Christians are on a journey that often holds many trials. If we look to our circumstances as the source of our joy, we'll inevitably end up disappointed. People, possessions and the pleasures of life will fail us, but God never fails. In Him alone is "fullness of joy."

As you make today's ornament, talk with your children about how joy comes from God and cannot be taken away, even in difficult times.

Say together: "No matter how difficult our path, we know that Jesus fills us with a lasting joy."

BY **JENNY NANNINGA**  
PHOTOS AND CRAFTS BY **CARY BATES**

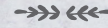
**"You make known  
to me the path of life;  
in your presence  
there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand  
are pleasures  
forevermore."**

**—Psalm 16:11**

→→→←←←  
Ball of Joy  
ornament  
directions to  
follow.



# BALL OF JOY ORNAMENT



A simple ornament made by stacking eight half circles.



Cut eight circles out of colored paper stock.



Fold all eight circles in half.



Glue the back half of one circle to the front half of another circle in the stack.



Continue gluing the eight circle halves together.



Do not glue the final circle halves together yet.



Cut a 10-inch piece of yarn, and fold in half.



Add glue to the center of the ornament and adhere the yarn.



Glue the final circle halves together.

## TIPS

- Mix up the amount of circles used to create a more dense or sparse ball.
- Use different paper for a more whimsical effect.
- A craft paper punch makes cutting out perfect circles quick and easy.
- Using double-stick tape helps secure the pieces while the glue dries.



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## Week 4

# GOD'S LOVE IS OUR HOPE

We don't have to earn God's love because His love is unconditional. God offers salvation to anyone who repents and trusts in Him.

Our hope doesn't rest in doing all the right things or having circumstances work out the way we desire. Talk with your kids about how our hope rests in a God, whose perfect love for us has guaranteed our salvation and future.

Say together: "God showed us His love by sending His Son as our hope and our gift of salvation."

BY **JENNY NANNINGA**  
PHOTOS AND CRAFTS BY **CARY BATES**

**"Hope in the  
LORD! For with  
the LORD there is  
steadfast love, and  
with him is plentiful  
redemption."**

**—Psalm 130:7**

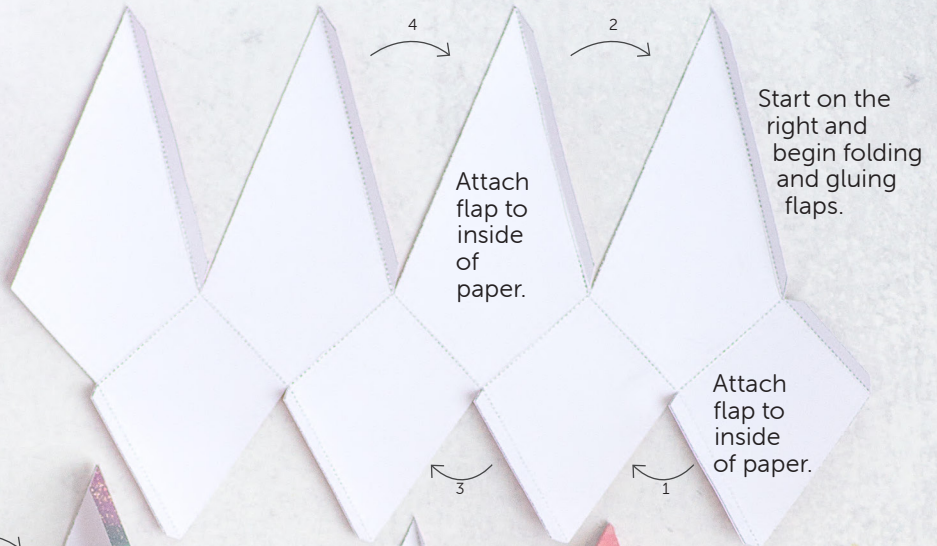
→→←←  
Create the  
Diamond of  
Love ornament  
together.

# DIAMOND OF LOVE ORNAMENT



A fun, easy-to-assemble, geometric ornament.

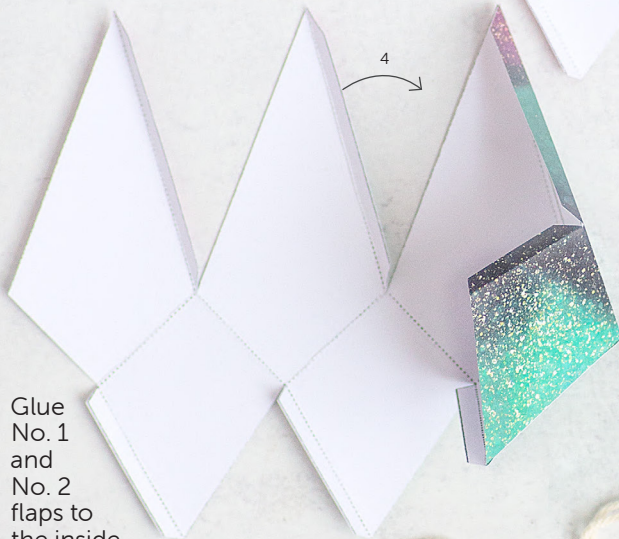
Print the following template onto the back of your choice of paper. Cut along the solid lines, and fold along the dotted lines of the pattern on the next page.



Start on the right and begin folding and gluing flaps.

Attach flap to inside of paper.

Attach flap to inside of paper.



Glue No. 1 and No. 2 flaps to the inside of the paper.



Glue the next two inner flaps.

Cut a 10-inch piece of string and tie a knot at the end.



Glue the knotted end of the string inside the diamond.



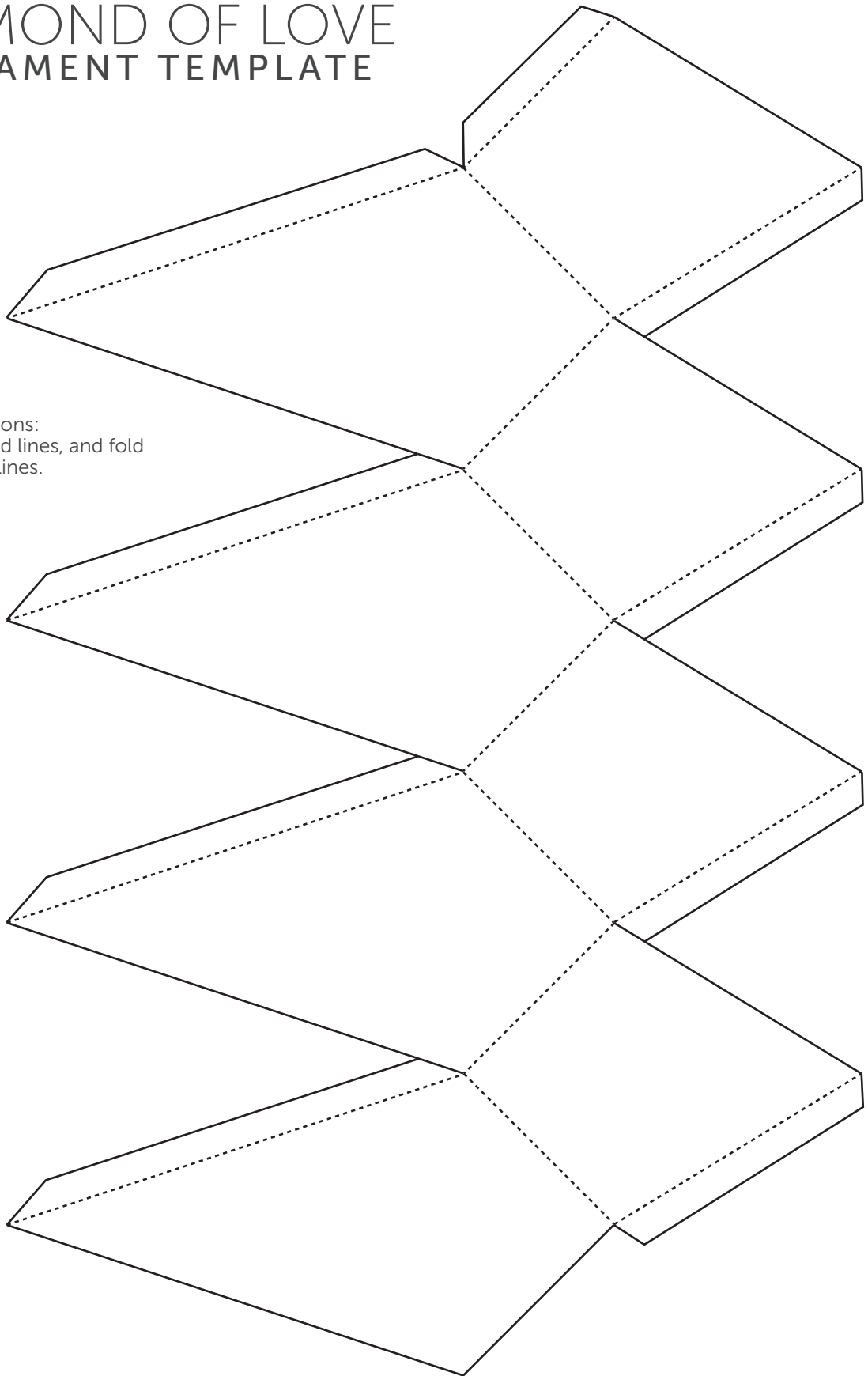
Finish gluing the remaining flaps.

## TIPS

- Print on the back of any paper to avoid seeing the template lines on the completed ornament.
- Scoring (making light cuts) the dotted lines makes folding easier.
- Allowing the glue to dry before moving to the next fold helps keep connections secure.
- Try printing the template in different sizes to get a variety of ornament sizes.

# DIAMOND OF LOVE ORNAMENT TEMPLATE

Template instructions:  
Cut along the solid lines, and fold  
along the dotted lines.



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