

The Secret Place – Closer

Have you ever felt separated from something or someone you love? Think about it.

- Have you ever been separated from your mom or dad when you didn't want to be?
- Have you ever moved away from a best friend?
- Have you ever not made a sports team or not made the team you wanted to be on?
- Lost your favorite toy?
- Moved away from your favorite place?

Discuss as a family what those experiences were like: Were they hard? What made it hard?

Often time it's the distance or separation from something or someone we love that is hard. The fact that they are really far away when all we want is to hold them really CLOSE.

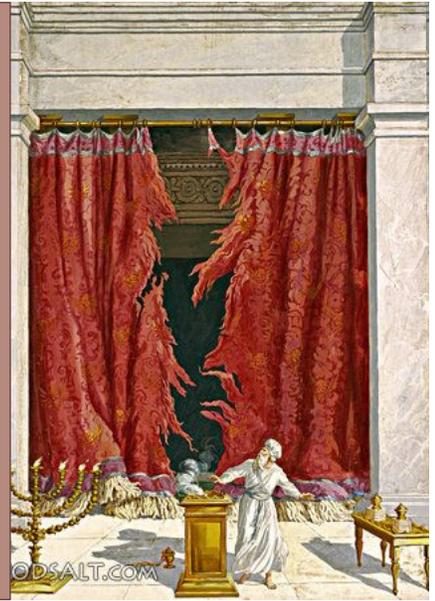
God feels that same longing and love for us when we are separated from Him. Sin is what separates us from Jesus. In the beginning with Adam and Eve, sin became a big wall that keeps us from close relationship with God. Like a wall around a castle keeping us out.

TRY THIS – Wall of Separation

Have everyone pair up or take turns. Find a heavy door in your house. Have one person sit on one side of the door and the partner sit on the other. Make sure the door is closed. **Now try these things: have a conversation; give a hug; give a gift; draw a picture of the other person.**

Was it easy or impossible to do those things with the wall between you? Nearly impossible I bet!

And **behold**, the curtain of the temple was **torn in two**, from **top to bottom**. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.
Matthew 27:51



When sin separates us, it makes it hard to have a close relationship with God.

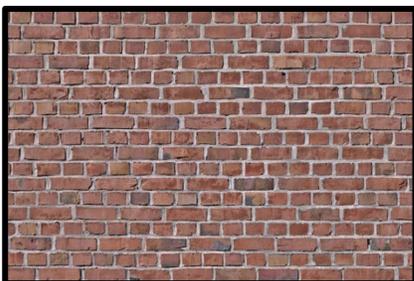
But when Jesus came to earth, He tore the veil, and broke the wall of sin that separated us for the people who repent and believe in Him!

Read Matthew 27: 45-54; 28:1-10

Now that the veil is torn we can be close to Jesus and live in His Kingdom ALWAYS.

Kingdom = the place where a King rules

We have been given permission to come into God's Kingdom and live there forever. Imagine living when knights and princesses and castles were still around. It would be like being invited to live in the palace with the King! How special is that!



All-Access Pass

Imagine you've been given an All-Access Pass to meet your favorite sports star or celebrity:

Whose someone famous you'd like to meet?

What would you want to ask them?

What would you want to know about them?

When the veil was torn, we were given an All-Access Pass to get to know King Jesus!

The song Closer show us how close:

*"Close enough to see the fire in your eyes
Close enough to hear your heartbeat
Close enough to feel the scars in your hands
Closer than I've ever been"*

How close do you have to be to hear someone's heartbeat, look into their eyes, feel their hands?

He has given us permission to get really close, to ask personal questions, to spend time with Him. To know Him like our best friend. What questions would you ask Jesus?

In the Secret Place we get to find out the answers!

But what is God's Kingdom like?

We read the Bible to learn about Jesus, the Kingdom of God and how to live in it!

OPEN DOOR ACCESS

1. Do a Truth-hunt in the Bible for what is in God's Kingdom. Use your Bible, the Bible App, google, etc. to help you
2. Color and print the castle printout on the next page or make a lego/block castle.
3. Now draw or write out all the things you found that belong to God's Kingdom and put them in the castle. You can use the paper tabs below to start
4. Hang this up in your room or house somewhere to remind you what you have access to through Jesus.

(for a really fancy castle template go to this link: <https://www.italwaysautumn.com/how-to-make-a-paper-or-cardboard-castle.html>)

It is these things that you have access to ALL THE TIME! No matter what you feel, this is Jesus' Truth that He gives us to live in. We have access to live in His Kingdom always.



Peace

Hope

Love

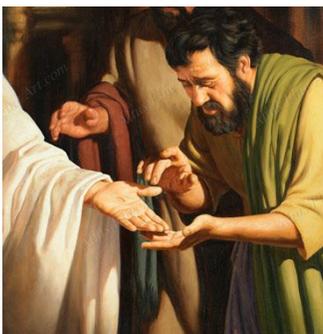
Joy



Truth

Humility

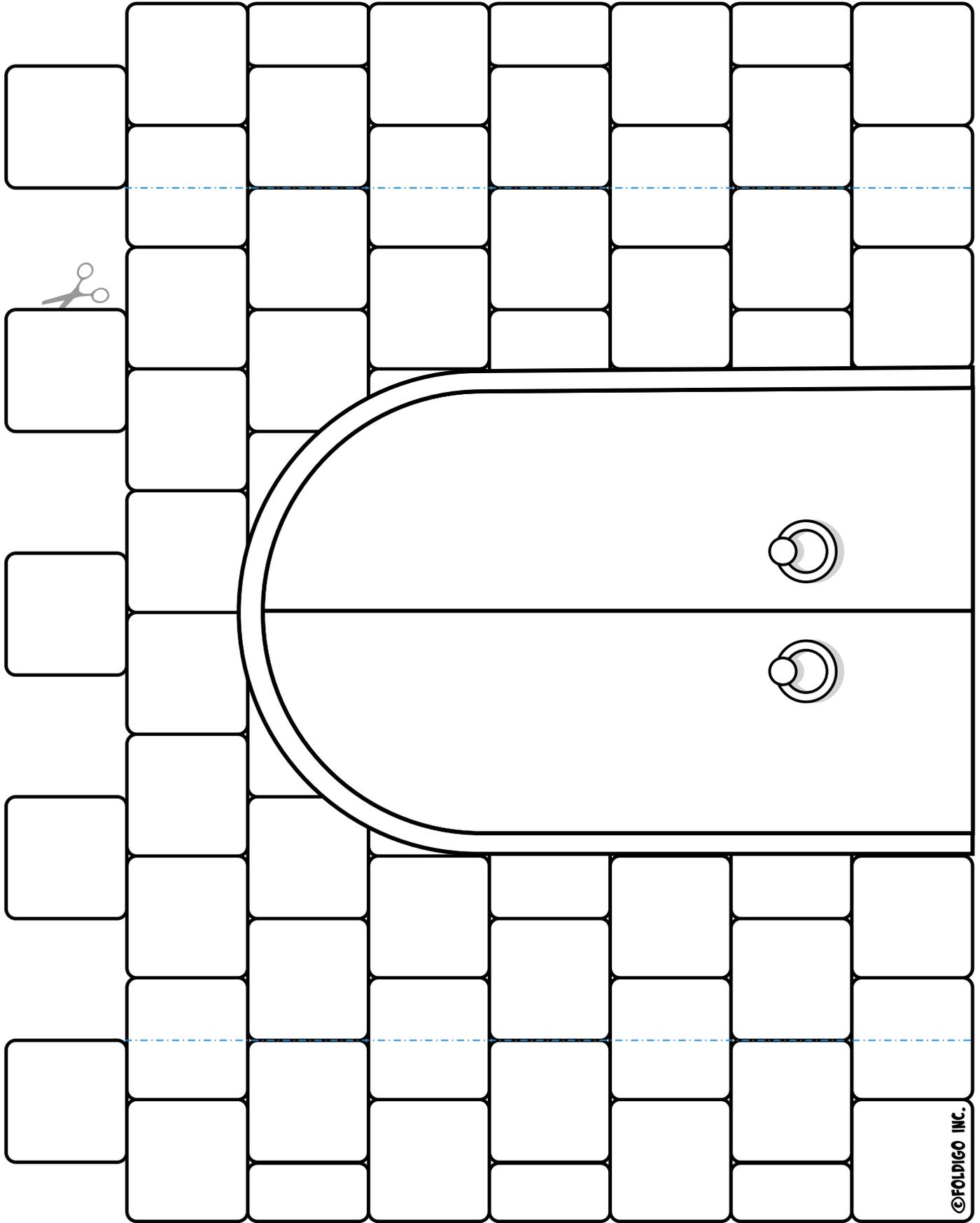
Mind of Christ



Righteousness

Forgiveness

Obedience



Make your own All-Access Pass to wear when you're in the Secret Place with God. As you spend time talking with God, let it remind you that you can talk to God about anything and you always have access to Him and His Kingdom.

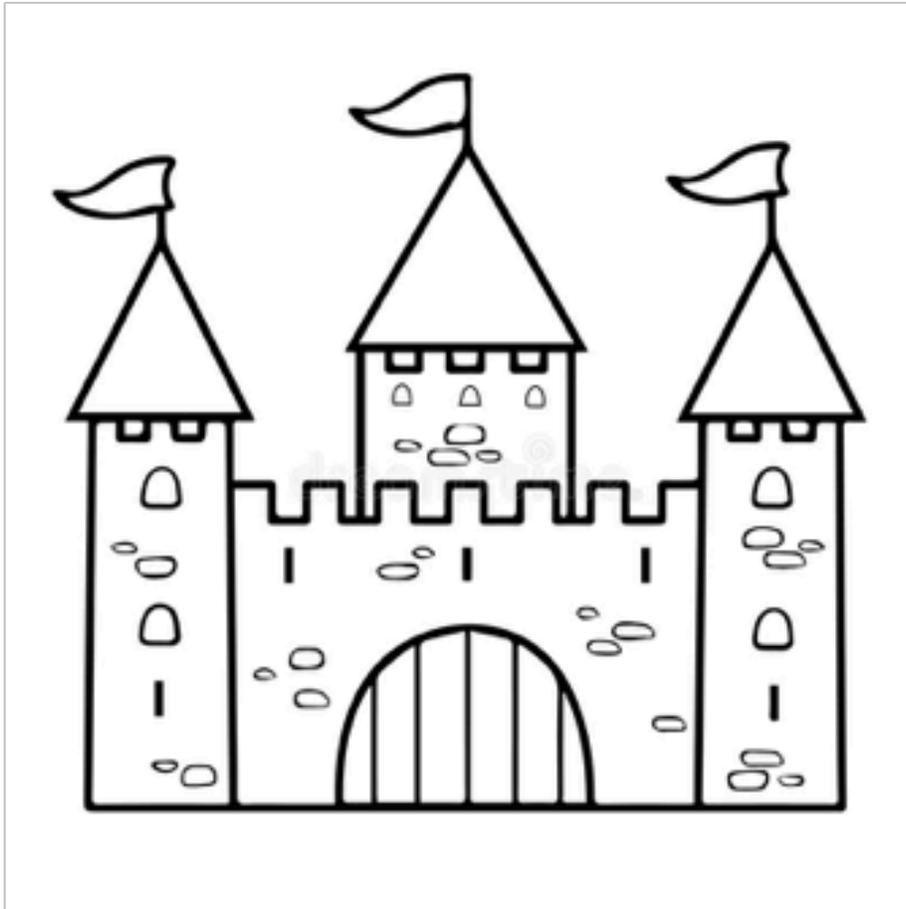
Make your own at home or print out this template below to color and draw.

Tie it on a lanyard to wear around your neck.

If you wear it to church next week, you will get a special prize from the Harbor Bank!



ALL - ACCESS PASS



TO MEET KING JESUS