

Joseph Goes to Jail

Joseph's Story
Genesis 39

Bible Point

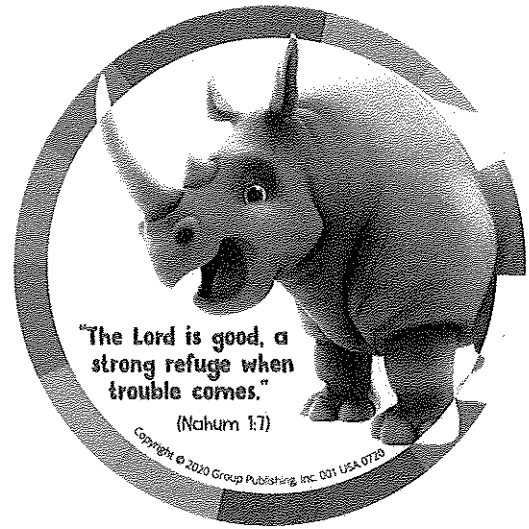
God is good no matter what...and can turn bad into good.

Purpose

You can likely relate to those seasons in life when everything seems to be falling apart and the challenges seem to be piling up. Those are the moments it feels like nothing is going right and never will again.

You're not alone. Some of God's most loyal followers have been there, too. The Bible offers lots of examples of people who lived through very hard times. But the Bible also shows us that no matter what's happening, God is always good. He doesn't change. And while bad things will still come up, God's our refuge. God is always working for our good. Best of all, he can take the bad stuff and turn it into the good stuff.

Kids can relate to hard times. They know what it's like to feel like everything is going wrong. This lesson serves as a comforting reminder to kids that God is their refuge; he's rooting for them, and that'll never change, no matter what's happening in their lives.



Prayer

God, you are so good. Thank you for never changing, for never abandoning us, and for being good all the time. May kids experience your goodness through our time together today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prep

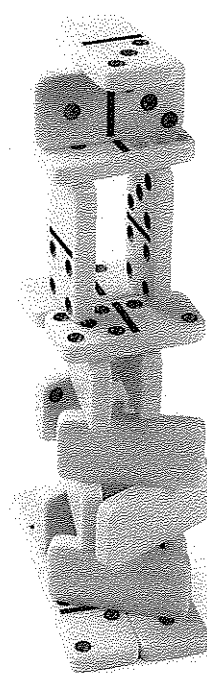
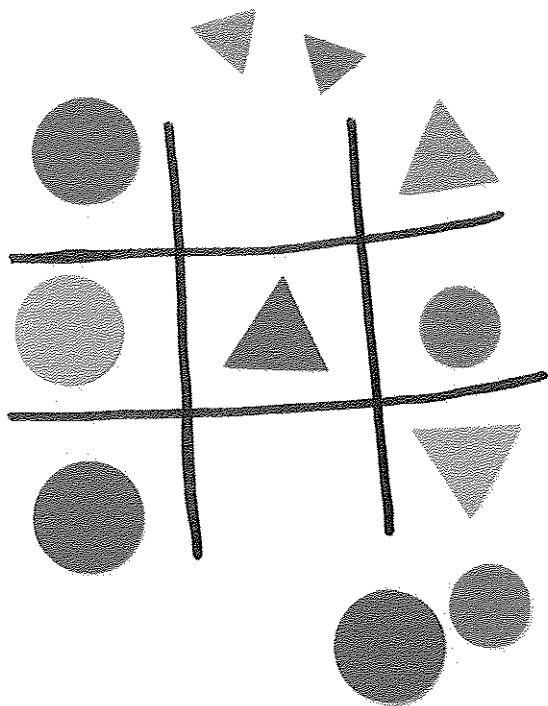
| Opening Options | Sing & Play | Bible Discovery & Friendship Finale | Apply-It Options |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Option Cards* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tic-Tac-Shapes</i> : assorted foam shapes, paper, pencils <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Domino Upl</i> : several sets of dominoes | <input type="checkbox"/> countdown video* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music Video</i> DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Buddy Video</i> DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> Mack Bible Memory Buddy poster* <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Nahum 1:7) | <input type="checkbox"/> "Joseph Goes to Jail" Bible Story poster* <input type="checkbox"/> Mack Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> Take-It-Home Flyers* (Unit 1, Week 2) (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Genesis 39:2-3, 4-6, 19-20, 21-23) <input type="checkbox"/> treats (<i>optional</i>) (1 per child) | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Explore More</i> : Bibles, white plates (1 per Crew), small cups of water (1 per Crew), black pepper, liquid dish soap <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Game</i> : no supplies |

* in your **Simply Loved Kit**



Opening Options

Set up one—or both—of these intro activities to start your time together. Each activity connects kids to the Bible Point and to each other. Cut apart these Option Cards, and place one by each activity you choose. Crew Guides will follow the directions and build friendships with kids as they make discoveries together!



Tic-Tac-Shapes

Supplies

- assorted foam shapes, paper, pencils

Draw a large tic-tac-toe grid on paper. Set out two different sets of five foam pieces.

Play tic-tac-toe using the foam pieces.

- ?** Tell about a game you're really good at.
- ?** What's your favorite thing about winning?

In our Bible story, we'll discover that God is good no matter what. God is always here, working for us, even when things seem like they're going wrong.

Domino Up!

Supplies

- several sets of dominoes

Lay four dominoes flat on the table to make a rectangular base. Take turns carefully adding one domino at a time to create a domino tower that won't fall.

- ?** What was more stressful—watching others add to the tower or adding to it yourself? Why?

God is good no matter what. Even when things are nerve-racking or feel impossible, God always loves us and wants what's best for us.

Opening

Now's a great time for Opening Options. Choose one—or both—to introduce today's Bible discoveries.



countdown video (1 minute)

Help kids transition, clean up the activities, and sit with Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a small group of kids with one Crew Guide.

Sing & Play

Hey, friends! Let's get started with some supersize fun! Let's begin with a song!



"God Is Good" music video

Bible Point

God is good no matter what. That's our Bible Point today. So every time you hear the words "God is good," pump your fist in the air and shout, "No matter what!" Let's try that together.

- Repeat several times.

God is good (*no matter what!*), and God can turn bad into good. He's a friend who's always with us. Let's praise God with another song.



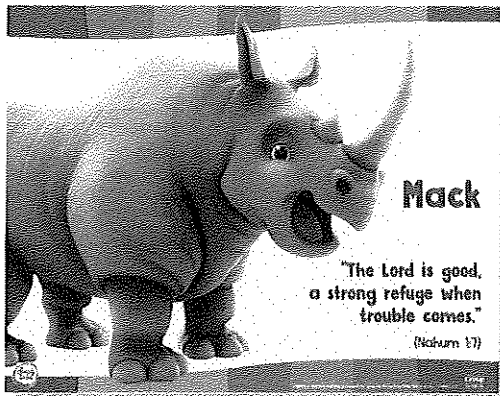
"Doxology" music video

Repetition cements learning, so be sure to say today's Bible Point A LOT. Have fun with it! Kids will love listening for it and responding with "...no matter what!"

Supplies

- Bible
- media player
- *Music Video* DVD
 - "God Is Good" music video
 - "Doxology" music video
 - "Good in Every Way" music video
- *Buddy Video* DVD
 - Mack Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 2)
- Mack Bible Memory Buddy poster





Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

Mack the rhinoceros is our Bible Memory Buddy. Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster. Rhinos are very interesting and unique creatures. Let's see what you know—or don't know—about these enormous animals with a This-or-That Challenge! You'll hear two fun facts about rhinos. It's up to you to decide which is true—this fact or that!

- ❓ Is a rhinoceros a meat eater or a plant eater?
- Have everyone say "Me want meat!" to vote for *this* (a meat eater) or "Me want veggies!" to vote for *that* (a plant eater).
- Make a drumroll sound by patting your thighs or the floor.
- Dramatically give the answer: **Rhinos are plant eaters!**
- Watch the Mack Bible Memory Buddy video.



Mack Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 2)



Show the Bible. **The Bible is God's true story of love, written just for us. The Bible has two main sections: The Old Testament and the New Testament, which tells about after Jesus came. Our Bible Memory Verse is Nahum 1:7 in the Old Testament. Let's say the verse together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat after me.**

**"The Lord is good, (put hands over heart)
a strong refuge (place hands over head to make a roof)
when trouble comes." (hand over brow, peering into distance)**
(Nahum 1:7)

God is good (no matter what!). God is good in every way. He's our refuge, our safe place, taking care of us even when everything seems wrong. Let's sing about that!



"Good in Every Way" music video

Bible Discovery

Circle Up & Connect

Let's circle up and spend a little time simply getting to know each other in smaller groups called **Connect Crews**.

- Arrange kids into Connect Crews, with one helper—or Crew Guide—per group.
- Invite kids to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Connect Crews.
- Have kids give their Crew Guides and each other elbow high-fives.
- Have kids take turns saying their names and answering this question. Crew Guides go first.
- ❓ **If you were a servant in a castle, where would you want your castle to be, and how would you serve? Why?**

Experience the Bible Story

Let's explore a story from the Bible. But instead of just listening to a story, you'll actually help me tell it and play an important part!

There was a man named Joseph. He'd had a lot of things happen in his life that weren't very good: his brothers were mean, and he ended up in Egypt, which was far from his home. But he still loved God, and God loved him. Joseph had faith that God is good *(no matter what!)*.

Despite all the bad things that had happened, God was there, helping Joseph each step of the way. Joseph was forced to become a servant in the house of a very rich Egyptian officer named Potiphar. Let's pretend to be Joseph and pack our bags and take them to our new house—Potiphar's house!

Have everyone pretend to pack a bag, carry it to one corner of the room, set it down, dust off their hands, then sit with their Connect Crews in the new place. **Let's find out what happened after Joseph became Potiphar's servant.**



Read aloud Genesis 39:2-3.

Even though being a servant in a strange place was bad, God helped Joseph be successful at everything he did.

Let's see if *you* can be successful at whatever you do, too. Are you ready to try a few challenges? Here's the first one. Can you pat your head and rub your stomach at the same time? Pause. Can you wink your left eye? Pause. How about your right eye? Pause. Can you say, "She sells seashells by the seashore" five times fast? Pause.

Some of you Josephs were successful in all those tasks. So high-five a friend or two and say "Well done!" Pause.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Joseph Goes to Jail" Bible Story poster
- treats 🍪 (optional) (1 per child)

❗ **Allergy alert!** Check for food allergies or limitations before serving.

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply circle up with the kids. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

Joseph was successful because God was with him. Even in a bad situation, God was working for good. Let's see how Joseph's boss, Potiphar, felt about it.



Read aloud Genesis 39:4-6.

Wow! It sounds like everything was going great for Joseph! Life was pretty good—everything he did was a success, and Potiphar saw just how talented Joseph was. So Potiphar trusted Joseph with his most precious things. But then, something went wrong.

Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph and got him into trouble. She told Potiphar that Joseph did something bad—but it wasn't true! Have you ever gotten in trouble for something you didn't do? How did that feel? Give a thumbs-up if it felt good or a thumbs-down if it felt bad. Pause. It's not a very good feeling, is it? Let's talk about it in our Connect Crews.

- Have Connect Crews sit in knee-to-knee circles.
- ❓ **Tell about a time you got in trouble for something you didn't do.** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Give Connect Crews several minutes to discuss, offering a 30-second warning when it's time to wrap up the conversation.

Thanks for sharing. Joseph didn't do anything wrong, but Potiphar threw Joseph in jail. Let's read what happened.



Read aloud Genesis 39:19-20.

Oh, boy! Even though Joseph had always been super loyal, Potiphar believed his wife. Potiphar was so angry he had Joseph march off to jail, where he would have to stay. Let's go!

- Have everyone march to another smaller area of the room and squeeze together inside a "jail cell." It should be a little cramped and uncomfortable.
- Then pretend to lock the door and toss the "key" over your shoulder.
- Show the Bible Story poster.

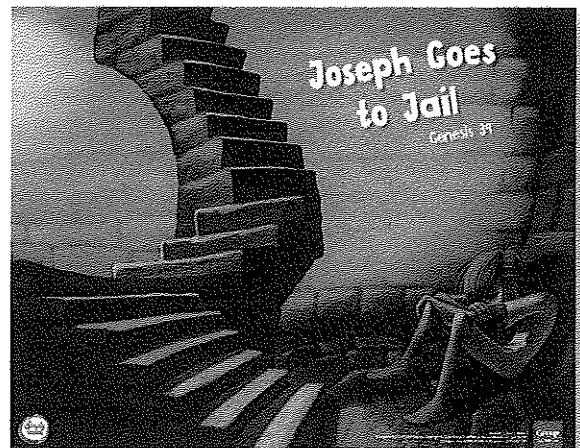
Poor Joseph. He'd spent all those years as Potiphar's faithful servant only to be wrongly accused and thrown in jail. Things seemed pretty hopeless for Joseph. He may have felt like giving up. Have everyone hang their head in despair.

But wait! God wasn't done yet. That's because God is good (no matter what!). Let's read what happened next.



Read aloud Genesis 39:21-23.

That Joseph! He was successful again! God never left Joseph. Even though Joseph's situation wasn't good, God was always good. Let's get out of this jail.



Pretend to open the jail door, then leave the small area and return to where you started in the room.

God is good (no matter what!). Joseph could always rely on God. And so can we! I'll name some highs and lows that can happen in a typical day. If you think God is good (no matter what!), call back, "God is always good!"

- **I got out of bed this morning and stubbed my toe!** (*God is always good!*)
- **Then I won the science fair!** (*God is always good!*)
- **Then I failed my math test.** (*God is always good!*)
- **Then I had an argument with my friend.** (*God is always good!*)
- **Then my friend and I made up!** (*God is always good!*)
- **Then my dad made my favorite dessert.** (*God is always good!*)
- **Then I got grounded.** (*God is always good!*)
- **Then I got to start over the next day.** (*God is always good!*)

God is good (no matter what!). It's easy to see God's goodness when things are good. But we can also see his goodness when things are bad. Even when bad things happen, we rely on God's goodness to help us.

The Heart of the Matter

Beforehand, if you'd like, place a treat for everyone at the far end of your room. Cover up the treats so kids don't notice them.

- Stand near the wall that's opposite the treats so they are far away from you.
- Have everyone stand in a line across the middle of the room, facing you.
- **Your goal is to stay as close to me as possible—and I have a surprise treat for you!**
- Have each person think of a number between 1 and 10, and when you say "Go!" hold up that many fingers.
- As you look at the fingers people are holding up, randomly choose a number and a negative action. For example:
 - If you're holding up five fingers, take two steps backward.
 - If you're holding up seven fingers, moonwalk two steps backward.
 - If you're holding up three or four fingers, take two giant jumps backward.
- When some kids are far away from you, but near the treat, stop and discuss the experience.

Whoa! Some of you are pretty far away.

❓ **How did it feel to choose numbers that took you backward?**

You could read Joseph's story in the Bible and think that he was pretty unlucky. Bad stuff seemed to hold him back. But God is good (no matter what!). God is still at work in the bad times even when we don't understand what he's up to. And God can turn bad into good! In fact, those of you who moved backward are close to something good right now. Give kids directions to find the treats, allowing the kids closest to enjoy first.

Instead of giving kids a treat, you could do an activity kids like and have kids farthest away from you go first. Perhaps it's a trip to the water fountain, a favorite game, or the opportunity to hand out papers or other supplies.




Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one—or both—of the following reinforcement activities to support today's Bible discoveries before the Friendship Finale.

Apply-It Options

Choose one—or both—of these activities to support kids' learning after Bible Discovery.

Explore More

Supplies: Bibles, white plates (1 per Crew), small cups of water (1 per Crew), black pepper, liquid dish soap

 Distribute Bibles, and help kids find and read Genesis 39:21 together.

- Give each Crew a plate and cup of water.
- Pour a thin layer of water in the plate.

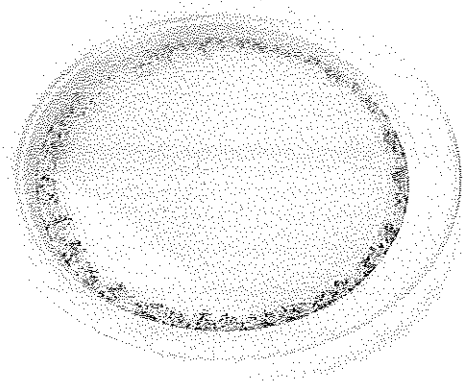
Joseph had a lot of good things going for him, even though he was a servant. This pepper is like all the good stuff happening in Joseph's life—it just kept coming!

- Pass around black pepper to each Connect Crew to sprinkle onto the water.
- Have everyone put a tiny amount of dish soap on a fingertip, then touch the water at once. The pepper will move away!

Everything Joseph touched turned good. But something happened that changed everything. And the good things went away!

- Pass around the dish soap to each Connect Crew.
- Have everyone put a tiny amount of dish soap on a fingertip. On the count of three, everyone touches the water at once. The pepper will move away!

Even though good things went away, God was still working for Joseph's good. God is good (*no matter what!*).



Game

Supplies: none

- Have kids spread out in your activity area.
- Choose one child to be "It."
- Play a game of Snake Tag where anyone tagged by It joins hands with It and helps tag others by becoming a "snake." The goal is to get as many kids attached as quickly as possible.
- When the chain gets long enough that almost everyone has joined, call out "Scatter!" Everyone must separate, and a new It starts a new round. Play several rounds.
- ❓ **What was it like to get your chain so long only to have to start over?**
- ❓ **How was our game like or unlike what happens when life is challenging or hard?**

God is good (*no matter what!*). Even when things are bad, God won't let go of us and leave us on our own.



Friendship Finale

Invite kids to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Connect Crews.

I'm so grateful that no matter what's happening in our lives, God is good (no matter what!). He can turn bad into good.

Our Bible Memory Buddy Mack helps us remember God is good (no matter what!). You'll each receive a Mack sticker to help you remember God's goodness throughout your week. You can wear it or take it home with you. Crew Guides will give each person a sticker like this.

- Ask a willing child to help you demonstrate the following actions.
- Crew Guides cup their hands together on their noses to make a rhino's horn while holding a Bible Memory Buddy sticker between their hands. Kids will do the same, using their "horn" to receive a sticker.
- As they give each child a Bible Memory Buddy sticker, Crew Guides say, "[Child's name], **God is always good, no matter what!**"
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has received a sticker.

Joseph's story teaches us that no matter what's happening in our lives—good, boring, exciting, or terrible—God is good (no matter what!).

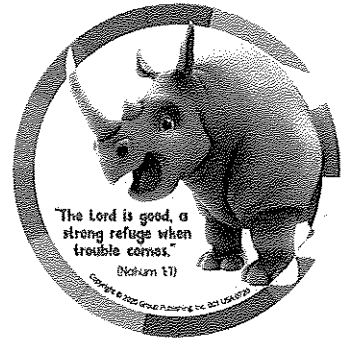
Jesus went through some good times and some bad times in his life, too. He knows what it's like.

I'd like to read you something about our friend Jesus. As you listen, close your eyes and remember something good God has done in your life. Pause. Please give two thumbs-up as you keep picturing God's goodness to you. Pause. As you listen, keep holding your thumbs up.

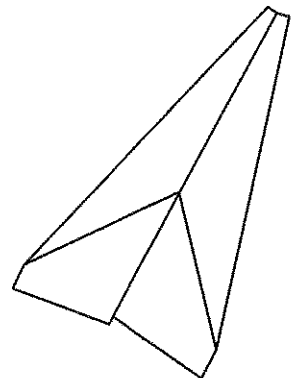
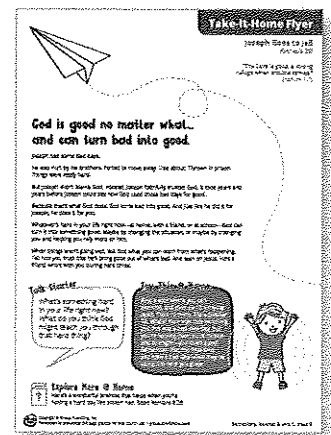
- Read the first section of the Unit 1, Week 2 Take-It-Home Flyer.
- **Now I'll give you one of these flyers to help you talk about your friendship with Jesus in your Connect Crews and at home, too. Think of this as a practice time for talking about Jesus with your family at home.**
- Distribute Take-It-Home Flyers to Crew Guides, and have them share about their own friendship with Jesus as they answer the "Talk Starter" question and then invite kids to share.
- Kids share prayer requests—things they'd like to tell Jesus—in their Connect Crews.
- Connect Crews pray together.
- Crew Guides distribute Take-It-Home Flyers and follow the directions to help kids fold the paper to "fly" home. ○

Supplies

- Mack Bible Memory Buddy stickers (1 per child)
- Take-It-Home Flyers (Unit 1, Week 2) (1 per child)



Saying each child's name in a loving way helps kids simply experience God's love through you!



Joseph Goes to Jail (Genesis 39)

"The Lord is good, a strong
refuge when trouble comes."
(Nahum 1:7)

God is good no matter what... and can turn bad into good.

Joseph had some bad days.

He was hurt by his brothers. Forced to move away. Lied about. Thrown in prison. Things were *really* hard.

But Joseph didn't blame God. Instead, Joseph faithfully trusted God. It took years and years before Joseph could see how God used those bad days for good.

Because that's what God does: God turns bad into good. And just like he did it for Joseph, he does it for you.

Whatever's hard in your life right now—at home, with a friend, or at school—God can turn it into something good. Maybe by changing the situation, or maybe by changing you and helping you rely more on him.

When things aren't going well, ask God what you can learn from what's happening. Tell him you trust that he'll bring good out of what's bad. And lean on Jesus. He's a friend who's with you during hard times.

Talk-Starters

What's something hard
in your life right now?
What do you think God
might teach you through
that hard thing?

Try This @ Home

Find a spot where you can
exercise, and then do 10 jumping
jacks. Then 10 more. Then *another*
10. Whew! Your legs may be
telling you this was a bad idea, but
you're helping them build muscle
and strength—and that's good!
Remember that the next time
you have a bad day—God may be
using it to help you grow.



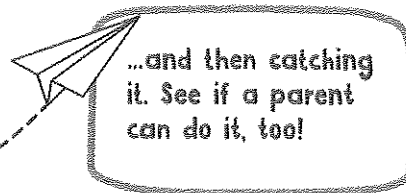
Explore More @ Home

Here's a wonderful promise that helps when you're
having a hard day like Joseph had: Read Romans 8:28.



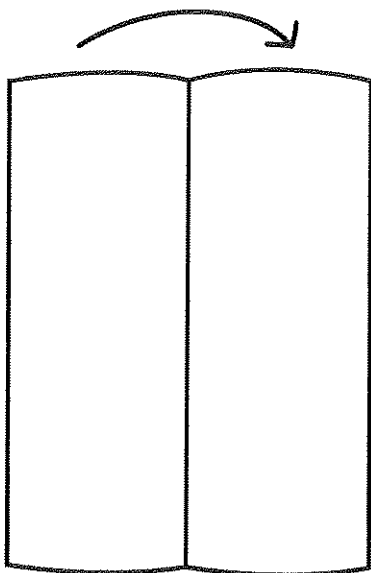
Make this page fly home!

Fold a flyer. When you get home, try tossing your plane as high as you can

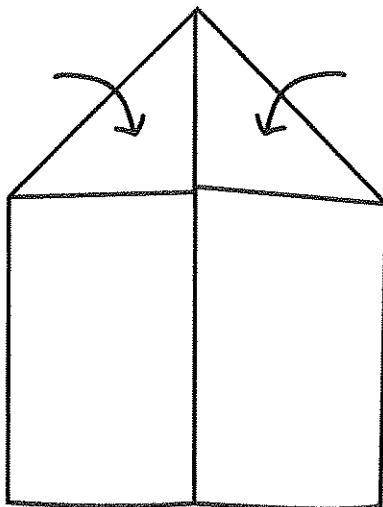


Here's how:

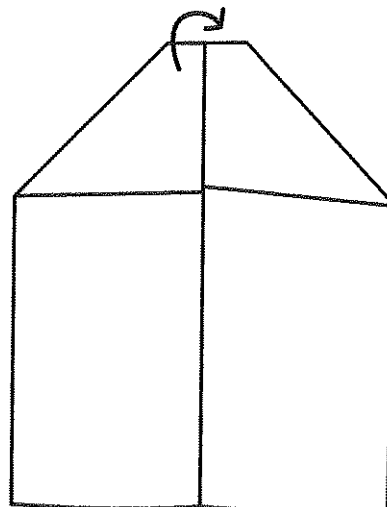
- ① Fold the paper in half lengthwise as shown.



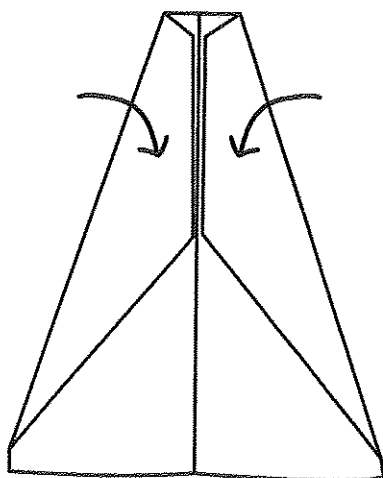
- ② Fold both upper corners to the center.



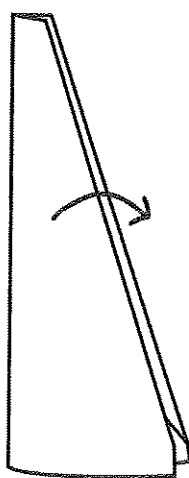
- ③ Fold down the top peak.



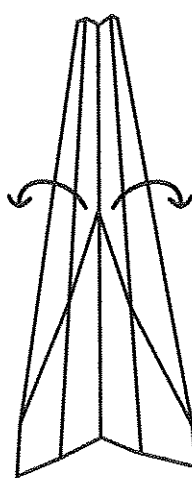
- ④ Fold both upper edges to the center line.



- ⑤ Fold in half.



- ⑥ Fold out the first and second wings.



- ⑦ Take aim, and let it fly!

