

This pack is designed to help you make an Easter Garden. It can be done by individuals at home or with shared photos. To begin with there is a 'wandering' idea to gather some of the items you will need – a full list is on page 2. Each day has the item for your garden with a reflection or wondering idea.

There is so much to reflect on from the empty space you begin with to the wonderful creation of new life.
We hope this is a blessing for you.

Easter Garden Wander

Stones

Decoration

Flower

Cup or Tin

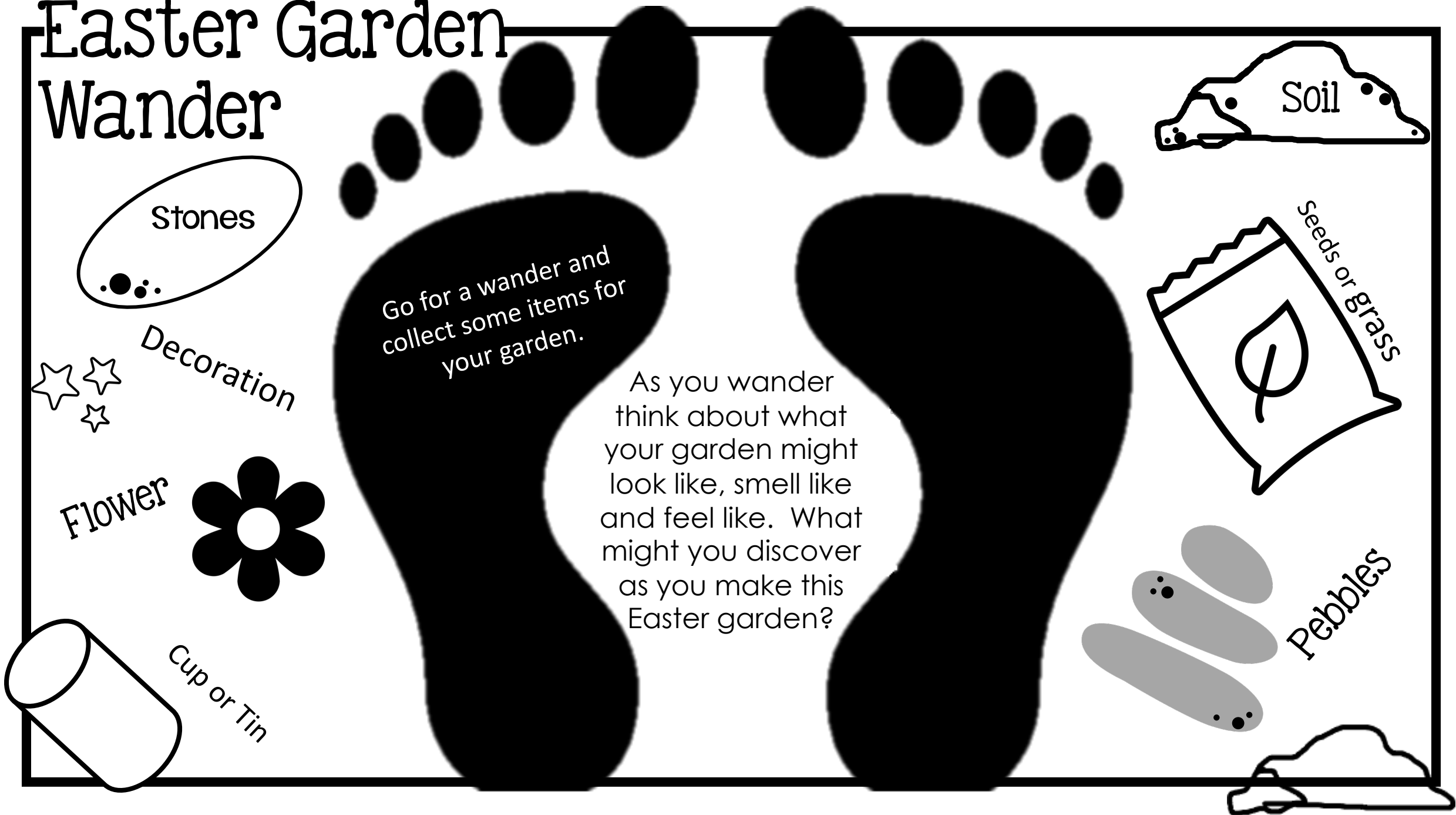
Go for a wander and collect some items for your garden.

As you wander think about what your garden might look like, smell like and feel like. What might you discover as you make this Easter garden?

Soil

Seeds or grass

Pebbles



GET A CONTAINER.

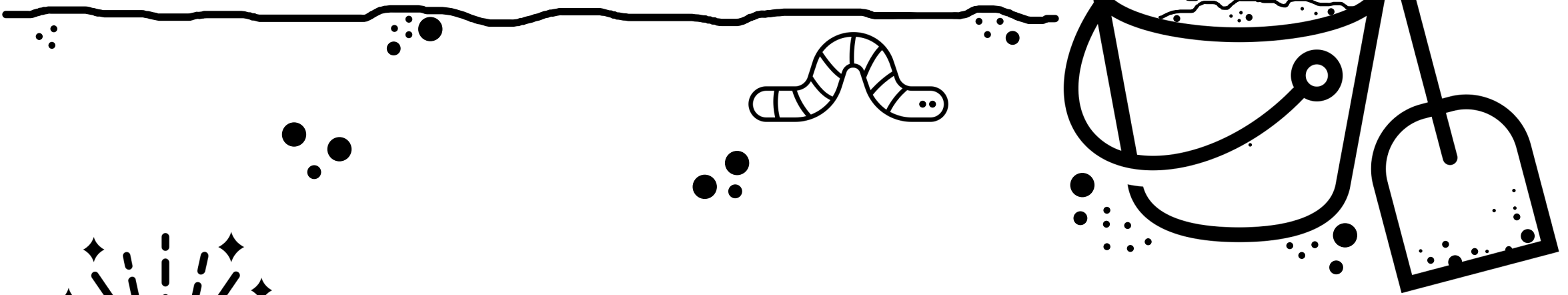
This needs to be deep enough to hold your garden but also strong and waterproof so it can be moved if you need. It could be a tray, baking sheet, a plastic box.... Check the recycling!



THINK: Where is the Easter story in your life? Is it part of what you have heard, part of the calendar, the holy bit of getting Easter eggs?

SOIL

Put some soil into your container – this could be bought or dug up. Take care if you dig it up that you don't have bugs in your house!



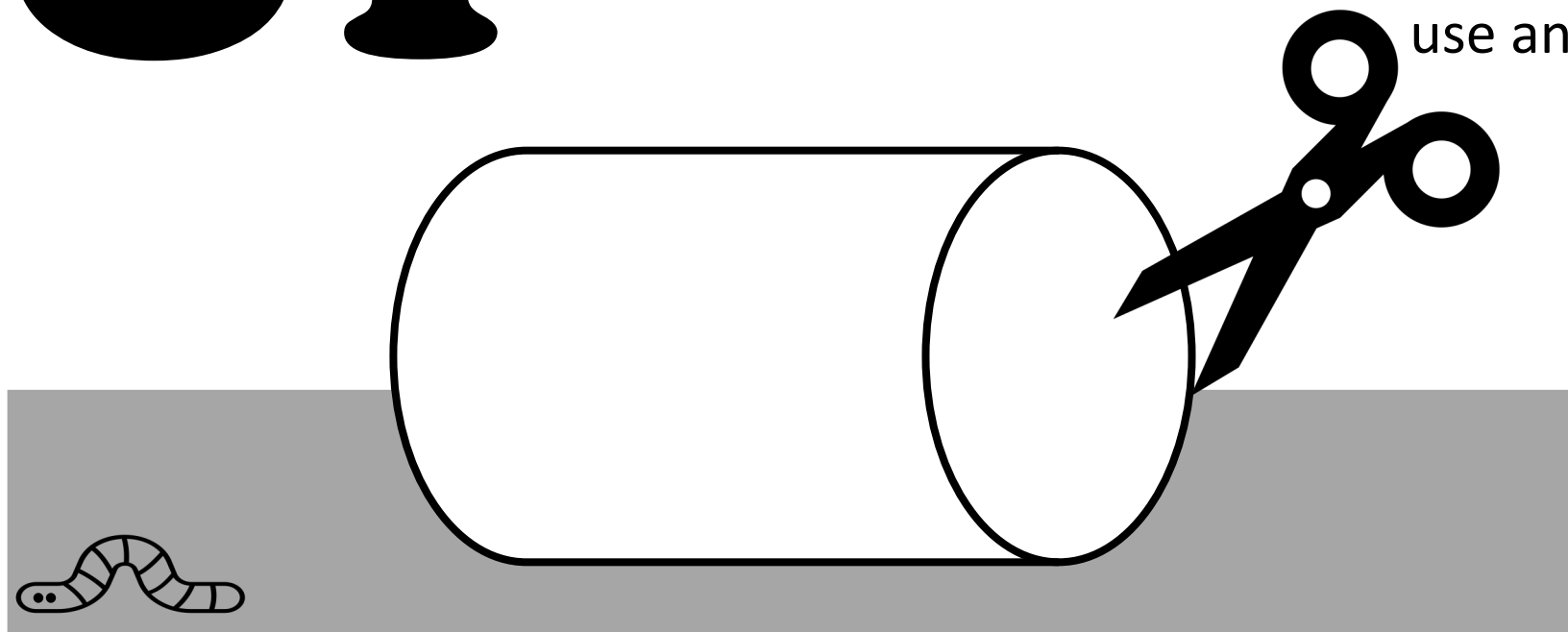
READ : Matthew 13:1-9
What do you think the 'soil' in your life would be like?



CUP

You need to lie this in your garden as it will be the grave.

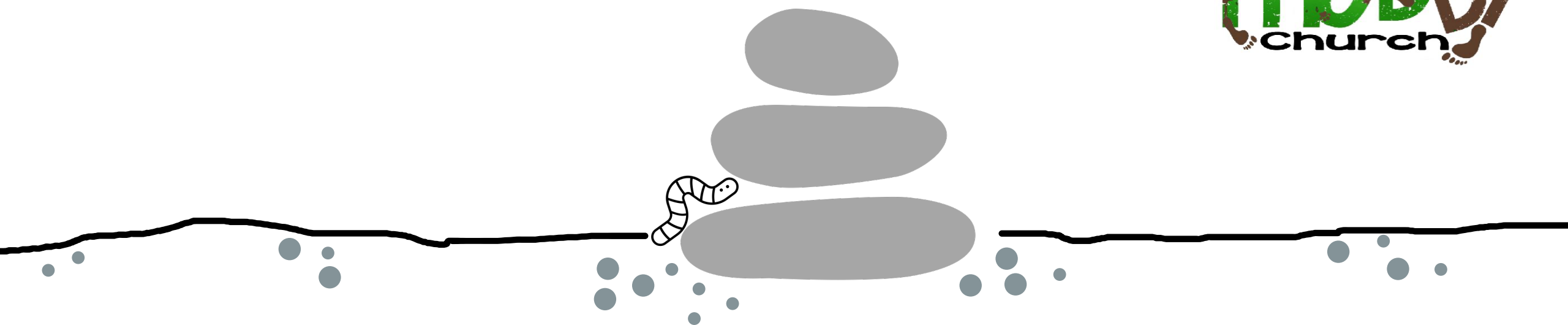
You could use a paper cup and cut in half or even use an empty tin.



THINK: The garden right now looks like a scrapyard or junk space. What things might be in your life that other people think are rubbish but God might be able to use them for something amazing?

PEBBLES

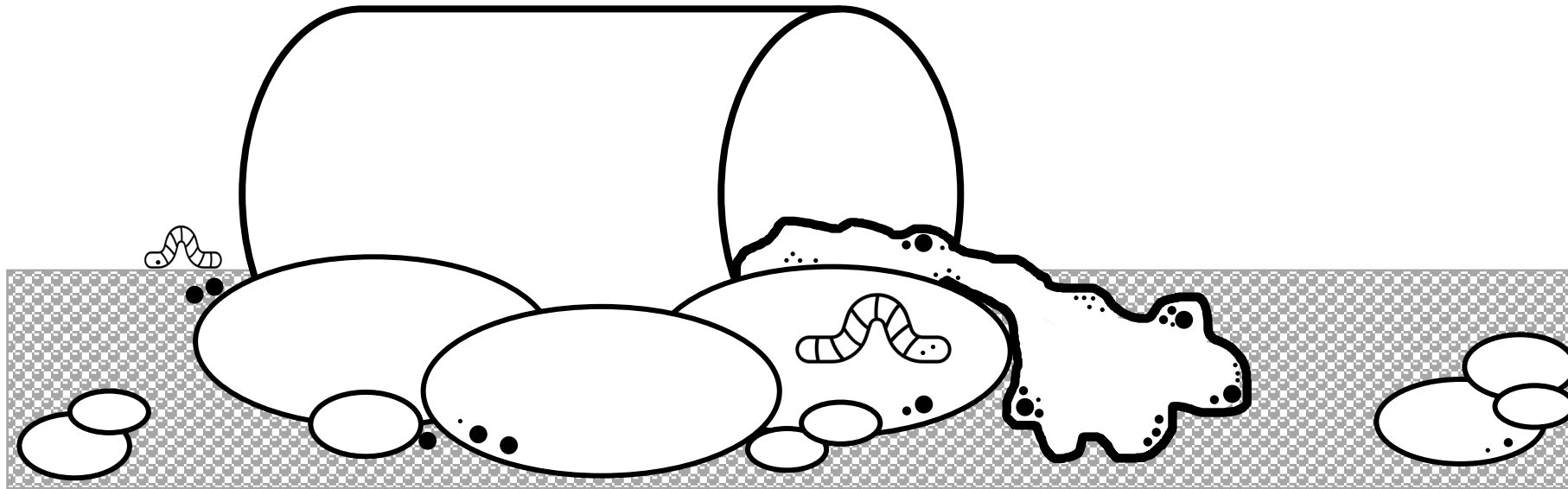
Add a few or some pebbles to
part of your garden.



THINK: Remember or read again the Parable of the sower and think about where the rocky ground may be in your life. How can you change this?

Add a few bigger stones to your garden, you may want to place them to offer strength to other things you are going to add.

STONES

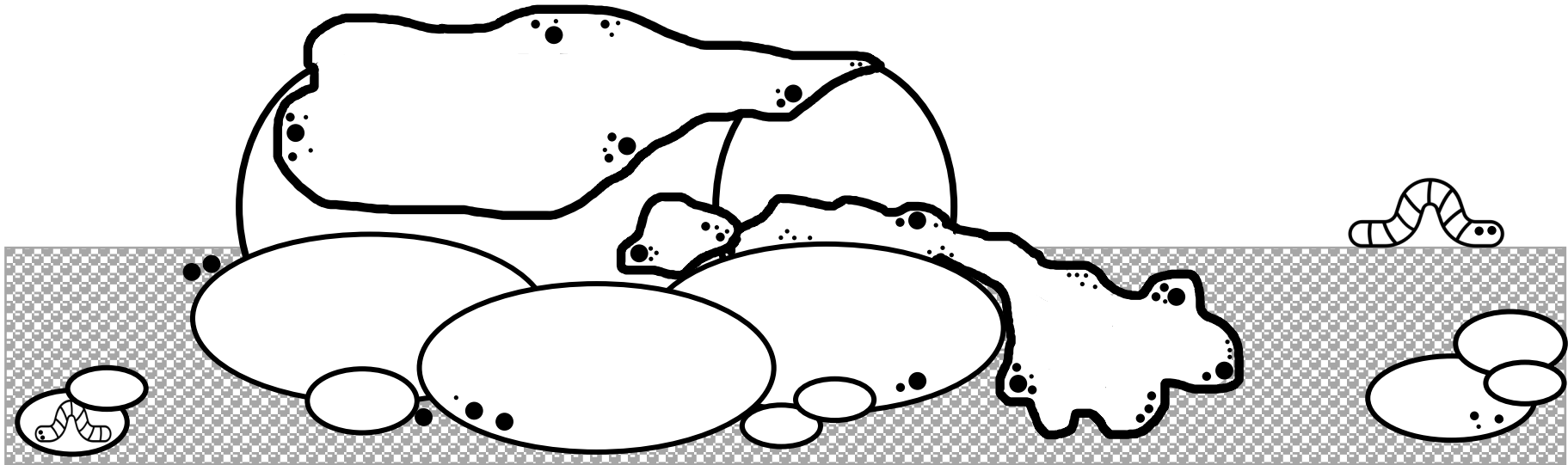


READ: Psalm 62:2 and think about the areas that cause you worry, fear, stress or anxiety. Offer these to God today.



SOIL

Now you need to add some more soil to cover you cup and to make the shape you want for your landscape.



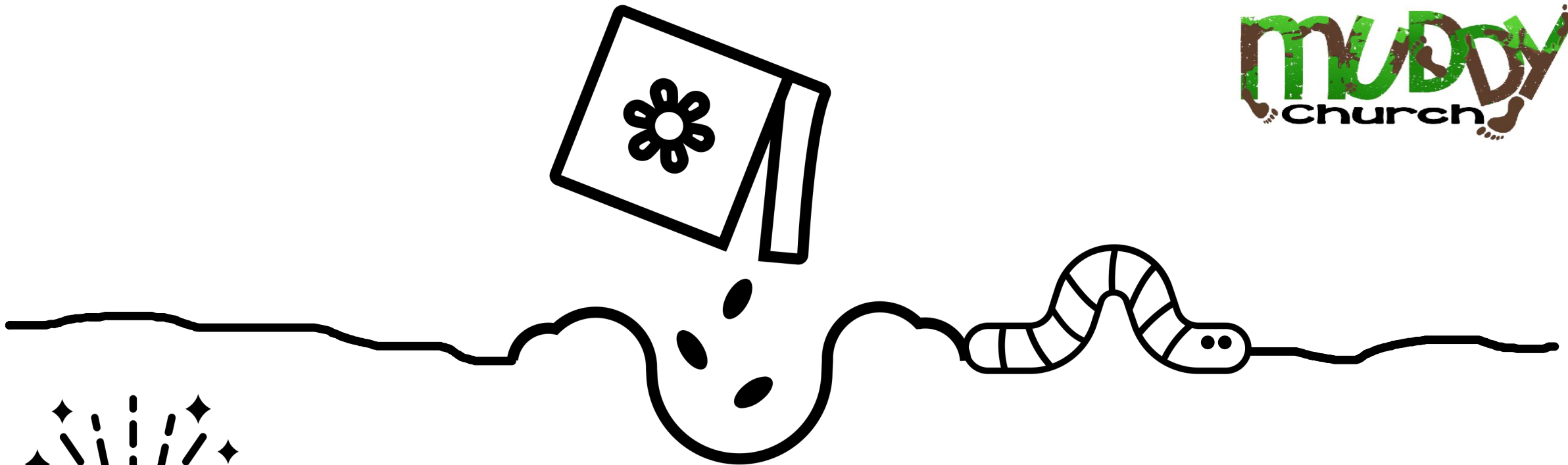
THINK: How could you change some things in your life to make more space for God?



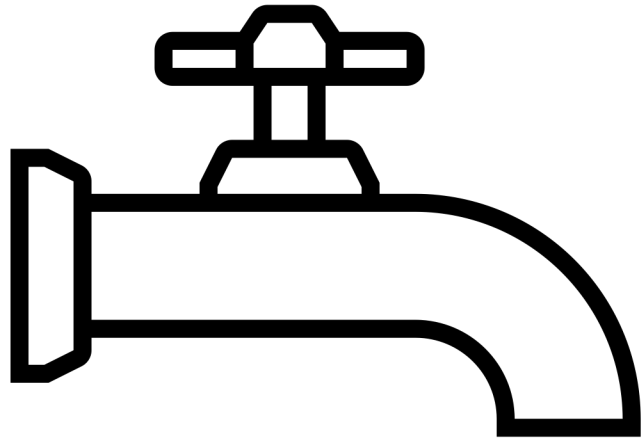
GREENERY

GRASS OR SEED SUCH AS
CRESS OR MUSTARD

Add some areas of grass or greenery to your garden. If you can get or have some cress or mustard seeds you could plant these and gently water them over the next few days to watch them grow and change the garden.



READ: Matthew 6:30. Take a moment to think about this and God's care. Just as you are making this garden, creating it, adding to it, caring for it – imagine how much God cares for you.

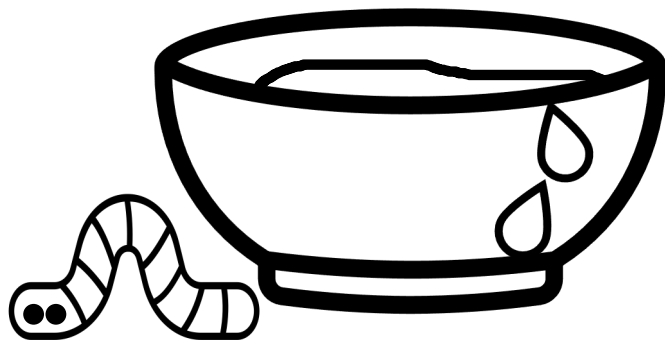


Add some water in a small container or shape some foil to make a space for the water to go. Place this in your garden.

WATER

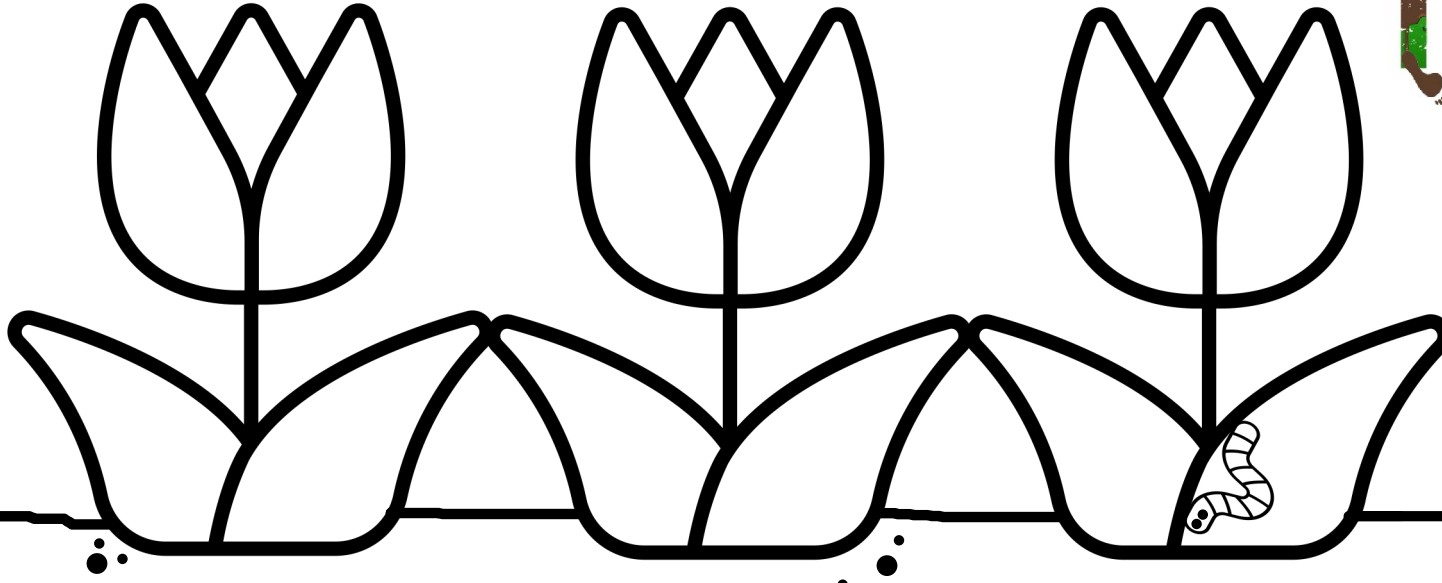
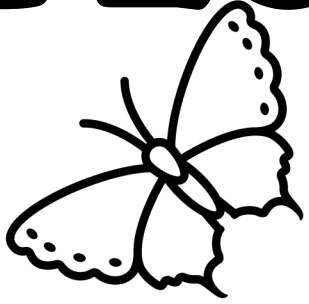
THINK: When in the day you use water and what for? What happens if land doesn't have water? What would happen if you didn't have water? Jesus tells us that He is the Living Water.

Dip your fingers in your water and think about what it means in your life that Jesus is the Living Water.

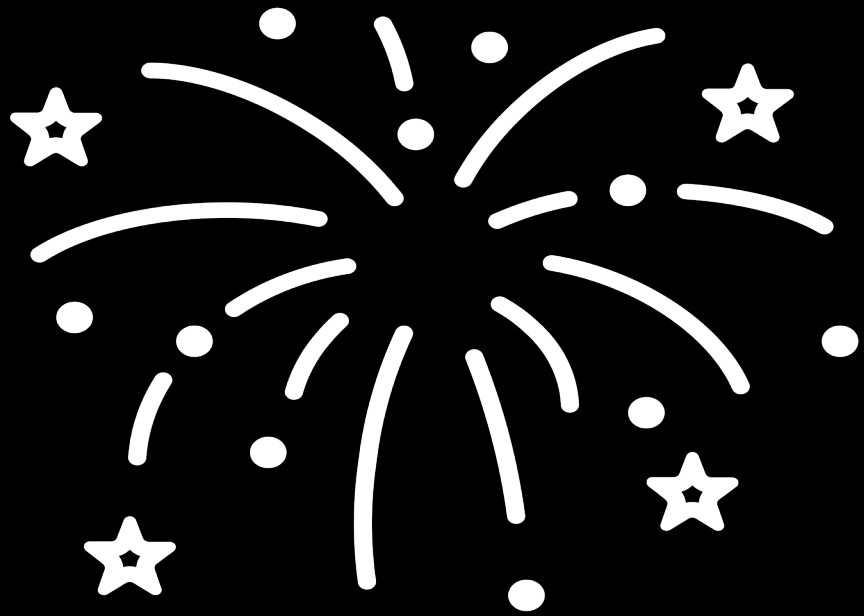


FLOWERS

Find some flowers or make some out of paper to add to your garden.



THINK: The flowers make the garden look very different, adding variety, colour, life and vibrancy. What areas of your life with God are like this? What makes you feel alive, happy and bright?



Take a look at your garden and try and think of a few things you can add to your garden to make it look prettier or more like you imagined

DECORATION



THINK: Are there parts of your faith life or journey that you try to make 'more pretty'? Perhaps the idea of a time you hide things from the outside.

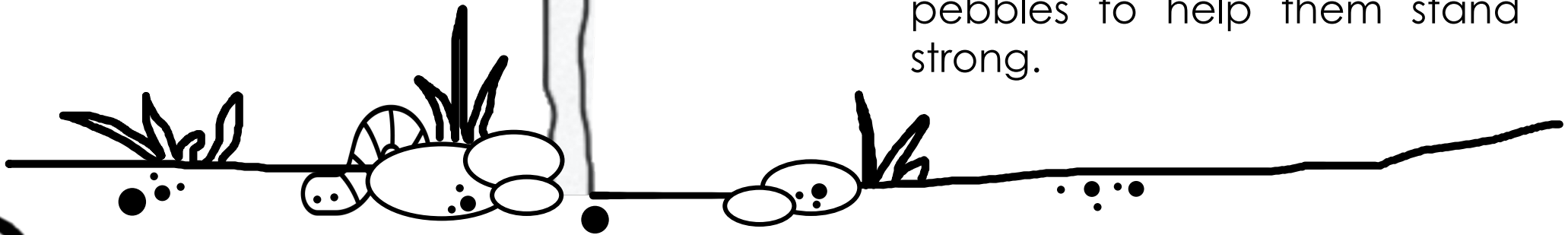
Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and know God looks on your heart, don't be locked into failure, shame or fear but know as God looks on your heart He sees many wonderful things.

STICKS



Find some suitable sticks and tie/fasten them into the shape of three crosses.

Stand these in your garden, you may want to adjust your pebbles to help them stand strong.

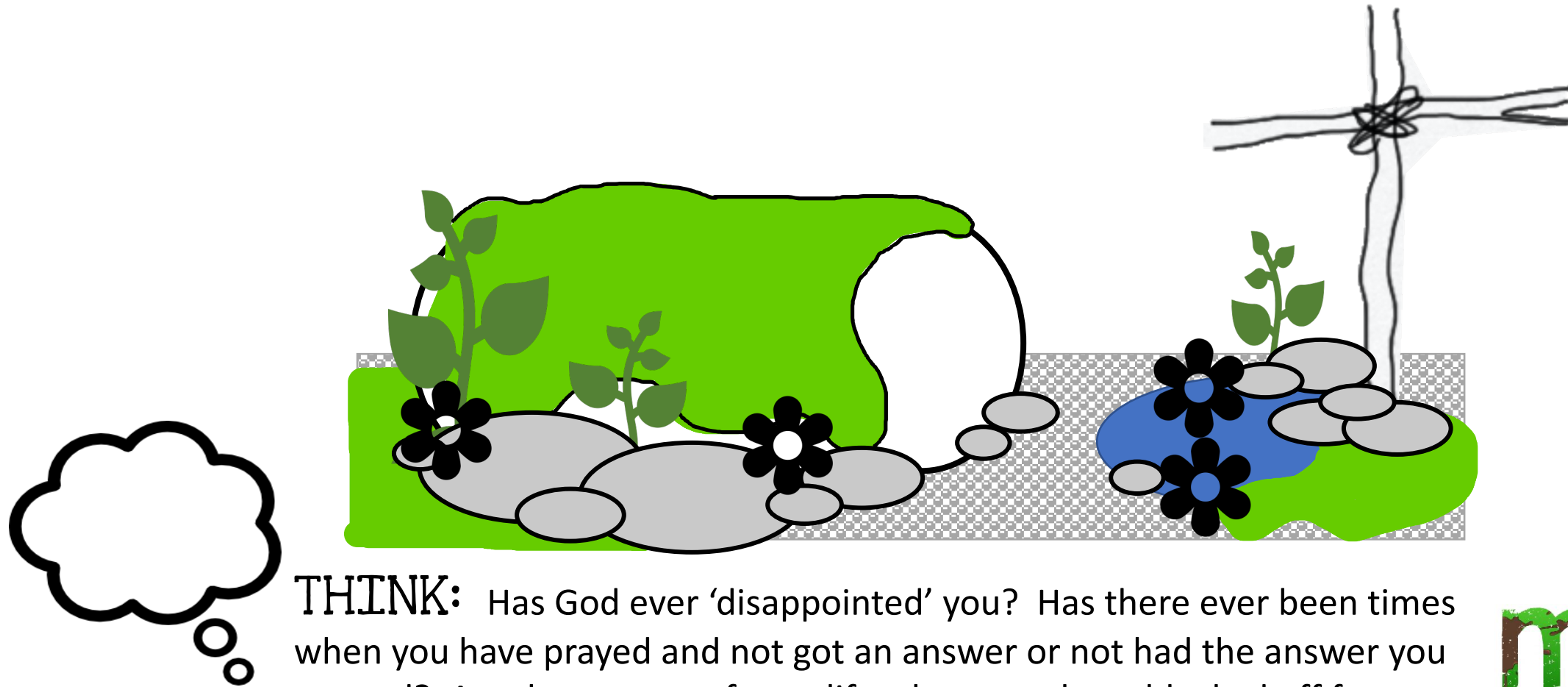


REFLECT on the story of the cross, find an appropriate way to think about this either from scripture (Matthew 27:32-56), a YouTube song, film or a story book. What difference does this sacrifice mean to you?

Find a stone that can cover the hole from your cup
and block what is the image of the grave

Matthew 27:57-66

STONE



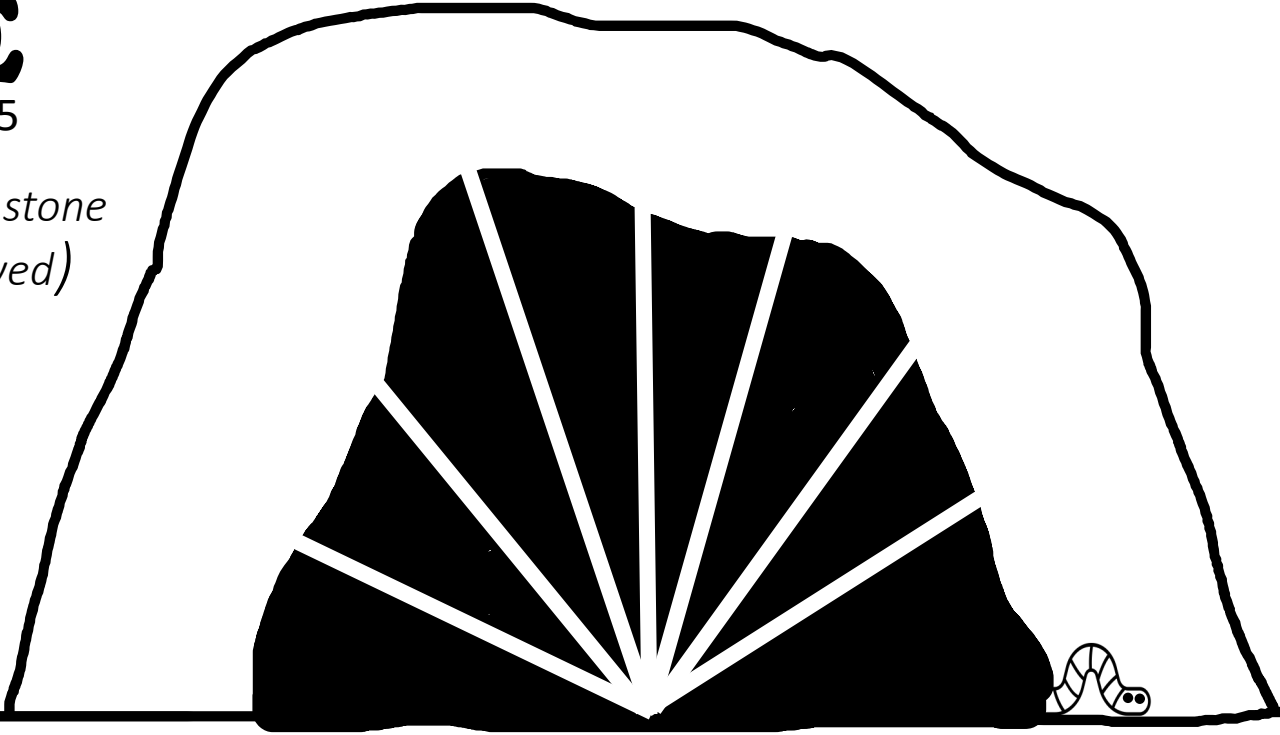
THINK: Has God ever 'disappointed' you? Has there ever been times when you have prayed and not got an answer or not had the answer you wanted? Are there areas of your life where you have blocked off from God? Are there areas of your life where you only let God be?

muddy
church

MOVE THE STONE

Matthew 28: 1-5

(if you are a parent doing this with a child you could move the stone so that when they next see the garden the stone has been moved)



What does it mean, what difference
does it make to our faith if the stone
was moved away?

That Jesus rose from the dead?

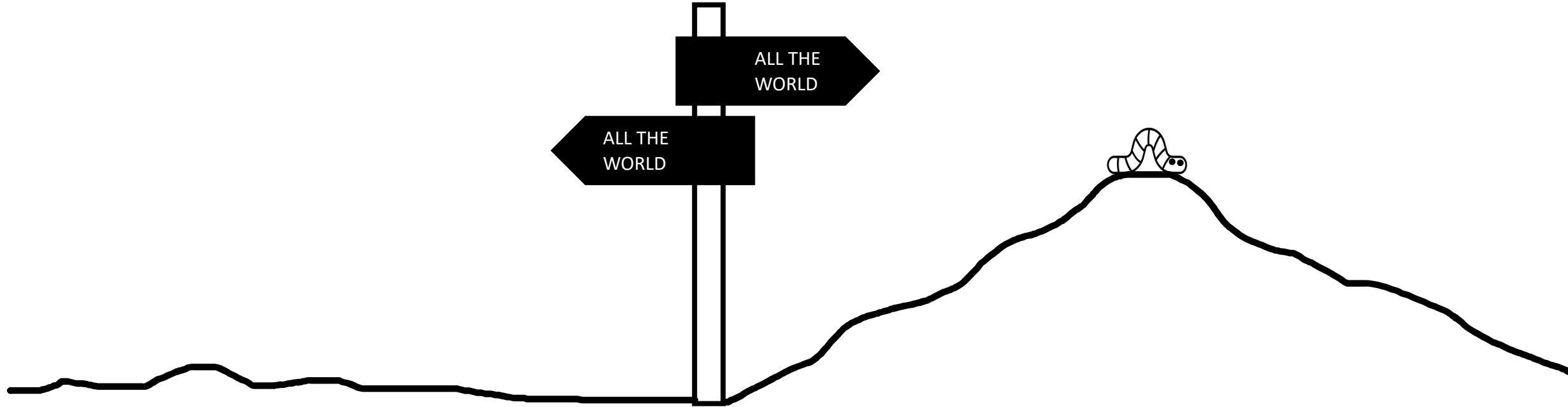
This is one of the biggest beliefs of our Christian faith and there are lots of places to read about the 'facts' of this or the 'questions'.



SHOW and TELL

Matthew 28:8-10

Who can you show your garden to?
Maybe take a photo or share the different
parts of it with family or a friend.



The Easter story did not end with the empty tomb. Jesus appeared to friends, strangers, family. He found them where they were and He found them where they had been.

I wonder where you would be in that garden
if Jesus was meeting with you today?

Where might God be inviting you to go and share His story?