

Art Project

Purple Woven or Mosaic Crosses

This art project is an opportunity for your family to visually reflect the season and the significance of the color purple through the art you create using color, written word, drawing images, and visual symbols. Your art will serve as a visual reminder to you of the meaning behind the seasonal color of Lent.

There are two different options to meet the creative ability levels of all participants (kids and adults) in your family.

1. Create a cross shape by weaving with decorated strips of paper in a variety of shades of purple.
2. Create a mosaic in the shape of a cross by gluing together decorated squares of paper in a variety of shades of purple.

Background Information on the Lenten Color Purple

During the season of Lent, churches often display the color purple as a symbol of the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus. This color visual reminds us to repent of our sins, ask God for forgiveness, and renew our faith in Christ. We proclaim Jesus as the true King of kings with his resurrection and triumph over death.

Purple Reminds Us of Jesus' Sacrifice

In the time of Jesus, purple symbolized royalty. Roman soldiers mocked Jesus by dressing him in a purple robe and placing a crown of thorns on his head. Mark 15:17 says, "And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him."

Purple Fabric Was Expensive

In ancient times, making purple fabric was a lot of work because the fabric dye came from marine mollusks. Mollusks are snail-like in appearance with a shell covering their bodies. To create the dye, many mollusk shells would be broken to get to the small gland that contained the purple fluid. The dye was used on sheep's wool that had been spun into yarn. The yarn would then be woven on a loom into fabric to make clothing. This long process made purple fabric very expensive, which was why only kings and royalty could afford to wear purple clothing.

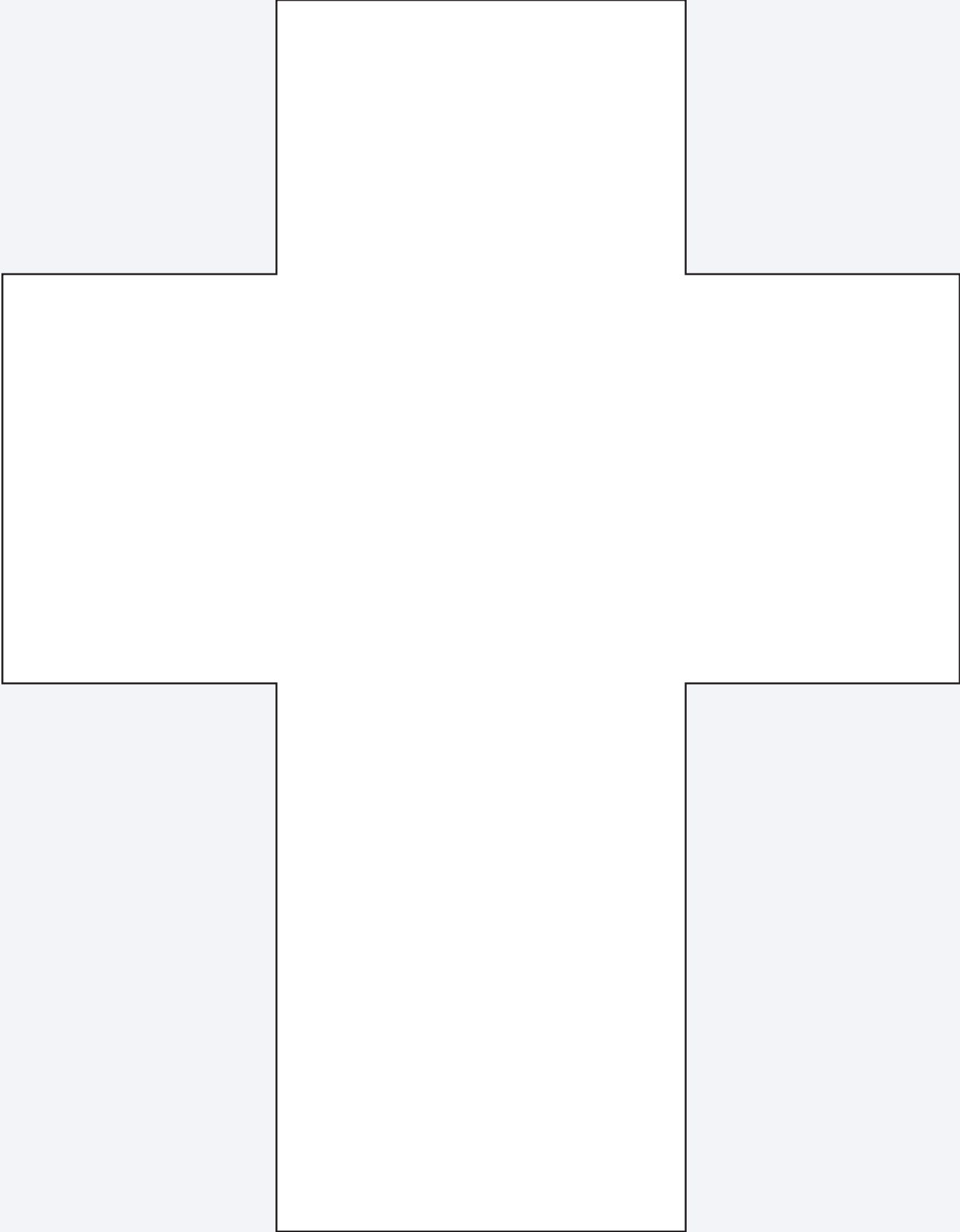
Making Your Cross

1. Decide as a family whether you would all like to make Woven Crosses or Mosaic Crosses. (Or do the activity twice and do both!)
2. Give each person a copy of the Cross Image printed on cardstock and a copy of either the Mosaic Squares or the Weaving Strips printed on white paper, depending on which type of crosses you are making.
3. Each person in the family should choose one shade of purple to color over their entire page of strips or squares. Each family member should have a different shade of purple.
4. Cut apart the strips or mosaic squares. You will have only the number of squares or strips needed to fill the cross.
5. With your family members trade strips or squares, so you each have a variety of shades to use on your cross. You'll need to have a total of thirty-nine squares or six short and six long strips to fill your cross.
6. Use a fine-point marker or pen to add words, symbols, or other drawings to your squares or strips that represent Lent, Jesus, and/or faith to you. Look at the Holy Week stories in your Bibles for inspiration, if desired.
7. Assemble your cross. For the Mosaic Cross, glue the squares side-by-side to fill the entire Cross Image. For the Woven Cross, lay six long strips vertically side-by-side to fill the long part of the cross. Tape or glue just the top ends to the page. Using an over-under pattern, weave the remaining six short strips horizontally under the vertical strips to fill the short part of the cross. Carefully glue the woven cross to the page.
8. If desired, decorate the page around your cross.
9. When your art projects are completed, share with each other the meaning behind the way you have created your Purple Woven or Mosaic Cross.

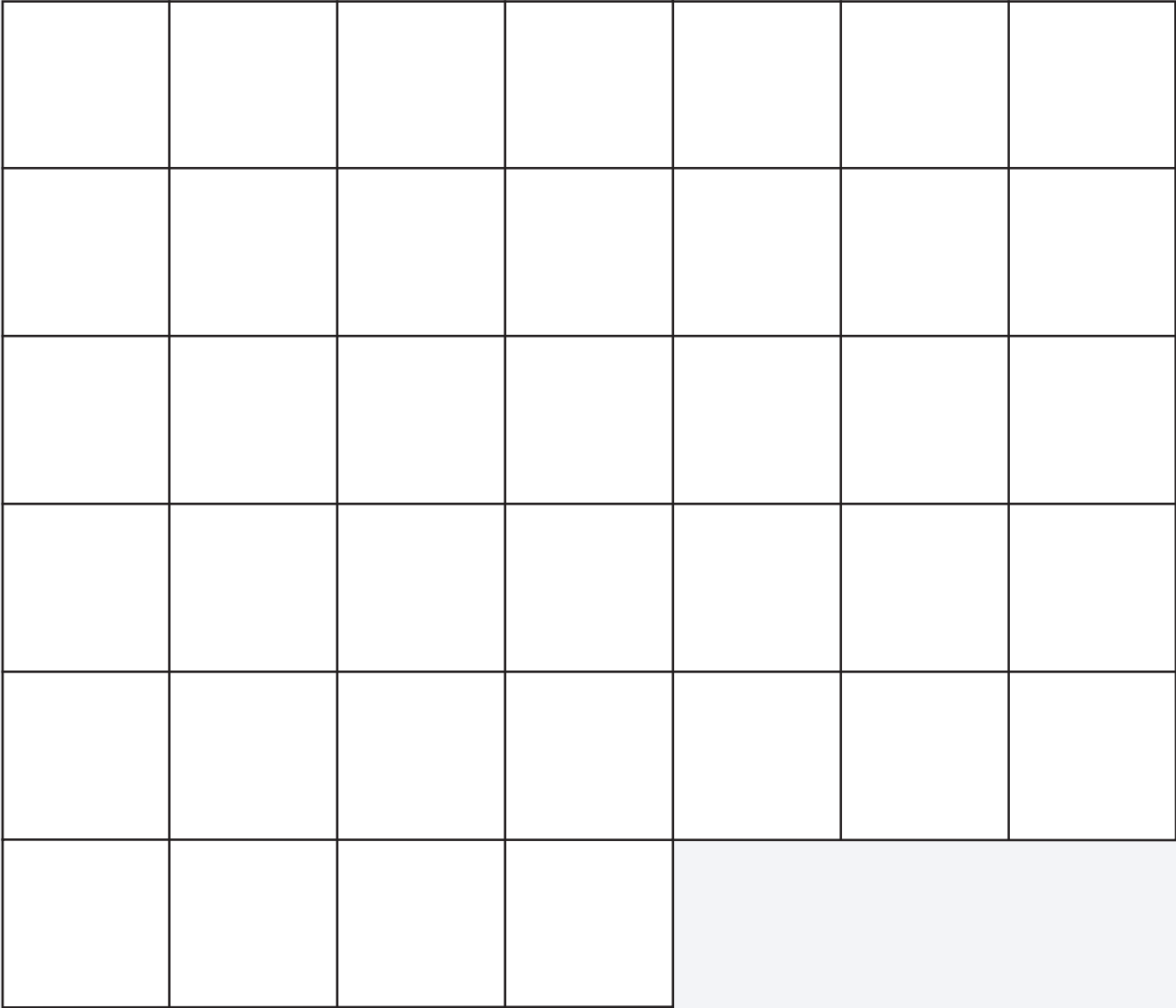
Supplies

- Cross Image from page 3
- Cardstock
- Mosaic Squares from page 4
- Weaving Strips from page 5
- White paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Tape
- Extra-fine-point marker or pen
- Crayons, markers, pens, colored pencils, and watercolor paint in a variety of shades of purple

Cross Image



Mosaic Squares



Weaving Strips

