

Exploring Why **Symbols of Faith**



Extended Version

Exploring Why

Symbols of Faith

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Bear Lands Publishing

About Aled and Siân

Aled and Siân love exploring the places where they live and the places they go to visit. They enjoy playing 'I Spy' to help them get to know these places better. In the *Exploring Why* series Aled and Siân are curious to find out why some of the things around them are important to their Christian, Jewish and Muslim friends.

The series takes seriously the social significance of religion and is based on extensive research into how children learn about themselves, others and the world in which they live.

To support this storybook series, there is a large range of free downloadable resources for children and teachers available at hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources and st-marys-centre.org.uk

The storybooks and activities are devised for 5- to 7-year-olds, but the downloadable resources make the series relevant for younger and older children too.

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Titles in the *Exploring Why* series are:

Bread
Cross
Light
Menorah
Veil
Water
Symbols of Faith





Aled and Siân love exploring the places where they live and the places that they go to visit. They enjoy playing 'I spy' to help them get to know these places better. Today, they are visiting the Festival of Faiths

in their Town Hall, and they set out to discover how many of their friends they could find making symbols of their faith.



Aled and Siân walked up the steps to the big Town Hall and read the grand notice 'Welcome to the Festival of Faiths'. They went into the large meeting

room. There they saw the pictures of the synagogue, the Hanukkah menorah and the Torah scroll. They saw the pictures of the rabbi.



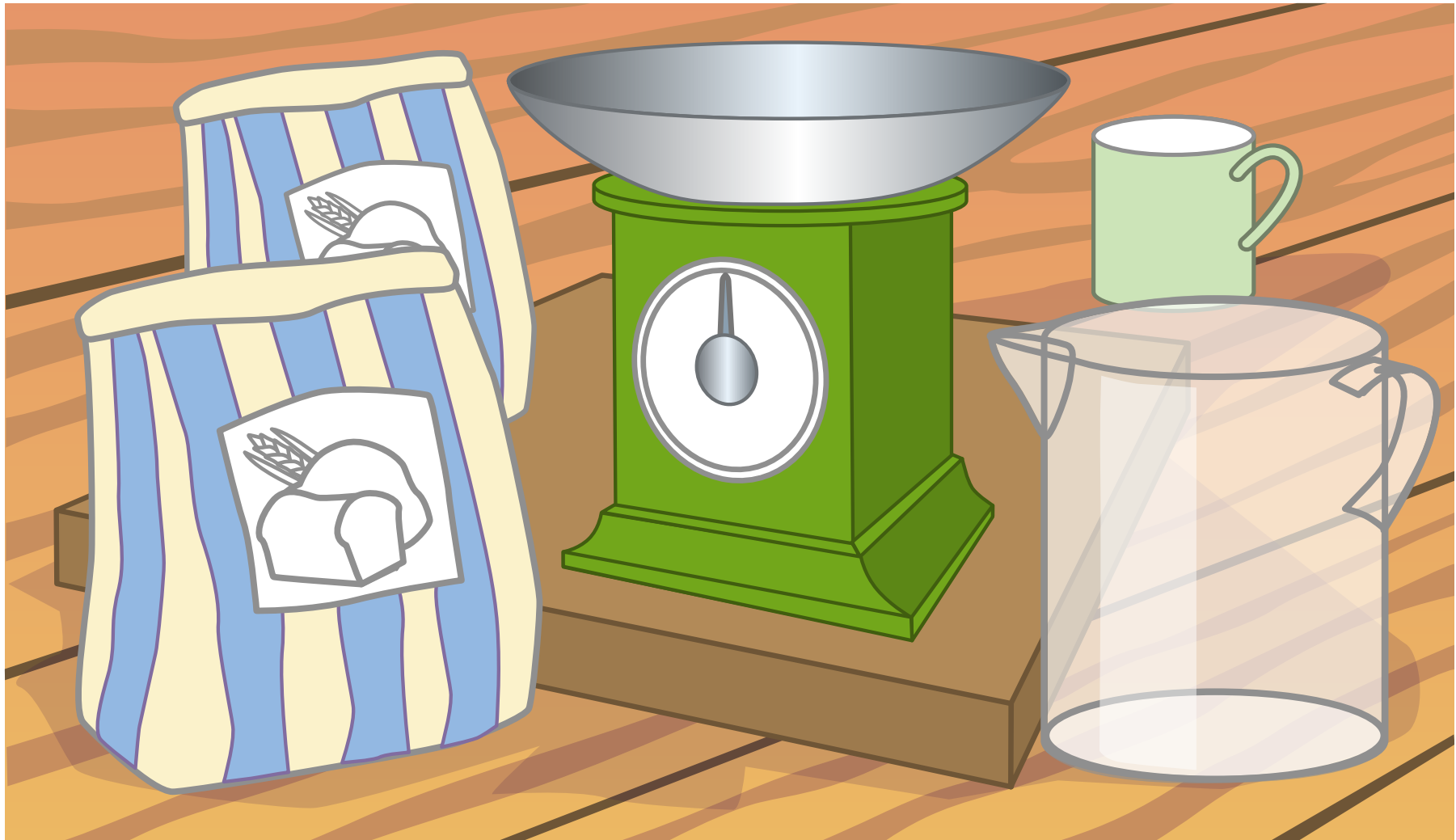
In the large meeting room they saw the pictures of the mosque, the rack filled with sandals, boots and shoes and the long line of taps in the washroom. They saw the pictures of the imam. In the large

meeting room they saw the pictures of the church, the altar, the cross, and the loaf of bread. They saw pictures of the vicar.



Inside the Town Hall, Aled and Siân saw their friends Peter and Mary. They were there with their mother, who had taken them all to the local church. There they had seen the cross on the altar. There

they had seen the bread prepared for the Sunday service. Aled and Siân were pleased to see their friends Peter and Mary.



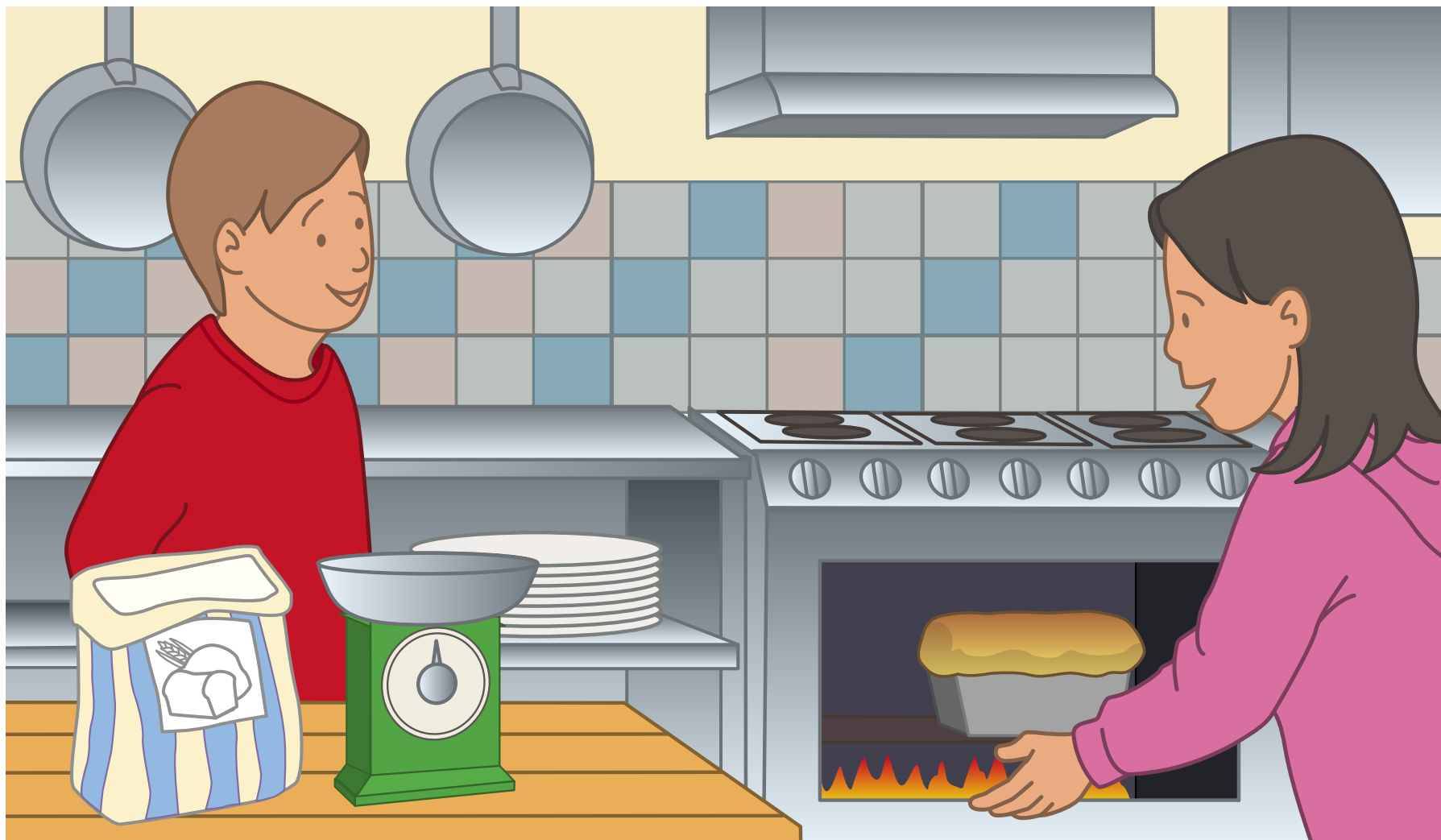
Peter and Mary's mother was working in the kitchen to show people how to make bread. She had brought along bags of flour and big scales for

weighing the flour. She had brought along dough and large wooden boards on which to knead it. She had brought along jugs to measure out the water.



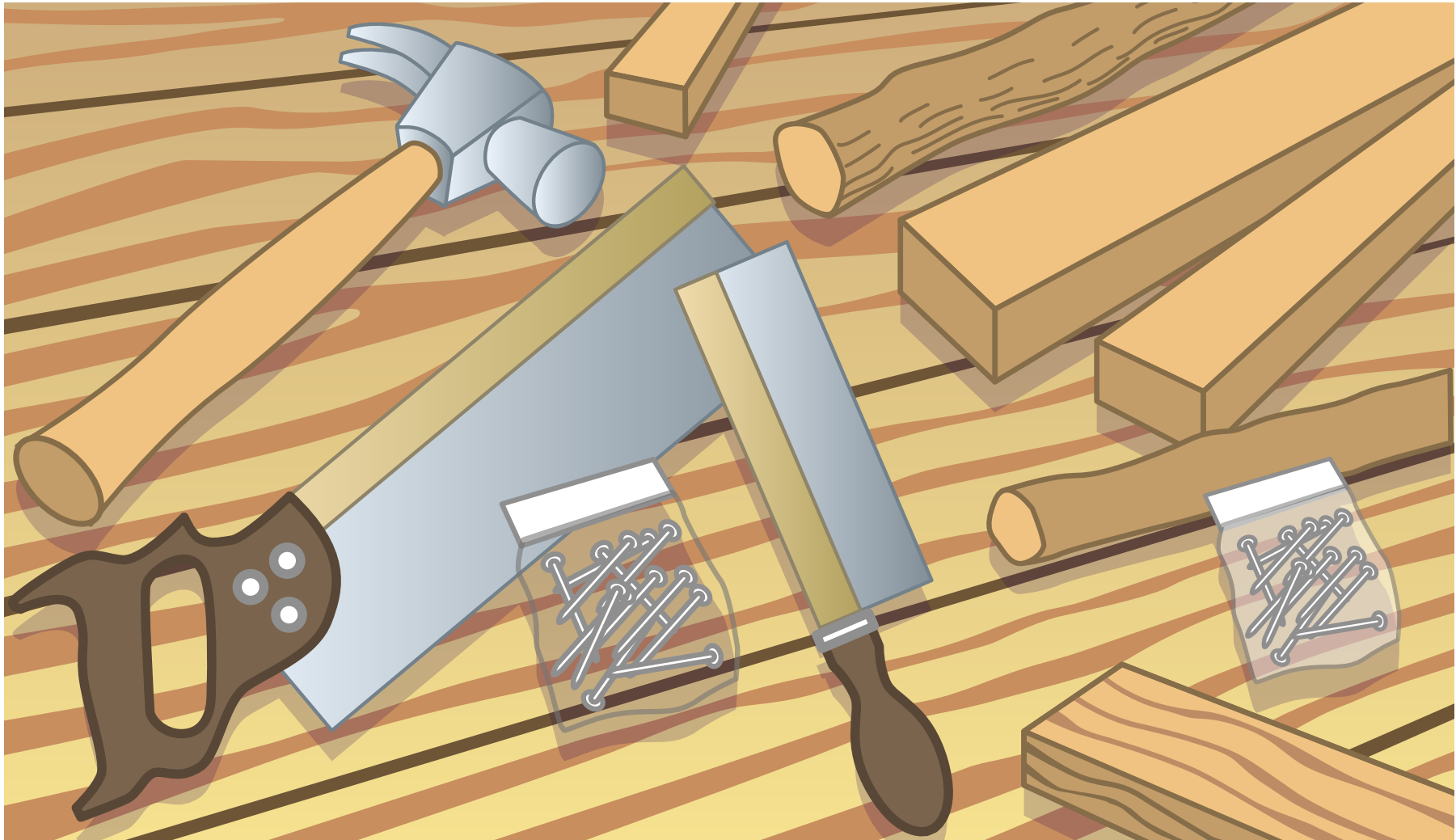
Aled and Siân helped Peter and Mary's mother to weigh the flour and to measure the water. They helped Peter and Mary's mother to take the yeast

and to knead it with the dough until it was ready to bake. They helped Peter and Mary's mother to put the dough into the oven.



Aled and Siân looked round the kitchen one more time. They looked at the scales and the flour. They looked at the jugs and the water. They looked at the wooden boards and the dough. They looked at the

oven where the bread was baking. "We know why bread is so important to Christians!" said Aled and Siân together.



Peter and Mary had set up a bench in the workshop to make crosses from pieces of wood. They had brought along all sorts of pieces of wood, of different

shapes and sizes. They had brought saws to cut the wood. They had brought packets of nails to fix the pieces of wood together.



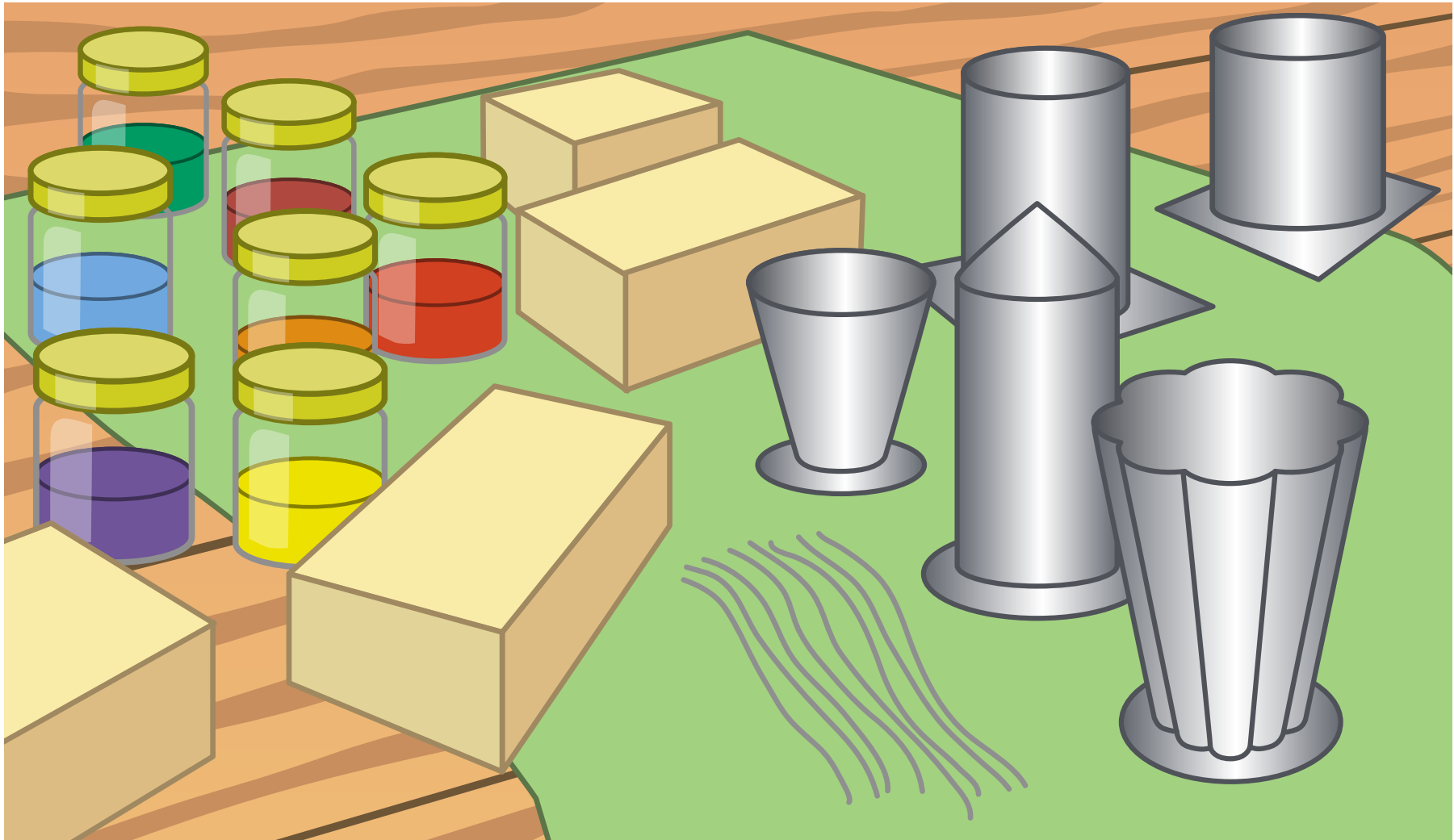
Aled and Siân helped Peter and Mary to choose pieces of wood of the right sizes. They helped Peter and Mary to cut the pieces of wood into the right shapes. They helped Peter and Mary to make

crosses from the wood. “We know why the cross is so important to Christians!” said Aled and Siân together.



Inside the Town Hall, Aled and Siân saw their friends Nathan and Rachel. They were there with their mother, who had taken them all to the local synagogue. There they had seen the menorah in

the stained-glass window. There they had seen the ark, and the lamp burning. Aled and Siân were pleased to see their friends Nathan and Rachel.



Nathan and Rachel's mother was working in the kitchen to show people how to make candles. She had brought along slabs of candle wax and dyes to

make different colours. She had brought along moulds to make different shapes. She had brought along wicks to make the candles burn.



Aled and Siân watched Nathan and Rachel's mother melt the wax over the stove. They kept a safe distance to avoid being splashed by the hot wax. Aled and Siân watched Nathan and Rachel's

mother set the wick in the middle of the mould and carefully pour the hot wax around it. They still kept a safe distance.



Aled and Siân looked around the kitchen one more time. They looked at the slabs of candle wax and the different colours of the dyes. They looked at the

moulds for making candles of different shapes. “We know why light is so important to Jews!” said Aled and Siân together.



Nathan and Rachel had set up a bench in the workshop to make menorahs from large sheets of card. They had brought along all sorts of sheets of

card of different shapes and sizes. They had brought scissors to cut the card. They had brought glue to stick the pieces of card together.



Aled and Siân helped Nathan and Rachel to choose pieces of card of the right sizes. They helped Nathan and Rachel to cut the pieces of card into the right shapes. They helped Nathan and Rachel to

make menorahs from the card. "We know why the menorah is so important to Jews!" said Aled and Siân together.



Inside the Town Hall, Aled and Siân saw their friends Ahmed and Salma. They are there with their father, who had taken them all to the local mosque. There they had seen the rack filled with sandals,

boots and shoes. There they had seen the long line of taps in the washroom. Aled and Siân were pleased to see their friends Ahmed and Salma.



Ahmed and Salma's father was working in the kitchen to show people how water is used. He had brought along special jugs to carry the water. He had brought along special bowls to fill with the

water. He had brought along special stands on which to place the bowls. He had brought along special clean towels.



Aled and Siân helped Ahmed and Salma's father to fill the special jugs with water. They helped Ahmed and Salma's father to carry the water to fill the bowls. They poured the water from the jugs into the

bowls. They joined Ahmed and Salma's father to invite people to come to wash in the pure clean water.



Aled and Siân looked round the kitchen one more time. They looked at the taps from which they drew the water. They looked at the jugs that they filled

from the taps. They looked at the bowls that they filled from the jugs. "We know why water is so important to Muslims!" said Aled and Siân together.



Ahmed and Salma had set up a bench in the workshop to make veils from pieces of cloth. They had brought along all sorts of pieces cloth, of

different sizes and colours. They had brought scissors to cut the cloth. They had brought needles and thread to sew the cloth into veils.



Aled and Siân helped Ahmed and Salma to choose pieces of cloth of the right sizes and right colours. They helped Ahmed and Salma to cut the pieces of cloth into the right shapes. They helped Ahmed and

Salma to make veils from the cloth. "We know why the veil is so important to Muslims!" said Aled and Siân together.



As the day came to an end, Peter and Mary brought their crosses and their mother brought the bread. Nathan and Rachel brought their menorahs and their mother brought the candles. Ahmed and

Salma brought their veils and their father brought the water. They placed all their symbols by the photographs in the large meeting room, and celebrated their faiths together.

Aled and Siân are playing 'I Spy' and today they are looking for 'symbols of faith'. They visit a Festival of Faiths in their town hall and find many symbols of faith there. As they take part in the Festival's exciting activities, they remember why each of these symbols is important to their friends.



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