



### Prayer Book of Lady Margaret Beaufort, about 1500

Under 11 activity – Christianity in 10 Objects



What colours can you see in this image?

What shapes can you see?

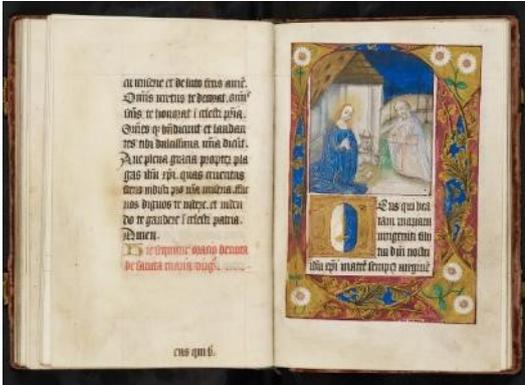
What lines can you see?

Where do you think you might see an image in a frame like this?

Lady Margaret Beaufort was the mother of the first Tudor King – Henry VII. She had a very strong Christian faith, and attended church daily. She devoted her life to God in her private time too.

Christians believe that prayer is an important way to become closer to God. In the medieval period, many people owned prayer books and used them to reflect and connect to God during their private time. The prayers would have been based on the prayers that were said during a service at church. Lady Margaret Beaufort's private prayer book is full of beautiful decorations and images of people from the Bible. When she wasn't attending church, she could use this prayer book to reflect on her faith, and think about those people who are important to her from the Bible.

Below is a page from her prayer book and a close up. Describe what is happening in the picture? Does this remind you of a story you might know?



### Talk to others

This little book was very important to Margaret. It was full of images of people from the Bible that were special to her. Who is special to you in your life? It could be a friend, a relative, an animal.

### Activity: Make your own special book

Create your own miniature book to celebrate these important people. You could also tea stain the pages to make your book look old like Margaret Beaufort's.

### Materials

- 1 sheet of plain A4 paper (this will be enough to make 2 miniature books)
- 1 sheet of card
- A piece of ribbon or tape
- A piece of string or elastic band
- Pencil
- Coloured pencils
- Glue
- Scissors
- Tea bag (optional)

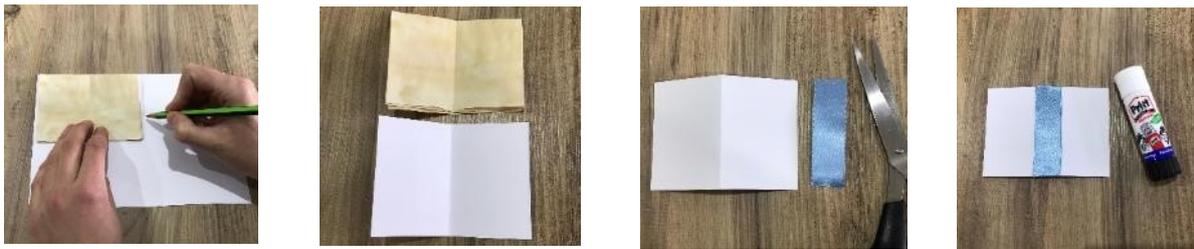
### Instructions:

1. OPTIONAL: Tea stain your paper using a wet tea bag. Allow the page to dry.
2. Fold your A4 paper in half, short side to short side, and then cut along the line in the paper to divide your A4 page into two A5 pages. Save one half to make another book later.
3. Fold the paper in half (short side to short side), and in half again (short side to short side), and in half again (short side to short side). Open the paper up – there will be 8 rectangles. These rectangles will be the pages of your book.

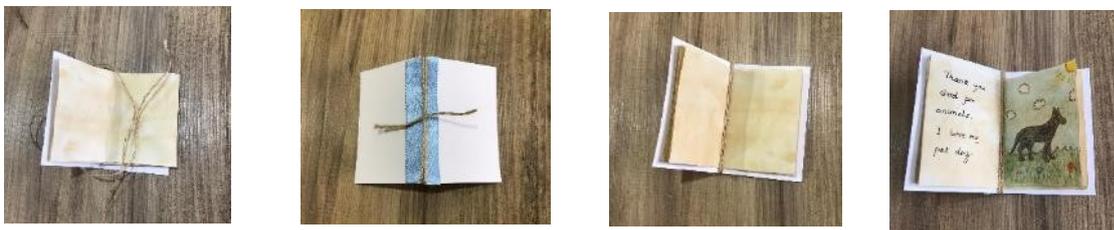
4. Cut the paper with scissors so you have four sets of folded double pages. Place the folded pieces inside one another. This folded block will become the pages of your book. It is called the *book block*.



5. Open your book block and place it onto a piece of card. Draw around it making sure to add a little extra height and width so it fully covers the book block. Then cut out along the lines you have drawn. This will become the cover of your book.
6. Cut a strip of ribbon or tape the same height as your cover. This will be the spine strip. Glue this spine strip to the outside cover of your book.



7. Wrap the cover around your book block. Open the entire book to the middle page and 'bind' your book together with the string or an elastic band.
8. Draw some pictures in your book and colour them in. If you want to, you could write a few sentences about what makes them special to you or a short prayer next to it to say thank you to God for that person.



### Extension

The writing in the prayer book looks very different to the way we write now. You can have a go at writing and copying the old-style font.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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