

## HOW TO USE THESE MATERIALS

Please be familiar with the Background Information before introducing the activities in this packet to your group.

We recommend that the activities be presented in order. **Activity 1** introduces the largest plate and is based on developing observational skills. Looking at the largest plate leads to **Activity 2**, an art activity about portraying narratives. **Activity 3** is a writing activity: The participants are asked to imagine and write about events that might have occurred in David's life before and after his battle with Goliath. In **Activity 4**, reading the biblical story reveals the subject matter of the nine plates and an art activity gives the students an opportunity to create their own narrative artwork that tells this story. **Activity 5** begins with a discussion about the function of the plates, and an exercise to determine their original arrangement follows.

We encourage you to adapt or build on these materials to suit the needs of your group. Please feel free to photocopy any of these materials and distribute them to the students as necessary.

## GOALS

- To learn to look closely at a work of art and consider line, shape, color, texture, and composition.
- To understand that art is a form of communication. In these silver plates, the carvers not only illustrate a well-known biblical story; they may also be suggesting a parallel between King David and the Byzantine emperor.
- To learn that a work of art can provide information about the ideals and beliefs of the society in which it was made, in this case the early Byzantine Empire.
- To learn how artists illustrate narratives in their work by selecting key events and by using symbols to help convey the meaning of a scene.
- To learn what relief sculpture is and that it requires great skill in design and production.