

Words of LIFE

Christian Education activity
book for preadolescent
children ages 9-11

[STUDENT]

Year

3

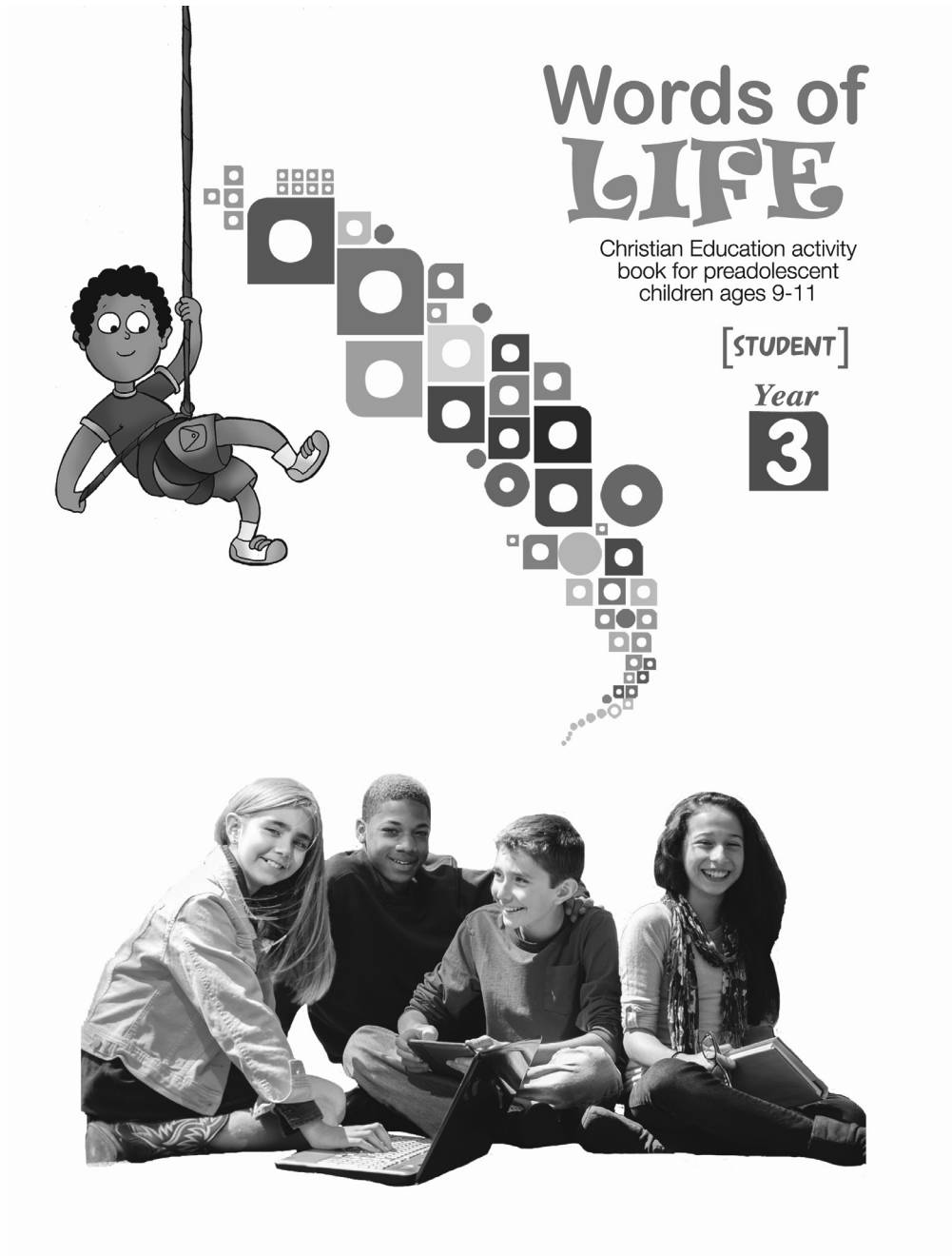


WORDS OF LIFE

This publication was designed for pre-adolescent students (9 to 11 years old - 4th, 5th, and 6th graders).

Corresponds to Year 3 of the cycle of three years of WORDS OF LIFE (pre-adolescent Children) lesson books.

STUDENT Year 3



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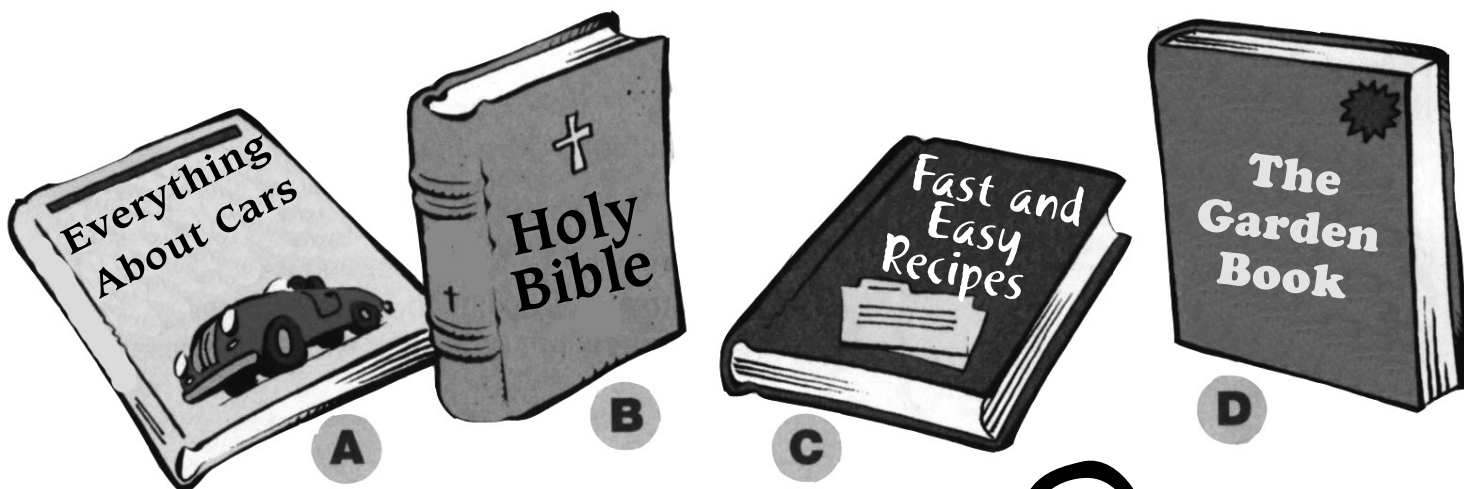
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Where Would You Look?

Which is the best book to find these topics in?



Write the letter in the corresponding space.

- ___ 1. God
- ___ 2. How to rebuild a motor.
- ___ 3. Forgiveness
- ___ 4. How to be brave.
- ___ 5. How to make friends.
- ___ 6. How to grow a garden
- ___ 7. How to cook your favorite food
- ___ 8. Love

Why do you think the Bible is important?

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."
(2 Timothy 3:16)

Did you know . . . ?

Find the secret word. Example $A + 2 = C$

The Bible is by God.

G+2 M+1 R+1 Q-1 L-3 T-2 D+1 E-1

Our verse says that all of Scripture is "inspired by God." This means that God helped the writers know what they should write, and guided them as they wrote the Scriptures.



He Warned Them!

*Jeremiah 1:1-9; 25:1-14; 39:1-10;
Ezra 1:1-5*

The people didn't love God or obey Him. They worshiped the idols they had created with their own hands. They acted very badly. However, they expected God to protect them from their enemies.

God loved his people, but he had to punish them if he didn't change their ways. How could he warn them about the danger of disobeying?

One day, God spoke to a young man named Jeremiah. "Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart: I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah was afraid. "Sovereign Lord, I don't know how to speak; I'm too young."

God replied: "Don't say, 'I'm too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Don't be afraid of them, for I'm with you and will rescue you."

For 23 years, Jeremiah did exactly what

God asked him to do. When God gave him a message, he passed it on to the people of Judah. He preached in the city of Jerusalem. He spoke about sin and what would happen if they didn't repent.

"Turn now, each of you, from your evil ways and your evil practices, and you can stay in the land the Lord gave to you and your ancestors for ever and ever. Don't follow other gods . . ."

Neither the king nor the people paid attention to the messages that God gave them through Jeremiah. They continued to worship the idols and do evil. One of the kings burned the scroll on which Jeremiah had written God's messages. However, Jeremiah and his secretary wrote the message again. Jeremiah warned the people: "Therefore the Lord Almighty says this: 'Because you haven't listened to my words, I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin. I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp. This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.' "

But not everything that Jeremiah said was bad news. He also said, "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt . . ."

Several years later, when Zedekiah was king of Judah, Babylon attacked them. "What should I do?" cried King Zedekiah. "Bow your neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon; serve him and his people, and you will live." Jeremiah responded. But King Zedekiah didn't listen to God's message.

Then came Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, with all his army ... When they saw them, Zedekiah king of Judah and all the men of war fled ... But the army of the Babylonians followed ... They captured him and took him to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon ... The Babylonians made Zedekiah watch as they killed his sons and all the nobles of Judah. Then they removed his eyes, chained him and took him to Babylon as a prisoner. The Babylonians burned the royal palace and the houses of the people and broke down the walls of Jerusalem. They removed all the people who were still in the city and took them as prisoners to Babylon, except for some poor people. As Jeremiah had said, the people of Judah remained in Babylon for 70 years.

During the first year that Cyrus was king of Persia, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus and he allowed the people to go free. Cyrus announced: "Any of the people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them." Then, all those whom God placed in their heart prepared to go up

and build the house of the Lord, which is in Jerusalem. God had told Jeremiah to warn the people what was going to happen; so he spoke to them several times, but they didn't listen to him.

So, what God said would happen, happened. Today, we have the messages of Jeremiah in the Bible. God gave us these messages so we would know that we should love and obey Him.

(This Bible story is found in Jeremiah 1:4-7; 25:5-8; 39:1-5; and Ezra 1:5)



Think About It?

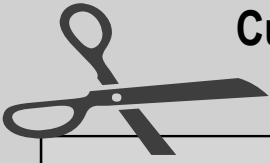
What did God tell Jeremiah to do?

What did Jeremiah tell the people?

What happened to the king and the people of Judah?

What does this show us about the Bible?

LEARN THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT



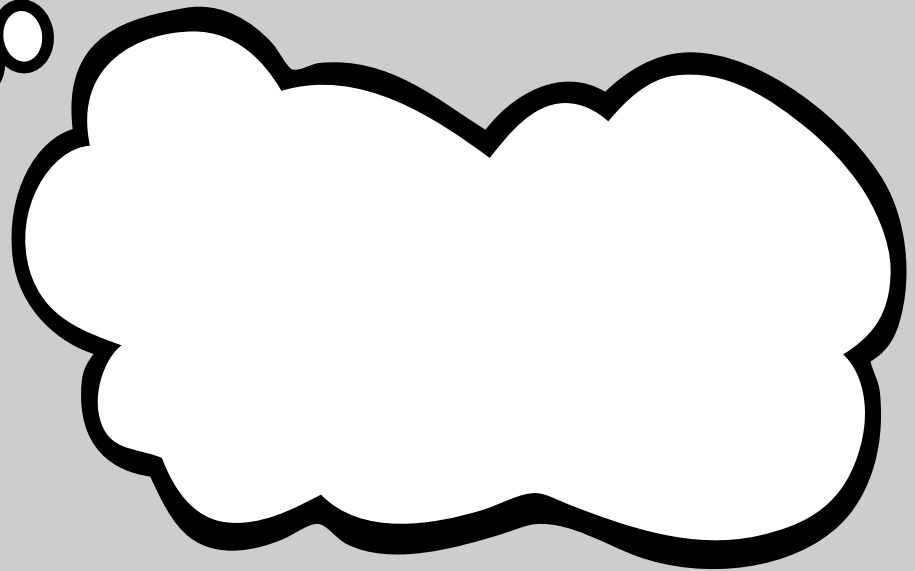
Cut out the cards and use them as directed by your teacher.
Save these cards for use in this unit about the Bible.

MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
JOHN	ACTS	ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS	2 CORINTHIANS	GALATIANS
EPHESIANS	PHILIPPIANS	COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS	2 THESSALONIANS	1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY	TITUS	PHILEMON
HEBREWS	JAMES	1 PETER
2 PETER	1 JOHN	2 JOHN
3 JOHN	JUDE	REVELATION

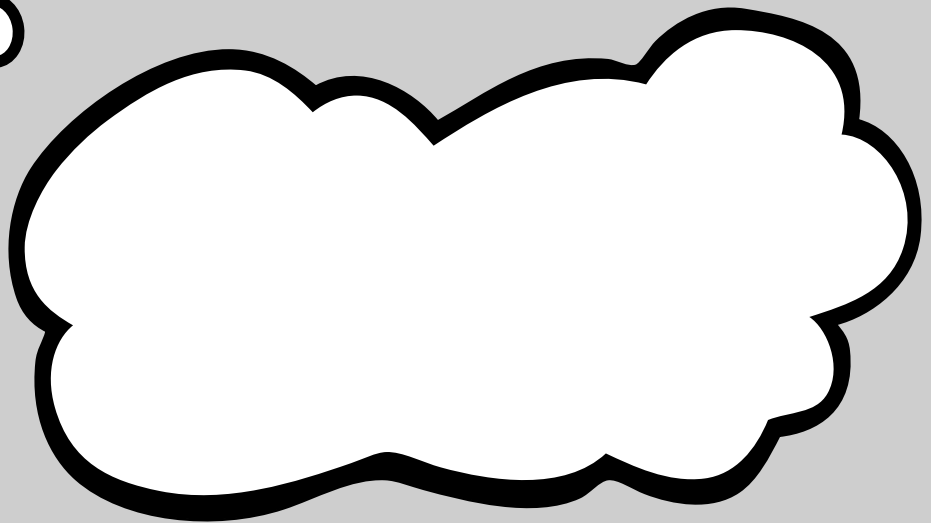


Who Is God?

What do you know about God?
Write it or draw it in the space below.



What would you like to know about God?
Write it or draw it in the space below.





The Israelites Listen to the Word

Nehemiah 8:1–9:3; 9:38; 10:29-39.

After 70 long years of captivity in a very distant land, the people of Judah finally returned to their home in Jerusalem. They rebuilt the walls of their city and began to live in their own homes. Soon the time for celebrating came. They celebrated the beginning of a new year with the Feast of Trumpets. They also celebrated the autumn harvest with the Feast of Tabernacles. This was a time when they remembered how God always took care of his people. On the first day of the month, on the Feast of Trumpets, all the Israelites gathered in the plaza near one of the gates of the city, which was called the Water Gate.

Ezra, the priest and teacher of the Law, brought out the Book of the Law of Moses and began to read it. He was standing on a high platform, and read all morning, from sunrise to noon. The people listened attentively, while the Levites explained the meaning of the Word of God. Suddenly, the people began to cry. Upon hearing the commandments and laws of God, they realized that they had not obeyed God. They had acted very badly.

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day

is holy to the Lord your God. Don’t mourn or weep.”

Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Don’t grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

The people obeyed. The next day, they came together again to hear the Word of God. This time, Ezra read God’s instructions on how to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. “Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make temporary shelters, as it is written.”

With great enthusiasm, they searched for the branches of the trees and built the shelters on the flat roofs of their houses. For seven days they lived in those shelters, and they remembered God’s kindness to them in the past. Every day they met and listened to Ezra read and explain the Word of God. Not even the oldest people remembered a joyous celebration like this one!

Later in the same month, the town met again. This time they didn’t celebrate, but they fasted and dressed in sackcloth. They put dust on their heads to show how sorry they were for having

sinned against God. Standing where they were, they read the book of the Law of God, their God, a quarter of the day, and for another quarter of the day they confessed their sins and worshiped the Lord their God. The people were sorry for having disobeyed God for so many years. They wanted to change. So together, they made a promise to fulfill the laws that God had given Moses. They promised to obey all the commands that God had given them. This time they were determined to obey God.

(This Bible story is found in Nehemiah 8:1–9:3; 9:38; 10:29-39.)

What does it mean?

TO FAST

To give up something for awhile, often food, so you can dedicate yourself to thinking about God and what he wants you to do. Time set aside for prayer and worshipping God.

The Word of God Teaches Us

See the references below. Look up the verses in your Bible and fill in the missing words. The missing words will tell you more about what God is like, and what He wants you to do.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God _____ the heavens and the earth.

Deuteronomy 4:7b

The Lord, _____ God is near us whenever we pray to him.

Deuteronomy 10:17a

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the _____ God, _____ and _____.

Psalms 37:3a

_____ in the Lord and do _____.

Daniel 9:9a

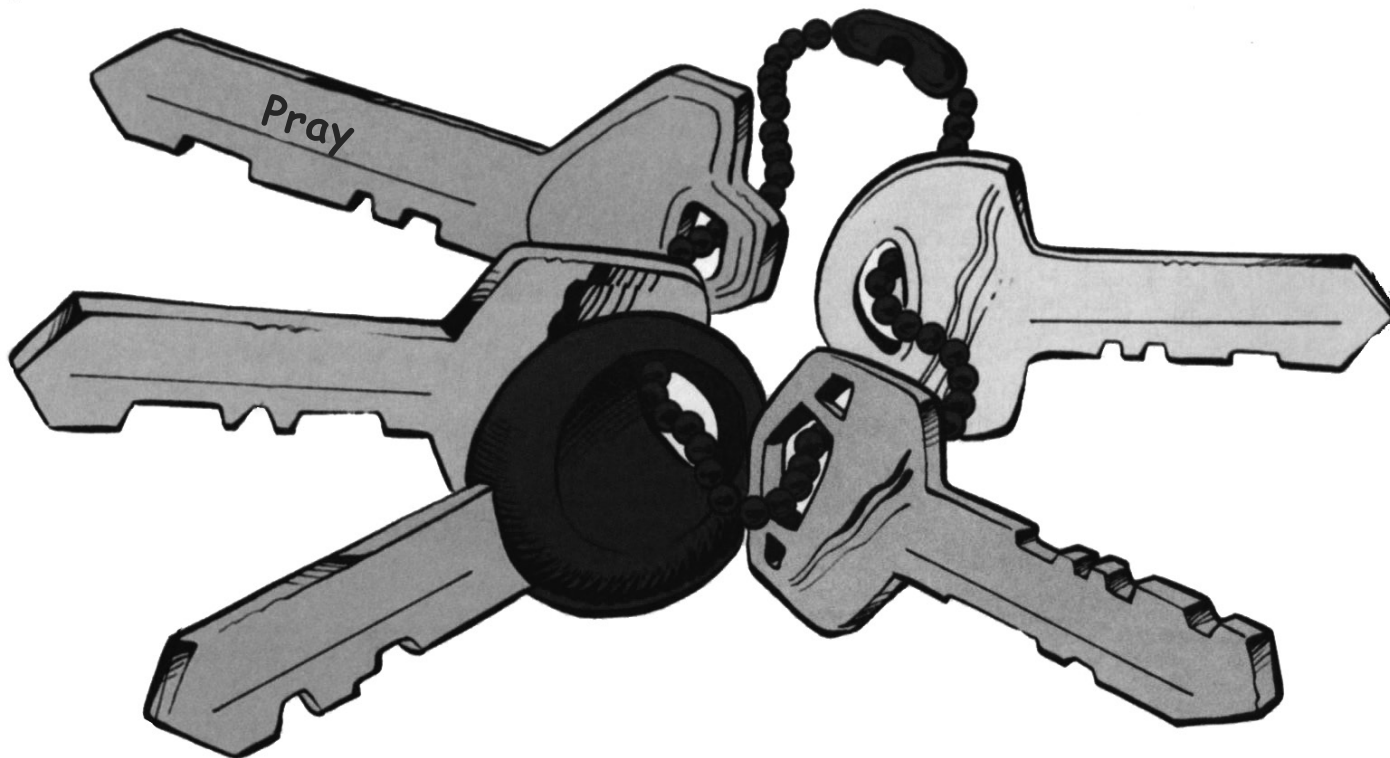
The Lord our God is _____ and _____.

Psalms 145:13

Your kingdom is an _____ kingdom, and your dominion endures through all _____.

Luke 10:27

_____ the Lord your God with all your _____ and with all your soul and with all your _____ and with all your mind; and, Love your _____ as yourself.



How Can I Know God Better?


Write on the keys some ways to know God better. The first one is already written for you.

Write a prayer of praise to God and another to thank Him for His Word.

I praise you, God, for _____

Thank you God, for _____

What is Love Like?

Draw a  beside each drawing that shows a way Jesus expressed his love for people.



Luke 4:14-32

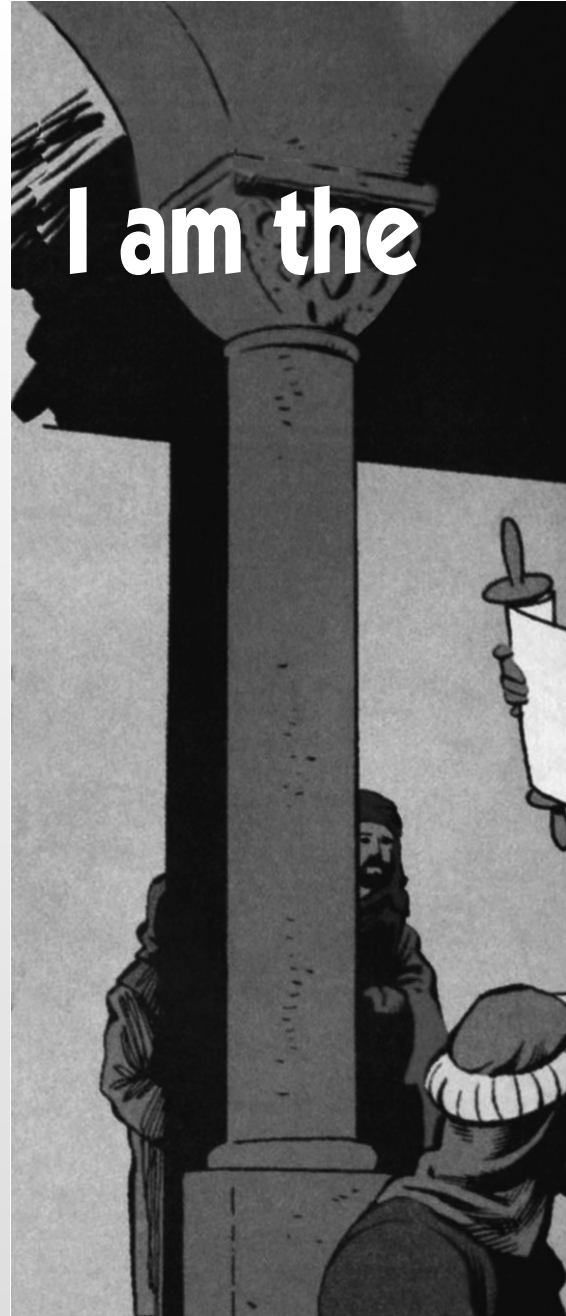
“Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. ‘Isn’t this Joseph’s son?’ they asked.



The Love of God

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

What does this verse tell us about God’s love?

Who is the son who is mentioned in this verse?

Complete

Review the story and complete these sentences. You can look at the story if you need to. Use the words in the rectangle to complete the last sentence and find today’s Biblical truth.

CHRIST!



Jesus said to them, 'Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'

'Truly I tell you,' he continued, 'no prophet is accepted in his hometown. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.'

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority."

the following sentences:

SAVIOR

JESUS CHRIST

MESSAGE

LOVES

BIBLE

1. The words of Jesus surprised the people because ...
2. Something Jesus said he came to do was ...
3. Jesus also said that he was going to ...
4. People got angry because ...
5. The most important _____ of the _____ is that God _____ us and he sent his Son, _____, to be our _____.

THE BIBLE TELLS US

There are people who know a lot about God, but in spite of that, they don't have a relationship with him. Use your Bible to learn how to have a personal relationship with God. Find the verses and rearrange the letters to complete the sentences.

1. Romans 3:23

ADMIT that you have _____. (E D N I S N)
This means that you disobeyed God.

2. 1 Peter 3:18

_____ (I E L B V E E) that God loves you.
God sent His son, _____
(T U J E H S S C R I S) to die on the cross so that you
can be forgiven from your sins and be God's friend.

3. 1 John 1:9

Pray and _____ (S E C N S O F) your sins.
Tell God that you don't want to disobey Him anymore.
Ask Him to forgive you.

4. Ephesians 2:8-9

Have _____ (T A F I H) that God will fulfill His
promise to forgive your sins and make you His child.

5. John 1:12

_____ (I E V C E E R) Jesus as your Savior.
Tell others what God has done for you.
Love God and follow Jesus.

What is missing from each picture?

What is missing?





Paul and Silas were missionaries. They went from city to city telling Jews and Gentiles the good news that Jesus had died for the sins of all people.

This is what happened on one of their trips:

Paul and Silas went to Thessalonica where there was a Jewish Synagogue. As was his custom, Paul went there, and for three Sabbath days, he reasoned with them, explaining and proving from the Scriptures that it was necessary for Christ to suffer and be resurrected from the dead. And he said, "This Jesus I'm proclaiming to you is the Messiah." The prophets spoke of him. He was crucified, died and rose again on the third day. Now he is in heaven preparing a place for those who believe in him. Jesus will forgive your sins if you repent. Believe in him and you will be saved.

Some of them believed and accepted Jesus as their Savior. But other Jews became jealous. Then, those who didn't believe rounded up some bad characters from the

Listen, Believe, Do

marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house looking for Paul and Silas to bring them before the town, but they didn't find them. So they brought Jason and some believers before the city officials, shouting, "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." Upon hearing this, the town and the city officials were upset. Then they made Jason and the others post bond and they released them.

When night came, the believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. As soon as they arrived, they entered the Jewish Synagogue. The Berean Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica and they received the message with eagerness and searched the scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Many of them believed, and their lives changed because they decided to learn the Word of God and obey it.

(This Bible story is found in Acts 17).

SEARCH IN BEREIA

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Gentiles

People who are not Jewish.

Post Bond

Guarantee.

For this game, you simply need to follow the directions given for each answer.

Answer the first question and then continue with the review, moving according to the instructions. Circle the letter of the correct answers.

3. How did the Thessalonians respond to Paul's teachings?
 - a. They believed everything he said. Advance to #6.
 - b. Some believed, but many became jealous and started a riot. Advance to #5.

1. According to today's story, where did Paul & Silas go first?
 - a. Berea. Advance to box #4.
 - b. Thessalonica. Advance to #3.

12. Who made the right decision to learn the Word of God?
 - a. Those in Berea. Advance to #16.
 - b. The Thessalonians. Advance to #13.

10. Try Again.

5. What did the crowd in Thessalonica do?
 - a. They went to Jason's house to find Paul & Silas and stir up trouble. Advance to # 8.
 - b. They took Paul & Silas into the street and beat them. Advance to #10.

4. Advance to #7.

11. Go back to #7.

9. What happened to Jason?
 - a. Nothing. Advance to #11.
 - b. The crowd brought him & other believers before the city officials and accused them of disobeying Caesar's law. Advance to #12.

8. Where did Paul & Silas go when they arrived in Thessalonica?
 - a. To the Jewish synagogue. Advance to #9.
 - b. Jason's house. Go back to #2.

7. Try Again.

6. Return to #3.

13. Return to #10.

20. Return to #17.

14. Try Again.

15. Advance to #19.

21. Return to #18.

19. Try Again.

16. How did those in Berea respond to Paul and Silas' teaching?
 - a. They were eager to learn, they wanted to know if what Paul said was true. Advance to #20.
 - b. They were angry. They persecuted Paul & Silas until they left the city. Go back to #15.

17. What did Jason and the believers have to do to get out of jail?
 - a. Spend the night in jail. Go back to #14.
 - b. Post bond. Advance to #21.

18. According to verse 12, who believed in what Paul said?
 - a. Many Jews and gentiles (Greeks). Advance to #23.
 - b. No one. Advance to #22.

22. Try Again.

23. Congratulations, you are a winner! Are you making the same decision that the people of Berea made?

Connect the beginning of each sentence with the correct ending. These prayers show ways you can learn the Word of God.

Learn the Word of God



Do the Bible lesson activity

ask God to help you trust and obey Him.



Listen to a CD or MP3

Sunday School.



Memorize

of Bible stories or the Bible.



Listen and participate in

that is provided to do in Sunday School.



During the sermon

to explain to you the Bible verses that you don't understand.



Ask someone to read to you

Bible verses you learn in class.



Ask your parents or teacher

write down something the pastor said.



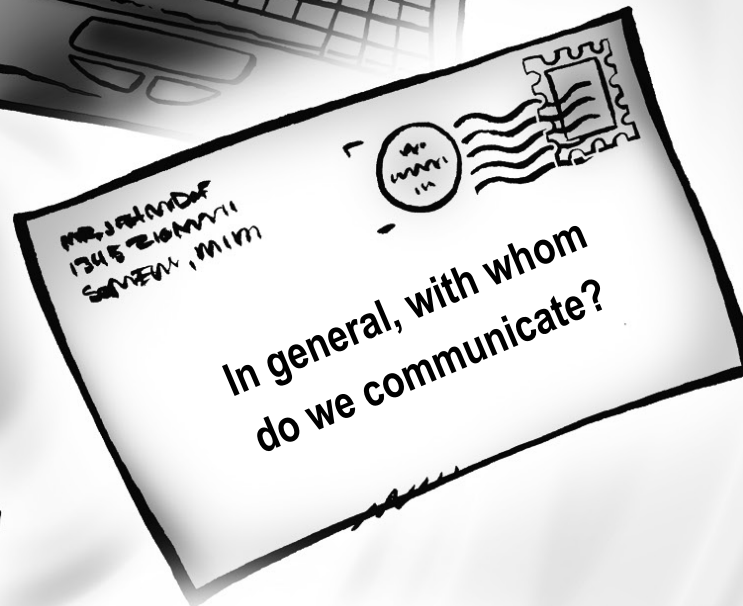
When you learn something from the Bible

parts of the Bible.

Which of these will you do this week? Put a star next to it and remember to do it.



COMMUNICATION STATION



“Here am I. Send Me!”

Characters:

Narrator, Isaiah, Seraphim 1, Seraphim 2, God

Narrator: One day, Isaiah decided to go for a walk. He needed time to think about important issues, such as King Uzziah’s illness and the evil of the people. He stopped in front of the temple and looked through the open doors. There he had an incredible vision. God was sitting on his great throne and there were seraphim. Each one had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet and with two they flew. And they were calling to one another saying:

Seraphim 1 and 2: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

Narrator: When Isaiah heard this, the temple began to tremble and was filled with smoke. Imagine Isaiah’s reaction!

Isaiah: “Woe to me! I’m ruined! For I’m a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

Narrator: At that moment, one of the seraphim took a burning coal from the altar with tongs and touched Isaiah’s lips with it. How painful! But the coal didn’t burn Isaiah. God used it to purify him.

Seraphim 1: “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Narrator: Then God began to speak.

God: “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

Narrator: Isaiah didn’t even hesitate. He felt small in front of such an amazing God, but still he was determined to serve him.

Isaiah: “Here am I. Send me!”

Narrator: Then, God told Isaiah what he should say to the people.

God: “Go and tell this people: ‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes.”

Isaiah: “For how long, Lord?”

God: “Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitants, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged, until the Lord has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken. And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste. But as the terebinth and oak trees leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land.”

(Taken from Isaiah 6)

Points of Interest

Isaiah saw this vision of God on the throne when he was thinking about the empty throne of Uzziah.

Why is it important to believe that God is on his throne, even when we are insecure?

The seraphim covered their eyes and their feet so they could not look upon the Holy God who was watching them.

Do we sometimes forget how powerful God is? Discuss situations in which this happens to us.

When the seraphim announced the holiness of God, the entire temple filled with smoke and trembled.

In what ways are your times of prayer such that it seems like the earth “trembles”?

Isaiah felt that he was not worthy to be in the presence of God, but he was willing to serve him with all his heart.

Are we as passionate as Isaiah to serve God?



How are your **EARS?**

Evaluate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5. Read each of the three statements.
Then circle the number that best describes you.

1. Very bad. I need a doctor to solve this!
2. I need to improve a lot.
3. I'm almost there.
4. Pretty good.
5. Always!

1. I listen to God every day when I read the Bible and pray.

1

2

3

4

5

2. I listen to my parents and teachers very carefully when they talk to me.

1

2

3

4

5

3. When I talk to others, I stop and listen carefully to what they tell me.

1

2

3

4

5



IF YOU WERE SOVEREIGN...

what would you do?

On these clay pots, write what you would do if you had total control of the world.



“The Prophecy”

A Prophet Learns a



My name is Jeremiah. I'm the guest writer for today's Gazette. I have a very interesting story to tell.

The other day, God told me, "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message."

I was a bit confused, but I always try to do what God asks me to do, and I realized that the only way to get answers was to go to the potter's house to hear what God wanted to tell me. So I went down to the potter's house and saw him working at the wheel. But the clay pot that he was working on was marred/deformed, so he formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

Then God began to speak to me. He said, "Can't I do with you, Israel, as this potter does? Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and doesn't obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it."

"Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the Lord says: Look! I'm preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.'

Please tell them this, Jeremiah, although they may not listen to you. They will continue to do the wrong thing, but warn them about this, anyway.

Then I left the potter's house, and I understood God's message to me. Stay tuned and read next week's Gazette where I'll explain a little more about God's message to Israel.

(This Bible story is found in Jeremiah 18.)

Gazette

Lesson From a Potter



Think About It!

After doing the activity with mud in your class,
think about the following questions:

The Potter

- 1. How is God like the Potter?**
- 2. How does it feel to be a potter?**
- 3. How did you react when you had to destroy your creation?**
- 4. Why did some of you decide not to break your creations/pots?**

The Mud

- 1. How are we like the clay/mud.**
- 2. How are we different from the clay?**
- 3. How was Israel like the clay?**
- 4. In what ways can we let God, our Potter, mold us and shape us like clay?**

CYCLES

Make a list of what makes up a cycle (begin with a starting point, go through several processes and then return to the starting point, again and again. For example the circulatory system).



***Can these cycles be broken?
What happens if the cycle is broken?***

The Bitter Cycle of Sin

We see it all the time. Especially now with the Israelites. When someone sins, the consequences appear. And everyone tries to discover whose fault it is. Some say that parents are to blame. Others say they cannot stop sinning—it's in their blood. But the word of the Lord came to me. And he said, "What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: 'The parents eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'?" God told me that this ancient proverb was not true about Israel.

Each person is an individual with a soul and a will of their own. And all, both the child and the parent, were created by God. We are individuals, and the one who sins will die. Some people are confused about this, and others still feel that the bad things that happen are a consequence for sin committed by people a long time ago. God wants us to know that we are not going to receive punishment for what others did, although sometimes we suffer indirectly from the consequences of what they did. Why will the child not bear the sin of his parent? Because if the child acted according to law and justice, kept all the statutes of God and fulfilled them, then he/she will live; but the soul that sins will die.

The child will not bear the sin of the father nor the father bear the sin of the child; "The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them."

"But if a wicked person turns away from all the sins they have committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, that person will surely live; they will not die. None of the offenses they have committed will be remembered against them. Because of the righteous things they have done, they will live."

Does God want the wicked to die? God says, "Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live? But if a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked person does, will they live? None of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness they are guilty of and because of the sins they have committed, they will die."

Then Israel has a decision to make, beyond what their families and ancestors did. The people of Israel can return to God and change the cycle of sin, or they can choose to stay in the bitter cycle of sin.

(Taken from Ezekiel 18:1-4; 19-24).

- 1. What does the proverb "The parents eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge" mean?**
- 2. Why do you think God told Israel to never quote this proverb again?**
- 3. If God doesn't want the wicked to be lost forever, then why does He allow evil to happen?**
- 4. God forgets our evil if we go to him, but he also forgets our good if we return to evil. Is that fair?**

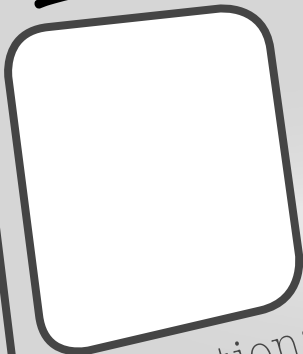


"Say It With Pictures"

The book of Ezekiel is full of symbols. Look at these four passages. When you find the symbols, draw them, describe them, and then explain what they mean.

Ezekiel 3:16-21

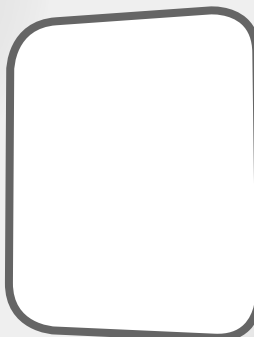
Meaning:



Description:

Ezekiel 4:1-3

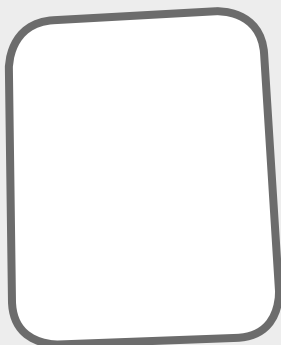
Meaning:



Description:

Ezekiel 12:1-6

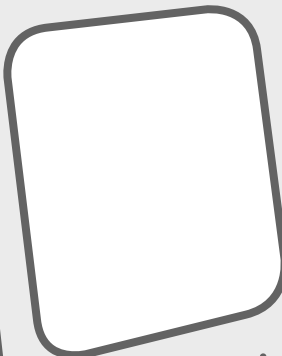
Meaning:



Description:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Meaning:



Description:

MY RESPONSIBILITY

In the space below, make a list of everything that you are responsible for.
Try to think of as many as you can.

What are the advantages of being responsible for something?

What are some of the disadvantages?

Are we responsible for everything we do, even for the thoughts we have?

FOOTBALL FIGHT

Characters: Coach; Nicolas, an intellectual teenager; Thomas, a young athlete; Laura, a cheerleader.

(The coach enters the gym and sees Thomas, Nicolas and Laura talking).

Coach: Hi guys, I'm looking for someone to help me at a kids football game next Tuesday after school.

Nicolas: I would love to help. I've never played football, but I know the rules well. If you need me, I'm willing to help you.

Thomas: Coach, you know that I would like to help you. I know you don't have anyone else to do it, but I don't have time.

Coach: Well, no problem. Nicolas offered to help me.

Laura: Yes, but Nicolas ... Everyone knows that he would look funny on the field.

Nicolas: As I said, I know how to play, I've just never had the chance to do it.

Thomas: Because you're not good at football. Coach, I think I have no choice but to come to help you myself.

Coach: But you just told me you don't have time!

Thomas: (puffing out his chest): Well, what do you want me to say? I'll do it because I'm a good person.

Laura: (jumping): Yes. You're amazing!

Coach: I prefer that Nicolas helps me.

Nicolas, Thomas and Laura: SERIOUSLY?

Coach: Yes, without a doubt. I don't see why Nicolas can't do it. He's intelligent, knows the rules and is willing. He has everything you need to be a good coach.

Nicolas: Thanks, coach! Nobody has ever given me an opportunity like this. I won't disappoint you.

Coach: I know. And Thomas, now that you have time, I need you to help me wash the uniforms.

Thomas: Well ... I ... actually..... my mom told me to go straight home.

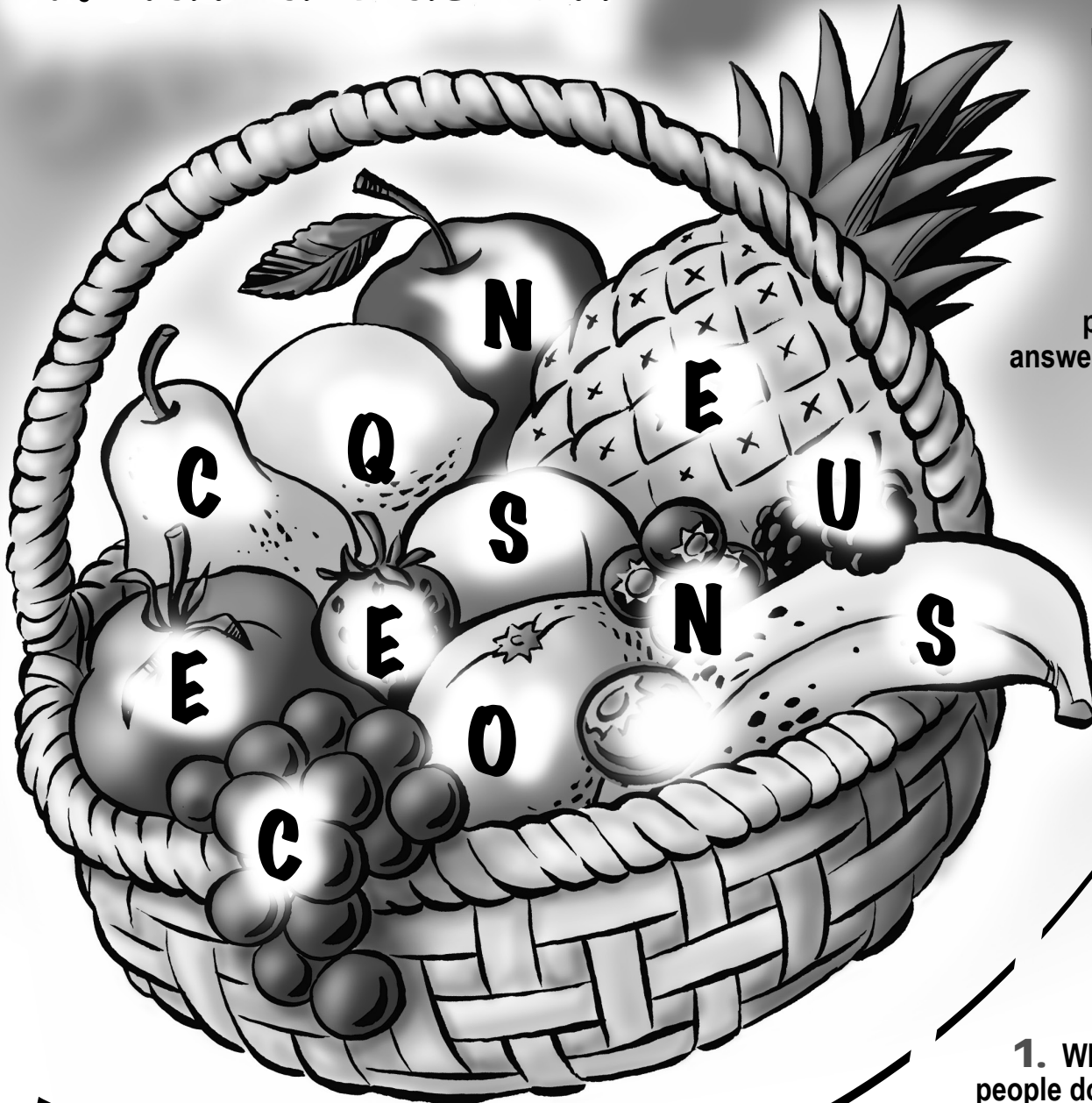
Coach: That's what I thought ...



What a Basket!

Read Amos 8:1-8

Use the letters found on the fruit to put together the hidden word and write it in the spaces provided. Then answer the following questions.



1. What did the people do to make God so angry?

2. In this passage, the people were warned that their actions would bring consequences. What consequences?

3. What did God mean when he told Amos that the fruit in the basket was ripe?

4. One of the most important issues in this story is the social difference between rich and poor. Does this problem still exist in our society today?

5. Name other “differences” that divide people.

"THE TWO SIDES" OF THE GOLD

The TWO Plots of AMOS

1 = Very Bad News
10 = Very Good News

Open your Bible to the book of Amos.

Read each chapter and classify them from 1 to 10.

Chapter 1

Chapter 5

Chapter 2

Chapter 7

Chapter 3

Chapter 8

Chapter 4

Chapter 9

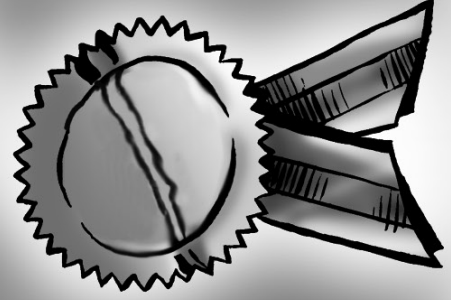
Chapter 6

Verses to Memorize

Jeremiah 7:23

2 Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 1:3

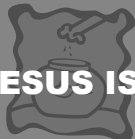


_____ (student's name)

has memorized all of the verses for Units 1-3!!

Teacher: _____

Date: _____



Jesus is the only person in all history who was fully human (man) and fully God (divine). Think of examples in the Bible that show characteristics of Jesus as a man or as God and write or draw them inside the planets. Example: Jesus was born as a baby, just like us - fully man. Jesus also healed a blind man, something we can't do - fully God.

TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS

IN ONE SINGLE MAN



The Radiance of

This is my son, whom I love;
with him I'm well pleased.

-God-

(Matthew 3:17)



the Glory of God

“In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: ‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness, Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’

John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And don’t think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.’

‘I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I’m not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’

Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and landing on him.

And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I’m well pleased.’”

(Matthew 3:1-17)

*“The Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the one
and only Son, who came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.”*

(John 1:14)

Exact Representation



*The Son is the radiance
of God's glory and the
exact representation of
his being.
(Hebrews 1:3a)*

I'm glad that Jesus is fully human because ...

I'm glad that Jesus is fully divine (God) because ...



LET'S TALK ABOUT TEMPTATION

Find a partner and together answer the following questions:

Remember a time when you wanted to do something, but you knew it was wrong. How did you feel?

What do you think most pre-teens do when they encounter these temptations?



Make a list of things that pre-teens would like to do, but that they know they shouldn't do.

Do you think that Jesus was ever tempted with something you wrote down on your list?

Fully MAN

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’



Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”’

Jesus answered him, ‘It is also written: “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”’

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.”

(Matthew 4:1-11)



Fully **GOD**

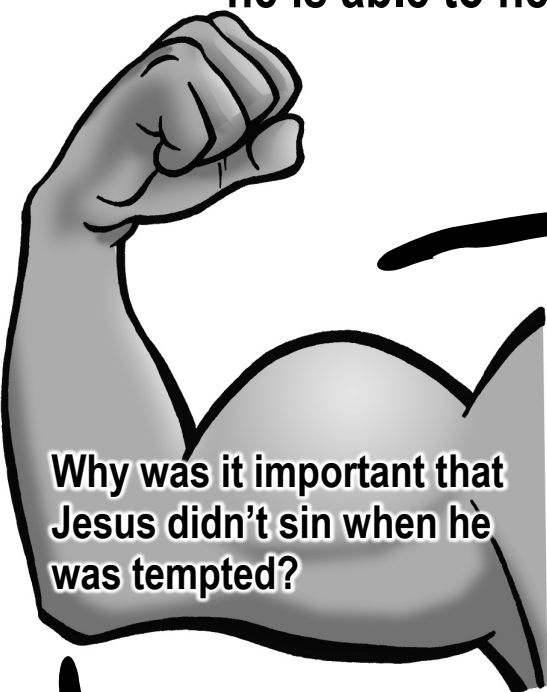
Think About It

“For we don’t have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are— yet he didn’t sin.”

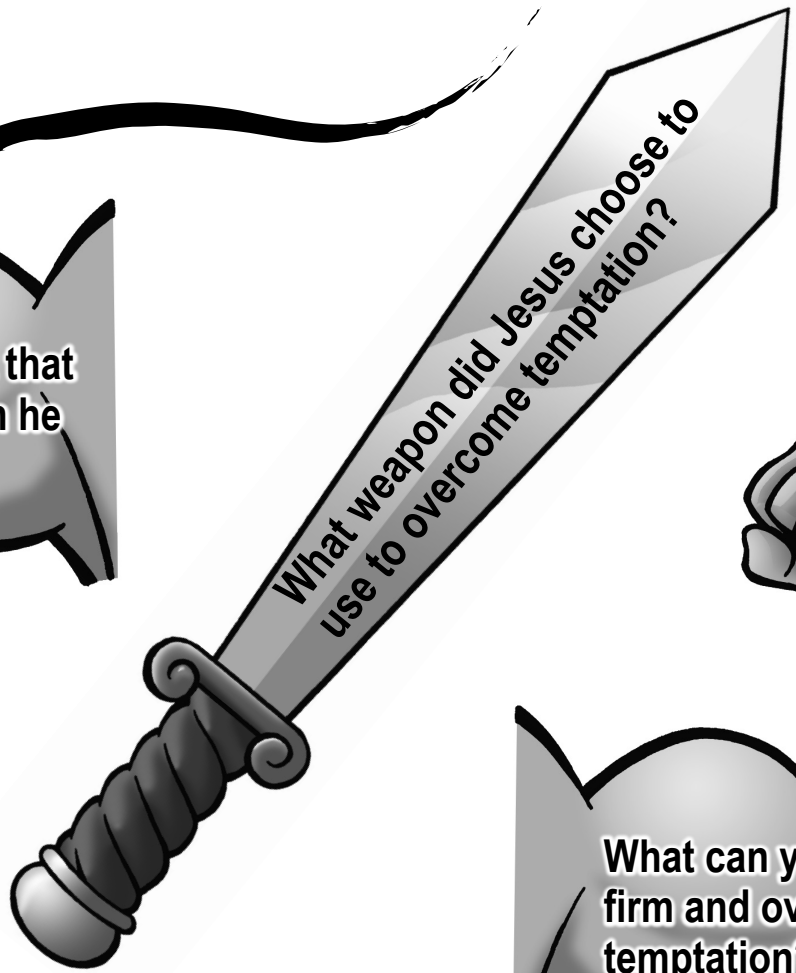
(Hebrews 4:15)

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, . . .” (Hebrews 1:3a)


**Because he himself suffered when he was tempted,
he is able to help those who are being tempted.
(Hebrews 2:18)**



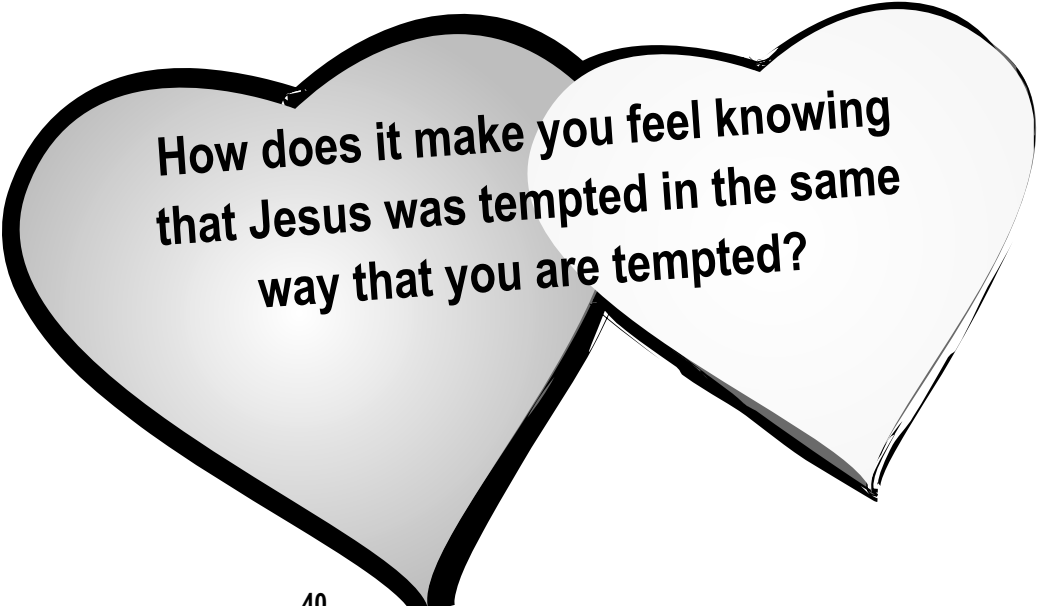
**Why was it important that
Jesus didn't sin when he
was tempted?**



**What weapon did Jesus choose to
use to overcome temptation?**



**What can you do to be
firm and overcome
temptation?**



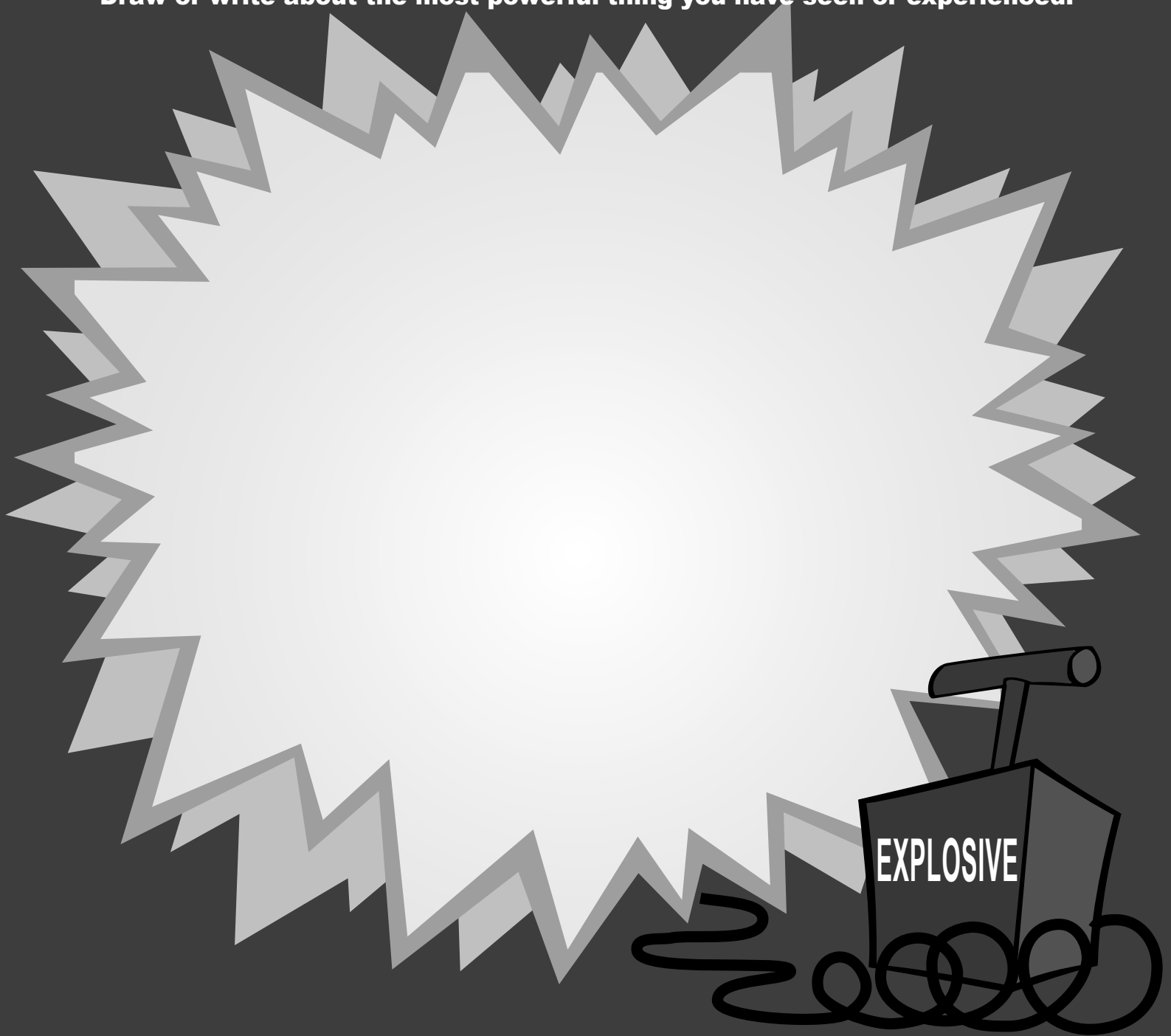
***“Let us then
approach
God’s throne
of grace with
confidence,
so that we
may receive
mercy and
find grace to
help us in
our time of
need.”
(Hebrews
4:16)***

**How does it make you feel knowing
that Jesus was tempted in the same
way that you are tempted?**



EXTRAORDINARY POWER

Draw or write about the most powerful thing you have seen or experienced.



Images of Power

Read these passages. What do they say about Jesus? Write your conclusions in the blanks.



Evidence of Compassion

Evidence of Power

Evidence of Compassion



Evidence of Power

Evidence of Compassion



Evidence of Power

**P
O
W
E
R**

Jesus used his power for two reasons. First, because he wanted to help people know that he was the Son of God, the Savior. Second, because he had compassion for people. He cared so much about people and their needs that he wanted to help them.

Jesus takes care of you too. He wants to help you today. Make an acrostic with the letters of the word "POWER". Write words or phrases that describe: (a) the power of Jesus, (b) His compassion, (c) situations in your life where you need the compassion and power of Jesus to move forward.





Who Is The Boss?

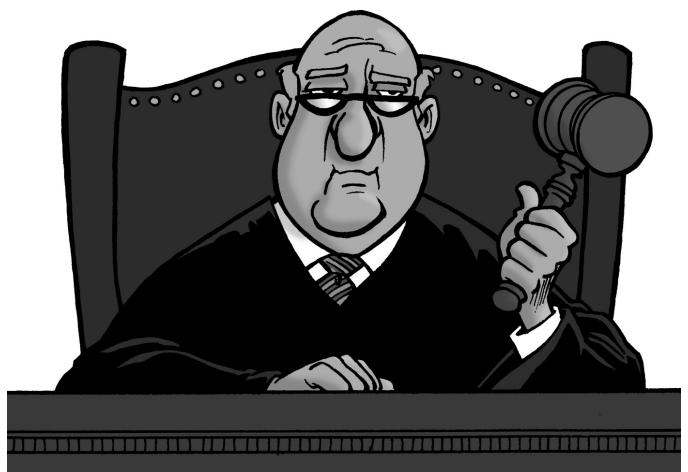
Look at the pictures of different kinds of authority.

Why must you obey them?

What right do they have to tell you what you can and cannot do?



GOD



Judgement and Forgiveness

The Authority of Jesus Over Sin

“After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, ‘Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!’ His disciples remembered that it is written: ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’

The Jews then responded to him, ‘What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?’

Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’

They replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?’ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.”

(John 2:12-22)



- * How do you describe Jesus' attitude toward sin?
- * Do you think he had the right to do what he did? Explain your answer.
- * What title would you give to this Bible story? Why?

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has is the Son of Man. crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life done what is evil will rise to be condemned.”

(John 5:24-29)

* Who will not be judged? (v. 24)

* What will Jesus give? (v.25)

* What did the Father give Jesus? Why? (v.27)

* What will happen to those who have done what is good? (v.29).

* What will happen to those who have done what is evil? (v.29).

* Compare this passage with John 2:12-22. How are they similar? What are the differences?



Jesus, the Son of God, has the authority to judge and forgive our sin. But we must make the decision, whether he is our Savior or our Judge. If you have never asked Jesus to be your Savior, and you want to do so at this time, follow these steps:

ABC's of Salvation

A

ADMIT you have sinned (done wrong, disobeyed God). Tell God what you have done, be sorry for it, and be willing to quit.

(Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:9)

B

BELIEVE God loves you and sent His Son, Jesus, to save you from your sins. Ask for and receive the forgiveness God is offering you.

(John 3:16; Acts 16:31)

C

CLAIM Jesus as your Savior. Tell others about what God has done for you. Love God and follow Jesus.

(John 1:12; Romans 10:13)

Who Is He?



Write or draw your ideas about Jesus in the speech bubbles. Who do you think he is? Why did he come to the world?



Jesus,

“The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, ‘Hosanna!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Blessed is the king of Israel!’

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ‘Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.’

At first his disciples didn’t understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. So the Pharisees said to one another, ‘See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!’”

(John 12:12-19).

The disciples, the multitude and the Pharisees thought that Jesus was going to establish a kingdom on earth, because they didn’t understand what was written in Zechariah 9:9. “Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding



Many people had the wrong idea about the kingdom of which Jesus is King.

In the circles to the right, draw a happy face next to the sentences that you think are correct. And draw a sad face next to the sentences that you think are false.



save us now!

John 12:12-19; Zechariah 9:9

on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

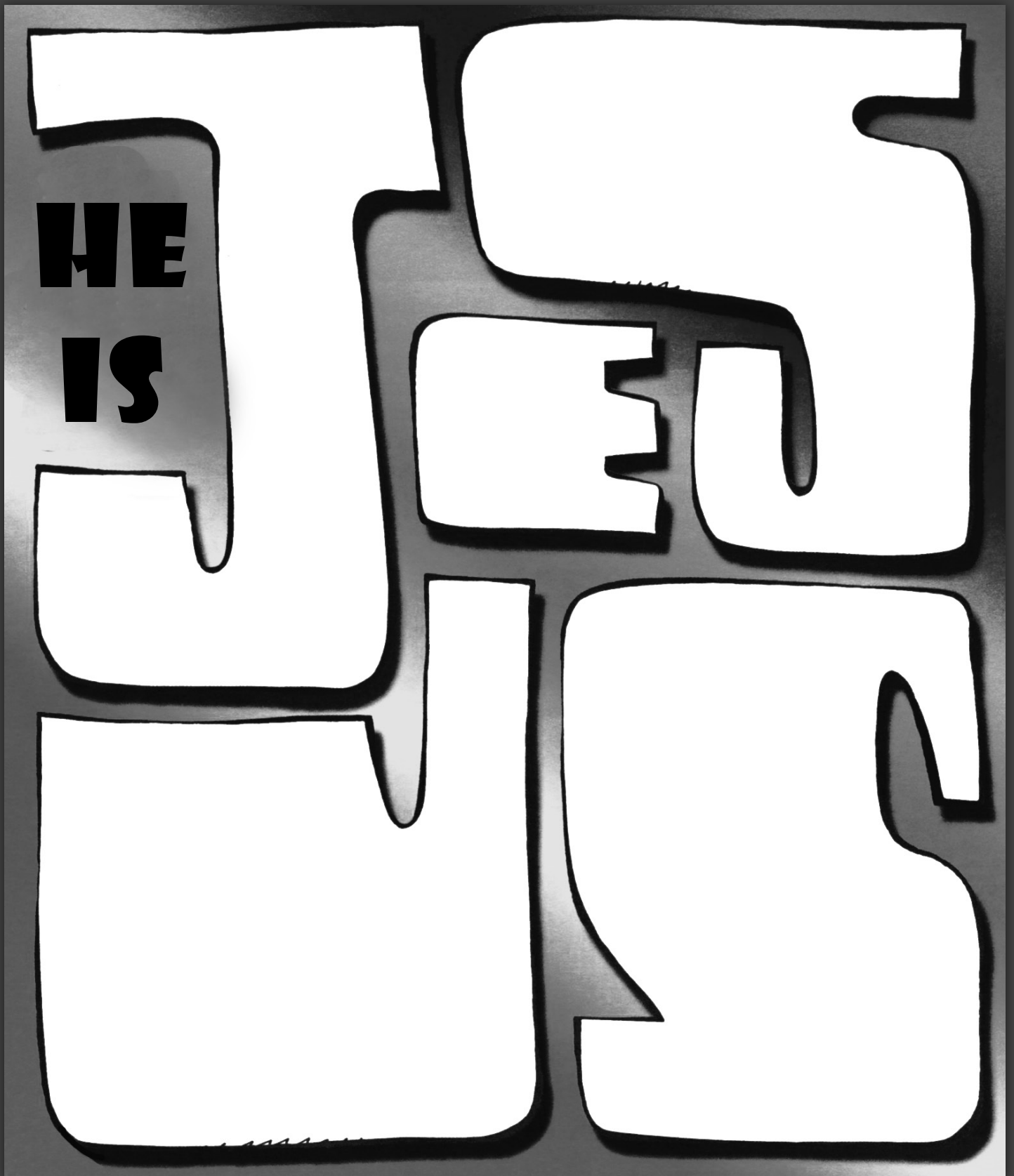
The following days, many of the people who had worshiped Jesus became angry with him. They expected Jesus to free them from Roman rule. However, Jesus was going to die on a cross like a criminal.

How can you change false statements into true ones?

Change the False Statements about Jesus:

1. Jesus had a very bright crown that showed the people that he was the king.
2. Jesus wore a purple robe for everyone to see so they would know he was the king.
3. Jesus didn't walk; he traveled in a chariot drawn by horses, with soldiers as escorts.
4. Jesus lived in a palace with many servants who did what he said.
5. Jesus often stayed in other people's houses, but only if they were rich and important.
6. Jesus spent most of his time talking to rich and important people.

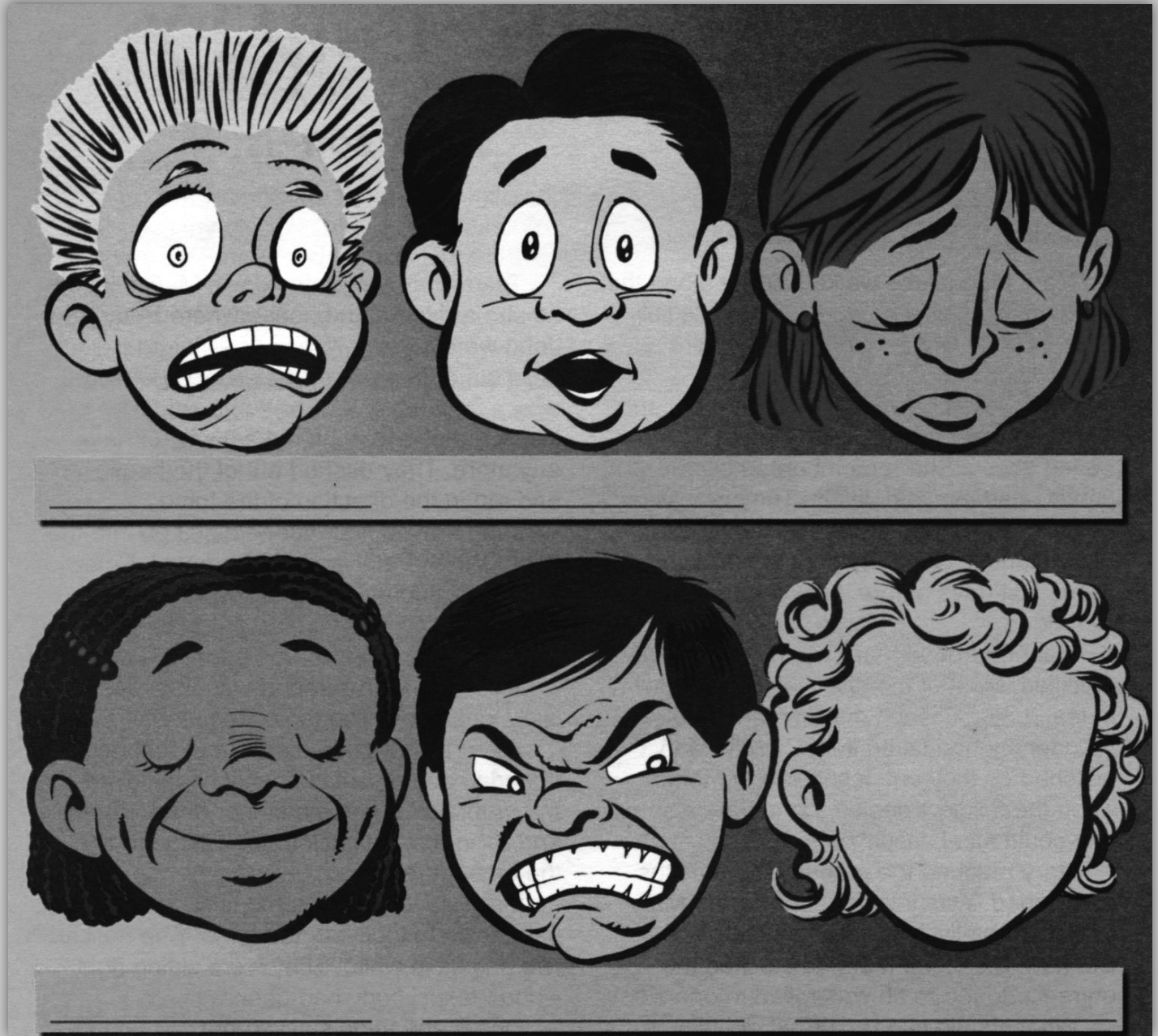
Now that you know more about Jesus, write some characteristics about him in the letters below. You can also use words that praise Jesus.





Lesson 14 Jesus Came Back to Life!

Your Feelings



Choose a word from the list that describes the expression on each of these faces. Write the word below each face.

Which of the faces show how you feel when you think about or hear something related to death? Circle your answer.

Now draw on the blank face how you feel when you think about death.

LIST OF WORDS

- Anger
- Surprise
- Fear
- Joy
- Sadness



The Tomb is Empty

Mary Magdalene walked slowly through the silent streets. It was so early that it was still dark. No one saw where she was going. Tears rolled down her cheeks as she walked towards the place where Jesus had been buried. She remembered how the crowds had mocked Jesus, asking Pilate to free Barabbas and kill Jesus. She could not understand it. So many people had praised Jesus only a few days ago. And now they wanted to see him dead.

Mary was there when they crucified him. Almost all the disciples had fled in fear. Later, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus. Mary watched as they placed Jesus in the tomb. Then the soldiers sealed the tomb so no one could steal his body.

Mary arrived at the garden where Jesus had been buried. Would it be the right place? She looked around carefully. Yes, this is the place! She thought. But ... the stone that covered the entrance to the tomb had been moved to the side!

What should she do? What does this all mean? She crouched down to look inside. She was too scared to go in. The tomb was empty! The body of Jesus was not there! Mary ran

back to town. Tears rolled down her face as she reached the house where Peter and John were.

"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" she said with dismay.

Peter and John didn't wait for more. They ran out in the direction of the tomb. John arrived first, but didn't enter the tomb. When Peter and Mary arrived, Peter entered the tomb to see with his own eyes. He saw the strips of linen and the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus. Mary's report was true. The body of Jesus was not there. The tomb was empty!

John didn't understand what had happened to Jesus. But he saw and believed. Jesus was not dead anymore. Peter and John returned to the village to tell the others what had happened.

Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent down to look inside, and saw two angels dressed in white, who sat where the body of Jesus had been. One of the angels asked, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put

him." As she spoke, she turned and saw Jesus standing there; but she didn't realize it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he must be the gardener, Mary said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Then, Jesus said, "Mary." When she heard that familiar and beloved voice, she said with joy, "Rabboni!"

Jesus said to her: "Do not hold on to me, for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary didn't wait; she ran to give the news to the disciples. "I've seen the Lord!" she told them.

Everything had changed for Mary. Her sadness was transformed into joy! She knew



that she had witnessed a miracle. The tomb was empty!

She had seen her resurrected Savior. "Jesus lives!" said Mary.

(Taken from the Bible, John 20:1-18.)

How Did Mary Feel?

Listen carefully to the story. Each time your teacher stops reading, place a number in the square of the image that shows how Maria felt at that moment. Use the numbers from 1 to 4.



**Hope
& Joy**

**Forgiveness
of Sins**

**Eternal Life
in Heaven**

is for Victory

**Help to
Live as God
Wants Us To**

**No Fear of
Death**

**Read the phrases. Think about what the resurrection of Jesus means to you.
In the letter "V" write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for his blessings.
*You can decorate it, if you want.**

Choose one of the phrases to complete the following prayer:
Thank you Jesus, because of your resurrection, we have ...

***A Blessing is
a gift from God.**



Message of Good News

There is a message hidden in the sentences below. To read the good news you must complete each sentence. To do this, choose a word from the word list and write it in the corresponding space. Then, in the spaces at the bottom of the page, write the first letter of each word you complete. Read the message.

1. The name of the disciple who betrayed Jesus was _____.
2. Jesus died, rose again and now lives forever. That's why we have _____ life.
3. Mary Magdalene was the first to see the empty tomb. But _____ was the first disciple who entered the tomb to see if the body of Jesus had really disappeared.
4. Jesus loves _____ all, that is why He died on the cross for our sins.
5. The crowd that waved palm branches believed that Jesus had come to _____ from the Romans.
6. The tomb of Jesus was covered with an _____ stone so that no one would steal the body of Jesus.
7. Hosanna means: "_____."
8. The Pharisees were very _____ with Jesus, so they decided to kill him.
9. Those of us who accept Jesus in our hearts have _____ eternal!
10. The love of God was so _____ that he gave his only Son to save us.
11. Jesus won the _____ over death when he rose from the grave.
12. In Philippians 2:10 it says, "...that at the name of Jesus _____ knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ..."

WORD LIST

eternal
 immeasurable
 Judas
 Simon Peter
 us
 every
 victory
 save them
 angry
 life
 save us
 immense





Journalist: Good morning, listeners! This is Katie Clark, bringing you the latest news from Jerusalem. We are all hearing the rumors about Jesus, one of the men who was crucified last week. Some sources say that at least 16 people have seen him alive.

According to reports, Mary Magdalene, one of his followers, was the first to see him face to face. She reportedly saw him last Sunday when she went to visit his tomb. Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, said that they saw the empty tomb and the linen clothes in

which Jesus had been wrapped, in addition to the shroud that had been around his head.

A journalist from an Emmaus radio station interviewed two men from the city who claimed that Jesus appeared to them on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. However, they didn't recognize him until they sat down to eat with him. "I realized it was Jesus when he blessed the food," said Cleopas, one of the men.

Today one of Jesus' disciples has agreed to meet with us. Welcome, Simon Peter!

Peter: Thank you for inviting me to speak about the risen Lord.

Journalist: I'm curious, tell us what it was like to see Jesus alive!

Peter: It was very exciting!

This is how it happened: Two of the disciples came running from Emmaus. They were excited because they had just seen Jesus. And they ran all the way to Jerusalem to tell us that what Mary had said was true. Jesus is alive!

We were sitting there talking about it when suddenly, Jesus appeared; he was there, standing in the room. We didn't see him come in. He said, "Peace be with you!" You should have seen the confusion that broke out. Some disciples thought he was a ghost, and almost ran away. Others were too perplexed to move.

Jesus must have read our minds, because he said, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

Those of us who were a little braver examined his hands and feet. We could see the scars on his hands from the nails that held him to the cross.

I think Jesus knew that some of us were still unsure. Then he asked, "Do you have anything here to eat?" All

we had was broiled fish, and he ate it. I think that was what convinced us all that he was real and not a ghost.

When he finished eating, Jesus explained to us that this is what he had tried to tell us when he was with us. The truth is that at that time, we didn't understand. And then he said, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day." This is what Moses, the prophets and the Psalms had said would happen. As he explained the Scriptures to us, everything made sense.

Reporter: Well Peter, now that you're convinced that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive, what will you do?

Peter: Jesus told us to wait until we receive the power of God. Then, we will tell everyone what we have seen and heard. That's why I'm here today. I want to tell as many people as possible that Jesus is alive and that he is the Son of God.

Journalist: Well, esteemed audience, that's all for today. It's hard not to believe after hearing someone as convincing as Peter. I'm Katie Clark, and this was our special report for today. Now we will return you to our regular programming. Thank you.

(This Biblical account can be found in Luke 24:36-49.)



Share the “Good News”

- Answer these questions together with your class:
- How can you use your hands, feet and lips this week to spread the Good News about the resurrection of Christ?
- Who can you tell the Good News to this week?

Make a list of everything that you think is important for people to hear.



Lesson 16 Jesus Promises to Return

Thoughts about

Heaven

Read the following verses about heaven. Then follow the directions below.

In the first cloud, draw a picture or write a description of what you think heaven is like.

In the second cloud, draw a picture or write a description of what you think you will do in heaven.

In the third cloud, draw a picture or write a description of what you think will make heaven a special place.

“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I’m going there to prepare a place for you?”

(John 14:2)

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

(Revelation 21:4)

“Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying, ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!’”

(Revelation 5:13)

AN IMPORTANT WORD

Lamb - In the New Testament, sometimes Jesus is called the Lamb or the Lamb of God. A lamb is gentle and humble.

JESUS WILL RETURN!



Narrator: A few days before dying on the cross, Jesus prepared his disciples for everything that would happen to him. He knew that they would be sad, discouraged and confused when they saw him on the cross, so he wanted to comfort them and give them hope of his return. So, he began to teach them about heaven. And this is what he told them.

Jesus: “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I’m going there to prepare a place for you?”

Chorus: Trust! Trust! Return! Return!

Narrator: After the death of Jesus, the disciples were afraid and discouraged. They didn’t remember the promise Jesus had made to them that he would be resurrected from the dead. They also forgot that Jesus would prepare a place for them in heaven.

Mary and many others saw Jesus. For 40 days, Jesus visited them and taught them about the kingdom of God. One day, Jesus told his disciples to do something.

Jesus: “Don’t leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. . . but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Narrator: The disciples didn’t know who the Holy Spirit was. They still didn’t understand what Jesus meant when he talked about the kingdom. So they asked him.

Disciples: “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Jesus: “It isn’t for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”

Chorus: The Holy Spirit will come! Jesus promised it.

Jesus: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Chorus: To the ends of the earth!

Narrator: “After Jesus said this, he was taken up before their eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight.” The disciples were amazed! And for a long time they continued looking towards the sky. Suddenly, two men dressed in white appeared.

Two Men: “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Narrator: The disciples heard the promise that Jesus would return again. And finally they believed!

Had he not returned from death as he had promised? The disciples were extremely sad when they saw Jesus leave them. But they knew that he would keep his promise to send the Holy Spirit to be with them forever. Now they could say bravely:

All: We will be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and until he returns again. Jesus will come back for us, as he promised. Glory to God!!

(This Bible story can be found in John 14:1-4; Acts 1:1-11)

Reflection

What did Jesus tell the Disciples to do?

How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus ascend into heaven?

What did the two men dressed in white tell the disciples?

Jesus, The King

Read these phrases and circle the correct ending.

1. Jesus came to be

1. a. the King of our lives.
b. the King of our country.

2. The Kingdom of Jesus is a kingdom of

2. a. love.
b. military power.

3. Jesus told the disciples to wait

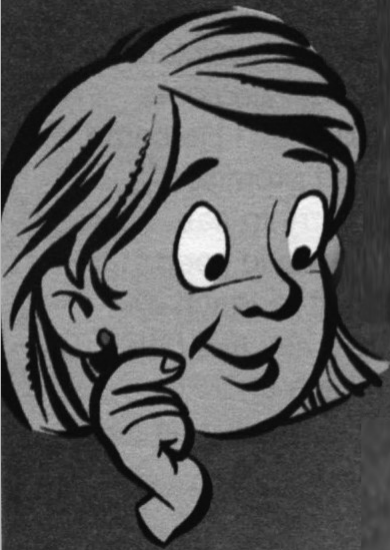
3. a. three days.
b. for the Holy Spirit.

4. The two men dressed in white told the disciples that Jesus

4. a. would return.
b. was gone forever.

5. The disciples decided to

5. a. run away.
b. wait.



Ways to be prepared for the second coming of Jesus



Read these sentences. Place a plus sign (+) next to the sentences that show ways that we can be ready for the second coming of Jesus, and a minus sign (-) next to the other sentences.

Go to a class that will teach you the exact moment that Jesus will return.

Tell others about Jesus so that they can be prepared for his second coming.

Obey Jesus every day.

Pray for people who don't know Jesus.

Worry and be afraid for the second coming of Jesus.

Live however you want to because Jesus will take a long time to come back.

Plan to become a Christian when you grow up.

Become a Christian now if you haven't already done so.

My Heart, Christ's Throne

If you decide that today you want Jesus to be the King of your life, put your name in the heart.

I, _____
(write your name)

want Jesus to be the
KING OF MY LIFE.

Today's Date

If you've already asked Jesus into your heart, you can still put your name in the heart. This will show that you are sure of your decision.

What Is A Covenant?

Circle the pictures that show a covenant.



Ha
Ha
Ha



How do you define the word covenant?



A COVENANT

In the beginning, God created the earth to be a perfect place. He created it without sin. There, God and man could meet face to face. However, Adam and Eve decided to disobey God, and sin entered the world. Then when God looked at the world, he saw that the people were full of evil. They were bad and selfish. They fought with each other. They had bad thoughts all the time. It seemed that no one remembered the Creator and loving God who cared so much about them. God was very sad about this. He couldn't let the world continue like this. He had to destroy it.

However, there was a man who was different from the others. His name was Noah. Noah pleased God because he loved him with all his heart, and did what was right.

One day, God spoke with Noah and told him, "I'm going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I'm

surely going to destroy both them and the earth... But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. . . Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

Noah did everything God told him to do. He built the ark as instructed. And when God said, "Go into the ark," Noah, all his family and all the animals obeyed.

Then it started to rain. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The water rose to cover the highest mountains and destroy everything in its path. Every plant, animal and person that remained on land died. Only those who were in the ark, with whom God had made a covenant, survived.

The flood lasted 150 days. Then God sent a wind over the earth and the water began to dry up. At last, the ark landed on Mount Ararat. The land slowly dried up.

One day, God spoke again with Noah and said, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it" (Genesis 8:16-17).

Noah obeyed God. He and his family and all the animals came out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices in gratitude to God for his mercy and protection during the flood. God blessed Noah and his sons and said, "I establish

FOR ALL PEOPLE

my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.' And God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant I'm making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations

to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.'" (Genesis 9:11-12)

(This Bible story is found in Genesis 6:5–9:17)

WHICH PART BELONGS TO WHOM?

Read each sentence and decide if it describes the part of the covenant that God had to fulfill or the part that Noah had to fulfill. Draw a line from each sentence to the arrow of the correct person.

**THE PART GOD
HAD TO FULFILL**

Build the ark.

Make it rain for 40 days & nights.

Obey what he was told to do.

Keep the ark safe.

Promise that the earth would never be destroyed by a flood again.

Listen to God.

**THE PART NOAH
HAD TO FULFILL**

What did Noah do whenever God spoke to him?

He _____ to and _____ God.



GOD'S COVENANT OF LOVE WITH ME

Isaiah 54:10

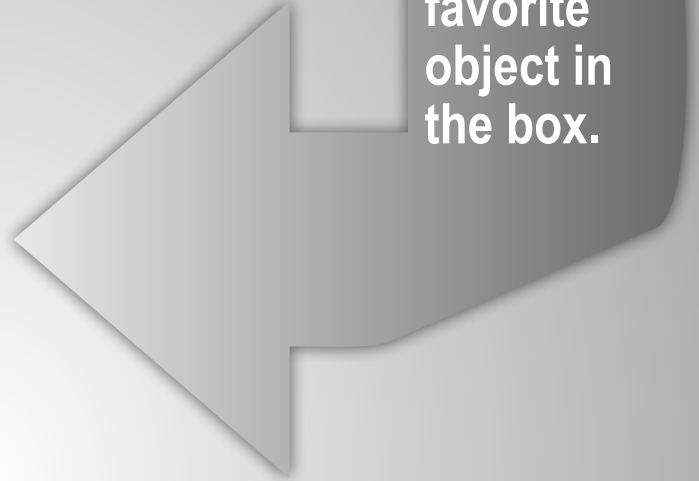
“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for _____ will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,”
says the Lord, who has compassion on _____.”

(Write your name in the blank spaces above.)



BROKEN!

Draw your favorite object in the box.



How would you feel if someone broke it on purpose?



I promise not to tell your secret.

I promise that you can come with me.

I promise that I will buy it for you later.

How would you feel if someone made a promise to you and then didn't keep it?



How does it make you feel to know that?

God Makes A Promise



“Where are we going Abraham?” Sarah asked, as she packed their belongings and those of their family.

“I don’t know,” Abraham said. He gathered their bundles and began to tie them to the back of his donkey. “The Lord told me to leave this land and my relatives. We will go to the land he will show me. Since we don’t know where the Lord will lead us, we will have to trust that he will take us there safely.” “And let us know when we have reached our destination,” added Sarah with a smile.

Soon, Abraham and Sarah were ready to leave. They took with them all their belongings, their servants and Lot,

Abraham’s nephew. They didn’t know where they were going, but God made wonderful promises to Abraham if he obeyed God.

“I will make you into a great nation,” he told Abraham. “I will make your name great ... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Abraham was so grateful when God led them, under his protection, to the land of Canaan!

The Lord came to Abraham once more and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” Abraham was surprised, because he was 75 years old and had no children. In spite of that, he built an altar and worshipped God. Then they pitched their tents in Canaan and lived there. Several years passed.

One day, God spoke to Abraham once again. “Don’t be afraid,” God told him. “I am your shield, your very great reward.”

Abraham remembered God’s promise that he and his children would receive the land of Canaan. “You have given me no children,” Abraham said, “so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

“That man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir,” said God. God took Abraham outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” (Genesis 15:5).

As many children as all the stars? It seemed impossible! But God told him that this would happen.

Then Abraham decided to obey God. “God will fulfill his promise,” he said. Many years passed. Now Abraham was 100 years old and God spoke to him once more: “... this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations..... I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations from you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you” (Genesis 17:4, 5-7).

God also told Abraham that his wife Sarah would have a son. Abraham laughed at the thought that he would be a father at such an old age. Even so, this was a promise from God, a covenant. He knew that he could trust God. What would Sara think when he told her that she would give birth to a son?

(You can find this Bible story in Genesis 12; 15; 17:1-21.)

WHAT DID GOD PROMISE?

Read each verse. In a short sentence tell what God promised Abraham.

Genesis 12:2 — “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”

Genesis 15:5 — “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them. . . . So shall your offspring be.”

Genesis 17:19 — “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.”

Did God fulfill the promises that he made to Abraham?

How much time passed until God fulfilled his promises?

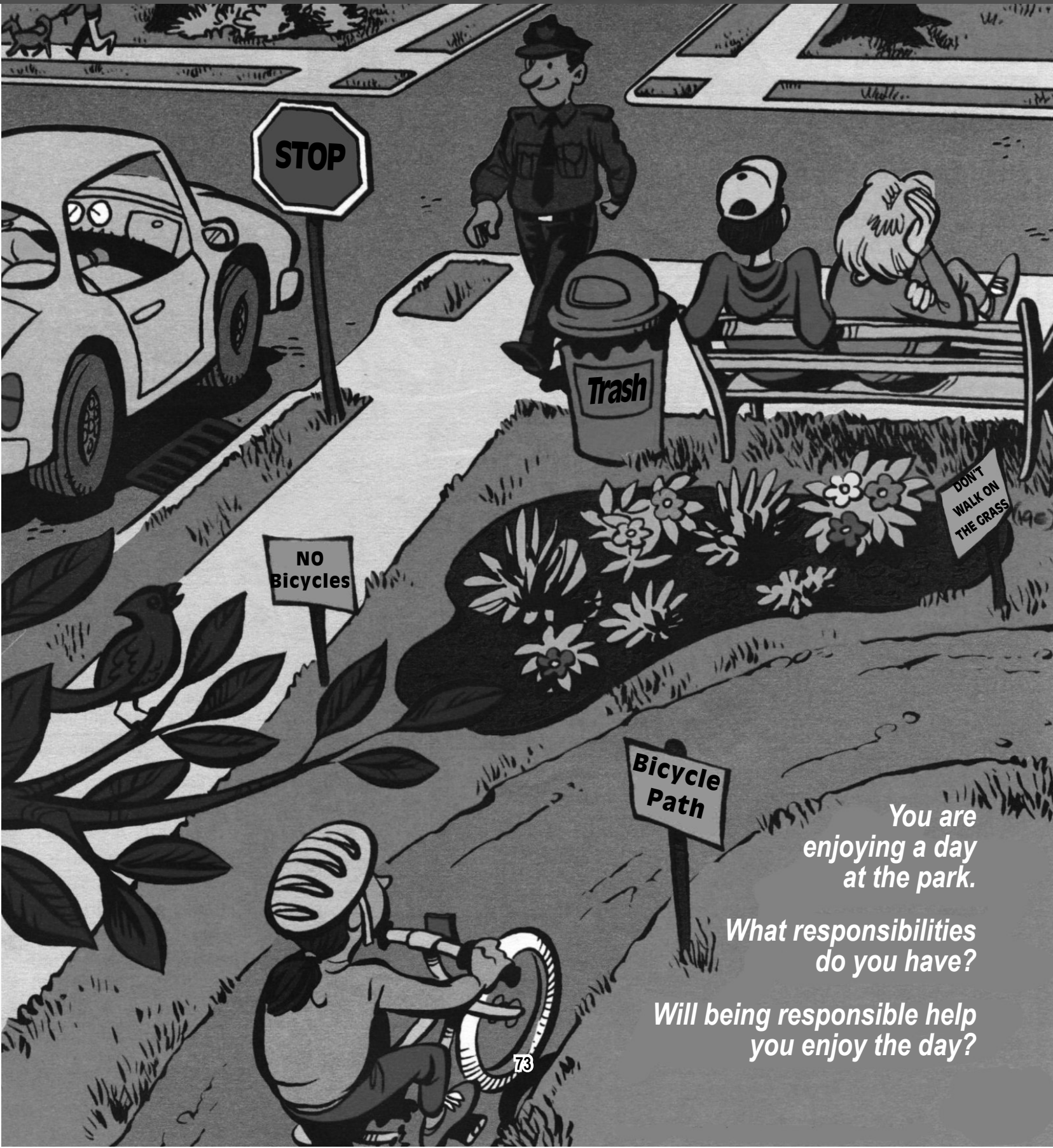
How Can I Trust God?

Sometimes it's difficult to trust in God.
Here are some ways that can help you trust Him more.
Take this picture home and put it where you will always see it.

- 1.** Read about how God kept His promises to people in the Bible.
- 2.** Pray and ask God to help you trust him.
- 3.** Listen when others witness about what God has done for them.
- 4.** Memorize Bible verses about God's love and care for us.
- 5.** Make a list of the times God has helped you or answered your prayers.
- 6.** Sing songs of praise to Him.
- 7.** Thank God for what he has done for you and your family.



What's The Problem?



You are enjoying a day at the park.

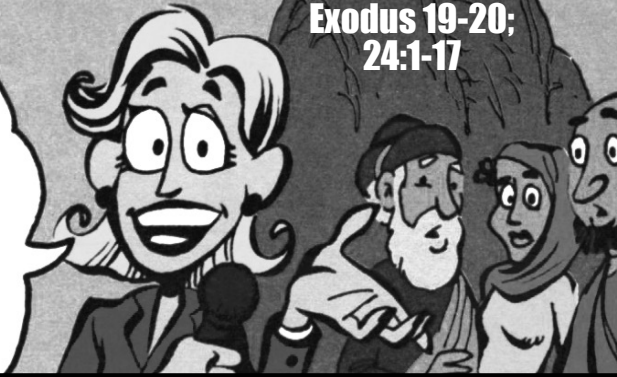
What responsibilities do you have?

Will being responsible help you enjoy the day?

A Meeting on the Mountain

Exodus 19-20;
24:1-17

Good Morning. This is a live report from Mount Sinai, in the Israeli camp. Everyone is talking about recent events here on the mountain. Sir, could you tell us what's happening?



Well, we left Egypt about three months ago, and God led us here. Then, God spoke to Moses.



Wait a minute. Did you say that God spoke in person with your leader, Moses?

I did. God always speaks with Moses. God reminded Moses of all the good things He has done to help us. Then He gave Moses a message to give to us. He said, "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession."



Hmmm ... let me write this all down. "Obey ... covenant ... treasured possession". Very good, that's it. Did you say something else? God?

Yes, he also told Moses to tell us to be prepared because on the third day. He would come down on Mount Sinai to meet us.

How exciting! So, how did the people react to those words?



We all said: "We will do everything that the Lord has said." Then we washed our clothes & prepared ourselves to meet God.



It must have been something incredible to think that you would meet God. I guess it was difficult for all of you to wait until the appointed time!

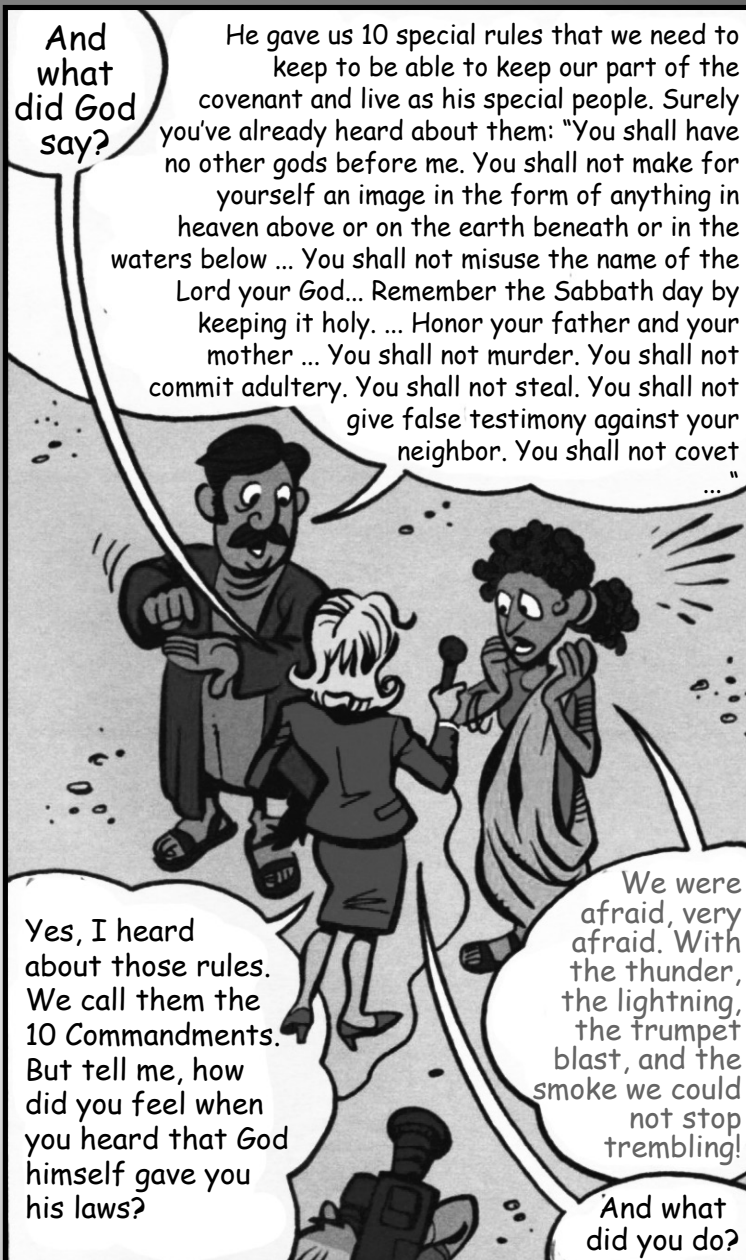
Tell me, what happened on the third day?

Actually, God told Moses that we could not go up the mountain. We could not even touch the mountain. Only Moses could go up the mountain to meet God.



That morning there was thunder and lightning. A thick cloud covered the mountain. We could hear a loud sound of a trumpet blast. We all trembled with fear. Then Moses led us to the mountain.





What did God promise the Israelites?

What did the Israelites need to do to fulfill this covenant?

To find the answers to these questions, look up Exodus 19:5-6 and fill in the blanks.

"Now if you _____ fully and keep my _____, then out of all nations you will be my _____.

Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a _____ of priests and a _____ nation."

TODAY'S COVENANT PEOPLE

Today, Christians are the people of God's new covenant.

God promised to forgive our sins if we accept Jesus as our Savior.

Our part of the covenant is to trust Jesus and obey God.

Read the following scenarios. As a person who has made a covenant with God, how should you respond in each situation?



You and a friend are in a store. You both want a treat, but you don't have any money. Your friend suggests that you steal a treat.

Your mom asks you to clean your room while she goes shopping. You decide to watch television instead.



Your friend invites you to his house to play video games on Sunday morning. If you go, you'll miss church.

Grandfather's Gift



Anita and her grandfather were good friends. Every summer, Grandpa took her fishing, swimming and hiking. At night, they read books and played games together. One day, when Anita was 12 years old, grandpa had a talk with her.

“Someday I hope that you will attend university,” he said. “For many years I have been saving money for you. It’s all in a special fund. When you’re ready to start university, that money will be available for you.”

Anita could not believe it. She gave her grandpa a big hug. “It’s the best gift, grandpa,” she said.

A short time before Anita finished high school, her grandfather died. Not long after, a lawyer called Anita’s parents. Anita and her parents went to see the lawyer.

“Your grandfather did something very special for you, Anita,” the lawyer said. “He put money into a special fund so you can go to university.”

Grandpa had kept his promise. Anita went to university and graduated as a dentist. Later, she got married and had three children. Many years passed.

One day, the lawyer called Anita again. “I have wonderful news for you,” he said. “When your grandfather set aside the money for you, he did something else. He put together a plan so that there is enough money so that your children can also go to university. It’s all in a special fund. When your children are old enough to go to university, that money will be available to them.”

“Grandpa,” Anita whispered. “I thought that the gift you had given me had been the best. But this gift for my children is even better! Thank you Grandpa!!”



Complete the Sentence:

Grandpa’s gift to Anita was more _____ than she could imagine or expect.

The KING'S PLAN

“Look at this place! It’s wonderful!” King David told his friend, the prophet Nathan. Together they walked through David’s new palace.

“Its beautiful!” Nathan agreed as he ran his hand over the beautiful woodcarving. Suddenly, David stopped.

“You know, I have this new palace to enjoy, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is still in a tent.” Nathan wondered if David had an plan in mind.

“Do whatever you’re thinking. God will bless you,” Nathan said.

King David had a very good idea. He was going to build a temple, a big house to honor God. God had blessed him and made him king of Israel. God had given him the task of leading the Israelites and helping them keep the covenant that God had made with them. It was a very good idea to build a beautiful temple for God. David couldn’t wait to start!

However, David’s plans were not those of God. That night, the Lord spoke to Nathan.

“Tell David that I don’t want him to build a temple for me. I have incredible plans for him. I’m going to make his name great. I will also defeat the enemies of my people and give my people a safe place to live.”

Those promises were wonderful, but God had not finished talking yet.

“After David dies, his son will be king; he will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son; I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.”

King David was amazed when Nathan gave him the message from God. He could not believe what Nathan had told him! The only thing he could do was praise God.

Then David said, “Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? And as if this were not enough in your sight, my God, you have spoken about the future of the house of your servant. You, Lord God,

have looked on me as though I were the most exalted of men.”

“What more can I say to you for honoring your servant? For you know your servant, Lord. For the sake of your servant and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made known all these great promises.”

“There is no one like you, Lord, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth whose God went out to redeem a people for himself, and to make a name for yourself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? You made your people Israel your very own forever, and you, Lord, have become their God.”

“And now, Lord, let the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house be established forever. Do as you promised, so that it will be established and that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, ‘The Lord Almighty, the God over Israel, is Israel’s God!’ And the house of your servant David will be established before you.”

“You, my God, have revealed to your servant that you will build a house for him. So your

servant has found courage to pray to you. You, Lord, are God! You have promised these good things to your servant. Now you have been pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, Lord, have blessed it, and it will be blessed forever.”



But what David didn't know was that God's covenant with him was much better than he thought or imagined. David believed that God was promising him that his family would rule over the land of Israel forever. And for many years it was like that.

But God knew something David didn't know. One day - hundreds of years later - from the descendants of David

David was so glad about the covenant that God had made with him, that he obeyed the command of God not to build the temple. He began to gather the materials that his son would need for that purpose.

a King would be born who would rule over the whole kingdom of God everywhere and forever!

(Taken from 1 Chronicles 17; Luke 1:31-33, 68-71).

AN EXTRA GIFT FOR DAVID

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

(Luke 1:32-33)

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.”

(Luke 1:68-69)

Who is Luke talking about? _____

Cut out the phrases below. Use some or all of them and put them together to create your own prayer of thanksgiving to God for his kindness.



Create

prayer.

God, you are amazing!

Thanks for making a covenant with me.

You treat me special.

Thanks for loving me.

I Praise You.

You are good.
Everything you do is good.

Thanks for helping me.

You are so great!



INVITATION

You Are Invited:

You have been invited to be part of a special covenant with God. If you want to accept this invitation, please fill in your name on the line below.

I, _____, wish to accept God's invitation to develop a relationship of commitment (covenant) with him.

Fill in the blank spaces.

A covenant with God is a _____ between God and a person. Both parties make _____ that must be fulfilled. The covenants of God offer us a _____ of love with him.

THE NEW COVENANT

Luke 22:7-20

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

The disciples were surprised by the words of Jesus. They knew that for the Passover a perfect lamb was offered to God and that it was for the sins of the people. "But does that mean Jesus will give his life for us?" they asked. "Could it be that he himself will be the offering?"

The disciples knew what the covenant was. Everyone had heard about God's covenant with men like Noah, Abraham, Moses and King David. But ... would they also be part of that covenant?

The disciples didn't understand what Jesus had said that night. But later, after His death on the cross and His the resurrection, they would understand.

Jesus was offering his followers a new covenant.

But this covenant was not only for the Jews or the disciples.

The new covenant is for all who wish to have a loving relationship with God.



Review the Covenants

Connect each name with the phrase that describes who received the benefits of the covenant.

WHO

FOR



- Noah
- Abraham
- Moses
- David

- his family
- all living things
- the Israelites
- his son and the kingdom of God

The New Covenant

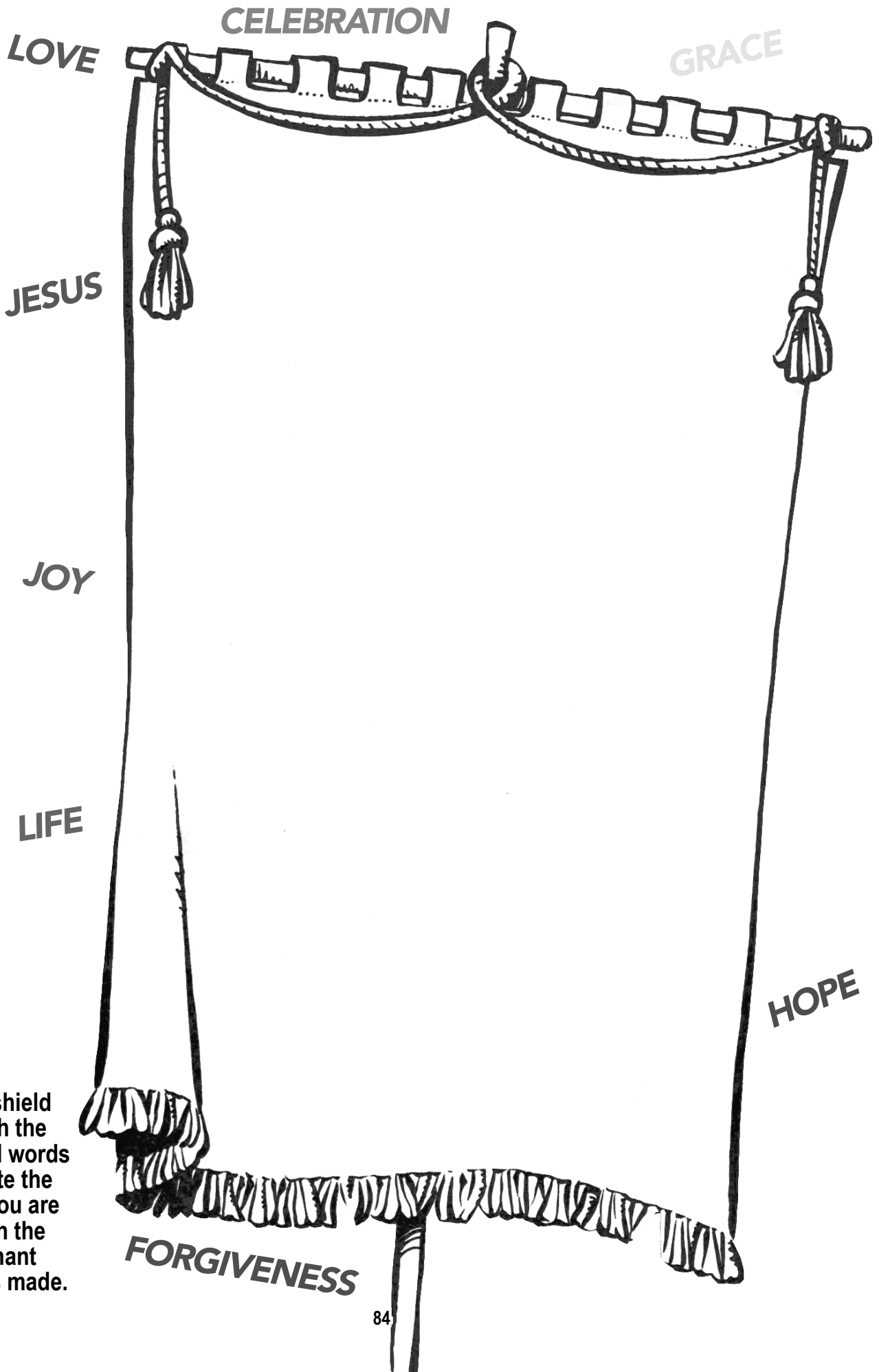
WHO

FOR

Jesus



The People of the New Covenant

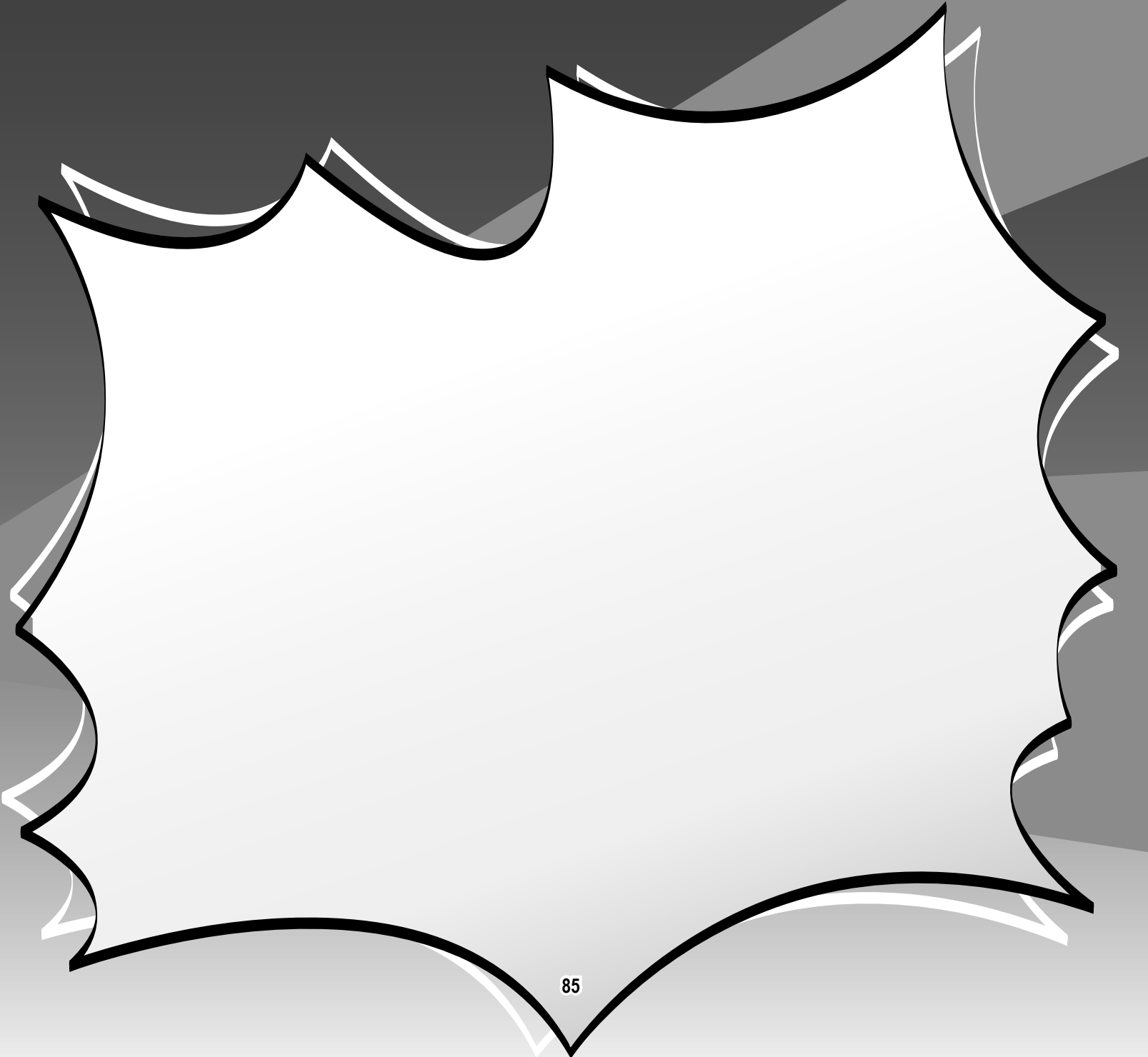


Design a shield or flag with the suggested words to celebrate the fact that you are included in the new covenant that Jesus made.



You have a MESSAGE

Draw pictures or describe in words all the ways in which we communicate.



What I know... about prayer.

COMPLETE THESE SENTENCES.

Prayer is ...

I like to pray because ...

GOD wants us to pray when ...



Steps to Prayer

Step N° 1

John 16:19-24.

Title:

What does this teach us about prayer?

Read the following verses and give each a title. Then answers the question, "What does this teach us about prayer?"

Step N° 2

John 16:32-33.

Title:

What does this teach us about prayer?

Step N° 3

John 17:1-5

Title:

What does this teach us about prayer?

Step N° 4

John 17:6-12

Title:

What does this teach us about prayer?

Step N° 5

John 17:13-19

Title:

What does this teach us about prayer?

A CARD TO CALL GOD

You were chosen to design a phone card so you can call God. Use what you just learned from the Bible to create a card that you could use to call heaven, including a number and a slogan.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

(Philippians 4:6-7)





Lesson 23 Jesus Prays For Himself

Imagine that you've won a prestigious award. Write your thank you speech on the microphone.



IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE

In My Own Words

Read this prayer of Jesus

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

(John 17:1a - 5)

**Now, write Jesus’ prayer in the New
Version! (using your own words)**

_____ **(Write your name)**

DIRECT LINE TO HEAVEN



1

What kinds of prayers does God like?

2

What kinds of prayers sadden God?

3

What kinds of prayers does God answer “yes” to?

4

To what kinds of prayers does God say “no” to?

5

If I can't talk, can I still pray to God?

6

Does God always listen to me when I pray?

How Should I Pray?

Confess

God, I apologize for ...

Thanks

God, thank you for...

Ask

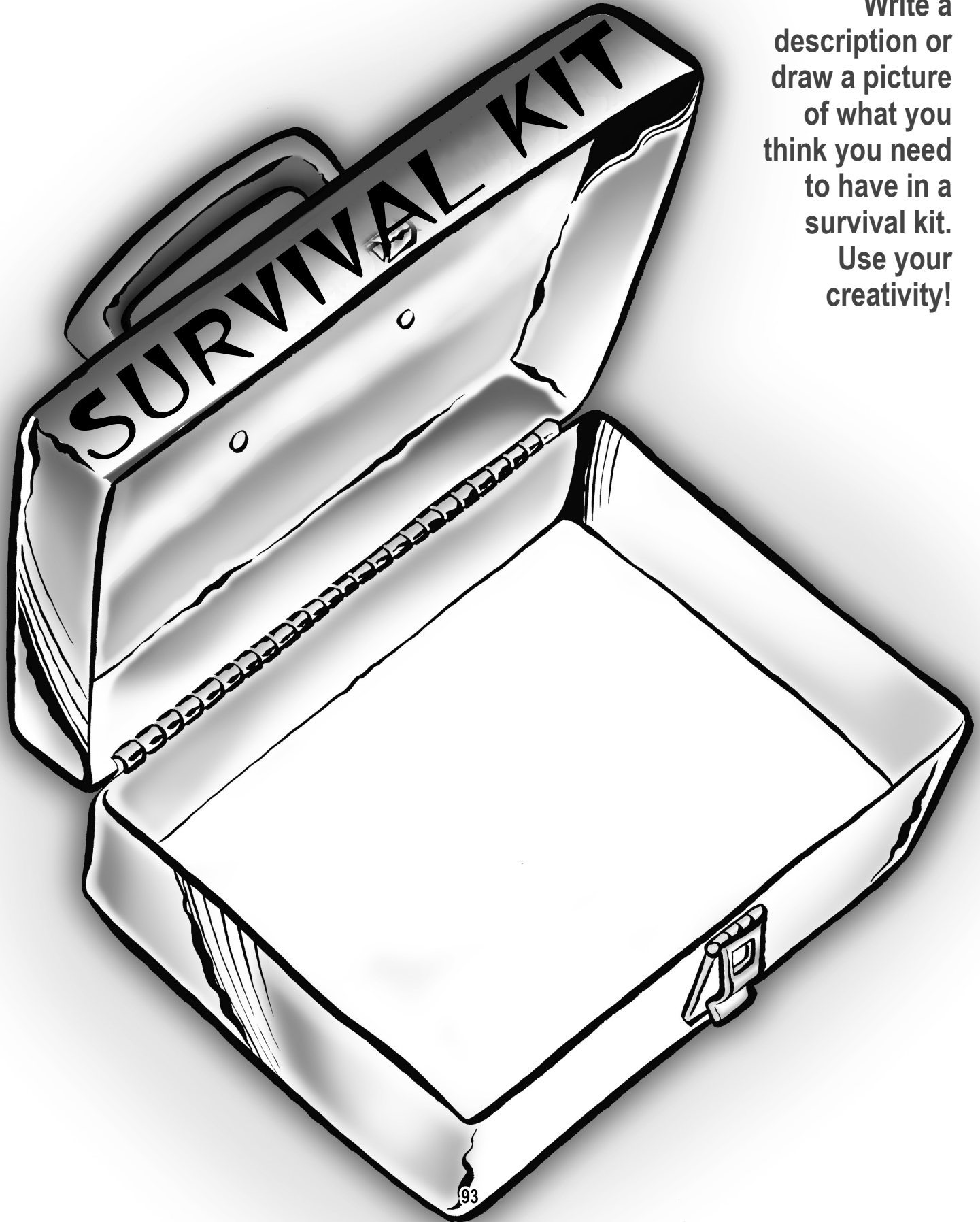
God, please...

Praise

God, you're amazing because...



Lesson 24 Jesus Prays For His Disciples



Write a description or draw a picture of what you think you need to have in a survival kit. Use your creativity!

I Have A Dream . . .

Read Jesus' prayer. This is his dream for his disciples. Then answer the questions below.

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I'm not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I'm coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I'm still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I'm of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I'm not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."

(John 17:6-19)

1.

**How does Jesus describe the relationship of his disciples with God?
(Read verses 6, 8 and 9.)**

2.

**What is Jesus' dream for his disciples?
(Read verse 11.)**

3.

**What does Jesus ask of the Father for his disciples?
(Read verses 11, 13 and 17.)**

PROGRESS REPORT

Evaluate God's responses to Jesus' prayer based on what we know today about the disciples. Read the questions and circle "yes" or "no".

- ▶ 1. The disciples realized how important they were to God. **yes** **no**
- ▶ 2. The disciples stayed together and built a church. **yes** **no**
- ▶ 3. The disciples found protection from the evil one. **yes** **no**
- ▶ 4. The disciples had the full measure of joy that Jesus had. **yes** **no**
- ▶ 5. The disciples knew that God's Word is truth. **yes** **no**

If Jesus' prayer could do all of this for his disciples, can his prayer do the same for you?

THE DOCTOR IS HERE

Take a few minutes to “examine” your relationship with God ...



How do you feel about your relationship with God?



How do you feel living as a Christian in a non-Christian world?



What do you need from God right now?



What is something that could take you away from your relationship with God?

God *ALWAYS* listens to
you when you talk to Him.



Who Is Praying For You?

Do you know if someone is praying for you right now?

Who do you wish would pray for you?

Do you know of someone who prayed for you before you were born?

Jesus Prayed for YOU

Read Jesus' personal prayer for you. Then answer the questions.

"My prayer is not for them [the disciples] alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I'm in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.





Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” (John 17:20-26)

- 1. What phrase of this prayer refers specifically to you?***
- 2. In this prayer, what does Jesus ask God to give us?***
- 3. Why do you think Jesus prayed this prayer?***
- 4. How can this prayer affect your life?***
- 5. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus prayed for you while he was still on earth?***

And Now... What?

Write your ideas in the following blanks.

How can I live out the prayer Jesus said for me . . .

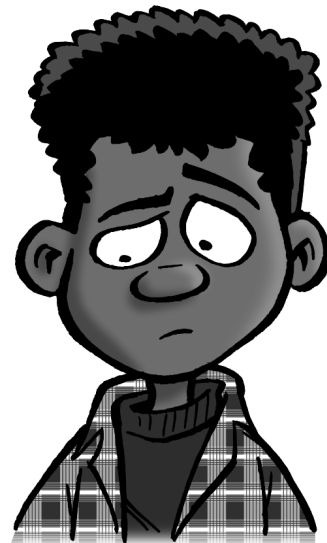


Friends get angry with each other when...



Pre-teens have problems with their parents when...

Pre-teens feel bad about their relationship with God when...



BROKEN



Read Genesis 3 and answer the following questions:

1. What did God forbid Adam and Eve to do? (verse 3)
2. What made the fruit so tempting to Eve? (verse 6)
3. In what way did Adam and Eve's disobedience affect their relationship and communication with God? (verses 8-10)
4. What were other results of their disobedience? (verses 11-12 and 16-19)
5. In what way did God show his mercy towards Adam and Eve? (verse 21)

RELATIONSHIPS

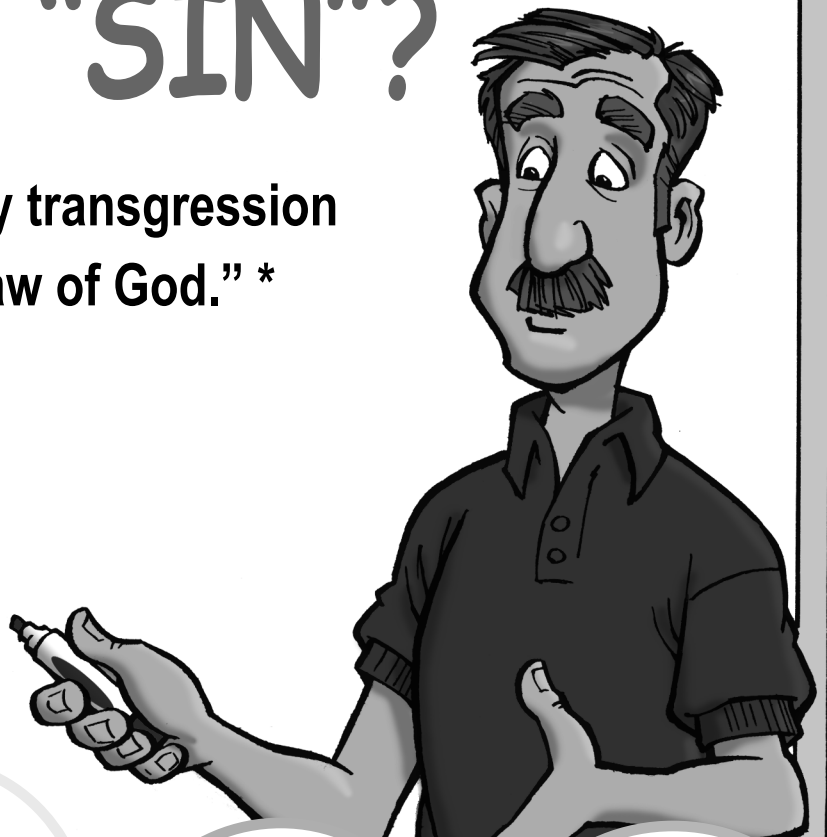


Read Genesis 4:1-16 and answer the following questions:

1. Why was there a problem between Cain and Abel? (verses 3-5)
2. How did Cain sin? (verses 8-9)
3. In what way did God show mercy to Cain? (verses 13-16)

What is "SIN"?

"It is a voluntary transgression of a known law of God." *



"Voluntary" means that someone decides to do it; it's a conscious choice.

"Transgression" is when we break a rule or law.

"Known" means that God has revealed to us that an action is against his law and is wrong.

"God" is the one who decides what is and what isn't sin. In the Bible, he shows us what sin is.



Lesson 27 What Is A Sacrifice?

Write the definition of the word sacrifice.

Sacrifice:

Look at the following pictures.

What sacrifices did these people have to make to be what they are now?



Sacrifice in Action

Read the four situations below.

Decide whether or not they are examples of sacrifice in action and why?

1. Alan has just started school. His family just moved to a new city and he wants to have nice clothes, the latest fashion. He doesn't want anyone to make fun of him. So he went to the store with his mother to buy a new pair of athletic shoes. He wants to have the same brand that the other kids at school have. His mother was troubled when she learned the price. She explained that they didn't have the money to buy such expensive shoes. So Alan bought some cheaper ones. He knew that many of the children would make fun of him, but he didn't want to make his mother feel bad.

YES ____ NO ____



2. Every year, at Christmas time, Betty's church collects clothes for poor families. When Betty opened her closet, she saw some of her favorite dresses. She also saw clothes that she didn't like and that she never wore. And she thought: "I will never wear these

clothes. I'll give them away. Maybe someone else will like them".

YES ____ NO ____



3. On Sunday at church, Carla heard that a special offering would be collected. The pastor encouraged everyone, including teens and children, to participate by giving something. Carla had been saving money for two months. She wanted to go see a play with her friends on Friday night. If she gave money for the special offering, then she wouldn't have enough to go to the play. As the week went by, Carla felt it was important to participate in the offering. So she called her friends and told them that she couldn't go to the play. They tried to convince her to go and they told her that she was letting them down. But Carla stayed at home with her family on Friday night and participated in the offering on Sunday.

YES ____ NO ____



4. Bryan became a Christian six months ago. Since then, he's been reading his Bible and trying to live as God wants him to. Last week he read that we should love our neighbor as

ourselves. Two days ago in the cafeteria, he saw a new student eating alone. Bryan's friends were making fun of the boy and wanted Bryan to join in. But Bryan remembered what he had read in the Bible, and told his friends to stop making fun of him. And then he sat down with the new boy. Now, Bryan's friends make fun of him and call him names.

YES ____ NO ____

SACRIFICES FOR SIN

Complete the statements found on the left of this page, filling in the blanks. Then read the statements on the right and draw a line from each sacrifice to its meaning.

God's instructions for sacrifices.

1. The person was to bring a _____ animal to be sacrificed.
2. The person put his _____ on the _____ of the animal that would be sacrificed.
3. The person _____ the animal. The priest sprinkled the _____ of the animal on the altar.

What they meant.

- A. Sin brings death. The person who sins must die. But in his mercy, God allowed animal sacrifices to be made in place of the person dying. Then, Jesus came to suffer and die as the perfect sacrifice in our place.
- B. Sin has a price. The person who sins must present something of value. They had to offer the best to God. Sin also cost God a high price - the life of his only Son, Jesus.
- C. Sin makes us feel guilty. The person who sins must admit that he is guilty, and that the sacrificial animal is paying for his sins. When we come before God, we must also admit our guilt and confess the wrong we have done.

GOD'S INCREDIBLE SACRIFICE

Look up 1 John 4:9-10 and fill in the missing words.



“This is how _____
his _____ among _____:
He _____ his _____ and
_____ Son into the _____
that we might _____ through
him. This is _____: not that
_____ God, but that
he _____ and sent
his _____ as an atoning
_____ for our _____.”

(1 John 4:9-10)



Lesson 28 Is Sacrifice Enough?

What's Going On Here?

Look at the pictures & describe what's happening in each of them.



WHO SAID THE

The Old Testament says...

A. Read Isaiah 1:13-17, 19-20.

1. Why is God angry with the people?
2. What does God want the people to do?
3. What will God do if the people don't change?

C. Read Malachi 1:6-9, 14.

1. Why is God angry with the people?
2. What are the people doing that is wrong?
3. What does God want the people to do?

B. Read Jeremiah 7:21-26.

1. Why is God angry with the people?
2. What does God want the people to do besides present sacrifices?
3. How did the Israelites respond to God in the past?

FOLLOWING?

I think the reason why the Old Testament sacrifices didn't work is because...

Today, a pre-teen says...



Complete the acrostic with words or phrases that describe:

- (1) The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for you.
- (2) Your response to this sacrifice.

_____	S	_____
_____	A	_____
_____	C	_____
_____	R	_____
_____	I	_____
_____	F	_____
_____	I	_____
_____	C	_____
_____	E	_____



Lesson 29 Jesus, The Perfect Sacrifice



Make a list or draw small pictures of everything you brought to church today.

Wouldn't it be funny if you brought a sheep, cow, goat or bird to church?
The Israelites brought animals to the temple to offer as sacrifices for their sins.

Why don't we offer sacrifices today?



Sin is Serious and Brings Sad Consequences!

Look up the following verses; in them you'll find the punishments for

Working on the Sabbath.

Numbers 15:32-36

Worshiping other gods.

Deuteronomy 13:12-16

Disobeying your parents.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21

Cursing your father or your mother.

Leviticus 20:9

Some sins were committed without intention. For these sins, people brought sacrificial offerings.

What were some of the sins that were committed without intention?

Read Leviticus 5:1-7.

What was the offering for sins committed without intention?

Read John 1:29 to find out who is our sacrificial lamb today.

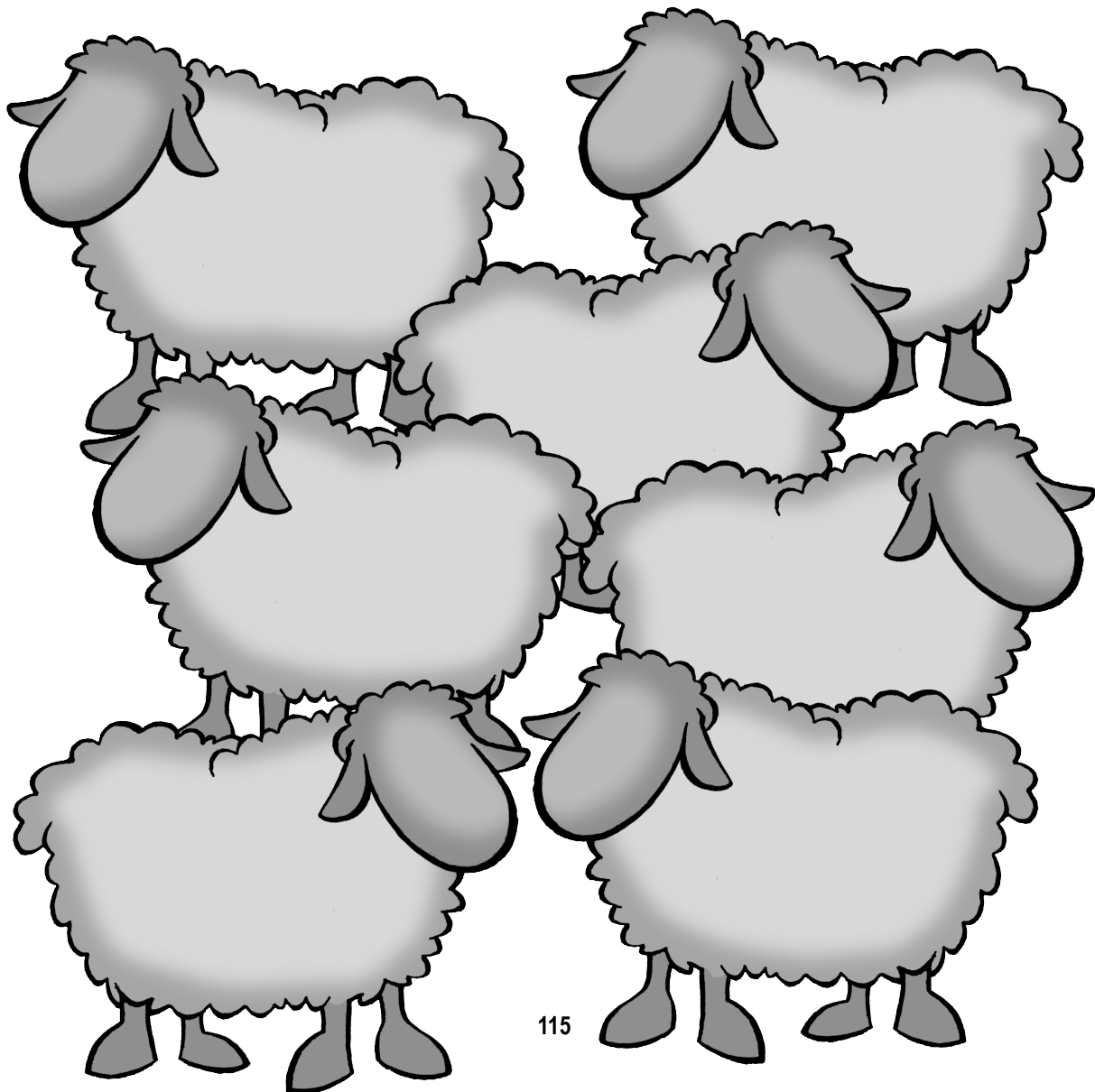
Write your name here.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

For Christ didn't enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him (Hebrews 9:24-28).

* Think of some sins that pre-teens often commit. Write one inside each of the sheep below.

* Who suffered and died for each of those sins? _____



**How many
sacrifices
are necessary
to pay for
your sins
?**

Think of all the bad and wrong things you've done.

Can you remember everything that you've done wrong?

Now think about the sacrifice Jesus made for you. Write a prayer to God, thanking Him for sending His Son, Jesus, to cleanse you from your sins.



Lesson 30 Jesus, The Perfect Priest

What is a Mediator?

Look at the four definitions below, and circle the one that you think is the correct meaning of the word “mediator”.

1. A person who only eats meat.



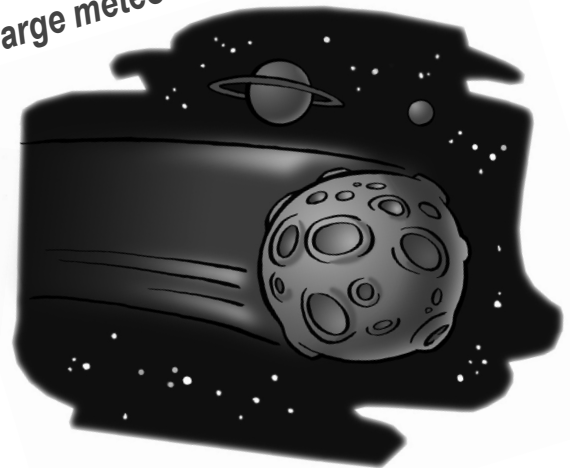
2. A pitcher made of baked clay.



3. Someone who helps two people, who disagree, come to an agreement.



4. A large meteor that falls from space.



What is a Priest?

Priest:

A priest is a person who represents man before God and God before man.* It is an important part of God's plan for redemption. 1. A Priest is a mediator (intercessor) between God and his people who worship him.

2. A priest makes the will of God known to the people. 3. A Priest helps the people understand God's grace and mercy. 4. A Priest leads the people in the rituals and ceremonies of praise.

In the time of the patriarchs, the priesthood was performed by the people themselves. They offered sacrifices for their sins and those of their families. God told Moses that the priests would be the descendants of Aaron.

The Epistle to the Hebrews teaches that Jesus is the Great High Priest. The priests of the family of Aaron were no longer needed. Jesus made the perfect and final atonement for sins (see Hebrews 8:6-10:25). All of the believers were called by God to be priests. That is, we are to present Christ to people who don't know him. We don't offer sacrifices as the priests of Israel did. The sacrifice that Christians offer is a life of service and praise to God.

* A Dictionary of the Bible and Christian Doctrine in Every Day English, Albert Truesdale (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1980), 230-31.



Priesthood

The Priesthood refers to the office or work of the priest. The high priest was the leader of the other priests. He was the only one who was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies in the temple. The priests were Levites; they came from the tribe of Levi. The priests had specific responsibilities in the temple:



1. They guarded the doors to the temple and kept the temple clean.
2. They taught God's law to the people.
3. In the temple, they provided the music for times of worship.
4. They guided the people in the singing and in praise to God.
5. Only the priests were allowed to help with sacrifices at the altar or go into the holy place of the temple.

Now that Christ is our High Priest, we no longer need other priests or mediators!

HELP I Need A High Priest!

Review these verses that speak about Jesus, our High Priest. Then think about your own needs and problems. In the space below, describe the help you need from Jesus, YOUR priest.

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. . . For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.” (Hebrews 2:14-15, 17)

“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”
(Hebrews 2:18)

“Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. . .”
(Hebrews 5:8-9)

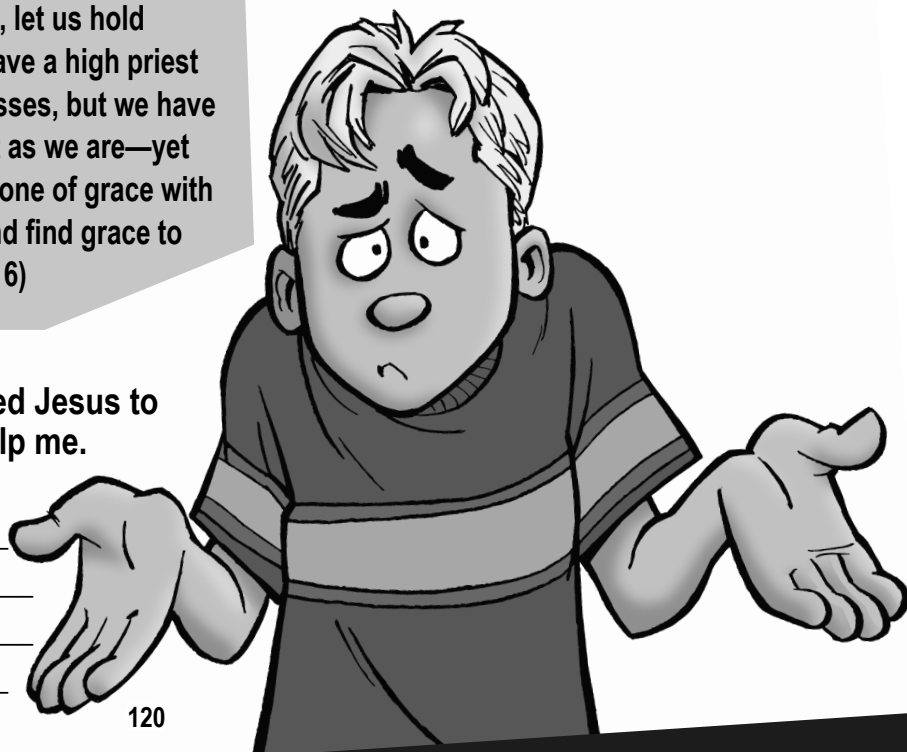
“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we don’t have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he didn’t sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Dear God:

These are some of the ways that I need Jesus to help me. I believe that Jesus CAN help me.

Thank you, Lord.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



What A Difference A Day Makes!

In the space below, write about or draw a picture of the most important day of your life. Try to think of a day when your life changed much more than any other day.

Jesus & the Woman at the Well

Narrator: Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her;

Jesus: "Will you give me a drink?"

Narrator: His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

Samaritan Woman: "You are a Jew and I'm a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?"

Narrator: For Jews don't associate with Samaritans.

Jesus: If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.

Samaritan Woman: Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?
Jesus: Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Samaritan Woman: Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.

Jesus: Go, call your husband and come back.

Samaritan Woman: I have no husband.

Jesus: You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.

Samaritan Woman: Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.

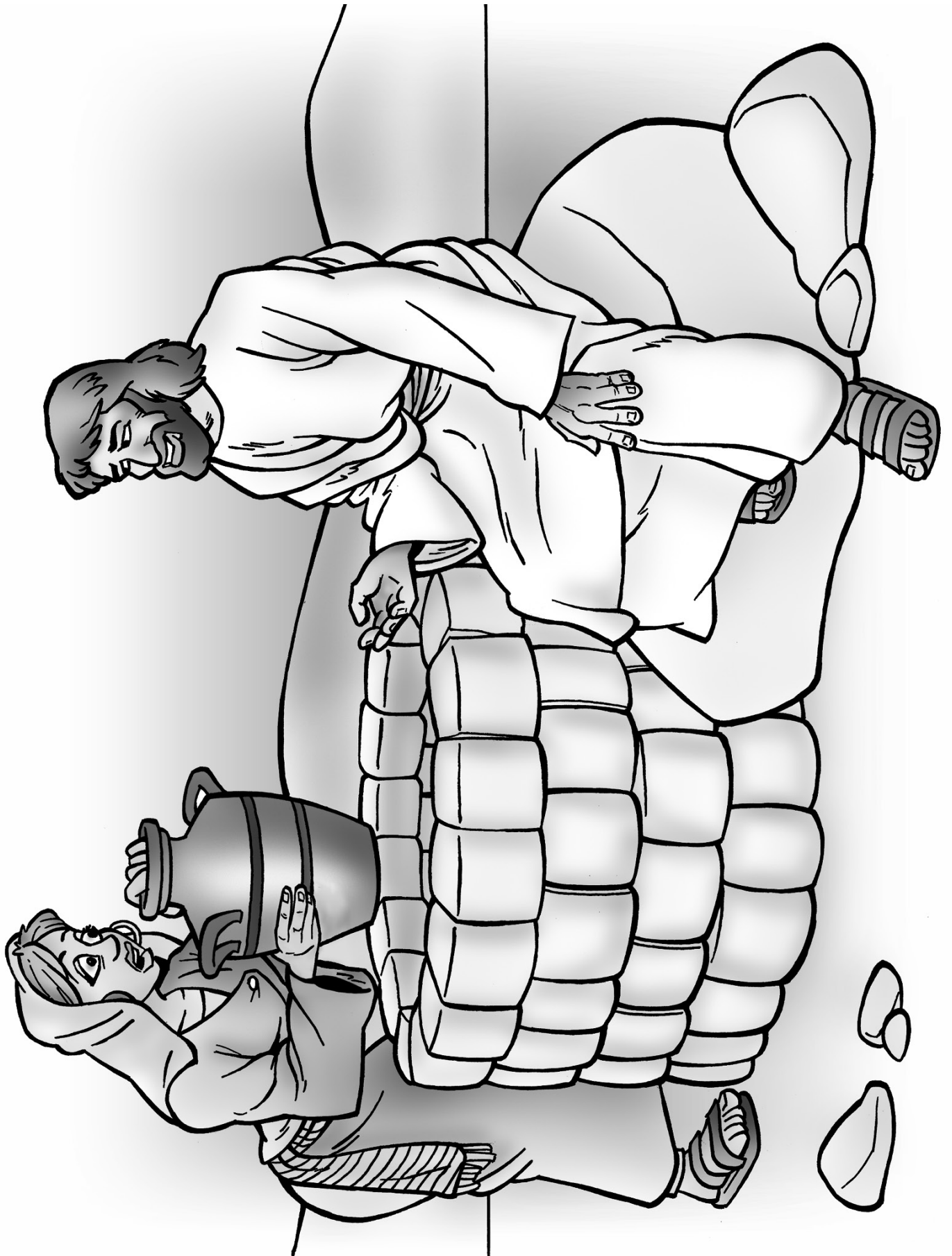
Jesus: Woman, believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you don't know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

Narrator: What Jesus was saying to the woman was that the place where a person worships is not the most important thing. The most important thing is that we worship God from the heart.

(Narration taken from John 4:1-24.)

Now read John 4:25-30, 39-42 to see how the story continues. Then answer the following questions:

1. The Samaritan woman had several problems. What were they?
2. Why do you think Jesus talked to her?
3. The disciples were away buying food. What do you think they would have done if they had been there when Jesus and the woman started talking?
4. In what way did Jesus bring about a change in the life of the Samaritan woman?
5. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = not important and 10 = very important), how would you rate the change in the woman's life, and why?



What would your life be like if...
YOU COULDN'T SEE?

In the space below, draw
a picture or write a
description of the
challenges you might
face if you were blind.



The Day of Rest Gazette



**The saliva of a Rabbi
heals a blind man!**
John 9:1-12

**The
Pharisees
analyze the
case!**
John 9:13-34



**“Blindness, it’s not just
physical,” they say.**
John 9:35-41



In your Bible, look up the passages listed in each section of the newspaper. Then in your own words, write an article about what happened.

WHICH IS WORSE?

In the spaces below
write down all the
disadvantages that you
can think of in regard
to the two types of
blindness.

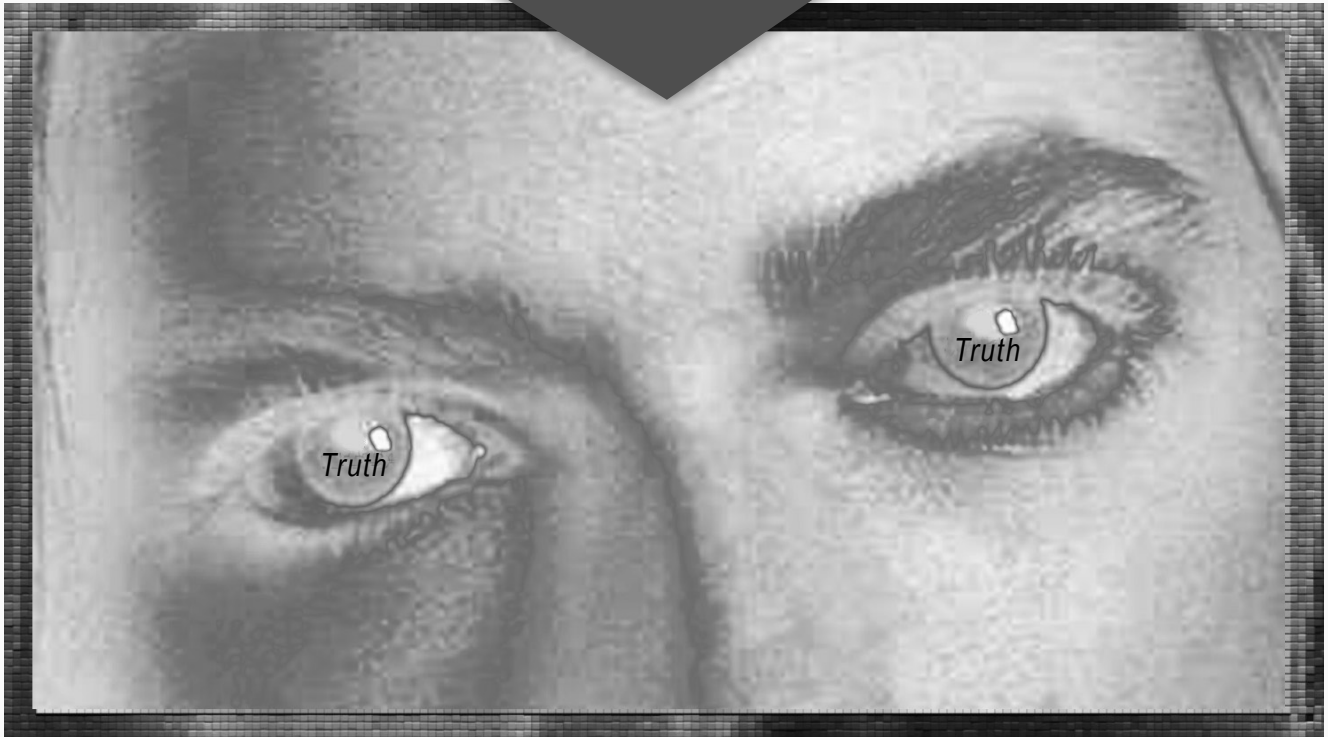
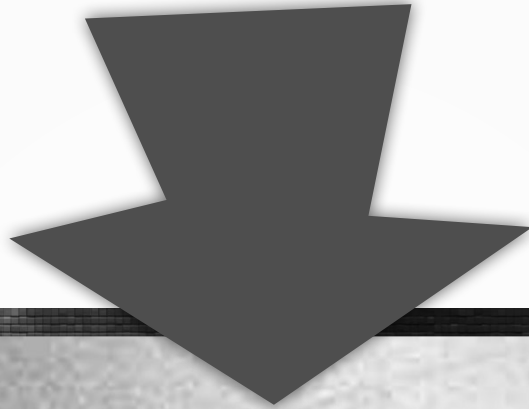
PHYSICAL
BLINDNESS



SPIRITUAL
BLINDNESS



*Look at the following picture. What do you see?
Use the message you discover to finish the
sentence at the bottom of this page.*



**JESUS CAN HEAL OUR SPIRITUAL
BLINDNESS IF WE ARE WILLING TO**

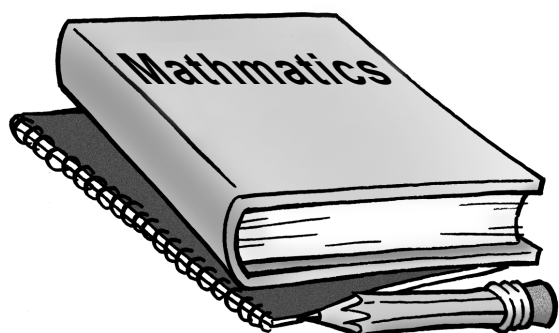
SEE

THE



What is "BAD"?

In the picture below, circle everything you think is "Bad".



Terrorists

God



Disobedience

Satan



Lying

Junk Food



Drugs

Abuse

Stealing



**INCREDIBLE,
BUT
REAL!!**

THE STORY OF THE CRAZY PIGS

Scott: Welcome to "Incredible, But Real!" I'm Scott Davis and today I'm here with a man we will call Legion, who has an incredible story to tell us. Legion, you say you were controlled by demons, is that true?

Legion: Yes, that's right.

Scott: I heard you lived in a cemetery ... and that ... you didn't wear clothes.

Legion: Yes, it's true. People thought I was crazy. Everyone was afraid of me. Many times they tried to keep me chained up, but I always broke the chains and escaped.

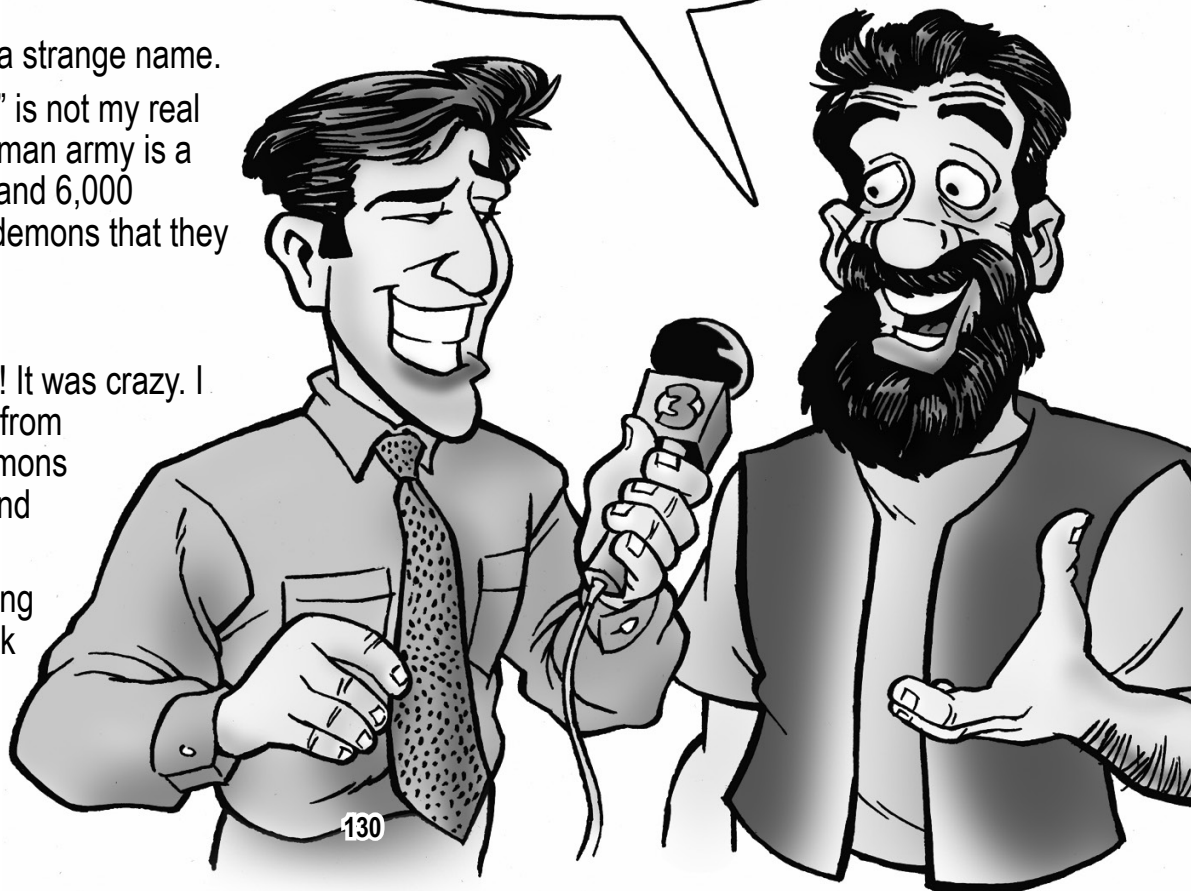
Scott: "Legion" . . . what a strange name.

Legion: Actually, "Legion" is not my real name. A legion in the Roman army is a group of between 4,000 and 6,000 soldiers. I was so full of demons that they called me "Legion".

Scott: How horrible!

Legion: You're telling me! It was crazy. I lived in the tombs, away from everyone, except the demons that tormented me day and night.

Scott: The fascinating thing is that now, you don't look like a madman or a someone that's been tormented. You look completely normal and



healthy. Frankly, it's hard for me to believe that you experienced the life you just described. How did you change?

Legion: Jesus, it was all Jesus! Before that, nobody could help me. But one day I met Jesus.

Scott: And how did Jesus help you when no one else could?

Legion: The demons recognized Jesus immediately when he approached me. They were very afraid of him! They called him the Son of the Most High God, and they begged him not to torture them.

Scott: How incredible! I thought that Jesus wasn't capable of hurting anyone. Why were the demons afraid of him?

Legion: Jesus is love, that's for sure. But he's Holy and doesn't tolerate evil. That's why evil cannot be near him. Those demons asked Jesus to not send them into the abyss, a place of eternal punishment.

Scott: Wait a second ... Are you saying that Jesus has the power to send the demons away? Would demons do whatever Jesus told them? But ... (thoughtful) ... I thought the demons were super powerful!

Legion: Yes, they're very powerful, it's true. Remember, I couldn't defend myself from them and nobody could help me. But the demons have NO power compared to Jesus. His power is much greater than any evil power. Those demons were under his control.

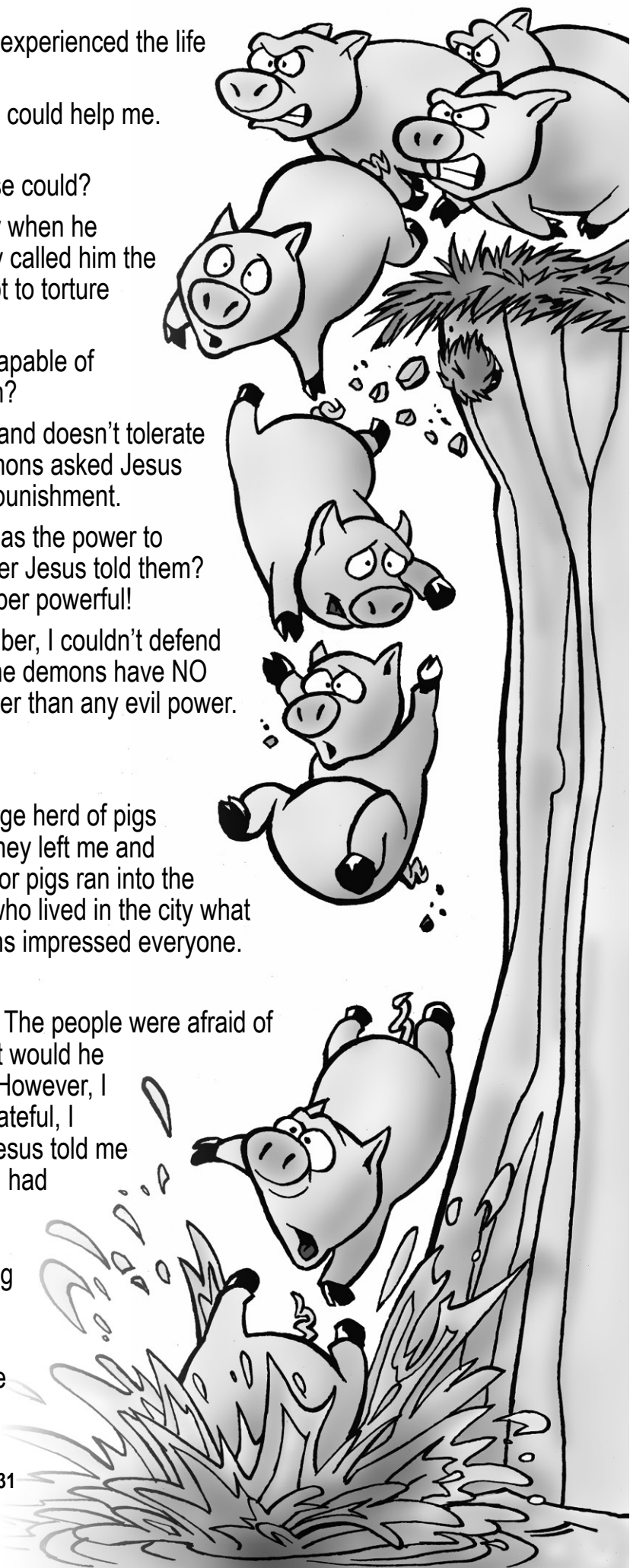
Scott: So, what happened to the demons?

Legion: They begged Jesus to let them go into a large herd of pigs that was nearby. When he gave them permission, they left me and went into the pigs and made them go crazy. The poor pigs ran into the lake and drowned. The owner ran to tell everyone who lived in the city what had happened. The power of Jesus over the demons impressed everyone.

Scott: Tell us what happened next!

Legion: No one had ever seen anyone so powerful. The people were afraid of Jesus. If he could command the demons, then what would he do to them? Then, they begged him to leave town. However, I wasn't afraid. I didn't want him to leave. I was so grateful, I asked him to take me with him on his travels. But Jesus told me to go home and tell the people in my town how God had transformed me into a new person. And that's what I'm doing! I want everyone to know that Jesus has power over evil! Just seeing those demons trembling with fear in the presence of Jesus showed me that there is nothing that can defeat Jesus.

Scott: What an amazing story! Well, there you have it! The pigs went crazy. And ... don't forget ... join us for our next episode of "Incredible, But Real!"



OVERCOMING EVIL

HORIZONTAL

2. Name of the possessed man.
(Luke 8:30)

5. Creatures that ran into the lake
and drowned. (Luke 8:32)

7. _____ every kind of evil.
(1 Thessalonians 5:22)

8. Who is more powerful than
demons? (Luke 8:28)

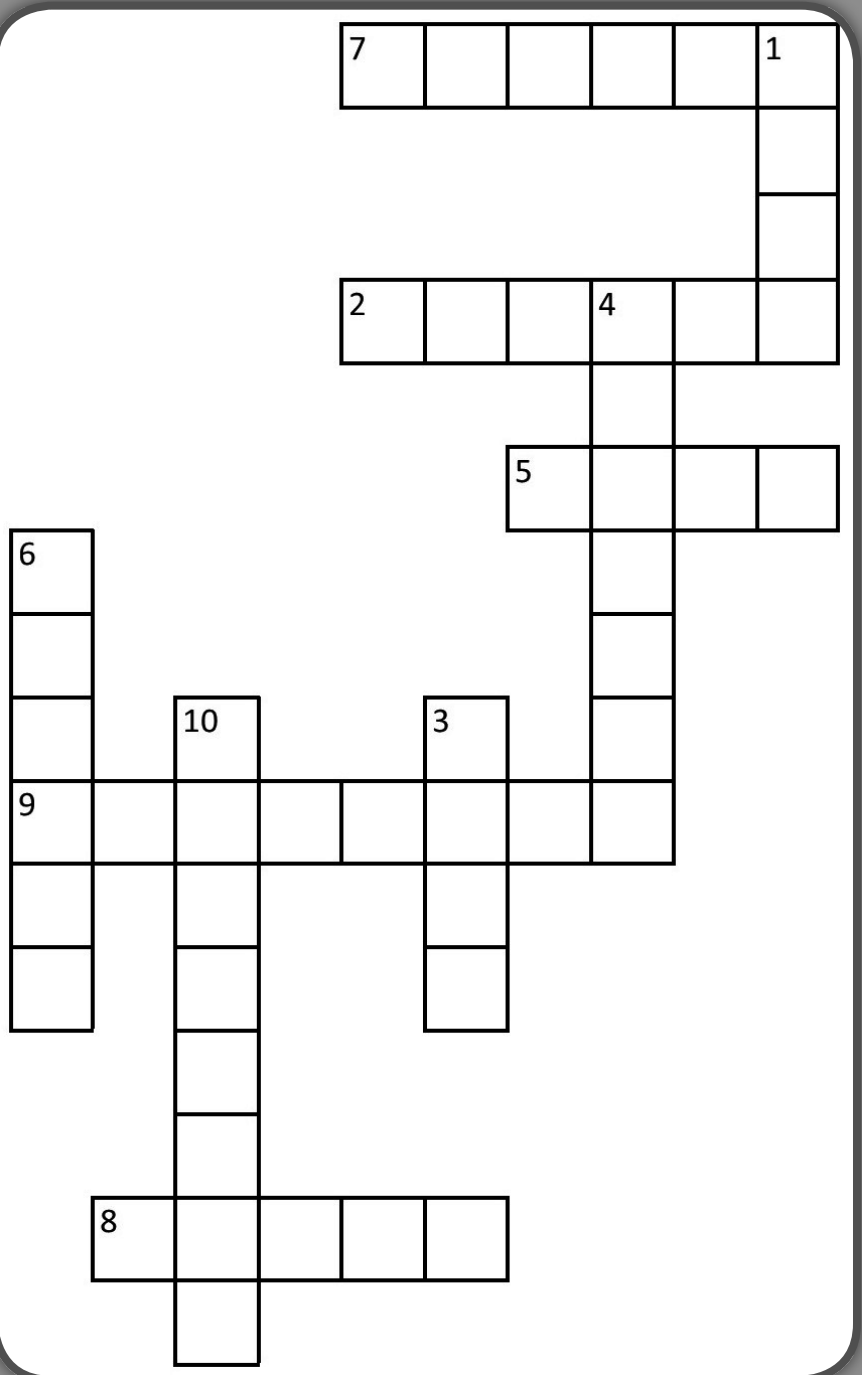
9. I have told you these things, so
that in me you may have peace.
In this world you will have trouble.
But take heart! I have _____
the world. (John 16:33)

VERTICAL

1. _____ from evil and do
good; seek peace and pursue it.
(Psalms 34:14)

3. Don't be overcome by evil, but
overcome evil with _____.
(Romans 12:21)

4. Dear friend, don't _____
what is evil but what is good.
Anyone who does what is good is
from God. Anyone who does what
is evil has not seen God.
(3 John 1:11)

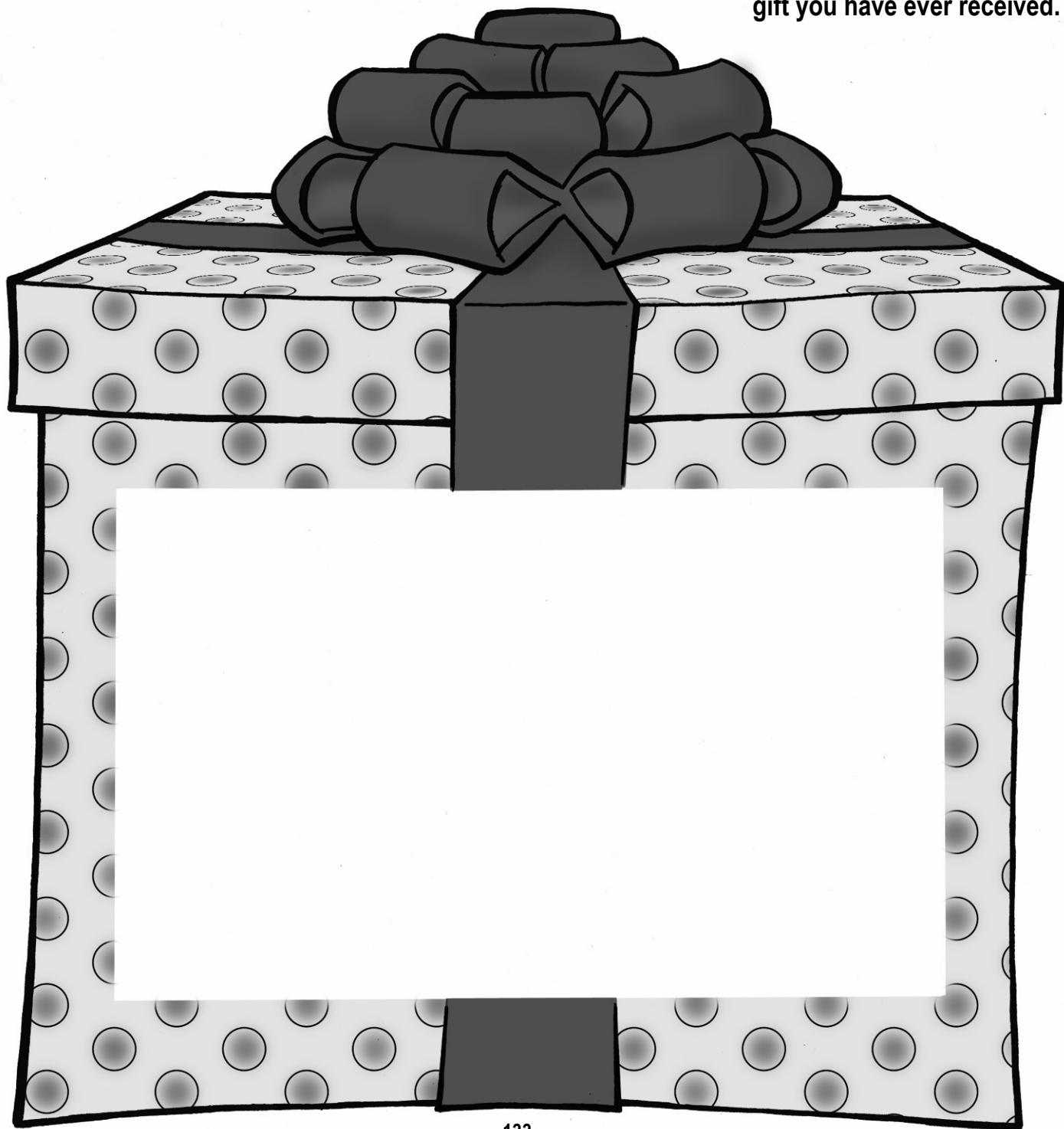


6. The man from whom the _____ had gone out
begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, ...
(Luke 8:38)

10. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who
_____ that Jesus is the Son of God. (1 John 5:5)

THE BEST GIFT

In the blank space draw a picture or describe the best gift you have ever received.



Born Again

One night, the Pharisee Nicodemus met Jesus secretly to ask him some questions. Jesus told Nicodemus that to be part of the kingdom of God, he must be born again. Nicodemus didn't understand. Look at how Jesus responded.

What would you say to a friend who asked you what it means to "be born again"? Write your ideas in the blank bubble.

What do you mean? ... How can an old man go back in time and be born again as a baby?

"Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'" (John 3:5-7)

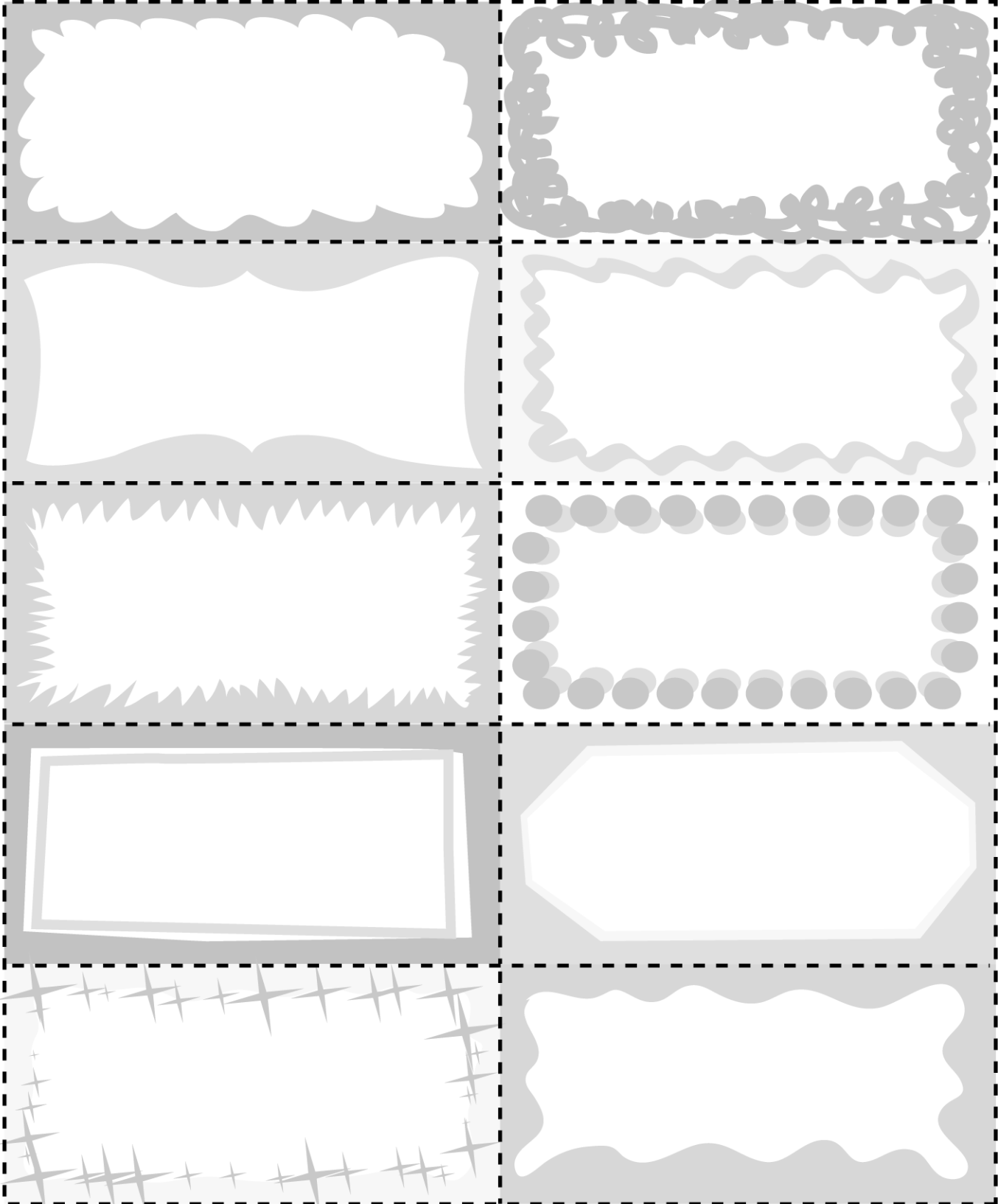
I don't understand. What does it mean to be "born again"?



Cards of Love

Here is a useful and practical tool you can use to talk about your faith with your friends. Look at the verses that are on the back of these cards.

On this side of the cards, write a message for your friend (for example: "Jesus died so you can have life" or "God wants to be your best friend"). Write your name and, if necessary, your telephone number and address. You could also tell a short story of how you became a Christian, and what Christ means to you.



Cut out the cards and look for opportunities to tell the good news of salvation to your friends by sharing a card with them.

**Who can you give your love cards to?
Think of your family members, friends, teachers,
people in your community ... in short, anyone!**

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
(1 John 1:9)*

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GENERATE

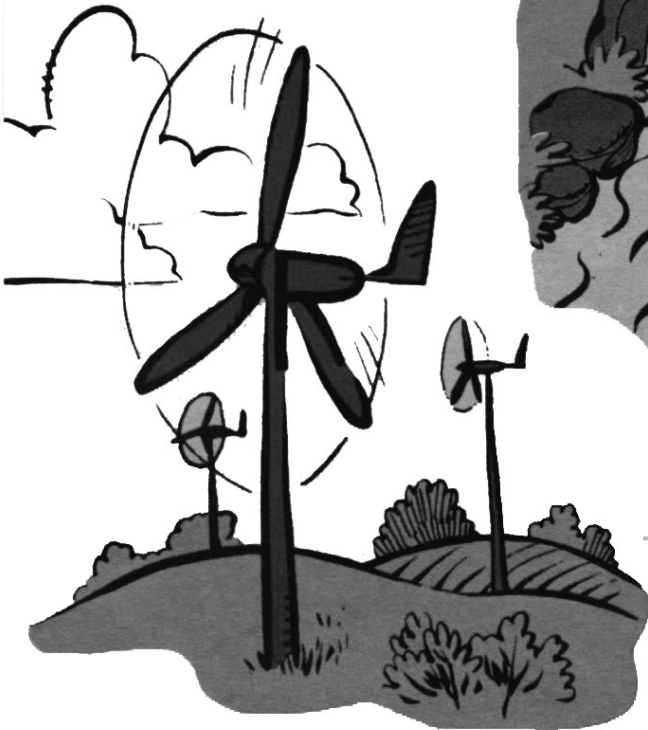


SITERBTAE

Rearrange the letters below each picture to find the word that describes it. Write the word in the blanks. Then, find the hidden letter in each picture to answer the question at the bottom of the page.



EIRF



DNWI



RATWE



RIYELCTECTI

What do each of these generate?

--	--	--	--	--

POWER

On Pentecost



“When will this long wait end?” James asked.

“What did Jesus mean when he said that we would be baptized by the Holy Spirit?” added John.

“What will this gift be like?” Philip asked himself.

The disciples and other believers had been gathered together for the past 10 days to pray. And this day was no different. “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.”

They went out into the street and began to speak in different languages. When the crowd heard this sound, they came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Many of the people who came were Jews from other countries.

“This is incredible!” someone said. “These men are from Galilee, but they’re speaking in my language.”

“No,” said another, “they are speaking in my language.”

“It’s impossible,” the crowd argued, “each of us hears them in our native language.”

“How can this be? What does this mean?” they asked confused.

“They’re drunk,” someone said to make fun of the disciples.

Peter heard what people were saying. He looked for a place where people could see and hear him. “Wait!” he shouted. “Listen to what I’m going to tell you. It’s early, only nine in the morning; so we’re not drunk. What happened here is exactly what God promised. He said he would give us the Holy Spirit.”

Peter continued, “The prophet Joel wrote about this. He said ‘In the last days, God will show many signs and wonders. Then,



whoever calls on the name of God, will be saved from his sins.’ And now, all this has happened.”

All the people paid attention. And Peter continued, “Jesus did many signs and wonders among you.” “But you crucified him. However, God raised him from the dead, and freed him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”

“Even King David, our greatest king, died. You can see his tomb right here in Jerusalem. But David saw what was ahead. He spoke of the resurrection of Christ.”

“God raised Jesus from the dead; we all saw him. Now he is in heaven with God, the Father. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as he promised. This is what is happening now, what you’re seeing and hearing.”

The people listened to the message about Jesus very carefully. Suddenly, they began to realize what they had done. They felt guilty and they were sorry that they had killed Jesus.

“Brothers, what shall we do?” they asked.

Peter responded, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

That day, about 3,000 people accepted Peter’s message. They repented of their sins and accepted Jesus as their Savior. Then they were baptized. Today we celebrate that special day as the birth of the church!

(This Bible story is found in Acts 2:1-41)

Look up the verses below and read them. Write what each one says about Peter or the Disciples. The first is done as an example.

Before & After

Peter

Matthew 14:29-31 - Peter was afraid. He didn't trust Jesus.

John 18:25-27 _____

Acts 2:4 _____

Acts 4:13 _____

Disciples

Matthew 8:24-27 _____

Matthew 17:15-16 _____

Acts 4:31, 33 _____

Acts 5:12 _____

Help Is Here!

Each line speaks of a way in which the Holy Spirit helps you to obey God. You will find them by crossing out the following letters in each line, J, K, L, Q, X, and Z. Write your answers on the lines below.

1. L C K J O X U Z R L A J X G Z X E K
2. B X R Q K A J V E X Z R Z K Y L J Z
3. J U N K D E Q R S T X A N D I Z N G
4. J L F Z L J A X I Z L Q T X J H K Q
5. L S X T R Q E L K X N X Z G T Z H K
6. D L K I J L R Z E C Z T L I Z O K N
7. D E Q T E R J M I N K A T I J O N L
8. L K Z X P L J Z O Z X W L Z J E J R
9. K L P A Z X T L J Z I E X L Z N C E
10. T L E K S J T Q I M X O Z N K Y Q Z

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

THEN and NOW

Read the following below. They talk about how the first Christians took care of one another and shared everything.

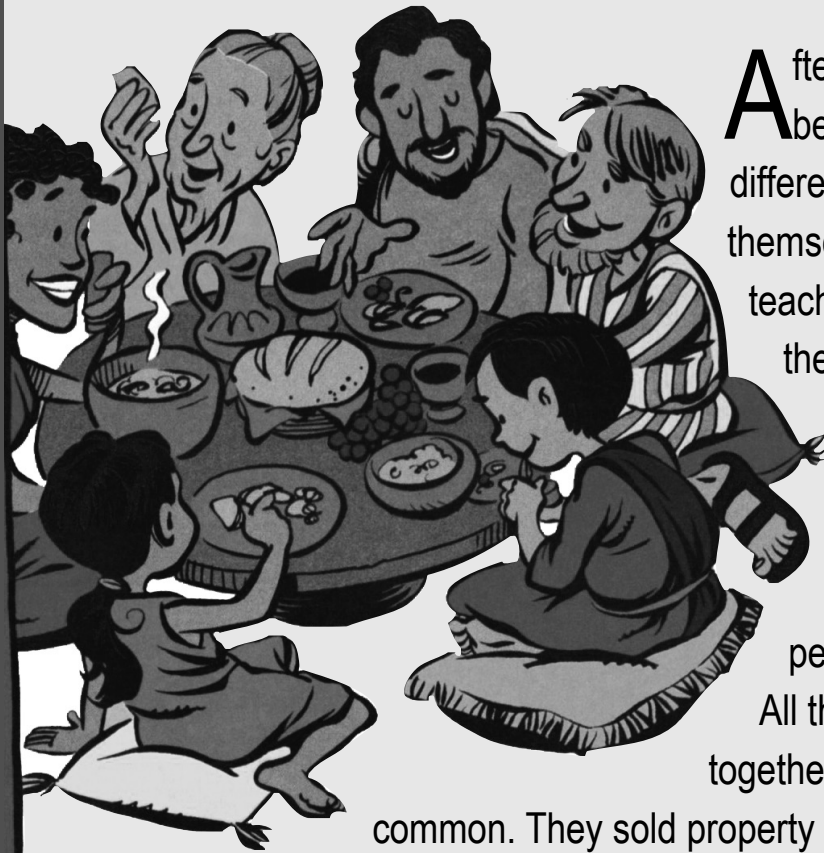
Connect the sentences with the picture that shows how Christians today do the same things that the first Christians did.

1. Believers spent time learning from the Apostles. (Acts 2:42)
2. Every day they gathered in the temple to worship. (Acts 2:46)
3. They spent time praying together. (Acts 2:42)
4. They enjoyed spending time together and eating meals together. (Acts 2:46)
5. They sold their property and possessions and they shared the money with those who needed it. (Acts 2:44-45)



Acts
2:42-47

The Community of Believers



After Pentecost, those who believed in Jesus were different. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

All the believers were

together and had everything in

common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42-47).

What feeling did the believers have for others?

What did the Apostles do?

What did the believers do?

What was God doing?

How did other people feel about the new Christians?

“**A**ll the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all, that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time, those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.



Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” (Acts 4:32-37).

How did the believers treat their possessions?

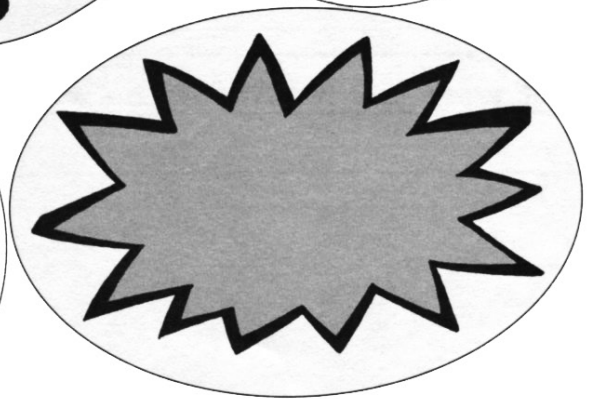
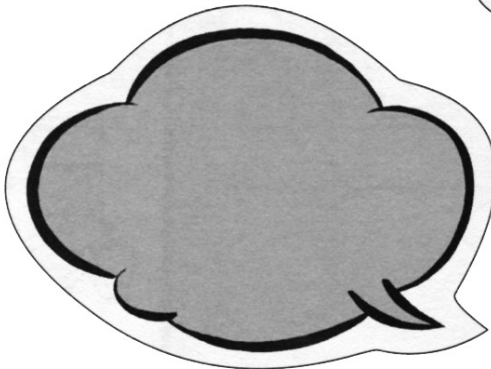
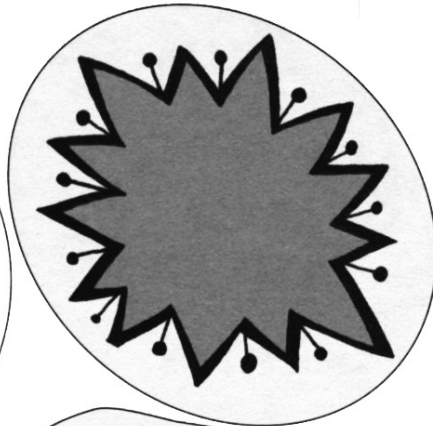
What did the Apostles do?

What did the believers do?

What were the results of the way the new believers acted?

Show Others You Are Interested

Use the pictures below to make a card that you can use to show someone you care about them.





Lesson 37 The Church: A Community Of Love

SURPRISE!

Many things may surprise you. Look in the word search for words that are good surprises such as: love, acceptance and fellowship.

Also look for the words that are bad surprises such as: sin, separation and impurity.

Circle the words and then write them on the lines below.
Ask your teacher to explain the meaning of the words you don't know.

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

Good Surprises

Bad Surprises



New

Narrator: This happened three times; and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

While Peter was wondering about the vision, the men who had been sent by Cornelius arrived at the door and asked for Peter.

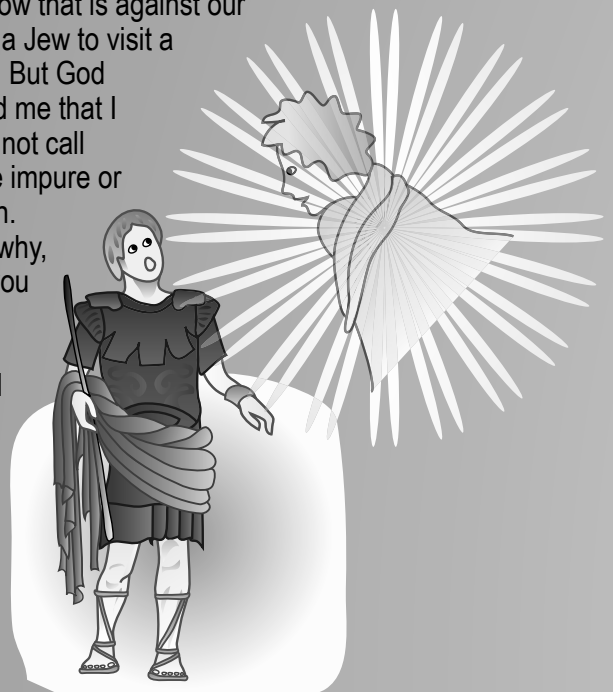
While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Don’t hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.” Peter went down from the roof and went to the door to see who was looking for him.

Peter: Hi, I’m Peter. Why are you looking for me? What can I do for you?

Servants and Soldier: Cornelius, the centurion, is a man who fears God. He told us that he received instructions from an angel. He wants you to come to his house so he can hear what you have to say.

Narrator: Peter was very kind and hosted them at his friend’s house; they ate together and talked that afternoon. They rested and the next day they got up, had breakfast and left for the home of Cornelius. But the interesting thing is that Peter was not alone; he was accompanied by some of the Jewish believers from Joppa. No doubt everyone was curious to know why Cornelius, a Gentile, had sent for Peter! When they arrived, their eyes had a look of surprise. Cornelius was waiting for them along with his close friends and relatives. When Peter arrived, Cornelius came out to meet him and knelt at his feet. Peter didn’t want Cornelius to worship him.

Peter: Stand up, Cornelius. I’m only a man myself ... You well know that is against our law for a Jew to visit a gentile. But God showed me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. That’s why, when you asked me to come, I came



Characters: Narrator, Angel, Cornelius, Peter, 2 Servants, 1 Soldier and Voice.

Narrator: There was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, who was a centurion in what was known as “the Italian Regiment.” He was a God-fearing man. He always helped the needy and prayed regularly. One day, an angel appeared to him and said:

Angel: Cornelius!

Cornelius: (looking at him fearfully) What do you want, Lord?

Angel: We know that you pray and give to the poor. Send some men to the city of Joppa to bring back a man named Simon, who is called Peter, to come stay at your house. Peter is in the house of his friend, also called Simon, a tanner. His house is by the sea. Peter will help you and answer many of your questions. He will tell you what you should do.

Narrator: Cornelius didn’t wait. He obeyed, and sent two servants and a soldier to Joppa. The next day, while they were on their way to Joppa, Peter went up to the roof to pray. Peter’s stomach began to make noises, he was very hungry. Without a doubt, the lady of the house was cooking and Peter smelled the aroma of the food. While he was waiting for his meal, Peter had a vision. He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was being let down to earth by its four corners. Inside the sheet there were all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Peter had no idea what this all meant. Then he heard a voice say:

Voice: Get up, Peter, kill and eat.

Peter: Lord, no; how can you ask me to do something like that! I’ve never eaten anything unclean or impure!

Voice: Look Peter, listen carefully, don’t call anything impure that God has made clean.

Friends!



without objection. So here I am! How can I help you?

Cornelius: Peter, let me explain. Three days ago at this time I was praying at home, suddenly I saw an angel standing before me, and he told me to look for you so that you could teach me. Then I did what he told me. Now we are all here in the presence of God to hear everything he has commanded you to tell us. Without a doubt, you have a lot to teach us.

Peter: I now understand the vision that God gave me! Yes, it's true, now I understand that God doesn't show favoritism, but accepts from every nation those who fear him and do what is right! God sent a message to the children of Israel, announcing the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what was happened throughout Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism that John preached - how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. You've heard about how he did good and healed all those who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him!

(Narration based on Acts 10:1-38)

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think that what Peter and Cornelius did was good? Why?

Answer: _____

2. What does it mean to respect people?

Answer: _____

3. Do you think that Peter and the other believers in Joppa accepted Cornelius, his family and his friends?

Answer: _____

4. How do you think this special story ends? Do you want to know? Read Acts 10:44-48.

Answer: _____

5. What does the Lord want us to do with all people?

Answer: _____

6. What was the surprise that Peter and Cornelius received?

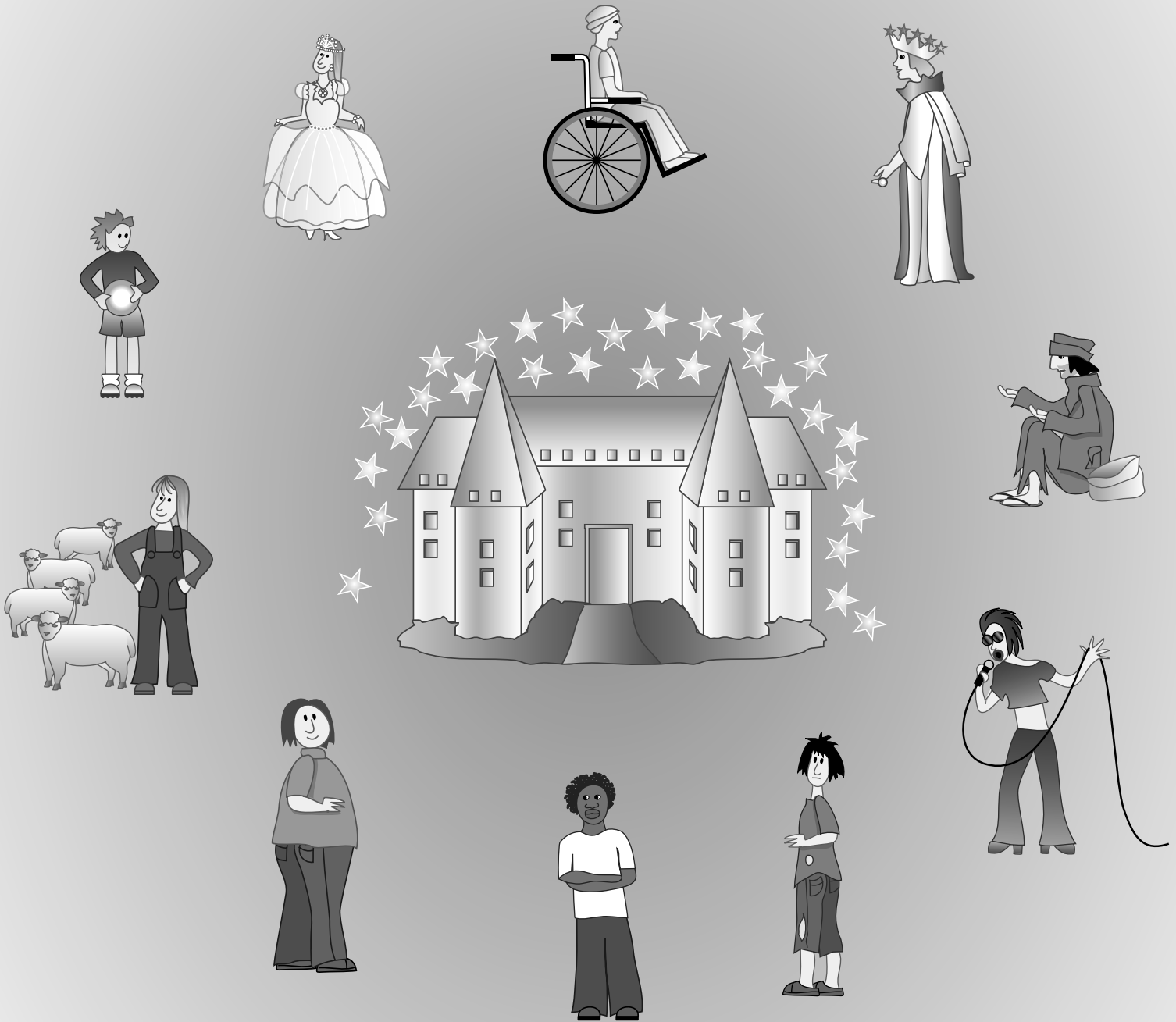
Answer: _____

COMPLETE:

Therefore _____ and _____ disciples of all _____, baptizing them in the name of the _____ and of the _____ and of the _____, and teaching them to _____ everything I have _____ you. And surely I'm with you _____, to the very _____ of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Can I Enter?

Circle the people you think deserve to enter the castle.



Complete the sentence:

_____ those who accept Jesus as their Savior can enter the castle (heaven)! It doesn't matter what language they speak or what nationality or race they are.

The Church in Antioch

1

After Peter and John were released from prison, Jewish leaders began looking for ways to stop the Christians from spreading the Good News. They stoned Stephen because he told them that they had killed the Son of God. After that, they began to persecute all the believers in Jerusalem. They killed many, and put many others in jail.



2

Many believers fled from Jerusalem because of the great persecution, and they went to live in other cities. Some went very far away, to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. Everywhere they went they preached the Good News of Jesus.



3

Some believers from Cyprus and Cyrene went to Antioch. There they began to tell the Gentiles about Jesus. God was with them, and many Gentiles accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

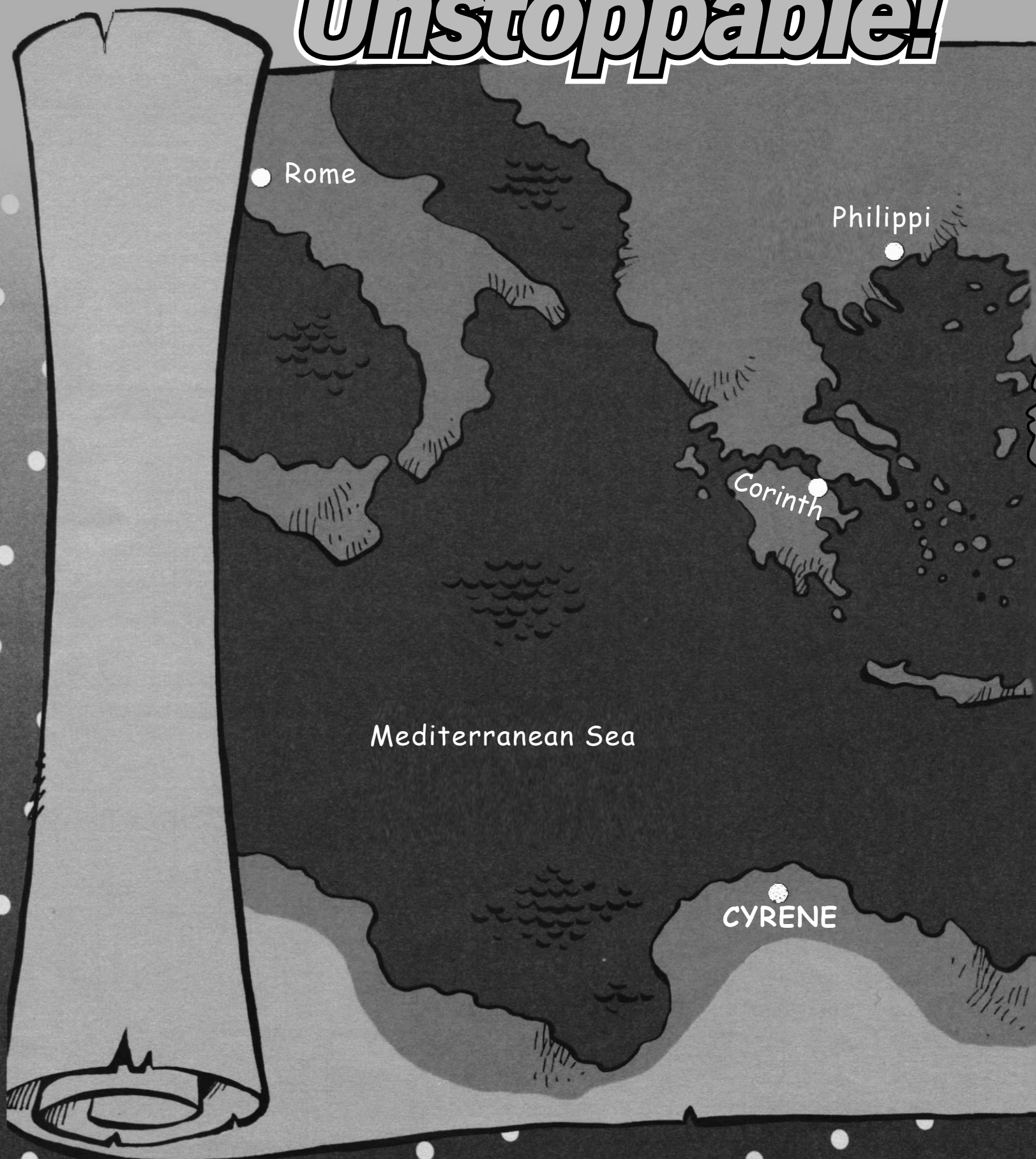


4

The leaders of the church in Jerusalem heard what was happening in Antioch, and they sent Barnabas to help. Barnabas was a good man. He had great faith in Jesus, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately he saw the wonders that God was doing. He was full of joy and excitement. So he encouraged the other believers to continue serving the Lord. Barnabas also helped many people receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.



Unstoppable!



● Rome

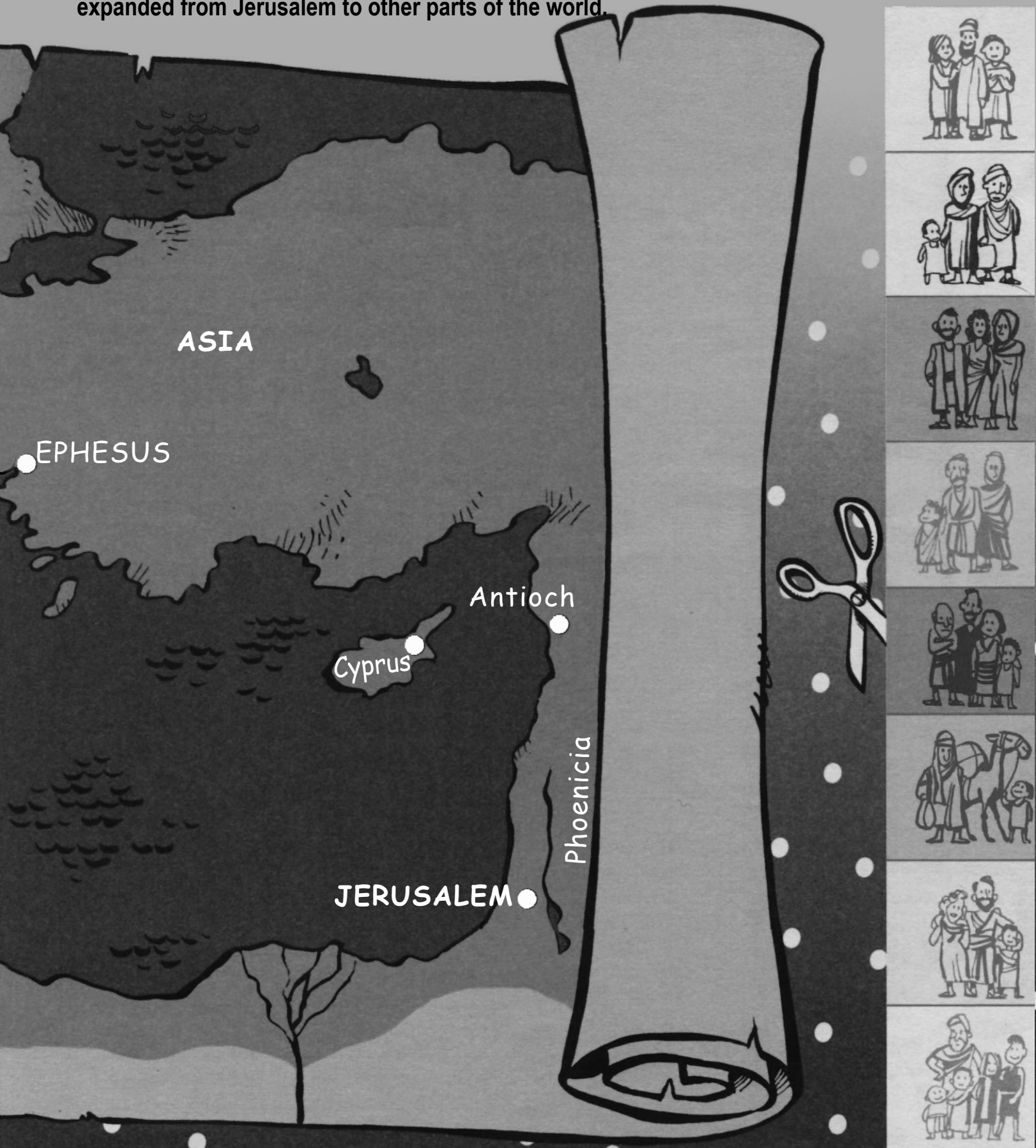
● Philippi

● Corinth

Mediterranean Sea

● CYRENE

Cut out the pictures of the people. Paste them on the map to show how the church expanded from Jerusalem to other parts of the world.



Resist!



What temptation is this boy facing?

What temptations do you face?

Stay Firm!



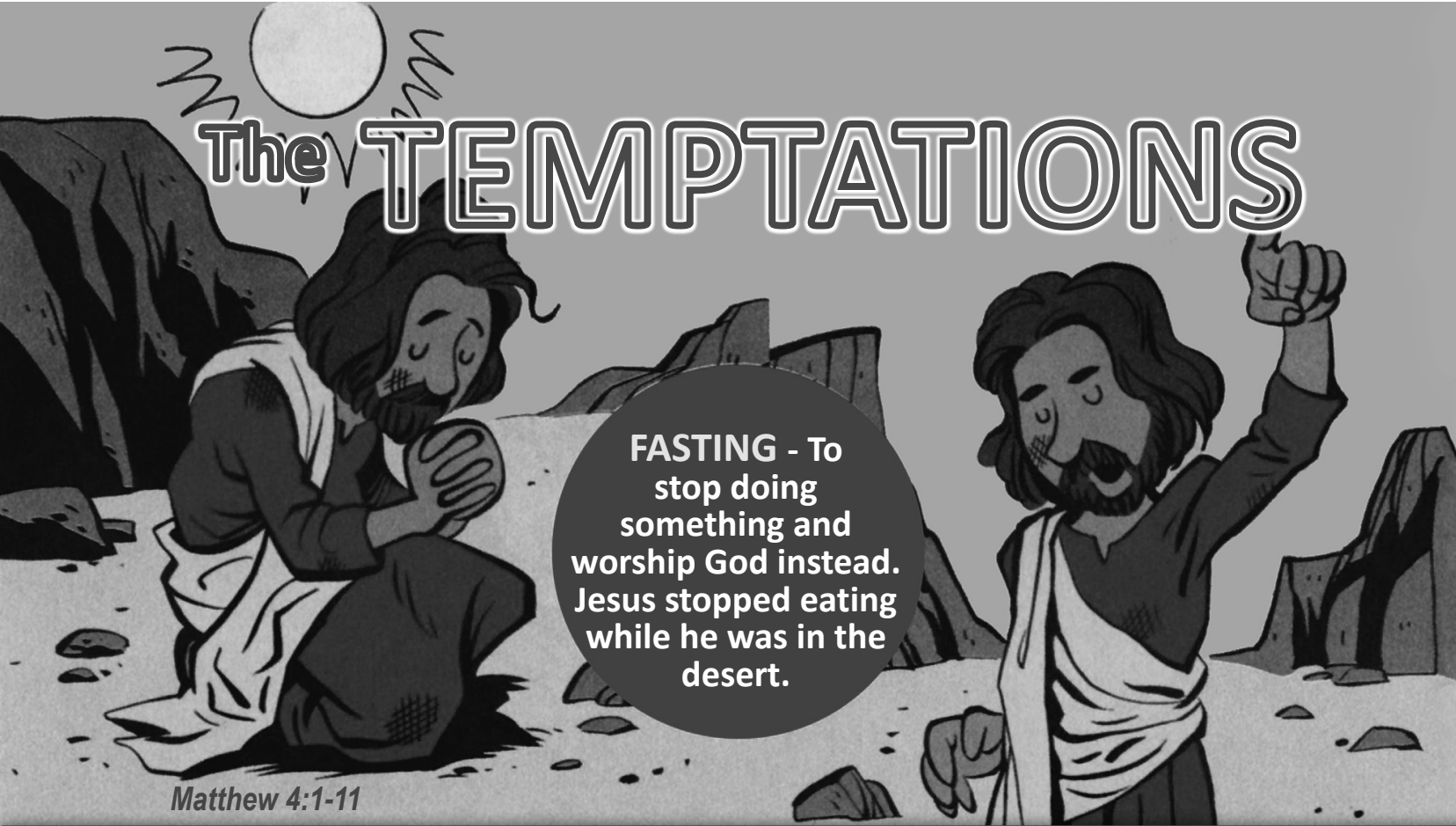
What temptation is this girl facing?

Think

about your life.

What is a temptation that you face or that you might face?

The TEMPTATIONS



FASTING - To stop doing something and worship God instead. Jesus stopped eating while he was in the desert.

Matthew 4:1-11

1. How did Jesus wear the Armor of God to overcome temptation?

2. The Belt of Truth. What lies did the devil use to try to deceive Jesus. How did Jesus respond?

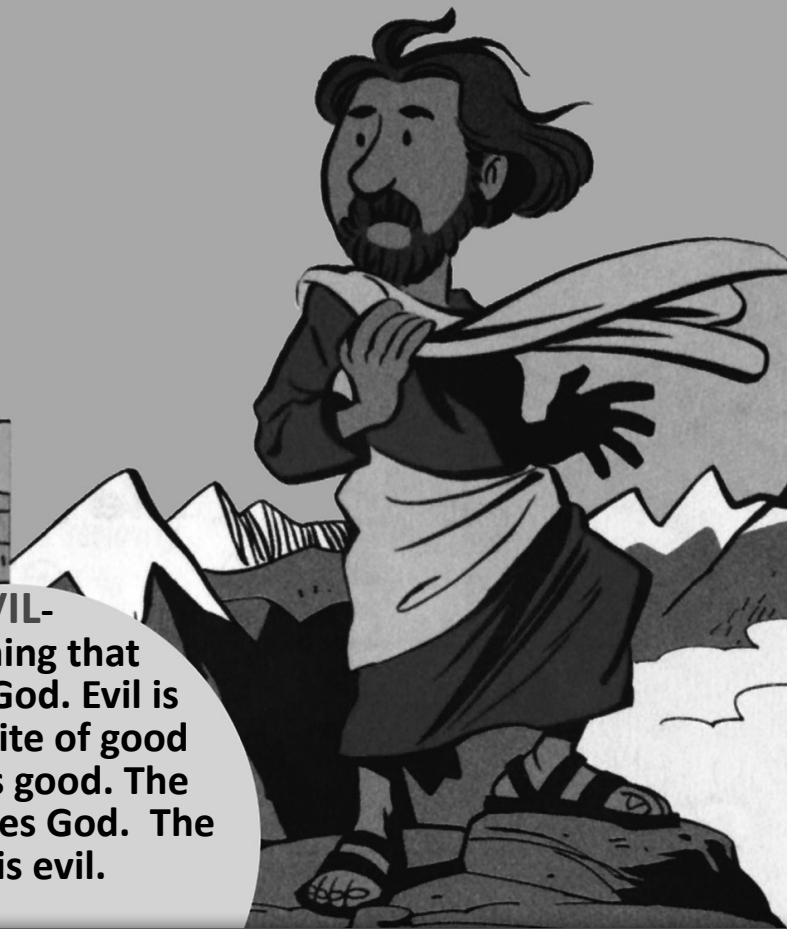
3. The Breastplate of Righteousness. Righteousness means being accountable to God; to do what God commands. How did Jesus respond with righteousness when he was tempted?

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and

OF JESUS



EVIL-
Everything that opposes God. Evil is the opposite of good and God is good. The devil opposes God. The devil is evil.

had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very

high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Jesus used Scripture to defeat temptation. You too can use the Word of God to help you overcome temptation.

TEMPTATION-
Anything that may prevent you from putting God first in your life. Temptation is not a sin, but if you give in to it, then it is sin.

My Commitment

Complete this commitment by using the words below.



I _____ TO LIVE
ACCORDING TO THE _____
OF GOD. I WILL ALWAYS _____
THE TRUTH. TODAY I _____
TO DO WHAT IS _____ AND
TO _____ GOD.



OBEY – TELL – PROMISE – TRUTH – RIGHT – DECIDE

In My Own Words!

Find Matthew 4:4 and read it.
How would you say this verse?

Find & Read Matthew 4:7. How would you say this verse?

Find and read Matthew 4:10. How would you say
this verse? Can it help you when you are
tempted?

Who can help
you when
you're
tempted?

HE = JESUS

Ask your
teacher what
this verse
means to
them.

“Because he himself
suffered when he was
tempted, he is able to help
those who are being
tempted.”(Hebrews 2:18).



In Your Opinion, What Does FREEDOM Mean?

Think of four words that describe Freedom.

1 2 3 4

Draw of picture of something that shows Freedom.




THINK ABOUT IT!
What kind of freedom does God give you?

ONESIMUS

Greeting: "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philemon 1:1, 3)



The Love and Faith of Philemon: "I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people." (Philemon 1:4-7)

Think About It!

Since he was a slave who had stolen from his boss and escaped, Onesimus was in serious danger of death if he returned. Scary!

What freed Onesimus from his fear? What transformed Onesimus?

What does the armor of God have to do with this story?

1. The zeal to announce the gospel of peace.
2. The Shield of Faith.

RETURNS

Paul Pleas for Onesimus: “Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I’m in chains for the gospel. But I didn’t want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self.”
(Philemon 1:8-19)

Final Blessing and Closing: “I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.” (Philemon 1:20-22)

Paul finishes the letter with a note about an upcoming visit. He blesses Philemon, just as he expects Philemon to bless Onesimus.

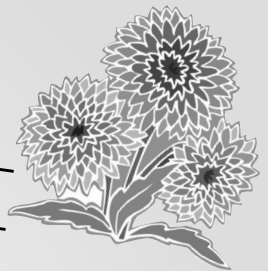
My Dear _____ (your name)

I want you to know that I love you. I'm always with you. I take care of you when you are sick or when you are afraid. I'm with you when you're happy. You can count on me, because I will always be by your side to help you, even in the most difficult situations.

I want you to accept my gift: salvation. I choose you to love me and serve me. Remember that you can trust me.

With Love,
God

Dear God,



With Love,

Where Are You Looking For ANSWERS?



Circle the words that describe where or who you look to for answers.

Then classify where you get more help from.

1= The Most Help

10 = The Least amount of Help

God

Television

Dictionary

Internet

The Bible

Friends

Teachers

Books

Pastor

Parents

Computer

Is there something or someone else you turn to for answers?

An Ethiopian Seeks the Truth

Characters:

Philip, the Ethiopian, Narrator, a “voice” (of an angel of the Lord or the Holy Spirit).

Objects: 2 costumes from Bible times, 1 scroll, 2 chairs

Scene 1 (Philip is alone on stage.)

Voice: (from behind the stage): Get up and go south to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert road.

Philip: (preparing to leave): Yes, Lord, I’m going now.

Narrator: (while Philip exits the stage) So, Philip got up and started out. On his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch ... an important official of the Queen of Ethiopia, who was in charge of all the Queen’s money.

Scene 2 (There are two chairs on stage.)
The Ethiopian, sitting on one of them, reads silently from a scroll).

Narrator: (from behind the stage) The Ethiopian official believed in God, but he didn’t know Jesus. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was on his way home, sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah, the prophet.

Voice: Philip, go closer to the chariot. **(Philip ran up to the carriage).**

The Ethiopian: (reading from the scroll) “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is

silent, so he didn’t open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

Philip: (taking a step forward) Do you understand what you are reading?

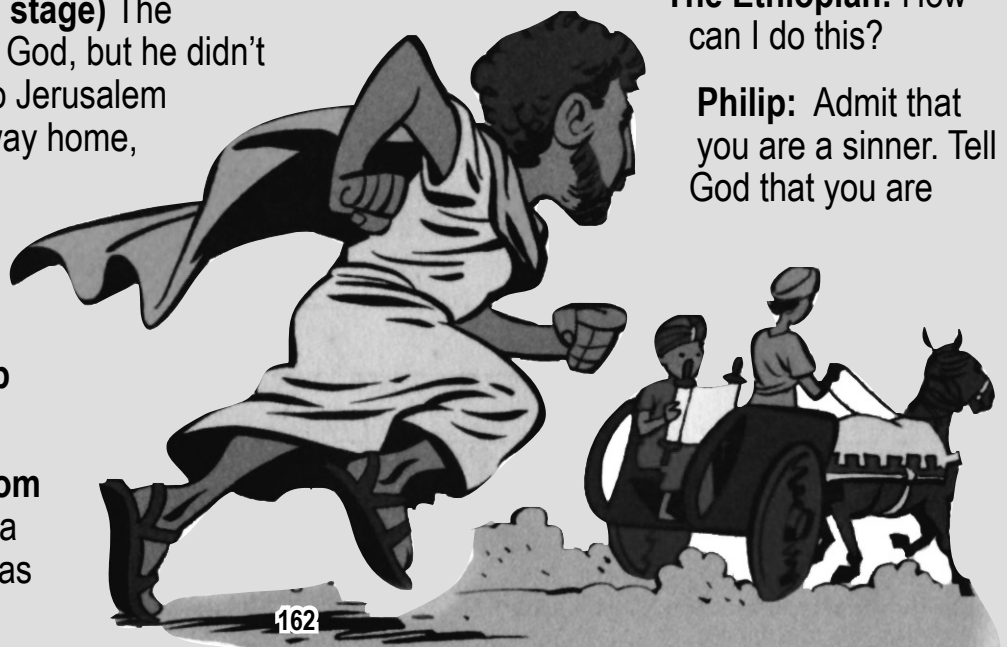
The Ethiopian: (looking up with a frown): How can I, unless someone explains it to me? Please, sit here with me. Can you explain to me what this passage of Scripture means?
(Philip sits down in the other chair).

The Ethiopian: Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?

Philip: Isaiah is talking about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus is my friend, Lord and Savior. He fulfilled God’s promise to save the people from sin and death. You can understand this Scripture and know it with the help of God. You can also decide to know and love Jesus.

The Ethiopian: How can I do this?

Philip: Admit that you are a sinner. Tell God that you are



sorry and promise to obey Him. Then, decide to follow Jesus, the only Son of God. Believe that Jesus is your Savior, accept the salvation that God offers you and recognize him as Lord of your life.

The Ethiopian: Yes, I want to do that!

Narrator: (while Philip and the Ethiopian bow their heads) Philip prayed with the Ethiopian official on that dusty road, and told him about the Gospel of Jesus. That day, the Ethiopian became a believer in Jesus Christ.

Scene 3 (Philip and the Ethiopian stand together in front of the carriage).

Narrator: Philip traveled with the Ethiopian. As they came to a body of water, they got out of the carriage.

The Ethiopian: Look, here is water; What prevents me from being baptized?

Narrator: In biblical times, people were immersed in water to show that God forgave their sins and made them new creatures. Today, Christians are baptized as a demonstration of their faith in Jesus and desire to follow him.

Philip: Good idea, I'll baptize you right now! (The Ethiopian kneels and bows his head, Philip leaves the stage).

The Ethiopian: (Ethiopian stands up and looks around) Where did Philip go? I was here and he disappeared. Well, I'm so happy that I got to meet him, because now I know and love Jesus. Now I can go home and tell others about Jesus.

Narrator: The Ethiopian went on his way, full of joy and happiness. But what happened to Philip? God took him to another place. "Philip . . . appeared in Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns . . ."

(This Bible story is found in Acts 8:26-40).



What does the armor of God have to do with today's story?

Think About It!

1. The Sword of the Spirit.

2. The Helmet of Salvation.

You can find the truth in the Word of God



GROUP A

Read Romans 3:23

What does this verse tell us?

Read 1 John 1:9.

According to this verse, what will God do for us?

GROUP B

Read John 3:16.

Who is God's gift to us?

Read Acts 16:31.

According to this verse, what happens if you admit your sins and decide to believe in Jesus?

GROUP C

Read John 1:12.

What do you become when you believe in Jesus?

Read Romans 10:13.

What is the good news in this verse?

It's Your Decision!

1. If you want to know Jesus, you can!
2. If you want to commit yourself to living each day for God, you can!

My Promise

I, _____, promise

Signature,

**AND NOW ...
WHAT?
Go and tell
everyone about
Jesus!**



Lesson 42 Armed And Ready For Action!

Find the four letters hidden in the picture.
What word can you make with the letters:
Look for the children who are doing what
the word describes.



A Prayer of Faith

A prayer based on James 5:13-20.



Teacher: Is anyone among you in trouble?

Students: Let them pray.

Teacher: Is anyone happy?

Students: Let them sing songs of praise.

Teacher: Is anyone among you sick?

Students: Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

Teacher: And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have

sinned, they will be forgiven.

Students: Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

Teacher: The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not

rain, and it didn't rain on the land for three and a half years.

Students: Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

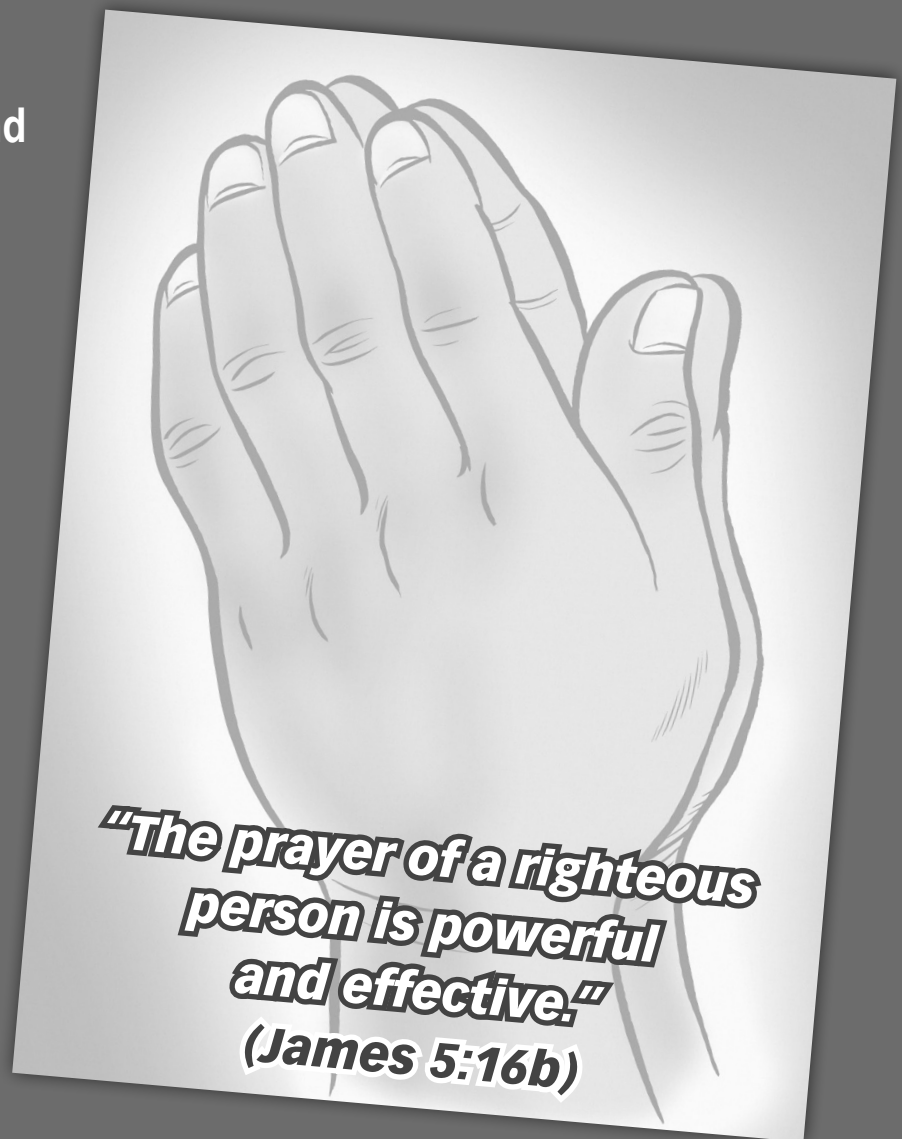
Teacher: God answered their prayers.

Students: God answers our prayers.

Teacher: We can pray for ourselves and for others. We can also pray for those who sin.

Students: And also for the sick.

All together: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16b)



**ABOVE
ALL,
PRAY!**

**ABOVE
ALL,
PRAY!**

Pyramid of Prayer



I will pray for my family and for myself.



I will pray for my church.



I will pray for my school, my teachers and my friends.



I will pray for my city and my country.



I will pray for the world & the people who live in it.

Write or think about how you can pray in each area of the pyramid.

Cut out the two prayer cards below.

Use these cards to remember your prayer commitment as you pray this week.

**I Will Pray
For Others**

Monday: _____

Tuesday: _____

Wednesday: _____

Thursday: _____

Friday: _____

Saturday: _____

I Will Remember That:

*“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”
(James 5:16b)*

God Answers Prayers!

Today I will pray for my needs and the needs of others. I can trust God!



What do you want to be when you grow up?

Who do you want to be when you grow up?

Ben

(Monologue based on Luke 14:1, 7-11)

You know? It was an incredible party! I definitely felt out of place. You know what it feels like when you're with people who intimidate you. I had never been invited to a party like this before. All the important people were there.

Even Jesus was there! Many were aware he was there, trying to see what he would do. Oh, excuse me, I didn't introduce myself. My name is Ben, and I'm here today to tell you about one of the most memorable days of my entire life. It was the day I heard Jesus tell us how we should live.

Anyway, at this party, all those important people were trying to impress each other. You know, in our country, the one who sits closest to the host is the one who has the greatest honor. Everyone at this party expected to be considered the most famous and recognized guest! I stayed in the background, just watching what was happening, as I said, this was not my usual group of friends.

I had mixed feelings. It made me smile and sad at the same time. No one had real interest in anyone else, nor did they listen to each other. Each person tried to get the best possible spot at the table.

Jesus was frustrated by everything going on; but in the end he reassured people with a powerful and disturbing story:

"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, don't take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place."

They all became very quiet. Nobody moved a muscle. And Jesus continued speaking.

"But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests.

I've never had the opportunity to return to a luxurious party, but I assure you, I will not forget this one.

Jesus is the most important person who lived on this earth. And yet, he gave his life to serve others. I want to be like Jesus. I hope you do too.



Let's Go Skiing!

Read Luke 14:1 and 14:7-11.
Then do the activities below.



Your church decides to organize a ski trip for the young people. The teenagers will have priority and, afterwards, if there is room, the pre-teens can go.

First, complete the story as if you were reacting in the same way as the people in the Bible story who wanted the best seats at the party.



Then, complete the story as if you were reacting in the way Jesus teaches us to act.

ATTITUDES

Read the following questions. Reflect on your life, and write your answers in the blank spaces.



Do you live as if you need God, or in general, do you try to do everything on your own?



Do you always want to be first in everything, or do you also allow others to be first?



Do you speak badly about others to take advantage of them, or do you speak well of others and treat them the way you want to be treated?

Lunchroom Stories

You just sat down at the table in the lunch room of your school and...

SCENE NO. 1

You're very hungry. You realize that the food you brought is not the tastiest, and in the end it won't fill you up. You decide to make fun of the food that the boy sitting next to you brought. "Ha ha! That's what you brought to eat?"



SCENE NO. 2

You brought a delicious meal. But instead of eating it, you dedicate yourself to showing it off so that everyone will see.



SCENE NO. 3

You forgot to bring lunch and you're very hungry. You can either ask the cook to give you the food and pay for it the next day, or ask your teacher or your friends to give you some of their food. Either way, you're embarrassed.



The Pharisee and the **Tax Collector**

The Pharisees were a group of men who were devoted to God and had pledged to fulfill his law. They knew the Scriptures forwards and backwards. But many times they prided themselves on their position.

Another group of men was the tax collectors who worked for the Roman government. They charged a much higher amount of taxes than what they should charge, and then they kept part of it for themselves. The Jewish people considered them traitors.

One day, a tax collector and a Pharisee went to the temple to pray. The Pharisee, stood by himself and prayed: “God, I thank you that I’m not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.”

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but he beat his chest, saying: “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

No one was impressed by the tax collector’s prayer. Everyone wanted to be like the Pharisee, not like the tax collector.

But Jesus thought differently. To everyone’s surprise, Jesus said, “I tell you that this man (the tax collector), rather than the other (the Pharisee), went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

(This Bible story is found in Luke 18:9-14.)



What did the Pharisee do that was wrong?



What was the correct attitude of the tax collector?



How can we, as Christians, have an attitude that is more like the tax collector and less like the Pharisee?

Blessed

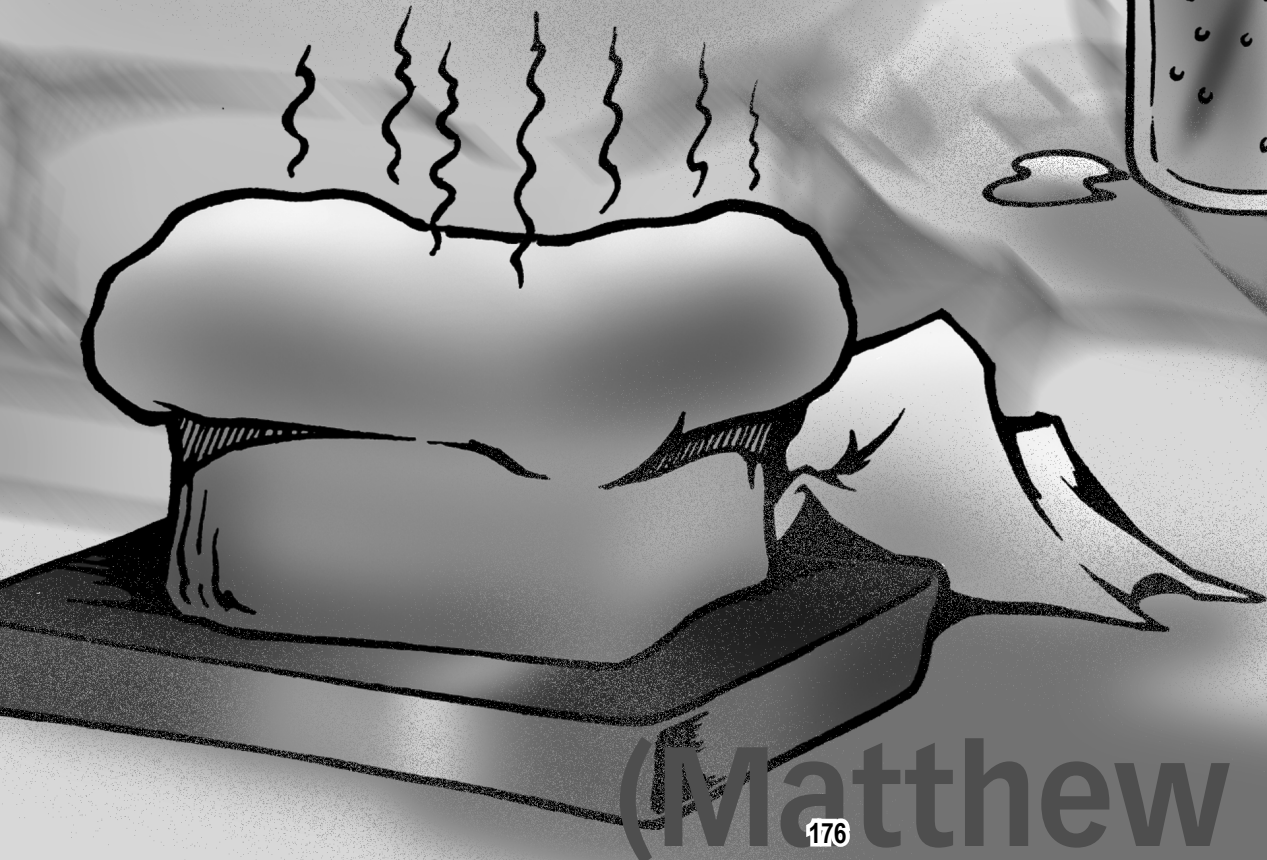
are those who

hunger and thirst

for ***righteousness***,

for they

will be filled.



(Matthew 5:6).

Who Needs

Mercy?



The Servant Who Didn't Want To Forgive

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

(Matthew 18:23-35)

THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WITH YOUR FRIENDS

1. *At the beginning of the story, was the king merciful?*
2. *Did the first servant deserve the king’s mercy?*
3. *Was the servant merciful to his fellow servant?*
4. *Did the servant deserve the mercy of the fellow servant?*
5. *Was the king merciful at the end of the story?*
6. *Are we like the servant when we don’t forgive others?*

*Read verse 35.
What do you think
“forgive from your
heart” means?*

Public Opinion

Read the following statement. List all the evidence you can think of to support it or that is against it.

***Blessed are the
merciful, for they will
be shown mercy.
(Matthew 5:7)***

This is true because ...

This is false because ...

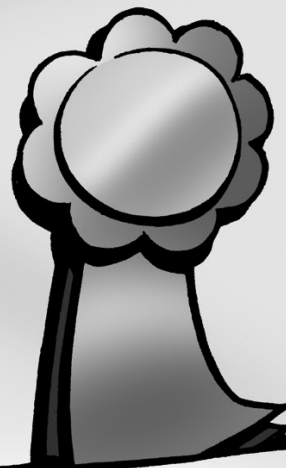
My Declaration

Read the following statement. If you agree with what it says, and would like to be merciful this week, sign your name on the line. Then below, make a list of ways you can be merciful to others.

Because Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy", and because I'm sure that God loves me more than I deserve, I want to live like Jesus lived.

So, I,

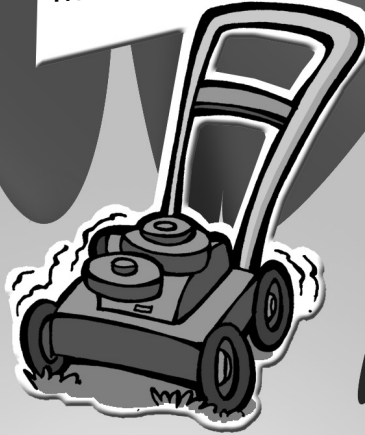
commit myself, this week, to live with an attitude of mercy towards others.



Take a difficult math class



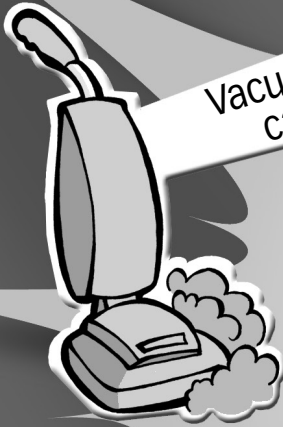
Mow the lawn



Play basketball



Vacuum the carpet



Ride a bicycle



WHICH OF THESE ACTIVITIES INVOLVES A BIG COMMITMENT?

Play an instrument



Cook following a recipe



Go Roller Skating



Kick a soccer ball



BURIED TREASURE



A man was preparing his field to sow the seeds. The dirt was good and fertile. Suddenly, his shovel hit something hard.

“How strange,” the man thought, “it doesn’t seem to be a rock.”

He knelt down and with his hands he removed the dirt with great care. When he finished removing the dirt, he was filled with amazement and joy at what he had discovered . . . an unimaginable treasure!

“If I worked in the field every day for the next 1,000 years, I couldn’t earn enough to equal the value of this treasure,” he thought.

He knew what he had to do ... he buried the treasure again, very carefully, covering it well. He knew the law: if he took the treasure now, he couldn’t keep it. By law, it belonged to the owner of the land, and he knew that sooner or later, the owner would claim the treasure as his own.

Who knows what this man would have to do to buy the property?

“I must sell everything I have,” he thought. Maybe he would have to ask for money from everyone he knew. But he knew what he was doing. And he was willing to do anything to get that treasure, because he knew that the treasure would change the rest of his life.

After buying the land, he returned to the place where he had found the treasure, dug it up, and was happy because now the treasure belonged to him.

(This story is based on
Matthew 13:44.)

The *Pearl* of Great Price

This story describes a person with a different kind of work. He was a businessman, not someone who worked the land. His eyes were trained to find small flaws and wonderful features in precious pearls.

"I spend all day observing pearls, always looking for the best ones."

The wrinkles in his eyes and on his forehead showed that he had been doing this work for many years. But his eyes were still very effective in finding beauty in the perfect pearls. One day, while searching in a container full of pearls, he saw it! A pearl so bright and beautiful that even this man, who had seen several thousand of them, could not believe what he was seeing.

"This was it! The most beautiful and incredible pearl I had ever seen!"

He knew its value, and he was willing to do anything to buy it. So, he went and sold absolutely everything he had. Then he ran back and bought the pearl.



(This story is based on
Matthew 13:45-46.)

**What
differences
exist between these
two parables?**

**How are they
similar?**

**Why
do you
think Jesus
compared the
Kingdom of God to the
treasure and the pearl?**

**What
do these stories
tell us about
ourselves, as the children
of God?**

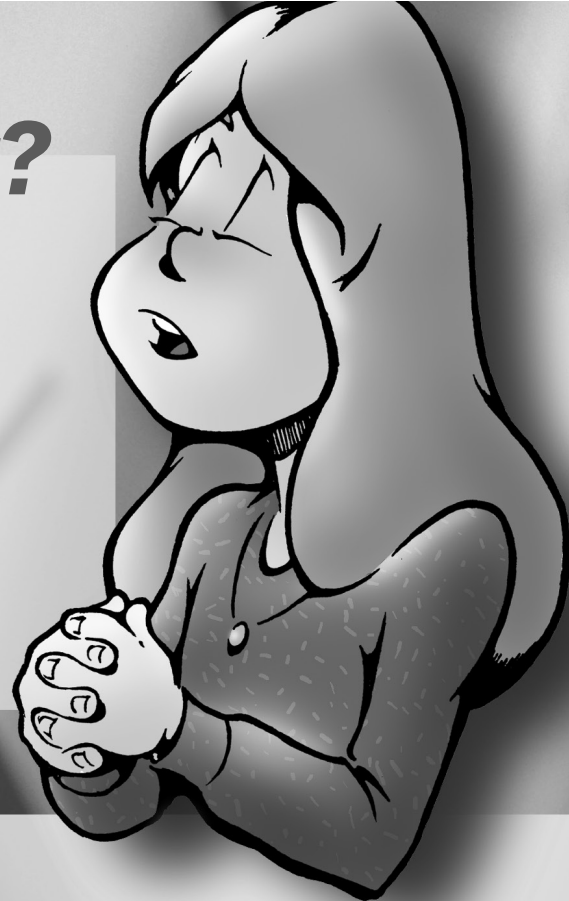
Am I Pure Of Heart?

Remember the last time you had some free time. What did you do?

What are the four activities that you spend the most time doing during the week?

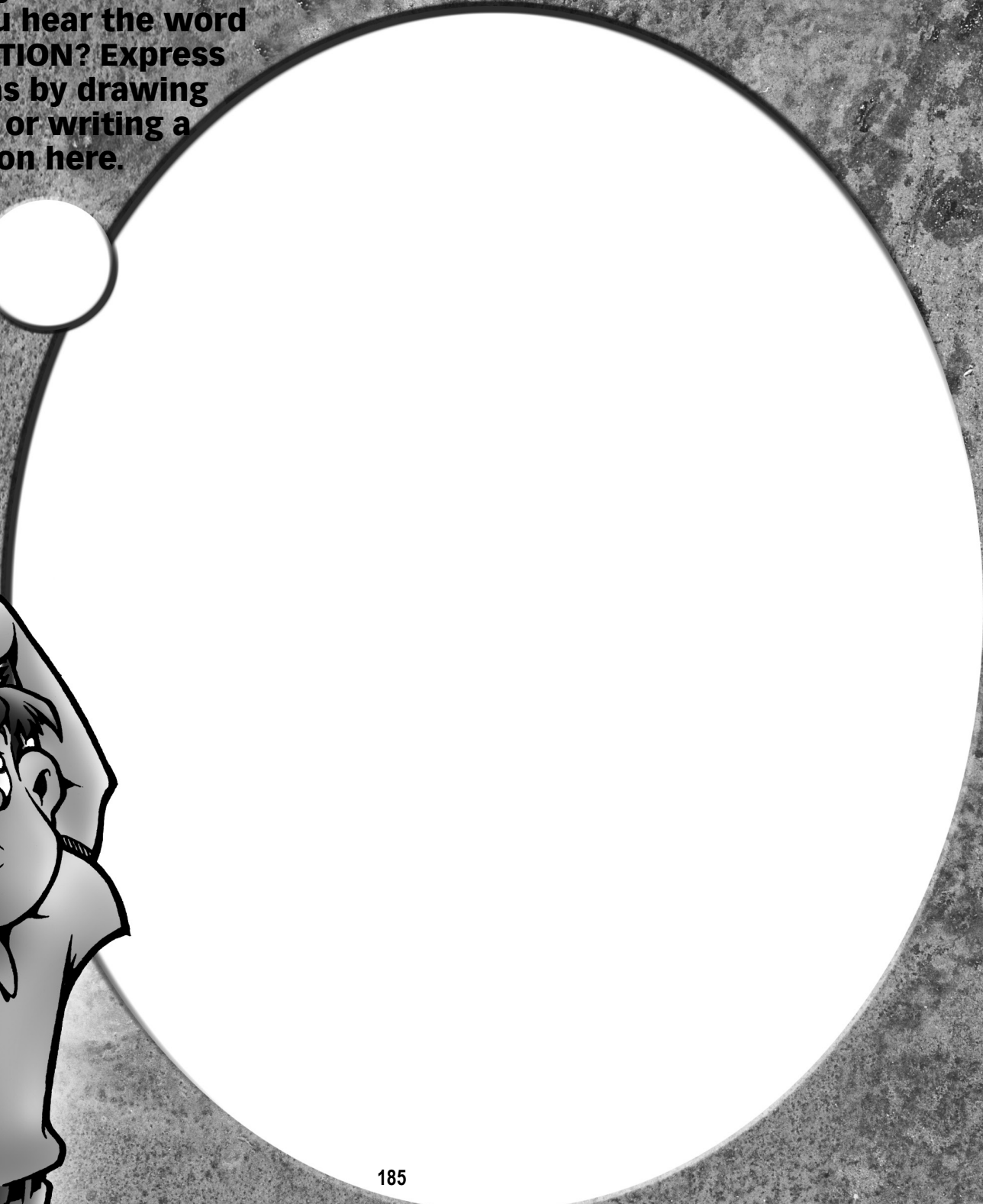
What are the five most important things in your life?

What is it that makes you happy?



PERSECUTION

What do you think about when you hear the word **PERSECUTION**? Express your ideas by drawing a picture or writing a description here.



From A Sermon

Read the words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

(Matthew 5:10-12)



How did Jesus treat the people who made him suffer?

How should we treat people who treat us badly?

How can suffering become joy?

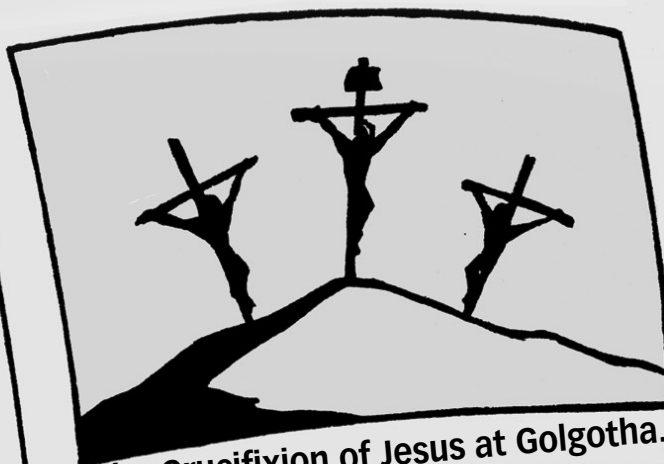
To Suffering

Looking back over what you've read in Matthew and Luke in the last several lessons, write an opinion piece for "The Jerusalem Journal" about the persecution of Jesus and the way he reacted. Try to explain to your readers why Jesus acted the way he did.

Jerusalem Journal

EDITORIAL

JESUS IS PERSECUTED



The Crucifixion of Jesus at Golgotha.



The Road To Joy

Draw a line from each Beatitude in the first column to the corresponding ending in the 2nd column. Then draw a circle around the three Beatitudes that you liked the most.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, | ☞ for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. |
| 2. Blessed are those who mourn, | ☞ for they will see God. |
| 3. Blessed are the meek, | ☞ for they will be comforted. |
| 4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, | ☞ for they will be shown mercy. |
| 5. Blessed are the merciful, | ☞ for they will inherit the earth. |
| 6. Blessed are the pure in heart, | ☞ for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. |
| 7. Blessed are the peacemakers, | ☞ for they will be filled. |
| 8. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, | ☞ for they will be called children of God. |

What do you and your family do to prepare for Christmas?

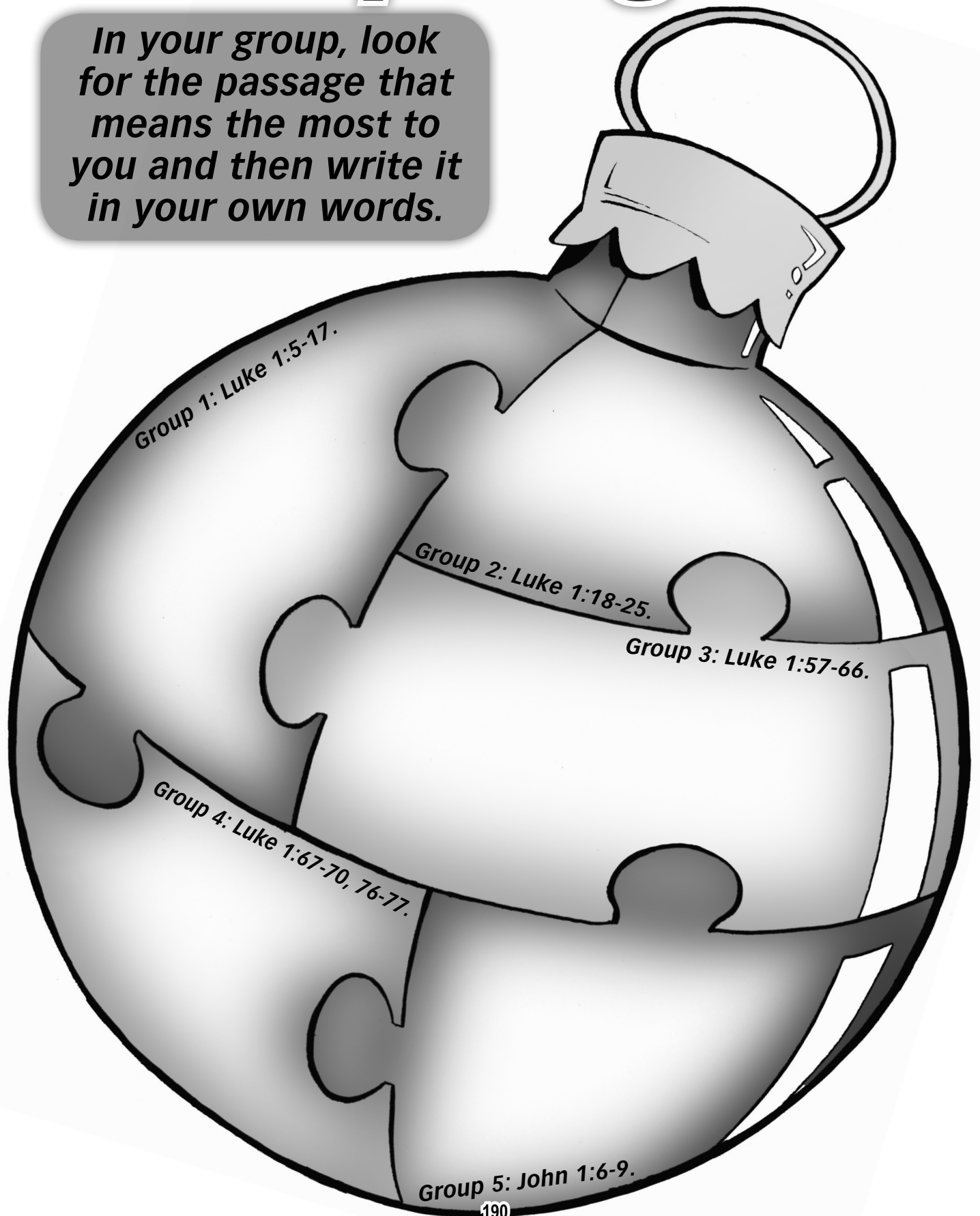
What did God do to prepare for the first Christmas?

Preparing the world for the birth of Jesus was not the only thing God had to do. He also had to prepare the world for the work of Jesus. Do you know how he did it? The answer lies in this riddle.

My clothes come from the hair of camels. My belt, from the skin of an animal. My dinner is made up of locusts and honey. And one of my activities is to baptize. Who I am?

Preparing For

In your group, look for the passage that means the most to you and then write it in your own words.



The First Christmas

MORE ABOUT JOHN

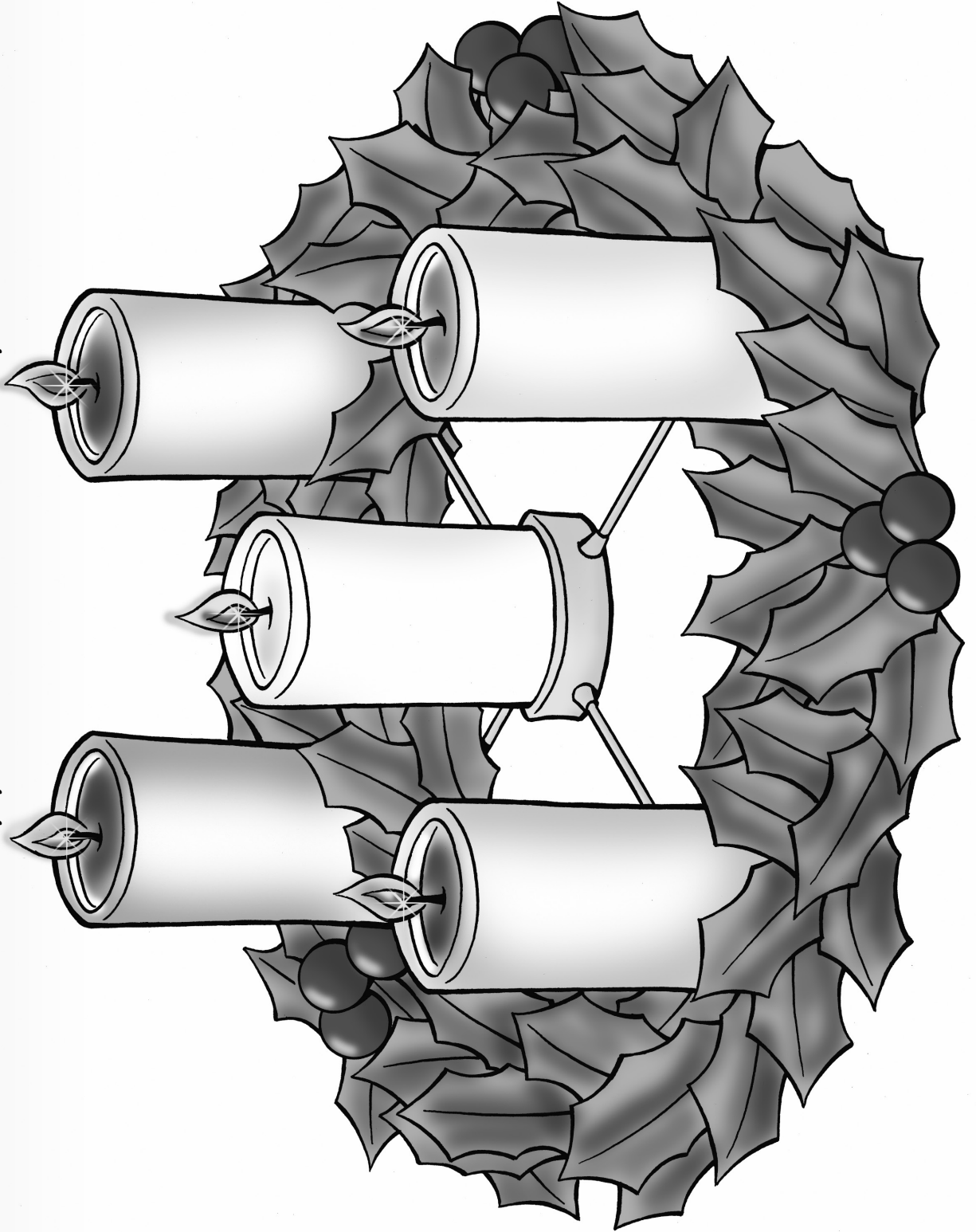
Look up the verses and write the answers to the questions on the blanks to find a hidden name.

1. What was the baby to be called? (Luke 1:13)
2. What was one of the foods John ate in the wilderness? (Matthew 3:4)
3. What kingdom did John say was near? (Matthew 3:2)
4. Who visited Zechariah in the temple and told him that he was going to have a son? (Luke 1:11-13)
5. What did John do with water? (Luke 3:16)
6. What was the other food John ate? (Matthew 3:4)
7. What did the family think the baby should be called? (Luke 1:59)
8. Who was the baby's mother? (Luke 1:13)
9. With what did John baptize? (Luke 3:16)
10. What did John come to do? (Luke 3:4)
11. With what would Jesus baptize? (Luke 3:16)
12. What prophet had written of this? (Luke 3:4)
13. Where did John live? (Luke 1:80)
14. What did John tell the people to do? (Matthew 3:2)

	1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	10.	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.		_____	_____	_____	_____
	12.	_____	_____	_____	_____
13.		_____	_____	_____	_____
	14.	_____	_____	_____	_____

What Will You Do Now?

This year prepare your heart to celebrate the TRUE meaning of Christmas. How can you do that?
Write inside the candles ways you can show that Jesus is the center of your life this Christmas.





WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF JESUS HAD NOT COME TO EARTH?

1. What do you think the world would be like if Jesus had never come?

2. How would that affect your faith in God?

3. What would life be like in your country?

4. What would your personal life be like?

The Wonder of

Narrator: One day, God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman named Mary, who lived in the city of Nazareth.

Angel: “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Mary (worried): “What does this mean?”

Angel: “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Mary: “How will this be, since I’m a virgin?”

Angel: “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

Mary: “I am the Lord’s servant, may your word to me be fulfilled.”

Narrator: Shortly after the angel left her, Mary went to see her cousin, Elizabeth. When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth and gave her this message.

Elizabeth: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Mary: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.”

Narrator: Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then returned to Nazareth.

Jesus' Birth

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world didn't recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own didn't receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

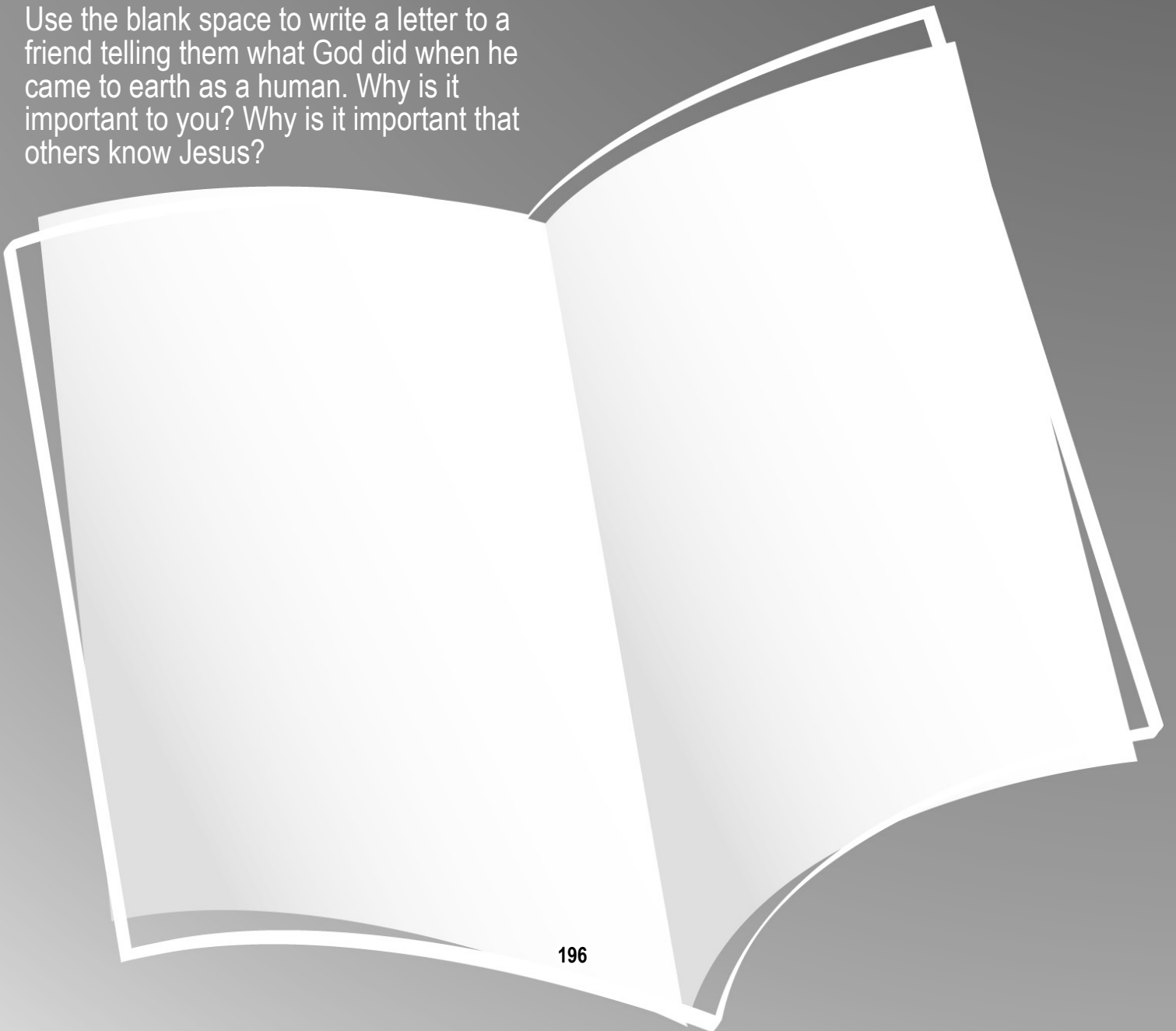
(John 1:1-5, 10-14.)



JESUS is the

only person who is fully divine and fully human. Jesus never sinned, because he is God. He understands perfectly what it is to be a human who lives in a world of sin, because he is human.

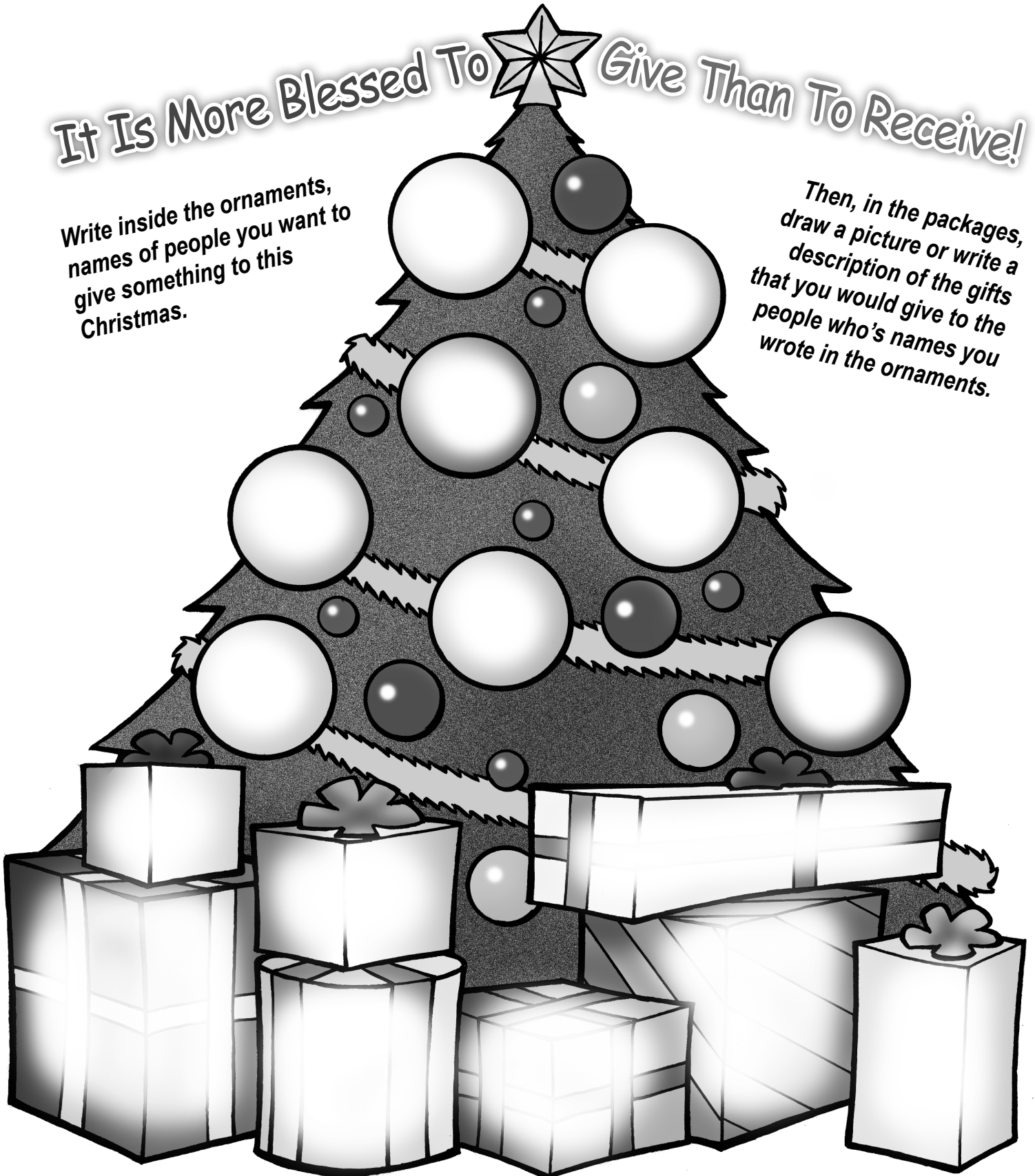
Use the blank space to write a letter to a friend telling them what God did when he came to earth as a human. Why is it important to you? Why is it important that others know Jesus?



It Is More Blessed To Give Than To Receive!

Write inside the ornaments, names of people you want to give something to this Christmas.

Then, in the packages, draw a picture or write a description of the gifts that you would give to the people who's names you wrote in the ornaments.



What A Message!

Teacher: “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)”

Everyone: “And everyone went to their own town to register.”

Group 1: “So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.”

Teacher: “He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.”

Everyone: “While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”

Group 2: “And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”

Everyone: “But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Group 1: ““This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.””

Teacher: “Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,”

Everyone: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Group 2: “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’”

Everyone: “So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,”

Group 1: “and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”

Group 2: “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

Everyone: “The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

(Scripture reading from Luke 2:1-20).



After you read the story, read the questions that an interviewer might have asked the shepherds and answer them.

Question: What happened to you last night while you were watching your sheep?

Answer:

Question: How did you feel when you heard the news?

Answer:

Question: Why did you quickly go to Bethlehem in the middle of the night? Couldn't you wait until morning?

Answer:

Question: If you had it to do over again, would you make the same effort to see this new baby? Why?

Answer:

Question: What does this baby mean for your life?

Answer:

Question: Who was this news told to? Why?

Answer:



Salvation

The Best Christmas Gift

ADMIT you have sinned (done wrong, disobeyed God). Tell God what you have done, be sorry for it, and be willing to quit.

Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:9.

BELIEVE God loves you and sent His Son, Jesus to save you from your sins. Ask for and receive the forgiveness God is offering you.

John 3:16; Acts 16:31.

CLAIM Jesus as your Savior. Tell others what Jesus has done for you. Love God and follow Jesus.

John 1:12; Romans 10:13.

Imagine that you have just met some pre-teens who don't understand the true meaning of Christmas. Read what these children think. How would you answer their questions? What evidence do you have? Write your ideas in the notebook below.

I love receiving gifts, putting up the Christmas tree and having fun. For me, that is the true meaning of Christmas. Why talk about Jesus?

Christmas is a time to be with family and friends. That's what makes it so special, right?

I agree that Jesus was a good man, but how can we be sure that he is the Son of God? Other countries and religions have their special holidays too. Christmas doesn't have to be more special than other celebrations. What's so great about Christmas?



God's Amazing Faithfulness

Luke 2:21-40

It seemed to Joseph and Mary that it was just yesterday when they had been on their way to Bethlehem—just the two of them. Now baby Jesus was already 40 days old. It was time to present him to the Lord and offer the appropriate sacrifices. Joseph and Mary left Bethlehem to go to the temple in Jerusalem.

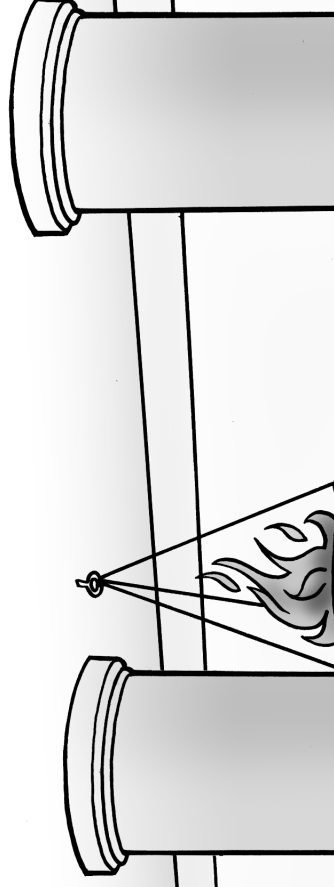
There was an old man named Simeon. He loved God with all his heart and lived a righteous life. This good man was waiting for God to send the Messiah, just as God had promised. God told Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. Simeon waited a long time. But today everything was different. The Holy Spirit led him to go to the temple courts.

When Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus arrived, Simeon noticed. So he went to them, and there he saw the boy. “This child is not like the others,” said Simeon. “No, this child is very special. Why? Because he is the promised one!” Simeon took baby Jesus in his arms and began to praise God. “Lord,” he said, “I have seen the Messiah as you promised me. My eyes have seen Him who will rescue your people. He will bring salvation to ALL, even to the Gentiles. Now I can rest in peace.”

Joseph and Mary listened in surprise to what Simeon had just said. Then, Simeon blessed them with a special blessing. And to Mary, Simeon said, “This child will encourage the believers. And at the same time he will cause problems for those who don’t believe. Many will speak against him. And that will hurt you, as if you had been stabbed. But always remember how special he is.”

A very old woman, named Anna, who was a prophetess, was also in the temple. Anna had been a widow for most of her life. And day and night she was at the temple worshipping God, fasting and praying. When she saw Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, she approached them. She recognized Jesus instantly. “This is the child we’ve been waiting for God to send us,” said Anna. “Praise God! He has sent the One he promised to send! Praise God! I have to tell everyone about him!”

Again, Joseph and Mary were surprised. An angel had spoken to them telling them that Jesus was the Son of God.



When he was born, shepherds came from their fields and told of a choir of angels that had announced to them that the birth of Jesus would bring "good news" to all people.

Now Simeon and Anna had recognized that Jesus was the One whom God had promised. Joseph and Mary presented baby Jesus before God, and offered their sacrifices. Then they returned to their home. They didn't understand God's whole plan regarding the Savior. But they had much to think about as they watched Jesus grow to be a strong, healthy, intelligent and good man.



The True Meaning of Christmas

Use the vowels a,e,i,o, and u to complete the verse below.

Th__ W__rd b__c__m__ fl__sh __nd m__d__ h__s dw__ll__ng
__m__ng __s. W__ h__v__ s__n h__s gl__ry, th__ gl__ry __f th__
__n__ __nd __nly S__n, wh__ c__m__ fr__m th__ F__th__r, f__ll __f
gr__c__ __nd tr__th.
(J__hn 1:14)

- ❖ God promised that he would send a Savior, and he kept his promise.
- ❖ God promised Simeon that he wouldn't die before he saw the Savior, and he kept his promise.
- ❖ Both Simeon and Anna praised God for sending the Savior. Simeon thanked God for allowing him to see his Son, Jesus Christ.

Here are some promises that God makes to us. After reading them, write a letter of praise to God. In your letter, express the confidence you have that God will fulfill each of these promises.

John 3:16

John 6:37

1 John 1:9

1 Corinthians 10:13

Hebrews 2:18

Jude 24

Dear God,