



### Without Faith

Faith is complete trust or confidence in someone or something. We must have faith before we can get saved. "Getting saved" is a term that we use when a person obtains salvation from his sins and asks Jesus into their hearts to help them live a godly life. The Bible lays out very plain steps to help us understand what to do in order to be saved. First, we must have faith and believe that we are sinners and Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven so we could live forever in eternity with Him. The Bible tells us to confess (admit) that we are sinners and repent (be sorry) for our sins. After repenting and realizing everything the Lord has done for us, a person who is saved should feel a great thanksgiving and be willing to share with others the things the Lord has done for him or her.

It is hard for some people to believe in a God that they have never seen. It is hard for some to believe the miraculous stories that happened in the Bible and to other Christians. After Jesus died and rose again, He appeared to some of the disciples. Thomas, who had not seen Jesus, did not believe anyone could rise from the dead. "I will not believe until I put my fingers in the nail marks and touch the place where the sword pierced His side," Thomas insisted. Thomas was startled one day to hear a familiar, well-loved voice saying, "Come, look at my hands and feel the nail prints. Put your hand here on my side and feel where I was pierced with the sword. Do not doubt, but believe." "My Lord, and my God," Thomas breathed. "You have believed because you have seen me," Jesus told him. "Blessed are they that who have not seen, and yet have believed."

There is a quote that says, "Faith in God is like the wind. We cannot see it, but we know it's there." We can feel the wind around us. We can also see the effects of wind. Proof of God can be found in the creation of the earth. Proof of God can be found in eye witness accounts of faithful believers in the Bible and down through the ages who were guided by God or benefited from His great miracles. Proof of God can be found in feeling His Spirit guiding during fellowship of believers. Proof of God can be found through answered prayers.

# WITHOUT FAITH

THEME: SALVATION- BELIEVE, CONFESS, REPENT, THANK GOD. SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

BELIEVE  
REPENT  
CONFESS  
TESTIMONY  
FAITH  
SAVED  
THOMAS  
FORGIVEN  
SINS  
JESUS

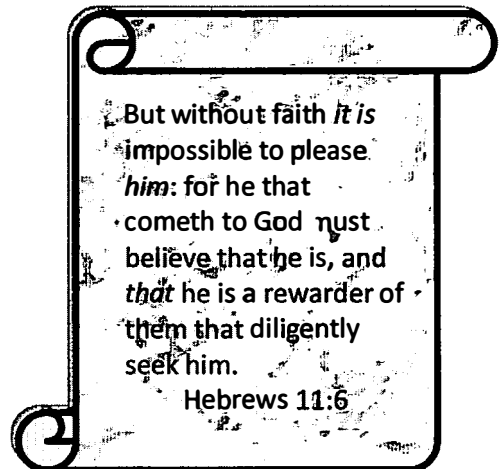
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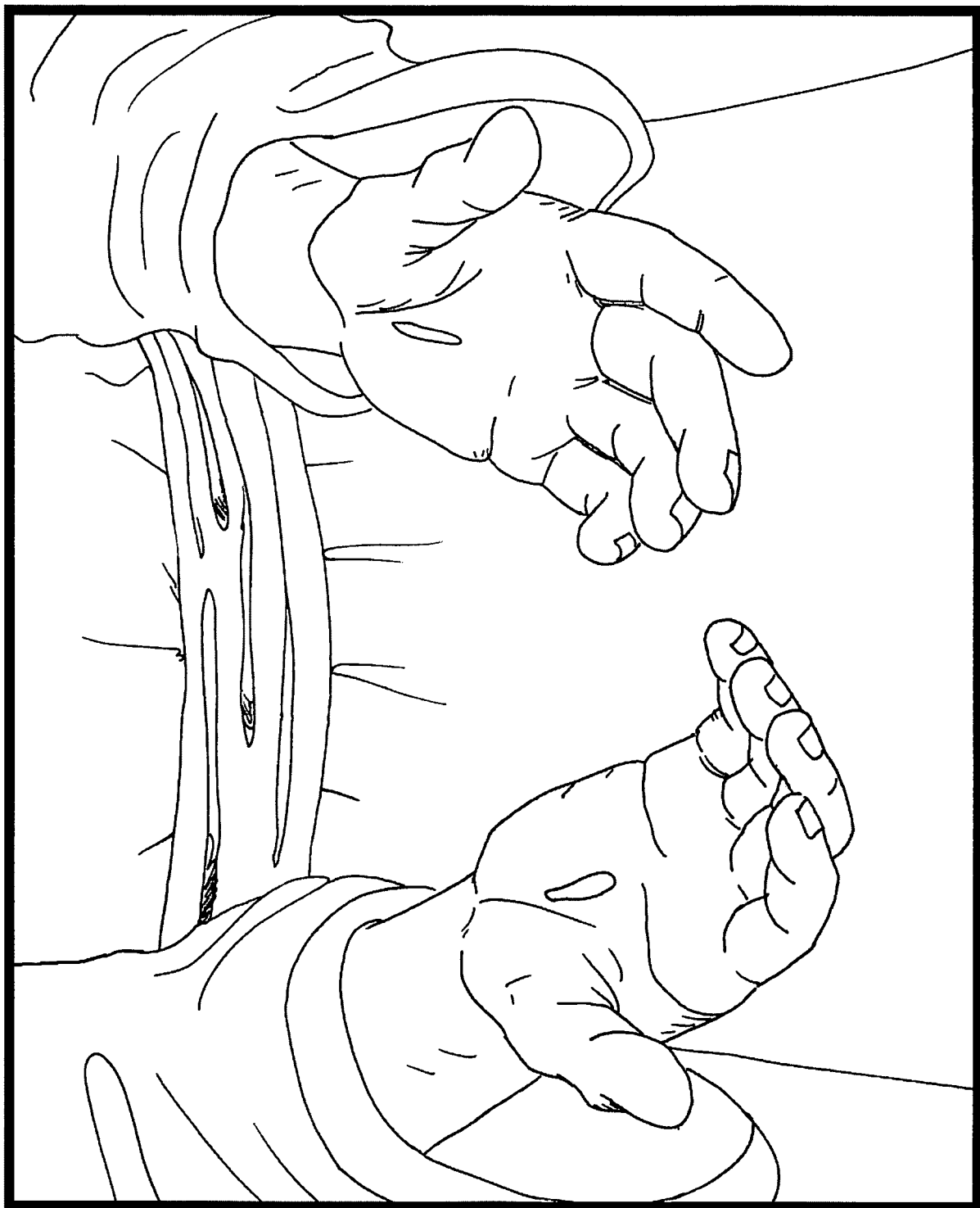
## QUESTIONS:

\*Answers on Back\*

1. What does "faith" mean?
2. What does getting saved mean?
3. What should we do to get saved?
4. What does confess mean?
5. What does repent mean?
6. What did Thomas not believe?
7. Why is it hard for some people to believe?
8. How can we know God is real?

## MEMORY VERSE:





## **Vanessa's Special Prayer**

Vanessa was so excited! This was the week of Vacation Bible School. She lined up with the other children to receive a sailor's hat. When they walked into the classroom, they could hear the sounds of seagulls and ocean waves. The front of the classroom had been transformed into a ship. "Today we are going to learn about Paul," the teacher said. She talked about Paul being on a ship and having a shipwreck. Paul was rescued and made it to land. When Paul was putting wood on a fire, a poisonous snake bit him. When God healed him, the natives wanted to learn about the true God. They became Christians, too.

Every day, Vanessa enjoyed the games and crafts and snacks. She listened when the lesson was taught. Jesus began talking to her heart. She felt sorry for the bad things she had done. Vanessa wanted to have Jesus in her heart just like all the people that listened to Paul. On the last day of VBS, all the classes went outside for a treasure hunt with a compass and other activities. She fished for goldfish from a pond with a net and went to the snack table. The sun was shining very hot and her tummy began to hurt. Soon she had to go lay down. Her daddy had to take her home. She was very sorry to have to leave

early, but she remembered all the things she had learned.

The next day, she felt better. She thought about how Jesus talked to her heart. Jesus was talking to her heart even now. She knew that even though she did not pray at VBS, she wanted to answer Jesus' call. She told her mother that she wanted to be saved. Together they went to find daddy.

Daddy talked with Vanessa and explained to her what it meant to be saved. "When we are old enough to know that we have done wrong, Jesus wants us to come to Him," Daddy told her, "and tell Him how sorry we are for all the bad things we have done. He wants us to ask His forgiveness and for Him to come into our hearts." Vanessa knelt down with her parents and began to pray. She cried as she repented of her sins.

All the sadness was gone. Jesus had forgiven her. Vanessa was only three years old when Jesus talked to her heart. If you feel Jesus talking to you, know that He loves you very much and wants you to be his child. Find your parent, a Sunday school teacher or other adult to help you pray to Jesus. You will feel so happy inside knowing that you are saved.

--Rene Smith

1. Complete trust or confidence.
2. Getting forgiveness for our sins.
3. Have faith, confess sins, repent, thank God, tell others
4. To admit.
5. To feel sorry.
6. Jesus was alive.
7. Because they can't see God.
8. Answers will vary. See last paragraph.

## **Answers:**

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### Confessing our Sins

To “confess our sins,” means to admit or state that we have committed evil or done something that is wrong in the eyes of God. King David was a mighty man in his kingdom who had done great things and stood up for the Lord and righteousness. One night, David was having trouble sleeping. As he was pacing on the housetop, he happened to see a beautiful woman on the roof of a home nearby. “Who is she?” David inquired and found out the beautiful woman’s name was Bathsheba. He also found out she was married to a noble and upright man named Uriah, who was a leader in King David’s army. “How can I take this beautiful woman for a wife when she is already married?” King David wondered. As he wondered, he thought of a plan. He arranged for Uriah to be placed on the front lines in a battle that he knew would be fierce and likely meant death for the faithful soldier. When David received word that Uriah had died in the fight, he married Bathsheba.

Soon, King David had a visitor. God had sent Nathan, the prophet, to tell King David a story. “Two men lived in a city,” Nathan began. “One was rich and the other was poor. The rich man had many flocks and sheep. The poor man only had one lamb that he loved as much as his own children. One day, the rich man had a visitor. Instead of killing one of his own flock to provide a meal, the rich man killed the poor man’s lamb.” King David’s anger became greater and greater as he listened to this story. “Whoever did this will surely die,” he pronounced. “He shall repay the poor man. He has no compassion.” “You are the man who did this thing,” Nathan revealed. “The Lord says, ‘I have blessed you with so many things. Why have you done this great evil? You have killed Uriah and taken his wife, so evil will come on your household.’” David realized how greatly he had sinned. He felt so sorry for what he had done. “I have sinned against the Lord,” David confessed. Sin does have consequences. When King David’s son was born, he died after living only a few days. David fasted and prayed and asked for forgiveness. God saw that he was truly sorry for his sin and forgave David.

Realizing that we are sinners and confessing that we have done wrong in God’s sight is a necessary step to getting saved. A verse in John says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

## CONFESSING OUR SINS

THEME: SALVATION-BELIEVE, CONFESS, REPENT. THANK GOD, SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

Match the scripture to the reference. Use your Bible if you need to.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Leviticus 5:5

Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1 John 1:9

And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these *things*, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that *thing*:

Psalms 32:5

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

James 5:16

### QUESTIONS:

\*Answers on Back\*

1. What does confessing our sins mean?
2. What did King David do that was wrong?
3. Who did God send to talk to King David?
4. What did the rich man in the story do to the poor man?
5. How did the story make King David feel?
6. How did King David feel when he found out he was the wicked man?
7. What do we need to realize and confess?
8. What will happen if we confess our sins?

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9



## The Dangers of Curiosity

Children, this is Bro. Ivan Eck and today I want to tell you my story. When I was five years old, my parents moved from a small town in Missouri to a farm in Kansas. I loved roaming around the farm with my border collie dog named Carlo. We would go hunting and sometimes we would find little baby animals. I took some of the animals home and raised them as pets. Once I found a baby robin that had fallen from its nest. I took it home and fed it until it was big enough to fly around in the trees. It would fly to me, letting me pick it up and pet its back. One day it flew away and I never saw it again. I was so sad.

I have also raised crows, owls, squirrels, raccoons, a little skunk, and a baby deer named Twinkle. Twinkle liked to go hunting with me and I enjoyed playing with her very much. She grew to be a full- grown deer and we would let her come into our house and lie down in our living room.

I was a curious little boy with so many questions about the world around me. I am now fifty-two years old and have never outgrown that desire to explore and find answers to my many questions.

When I was a child, there were times I was curious about things that were dangerous. One time I picked up a scorpion and it hurt badly. Those dangerous things could only hurt my body. I am very sorry to tell you that as I grew older, I became curious about some things that hurt more than my body, they hurt my soul.

Your soul is the spiritual part of your body that goes to Heaven or Hell when you die. Eve became curious about a tree which God had told her not to eat its fruit because it would cause her to die. She ate some of that fruit and her body continued to live but the innocence of her soul died! She felt so guilty that she tried to hide from God. Have you ever felt that way? Have you disobeyed your parents and wanted to hide when you got caught?

As I grew older I got curious about things that were bad and I did some of those things which brought great guilt on my soul. I wanted to hide, but the pull of sin was dragging me farther from God and into greater danger. Oh children, give your hearts to God while you are young before a life of sin gives you a lot of bad memories.

*Continued next week*

1. To admit we've done wrong. 2. Arranged for a man to be killed. 3. Nathan. 4. Killed his lamb. 5. Angry. 6. Sorry. 7. That we are sinners/our sins. 8. God will forgive them.

## **Answers:**

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Primary Papers

July 20, 2014

### Repentance

Ezra was a Jew who was born in Babylon. His people had been taken captive and had been servants to the Babylonians for many years. Ezra was a scribe. He was also a priest, scholar and teacher. The time of the Hebrews' captivity in Babylon had come to an end. The Hebrews were allowed to return to their own country and rebuild the temple. Ezra led thousands of excited patriots out of the life they had known in captivity to build new lives in their native land. The king of Babylon respected Ezra and ordered the governors and leaders Ezra would encounter on his journey to help him in any way he needed.

The eager group of Hebrews left Babylon in the spring and journeyed for almost six months before reaching Israel. Ezra was shocked to see that the people of his homeland had strayed from God's teachings. Many of his countrymen had married people from neighboring kingdoms--people that did not believe in the one true God. Standards had been let down and compromises had been made. Feeling very sad and afraid for the consequences this sin would have on his people, Ezra prayed and begged God for mercy. "We have sinned," Ezra confessed, "and have broken your commandments. You have been more merciful than we deserve. We stand before you, confessing our guilt and asking for mercy." Ezra heard weeping and looked up to see that a large crowd of men, women and children had gathered around him. "We have been unfaithful to God by compromising our standards and marrying people who were not of our faith," one of the men named Elam repented. "We will send away the ones who do not believe in God. Now Ezra, get up and take responsibility for this matter. We will support you. Take courage." Even though some were sad to leave their families, the Israelites saw that they had done wrong. They repented and the people who didn't believe in God were sent back to their native land.

Repentance means sincere regret or remorse. Ezra helped his Israelite brethren realize that they had committed great sin against God. Then, they confessed to God and repented of their sin. They also took responsibility to send away the things that caused them to sin. These are steps that the Bible tells us we need to do to get saved. One verse says, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

# REPENTANCE

THEME: SALVATION- BELIEVE, CONFESS, REPENT. THANK GOD, SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

Make a slash through the Js, Ls, and Xs to find another verse about repentance. Write the leftover letters on the lines below in order. Clue: Acts 8:22

RJLXEXPJJENJLTLTLXHEXXRJELFXOXJLRXLJELJLOFLLTXJHIXJLJ  
SXJTLJHYXJLWXIJCLJLKXELLDXXNJXESXJLSXALLNJLXDPLRJAX  
YXJLGJOXJDJJILFJPXJLJELRJHXJLJLAXPJSTXJHLJLEJTLXHXOJJUG  
XJHLLTJJXXOFLJXTJHLIJNJLJEXJHLJEXJLAXRJTLMLMXJLAYXJLBJE  
XJLJXFJJJOXXRGXLJIIJVELJXJLJLNJTHLJEXJLJLJEJLXLJLXLJLXLJL

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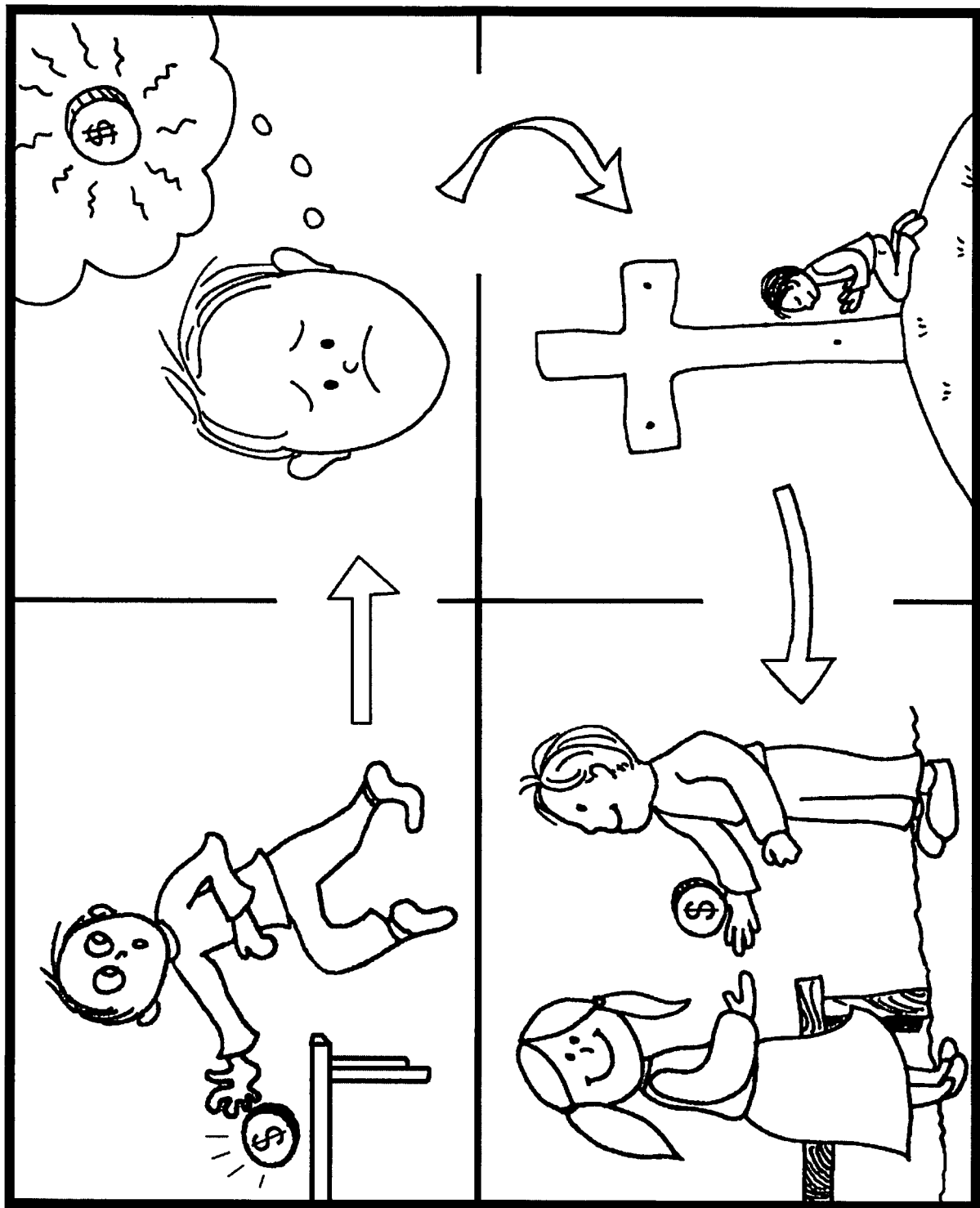
## QUESTIONS:

\*Answers on Back\*

1. Why was Ezra in Babylon?
2. What kind of jobs did Ezra do?
3. What were the Hebrews allowed to do?
4. How long did their journey take?
5. What shocked Ezra?
6. What did Ezra help the people do?
7. What did the Hebrews decide to do?
8. What does repentance mean?

## MEMORY VERSE:

**...except ye  
repent, ye shall  
all likewise  
perish.  
Luke 13:5**



## A Clean Heart



I was a curious little boy with many questions about the world around me. As I grew older, I became curious about things that were bad and I did some things which brought guilt on my soul. The devil bound me with habits that I found hard to break. I lived in those sinful ways until the age of seventeen. I grew tired of the lies and evil habits. When I was at the Monark Springs Camp meeting, Bro. Mart Samons preached a message on "A Know-So Salvation." That night Jesus came hunting for my lost soul! He found me hiding in shame and dying from hatred and guilt.

I went to the altar, and though I do not remember just how I went, some have told me that I came running to the altar. I can tell you though that I felt desperate and I

did not want to continue in my sins. I wanted to be saved! I wanted Jesus to clean me up so I would be able to be with Him in Heaven one day!

I wept and prayed. I begged God to forgive me for my sins. As I earnestly sought God at that altar of prayer, the devil began to tell me that I had been too bad and that God did not want to save my soul. I cried out with all my heart; then God did something very special for me. As I listened to others earnestly praying for me, suddenly their voices began to fade into silence, and then I actually heard my Savior rebuke the devil as He set me free. Oh, praise the Lord for salvation! Dear children, I am so glad to be able to tell you that I have joyfully lived for my Lord from that day on.

Children, I want to talk with you now about your soul. Have you given your heart to the Lord? Have you asked Him to save you from guilt and sin? The Lord wants you to choose. Don't become curious about things that will hurt you and leave you feeling guilty. Give the Lord your heart and become curious about godliness and those things that leave you with a clean heart. Let Him guide your life.

--Bro. Ivan Eck

### Answers:

1. His people had been taken captive.
2. Scribe/priest/scholar/teacher.
3. Rebuild the temple.
4. Almost 6 months.
5. His people had strayed from God.
6. See their need for repentance.
7. Send away those who didn't believe.
8. Sincere regret or remorse.



### A Thankful Heart

**J**esus was passing through Samaria and Galilee when he heard voices entreating him, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus saw ten men, their skin white and shriveled with leprosy, standing far from the village He was entering. Leprosy is a serious skin condition that almost always resulted in death in Biblical times. It was very contagious. Lepers usually lived in their own community, far away from their healthy friends.

Jesus had compassion on these poor sick men and said, "Go and show yourself to the priest." While the men were on their way, they noticed their skin was no longer white and scaly. They were healed! An excited group made their way to the priest. One of the men remembered something. Quickly going back to Jesus, the man thanked Jesus and praised Him with a loud voice. The man fell at Jesus' feet proclaiming his thanksgiving. When he raised his head, Jesus noticed the man was a Samaritan. "Were there not ten men?" Jesus asked. "Where are the other nine? Only this stranger has returned to give glory to God. Arise and go your way. Your faith has made you whole."

God has blessed us with many things. Paul wrote, "exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made." He also wrote, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

We should remember to thank God for our loved ones, health, the many things God has done for us and most of all for salvation. We have all sinned and are worthy of death, but Jesus died in our place so that our sins could be forgiven. "This is the day which the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." The day God's plan is fulfilled for us we should show our extreme gratitude. After confessing our sins and repenting, a feeling of thankfulness to God for His great gift will wash over us. It is important to tell at least a few others of your salvation so that there are witnesses to the great event. It is also good to share what the Lord has done for you to others who are not saved. Maybe you can influence others to ask Jesus into their hearts.

# A THANKFUL HEART

THEME: SALVATION-BELIEVE, CONFESS, REPENT, THANK GOD, SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

Crack the code! Clue: 1 Corinthians 15:57

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m

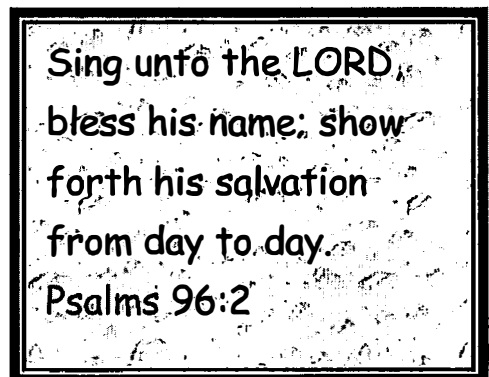
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QUESTIONS:

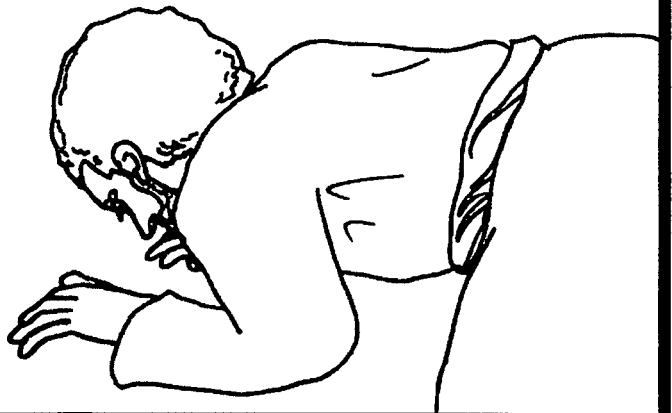
MEMORY VERSE:

\*Answers on Back\*

1. Who was asking Jesus for mercy?
2. What is leprosy?
3. What did Jesus tell the men to do?
4. What did one of the men do?
5. Jesus told the man, "Your \_\_\_\_ has made you \_\_\_\_."
6. What are some ways God has blessed you?
7. "This is the day that the \_\_\_\_ has made..."
8. What can we do to influence others?



Be  
thankful.



## **From Darkness to Light**

Many years ago, in the hills of eastern Kentucky, a baby was born to a poor coal miner and his wife. This seventh baby was a sickly boy, but his parents cared for him the best that they could. His parents named him Mart. Mart's father and friends had bad habits that Mart began copying as a young boy. Mart also chose friends that made bad choices. "Surely there is something better than this," Mart thought.

Sometimes Mart's parents took him to church. "If you do not get saved, you will go to hell," the preacher at that church would say. "How do you get saved?" Mart wondered. But no one ever explained what it meant.

When Mart was 19, he joined the Navy. One day, Mart was ordered to get off of a ship before it went overseas. Mart found out later that enemy planes had attacked the ship and many people were killed. Mart knew God had spared him from death, but he still made bad choices. Finally, Mart went back home. He married a beautiful girl and began going to another church. This preacher also said, "If you do not get saved, you will go to hell." Mart wanted to get saved. But no one explained how. "Come to Sunday school,"

a neighbor across the street requested. Sometimes, Mart and his wife would go with her. "Getting saved means that you realize you are a sinner and that you need to repent of your sins. Accept Jesus into your heart and show Him your love by living a changed life." The preacher, Bro. McCoy, spoke plainly about salvation.

"Let's go to the revival tonight at church," Mart's wife urged. Mart watched his wife accept Jesus into her heart. Mart knew he was going to hell if he kept living the life he was living. Mart tossed and turned in his bed. "Give your heart to me," he heard a voice say.

They went to the revival again. Bro. Sam Abbott preached, but Mart had a hard time listening to the sermon and felt the devil trying to keep him in his seat when the singing began. Finally, Mart walked down to the altar and prayed. "When I repented," he said later, "the most wonderful thing happened! The Lord took the entire load of my sin away. It felt so good, I started to laugh. I was the happiest man in the world." A new life began for Mart. He gave up his bad habits and started living for Jesus. This man's name was Bro. Mart Samons. He became a preacher in the Church of God and preached for many years. --Adapted from

*Darkness to Light* by Bro. Mart Samons

### **Answers:**

1. Ten lepers. 2. A fatal, contagious skin condition.
3. Show themselves to the priest. 4. Came back to thank Jesus.
5. Faith/whole. 6. Answers will vary.
7. Lord.
8. Tell them what God has done for us.





### Baptism

A man named John began preaching in Judea, Jerusalem, and the Jordan Valley, and crowds began to gather to listen to what he had to say. John lived in the wilderness. He wore clothes made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. John ate locusts with wild honey.

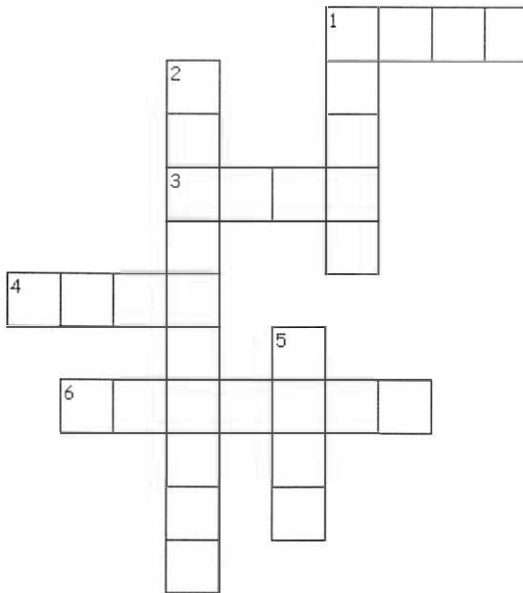
"Repent!" John would cry. "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" John was prophesying about Jesus and God's plan for salvation. In Isaiah 40:3, there is a prophecy about John. "A voice is calling from the wilderness. It says to be ready for the Lord's coming. Make smooth paths for Him." John taught people to confess their sins and to repent. Then they were baptized in the Jordan River.

John had spoken many times about the coming Messiah. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but there is One who will come that is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry His sandals. I baptize with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire," John prophesied. One day while John was preaching, Jesus came to John and asked to be baptized. "You should baptize me," John protested. "Why do you ask me?" "This is how it should be," Jesus replied. "I have to do this to fulfill righteousness."

When Jesus came up out of the water, the Heavens opened. The spirit of God descended like a dove and rested on Jesus' shoulder. A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."

Even today, we continue the teaching of baptism started by John the Baptist. After someone gets saved, confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness, the Bible says that they should behave as a new person. Baptism symbolizes the death of the old, bad life, and the beginning of a new life. It is a way to let the world know that you have chosen to follow Christ. After all, being baptized was the first recorded act that Jesus did when he was a grown man.

# BAPTISM



## Across

1. "The kingdom of heaven is at \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Baptism symbolizes a new \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The spirit of God descended like a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. "I am not worthy to carry his \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

1. John ate locusts and wild \_\_\_\_\_.
2. John lived in the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. John's clothes were made of camel's \_\_\_\_\_.

## QUESTIONS:

\*Answers on Back\*

1. What were John's clothes made of?
2. What did John teach the people?
3. What did John say was at hand?
4. What did John mean?
5. What prophet prophesied about John?
6. John told Jesus, "\_\_\_ should baptize \_\_\_."
7. What came down as a dove?
8. Why should we get baptized?

## MEMORY VERSE:

...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...

Acts 2:38

“... This is my  
beloved Son...”

Matthew 3:17



## **Following Jesus In Baptism**

"Quick! Come in!" said the pastor. He stood in the doorway of the chapel located in a country by the north Pacific Ocean. He motioned to several men and women. They slipped into the chapel and gathered in a circle. Someone started a song and the others joined in. They could hear the noise from the crowd that was gathering at a nearby Hindu Temple. The Hindus were banging drums and chanting, trying to drown out the hollers of those who were piercing themselves with hooks and skewers. The Hindus were celebrating a festival called Thaipusam (tie-POOH-sahm). In worship to Murugan (MOO-roo-gun) the followers believed the pain of hurting their bodies would please this god.

Inside the chapel, the pastor quietly spoke to the Christians. "We are so thankful to know Jesus Christ and that His blood cleanses us from sin! He bore our suffering on the cross, and he cares about our hurts. Let us pray for those who are still suffering in their sins. We want them to know that Jesus died for them, too."

After prayer, more songs of praise were sung while some of the men prepared a big wooden tub with water. Eleven men and

women stepped forward to be baptized.

The pastor asked each one the same question: "Are you determined to follow Jesus Christ no matter what the cost?"

"Yes, by God's grace," each one replied.

"By the testimony of your mouth, you are proclaiming that you have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. You are ready to be baptized." When each new Christian stepped into the water beside the pastor, he raised his hand and said, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

As each one went down under the water and back up, the American missionary who was helping, rejoiced with tears streaming down her face. Just the year before, these factory workers had celebrated Thaipusam. Because they had heard the Truth about Jesus Christ and had obeyed His Word, they were not a part of the chanting, screaming crowd worshipping a lifeless idol. Instead, they were giving their lives to a caring Heavenly Father who could talk to them through his Holy Spirit. What a glorious difference!

--Sis. Connie Sorrell

1. Camel's hair. 2. To confess their sins, repent and be baptized. 3. Kingdom of Heaven. 4. The day of salvation was near. 5. Isaiah. 6. You/me. 7. The Spirit of God. 8. See last paragraph.

## **Answers:**

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### A New Creature

On one of Jesus' journeys, he passed through Jericho. Word of Jesus' miracles had apparently spread to this town, because many people were gathered to meet Him. People were anxious to see Jesus. There was one man who really wanted to see Jesus. He was a publican named Zacchaeus. A publican was a man who collected taxes from the people.

Zacchaeus had a problem. He was a short man, and because of the crowd around Jesus, Zacchaeus could not see him. Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran in front of the crowd and climbed up into a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he walked by. When Jesus passed by the tree where Zacchaeus was trying to see him, Jesus looked up and spotted him. "Zacchaeus, hurry, and come down! I am going to your house today," Jesus told Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus came down. He was very glad that Jesus was going to come to his house. Others in the crowd, however, were not happy that Jesus was going to Zacchaeus' home.

"Jesus is going to be a guest in the home of a man who is a sinner," they complained. Jesus talked to Zacchaeus for a long time that day. Zacchaeus was sorry for the wrongs he had committed. "I will give half of my goods to the poor. If I have been wrong by taking anything from someone, I will give him four times what I have taken," Zacchaeus promised. "Salvation has come to this house today," Jesus said to Zacchaeus. "The Son of man has come to seek and to save the lost."

After we are saved, we begin our lives as new creatures, forgiven of our sins and with Jesus living in our hearts to help us make it to Heaven. In a letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote, "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." In a letter to the Romans, Paul wrote, "We are buried together, then, with him by baptism into death, that even as Christ was raised up out of the dead through the glory of the Father, we should walk in newness of life." The word Christian means "follower of Christ." Once we are saved, we should put away things that would come between us and God, and try to act the way Jesus would.

## A NEW CREATURE

Color the word(s) that have to do with salvation yellow. Color the words that do not have to do with salvation black.

our heart is unclean	repent	follow Christ	believe in God	we are unhappy
share your testimony	we are never satisfied	a new creature	we feel unloved	baptized
we feel friendless	confess your sins	Jesus living in your heart	hurt others	don't want to be helpful
gave faith in God	we feel mad	cheat, lie, or steal	sins are forgiven	start on the road to Heaven

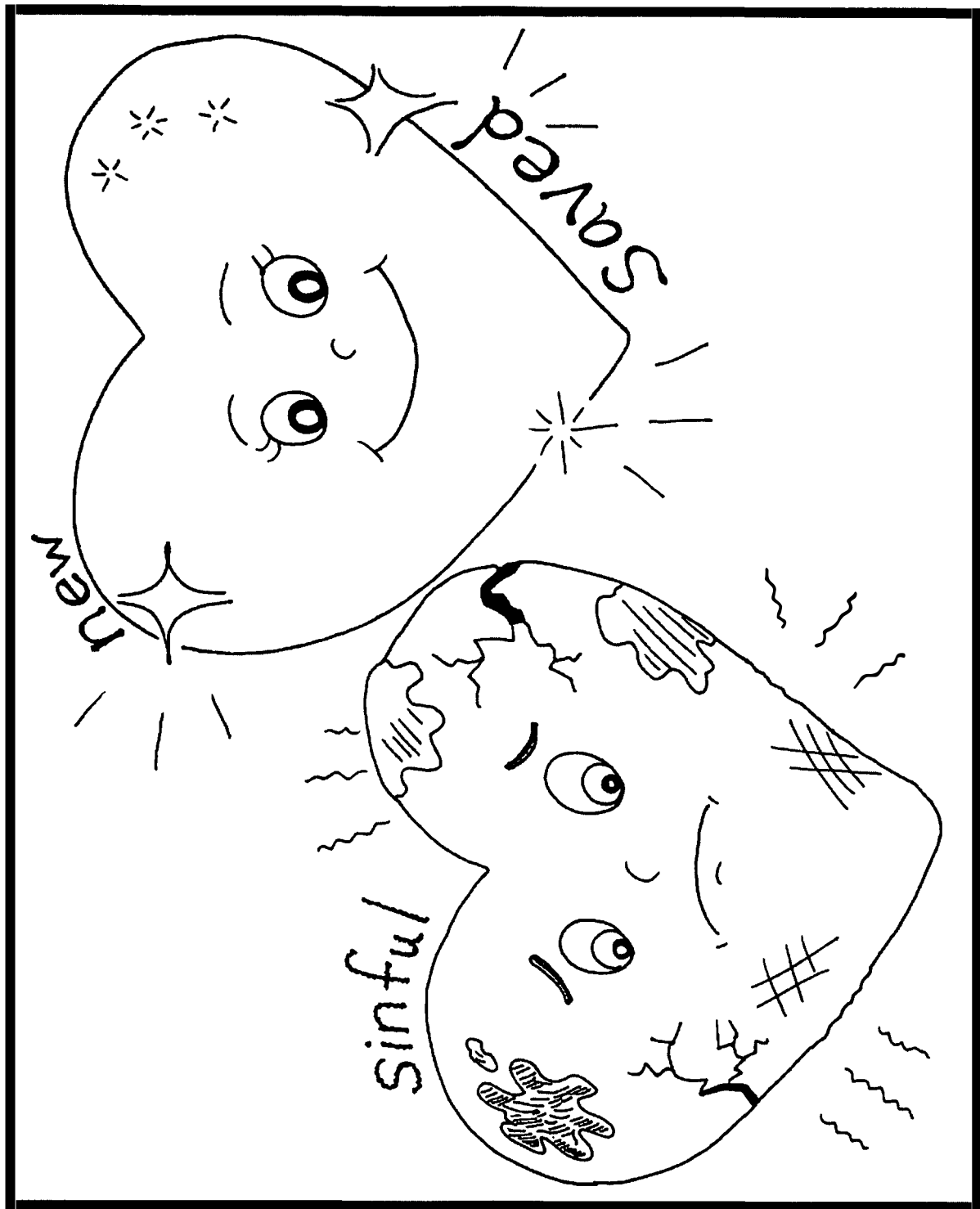
### QUESTIONS:

\*Answers on Back\*

1. What was Zacchaeus' job?
2. What was Zacchaeus' problem?
3. What did Zacchaeus do?
4. Where did Jesus tell him He was going?
5. Why did some people complain?
6. What did Zacchaeus decide to do?
7. "The son of man has come to \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ the lost."
8. Why should we be like new creatures after getting saved?

### MEMORY VERSE:





## **No More Idol Making!**

Sitting in a dark corner of the local market, Rogelio (roh-HEL-ee-oh) was the center of attention as he told one dirty joke after another to his buddies around him. This went on every Friday night in the little village of Mindanao (men-dah-NOW ) by the north Pacific Ocean. During the week, Rogelio carved wooden idols and sold them for people to worship. He did not know anything about the true living God.

Then one evening while the men were in the corner laughing and drinking, a tall American missionary came into the area. He had some Filipinos with him and they began to sing a happy song about the Lord Jesus Christ. The men stopped laughing and listened. They had never heard such peaceful singing!

The missionary opened a book and started reading from it in their spoken language. The men were watching, more out of curiosity than anything else.

"Tonight, I want to tell everyone here about the God who created everyone of us," said the missionary. "We cannot see Him with our natural eyes, but we can feel His presence and hear his Holy Spirit when He talks to us." The missionary continued to talk for a while, and then the Filipinos

sang another song. Rogelio watched as the missionary and those with him bowed their heads and talked to their God. It was like they were visiting with a friend. Rogelio continued joking and drinking. He did not know that the missionary and his wife and the other Christians were praying for him. They were asking God to make Rogelio feel guilty for making the wooden idols. They prayed that he would come to know the true God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

One Friday night, the missionary taught on the Ten Commandments. "It makes our Creator angry when we worship idols made of wood," he explained. "The true living God is big and powerful. He wants all of our love and He created us to worship Him only." Rogelio felt these words pierce his hard heart. As soon as the missionary finished talking, Rogelio said he wanted to change his life. Kneeling in prayer before his Creator, Rogelio confessed his sins and repented of them. Right away he stopped carving wooden idols. He quit telling dirty jokes and drinking beer. Instead he spent time learning to read the Bible. Today he is the leader of the Christians in Mindanao and happy to worship his Creator.

--Sis. Connie Sorrell

1. Tax collector. 2. He was short. 3. Climbed in a tree. 4. To Zacchaeus' house. 5. Zacchaeus was a sinner. 6. Give to the poor and repay anyone he cheated. 7. Seek/save. 8. Our old sins have been forgiven and we should try to be Christ-like.

## **Answers:**

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### **A Close Relationship with God**

Living in a wicked, evil generation that God soon chose to destroy by a flood, Enoch was a righteous man. “Woe unto them,” Enoch prophesied about his people. “Like Cain, they have chosen to disobey God. They are greedily seeking for earthly treasures. The Lord will come one day to execute judgment on them all and to convince the ungodly of their wicked ways. These corrupt people are murmurers, complainers and are extremely selfish. Others look up to them and admire them because of their intelligent speech.” At the age of 65, Enoch had a son named Methuselah. For 300 more years, Enoch walked with God. One day Enoch disappeared, no more to be seen on this earth. Enoch was not embalmed and buried in a grave like most mortals. God took Enoch up to Heaven. Paul referred to Enoch in his letter to the Hebrews: “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” Enoch was close to God. He had faith and believed that God was the true creator and Master of the universe. He recognized the wickedness and sinful ways of his people and chose to live a life of righteousness.

How can we live close to God? One way is through studying the Bible (God’s word) daily. Timothy wrote, “Study to present yourself unto God, as a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Prayer is also important. Paul wrote that we need to “Pray without ceasing.” A verse written by Matthew says that if we seek God’s kingdom more diligently than anything else, all of these things will be added to us.

If we live close to the Lord, we can count on many blessings, some of which are power, protection, provision, and peace. Paul writes often of the Lord sending him power (strength) when he was weak. He says, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but power, love and a sound mind.” The Lord will also send us protection. David says, “Though I walk through the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” Provision is the act of giving or supplying something. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul wrote, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” And finally, God will supply peace to those living close to Him. A verse in Psalms says, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You.”

## A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Bible Drill!! The student that finds the following verses about prayer and Bible study is the winner.

2 Timothy 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6:18 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 18:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 11:29 \_\_\_\_\_

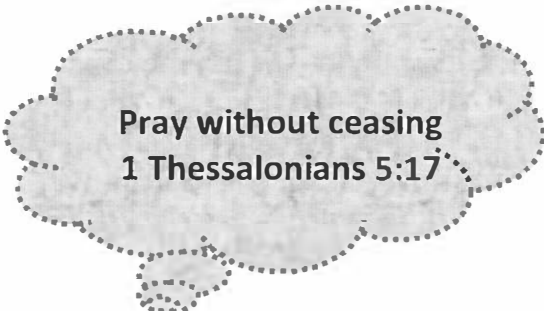
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### QUESTIONS:

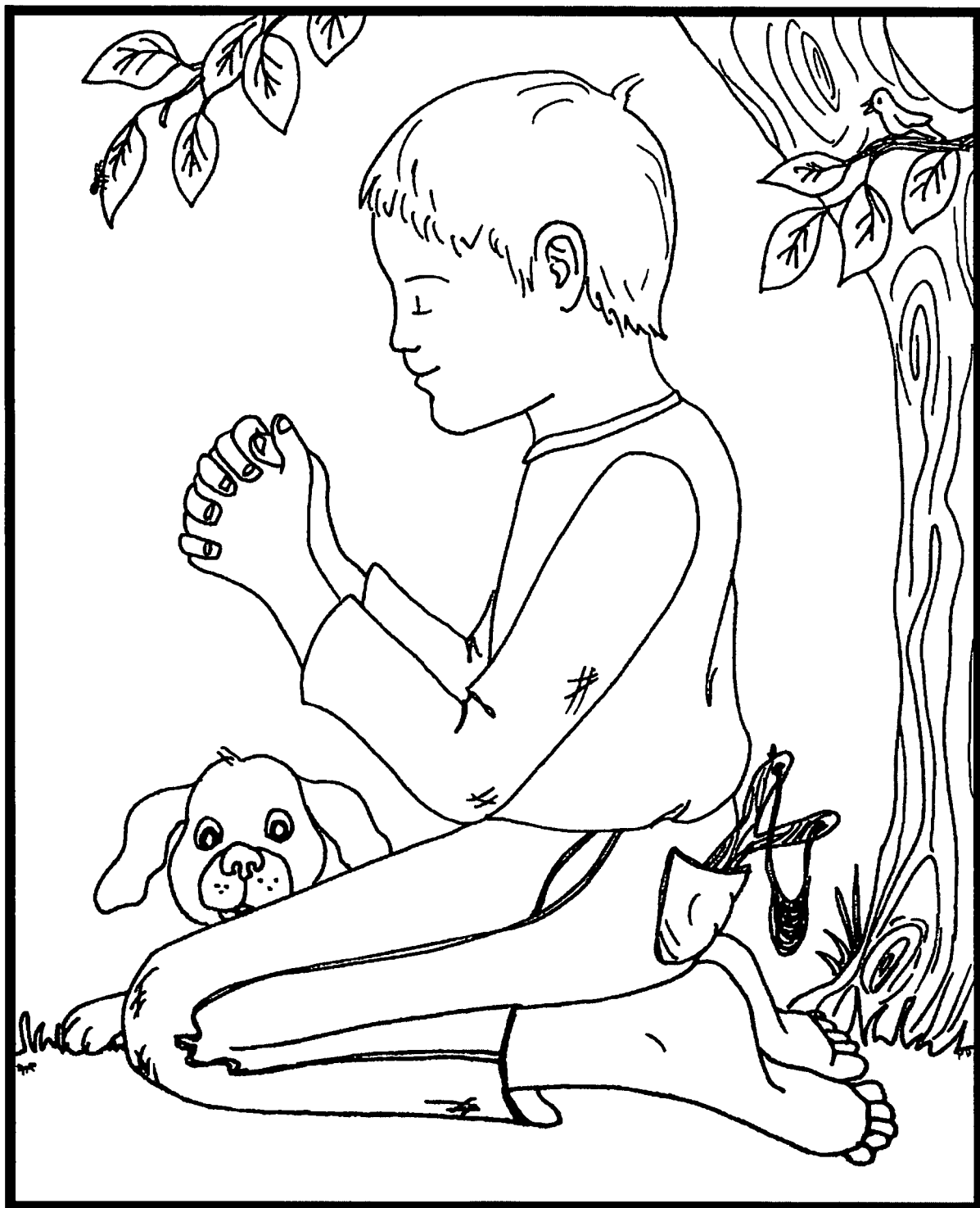
\*Answers on Back\*

1. Why might it have been hard for Enoch to be righteous?
2. What was Enoch's son's name?
3. Who did Enoch walk with?
4. What happened to Enoch?"
5. What are some ways we can live close to God?
6. What will happen if we seek God's kingdom diligently?
7. What are some blessings we will gain by being close to God?
8. "You will keep him in perfect \_\_\_\_\_ whose \_\_\_\_\_ is stayed on You."

### MEMORY VERSE:



**Pray without ceasing  
1 Thessalonians 5:17**



## Close to the Power of God

Sherpa did not choose to be born to a Hindu priest. He did not choose to live in southern Asia where nearly everyone worships a Hindu god, but that is where he lives. Sherpa's father conducted religious ceremonies for any god his customer chose to worship. Some of the rituals were cruel to animals or had wicked actions in them.

The demons who caused these rituals would make Sherpa's mother do wicked things to him and his sister. This poor family did not know anything better. Then one day a Christian woman shared the gospel about Jesus Christ to Sherpa's mother. He and his sister listened to the woman talk.

"I have never heard of such a loving God!" exclaimed his mother. "He LOVES me?"

"Yes, and the God who created you sent his only Son to die for your sins," said the Christian woman. "He came to set you free from demons and other gods that can harm you and your family."

Sherpa had not heard about this powerful God; but as he listened to the missionary, he hoped this God would change his mother into a kind, gentle mother. Later, his mother prayed to Jesus Christ with the Christian

woman. She rebuked all the demons that had tormented her. Sherpa witnessed a wonderful change in his mother!

His father said to the Christian woman, "I want to worship the powerful God who changed my wife into a peaceful woman. Tell me about Him so I can believe, too."

Sherpa and his sister wanted to live for the same God, also. They were so happy to see and feel the goodness of the Lord in their home! They went to a public school which encouraged the worship of Buddha. Sherpa knew that Buddha was called the Enlightened One. His real name was Siddharta Gautama. He had died hundreds of years ago, but his followers read his writings and made statues of him to worship. Sherpa and his sister did not want to worship the Buddha statues nor participate in pujas (POOH-jahs) which are rituals of worship. They would quietly leave the school and hide in a field when the temple priests came to the school. They would pray for the Lord Jesus Christ to protect them, and He always did. Now Sherpa is a grown man and teaching others about the true God and His only Son, Jesus Christ.

--Sis. Connie Sorrell

1. Because others living then were very wicked.
2. Methuselah. 3. God. 4. God took him to Heaven. 5. Bible study and prayer. 6. "All of these things will be added to you."
7. Power, protection, provision, peace. 8. Peace/mind.

## **Answers:**

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### Fellowship with Believers

**T**he Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor. He hath sent me to preach release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Jesus was reading and teaching from the sacred scriptures in the synagogue like He did each Sabbath. The congregation had been standing while Jesus read, as is the Jewish custom. Jesus finished reading the words the prophet Isaiah had written long ago and handed the scroll to the officer in charge of it. All eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him.

"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your ears," Jesus proclaimed. The neighbors and friends who knew Jesus as a child were astonished. "Isn't this Joseph's and Mary's son? How has he grown so wise?" they wondered. They began to get angry. How could this man think that he was better and more qualified to be a leader than they were. As Jesus spoke, their anger mounted. They decided to try to kill Jesus, but Jesus was able to slip away without anyone noticing.

Jesus saw the importance of meeting with people who believed and had faith in God, even though they threw him out when He tried to preach the truth. Jesus left Nazareth to find people in other towns who would listen and believe in God.

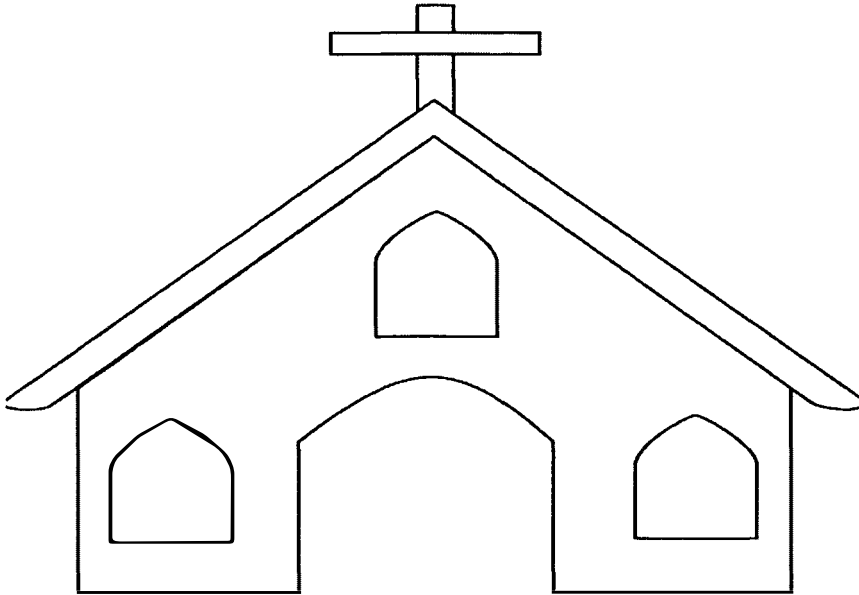
Whether in a church, at your home, or at a camp meeting or church camp, it is important for believers to meet together to pray and encourage one another by sharing their testimonies or truths they have learned. Singing songs about Jesus is also encouraging.

Paul writes, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." A verse in Matthew says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Throughout the ages, there have been times when Christians have been thrown into jail, beaten, and persecuted for attending church services or sharing what they believed with others. We need to be faithful to follow Jesus' example and encourage everyone, whether they are Christians or not, who are seeking to know more about Christ.

# FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS

Draw a picture of someone going into church.



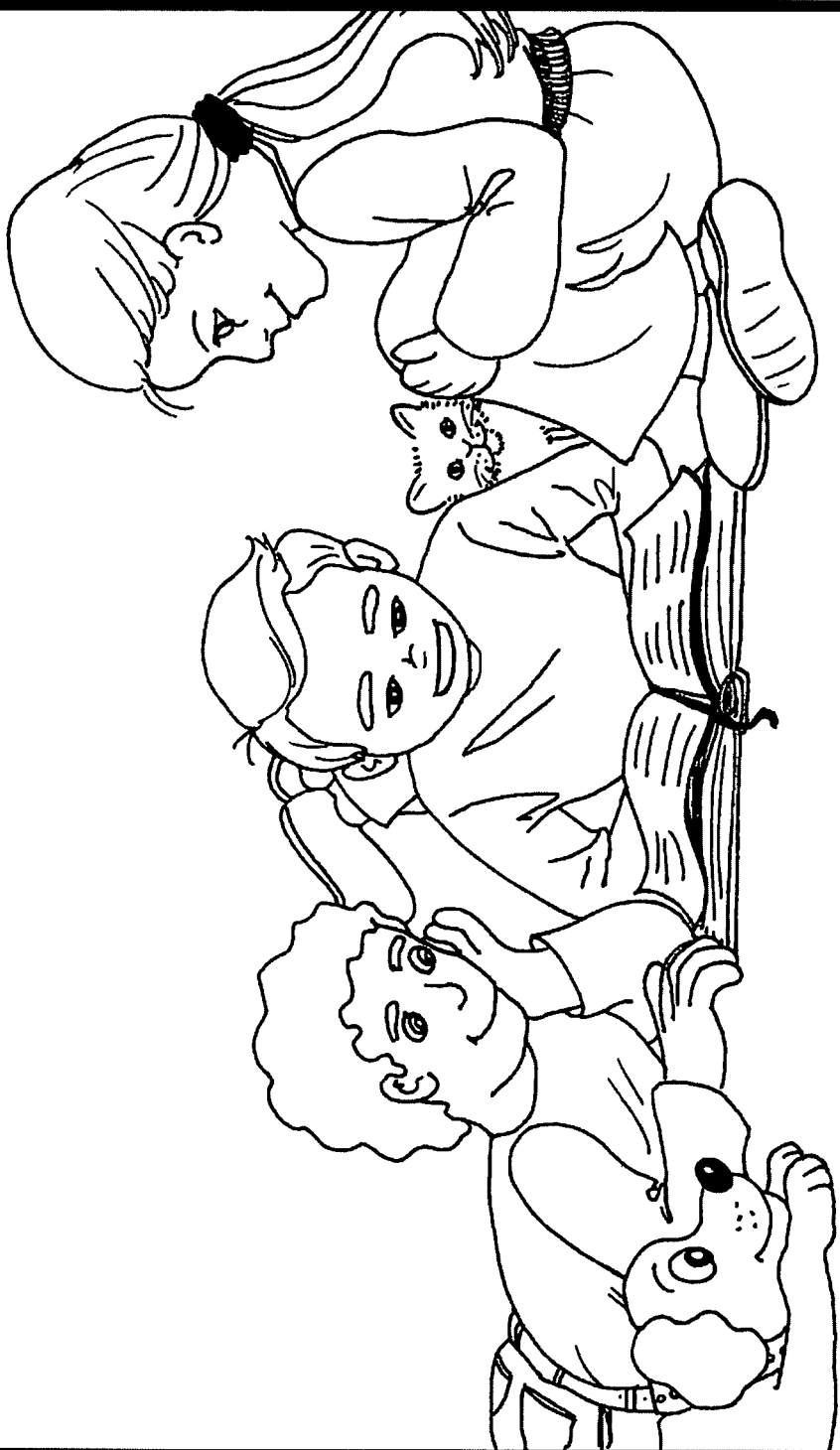
## QUESTIONS

\*Answers on back\*

1. What was Jesus doing in the synagogue?
2. Who wrote what Jesus read?
3. Why did the people grow angry?
4. How did Jesus get away?
5. How can believers encourage one another?
6. "Where two or three are gathered \_\_\_\_."
7. What has happened to some Christians?
8. Who do we need to encourage?

## MEMORY VERSE

**For where two or  
three are gathered  
together  
in my name,  
there am I in the  
midst of them.  
Matt. 18:20**



## In the Floating Chapel

The "chapel" floated on bamboo pontoons among a houseboat village on a river in Japan. It had four unpainted wooden walls without windows. Under its tin roof there were no chairs, benches or pulpit. A single kerosene lantern sat on the bamboo floor lighting up the darkness.

Sitting cross-legged in a circle, the believers in Christ shared their testimonies of suffering and healing, poverty and fulfillment, grief and victories. The American missionary among them felt a closeness among them as he listened.

After several prayers were offered to the Lord, the missionary opened a little New Testament to read to them about Jesus Christ. He had to lean close to the lantern so he could see the words, but he knew from memory much of this scripture in their language. Only the sound of the water slapping around the floating chapel quietly drummed a rhythm to scripture reading as everyone listened carefully to each word.

They wanted each word to sink into their hearts because Bibles are scarce in their country where the statues of Buddha are worshipped. All of them had come out of different sects of Buddhism, which never gave them soul peace with their true Creator.

After hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ and accepting Him as their way to God, the Father, these believers had joy in their hearts. This joy reflected in their shining eyes as they listened to the read Word of God.

After the reading, one believer asked, "Is it now time to take up our offering?" He wanted to make sure there was always enough kerosene for the lantern and this chapel would be available for the next worship service. Several tossed coins to the center of the circle, but one woman folded her hands in her lap and turned her face toward the missionary. "Thank you so very much for reading the Word of God," she said. "I don't have any money, but may I sing my offering?"

"Yes, please do," replied the missionary.

She tipped back her head and her sweet voice echoed a beautiful melody of love and praise to her Savior, Jesus Christ. The missionary's eyes filled with tears as he felt the presence of the Lord bless this dear believer. She was praising her Creator even though He had created her blind. She was at peace with her Maker, and that is all that mattered.

--Sis. Connie Sorrell

1. Reading & teaching. 2. Isaiah. 3. They had known Jesus as a child and thought he was acting self-righteous. 4. He walked away/slipped out. 5. Singing/praying/testimonies/sharing. 6. In my name I am in the midst. 7. They were put in jail or beaten. 8. Everyone.

## Answers:

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### Sanctification

“I must go back to the one that sent me,” Jesus told his disciples. “Because I have told you this, you are sad. It is necessary for me to go away. If I do not leave, the Comforter will not come to you. When I leave, I will send him to you. He will reprove the world of sin and righteousness and of judgment. When the Holy Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you to all truth. He will glorify me.”

Jesus was not the only one who gave us information about the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Paul also wrote about the Holy Spirit. “It is written that our eyes have not seen and our ears have not heard what God has in store for those that love him,” Paul writes in a letter to the church in Corinth. “God has revealed them to us by the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit searches all of the deep things of God. The Holy Spirit can help man understand the things of God he can never understand on his own. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to discern spiritual things.”

After we get saved, are following Jesus, and have been baptized, the next step to getting closer to God is to pray to receive the Holy Spirit in our lives. He is the only one that can help us do all of the things that Paul and Jesus mentioned. This is called sanctification, or “getting sanctified.”

After we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, the world should be able to see a difference in our lives. Jesus said that we would know people “by their fruits,” or by their actions. Paul says that the fruits of the Holy Spirit are “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.”

We should “walk in the Spirit,” Paul writes. In the book of Ephesians, Paul writes that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is all goodness, righteousness, and truth.

The translation of the word “sanctification” in Greek is “holy.” Sanctification means to make holy, or set apart. This means to set ourselves apart to live righteous lives, separated from evil and prepared to follow after God’s calling for us. The sanctification process begins when we ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.

# SANCTIFICATION

## Good Fruits vs. Bad Fruits

Color the characteristics of someone producing good fruits orange. Color the examples of bad fruits black.


<b>anger</b>	<b>love</b>	<b>gossip</b>	<b>hatred</b>	<b>goodness</b>
<b>joy</b>	<b>disobedience</b>	<b>peace</b>	<b>longsuffering</b>	<b>jealousy</b>
<b>gentleness</b>	<b>truth</b>	<b>revenge</b>	<b>confusion</b>	<b>temperance</b>
<b>laziness</b>	<b>meekness</b>	<b>bitterness</b>	<b>faith</b>	<b>grumbling</b>

### QUESTIONS

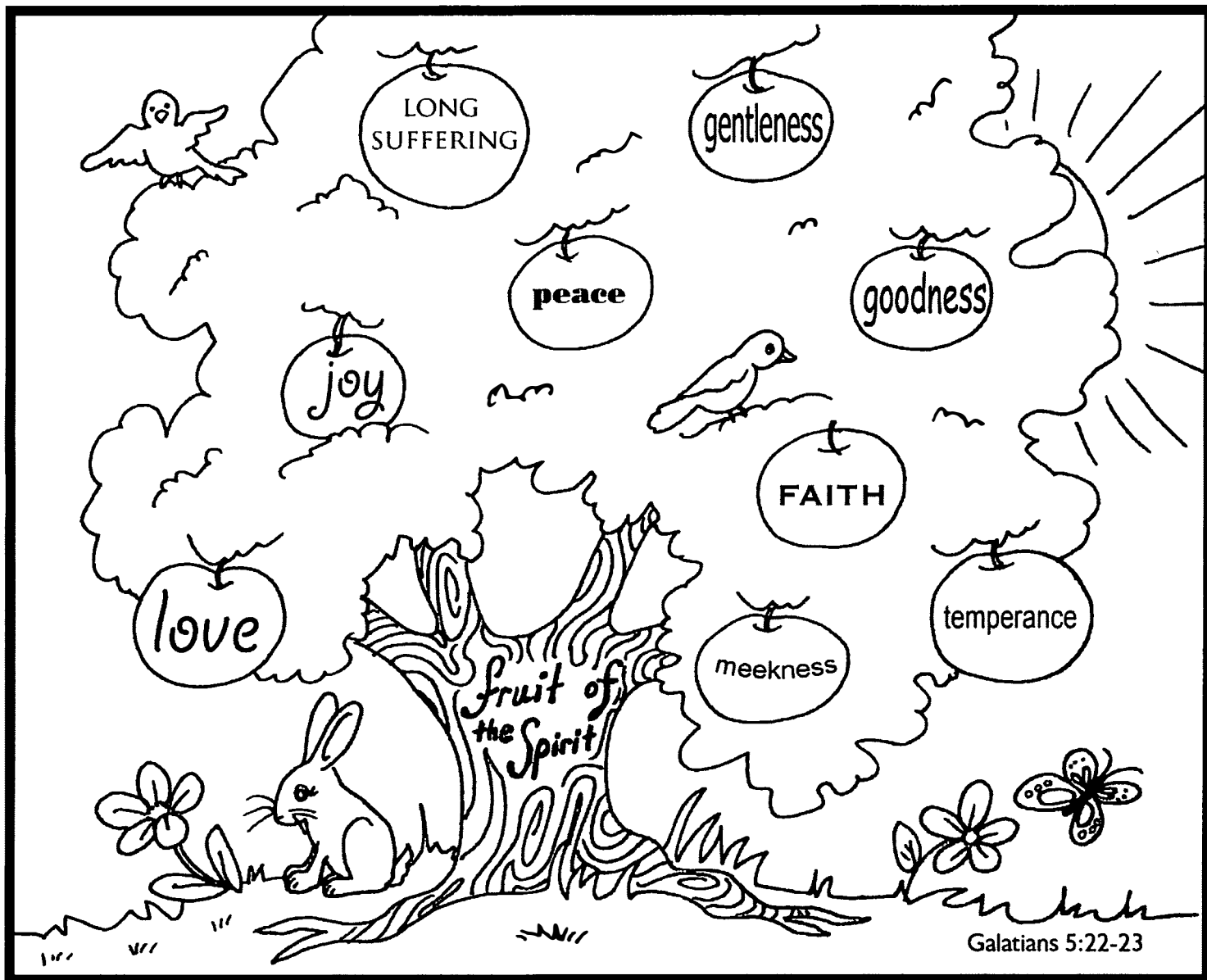
\*Answers on back\*

1. Who did Jesus say would come after He died?
2. The Holy Spirit will guide you to all \_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_ teaches us how to discern all \_\_\_\_.
4. What are some of the fruits of the spirit?
5. By their \_\_\_\_ ye shall \_\_\_\_ them.
6. What does the word "fruits" mean?
7. We should \_\_\_\_ in the Spirit.
8. What does the word "sanctification" mean in Greek?

### MEMORY VERSE



Wherefore by their  
fruits ye shall  
know them.  
Matthew 7:20



Galatians 5:22-23

## **God's Spirit is Holy**

As Carla stood in line waiting to pay her electric bill in India, she watched Hindus at their temple across the street. Dressed in colorful clothing, the men and women were dancing, chanting and kissing different statues of the monkey god, Hanuman (HA-new-MAHN).

The ancient legend is that this brave monkey rescued a kidnapped goddess and brought her back to Rama, the king god. It is said that this monkey had his friends form a monkey bridge from the main land of India to Sri Lanka so that the goddess could return to Rama. The big Hanuman statues show this monkey with wings, for they believe he could fly very fast to far away places where the gods lived. In kissing his statues, the worshippers think this monkey spirit will keep them safe against evil.

Knowing the true God, Carla prayed to Him in her mind and heart as she watched the deceived men and women go through their rituals.

"Oh, Father, You are so much better than a monkey god!" she prayed. "Your son, Jesus Christ, told us that You are a holy spirit. These evil, sensual rituals are not holy like your spirit is. Thank you, Jesus, for coming to this earth to tell us the Truth and to make a way or a bridge

for us to simply come to our Father for daily help. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to teach us and protect us from this evil."

Carla moved forward in line at the electric company, and then she looked back at the Hanuman temple. She felt sad for the deceived people, and she felt angry at the devil for lying and taking millions of people with him to a place of torment. Deep within her soul, Carla felt a heavy burden to reach out to these poor ones and tell them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Again she prayed. "Oh, Lord Jesus, please send your Holy Spirit to deal with these people. Strengthen me with your Holy Spirit that I may have wisdom to overcome this evil with the Truth. Only by your holiness will I be able to help even one soul from this bondage. Please strengthen me. Amen."

She would tell them of the Lord's last supper in remembrance of the death and resurrection of God's only Son. That simple service is much easier to believe and obey than all the devil's deceptions.

--Sis. Connie Sorrell

1. The Comforter. 2.Truth.3.Holy Spirit/Truth.  
4. love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness,  
goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance .  
5.Fruits/know. 6.Actions. 7.Walk. 8. Holy.

## **Answers:**

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### A Christian's Final Home

If you were to visit the Greek Island of Patmos, you might be impressed with the peace and quiet. This small and rocky island was a place to which criminals were banished. These criminals were forced to work in the rocks and mines on the island. If you were to visit the Island of Patmos, you could tour several monasteries dedicated to the memory of the Apostle John. While you were there, you could also stop by the cave where historians believe God gave John a vision of a place much more beautiful than the most peaceful island we could ever imagine.

John was considered a criminal because of his faithfulness of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. How wonderful it must have been for John to receive such a marvelous vision from the Lord during his time of imprisonment! John recorded his vision about Heaven that later became a book in the Bible known to Christians today as "Revelation." John saw many things that would happen before Jesus will return to take the faithful Christians to Heaven. Then, he saw the dead standing before Jesus, who judged them of their deeds. John wrote about meeting an angel, who led him to Heaven. The beautiful and holy city had a high wall with twelve gates made of pearls. The walls were made of jasper and the stones of the wall's foundation were decorated with jewels. John saw streets made of pure gold that were as beautiful and clear as glass. "This city does not need the sun or moon to shine on it," John wrote, "Because the glory of God is the light and Jesus is the lamp. There will be no tears or crying in this city. No pain or suffering. No sin will ever enter that city. Only the names of the saved who are written in the Lamb's book of Life will enter into Heaven."

If you were to visit the Island of Patmos, historians may give you several versions of how John died. No one is sure when or how John's death took place. How or when we die really isn't that important. What matters is where we go after we die. After we ask Christ into our heart, if we stay faithful to the end, Heaven will be our reward and our final home. Before He died, Jesus said that He was going to prepare us a place in Heaven where there are many mansions. Many people have many different ideas about Heaven. We only have a few clues given to us in the Bible. But if it only took God seven days to create this beautiful earth, how much more wonderful will our final home in Heaven be?

# A CHRISTIAN'S FINAL HOME

## *THEME: WHERE WILL WE GO WHEN WE DIE?*

Unscramble the following words about Heaven.

GOLD    LIGHT    NO PAIN    LAMB    GATES    PEARLS    JASPER  
NO SIN    JEWELS    ANGEL

1. ERALPS \_\_\_\_\_

6. EWSELJ \_\_\_\_\_

2. ON ANIP \_\_\_\_\_

7. PASJER \_\_\_\_\_

3. GILTH \_\_\_\_\_

8. EG TSA \_\_\_\_\_

4. DOLG \_\_\_\_\_

9. GLEAN \_\_\_\_\_

5. ON SNI \_\_\_\_\_


10. MABL \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS

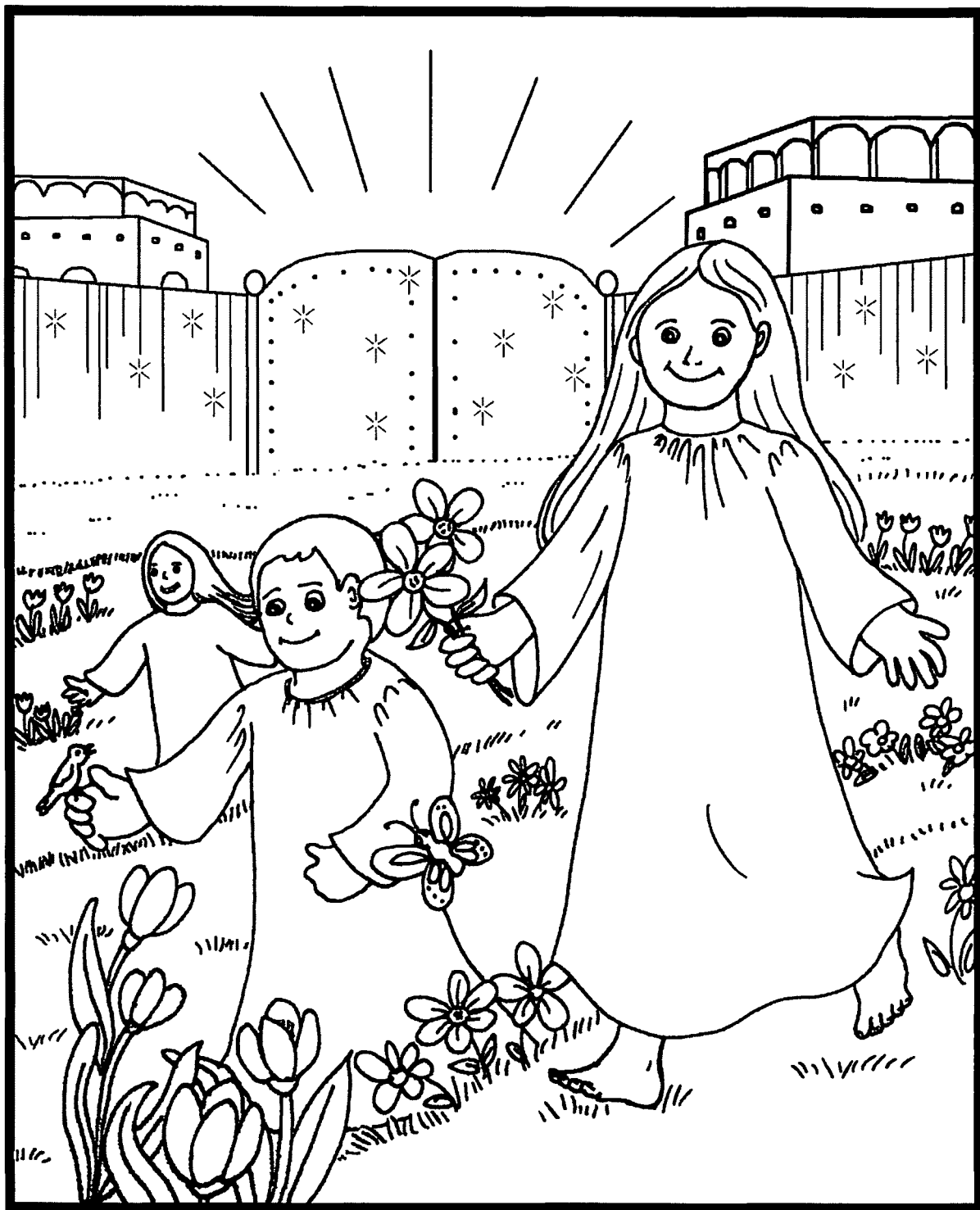
*\*Answers on back\**

1. Where do historians believe John received his vision?
2. Why was John banished?
3. What book of the Bible did John write?
4. How many gates did Heaven have?
5. What are some things that are not in Heaven?
6. What were the streets in Heaven made of?
7. What is the most important thing we need to be sure of about dying?
8. What did Jesus say He was going to prepare?

### MEMORY VERSE



**...for the LORD shall  
be thine everlasting  
light, and the days  
of thy mourning  
shall be ended.  
Isaiah 60:20**



## **Delivered Just in Time!**

In the center of Africa is the country of Congo. Through some Christian missionaries at a university, Roger learned about Jesus Christ. He was so excited and happy to have the peace of God in his heart that he went home to his village to tell his family about Jesus.

They did not want to hear his testimony. His father and mother believed the old witch doctors had power and could do miraculous things for them. Roger went back to the university, continuing to live for the Lord. He prayed every day for his parents, brothers, and sisters.

"If only one of them could come here, away from the influence of those evil witch doctors," Roger told his Christian friends, "maybe then one of my family members would listen to the gospel and realize how much better Jesus Christ is than what they have."

One day Roger got the message that one of his sisters was very sick. The witch doctors had tried everything but it looked like she would die. Roger made arrangements for his sister to be brought to the hospital by the university.

"Pray earnestly for my sister," he told his Bible study friends. "She needs the Lord to heal her both soul and body."

Roger helped his sister settle into the

hospital. The doctor told him she was ill with tuberculosis. She lay on the bed very still. Roger called for his Christian friends to come to her bedside and pray.

They circled around her bed and started praying. Suddenly, the sick woman screamed at the top of her lungs! Nurses ran into the room but Roger told them he would take care of the matter and to leave. It was not his sister's voice, but that of a demon. Every time the group started praying, this demon voice would scream in agony.

Roger realized what demon it was from his childhood. He called it by name and said, "In the name of Jesus Christ, come out of Tana and leave her body!"

They saw her body relax and she went into a deep sleep. Everyone left but Roger. He stayed and prayed continually for his sister's deliverance from this demon. Later, when she woke up, Roger told her the gospel of Jesus Christ. She cried and said she wanted to have the peace that only the blood of Jesus could give her. After her prayer, she smiled and said she felt so clean.

Three days later, she died, and Roger felt at peace that his sister had found peace with God.

--Sis. Connie Sorrell

1. Greek Island of Patmos. 2. Preaching the gospel. 3. Revelation. 4. 12. 5. Sin, crying, pain. 6. Gold. 7. That we are going to Heaven. 8. Mansions.

## **Answers:**

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### A Place of Torment

**I** am so very hungry and tired," a poor, sick beggar named Lazarus thought. "Maybe if I sit by the gate in front of this beautiful home, I can get some crumbs from their table." Lazarus watched the rich man who owned the house coming out of the gate. The man was wearing fine clothing and ate only the very best foods. Lazarus grew thinner and sicker. Dogs came and licked his sores. Even though Lazarus was sick and hungry, he was not afraid to die. He believed in God and His Son, Jesus. And soon it happened. The world faded away for Lazarus as angels carried him to his Heavenly home.

The rich man also died. As the world faded away, the rich man trembled in fear as he felt fire lapping about him. How thirsty and alone he was! Lifting up his eyes, the rich man saw Lazarus in Heaven, talking to Abraham. "Please, Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Allow Lazarus to dip his finger in the water and come cool my tongue!"

"Son," Abraham replied. "In your life on earth, you had many good things. Lazarus had only evil happen to him, but he still believed in God. Now he is comforted, but you are tormented. Besides, there is a great gulf between us that we cannot pass through."

"Please then, Father," the tormented rich man cried. "If Lazarus cannot come here, I pray you send him to my father's house. I have five brothers who need to be warned about this horrible place."

"There are preachers and prophets nearby, they should listen to them," Abraham countered.

"They would listen and believe if someone returned to them from the dead," the rich man pleaded.

"If they will not believe Moses and the prophets, they will not believe someone who has risen from the dead," Abraham said.

Jesus told His apostles this story to illustrate what would happen to people who do not accept Jesus into their hearts. Jesus describes Hell as an awful place, where there is "weeping and gnashing of teeth." In his vision, the Apostle John saw sinners tossed into a "lake of fire."

The word "torment" means severe physical or mental suffering. What a horrible ending for those who aren't Christians! The word "eternity" means an unknown amount of time. Many people refer to the time after we die as "Eternity." Jesus paid the price for our sins when He died on the cross. We can make a choice now to ask Him into our lives so that we can live in Heaven for eternity.

# A PLACE OF TORMENT

THEME: WHERE WILL YOU GO AFTER YOU DIE?

Match the verse to the reference.

And shall cut him asunder, and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Revelation 20:15

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Isaiah 5:14

And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

Matthew 10:28

Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

Mark 9:47

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 24:51

## QUESTIONS

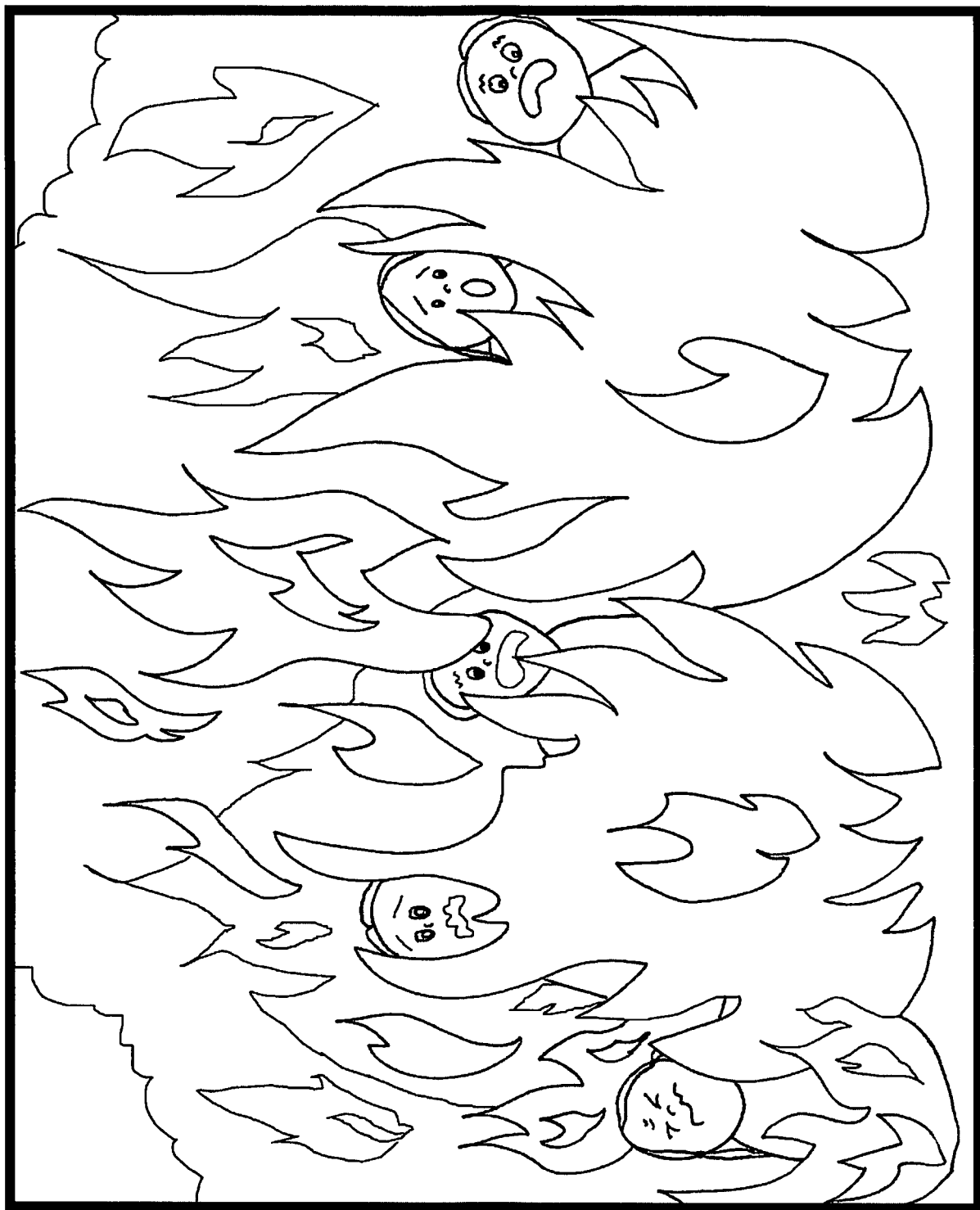
\*Answers on back\*

1. Why did Lazarus sit at the gate?
2. What happened to Lazarus?
3. What did the rich man want Lazarus to do?
4. What did Abraham say was between heaven and hell?
5. What did the rich man want Lazarus to tell his brothers?
6. Who will go to Hell when they die?
7. What does the word torment mean?
8. What does the word eternity mean?

## MEMORY VERSE

And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

Matthew 18:9



## **Greater is the Name of Jesus**

In a village of Sudan, a witch kept the people under her influence by doing magic and casting spells. No one wanted her angry at them for fear she would do them harm. In this way, the witch got whatever she wanted from any of the villagers. She even had the village chief afraid of her!

One day two Christian missionaries came to visit this village. They saw a crowd gathered by a hut so they went to see what everyone else was watching, which was this witch doing her magic.

When the two Christians joined the crowd, the witch became confused in her chanting. She stopped. "Someone here is working against me," she said in a cranky voice. "I will find out who it is and stop him!"

The crowd gasped in fear, afraid of what would happen to one of them! Immediately, the Christians knew it was they stopping the witch's evil magic. They looked at each other and silently prayed against the evil spirits. They asked Jesus Christ to stop all evil powers and give them the liberty to tell this village about the freedom from evil through God's Son.

The witch kept trying to cast a spell or do magic, but could not. She became very angry and the crowd became more worried, some

leaving and running to their own hut as if that would protect them. Finally, she openly pointed to the two missionaries.

"You must leave!" she demanded. "The spirits are angry with you!"

"Yes, the spirits you know are angry at us," said one missionary. "We are of the Spirit of a Holy God and in the name of Jesus Christ all men can be set free from these evil spirits you are working with."

The witch glared at them and the crowd moved away from them. "YOU MUST LEAVE!" She screamed.

So the men walked away from her hut, but kept praying. The witch's magic failed again and when the people saw she could not cast a spell on the missionaries, they began to follow them. Suddenly, the witch cried in fear herself. She ran to the missionaries and said, "Your God has more power than these spirits do. Please tell me about him!"

Patiently, the Christians explained the gospel to these people. In time, several of them believed in Jesus, including the witch. Now she prays to Jesus and she is not friends with evil demons of hell.

--Sis. Connie Sorrell

1. He was hoping for food. 2. He died and went to Heaven. 3. Dip his finger in water and bring it to him. 4. A gulf. 5. About how awful Hell was. 6. Anyone who has not accepted Christ into their hearts. 7. Severe mental or physical suffering. 8. An unknown amount of time.

## **Answers:**

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### Be Ready

Onlookers must have watched the preparations with interest. Hurry there! Tuck that in! Purchase this! Fix that! "What is going on?" one might ask, curiously. "Why, a wedding!" would be the reply. For many months, the bride and groom had been engaged. In Biblical times, the period we call engagement was called being "betrothed." The bride and groom were promised to each other and the bride wore a veil to show her dedication to her future husband.

The bride knew her groom and his attendants would come soon. Then, the bride and her attendants would accompany the groom to his family's home where the wedding feast would begin. "We need to buy oil for our lamps," one of the bride's attendants suggested. "We have too many other things to do," some of the bride's friends complained. So only five of the ten attendants went to purchase oil for their lamps. The girls were disappointed as night fell upon them and the groom still had not appeared. All of them were very tired from the planning and preparation they had accomplished that day and fell into a deep sleep.

"What was that?" someone wondered. At midnight, they heard a loud noise. "The bridegroom is coming!" one of them cried. Since the bride never knew for sure what time her groom was coming, the groom and his friends would announce their arrival with a loud shout, carrying torches to light their way. The bride's friends began getting ready. "Our lamps have gone out!" one of the ladies who had not purchased oil said. "Let us use some of your oil," the five unprepared girls begged their friends who had purchased oil. "If we let you use our oil, we would not have enough," the other attendants replied. "I guess we need to go purchase oil, then," one of the girls said.

Finally, with their lamps oiled and burning brightly, they reached the door of the groom's home where the wedding feast was taking place. "Lord, let us in," they cried as they knocked. "Depart from me," the groom said. "I don't know you."

"Like the ladies in the story, you also need to watch, because you do not know the day nor the hour when the Son of Man will return." Jesus was telling this story to his disciples. "When will you return, and when will the world end?" the disciples had asked. Jesus warns us many times in the New Testament to watch and pray, so we will be ready when He returns to take up His followers to Heaven. At this time, those who are unprepared will go to their place of punishment.

Jesus tells us that "...the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done." Peter also describes that day of judgement. "The Lord will return as a thief in the night," Peter wrote. "The heavens will pass away with a great noise and the earth will burn with fervent heat. Because we know that these things will come to pass, we ought to live holy and godly lives, always prepared for the day of Jesus' return."

*THEME: THE END OF TIME*

**Make a slash through the Ks, Qs, and Zs. Write the letters that are left in order on the lines below.**

WQQATKZCZHkYZETHZZZEKKRQZKEZFQORKZQEAZNQDZPQRKKKAQKZYQAZLWKQZAZYSTK  
ZKHQAZTKYEKZKMQAzyKBZEQAzCCOKZKQUNZTQEKQKDKZWOQRZTKHYTQZOKKEQqSZCK  
KZQAKQZPZEQALKKLZTQHqZESKQZKETQqHZIQNGQSZTHKATZQSHKALZQLCKZKOMQEZTZO  
PZASKZQksAZNqDToZSTZAKNDKBZQEFKQZKOREZZTQHqZKESZOKZKNZOKZKFMZAQZKNK

\_\_\_\_ ... Clue: Luke 21:36

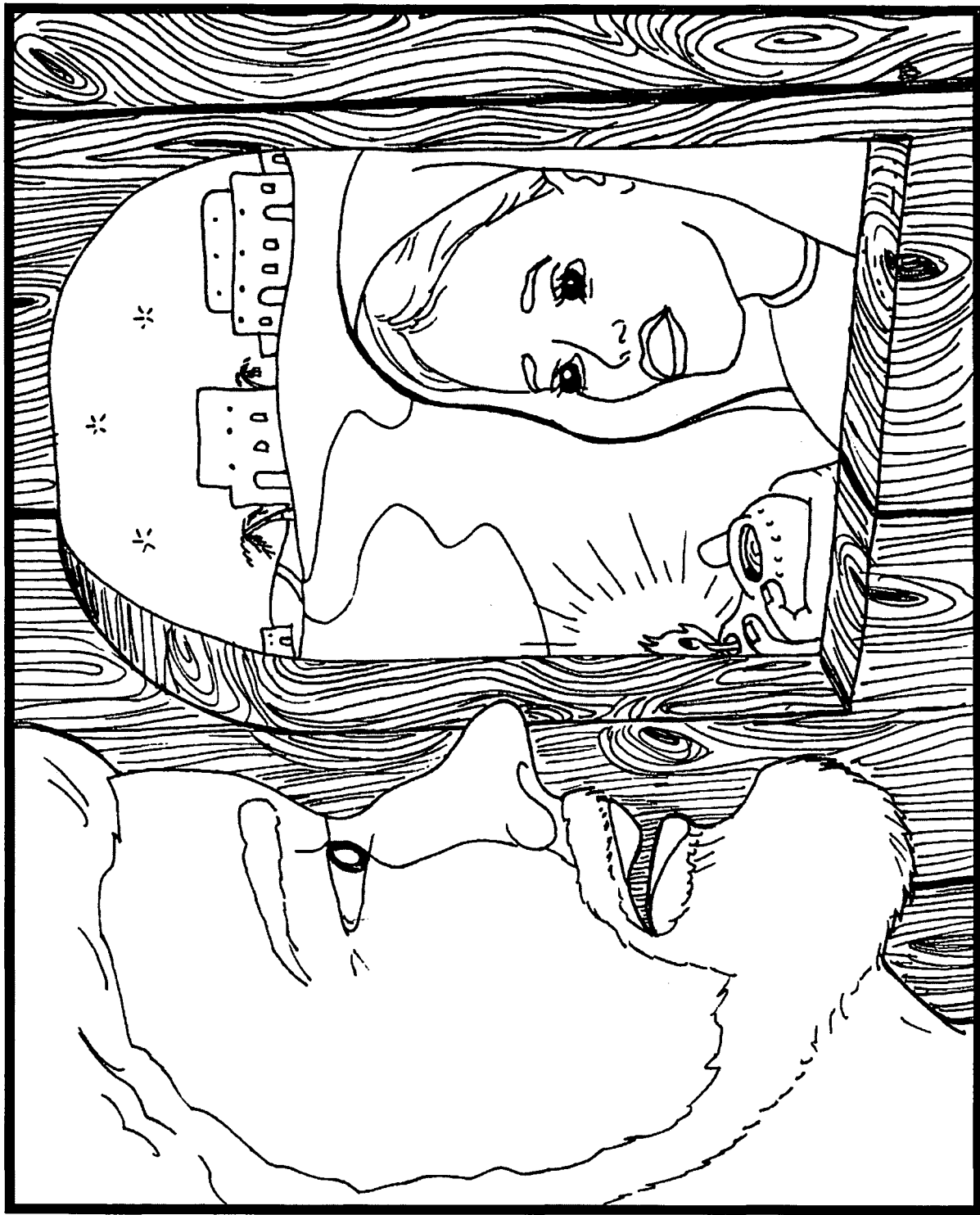
## QUESTIONS

**\*Answers on back\***

1. What were the girls getting ready for?
2. What did the bride's attendants need?
3. Why were the girls disappointed that evening?
4. What happened at midnight?
5. What did five of the girls need?
6. What did the groom tell the girls?
7. Why did Jesus tell this story?
8. What will happen when Jesus comes back?

## MEMORY VERSE

Watch therefore:  
for ye know not  
what hour your Lord  
doth come.  
Matthew 24:42



## **Focused on the King**

Sometimes missionaries need to take their family away from the mission and relax together for a season. So it was that Judi and her husband and children went to visit the Lake Nakuru (nah-KOO-roo) National Park in eastern Africa.

The five of them rode in a big white truck which bounced over the rugged ground, making a path of its own in the tall jungle grass. "Look, Daddy, at the herd of giraffes!" exclaimed one child, pointing to the long-necked animals eating from the trees.

At the water side, they saw all kinds of animals. "Wow! There must be thousands of pink flamingoes in that huge flock!" exclaimed one child. "They are moving so gracefully together like one big sweeping curtain over the water!" "I see the huge water buffalos!" exclaimed another child. "The other animals keep their distance from them and I wouldn't want one after me, either!"

In her heart, Judi felt struck with awe to the mighty Creator who made and put each creature into their own habitat. They lived in harmony with the earth as God planned it from the beginning. He said that it was good, and it is still good today.

As their truck drove near the jungle, they heard the barking call of a baboon. They felt a hush alarm come over all the animals about them. The sleek fast antelopes bolted into a run, but the baboons, hearing their commander, hung onto tree branches, staring in the same direction.

"Let's check out what they are staring at," said her husband. As their noisy truck drove toward the focus point, not an animal moved. Then the humans saw what was alarming—a huge male lion was hiding in the bushes! All creatures were intent on watching what this king of the jungle was going to do. Even the humans in the truck watched him with awe. This reminded Judi of Jesus, who is called the Lion of Judah, King of kings and Lord of lords. He should be the focus of our lives today. If we focus on him, we can lead others to Him, just like the baboon commander pointed out the lion.

Then someday when Jesus comes back in the cloud to receive his faithful watchers, every eye shall see him and every knee shall bow to him. All people who ever lived from all nations on the earth will be looking at Jesus Christ and know that He is the King of kings.

--Sis. Connie Sorrell

1. A wedding. 2. Oil. 3. The groom hadn't come. 4. The groom arrived. 5. Oil. 6. Depart from me; I never knew you. 7. To help his disciples understand the end of time. 8. Everyone will be judged, the righteous will go to Heaven; the earth will melt, etc.

## **Answers:**





### **Beware!**

Satan was standing before God. "Where have you come from?" God asked. "From walking to and fro on the earth," the devil answered. "Did you notice my servant, Job?" the Lord inquired. "There is no one as righteous as he on earth." "You have kept him protected on all sides," the devil accused. "Remove your hand of protection and Job will curse you." "All that Job has is in your power," God allowed. "But you will not touch him."

God knew all about Job, just like He knows about each one of us. The devil knew about Job also. They both knew that Job had seven sons and three daughters. They knew Job owned thousands of animals and a large and beautiful home. They knew how dedicated Job was to worship God. The devil thought his plan to cause Job to turn his back on God would work. "Your oxen and donkeys were stolen," a servant told Job one day. "And the servants watching them were killed." Job saw another servant approaching even before the first one had finished speaking. "A horrible fire has killed all of your sheep and the servants tending them," the servant cried. "Your camels have been stolen," a third servant panted. "I alone escaped to tell you." "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking at their oldest brother's house when a great wind caused the house to collapse on them," a fourth servant said. In only a few minutes, Job received the news that he lost everything; his children, his servants and his flocks. "Have you noticed that even though everything was taken from Job, he has not sinned or cursed me?" God asked Satan. "That may be true, but if he was stricken with illness, he would curse you," Satan replied. "You may do as you will, but do not kill him," God answered. Satan caused huge boils to appear all over Job's body. "Curse God and die," Job's wife told him. Three of Job's friends came to talk to him. "Surely you have sinned," they said. "If you confess your sin, maybe these evil things will stop happening." "I have not sinned," Job insisted. His friends did not believe him. "Even if God killed me, I would still trust Him," Job said.

The Bible warns us to beware of our enemy, the devil, who is walking about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. The devil knows what will tempt us and the Lord may allow us to be tempted by the devil. We need to be watchful and close to God like Job was so that we will not yield to temptation. God rewarded Job for his faithfulness by giving him more children and twice as many animals as he had owned before.

## BEWARE!

THEME: YOUR ENEMY, THE DEVIL, IS WALKING ABOUT, SEEKING PEOPLE,  
TRYING TO TEMPT THEM TO TURN FROM GOD

### WordSearch

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

ENEMY

DEVIL

SEEKING

DEVOUR

TEMPT

JOB

LOST

ANIMALS

BLESSED

### QUESTIONS

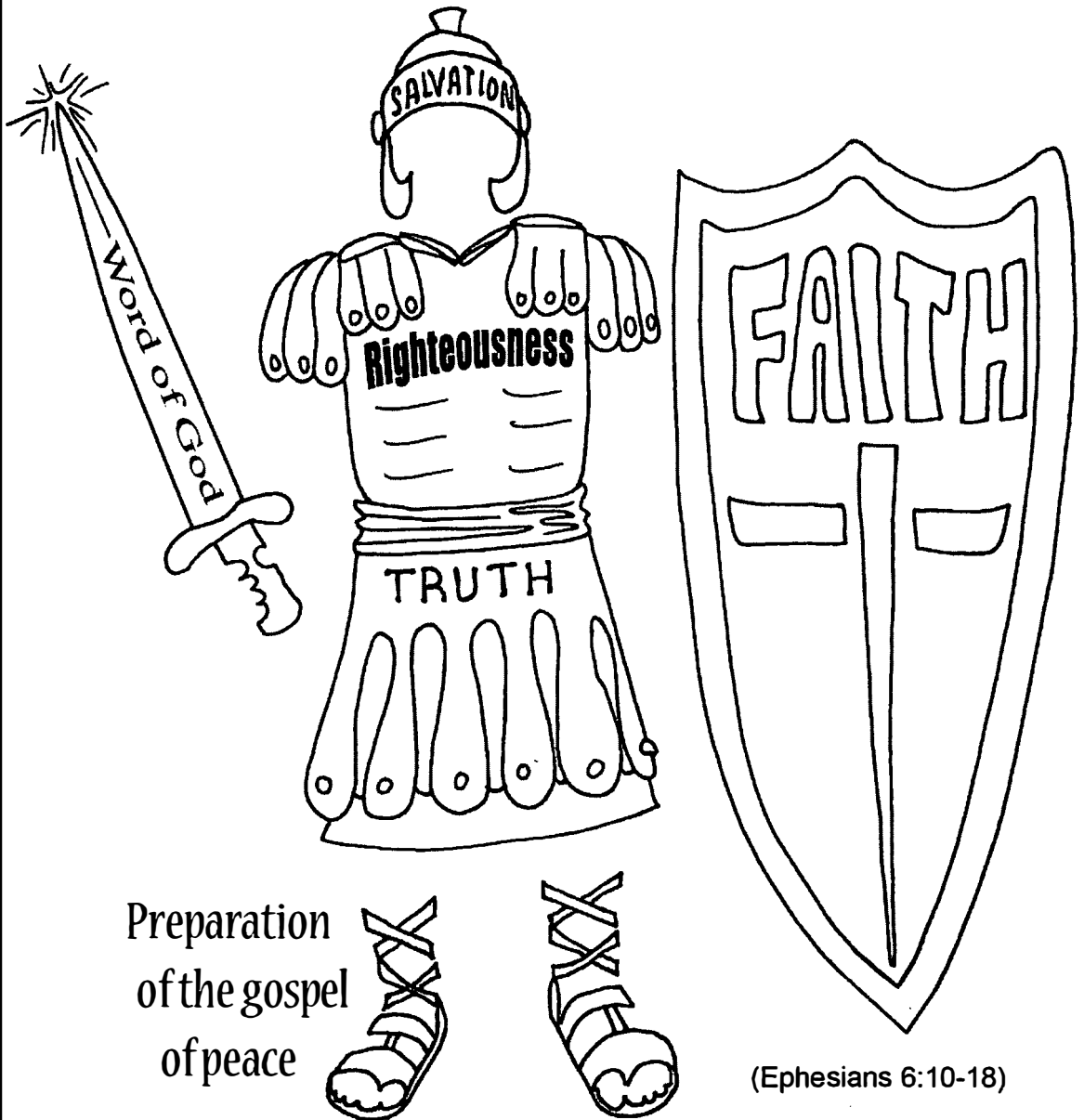
\*Answers on back\*

1. Who did God say was the most righteous on earth?
2. How did the devil think he could get Job to curse God?
3. What did Job lose?
4. What did Job's wife tell him to do?
5. What did Job's friends think caused his problems?
6. Who is our enemy?
7. What do we need to do so we will not yield to temptation?
8. How did God reward Job?

### MEMORY VERSE

Be sober, be vigilant; because  
your adversary the devil,  
as a roaring lion, walketh  
about, seeking whom he may  
devour: 1 Peter 5:8

Draw yourself in the armour of God:



***"Put on the whole armour of God,  
that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."  
Ephesians 6:11***

## Out of Slavery!

In the African country of Zambia, Cindy sat under the stars with over 350 women, singing praises to the Lord. She was thankful for these new believers in Christ, but her heart was already reaching out to several more who she knew were waiting in a nearby building. They needed to be freed from the bondage of evil men who kept them in slavery, and Cindy was asking God to give her the strength she needed to work and pray with these poor souls tonight.

Finally, the happy singers decided to leave for their own huts and mats to sleep. Then with the aid of a flashlight and a translator, Cindy and two other missionary friends walked to the dark building where they could see waiting women with their children.

"Tell them we have come to pray with them," said Cindy to the translator. "Have them to form a line by this wall and we will pray with each one who wants deliverance from this bondage of sin."

As soon as the women understood, they rushed toward the indicated wall. In agreement together, Cindy and her Christian friends placed hands on women and children, praying for their deliverance and safety. Some of the women cried, some screamed and some fell on the floor, shaking in torment of the

devil.

Cindy then knew which women needed what kind of help from Jesus Christ. The devil is a cruel slave driver and these poor souls had been greatly abused by him. Some were under the devil's bondage more than others, but all of them could be set free if they wanted to be.

As she and her helpers worked with these women, she separated them into three groups. The most severe she took to a private place away from the others.

"Tell them that they must renounce the evil slave master over their lives and any charms from him they must burn," Cindy told the translator.

As the women pulled off necklaces, bracelets and other charms, Cindy talked to them about the saving grace of Jesus and his plan for purity in their lives. "You must leave the old way of sin and the devil," she told them. "He has made you hurt in your body and spirit, but if you will trust in Jesus Christ and take his way, he will give you peace, and there is healing in His way."

That night, many more Zambian women were added to the number of freed believers in Jesus.

--Sis. Connie Sorrell

[Stories in this quarter's lessons were rewritten by Connie Sorrell from *Voices of the Faithful*--Editor]

1. Job. 2. By taking everything. 3. Children, servants, animals. 4. Curse God and die. 5. Sin in his life. 6. The devil. 7. Watch and stay close to God. 8. By giving him more than he had lost.

## Answers:

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Primary Papers

October 5, 2014

### A Call to Follow Jesus

Long ago, there were no electric lights. There were no grocery stores or hardware stores where mothers and fathers could buy produce and meat or tools and supplies. People had to work hard, hunting, growing, or fishing for food. Sometimes people made things to trade for food or money in the markets in the city. Long ago, in the city of Galilee, there lived a man named Simon. He and his brother Andrew were fisherman. Fisherman in those days used string and hooks to catch fish sometimes. They also used spears, baskets, traps or nets. There were many different ways to fish. Once the fish were caught, they were taken to shore and separated into two piles: clean or unclean. According to the Jewish laws written by Moses in the book of Leviticus, fish that had scales and fins were clean, but fish without them, like catfish and eel, were considered unclean. Then they had to be counted for tax purposes so they could be divided fairly between the fisherman. The fish had to be sold while they still had water on them. Some of the fish were taken to a town where they were dried and shipped to other parts of the world. Many Romans loved the dried fish that came from Galilee.

The sea of Galilee is about 13 miles long and 8 miles wide. There were many fisherman in Galilee. Many fish lived in the huge lake. A man named Zebedee and his sons, James and John, owned several boats. Simon and Andrew were their partners. Sometimes they fished from the boats, but sometimes they fished with a huge net while they stood on the shore. One man would fling the net in a circle. The weights would pull the net down into the water. Fish swimming above the nets were caught. Simon and Andrew were fishing when they saw a man walking on the shore.

At some point in our lives, Jesus calls everyone to come and follow Him. Asking Jesus into your hearts is the first step of following Christ. He expects us to leave behind old, bad habits and sins, just like Simon, Andrew, James and John left behind their nets. If we stay close to Him and listen for His voice, He will help us and teach us. He may call us to do other things, also.

"Follow me, and I will make you a fisher of men," the Stranger said. What did this Man mean? Simon and Andrew were intrigued. They left their nets and followed the Man. A little farther down the shore, they saw James and John mending nets in their father's boat. "Come, follow me," the Man called. James and John left their father's boat to follow Him. Twelve men answered Jesus' call to be His disciples. Some of them were old, some were young. They had different jobs and personalities. Jesus taught them many things about God and eternity and showed them how to live in this world by living a holy life without sin. Jesus is calling all of us to follow Him. How will you answer His call?

## A CALL TO FOLLOW JESUS

**Theme: Jesus is calling all of us to leave behind our old lives of sin to follow Him.**

Fill in the blank. Look up Mark 3:14-19 to find the names of all twelve of Jesus disciples.

And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: And \_\_\_\_\_ he surnamed Peter; And \_\_\_\_\_ the *son* of Zebedee, and \_\_\_\_\_ the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: And \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ the *son* of Alphaeus, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ the Canaanite, And \_\_\_\_\_ Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and \_\_\_\_\_ they went into an house.



Sea of Galilee

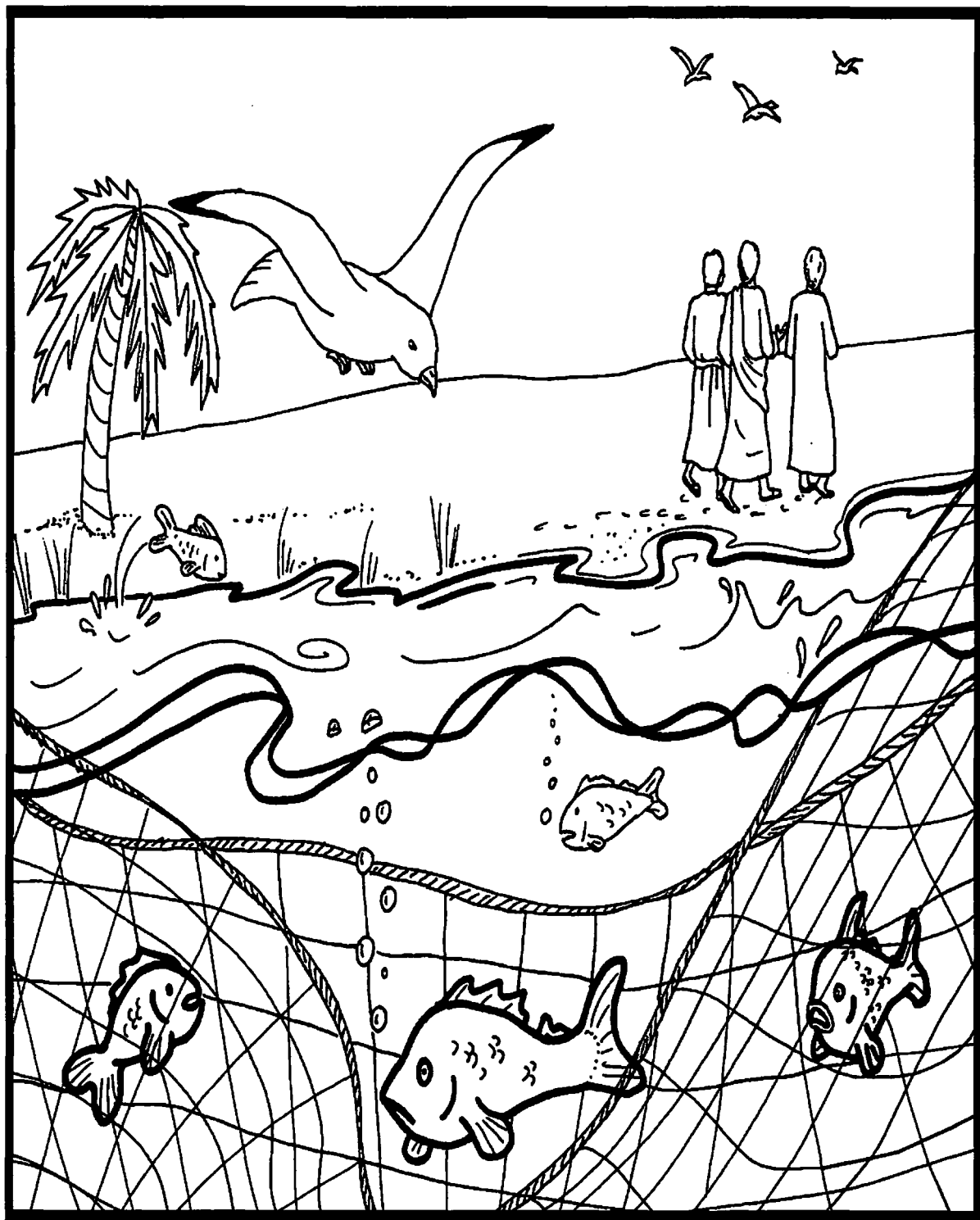
### QUESTIONS

\*Answers on back\*

1. What job did Simon and Andrew do?
2. Where did Simon live?
3. What are some different ways to fish?
4. What kind of fish were considered clean?
5. What kind of fish were thought to be unclean?
6. Who were Simon and Andrew partners with?
7. What did Jesus ask Simon and Andrew to do?
8. What is the first step of following Christ?

**"...Follow me, and I will  
make you fishers of men."**

**Mark 4:19**



## Peggy Needed Love

It was bedtime at the church home for orphans. In the nursery for children five and under, Peggy climbed onto her cot and lay down like all the other little children in the rows of cots.

"I want all of you to stay in bed after I turn the light out," said the chaperone who stood in the doorway of the nursery. "I do not want to hear one word said after the light goes off. Do not cry. No sniffles! I will be checking on you in a little while. If anyone has disobeyed, that child shall be punished."

The chaperone switched off the light. She stood at the doorway and listened. The children lay stiff and quiet on their beds waiting for her to leave. Finally, she turned and shut the door. The children relaxed. Some of the children cried softly. They missed the loving touch of a mother and father. They cried for a home where they could live with brothers and sisters to play with and parents to obey. An orphanage is a sad place to live.

When Peggy heard the chaperone shut the door, she quickly rolled off of her cot and tiptoed to her friend's cot.

"Here, Jacki, I will tuck you into bed," she whispered. After neatly tucking the top sheet around Jacki's shoulders and chin, Peggy bent

down and kissed her on the cheek. "Good-night! Sleep tight!" she whispered. Then she tiptoed back to her cot.

In a minute, Jacki rolled out of her cot. She tiptoed to Peggy's cot, picked up the top sheet and neatly tucked it around Peggy's shoulders and under her chin.

"Good-night, Peggy!" whispered Jacki. "See you in the morning!" She kissed Peggy's cheek softly. Then Jacki went to her cot and tucked herself into bed.

Tucking each other into bed was a comfort to these two little girls who did not have any family to kiss them good-night. Peggy's older sister and brother were put into other buildings on the grounds. They were not allowed to be together which made them sad.

Peggy was born in 1939 and her mother died soon after her birth. Her daddy could not care for his three children because he was too poor. He took them to this church orphanage, but Peggy did not learn anything there about Jesus. She did not know it then, but He was taking care of her.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Answers:

1. Fisherman. 2. Galilee. 3. Using spears, hooks and lines or nets. 4. Fish that had scales or fins. 5. Fish with no scales, like catfish or eel. 6. Zebedee and his sons, James and John. 7. Come, follow me. 8. Asking Christ into your heart.





### Recognizing God's Call

"**E**lijah will surely die!" Queen Jezebel cried. "How dare he kill all of the prophets of the gods I worship?" Elijah heard about the Queen's fury and ran for his life. He walked and walked for forty days through the wilderness and finally came to a great mountain. He found a cave and decided to stay there. "Go stand before me on the mountain," God told Elijah.

Elijah stood watching as God caused a terrible windstorm to blow over the mountain. The wind beat so hard at the rocks that they fell and shattered into pieces. The Lord was not in the wind. Elijah tried to keep his balance as an earthquake shook the mountain. But God was not in the earthquake. Then, Elijah felt the heat of a fire passing by. But God was not in the fire.

Elijah still waited to hear from God. Finally, he heard a soft, gentle voice. "Why are you here, Elijah?" the voice asked. "I have faithfully served you and tried to turn the people back to you," Elijah said, sadly. "But the people of Israel have killed many of your prophets and now they are trying to kill me." "Go back the way you came and anoint Hazael to be king," God instructed Elijah. "Also anoint Elisha to take your place as prophet."

What do people mean when they talk about "God's Call?" Many people have a time in their lives when they are sure God wants them to do something, like being a minister, pastor, teacher, missionary or other jobs that involve helping others learn about God. Sometimes people may feel God calling them to move or to do something special like speaking to someone or helping someone else. Sometimes people call this "feeling led" or "called" to do something.

How can we know if God is calling us? Will we get a letter in the mail, or hear God speaking? There are several ways God can speak to us. Yes, He could speak in a voice that we could hear; but most of the time, we understand what God wants us to do after praying or fasting, reading the Bible, getting advice from Godly friends, and listening patiently for His voice. Sometimes it's a small idea that we may know isn't our own. God may cause things to happen that let us know He is calling us to do something. Some people have had dreams or heard a voice telling them to do something that they were sure was God. Spending time away from things that distract us will help us concentrate on prayer and understanding God's will. One verse in Psalms tells us to be still, or to listen quietly, and know that I am God.

# RECOGNIZING GOD'S CALL

**Theme: How can we know that God is calling us?**

**Bible Drill! Whoever finds the answers to the questions about God's calling first is the winner!**

**1 Timothy 1:9** \_\_\_\_\_

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**1 Kings 19:4** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Romans 8:28** \_\_\_\_\_

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## QUESTIONS

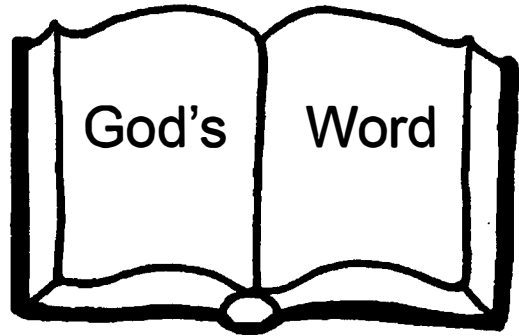
*\*Answers on back\**

1. Why did Elijah run for his life?
2. Where did Elijah decide to stay?
3. What was God NOT in?
4. How did God speak to Elijah?
5. What does "God's Call" mean?
6. What are some ways we can know God is calling us?
7. Be \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ that I am God.
8. Has God ever called you to do something?

**"...Be still, and know  
that I am God...."**

**Psalms 46:10**

Here are some ways God can talk with us:



## Jesus Loved Peggy

Peggy's mama died when she was a baby and Peggy's daddy was too poor to keep his three children, so he put them into an orphanage. Peggy's brother was put with the boys, her sister with the girls and she lived in the nursery.

Lonely for family, Peggy made friends with a girl her age named Jacki. Peggy had black straight hair from her Wyandotte (Indian) family blood line, and Jacki had red hair and brown freckles on her face. They loved each other like sisters because they did not have any family to be around or care for them.

Their hearts were sad, which made them act naughty sometimes. They would disobey the call to come inside for supper.

"Peggy! Jacki!" their chaperone exclaimed. "You girls must like to be punished, because you act naughty so often!"

The two little girls just looked at their chaperon. She was not kind to them so they did not care if they obeyed her or not.

"For your punishment," said the

Chaperone, "you two girls will be separated tonight. One will sleep on the south side of the room and the other on the north side. You lost your chance to go to the chapel service, too!"

Peggy and Jacki did not say a word nor did they cry. They raised their chins and did not look at each other nor the chaperone as she marched them inside the orphanage.

Of all the children who needed to hear about Jesus, Peggy and Jacki certainly did, but instead, they were often not allowed to attend chapel because of their naughty conduct.

Jesus loved Peggy and He saw her broken heart. Years later, she married into a family who taught her hungry soul about Jesus. It took years before her heart finally softened to let the love of Jesus come in. Today, Sis. Peggy Wittenborn is a very happy, obedient child of God!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Answers:

1. Because the queen wanted to kill him. 2. In a cave. 3. Wind, earthquake, fire. 4. A still, small voice. 5. A time when God lets us know what He wants us to do. 6. Answers may vary. 7. Still/know. 8. Answers will vary.



Primary Papers

October 19, 2014

### Responding to God's Call

"Samuel!" a voice called. Samuel was a young boy who lived in the temple. An old priest named Eli, lived there also and was teaching him how to serve the Lord and others in the temple. It was late at night when Samuel heard the voice calling his name. He sat up in bed, listening carefully. Did Eli need him? Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called for me?" "I didn't call you," Eli told him. "Go back and lie down." So Samuel lay down to rest. "Samuel!" He heard his name again! "Eli must want me to do something for him," Samuel thought, and he went to the room where Eli was sleeping. "Here I am!" Samuel told Eli. "You called for me." "Son," Eli replied. "I didn't call for you. Go lie down."

"Samuel!" The boy heard his name a third time. He went to Eli and said, "Here I am! I heard you call for me." Eli had been thinking. If he hadn't called Samuel, and no one else in the temple had called Samuel's name, maybe God was trying to speak with the boy. "Go lie down," Eli instructed. "This time, if you hear the voice again, say, 'Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.'" Samuel went to lie down. "Samuel! Samuel!" the voice called. "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening," Samuel said, just as Eli had instructed. God told Samuel some things that He was going to do. Hearing about this made Samuel sad and scared, because the things God told Samuel about were going to happen to Eli and his sons. Eli's sons were priests also, but they were very wicked and caused other people to sin against God, too. Eli was sad when He heard God's message, but he knew his sons were evil and trusted that God would deal with their sins justly. Samuel grew to be a great prophet of God. Many times God showed him things that would happen in the future. Another great prophet who received visions from God was Isaiah. One day, Isaiah saw a vision of the holiest of holies, a room in the temple covered by a veil. He saw the Lord sitting on a throne. "Who shall I send? Who will tell others about me?" "Here am I Lord!" Isaiah cried. "Send me." Abraham was also called by God to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. "Here am I, Lord," Abraham answered when God called him. Abraham began preparing to do what God had asked. When God saw Abraham's faithfulness, He sent an angel to stop Abraham from sacrificing his son and provided a ram for their sacrifice. When God calls us, sometimes He may ask us to do hard things like He did with Samuel, Isaiah, and Abraham. Answering God's call with, "Here am I Lord, send me!" shows the Lord that we are ready to obey Him and that we will trust Him no matter what He asks us to do or where He sends us.

**Theme: Those who answer God's call with "Here am I; send me!" show God they are ready to trust Him with their service.**

**Crack the code to figure out another verse about answering God's call.**

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**\*Answers on back\***

1. Who did Samuel think was calling him?
2. What did Eli tell Samuel to say?
3. Why did God's words make Samuel sad and scared?
4. Who was another prophet that had a vision?
5. What did Isaiah say when God called him?
6. What did Abraham say when God called him?
7. Will the Lord always ask us to do easy things?
8. What does it show God when we answer, "Here am I, send me?"

**"I heard the voice of the  
Lord, saying,  
Whom shall I send,  
and who will go for us?  
Then said I, Here *am* I;  
send me."  
Isaiah 6:8**

*"...Speak; for thy servant heareth." I Samuel 3:10*



## Obedient Tag-Along

The warm September sunshine felt good on Kim's back as she walked toward an old battered car that had stopped in the driveway to her horse barn at Highland Youth Ranch.

A slim, tired-looking mother got out of the driver's door. She reached into the back seat and brought out a small girl, a baby boy. Another girl walked around the car to join her mother.

"Hello! Welcome to Crystal Peaks!" Kim greeted them. "I am Kim and tell me your names!" She knelt down to hear the soft voices of the girls.

"Robin," whispered the taller girl.

"Karen," whispered the younger girl.

"I am so glad you came, Robin and Karen," said Kim. "Karen, do you like dogs? We have a frisky dog who would love to play with you!"

Karen had barely nodded her head when Tag-Along came wagging his tail to meet them. Karen was delighted. Her little hand reached out to touch his wet nose and he licked her hand.

"No, Tag-Along," said Kim. "No licking!"

Tag-Along sat down and looked across into Karen's eyes. He had seen many sad, hurting children while on this ranch and, yes, he could see in her eyes a deep hurt and sadness.

"Here, throw this stick for Tag-Along and he will bring it back to you," said Kim as she handed Karen a worn, sturdy stick. Without looking up, Karen grabbed the stick and gave it a quick toss. Tag-Along jumped up, picked up the stick with his teeth and put it into Karen's small hand.

A smile like a warm ray of sunshine lit up Karen's face. Was this big dog willing to obey her? She threw the stick again this time a little farther out. Again, Tag-Along brought it to her. Karen reached out to pat this kind, obedient dog. Tag-Along wagged all his body under her touch.

Karen saw that Tag-Along wanted to obey her because he liked her. She was used to being hurt and cussed at, but not obeyed. After several visits to the ranch, Karen learned acceptance and obedience through Tag-Along's acceptance and obedience to her.

For the first time in their lives, Robin, Karen and their mother learned about God and His obedient Son, Jesus, by animal lessons at Kim's ranch.

—*Sis. Connie Sorrell*

## Answers:

1. Eli. 2. Speak Lord. Your servant is listening. 3. It was bad news about Eli's sons. 4. Isaiah. 5. Here am I, Lord; send me. 6. Here am I. 7. No. 8. That we trust Him and are willing to obey Him no matter what.





Primary Papers

October 26, 2014

### Saul's Call From God

**I** request permission, sir," Saul asked Caiphas, the high priest, "to pursue the Christians that have fled from Jerusalem." Caiphas looked at the man standing before him, and saw a man who was well-educated, determined, and ready to fight for the cause of the religion that had been handed down from Moses before him. They both felt that these followers of Jesus were a threat to their way of life. Caiphas gave Saul official letters, waxed with the seal of the high priest and addressed to all of the synagogues in the north in case Saul needed their help. "I will bring back every Christian bound and captive," Saul promised Caiphas.

With a troop of soldiers at his command, Saul started on his mission. However, this mission did not turn out to be as easy as Saul had thought. His troop of men traveled for many days without gaining any Christian captives. Probably feeling tired, hungry, and even a little discouraged, Saul's spirits may have perked up at coming close to the city of Damascus. Damascus was a very old city with well-tended gardens and a nice inn. Suddenly, a bright light shone around Saul. Saul couldn't move. He fell to the ground. "Saul, why are you persecuting me?" a voice asked. "Who are you?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," the voice said. "Why do you kick against the pricks?" Saul knew the voice was talking about a goad. A goad was a long stick that was about nine feet long and sharp at one end. Herdsman used it for poking cattle. The cattle couldn't kick against it or resist it, because the herdsman was standing so far away. Trembling in astonishment and fear, Saul asked, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" "Go into the city and you will be told what to do," the Lord instructed. The group of men with Saul watched in astonishment. They could see and hear Saul, but could not hear the voice he was talking to. Saul stood up to prepare to finish his journey to Damascus, but he couldn't see anything. For three days, Saul couldn't see.

Finally, God gave a man named Ananias a vision, telling him to help Saul. "But Saul has killed many Believers," Ananias protested. "Go," the Lord told him. "He will preach to the lost in my name and will suffer greatly for my sake." Ananias touched Saul's eyes. Scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see! Saul was baptized and learned many things from the disciples in Damascus. God called Saul to a life of ministry. Saul's life changed drastically from a man who relied on himself and his religion to a man who trusted in God. He became known by his Latin name, Paul.

## SAUL'S CALL FROM GOD

**Theme: Saul answered God's call and his life changed. God used Saul (Paul) to preach the gospel to many lost souls and speak to us through his letters that are now books of the Bible.**


Color the books of the New Testament Paul wrote light green. Color the books Paul did not write gray. (See back page for answers.)

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			

### QUESTIONS

\*Answers on back\*

1. What was Saul's mission?
2. Who was the high priest?
3. Who went with Saul on his journey?
4. Why might Saul have felt discouraged?
5. What city was Saul coming near?
6. What did Saul hear?
7. How long was Saul blind?
8. What did Saul become known as?



A new heart also will I  
give you, and a  
new spirit will  
I put within you....  
Ezekiel 36:26



## Robin Meets Sally

Robin and Karen had come to Highland Youth Ranch because Kim had invited them to meet her dogs and horses. On their first meeting, four-year-old Karen made good friends with Tag-Along, a big brown dog. While Karen and Tag-Along were playing together, Kim continued to kneel by Robin so she could hear her soft voice.

"I like the horses sewed on your vest, Robin," said Kim. "Do you like horses?"

Robin nodded her head without looking up. Her mother said, "Robin won't talk to anyone, Kim. It isn't healthy."

"Well, I know something that can help a person talk in spite of themselves," said Kim cheerfully. She reached for Robin's hand. "Will you hold my hand while I lead you to the stable?"

Kim picked up Robin's limp hand and together they walked to the horse barn. Kim had already tethered a gentle mare named Sally by the gate of her stall.

"Nee-aa—hh!" said Sally when she saw them coming.

"Hold out your hand, Robin," said Kim. "I am putting three carrots in your hand so you can feed Sally, who is waiting to be your friend. Now hold out your hand flat and do not curl your fingers. Let me help you hold your hand where Sally can reach it. Yes, just like you are doing. Thank you for obeying! See, Sally can pick up each carrot with her lips and chew it with her strong teeth."

As Robin felt the warm breath of Sally on her hand, she felt a warmth flow into her body that she had not felt before. This big powerful animal wanted something from her—carrots at the moment, but it pleased Robin. After the carrots were gone, she gently touch Sally's big nose.

"Snnn-oort!" said Sally and she looked at Robin.

"Let's brush her," said Kim. She reached for two soft brushes laying on a wooden bench beside the stall. Robin stood on a stool and let Kim guide her hand with the brush down Sally's long neck. Sally turned her head to see who was brushing her.

"See, Sally wants to be your friend," said Kim. "Even animals respond to the touch of love."  
—*Sis. Connie Sorrell*

**Books of the Bible Written by Paul:** Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, \*Possibly Acts

## Answers:

1. To kill and capture all Christians.
2. Caiphas.
3. Troops of soldiers.
4. They hadn't captured any Christians.
5. Damascus.
6. The Lord's voice.
7. Three days.
8. Paul.

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Primary Papers

November 2, 2014

### God's Call to All Ages

Eight-year-old Josiah was very sad to hear his father had been killed. Josiah's father had been king of Israel, and Josiah was heir to the throne. What could such a young boy do for his kingdom? Eight years later, Josiah was still a very young man, only 16 years old. He began to pray and seek the one true God of his ancestors. Many of his people had married others from neighboring kingdoms, who had brought in their own false gods and idols to worship. Groves of trees had been set up for worshipping false gods. People would bring their jewelry and other ornaments to decorate the fir trees growing in their god's sacred grounds. Josiah wanted everyone to know that the Lord was the true God of Israel. What could he do? He began searching for these false gods. King Josiah cut down the groves where people worshipped these false gods, broke the idols into many pieces, and had the priests in charge of these false religions killed so they wouldn't spread any more evil.

"You are just a young man," people probably told him. "Why do you think it would be good to do this?" But King Josiah stayed true to God. The Bible says that he walked in the ways of King David, focusing only on God and not turning to the right or to the left. When King Josiah was still a young man, 25 years old, he began to rebuild the temple. He gave money to the high priest, who hired workmen. They worked hard to make the temple a beautiful place to worship God once again. "The workmen are doing as you have told them," a scribe named Shapan reported to King Josiah. "And are dedicated to working on the temple. Hilkiah the high priest has given me this book they found." And Shapan began reading the ancient writings of Moses.

"Our fathers have not kept the words in this book," Josiah said sadly. "Go ask the Lord for mercy and what shall be done about this." "I have heard the repentance of the king," God said. "He will not live to see the evil that is the consequence of what these people have done." Josiah had the words of the book read aloud to everyone, young and old. In front of them all, King Josiah made a covenant to always follow God and keep his commandments. Even though he was a young boy, King Josiah was able to drive the false gods from Israel. Many people saw his dedication to God and turned from their wicked ways to worship the true God of their ancestors. God calls people at all ages. Some are young, and some are old. It is up to us to listen for God's call and to be ready to answer it at any age.

## GOD'S CALL TO ALL AGES

**Theme: God's call can come at any age. It is up to us to listen and be ready for God's call.**

Match the following Bible verses to the young men mentioned in the verses who were called by God to do important things.

2 Kings 11:21

Samuel

1 Samuel 17:42

Timothy

1 Timothy 4:12

David

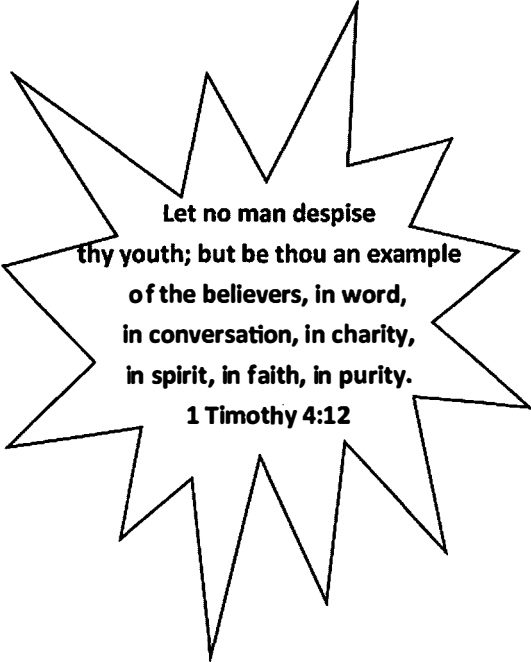
1 Samuel 3:1

Joash

### QUESTIONS

**\*Answers on back\***

1. How old was Josiah when he became king?
2. What did Josiah do with the false idols and priests?
3. What did Josiah start to rebuild?
4. What did Hilkiah find?
5. Why did the words Shapan read make Josiah sad?
6. What did God promise Josiah?
7. What covenant did Josiah make?
8. When does God's call come?



Let no man despise  
thy youth; but be thou an example  
of the believers, in word,  
in conversation, in charity,  
in spirit, in faith, in purity.

**1 Timothy 4:12**



## Learning of Power

At the Highland Youth Ranch, Kim showed seven-year-old Robin how to brush Sally's long neck. Sally was a gentle brown mare with a white strip down her broad forehead. She also had a white sock by each of her four dark hooves. Sally was a quarter horse.

"Would you like to ride on Sally's back?" Kim asked Robin.

Robin nodded her head. She tried to hide her face from Kim, but she did not mind Sally seeing the big smile that spread over her face as she helped Kim put the blanket on Sally's back. Then they put the saddle on the blanket and Kim had to tighten the girth underneath the saddle.

Robin stroked Sally's nose when she could. Then Kim put the bridle on Sally's head. "This bit in her mouth does not hurt her," explained Kim when she saw Robin frown and touch it.

"Sally is big and strong. This bit helps her to be careful with her strength and to use her strength for good. The reins connected to her mouth bit we will lay right on her neck like this. Now come over here to her left side and I will put you up in the saddle."

While talking, Kim guided Robin into each

step. "Now put your hands on my shoulders and I will lift you onto the saddle and then you put your leg on the other side of the saddle."

Robin obeyed and nearly giggled with glee as she sat high on Sally's back and looked down on the world beneath her.

"Put these reins in your hands and hold them like this," instructed Kim, as she helped Robin. "In time I will teach you how to use them to guide Sally. Right now I will lead Sally with a lead rope. You learn to sit up straight and move with Sally's walk."

Kim clicked her tongue and Sally stepped forward. Robin giggled nervously with happiness. She felt the power of Sally's body moving beneath her and was glad that Kim was leading her.

Power is useful when it is controlled and guided by capable hands. It is wise to let God guide our lives while we are young and have lots of energy to let Him guide and use in His Kingdom.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Answers:

1. 8. 2. Broke them & had priests killed. 3. The temple. 4. A book of Moses' laws. 5. He knew his people hadn't obeyed God. 6. That he wouldn't have to see the evil happen to his people. 7. To obey God and keep his commandments. 8. Anytime.





### Refusing God's Call

A region torn by war, inhabited by American troops, divided by religion and politics. A land of desert, mountains and rich in oil. We know this region as northeastern Syria, northern Iraq, northwestern Iran and southeastern Turkey. In Biblical times, it was called Assyria. Assyria was known for forming the largest army yet seen, its great warriors and cruel warfare. The Assyrian people were tall with thick, bushy beards. For 300 years, Assyria was a brutal world empire. They defeated the Israelites and carried thousands of Jews into captivity.

"Go share the gospel with the people of Nineveh," God instructed Jonah. "Tell them to repent of their wicked ways." Because of their cruelty and stories passed down through generations about the Assyrians, Jonah couldn't believe he had heard God's call correctly. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria. Jonah quickly boarded a boat heading in the opposite direction to a place called "Tarshish." Jonah fell asleep as the journey began. Jonah was sleeping so deeply that he didn't feel the wind rocking the ship. He didn't hear the crash of thunder or see the brilliant lightning streak through the sky. He didn't feel the fear of the sailors as they began calling on their gods to save them from the storm. The captain of the ship noticed Jonah sleeping. "Why are you asleep?" he asked. "Get up! Pray that we will be delivered from this storm!"

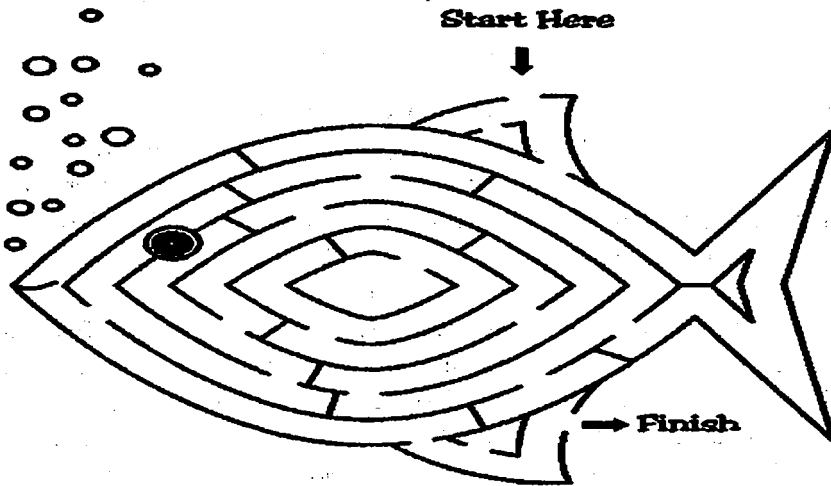
"Someone must have done something terribly wicked that has caused this storm," they decided. "Let's cast lots to see who has made this happen." The lot fell upon Jonah. "Who are you, and what have you done to cause this storm to come on us?" the sailors asked. "I am Hebrew, and I serve the one true God," Jonah explained. "God told me to do something and I ran from Him. Throw me into the sea and the storm will stop." The men didn't want to do this, so they rowed hard, trying their best to fight against the storm.

Seeing that they would never make it otherwise, they finally threw Jonah into the raging waters. A big fish, sent by God, was waiting for Jonah. He swallowed Jonah and Jonah spent three days in the fish's belly. Jonah spent the time talking to God and repenting for not obeying God's calling. The fish spit Jonah out on dry land, and Jonah traveled straight to Nineveh to do what God had commanded. The Assyrians did repent of their wicked ways. The rest of Jonah's story can be read in the book of Jonah, chapters 3 and 4.

## REFUSING GOD'S CALL

**Theme: If we refuse God's call, God will find away to accomplish His will, whether it is getting someone else to do it or helping us to see its importance.**

Complete the maze.



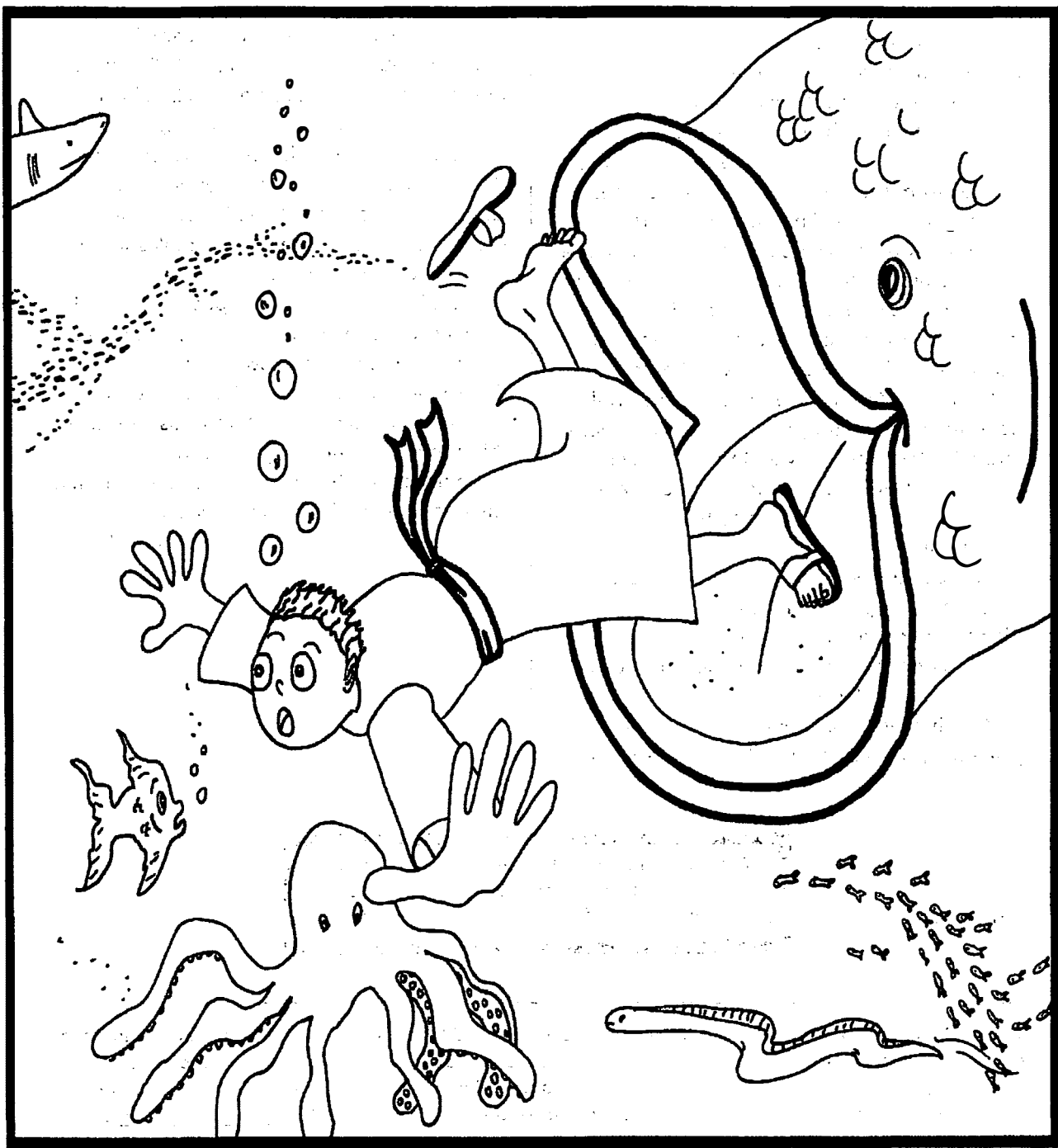
### QUESTIONS

**\*Answers on back\***

1. What country was Nineveh capital of?
2. Why didn't Jonah want to obey God's call?
3. Where did Jonah go?
4. What caused problems on the journey?
5. What was waiting in the sea for Jonah?
6. What happened the three days Jonah was in the sea?
7. Did the Assyrians repent?
8. What should you do if God ever calls you to something you don't want to do?

**And whosoever doth not  
bear his cross,  
and come after me,  
cannot be my disciple.**

**Luke 14:27**



## Robin and Sally in Teamwork

Every time Robin and Karen came to Highland Youth Ranch with their mother, Kim had a new lesson to teach them about dogs and horses and about the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the leaves turned orange, red, and yellow and fell from the trees, so the hurt, hardness, and anger started falling from the hearts of these two little girls who had been abused by a dad who drank too much beer and liquor. Anyone who gets drunk on beer and other alcoholic drinks will say and do things displeasing to God and hurtful to themselves and others.

Robin and Karen knew too well how drinking beer made their daddy raving mad. They were afraid to sleep on Friday and Saturday nights for fear that He would come into their bedroom and hurt them. They also feared for their mama's life.

At the ranch with Kim, the girls felt safe. Karen loved to put her arms around Tag-Along's neck and hug this gentle dog. Robin loved to ride Sally and feel the power of this strong horse underneath her.

Kim showed Robin how to use the reins to guide Sally herself. Robin felt free to talk when

she was on Sally. Sometimes, she even giggled out loud!

"You and Sally make a good team," Kim called to Robin who was walking Sally around the corral fence. "I think you will be able to ride her in the open before too long."

"You mean out in the field?" asked Robin. Her eyes looked out over the open, unfenced land. "Wow! Sally and I need to really be friends to do that," she said. "I think she will obey me and not try to run."

"Yes, by your love and respect to her, Sally has learned to love and trust you," said Kim. "That is the same way it works with God, our Creator. As we learn to work with God, He directs us and makes us useful for His service in this world. Keep up the good work, Robin!"

Robin sat up straight in the saddle and then she bent over and patted Sally's neck.

—*Sis. Connie Sorrell*

## Answers:

1. Assyria. 2. They were known for cruelty and brutality. 3. Tarshish. 4. A storm. 5. A big fish. 6. He prayed and repented. 7. Yes. 8. Answers will vary.



### Doubting God's Call

Gideon had been raised in an idol-worshipping family. His father was the keeper of the altar of Baal in their hometown of Ophrah. Gideon was threshing wheat and trying to hide his family's harvest from the Midianites.

An angel appeared to Gideon. "Go, and save your people from the Midianites. God has sent you," the angel said. "My family is poor, and I am the least important member of my family," Gideon protested. "How will I be able to save my people?" "God will be with you," the angel replied. "Give me a sign that this message is from God," Gideon requested. Gideon brought meat and cakes of bread and set them on a rock in front of the angel. Gideon watched the angel touch the food with his staff. A fire came out of the rock and burned the food! When nothing was left, the angel disappeared.

That night, Gideon received another call from God. "Tear down your father's altar," God instructed. "Cut down the grove the people built in worship to their false god. Build an altar and offer a sacrifice to me in that place." When his family was asleep, Gideon and ten servants snuck out to the grove, where evergreen trees had been decorated with ornaments and jewelry and altars had been set up for worshipping the false god, Baal. The next day his neighbors and family were angry to find the trees gone and a sacrifice to the one true God built on their ruined altar. "Kill Gideon!" they demanded. Gideon was gone. He had sent out messengers, looking for people who would join his army. Many people answered his call.

"I ask for another sign that you will be with us in battle," Gideon requested of God. "I will put out a fleece. If there is dew on the fleece but not on the ground around it, I will know that You will be with us." The next morning Gideon awoke to find the ground dry and the fleece so wet with dew that he filled up a bowl of water wringing it out. But it was only natural that dew would cling to a garment and leave the ground dry. So Gideon came to God with another request. "Please, don't be angry with me, but if You could let the fleece be dry this time and the ground wet, that would definitely prove that you are with us in battle." The next day Gideon found his fleece dry when the ground was still soaked with dew.

## DOUBTING GOD'S CALL

**Theme:** Sometimes God will send confirmations of His call through dreams, scriptures, advice from Godly friends, or circumstances like Gideon's fleece. If God calls us to something, we should go forward with confidence, knowing God is in control.

### Cross Word Puzzle

R A F M P F E S F Z

X X L J R C O I J I

N C N T E I R G G O

O Z O E A E F N Q G

E P L Z N R F N Z H

D F R C U P O A O G

I S Z R Y E J L A C

G R A N G E L S E W

R S P L H Z T P M R

E C N E D I F N O C

ALTAR, GIDEON, FLEECE, FIRE,

CONFIRM, CONFIDENCE, SIGN, ANGEL

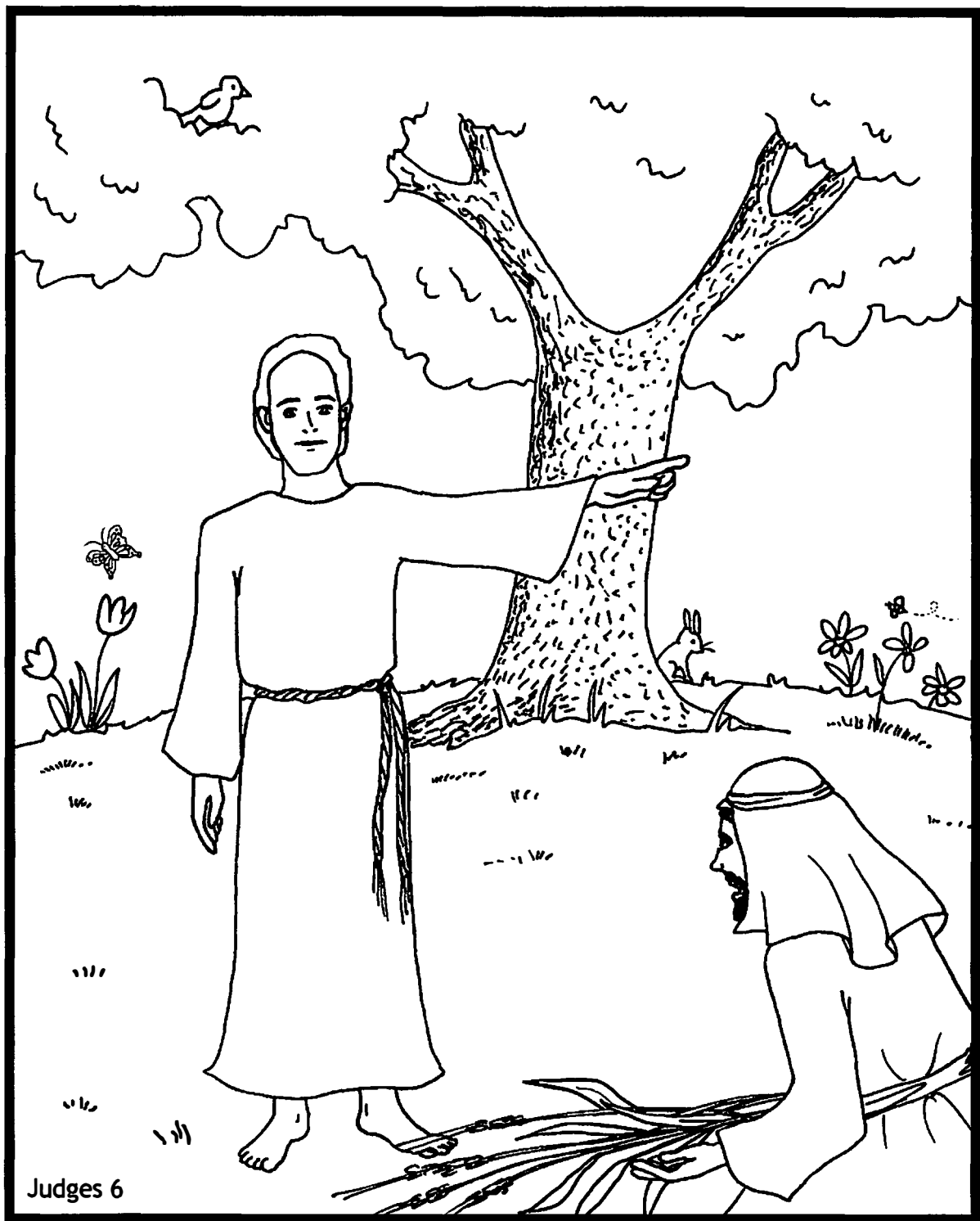
## QUESTIONS

**\*Answers on back\***

1. What did Gideon's father do?
2. What did the angel tell Gideon to do?
3. What sign did the angel give Gideon?
4. What did God ask Gideon to do that night?
5. How did the townspeople feel about what Gideon did?
6. What did Gideon do next?
7. What did Gideon put out in the grass?
8. What are some ways God confirms His calling?

And Jesus  
answering  
saith unto them,  
Have faith in God.  
Mark 11:22

Teachers: \* The story of Gideon will be continued next week.\*



Judges 6

## Instructions and Lessons

As soon as their mother stopped their old car in the driveway at Highland Youth Ranch, Robin and Karen unsnapped their seat belts, opened the car doors, and burst into the cold November air. "Kim, we are here!" they called as they ran toward the barn.

Tag-Along came with his tail wagging to greet Karen who threw her arms around his neck in a warm embrace.

"Hi, Robin! Hi, Karen!" Kim greeted them. "Hello, Emily!" Kim called to their mother with a friendly wave of her hand. "I am glad to see you have jackets on to keep you warm. Come on and lets get Sally ready, Robin. She is waiting for her time with you."

After visiting just a few weeks, Robin had learned the way to brush Sally and put on her bridle, blanket and saddle. Of course, she just helped because she was not strong enough to do it alone. While they prepared Sally, Kim talked to Robin. She gave her instructions on how to work with horses and she used this advice for lessons on how to please God.

"You and Sally have become such good friends," said Kim. "I am so happy with the respect you have for each other. Friendship is

built on respect and trust, you know. Sally has learned that she can trust you to not yank on her reins, scoot around in the saddle nor give her mixed commands. At the same time you have learned to respect her strength and watch that you do not force her to do something she is afraid to do."

Robin nodded. She was learning the value of respect and trust. Even though her life at home had not changed much her father still drank beer and came home drunk, she felt stronger within. Her friendship with Sally made her feel valuable and needed. Kim let her know that her Creator, God, and his Son, Jesus Christ, put value on her life even more than Sally's.

After Robin was up in the saddle and riding Sally, Kim walked over to Emily to speak with her. Before she could speak, Emily said, "Oh, Kim! I am amazed at my daughters! Their attitudes and outlook on life are so much better than when we came here! Thank you so very much!"

Kim put an arm around Emily's shoulders. "I have been just a small part of the solution," she said. "Tag-Along really likes Karen, and Sally really likes Robin. But most of all, it is God's love that fits us together so nicely."

—*Sis. Connie Sorrell*

## Answers:

1. Keeper of Baal's altar. 2. To save his people. 3. Burned food. 4. Tear down Baal's altars and make a sacrifice to Him. 5. Angry. 6. Formed an army. 7. A fleece. 8. Answers will vary.





Primary Papers

November 23, 2014

### **Doubting God's Call (Part II)**

God called Gideon to save his people from the Midianites. "My family is poor, and I am the least important member of my family," Gideon protested. Gideon sent out messages to the Israelites, asking for men to join his army. More than 30,000 men responded to his call. God knew He did not need 30,000 men to carry out His plan. God helped Gideon pick three hundred men to fight the Midianites. One night God told Gideon, "If you are still afraid to attack, go to the Midianite camp. Listen to what the soldiers say. It will encourage you."

Gideon and his servant quietly left their camp to spy on their enemy. Gideon knew the Midianites, the Amalikites, and their allies were camped in the valley. "As thick as locusts," someone said. "And it's as impossible to count their camels as it is to count the sand on the seashore." Gideon and his servant listened as one of the soldiers told his friend about a dream. "I dreamed that a round loaf of barley came rolling into camp. It struck the tent so hard that it collapsed." "This can only represent the sword of Gideon," the friend responded. "God has given us into their hands." "Get up!" Gideon cried to the sleeping soldiers at the Israelite camp. "God has delivered the enemy into our hands." Armed with trumpets and glass water pitchers, the Israelites surrounded the enemy camp. Their eastern enemies were surprised to wake to the sound of trumpets and glass breaking! They were confused and fled. God had helped Gideon and 300 men defeat their enemies.

Gideon doubted God's call. He thought he wasn't important enough. When God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses said, "Who am I to do this?" Like Gideon, he didn't feel qualified to answer God's call. Moses also wondered, "What if they don't believe me?" God gave him signs to prove that he was following God's orders. "But I am slow of speech," was Moses' last excuse. "I made you the way you are," God replied. "Go, and I will help you." "Please send someone else," Moses pleaded. So the Lord arranged for Aaron to speak for him. If we receive a call from God, we may doubt that we are qualified. We may doubt that we have the courage, ability or knowledge to fulfill God's call. God has a plan for each one of our lives. He put Gideon, Moses, and you and me in the families, towns, churches and schools that we are in for a purpose. He has caused events in our lives to happen and people to cross our paths to prepare us for the calling (purpose) that God has in store for us.

## DOUBTING GOD'S CALL

**Theme:** Sometimes God will send confirmations of His call through dreams, scriptures, advice from Godly friends, or circumstances (signs) like Gideon's fleece. If God calls us to something, we should go forward with confidence, knowing God is in control.

### Cross Word Puzzle

#### Across

1. Gideon heard a man telling about a \_\_\_\_.

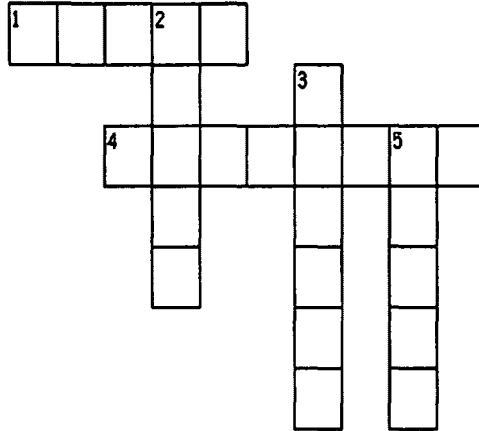
4. Gideon's men carried \_\_\_\_ and glass pitchers.

#### Down

2. God arranged for \_\_\_\_ to speak for Moses.

3. "I am slow of \_\_\_\_," Moses said.

5. God helped Gideon choose \_\_\_\_ hundred men.

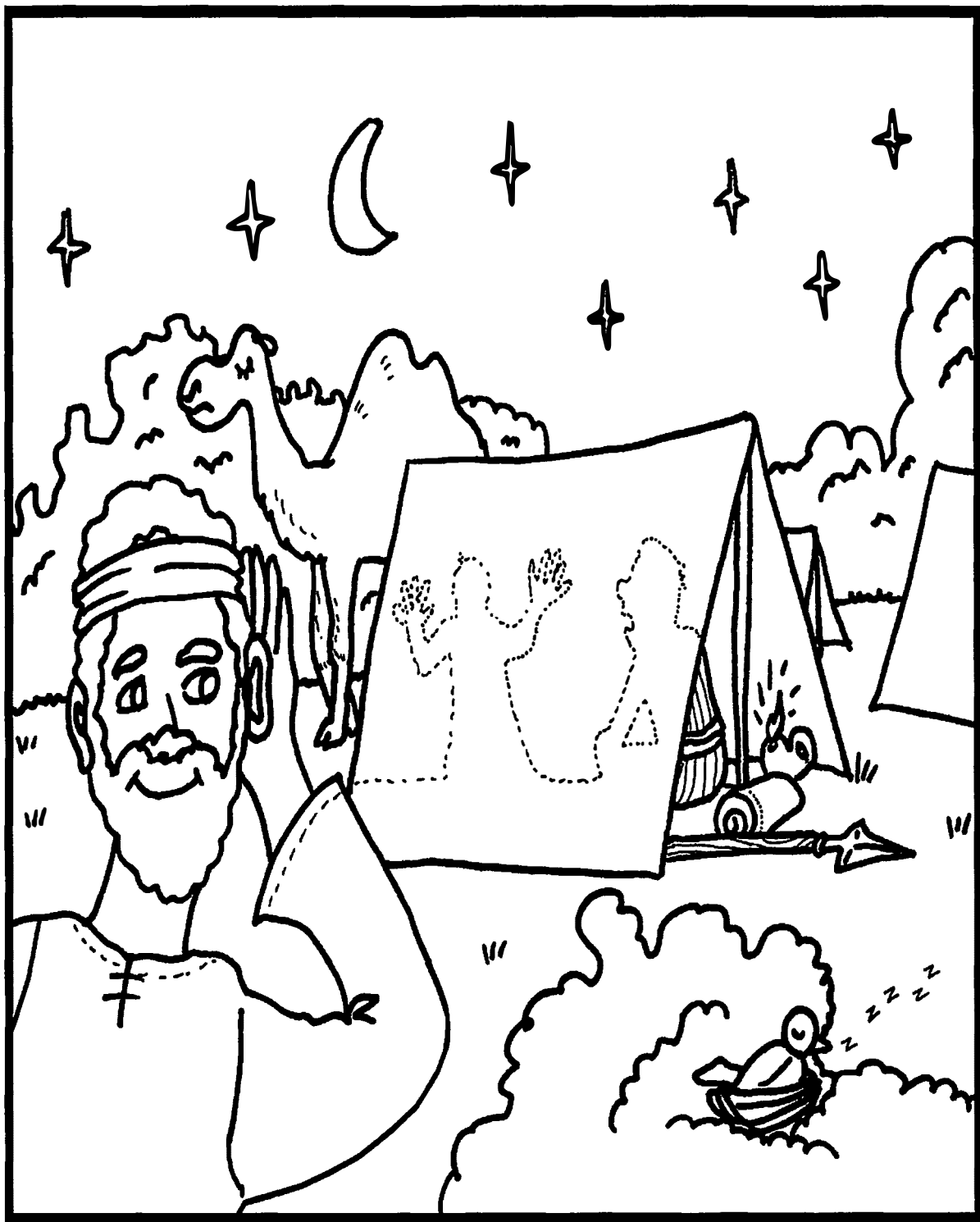


## QUESTIONS

\*Answers on back\*

1. How many men responded to Gideon's call?
2. Why did so many men leave?
3. Where did God tell Gideon to go?
4. The enemy soldiers were as thick as \_\_\_\_.
5. What did the friend say the bread represented?
6. What did the Israelite soldiers carry?
7. Why do you think Moses and Gideon doubted God's call?
8. Review: what are some ways God confirms his calling?

And Jesus  
answering  
saith unto them,  
Have faith in God.  
Mark 11:22



## Thankful for Past Blessings

"This will be our last visit until after Christmas," said Karen sadly to Kim as she patted Tag-Along on the head.

Kim put an arm around Karen and one around Robin for a hug. "I know. We have to close the corral down when the blizzards come in and we have so much snow at Highland Youth Ranch," she said. "You can still come a couple times before Christmas if the weather permits. We shall see."

"I wish I could live here," said Robin softly without looking up.

"Your mama would be very lonesome without you at her house," said Kim. "Let's visit about other places we can see each other. Would you like to meet me at church on Sunday?"

"Yes!" said both sisters together.

"I will talk to you mother," said Kim with a smile. "She is welcome to come also. In fact, all your family can come."

"Not my daddy," said Karen. "He only goes to the bar with the men to drink beer."

"Girls, I am sorry about that," said Kim. "I have been praying for your daddy that he will change his bad habits. It will take the power of Jesus to change him, but I believe it is possible."

"He sleeps most of Sunday morning," said Robin. "I don't think he will get up for church."

"Your mother is waiting for us in my porch swing," said Kim. "Let's join her and talk about it."

Emily smiled when Kim invited her to church. "I would like to come and bring the children," she said. "Would little Tommy be okay to bring?" she snuggle her son closer to her as she spoke.

"Oh, yes, of course!" said Kim. "We have several babies in our congregation and if he gets fussy, there is a nursery he can go to."

Kim gave Emily the directions to the chapel. "Would it be okay if we prayed right now for your husband?" she asked Emily. "God can soften the hardest of hearts, clean out sin, and changthat person completely."

"Yes, I know God can do miracles," said Emily. "I have already seen how he has changed my girls for the better." She sighed. "I feel there is hope for us and somehow we will make it in life."

"Yes, keep that hope," said Kim as she put her hand over Emily's hand. "Let's bow our heads and thank God for what He has done, and for what He will do. He alone can change a heart."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Answers:

1. Over 30,000. 2. God didn't need that many men to accomplish His mission. 3. Enemy camp. 4. Locusts. 5. Gideon's sword. 6. Trumpets and water pitchers. 7. See last paragraph. 8. See theme.



### By Prayer and Fasting

Jesus and three of his disciples were walking down a mountain when they saw a large crowd gathered around the other disciples. The religious leaders were arguing with the disciples. Someone noticed Jesus was coming and the crowd ran to Him. "What is all this arguing about?" Jesus inquired.

"Teacher, my son is here," a man said. "A demon inside him keeps him from being able to talk. Sometimes it throws him on the ground and causes foam around his mouth. His body grows stiff. I asked your disciples to help him, but they couldn't."

Looking out at the arguing crowd, Jesus was grieved. "You people have little faith," He said. "Bring the boy to me." When the boy came close to Jesus, the evil spirit inside of him recognized Jesus. It caused the boy to fall down, writhing and foaming at the mouth. "How long has he been this way?" Jesus asked. "Since he was a child," the boy's father replied. "Sometimes the evil spirit throws the boy into fire or into water, trying to destroy him. Please have mercy on us and help him!" "All things are possible to those that believe," Jesus told the man kindly. "I do believe!" the man cried, tears streaming down his face. "Help me to believe and not doubt!"

"Evil spirit, come out of the boy and leave him forever," Jesus commanded. The evil spirit caused the boy to cry and toss violently until he lay, exhausted, on the ground. Murmurs of, "Is he dead?" "He looks dead!" arose from the crowd. The crowd was amazed when Jesus took the boy by the hand and helped him up. Later, the disciples had a question for Jesus. "Why couldn't we cast the demon out of the boy?" they wondered. "Because of your unbelief," Jesus told them. "If you have faith, even as tiny as a grain of mustard seed, you will be able to tell a mountain to move and it shall be done. Miracles like this can only be brought about by prayer and fasting."

The disciples learned an important lesson that day. When God calls us to do something that may seem hard, the right thing to do is to spend time in prayer. Many people in the Bible chose to fast when they wanted an answer from God. Jesus fasted for forty days. Fasting in the Bible meant abstinence from food. We can fast by giving up food or other things that keep us from spending time with God, like reading books or playing games on the computer. God is always faithful to answer our prayers.

## BY PRAYER AND FASTING

**Theme:** If we feel like something God has called us to do is too hard, we should take time to pray and spend time talking to God. If we have faith, God will be there to help us.

Match the following Bible characters to the scripture reference that tells their story.

Anna the Prophetess

Jonah 3:5

Paul and Barnabas

Daniel 9:2-3

John's disciples

Luke 2:36-37

The people of Nineveh

Luke 5:33

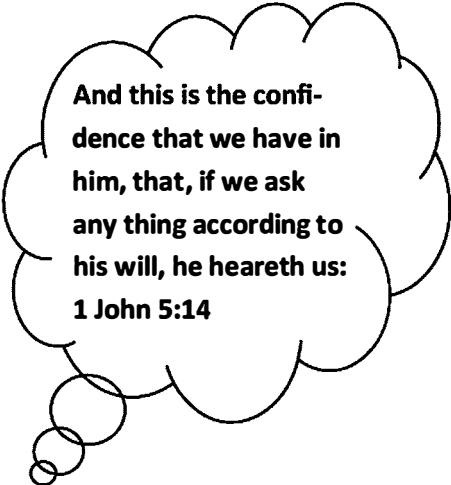
Daniel

Acts 14:23

### QUESTIONS

\*Answers on back\*

1. Who did Jesus see arguing?
2. What was wrong with the man's son?
3. "\_\_\_ things are \_\_\_ to those that \_\_\_."
4. Did the father believe that Jesus could heal his son?
5. "If you have \_\_\_, even as tiny as a grain of \_\_\_ \_\_\_..."
6. "Miracles like this can only be brought about by \_\_\_ & \_\_\_."
7. Why couldn't the disciples cast out the demon?
8. Why is fasting and prayer important?



And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:  
**1 John 5:14**



## First Visit to Church

Kim stood at the chapel doors looking for a little black car with a few scrapes and dents on it. Would Emily have the courage to come? Maybe Robin and Karen did not want a friendship with her away from the Highland Youth Ranch. Kim sighed. She wished she had offered to buy the girls some new clothes, but she did not want Emily to think they did not look nice enough to come.

The congregation was singing the first song when Kim saw that little black car turn into the parking lot. "Thank you, Jesus!" she exclaimed. She opened the door and felt the blast of cold winter winds trying to push her back inside. Emily needed help with little Tommie who was bundled into a heavy blanket.

"I am so glad to see you!" exclaimed Kim as she opened her arms to hug Robin and Karen, and then Emily. "Let me carry Tommie."

When they stepped inside the church, the girls fell into a very quiet mood. "I hope we are dressed okay." Emily ventured. "I did not think to ask..."

"You are okay," said Kim. She helped them out of their coats and they hung them on hooks. The girls tiptoed beside Kim and clung closely to her skirt. Only Tommie seemed happy. He smiled and jabbered as Kim carried him

Into the sanctuary.

"Let's sit over here," whispered Kim. She guided them to a pew about in the middle. She was so thankful that different ones smiled at them as they sat down. Silently, Kim prayed: *Lord, please bless the service today. Help this family to find your love to warm their hearts. Please help their father. Talk to his heart.* The singing and the message was good. Kim could see that Emily felt welcomed by the soft glow of peace in her eyes. "Would you be able to go somewhere to get a bite to eat?" Kim asked Emily.

"Oh, no," said Emily quickly. "I need to get back home. Tom may be waking up any time and he will want me to cook something. Thanks for inviting us and for all you have done for the girls." They hugged each other, and Kim helped the children into the car seats and belted them in. "Come and see me again at church," she said with a smile. They both nodded their heads.

*I will make this a matter of prayer and fasting,* thought Kim.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Answers:

1. Religious leaders and the disciples. 2. He had a demon. 3. All/possible/believe. 4. Yes. 5. Faith/mustard seed 6. Prayer/fasting. 7. Because of their unbelief. 8. Answers will vary.





### God's Call to Preach the Gospel

Jesus was alive! His disciples were so excited! After feeling hopeless when Jesus was crucified and wondering why God was allowing the promised Messiah to die, the disciples had a better understanding of God's plan. Jesus had conquered death! Several people had seen Him and talked to Him. One day, Jesus appeared to the disciples and reprimanded them for not believing the ones who had seen Him after He had risen from the dead.

"Go unto all the world and preach the gospel," Jesus instructed. "Those who believe and are baptized will be saved. Teach these people to follow my commandments. I am with you always, even to the end of the world." Soon after this, Jesus was taken in a cloud to Heaven, not to return again until the end of the world when He comes back to gather His followers to Heaven.

Like the disciples, Paul was called to preach the gospel. Paul was traveling and preaching the gospel in many different cities. One night, Paul had a vision. A man appeared in his vision, pleading, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." "Surely the Lord has called us to preach the gospel to these people," Paul thought. Many people were saved, although Paul made some people angry. Paul and Silas, another minister of the gospel, were thrown into jail. Singing and praising God into the night, Paul and Silas were unlike any other prisoners the jailer had ever seen. When an earthquake caused their chains to fall off and the stocks that held their feet to break loose, Paul and Silas didn't run for freedom. The jailor was so impressed that he and all of the people in his home were saved that night.

Whether as a pastor, evangelist or missionary, many people have been called to preach the gospel. A lot of these people have had strong impressions from God about their calling. They may have even heard God speaking to them about it.

Each one of us has a gift or gifts that God has given us that will help other people learn more about Him. Even if we are not called to be a preacher, it is important that we are always ready to tell people about God and use the gifts He has given us to help others. It is important to be like Christ and show the people we meet and are close to that they can live a godly life in an evil world. We need to be living so closely to God (through daily Bible reading and prayer) that we are ready to say "yes" to His calling.

# GOD'S CALL TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

**Theme:** Each one of us has special gifts that God has given to us that we can use to help others learn about salvation. We need to be living so closely to God that we are ready to say yes to His calling.

Mark through the J's, Q's and X's. Write the letters that are left on the lines below to find out what Jesus said in Matthew 28:19.

GQOYJJJEXTHJXERQQXEQXJFJJOQXJXJQRXJJEXAJQNDJJTAXJCJJQXJHALXQQXXXLJJQJNTIONSBBQXJXAQPQXJJ  
TIZJXJJINQJGQTHQEMJXQXINQXJTHQEXNQXJAQXMXEQXFTHEFAQTHXXERJJANDOQXJFTHESJJJO  
NAXNQDOFQQTHEHOQJLY

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Look up Matthew 28:20 to find out the rest of Jesus' last words. Write them down.

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## QUESTIONS

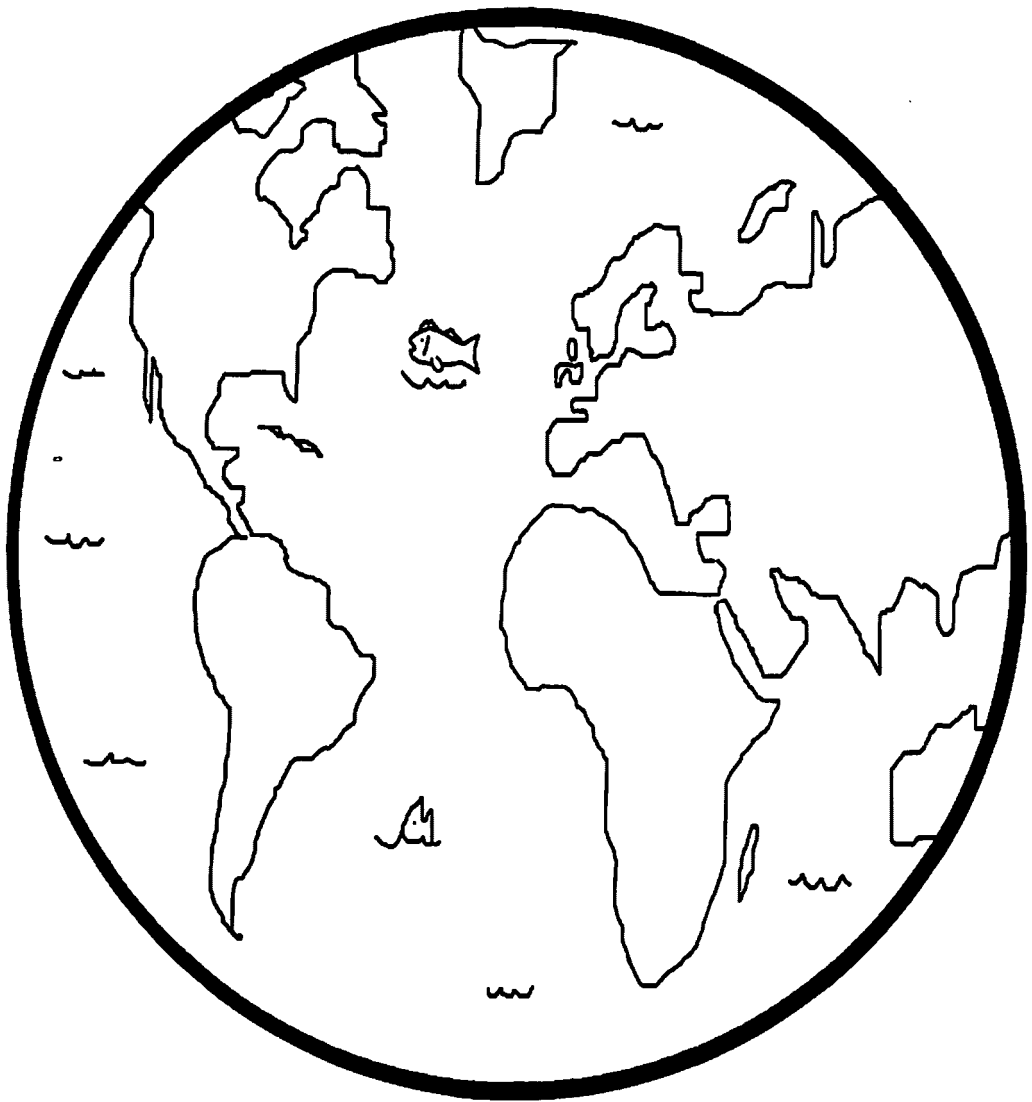
\*Answers on back\*

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?
2. Who did He say would be saved?
3. "I am with you \_\_\_\_\_ even to the end of the \_\_\_\_\_."
4. How did Jesus go to Heaven?
5. When will Jesus return?
6. What did the man in Paul's vision ask?
7. Why was it good that Paul did what the Lord told him in the vision?
8. If we don't preach, what are some ways we can tell others about Jesus?

## MEMORY VERSE:

Preach the word;  
be instant in season,  
out of season;  
2 Timothy 4:2

God wants everyone in the



to hear His gospel!

## Another Ranch Visit

At the Highland Youth Ranch Kim prayed often for Emily and her family. After eating breakfast, Kim went outside into the snow to do the morning chores. Tag-Along jumped up from his rug by the door ready to help Kim.

"Good morning, Tag-Along," Kim said as she patted his head and rubbed his back. "I wonder how little Karen is doing today. She really loves you, Tag-Along. You are such a good friend to her, and I am praying that we can lead her to Jesus Christ. Come on, boy, let's check on the horses!"

"Arf-Arf!" barked Tag-Along as he wagged his tail and followed Kim down the steps and to the barn.

During the cold winter day, Kim and her two hired hands fed and watered the twenty-four horses inside the stable. Every time Kim brushed Sally, she would pray for Robin that the Lord would keep her safe, bless her and draw her to the Lord.

"Sally, would you like to see Robin again?" asked Kim. "I know she would love to see you! Maybe I should have the girls come out during the warmer time of the day so you and Robin can be together. I know she talks the most when she is riding on your back. I am just praying that she will listen to Jesus and talk to Him.

I think I will call and see if they can make it out here."

"Naee-aahh!" agreed Sally.

So Kim did just that—she called on her cell phone right then. Emily said they could try to come that afternoon if there were not any more snow before 2:00p.m.

Robin and Karen were so happy to see the animals again! They had not been there for three weeks and it had snowed since then.

"Everything looks so pretty and clean with the snow covering it," said Emily to Kim as they sat in Kim's porch swing, resting after Robin's ride on Sally.

"Yes, it is fresh and clean looking," agreed Kim. "It makes me think of the scripture that says, '*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow.*'" Isaiah prophesied a lot about the coming of Jesus Christ."

Emily looked down at little Tommy sleeping in her arms. In a quiet voice she said, "I do not know any scriptures so I don't think about any."

"Would you mind if I got you and the girls a Bible Story book?" asked Kim.

"I would like that very much," replied Emily.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Answers:

1. Go to the world & preach the gospel.
2. Those who believed & were baptized.
3. Always/world.
4. In a cloud.
5. At the end of the world.
6. Preach in Macedonia.
7. Many were saved.
8. Testimonies, songs, etc.



### God's Call for Christians to Represent His Body

Thousands of people lived in the rapidly developing city of Corinth. Ships had to pass by the harbor on the way to the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas. Merchants sold goods and produce to weary travelers. Most of the citizens of Corinth worshipped the goddess Aphrodite. Many slaves and servants worked in the temple. Evil deeds were performed there. Among these people in Corinth lived a small group of Christians. These were new Christians who had little literature to help them with questions that arose while they tried to live godly lives in a city where sin occurred constantly.

The Apostle Paul received word that the church in Corinth was having trouble. Since he could not visit, he wrote them a letter. Part of his letter encouraged them to be representatives of Christ's body on earth. There are many different spiritual gifts, and all of them are given by the Holy Spirit, Paul explained. One person might have the gift of wisdom. Another may have the gift of knowledge. There are also gifts of faith, healing, performing miracles, helps, teaching, ministry, prophecy, discernment, speaking different languages, and being able to interpret different languages. The church is like our bodies. The body has different parts working together to make it function. People in the church are representatives of Christ's body on earth. Everyone has a gift that is necessary to help the church function. We should never look down on others who do not have the same gift that we do. If one member of the body suffers, we should all suffer.

Even though the city of Corinth that Paul knew was destroyed by an earthquake, his words inspired by God that call us to live a godly life and represent Christ's body on earth have never been destroyed. The rest of his letter can be found in the book of 1 Corinthians in the Bible.

Each of us has a "gift", or a talent, that God has given us that can help the church and that can help point others to Christ. We all need to do our part.

## GOD'S CALL FOR CHRISTIANS TO REPRESENT HIS BODY

**Theme:** Everyone who is saved has a gift God has given him/her. What is your spiritual gift? How can you help others grow closer to Christ?

Unscramble some of the different gifts Paul mentioned in his letters to the Corinthians.

HELP  
DISCERNMENT

MINISTER  
TEACHER

PROPHECY  
FAITH

KNOWLEDGE  
HEALING

WISDOM  
LANGUAGES

1. EERHTAC \_\_\_\_\_

6. SMDOIW \_\_\_\_\_

2. EPLH \_\_\_\_\_

7. ROPEPSHY \_\_\_\_\_

3. HATIF \_\_\_\_\_

8. ANGGLUSEA \_\_\_\_\_

4. NICEDSMERTN \_\_\_\_\_

9. IRETSNMI \_\_\_\_\_

5. NEEDLOWKG \_\_\_\_\_

10. AGELHNI \_\_\_\_\_

*Ruins of an ancient temple in Corinth, with the hill of Acrocorinth rising behind it.*



### QUESTIONS

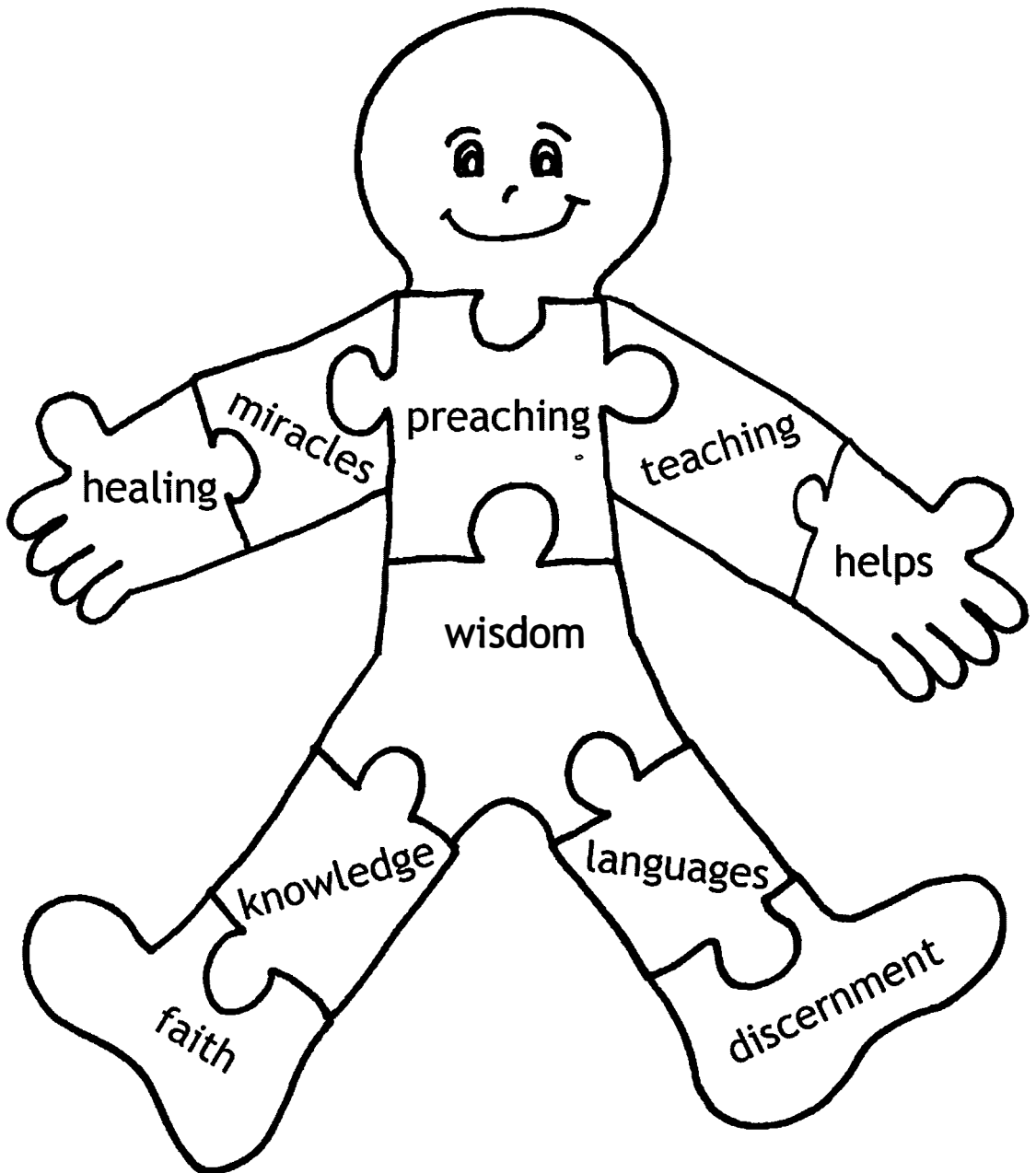
\*Answers on back\*

1. What did most of the people in Corinth worship?
2. Were there any Christians in Corinth?
3. ...be \_\_\_\_ of Christ's body on earth.
4. What are some of the spiritual gifts?
5. What did Paul say the church was like?
6. Who should we not look down on?
7. How was Corinth destroyed?
8. Where can the rest of Paul's letter be found?

### 1 Corinthians 12:12

For as the body is one,  
and hath many members,  
and all the members of that one  
body, being many, are one body:  
so also is Christ.

**Gifts of God's Spirit • Many members • One body**



I Corinthians 12

## Making a Visit

Kim was so glad that Emily wanted a Bible story book for her family! She shopped around to find just the right book. It had pretty bright colored pictures and the stories were well-written. Kim wrapped the story book with Christmas paper. She wrapped other gifts for Robin, Karen and little Tommy. She had never been to their house, but she had their address.

One snowy afternoon just before Christmas, Kim put her gifts into a big basket and covered them with a plastic cover. As she went out her door, Tag-Along stood up from his rug on the porch.

"Would you like to ride with me to see Karen?" she asked him.

"Arf-Arf!" barked Tag-Along.

"Okay!" said Kim. "I take that to mean YES! Come on, let's go!"

Kim put the basket in the back seat of the Land Rover. She put a special seat cover over the passenger seat and Tag-Along sat there. Then Kim climbed into the Land Rover behind the steering wheel and set the GPS for Emily's house.

The road was snowy, but not slick. They reached town following the GPS. Kim turned this way and then that way, and finally the Land Rover stopped on the street in front of a

small house. It was squeezed in a row with other houses. The snow covered the yard so Kim was not sure if there was a sidewalk to the front porch. She made her own path to the front door carrying the basket.

KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCK! She rapped a greeting on the door. She heard scuffling behind the door.

"Who is it?" asked Emily's voice.

"It is Kim from Highland Youth Ranch," replied Kim. "I have brought a few things for your family."

The door knob turned and Emily stood in the doorway. "Oh, I would never have expected you to come here," she exclaimed. "You can step inside out of the cold if you would like." "Thank you," replied Kim. "I have Tag-Along in the Land Rover. I thought the girls might like to see him. They can stay in the Land Rover with him. He does not need to get out in the snow."

By this time Robin and Karen had joined their mother and were standing quietly behind her. "Okay," said Emily. "You girls get your coats on and visit with the dog for a while."

Quietly, the girls obeyed. Tag-Along was full of wags and snuck in a few licks while the girls patted his head and hugged him. Once again his warm friendship softened their hurting hearts.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Answers:

1. False gods. 2. Yes. 3. Representatives. 4. Faith, healing, helps, etc. 5. Our bodies. 6. People who don't have the same gift. 7. An earthquake. 8. 1 Corinthians.





### God's Call to Mary

The story of Mary's calling begins in the small town of Nazareth. Mary was engaged to Joseph, who was a carpenter.

For many years, Hebrews had heard prophecies about a coming Messiah. The prophecies told about a wonderful Savior who would free men from bondage. Many people thought the Messiah would raise an army and save them from their oppressors. There were also prophecies about the Messiah's mother, the place where He would be born, and some of the trials He would endure. For many years, the Hebrews continued to talk about the prophecies. They watched and hoped that the Messiah would come soon. I'm sure Mary also wondered when the Messiah would come. One day, she had a visitor who talked to her about the Messiah. This visitor was an angel, sent from God. Mary was surprised and troubled when she heard the angel's message.

"Greetings!" the angel told her. "You are highly favored and the Lord is with you. Do not be afraid. You will give birth to a son, and you will call his name Jesus. He will be great and called the Son of the Most High. His kingdom will endure forever."

"How can this be?" Mary wondered. "I am not married yet." "Your babe will be the Son of God. Your cousin Elizabeth will also have a child in her old age. No word from God will ever fail."

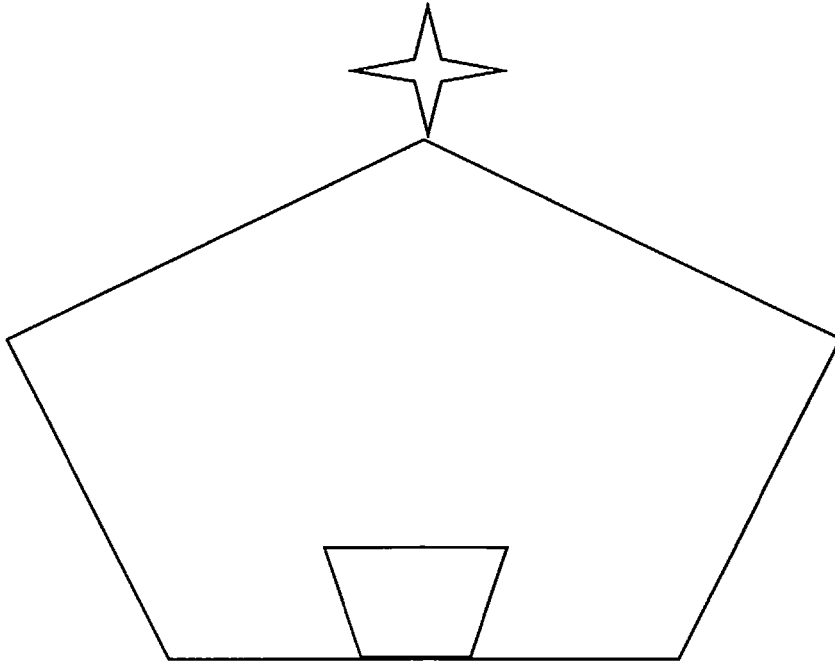
"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."

Was Mary beautiful, funny, popular or clever? We don't know any of these things about Mary. God calls people to serve Him and do important things for Him from all walks of life. The most important thing that we do know about Mary is that she had a willing heart. She trusted in God and was willing to do whatever He asked, even if it meant humiliation, or being shunned by her loved ones. Mary's Son, Jesus, died on the cross so we could be forgiven for our sins. Is God calling you to follow Jesus? Is He calling you to do something important for Him? Take time to pray and listen for God's voice. Be willing to trust God and answer His call.

# GOD'S CALL TO MARY

**Theme:** Is Jesus calling you to do something important for Him? Take time to pray, be willing to trust God and answer His call.

Where are Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus? Complete the nativity scene.

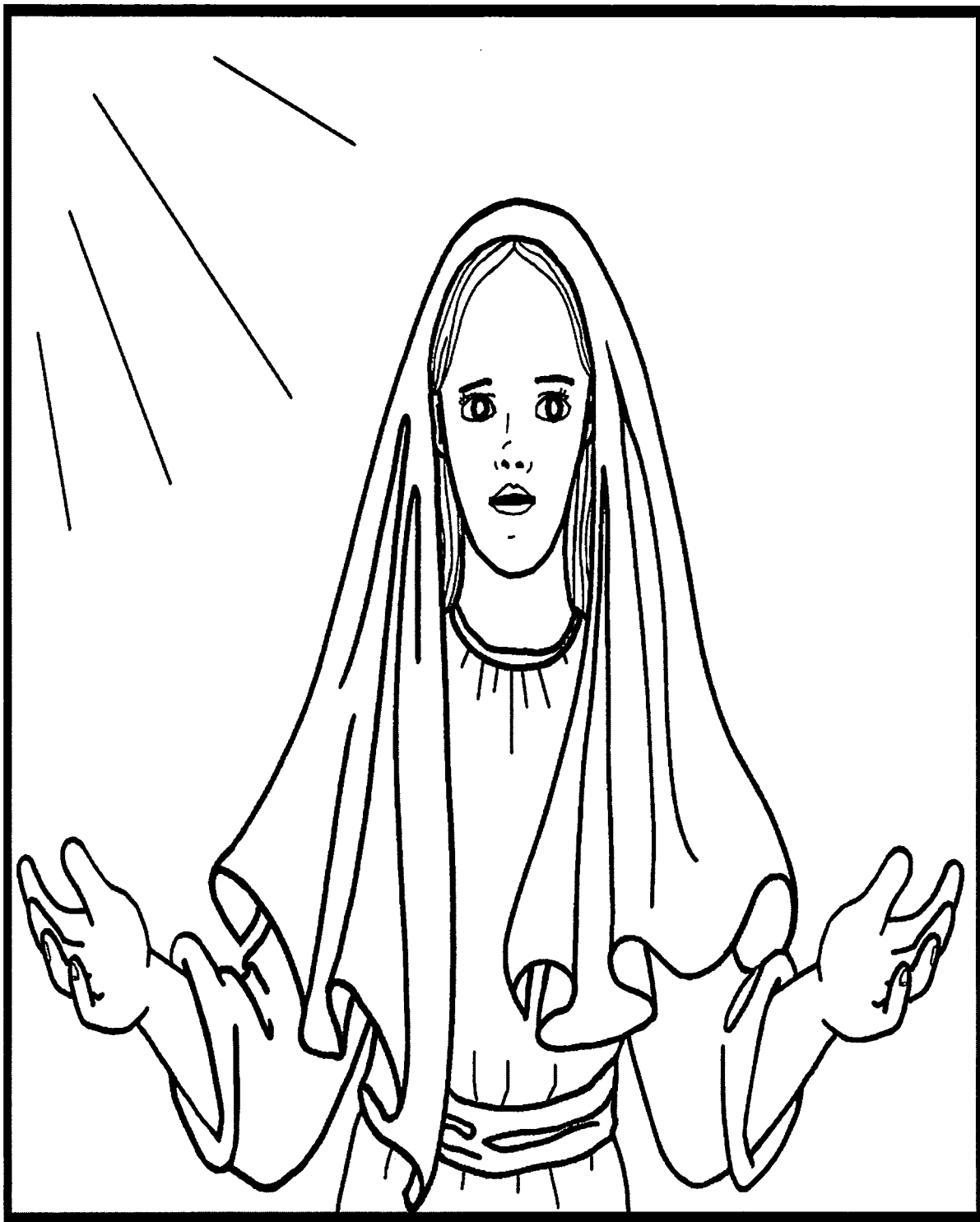


## QUESTIONS

**\*Answers on back\***

1. Where does the story take place?
2. Who did the Hebrews hear prophecies about?
3. Who did God send to Mary with a message?
4. What did the angel tell Mary?
5. How did Mary feel?
6. How did Mary answer the angel?
7. What do we know about Mary?
8. What should we do if God is calling us?

...thou shalt... bring  
forth a Son and  
shalt call His name  
Jesus.  
Luke 1:31



## Giving the Christmas Invitation

For the first time, Kim visited Emily, Robin and Karen at their house. The house was small but pleasant.

"I hope I have not come at a bad time," she said.

"No, you are fine," said Emily. "My husband is still at work. He will be home soon, I think."

"Good," said Kim. "I want to meet him." She held out the basket of gifts to Emily. "I brought you some things for Christmas. Your girls are very special, I think." She handed the basket to Emily.

"Oh, thank you!" exclaimed Emily. "How thoughtful of you! I have not bought too many gifts this year." She carried the basket to the kitchen and sat it on the table. Kim followed her there.

"Well, I hope I have bought some things the girls will like," said Kim with a chuckle. "I was wondering if your family could come to church this Sunday. I thought I would ask your husband. Do you think that would be okay?"

Emily shrugged. "You can ask him. Bob will probably thank you for the invitation. I can't say that he will come."

The girls were still out in the Land Rover playing with Tag-Along when Bob, their father, came home. He shook Kim's hand and was friendly.

"The girls really like coming to your ranch," he said. "Thanks for all you do for them."

"I am very happy to have them come," said Kim. "I also would be very happy if you all would come to church this Sunday for Christmas. We would love to have all your family come."

Bob nodded but he looked away from Kim. "I can't make any promises," he said. "I like to rest on the weekend."

"Yes, but this is Christmas and you would be very welcome to come," said Kim in a friendly voice. They visited a few minutes then Kim said, "Well, it has been nice to meet you, Bob. Thank you for visiting with me."

"Oh, well, that's my pleasure," said Bob. He walked with Emily as they went to the front door.

"Thank you for the basket of gifts," said Emily.

"You are welcome," said Kim. "I will send the girls to the house when I get to the Land Rover. Merry Christmas!"

Before the girls left the Land Rover, Kim gave them each a big hug and some candy. "Thank you," they both said. "Thank you for bringing Tag-Along to see us, too."

— Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Answers:

1. Nazareth. 2. The Messiah. 3. An angel. 4. She would have a Son and name Him Jesus. 5. Surprised and troubled. 6. I am the Lord's servant. 7. She was willing to trust God. 8. Pray, listen, and be willing to answer.



### A Call to Shepherds

Carrying a stick and watching cute little animals may be how we think of shepherds, but in Israel, shepherds were considered lowly and at the bottom of society. "Unclean, untrustworthy," were some of the words used to describe these men who daily came into contact with animals. The spiders, flies, and bugs that clung to the wool of the sheep or goats were considered unclean by the Hebrew law. Men or women who came into contact with things that were unclean had to wash over and over again before they were considered clean.

Some shepherds owned the animals they tended, but most of them were hired to watch animals owned by other people. Guarding animals against wolves and other predators while they grazed, shepherds worked hard for little pay. They helped the goats or sheep they watched have babies. They sheared their wool. They made sure the animals had plenty of water and food. When sheep were sometimes found missing, owners looked suspiciously at the underpaid shepherds, thinking they probably had taken them for themselves.

One night, a group of shepherds was guarding their flock while they were grazing in a field. How very afraid they were to see a bright light suddenly shining around them, piercing the blackness of the sky. God had sent angels to deliver a message to these lowly shepherds and to call them to do something very important! "Fear not," the angel told them. "For I bring you good tidings of great joy. Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. You will know my words are true because you will find the baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger."

The sky was filled with angels, singing, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace, good will towards men."

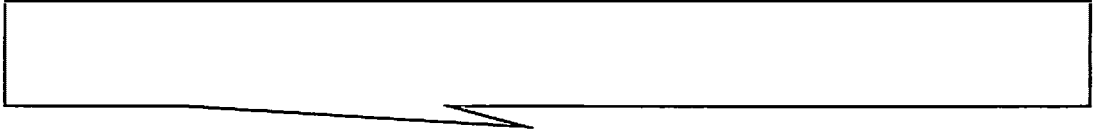
The excited shepherds hurried into Bethlehem to see this important baby! They told the things the angel had said many times to many people. God had called these lowly shepherds to be among the first to understand part of His plan. God called the shepherds to go see the new-born king.

You may feel like you are too young or too unimportant to receive a call from God. Unlike humans, God doesn't base calling someone to do something important on outward appearances. God's call can come to anyone who is listening and is willing to trust in Him.

# A CALL TO SHEPHERDS

**Theme: Is Jesus calling you to do something important for Him? Take time to pray, be willing to trust God and answer His call.**

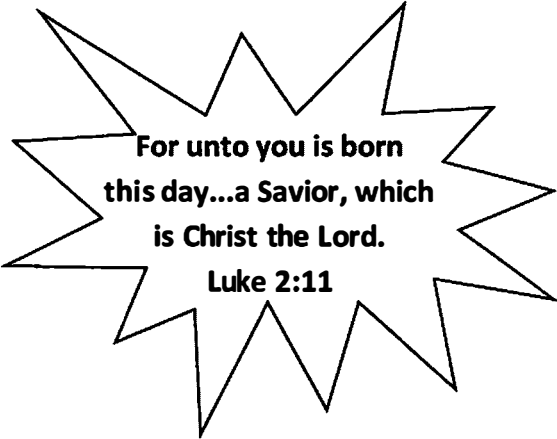
What did the angels sing? Write it down in the speech bubble.



## QUESTIONS

**\*Answers on back\***

1. Why were shepherds thought of as unclean?
2. What were some of the shepherds' jobs?
3. What appeared to the shepherds?
4. What announcement did the angel make?
5. What filled the sky?
6. What did the shepherds tell others about?
7. Does God look on our outward appearance?
8. Who will God call?



**For unto you is born  
this day...a Savior, which  
is Christ the Lord.**

**Luke 2:11**



## Have the Courage to Invite

Sunday morning Kim watched the chapel doors to see if Emily and her family would come. She had prayed for them and had given them the invitation. Now it was left in the hands of God to deal with them, and they had a choice to come or not to come.

The congregation was singing the first song when Emily's car turned into the parking lot. "Thank you, Lord!" said Kim. "Please have Bob to come also! He needs you so much!"

Emily got out of the passenger side of the car. Robin and Karen climbed out from the back and little Tommy was carried out. Then from behind the steering wheel, Bob slowly got out of the car.

Kim drew in a deep breath. "Thank you, Lord! Please make this service very special to him!"

At the chapel door, Kim greeted all the family. They were nervous. "I haven't ever been to a church service before," confessed Bob. "Emily said she could help me because she has been here once before."

"Oh, you will do fine," said Kim with a smile. "Follow me and we will find a seat together." They sang and prayed with the congregation

and listened quietly to the pastor's message on the Christ Child. The pastor said that Jesus came to earth knowing all his life that He would someday die for the sins of all the people in the world. Only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ is there deliverance from sin. His blood can wash away the deepest reddest of sins and make them white as snow.

Bob and Emily sat quietly and listened. After the service, Bob told the pastor he liked what he heard. "Come back again," said the pastor. "We would like to have you and your family join us."

Bob nodded with a smile. However, it took a few hundred visits before Bob decided to give his life to Jesus. Robin and Karen accepted Jesus first. They prayed and asked him to wash away their sins. Then Emily did and finally Bob asked Jesus to forgive him of his sins. His life began to change for the better and his little girls did not have to be afraid of a drunken daddy any more.

Because Sally, the horse, and Tag-Along, the dog, had befriended these two little girls, this family was led to the Lord. Yes, and Kim had to have the courage to invite them and pray for their salvation. You can do the same thing.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Answers:

1. Because of the flies and bugs on the animals. 2. Guarding, tending sheep. 3. An angel. 4. The Savior was born. 5. More angels. 6. About Jesus' birth. 7. No. 8. Those who are listening and are willing to trust Him.

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