



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



SHEPHERD'S GUIDE

A GUIDE TO BRINGING GOD'S STORIES INTO YOUR HOME.
WINTER & SPRING 2020



WE SIMPLY LEARN BEST TOGETHER



I've had some daunting jobs in my life—ones that scared me silly and made me doubt my abilities—but nothing compares to the job that somehow God thought I was up to by giving me two

children who call me 'Mom' (ok, 'Momma,' but we are from further south than here). It is true that the first words I said to my first born were, "I'm so sorry that I'm your mother." I meant it.

What I didn't know then but that I've learned along the way, is that while I epically fail some times at being a mother, some days—together with my kids—we get being a family just right. We do it together. Some of our best conversations have happened on the dirty kitchen floor, in our rolling trash bin that we call a car, or curled up in a room that is so messy that a pathway has been blazed to make it from the doorway to the bed. I'd like to tell you that we have extended conversations gathered around a beautifully set dinner table, but that would be a lie. Together in the middle of the mess of learning to be people, the kids and I simply learn best when we are in it together.

This guide is not intended to be a workbook or another learning task to check off. It's a guide that is meant to live in the pouch of the back seat of the car and get pulled out while waiting for the rain to stop at soccer practice; or tucked by the bed and read sometimes at night; or on the kitchen island where, although it may have peanut butter and orange juice stains, it can get used on a slow morning to spark conversation. Take a couple of copies if you need to spread them around!

I think that both you and your kids will find the questions and ideas compelling in your daily life. This living in the "Way of Love" with God is a together project. We cannot go it alone. And I suspect that, like me, you are mighty thankful that you are traveling this way with the little (or not so little anymore) people who call you by the best job title you've ever had.

-Amelia McDaniel



KNOWN. LOVED. BELONG.

If you were one to attend Sunday School growing up, you are probably like the majority that cannot share specifics of what you learned in those classes. You learned Bible stories and characters. But more likely, you carry how those experiences made you feel. Here at St. Mary's, the Sunday School Teachers step forward each week to recognize our children by name and remind them how beloved they are in this community. But most importantly, they share the story of God's never-ending love for them. And to share this is to say, "you belong with us and we belong to you always."

The stories that follow in this Shepherd's Guide are just that – examples of God's immeasurable love for each one of us. Would it be nice if St. Mary's children could name all the books of the Bible in order or name the most obscure Biblical characters? Maybe? But there is something larger at work on Sunday morning in Sunday School and at home when you read these stories. These are examples and models for them of what life lived in the knowledge of God's love looks like. These stories are reminders that our children are known, loved, and belong.

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IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

01 Parents' Social Night! Please join with the parents of young and elementary aged children for an evening of fun and fellowship.

FEBRUARY

09 Children and Youth Sunday at the 11 o'clock service! Our children and youth will be the leaders in this service.

FEBRUARY

25 Pancake Supper! Come celebrate Mardi Gras with us. The youth serve hot pancakes and sausage. All proceeds support the Youth Mission Trips this summer. And there will be activities for the children.

WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH

04, 11, 18 & 25 Lenten Suppers served at 5:30 p.m. Families are invited to come enjoy a simple supper. There will be programming for the children and adults that follows the meal to help us observe a holy Lent.

APRIL

05 Palm Sunday: Come join in the procession of the palms before the 11 a.m. service.

APRIL

11 Alleluia-ing the Church! The children will hang the Alleluias that they have colored and hidden throughout Lent to prepare for our great Easter celebration the next day.

APRIL

12 Easter Sunday! Children gather in the Parish Hall before the 11 a.m. service for the procession of the flower cross. The Easter Egg Hunt follows the 11 a.m. service.

MAY

24 Last Day of Sunday School and Food Truck Sunday! We'll celebrate the end of the Sunday School year after the 11 a.m. service with a picnic.

"A LABOR OF LOVE" - BY DAVID MAY

This Shepherd's Guide, like so many things that happen around here at St. Mary's, is a labor of love. I don't know where exactly the idea for this resource came from. It could've been the wonderful Amelia McDaniel, or a member of the Children's Ministry Committee, or someone else. But honestly, I'm not sure it matters. What I know is that someone was thinking about our children and their families. That goes on a lot here – thinking about one another. It is a sign that God is making us Christ's Beloved Community, which means that we belong to each other.

Our life together is a labor of love – God's love for us and that we share with one another. We hope this beautiful labor of love help to nourish our children (and you!). And that it will be a sign that God is always thinking of you too.



LITURGICAL CHURCH CALENDAR

Our young members are becoming aware of time and calendars as they grow and learn at school. This is a big part of their daily routine.

What they are learning about is Chronos time – time that follows in a linear progression of days, weeks, months, years. At church we celebrate God’s time, Kairos time, as we live into the Kingdom of God. We understand that God’s time is very different from the linear timelines that govern our daily life. It is rich and full of mystery.

The liturgical church year helps us connect to Kairos time by guiding us through the mysteries of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus during the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. And then we are given time to grow in our understanding of these mysteries during the long season of Pentecost.

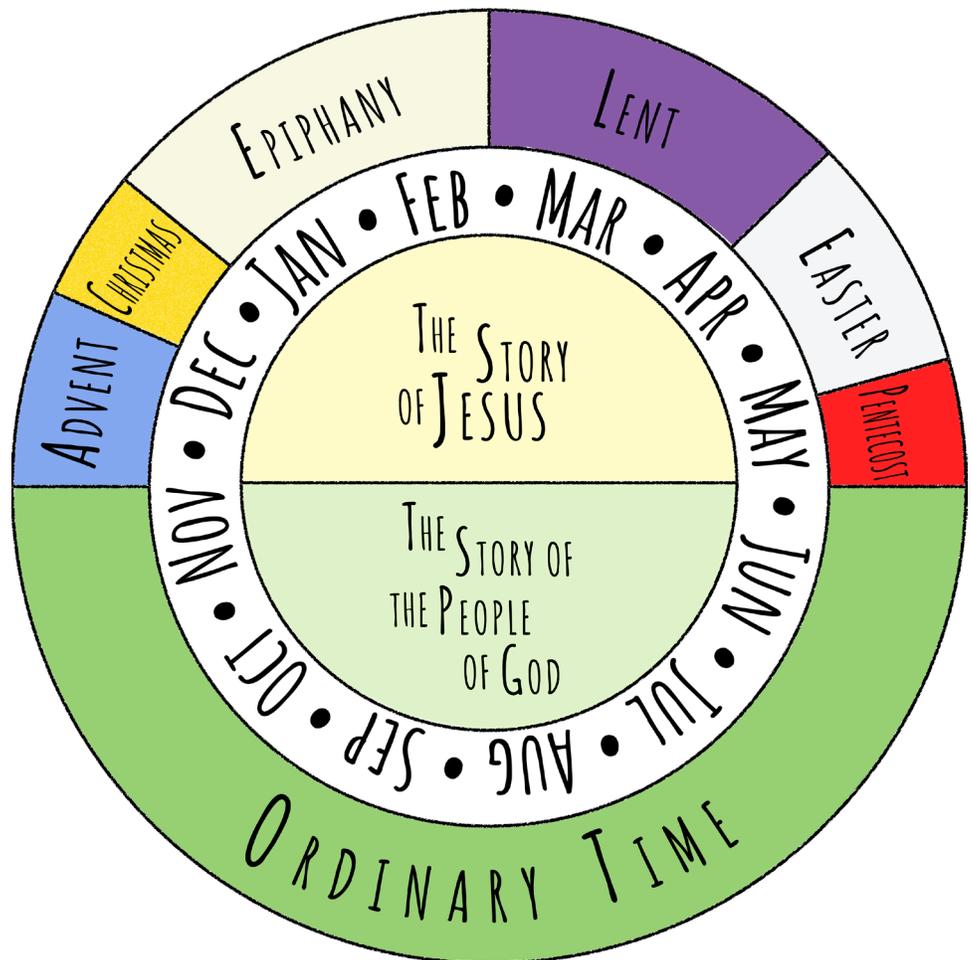
ADVENT: four weeks of preparation for Christ’s coming at Christmas.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON: twelve days of celebration of Christ’s birth, leading to Epiphany.

EPIPHANY SEASON: four to nine weeks of thanksgiving for Christ’s revelation to the world, including the Baptism of our Lord.

LENT: Ash Wednesday followed by 40 days of preparation for Easter concluding during Holy Week. **Holy Week:** from Palm or Passion Sunday through Easter Triduum (the three days beginning with the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday and ending on Easter Sunday).

EASTER SEASON: Easter Day followed by fifty days of rejoicing, including Ascension Day, leading to the season’s climax, the Day of Pentecost.



PENTECOST SEASON OR ORDINARY TIME: the two dozen weeks from Holy Trinity Sunday to Christ the King Sunday; the Festival of All Saints is celebrated late in this season.



WHAT IS LECTIONARY CURRICULUM?

We follow the Revised Common Lectionary in the Episcopal Church, which breaks down the Scriptures into 3 year-long cycles (designated as years A, B, and C). Each Sunday, the readings share a common theme or thread and they correspond to the liturgical season. Each year, we begin a new lectionary cycle on the first Sunday of Advent, the Church's new year. This January we continue Sunday School in Lectionary Cycle A and will shift to Lectionary Cycle B on November 29, 2020.

So, each Sunday our classes introduce a story from that day's lectionary readings. Typically, it is the Gospel reading, but sometimes there are variations. This is a great way to either reinforce the story that was heard at the 9 a.m. service or set up the story that they will hear at the 11 a.m. service.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDEBOOK

This guidebook has two pages for each Sunday from January 12 to May 31. The left page includes a story from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, a quote from the *Spark Storybook Bible* that is used in the Pre-K-2nd Grade classes, and a column with suggestions for family discussions and activities. On the right page, you'll find a coloring page of an illustration of the story. Does it have to be completed on that Sunday? No, you have all week until the following Sunday to reflect upon the story. You may miss a week, and that's OK! Pick it up when you can.



CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

During the 11 a.m. service, children (ages 4 years old through 5th grade) are invited to come forward during the Gospel hymn and go to the Block Room together. There, led by a clergy member or volunteer, they will hear the Gospel story and have time to talk about it together. Rochelle Jordan, one of Choir members, will lead music for the children. The group will return to sit with their parents during the Peace on Holy Eucharist Sundays and just before the end of the service on Morning Prayer Sundays.



WHY SUNDAY SCHOOL?

We are aware that there are many demands on families throughout the week. If you are choosing what is possible and have limited time, we do encourage coming to a worship service, a central proclamation of our faith. Nevertheless, attending Sunday school is a way to help your children deepen their understanding and connection to our shared story of faith and to be held up as valued and important members of our community. Because we use a weekly lectionary curriculum, missing a week or two of Sunday School does not mean your child has "fallen behind" on anything. Come as often as you can. Everyone is always welcome.





“

YOU LEARN
HOW TO LOVE
BY BEING
LOVED.

Sarah Bessey



JANUARY CALENDAR & LESSONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY

12 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

Jesus' Baptism
Matthew 3:13-17

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY

15 5:30 p.m. Parish Supper
6:15 p.m. Children's Program in Classrooms

SUNDAY, JANUARY

19 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

The Lamb of God
John 1:29-42

SUNDAY, JANUARY

26 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

The Disciples
Matthew 4:12-23





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. How do we baptize members of our church?
2. What are some symbols of your membership in different groups (family, choir, soccer)?
3. Re-enact your baptisms by placing a bit of water on each other's heads and saying, "(Name), child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever."



GOD WINK

This week, watch for the signs people use to show that they belong to different groups. Let those signs remind you that you belong to God.



LISTEN UP

When baptizing, the priest says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." What other ritual words can you hear this week?



TO DO TOGETHER

Tell your children the stories of their baptisms.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God, we thank you for all the ways you show your love for us. Thank you for the symbol of water at our baptisms. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

JESUS' BAPTISM

John would exclaim, 'The one who is coming will baptize you with God's own Spirit! With God's Spirit, you will be changed from the inside out.'

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 242-245



MATTHEW 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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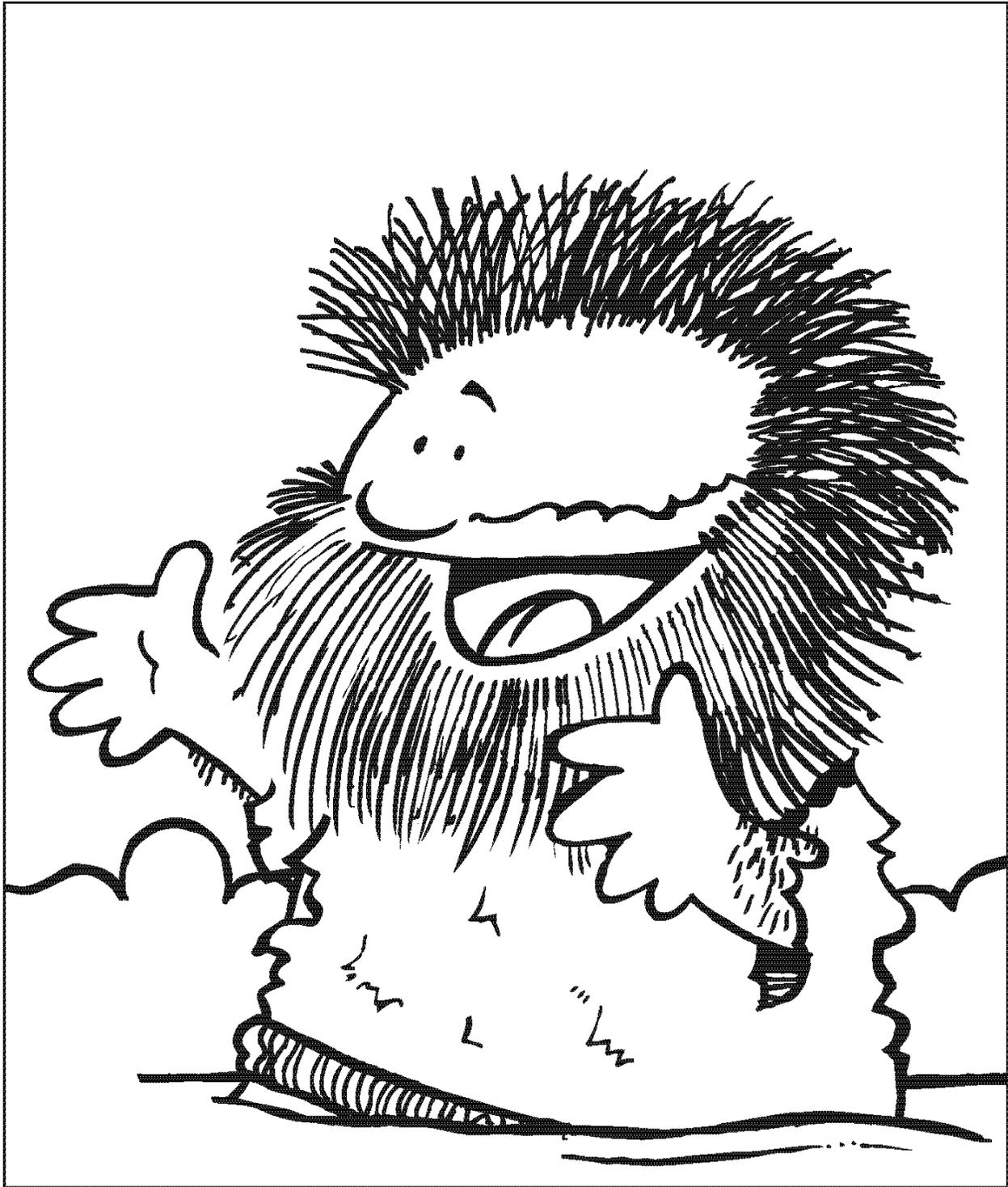
BAPTISM SIGNALS THAT WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Repent
- Wrath
- Viper
- Presume
- Flee
- Winnow

In Genesis 1:6-8, the heavens are described as a curved skydome that arches over a flat earth.





JOHN WOULD BAPTIZE THEM TO SHOW THAT THEY WERE A NEW PERSON IN GOD'S EYES.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. What is it like to be the center of attention?
2. Who are the stars/main characters of your favorite movies or books? Who are the supporting actors, actresses, or other characters?
3. Would you rather have the central or a supporting role in a movie or book? What about in your own story in your head—who has the central role in your life? What role does God play?
4. Imagine you are casting a story about the second coming of Christ. What roles will each member of your family play? Who will be the star?



GOD WINK

Who is in the media spotlight? Can you imagine those stars redirecting the cameras to Jesus?



TO DO TOGETHER

Draw a picture with Jesus in the center. Draw yourself and loved ones all around listening to Jesus.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God, despite causing a stir and gaining a following, John the Baptist did not lose focus. He did not give into self-importance but continued to prepare the way for and direct the crowd's attention to Jesus. Help us to follow John's example. Help us live our lives in a way that will direct others to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE LAMB OF GOD

“[John] let the people know that Jesus was the Lamb of God, which meant he would save everyone from the bad things they do in their lives.”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 246-247



JOHN 1:29-42

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

LOOK! THROUGH JESUS, GOD LIVES AMONG, TEACHES, AND SAVES US.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Lamb
- Anointed
- Reveal
- Spirit
- Dove
- Rabbi
- Testify

Jesus may be called the Lamb of God as a reference to Isaiah 53:7 in which an innocent servant dies without complaint and atones for the sins of others.

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DAY AFTER DAY, WHENEVER JOHN SAW JESUS, HE TOLD THE CROWDS THAT JESUS WAS THE LAMB OF GOD.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. As his disciple, what would Jesus like you to do today?
2. The Pharisees criticized Jesus for eating with tax collectors. Who would you be criticized for eating lunch with? Why?
3. What groups of people are disliked, feared and/or singled out today?
4. Act out the calling of the disciples. One person takes Jesus' role and walks along. Everyone else picks a spot and pantomimes some kind of work. When you are called, stop immediately and follow. Take turns until everyone has had a chance to be Jesus.



GOD WINK

Watch for fish this week. Each time you see one, remember that Jesus' disciples were called to fish for people.



TO DO TOGETHER

Play a game of Follow the Leader—either through the house or through the neighborhood. The leader gets to be Jesus, and the followers are the disciples. Take turns until everyone has had a chance to be Jesus.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Lord, pull us onto your path and free us from doubt and fear. We want to do your will among those who most need your love. In Jesus' name we pray for help. Amen.

THE DISCIPLES

“Hey, Simon and Andrew! Hey, James and John! Follow me!” Jesus called to them. ‘Let’s catch people instead of fish.’”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 258-263



MATTHEW 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

.....

JESUS CALLED HIS DISCIPLES AND BEGAN TEACHING AMONG UNPOPULAR PEOPLE.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Repent
- Summon
- Cast
- Unclean Spirit
- Mercy
- Authority
- Sacrifice

Having 12 disciples symbolically refers back to the 12 tribes of Israel.

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"THANKS FOR LETTING ME USE YOUR BOAT," JESUS SAID.





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THE WORLD WILL
FIGURE OUT WHAT
WE REALLY BELIEVE
BY WATCHING
WHAT WE ACTUALLY DO.

Bob Goff



FEBRUARY CALENDAR & LESSONS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY

2 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Birthday Cake and Coffee

Simeon and Anna
Luke 2:22-40

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY

9 9:30 a.m. Parish Breakfast
10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY
Salt and Light
Matthew 5:13-20

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY

12 5:30 p.m. Parish Supper
6:15 p.m. Children's Program in Classrooms

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY

16 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

Jesus Teaches about Anger
Matthew 5:21-37

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY

23 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

The Transfiguration
Matthew 17:1-13

FAT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY

25 5:30 p.m. Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras Celebration*

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY

26 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service*

*Date and time subject to change. Please check other church communications as the date approaches.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. What kinds of things have you had to wait for?
2. How do you praise God?
3. Do you think it is important to learn how to wait for wonderful things? Why or why not?
4. What do you think Simeon and Anna looked like? Read the story again and then have everyone in your family go to a quiet place and draw a picture of the story. When you come back together, share your pictures.



GOD WINK

How many S's and A's can you find on signs this week? Remember Simeon and Anna when you see them!



LISTEN UP

Listen for words that praise God in prayers. Say your own prayer using praise words like Simeon and Anna did.



TO DO TOGETHER

Make a collage of words and pictures that praise and thank God for all the wonders in our world.



FAMILY PRAYER

We praise you, O God, for Jesus. You promised a savior for the world and gave us your Son! Thank you, God! In the name of our Savior we pray... AMEN!

SIMEON AND ANNA

“Simeon said, ‘God, you have kept your promise! You have let me see the one you promised to send. He will save the whole world!’”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 226-229



LUKE 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

JESUS CAME TO SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Simeon
- Anna
- Mary
- Joseph
- Promise
- Temple

The Old Testament is full of stories and prophecies that looked toward a time when God would send a Savior for the world. Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus from those prophecies.





WHEN ANNA SAW JESUS, SHE KNEW JESUS WAS SPECIAL.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. What do you like to put salt on? When is it important to have light?
2. "We are salt" and "we are light" are metaphors. What other metaphors can you think of?
3. Why do you think Jesus used metaphors?



GOD WINK

How many different sources of light can you see this week? When you notice one, remember the light you can share with Jesus' help.



LISTEN UP

What metaphors do you hear people use this week? Remember Jesus using them to teach.



TO DO TOGETHER

Go on a light hunt. Walk around your house and count how many different lights you have.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Lord, it can be overwhelming to try to live our Christian faith in the midst of other values. It helps to remember that, like salt or the light from a lamp, small things and individuals can make a difference. Please help us let your love shine through how we treat others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SALT AND LIGHT

“One story Jesus told as he was teaching from a mountain was about how we are like salt and light.”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 268-269



MATTHEW 5:13-20

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

OUR ACTIONS AS CHRISTIANS ARE IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE WITNESSED.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Restore
- Accomplish
- Trample
- Exceed
- Abolish

Salt is used not only to add flavor to food, but also to preserve it so it doesn't go bad.

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WHEN JESUS SPOKE FROM THE MOUNTAIN SIDE, HE ALWAYS HAD IMPORTANT THINGS TO SAY.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. What makes you angry? What would Jesus want you to do about that anger?
2. Does it matter if you are angry if you don't act on it? Why or why not?
3. Who have you had to forgive? Who has had to forgive you? Why?
4. Write the numbers 1 through 10 on 10 slips of paper. Turn the papers number-side down and mix them up. Take turns. Pick a paper and turn it over. Recite the commandment that goes with the number on your paper.



GOD WINK

Try to catch yourself when you see something and wish you could have it. When this happens, take a breath



TO DO TOGETHER

Make up 10 funny commandments for the family to follow for the week.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Lord, it can be easier to stop our actions than to stop our feelings. Help us to stop and think when we get angry. Help us to remember your love for us and for others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT ANGER

“I say love your enemies and pray for people who are mean to you. This is what really makes God happy!”



MATTHEW 5:21-37

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 274-275

Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”



WE SHOULD OBEY GOD'S LAWS IN ACTION AND IN HEART.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Liable
- Swear
- Altar
- Vow
- Commit
- Reconcile

“Hell” of fire (5:22) is translated from the Greek name *Gehenna* which was a valley known for a fire rite.





FORGIVENESS SHOWS LOVE.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. How would you feel and what would you do and say if your teacher's face suddenly shone like the sun and his or her clothes turned snow white?
2. What examples of transfiguration can you think of?
3. What is the cause and reason of Jesus' transfiguration? Why are Moses and Elijah there?



GOD WINK

Pay attention to all the sources of light around you. Remember Jesus' transfiguration.



LISTEN UP

Notice each time you receive affirmation this week and remember that God was well pleased with Jesus.



TO DO TOGETHER

Ask if you can play with a flashlight and use it to shine light on different things. Remember light shining from Jesus.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us despite our confusion and our fear. Lord, we fall before your light and ask for guidance and understanding. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE TRANSFIGURATION

“Jesus' face and clothes were bright and shiny like the sun! Moses and the prophet Elijah were standing with Jesus, talking about God's promise to save the world.”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 358-359



MATTHEW 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”



JESUS CONNECTS WHAT CAME BEFORE TO WHAT COMES NEXT.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Peter
- James
- John
- Elijah
- Vision
- Moses

For other biblical references to transformation, see 2 Corinthians 3:18. Paul talks about people being transformed by the divine. In Exodus 34:29, Moses' face shone like the sun.

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PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN COVERED THEIR FACES. THEY PEEKED UP. EVERYTHING WAS THE SAME AS IT WAS BEFORE — EVEN JESUS.

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THE GREAT AND MERCIFUL
SURPRISE IS THAT WE
COME TO GOD, NOT BY
DOING IT RIGHT, BUT BY
DOING IT WRONG.

Richard Rohr



MARCH CALENDAR & LESSONS

SUNDAY, MARCH

1 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Birthday Cake and Coffee

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
The First Sin
Genesis 3:1-24

WEDNESDAY, MARCH

4 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper & Speaker Series
6:15 p.m. Children's Program

SUNDAY, MARCH

8 9:30 a.m. Parish Breakfast
10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Abram's Call
Genesis 12:1-9

WEDNESDAY, MARCH

11 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper & Speaker Series
6:15 p.m. Children's Program

SUNDAY, MARCH

15 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
Woman at the Well
John 4:5-42

WEDNESDAY, MARCH

18 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper & Speaker Series
6:15 p.m. Children's Program

SUNDAY, MARCH

22 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Pool of Siloam
John 9:1-41

WEDNESDAY, MARCH

25 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper & Speaker Series
6:15 p.m. Children's Program

SUNDAY, MARCH

29 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Lazarus
John 11:1-45

OUTREACH FOCUS

CARITAS Collection & Volunteering





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. How do you know God always loves and forgives you?
2. When have you done something you knew was wrong?
3. Have you ever asked anyone for forgiveness? Was it easy or hard to do?
4. Tell each other about times in the past when you got in trouble.



GOD WINK

When you see a yummy fruit, thank God for creating it and loving you.



LISTEN UP

Whenever you hear someone call you by name, remember how God called Adam and Eve.



TO DO TOGETHER

Wash some fruit so it is ready to eat whenever someone in your family wants a piece.



FAMILY PRAYER

Thank you, God, for always loving us. Help us to make good decisions. AMEN.

THE FIRST SIN

“One of the animals that God created was very tricky - the serpent. The serpent was clever and sly and up to no good!”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 14-15



GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.



WE ALL NEED GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Serpent
- Eve
- Tree
- God
- Adam

The word “sin” does not occur in this story. But we recognize it! The first time the word appears in the NRSV translation of the Bible is in Genesis 4.

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EVE LOOKED AT THE TREE IN THE MIDDLE.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. God blesses us through family and friends. Who do you thank God for?
2. How can God bless others through you?
3. Who are some of your family's ancestors, and what are their stories?
4. Abram builds an altar to the Lord. Take turns naming the items you would place on an altar to thank God for blessing you.



GOD WINK

Look for others who are working hard and try to see how you might help.



TO DO TOGETHER

Prepare a meal together and have each family member take responsibility for one of the tasks.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God, help us to hear your directions for our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ABRAM'S CALL

“They walked many miles leading to the new land. It was a hot and dusty trip, but Abram knew that where God was leading them would be a beautiful place.”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 26-29



GENESIS 12:1-9

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

THROUGH BLESSING ABRAM, GOD BLESSES US ALL.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Kindred
- Blessing
- Curse
- Covenant
- Altar
- Descendant

During Abram’s life, extended family groups lived together in order to survive.

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ABRAM STOPPED BY A TALL AND SHADY OAK TREE.



WOMAN AT THE WELL



FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. Describe a time you were VERY thirsty and the water you drank never tasted so good.
2. Who is somebody from school with whom you and your friends don't ever play or sit?
3. As Jesus' disciples, what could we offer those people with whom we never interact?



GOD WINK

Pick one thing you saw as a family during a walk. Each time you see that thing this week, remember Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.



LISTEN UP

Pick one thing you heard as a family during a walk. When you hear it, thank Jesus for bringing us living water.



TO DO TOGETHER

Make a sign that will remind everyone to turn off the water while they brush their teeth. Put it in the bathroom.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God, through Jesus you offer what we need in spirit. Please help us hear, understand and accept your word. Amen.

“The woman ran all over town telling people about what she had seen and heard.” STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 420-425



JOHN 4:5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

EVERYONE MAY RECEIVE LIVING WATER, GOD'S WORD, FROM JESUS.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Samaria
- Spirit
- Jacob
- Messiah
- Eternal
- Rabbi
- Water

Samaritans and Jews disagreed about the proper place to worship God. Samaritans believed God wanted them to worship at Mount Gerizim; Jews believed worship should happen in the temple at Jerusalem.

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JESUS SMILED AND PUT HIS HAND ON THE WOMAN'S SHOULDER. "I AM THE MESSIAH," HE SAID GENTLY.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. What's something you have a hard time understanding? Who might help you to understand better?
2. If you were blind, what part of God's world would you miss seeing most?
3. How can you wash away something Jesus wouldn't like in your life?



GOD WINK

When you see a pond, lake, or river, remember the blind man at the pool. Move your hands over your eyes, as if you are washing them. Say, "Jesus, help me to see you better."



LISTEN UP

When you hear water running in your house, think about how the blind man washed the mud away.



TO DO TOGETHER

Find a version of Amazing Grace online that you enjoy. Download and share with your family. Listen carefully for lyrics about being blind.



FAMILY PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for our sight,
Jesus, love us day and night,
We live our life by your great light.
Amen.



JOHN 9:1-41

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor

his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

JESUS OPENS OUR EYES AND BRINGS US LIGHT.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Mud
- Pharisees
- Blind
- Light
- Sin

Blindness was common in Bible times. One cause was a sickness that hurt people's eyes. The dry, sandy air in the place where they lived made this eye condition worse. Most people don't have this sickness today, but we have a long name for it—*ophthalmic conjunctivitis*. Try saying that three times fast!





JESUS TOLD THE MAN TO GO AND WASH HIS EYES IN THE POOL OF SILOAM. THE BLIND MAN WASHED THE MUD OFF HIS EYES.



LAZARUS

“Martha, don't be sad. Lazarus will live again!”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 440-443



JOHN 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother

Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.



JESUS COMES TO SHARE OUR GRIEF AND GIVE US LIFE, NOW AND FOREVER.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Lazarus
- Martha
- Resurrection
- Life
- Asleep

When people died in Bible times, their tombs were not always closed right away. Sometimes, family members would leave tombs open for three days. They would visit the tomb every day to make sure the person was really dead.



FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. What makes you sad? How do you think that thing makes Jesus feel?
2. Have you ever wanted to help someone, but weren't able to help them in time? How did that make you feel?
3. Has someone you've known ever died? What did the people around you do during that time?
4. Look through old family photographs. Talk about people in your family who have passed away, or those you haven't seen in a while. Share stories of those people.



GOD WINK

Look for smiling faces all around. When you see a happy face, say, “We are all loved by Jesus.”



LISTEN UP

Listen for people asking others for help. Whenever you hear someone ask for help, think, “Jesus helped Lazarus! I can help too.”



FAMILY PRAYER

Jesus, we love you very much. We are glad you came to share with us. Help us share our lives with you. Amen.





WHEN THE PEOPLE SAW LAZARUS ALIVE AGAIN, THEY LAUGHED AND SANG AND DANCED.





“ LOVE ISN'T
HOW YOU FEEL,
IT'S WHAT
YOU DO.

“A Wind in the Door,” Madeline L'Engle



APRIL CALENDAR & LESSONS

SUNDAY, APRIL

5 10 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Procession of the Palms*
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Birthday Cake and Coffee

PALM SUNDAY

Holy Week
Matthew 21:1-11

SUNDAY, APRIL

12 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt

EASTER SUNDAY

The Empty Tomb
Matthew 28:1-10

SUNDAY, APRIL

19 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

Doubting Thomas
John 20:19-31

WEDNESDAY, APRIL

22 5:30 p.m. Parish Supper*
6:15 p.m. Children's Program

SUNDAY, APRIL

26 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

The Road to Emmaus
Luke 24:13-35

*Date and time subject to change. Please check other church communications as the date approaches.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. Jesus was very brave. He trusted God to know the right thing to do. Have you ever had to be brave? Tell about a time you had to be brave to do the right thing.
2. It's not always easy to do the right thing. Tell about a time when doing the right thing meant people might not like you or might think you were weird.
3. Has someone you trust ever betrayed you? Were you able to forgive that person, like Jesus was able to forgive Judas?



GOD WINK

There are crosses all around us every day. You can see them in jewelry, buildings, and on signs. This week, look for crosses. Each time you see one, remember that Jesus died on a cross for you.

TO DO TOGETHER

Make a forgiveness jar with your family. Decorate the outside of a clean food jar with paper, glue, and ribbon. Keep the jar in your living room or kitchen with paper nearby. Whenever someone in your family feels they need forgiveness, they can write their feelings on a piece of paper and drop it in the jar. When they do, they can ask God for forgiveness through Jesus.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Help us to love others in a way that makes you happy. Amen.

HOLY WEEK

“They started taking off their coats and laying them on the ground for Jesus and the donkey to walk on. They pulled palm branches down from the trees and waved them as they sang.” STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 454-457



MATTHEW 21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

JESUS DEFEATED DEATH AND SIN ON THE CROSS—HIS DEATH MEANS LIFE FOR ME!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Peter
- Palm Branches
- Simon
- Cross
- Curtain in the Temple

The week before Easter is Holy Week. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem as the crowd cheered, waving palm branches. Holy Week also includes Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.





THE SOLDIERS MADE JESUS CARRY A HEAVY WOODEN CROSS. THE CROSS WAS TOO HEAVY FOR HIM.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. How did Jesus' followers know he was risen?
2. How can you share the Good News?
3. Some of the best known hymns are about Jesus' resurrection. What is your favorite song about the resurrection, and why?



LISTEN UP

Listen closely each morning for signs of a new day. When you hear birds waking up, roosters crowing, or someone making breakfast, remember that Jesus is alive today.



TO DO TOGETHER

Take pictures throughout the week of things that remind you that Jesus is alive. Use the pictures to create a slide show titled "Jesus Alive in My World." Share the slide show with your family and friends!



FAMILY PRAYER

Father, thank you for sending your Son, For raising him up against death he won. Father, thank you for sending your Word, For raising us up, Good news we have heard. Amen.

THE EMPTY TOMB

“It was early in the morning on the third day after Jesus died. The sky was pink and red with the first light of the sun. The women didn't notice the sky.”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 482-487



MATTHEW 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

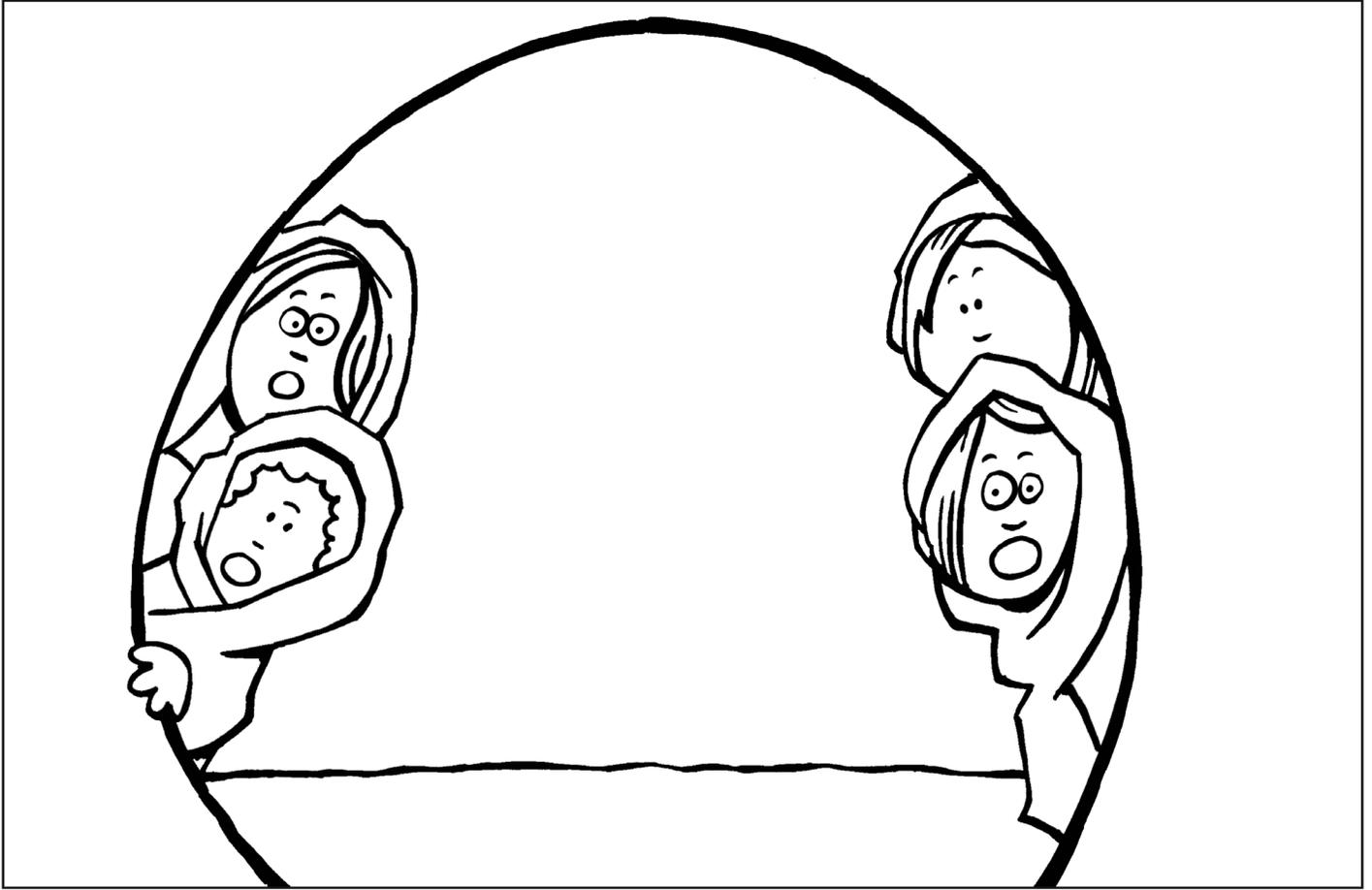
THE EARTH MOVES, AN ANGEL APPEARS, THE STONE IS ROLLED AWAY—
JESUS IS RISEN!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Stone
- Raised
- Angel
- Message

In Bible times, it was common for the stones used to close tombs to weigh two tons. That's like having two large elephants sit in front of the tomb and refuse to move!





"DON'T BE AFRAID!" THE ANGEL SAID. "JESUS IS ALIVE!"





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. What are some things that Jesus helps you do?
2. Think about a special person in your life who helps you to know about Jesus. What does that person do to help others know Jesus?
3. Has there ever been a time when it was hard for you to know that Jesus was with you? What happened to help you believe he was there?



LISTEN UP

When you hear someone say they don't believe something, remember that Thomas didn't believe. Jesus revealed himself so Thomas and others would believe in him.



TO DO TOGETHER

Think of a person who is sick or sad. Color a picture of Jesus that you can give to them. Have someone help you write, "Remember, Jesus is with you!" on the picture, then mail the picture or deliver it in person.



FAMILY PRAYER

Jesus, we love you and know you are with us all the time. Thank you for revealing yourself to all. Amen.

DOUBTING THOMAS

“I don't believe you!” Thomas said. ‘I’ll believe when I can touch Jesus’ wounds.’”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 492-495



JOHN 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



JESUS IS ALIVE, EVEN IF WE CAN'T SEE HIM.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Thomas
- Believe
- Disciples
- Wounds
- Peace
- Locked

Someone who won't believe without seeing proof is called a 'Doubting Thomas' today.

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THOMAS WAS THE ONLY DISCIPLE NOT THERE THAT NIGHT. WHEN HE GOT BACK, THE OTHERS EXCITEDLY TOLD HIM ABOUT JESUS' VISIT.



THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

It was Jesus, but then Jesus disappeared! Cleopas and his friend jumped up, ran from the room, and went to tell the rest of Jesus' disciples that Jesus really was alive!"

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 488-491



LUKE 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were

talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

BE READY FOR THE GOOD NEWS THAT JESUS IS ALIVE AND WITH US!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Cleopas
- Emmaus
- Cleopas' Friend
- Jesus
- Bread

Luke is the only Gospel writer that includes a story about two of Jesus' disciples seeing him on the road to Emmaus after he had died and risen.



FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. What would it be like to walk everywhere you go? Where do you walk now?
2. What kinds of things do you think Jesus taught Cleopas and his friend?
3. If Jesus came to your house and read you a Bible story, which story would you want him to read?
4. Tell about a time you didn't recognize someone because you weren't EXPECTING to see them.



GOD WINK

When you see the letter "E" remember this story of The Road to Emmaus.



LISTEN UP

When you hear these words at communion — "Jesus took the bread and broke it..." —remember this story of Jesus breaking bread.



TO DO TOGETHER

Bake bread together. Find an easy recipe or get some frozen or refrigerated dough at the store to use. It will make your home smell wonderful! When you eat it, instead of slicing the bread, break it off in chunks to share, like Jesus and his friends did.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we know that you are everywhere — often in the most unexpected places and ways. Help us to see you. Help us to know you. AMEN.





ALL OF A SUDDEN, CLEOPAS AND HIS FRIEND RECOGNIZED THE STRANGER. IT WAS JESUS.





“
LORD, GRANT THAT
I MIGHT NOT
SO MUCH SEEK
TO BE LOVED
AS TO LOVE.

Francis of Assisi



MAY CALENDAR & LESSONS

SUNDAY, MAY

3 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Birthday Cake and Coffee

Early Believers
Acts 2:43-47

SUNDAY, MAY

10 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Bishop's Reception

BISHOP'S VISITATION
God's House
John 14:1-14

SUNDAY, MAY

17 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

The Promise of the Holy Spirit
John 14:15-21

WEDNESDAY, MAY

20 5:30 p.m. Parish Supper*
6:15 p.m. Children's Program

SUNDAY, MAY

24 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Picnic with Food Truck*

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL
The Ascension
Acts 1:6-14

SUNDAY, MAY

31 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee

PENTECOST SUNDAY
The Holy Spirit
Acts 2:1-21

*Date and time subject to change. Please check other church communications as the date approaches.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. What does it feel like to have enough of all that you need?
2. When do you like to share things? When is it hard to share?
3. What does it mean to be generous?
4. Create a "Family Tree" that includes all of the people in your family's life. Make branches for friends and neighbors, service workers, teachers, and church workers. See how big that tree can get when you add everyone in. What would it be like to bring all of those people together?



GOD WINK

When you see a lot of something, think about how that can be shared with someone who doesn't have much.

TO DO TOGETHER

Designate a spot in your home where you can collect things in a Share Box. Perhaps you'll choose some food for a food shelf, some outgrown clothing, or a few favorite toys and books. Set this collection spot up so that it is easy to fill the Share Box and drop it off at the places where the things can be used.



FAMILY PRAYER

Thank you, God, for all that you have given us. Give us generous hearts that we may share all you have given so that everyone has enough. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, AMEN.

EARLY BELIEVERS

They became one big Christian family. And their church family grew and grew and grew."

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 504-505



ACTS 2:42-47; 4:32-37

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE ONE BIG LOVING FAMILY.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Early Believers
- Miracles
- Food
- Prayer
- Clothes

Biblical scholars believe that the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts were written by the same person. Together those two books tell the story of Jesus and then his first followers as they became the Christian Church. The stories in both Luke and Acts emphasize caring for others, being generous, sharing life together, and living in community.

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THE EARLY BELIEVERS WERE GREAT AT SHARING.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. Have you ever been somewhere you didn't want to be? How did Jesus help you feel better?
2. What are some ways you can make people feel comfortable when they visit your home?
3. If you went ahead of your family to a new home, what might you do to prepare it for each member of your family? Name one thing you could do for each person.
4. Gather dominos or blocks at the table. Take turns adding blocks to create a house. Each time you add a block, name something Jesus has done for you.



GOD WINK

Any time you see a house with a "Welcome" sign in front, remember that you are welcomed into God's house too!

TO DO TOGETHER

Pick something you can do each day this week to make your house nicer for everyone. Complete that action every day.



FAMILY PRAYER

Thank you Father, Thank you Jesus, for our home, for our home You give us a place here and give us a place there! We love you. We love you.

GOD'S HOUSE

“Jesus said, ‘I’m the way to know God. Because you know me, you know God too.’”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 448-449



JOHN 14:1-14

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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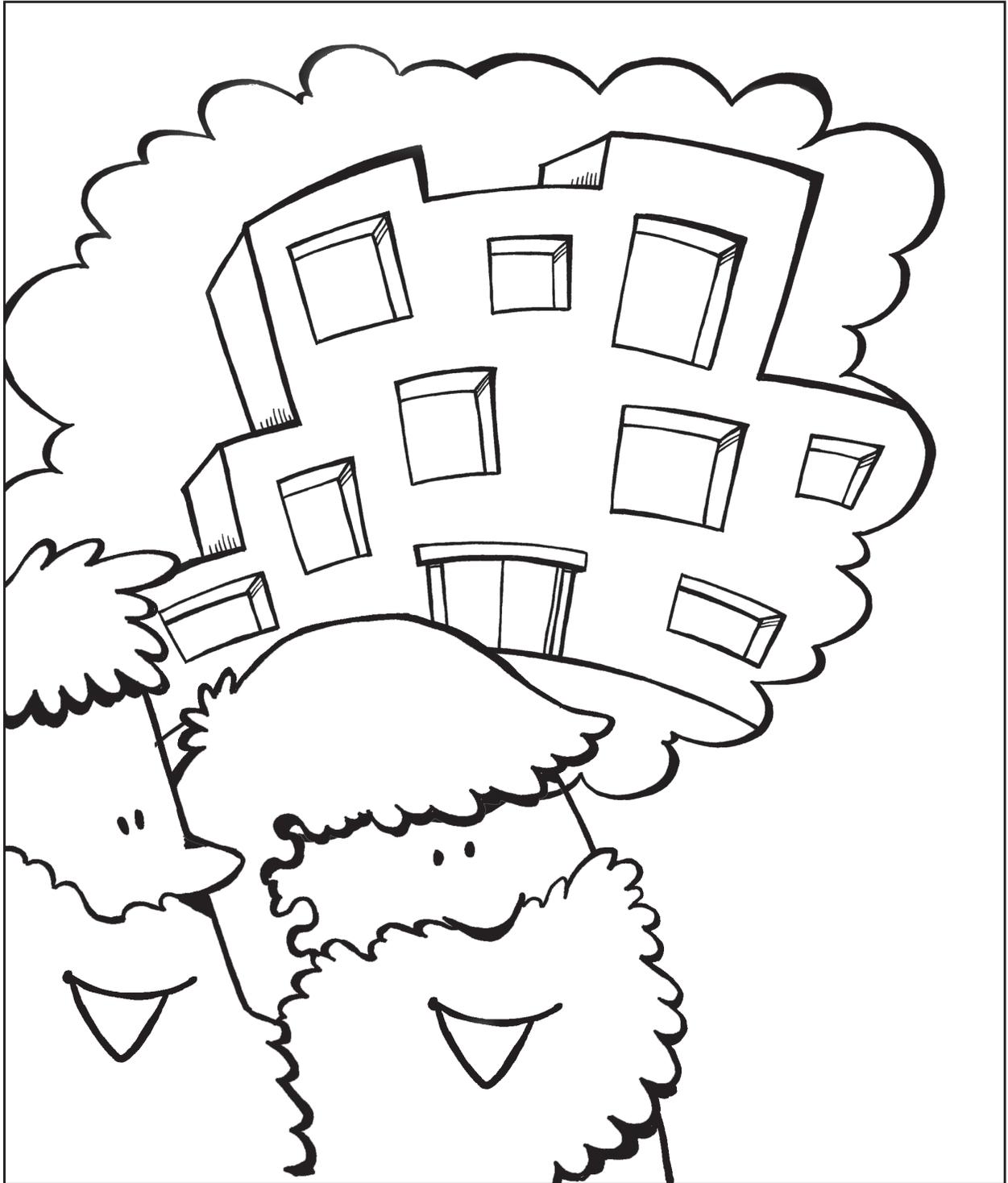
JESUS IS THE WAY TO GOD, THE TRUTH WE SEEK, AND THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Prepare a place
- Dwells
- The way
- Father

Many houses that were built during the time of Jesus had unusual windows. The walls of the houses were very thick — up to two feet! On the outside of the wall, the window was small. This kept dangerous people from climbing in the window. On the inside, the window was bigger, to let in more light.





JESUS SAID, "BELIEVE IN GOD AND IN ME. GOD'S HOUSE IN HEAVEN IS SO BIG THAT EVERYONE CAN HAVE A ROOM."

God's House Coloring Page B. Spark™ Sunday School © 2010 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use only.





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. Have you ever made a promise? Did you keep it? What promise did Jesus make this story?
2. Who do you trust? How do you know you can trust them? How do your friends and family know they can trust you?
3. What proof do we have that the Holy Spirit is present in our lives everyday? How do we know it is at work in each of us?
4. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work? At school? At work? At church? In our community?



GOD WINK

Look at a map of your city or state. Map out a route to favorite cities or attractions. Trace the route with your fingers. Just as a map guides you to a destination, the Holy Spirit guides your heart to do God's work in the world!



TO DO TOGETHER

Remind a friend about the God's promise to be with us by reading or sharing a story from the Spark Story Bible or another Bible storybook.



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,
May the Holy Spirit be around us and inside us. May it guide us as we learn, work, and play. Amen.

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Jesus, said, ‘It’s important to remember all I’ve taught you. Love God. Love other people. Help each other. Remember, God is most important. God will always love you.’”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 450-451



JOHN 14:15-21

Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE WITH US ALWAYS.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Promise
- Commandments
- Trust
- Advocate
- Spirit

The Holy Spirit reveals itself in several forms in Bible stories—as a dove at the baptism of Jesus and as wind and fire on Pentecost.

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JESUS LOVED HIS DISCIPLES. HE KNEW HE WAS GOING TO HEAVEN SOON AND WANTED TO MAKE SURE THEY WEREN'T AFRAID.

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FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. Where did Jesus go in today's story?
2. How do you feel when someone you love leaves? How did the disciples feel after Jesus left?
3. Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus gave his disciples some directions. What were they? Do they still apply to us today? How?



GOD WINK

Do some cloud-watching this week. Spend time together picking out shapes and figures in the clouds and talking about what it must have been like to watch Jesus ascend into the clouds.



LISTEN UP

Listen for compliments this week. Take notice when others tell you that you do something well or appreciate your actions. These compliments can tell you about your God-given gifts.



TO DO TOGETHER

Choose a quiet spot for a family walk where you can look for the Holy Spirit in nature. As you walk, take time to focus on the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of nature. Look at all the different plants and animals — each of them is special. Let them remind you that of us is special, too!



FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God, Thank you for giving your Son to everyone. Thank you for giving gifts to each of us. Help us to use our gifts in your name. Amen.

THE ASCENSION

“Tell your friends and family and everyone you meet what you've learned by following me! Be my witness in the world!”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 498-499



ACTS 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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JESUS ASKS US TO SHARE HIS STORY WITH OTHERS.

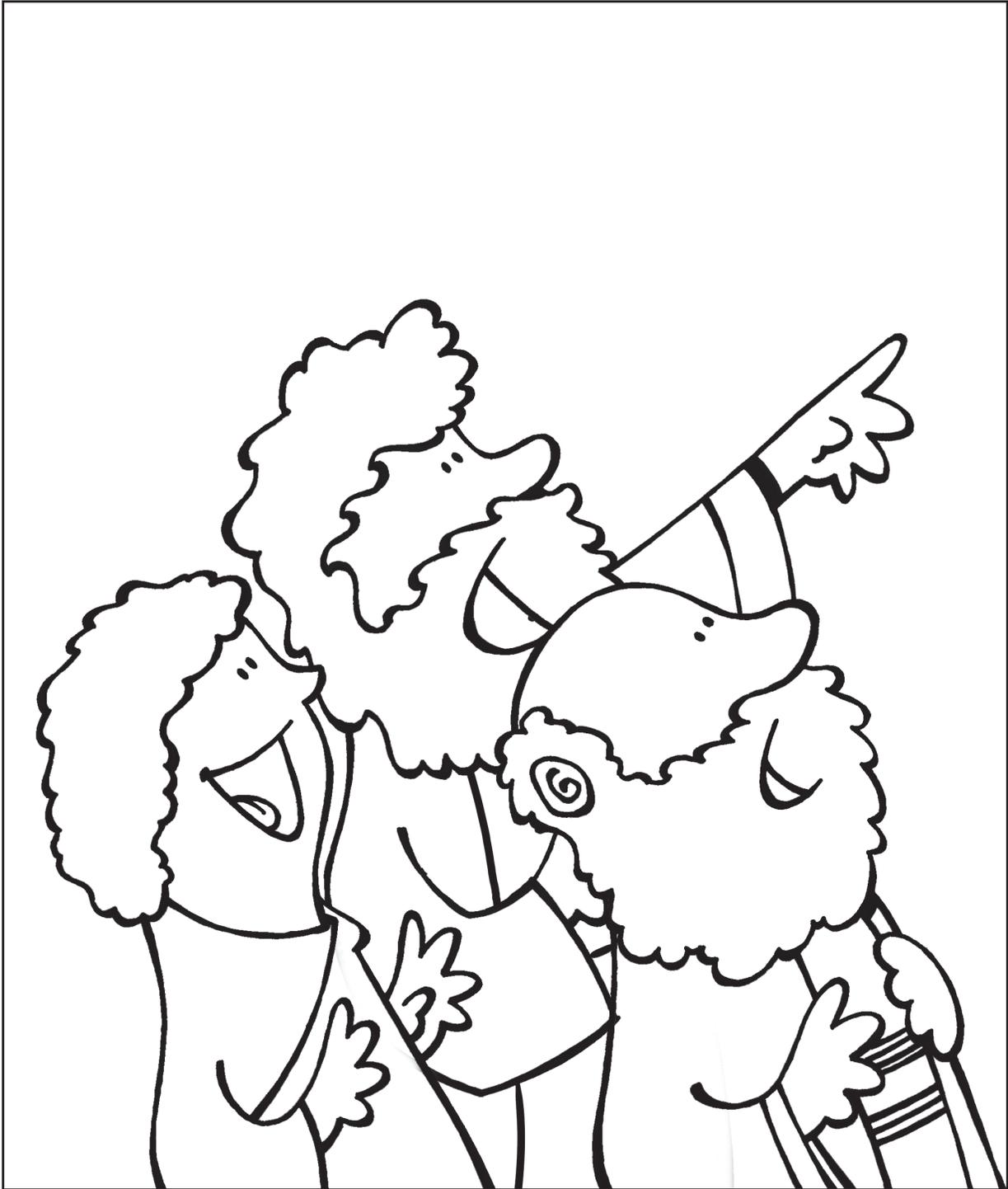
Ask each other what you remember about:

- Witness
- Heaven
- Ascending
- Holy Spirit

Jesus and his disciples were on the Mount of Olives when he ascended into heaven. The Mount of Olives is a mountain ridge on the east side of Jerusalem. The Garden of Gethsemane is at the bottom of the Mount of Olives.

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THEN SUDDENLY JESUS WAS RISING — UP IN THE AIR!





FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

1. What did the Holy Spirit look like? (fire) Feel like? (wind) Sound like?
2. Do you know someone who speaks a different language than you do? Do you ever have a difficult time communicating?
3. Do you know any words in another language? Share some of them with each other.



GOD WINK

Observe the wind this week. Take time to watch how it moves through the trees and the grass. See how it blows through your hair and clothing. Visualize the Holy Spirit blowing around you, surrounding you.



LISTEN UP

Listen for other languages being spoken around you this week. Ask God to bless those who speak them.



TO DO TOGETHER

Pentecost marks the birthday of the Christian church when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. Birthdays aren't complete without birthday cake! Make or buy cupcakes and place "trick" candles on each one. Sing "Happy Birthday" to the church. When you try to blow out the candles, explain that the candles are like the Holy Spirit. The flames of the candles will not go out, just like the Holy Spirit will never leave us!



FAMILY PRAYER

We thank you for sending down the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Give us hearts to feel the Holy Spirit's presence every day. Amen.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

“The disciples were excited to live differently, guided by God's spirit.”

STORY BOOK BIBLE PAGES 502-503



ACTS 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

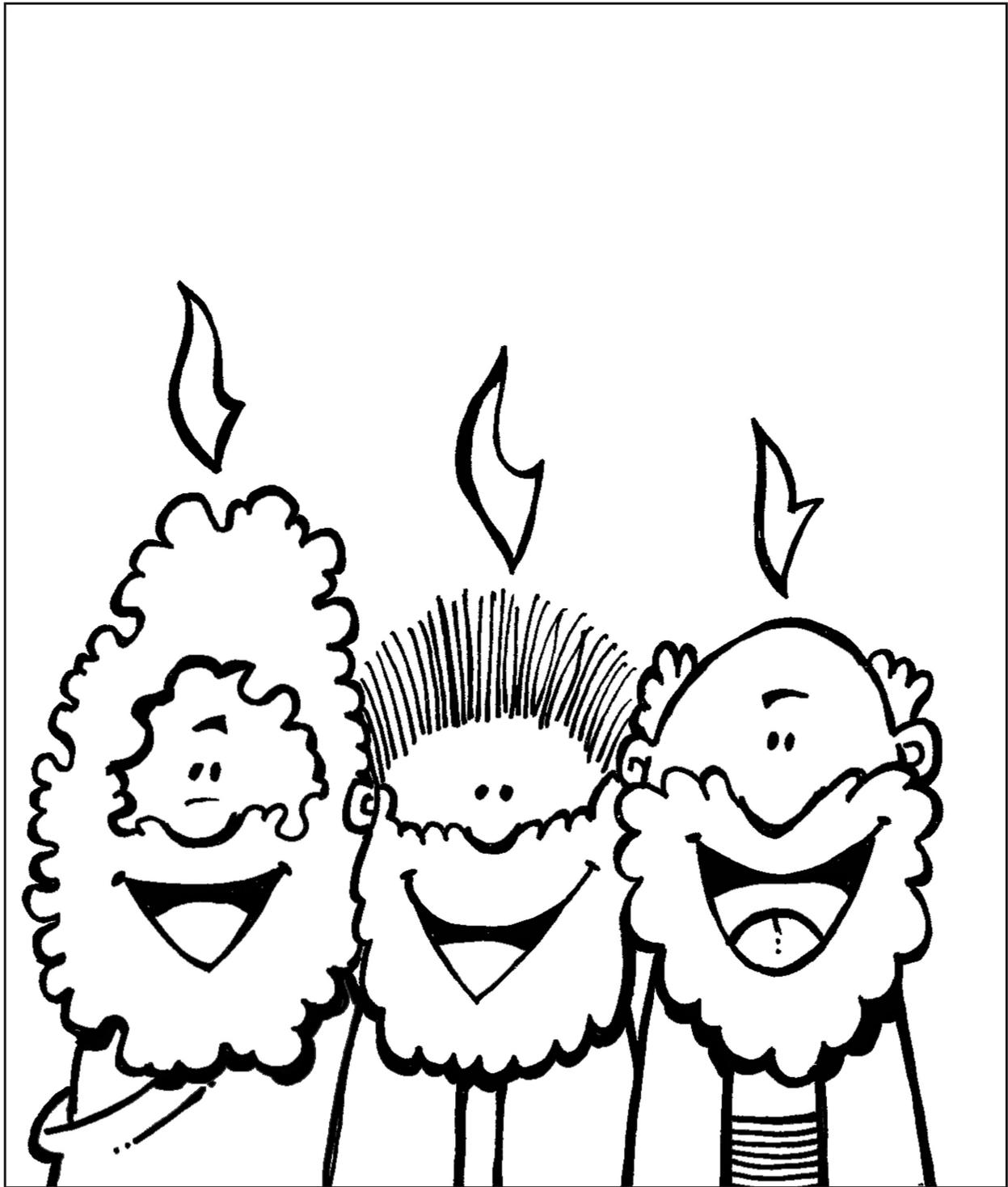
ON PENTECOST THE SPIRIT BROUGHT THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS TO PEOPLE IN EVERY LANGUAGE.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Pentecost
- Jerusalem
- Tongues
- Astonished

Pentecost means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The season of Pentecost is the longest season of the church year. It lasts until Advent begins.





THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD COME, JUST AS JESUS PROMISED!





“

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD, ALL THE
LANDS!

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING!

KNOW THAT THE LORD IS GOD!

IT IS HE THAT MADE US, AND WE ARE HIS;

WE ARE HIS PEOPLE, AND THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE.

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING,

AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE!

GIVE THANKS TO HIM, BLESS HIS NAME!

FOR THE LORD IS GOOD;

HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER,

AND HIS FAITHFULNESS TO ALL GENERATIONS.

Psalm 100





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ASHLEY CAMERON