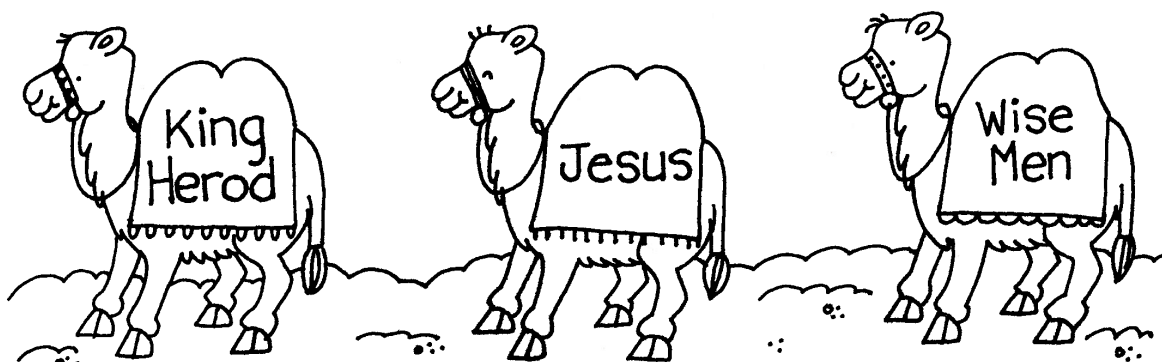




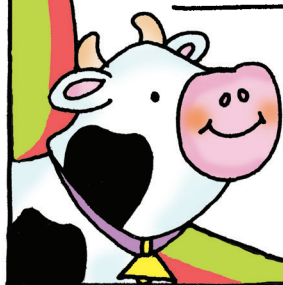
## January 4, 2026 The Epiphany of the Lord

Use the words on the camels  
to fill in the blanks in the story below.



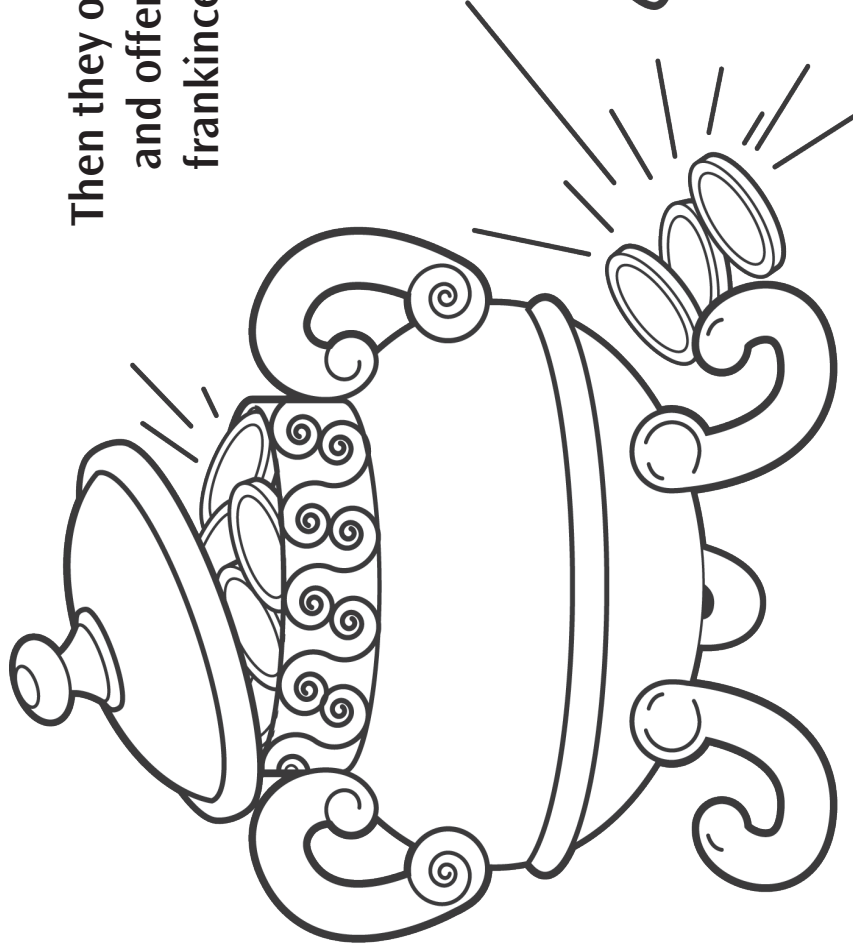
\_\_\_\_\_ heard that \_\_\_\_\_ were  
looking for \_\_\_\_\_. He asked them to  
return and tell him where they found the baby.  
The \_\_\_\_\_ followed a star that led  
them to \_\_\_\_\_. They gave him very  
special gifts. A dream warned them not to  
go back to \_\_\_\_\_. And so the  
\_\_\_\_\_ took another way home.

Answer Key: King Herod, Wise Men, Jesus, Wise Men, Jesus, Wise Men, Jesus, King Herod, Wise Men

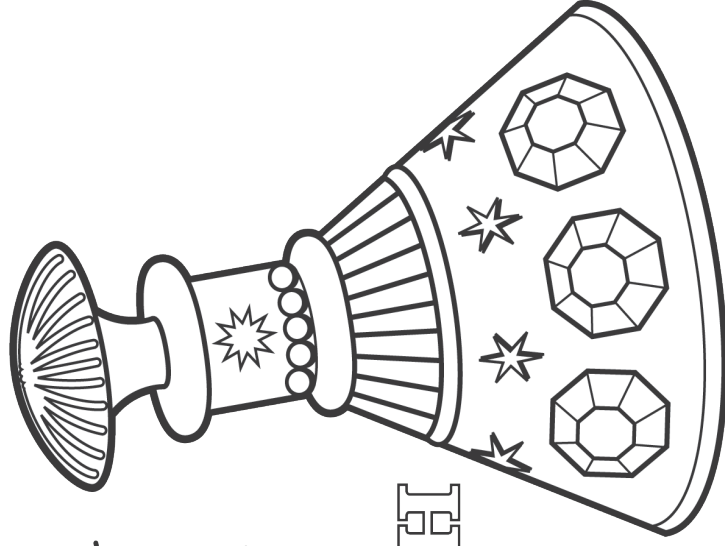


Then they opened their treasures  
and offered him gifts of gold,  
frankincense, and myrrh.

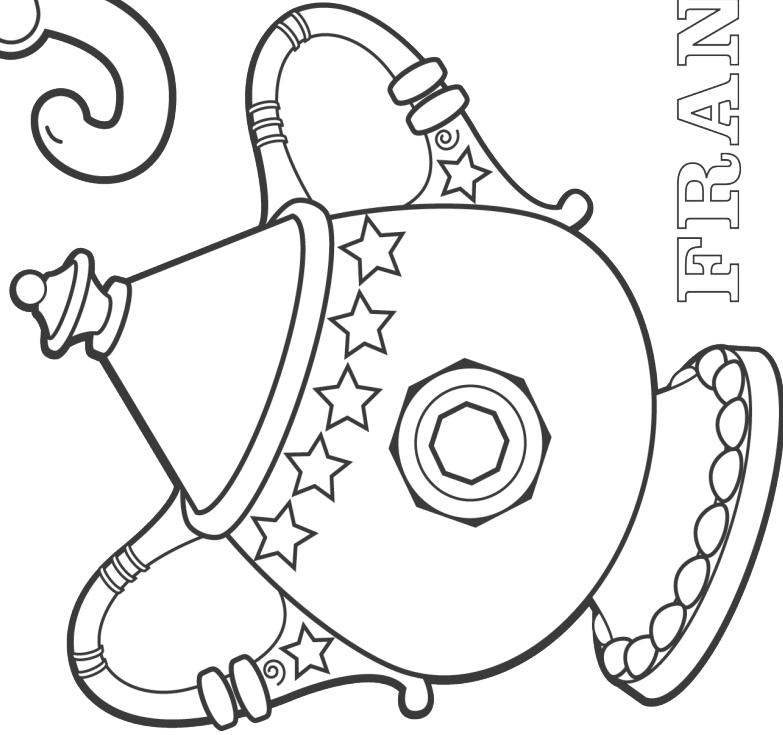
Matthew 2:11



GOLD



MYRRH



FRANKINCENSE



## Follow the Star

Do you often get a chance to look up at the stars? The stars we see in the sky do not stay in the same place. They move across the sky as the Earth turns through the night. The stars also move across the sky over the course of the year as the Earth moves around the sun. Stars—and people!—are always on the move. We can mark times of the year by where stars are, and we can mark where we are in the world by what we see in the sky. The three magi noticed there was a different star in the sky and knew that something had changed—something was different and new enough that they had to follow it and see where it would lead them. The star marked a new time and place: the newborn king, the shepherd of Israel had come! It was time to move from one place into another. God was not calling them to simply wander, but to encounter a real human child who was to be the Messiah, who was the Son of God.

God is always present to us, but the story of the magi reminds us that Jesus came to us in a very real time and place. God is not simply an idea or a nice feeling that floats around,

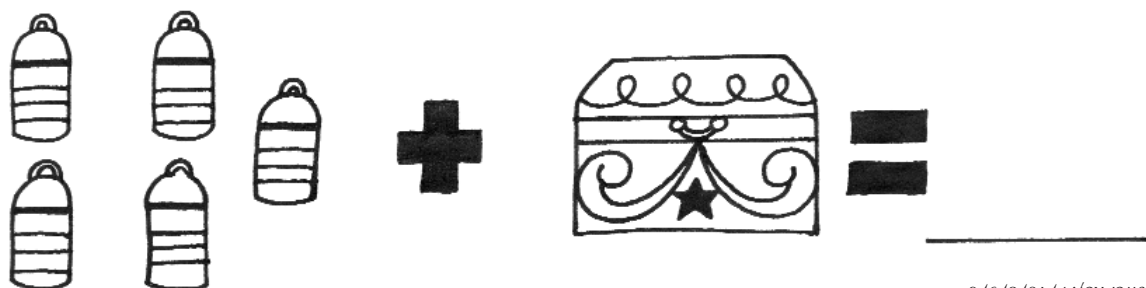
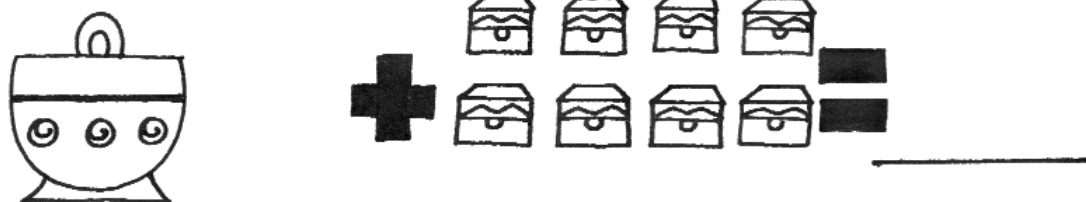
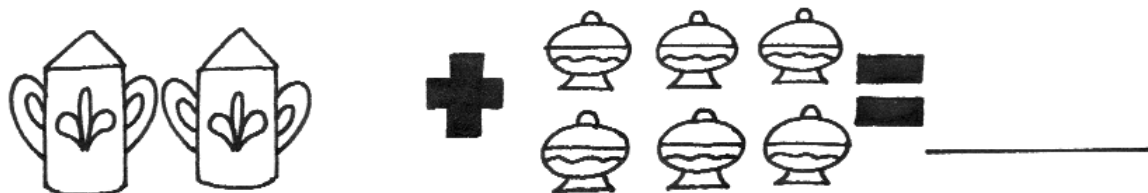
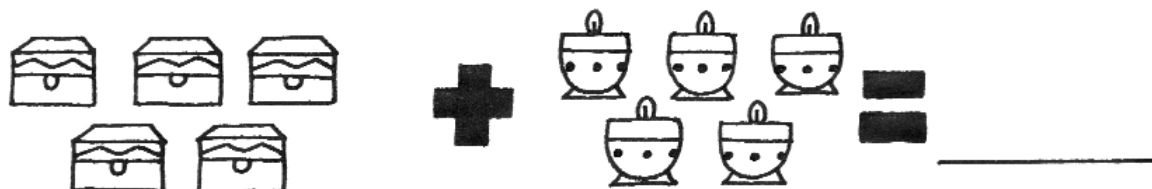
but someone who wants to be with us in the real parts of our lives. God wants to be in the manger, as a newborn. God wants to be with us in the places that might not seem very fancy or special. God wants to be with us in the Eucharist each week—a place where we can touch and know and taste who God is and let God be even closer to us. Just like the stars help us mark where we are on Earth and when it is during the calendar year, we have things like the Mass and other traditions to help us mark moments in the liturgical year and find the concrete, real moments where we can follow God and look for God in real life. Every year at this time, we celebrate this same feast of the Epiphany, and remember the journey the magi made to meet the Son of God in person.

What are some ways your family celebrates God coming into the world? What are other things your family celebrates throughout the year? Write them or draw pictures of them in the stars below.



The scriptures tell us the magi  
 “opened their treasures and offered [Jesus]  
 gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11).

Add the treasures below together,  
 then write the number that tells the sum.



Answer key: 7, 10, 8, 9, 6



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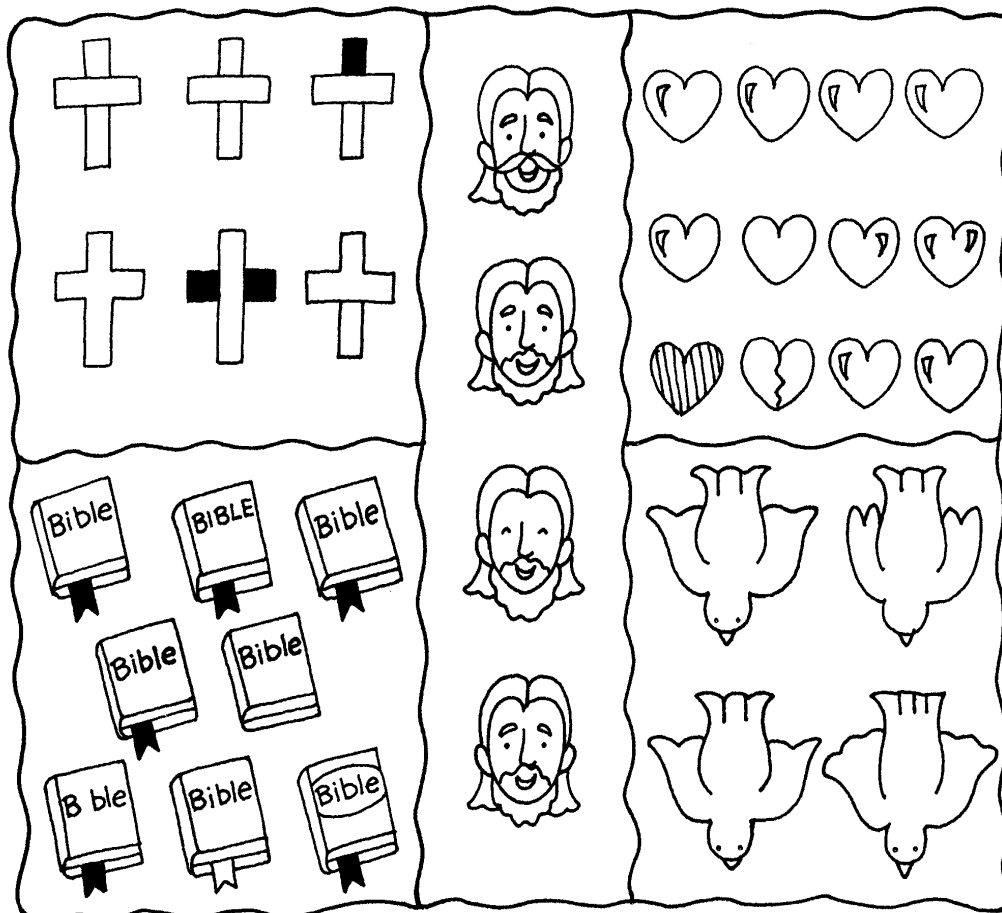


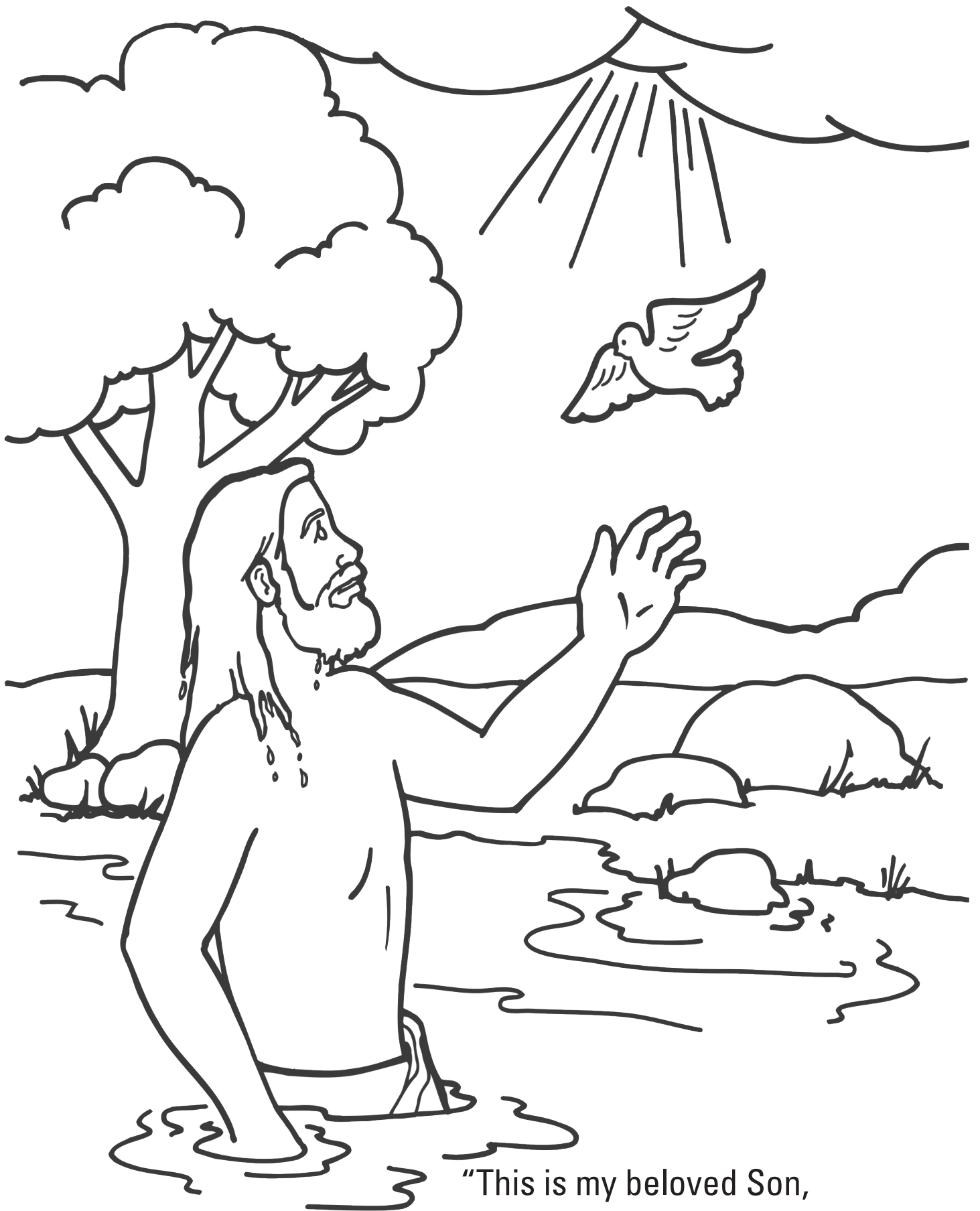


## January 11, 2026 Baptism of the Lord

Even though God made each of us different,  
we are all equal in God's sight.

Every one of us, whatever our race, country, or community,  
is a beloved child of God. Look at each grouping and  
circle the pictures that are the same.





"This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased."

*Matthew 3:17*



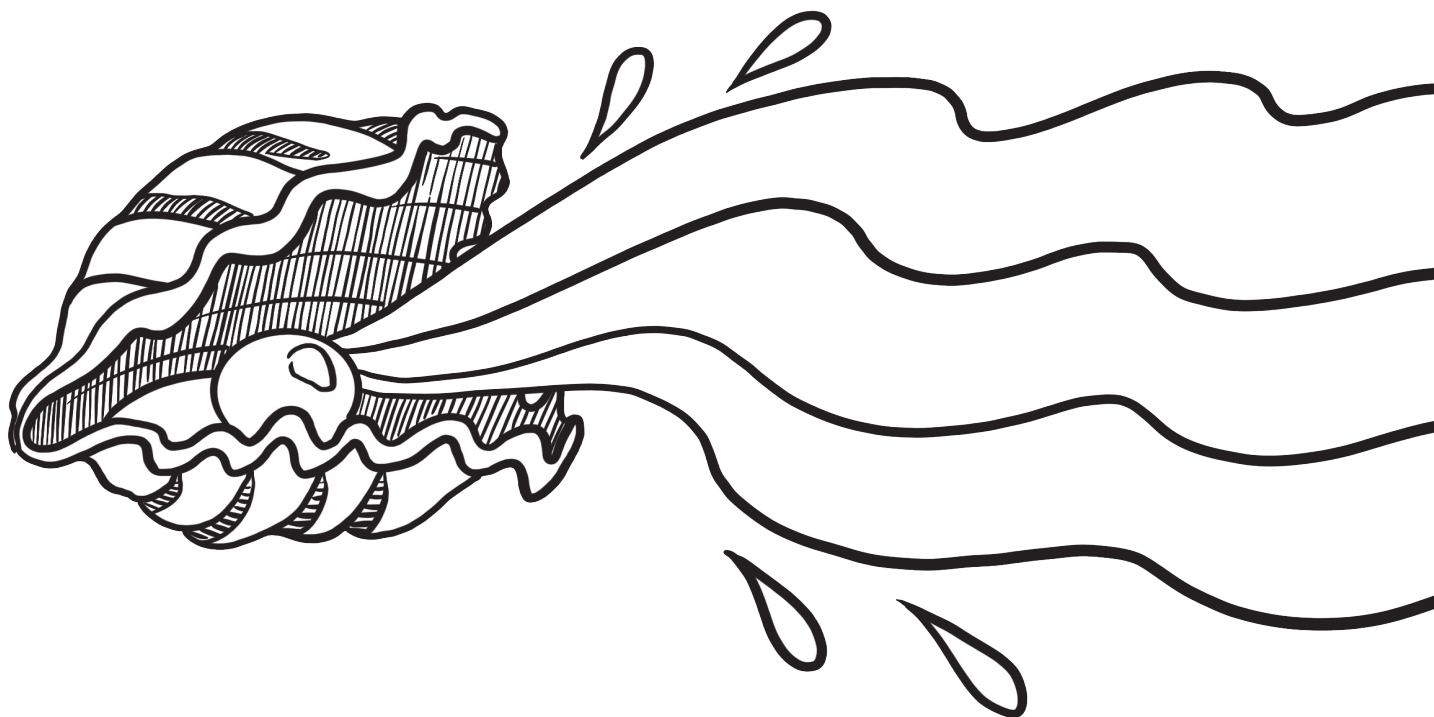
## Beloved Children of God

Do you remember when you were baptized? Many Catholics are baptized as babies, but some people are baptized when they are older children or when they are adults. Sometimes even whole families are baptized together! You might have seen baptisms take place at Mass. Babies are brought up by their families, who make baptismal promises and commit to raising their child in the Church, and then the child is baptized with water (three times! For the Father, Son and Holy Spirit), and anointed with oil. A lot of things have changed since Jesus was baptized, but how simple it is to baptize someone is still the same. We are baptized with water just as Jesus was.

Many people have wondered why Jesus needed to be baptized at all—even John, who was the one to baptize him! We know that Jesus is God, but he was also made human, like us, while he was on earth. Being baptized is one of many things Jesus did to be like us. It helped him to be closer to us, and to be part of the traditions we follow as a Church. It helps us feel closer to God, too, knowing that Jesus was baptized with water just as we are.

One of the other things that is just the same is God calling all of us 'beloved!' A voice came down from the heavens at Jesus' baptism: "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased." What do you think God's voice might have sounded like? Take a second and say it out loud or in your mind to yourself: "I am God's beloved child, with whom God is well pleased." God wants us to be baptized, wants us to be part of the Church and the Body of Christ because God loves us. God loves us dearly and closely and wants us to know how loved we are. We get to hear the story of the Baptism of the Lord each year and remember how special and precious Jesus was, and also how special and precious we are to God. Every time we get to see a baptism, we can remember that the person being baptized is precious to God. We can take a second when we see a baptism and say to ourselves "I am God's beloved child!" God loves every little part of us and wants to be the fullest, most beloved version of ourselves—just as Jesus was.

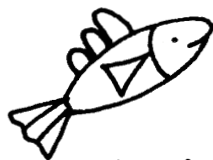
What are the things about you that you love? What gifts has God given to you, God's most beloved child? Write them down in the streams of water below.





What an honor it must have been for John to baptize Jesus! Read what happened and finish writing the underlined words into the crossword that appears in the river below.

John didn't feel worthy to baptize Jesus. But Jesus wanted him to, and so he did. Afterwards, the Spirit of God appeared as a dove. A voice from the heavens called Jesus "my beloved son."



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**January 18, 2026**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

John the Baptist called Jesus the "Lamb of God."

Try to find this phrase and circle it seven times  
in the word jumble below.

Look forward, backward, up, down, and across.

L A M B O F L A  
 L A M B O F G O D D G O  
 A D G  
 L L A M B O F G O D O F O F L A M  
 B G O L D  
 B D O D G F O B M A L O G O D  
 L D O G F O B M A L A M B G  
 G O L F O G O D  
 F O D O G F O B M A L F O  
 D G B  
 L A M B O F G O D O M L  
 L G A  
 A D O F L A M B  
 L A M B O  
 B



**“Behold, the Lamb of God”**  
*John 1:29*



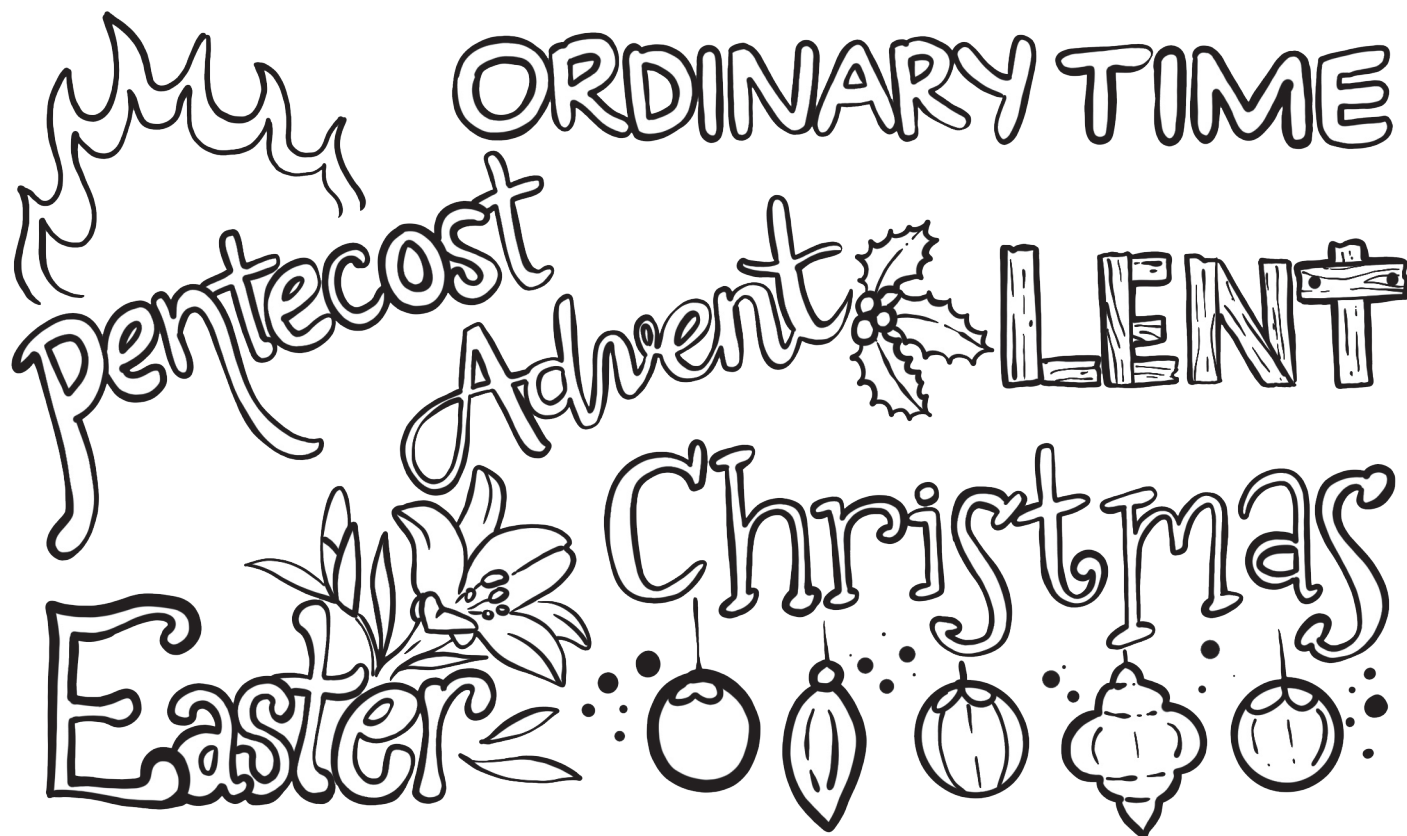


## Changing Seasons

Do you know that the Church has seasons? Not like the seasons we normally think of—winter, spring, summer and fall. The seasons of the Church follow the calendar but they are not marked by the weather. (And did you know in other parts of the world it isn't winter right now but summer?!) No matter what part of the world you are in, the seasons of the Church are changing now. We have made our way through Advent and Christmas, and now we have shifted into what is called Ordinary Time. One of the ways you can tell we are in Ordinary Time is based on the colors you see at Mass. You might spot these colors on the priests' clothing, the tablecloths used on the altar, or on decorations around the church building. We use purple to mark Advent and Lent, white at feasts like Christmas and Easter, and then when it's Ordinary Time, we shift to green. Every once in a while, we get to use red, which usually means it's either Good Friday or we're celebrating the Holy Spirit, like on Pentecost!

For now, we have a short while in Ordinary Time until Lent comes. The amount of time we spend in Ordinary Time is different every year. Ordinary Time might not seem like the most exciting season—it's ordinary! There aren't always a lot of feasts or other exciting events. But it is the time when we live most of our life. We always have great things to celebrate every year, like Christmas, Easter, birthdays, anniversaries and sacraments! Celebrating those important moments is always special and meaningful. But God still wants to be with us no matter what the season is. Green is a color of life, of things that grow. And God always wants to be with us as we grow, even if it's just a regular day where we go to school and eat a regular dinner. Even if nothing seemingly 'special' is happening, God is still with us and helping us to grow. All of our time is important to God—no matter how ordinary, uneventful, or plain it might seem. When you see the color green over the next few weeks (or at any time!), try and remember that God is with you in all your ordinary moments. Maybe it's when you are brushing your teeth, eating breakfast, or doing your homework.

Let the colors you see at Mass remind you of the different ways we celebrate God's love for us! Color in each word below with the color used to mark the season.



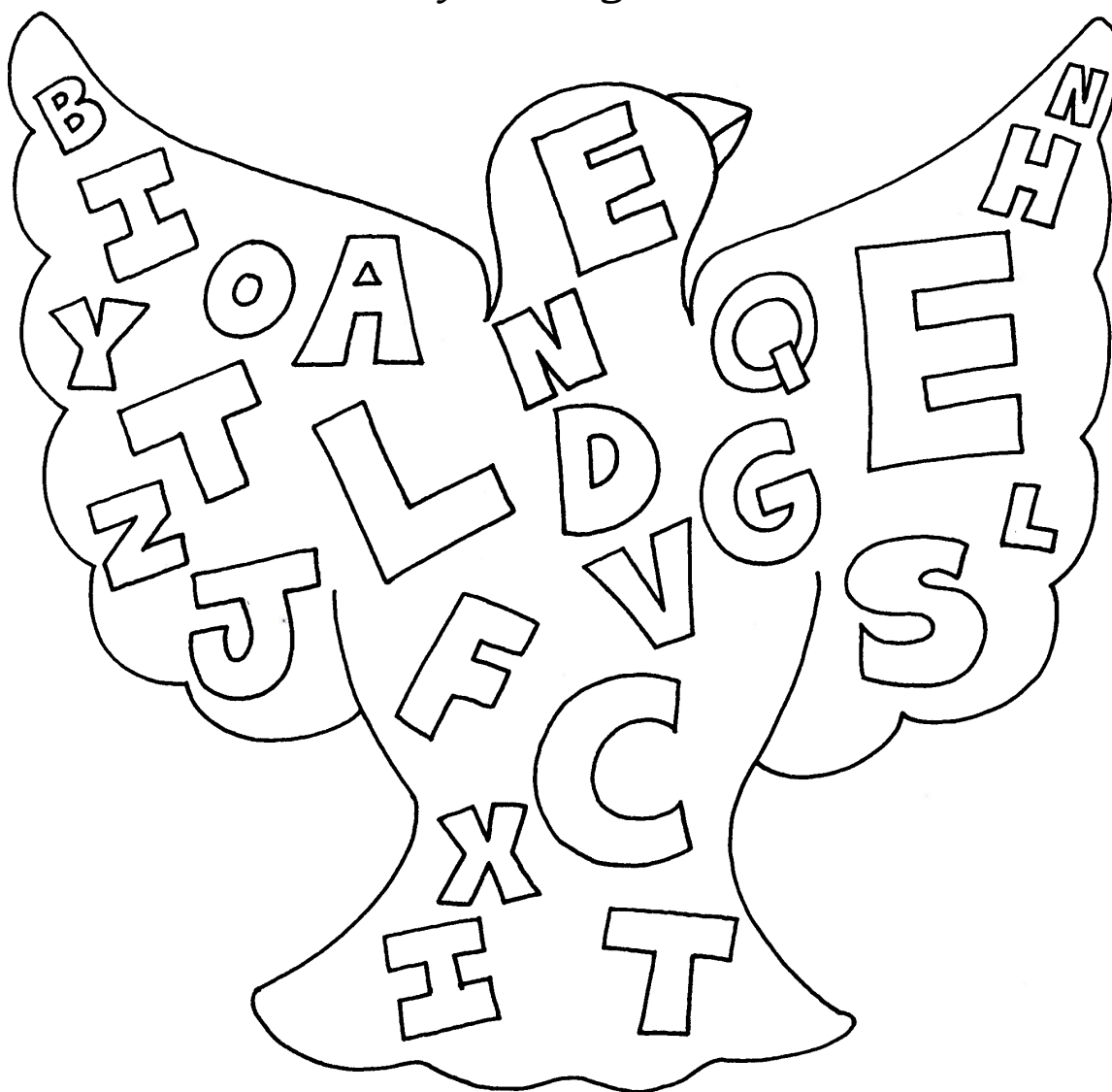


“To testify” means to declare that something is true.  
When he talked about Jesus, John the Baptist said,

“Now I have seen and testified  
that he is the Son of God” (John 1:34).

Look inside the dove shape and use yellow to  
color the letters that spell TESTIFIED.

Remember, when Jesus comes into our lives  
we can testify to his great love for us!



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## January 25, 2026

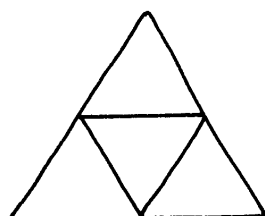
### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Corinthian people were divided and could not agree.  
Some said they belonged to other teachers instead of Christ.

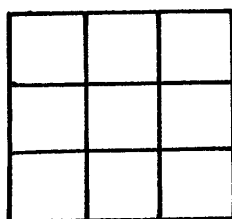
Paul reminded them that Jesus was  
the one who was crucified for their sins—  
and they should belong only to him!

Below are shapes that have been divided.

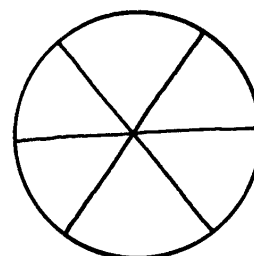
Shade in their parts according to  
the fractions shown beneath.



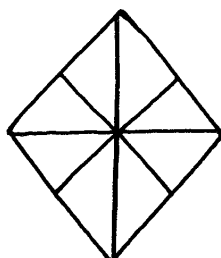
$$\frac{3}{4}$$



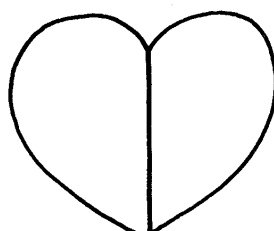
$$\frac{7}{9}$$



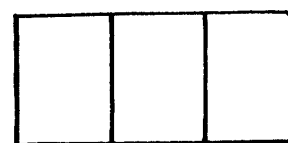
$$\frac{4}{6}$$



$$\frac{6}{8}$$



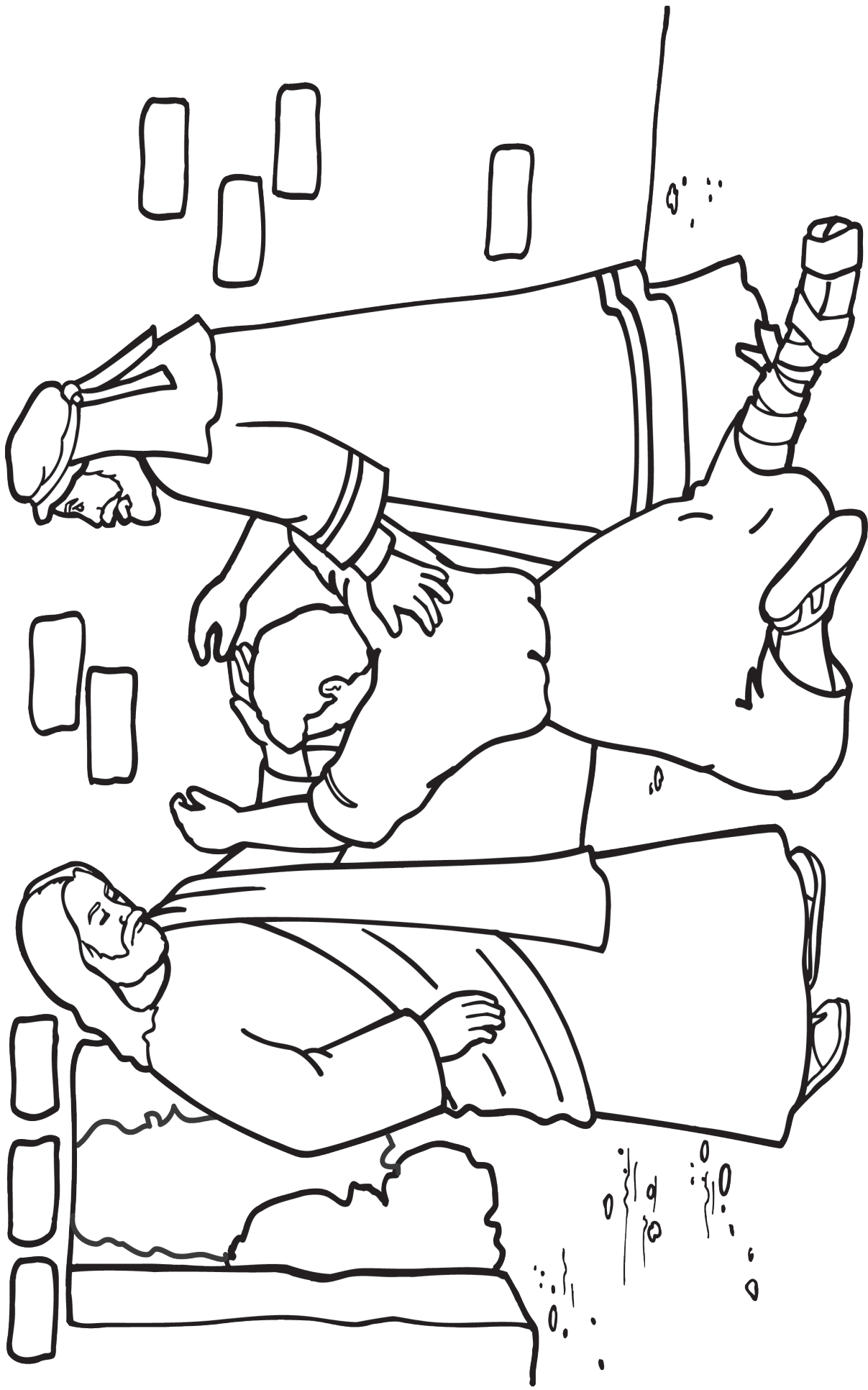
$$\frac{2}{2}$$



$$\frac{1}{3}$$

Give your whole heart to Jesus!





[Jesus] went around all of Galilee...  
curing every disease and illness among the people.  
*Matthew 4:23*



## Come and Fish with Me

Have you been fishing before? Have you seen other people fish? Often when we see people fishing or go fishing ourselves, we use a pole that we cast out into the water, and if we are lucky we get a bite! It's exciting to see the line pull down into the water, feel the tug on your pole and know it's time to try and reel in the fish! In Jesus' time, the fishermen that he called didn't use poles, they used nets. They didn't try to bring in one fish at a time, they were trying to bring in a LOT of fish. Fishing with a net and trying to catch that many fish was hard work. The nets were heavy, and—if they caught a lot of fish like they wanted to!—the nets got even heavier with all those fish in them. It took more than one person to manage the nets and successfully bring in all those fish. They had to work together to make sure that all the fish made it into the boat so that there would be enough fish for them to sell and to feed the people who needed food.

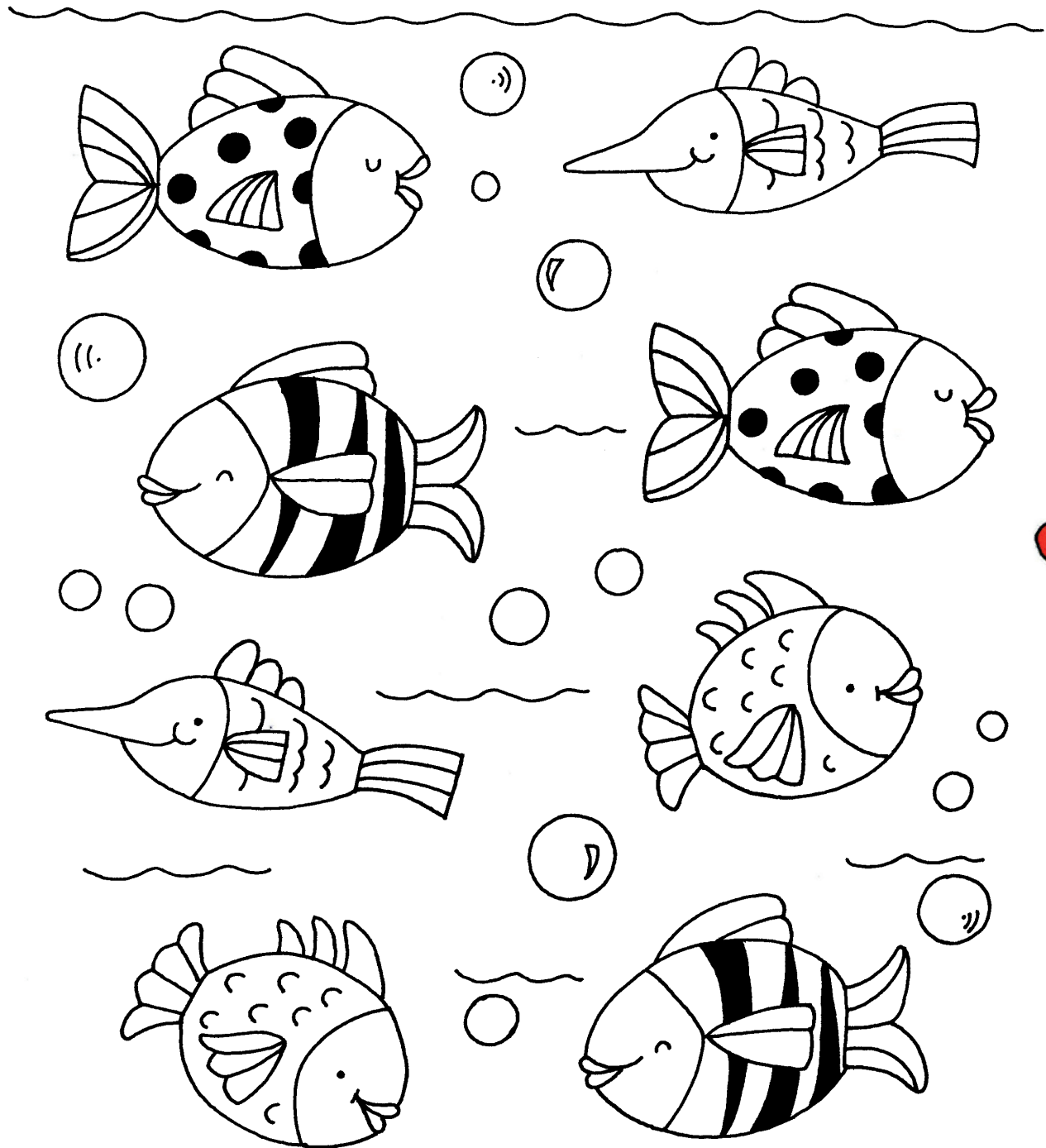
Jesus knew that he couldn't do his work alone. Like the people he called to be his disciples, he knew it would take a community of people working together to help proclaim the gospel and heal the sick and the injured.

The gospel is too important to be shared just one person at a time! The needs of the sick and vulnerable among us in our families and communities are far too important to take care of one at a time. This is work that we, as followers of Jesus, are called to do together. We can do it in our schools, in our families, and in our neighborhoods. We can help take care of one another, making sure that everyone is fed, cared for, and safe, and knows how deeply they are loved by God. Can you think of some ways you can help in this important work? Maybe you and your family could donate to a food pantry, or visit or write some letters to people in an elderly home who might be feeling lonely. Maybe you can help your teacher clean things up after class. There are so many ways to help and care for people; once you start thinking about it, you will see opportunities everywhere!

Who are the people you can be a disciple with? Maybe they are friends, family members, or people in your church. Who are the people that can help you be a better disciple? Draw them on the stick figures below and write down their names.



Jesus called out to fishermen to follow him.  
Draw lines to connect each fish with its twin.



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