



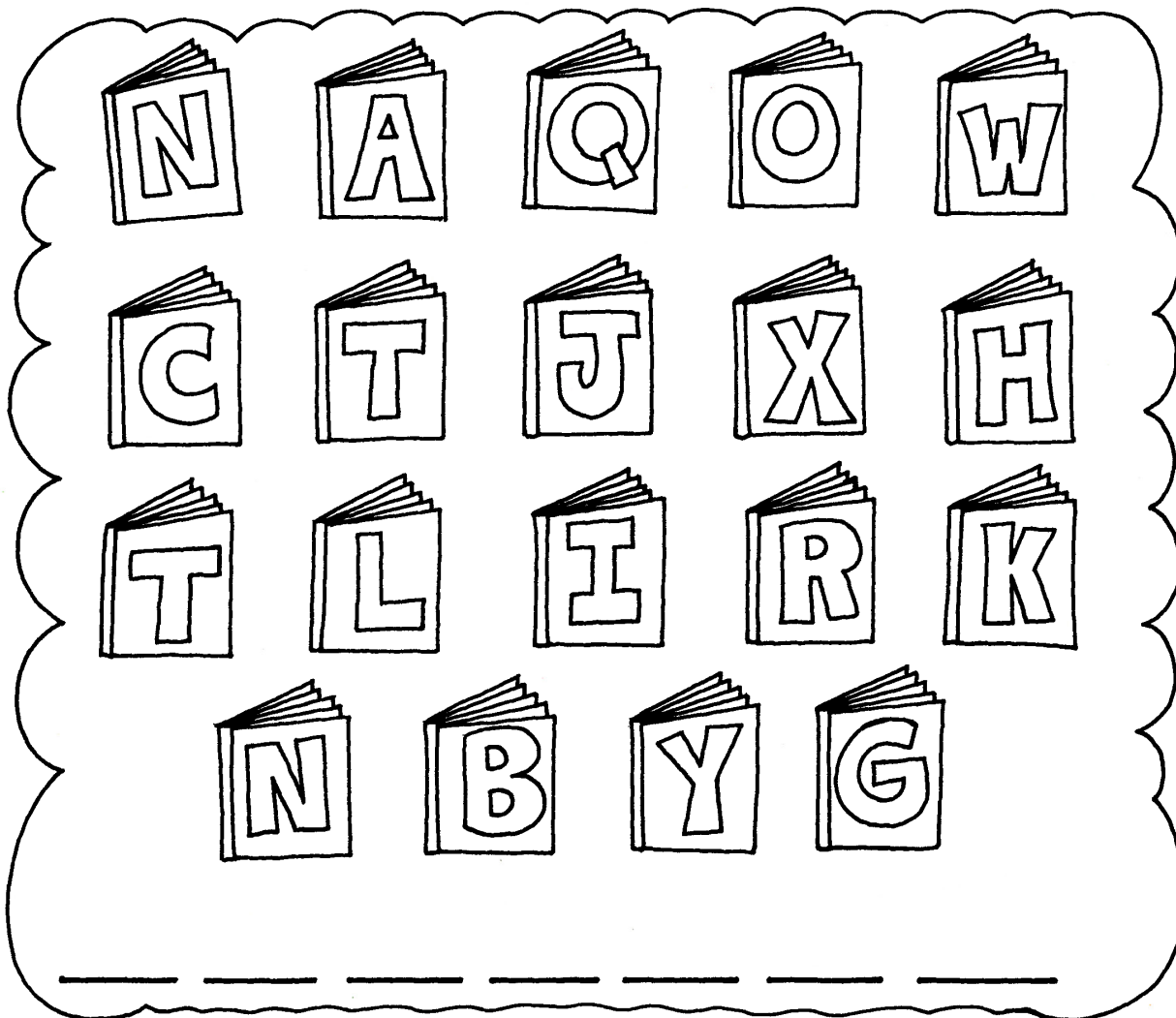
August 2, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

God is all-powerful and the ruler of everything!

Color the first prayer book
and every third one after that.

The colored books will spell what can
come between you and God's love.



Answer Key: Nothing





"Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."

Then (Jesus) said, "Bring them here to me."

Matthew 14:17, 18



Growing Abundance

Have you had a meal with a large crowd before? Maybe a pizza party at school, or a really big family gathering at the holidays? Especially in times of celebrations, lots of families and communities come together in large numbers to share meals and be with one another. The crowds that came to hear Jesus speak weren't quite one family, but they were a growing community of people who wanted to follow and learn from Jesus. We are told there were five thousand men there, and that didn't include women and children. So there could have been twice that many people—maybe ten thousand! That is a lot of people to gather in one place and to learn from and be healed by Jesus. But when they go to see if there is any food among them—among all the thousands of people there!—they can only find a few fishes and loaves.

Do you wonder what it might have felt like for the disciples to look at the few fishes and loaves and then at the huge crowds and wonder what they could ever do with that?

Somehow, Jesus turns the little that they have into more than what they need. Can you imagine what that might be like? But this is what Jesus is able to do for us—turn little things into great big abundant things! Jesus can turn little things into more than we can ever imagine. For the people



gathered there, it was food. But there are lots of little things in our lives that we can entrust to God and see how they can grow and bear fruit. Maybe it's something new you want to try. It could be a sport or other new activity, or reaching out to someone to become friends. We have lots of things in our lives that are able to grow from small things into big things. But it does mean that we have to offer up the little things in our life to God and give them a chance to grow. It can be a little scary and we might have a hard time imagining how big something can be in our life. But we see in the gospel that giving the things we need to God means they can become more than we think they can.

What are some things in your life you want to see grow? Talk about them with your family or friends. Are there things in your family that you would all like to see grow bigger or offer up to God? You can share these things with God in your prayer, too.



A large crowd gathered to see Jesus.

At suppertime, the disciples wanted the people to go find their own food. Instead, Jesus took five loaves of bread and two fish, and did what the signs say.

Find and circle the words in the baskets below the signs and fill in the missing letters.

You can read the story in your Bible at Matthew 14:13-21.

H _

i e v z q h x c
u a p H e w n r
f o k t s b g m

f _ d

a u k r c v h s
a b n g u w d p
f q t e i f e d

O _ _ r

c s m i z t e j
k o v e r u h y
d p g q f l a n

_ i v _

e f i v e c g l
m m x o c p t d
d i b q f a k j

th _ u _ and

h f y x n p d g
t h o u s a n d
c l m b k e i j

_ _ o p l e

a v d t f w a b
u r h w y s g z
c q p e o p l e

Answer Key: He, five, over, fed, thousand, people



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August 9, 2026

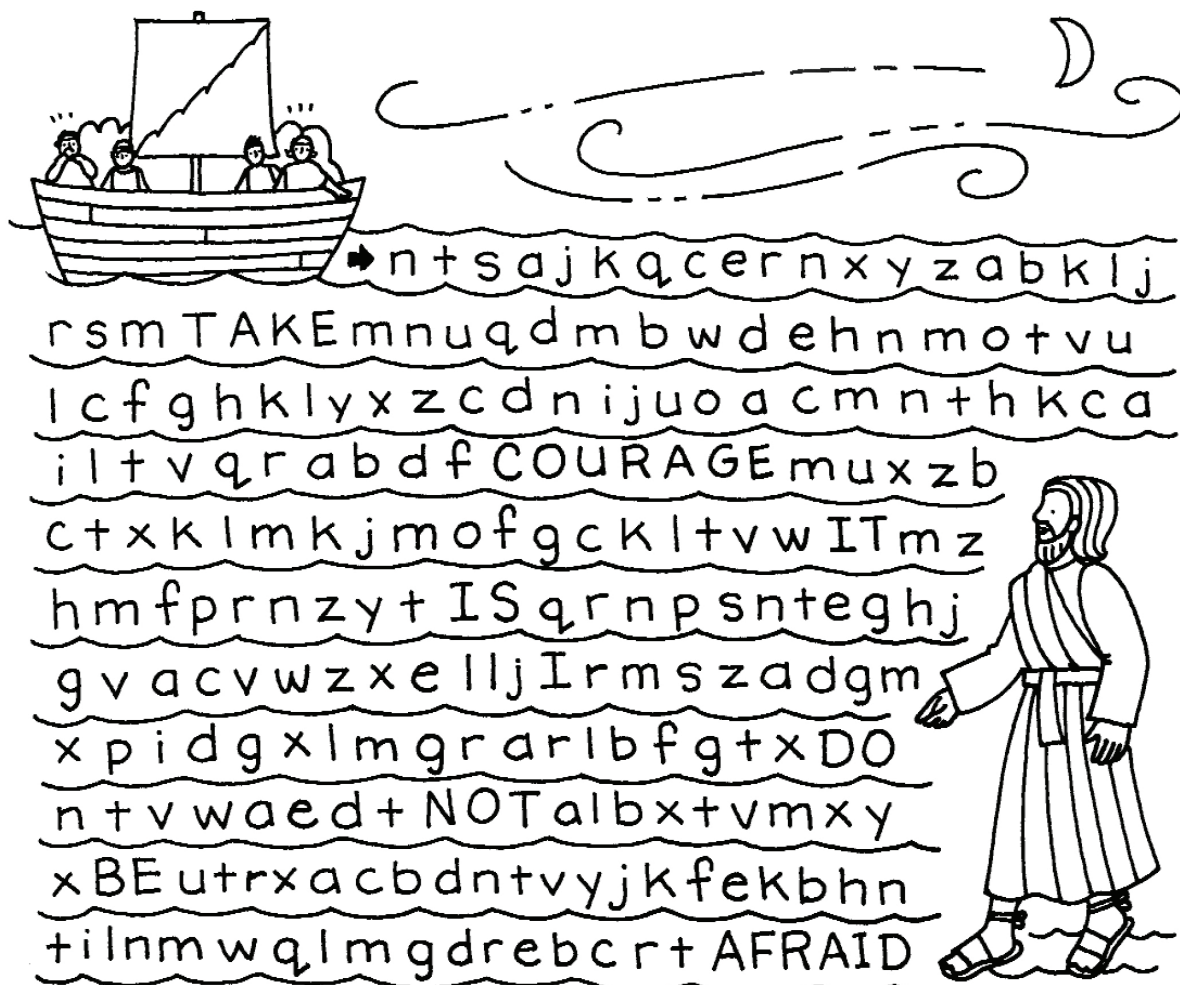
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

When the disciples saw Jesus
walking toward their boat they were afraid!
Use a light-colored crayon to highlight only
the uppercase letters in the waves.

They will spell out what Jesus said to them.

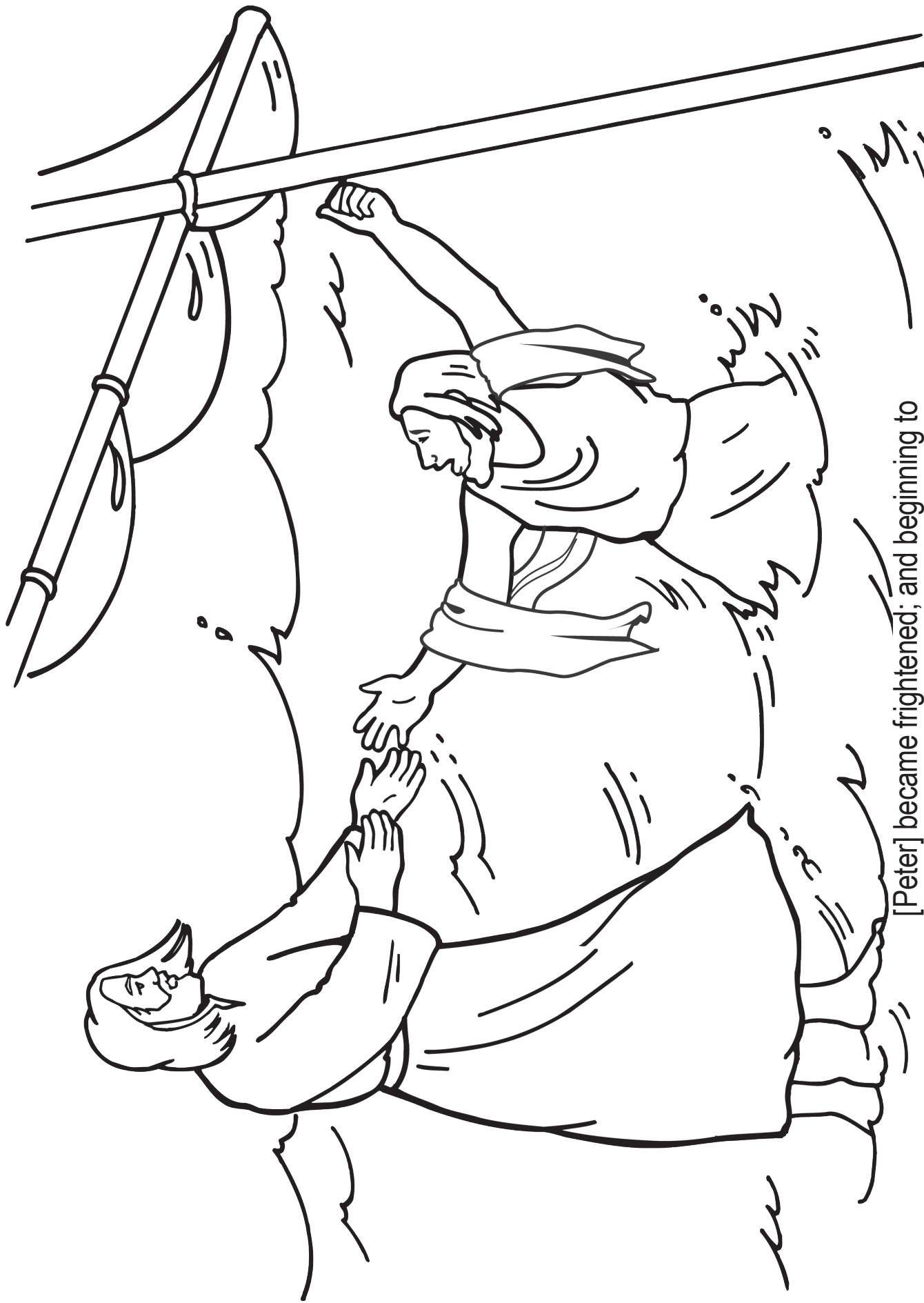
Start at the boat and end at Jesus.

You can read the story in your Bible at Matthew 14:22-33.



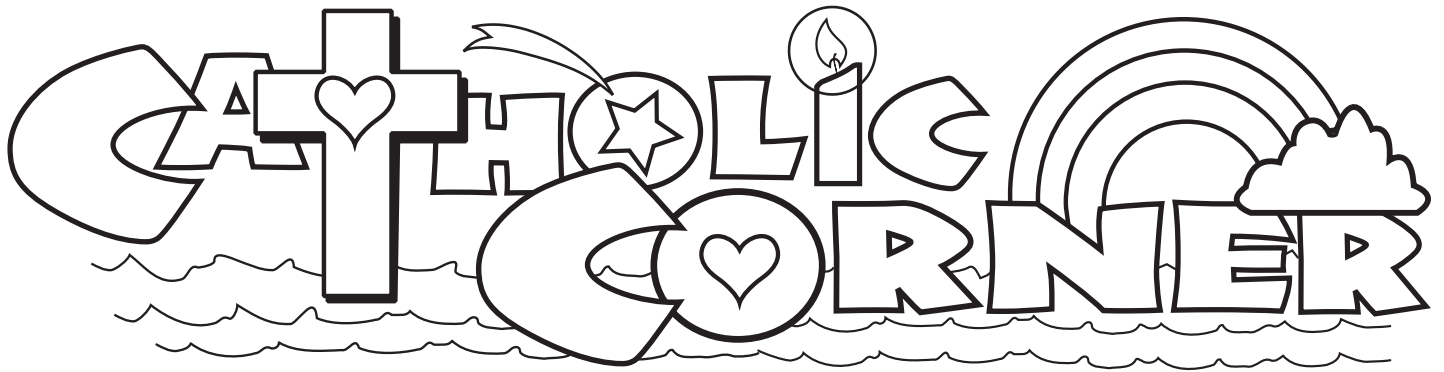
Answer Key: TAKE COURAGE, IT IS I. DO NOT BE AFRAID.





[Peter] became frightened; and beginning to
sink, he cried, "Lord, save me!"

Matthew 14:30

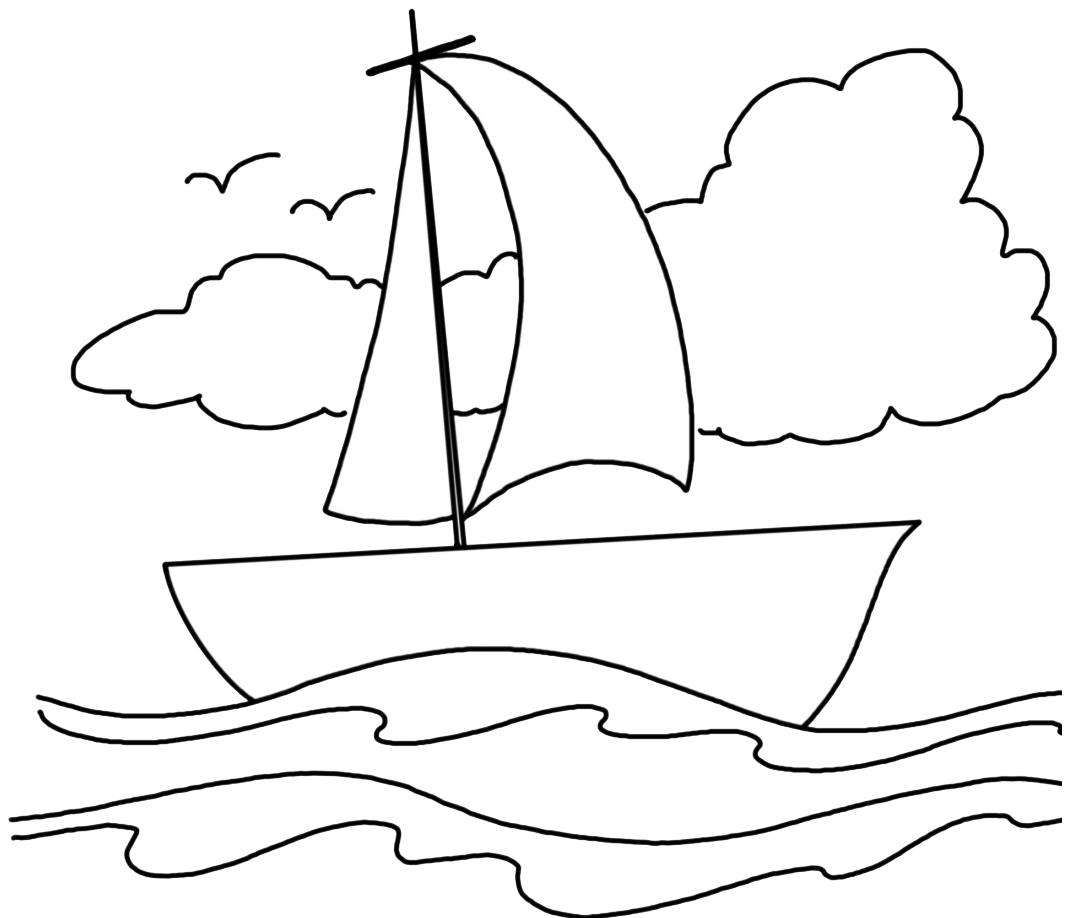


Weathering the Storm

Are there a lot of storms where you live? Different parts of the country and the world get different kinds of weather, and so there are some places that are more likely to get big storms, especially at certain times of the year. Storms often have a lot of wind, rain, or snow, even lightning and thunder! The clouds that carry storms mean it gets darker when storms come through. Storms are a normal part of weather and can sometimes be a little bit scary. There are lots of ways to keep safe and sound during storms so that you don't have to worry about them. But sometimes they can still feel a little bit scary, and that's ok.

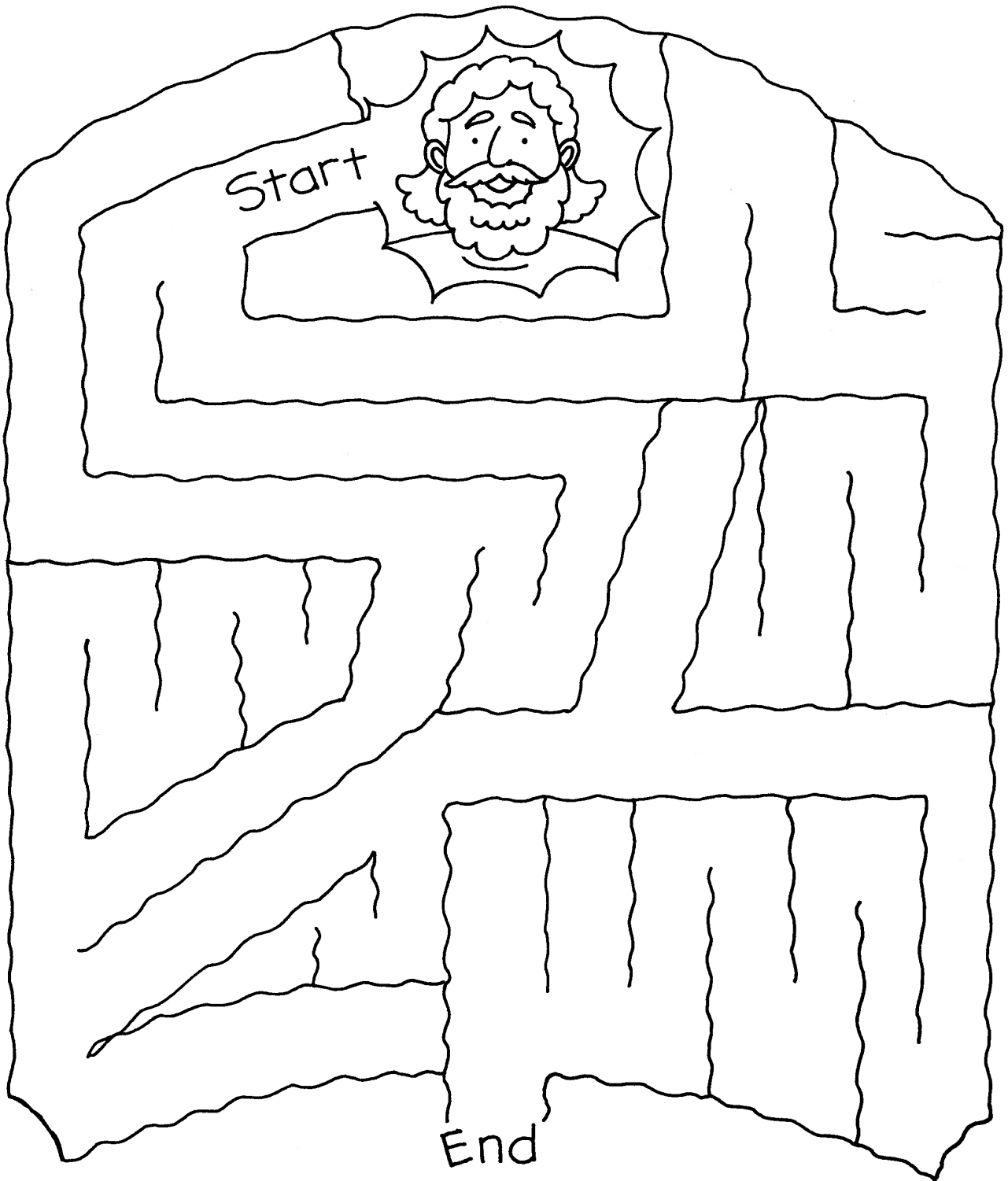
We hear about some crazy weather in two of our readings today. In the first reading, Elijah is hiding in a cave. There is really loud wind, then an earthquake, and then a fire. Elijah is looking for God, but God isn't in the big scary things happening. God is in the quiet whisper that comes after. When the disciples are in their boat, the wind is causing waves that toss the boat around. When Peter walks out to Jesus, Jesus helps keep him safe and upright when he sinks, and when Jesus gets in the boat, the weather calms down. Both Elijah and the disciples feel how scary the weather and the world can feel. And in the midst of what feels scary, God and Jesus come along to help calm and soothe things. Like Elijah and Peter, we will have times when we feel scared or when something in life is hard. Everyone feels that way at some point. But God is always there to help us. We can always look to God to be the quiet and the calm when it feels like we are in the midst of a storm.

What are some ways you can ask God to help you feel safe and calm during times that are hard? Are there other people in your life who help you feel safe? Are there times when you can help other people in your life feel safe or happy when they are scared or sad? Draw some of those people and yourself in the boat to the right.





Help Elijah find his way to the entrance of the cave.
The LORD will be passing by!



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August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The phrase below is from the book of Isaiah (56:7).

Fill in the missing words by using the grid.

My _____ (2-b)

shall _____ (1-b)

_____ (1-a) a

_____ (2-b) of

_____ (3-a) for

all _____ (2-a)

Isaiah 56:7

	a	b
1.	called	be
2.	peoples	house
3.	prayer	for

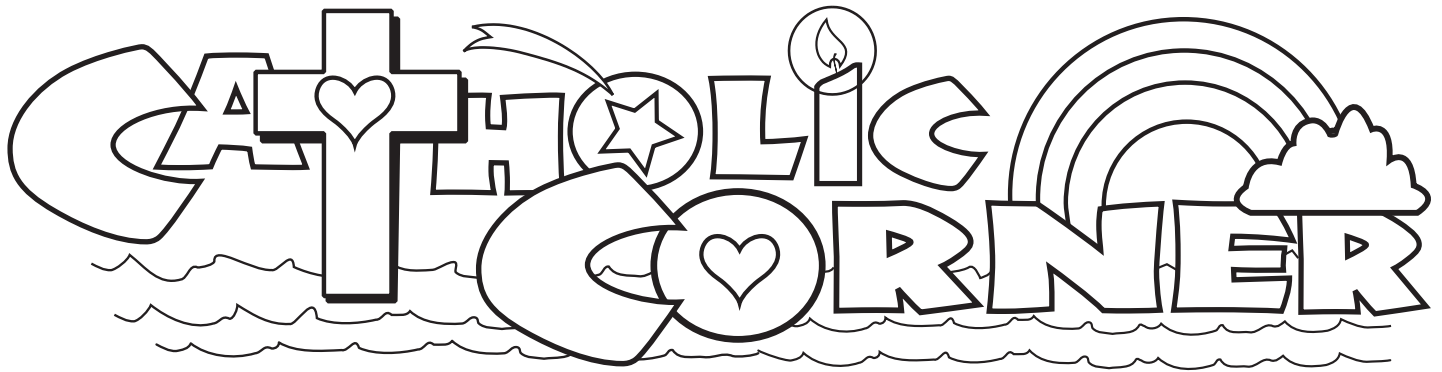
Answer Key: My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.





A Canaanite woman pleaded with Jesus
to heal her daughter.

Matthew 15:21-28



Welcoming All in Love

Have you ever traveled far from home? Or have you ever had to move to a new home that was far away from where you lived? If not, have you had someone new come into your class at school? Maybe they came from a different school nearby, or perhaps came from farther away. While some people have not moved far from where they were born, there are plenty of people who have had to move away from home. There are lots of reasons why people move to different places! Sometimes they want to be closer to family, or they might need to move so that their parents can have a better job. Sometimes they just want to live in a place that is safer and better for their family. It's something that happened to a lot of people even way back when Jesus lived. There have always been families who have needed to change where they live.

It can be hard to leave the place we're from and go somewhere new, even if it isn't very far or not for very long. Which is why we hear today about how God receives and loves people who are considered 'different' or who are new to the place they have come. It can be easy to see people who are not from the same place as being different or on the outside. But God welcomes, wants, and loves everyone, especially those who might seem different. There is no one who is not loved by God and so there is not anyone we shouldn't love either. Everyone will know the feeling at some point of being new in a group or feeling different. So it's important to remember that when we meet someone who is new, to remember they may feel nervous or scared. That it is our job to help welcome them, care for them, and make sure they know that they are wanted.

What are ways we can make someone new feel welcome? We can keep an eye out for when someone is sitting alone. If someone new joins our class, we can try to be the first person to talk to them and work on being their friend. What are some other ideas you have? Write them down in the welcome signs below.

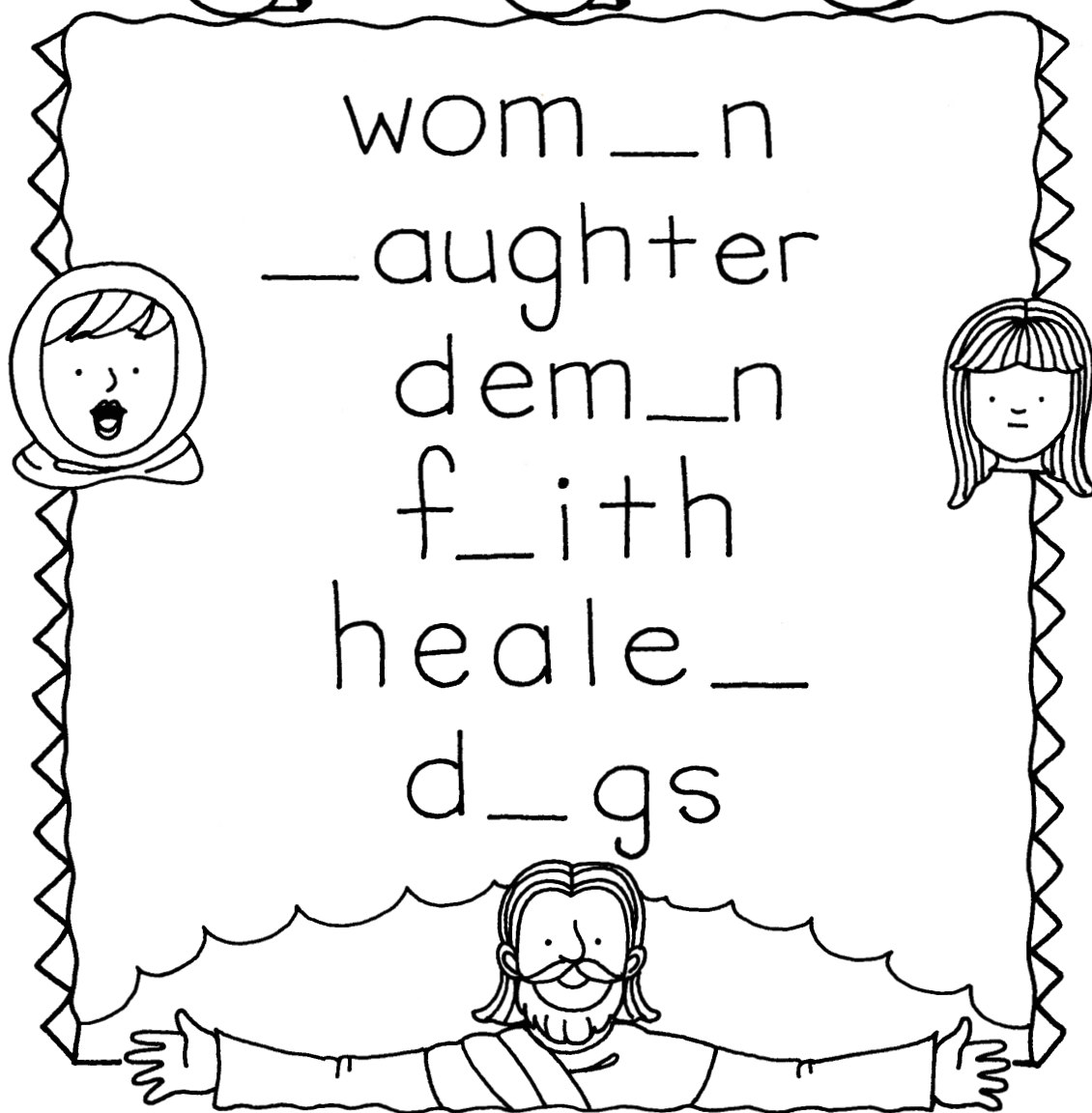
 This section contains four blank signs for students to write their ideas.
 - On the left is a vertical rectangular sign with a decorative border and the word 'Welcome' written vertically in a stylized font.
 - In the top center is a rectangular sign with a decorative border and the words 'Come on in!' written in a cursive font.
 - In the top right is a circular sign with a decorative border.
 - In the bottom center is a rectangular sign with a decorative border.
 - In the bottom right is a rectangular sign with a decorative border.
 Each sign has a small decorative element (like a star or a heart) at the top center.

A woman came to Jesus and asked him
to make her daughter well.

You can read this story in Matthew 15:21-28.

Choose from the three letters shown
to complete important words from this story.

a d o



Answer Key: a, d, o, a, d, o



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August 23, 2026

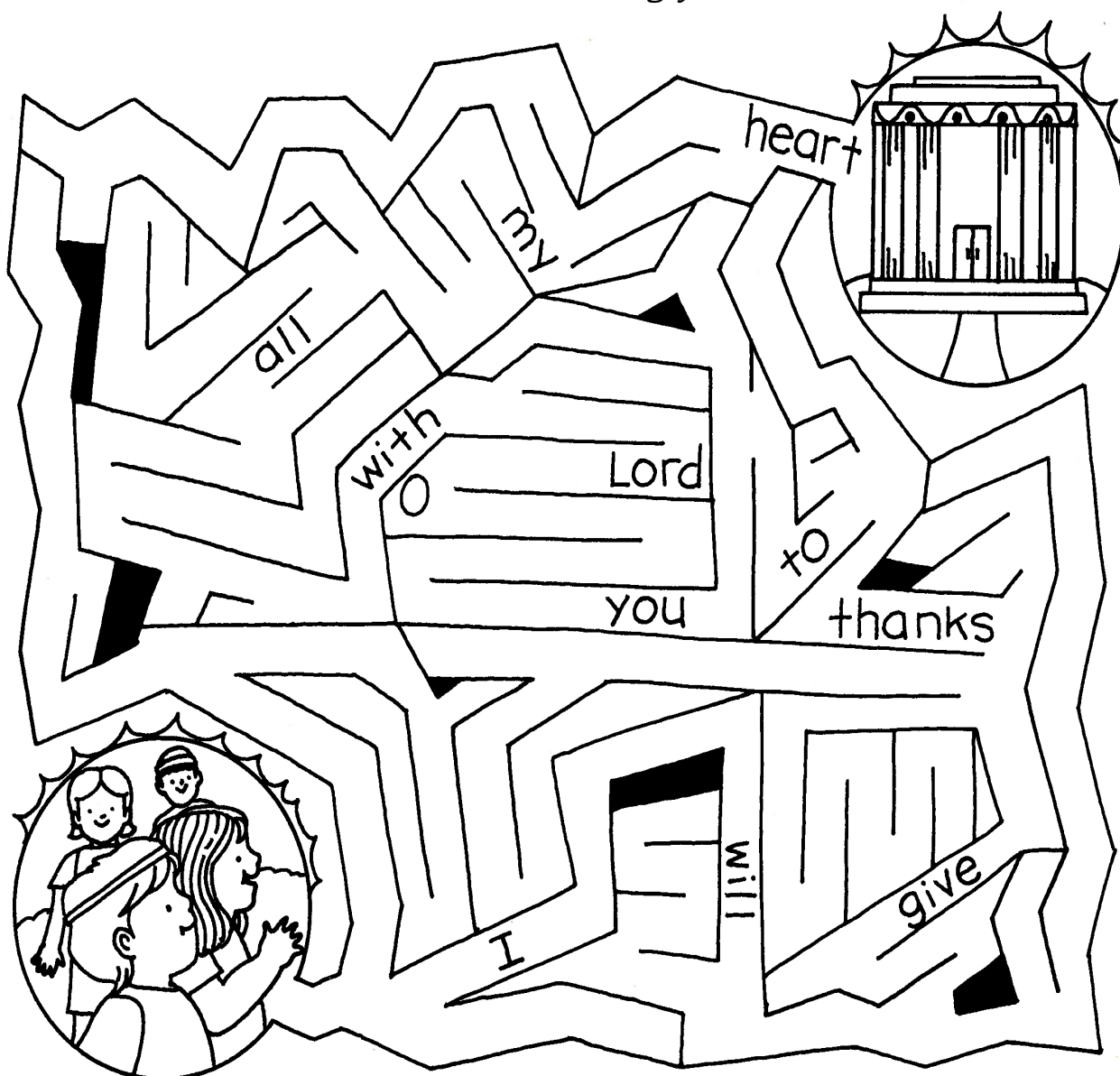
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

God loves and listens to us!

Help the children find their way to the temple to worship.

Read the words of praise from Psalm 138:1 as you travel.

Is this something you do?



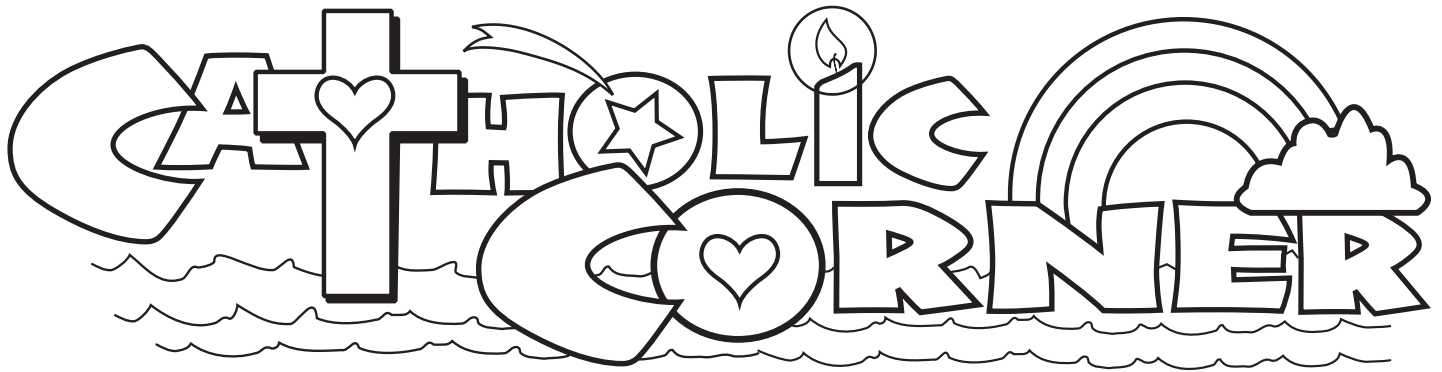
Answer Key: I will give thanks to you O Lord with all my heart.



"I will give you the keys to the
kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 16:19





Called By Name

How quickly do you turn your head if someone calls your name? Do you react differently if it's a teacher, parent, or friend calling out your name? How people call us by our name depends on our relationship to them and what they need from us when they try to get our attention. We often refer to our parents as 'Mom' or 'Dad' while other people refer to them by their first names. We call the priests at our churches 'Father' before their first or last name, because it helps remind us of who they are to us. There are lots of ways that we can call people, whether it is by a title or by their name or by a combination of the two. It helps us understand who people are and what our relationship is to them.

Some people had trouble figuring out who Jesus was. Was he the Son of God? The Son of Man? The Messiah? It can be tough to figure out what we specifically mean by all these titles that we use for Jesus. And it took the church a long time to really figure out how we wanted to understand Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus also helped Simon figure out who he was going to be by giving him a new name—Peter, which means rock. It was Jesus' way of helping Peter and everyone else understand that Peter would be the foundation—the beginning—of the Church. Even if your name or your title changes, like Peter, it can help us learn a new way of relating to other people and understanding who we are. And Jesus is there to call us by name and come to learn more about who we are. Part of our relationship with Jesus is that we always get to keep learning more about who Jesus is and how we want to be in relationship with him.

What are some things you like to be called? Do you have nicknames that are special to you? Are there people you have special names for? What are some names or titles you know for Jesus that help you know more about him? Write them in the nametags below. You can also say a prayer for each person!

Hi my name is

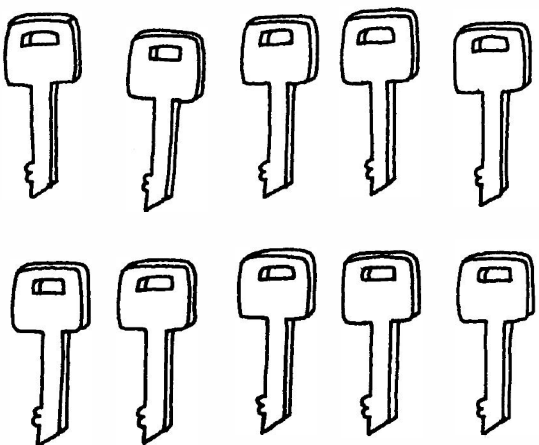
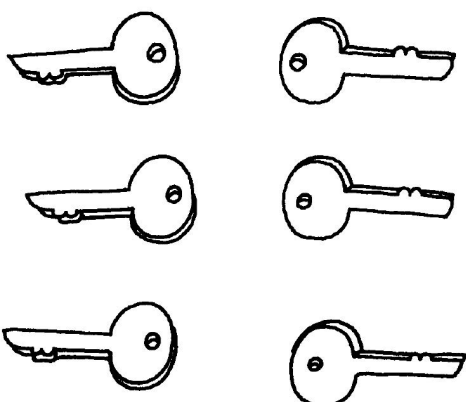
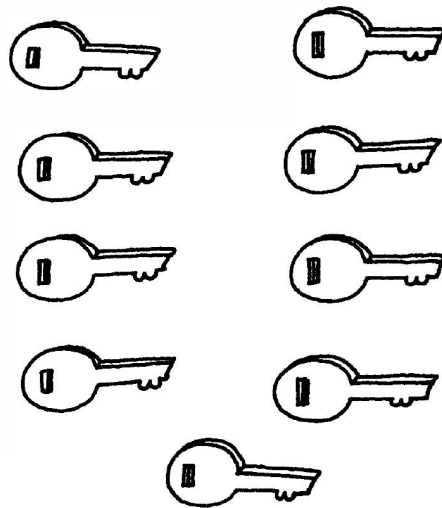
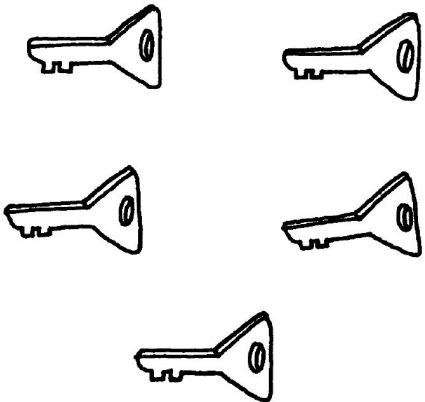
Hi my name is

Hi my name is



Jesus told Peter he would give him the keys to the kingdom of heaven (see Matthew 16:13-20).

Count the number of keys in each box and circle that number.

 9 10 11	 6 7 8
 7 8 9	 4 5 6

Answer Key: 10, 6, 9, 5



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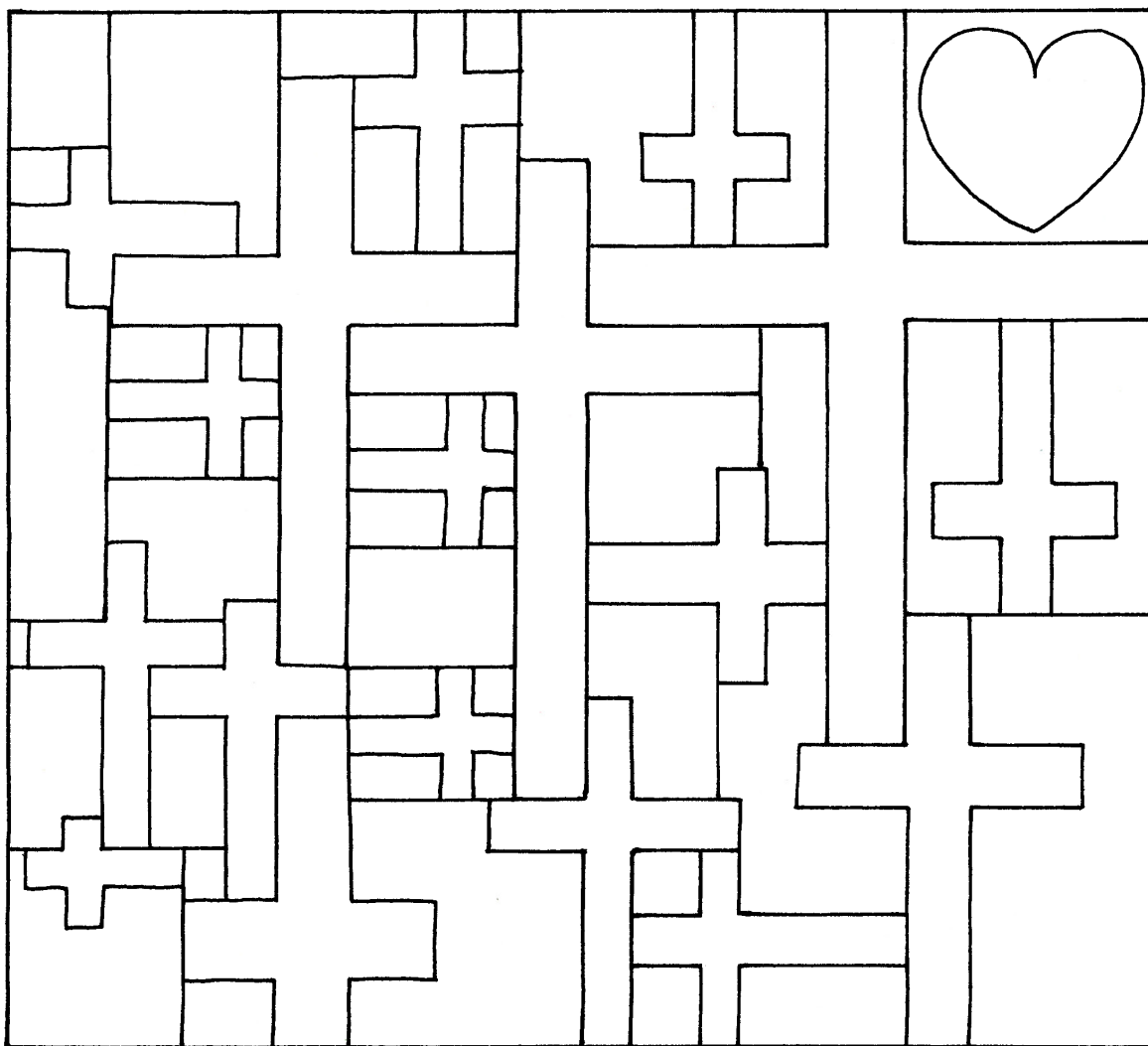
August 30, 2026

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus said a disciple should
“take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24).

Look at this tricky picture from all angles
and count the number of crosses.

Write that number in the heart.



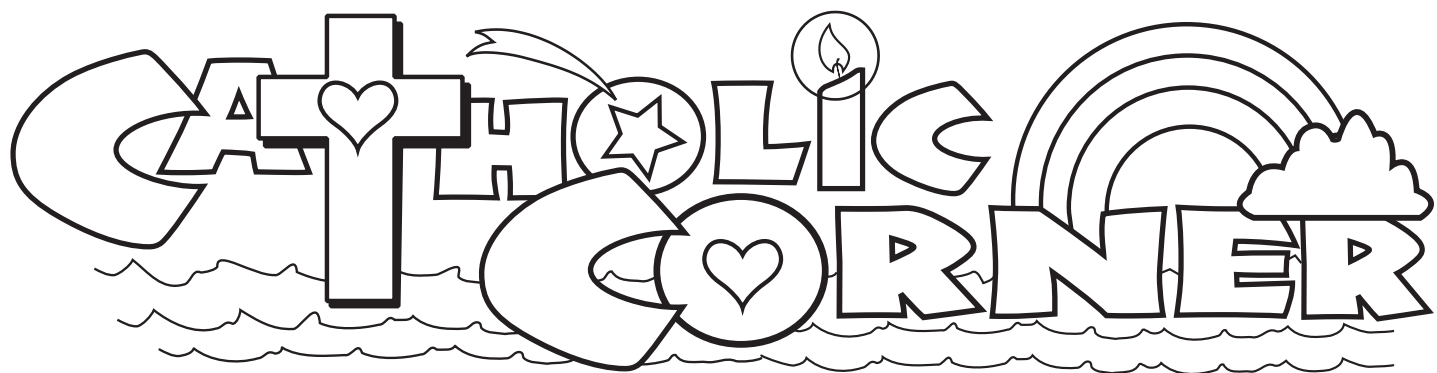
Answer key: 18



For the Son of Man will come with his angels.

Matthew 16:27



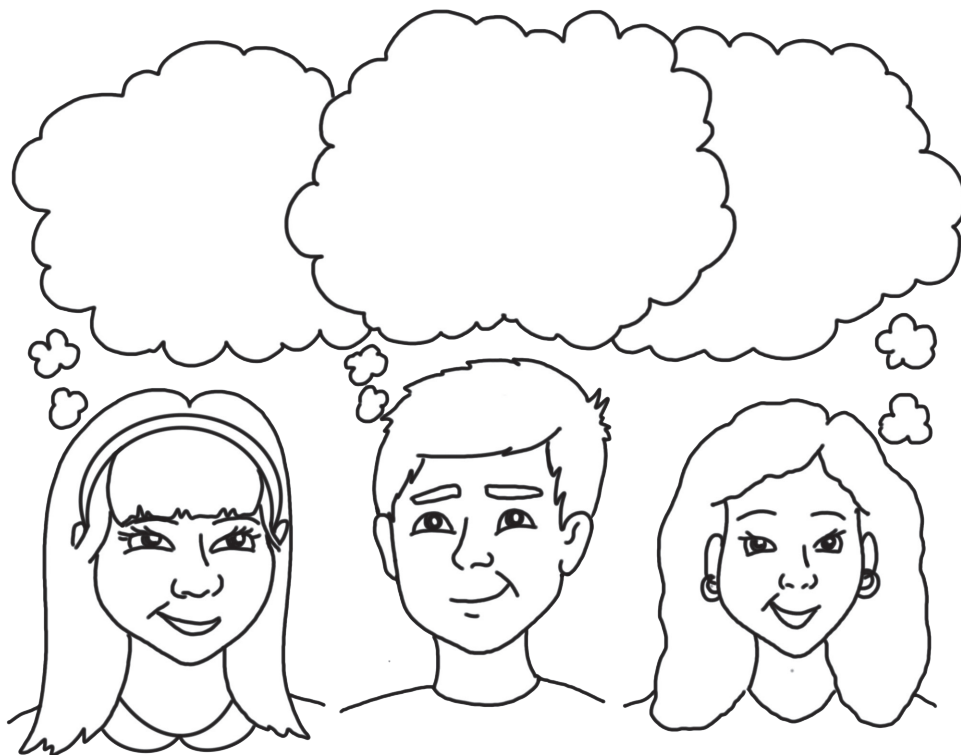


Thinking Like God

What do you think God thinks about? We have a lot of things to think about all day. Especially when we are in school, there are a lot of things that teachers are helping us to learn. We also spend time with friends and with family and get to hear about their days and think about what we want to say in reply to them. We might think about things we want to play or what we would like to have for lunch or a snack. We might worry about friends or loved ones. We might get worried about problems or get excited about fun things—both of which can be really distracting for us. There are lots of things that people think about all day long! It's normal to have lots of things to think about. But . . . what might God think about?

Jesus tells his disciples today that they are thinking like humans think and not like God thinks. What makes those things so different? The disciples were having a hard time understanding that what they think is important isn't always what God thinks is important. It's not important to God to be the first in line for something. It's not important to God that we are the best at everything. What matters to God is that we are loving and help to serve and care for others. This usually means putting other people before ourselves—which can be pretty hard. But God thinks that it's really important for us to care for one another instead of only caring about ourselves. So while it's really easy to think like a human and pay attention to the things that we want and need, Jesus is encouraging us to think more like God and think about others and what they need, too.

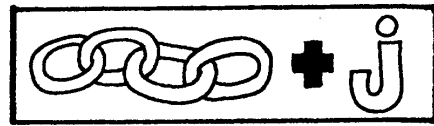
What are some ways that you can help think more about others? Are there people in your life who you might be able to think about more often, and pay more attention to things that they need? Maybe it is a friend in your classroom. Perhaps your family at home could use a little help, or even just an extra hug or high five at the end of the day to know they are loved. There are lots of ways to think more like God. You can share some more of your thoughts in the idea bubbles below.

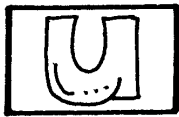




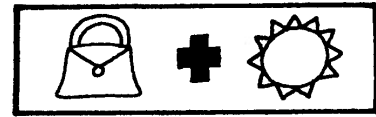
Try to sound out the words in the rectangles.
Then use the word bank below to write each word onto the blanks.
When you are done, read the message.

Let God

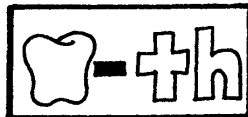




the



God wants you



!

Word Bank

be

person

you

into

change

to

Answer key: change, you, into, person, to, be



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