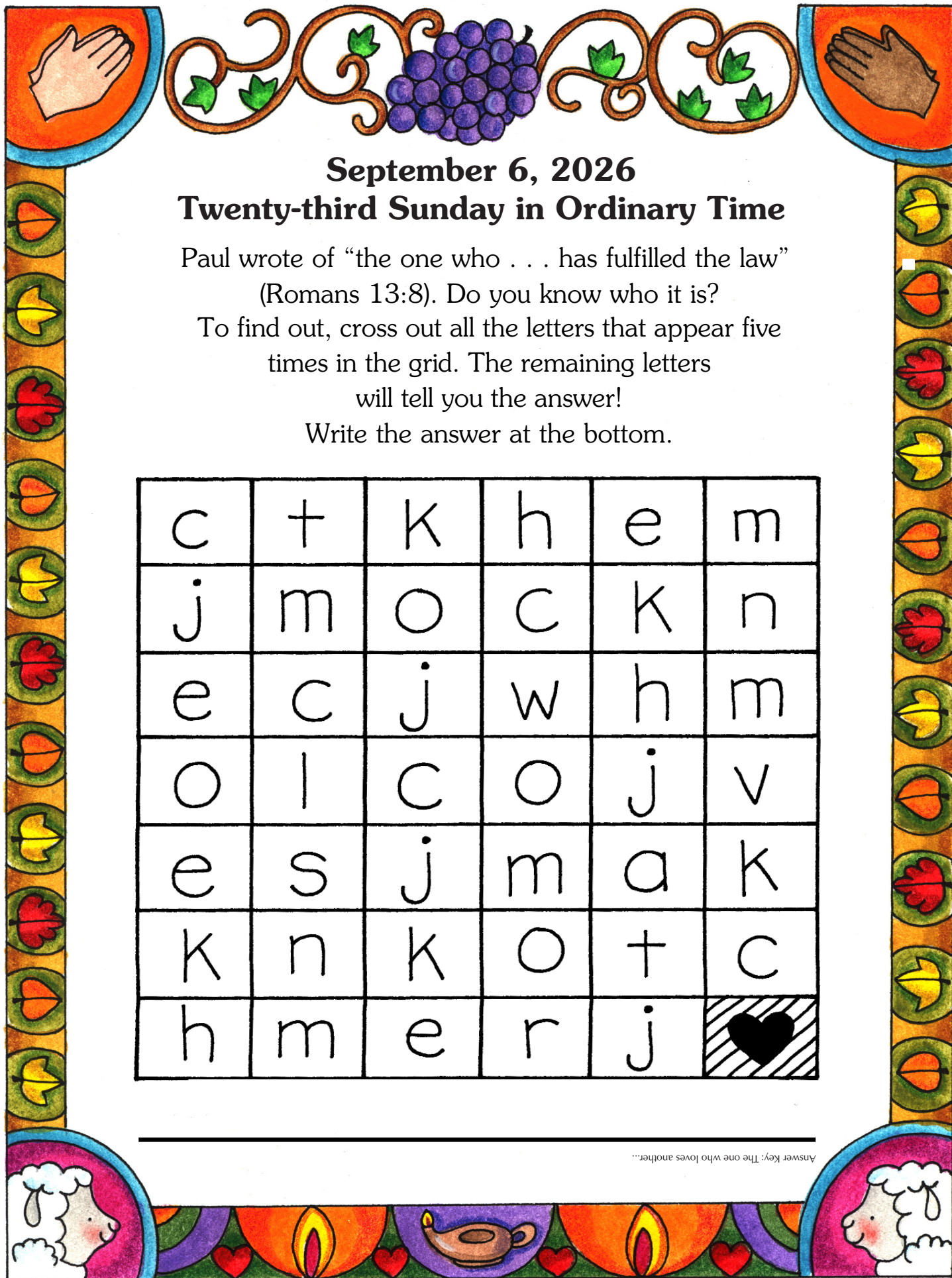




September 6, 2026

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Paul wrote of “the one who . . . has fulfilled the law”

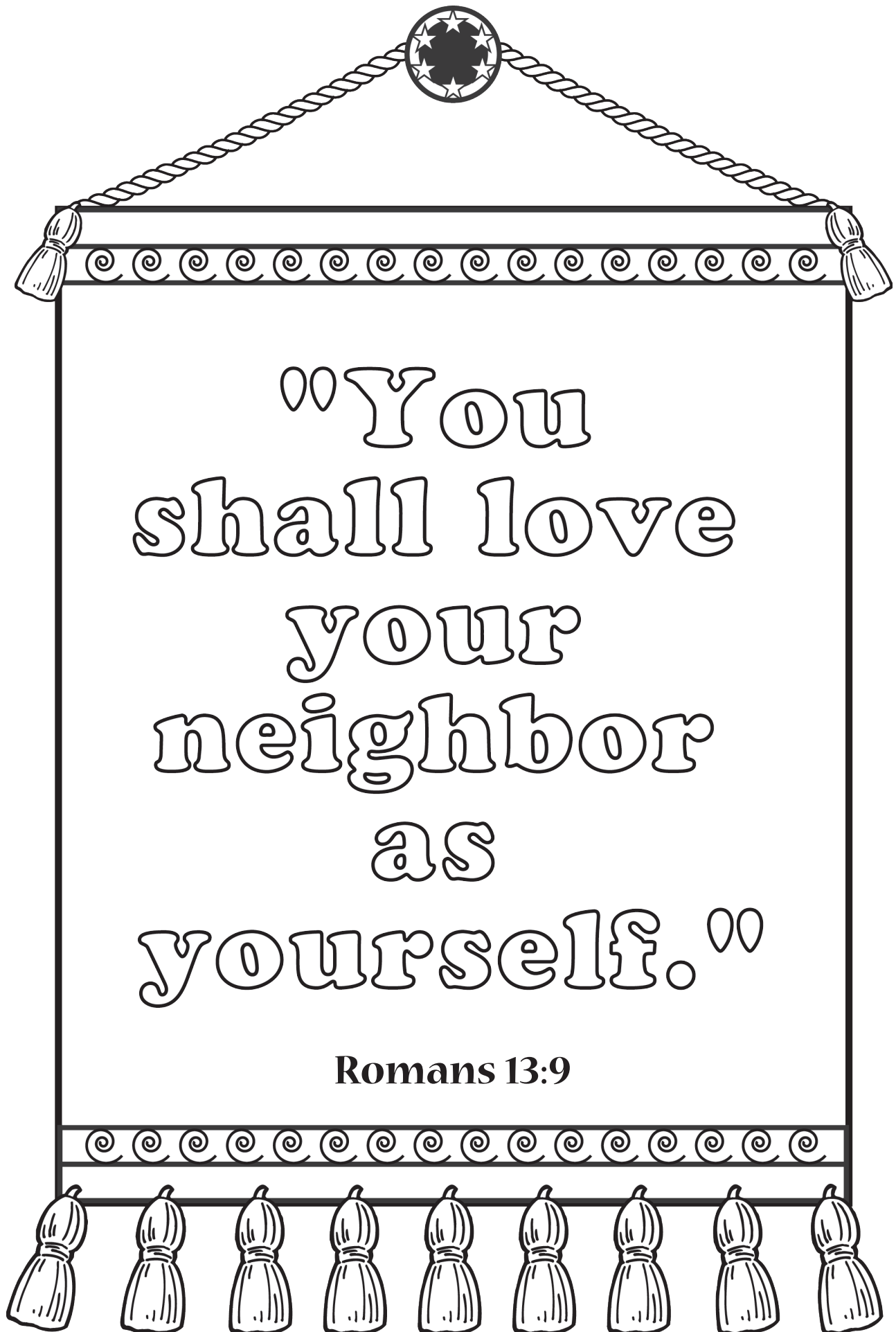
(Romans 13:8). Do you know who it is?

To find out, cross out all the letters that appear five times in the grid. The remaining letters will tell you the answer!

Write the answer at the bottom.

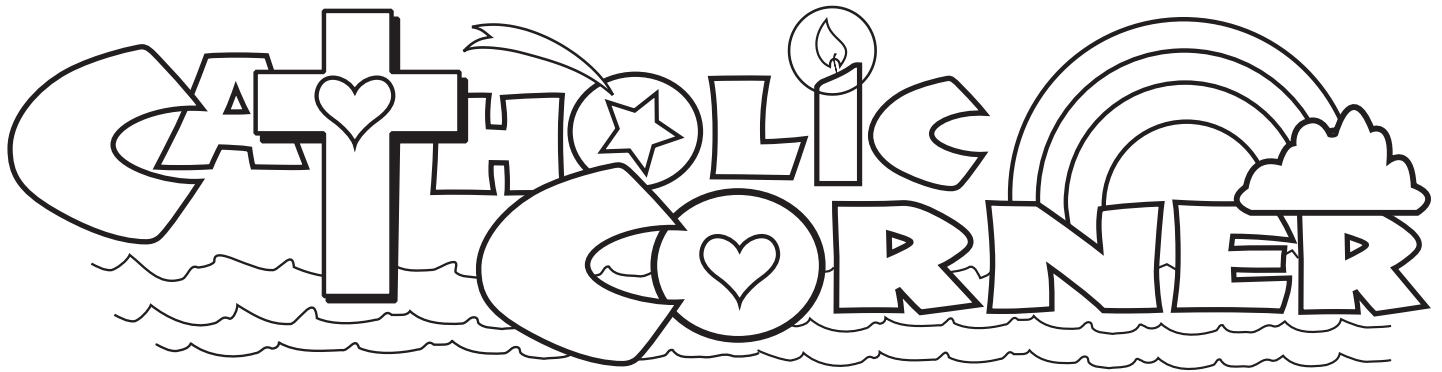
c	t	k	h	e	m
j	m	o	c	k	n
e	c	j	w	h	m
o	l	c	o	j	v
e	s	j	m	a	k
k	n	k	o	t	c
h	m	e	r	j	♥

Answer Key: The one who loves another...



"You
shall love
your
neighbor
as
yourself."

Romans 13:9



Loving Our Neighbors

Life with friends, siblings, and cousins can be so much fun! Having classmates, friends, brothers, sisters, cousins, and neighbors means having people to play with. It means having people to celebrate things with, like birthdays, Christmas, and Easter. It also means sharing the tough times with the people in our lives, and it means we get to be there for them, too. But we are not perfect people, and sometimes we make mistakes and have conflict with our loved ones. It can be about things like how turns are being taken, how things are being shared, who is being included, and who is being left out. These things get more complicated as more

people get involved, too. Even adults can have a hard time navigating these things with their friends and loved ones. We are all imperfect people, so we will all make mistakes at some point, and possibly hurt the people that we care about.



This wasn't much different for people in Jesus' time. How people hurt one another and how they chose to go about resolving those issues was still challenging. And just because this is something that happens to everyone, doesn't mean it isn't important. We have all experienced being hurt

by someone, so we know that it isn't a good thing. St. Paul reminds the Romans today that it is really important to focus on the love of one another and of our neighbors. This is one of the places where we get the phrase "Love your neighbor as yourself." When we have conflict or difficulties with those we care about in our community—even those we aren't close with—what do we choose to do about that? If we look for someone to help us, are we looking to heal our relationship with this person or to see them punished? When we make a mistake and forget to love those around us, do we try to solve those mistakes with love?

Are there people in your life you are having trouble with? Are there friends or family members you are having trouble getting along with? Who are the people in your life who need more love? You can talk about it with a friend or with your family on your way home after Mass. You can also write down their names in the hearts.

Jesus tells us that whenever two or three of us gather to pray, he is there with us (Matthew 18:20).

So we should pray together often.

Follow the directions to make yourself a hanging mobile reminder.

Color the praying hands with colors of different skin tones. Color the words orange and the cross green.
Cut along the thick outer line.

Poke a hole through the small circle above the cross.

Hang your mobile from string or thread.

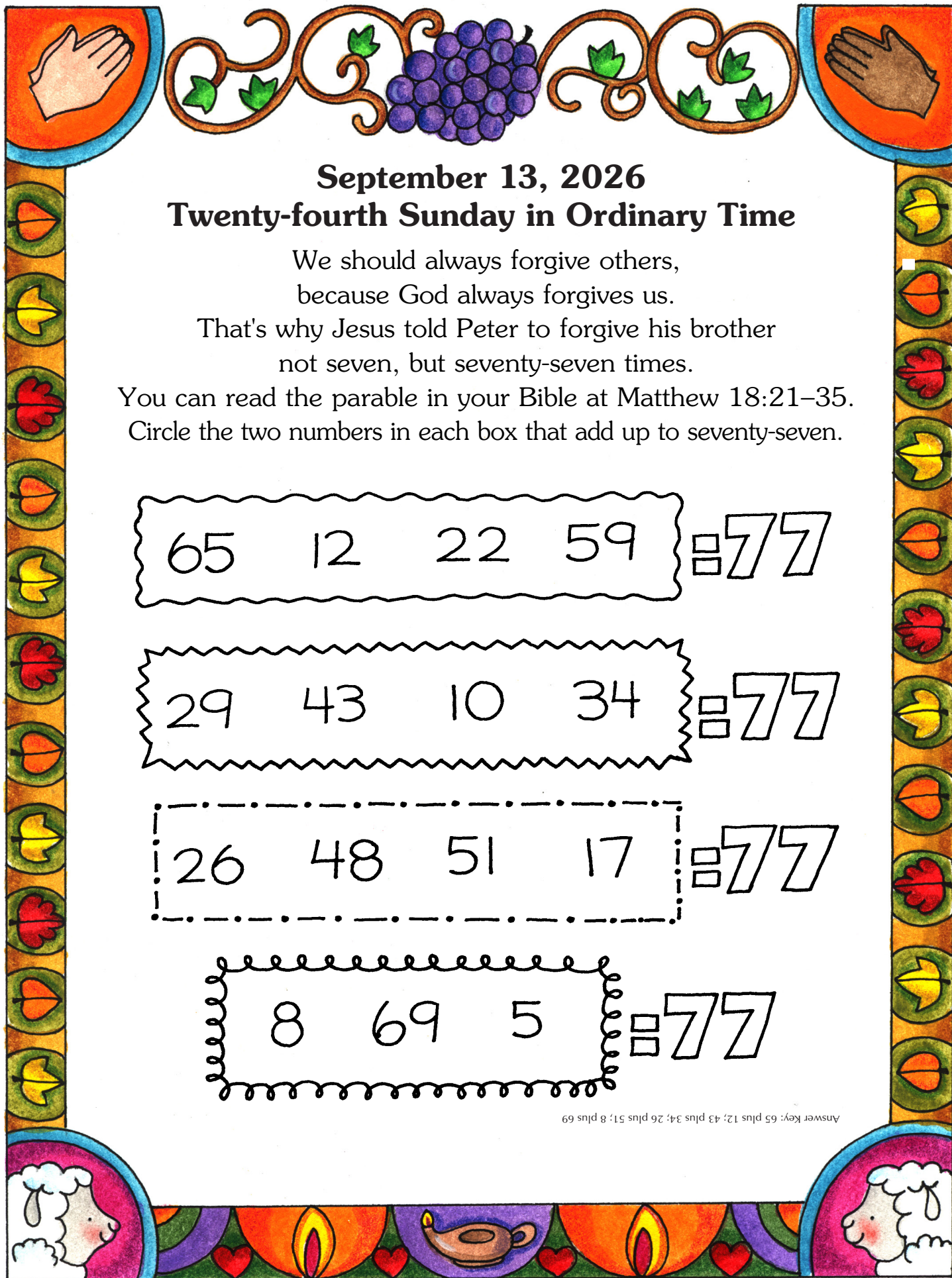


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September 13, 2026
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We should always forgive others,
because God always forgives us.

That's why Jesus told Peter to forgive his brother
not seven, but seventy-seven times.

You can read the parable in your Bible at Matthew 18:21-35.

Circle the two numbers in each box that add up to seventy-seven.

65 12 22 59 = 77

29 43 10 34 = 77

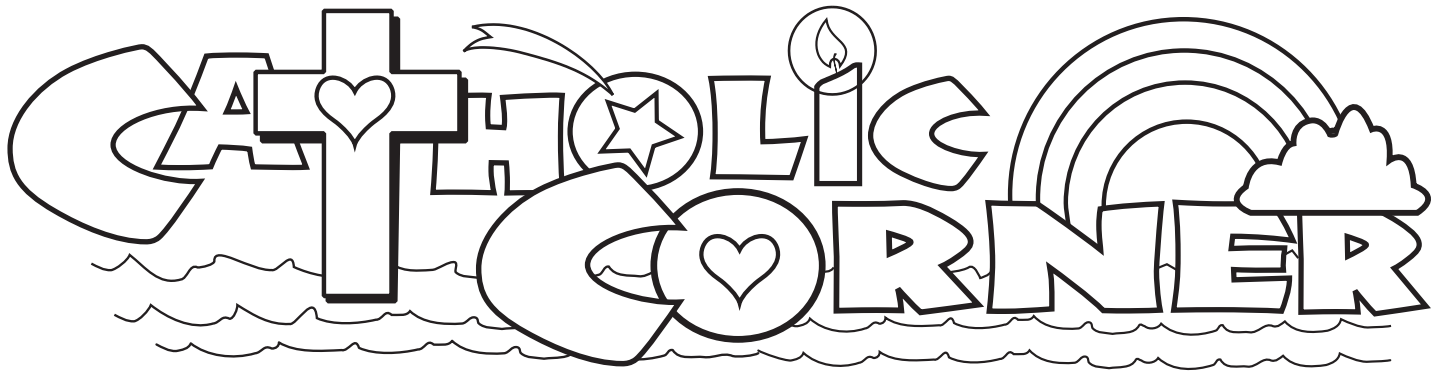
26 48 51 17 = 77

8 69 5 = 77

Answer key: 65 plus 12; 43 plus 34; 26 plus 51; 8 plus 69



The master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.
Matthew 18:27



Patient and Merciful

Do you ever wish you could get things done just a little bit faster? Not that you want to rush everything just to get it done, but sometimes things just take a little longer than we'd like. Perhaps there are different tasks at school, like learning a new way to read or write and learning new math problems. Perhaps it is learning how to play a new sport or an instrument. There might be a skill you are picking up that is taking a little while to get the hang of. It isn't that you can't do it or you won't learn in time, it just takes longer than you would hope. It can be hard when things like take longer than we want. It is difficult to be patient when we are doing something new or difficult.

The gospel today talks about forgiveness. The man who owes a debt says to his master "Be patient with me!" There are probably so many of us that have said that out loud or thought it when we are working on something difficult. Maybe it is saving up money, like the man was doing to pay his debts back. Maybe it is patience with forgiving someone who has hurt us. It might also mean we need to be patient with ourselves when we have made a mistake. The master is patient with the man, but the man does not pass on the patience to others who are also struggling. Forgiveness isn't just between you and God. It's about offering kindness and patience to each other, just as God offers it to us. It's not the easiest thing to do, especially when we are scared or upset. But it is always helpful to remember that everyone gets scared and upset sometimes, and everyone has times when they are struggling and need patience and forgiveness.



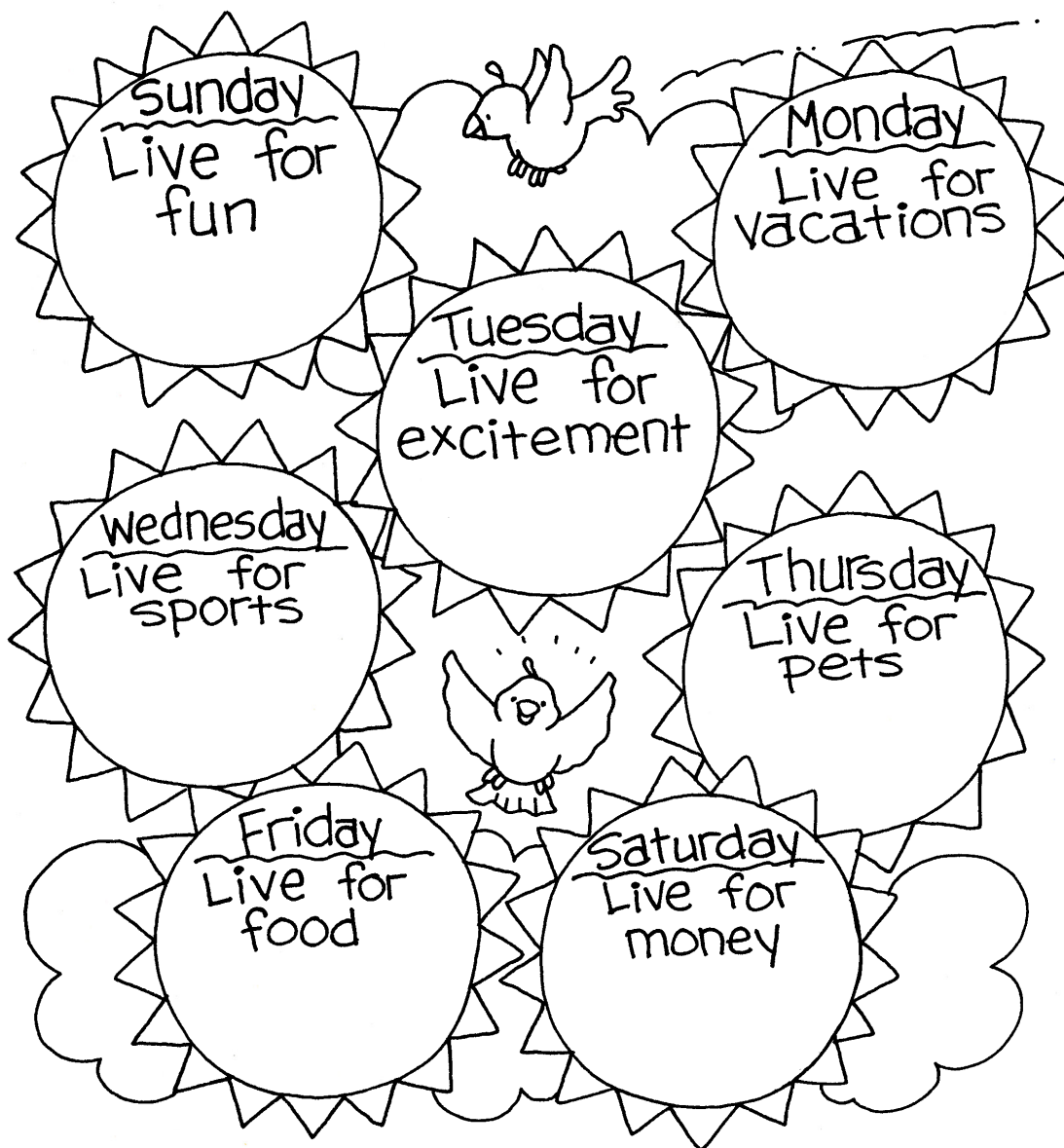
When we sing the psalm today, we hear that the Lord is kind and merciful. If you are in a parish where you sing your psalm, try and sing along if you can. When you go to bed tonight, you can use that as a little prayer to help you remember that God is kind and merciful to us, and so we also can try to be kind and merciful to others. You can ask your family if you can pray today's psalm together at bedtime or even at dinner.

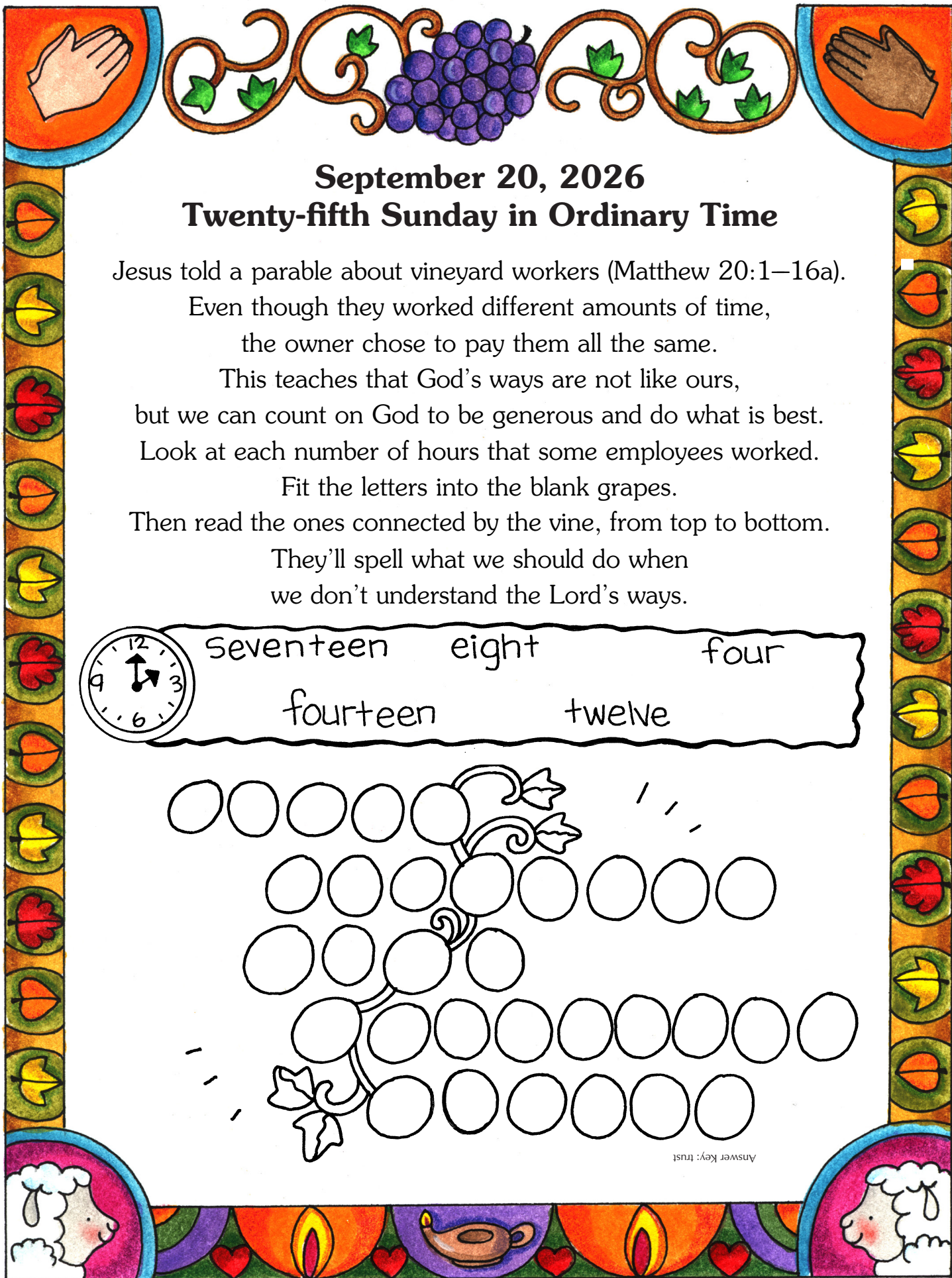
Each day, we choose what is most important in our lives.

The days of the week are shown below
with ideas of what we could live for.

In each sun, cross out the last word
and write "the Lord" beneath it.

As Paul told the Roman people (Romans 14:7-9),
it is the only way to lasting happiness!





September 20, 2026

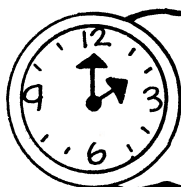
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus told a parable about vineyard workers (Matthew 20:1–16a).

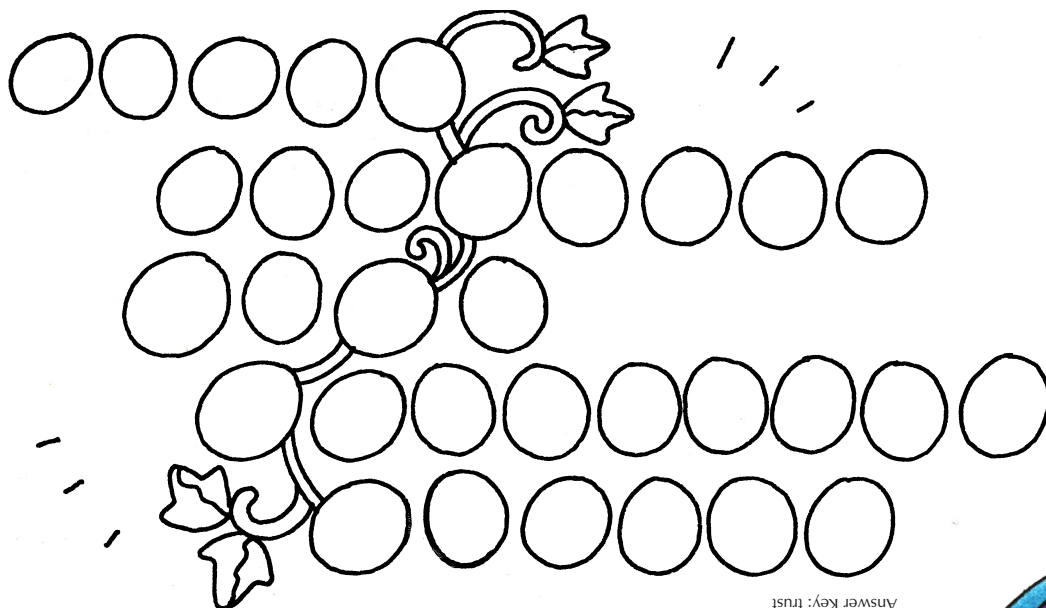
Even though they worked different amounts of time,
the owner chose to pay them all the same.

This teaches that God's ways are not like ours,
but we can count on God to be generous and do what is best.
Look at each number of hours that some employees worked.

Fit the letters into the blank grapes.
Then read the ones connected by the vine, from top to bottom.
They'll spell what we should do when
we don't understand the Lord's ways.



seventeen eight four
fourteen twelve



Answer key: trust



The last will be first,
and the first will be last.
Matthew 20:16



The Last Will Be First

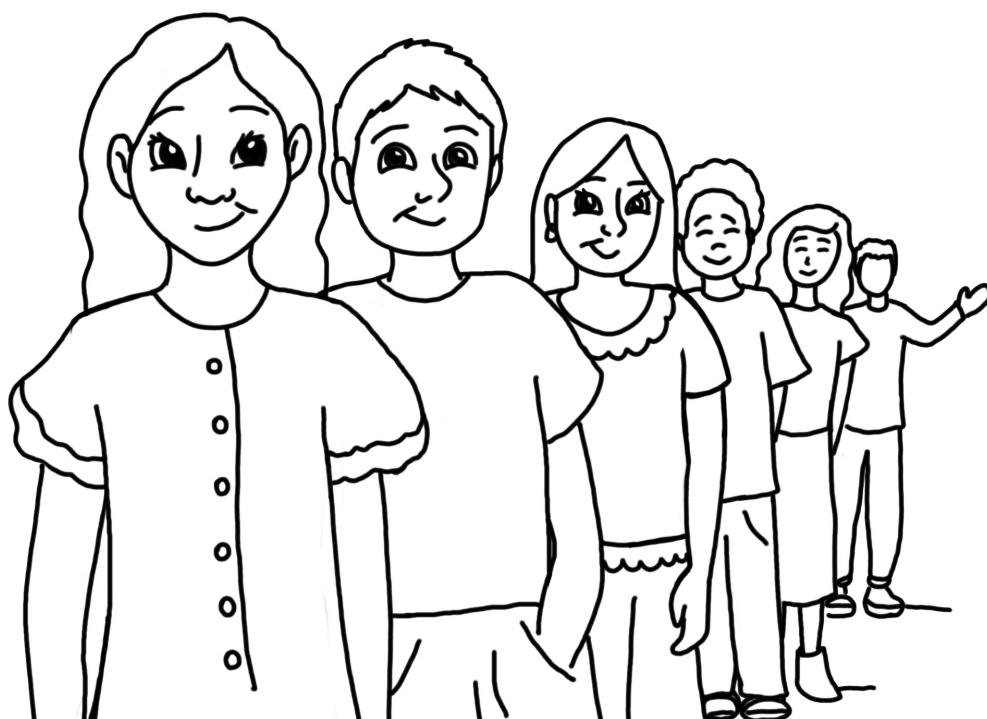
What does it feel like to be picked first for something? It can be really great to be the first person! It feels good to be seen and good to be wanted and to know that there is something for you to do. But what does it feel like to be picked last for something? It can be really hard to watch a lot of other people get picked before you. And there are many different reasons why someone gets picked in front of someone else.

What do you think the laborers felt like in the gospel? For laborers like that (and there are still folks who work like this today, all over the world but even here in the United States), they have to wait for someone to come by and offer them work. This isn't a game either—it's how they make their money, in order to pay for a place to live, food to eat, and all the other things people need to live. It is probably hard to stand and wait to see if you will get to work that day. The more time that passes, the less money you will be able to make for your family. But in the story Jesus tells, the person who owns the land and hires people to work gives everyone the same pay. And so some of the workers are pretty mad—they didn't all work the same, so why are they paid the same?

.....
**You can tell God what
it is that might help you
to remember that you are
loved no matter where
you are in line.**
.....

Jesus shows us that God cares for and values the person who comes last just as much as the person who comes first. Even in the moments when it seems like there won't be enough for everyone or when it seems like one person is more important than the other—God disagrees! God will always care for each of us and have enough for everyone. Our idea of what is 'fair' is not the same way God looks at us. God's idea of fair is that everyone gets what they need and that every person is cherished and loved.

Have you been feeling like the first-picked person lately or the last-picked person? Are there ways that you can help yourself and other people remember that God picks everyone, no matter who they are or what they do? In your prayer tonight, talk to God about how you have been feeling. You can tell God what it is that might help you to remember that you are loved no matter where you are in line.

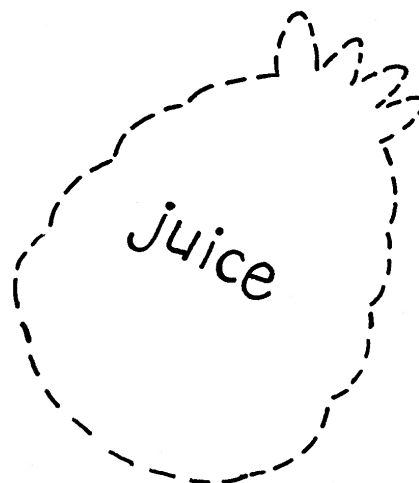
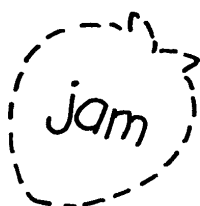
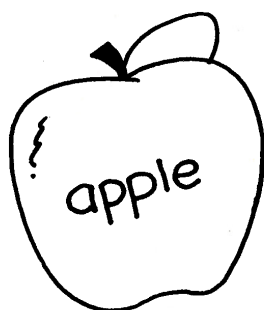
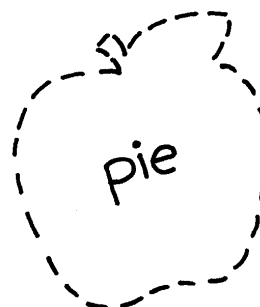
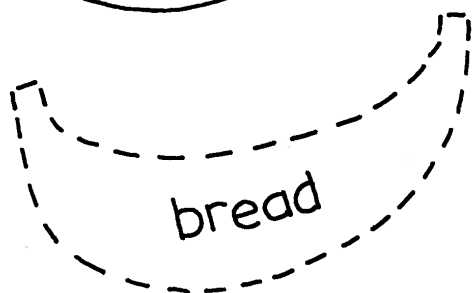
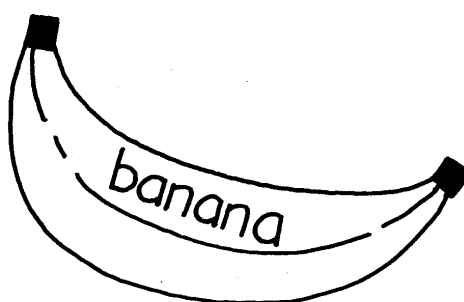
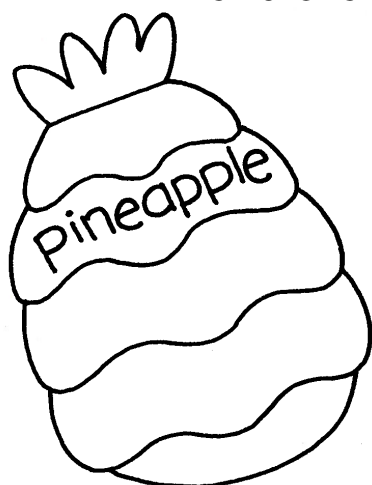


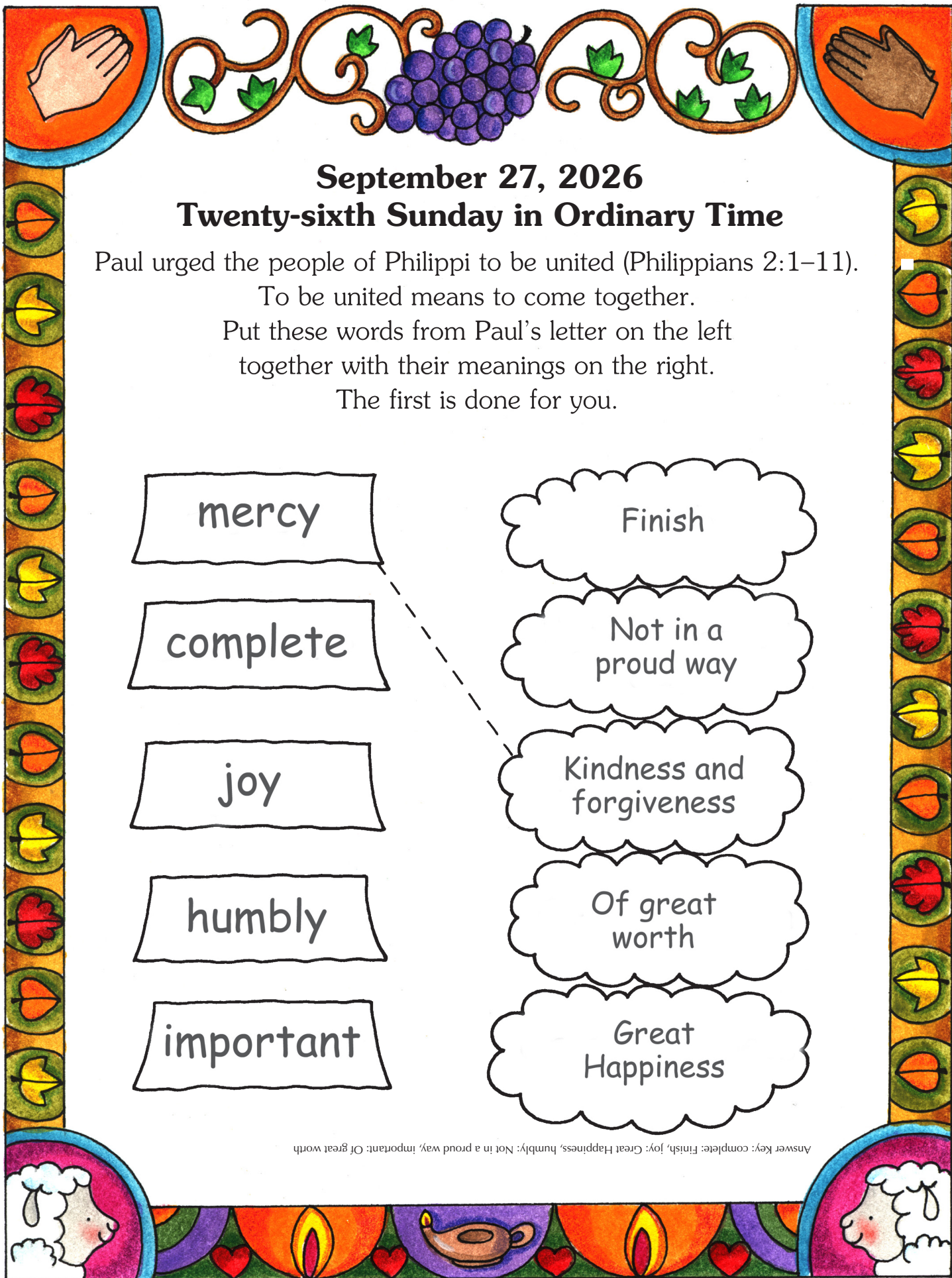
In his letter to the Philippians, Paul talked about doing “fruitful labor” (Philippians 1:22). If we want our work for God to be fruitful, too, we have to combine two things—our willing heart and God’s guidance.

Think of this as you draw a line from each fruit to its outline.

Then say the words to make a delicious combination.

You may even decide to make one of these things and share it with someone else!





September 27, 2026

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Paul urged the people of Philippi to be united (Philippians 2:1–11).

To be united means to come together.

Put these words from Paul's letter on the left
together with their meanings on the right.

The first is done for you.

mercy

Finish

complete

Not in a
proud way

joy

Kindness and
forgiveness

humbly

Of great
worth

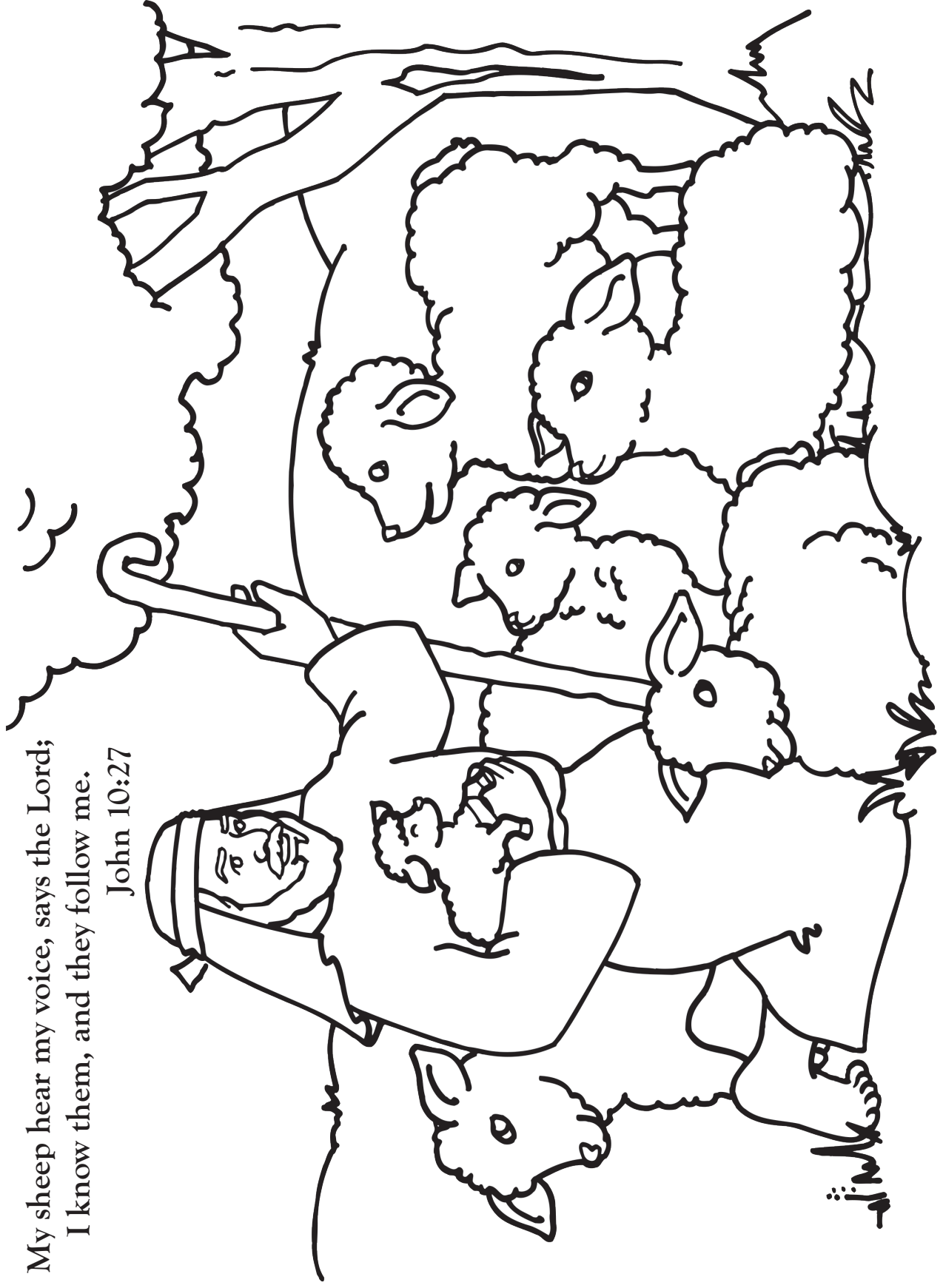
important

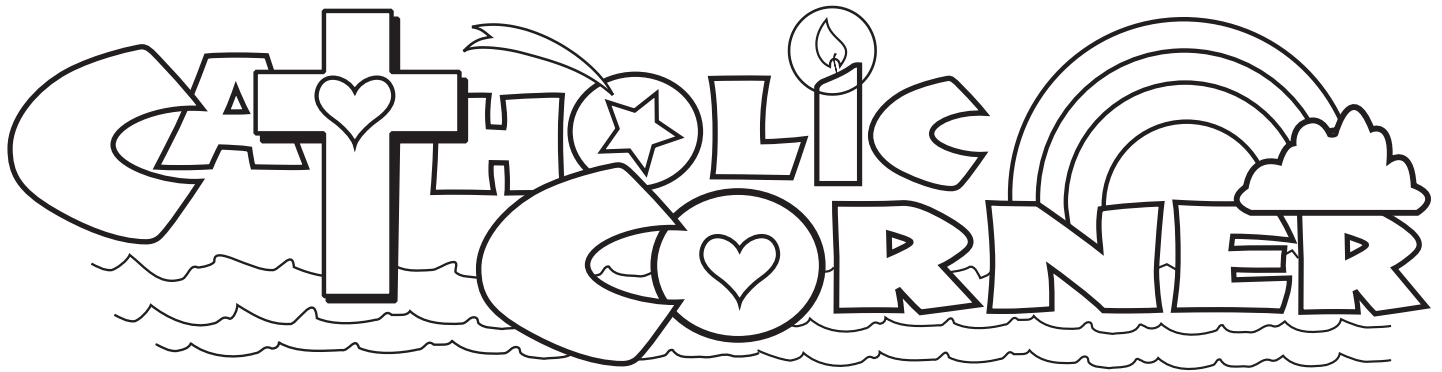
Great
Happiness

Answer Key: complete: joy; Great Happiness; humbly: Not in a proud way; important: Of great worth

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27





Seeing Through God's Eyes

"It's not fair!" Have you ever said this out loud before? Have you heard someone else say this out loud? Almost everyone feels this way at some point, especially when things just aren't going the way that you hoped they would.

God's way of doing things doesn't always seem 'fair' by the way we judge things as human beings. We want things to be the 'same' for everyone—but do we do a good job at making sure things seem fair or the same for other people as much as we want to make sure things are fair for ourselves? Do we do a good job at paying attention to what really is the same or is fair? It can be hard to look at the world around us and understand what really seems 'fair.' Why do bad or hard things happen to some people?

God wants us to remember that his love is for everyone, and so we should also share our love with everyone. Sometimes being kind and loving and doing the right thing might not be very popular or easy.

Why do we not always get what it is that we want? Why is it that some people seem to have it better or easier than we do? Why do we have more than someone else? It is always easy to look at those around us and notice how things are not quite as fair as we would hope for them to be.

God wants us to try and look at things the way that God does. God wants us to be generous and loving to those who are struggling. God doesn't just want us to focus on what it is that we need or want. God wants us to remember that his love is for everyone, and so we should also share our love with everyone. Sometimes being kind and loving and doing the right thing might not be very popular or easy.



God is asking us to think about what is fair the way that God does.

How might you see things differently if you were to look at them through God's eyes? Is there a friend or classmate you are struggling with who you could try and see through God's eyes? The next time you think 'this isn't fair!' what might happen if you looked at it the way God might?

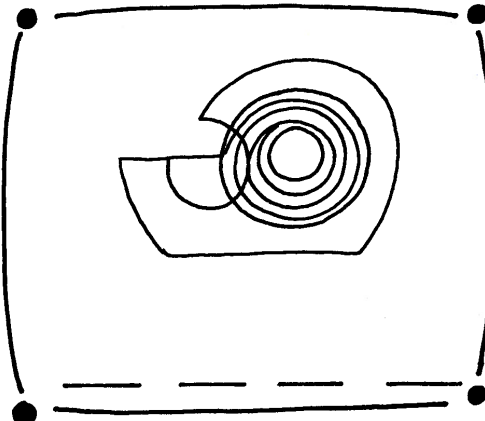
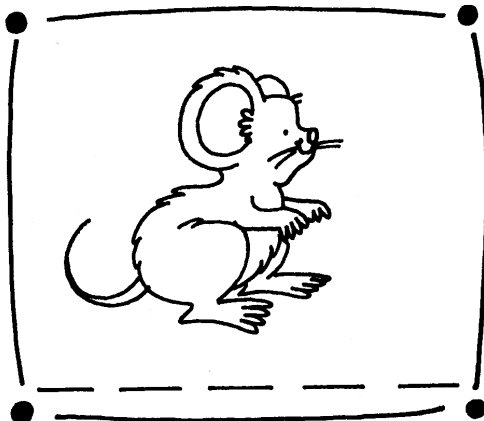
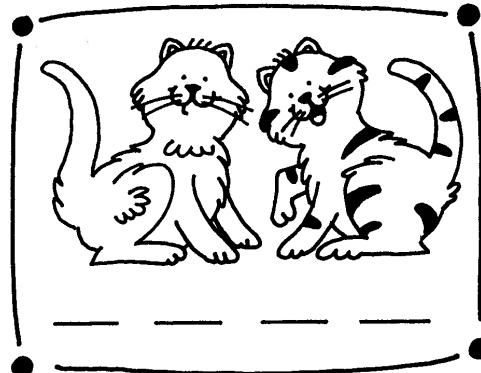
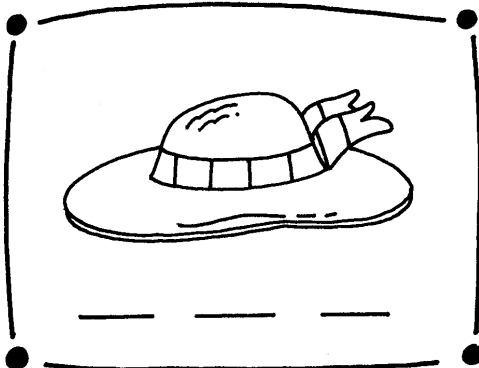
In Psalm 25:4, the psalmist prays to God,
"Teach me your paths."

Using the letters in the phrase below, spell four new words.

(You can use the letters more than once.)

Use the pictures to help you.

"Teach me
your paths"



Answer Key: hat, cats, mouse, tape

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