

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Peter's Gospel Message.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 2 v 14–41

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Peter's Gospel Message, when Peter boldly shared the Good News about your love and Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Help us to be bold carriers of your Gospel message today, sharing your love and the Good News about Jesus with everybody we meet.

We pray for all those who don't yet know you that they would hear the Good News about Jesus and come to know you as their friend and saviour.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children
Who did Peter say his message was for?

In verse 39 Peter said "This promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself." Remember what had just happened at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit had arrived and the disciples had spoken in many languages.

Before this point God had spoken and guided the Jewish people, you can read their story throughout the Old Testament. But God wanted everybody in the world to know that his love was for them and forever! Jesus had instructed his followers to share the Good News about God's love throughout the world.

A question for children to ask adults
What does the Good News mean to you?

Family Activity 1

You will need: Scarves, a timer

Peter quoted from one of David's Psalms when he spoke at Pentecost.

'I keep the Lord before me always.
Because he is close by my side,
I will not be hurt.'

Psalm 16 v 8

Have a family three-legged race. Use a scarf to tie two people together by the ankle, then make them complete the course. If you have space, have a race across a room or garden. If you have an odd number of people in your family, you can take it in turns and time how long each pair takes.

If you have limited space, why not set yourself a challenge of an activity of route around the house to complete whilst connected together.

How great that God is always close by our sides, protecting and supporting us.





A verse to remember

Matthew 28 v 18-20

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Our verse to remember today is actually three verses long, it is known as the ‘Great Commission’ and was Jesus’ instructions to his disciples about how to continue the work he had begun on the earth.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it. Why not decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week?

Family Activity 2



You will need: A calculator (or a maths genius!)

At Pentecost, 3000 people heard the Good News and decided to live for God. That is a BIG number. Go around your house and find items to count. You might count... how many spoons you have, how many pairs of socks, how many biscuits in a packet. Using your calculator divide 3000 by the number of the item you have.

E.g. I have 15 pairs of socks in my drawer (that is 30 socks) - $3000 \div 30 = 100$.

That means I would need to have 100 TIMES MORE socks to give one to each person who was saved at Pentecost – or 200 TIMES MORE if I wanted to give each person a pair!

Wow! When you think like that it really gives you an idea of the big numbers involved.

Helping Older Children

The idea of sharing the Good News with others can be daunting. Older children might worry what friends will think of them if they openly share their faith. Others might be concerned about the idea of public speaking.

Our own choices and the way we live and share God’s love can be the starting point for a conversation. Why not pray that friends would see something different in you and begin to ask questions?

Those nervous about having the right words or speaking publicly might be encouraged by the story of Moses – God equipped him and gave him a friend in Aaron who could help him speak when he needed to.

Active Prayer

You will need: paper, pens

Write or draw on the paper your own explanation of the Good News – it could include the story of Easter, a testimony or an encouraging Bible Verse. You could even set it out like your own newspaper.

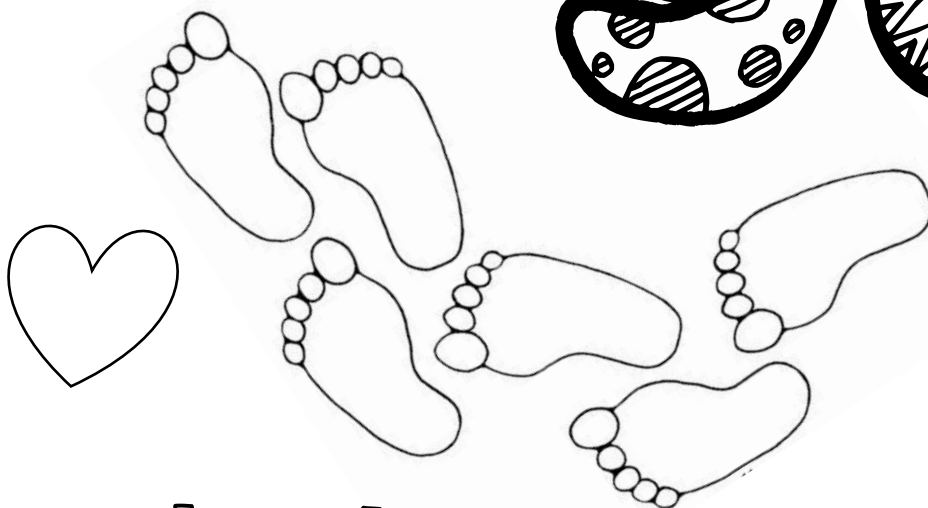
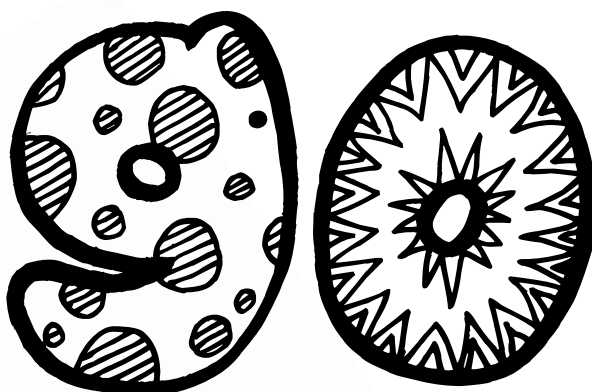
Pray that the Good News would bless and encourage whoever reads it.

Post or deliver your Good News to somebody who you would like to share God’s love and encouragement with.



A colouring page you could print and colour together

Therefore



and make

disciples

of

all

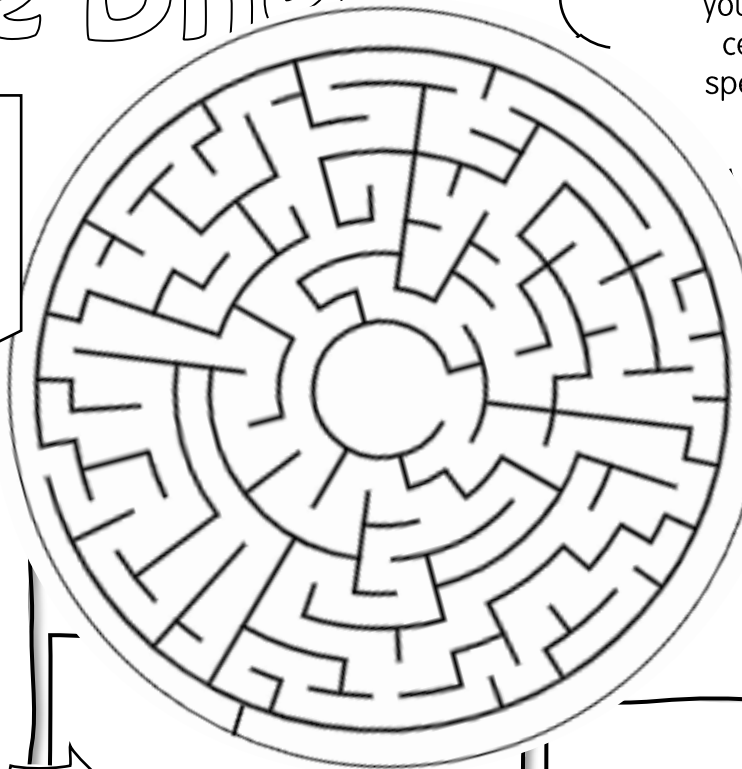
nations.

Matthew 28 v 19

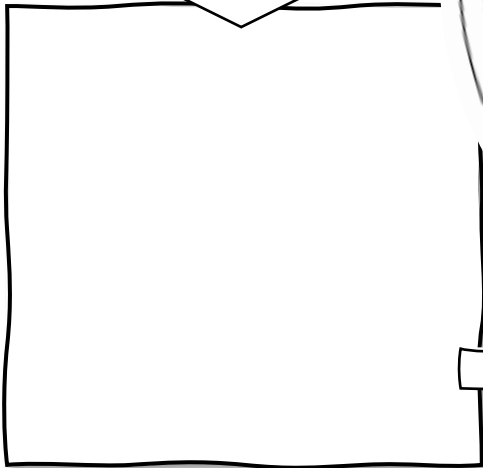


Puzzle Shoot

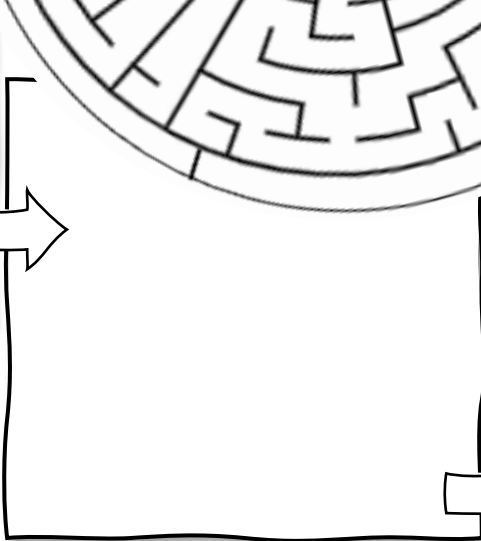
Peter followed Jesus' instructions to go and share the Good News about God's love around the world. Draw your own pictures to help others understand who God is!



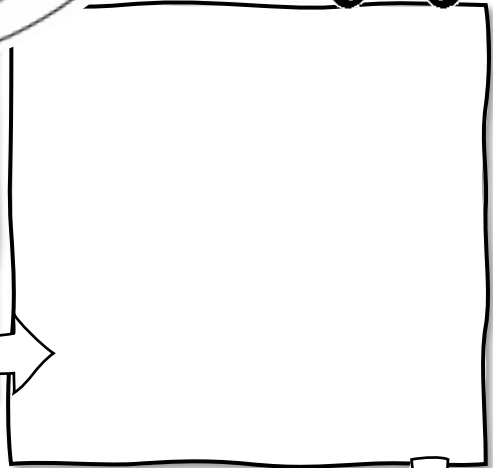
Can you find your way to the centre of the speech bubble maze?



God created the world and everything in it. God wants to be friends with each one of us.



But people sinned and turned away from God.



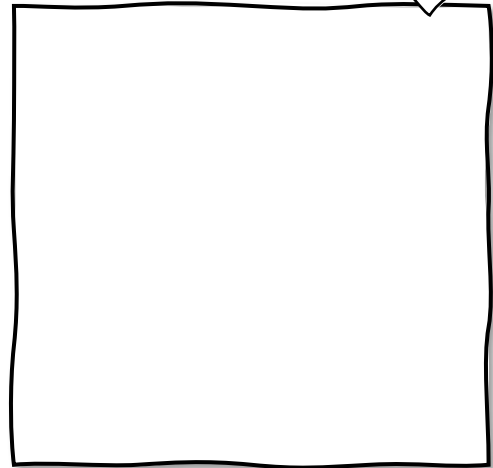
God sent his son Jesus to show us how to live for Him and to take the punishment for all our sins.

Can you find all these Gospel related words in the word search?



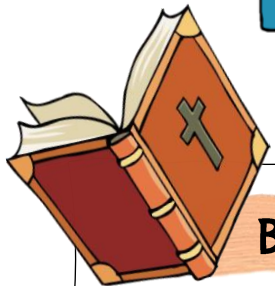
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Jesus
love
cross
resurrection
God
world
sin
heaven
life
Holy Spirit
Forgiveness



Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be our helper as we continue to share God's love with others.

Together @ Home



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of the Early Church.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 2 v 42–47

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What similarities can you find between the early church and the church today?

Just like in the days of the first church we are meeting together in our homes on a Sunday although nowadays we are doing it online! We still spend time learning and listening to teaching, we pray together and take communion together.

The first believers shared everything they had including their money, possessions, food and land. They gave to those in need and shared the good news about Jesus with everybody they met. What sort of things can you see your church doing to help and serve others?

A question for children to ask adults

What is your favourite thing about church?

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you, the example of the early church who gave everything, to help and serve one another and you. Thank you that we can still learn from their example today.

We thank you for all those who are working to make sure that we can still be church together in our homes. We pray for all those leading churches around the world that you would give them strength and wisdom as they make decisions.

We pray that just like the early church we would see new members added to our own church communities. Amen

Family Activity 1 – based on Acts 2 v44

“All the believers were together and shared everything”

You will need:

A pile of rice – or something to use as counters. e.g. buttons, coins etc. A timer (you can use your phone)

Set yourselves a sharing challenge – give each person a small pile of rice, they do not have to be equal (in fact it is better if they are not) Give yourselves one minute on the timer to try and share out your pile of rice equally so everybody has the same amount at the end.

Once everybody has had a go, push all the piles together and work as a team to divide it up equally.

You could use this activity to discuss how our giving and sharing in church works, we all have different amounts we can contribute but by sharing what we have we can make sure that everybody has something.





A verse to remember

Acts 2 v 46

“They ate together in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts.”

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week. Why not recite it together before meals asking God to keep your hearts joyful in difficult times.

Family Activity 2 – based on Acts 2 v47

“They praised God and were liked by all the people”

You will need: Music

Play a game of ‘Musical Compliments’ – when the music plays everybody should dance around. When the music stops, everybody should compliment somebody else in the room and tell them something they like about them.

“Feels Good (Upbeat song)” by Rend Collective Kids is a great song to use – it is all about how good it feels to be together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJxVHzARMmE>



Helping children think about giving

Why not encourage your children to think about how they can give and share what they have.

Now is a great time to sort through old books, toys or clothes and think about who they could pass them on to or share them with.

It is good to help children think about tithing as well. If your child receives pocket money why not make sure they receive it in a form that makes it easy to set some aside for God. e.g. If your child receives £2 make sure it is made up of change including a 20p that they can set to one side.

Active Prayer

Share a prayer...

The early church shared *everything*, why not try sharing a prayer together. One person begins by saying a word e.g. Dear and the next person says the next word of the prayer e.g. God. Take it in turns to add one word at a time to your prayer. The prayer finishes when somebody adds the word Amen.



A colouring page you could print and colour together



ACTS 2 v 46

"They ate together in their homes,
happy to share their food with joyful
hearts."

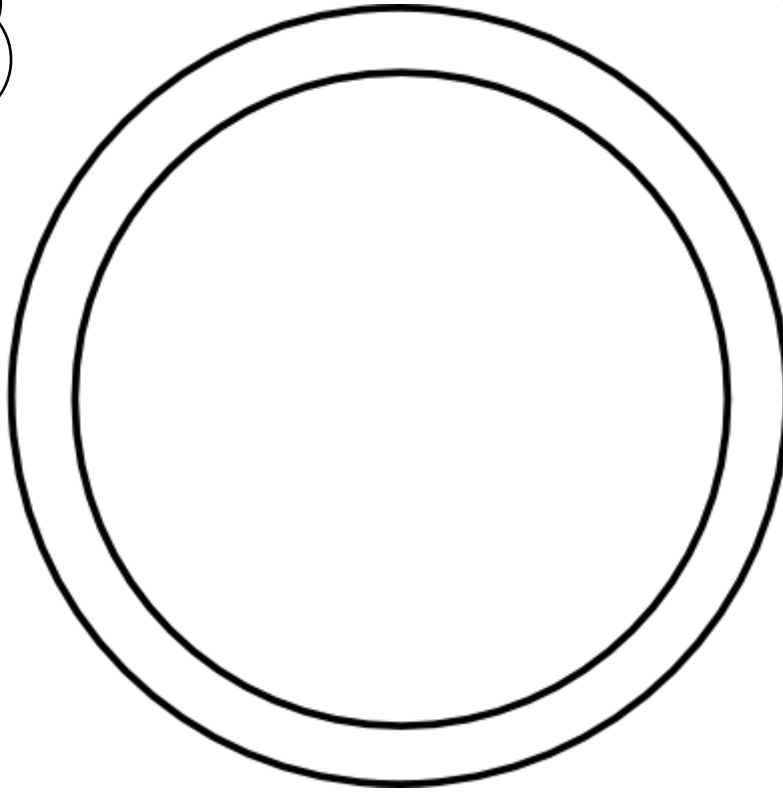
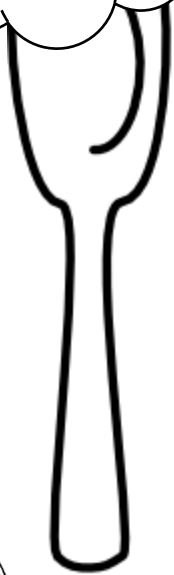


Puzzle Sheet

There are coins like this one hidden on the page... how many can you find?



Finish the picture... draw the perfect meal to share together

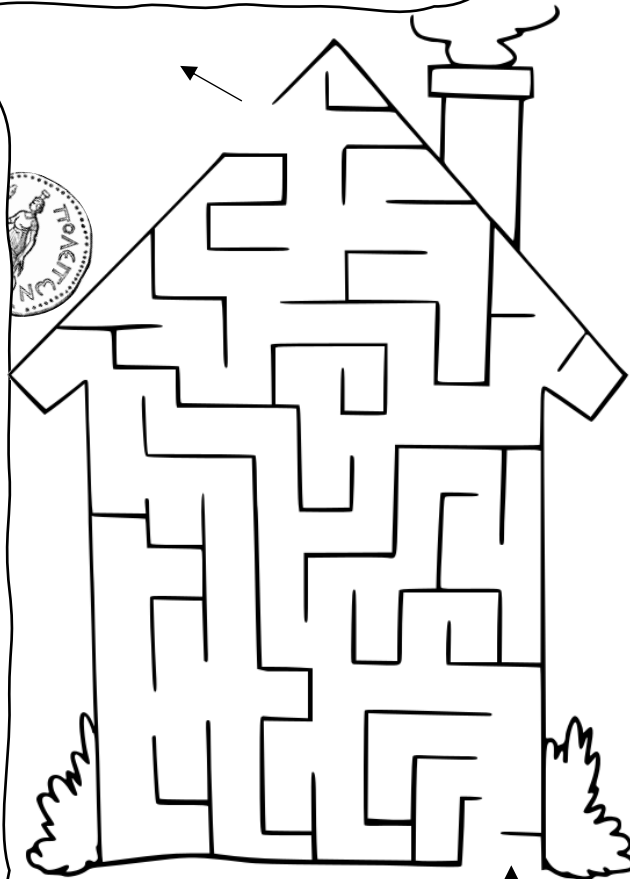


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APOSTLES
BREAD
CHURCH
DAILY
DIVIDED

DOCTRINE
FELLOWSHIP
POSSESSIONS
PRAYERS
SAVED

SIGNS
STEADFASTLY
TOGETHER
WONDERS

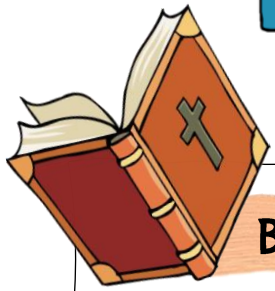


Find your way through the maze from the bottom to the top

Answer: There are 8 coins hidden on the page



Together @ Home



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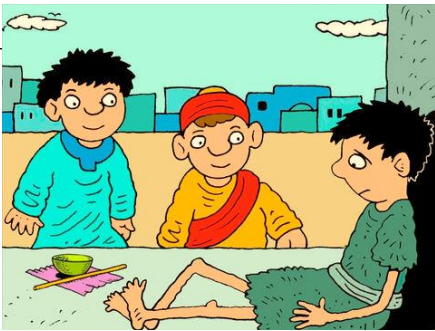
Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Peter healing a man.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 3 v 1–26

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Peter healing the man who was lame. Thank you that just like Peter we have your authority and power on earth through the Holy Spirit.

Help us to be carriers of your presence in the world and sharers of the Good News about your love and the death and resurrection of Jesus.

We pray for healing for all those in the world who are fighting the coronavirus. We pray that they would know you as their healer but also as their saviour and friend.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Peter had spent three years watching Jesus – what similarities can you see between what Peter did in the story and what Jesus did?

Just like Jesus, Peter showed love for those around him, Jesus healed those who came to him when he was on the earth, he cared for and loved those around him. Not only did Peter listen to the man and show compassion to him, he used the heavenly power he had through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to declare healing for the man.

Just like Jesus when in front of a large group, Peter took the opportunity to share about God’s love and preached the gospel to all those around him.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you were able to pray for somebody else who was sick or in need?

Family Activity 1 – based on Acts 2 v44

“Read all about it!”

You will need: Paper, pens, any other craft materials you would like to use.

Design your own family newspaper front page! Share the news of the miraculous healing of the lame man in the story. How do you think it might have been reported at the time?

Perhaps you could draw your own pictures of what it might have looked like or imagine an interview with the lame man who had been healed.



Just like Peter we are to be carriers of God’s good news today!



A verse to remember

1 John 2 v 6

“Whoever says that he lives in God must live as Jesus lived.”

Just like Peter we can live as Jesus lived on the earth and share God’s love with others. Can you learn this verse together?

You could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2 Musical Bumps

The man in the story had never walked in his life, but after he was healed, he went ‘walking and jumping and praising God.’ Play a game of musical bumps together, start sitting on the floor – when the music plays everybody jumps up and dances around – when the music is paused everybody sits down as fast as they can.



Helping Older Children

Older children might question how the man in the story was healed instantly but so many are struggling with illness in our world.

Remind them that just like at Pentecost the Holy Spirit is available to us and we have the power to pray and ask for healing for others.

God always hears our prayers but he does not always answer them instantly. We have to trust in God and his love for us.

The world we live in is not the one that God had planned for us – the injustice, sickness and struggle in our world are the result of sin. We live in a broken world but we can pray that God’s Kingdom would Come.

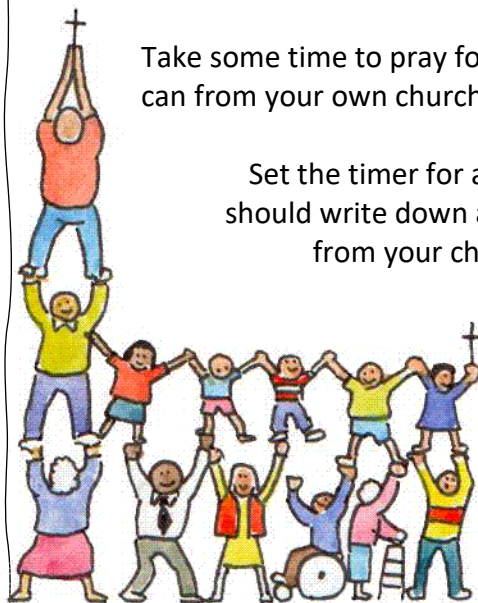
Active Prayer

You will need: Paper, pens, a timer

Peter and John were some of the first Christians, they were still exploring what it meant to be church together. What might they have made of our churches today?

Take some time to pray for as many people as you can from your own church.

Set the timer for a few minutes, everybody should write down as many names of people from your church as they can think of.



Then set the timer again, this time, your challenge is to pray for all of the people you have written down. Put a tick by them as you pray...don’t miss anybody out!

A colouring page you could print and colour together



1 John 2 v 6

“Whoever says that he lives in
God must live as Jesus lived.”

PIZZLE SHEET



A crowd has gathered to see what is going on... complete the picture to show what happened in the story.

Peter and John might not have had money to spare but how many coins can you find hidden on this page?



Change one letter at a time to turn the word lame into the word walk. The picture clues might help.

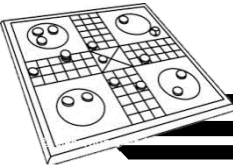
lame

l



t

walk



Can you find all the words from today's Bible Story in this word search?

t	e	m	p	l	e	l	c	x	s	h	f	z	b	t
n	h	o	j	c	o	p	n	g	f	i	h	p	d	r
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- Peter
- John
- temple
- beautiful
- gate
- lame
- silver
- gold
- Jesus
- healing
- Good news



Together @ Home



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of the early church feeding the widows.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 6 v 1–7

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story the early church, thank you that we can read about the amazing things they experienced but also the challenges.

Help us to look out for those who are not being treated fairly or equally. Show us where there are people who need help and support. Give us wisdom to make good decisions so that we can help others.

Thank you for all our food banks that are helping those in need during these difficult times.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Who was being treated unfairly in the story? How does it make you feel when you are not treated fairly?

In the story the Greek-speaking widows complained, they said that they were not getting a fair share of the food that was being given out each day.

It can be very upsetting or even make us feel angry if we are being left out or treated differently from others. God loves justice – that means everybody being treated fairly, so he feels upset and angry when situations are not fair for everybody. As God’s church we can play a part in sharing with others and treating all those we meet fairly, sharing God’s love equally with everybody. We can play a part in making sure nobody feels they are treated differently because of how they look or where they come from.

A question for children to ask adults

What do we do as a church to help those in need?

Family Activity 1

You will need: a game that you can all play together

Play a game together, it could be a board game you enjoy or any fun game that everybody can understand and join in with.

Before you begin think about what makes the game fair and makes sure that everybody has an equal chance of winning. If one person has an advantage or disadvantage is there something you can do to ‘level the playing field’?

Encourage everybody to celebrate, whoever wins – this is easier when you know that you had an equal chance of winning.





A verse to remember

Micah 6 v 8

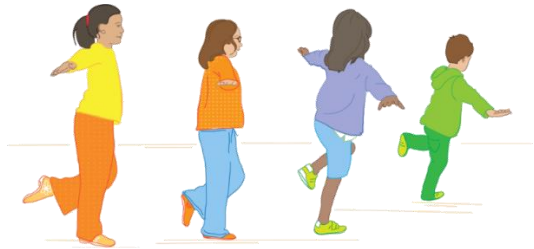
“The Lord has told you, human, what is good; he has told you what he wants from you: to do what is right to other people, love being kind to others, and live humbly, obeying your God.”

Just like the widows in the story, God does not want us to remain quiet in the face of injustice. Just like the early church in the story God wants us to actively seek solutions and change. Can you learn this verse together? You could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

Play a game of ‘follow the leader’ – the disciples recognised that they needed to put the right people in charge of managing the food so that it was shared out fairly. Leaders are people who set a good example for others to follow, who look out for everybody and make sure everything is done fairly.

Take it in turns to be the leader that everybody must follow – encourage the leader to choose actions or movements that everybody is able to follow, that are not too difficult or too fast for others to follow.



Helping Older Children

The world is full of hurting and angry people at the moment crying out for Justice. The story of the widows is one of injustice – but the church took action to make sure that everybody was treated fairly and equally.

You could use this story as a starting point for a conversation about Justice. Our God is a God of Justice – and God’s love, mercy and provision are for all. He hears our cries, our prayers and our thirst for Justice in this time as well.

Just as the early church sought to bring Justice into the situation we have a role to play in seeking Justice in our world today.

Active Prayer

In a time when many are struggling to provide for themselves and their families it is good to pray to our God of provision. Just as there are many stories in the Bible of God multiplying food and providing for others why not pray while you prepare or eat food and ask God for his provision for your family and for those in your community.

Why not actively seek to share from your own provisions with those around you – drop off a meal for a neighbour, share some baked goods with another family, buy some extra goods and donate them to the foodbank.



A colouring page you could print and colour together

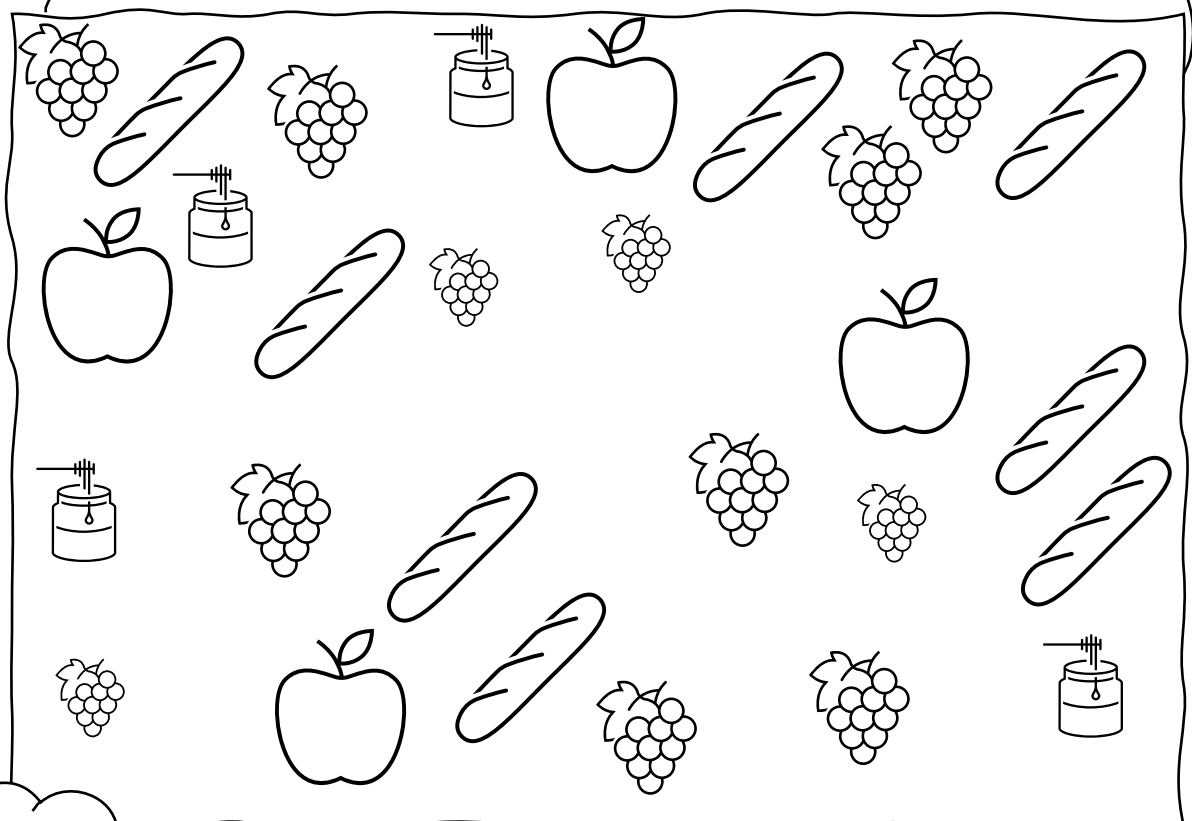
This colouring page was designed by Kayann Ausherman, you can find more of her artwork at www.fromvictoryroad.com

"AND WHAT
DOES THE LORD
require of
YOU? TO
ACT JUSTLY
and to love
mercy and to walk
humbly WITH YOUR
GOD."

MICAH 6:8

PUZZLE SHEET

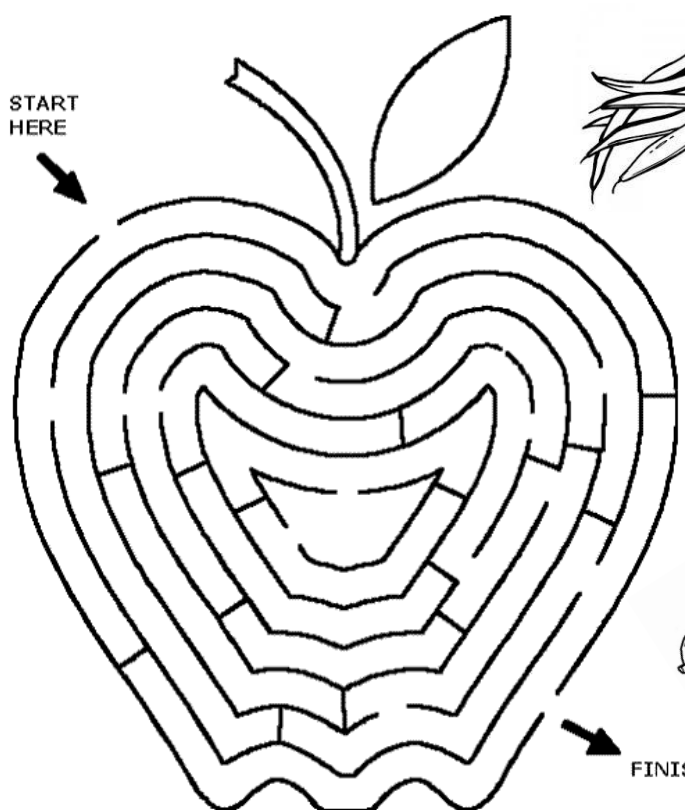
Leaders were chosen to make sure the food was shared out equally.
 Can you divide the box into 4 sections so that each everything is
 share out equally?
 You should be able to do it using only 2 lines.



Can you find your way through this fruity maze?

Can you unscramble these different fruits and vegetables? Once you have unscrambled it draw a line connecting it with the picture of that fruit of vegetable on the page!

START HERE



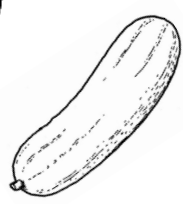
FINISH



cmubceur

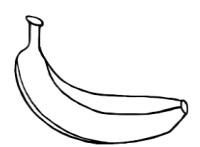
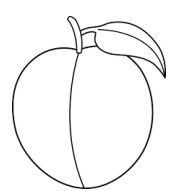
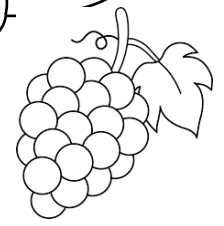


pchea



gpesra

rnunre neasb



Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Stephen

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 6:8 – 7:60

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Stephen, who lived for you and spoke boldly when asked about his faith.

We remember all those around the world who live in countries where it is not safe to be a Christian. We pray for your protection over their lives but that they would have opportunities to share their faith with others too.

Help us to be bold in sharing our faith and to live for you just as Stephen did.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why did the people in the story tell lies about Stephen?

The elders and teachers of the law were unhappy with Stephen – they could not win arguments against him because the Holy Spirit had given him the ability to speak with great wisdom and confidence.

It probably made the religious leaders feel embarrassed in public when they lost an argument. They did not want more people to join the new church and follow Jesus. They were probably scared of losing their power.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you shared your faith with somebody?

Don’t worry if the person was not interested or rejected you. Just like Stephen people might be negative, angry or confused by the Good News of Jesus. All we can do is keep praying for those who do not yet know Jesus and trust in God’s timing.

Family Activity 1

The High Priest asked Stephen:

“Are these things true?”

and Stephen knew the scripture so well he was able to give examples from throughout the Old Testament of those who brought messages from God but were rejected by God’s people. Play a true or false quiz to see who knows their Bible best.

There is a list of questions on page 3 – (the answers are at the bottom) – play a game of true or false – if you think the answer is true then stand up but if you think it is false sit down.

Who can score the most points?





A verse to remember

1 Peter 3 v 15

“Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have.”

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it. Why not decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week?



Helping Older Children

Sharing our faith with others can be a challenge particularly when the response we receive might be negative. It is however part of the commission we have been given.

Why not help older children to think and talk through how they might share the Good News about Jesus with others?

Colour books are a simple way to share the Gospel, why not make one together. You will need to find or colour paper in the following colours.

Black – represents sin, the mistakes we have all made.

Red – represents the blood of Jesus, shed for us.

White – reminds us that we are washed clean by Jesus’ sacrifice for us.

Yellow/Gold – represents the promise of eternal life and heaven for all those who hear and respond to the Good News.

Green – reminds us that we can all continue to grow in faith and learn more about God.

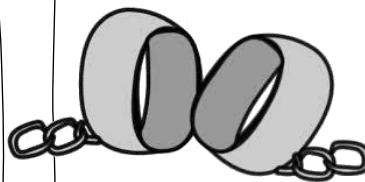


Family Activity 2

In our story today people picked up stones to attack Stephen, it was a horrible way to react. Stones appear throughout the Bible – in the Old Testament they were used to build altars as a reminder of good things God had done, the word of God is described as being like a firm rock we can build our lives on.

Many people are decorating and hiding rocks to encourage other families in their communities. Why not decorate some rocks together and think about how God can use anything for his glory even when people try to use things for destruction.

Active Prayer



These ten countries are those where it is currently hardest to live as a Christian, where persecution is still an issue.

North Korea
Afghanistan
Somalia
Libya
Pakistan

Eritrea
Sudan
Yemen
Iran
India

Why not find them together on a map and then take time to pray for them together. You could write each country on a strip of paper, make it into a paper chain and then rip it apart as you pray.

For more ideas of how to pray for the persecuted church why not visit www.opendoorsuk.org

True or False

1. Abraham was 100 when his son Isaac was born?
2. Moses led the Israelites through the dead sea?
3. Joseph had 12 brothers?
4. There are two prophetic books in the Bible beginning with the letter 'Z'.
5. There are 200 Psalms!
6. There are 4 gospel books in the Bible.
7. The second book of the Bible is called Leviticus.
8. Noah took two of every animal onto the ark.
9. Jesus once fed 4000 people at once!
10. There is a 'rock badger' mentioned in the Four books of the Bible.

Answers

Turn the page upside down to check your answers.

1. True!
2. False – it was the Red sea
3. False – he had 11, Joseph was the twelfth of Jacob's sons.
4. True – Zephaniah and Zechariah
5. False – There are 150, which is still a lot
6. True – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
7. False – The second book is Exodus.
8. False – actually Noah took two of every animal
9. True – (Matthew 15) but another time he also fed 5000 *Matthew 14) and both times there might have been more as the women and children were not all counted
10. True – Leviticus 11 v 5, Deuteronomy 14 v 7, Psalm 104 v 18 and Proverbs 30 v 26

A colouring page you could print and colour together

This colouring sheet is provided by <https://picturebookapologetics.com/>

“ SANCTIFY CHRIST AS LORD
IN YOUR HEARTS,

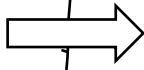
*always
being ready*

TO MAKE A DEFENSE
TO EVERYONE WHO
ASKS YOU TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT
FOR THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU,
YET WITH
GENTLENESS AND REVERENCE ”

1 PETER 3:15

Puzzle Sheet

Stephen new his scripture really well and used it to share his message. Draw your favourite Bible story here.



Christians are still persecuted around the world for following Jesus.

Can you find the ten countries where it is currently hardest to lives as a Christian in the wordsearch below? You could pray for each country as you find it.

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

North Korea

Afghanistan

Somalia

Libya

Pakistan

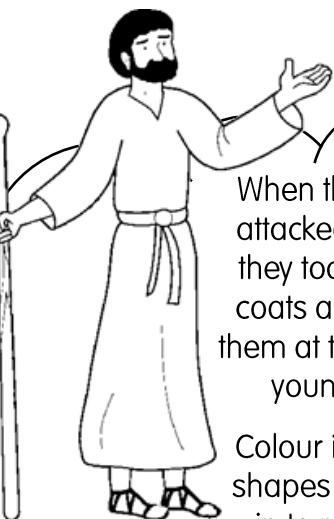
Eritrea

Sudan

Yemen

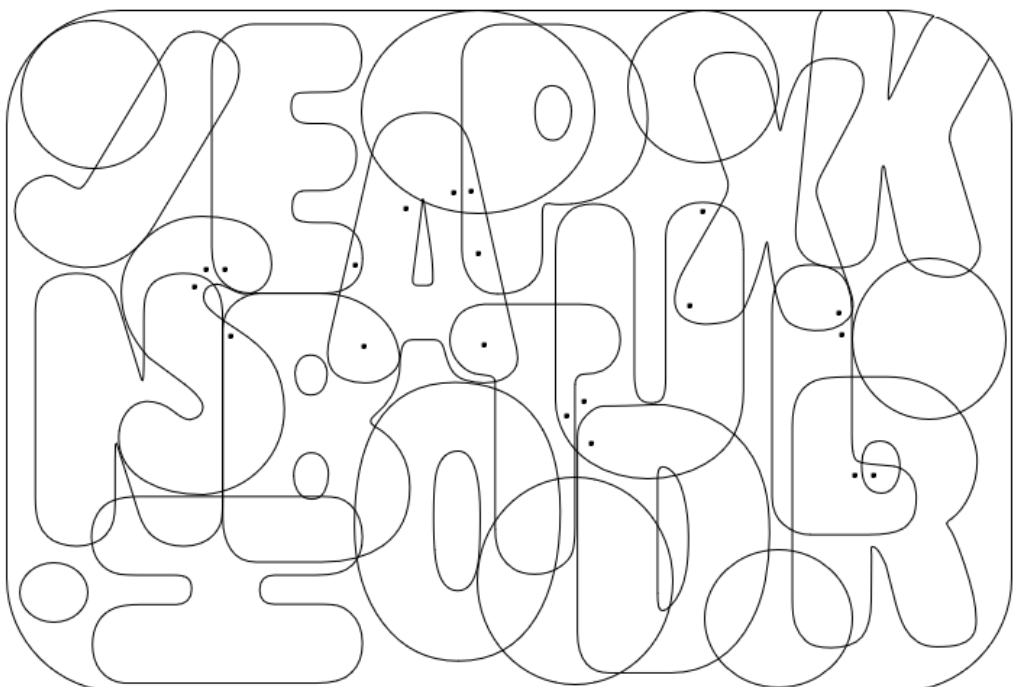
Iran

India



When the people attacked Stephen they took off their coats and placed them at the feet of a young man.

Colour in only the shapes with a dot in to reveal his name.



Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Philip and the Ethiopian

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 8 v 26–40

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you, for the story of the Ethiopian who wanted to know and understand more about Jesus. Thank you for the clues that you left us throughout the Old Testament about your plan to send Jesus.

Thank you that your message of love and hope is for the whole world. Help us to be people who share your message with those we meet.

Help us to be like Philip this week, to study our bibles and come to know more about you so that we can share your word with others.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Where did the verses that the Ethiopian man in the story was reading, come from?

The man in the story was reading from the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. Isaiah is one of the Prophecy books in the Bible, God spoke to Isaiah and told him to write down a message for his people. The message spoke about a saviour who would come and take a punishment that he didn't deserve. Philip knew that this message was speaking about Jesus.

In fact there are many verses in the Old Testament which told people about Jesus – they spoke about who he was and what would happen to him, God's plan to make a way for our sins to be forgiven is spoken about throughout the books of the Old Testament.

A question for children to ask adults

What is your favourite verse from the Bible?

Family Activity 1

You will need: Lego or other plastic figures (or something to represent the people in the story), any packaging/junk modelling materials you can find.

Create your own dramatic retelling of the story using items from around the house – why not craft your own chariot for the Ethiopian to ride in, set up a bowl of water for the baptism to take place in.

Use some waterproof toys or figurines to represent the characters. You could share out the roles getting different family members to voice the characters. Why not film your finished story and share it with another family?





A verse to remember

Luke 2 v 10–11

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord.”

This is a verse we normally think about at Christmas, but it is a great reminder that Jesus was the promised Saviour and that his good news was for all people! Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

You will need: A Bible (or two)! A timer

Have a Bible race, these Bible verses are all from the Old Testament but speak about Jesus, who can find them the fastest?. If you have two Bibles have a race to see who can find each verse first, otherwise take it in turns but time yourselves to see who is fastest.

Isaiah 7 v 14

Micah 5 v 2

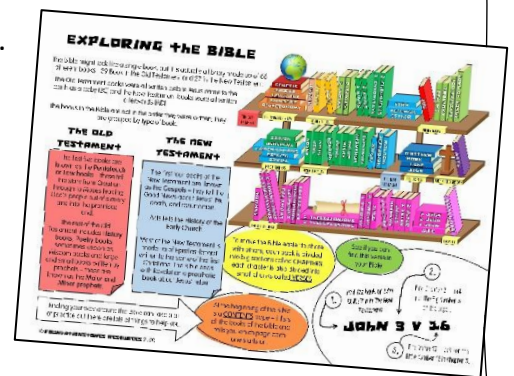
Psalms 78 v 1–2

Isaiah 9 v 1–2

Isaiah 35 v 5–6

Zechariah 9 v 9

This sheet on exploring the Bible is available in the ‘Other Resources’ section of the Together at Home Website. www.TatH.co.uk



Active Bible Study

Philip was able to share the good news because he had a knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures and was confident in his faith and knowledge of Jesus. How can we equip and prepare our children to do the same?

Why not try following the S.P.E.C.K Bible study method together – read the story again and work together to seek out the following things within in. This method can be applied to any Bible Passage.

S – SIN – Is there a sin to avoid in the passage?

P – PROMISE – Is there a promise of God to hold on to in the passage?

E – EXAMPLE – Is there an example to follow in the passage?

C – COMMAND – Is there a command of God to obey in the passage?

K – KNOWLEDGE – What knowledge can I draw from this passage about God and about me?

Give everybody a chance to answer and contribute on each question. Different people will find different things within the passage. Think about how you can apply what you have learned to your own lives and how it will change the way you live for God.



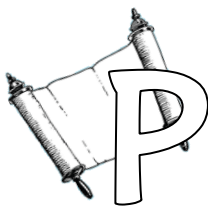
A colouring page you could print and colour together

Luke 2 v 10-11

The angel said to them,

"Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord."

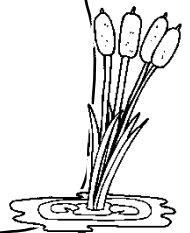




Puzzle Sheet

In Jesus' time the scriptures were written on large scrolls. How many can you find hidden on the page?

Finish the picture... to show what happened at the end of the story



Although the man in the story was called an "Ethiopian" he was not from the country we know as Ethiopia today. But he is a good reminder that the Good News about Jesus is for the whole world. Can you find these different countries in the word search?

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

Ethiopia

Russia

China

Nigeria

America

Peru

France

Australia

Japan

Bolivia

Germany

India

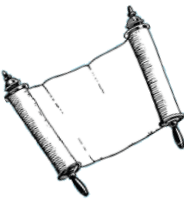
The man in the story was reading from the book of Isaiah a prophetic book of the Bible. Can you unscramble these Old Testament prophetic books?

j n a h o

l a m c l h a i

g i g a h a

a s o h e



Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Saul's conversion.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 9 v 1–25



Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Saul, thank you that you died on the cross and took the punishment for all our sins. Thank you that no mistake is too great that you cannot forgive it.

We pray for all those who still live in countries around the world where they are persecuted for their faith. We pray for their protection and for change in those countries so that people might be able to safely and openly follow you.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Where was Saul travelling at the beginning of the story and why?

Saul was travelling to Damascus on a mission – he wanted to arrest and take back to Jerusalem anybody he found who was following Jesus and was part of the new Christian church.

Saul had made it his personal mission to persecute and attack all those who were saying that Jesus was the son of God and had died on the cross and risen from the dead. But Jesus had a plan for Saul – he wanted Saul to know that his sacrifice on the cross had been for everybody. Jesus had a new mission for Saul, to spread his Good News to everybody. Saul was also known by the name Paul and you can read his letters of instruction to many churches throughout the New Testament.

A question for children to ask adults

How did becoming a Christian change you?

Family Activity 1

Saul was blinded, he had to trust others to guide him where he needed to go. The people who were with Saul took him by the hand and led him to Damascus.

Set up an obstacle course, blindfold somebody and then guide them through the course using just instructions or the sound of your voice. You could talk about how it feels having to trust somebody else to guide you and share how Saul must have felt.





A verse to remember

Matthew 5 v 44

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

These words come from Jesus’ famous ‘Sermon on the Mount’ where he gave instructions on how to live right for God. We often focus on Saul in this Bible story, but we can learn from the example of Ananias as well.

Can you learn this verse together? You could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it



Family Activity 2

You will need – a tray of random items from around the house, a towel or scarf

Lay a range of items from around your house on a tray or table, give everybody 1 minute (or less) to memorise as many objects as they can. Cover over the objects with the towel and remove one item, but make sure nobody can see what you have taken.

Who can be first to work out which item is missing? Take it in turns to be the person who removes an item and see who can get the most points.

What a change people must have seen in Saul after his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road, his behaviour changed overnight. Why not use this game to think about how being a follower of Jesus changes the way we live our lives.

Active Prayer

You will need: Paper, Pens

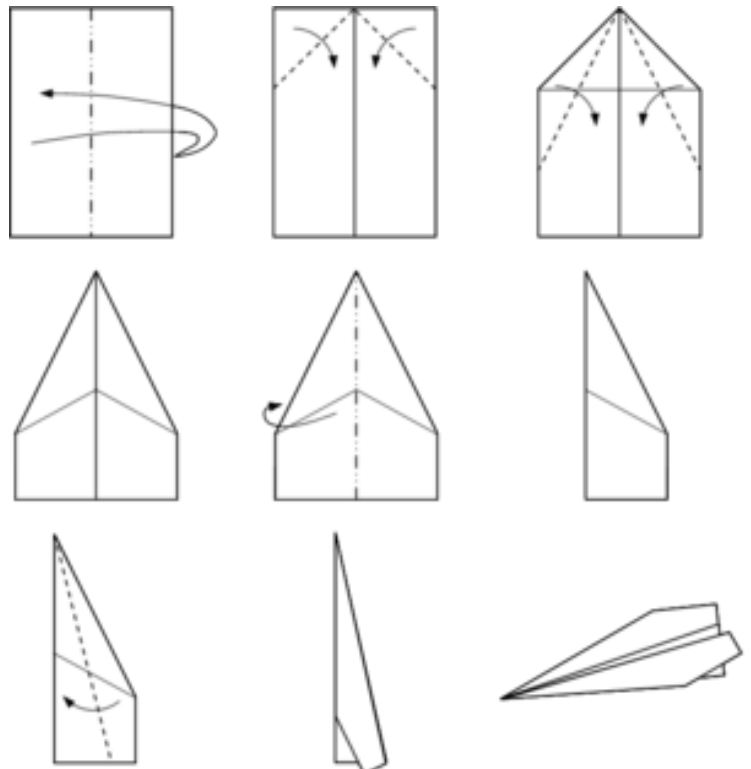


Use these steps to make a paper aeroplane.

Before you fold your paper you might want to write or draw on it any mistakes from your past that you would like to say sorry to God for.

When you have finished throw your paper plane as far as you can. Psalm 103 v 12 says that “He has taken our sins away from us as far as the east is from west.”

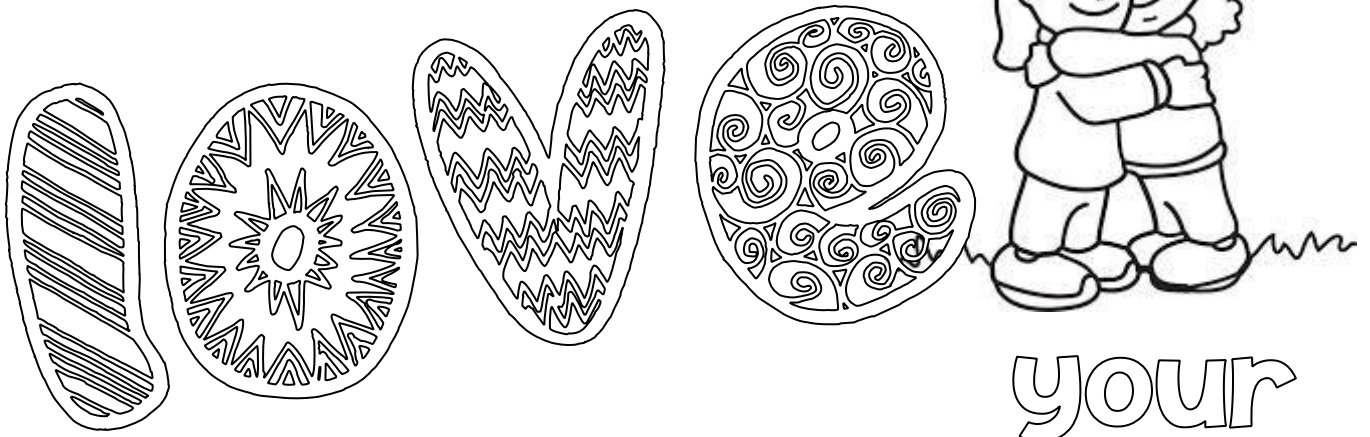
No mistake of our past is too big that God does not forgive it because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for us.



A colouring page you could print and colour together

Matthew 5 v 44

“BUT I tell you, 



 enemies and



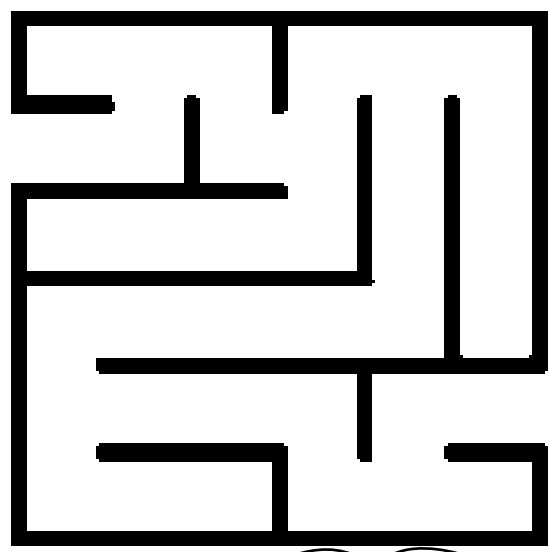
for those who
persecute you.”

PUZZLE SHEET

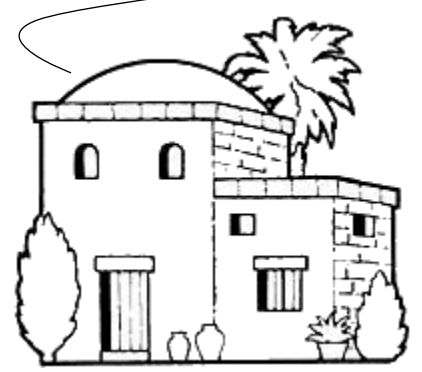
Which path should Ananias take to reach the house where Saul is?

Saul had to trust his friends to guide him to Damascus— can you complete this maze with your eyes closed?

Ask a family member to guide you and talk you through which way to go!

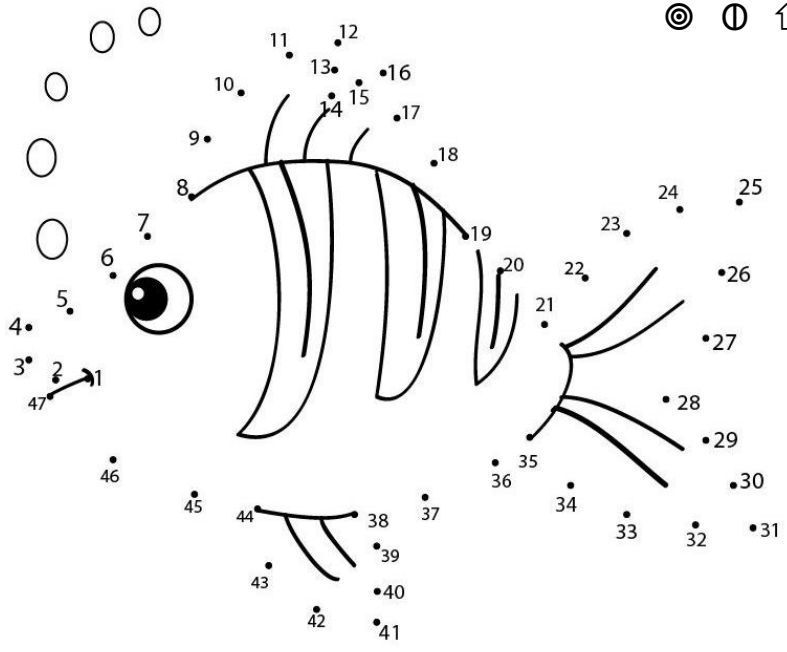


Can you complete the verse from the story – once you have cracked one part of the code use it to help you solve the rest.



Immediately something that looked like

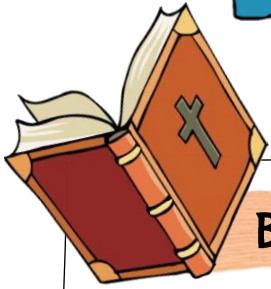
Join the dots in order to reveal a picture. The picture is a clue to help you solve the code puzzle.



 @ 0 ↑ ← ↑ ⊖ ∩ △ ☼ ↑
fell from his
 ○ ○ -----
 ☼ ↓ ☼ ↑
and he was
able to -----
 ↑ ☼ ☼

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Peter and Cornelius.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 10

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Peter and Cornelius which reminds us that you sent your son Jesus to die so that everybody could receive forgiveness and new life.

Help us to see our own prejudices and change our behaviour if it is not pleasing to you. Help us to share your love with everybody we meet even if they are different to us.

We pray for all those in the world who do not yet know you, even those who are currently following a different religion, that they would respond to your love and the Good News about Jesus.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

How many times did Peter see the vision? Why didn't he want to eat the food?

Peter saw the vision of the sheet three times, each time he refused to eat the food because it was unholy according to the Old Testament Jewish laws. Under the old laws if somebody broke a law or did something to make themselves unclean they had to go to a priest and make a sacrifice to ask for forgiveness.

But when Jesus came and died, he made a sacrifice so that all the sins of the world could be forgiven forever. We can go direct to God and say sorry.

I wonder if God chose to show the vision to Peter three times to remind him of the three times that Jesus asked Peter “Do you love me?” before he returned to heaven. You can find the story in John 21 and see what instructions Jesus gave to Peter.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you had to change your behaviour or viewpoint for God?

Family Activity 1

“Go with them without doubting, because I have sent them to you.”



Peter was told to follow the three strangers who had come to visit Him. He was told to do so without doubting.

Play a game of ‘Follow the Leader’ take it in turns to be the Leader – where will you make everybody follow you to? How will you travel? Hopping? Jumping? Backwards?

Think about how it felt for Peter following the strangers without knowing where they were taking him.



A verse to remember

Romans 10 v 4

Christ ended the law so that everyone who believes in him may be right with God.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

You will need: paper, pens, foil/any shiny items you can find around the house



Today's story is full of angels described as wearing shining clothes! What do you think that angels would look like?

Create your own piece of angel art together. What items can you found around your house to stick on and make your angel's clothes shine!



Helping Older Children

Peter had to overcome his own prejudices and biases against those who weren't Jewish. The news at the moment is full of stories of violence and disagreements around the world many of them can be traced back to the prejudice and bias of people who see the differences in others and not the similarities.

Older children may have heard these news stories or talked with friends about them and will have questions about global inequality. Peter's story challenges us to examine our own hearts and look for prejudice or bias in how we live day to day.

Don't be afraid to discuss these difficult topics, always returning to the truth expressed by Peter... **"I really understand now that to God every person is the same."**

God's love and the sacrifice of Jesus are available to everybody equally.

It is right for us to be angered or upset by the injustice we see in the world – this is how God feels when he sees the fallen and sinful world that we live in. The world is not how God created it to be.

Active Prayer

Peter realised that **"In every country God accepts anyone who worships him and does what is right."**

Go to the place in your kitchen where you keep your food. Read the labels on the food to find out where the food was grown and has come from.

Pray together for each of the countries that you discover!



A colouring page you could print and colour together

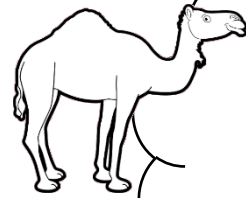
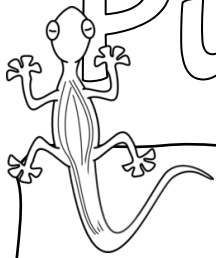
CHRIST ENDED THE LAW SO THAT EVERYONE



WHO BELIEVES IN HIM

MAY BE RIGHT WITH GOD.

Puzzle Sheet



Can you unscramble these different foods that might have been on the blanket in Peter's vision?

Join the dots to complete the picture and see who appeared to both Peter and Cornelius.



gip

malec

pwrn

tba

lwo

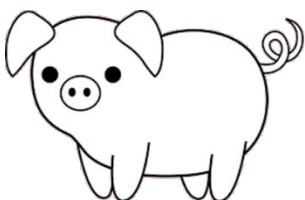
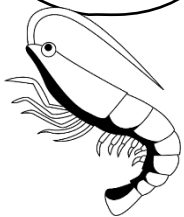
ckeog

These are all animals that are listed in Leviticus 11 and they can all be found somewhere on this page.

Can you find the following words in the word search below?

- Peter**
- angel**
- vision**
- food**
- sheet**
- roof**
- Cornelius**
- family**
- Joppa**
- baptized**

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



Can you find them all?

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Peter in Prison.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 12 v 6–19

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Peter in Prison. Thank you that it reminds us that nothing is impossible for you!

Help us to be like friends of Peter in the story who met and prayed in difficult times. Give us confidence and faith to pray big miracle-seeking prayers!

We pray for all those we know who are facing challenging times and difficult situations that they would experience miraculous breakthroughs!

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

How many miraculous things can you find in the story?

Wow! What an incredible story – full of miraculous things. Peter was in prison, they were obviously so worried about him escaping that they had tied him up between two soldiers and there were more soldiers outside! How amazing that none of the soldiers were aware of Peter's dramatic escape!

The arrival of an angel in his prison cell was so miraculous that even Peter wasn't sure if he was awake! Chains fell off, gates opened and soldiers just let Peter and the angel walk from the prison.

No wonder Rhoda was so excited that she forgot to open the door and no wonder nobody believed her story!

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you prayed a big miracle-seeking prayer?

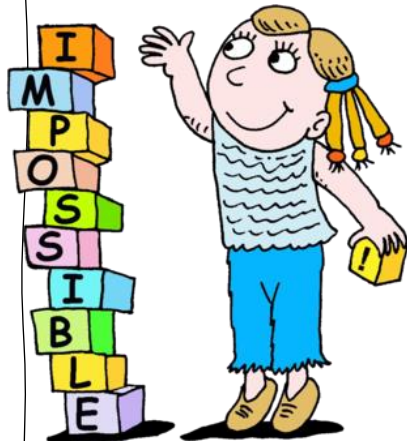
Family Activity 1

You will need: strips of paper, tape or glue

Have a paper chain race – working individually or in teams set a timer and see who can make the longest paper chain in one minute. If you are working on your own you might want to set the timer for two minutes or more.

Form a paper loop with one strip of paper, then pass another strip through your loop before gluing or sticking it into a complete circle. Keep doing this with strips until the timer runs out. Count how many loops are in each chain to see who has won.





A verse to remember

Matthew 19 v 26

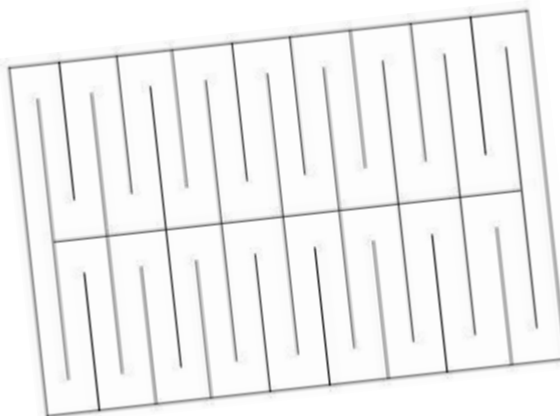
“Jesus looked at them and said, “For people this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

Can you learn this verse together? You could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

You will need: a piece of paper roughly the size of a postcard, scissors.

All things are possible to God, even things which are impossible to man. Can your whole family climb through a piece of paper? It might seem impossible but follow these instructions and it can be done.



- Fold your piece of paper in half long ways.
- Make cuts out from the folded edge towards the open edge of the paper, do not cut all the way to the edge.
- Now make cuts from the open edge towards the fold between the cuts you have made.
- Make sure that your two outermost cuts come from the folded edge towards the open edge.
- Cut along the fold between these two outermost cuts.
- Unfold your paper and it should form a ring big enough to step through.
- The narrower the spaces between the cuts the larger the ring.

You can watch a demonstration video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5E-Qnfo8ql8>

Active Prayer

When we know that nothing is impossible for God it changes the way we pray. Spend some time drawing pictures of what you would like the world to look like right now, remember, nothing is too impossible. What do you think the world would look like with God completely in charge, what things would you make sure there were more of, which things would you get rid of completely?

When you have finished drawing your pictures turn them into prayers, ask God to bring your dreams into reality.



A colouring page you could print and colour together

This colouring page is available for free at <https://www.tyndale.com/sites/readthearc/>



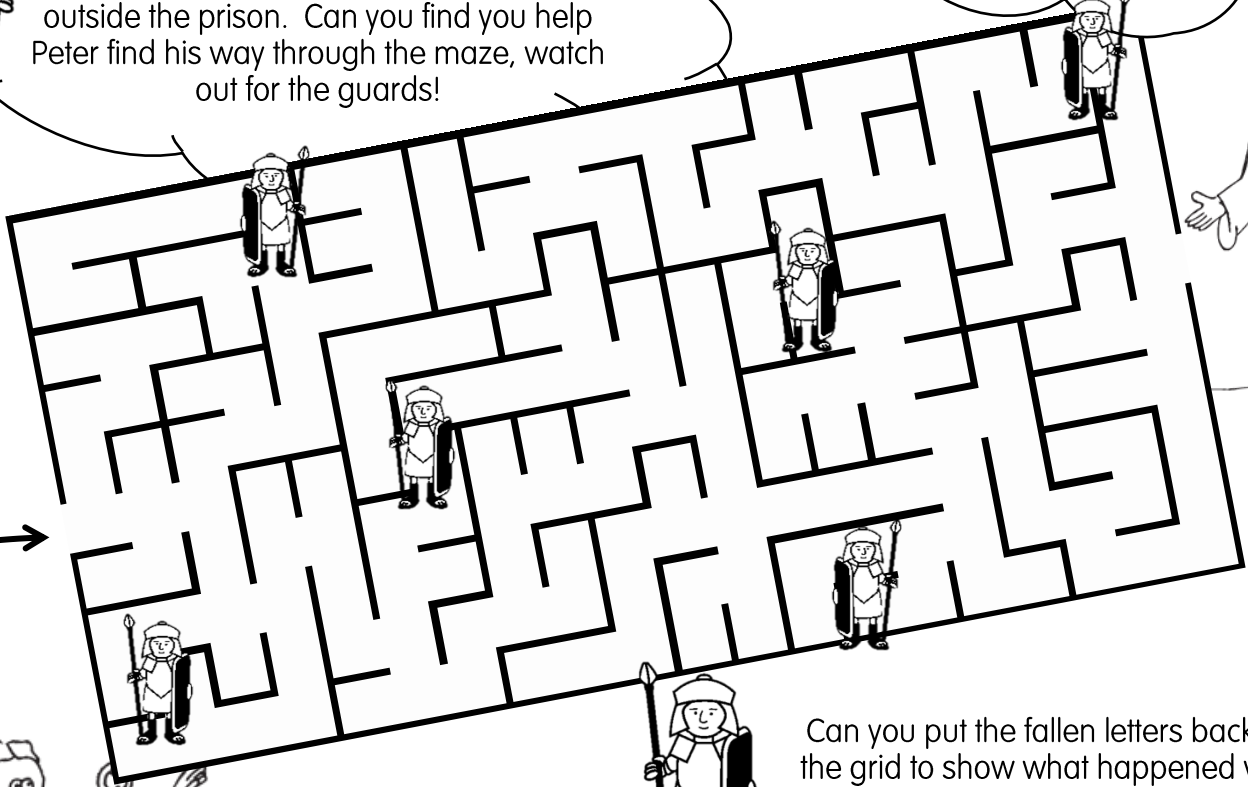
PUZZLE SHEET



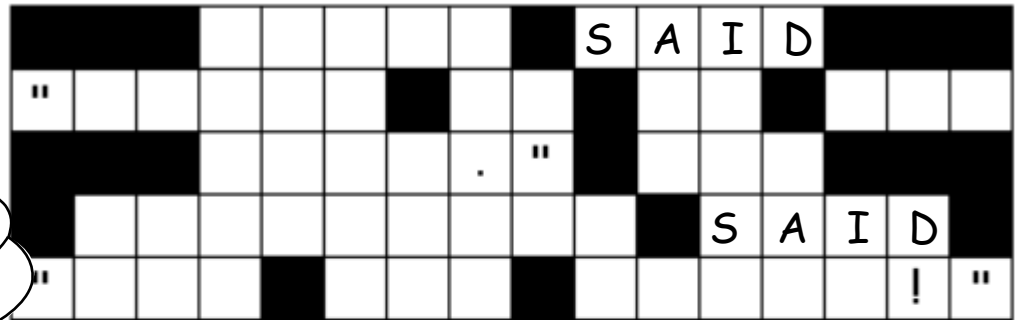
Peter followed the Angel and found himself outside the prison. Can you help Peter find his way through the maze, watch out for the guards!



Peter managed to leave the prison without any of the guards noticing him? How many of these guards can you find guarding our puzzles?

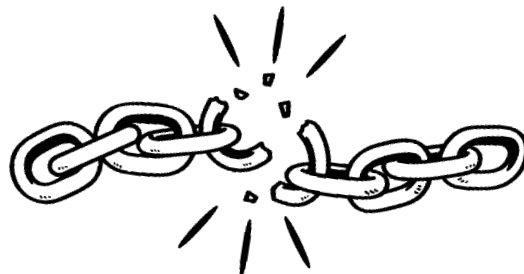
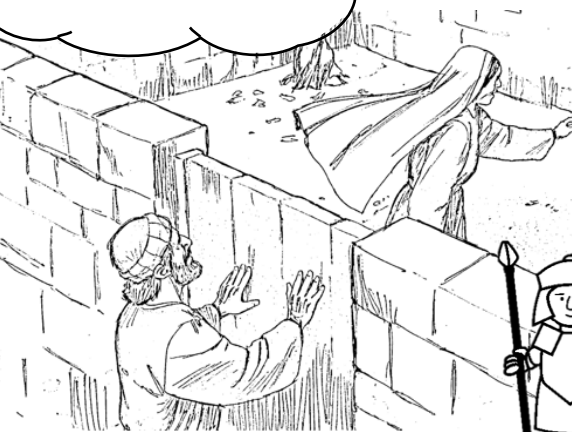


Can you put the fallen letters back into the grid to show what happened when Peter arrived at the house where his friends were praying?



CLUE: The first word is the name of somebody from the story!

U A A
 T O O R O
 E O R H Y R I C B U Z Z
 Y V E R O D A S
 P E D E R B E D Y A T T Y H E



ANSWER: There are 12 guards on the page!

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Paul being shipwrecked.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 27

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Paul and the shipwreck – help us to be like Paul holding tight to you and trusting you through difficult, challenging times.

Would you please use the way we handle difficult times to be a testimony for others about how much you love us and the good plans you have for us.

We pray for those who are scared and facing big challenges in their own lives that they would know your peace and comfort.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

*Where did the sailors think they were travelling in the boat?
What did Paul say would happen?*

Paul was being taken to Italy to meet with Caesar, he was under arrest for sharing the Good News about Jesus. The sailors were taking Paul and some other prisoners to Rome.

Paul had a message from God that he would have the chance to speak before Caesar but he also knew that the journey would not be a simple one. When the storms came and the sailors were afraid it was Paul that reassured them, he knew that even though a shipwreck was on the horizon God had promised that nobody would be harmed.

What an amazing testimony of how God was looking after Paul.

A question for children to ask adults

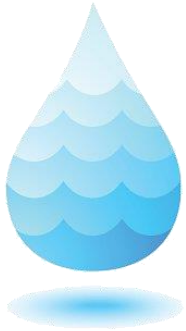
What is a journey you have been on where you knew that God was with you?

Family Activity 1

You will need: Any craft materials you have round the house, glue, paper in blue colours

Make a stormy collage using any blue/green craft materials you have around the house. You could include a boat in your collage like the one in the story.





A verse to remember

Isaiah 43 v 2

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.
When you cross rivers, you will not drown.
When you walk through fire, you will not be burned,
nor will the flames hurt you.”

These words from Isaiah remind us that even in the most challenging times God is with us, he guides and protects us. Can you learn this verse together? You could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

You will need: Music

Play a game of ‘Musical Storms’ – when the music plays everybody should dance and move around like they are being blown about in the storm. When the music stops, they should sit down as fast as they can like the ship crashing onto the land.

My Lighthouse – by Rend Co. Kids is a great song to play the game to as it talks about God being our peace in the storm. You can find a video with actions here which you could learn before playing the game. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeJvKkBV6rY>



Active Prayer

You will need: a piece of paper and pens. On one half of the page draw a picture of a storm cloud, on the other draw an anchor (or you can print the template on page 3).

Share together some of the things you have found most difficult in recent weeks and months. Write or draw these on or around the storm cloud. Around the anchor write or draw some of the things that have helped you feel connected to God and one another and secure in the middle of the storm.

Pray and ask God to decrease the things you have found difficult and increase the things that have been your anchors.



Helping Older Children

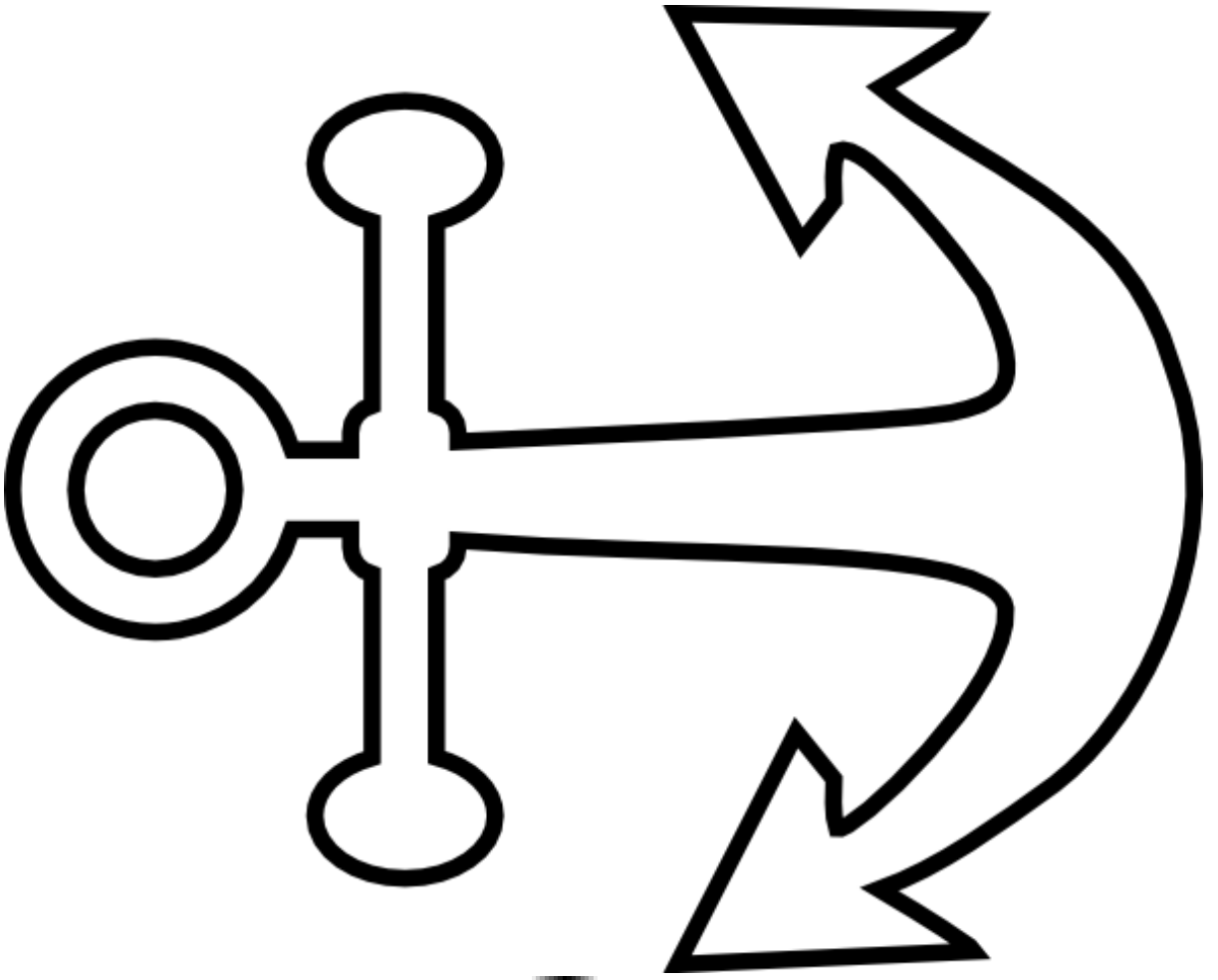
Older children might be asking why God would allow the current virus to hurt people in the world. The Bible tells us that we live in a fallen world, that God did not intend for it to be like this. We might not always be able to see God in our circumstances, but He promises that He will never abandon us, He is always with us. Just like Paul we can trust God even in the middle of difficult times.

Encourage Older children to...

Keep praying – God always hears our prayers even if we don't see Him answer them straight away.
Psalm 116 v 1

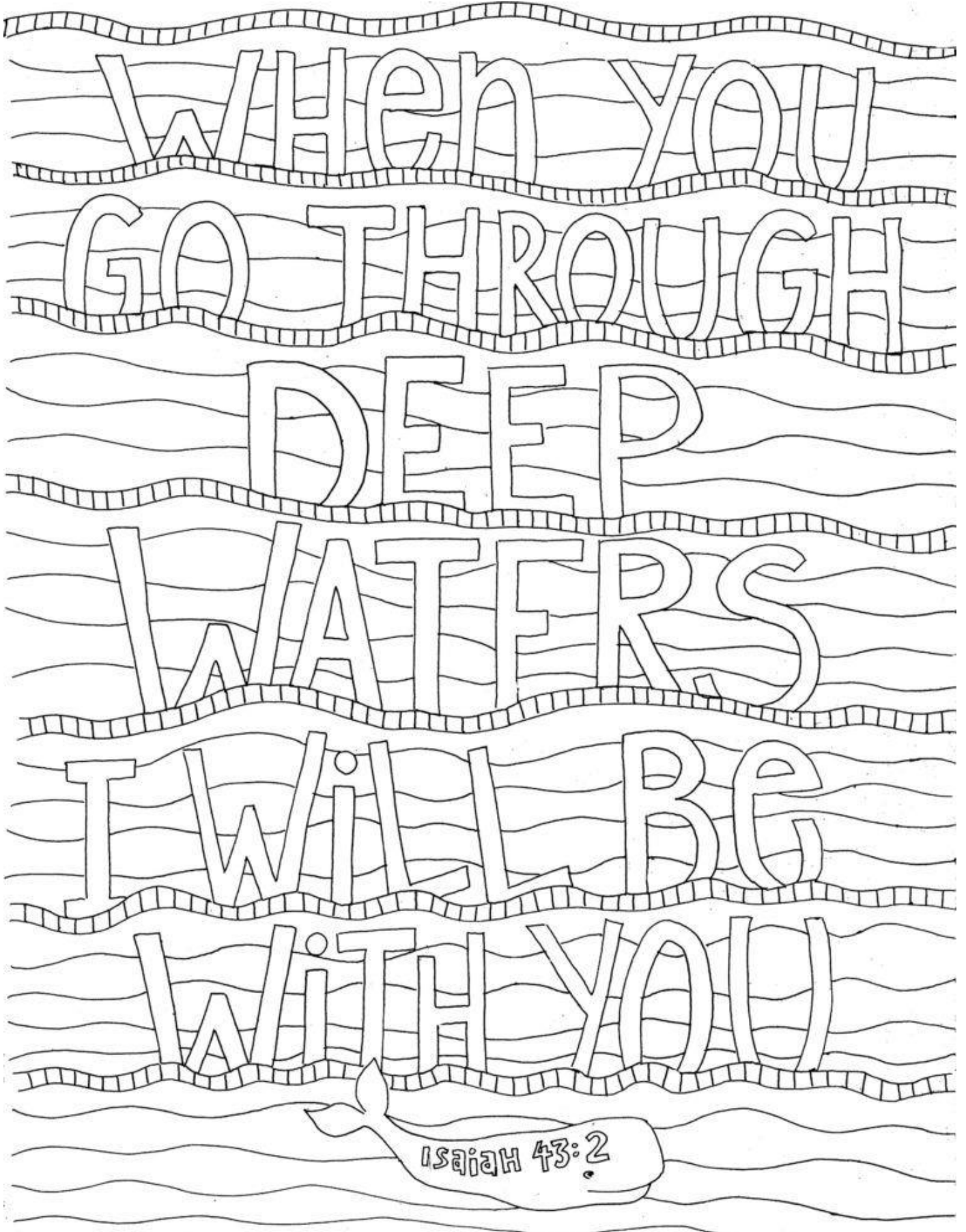
Keep trusting - God has good plans for us and there is always hope. Jeremiah 29 v 11

Keep showing love – God can use us to encourage and bless others in difficult times. John 15 v 12



A colouring page you could print and colour together

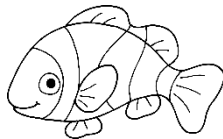
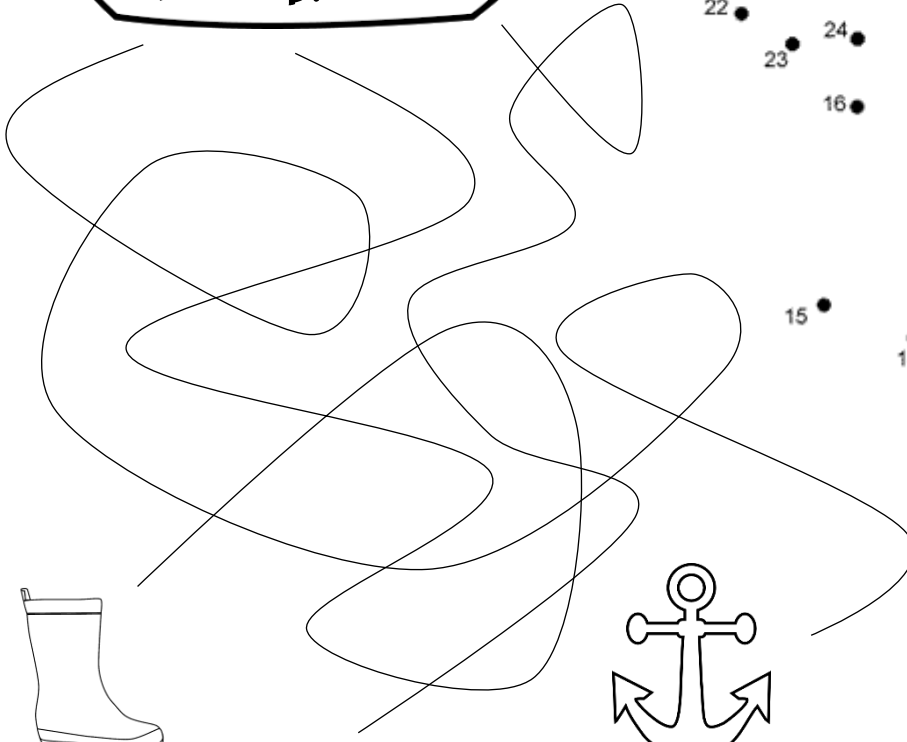
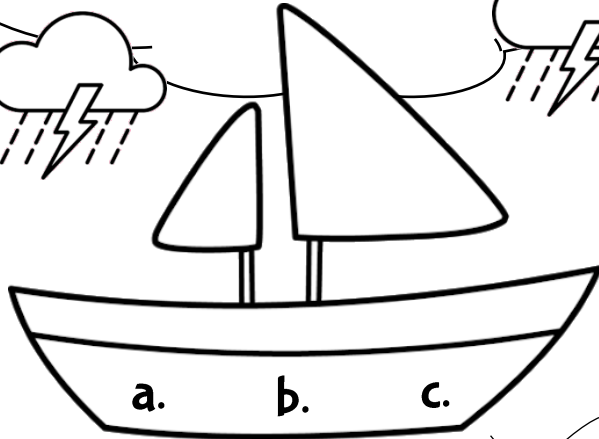
Colouring page provided by www.VictoryRoad.com



PUZZLE SHEET

Join the dots in order to reveal how Paul knew what would happen.

Which rope should the sailors lower to put down the anchor?



How many storm clouds can you find on the page?

Can you find all these words from the story in the word search?

- Paul**
- Rome**
- storm**
- boat**
- prisoner**
- shipwreck**
- Malta**
- Italy**
- sailors**

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



Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Paul arriving in Malta.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 28 v 1–11

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Paul on the island of Malta. Help us to be like Paul, trusting you even when things don't go the way we expect.

Just like Paul help us to show and teach others around us what you are like. Help us to be a blessing and encouragement to all those we meet.

We pray for all those in the world fighting illness, that you would be with them and those looking after them. We pray for an end to the Coronavirus.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What different ways that God helped Paul can you find in the story?

Paul had arrived in a strange place, God had already protected him and everybody on the boat during the shipwreck but He continued to look after and protect Paul. God sent people to look after Paul and the crew when they are arrived, he stopped him being poisoned by a snake and he used him to heal many people.

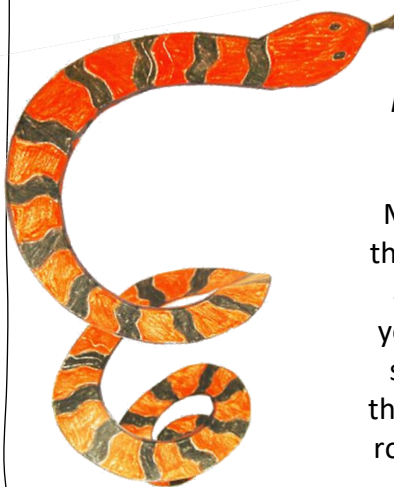
Being shipwrecked on an island might seem like a terrible thing to happen but with God on his side Paul turned it into a positive experience. Three months after his arrival when he set off again he had been given everything that was needed for the journey!

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a difficult time in your life which you now look back on as a good and positive learning experience?

Family Activity 1

You will need: Colouring pens/pencils/crayons, a sheet of paper, a plate, scissors, string



Make your own swirly snake like the one in the story. Draw around a plate, try to find one that fills your whole sheet of paper. Cut a spiral from shape all the way to the middle of the circle. You could round off the head end to make it look more snake like.

Decorate the snake with any pattern you would like then add the string so that you can hang your snake up somewhere and watch it spiral in the breeze!



A verse to remember / Prayer Activity

Mark 16 v 15–18

Jesus said to his followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved, but anyone who does not believe will be punished.

And those who believe will be able to do these things as proof: They will use my name to force out demons. They will speak in new languages. They will pick up snakes and drink poison without being hurt. They will touch the sick, and the sick will be healed."

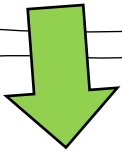
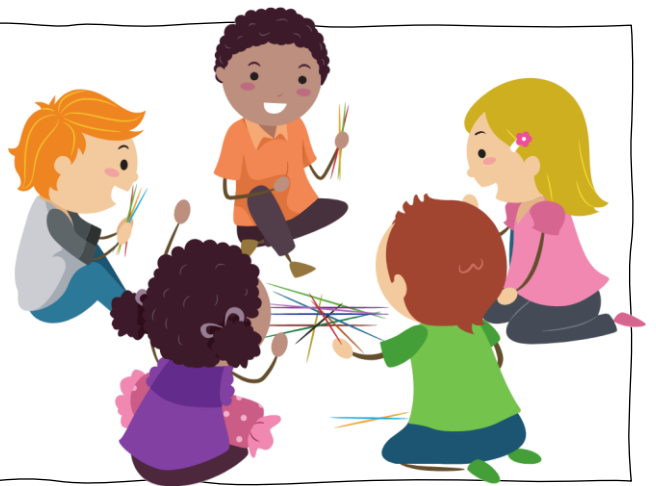
This passage comes from the book of Mark, one of the Gospels that tells the story of Jesus. How many of the things that Jesus promised can you find in the today's story about Paul in Malta? This is quite a long passage to try and learn so why not use it instead as a prayer wish list. Which of these things that Jesus said his followers would be able to do would you like to do?

Family Activity 2

You will need: Pencils or sticks

Play a game of pick up sticks together, place the pencils or sticks in a pile and take it in turns to try and pick one up without letting any of the other sticks move. If one moves then your turn is up! If you manage to collect a stick without moving the others you get another go.

Who can collect the most sticks by the end?



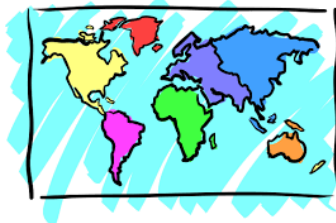
Active Prayer

Turn your game of pick up sticks into a "pick up prayer" – if you have coloured pencils why not give each a prayer topic or write the names of friends or family members onto the sticks you are using.

Active Prayer 2

Why not find a map of the world and look for Malta together?

Take it in turns to close your eyes and point at a country then spend some time praying for the people and leaders of the country.



Pray especially for those who are suffering because of the Pandemic.

Helping Older Children

Because the Bible contains so many stories of successful healings and miracles it can be difficult and frustrating to pray for healing in our own world and not see an instant miracle.

Romans 12:12 tells us **"Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and pray at all times."**

Remind children that these stories are there to bring us hope, that the God who performed miracles through people in the Bible is the same God we know today.

We may not understand why God does not respond instantly to prayers or why he does not immediately bring an end to this Pandemic but we can put our hope in God, wait patiently and continue to pray even in difficult times.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

Mark 16 v 18

They will pick up snakes and drink
poison without being hurt.

They will touch
the sick, and
the sick will
be healed."

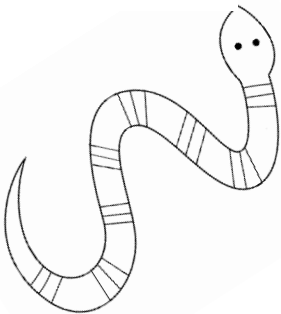
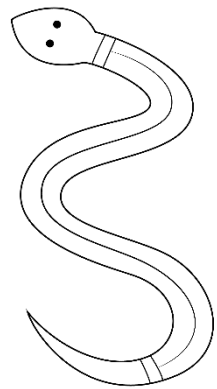
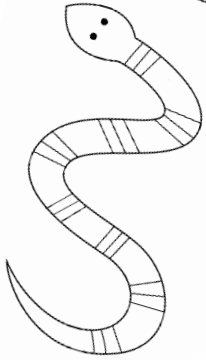
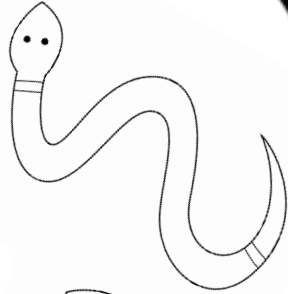


ACTS 28:5

What do you think the snake looked like which bit Paul?

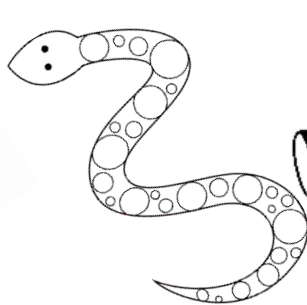
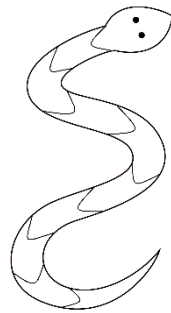
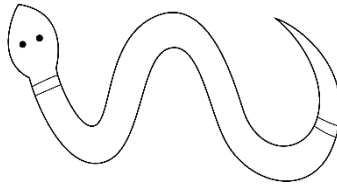
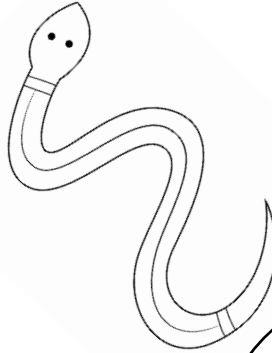
Design a pattern for the snake.

PUZZLE SHEET



Can you match each snake with their partner by colouring them the same.

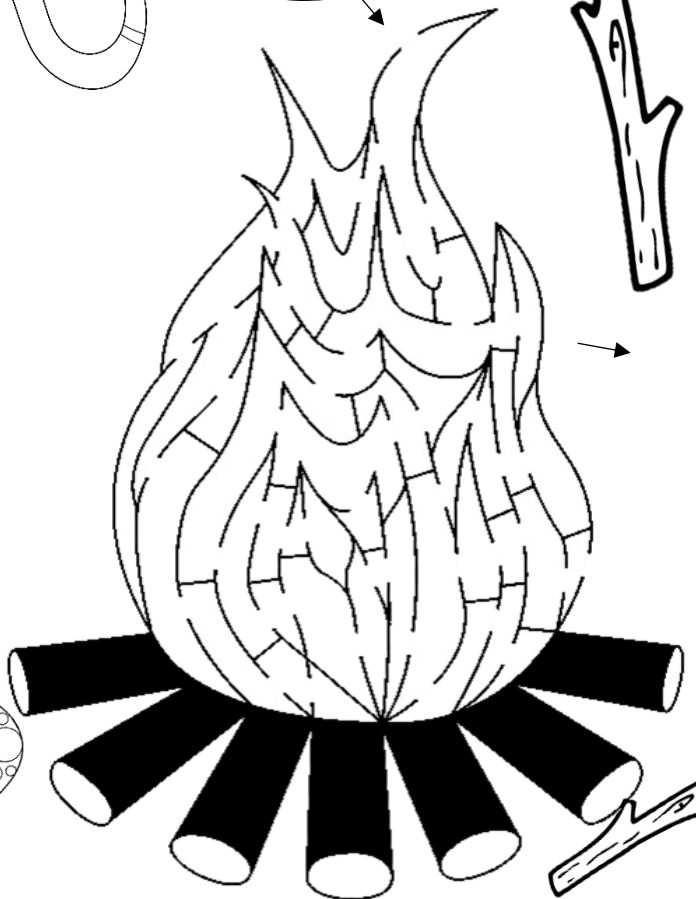
Which snake is the odd one out?



Paul was collecting sticks when he found the snake.

How many sticks can you find hidden on this page?

Can you find your way through the fire maze?



There are 6 sticks hidden on the page.