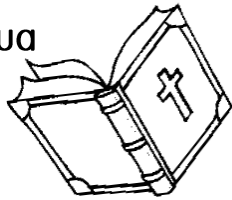


A passage to unpack

Joshua 1 v 1-9

Find the book of Joshua in the Old Testament, find Chapter 1 and read verses 1-9.



Verse 6 God told Joshua to be strong and brave!

What are some of the things that stop you from being strong and brave? Write or draw your fears or weaknesses below and bring them to God in prayer.

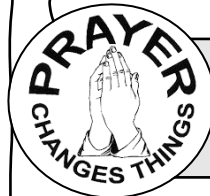
This passage in the Bible comes at the end of a long journey. God's people had been rescued from slavery in Egypt and then had wandered in the wilderness for forty years before they could enter the promised land.

God promises each of us that He has good and hopeful plans for our future. What is the thing you are most looking forward to doing when lock-down is over? Draw it here.

Joshua was called to be a leader and set an example for others – can you think of people in your own life that you can be an example to? Write their names or draw them here.



God told Joshua that He would be with him wherever he went. Draw a picture of somewhere in the world you would like to visit one day.



Ask God to help you to be a leader in your own group of friends and within your home.

Verse 8 God told Joshua to study the word of God and learn from it.

Why not read the rest of the Chapter and see what else you can learn from it?

- What can you learn about God?
- What can you learn about Joshua?
- What could you apply to your own life?

The Bible tells us to give all our worries and fears to God – take time to pray and ask God to make you braver and stronger



A passage to unpack

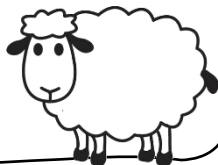
Psalm 23

Find the book of Psalms in the Old Testament and read Psalm 23.



A psalm is a poem, this one was written by King David, the same David who defeated Goliath! Before he was a King David was a shepherd boy, he recognised that God looks after us like a shepherd looks after his sheep.

Draw a sheep here!



Verse 1 reminds us that just like a shepherd God provides everything we need. Write or draw something in the space below that you can say thank you to God for providing.



Verse 4 reminds us that wherever we are God is with us, even in tough times or when we are worried or fearful. The Bible tells us we should give all our worries to God.

Write or draw any fears or worries in this box, then tear this corner off the sheet and throw it in the bin as you give those worries to God.

Verse 3 talks about how God our shepherd leads us on paths that are right. When we are children of God, we can choose to live in a way that pleases God. Our helper Holy Spirit helps us make good choices about how we live.

Sorry

Take a moment to think if there are any things you need to say sorry to God for. Times when you have not behaved in a way that is pleasing to God. Write a sorry prayer here:

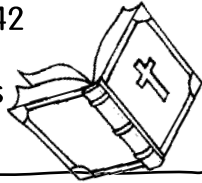
Help

Take a moment to think if there are any areas in your life where you find it hard to live in a way that pleases God. Write a prayer asking Holy Spirit to help you here:

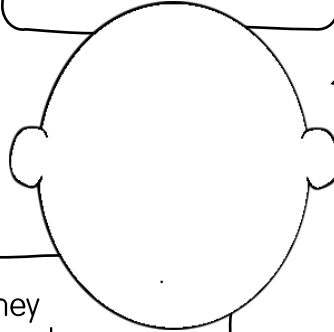
A passage to unpack

Psalm 42

Find the book of Psalms in the Old Testament, find Chapter 42 and read the whole Chapter. In the Psalms each Chapter is a Psalm (a song or Poem.)



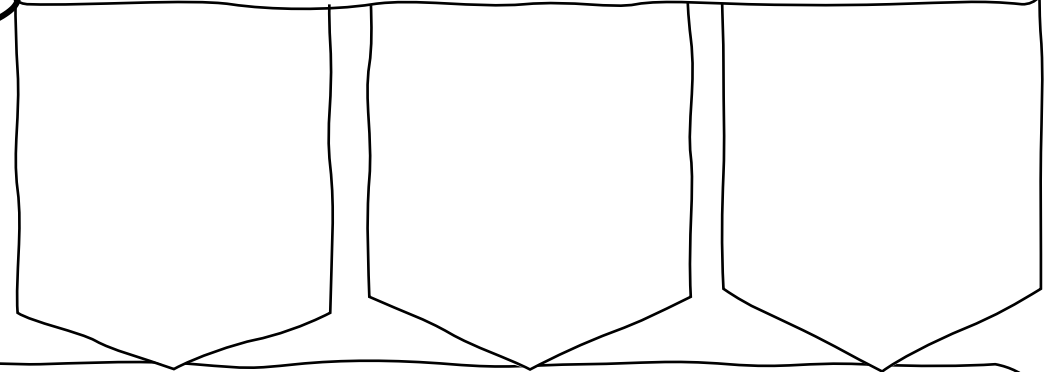
The writer of this Psalm was feeling lots of negative emotions... how are you feeling today? Draw the emotion onto this face.



"I should put my hope in God and keep praising Him."

Even though the writer of the Psalm is feeling sad and upset they recognise that they should trust in God and continue to praise him through the difficult times.

Draw three things below that you can say thank you to God for today.



In Verse 3 the writer of the psalm shares how they have been weeping day and night. People around are asking "Where is your God?"

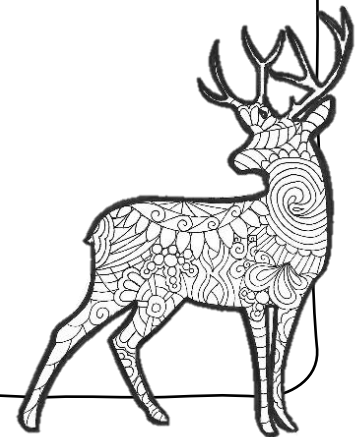
What are some of the things going on in the world today that make you feel upset or worried? What questions are people asking today?

Write or draw your concerns and share them with God below.

The writer of the Psalm says that they "thirst" for God like a deer panting for water.

Why not take some time and think about how you would like to increase your own understanding of God. You could spend some time waiting and listening to God and ask what areas of your faith He would like you to work on.

Write anything you hear below.



A passage to unpack

Jeremiah 29 v 10-14

Find the book of Jeremiah in the Old Testament, find Chapter 29 and read verses 10-14



Jeremiah is one of the large prophetic books from the Old Testament. Jeremiah listened to what God was saying and shared God's words with others. This passage is from a letter to God's people who were being held prisoner in Babylon.

You might feel a bit like a prisoner in your own home at the moment. Write or draw the BEST THING about lockdown and the thing you find HARDEST.

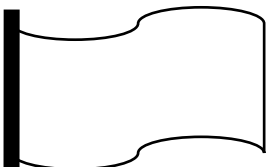
THE BEST THING IS...

THE HARDEST THING IS...

God's people were in a strange land far away from their home.

If you could visit anywhere in the world where would you go?

Draw a picture of you there and decorate the flag to show the country you are in.



I know the plans I have for you...

Verse 11 says that God knows the plans he has for us.

Lockdown has meant that some of the plans we had have been cancelled or postponed. It is alright to be sad about things that you will miss.

Write or draw anything you are going to miss.



God promises that He has good plans for our future, that there will be hope.

Write or draw something you would like to do when we are no longer in Lockdown.



God's plans for us are bigger than we can imagine. Spend some time waiting and listening to God. Ask God to speak to you and share some of the good plans He has for you.

Write or draw them here:



Just as God told Jeremiah that there would be an end to the difficult times that God's people were facing; we can trust God that there will be an end to the current pandemic and an end to lockdown. We can pray and declare an end to the Coronavirus in our country and world.

A passage to unpack

Micah 6 v 1-8

Find the book of Micah in the Old Testament, find Chapter 6 and read verses 1-8.



In verses 6-7 the people are heard asking God what he wants from them. Before Jesus the people would offer sacrifices to God as a way of atoning for their sins – the animals they sacrificed were given to God as an apology for sin.

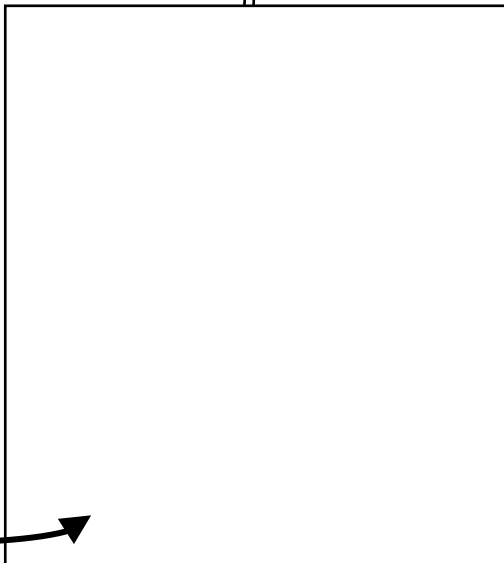
When Jesus died on the cross he took the punishment once and for all, so that all our sins can be forgiven by God.

Take a moment and ask God if there are any sins in your life that you need to repent of (say sorry) and ask God for his forgiveness. Write them on the corner of the page – pray and say sorry to God, then rip off the corner and throw it away.

The book of Micah is a prophetic book from the Old Testament. Micah was a prophet during a time when God's people were being dishonest and worshipping false gods. God spoke to Micah and gave him a message to share with His people.

In this passage God is asking why His people no longer worship and obey Him. God begins by listing some of the many ways He was blessed and protected them before.

Write or draw here a memory of a time when you knew that God was with you and protecting you.



In verse 8 Micah shares the sort of life that God calls us to live. Can you think of a practical way that you can apply each of these to your own life?

... do what is right to other people

How can you make sure that your behaviour to others is right and pleasing to God?

...love being kind to others

How can you actively demonstrate kindness to others this week?



...live humbly, obeying your God.

Why not ask God what He would like to teach you this week and how you can be more obedient to Him.

A passage to unpack

Matthew 6 v 25-34

Find Matthew Chapter 6 in your Bible and read verses 25 to 34.

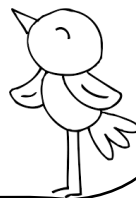


Verse 26 talks about how God provides for the birds of the air. Spend 5 minutes looking out of a window or spend some time in the garden looking for birds.

How many birds did you see?

Can you name any of the species of bird you saw?

Draw a bird here:



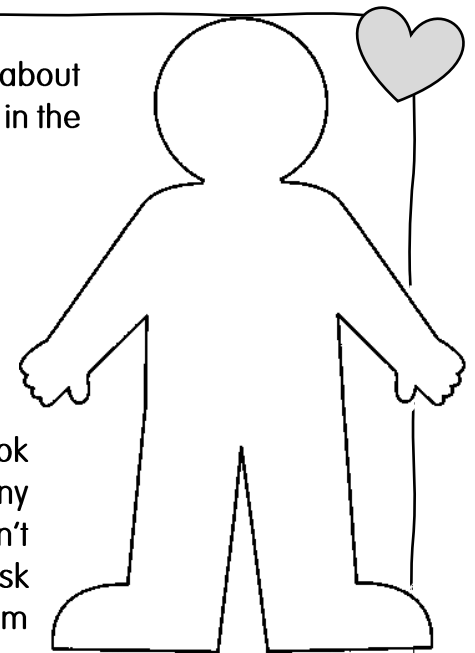
Sometimes we can take for granted the things that we have and use every day. Write a list of some things which you use every day that you can say thank you to God for.

Thank you God that I have...

Verses 28 and 29 talk about how beautiful the flowers in the fields are.

Sometimes we can worry about how we look or what we wear but God loves us just the way we are.

Decorate the person to look like you. If there are any bits of you that you don't like very much why not ask God to help you see them through His eyes.



This passage tells us not to worry but to seek God first.

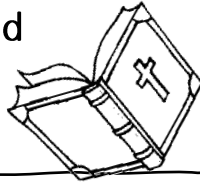
1 Peter 5 v 7 says **"Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you."**

Write or draw anything you are worried or scared about in the space below and ask God to take those fears away.

A passage to unpack

Matthew 13 v 44-45

Find the book of Mathew in the New Testament, find Chapter 13 and read verses 44 and 45



In this passage Jesus gives two examples of what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. What similarities and differences are there between the two examples?

Things that are the same in both stories

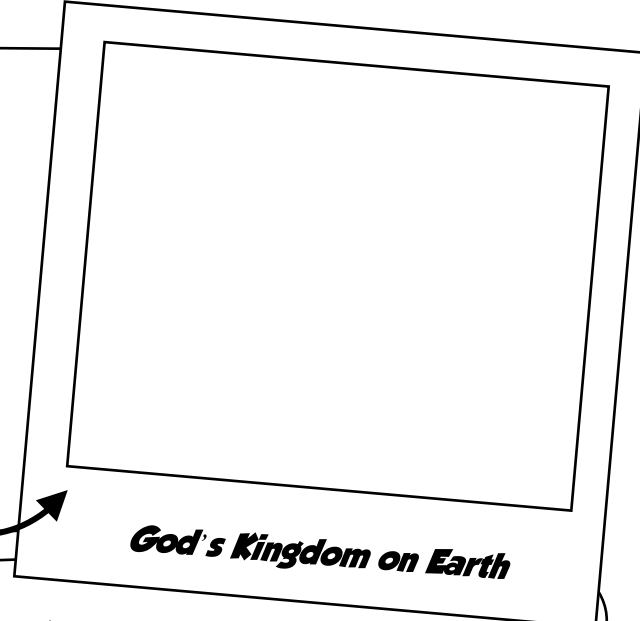
Things that are different in the stories.

What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

A Kingdom is a place where a King is in charge of everything. The Kingdom of Heaven is a place where God is in charge of everything.

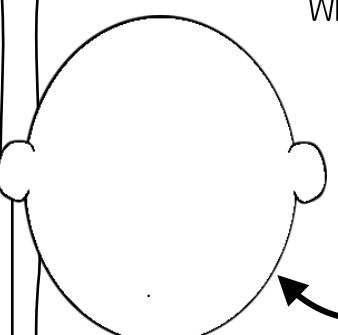
In the Lord's Prayer we ask that God's Kingdom will come and that His will would be done on earth just like it is in heaven. We are saying to God that we want Him to be in charge – on the earth just like in Heaven.

What do you think that world would look like?
Write or draw it here:

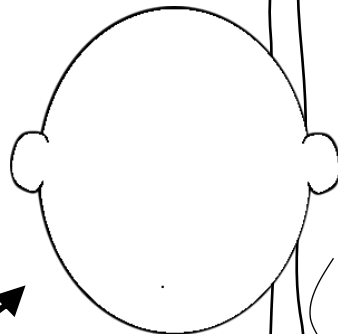


Re-read v44

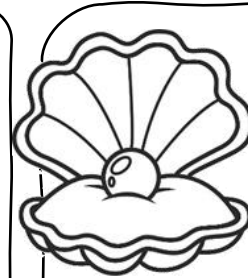
What emotions did the man in the story feel when he finally had the treasure?
Draw them here,



How does it make you feel when you think about God being in charge? Draw your emotions here.



Would you be willing to give something up to put God in charge in your life?



All about Pearls...

A pearl is made when a bit of dirt or grit gets inside an oyster shell. A coating called 'nacre' is formed around it to protect the oyster. The bit of grit becomes a pearl!

How amazing that a tiny bit of dirt can be transformed into something so precious and expensive.

It is a great reminder that we can be transformed by knowing God. We can change from being sinful and selfish to shining for God.

Are there any areas of your life where you think God might want you to change your behaviours? Write or draw them here and ask God to help you with them.

A passage to unpack

Matthew 25 v 14 – 30

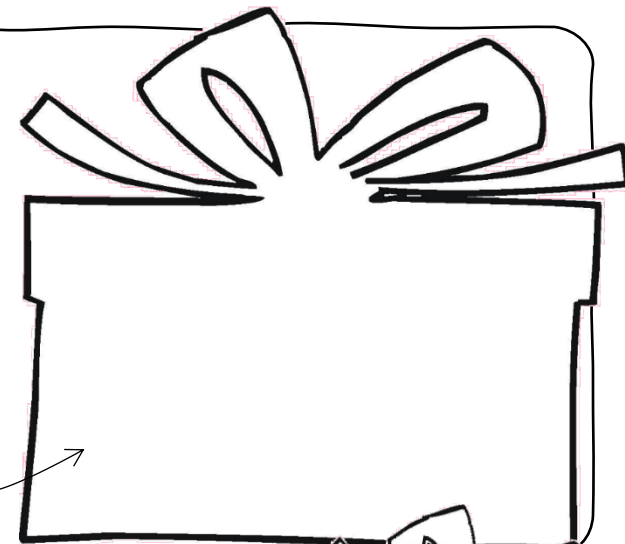
Find the book of Matthew in the New Testament, find Chapter 25 and read verses 14 to 30.



“Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God’s various gifts of grace.”

The Bible teaches us that God loves to give us **good gifts !** Just like the master in the story though God doesn’t just give us these gifts to hold on to or hide, he wants us to grow them and use them.

What gifts or talents has God given you that you can share with others? Write or draw them here...



This passage is a parable, a story with a message. The parable is about a master and his three servants. Each servant is given some money to look after and to use well while the master is away.

Let’s unpack the message inside the story.

Who do you think the master in the story is?

Who do you think the servants in the story are?

What do you think the money in the story represents?

(clue: sometimes the money in this story is referred to as talents)

Gifts of the Spirit

The Bible also tells us that we can receive Gifts of the Spirit – these are supernatural powerful gifts from God that we can use with the help of Holy Spirit.

All of these gifts are available to all of us. Which would you like to receive? Why not pray and ask God for a new gift today.

Healing

We can pray for those who are sick to be well.

Faith

We can ask God for more faith!

Words of knowledge

We can share encouraging messages from God with others.

Tongues

We can speak a new prayer language.

Evangelism

We can share the Good News with others

Wisdom

We can receive new knowledge from God.

Interpretation

We can interpret when somebody else speaks tongues.

You can look up the different gifts of the spirit in Romans 12.1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4.

A passage to unpack

Matthew 28 v 16-20

Find the book of Matthew in the New Testament, find Chapter 28 and read verses 16-20.



Our mission is to share God's love with others and make new followers. If you had to explain God's love and the Good News about Jesus to somebody else what would you say? What are the most important things to include?

This passage is often known as the Great Commission. It was the final instructions that Jesus gave to his followers before he returned to heaven. A bit like in a relay race, Jesus was passing on the baton to his friends, to continue the work that he had done on the earth.

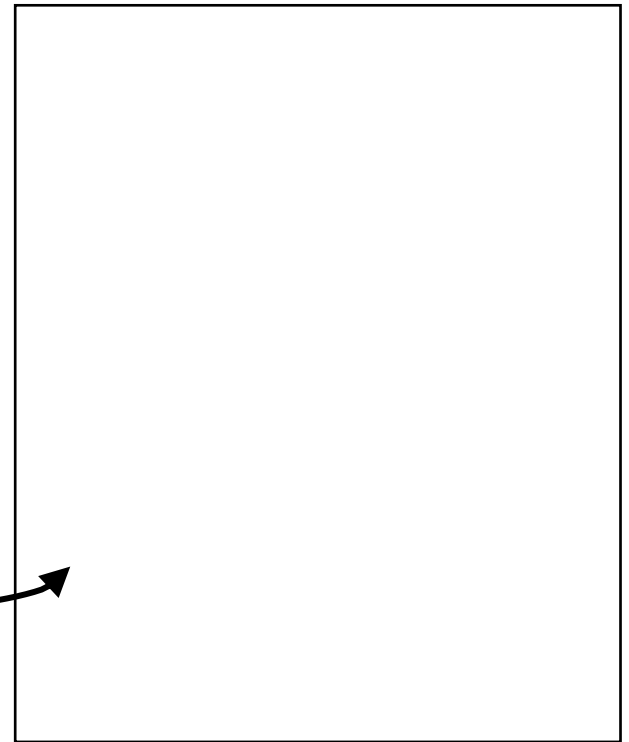


Jesus said that his disciples would have the same authority and power on the earth as he had done.

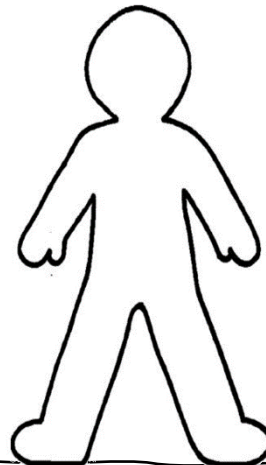
When you think about Jesus on the earth what are some of the things that he did?

Write or draw them here.

How amazing that Jesus promised his followers the same power and authority.



Draw a friend or family member who isn't yet a follower of God.
Pause and pray for them.



Our mission is to share God's love with others. We can teach others like Jesus did, by setting an example for them to follow. How could you be more like Jesus in the way you live your life?

Pray and ask God to help you to be an example of His love to others.

A passage to unpack

Mark 4 v 30-32

Find the book of Mark in the New Testament, find Chapter 4 and read verses 30 to 32.

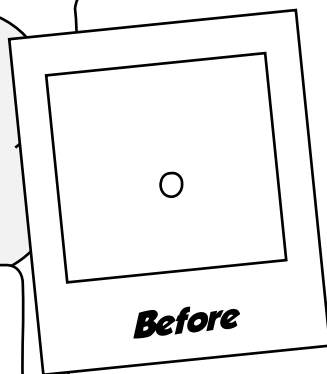


How does a Kingdom grow?

If God's Kingdom is anywhere that God is in charge, then how does it grow? Just like we can invite God to take charge in our lives, we can encourage others to do the same. As Christians we have a special mission, to tell others the Good News about Jesus' dying and coming back to life for us so that all of us can come close to God.

Can you think of some friends who don't yet know Jesus as their friend? Pray and ask God to help you to be bold in sharing his love with them. Pray that they would become a friend of God.

Write their names or draw them here.



This passage is a parable, a story told by Jesus with a message.

In the passage Jesus talks about what God's Kingdom is like. It starts as a tiny seed. Draw what it grows into here...

Jesus also talked about mustard seeds elsewhere in the Bible. You can find this verse in the book of Matthew, Chapter 17 and Verse 20.

"If your faith is as big as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move."

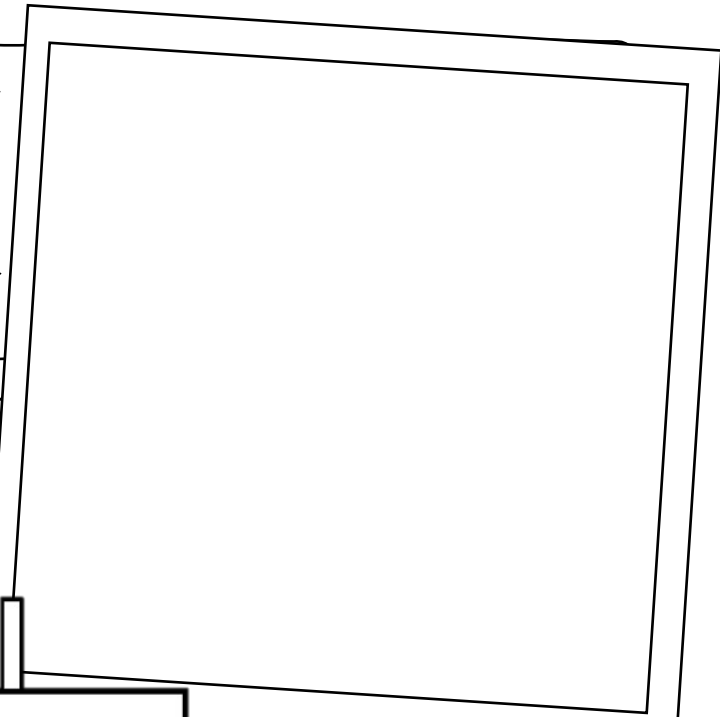
If you had to give your faith a size...how big would it be? Draw an object which is a similar size here:



We can pray and ask God to give us more faith to live our daily lives and more faith to pray

"your kingdom come; your will be done"

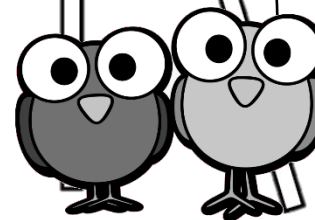
just like Jesus did in his Lord's prayer.



After

The Wild Birds

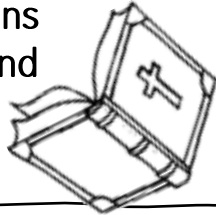
When Jesus talked about the birds sitting in the mustard tree he meant everybody who hears the good news. The people listening at the time would have been surprised to hear that the good news was for everybody, not just the Jewish people. Why not be bold and pray for somebody you don't like very much that they would join God's Kingdom too!



A passage to unpack

Ephesians 6 v 10-18

Find the book of Ephesians in the New Testament, find Chapter 6, and read verses 10-18.



This passage is from a letter written to the church in Ephesus. The writer, Paul wanted to encourage them in their faith.

Verse 11 tells us to put on the **full armour of God**, each of the pieces of the armour are important. Give some time to thinking about what each part means. Do you give time each day to get yourself ready to live for God?

What are some of the battles and challenges you are facing this week?

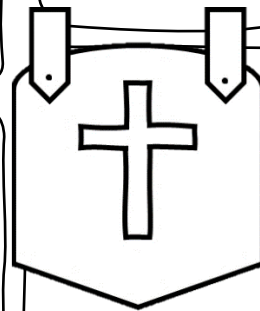


We can pray each day and ask God to help us put on our spiritual armour, stand strong and live right for Him.

God's salvation is our helmet – salvation is the gift that God gave us through Jesus; forgiveness for our sins and relationship with God.

Knowing and accepting that Jesus died for us changes the way we think and live.

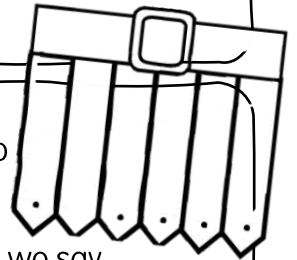
How would you explain salvation to somebody else? Write or draw your own explanation of Jesus' death and resurrection.



The breastplate reminds us to live right for God.

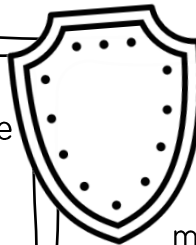
Why not ask God if there is an area of your life where you could change your behaviour to make it more pleasing to Him.

The belt of truth wraps around us. It can be easy to listen to and believe things that others say about us or even negative things that we say about ourselves. Ask God to tell you something **true** about how He sees you.



Great Job! By spending some time studying the Bible today you have already practised using your sword of the Spirit which is the word of God!

Take some time to read your Bible every day.



The shield of faith protects us from attack. Write down any fears or doubts you have at the moment. Pray and ask God to increase your faith and remove your fears and doubts.

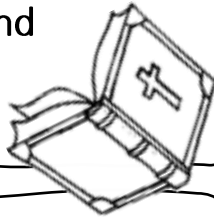
The Good News about Jesus is our footwear – everywhere we walk we carry a message of salvation for others. Draw a picture of a friend who doesn't know Jesus yet and pray for them that they respond to the Good News.



A passage to unpack

Ephesians 3 v 14-21

Find the book of Ephesians in the New Testament, find Chapter 3, and read verses 14-21.



Verse 21 talks about how God can work through us and use us to do amazing things for Him. Spend some time listening to God and asking how He would like to use you this week.

Write or draw anything you hear.



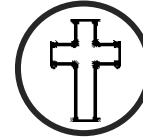
Ephesians is one of the 'Epistle' books of the Bible, that means it was originally a letter! This letter was written by Paul to the Christians in Ephesus. Paul was in prison for sharing the gospel but still wanted to encourage and pray for those in the church even though he couldn't be with them.

Why not pick a friend from your own church who you might not be able to see at the moment and pray the same things that Paul prayed for them?



Verse 16

Pray for...
them to be strong inside through the help of Holy Spirit.



Verse 17

Pray for...
them to know Jesus in their heart and to have more faith.

Draw them here.

Verse 18

Pray for...
them to know how much God loves them.



How big is God's love?

Verse 19 talks about how big God's love is, bigger than anything we have ever seen in the world!

Draw the **WIDEST** thing you have ever seen.

Draw the **HIGHEST** thing you have ever seen.

Draw the **DEEPEST** thing you have ever seen.

Draw the **LONGEST** thing you have ever seen.



Pray for somebody who doesn't know God as their friend, that they would come to know Him and His love.

A passage to unpack

Philippians 4 v 4-9

Find the book of Philippians in the New Testament, find Chapter 4 and read verses 4-9



Gentle and Kind

Verse 5 says we should show our gentleness and kindness to others. Write or draw a way you can show kindness to somebody you live with this week.

Philippians was a letter written to the Christians living in Philippi. Throughout the letter Paul encourages the readers to live joy filled lives for God. It must have been difficult and scary to be part of the early church, in a time when Christians were being attacked for their beliefs.

What is one of the things that brings you the most joy? Draw it here.

Think on these things...

Paul encourages his readers to think on positive things. Even though we are living in strange and sometimes worrying times we can think about positive things too.

Spend a few moments thinking about each of these things, ask God to speak to you and write down or draw anything that comes into your mind here.

good things

things which are worthy of praise

right things

honourable things

pure things

true things

beautiful things

respected things



It can be hard to remain positive all the time, particularly when we are living through difficult times, but we can bring all our worries or fears to God in prayer and ask Him to give us a fresh boost of joy and positive thinking.

A passage to unpack

1 Timothy 4 v 11-16

Find the book of 1 Timothy in the New Testament, find Chapter 4 and read verses 11-16.



In verse 12 we learn that some people were treating Timothy as less important because he was young, but we know that God can use anybody no matter their age or experience.

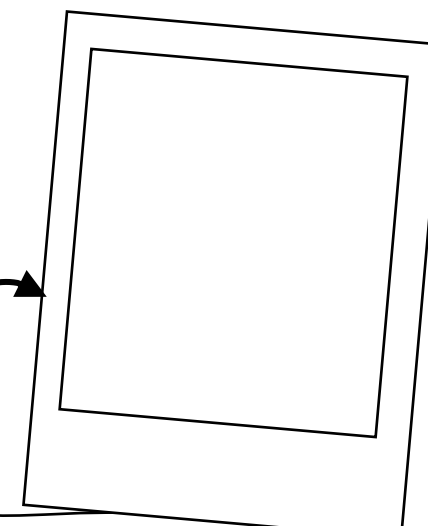
In verse 14 Timothy was encouraged to use the talent he had in being able to prophecy.

Write or draw some of the talents that God has given you, here:

1 Timothy is one of the epistles from the New Testament, which means it was originally a letter. This letter was written to a young church leader called Timothy with advice on how to lead his church.

Timothy was mentored by many people, the writer of the letter who was probably Paul and his mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois). They helped Timothy to grow in his faith and leadership abilities.

Draw a picture of somebody who is a mentor in your own faith journey. As you draw, why not say thank you to God for putting them into your life.



Be an example...

Verse 12 encourages Timothy to be an example for others, can you think of a way you could be an example for others in each of these areas?

If you are not sure what to write, why not pause, pray and ask God to show you what He would like you to do.

...in words

...in actions

...in love

...in faith

...in pure life



Ask God to help you to be a leader in your own group of friends and within your home. Even during these difficult times, we can still encourage and serve others. We each have something to contribute and share; pray and ask God to use you.