



The Spirit of St. Paul's

SEPTEMBER 2024

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
www.stpaulslutheran.ca

PASTOR'S CORNER

In his letter to the Romans St. Paul teaches, *“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:3-4). This means that all of our sin and the death that it deserves was nailed to the cross and buried with Jesus. It means that we have died to sin and are alive in Christ—now and for eternity. We are alive now having been set free from sin so that we can live our lives according to God’s will in righteousness and holiness. We are alive for eternity trusting Jesus’ words of promise, *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die”* (John 11:25).

In his letter to the Colossians St. Paul expands on this teaching of being made alive in Christ saying, *“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth”* and encourages, *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you”* (Colossians 3:1-2,12-13).

Our being alive in Christ is not something we can muster up on our own. It is a gift from God. St. Paul says, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”* (Colossians 3:15). We are made alive and given new

life in Christ through God’s Word that dwells in us richly through our baptism, through receiving Christ’s true body and blood, and by hearing, reading, and meditating on Holy Scripture. Our Lord invites you to let His Word dwell in you in Divine Service, personal devotions, and Bible studies.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Sunday school** is beginning soon and provides a wonderful opportunity for your children to learn about God’s love for them.
- **Confirmation class** for those around age 12 will begin with an initial meeting after church on Sunday, September 22.
- The **Thursday evening Bible study** will begin on September 19 at 7:00 p.m. We will be watching the second season of *The Chosen* followed by a related Bible study and discussion.
- The **Tuesday morning online Bible study** resumes on September 24 at 10:00 a.m. using GoToMeeting. In this study we take a deeper look at the Scripture readings for the Sunday coming up. Please let me know if you would like to be added to our email list that receives the weekly invitation links and join us as you are able.
- There is a **men’s group** that meets at Grainfield’s restaurant on Circle Drive on Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. We enjoy a tasty breakfast followed by a Bible study video and discussion.

Please join us and let the Word dwell in you.

*God’s blessings,
Pastor Keith*

Reminders

- Please remember that, because we have a number of members with allergies to nuts, any foods brought to church events should be nut-free.
- Also, several have allergies to fragrances. Please consider them when choosing toiletries and whether or not to wear perfumes.
- LWMLC mites and society offerings may be put in the offering plate in an envelope separate from your church offering, mailed to the church or given to society treasurer, Marion Hollinger. Please make any cheques payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church but mark them clearly as being for LWMLC. Indicate the amount for mites and the amount for society funds.

Classifieds

Something to sell or give away? Need something? Services to offer to fellow members? Try The Spirit Classifieds first. No cost. Leave your ads at the church office or give them to the editor.

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EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

Each year, as summer blended into autumn and garden produce reached maturity, my parents focussed their attention on gathering and processing its harvest. At the same time, family and friends worked diligently to transfer crops from farm fields to storage bins. Since none of us knew when an early frost or snow would bring a quick end to the season, there was always a sense of urgency to complete the work.

“Then [Jesus] said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.’”
 (Matthew 9:37-38 ESV).

Jesus was speaking of a far more valuable harvest—precious people around the world who He longs to gather into His Father’s House. There is a sense of urgency to this work, too. Only His Father knows the day and hour of Jesus’ second coming that will bring the time for labour to a quick end. Only our Heavenly Father knows the day and hour when each of us will take our last breath on earth and stand before Jesus, ready or not.

During the centuries since Jesus’ first coming, countless servants have responded to the Lord’s call for pastors, deacons, missionaries, and teachers. Many others have willingly volunteered their God-given time, talents and treasures in support of local congregations and a variety of Christian organizations. Yet, much work remains to be done and more labourers are always needed! So, we must continue to

“pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.”

As the faculty and students of Lutheran Church–Canada’s two seminaries (Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton Alberta, and Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ontario) begin another academic year, please keep them in thought and prayer.

Sometimes actions speak louder than words. During September, October and November 2024, Heather Lynchuk and her family will again take the lead in providing our congregation with the opportunity to donate personal hygiene items to benefit the clients of Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS).

Please watch for a collection box to be located in our church’s upstairs cloakroom. Heather and her family will also drop off our donations at one of the Community Donation Partners that SODS has identified will receive these items on its behalf.

Items gratefully accepted are:

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body soap / Body wash
- Feminine products (menstrual pads, tampons, liners)
- Antiperspirant / Deodorant
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Mouthwash & Dental floss
- Body lotion
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream

Verla Schmirler
Board of Evangelism
& Public Relations

SPRING YARD SALE



Above, Jim enjoys yard sales, especially at St. Paul's.

Below, Elt helps feed the hungry crowd.





Five women from St. Paul's participated in the triennial convention of Lutheran Women's Missionary League—Canada (LWMLC) held July 11-14 in London, Ontario.

Denise Timm (pictured top left) served as voting delegate for Saskatoon and area groups. Gail Mitchell (bottom) completed her term as Structure Chair, presenting bylaw changes to the convention. Gaylene Haugen (top right), a member of the national Christian Growth Committee, also served as a teller on the Mission Grants committee. Verla Schmirler, area (zonn) contact, and Marion Hollinger, Tapestry editor and communication assistant for LWMLC, participated in the live streaming option.

SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD

You would think that with a multitude of speakers over four days you would get a great deal of repetition as each addressed the convention theme, "Sing a New Song to the Lord." But such was not the case. Still, one Scripture passage seemed to thread itself through a number of presentations. "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; *He will exult over you with loud singing*" (Zephaniah 3:17). Why should we sing to the Lord? Because He sings over us. How can we respond to such a song but with singing—in our hearts, in our minds, in our voices.

MISSION and MISSIONS

How greatly the women of LWML—Canada care about mission and missions was evident throughout the convention. It began even before the opening service, as early arrivals gathered to put together bags and kits and other servant-event items. During the opening session one key component was adoption of a mission program, which included the mission grant goal for the coming three years (see list at right). Three mission-focused offerings were taken during the convention. Lutheran Church—Canada and its many mission organizations brought greetings, expanding knowledge and understanding of the depth and breadth of this work throughout the Church. One evening was devoted to moving in some way with each participant bringing pledges for the work of Lutheran Women's Missionary League—Canada.

MISSION GRANTS for 2024-2027

- \$50,000 – Mission Opportunity Fund
- \$24,000 – Regina Street Reach, Rev. DJ Kim
- \$7,500 – Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Tech Upgrade
- \$10,000 – Lutheran Hospital Ministries Southern Alberta
- \$30,000 – Diaconal Support, Cambodia
- \$7,500 – National Youth Gathering, LCC
- \$1,000 – Bibles and Catechisms, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Regina
- \$15,000 – LAMP 55 x 55 Anniversary Project
- \$6,000 – Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Central Region
- \$30,000 – Nicaragua Ministry and Outreach
- \$3,735 – French Liturgy Foundations
- \$21,000 – Ethiopian Ministry and Outreach
- \$9,475 – First Lutheran Academy, Windsor
- \$4,000 – CLTS/CLS Joint Faculty Retreat
- \$3,880* – Bus Ministry, Christ Our King Lutheran Church, Mississauga
- \$27,910* - Youth Director, Richmond/Vancouver

*Note: The final two projects received an equal number of votes. Since there wasn't quite enough left of the \$251,000 approved for mission grants to pay both fully, each received an equal percentage of their requested amount.

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDS, CALLED TO FORGIVENESS

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Genesis 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The

steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Psalm 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB* 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow
thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and
sheltered care,
For songs of praise for food and
harvest press,
While of Your richer gifts we’re
unaware.

This is a fitting call to
repentance for every steward.
Our thankfulness is so often
shallow. We get comfortable with
the overflowing blessings we

have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

As our plans and programs for ministry here at St. Paul’s start up again for the next year, we pray that they will reflect God’s purpose and that He will bless them and us.

In His Service
Board of Stewardship



LIKE TO SING?

St. Paul’s choir will resume on **September 8** and is open to anyone who would like to join.

The choir rehearses at 9:10 a.m. in the church basement, with the first rehearsal happening on Sept. 8, where we will be preparing two selections for Thanksgiving.

For more information, please contact Josias Martins at josiasmartins@gmail.com

EDUCATION

KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

One Lord, One faith, One baptism (Ephesians 4:5)



Hi Kids!

So you're back at school and things are cool. I hope!! 😊

Next time we meet at church, I'd love to hear all about it! Did you get your favourite teacher? Any new kids in your class? Did any of your friends move away over the summer? Are you looking forward to some classes, but not others? I always liked math, science and spelling, but not english and social studies so much. Do you still take all of those classes?

You're starting a new year at school. In the church we are still in the season of Pentecost until the last day of November. That's when the church year ends. Remember Pentecost? We talked about it in the June newsletter. Jesus' followers seemed to have tongues of fire on their heads as they received the Holy Spirit! Pretty amazing stuff! The Bible lessons that will be read in church over the next month tell us much about what the Holy Spirit did and

continues to do today. The Holy Spirit is how we, and others, including the people in the Bible, are able to do God's will. He is our Helper! We can always pray to God and ask the Helper to help us. Thank you, God!

September 8 is the date of our "Welcome Back" BBQ. There will be face painting and goodie bags for you!

On September 22 Sunday school and confirmation classes will start in the church basement. Natalie Keith will meet you there that day and Lisa Poier will see you on September 29! Pastor Keith will be teaching confirmation.

Ill.ca is the location for the current year's activity sheets. This newsletter is where you'll find last year's Pentecost sheets!

God bless your school and church learning!

Mrs. Denise Timm
For the Board of Christian
Education and Youth



Next month we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, a time to give thanks for all the blessings God has showered upon us.

Let's put together a page listing all the blessings we can think of. I'd love to receive your list and we'll make a lovely collage of them. Email it to me or put it into my mailbox at church by September 15.

Marion, Editor

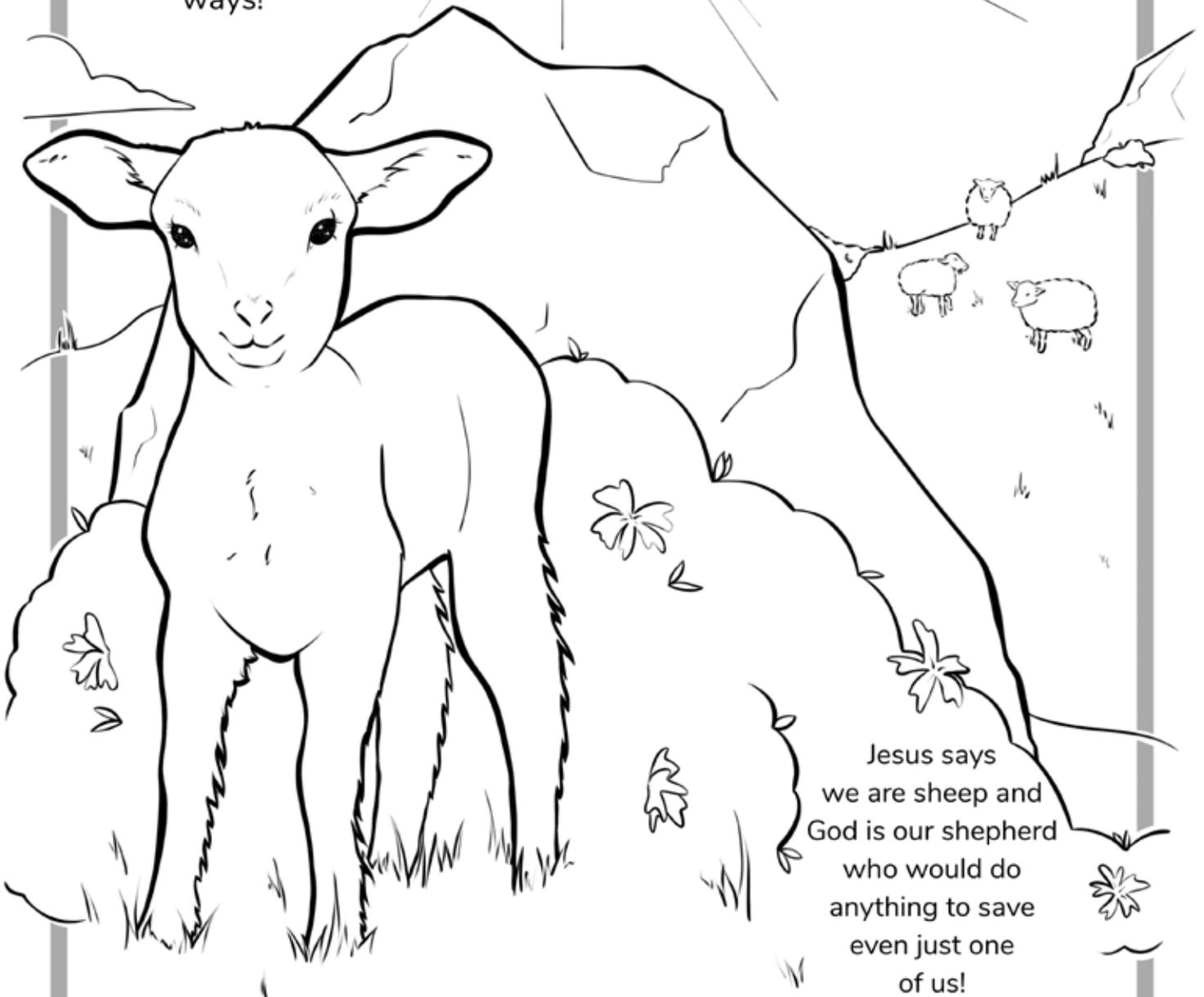


KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BIBLE LESSON: MATTHEW 18:1-20

In this week's verse,
Jesus describes the
kingdom of God and
His love in many
ways!



Jesus says
we are sheep and
God is our shepherd
who would do
anything to save
even just one
of us!



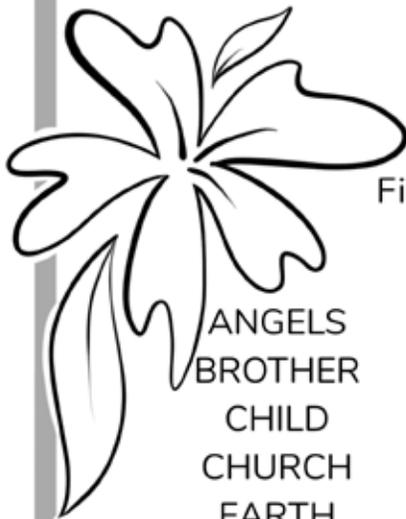
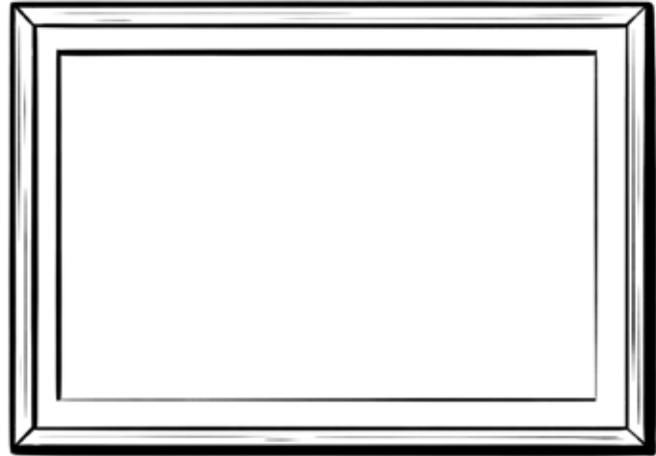
THE BIBLE IN REAL LIFE



Jesus says, "Whoever humbles
himself like this child is the greatest
in the kingdom of heaven."

(Matthew 18:4)

Draw yourself and other children
of God you know!



WORD SEARCH

Find these words from our verse in this Word
Search!

- ANGELS
- BROTHER
- CHILD
- CHURCH
- EARTH
- GREATEST
- HEAVEN
- HUMBLES
- HUNDRED
- REJOICES
- SHEEP
- TEMPTATIONS

P R E J O I C E S B R O T H E R I Y W N
 D E U T N W C H L P S E L B M U H V T D
 Z L E J F E B Z N E A R T H X G W Q S H
 L B I H P L D H T D C Y O C W Q A L M J
 A Q J H S J C T N H U N D R E D E X P Z
 A D D M C R D Z N G Z G F U O G X P U T
 N Y O V U B Y I O E K Z B A N J G A K U
 R O R H V G D I T E M P T A T I O N S N
 R D C J W I W F I I W H E A V E N S G H
 A G A V N J L G R E A T E S T K E V N I



Prayer

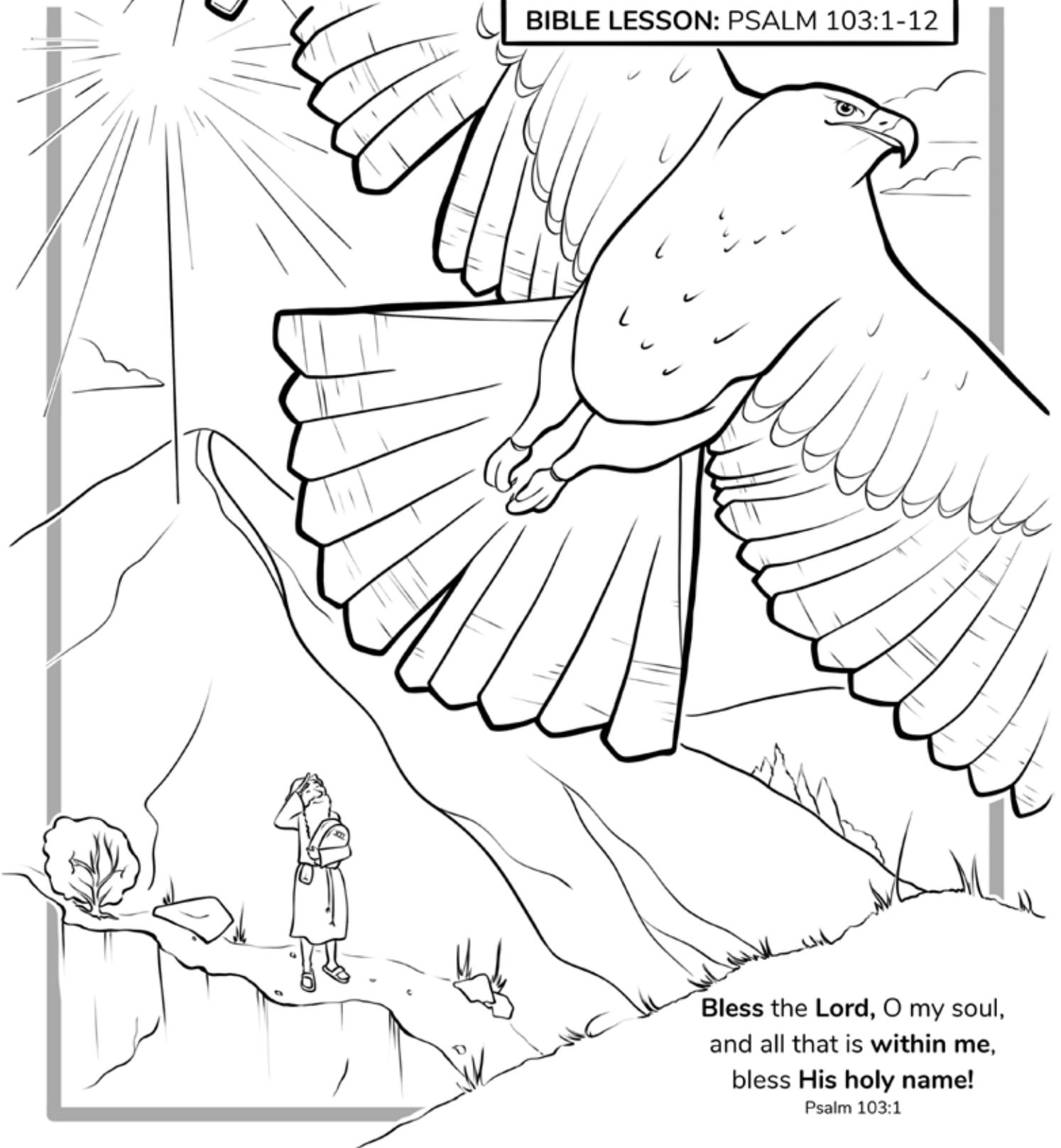
Let us pray: Dear Father in heaven, thank you for sending your Son to save us when we were lost to sin. Please help us to have a heart that loves, and cares for each one of your sheep. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BIBLE LESSON: PSALM 103:1-12



**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless His holy name!**

Psalm 103:1



FILL IN THE BLANKS

Use our verse from this week and the Word Bank to complete the Psalm!

Hint: You know you've found the right word when the number of letters match up with the blank spaces!

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all His benefits,**

who _____ all your **iniquity,**

who _____ all your **diseases,**

who **redeems your life** from the _____,

who **crowns you** with steadfast _____ and **mercy,**

who _____ you with **good**

so that your **youth is renewed** like the _____.

Psalm 103:2-5

WORD BANK

- PIT • HEALS • FORGIVES
- LOVE • EAGLES • SATISFIES



Prayer

Let us pray: Dear Father in heaven, thank you for your mercy and for loving all your children. Help us to be loving, and to forgive, especially when it is difficult. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BIBLE LESSON: PSALM 27:1-9

In this Psalm, David compares God to light that leads us through hard times! Think of some kind of light that gives you comfort and draw it here!

The **LORD** is my light
and my **salvation**;
whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27:1a

To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.ill.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.



HIDDEN WORD SEARCH

In this Word Search find words from our Bible verse and 3 additional words not in the list!



- ARMY
- CONFIDENT
- FACE
- FEAR
- FOES
- HEART
- JOY
- LIGHT
- SALVATION
- SHELTER
- STRONGHOLD
- STUMBLE



T	Y	N	E	O	A	F	B	M	R	R	J	X	D	R
S	D	V	M	R	G	O	Z	S	R	S	D	J	P	A
H	Z	W	P	X	Z	E	Z	V	W	S	M	X	M	E
E	A	M	Z	X	U	S	N	L	G	D	T	S	W	F
L	J	E	D	Q	C	P	I	G	F	H	N	U	P	Y
T	D	Z	H	V	Z	G	G	K	X	N	E	C	M	M
E	B	S	R	M	H	O	O	O	S	V	D	C	K	R
R	J	C	A	T	L	O	R	D	M	A	I	S	O	A
F	L	S	I	L	F	H	K	Z	H	M	F	T	Q	E
I	T	I	K	B	V	Z	D	F	X	H	N	R	X	Z
U	Q	R	Y	A	W	A	V	W	N	Q	O	O	V	Q
H	H	X	A	V	O	D	T	Y	Z	X	C	N	Z	O
H	L	Y	L	E	Y	O	V	I	R	Z	J	G	D	O
V	Y	L	E	M	H	S	F	T	O	D	I	H	J	M
B	T	P	N	M	T	N	T	E	I	N	Q	O	I	K
P	U	M	T	S	C	V	V	U	H	W	I	L	X	J
T	A	F	U	E	R	D	T	O	M	W	E	D	O	E
G	E	P	C	P	G	U	U	B	C	B	X	Y	V	Q
S	B	A	F	Z	F	S	O	N	M	Z	L	D	R	F
V	F	R	F	E	E	M	H	D	J	F	B	E	D	Q





Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to be my Saviour even though I am unable to do anything to deserve your love and forgiveness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

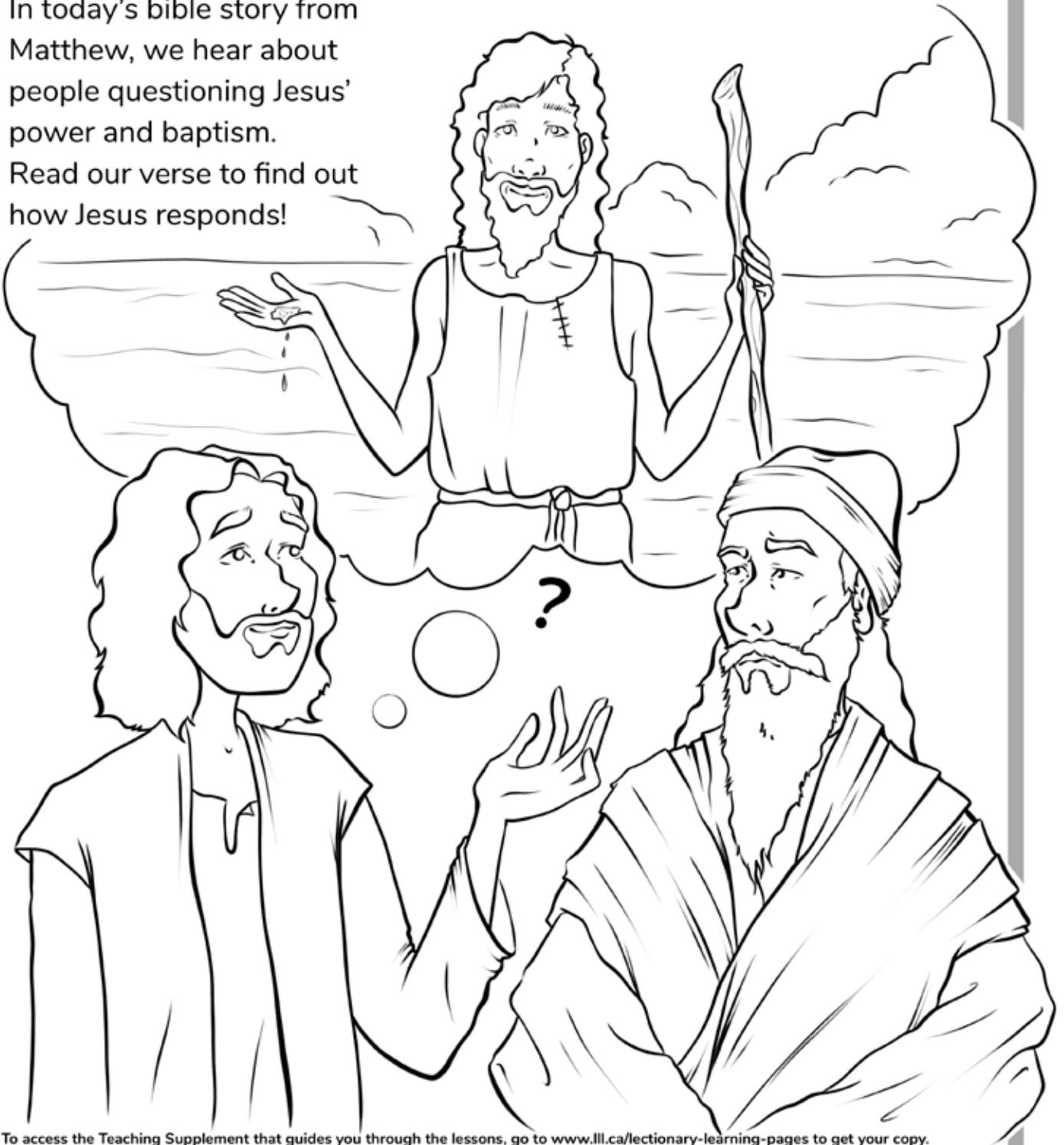


KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BIBLE LESSON: MATTHEW 21:23-27

In today's bible story from Matthew, we hear about people questioning Jesus' power and baptism. Read our verse to find out how Jesus responds!



To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.ill.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.



DID YOU KNOW . . .

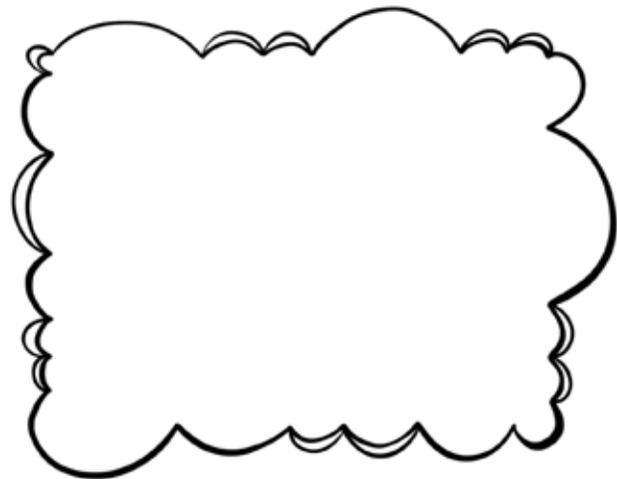
John the Baptist from this week's lesson was a very important prophet!
God sent John ahead to prepare the people for Jesus!

(Concordia Study Bible, 2009)

BIBLE LESSONS IN REAL LIFE

Instead of getting angry at the priests when they weren't respectful, Jesus was calm and asked them a question instead.

Think of a time in your life when you were upset but chose to be kind.
Draw it here!



WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these words from our bible verse!

1. M E L T E P _____

2. V A H E E N _____

3. N J O H _____

4. W O D C R _____



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Saviour and to show us how to respond to people who disrespect us for believing in you. It can be hard to respect your authority, but with the Holy Spirit's help we can do so joyfully! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.lll.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.

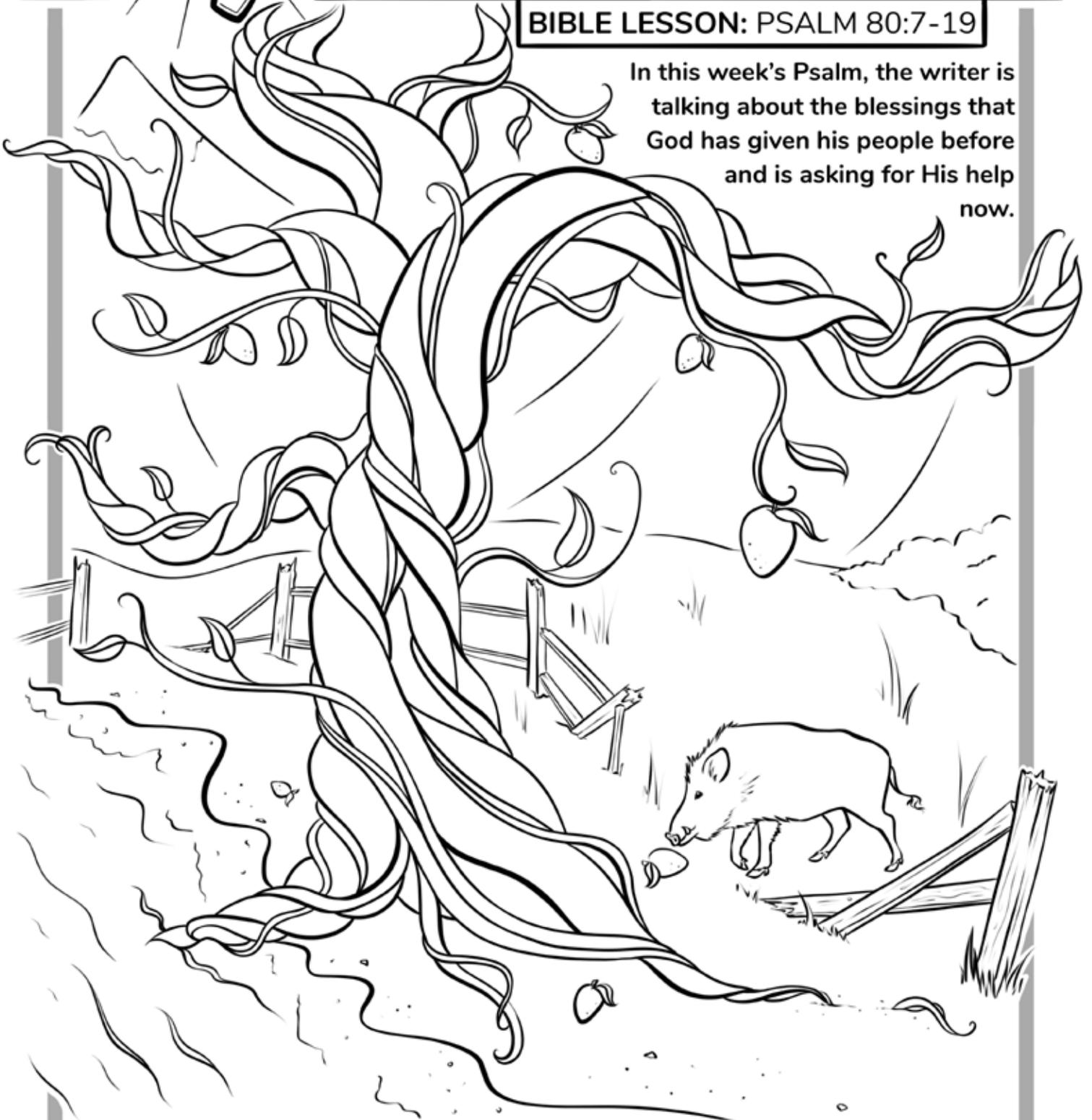


KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BIBLE LESSON: PSALM 80:7-19

In this week's Psalm, the writer is talking about the blessings that God has given his people before and is asking for His help now.



To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.ill.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.



THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

This week is Thanksgiving! God gives all of us blessings that we can be thankful for!

List 5 blessings you are thankful for, and complete this prayer:

Dear God, thank You for _____,
_____, _____,
_____, _____!

Amen!

BIBLE VERSE FILL-IN

Follow along with our Bible verse and fill in the blanks!
Use the Word Bank if you get stuck.

1) You brought a vine out of _____;
you drove out the nations and _____ it. (v. 8)

2) Restore us, O LORD _____ of hosts!
Let your face _____, that we may be saved! (v. 19)

WORD BANK

PLANTED

GOD

SHINE

EGYPT



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven. Thank you for caring, protecting and loving us so much that you sent your Son Jesus to save us. Please continue to watch over us in our lives and help direct our paths. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.