

WHO IS LIKE THE LORD?

CREATION · PRESERVATION · REDEMPTION · SANCTIFICATION · GLORIFICATION



NAME _____

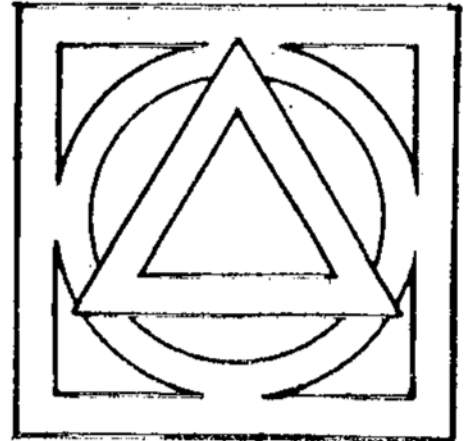
Level 1

CREATION

When you are playing with your toys in your room, you may wish to make or create something from blocks or play-doh or paper and glue. You decide what sizes and shapes are needed and then you go ahead to put your creation together.

Well, just about 6,000 years ago, God wanted to create or make something—a world! However, there were no building blocks or play-doh, or paper and scissors with which to make it. No light, no wood, no nails—there was nothing, only emptiness. Perhaps, if you close your eyes, plug your ears and think about black darkness, you can get some small idea of what it was like in the very beginning of time.

The first thing God chose to create—to make out of nothing—was the heavens and the earth itself. Even these were not around. So God spoke and they appeared. But the earth didn't look like the pictures we have seen of our world from some rocket ship photographs. The Bible tells us the earth was "formless and empty." There was darkness over the waters and also the Holy Spirit was hovering over the waters.



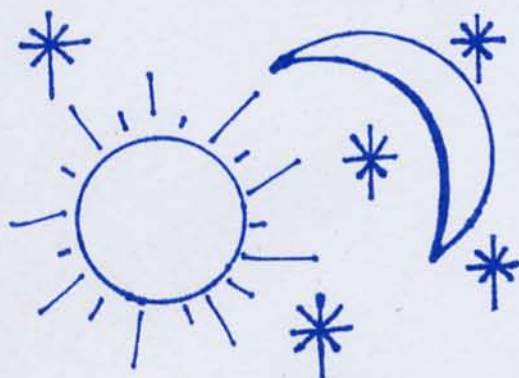
Next, God wanted light in the world. Do you know how He made it appear? Simply by saying the words, "Let there be light." And do you know, it came into being, just like that? All God had to do was speak and what He said happened. Now, that is powerful!

The Bible also says that "God saw that the light was good." When God created something He made it perfectly. He also gave names to the light and dark. He called the light "day" and the darkness He called "night." Right from the very beginning of creation there was day and night. God is very orderly. So on the first day, God made the world and light.

On the second day God separated the waters below and the waters above the world by making the sky. God called the layer of air between the ground and clouds "sky."

On the first and second days of creation the earth was like a mudball. The ground and water were all mixed together. So on day 3 God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." Of course, it happened just as He commanded. God called the dry ground "land" and the gathered waters He called "seas." Again what He had created was very good.

Also on this day He made the green plants, flowers, and trees. He created them able to make seeds with which to make more plants, flowers and trees just like themselves. Again the Bible tells us how good it all was.



Now on the fourth day, God made the sun, moon, and stars. He made the sun to light up or "rule" the day, and the moon and stars to light up the night sky. These bodies of light mark our days, nights, months, seasons, and years; as well as to make the sky beautiful to look at. Oh! How very good and wise God was at creating our world.

Then came the fifth day. We remember the fifth day by the letter "f." For on this day our Father brought forth the fish and the fowl—the birds. He filled the waters with living creatures and let the birds fly above in the sky. Then God blessed these animals with a command to have more fish and birds just like themselves. He wanted many animals in this new world of His.

This brings us to day 6 in the first week of the world. How beautiful was this creation. But it still wasn't complete. Can you guess what is still missing?

Sure, dogs and cats, bugs and butterflies, cows and sheep, lions and bears, and all the other tame and wild animals which are a part of our world. These God created on day 6, all perfectly formed to live on this earth.

But still something is needed. The best part of creation was left until last, until everything else was in place and ready. Do you know what God saved until the very end to make? PEOPLE!

All the other things God made by speaking His Word and they appeared. Except for man. In creating Adam, the first man who ever walked on this very good and perfect earth, He formed the shape of him from the ground—like we do with clay. After shaping his body, God breathed into his nostrils and Adam became alive, he had a soul. Adam now walked and talked and moved. He was a perfect, holy man. God gave him the command to rule over the animals and the other things He had created. He wanted Adam to discover, use, and make new things from all that He had just created. The LORD God also made a helper for Adam, she was a female and was called "Eve." As God looked at all that He had made, He found it to be very good.

Now, there is one day left in this first week. What do you suppose God did on the seventh day? The Bible says, "so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done." The name of this God of ours is the LORD. It means I AM WHO I AM! The name LORD stands for Jehovah. The LORD is the only God who exists. Psalm 96:5 reads: "For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens."

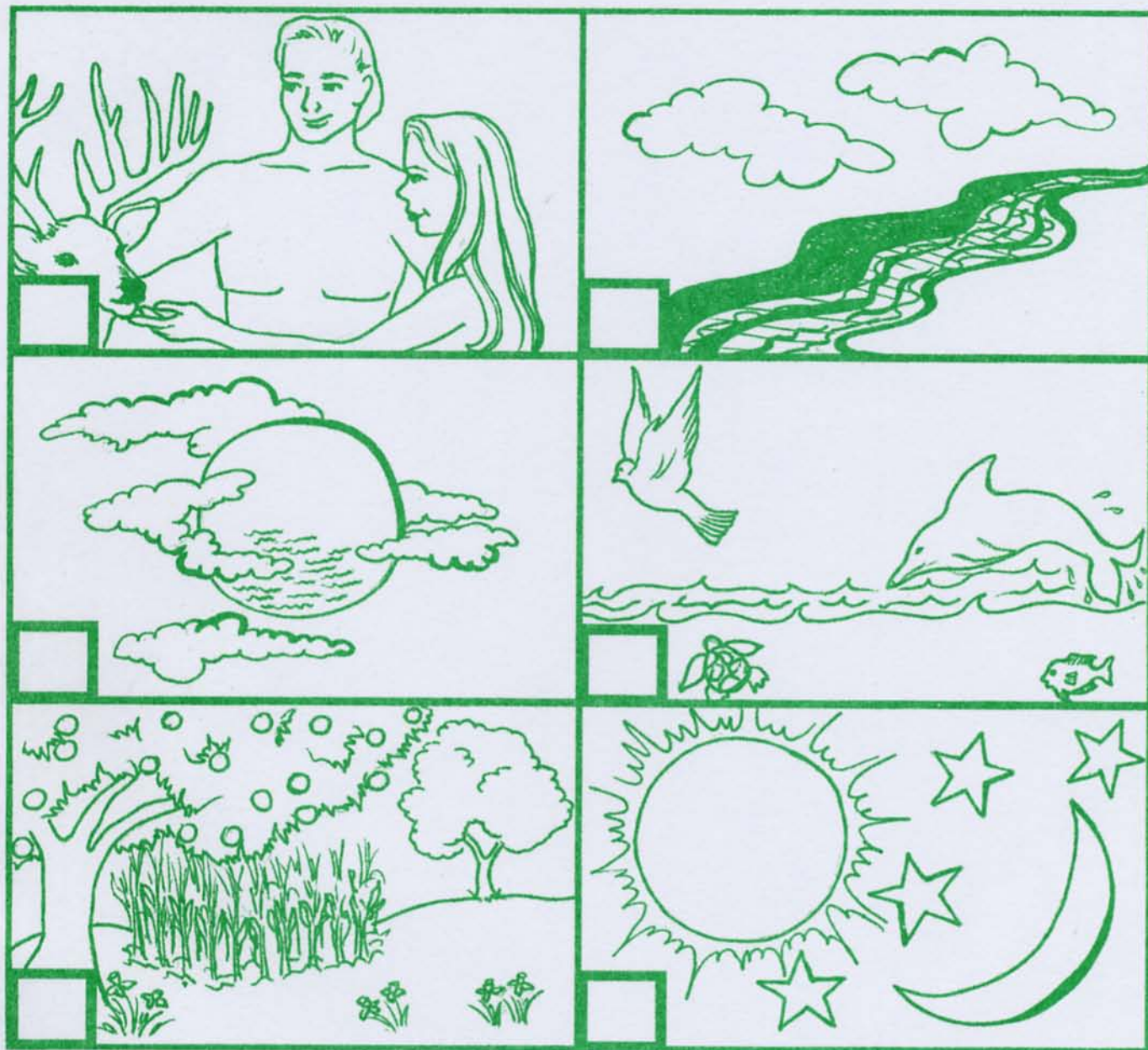
*Who made the sky so bright and blue?
Who made the grass so green?
Who made the flowers which smell so sweet
In pretty colors seen?*

*Who made the birds to fly so high
And taught them how to sing?
Who made the pretty butterfly
and painted her bright wing?*

*'Twas God who made this world so fair,
The sun, the sky, the air,
'Twas God who made the sea, the ground,
and all the things around.*

(From A Child's Garden of Song)

Here are some of the things the LORD God created.
Put the number of the day they were created inside the box in each picture.



Fill in the blanks on your memory passage:

Exodus 20:11: "For in _____ days the _____ made the
_____ and the _____,
the _____, and _____ that is in _____."

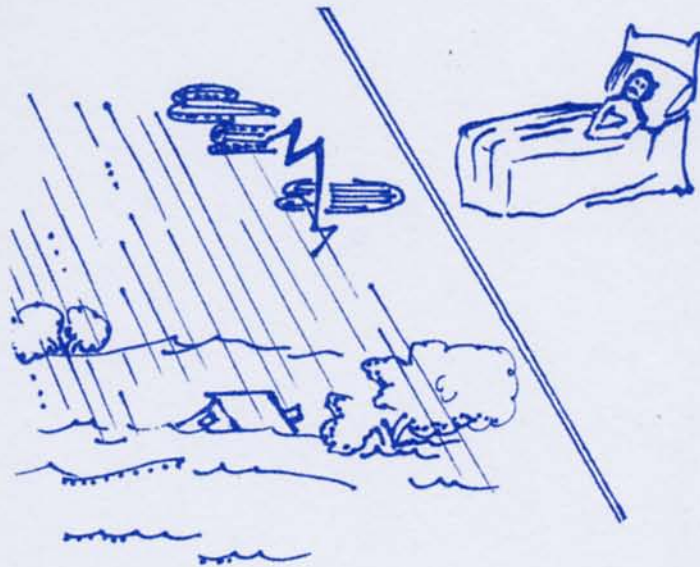
PRESERVATION

Yesterday we learned how the LORD (Jehovah) created the world by the power of His Word. Everything He made was perfect and it took only 6 days for our powerful, almighty LORD to put it altogether. The work of making the world is called "creation." Today we shall study another work of the LORD—the work of "preservation."

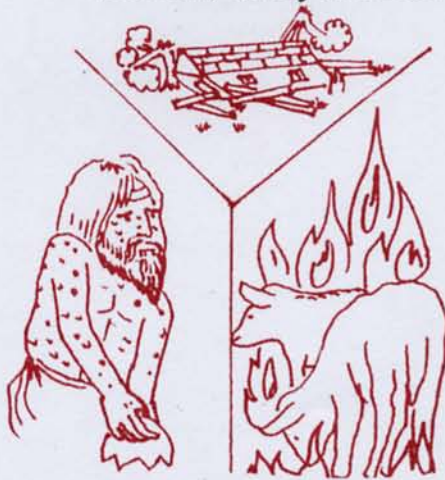
When your mother picks strawberries, raspberries, or other fruits, she might preserve them by cooking them with sugar and then put them into jars or freezer containers to keep them from spoiling.

When God preserves the world, He keeps it going, keeps it from falling apart, keeps it from spoiling itself, so that everything runs smoothly. We see that people are fed by His gracious power, kept warm with clothing, given shelter, kept healthy, and so on. The Lord makes certain that the sun shines, that the rains come to water the plants, and that the world turns to bring the seasons. He makes sure that animals and people have babies to keep the world populated. There are many other things which the LORD does each day so that everything works well in our world. Can you name some more?

However, perhaps you may have noticed that sometimes there seems to be too much rain, and then the earth sees floods come. Also, you know that our bodies get sicknesses at times. People even die from those sicknesses. There are many troubles which the world suffers and we may wonder, if God is really around—watching over us. Satan wants us to think that the problems and troubles in our lives are God's fault.



A man by the name of Job lived a long time ago. He was a rich and wise man, whom the LORD had blessed with many good things. He had 10 children, many animals, many servants to care for those animals, and a loving wife. But suddenly his whole world seemed to fall apart. Problem after problem arose which made him wonder if the LORD was really preserving his life for the best.



This is what happened: His ten children were killed when the house they were in collapsed upon them all. His oxen, camels, and donkeys were stolen, and his sheep were burned in a freak fire. The servants which tended these animals were also killed, only a few escaped to bring the sad news

back to Job. Finally, Job was struck by a terrible sickness of boils which covered his whole body and were very painful. At first Job trusted that the LORD was in control of his life and refused to complain about all these sufferings. Even when his wife encouraged him to "curse God and die" he asked her: "Shall we accept good from the LORD and not trouble?"

Job's friends came to comfort him, but they, too, gave him all the wrong advice as to why the troubles come into peoples' lives. Job's faith became very weak at times, but still he hung on to the Hope of the coming Savior and spoke these wonderful words, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God."

But sad to tell you, Job did begin to question whether God was really preserving His child properly. Why was God dealing so harshly with him? The LORD asks Job if he could take care of, and preserve, all of the many different animals in the world. The LORD God said, "Do you watch over and take of the mountain goats, the doe and the fawn, the wild donkey, the ox, the ostrich, the horse, the hawk, the eagle?"



*P*RESERVATION

All of these I preserve with My power and now you are complaining and trying to correct Me?"

Then the LORD lovingly answers Job with questions of His own. "Job, do you disagree with the way I run things? Do you want to condemn what I do and how I operate just to make yourself look good? Do you have power and might like mine so that you can control nature and everything in the universe?"



Humbly, Job had to admit that the LORD could do all things and knew what was best for his life. Job repented of all the wrong things he had thought and said in complaining against the LORD's ways.

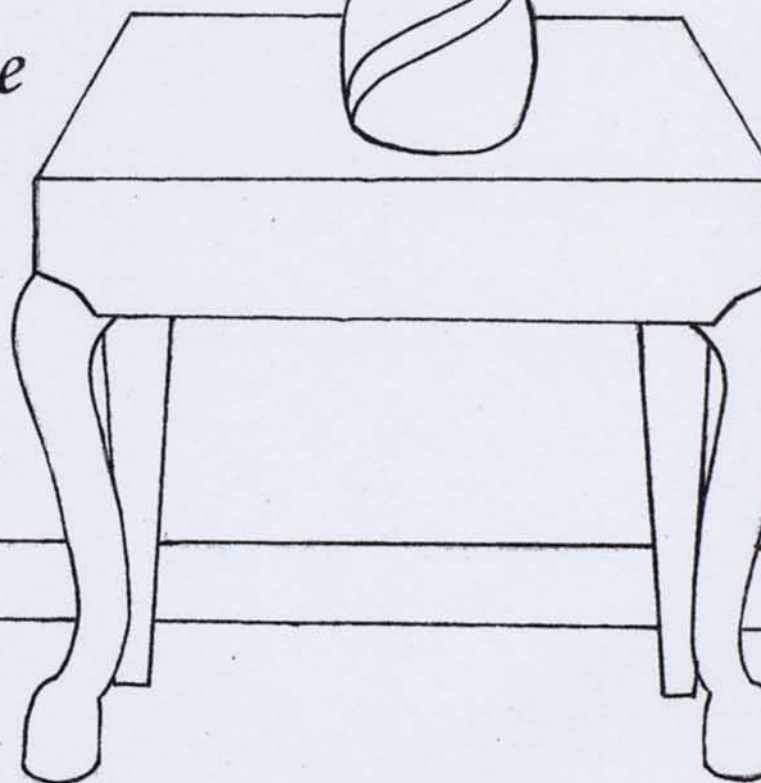
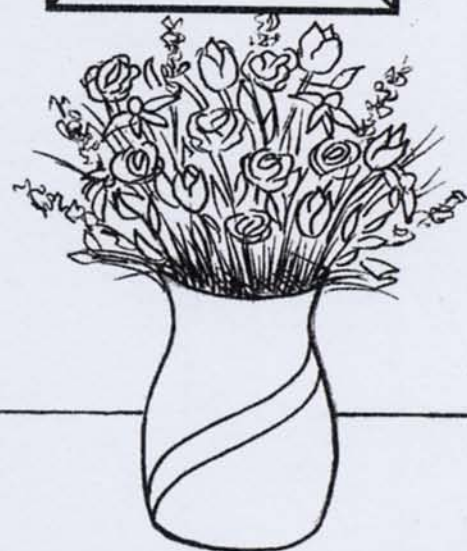
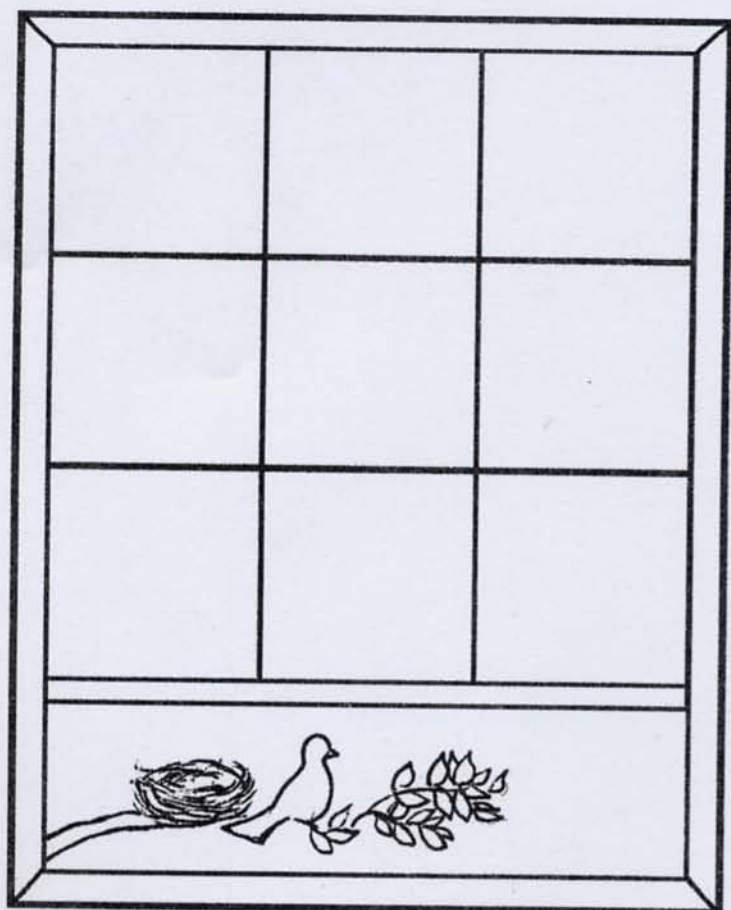
Afterwards the LORD blessed Job with more animals, riches and ten beautiful, additional children. He gave him a long and prosperous life, after all the trouble he had endured.

So, also, in our lives, the LORD makes all things (both good and evil) work together for our eternal good. He makes the sad and troubling problems turn into good and happy times in order to preserve the faith of His dear children until the end of their days, so that they will go to heaven. There in heaven only will there be no more sorrows, sickness, or trouble. We praise our Almighty LORD for His loving care—His Preservation.

*How strong and sweet my Father's care
That round about me, like the air,
Is with me always everywhere!
He cares for me.*

*Oh, keep me ever In Thy love
Dear Father, watching from above;
And as through life my steps shall move,
Oh, care for me.*

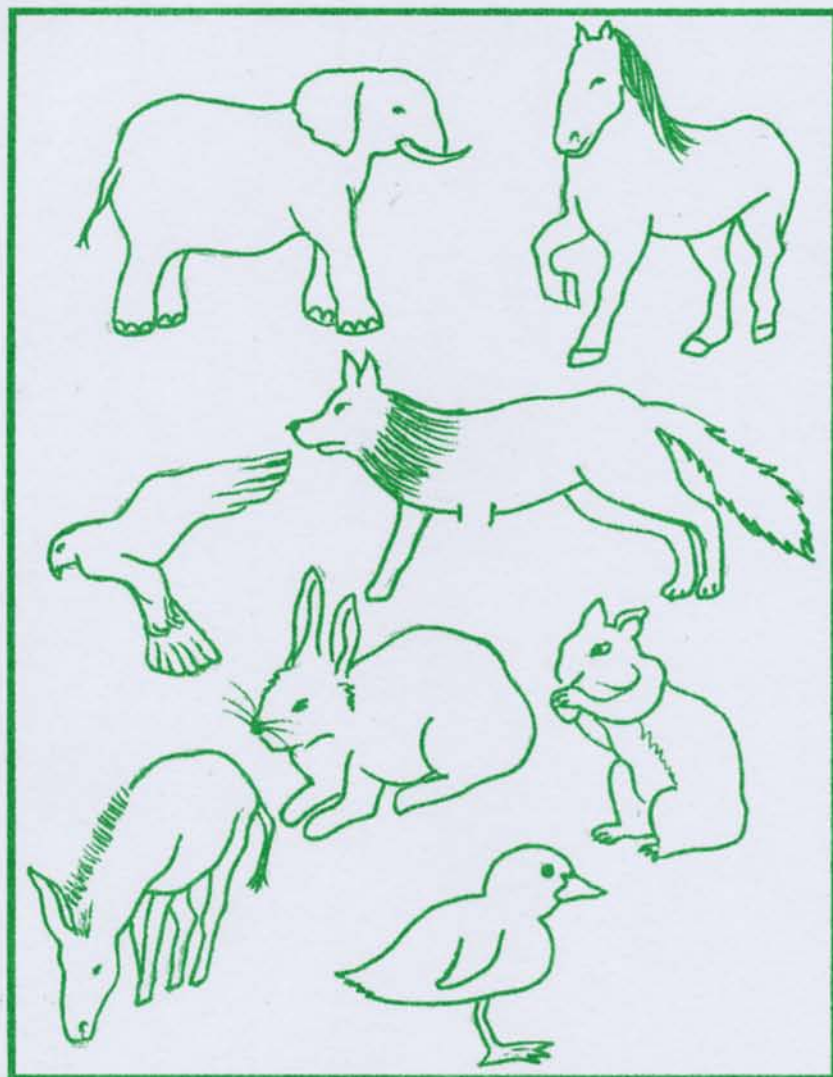
(From A Child's Garden of Song)



*Our help is in the name
of the LORD,
Who made heaven
and earth.*

- Psalm 124:8

These poor animals have lost a part of their body that God created.
See if you can make them happy by matching them up with the part they are missing.



Draw a line to match the phrases from Psalm 124:8.

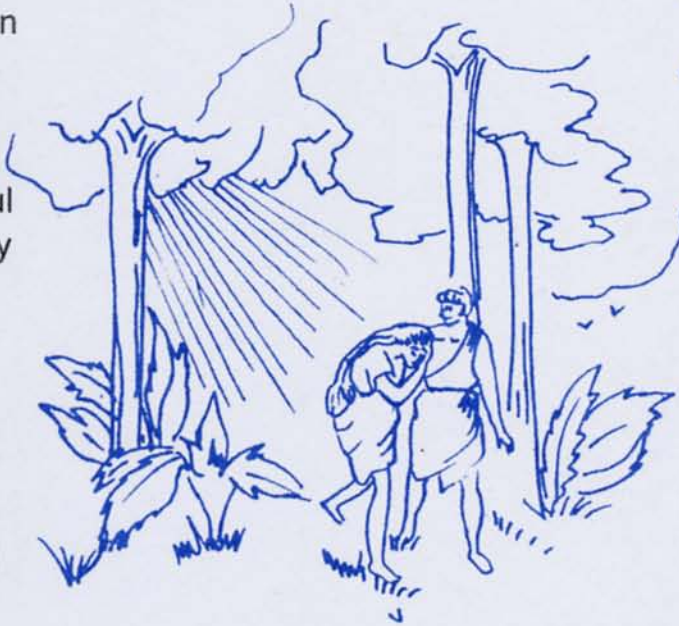
Our help is in
Who made

heaven and earth.
the name of the LORD,

REDEMPTION

Do you remember in our first lesson this week how good and perfect everything was when God created the world? Even Adam, the first man was holy, without sin and without wicked thoughts or deeds. Can someone tell how all of this changed?

Adam and his wife Eve, who had also been created pure and sinless, were no longer capable of doing good. Their hearts were now filled with evil thoughts and their lives showed it. They had to leave the wonderful Garden of Eden which God had so lovingly and beautifully created for them. Their punishment was also death at the end of their life. No longer were they God's children, but now they had become a part of Satan's kingdom. Any children born to them would also be like them, knowing only evil instead of how God had intended his creatures to be—holy and loving.



Our Heavenly Father still loved His creation and the people He had made. To show it, He gave Adam and Eve a wonderful promise of Hope for salvation from sin, death, and the devil. The LORD had a plan how to buy them back from Satan's kingdom. Have you heard of that plan?

Yes, a Child would be born who would be both human and God. He would be perfect and holy as God had created Adam and Eve at first. He would obey all the laws which people were no longer able to. He would love and care for everyone in the place of us who can not. Then after He had lived a perfect life of love, He would die an eternal death for everyone. God would be angry at this One Man, so that He wouldn't have to punish the rest of the people in the world. Everyone who would trust in this Savior would then go to heaven just as the LORD had planned. That's how He would buy us back, or "redeem" us. What was this Savior's name?

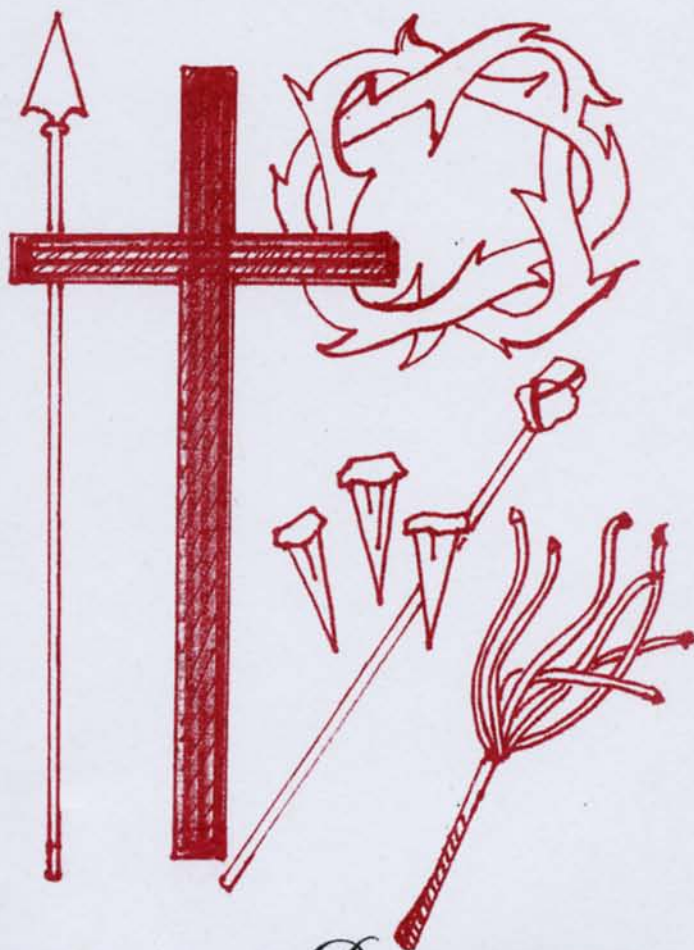
REDEMPTION



Our lesson today comes at the end of Jesus' life. The day is Good Friday, the time when He is paying for all of our sins. We read in the Bible how He was sentenced like a criminal to hang on a wooden cross until He was dead. While He was hanging on that cross, two other criminals were also being put to death by crucifixion. One man hung on each side of Jesus.

In the Gospel of Luke we find out that one criminal made fun of Jesus saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other man scolded him and knew that the two of them deserved to die such a cruel death, because of their wickedness, but Jesus was sinless and shouldn't be suffering. Then this criminal prayed to Jesus, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Then on that sad Good Friday, at noon the sun stopped shining, and it became very dark. Jesus cried to His Heavenly Father, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" You see, Jesus was suffering the very pains of hell, because of your sins and my sins, and the sins of all people. The nails in His hands and feet, and the crown of thorns on His head, and the taunts and jeers of the soldiers below hurt Jesus, but they didn't hurt like His soul was hurting. For three long hours Jesus endured God's eternal anger meant for us. Then after receiving a drink of wine vinegar, Jesus called out, "It is finished," and "Father into Your hands I commit My spirit." With those words He bowed His head and died.



Redemption

Our sins were paid for! Jesus had done the work! The curtain in the Temple at Jerusalem split into two pieces. This showed that the wall of our sins, separating us from God was now broken down. God was satisfied with Jesus' payment for the wickedness of all people for all time. Jesus had paid the price to buy us back—He had redeemed us. A soldier standing nearby to Jesus' cross praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous Man."

But our story really can't end here. Something more wonderful happened on Easter Sunday. Who can tell us what great deed Jesus did early Easter morning? Yes, He arose. He didn't stay dead—He conquered death. He proved He was the true Savior by becoming alive again. Oh! Hallelujah! This word means "Praise the LORD (Jehovah)." Praises to Jesus our Redeemer King!

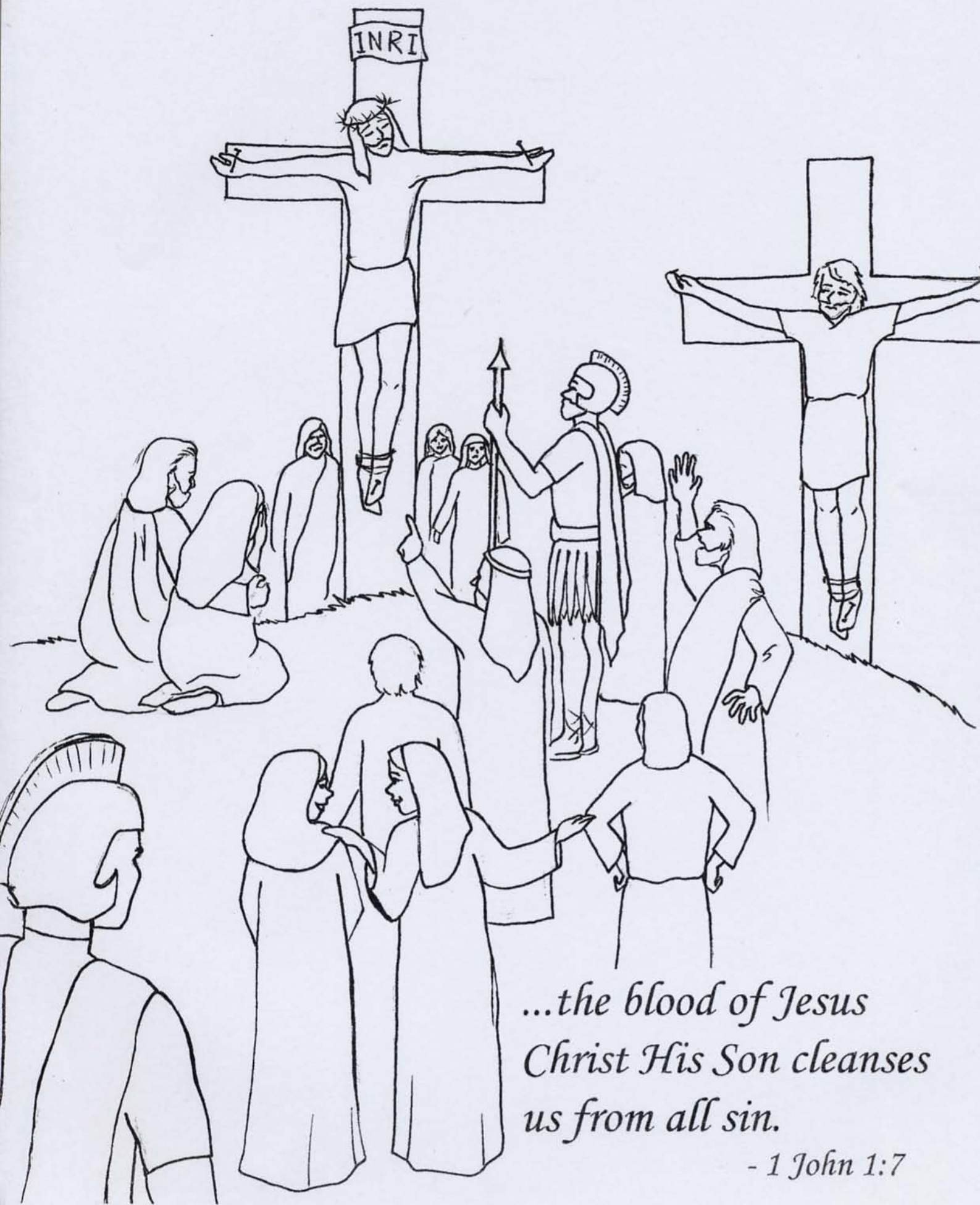


*There is a green hill far away
Outside a city wall
Where our dear Lord was crucified
Who died to save us all.*

*He died that we might be forgiven
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by His precious blood.*

(From A Child's Garden of Song)

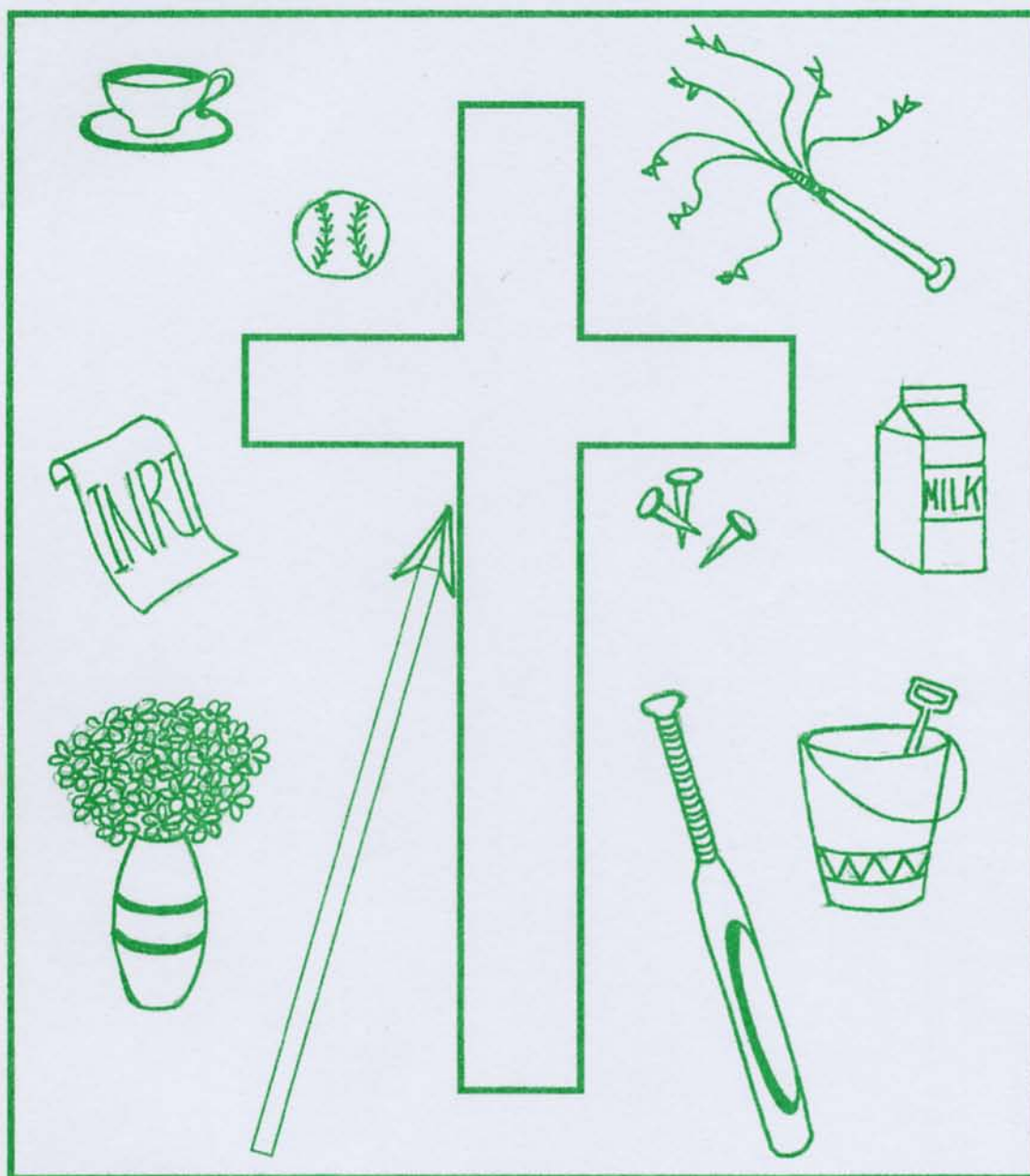
REDEMPTION



*...the blood of Jesus
Christ His Son cleanses
us from all sin.*

- 1 John 1:7

Put an "X" on pictures which are not part of what Jesus suffered.



On the lines below, copy your memory passage:

1 John 1:7: The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

SANCTIFICATION

In our lesson yesterday we learned how God so lovingly bought us back from Satan's kingdom by redeeming us through Jesus' perfect life, death and resurrection. All of this would do us no good, however, if we didn't find out about it, or believe it. Someone must tell us this good news, and the Holy Spirit must work the faith in our hearts to trust that it is true. We call this work of the Holy Spirit—"sanctification." The Holy Spirit then gives us the power to also act like newborn children of the LORD. For when we really love someone, we will show it by doing kind and loving things. Since we love Jesus the most for all that He did for us, we will want to show our love to Him by our deeds. The Bible says, "We love Him, because He first loved us."

To give a good example of what "sanctification" really means, we are going to talk about a man named Zacchaeus.

Before Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, He lived and preached and healed the sick throughout the country of Israel. One day Jesus passed through a city called Jericho. A man by the name of Zacchaeus was there. He was a short man with a big job. He worked for the government collecting the taxes which people owed to Caesar. From this work he had become rich the Bible tells us. Now, when Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming through the city, like many others he wanted to see this miracle-worker. There were so many people crowding around the Lord that day, and since Zacchaeus was



SANCTIFICATION



so short he couldn't catch a glimpse of Him. Well, a good idea popped into his head, he would simply climb a nearby tree and see Jesus as He walked below him.

Being true God, Jesus knew who and where Zacchaeus was, and He very much wanted to speak with Zacchaeus. So when Jesus reached the tree, He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." Quickly Zacchaeus came down and gladly welcomed Jesus into his house. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to Jesus, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

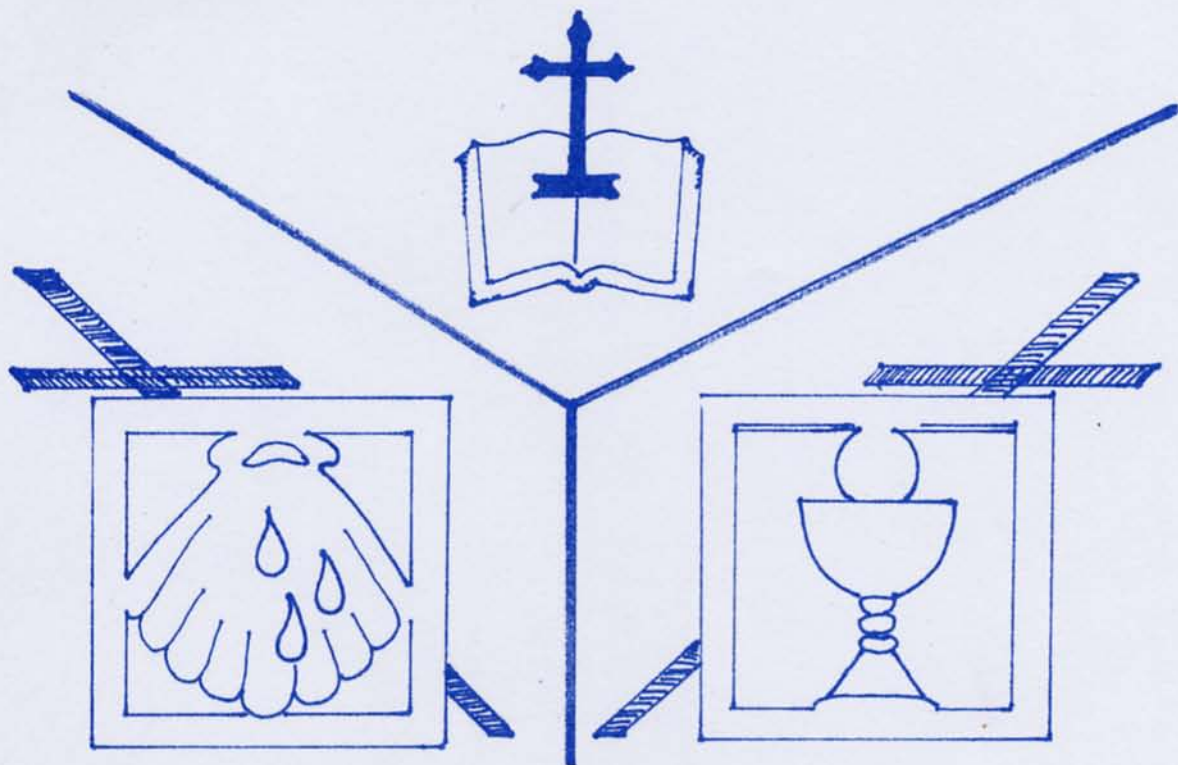
Jesus replied, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." A true "son of Abraham" means to be a believer, because Abraham is called the Father of Believers. The Holy Ghost had worked in the heart of this sinful tax collector the saving faith which is necessary for eternal life.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 the apostle Paul writes, "But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our Gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."



*S*ANCTIFICATION

From this passage we see it is the Holy Spirit who caused Zacchaeus to believe, love and serve the LORD God. So, too, in our life, the Holy Spirit brings us to faith by hearing God's Word, and then leads us to want to obey the 10 Commandments of our LORD.



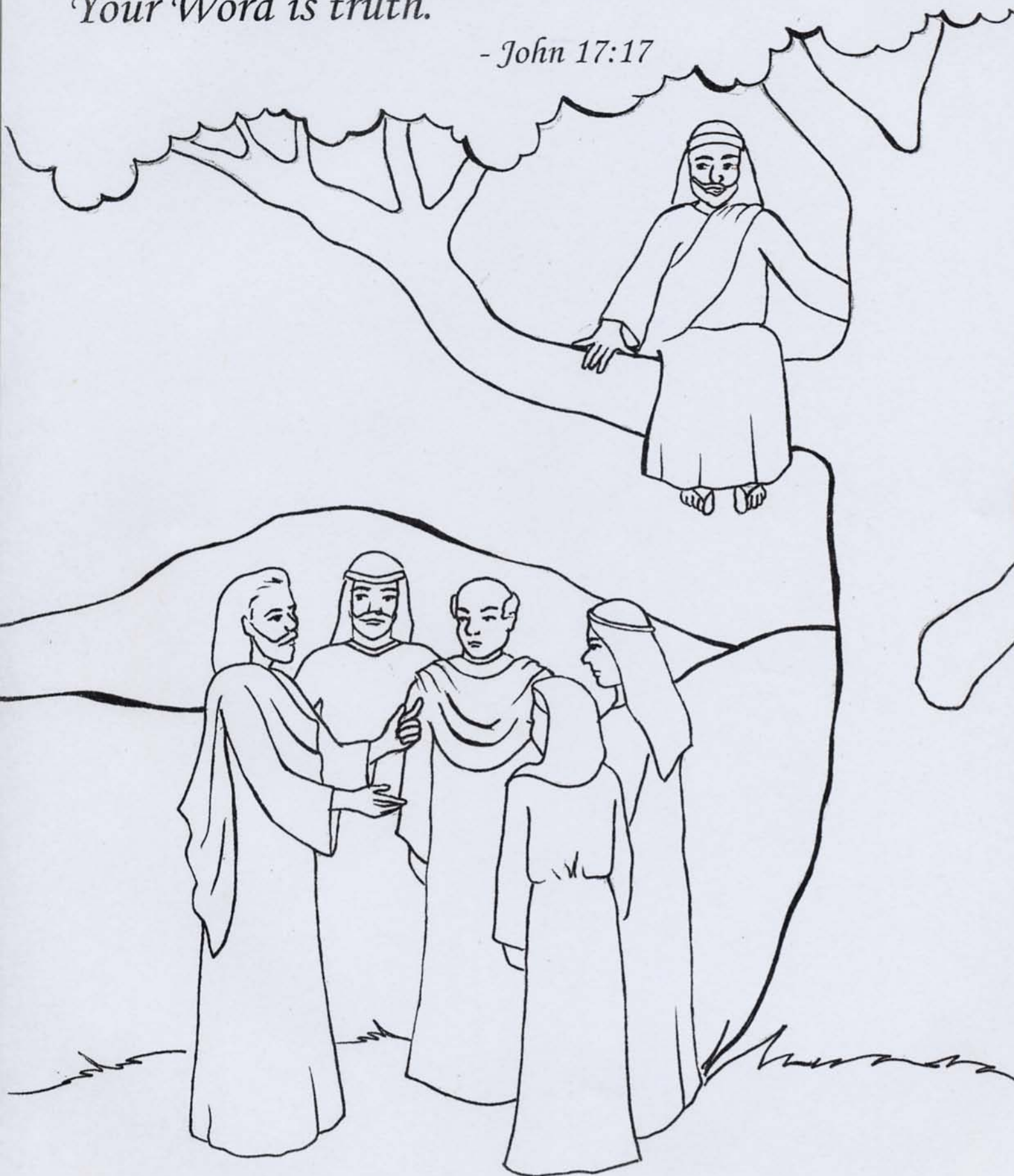
*Two little eyes to look to God,
Two little ears to hear His Word,
Two little feet to walk His ways,
Hands to serve Him all my days.*

*One little tongue to speak His truth,
One little heart for Him in youth.
Take them, O Jesus, let them be
Always, willing, true to Thee.*

(From A Child's Garden of Song)

*"Sanctify them by Your truth.
Your Word is truth."*

- John 17:17



Put an "S" by the things the Holy Spirit leads us to do.



Connect the dots to complete your memory passage from John 17:17.

Sanctify
Your

them by Your

word is

Truth
Truth

G LORIFICATION

Each day this week we have learned about the work of our LORD—Jehovah, our Triune God. Day 1 we learned about creation—how God made the world in which we live. On Day 2 we learned about His preservation—how the LORD keeps us alive, healthy, and happy. On Day 3 we found out how He redeemed us from Satan's kingdom by "buying us back" from sin, death, and the devil by Jesus' perfect life and death on the cross. Yesterday, Day 4 we talked about the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification—leading us to believe the message of Jesus' saving work and then leading us to live like God's children.

There is one more mighty work of the LORD to talk about and learn its meaning. That word is "Glorification." As always it is the Bible which helps us to know what the LORD does for us. This time we find the meaning to glorification by studying 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable (able to die), it is raised imperishable, it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.





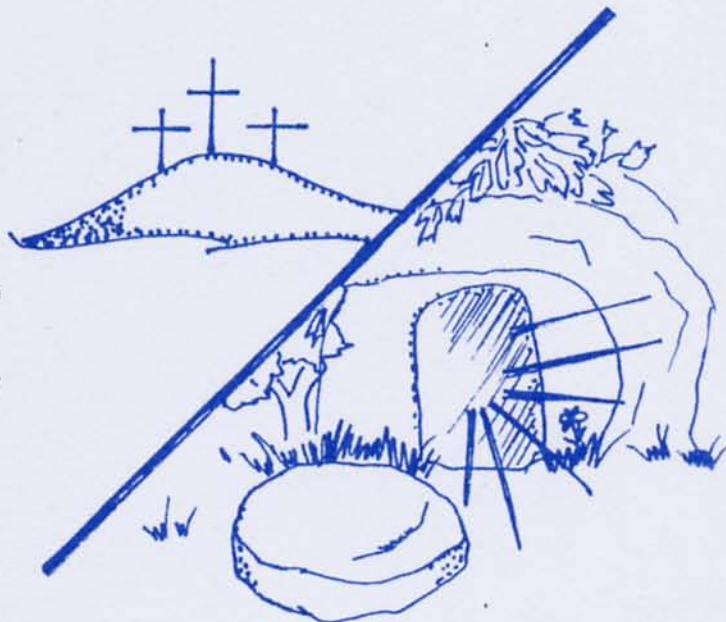
I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: Death has been swallowed up in victory.

*"Where, O Death is your sting?
Where, O Grave, is your victory?"*

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

From all of this we see that "Glorification" is the work of the LORD in raising our sinful bodies and changing them to spiritual or heavenly ones on the Last Day. When we go into the ground in our coffins, our bodies will be just like the seeds we plant in our garden, lifeless, helpless, weak, dead things. Then when Judgment Day comes, the LORD will



*G*LORIFICATION

call us up out of our graves by sounding the mighty trumpet. Instantly, our dead, lifeless, weak bodies will be changed into glorious, powerful ones. No longer will we grow old or die. Because of Jesus' victory over death, we, too, shall rise gloriously to join Him in the skies. The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans about this, "Now those whom He appointed long ago, He also called; those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified." This work of our LORD is called "Glorification."



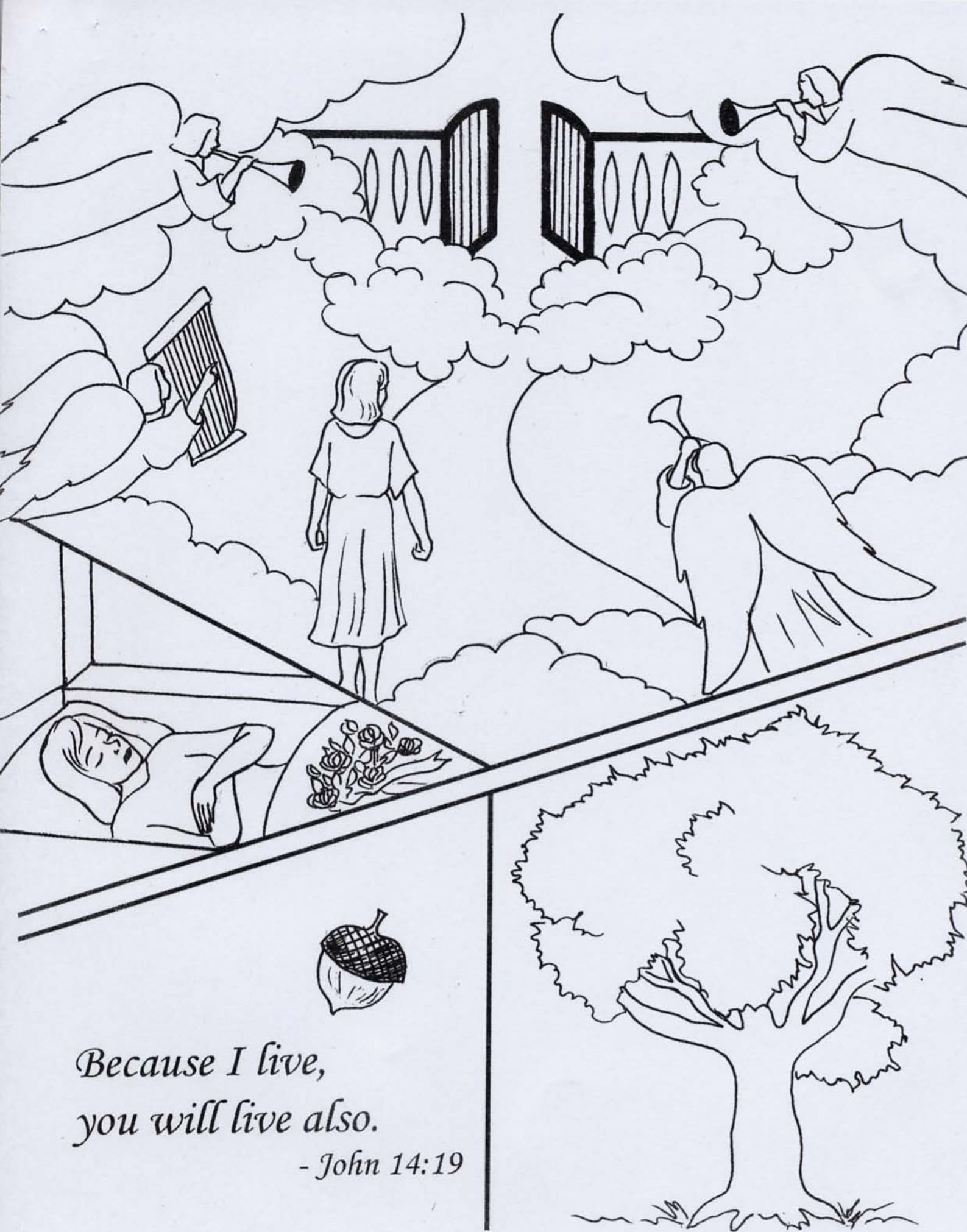
*I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living Head.*

*He lives triumphant from the grave,
He lives eternally to save,
He lives all glorious in the sky,
He lives exalted there on high.*

*He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare
He lives to bring me safely there.*

(From The Lutheran Hymnal)

*G*LORIFICATION



*Because I live,
you will live also.*

- John 14:19

These seeds need to be planted. Draw a line to what they will grow up to be after they have been planted.



Unscramble these words to reveal your memory passage from John 14:19.

you also Because live will live I

MEMORY PAGE

Memory work for levels I & II

Exodus 20:11	For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them.
Psalms 124:8	Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.
I John 1:7	... the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
John 17:17	Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
John 14:19	Because I live, you will live also.

Memory work for levels III & IV

Psalms 96:5	For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.
Psalms 121:8	The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.
Micah 7:18	Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?
I Corinthians 1:30	But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption;
Philippians 3:21	... who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body.

The Lutheran Hymnal #541

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| <p>1. O blessed Holy Trinity
Divine, eternal Unity,
God Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Be Thou this day my Guide and Host.</p> <p>2. My soul and body keep from harm,
O'er all I have extend Thine arm,
That Satan may not cause distress
Nor bring me shame and wretchedness.</p> | <p>3. The Father's love shield me this day,
The Son's pure wisdom cheer my way,
The Holy Spirit's light divine
Illume my heart's benighted shrine.</p> <p>4. My Maker, strengthen Thou my heart,
O my Redeemer, help impart,
Blest Comforter, keep at my side
That faith and love in me abide.</p> <p>5. Lord, bless and keep Thou me as Thine;
Lord, make Thy face upon me shine;
Lord, lift Thy countenance on me
And give me peace, sweet peace, from Thee.</p> |
|--|--|

Prayer

Dear Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

O, LORD, You are the One Who has created the heavens and the earth by Your almighty Word and You still preserve all of creation by the same Word. Keep us from worshipping any false gods, for You alone are the true God. Teach us to find in Jesus, who is true God and true Man, the perfect sacrifice by which we have been redeemed from all sin. May the Holy Spirit Who has called us to faith by the Gospel sanctify us unto every good word and work. And may we look forward with joy to the day we will leave this world for our home in heaven and to the Last Day when we shall receive a resurrected and glorified body. All thanks and praise to you, O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter. Amen.