

JESUS CHALLENGE

Welcome

Welcome to the 40 Day Jesus Challenge for Kids! Over the next 40 days, I am challenging you to give up 20 minutes of your day to study and get to know Jesus better. You will look at stories from the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and from the very beginning of the book of Acts to learn more about Jesus. Jesus was a son, a brother, a teacher, the Messiah, a King, and the Son of God. On day 40, I will ask you a question. Who is Jesus?

Before we begin, I want to talk about something important. You will read about Jesus being the **Messiah** many times over the next 40 days. The Jewish people in the Bible believed that God would send a deliverer or a Messiah to Earth. It is talked about in the Old Testament many times. This Messiah would be someone who saved God's people. They expected the Messiah to save God's people from human rulers. God was planning to send a Messiah to save people from sin. Sin separated people from God. The Jewish people had to offer sacrifices to the priest in the temple so they could be forgiven. Jesus died on the cross to be that sacrifice for you and for me. We can believe in the Messiah and we can be part of God's family! I hope this challenge will teach you many new things that will amaze you! I pray that you will be excited to be a follower of Jesus, too!

Do you accept the challenge? Great! Let's begin!

JESUS CHALLENGE

MAPS

Israel is in red. Can you color the United States of America? You can ask a parent to help you. When you hear about Israel you will know where to find it!



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Israel_in_the_world_\(W3\).svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Israel_in_the_world_(W3).svg)

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 1



The story of Jesus being born is in the book of Matthew and Luke in the Bible. The first thing it tells us in Matthew are the people who were related to Jesus. Look at Matthew 1:6. Can you find where it says King David? It tells us that Jesus's great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great grandfather was King David. That's a lot of greats! Many people hoped that Jesus would be their king and rule over Israel like David did many years before him.

Design a crown that you would wear if you were a king or queen.

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 2

Today our story is in Luke 2:21-38. On the 8th day of Jesus's life, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple. There was a man named Simeon who was righteous and devout and the Holy Spirit told him that he would not die until he saw the Messiah. He saw and held baby Jesus, the Messiah!

Draw a picture of you holding baby Jesus.



JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 3

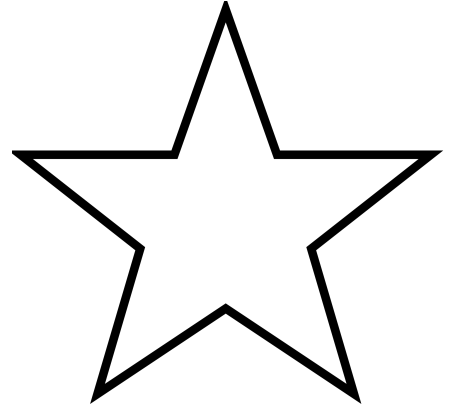
Yesterday we read that Jesus was taken to the temple as a baby. Our Bible passage is Luke 2:36-38 today. Someone new met Jesus. Her name was Anna and she was a prophet. A prophet is someone chosen to speak God's words.

Anna thanked God and spoke about Jesus and how He would rescue Israel. Anna was thankful that in her old age she met Jesus. What are you thankful for today? Draw a picture of it.

I am thankful for _____.

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 4



Today we're going to look at Matthew 2 and learn about the Magi's visit to Jesus. Matthew 2:1-12 tells us that **after** Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Magi went to Jerusalem from the east. It was a long trip. They didn't see Jesus the night he was born. They saw the star! Color the star.

The king of the land was named King Herod. Now, he was upset to hear that a new king was born. He found out from the Magi the time the star appeared and he sent them to go and search for the child and report back to him so he could go and worship the baby, too. King Herod did not want to worship a baby. He was the king and he wanted everyone to worship him!

Verse 10 says that the Magi saw the star again and they were overjoyed. They met the child, Jesus, with his mother and they bowed down and worshipped him and gave him gifts. They did not go back to Herod because a dream warned them not to go back! They went home by a different route and did not see the bad king again.

If you could go back in time and meet Jesus, what gift would you give to him? Draw it below.

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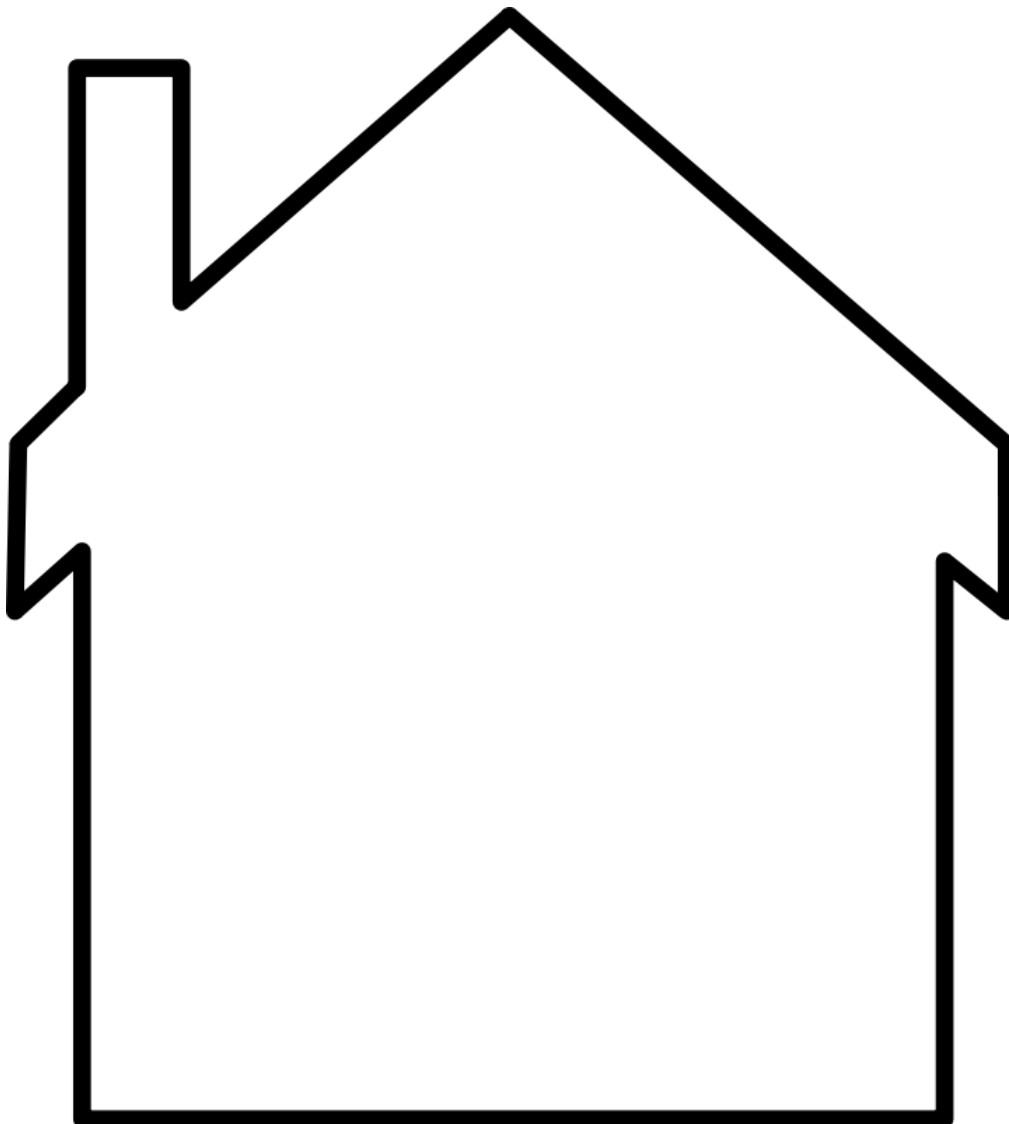
DAY 5

Remember King Herod? He's not the good guy in our story. He didn't plan anything good for any child that could be a future king. Matthew 2:13-18 is our reading for today. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Jesus and Mary and to escape to Egypt. This was far away.

Joseph obeyed and took Jesus to Egypt.

Back to King Herod. Verse 16 says that he was not happy when he realized the Magi did not return to tell him about Jesus. He gave orders to kill every child two years old and younger. Jesus escaped and was safely living in Egypt with Joseph and Mary.

Draw Joseph, Mary, and Jesus together inside the house.



JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 6



Matthew 2:19-23 is our reading for today.

King Herod died.

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him that it was now safe to return to the land of Israel. The family went to Nazareth in Israel. Draw a picture of an angel talking to Joseph.

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 7

OBEY

Luke 2:40-52 is today's Bible reading. This is interesting — we have no information about Jesus from the time he went to Nazareth to today's reading. Verse 40 says Jesus grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was on him.

As you grow, what would you like people to say about you?

Jesus was now twelve years old. He was the age of about a sixth grader. Jesus's parents went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover and are now traveling home. The Passover is a big celebration. A day goes by and Joseph and Mary thought Jesus was with relatives but they can not find him. They searched through the traveling crowds. They didn't find Jesus. They traveled back to Jerusalem. After three days they found Jesus. He was teaching people about God.

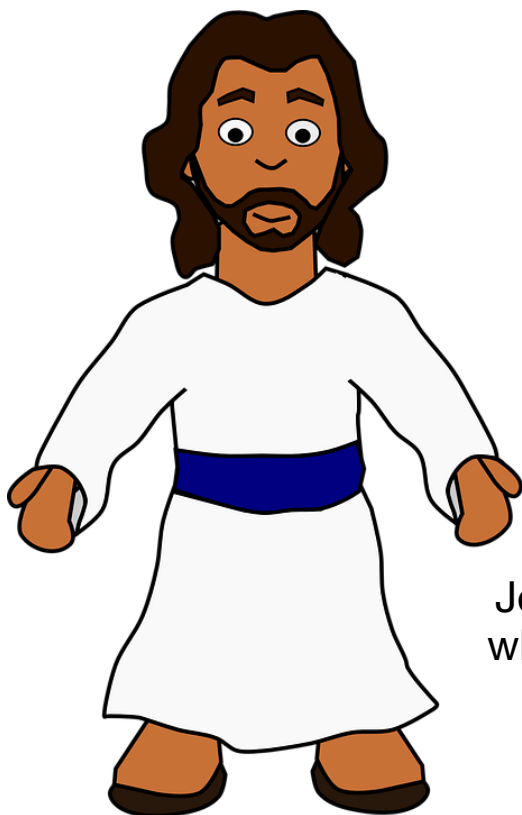
His parents were not happy with him. They were worried because they did not know where he was! He told them that he was in his Father's house but his parents did not understand what that meant.

Jesus went home with his earthly parents and obeyed them. Jesus is the Son of God but he still obeyed his earthly parents!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 8

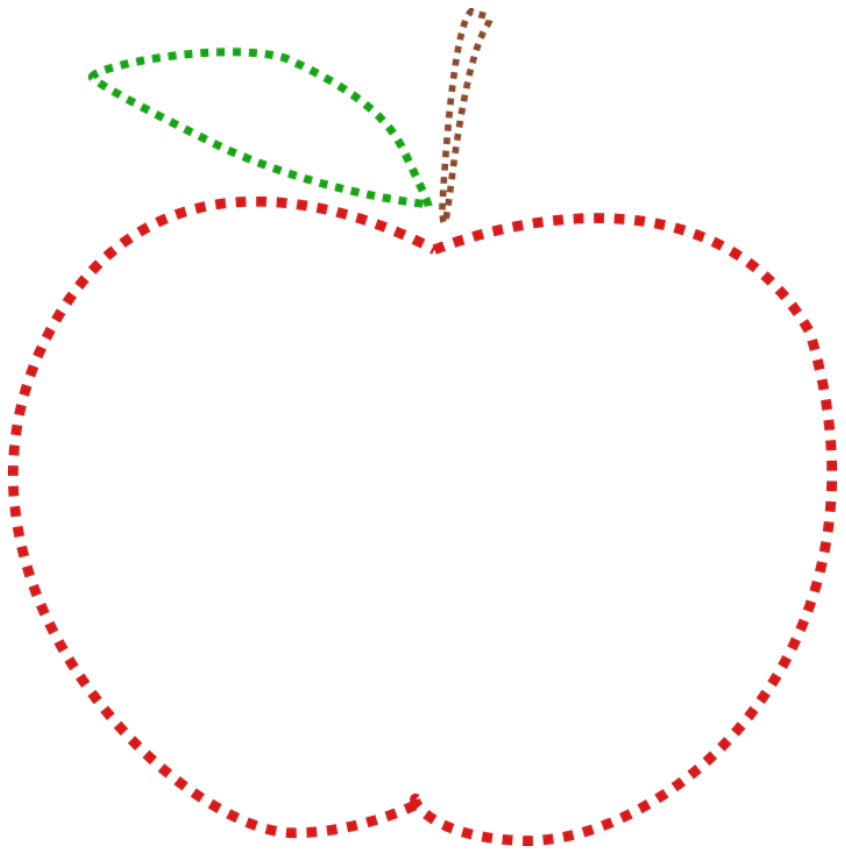
Today we are going to learn about John the Baptist. John and Jesus were about the same age. Their mothers were pregnant at the same time. They were distant cousins. John was born to prepare people for the arrival of the Messiah! In chapter 3 of Luke, we read that John the Baptist was preaching. He told the people in Luke 3:16 that he baptized with water but that the Messiah will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. Verse 21 tells us that Jesus was baptized by John. As Jesus was praying, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. A voice came from heaven that said, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Can you draw a picture of a dove sitting on Jesus?



Jesus is now about thirty years old. This is when his ministry begins!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 9



In Luke 4 it says, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.” During that time, Jesus ate nothing and at the end he was hungry! Forty days is a long time to not eat! Draw a picture of what you like to eat inside the apple.

The devil spoke to Jesus and tried to trick him.

When Jesus answered the devil he quoted words from the Bible. He used God’s words! I think this shows us that it is important for us to know God’s words too!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 10

John's disciples followed Jesus in John 1:35-42. John passed by Jesus with two of his disciples. Did you know that John had disciples? Disciples are followers. There were people who followed him. John said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When his disciples heard this, they turned around and followed Jesus. Andrew was one of John's disciples who decided to follow Jesus. He went to find his brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah!" Simon met Jesus. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter.

Jesus and John had many people follow them. Please ask someone in your family to play Follow The Leader with you. Ask that person to follow you wherever you go for 1 minute.

Was it fun to be the leader? YES or NO

Write the name of or draw a picture of the person who played Follow The Leader with you.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 11



A wedding!

Ask Dad or Mom or Grandma or Grandpa to show you a wedding picture. Have an adult help you write down a word to describe the picture.

The picture was _____.

Jesus was at a wedding in Cana in Galilee with his mother and his disciples. You can read about this in John 2:1-12. Jesus's first public miracle happens! They ran out of wine at the wedding. Jesus turned water into the best wine!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 12

It says in John 2:12 that Jesus and his brothers and his disciples went to Capernaum for a few days. The disciples just saw Jesus's miracle of turning water into wine and in John 2:11, it says, "and his disciples believed in him." Draw a picture of Jesus inside the starburst.



JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 13

John 2:13-25 tells us that Jesus went to Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a big city. It was almost time for the Jewish Passover.

What is the Jewish Passover, you ask? Let's go back to the Old Testament to Exodus 12 where Moses led God's people out of Egypt. God's people were slaves. Moses gave instructions to God's people to keep them safe and then the angel of the Lord **passed over** the homes of God's people and saved them. After this, they walked through the Red Sea on dry land!

The people celebrated to remember!
Draw a picture of something you celebrate.



JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 14

Today we will learn from John 3. Jesus taught a Pharisee named Nicodemus. Pharisees were Jewish religious leaders. The religious leaders thought they knew everything about God! Suddenly this man named Jesus, who they do not know, started to teach. They were curious and wanted to know more about Jesus.

John 3:16 is a very popular verse that Jesus taught. It says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Draw a heart around the words below.

For God
so loved the
world

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 15

Jesus talked to a Samaritan woman in John 4:1-26. He asked her for a drink of water because she was near a well. Jesus told her about living water. He told her that He is the living water. We need water to live. We also need Jesus! She was surprised that Jesus knew about her. In John 4:26, Jesus told her that He is the Messiah and she believed in Jesus!

The woman went and told many other people about Jesus so they could believe in Him too!

Write down the name of or draw a picture of someone that you could tell about Jesus.

Go and tell!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 16

We are in John 4:43-54 today.

There was a royal officer who had a sick son. When he learned that Jesus was nearby he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son. Jesus did not go but told this father, “Your son will live.”

The man believed Jesus and left. His son was healed at the time Jesus spoke the words “your son will live.” This man and his whole household believed in Jesus!

Draw a picture of Jesus making a boy well.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 17

Jesus was in Galilee and Luke 4:15 says, “He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.” Then he went to Nazareth. Jesus grew up in Nazareth and the people there know him as “Joseph’s son.” He revealed to them that He was the Messiah!

People in the synagogue were furious with Jesus for what he was saying and drove him out of town and took him to a hill because they wanted to throw him off the cliff!

Jesus did not fall. He walked away and nobody saw him. How cool is that? God can do anything! Draw Jesus in the crowd.



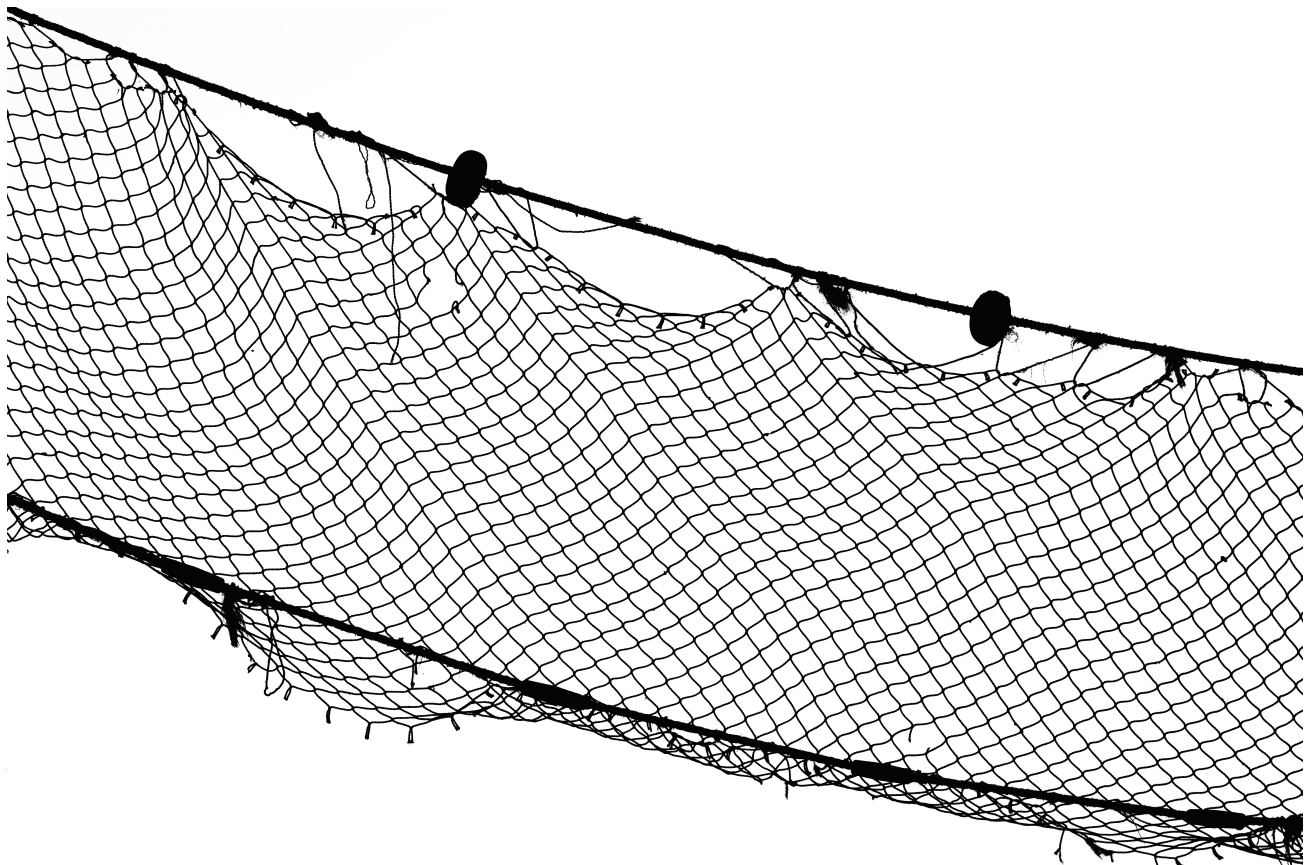
JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 18

Our Bible reading today comes from Luke 5:1-11. Jesus was with his first disciples and in this passage they left everything they had to follow Him. What is a disciple? A disciple is someone who follows. Jesus's disciples followed him.

Simon Peter worked all night but he did not catch any fish. Jesus told him in this Bible passage to put the nets into the water and he caught so many fish that the nets began to break and the boats began to sink!

Fill this net with fish!



JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 19

Luke 4:31-44 tells us that Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, to teach people. They were amazed at his teaching because his words had authority. He called demons out of a man and the man was well. He left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Simon's mother-in-law had a high fever and Jesus healed her. After being healed she stood up and began to take care of Jesus and his disciples. Jesus healed many people that night!

Write the name of or draw a picture of someone you know that is feeling ill. Pray for that person.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 20

Jesus continued to preach and heal. He even told people that their sins were forgiven. This bothered the Pharisees and teachers of the law. Nobody can forgive sins but God!

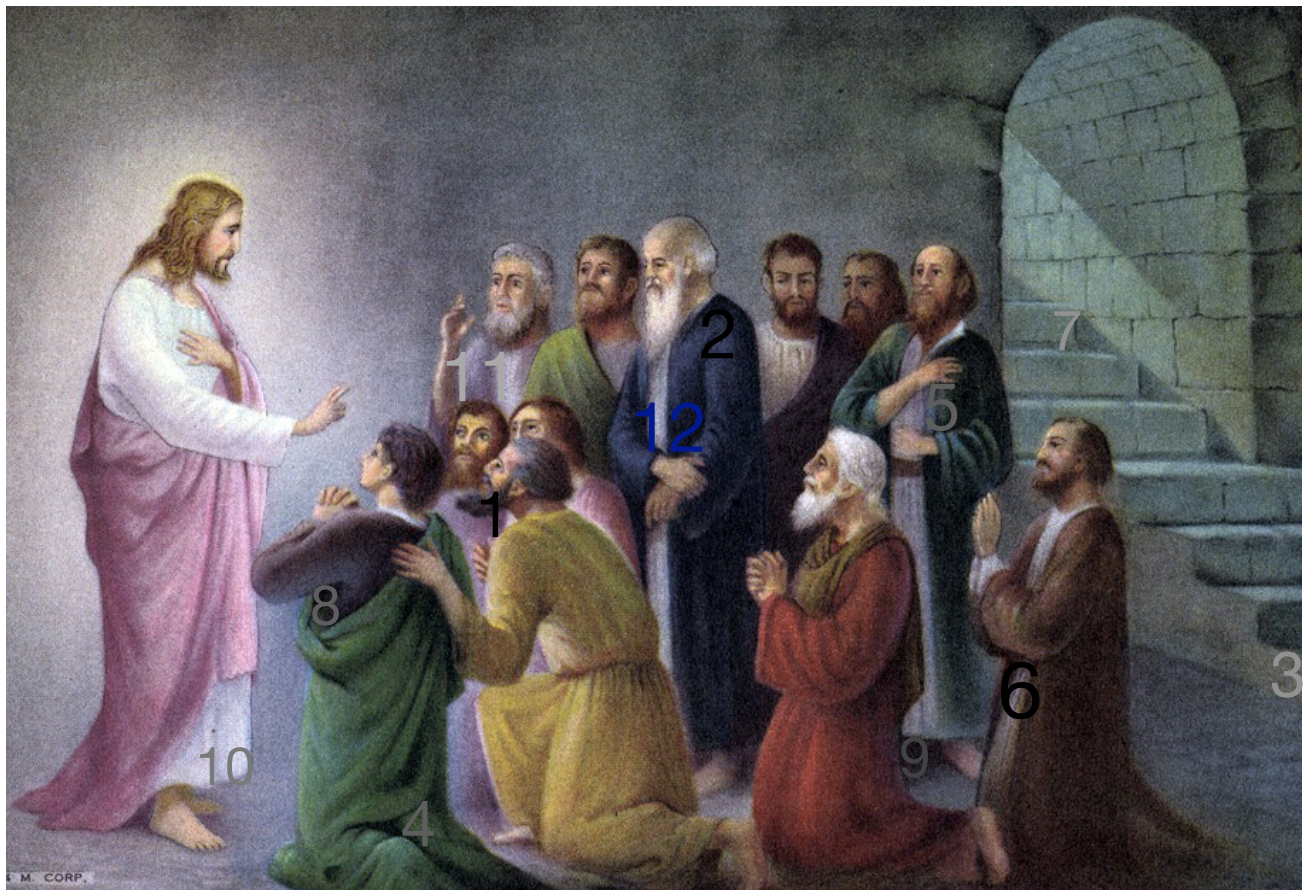
Jesus saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth in Luke 5:27. Jesus said, “Follow me,” and he did. Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house. The Pharisees and teachers of the law complained to Jesus’s disciples. “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” they asked in Luke 5:30. Jesus came to forgive every person’s sins! Think about your life. Is there a sin in your life that you need Jesus to forgive? Please take time to talk with God today and ask for forgiveness.

Write your name below after you prayed.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 21

In Luke 6:12-16 it tells us that Jesus chose 12 disciples. Disciples are people who follow someone. The disciples names were Simon (Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, Judas, and Judas Iscariot. Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus.

Find and circle numbers 1-12 in the picture below.



JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 22

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching his disciples. His disciples would be the teachers after Jesus was gone. He knew this. They did not. There is so much for them to learn. Luke 6:17-19 tells us that he taught and healed people. People could touch him and be healed immediately! Jesus turned and began to teach his disciples in Luke 6:20-26. He told them to love everyone, even their enemies.

Draw or write names of people who are difficult for you to love in the heart below. Pray that God will help you get along better.



JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 23

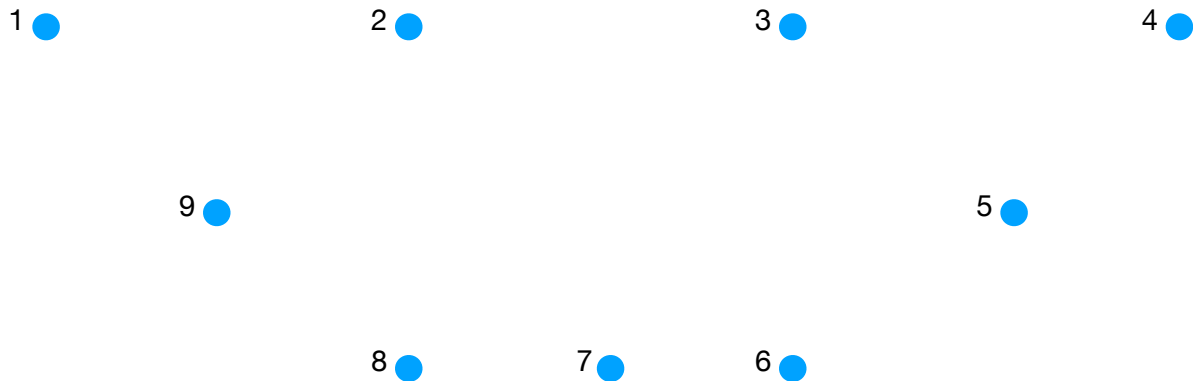
Jesus healed a centurion's servant in Luke 7:1-10. A centurion was an officer in the Roman army. The officer in today's story had a dying servant. He heard of Jesus and sent elders of the Jews to ask Jesus to heal his servant. This man had extraordinary faith in what Jesus could do. He didn't ask Jesus to come personally. He didn't ask him to touch his servant. He didn't consider himself worthy of having Jesus in his home. Yet he asked Jesus to heal his servant and Jesus did!

In Luke 7:9-10 it says, "I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Find the words servant, faith, and Jesus.

L	J	J	H	F	F	S
S	E	R	V	A	N	T
F	S	I	T	I	I	D
S	U	R	V	T	N	T
T	S	A	V	H	E	S

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 24

Connect the dots. Add a storm to the picture. Add Jesus on the boat.



One day Jesus and his disciples were in a boat to go to the other side of the lake and Jesus fell asleep. Just then a storm appeared on the lake! The boat was swamped with water and the disciples were afraid that they would drown. They woke up Jesus. Jesus told the wind and the rain to stop. And it did! This is in Luke 8:22-25.

Even the wind and the rain obey Jesus!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 25

Jesus healed many people. In Luke 8:40-42, 49-56 a man named Jairus went and fell at Jesus's feet and asked him to heal his twelve year old daughter who was dying. There were crowds of people everywhere and it made it hard for Jesus to move. Someone came from Jairus's house and told Jairus that his daughter was no longer alive. Jesus heard this and told the father to believe and she

would be healed.

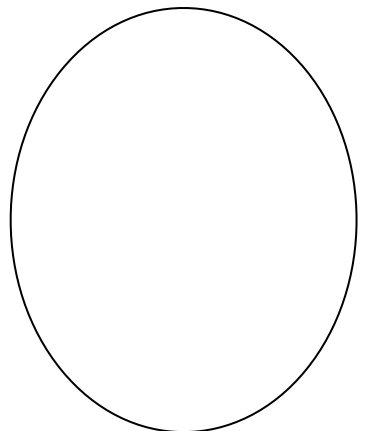
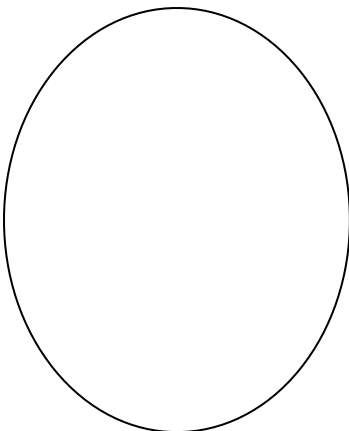
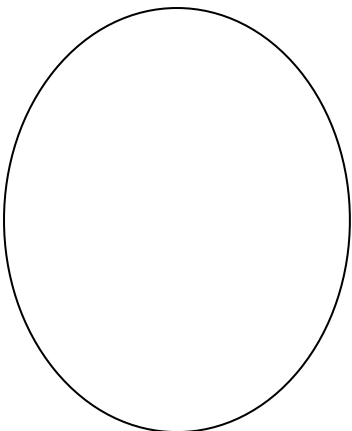
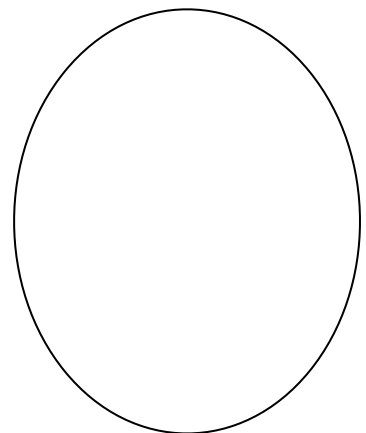
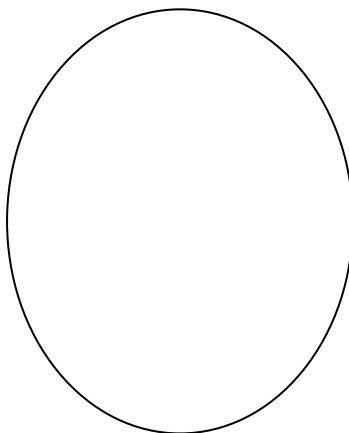
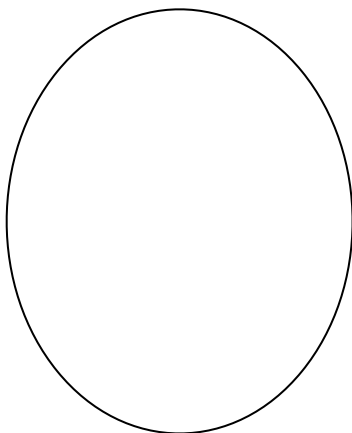
Jesus went to Jairus's home. When he arrived he held the girl's hand and she stood up. A touch from Jesus healed Jairus's daughter!

Trace your hand here and draw a heart inside. Jesus loved Jairus's daughter and he loves you too!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 26

We know that Jesus taught his disciples many things. Did you know that Jesus gave them the power and authority heal people like he could? In Luke 9:1-6, Jesus gives his disciples rules to follow and they set out “proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.”

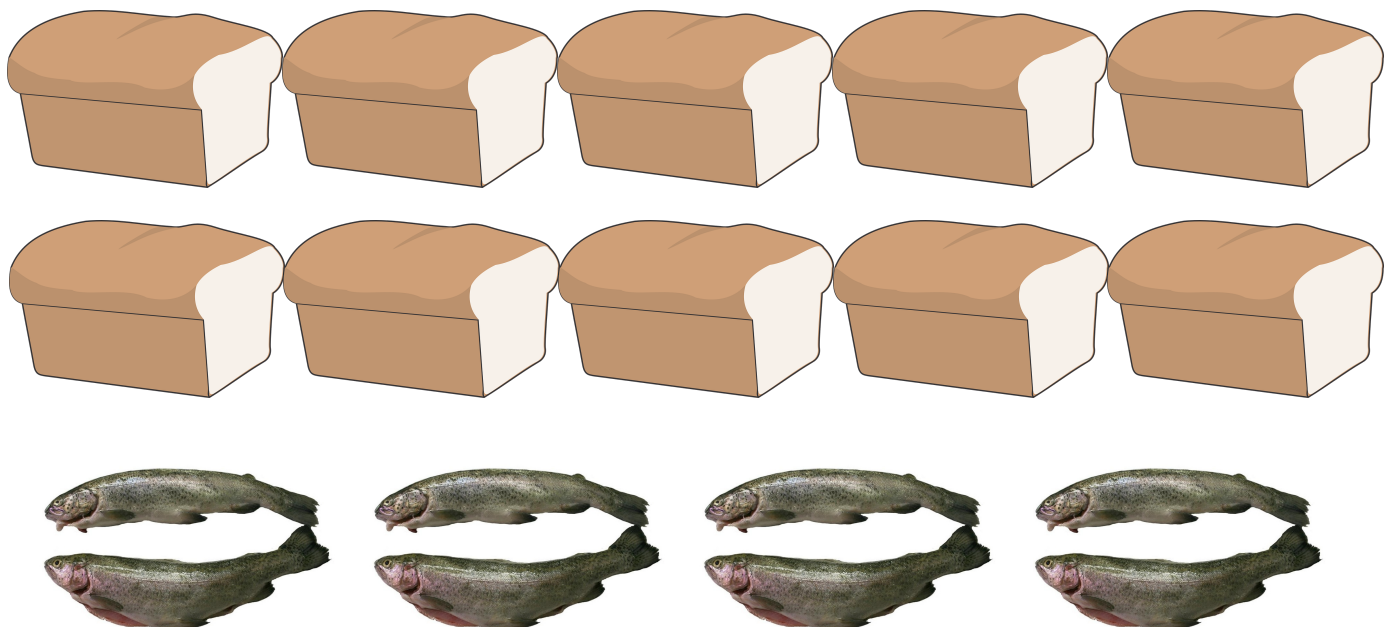
Draw many happy faces below. The disciple were happy to share in Jesus’s power. The people were happy to be healed!



JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 27

Jesus's disciples returned and told Jesus what they had done! The crowds learned about their location and followed them. John 6:1-15 and Luke 9:10-17 tell of the famous miracle: The Feeding of the 5,000. Jesus's disciples asked Jesus to send the crowds away. They didn't have food for everyone. Jesus replied by saying, "You give them something to eat." Imagine how they looked at each other when Jesus says this. Did Jesus joke? Was he always serious? They had five loaves and two fish and there were 5,000 men, plus women, and children. Jesus gave thanks for the food and the people ate and there are 12 basketfuls left over. There were leftovers! Circle five loaves of bread and two fish!



JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 28



The disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. This time Jesus was not with them. Jesus dismissed the crowds after the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 and prayed alone. A strong wind blew and the waters grew rough. The disciples saw Jesus walking to them on the water. If you don't believe me, you can look it up in John 6:16-24 or Matthew 14:22-36!

Jesus's disciples thought it was a ghost! Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid." Peter replied, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus replied, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and started to walk to Jesus. As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, he could walk on water. When he stopped looking at Jesus, he saw the waves. He became afraid and began to sink. Jesus caught him and they got on the boat. The wind stopped them.

The people who were in the boat together worshipped Jesus saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Draw Jesus and Peter walking on water at the top of the page.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 29

In Matthew 16:13-20 Jesus asked his disciples a question. “Who do people say the Son of Man is? They gave some answers and Jesus asked, “But what about you? Who do **you** say I am?”

Peter replied, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus was pleased and said, “I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.” Did you know that the name Peter means **rock**? Cool, right??

Write the name **Peter** inside the rock below.



JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 30



Jesus told his disciples that he would be killed and would rise again on the third day. They didn't understand what this meant. Jesus took Peter, James, and John to a mountain to pray. As Jesus prayed his face became bright like a flash of lightning. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked to Jesus. The disciples were tired but became wide awake. A cloud covered them and a voice said in Luke 9:35, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." When the cloud disappeared, the disciples saw that Jesus was alone. Peter, James, and John were not to tell anyone about What they saw.

Jesus's face was bright like a flash of lightning. Draw a flash of lightning.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 31



In Luke 10, Jesus appointed 72 others and sent them out in groups of two to every town and place where he was about to go. Jesus told them not to take a purse or a bag or sandals and not to greet anyone on the road. When they entered a house they were to say, “Peace to this house.” They were to stay and eat and drink whatever is given to them and they were not to move from house to house. Jesus sent them to heal the sick and give the message that “the kingdom of God is near to you.” They returned to Jesus with joy!

Draw something that makes you feel joyful below.

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 32

Luke 10:23-24 says Jesus spoke these words privately to his disciples. “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

I think what those 72 people got to see was remarkable! Amazing! Miraculous! I think it was something they would never forget!

Draw 72 smiles on the page!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 33

One day a disciple asked Jesus to teach them to pray. It doesn't say which disciple asked. Was it Peter? Was it James? Was it John? We don't know. Jesus taught the Lord's prayer in Luke 11:1-13. Here is the version we usually say in church.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins, As we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.



God wants you to talk to him. He
wants you to ask for what you
need. He wants to bless you!
Spend time praying today.

JESUS CHALLENGE

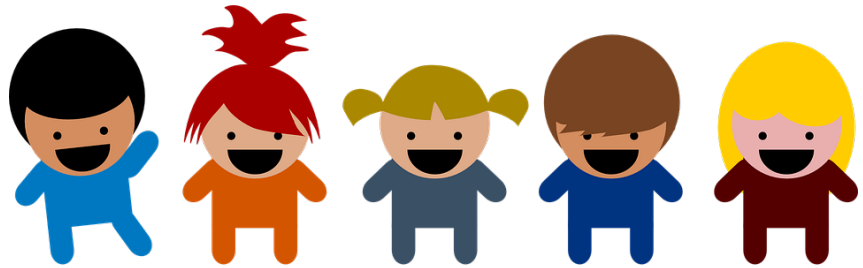
DAY 34

The more I read about Jesus the more excited I get! I'd like you to meet Jesus's friends Mary and Martha. In Luke 10:38-42, Jesus was invited into their home. Martha was upset with her sister Mary because she was sitting and listening to Jesus while Martha was working. Jesus told Martha that Mary chose what is better.

Now we are going to jump to John 11. Lazarus is Martha and Mary's brother and he became ill and died. The sisters were very upset. Draw the sisters with a frown on their faces.

Jesus brought his friend back to life. He wanted to do this. He wanted to show the Power of God! Jesus can do anything! Draw a smile on Mary, Martha, and Lazarus's faces.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 35



We are going to read a very well known story about children. You can find the story in Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16, or Luke 18:15-17.

People are bringing children to Jesus. The disciples tell the parents to stop doing this! Jesus does not agree with his disciples. He says, "Let the little children come to me."

Draw a heart below. Jesus loves you. He doesn't care if you are young or old. He loves you! Take a moment to thank Jesus for loving you!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 36



People praised Jesus as King in today's story. You can find this story in Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, or John 12:12-19.

Jesus asked two disciples to bring him a colt. This colt is a Mommy donkey and she probably had her baby with her. The disciples do what he asked. They throw their cloaks on the colt and Jesus sat on top. He rode the donkey and people spread their cloaks on the road and waved palms.

The people hoped Jesus would be their king. They cried out "Hosanna" which means "Save us." Kings would enter a city on a great horse. Jesus entered the city on a donkey. A peaceful animal.

Jesus was not the kind of king the people expected. He was the kind of king the people needed. They needed to be forgiven for their sins. They needed a Savior.

We need a Savior. Thank you Jesus! Draw Jesus on the donkey.

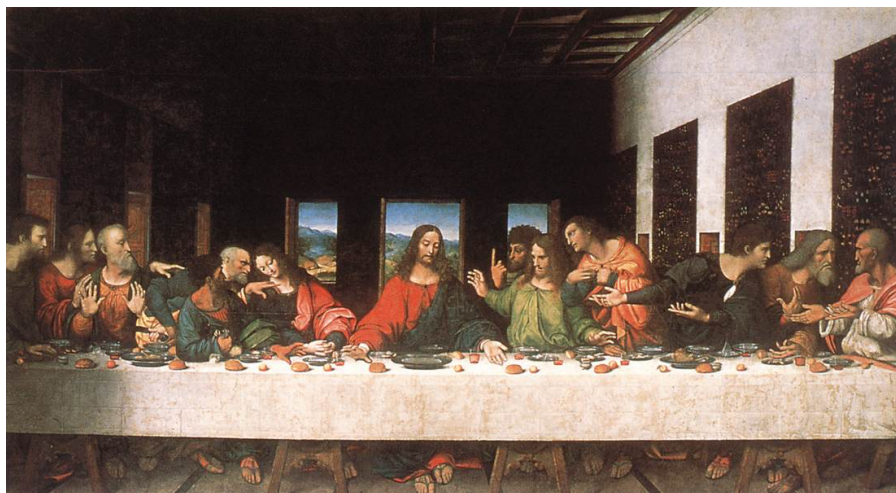
JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 37

Matthew 26:14-39, Luke 22:24-27 and John 13:1-17 tells about the last passover meal Jesus had with his disciples. It's often called "The Last Supper."

As Jesus broke the bread, he gave thanks and said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." They ended by singing together.

We call it communion when we remember and celebrate "The Last Supper" in church. The three gospels are similar but John adds that Jesus washed the feet of the disciples that night too! Draw a loaf of bread and a cup at the top of the page to remember this story.

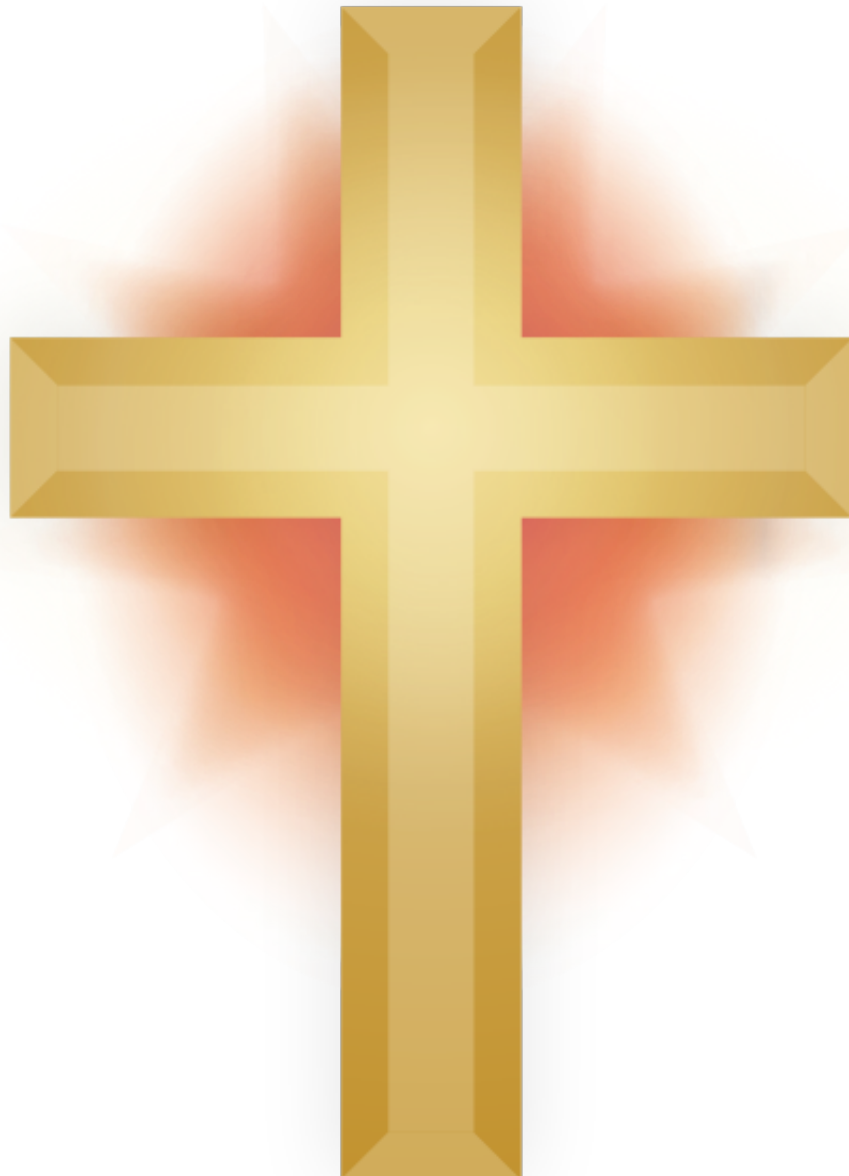


This is a famous painting by Leonardo Da Vinci called The Last Supper.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:La-ultima-cena.jpg>

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 38

Jesus was arrested and hung on a cross. He did this so He could be our Savior. God said there must be a sacrifice so sin could be forgiven. Jesus was the sacrifice and He did it for you and for me. Write THANK YOU on the cross.



JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 39

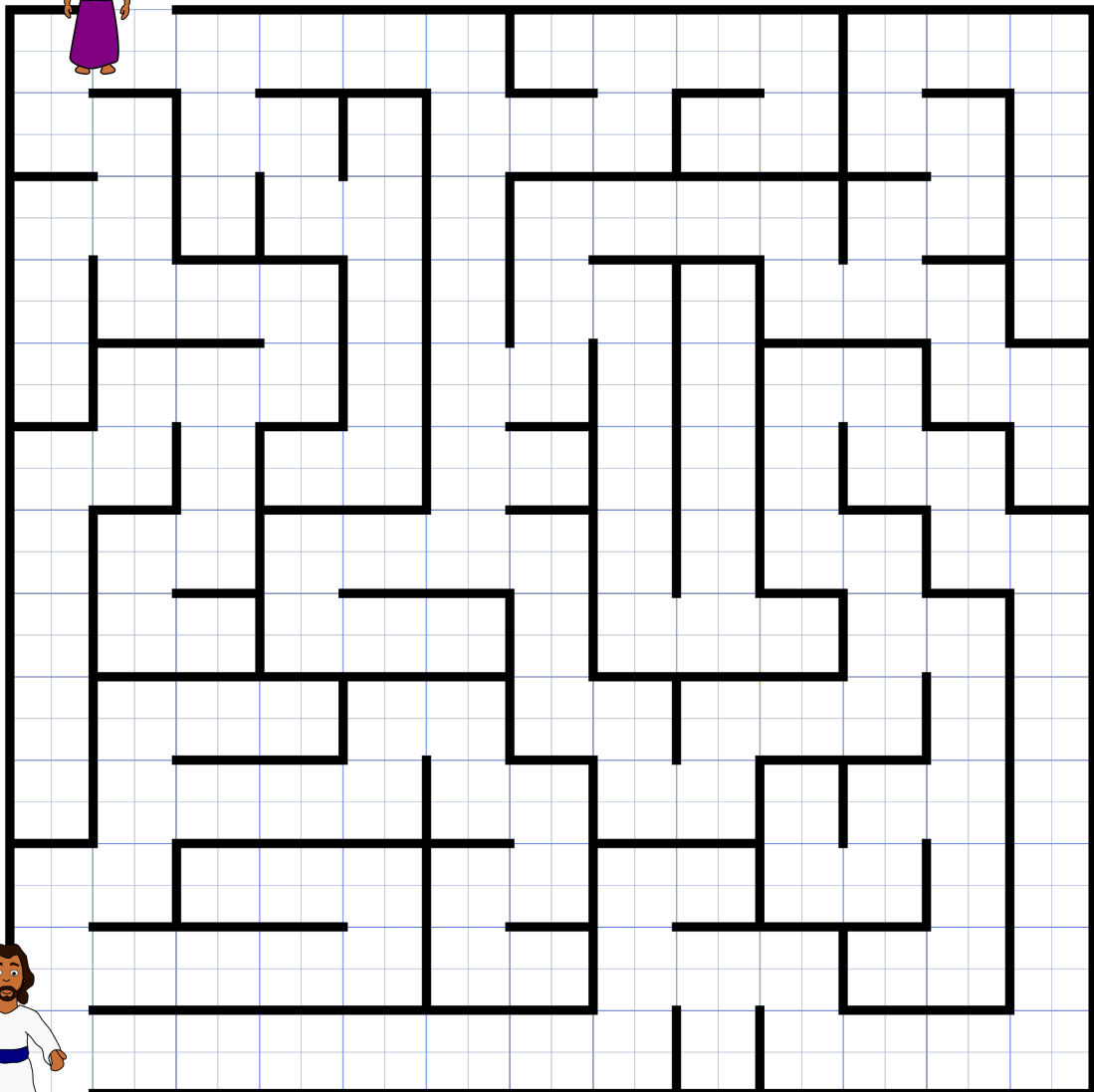
Jesus died. His body was taken down and it was wrapped in strips of linen and laid in a tomb. You can read this in John 19:18-42.

Jesus did not stay dead. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and it was empty. She ran to Peter and John and they ran to the tomb. Jesus was gone!

Next we read that Mary Magdalene wept outside the tomb and Jesus came to her. She was the first person to see Jesus after he became alive again. She went to the disciples with the good news!



Help Mary get through the maze to see Jesus.



JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 40

Jesus returned to Earth for 40 days. He visited many people and performed many miracles. Luke 24:51 says that Jesus blessed his disciples and then he was taken up into heaven.

Acts 1:8-11 is similar. He told his disciples that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit and that they would be His witnesses across the Earth. Jesus went up into the sky and a cloud covered him. As they stood looking up in the sky two men dressed in white spoke to them and said, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

You gave up a lot of your time to learn about Jesus! You should feel proud of yourself. I challenged you to 40 days. You did it!

Who is Jesus? You can write or draw a picture to answer this.

JESUS CHALLENGE **Completed**

If you want to know how you can get to know Jesus better here are a few ideas.

1. Go to church. At church, you can learn about the Bible. You can make friends. You can be a part of the family of God.
2. Read the Bible on your own. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are full of more stories about Jesus that we did not have time to include in this challenge. These books are also full of stories, called parables, that Jesus used to teach people about God's ways.
3. Pray! Jesus prayed.
4. Tell others what you know. Be a disciple of Jesus!

Circle the numbers 1, 2, 3, and/or 4 to show what you want to do to get to know Jesus better.