

STORIES
OF
GRACE
FOR BIG KIDS

A

take up & READ

PUBLICATION

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO:

W E L C O M E

We are so excited about the possibilities that this book holds for your family. On each day, you will find the same Scripture that is being studied in the women's devotional. The page that faces the Scripture is one we hope you and your child will use together. We have collected some questions for you to ponder as you ask yourselves what message Jesus intends for you. These are deliberately open-ended "I wonder" questions, not at all academic fill-in-the-blanks. There is a prayer for you to pray together.

The following page is for your child to work on independently. We step through a simplified version of Lectio Divina, designed to draw the child further into the scripture.

Then, there is a puzzle or a place to draw. Young children might need help with the puzzles.

Of course, each of these pages can stand independently and you can use them as they work for you. Probably, the "I wonder" page is indispensable. Parables hold mysteries, even for adults. Children will need someone to ponder with them.

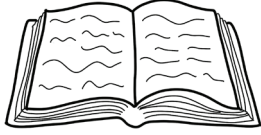
Each week, you will find that the same Scripture memory that is included in the adult book is also in the child's book. Your child even has his or her own calligraphy page to embellish. There is room to copy the verses, and we hope your family will memorize together.

This book is intended to be tool for you--something to use to bring your child into your own study if you like. We hope that when you print it, you adapt it to suit your needs.

God bless your family!

The Take Up & Read team

DAY ONE



READ

Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

'You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.
For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.'

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

MATTHEW 13:10-17 (NRSV-CE)

DAY ONE



WONDER

I wonder:

Why did Jesus tell stories?

Who were the people who would understand?

Who were the people Jesus said would hear
and never understand?

What does it mean to understand with your heart?

† PRAY

Jesus, I want to know the meaning of your stories. Help me to listen carefully and to understand with my heart. Amen

DAY ONE

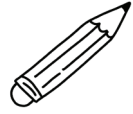


KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

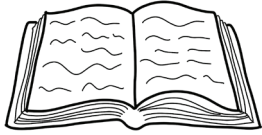
DAY ONE



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

DAY TWO



READ

The Parable of the Sower

And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

MATTHEW 13:3-8 (NRSVCE)

The Parable of the Sower Explained

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

MATTHEW 13:18-23 (NRSVCE)

DAY TWO



WONDER

Sometimes it is hard to listen. There are so many things trying to get our attention. God wants our attention to be on Him, first, so that He can give us all of His gifts, and we in turn, can bear much fruit. I wonder:

Who is the sower of the seed?

What is the seed? What is the soil?

What each of the types of soil might represent?

Can we choose what kind of soil we are?

Are we always the same kind of soil,
or can we sometimes be different soil?

Which kind of soil do we want to be?

What we can do to be like the good soil?

† PRAY

Dear Jesus, I want to meet you in Your stories.
I'm grateful for the care You took to tell them.
Please help me receive them with a heart that
is like the good soil. Amen.

DAY TWO



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY TWO

WORD SCRAMBLE

W R S E O

D E L F I

D E S W E

A W H T E

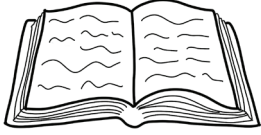
I S L O

R A E L S P A B

D E S E

E Y S A T

DAY THREE



READ

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

MATTHEW 13:24-30 (NRSVCE)

DAY THREE



WONDER

Jesus uses many examples of seeds and grain to show us how we should live our lives. We hear another parable about grains. I wonder:

Why did Jesus like to use this image when explaining the Kingdom of Heaven to His disciples?

There is another man in this parable who sows good seed.

Who is the man, and what is the seed?

Who the enemy is?

Why the Master told the servants to let the weeds grow alongside the good seed?

† PRAY

God, please help me to think the way You do
and to love everyone You put in my life.
Remind me that You are the one who decides
if we are good plants or weeds. Amen.

DAY THREE

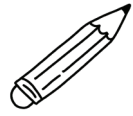


KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

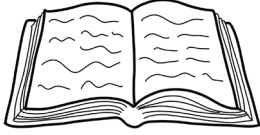
DAY THREE



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

DAY FOUR



READ

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

MATTHEW 13:31-32 (NRSVCE)

DAY FOUR



WONDER

The mustard seed is the tiniest seed, yet Jesus tells us that it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree. Can I make something big out of something so small? Humans can make big things out of lots of small things. I wonder:

Who has the kind of power and energy that can make things grow bigger and change?

Is the energy just inside the seed?

Could it be inside all seeds?

Could this energy be inside our own bodies?

Could this energy be within the whole universe?

What did Jesus mean to tell us with this seed?

† PRAY

Jesus, thank you for telling Your friends about the Kingdom of God. You started out with a small group of friends, and now Your Church has grown so large! Help me to share Your Word with everyone I meet. Amen.

DAY FOUR



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY FOUR

WORD SEARCH

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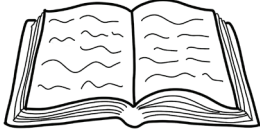
BRANCHES
BUY
DISCIPLES
FIELD
FLOUR

HEAVEN
MEASURES
MUSTARD
PARABLES
SEED

SOIL
SOWER
TREASURE
TREE
UPROOT

WEEDS
WHEAT
YEAST

DAY FIVE



READ

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

MATTHEW 13:33 (NRSVCE)

DAY FIVE



WONDER

Today we hear a short parable that compares the Kingdom of Heaven to yeast. Let's listen and try to understand what Jesus is telling us. Yeast is an ingredient that you put into flour, and once you do, it is hidden and it causes the flour to grow. In the parable, it says the woman mixed her yeast into sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough. That sounds like a whole lot of flour! I wonder:

How did the woman get the yeast worked
all through the dough?

Can we still see the yeast after we mix it into the flour?

Can we still see signs of the yeast though?

How is the Kingdom of God like yeast?

How does the Parable of the Mustard Seed remind you
of the Parable of the Yeast?

† PRAY

Jesus, help me to remember that size does not matter to you when it comes to building Your Kingdom. Even I, as a child, can help to bring change to the world I live in. Thank you for letting me help build the Kingdom of Heaven.

Amen.

DAY FIVE

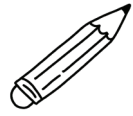


KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY FIVE



Draw the Bible passage

DAY SIX



READ

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

MATTHEW 13:44 (NRSVCE)

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MATTHEW 6:21 (NRSVCE)

DAY SIX



WONDER

Jesus is sharing with us that the Kingdom of God has great value and beauty in the parable of the hidden treasure. I wonder:

Where was the treasure hidden? What happened?
Do you think the man was looking for this treasure?

What does the parable tell us that the man does
as soon as he finds it?

How did the man feel? What did he do?

If the Kingdom of Heaven is like the treasure that's
hidden, did this man earn the kingdom of heaven?

The man hid the treasure again and bought the field so he
could keep it safe. Why he would have hidden it again?

The Kingdom of Heaven was like a gift. Do you earn all of
your gifts? How do you feel after you receive a gift?

Who do you think this gift of the Kingdom is from?

† PRAY

God, thank you for all of the gifts that You give
to me, especially the gift of the
Kingdom of God. Amen.

DAY SIX



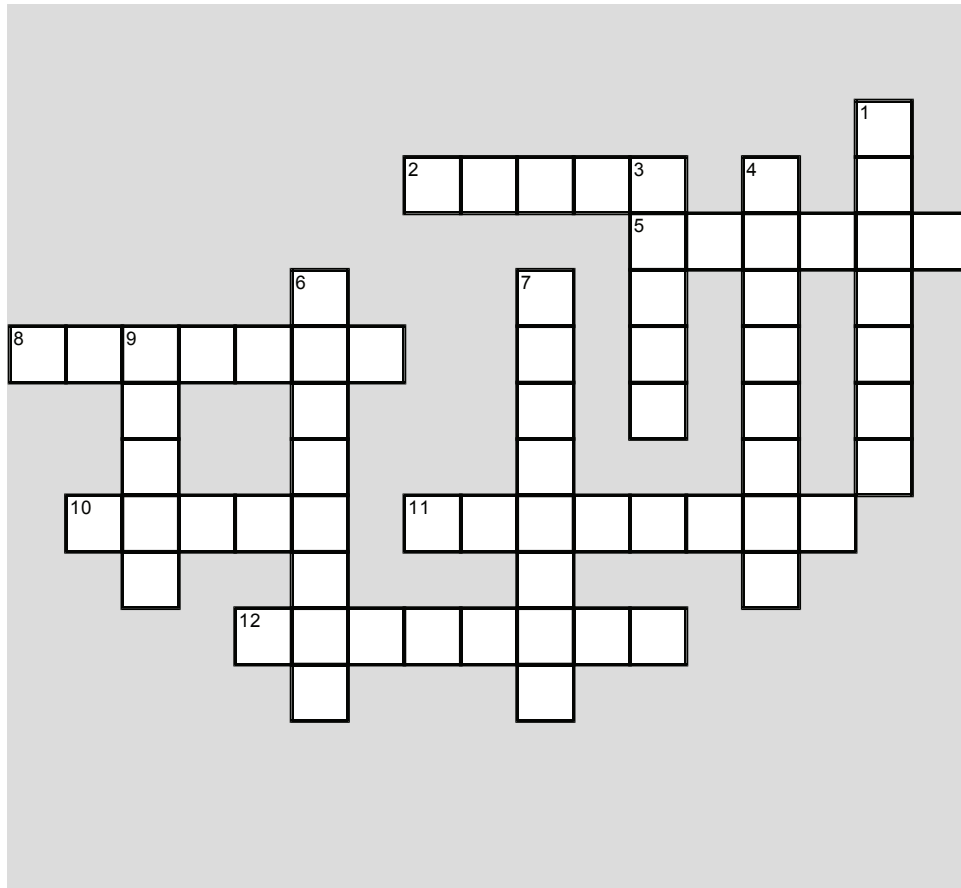
KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY SIX

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



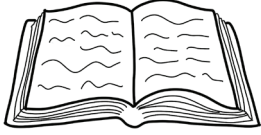
Across

- 2 The kingdom of heaven is like _____ that a woman took and mixed
- 5 The kingdom of _____ may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field.
- 8 The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ seed
- 10 He goes and _____ all he has and buys that field
- 11 When they had no root, they _____
- 12 When it has grown it is the _____ of shrubs

Down

- 1 But _____ are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.
- 3 How many measures of flour did the woman mix with the yeast?
- 4 Why do you speak to them in _____?
- 6 The kingdom of heaven is like _____ hidden in a field
- 7 Let them both grow _____ until the harvest.
- 9 A _____ went out to sow

DAY SEVEN



MEMORIZE

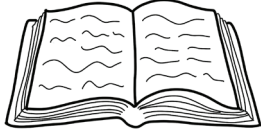
For where your treasure is,
there your heart will also be.

MATTHEW 6:21 (NRSV-CE)

For where your
treasure
is, there
your heart
will be also.

MATTHEW 6:21

DAY EIGHT



READ

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

MATTHEW 13:45-46 (NRSVCE)

DAY EIGHT



WONDER

The Kingdom of God will bring us great joy. Man searches for the Kingdom and will know it when he finds it because it will bring his great joy.

Jesus is telling us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls.

Do you know what a merchant is?

A merchant is a person who buys and sells items—he must know the item he is buying and selling very well.

What is the merchant doing in this parable?

The scripture tells us that this merchant went out looking for pearls. I wonder how he felt when he found that one pearl? I wonder how long he had been searching?

What does the scripture tell us that he did?

What was it like the day that he bought the one pearl?

How much did he want it?

† PRAY

Dear God, help me to treasure your Kingdom just like the merchant treasures the pearl.

Help me to see how valuable being

Your child is. Amen.

DAY EIGHT



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

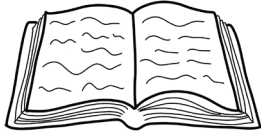
DAY EIGHT



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

DAY NINE



READ

The Laborers in the Vineyard

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

MATTHEW 20:1-16 (NRSVCE)

DAY NINE



WONDER

Jesus wants everyone to join Him in heaven one day. Today we will hear a parable about this. In this parable, Jesus tells us about a landowner and workers that he hired. I wonder:

Who are these people supposed to remind us of?

What the vineyard is supposed to tell us?

After the landowner hired the first group of workers, he kept going out to find more workers?

Why he would do that?

Have you ever felt that something wasn't fair?

Did you grumble about it?

We see though, that the landowner is not fair, but he is just. The Master wants all people to work in His vineyard, no matter how long the time is.

What do you think the denarius, or money, in this parable is supposed to remind us of?

† PRAY

God, thank you for loving me and wanting me to be with You in heaven, even if sometimes I take a long time to see that the best way to live is to follow you. Amen.

DAY NINE



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY NINE

WORD SCRAMBLE

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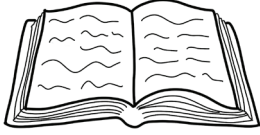
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DAY TEN



READ

The Parable of the Two Sons

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

MATTHEW 21:28-32 (NRSVCE)

DAY TEN



WONDER

We read a story about two sons today. Listen closely and notice what each of the sons says and does in the story.

What does it mean to obey?

I wonder how the father felt about the son who obeyed, and the one who did not?

Which do you think is more important - what you say or what you do? Your words or your actions?

Do we always obey our Father? I wonder how He feels when we say we'll obey and then we don't?

† PRAY

God, sometimes I say yes to something, but I don't actually do it. Help me to let my yes mean yes and to do what You want right away.

Amen.

DAY TEN



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

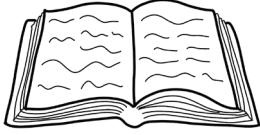
DAY TEN



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

DAY ELEVEN



READ

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

MATTHEW 25:1-13 (NRSVCE)

DAY ELEVEN



WONDER

Just like when we were given the light of Christ at our baptism and told to keep it burning brightly, the ten bridesmaids were also given a light and told to keep it burning brightly. Let's see if the bridesmaids do what they are supposed to.

A wedding is a joyous celebration. What moment in time might Jesus be referring to?

Who is the bridegroom?

Who are the bridesmaids?

The bridesmaids had a very important role and task.

Yet Jesus tells us that there were 5 wise and 5 foolish bridesmaids. What was the difference between the wise and foolish bridesmaids?

If this parable is about the Kingdom of God, what do you think the oil could be? What could the lamp be?

Why can't the oil be shared?

This parable seems to end harshly. He says, "I do not know you". What do you think that means?

What is Jesus trying to tell us about the Kingdom of God?

† PRAY

Jesus, help me to keep my Christ light burning brightly and always be ready to meet You, even if You ask me to wait. Help me to remember to be ready for You all the time, every day. Amen.

DAY ELEVEN



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY ELEVEN

WORD SEARCH

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

WORD LIST:

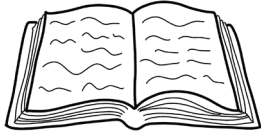
ABUNDANCE
BRIDEGROOMS
BRIDESMAIDS
CLOTHING
FAITH

LOVELY
MASTER
MERCHANT
OIL
PEARLS

PROTECT
SICK
SONS
TALENTS
THIRSTY

VALUE
VINEYARD
WORK

DAY TWELVE



READ

The Parable of the Talents

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave!

DAY TWELVE

You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

MATTHEW 25:14-29



WONDER

Jesus talks to us today about the wonderful gifts that God the Father has given each of us. In this parable we hear about a man who is going away and he gives his slaves "talents". Do you know what a talent is? A talent was a measurement of money in Jesus' time. I wonder:

What is another meaning for "talent" that Jesus might be trying to share? What did each slave do with their gifts?

Why did the third slave bury his gift?

Who do you think the man was most pleased with?

Why do you think he was pleased with him?

Why was the man angry at the slave that buried his gift?

What kind of gifts God gives us? Are we using those gifts or burying them? Which do you think will make God happy?

† PRAY

Lord, help me to be faithful in using the gifts that You have given me to serve the people You put in my life. Amen.

DAY TWELVE

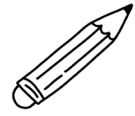


KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

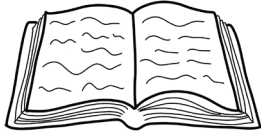
DAY TWELVE



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

DAY THIRTEEN



READ

The Judgment of the Nations

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and

DAY THIRTEEN

did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

MATTHEW 25:31-46



WONDER

Jesus shares with us a little bit about what will happen when He comes back in His glory. We hear about sheep and goats. Jesus tells the sheep that they get to enter into His Kingdom because they fed Him when He was hungry, gave Him drink when He was thirsty, and other helpful things. What were they thinking when Jesus told them they had done all of these things? Meanwhile, Jesus tells the goats that they must go away because they did not help Jesus out when He needed help. What were they feeling when Jesus told them that they could not come into heaven? I wonder:

What do we know about sheep and goats?

What is similar? What is different?

Sometimes it is hard to share. But Jesus tells us that when we share the blessings that come from God the Father, with others who are in need, it is just like sharing with Jesus. What are some things that we can do to share with people who are in need?

† PRAY

God, you have given me so much. Help me to be willing to see Jesus in other people and to share what You have given me with them.

DAY THIRTEEN



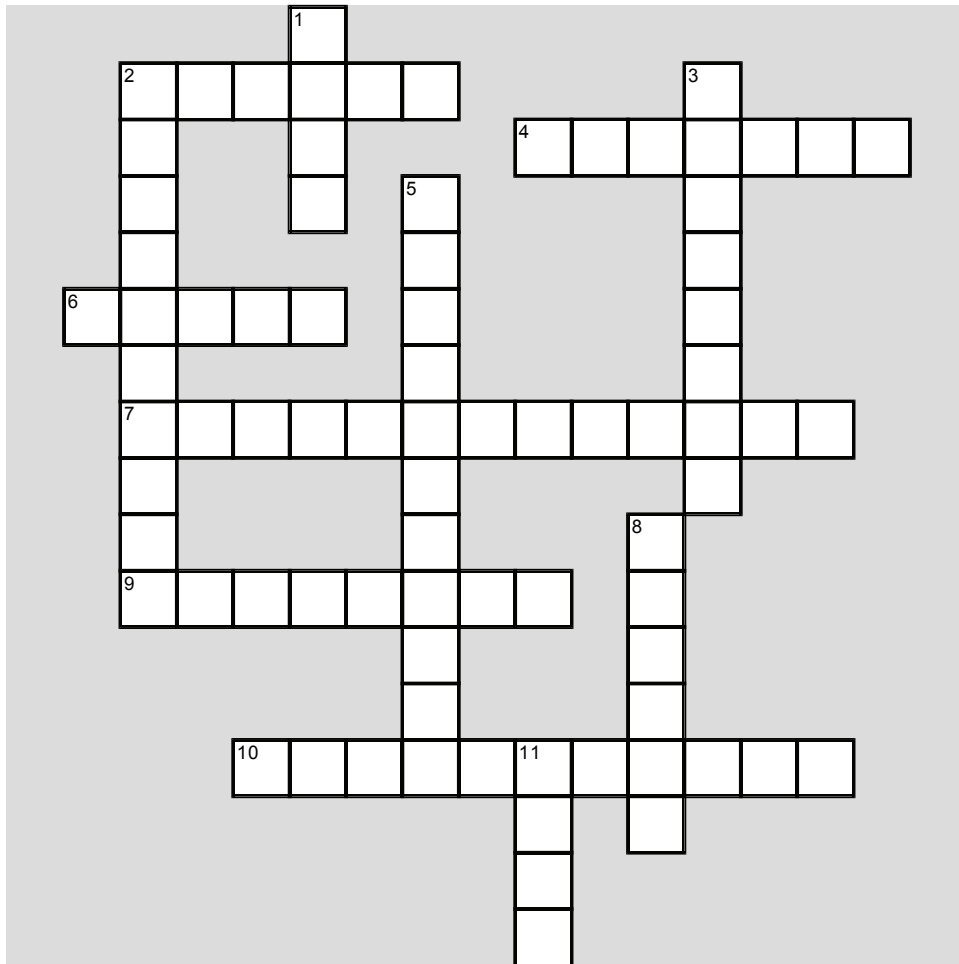
KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY THIRTEEN

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 2 THESE LAST HAVE ONLY WORKED ONE HOUR, AND YOU HAVE MADE THEM EQUAL TO US WHO HAVE BORNE THE _____ OF THE DAY AND THE SCORCHING HEAT
- 4 THE ONE WHO HAD RECEIVED FIVE _____ WENT OFF AT ONCE AND TRADED WITH THEM
- 6 ON FINDING ONE _____ OF GREAT VALUE, HE WENT AND SOLD ALL THAT HE HAD AND BOUGHT IT
- 7 FOR JOHN CAME TO YOU IN A WAY OF _____ AND YOU DID NOT BELIEVE HIM
- 9 AGAIN, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A _____ IN SEARCH OF FINE PEARLS
- 10 WELL DONE, GOOD AND _____ SLAVE

Down

- 1 WHY ARE YOU STANDING HERE _____ ALL DAY?
- 2 LOOK! HERE IS THE _____! COME OUT TO MEET HIM
- 3 I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU _____ ME, I WAS NAKED AND YOU GAVE ME CLOTHING?
- 5 THEN ALL THOSE _____ GOT UP AND TRIMMED THEIR LAMPS
- 8 LORD, WHEN WAS IT THAT WE SAW YOU _____ AND GAVE YOU FOOD?
- 11 WHICH OF THE TWO DID THE _____ OF HIS FATHER

DAY FOURTEEN



MEMORIZE

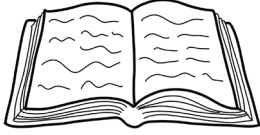
His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

MATTHEW 23:25

His master said to him,
'Well done,
good and trustworthy slave;
you have been trustworthy
in a few things, I will put you
in charge of many things;
enter into the joy
of your master.'

MATTHEW 23:25

DAY FIFTEEN



READ

A Lamp Under a Bushel Basket

He said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

MARK 4:21-25 (NRSVCE)

DAY FIFTEEN



WONDER

What does Jesus mean when He says that something is hidden right now?

Jesus used parables to teach people about the Kingdom. This parable tells us that when the Kingdom is revealed we won't need parables anymore.

What image does He use?

How should we respond once the Kingdom has been revealed?

Read Psalm 119:105. What does it tell us about God's word?

I wonder how I can help the light of the gospel shine?

† PRAY

Thank you Jesus for teaching me about the Kingdom through parables. Help me to remember that your Word is a light. Help me to ponder them. Help me not be afraid to let them shine through me to all the world. Amen.

DAY FIFTEEN

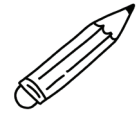


KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

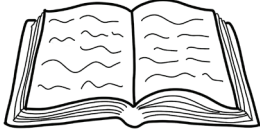
DAY FIFTEEN



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

DAY SIXTEEN



READ

The Parable of the Growing Seed

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

MARK 4:26-29 (NRSVCE)

DAY SIXTEEN



WONDER

When Jesus walked in the land of Israel, He spoke about the Kingdom of God in many different ways. It must have been very important to Him. Today we will hear about another way that Jesus referred to the Kingdom of God.

What are some things that we heard in this parable that give us some clues?

The man was a farmer, and had a lot of work to do. What happened after he threw the seed on the ground?

Did the man do anything to make the seeds grow? Does he know how it's happening?

Each of those seeds became a small sprout, which turned into a seed head, which contains lots and lots of seeds. If Jesus is saying that the Kingdom of God is like the seed, who is creating all of the growth in the seed?

I wonder what it means when the harvest has come?

What does a farmer do when it's time to harvest?

What clue might this give us about the Kingdom of God?

† PRAY

God, help me to be like the farmer and plant seeds of faith wherever I go. Amen.

DAY SIXTEEN



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY SIXTEEN

WORD SCRAMBLE

M A L P

A T A S A N M R I

K A S B T E

I T I U H M L Y

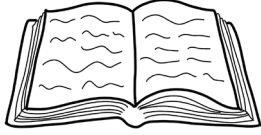
S E U B L H

N R F I D E

S O U H E

T R S A C R T

DAY SEVENTEEN



READ

The Two Foundations

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house."

LUKE 6:46-49 (NRSVCE)

DAY SEVENTEEN



WONDER

Sometimes, we have to take action on what we hear God calling us to do. I wonder:

In today's parable, Jesus tells us of two men. These two men made different choices. What were they?

What happened to the two houses when the flood came?

The second man's house was washed away, I wonder what

Jesus is trying to tell us?

Have we heard Jesus call someone The Rock?

Is Jesus trying to tell us something about where the first

man built his house?

† PRAY

Jesus, help me to listen to Your Word and then live it in my life. Amen.

DAY SEVENTEEN

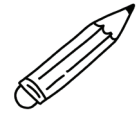


KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

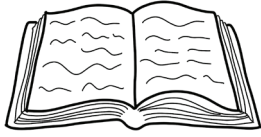
DAY SEVENTEEN



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

DAY EIGHTEEN



READ

Good Samaritan

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

LUKE 10:30-37 (NRSVCE)

DAY EIGHTEEN



WONDER

God has a great plan to help us live life in abundance. At the heart of all of God's laws is to love God and your neighbor. I wonder:

In the parable of the Good Shepherd, who was the neighbor?

What made him a neighbor?

Was it that they lived close to each other or how they came together to help each other?

The law, or commandments of God, are guidelines from God to help us enjoy the fullness of life.

Which of the people--the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan--really knew the law?

What do you think it means to know the law?

I wonder in what ways you can be a "neighbor" to the people that you meet.

† PRAY

Heavenly Father, help us to love You with all of our hearts and minds and souls and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Amen.

DAY EIGHTEEN



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY EIGHTEEN

WORD SEARCH

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

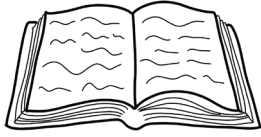
BASKET
BREAD
BUSHEL
FOUNDATION
FRIEND

GROWING
HOSPITALITY
HOUSE
HUMILITY
INVITE

LAMP
PRAYER
RIVER
ROBBERS
SAMARITAN

SCATTER
SEED
TRAVELING

DAY NINETEEN



READ

Perseverance in Prayer

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

LUKE 11:5-8 (NRSVCE)

DAY NINETEEN



WONDER

Jesus teaches us about prayer. Prayer is like a conversation that can happen when we have a relationship with someone. A conversation where we can be free to ask for what we need. I wonder:

If this parable is about prayer, what we are supposed to learn from it?

Do you think these two men had a relationship already or were they strangers?

Think about a time when you have really wanted something and kept asking your parents for something.

How did your parents respond?

Did they eventually say yes?

Our Heavenly Father is ever patient with His children. We can never annoy Him. How would God respond to our asking for something over and over again?

† PRAY

Father, teach me to be patient and persistent in my prayers. Amen.

DAY NINETEEN

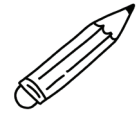


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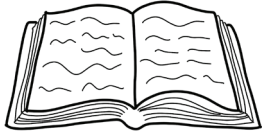
DAY NINETEEN



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

DAY TWENTY



READ

Humility and Hospitality

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

LUKE 14:7-14 (NRSVCE)

DAY TWENTY



WONDER

What does it mean to be humble?
What does it mean to be exalted?
What attitude is most important to Jesus?
Who are the lame, the crippled, the poor,
and the blind around me?
Are there other people who might be in need?
Do I see them?
What do I have to offer them?
What can I give that can't be repaid?
What is the real reward for concern
and service for others?
How does Jesus measure greatness?

† PRAY

Sometimes I want to be the most important person in the room. Thank you Jesus for gently reminding me to be humble so that I can find my happiness in You. Amen.

DAY TWENTY



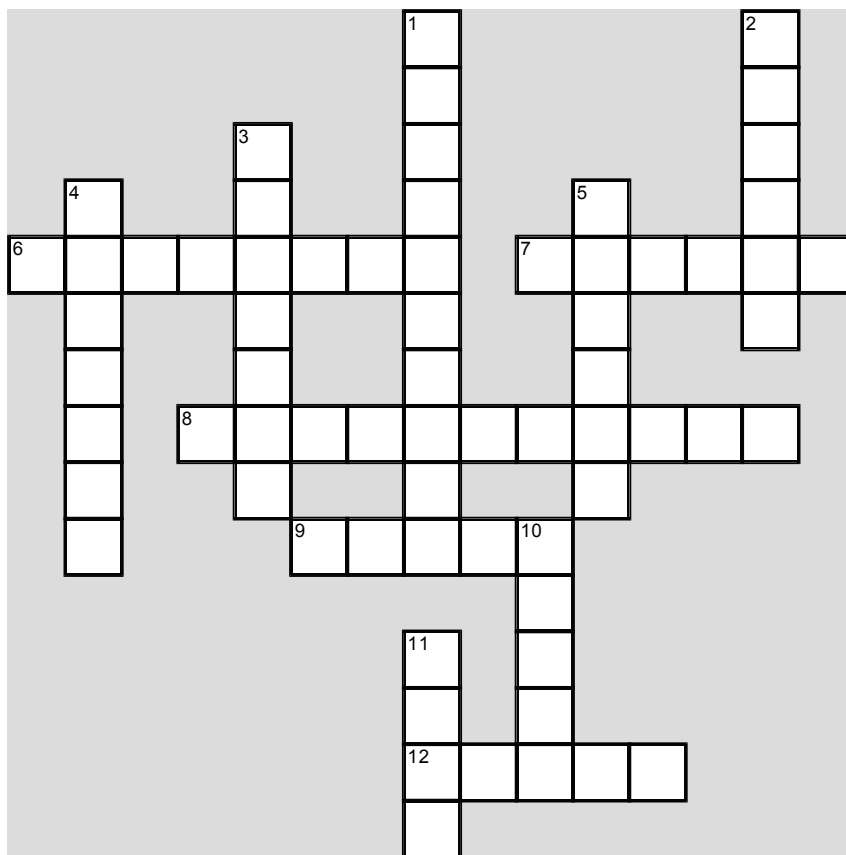
KEY WORDS

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When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY TWENTY

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



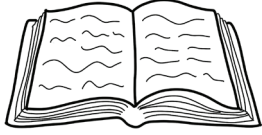
Across

- 6 HE WENT TO HIM AND _____ HIS WOUNDS
- 7 LET ANYONE WITH EARS TO HEAR _____!
- 8 BECAUSE OF HIS _____ HE WILL GET UP AND GIVE HIM WHAT HE NEEDS
- 9 WHEN YOU ARE INVITED BY SOMEONE TO A WEDDING BANQUET, DO NOT SIT DOWN AT THE PLACE OF _____
- 12 THE ONE WHO SHOWED HIM _____

Down

- 1 THAT ONE IS LIKE A MAN BUILDING A HOUSE, WHO DUG DEEPLY AND LAID THE ____ ON ROCK
- 2 FRIEND, LEND ME THREE _____ OF BREAD; FOR A FRIEND OF MINE HAS ARRIVED
- 3 THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AS IF SOMEONE WOULD ____ SEED ON THE GROUND
- 4 HE GOES IN WITH HIS SICKLE, BECAUSE THE ____ HAS COME
- 5 FRIEND MOVE UP _____; THEN YOU WILL BE HONORED IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL WHO SIT AT THE TABLE WITH YOU
- 10 THE _____ BURST AGAINST THE HOUSE BUT COULD NOT SHAKE IT

DAY TWENTY-ONE



MEMORIZE

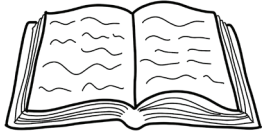
Devote yourself to prayer,
keeping alert in it with
thanksgiving.

COLOSSIANS 4:2

devote yourselves to prayer
keeping alert in it,
with thanksgiving.

COLOSSIANS 4:2

DAY TWENTY-TWO



READ

"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

LUKE 15:4-7 (NRSVCE)

DAY TWENTY-TWO



WONDER

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He loves every sheep, and will always come to find us. I wonder:

Jesus knows His sheep so well that He knows when one is missing. What will He do?

Do you think He will just say "Oh well", or will He leave immediately and go searching?

Whose joy is greater? The Shepherd or the sheep?

How did the Good Shepherd feel when He found the sheep?

How did the lost sheep feel when he saw the Good Shepherd?

† PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for being the Good Shepherd and coming to find me when I lose my way. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-TWO

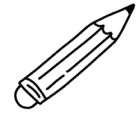


KEY WORDS

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When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

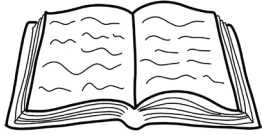
DAY TWENTY-TWO



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing the Bible passage.

DAY TWENTY - THREE



READ

The Parable of the Lost Coin

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

LUKE 15:8-10 (NRSVCE)

DAY TWENTY-THREE



WONDER

God loves and values us. When we are lost, God looks for us and rejoices when we are found. I wonder:

What did you hear? Did it remind you
of another parable that we have already heard?

What did the woman do?

What might the lamp be?

What secret does Jesus want us to know about God?
How much does God want to be in a relationship with us?

When the woman's coin was returned, there was a
celebration. How does God celebrate
with us?

† PRAY

God, thank you for never giving up on me and
promising to always look for me if I am lost,
until You find me. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-THREE



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY TWENTY-THREE

WORD SCRAMBLE

H E P S E

R H B O E R T

N C I O

D W I W O

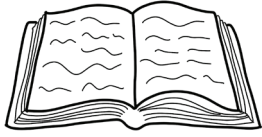
S L T O

D A R L O G P I

S E J S U

N S O

DAY TWENTY-FOUR



READ

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard

DAY TWENTY-FOUR

music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

LUKE 15:11-32 (NRSVCE)



WONDER

What does it mean when someone gets an inheritance?

The Father had a choice. What did He choose to do?

What does the son do with the money?

What did it mean to "come to your senses"?

How did the father see his son when he was still a long way off? How would he have known his son was coming?

How does the parable of the lost son remind us of the sacraments? Which ones?

† PRAY

God, sometimes I make bad choices. Thank You for being a loving Father who will always take me back when I come home to You.

Amen.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR

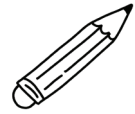


KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

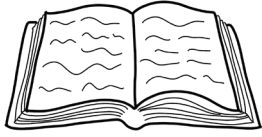
DAY TWENTY-FOUR



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE



READ

He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

LUKE 18:2-8 (NRSVCE)

DAY TWENTY-FIVE



WONDER

Jesus gives us another example of how we should be persistent in our prayers. I wonder:

There are two people in this story that Jesus is telling.

Who are they?

Back in Jesus's time, a judge might have also been a rabbi, who was like a priest. What kind of priest and judge was he if he had no fear of God?

It says the woman was a widow.

What do we know about widows?

We see in the parable that even the unjust judge eventually gives in to the widow's request. How much will God give us if we continue with our prayers?

† PRAY

God, I know that You always hear my prayers and that You will always answer them, even if it's not in the way that I want them to be answered. Thank You for loving me and wanting the best for me. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY TWENTY-FIVE

WORD SEARCH

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

WORD LIST:

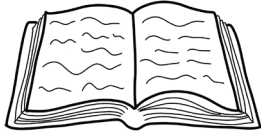
BROTHER
COIN
GOOD
JESUS
JUDGE

LOST
NEIGHBORS
PHARISEE
PRODIGAL
REJOICE

SHEEP
SHEPHERD
SON
TAX
THIEVES

TOGETHER
UNJUST
WIDOW

DAY TWENTY-SIX



READ

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

LUKE 18:10-14 (NRSVCE)

DAY TWENTY-SIX



WONDER

Today we meet two men who come to the temple to pray. Let's think about what they each teach us about how we approach God and how He responds.

Pharisees were considered respected followers of God's law. What does he think about himself? Is he humble as he approaches God? How does the parable show this?

Tax collectors were despised and considered sinners?

What does he think about himself. Is he humble as he approaches God? How does the parable show this?

Does my faith lead me to judge and and look down on others or do I see myself as the tax collector, in need of God's mercy?

Have I tried to cultivate humility in my Christian life?

What does 1 Peter 5:5 say about humility?

Who does Jesus want me to be like?

† PRAY

Today we simply pray the words of the tax collector, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." Amen.

DAY TWENTY-SIX

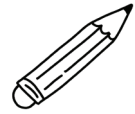


KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

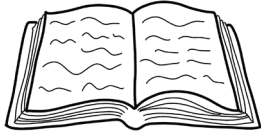
What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY TWENTY-SIX



Draw the Bible passage

DAY TWENTY - SEVEN



READ

Jesus the Good Shepherd

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them

DAY TWENTY - SEVEN

also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father." Again the Jews were divided because of these words. Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?" Others were saying, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

JOHN 10:1-21 (NRSVCE)



WONDER

Jesus tells us that He is the Good Shepherd. He loves us, cares for us, needs us and calls us by name to follow Him.

Who did we hear that Jesus said He is?

He wasn't just a shepherd, was He? He was a particular kind of shepherd; what kind of shepherd was Jesus?

We know that shepherds are people who care for their sheep out in the fields. What did you hear that the

Good Shepherd did for His sheep?

What is it like when someone leads you?

What would it be like to be a sheep in His sheepfold?

† PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for being my Good Shepherd and loving, knowing and leading me to heaven to be with You. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN



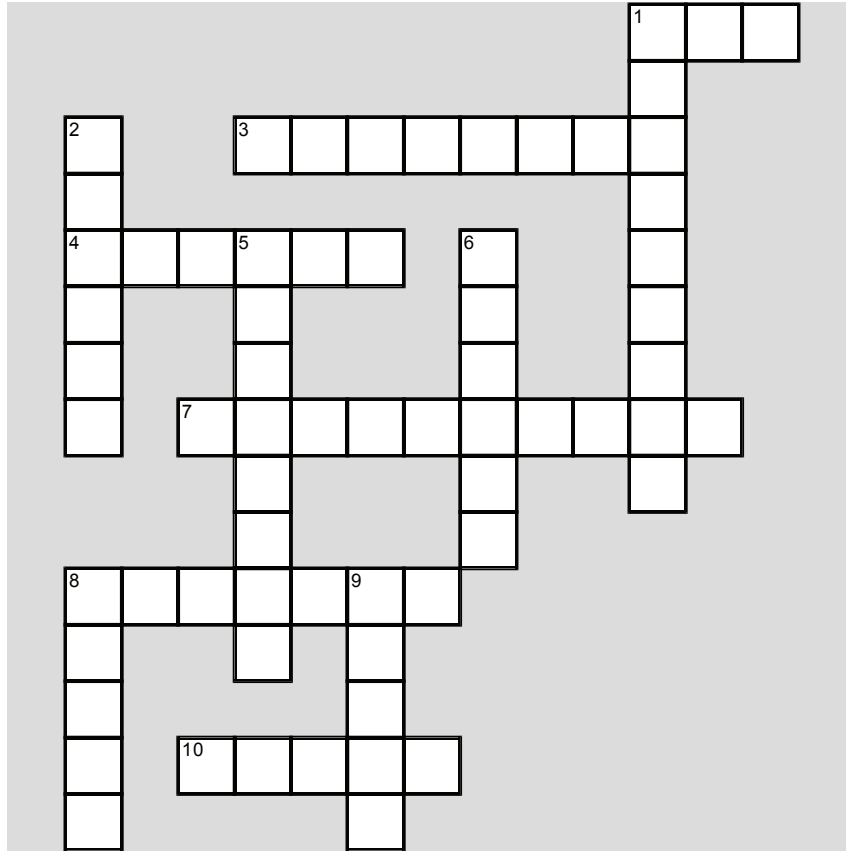
KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



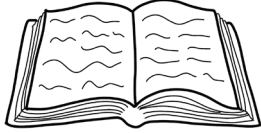
Across

- 1 I tell you, there will be more ___ in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance
- 3 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and _____
- 4 Two men went up to the _____ to pray
- 7 And when he came and _____ the house
- 8 Grant me _____ against my opponent
- 10 Rejoice with me, for I have _____ the coin that I had lost

Down

- 1 I tell you, this man went down to his home _____ rather than the other
- 2 How many of my _____'s hired hands have bread enough to share, but here I am dying of hunger!
- 5 Father, give me the share of the ___ that will belong to me
- 6 Son, you are _____ with me, and all that is mine is yours
- 8 In a certain city there was a ___ who neither feared God nor had respect for people
- 9 Or what woman having ten silver _____

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT



MEMORIZE

Now may the God of peace,
who brought back from the
dead our Lord Jesus, the
great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal
covenant, make you complete
in everything good so that
you may do his will, working
among us that which is
pleasing in his sight, through
Jesus Christ, to whom be the
glory forever and ever. Amen.

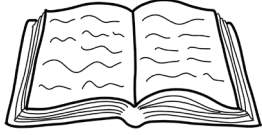
Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of
peace, who brought back
from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep
by the blood of the eternal
covenant, make you complete in
everything good so that you may
do his will, working among us that
which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory
forever and ever.

Amen.

HEBREWS 13:20-21

DAY TWENTY-NINE



READ

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

JOHN 12:24 (NRSVCE)

DAY TWENTY-NINE



WONDER

Jesus told His disciples this parable on the night before He died. Let's listen to Jesus' words and think about what He might be trying to tell us. I wonder:

What did Jesus say in this parable?

Kernel is another word for seed.

What happens to the seeds?

In what context did Jesus share this parable with His disciples?

Have you ever seen a stalk of wheat? If you haven't seen one, find a picture of a stalk of wheat. How many seeds are there on just one stalk of wheat?

So many seeds come from one tiny kernel.

How does that happen?

What does Jesus want us to know?

† PRAY

Jesus, thank you for dying for us so that we may have life with You in heaven one day. Help me to be like the kernel of wheat and live my life like You did, bringing abundant joy to all.

Amen.

DAY TWENTY-NINE

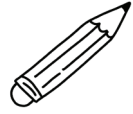


KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

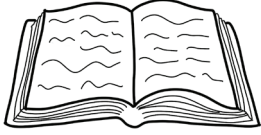
DAY TWENTY-NINE



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

DAY THIRTY



READ

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

JOHN 14:2-7 (NRSVCE)

DAY THIRTY



WONDER

Jesus shared this parable with His disciples after the Last Supper. I wonder:

What image does Jesus share with His disciples in this parable?

Why would Jesus use this image?

Do you think this image provided His disciples with a sense of comfort about what was to happen?

Again, Jesus tells us that there are many rooms in His Father's house. How many rooms do you think there are?

What they might look like?

† PRAY

Jesus, thank you for going ahead and preparing a place for me in heaven. Thank you also for sending the Holy Spirit to guide me so that I will get to be with You in heaven one day . Amen.

DAY TWENTY-NINE



KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY THIRTY

WORD SCRAMBLE

A I N G R

A E P R P E R

T A R E H

M S H A T O

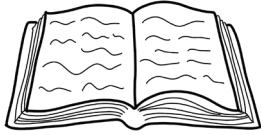
T E F A H R

I F T R U

N E I V

V E L O

DAY THIRTY-ONE



READ

Jesus the True Vine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

JOHN 15:1-9

DAY THIRTY-ONE



WONDER

On the night before He died, Jesus gave us images of the True Vine, as well as images of ourselves and who we are in relationship to Him. I wonder:

What do we know about plants?

How are vines different from trees?

Vines need to be tended, so who tends the vine?

What does He do?

To stay alive, the vine needs sap? Who is the sap?

When do you think we become branches on the vine?

What is our relationship to the other branches?

What can hurt the vine?

What can be blocking the sap from getting to the vine?

What could remove anything that blocks the sap so that the vine can bear more fruit?

† PRAY

Lord, help me to always try to live a fruitful life so that I can make You happy. When I do sin, and hurt my branch, the branches around me, and the Glory of God, help me to draw closer to You through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Amen.

DAY THIRTY-ONE

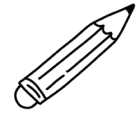


KEY WORDS

Who was in the story? What is happening?
When is it happening? Where?

What is Jesus teaching you with this story?

DAY THIRTY-ONE



Draw the Bible passage

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a Bible passage.

ANSWER KEY

WEEKS ONE & TWO

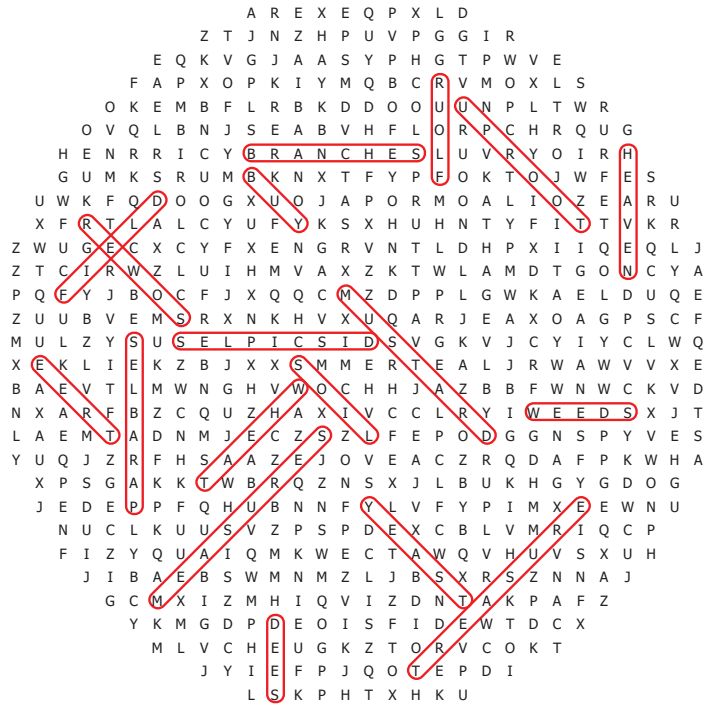
DAY 2 WORD SCRAMBLE:

SOWER FIELD
 WEEDS WHEAT
 SOIL PARABLES
 SEED YEAST

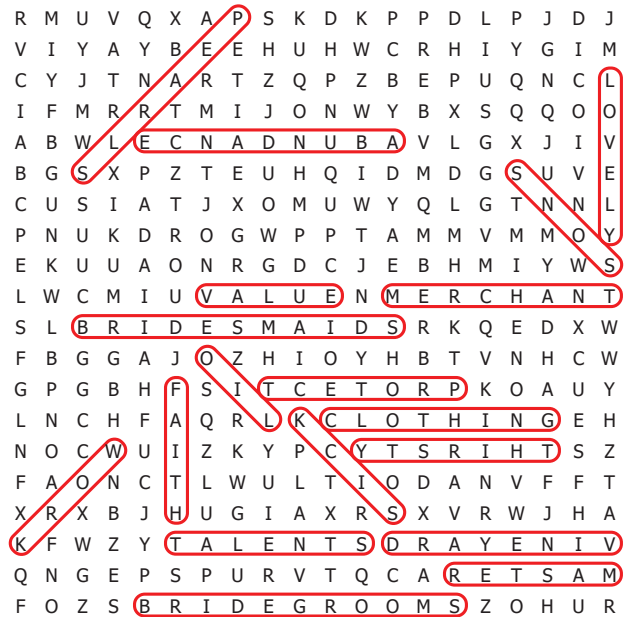
DAY 9 WORD SCRAMBLE:

MERCHANT OIL
 VINEYARD THIRSTY
 CLOTHING PROTECT
 SONS PEARLS

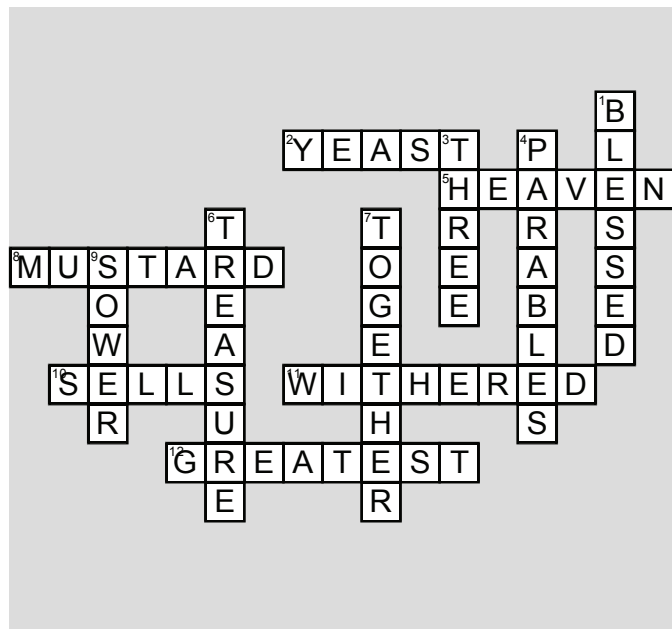
DAY 4 WORD SEARCH



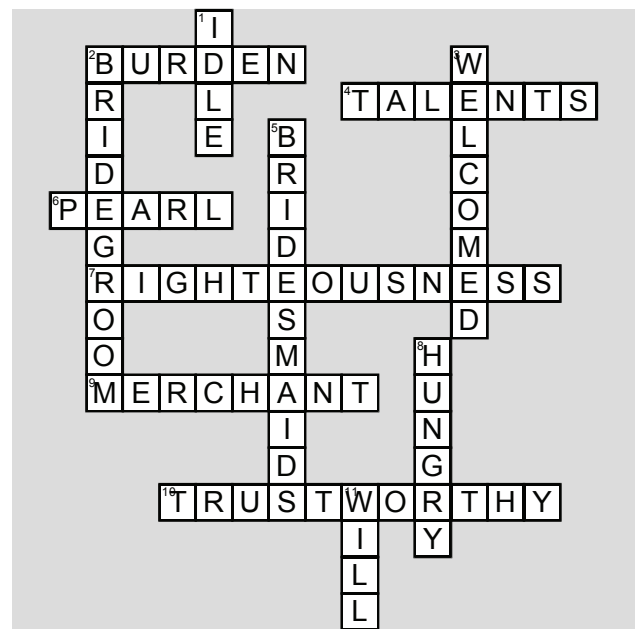
DAY 11 WORD SEARCH



DAY 6 CROSSWORD PUZZLE



DAY 13 CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ANSWER KEY

WEEKS THREE-FIVE

DAY 16 WORD SCRAMBLE:

LAMP
BASKET
BUSHEL
HOUSE
SAMARITAN
HUMILITY
FRIEND
SCATTER

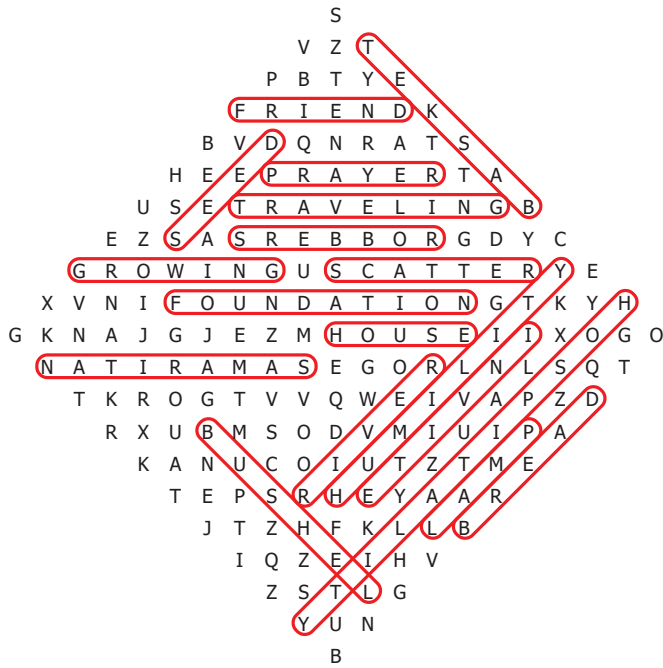
DAY 23 WORD SCRAMBLE:

SHEEP
COIN
LOST
JESUS
BROTHER
WIDOW
PRODIGAL
SON

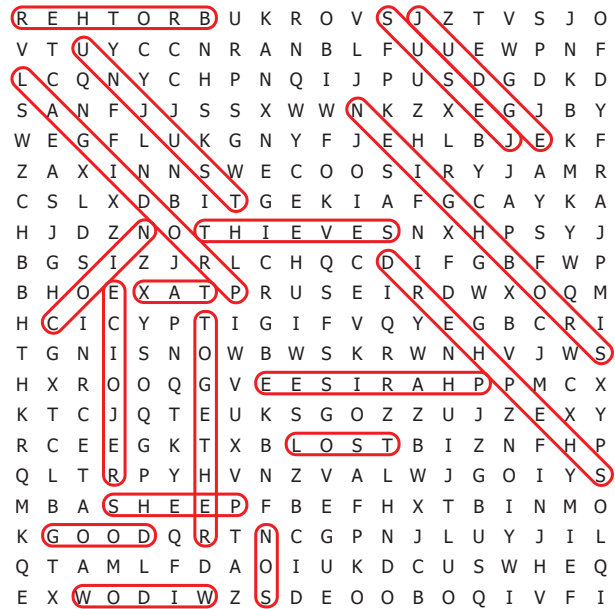
DAY 30 WORD SCRAMBLE:

GRAIN
EARTH
FATHER
VINE
PREPARE
THOMAS
FRUIT
LOVE

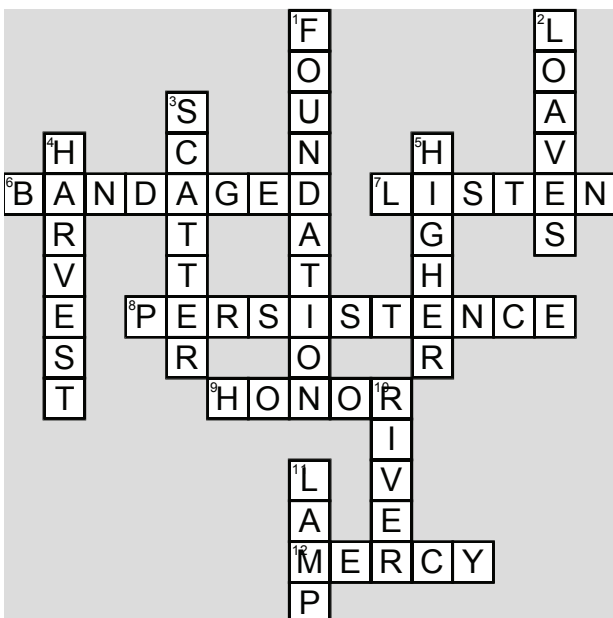
DAY 18 WORD SEARCH



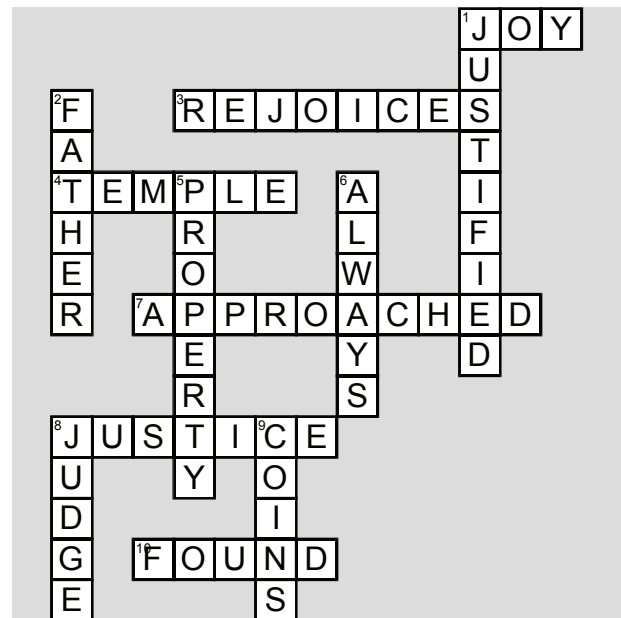
DAY 25 WORD SEARCH



DAY 20 CROSSWORD PUZZLE



DAY 27 CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Kids' Book Creative Team

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