

# Jesus Taught Parables

**V**acation

**B**ible

**S**chool



A series of lessons for **ages 2 — 6**  
**Preschool — Kindergarten**

# *Jesus Taught Parables*

A series of five lessons  
designed for

## Vacation Bible School

for

Preschool / Kindergarten  
Ages 2 – 6  
2014

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### Note to the Teacher

Included in this notebook is a five-day series of lessons for Vacation Bible School entitled, **“Jesus Taught Parables”**. It is designed to teach us how we should live our lives in this present world in order to reflect the love of God that dwells within each of us. It deals with the subjects of forgiveness, compassion, greed, jealousy, and honesty. These are only a few of about 36 parables found in the New Testament.

A parable was a lesson taught using a physical thing or situation in order to teach a spiritual truth. ‘Parable’ means “something comparable, or similar”; to lay a physical thing along side a spiritual thing in order to make a comparison. Jesus taught the people by using parables in order to teach spiritual truths. He compared physical things to spiritual things so the people would understand what He taught. He used events in every day life to teach spiritual lessons.

Jesus taught parables in many situations; by the sea shore with large crowds in attendance, including not only His followers but also Pharisees and Sadducees who sought to find error in His teachings. He taught parables in the temple before Pharisees and chief priests who sought to take His life, and in the homes of Pharisees when He went to eat with them. He also taught parables to only His disciples.

When questioned by His disciples why He taught in parables, Jesus replied, Matthew 13:11, *“Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.”* v. 13, *“Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.”* v. 16, *“But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.”*

May your eyes see and your ears hear as you study these lessons that you may present them in such a manner that the children may hear and understand these parables.

Humbly submitted,



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## Jesus Taught A Parable About Forgiveness

**Scriptures: Matthew 18:15, 21-35**

**Aim:** To teach the importance of studying parables in order to understand spiritual lessons.

**Emphasis:** Just as God forgives us of our wrongdoings toward Him, we have an obligation to forgive others who do wrong toward us.

**Weekly theme memory verse: Matthew 13:3**

*“And He spake many things unto them in parables”*

**Daily memory verse: Ephesians 4:32**

*“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another*

### Jesus commanded His disciples to forgive

To commit a sin means to do something wrong, evil, or bad. We all commit sins because we were born with a sin nature. We are not perfect, but we have a soul, or a spirit, living inside of our bodies that is eternal. It will live forever. Our bodies are not eternal. When we die our spirits are separated from our bodies. Our bodies are not needed anymore, so they are buried. When we realize what it means to be sinful, and repent of our sins and ask God to save us, our spirits that live within us are born again as children of God, so when we die our spirits leave our bodies and go to be in the presence of God.

After we are saved our bodies are not changed. We still live in sinful bodies, so we still commit sins, or do things that are wrong. When we say we are sorry for our sins and ask God to forgive us, He has promised that He will forgive us. Other people commit sins, too. Sometimes they will do bad things to us, or say bad things about us that hurt our feelings. Jesus taught the disciples to forgive others just as God had forgiven them. The word forgive means to give up any claim to paying back for an action committed against you, or give up seeking revenge for some action. We should not get angry and do bad things in return. If they say they are sorry we should forgive them for the wrong things they did and continue to be their friend. This is what God has commanded us to do.

*Matthew 18:15, “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”*

Jesus said if your ‘brother’, meaning friend, does something to hurt you or cause you to be unhappy, you are supposed to go tell the person that they hurt your feelings. If the person apologizes, you should forgive them and then you will be friends again. This is what Jesus commanded us to do.

### **Peter questioned Jesus about forgiveness**

Matthew 18:21, *“Then came Peter to Him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?”*

Peter wanted to be sure he understood what Jesus meant about forgiving others. He asked Jesus how many times he should forgive the same person for doing something wrong. If someone says mean things about you, and you forgive them, and they do it again, should you forgive them again?

Peter asked Jesus, “If my brother does me wrong and I forgive him, and he does it again, and I forgive him again, and he does it again, how many times should I keep on forgiving him? Should I forgive him as many as seven times?” Jesus said, no, he was not obligated to forgive him seven times.

Matthew 18:22, *“Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.”*

Seventy times seven is four hundred and ninety times. If the same person did something wrong toward Peter, he should not stop forgiving him after seven times; but seventy times seven times — four hundred and ninety times. Now this does not mean that Peter should keep count and forgive him four hundred and ninety times. Jesus meant as many times as the person repented for his actions and asked for Peter’s forgiveness, Peter should forgive him; an endless number of times.

Usually if someone does something to us once and says, “I’m sorry,” we are willing to forgive them. But if they do it again, we may not be as willing to forgive. Peter wanted to know how many times he should keep on forgiving the same person for doing wrong. This same lesson applies to us. We should forgive others of anything they do wrong toward us as long as they are sorry and ask for our forgiveness.

### **What is a parable?**

A parable was a lesson taught using something we are familiar with in every day life to teach a spiritual truth. The word ‘parable’ means “something comparable, or similar”. Jesus compared physical things to spiritual things so the people would understand what He taught. He used things that happen in every day life to teach spiritual lessons.

### **Jesus taught the parable of an unforgiving servant**

As soon as Jesus explained about forgiving others, He began immediately to teach them a parable, Matthew 18:23-35. He said, *“Therefore”*, or in regard to the subject of forgiveness, *“is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account*

*of his servants.*” A very rich man would own a lot of land and be king, or ruler, over the land that he owned. In order to farm the land and make more money, he had to have people to work for him. They were not just employees, they were servants. He owned the servants who worked for him. He could buy them, and he could sell them. They were his property.

One of the servants in this parable need extra money. He borrowed from his owner, the king, to be paid back at a certain time. The king checked his records and found that his servants owed him ten thousand talents. At this time in Palestine one talent was worth about \$560.00. This man owed 10,000 talents, or about five and one half million dollars. This was a lot of money; so much money the servant could never be able to pay it back if he gave him all he earned for the rest of his life.

The servant did not have this much money. It was impossible for him to live long enough to pay back all he owed if he paid the king all that he earned, and all that his wife earned, and all that his children earned for the rest of their lives. The king called him in and asked for his money. The servant could not pay. So, since the king owned him, he commanded that he be sold, and his wife be sold, and his children be sold to someone else. Then all of his possessions were to be sold and the king would get the money. This meant the servant would be separated from his family. He would be sold to one owner, and his wife and each of his children would be sold to someone else.

The servant was very sad. He fell down with his face to the floor before the king and begged him not to sell him and his family. He said, “Please be patient with me. Give me a little time and I will pay you all that I owe.” The lord of the servant felt sorry for him and knew he could never pay, so he let him go. He forgave him the debt. He said, “I will forgive your debt. I will mark it off the books. It will be as if you never owed it. You may go. You are free. You don’t owe me any money. It’s all paid.” The servant was happy that he did not have to pay back the debt. He would not be sold. His family would not be sold. He would not lose of all his possessions. He was free of the debt. He did not owe any money to his owner.

### **How he repaid the kindness**

The same servant went out and found another fellow servant who owed him a hundred pence. A pence was a coin worth about fifteen cents, as much as he would earn if he worked one whole day. This was just a small amount of money compared to what he had owed the king. One hundred pence would be about \$15.00 that the man’s friend had borrowed. He did not have the money to pay him. It would take him about four months earn that much money. The man took his fellow servant by the throat, choking him, and said, “I want my money. Pay me the money that you owe me.” He fell down at his feet and begged him, “Please have patience with me. I will pay you all that I owe you. Just give me a little time.” What should the servant have done? Should he not have said, “The king forgave me a very large debt that I could not pay, so I will forgive you of your small debt”? This is not what he said. He would not give him anymore time to pay. He said, “If you cannot pay me I will have you thrown into

prison for not paying your debts.” The second servant could not pay, so the first servant had him thrown into debtor’s prison until he could pay the debt. The only way he could get out of prison was to pay the money he owed.

The king owned many servants, and when they saw what the man had done, they went to the king and told him what had happened. The king called the man in and said, “You are a wicked servant. I forgave you all of your debt to me because you didn’t have any money, and I felt sorry for you. Should you not have felt sorry for your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?” He owed the king a very large debt, and the other servant only owed him a small debt. The king forgave him a large amount, but he would not forgive a much smaller amount in return. His master was very angry. He had him thrown into prison where he would be punished, and made to stay until he could pay back all of the 10,000 talents that he owed.

### **God’s forgiveness**

Matthew 18:35, Jesus told His disciples, *“So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.”*

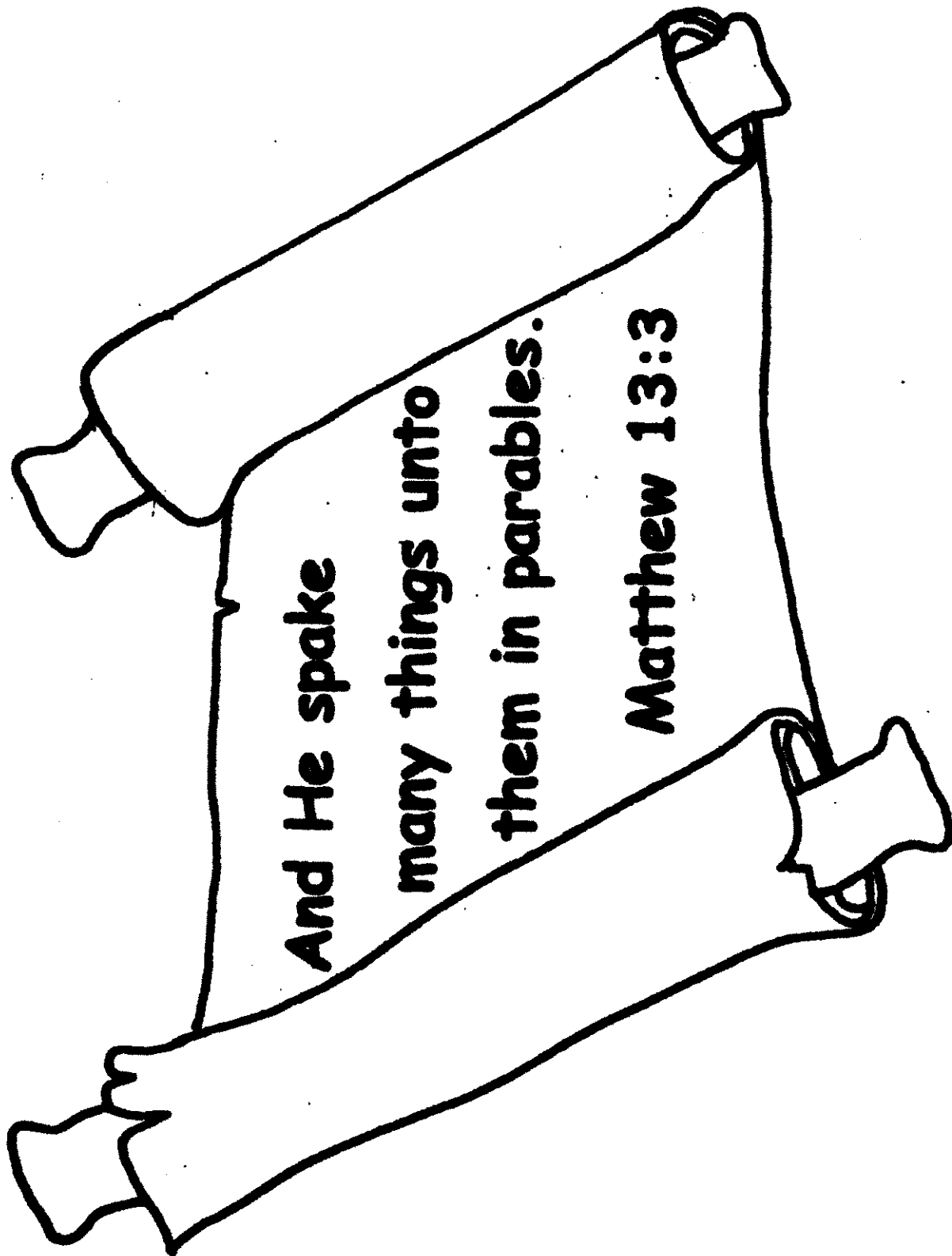
The king punished the man for not paying his debt because he would not forgive the debt someone else owed him. He wanted his debt forgiven but he would not do the same for someone else. Even though we are children of God we still live in our fleshly bodies with a sinful nature. We have all sinned against God and He has promised to forgive us if we ask Him, but we cannot expect God to forgive us if we do not forgive others who sin against us. When someone does something bad, or hurts us, and says they are sorry, Jesus commands us to forgive them. The king forgave him of so much, he should have been willing to forgive his friend such a little. God has forgiven us so much, we should be willing to forgive such a little that others may do to us.

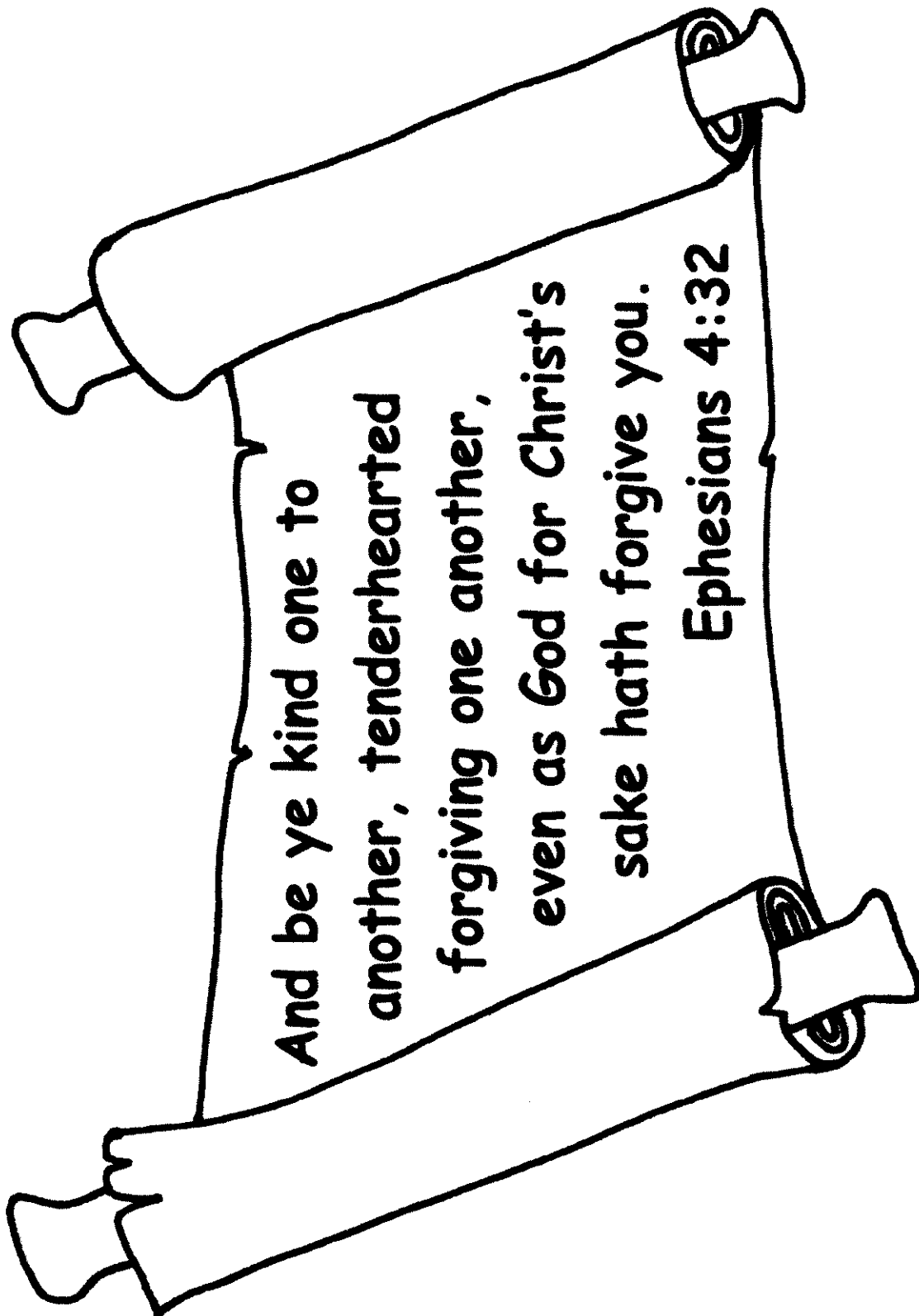
Matthew 6:14-15, *“If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

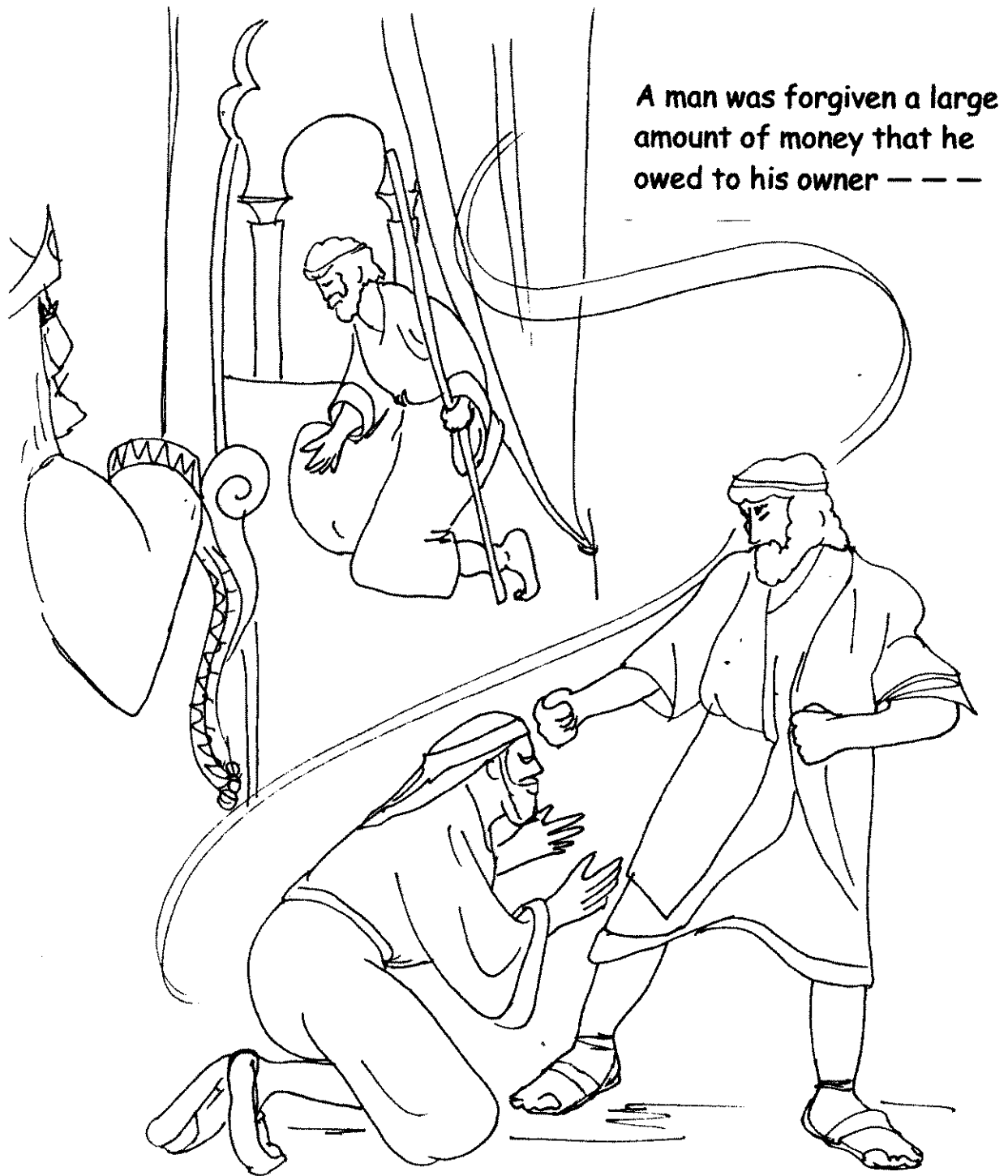
Luke 6:37, *“Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.”*

There is another story in the Bible about a sinful woman came to the home of Simon, the Pharisee, where Jesus had gone to eat. She washed His feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, and anointed them with very expensive ointment that she brought for that purpose. Jesus said the reason she loved Him so much was because He had forgiven so much that she had done wrong. The servant in the parable should have been so thankful for being forgiven so much that he would have been willing to forgive so little.





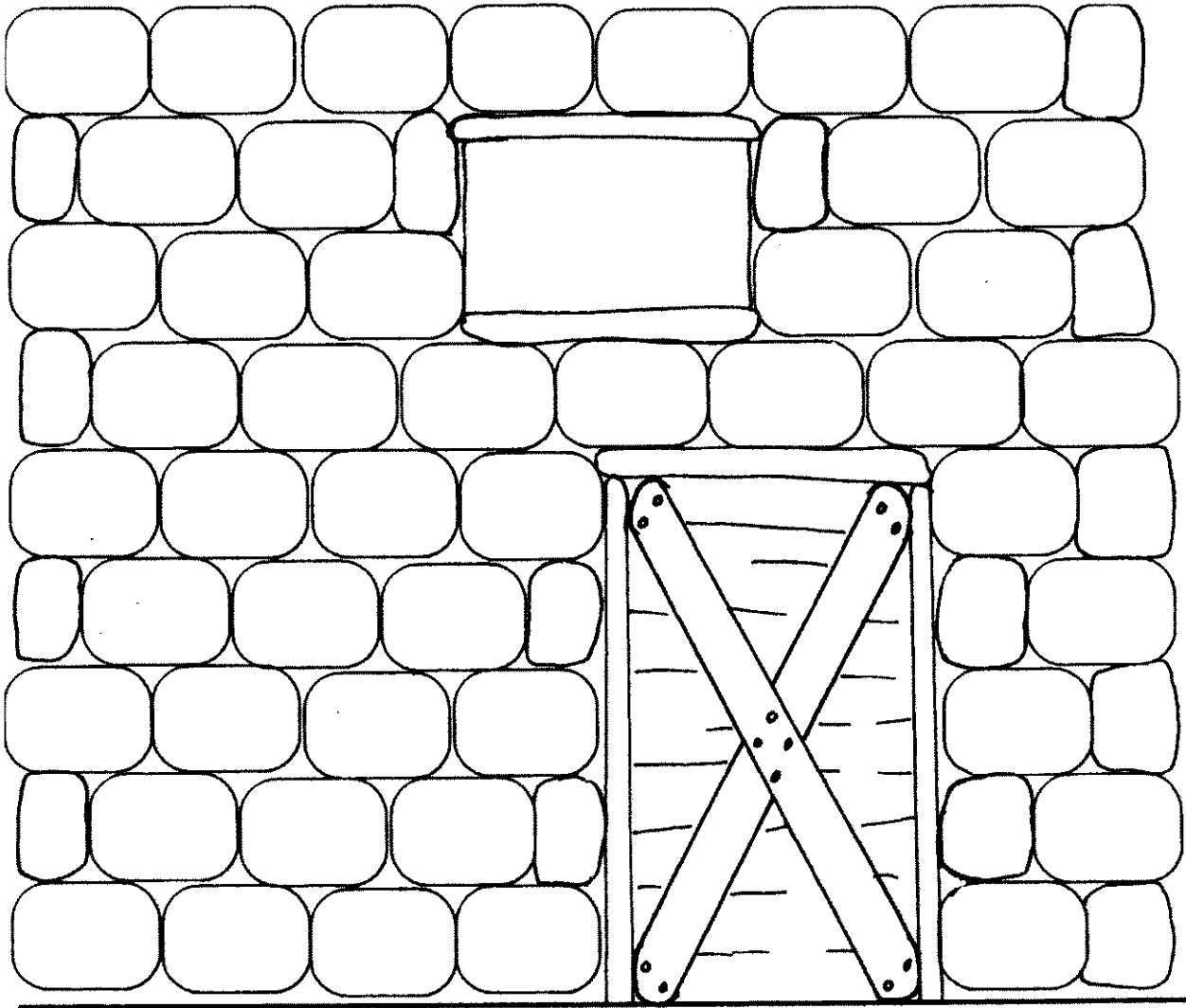


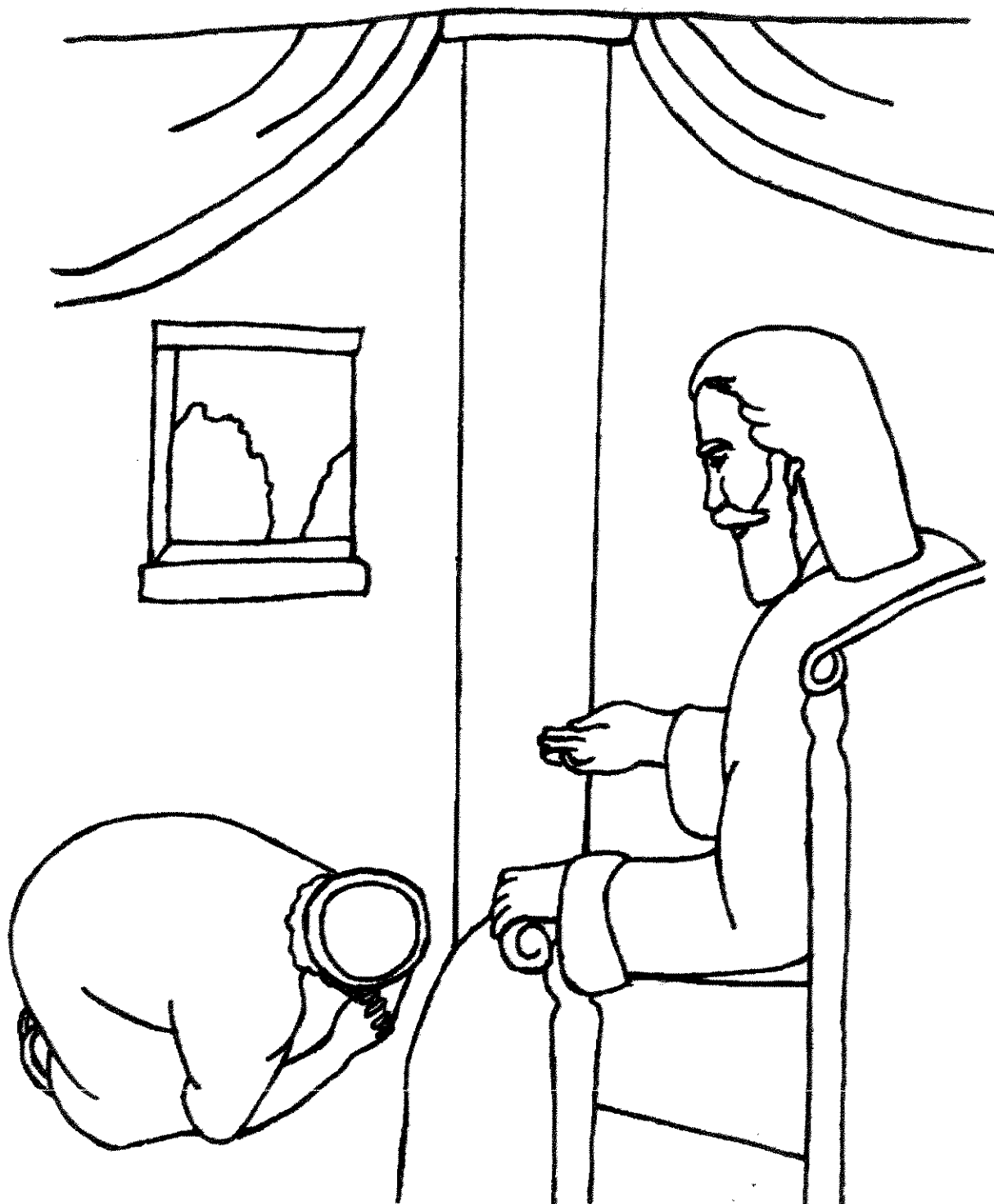


A man was forgiven a large amount of money that he owed to his owner — — —

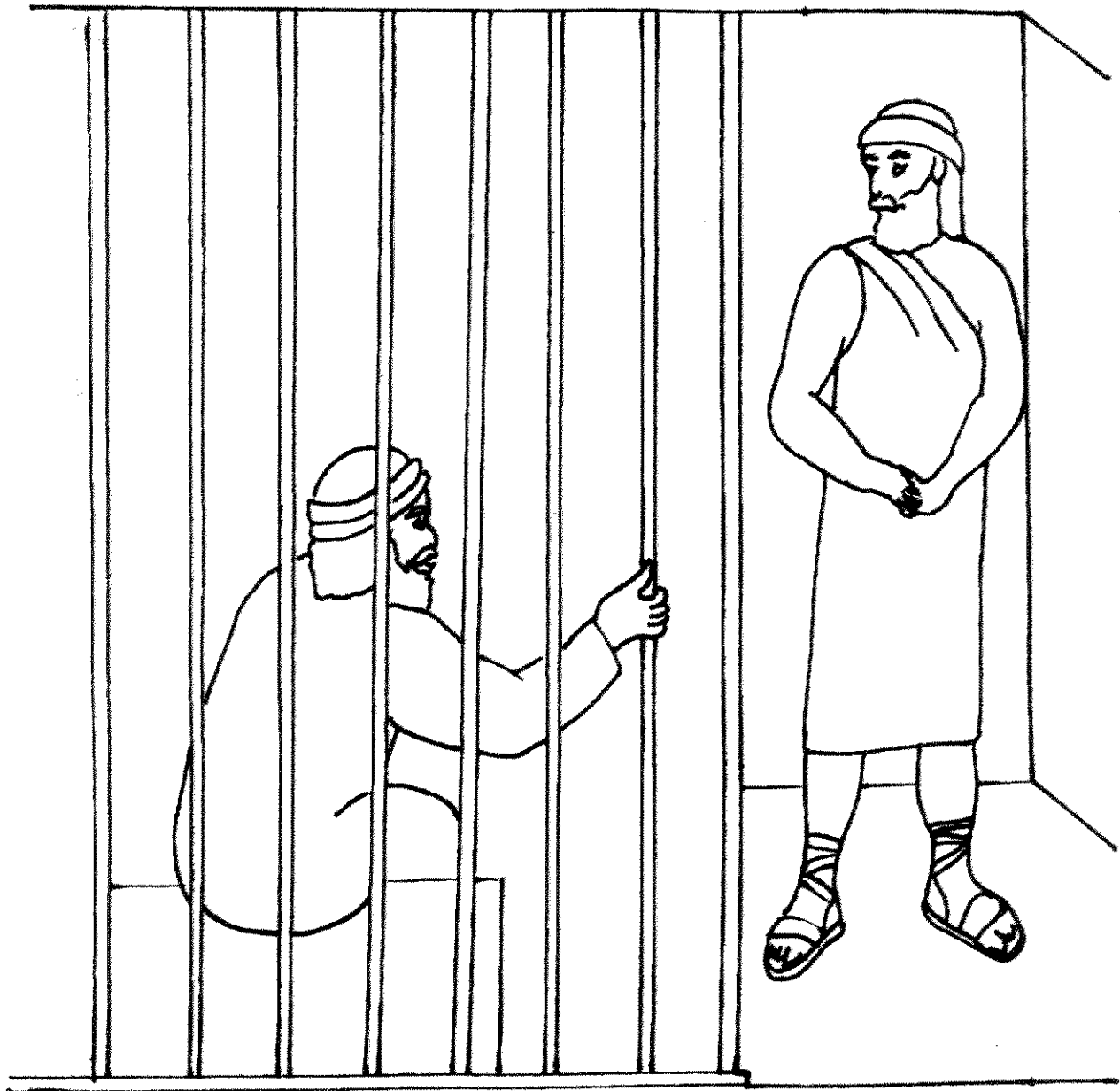
then he demanded another man be put in prison until he could pay a very small amount that he owed him.

Draw a picture of the servant in prison, or cut a small piece of material for a mat and make a man from chenille wire. Paste the man on the mat on the prison floor. Draw bars on the window or cut pieces of toothpicks and paste on for bars.





A servant owed his master 10,000 talents - - - a large debt. Because he could not pay, he begged his master to forgive him, and his master forgave him all of the debt.



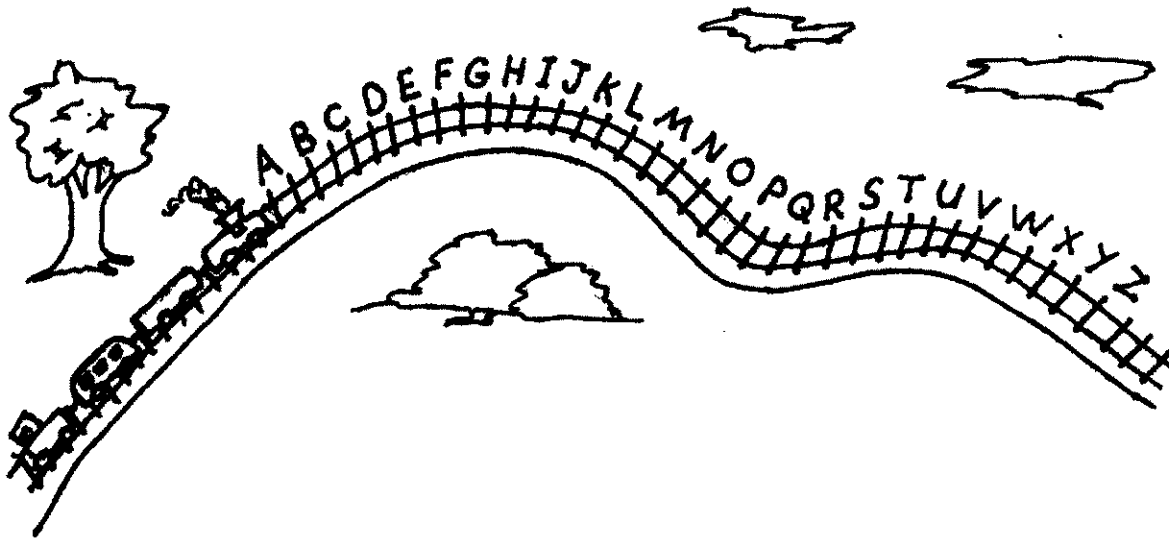
The same servant had his friend put in prison until he could pay a very small debt, 100 pence. Because he would not forgive the small debt, his master had him put in prison until he could pay the 10,000 talents.

## Kindergarten Worksheet 1

FOLLOW THE ALPHABET

Find the letter and add or subtract the number of letters to find the answer.

Example:  $A + 2 = C$      $J - 1 = I$      $S + 1 = T$



E+1   P-1   T-2   E+2   H+1   W-1   C+2

\_\_\_\_\_

U-1   C-2   N-2   D+1   M+1   R+2   T-1

\_\_\_\_\_

Q+2   D+1   T-2   W-1   C-2   P-2   R+2

\_\_\_\_\_

**WORD SEARCH**

Find the following words in the puzzle:

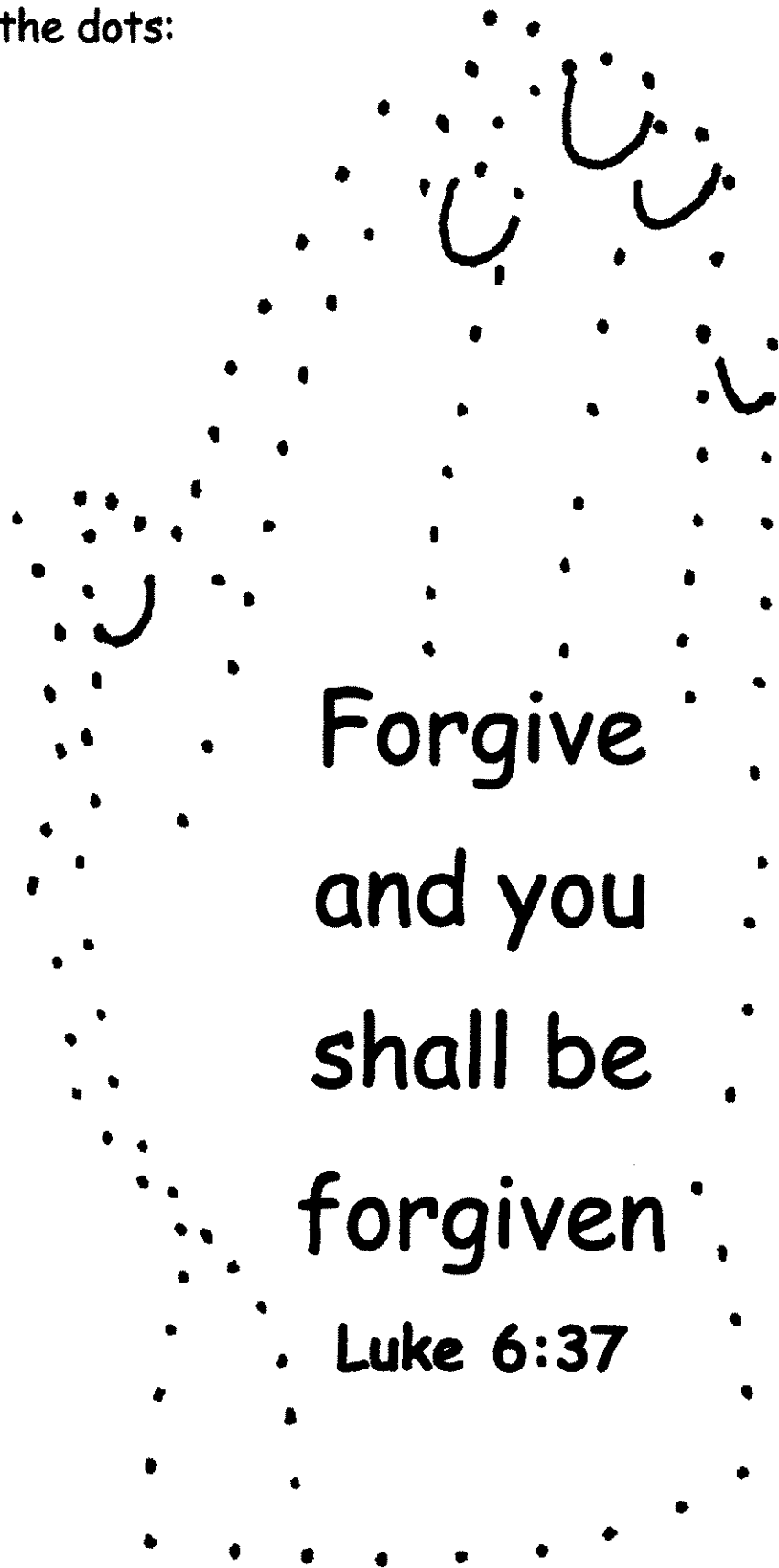
<b>FORGIVE</b>	S	I	N	S	F	X	Y	Z
<b>JESUS</b>	E	X	Y	Z	O	X	Y	Z
<b>KING</b>	R	X	Y	Z	R	X	Y	J
<b>SERVANT</b>	V	K	I	N	G	Z	X	E
<b>SINS</b>	A	Y	Z	X	I	Y	Z	S
<b>TALENTS</b>	T	T	A	L	E	N	T	S

Fill in the missing words





Connect the dots:



Kindergarten Worksheet 1  
Answer page

FOLLOW THE ALPHABET

E+1 P-1 T-2 E+2 H+1 W-1 C+2

F O R G I V E

U-1 C-2 N-2 D+1 M+1 R+2 T-1

T A L E N T S

Kindergarten Worksheet 2  
Answer Page

Q+2 D+1 T-2 W-1 C-2 P-2 R+2

S E R V A N T

WORD SEARCH

Find the following words in the puzzle:

FORGIVE	S	I	N	S	F	X	Y	Z
JESUS	E	X	Y	Z	O	X	Y	Z
KING	R	X	Y	Z	R	X	Y	J
SERVANT	V	K	I	N	G	Z	X	E
SINS	A	Y	Z	X	I	Y	Z	S
TALENTS	T	T	A	L	E	N	T	S

Fill in the missing words



## Jesus Taught A Parable About Being Helpful

**Scriptures:** Luke 10:25-37    Matthew 22:34-40    Matthew 19:19    Mark 12:31

**Aim:** Stress the importance of the scripture: "Love thy neighbor as thyself".

**Emphasis:** Jesus emphasized that our neighbor is not just the person who lives nearby, but anyone who needs our help is our neighbor. If we have the ability to do so, we have the obligation to help those who need our help.

**Kindergarten Daily memory verse: Luke 10:27**

*"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."*

**Toddler Daily memory verse: Matthew 22:39**

*"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."*

### Scribes and Pharisees

At the time that Jesus lived on the earth, the leaders of the Jewish people were the scribes and the Pharisees. The scribes were the lawyers. They spent their time copying the laws that God gave to Moses, and they also copied the writings of the prophets. They studied the laws so they could teach the people what the laws meant. The law of Moses contained the religious laws. These told the people how they were to worship God by offering sacrifices and burning incense for different reasons and on certain days. It also contained the civil laws; these were the laws about doing bad things such as killing, stealing, telling lies, and how to punish a person when they did something to hurt someone else. Then there were the dietary laws; laws telling the people what they should eat. The Jews were forbidden to eat certain foods because they were not healthy. All of their social laws were given by God to teach them how to act properly with other people. The health laws were to teach them how to eat the right food to keep them healthy, and how to treat sickness and diseases. The scribes were the lawyers who enforced the laws; they made the decision whether or not a person had broken a law, and how he should be punished for the crime he committed.

The Pharisees were the religious leaders who thought they were good because they kept the laws. They did not accept Jesus as the Messiah because He did not come as a king and rule over them with laws. He came as the Savior, and taught them to repent of their sins. The Pharisees tried to keep the laws, and believed this made them good in the eyes of God. They said if they did not commit murder, they were not guilty; if they were not guilty, they did not have to repent. If they did not steal, they were not guilty; if they were not guilty, they did not have to repent. They believed they were good because they washed their hands a certain way before eating, they gave a tithe (10 % of all their possessions), they prayed at certain times of the day, they helped the poor, and they did not make friends with sinners.

Jesus taught them that *“all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”* No one can be perfect by the way they act. The Jews could not be good enough by the way they acted to meet God’s requirements of perfection. The law showed them they could not keep God’s commands. The only way we can become good in the eyes of God is to have our sins forgiven by the blood of Jesus. The only way our sins can be forgiven is if we repent (are sorry for our sins) and ask for God’s forgiveness.

The scribes and Pharisees followed Jesus as He traveled from town to town, listening to what He taught. They did not want to know the truth about repentance and salvation, but they were hoping to find something that Jesus said or did that was against the law so they could accuse Him of breaking the law. The punishment for breaking the law was death. If they could condemn Him to death according to the Law of Moses, then they would be rid of His new doctrine (or teaching). The lawyers and the Pharisees did not want information from Jesus when they asked Him questions. They did it to try to trick Him into saying something wrong.

### **Jesus taught the scribes and Pharisees**

One day when Jesus was teaching His followers there were many scribes and Pharisees in the crowd. He was explaining the scriptures, and (Luke 10:25) a lawyer tempted Him by asking Him a trick question. The word tempt meant to try, or put to the test. He asked Jesus what he had to do to be saved: *“Master (or teacher), what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”* He didn’t ask Jesus ‘how’ to be saved, but he asked what ‘he had to do’, what of his own good works could he do to be saved. Jesus answered by asking him a question: (v. 26) *“What does the law say, and what do you understand it to mean?”* The man answered Him, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.”* The greatest commandment was to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Then the second in importance of the commandments was to love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus told him he had answered correctly. He said, *“If you do this, you shall live.”* Jesus did not mean if the man kept the law he would be saved. If the man loved God with all his heart, his soul, his strength, and his mind, he would trust God for everything, and this would cause him to be sorry that he did wrong and want to repent and be forgiven of his sins. If he loved God with all his heart, he would love others, and care what happened to them. *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* We love ourselves, and want good things to happen to us. We do not like to be sick, or get hurt, or need something we cannot buy, and we should love our neighbors the same way, and want what is best for them also. The man had close friends whom he loved and cared about. So, in order to justify himself before Jesus, he asked, *“And who is my neighbor?”* He wanted Jesus to say he did good by loving his friends, and loving those people close to him. So he asked Jesus just exactly who he was supposed to love.

To answer the man’s question, Jesus taught the people a parable so they would know who they should be willing to help if they were in need.

### **The setting for the parable**

The Jews who were following Jesus on this occasion were familiar with the area of Palestine. They knew exactly where the city of Jerusalem was located. It was a city high on the top of a mountain. The road leading to Jerusalem was a steep, rocky pathway going up the side of the mountain. This road led down the mountain to the city of Jericho about 17 miles away. It wound down through an area that was deserted, a wilderness with rocky bluffs and caves which made it a dangerous road. Many people traveled this road, and they were always afraid. The only time they would dare to travel this road was when they needed to go from Jericho up to Jerusalem, or from Jerusalem down to Jericho. It was well known as a hiding place for thieves who would suddenly jump out and attack and rob travelers as they walked by. Seventeen miles was a long and tiresome journey because of the rocks and the steep hill, and what made it worse was having to constantly watch for robbers.

### **The Parable Of the Good Samaritan**

The story we learn today is in the Bible, in Luke 10:30-37. It is a story, or parable, about four men: (1) a traveling man who was a Jew, (2) a priest, who was a Jew, and (3) a Levite, who was also a Jew. The Levites were the tribe of Israel from which the priests were chosen, and who served in the temple. Then there was a Samaritan. The Samaritans were a group of people who were the result of intermarriage between Jews and other nations. Anyone who was not a Jew was a Gentile. The nationality of the Samaritans was part Jew and part Gentile.

*“A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.” Luke 10:30*

One day a band of robbers was hiding in a cave by the side of the road that went down the mountainside from Jerusalem toward Jericho. There was a certain man who was traveling on this road all by himself. A long, long time ago people did not have cars to ride in. If a man did not have a donkey to ride, he had to walk everywhere he went. The man was probably hurrying because it was a dangerous area for someone traveling alone. As he walked past the opening to one of the caves the band of thieves jumped out from behind the rocks where they were hiding. They took his money, the coat that he was wearing, and everything he had of value. They beat him very, very badly, and then left him by the side of the road to die.

### **The priest**

Verse 31 tells us, *“And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.”* As the man lay by the roadside nearly dead, he heard someone coming. Maybe it was someone to help him. Sure enough, it was not more robbers, but a priest who was coming from Jerusalem, probably returning home after his time

of service at the temple. When he saw the injured man, he didn't stop to help him. He may have glanced his way, but then passed by on the other side of the road as quickly as he could, without even trying to help. Maybe he was afraid for his own safety, because he was also traveling alone, or maybe he was just in a hurry to get to where he was going. Whatever his excuse, he did not take the time to stop and help the poor injured man.

### **The Levite**

As the man lay there in pain, barely alive and discouraged that the priest had not stopped to help him, he heard more steps coming. 10:32, *"And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side."* A Levite came by. The Levites were of the tribe of Israel that helped the priests offer sacrifices and burn incense at the temple. The Levite stopped and came over to where the man lay, and looked at him, and when he saw that he was badly injured he went back across to the other side of the road and went on his way, leaving the man there alone. Even the Levite, a man dedicated to the service of God, did not help the man who had been hurt. Maybe he thought he would probably die anyway, so he need not bother to try to help him. Maybe he thought the robbers might still be around and he wanted to hurry and get out of the area before he, too, might be attacked.

### **The good Samaritan**

10:33, *"But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him."* A certain man who was a Samaritan was also traveling down this dangerous road to go to Jericho. He may have been a wealthy man because he had a donkey to ride. The Samaritans people were part Jewish. About 750 years earlier the Jews had been captured by another nation and taken away to live somewhere else. Other people were brought to live in their land in the city of Samaria. These people worshiped false gods. They intermarried with the Jews who remained, and so their descendants were only part Jewish. The Jewish ancestors of the Samaritans taught them the religion of Judaism, so they developed a way of worship that included worshiping God and obeying the law of Moses, mixed with idolatry. The Jews did not like the Samaritans and would not let them come to worship in Jerusalem, so they built their own temple on Mount Gerizim. The Samaritans worshiped the same God, and they believed God would send His Son to be the Messiah, but they were not accepted by the Jews. So the Jews hated the Samaritans, and the Samaritans hated the Jews. They would not even speak to one another.

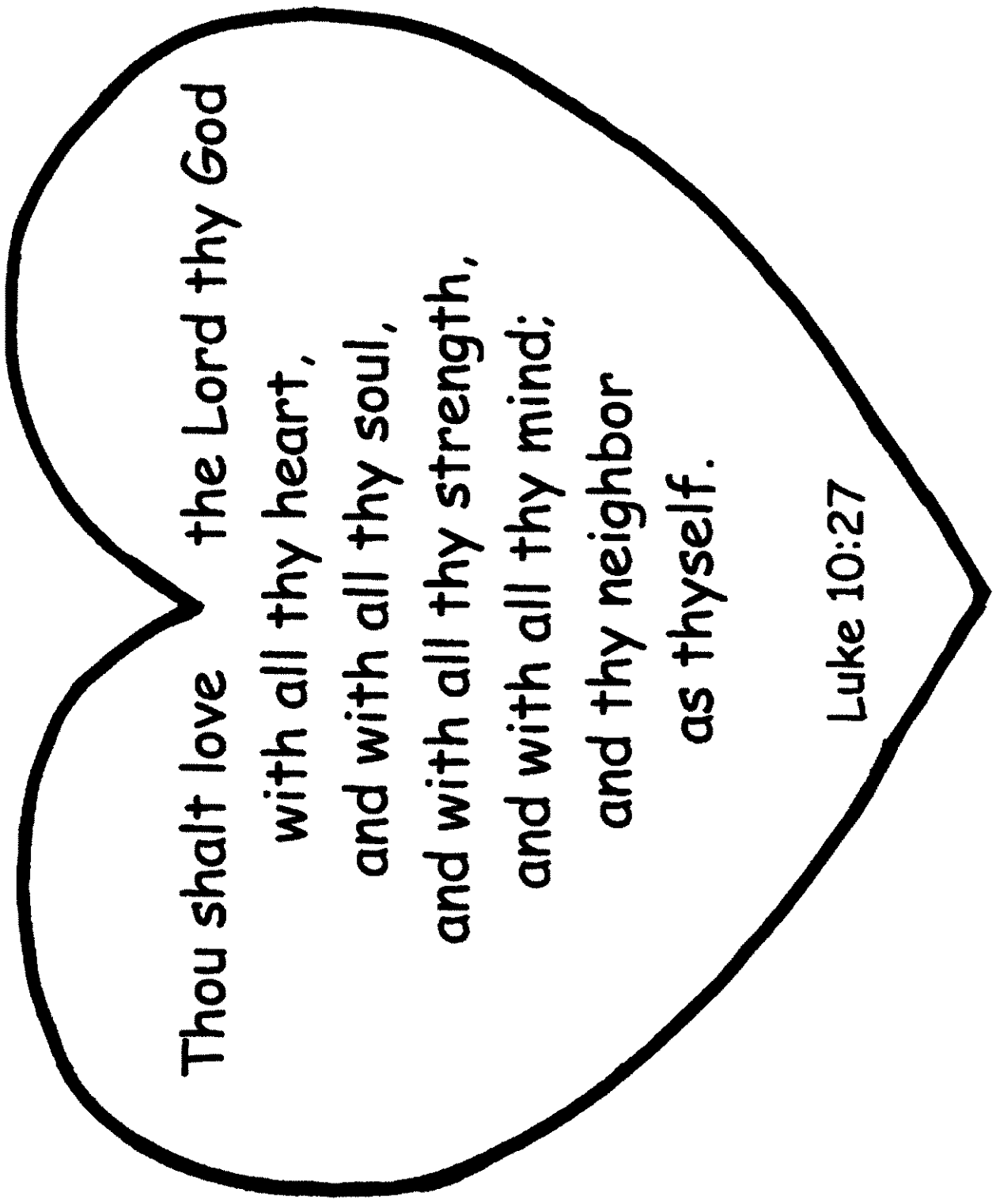
As the injured man lay there with no one to help him, he heard the sound of someone else coming. It was not footsteps he heard, but the sound of donkey hooves. When the Samaritan man on the donkey came by and saw the injured man, he stopped to see if he could help him. He knew by his appearance that he was a Jew, but he had compassion on him anyway because he was hurt and needed someone to help him. (vs. 34 & 35) It did not matter if he was Jew or Gentile, he needed help. The man took oil and wine and poured it on his wounds. This was the way they treated injuries. The alcohol in the wine cleansed the cut and

helped destroy germs that would cause infection, and the oil was soothing and helped to heal the cuts. When he had cleaned the cuts, he took strips of cloth and made bandages to wrap around the wounds. Then he set the injured man on his own donkey while he walked, and he gently led him down the hill to an inn which was by the side of the road going down to Jericho.

An inn was a place where travelers could rent a room to spend the night and get food to eat. The Samaritan stayed with the injured man and took care of him all night. The next day he had to leave to take care of his business in Jericho, so he took his own money and paid the man who owned the inn for the room where they had stayed. He also paid him some extra money and said to take care of the man until he was well, and if he spent more money than he had given him, when he came back by that way, he would pay him whatever it cost for his extra care.

After Jesus finished the parable, He asked the lawyer, "*Which of these three men do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell among thieves?*" The lawyer said the one who showed mercy on him, or the one who helped him. Jesus told him, v. 37, "*Go thou, and do likewise.*" This wealthy lawyer was supposed to take his money and spend his time helping anyone who was in need, whether they were Jews or not. The Jews thought of their neighbor as only other Jews, or their fellow countrymen. Jesus was teaching them they had a responsibility to anyone who was in need, whether they were Jews or Gentiles. Just doing things for their friends would not get them any rewards from God.

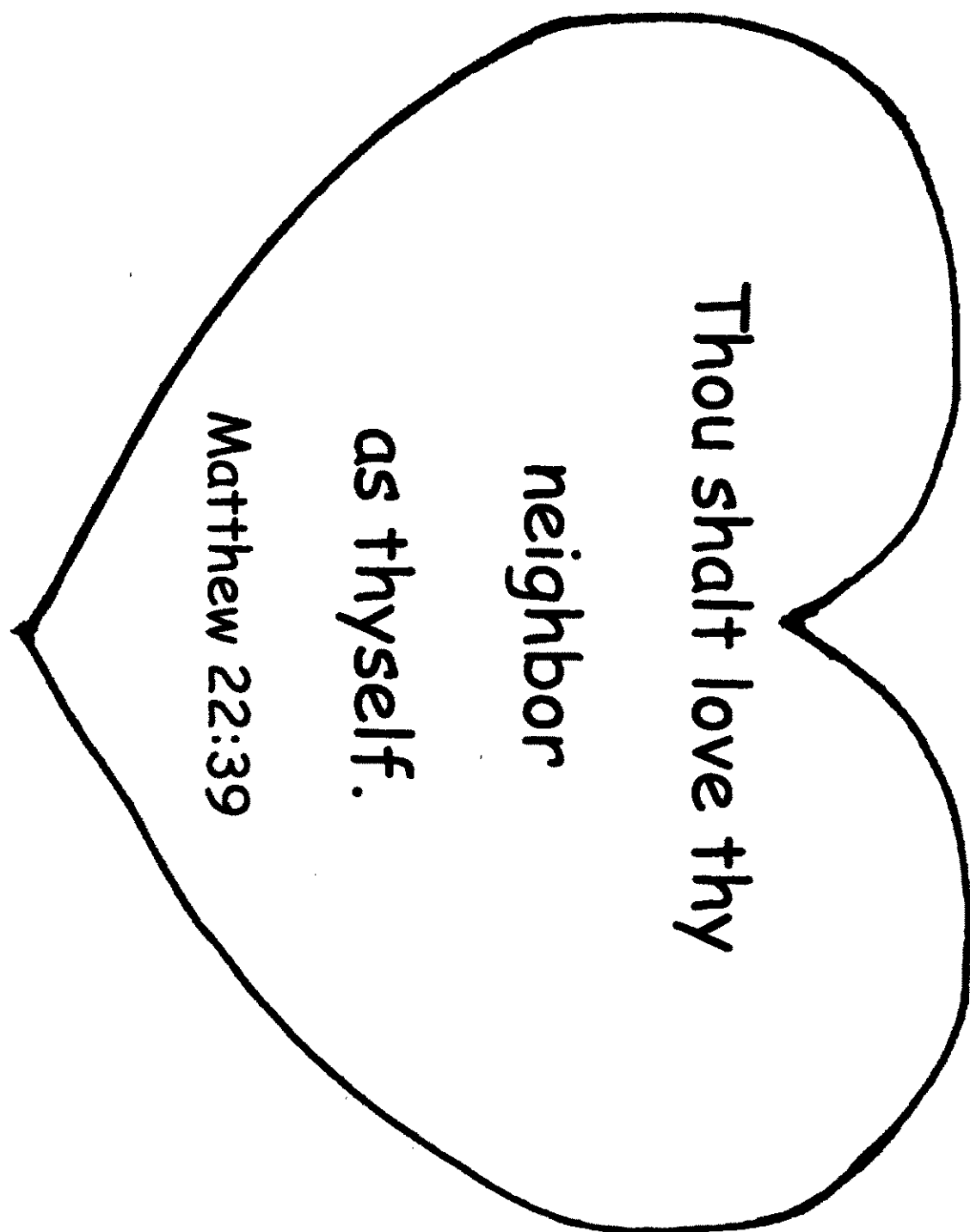
The priest did not help the man even though he was a Jew. The Levite did not help one of his own nation of people. But the Samaritan had compassion in his heart for the man because he needed somebody to help him. The Samaritan was the only one with enough of the love of God in his heart to cause him to be willing to use his time and his money to help someone who needed him and did not have anyone else to help him. If we love God with all our heart, we will love others as ourselves. We will have compassion on those who need our help. Our neighbor is not just the person who lives next door, but anyone who needs our help.



Thou shalt love the Lord thy God  
with all thy heart,  
and with all thy soul,  
and with all thy strength,  
and with all thy mind;  
and thy neighbor  
as thyself.

Luke 10:27

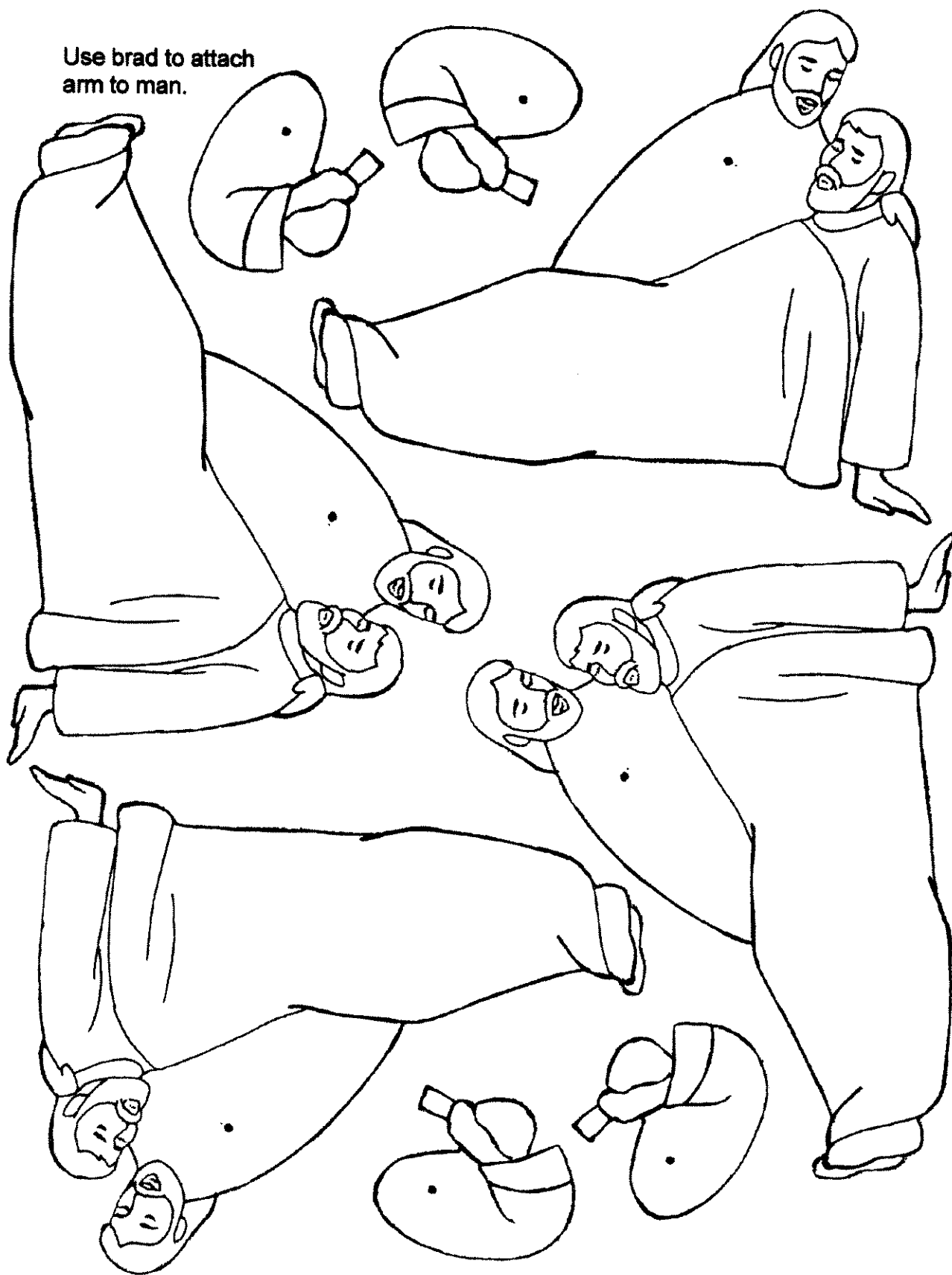


**Memory Verse Pattern Page for Toddlers**



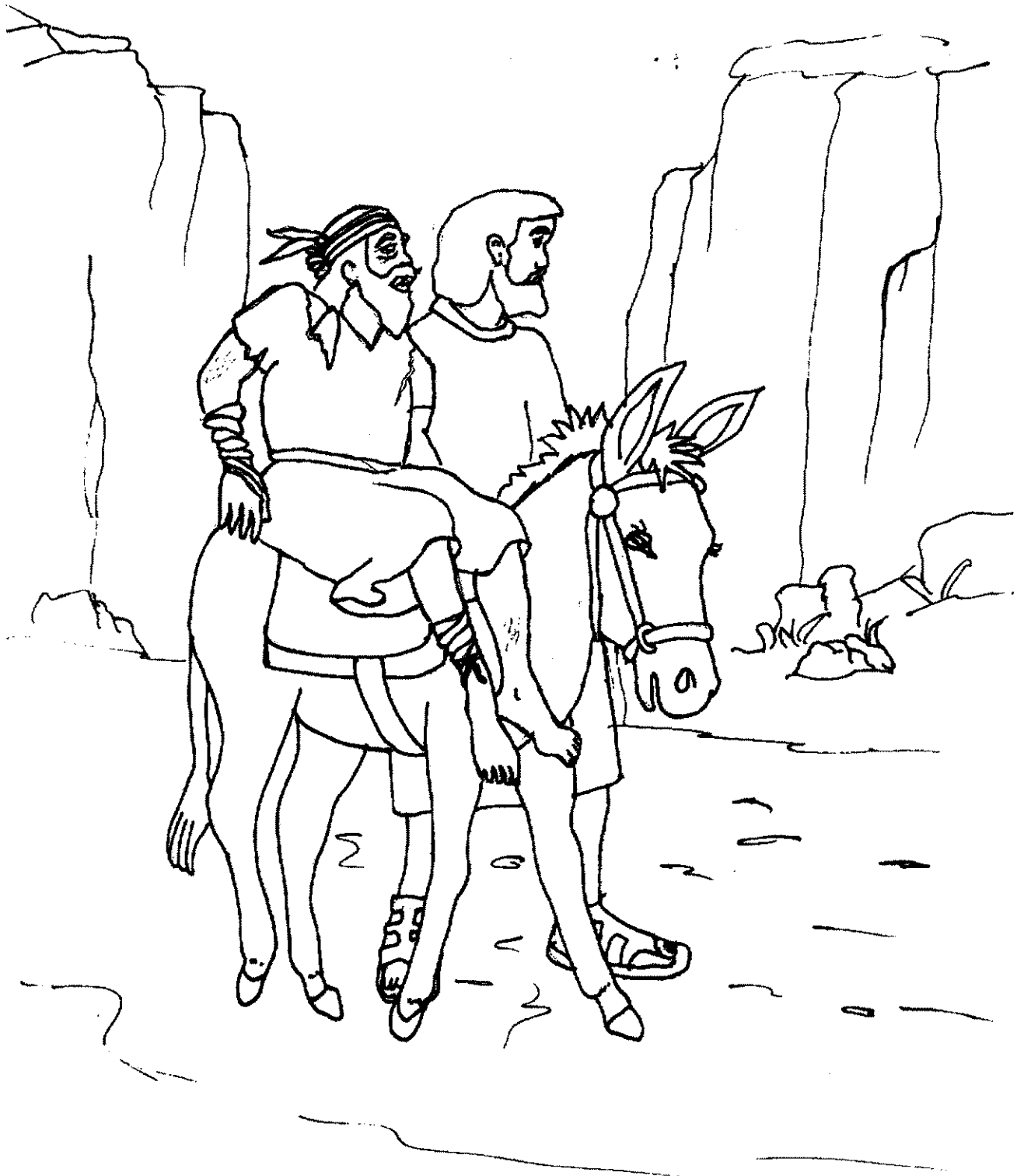
"But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine," Luke 10:33-34

Use brad to attach arm to man.

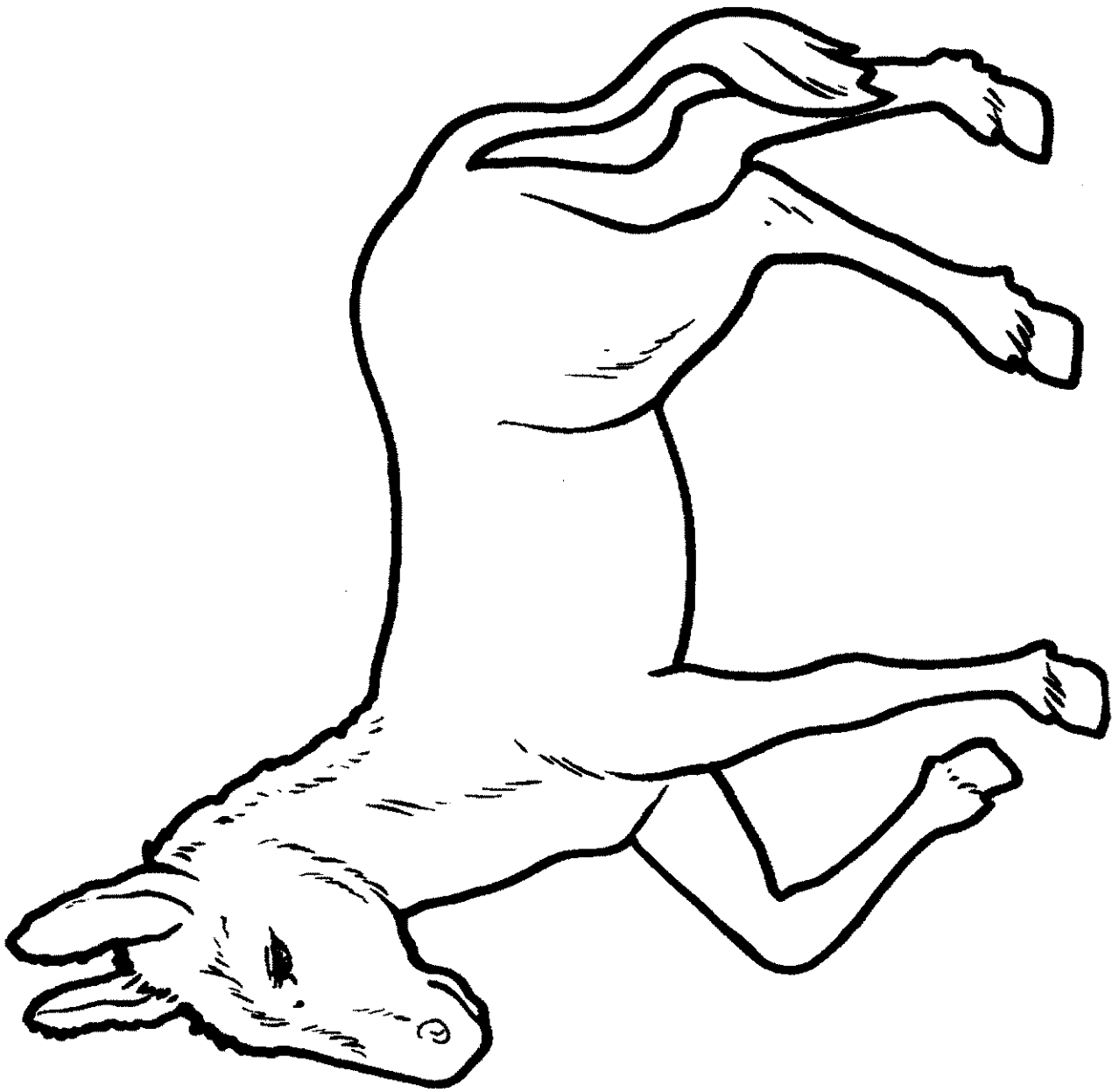




The thieves robbed the traveler, beat him severely,  
and left him by the side of the road to die  
But a good Samaritan came by and helped him.



**The Samaritan set the injured man on his donkey, and he walked beside him leading him gently down the road to the inn.**



Jerusalem

How many donkeys can you  
find walking on the road  
from Jerusalem  
to Jericho?



Find the words: **1** time **ACROSS**  
and **1** time **DOWN**

JESUS  
LEVITE

PRIEST  
SAMARITAN

X	S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N
Y	A	Y	Z	Y	Z	X	Y	Z	P
Z	M	Z	X	Z	Y	Y	Z	X	R
X	A	X	L	E	V	I	T	E	I
P	R	I	E	S	T	Z	J	Y	E
X	I	Y	V	X	Y	X	E	Z	S
Y	T	Z	I	Y	Z	Y	S	X	T
Z	A	X	T	Z	Y	Z	U	Y	Z
X	N	Y	E	X	J	E	S	U	S



## Jesus Taught A Parable About Being Greedy

### Scriptures: Luke 12:13-21

**Aim:** To teach that covetousness and greed are destructive. Share what we have with those who need it, because we will die and leave it all for someone else someday.

**Emphasis:** Stress the importance of serving God and earning rewards in heaven for our life spent here on earth. God knows what we need and He will provide the things necessary for us to live and be able to serve Him. Things we earn in this life do not benefit us after we die. What is important in our life is not how much we own, but what we do with what we have.

### Daily memory verse: Luke 12:15

*" - - a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. "*

### Jesus spoke parables

Jesus spent much of His time while He lived on the earth traveling and telling people that He was the Messiah for whom they had been waiting for hundreds of years. He went to the synagogues and read from the scrolls where the prophets had written that God would send His Son to live on the earth some day, and then told the people that He was the One the prophets wrote about. As the time drew near for Jesus to be crucified He spent more of His time teaching His disciples so that they would be prepared to carry on His work after He went back to heaven to live. Jesus taught many things in parables. A parable was a story Jesus told to teach a spiritual truth, using things the people were familiar with in their everyday lives.

One day Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and lawyers for pretending to be good, when their actions were evil. Luke 11:53-54 tells us the attitude of these men. *" - - the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge Him vehemently, and to provoke Him to speak of many things: laying wait for Him, and seeking to catch something out of His mouth, that they might accuse Him. "* When they questioned Jesus they wanted to make Him angry so He would say something they could criticize Him for. They looked for something He said that was wrong in order to have Him put to death. Jesus warned His disciples to beware of the leaven (the sinful teachings) of the Pharisees. He did not want them to believe what the Pharisees taught. The Pharisees thought that obeying the laws made them good, and they did not have to repent of any sins or be forgiven for doing anything wrong. Jesus called them hypocrites, because they said one thing and did another.

### Being Covetous

While Jesus was talking to the Pharisees, such a large crowd gathered that they actually

knocked each other down and walked over them as they pushed and shoved to get closer to see Jesus and hear what He said. One man in the crowd didn't come because he wanted to hear what Jesus taught. He came because he was greedy. He wanted Jesus to do something for him. He was covetous. The word "covet" means to want something someone else has so badly that you wish it was yours instead of theirs. One of the ten commandments given to the Jewish people, Exodus 20:17, says, "*Thou shalt not covet*".

The laws that God gave to Israel told the people how the things a man owned were to be divided among his sons when he died. When a man died, the oldest son was to receive twice as much as the others sons. The oldest son may have had more responsibility to take care of his parents until they died. This may be why he received twice as much as the others in inheritance. If a man had four sons, when he died his possessions would be divided into five portions. One portion would go to each of the four sons. The portion that was left would go to the oldest son, so that he received twice as much as the others.

In Luke 12:13, the man who came to Jesus was not happy that the law allowed his brother to receive more inheritance than he received. He wanted Jesus to make his brother give him more of the money that their father left when he died. He said to Jesus, "*Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.*" We don't know how much money or property the man received. We don't know if his brother gave him any of the inheritance, or if he just did not give him as much as the man thought he should get. Probably the inheritance was divided according to the law, and his brother, being the oldest, received twice as much as he received. He was not happy. He wanted more. He thought his brother should divide his share with him.

Even though the Jews did not accept Jesus as the Son of God, they did accept Him as a prophet, or a teacher who had some power and authority. Apparently this man thought Jesus knew something in the law that could make his brother divide the extra portion of the inheritance with him. Probably the man wanted more than his fair share. Jesus knew his heart. I Samuel 16:7, "*- - - but the Lord looketh on the heart.*" He knew the man was greedy. Jesus asked him, "*Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?*" Jesus did not come to be a judge over who should receive earthly things. He did not come to divide money among family members. Jesus knew the man's heart, and knew he coveted what belonged to his brother. A covetous heart makes a man want more for himself than anyone else has. The important thing in a man's life is not having a lot of earthly things, but it is what is in his heart. Jesus knew this man's heart. He knew he was covetous, so He began to teach the following parable.

### **The Parable of the Rich Farmer**

In order to teach the people about being covetous Jesus spoke a parable about a rich farmer, Luke 12:16-21. "*The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully.*" There was a farmer who owned a lot of land. The land had very rich and fertile soil. He would till the ground and plant the seeds. The rain would water the earth, and the sun would warm the

ground, and the seeds would sprout and grow into tall healthy plants. After a few weeks they would produce lots and lots of wheat, barley, corn, and lentils, or beans, which would be dried so they would keep for many months. Everything he planted grew and grew, and produced lots of food. The man was not rich because of something he did. He was rich because he owned land that produced abundantly. Who made the earth? Who made the land that the man owned? Who sent the rain to water the crops? Who made the sun shine on the plants to make them grow? The man did not make the soil fertile. The man did not make the rain fall or the sun shine. God did. The man enjoyed the benefits of the blessings of God. Because the land he owned produce lots of wheat and barley, and all kinds of food, the man became rich. He built barns where he stored his grain to be used for food.

Farming was very important to the people. The main crops grown were wheat and barley. Bread was the main part of their diet. They could store the grain and have it to bake bread to eat during the next year until they harvested another crop. They dried fruits, stored grape juice, gathered nuts, and made cheese from the milk from their cows and goats. These foods would all keep for a long time without spoiling. Along with fresh milk every day and meat from his herds of animals, a man could eat well using what he had stored up until the next crop was harvested. A man could do without a lot of things, but he couldn't do without food. He could do without a large house, but he couldn't do without food to eat. He could do with just enough clothes to wear to keep him warm, but he couldn't live without food to eat. Food was the most important thing a man had to consider. If he had food, he could live, whether he had a lot of money for other things or not.

The rich farmer went out to look at his crops one day, and said to himself, 12:17, "What am I going to do? I don't have any place to put all of this food that has grown in my fields. What am I going to do? My barns are not big enough to hold all of this grain. Where will I store it?" He didn't consider giving some of it to the poor people. He didn't consider giving some to those who were hungry, and didn't have food. It was his. He grew it. He worked for it. He earned it. It belonged to him, and he was going to keep it! Every bit of it! The man's barns were not big enough to hold all of the grain that he had grown, so he didn't have any place to store it. What was he going to do? Giving it away was not an option for him, and he could not bear to let it lay out on the ground or go to waste in the field. He had a problem and he had to find a solution. Then he said to himself, v. 18, "I know what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I will have a place to store all my fruits and my goods. *"And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry."*

### **The foolishness of bigger barns**

The only solution seemed to be bigger barns. The barns that were built to hold grain were possibly round, built out of clay blocks, and shaped up into a dome. They would put the grain on the ground, and fill the barns up to the top. The grain would be kept there until they needed it for food, or sold it to get money for other things. This man had decided what he

would do. He would simply tear down his small barns, and build larger ones; then he could keep all of his grain. He could retire. He would not have to work anymore. He would have enough food to last the rest of his life. He would not have any more worries. All he would have to do was take it easy, relax, enjoy life, and not have to worry about working anymore. He had it made. He could eat, drink, and have fun.

There was one thing the man did not consider: whether he would live long enough to eat all of this grain or not. He was selfish and kept more than he could possibly use. God said to the man, v. 20, *"Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided?"* He was going to die that night. God called him foolish. He was greedy, and depended on his possessions to provide for him for many years. He did not consider dying.

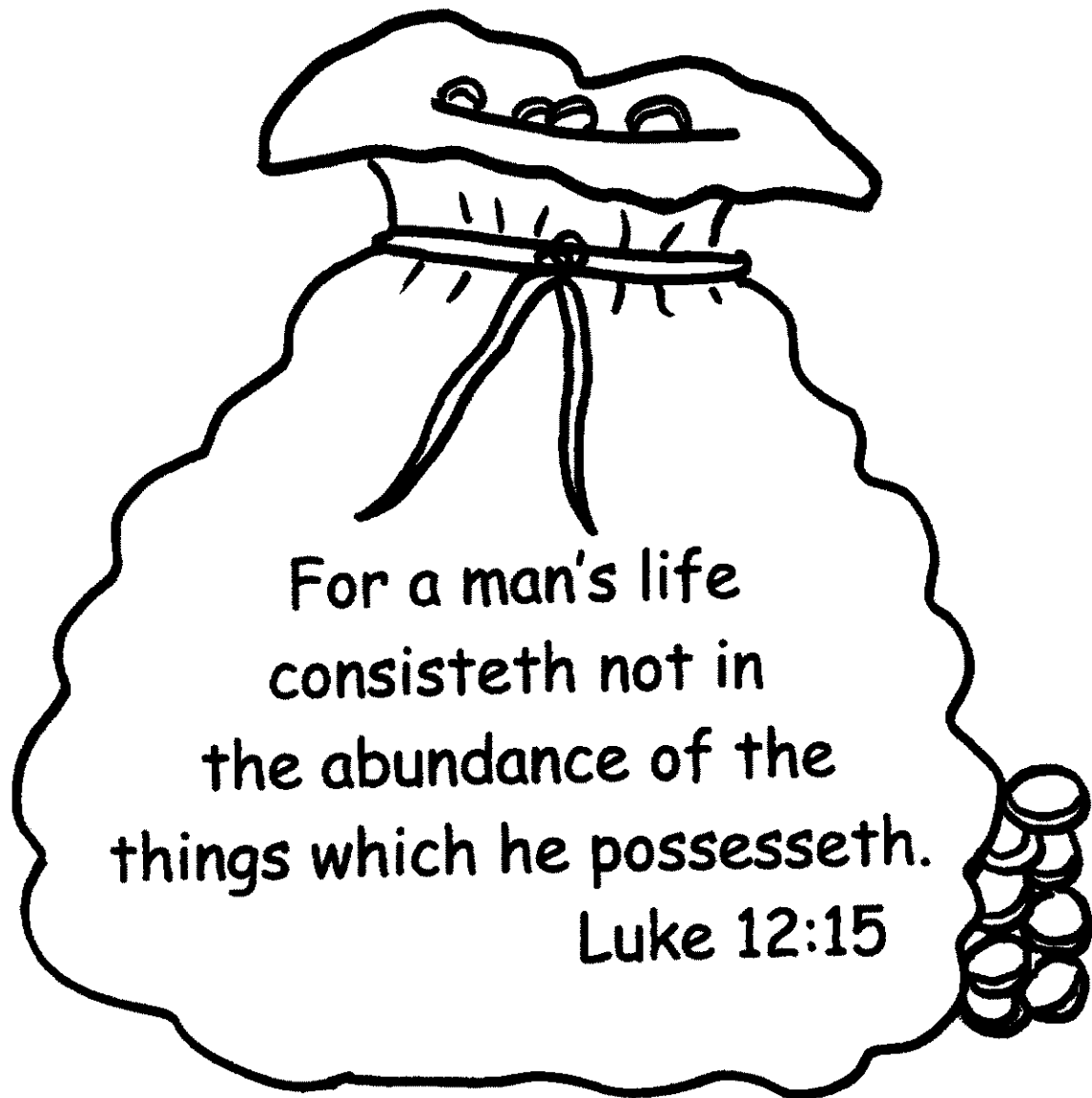
What good would his possessions do him after he died? Who would get all of his things after he was dead? He did not want anyone to have anything that he considered his while he was alive, but after he was dead someone else would get it all. Jesus finished the parable by saying, v. 21, *"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."* Jesus told the people they were like this man who thought only about treasures for himself.

After Jesus taught the parable, He said to His disciples, v. 22-23, *"Therefore, (or this is why), I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment."* There is more to life than having food to eat and clothes to wear. Jesus told them if they spent their time serving God, He knew what they needed, and He would provide what they needed.

Luke 12:29-31, *"And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and our Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

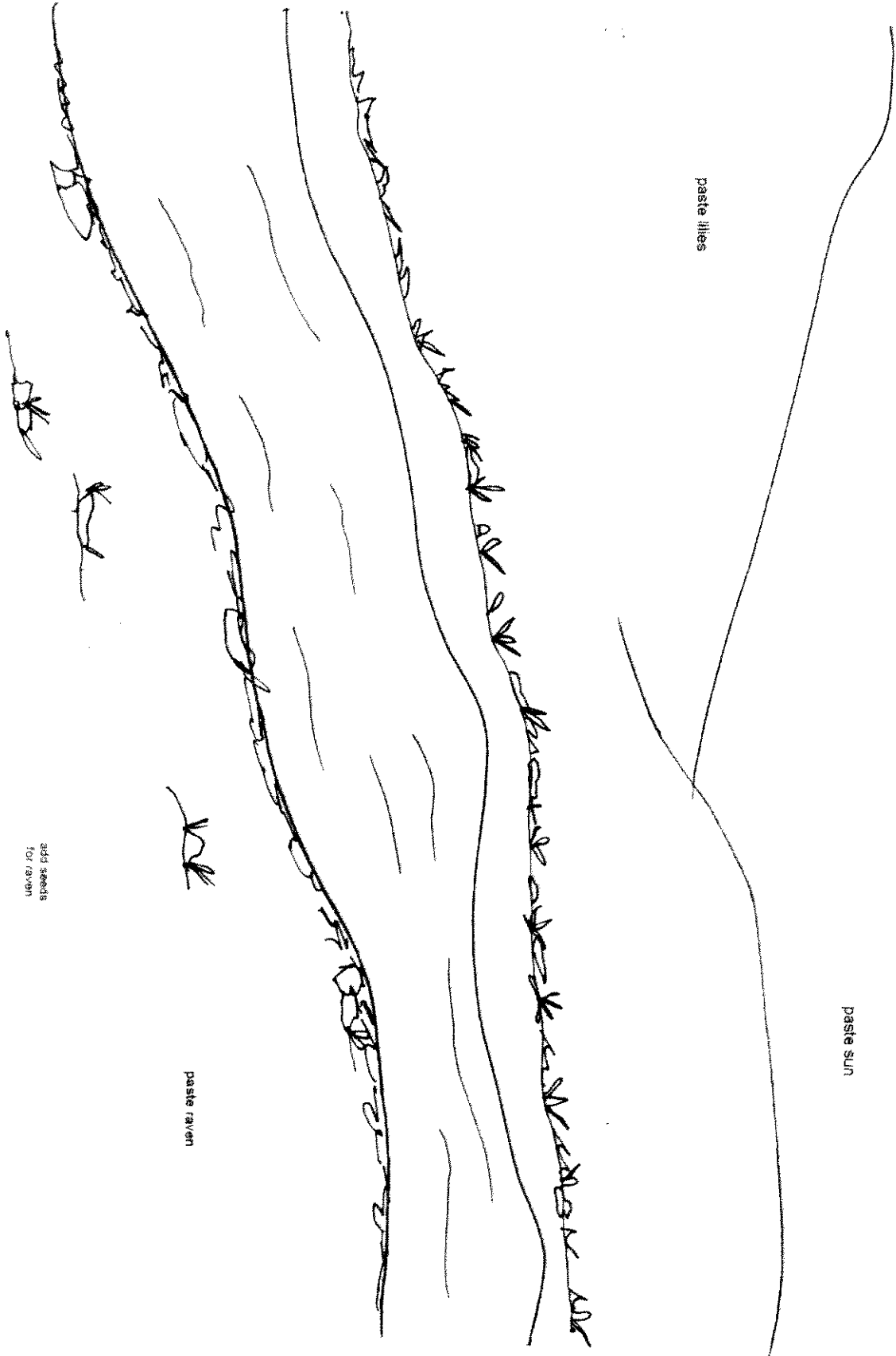
If we put more emphasis on serving God than we do making a lot of money, God will see to it that we have what we need. We can earn money and put it in woolen bags to keep it, and moths will eat holes in the bags and the money will fall out and be lost, or thieves will break into our homes and steal it. Then we have nothing. We can put away valuable items that will rust and after a while they will not be worth anything. But the good works we do are like putting treasures in heaven where moths and rust will not destroy, and thieves cannot break in and steal. When we do something good for someone, or help someone who is in need, God will bless us for what we have done, and no one can take that away from us.

Jesus warned His disciples to be careful, and not become covetous, or greedy like the farmer was. (v. 34) *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

**Memory verse pattern page**



Thou hast much goods laid up for many years;  
take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. Luke 12:19



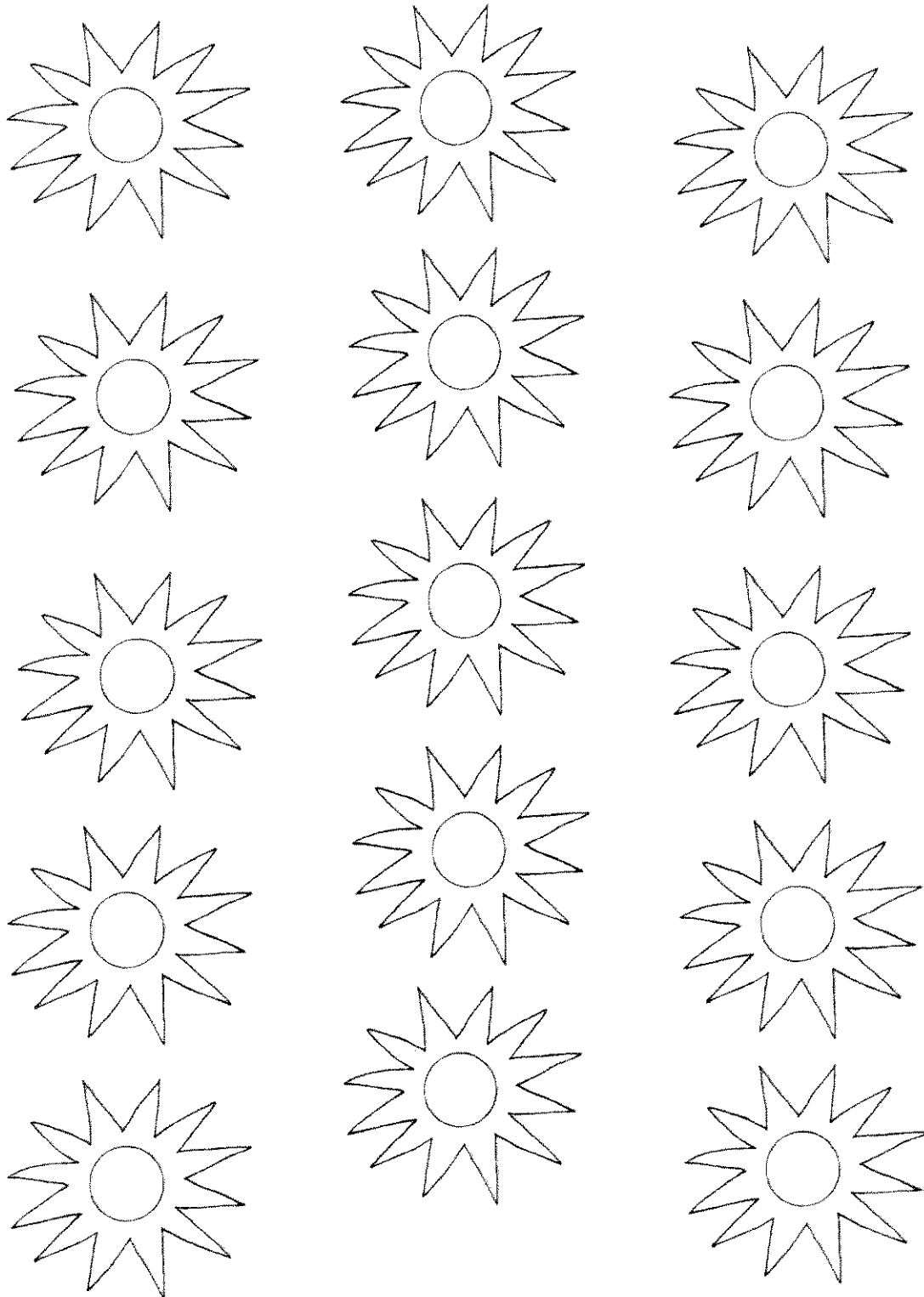
paste hills

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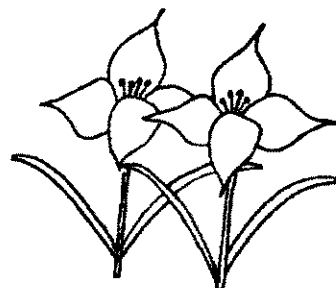
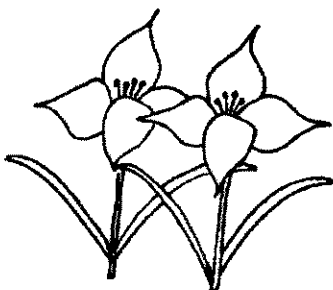
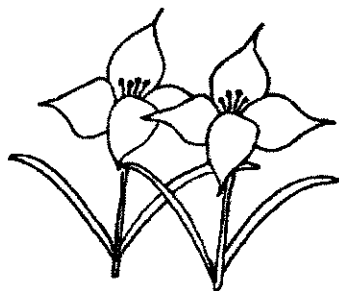
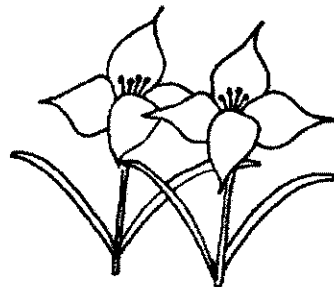
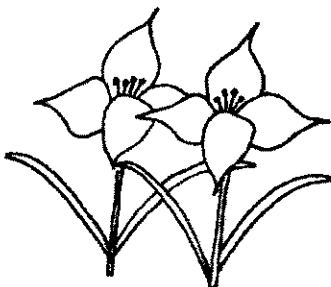
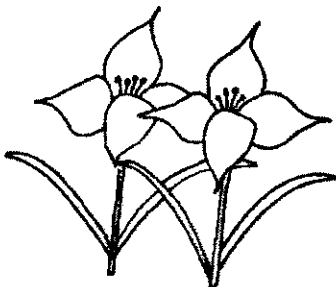
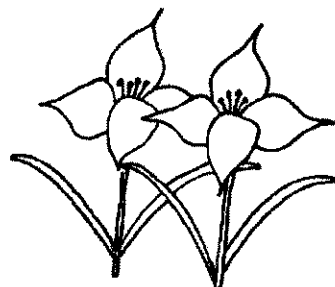
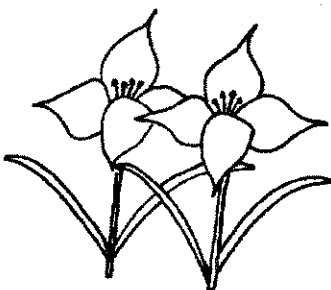
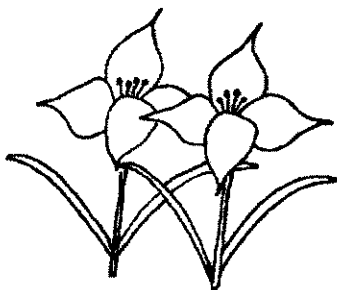
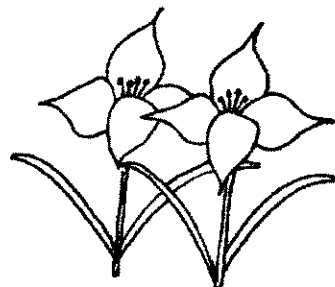
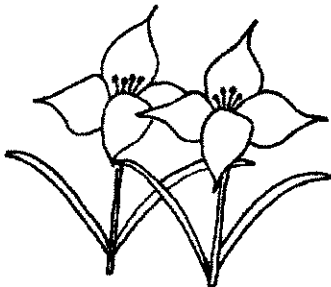
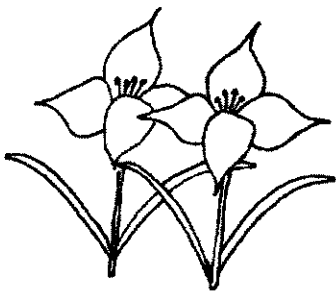
add seeds  
for raven

**Copy on yellow construction paper. Let each child cut out one sun and paste on picture on page 35.**

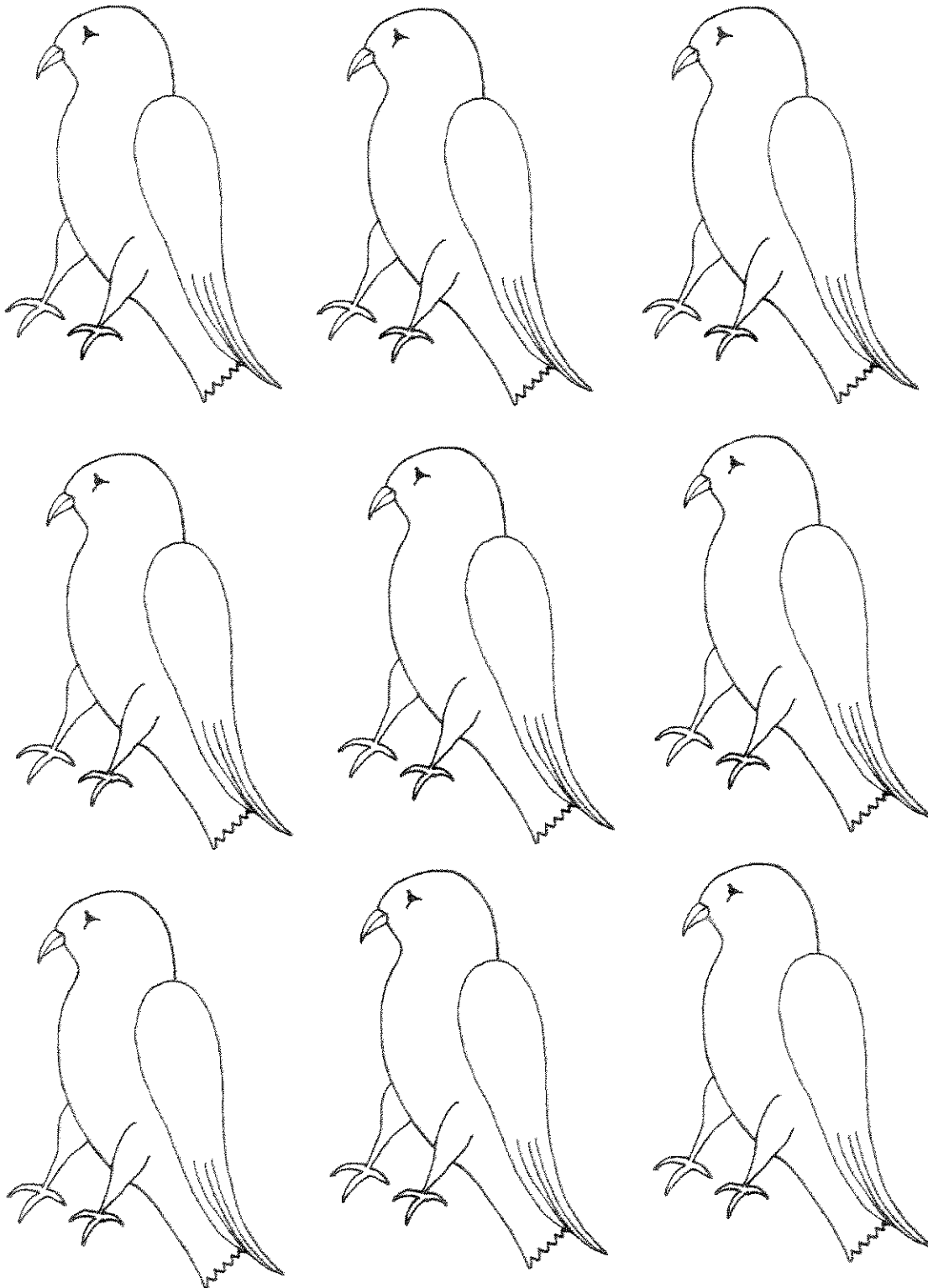


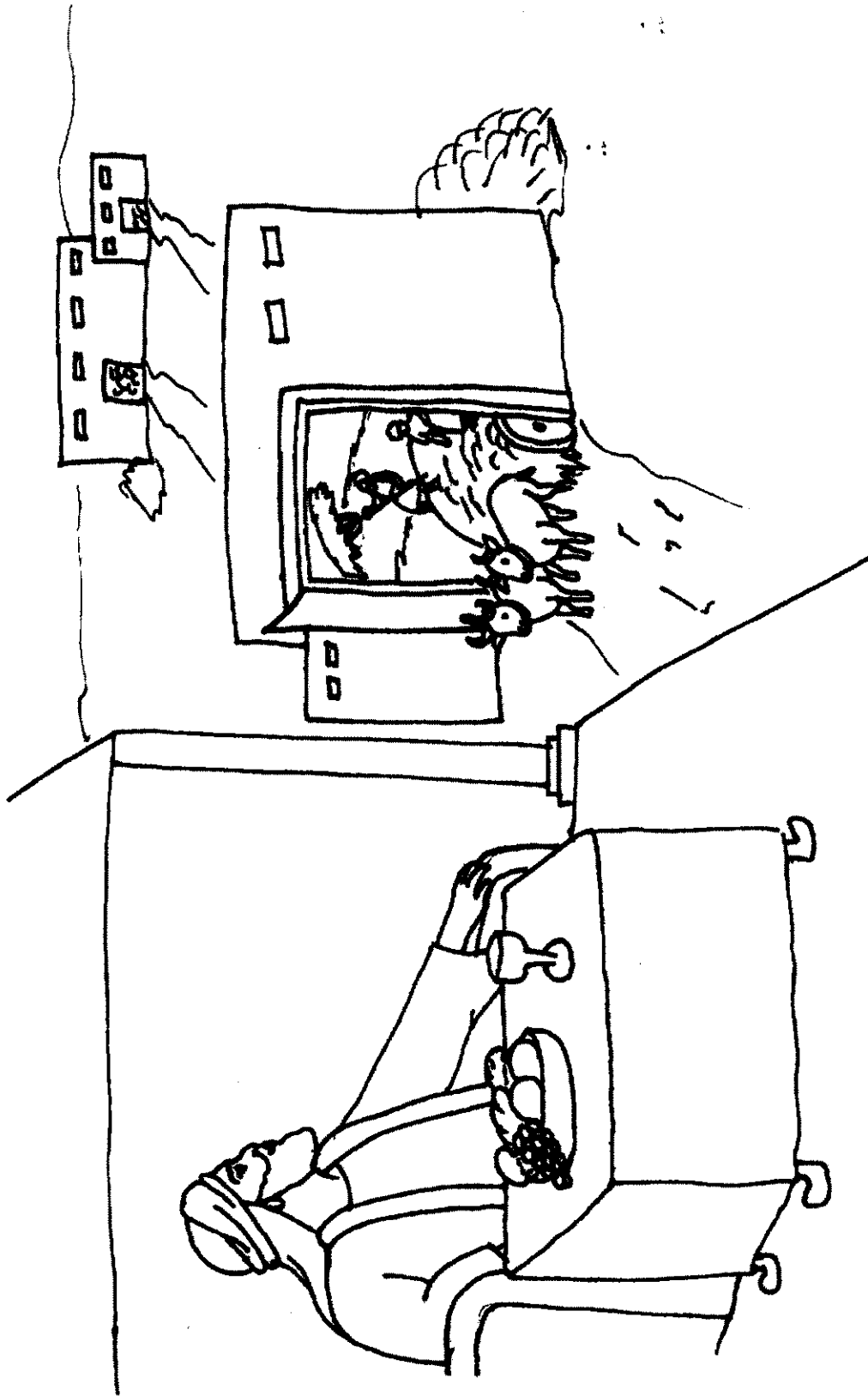


**Copy on white construction paper. Let each child cut out one double lily and color red or yellow with green leaves, and paste on picture on page 35.**



**Copy on black construction paper. Let each child cut out one raven and paste on picture on page 35.**





I will pull down my barns, and build greater;  
and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:18

How many ravens are in the tree?

How many birds are on the ground?

How many lilies are growing in the field?



## JESUS TAUGHT A PARABLE ABOUT JEALOUSY

**Scriptures: Luke 15:1-32**

**Aim:** The father in this parable typifies God who receives His child back into His fellowship if he returns in repentance.

**Emphasis:** Once we become a child of God, we remain His child. When we as God's children come to Him in repentance He is willing to forgive no matter what sins we have committed. Jealousy causes divisions in families. The older brother was jealous when his father still loved his younger son and rejoiced when he came home.

**Daily memory verse: Luke 15:32**

*"It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost and is found."*

**Alternate Memory Verse: Luke 15:18**

*"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee."*

### Jesus and the Pharisees, publicans, and sinners

The Pharisees were a group of Jews who believed in God, and they believed in keeping the law of Moses that God gave to the Jews hundreds of years earlier. They believed that by keeping the law they could be good enough that God would be pleased with them and take them to heaven to live with Him when they died. Jesus spent a lot of time in the presence of the Pharisees. He taught them in the synagogues. They saw Him do miracles. He ate in their homes. He did not condemn them for doing good deeds, but He condemned them for believing that they could be good enough that God would accept them into heaven without them having to admit that they did anything wrong or committed any sins. He condemned them for thinking they were better than other people.

The Pharisees criticized Jesus for associating with people they did not think were as good as they were. They did not criticize Jesus when He ate in their homes, but they criticized Him when He ate with publicans and sinners. Jesus went to the home of Zacchaeus, the chief of the publicans, and the Pharisees complained, and said, *"He has gone to be a guest with a man that is a sinner."* Jesus said that was the reason He came to live on the earth, *"the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"*, Luke 19:10. When Jesus called Matthew (Levi), who was a publican, to follow Him and be His disciple, Matthew made a feast at his house and invited many other publicans. The Pharisees complained, *"Why do you eat and drink with publicans and sinner?"* Jesus answered by saying, *"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"*, Luke 5:32.

The publicans were the tax collectors. The Jews were under the rule of the Roman Empire, and paid their taxes to the Roman government. The tax collectors were men who worked for the Roman government, or the enemy, so the Pharisees did not like them. The sinners were Jews who for some reason had been put out of the synagogue. The publicans and sinners gathered around Jesus to hear what He taught. When the Pharisees saw Jesus associate with them, they complained, *"This man receives sinners, and even eats with them."*

Because of their attitude, Jesus spoke three parables to the Pharisees. Jesus used every day situations to teach the people about spiritual truths. He used a shepherd and his love for his sheep, and a woman who knew the value of silver coins as security for her future.

### **The parable of the lost sheep,** Luke 15:4-7

Jesus asked the Pharisees, "What man among you, if he has one hundred sheep, and one of them wanders off and gets lost, will not leave the ninety-nine that are safe in the fold, and go out and look for the one that is lost?" He will search until he finds it. When he finds it, he will place it on his shoulders, rejoicing, and come home. He will call his friends and neighbors to come and rejoice with him because he has found his sheep that was lost. Jesus said, "There is greater joy in heaven over one person who repents than over ninety-nine just or righteous people who do not need to repent."

### **The parable of the lost coin,** Luke 15:8-10

Then Jesus taught them the parable of a woman who had ten pieces of silver. She lost one, so she lit a candle so she could see clearly and she swept the floor in case it had rolled into a corner, or under something. She looked, and looked, and looked until she found it, and then she called her friends to come and help her celebrate, saying, *"Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost."* Jesus told the Pharisees, *"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."* There is no rejoicing over the good deeds of the Pharisees, but there is rejoicing over repentance.

### **The parable of the prodigal son,** Luke 15:11-32

Jesus then taught the Pharisees the parable of a man who had two sons. He was probably very wealthy, because he had a large farm and many servants who worked for him. Some day his two sons would inherit all that the man owned. It was the custom of the Jews to give twice as much to the oldest son. This man had two sons, so the younger would get one third of all his father's possessions, usually after his father died. The younger son became unhappy living at home. He decided he would go somewhere else and do something else besides live at home and work for his father. Luke 15:12, *"And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me."* He asked his father to give him his part of the inheritance now instead of waiting until his father died, so he could go out and live his own life and make his own decisions. He would have plenty of money on live on

so he could do anything he wanted to do. The father loved his son and was happy for his son to work for him and continuing to build the family fortune, but he did not deny him the amount of money that would be his some day. The father did what his son asked, and gave him his part of the inheritance. A few days later the son took everything he owned and left home. He went to a far away country to live. Now he was free to live his own life. Now he could make his own decisions.

He made bad decisions. He did not buy land and invest his money in a business so he could make more money. He did not work hard like his father in order to build his own business. He did not have to work; he had lots of money to enjoy living like he wanted to with no responsibilities and no one to answer to.

The Bible says he traveled to a *“far country, and there he wasted his money with riotous living”*. He went to a new place and made lots of new friends because he had money to spend, and he spent it buying things for his friends. He spent it foolishly, feasting and partying. He wasted it until one day he realized his money was gone. He could not buy gifts for his friends or spend his money on parties and having fun. He could not even afford to pay rent for a place to live, so he was out on the street. When he was no longer a big spender, he no longer had friends. None of his friends came to help him since he didn't have money to spend paying for them to have fun.

### **Living with the pigs**

When he had spent all of his money he was in need, and a great famine arose in the land. A famine is when it does not rain so food will not grow and people are hungry. He had no money, no place to live, no friends, and no food. He would have to go to work. He began to look for a job. When he finally found a man who would hire him, he had to go out into the fields and feed the swine. Swine are pigs, or hogs. Hogs were considered unclean to Jewish people. It was a disgrace to have to live among the hogs, but he could not find any other work. He had to herd the pigs to places where they could find the husks that fell from trees. This was probably the seed pods from the Carob tree. It was not food that humans ate, but was used to feed animals. He had no one to give him food, and after awhile he became so hungry that he began to eat the husks that the pigs ate. This was all that he had; it was eat this or nothing; eat this or be hungry. He must eat what the pigs ate or starve to death.

One day when he was out in the field sleeping on the ground, he began to think about where he was and how he got there. He knew he had been very foolish. Here he was, living with dirty, nasty, filthy pigs. He lived like the pigs, he ate with the pigs, he slept with the pigs. He remembered how life used to be. He knew that in his father's house there were many hired servants who had more food than they could eat, and here he was starving to death, with nothing to eat but what the pigs ate. He knew he had to decide what he was going to do if he was going to live very long.

He said, *"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants."* He decided to go back home. It would be better to be a hired servant for his father than to be a hired servant for another man, and have to live with the pigs that belonged to the man he worked for. He knew he had made a foolish mistake in leaving home and wasting his money. He did not feel worthy to return and be called a son, but was willing to go back and be a servant to his father.

### **The lonely walk home**

He had been gone for a long time, and his father did not know where he was or even if he was still alive. His father thought about him constantly, and still loved him. Every day since his son had been gone, the father watched out the window for his son to come home. He looked down the road to see if he could see his son coming. He did not come, but his father kept watching day after day. It was a long way back home. He had time to do a lot of thinking. He did not know if his father would let him come back or not. He didn't want to come back as a son. He would be happy if his father would just let him be a servant and work for him. Before he got there, his father, who had been watching and longing for him to come home for many months, saw him coming a long way off, and ran to meet him. He didn't know what had happened to his son. He did not know if he was even alive, but when he saw him coming, he knew it was his son and he was happy to see him again. He didn't wait for him to get there, he ran to meet him. He hugged and kissed him, so happy that he had returned.

The son was truly sorry for his actions. He said, *"Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son."* He felt he was unworthy to return as a son, but he was still his father's son no matter what he had done or how long he had been away.

### **A time of rejoicing**

His father sent the servants to bring a robe and put on him, and a ring for his finger, and shoes for his feet. He sent them to kill the fatted calf, and prepare a feast. He said, *"Let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."* He did not know if his son was alive, but he found out he was. He did not know where he was, but now he had found him. He had come home. He was happy, and they began to celebrate.

The older brother had been out in the fields working as he did every day, and as he was coming in from the field and came near the house he heard the sound of music and dancing. He asked one of the servants what this meant. The servant said, *"Your brother has returned, and your father has killed the fatted calf and is celebrating because he is back home safe and sound."* Instead of being happy, the older brother became angry. He was jealous of the attention his younger brother was getting. While the brother was gone it was just him and his father. He had all of his father's attention. But now someone else was getting attention. His

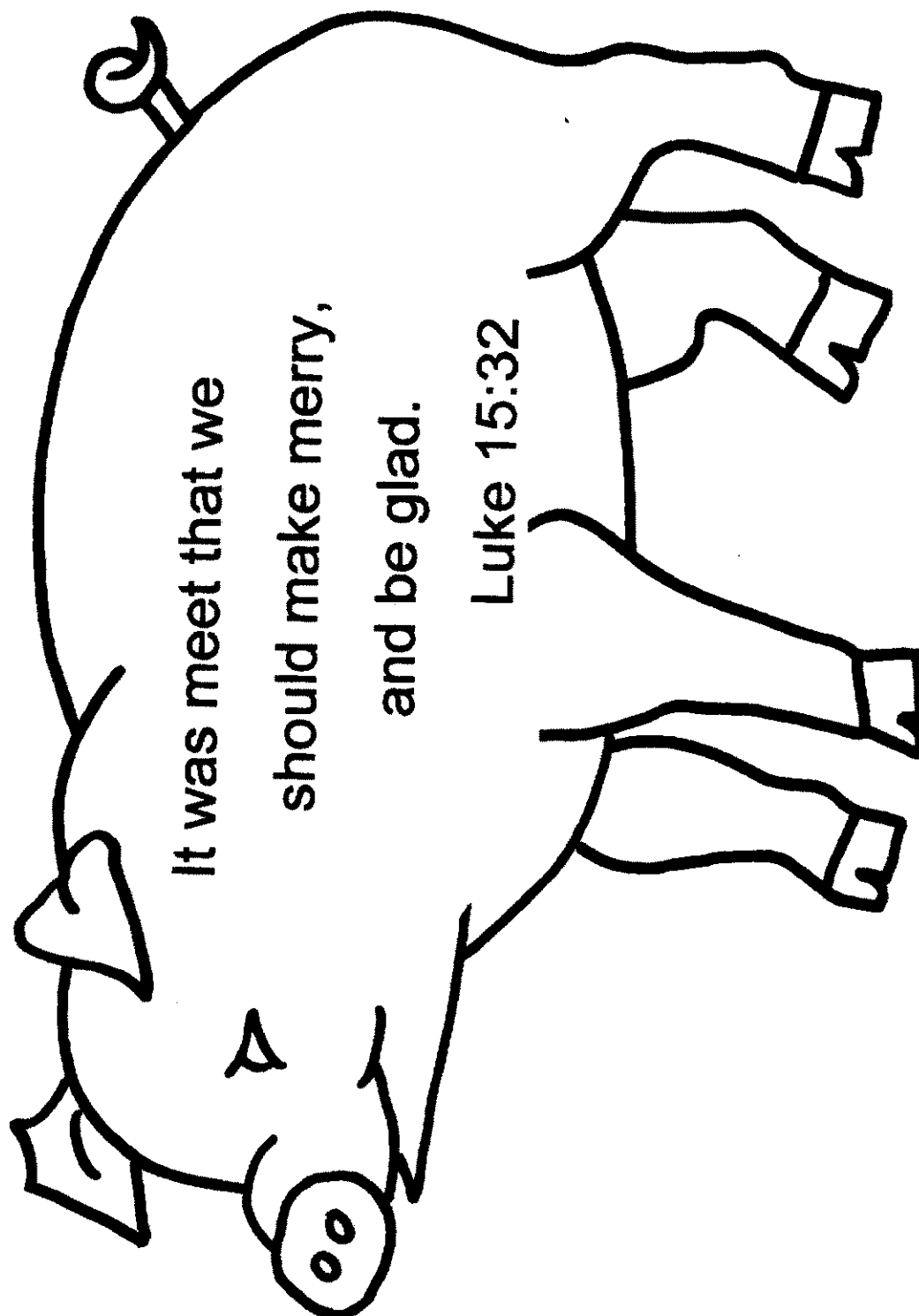


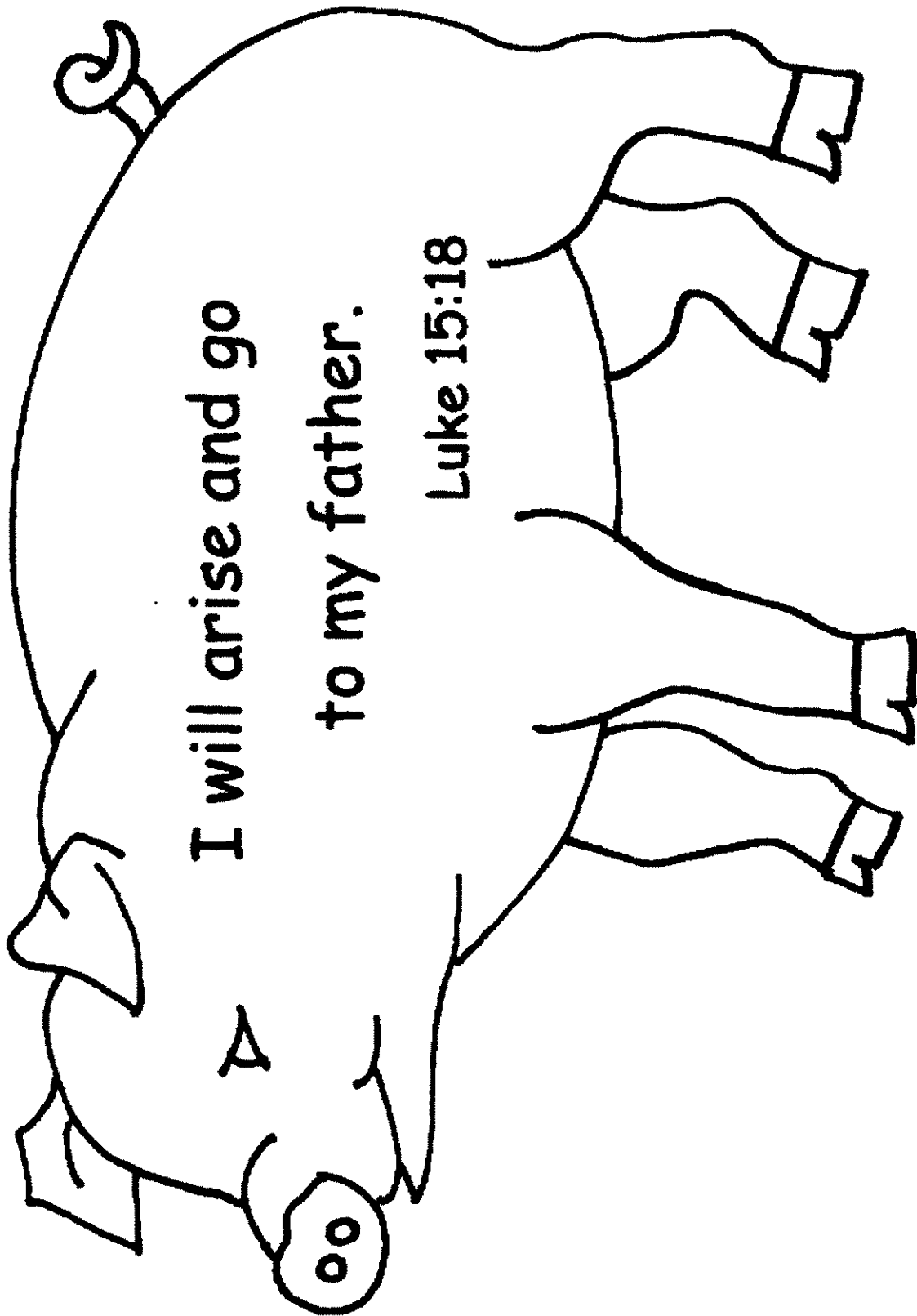
younger brother who had deserted the family, took his fortune and ran away from home without caring about the welfare of his father or his brother had now returned and everyone was celebrating as if it were a special event. He would not go into the house.

His father came out and asked him to come in and see his brother who had returned after so long, but he refused. He said to his father, "All these years I have served you, and obeyed everything you told me to do. Never did I disobey your command, and you never gave a party for me. You didn't kill the fatted calf and make a feast for me and my friends. But as soon as your son, who ran away from home and wasted his money on foolish living, has returned, you kill the fatted calf and have a big celebration for him. You treat him like someone special." He was jealous.

His father loved the oldest son just as much as he did the younger son. The father explained that he had always had him with him, and some day everything that he had would be his. Now they should both be glad, and happy that the other son had returned, because he could have been dead, but was alive. He had been lost, but was found. It was a time to be happy, and not resentful, and jealous, and angry.

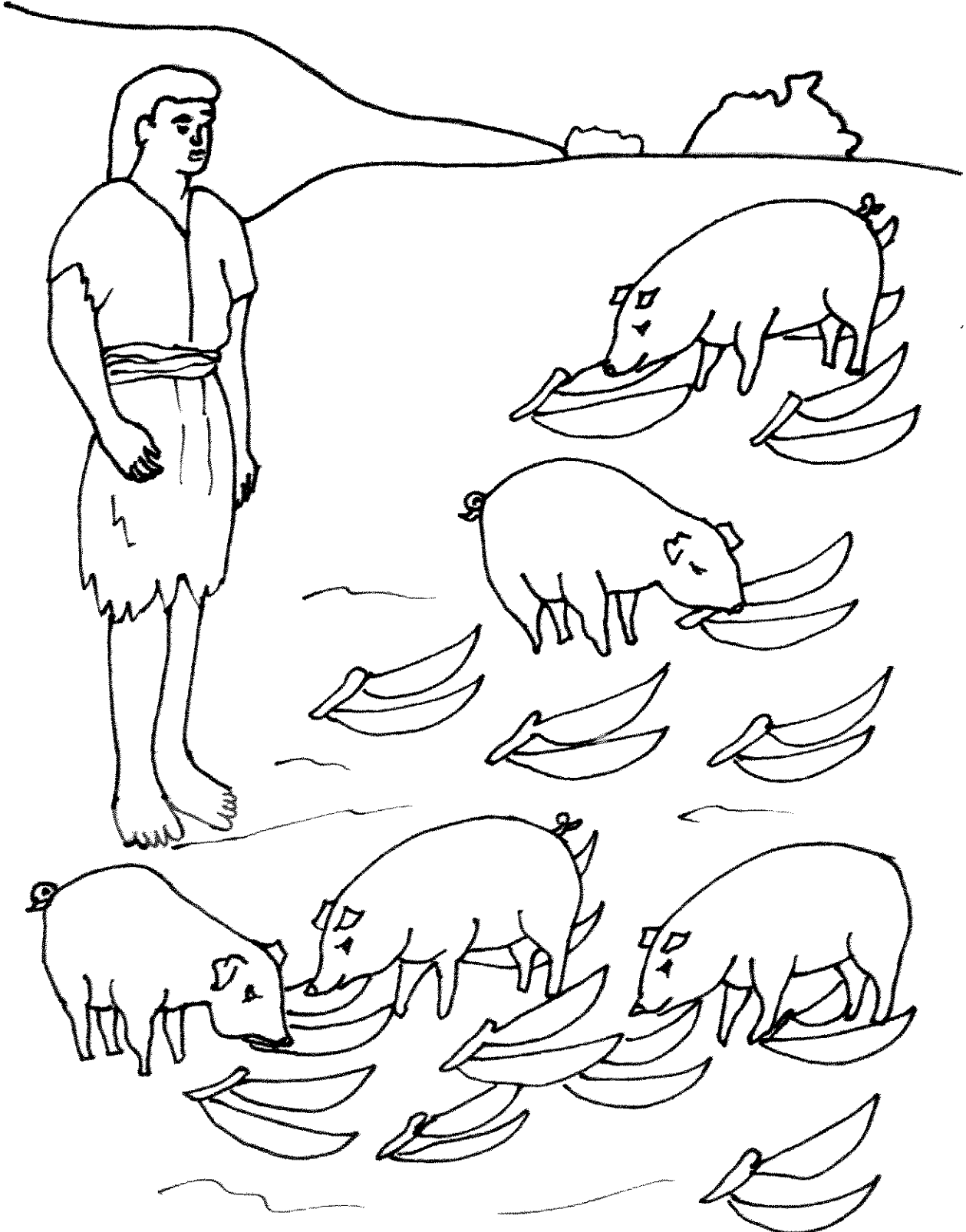
Jesus wanted the Pharisees to see that the attitude of the older brother was like their attitude toward the publicans and sinners. They should be happy, and rejoice when the publicans and sinners came to Jesus. The older brother was jealous. The younger son had done wrong, and his brother didn't think he deserved the attention he received from his father. He was not good enough to be received back as a son. This was the attitude of the Pharisees. When they criticized Jesus for going to the home of Zacchaeus, the publican, and said He should not associate with the publicans and sinners because they were not good enough, Jesus said that was His purpose in coming to live in human flesh. Luke 19:10, "*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*"

**Memory verse pattern page**





**Husk was a bean pod from a Carob tree. It is sometimes called locust bean. Many times the bean pods grow to as much as twelve inches in length; and when they are green, they are fed to cattle and hogs. Sometimes they were eaten by people when there was a severe famine, and there was no other food. It was very intimidating for a person to have to stoop so low as to eat this food that was considered for hogs.**





Find these 5 words **1** time **ACROSS** and **1** time **DOWN**

ARISE	F	A	T	H	E	R	M	B
FATHER	A	F	X	S	O	N	O	R
SON	R	A	R	I	S	E	N	O
MONEY	I	T	X	X	O	X	E	T
BROTHER	S	H	M	O	N	E	Y	H
	E	E	X	X	X	X	X	E
	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	R

---

---

Use the code to find spell the words from our lesson:

Write the letter underneath the number

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	B	E	F	H	I	M	N	O	R	S	T	Y

1	10	6	11	3	4	1	12	5	3	10	11	9	8
---	----	---	----	---	---	---	----	---	---	----	----	---	---

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7	9	8	3	13
---	---	---	---	----

2	10	9	12	5	3	10
---	----	---	----	---	---	----

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Find these 5 words **1** time **ACROSS** and **1** time **DOWN****Answer page**

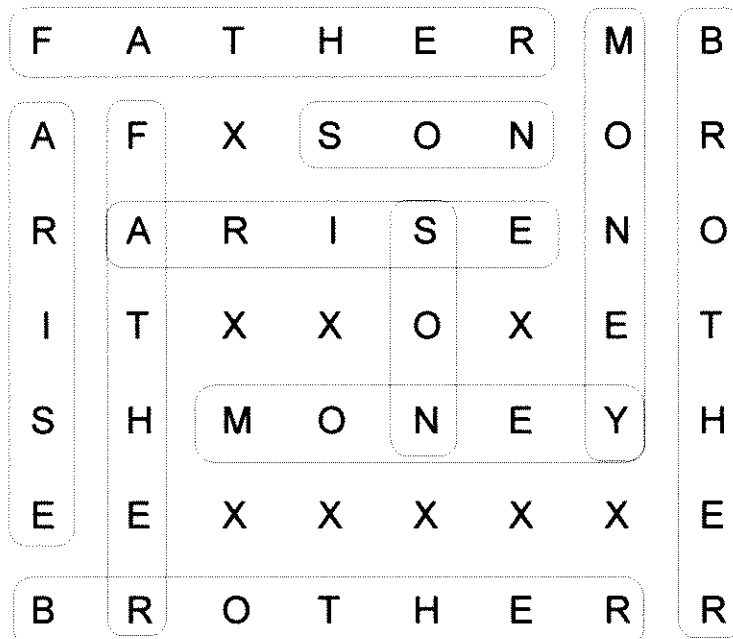
ARISE

FATHER

SON

MONEY

BROTHER



Use the code to find spell the words from our lesson:

Write the letter underneath the number

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	B	E	F	H	I	M	N	O	R	S	T	Y

1 10 6 11 3

4 1 12 5 3 10

11 9 8

A R I S EF A T H E RS O N

7 9 8 3 13

2 10 9 12 5 3 10

M O N E YB R O T H E R



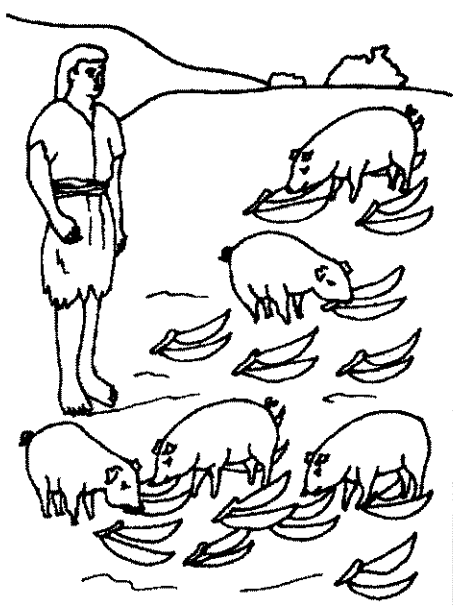
## Craft Project

Use the next 5 pattern pages to make pictures of **2 scenes** of the lesson.  
(see diagram below)

On light gray construction paper make **1** copy of **each** set of pigs (**3 pigs** together and **2 pigs** together) to cut out and paste on **scene #1**.

On tan construction paper make **2** sets of bean pods for each child to cut out and paste on **scene #1**

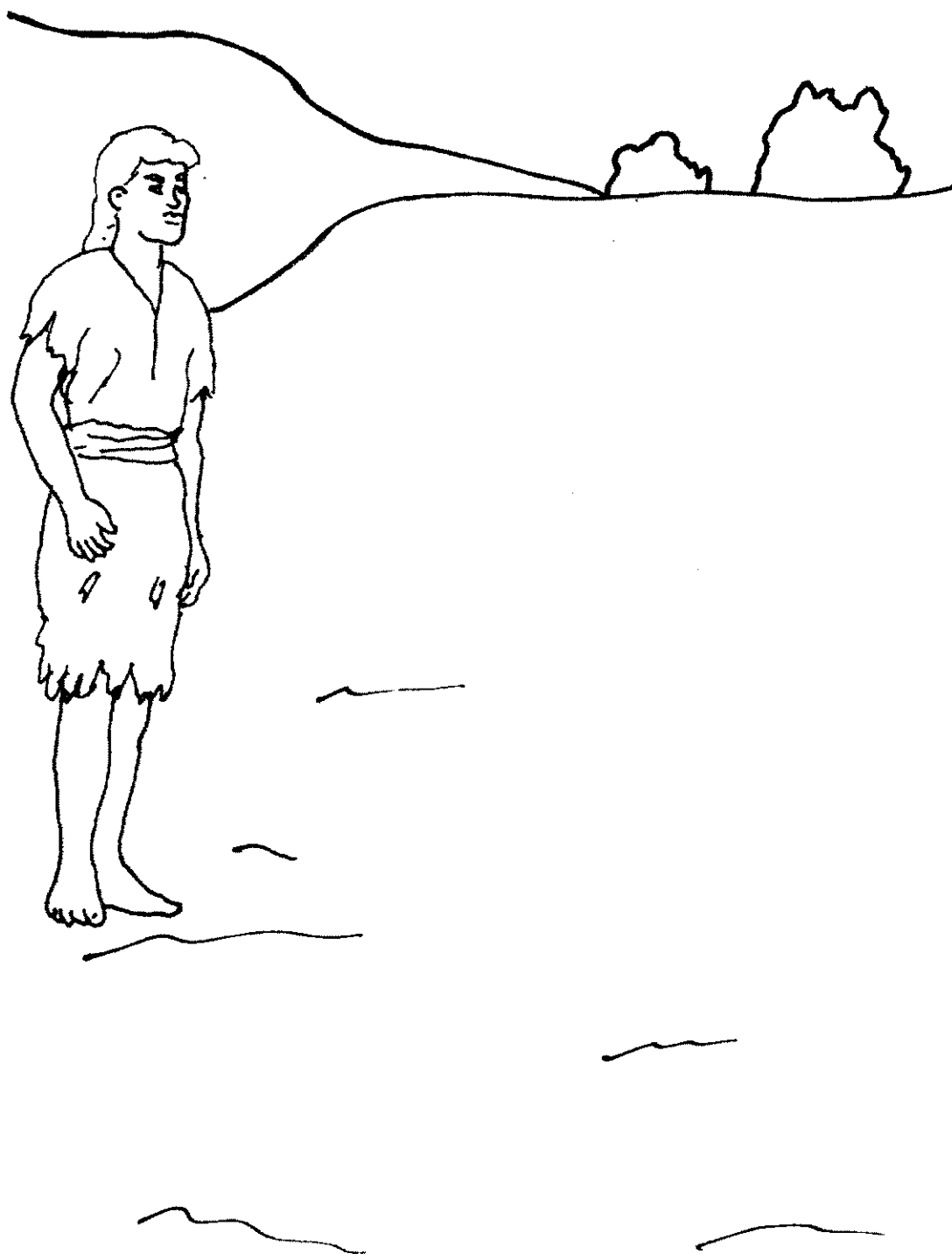
On white construction paper make **1** copy of **robe** for each child to color **purple and gold**, and cut out and paste on **the son** on **scene #2**. Draw **shoes** on his feet and a **ring** on his finger.



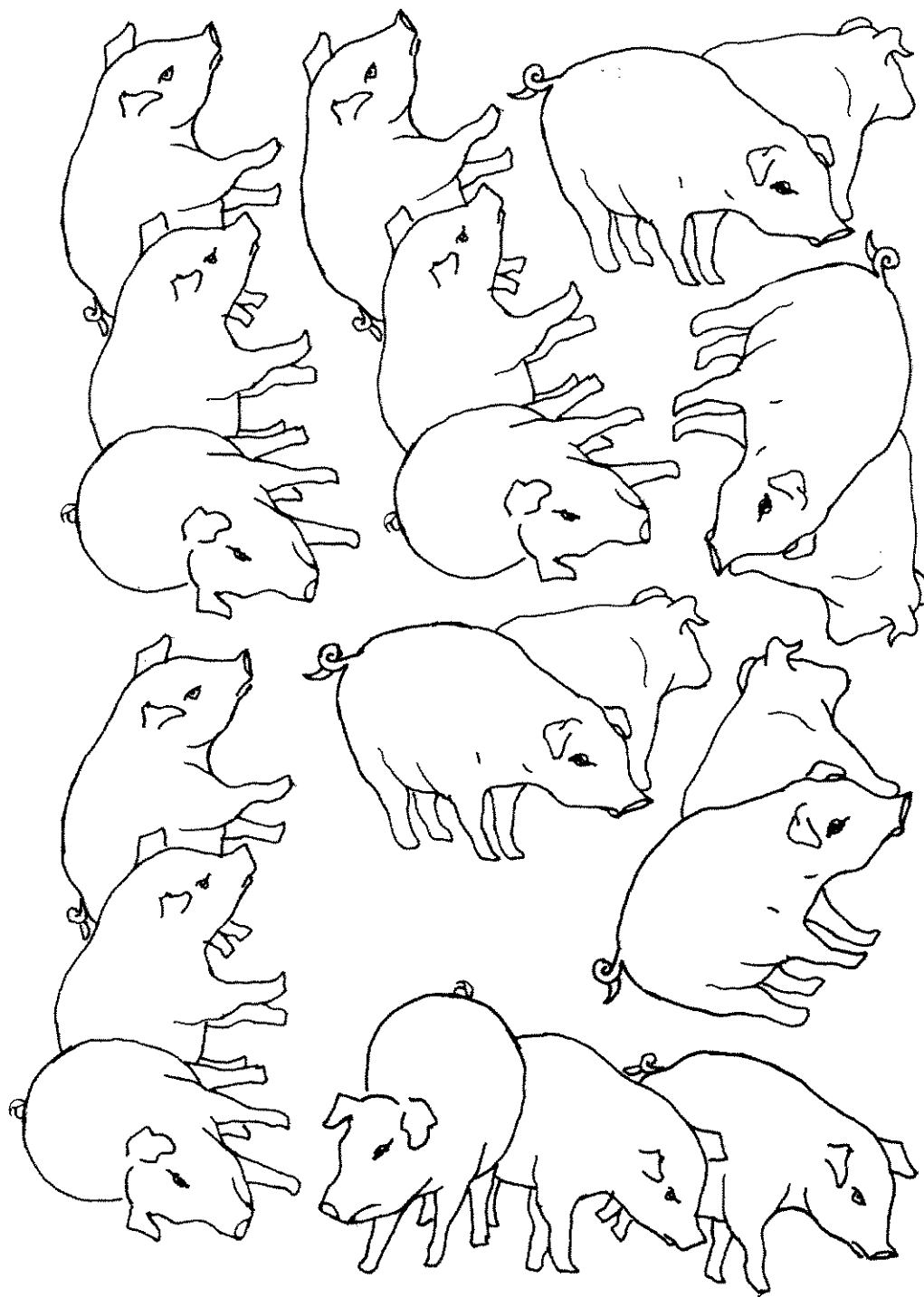
Scene #1

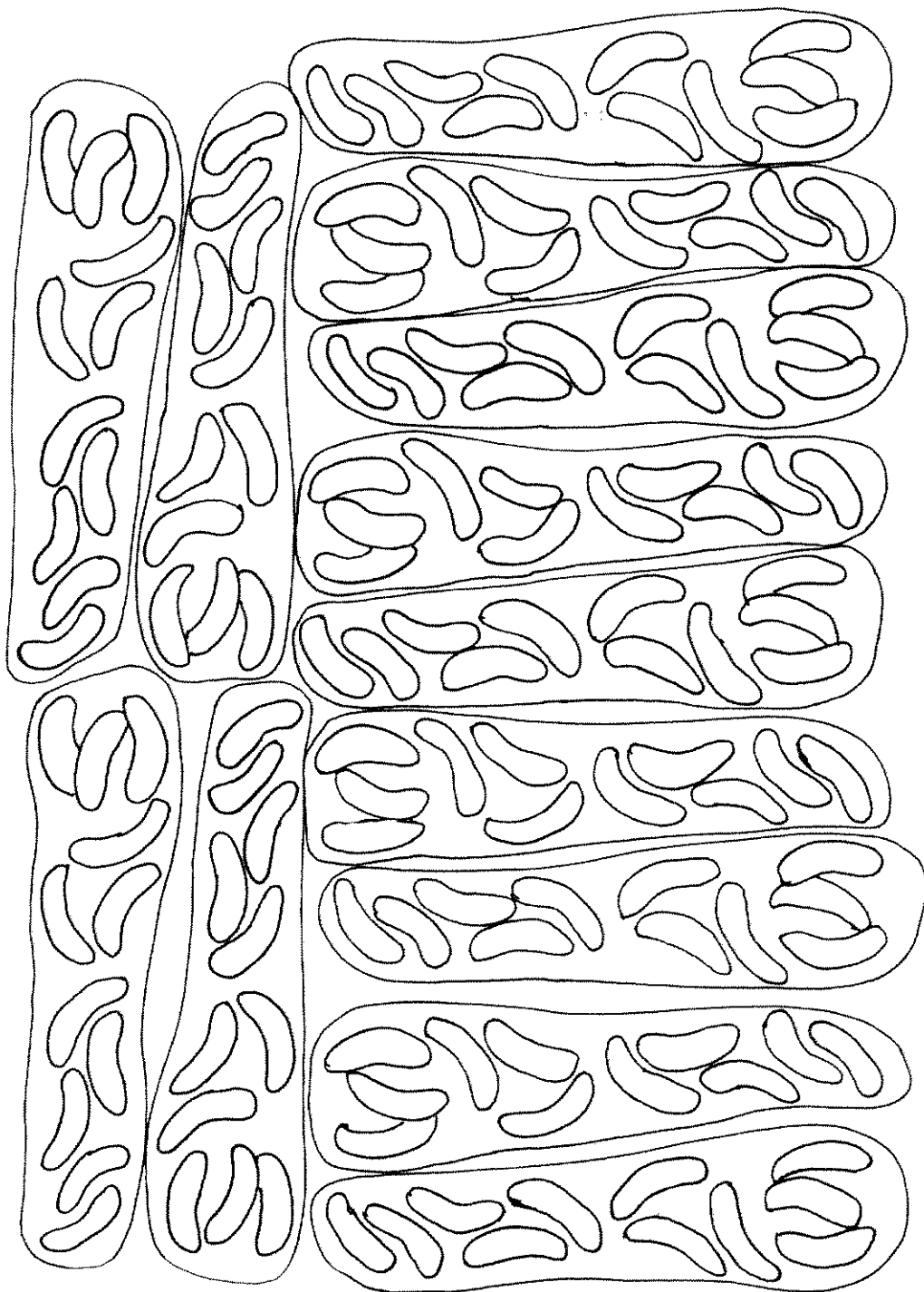


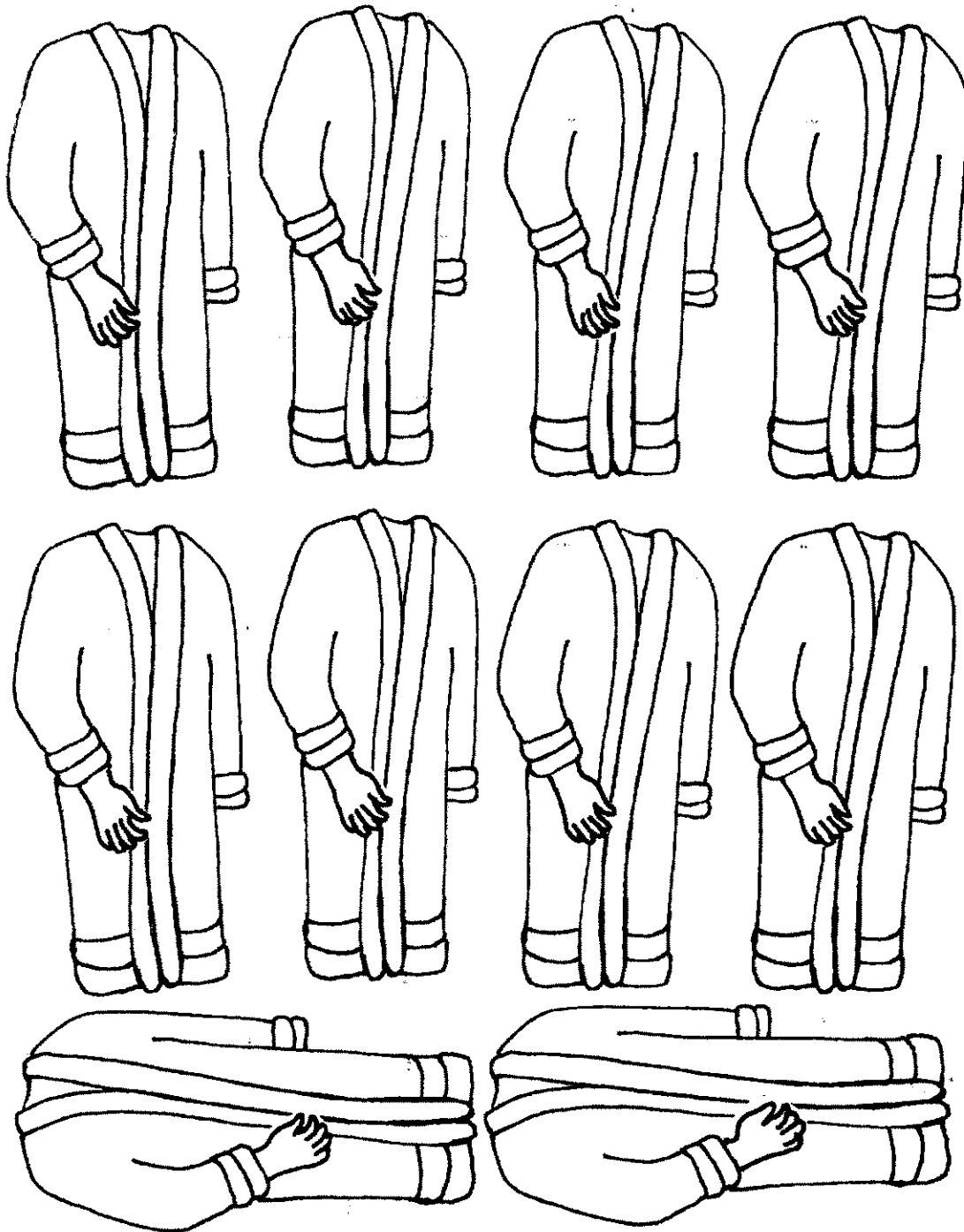
Scene #2











## JESUS TAUGHT A PARABLE ABOUT HONESTY

**Scriptures: Luke 16:1-15**

**Aim:** We are stewards of God's Word. Can we be trusted to use it honestly, or do we use gimmicks in order to befriend the world?

**Emphasis:** Instill in the child that he or she alone is responsible for decisions regarding honesty in their life. A person is either honest or dishonest. There is no in between. If a person cannot be trusted with small matters, they cannot be trusted with anything. If you are honest with a little, you can be trusted with a lot. Can we be trusted with the true riches of God's Word?

**Daily memory verse: Luke 16:10**

*"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much:"*

### Criticism of the Pharisees

While Jesus lived on the earth He traveled around from town to town preaching. The Pharisees were a group of men who did not believe that Jesus was the Christ because they were looking for a king to come and rule over them as an earthly king. They followed Him everywhere He went, and criticized Him for everything He did, because His actions were not according to human thinking. They condemned Him for healing sick and crippled people on the Sabbath. They criticized Him for eating with the publicans, who were Jews who collected taxes for the Roman government, and also for eating with people they called sinners.

He warned the people that it would not be easy being His followers because they would have to give up everything and devote their time and attention to Him. They would have to follow Him everywhere He went and hear everything He taught in order to believe what we have written down for us in the Bible.

Jesus taught the Pharisees about repentance in the parables of the lost sheep, and the lost coin, and the return of the prodigal son. He said they acted like the older brother who thought since the younger brother had done wrong when he left home and wasted his money, that his father should not accept him back as a son. The Pharisees thought they were too good to associate with publicans and sinners. The older brother was like the Pharisees. He thought he was good because he had stayed at home and worked for his father all of these years that his younger brother was out wasting his inheritance. He had done what he was supposed to do. But it was the younger brother who realized he had done wrong and was sorry for his actions. He returned in humility wanting only to be accepted back as a servant. After Jesus finished talking to the Pharisees, He turned his attention to His disciples and taught them a parable about an unjust, or dishonest, steward.

### **The parable of the unjust steward**

A steward was a man who was employed to work for someone else. The way he conducted business for his employer determined how acceptable he was as an employee. Jesus emphasized in this parable, *"You cannot serve God and mammon (earthly riches), Luke 16:15.*

There are four key players in this parable: the rich man, the steward, and the two debtors. The rich man was the business man, the boss, the owner of the farm. The steward was the farm manager who ran the farming operation and kept the records; he was the bookkeeper. The two debtors were the men who farmed the land. Each year when the farmers harvested their crops they owed a portion of whatever they grew to the owner in return for use of the land. They kept the rest of what they grew as their pay.

Jesus said there was a certain rich man, a business owner, who had a steward, an employee who managed the business for him and kept the records of how much was grown and what the farmers owed him for using his land. It was called to the attention of the owner that the steward had not been honest in the way he managed the business. Many people worked for the rich man and owed him debts that had not been paid. When they harvested their crops the steward did not demand that they bring a portion to the land owner. The unjust actions of the steward were brought to the attention of his boss. The owner called him in and said he had heard that he had not done a good job with the things he had entrusted to him, and asked him to bring in the books and show him the records. If the books were in order he did not have anything to worry about. If he had not been a good steward, he would lose his job.

It did not look good to have many large debts on the books that had not been paid. The man felt guilty because he knew that he had not been a good steward. He knew that there were many people who owed debts and he had not made them pay.

### **What shall I do?**

Luke 16:3, *"Then the steward said within himself, what shall I do? For my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed."* This man had a problem. What was he going to do? If his boss fired him, he would not have a job. If he lost his job, he would not have a way to make a living. He said he could not dig, and he would be ashamed to have to beg. He was too lazy to do hard, manual labor, and his pride would not let him beg, so what was he going to do?

He devised a plan where he thought he could deceive his boss and make the books look good, and at the same time make the farmers owe him something. He said in v. 4, *"I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses."* He knew he would lose his job because he was not faithful with what his boss had entrusted to him. He had to devise a scheme so that when he lost his job he would have someone to take care of him. He decided to make friends with the debtors (the people who



owed money to his boss) and do favors for them so that when he did not have a job they would feel responsible for helping him. He thought to himself, "If I mark the bill down enough these people will appreciate me and when I lose my job they will take me into their homes. I can eat at their table. They will provide for me."

### **His deceptive scheme**

He called in all of the debtors. He asked the first, "*How much do you owe my lord (my boss)? And he said, one hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, take your bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.*" A measure was a certain amount. With oil it would have been so many gallons. With wheat it would have been so many bushels. This man owed one hundred measures of olive oil. This was a large debt. It would have been worth a lot of money. The steward told him to mark down his bill to show that he only owed fifty measures of oil instead of one hundred, only half as much as he really owed. He asked another debtor how much he owed, and he said one hundred measures of wheat. He told him to mark down his bill to show that he only owed eighty measures of wheat. He did not want it to look suspicious, so he did not mark down every bill the same amount. He marked one down by one half, but another only twenty percent. This looked better on the books. It did not look good for many people to owe him large amounts. It would look as if the steward had collected more than he had if the books did not show large amounts in debts. He was cheating his boss, but it looked better for him. He was stealing from his boss and giving to those who owed the debt in order to make friends with them. Then when he lost his job, they would pay back the favor.

When he had finished changing the books, he took them to his boss. He thought it would make him look good, as if he had been a profitable employee. But he got caught. His boss knew better. The steward was commended "*because he had done wisely*" in devising this plan. Jesus did not commend him. The rich man commended him for being smart enough to devise such a scheme that would make him look good in the eyes of evil people, "*the children of this world*", those who think themselves so much smarter than "*the children of light*". The "*children of light*" are those who have been enlightened by the things of God, those who believe in the old fashioned idea of honesty. The disciples were "*children of light*." The Pharisees were "*children of this world*."

Jesus is the light of the world. John 3:19, "*And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*" The Pharisees did not like for the things they did to be examined by the light of God's Word. (v. 20) "*For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*" When a person does wrong, he doesn't want other people to know it. (v. 21) "*But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be manifest, that they are wrought in God.*" The "*children of light*" do not mind their deeds being examined by the Word of God. When a person does what is right he is not afraid for other people to know what he did. Who does a dishonest person admire? He admires another person who is dishonest and smart enough not to get caught. Who does a thief admire? He admires another thief who steals

and doesn't get caught. A person is not a thief because he steals. He steals because he is already a thief.

Jesus said, Luke 16:9, *"Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitation."* When you make friends with unrighteous people and get caught doing evil, your punishment will be the same as theirs. Mammon means riches. The mammon of unrighteousness is the riches of cheating, and stealing, and deceiving. People who cheat, and steal, and deceive others in order to make themselves rich are liked by other people who cheat, and steal, and deceive, and their punishment will be the same. Jesus also said, Luke 16:10, *"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."* If a person is honest with a dollar, he can be trusted with a large amount of money. But if he is dishonest with the least amount of money, he cannot be trusted with any amount. Are you honest? Or are you dishonest?

### **What is honesty?**

Recently a man went into a grocery store, made a purchase, and gave the clerk a twenty dollar bill. She gave him change back for a one hundred dollar bill. Should he have come home pleased that he had eighty dollars more than he had when he left? He pointed out the error, and gave back the money. Was he wise in the eyes of the world? Do you think he was wise, or do you think he was foolish? If it had been three dollars too much, should he have given it back, or would it not have mattered since it was only a small amount? Would he have been any more honest to have given back the eighty dollars than if he had given back three dollars? Is honesty determined by the amount, or is it determined by any amount that does not belong to you? Jesus said if you are faithful in a small amount, you will be faithful in a large amount. He said if you are not faithful in a small amount, then you cannot be trusted with any amount.

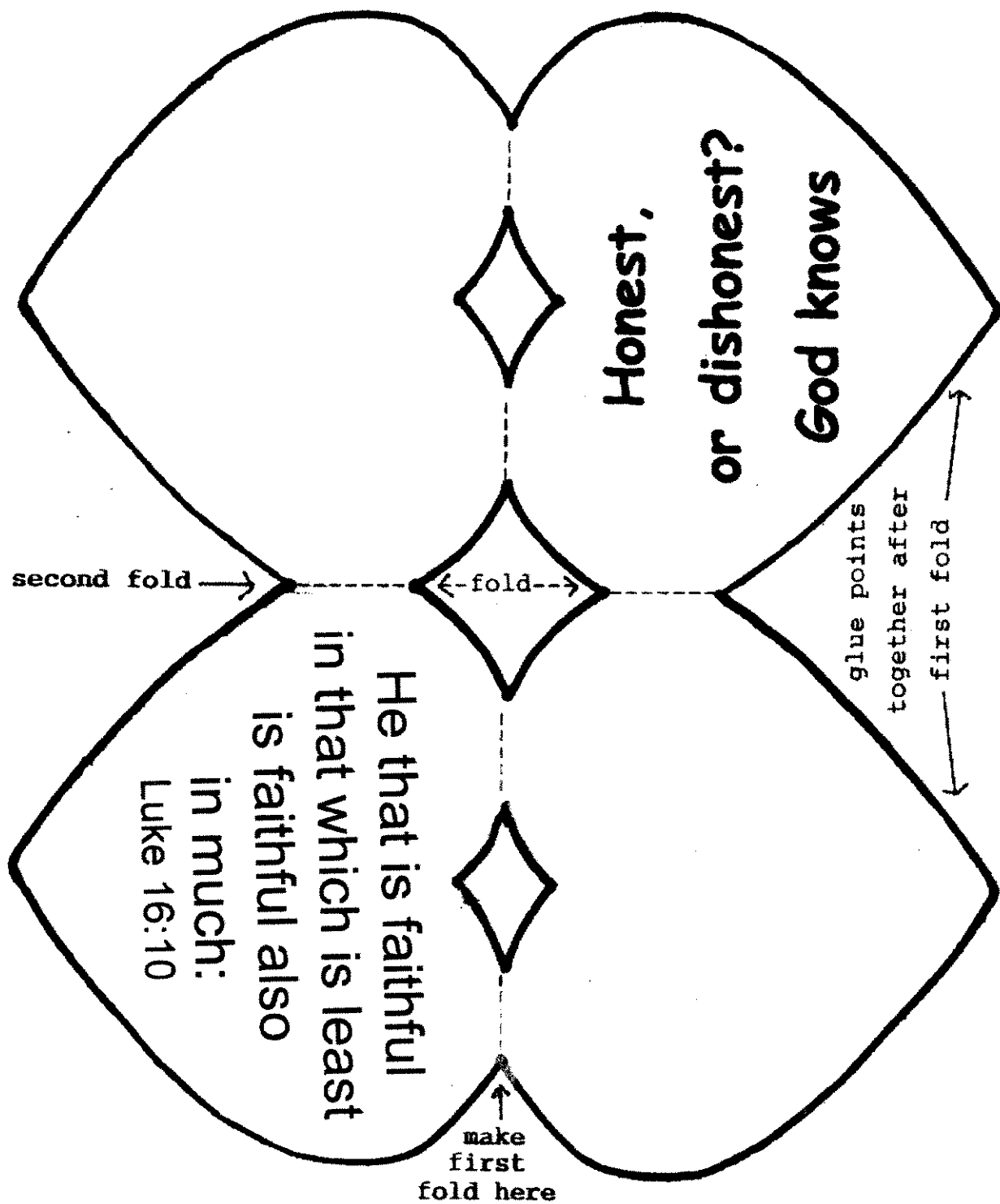
Many years ago there was a soldier in another country during World War II, away from his family and friends. One day he found a sack containing forty thousand dollars by the side of a railroad track. What should he have done? He did not know who it belonged to or how it got there. Should he have kept it? Or should he have turned it in? It was forty thousand dollars in old bills, not counterfeit, not new bills that could be traced. It was old money that no one would suspect had been gotten dishonestly. He turned it in to the authorities. His friends thought he was foolish. He could have kept it and no one would have known. But it was not his, and he would have known, and God would have known. If you found a ten dollar bill at school, would you keep it, or would you turn it in? If you found a one dollar bill, would you keep it, or would you try to find the owner? How much can you be trusted with?

Jesus said if you are not faithful with things of this world you cannot be trusted with things of God. (v. 11), *"If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"* Are we faithful with the true riches God has entrusted to us as a church? Do we teach the things of God honestly, or are we dishonest by

using gimmicks just to get more people to come, and make a bigger showing with a larger attendance? (v. 13), *“No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate one and love the other, or he will love one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (riches).”*

When the Pharisees made fun of Jesus for preaching about honesty, he said they justified their actions before men, but God knew their hearts, and things that they thought really made them good in the eyes of others, was an abomination in the sight of God. Do we appear to be honest before men, or are we really honest before God?

Copy on red construction paper. Cut out, fold, and paste points together.





The master called in the dishonest steward and said:  
"Give account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be  
no longer steward."

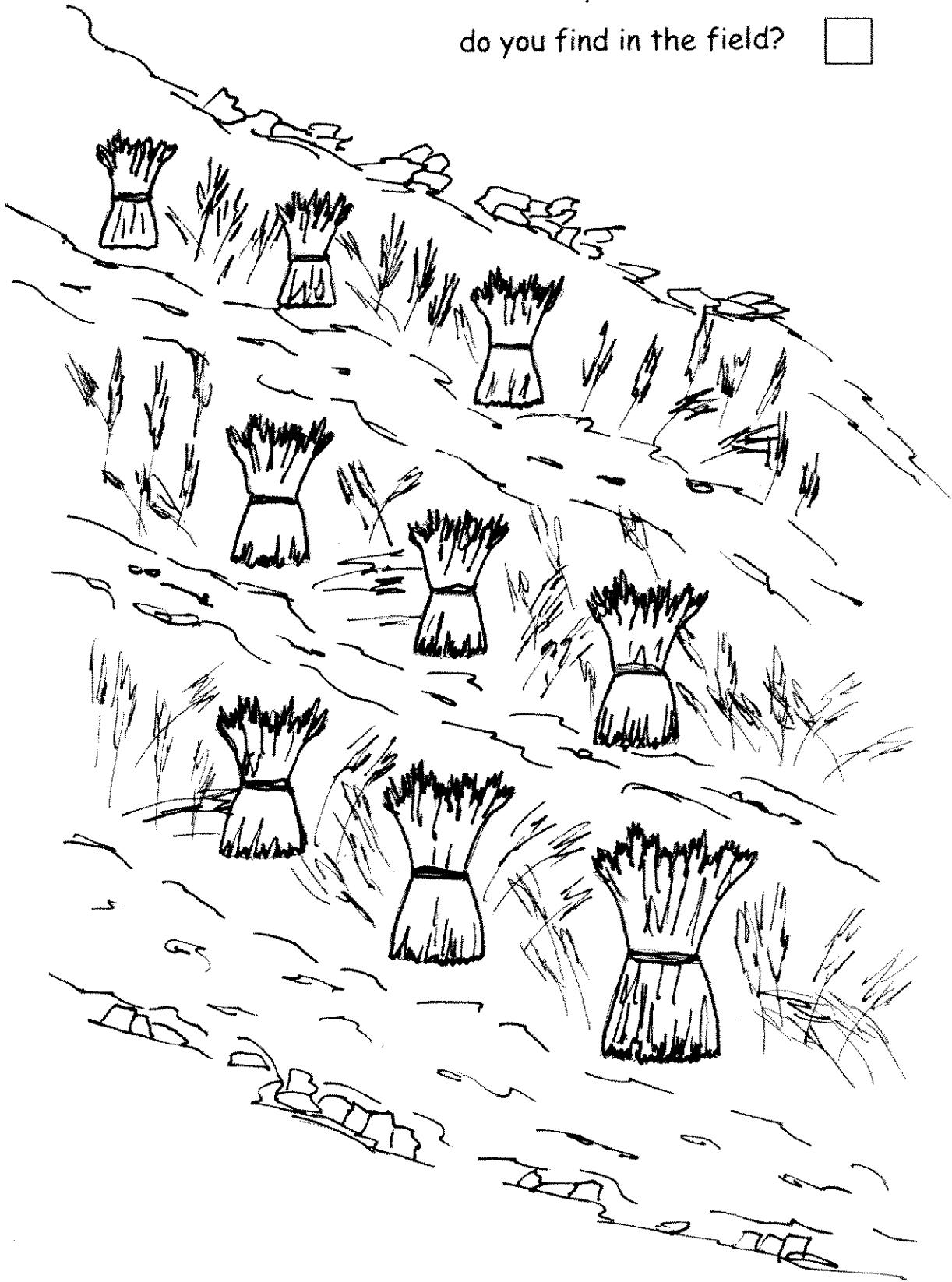
Luke 16:2



To one debtor who owed 100 measures of oil, he said, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write 50."

To another debtor who owed 100 measures of wheat, he said, "Take your bill, and write 80." Luke 16:5-7

How many sheaves of wheat  
do you find in the field?



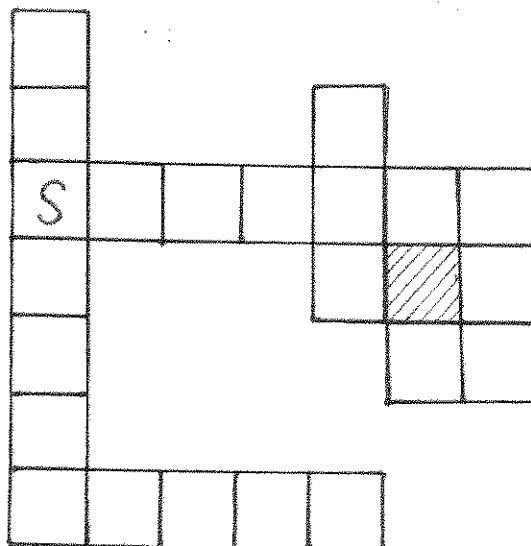
Make this Bible verse  
fit in the puzzle:

(1 letter is given for you)

NO SERVANT CAN

SERVE TWO

MASTERS



Use the code to spell the words in our lesson:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
A B E F H I M N O R S T Y

1 10 6 11 3

\_\_\_\_\_

4 1 12 5 3 10

\_\_\_\_\_

11 9 8 7 9 8 3 13

\_\_\_\_\_

2 10 9 12 5 3 10

\_\_\_\_\_

Then find the words **DOWN 1** time  
and **ACROSS 1** time

F A T H E R M B

A F X S O N O R

R A R I S E N O

I T X X O X E T

S H M O N E Y H

E E X X X X E

B R O T H E R R



## Answer page

How many sheaves of wheat  
do you find in the field?

9

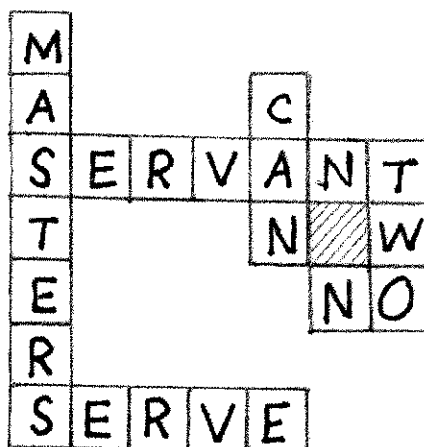
Make this Bible verse  
fit in the puzzle:

(1 letter is given for you)

NO SERVANT CAN

SERVE TWO

MASTERS



Use the code to spell the words in our lesson:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
A B E F H I M N O R S T Y

1 10 6 11 3

A R I S E

4 1 12 5 3 10

F A T H E R

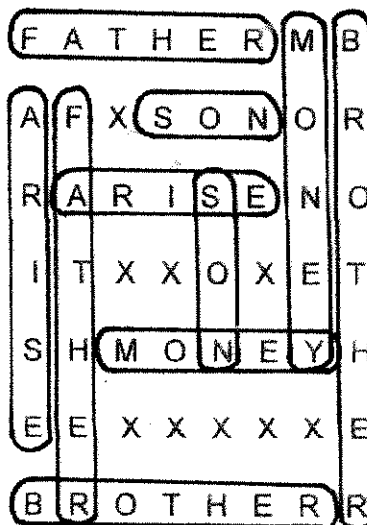
11 9 8 7 9 8 3 13

S O N M O N E Y

2 10 9 12 5 3 10

B R O T H E R

Then find the words **DOWN 1** time  
and **ACROSS 1** time

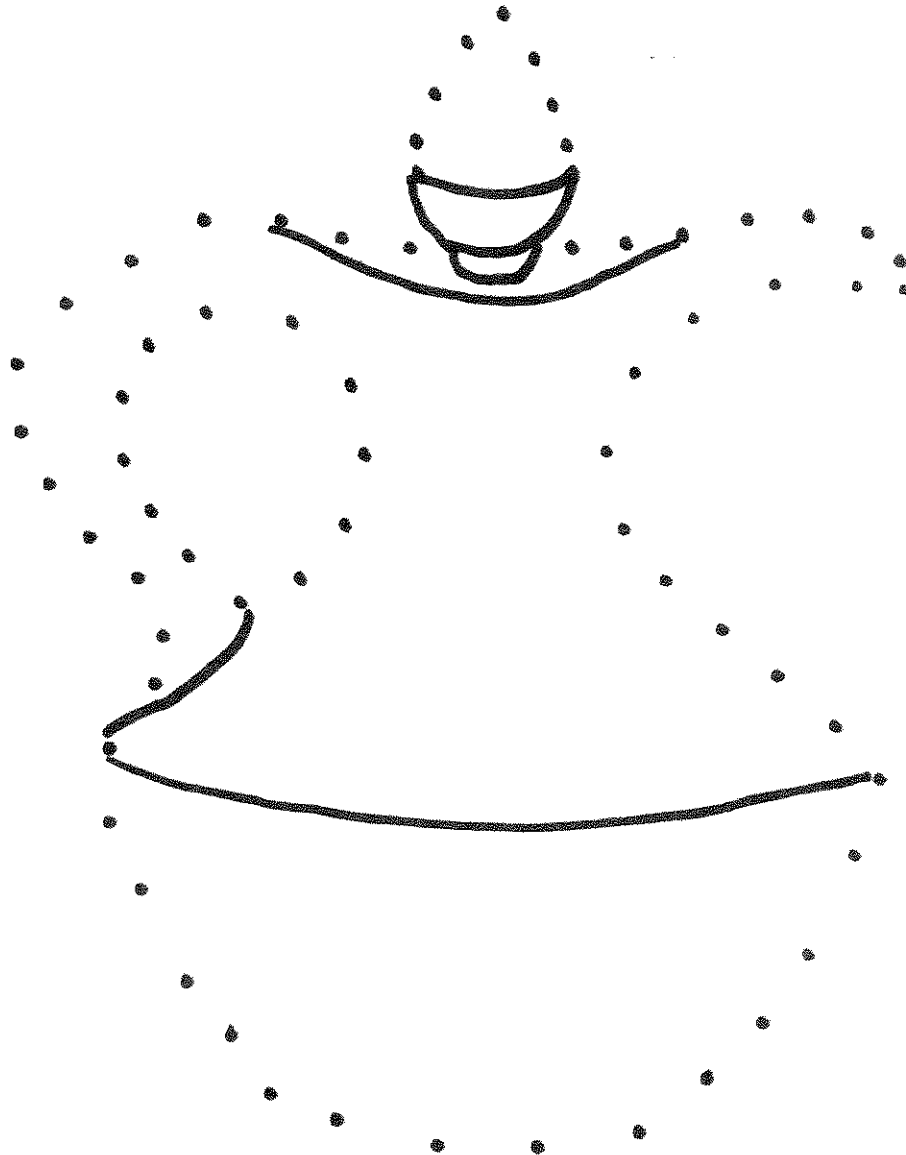


Connect the dots and color the picture.

What did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

What was stored in a pitcher? \_\_\_\_\_

How many measures of oil did the man owe? \_\_\_\_\_

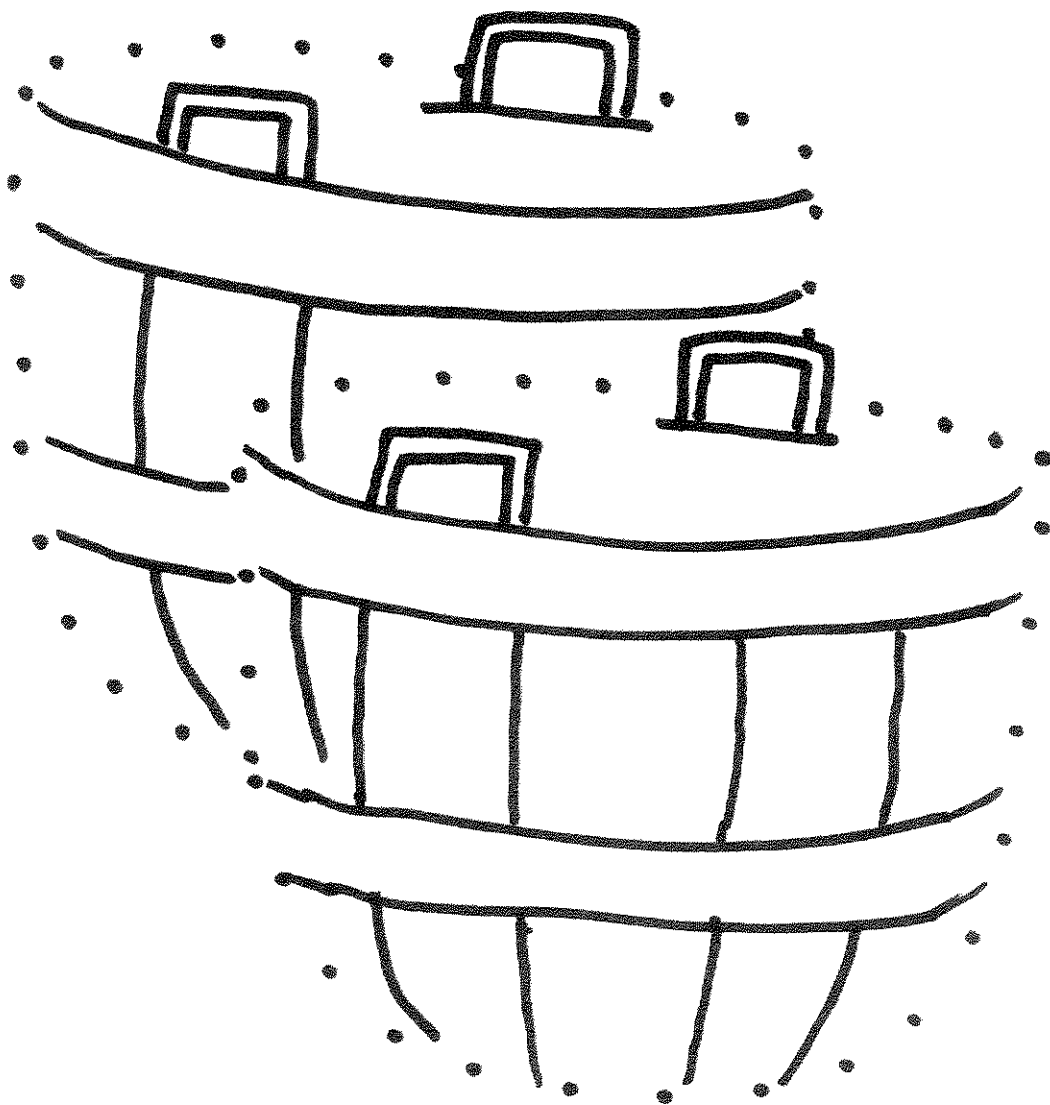


Connect the dots and color the picture.

What did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

What was stored in bushel baskets? \_\_\_\_\_

How many measures of wheat did the man owe? \_\_\_\_\_



**Answer page**

Connect the dots and color the picture.

What did you find? a pitcher

What was stored in a pitcher? oil

How many measures of oil did the man owe? 100

Connect the dots and color the picture.

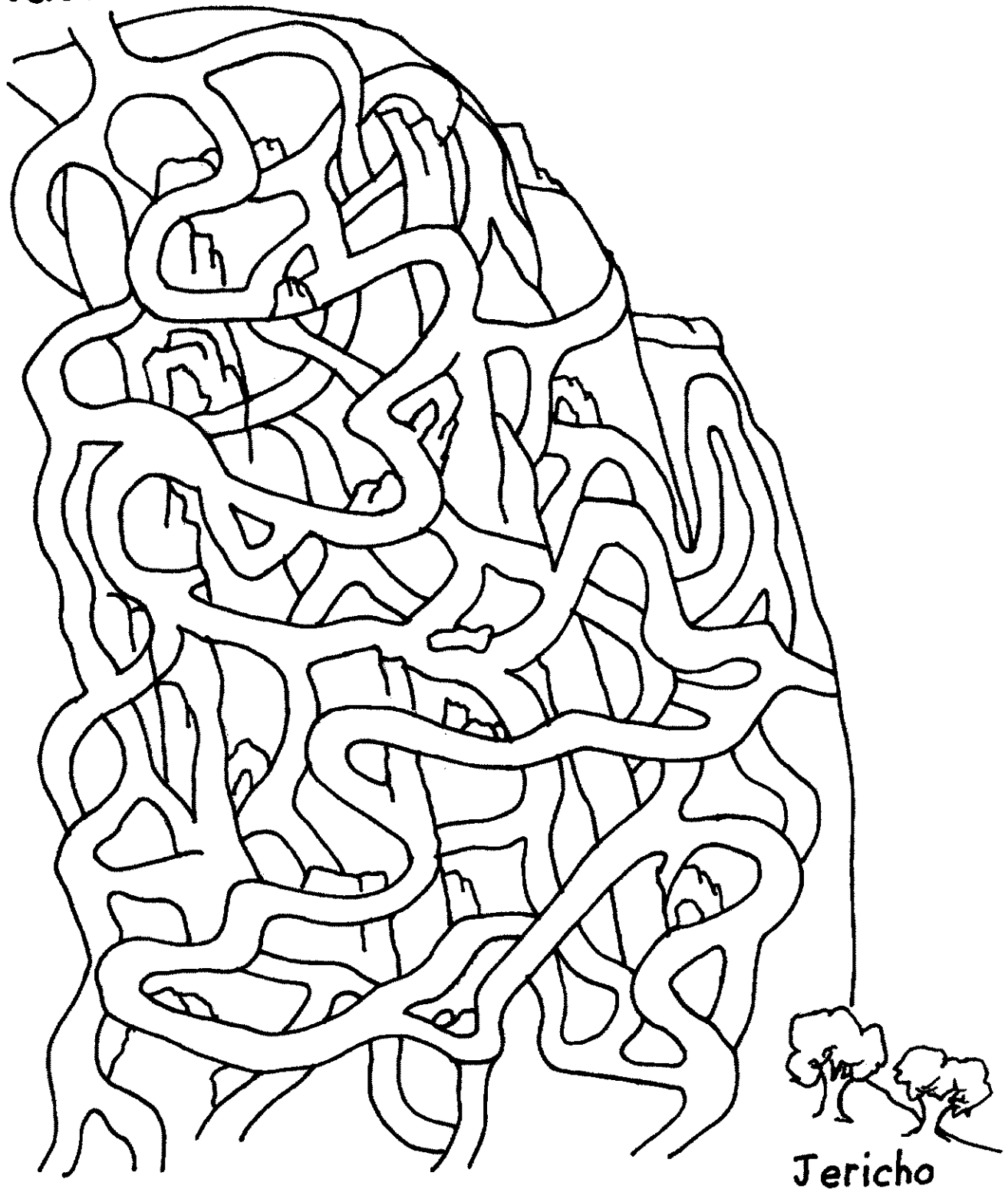
What did you find? 2 bushel baskets

What was stored in bushel baskets? wheat

How many measures of wheat did the man owe? 100

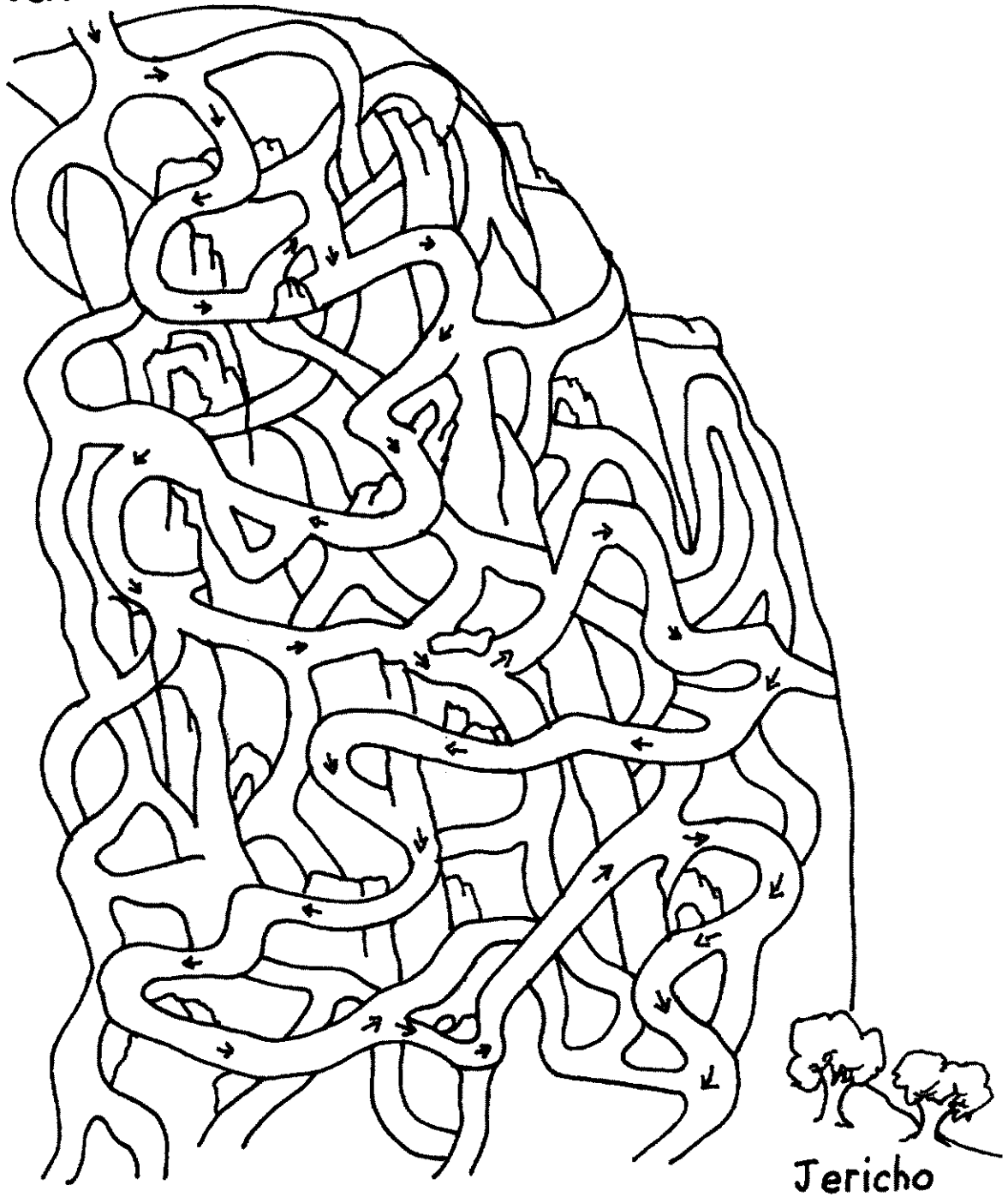
Help the traveler find his way down the mountain to Jericho

Jerusalem



Help the traveler find his way down the mountain to Jericho

Jerusalem





But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. Luke 15:20