

A Wonderful Place

God, our heavenly Father, has made a very special and wonderful place for the angels and for us. It is called Heaven, and it is way up above us in the sky. We can't see Heaven, but we know it's there because God said it is.

The Bible tells us that Heaven is made up of all kinds of beautiful things. It is a very big place, and it has a beautiful city in it. The city is long and high and wide. God made sure there will be room enough for everyone. He made it so beautiful because He loves us and wants us to be happy there. Inside the city, He built many big houses called mansions where those who love Jesus will live.

Around the city, there is a wall with twelve gates. God used many different colors of stones to make foundations for the wall. Some of the stones are like sparkling jewels, but they are much bigger than any we have ever seen. The gates are made of pearls. The streets are of gold so pure they look like clear glass. Can you imagine how shiny and pretty they must be?

Heaven is a wonderful place in which to live, and everyone there is always happy. God and Jesus are there with many of our friends and people we love. Because Jesus is there, it never gets dark. He is the Light of Heaven.

There is nothing in Heaven to make us sad. No one ever cries there because God has wiped away all our tears. No mean people live there because all the people have had their hearts washed clean. There is no sin in Heaven. No one ever gets sick or dies in Heaven. God never lets any of these things happen there. Heaven is a happy, happy place.

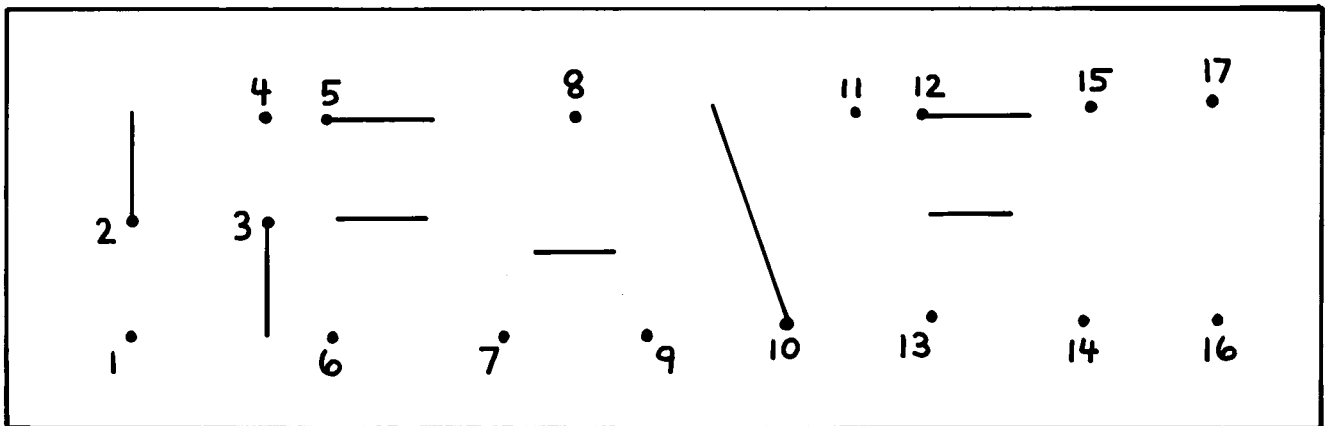
In Heaven there will be lots of children to play with, and grown-ups too. You will already know some of the people, and the rest of them will be new friends. You will like everyone there. The people will come from many different places around the

world, and all of them love God. Everyone will be happy in Heaven where they can be with Him. God loves us so much He wants us to live there with Him forever! That is why He made Heaven.

Up in Heaven, God has a book called the Lamb's Book of Life. We can get our names in God's special Book by telling Him we love Him and that we are sorry for the naughty things we have done. Then He makes our hearts clean and writes our names in His Book. If our names are there, we will go to Heaven someday. Remember, He has a special place waiting just for you!

Our Goal!

Connect the dots to find the name of the place where God lives.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This week, spend some time talking about the wonders of Heaven with your child. Discuss some of the things that make him happy—his favorite colors, food, activities, etc. Explain that God says Heaven will be even more wonderful than the best we can imagine!

Encourage your child to make a collage representing what he thinks Heaven might look like. Provide greeting cards, scraps of shiny foil, wrapping paper, glitter, and gummed stars or stickers for him to use in assembling his creation. Help him letter the words across the top: "Heaven—I'm Going There!"

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: John 14:2

MONDAY: Matthew 5:12

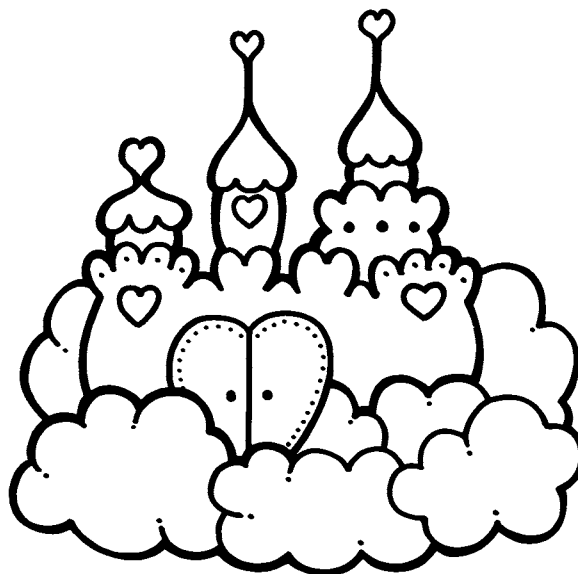
TUESDAY: Matthew 6:20

WEDNESDAY: Luke 13:24

THURSDAY: Mark 9:41

FRIDAY: Revelation 21:4

SATURDAY: Revelation 22:5



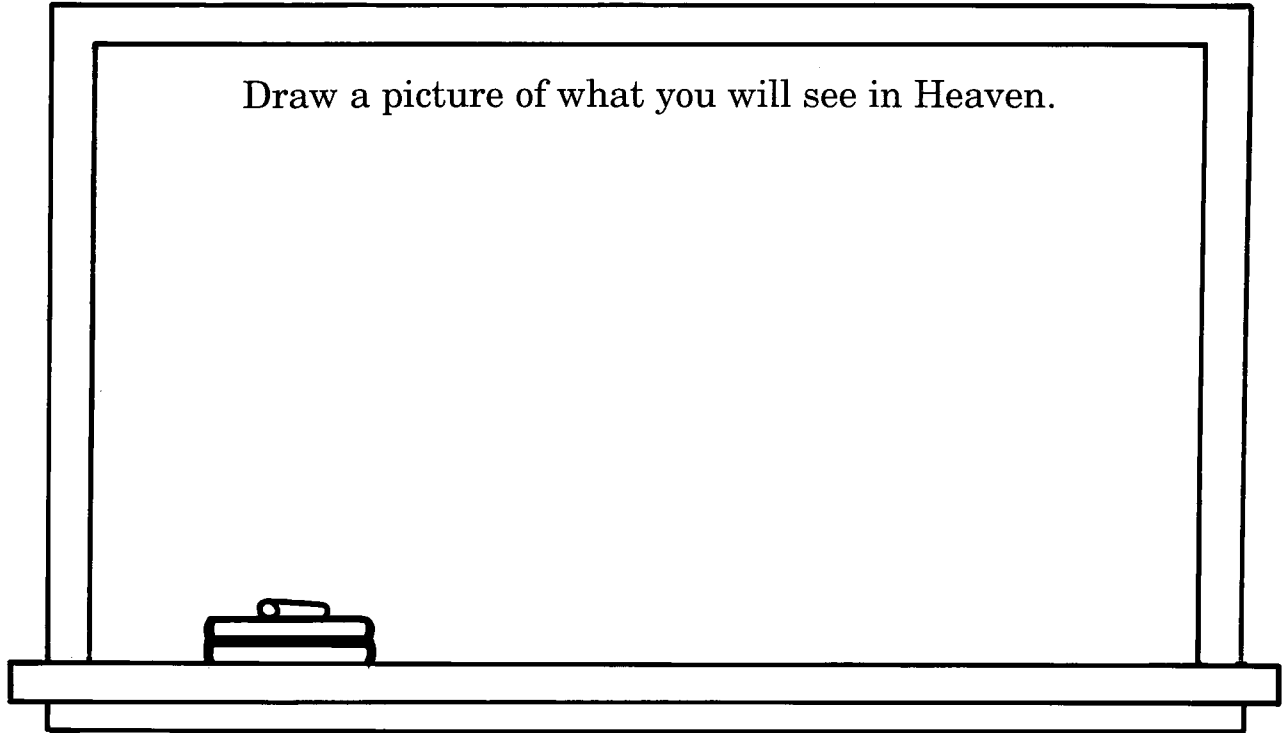
Bible Text

Revelation 21:10-12,18-23;
22:1,2

Memory Verse

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. — John 14:2

Heaven Is a Happy Place



On the A lines write what you think will be in Heaven. Then, on the B lines write what you think will not be in Heaven.

A _____

A _____

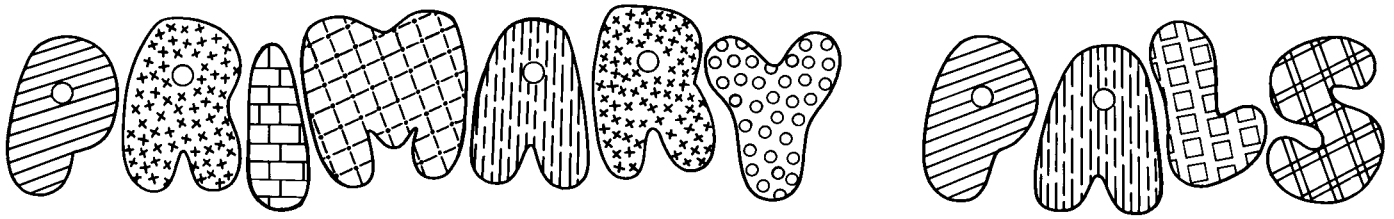
A _____

B _____

B _____

B _____

Name: _____



A Bad Bite

There was once a serpent who could talk! He was a very pretty serpent, but he was bad and sneaky. In fact, Satan himself was in the serpent. The serpent lived in the Garden of Eden. That was a special and beautiful place God had made for the first two people He created, Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve loved God, but the serpent did not. He hated God and wanted Adam and Eve to hate God too. So the serpent thought up a wicked plan. He would trick Adam and Eve into doing something God had said not to do.

One day the serpent saw Eve in the Garden and spoke to her. He knew

God had told Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from a certain tree that grew right in the middle of the Garden. But he asked her anyway, “Did God really say you couldn’t eat from all the trees in the Garden?”

Eve answered that they could eat from all the trees except one. That was a special tree called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Then the serpent lied to Eve. He said if she ate the fruit from that tree, she would be very smart, just like God.

Instead of telling the serpent to go away, Eve went over and looked at the fruit on that special tree. How pretty it was! How tasty it looked! Then she

did exactly what God had told her not to do. She reached out and picked one fruit. She took a bite. Then she went to Adam and gave some to him. He took a bite too.

Adam and Eve knew God had said not to eat the fruit from that tree, but they didn't obey God. God calls that sin. Whenever we do something we know we should not do, it is a sin.

The serpent was very pleased when he saw that his wicked plan had worked. Adam and Eve had sinned. God was very unhappy because Adam

and Eve had not obeyed Him. But He was mostly unhappy at the serpent for tricking Eve.

God loved Adam and Eve but, because they had sinned, they had to be punished. God sent them away from the Garden of Eden. They could never go in there again. To keep them out, God had an angel with a flaming sword watch over the Garden.

And what happened to the serpent? God punished him too. From that time on he had to crawl on the ground and eat dirt!

Who Did What?

Draw a line from each of the people listed below, to what they did.

God

listened to the devil.

The devil

has sinned.

Eve

disobeyed God.

Adam

created everything.

Everybody

tempted Eve.

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

The concept that we are all born with sin in our hearts can be a difficult one for a child to understand. He may feel quite unbelieving that a baby brother or sister could have sin in his heart.

To talk about this, take several apples of different sizes and cut them apart. Show your child that each apple contains seeds, no matter what its size.

Ask him if the apple can get rid of its own seeds. Show him that you can remove the seeds, explaining that God is the One who has to take the sin out of our hearts.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Romans 3:23

MONDAY: Romans 6:23

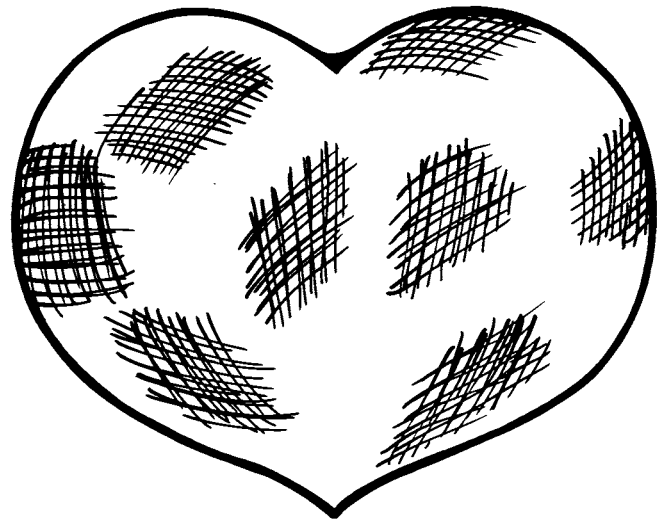
TUESDAY: Hebrews 2:3

WEDNESDAY: I John 1:8

THURSDAY: I John 1:9

FRIDAY: Galatians 3:22

SATURDAY: I John 3:9



Bible Text

Genesis 3:1-6

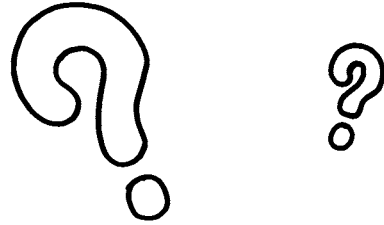
Memory Verse

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. — Romans 3:23

All Have Sinned

Draw a picture or write the answer to each question.

Where was Eve when the serpent talked to her?



What do you need to do to be forgiven?



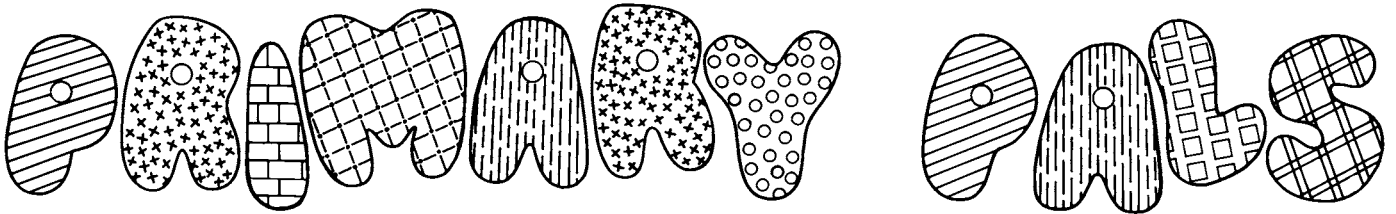
Where did Adam and Eve try to hide from God?



How do you feel when you are forgiven?



Name: _____



Jesus Died for Us

Micah looked up as his friend Ezra came running down the street. Right away he knew something was wrong. Ezra looked so upset!

“Micah, come quickly!” Ezra cried. His voice was shaking. “I just saw a big crowd of people going toward the gate of the city. I asked someone what was happening. He told me soldiers are taking Jesus away with them!”

Micah jumped up. “Soldiers? What are they going to do with Jesus?” he asked. Micah knew Jesus and loved Him. Like others, he had heard about all the good things Jesus had done. One day he had gone to hear Jesus teach, and had sat right near Jesus’

feet. What wonderful words Jesus had spoken! From that day on, Micah realized that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the Son of God. Just a few days before, Micah had watched Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a little donkey. How happy everyone had been that day! So, why would the soldiers have taken Him now?

“The rulers of our country said Jesus has to die,” Ezra panted, out of breath. “They got some people to tell lies about Him. The soldiers are going to crucify Him on that hill outside the city.”

Micah could hardly believe he was hearing right. Crucify Jesus? That

meant the soldiers were going to nail Jesus to a cross! Jesus had done nothing wrong! Micah knew that. "It must be a mistake," he said to Ezra. "Maybe it was someone else, some bad person."

"Yes, it was Jesus," Ezra said, the tears trickling down his dusty cheeks. "I saw Him myself."

"Oh, no!" Micah began to cry too. "Jesus never did anything bad! He is a good man!"

What sadness filled the hearts of the two boys. Could they do anything to help Jesus? They must find out. But by the time they made their way through the crowds of people, the soldiers already had nailed Jesus to the cross. Two thieves were also being crucified, one on each side of Jesus.

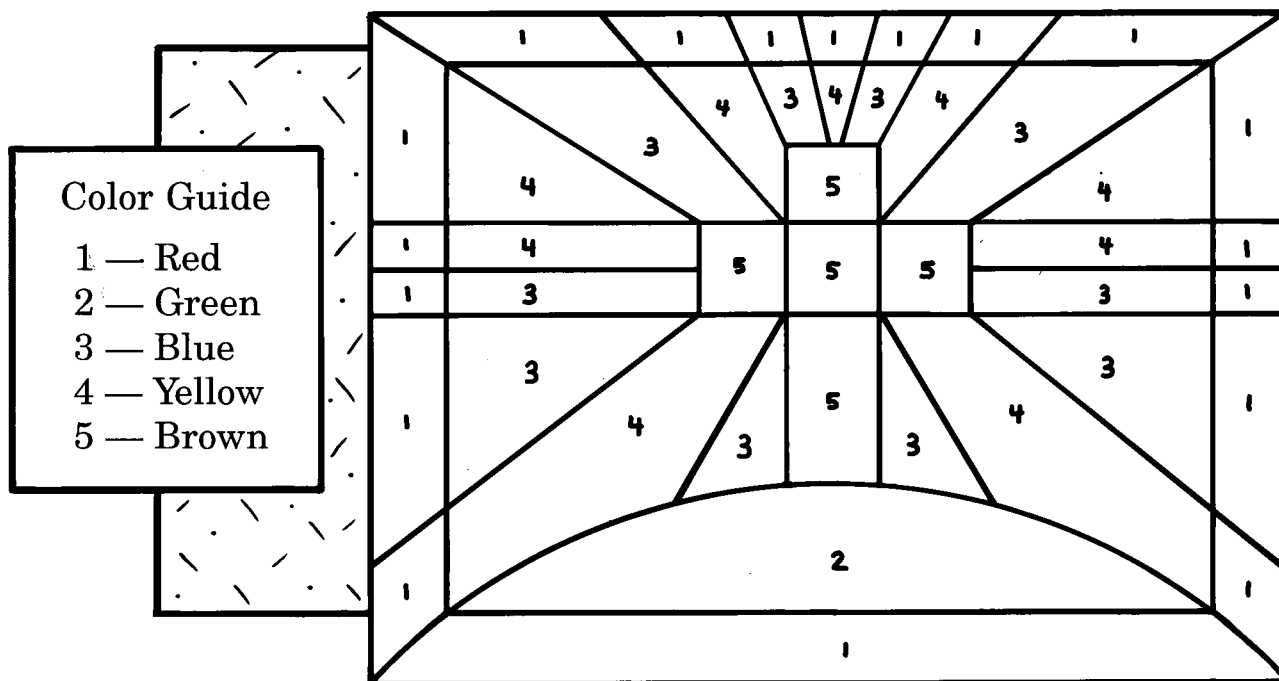
The boys saw Jesus' mother crying nearby. They saw Jesus bleeding from His wounds.

What a terrible time! Micah and Ezra could do nothing to help, but they could not leave. It became dark early in the day, and the people around them were frightened. After a while, Micah and Ezra heard Jesus cry out and saw Him die.

It was a very sad day for Micah and Ezra. They walked home with sad hearts. Why did their wonderful Friend Jesus have to die? Do you know why Jesus had to die? The Bible tells us that God loved us so much that He sent His only Son Jesus to die for all people. If we believe Jesus died for us, and if we give our hearts to Him, we will be saved.

He Died for You!

Use the color guide and color the spaces.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Talk to your child this week about the meaning of the word "forgiveness." Ask how he feels when he has been forgiven for doing something wrong.

A big eraser can be used to illustrate that Jesus' Blood forgives our sins. It takes the spots of sin from our hearts, just like the eraser takes spots off paper. Jesus will forgive us when we ask Him to.

On a large piece of paper, draw an outline of a heart, and let your child write in some things for which forgiveness would be needed. Then let him use the eraser to remove the words from the heart.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: I John 1:7

MONDAY: Revelation 5:9

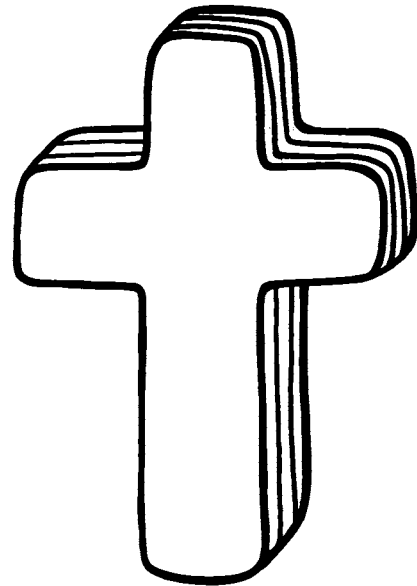
TUESDAY: Revelation 1:5

WEDNESDAY: Hebrews 9:14

THURSDAY: Ephesians 1:7

FRIDAY: Romans 5:9

SATURDAY: Isaiah 53:5



Bible Text

John 19:16-18,31-34

Memory Verse

The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. — I John 1:7

Jesus Loves Me

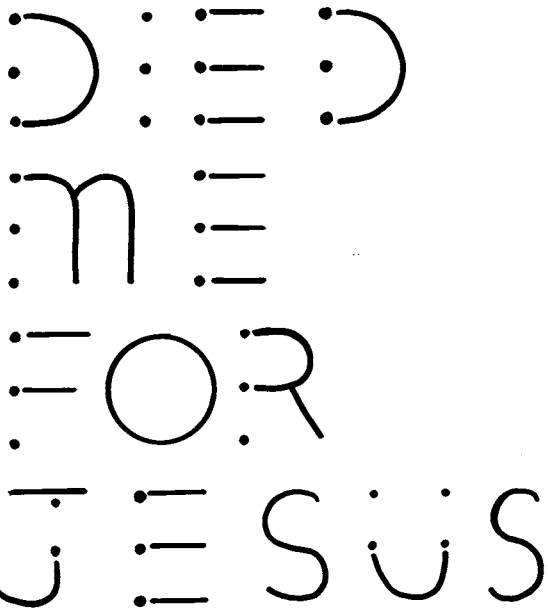
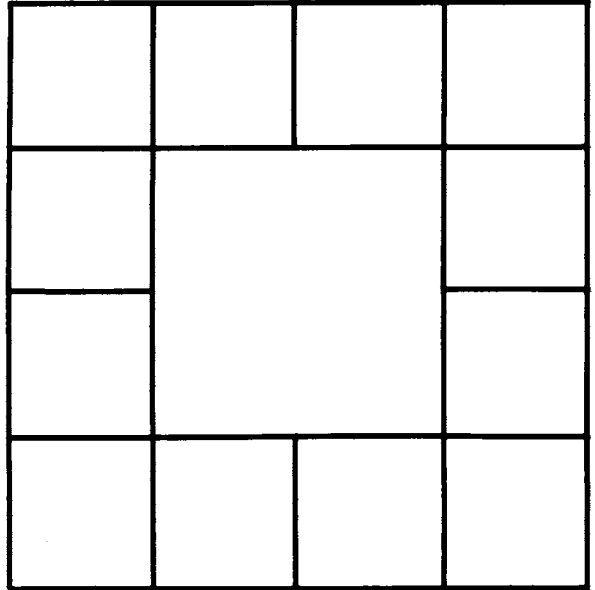
Complete the four sentences. Then arrange the answers in the word square so the first and last letters of the words will connect.

1. Jesus was _____ on the cross.

2. A sign on the cross said, “_____ of the Jews.”

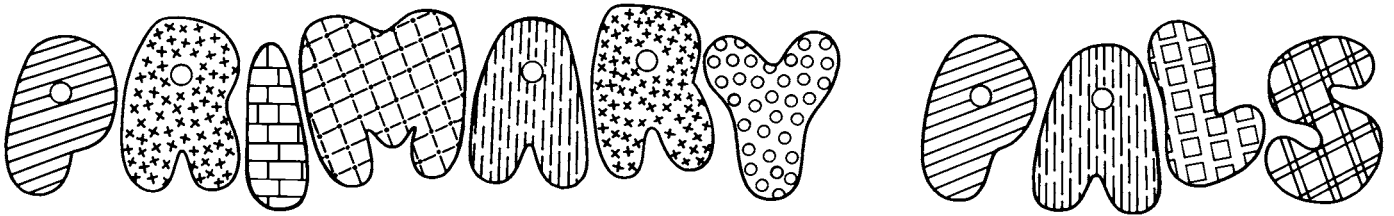
3. A _____ man, named Joseph, buried Jesus’ body in his own tomb.

4. A large _____ was rolled in front of the tomb.



Connect the dots, then unscramble the words to read what Jesus did for you. Write the words on the lines below.

Name: _____



A Clean Heart

It was a dark night in the city of Jerusalem. The streets were almost empty as Nicodemus made his way to the place where Jesus was. Questions raced through his mind. He had seen Jesus do miracles, but was Jesus really the Son of God? I must talk to Him, Nicodemus thought. I must find out for myself.

Nicodemus was an important man in the city. But when he stood before Jesus, he could tell that this Man was Someone very special. Nicodemus said to Jesus, "I know that You are a teacher from God. Otherwise You would not be able to do the miracles You have done."

Jesus did not say anything about Nicodemus' words. But what He did say puzzled Nicodemus. He said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Born again? Nicodemus thought, How could this be? A person could only be born one time. After he was grown up, could he go back to being a newborn baby again? Nicodemus was thinking about how we were born here on earth. So he asked Jesus what He meant.

Jesus explained that He was not talking about the kind of birth when a new little baby comes into the world. He meant that, because of our sins,

the wrong things we say and do, our hearts are not clean. They must be made clean and new so we can go to Heaven. This is what Jesus called being “born again.”

Jesus told Nicodemus these things because He loved him. He wanted Nicodemus to go to Heaven. Their talk happened a long time ago, but the words Jesus spoke are still true. If we want to be ready to go to Heaven, we must be born again.

How does this happen? The Bible tells us to pray to God and tell Him we are sorry for all the wrong things we have done. We tell Him we don't ever

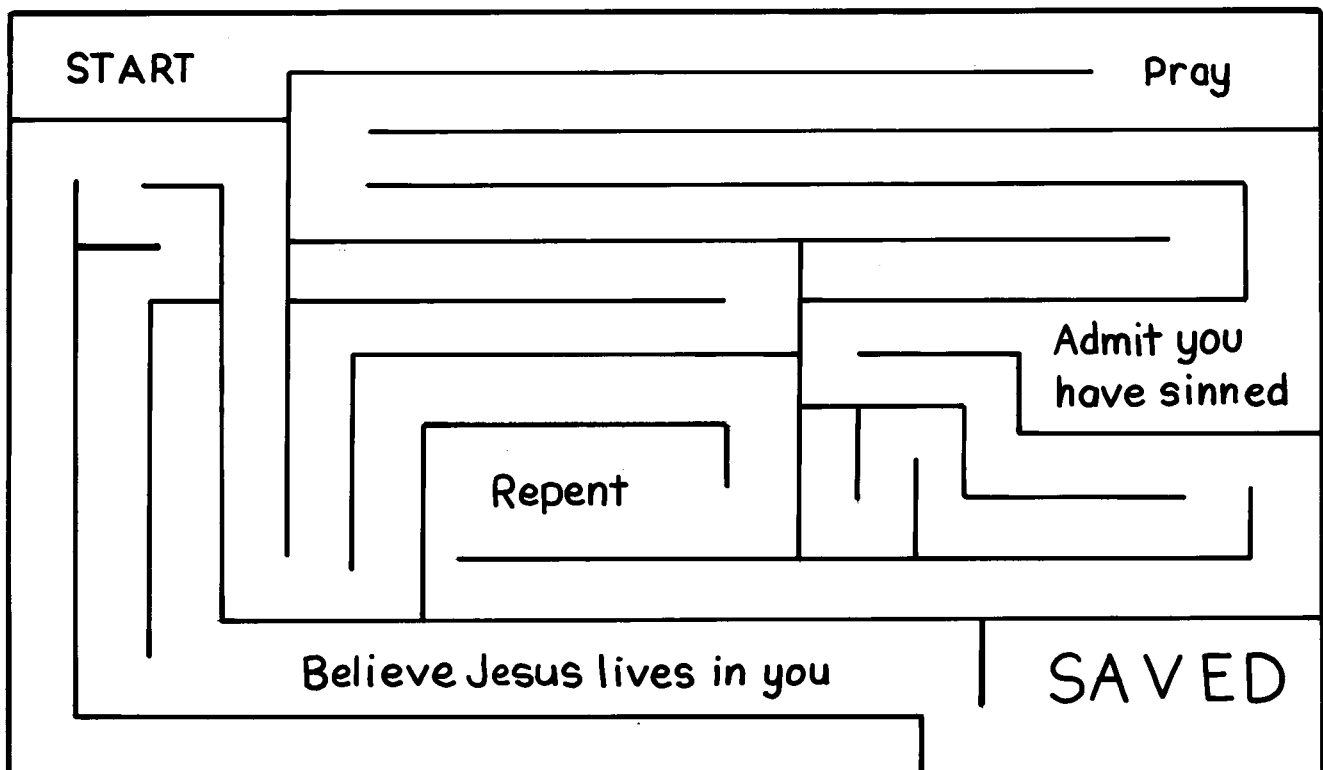
want to do them again. If we really mean that, God knows. Then He washes all the sin from our hearts. He does a good job! When He is done, it's just like we have a new heart.

We will know when that happens. We feel clean and happy deep inside. We have a great big love for God in our hearts. And we only want to do things that will make Him happy. It feels so good to have a clean heart!

Jesus loves each one of us, just like He loved Nicodemus. He wants us to go to Heaven too! We must make sure that our hearts are clean so that we will be able to go to Heaven.

Are You Saved?

Follow through the maze and find out how to be saved.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Get out some pictures of your child when he was newborn. Tell him how happy you were when he was born into the family.

Use this as a springboard for a discussion of what it means to have our sins forgiven and be born into God's family. God, our heavenly Father, is happy about that, just as earthly parents are happy when a new baby comes into their family.

Write the words to this week's memory verse in a large white heart and post it on your refrigerator. Remind your child to read the verse out loud each time he opens the refrigerator.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Psalm 51:10

MONDAY: Psalm 73:1

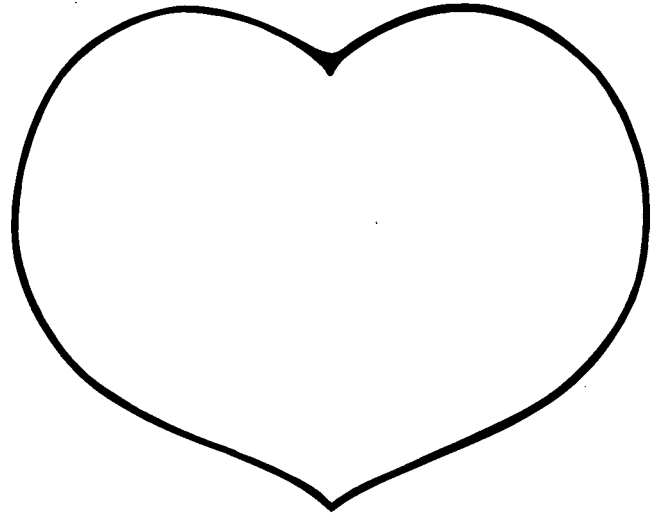
TUESDAY: Psalm 51:2

WEDNESDAY: Ezekiel 36:26

THURSDAY: Isaiah 1:18

FRIDAY: Psalm 24:3,4

SATURDAY: Psalm 66:18



Bible Text

John 3:1-7

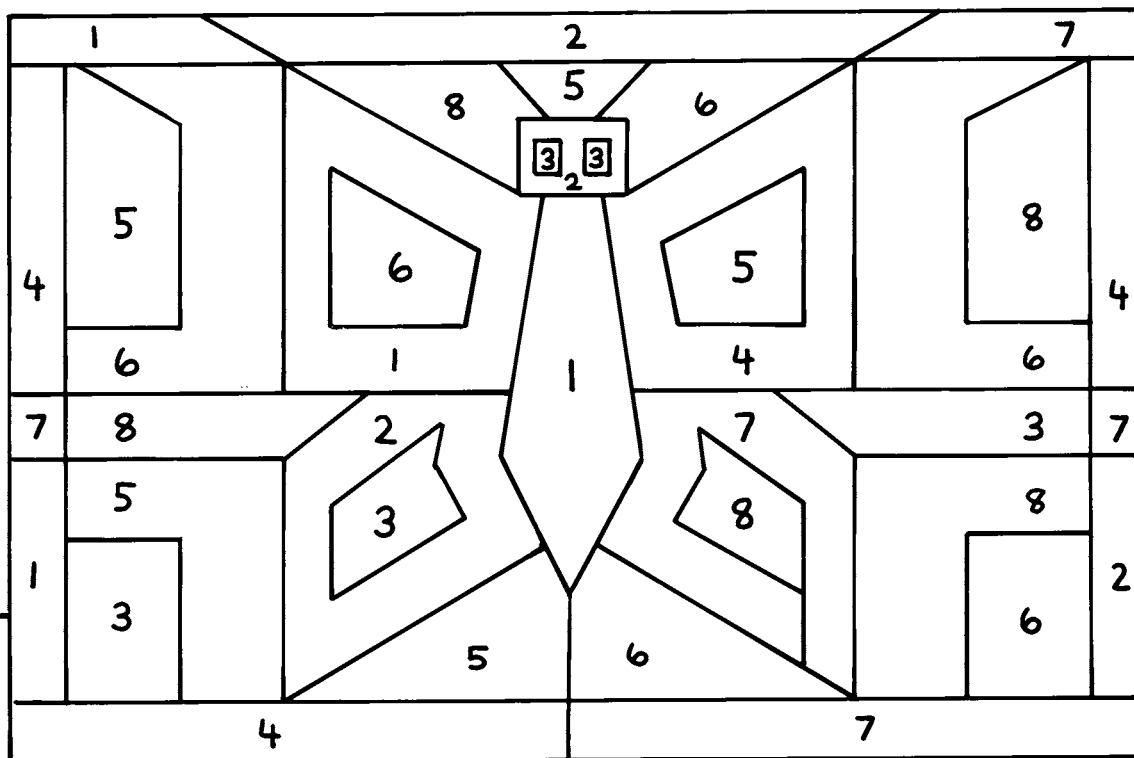
Memory Verse

Create in me a clean heart, O God. — Psalm 51:10

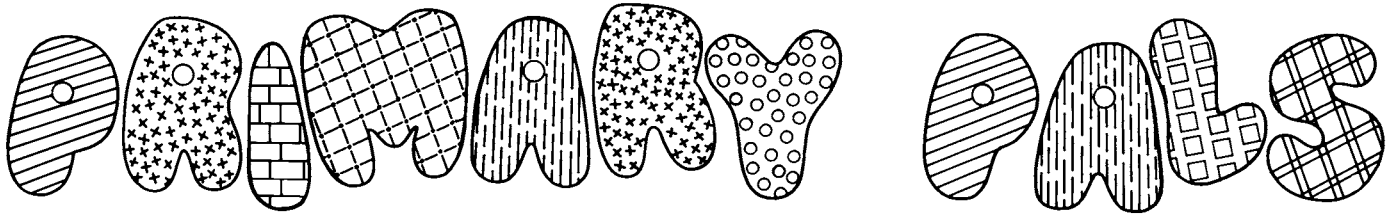
Born Again

If the statement is about today's lesson, color RED in the spaces of the puzzle that have that number. If the statement is false or silly, color YELLOW in the spaces with that number.

1. Nicodemus was a Pharisee.
2. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again."
3. Daniel ate the lions.
4. To go to Heaven you must have a clean heart.
5. Jonah was a fish.
6. You have two left feet.
7. Jesus can make our hearts clean.
8. Noah was an ark.



Name: _____



Growing Up

Did you ever hold a brand new baby? He felt so tiny in your arms, didn't he? His little fingers were ever so small, but how tightly they held onto your finger.

If you ever had a baby brother or sister, though, you know they don't stay little very long. They start to get bigger right away. Soon everybody is saying, "My, how that baby is growing!"

It's a lot of fun to watch them learn new things. As a baby gets bigger and stronger, he learns to sit up by himself. Then he crawls. He may fall down a lot when he begins to take his first steps, but one day he toddles all

the way across the room. He's growing up!

We want that little one to grow, don't we? Even though he is perfect as a little baby, we would feel sad if he never grew and developed the way he should.

In the same way, we need to grow as Christians. We don't want to stay "baby" Christians forever. We want to be strong, and be able to do things for ourselves and others. We need to learn and develop just like a new baby does.

A baby needs food and exercise and love to grow properly. We need certain things to help us grow as Christians too. One important thing we need is

God's Word, the Bible. We find out how we should live by reading the Bible. It answers our questions about what we should do.

Another important thing that we need is prayer. Praying is talking to God and listening carefully for Him to talk to us in our hearts. We can tell God when we are happy. We can thank Him for the good things He gives us. We can ask Him to help us with things that are hard to do. God always hears us when we pray. He is glad when we take time to talk to Him.

Jesus tells us that it will help us grow as Christians if we keep busy working

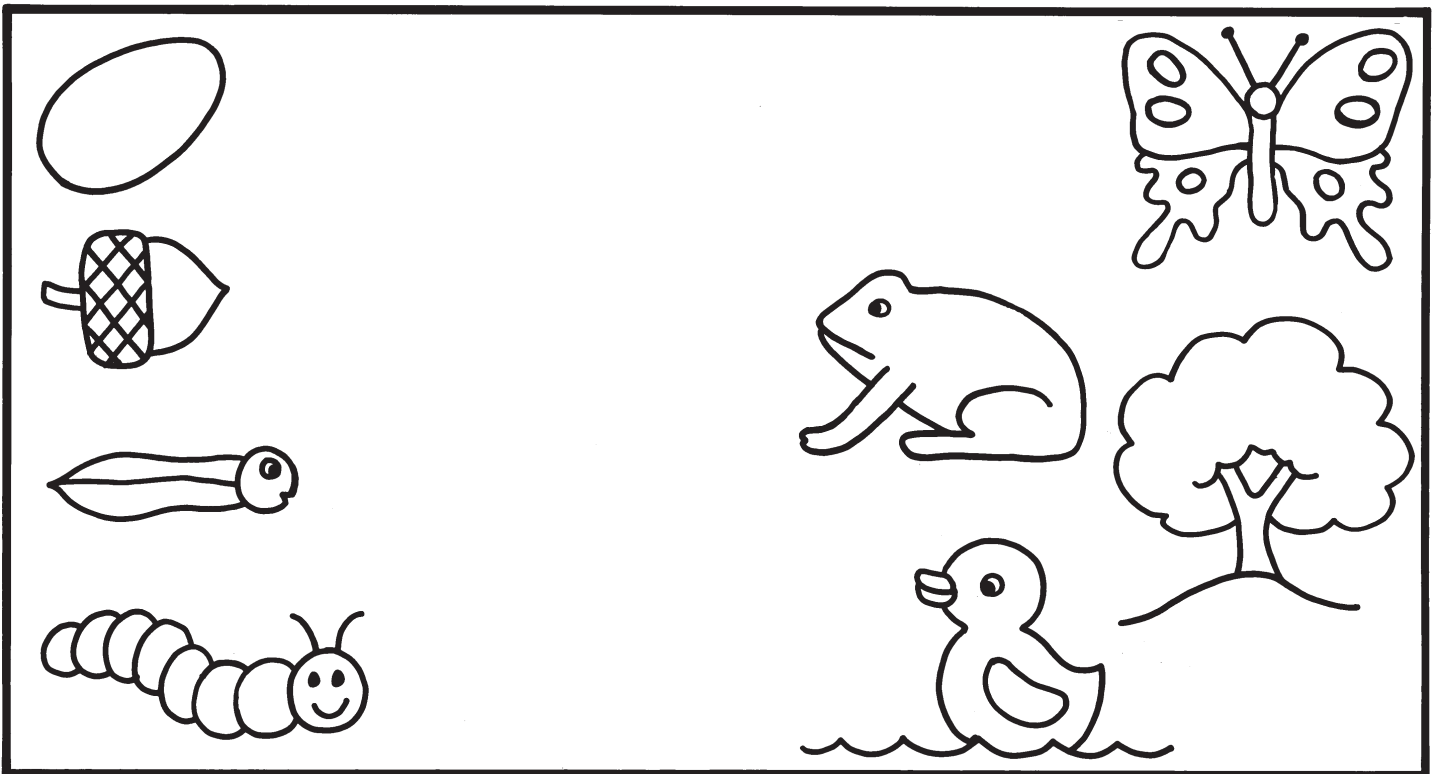
for Him. He wants us to show love for others by being kind and helpful. Jesus always notices when we do something good for someone else.

We need to tell others what Jesus has done for us too. We can tell our friends about Jesus and how He loves all children. If they do not go to Sunday school, we could invite them to come with us. We should always be ready to talk about Jesus because that will help us grow as Christians.

You are growing taller every day. You are learning new things at school and at home. Are you also growing as a Christian, like God wants you to?

What Will They Become?

On the left side of the box is a group of items. Match each of them with what they become when they grow. When you grow as a Christian you become more and more like Jesus wants you to be.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Use a yardstick to show your child how many inches long he was at birth. Then measure him now to see how much he has grown. Talk about what growing is, and how we can tell that it is happening.

Discuss some of the things that are necessary for physical growth. Make a list together, or let your child cut out pictures from a magazine showing things we need. Then compare these to the things we need for spiritual growth.

In your family time together, talk about why it is important to grow spiritually once we have been born into God's family.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: II Peter 3:18

MONDAY: I Peter 2:2

TUESDAY: II Timothy 2:15

WEDNESDAY: Colossians 1:10

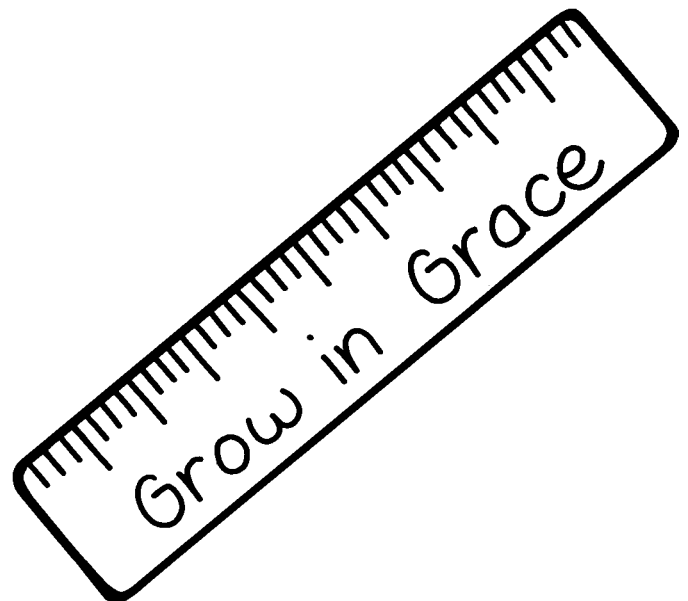
THURSDAY: Ephesians 4:15

FRIDAY: II Peter 1:5-8

SATURDAY: I Thessalonians 3:12

Bible Text

II Timothy 2:1-4; 3:14,15

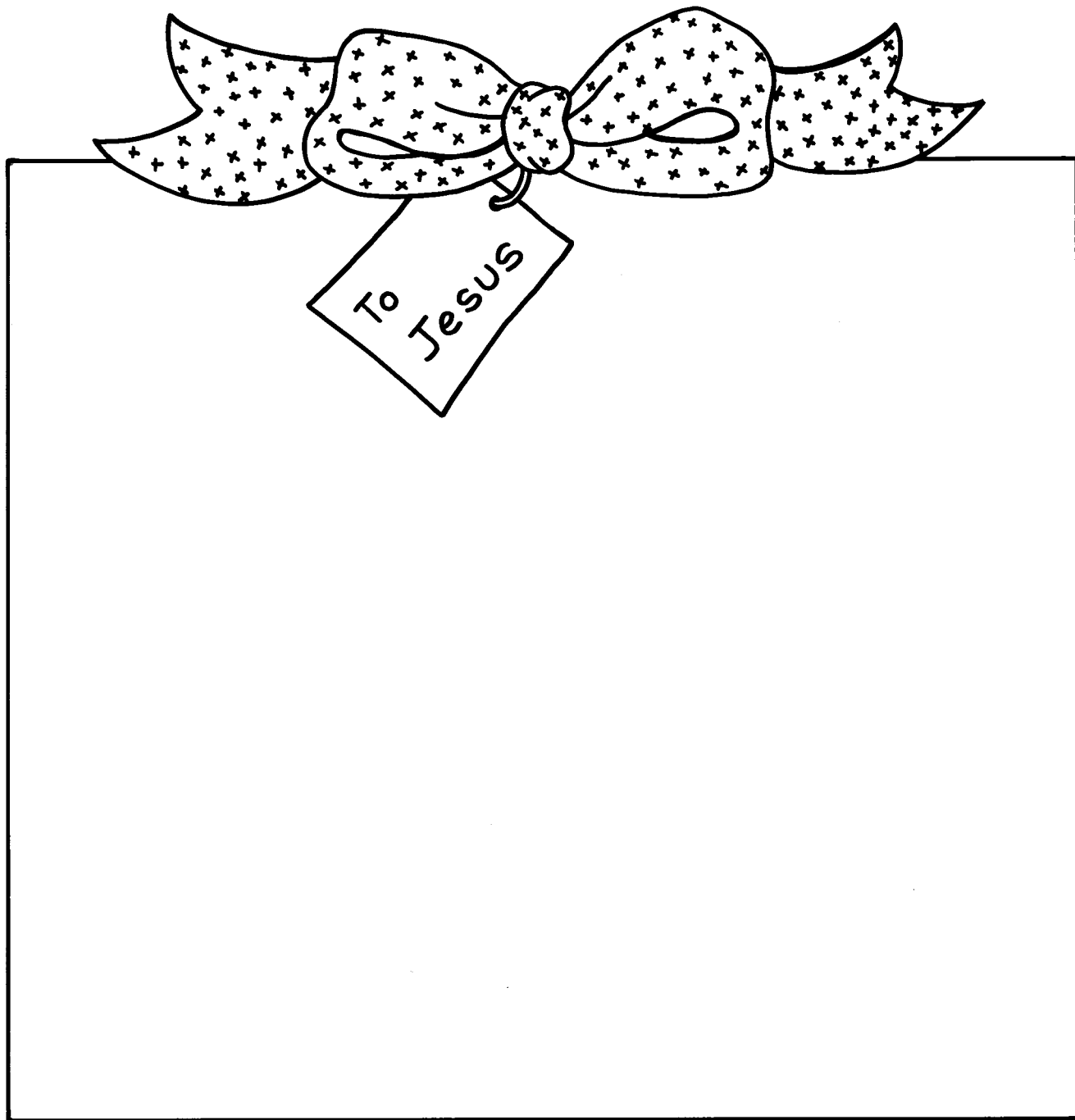


Memory Verse

Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. — II Peter 3:18

Grow for Jesus

Draw a picture or write about a special gift or talent God has given you. How can you use your gift for Him?



Name: _____