

Illustrated Ministry

SAMPLE PACK



illustrated
— MINISTRY —



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WELCOME TO ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY

You're most likely receiving this sample PDF because you signed up for our email newsletter (online or by text at an event), bought something from our store online, or requested a sample of some of our products. No matter how you got this - we're glad to get to know you better and share with you some about our company, Illustrated Ministry.

If you don't wish to be on our email list – no worries. You can simply unsubscribe.

We get it - you get a lot of email and the Illustrated Ministry community might not be for everyone.

But we hope you'll at least stick around and get to know us and help us get to know you for a little bit. **And we hope you enjoy the free stuff in this sample pack!**

WHAT WE DO

Here at Illustrated Ministry, we strive to provide high-quality, illustrated faith materials for both churches and families. Below is a little bit of what we offer here at Illustrated Ministry:

Worship Resources: Illustrated children's worship bulletins, resources for children's moments, worship planning guides, and more.

Formation Resources: Sunday school and intergenerational curricula, coloring posters and pages, family resources for Advent and Lent, seasonal crafts, devotionals for all ages, and more.

Everything Else: Greeting cards, stickers, buttons, backpack tags, digital downloads, fonts, the kitchen sink, and more.

FREE STUFF

We're including a few items in this PDF sample pack so you can get to know Illustrated Ministry. Below is a short description of what's included. Enjoy!

Children's Worship Bulletin: We create children's worship bulletins that encourage imagination and creative and artistic response to prompts related to the Bible stories for the day. You will find a sample bulletin included that is based on the Revised Common Lectionary.

Illustrated Children's Moment: We provide full-color illustrations and leader guides for people to use during children's moments/sermons in worship. Included is a sample to see how you might use one in your context.

Family Devotional & Craft: Included you will find both a sample devotion and a portion of a craft from our Advent family devotional.

Intergenerational Poster Devotional: The included devotional is an example of what goes along with our large coloring posters.

Coloring Pages: A few sample coloring pages to give you an idea of the style and substance of our coloring page options.

We are a fast-growing company, continually coming out with new products and resources for all ages. If you'd like to see our latest products, you can visit our online store here:

store.illustratedministry.com

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

We'd love to connect with you online. While we're on many social networks (see links below), we're probably the MOST active on Facebook, and especially within our **Illustrated Ministry Facebook Community Group**. Our group is a GREAT place to get ideas for how others are using our resources and talk about faith formation. You can request to join here: facebook.com/groups/IllustratedMin

You can always reach us at hello@illustratedministry.com or find us on the following social networks:

Facebook Page:	facebook.com/IllustratedMin
Facebook Group:	facebook.com/groups/IllustratedMin
Instagram:	instagram.com/IllustratedMin
Pinterest:	pinterest.com/IllustratedMin
Twitter:	twitter.com/IllustratedMin

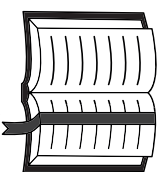
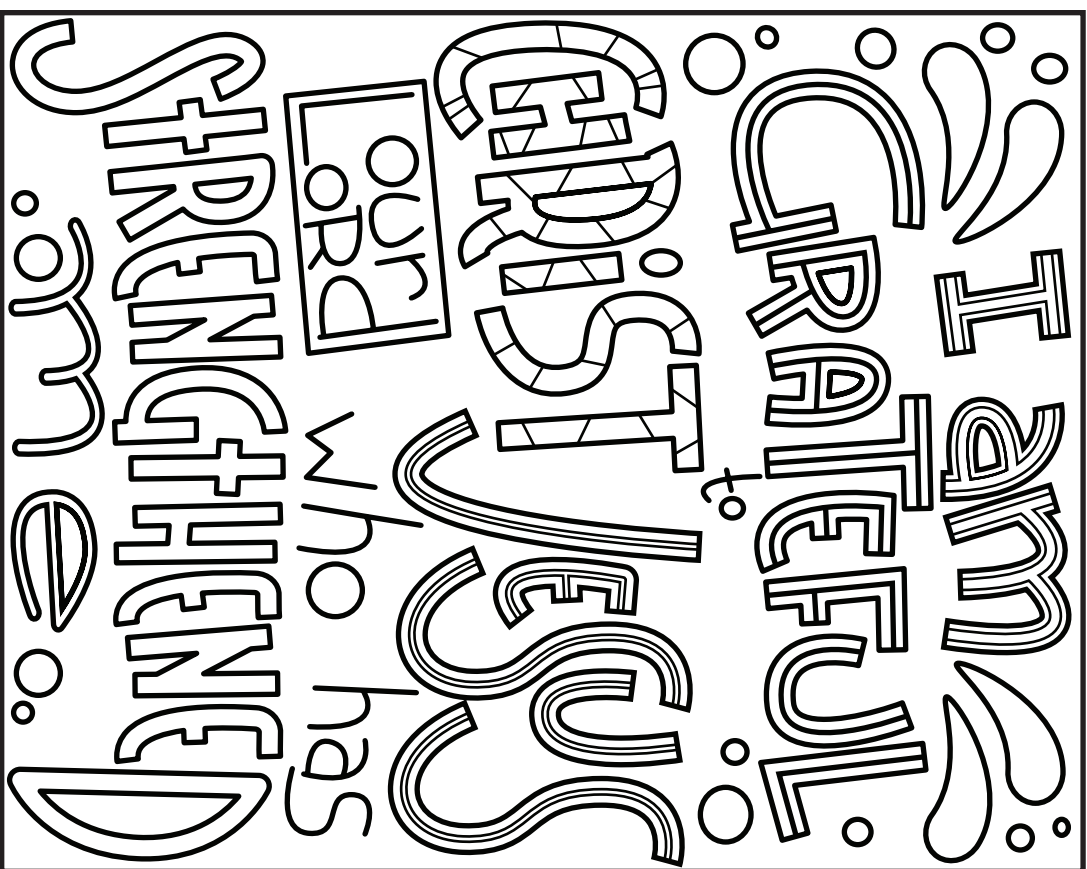
Blessings,



Adam Walker Cleaveland
Founder + CEO
Illustrated Ministry, LLC

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETIN

COLOR IN THE WORDS

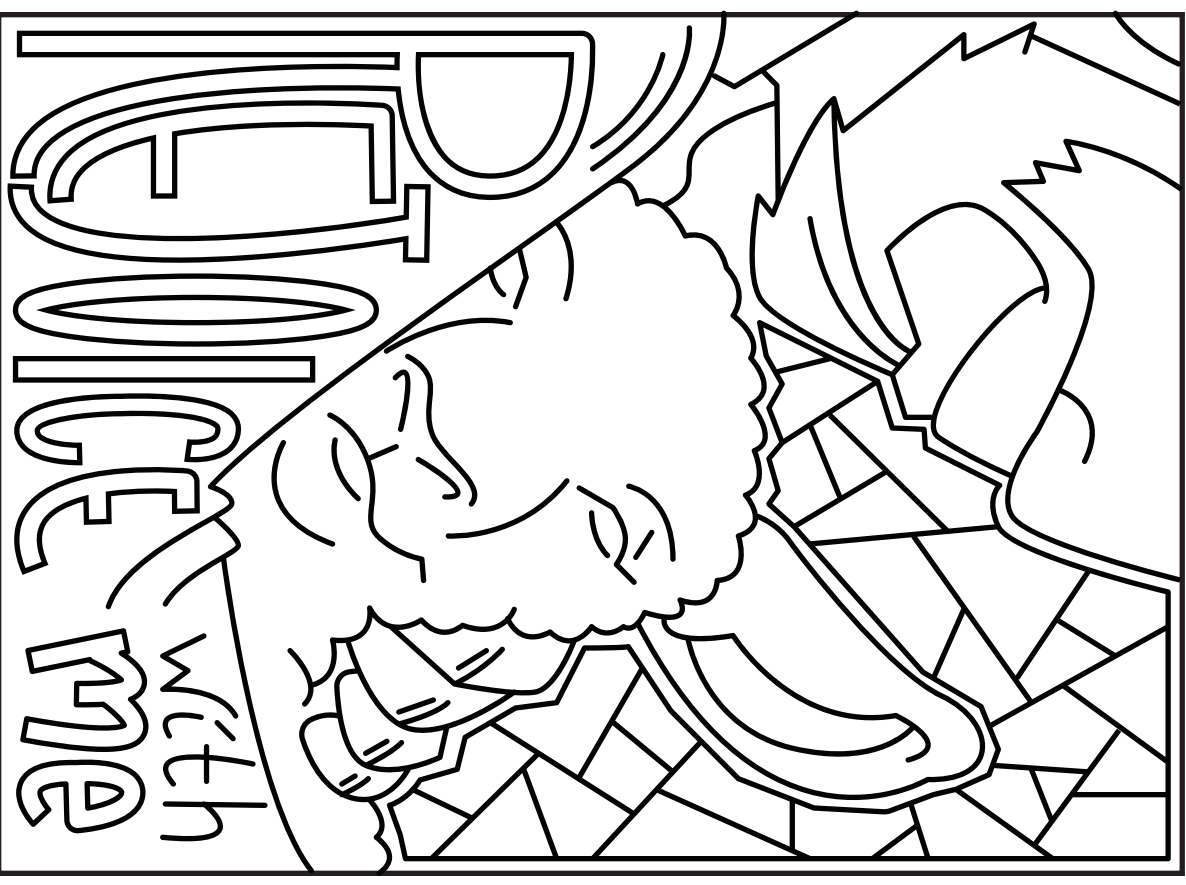


Illustrated
—MINISTRY—

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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Psalm 14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10.





DRAW IT

In Paul's letter to Philemon, he asks Philemon to do something hard - show love in a situation that was difficult to show love. Draw a picture of where you could show love, even if it's hard.

UNSCRAMBLE IT

Who and what does the Psalmist say God is for the poor? Hint: It's a form of protection and strength! Unscramble the words to find out!

--- E H T --- D O R L S I R H T I E ---

--- G U F E E E R ---

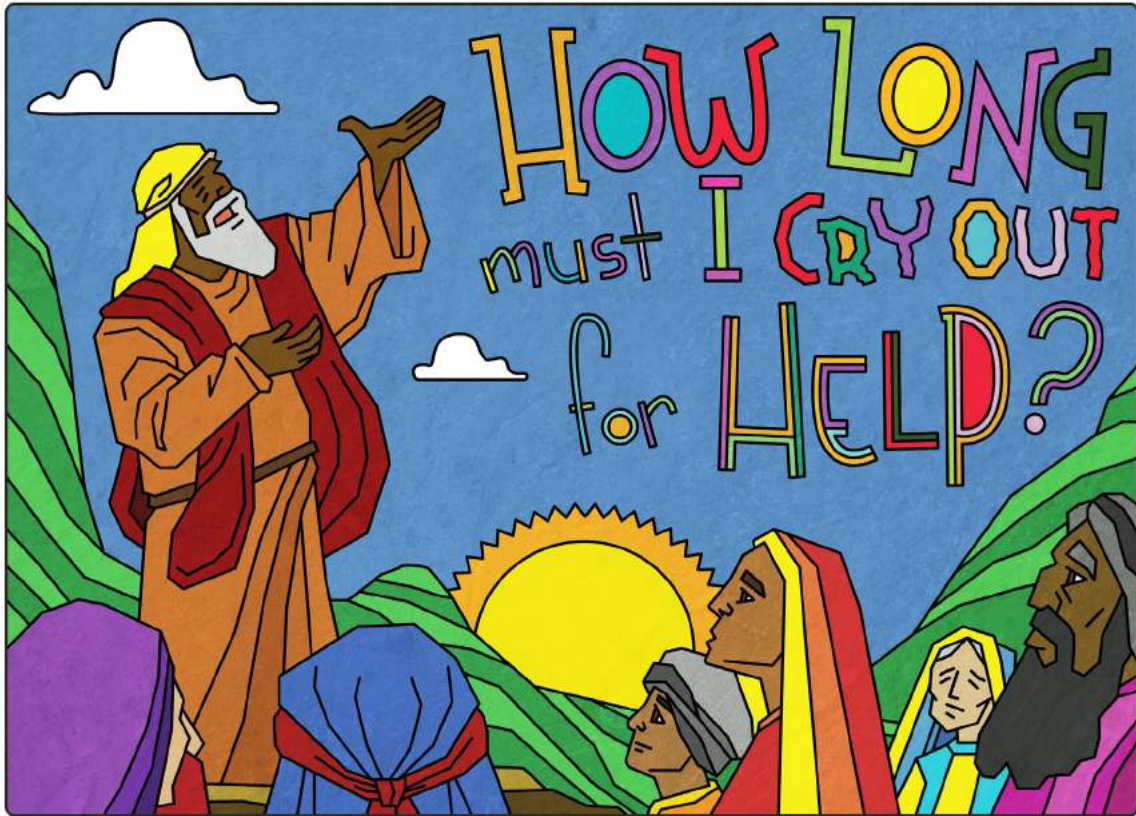
DOODLE AREA

Draw someone you want to pray for.

ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S MOMENT

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4



Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 • illustratedministry.com

INTRO

Tell the children a time you were calling for help. Perhaps it was calling for a grown-up during an argument with a sibling or something similar. Describe what it was like and who came to your rescue.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been in a situation when you called for help? Perhaps at school or at home?
- What is it like to be in a situation like that? How did you feel?
- We all need help at some point in our lives, don't we? How might God be our helper?

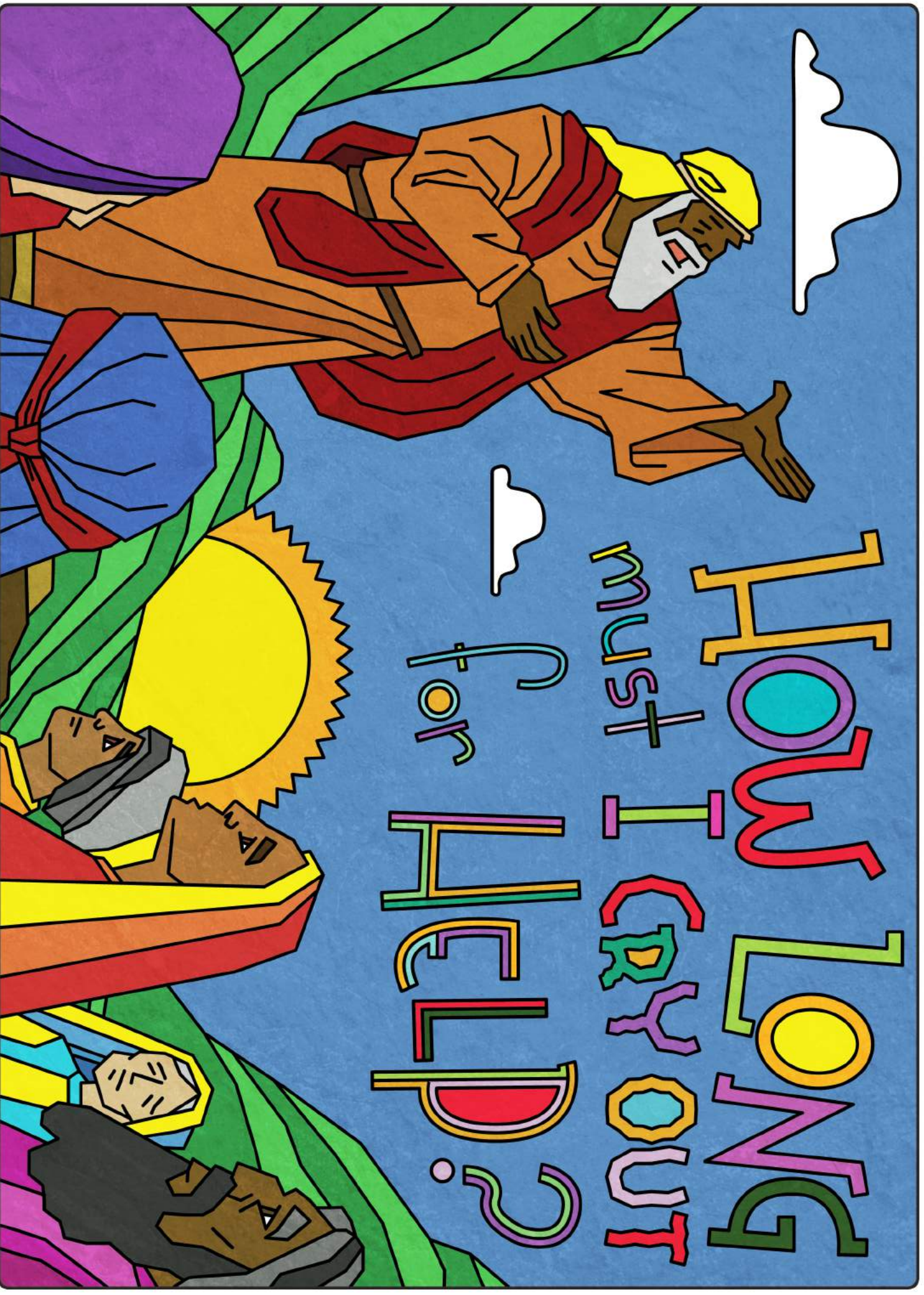
WRAP-UP

Tell the children in this morning's scripture, from the book of Habakkuk, the Israelites are seriously struggling. Explain their leaders were making decisions that weren't good for the people. Tell them it was a scary time because the people could not fully trust the leaders in power, and there was an even bigger, stronger nation threatening to invade and take over. Explain the people knew if this happened, they could lose their way of life, there would be damage to their homes, and they could even die. Discuss what this may have been like for the Israelites. Tell them a lot has changed in our world since that time, but there are still leaders today who use their power to harm and control others. Show the children this morning's illustration and explain that a man named Habakkuk, who had a very close relationship with God, called out, "How long shall I cry for help?" Then, discuss how he was calling for things to change and for help to come. Tell the children that even today, people are calling out for help in our nation and world as they are controlled by systems or governments that harm them. Explain that today, when there are cries for help, we can answer by giving our time, talents, and voices to make a difference. Discuss different groups in the world today who need protection, justice, and support. As you close, wonder with them about how we might answer the call to help those at risk because of injustice. Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for teaching us that you answer the cries of suffering people. Help us see the pain and injustice around us. Move us to help bring freedom, safety, and healing however we can. **Amen.**

How long
must I cry out
for help?



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL AND CRAFT



WEEK 1: HOPE

Preparing to Bring Hope

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

REFLECTION

Our first advent reading comes from prophet Jeremiah. He spoke to God's people during a time when they were making choices that went against God's ways. Long before, God made a covenant, a promise, to Abraham and Sarah that in their descendants, all the world would be blessed. Some generations were in a great relationship with God, some were not. Here Jeremiah urged God's people to stop doing things that caused them to turn away from God and break their covenant with God. Still, things weren't looking good. The time was drawing near when God's people would be overtaken by a stronger, more powerful nation, and forced to leave their homes and country.

However, in the midst of that difficult news Jeremiah shared, he also included promises of hope and restoration of God's people through a new covenant that God was making. This new covenant is different from the covenant God made with Abraham and Sarah because it is permanent and cannot be broken.¹ Our verses today tell us about that covenant promise.

Why is this an advent text? Jeremiah's words speak about the future promise to God's people. The season of Advent is one of hopeful anticipation. As we wait for the arrival of Jesus on Christmas day, Jeremiah reminds us that we serve a God who helps us hope and promises to bring restoration to our world.

¹ Collins, John J. Introduction To The Hebrew Bible. Fortress Press, 2004, 345.

DISCUSSION

As you color the coloring page together, ponder these questions:

1. This week we learned about a prophet and how he helped God's people prepare for the future. Who in your life helps you get ready? Do you like having someone help you? What is nice about it? What is difficult?
2. A covenant is a promise or a commitment made between two different individuals or an individual and a group of people. Can you think of examples of covenants in the Bible or in life? Have you ever been a part of a covenant?
3. Our Bible passage this week is one that gave hope to a lot of people who were facing hard things. When you are facing something that is hard, where do you go to find help and hope?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

When you became a family, whether through birth, foster, adoption, partnership or marriage, you begin to form patterns or traditions that shape your family's norms and routines.

Oftentimes these norms happen without even realizing it. This week, we invite you to spend some time together as a family and think about the things that are important to you or define you as a family. Use the activity page to write or draw those things and create a visual covenant for your family. Take the page and post it in your home to remind you of the hope you have in your family during the Advent season and beyond.

PRAYER

Covenant God,
As we enter this season of waiting for your son,
thank you for your promise that you are with us.
Thank you for being a God of justice,
a God of righteousness,
and a God of safety in a troubled world.
Help us to be a faithful people,
who seek and believe in the hope that you share with us.
In your name, we pray,
Amen.

Our Family Covenant

ILLUSTRATED ORNAMENT SET

Illustrated Ornament Set

As you take out your Christmas decorations from storage and set up your Christmas tree, we are thrilled you are making this Illustrated Ornament Set a part of your Christmas decor. An Illustrated Ornament Set provides you with an opportunity read a brief reflection, color different pieces of the ornaments, put the pieces together to make the ornament, and have some conversations about each of the Advent week themes.

We find that some of the best conversations happen when you are just sitting around a table with friends or your children, coloring. We invite you to take time this Advent season to slow down and talk about HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE and how GOD IS WITH US with your family, friends, or worshipping community as you create these five ornaments.

You may choose to make them as a family, in your children's ministries, or as part of an Advent church event. You may choose to display your ornaments on your Christmas tree or place them around your home as reminders of Jesus and the promise of God throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. There are some instructions and photos on the next few pages, and we hope that you enjoy making your Illustrated Ornament Set.

PHOTO EXAMPLES

STEP 1



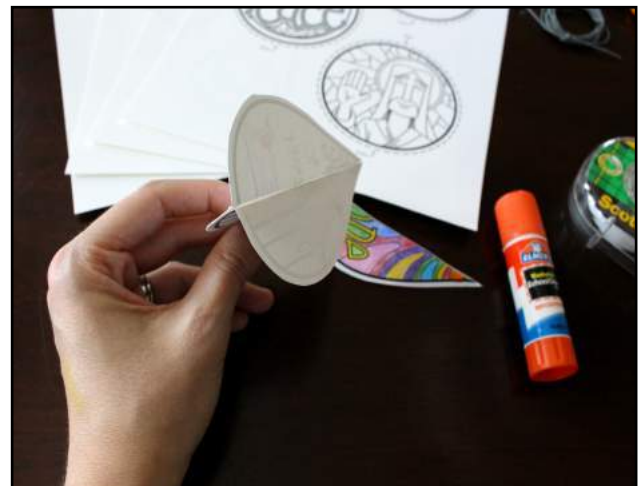
STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4

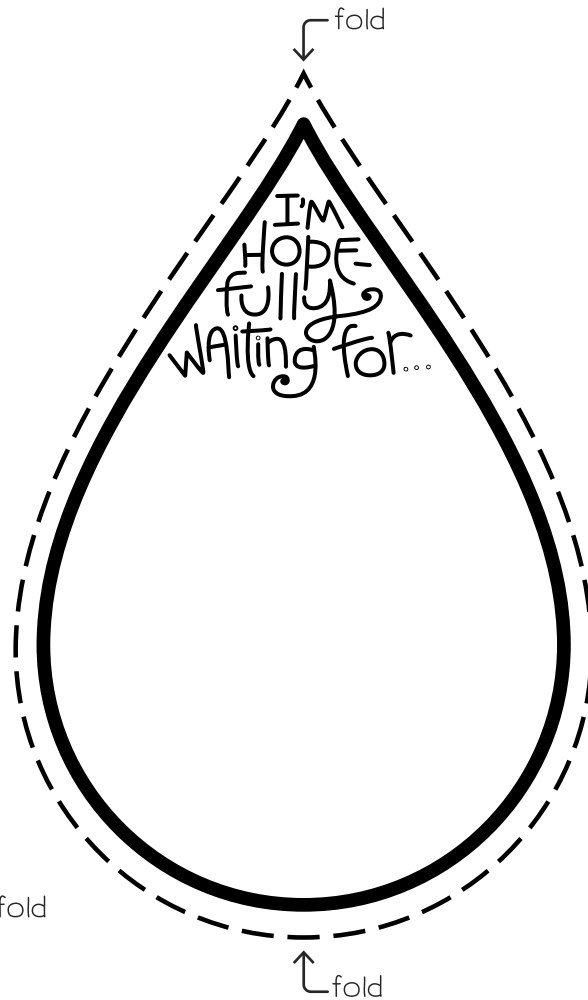


STEP 5



STEP 6





INTERGENERATIONAL POSTER DEVOTIONAL

SEVEN LAST WORDS

• DEVOTIONAL GUIDE •

POSTER ONE: KNOW





POSTER ONE: KNOW

SCRIPTURE

Luke 23:34: "God, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

REFLECTION

Know: *understand, see, recognize*

What don't you know?

I've sometimes been asked to play a role in a larger project I don't totally understand. Or I've asked other people to participate in a project I don't fully explain. It always seems harmless enough: I ask my kids to hold our place in the grocery store line and say I'll be right back, but I don't tell them where I'm going. I ask a friend to loan me five dollars and promise to repay her the next day, but don't say what I'm going to spend it on. Someone else asks me to read a paragraph out loud on cue, even though I haven't heard the larger story, and don't know how it all fits together.

My kids say yes, my friend hands me the cash, I agree to read aloud, partly because those are trusted relationships. Partly because those are easy things to do. Partly because it might seem like more trouble than it's worth to challenge or say no to what's being asked.

Sometimes we say yes when we ought to challenge, or learn more about, what's being asked of us. Sometimes we do things we wouldn't if we understood more. Some things we'd never be a part of if we recognized the hurt they would cause.

It's like when my sons wrestle each other, always playing, laughing... at the beginning. These scenes often end with one of them hurt - not because one means to hurt the other, but because they get carried away, and don't notice when the play becomes rough. If they knew that game would end in tears, they probably wouldn't start it. But it's hard to see that far ahead.

Or like when someone tosses a piece of trash on the ground. It's hard to see how something so small makes a difference. But then the wind picks up that trash, carries it far from where it was tossed, into the woods, or out to the ocean, where a curious creature crawls up to it or swims near it - and gets tangled up in it. The creature loses its ability to crawl or swim. The person who tossed the trash never intended for that to happen. But rarely can we know all that might unfold from our actions.

We just don't understand, see, recognize. At times that's because we don't try very hard. At other times, it's because we can't fully know those consequences ahead of time. And sometimes, it's because we're just plain wrong about what we're doing.

And Jesus knew this. He knew this even about the people who were part of his last moments, moments filled with pain, sorrow, and hurt. He knew they didn't really understand what they were doing - that they were caught up in lies they didn't recognize they'd been told, that they didn't fully understand their actions. He also knew that if they challenged those instructions, they could be punished. They could lose their jobs. They could be outcast from their community. They were trapped like he was - and they might not have even known it.

And this wasn't a moment where Jesus could teach like he often did when people were confused or didn't understand. That wasn't an option here. So he did the only other thing he could.

Jesus showed grace.

He offered mercy.

He spoke forgiveness.

Jesus knew that not even the choices people made in these moments could separate them from God's love. He used some of his last words to tell them so. Perhaps Jesus suspected they would understand this moment differently, later. Don't we, too, see things differently - sometimes more clearly - once they're over rather than while they're happening?

It may even be that as soon as they heard him speak these words - about how much they didn't understand - they began to understand a bit more.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

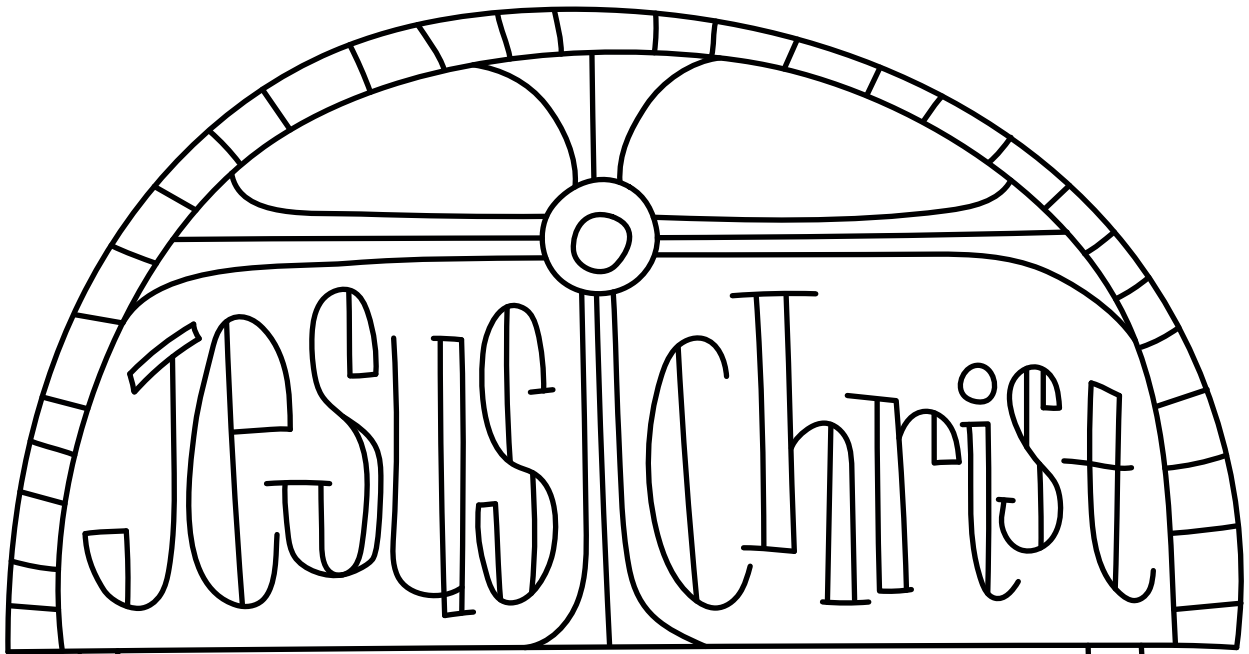
- Who has spoken words of grace, or forgiveness, to you?
- What are some of the kindest words you know?

GOING DEEPER

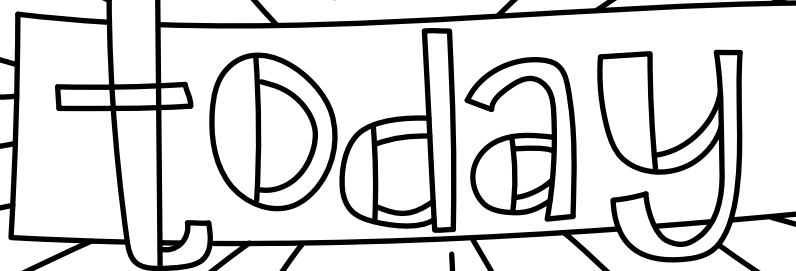
- Can you share a story about a time you didn't fully understand what you were doing - and it turned out well?
- Can you share a story about a time you didn't fully understand what you were doing - and it *didn't* turn out well?
- Imagine you're talking with someone who has upset or angered or saddened you. If you think, 'maybe they don't know...,' instead of 'how could they have?...,' what possibilities open up?

COLORING PAGES





and



and

