



## Blessed Assurance

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*

Fanny J. Crosby

**M**y story is ordinary. I hesitate to tell it. My autobiography does not include overcoming great physical challenges, or losing everything financially, or sinking into drugs and alcohol. I do not have a spectacular conversion to faith experience.

Mine is a faith that seems to have always been there. My parents told me about Jesus as a child, and I took it on faith. As an adolescent I went to youth group and learned more about a mature faith. As a young adult I tested my faith by skipping community worship. I cannot point to the day and time I first believed. I have aha moments in hindsight. I look back and see God's fingerprints all over my life.

I see examples of where having God in my heart got me through. My father died when I was fifteen. I grieved but kept the faith. My husband and I lost our jobs on the same day. I was scared but I kept the faith. I tried for over a year to get pregnant. I was frustrated but kept the faith.

Through it all I have never known hunger or homelessness. Family, friends, and my Father in heaven have loved me. Mine is an ordinary story. No fireworks. And my average life is precisely the reason I speak up. There are many of us leading ordinary lives of extraordinary joy with Jesus in our hearts. Letting others know it can be that simple is important.

I know I benefit from hearing every story of how God has worked in someone's life. Every spectacular mountaintop experience and every tale of how someone clung to God through a valley of darkness offers insight. There's an element in each I can relate to, ponder over, or rejoice in. And my narrative brings that insight to others.

So I add my story to the collective of testimonies, simple as it is. I stand up to be counted. "This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long."

*Thank You, dear Co-Author, for my story of a faith that grows through my lifetime.*

*Amen*





# Peter says Jesus is God's Son.

Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus and His friends were on a long walk. They went to a town called Caesarea Philippi. While they were there, Jesus asked His friends, "Who do people say I am?"

"Some people say You are John the Baptist or Elijah," some of Jesus' friends answered. "And some people say You are one of the prophets come back to life."

Then Jesus asked them another question. "Who do YOU say that I am?"

Jesus' friends thought about what to answer. Then one of Jesus' friends, Simon Peter, remembered

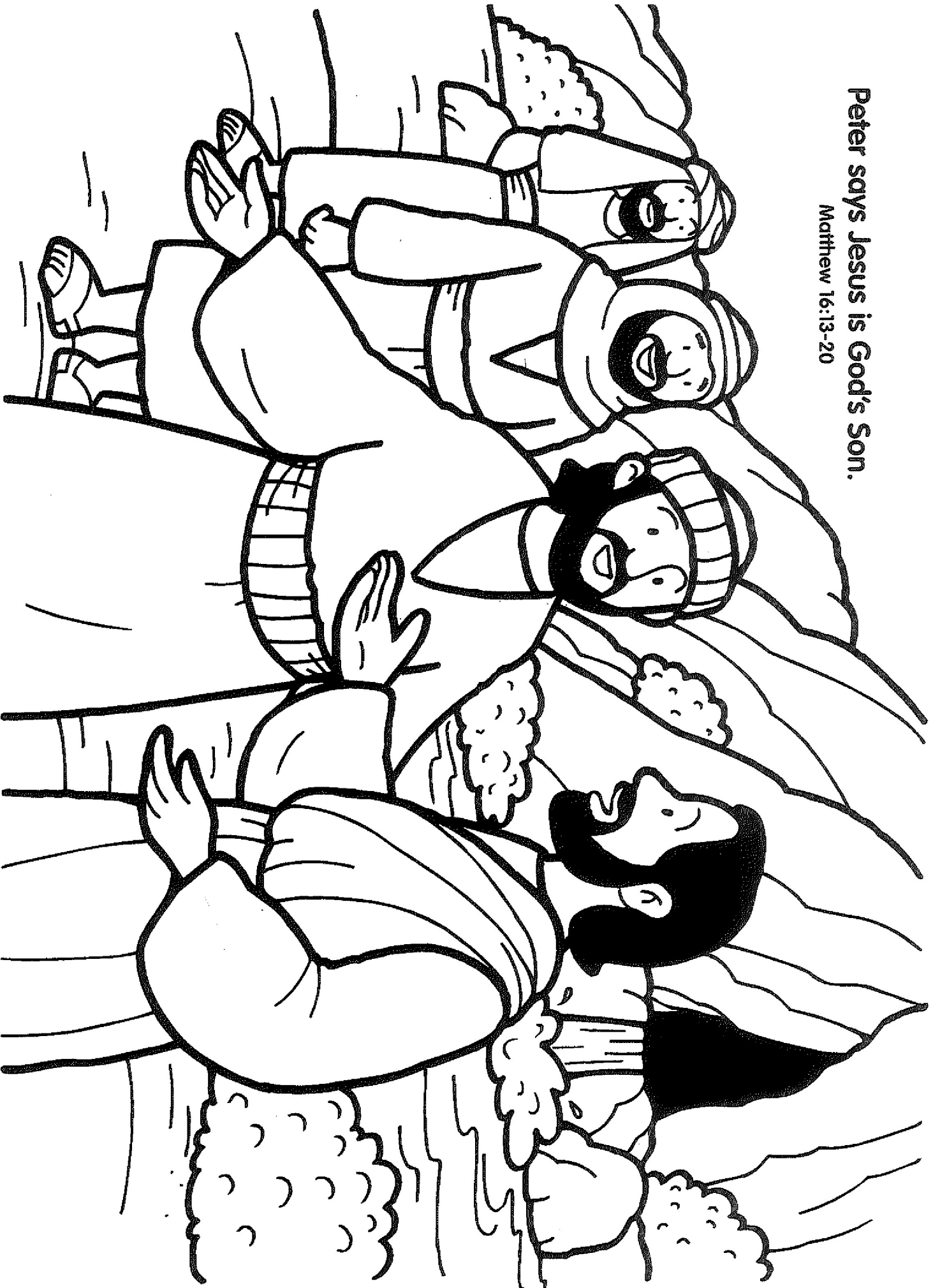
all the wonderful things Jesus had said and done. God helped Simon Peter know the truth. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," he answered.

Jesus said, "Well done." Then Jesus told Simon Peter that one day he would be a leader of the people who believed in Jesus.

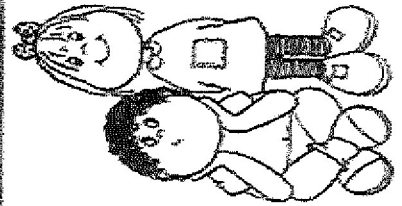
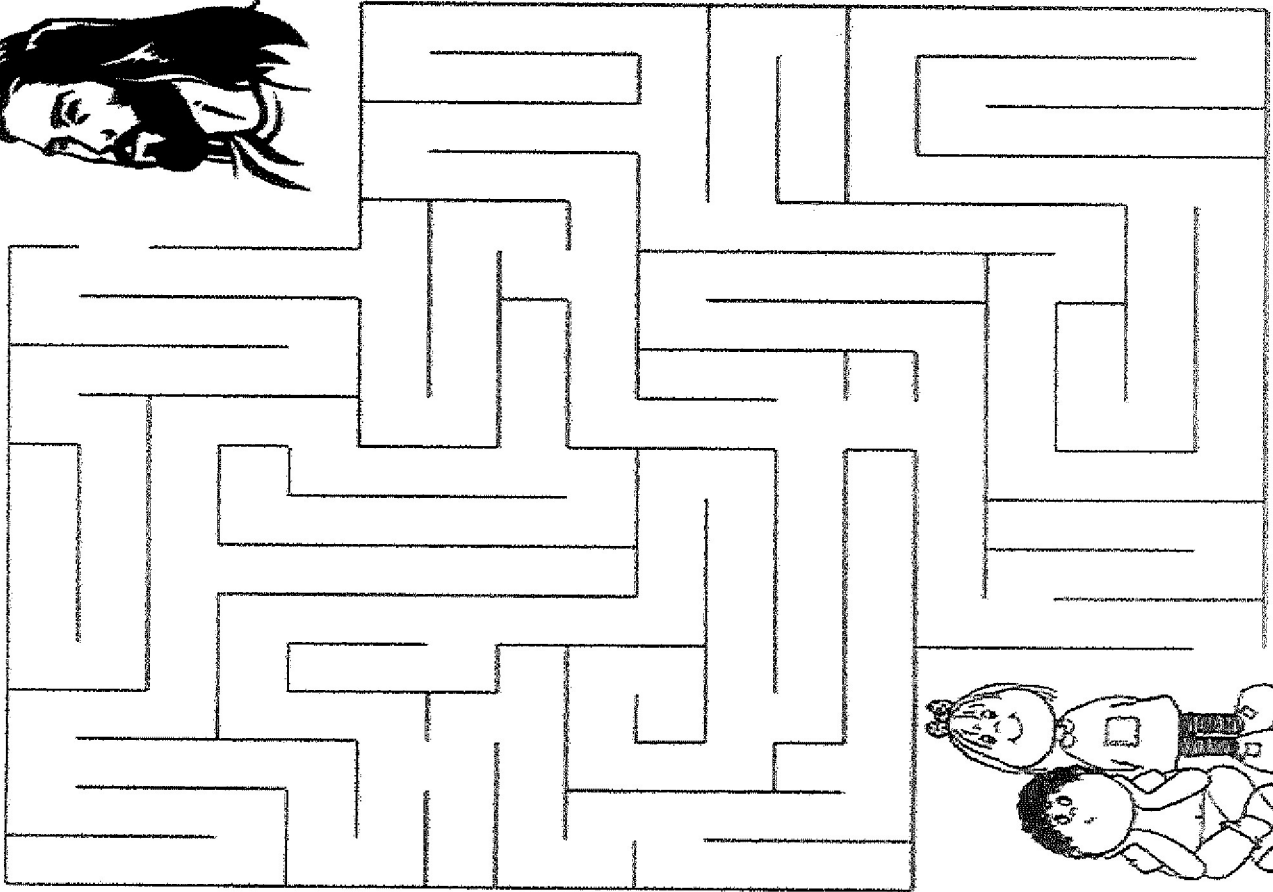
All of Jesus' friends must have been thankful to hear and know this good news about Jesus, the Son of God.

Peter says Jesus is God's Son.

Matthew 16:13-20



Bring the kids to Jesus!



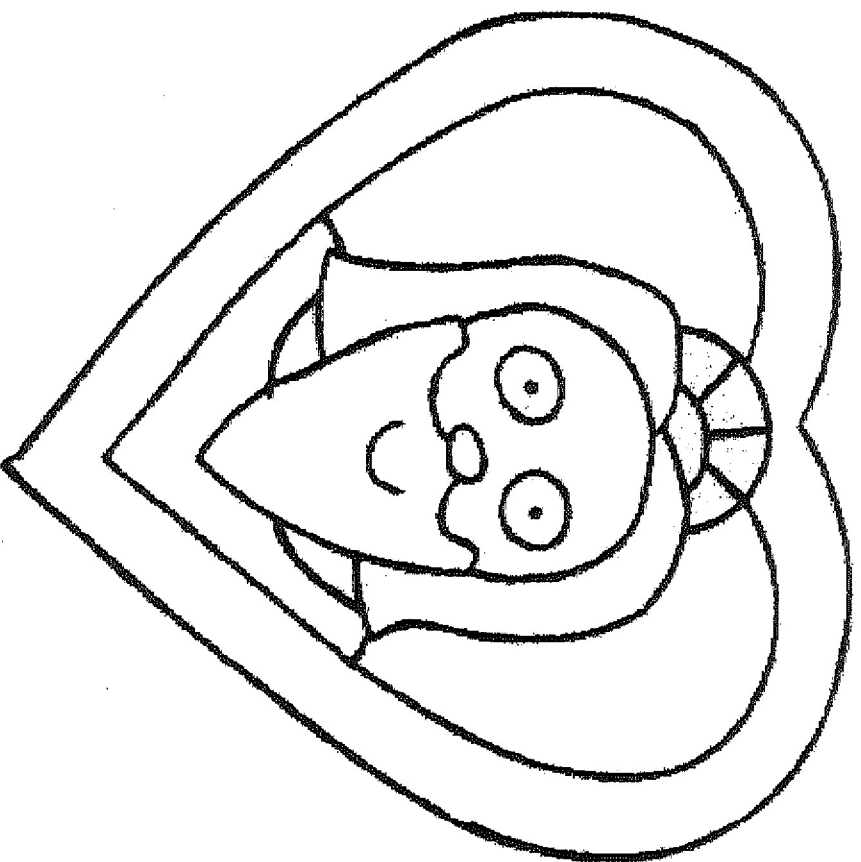
JESUS- GOD'S SON!



1 Peter 3:18 & 2 Corinthians 1:20

# Jesus

# Loves Me



Match names of Jesus ...

WORD ●

BREAD ●

LIGHT ●

SHEPHERD ●

VINE ●

PRINCE ●

LION ●

● CPRENI

● ITLHG

● OILN

● RODW

● HHEERPD

● NEIV

● ERADB

# JESUS- GOD'S SON!

Jesus is the **WORD**; he brings us God's message.  
 Jesus is the **BREAD** of life.  
 Jesus is the **LIGHT** of the world.  
 Jesus is the Good **SHEPHERD**, and we are his sheep.  
 Jesus is the **VINE**, and we are the branches.  
 Jesus is the **WAY**, the **TRUTH**, and the **LIFE**.

**SON** Jesus is God's **SON**.  
**JESUS** The name **JESUS** and the Old Testament name Joshua both mean **SAVIOR**.  
**SAVIOR** **EMMANUEL** means God with Us.  
**EMMANUEL** **CHRIST** means the Chosen One or Messiah.  
**CHRIST** Jesus is our **LORD**; he is the master and we are the servants.  
**LORD** Jesus is the **PRINCE** of Peace.  
**PRINCE**

## The Story of Jesus

Look up each verse and number the events in Jesus' life in the correct order.

- 1 Luke 2:7
- 2 Luke 2:52
- 3 Mark 1:9
- 4 Matthew 4:23
- 5 John 19:18
- 6 Luke 24:6
- 7 Acts 1:9

- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus went back up to heaven.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus grew and pleased God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus was crucified on the cross.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus was baptized.
- \_\_\_\_\_ God raised Jesus from the dead.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus came into the world as a baby.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus traveled around, teaching, preaching, and healing people.

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

# Why Did Jesus Come into the World?

Reason 1:

\_\_\_ G \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ V \_\_\_ Z \_\_\_ X \_\_\_ S

\_\_\_ Z \_\_\_ Y \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ T \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ W

Reason 2:

\_\_\_ G \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ W \_\_\_ R \_\_\_ V \_\_\_ U \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ I

\_\_\_ F \_\_\_ H \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ V

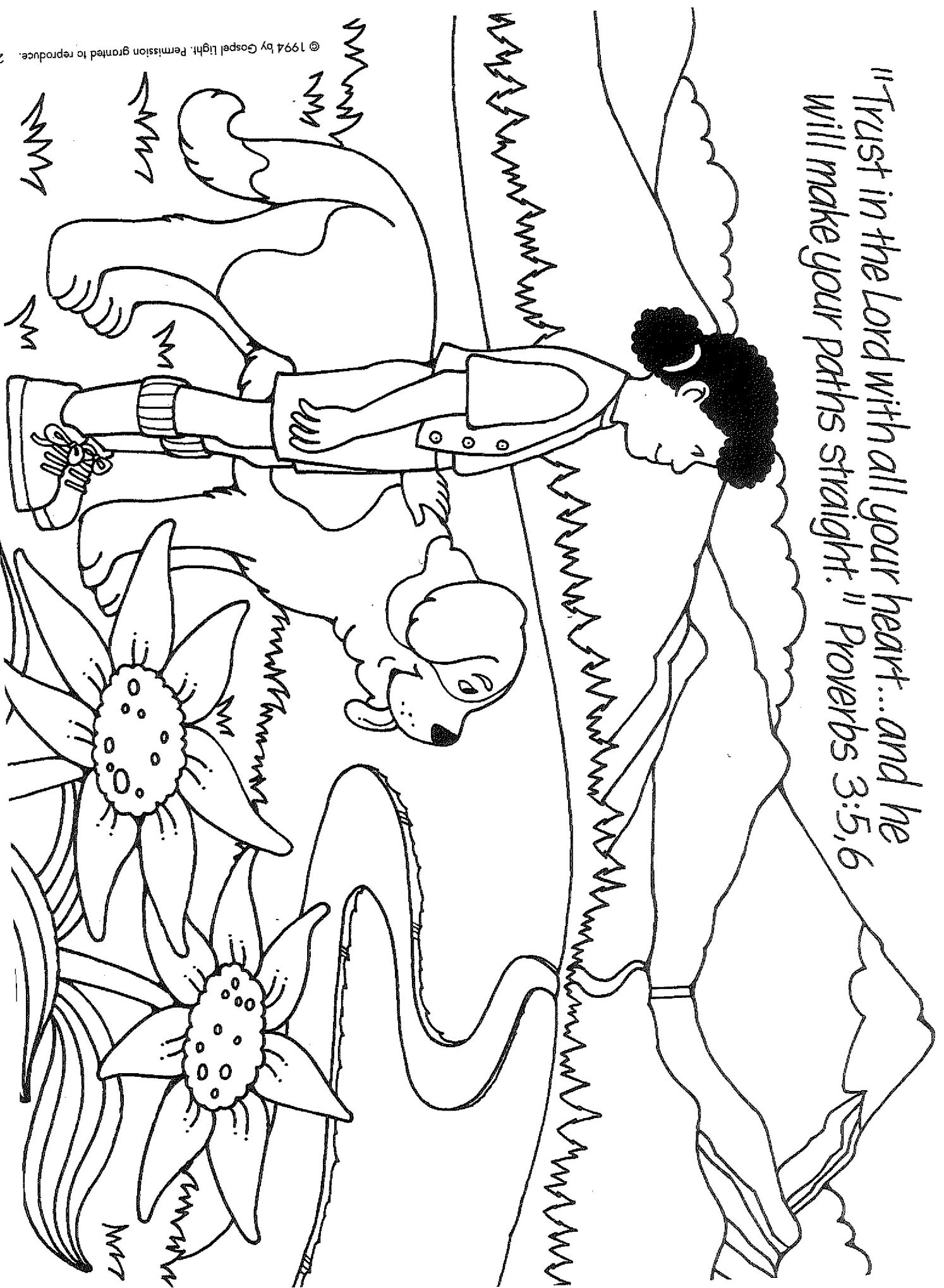
\_\_\_ X \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ H \_\_\_ H

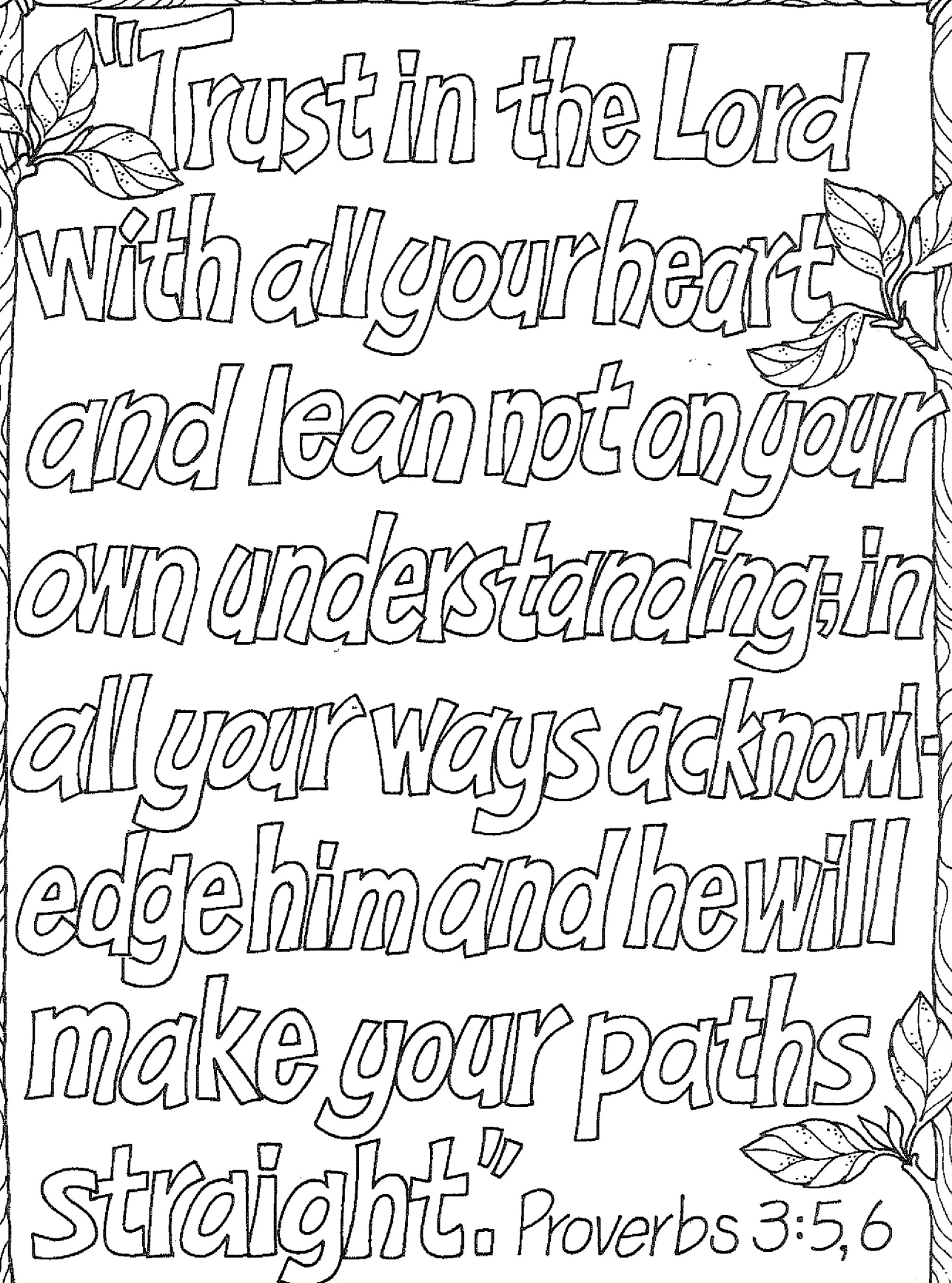
In this code, A stands for Z, Z stands for A, etc.

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



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart... and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5,6





"Trust in the Lord  
with all your heart  
and lean not on your  
own understanding; in  
all your ways acknow-  
ledge him and he will  
make your paths  
straight." Proverbs 3:5, 6

## Four Followers Book

### Supplies

copies of the Four Followers Book for each child

(continued on p.162)

construction paper (1 sheet per child)

crayons or markers

scissors

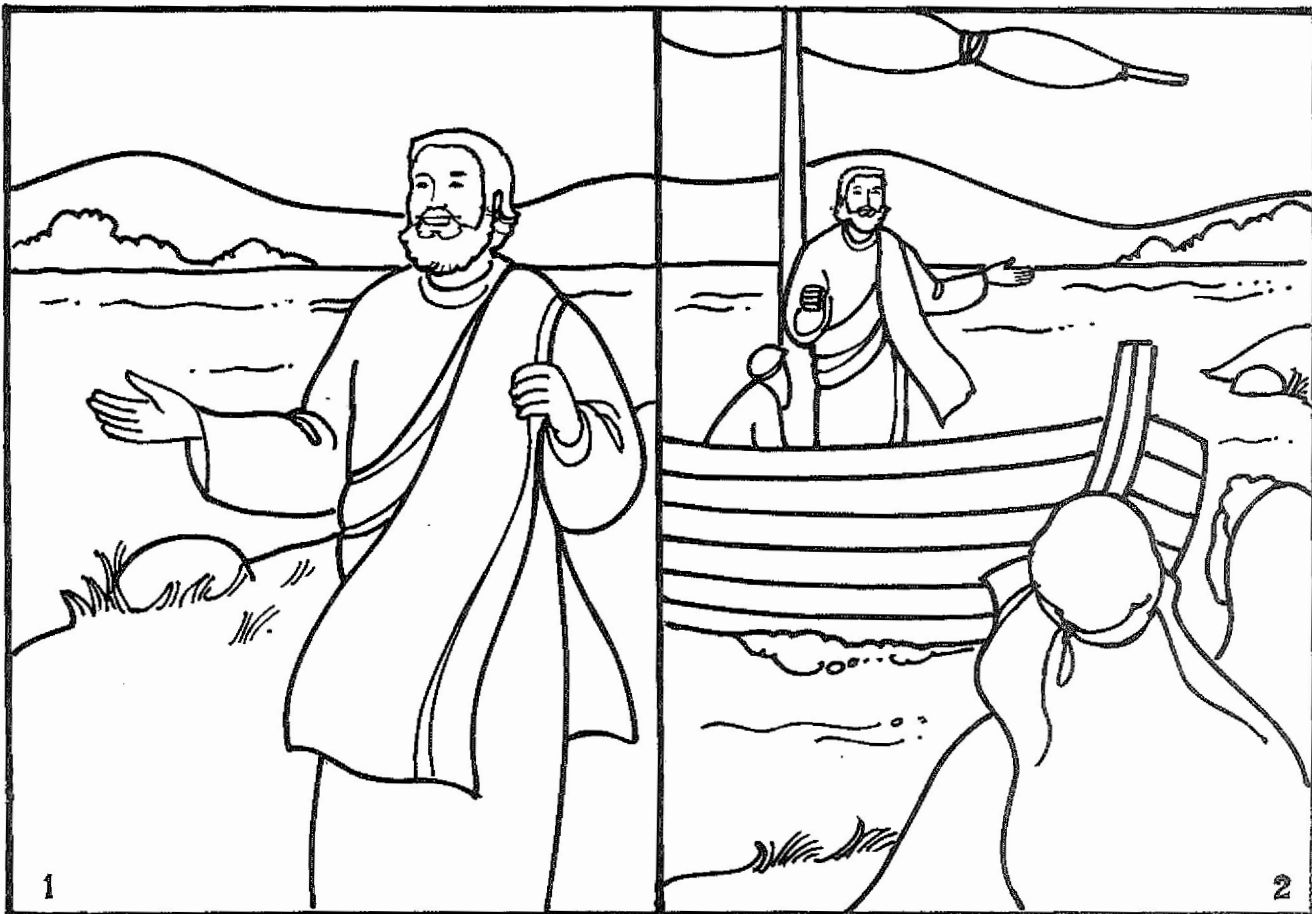
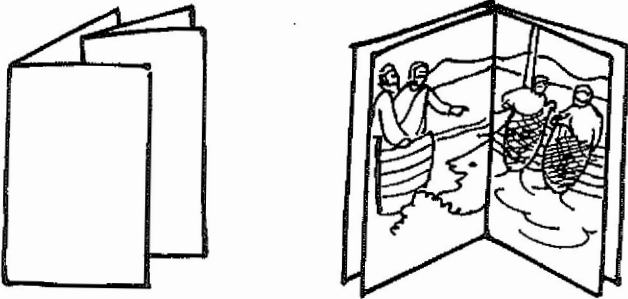
glue

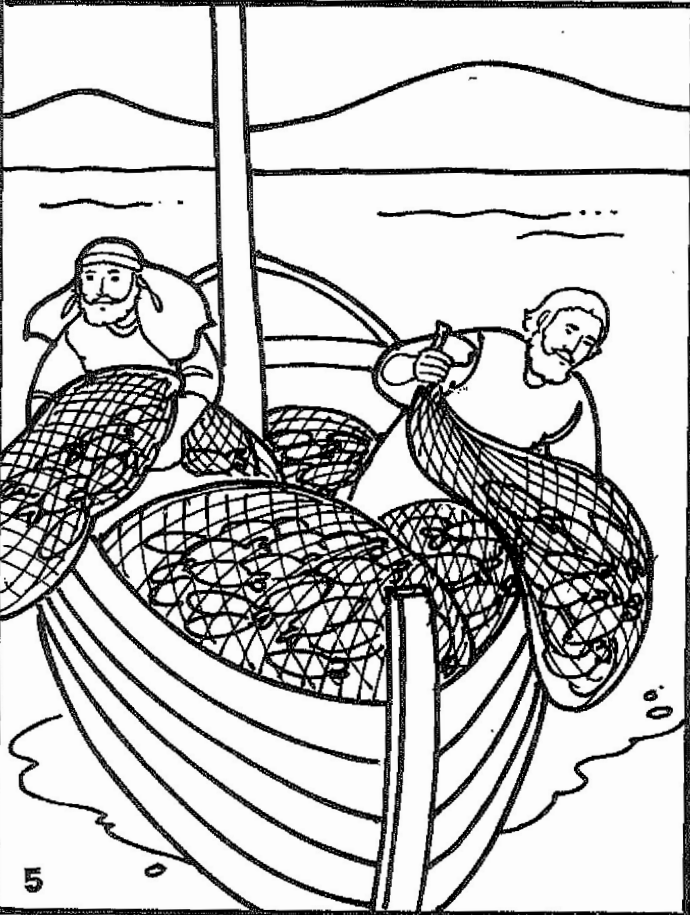
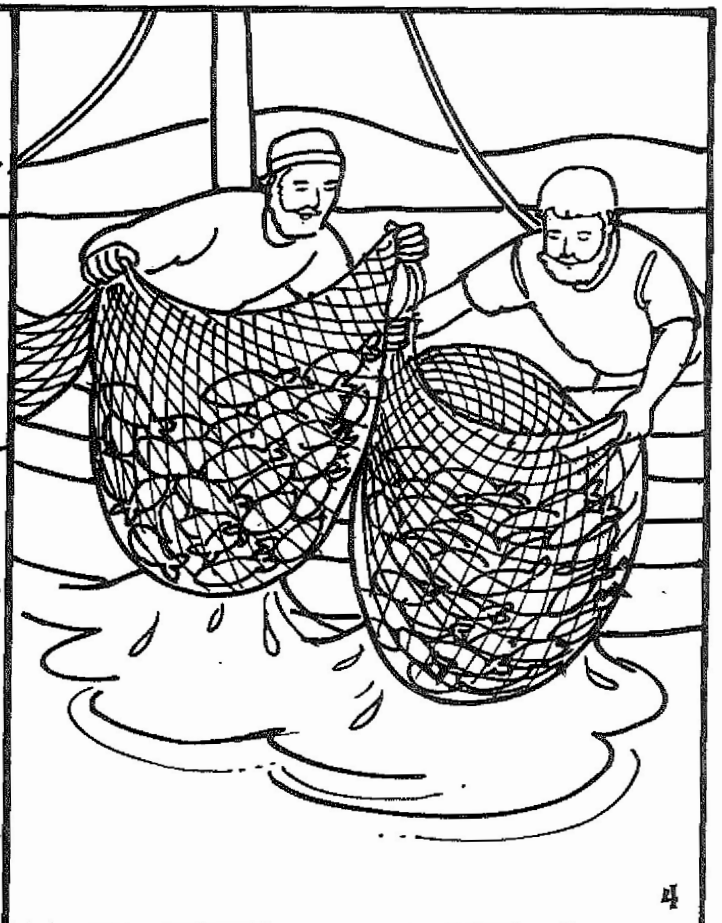
stapler

### Directions

Color and cut out the six scenes. Cut a piece of construction paper in half widthwise. Fold the two pieces of construction paper together to make a book (see the example). Staple the book at the center. Decorate the cover as you like. Glue each scene to a separate page of the book in the order in which they are numbered, starting on the inside of the front cover. Use the book to retell the story of how Jesus chose four followers:

- 1) Jesus was teaching by a lake.
- 2) The crowd was so large that Jesus got into one of the fishing boats and asked the fisherman named Peter to take the boat out into the water. Jesus taught the people from the boat.
- 3) Jesus told the fishermen to go out into deeper water. He said they would catch fish. Peter did not believe that they would catch anything, but he did as Jesus said.
- 4) Peter and Andrew let down their nets and caught so many fish that their nets began to break.
- 5) James and John, also fishermen, hurried to help from another boat, but both boats were so full they began to sink.
- 6) Peter, Andrew, James, and John realized how special Jesus was, and they left their boats and followed Jesus.





# Zacchaeus

---

INSTANT DRAMA

---

**CHARACTERS:** Zack, Friend 1, Friend 2, Jesus, Crowd

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 19:1-10

**PROPS:** money: fake or real, chair

---

Zacchaeus, also known as Zack, is now entering the room. Watch as Zack walks in and waves to the crowd. Zack is a tax collector, which means he collects money from the people and gives it to the king.

Watch as Zack claps his hands and in walks Friend 1. Watch as Friend 1 waves to the crowd, then does five jumping jacks. Now watch as Zack holds out his hand and points to his friend. It is time to pay up! Watch as Friend 1 hands Zack some money, makes an angry face, then leaves the room.

Now watch as Zack claps his hands and in walks Friend 2. Watch as Friend 2 waves to the crowd, then does a sweet ninja move. See Zack hold out his hand and point at his friend. It is time to pay up! Watch as Friend 2 hands Zack some money, makes an angry face, then leaves the room.

This is what Zack does every day; this is his job. However, he often takes more money than he is supposed to and keeps the extra cash for himself. You see, Zack loves money! Watch as Zack hugs the money.

One day Jesus is passing through Zack's town. Watch as Jesus walks around the room with the crowd following him. Zack wants to get a good look at Jesus, but he is too short. So Zack decides to climb a tree, I mean, a chair, so he can look at Jesus and hear what Jesus has to say.

Watch as Jesus stops walking and begins moving his mouth up and down, and waving his arms around. Jesus is telling the crowd some great stuff. The crowd loves Jesus' message; watch as the crowd gives Jesus a big thumbs-up!

---

---

Now watch as Jesus points to Zack and says, "Come here!" Zack quickly gets off the chair and walks over to Jesus. Watch as Jesus waves his arms around, and moves his mouth up and down. He is talking to Zack, telling Zack about God's love for him.

The crowd is so surprised by Jesus talking to Zack; watch as everyone makes big surprised faces! Why would Jesus talk to someone who steals money from people? Jesus is telling Zack that God loves him and that he is going to have dinner with Zack!

After dinner, Zack is a changed dude! He decides he needs to start helping people instead of stealing from them. Watch as he begins handing out his money to the crowd.

From that day on, Zack followed Jesus and no longer stole money from people.

Great job, everyone. Let's cheer for our actors!

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How do you think Zack felt, having Jesus come to his house for dinner?
2. How do you think you would feel if Jesus came to your house for dinner?