

Holidays at last!

Vicki, Kaylee and Sean could hardly wait. They were going to stay with Auntie Chris and Uncle Paul on their farm. They had only ever been for the day before, but now they had three whole weeks. And they had all sorts of plans. Vicki wanted to look after the baby animals and have picnics by the dam. Kaylee wanted to ride a horse, drive the tractor and milk cows. Sean wanted to ride a motor bike, shear sheep and work with Uncle Paul building fences and things. Dad reminded them that it was a dairy farm so they probably wouldn't be able to do all of those things. "Anyway,

Auntie Chris and Uncle Paul will decide what you can and can't do," he told them. "They're in charge."

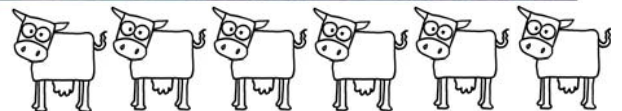
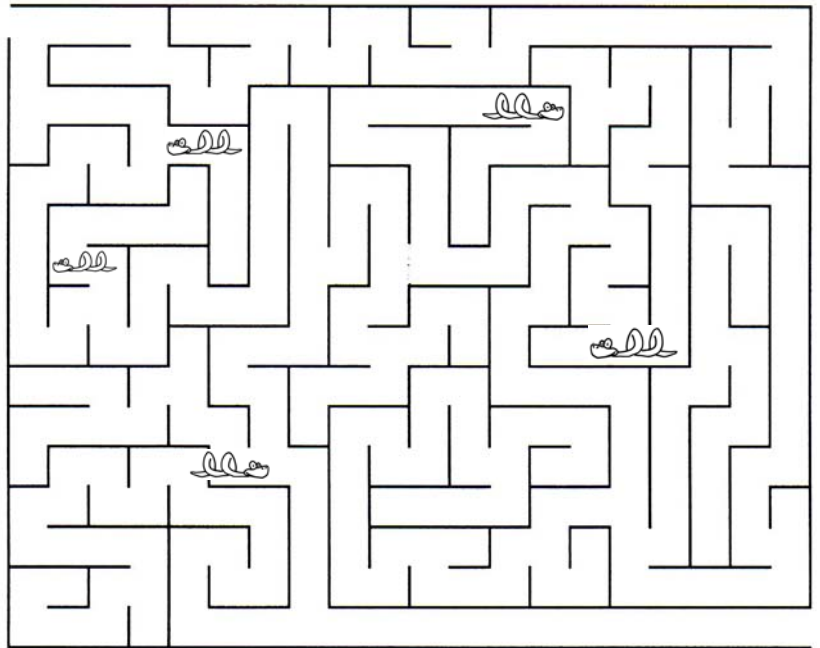


Listen to God! Proverbs 16:1

In the Good New Bible this verse says, "We may make our plans, but God has the last word." It reminds us that God really is in charge.

Help the cow get home to it's herd. There are two ways you can go. The cow plans to go the shortest way. Is that the best way?

God is sovereign.
Look up "sovereign"
in a dictionary and
write what it means.



Talk to God! Thank you Heavenly Father that you always know what is best for us and that you are the "boss".



Unbeknown to the children, two mischievous mice named Mimi and Melvin were very interested in their stay on the farm. Melvin planned to scare the girls by running across their beds in the dark. Mimi said, "NO!"





How good is milk!

Sean and Kaylee couldn't wait to help milk the cows. Kaylee hadn't realised it meant getting up at 4.30am and bringing the cows up from the paddock first.

Uncle Paul showed them how to put the milking machine cups on the cow's teats. "Our milk goes to the factory to be put in bottles and cartons to be sold as fresh milk," he told them, "but milk is also used in yoghurt, cheese, ice cream, butter, mayonnaise and chocolate. And parts of milk are even used to make things like plastics, make up, hairspray, toothpaste and glue."




Listen to God! 1 Peter 2:2

The New Living Translation of the Bible says, "Crave pure spiritual milk so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment as a baby cries for milk." Milk provides all the good things a baby needs to grow. The Bible, provides all we need to grow strong in our trust in God.

Riddle answer: 000

"Did you know that cows have four stomachs?" Mimi asked Melvin. "No, but what does a cow say if it has no lips," said Melvin. Mimi tried to ignore him. "Did you also know they chew everything twice", she continued. "It's called chewing the cud."



How does the Bible help us grow?

Unscramble the following underlined words and write them in the milk bottles to find ways the Bible helps us grow.

It aecnls us (Psalm 119:9)

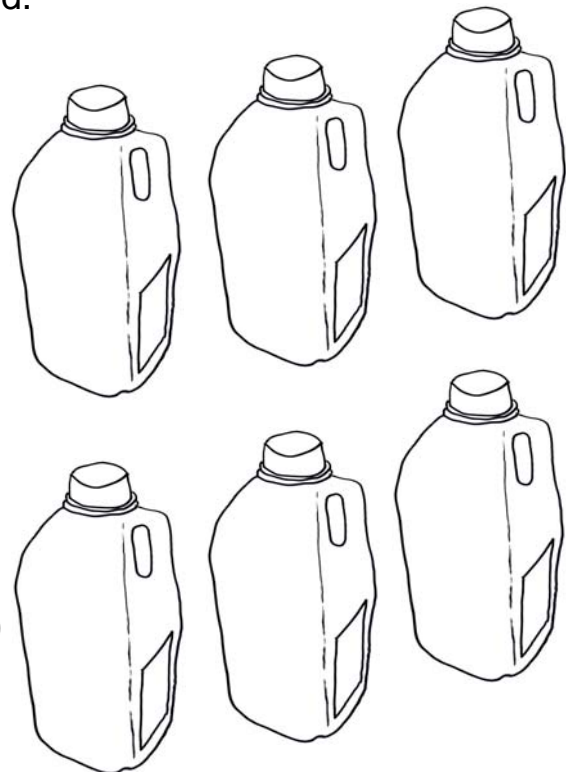
It efesd us (Deuteronomy 8:3)

It satcehe us (2 Timothy 3:16)

It tportsec us (Ephesians 6:17)

It helps us velbiee (John 20:31)

It helps us derutnsdan (Psalm 119:130)



Talk to God!

Thank you God for the Bible. Thank you for what it teaches me about you. Please make me hungry to read it every day.

Who's on guard?

Auntie Chris has two black sheep, six white sheep, three lambs and two alpacas. Why do you keep the sheep and alpacas in the same paddock?" asked Vicki when they were checking on them. Auntie Chris told her that alpacas are very good at guarding the sheep and keeping them safe. They will chase away any dingoes, foxes or wild dogs that try to attack the sheep. And they will bravely stand between a sheep and an attacking dog.

Listen to God! 2 Kings 6:8-17



Photo source: Ian Riley



The king of Aram (Syria) was very angry that God's prophet Elisha always knew where he was. He sent his army to capture Elisha. But Elisha and his servant were guarded and kept safe by

_____ (finish the sentence).

Who sent them? _____

If you want to know what happened to the army from Aram keep reading to verse 23.

Draw what you think the servant saw when God answered Elisha's prayer.

Mimi is scared of thunder. Melvin once hid behind the sofa with a CD player and played thunder sounds really loud. Mimi was NOT happy.



Talk to God!



Thank you God for animals like alpacas that can guard other animals. Thank you for those who guard us and keep us safe. Thank you most of all that you watch over us and guard us too.

The old house

“Let’s go and explore the old house”, suggested Sean. The old house was where Auntie Chris grew up. After her parents died this house was abandoned and now only possums and mice lived there. “Be careful of broken floor boards”, warned Uncle Paul.



The house was fun to play in for a while but the children soon found it was dirty and smelly. The dust made them sneeze. Cold wind blew through the broken windows. Loose sheets of iron banded and floor boards creaked. And it was dark! Vicki and Kaylee decided they definitely didn’t want to camp the night there! “I’m glad Auntie Chris and Uncle Paul built a new house”, declared Vicki.

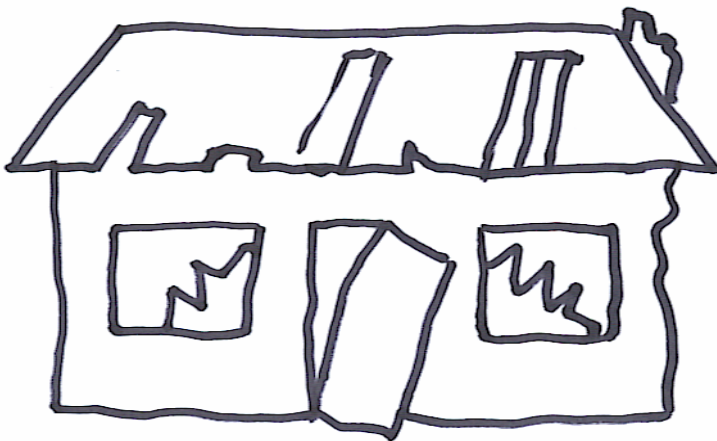
Listen to God!

2 Corinthians 5:17

The Bible tells us that when we put our trust in Jesus Christ our life is like a brand new house.

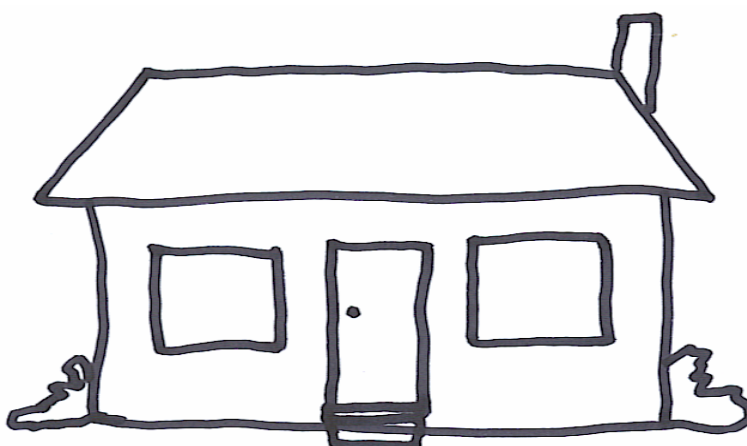
We leave our old life behind.
Everything is new.

Sort and write the numbers in the correct house.



This house is life without Jesus.

1. Wrong things are forgiven
2. Have eternal life
3. Don’t want to obey God
4. Want to follow Jesus
5. Don’t care about God
6. Make fun of Christians
7. Have a new heart
8. Know God loves us
9. Jesus lives in us



This house is the new life Jesus gives.

Talk to God!

Lord Jesus, thank you that when we trust in you, you give us a whole new life filled with your love.

Melvin and Mimi love the old house. They have lots of cousins living there.

Melvin has a riddle. How do mice celebrate when they move home ?



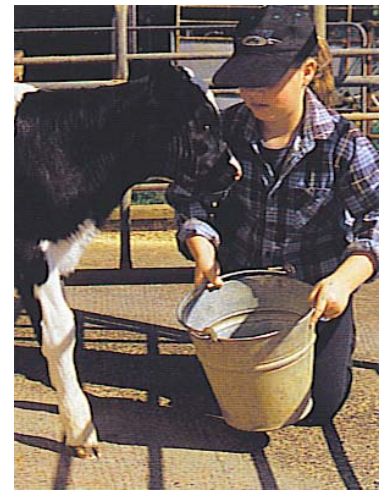


Learning to grow

“Kaylee, it’s your turn to feed the calves,” announced Auntie Chris. One calf had just been taken from its mother. It could smell the milk in Kaylee’s bucket but had no idea how to drink it. Auntie Chris showed

Kaylee how to dip two fingers in the milk and let the calf suck on them as she drew its head down to the bucket. The calf’s tongue was rough and slimy and it sucked hard on Kaylee’s fingers for a few seconds then lifted its head, butted her chest and dribbled milk down her shirt. Kaylee tried again and again before the calf got the idea and could drink by itself.

This was a big change for the calf. It had to learn a new way of drinking milk if it was going to keep on growing. When we put our trust in Jesus as our special friend and Saviour it’s a big change in our life but we will grow too. There is a song that goes, “Read your Bible, pray every day, if you want to grow.”



Listen to God 2 Peter 3:18



In the Contemporary English version it says, “Let the wonderful kindness and the understanding that come from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ help you to keep on growing.”

Write five things you have learnt about Jesus

1

2

3

4

5



The teacher asked Melvin why he hadn’t done his maths homework. “You’ll never learn if you don’t do your sums,” he said, “My calculator is solar powered and it was a cloudy day,” was Melvin’s excuse.



Talk to God!

Thank you Lord Jesus for what the Bible teaches us about you. Help us to keep learning and growing all the time.

Tell God what you like best about Jesus.

Bigger is Better?



Uncle Paul was thinking about building a new hay shed. "If I built one four times as big as the one we have now, I could store four times as much hay," he told Auntie Chris. "And that would be four times as much for the mice to live in, or to catch fire next summer," Auntie Chris replied. "Remember what Jesus said about building bigger sheds."



Listen to God!

Luke 12:15-21

Find the missing words in the word search.

The _____ farmer built _____
_____.

He thought he would _____ himself for a long time but _____ called him a _____.

He _____ and what he had _____ up was no use to him. How _____!

Wanting more when what you have is good enough is _____.



e	b	a	r	n	s
r	i	c	h	g	a
s	g	r	e	e	d
t	g	a	p	n	s
o	e	l	g	j	m
r	r	f	o	o	l
e	b	k	d	y	t
d	i	e	d	v	e

Talk to God!

Advertisements try to make us think that having things will make us happy. Lord God, help us to be happy with what we have. Help us to share with others and not want lots for ourselves.



Sean left 3 "M & Ms" on the bedside cabinet. He was saving them for tomorrow. Melvin greedily wanted them, but could only hold two at a time and knew that making more than one trip would risk waking Sean up. How could he take all the "M& Ms" at once?





Looking after the sheep



Sheep need a lot of care. They need fresh green grass, clean water, shelter from sun, cold wind and rain, and they need to be kept free from parasites like lice or worms. They must be shorn at least once a year. Auntie Chris spends lots of time looking after her sheep. Her friend Jenni shears the sheep in return for some of their wool.

Listen to God! Psalm 23:1- 4

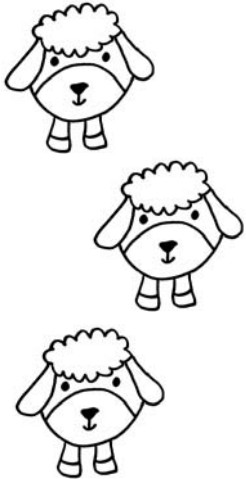
Jesus promises to look after those who trust him just like a shepherd looks after his or her sheep. In Australia, herds of sheep are driven by dogs or farmers on motor bikes. In Bible lands, shepherds know each sheep by name. When they call, the sheep follow them.

In Australia, sheep spend all day munching away on their own in grassy paddocks where there are trees for shade and troughs or dams for water. Bible lands are hot and dry. The shepherd has to lead his sheep to pasture and water and shade every day.



Talk to God!


Lord Jesus, you are my shepherd. Thank you that you look after me every day and every night. You know what is best for me. You give me everything I need – food, water, shelter, safety and love.



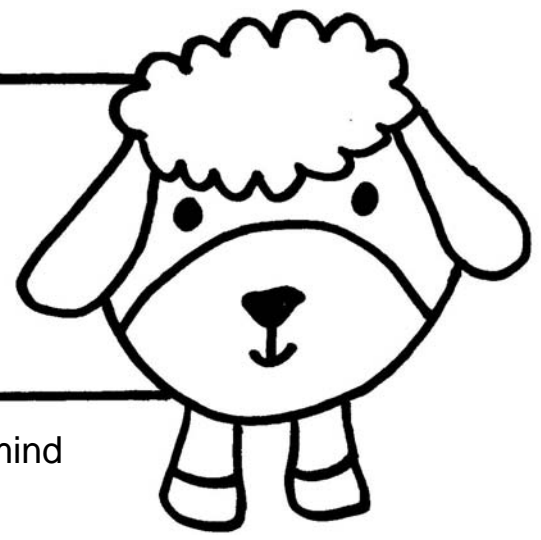
“Mimi, How many sheep does the shepherd have if he has two sheep before a sheep, two sheep after a sheep and one sheep in the middle?” quizzed Melvin.

“I have no idea,” Mimi groaned.

Answer: Three in a row



The lord is my shepherd Psalm 23:1



Colour the bookmark and cut it out. Use it to remind yourself that Jesus is taking care of you.



WHAT A SPECIAL GIFT ☆




Auntie Chris began teaching the girls to spin wool into yarn on her spinning wheel. Before the wool can be spun it has to be shorn from the sheep and alpacas, skirted (messy bits removed), washed and carded (knots brushed out). It's lots of work but Auntie Chris loves to make warm woolly beanies, jumpers and scarves out of her very own wool. She sends them to a mission that gives them as special love gifts to poor children in countries where it is very cold.

Listen to God! Acts 9:36-42

These verses in the Bible tell us about three very special gifts. The first is the gift of life that God gave to Tabitha (Dorcas) through Peter. The second is the gift that Tabitha had for sewing. The third was the gift she had for showing kindness and helping others through making clothes for them.

Colour in the clothes that Tabitha made. You might like to decorate them with ribbon, braid or fabric.



Mimi and Melvin (with only a little complaining) worked hard all afternoon gathering wheat stalks in the barn. They took them to their cousins in the old house as a special gift.



Talk to God!

Lord Jesus thank you for people like Tabitha. Help us to be kind and helpful too.



You've got mail.

“Vicki and Kaylee, could you go to the letterbox and see if there is any mail please?” asked Auntie Chris. The girls got on their bikes and rode down the driveway and then a kilometre down the road to the highway to where the farm’s letterbox stood with about 10 others. There was a letter from mum and dad so the girls excitedly raced each other back then called Sean to hear the news from home.

Listen to God!

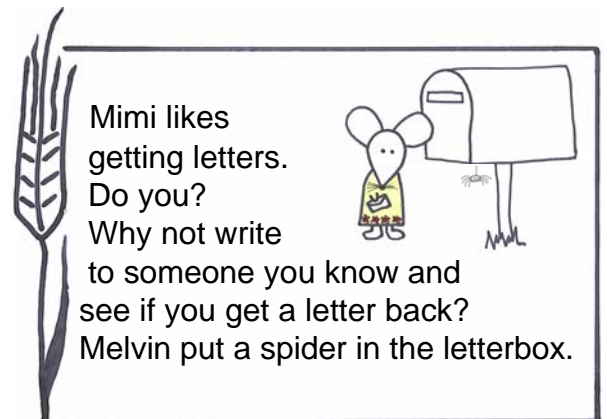
Colossians 1:1-4, 3:12-14

In Bible times letters were important for sharing news and staying in touch. There were no emails, text messages or twitter. There wasn't even a telephone! Many of the books in the New Testament are copies of letters; letters that shared news, encouraged, gave advice and taught about following Jesus. These letters were written to real people in real places like the Colossians who lived in the city of Colossae.

They are also letters to those of us who read them today. They are letters to us from God because they are in his book, the Bible.

Complete the quiz from Colossians

1. Who wrote the letter? (1:1)
2. Who was it to? (1:2)
3. What does Paul pray for them? (1:2)
4. What does he say about them (1:4)
5. What advice does Paul give? (3:12-14)
6. If you lived in Colossae, would you like to get a letter like this?



Mimi likes getting letters. Do you? Why not write to someone you know and see if you get a letter back? Melvin put a spider in the letterbox.

Talk to God!

Dear heavenly father, thank you for the letters in the Bible. Thank you that they bring us good news about you.

“Sean, come and help me sort out some things in this old shed,” said Uncle Paul. “The roof is leaking and I need to get in and fix it.” The shed was full of old tools and wire and pieces of furniture and parts of machinery. As they worked, they got covered in dirt. Suddenly Sean saw something with small wheels in the bottom of an old wooden box. “Wow! Look at this Uncle Paul. It’s a toy grader.” “That was one of my favourite toys when I was your age. I’d forgotten what happened to it”, Uncle Paul told him. “Would you like it?” “Oh, yes please!” Sean quickly responded. “I’ll really treasure this.”

Finding lost treasure



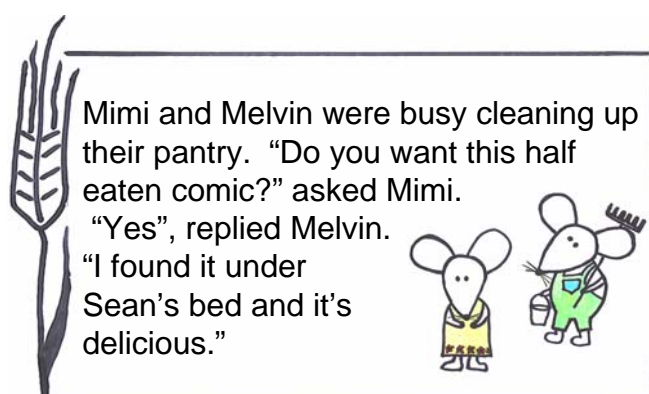
As the dog house is repaired some interesting objects are being found. Can you find – a slice of bread, hat, lollipop, sock, bird, spoon, shoe, book, needle, seal, axe, slice of orange.



Listen to God!

2 Kings 22:3-10

God’s temple had been neglected. When king Josiah sent men to repair it, they found a long forgotten book. It was part of the Bible, probably Deuteronomy, the book that told the Israelites how God wanted them to live. Josiah knew that this was a very special book. He read it to the people and they promised to obey what it said.



Mimi and Melvin were busy cleaning up their pantry. “Do you want this half eaten comic?” asked Mimi. “Yes”, replied Melvin. “I found it under Sean’s bed and it’s delicious.”

Talk to God!

Dear God, thank you for the Bible. Thank you that people have looked after it and made sure it was passed down through the years.

BEING DIFFERENT



“Why do the other hens always chase Peggy away Auntie Chris?” asked Vicki. “I think it’s because she is a different colour. They often peck at her too,” Auntie Chris replied. “It reminds me of what happened to the Jews when they were living in Persia. One of the kings officials named Haman thought he was so important that everyone should bow down to him. A Jew named Mordecai refused because Jews only bowed to God. Because Mordecai was different and didn’t behave as Haman wanted, Haman became very angry.”



Some things to think about or talk to someone else about.

People are often teased or treated meanly just because they are different.

Is this right?

What sort of things do people get teased about?

How do you feel if you are teased?

What can you do if someone is teasing you?

Listen to God! Esther 3:8-9

Find out what happened to Mordecai and Haman by looking up the rest of the story and circling True or False.

Haman decided to put Mordecai in jail. (Esther 3:5-6) T F

The king agreed that Haman could kill all the Jews. (Esther 3:8-11) T F

Mordecai was very upset and cried. (Esther 4:1) T F

Esther refused to go to the king for help. (Esther 4:15-16) T F

Esther invited the king and Mordecai to dinner. (Esther 5:7-8) T F

Haman built a gallows to hang Mordecai on. (Esther 5:14) T F

Mordecai told the king about Haman. (Esther 7:4-6) T F

Haman was hanged on his own gallows. (Esther 7:10) T F

Mimi had a new dress that she really liked until Melvin teased her and said it looked nerdy. Then she felt bad and told Melvin so. Melvin hadn’t really wanted to be mean so he apologised.



Talk to God!

Lord Jesus, it feels bad when someone teases me. Help me to ignore teasing, and most of all help me to never be a teaser.

I just need a little help

Uncle Paul found Lefty at the animal shelter. He was

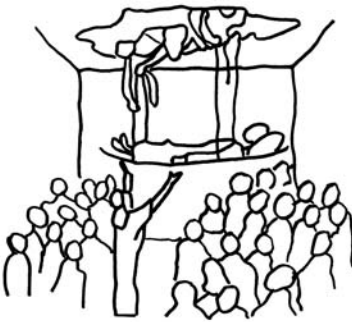


hit by a car as a puppy and had to have one of his back legs amputated. Nobody wanted him – except Uncle Paul. Uncle Paul loves Lefty. Even though he is a disabled dog, Lefty can do everything the other dogs do except jump into the ute* or onto the motor bike. Then he needs a lift up. The children don't have a dog at home so they like playing with Lefty. And he likes playing with them.



Listen to God! Mark 2:1-12

The paralysed man needed the help of his friends to bring him to Jesus. The houses in those days had stairs up the outside to a flat roof, but it would have still been hard work to carry him up, make a hole in the roof and then lower him down. And they needed to believe that Jesus would help their friend too.



Answer the questions YES or NO

The paralysed man had three friends. _____

The friends made him crawl into the house. _____

Jesus saw they had faith in him. _____

Jesus healed the man AND forgave his sin. _____

The religious teachers were happy. _____

The people watching praised God. _____

I can bring my friends to Jesus by praying for them. _____

I can help my friends when they need it. _____



Mimi and Melvin have a friend called

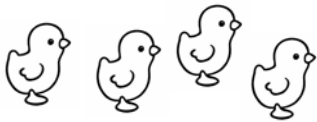
Mike who got his foot caught in a mouse trap and now he can't run as fast as everyone else. They always wait for him to catch up, and they give him a lift up over boxes when they are looking for snacks in the pantry.



* A ute is an Australian pick up truck.

Talk to God!

Dear God, please help me to notice when my friends need help. I want to show them that I love them and you love them.



It's amazing!

"Auntie Chris, why do you say that Molly is broody?" asked Sean as they collected the eggs. "That's what we call mother hens when the instinct God has put in them tells them to sit on and incubate eggs." "What does incubate mean?" Sean asked again. "This is how eggs hatch into live chickens. Each egg has to be kept warm for 21 days. It can be done in a mechanical incubator or by the mother hen. Molly turns the eggs over every few hours so the chicks don't stick to the inside of the shell. When it's time to hatch, the chick begins to crack the shell with a little sharp tooth that God has put onto its beak. This is called pipping," explained Auntie Chris.

Two days later when Sean went for the eggs, he checked on Molly in her box and heard cheeping. Then he saw wiggling under Molly's feathers. The chicks were hatching! He rushed inside yelling to the girls, "Come and see the new chicks! They're amazing!"



Photo source: freddy 22



Something to do!

Carefully cut the top off a boiled egg. Eat the egg, draw a face on the shell, then fill it with tissue or cotton wool. Put some seeds on the top eg. Alfalfa, radish, or mung beans, and keep them damp with water. Sit the egg in an egg cup or part of an egg carton by a window and wait. When the seeds grow you can eat them. Isn't that amazing!

Listen to God Nehemiah 9:5b – 6

God's people were celebrating and praising God, the creator of everything because they knew what amazing things he had done. What is one amazing thing God has done to make sure chicks hatch safely?

Talk to God!

God you are amazing and you do amazing things. Thank you for taking so much care to make sure chicks are born safely. Thank you for taking just as much care over us too.

Answer: To get to the other side!

"Mimi I've got a chicken riddle for you," said Melvin.
"Oh, no!" groaned Mimi.
"Why did the chicken cross the playground?"





Taking care

Everyone piled into the ute* and headed for the creek. People who had come to farm here 200 years ago didn't realise the damage they would cause by chopping down all the trees to create pasture land. Soil eroded away from the creek and the wild life disappeared. When Uncle Paul came here, he began planting trees again. Now the soil is protected, more grass and plants have grown and the birds and animals have returned.



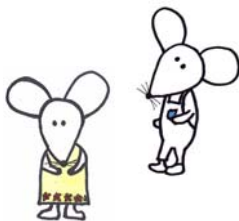
*A ute is an Australian pickup truck

Listen to God! Genesis 2:15

As they pulled out weeds and planted more trees, Uncle Paul explained to the children how God has given us the responsibility of taking care of the environment.



Mimi and Melvin were learning about caring for the environment at school. The teacher asked, "what's the best way to recycle food scraps?" "Eat them," replied Melvin.



Talk to God!

Lord God, we know that you made our world a beautiful place to live in. Please help us to take care of it and not spoil it.

Draw (or write) in the following animals where they would live: frog, duck, parrot, snake, water rat, platypus, robin and spider.

Ouch, that hurts

“Don’t go near the electric fence,” warned Uncle Paul.

“The fence is just temporary to keep the cows from eating all the new grass. It is attached to a big battery that sends an electrical pulse down the wire every few seconds. If a cow touches the fence it receives a short, sharp but safe shock. Even though they may want that lush new grass, cows remember the shock and stay away – usually.”




Listen to God! Numbers 22:21-35

Balaam was greedy. When a wicked king offered him money to curse God’s people, he planned to do it even though God had told him not to. But just as the cows take notice of the electric fence, Balaam had to take notice when he got the shock of his life. His donkey spoke to him.

Talk to God!

Heavenly father, we know that warnings from you in the Bible, or from our parents or teachers are for our good. Please help us to take notice.



Mimi said to Melvin, “do you remember when mama used to warn you to stay away from mouse traps?” Melvin didn’t want to think about it because he once set one off and has never recovered from the fright, so he asked Mimi a riddle instead. “What do you call a grumpy cow?”

Answer: Moo-dy



Colour in Balaam and his donkey



On the road



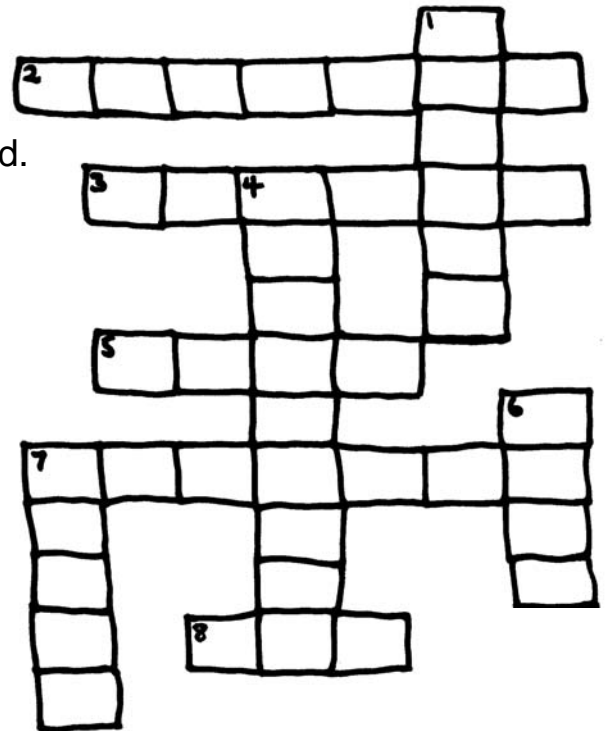
Uncle Paul decided to take the children to market. He wanted to buy some new cows. One the way they saw some very strange things on the road. First they stopped to let a neighbour's cows cross safely. Then they pulled to the side of the road to let a huge portable grain silo on wheels go by. Uncle Paul was being a good neighbour.

Listen to God! Luke 10:29-37

Jesus told this story about three men who came across an injured man on the road. Only one stopped to help. He was the only one being a good neighbour, even though he came from another place altogether.

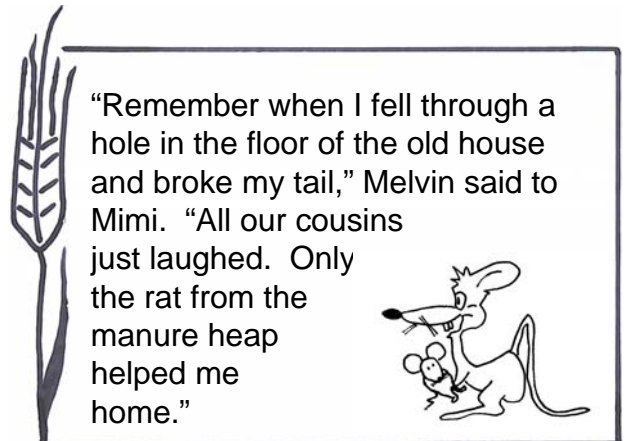
Complete the crossword

1. A _____ walked on the other side of the road.
2. The man was attached by _____
3. Two men _____ by without stopping
4. The only one to stop was a _____
5. The robbers _____ their victim
6. The Samaritan showed _____ and kindness
- 7 Across. It all happened on the road to _____
- 7 Down. _____ told the story
8. The injured man was cared for at an _____



Talk to God!

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to show kindness and love to everyone, not just our friends or people we like. Help us to be a good neighbour like the Samaritan man was.



"Remember when I fell through a hole in the floor of the old house and broke my tail," Melvin said to Mimi. "All our cousins just laughed. Only the rat from the manure heap helped me home."



To market, to market



“Why are those men shouting?”
asked Sean as they walked into the

maze of cattle pens and walk ways at the market. “They’re the auctioneers,” explained Uncle Paul. “They sell the cattle in each pen to the highest bidder – the person who offers the most money.” The children watched with excitement when Uncle Paul began bidding. But someone else offered more than he was willing to pay. Later Uncle Paul did buy two Friesen heifers to add to his herd. The children had a wonderful day at the market. They loved the noise and bustle, the sights and smells and all the different animals they saw.

Listen to God! John 2:13-16


Jesus was angry. People brought money and animals to the temple as an offering to God. Greedy people saw a way to make money so they set up a market in the temple yard. Imagine the noise and mess and smell. They also cheated people from other countries who needed their money changed. The temple was where you went to worship God not to buy and sell. They were showing no respect for God so Jesus drove them out.




Talk to God!

Dear God, whenever we go to church help us to remember that it is where we worship you. Help us to always be respectful of you in the way we act and talk and in the things we think about.

.....



“Melvin, do you remember when cousin Marcus came to visit from New Zealand and he had to change his money for Australian coins?” asked Mimi. “Yes, he wondered why we had animals on some of our money,” said Melvin.



.....

Do you have any coins from other countries? Put them or some Australian coins under your page, then colour over them in pencil and see what happens.



Useless cows

While the children were in town with Uncle Paul they saw a very strange cow in the park. It was made from corrugated iron. "I'll bet that cow doesn't give much milk," laughed Vicki. "It doesn't do anything except stand there," said Uncle Paul

Listen to God!

Jeremiah 10:2-7



Draw a picture of a scarecrow with a bird sitting on it's head because it can't even scare the birds away.

Some people make idols to worship out of stone or metal or wood. Perhaps it's because they want a god they can see. Even God's people the Israelites once



made a calf out of gold. You can read about that in Exodus chapter 32. But Jeremiah the prophet showed the people how

foolish idols are. They can't see, or hear or speak. They can't even stand up on their own. How can an idol do anything for us? One of God's rules is "Do not make idols of any kind." An idol is anything or anyone we give first place to and let become more important than God.

Mimi and Melvin were on their way to visit their cousins in the old house when they saw a horrible scary monster in the vegetable garden, "I'm scared," squeaked Mimi. "That monster will chase us and eat us." And she ran back to the house. Melvin thought for a minute and then crept closer. "It's alright," he called. It's only made out of straw and old clothes. It can't move.

We can eat it!"



Talk to God!

Dear Lord, thank you that you hear us, you see us and you speak to us in your Word, the Bible. We want you to always have first place in our lives.

When someone dies

Vicki and Kaylee visited the lambs every day. One morning, they knew something was wrong. A lamb was lying away from his mother with his head down. Vicki ran for Auntie Chris. Auntie Chris rang the Vet. Kaylee carried the lamb to some soft hay in the shed. He looked very sick. "I think he has meningitis," the Vet told them. "We are not sure why, but lambs get it sometimes. We'll try some antibiotics, but they may not help." The girls took turns to pat and soothe the lamb, trying to tempt him with bottled milk and fresh grass. The next day the lamb was worse and in the afternoon he died. Vicki and Kaylee cried. Sean went and sat in his favourite climbing tree for a while.



Mimi and Melvin were feeling sad. Great, great uncle Marmaduke from the old house had died.

Mimi went to visit with a basket full of strawberries. The cousins talked about all the funny things Uncle Marmy used to do. One day he was being chased by a cat. He shouted, "Bark, bark". The cat turned and ran away. Uncle Marmy told the children, "see I always told you it was important to learn a foreign language."

Talk to God!

Heavenly Father, please help me remember that when someone dies or other sad things happen, you understand and you will comfort me.

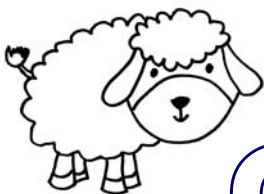
Listen to God!

Genesis 23:1-4, 16-20



Abraham and Sarah had been married for a long time. When Sarah died, Abraham was very sad and grieved for her. He bought a special piece of land where he could bury Sarah. It was expensive, but Abraham wanted to show his love and respect for her. When someone we love dies, we will be sad too. Having a funeral or special remembering time is important. We may cry. We may need time on our own. We may want to talk about them, even laugh about things we remember. We may have a special photo or treasure that we keep to remind us of them.

Colour the bookmark and use it in your Bible or a special book to remind you that God loves and comforts you.



2 Corinthians 1:3

God comforts us

Making a catch

“Today we are going yabbying,” announced Uncle Paul. He told the children to collect a ball of string, some of Auntie Chris’s party

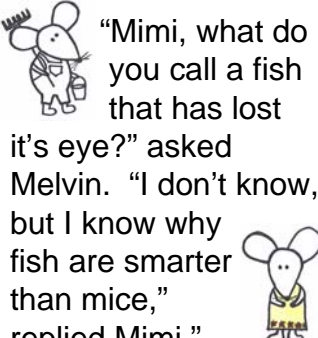
hose, a can of dog food and some of the dog’s bones that had plenty of meat on them. Vicki and Kaylee were puzzled. At the dam, Uncle Paul told them to tie a nice meaty bone on a string and put some dog food into the foot of the party hose and dangle both into the water and wait.

After about ten minutes, Sean pulled in the string. There was a yabby holding onto the bone. Later, when Vicki pulled out the pantyhose, there was two yabbies tangled in them trying to get the dog food out. Uncle Paul and Vicki caught 6 each, Kaylee 5 and Sean 9, but they put them all back in the dam. They have pet yabbies at home so couldn’t possibly eat the ones they caught. Uncle Paul sure knew how to catch yabbies. When the children followed his instructions, they caught plenty too.



Listen to God! John 21:3-6

“Mimi, what do you call a fish that has lost it’s eye?” asked Melvin. “I don’t know, but I know why fish are smarter than mice,” replied Mimi.”



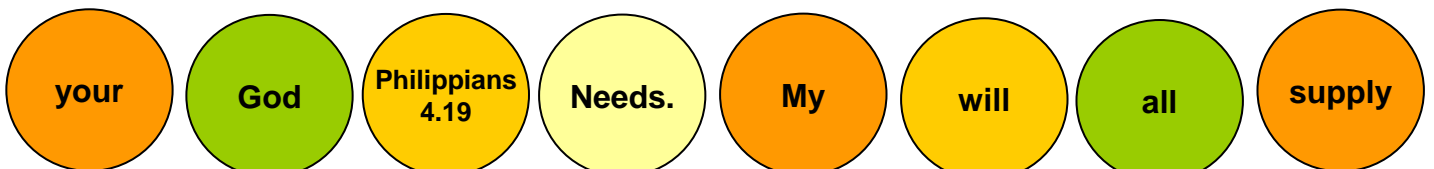
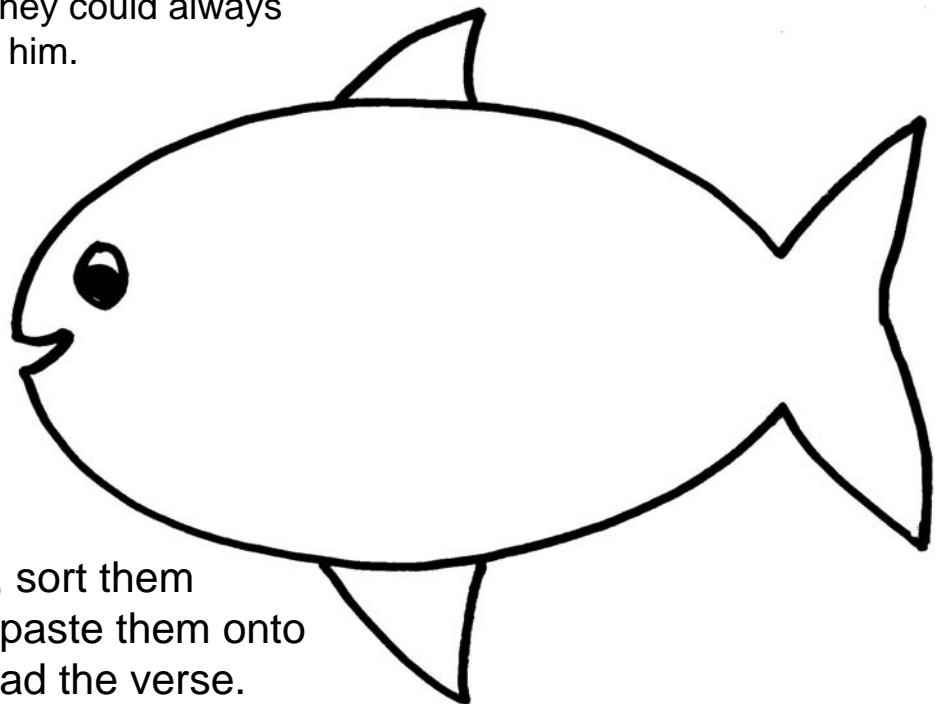
Answers: Melvin's riddle - Fish
Mimi's riddle - They live in schools

Although these disciples were experienced fishermen and knew what to do, they didn’t catch any fish until they listened to and obeyed Jesus. Jesus was about to return to heaven, the disciples would be left on their own. Perhaps Jesus was reminding them that even when they couldn’t rely on their own skills, they could always rely on him.

Talk to God!

Thank you Lord God for the skills and knowledge we have. But help us to remember that no matter how clever we are, we still need to rely on you.

Cut out the circle “scales”, sort them into the correct order and paste them onto the fish so that you can read the verse.



What shall we name them?

“Wake up girls. Wake up Sean,” called Uncle Paul. “Blossom is about to have her kid.” When the children got to the shed they could see that two feet had already appeared. Very quickly a head appeared and then – there was a baby goat all slippery and squirmy. They watched in amazement as the kid struggled to stand, collapsed, then struggled to stand again. They didn’t notice that another kid was being born. Blossom was giving birth to twins. That’s quite common for goats.

“There is a boy and a girl. You can name them for us,” said Auntie Chris. Vicki, Kaylee and Sean took a long time to choose names. They each made a list, then talked about them together and had a few arguments before finally deciding on Peach for the girl and Paw Paw for the boy. “We chose them because they are both so sweet, and because like fruits, they came from blossom,” Kaylee told Auntie Chris.



Listen to God! Genesis 2:18-23

When God made all the animals he gave the first man Adam the job of naming them. Adam even got to name his companion “woman”.

In Bible times most people’s names were chosen for their special meaning. Did your parents chose your name because of its meaning, because it was a favourite, they liked the sound, or perhaps because of a special person with the same name?

Give each of these farm babies a name.















Mimi and Melvin hid behind a bale of hay and watched as Peach and Paw Paw were born. “They are so cute,” said Mimi. Melvin had thought of another riddle. “What is the name of a goat who lives in the mountains?”



Talk to God!

Lord God it’s fun to choose names. Thank you for the name chosen for me. Thank you that you know me by my own special name.

It takes two

“What is that, Uncle Paul?” asked Vicki pointing at some machinery in the shed. “It’s a chaff cutter that great grandpa used,” Uncle

Paul explained. “It took one person to push hay along the wooden tray and another person to turn the handle that turns the blades. The hay was chopped into short pieces called chaff. That wasn’t the only thing that needed two people. The saw on the wall is called a pit saw. A person was needed on each end, sawing backwards and forwards to cut down a large log in half. These kind of tools and machines were used before we had engines and things like chain saws. They used people power.”

Listen to God! Acts 13:1-3

After Jesus returned to heaven and the church began to grow, Saul (Paul) and Barnabas were sent out from Antioch to share the message about Jesus to people in other places. It was an important but hard job. They had to leave their homes, travel long distances and face many hardships. But by going together, they were able to help and encourage one another.

Read Acts 13:26-34, 38-39 and complete the following sentences to discover the message Paul and Barnabas were sharing.

The message was about s _____

The people asked Pilate to put J _____
to death.

Jesus was taken down from the cross and put
in a t _____.

God r _____ Jesus to life.

Through Jesus there is f _____
of sin.

Everyone who b _____ (has faith)
is set free from sin.



Talk to God!

Thank you God for the important job you gave Paul and Barnabas, and for the wonderful message they had to share. Thank you that they could help each other.



“Mimi, I need to take some chaff to our cousins in the old house. Can you hold the bag while I rake it in,” Melvin asked. It will be so much easier if we do it together.





Photo source: doggiephotos

Bad stuff in us all

The neighbour's sow had piglets last month and they gave two to Auntie Chris. "Kaylee, I need you to help me. Howard and Percy have worms in their intestines. It happens to all pigs, but if we don't get rid of them, we are feeding the worms, not the piglets and the piglets won't grow," Auntie Chris told her. Kaylee's stomach squirmed at she thought about it. She gladly helped Auntie Chris mix the molasses flavoured "wormer" pellets into their food. The piglets happily slurped them up.

Listen to God!

Romans 5:6-8

"Those worms remind me of sin," Auntie Chris said. "They are right inside the pigs and make them unhealthy, but the pigs themselves can't do anything to get rid of them. Sin is inside all of us. It separates us from God. It stops us growing in the happy and healthy way God plans. And only Jesus can deal with it. When Jesus died he took the punishment for sin and now the sin in us can be forgiven.



Photo source: stuant63

Look up the following Bible verses and circle the correct answers.

Romans 3:23 Only bad people have sinned Everyone has sinned

Romans 5:6 We are helpless/powerless Jesus is powerless

Romans 5:8 God doesn't love us God loves us

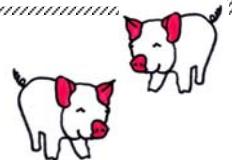
Romans 5:8 Jesus only died for good people Jesus died for us all



Melvin found an almost whole apple in the compost heap. "Humans are strange," he told Mimi. "Why would you thrown away an apple with a big juicy worm and all that lovely worm poo in it? Yum!"



Talk to God!

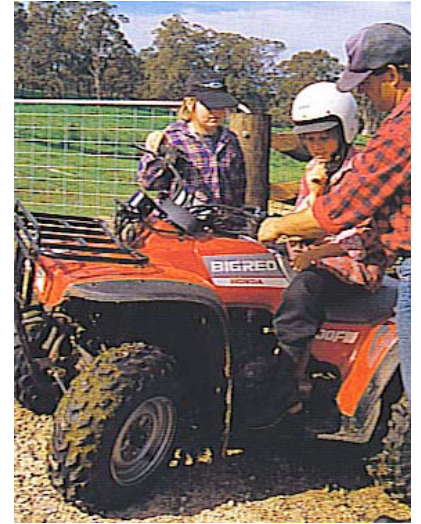


Thank you Lord Jesus that by trusting in you we have our sin forgiven.

Thank you that you have power over sin.

Listen and learn

“Okay Sean; today I’m going to give you a lesson in how to ride the quad bike,” said Uncle Paul. Sean listened hard as Uncle Paul explained how to ride safely, how to start, stop and turn. There was a lot to learn. But it wasn’t until Sean actually began riding and practising what Uncle Paul told him that he really understood what to do. It was fun, and at the end of the day Sean was pleased when Uncle Paul told him how well he was doing.



Listen to God! Acts 22:3

The apostle Paul was one of the first and greatest missionaries. He had the best education possible. He was taught by a famous teacher called Gamaliel. He knew the Bible, he knew about God and he knew all the rules of the Jewish religion. But it wasn’t until he met Jesus and became his follower that Paul really understood that God loved him and had sent Jesus to be his Saviour. Then he was able to teach others and help them come to know Jesus too.

Talk to God! Lord God, please help me to pay attention to my teachers and learn all I can. Help me to understand what I learn and put it into practise.

The teacher gave Melvin a maths question.
 “Melvin, if you had sixteen lollies and Mimi asked you for ten, how many would you have left?”
 Melvin answered, “sixteen!”



Find out what The Good News Bible says in Proverbs 16:20 by using the following code:

a b c d e f g h i l n o p r s t u w y
 ⇨ ⇧ ⇩ ⇪ ⇫ ⇬ ⇭ ⇮ ⇯ ⇰ ⇱ ⇲ ⇳ ⇴ ⇵ ⇶ ⇷ ⇸ ⇹ ⇺ ⇻

▲⇨▲ ⇨◀◀⇨⇨◀↓⇨⇨ ⇨⇨ ⇨↑⇨◀ ▲⇨▶ ⇨△⇨
 ◀⇨▶→↑◀ ⇨⇨⇨ ▲⇨▶ ▶↓⇨⇨ ⇨⇨ ▼▶⇨⇨⇨▼▼◀▶⇨
 ◀△▶▼◀ ↓⇨ ◀↑⇨ ⇨⇨△⇨ ⇨⇨⇨ ▲⇨▶ ▶↓⇨⇨
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Those hungry pigs

It's Vicki and Kaylee's job to feed the piglets twice a day. Howard and Percy are always hungry. They will eat almost anything. They love porridge, pumpkin and potato chips. They love doughnuts, dandelions and dates, custard, cauliflowers and clover. AND THEY LOVE strawberries, sweet potato and sponge cake, especially mixed up together. The more they eat, the more they grow. Sometimes they eat things they shouldn't, like too much tomato or onion and it gives them a stomach ache. Then they aarrh instead of oink.

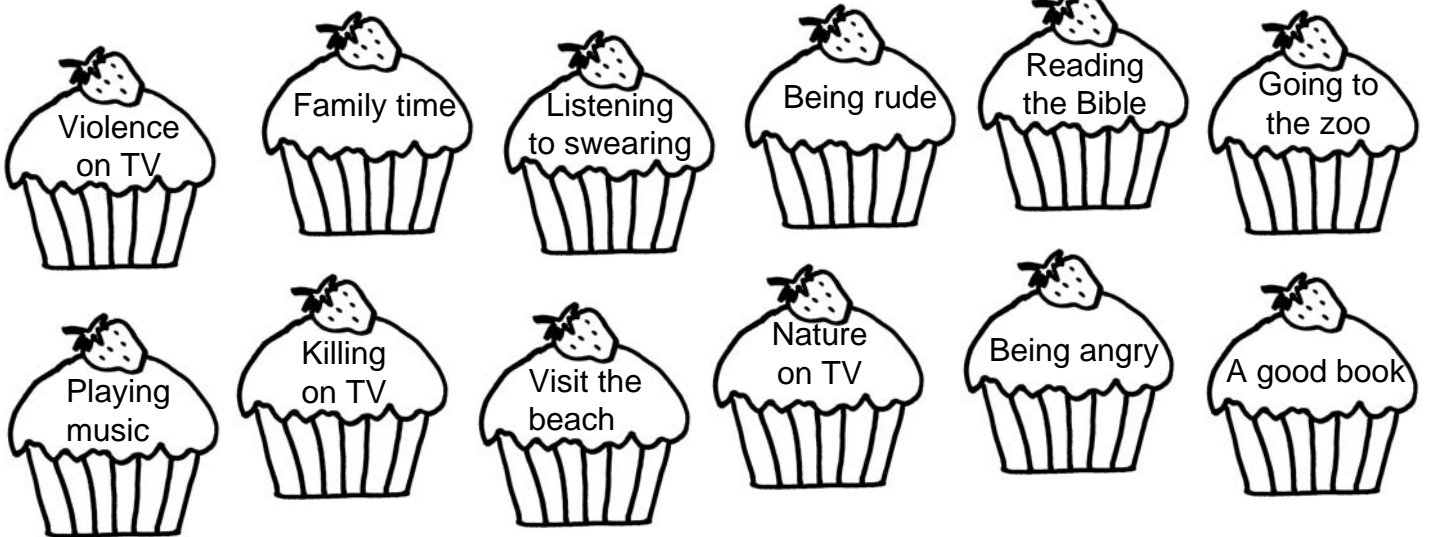
Listen to God!

Philippians 4:8-9

We don't just feed our bodies, we feed our minds too. What we feed into our minds comes out in our thoughts, in what we say and how we behave. The Bible tells us to feed our minds what is true, right, lovely and good. If we do this we will be happy and secure.



Colour in the cup cakes that would be good to eat.



Talk to God!

Thank you God for all the good things we can fill our minds with. Help us to avoid what is harmful to our minds, like things that are scary, ugly or cruel.

Mimi and Melvin found 26 cup cakes with pink icing and 100s and 1,000s on top in the pantry. Melvin ate 19 and got a very, very bad stomach ache. Mimi only ate 4.





Where do we get it?

Kaylee helped Uncle Paul check the pipes between the windmill and the cow's water trough. "Where does the water come from?" she asked. Uncle Paul explained that rain soaks into the earth and seeps down until it is stopped by rock. The soil where the water stops is called the aquifer. The windmill has a pipe going down into the aquifer. When the wind turns the windmill, the water is drawn up the pipe.

Throughout Australia you can get water from underground even when rivers and dams are dry. It's taste depends on what salts and minerals it contains. The cows like the water from Uncle Paul's wind mill but Kaylee thinks it tastes too salty.



Listen to God! John 2:1-10

It wasn't just a magic trick. Running out of wine was very embarrassing. So Jesus showed his power over nature and his care for his friends by providing the very best tasting wine.




Talk to God!

Lord Jesus you are awesome!
Turning water into wine is amazing.
Thank you that you still do amazing things for us today.



Can you spot the differences in the pictures? There are at least ten.



Mimi and Melvin were invited to a party at the old house. It was cousin Meredith's 9th birthday. "I hope there is plenty of lemonade," said Melvin. "How can you tell the difference between a bottle of Coca Cola and a bottle of Pepsi," he asked Mimi.

Answer: Read the label

Nothing to boast about



Auntie Chris thinks her goats are pretty clever. Blossom can stand on her back legs to reach tasty leaves. If she is trying a new plant, she will check that it tastes good with her lips before eating it. Other goats are even cleverer. Some can climb trees, jump high fences or crawl under gates – usually in search of food. Auntie Chris doesn't care for her goats because they are clever, or even useful. She doesn't always milk them or use their hair, and she certainly doesn't plan to eat them! They don't have to earn her care - they are her pets.

Listen to God! Galatians 2:16 and Ephesians 2:8-9

Some people think that we have to earn God's love, or that he won't accept us unless we do something special like go to church every week, obey all the commands in the Bible or do good things for others. These things are good but they don't earn us salvation. We are saved by God's special undeserved favour when we believe (have faith/trust) in Jesus.

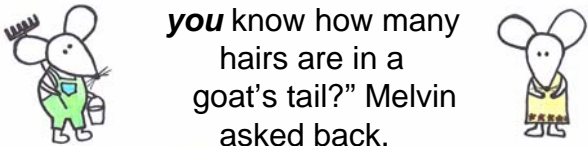
Talk to God!

If you know you are saved, tell God "Thank you". If you are not sure, ask God to show you how to trust in him.

You might like to talk to someone else about it like a parent or someone at church.

Answer: None. They are all on the outside.

"Melvin, did you know that more goat meat is eaten around the world than any other meat?" Mimi asked. "But do **you** know how many hairs are in a goat's tail?" Melvin asked back.




It is by Gods grace that we are saved through faith, not our own efforts, but Gods gift, so no-one can boast.



Colour in red – God's grace saved faith gift. Colour in blue – through own efforts no one boast. Colour the rest of the words yellow.

Some farmers have dogs to round up their cows or sheep, but Uncle Paul doesn't need one. He just calls the cows, or rounds them up on the quad bike. So Lefty isn't a working dog; he's just a pet. Auntie Chris says Uncle Paul "spoils him rotten" with special food treats, a comfy chair and a special blanket. That's not because Lefty does anything particularly clever or helpful. He doesn't even bark at strangers. It's just because Uncle Paul loves him.

Because he loves me



Listen to God! Genesis 37:3

The robe (coat) that Joseph's father gave him was probably more suitable for a king than a shepherd. It was beautiful! Joseph had eleven brothers and sisters too but his father Jacob loved him the most. Jacob was not very wise to treat Joseph differently to the others because it made his brothers jealous. But we can understand him wanting to give something special to someone he loved. We like to do that too. Our heavenly father likes to give us special gifts too. And he doesn't show favouritism like Jacob did. Father God loves us all the same.

Colour and decorate Joseph's robe.



Talk to God!

Heavenly father, it's fun to give and receive special gifts, especially when it's just because we love someone. Thank you for the best gift of all that you are longing to give us. Thank you that when we ask, you will give it to us.

Mimi had a special birthday gift of a flower brooch for cousin Meredith. "I hope she accepts it," said Melvin. "When I tried to give her that spider last year, she wouldn't take it."



Use the code to find the letters to fill the gaps and find out what God's best gift to us is. e = 1 g = 2 i = 3 l = 4 o = 5 r = 6 s = 7 t = 8

_ _ d _ _ _ f _ _ _ _ _ _ n a _ _ _ f _ _ _ v _ n
 2 5 7 2 3 8 3 7 1 8 1 6 4 4 3 1 2 3 1

b y J _ _ u _ C h _ _ _ _ _ u _ _ _ _ d Romans 6:23
 1 7 7 6 3 7 8 5 6 4 5 6



Yummy and good

The farm has a small orchard. There are apples, pears, apricots, plums, nectarines and peaches. Auntie Chris said the children could pick and eat any fruit whenever they liked as long as it was no more than three pieces each day. Vicki loves plums. Kaylee's favourites are pears and apricots. Sean likes everything. Auntie Chris often gave them fruit salad for tea because that's her favourite way of eating fruit. "That way you enjoy the taste of everything," Auntie Chris says.

Listen to God! Galatians 5:22-23

Complete the words to find the fruit of the Spirit.

l _ _ _

j _ _

p _ _ _ _

p _ _ _ _ _ _ _

k _ _ _ _ _ _

g _ _ _ _ _ _

f _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

g _ _ _ _ _ _ _
(some Bibles say humility)

s _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Auntie Chris waters and fertilizes her fruit trees. She makes sure they get plenty of sunshine and have good soil to grow in. When we trust in Jesus, we are joined to God like a branch is joined to the trunk of the fruit tree. God's Holy Spirit helps us to grow good "fruit" in our lives. As we read the Bible, pray and learn more about God and how he wants us to live, his fruit will grow in us.

Talk to God!

Thank you Lord Jesus that the fruit of the Spirit growing in us helps us to become more and more like you.



Fruit is one of Mimi and Melvin's favourite foods. That's why there are sometimes nibble marks on the apples in the fruit bowl in the mornings. "Mimi, what is worse than finding a worm in your apple?" asked Melvin



Answer: Finding half a worm

If you are not sure what some of the fruit of the Spirit is, look up the words in a dictionary or talk to a grown up about them.

Mending fences

“Uncle Paul, Uncle Paul; some of the cows are out on the road,” called Sean. One cow had found a broken wire and the others had followed. Sean opened the gate while Uncle Paul herded the cows back into the paddock on his quad bike. “Now you’ll have to help me mend the fence before they decide to escape again,” Uncle Paul told Sean. “We don’t want them getting out and being hit by a car or truck.”



Mend (unscramble) these scrambled words to find just some of the things that keep us safe everyday.



celpio _____

ceensf _____

athsuns _____

tlbeases _____

rcsngisos _____

tlsheme _____

enptars _____

Listen to God!

Nehemiah 2:17 and 6:15-16

The people of Jerusalem were in trouble. The city walls were broken down, leaving them open to attack by enemy armies. Nehemiah took on the job of mending the wall. But it was too big a job to do by himself. He needed the help of all the people, and most importantly God. Now the city and its people were safe again.

Talk to God!

We know that you keep us safe, Lord God. Thank you. Help us to work together with our families, teachers and friends to make our world a safer place

Mimi and Melvin’s cousins were having a working bee to fix up the old house. “Do we have to go?” complained Melvin. “Yes,” replied Mimi. “They can’t possibly do all the work on their own. We have to help fix the holes in the floor so *you* don’t fall through them again.” As Melvin pulled Mimi and the tools and wood in the wagon, Mimi said, “It’s my turn to ask a riddle. How can you avoid hitting your fingers when driving in a nail with a hammer?”



Answer: Hold the hammer with two hands, of course.

Answers: police, fences, sunhats, seatbelts, crossings, helmets, parents



Who's in control?

Auntie Chris drove Vicki and Kaylee to her friend Jenni's house. Jenni and her daughter Sam introduced them to Pepper, Cindy and Blaze.

Today was their first riding lesson. Kaylee had never been on a horse before. She was nervous but excited. "First you have to learn about the bridle," explained Sam. "It is made up of a headstall, a bit (that sits in the horse's mouth) and the reins, and it's what you use to control the horse and tell it what you want it to do."



Listen to God! Psalm 32:8-9

The Bible says some people are like horses that needs a bit and bridle to control them because they are often silly and stubborn. Don't be like that. God wants us to willingly accept his guidance that he gives us in the Bible. He will show us the best way to go.



Guide the horse through the maze to the next jump.

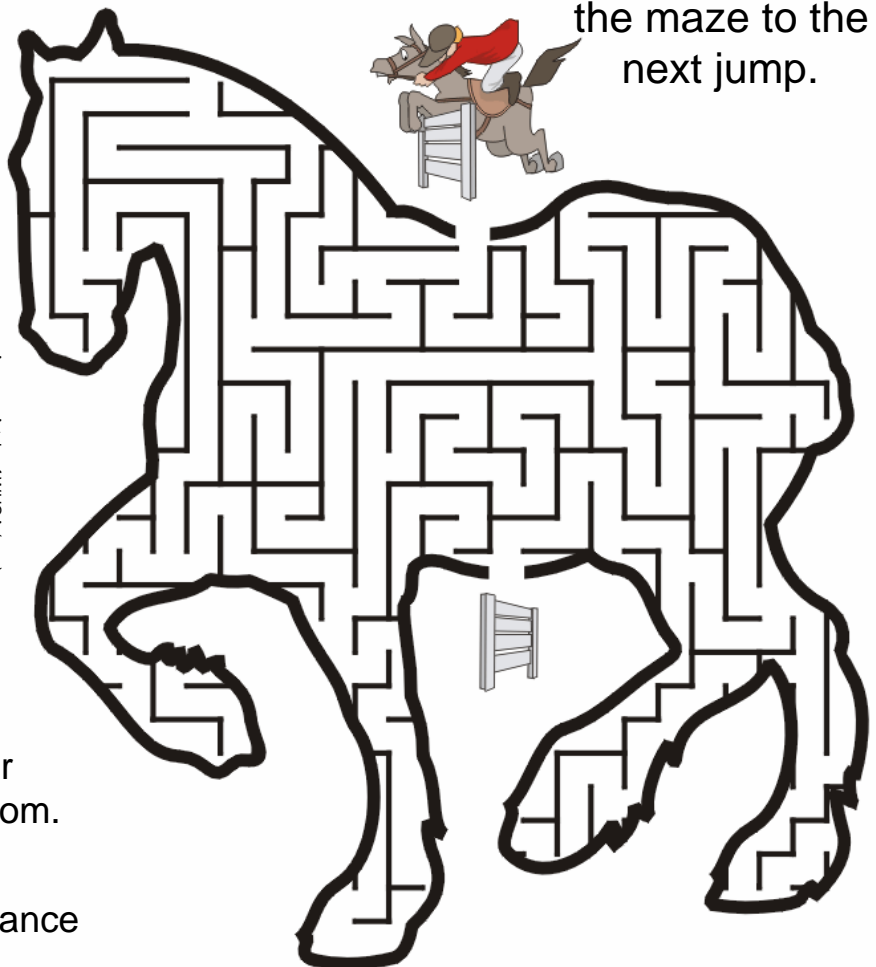


Mama told Mimi and Melvin it was time for bed. Mimi went happily because she knew she was tired.



Melvin ignored mama and kept playing. Next thing he knew, he was swinging by his tail from pa's strong hand and being marched to bed. "What is the best type of story to tell a runaway horse?" squeaked Melvin as he landed in bed.

Answer: A tale of WHOA (woe)



Talk to God!

Heavenly father, thank you for guiding us with love and wisdom. You know what is best for us.

Help me to listen to your guidance in your Book, the Bible



Leaving some, sharing some

Uncle Paul needed to move some bales of hay. He was giving some to other farmers who had lost their hay in a bush fire. The big round ones are too heavy to lift. A truck brings them in from the paddock and Uncle Paul has a

special attachment on his tractor that can pick them up so he can move them one by one.

Listen to God! Leviticus 23:22 Ruth 2:2-3, 17-20



One of the laws God gave to the people of Israel reminded them that God cares for everyone and wants us to also. By leaving the edges of the paddocks unharvested, the poor and foreigners could collect grain for free. Ruth and Naomi benefited from this law when they were unable to grow grain themselves or afford to buy it.

Talk to God!

Thank you heavenly father for caring for everyone, whether rich or poor. Help us to think of ways we can be of help and show kindness to others.

What sort of things could you or your family do for someone in need?



Mimi noticed there was a family of mice at school who sometimes had no lunch. Their dad was sick and couldn't go out collecting food. So Mimi and Melvin took some extra lunch to share with them. They had yummy mouldy cheese, stale bread and apple cores. "Mimi, what are the two things you can never eat for lunch?" asked Melvin.

Answer: Breakfast and tea



Crossword clues

- 1 down - what Boaz showed to Ruth
- 2 across - what Ruth brought home
- 3 down - Who gathered grain?
- 4 down - pick up means g - - - -
- 5 across - Ruth worked all - - -
- 6 down - Who owned the land?
- 7 down - where the grain grew
- 8 across - Ruth's mother in law
- 9 across - May the - - - - bless him
- 10 across - what God does to everyone who is kind to someone else

			1							
2	3								4	
								5		
					6		7			
			8							
							9			
10										

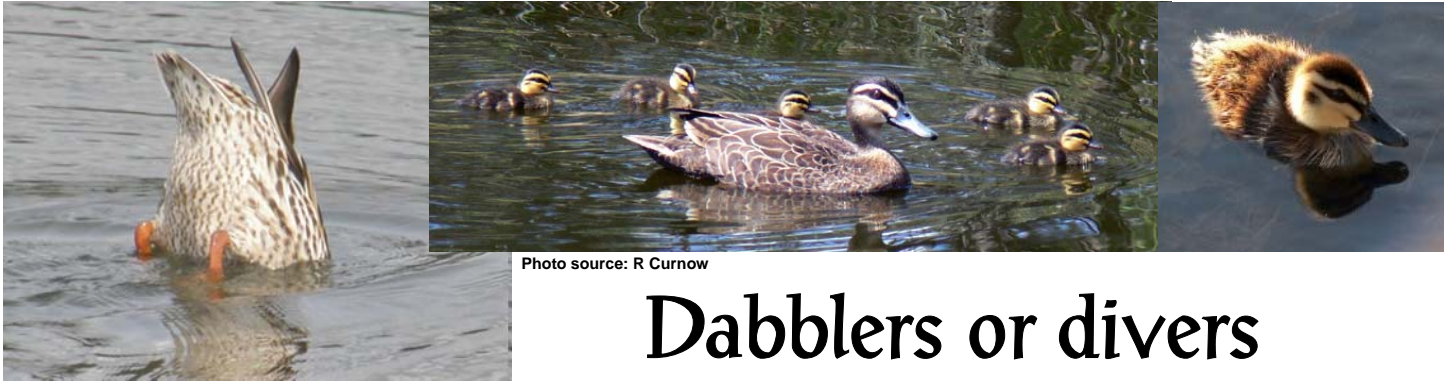


Photo source: R Curnow

Dabblers or divers

Vicki organised a picnic lunch by the dam. She and Kaylee had made chicken salad wraps. Sean had raided the pantry for nuts, corn chips and muesli bars. While they ate, they watched a family of Black ducks on the dam. The mother duck kept sticking her head and neck under the water while her bottom stood straight up in the air. “Did you know that some ducks are dabblers and some are divers when searching for food?” Kaylee asked, sounding very knowledgeable.

Listen to God! Psalm 119:103-104

God’s Word the Bible is our spiritual food. Just like physical food, there are many ways we can get it. Some people are dabblers, enjoying favourite verses and stories. Others are divers, going deep into the whole Bible. You may think that we only read the Bible by reading words on paper. If that was so, how could blind people or people who have never learnt to read know what God says in the Bible.



Talk to God!

God, your Word is very important. We pray for those who are translating it, printing and distributing it. We pray that people who need to learn about you through the Bible will have the chance to.

Write out Psalm 119:103 or a favourite Bible verse on a separate sheet of paper. Colour and decorate it and stick it where you can read it everyday.

Did you know?

You can get the Bible in a book, Braille, sign language, DVD, iPod, MP3, film, video, on internet, in comic and magazines.

The English Bible has over 50 versions and over 5,000 formats

BUT of 6,500 languages in the world - only 450 have the whole Bible and 2,500 part of the Bible.

Organisations like Wycliffe and Bible Society are working on more translations all the time.



Melvin and Mimi found a pretty box in the shed. “It’s got a picture of a rat on it but I can’t read the writing. Maybe it’s something to eat,” said Melvin.

“I think it says Ratsak. I wonder what that is,” said Mimi



Taking a dip



only has to squirt insecticide lotion along the sheep's back to control the parasites.

Kaylee and Sean found a long concrete pit in one of the paddocks. Auntie Chris told them that it was a sheep dip. When she was little girl her parents had lots of sheep on the farm. It was the law to dip the sheep in a chemical to kill parasites like lice that grow in their wool. Auntie Chris found an old photo of her grandfather dipping sheep about 50 years before the concrete dip was built. Nowadays, Auntie Chris



Listen to God! 2 Kings 5:1, 9-14

For sheep to be clean from parasites, farmers had to obey the law and put them through the sheep dip. For Naaman to be cleansed of his leprosy, he had to do what Elisha said. Naaman didn't want to obey at first, but that was the only way he could be healed.



Circle yes or no after each sentence

Naaman was the king	Yes	No
Naaman was a great soldier	Yes	No
Naaman had AIDs	Yes	No
Naaman had leprosy	Yes	No
Elisha came to visit Naaman	Yes	No
Elisha told Naaman to wash three times in the river	Yes	No
Naaman got angry	Yes	No
Naaman's servant said, "give Elisha a present instead"	Yes	No
Naaman finally obeyed	Yes	No
Naaman was healed.	Yes	No

Talk to God!

Lord Jesus, sometimes it's very hard to obey. Please help us to remember how you always obeyed your Father. Help us to realise that sometimes we just have to obey, and that we will be better off when we do.



"**NO!** I don't want to wear my coat!" said Mimi stubbornly stamping her foot. Mama just quietly insisted and Mimi finally obeyed. "Now we can go out for cheeseburgers at McDougalls" Mama said. On the way Melvin asked, "What did the snowman order at McDougalls?"

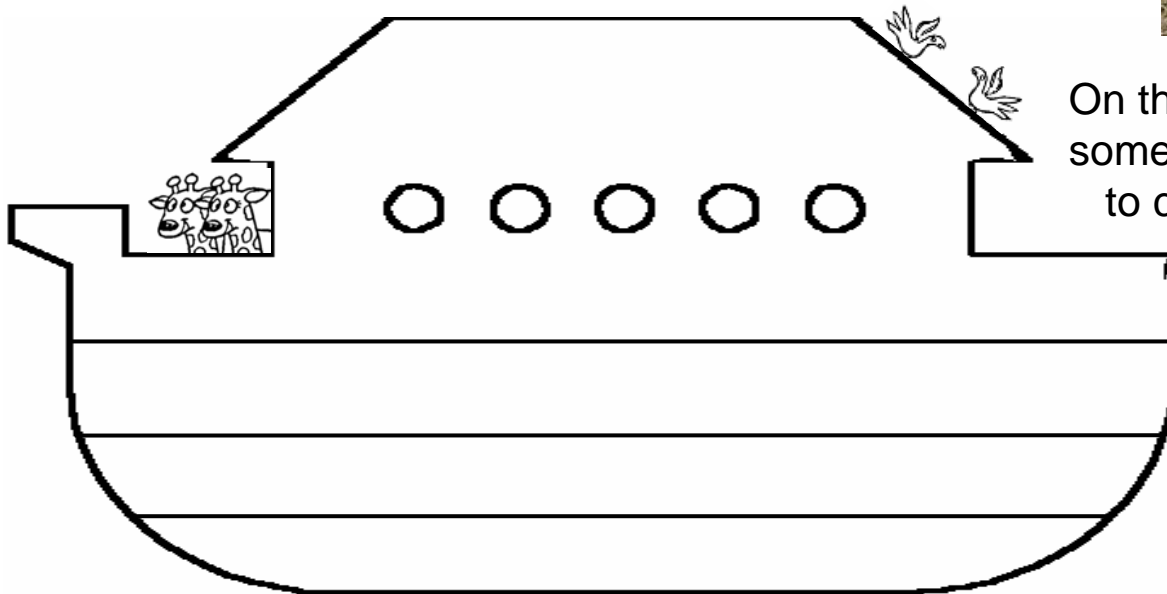


A job well done


“Today we have to clean out the pigsty,” announced Auntie Chris. “It won’t take long if we all help,” she added. The pigs had made quite a mess. Kaylee and Sean had to shovel out the poo. Then they gave Percy and Howard a wash in the yard while Vicki and Auntie Chris brought in new straw. Finally Sean refilled the water trough and the girls mixed up oat “porridge” for their tea. “Well done everyone,” said Auntie Chris. “It’s a lot of work,” said Kaylee, “but it is good to see Howard and Percy clean and comfortable again.”

Listen to God! Genesis 6:19-22


Noah and his family and the animals were in the ark for a year. Imagine how much food had to be collected and stored. Imagine looking after all those animals - how much poo had to be shovelled and how much water hauled into the boat. But Noah and his family did just as God asked. They did a good job and all the animals were well looked after.



On the ark, write some things you do to care for God’s world. It may be for plants, animals, people or other parts of the environment.



“Mimi, which animal took the most baggage into the ark and which took the least?” asked Melvin. “I don’t know,” said Mimi, “but I do know that you need to clean up your nest. It’s disgusting!”



Talk to God!

Father God, thank you for our world. Thank you for pets and wild animals. Thank you for flowers and trees, for fresh air and clean water. I want to do my best to help take care of them all.

Who will we trust?

After a few lessons, Vicki and kaylee were confident enough to ride on their own without needing to be led. Sam took them on a trail ride along the river. It was peaceful and relaxing – and a lot of fun.



Listen to God! Psalm 20:7-8

These words were written a long time ago by king David who owned thousands of horses. These horses weren't pets and they weren't used for quiet rides. In David's time, before jeeps and tanks, before fighter planes and helicopters, horses, along with chariots, were used in war. Kings and countries are often tempted to trust in their military strength and think that if they have the most guns or the most rockets, they will win. But David knew that God is the only one we can truly trust in.

T _____

R _____

U _____

S _____

T _____

G _____

O _____

D _____

Write words or phrases about God beginning with the letters above that show why we can always trust him. Some examples might be - "tells the truth", "understands us", "does what is right".

Mimi and Melvin were playing with their cousins at the old house. They found a loose plank and used it as a sled to slide down a slippery bank of grass. At first Mimi wasn't sure if she wanted to go with Melvin. "You might crash or tip us over," Mimi said when she saw how fast it went. But after watching Melvin make a few runs, Mimi decided she could trust him after all.



Talk to God!

Thank you Lord God that you are strong and loving and good.

Thank you that we can trust you to do what is best, no matter what happens in our lives.

Help me to always trust in you.



Improving the flavour



When Peaches and Pawpaw no longer need their mother's milk, Auntie Chris wants to try making cheese from it. Cheese is made by heating milk to a set temperature, then adding lemon juice or vinegar to make it curdle. **Salt is added to help preserve the cheese and stop it going bad. It also improves the flavour.** The mixture is poured into a cloth, wrapped and drained. Then it's treated in different ways to get different flavours and textures.

Listen to God!

Matthew 5:13

In Jesus time there were no refrigerators.

Salt was added to meat to stop it getting smelly, going bad and making people sick. Jesus taught his disciples (followers) that they were like salt, helping to "preserve" the world.



Talk to God!

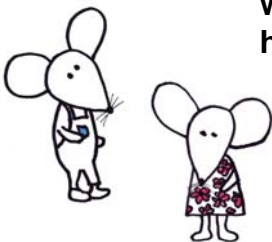
Help us Lord Jesus to be salt in the world, showing people what you are like and how we can make the world a better place instead of spoiling it.

p	e	a	c	e	f	u	l	b	e
i	n	n	a	g	o	f	a	i	r
s	c	a	r	l	r	r	c	t	t
l	o	v	i	n	g	i	o	r	i
s	u	b	n	e	i	e	n	u	p
i	r	n	g	g	v	n	t	t	a
h	a	p	p	y	i	d	e	h	t
l	g	i	k	e	n	l	n	f	i
k	i	n	d	G	g	y	t	u	e
o	n	h	e	l	p	f	u	l	n
d	g	e	n	e	r	o	u	s	t

Cheese is Melvin and Mimi's favourite food. They can't wait for Auntie Chris to start making cheese.

"Mimi, what do you do if you don't like cheese with holes?"

Melvin asked.



Find the following "salt" words in the word search: kind, encouraging, content, happy, caring, peaceful, loving, friendly, truthful, helpful, generous, patient, fair, forgiving.

What do the leftover letters spell out?

Ask you parents if you can do this experiment: Make 1 batch of play dough by mixing 2 cups of plain flour, 3/4 cup of water, 1 tablespoon of oil and 2 drops of food colouring. Divide it in half and mix 1/2 cup salt through one half. Leave these 2 batches in plastic bags for 1 week and see what happens.

Trouble in the dark



“Watch out for cow pats,” called Uncle Paul as Sean went out to fetch the calves milk bucket. But Lefty was barking and Sean didn’t hear. In the dark, he stepped right into a big soft pile of manure. “Phew, what a smell! Good thing I had my gum boots on,” muttered Sean.

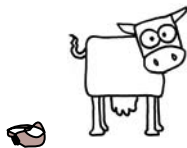


Listen to God! Genesis 27:21-23

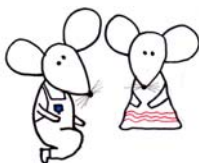
God has given us five senses to help us understand and enjoy his world. Can you name them?

Talk to God!

Think of each of your senses and how you use them. Thank God for things you enjoy or can do because of them.



“Mimi, what do you get if you sit under a cow?” asked Melvin. Mimi looked away and pretended not to hear. She was getting sick of Melvin’s corny riddles.



Answer: A pat on the head

_____ In the following story, circle all the words that have something to do with our senses.

Isaac was old and going blind. He asked his oldest son Esau to prepare him a favourite tasting meal. Isaac’s wife, Rebekah heard this request. While Esau went looking for wild game, Rebekah told her younger son Jacob to pretend to be Esau. Jacob listened to his mother’s instructions. While she cooked some tasty goat, Jacob put on some of Esau’s clothes so he would smell like him, and he put skins on his hands and neck so he would feel like his hairier brother. Then he took the food to his father. “You sound like Jacob,” said Isaac, “but you feel and smell like Esau. And this food smells and tastes delicious. So Isaac gave Jacob the blessing that was meant for Esau.

Isaac was tricked because he couldn’t see. [Rebekah and Jacob behaved wrongly, but that’s another story] The loss of even one of our senses can affect us greatly. Maybe one of your senses doesn’t work properly or you know someone who can’t use all their senses. What’s that like?

Answer: seeing, smelling, hearing, feeling, tasting

Don't come any closer



Photo source: rubberman

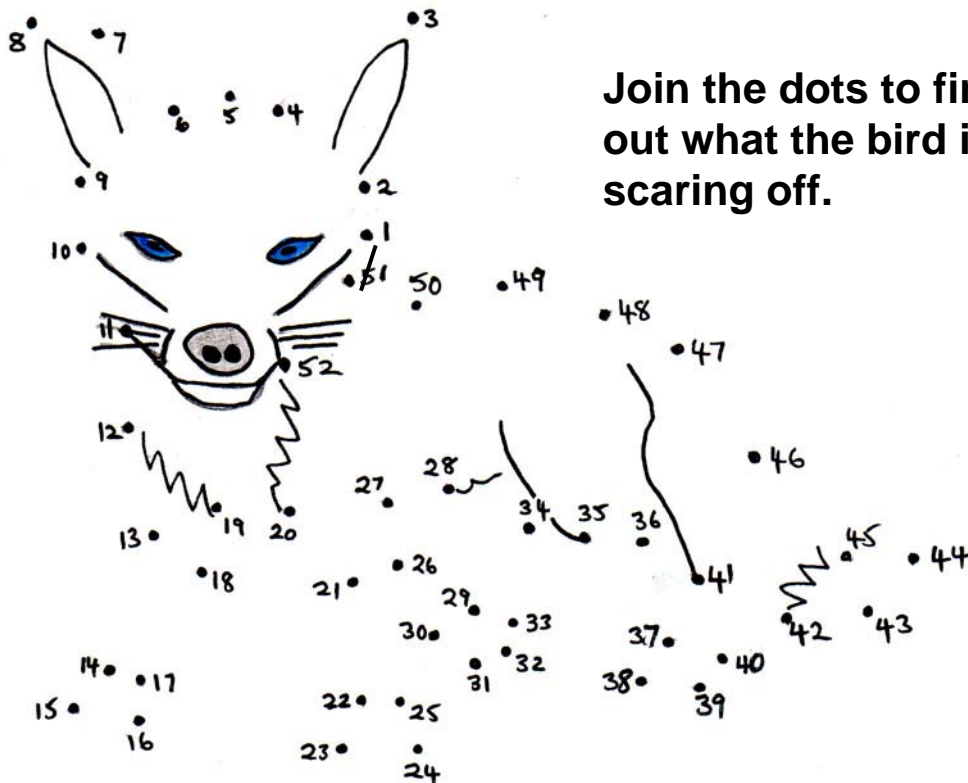
Masked Lapwings are also known as Spur winged Plovers because of the spurs on their wings. Can you see one?

“Have I told you about the Masked Lapwings that nested in the sheep paddock last spring?” asked Auntie Chris. “They laid their eggs on the ground right in the middle of the paddock. It seemed a bad place to have a nest but Lapwings are very protective and I often saw them defending the eggs and the chicks from crows and other birds. They even swooped and screamed at the alpacas and the sheep when they came too close.

Listen to God! Psalm 59:14-17



King Saul hated David. He even tried to have David killed. But David knew that God loved him and would protect him. Masked Lapwings can't always protect their chicks from every enemy but we can be sure that God will always protect us. And we know this because of God's love and his power.



Join the dots to find out what the bird is scaring off.



“Melvin, there is a crazy bird out there. Will you protect me if it chases me?” cried Mimi. “No way!” answered Melvin. “Just stay away from it. By the way, why do bananas have to use suntan lotion?”

Talk to God!

Lord God, we are glad you are so powerful. We know you will protect us and keep us safe from danger.



Right path home

It was the children's last day on the farm. They got up early to bring the cows for milking. "Why do the cows make paths across the side of the hill Uncle Paul?" Kaylee asked. "Cows do things by habit so when one cow starts to walk across the paddock, the second one follows and the third and soon all the rest. After a short while, they have created a well worn path," Uncle Paul explained.



Listen to God! Proverbs 4:10-27

The Bible tells us that God promises to guide us along the best path for life. (Do you remember which other farm snack pack talks about that?) Our job is to listen to God and make it our habit to follow that path.

Write the following on the path you think they belong on:

wisdom, God's teaching, darkness, evil people, violence, God's guidance, looking straight ahead, lies

Wrong path

Right path

Mimi and Melvin are sad that the children are leaving. Melvin has found lots of yummy snacks on Sean's bedside cabinet and Mimi has enjoyed listening to Vicki and Kaylee chattering at bedtime. Melvin would like to know how you can keep milk from turning sour?

Talk to God!

Dear God, help us to always follow your ways and your path no matter where we go in our lives. Your ways are best.

Answer: leave it inside the cow