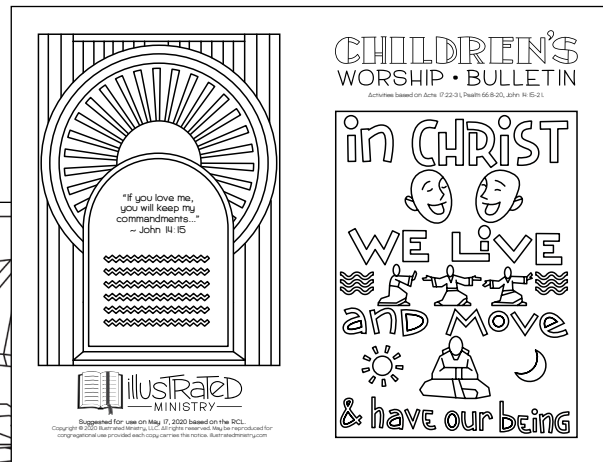


Faith Formation Resources for the Sixth Sunday of Easter





Resources provided by Illustrated Ministry, LLC. illustratedministry.com

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Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

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RESOURCES FROM ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY

As the world struggles to adjust to life amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, necessary disruptions are affecting all aspects of our lives. Schools are closing, places of worship are canceling services, sports seasons are being suspended, and we are all adjusting to this new way of life. Illustrated Ministry hopes that these faith formation resources are meaningful and helpful to you.

We will be sending a weekly email during the COVID-19 pandemic which will include faith formation resources for all ages. We will be following the Revised Common Lectionary, and most of the resources will line up with the appropriate texts for each of the Sundays. If this resource was forwarded to you, and you would like to sign up to receive the weekly email in your inbox, you can sign up at: **illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve**

The weekly resource consists of a variety of resources, including children's worship bulletins, devotionals, and coloring pages. There are a variety of different ways you could use these resources at home:

- As a family, put together an order of worship. You can use this as an interactive piece to the scripture reading and message/sermon.
- Use this as an individual or family devotional to reflect on throughout the week.
- Get a group of friends together, virtually, and color the coloring page and reflect on the scripture passage.
- While you watch your church's virtual worship service, your children can color the coloring page or do the activities in the children's worship bulletin.

We hope you enjoy this resource, and if you have any questions about it, you can always reach us at info@illustratedministry.com. If you want to connect with others and see how they are using our resources, you can also follow us on social media:

Facebook: **fb.com/illustratedmin**
Instagram: **instagram.com/illustratedmin**
Twitter: **twitter.com/illustratedmin**
Pinterest: **pinterest.com/illustratedmin**

Our Facebook Group is a growing community. If you're looking for ideas and suggestions for using this resource, you can request to join here:
fb.com/groups/illustratedmin

Peace,

The Illustrated Ministry Team

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 17

Describe a time you were talking about something, and another person truly listened. Focus on an instance when the other person made you feel safe, seen, and not alone. *Note: If you are with a group, have each person take a turn sharing.*

Scripture Reading: Psalm 61:19

*But truly God has listened;
God has given heed to the words of my prayer.*

Reflection

Today's scripture comes from the book of Psalms. The psalmist is praising God because God truly listens and is present with us. Truly listening and being present with someone is about more than just being in the same room and hearing them talk.

True presence is about paying attention to what someone is saying and how they are thinking and feeling. Being truly present with someone else means showing them how much we care about them. God is present with us like that. God listens to everything we say, even the things we don't say out loud or have words for. God always cares, whether our concerns are big or small.

We can and should practice this kind of presence with each other. One way we can do this is through active listening. Active listening means: looking at the other person, responding to their words, not focusing on what we're going to say next, etc.

It feels good when we are heard, seen, and loved. We have the power to make someone else feel that way too. How can you practice presence and active listening throughout the coming week?

Discussion Questions

1. Who is someone in your life who truly listens to you?
2. How do you know when someone is really listening and paying attention to you?
3. How do you show other people you are listening to them?

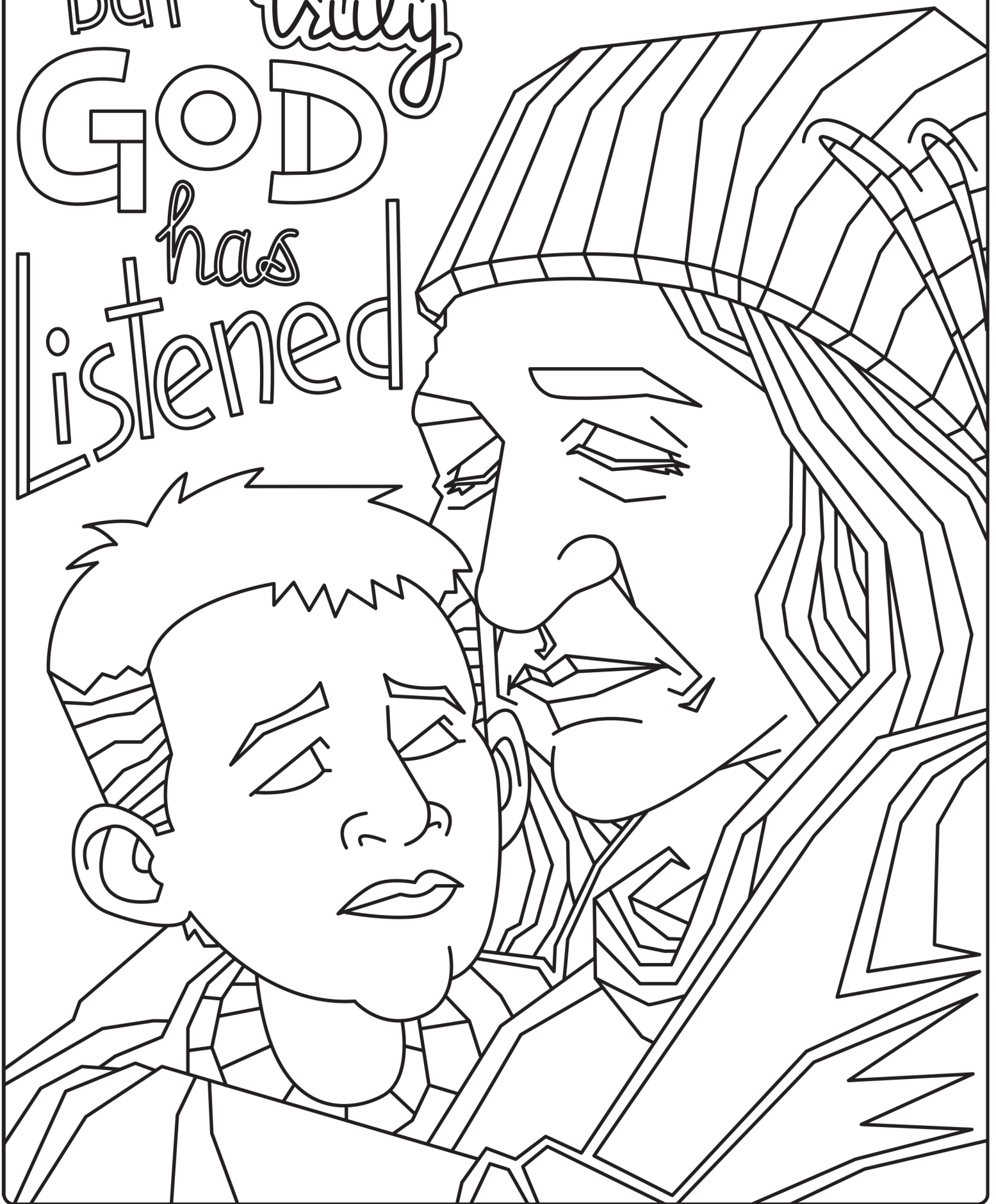
Prayer

Dear God, thank you so much for always being present with us. Thank you for truly listening to what we say, think, and feel and for always caring about us. Help us practice this kind of presence and listening with one another. **Amen.**

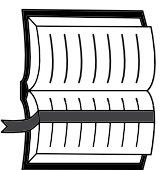
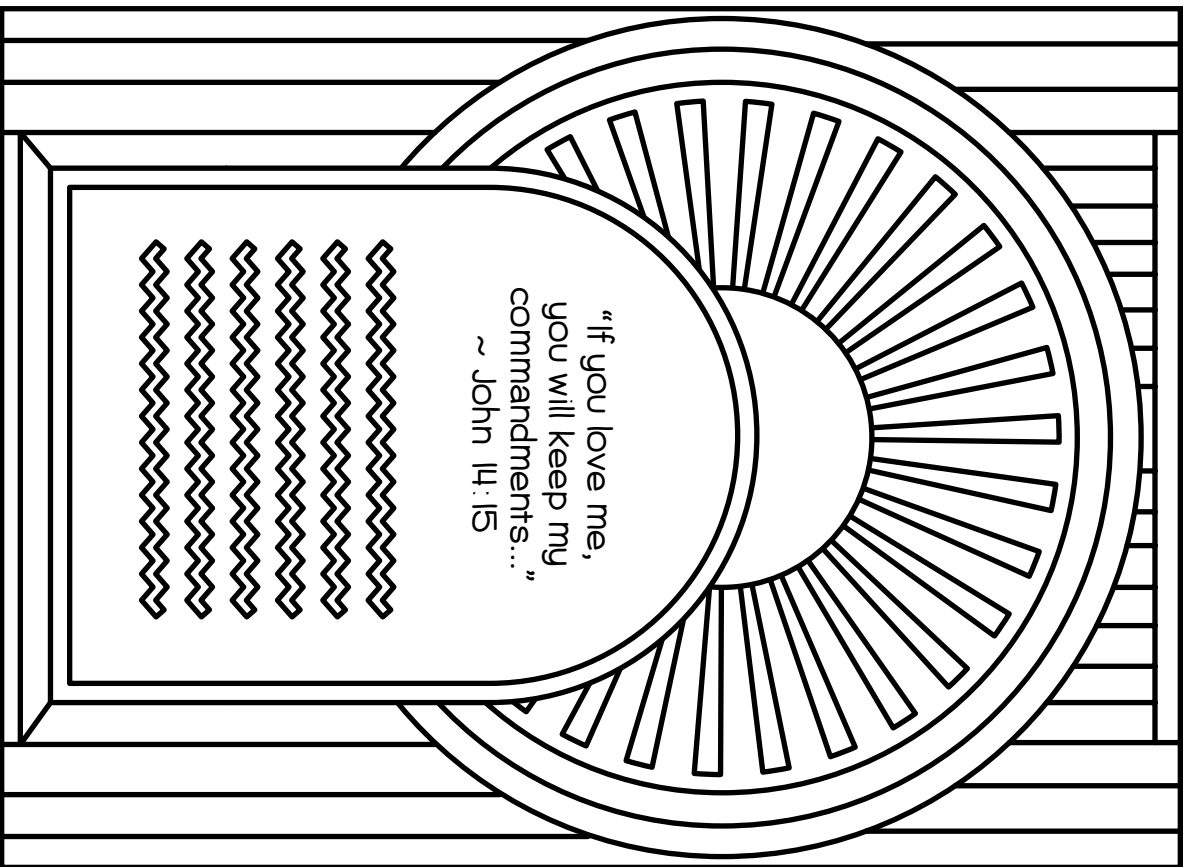
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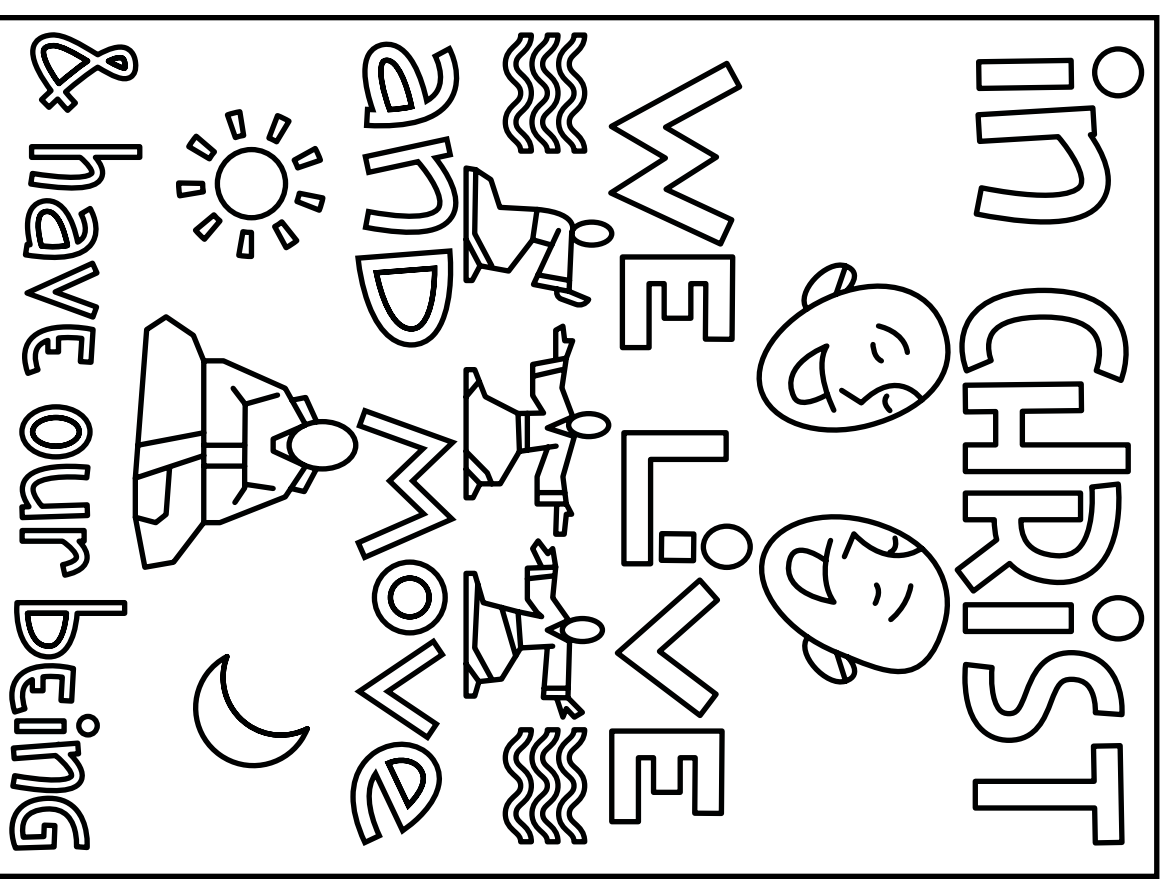


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CHILDREAN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

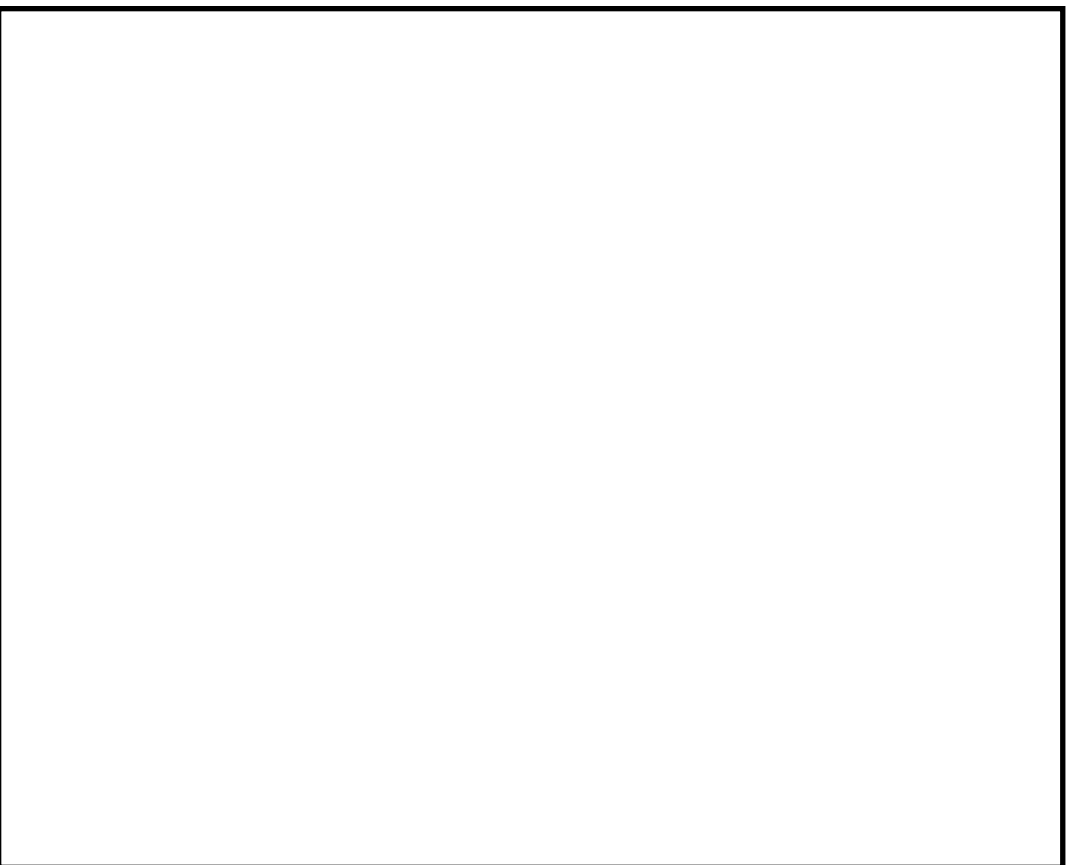
Activities based on Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, John 14:15-21.





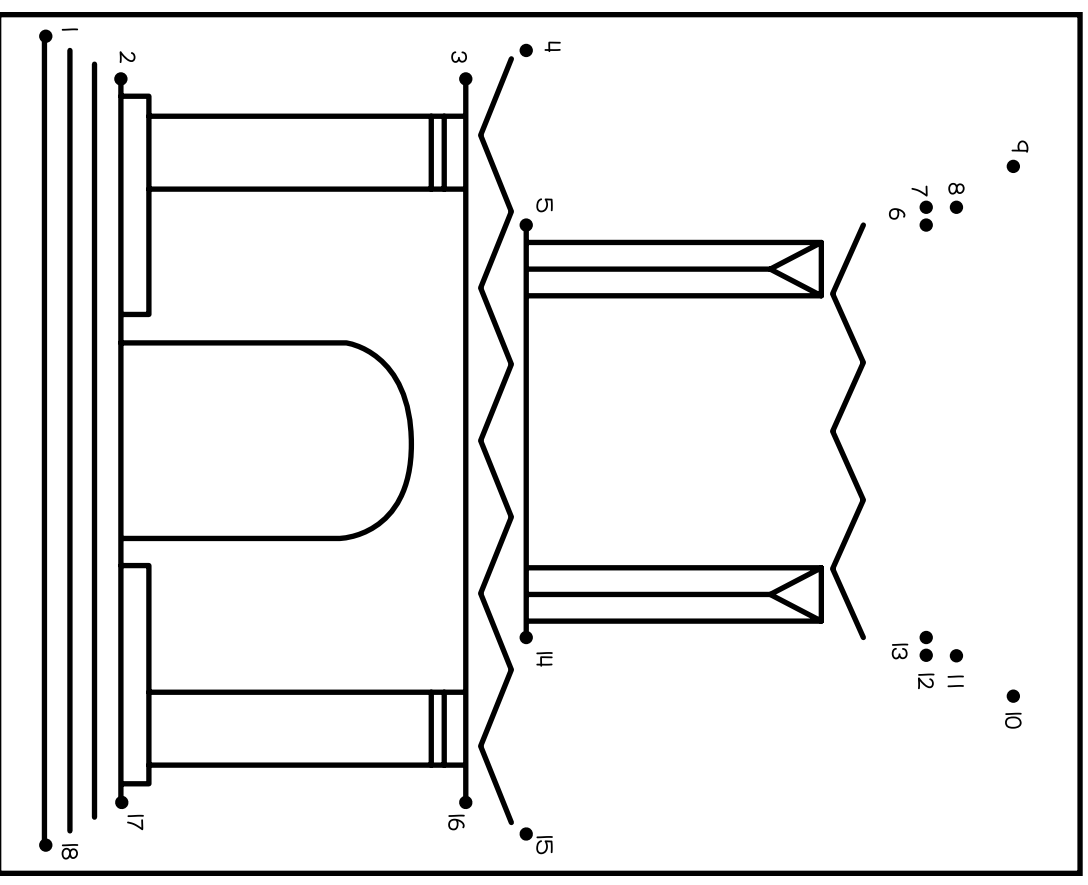
DRAW IT

In John 14, Jesus promises to give his followers the Holy Spirit who will be with and in them. One way we can see the Holy Spirit is through the loving choices we make in following Christ. Draw an example of that [here](#).



CONNECT the DOTS

In Psalm 66, the Psalmist describes coming to God's house - the temple - to praise and give offerings of thanks. Connect the dots to form the temple. Inside, write or draw some things for which you want to praise God.





ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

ARIANNE BRAITHWAITE LEHN is a mother, one half of a clergy couple, writer, and ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church (USA). As a South Dakota native, Arianne originally planned on Law School until God called her to Taiwan where everything changed. She later graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago). She and her family live in Wilmette, Illinois. Arianne is the author of *Ash and Starlight: Prayers for the Chaos and Grace of Daily Life*. You can connect with Arianne and her writing at her website ariannebraithwaitelehrn.com.

CORBY ORTMANN is a digital illustrator and animator, whose work includes caricatures, graphic design, children's books, and animated commercials/music videos. He currently lives in Fargo, North Dakota with his wife and daughter, who help him to step away from the art table every so often. You can find more of his work at www.corbyortmann.com.

LAYTON WILLIAMS is a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister and a writer based in Charleston, SC. She serves as the Director of New Dawn Ministries at Sunrise Church on Sullivan's Island, and she is the author of *Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us*. She received her M.Div from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and previously served on staff at Sojourners in D.C. and Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Prior to ministry, Layton worked as a nonprofit educator for middle and high school students.

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ADAM WALKER CLEVELAND is an artist, pastor, pastor's spouse, and father of four (two living). Adam is an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and after doing youth ministry for over 15 years, he founded Illustrated Ministry, LLC. He resides in Racine, Wisconsin with his wife and children.