Faith Formation Resources for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

illustrated MINISTRY

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

Published by Illustrated Ministry, LLC, Racine, Wisconsin.

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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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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 10

Describe when you had to find a place of safety and protection. *Note: If you are with a group, have each person take a turn sharing.*

Scripture Reading: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

> *"In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.*
> *Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.*
> *You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,*
> *take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.*
> *Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.*
> *My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.*
> *Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."*

Reflection

This passage from Psalms is a song of lament about grief and sorrow during a troubling and even dangerous time. It's a song for every person who longs for a place where they feel safe, secure, and loved. The psalmist is facing danger and needs to find a safe place. He cries out to God for help, saying God is his refuge. To find refuge is to be safe and sheltered from danger.

The psalmist places trust in God with his life and his future. Even though the psalmist was hurting and struggling, he knew God was still with him and always loved him, no matter what. Nothing anyone else did or said could take that away.

While you look at the illustration, think about how God feels that way about all of us. We are God's beloved, and we are created in the image of God. As we continue to face uncertainty and the danger due to the continued spread of COVID-19 and its aftermath, we can seek refuge in God.

Discussion Questions

1. Who and what makes you feel safe?
2. In what ways are you finding refuge right now?
3. How do you find refuge in God?

Prayer

Holy God, thank you for always loving us, for always being with us, and for always being a refuge when things are hard and even dangerous. Help us to remember this and feel safe. **Amen.**

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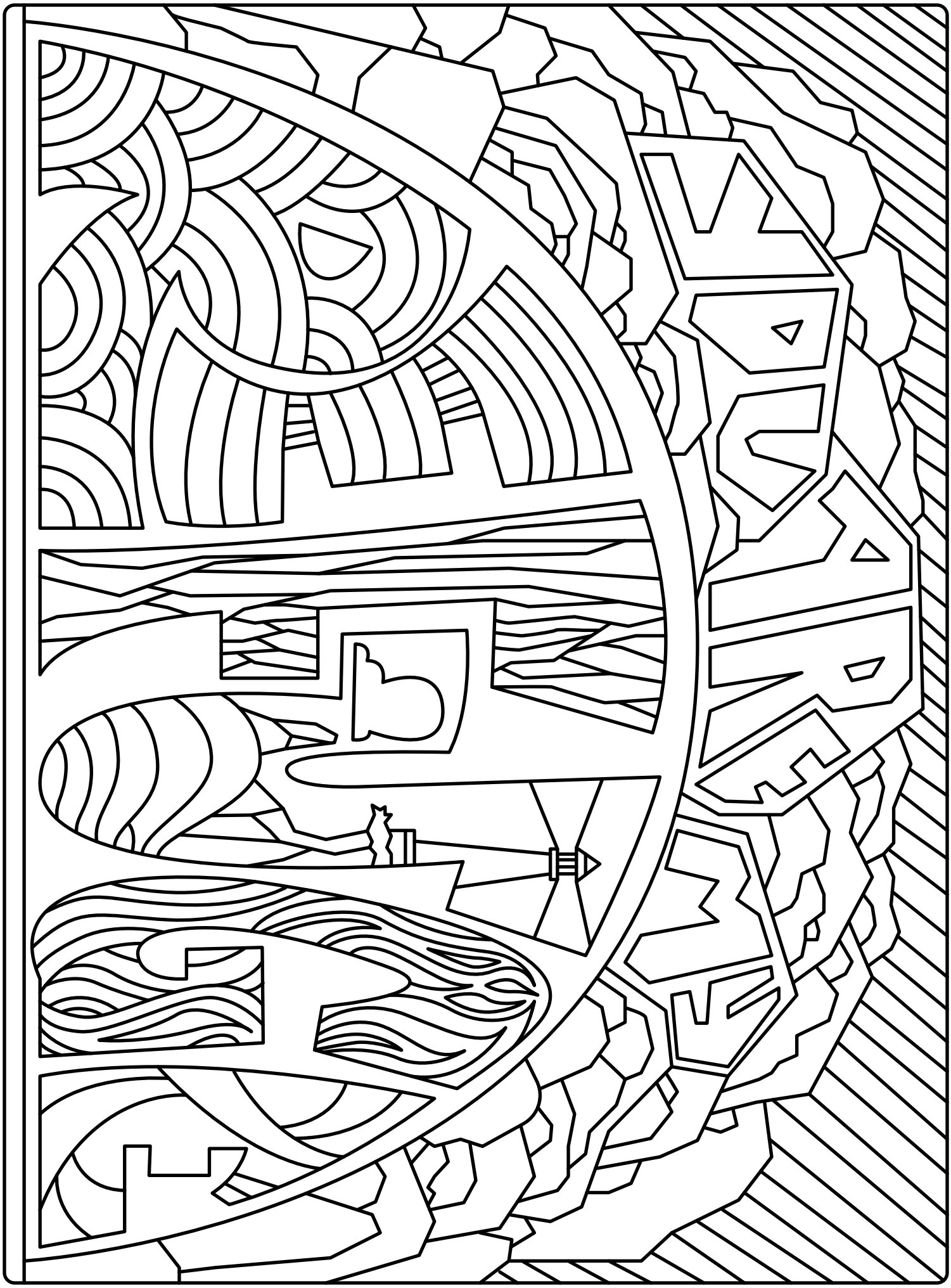
Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16 · illustratedministry.com



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DRAW IT

Do you like to build things? 1 Peter 2 describes Jesus as the first building block toward a good life, and how we become the next blocks, building off of Jesus.

Draw what that looks like to you.

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Suggested for use on May 10, 2020 based on the RCL.

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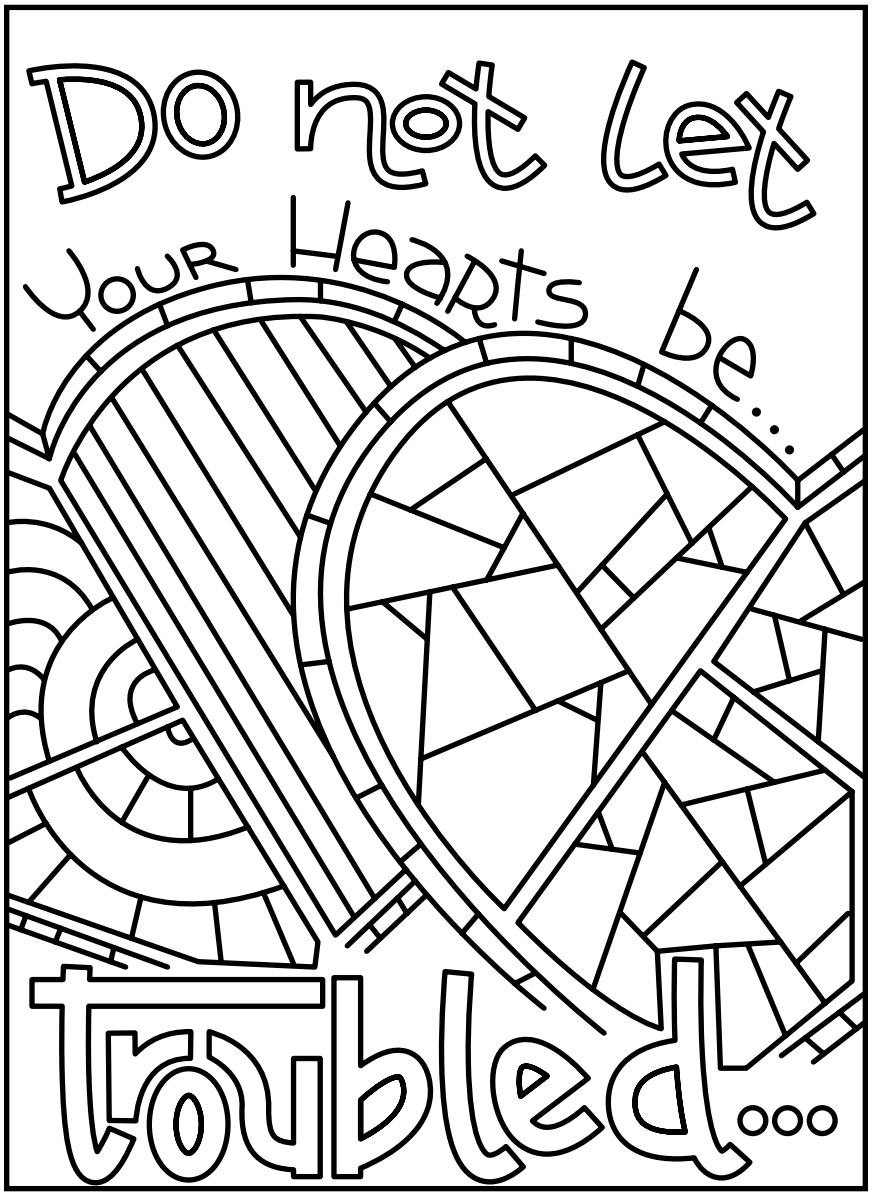
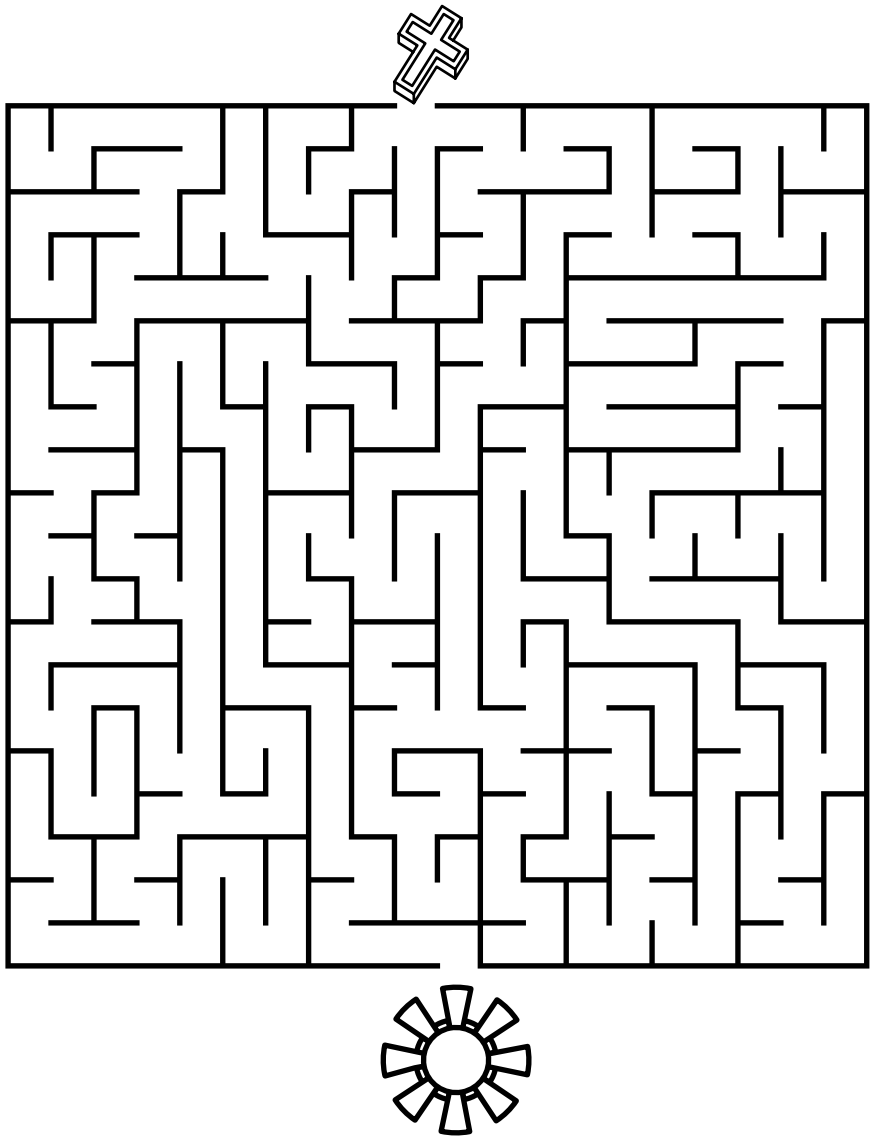
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14.



SOLVE the MAZE

In John 14, Jesus describes himself as the Way to having a full, abundant, and meaningful life. Jesus is with us on the path with all of its twists and turns. **Make your way through the maze!**



WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Psalm 31 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

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

LORD
REFUGE
RIGHTEOUS
DELIVER
EAR
RESCUE
ROCK
FORTRESS
STRONG
SPIRIT
REDEEM
FAITHFUL
TIME
ENEMIES
FACE
SHINE
STEADFAST
LOVE

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

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REBEKAH LOWE, a local of Kansas City, Southern California, and Austin, Texas, earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies with a minor in Leadership Studies and a minor in Hebrew at Azusa Pacific University and served as the Director of Children's Ministry at Brentwood Presbyterian Church (USA) in Los Angeles, California, for over five years. She resides in Austin, Texas with her husband and their two daughters.

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ADAM WALKER CLEAVELAND 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.

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