

Lesson overview: In this lesson, you will learn together about God's creation and share about how each thing is unique and yet all loved by God.

Lesson - All God's Creatures

Opening prayer: *Creative God, we invite you to show us your love and care through our time together. Help us to grow together as a family as we spend time in your word and being creative together. Amen.*
(Or something else appropriate)

Activity 1: Make Homemade Playdough

If you do not have the ingredients to make Playdough use something modelable that you already have around the house.

(Playdough recipe from: <https://www.iheartnaptime.net/play-dough-recipe/>)

There are many other fun ideas at this website, should you be looking for more activities during the week.

HOW TO MAKE PLAYDOUGH

Playdough ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 cups lukewarm water
- 2 Tablespoons of vegetable oil (coconut oil works too)
- Food coloring, optional
- Quart sized bags

- 1) Stir together the flour, salt and cream of tartar in a large pot.
- 2) Next add the water and oil. If you're only making one color, add in the the color now as well.
- 3) Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly. Continue stirring until the dough has thickened and begins to form into a ball.
- 4) Remove from heat and then place inside a gallon sized bag or onto wax paper.
- 5) Allow the mixture to cool slightly (*while cooling ask the opening questions and read the scripture*) and then knead until smooth. If you're adding colors after, divide the dough into balls (for how many colors you want) and then add the dough into the quart sized bags. Start with about 5 drops of color and add more to brighten it. **Knead the dough, while inside the bag so it doesn't stain your hands.**
- 6) Once it's all mixed together you're ready to PLAY.
- 7) Store the play dough inside the bags once done to keep soft. Keeps for up to 3 months.

Opening Questions:

- **What are some of the things God has created?**
- **Do you have a favorite animal?**
 - **If children are old enough, see if you can name an animal for every letter of the alphabet.**

Feasting on the Word: read **Genesis 1:1-2:4**. Feel free to use the attached version from the New International Version. You may also choose to read it from another, more child friendly version, such as Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible, by E. Caldwell and C. Wehrheim.

The Beginning

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number

and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.”²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. ⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

Discussion questions:

- **Who created?**
- **Where was everything created?**
- **What was created?**
- **When did the story say this happened?**
- **Did you hear anything new in the story? Anything surprising?**
- **Was everything the same?**

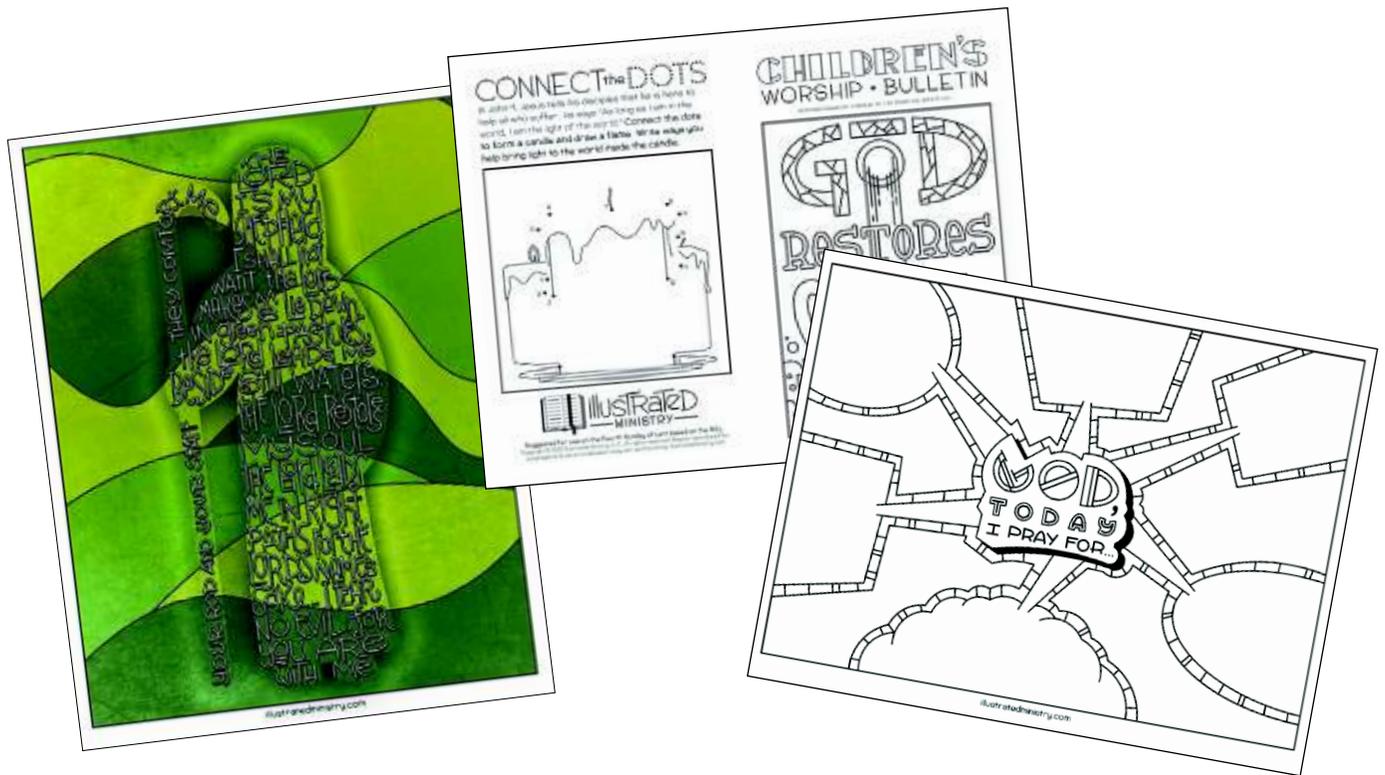
- **How were things the same? How were things different?**
- **Why do you think everything was created?**

Activity 2:

Time to play!! Using the playdough you made, create! Create your favorite animals. Or try to recreate items from the verses you just heard, with things to represent each day of creation. ENJOY! Once done, share about what each person created. Share similarities and differences.

Prayer *Creative and loving God, thank you for all that you have created; for the stars and the sky, the sun and the moon, the waters of the deep and the land that all give us life; and for all of the creatures you have created. Thank you God for giving us life that is shared together. Amen.*

Faith Formation Resources for the Fourth Sunday of Lent





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, 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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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 22

Describe a time when you've been out in nature, what was peaceful about it, where you were and how it felt to be there.

Note: If you are with a group, have each person take a turn sharing.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 (a Psalm of David)

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.*

Reflection

Today's scripture is from Psalms, an entire book of songs and prayers written to God. David, the author of this psalm, wrote many songs and prayers as a way to express his feelings to God about the things that happened to him - good things, difficult things, things he was thankful for, struggles he faced. He also wrote about how aware he was that God was always with him in every situation. He talked about how God has always been with God's people and will continue to be with us.

In Psalm 23, David describes God as a shepherd. Shepherds are like guides who give love, care always, and never leave their flock. He also describes being with God is like the feeling of lying down in a quiet green meadow or like walking by a quiet creek. Spending time with God, as David did, can help us to feel calm and safe when times are troubling, frustrating, and even a bit scary.

When we begin to worry, we can tell God all of our feelings and emotions like David did, because we know God is always with us, no matter what life brings. When we start feeling nervous or afraid, we can think of David's words in Psalm 23 and remember God is like our shepherd, guiding us and with us always.

Discussion Questions

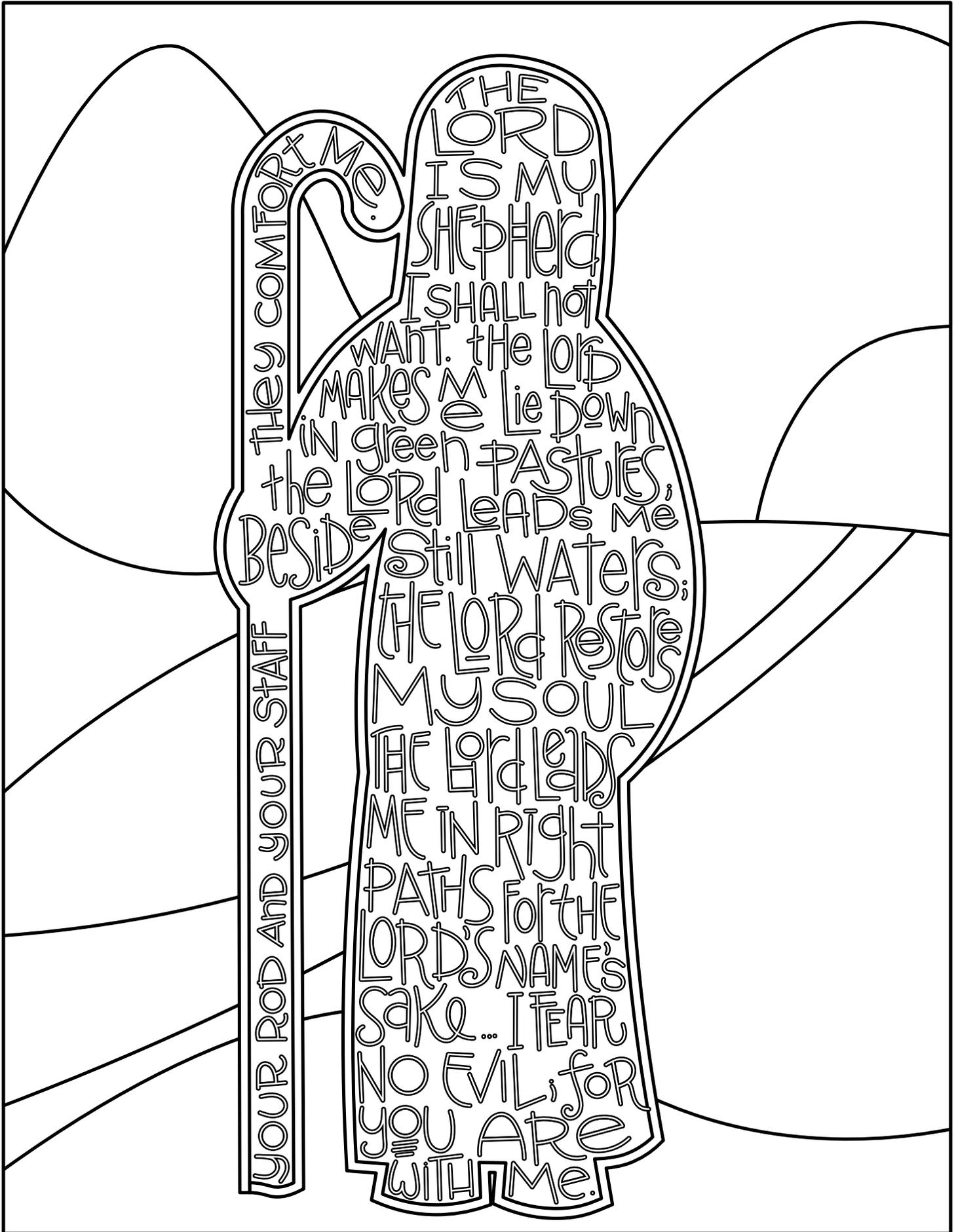
1. What it might be like to lie down in a green pasture? Or to walk along a quiet creek?
2. How do you express what you are feeling?
3. What can these feelings teach us?
4. What things help you feel really calm and safe?
5. How might our relationship with God help us feel calm and safe?



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Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being like a shepherd to us, helping us, and caring for us always. When we feel afraid or alone, remind us that you are always with us. **Amen.**



THEY COMFORT ME
IN GREEN PASTURES,
THE LORD LEADS ME
BY STILL WATERS;

YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
I SHALL NOT WANT. THE LORD
MAKES ME LIE DOWN
IN GREEN PASTURES,
THE LORD LEADS ME
BY STILL WATERS;
THE LORD RESTORES
MY SOUL.
THE LORD LEADS
ME IN RIGHT
PATHS FOR THE
LORD'S NAME'S
SAKE... I FEAR
NO EVIL, FOR
YOU ARE WITH ME.

PSALM 23 ACTIVITY

Write out your own version of Psalm 23 or draw out your own scenes of what Psalm 23 means to you.



Psalm 23

(translation from *The Inclusive Bible*)

YHWH, you are my shepherd

I want nothing more.

You let me lie down in

green meadows;

You lead me beside restful waters:

You refresh my soul.

You guide me to lush pastures

For the sake of your Name.

Even if I'm surrounded

by shadows of Death,

I fear no danger,

for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff,

They give me courage.

You spread a table for me

In the presence of my enemies,

And you anoint my head with oil

My cup overflows!

Only goodness and love

will follow me

all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in your house,

YHWH,

For days without end.

PSALM 23 • LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina is a way of prayerfully reading scripture that slows you down, creates space to listen, reflect, and respond to God as you center yourself on a scripture passage. This practice can be done by yourself or in a group and at your own pace. You can use the inclusive language translation provided or any translation you enjoy.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 – a Psalm of David

(translation from *The Inclusive Bible*)

*YHWH, you are my shepherd, I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in green meadows;
You lead me beside restful waters: you refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures, for the sake of your Name.
Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff, they give me courage.
You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies,
And you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in your house, YHWH, for days without end.*

Lectio Divina

Prepare to listen. Find a comfortable sitting position and take a few moments to prepare your heart, mind, body, and soul to listen to the Word of God. This might mean doing some breathing exercises to quiet your mind and slow your body down, lighting a candle, or saying a prayer.

Slowly, read Psalm 23 aloud. Notice any words, phrases, sentences that stand out to you or resonate with you now. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

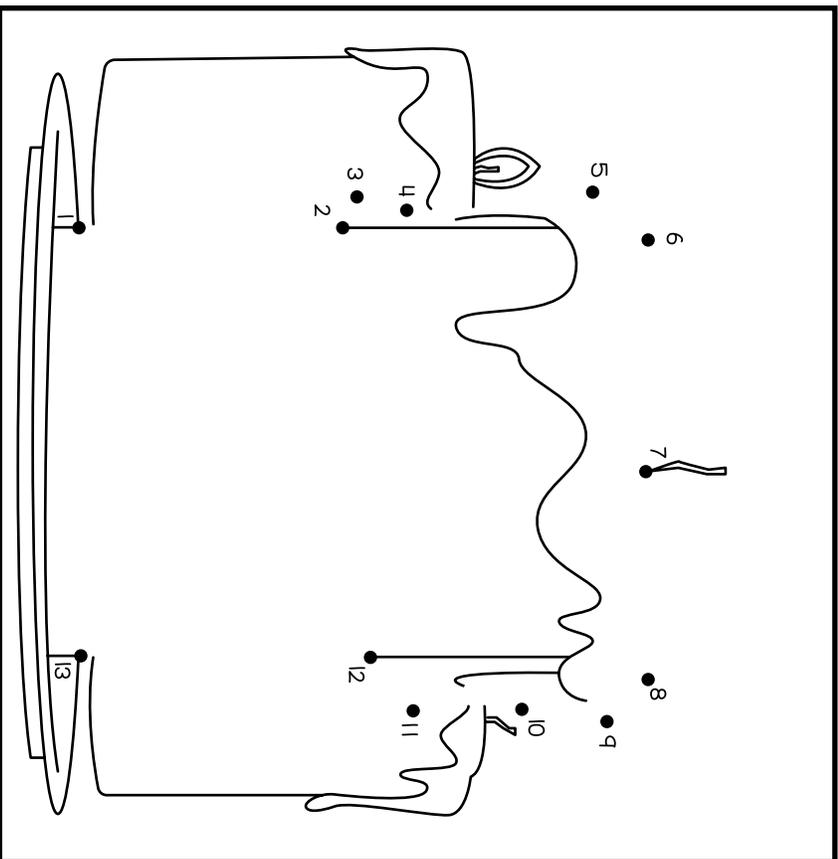
Read Psalm 23 aloud again. Draw your focus to the words, phrases, or sentences that stood out to you. Reflect on and be curious about why they resonate with you. You can even write or color in the phrases on the provided coloring page. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

Read Psalm 23 aloud again. As you hear the words, phrases, or sentences that stand out to you, offer up any emotions, feelings, thoughts you have to God as a response of prayer. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

Read Psalm 23 aloud one last time. This time, reflect on what was meaningful to you as you read or listen to the scripture. Allow for a few moments of quiet, and then offer a prayer to God as you end your Lectio Divina time.

CONNECT the DOTS

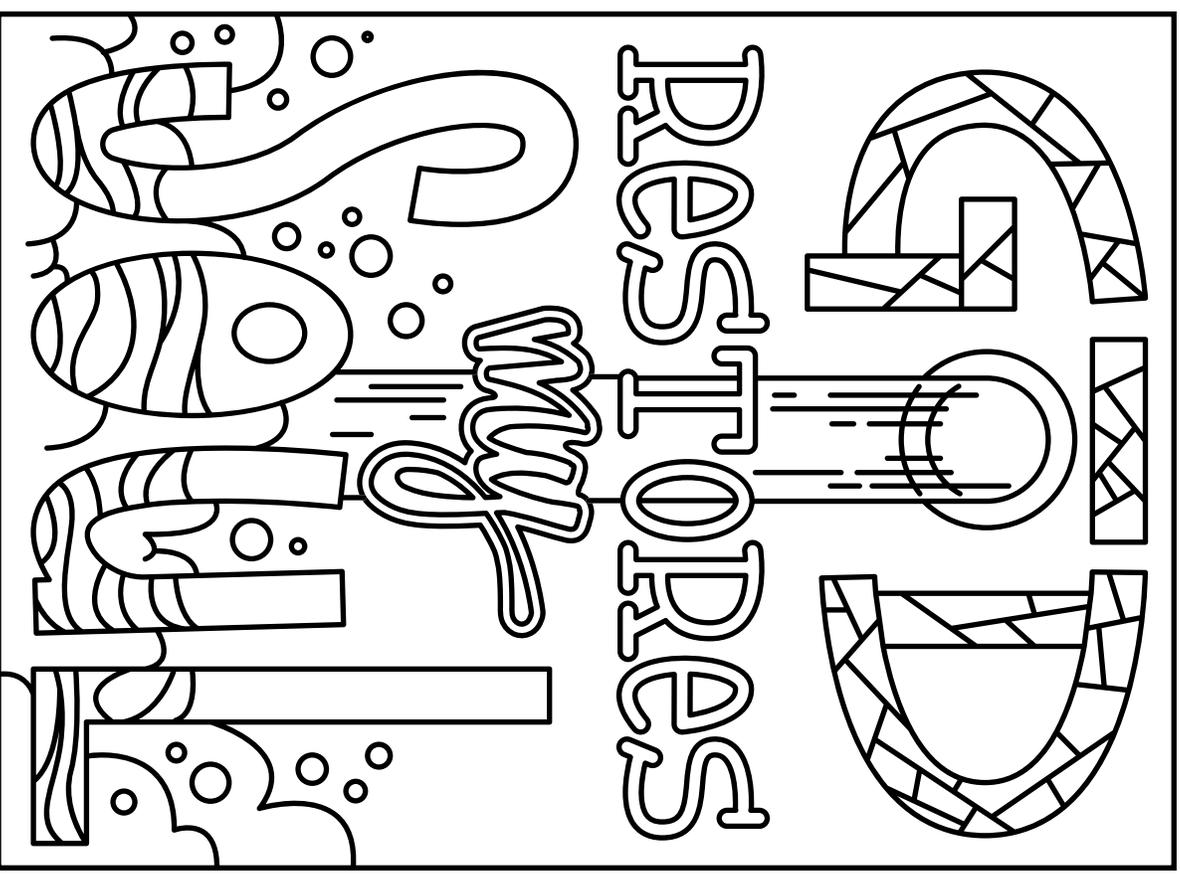
In John 9, Jesus tells his disciples that he is here to help all who suffer. He says "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Connect the dots to form a candle and draw a flame. Write ways you help bring light to the world inside the candle.



Suggested for use on the Fourth Sunday of Lent based on the RCL.
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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on 1 Samuel 16: 1- 13, Psalm 23, John 9: 1-11.





DRAW IT

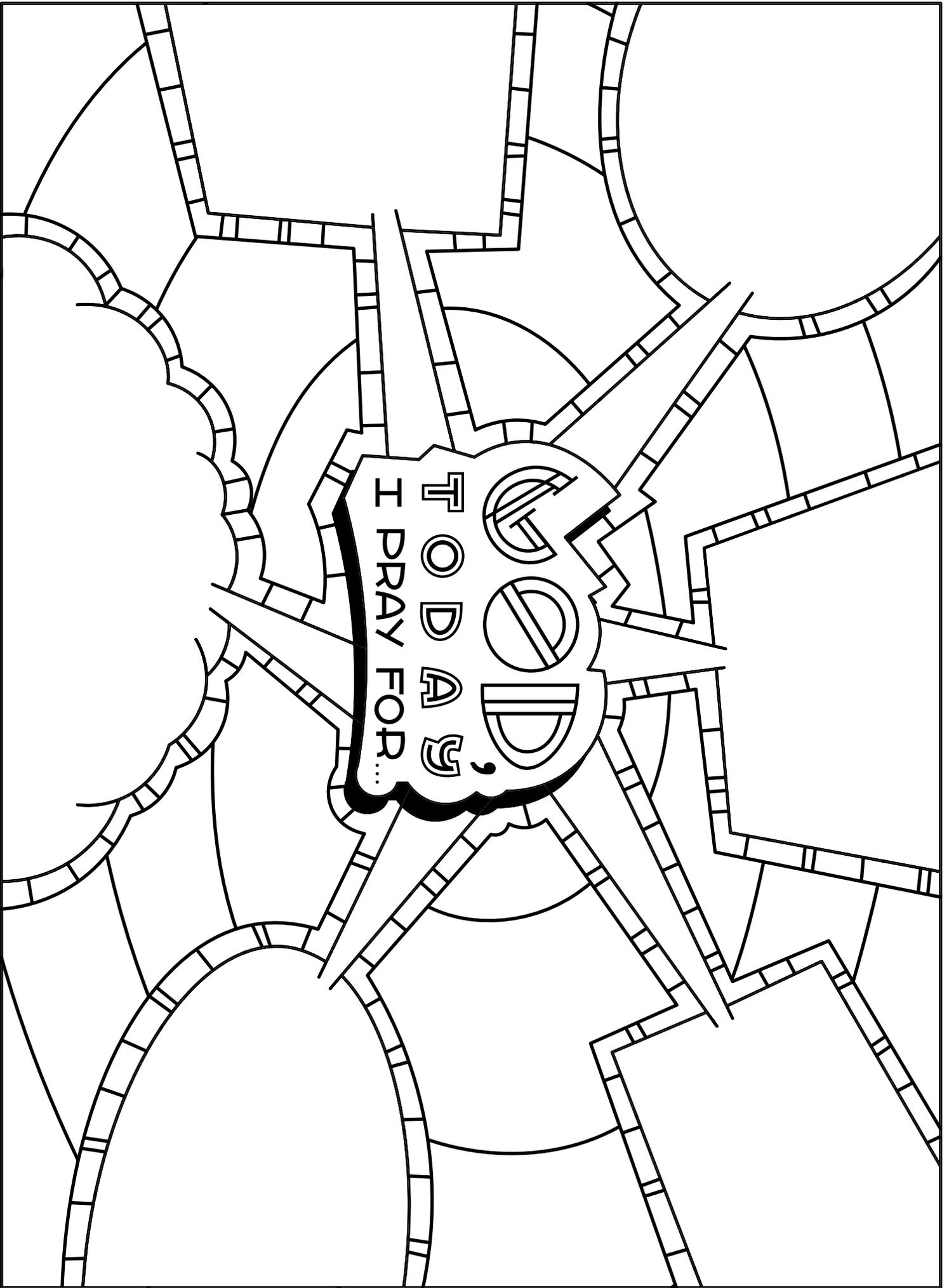
When God tells the prophet, Samuel, that God has chosen a new king, Samuel expects God has chosen one of the strong, older sons of a man named Jesse. But instead, God completely surprises Samuel. God had chosen David, the littlest brother, to be the next king. God doesn't look at outward appearances and what people normally see. God looks at a person's heart. Draw the kind of leader you think God looks for.

WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Psalm 23 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

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

- | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|
| LORD | GOOD | TABLE |
| SHEPHERD | WALK | ENEMIES |
| MEADOWS | VALLEY | OIL |
| WATERS | ROD | CUP |
| SOUL | STAFF | GOODNESS |
| PATHS | PROTECT | HOUSE |





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