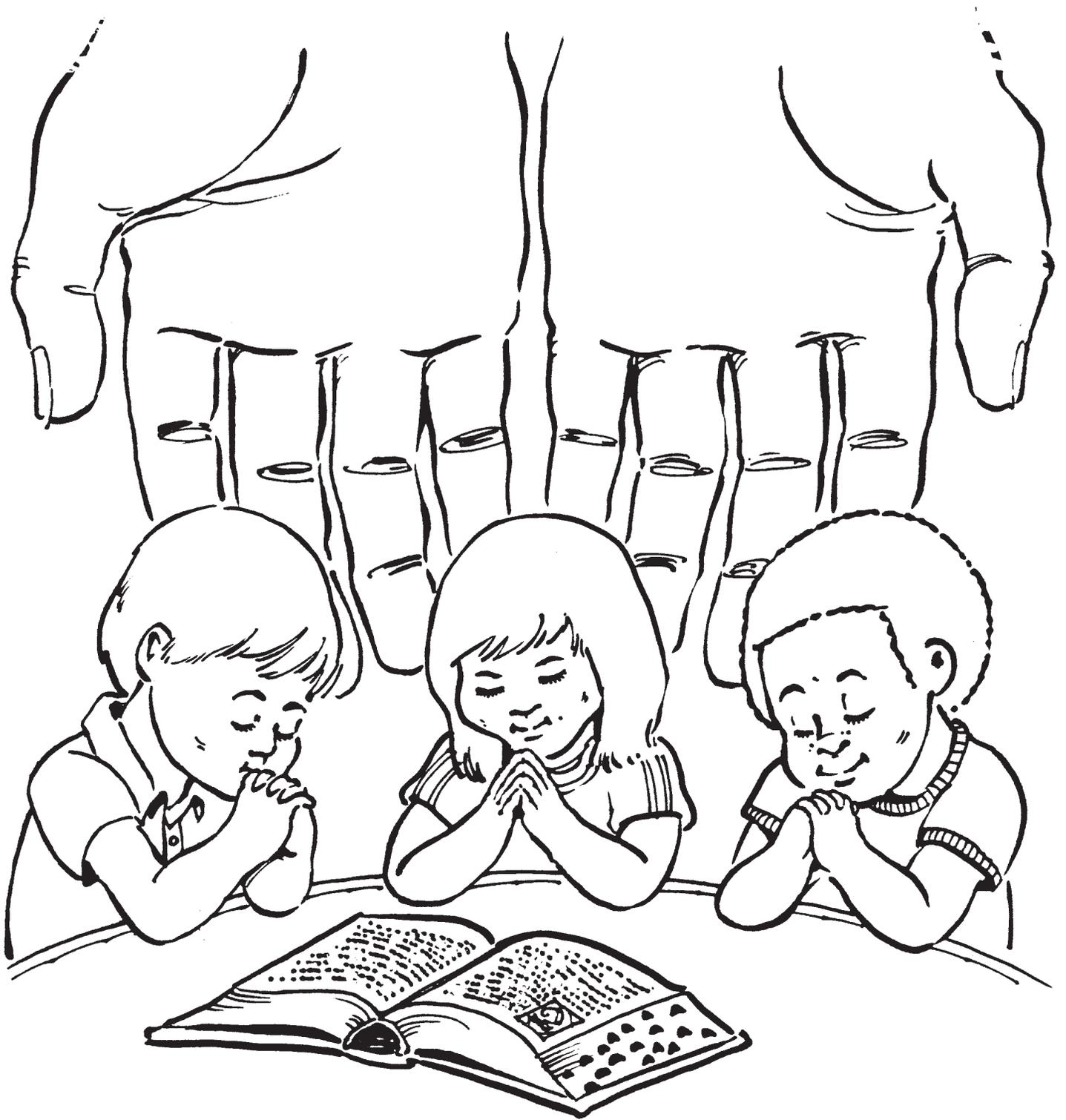


Our Father



The first word of this great prayer is OUR not my. This tells us that prayer should not be selfish.

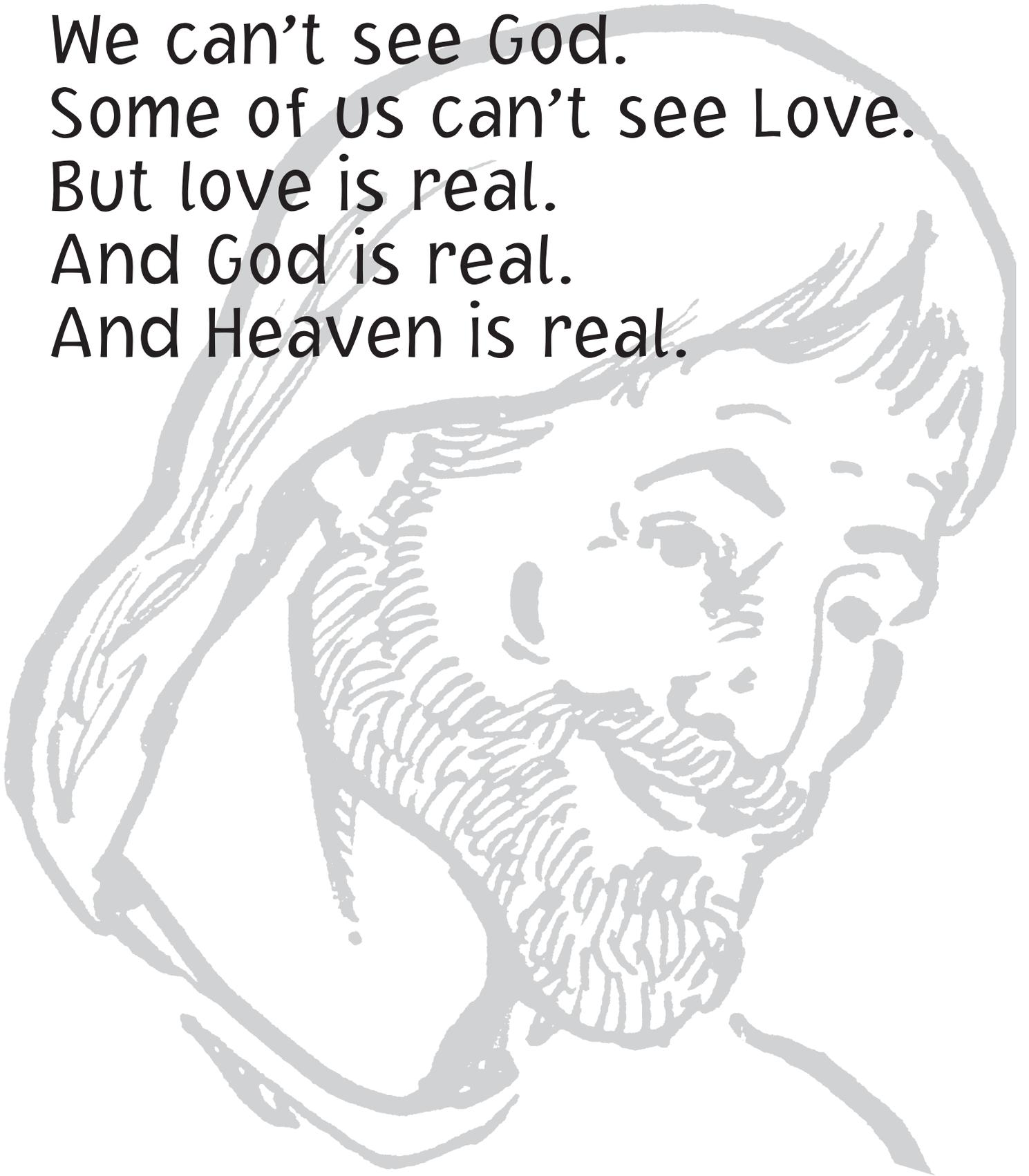


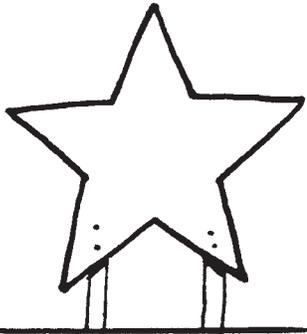
The second word is Father. But you can call Him Abba, Creator, or just plain Holy God. Whatever you call Him, God is LOVE.

Who Art in Heaven

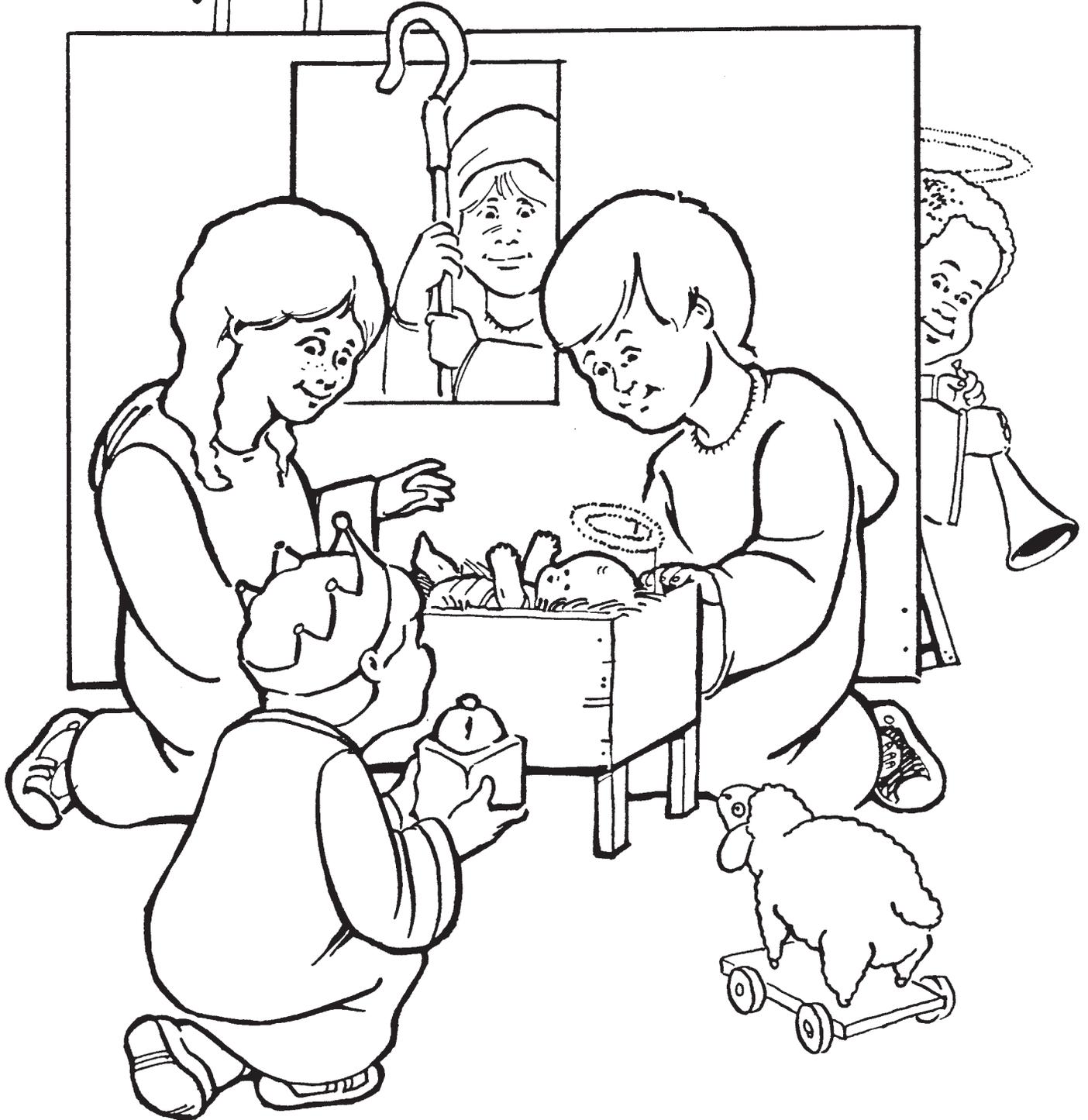


We can't see Heaven.
We can't see God.
Some of us can't see Love.
But love is real.
And God is real.
And Heaven is real.





Hallowed be Thy Name

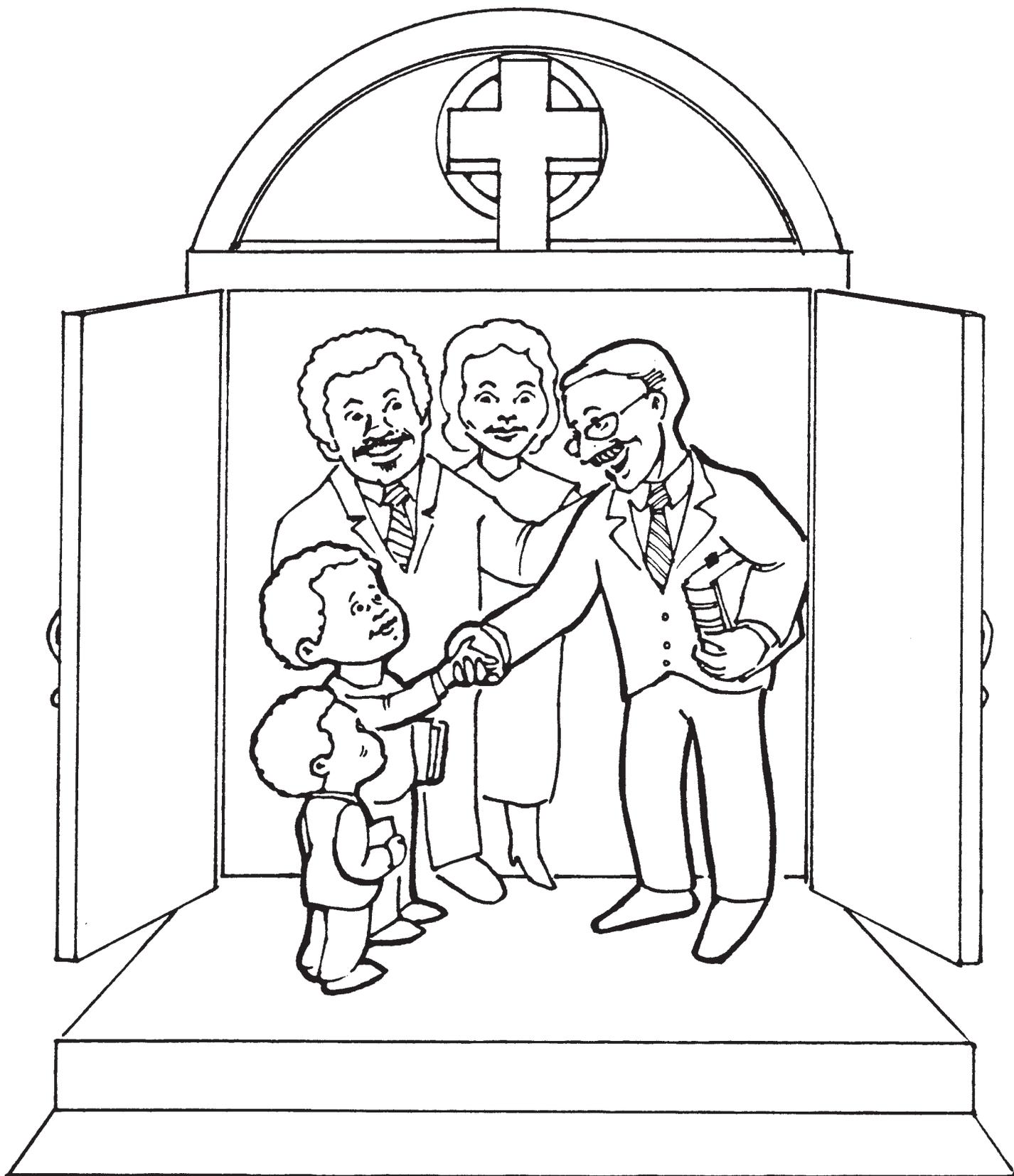


Whichever name you use for God
always remember



HALLOWED
means first

Thy Kingdom Come



Who would you choose for King?



Someone selfish,
or someone who cares
Jesus always cares.

Thy Will be Done On Earth as it is in Heaven

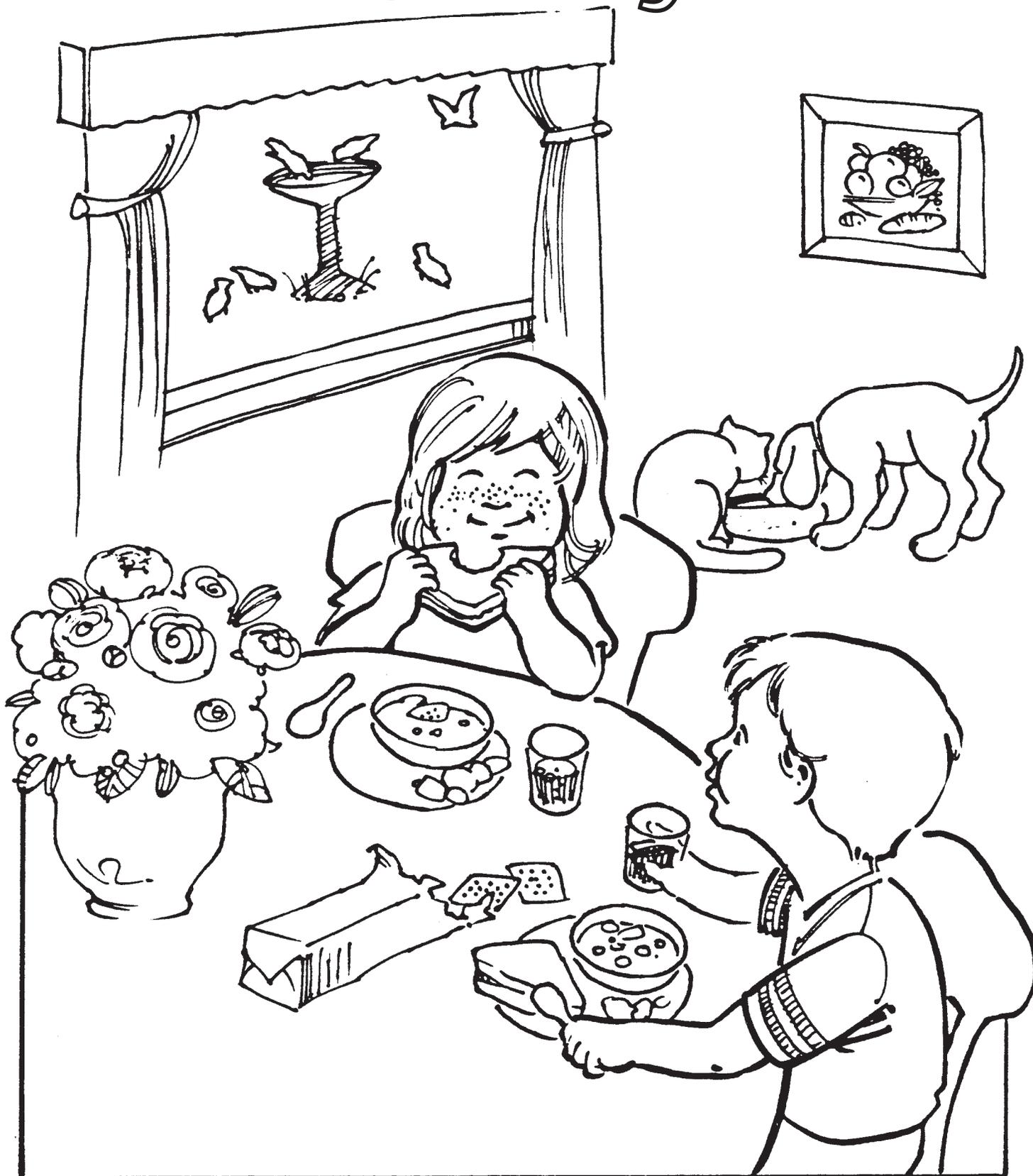


God can fix anything we take
to Him in prayer,



especially our hurt feelings
and sad hearts.

Give us this Day Our Daily Bread



God feeds the animals and birds, the poor people and the rich people.



He **always** has time for the Hungry.

And Forgive US Our Trespasses



Hurting people and breaking rules are **trespasses**. Our trespasses (sins) hurt God so we should repent and ask him to forgive us.



Repent means to say: “I’m sorry I did wrong. Please help me do right.”

As we Forgive Those who Trespass Against Us

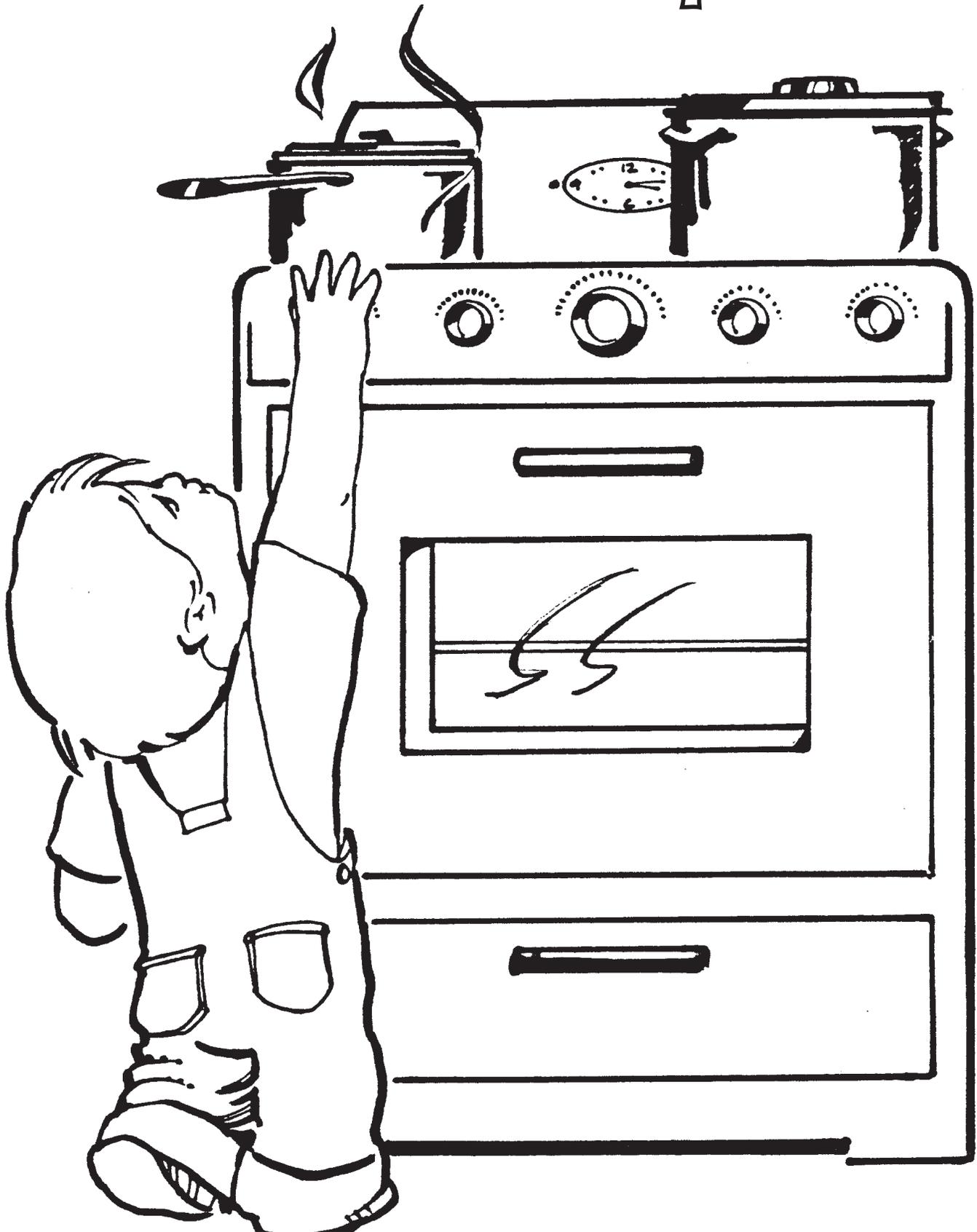


God wants us to tell Him and our favorite grownups when people hurt us.



We should not keep something like being hurt a secret. After we talk about it God will help us forgive those who hurt us.

And Lead us
not into Temptation



Feeling angry, afraid, or lonely
can make you want to break
a rule.



That is called temptation.
Pray, so God can help with
your feelings.

But Deliver us

From evil

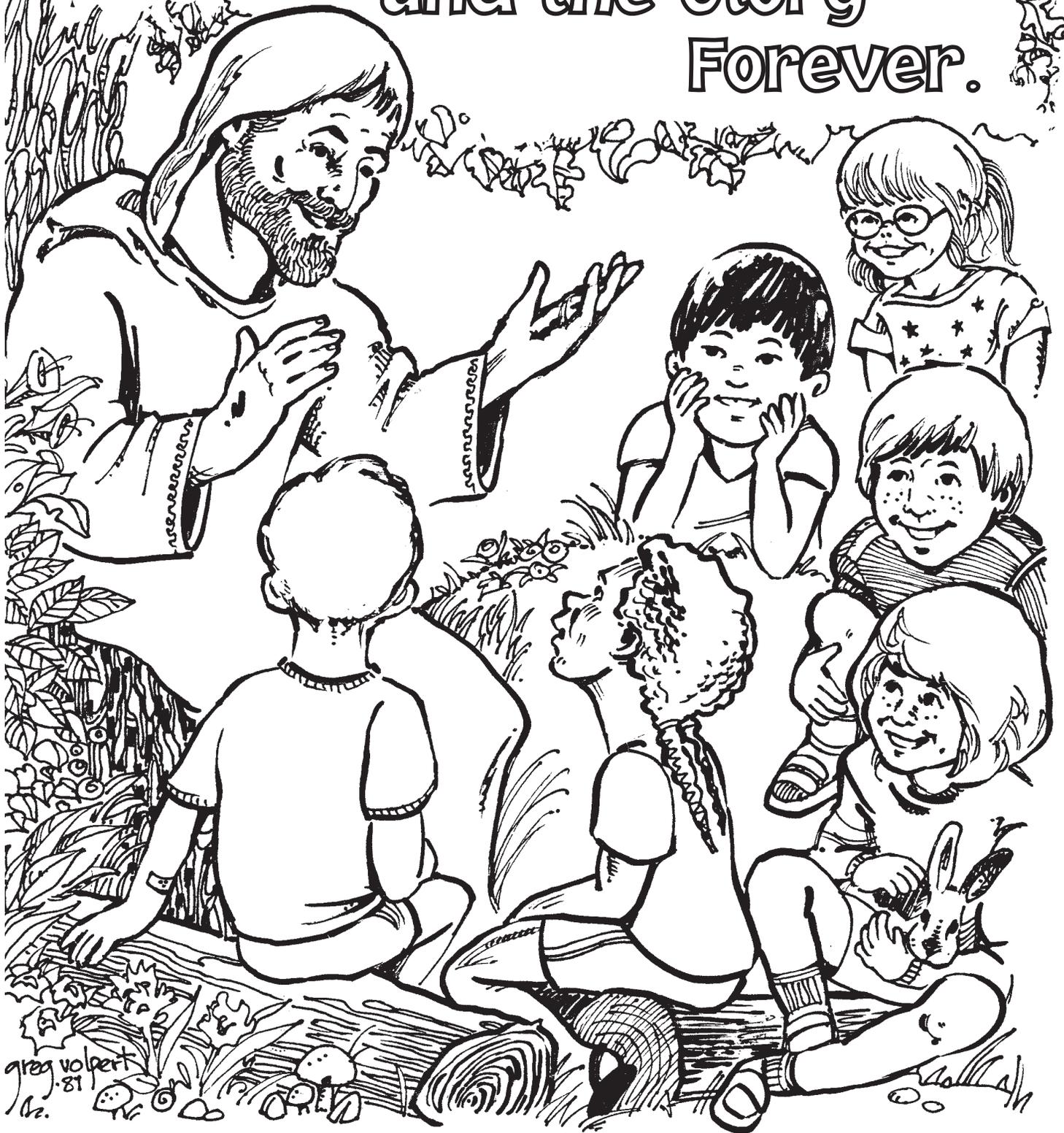


Breaking rules can hurt a lot
but God still loves you, just
like this mother.



A very important part of
prayer is asking God to teach
us right from wrong.

For thine is the Kingdom
and the Power
and the Glory
Forever.

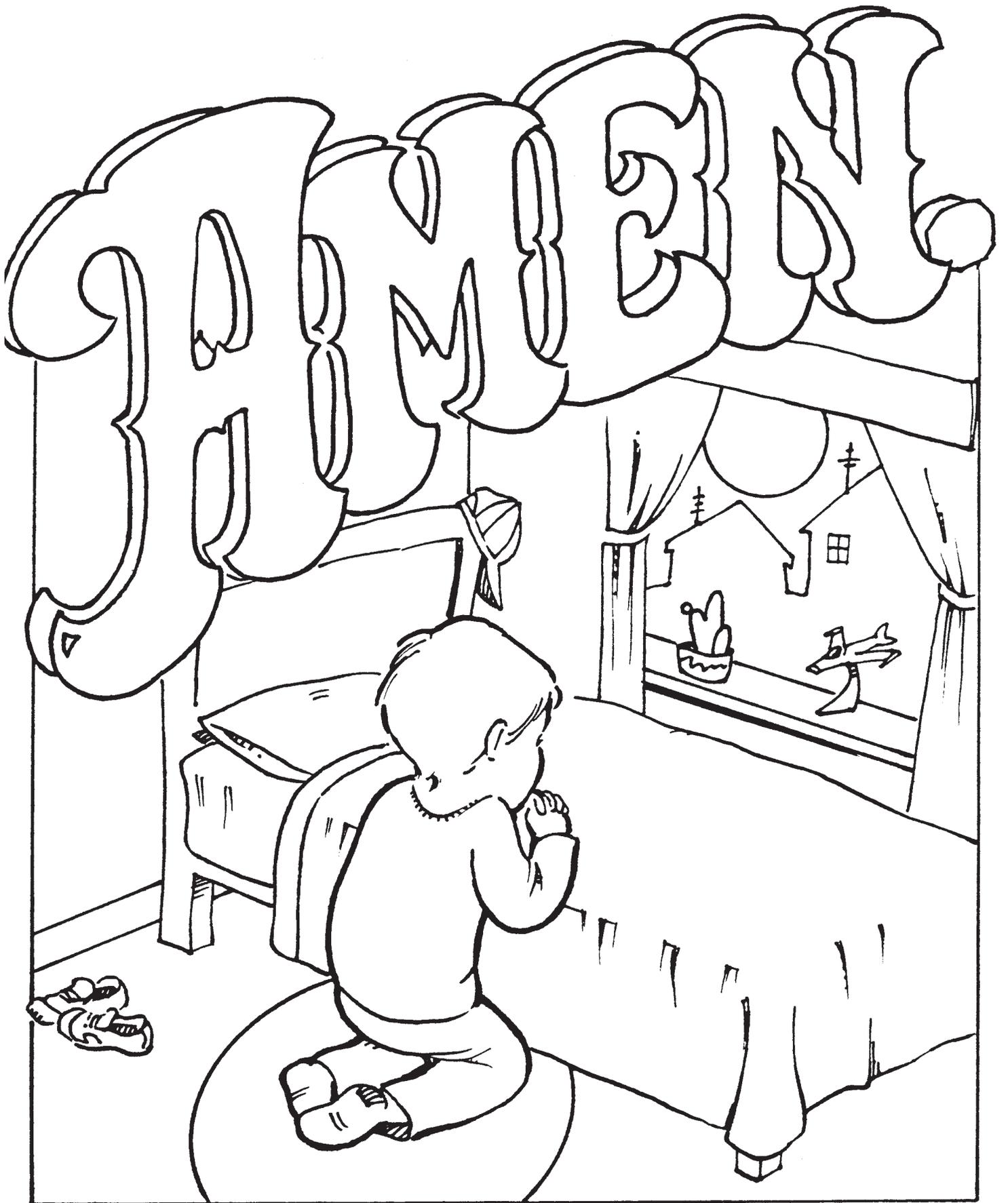


greg volpert
.81
Dr.

Jesus is the real King. If you
want to be part of His Kingdom
you must trust Jesus,



To teach you to pray,
To make scripture real,
and to help you love others.



Amen means:



I don't know when or how, but I know Jesus will answer every prayer.

AFTER Memorization

PERSONALIZATION (for children 8-10)

WHEN I call God Father...I **KNOW** he will help me to grow up like Jesus, my older brother.

WHEN I say: "Who art in Heaven" I **KNOW** Jesus can teach me to see with my spirit all the things my eyes cannot.

WHEN I say: "Hallowed be thy name." I **KNOW** Jesus comes first.

WHEN I say: "Thy Kingdom come." I **KNOW** the kingdom he wants most is my heart.

WHEN I say: "Thy will be done." I **KNOW** that does not mean following my feelings.

WHEN I say: "On earth as it is in Heaven." I **KNOW** that is not someday. It is today.

WHEN I say: "Give me this day my daily bread." I **KNOW** God has work for me.

WHEN I say: "Forgive me my trespasses as I forgive those who trespass against me I **KNOW** Jesus understands being hurt and lonely.

WHEN I say: "Lead me not into temptation." I **KNOW** God can save anyone from any feeling.

WHEN I say: "Deliver me from evil." I **KNOW** I must study his word, the word that teaches right from wrong.

WHEN I say: "Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever." I **KNOW** we are being prepared for life after earth.

WHEN I say: "Amen I **KNOW** God will help me remember everything I prayed.

**IF PRAYING WERE JUST SAYING
I COULD SKIP THE OBEYING
BUT PRAYING IS STAYING
IN STEP WITH OUR LORD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART**

ACTIVITIES THAT TEACH

“You can depend on God.” We have about 10 years to teach this to our children. If we fail network television and peer culture will convert them to...sex drugs and violence none of which is healthy. Loving a child means teaching him to pray, to trust that God IS there for him or her. The following activities and coloring pages are ...a place to begin!!

VERY YOUNG CHILDREN will love a prayer shawl. Any cloth will work. Get a shawl for yourself and one for the child. Cover up and then pray a one sentence prayer. The child does the same. The point is that the child or grandchild is not praying to please you or anyone else. Under the shawl he is alone with God... separated from the world. This is the deepest essence of any prayer...*being alone with God*. Allow the child only a single one sentence prayer per day. It will help him concentrate and make each prayer more special. Prayers should be very special.

CHILDREN AGE 6-10 will need a prayer jar. You will want one for yourself, plastic jars are best. Label each jar on one side: “FROM ME TO JESUS” on the other side: “FROM JESUS TO ME.” Instead of saying your one sentence prayers out loud as above write them down on small slips of paper, just one per day and put them in the jar. At the end of the week remove the prayers and write the answer on the back. Sometimes the answer will be clear. When it is not put the prayer back in the jar and repray it daily. If the child has not received an answer by the end of the week involve as many people as it takes until the child has truly heard or seen God’s answer. (Not necessarily the one he is expecting.) *NEVER discard a prayer that has not been answered*. Help your child stick with his prayers until the end and his faith will grow strong and true. Only answered prayers will stick in his mind and soul.

NIGHTTIME PRAYERS teach most if parent and child continue to pray together those informal one sentence prayers. It is also a great time to get out the crayons and work on this book. **On nights the child will sleep elsewhere try sending along a prayer brick or rock.** Cover the brick or soap or rock with cloth and tie it off. The child puts it on his pillow each morning and then at night it clunks him in the head reminding him or her to pray. In the morning when he gets up he will stub his toe reminding him a second time that prayer is important. The prayer rock is perfect for children who live in two homes. It is one thing that both homes will have in common. Never throw a prayer rock away. Save it and when your child is headed out on his own send it to him. Prayer rocks can be a great help to divided families.

MORE ACTIVITIES THAT TEACH

CHILDREN TEN OR OLDER should know this next lesson by heart. No other lesson makes God so real. A very inexpensive magnet can be obtained at Radio Shack. Rub a nail against the magnet repeatedly in the same direction and the nail itself becomes magnetized. This teaches a child the reality of UNSEEN POWER. When we spend time in prayer we become partakers of the Divine nature just exactly as the nature of the magnet is conveyed to the nail. You can pick up pins with the magnetized nail which shows its changed nature. The power of prayer is not that it changes God but that it changes us. To make the most of the lesson get a book on magnetism from the library and try all the experiments then go back thru the book imagining Jesus is the magnet drawing us to him and the Holy Spirit is the magnetism. Ask your Pastor or Sunday School teacher how the Holy Spirit helps in prayer.

MEN CAN TEACH PRAYER TOO. Tape the child's prayer to a football. The adult's job is to stop him from getting the ball (prayer) to heaven (the goal of your choice). No mere man could stop a prayer so make yourself a nametag from the following list: Sin, Unforgiveness, Ignorance, Selfishness, Pre-occupation or even Satan. Few if any children will be able to get a prayer past one or more active adults with such ugly name tags. The point is that prayer can be hard work and that there is an opposing team. Play prayer football one on one or with teams. Some players the child might choose are: Christ's blood for Sin, Prayer Partners for strength, love to neutralize selfishness and unforgiveness, perseverance to prevent laziness. Etc. You can't see prayer but it is just as real as football or basketball and much more important. Real men pray and pray hard. Play one on one or try it at the church picnic.

TEAM PRAYERS mean a child is growing up, that he has concerns reaching beyond himself. A prayer team is in fact the best gift any parent could give a child. No other support group can come close. Prayer connects us. It connects us to God and it connects us to church. Help your child fill in the names of 5 people for his power team (perhaps three adults and two children). To start the habit of praying with others have him phone each of them once a week for at least one month.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

FOR TEENS AND PRE-TEENS

THE FINAL EXAM

WHEN YOU PRAY DO YOU COMPLETELY BELIEVE GOD IS REAL? Nothing is more important. Pray about your doubts. Do you doubt creation. Do you doubt invisible things like the Holy Spirit? Do you doubt God loves you? Pray and pray and pray...until you KNOW. ***“Please father I have to KNOW if you are real...keep me searching till I find YOU..”*** James 1:5

WHEN YOU ARE NOT PRAYING DO YOU IGNORE GOD? Probably you do. Probably you tend to make up your own mind...or even worse go along with the crowd. Most of us learn early in life to ignore the Holy Spirit. Asking God to help us hear him better is one of the greatest prayers there is. PRAY IT. Learning to yield to his quiet leading will keep you safe, encourage your heart and comfort your soul. **“Please Father teach me to really listen to your voice...from waking until sleep.”** Luke 11:13.

COULD PRAYER SAVE YOUR LIFE?...only if you take it seriously. Most of us die a little at a time, a little sin here and a little sin there. Pray about your sins...even the ones you are not aware of: “Father show me if I have sinned today. Cleanse me by Jesus blood and lead me by your Holy Spirit so I do not sin the same sin all over again.” **This prayer should be like brushing your teeth...something you do EVERY day.** Acts 2:21

DO YOU PRAY WHEN YOU ARE ANGRY, AFRAID, LONELY OR CONFUSED? These things can block our sensitivity to God and make it very very hard to pray. Fortunately Jesus came to earth so he could understand temptation, understand emotion and lead us safely away from sin. **Pray about your emotions. Pray in the morning BEFORE you sin.** Luke 22:40

DID YOU EVER ASK GOD TO EXPLAIN A BIBLE VERSE? It's like a puzzle. You can't pray without reading scripture and you can't understand those scriptures without praying. **“Father could you PERSONALLY make just one Bible verse real to me, then I will try to believe ALL of them...one at a time.”** Isaiah 30:21

DO YOU PRAY ABOUT THE FUTURE, WHAT YOU WILL DO... today... for the rest of your life? Many of us DRIFT through life. Drifting is not Christian. **Real Christians have two legs, praying and doing. Don't hop around on one leg. PRAY first...then DO. PRAY in the morning, PRAY about your doubts, PRAY to be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit...PRAY about your sins, PRAY about scripture, PRAY ALWAYS with all your heart. Then you will be blessed.**

Could you pray NOW? Would it be wiser to FORGET about this exam or to make a copy and keep it in a safe place...maybe your Bible...maybe your wallet or purse. **MAYBE you could make a list of THREE people willing to pray with you once a week. THAT is the only way I know of to pass this exam... PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. THEN you will change the world...the world near you...and the world far away. The alternative is to fail yourself and God.**

**Our
Father**

**Who art
in Heaven**

**Hallowed be
thy name**

**Thy kingdom
come**

**Thy will be done
on earth as it is
in heaven**

**Give us this day
our daily bread**

**And forgive us
our trespasses**

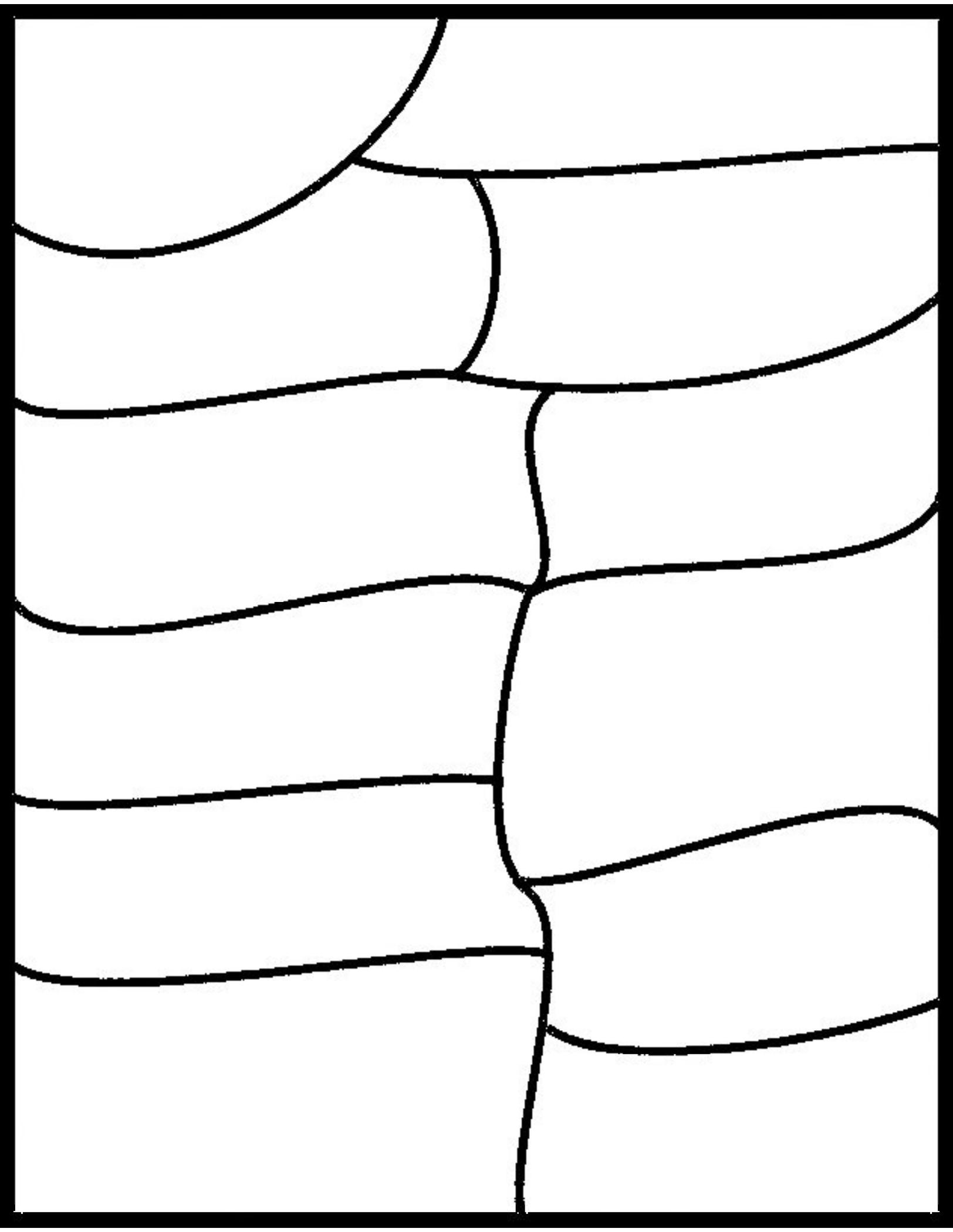
**As we forgive
those who
trespass
against us**

**Lead us not into
temptation**

**But deliver
us from evil**

**For thine is the
kingdom and the
power and the
glory forever**

Amen



PRAYER MECHANICS checklist

Hundreds of pastors of scores of different denominations have reviewed every page of this website (book). The only page that any of them has been concerned about is this one. Their complaint is that prayer works because God loves us and not because we follow a list of rules. Of course that is true...absolutely true. In spite of this I have chosen to keep the prayer mechanics checklist because I really like the idea that a prayer is like a car. It has to be tuned up and repaired to work properly. If we help children understand what it means to tune up a prayer their prayers will be answered and their faith will grow. If we do not then their prayers and their faith will end up in the junkyard. Be gentle with young children. Instead of correcting their prayers suggest that they ask God to help them find the problem himself. This list can be a help in the hands of a caring adult but it is not meant to replace God.

- 1) Are you praying first thing in the morning? The first prayer of the day is hundred's of times as important as the last. Pray before you get into trouble...not after. Pray early...not late. Psalm 5:3
- 2) Are you asking in faith. Do you believe God is real and that he is on your side? Can you picture God leaning over the edge of heaven looking for ways to bless you and reward you? Or do you tend to blame God for the bad behavior of Satan and other human beings? Nothing can hurt a prayer more than a wrong idea of God. He is a fixer. He is a friend. He is a healer. He can be trusted. Trust in fact is what faith is all about.
- 3) Do you tell God what to do or do you ask him. If you have been ordering God around you will never learn the very best thing about prayer...the part where God talks to you...where his spirit whispers to your spirit. Are you missing the best part? Jer. 33:3
- 4) Are you praying with a pure heart? Are you angry with someone? Forgive them. Have you sinned? Repent. Are you ungrateful? Thank God for past prayers answered. Are you praying selfishly? Make a list of others to pray for. Matt 6:14&15, Proverbs 28:13
- 5) Is there an altar in your home, even a small table with an open Bible? There should be. An altar reminds us of the one great rule of prayer...practice, practice, practice. If there is no altar most of us will fail to develop the prayer muscle we are sure to need.

Prayer Jar

Take home sheet for parents

Childhood memories are precious and can last a lifetime, memories like learning to read or to ride a bicycle. One of those memories should be learning to pray. A great way to get started is a prayer jar, a small project to help our children stick with at least one prayer until it is answered. It is the one thing most likely to connect your child to a church for the rest of his life.

Making the prayer jar itself is simple. Plastic peanut butter jars are probably safest and easiest to find. For the jar to work *you should make one for each child and one for yourself.* Using a gummed label and magic marker label one side of each jar: “From me to Jesus” and the other side “From Jesus to Me.” This teaches a child the **two** most important parts of prayer: “God listens and **then He Answers.**” Help your child (each child) write a one sentence prayer and put it in the jar. Then he/she prays the prayer each day until it is answered. Only the child will know when that is. If he needs help ask who *he would like to pray with.* It may be friends from his Sunday School class, a parent/grandparent or everyone in your church. No matter how long it takes or how many people must get involved it is very very important that the child’s prayer is answered and that he knows it was answered and that he knows it was God. Without at least one personal experience with answered prayer why should he/she believe?

It is my prayer that every home and Sunday School Class in the Country has a shelf lined with prayer jars, one for each child and one for the leader and that we all stick with our prayers until we get the answer. We pray that our website (www.teachustoprayer.com) offers real help in completing the process, especially the prayer mechanics checklist. We pray further that parents and youth leaders will use the prayer jar with older children and teens. To allow 18 year old’s to leave a family or a church without getting at least one prayer answered personally by God makes us guilty of not teaching the most important life lesson of all: “God is real and the rewarder of those who seek him”.

Authors note for leaders and parents: We all love the prayers with answers that reveal God’s mighty hand in visible and miraculous ways. Most prayers however are more likely to move God’s spirit than his hand...to bring us comfort and encouragement rather than a new bicycle. A good way to help a child move prayer toward the spiritual is to ask WHY he prayed what he did. Usually the answer will be an emotion: hurt, anger, fear, loneliness, shame, guilt etc. Asking God to help with the emotion opens the door to the realm of the invisible and a new way of looking at God. May you be blessed as you witness to this next generation God’s faithfulness in answering every prayer you ever prayed.