

**ALL
IN**

**Who is
God?**

Year 1



anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org

Anabaptist Disabilities Network: All In

Executive Director | Jeanne Davies
All In Project Director | Keli Boyer

Resource Writers | Keli Boyer
Seth Thomas Crissman
Jeanne Davies
Melody Zimmerman

Cover and Themed Artwork
| Melissa Marquez Weaver

Parts of Worship Icons | Joel Davies

Music + Lyrics | Seth Crissman and Greg Yoder
The Soil and The Seed Project

The All In Project is a partnership between AQORD and Anabaptist Disabilities Network, made possible through a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. This resource was made in partnership with The Soil and The Seed Project.

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What is in this book?

	Page
What is in this book?	1
About this book	2
God Made Us Genesis 1:1-2:3	4
God Sees Us, God Knows Us, God Loves Us Exodus 3:1-15	8
God Speaks to Us 1 Kings 19:9-13	12
God is Emmanuel (God with us!) Luke 2:1-20	16
God Notices Us Mark 5:25-34	20
God Heals Us John 5:1-15	24
Jesus Welcomes Children Mark 10:13-16	28
Jesus is Our Good Shepherd John 10:11-18 Psalm 23	32
Jesus Welcomes Everyone Luke 14:1-23	36
Jesus is the Vine and We are the Branches John 15:1-8	40
Jesus is Alive! John 20:1-18	44
God is the Holy Spirit Acts 2:1-36	48
Additional Resources	52

About This Book

We believe the best way to learn about God is together with other people. Sometimes when we go to church, the worship service is mostly reading and thinking quietly. This can make it hard for some kids and people with disabilities. Sometimes they are left out.

The "All In: Immersive Worship for Everybody" project wants to change this. We want people of all ages and abilities to worship together, share their gifts, learn from each other, and learn with each other.

This book is the first in a set of three books. This first book focuses on the question, "Who is God?" Inside, you will find 12 different worship services with Bible stories that help us learn who God is. You can use these worship services in your church, your home, or other places. We think they are best used with other people!

How to Use This Book

Throughout this book we use the New International Readers Version (NIRV). We recommend using NIRV or CEB for plain language. We have **bolded** some of the important words to remember throughout the book. You can learn what they mean on the Words to Remember page in the back of the book.

Each worship service is made up of the same 6 parts. You can choose to either use all 6 parts or to mix and match parts in your worship service.



This is a Story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

Each service begins with a story from the Bible. You can read it out loud or even act it out together.



We Remember | Using repetition, the “we remember” part helps us remember what our story taught us about God. It can work as a call and response or as an echo: a leader reads all of the not bold lines, while everyone else echos the **bold lines**.



We Wonder | To wonder means to be surprised or curious. In this part you are invited to be curious and to think and talk about the story from the Bible.



We Respond | The “we respond” part has activity suggestions to respond to the story from the Bible. Sometimes the activities involve moving our bodies, getting creative, or using our senses as we respond.



We Pray | The “we pray ” part has short prayers that we can say together. Sometimes they have motions, or use breathing together.



We Sing | Each service has a song to go along with it. [These songs and lyrics can be found online by clicking here](#), or by scanning the QR Code. Sing, listen or dance along to the music!



On some pages you will find a square with words in it. This means there is something more to learn about disability, the Bible and God.



God Made Us

GENESIS 1:1-2:3



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

At the very beginning, God made everything!
And it was GOOD.
It's the first story in the Bible.

On DAY 1:

God said: Let there be light! And there was light.
God saw that it was good!

On DAY 2:

God separated the waters, above and below.
God made the sky.

On DAY 3:

God piled up the water in some places
so there would be dry ground – land.
God also made lots of kinds of plants.
God saw that it was good!

ON DAY 4:

God filled the heavens:
The Sun, and the Stars, and the Moon.
God saw that it was good!

On DAY 5:

God filled the sky and the sea with
birds, fish,
and all sorts of big and tiny creatures.
God saw that it was good!

On DAY 6:
God filled the land
with all kinds of animals,
almost more than you can imagine.
God saw that it was good!

God also made people.
People, made in God's image;
a beautiful **mystery**
This was the most special thing of all.
God **blessed** people.
God saw that it was very good!

On DAY 7:
God rested.
God made Day 7 **holy**.
God made it a day of rest.





One: Who made everything?

All: God made everything!

One: Who made the stars and the sky?

All: God made everything!

One: Who made water and plants?

All: God made everything!

One: Who made bugs and animals?

All: God made everything!

One: Who made people?

All: God made everything!

One: What God made is WONDERFUL

All: God made everything!

One: God made us and called us GOOD.

All: God made everything!



What is something that you have made or that turned out great? What made it good? What did you like about it?

When you listened to Genesis 1, what did you notice, or what "stuck with you?"

Did you notice that it said, "God saw how good it was" a bunch of times? Why do you think it said that so many times?



1. Make something that is GOOD or BEAUTIFUL. It could be a picture, a snack, or a necklace. You could think of something kind to say or share with someone else. Remember that God is GOOD and what God makes is good.

2. The Bible says that God made people and that people are made in God's image! That means God made us special – to look like God! Find a buddy and take turns mirroring one another. If one person touches their nose, so does the other. If one person smiles, so does the other. End by telling one another that you see God in them.

3. God gave people the job of taking care of creation. We can do this work together. Grab some gloves and a trash bag and go to a park. Pick up any trash that you find along the way.



Pray: God, thank you for making everything, and for making us GOOD! Help us to rest like you rested. Amen.



You Made Us

God Sees Us, God Knows Us, God Loves Us

Exodus 3:1-15



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

A long, LONG time ago

After God made everything

But before cars and phones

And airplanes and TVs or buses

It was a long, long time ago

Thousands of years ago

When people could only walk to get places

Or ride on a horse or camel

God **adopted** a group of people

and **blessed** them to be a blessing to the whole world.

Some really bad things happened to God's people.

They ended up being far away from their home.

They were not doing ok.

Life was really, really hard.

People with power who were "in charge"

treated God's people like slaves.

It was so bad.

There was a man named Moses.

There are a lot of stories in the Bible about Moses.

Moses was a part of God's chosen people.

One day he was taking care

of a bunch of sheep that belonged

to his wife Zipporah's dad.

The place was Horeb, the Mountain of God.

Moses looked and there was a bush.

Even though it was on fire, it didn't burn up.

That was not what usually happened,

so Moses decided to go check it out.

The LORD God saw that Moses was going to check it out

God called Moses' name two times from INSIDE the bush.

"Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

God said: "Don't come closer. Take off your sandals.

This place is **holy ground**."

And then God said:

"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." Exodus 3:6b NIV

When Moses heard this, he hid his face because he was
afraid to look at God.

God said: "I have seen how my people
are suffering in Egypt;
how it has been so hard for them.

I have heard them crying out
because of the people who are treating them like slaves.
I know about their suffering.

So I have come down to save them
and rescue them."





One: God, you see us.

You see us when people say and do hurtful things.
You see us when we feel stuck.

All: God, you see us.

One: God, you know us.

You know when we are really having a hard time.
You know when we are struggling.

All: God, you know us.

One: God, you love us.

You're not too far away.
You are right here with us.

All: God you love us.

One: God, you hear us when we pray.

When we cry out to you
You reach out in love.

All: God, you see us. You know us. You love us.



*Who do you know that is good at taking care of others?
Who makes you feel loved? What are some things that they
do or say?*

*Can you think of a time when you called for help and
someone helped you? Can you think of a time when you
helped someone else?*

Can you think of a time when God helped you?



1. God hears us when we call out for help and loves us! Sometimes God speaks to remind people of that BIG love, other times, God uses people to remind us. Take turns reminding each other of the good news in this story: God sees us, God knows us, and God loves us. Take turns going around the group and saying someone's name first, and then reminding them:
_____, God sees you. God knows you. God loves you!

2. Point to your eyes and say, "God sees me."
Point to the top of your head and say, "God knows me."
Give yourself a hug and say, "God loves me."



God, thank you for loving us so much! Amen.



God, Come in a Whisper

God Speaks to Us

1 Kings 19:9-13



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

Elijah was a **prophet** and a friend of God.

One day Elijah ran.

Elijah ran because things were bad,
and everything seemed scary.

He ran until he couldn't run anymore.

When he had given up, God sent him an angel
to feed Elijah and take care of him
and to remind him.

The angel said,

"You need to eat, because the road ahead is hard."

Elijah ate. He got up and went 40 days and 40 nights
until he reached God's mountain.

He went into a cave and spent the night.

God said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

Elijah answered, "I have really followed you, God.

But your people stopped following your ways.

People have killed your prophets. And now it's just me.

I'm all alone, and they want to kill me too!"

The Lord said, "Go out and stand at the mountain.

I'm passing by."

A very strong wind tore through the mountains
and broke apart the stones —

but the Lord wasn't in the wind.

After the wind, there was an earthquake —

but the Lord wasn't in the earthquake.

After the earthquake, there was a fire —

but the Lord wasn't in the fire.

After the fire, there was a sound;

a still small whisper.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat.
He went out and stood at the cave's entrance.
A voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"
Elijah again told God
ALL the things that were wrong
and how he was all alone and in danger.
God said, "You are not alone.
I have work for you to do."





One: When we are hungry,

All: God, feed us.

One: When we are thirsty,

All: God, give us water.

One: When we are tired and scared,

All: God, take care of us.

One: When we feel like we are all alone,

All: God, speak to us

One: God, help us to hear your still, small whisper.

All: God, help us to listen.

One: Amen



Who is someone that you like to spend time with OR that you look forward to talking to/listening to?

Why do you like to spend time with them? How do you feel when you're with them? What makes someone a good listener?

How does God talk to us? How do we know God is near to us? Have you ever felt like God was telling you something?



1. God loves us, wants to speak with us and is the best listener! Take a few minutes to spend some time with God. You can tell God about how you're feeling or listen for God's voice. Remember things that God has said in the Bible.

Here are some ways you could start:

God, right now I feel...

God, I feel worried about ...

God, help me remember...

God, I'm listening. Amen

2. Practice listening for quiet things. Sit where you are or go for a walk outside and come back. Be as quiet as you can. What do you hear?

3. Use your body to make sounds to act out the end of the story. You could rub something to make the sound of the wind, stomp to represent the earthquake. Make whatever sound you like for the different parts of the story. Slowly stop all the noise. Sit in the silence for a moment and then whisper to your neighbor, "You are not alone." or "God speaks to us."



God, help us to listen for your still small voice when we are hungry, tired, and worried. Amen.



Listen, Listen

God is Emmanuel (God with us!)

Luke 2:1-20



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

Luke 2:1-20 NIrV | In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to their own town to be listed. So Joseph went also. He went from the town of

Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a **manger**. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

There were **shepherds** living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you. He is the **Messiah**, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am

God is with us in our abilities and disabilities! Jesus was both God and human. He experienced so much of life like we do: he got tired, needed naps, cried, and felt sad. Jesus felt pain and knew what it was like to feel alone. God-with-us means that God knows what it is like to be human and to have limits.

telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a **manger**.”

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, “May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!”

The angels left and went into heaven. Then the **shepherds** said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem. Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the **manger**. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the **shepherds** said to them. But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The **shepherds** returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.





One: This is good news!

All: This is good news!

One: Good news - great joy - for all people.

All: Good news - great joy - for all people.

One: A Savior has been born!

All: A Savior has been born!

One: The Messiah, The Lord.

All: The Messiah, The Lord.

One: Glory to God in the highest!

All: Glory to God in the highest!

One: And peace on earth!

All: And peace on earth!



Can you think of a time that someone told you some really good news?! What was it?

What are some different ways that we share good news with others?

Emmanuel means "God with us." Why do you think Jesus is called by that name?

*Take a few minutes to *wonder* what it might have felt like to be some of the characters in this Bible story:*

-Joseph

-The Shepherds

-The Angels

-The Sheep!

-Mary



1. The Shepherds went and told others. Imagine what their faces might have looked like while they were telling others about Jesus being born. Try to make your face look like what you think the shepherds' faces looked like as they told others about Jesus.

2. Make two paperclip angels. The directions are on page 54 at the back of this book. You might need some help. Keep one for yourself and give one away to someone else to share the good news that Jesus was born.



Jesus, you are with us. Amen.



Emmanuel

God Notices Us

Mark 5:25-34



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

Jesus didn't stay a baby.

He grew up. He taught people about God's way.

He healed people who were sick.

He showed people

what it really is to love God and others.

When people heard about what Jesus was doing,

they wanted to check it out for themselves.

A whole crowd of people were following him around.

There were lots of people pressed around him.

There was a woman that was there.

She had been bleeding for 12 years.

The Bible says that she suffered a lot
and saw many doctors.

But instead of getting better, it just got worse.

She spent all of the money she had
and no one wanted her around.

When she heard about Jesus, she thought:

"If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."

She came up behind Jesus in the crowd
and touched his cloak (a cloak is like a jacket).

IMMEDIATELY her bleeding stopped

and she knew that she was healed

free from her suffering.

At once, Jesus knew something happened.

He could tell power – God's power –
had gone out from him.

He turned around and asked: "Who touched my clothes?"

The disciples said that there were
so many people around Jesus

It could have been anyone.
But Jesus kept looking around to see who did it.
The woman knew what had happened.
She felt really afraid.
She fell down at Jesus' feet and told Jesus everything.
Jesus treated her like family, saying,
"Daughter, your faith has healed you.
Go in peace, healed from your disease." Mark 5:34b CEB





God notices us.

When we feel alone.
When we feel left out.
When we feel hopeless.

God notices us.

You see us.
You heal us.
You call us family.

God notices us.

Jesus did not only heal the woman's body. He also called her "daughter" in front of the crowd. That healed the way other people saw her. He was saying, "She is a part of my family. She belongs." When we live in a way that is truly all-of-us-together, God changes us and can use us to change the way other people see things. This is part of Jesus' healing work in the world.



Can you think of a time that you noticed someone that other people didn't? Maybe it was someone that was left out?

When was a time you were left out? How did that make you feel? What did you do?

Did you ever try to include someone who was hurting or left out?



God's love doesn't stop! Jesus notices and cares for people who feel lonely or are ignored.

1. Make a prayer request basket: If you feel lonely or have another prayer request, write your name and/or a prayer request on a slip of paper, and drop it in the basket. Take a slip of paper on your way out and pray for that person or their request during the week.

2. The Bible says that God's faithful love doesn't stop. God's compassion and love are new every morning!

Read or listen to Lamentations 3:22-23 and make these gestures.

- God loves us very much (give yourself a hug)
- So we haven't been completely destroyed (make a muscle)
- God's loving concern never fails (make a heart sign with your hands)
- God's great love is new every morning (make a big circle with your arms)
- LORD, how faithful you are! (raise your hands in the air)

3. Make a reminder: Get a small piece of cloth and color it. Write "God sees you" on it. Hold the cloth in your hands and feel it in between your fingers. Think about what it must have felt like to reach out and touch Jesus' robe. When you are ready, give it to someone who you want to remind that God notices them.



*God, you notice us, and your love doesn't stop. Help us to put our trust in you.
Amen.*



Come, Fill Our Hearts

God Heals Us

John 5:1-15



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

Jesus kept seeing people who needed help.
One day, Jesus was at a healing pool called Bethesda.
A LOT of disabled* people
were lying by the pool.
Some people were blind.
Some people couldn't walk.
Some people couldn't move.

The people hoped to be healed.
When an angel stirred the water,
the first person to get in the pool would be made well.
All the people raced to get into the water.

Jesus saw a man who had been lying by the pool for 38 YEARS! That is a VERY long time! Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" Jesus wanted to know what the man wanted. The man told him that he wasn't fast enough to get to the water. He said others pushed ahead of him and he did not have anyone to help him.

Jesus said, "Pick up your mat and walk." And the man picked up his mat and walked. Some leaders told the man that he shouldn't pick up his mat because it was the **Sabbath** and he should be resting. The man said, "The one who made me well told me to do that."



Jesus comes near to people who are disabled. In some healing stories, people come to Jesus and ask him for help. In this story, Jesus goes to the man and finds him. We can learn from Jesus' question, "Do you want to be made well?" Jesus did not assume that the man's only want was to walk. He saw him as a whole person and listened to his story. Today, we can make communities of healing by coming near to anyone in need and listening to their whole story.*

**Many people prefer "people-first" language: "people with disabilities." Use the language that seems best for you and your church. We chose the "identity-first" language that many self-advocates prefer: "disabled people." The use of "disabled" honors the complexity of disability. Sometimes what disables us are buildings and attitudes, not that we can't see with our eyes or walk.*



One: When we want to be made well

All: You heal us, Jesus.

One: When we don't know how we will be healed

All: You heal us, Jesus.

One: When we have given up

All: You heal us, Jesus.

One: When we help each other

All: You heal us, Jesus.



Why do you think Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed? Why is it important to ask what someone wants?

Think about the Bethesda Pool. Does it work very well? Do you think it is fair for people who can't see or walk to try to get into the pool before anybody else?

What would make the Bethesda Pool better?

Did the leaders help the man?



1. Have each person choose a piece of paper and decorate it as their own mat. Write words or draw pictures of how you would respond to Jesus asking, "What is it that you want?" Roll up your piece of paper. Hold one end and have the person next to you hold the other end, to form a line of people. Keep holding each others' mat, as you walk in a line together to some music. If you need to do this differently because you use a wheelchair or cane, or because it's hard for you to hold someone else's paper for any reason, that's ok. Be creative and join in your own way.

2. Sometimes when we pray for a person to be healed, we put a little bit of oil on their forehead. This is called **anointing**. Anointing is putting a special mark on someone to show that they are loved and blessed by God.

Read James 11:13-15 out loud.

Anyone can choose to be anointed.

For people anointing:

1. Ask: "What do you want me to pray for?"
2. Put a tiny bit of oil on their forehead three times in the shape of a cross. Say, "[Name], I anoint you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."
3. Put your hand on their shoulder and pray for them.

If you do not want oil on your forehead, you can still come forward for a prayer.



Jesus, thank you for seeing us and healing us. Help us to help each other so that we are all healed. Amen.



This Little Light of Mine

Jesus Welcomes Children

Mark 10:13-16



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

Jesus kept teaching and kept healing people.

He fed LOTS of hungry people, more than one time!

Everyone heard about the things that Jesus was doing.

Some people brought their children to meet Jesus

so that Jesus could reach out and bless them.

Jesus' **disciples** (his closest followers) got grumpy!

They tried to keep the little children away from Jesus.

When Jesus saw what they were doing

he was NOT okay with it.

He said: "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep

them away. God's kingdom belongs to people like them.

What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who will not

receive God's kingdom like a little child will never enter it."

(Mark 10:14b-15. NIrV)

He let the kids come to him

and he welcomed them in his arms

And placed his hands on them and blessed them.

With Jesus, they were welcome and safe.





Jesus, you welcome children!

People brought their children to you
So you could lay your hands on them and bless them.
Your disciples did not understand —

Jesus, you welcome children!

Your disciples tried to stop the children from coming!
You were NOT ok with that.
You said, "Let the little children come to me
and don't stop them!"

Jesus, you welcome children!

You said, "God's Kingdom belongs to children!
To enter God's Kingdom
We all have to welcome it like a little child."

Jesus, you welcome children!



For adults: Who is someone who really saw and welcomed you well when you were a kid? Is there a time recently that someone welcomed you? Tell a story or describe what they did.

For kids: Who is someone that you know who really sees and welcomes you well? What do they say (or not say) or do that makes you feel cared for?

What are some things that the church can do to make sure that everyone feels like they are welcome, especially children?



1. If you are a kid: try sitting in the front row at church or somewhere else that is a good spot.

2. Jesus said that we must become like children. Play a game of “Simon Says” with a kid leading it. Don’t be afraid of being a little silly or having fun.

3. Jesus blessed all the children who came to him. Sometimes people put their hands on someone’s head as a sign of God’s blessing. Bless one another, saying, “God bless you.” Ask the other person if they would like:

- to be touched on the head, shoulder, or hand
- for you to make a heart sign with your hands (if they don’t want to be touched)



*Try this breath prayer.
(Deep breath in) We breathe in your love.
(Breathe out) We share it with others.
Repeat it 3 times.*



Thank You, God, for Friends

Jesus is our Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18 | Psalm 23



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

The Bible says that God is our Good **Shepherd**.

Shepherds take care of sheep. It's what they do.
They make sure that their sheep have food and water.
They watch over them to care for them.

God takes care of us.

God provides for us.

God shows us the right paths.

When things are really hard or scary
or when someone we love dies
we can know God is with us.

Jesus said, "I am the Good **Shepherd**."

It was a way of talking about how much
he loves us and cares for us.

Jesus said that he knows his sheep
And his sheep know him.

We are like Jesus' sheep.

When things get hard, he won't leave us.

Jesus cares for people who seem far off.

He says that he lays down his life for his sheep –
not because anyone is making him
but because he loves us.

We can know for sure that God's love and mercy
will follow us all the days of our lives.





Jesus, you are our Good Shepherd

You show us where to go.
You take care of us.
You feed us.

Jesus, you are our Good Shepherd

When things are hard
you don't ever leave us,
even in the worst times.

Jesus, you are our Good Shepherd

You gave up your life
because of your great love.
Your mercy and love find us.

Jesus, you are our Good Shepherd



Jesus helps us find our way when we are lost. Like a shepherd, he protects us and shows us the way.

Did you ever get lost? Or did you ever not know which way to go? Did someone help you find your way? Did you ever show someone which way to go?

Who shows us the way when we are at church? (greeters, ushers, teachers, friends)

Did you know that "pastor" means "shepherd?" Why do you think we call church leaders "shepherds?"



1. We can care for the people around us. When we care for people, we live out God's way. Think about how you could show love and care for someone you know. Make a card for someone you want to show love and care for. You could write something kind, draw a picture, or decorate it with stickers.

2. Walk a labyrinth or trace a finger labyrinth. You can find one at the back of this book. Follow the path to the middle of the labyrinth and back, step by step. As you go, pray. Ask Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to lead you.



Jesus, thank you. Amen.



Gentle Shepherd

Jesus Welcomes Everyone

Luke 14:1-23



**This is a story from the Bible.
It helps us know God.**

Sometimes Jesus said things and did things that surprised the people around him. Jesus wanted people to know God's right way. One day, Jesus went to eat at someone's house. A **Pharisee**. (FAIR - uh - see)
Pharisees were very serious about God. They were also VERY important. It was the **Sabbath** day when people rested. There were lots of rules about the "day of rest."

There was someone there whose body was badly swollen. Everyone was watching Jesus. Jesus knew the right thing to do. He used his hands and healed the man's body. And then Jesus taught everyone what God's right way was like. God's way isn't about trying to sit at the best places or trying to be in the fanciest, important spots. God's way sometimes looks upside down. God lifts up people who are on the bottom and puts people on the bottom who are trying to be on top. God's way is like a big party that someone had where people kept being invited. More and more people – people who didn't have money, people with disabilities,

people who were far away.
God's family is like a big party.
Anyone who wants to come
can join in the feast.

In this story, Jesus describes God's coming kingdom like a big dinner party. This future party is special because people with disabilities are welcome! This parable helps us better understand what heaven is like: people won't all look the same! Some of this is a mystery but it seems important to remember that bodies with disabilities are good bodies and welcome at God's table.





God invites us to the big party!

Everyone is welcome.
Really, all of us.
God invites us to come.

God invites us to the big party!

We don't have to have money
or buy tickets.
We don't have to be impressive.

God invites us to the big party!

God is the host!
God welcomes us!
We can feast! There is so much!

God invites us to the big party!



Can you think of a time when you were invited to a party or to do something? What was it? How did it feel to be invited?

How does it feel when people are left out?



1. Invite someone to do something with you this week! Make a new friend. It could be sitting down and drinking tea/coffee together, going for a walk or sitting outside and listening to birds. It could be going to church with you, or maybe getting together to sing songs or make music. Make invitations together to hand out.

2. Have a church potluck! Tell everyone to bring a friend and invite your neighbors to share the meal with you.

3. One of the ways the church thinks about “God’s table” is when we remember **Communion**. Christians have been eating together and worshipping since the very beginning! This week, eat together *during* church. It could be through practicing Communion, sharing a small snack or it could be having your whole service at tables. As you eat, remember: everyone is invited to God’s table.



God, you invite us to come. Thank you. Amen.



The Great Feast

Jesus is the Vine and We are the Branches

John 15:1-8



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

Jesus used a lot of different stories and normal stuff to teach people.

He helps us understand

who God is, who we are, and how to live.

One time when Jesus was teaching his followers

He said, "I am the true vine and you are the branches."

Vines are the kind of plants that grapes,

tomatoes, berries,

cucumbers, and peas

grow on.

Jesus said he is the vine, and we are the branches.

If the branches **abide** – stay and remain –

and are connected to the vine,

they grow lots of good fruit

If they aren't connected, they don't.

If we stay in Jesus, Jesus stays in us.

Jesus talked about letting his words stay in us.

When God grows good fruit in us,

it's not strawberries, grapes and cucumbers!

It's love, joy, peace, patience

kindness, goodness, faithfulness

gentleness and self-control.

That's the "fruit" that God is growing in us

when we abide in Jesus.





Jesus, you are the vine and we are the branches.

We stay. We rest. We abide in your love.

Branches grow fruit when they are connected to the vine.

We stay. We rest. We abide in your love.

Branches don't grow anything when they aren't connected.

We stay. We rest. We abide in your love.

Jesus, keep us connected to you.

We stay. We rest. We abide in your love.



What are some of your favorite vegetables? Have you ever grown anything in a pot or in your garden? What is growing where you live? How do we care for growing things?

Think of someone that God is growing good "fruit" in: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.



1. To abide in Jesus is to stay connected to him. Staying connected to Jesus means Jesus also connects us to each other. Get a ball of yarn and toss it from person to person across the room. As you toss it, hold on to a piece of the yarn. This will make a big web, connecting people together. We are all connected through Jesus, the true vine. Say a prayer and give thanks to God that we can abide in Jesus and that God connects us to each other.

2. For this activity you'll need a big sheet of paper, an ink pad and a bowl of grapes. Draw a big vine on a large sheet of paper. One at a time, use the ink pad to make a thumbprint on the vine. This shows you staying close to God. Take a grape as you return to your seat. As you taste it, remember the sweet fruit that God grows in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.



God, grow your ___(pick one from below)___ in me. Amen.

(love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)



You are Good, You are Kind

Jesus is Alive!

John 20:1-18



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

Jesus died.

Maybe you have heard the story before.

It's a sad story, one that is hard.

People said and did terrible things.

Jesus was nailed to a cross by soldiers.

He prayed and cried out to God.

He forgave the people who mistreated him.

He shared hope with others even as he died.

After he died, one of his followers took his body

And put it in a tomb.

A tomb is like a cave where you can bury people's bodies

After they die.

The rolled a big stone in front of the tomb

And put guards outside.

Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus' friends and followers.

She went to the tomb – early on Sunday morning – when it was still dark.

She saw the stone had been moved.

She went back and got Peter and the other **disciple**

She thought that someone had taken Jesus' body.

Peter and the other disciple ran to go see for themselves

Jesus' body was not there!

The cloth his body was wrapped in was there

But he was not.

The disciples believed

But didn't understand Jesus had to rise from the dead.

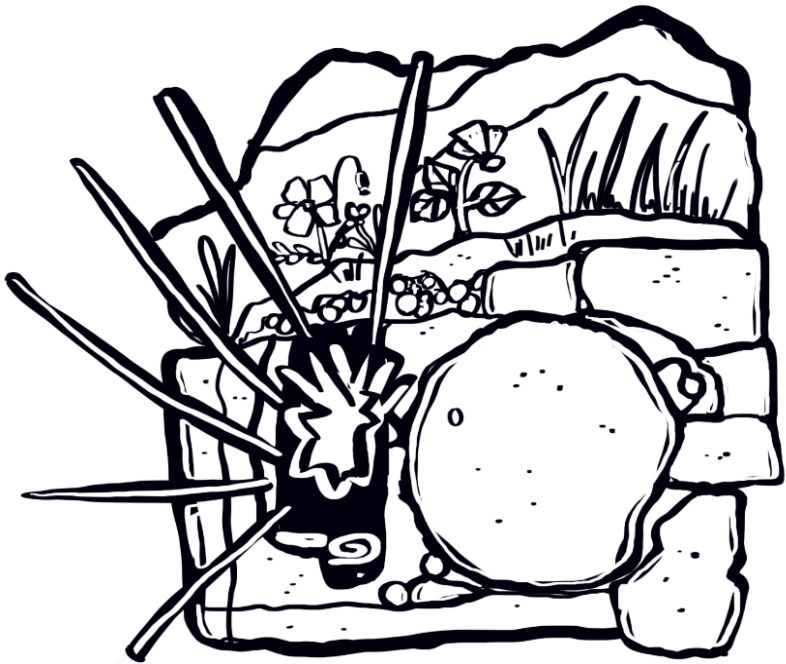
So they went home.

Mary stayed outside the tomb, crying.

There were two angels who appeared to her.

Real angels! Dressed in white.

They asked Mary, "Woman, why are you crying?"
Mary said, "They have taken my Lord away (JESUS)
and I don't know where they put him."
Mary turned around and Jesus was standing there.
But she didn't recognize him.
Jesus asked her the same question,
"Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"
Mary thought Jesus was the person who took care of the
garden.
She said, "Sir, did you carry him away?
Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him."
Jesus called her by name, "Mary."
She turned towards him and KNEW it was Jesus.
They talked more, and then Mary left to go tell the others.
"Jesus is alive!"





Jesus is alive.

Jesus died on the cross.
They put his body in a tomb
It was so hard and sad

Jesus is alive.

On Easter Sunday
God raised Jesus from the dead
The tomb was empty!

Jesus is alive!

Nothing can separate us
From God's love
Jesus has conquered death
And gives us new life!

Jesus is alive!

Hallelujah, Amen!



*Can you think of a time when you saw a beautiful sunrise?
Where were you?*

What is God making new in your life?



1. Have a few people sit on chairs with their backs to everyone. Have someone that knows them very well (a parent, a grandparent, a brother or sister) stand behind them and say their name. Have them guess who it is. We know the voice of the people we love. Just like Mary knew Jesus' voice.

2. For a very long time, the church has said something to remember that Jesus is alive.

One person says, "Christ is **Risen**," and everyone else echoes "He is risen indeed!" Usually people do it three times in a row. Practice doing this together.

Each time you say, "He is risen indeed!" raise your arms high in the air or look up!

One: CHRIST IS RISEN!

All: He is risen indeed!

(repeat 3 times)

3. Imagine what it must have been like to be at the tomb and hear the angels say that Jesus had risen.

After you imagine a bit, make faces, draw a picture, or write down 2-3 "feeling words" to show what it must have felt like! You could even take a picture to show it!



Jesus, you are alive! Amen!



Christ, Be with Me

God is the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-36



This is a story from the Bible. It helps us know God.

After Jesus rose from the dead,
he showed up and lots of people saw him!
At first, his friends thought that he was a ghost
but Jesus showed them that he was real.
He ate with them and talked with them.
He showed them his hands and his feet.
Jesus explained the scriptures to them
and gave them a job to do.
He told them to stay in Jerusalem
until they got the gift that God had promised.
Jesus told them that they were going
to receive power from God.
Jesus blessed them and went up into heaven.

The **disciples** were all together in Jerusalem.
Suddenly there was a loud sound - like wind blowing!
It filled the whole house!
Then they saw what looked like little flames
on each of their heads
but they didn't get burned.
All of them were filled with God's **Holy Spirit!**
This special day would be known as **Pentecost.**
They began speaking in other languages that they didn't
know before.
They told everyone about what God had done.
The people around them were confused.
How could they speak all these languages?

Peter explained to everyone what was happening.
What God promised was coming true.

The Holy Spirit had come.
Peter told them that Jesus was God's son.
That even though he was killed,
God raised him from the dead
Because death couldn't hold him down.
Peter told them to change their lives,
to turn to God and be **baptized**,
to receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**.

This gift is for all of us!
Me and you, sons and daughters, young and old!
God's Spirit is our helper, our comforter and our friend.
God's Spirit fills us up and helps us live new lives.





When Jesus returned to heaven,
he didn't leave us alone.

The Holy Spirit is with us!

God's Holy Spirit is a gift,
our helper and friend.

The Holy Spirit is with us!

The Holy Spirit fills us up
like air when we breathe.

The Holy Spirit is with us!

The Holy Spirit shows us
how we can live God's way.

The Holy Spirit is with us!

The Holy Spirit transforms us
and helps us tell others about God.

The Holy Spirit is with us!



*What are things that can make us feel out of breath? How
does it feel when you take a deep breath?*

*When was a time that God's Spirit filled you up to say
something true?*



1. Take two deep breaths. Feel your belly fill up with air. Pause and remember God's presence with you.

2. Blow up some balloons or ask someone else to blow up a few balloons. Ask God to fill you up, just like the balloon is filled with air.

3. Using ribbons or streamers, wave your hands in the air and imagine God's Holy Spirit falling down like fire. You can do this while you sing too.



Holy Spirit, fill us up! Amen.



Seeds

Words to Remember

Abide (pg 40) - To stay near, rest in or live in; to obey

Adopted (pg 8) - Chosen and accepted; to be brought into a family

Baptized (pg 49) - Baptism is a way we show our faith in Jesus. When someone is baptized they are dipped in water, or have water sprinkled or poured on them. It is a symbol of new life in Christ, belonging to a church, and following and serving Jesus.

Blessed (pg 5, 8) - To be honored; to be given help or protection; a prayer for well-being

Communion (pg 39) - Communion is the name of the special meal of bread and the cup that Jesus gave us. Most Christians use wine or grape juice and bread during communion. During communion, we remember that Jesus died for us all, forgives our sins, and calls us to a new way of life. Sometimes this is called the Lord's Supper.

Disciple (pg 28, 44, 48) - What we call Jesus' followers; a follower or a student

Holy (pg 5) - To be set apart; to be perfect and good

Holy Ground (pg 9) - A specific place that is holy, set apart; a place to honor God

Holy Spirit (pg 48, 49) - The Holy Spirit is God, just like Jesus and the Father. The Holy Spirit is our helper. The

Holy Spirit lives inside us and among us. The Holy Spirit gives us strength and comfort.

Manger (pg 16, 17) - A box that animals like horses or cows eat and drink from

Messiah (pg 16) - God's name for "the anointed one" or "the chosen one." This name let God's people know that Jesus was the one they had been waiting for.

Mystery (pg 5) - Something hidden or unknown; something that can not be figured out

Pentecost (pg 48) - Pentecost was the day the Holy Spirit was poured out on God's people. We celebrate Pentecost as the church's birthday.

Pharisees (pg 36) - Jewish leaders who were very serious about God's law and traditions.

Prophet (pg 12) - A messenger who shares God's word with people and reminds them of God's way.

Risen (pg 47) - To come back to life; to live again

Savior (pg 16) - A savior is a rescuer, someone who comes to save. The Bible tells us Jesus is our savior.

Shepherd (pg 16, 17, 32) - A person who guides, cares for and protects sheep. When we call someone a shepherd, we mean that they guide, care for and protect others.

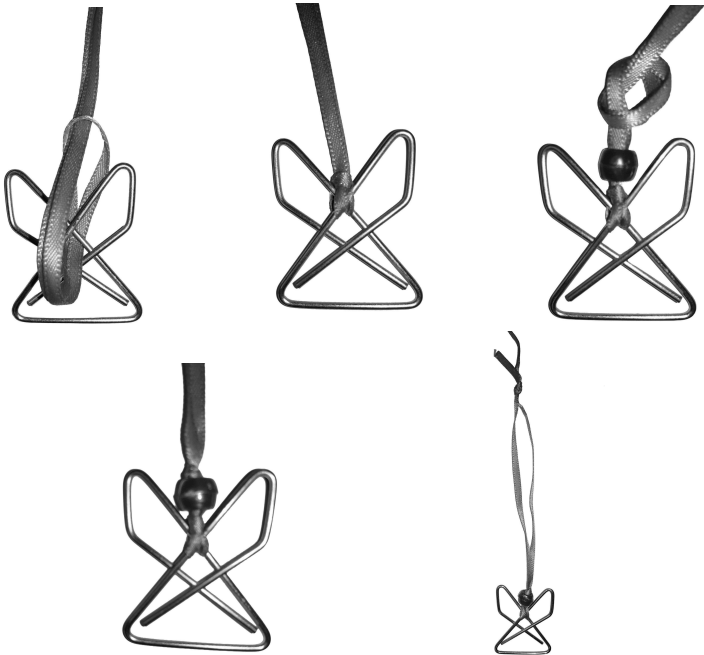
Sabbath (pg 24, 36) - God's chosen day for rest.

Butterfly Paperclip Angel Instructions

What you need:

- Butterfly paper clip
- Ribbon
- Bead with hole big enough for ribbon

1. Fold ribbon in half. Put the loop end of the ribbon through the center of the paper clip.
2. Pull loose ends of ribbon through the loop and pull tight.
3. Add bead onto loose ends of ribbon and slide down to paper clip.
4. Tie a knot just above the bead.
5. Tie loose ends of ribbon in a knot at the top.



Labyrinth Instructions

Place your finger at the opening and slowly trace your way to the center and then back out. Ask Jesus to guide you.

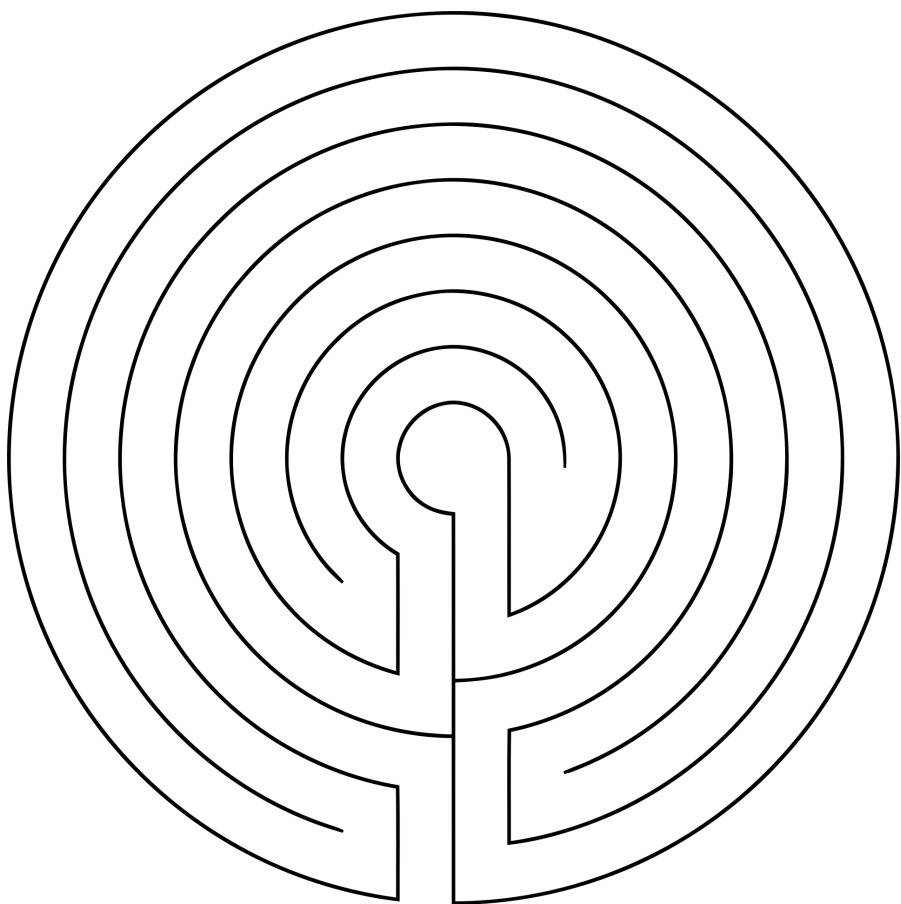


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