

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 21st March 2021
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of the Jesus speaking about his own death.

You can find it in your Bible in:
John 12 v 20–33

Read the passage together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Jeremiah 31 v 31-34
Psalm 51 v 1-13
Psalm 119 v 9-16
Hebrews 5 v 5-10

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus speaking about his death which reminds us that Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection were all part of your big plan for us.

Thank you, Jesus that you were willing to suffer death on the cross so that many could come to know you and receive the promise of eternal life.

Help us to be seed planters sharing your love and story with those around us. Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Jesus talked about a kernel of wheat dying to produce many seeds. What do you think he meant by this?

Jesus often used pictures to explain things to his followers and those he was teaching. Many of those listening were farmers or fishermen and so the pictures that Jesus used often reflected this. Most seeds need to fall from the plant and be buried in the ground in order to produce new plants. Jesus knew that the time was coming when he would die and be buried. He also knew that this sacrifice would make a way for many people to discover God's love and return to relationship with Him.

A question to answer together

How do you think the people felt when they heard the voice from heaven?

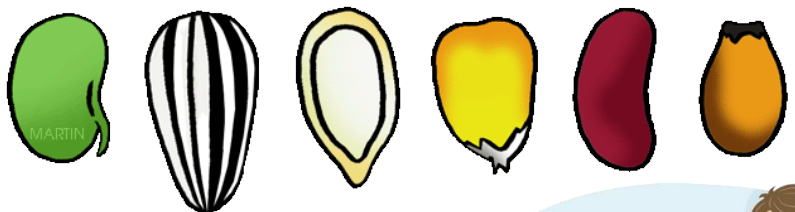
A question for children to ask adults

Can you tell me about a time when you have heard God's voice most clearly?

Family Activity 1

Jesus spoke about the seeds of a wheat kernel falling to the ground and being buried in the ground. Many plants produce seeds and they come in lots of different shapes and sizes.

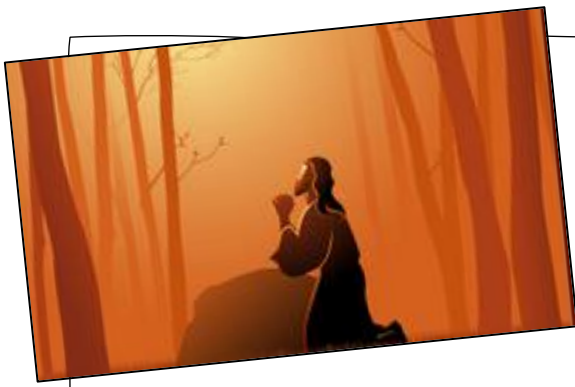
Why not go for a walk as a family and see how many different shapes and sizes of seed you can find around you.



You might like to collect some and plant them at home to see what will grow.

You could also try planting seeds from the fruit or vegetables you eat during the week.





A verse to remember

Hebrews 5 v 7

While Jesus lived on earth, he prayed to God and asked God for help. He prayed with loud cries and tears to the One who could save him from death, and his prayer was heard because he trusted God.

Jesus knew what was going to happen to him when he traveled to Jerusalem. He knew he would be killed on the cross and also that he would come back to life. Jesus also knew it would be difficult and that he couldn't do it without the help of his Father, God. Even when we are facing challenges which we know we cannot change or events that have to happen, we can still call out to God in prayer and know that we are not alone. To learn this verse together you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Family Activity 2

Whose voice is that? One person closes their eyes and somebody else must say a simple phrase (you could use part of the verse to remember for this). The person speaking could attempt to disguise their voice. Can the listener still work out who the voice belongs to?

In the story some people described the voice as being like thunder, others thought an angel was speaking to them. One thing that everybody could agree on was that it was a message from God!

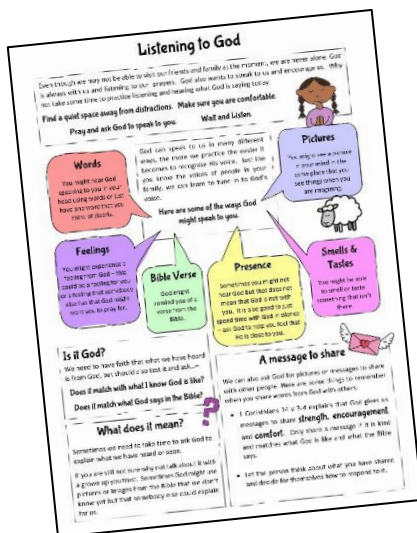


Active Listening

Just like God spoke to the people in the story, He still wants to speak to us today. It might not always be in a thundering voice; sometimes it can be through a feeling in our heart, a picture in our head, or a new understanding of something we have read in our Bible.

Spend some time together listening to God together. Ask God to speak to you and help you to feel him near you. What might God be saying to you today about his love and plans for you? What messages might God want you to share with others?

The resource on the next page can be used to help think about what it means to listen to and hear from God.



Lent Connections Challenge

Why not make time to connect with God in new ways during this Lent. Here are some ideas inspired by today's story.

Future Plans Challenge

Jesus knew what was going to happen in his future, that he would die and come back to life. Jesus talked and prayed about his future with Father God. Why not spend some time this week doing the same thing, talk to God about what you would like to do in the future and ask God to speak to you about some of His plans for you and how you can live for Him.

Listening to God

Even though we may not be able to visit our friends and family at the moment, we are never alone. God is always with us and listening to our prayers. God also wants to speak to us and encourage us. Why not take some time to practice listening and hearing what God is saying today.

Find a quiet space away from distractions. Make sure you are comfortable.

Pray and ask God to speak to you.

Wait and Listen.



Words

You might hear God speaking to you in your head using words or just have one word that you think of clearly.

God can speak to us in many different ways, the more we practice the easier it becomes to recognize His voice. Just like you know the voices of people in your family, we can learn to tune in to God's voice.

Here are some of the ways God might speak to you.

Pictures

You might see a picture in your mind in the same place that you see things when you are imagining.

Feelings

You might experience a feeling from God – this could be a feeling for you or a feeling that somebody else has that God might want you to pray for.

Bible Verse

God might remind you of a verse from the Bible.

Presence

Sometimes you might not hear God but that does not mean that God is not with you. It is also good to just spend time with God in silence – ask God to help you feel that He is close to you.

Smells & Tastes

You might be able to smell or taste something that isn't there.



Is it God?

We need to have faith that what we have heard is from God, but should also test it and ask...–

Does it match with what I know God is like?

Does it match what God says in the Bible?

What does it mean?

Sometimes we need to take time to ask God to explain what we have heard or seen.

If you are still not sure why not talk about it with a grown up you trust. Sometimes God might use pictures or images from the Bible that we don't know yet but that somebody else could explain for us.

A message to share

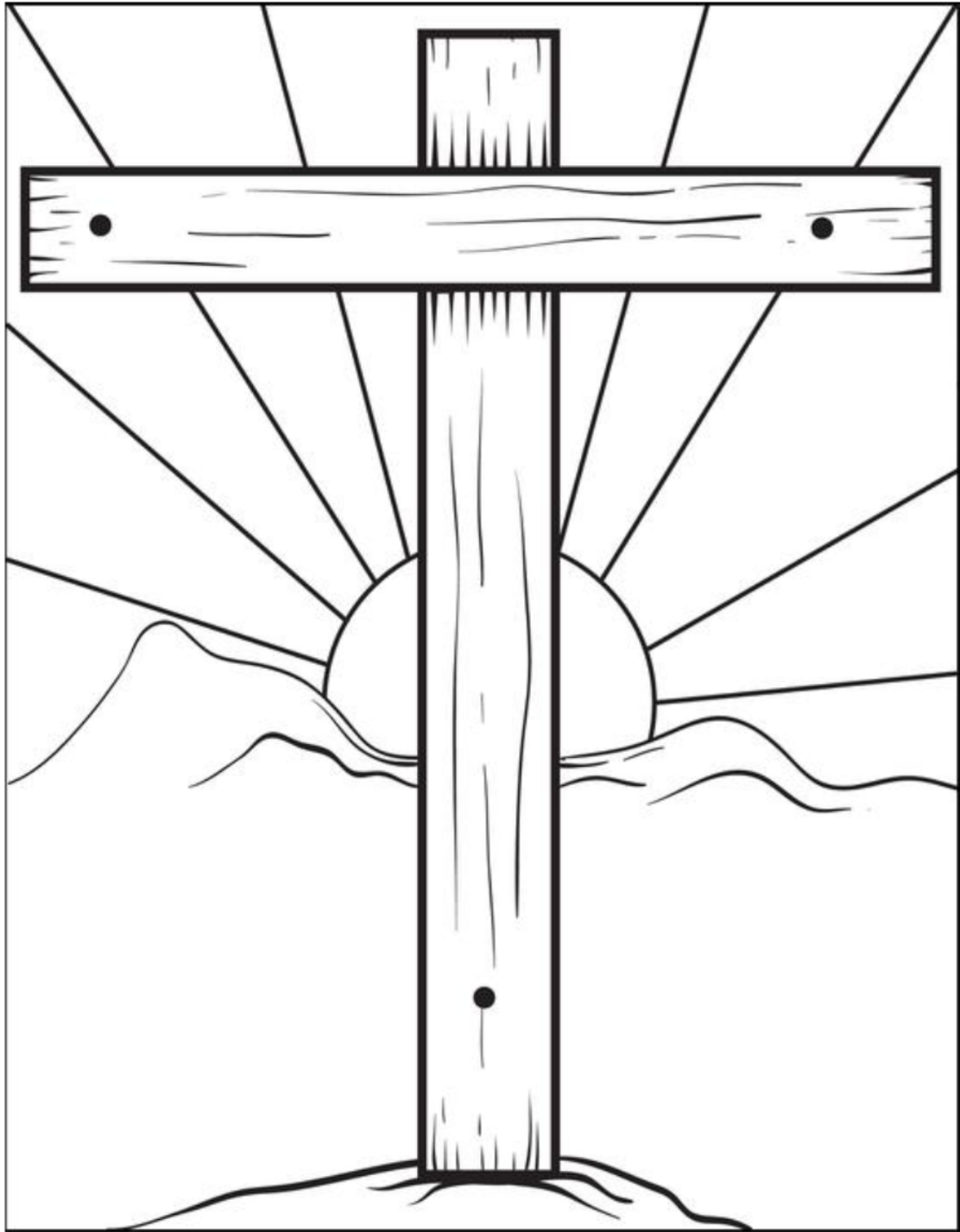


We can also ask God for pictures or messages to share with other people. Here are some things to remember when you share words from God with others.

- 1 Corinthians 14 v 3-4 explains that God gives us messages to share **strength, encouragement, and comfort**. Only share a message if it is kind and matches what God is like and what the Bible says.
- Let the person think about what you have shared and decide for themselves how to respond to it.

"AND I, WHEN I AM LIFTED UP
FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW
ALL PEOPLE TO MYSELF."

JOHN 12:32



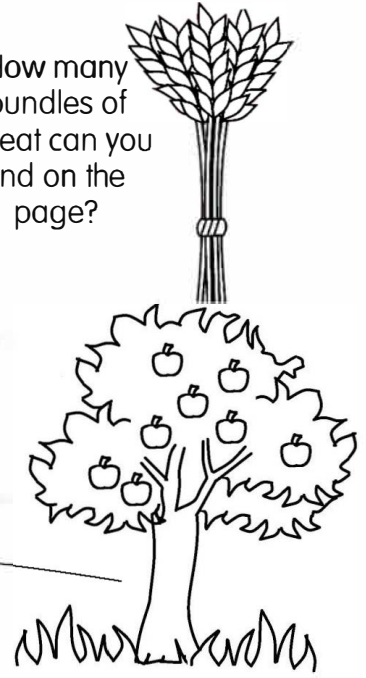
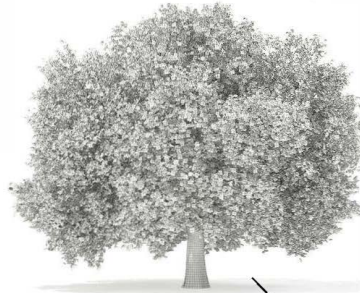
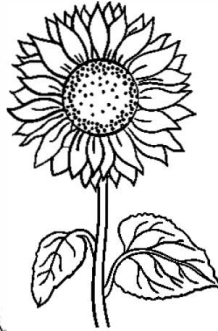
PUZZLE SHEET

Follow the lines to match the seeds with the plants they will grow into?
Then unscramble the names of the plants!

How many bundles of wheat can you find on the page?



epalp



eorhs shetctun



eslfuwonr



Jesus said that seeds needed to fall into the soil and be buried to grow. Join the dots to reveal where this seed has been planted!

