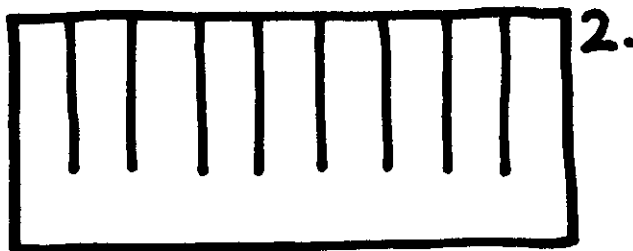
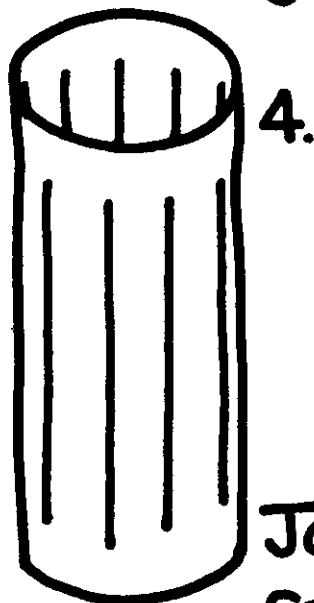
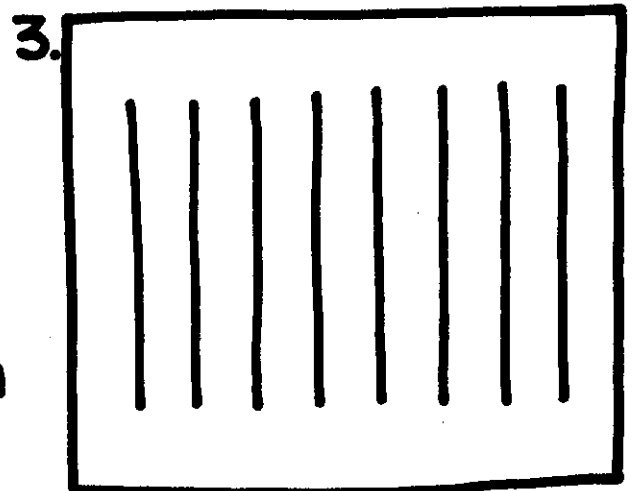


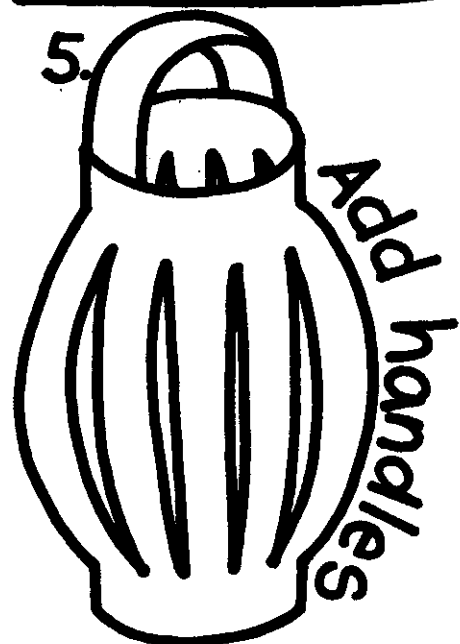
cut to make handle



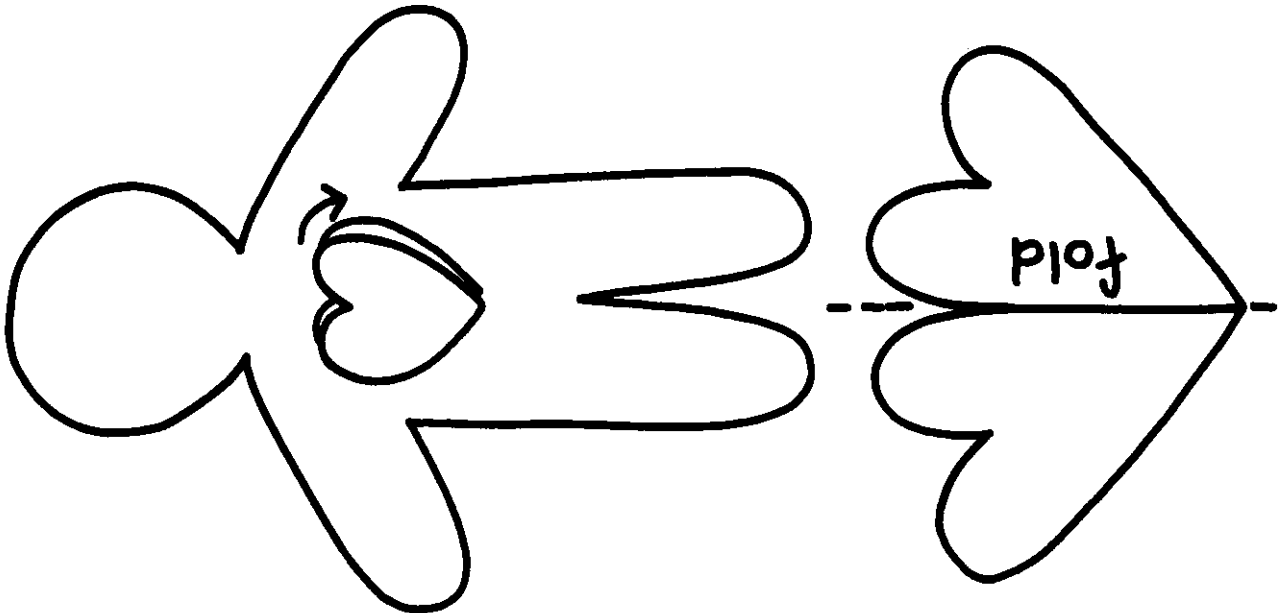
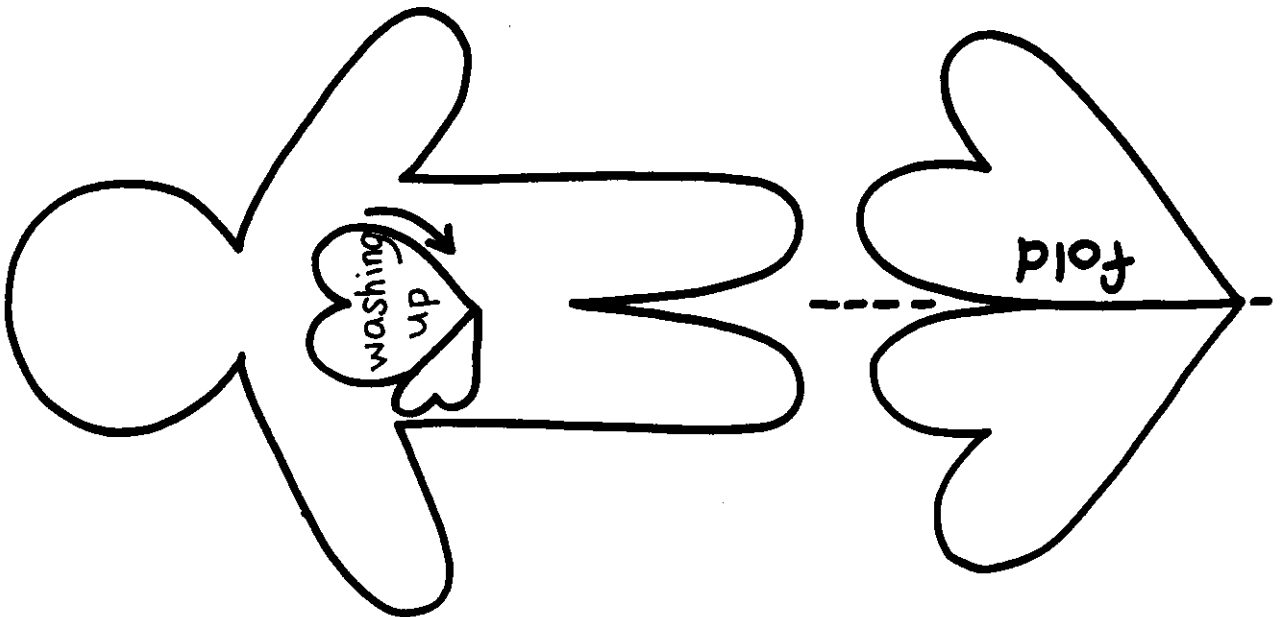
Cut $\frac{3}{4}$ way through



Join and
staple or
glue



Add handles



Fourth Sunday of Lent

Focus

A crucifix (with the figure of Christ) and a candle.

Introduction

St Augustine once said, 'In the Old Testament the New is concealed, and in the New Testament the Old is revealed.' In today's Gospel we reflect on an incident from the Book of Numbers that sheds light on Christ's mission to be the Saviour and Light of the World.

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and say together:

Alleluia, alleluia,
may the Word of God
make our thoughts loving,
our words kind,
and our hearts warm.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St John (3:14-21)
(See page 379.)

Reflection

Few children will know the Old Testament story about Moses that Jesus refers to in today's Gospel. Begin by sharing this story which can be found in Numbers 21:4-9. (See page 380.)

Moses raised a bronze serpent in the desert. How would the Son of Man be raised?

'Son of Man' is a phrase used to describe Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus would be raised up on Good Friday when he was nailed to the cross and crucified. Both Moses and Jesus acted in obedience to God's will; one lifted up the serpent in the desert, and the other lifted up his life on the cross.

God saved his people from death in the desert by raising a serpent for them. How did he save his people for ever by raising his only beloved Son on the cross?

At the time of Moses and Jesus, the Israelites had allowed sin to take hold of their hearts and minds. Just like the serpent's venom, this sin poisoned their lives and resulted in their spiritual death, as it destroyed their loving relationship with God. Moses lifted up the serpent and God lifted up his Son. These images portray both the sin that was destroying their lives and the means by which God would save his people. The Son of Man was lifted up and became the source of healing for all who believe in him. Christ our Saviour willingly carried the sins of the world with him to Calvary, and as he was put to death on the cross, they died too.

What did Jesus promise to those who believe in him?

Jesus said that whoever believes in him will have eternal life. As Jesus died, all our wrongdoings and sins died with him; as he rose to new life, we were reborn with him.

Who is described as 'the Light of the World'?

Jesus often referred to himself as 'the Light' who had come to shine in the darkness of our sinful world and

show us the way back to God. He calls us to be children of the light.

Why do some people prefer the darkness to the light?

Keeping ourselves in the dark means that we can say that we can't see what we should be doing. If we can't see the way to go, then we can stay where we are, without changing or moving on with our lives. We can make excuses and go through life refusing to know or experience God's love, or allowing it transform our lives.

Why should we choose the light instead of darkness?

The love of Jesus will shine in our lives, filling them with warmth and life if we choose to let it. His light will allow us to see the chances we are offered every day to live for God instead of ourselves, to love him and one another above all else. Flooding our hearts with light means that the shadow and darkness of sin and selfishness can have no place in our lives, as we choose God's way instead of our own.

Activity

Photocopy the cross designs on to thin card and cut out. Help the children to decorate these in bright colours to reflect the light that Christ brought into the darkness of our world by dying on the cross. Sellotape safety pins on to the back so that the children can wear their crosses as badges for the world to see!

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

Let the light of Christ shining in our lives change the darkness of hunger, poverty, and injustice in our world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let the light of Christ guide and direct the Church and her leaders.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let the light of Christ transform the darkness of sadness for those who mourn.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

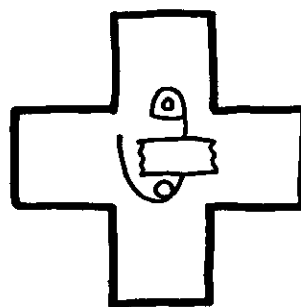
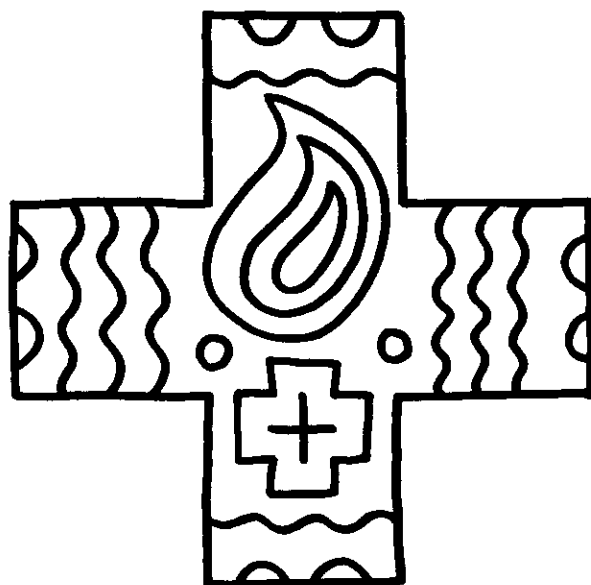
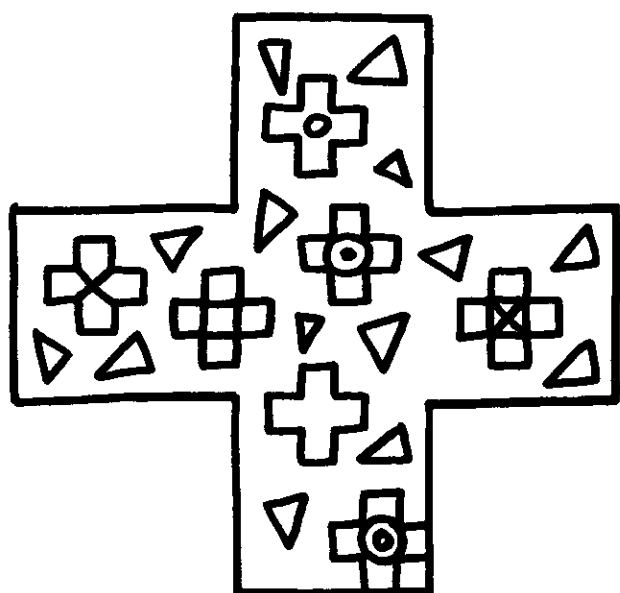
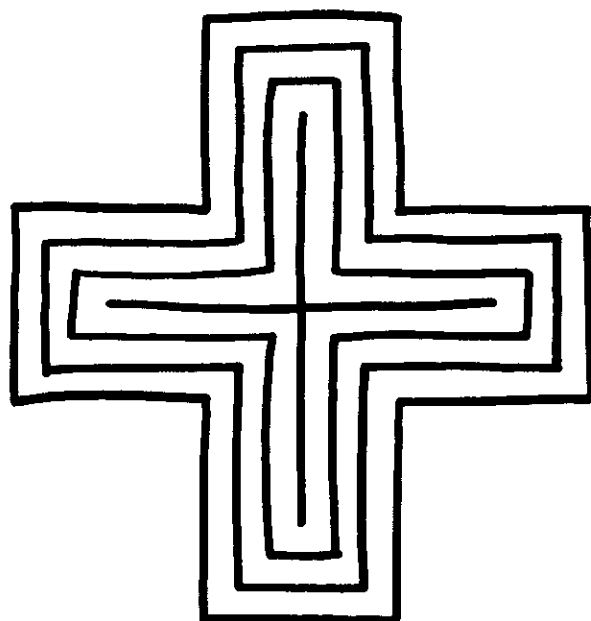
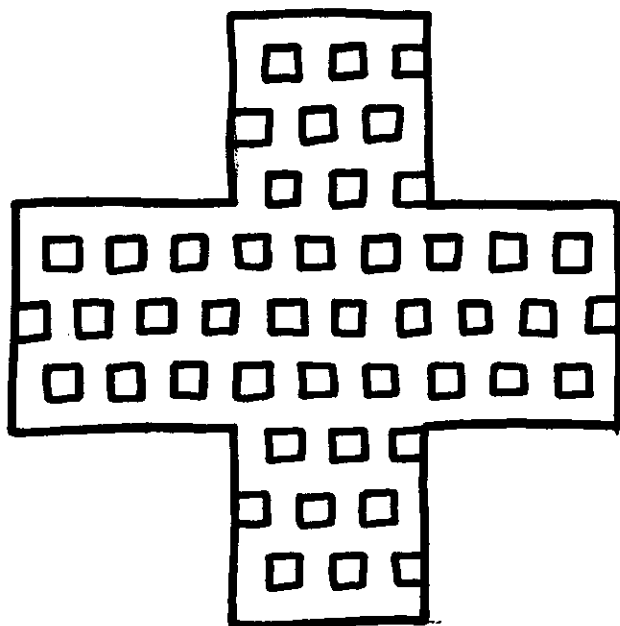
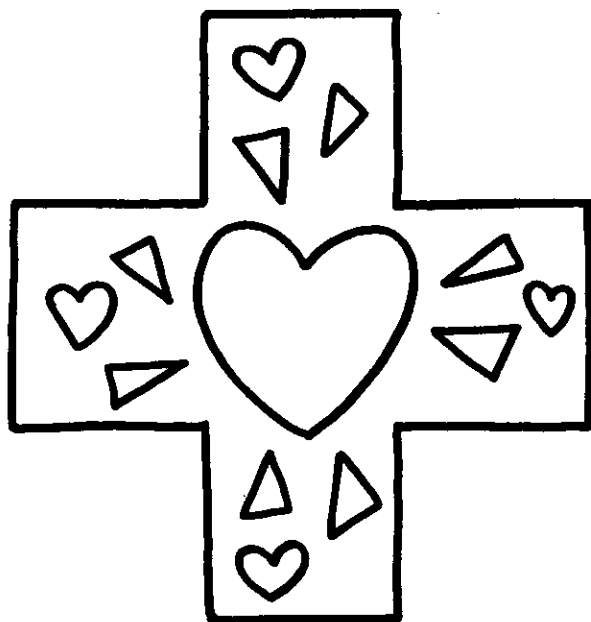
Let the light of Christ warm cold hearts with forgiveness and friendship.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father,
help us to live as children of the light,
shining out in the darkness
and touching the lives of others
with the warmth of your love.
We make these prayers through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



THINK and LOOK ahead

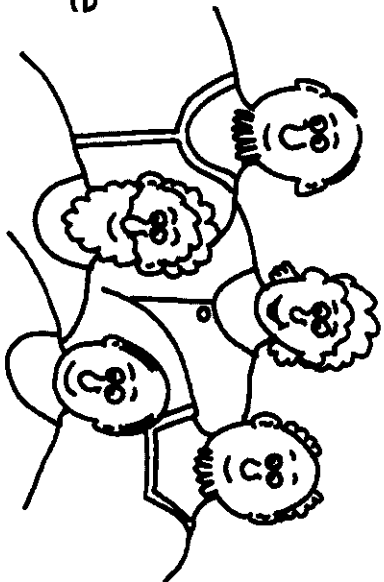
God loves the world

JOHN 3:14-21

How much do you know about our world?
Are the statements below true or false?

Check the True or False box

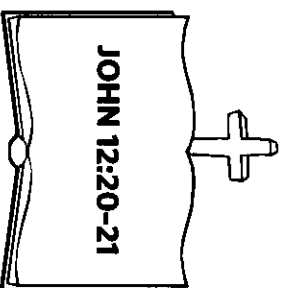
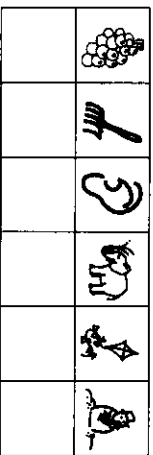
- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The longest river is the Nile. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The largest ocean is the Indian. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Earth is approximately 4.5 billion years old. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The largest desert is the Sahara. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Earth is bigger than Jupiter. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Ice covers more than one-tenth of our planet at any one time. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



We ask
Philip to take
us to meet
Jesus.

Who are we?

ANSWER CHECK



True/False Answer key (page 1)

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. False 6. True

God sent his only
Son Jesus to be our

7 15 13 11 12 8

Why does a
good person come out
into the light?

Solve the math problems to find the missing letters

$$(6 \times 3) - 6 =$$

=

O

$$(25 \div 5) \times 3 =$$

=

A

$$(17 + 4) \div 3 =$$

=

S

$$(8 \times 5) \div 5 =$$

=

R

$$(15 \div 3) + 6 =$$

=

I

$$(13 + 4) - 4 =$$

=

V

Find the odd word in each set and write it on the numbered line

3
Run
Walk
Actions

6
Rain
To
Snow

5
Pleasing
Sun
Moon

1

2 3 4

1
Because
Owl
Bat

2
Racket
His
Bat

5

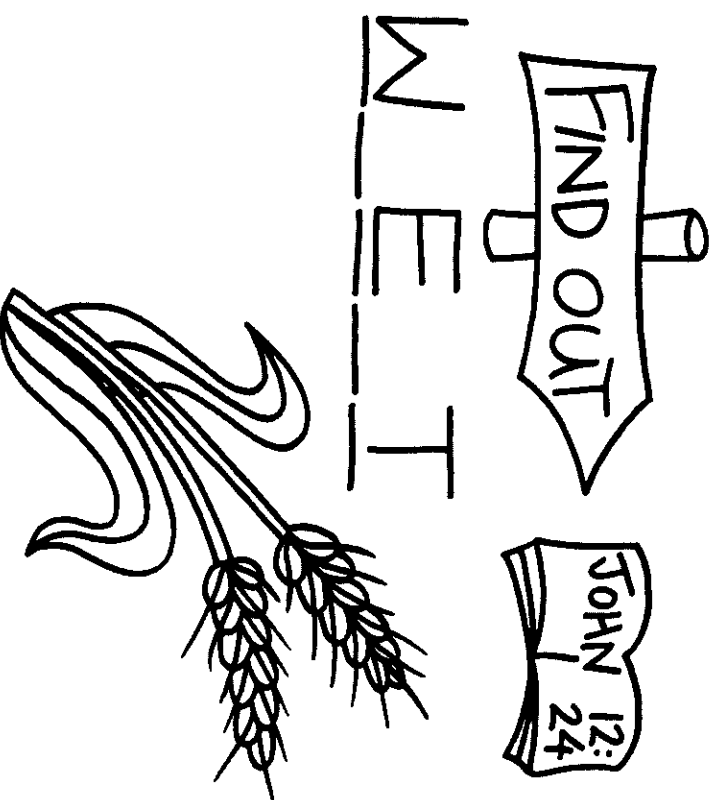
6 7

7
Door
Window
God

4
Apple
Are
Peach

THINK and **LOOK** ahead

*Next Sunday Jesus mentions
a grain of what?*



• STEP BY STEP •

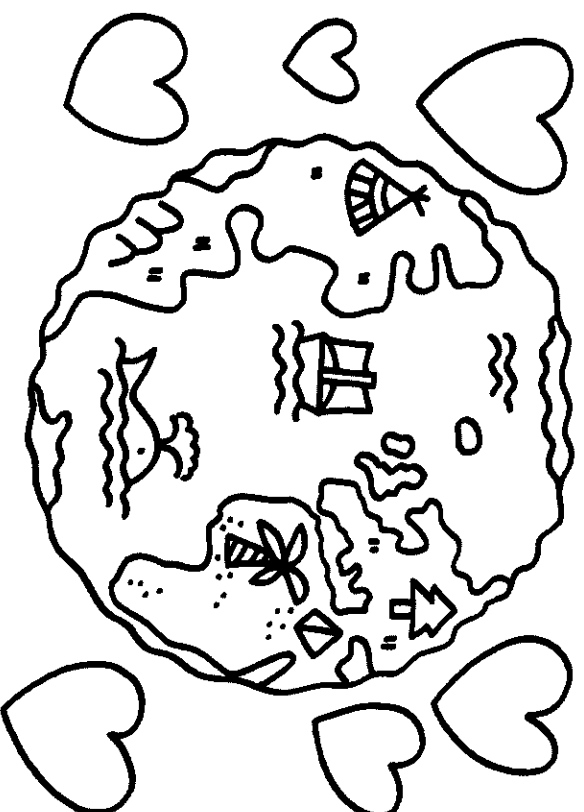
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

God loves the world

JOHN 3:14-21

God loves the world
and everyone in it!

Color this picture

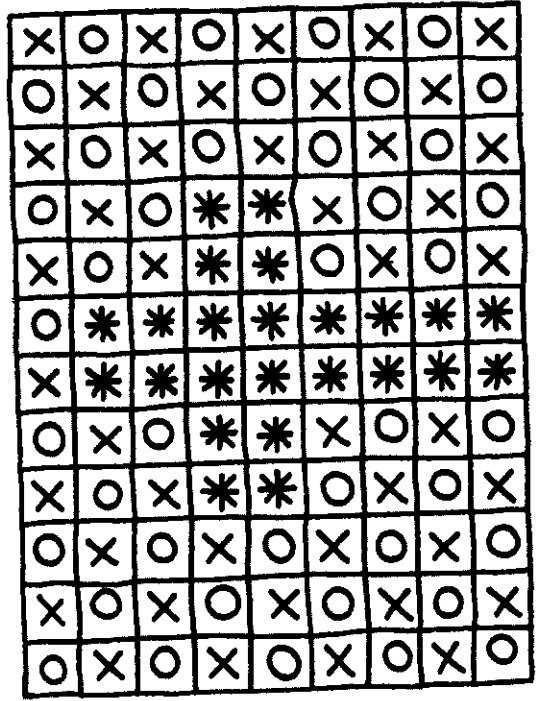


Who did God send
to save us?

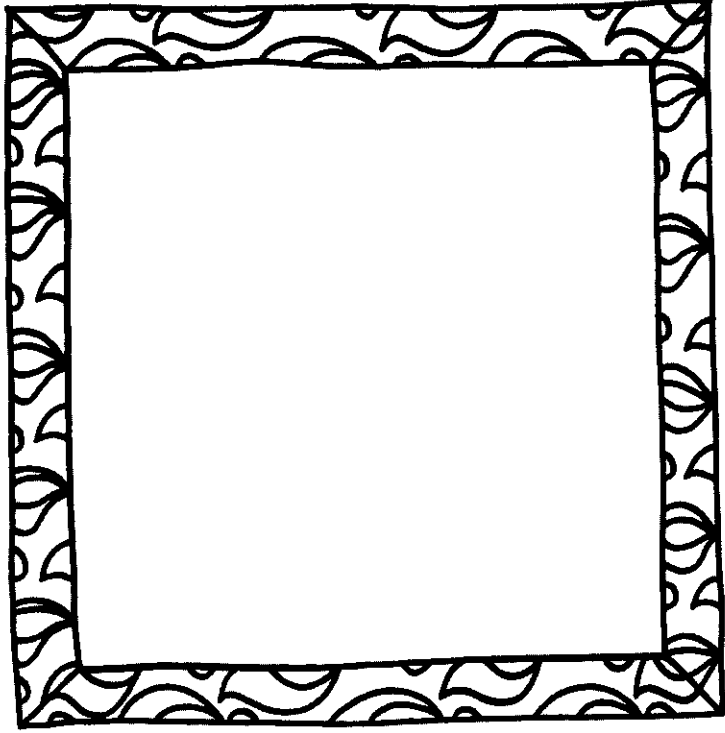
Jesus brings light
into our world and fills us
with his goodness.

Trace the letters and color the squares with a *

JESUS



Draw some of the things you have
at home that give out light



Year B

Fourth Sunday of Lent

The light of the world

INTRODUCTION

While Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover celebration, one of the Pharisees, called Nicodemus, came to see him secretly one night. Nicodemus believed in Jesus and wanted to know more about this extraordinary man.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 3.

SORRY

As we sing our sorry song, let us ask for God's forgiveness and help to make us good. Sing Sorry Song 1.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2.

GOSPEL (JOHN 3:16-21)

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "God loved the world so much that he sent his only son to be the light and to save those who believed in him. The Light of the World has come, but many turn away from it and prefer the darkness. Anyone who does wrong is afraid of the light, because their badness will be plain for all to see. The good man has nothing to fear from the light, because he is close to God."

DISCUSSION

Jesus is the light of the world. What happens if you switch on the light in a darkened room? The darkness disappears, and suddenly you can see everything clearly. Jesus is the light who makes us see the way to his heavenly father, and chases away the temptations which could lead us away from God.

When did Nicodemus come to see Jesus? Nicodemus came secretly at night, hoping that no one would see him. He was a Pharisee, a very religious man who studied the scriptures and kept all the commandments of the Jewish law. The other Pharisees did not like Jesus or his teachings, but

Nicodemus believed in him and was afraid the others would find out.

If we do something wrong or that we know is naughty, do we like everyone else to see what we are doing, or do we prefer to keep it a secret?

No one likes to be found out! This is what Jesus meant about people preferring the darkness and doing things out of sight, hoping no one will see. When we are good and do what is right, we have nothing to hide and don't mind being seen.

We are all children of the light. Do you remember when we received the light of Christ? At our baptism, we were given a candle as a symbol of the light we received from Christ. The love of Jesus and the flame of faith have burned in our hearts since that day. As children of the light we have nothing to fear, knowing that Jesus is always close to us on our journey through life.

ACTIVITY

Using brightly colored rectangles of paper, help each child to make a lantern which they can carry with them into the church.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the light of the world.

You promised that

if we stay close to you,

we will never be lost in the darkness.

Help us to stay with you always.