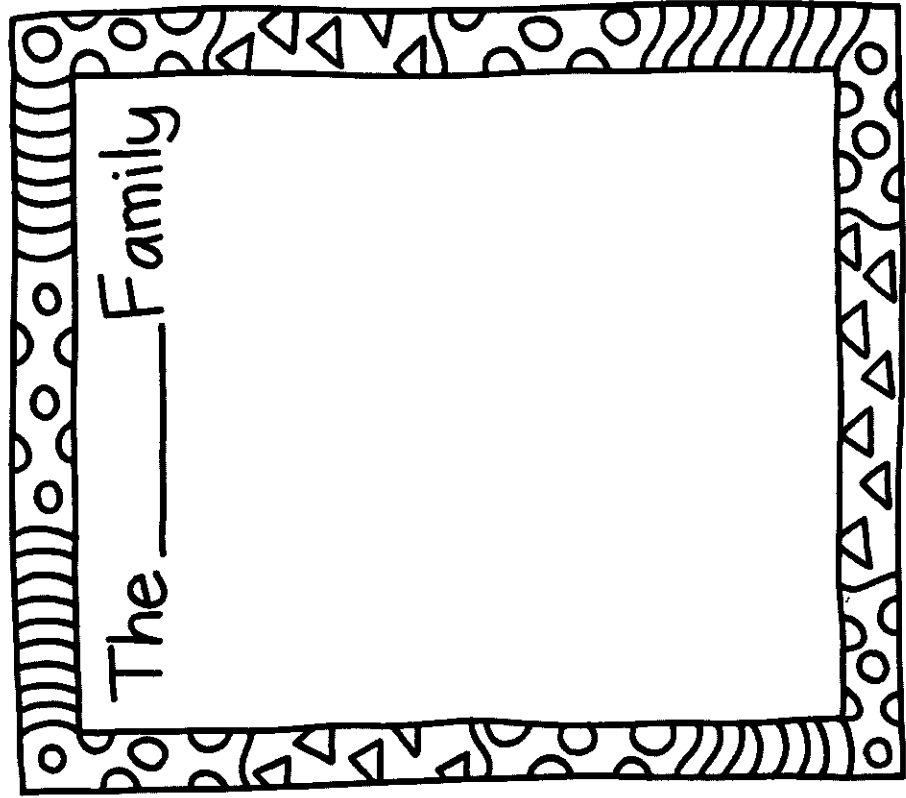


Draw a picture of yourself with your own family

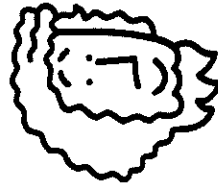


The family of God

MARK 3:20-35

So many people came to see Jesus
that he could not get a meal!

Fill the page with faces

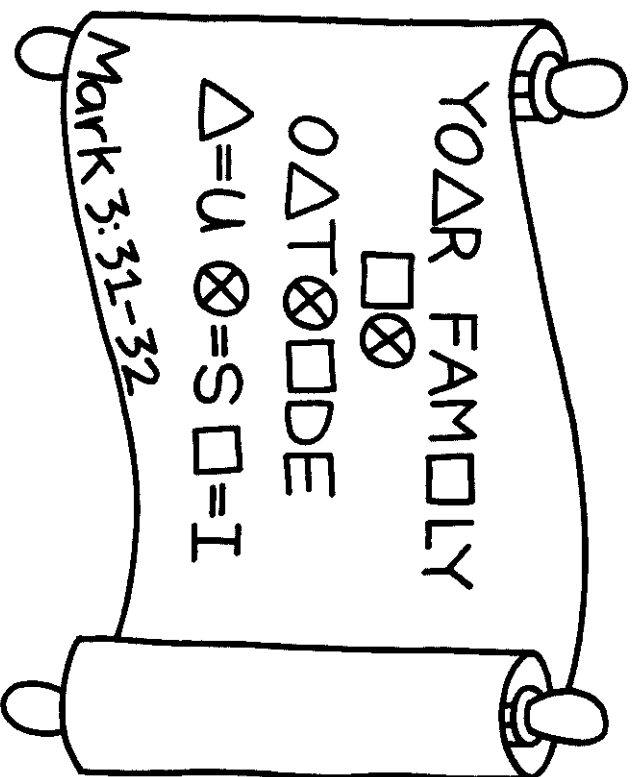


Jesus' family came to
take care of him.

Who belongs to the
family of Jesus?

Can you read the message they sent?

Write the missing letters in the shapes



Cross out the letters with a •

A*	W*	C*	E*	J*	B*	D*
M	H	O	E	V	E	R
J*	O	B	E	Y	S	M*
J*	E*	G	O	D	M*	U*
S*	R*	B*	L*	O*	P*	J*

We all belong
to one family of God!

Draw pictures of people you know who belong to God's family

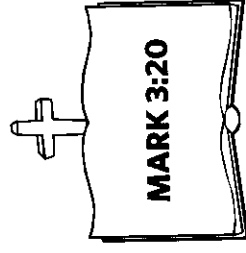


The family of God

MARK 3:20-35

Such a crowd gathered that it was impossible
for Jesus to have a meal!

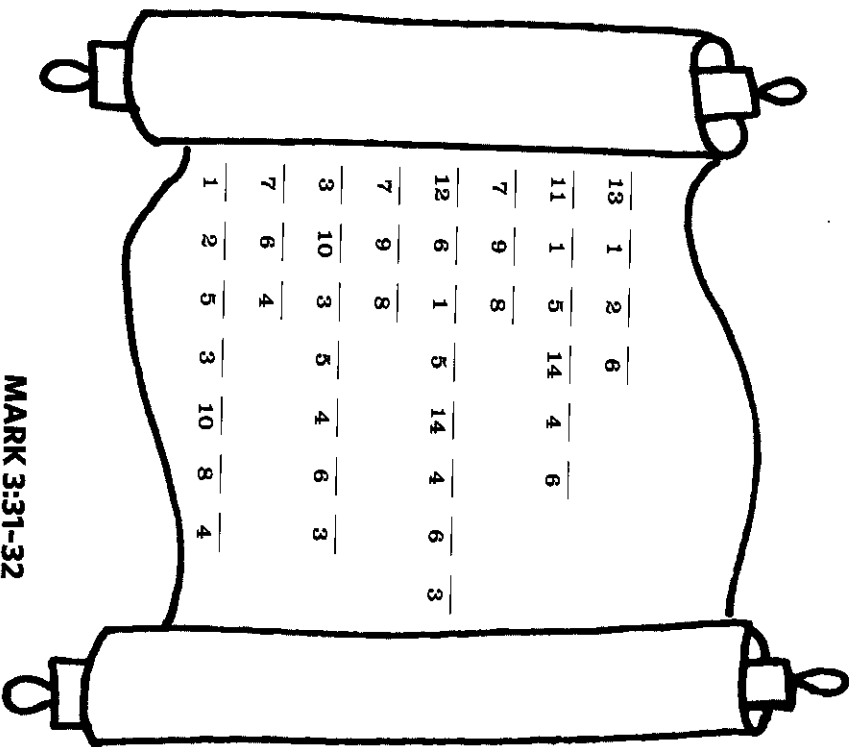
Fill the page with faces surrounding Jesus



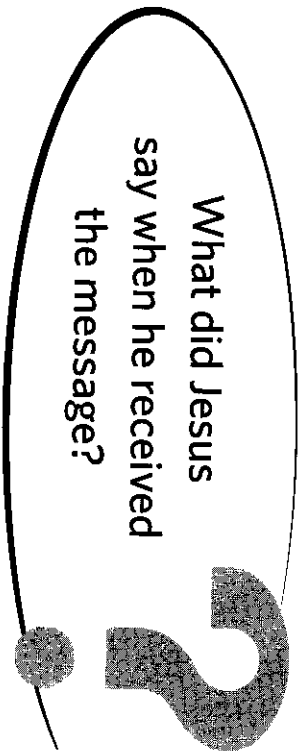
His friends and relatives came to take care of him. They sent Jesus a message.

Use the secret code to read what it said!

1 = O	3 = S	5 = T	7 = A	9 = N	11 = M	13 = Y
2 = U	4 = E	6 = R	8 = D	10 = I	12 = B	14 = H



MARK 3:31-32

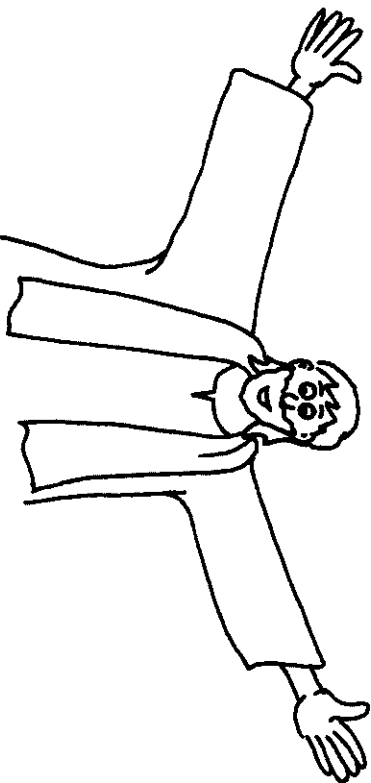


What did Jesus say when he received the message?

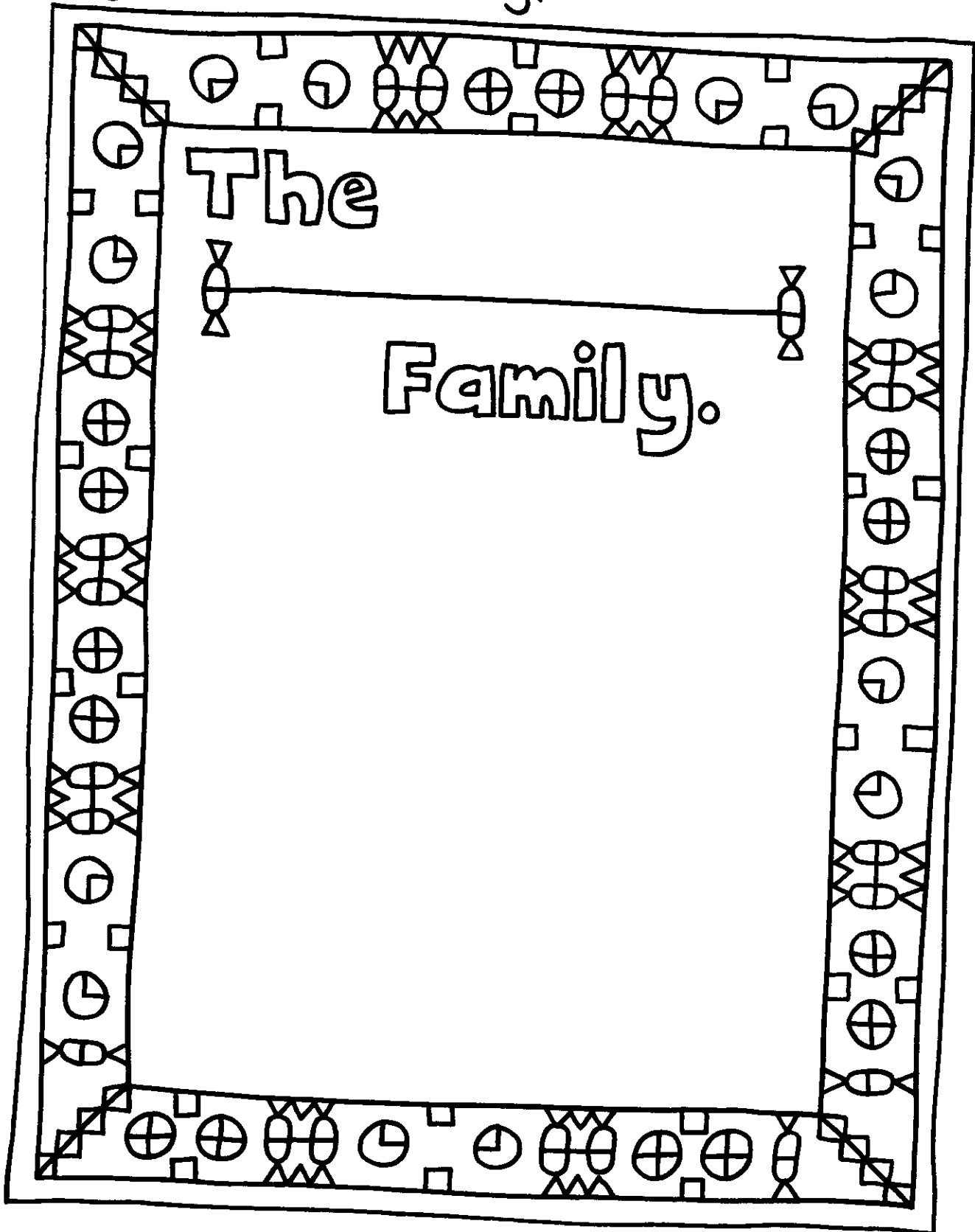
Use the code to find out

zyxwvutsrqpomlkjihgfedcba
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

“ d s l r h n b u z n r o b
 z m b l m v d s l w l v h
 t l w h d r o o r h n b
 y i l g s v i z m w
 h r h g v i z m w
 n l g s v i !”

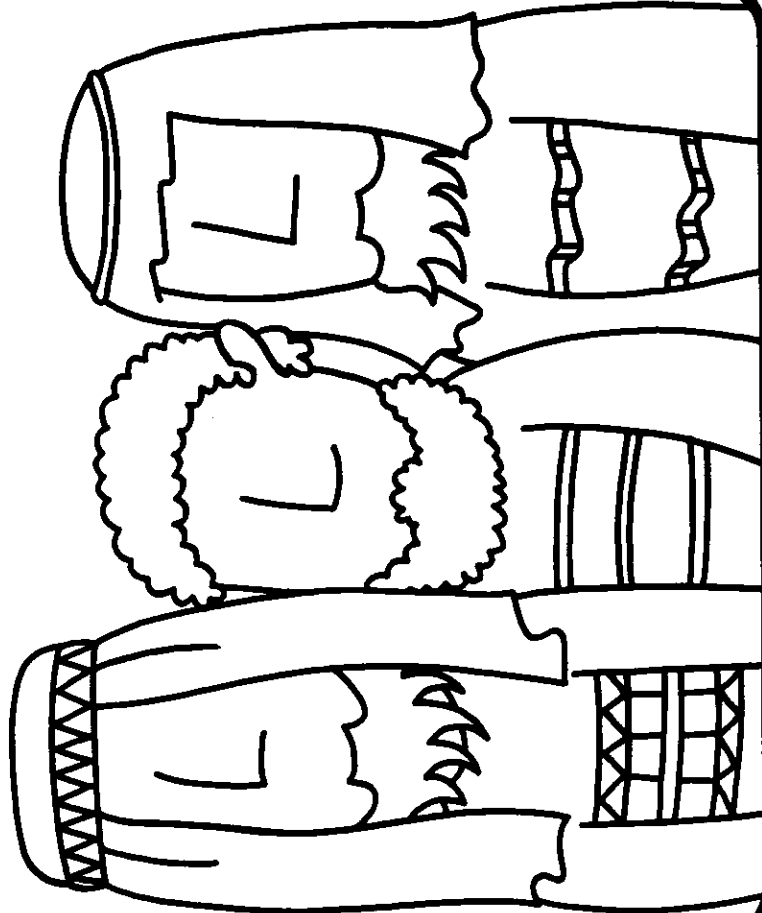


Draw a picture of yourself with
your own family.



**The Pharisees
were angry with Jesus
for curing people on
the Sabbath!**

Give them angry faces!



The Pharisees

Use the code to find his words

$\dot{\text{A}}\text{B}$	$\dot{\text{C}}\text{D}$	$\text{E}\dot{\text{F}}$
$\dot{\text{I}}\text{J}$	$\text{O}\dot{\text{P}}$	$\text{U}\dot{\text{V}}$
$\dot{\text{K}}\text{L}$	$\text{Q}\dot{\text{R}}$	$\text{W}\dot{\text{X}}$
$\dot{\text{M}}\text{N}$	$\text{S}\dot{\text{T}}$	$\text{Y}\dot{\text{Z}}$
$\square = \text{R}$	$\sqcap = \text{V}$	$\triangleright = \text{A}$

[illegible]

Mark 2:4

Tenth Sunday of the Year

Focus

A candle, a world globe or map and a picture of the Holy Family.

Introduction

Jesus was constantly filled with pity when he saw the crowds who came to listen to him preaching and to be healed by him. He never turned the people away even if this meant that he was so harassed that they did not allow him the chance to eat or rest. In today's Gospel we hear about just such an occasion when he was visiting his family home in Nazareth.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 8.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (3:20-35)
(See page 383.)

Reflection

How would you describe a family?

A family is a set of parents, children or relations who may or may not live together. Families come in all sorts of sizes and varieties, and no two are ever the same!

Invite the children (sensitively) to share some details of their families with the group.

Who has brothers or sisters, and how many?

How many have a grandparent, and what are they like?

What do the children enjoy about family life?

Are there any 'downsides' to family life?

Our family homes should be places where we feel loved and secure. It is where we learn about forgiveness and reconciliation; respect, discipline and dignity, and responsibility for one another and our world. Our families allow us to grow in faith and confidence, as we learn to trust in God's love and mercy through the example of those we share our lives with. When God became man, Jesus lived an ordinary family life in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. They gave him a loving home.

Why was Jesus' family concerned about him?

Jesus had returned home for a visit, and as usual crowds of people had followed him there. He could not even manage to eat a meal, and his family worried about him becoming hungry and exhausted.

What did Jesus say when he heard that his family had arrived?

He told the crowd gathered around him that *they* were his family! At first this might sound a little ungrateful to his own related family, but Jesus wanted the people to understand that God created all human beings, and calls us to be his children, as brothers and sisters in one human family. Every person is loved as a child of God,

and we are called to value and love one another as those children.

What name is given to the family of faith that believes in Jesus Christ?

We are welcomed into the Christian community or family of faith at our baptism, when Jesus calls us by name to follow his loving way of life, as a child of God. As Christian brothers and sisters we all belong to the one family of God.

Activity

Give out strips of coloured paper. Help the children to write the names of their families, relatives and friends on one side. (If time allows, they could draw heart shapes on the other side.) Show them how to link all the strips of paper together to make a large ring or chain to emphasise that we all belong to one loving family.

Intercessions

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

That God will bless the Christian family gathered here today to praise and worship him.

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

That God will bless the leaders of nations as they make decisions that affect the lives of ordinary families.

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

That God will bless loving couples with the joy of a child to cherish.

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

That God will bless parents, grandparents and children everywhere with the gifts of his peace and joy.

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

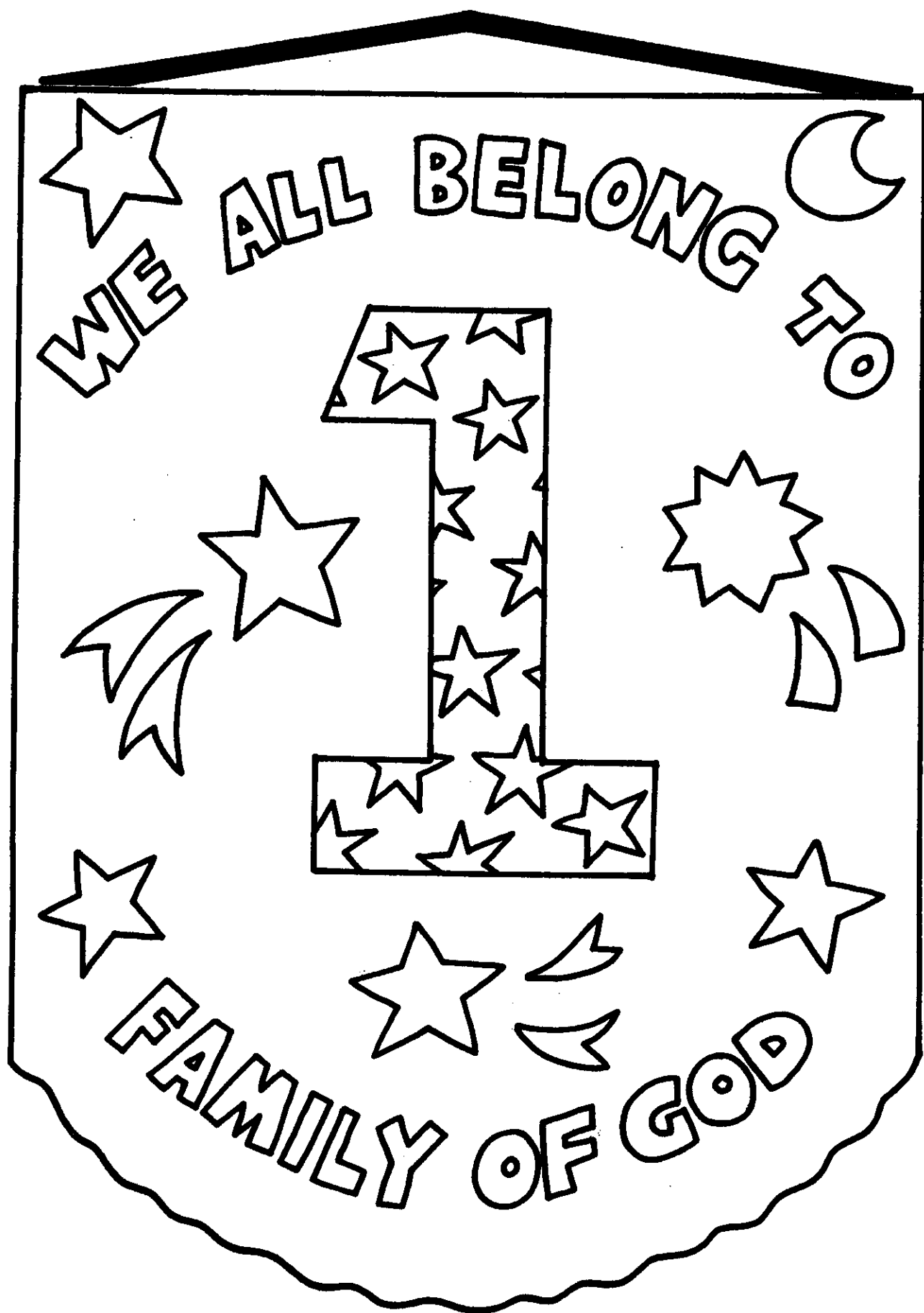
Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father, accept our prayers and help us to remember that as your children we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

We ask this in the name of your beloved Son.

Amen.



Tenth Sunday of the Year

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Amen.



Tenth Sunday of the Year

The family of God

INTRODUCTION

All families everywhere belong to one large family—the family of God. We share one heavenly father and are all brothers and sisters, as Jesus explains to us today.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 3.

SORRY

God is our father and we are his children. He is slow to get angry and always ready to forgive. Together we ask for his forgiveness with the prayer that Jesus taught us to say:

Our Father...

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 3.

GOSPEL (MARK 3:20–21, 31–35)

Crowds of people followed Jesus wherever he went, eager to hear him teaching and to see if all that they had heard about him was true.

One day, such a crowd gathered that it was even impossible for Jesus to have something to eat. When his family heard about this they said, "Things are getting out of hand! Someone needs to go and take care of Jesus."

They set off to find him, but there were so many people around him that they had to send a message to him. Someone came to Jesus and said, "Your family is outside, and they are waiting to see you." Jesus said to the people sitting around him, "Who is my family? All of you are my brothers and sisters! Anyone who does what God wants them to do will truly belong to my family!"

DISCUSSION

The family of Jesus was worried about him because they knew that Jesus spent much of his time cur-

ing the sick and preaching to the crowds. He always put the needs of others before his own, even when he was hungry and exhausted. His family was worried that no one was taking care of Jesus and that he would become ill.

When Jesus heard that his family had arrived, he asked the question "Who is my family?" He wanted to explain that anyone who did what God wanted them to do and lived in God's love, belonged to one large family. The members of this family are not related like cousins or aunts or uncles are. They are all related because of the love they share for God and for each other. They share one heavenly father and are all brothers and sisters of Christ.

This one large family is called the family of God. At baptism, we were called as Christians to join the family of God and to follow the teachings of Jesus.

When and where do we meet as one family? Every Sunday we come to Mass to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We gather to pray and to listen to God's word, which helps us to live as Jesus taught us. Christians throughout the world are united every Sunday when they gather to worship and praise God for his goodness.

ACTIVITY

Cut out enough circle shapes to allow one for each child, and ask the children to draw a picture of themselves with their family. Draw the number one on a cutout banner as shown, and help the children to write or glue on the words "We all belong to 1 family of God." They can then stick their pictures onto the banner.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving father,
as brothers and sisters of Jesus,
we gather together as one family
to worship you and give you praise.
Help us to always treat each other
with love and kindness,
just as you taught us to.