

Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year

Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel, together with a basin of water and a small towel.

Introduction

We have been created by God to love him and one another as he loves us. Jesus constantly showed us how to put our love into action by serving God and one another. Giving without looking for reward or recognition and putting the needs of others before our own is what makes our love great in the sight of God.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 2.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (9:30-37)
(See page 385.)

Reflection

What was it that the disciples did not understand?

Jesus had explained that he would be put to death and then rise again after three days. They were confused about what this meant. Surely he didn't mean that he would actually come back to life again? Much of what Jesus told them would only be understood by his disciples after his resurrection from the dead.

What had the disciples been arguing about as they walked along?

Jesus had told them that he was not going to be with them for much longer, and they had been discussing which one of them deserved to become their leader.

What did Jesus do?

Jesus sat down with them and began to teach them about the true nature of being his disciple. He taught them that the only way to greatness was to serve others with humility. In the kingdom of God, the great serve the least, the first are last, and those who are rejected are accepted and valued.

What did Jesus do to make this point clear to his disciples?

He used a little child as an example for his disciples to follow. A child was often considered to be the least important member of the community. To welcome those who were weak and humble, just like a little child, and to put their needs before any others, was the way to welcome and please God.

What loving service did Jesus do for his disciples before sharing the Last Supper with them?

Jesus took on the role of a servant or slave and washed the feet of his disciples. His actions spoke more clearly than any words. He gave us a remarkable example of how to make our lives like his. The hands that had healed the sick, fed the hungry, made the blind see, and raised the dead to life, gently washed their feet as an

expression of his love. Jesus was ready to serve and calls his followers to do the same.

How can we serve God as Jesus taught us?

Our ordinary lives and the ordinary things we do and say, are our daily expression of love and service for God and one another. In every act of love and service offered cheerfully and with humility, in our homes, schools and workplaces, it is Christ's love we give, receive and share with others in our everyday lives.

Activity

Create small 'towels' to remind the children that making ourselves 'servants' of God and one another is the way for us to love as we are loved. Cut out small rectangular shapes from paper or fabric. Use scissors to cut fringes along the shorter ends of the rectangles. Colour or decorate the towels brightly.

OR

Let the children wash one another's feet!

Intercessions

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

We pray for people everywhere who hunger for justice,
equality and an end to poverty.

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

We pray for people who thirst for peace
and reconciliation in their lives.

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

We pray for people who feel stripped of dignity
and respect by homelessness or unemployment.

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

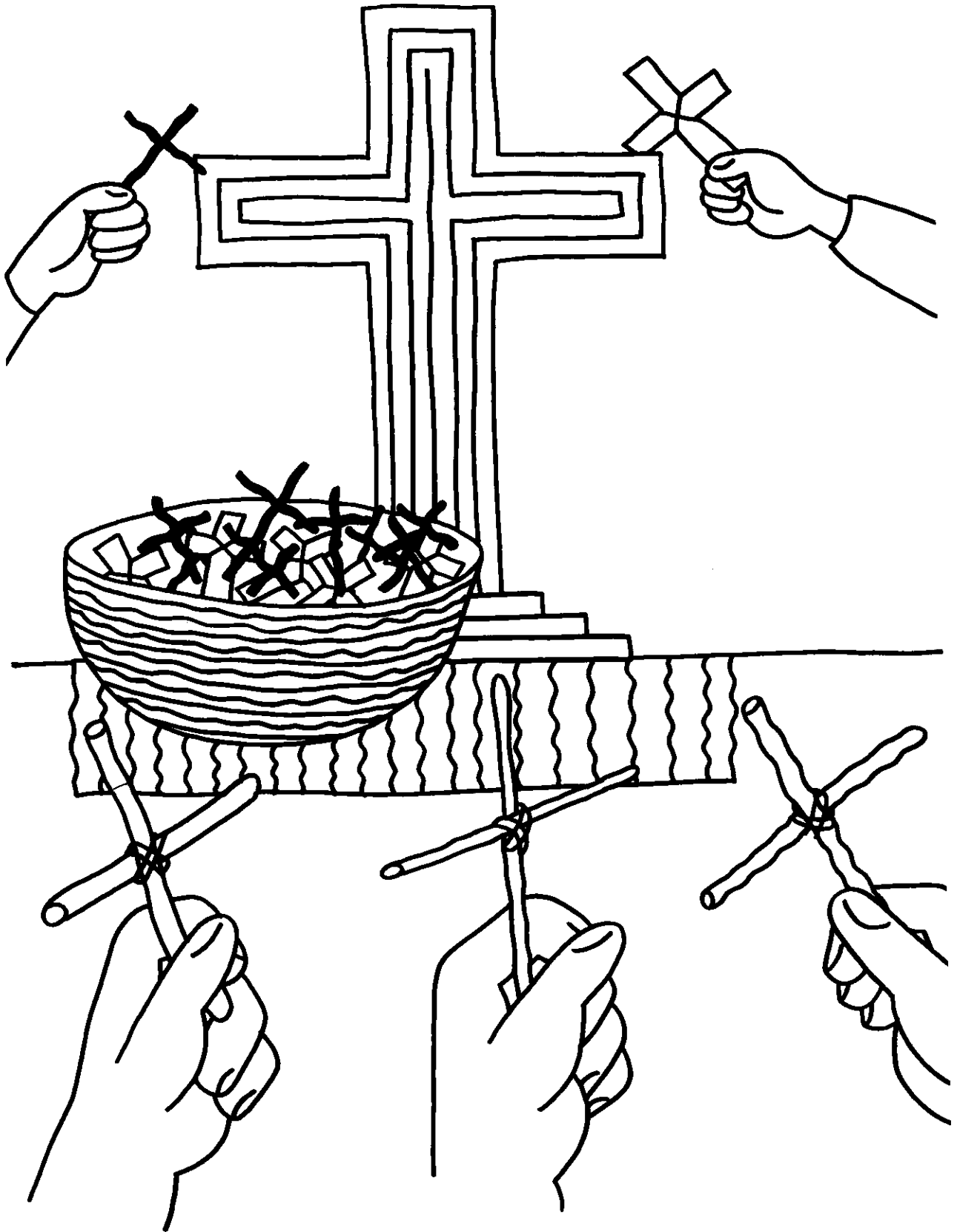
We pray for the sick and all who care for them.

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,
fill us with the Holy Spirit
and help us to serve you and others,
according to your commandments of love.
We make these prayers through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year

The last shall be first

INTRODUCTION

Often we call people great when they are very successful, or rich and powerful. Jesus explains that such things are not important to God. He measures our greatness by our goodness and willingness to think of others before ourselves.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say together:

May the light of God's love shine in our lives today and always.

SORRY

We ask Jesus to forgive our mistakes as we pray together:

Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 3.

GOSPEL (MARK 9:33-35)

After walking all day, Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum. When Jesus asked the disciples what they had been talking about on the way, no one looked at Jesus or answered his question, because they had been arguing about which one of them was the most important.

Jesus told the disciples to sit down and then he said, "Anyone who wants to be the greatest must become the servant of all and make himself the least important."

DISCUSSION

What were the disciples arguing about as they walked along? Jesus had told them that he would be leaving them soon, and they were arguing about which one of them was the greatest and should take charge when he had gone.

If you said that someone was great at something, what would you mean? Someone who is great at football might score lots of touchdowns, make brilliant tackles, and be the best player on the team.

But how did Jesus describe a truly great person? He or she is not the one who draws attention to themselves or stands out in a crowd. They put the needs of others before their own, and stay quietly in the background without drawing attention to their goodness. They think of themselves last, and for this reason they will come first in the kingdom of God.

God is not impressed by our power or wealth or riches. What is really important to God is our goodness. How should we live, if we want to be great in a way which really matters to God? By learning to put ourselves last and other people first.

Instead of being bossy and taking charge in the playground, stand back sometimes and let someone else have a turn. When you want to watch something on the television but your brother or sister doesn't, then let them watch the program they choose. To put others first is not always easy, but with God's help we will succeed.

ACTIVITY

Hand out the coloring picture to the children that shows how the last will come first.

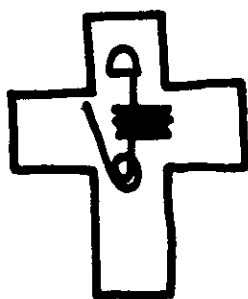
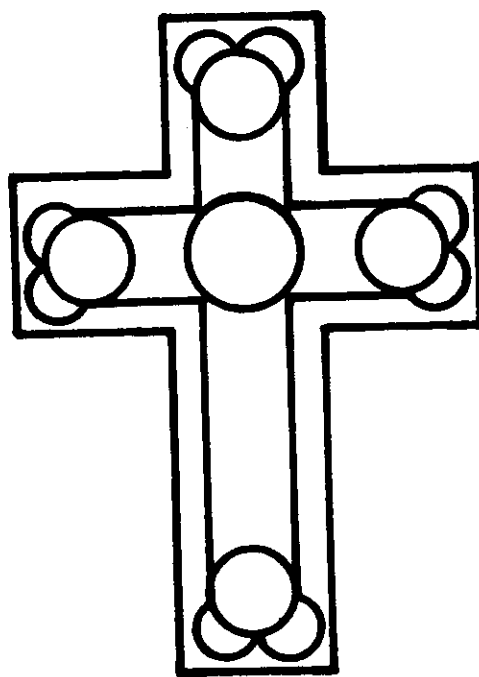
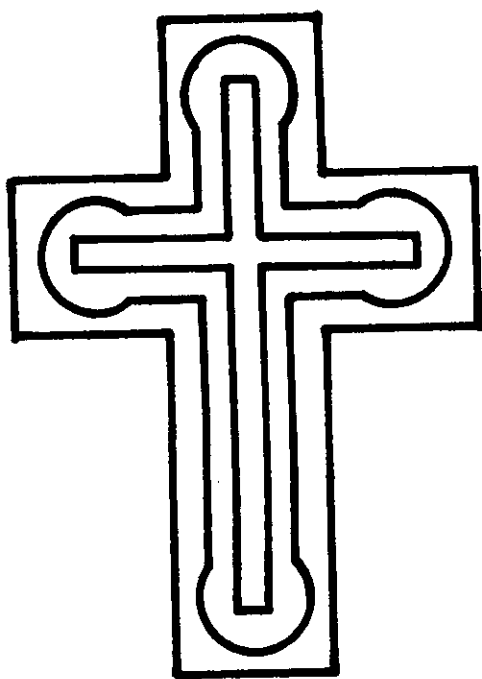
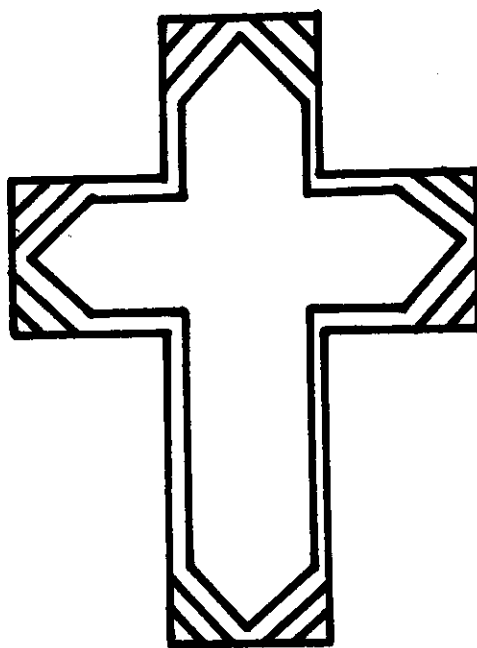
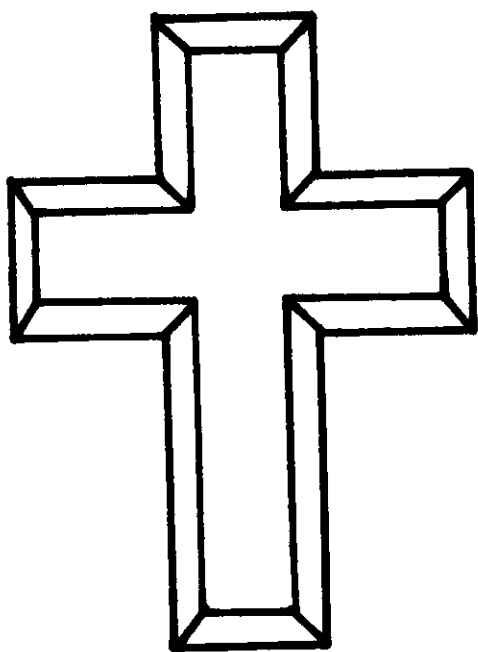
CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, sometimes I find it hard
not to have things my own way...

To be expected to share
and to put others first.

Help me to be generous and thoughtful
as you would want me to.

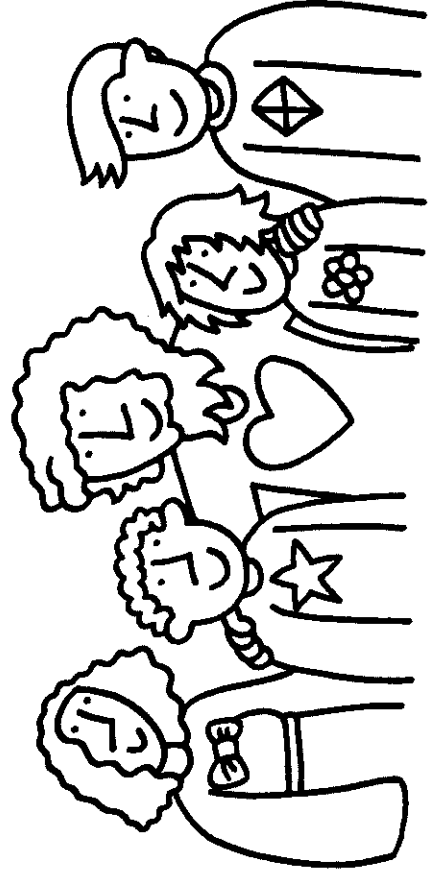


What does Jesus
want us to do?

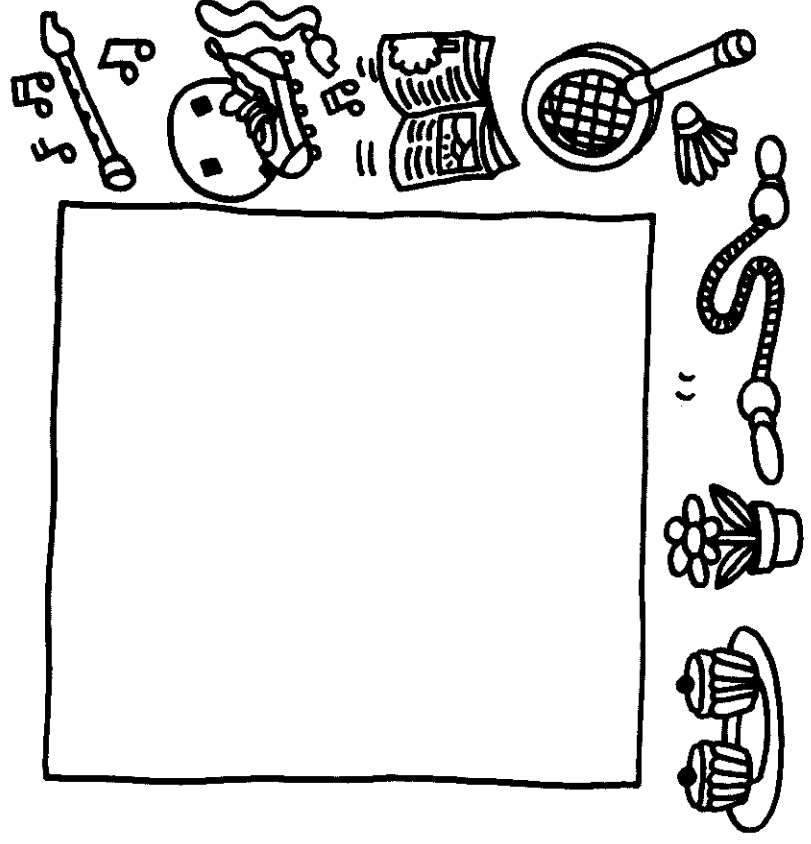
Everyone is
good at something!

Circle the answers you choose

1. Be selfish
2. Welcome everyone
3. Be unkind
4. Put others first



Draw a picture of yourself
doing something you are good at!

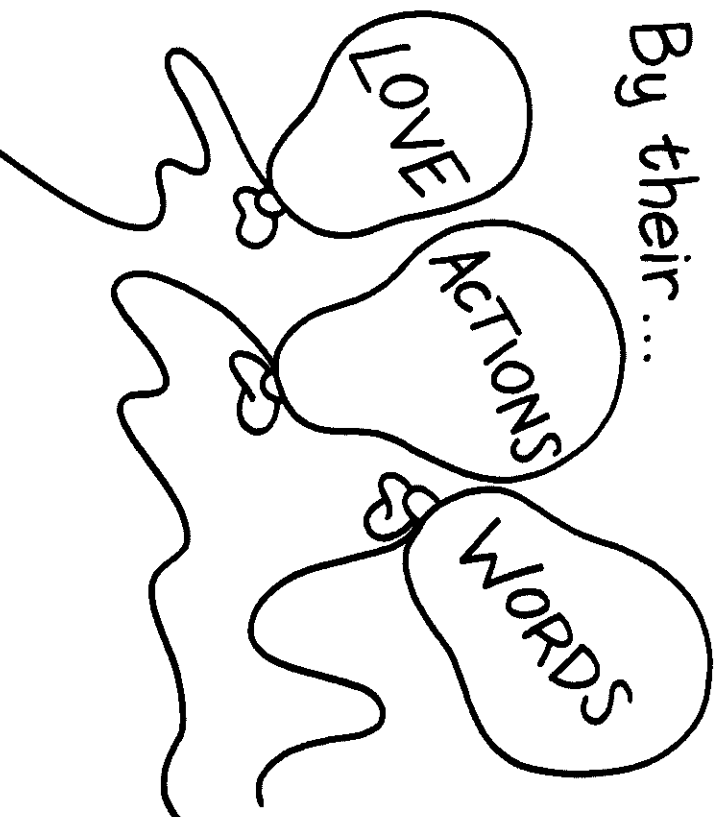


THINK and **LOOK** ahead

How do we know that someone
is a follower of Jesus?

Color the balloons

By their...



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, YEAR B

• STEP BY STEP •

Put others first!

MARK 9:30-37

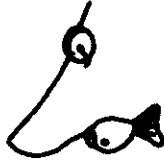
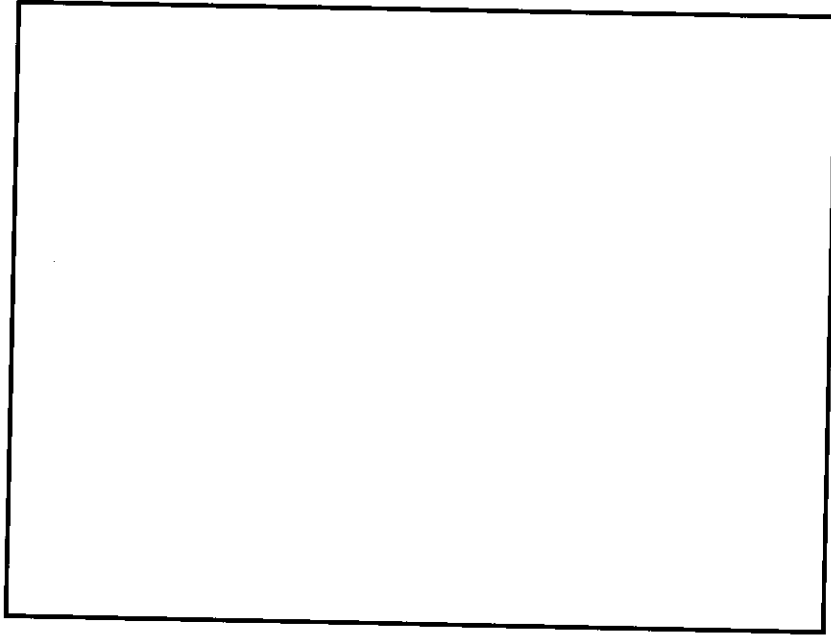
A great person is filled
with God's goodness!

Find the word **GOODNESS** in the puzzle below

A	M	E	S	O	P	N	T
G	O	O	D	N	E	S	S
S	K	R	B	F	C	A	M
P	L	S	R	P	E	J	K

Everyone is good at something!

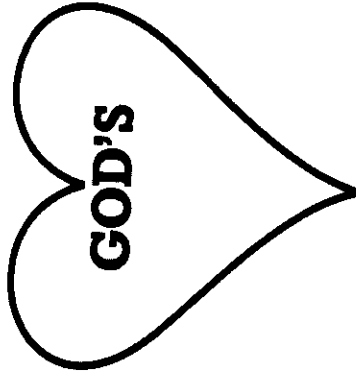
Draw a picture of yourself doing something you are good at!

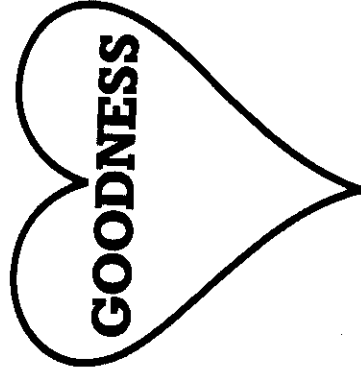


God measures our greatness
by our goodness!

A good person welcomes others and
puts their needs above their own.

Write the names of some good people you know
at home, at school, and at church

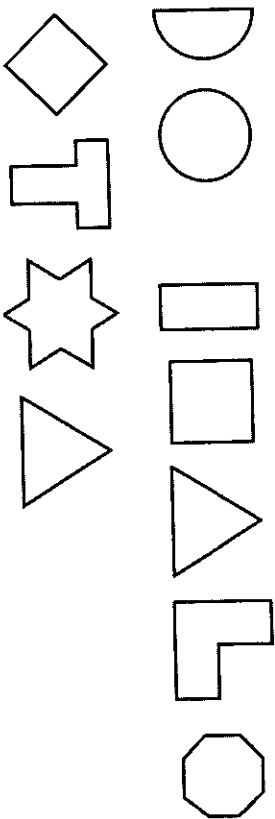
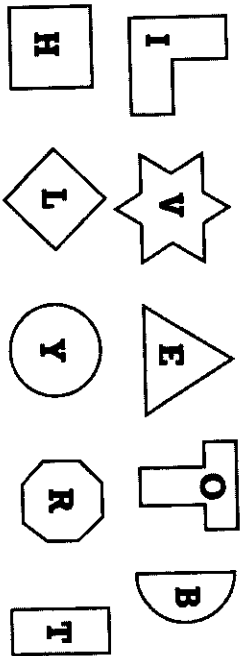




THINK and LOOK ahead

How do we recognize
other followers of Christ?

Use the shapes to decode the answer

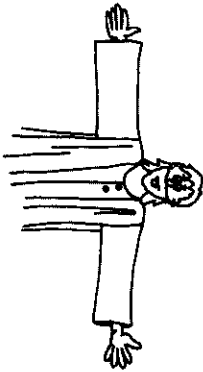


FOOTPRINTS IN FAITH • TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, YEAR B

The last shall be first

MARK 9:30-37

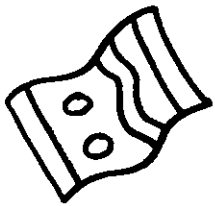
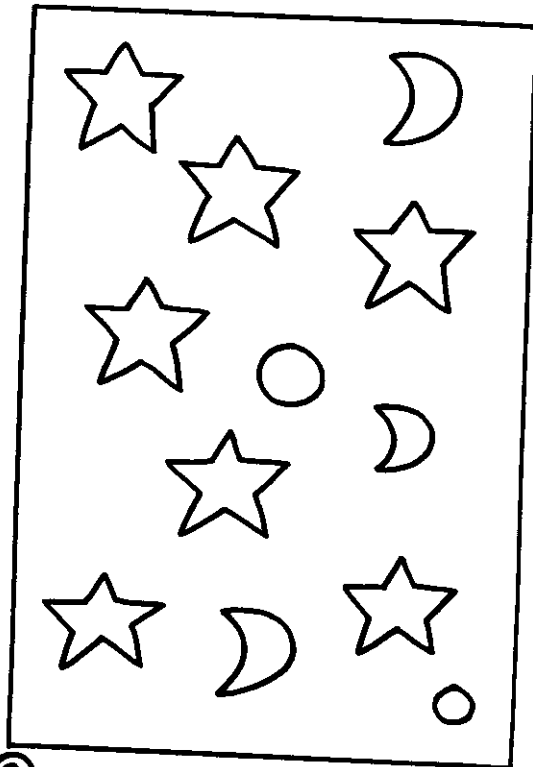
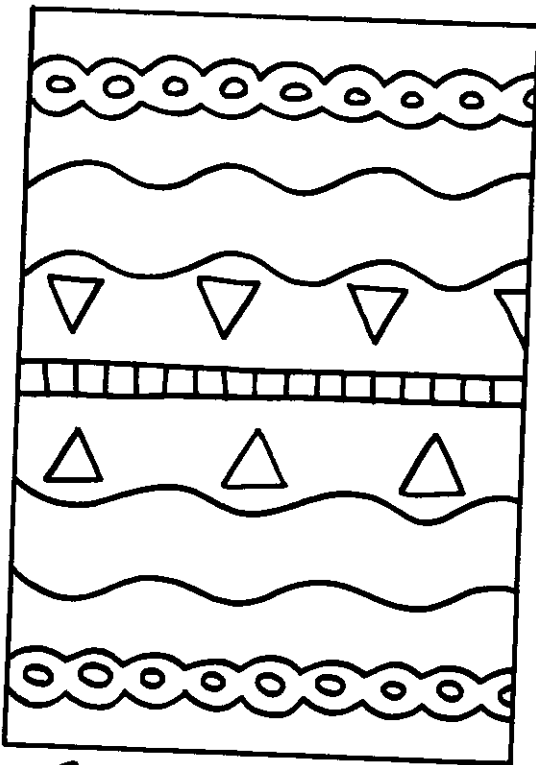
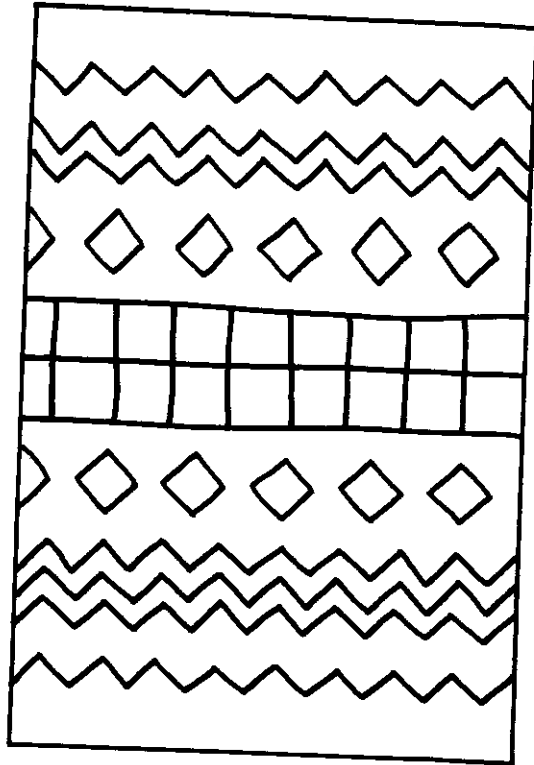
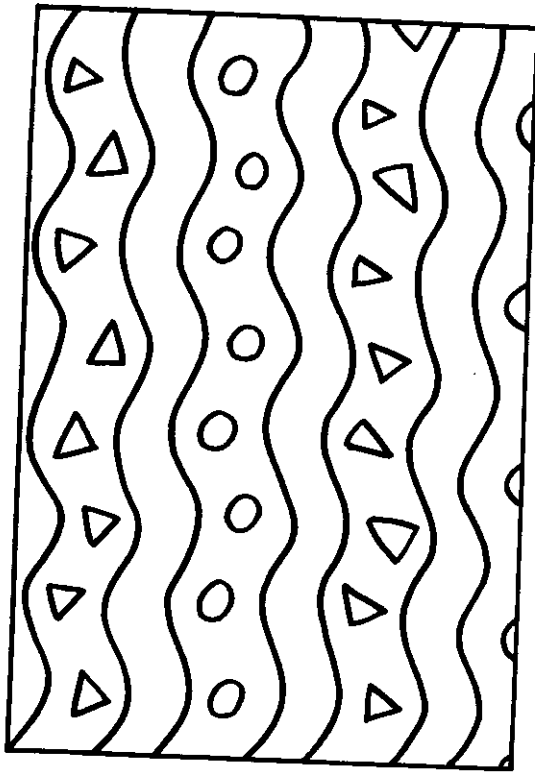
The disciples had been arguing about
which of them was the greatest!



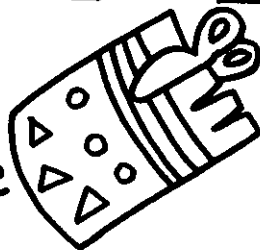
Use the letter code
to find what Jesus said
to them

Z 1	M 14	26	13	2	12	13	22	4	19	12
Y 2	L 15	4	26	13	7	8	7	12	25	22
X 3	K 16	20	9	22	26	7	14	6	8	7
W 4	J 17	25	22	26	26	8	22	9	5	26
V 5	I 18	7	12	26	15	15	26	13	23	7
U 6	H 19	11	6	7						
T 7	G 20	7	19	22	14	8	22	15	5	22
S 8	F 21	15	26	8	7					8
R 9	E 22									
Q 10	D 23									
P 11	C 24									
O 12	B 25									
N 13	A 26									

MARK 9:35



Colour
and
decorate



Cut a fringe
at each
sheet end