

# I Don't Know How To Love...

Key Words: **Orphan**

Key Verse: "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." *John 14:18*

"I love chocolate," said Paul. Matthew said, "I love bubble gum." Carolyn added, "I love — whatever group is number one!" All the children looked at Sam, but he shook his head. "I don't love anyone or anything." Carolyn said, "You must love your mom and dad. Everyone loves their parents." "Huh!" exclaimed Sam. "I don't have a dad, and Mom's got a boyfriend, but I hate him. I hate her because she doesn't love me anymore, she only loves him."

Nobody knew what to say. They knew Sam was right. He was becoming a loner; he felt safer that way. "Anyway," continued Sam, "I don't know what love feels like, but I know you can't love chocolate or bubble gum or rock stars. You can like them a lot, but you can't really love them."

"Well, I know what love feels like," exclaimed Carolyn. "Maybe I don't actually love rock stars, maybe I just adore them and listen to them all the time. Maybe that's not real love, but it's like love." "No, it isn't," argued Paul. "I love my parents and my little sister, but I don't want to be with them all the time. I certainly don't want to listen to them over and over! But I'd be really sad if they weren't around. I rely on them. Perhaps that's love."

"You don't need love," declared Sam. "Nobody loves me and I'm never going to love anyone ever again. Love's awful. I used to love my mom, and I just got hurt. If you don't love anyone, you don't get hurt." They all heard what Sam said, but it didn't feel right. Deep down inside they felt really sorry for Sam. They knew he was missing out on something important.

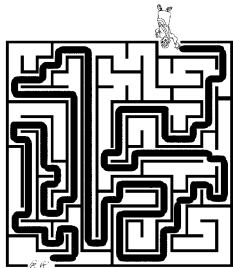
"I know who I really love," Carolyn announced. "I love God. It's easy to love God because he somehow lives inside each of us and loves us all more than anything in the whole world. You don't have to think about him all the time, he's just always there when you need him, but never interfering. You could love God, Sam. God would never let you down, and he'd always be there if you felt hurt. God is great."

Sam stared at her and for the first time there was hope in his eyes. Then he shrugged. "Come on," he said, and the children jumped to their feet and ran outside.

## Questions

**Why was Sam afraid to love?**

**Do you think Jesus' disciples felt he was leaving them alone?**



Maze

Letter Tile Puzzle  
If you love me, you will  
keep my commands.

## ANSWERS

# Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story  
is from  
**John 14:15-21**



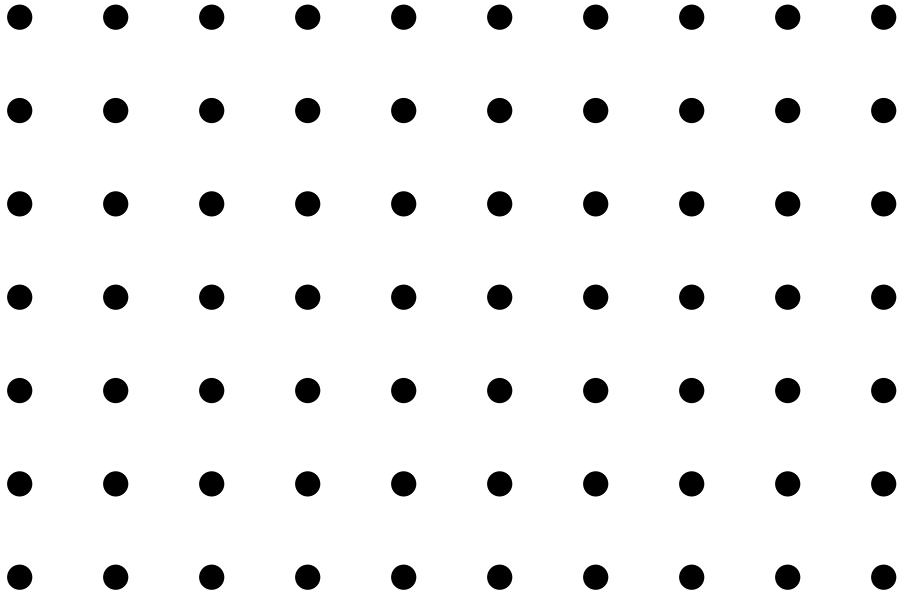
### Letter Tile Puzzle

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message from today's Gospel story. Each tile has the same number of characters (letters, spaces, and punctuation). Spaces are shown as blanks on the letter tiles.

M	A	N	L	O	N	T	S	I	L	L	U	W	I	F	M	E	,	M	Y
K	E	Y	O	Y	O	U	E	P	D	M	E	V	E	C	O	M			

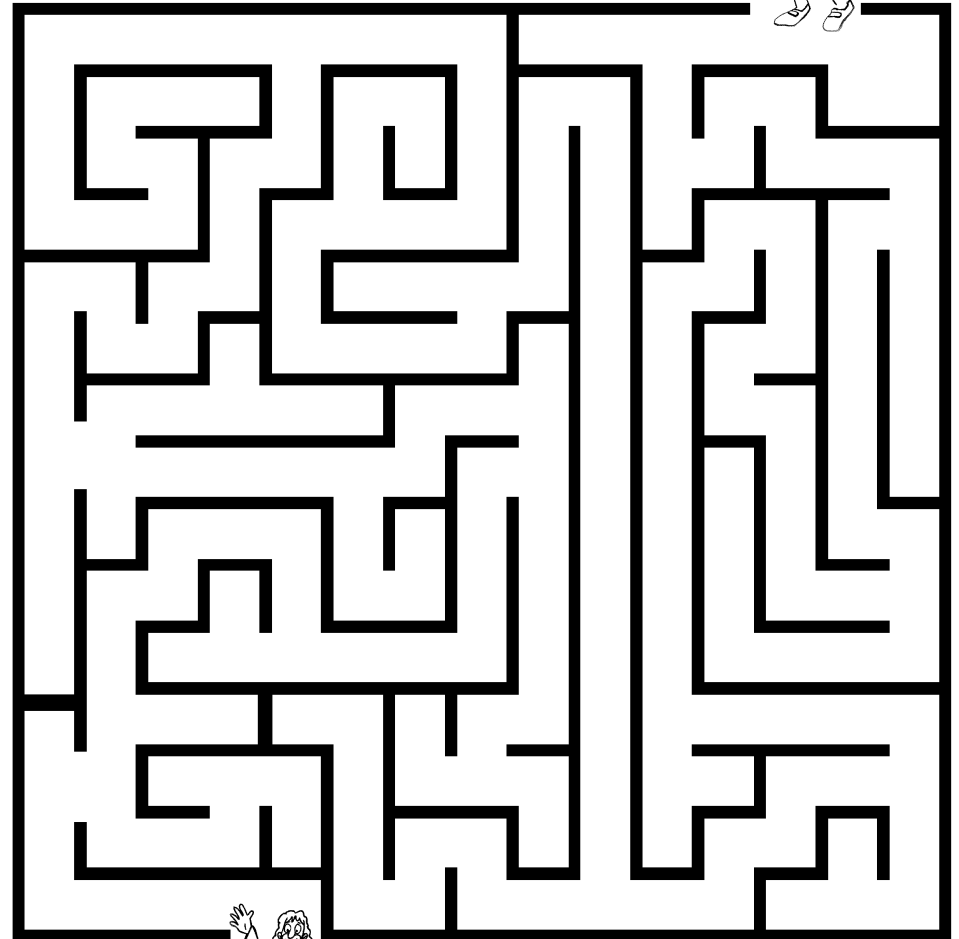

### Square O Dots

Play this fun game with a friend. Each of you takes turns connecting two dots together. When your line completes a square, you win that square. When you win a square, either write your initial in it or color it your color. Then you get another turn! The one with the most squares wins!



### Maze

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus explains that a part of God comes and lives inside of us to teach us and to take care of us. Every person who loves God will never be all alone again and will always be loved. Help Sally find Jesus so that she can learn all about how God loves her more than anything in the world by drawing a path from Sally to Jesus.



## JESUS PROMISES TO SEND A HELPER

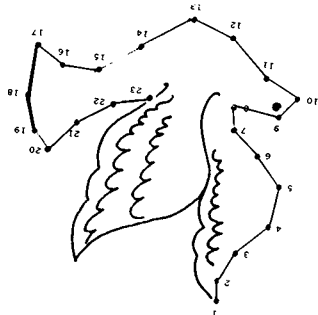
[Jerusalem] — Jesus' disciples worried that when he went away from them they would not know what to do. While he was with them Jesus also helped them find answers to all their questions. But now Jesus was getting ready to go back to heaven to live with his Father.

Jesus told his followers they should not worry. He said he would send a special helper, or "Comforter," to be with them when he was gone. We call this special helper the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that when the Comforter came, he would make Jesus live right inside of them. The people in the world who do not love Jesus would not see Jesus anymore, but Jesus' followers would know that Jesus was still with them. The Comforter would make sure of it.

When they heard Jesus' promise that he would not leave them all alone, the disciples felt much better. Now they were ready to face the future without worrying.

John 14:15-21

A34



ANSWERS

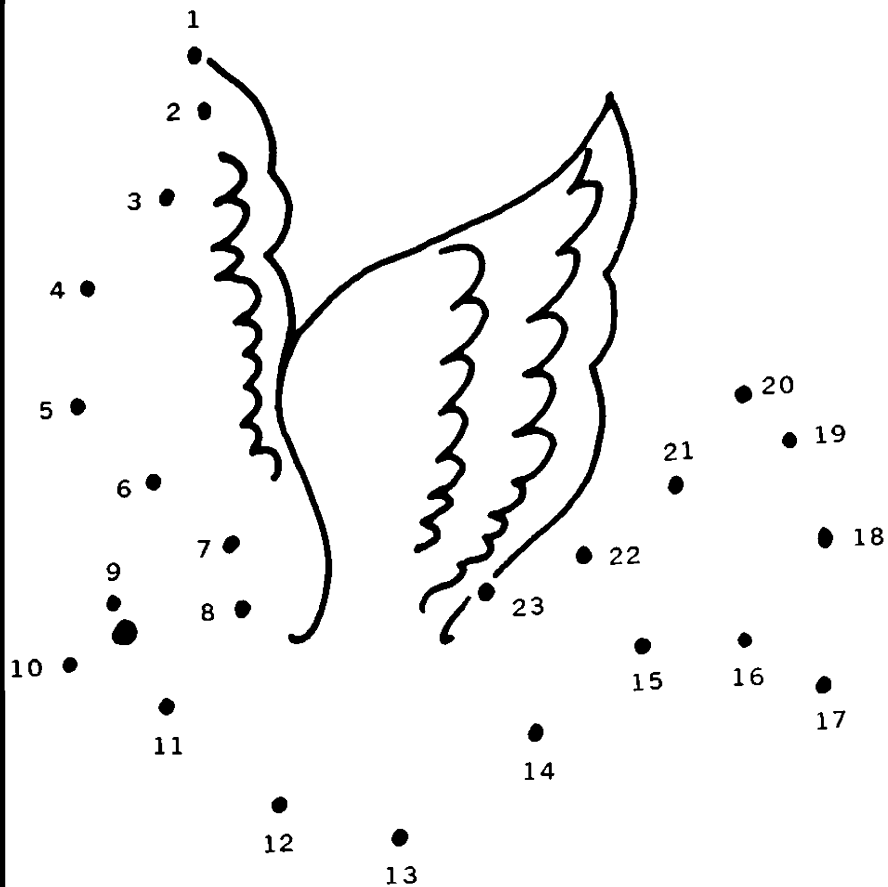
# GOSPEL GRAMS



## SUNDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN



**Gus The Gospel Gopher says:** "We gophers need all the help we can get. Sometimes when we're scampering around out in the field, a hawk circles overhead, waiting to swoop down on us. Sometimes another gopher warns me to dive into a safe place just in the nick of time. God gave you a helper like that. Here is a picture of something that represents the Holy Spirit, God's helper or 'Comforter.' Follow all the numbers to finish the picture."



**Hidden Objects.** In the picture below, Jesus is telling his followers about someone who will be coming to help them when he is gone. Also in the picture are 6 objects shown here. See if you can find all 6 objects and color these in or circle the objects as you find them.



DOVE



BREAD



GOBLET



CANDLE



LAMB



HEART

