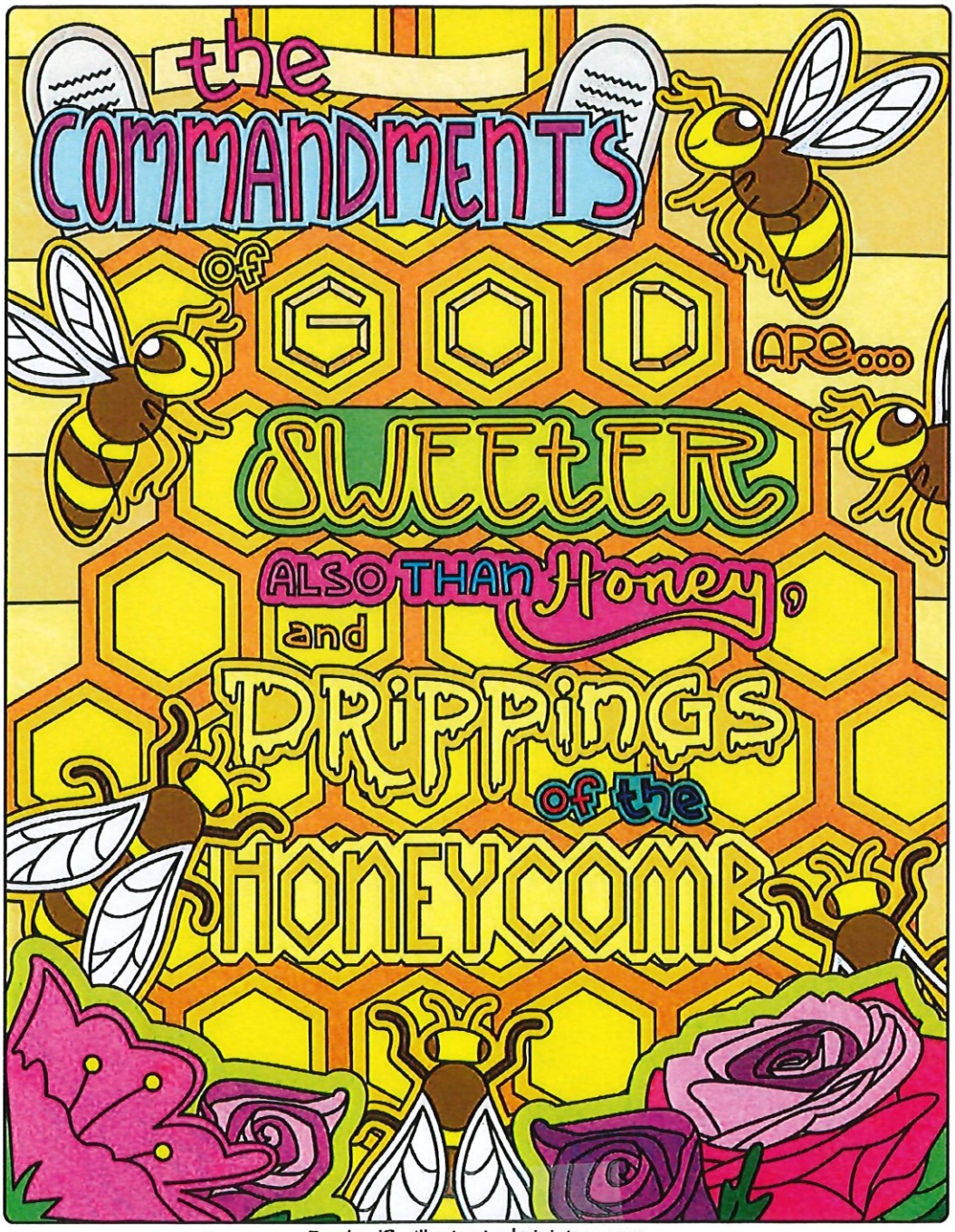
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 7, 2021



Cleaning House

Getting Ready

Good morning boys and girls, and welcome to Children's Chapel. I am glad that you are here and that we are together with Jesus.

As we get ourselves ready for this time together, let us sit quietly in our sacred spaces and light our candles.

First, we light the Christ candle and as we light it, let us remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that God sent Jesus to teach us all about God and how much God loves us. Next, we light the three smaller candles that represent all of us here as we sit at the feet of Jesus.

In my sacred space, I also have a cross that reminds me that Jesus died for us so that we can experience life with God forever. I also have 3 prayer rocks here that help me to focus on my time with Jesus.

And now that we are ready, we can begin today's teaching.

Cleaning House.

Theme

Jesus Cleanses the Temple.

Object

Some cleaning items: broom, mop, sponges, dust cloth, etc.

Scripture

"In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He poured out the coins of the money changers

and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace." John 2:14-16 (NRSV)

Mops, brooms, sponges, a dust cloth... what do we use these things for? We use them when we clean house, don't we? Do you ever help your family with the cleaning around your house? I don't know about your family, but there were many times when my mom thought our house needed cleaning when it looked just fine to me. Well, how do you know when it's time to clean house? Here are some signs that will definitely let you to know that it is time to clean house.

- It is time to clean house when your feet stick to the floor when you walk through the kitchen.
- It is time to clean house when your mother can't find you when she comes into your room to wake you up in the morning.
- It is time to clean house when the kids in the neighborhood use their fingers to write "wash me" in the dirt on your windows.
- It is time to clean house when there are more dishes in the kitchen sink than there are in the cabinets.
- It is time to clean house when you have enough dust bunnies under your bed to start a bunny farm.

Well, I think you get the idea! I know that your house never gets THAT dirty, but the truth of the matter is, we all need to do a little house cleaning at times.

Today we are going to learn about a time when Jesus did some house cleaning. It was time for the annual Passover celebration, so Jesus traveled to Jerusalem. When he arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple. He could not believe what he saw. Right there in the temple, near the place where they sold cattle, sheep, and doves to be used in the service, there were even people cheating the worshipers out of their money instead of treating everyone equally. It looked more like a flea market than a house of worship.

Jesus did not like what he saw. He was so angry that picked up a piece of rope, made a whip, and drove the cattle, sheep, and those who were selling them out of the temple. Next, he went to the money changers and turned their tables over, scattering coins all over the temple floor. To the ones who were selling the doves he said, "Get out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market." I would say that Jesus did some serious house cleaning in the temple that day!

As we think about Jesus cleansing the temple, we should also be reminded that there is some other cleaning that needs to be done. The New Testament Paul writes that we are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in us. (1 Cor. 3:16) The season of Lent is a good time for us to look inside ourselves and see if there is anything in us that needs to be cleansed. Are there some areas of your life where you need to do some house cleaning? I know there are in mine!

Jesus, help us to remember that we are your temple and that your Spirit lives in us. Help us to keep our lives clean and useful for service to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

INTRO

Share a rule you follow that helps keep you and others safe (perhaps wearing a seatbelt while driving a car or washing your hands to curb the spread of germs).

QUESTIONS

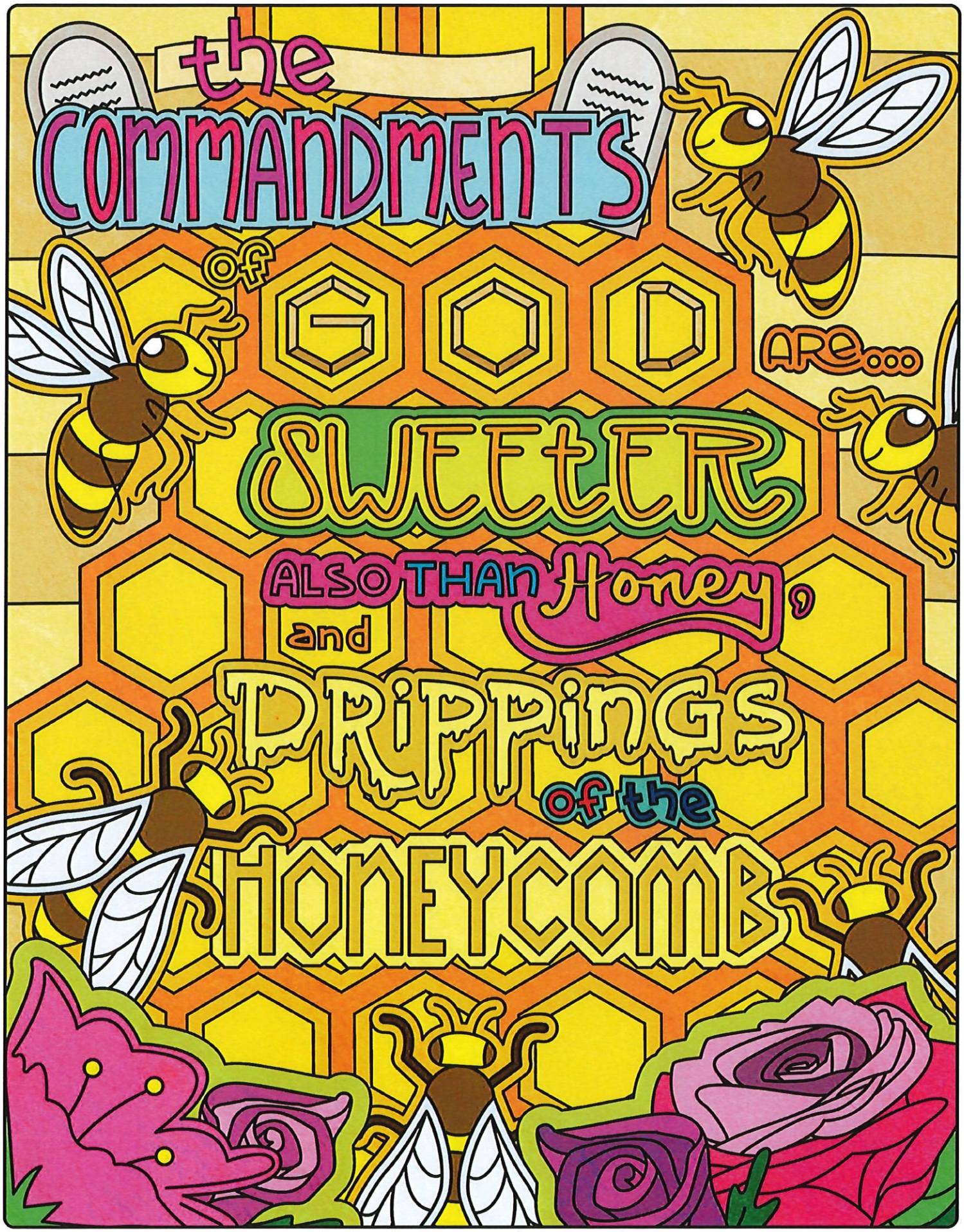
- Are there any rules you wish you didn't have to follow? What might happen if everyone broke those rules?
- What tastes sweet or delicious to you?
- Have you ever thought of rules or laws as being sweet?

WRAP UP

Tell the children today's Bible passage from Psalm 19 describes God's laws as sweet. Share with the children how sometimes we think of rules as things that hold us down or limit us. Even grown-ups don't always enjoy having rules! Some rules seem to take away opportunities to have fun. Throwing a baseball inside might seem fun, but rules against that keep us from accidentally breaking a window and cutting ourselves on broken glass. Invite the children to wonder about why some rules exist. Why shouldn't we run next to a swimming pool or go on a bike ride without a helmet? These are fun activities, so why do we have rules about how and where we can do these things? (We have rules to keep us and others safe!) Show the children today's illustration and explain that Psalm 19 describes God's commandments, or rules, as sweet. They are like honey or syrup in our mouths. Read the words on the illustration together, "The commandments of God are...sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb." Invite the children to share their favorite sweet food. Then wonder together why Psalm 19 calls God's rules sweet like honey, syrup, or the foods the children named. Isn't it sort of silly to say rules are sweet like some of our favorite foods? Explain how following God's commandments keeps everyone safe. When everyone feels safe, we can enjoy life the way we enjoy eating something sweet. God's commandments are sweet because they give everyone a chance to live a sweet life.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for giving us rules to keep us safe and help us live together. Teach us to enjoy caring for each other by following your commandments. **Amen.**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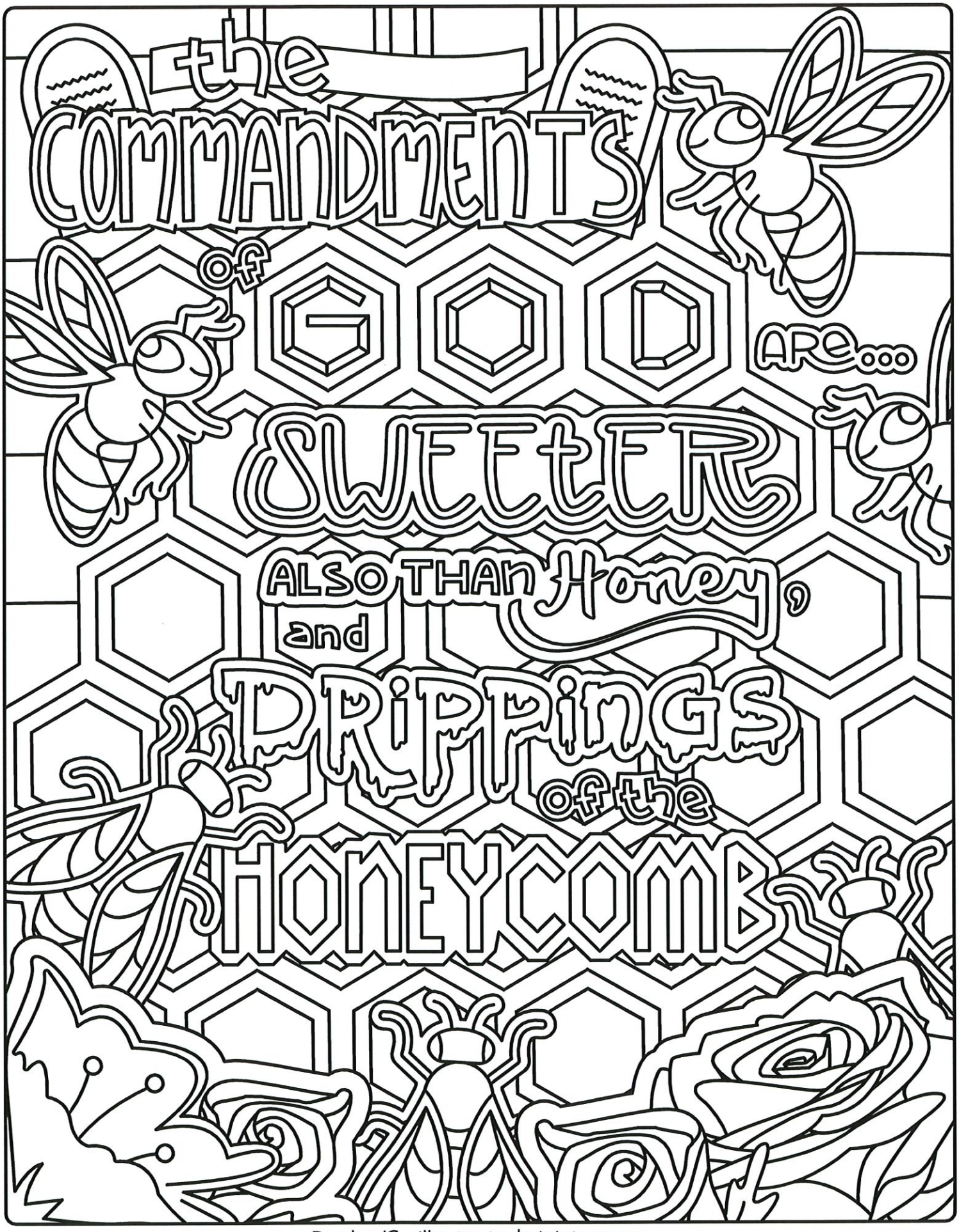
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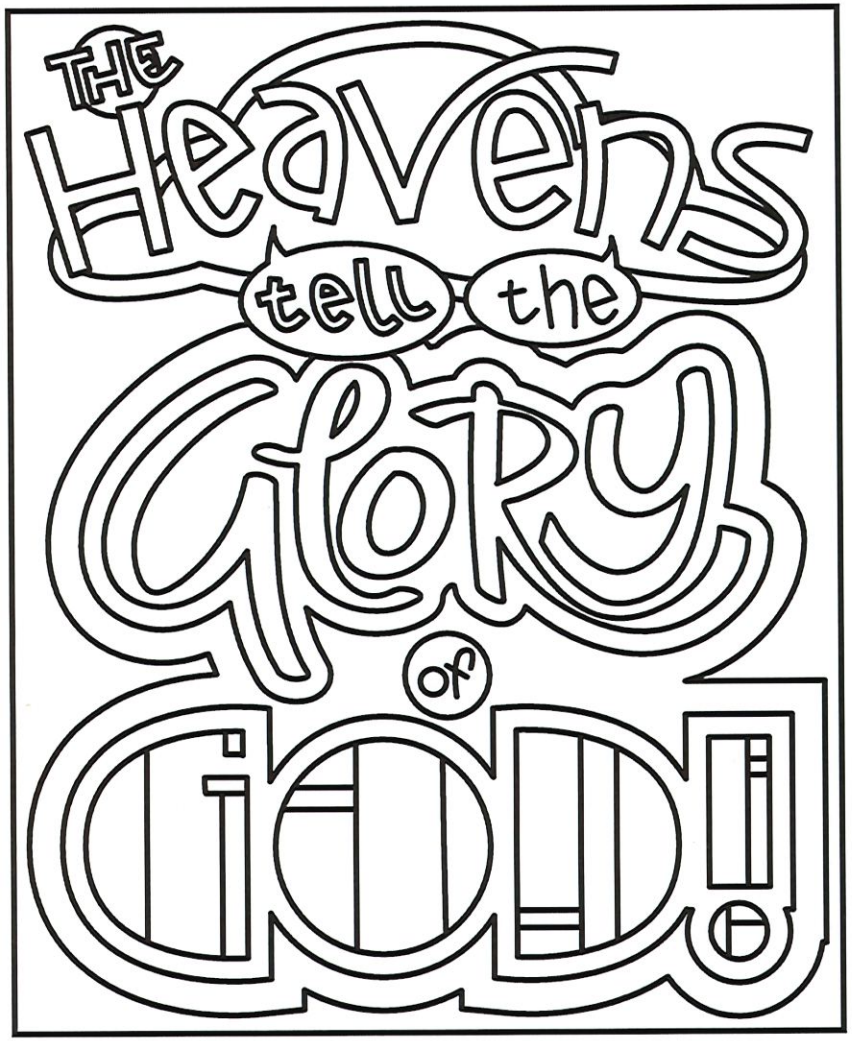

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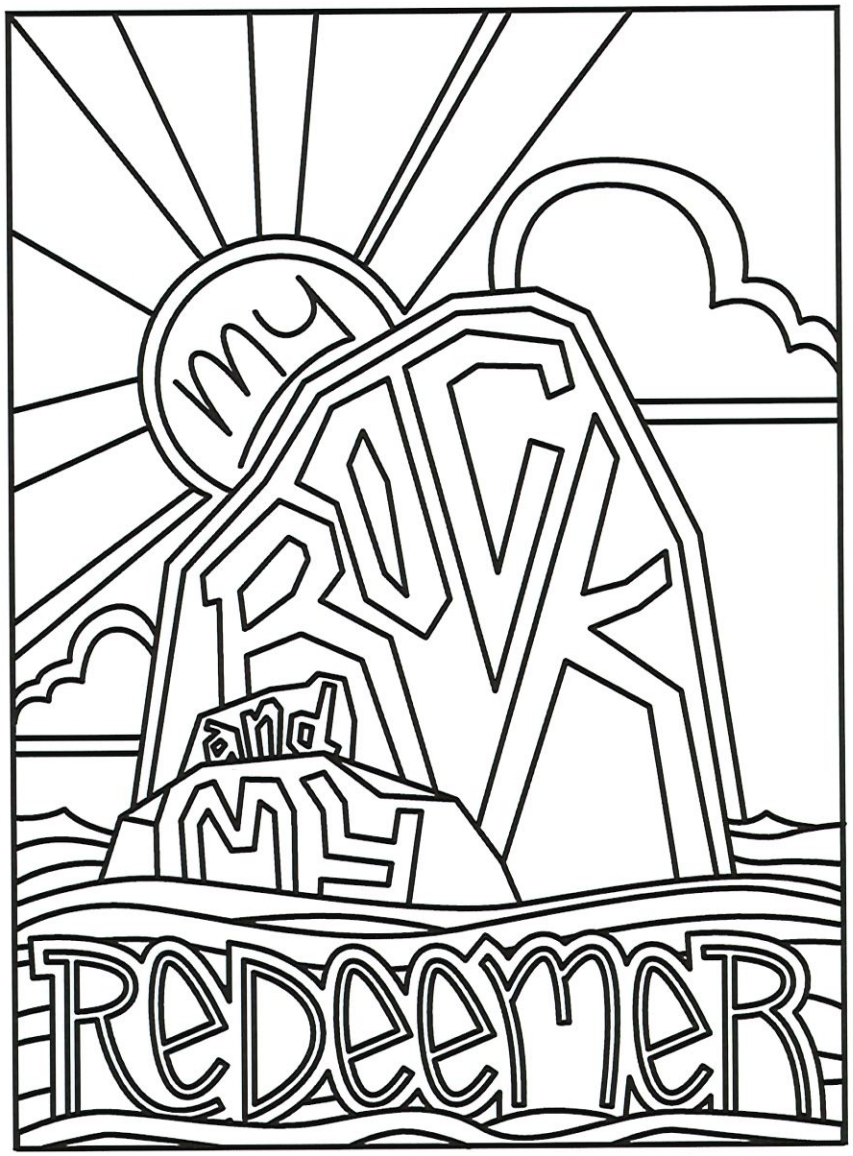
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, John 2:13-22.



DRAW IT

In Exodus 20, we learn about the Ten Commandments. One of them is to "remember and keep the sabbath." This is a chance to rest and celebrate God's presence. **Draw what you like to do for the sabbath.**

UNSRCAMBLE IT

What did Jesus say to the people who were trying to sell things in the Temple at the festival of Passover? **Unscramble the words to find out!**

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DOODLE AREA

Draw a picture of someone you want to pray for.