

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 21, 2021



Psalm 25:4 • illustratedministry.com

A Rainbow of Promise

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.

A Rainbow of Promise

Theme

God is faithful in keeping his promises.

Object

Ms. Cathy's wedding band.

Scripture

"I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood... I have set my bow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9: 11, 13 (NRSV)

I am sure that everyone has seen a ring like this one. (hold up wedding band) It is a very special kind of ring. Do you know what kind of ring it is? It is a wedding ring. It is a very simple ring. It has no diamonds or any other precious stones. It is just a plain, simple band of gold, but it is very special because it is a reminder of a promise that Gary and I made to each other when we got married. On the day that we were married, we made a promise that we would love and stand faithfully beside one another "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, for as long as we live." Each of us wears a wedding band as a reminder of that promise that we made. The ring also tells everyone who sees it about the promise that we made to each other. Anybody who gets married in the church makes the same promise to each other.

We all make promises, don't we? You might promise your mother that you will clean your room and do your chores before you go out to play. Or you may promise to keep a secret told to you by your best friend. You may promise to return something that you borrowed from a neighbor.

Has anyone ever broken a promise they made to you? How did that make you feel? What did you say? You were probably very disappointed and said something like, "But you promised!" Sometimes we are not very good at keeping our promises.

God makes promises. Our Old Testament lesson today is about a promise that God made to a man named Noah. I am sure that you know the story of how God sent a great flood to destroy the earth because the people had become so wicked and evil. God destroyed everything he had created except for some of every kind of bird and animal as well as Noah and his family. God spared them because Noah was a good and righteous man who walked with God.

After the flood waters went down and Noah's family and all the animals could leave the ark, God made a promise to Noah. God promised Noah that the earth and all its beings would never again be destroyed with a flood. Then God did something to

remind Noah of that promise. God placed a rainbow in the sky and said to Noah, "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the promise between me and all life on the earth." You may have noticed in our scripture reading today that God said I have set my bow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9: 13 (NRSV) Wow is that not interesting! Do you think God made a mistake by using the word bow instead of rainbow? No God does not make mistakes, God gave Noah a rainbow in the sky so that every time we see it, we would remember God's promise of never flood the earth again and that every time we all saw the rainbow, we would remember the promise that God made.

Look at the two syllables of the word rainbow. One syllable is rain and the other is bow. When you think of a bow, what do you think of? Well, I think of a bow and arrow. That is a weapon, right? God was laying down His bow with a promise of never using violence against the earth and its people ever again! We remember that every time we see a rainbow!

God has kept that promise, hasn't he? God keeps all promises that God makes. In fact, the New Testament says that, "No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ." (2 Corinthians 1:20) The next time you see a rainbow, remember the promise God made to Noah, and remember that just as God has kept that promise, God keeps all of God's promises.

Almighty God, we are thankful that you are faithful to keep your promises. Help us to be faithful in keeping ours. Amen.

INTRO

Share a story about exploring something up close which you couldn't sense (see, hear, feel, smell, or taste) far away.

QUESTIONS

- Have you ever looked through a magnifying glass?
- Have you ever slowed down to notice something you'd zoomed past before?
- How did looking through a different lens or slowing down help you notice what you'd previously missed?

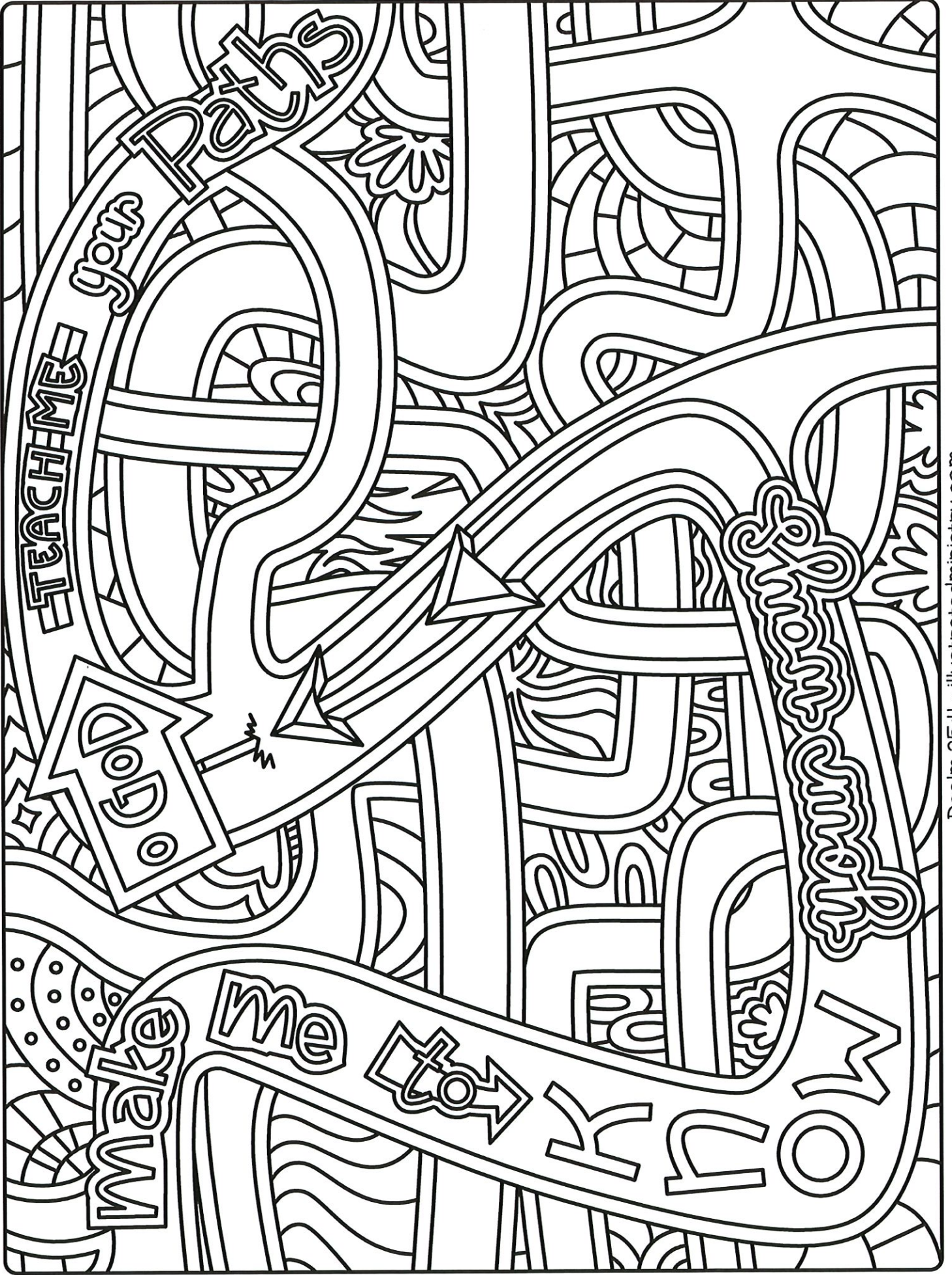
WRAP UP

Announce today is the first Sunday of Lent, a new season of the church year. Explain how Lent is a time of waiting and watching that leads to Easter. Invite the children to move in place (walk or roll in a wheelchair) and pretend to journey with you. Remind them to take out their imaginary magnifying glasses and move slowly so they can carefully discover signs of God's love along the way. Ask the children, "Do you notice how God's love shows up in the world around us?" Some children might notice a grown-up shows God's love by taking care of them, or a friend shows God's love by inviting them to play. Other children may notice God's love in the beauty of the world God has made for us to live in—trees that give us shade or sunsets that delight us with dazzling colors. Affirm the children's responses by reiterating God loves us very much. Point out how we see signs of God's love everywhere when we take time to look! Next, explain how Lent is not only for discovering God's love for us but also for brainstorming ways we can share God's love with others. Show today's illustration and read the words printed there together: "Make me to know your ways, O God; teach me your paths." One way God loves us is by giving us a beautiful world to live in, so we might show love by cleaning up litter or drawing pictures of nature and sending them to people who might be lonely. As you wrap up, ask the children to brainstorm other ways we can love others on our Lenten journey.

PRAVER

Dear God, teach us to take time during Lent to notice the ways you love us, then help us share your love with others. **Amen.**

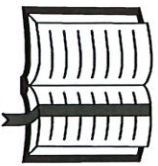
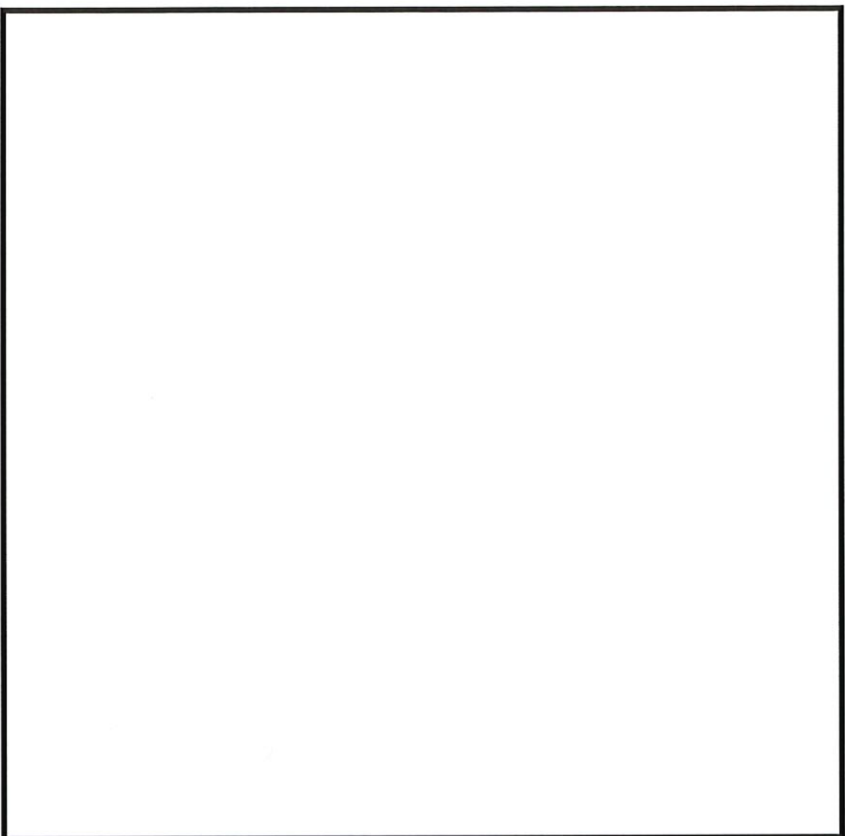






DRAW IT

Genesis 9 tells of God's promise to all of creation. God makes a rainbow as a sign and reminder of this loving promise. Draw what this scene looked like, with Noah, his family, and all the animals too!

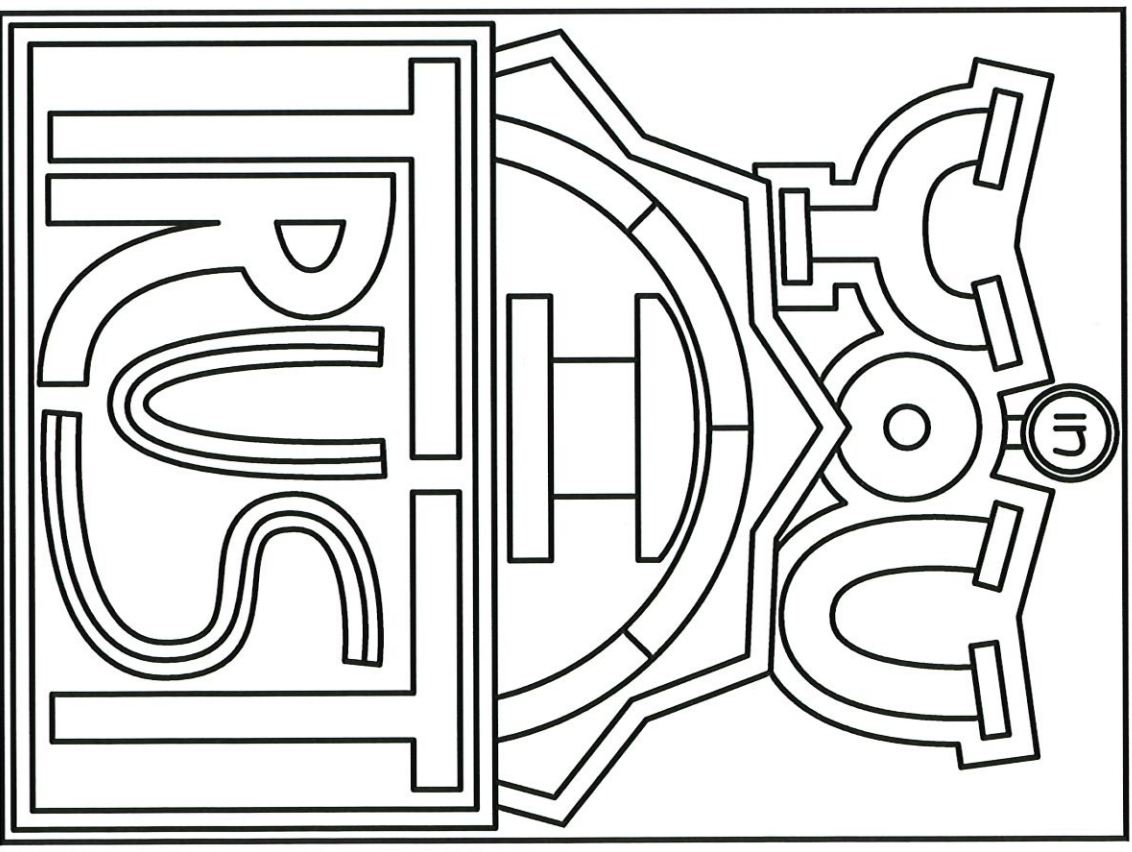


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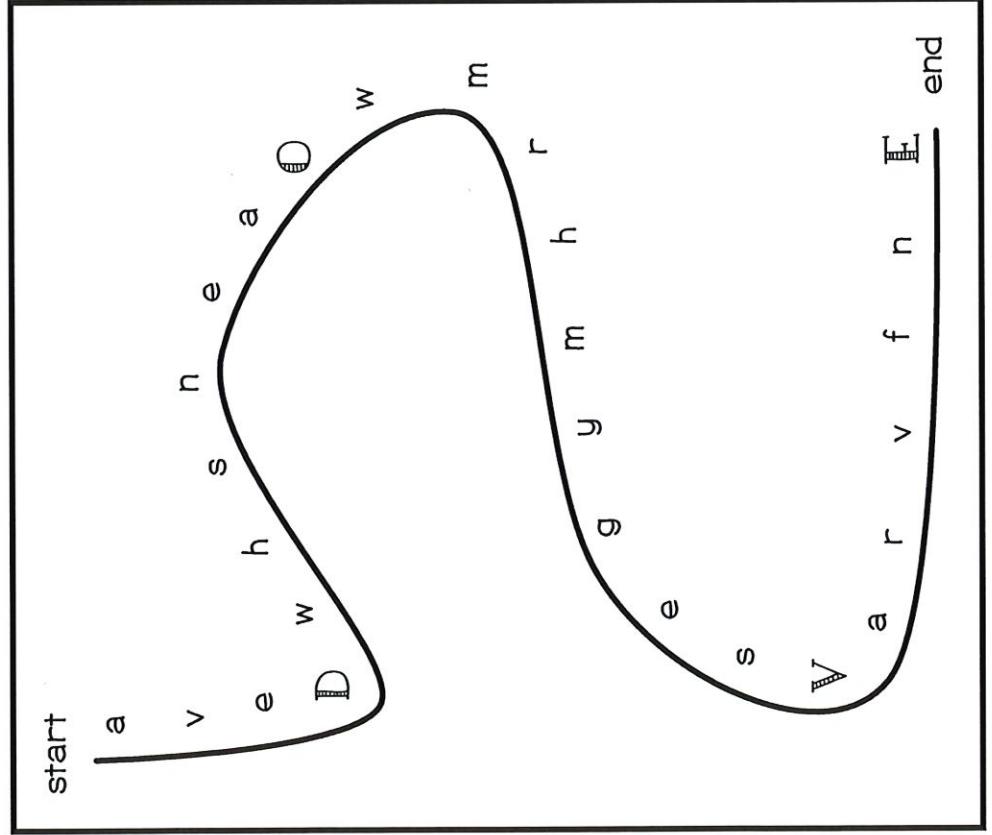
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 14:15.



FOLLOW THE PATH

What came down from heaven when Jesus was baptized and before he went into the wilderness? Follow the path of letters, and each time you come to a capital letter, write that letter down at the bottom of the page. When you get to the end of the path, see what's spelled out below.



WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Psalm 25 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

M A I F L V R L F B T T K A T
 U W V E R D U C E P K J V O M
 T G W Y M R S T L W N S O U L
 K M D A R E I A Q L F F S B V
 O K H O L B J G O B A M L A P
 G Q T B O O E R H I J T L R H
 M O M S V G D O T T I N A E X
 W U W P A S E H B A K U S M M
 H T A P Y F F X W C T J T E H
 T N Y N M U D T V R R E R M P
 E S F L L G F A U U A C A B F
 U L O V E I O S E C Y X E E N
 P E R F L H T Q H T Q S A R A
 Q K N O I T A V L A S T O A Z
 T H T N A N E V O C T X U A Z

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| LORD | TEACH | REMEMBER |
| SOUL | PATH | GOOD |
| LIFT | SALVATION | HUMBLE |
| TRUST | MERCY | RIGHT |
| WAIT | STEADFAST | FAITHFUL |
| WAY | LOVE | COVENANT |