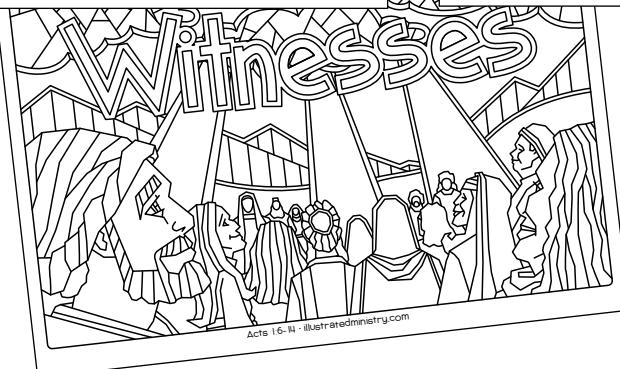
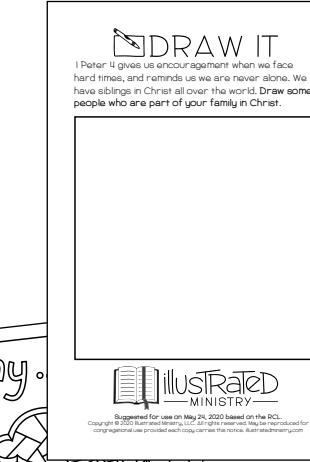
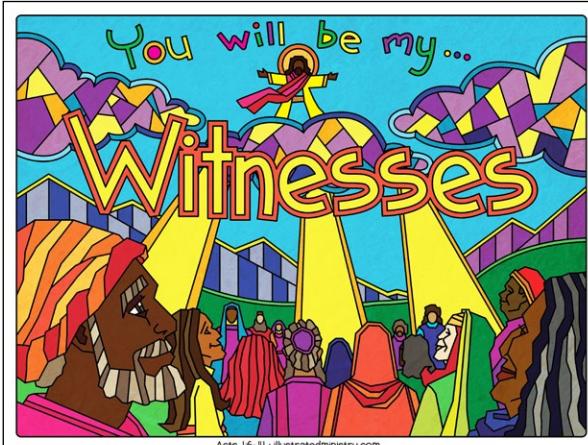


# Faith Formation Resources for the Seventh Sunday of Easter



ILLUSTRATED  
MINISTRY



Resources provided by Illustrated Ministry, LLC. [illustratedministry.com](http://illustratedministry.com)

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Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

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## RESOURCES FROM ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY

As the world struggles to adjust to life amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, necessary disruptions are affecting all aspects of our lives. Schools are closing, places of worship are canceling services, sports seasons are being suspended, and we are all adjusting to this new way of life. Illustrated Ministry hopes that these faith formation resources are meaningful and helpful to you.

We will be sending a weekly email during the COVID-19 pandemic which will include faith formation resources for all ages. We will be following the Revised Common Lectionary, and most of the resources will line up with the appropriate texts for each of the Sundays. If this resource was forwarded to you, and you would like to sign up to receive the weekly email in your inbox, you can sign up at: [illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve](http://illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve)

The weekly resource consists of a variety of resources, including children's worship bulletins, devotionals, and coloring pages. There are a variety of different ways you could use these resources at home:

- As a family, put together an order of worship. You can use this as an interactive piece to the scripture reading and message/sermon.
- Use this as an individual or family devotional to reflect on throughout the week.
- Get a group of friends together, virtually, and color the coloring page and reflect on the scripture passage.
- While you watch your church's virtual worship service, your children can color the coloring page or do the activities in the children's worship bulletin.

We hope you enjoy this resource, and if you have any questions about it, you can always reach us at [info@illustratedministry.com](mailto:info@illustratedministry.com). If you want to connect with others and see how they are using our resources, you can also follow us on social media:

Facebook: [fb.com/illustratedmin](https://fb.com/illustratedmin)  
Instagram: [instagram.com/illustratedmin](https://instagram.com/illustratedmin)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/illustratedmin](https://twitter.com/illustratedmin)  
Pinterest: [pinterest.com/illustratedmin](https://pinterest.com/illustratedmin)

Our Facebook Group is a growing community. If you're looking for ideas and suggestions for using this resource, you can request to join here:

[fb.com/groups/illustratedmin](https://fb.com/groups/illustratedmin)

Peace,

The Illustrated Ministry Team

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# SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 24

**Describe a time when you were a witness to someone doing an incredibly kind and generous act and were also inspired to show that kind of generosity.** Note: If you are with a group, have each person take a turn sharing.

## Scripture Reading: Acts 1:6-14

*So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*

*Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of[a] James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.*

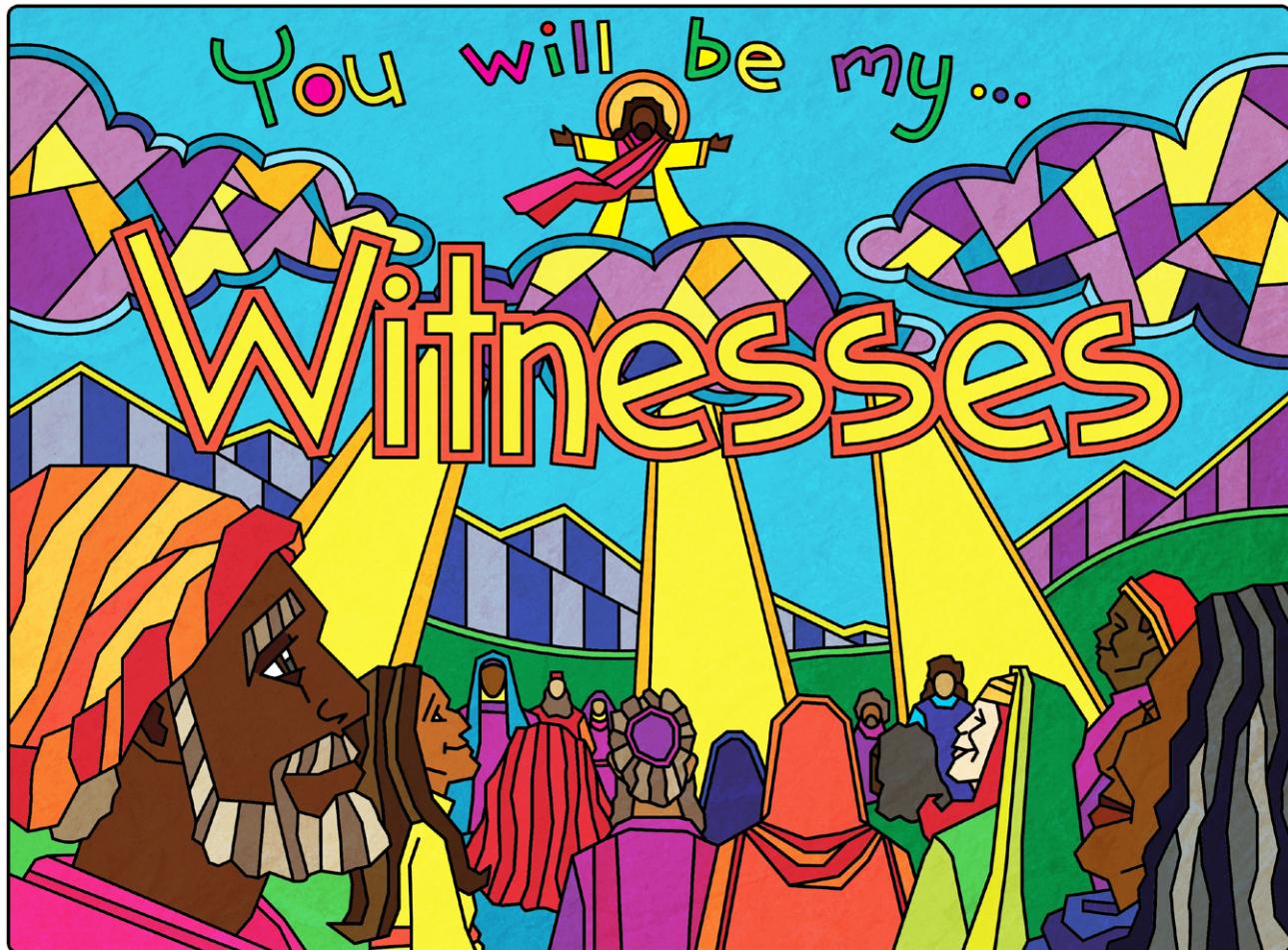
## Reflection

After Jesus was resurrected, he spent 40 days with his followers, teaching them how they should live and be in community. This was such a gift to have this extra time with Jesus. When he was present with them, for what turned out to be the last time, they asked Jesus a question that had been pressing on their hearts: “Now will you restore the kingdom to Israel? When can we be free from leaders who make decisions and laws that harm us and keep us poor?”

Jesus tells them that while they won’t understand God’s timing, what matters now is they will receive the Holy Spirit, and they will be his witnesses of God’s powerful love and compassion. Take a look at the illustration. Right after he told them, “you’ll be my witnesses,” Jesus ascended (was taken up) into the heavens to be with God.

Jesus’ followers were left to carry on his work by following his example by loving God and their neighbors, even though he wasn’t physically present. They were witnesses to Jesus’ life on earth and continued to be witnesses when they carried on Jesus’ work and God’s love for the world.

This is how the church got its start - by being witnesses of Jesus through loving God and loving their neighbors. Now all these years later, we still remember Jesus and continue his work and the work of those first followers. On Ascension Day, we celebrate how we are called to live as Jesus taught us. Like the disciples, we, too, are his witnesses.



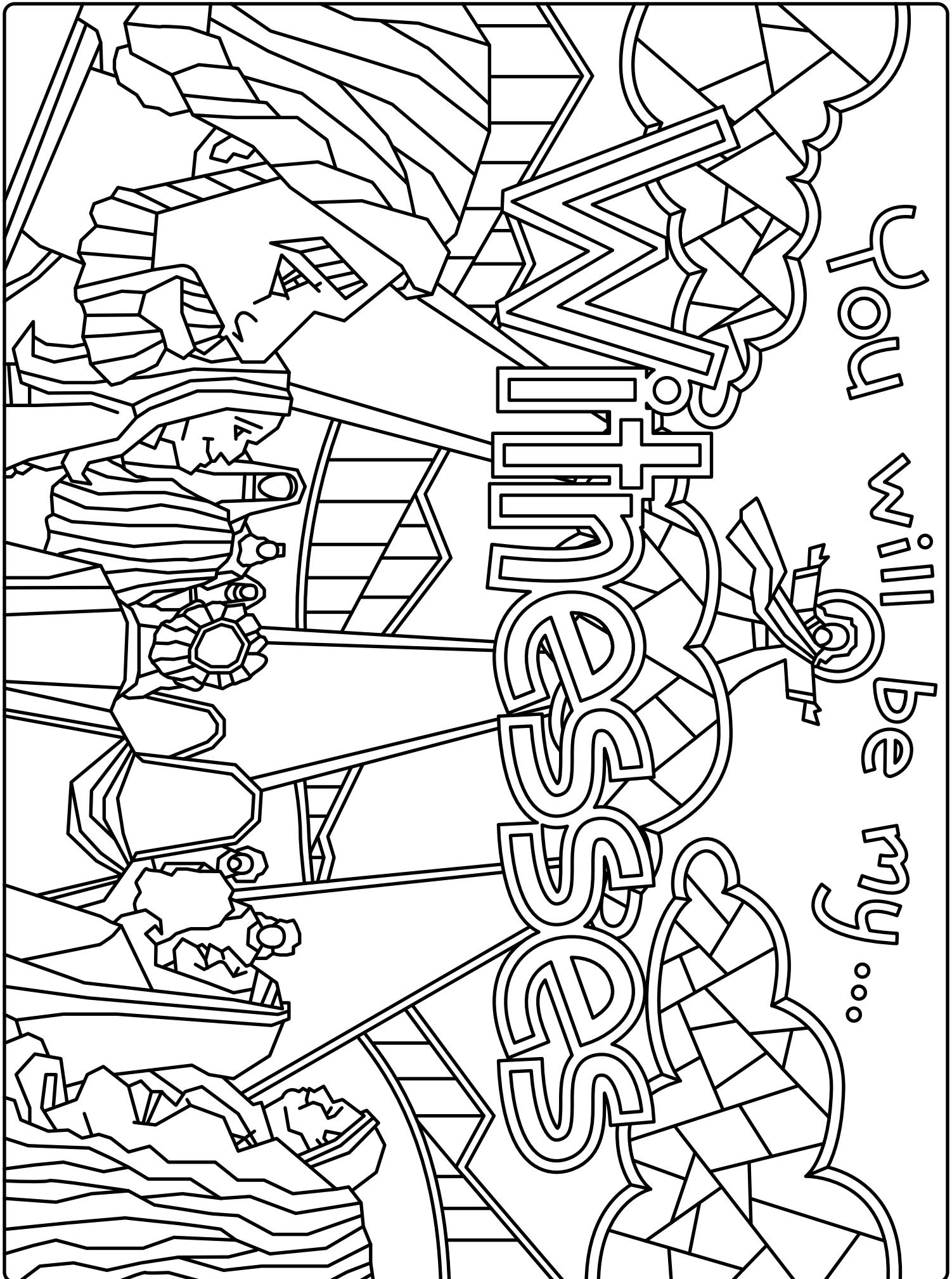
Acts 1:6-14 · illustratedministry.com

### Discussion Questions

1. Who have you seen showing kindness, generosity, and joy?
2. When have you shown love to someone?
3. How are you a witness of Jesus to your neighbors during the pandemic?

You  
will be my ...

I  
will  
be  
my  
...  
you



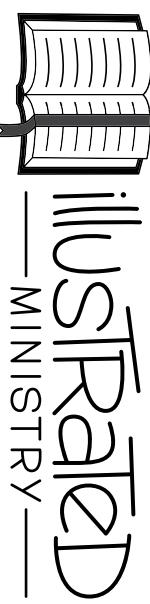
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## DRAW IT

1 Peter 4 gives us encouragement when we face hard times, and reminds us we are never alone. We have siblings in Christ all over the world. Draw some people who are part of your family in Christ.

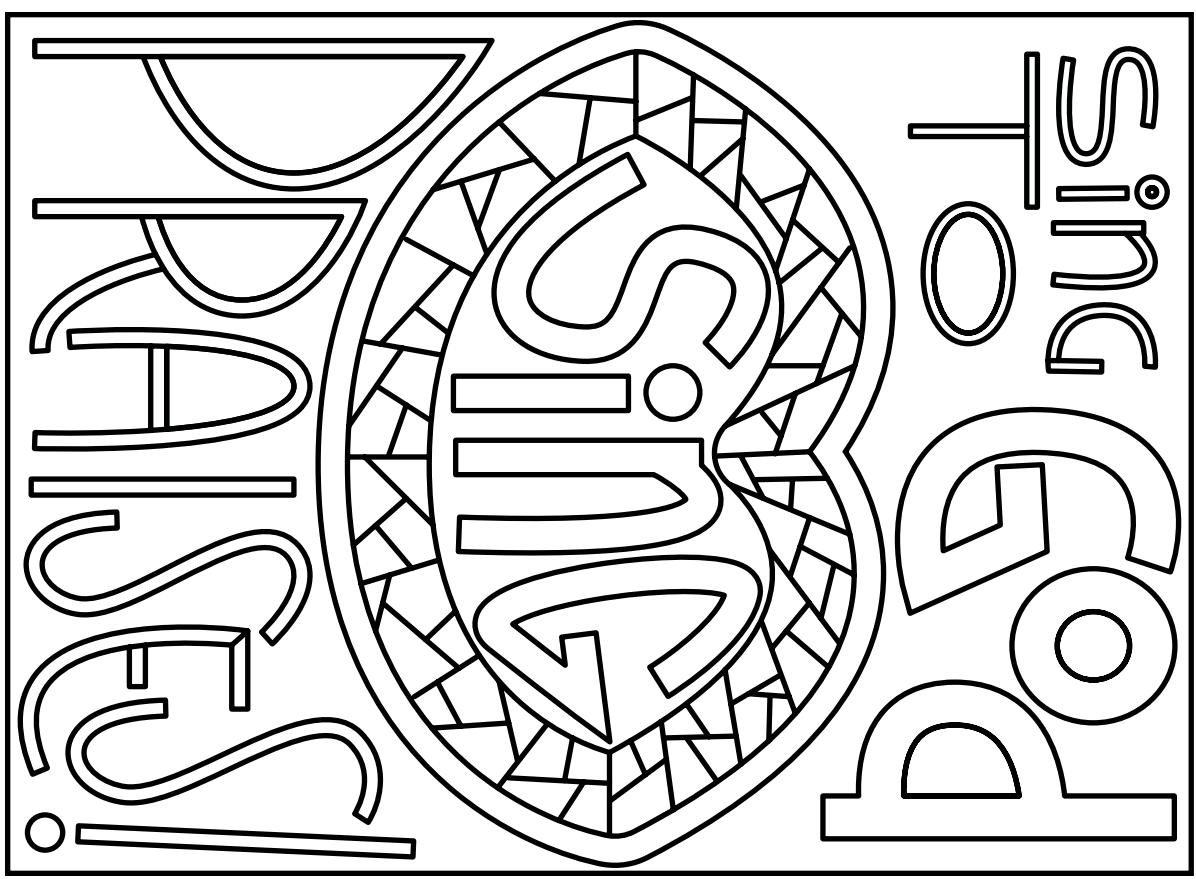


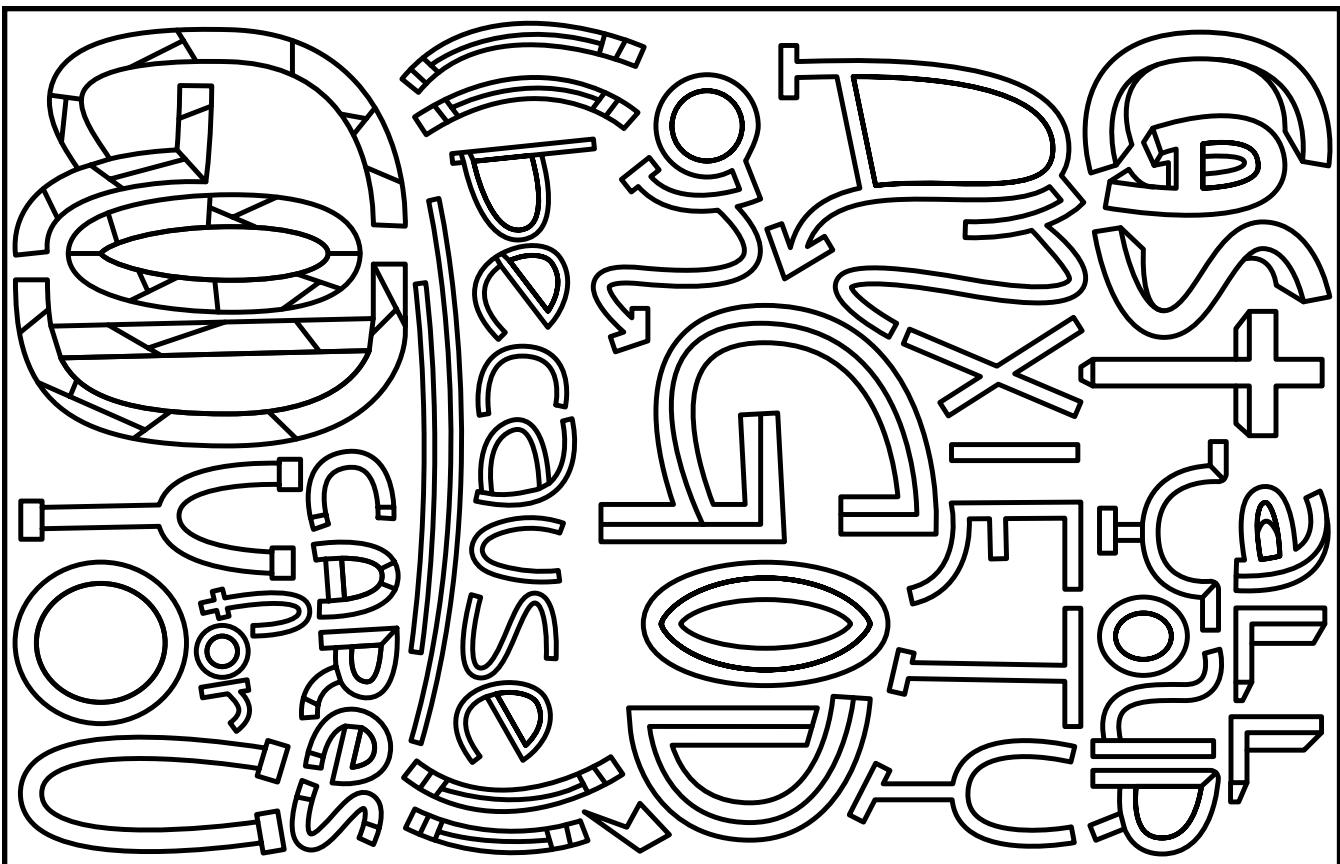
ILLUSTRATED  
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Suggested for use on May 24, 2020 based on the RCL.  
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# CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 56-11, John 17:1-11.





# COLOR IN THE WORDS

Try to find the words from John 17 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

L P C U L A U D M S S R A S X

# WORDSEARCH

FATHER EVERYTHING  
SON ASK  
AUTHORITY BEHALF  
ETERNAL MINE  
WORLD HOLY  
NAME ONE



## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**ARIANNE BRAITHWAITE LEHN** is a mother, one half of a clergy couple, writer, and ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church (USA). As a South Dakota native, Arianne originally planned on Law School until God called her to Taiwan where everything changed. She later graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago). She and her family live in Wilmette, Illinois. Arianne is the author of *Ash and Starlight: Prayers for the Chaos and Grace of Daily Life*. You can connect with Arianne and her writing at her website [ariannebraithwaitelehn.com](http://ariannebraithwaitelehn.com).

**CORBY ORTMANN** is a digital illustrator and animator, whose work includes caricatures, graphic design, children's books, and animated commercials/music videos. He currently lives in Fargo, North Dakota with his wife and daughter, who help him to step away from the art table every so often. You can find more of his work at [www.corbyortmann.com](http://www.corbyortmann.com).

**LAYTON WILLIAMS** is a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister and a writer based in Charleston, SC. She serves as the Director of New Dawn Ministries at Sunrise Church on Sullivan's Island, and she is the author of *Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us*. She received her M.Div from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and previously served on staff at Sojourners in D.C. and Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Prior to ministry, Layton worked as a nonprofit educator for middle and high school students.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

**REBEKAH LOWE**, a local of Kansas City, Southern California, and Austin, Texas, earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies with a minor in Leadership Studies and a minor in Hebrew at Azusa Pacific University and served as the Director of Children's Ministry at Brentwood Presbyterian Church (USA) in Los Angeles, California, for over five years. She resides in Austin, Texas with her husband and their two daughters.

## ABOUT ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY'S FOUNDER + CEO

**ADAM WALKER CLEAVELAND** is an artist, pastor, pastor's spouse, and father of four (two living). Adam is an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and after doing youth ministry for over 15 years, he founded Illustrated Ministry, LLC. He resides in Racine, Wisconsin with his wife and children.