

MATTHEW 7:24-27

# WISE MEN BUILD ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

*Listen to the full episode on the Greybobby Bedtime Devotionals podcast.*

## OVERVIEW

Two men were responsible for building campsites. The first man was tired and did not want to look for a good place to build, so he had his camp built on sandy ground. The second man waited until he found solid ground to support the camp he needed to build. That night, a storm came. The first man's camp began to sink into the sandy ground, but the second man's camp was built on firm ground that withstood the storm. The second man's camp was able to rescue the first man's sinking camp. Wise men build their homes on a firm foundation that will remain solid under pressure. Foolish men build their homes on ground that will sink under pressure.

## KEY IDEAS

### PATIENCE

Wise people look for a firm foundation, even when it's hard.

### FAITHFULNESS

Wise people know that strength and support in the long run are more important than what's easy in the moment. They choose what is right no matter what.

## MATTHEW 7:24-27

<sup>24</sup> *"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

<sup>25</sup> *And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.*

<sup>26</sup> *And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.*

<sup>27</sup> *And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is an example of something you chose to do because it was easy, even though you knew it wasn't the right choice?
2. What is an example of something you can do to build your life on strong ground?



**Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them  
will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.**

**MATTHEW 7:24**

# THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

*Listen to the full episode on the Greybobby Bedtime Devotionals podcast.*

## OVERVIEW

Jesus told a story about a Pharisee and a Tax Collector. The Pharisee believed he was better than everyone else while the Tax Collector was someone who helped the Romans cheat the people. Both were wrong, but only one believed he was. The Pharisee looked up to God and thanked God that he wasn't wicked like the Tax Collector. The Tax Collector only looked down and asked for God's mercy and forgiveness. Jesus says that the Tax Collector, not the Pharisee, was justified before God.

## KEY IDEAS

### HUMILITY

Everyone is a sinner who needs Jesus. No one is better than anyone else.

### SALVATION THROUGH GRACE

There is nothing you can do to earn righteousness. That can only come through Jesus.

## LUKE 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

<sup>10</sup> "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

<sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed[a] thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

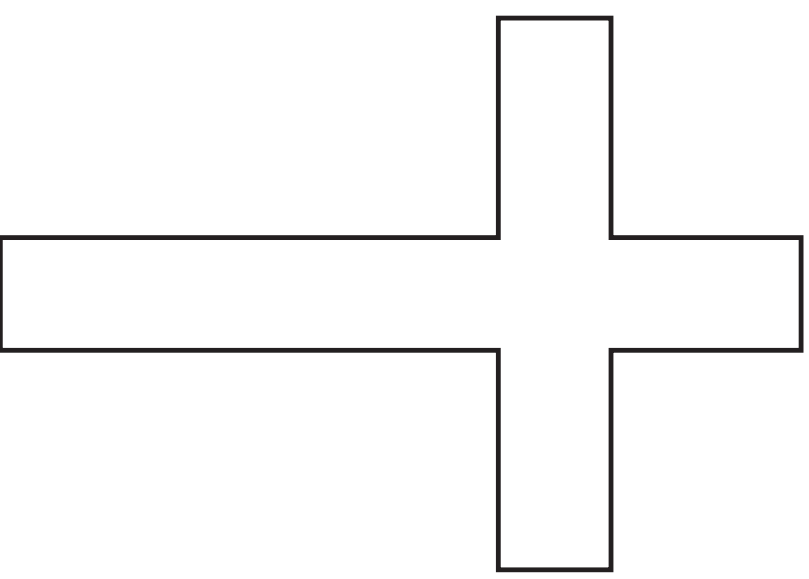
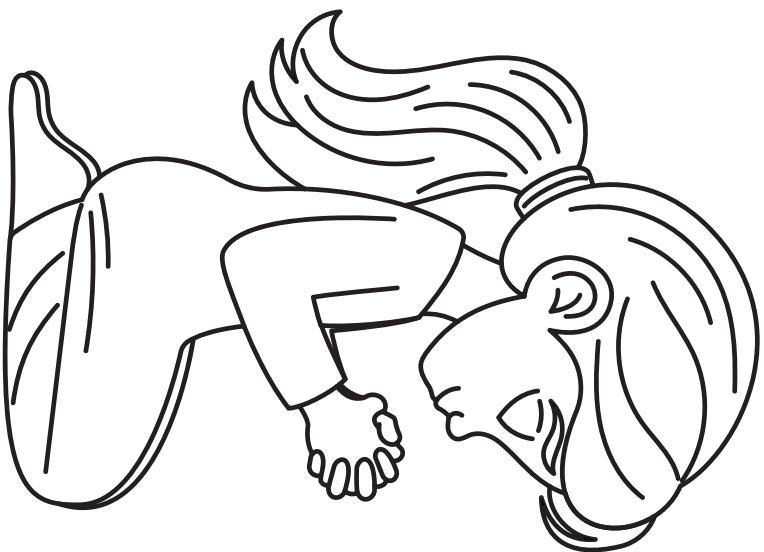
<sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

<sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can you show humility in your daily life?
2. What does it mean to be right with God?



**For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,  
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.**

**LUKE 18:14**

LUKE 15:11-24

# THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

*Listen to the full episode on the Greybobby Bedtime Devotionals podcast.*

## OVERVIEW

Jesus told a story about two brothers and their Father, who was a land owner. The Older Brother worked hard while the younger brother was bored and wanted adventure. The Younger Brother asked his Father for his inheritance and left his Father's home. He traveled around and lived a wild life until he ran out of money. He got a job feeding pigs, but he barely had enough to live. Soon, he decided to return to his Father's home to ask for forgiveness. He hoped his Father would let him return as a servant. When he returned, his Father ran to greet him and welcomed him home. Just as the Father in this story gave his son mercy and grace, God gives us mercy and grace through Jesus.

## KEY IDEAS

### GRACE

Getting what we don't deserve.

### MERCY

Not getting what we do deserve.

## UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS

It doesn't matter how far we run or how badly we act. God will always forgive us.

## LUKE 15:11-24

<sup>20</sup> *And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.*

<sup>21</sup> *And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'*

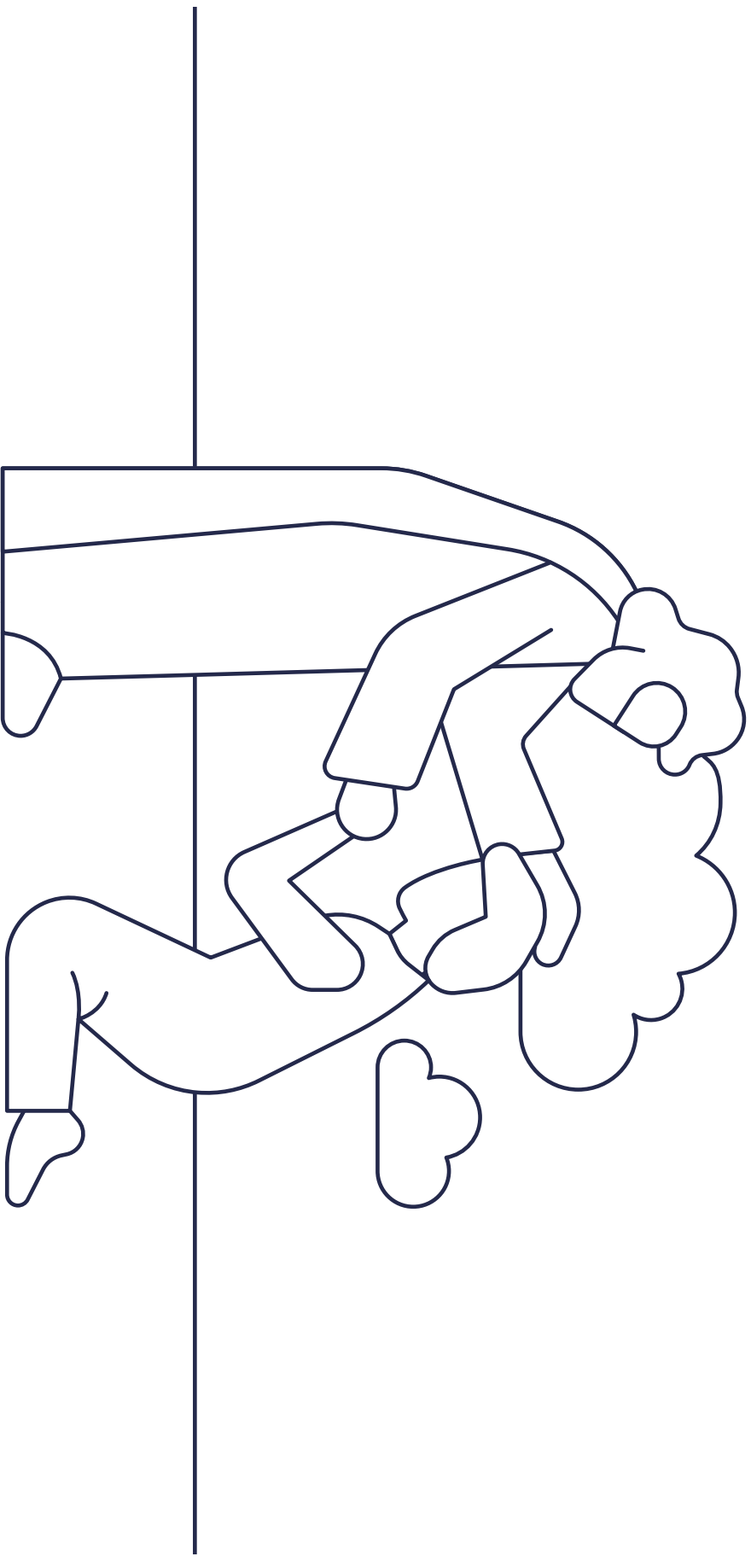
<sup>22</sup> *But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.'*

<sup>23</sup> *And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.*

<sup>24</sup> *For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of something you've done to disobey God?
2. What does it mean to be forgiven?



**For this my son was dead, and is alive again;  
he was lost, and is found.'**

**LUKE 15:24**

## MATTHEW 18:12-14

# THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

*Listen to the full episode on the Greybobby Bedtime Devotionals podcast.*

## OVERVIEW

People are naturally selfish and sometimes expect God to look like them. Jesus told a story about a good shepherd who had 100 sheep. Everywhere he led them, he would count them. One day, he counted them and found he was missing one. He left the 99 sheep and searched for the missing one until he found it. When he found the lost sheep, he celebrated. Jesus is a good shepherd who will fight for His sheep and lay down His life for them.

## KEY IDEAS

### SIN NATURE

We were born selfish and must learn to think of others.

### PURSUIT

This means that Jesus will seek to find those who are lost until He finds them.

## MATTHEW 18:12-14

<sup>12</sup> *What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?*

<sup>13</sup> *And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.*

<sup>14</sup> *So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.*

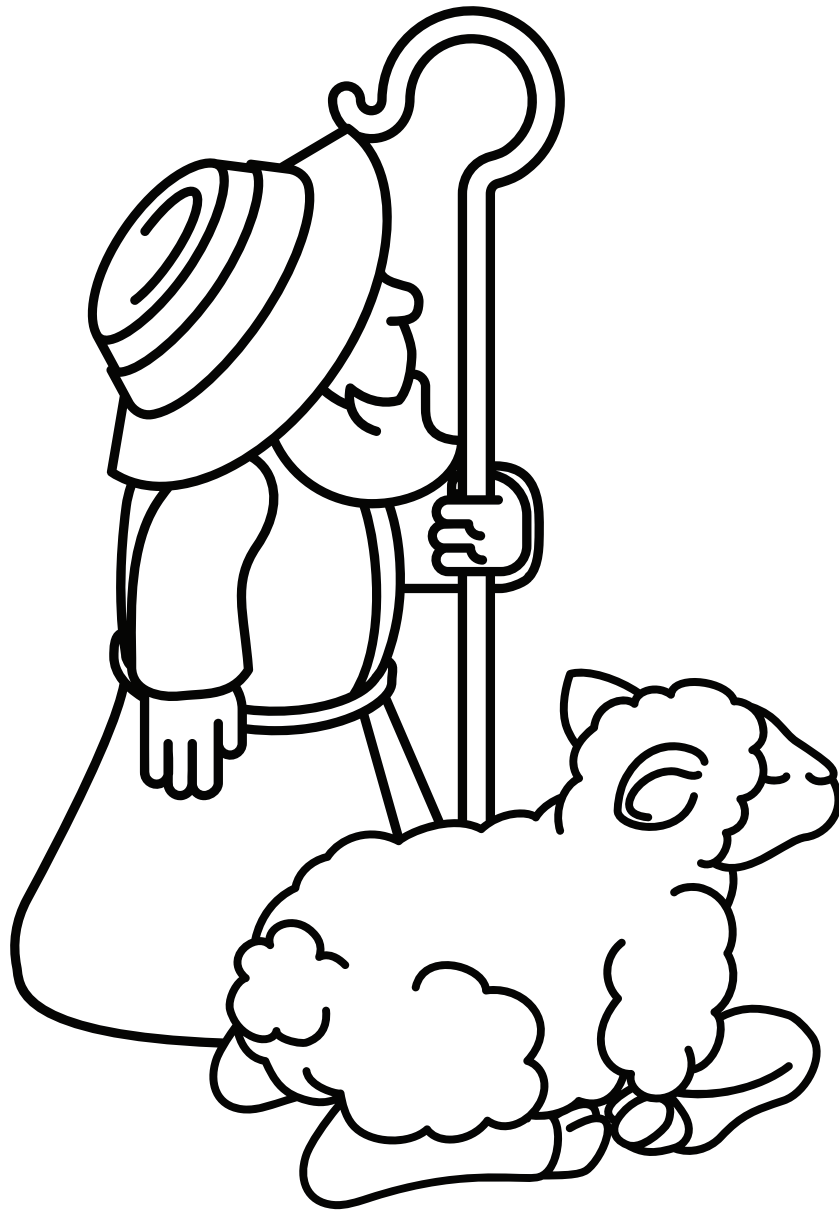
## ROMANS 8:38-39

<sup>38</sup> *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,*

<sup>39</sup> *nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think the shepherd felt when he found his one lost sheep?
2. When was a time you felt lost or needed help?



**If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?**

**MATTHEW 18:12**

MATTHEW 13:44-46

# THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE

*Listen to the full episode on the Greybobby Bedtime Devotionals podcast.*

## OVERVIEW

Jesus told a story about a man who found a treasure in a hidden field. He hid it again and tried to buy the property. It had been collected for an unpaid debt. The man would have to pay the debt before he could own the land, so he went and sold everything he had in order to buy the land. Salvation may look like a silly thing to the world, but to those whose hearts have been changed by the Holy Spirit, they are willing to give everything for the joy of knowing they will be with God forever and ever.

## KEY IDEAS

### SALVATION

This means that we will be with God forever.

### SACRIFICE

A word that describes giving up something we love for something even better.

## MATTHEW 13:44-46

<sup>44</sup> *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

<sup>45</sup> *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,*

<sup>46</sup> *who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you found a hidden treasure, what would you do with it?
2. What are you willing to give up if it means being with God forever?



**The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.**

**MATTHEW 13:44**

# GENESIS 1

## GOD CREATED THE WORLD

*Listen to the full episode on the Greybobby Bedtime Devotionals podcast.*

### OVERVIEW

God created everything in the world out of nothing. He made light and dark on the first day. He made water and sky on the second day. On the third day, he separated the land from the sea and created plants and vegetation. On the fourth day, he created the sun, moon, stars, and planets. He created birds and fish on the fifth day. On the sixth day, he created animals and people. Finally, on the seventh day, God rested.

### KEY IDEAS

#### GOD CREATED

He spoke into the darkness and created everything out of nothing, which is something only God can do.

#### CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

God created people to reflect him in our relationships with him and others.

### GENESIS 1:1

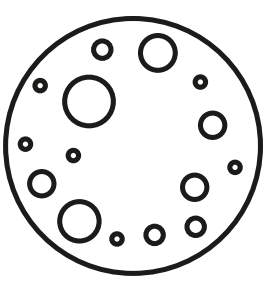
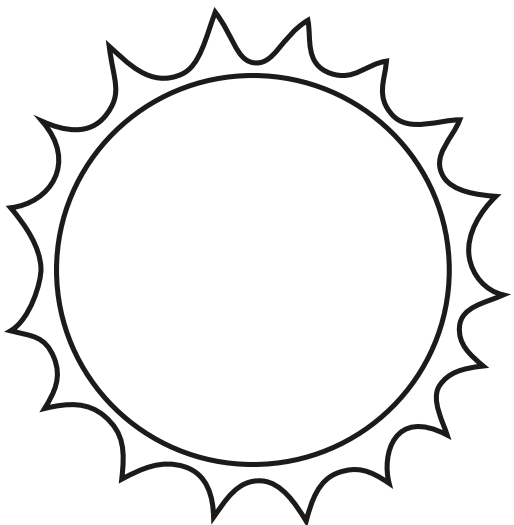
*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

### GENESIS 1:27

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite thing God made?
2. How does God show his love for us in the story of creation?



**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**

**GENESIS 1:1**

# EATING THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT

*Listen to the full episode on the Greybobby Bedtime Devotionals podcast.*

## OVERVIEW

When God created the world, He said it was good. The world was free of sin, death, and pain. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat from any tree in the garden except for one—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He said that the day they ate from it, they would die. As time went by, Adam and Eve were tempted by the tree. One day, Satan, in the form of a Serpent entered the garden and convinced them to eat the fruit. Once they both ate the fruit, they were ashamed and could tell the difference between good and evil. God came and found them in the garden because He knew what they'd done. They had to be separated from Him because of their sin, but He promised to send His son to make right what was broken.

## KEY IDEAS

### OBEDIENCE

It is important to do what God tells us to do, even if we don't understand why.

### SIN

Anything we do that is in direct and deliberate disobedience to what God told us to do.

## GENESIS 2:16–17

<sup>16</sup> *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,*

<sup>17</sup> *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:24–26

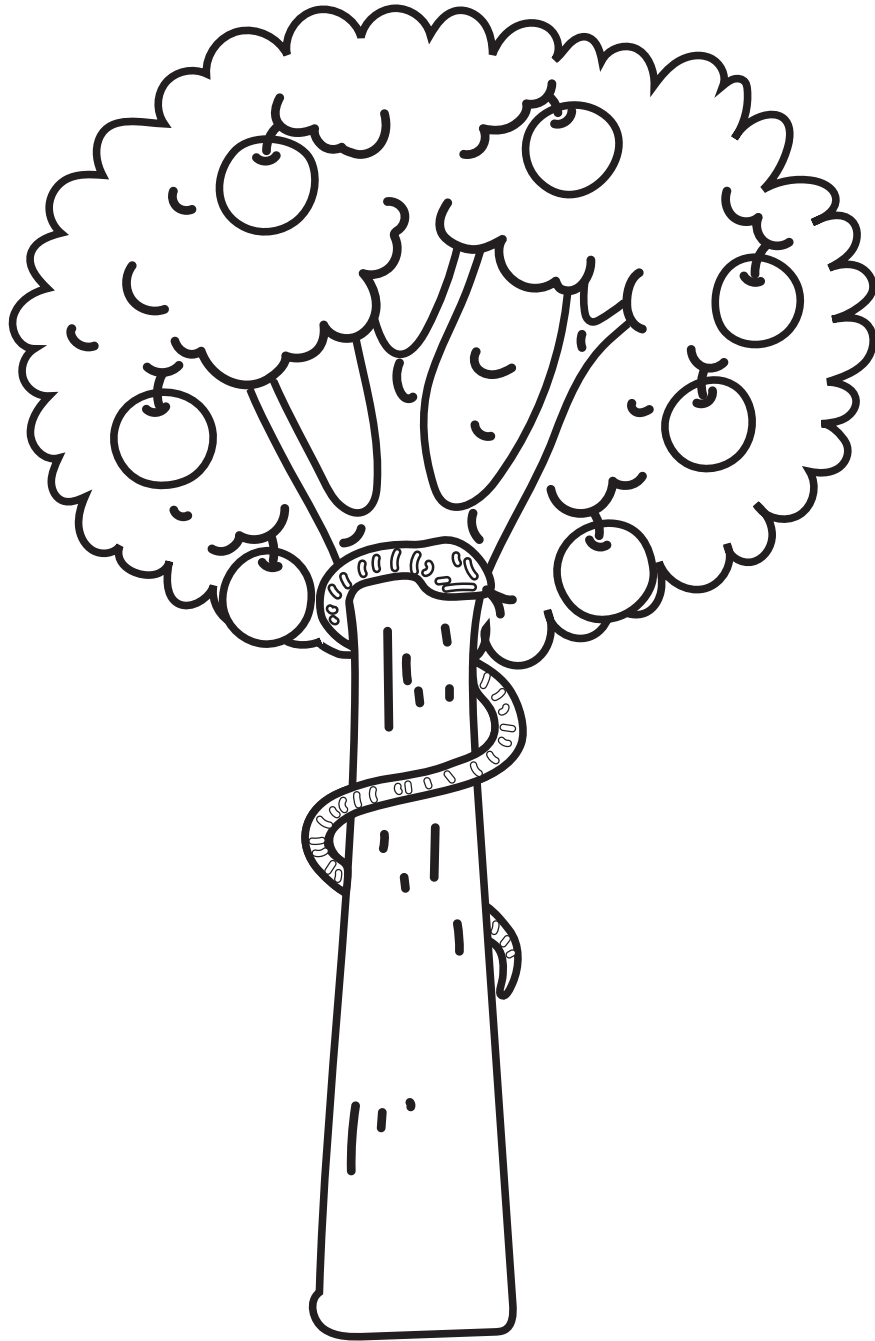
<sup>24</sup> *Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.*

<sup>25</sup> *For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*

<sup>26</sup> *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite thing God made?
2. How does God show his love for us in the story of creation?



**And the Lord God commanded the man, saying,  
“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of  
the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not  
eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”**

**GENESIS 2:16-17**

## GENESIS 15:5-6

# GOD PROMISES A SON TO ABRAM

*Listen to the full episode on the Greybobby Bedtime Devotionals podcast.*

## OVERVIEW

After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised that the seed of Eve would come and crush the head of the serpent that would save God's people. Many years later, God promised a man named Abram that he would have a son even though, to the world, he and his wife were too old to have children. He promised Abram that his family would be more numerous than the stars in the sky. God changed his name to Abraham, which means "father of many." When Abraham's wife heard that they would have a child in their old age, she laughed, but later that year, she gave birth to a son, Isaac. God kept His promises. He grew the family of Abraham into a great nation. And God fulfilled His ultimate promise and brought His one and only Son. Whoever believes and trusts in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

## KEY IDEAS

### FAITH

This means believing in something even when you can't prove it's true.

### GOD'S PROMISES

When God makes a promise, He always fulfills it.

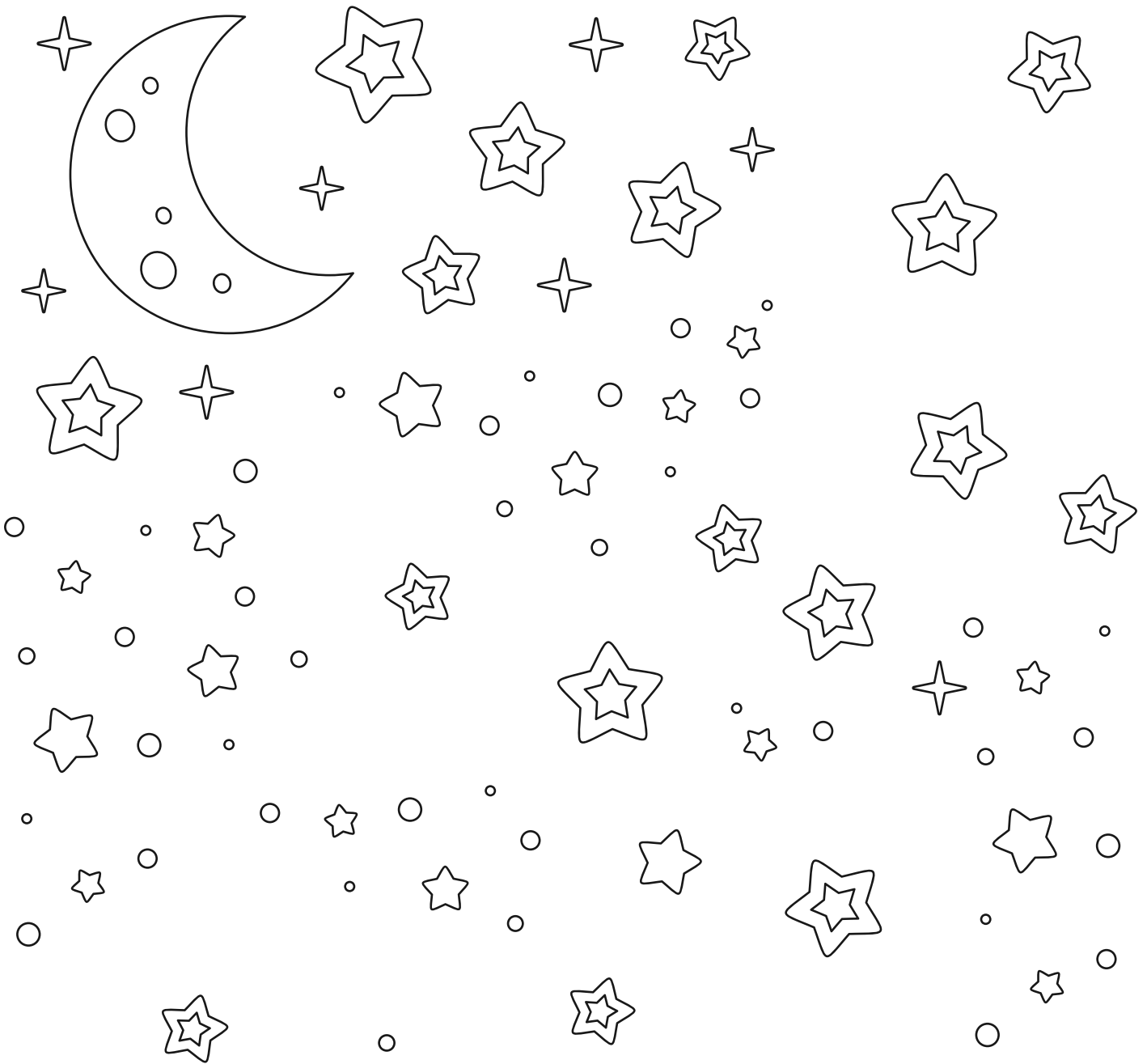
## GENESIS 15:5-6

*<sup>5</sup> And He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then He said to him, "So shall your offspring be."*

*<sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of anything in your life that feels too big, even for God?
2. What does this story teach us about God's promises?



**“Look toward heaven, and number the stars,  
if you are able to number them.”  
Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”**

**GENESIS 15:5**

# GOD COMMANDS ABRAHAM TO SACRIFICE ISAAC

*Listen to the full episode on the Greybobby Bedtime Devotionals podcast.*

## OVERVIEW

Because of sin, God demands a sacrifice. Before Jesus, people sacrificed animals as a reminder of the cost of sin. After the birth of his son, Isaac, Abraham, God told Abraham to take Isaac to the top of a mountain and offer him as a sacrifice. Isaac asked his father where the lamb was for them to sacrifice, and Abraham told him God would provide the lamb. Just as Abraham raised the blade to sacrifice Isaac, God provided a ram in Isaac's place. God did not mean for Abraham to go through with the sacrifice. Instead, He wanted to paint a picture. Abraham would not sacrifice His child of promise, but God would. God would give His only begotten Son, Jesus, to be sacrificed on our behalf.

## KEY IDEAS

### SACRIFICE

This is when somebody or something gives up what they have so another can be made right.

### GOD'S PROVISION

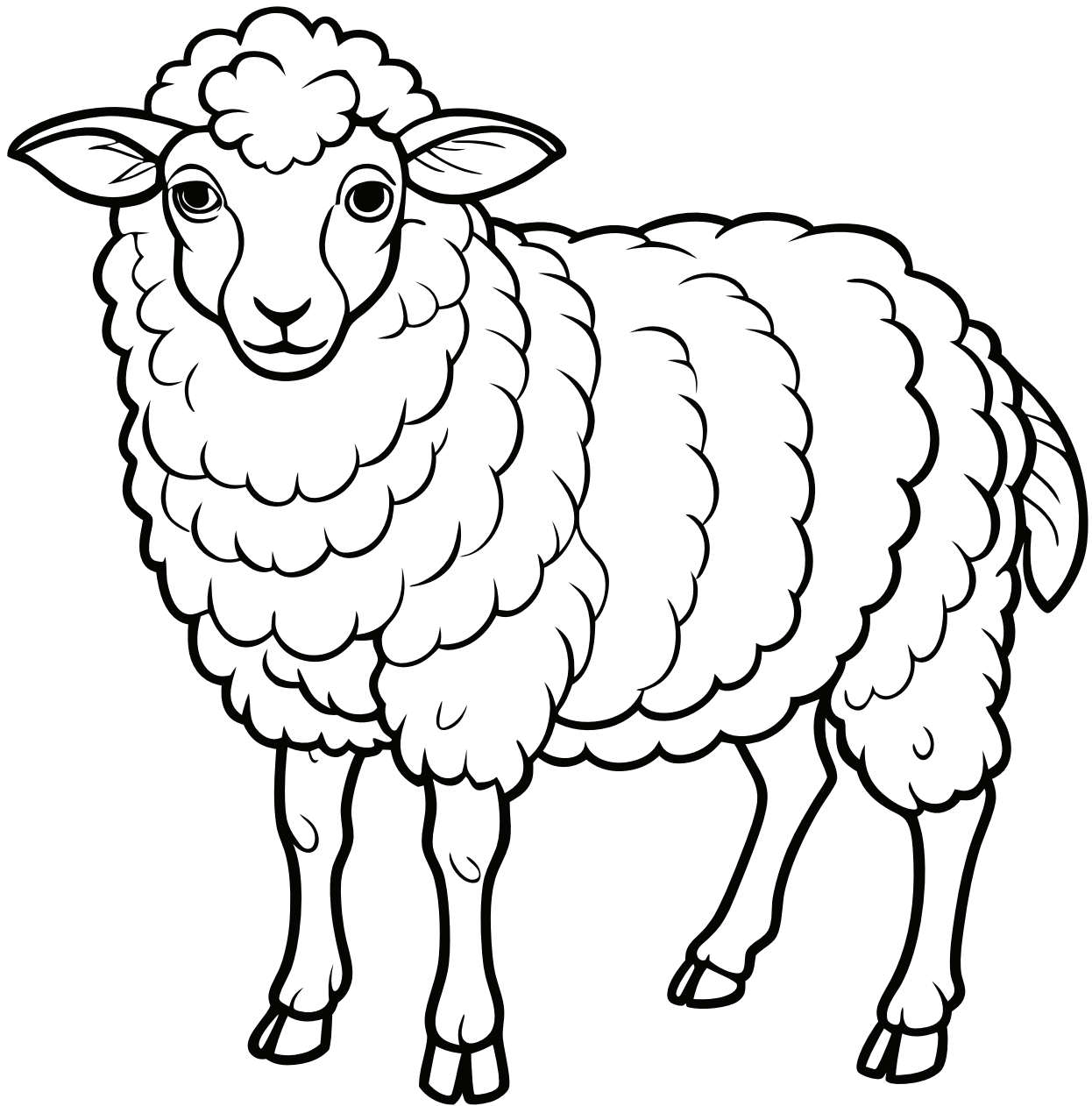
When God provides, He gives us exactly what we need in order to honor and obey Him.

## GENESIS 22:8

*Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would it feel to trust someone even when you don't know what they're going to do?
2. What is something God might ask you to sacrifice or give up? Would it be easy or hard to do?



**Abraham said, "God will provide for himself  
the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."**

**GENESIS 22:8**

LUKE 12:35-48

# THE PARABLE OF THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

*Listen to the full episode on the Greybobby Bedtime Devotionals podcast.*

## OVERVIEW

Jesus is coming back one day and wants us to be ready for him. It's easy to doubt because Jesus is taking so long to return, but Jesus knew this could happen. He told a story about a master who went on a long journey and left his servants behind to take care of his land and valuables. After he was gone for some time, one servant gave up on his master's return and decided to take advantage of his absence. Eventually, the master did return. He threw the wicked servant out of the house. Our job is to serve God and tell other people about him while we wait for Jesus to return.

## KEY IDEAS

### DOUBT

It can be easy to question the truth of God's promises when they feel like they take too long to come true.

### GOD'S BUSINESS

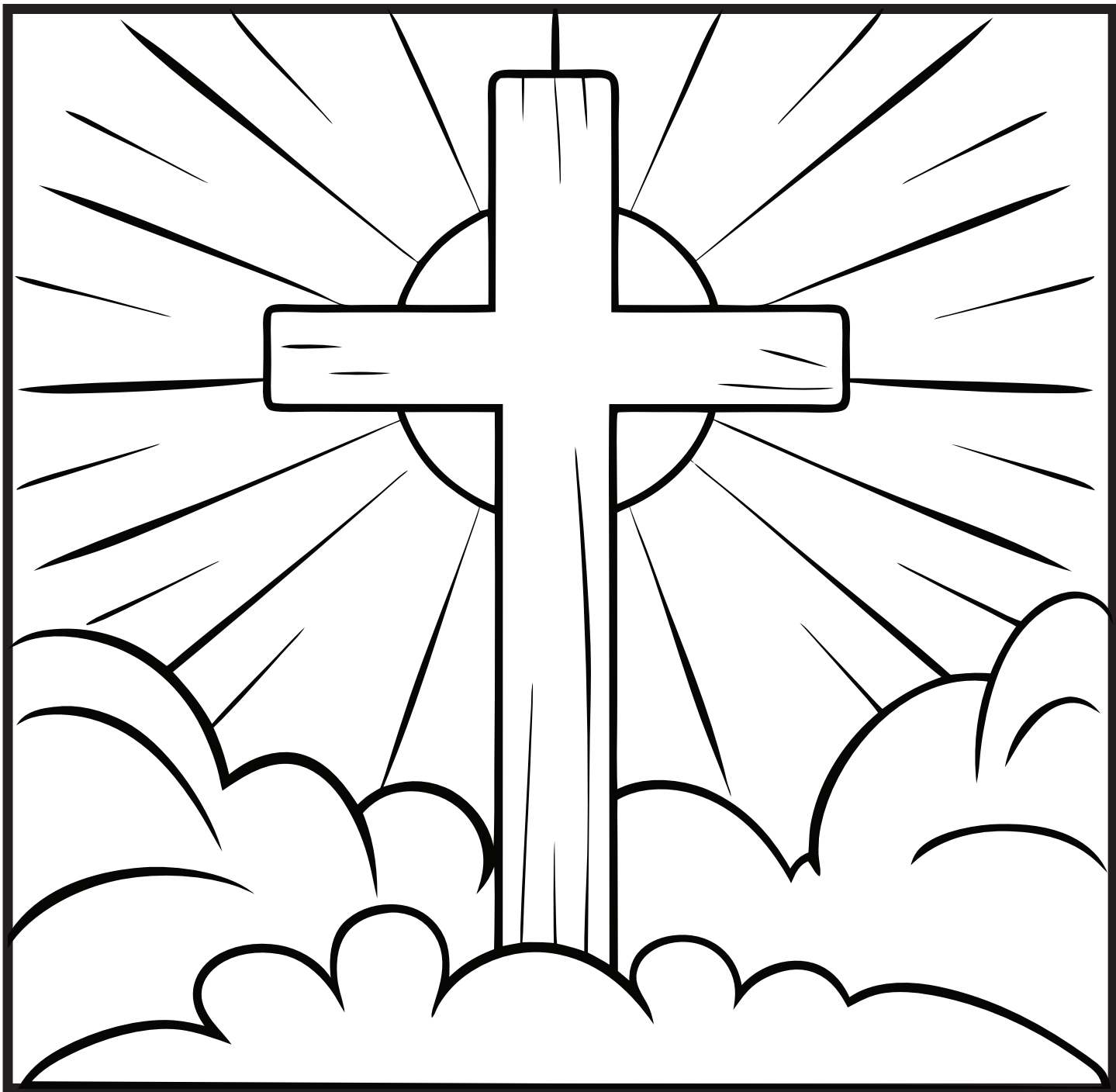
We should be loving and serving God and telling other people about Him.

## LUKE 12:40

*You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When was a time that you did something you knew you shouldn't do because no one was watching?
2. What is something you can do to be about God's business?



**You also must be ready, for the Son of Man  
is coming at an hour you do not expect.**

**LUKE 12:40**