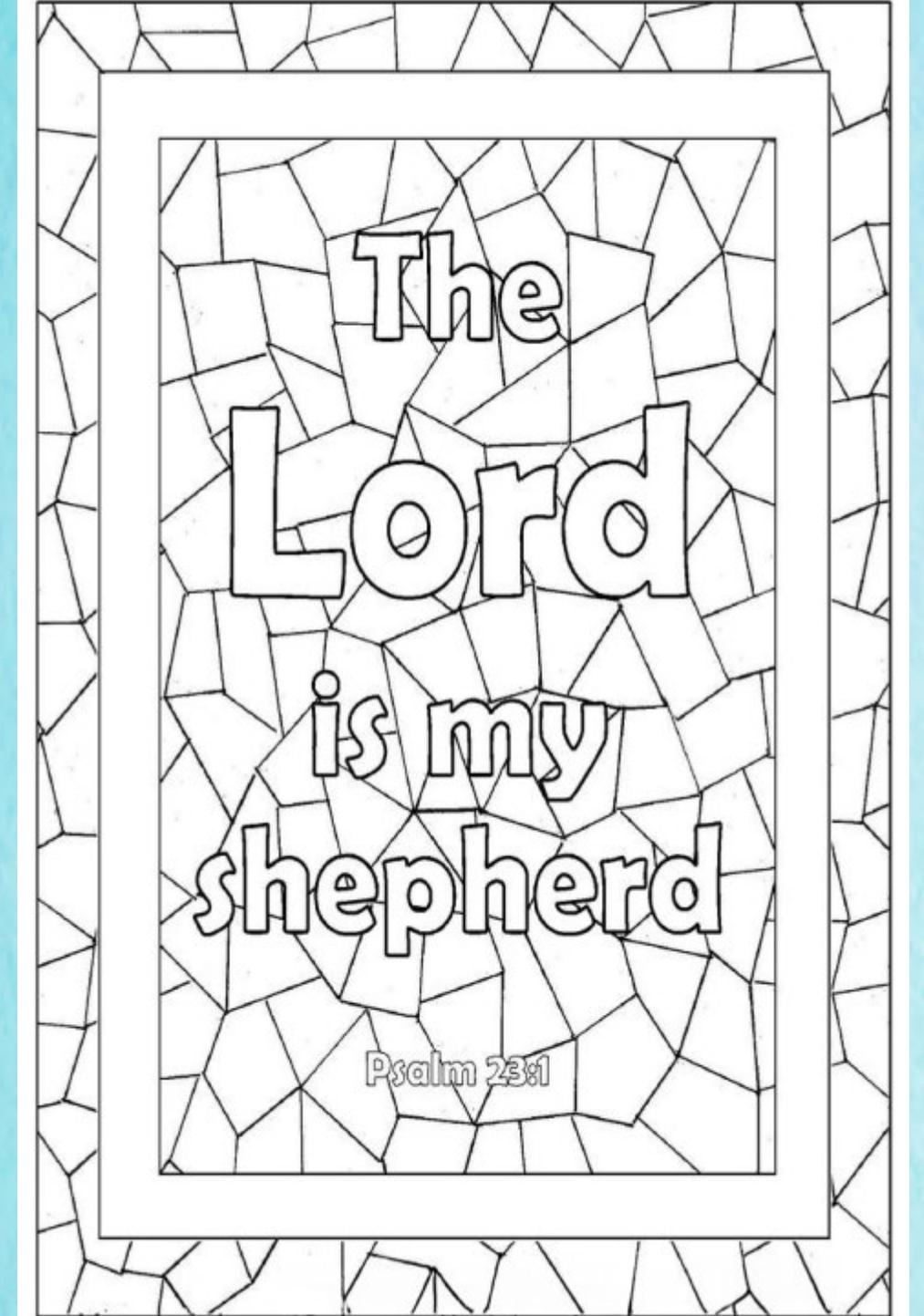


My Sunday School Magazine





The
Lord
is my
shepherd

Psalm 23:1



Hello everyone,

This time we're going to think about homes. In the past, homes could be very different from ours, and people often lived in ways completely unfamiliar to us today.

Home is where we feel safe and loved. I'm sure children long ago felt the same, although many of them had to begin working when they were still quite young.

So this time, we're going to explore the homes of the people we read about in the Bible.

I hope you're enjoying the warmer weather. Happy Easter!

**Love,
Aunty Anne**





I'm sure someone in your family goes out to work! They did in Bible times too. But what were their jobs?

If you grew out of your clothes you couldn't just go to the shops and get a bigger size. Someone had to weave cloth, then make you a new piece of clothing.

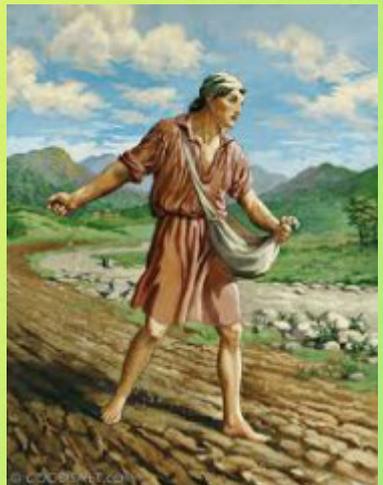


If you needed a new bowl, you had to go to the man who made the pots, so you would be very careful not to break anything!



Each year the farmer had to sow new seed in his fields to grow a crop, so that bread and other foods could be made the following year. This was called broadcasting.

Can you remember who kept the grain when there was a famine in Egypt?





Sheep were very important because they gave wool and meat, so the shepherd had to keep them safe. Can you think of a shepherd who became a king?

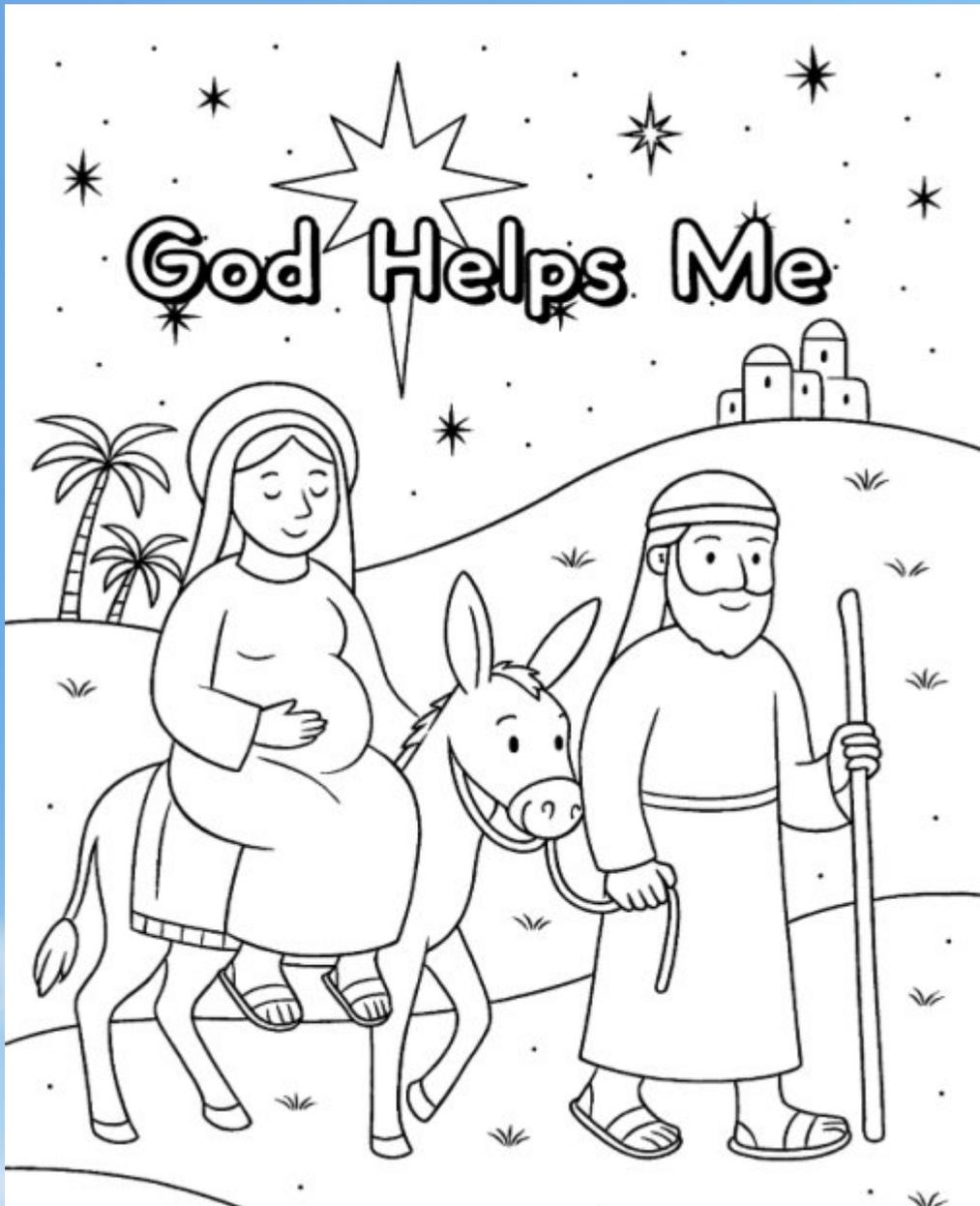
Carpenters were very important they made furniture and tools. They also made cartwheels and barrels. Jesus was a carpenter.



Most people learned their job from their dads, just like Jesus learned from Joseph. What job would you like to learn?



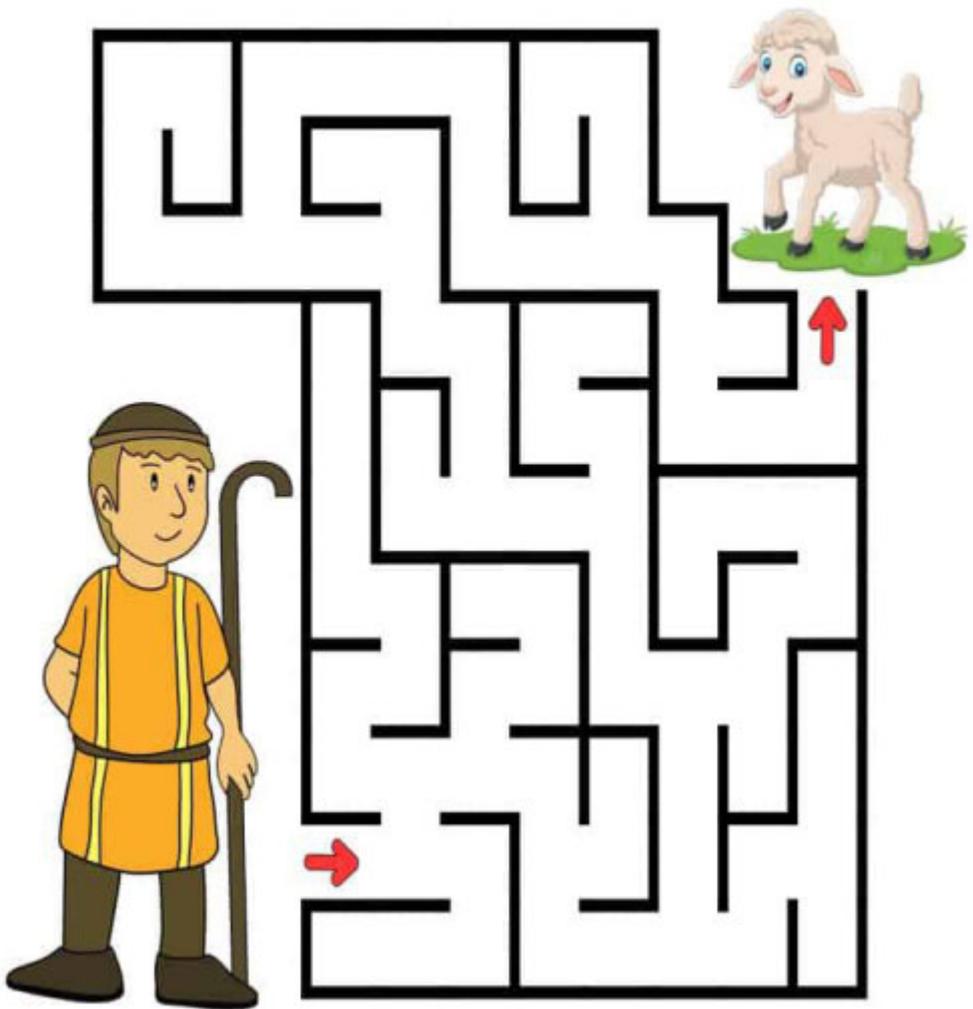
Just as you children play ball games, children in Jesus' time did too. Jesus often used home life in His stories - can you think of any examples? Today we use the word broadcast differently. At the BBC, it means sending out messages, not scattering seeds!



The Journey to Bethlehem Luke 2:1-5

In those days, the king wanted every person to go back to their hometown to be counted. So, Mary and Joseph had to make the long journey to Bethlehem. Mary rode on a donkey because she was going to have her baby.

Help the Shepherd find the
lost sheep



Lots of animals build homes for themselves. Wasps build nests, badgers make setts, and rabbits dig warrens. Some animals even build homes that are just as impressive as the ones people make!



One example is the sociable weaver bird, which lives in Africa. Each nest can be home to at least one hundred birds, and each pair has their own little room. There is also a bigger space where birds can rest together.



The nesting spaces are lined with soft feathers. The entrance to the nest is protected by spiky plants that keep predators away and the way the nest is made makes sure it doesn't get too hot or too cold, whatever the weather is outside. The nests are woven from grasses and can weigh up to 1000kg.



The leaf cutter ant is another animal which makes amazing homes.

Their homes are made in the earth and look like a whole city! They even have special places for growing fungi and tunnels for bringing in fresh air. Over time, the nest can grow to be 30 metres across with more than 3 million ants living inside. I wouldn't want to step on that!





You may be able to spot one of the worst home builders in the garden or on city streets: pigeons. The nests they make can't really be called nests. They are just a few sticks shoved together, and they are put anywhere - even in places that are no good for nesting!

Often they will fall down or blow away. At least it's quick to rebuild them even if it doesn't provide a cosy home!

My home!

God gave all these creatures the ability to make wonderful homes! If you could design your own what would it be like?

STORYTIME

Mum was always putting up posters; some were Ok but this one was a bit boring! "Why should we?" they asked. "We always have to do as we're told!" Their friends didn't seem to have so many rules and they had fun.



Behind their home they had a big field and they had fun playing football and other things with their family - even Gran and Grandad! Their friends loved it too because it was so big.

One Saturday, Jake was very excited. He was going to his friend's to play in the woods. He promised Mum there would be a grown-up with them, but when he got there he found that wasn't true - they were on their own. What an adventure, but when mum asked if he'd enjoyed it, he wasn't too sure.



The family had a new iPad, but Jake and his sister weren't allowed to use it on their own. Sometimes no one could work out how it worked, but Grandad could!!!

Jake had just had a birthday party, so when he was invited to his friend's party, he arrived a bit early. While they waited, they went to his friend's bedroom. Jake was surprised to see a big TV - and they could watch it!

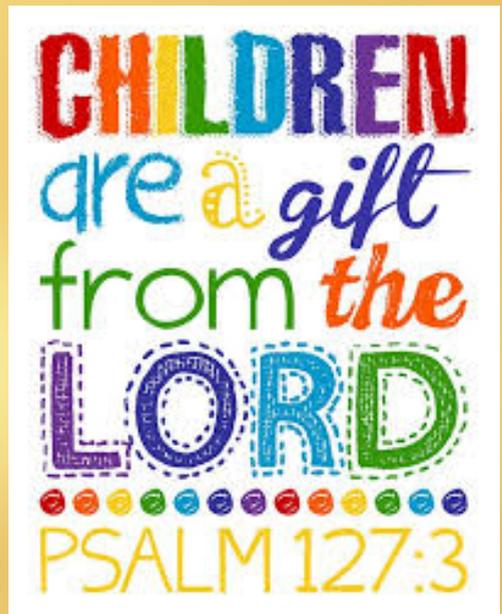


When Dad came to get him, Jake was glad. He was very quiet and Dad asked if there was a problem. Jake said he hadn't liked the TV programme or playing in the woods. He didn't feel safe like at home.



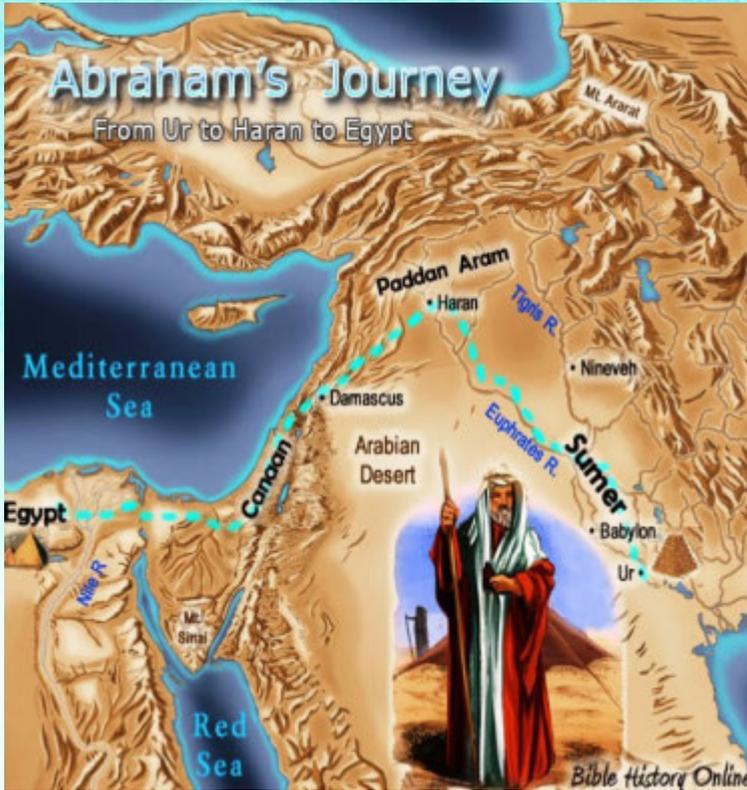
When they got home, Jake told his Mum and she explained that rules are there for a reason - to keep you safe! That's why their computer is in the kitchen, so that nothing bad is seen on it. Jake said he actually thought the new poster was good after all.

On Saturday morning, the doorbell rang. It was the postman with a parcel, and Mum said they could open it. Inside was another poster! Dad explained that they were God's special gift, and that's why they had to look after them. The first poster was a message for the children, and the new one was a message for their Mum and Dad.



In Sunday school, we hear about people who God chose specially to do something. One of the first people was a man called Abram. God chose him to be the beginning of His special people.

He lived in some very interesting places.



Abram's first home was in Ur, a very rich city. People there lived in two-storey houses, and canals ran through the city to bring water to everyone.

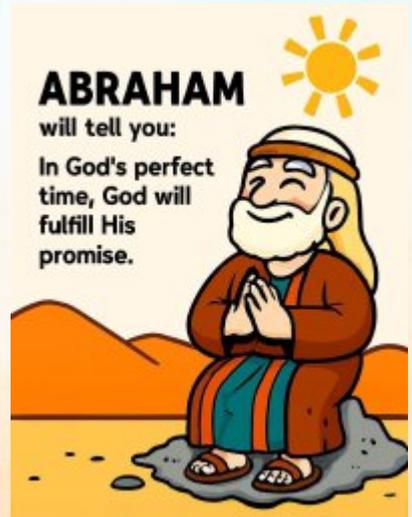


Then he lived in Haren which is modern-day Turkey. It was a rich city, like Ur. The people worshipped lots of gods - but Abram didn't.

God knew Abram and decided to help him. He told Abram to move, and from that time on, Abram and most of his family lived in a tent. His name was changed to Abraham, and he became very rich.



THE LORD HAD SAID TO ABRAM, "GO FROM YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR FATHER'S HOUSEHOLD TO THE LAND I WILL SHOW YOU. "I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS YOU; I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE A BLESSING. I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND WHOEVER CURSES YOU I WILL CURSE; AND ALL PEOPLES ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU."
GENESIS 12:1-3



Could you make a cardboard box home?



Box



House



Have fun!!!

For you to read and remember!

As for me
and my
house,
we will serve
the Lord.

Joshua 24:15



I'm sure Jesus knew this verse

Letters and
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