

## A NOTE TO PARENTS

The Gospel for the first Sunday following Easter Day is always the story of Doubting Thomas—a story set “eight days” (i.e. one week) after the day when the women came to the tomb and found it empty. Then, for this Sunday’s story, we go backwards in time, back to the evening of the first Easter Day. Here is what has happened as the story opens:

Two disciples have left the little company for a nearby village. On their way, Luke tells us, they meet a stranger, and as they talk with him and share their confusion, anguish, grief and hope, they find that he offers them, from the Scriptures, a whole new understanding of the place of God and the Messiah in all that has happened. Deeply moved, they invite him to stay with them. He does—he breaks the bread and blesses it, and they recognize him, and he vanishes. They run all the way back to Jerusalem to share this incredible news with the fellowship—only to find them saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon.” Into this atmosphere of excitement, confusion, and lingering doubt, Jesus comes. This seems to be the same as the *first* appearance in last week’s Gospel—the one that Thomas missed.

Little, in fact, happens in today’s story. The disciples are terrified that Jesus might be a ghost, but he has them touch his hands and feet, he eats before them, and again he opens for them the Scriptures. Simple, homey stuff. But they had not recognized him, because he was different. He is not simply his old self; he is a “new creation:” the “first-begotten of the dead.” His life is of a new kind, beyond death; he belongs to a new world.

Ask your child how we recognize someone we love who has changed since we last saw them. Do your relatives see you only rarely? Do they scarcely know your children from visit to visit, as they grow? It’s hard to feel comfortable with some one who is different from what we remember and loved. What can help us to feel at ease again? What did Jesus do to help his friends?

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THE SUNDAY PAPER, 19 Colony Road, New Haven, CT 06511, USA  
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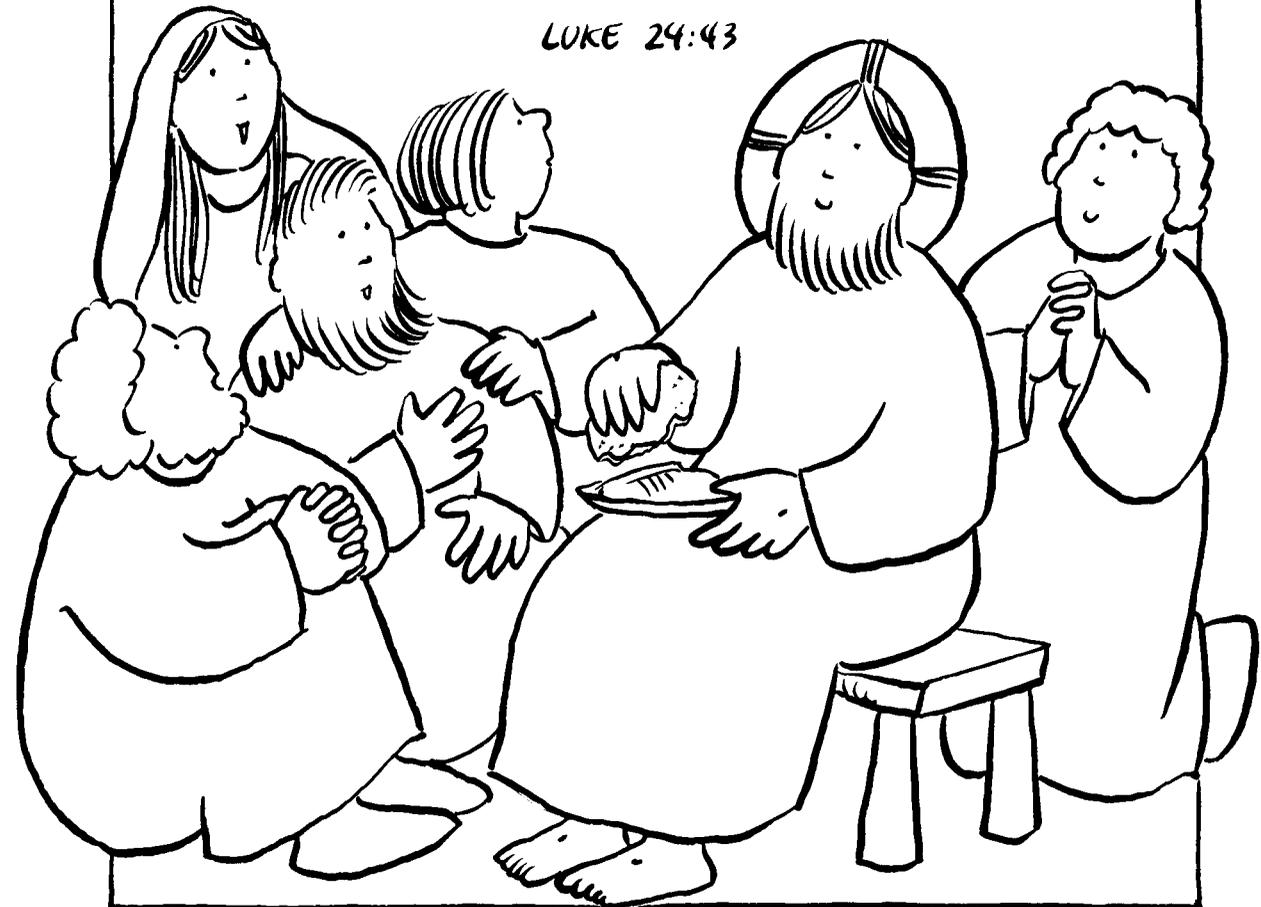
# THE SUNDAY PAPER

# JUNIOR

Year B  
3rd SUNDAY  
of EASTER

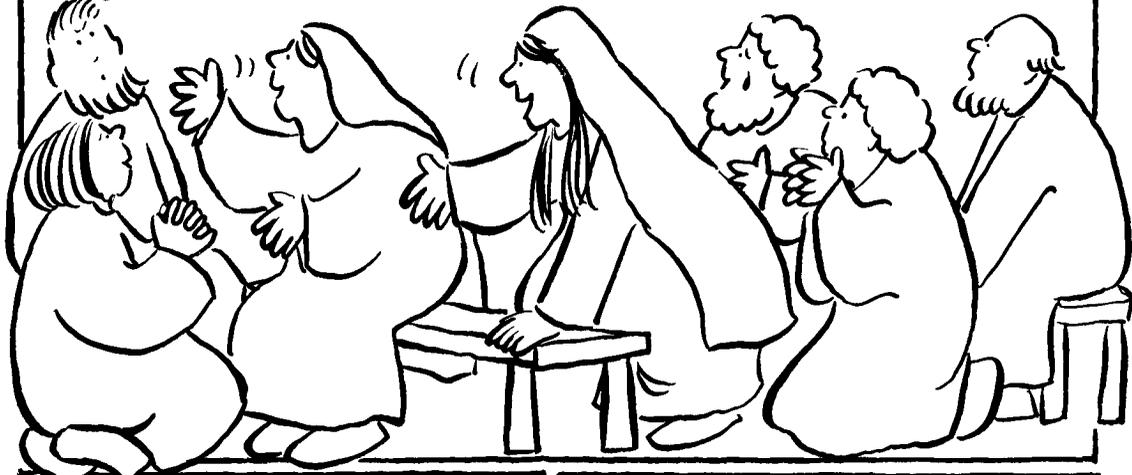
Jesus's friends gave him some bread  
and fish, and he ate  
with them.

LUKE 24:43



Jesus died. But then some of his friends said they had seen him, alive!

Others had not seen him. They did not know what to think.



Then Jesus came to them. Some of them said, "It's a ghost!"

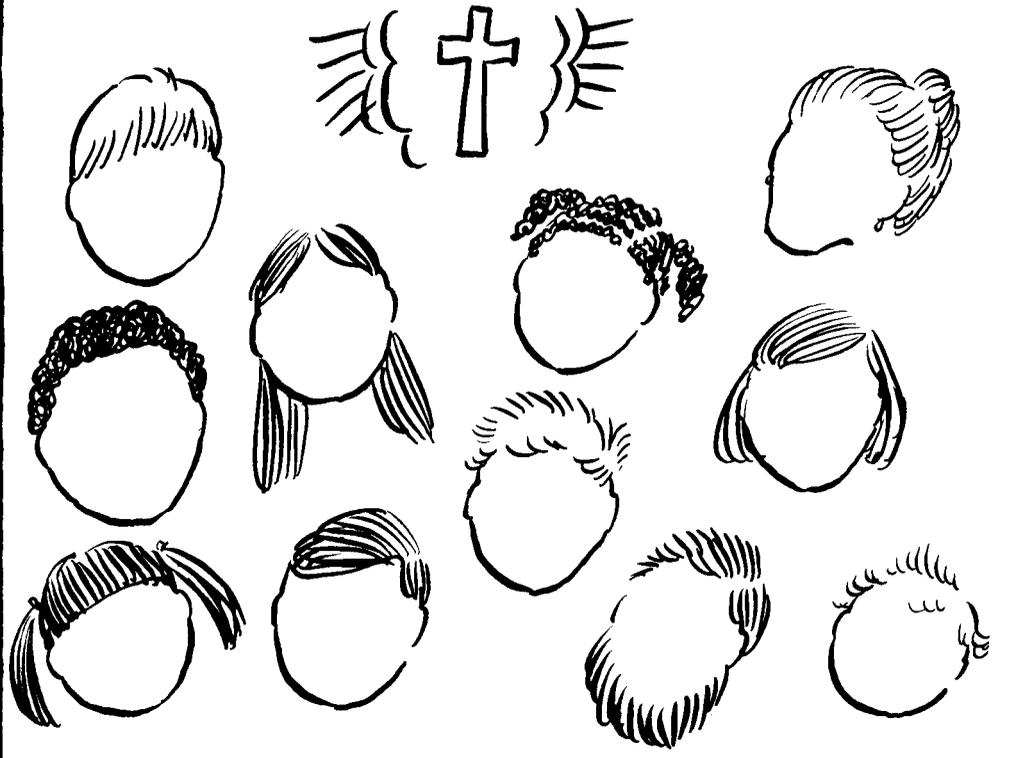
Jesus said, "Touch me. I'm not a ghost." And he ate with them.



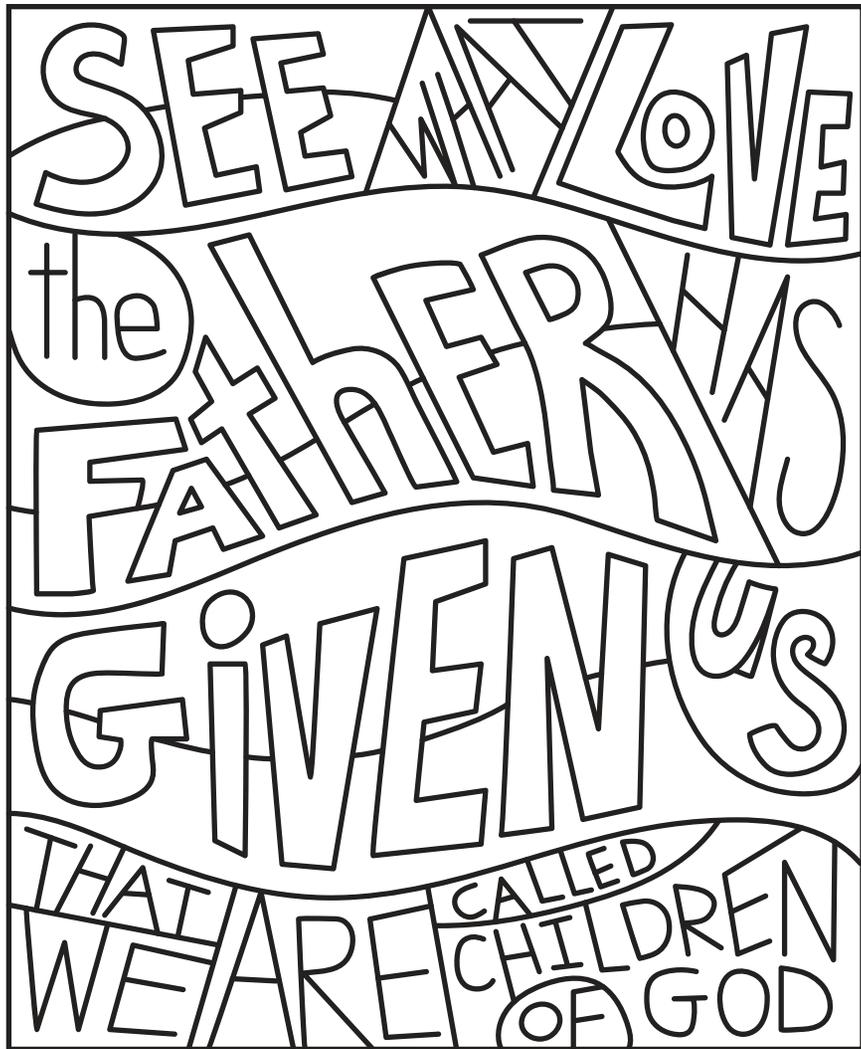
Jesus died, but he did not stay dead. God gave him new life to share with us. Now we know that God is stronger than death.

Jesus was not a ghost. He was alive. His friends could touch him. At first they were scared. Then they were filled with joy!

Draw faces on these people who love Jesus. Are they sad? or scared? or happy? Why?

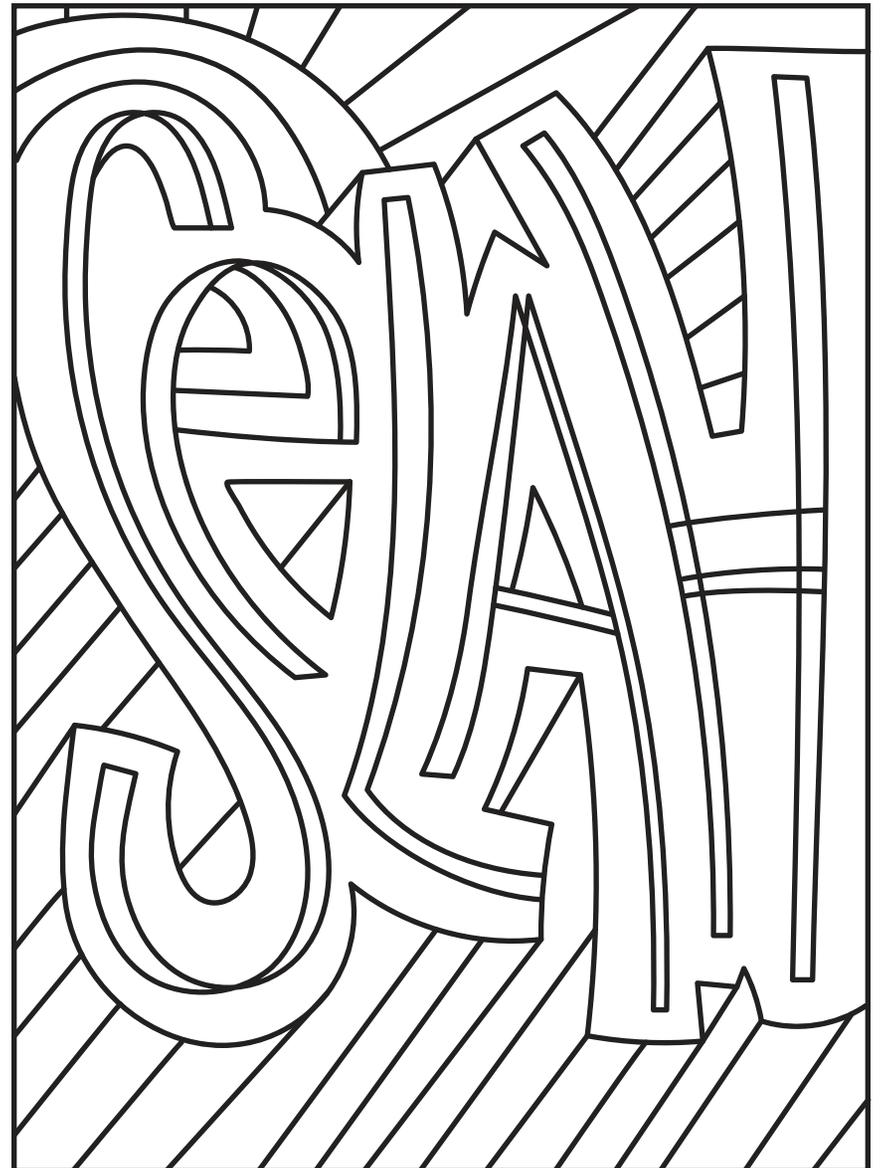


# COLOR IN THE WORDS



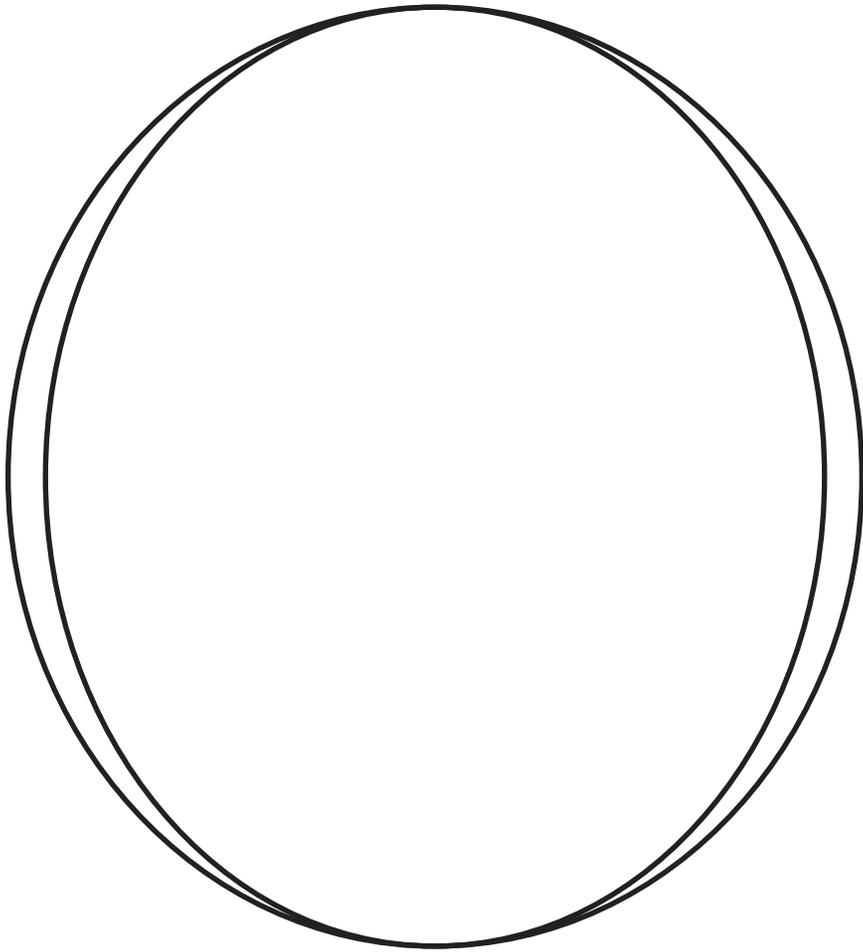
# CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48.



illustrated  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

# DRAW IT

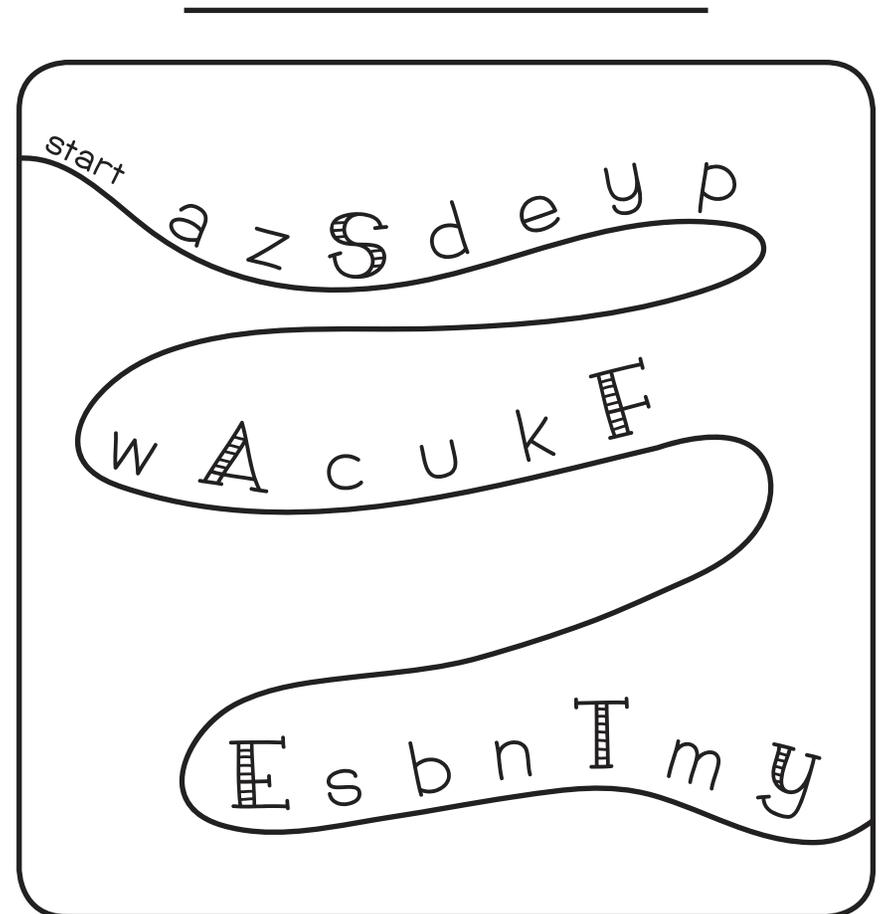


Luke 24 tells the amazing story of Jesus appearing to the disciples after he rose from the dead. In order to prove that he was real and alive, Jesus told them to make some food for him to eat. They ate some fish together. Imagine you are sitting with the disciples and Jesus eating. Draw what you think this scene looked like. How did the disciples feel? How would you feel?

# FOLLOW the PATH

Psalm 4 says we can lay down and sleep in peace and that we don't need to worry. Follow the path of letters and each time you come to a capital letter, write it below. The word spelled by all the capital letters is what God gives us so we can go to bed with peaceful hearts at night.

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start

a z S d e y p

w A c u k F

E s b n T m y



O MY GOD, I TRY  
BY DAY, BUT YOU DO NOT  
ANSWER, AND BY NIGHT  
BUT FIND NO REST.