

Jesus Cautions His Followers

BIBLE PASSAGE: Mark 9:38-50

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did the disciples tell the man to stop doing? (Casting out unclean spirits in Jesus' name)
- Did Jesus say the man needed to stop? Why or why not? (No, because anyone who is for us will not be against us)
- If we are followers of Jesus and we have friends that are not, what do we need to do? (teach them about Jesus)
- What are some "barriers" or sins that can come between us and God? (examples may include lying, disobeying, being unkind, thinking mean thoughts, being jealous, etc)
- What do we need to do to break down the barrier between Jesus and ourselves? (have faith in Jesus, confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe it in our hearts, give Him our whole lives)
- How can you show that you trust in God?
- What did today's story teach you about Jesus and who He is?

BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

*** a h i o**

Things you need: printables, coloring page and crayons
As your child colors, discuss today's lesson.

***Do You Know This Man?**

Things you need: Look up a picture of Donald Trump (or another public figure that they have heard of) and show it to your child

Do you know this man? (hold up the picture) Can you tell me who he is? His name is _____ and anyone who knows anything at all about _____ knows who he is, but I didn't ask you if you knew who he is, I asked you if you knew him. Most of us know who he is and something about him, but we don't actually know him. We have never met him face to face. Knowing about someone is not the same thing as knowing them.

Just about everybody knows who Jesus is. Almost everyone has heard stories about how He was born in a stable and laid in a manger. They have heard about some of the things He did while he was on earth. They may have even heard about how He died on a cross. They know a lot about Jesus, but they don't know Jesus. How do we get to know Him? The Bible says that when we can say "Jesus is Lord," and believe in our hearts that He died and was raised from the dead to save us, then we can say that we really know Him. Do you know Jesus, or do you just know about Jesus? He wants you to know Him as your own personal Lord and Savior.

***Stumbling Blocks**

Things you need: a large piece of cardboard or some other item behind which you can conceal your hand from the child's view

Today I thought we'd play a game. Here are the rules: I'm going to hold up a certain number of fingers and I'd like you to count them and tell me how many I'm holding up. Easy enough? Let's try it. (Hold up fingers in 2-3 combinations allowing children to name how many you've raised.)

OK...let's keep going. (This time use the cardboard to conceal the number of fingers you're holding up.) How many now? Can you tell? Why not?

Oh, is the cardboard a problem? Makes it hard to follow the rules now, doesn't? I'm doing my part, but you can't do yours, because I've put a problem – a barrier – in your way.

Do you know that word? A barrier is something that blocks something from happening.

Some barriers are good. On the road you might notice that sometimes there are barriers (walls or cables) between the cars going one direction and the cars going the other. And there are barriers at the zoo aren't there? Dangerous animals are kept in cages or behind glass to block them from getting out or hurting anyone.

But sometimes barriers make it hard to follow the rules and do what's right. We sometimes call those "stumbling blocks" – because they trip us up and keep us from doing what we're supposed to.

MAKE IT PERSONAL- For example... When I was your age I sometimes had problems doing the right thing at school when I would sit with certain friends. I knew the rules, but it was so tempting to talk and be silly when certain friends were right there with me. Can you guess what my teachers did when that happened? You're right: They moved us apart. They helped me to do the right thing by taking away the problem – or stumbling block – that was making things so difficult for me.

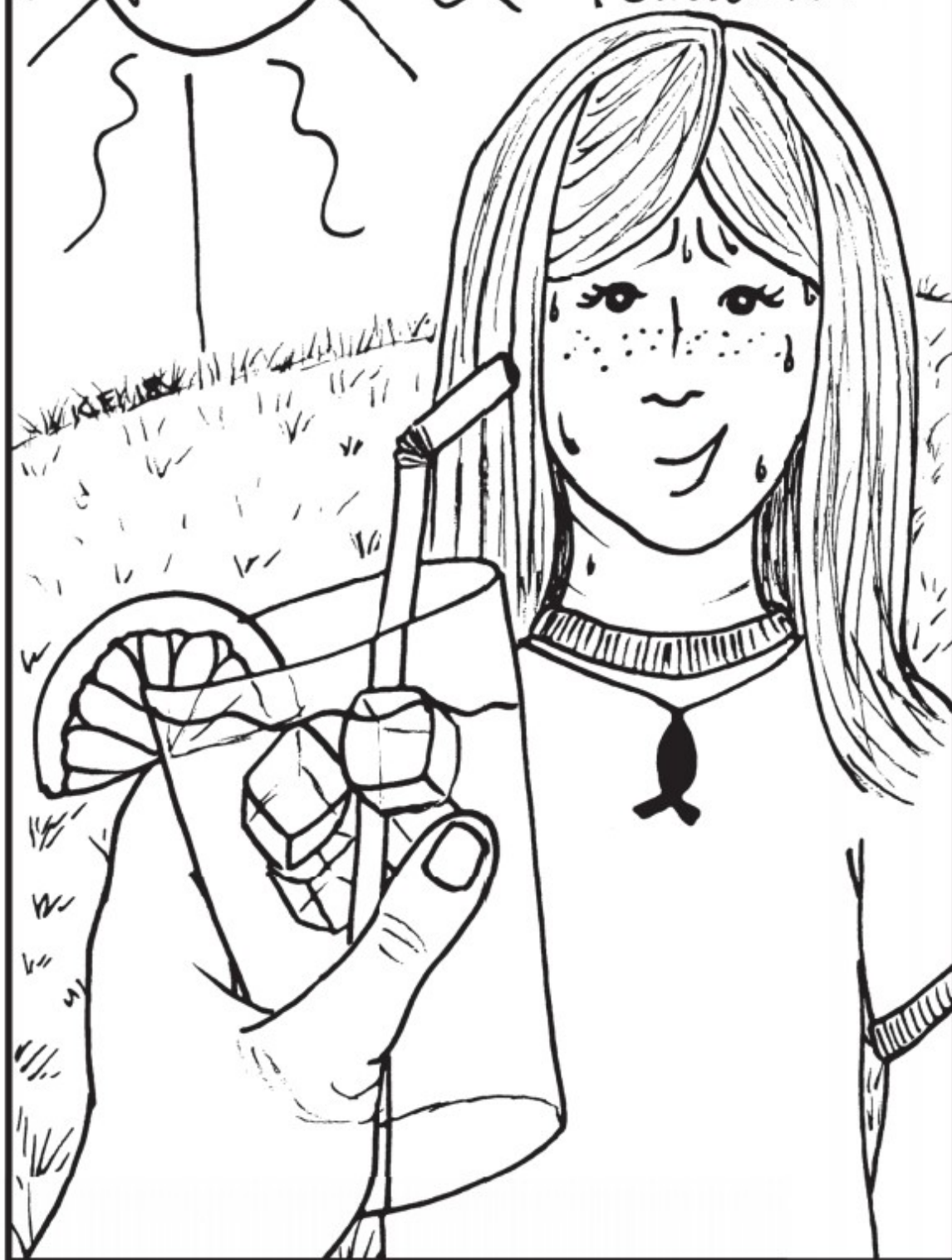
In today's Gospel story Jesus talks about stumbling blocks. He tells the disciples that if something is getting in your way and keeping you from making good choices you need to get rid of it. So this week I want to challenge you to be on the lookout for stumbling blocks. If you find yourself doing less than the right thing, ask yourself, "what's my problem here? What's making it harder for me to follow the rules?" And if you can find a barrier – or a stumbling block – figure out a way to move it aside or get rid of it altogether so that you can get back to work doing what's right. Will you try?

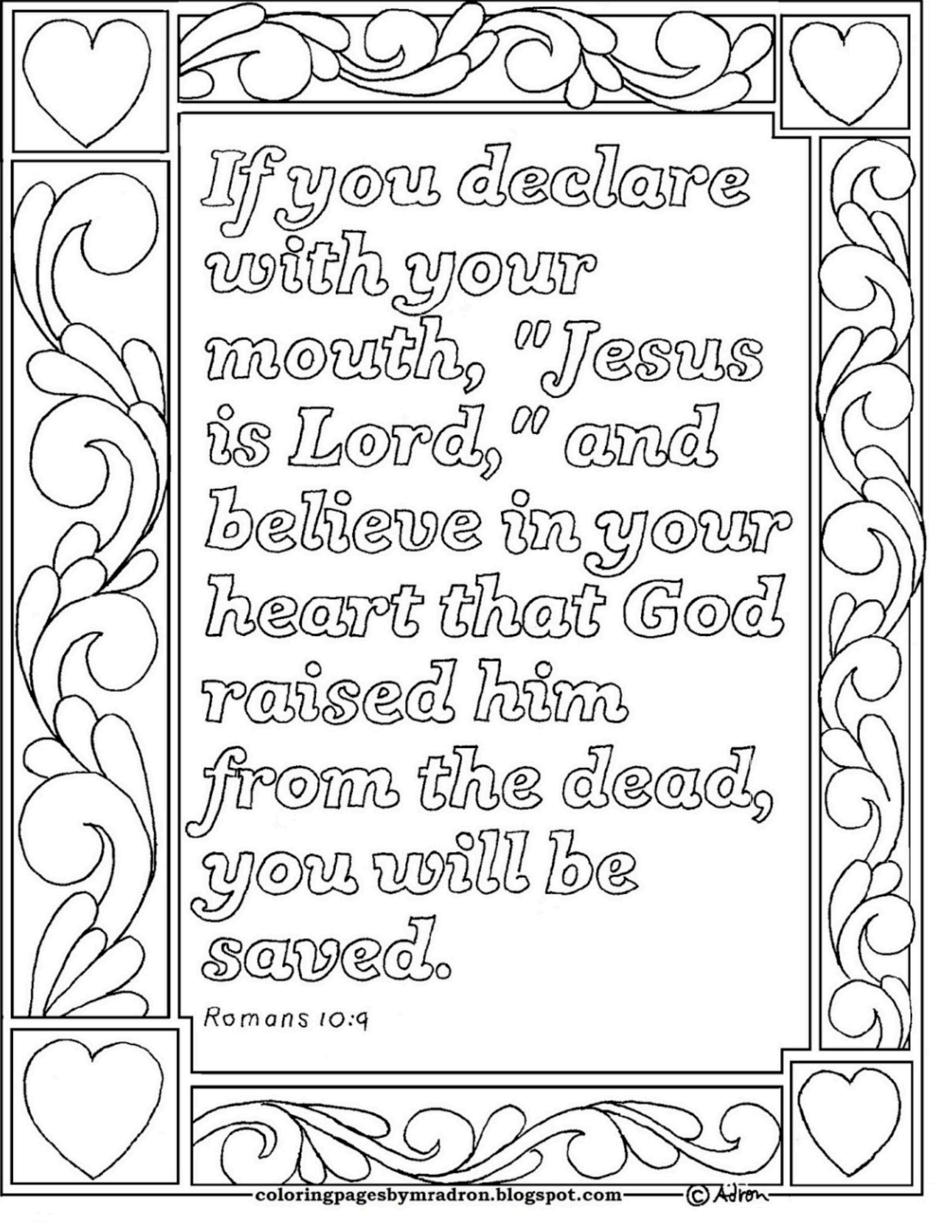
***Pray**

Things you need: nothing

Sometimes life's stumbling blocks can get in our way and make it difficult to follow Jesus' example. Ask God to help you to find them and to move them out of the way. Ask your child if they can think of anything specific that they know is a stumbling block. Tell them that as a family you can all pray for those distractions to be removed so that they can follow Jesus.

"For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward." Mk 9:38-50





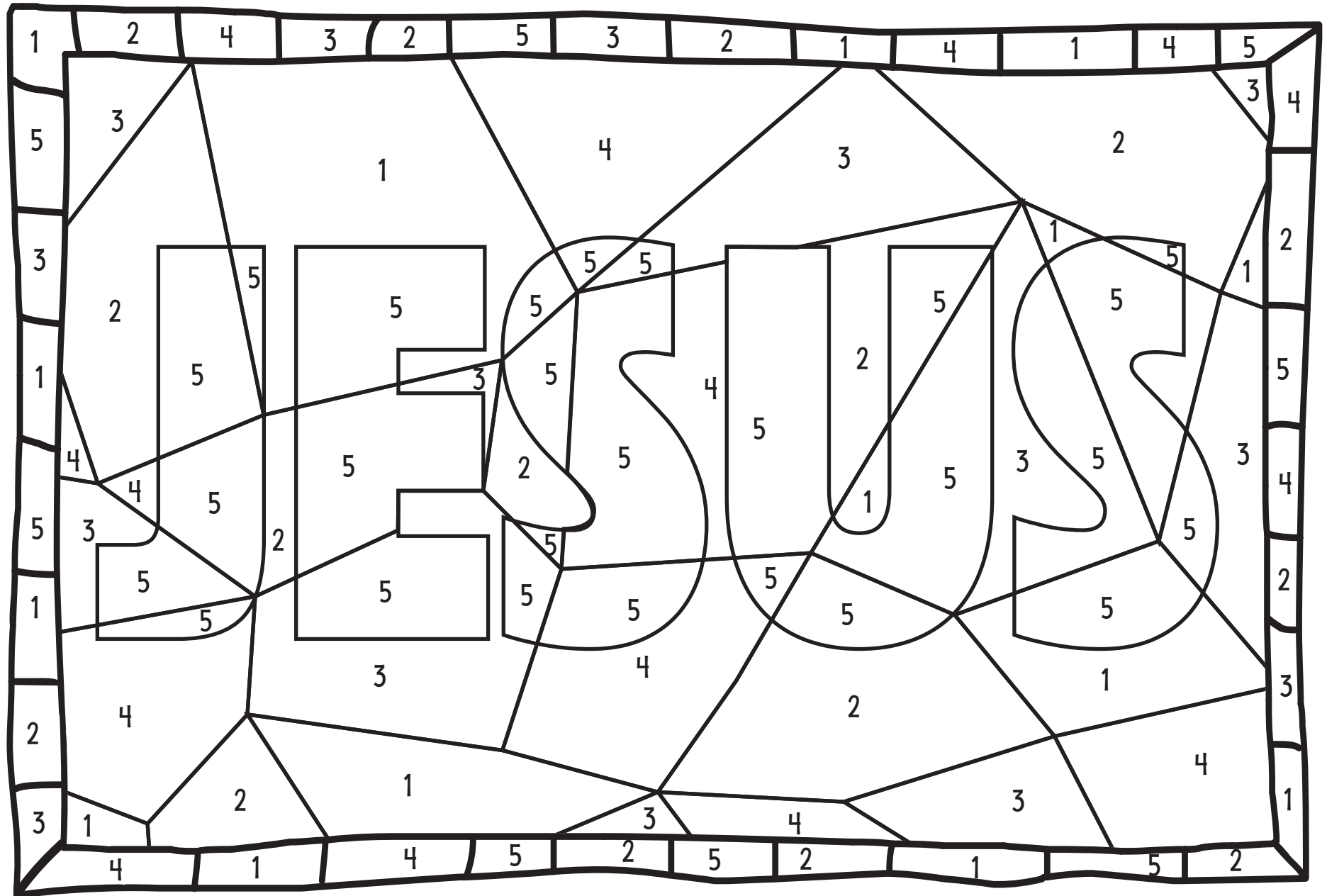
*If you declare
with your
mouth, "Jesus
is Lord," and
believe in your
heart that God
raised him
from the dead,
you will be
saved.*

Romans 10:9

My Best Friend . . .

Use the code to color the shapes and find a mystery word.

1: Blue 2: Green 3: Orange 4: Purple 5: Yellow



I am with you always.

Matthew 28:20