

Tropinkka

The Little Path

Christian Magazine for Kids

Exploring the Tenth Commandment



Exploring Faith
With Friends
Around the World!



Wise Words



Write down the red letters to read Solomon's advice to each of us from the book of Proverbs.

A large scroll with a winding path of letters. Red letters are scattered throughout the path, and blue letters form the rest of the path. The letters are: A, D, D, L, O, N, O, S, T, L, E, N, T, Y, B, O, U, R, A, H, E, A, G, R, E, T, E, N, S, I, R, T, E, I, N, N, I, N, S, Y, V, O, W, L, O, A, T, F, U, B, V, S, L, W, L, O, A, T, F, U, B, V, S, Y, A, B, S, Y, A, E, Z, E, E, A, A, O, L, I, O, U, S, F, W, O, R, N, T, H, L, E, F, E, R, A, R, P, O, E, F, T, H, B, E, L, O, E, R, D, T, L, H, E, R, L, E, Y, L, H, E, U, R, U, J, S, D, S, I, Y, R, R, O, H, F, E, P, S, O, H, E, H, R, O, U, T, U, F, A, E, O, N, U, A, D, N, D, L, Y, O, P, U, R, E, H, O, C, P, E, S, W, H, I, L, F, L, M, N, O, G, T, B, O, F, F, V, O, T, T, U, I, C, E.

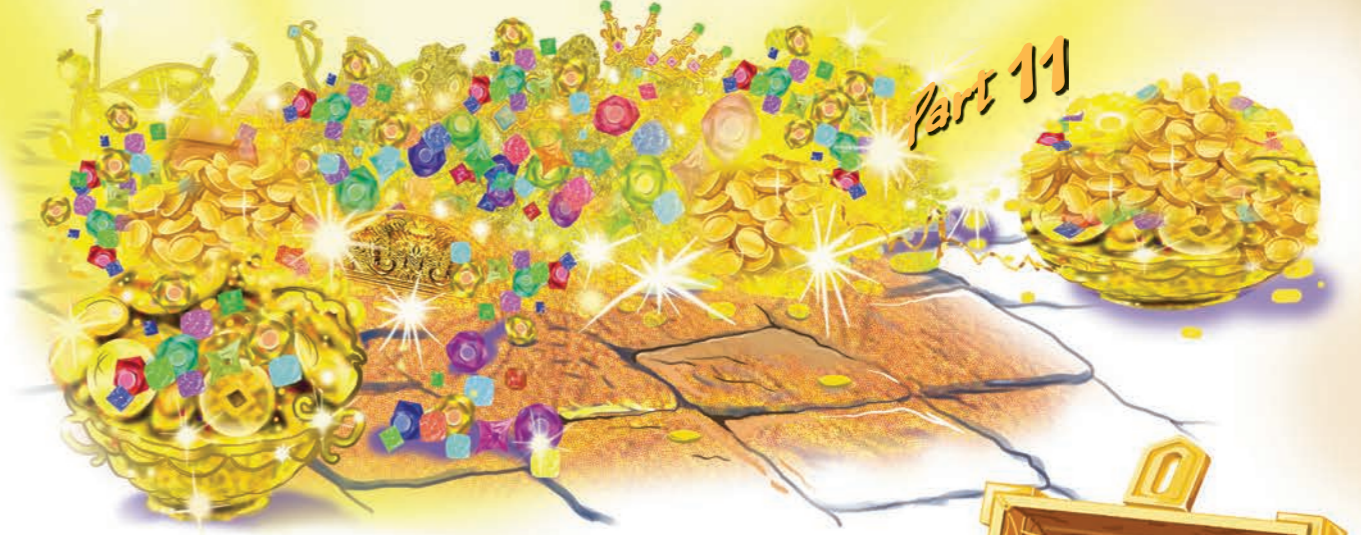
You'll find the answer on page 31.

Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA



Elena MIKULA

REAL TREASURE



"So what did you say to Tim? Is he going to admit he broke the window?" Mary asked Peter as he walked into the living room. Peter sighed. "I tried to talk to him. He laughed at me when I told him to tell the truth because that's what God wants us to do. Then he said if I told the teacher, he'd get me back!"



"It'll be okay. We'll wait a little and see what happens. Maybe he will decide to tell the truth after all," Mary said, trying to cheer Peter up. "Come on, today is a special day." "Yes, we're finally at the end. Today, we're on the tenth commandment – the last one!" Peter announced with a hint of excitement in his voice as he opened the Bible on the table to the 20th chapter of Exodus. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."



“What should we write for the short version of this commandment?” Mary asked. “Write DO NOT COVET. What else is there to say? Most of these don’t apply to us. We talked about the wife in the seventh commandment...” Peter’s cheeks grew red from embarrassment as he spoke. “And we don’t have any donkeys

or servants. All that’s left is the part about the house and coveting what belongs to the neighbors.”

Peter thought for a moment. “Mary, I want to make sure I understand what this means. Take our homes for example. Your family lives in a nice apartment with lots of room. You have a big kitchen and many people can fit around your dining room table. You even have your own bedroom and bathroom. I like coming over to your place. My family lives in a very small apartment. I share a room with my brother and my grandma. Sometimes I wish our apartment was like yours. Is that a sin?”

“I think it’s normal to want a nice, comfortable place to live. But we can get into trouble and sin when we start comparing what we have with what others have. Comparing often leads to jealousy. When we get jealous, we’re telling God, ‘You’re not fair. You gave me less than you gave my neighbor. Maybe you love me less.’”

“So you’re saying it’s okay to want good things, but we sin when it turns into jealousy. How can we tell



the difference between wanting good things and being jealous?” Peter asked.

Mary thought for a moment, and Peter answered his own question. “Jealousy is probably when we want something and we’re annoyed because we don’t have it. Your apartment is nice, but that doesn’t annoy me. I know your dad has a good job and he works hard to provide for his family. That’s why you have such a nice home. But what about a bad person who is dishonest and cheats others? What if he has lots of money and lives in luxury next to some poor people who don’t have enough money to buy food? How can they look at what he has and not be annoyed?”

“Peter, God knows what each of us should have. He is God and He has the right to decide what we get. For Him, the most important thing is the condition of

our hearts. Poverty or wealth – it’s just part of the circumstances God uses to test us and show what’s in our hearts. The test of wealth is not easy. When a person doesn’t have much, he’s more likely to depend on God and believe in Him. Riches often make people forget about God. Of course there are some rich people who are kind. They help others and tithe at church, but those people are rare. Money makes you think you’re all powerful – you can buy anything, fix any problem, and never have to worry about hardships in life. That’s enough to convince many rich people that they don’t need God. But worldly riches don’t last. They can make your life comfortable, but they can never give you peace or buy eternal life.”

“Yes, and we know that the best treasure is heavenly treasure. Having faith, hope, and love in our lives is more important than having big houses or fat wallets. Let’s just write DO NOT COVET for the tenth commandment,” Peter said.

Mary nodded. “But remember, it’s not always easy to follow this commandment. It applies to more than just riches. We can be jealous of another person’s strength, intelligence, or beauty,” she added.

“Is that so? Then you better be careful when you’re around me, Mary!” Peter joked as he pretended to admire his reflection in the mirror.

(To be continued)



Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA



The Tenth Commandment

Several years ago, I visited a village in Kazakhstan. This was the village where I spent my childhood - where I first went to school and learned to swim and ice-skate. It was interesting to see the village through the eyes of an adult. I was driving down the road when I noticed a boy peddling a bicycle along the dusty street. Stopping the car, I approached the boy. "Are you happy?" I asked him. A huge smile lit up his face. "Yes, of course!" he answered. He jumped up on his bicycle - which didn't even have a seat - and continued racing along the dusty street. This boy was content with what he had. What if he hadn't been content? What if he wanted a nicer bicycle like the ones the wealthy kids had? Would he have been happy? No. God knows what we're like. That's why He gave us the following commandment:

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor" (Exodus 20:17).



The Bible says godliness with contentment is great gain. The richest man is the one who is happy with what he has, not the one who sees something shiny and new and, since it's better than what he has, he immediately loses his joy and is no longer grateful to God.

God wants us to be happy, that's why He gave us the commandment, "Do not covet." He wants to save us from the jealousy, the fighting, and the other sins that plague us if we are constantly comparing ourselves to others and wanting what is not ours.

With this commandment, God wants to protect us from being jealous of the ability or the success of others. It's so easy for us to think, if only I was as strong as him or if only I was as beautiful as her! Can we be happy if we think like that? No. The happy person is the one who is content with the gifts God has given him.

Always check your heart, your thoughts, and your desires. There's a reason God said, "You shall not covet...anything that belongs to your neighbor." Do you want to be happy? Then be content with what you have and thank God for it!

Waldemar ZORN



I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD

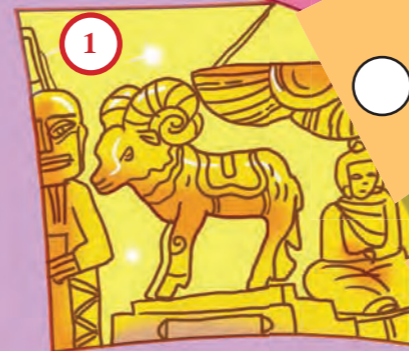
Which commandment goes with which picture? Write number of the commandment shown in the picture in the corresponding circle.



belongs to others

make for yourself an idol

You must not



misuse the name of the Lord

commit adultery

steal

murder



Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA



remember the Sabbath

honor your father and mother



Check your answers on page 31!

AN EVIL DESIRE

Waldemar ZORN

After godly men buried Stephen, the first martyr for Christ, a time of persecution began for believers. Saul, who later became Paul, arrested people – both men and women – and threw them in jail. Many believers left Jerusalem and preached the gospel of Jesus Christ wherever they went.

One of the deacons of the church in Jerusalem, a man named Philip, went to the city of Samaria and preached about Jesus Christ. People happily received the Good News of the Savior and many believed and were baptized.

A man named Simon lived in that city. Before Philip came, people considered Simon a great man because he practiced sorcery and astonished many with his tricks. Simon listened to Philip very carefully. He also believed and was baptized.

Illustrated by Alexander BASS



The apostles in Jerusalem heard about the great revival in Samaria and sent Peter and John to bless the new believers. After they entered the city, Peter and John gathered the new believers in Jesus Christ, gave them instructions about the faith, and prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit, since the Holy Spirit had not yet been given to the Samaritans. During Peter and John's prayer, the believers also became like the apostles in Jerusalem because they received the Holy Spirit and became members of the church of Jesus Christ.

When Simon saw that people received the Holy Spirit after the disciples laid their hands on them and prayed for them, he decided he also wanted that kind of power. Simon offered the apostles money saying, "Take the money and give me this power so that when I lay my hands on someone he will receive the Holy Spirit."

"May your money perish with you. Your heart is not right before God, Simon," answered Peter. "You have evil thoughts! Repent of this sin before it's too late! Pray, and maybe the thoughts of your heart will be forgiven."

Since Simon thought the prayers of the apostles were stronger than his prayers he answered saying, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you said will happen to me." The apostles taught the people and preached the Word of God. Then they went back to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the villages.

As for Philip, an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Go to the desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." Philip obeyed. There, he had a very surprising experience.

You can read the story about the new believers in Samaria and Simon the magician in the eighth chapter of the book of Acts. It will also tell you what happened to Philip on the deserted road from Jerusalem to Gaza.



You shall not covet

"anything that belongs to your neighbor"
(Deuteronomy 5:21).

Jason has some apples.
All I have are pears.
Why can't I have apples?
Life seems so unfair.

When I start to covet
Other people's stuff
I am really saying,
"God's not good enough."

"He must not be loving.
He does not know best."
Those are lies. Don't listen
To Satan's wicked jest.

When you start to covet,
Turn to God and pray.
List the good things you've received.
Start your list today!

Be content. Remember,
God's plan is the best.
Praise Him with thanksgiving
And you will be blessed!



Zoryana KUZMICH

Tell God all

When you're sad
And deep in doubt,
And you feel like
There's no way out,

When the world
Comes crashing in,
And all you think of
Is your guilt and sin,

Just kneel down
Beside your bed
And spill out everything
Inside your head.

Let go of all
Your worldly pride,
And just let Jesus
Come inside.

Don't listen to
What people say;
Trust in God,
And He'll light your way.



Illustrated by Alexander VOLOSENKO

UNSCRAMBLE THE VERSE!

Use the key to unscramble the Bible verse.

W	M	O	S	G	E	N	O
13	43	18	29	35	10	22	5
T	E	(L	6	E	1	E
34	21	39	7	47	32	40	25
G	T	I	T	.	G	S	H
4	27	37	20	44	30	12	16
N	I	I)	B	M	:	I
9	42	14	48	1	24	46	28
T	S	N	C	A	T	A	N
23	11	38	17	33	41	36	19
U	R	D	6	T	N	T	I
2	31	6	45	15	26	3	8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38
 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48



Created and Illustrated by Julia ILCHUK

READ THE VERSE!



Next to each autumn leaf, write the letter of the alphabet that comes before the letter given in the leaf. These letters make up a Bible verse.

Answers on page 31!



YOU SHALL NOT COVET... ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

Irina TORBETSKAYA

The lunchroom at our school has a snack bar. There, you can buy little cakes and ice cream and sweets in beautiful wrappers. But my mom and dad only give me a little money – just enough for one thing, a cake, or an ice cream, or a sweet with a beautiful wrapper. What do I really want? Everything!



Once, during Family Day, my dad and I were in the cafeteria waiting in line behind a classmate and his grandma. He was buying a sweet in a beautiful wrapper. I had a muffin. My dad had read the Ten Commandments to me. I knew the Bible said, "You shall not covet...anything that is your neighbor's" and "Do not be jealous," but I was jealous, very jealous! I dreamed of finding or winning a million dollars so I could have everything.

Walking home from school with my brothers, I always looked into the windows of the shops that sell snacks and I watched what was under my feet. The reason I looked at the ground and watched what I stepped on is because I know a girl who found a \$100 bill that way. But so far I haven't had any luck. All I have ever found was a piece of paper.

Wait, I did find a dead mouse once. My brothers, Michael and Andy, squealed when I picked it up by the tail and brought it home. Even Mom and Dad were afraid.

Dad cried, "Danny, throw that mouse away this instant! It's full of germs!"

My dad is a pharmacist. He saw germs under the microscope while learning to be a pharmacist at the university. Germs are very small, but he's still afraid of them! I obeyed and threw the mouse away. I didn't need it. "If only I could find money!"

I thought. Then one day... I found some! The money wasn't on the ground, but on Dad's table.



There was so much! Dad must have cashed his paycheck. "He probably won't notice if I take a little," I reasoned. My hand moved by itself and reached for the money.

Dad didn't notice! The next day, I bought a whole pile of sweets and snacks in beautiful wrappers. I even shared with the other kids and had some left over. I didn't give any to Michael though because he would have asked where I got the money. Then what would I say? That I was jealous of the other boys and took Dad's money?



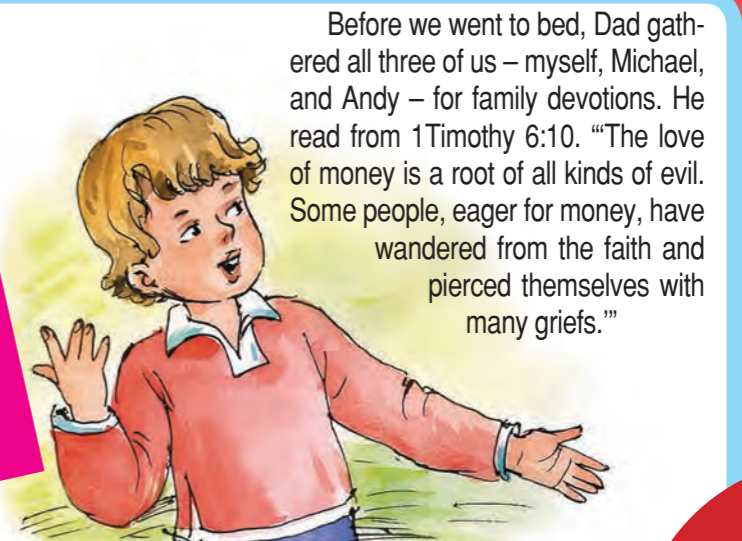
But the question "Where did you get the money" still came up. Mom asked me when she saw a caramel fall out of my pocket.

I turned red and said, "I found it."

For some reason, Mom didn't believe me and called my dad. He asked the same question. I turned even redder, but didn't admit to anything. That's when Michael walked by and asked, "Why are you so red? Was it something you ate?"

I was afraid and thought, "How does he know what I ate today?" Then Andy ran up. He didn't say anything; he just grabbed the caramel, ate it, and ran off. I started putting my books in the backpack as though nothing had happened.

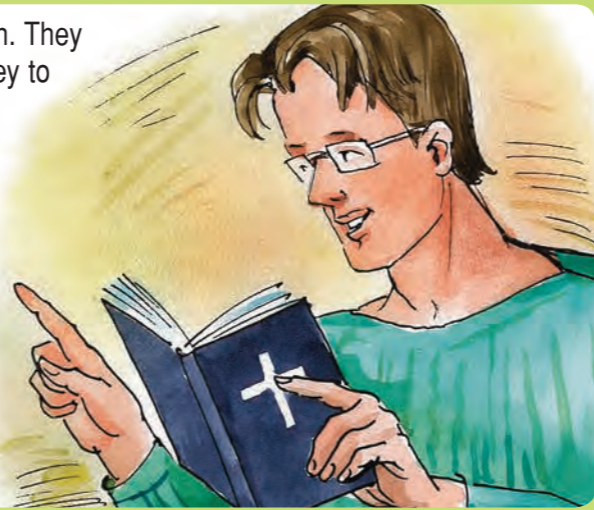
Did you know...
that blindfish are small fish up to 4.3 inches in length? They live in freshwater caves in the central and southern parts of North America. The eyes of some blindfish allow them to tell the difference between light and darkness, while other blindfish have no eyes at all. Since they can't see, blindfish depend on their other senses. A blindfish has special organs on the surface of its body and is very sensitive to touch.



Before we went to bed, Dad gathered all three of us – myself, Michael, and Andy – for family devotions. He read from 1Timothy 6:10. "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

I told him, "It's bad that rich people love money so much. They should share with the poor since they can't take their money to heaven."

My father said, "Poor people can be lovers of money too. A poor person might not have much money, but still love it so much he dreams of having lots of it. That dream turns into jealousy and then he starts to steal money. If the rich or the poor man loves money more than a pure heart, he has sinned and broken the commandments 'You shall not covet,' 'You shall not steal,' and 'You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.' Some people who love money even break the sixth commandment – 'You shall not murder.'"



Michael told Dad about a TV show he saw where men in masks robbed a bank. "They got caught," he added.

"Where did you get money to buy candy?" Andy asked me. He said it so clearly. That's when my conscience kicked in and I realized I was caught or about to be caught.

I admitted to everything and said, "I broke the commandment that says, 'Honor your father and mother.' I took money from Dad's table." My parents looked at each other. Dad got up and counted the money on the table. I'm not going to describe what happened next. It was not a pleasant conversation. After that, I never stole money from my dad, not even if I was jealous of my classmates. At Dad's suggestion, I started earning money by mowing lawns for the neighbors after school.



Soon I had enough money for sweets and even a bicycle, not a new one but one in good condition.

That made Michael jealous, but I reminded him, "You shall not covet what your neighbor has, but work to buy a bike."

Michael sighed because he didn't like to work, but I took the lawnmower and went to mow the grass for the elderly lady who lives next door. I didn't do it out of love for money. I mow her lawn for free. I started doing that when I found out about her hard life.

Being jealous is a sin. I, Danny, don't wish it on anyone, not on strangers, not on my brothers, not even on myself.



Illustrated by Larisa GOROSHKO



PUZZLE PAGE



See answers on page 31!

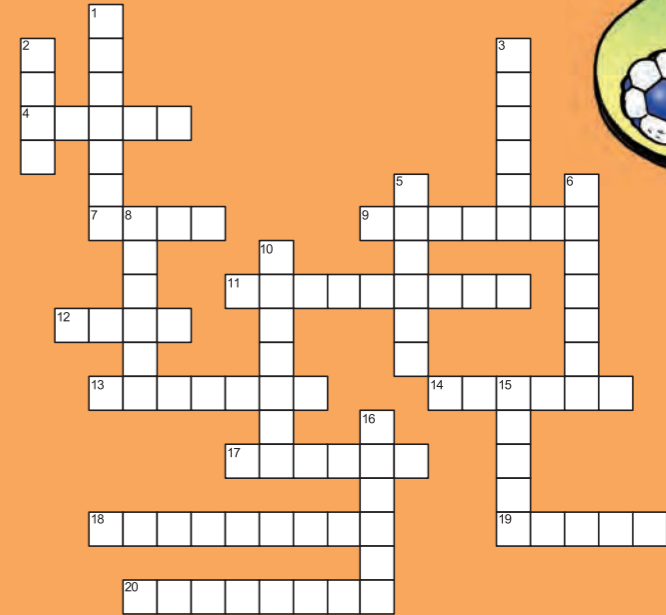
BIBLE TRIVIA

Adapted from a puzzle by Elvira ZORN

Solve the crossword.



- Across:**
- This king had John the Baptist beheaded (Matthew 14:1-12).
 - This plague struck everything in the field and stripped every tree in Egypt (Exodus 9:23-26).
 - This woman was always doing good work and helping the poor (Acts 9:36).
 - The Pharisees accused Jesus of using the power of this prince to cast out demons (Matthew 12:22-24).
 - God sends this on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45).
 - Jesus raised this person from the dead (John 11:38-45).
 - Elijah went to the top of this mountain to pray for rain (1 Kings 18:41-45).
 - Jesus gave this name to Simon, son of John (John 1:42).
 - Jonah was sent to this group of people (Luke 11:30).
 - How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus? (Luke 22:34)
 - Jesus ate this meal with his disciples shortly before he was betrayed and crucified (Luke 22:1-6).



Down:

- This Jewish king did what was right like his father, Amaziah (2 Kings 15:1-6).
- This man said he was not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet (John 1:20-21).
- The mountain on which the ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4).
- They brought bread and meat to Elijah (1 Kings 17:1-6).
- The Pharisees were convinced a prophet does not come from this region (John 7:52).
- This man was the husband of Priscilla and a friend of Paul (Acts 18:1-2).
- A woman poured this on Jesus' head when he was at the home of Simon the Leper (Mark 14:3).
- The disciples caught 153 large fish when they threw their nets on this side of the boat (John 21:4-11).
- The portrait of this man was on the denarius in Jesus' day (Mark 12:15-17).



The Cattail



Adapted
by Natasha BOYKOV

Cattail grew in a warm, clear pond. He had plenty of water. His roots gripped the rich soil at the bottom of the pond and his leaves swayed in the breeze.

The pond was beautiful. Puffy clouds sailed through the sky, birds flew overhead, and the sun smiled down on all of them.

"Cattail, it sounds like you're jealous. Remember, God wants you to be a cattail with sturdy roots. You won't be happy if you keep wishing God made you into something else," Dragonfly said.

Cattail nodded and Dragonfly flew off but, as he watched Dragonfly zip across the pond, Cattail once again wished he could fly.

Instead of following Dragonfly's advice and accepting the way God made him, Cattail kept thinking God made a mistake because He gave him roots instead of wings.



Cattail saw how nice it was and joyfully praised God, the Creator. He especially loved watching birds fly around him.



One day Bird told Cattail how wonderful it felt to fly through the sky. After hearing Bird talk about flying, Cattail decided he wanted to learn how to fly.



"You can't fly!" Bird exclaimed. "Look at your reflection in the water. You don't have any wings, you have roots."



The beauty of the pond no longer made him smile. He didn't think about God the Creator, only himself. Even the sunshine no longer seemed bright or beautiful.



Later, when Goldfish came to see him, Cattail explained why he was sad. "There's something even more important than having wings or roots," Goldfish explained.



"The Creator made us and we need to praise Him by being what He created us to be. When we compare ourselves to others, we get jealous and forget about the Creator's love. Look around. Remember how much God loves you and praise Him."



Cattail looked at his roots and sighed. They seemed ugly compared to the wings of birds and insects. Cattail wished he had wings instead of roots.



Dragonfly noticed Cattail looked sad. "What's wrong?" Dragonfly asked. "I wish I had beautiful wings like yours so I could fly," Cattail answered. "Instead, I have fat, ugly roots."



"You have a shiny blue-green body and I'm just green and brown like all the other plants. I'm not special. God must not love me very much."



The sun was shining. Cattail remembered that God always provided him with sunshine and fresh water. He thanked God for them. Then he saw the little creatures that lived among his roots and realized he was special.



Cattail finally stopped comparing himself to others and remembered to thank God for everything. When he did, the pond became a beautiful place and he could rejoice that he had roots and dragonflies and birds could fly.

Illustrated by Julia PRAVDOHINA

Did you know...

that the koala lives in the forests of eastern Australia? Koalas only eat eucalyptus leaves and shoots, but they eat about 18 ounces of vegetation per day! This explains why these furry animals are a little slow. Their food has very little protein, so the koala's metabolism is almost twice as slow as that of other mammals.



Appolonia Margarete Steiff was born on the 24th of July in Giengen, Germany. Margarete's father was an architect and her mother took care of the home and helped her husband at work. Margarete had two older sisters and a younger brother.

MARGARETE STEIFF
Inventor of the Teddy Bear



When she was one and a half years old, she became sick with polio. As a result of the disease, she could no longer move her legs and had trouble using her hands. She was considered very unfortunate because she would never be able to walk and carry out the duties of a mother and housewife. Margarete's disability seemed like a trial for the entire family because she would always need help from others.

However, Margarete was not worried. Her cheerfulness encouraged others and she loved being outside. No matter what the weather, she often asked her friends and family to take her outside so she could enjoy all the excitement of the outdoors. Everyone loved Margarete for her friendliness.

As she grew up, her parents wondered if she would be able to go to school. In the end, her family and friends solved the problem by helping her get to and from school. Margarete was a good student and enjoyed her studies. In her free time, Margarete made up games that she could play with the other children. In this, she showed one of her greatest talents – motivating others to do what needed to be done.

Even as a child, Margarete loved Bible stories. Maybe her favorites were the ones about Jesus healing the sick. Many joined Margarete and her family in praying that she would be healed, but she was not healed and had to keep using a wheelchair. The treatments and operation Margarete had on her legs also didn't help. Then, Margarete broke her leg while playing because one of her friends rolled her wheelchair down the hill so quickly it rolled over. Lying in bed while her leg healed, Margarete had a lot of time to think. She came to realize that she would live her entire life with paralyzed legs and never be able to walk. The more



this became clear, the more she accepted her situation in life. As she accepted it, her attitude changed and she saw her disability not as a burden, but as a reason to take action.

A verse from 2 Corinthians, which was read at her confirmation, says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). This verse became an expression of her attitude toward life.

After finishing school, Margarete became a seamstress. This took a lot of patience and hard work. Together with her sister, Margarete opened a sewing shop. Several years later, they could finally buy a sewing machine, which made work a lot easier. Now, all Margarete had to do was guide the fabric and let the machine do the sewing!

At first they made women's and children's clothing. Then, in one of her fashion magazines, Margarete saw a pattern for a stuffed elephant meant to be used as a cushion. Eventually, she decided to start making toy elephants for children. These toys became very popular, especially before Christmas. She developed other designs for stuffed animals like kittens, puppies, deer, and birds. Her work brought joy to others.

In time, the sewing shop became a factory for making stuffed animals. The company continued to grow. New buildings were built and more and more people were employed until 1,400 people worked at the Steiff company.



The idea for a stuffed animal bear – later known as a teddy bear – came from Margarete's nephew, Richard, in 1902. Teddy bears, the Steiff company's most famous toy, are still being made to this day!

Margarete Steiff personally experienced the fact that, with faith in God, everyone's life can be blessed. No disability or a lack of any kind can stop God from giving each of us a chance to find our place in life.

Stefan HRADETZKY



Natasha BOYKOV
RIDDLES

1 In the garden that God planted,
Eve and Adam walked with God.
Many things they took for granted,
Which God did for their own good.
Satan came and Eve was tempted.
The forbidden tree looked good.
Thus, through her choice, Eve attempted
To eat that which wasn't their food.
Adam followed in pursuit
When she bit into the _____.

2 It has great patience with little brothers,
Never envies the toys of others,
It shows great kindness day by day,
And never speaks in a boastful way.
Of course it rejoices with the truth.
It hopes and trusts even when there's no proof.
It's why God sent His Son from above.
It's deep, wide, and wonderful. It is _____.

**FIND
10 DIFFERENCES!**

Illustrated by Elena MIKULA

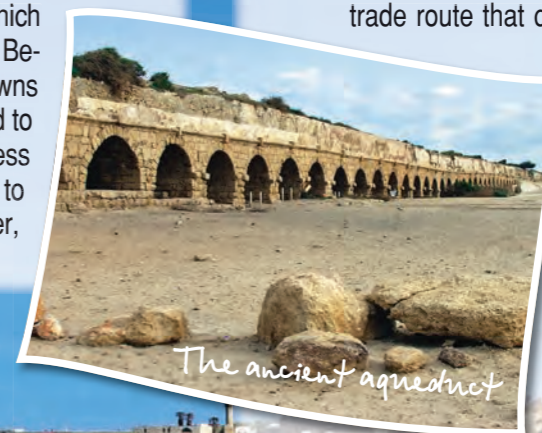


Check out
the answers
on p.31!

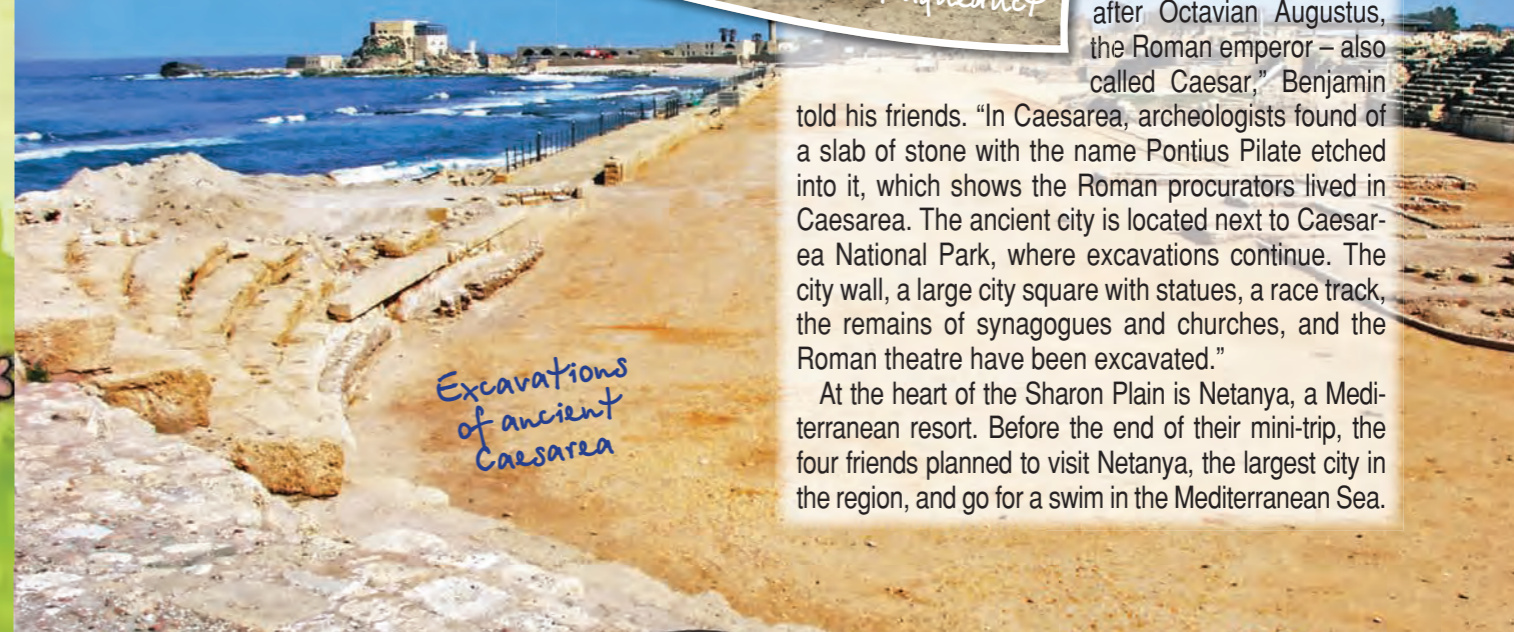


Elvira ZORN
The Sharon plain

Taking mini-trips together has been a tradition for Benjamin, James, Dave, and Paul since their days in the army. These four friends have traveled throughout Israel, camping out and sleeping in sleeping bags underneath a starry sky. This year they planned to visit the Sharon Plain, which is in the fertile coastal plain of Israel. Besides visiting Caesarea, one of the towns on the Sharon Plain, they also planned to visit Apollonia, which has a ruined fortress from the Crusades. They also wanted to see Crocodile River, Alexander River, and other interesting historical sites.



The ancient aqueduct



Excavations
of ancient
Caesarea

"The Sharon Plain is actually one of the most populated areas in Israel," James said. "It stretches for 56 miles and is 9.3 miles wide. This plain was always known as a fertile place with rich forests and many beautiful flowers. To this day, it is filled with hyacinths, anemones, lilies, and tulips. Exotic fruits called lychees also grow here, along with world-famous Jaffa oranges."

"Many biblical events took place on the Sharon Plain," Dave added. He was a Bible expert and loved learning historical facts. "During the time of the judges, it was settled by the tribe of Manasseh. Ancient Egyptian texts from this time period say an important trade route that connected port cities of the

Mediterranean Sea with Egypt and Mesopotamia passed through this area. Later, in the Middle Ages, the battles of the Crusades were fought here."

"I read that Herod the Great, king of Judea, named the city Caesarea after Octavian Augustus, the Roman emperor – also called Caesar," Benjamin told his friends. "In Caesarea, archeologists found of a slab of stone with the name Pontius Pilate etched into it, which shows the Roman procurators lived in Caesarea. The ancient city is located next to Caesarea National Park, where excavations continue. The city wall, a large city square with statues, a race track, the remains of synagogues and churches, and the Roman theatre have been excavated."

At the heart of the Sharon Plain is Netanya, a Mediterranean resort. Before the end of their mini-trip, the four friends planned to visit Netanya, the largest city in the region, and go for a swim in the Mediterranean Sea.



Sergei SANNIKOV

11. Rituals and icons

During the Middle Ages, Christianity developed a set of rituals, rules, and sacred objects to help the uneducated people worship God. For example, to remind people of Christ's death on the cross, bishops started making the symbol of the cross in the air with their hands. People who could not read learned Bible stories from frescos and paintings on the church walls. Unfortunately, many of the people at church had never accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. They had not changed on the inside and worshipped the objects and rituals of Christianity, instead of God Himself.

Worshipping relics – such as pieces of wood that were said to come from the cross – and the graves of the saints became popular around this time. In the west, more and more people worshipped the Virgin Mary. The people called Mary the Mother of God even though many leaders said it would be better to call her the Mother of Christ. Songs were sung to the Virgin Mary, praising her and asking her to speak for the people. Of course, not everyone agreed with these practices.

Mary and Child. Mosaic VI, Ravenna



Worship of the icon. Artist Dionysius. Fresco XVII.

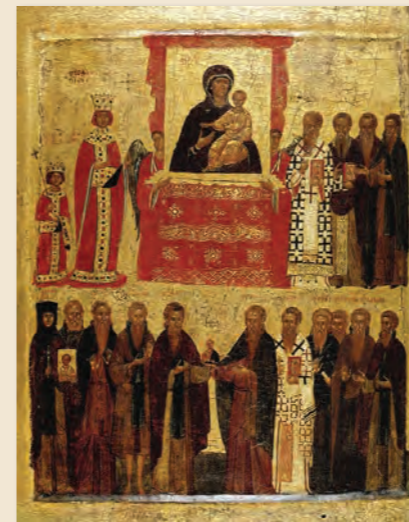
Icons were also worshipped. The icons were supposed to be used to help people focus during their worship. An icon is a painting showing a holy person. Many icons show Jesus Christ.

Around this time, many people left the official church because they didn't agree with the changes it was making. For example, in the VII century, the Paulician movement began in the Byzantine Empire. Those who belonged to this movement would not worship icons, Mary, or the relics. The battle against the worship of icons stopped after



A coin with the image of the Emperor Constantine V

In the VIII century, the Byzantine Emperor Constantine V realized people were worshipping icons rather than God. In 754 A.D., Constantine V gathered the bishops and decided to stop using icons in the churches. However, the icons were removed in such a crude and uncaring way that the people rose up in protest. For example, the officer sent to remove the image of Christ from the gates of Constantinople climbed a ladder and started hacking the image to pieces with an axe. The people gathered below saw this as an attack on Christianity and killed the officer. This sparked repressions and nine people were executed. Similar conflicts happened in other places, as well. That is why the people saw the fight against the worship of icons as a fight against Christianity. The plan to remove icons didn't succeed; it was carried out much too carelessly. Even though the Bible says, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only" (Matthew 4:10), the next gathering of bishops decided to not only allow the use of icons, but also encouraged people to worship them.



An icon showing Empress Theodora's victory over those would not use icons



Empress Theodora. Mosaic VI, Ravenna

wasn't much different from pagan beliefs, and the Christianity of the people who were set apart, a group who knew the Scriptures, followed the commandments of Christ, and trusted Jesus Christ as their savior.



Typical way churches were decorated during the fight against the use of icons

a command by Empress Theodora in 843 A.D. She allowed the use of icons and tried to eliminate the Paulicians. Many Paulicians were executed in Asia Minor. More than 100 thousand people were tortured and killed in more than 40 cities.

That's how Christianity came to exist in two forms: the massive, popular religion of the masses which, in reality,

DO YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES?

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS



WHO WHAT WHEN



1

His name means "veil." He traveled with Abraham to Canaan and Egypt. When he separated from Abraham, he came to live in the Jordan Valley. God saved him when He destroyed Sodom, the city where this man lived. His wife looked back while they were fleeing from Sodom and became a pillar of salt.

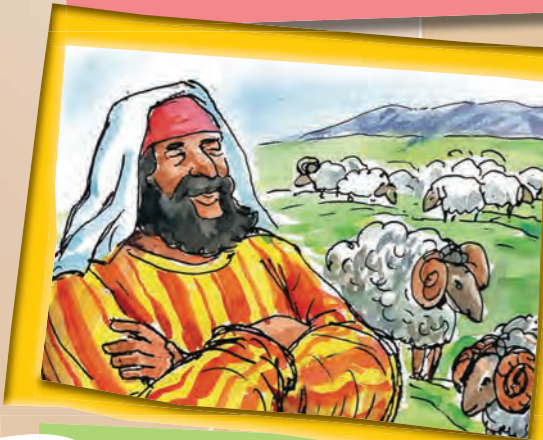
Answer: Genesis 11:27–19:26



2

Her name means "princess." Her only son was born when she was 90 years old and had lost all hope of having children. Through her son, she was the mother of the people of Israel. She died at the age of 127.

Answer: Genesis 11:29; 17:1–18:14; 21:1–4



3

His name means "white." He was the son of Bethuel and grandson of Nahor (the brother of Abraham). He had several sons and two daughters. He also had many flocks of sheep and goats, which continued to grow because God blessed him because of Isaac, who served him for 20 years.

Answer: Genesis 28:1–5; 29:4–14; 30:25–43



4

Her father was Bethuel and her husband was Isaac. For a long time, she and her husband didn't have any children but, because Isaac prayed, God gave them twins. Through trickery, she helped the younger son get the father's blessing meant for the older son. As a result, she would not see her younger son for the rest of her life.

Answer: Genesis 25:20–28; 27:1–28:5

Illustrated by Larisa GOROSHKO

Solve the crossword.

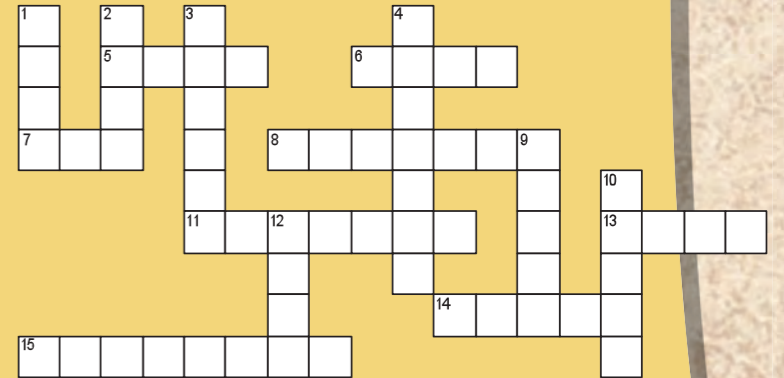
Crossword



Adapted from puzzle by Elena KONSTANTINOVA

ACROSS

- What was the name of Adam and Eve's second son? (Genesis 4:1–2)
- Jesus was compared to what animal before his death? (Acts 8:32)
- How many commands did God give the Israelites on Mount Sinai? (Deuteronomy 10:4)
- "But he was _____ for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5)
- God sent Jonah to preach to the people of what city? (Jonah 1:1–2)
- What is the last word in the Bible?
- Lot set up his tent near this city. (Genesis 13:12)
- What is the name of the place where Jesus was crucified? (Matthew 27:33–37)



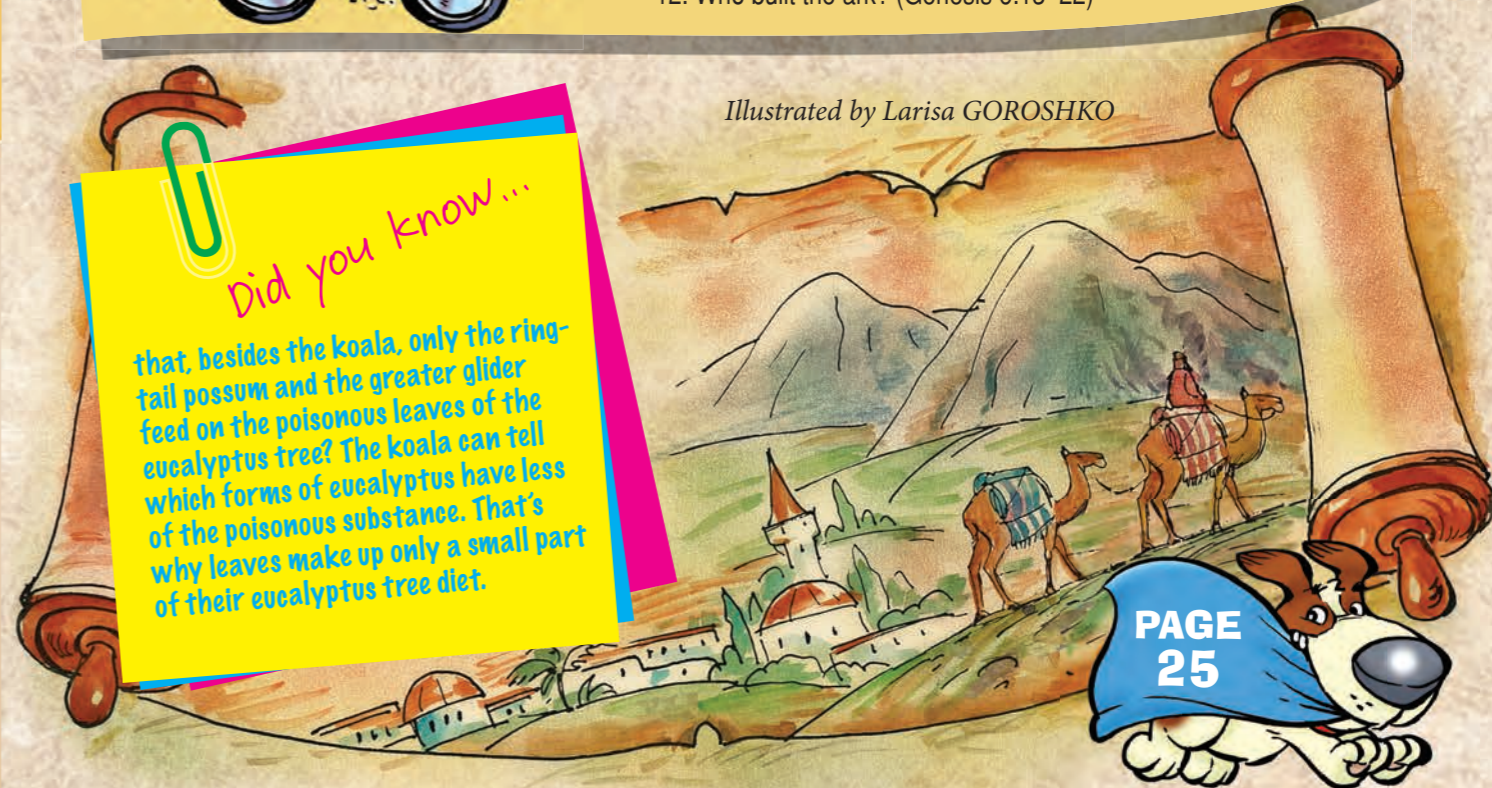
DOWN

- Which animal did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? (Luke 19:35)
- Who was the first murderer? (Genesis 4:8)
- What was the name of Jacob's first son? (Genesis 46:8)
- What is the name of the angel who told Mary she would be the mother of God's Son? (Luke 1:26–27)
- Who was the king of Israel after Saul? (2 Samuel 5:3)
- What was the name of Ruth's mother-in-law? (Ruth 1:3–5)
- Who built the ark? (Genesis 6:13–22)



Illustrated by Larisa GOROSHKO

Did you know... that, besides the koala, only the ring-tail possum and the greater glider feed on the poisonous leaves of the eucalyptus tree? The koala can tell which forms of eucalyptus have less of the poisonous substance. That's why leaves make up only a small part of their eucalyptus tree diet.



WHO AM I?

I am an exotic bird. Many consider me to be very special. Even though the Creator made me more beautiful and colorful than many other birds, I do have a lot in common with ordinary chickens. In fact, we are considered part of the same family. I spend most of my time on the ground. I can run well and I can climb through the tangled undergrowth of the woods.

I am originally from India and southeast Asia. In India, I am considered the country's national bird. My relatives and I live in jungles and wooded areas as well as near the villages, but our favorite places are thick bushes and shrubs. We also like riverbanks. Our nests are found on the ground. They are built using dry grasses and leaves. We forage for food in flocks. One of our favorite foods is rice, but we eat all kinds of plants and seeds. We also eat insects, rodents, and small snakes. The oldest of our kind can live to be about 20 years old.

Compared to other birds, I have a very loud call. My cries can be heard over a mile away! Here's what I look like: my head, neck, and chest are blue. The crest on my head has 24 feathers. My back is green and my wings have a copper tint. My beautiful wings are even mentioned in the Bible!

I am about 40–46 inches long. What makes the greatest impression on people is not the ordinary gray color of my tail but, the color of the feathers above the tail, which are 35–45 inches long. These feathers are a mix of blue, green, and gold.

Elvira ZORN

They are decorated with “eyes.” I love spreading my “tail” to attract a female mate. She does not have long, colorful feathers like mine.

In ancient Greece and Rome, I was considered a sacred bird, but the Romans still used my kind as food. Medieval knights used our feathers to decorate their helmets and hats. Women also used our feathers for decoration. Early Christians considered me a symbol of Christ's resurrection.

We were domesticated a long time ago, but today we are kept mostly as a decorative bird. Do you think you know who I am? Yes, I'm a male **peacock** (*Pavo cristatus*)!

Illustrated
by Julia PRAVDOHINA



Elena SHILIZHINSKAYA

THE LITTLE SEED



Daddy was happy when he came home from work. “Look what I brought for you, son!” He opened his large hand in front of Eric's nose.

“It's so little!” Eric studied the seed on Daddy's palm.

“It's little, but it's golden.”

“Golden? It is?”

“Yes, of course.”

“No, it's not!” The little boy shook his head, “It's not shiny like Mommy's ring.”

“It doesn't have to be shiny to be golden. Golden can also mean that it's very special. Go bring a pot. We'll put some dirt in it and plant our seed. Then we'll give it some water, and finally we'll wait.”

“What are we waiting for?” asked the little boy.

“You'll see,” Daddy smiled.

The days flew by. The little seed in the pot sprouted. Eric carefully watered his “golden” seed. By the end of the summer, a stalk of grain with seeds stood on the sunny windowsill.

“Daddy, these seeds are just like the one we planted.”

“That's right. Only now there are many seeds,” Daddy said. “One of them is gone. The one we planted gave its life to make all the other seeds. That

little seed that gave its life is golden. May only golden grains of kindness grow in your heart!”



Illustrated by
Victoria DUNAYEVA





IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The serpent tempted Eve to taste the fruit that came from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve wanted to try the nice-looking fruit. She took some, ate it, and gave it to Adam. He also ate the fruit that God said they must not eat (Genesis 3:13).

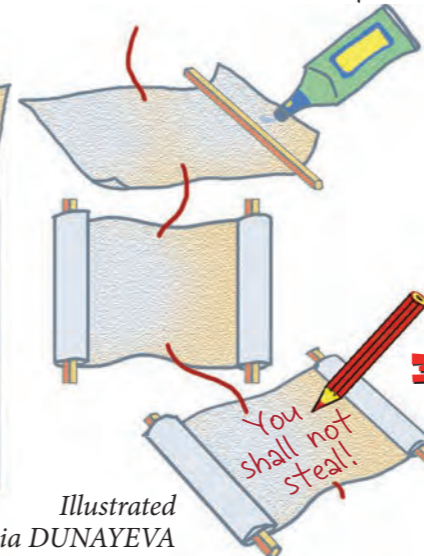
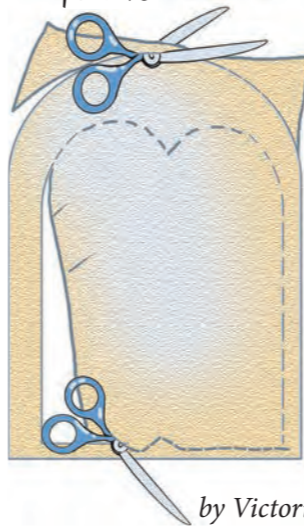
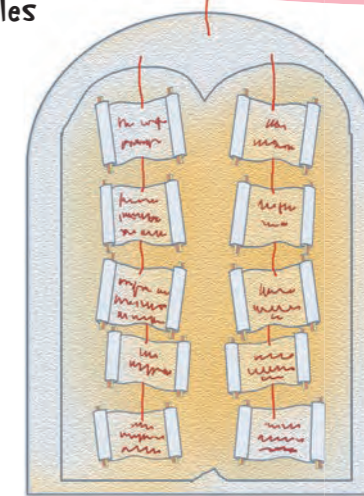
Illustrated by Elena MIKULA

MODEL OF THE STONE TABLETS

CRAFT CORNER

1 Cut out 10 paper rectangles and the frame for the Ten Commandments as shown in the picture.

2 Glue the edges of the rectangles to toothpicks or twigs and write the Ten Commandments on the pieces of paper – one commandment on each piece.



3 Connect the commandments using two strings (1 to 5 should be strung together and 6 to 10) and attach the strings to the Ten Commandments frame. Now you're ready to hang the Ten Commandments on the window or above your bed!

Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

Check answers on p.31!

The names of 24 fruits and vegetables are hidden in this word search. Can you find them all?

BRAIN TEASER

N	I	K	P	M	U	P	P	I	N	E	A	P	P	L	E
M	Y	E	M	C	M	G	O	O	S	E	B	E	R	R	Y
J	A	X	C	H	T	I	U	R	F	E	P	A	R	G	
S	N	R	K	N	I	E	L	L	F	O	N	F	C	V	C
Z	G	N	O	B	D	L	R	J	R	R	O	Q	M	T	P
R	B	I	R	G	F	P	R	R	V	A	L	Y	S	T	T
K	N	T	P	R	G	R	E	A	Y	N	E	H	T	Y	O
O	N	X	N	A	D	M	Z	A	G	G	M	P	R	J	M
V	E	R	O	P	T	L	L	Z	C	E	R	R	A	F	A
K	C	W	M	E	R	K	V	P	O	H	E	L	W	N	T
Z	T	E	E	Z	K	B	L	D	Y	B	T	W	B	O	O
M	A	L	L	K	R	U	A	N	E	R	A	H	E	L	E
M	R	P	T	Z	M	C	K	U	L	K	W	N	R	E	H
N	I	P	X	L	O	M	L	Q	Z	F	L	M	R	M	M
R	N	A	L	V	Z	B	A	N	A	N	A	Q	Y	H	D
J	E	Z	A	C	U	C	U	M	B	E	R	L	R	N	G

- STRAWBERRY
- LEMON
- GRAPEFRUIT
- CUCUMBER
- ORANGE
- WATERMELON
- PLUM
- APPLE
- PEACH
- GARLIC
- PEAR
- PEAS
- CHERRY
- MELON
- ONION
- AVOCADO
- GRAPES
- TOMATO
- BANANA
- GOOSEBERRY
- PINEAPPLE
- BLUEBERRY



Alina FEDOTOVA, 9 years old, Russia

Dear readers,

Thank you so much for the letters and pictures you sent in! We are looking forward to printing more of them. Whenever you send us a picture, write your name, age, and the state where you live on the back. Please don't write on the front because we want to see your whole beautiful picture. Thank you!
Love,
-Tropinka

Hello, Tropinka!
My name is Jasmina.
I'm 9 years old.
I go to Liberty Elementary School.
The stories help me a lot. I share the stories with my sister.
Thank you, Tropinka!



Jasmina ILNITSKAYA, 9 years old, USA, MO

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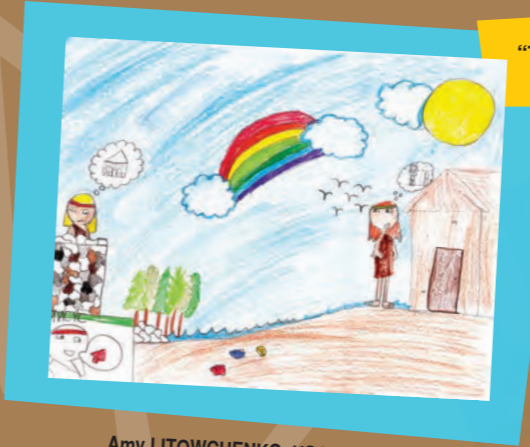
Vladislav ILCHUK, 11 years old, Ukraine



Ruslana BOYCHUK, 10 years old, USA, NY



Alona KRAVETS, 13 years old, Ukraine



Amy LITOWCHENKO, USA, WA

"Two Builders"

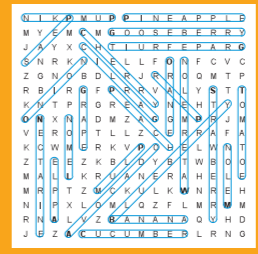


Karina TAUSHANZHI, 10 years old, USA, MO



ANSWERS

- Page 2: "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord. There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off" (Proverbs 23:17-18)
- Page 7: **You must not** 1) have other gods, 2) make for yourself an idol, 3) misuse the name of the Lord, 6) murder, 7) commit adultery, 8) steal, 9) give false testimony, 10) covet what belongs to others
You must 4) remember the Sabbath, 5) honor your father and mother
- Page 11: UNSCRAMBLE THE VERSE: But godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6)
READ THE VERSE: "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10)
- Page 15: CROSSWORD ACROSS: 4. Herod 7. hail 9. Tabitha 11. Beelzebub 12. rain 13. Lazarus 14. Carmel 17. Cephas 18. Ninevites 19. three 20. Passover
DOWN: 1. Azariah 2. John 3. Ararat 5. ravens 6. Galilee 8. Aquila 10. perfume 15. right 16. Caesar
- Page 20: 1) Fruit (Genesis 3:6)
2) Love (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)
- Page 24: 1) Lot, 2) Sarah, 3) Laban, 4) Rebekah
- Page 25: CROSSWORD ACROSS: 5. Abel 6. lamb 7. ten 8. pierced 11. Nineveh 13. amen 14. Sodom 15. Golgotha
DOWN: 1. colt 2. Cain 3. Reuben 4. Gabriel 9. David 10. Naomi 12. Noah
- Page 29: _____



Hello,
My name is Karina Taushanzhi. My family is Christian and I have one brother, Igor, and a sister, Amy. I love these magazines, they are very interesting to look at and read some stories from the Bible. I always look at the end of the book where the pictures are. Please post my picture into your magazine - Tropinka!!!





Elena CHEPOI, Ukraine



Anastasia CHELTSOVA, 12 years old, Ukraine



Erica DZYUBENKO, 10 years old, USA

THANK YOU!

Natasha BOYKOV

**Thank you for my family,
Thank you for my friends,
Thank you for the way your love
Surrounds me without end.**

**Thank you for your Holy Word.
Reading it I see
In your perfect plan you sent
Jesus Christ to die for me.**

**Even if I told you "Thanks!"
Fifty billion times,
It would never be enough.
I can't contain my thanks in rhymes.**

**When I sing I'm thanking you.
In my quiet prayer
I will thank you once again.
Thank you God! You love, you care!**



Victoria HARTSENKO, 9 years old, Ukraine



Thank you!

Daniel ISKENDEROV, 10 years old, USA



Victoria BELOUS, 13 years old, Ukraine



Oksana GUSHINA, 9 years old, Russia



Lilia VAPELNIK, 13 years old, Ukraine



Inna TSIMBALYUK, 8 years old, USA