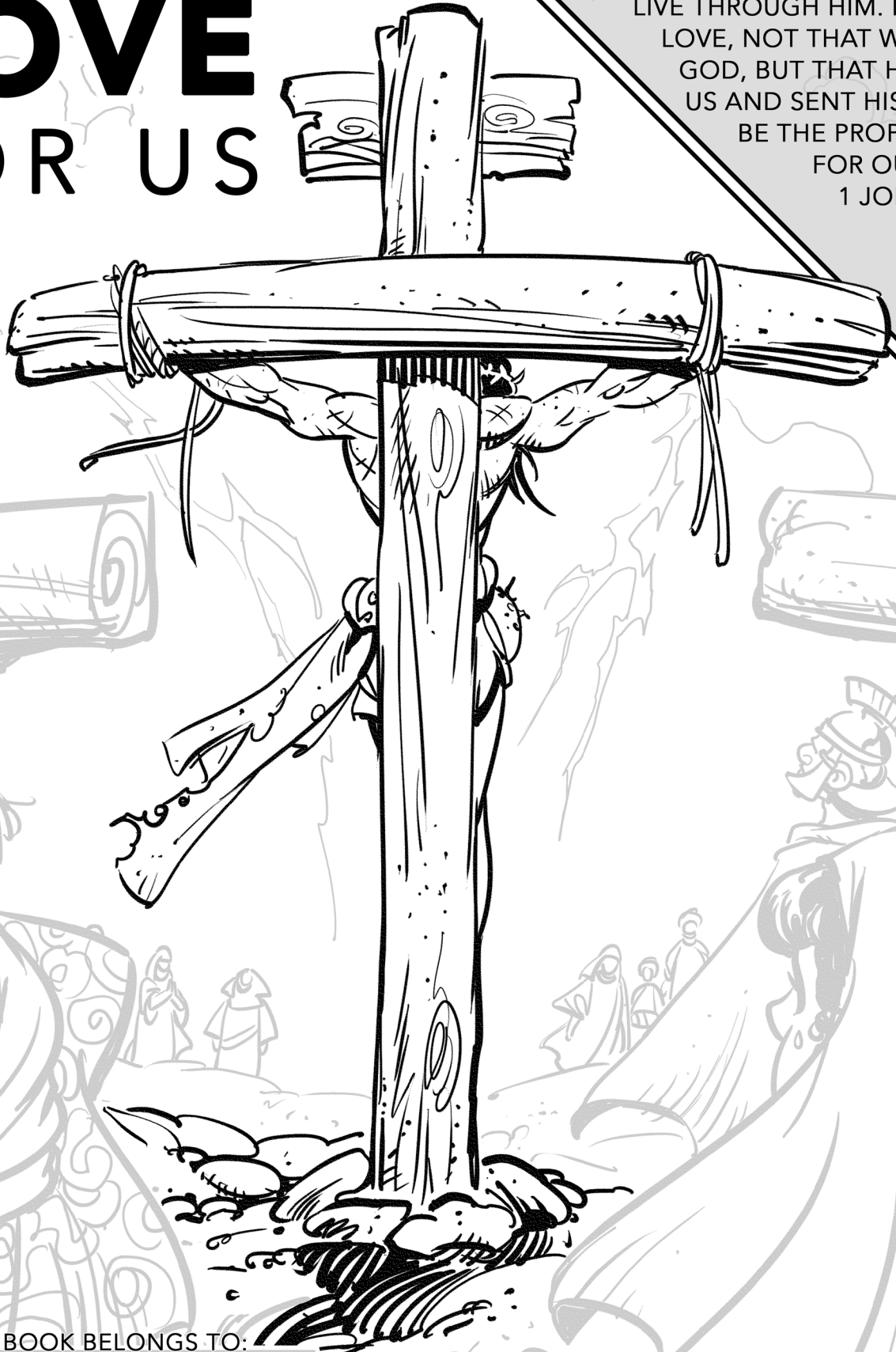


# GOD'S LOVE FOR US

"IN THIS THE LOVE OF GOD WAS  
MANIFESTED TOWARD US, THAT GOD  
HAS SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON  
INTO THE WORLD, THAT WE MIGHT  
LIVE THROUGH HIM. IN THIS IS  
LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVED  
GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED  
US AND SENT HIS SON TO  
BE THE PROPITIATION  
FOR OUR SINS."

1 JOHN 4:9-10



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

*Steve  
Criswell*

# GOD'S LOVE FOR US

"IN THIS THE LOVE OF GOD WAS MANIFESTED TOWARD US, THAT GOD HAS SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON INTO THE WORLD, THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH HIM. IN THIS IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS." 1 JOHN 4:9-10

Copyright © 1995, 2010 CalvaryCurriculum.com. All rights reserved.

You may not, under any circumstances, sell, distribute, or commercially exploit the content or receive financial gain from these resources. Nor may you host it on any other website, transmit it, or store it on any type of electronic retrieval system without the prior written permission of CalvaryCurriculum.com.

This curriculum may be printed/photocopied as many times as needed, for you or your classroom/church, as long as you adhere to the above paragraph.

All scripture taken from the NKJV Bible unless otherwise noted.

New King James Version®  
Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All clip art, images, and illustrations are copyrighted under the following companies:

Copyright © 2001-2003 One Way Out  
Copyright © 1992-2003 Arts Parts  
Copyright © 1998 Gospel Light  
Copyright © 1988 Rand Kruback  
Copyright © 2006 CalvaryCurriculum.com  
Copyright © 1992 Art Direction Book Company  
Copyright © 1998 Ron Wheeler  
Copyright © 2005 Youth Specialties

The story "John Griffith, the Bridge Operator" (Pages 54-55)  
was taken from [www.equip.org](http://www.equip.org) (Christian Research Institute)  
Copyright © 2010 Christian Research Institute

Cover Art Illustration  
Copyright © 2013 Sergio Cariello  
All rights reserved.



Written by: Larry Enterline  
Layout & Design by: Matt Enterline



**GOD'S  
LOVE  
FOR US**

"IN THIS THE LOVE OF GOD WAS MANIFESTED TOWARD US, THAT GOD HAS SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON INTO THE WORLD, THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH HIM. IN THIS IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS." 1 JOHN 4:9-10

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Number Six**



**LOOK UP, READ TOGETHER, & FILL IN THE BLANKS OF 1 JOHN 3:16-17**

"By this we know \_\_\_\_\_, because He laid down His \_\_\_\_\_ for us. And we also ought to lay down our \_\_\_\_\_ for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the \_\_\_\_\_ of God \_\_\_\_\_ in him?"



**LOOK UP, READ, & FILL IN THE BLANKS OF JOHN 15:13 & JOHN 3:16**

"Greater \_\_\_\_\_ has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."  
"For God so \_\_\_\_\_ the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

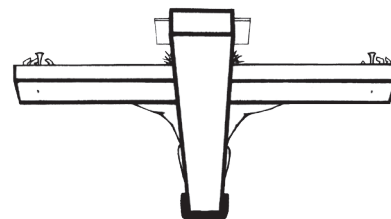


There may be times when we are not sure of **God's LOVE** for us. You may ask, "Does **God** really **LOVE** me?"

When this question is asked of **God**, we should remember the cross.



At the cross, we are shown how much **God LOVES** us!



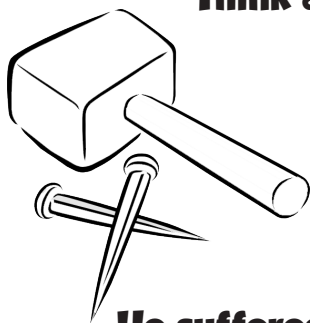
**LOOK UP, READ, & FILL IN THE BLANKS OF 1 JOHN 4:9-10**

"In this the \_\_\_\_\_ of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is \_\_\_\_\_, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our \_\_\_\_\_."



**WE NEED TO STOP AND THINK ABOUT THIS... JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND ME!**

**Think about it:** He was nailed to the cross because of your sin.



**He took all of the pain** for you.

**It was your sin** that put Him there.

**It was His LOVE for you** that kept Him there.



**He suffered for you** - so you would not have to suffer for your sins.

**He died for you** - so you would not have to die for your sins.



**He redeemed you from the power** of sin so that you might become a child of **God**.

Remember what **1 JOHN 3:16 & JOHN 15:13 SAY**

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us...”

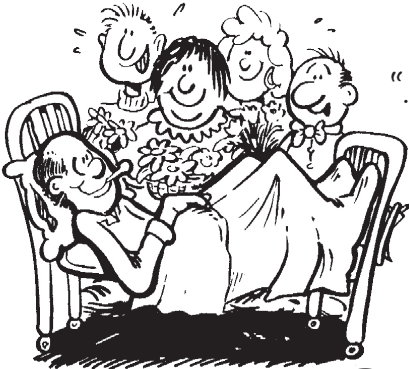
“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”



**We must not forget that God did not have to redeem us from our sin. He did this because He LOVES us.**

**LOOK UP, READ TOGETHER, & FILL IN THE BLANKS OF 1 JOHN 4:8**

“He who does not \_\_\_\_\_ does not know God, for God is \_\_\_\_\_.”



**1 JOHN 3:16 GOES ON TO SAY**

“...And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

God wants you to do the same as He, by **LOVING** those around you.



**REMEMBER:**

**LOVE** suffers long, **LOVE** is kind, **LOVE** does not envy, **LOVE** does not behave rudely, **LOVE** does not seek its own.

# 1 CORINTHIANS 13

You may ask

“Wait a minute! I can’t do that! It’s impossible for me to be like that!”



**YOU’RE RIGHT!**

The fact of the matter is, you can’t! But, that is what God wants you to do.



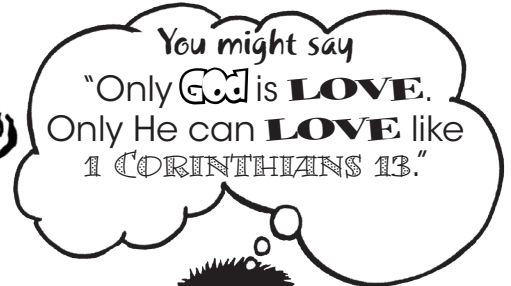
**YOU’RE RIGHT!**

But God still wants you to **LOVE** as He **LOVES**.



You might say

“Only God is **LOVE**. Only He can **LOVE** like **1 CORINTHIANS 13**.”



Remember, God is **LOVE** and He desires to show His **LOVE** to others through you! As we abide in Christ, and yield our lives to Him, His **LOVE** can be released to others through us.



**LOOK UP, READ, & FILL IN THE BLANKS OF JOHN 12:24-25**

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who \_\_\_\_\_ his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for \_\_\_\_\_."



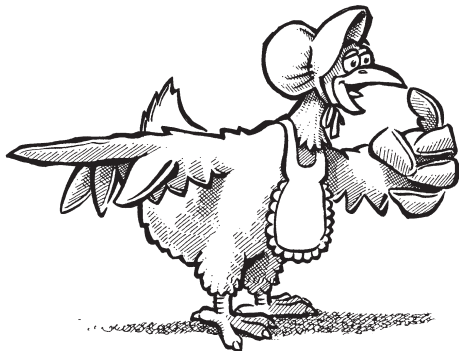
**You need to realize you only have two choices!**

- 1) To give your life to God and to do what He wants
- OR**
- 2) To live your life apart from God, and to live only for yourself.



**LOOK UP, READ, & FILL IN THE BLANK OF MATTHEW 12:30**

"He who is not with Me is \_\_\_\_\_ Me..."

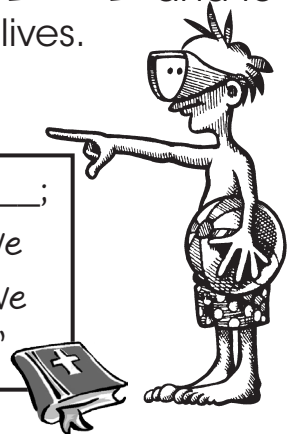


If you have not already made this choice, even now, you can choose to follow Jesus and allow Him to show His **LOVE** to others through you.

**1 JOHN 3:17** tells us if we choose to **LOVE** and to follow God, there will be proof in our lives.

**LOOK UP, READ, & FILL IN THE BLANKS OF 1 JOHN 4:20-21**

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a \_\_\_\_\_; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love \_\_\_\_\_ whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who \_\_\_\_\_ God must love his brother also."



**LOOK UP 1 JOHN 4:7-10 & READ IT TOGETHER 3 TIMES**

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."



(Propitiation is satisfying the righteousness of a Holy God, thereby making it possible for Him to show mercy righteously.)

**REMEMBER - Let us LOVE one another!**



## JOHN GRIFFETH, THE BRIDGE OPERATOR

*This is a story that takes place in the 1930's in Oklahoma:*

"John Griffith was in his early twenties. He was newly married and full of optimism. Along with his lovely wife, he had been blessed with a beautiful baby. He was living the American dream. But then came 1929 - the Great Stock Market Crash - the shattering of the American economy that devastated John's dreams. The winds that howled through Oklahoma were strangely symbolic of the gale force that was sweeping away his hopes and his dreams. And so, broken-hearted, John packed up his few possessions, and with his wife and his little son, headed East in an old Ford Model A. They made their way to the edge of the mighty Mississippi River and found a job tending one of the great railroad bridges there.

Day after day, John would sit in the control room and direct the enormous gears of the immense bridge over the mighty river. He would look out wistfully as bulky barges and splendid ships glided gracefully under his elevated bridge. Each day, he looked on sadly as those ships carried with them his shattered dreams and his visions of far-off places and exotic destinations.

It wasn't until 1937 that a new dream began to be birthed in John's heart. His young son was now eight years old and John had begun to catch a vision for a new life, a life in which Greg, his little son, would work shoulder to shoulder with him. The first day of this new life dawned and brought with it new hope and fresh purpose. Excitedly, they packed their lunches and headed off towards the immense bridge.

Greg looked on in wide-eyed amazement as his Dad pressed down the huge lever that raised and lowered the vast bridge. As he watched, he thought that his father must surely be the greatest man alive. He marveled that his Dad could singlehandedly control the movements of such a stupendous structure.

Before they knew it, Noon time had arrived. John had just elevated the bridge and allowed some scheduled ships to pass through. And then taking his son by the hand, they headed off towards lunch.

As they ate, John told his son in vivid detail stories about the marvelous destinations of the ships that glided below them. Enveloped in a world of thought, he related story after story, his son hanging on his every word.

Then, suddenly, in the midst of telling a tale about the time that the river had overflowed its banks, he and his son were startled back to reality by the shrieking whistle of a distant train. Looking at his watch in disbelief, John saw that it was already 1:07. Immediately he remembered that the bridge was still raised and that the Memphis Express would be by in just minutes.

In the calmest tone he could muster he instructed his son "Stay put." Quickly, he leaped to his feet, he jumped onto the catwalk. As the precious seconds flew by, he ran at full-tilt to the steer ladder leading into the control house.

Once in, he searched the river to make sure that no ships were in sight. And then, as he had been trained to do, he looked straight down beneath the bridge to make certain nothing was below. As his eyes moved downward, he saw something so horrifying that his heart froze in his chest. For there, below him in the massive gearbox that housed the colossal gears that moved the gigantic bridge, was his beloved son.

Apparently Greg had tried to follow his dad but had fallen off the catwalk. Even now he was wedged between the teeth of two main cogs in the gear box. Although he appeared to be conscious, John could see that his son's leg had already begun to bleed. Then an even more horrifying thought flashed through his mind. Lowering the bridge would mean killing the apple of his eye.

Panicked, his mind probed in every direction, frantically searching for solutions. In his mind's eye, he saw himself grabbing a coiled rope, climbing down the ladder, running down the catwalk, securing the rope, sliding down towards his son, pulling him back to safety. Then in an instant, he would move back down towards the control lever and thrust it down just in time for the oncoming train.

As soon as these thoughts appeared, he realized the futility of his plan. Instantly he knew there just wouldn't be enough time. Frustration began to beat on John's brow, terror written over every inch of his face. His mind darted here and there, vainly searching for yet another solution.

His agonized mind considered the four hundred people that were moving inextricably closer and closer to the bridge. Soon the train would come roaring out of the trees with tremendous speed, but this was his son...his only son...his pride...his joy.

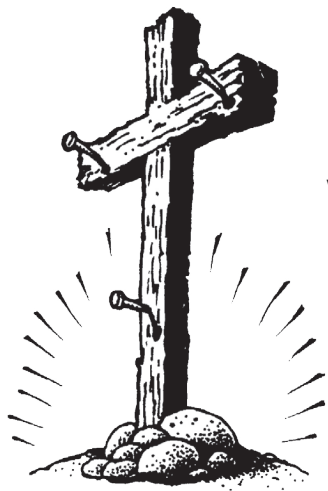
He knew in a moment there was only one thing he could do. He knew he would have to do it. And so, burying his face under his left arm, he plunged down the lever. The cries of his son were quickly drowned out by the relentless sound of the bridge as it ground slowly into position. With only seconds to spare, the Memphis Express - with its 400 passengers - roared out of the trees and across the mighty bridge.

John Griffith lifted his tear-stained face and looked into the windows of the passing train. A businessman was reading the morning newspaper. A uniformed conductor was glancing nonchalantly at his large vest pocket watch. Ladies were already sipping their afternoon tea in the dining cars. A small boy, looking strangely like his own son, pushed a long thin spoon into a large dish of ice cream. Many of the passengers seemed to be engaged in idle conversation or careless laughter.

No one even looked his way. No one even cast a glance at the giant gear box that housed the remains of his hopes and his dreams, his precious son.

In anguish he pounded the glass in the control room. He cried out "What's the matter with you people? Don't you know? Don't you care? Don't you know I've sacrificed my son for you? What's wrong with you?"

No one answered. No one heard. No one even looked. Not one of them seemed to care. And then, as suddenly as it had happened, it was over. The train disappeared moving rapidly across the bridge and out over the horizon."



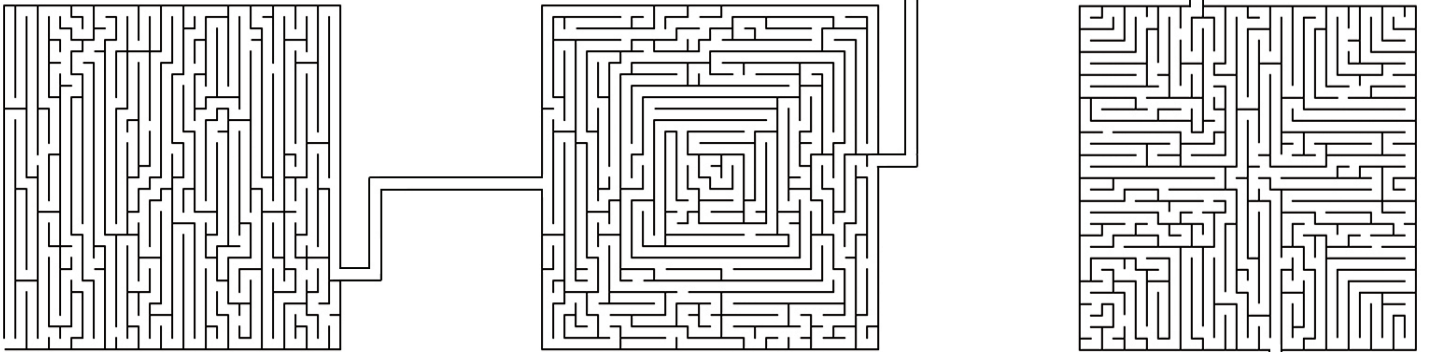
**In this story we see a faint glimpse of what God the Father did in sacrificing His Son, Jesus, to atone for the sins of the world. Unlike the Memphis Express a train that caught John Griffith by surprise, God in His great love for us, sacrificed His Son so that we might be saved. The love of Christ is demonstrated in that He was not accidentally caught as was John's son. But, He willingly sacrificed His life for the sins of all mankind.**



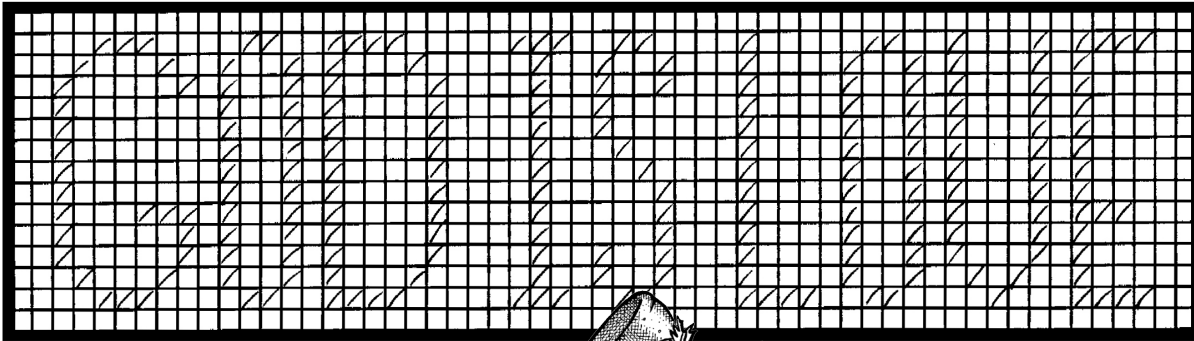


# ACTIVITY PAGE

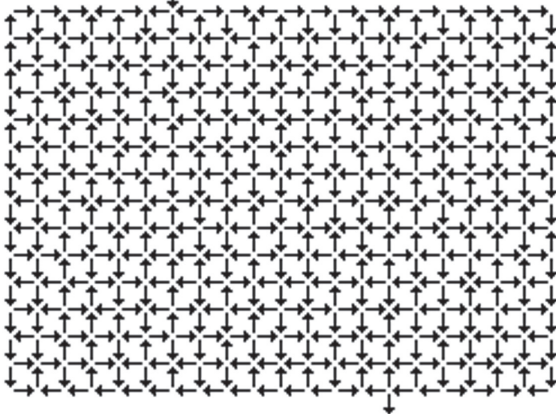
# 1



FILL IN THE BOXES THAT ARE MARKED TO SEE WHAT THE MESSAGE SAYS



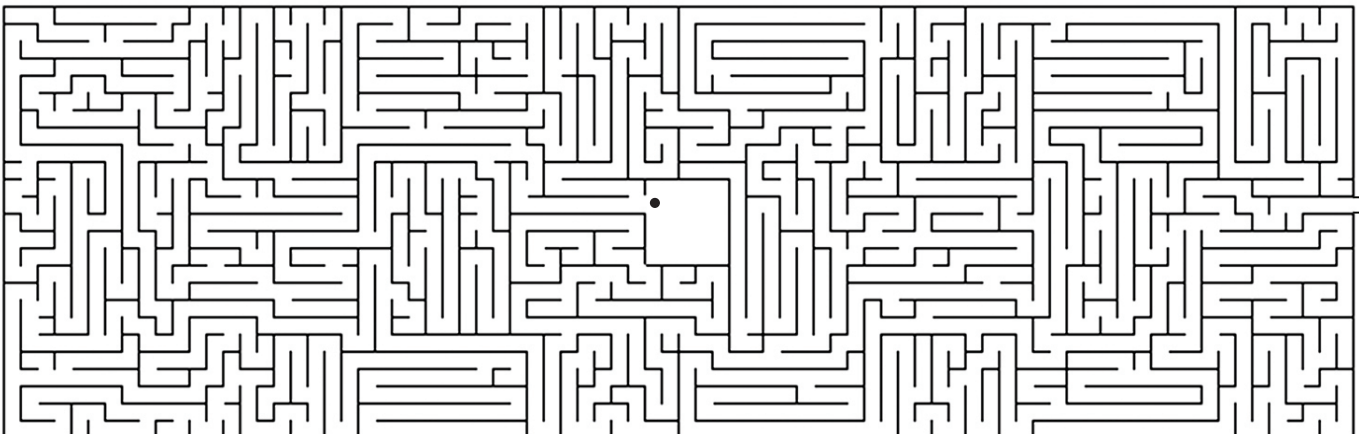
YOU CAN ONLY GO THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE ARROW INDICATES:



Find the hidden message by marking off the letters

**A-B-C-I-J-K-N-P-Q-X-Y & Z**

**BDOENSGXODSLKOVAEFLQOWN  
THROCUGHMATOOTBHZERJS?PA**

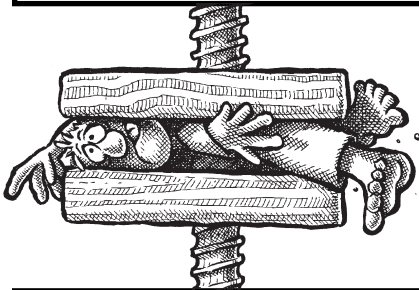




# ACTIVITY PAGE 2

IN BOTH WORDSEARCHES, FIND THE BIBLE VERSE.  
(WARNING: WORDS MAY CROSS FROM THE TOP WORDSEARCH TO THE BOTTOM WORDSEARCH)

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



"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

JOHN 3:16

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

