

A NOTE TO PARENTS

For the next several weeks, our Gospel readings focus on what it means for us to believe in the Messiah and follow him. The Scriptures challenge us: "Look what is happening! And it is happening to you. Will you receive it as Good News, and drop everything to find your inheritance in the promised Kingdom—or will it be Bad News for you, because you are unstirred by the claims of the Kingdom, or stirred only to fear and anger?"

He has told those who follow him that it will not be easy. But now he tells us that the life of the Kingdom, though not *easy*, is incredibly *simple*. "Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward." Or as the great English pastor and poet George Herbert put it, in one of our hymns,

Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see,
And what I do in anything, to do it as for thee.

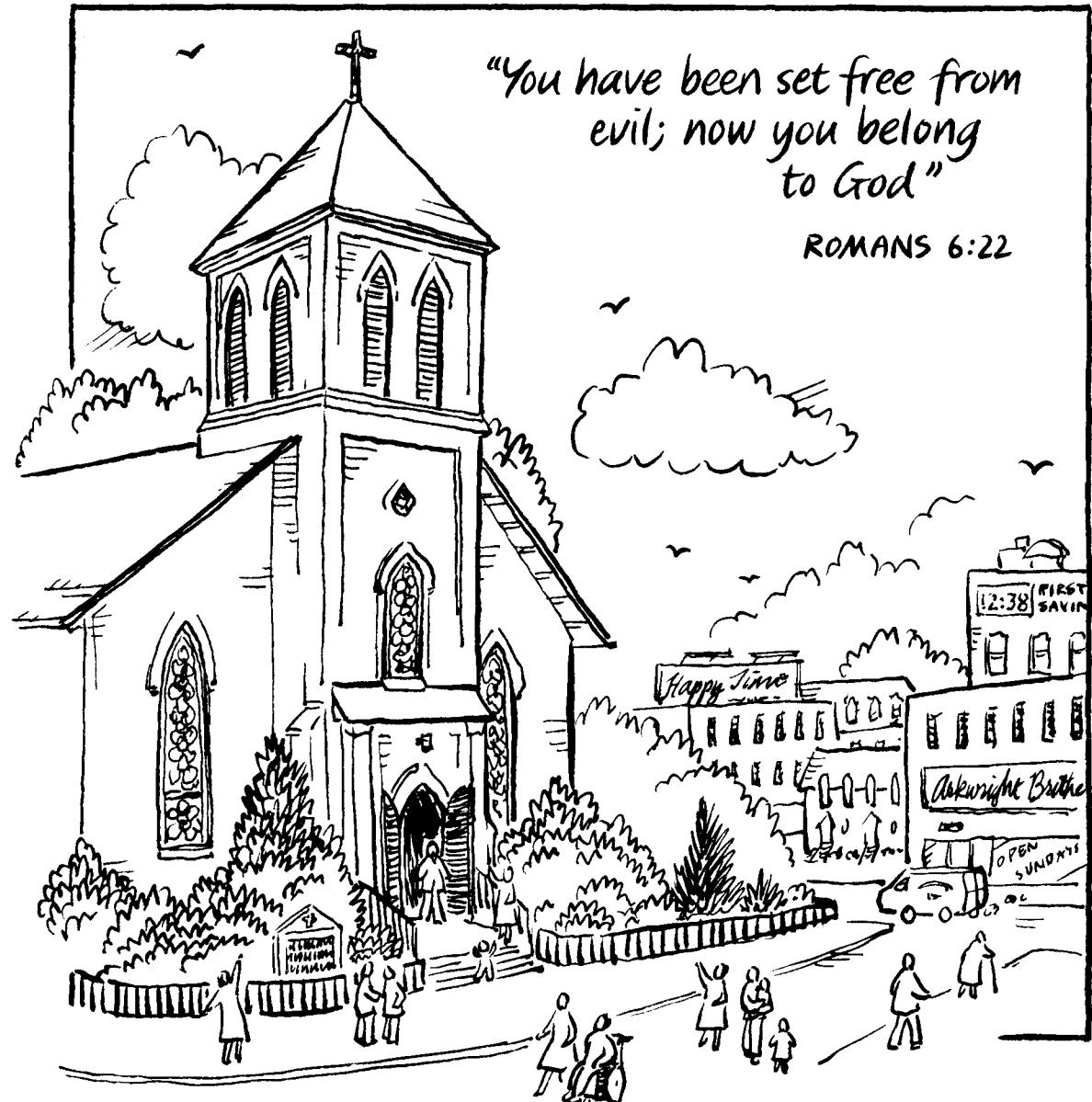
... Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
Makes that and the action fine" (1982 Hymnal #592).

Wherever we find ourselves placed, whatever we are given to do or choose to do, we can be Christ's followers and do his work. Any work done in integrity and love is God's work. It need not only be "good works" in the sense of human service—healing, helping, feeding—the work we usually think of as "Christian work" of love.

Doing any work passionately and truthfully requires not only energy and love but, often, courage. Children who work hard in school, try to befriend unpopular classmates, or resist peer pressure to do foolish or dangerous things, may be ridiculed or pushed around by other kids. It may take real courage for our children to go on, day after day, as Jesus' disciples in the tough world of school, playground, and bus stop. It is terribly hard for them to defend themselves and also keep from losing heart or becoming arrogant and scornful towards those who bully them and rough them up. We need to stand by our children, and help them know that their courage, wisdom, and gentleness are helping to build God's Kingdom.

THE SUNDAY PAPER JUNIOR

Year A
PROPER 8
TRACKS 1 and 2



"You have been set free from
evil; now you belong
to God"

ROMANS 6:22

IF WE BELONG TO GOD, WE WILL DO GOD'S WORK.

God gives us many kinds of work to do.



He wants us to do our work as well as we can.

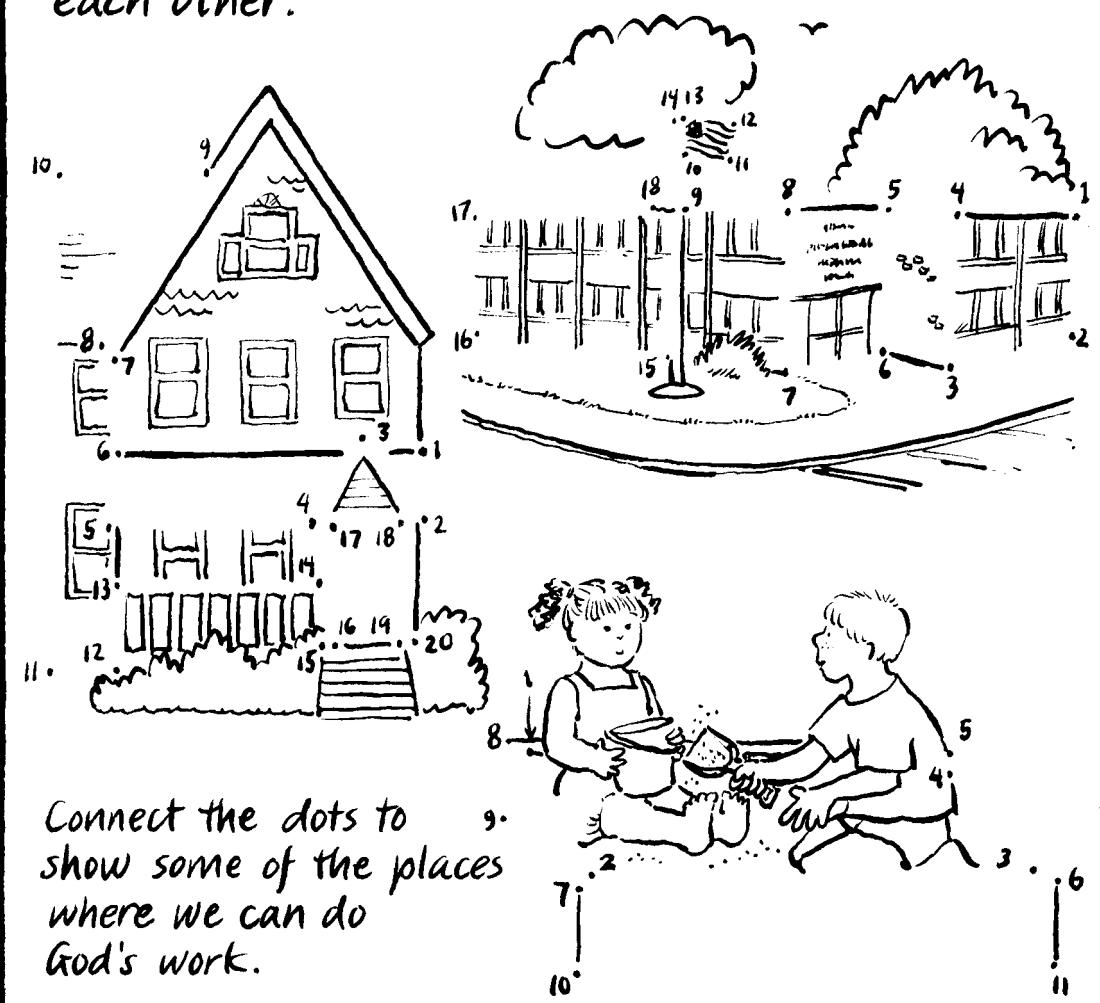
The most important work is to love and help others.



Jesus promises to love us and help us, and share his glory with us.



God's work is not just the things we do in church. God's work is not just something that priests do. God's work is for all of us to do in our whole lives. All work is God's work, when we do it with love and care for God's world and each other.



Connect the dots to show some of the places where we can do God's work.