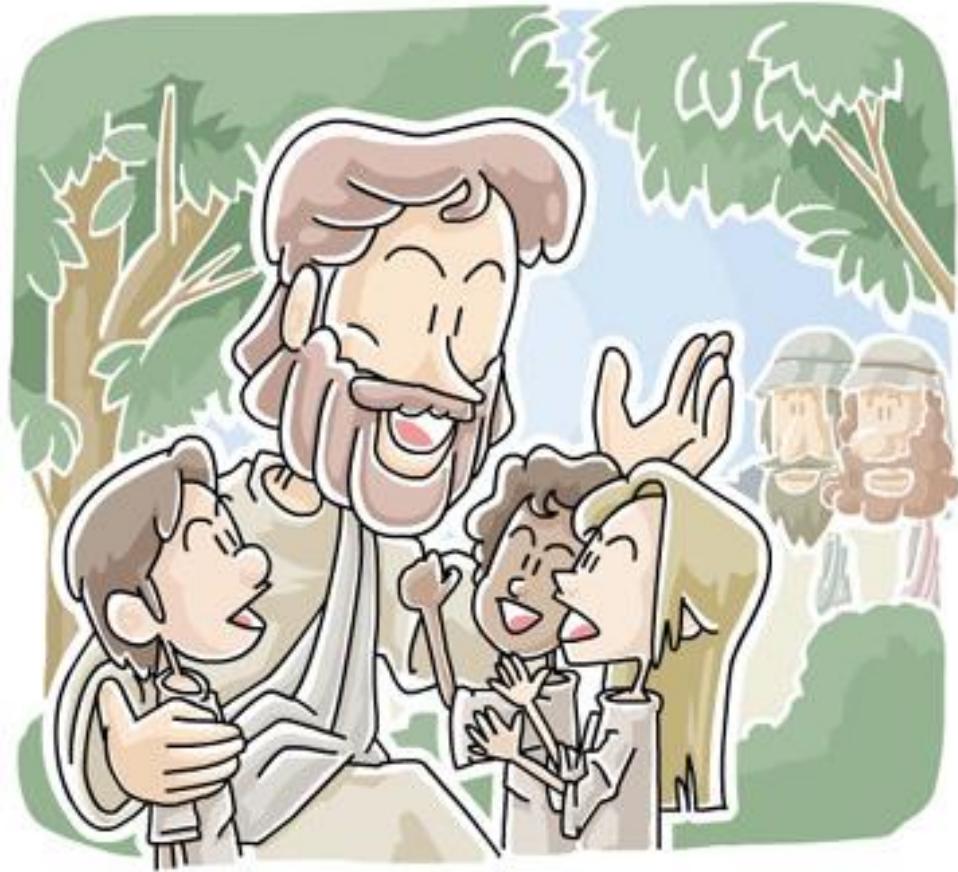


Plymouth Congregational Church

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN



June 28, 2020

Dear God,

Thanks for today, for this beautiful world, for the health and safety of my friends and family, and for all the things you have given us! Life is better with you and your LOVE!

Amen.

Plymouth Children's Prayer



Welcoming God

based on Matthew 10:40-42

The question that ends the story will start the children thinking about this teaching and how they welcome others.

Some people followed Jesus because they heard the stories Jesus told about God and God's love. Others followed Jesus because they were there when Jesus healed someone they knew. Still others followed Jesus because Jesus healed them.

But some people travelled with Jesus everywhere. These people were Peter, Andrew, James, and John, fishers whom Jesus called from their fishing nets on the Sea of Galilee. Another was Matthew, who was a tax collector, a man not popular with the community. Along with them, Jesus selected seven others and gave them the power to heal.

These followers of Jesus became known as the "Twelve." Sometimes Jesus taught only them after Jesus had taught the crowds who gathered around him. However, Jesus

understood that many more people needed healing. But before the Twelve could go out to heal, Jesus had much to teach them.

Jesus warned the Twelve about places that were unfriendly to them. Jesus told them to leave those villages. Jesus assured them that the Holy Spirit would give them the words they needed. Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. God will take care of you."

But Jesus didn't talk just about the problems they might face. Jesus also talked about the good things that would happen.

"When people welcome you, they welcome me," Jesus told the Twelve. "And when they welcome me, they are welcoming God who sent me."

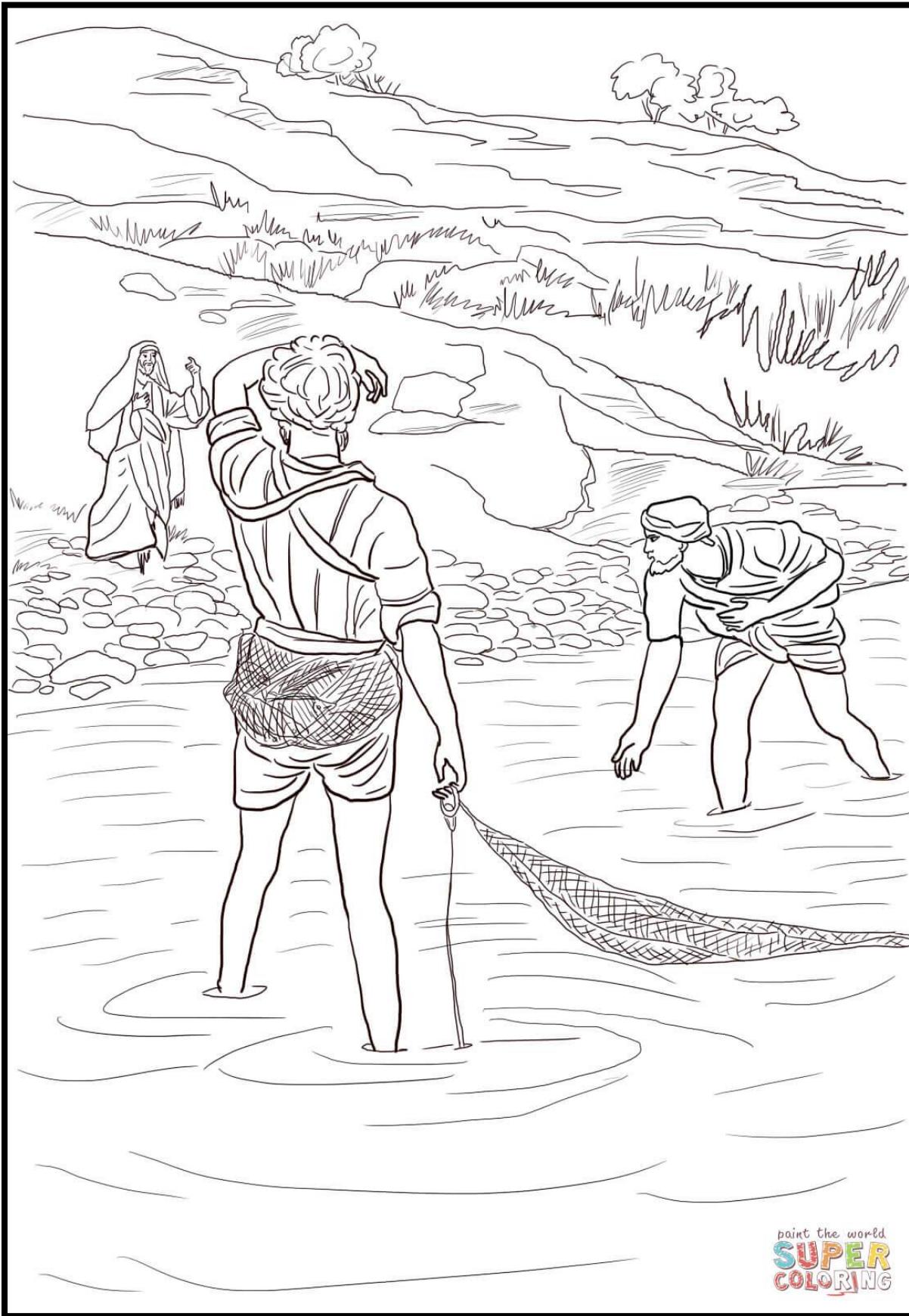
The Twelve thought about Jesus' words. They thought, "So when we heal someone in Jesus' name, we are bringing God to that person."

Jesus continued, "If someone gives you even a cup of cold water because you follow me, that person will be rewarded."

The Twelve looked at each other. How would they be welcomed?

Creation Corner

Jesus Calls Peter and Andrew to Drop Their Nets and Follow Him



"When people welcome you, they welcome me"

Find the names on the list in the word search. Words can be spelled forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards, and diagonally.

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

FISHERS

HOLY SPIRIT

TEACHER

VILLAGES

FOLLOWER

JESUS

TRAVEL

WELCOME

HEALERS

TAX COLLECTOR

TWELVE



Hospitality in Bible Times

In the time of Jesus, hospitality was very important. People were expected to offer a special welcome to everyone, even complete strangers. This welcome was known as hospitality. Let's look at what that welcome involved.

An example of hospitality in the Hebrew Scriptures

Abraham was sitting in the shade during the hottest part of the day, which was really hot where he was. He saw three strangers standing nearby. To find out what Abraham did, read Genesis 18:2-5 and complete the following sentences.

Abraham

(Verse 2) Welcomed the strangers with a

(Verse 4) Offered them water to

(Verse 4) Invited them to

(Verse 5) And have

Even though the visitors were complete strangers Abraham was offering the kind of welcome and hospitality that was common at the time.

bow, wash their feet, sit in the shade, something to eat

An example of hospitality in the Christian Scriptures

In Luke's gospel, Jesus visits the house of Simon, a Pharisee. In this story Simon does not offer a proper welcome to Jesus, which would have been considered rude. Eventually Jesus spoke to Simon about his lack of hospitality. Jesus says,

"I came into your home, and you gave me no water for my feet.... You did not welcome me with a kiss ... you have provided no olive oil for my head" (excerpts from Luke 7:44-46).

People were also expected to offer food, as in Abraham's time.

Hey, fellow disciples,
use the words in the box
to complete the paragraph
and find out more about
hospitality.

These traditions were very _____. It was considered shameful and rude not to follow them. If you had no _____ in your house you were expected to go find some, even in the middle of the _____. For Jewish families to eat with strangers was to accept them as _____ and give them a place within the life of the _____.



family, food, friends, important, night



Signs of Hospitality

Go on a hunt to see where hospitality happens in your congregation. Look for welcoming signs or symbols. Walk around the church building. Imagine what it is like to come here for the first time. Fill out this survey.

- What signs of welcome do people see before they enter the building?
- If you are in a wheelchair, how will you come into the building?
- How does the entrance make you feel welcome?
- If you are a new family, who or what helps you find the church school rooms?
- Is there a place for babies or young children? Is it clean and safe?
- On Sunday morning, who welcomes people?
- If you come during the week, what helps you find the church office or the pastor's study?
- Do you see anything inside or outside the church building that suggests that some people are not welcome?

Talk with your group about what would make your church building more hospitable or welcoming. Select one idea to present to the leaders of your congregation.

Greetings friends,

During these days of uncertainty, as followers of Jesus, let us remember that we are a HOPE-giving people. Remembering the words of Jesus, "do not be afraid, for I am with you always," we put our trust in the Lord, and in that we find comfort. You are all in my prayers.

If there is anything that I can do for you, please contact me via email at andrea@plymouthmiami.org.

Blessings,

Andrea Burt

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