

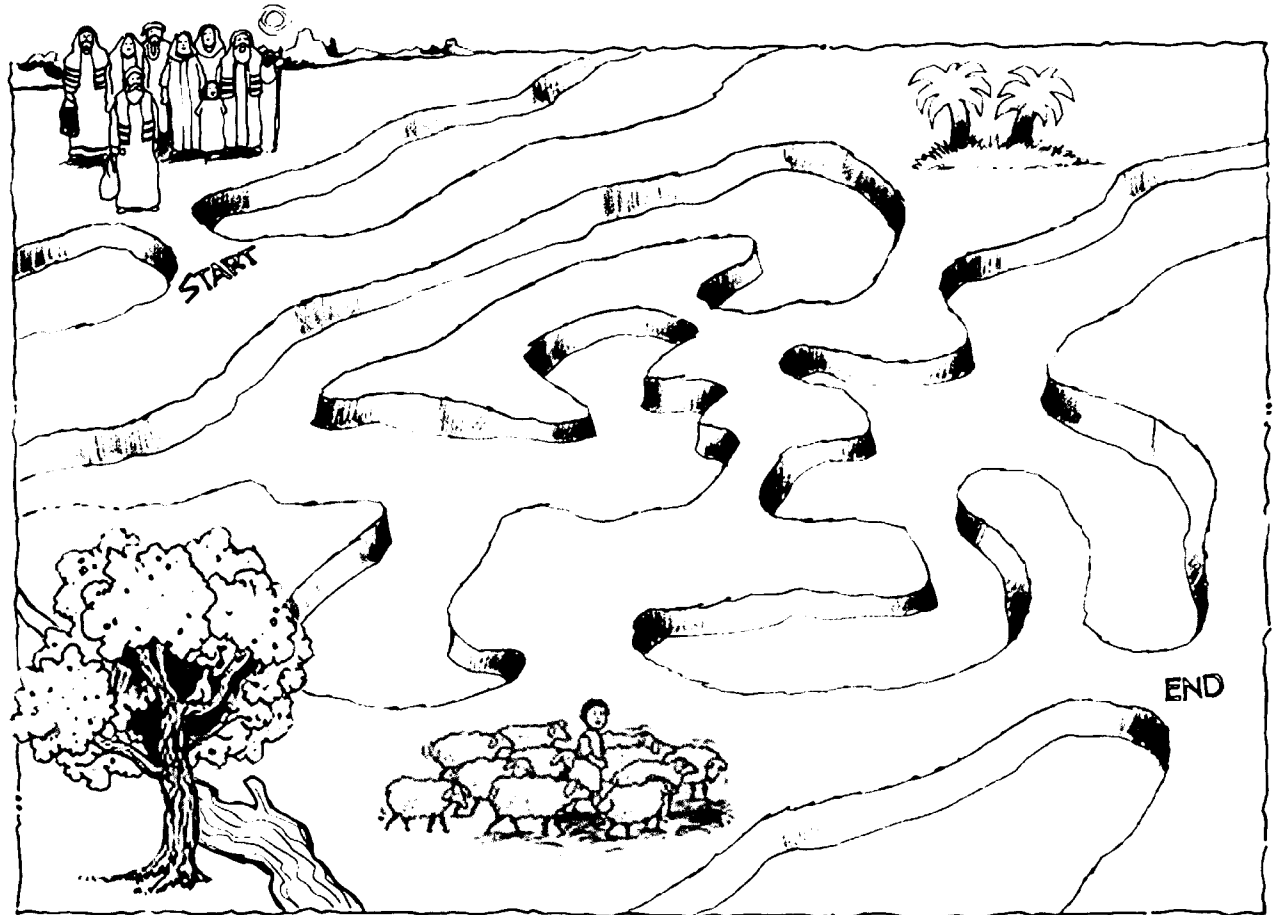
A God of Strength and Tenderness based on Isaiah 40:1-11

Long before the people of Jerusalem were permitted to return to their homes, they were filled with sadness that they could not live in Jerusalem. They needed words of comfort that God had not forgotten them.

After they had been waiting many years, God told the prophet Isaiah to tell them,

*God says, "I will comfort my people."
Speak kindly to the people of Jerusalem.
Tell them that their lives as slaves here will
be over.
Tell them that I have forgiven them twice over.
A voice cries out in the desert, "Clear a path
for God!
Make the highway smooth for God.
God's glory will be seen by everyone."
This is from God's mouth.
God will come with strength, with a strong
arm.
And God will come like a shepherd.
God will gather the lambs tenderly and carry
them,
and God will guide the sheep gently.*

The people knew about strong armies, and they knew about good shepherds. They felt better knowing that God would be both strong and gentle for them. Now they were certain that God would lead them home to Jerusalem.



Which two sheep are the same?

