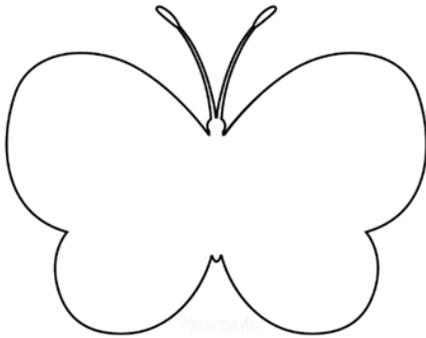




Leaders of the Bible: Jesus



Dear God,

Thank you for stories that help us understand our world and your dream for us. Thank you for our time together. Be with us as we discover more about you and what it means to live with you in our lives.

Amen.

Today's Story: Matthew 25:31-46

In this season after Pentecost, we hear stories of Jesus' ministry in the world and our call to engage in that mission. This season is also known as Ordinary Time coming from the word "ordinal" which means counted time. This time is not ordinary as in common or regular, but it is the time of counted weeks between Pentecost and Advent. The color for this season is green and it is often referred to as the green growing time as we hear stories of what God is calling us to do in the world, we join in that call, and we grow in our faith.

A Note About The Story

This is the culmination of Jesus' teaching in Matthew, (and for us it is also the finale of the church year) and Jesus does not mince words telling those gathered around him about what we are all called to do and what we all can do each and everyday. This is not rocket science. It's about treating each person we meet as if they were Jesus, because they are and therefore should be given all the same respect and honor as our Lord.

Matthew 25:31-46

One day, Jesus was out walking with his friends. He told them:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; because

I was hungry and you gave me food,

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,

I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

I was naked and you gave me clothing,

I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?'

Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Wondering about Today's Story

- I wonder what you remember about our story today?
- I wonder what message Jesus was trying to get across?
- I wonder what it meant when Jesus said, "just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."
- Imagine a World In our story today, what does Jesus tell us that we are to do?
- I wonder what the world would be like or what it would look like if we did these things?

Word Find

Some Qualities of a Good Leader

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

Compassionate

Empathy

Inspires Others

Good Listener

Humble

Prayerful

Leads by Example

Merciful

Understanding

Thankful

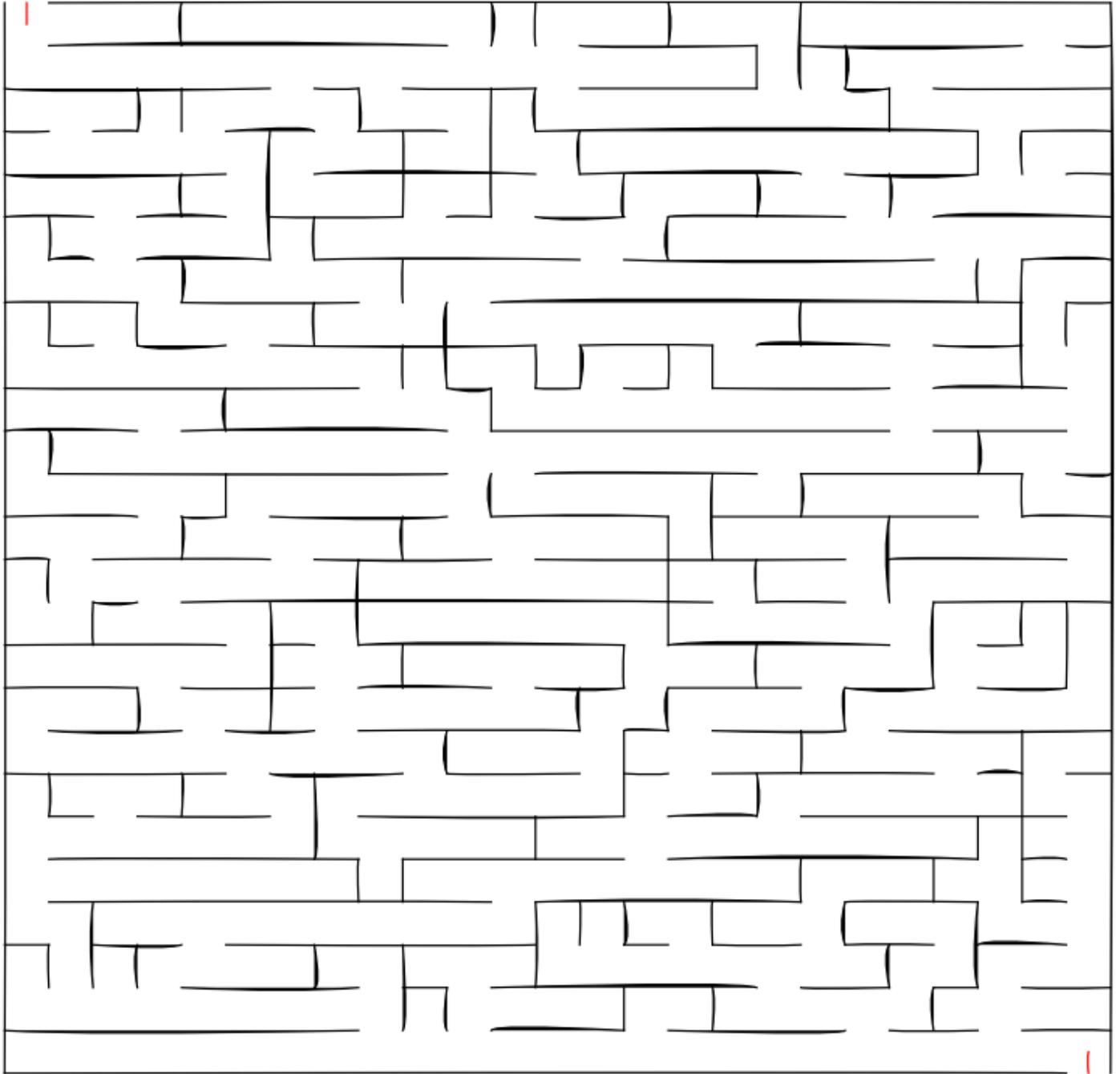
Truthful

Wise

Faithful

Grab a partner and work together to find your way through the maze.

START



Leaders of the Bible

For What Do You Give Thanks?

This is the final session of our church year, so it's like our New Year's Eve! Next Sunday is the First Sunday in Advent, which marks the beginning of the Church Year. So today is our day to think about the people and things that we want to give thanks for as we think back over the last year.

I wonder, what are some people or things you want to give thanks for?

Ideas for Home

Streamers of Thanks—Give the children a LONG length of streamers or ribbon. Have them write or draw on the full length of the streamer all the people or things they want to give thanks for in their lives. When they are done, have them roll it up around a popsicle stick or something so they can safely transport it home and hang it in their room.

Links of Thanks—Give the children strips of paper in a wide variety of colors. Ask them to write or draw something for which they are thankful from this last year, putting only one thing on one strip of paper. Have them staple or tape each strip into a circle and then connect them all to make a paper chain of thanks.

Notes of Thanks—Give the children some nice paper or even notecards to write or draw thank you notes that they can give to people as a way of appreciating what someone has done for them this past year.

You Are God's Greatest Treasure!