



Diocese of Athabasca

Sunday School Lesson Plan – Sunday, October 18, 2026

Here's a **Sunday School Lesson Plan** for young children (ages 4–8) and some activities for older children using the **Revised Common Lectionary readings** for **October 18, 2026 – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost (Year A)**. Bible Verses: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22; Preface of the Lord's Day

✨ Sunday School Lesson Plan

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost – October 18, 2026

Based on the Revised Common Lectionary

- Exodus 33:12-23
- Psalm 99
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
- Matthew 22:15-22

Lesson Title: I Belong to God!

Theme: Everything we have comes from God, and our whole lives belong to God.

Big Idea: Jesus teaches us to give to others what belongs to them and to give to God what belongs to God. We belong to God, and we can give God our love, thanks, worship, and service.

Lesson Focus for Kids:

❤️ God loves me.

👤 I belong to God.

🙏 I can give God my love and thanks.

👐 I can serve God by helping others.

✨ God is holy and always with us.

Scripture Readings — Kid-Friendly Language

Exodus 33:12–23

Moses Wants to Know God Is Near

Moses had a very important job.

God had asked Moses to lead God's people.

But Moses didn't want to do it alone.

Moses prayed:

“God, please go with us.”

God promised Moses:

“My presence will go with you.”

Moses wanted to know God even more.

He asked God to show him God's glory.

God explained that Moses could not see all of God's glory face-to-face.

God placed Moses safely in a crack in a rock.

God's glory passed by.

Moses knew that the holy and wonderful God was with him.

Kid Connection

Sometimes we have difficult things to do.

We can remember God's promise:

God is with us.

We cannot see God in the same way we see another person, but we can notice signs of God's love and presence all around us.

Psalm 99

God Is Holy!

Psalm 99 is a song of praise.

It tells us:

“The Lord is great.”

God is powerful.

God is just.

God listens when God's people pray.

Again and again the psalm says:

“Holy is he!”

What Does Holy Mean?

For young children, explain:

“Holy means that God is wonderfully special and completely good.”

We worship God because God is holy.

Try saying together:

Teacher: God is loving!

Children: God is holy!

Teacher: God is good!

Children: God is holy!

Teacher: God hears us!

Children: God is holy!

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

Faith, Love, and Hope

Paul wrote a letter to Christians in a place called Thessalonica.

Paul was thankful for them.

He remembered three wonderful things about them:

Their faith

They trusted God.

Their love

Their love led them to help others.

Their hope

They trusted Jesus and looked forward with hope.

Other people noticed how these Christians lived.

Their lives helped tell others about God.

Kid Connection

People can sometimes see God's love through **what we do**.

When we:



love,



help,



welcome,



share,



pray,

we show others something about the God we follow.

Matthew 22:15–22

Whose Picture Is on the Coin?

Some people wanted to trick Jesus with a difficult question.

They asked Jesus whether people should pay taxes to the emperor.

Jesus knew they were trying to trap him.

He asked:

“Show me the coin used for the tax.”

Someone gave Jesus a coin.

Jesus looked at it and asked:

“Whose head is this, and whose title?”

They answered:

“The emperor's.”

Jesus said:

“Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.”

The people were amazed by Jesus' answer.

Kid Connection

Whose Image Do You Carry?

Show the children a coin.

Ask:

“What do you see on this coin?”

There may be a picture of a king, queen, or another symbol.

Jesus used a coin to teach something much bigger than money.

Ask:

“What belongs to God?”

The earth belongs to God.

Our gifts come from God.

Our lives are gifts from God.

And we belong to God.

So what can we give God?



Our love



Our thanks



Our praise



Our listening



Our service



Our kindness

We can say:

“I BELONG TO GOD!”

Welcome & Opening Prayer / Circle Time

Whose Picture Is It?

Bring several safe, familiar objects or pictures:

- a Canadian coin,
- a family photograph,
- a church picture,
- a heart,
- a cross,
- a mirror.

Show the coin.

Ask:

“What pictures or words can you see?”

Explain that Jesus once used a coin to teach people something important.

Then pass around the mirror.

Each child looks into it.

Ask:

“Whose face do you see?”

“Yours!”

Explain:

“The Bible tells us that people are made in the image of God. You are precious to God.”

Give each child an imaginary heart to hold.

Say together:

“I AM LOVED BY GOD.”

“I BELONG TO GOD.”

Opening Prayer

Holy and loving God, thank you for being with us. Thank you for making us. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for Jesus. Help us listen to you. Help us love you. Help us use the gifts you have given us to love and serve others. Remind us every day: **We belong to you. Amen.**

Memory Verse

“Give to God the things that are God's.”

Matthew 22:21

For younger children:

“I Belong to God.”

Actions

Give — hold hands forward as though offering something.

to God — point upward.

the things — open both hands.

that are God's — place hands over heart.

Then point to yourself and say:

“I BELONG TO GOD!”

Bible Story Time

Jesus and the Coin

Hold up a large pretend coin.

One day some people came to Jesus.

They had a tricky question.

They wanted Jesus to say something that would get him into trouble.

They asked:

“Should we pay taxes to the emperor?”

Jesus knew what they were doing.

Instead of arguing, Jesus said:

“Show me a coin.”

Pretend to receive a coin.

Jesus looked at it.

Turn it over.

He asked:

“Whose picture is on this coin?”

The people looked.

“The emperor's!”

Jesus told them:

“Give to the emperor what belongs to the emperor.”

But Jesus didn't stop there.

He said:

“And give to God what belongs to God.”

Put the coin down.

Ask:

“What belongs to God?”

Let the children answer.

Then say:

“The Bible teaches us that God made people in God's image.”

Point to yourself.

You belong to God!

God doesn't want us to give God a pretend coin.

God wants us to love God with our lives.

Can your hands belong to God?

YES!

They can help.

Can your mouth belong to God?

YES!

It can say kind words.

Can your feet belong to God?

YES!

They can take you to someone who needs a friend.

Can your heart belong to God?

YES!

You can love God and other people.

So when Jesus says:

“Give to God the things that are God's,”

we can remember:

 **I BELONG TO GOD!** 

Craft / Activity

I Belong to God Mirror

Materials

- Cardstock
- Child-safe reflective paper or foil
- Crayons
- Glue
- Heart and cross shapes

Create a simple hand-mirror shape from cardstock.

Place reflective paper in the centre.

Across the top write:

WHO BELONGS TO GOD?

Children look into the mirror.

Underneath write:

I DO!

Decorate the frame with:



hearts



crosses



happy faces

At the bottom:

“Give to God the things that are God's.”

Matthew 22:21

For a non-reflective version, children draw their own face inside the mirror.

Craft Option

My Heart Belongs to God

Give each child a large paper heart.

Across the middle:

I BELONG TO GOD

Children decorate the heart with pictures of ways they can love God:

- praying,
- helping,
- sharing,
- singing,
- caring for creation,
- welcoming a friend.

Add a simple cross in the centre.

Game

Give It to God!

Have children stand in a circle.

Call out different things.

When the item is something we can offer God through our lives, children place their hands over their hearts and say:

“I GIVE IT TO GOD!”

Try:

My love! ❤️

“I give it to God!”

My prayers! 🙏

“I give it to God!”

My kindness! 😊

“I give it to God!”

My helping hands! 🙌

“I give it to God!”

My songs! 🎵
“I give it to God!”

My thanks!
“I give it to God!”

Finish:

My whole self!

Everyone answers:

“I BELONG TO GOD!”

Game Option

Coin Picture Match

Create large pretend paper coins.

Put simple pictures on them:

- ❤️ heart
- 👐 helping hands
- 🙏 praying hands
- 🎵 music note
- 😊 smiling face
- 🌍 earth

Place them face down.

Children take turns choosing a coin.

Ask:

“How can we give this to God?”

For example:

❤️ — Love God and others.

👐 — Help someone.

🙏 — Pray.

🎵 — Sing to God.

🌍 — Care for God's creation.

Song Suggestions

- Jesus Loves Me
- He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
- This Little Light of Mine
- I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
- God Is So Good
- Jesus Loves the Little Children
- Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children
- All Things Bright and Beautiful
- Seek Ye First
- Take My Life, and Let It Be

For preschool children, adapt *If You're Happy and You Know It*:

If you know you belong to God, clap your hands.

If you know you belong to God, stomp your feet.

If you know you belong to God, show some love.

Finish:

If you know you belong to God, shout “AMEN!”

Snack Suggestions

Coin-Shaped Snack

Serve simple round foods such as:

- round crackers,
- banana slices,
- cucumber rounds,
- cheese circles.

Ask:

“What shape are these?”

A circle!

Hold up a pretend coin.

Say:

“Today a coin helped us remember that our whole lives belong to God.”

Another option is a **Heart Snack** using heart-shaped sandwiches or fruit pieces.

Before eating:

**Holy God,
thank you for this food.
Thank you for loving us.
Help us remember
that we belong to you.
Amen.**

Check allergies and prepare food appropriately for the children's ages.

Wrap Up & Reflections

Ask:

What did Jesus ask to see?

A coin.

Whose picture was on the coin?

The emperor's.

What did Jesus say we should give to God?

What belongs to God.

Then ask:

Who belongs to God?

Have everyone point to themselves:

“I DO!”

Ask:

- How can your hands serve God?
- How can your words serve God?
- How can you show God's love?
- How can you thank God?
- Is God with you when you leave church?

YES!

Repeat:

GOD MADE ME.

GOD LOVES ME.

GOD IS WITH ME.

I BELONG TO GOD!

Closing Prayer

Holy God, thank you for making us. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for always being near. Our hands belong to you. Help them serve. Our voices belong to you. Help them speak kindly. Our hearts belong to you. Help them love. Our lives belong to you. Help us follow Jesus. May

we always remember: **We belong to you. Amen.**

Take-Home Idea

I Belong to God Coin

Send each child home with a large paper “coin.”

On one side:

 **I BELONG TO GOD** 

On the other:

This week I can give God...

- ☐ My thanks
- ☐ My prayers
- ☐ My kindness
- ☐ My helping hands
- ☐ My love

Matthew 22:21

Encourage children to place it somewhere they will see it during the week.

Teacher Notes

Matthew 22:15–22 is primarily a story about a politically charged attempt to trap Jesus. Young children do not need an extended lesson about Roman taxation.

The coin provides an accessible doorway into the deeper theological question:

What belongs to God?

One useful Christian connection comes from Genesis 1:26–27. The coin bears the emperor's image; human beings bear God's image. This connection is not explicitly stated in Matthew 22, so present it as a helpful biblical connection rather than as something Jesus directly says in this passage.

For young children, emphasize:

You are precious to God.

Your life is a gift from God.

You can use your life to love and serve God.

Avoid turning “giving to God” primarily into a lesson about giving money to church. Children can give God their praise, gratitude, attention, kindness, service, and love.

Exodus 33 adds an important theme: **God's presence**. Moses knows that he cannot lead God's people without God going with them.

This gives children another reassuring message:

We belong to God, and God goes with us.

Anglican Connection

Baptism — We Belong to Christ

This week's theme connects especially well with Baptism.

Explain: “At Baptism, we are welcomed into the family of God's Church. We are marked as Christ's own.”

In Anglican baptismal liturgy, the sign of the cross is made on the newly baptized person.

For young children, say: “**The cross reminds us: I belong to Jesus.**”

If appropriate, show the baptismal font.

Ask: “**What happens here?**”

Explain simply: “Water is used as we welcome someone into the family of God's Church.”

Our Baptismal Promises

At Baptism we promise, with God's help, to live as Jesus' people.

Translate the promises for young children:

With God's help, we will:

 Pray and worship.

 Learn about God.

 Love other people.

 Serve people who need help.

 Work for peace.

 Care for God's creation.

The important response is:

“I will, with God's help.”

We belong to God, but we don't have to follow Jesus using only our own strength.

God helps us.

The Peace

Connect the lesson to something children see during Anglican worship.

Before Communion, God's people share the Peace.

We might say:

“The peace of the Lord be always with you.”

We then greet one another.

Explain:

“Belonging to God changes how we treat God's people. We welcome, forgive, and care for one another.”

I Belong to God!

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



I Belong to God!

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

What Can I Give to God?

Circle the things we can give to God.



Love



Prayer



Helping



Kindness



Praise



Being mean

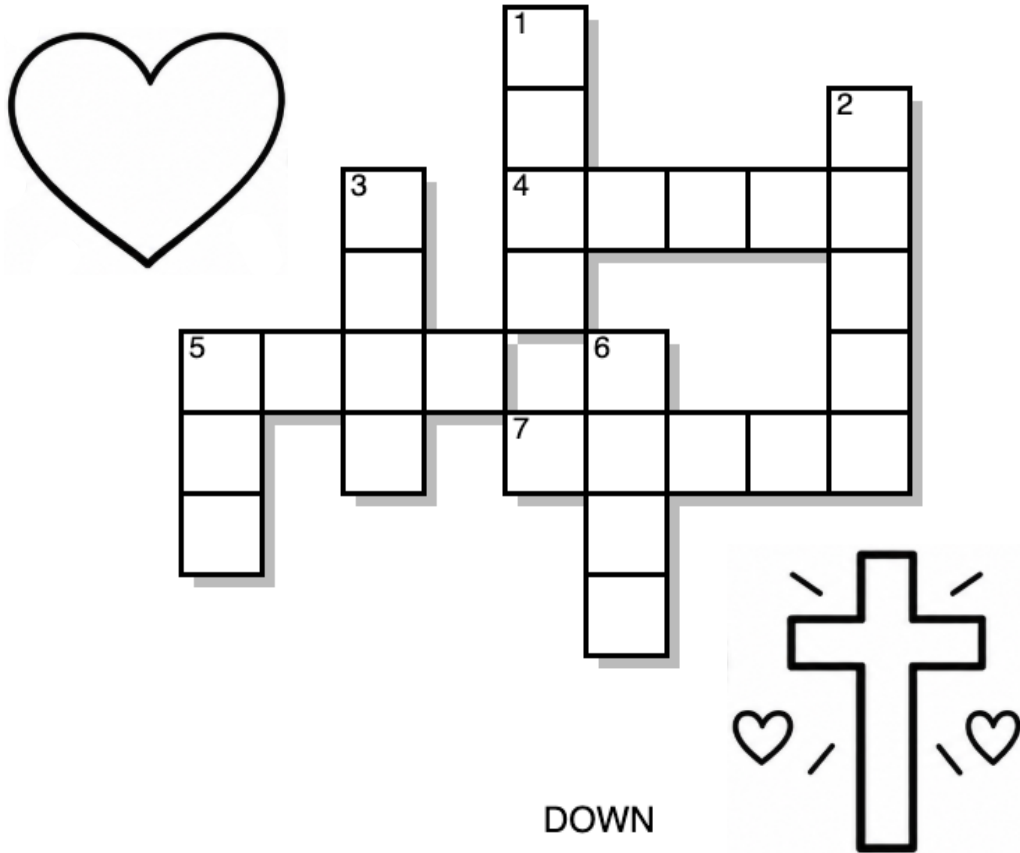


I GIVE GOD MY LOVE!



I Belong to God!

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



ACROSS

- 4 A picture can also be called an _____.
- 5 We can _____ God our thanks and praise.
- 7 Who asked God to go with the people?



DOWN

- 1 Jesus asked someone to show him a _____.
- 2 Who taught people using a coin?
- 3 We can give God our _____.
- 5 Moses asked _____ to go with the people.
- 6 Psalm 99 tells us that God is _____.

I Belong to God!

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

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

GOD
JESUS
LOVE
COIN
GIVE

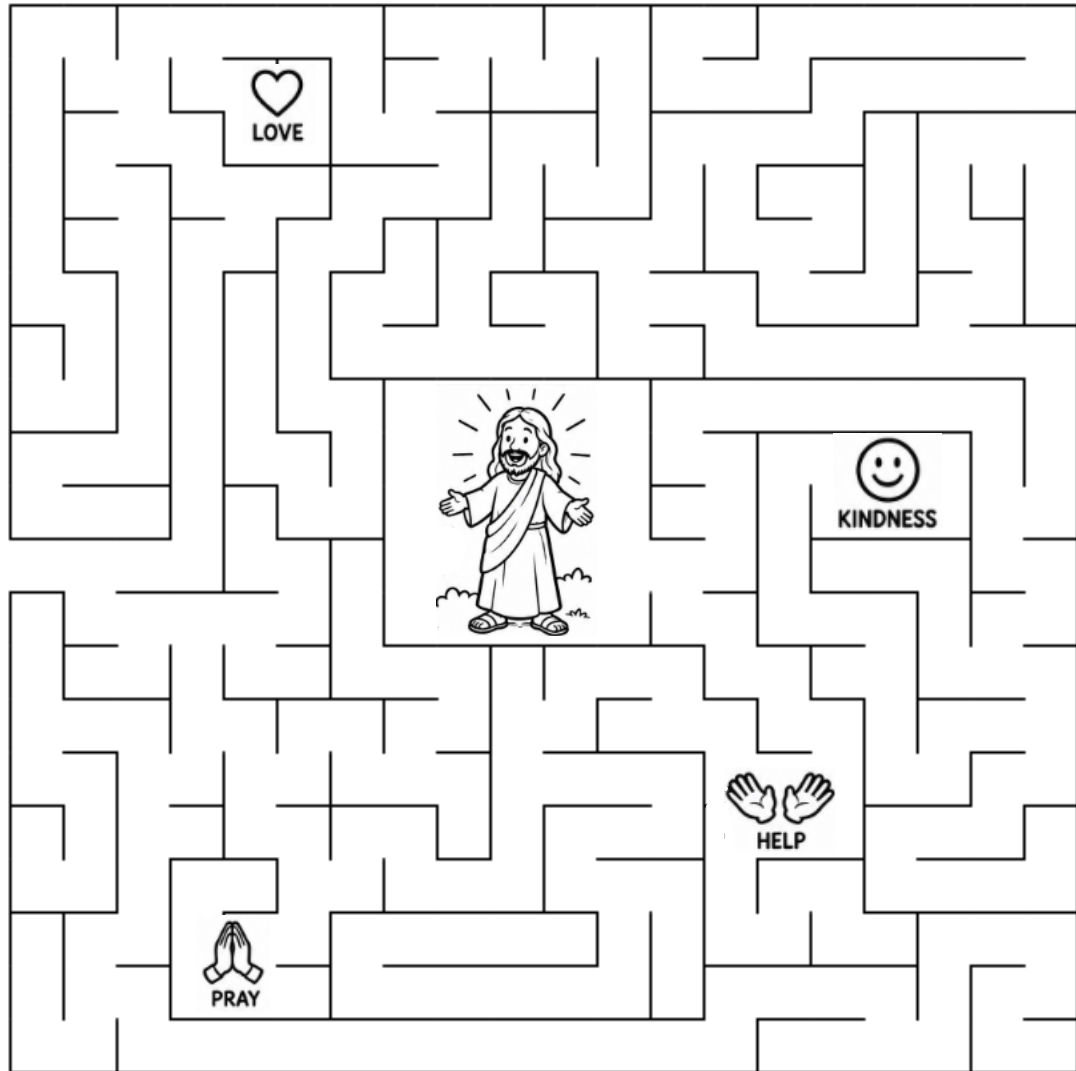
HOLY
MOSES
PRAY
HELP
IMAGE



I Belong to God!

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Help the child find the way to Jesus.



♥ I BELONG TO GOD! ♥

I Belong to God!

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
20						4					9	12					10								

21 23 20 9 21 20 2 6 4 8 18 23

19 3 20 22 13 6 19 25 4 25 11

17 25 10 20 9 9 25 17 2 25 16

20 22 11 12 23 22 19 8 25 22

2 25 16 8 22 25 16 10

5 10 20 2 23 10 6 ,

15 25 22 6 16 20 22 19 9 2

10 23 12 23 12 24 23 10 8 22 4

24 23 17 25 10 23 25 16 10 4 25 11

20 22 11 17 20 19 3 23 10

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17 20 8 19 3 20 22 11

9 20 24 25 10 25 17 9 25 18 23

20 22 11

6 19 23 20 11 17 20 6 19 22 23 6 6

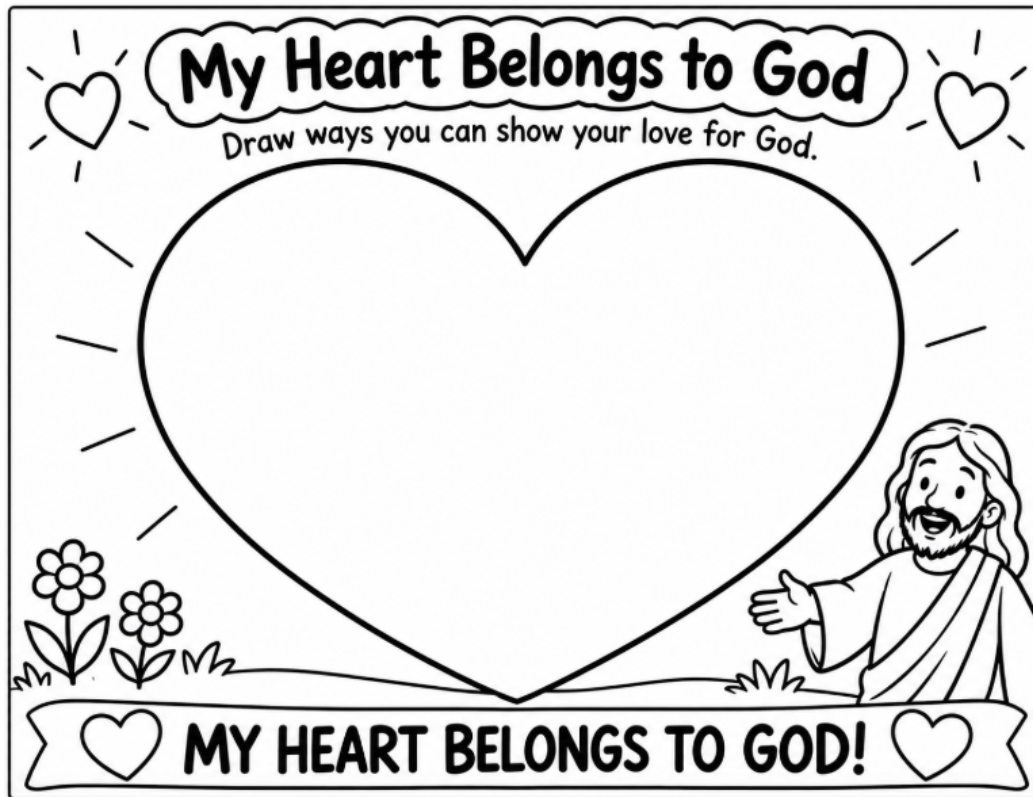
25 17 3 25 5 23 8 22 25 16 10

9 25 10 11 26 23 6 16 6



I Belong to God!

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



I Belong to God!

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Fill in the blanks of the story with the words in the box.

Words to Use			
commandments	goal	God	Jesus
love	Moses	press	truth

Keep Following Jesus

Long ago, _____ gave special teachings to the people.

God gave these teachings to _____.

They were called the _____.

They helped people learn how to _____ God and one another.

God wants us to tell the _____, share, help, and care for others.

Paul said that knowing _____ was more important than anything else.

Paul said:

“I _____ on toward the _____.”

This means we keep following Jesus even when we make mistakes.

I CAN KEEP FOLLOWING JESUS!

This Week's Message:

God gives us loving guidance. Jesus helps us make good choices, learn from our mistakes, and keep moving forward.

Crossword - Key

Across

4. Image

5. Give

7. Moses

Down

1. Coin

2. Jesus

3. Love

5. God

6. Holy

Cryptogram – Key:

Thessalonians 1:2-3

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus.

Fill-in-the-Blank – Key

- **GOD**
- **MOSES**
- **COMMANDMENTS**
- **LOVE**
- **TRUTH**
- **JESUS**
- **PRESS**
- **GOAL**