



Diocese of Athabasca

Sunday School Lesson Plan

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 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Year A)**. Bible Verses: Exodus 15:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16; Preface of the Lord's Day

Sunday School Lesson Plan

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Based on the Revised Common Lectionary

- Exodus 15:2-15
- Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
- Philippians 1:21-30
- Matthew 20:1-16

Lesson Title: God Is Generous to Everyone!

Theme: God's generous love and grace.

Big Idea: God loves us because God is good and generous—not because we have earned more love than someone else.

Lesson Focus for Kids:

- ❤️ God loves everyone.
 - 🎁 God is generous.
 - 👏 God gives us good gifts.
 - 😊 We can be happy when God is good to others.
-

Scripture Readings — Kid-Friendly Language

Exodus 15:2–15 — God's People Sing

God had rescued the Israelites and brought them safely through the sea.

They were so thankful that they sang to God.

They sang:

“The Lord is my strength and my might.”

They remembered that God had protected them and brought them to safety.

They praised God because God was powerful and faithful.

Kid Connection

When God helps us and gives us good things, we can say:

“Thank you, God!”

Psalms 105:1–6, 37–45 — Remember God's Goodness

The psalm tells God's people:

“Give thanks to the Lord!”

Tell everyone about the wonderful things God has done.

Sing to God.

Remember God's promises.

The psalm remembers how God cared for the Israelites when they left Egypt. God gave them what they needed and led them on their journey.

Why?

Because **God remembered God's promise.**

Kid Connection

God cared for people long ago, and God cares for us today.

We can:

Remember.

Give thanks.

Tell others about God's goodness.

Philippians 1:21–30 — Live Like Jesus

Paul loved Jesus very much.

Even when life was difficult, Paul wanted to keep following Jesus.

Paul encouraged his friends to live in a way that showed other people that they belonged to Jesus.

That meant being brave, working together, and loving one another.

Kid Connection

Following Jesus isn't something we only do at church.

We follow Jesus when we:

- love,
 - share,
 - help,
 - forgive,
 - pray,
 - and care for others.
-

Matthew 20:1–16

Workers in the Vineyard

Jesus told a story about a man who owned a vineyard.

A vineyard is a place where grapes grow.

Early one morning, the owner went looking for people to work in his vineyard.

He found some workers.

“Come work in my vineyard!”

They agreed.

Later that morning, the owner found more people who needed work.

“Come work in my vineyard too!”

At lunchtime, he found more workers.

Later in the afternoon, he found still more.

And near the end of the day, he found some people who still hadn't been given work.

He invited them too.

When the workday was finished, something surprising happened.

The owner paid the people who came last.

Then he paid everyone else.

The owner chose to be very generous.

Some of the people who had worked all day complained.

“That's not fair! We worked longer!”

But the owner reminded them that he had given them exactly what he had promised.

He had simply chosen to be generous to the others too.

Jesus used this surprising story to teach us about **God's grace**.

Kid Connection

God's love isn't a prize we win by being better than someone else.

God loves us because God is good.

And when God is generous to someone else, we can celebrate with them!

Welcome & Opening Prayer / Circle Time

Place a basket of pretend grapes, paper grapes, or purple pom-poms in the centre of the circle.

Ask:

What are these?

Grapes!

Explain:

“Today Jesus tells us a story about people working in a vineyard—a place where grapes grow.”

Ask:

- What does **generous** mean?
- How does it feel when someone shares with you?
- What are some things God gives us?
- Does God have enough love for everybody?

Finish with:

God's love never runs out!

Opening Prayer

Generous God,
thank you for loving us.

Thank you for our families,
our friends,
our food,

our church,
and all the good gifts you give us.

Help us to be generous too.

Teach us to share,
to help others,
and to be happy
when good things happen to someone else.

Thank you for loving everyone.

Amen.

Memory Verse

“Give thanks to the Lord.”

Psalm 105:1

For older children, continue:

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name.”

Actions

Give — hold both hands forward.

Thanks — place hands over your heart.

To the Lord — point upward.

Repeat together several times.

Bible Story Time

The Surprising Vineyard

Tell the story interactively.

Choose one child to pretend to be the vineyard owner.

Place paper grapes around the room.

Say:

“Early in the morning...”

Invite several children to collect grapes.

After a few moments:

“Later that morning...”

Invite more children.

Then:

“At lunchtime...”

Invite more.

Finally:

“Near the end of the day...”

Invite everyone remaining.

When the pretend work is finished, gather everyone together.

Explain:

“The owner had promised to pay his workers. But he decided to be especially generous.”

Some workers complained.

Ask:

“Why do you think they complained?”

Listen to the children's ideas.

Then explain:

“Jesus wasn't teaching us how to run a business. Jesus was teaching us something about **God.**”

God's love isn't something we earn by working harder than everyone else.

God doesn't say:

“You've been following me longer, so I love you more.”

God's love is a **gift**.

God welcomes people who have known Jesus for many years.

God welcomes someone who has only just met Jesus.

God's grace is generous.

Stretch your arms as wide as possible.

THERE IS ENOUGH OF GOD'S LOVE FOR EVERYONE!

Craft / Activity

God's Generous Vineyard

Materials

- White cardstock
- Green construction paper or crayons
- Purple paint, crayons, stickers, or tissue paper
- Glue
- Brown crayons
- Heart shapes

Draw or provide a simple grapevine.

Children make bunches of grapes using fingerprints, purple circles, stickers, or tissue-paper balls.

Inside individual grapes, older children can write or draw things God gives us:

- LOVE
- FAMILY
- FRIENDS
- FOOD
- CHURCH
- JESUS
- CREATION

- FORGIVENESS

Across the top write:

GOD IS GENEROUS!

Across the bottom:

“Give thanks to the Lord.” — Psalm 105:1

For preschoolers, simply let them create and colour bunches of grapes while discussing God's good gifts.

Game

Everyone Is Welcome in the Vineyard

Scatter paper grapes around the room.

Begin with two children collecting them.

After a short time call:

“More workers!”

Invite several more.

Continue until everyone is collecting grapes.

When all the grapes have been gathered, put them into **one large basket**.

Say:

“Everyone helped!”

Then give every child the same reward—perhaps a heart sticker.

Explain:

“Jesus' story reminds us that God is generous. God's love is a gift for everyone.”

Avoid turning this into a competition. The point is participation and generosity rather than who collects the most.

Song Suggestions

- **Jesus Loves Me**
- **Jesus Loves the Little Children**
- **He's Got the Whole World in His Hands**
- **My God Is So Big**
- **I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy**
- **Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart**
- **This Little Light of Mine**
- **Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children**
- **God Is So Good**

Simple Song for Young Children

To the tune of *Frère Jacques*:

**God is loving,
God is loving,
Yes, it's true!
Yes, it's true!
God is always giving,
God is always giving,
Me and you!
Me and you!**

Snack Suggestions

Vineyard Snack

Serve:

-  Seedless grapes cut appropriately for children's ages
-  Cheese
-  Crackers

Talk about vineyards while eating.

Important: Whole grapes are a choking hazard for young children. Cut grapes lengthwise into age-appropriate pieces.

Another option is a **Generous Snack Mix**.

Give each child a few different snack ingredients. Invite everyone to contribute some to one large bowl. Mix everything together and redistribute it.

Explain:

“When everyone shares, there is something for everyone.”

Check all allergies and dietary requirements.

Wrap Up & Reflections

Gather around the basket of grapes.

Ask:

Where did the people work?

A vineyard.

Did everyone begin working at the same time?

No.

What kind of person was the vineyard owner?

Generous.

What does Jesus' story teach us about God?

God is generous!

Ask:

- What has God given you?
- How can you be generous?
- Can we celebrate when someone else receives something good?

Repeat together:

GOD IS GOOD.

GOD IS GENEROUS.

GOD LOVES ME.

GOD LOVES EVERYONE!

Closing Prayer

Generous God,

thank you for loving us.

Thank you for giving us
so many good things.

Thank you for Jesus.

Help us to share.

Help us to be kind.

Help us to welcome others.

Help us to celebrate
when someone else receives something good.

May our lives show others
your generous love.

Amen.

Take-Home Idea

My Generosity Challenge

Send home a small bunch-of-grapes card.

This Week I Can...

 **Share something.**

 **Help someone.**

 **Say thank you.**

 **Welcome someone.**

 **Celebrate something good that happens to someone else.**

At the bottom:

GOD IS GENEROUS!

“Give thanks to the Lord.” — Psalm 105:1

Teacher Notes

The parable of the workers in the vineyard can easily become a lesson about whether something is “fair.” Jesus' parable is deliberately surprising.

For young children, avoid getting trapped in complicated discussions about employment practices or wages.

The theological focus is **grace**.

Grace means God's goodness and love are gifts.

A useful phrase is:

“God loves us because God is good—not because we are better than somebody else.”

Children naturally compare:

“Why did she get one?”

“Why does he have more?”

“That's not fair!”

Use those experiences to introduce another important Christian response:

We can celebrate God's goodness to other people.

Be careful not to teach that fairness is unimportant. Children need adults to act fairly and safely. The point of the parable is not that unfair treatment is acceptable; rather, **God's generosity exceeds what people think they deserve.**

For the Exodus reading, the lectionary passage is a song containing strong battle imagery. With young children, focus on Israel's thanksgiving after being rescued and their confidence that God was with them.

Anglican Connection

Grace — God's Gift

Grace is central to Christian faith.

Explain it simply:

“Grace is God's love and goodness given to us as a gift.”

Hold out an imaginary present.

Ask:

“What do you do with a gift?”

Receive it!

We don't earn God's love like a prize at the end of a race.

God loves us first.

Holy Baptism

Baptism is a wonderful example of God's grace.

At Baptism, we don't announce that someone has finally become good enough for God.

Instead, we celebrate what **God** is doing.

God welcomes us.

God calls us.

God makes us part of the Church.

Tell the children:

“Your Baptism reminds you that you belong to God's family.”

Holy Eucharist

At the Eucharist, God's people gather around God's table.

People may be:

- young or old,
- rich or poor,
- new Christians or lifelong Christians,
- from many different places.

Yet we gather as **one family in Christ**.

Connect this with today's vineyard:

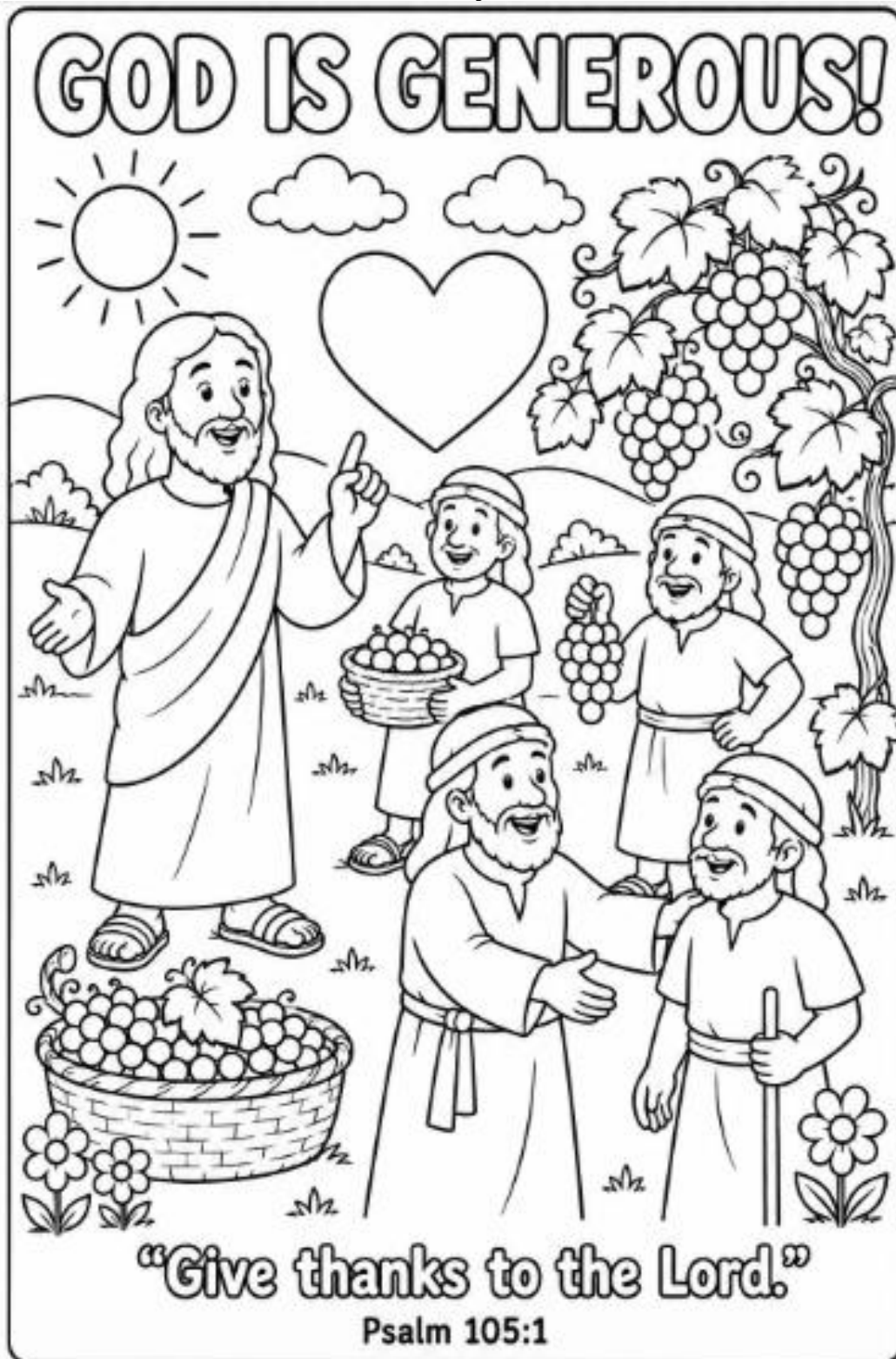
God's table is a place of grace, thanksgiving, and welcome.

The word **Eucharist** itself means **thanksgiving**, making a helpful connection to Psalm 105:

“Give thanks to the Lord.”

God is Generous to Everyone!

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



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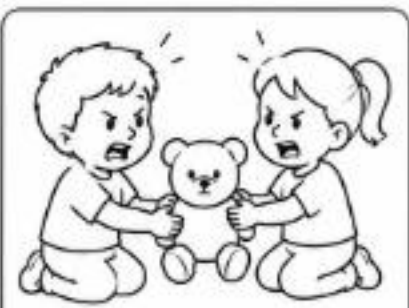
♥

Find the Generous Choice

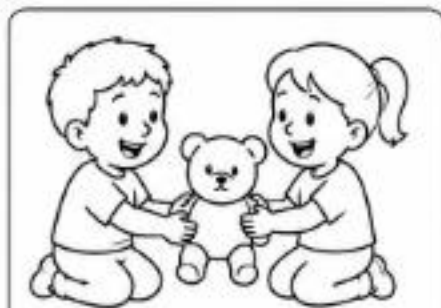
Circle the picture that shows **GENEROSITY**.

♥

1.

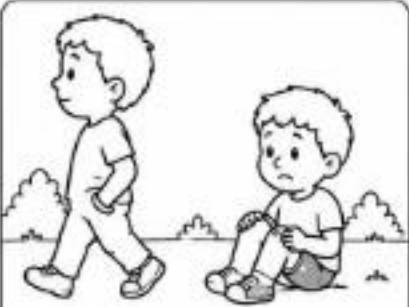


Fighting over a toy



Sharing the toy

2.

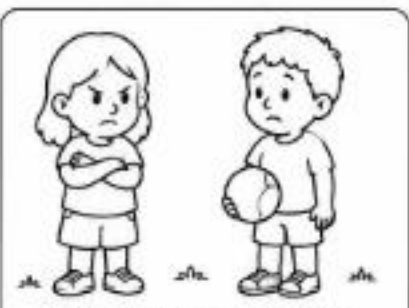


Walking past someone who needs help

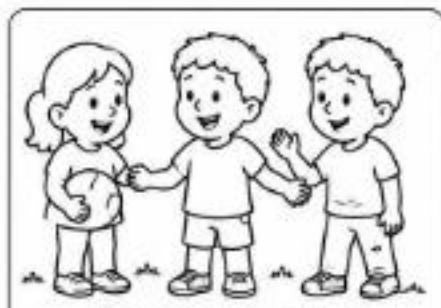


Helping

3.



Refusing to let someone join the game



Welcoming someone to join the game

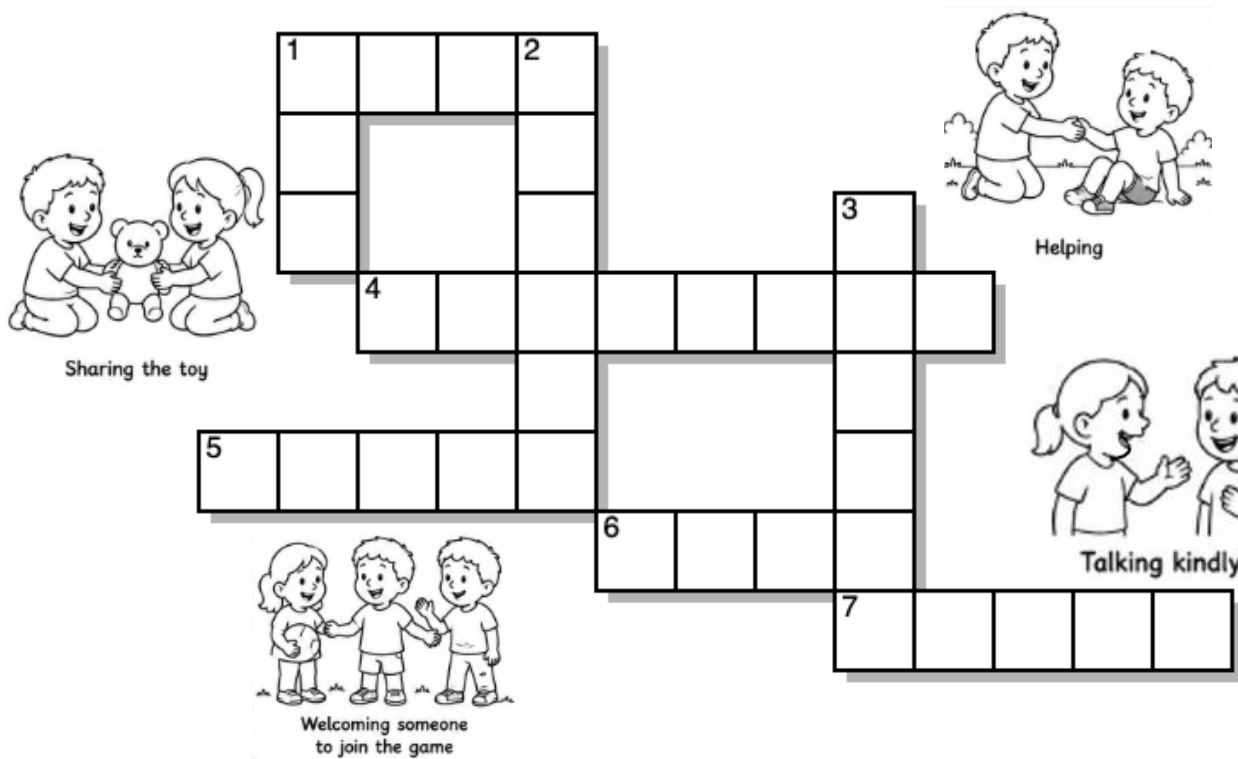
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God teaches us to be generous and kind.

♥

God is Generous to Everyone!

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



ACROSS

- 1 Something someone gives you.
- 4 The place in Jesus' story where grapes grew.
- 5 He told the story about the vineyard workers.
- 6 God gives this to everyone.
- 7 We can _____ what we have with others.

DOWN

- 1 Who is generous and loves everyone?
- 2 We give _____ to God.
- 3 The fruit growing in the vineyard.

God is Generous to Everyone!

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

God
Jesus
Love
Grape
Give

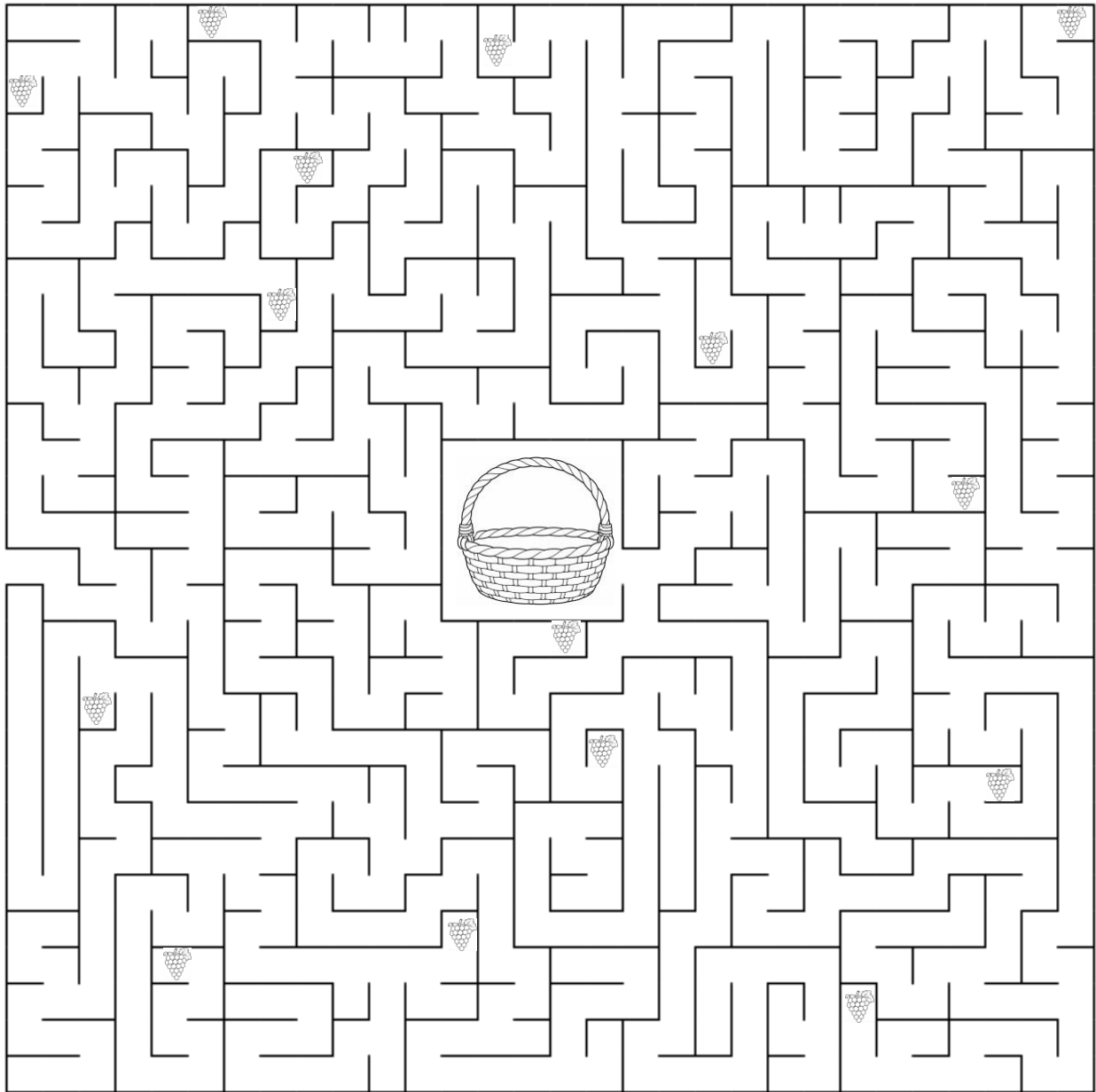
Share
Thanks
Gift
Work
Kind



God is Generous

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Help the man collect all the grapes and bring them to the basket.

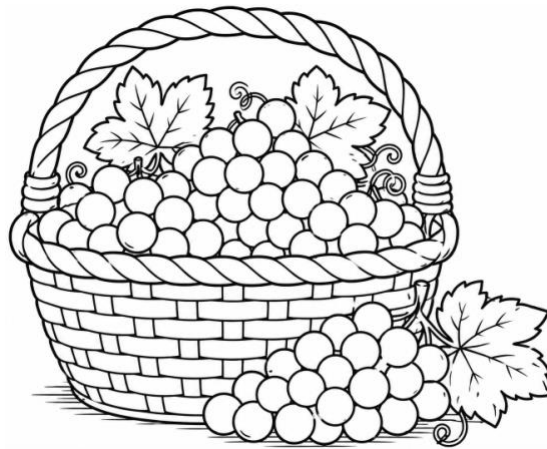


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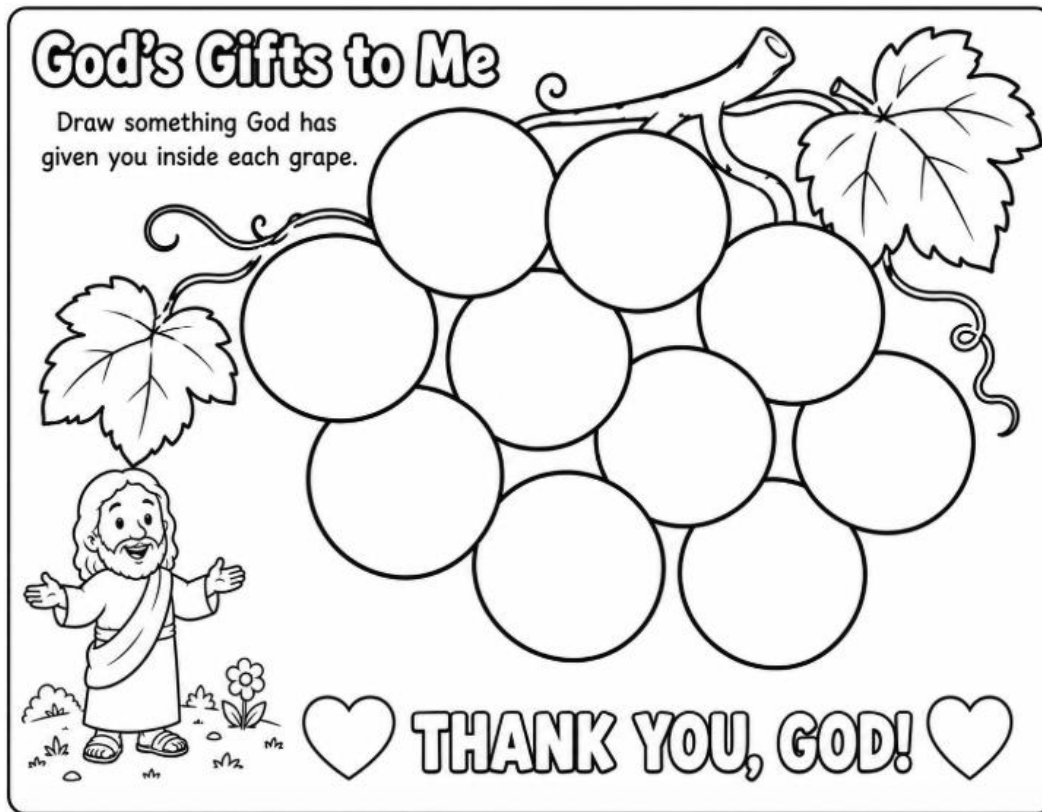
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<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>				<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>			<u>4</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>													
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<u>23</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>24</u>				<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>24</u>											
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<u>18</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>			<u>9</u>	<u>17</u>													
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GOD IS GENEROUS TO EVERYONE!

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Words to Use			
afternoon	complained	fair	generous
grace	grapes	invited	last
Later	longer	lunchtime	needed
people	promised	vineyard	work



Workers in the Vineyard

Jesus told a story about a man who owned a _____. A vineyard is a place where _____ grow.

Early one morning, the owner went looking for _____ to work in his vineyard. He found some workers. "Come _____ in my vineyard!" They agreed.

_____ that morning, the owner found more people who _____ work. "Come work in my vineyard too!"

At _____, he found more workers. Later in the _____, he found still more. And near the end of the day, he found some people who still hadn't been given work. He _____ them too.

When the workday was finished, something surprising happened. The owner paid the people who came _____. Then he paid everyone else. The owner chose to be very generous.

Some of the people who had worked all day _____. "That's not _____! We worked _____!" But the owner reminded them that he had given them exactly what he had _____. He had simply chosen to be _____ to the others too.

Jesus used this surprising story to teach us about God's _____.

Crossword - Key

Across

Down

1. Gift
4. Vineyard
5. Jesus
6. Love
7. Share

1. God
2. Thanks
3. Grapes

Cryptogram – Key:

Philippians 4:19-20

And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Fill-in-the-Blank – Key

Workers in the Vineyard

Jesus told a story about a man who owned a vineyard. A vineyard is a place where grapes grow.

Early one morning, the owner went looking for people to work in his vineyard. He found some workers. “Come work in my vineyard!” They agreed.

Later that morning, the owner found more people who needed work. “Come work in my vineyard too!”

At lunchtime, he found more workers. Later in the afternoon, he found still more. And near the end of the day, he found some people who still hadn't been given work. He invited them too.

When the workday was finished, something surprising happened. The owner paid the people who came last. Then he paid everyone else. The owner chose to be very generous.

Some of the people who had worked all day complained. “That's not fair! We worked longer!” But the owner reminded them that he had given them exactly what he had promised. He had simply chosen to be generous to the others too.

Jesus used this surprising story to teach us about God's grace.