

May 4, 1997
1st-6th Grades

Accept God's Word, Don't Resist Him

Ezekiel Chapters 33-39
3EZE33

Ezekiel



Materials I Need:

****Please note that lesson plans will now include options in the each section, for grades 1-6, so that you may teach to the different skill levels of your group of Bible students.**

Memory Work: 1st - 2nd : Ezekiel 18:32
3rd - 6th : Ezekiel 18:30-32

Prophet	Ezekiel
People	Exiles in Babylon
Prophecy	God's Glory Won't Mix With Your Sin
Principle	Accept God's Word, Don't Resist Him

Aim Questions:

1. What was Ezekiel accountable to God concerning? *(The blood of His people if Ezekiel had failed to warn them about what His coming judgment.)*
2. Because of ? had the Israelites given up their rights to the Promised Land? *(The right to possess the land depended totally on obedience to God and in their sin, they have lost that right.)*
3. What did the dry bones coming to life mean to the children of Israel? *(God said "I am going to open ;your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.")*
4. Who were the false shepherds? *(They were the leaders and rulers of God's people.)*
5. Why had God planned to restore Israel at a future time? *(Because the people of Israel were God's holy people they represented Him to other nations. In restoring His people, all would see His holiness and faithfulness.)*

Hook:


SHEEP HERDING. Visual. Bring in pictures or footage of sheep herding. What are different methods that are currently used?


JIGSAW. Puzzle/Discussion. Give the students 5-7 minutes to put a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle together. You don't have to tell them up front their time limit. Stop them when the time is up. **Debrief:** Things don't go together nearly as easy as they come apart. No matter how discombobulated we are, God can restore us (put us back together). Today, God will do some major, way-beyond-man's ability restoring!


POTATO HEAD RELAY. Relay. Bring in several "Mr. Potato" heads for a relay. Have all of the potatoes laid out, ready to assemble. Each team member must run up to the potato, assemble all of the available pieces, show it to a judge, disassemble it, and return to their line. The team whose members have all assembled "Mr. Potato" and are sitting in line, WINS! **DEBRIEF:** In today's Adventure God will do some major assembly of His own.

OPERATION. Game. Bring in the game "Operation". This can be played with two teams. The teams will alternate turns. One team must "remove" a spiritually dry portion of Mr. Operation. The

other team must “Restore” it. If anyone “buzzes” (touches the edges), they are out. The team that has the most players at the end of a rotation, wins! **DEBRIEF:** Listen for God’s Major Restoration Operation.

 **MOUTH TO MOUTH.** Demonstration/Discussion. Give a short demonstration of “mouth to mouth” resuscitation. This can revive a person who is dying, but can it revive someone who is already dead? A man can be dead in two ways: physically and spiritually. Who can bring life back to the dead?


 **HUMPTY DUMPTY.** Poem/Application. Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall; Humpty Dumpty had a great fall; All the king’s horses and all the king’s men; couldn’t put Humpty Dumpty together again. **DEBRIEF:** We can’t put ourselves back together but when God “Lives” in us He can heal us and make us spiritually ALIVE!

 **DRY BONES.** How many bones can you identify on this page? How many bones do you think are in a human body? **DEBRIEF:** God took all these bones put them back together, fleshed them in, and breathed life into them. COOL!!! **3EZE33.GF1**



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

 **DRY BONES.** Use a picture of some human bones or get some plastic model bones to begin your Bible Adventure. (Remember a picture is worth a thousand words.)

Bible Adventure -

When we were first introduced to the prophet Ezekiel we found out that God had appointed him to be a watchman for the nation of Israel. He was to warn God’s people of coming judgment. In our story last week we learned of the fall of Judah and of the proud city of Jerusalem. God’s people were shocked and dismayed--why would God do such a thing to them? They questioned God’s right to do what He had done and the fairness of it. God answered their complaints through Ezekiel. He told Ezekiel he must continue to speak His words to the people even if they did not like it. It was Ezekiel’s job to give warning. If he did not, God would hold him accountable for the blood of His people because Ezekiel had failed to warn them. God told Ezekiel he would not be held responsible for how the people responded to the warning, but he would be held responsible for speaking when God told him to speak.

How did the people respond? Not with sorrow over their sin and admitting that it was the cause for their judgment. They said, “The way of the Lord is not just.” But God answered them by saying, “I will judge each of you according to his ways.” No one was fooling God. He had seen the idol worship and the bloodshed of His people. Those in exile in Babylon were still saying they would be headed back home before God’s prescribed 70 years. They came to Ezekiel to hear God’s words but they never bothered to put them into practice. They were hearers of the Word, not doers. Those in Israel who had survived the attack on Jerusalem and remained there refused to admit that God’s judgment had fallen on them. They claimed to be the remnant, those left behind by God to possess the Promised Land. But these people had no right to the land. The right to possess it depended totally on obedience to God. Because of their sin the Israelites had given up their rights to the Promised Land.

What was next for God’s people then? They had lost their right to their homeland. They saw no end to their judgment. Their hope was gone. But they had forgotten that God is the source of all hope. God had given Ezekiel, His watchman, a message of hope for His people.

God gave Ezekiel a vision of a valley filled with dry human bones. God asked Ezekiel, “Son of man, can these bones live?” Ezekiel answered, “O Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” As Ezekiel watched, God raised up the bones, caused flesh and skin to form on them, and breathed life into them. They came to life and stood up on their feet--a vast army. Then God said to Ezekiel, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I

will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land.” What a fantastic promise! There was hope for Israel, and the hope was to be found in God’s character alone. For the sake of His own holy name, God would bring His people from shame to a right relationship with Him. There would be no more false shepherds to lead them astray. Those false shepherds in Ezekiel’s day were the leaders and rulers of God’s people. They were supposed to be caring shepherds who watched over the people, but they became selfish, thinking only of their own wants and needs. Remember Israel’s evil kings, who took advantage of the common people to get more wealth for themselves? These leaders ruled harshly, did not care for the needs of the people, allowed them to be scattered and did not go looking for them when they were lost. Can you think of some false shepherds who exist today? How do they lead people astray? Do you know how we can tell the difference between a false shepherd and a true one? What do we use as a standard? God removed those false shepherds from their positions, and He would rescue His flock Himself. God told them of a time when Jesus Christ would rule over the land. It would be a time of blessings too many to count and of great prosperity. There would be peace in the land and not one nation would dare to oppose Israel. Not so in Ezekiel’s day. If you remember from our last story there were many nations surrounding Israel who were celebrating her downfall. Their hatred for God’s chosen people was exposed for all to see. God promised to deal with these nations for the way they treated His people.

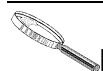
After God reminded the people that it was their sin that had caused their downfall, He revealed the reason He planned to restore Israel at a future time. Because the people of Israel were God’s holy people they represented Him to other nations. Their idolatry and bloodshed had been watched by those nations, and it had brought shame on the holy name of God. God had shown what His justice and judgment were like--now He would show His holiness and faithfulness when He restored His people. Ezekiel took two sticks of wood, one representing Israel and the other Judah, to show that God would one day reunite these two countries into one. God would forgive the whole house of Israel by forgetting all their past evil deeds. The restoration will not only be that God returns them to the Promised Land, it will be that He restores them spiritually as well. God said He would give the new nation “a new heart and a new spirit”. There would be a new relationship between God and His people--they would gladly obey God because their new hearts would respond in love to Him.

Ezekiel then describes a future time when a large group of nations would attack Israel, trying one last time to take the Promised Land away from God’s people. This army’s defeat would be horrifying--it would take the Israelites 7 months to bury all the bodies left by the battle.

Do you see how faithful God is to His promises? He will protect His holy name and keep them, even if He made the promise to those who don’t deserve it. All through the book of Ezekiel you will see the words, “Then you will know that I am the Lord.” God says that after the things predicted by Ezekiel came to pass, His people (and us) would see and know that only God could have brought to pass those events. Only an all-powerful, all-knowing, sovereign God could accomplish that. The people would recognize God’s hand in their lives.

Are there events in your life that you know could only have been brought about by God? Do you think every event in your life is under the control of a sovereign God? (You may want to read Romans 8:28-39 for further help.) When your world gets turned upside down or seems to be careening out of control, remember God’s promises to you. For the sake of His holy name, He will keep each one. God is the one constant, unchanging thing that exists in our world. You can trust Him completely.

If you have doubts or find that you have trouble trusting God, talk to one of your teachers before you leave today. They can help you find places in God’s Word where you can read for yourself about God’s faithfulness to His children.



Look:



SHEEP. Craft. Make a sheep. Discussion: flocks of sheep, false shepherd, One True Shepherd. Are there false shepherds today? Do they lead sheep astray? How can we tell the difference between the two kinds of shepherds? **3EZE33.GF2**



ONE TRUE SHEPHERD. Maze. Can you help the One True Shepherd find the missing sheep? Circle the bad shepherd. **3EZE33.GF3**

SKELETON. Worksheet/Color page. You can never be so far away from God that He cannot restore you to Himself. Look at this skeleton. What areas of your life are causing you to dry up spiritually? Give some color to these dry bones. **3EZE33.GF1**

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES. Maze/Worksheet. **3EZE33.GF5**

SHEPHERDS - YES OR NOT? Discussion. God was NOT happy with the “shepherds” of His people. Here are some things the shepherds were doing, and some things that they were NOT doing. Read these items and have students add a “NOT” when needed.

- They took care of the flock. (NOT)
- They took care of themselves.
- They took care of the sick and injured. (NOT)
- They strengthened the weak. (NOT)
- They ate the best food.
- They wore the best clothes.
- The brought back the strays. (NOT)
- They ruled harshly and brutally.
- They searched for the lost. (NOT)

God said that now He Himself would be the shepherd for His people. He would send Jesus (my servant David). Read Ezekiel 34:11-16 to see what kind of shepherd He would be.



Took:

FEELING SHEEPISH. Color page/Discussion. How have you been led astray? How can the “True Shepherd” restore you to the flock? **3EZE33.GF4**


SHEEPISH SCRIPTURES. Worksheet/Discussion. Can you think of any sheepish scriptures? Brainstorm and list them on your One True Shepherd maze page. **3EZE33.GF3**


SKELETON. Worksheet. Pick up that skeleton page again. This time mark the bones that need to be restored. What is the specific problem and how would you like to see God work. Can you ever be beyond God’s help? God is called the great physician--use your concordance to find that passage. **3EZE33.GF1**

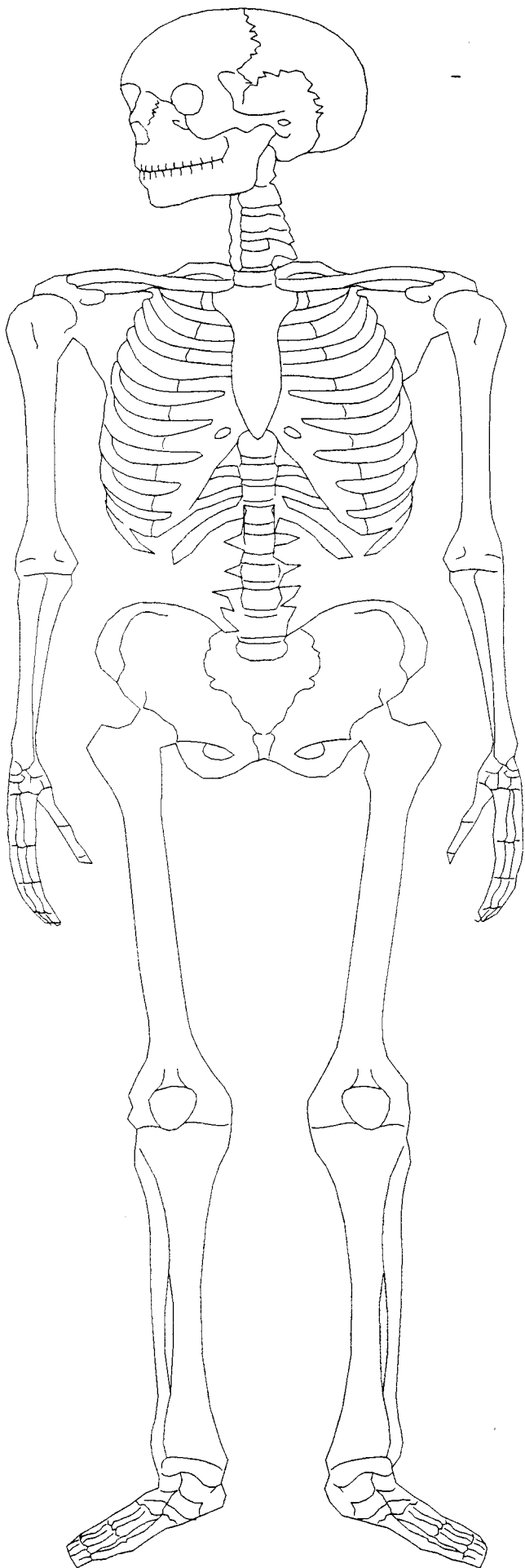
HOLIDAY. Discussion. Ask students if they were teachers and had to teach this lesson on a holiday, what holiday would they choose. Why? (Easter is the answer we’re looking for.)

JUMPIN’ 4 P’S. This is the continued jump rope ditty to help the Bible students remember the Old Testament Prophets. Practice saying this ditty to the rhythm of the rope hitting the ground. This can be fun!

The Prophet is Ezekiel
The People --Exiles in Babylon
The Prophecy---God’s Glory Won’t Mix
With Your Sin
The Principle---Accept God’s Word
Don’t Re-sist Him.
These are the 4 P’s
Got ‘em from Ezekiel
Now it’s time to jump out!

 **DEM BONES, DEM BONES, DEM DRY BONES.** Song. Sing along to this rendition of a traditional African American spiritual. A song about resurrection, Dem Bones was probably first sung in church and at revival meetings as long as 200 years ago. Passed on by work of mouth for generations, this song has many versions. It is a fun way for children to learn anatomy! **FACT:** Humans are born with 450 bones but that by the time we reach adulthood we have only 206. This is because many of them grow together, like those in the skull. Isn't God amazing? **3EZE33.GF6**

 **WORSHIP BOOKLET.** Devotional. **Option 1:** Continue to re-inforce the importance of the 4 P's of a daily devotional life. Introduce this week's "practice" sections with the half sheet symbols in view. **3EZE33.GF7** Half sheet symbols - Practice. **3EZE33GF7.1-6** **Option 2:** This is our last booklet for the book of Ezekiel. Motivate students to wind up this series of Ezekiel with a final spurt in preparation for next week's lesson. Hasn't having a jump on the "next episode of Ezekiel's Drama" been great. It is pleasing to the Lord to be prepared, to have our minds sharpened with the Word of God! Encourage the students to consistently "eat" God's Word on a daily basis. **3EZE30.GF8**



SKELETON

FOR FUN

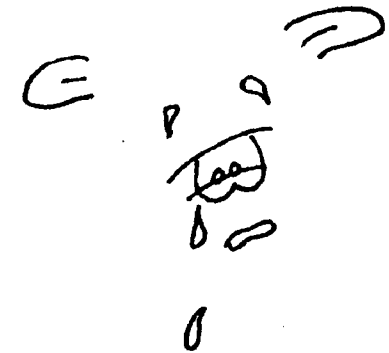
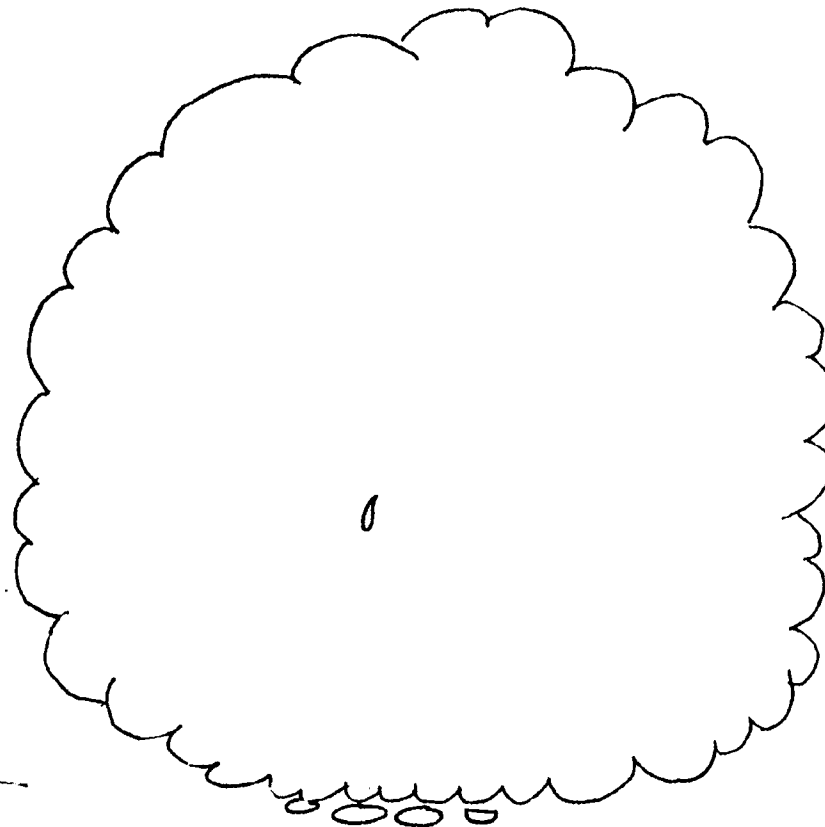
Things that make you say, hmmm.

1. How many bones are in the human body?
2. How many bones can you identify on this page?
3. Look at this skeleton. Are there any areas that are causing you to dry up spiritually?
4. Name a specific area in your life that you are struggling with. Circle the area on the skeleton. How would you like to see God work?
(For example: scripture memory = brain
lying = mouth
anger = arms/legs)
5. Can you ever be beyond God's help?

**Ezekiel is
Amazed**

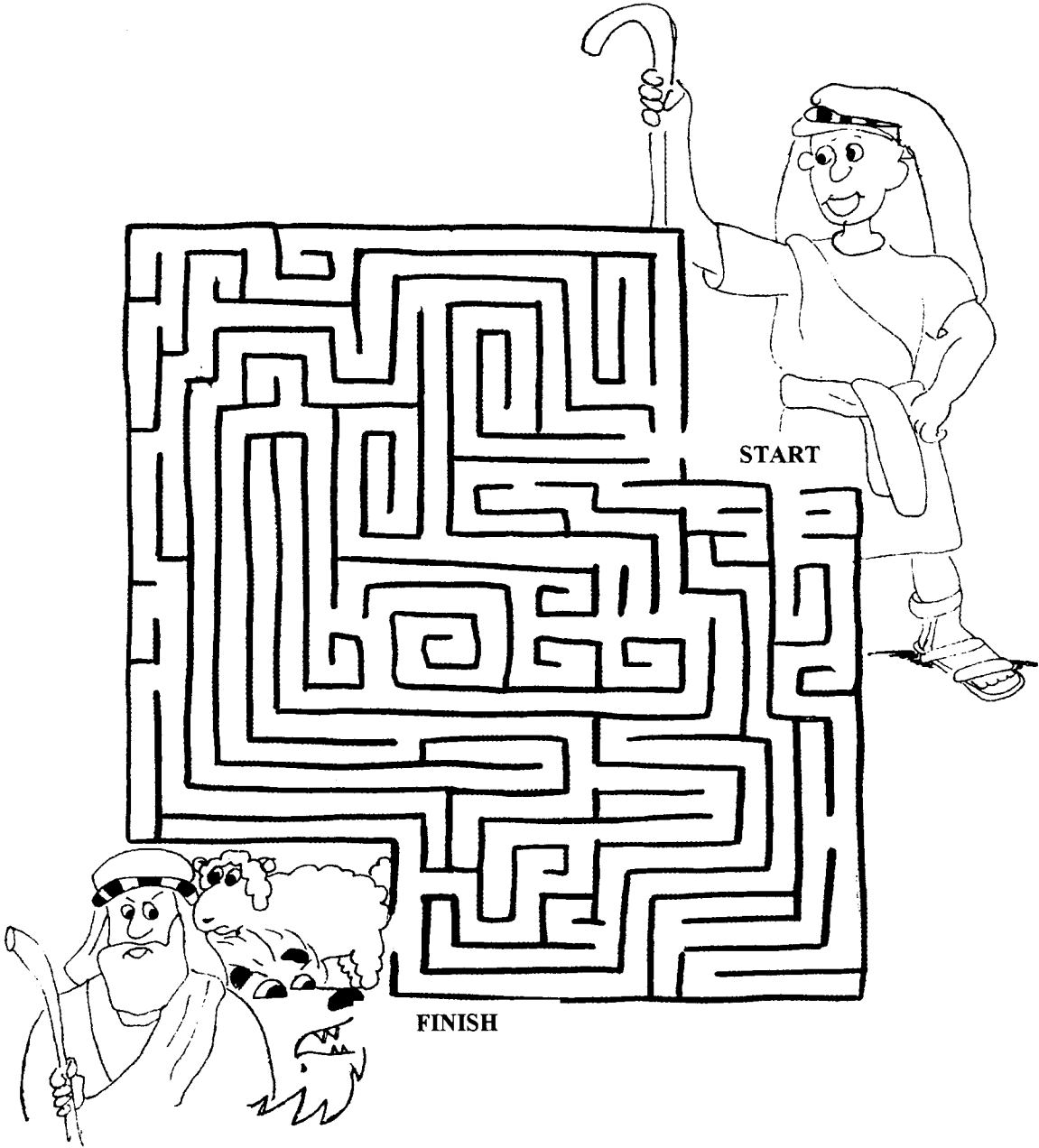


3EZE33.GF1



Make a sheep. Cut crepe paper into small squares. Wrap 1 square around the flat end of a pencil. Put 1 drop of glue on it and attach it to the sheep body. When you have covered the sheep with "wool", cut out the face and glue it onto the sheep. This sheep needs to find the "True Shepherd". Pray this week you will share with two people who don't know Christ. Let them know they don't have to be lost because Jesus and His Word will guide us in the direction we need to go! Praise the Lord.

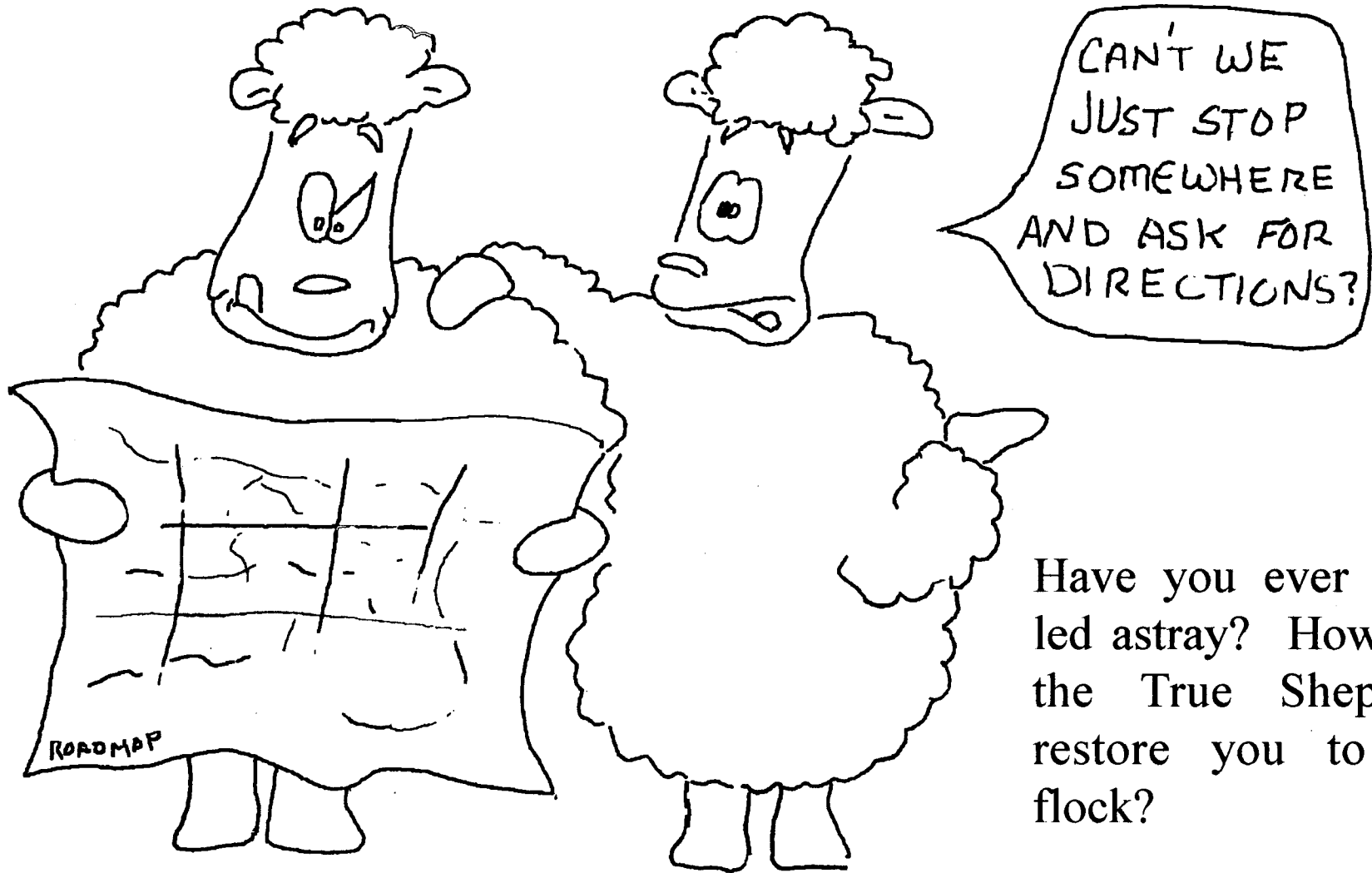
One True Shepherd



Sheepish Scriptures

Can you think of any sheepish scriptures? Brainstorm & list them on this page. Check out the concordance in your Bible.

FEELING SHEEPISH?








Have you ever been led astray? How can the True Shepherd restore you to the flock?

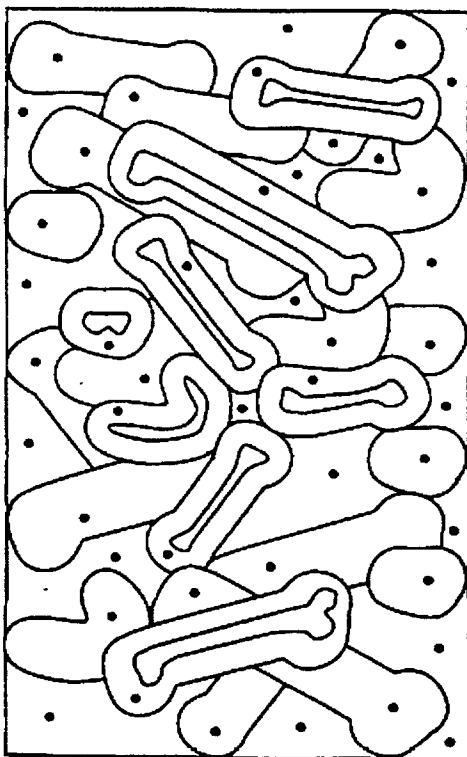


Ezekiel was in the valley of dry _____.

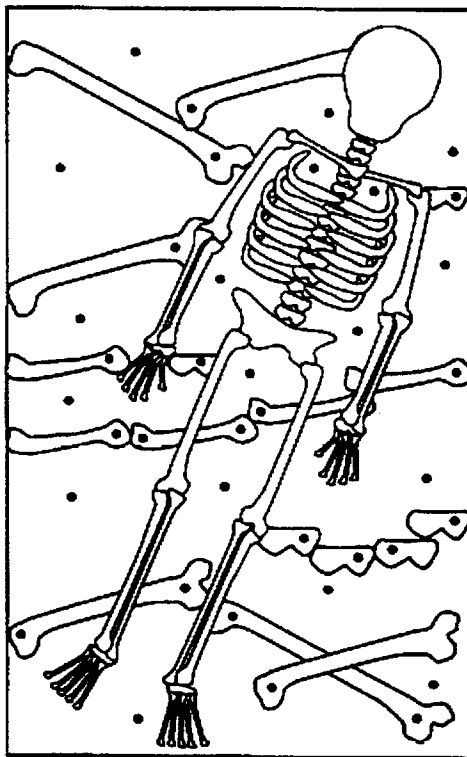
Write the letter that begins each word in the box.
You will spell the missing word.

Color the spaces with a •.



Before Ezekiel spoke.



After Ezekiel first spoke.



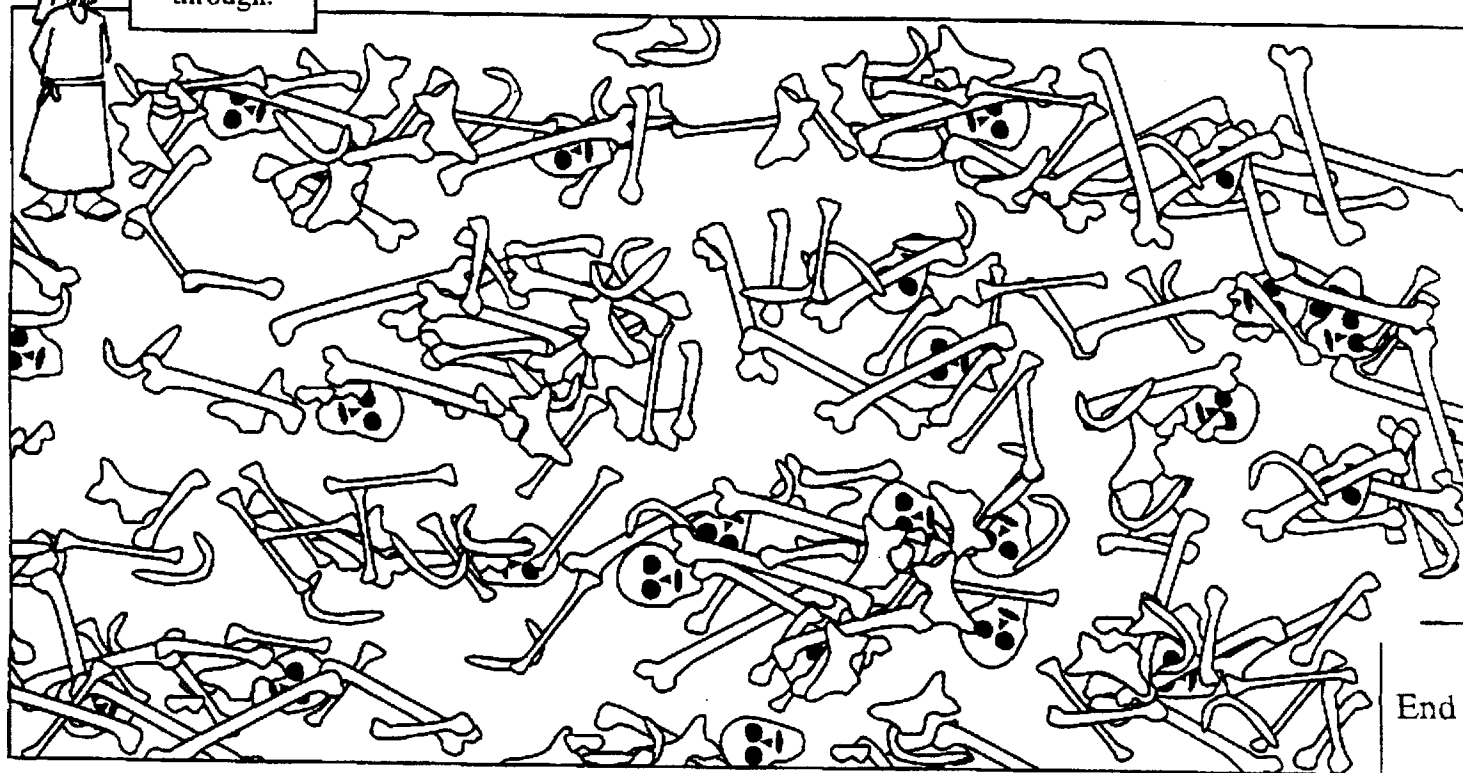
After Ezekiel spoke again.

Name _____



The Spirit set Ezekiel in the middle of a valley full of dry bones. The Spirit led him through it.

Help Ezekiel find his way through.



The Spirit of the Lord told Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones... to tell them to hear the Word of the Lord. Ezekiel did as he was told. What happened?

Find the missing section of each word. Choose from the word list here.

- | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|------|--------|------|------|
| —gether | —dons | —nes | —tling | —in | —ath |
| —ur | —od | —ise | —esh | —ive | —nds |
| —athe | —ered | —et | —at | —my | —ve |

The bo_____ came to _____ with a rat _____ no _____. Ten _____ and fl _____ and sk _____ cov _____ them. They had no bre _____; they were not al _____ yet. Ezekiel told the fo _____ wi _____ to come and bre _____ on them so they could li _____. They sto _____ up on their fe _____ as a gre _____ ar _____!

Name _____

Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones

Toe bone connected to da foot bone...
Foot bone connected to da ankle bone...
Ankle bone connected to da shin bone...
Now hear da Word of da Lord!

(chorus)

Shin bone connected to da knee bone...
Knee bone connected to da thigh bone...
Thigh bone connected to da hip bone...
Now hear da Word of da Lord!

(chorus)

Hip bone connected to da backbone...
Backbone connected to da neck bone...
Neck bone connected to da jaw bone...
Now hear da Word of da Lord!

(chorus)

Shoulder bone connected to da arm bone...
Arm bone connected to da hand bone...
Hand bone connected to da finger bone...
Now hear da Word of da Lord!

(chorus)

Chorus:

Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones...
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones...
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones...
Now hear da Word of da Lord!

(Excellence-Doing my Best)

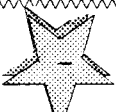



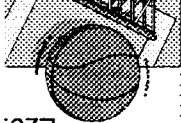



"For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!" Eze. 18:32

THURSDAY

(Good Sportsmanship)

"For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!" Eze. 18:32

WEDNESDAY

(Sharing my Faith)

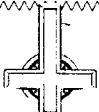







"For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!" Eze. 18:32

TUESDAY

(At School)

"For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!" Eze. 18:32

MONDAY

FRIDAY









"For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!" Eze. 18:32

(TV, Movies, Video Games)

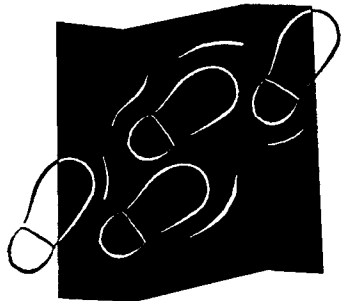
SATURDAY

"For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!" Eze. 18:32

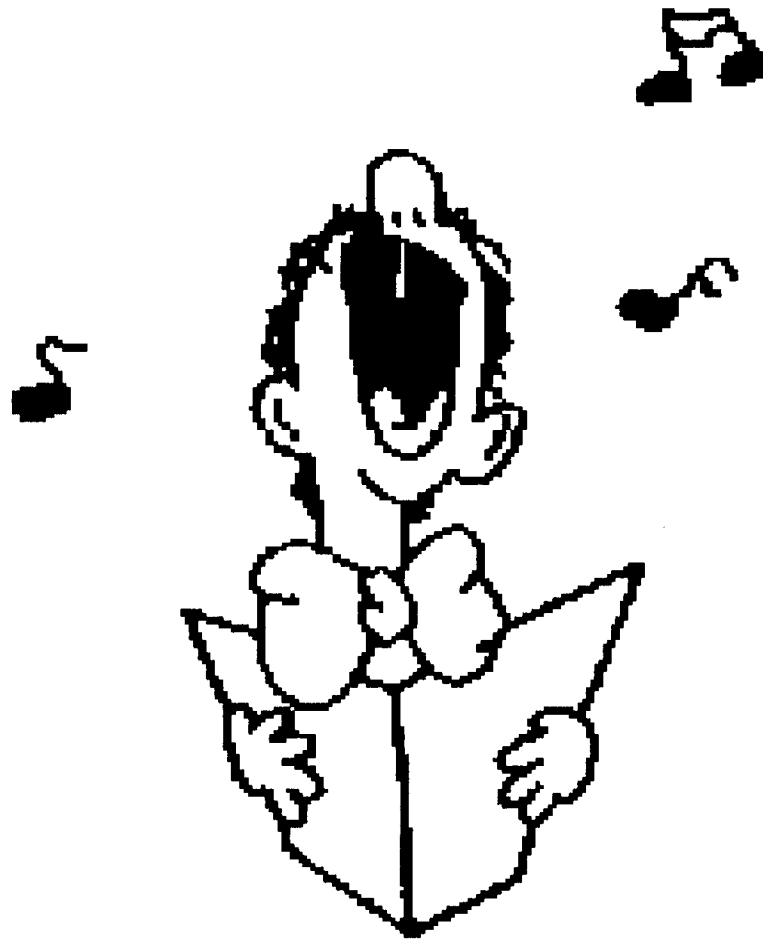
(Confess Sin)

DAILY WALK



FBC ORIGINAL 3EZE33.GF7



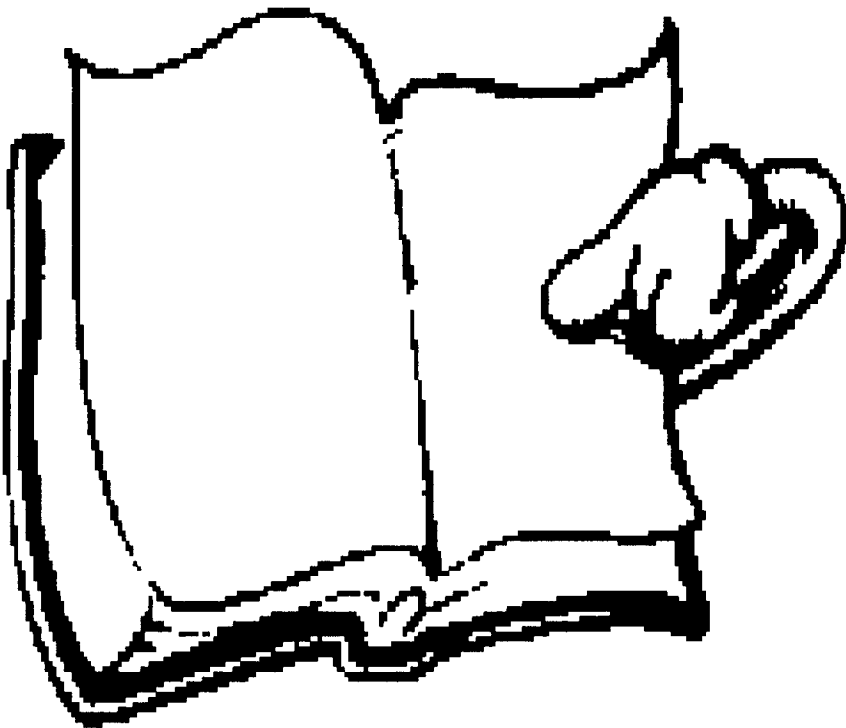
PRAISE

3EZE33.GF7.1



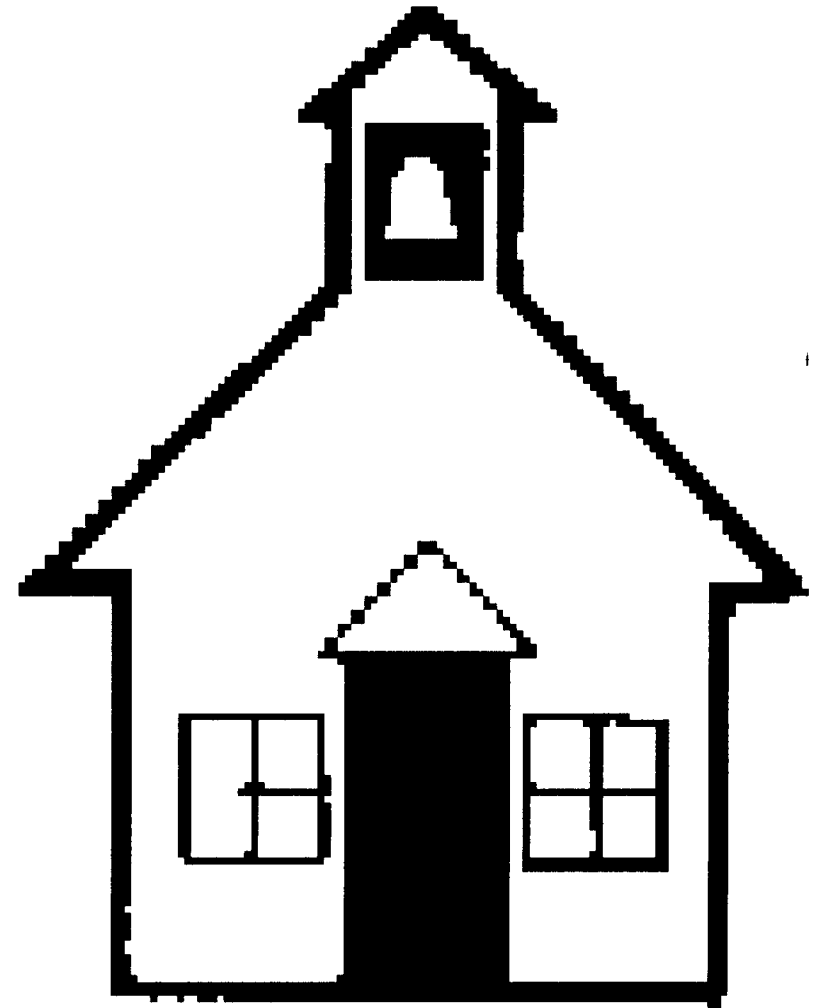
PRAYER

3EZE33.GF7.2



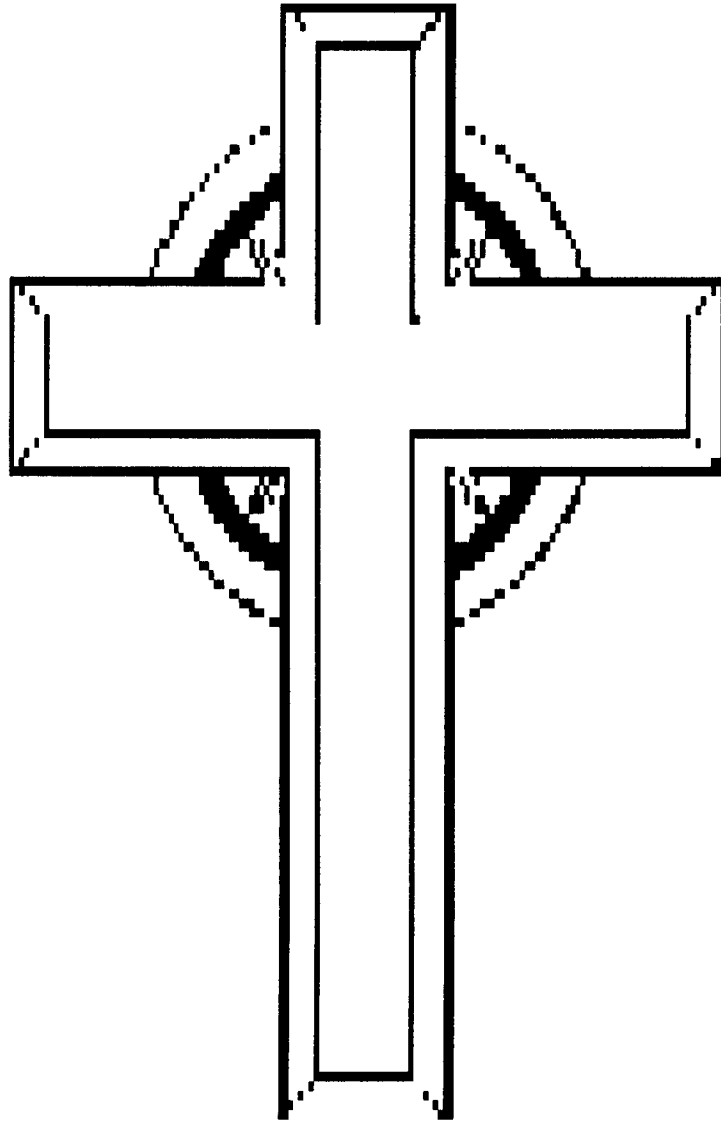
PASSAGE

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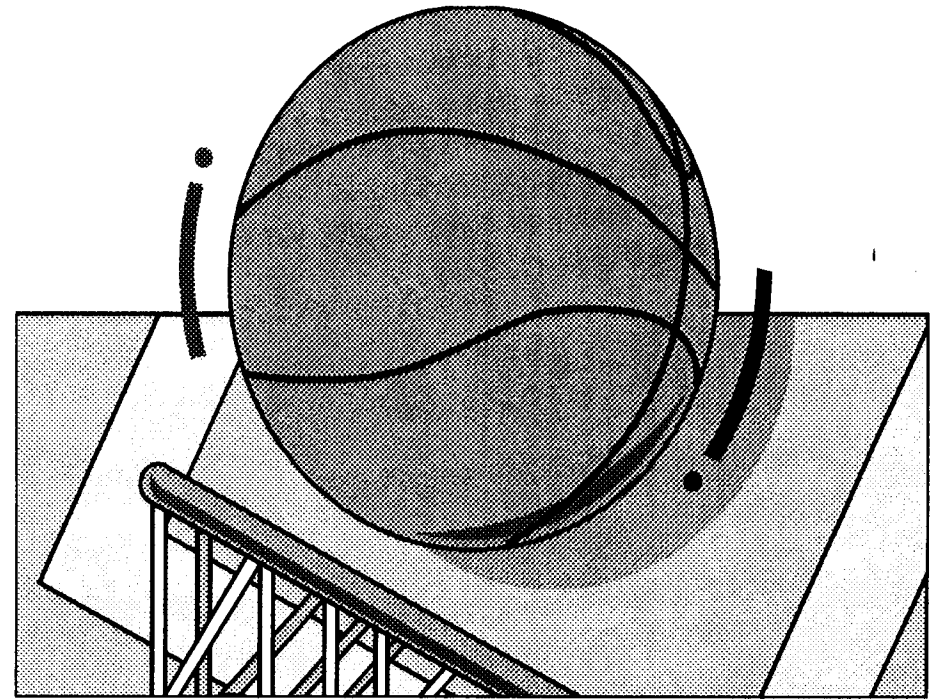
At School

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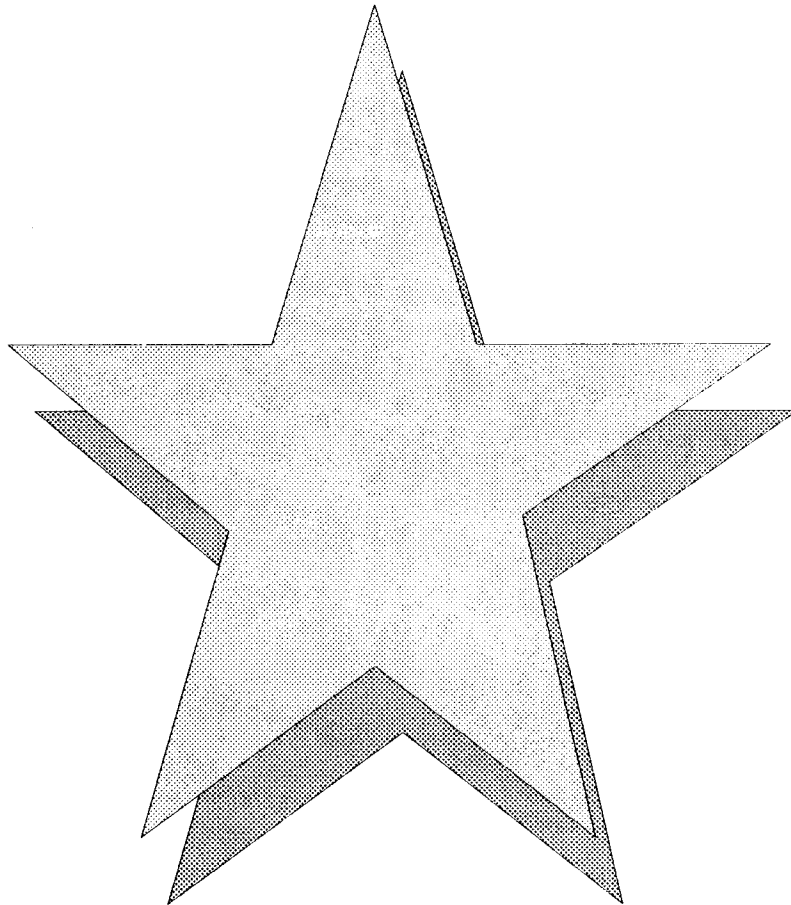
Sharing my Faith

3EZE33.GF7.5



Good Sportsmanship

3EZE33.GF7.6



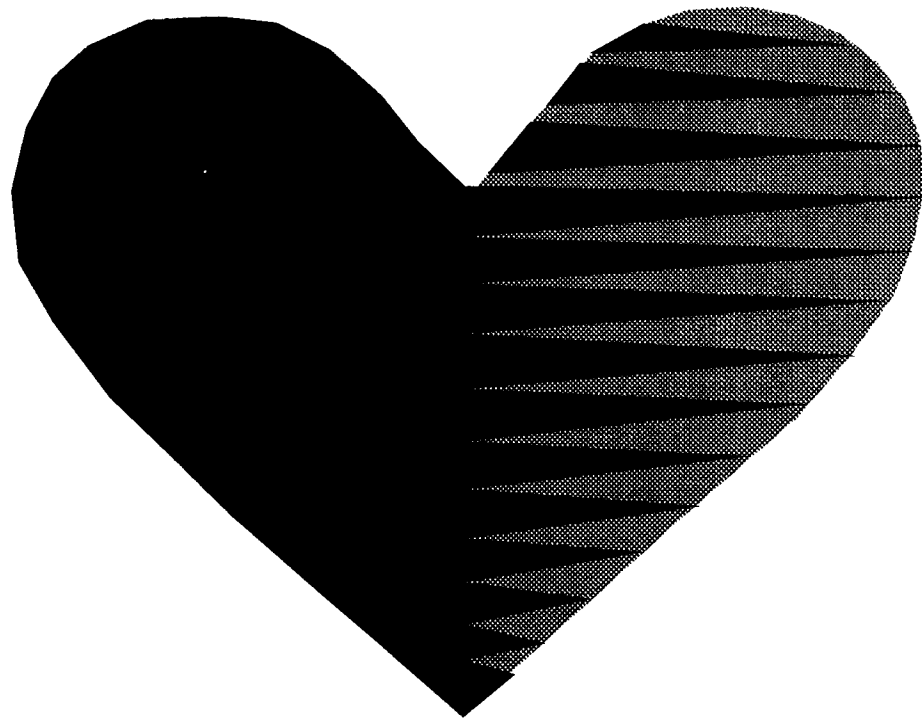
Excellence - Doing my Best

3EZE33.GF7.7



TV, Movies, Video Games

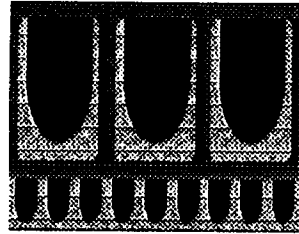
3EZE33.GF7.8



Confess my Sin

3EZE33.GF7.9

Ezekiel Chapters 40-48



Give the Glory to God...

MONDAY-

Prayer - Pray for a great week of school with opportunities to share your faith.

Passage - Read Chapter 40 of Ezekiel. How did Ezekiel take his traveling tour in this chapter? How else has Ezekiel traveled before?

Praise - Sing: Sing Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

TUESDAY-

Prayer - Pray for your obedience to your parents. Your obedience pleases the Lord.

Passage - Read Ezekiel Chapters 41 & 42. Why is God giving such specific measurements? What is the point?

Praise - Sing: I'll Obey And Serve You

FRIDAY-

Prayer - Help us to be fishers of men. Tell someone about Christ today!

Passage - Read Ezekiel Chapters 46 & 47. How will the people inherit in Chapter 46? In Chapter 47, is the fishing good?

Praise - Sing: I Will Make You Fishers Of Men

SATURDAY-

Prayer - Pray for the teaching pastor who will preach tomorrow. Give him the words we need to hear. Help us to be willing to apply God's Word to our lives.

Passage - Read Ezekiel Chapter 48. More Division: Can you find these areas on the maps in the back of your Bible?

Praise - Sing: Give Thanks

WEDNESDAY-

Prayer - Pray that your attitude will be a pleasing aroma to the Lord. Don't have a stinky day! Give all the praise & glory to God.

Passage - Read Ezekiel Chapter 43. How does the Glory return to the Temple? What is the point of all the offerings?

Praise - Sing: Make Me A Servant.

THURSDAY-

Prayer - Pray for your parents today to have wisdom in raising you.

Passage - Read Ezekiel Chapters 44 & 45. What is the deal with priests going near dead people? What about their own family members? On a small scale draw Chapter 45, the Division of the Land.

Praise - Sing: He's Got The Whole World In His Hands