

Why Do We Celebrate EASTER?

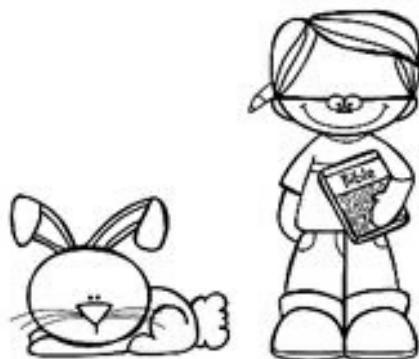
Easter is a special holiday that we celebrate to remember that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to save us from our sins.

We are all sinners because we have all disobeyed God.

God is holy and just. He cannot let sinners come into heaven.

God sent Jesus Christ, His Son, into the world to live a perfect life in our place and then to die in our place, to take the punishment for our sins.

If we believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we can be saved from our sins and spend all of eternity in Heaven with God.



Jesus died for our sins. But, He didn't stay dead. He rose again from the dead on the third day. And that is the wonderful story of EASTER!

Why Communion Is Important

The bread, (the bread) is a symbol of Jesus' body, which was broken on our behalf. The cup, (or the juice) is a symbol of his blood, which was shed when He died on the cross to offer healing and hope. These symbols may seem intense but Jesus' death was an intense gift; a literally life-changing, miracle for all of us.

This is explained in Luke 22:19-20 (ICB: International Children's Bible version)

"Then Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it, broke it, and gave it to the apostles. Then Jesus said, 'This bread is my body that I am giving for you. Do this to remember me.'

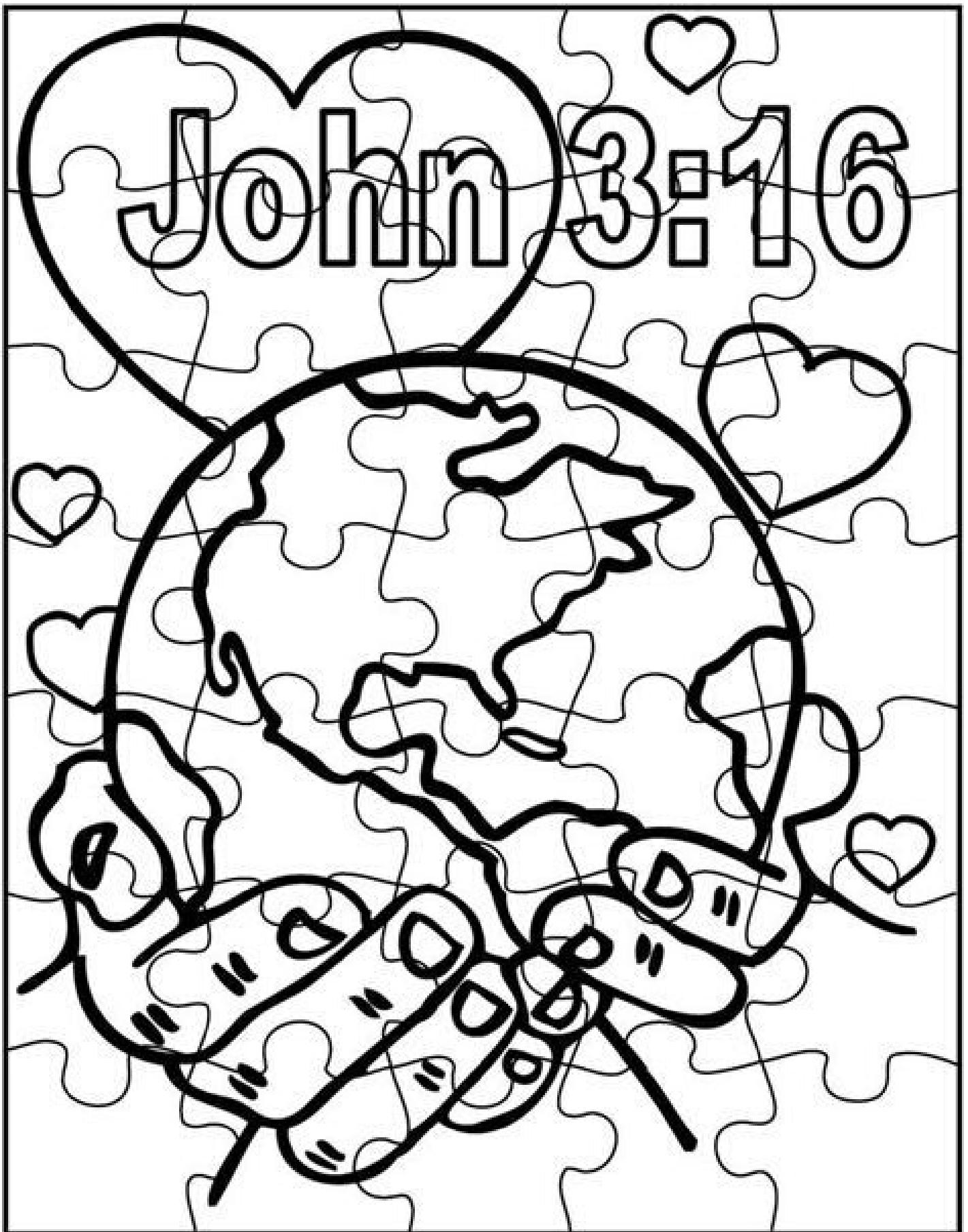
In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup and said, 'This cup shows the new agreement that God makes with His people. This new agreement begins with My blood which is poured out for you.'

An agreement made with blood? Sounds a little like spooky. It sounds intense because it was. He gave his life for us. For everyone. He shed his blood so that the old covenant (or agreement) requirements could be replaced and fulfilled by Him. This new covenant (or promise) requires nothing of us but our willingness to accept the gift of salvation and choose follow Jesus.

"Do this to remember me." These words, spoken by our Savior at His last supper hold the true meaning of this tradition. Each time we take part in communion and remember Jesus' body and blood, we honor his sacrifice and commit once again to walk in the freedom we have through salvation. Communion is a precious, holy reminder that our life was bought with a price by a Savior who loves us so much that He was willing to die in our place.

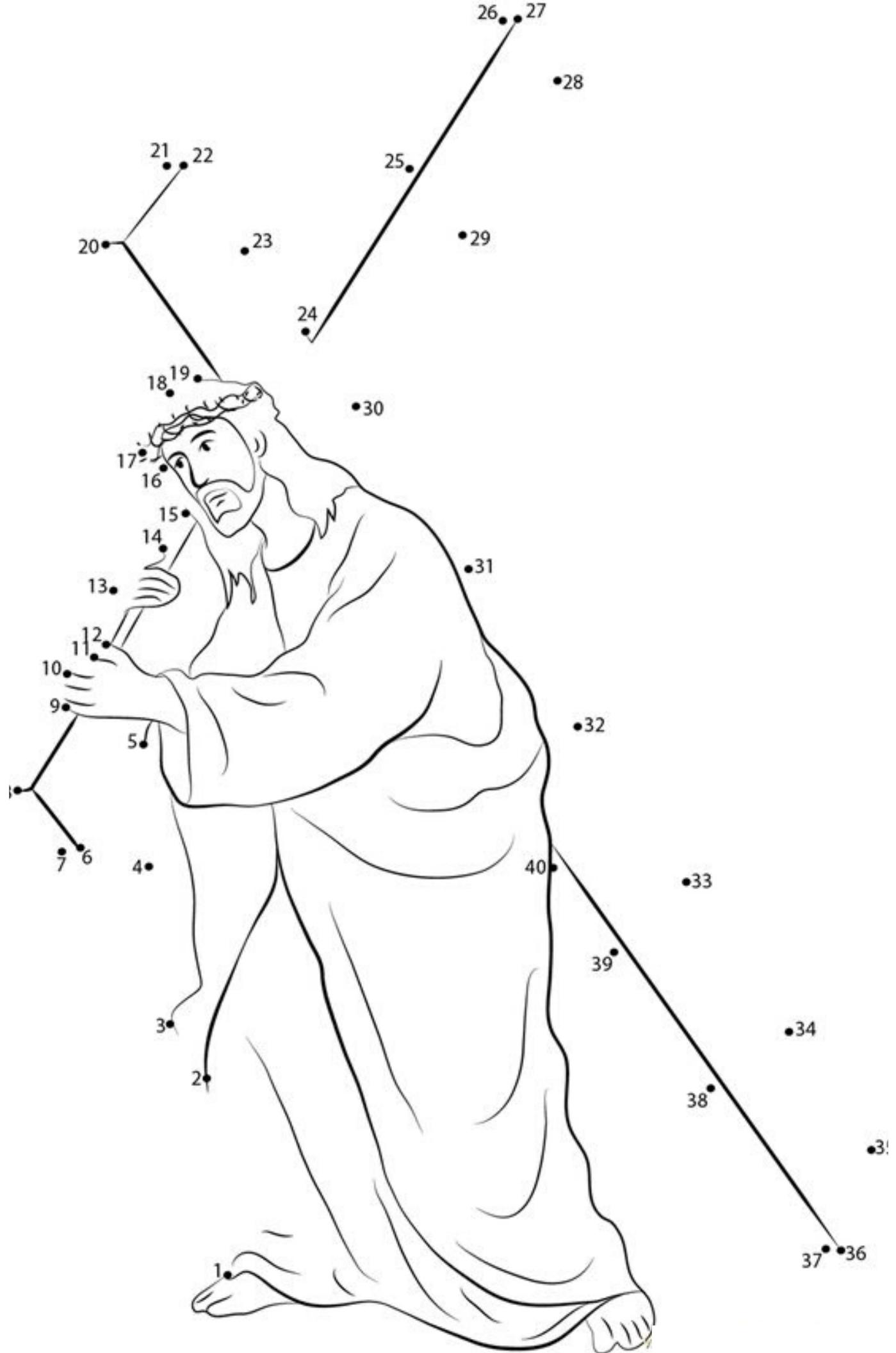


**Jesus said to his disciples,
"Do this in remembrance of me."**

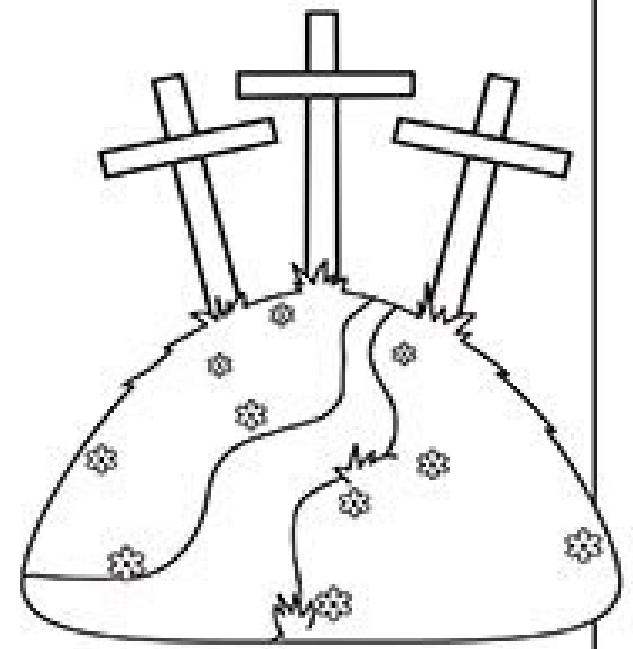
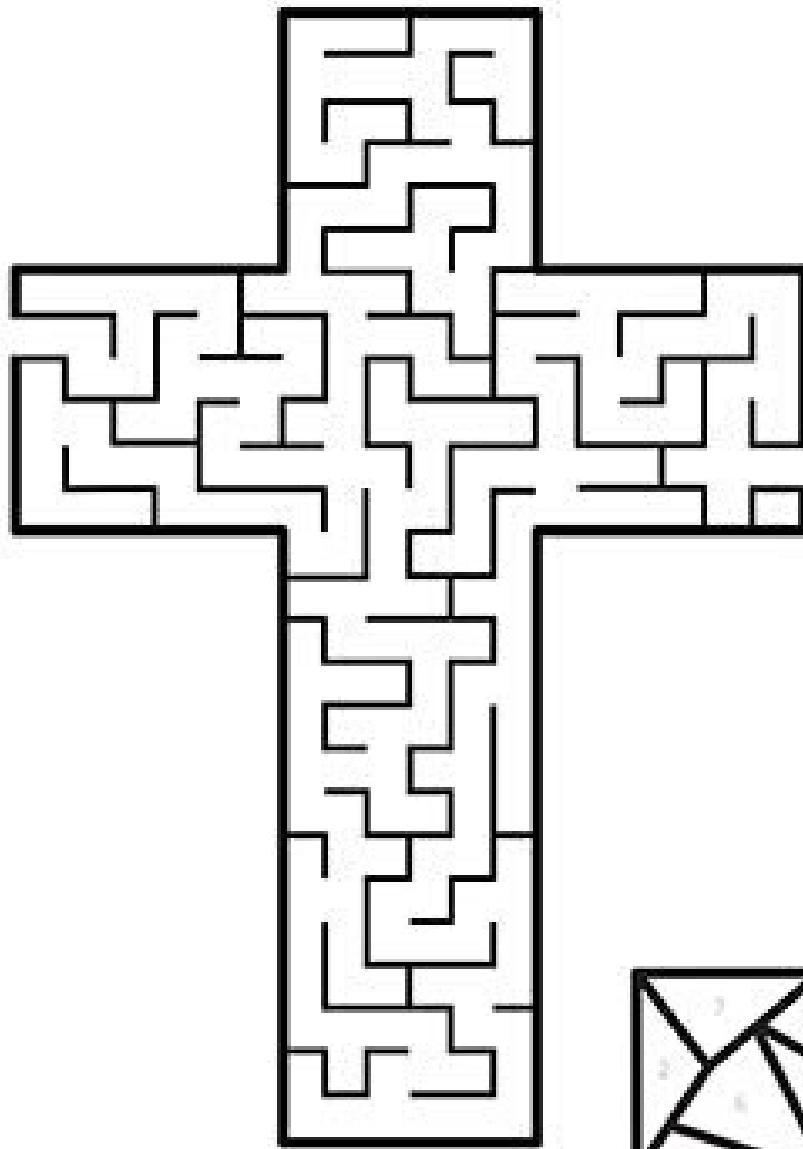


Color the picture. When you get home, use scissors to cut out the puzzle shapes.
Then try and put the puzzle back together!

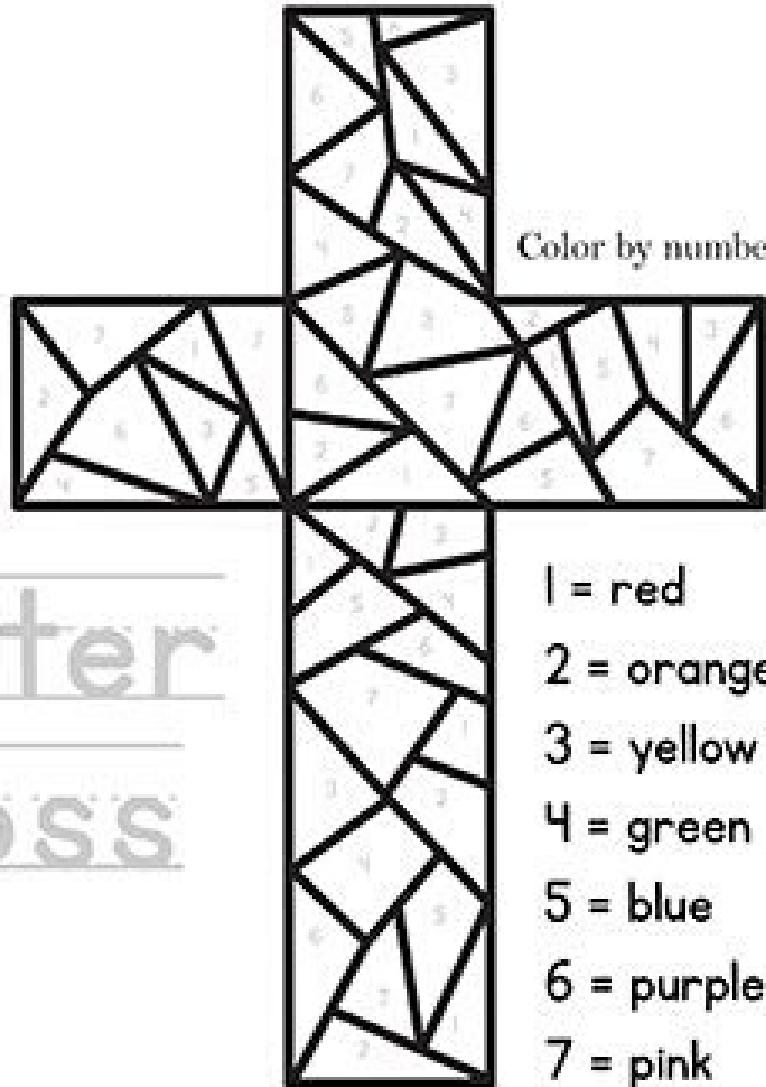
**John 3:16- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that
whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."**



Easter Cross Maze



Color by number:



- 1 = red
- 2 = orange
- 3 = yellow
- 4 = green
- 5 = blue
- 6 = purple
- 7 = pink



Easter
cross

He is Risen!



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

RISEN

ANGEL

CROWN

SALVATION

CALVARY

DISCIPLES

STONE

CHRIST

EMPTY

SUNDAY

CROSS

MARY

TOMB



JESUS IS ALIVE!

Matthew 28:1-10



After Jesus died, a man named Joseph (from a place called Arimathea) put Jesus in His tomb that nobody had ever used. The tombs they used then were cut out of rock, almost like a cave, they weren't buried deep in the ground like they are now. Before Joseph left, he and some men rolled a large heavy stone in front of the tomb. Mary and

Mary Magdalene had waited a day to see Jesus because they couldn't go on the Sabbath (which was a day of rest). They made spices and oils as a sign of respect to Jesus and went very early Sunday morning to go see Jesus' body. As they were just about at the tomb, the earth suddenly shook and an angel came down from heaven. He easily rolled away the stone at the entrance of the tomb and sat on top of it. The women looked at each other and rubbed their eyes since they couldn't believe what they had seen -- plus it was very early in the morning, and they

were still a little sleepy. The angel was so bright -- almost as bright as lightning! His clothes were as white as snow. There had been guards watching the tomb so no one would steal Jesus' body. When they saw the angel, they fell over and they couldn't move or speak because they were so afraid. Then the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who has died. But He isn't here; He has risen just as He said He would! Come and see for yourself, the tomb is empty." The women were confused. How could this happen?

They were sure Jesus had died, and now He was alive? They looked in the tomb and the cloths Jesus had been wrapped in were lying on the ground; the tomb was empty. Then the angel spoke again, "If you want to find Jesus

He's on his way to Galilee." So the women hurried away, They were laughing and crying at the same time. They didn't know what to feel; they had been so sad that Jesus was dead and now they were so excited that He was alive! They just knew they had to find Jesus, and they had to tell the disciples the good news. As they were running down the path, they turned a corner, and there was Jesus. "Greetings," He said. The ladies fell at His feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my disciples to come to Galilee. That is where they will see me." The disciples came to Galilee, having heard by this time that Jesus was alive. They were

sitting around talking about it when Jesus walked into the room and said to them, "Peace be with you." The disciples immediately stopped talking. Even though they had heard He was alive, they were shocked to see Him standing there with them. Jesus said to them, "Why do you look at me like you've just seen a ghost? Why don't you believe what you're seeing? Look at the scars in my hands and feet. It is really me! Touch me and see, I am not a ghost but a real person." The disciple's mouths were open in amazement because they still didn't know what to think. They were so full of joy, and yet it was so impossible. Jesus understood what they were thinking, so He said, "This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen that has already been written in the Bible." Jesus had told the disciples when they had the Last Supper together; they took the bread at communion and Jesus said, "this is my body which I have given to you..." but the disciples hadn't understood what it really meant. Then Jesus told them, "You have seen these things that have happened, so stay in the city and soon I am going to give you what God has promised you: the Holy Spirit. When we become Christians, Jesus automatically gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. The Holy Spirit makes us know when we have done something wrong.

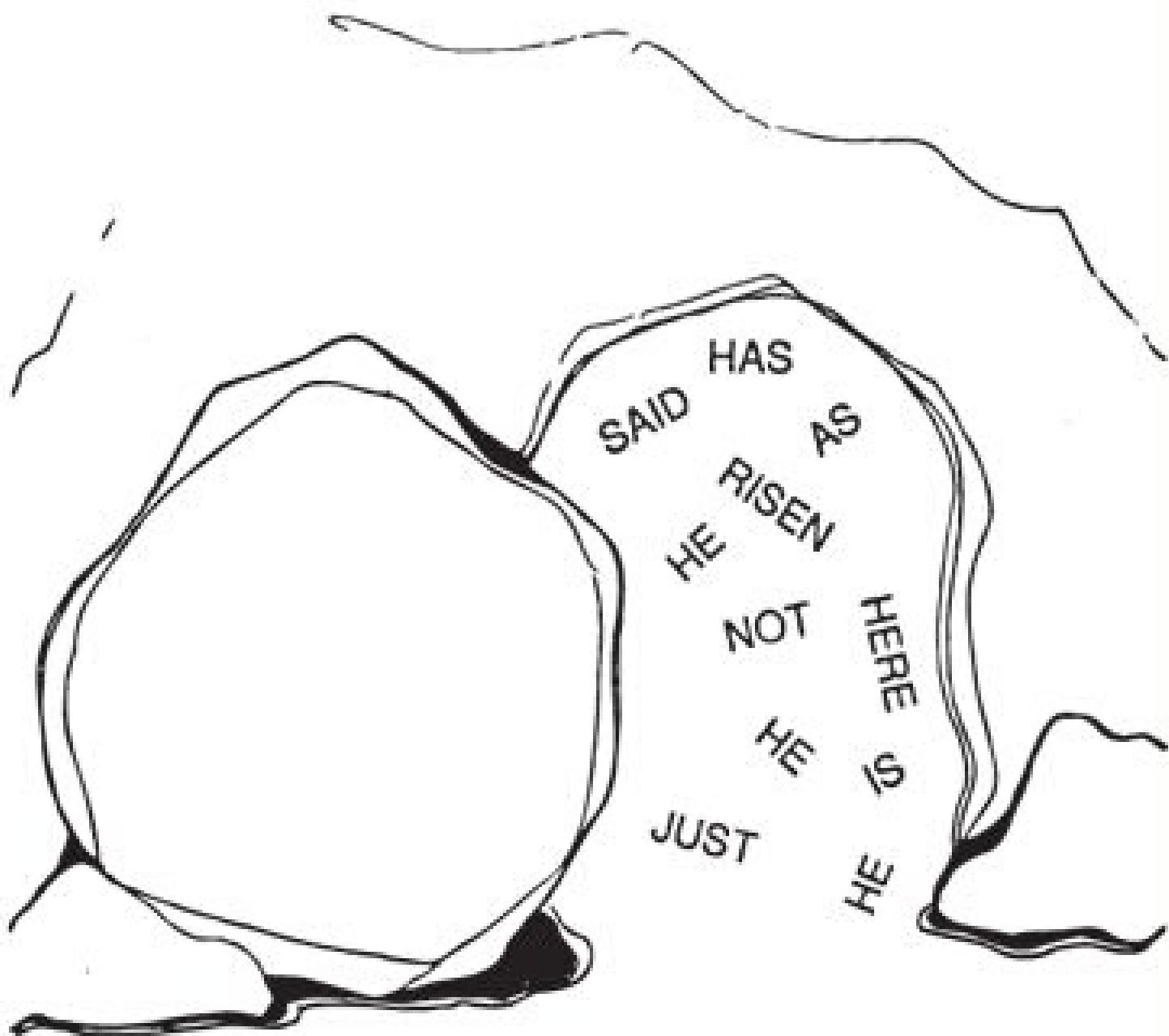
We might feel sick to our stomach, or just get a bad feeling but that is the Holy Spirit reminding us that we are doing something wrong, or that we need to stop and say sorry and ask for forgiveness for what we've done. The

story is almost done, but Jesus had one more person to see. His name was Thomas, and he was one of the disciples that wasn't there when Jesus met with them. Thomas had also heard that Jesus was alive, but would not believe until he saw Jesus with his own eyes. A week later when Thomas finally saw Jesus, Jesus said to him, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Stop doubting and believe." But Jesus continued, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; but it is more amazing for those who don't see me, and believe anyway." It's really neat, but Jesus was actually talking to us when He said this. If you believe in Him, without seeing Him, He will think you're very special! That is exactly what faith is: believing in God even though you can't see Him.



Angel at the Tomb

To find out what the angel said to the women at the tomb,
unscramble the words in the opening.



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Matthew 28:6