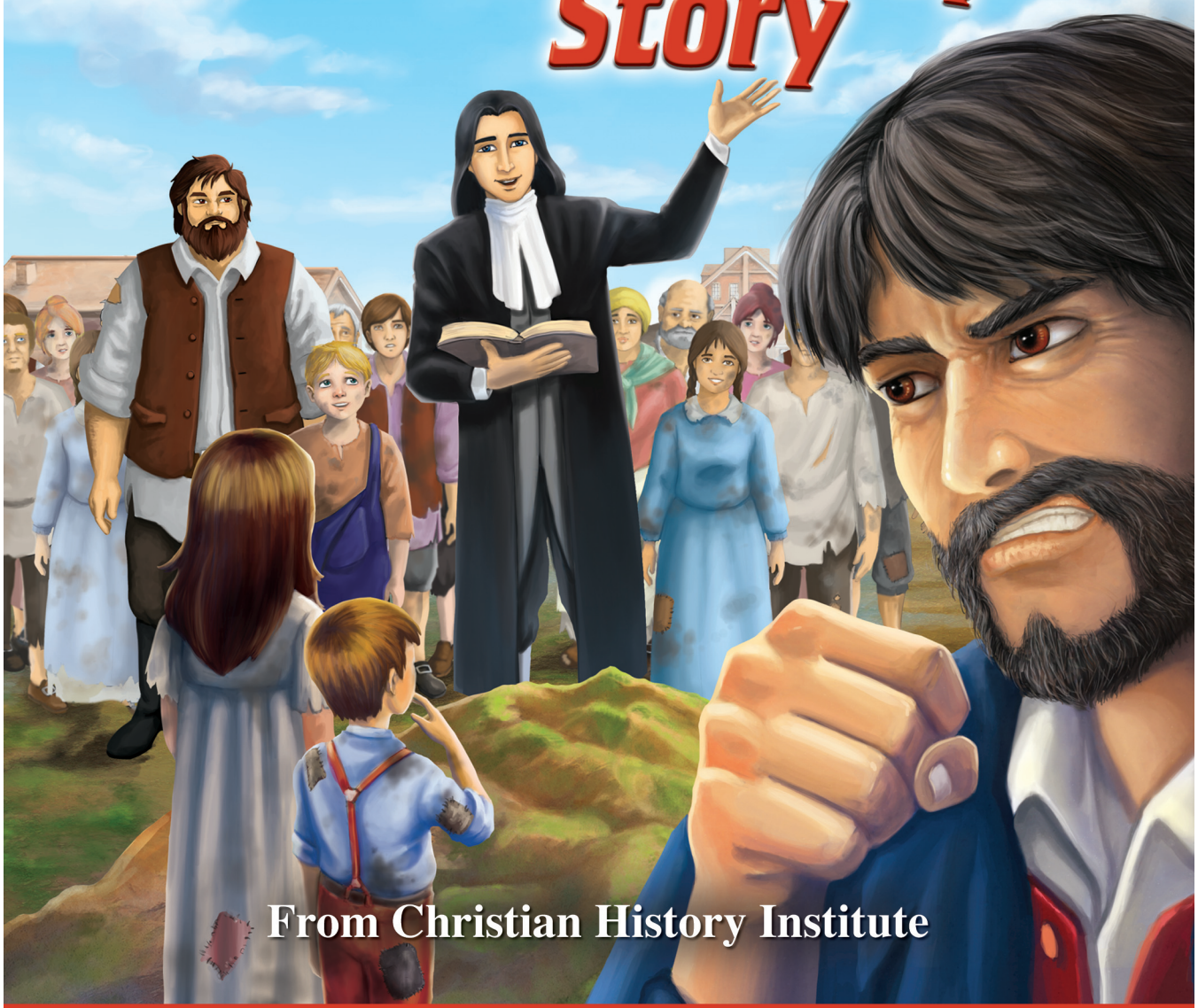
THE TORCHLIGHTERS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Student Handouts for

The John Wesley Story



From Christian History Institute

STUDENT

Table of Contents

Memorization Chart 3

The Gospel Trail 4

Dig into the Story! 5

Dig Deeper 6

Faith That Works Word Search 7

Story Mix-Up 8

What Did He Say? 9

Holy Club Service Project 10-11

What Is a Coat of Arms for? 12-14

Color the Scene 15-18

A Faith That Works: Learning the Spiritual Disciplines 19-25

NOTE: Answer key for selected pages is on page 23 of the Leader's Guide.

© Christian History Institute

Memorization Chart

Below are the theme Bible verses to memorize for these sessions.
Ask your teacher to mark the chart once you have learned a passage.

James 1:18-22	Date completed
18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.	
19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.	
21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.	
22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.	

The Gospel Trail

Look up these passages in Romans along the trail to discover the way to salvation! Fill in your answers below!

Can I get to heaven on my own?
Read Romans 3:23, Romans 3:10

What are the consequences of my sins?
Read Romans 5:12; 6:23

What did Jesus do to be my Savior?
Read Romans 5:6, 8

If I trust in Jesus to save me, what happens?
Read Romans 6:23

How can I be saved?
Read Romans 10:9-10

SALVATION

Dig into the Story!

Questions to get you talking and thinking about John Wesley

1. How was John Wesley trying to please God at the beginning of the video?

2. In school, John Wesley frequently faced ridicule from other boys his age for radical commitment to his spiritual disciplines. Have you ever been ridiculed for your faith? How did you respond?

3. What lesson did John Wesley learn that changed his life? What did he do differently after that?

4. After John Wesley understood that his salvation was by faith and not by good works, his preaching changed. What was the response of the churches? How did the people in the countryside respond to his new message of grace?

5. Would you call John Wesley a stick rescued from the fire? Why or why not?

6. What difference does having a changed heart make in your own life?

Dig Deeper

Thinking through tough questions

1. John Wesley went to America to preach the Gospel to the Native Americans, but he was unsuccessful. Why do you think Wesley's attempts to preach to them failed?

2. After Jesus changed his heart, Wesley's message offended some people in the churches. Why?

3. John Wesley might be described as rather headstrong. When was this a detriment and when was it a positive for him?

4. Philippians 2:12 commands Christians to "work out your salvation with fear and trembling." What does that mean? What challenges do you have in working out your faith?

5. Wesley went against the standards of his time when he preached outside of the church. Can you think of any similar rules in the church today, whether written or just commonly understood?

Faith That Works Word Search

Look up the verses below and fill in the missing word.
Then, find these different characteristics of a Christian
with growing faith in the Word Search!

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV): "But the fruit of the Spirit is _____, joy, _____, patience, _____, _____, _____, _____, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

James 3:17 (NIV): "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all _____; then peace-loving, _____, _____, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and _____."

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

Story Mix-Up

These pictures of John Wesley's story are all mixed up.
Number the pictures in the correct order.

☐

John's message of "salvation by faith, not works" spreads through all of England and on to America and beyond.

☐

John and Charles are caught in a violent storm on their way to preach in America.

☐

While at Oxford, John and his brother Charles lead the "Holy Club."

☐

After failing in America, John is back in England. His friend Peter challenges him to consider salvation by faith, not works.

☐

John Wesley is the founder of Methodism.

☐

John finally understands that he is saved by grace, not by works!

☐

As a child, John Wesley is miraculously rescued from his family's burning home.

☐

The Moravian Christians on the boat are peacefully singing and praying during the storm.

What Did He Say?

What's missing from John Wesley's message?
Use the Word Bank to fill in the blanks and find out!

Do all the ___ ___ ___ ___ you can, by all the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ you can, in all the ___ ___ ___ ___ you can, in all the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ you can, at all the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ you can, to all the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ you can, as ___ ___ ___ ___ as ever you can.

WORD BANK

ways	people	means	long
times	good	places	

Holy Club Service Project

Did you know that when John Wesley was at Oxford, his brother Charles formed a group called "the Holy Club"? John later took over the group, which met regularly to study the Bible, hold communion, and even fast together! They also spent a lot of time helping out in the community by working in prisons and among the poor. You can be a part of the Holy Club too with the Holy Club Service Project!

Here are a few service ideas that you can use for your own project, either on your own or as a group:

* Help out members of your church by volunteering for yard or house work
* Host and serve a community meal at your church
* Go to www.stophungernow.org to learn how YOU can make a difference by packaging meals for the hungry

Instructions: Now work with your class or family to brainstorm ideas on how you can serve your community or church. Discuss your ideas with your instructor or parent and make a plan to complete it. Fill in the sheet on the next page after you do your project!

For my project, I chose:

_____.

This is what I did:

_____

_____

_____

_____.

This helped my community/church and showed a faith that works by:

_____

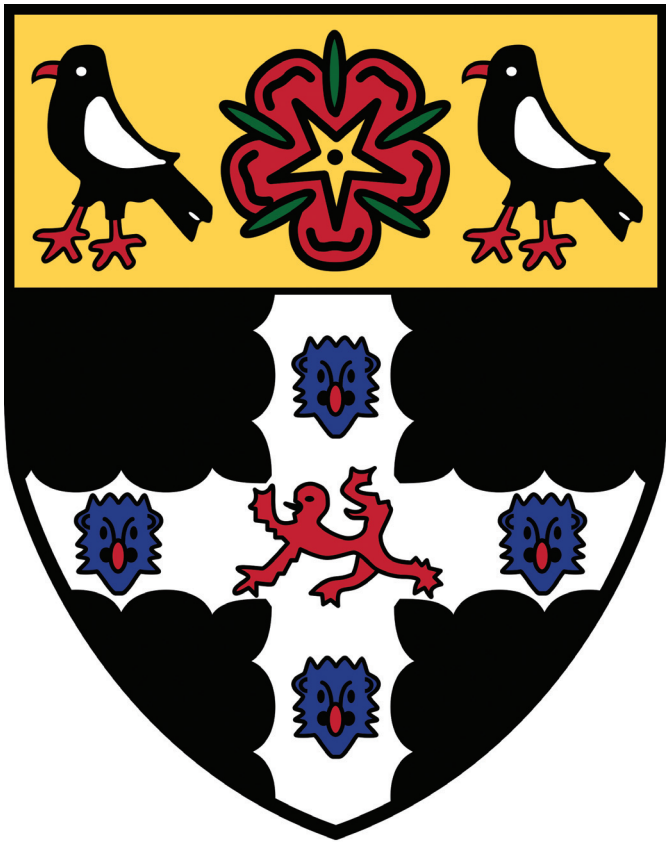
_____

_____

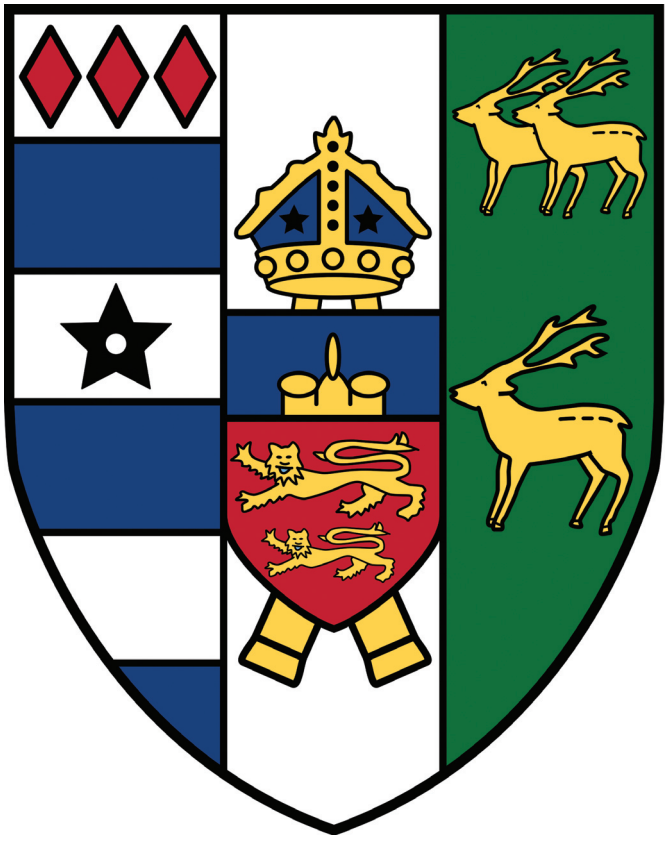
_____.

What Is a Coat of Arms for?

A Coat of Arms is a unique design on a shield or banner that was once used by medieval knights to identify them. By John Wesley's time, Coats of Arms became logos or flags for families, church clergy, towns, and universities all across Europe. Oxford University started using a Coat of Arms by the 14th century, and soon all the colleges at Oxford had their own! (Think of it like a sports team logo—since each college is different, each has its own special design!) Below are two Coats of Arms: Christ Church College and Lincoln College. These were the two colleges that John Wesley attended when he was going to school.



Christ Church College
Coat of Arms



Lincoln College
Coat of Arms

Every Coat of Arms contains symbols. A symbol is a picture or an idea that is meant to stand for something else. Here are some symbols used in Wesley's day:

COLORS

Yellow/Gold: Generosity

Black: Faithfulness

Blue: Loyalty and Truth

Purple: Royal Majesty and Justice

Green: Hope and Joy

Red: Generosity or Military Strength

ANIMALS

Lion: Courage

Fox: Wisdom

Dog: Loyalty

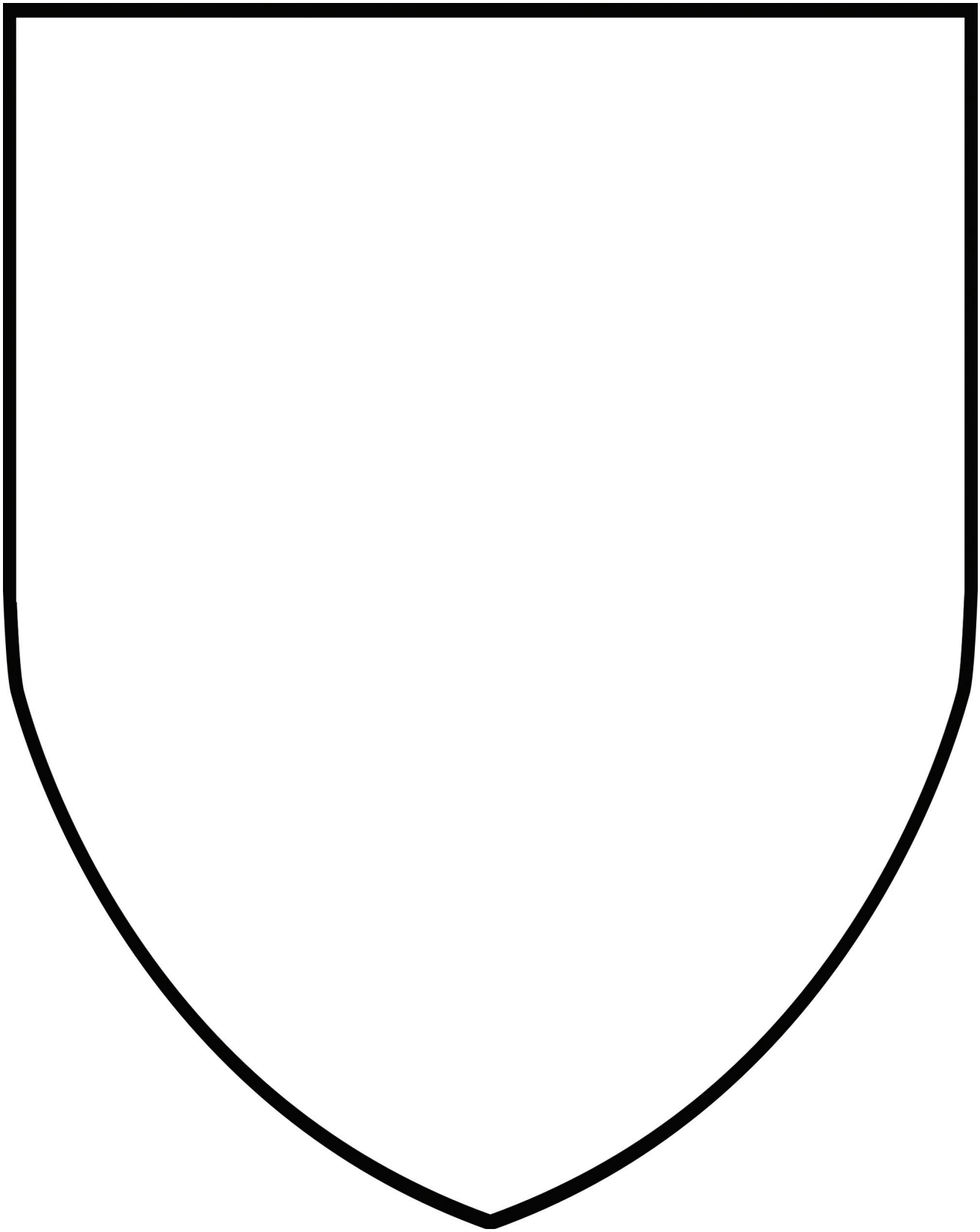
Elephant: Strength

Lamb: Gentleness and Patience

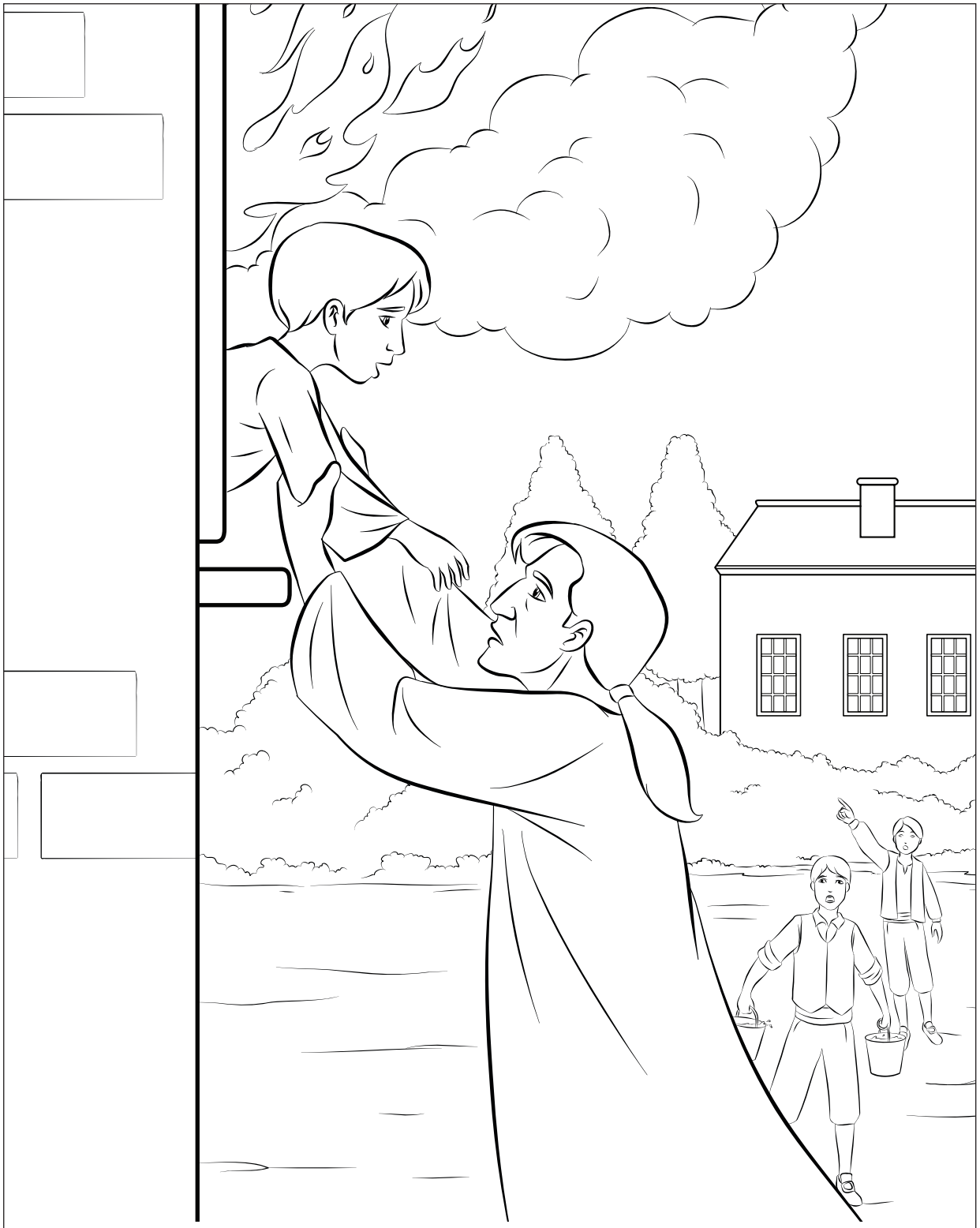
Ram: Authority

There are many more symbols to choose from, and you can even make up your own! And now YOU have a chance to make your very own Coat of Arms that symbolizes what your life and faith mean to you!

DIRECTIONS: Cut out the template on the next page and trace it onto a piece of construction paper or card stock of your choosing. Use some of the symbols above or make up your own to draw on the Coat of Arms. If you need inspiration, be sure to check out the samples on page 12. When you have finished, cut along the lines that you traced from the template. Now you have a Coat of Arms!



Color the Scene #1



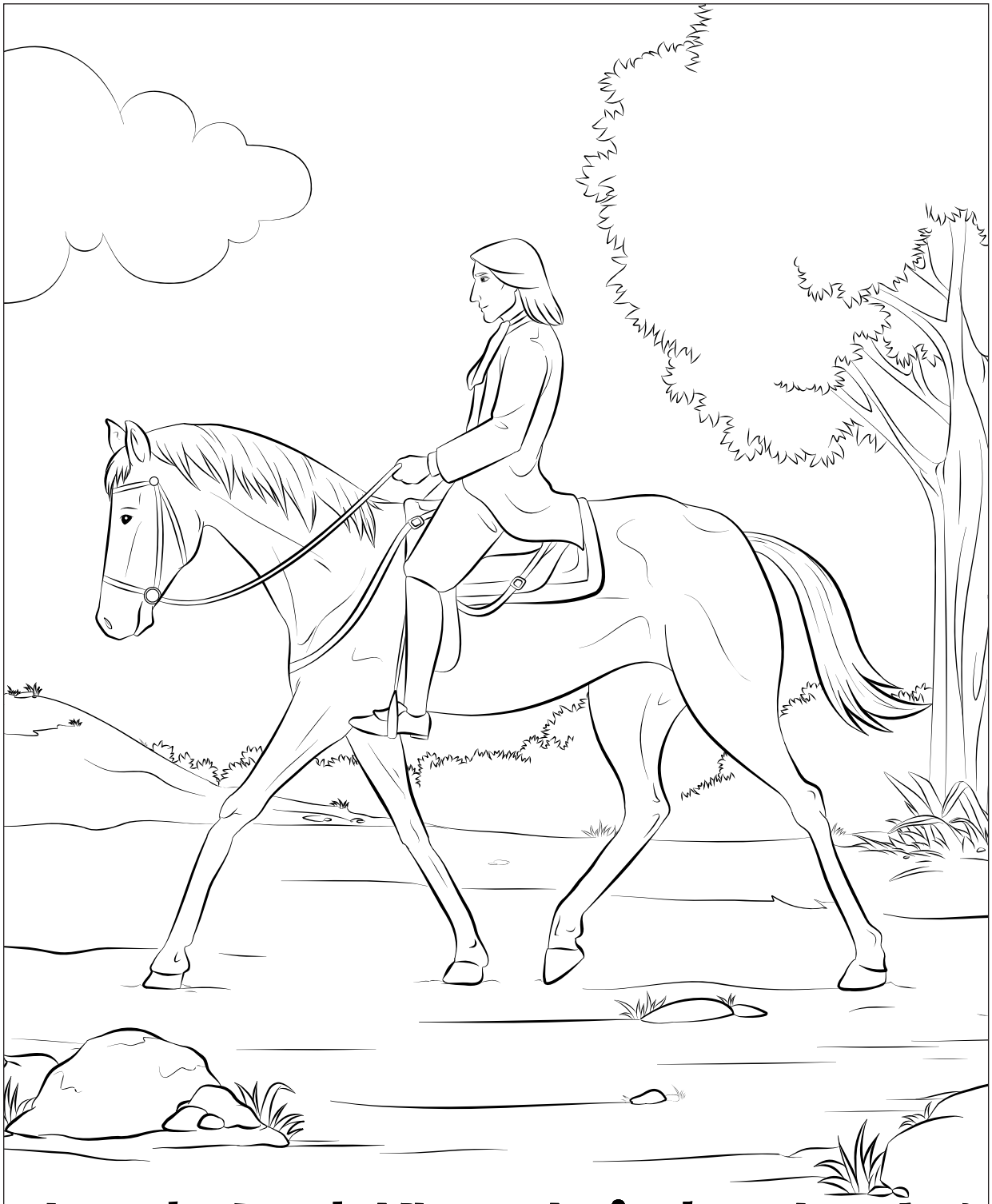
Little John Wesley is rescued from a fire!

Color the Scene #2

John and Charles were surprised to hear people singing when their ship was nearly sinking.

Color the Scene #3

Color the Scene #4



John Wesley traveled thousands of miles on horseback to share the Gospel with his countrymen.

A Faith That Works: Learning the Spiritual Disciplines

What does it mean to be spiritually disciplined? Discipline is defined as "training expected to produce a specific pattern of behavior." When we become Christians, the Holy Spirit enables us to grow, or be "sanctified" and made more like Christ. But, just like an athlete training for a big race, Christians must also exercise spiritually, for as 1 Timothy 4:8 says, "physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." Complete a devotional after each lesson to learn how you can be trained up in Christ!

DEVOTIONAL #1: BE IN GOD'S WORD!

Take a moment to think about how your parents teach you on a daily basis. A lot of the time, they tell you the things you should or should not do. Maybe you do not always agree or want to do what they say, but your parents give you these instructions because they love you and want the best for you. For the same reasons, God gives us His Word. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Without God's Word, how can we know what pleases Him, what is best for us, or how can we grow as Christians? Here's the answer: We can't!

Start practicing this important spiritual discipline today by being in God's Word daily! Here are some tips on how to prepare your heart and mind to study the Bible:

* Set aside a special time each day to read. Some people find it easier to get into the habit of reading God's Word by doing it first thing when they wake up, while others may find it better to read at night. Whatever you do, make sure you do it at the same time daily!

* Find a peaceful, quiet place to do your devotions, like your bedroom or outside alone in nature.

* Take time to REALLY read what it says.

DIRECTIONS: Read James 1:1-2:13. If you own a study Bible, read the information given at the beginning of the book that explains the context of the book (i.e. why it was written, to whom it was written, and who the author was.) Think hard about the questions given below before answering.

1. Why should Christians "consider it pure joy" when we face trials?

2. What does James say about God and sin? On whom does the blame for sin fall?

3. How do you think James would define religion? What does James say makes a person's religion "worthless?"

4. What religion does God accept as pure and faultless? Why?

5. James 2:1-9 continues a discussion from 1:9-11 about poor and rich believers. How are we as Christians to treat both the rich and the poor? How does the way we treat other believers display what we believe?

6. Why do you think James offers such a stern warning about favoritism in James 2:1-13?

7. After reading this passage, how can you "not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves," but "do what it says"?

DEVOTIONAL #2: TALK TO GOD

Have you ever noticed that the best and easiest way to keep a great friendship going is to talk with your friend often? God wants to share a relationship like that with you, too. This is why prayer is a very important spiritual discipline! Don't know where to start? Thankfully, Jesus taught His disciples how to talk to God in Matthew 6:9-13, which says:

> "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'"

When Jesus says that this is how you should pray, He does not mean you should pray these exact words every time. Rather, He gives us a format to follow that helps us talk to God in the right way.

So how should we pray? Use this simple acronym to help you remember to put prayer in practice, or A-C-T-S!

A: Adoration – Praising God for who He is
C: Confession – Telling Jesus how you have sinned and asking for forgiveness
T: Thanksgiving – Thanking Jesus for what He has done in your life
S: Supplication – Asking God for help with your needs and the needs of others

Directions: Fill in the blanks below to help you pray:

A: I can praise God for _____

C: I have sinned against God by _____

T: I can thank God for _____

S: I want to ask God to _____

Don't forget what you learned in your last devotional! Today, read James 2:14-3:9 and answer the following questions.

1. James 2:14-26 discusses the relationship between our faith and our actions. Why does James say that faith without action is dead (James 2:17)?

2. After reading verse 19, how do we see that belief in God alone can be useless?

3. James chapter 3 talks about the tongue, or the words we say. How is what we say powerful? How is the tongue dangerous?

4. Think about your own faith and relationship with Jesus. Do your actions and words show the faith that you claim? Is this important to you? If so, how can you "tame your tongue" and show your faith by your deeds? If not, why?

DEVOTIONAL #3: WORSHIP GOD WITH HIS PEOPLE

Maybe you are wondering how worshipping in church is a spiritual discipline. Sometimes, it might seem like it's just something Christians have to do. But there is a whole lot more to church than just going to one! When we join together with a group of believers, we are actively worshipping God as a part of the body of Christ. And Hebrews 10:24-25 shows us how important worshipping God with other Christians is when it says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another."

So, we worship God in church not only by being there, listening to His Word being taught, and singing praises to Him, but also by spending time with other Christians, caring for their needs, and encouraging them on their own spiritual walks. The Bible often compares the relationship among believers to the relationship among brothers and sisters. Fellow Christians are members of your very own family!

Here are some practical ways you can worship God with His people:

- Attend Sunday school and Sunday church service
- Write someone in your church an encouraging note
- Pray for a member personally

Now write down your own ideas, thinking specifically of YOUR church. What can you do today to worship God with His people?

Keep up with your disciplines! Read James 3:13-4:17 and answer the questions on the next page. Close your devotional time by praying, using ACTS (from Devotional #2) as your guide!

1. What is the difference between wisdom that comes from heaven and earthly wisdom (James 3:13-18)?

2. What does it mean to be "a friend of the world" (James 4:4) and why does that make us an enemy of God?

3. Why should we not brag about our plans?

4. After reading through the first four chapters of James, you should see that the author is writing very specific commands to believers. Why do you think James speaks about so many different issues? How are these issues relevant to you today?

DEVOTIONAL #4: PUT IT INTO PRACTICE!

Over the last few devotionals, you learned a few ways that you can live a spiritually disciplined life. Now is the time to put it into practice! Read James 5 so you can reflect on the questions below. Leave time for prayer, using ACTS as your guide. Remember, even though this is the last devotional for our study in James, you can and should continue to study God's Word on your own! Go to www.truthforkids.com for more devotionals and ideas on how to continue practicing these spiritual disciplines.

1. Exactly to whom is James 5:1-6 speaking? Do these sound like believers or unbelievers? What is the warning given here?

2. Why should Christians be patient? What does it mean to "persevere"?

3. How are prayer and praise helpful to the Christian?

4. Why should we try to help those who are wandering away from God's truth?

5. After reading all of James, how are Christians supposed to interact with each other, and what does that have to do with our faith in Jesus? What did you learn from reading James?