

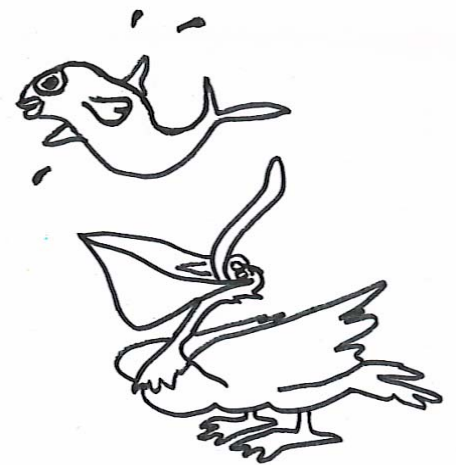
“And it was good”

There were pelicans around the jetty every day. With oversized bills, barrel shaped bodies and big feet, they look fat and clumsy, especially when taking off from, or landing on the water, or when trying to get a big fish into their mouth.



Have you ever watched a pelican fly just above the surface of the water for long distances? They know just how close to fly without hitting the water and crashing. These birds have air filled sacs like bubble packs under their skin that allow them to bounce on the water's surface when they dive into it from great heights. They are really very good at flying and diving.

“A strange old bird is the pelican, his beak holds more than his belly can.”



Listen to God!

Genesis 1:20-22

God said, everything he made was good, even funny looking pelicans!

How many words can you make from the letters in **pelican**
There are at least 40. See how good you are!

Talk to God!

Heavenly Father, thank you that everything you made is good, even things that look as strange as pelicans. Thank you that we can enjoy all you have made.

What's at the door?

On the last day of their holiday, Sean asked grandma what she had liked most about the beach "Looking for shells," was Grandma's reply. Sea shells are the external skeleton of animals called molluscs. The shell is made from crystals of calcium (like our teeth). Univalves have a single shell in a wide range of shapes and colours. Grandma's favourites are cowries.



Listen to God!

Genesis 7:11-16

The mollusc has a head and a foot that come out when it moves and feeds. Many have a hard round disc called an operculum attached to the foot. It's like a front door that can be pulled shut to keep out danger.



Circle true or false

Noah was 650 years old	True	False
Eight people were in the ark.	True	False
It rained 40 days & nights.	True	False
Noah did all that God said.	True	False
There was as many animals as could fit.	True	False
Noah shut the door.	True	False

God shut the door of the ark, not Noah. This reminds us that it's God who keeps us safe from danger.

Talk to God!

Thank God for some of the ways he keeps you and your family safe each day.

Remember
Proverbs 29:25
**"Trust the Lord
and you will
be safe."**



☆WHAT A PRETTY SKIRT☆

"Victoria, quick, give me the camera," called mum. Everyone had been out on a long walk along the foreshore. In places they had to climb over really big rocks. As she came over one rock, mum saw something interesting in the water. It was a univalve mollusc (seashell) displaying it's mantle (skirt).



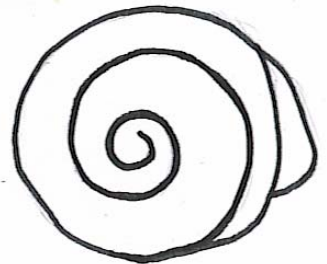
"Wow, it's beautiful. I know some shells are fancy, but I didn't realise the animals inside could be that fancy too. It's got lacy frills, and it's such a beautiful colour," said Vicki.

Listen to God!

Matthew 6:28-33

Beautiful animals and plants don't make themselves that way. It is God's doing. And he cares about **everything** he has made. We can trust him to take care of us and give us everything we need each day.

Add pretty "skirts" or interesting animals to these sea shells.



Talk to God!

Dear God, Thank you for the care you put into your world. Help us not to worry, but to always remember that you are looking after us and will give us all we need every day.



WATER FOR LIFE

Grandpa was kneeling to look at fish in a rock pool when

he felt something wet in his face. "What was that?" he asked as Vicki burst into laughter. She stood on the sea squirt again and this time it squirted a jet of water right in his eye.



Sea squirts are similar to sponges but more complex. They have a heart, stomach and other organs and live on the tide line. When the tide is out they shrink up and rest. If disturbed, they'll shoot water into the air. When the tide comes in, they suck water in through one tube, filter food out of it and then squirt the water out another tube.

Because they cannot move around, they are dependant on the tide bringing water to them.

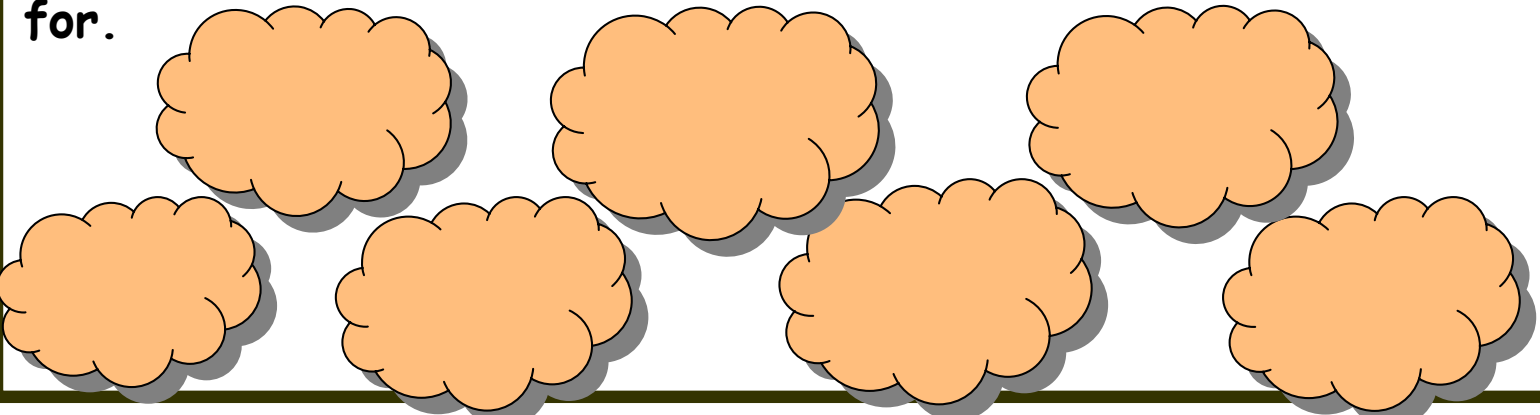


Listen to God!

Job 38:25-28
then Job 28:25-27

Just as sea squirts depend on the tide for water we depend on God for our water. Even if people do rain dances or seed the clouds, as we have seen through years of drought, God still controls the rain.

In the clouds, write or draw things we need rain and water for.



Talk to God!

Thank God for sending rain and providing us with water. Ask him for the things your family needs each day like water, food, warmth and shelter.



Underwater gardens

All the kids at the camping ground held a sponge collecting competition. Esther won the prize for the biggest, Sean for the strangest and Brad for collecting the most. Sponges come in amazing shapes and sizes from microscopic to 2 metres across. They grow in gardens under the water but are really animals.

Sponges don't have a brain or heart. Made of tiny soft fibres called spicules and spongin, they do an important job of keeping water clear and clean by pumping it through their bodies and feeding on the impurities in it. Even after they die, some sponges keep working as cleaners. People use them in the bath or shower to wash themselves with.

Using a pencil, write inside the sponges some things you want to tell God you are sorry about. Then colour over your writing to show God has taken them away.



Listen to God!

Psalm 51:1-7

King David of Israel wrote these words after he had sinned. He took another man's wife and then had that man killed. But David was truly sorry he had done wrong. When he confessed, God forgave him and made him clean again.

The Bible says, "the blood of Jesus washes all our sins away."

Talk to God!

Loving father, thank you that when I do wrong, I can come to you and ask for your forgiveness. Thank you that you always forgive, and forget. Thank you that Jesus took the punishment for all my sins.



Two are better than one!



It was easy to find halves of bivalve shells on the beach, but the children had to search quite hard to find any shells with both sides intact. The two halves are joined with a hinge and strong muscle when the animal is alive. The muscle is used to open and close the shell.

Many bivalves can dig in mud or sand and try to hide from hungry birds. There would be millions of cockles (pippies) in the mud along the inlet, Dad often dug them up for fishing bait. Bivalves can attach themselves to rocks or algae. Of course their best defence is to close up their two halves tight so only strong beaks, sharp claws, or a fisherman's knife can get to the animal inside.

Listen to God! **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Just as two shells give a bivalve strength, so two people can be strong when helping each other. Three people working together is even better. But the best of all, is us and God working together. He gives us great strength.



Circle the following shells that are bivalves

Clam cockle cone mussel cowrie limpet
Angel wing scallop abalone oyster turban

Talk to God!

Thank you God that the Bible tells us you are our strength. I want to always remember that.



Tracks in the sand

Exploring along the rocks was the girl's favourite activity at the beach. There were so many things to see. They noticed that some of the sea shells made tracks in the sand where the tide had gone out.



"They look like they don't know where they are going," said Vicky. "The tracks go round and round in circles." "They are actually looking for food," explained mum.

Listen to God!

Psalm 107:4-9

This Psalm describes people wandering in the desert, lost, hungry, thirsty and tired. But see what God did for them when they called out (prayed) to him.

Talk to God! Heavenly father, thank you that when we pray to you, you hear us. Thank you that you give us what we need. Thank you that it's not just food and drink. You give safety and guidance and satisfaction too. Everything you give us is good.

In the right foot prints, write what God did for the people in the Psalm. In the left footprints, write some things he has done for you.



Tides!



Low tide was the best time to visit the beach. Grandma and the children loved exploring along the high tide line for things that had been washed up like shells, sponges and dead crabs. The wet sand was easier to walk on than the dry sand above the high tide line. AND, Vicki could do handstands and cartwheels on the hard packed sand. She did a record 17 cartwheels in a row one day!



Tides are caused by the pull of gravity from the moon and the sun. How much the tide rises and falls depends on how steeply the ground (sea bottom) slopes, and the time of the month. Twice a month (around full and new moons) there are very high tides. They are called spring tides because they "jump" or "spring" up. Then twice a month are very

low tides called neap tides. In most places there are two high tides and two low tides a day, but in some places only one. It's all affected by the rotation of the earth and the position of the sun and moon. It's all very confusing unless you understand physics and planets!

Put the following numbers into their proper order. Cross them out as you use them.

18 33 36 45 24 20 60 50 15
30
35 55 30 12 27 40 25 9 21
15

3 6 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
5 10 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Talk to God! Father God, you are a God of order, not chaos. People seem to often bring disorder into the world. It's good to know that you have everything in your control and you will bring order and peace.

Listen to God!

Job 38:8-11

God controls the tides and how far they rise and fall every day. It all happens in perfect order.



They're not nice!

"I don't want to play with Dylan anymore. He's nasty," said Kaylee. Yesterday a new family had arrived at the camping ground. Dylan had joined in building the dam with the other children at first, but when he couldn't do it all his way he got grumpy. "He swore at me," said Kaylee. Vicki replied, "He's just like that sea urchin we found the other day, prickly all over. I noticed none of the other kids want to play with him either."



"Well sea urchins have all those spines for their protection. Some are even poisonous. But I don't think Dylan's being like that to protect himself", Kaylee muttered. "Maybe he is. He seems pretty unhappy. Perhaps other kids have been mean to him and he thinks we will be mean to him too, so he's just getting in first. Let's ask him to play again tomorrow," said Vicki.



Listen to God! Matthew 9:9-13

Some people didn't want Jesus to have anything to do with Matthew when he became a disciple. He used to collect taxes and was probably grumpy and cross with people a lot of the time. Tax collectors weren't liked very much.

Talk to God!

Did you know that a sea urchin is an animal but it doesn't have a head. Their mouth is under their body and it's surrounded by teeth. The spines actually help it move, and also wedge itself into cracks in the rocks to protect it from heavy waves and attack from other animals.

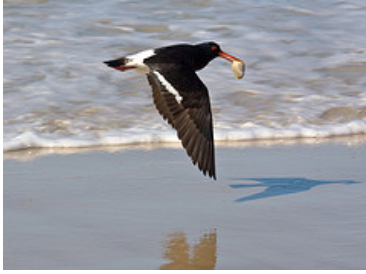
Dear Jesus, sometimes it's really hard to be nice to people who aren't nice to us. Help us to treat others as you would treat them, and how we would like to be treated.

What did Jesus do? _____

What does he want us to do (verse 13)? _____

What does that mean? _____

THE BEST DEFENCE



Pied oystercatchers



Sooty oystercatchers



Every day pied and sooty oystercatchers hunted along the beach and around the rocks for food. Sean liked watching them. Their strong sharp beaks could break oysters or limpets from the rocks, or prise open other shells.

But the most interesting thing about oyster catchers is the way they defend their eggs and chicks. They lay their eggs among rocks or in the sand above high tide line. This doesn't give much protection from predators, so if one comes near, the parent bird performs an act. It pretends to be injured and moves away from the nest dragging a wing as though it's broken.

Sometimes it will lie on the ground flapping it's wings as though it's dying. This is all to distract the intruders attention from the offspring and keep them safe. If this doesn't work, the oystercatcher will fly at, and try to attack the intruder. It will risk it's life to defend it's chicks.

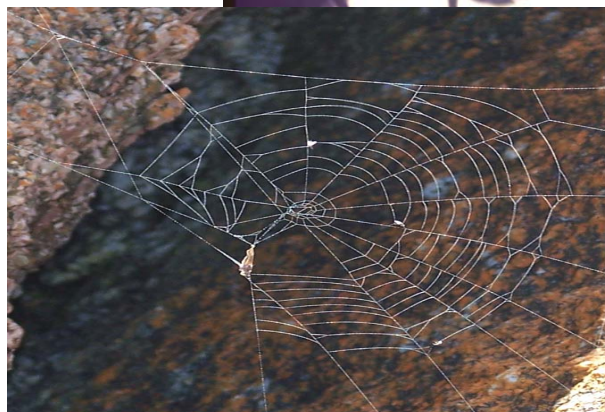
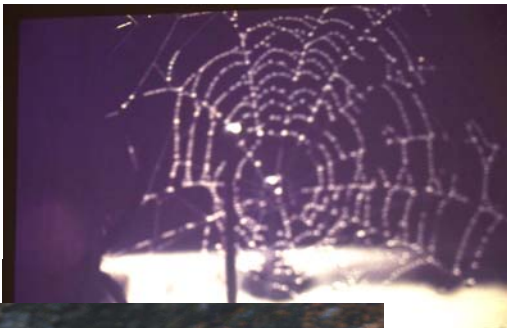
Listen to God! Isaiah 31:5

Write out what this verse says from your Bible and try memorising it.

Talk to God!

Heavenly father, you have made these little birds in an amazing way. They have such a powerful desire to protect their chicks. Thank you that you defend and protect us like that too. I want to always remember that you are my best defence.





Spiders spin webs from silk made in special glands in their bodies. It's liquid but hardens to a strong thread in the air. It's thinner than human hair, but stronger than steel of the same thickness. If you had some spider silk as thick as a pencil, you could tow a jumbo jet with it.

**BUT GOD IS STRONGER -
HE CAN EVEN STOP A STORM!**



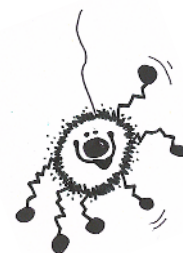
That's strong

Yesterday grandpa and the children went climbing over the rocks along the side of the inlet. Right near the water, they found a spider's web. "Why would a spider want to live here?" asked Kaylee who always wanted the answer to things. "It could get washed away in the tide." "Yes, but it's also a good place to catch food," Grandpa told her. "There are lots of tiny insects that fly around just above the surface of the water that the spider can catch in it's web."

God is strong and his mighty power put the mountains in place. (Psalm 65:6)

Listen to God!

Luke 8:22-25



How did Jesus stop the storm?



Draw a storm around this boat



Draw this boat in a calm sea

Talk to God!

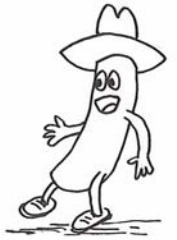
Think of ways God shows his strength and thank him for them.

"Yuck, what is that?" cried Vicki when she stood on something slimy in the water. "It's a sea cucumber,"

said dad, "they belong to the same family as starfish but they have soft bodies and look like a cucumber."

"It doesn't feel like a cucumber," said Vicki. "Maybe it's a Snot sea cucumber" dad continued. They are covered in mucous slime like snot. And it gets grosser. Sea cucumbers have a mouth at one end and an anus at the other. They eat things like fish poo through their mouth, but breathe through their anus. **AND**, some people think sea cucumbers are delicious and eat them!"

That's gross!



Snot sea cucumber

Even though we may think they are gross, Sea cucumbers have a special place and a purpose in God's world. Every person has a place and a purpose in God's world too, no matter what they look like or who they are.

Listen to God!

Luke 5:12-15



In those days people were frightened of anyone who had leprosy and thought they were gross. Some sufferers had ugly sores or couldn't use their arms or legs. People kept out of their way and called them unclean or dirty. But Jesus didn't. He loved him. He took notice. He touched the man and healed him.

Remember God says in Isaiah 43:4

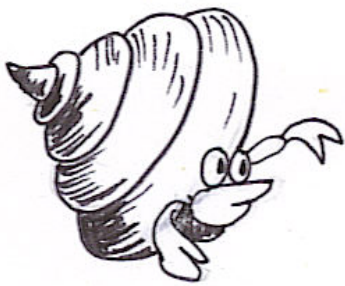
**"You are precious to me,
I love you and give you honour".**

Talk to God!

Help me to remember Lord that everything
and everyone has a place and purpose
in your world, even me.
Thank you that all people
are precious to you,
and are
loved
by
you.

Imagine
you cannot
use your
arms. Try
putting on a
jumper and then
taking it off again
without using your
arms at all.





That's a nice house!

Kaylee picked a large shell off the sand and then dropped it in fright. It had hairy legs sticking out of it! They belonged to a hermit crab that had taken up residence. Hermit crabs have no hard shell on their bodies like other crabs. They only have shell on their legs, so they live inside sea shells.

They spend most of their time when not eating, looking for new homes because they grow out of their old ones. Other crabs have four pairs of walking legs, but hermit crabs only have three. They have to use the other pair for hanging onto the inside of the shell or they would lose it.



Listen to God!

John 14:1-6

In these Bible verses, Jesus was talking about heaven and the fact that he was going back there to prepare a wonderful home where those who trust in him will live forever. In Revelation, the Bible tells us there will be no bad things, no tears, no sadness, no pain, no death and no darkness in heaven because God is there.

Talk to God! Thank you God for the home we have here on earth. Thank you Jesus that you are preparing a very special home in heaven for all who trust in you.

What other animals carry their homes on their backs?

Try this tongue twister five times—

Hermit crab Hubert
hunted hourly for a
habitable home

Write or draw what you like best about your home.





Stuck fast



The children were playing on the beach. "Look what I found," said Sean. "This looks like a shell with lots more shells growing on it." They were actually barnacles. Barnacles look like shells but are really crustaceans - from the same family as crabs, prawns and lobsters. And although they're animals, they can't move because they cement themselves to other things like shells, rocks, piers, boats and even whales. This keeps them safe and secure from being swept away or eaten by bigger animals. You only have to look at how many barnacles grow on the bottom of a boat to see how successful they are.

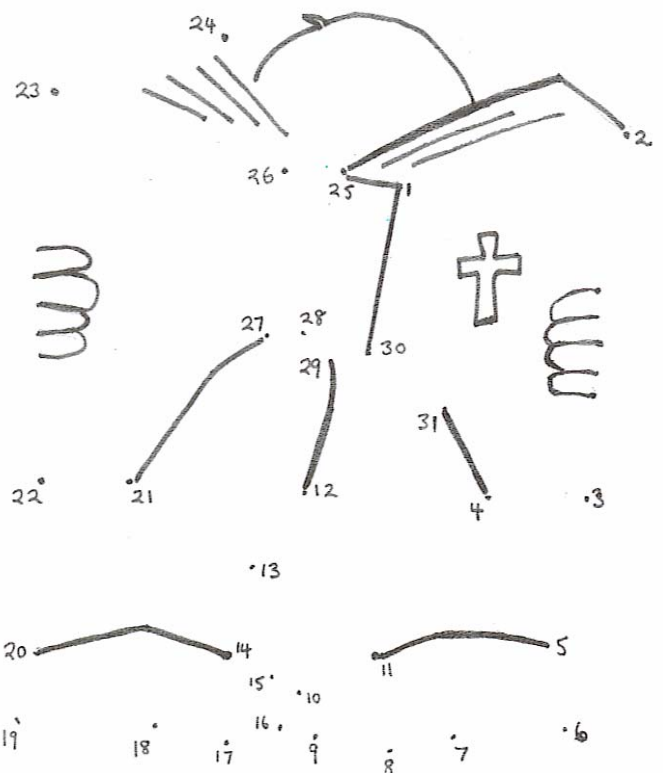
Listen to God! Deuteronomy 10:17-21

Moses was telling God's people that they could and should trust God and stick to him. In the New Living Translation, verse 20 says, "fear the Lord your God and worship him and **cling** to him." We need to cling to God too. Like a barnacle clings onto and relies on something else to keep it safe, God will keep us safe and secure.

Join the dots to find out what you can do that will help you to cling to God.

Talk to God!

Lord God, you are great and mighty. You are fair and just to everyone. We want to respect you and worship you. Most of all we want to hold on tightly to you. Help us to grow closer to you as we learn about you in your Word the Bible.





Solid as a rock

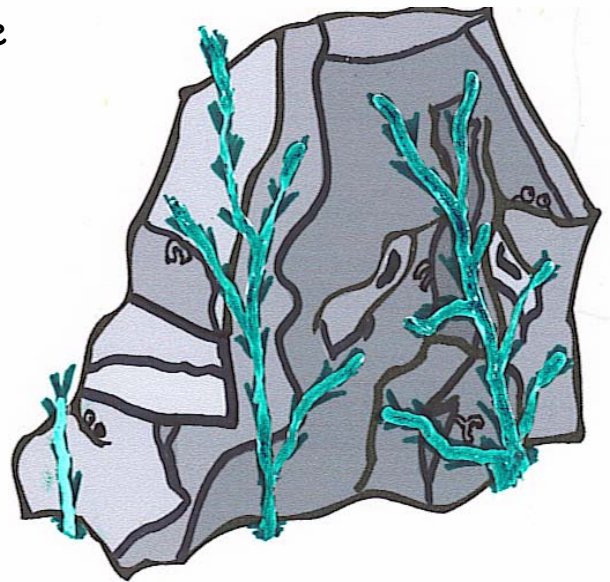


"It's too cold and windy to go swimming today", said Vicki. "Let's go to the rock pool." The children headed to the beach with buckets and a net. They had seen tiny fish yesterday and planned to try and catch some. The rock pool looked different today. The day before they had visited at low tide. The water was calm and sparkled in the sunlight. The fish and animals had been easy to see.

Today the cloudy sky made the water dark. The wind blew waves crashing into the pool. The water swirled and then drained through the cracks in the rock. Sean lay down and waited. During a lull in the waves some crabs crept out into the open and some fish swam from behind a rock. But before he could scoop them with his net a huge wave swept into the pool and the fish and crabs disappeared in an instant. Hiding in the cracks in the rock, they were safe from Sean's net, the crashing waves and even the bigger fish who would enjoy them for lunch. The rock kept them safe from every danger.

Listen to God!

Psalms 18:1-3



Find the crabs that are hiding in cracks in the rock. There are five.

**God is like a rock for us.
He keeps us safe.
Next time you feel
scared, remember
God is with you
and will protect
you.**

Talk to God!

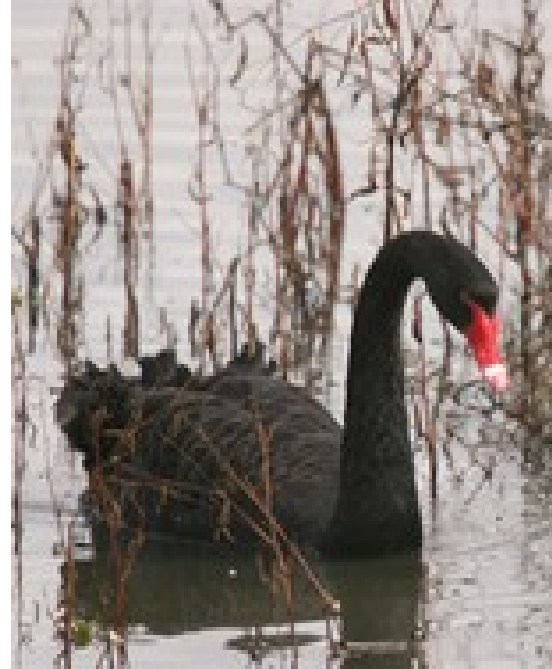
"Dear God, Thank you for keeping us safe and helping us feel secure even when scary things happen. Thank you that you are like a big solid rock that I can hide behind. I'll remember to tell you next time I'm scared."



So calm – or are they?

"They look so graceful," Vicki said as she watched the swans peacefully gliding through the water on the inlet. But if we could see under the water, we would see little feet paddling like mad.

Some people are a bit like that. They look happy. They have the coolest clothes and all the latest stuff. We may wish we were like them. But we don't always know what other people are really like underneath the surface that we can see. They may be lonely, or sad, or worried about something, or think no one likes them.



Listen to God!

1 Samuel

16:6-7

God knows what everyone is like underneath. When he told Samuel to choose a king from Jesse's family, Samuel thought God would want the oldest or the most handsome or the strongest, but God chose David the youngest of eight brothers because -

"people judge by outward appearance but the Lord looks at a person's thoughts and intentions."

Search for what God looks for in us.

kindness	helping	caring
friends	share	wise
love	gentle	happy
honest	patient	

What do the unused letters say?

Talk to God!

Thank you God that you know what I'm really like inside. Help me to see what others are really like too.

G	s	o	d	s	k	e	e
s	h	c	a	r	i	n	g
y	a	o	u	r	n	h	e
f	r	i	e	n	d	s	n
h	e	l	p	i	n	g	t
a	e	l	o	v	e	a	l
p	r	t	w	i	s	e	e
p	h	o	n	e	s	t	s
y	p	a	t	i	e	n	t



Smart crabs, wise people.

The children often played on a sand bar that was exposed when the tide was low. It was a great place to play cricket or "keepings off". Sometimes they built dams for the incoming tide to fill. They often saw crabs there. One day when grandpa was helping, they dug up a big mud crab. Grandpa picked it up and got nipped by it's strong claws. That wasn't very wise - it hurt!

Mud crab

One crab they didn't see was the seaweed decorator crab. It's shell (carapace) is covered with spines, knobs and hooks. The crab nips off pieces of sponge and seaweed and threads them through the spines to make themselves look like a clump of seaweed. They aren't easily seen by anything that might want to eat them. Pretty smart hey?



Listen to God! Matthew 7:24-29

Jesus said anyone who listens to his words and obeys them is wise. A wise person doesn't just know things, they have good sense too.

Draw rock or sand under the houses then answer the questions. Write down the first letter from each answer in the space below to see what you are if you listen to Jesus.

Another word for me is _
Jesus said to hear _ _ _ obey
Jesus said these teachings (words) are _ _ _ _
There was rain, flood and _ _ _ _
The person who built on the rock was safe
_ _ _ _ _ their house
The foolish person built their house on _ _ _ _
Was no-one or everyone amazed or surprised by
Jesus teaching? _ _ _ _ _

Talk to God! Lord Jesus, help us
to be wise, not just clever.

Share what you have!



It was fun having lunch of fish and chips on the beach. Sean loved chasing the seagulls that came around. When he and the girls threw some bread and a few chips to the seagulls, they were surrounded by squawking, squabbling birds everywhere. Some of the seagulls fought each other for the food. They even chased away another seagull that only had one foot and pecked those that got in their way. Sometimes one would get a chip and fly off quickly followed by a bunch of others. They had absolutely no manners and had obviously never learnt to share!



Seagulls aren't very choosy about what they eat. Way out in the ocean they feed on plankton, or off scraps from fishing boats.

Along the seashore they eat seaweed, shellfish, crabs and dead fish and animals. They can even be found a long way from the sea eating scraps and rubbish in parks, paddocks or at garbage collections.

Talk to God!

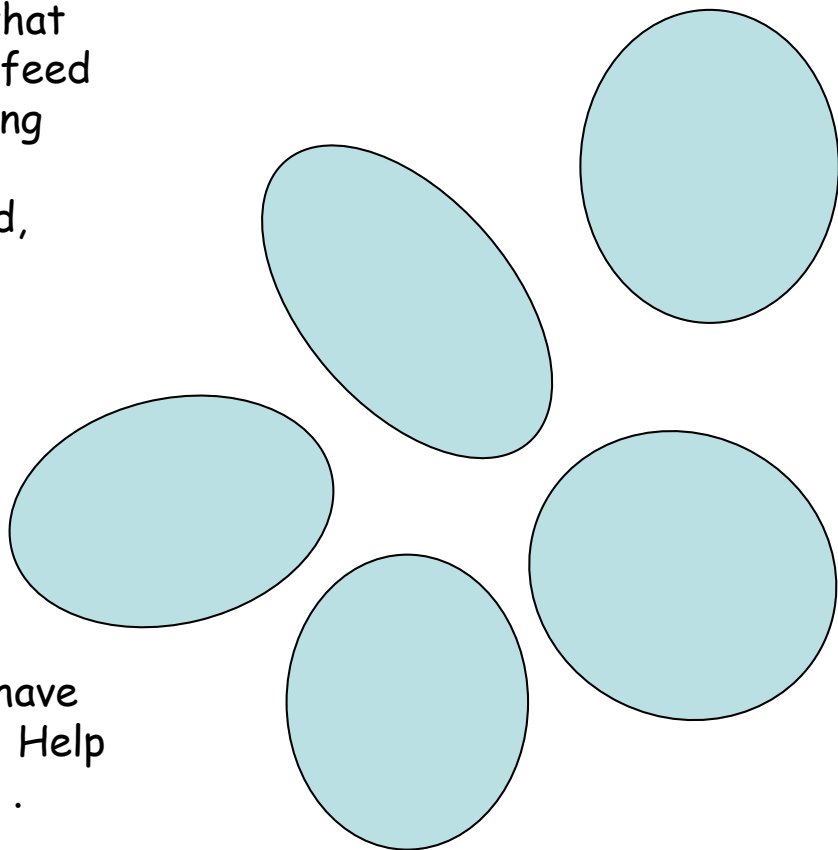
Dear God thank you for all that you have given us. We have everything need. Help me to share what I have with others .

Listen to God!

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

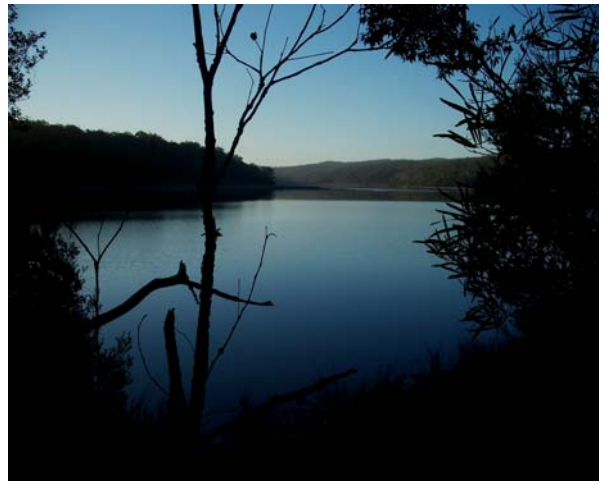
God promises that if we share what we have with others, we will never go without ourselves, By sharing, we not only make others happy, but we will be happy too.

In each rock pool, draw a crab, two shells, some sea weed and a fish so that each pool has equal shares - in other words, the same things in every pool.



Scared of the dark

Kaylee insisted on having a light on when she went to bed at night. Because they were away from towns, there were no street or house lights. Most nights lately the moon was hidden by clouds or too small to give any light. It was very dark. And then there were the animal noises!



But as long as there was a light outside the tent, Kaylee felt cosy and secure in her sleeping bag. And mum always read some of her favourite Bible verses or a special story as they were going to bed, so she had something good to think about.

Listen to God!

Psalm 3:5, 4:8,



To find out when God is with you, find the number that's the answer to the puzzle below and match it to the word with the same number of letters.

Puzzle:

Write down numbers from 1 to 20 and cross them off as you work out the clues.

Clues:

- It's more than 4, but less than 20.
- It's not an odd number.
- It can't be divided by 4.
- It isn't 10.
- It doesn't have 8 or 4 in the number.

God is with us - sometimes
never
always
Sundays
night times
when I'm good

Talk to God!

Tell God about what makes you scared. Ask him to help you remember that he will take care of you.

Thank you heavenly father that you watch over us when we sleep. Thank you for being with us and protecting us all the time.

Safety shield



"Mum, look at this," called Kaylee. "Is this a limpet? It doesn't really look like the others we've found." "It's a roman shield limpet," answered mum. "The shell's very dull and plain, and it's a different shape to other limpets, but it does a good job of protecting the animal it belongs to. All limpets are related to snails. You can see it's tentacles if you look carefully. And it's body is slimy like a snail too."



Listen to God!

Psalms 28:6-8

King David was a brave and famous soldier (remember his defeat of Goliath). He was also a powerful and important king. But David had enemies who wanted to kill him. He had times when he felt weak and frightened. David says in this Psalm that when he prayed, God answered his prayers and protected him.

Un-jumble the following sentence, write it in the shield below, then try to remember it.

h t e o L d r s i y m g n o s t r i e s h l d

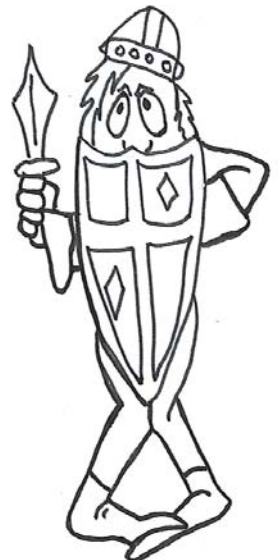


Talk to God!

Powerful God, thank you that we can talk to you about everything.

Thank you that you answer our prayers like you did for King David.

Please help us to trust you and to remember you are a shield of protection when we are scared or in trouble.



Our plans, God's plans

Sean was wide awake before 7 o'clock. His big sisters, Victoria and Kaylee had already crept out of the tent. It was getting dark when they arrived with dad, mum, grandma and grandpa the night before. The camping spot was by an inlet that joined the river to the sea. There was a month of fun ahead. They had been planning this holiday for weeks. Dad had planned time off work. Mum had planned what food to bring. They had all planned where to go.



What you would plan to take:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



What you would plan to do:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Many years ago, God's people, the Israelites went on a very different trip. It wasn't a holiday and they didn't plan it. They were forced to leave their homes and live in another country for 70 years. It was hard. They missed their home. But the prophet Jeremiah finally had good news. God had good plans for them.

Listen to God! Jeremiah 29:10-14

What God planned to do:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Talk to God! Thank you God that you have good plans for us too. I will remember that you said, "seek me and you will find me."



Nudibranchs - trees without leaves?

Dad asked the children if they had ever seen a nudibranch. "What's that," piped up Sean, "a tree with no leaves?" "They are actually related to snails and slugs," dad told them. "But live in the sea and have no shell. They can be as small as a few grains of sand or as big as a person's foot.



They move slowly, making an easy target for predators but they're not defenceless. Some blend into their surrounding so they aren't easily seen. Others have bright colours and spikey bits that say, 'if you eat me, you'll be sorry'!

Many have stinging cells! Amazingly, they **steal** these stinging cells from other animals like anemones or corals. As they eat these creatures they swallow the stingers. Then they store them in feather like projections on their backs. When something tries to touch or bite them, the stingers fire - OUCH!"



Listen to God! Exodus 20:1-17

Nudibranchs are allowed to steal - we're not!!

God gave us ten "DO NOTS".

Write them in your own words

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 10 |

Talk to God!

Ask God to help you keep his rules. He has given them to us for our good

Look at me!



One of the family's favourite things to do was a picnic lunch down at the jetty. Sean took the rug and the girls helped carry the food. When they arrived there were some cormorants diving for their lunch. It was fun watching them disappear and then trying to guess where they would appear again.

Water can permeate (go through) their feathers. This helps them dive under the water where they can stay for up to a minute. After swimming they have to dry their feathers so they sat on the jetty or tree branches with their wings spread out in the sun. They looked very proud and seem to be saying, "look at me."

Listen to God! Daniel 4:31-33



A long time ago there was a king named Nebuchadnezzar who stood up on the roof of his palace one day saying, "look at me, look at my great kingdom and this great city I built to show everyone my power and might, my glory and majesty." He thought he was as great as God. God had warned him through a dream about being so proud but he didn't listen.

Answer the following questions:
What happened to king Nebuchadnezzar?

What did he have to learn?



Talk to God!

Lord God, it's easy sometimes to feel proud especially when we have won something or done something clever. Please help us to always remember everything we have is from you. Help us to be modest and not act like we think we're better than other people.



Long way from home

"Mum, look at those tiny birds on the sand," called Kaylee. "They are so cute. I've never seen birds like that on the beach before. I can hear them cheeping too."

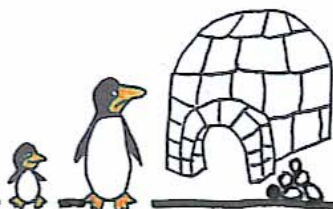
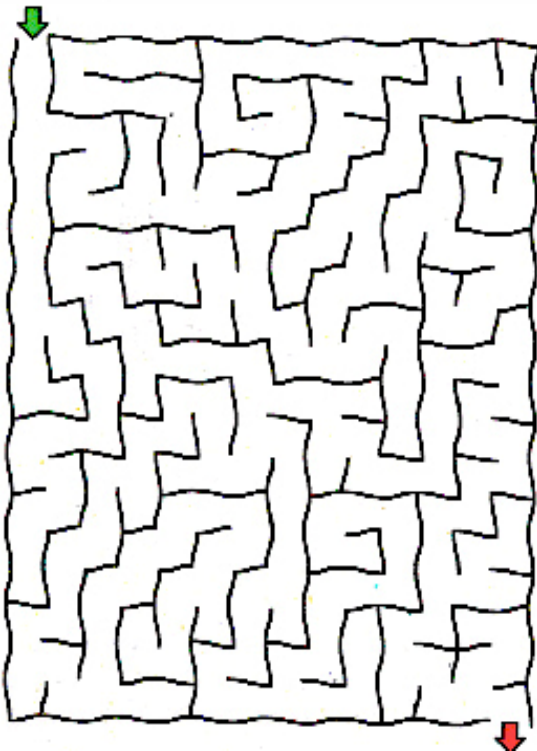
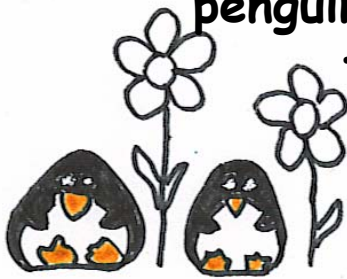


"I think they are stints," mum replied.

"They come all the way to Australia each year from the Arctic - that's many thousands of kilometres away. They seem too tiny and fragile to be able to fly all that way, don't they? But God has given them the instinct to do it, and to know where to go. And he has also designed them and given them the strength and ability they need as well. When the Arctic is frozen they must fly around the world to save their lives and get the food they need."

Help the
penguins

find their
way home



Listen to God!

Genesis 12:1-5

Thousands of years ago, God told Abram (Abraham) to leave his country and go to another land a long way away. God was going to use Abraham and his descendants in his plan to give all people a chance to come back to the relationship with him that was lost when Adam and Eve sinned. God's Son, Jesus would be born to one of Abraham's descendants (Mary) to be our Saviour.

Talk to God

Father God, thank you for your great plans - for birds, and animals, and people. Thank you that you planned long ago for Abraham to travel to a new country to build a new nation. Thank you that your son Jesus came to that nation to be our Saviour.

Lazy or what?

Just off shore were some huge rocks where Australian fur seals had set up a colony. Seals and sea lions are the only marine mammals that come out of the water and give birth to their babies on land. They like to spend lots of time lazing around on rocks or sand in the sunshine. Sometimes these animals squabble and fight each other for territory.



Seals may look lazy and very awkward as they slowly drag themselves along on their front flippers, but once in the water they can swim very fast and turn gracefully and quickly to catch fish. Young seals quickly learn how to fish for themselves. They work hard at it when out at sea.

Sometimes the family could hear the funny noises the seals made across the water. They sounded like barking dogs and crying babies. And a few times they got a whiff of their smell too!

Listen to God!

2 Thessalonians 3:10-13

Children's main work is learning. Don't be lazy but work hard at school to learn well. Draw a picture in the space of something you might do as work or a job when you are older.

Talk to God! Ask God to help you work hard at school to prepare well for what you might do when you are older.



Keep away!



Kaylee and dad went down to the jetty to fish, but the only thing biting today were toad fish. "Fishermen don't like toad fish," said dad. "They are easy to catch but we can't eat them because they're poisonous." "They look disgusting anyway," added Kaylee.

Toadies are related to porcupine and puffer fish. When these fish think they are in danger, they pump water into special sacs in their bodies until they blow up into a ball. Some have spines that lie flat until it is pumped up. Then they stick out in all directions. Did you know that the poison from puffer fish has been used to make a pain killer for people in extreme pain? Yet if you ate the fish your mouth and tongue would swell and go numb, and you would have trouble breathing and speaking. If you ate enough you could even die. So it's best to keep away from them.

Listen to God! Proverbs 4:10-15

The apostle Paul wrote to a young Christian called Timothy warning him about false teachers. These people were proud, ignorant, liked to argue and cause trouble and fights. They like to tell lies, get more money than they needed and stir up jealousy, suspicions and unkind words. Paul told Timothy, "you belong to God, so keep away from all these evil things." (1 Timothy 6:3-11)



Write in the puffer fish some things we should keep away from.



Talk to God!

Father God, you want us to have a safe and happy life following you ways. Help us to keep away from things that could harm us or lead us into trouble.



It's chilly!



Listen to God!

Psalm 139: 1-2, 13-16

God has made us just as wonderfully as he has made many other living things like penguins.

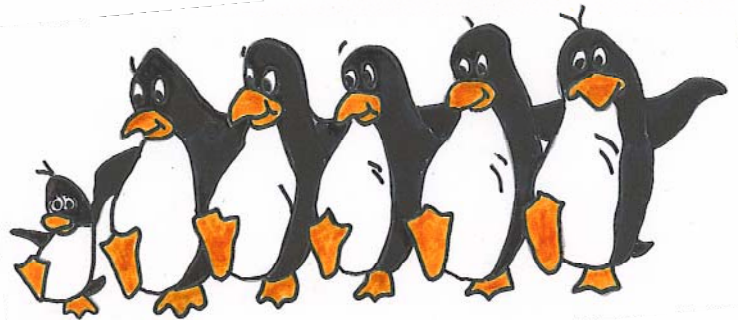
List some ways God has made us special.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

"It was freezing cold last night," said Kaylee. "You had so many layers of clothes on, you looked like a penguin," added Dad.

Kaylee answered that she was glad she wasn't a penguin who had to go out in very cold water to find food. "But God has made them in a special way so they don't get cold," explained Dad. "They have two layers of feathers. That's why they look so fat. The inside layer is soft and downy and traps air which keeps them toasty warm. The outside layer is bristly and oily to keep the water out so they don't even get wet. That's why penguins can live in Antarctica in snow and ice."

The penguins that live around Australia are called Little, or Fairy penguins. They are the smallest penguins in the world. Although they are birds, their wings are small and stiff like flippers, and are used for swimming not flying. God has made them especially adapted for underwater swimming with flaps over their nostrils to keep water out. They spend all day in the sea hunting for fish and squid, and only come out of the water at night to go to their burrows in the sand dunes or among the rocks by the beach.

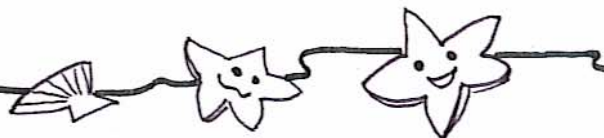


The New Living Translation of the Bible says,

"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous."

Talk to God!

Dear God, you are so clever. I'm glad you made so many interesting and special things. Thank you for making me special too.





I'M TOUGH

The children and their friends were counting how many limpets they could find in their favourite rock pool. Limpets are common molluscs, and easy to find. They are univalves which means they only have one shell. The shell is just like a giant hat that can completely cover the top of the animal inside - but not the bottom. Their only defence against being eaten is to cling very tightly to the rock they live on.



A limpet from underneath

Some people think they do this by suction, but it's actually by grabbing the rock with their strong muscular foot. The limpet eats algae that grows on the rock by scraping it off with a rough, raspy tongue.

They look tough and their shells feel tough but without the rock, they are weak and have no protection.

How many limpets left?

- 50 limpets lived in a rock pool
- 10 forgot to hold on and then there were _____
- 5 got kidnapped by cormorants and then there were _____
- 3 got nibbled by crabs and then there were _____
- 4 got sucked up by an octopus and then there were _____
- 2 were swallowed by a shark and then there were _____

These ones held on tight

Listen to God!

Philippians 4:11-13

Remember: "Christ gives me the strength to face anything."

Talk to God!

Thank you Lord Jesus, that when we have you we can face anything. Help me to remember that when everyone else seems bigger, stronger and tougher than me, I have you to help me.



How many stars in the ocean?

"I keep finding bits of starfish," Vicki said, "the sea must be full of **zillions** of them!" "Here's a whole one."

It's still got all it's legs," called Kaylee. The girls were finding dead sea stars that had washed up on the beach. Sea stars all start life with five arms. As they mature, they can grow new ones - up to 40.

Brittle stars have tiny bodies and long arms that are easily broken off. They just grow new ones. With some other types of starfish, if a piece breaks off, it can grow into a whole new animal.



Starfish don't have any teeth, so when they want to eat something, they poke their stomach out through their mouth. The stomach's digestive juices then turn the food into liquid that the starfish can suck up. Yum!

Listen to God!

Psalms 147:4-9

"He (God) has decided the number of stars and calls each one by name."



Talk to God! Lord God, you are amazing. I can't even imagine how many stars there are, yet you have a name for every one. You know about every part of every starfish in the sea. And you know about every part of us too. Wow!

How many parts of your body can you name that have three letters?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9



"They're spotlights that people are using to search for flatfish in the shallow water," said dad. "At night these fish, usually flounder, lie half hidden in the sand. Flounder aren't born flat. Their eyes move and their body flattens as they grow until they end up lying on one side with both eyes upwards. Their flat bodies make it hard for anyone to see them lying on the sea bottom. You have to search hard to find them but it's worth it. They are yummy to eat."

Starting at the tail of the fish, take the first letter and then every second letter to find the hidden message from God in Jeremiah 29:13.

Talk to God!

God, we thank you that you are worth searching for and that you are much easier to find than flounder fish. Help us to be like the people in Berea and look for you in your Word, the Bible, everyday.



Helping each other!

Grandma and Vicki helped each other over the rocks. They headed for the rock pool where the sea anemones were. "They look like flowers", said Vicki. "They are called after anemone flowers", added Grandma, "but they are actually animals. When the tide's in they wave their "petals" to catch food. Then when the tide's out, they close up like some flowers do at night. Then they look like cherries stuck on the rocks. Baby anemones develop inside their parent's bodies and are "born" by being spat out through their parent's mouth.



They can move, but only very, very slowly. Sometimes they hitch a ride on a hermit crab's shell. The anemone helps protect the hermit crab from being eaten by fish, and the hermit crab helps the anemone move from place to place much quicker than it could by itself.



Listen to God!

Exodus 2:16-20



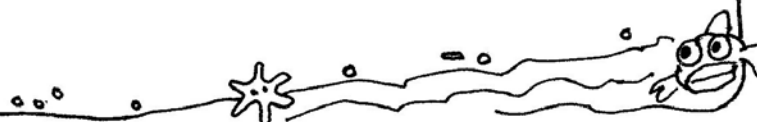
How did Moses help the girls?

What did their father do for Moses?

How have you helped someone lately?

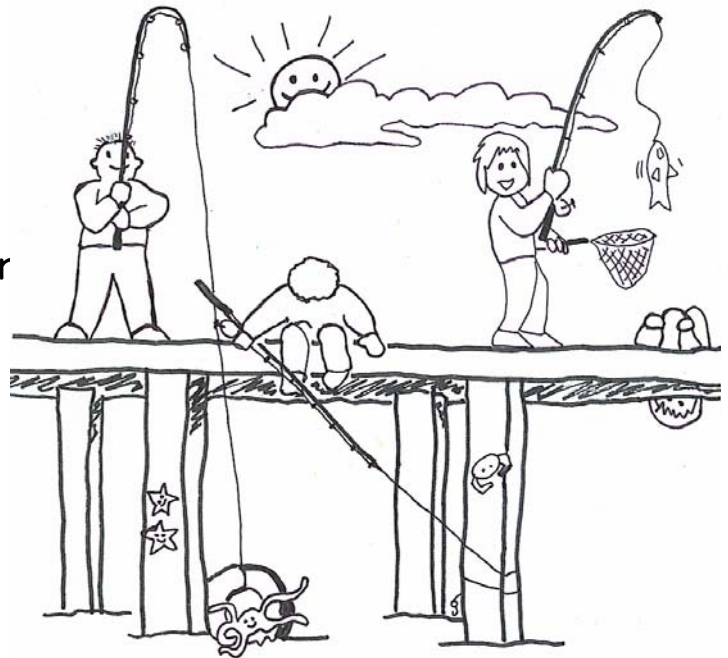
In Hebrews 13:6, the Bible says that God is our helper, especially when we are in trouble. **Remember this - "God is my helper".**

Talk to God! Thank God for some of the people who help you. Thank God too that we don't need to be afraid of what other people might do to us because he has promised to always be there to help us, no matter what happens.



Gone fishing

The inlet was a good place to try fishing. You could fish from the jetty, the bank or dad's new boat. Dad, grandpa and the children went fishing nearly every day. They didn't catch many. Although they could see lots of fish in the water, these fish didn't seem to want to get caught.



The men had the best rods and reels. They had read their fishing books. They had special bait. They talked about when was the best time of day, the best tide or whether the wind was right. But they still didn't catch many fish.

Listen to God! Matthew 4:18-22

Some of the first people to follow Jesus were fishermen. Jesus told them that they could "catch" people rather than fish. He meant that they could help others to come to Jesus and trust in him. This is the most important and exciting thing anyone can do, much more exciting than just catching a fish. And anyone who loves and trusts in Jesus can do it.



Talk to God!

Tell God about someone you know who needs to understand about God's love. Ask God to show you how you can help them trust in him.

Catch the following fish in the word search:

bass bream carp cod hake
mullet perch pike shark
snapper toady trout tuna

From the unused letters, see what Jesus promises

i	w	a	n	u	t	b	i
s	n	a	p	p	e	r	l
h	a	k	e	i	l	e	b
a	t	t	r	k	t	a	e
r	o	r	c	e	s	m	a
k	a	o	h	s	c	h	y
o	d	u	c	a	r	p	u
!	y	t	e	l	l	u	m



Food for Life

Most people kept away from the patch of mangrove trees on the edge of the inlet. They grew in squelchy grey mud. But Sean wanted to know why they had what looked like baby trees with no leaves around them. "They are special roots that grow up into the air instead of down into the ground," explained mum. "Trees like mangroves need oxygen to live but there isn't very much in the wet mud, so the roots get oxygen out of the air."

Listen to God!

Matthew 4:1-4



Mangroves need food,
water and oxygen.
We need food, water
and oxygen too.
But we also need
God's Word, the
Bible. It gives us the
spiritual food we need
to grow in knowing God
and how we should live.

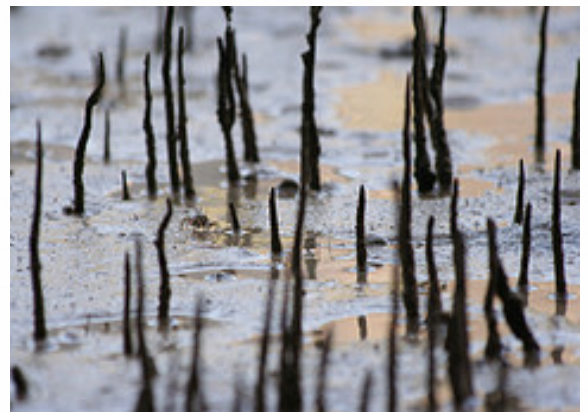


Photo source: cnowak

Fill in the missing words to
find food from the Bible:

God's words are sweeter than _____ (Psalm 119:103)

Jesus is the _____ of life (John 6:35)

Be thirsty for pure spiritual _____ (1 Peter 2:2)

Talk to God!

Help us dear Lord to read the Bible often so it will be food that helps us grow in knowing you. We want it to help us grow in other ways too - to be loving, happy, kind and caring.





DON'T TOUCH

One morning Sean and Vicki found lots of blue jelly fish washed up on the beach. Jelly fish come in

all different sizes, shapes and colours. They are not fish and they are not really made of jelly, not the kind you would want to eat anyway. Although they look weak like jelly, they actually have strong muscles that can push them through the water when they are not just drifting along with the current.

They all have stingers so the children were careful not to touch them. The most dangerous one of all is the box jelly fish that lives in Northern Australia. It's poison can stop someone's heart in three minutes. Box jellyfish have killed more people in Australia than snakes, sharks or crocodiles. They are definitely something you don't want to touch!

Listen to God!

From Genesis chapters 2 & 3

Put the following events in order by numbering them 1 to 8

- ☐ God made the heavens and the earth.
- ☐ Adam ate the fruit God said not to touch.
- ☐ The world was now under a curse.
- ☐ God made Adam and breathed life into him.
- ☐ God sent them out of the garden.
- ☐ God gave Adam a wife.
- ☐ God told Adam to eat from every tree except one.
- ☐ The snake tempted Eve to touch and eat the forbidden fruit.



Talk to God!

Father God, because Adam and Eve touched what you said not to touch, sin entered the world and we can see the terrible results all around us. Help us not to touch things that will bring us harm. We want to remember that "don't touch" rules are for our safety and good.

Chiton who?

"Those flat things on the rocks are Chitons", said grandma. "They are almost impossible to hurt because they have strong armour. It's made up of eight hard overlapping plates. If birds try to peck them or crabs try to bite them they can't get through the armour. They remind me of how much we need God's armour to protect us."

Chitons (pronounced kite-on) also have a large flat foot that covers the underside of their body. With that they can hold on to the rocks really tightly.



Listen to God! Ephesians 6:13-17

Our armour isn't made of shell or metal or anything like that. It's made of things like faith and prayer. Draw lines to match the armour below to the things that protect us, then talk about what you think those things mean and what our enemies are.

Breastplate

Shield

Belt

Shoes

Helmet

Sword

Salvation

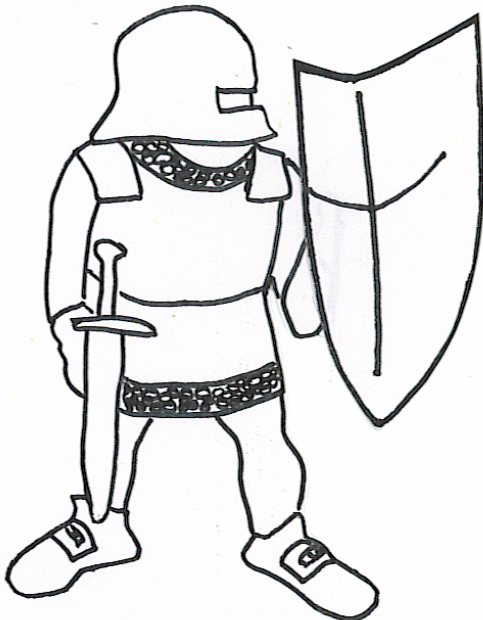
Gospel of peace

Righteousness

Faith

God's Word

Truth



Talk to God!

Thank you God that the armour you give us protects us from our enemies like fear and worry. Help us to trust you all the time. Help us to remember to pray and read your Word the Bible every day.



Changing your skin

Vicki, Kaylee and Sean decided to see who could find the biggest cuttlefish. It was easy to find the chalky skeletons along the beach. Some were only the size of a finger, but others were bigger than a hand. Like squid and octopus, cuttlefish belong to the cephalopod family. Because of their hard skeleton they can't change shape like an octopus, but they are good at changing the colour and patterning of their skin. It may be to blend with their surroundings, or to scare off their enemies, or just because of a change of mood.



Listen to God!

Ephesians 4:14

The apostle Paul told the grownups in a church to **not be forever changing their minds about what they believed about God**. We all change our minds about things at times. Sometimes we are tempted to change to fit in with others, to please them or just because we feel like it. But remember the truth about God never changes. (John 14:6)



Did you know that cuttlefish have three hearts?

Talk to God!

Lord God, help us to be sure of what we know about you. We want to believe what your Word the Bible says, not just what people say.

Match the Bible verses with the things they tell us about God

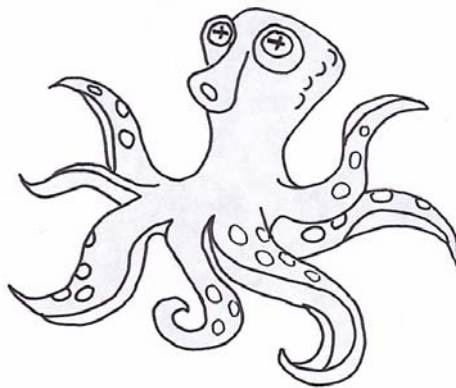
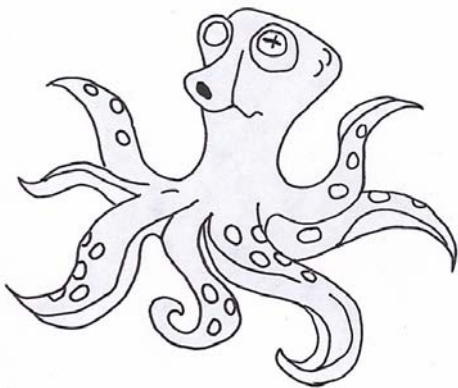
Deuteronomy 33:27	God is the creator of everything
Psalms 24:8	God loves us
Genesis 1:1	God is eternal (lives forever)
Psalms 99:9	God speaks to us through the Bible
John 3:16	God is holy (pure)
2 Timothy 3:16	God is strong and mighty

Cephalo what?

Cephalopods are the family of animals to which octopus, squid and cuttlefish belong. Dad was fishing off the jetty one morning when he caught a crab on his line. Before he could pull it in for a closer look, an octopus appeared and grabbed it. Octopus have a very flexible body and eight tentacles that they can make into many different shapes. This enables them to get into, and move through, very narrow spaces. The tentacles have suckers that give them a strong hold on things including their prey of fish, crabs and molluscs.



Cephalopods move suddenly by jetting water through funnels on their backs. Tiny pigment cells in their skin allow them to change colour to blend with surrounding, or scare off enemies like large fish, whales or seals. If that doesn't work, they squirt inky liquid into the water to form a cloud they can escape through.



Spot the changes in the Octopus.

There are 10.

Octopus can change shape, colour and size in an instant. We often change too - our clothes, our behaviour, our feelings, the ways we treat other people, can all change.

Listen to God! Malachi 3:6

says "I am the Lord, and I do not change"



Talk to God! Dear Lord God, it's wonderful to know that you never change. You always love and care for us. You are always with us and able to help us. Thank you.



A strong anchor



Sean kept teasing Kaylee that her curly hair was like the crinkly seaweed they found in the rock pools. There was an amazing variety of seaweed from tiny delicate weeds in the pools to the thick leathery kelp that washed up on the beach. Seaweed is a type of algae.

You can find green, brown or red sea weed. It's all pretty tough stuff because it has to survive different temperatures, salt levels and the pounding of waves. Although it's a plant, it doesn't have roots or leaves like other plants. Seaweed attaches itself to the rocks or the sea bottom with what is called a holdfast - that's like an anchor. This helps it to hold on tight in even the worst storm.



← The holdfast

Listen to God!

Hebrews 6:18-19

Talk to God!

Father God, thank you that we can be absolutely sure that you will keep all your promises to us because everything you say is true.

In Hebrews chapter six, the Bible says that because God cannot lie, the hope we have in his promises is like a strong anchor holding us secure. This hope isn't just wishful thinking - it's knowing for sure and certain.

Circle True or False

- | | | |
|------------------------|------|-------|
| 1. God is love | True | False |
| 2. God leaves us alone | True | False |
| 3. God is unkind | True | False |
| 4. God is good | True | False |
| 5. God is strong | True | False |
| 6. God tells lies | True | False |



Around the campfire

Kaylee, Sean and Vicky were all feeling sad because

tomorrow they would be going home. Dad decided to light a campfire so everyone could toast marshmallows.

Grandpa started making up stories about the hermit crab they had found. Hubert the hermit crab went on great adventures and the children loved hearing about them.



Photo source: bon, here

Listen to God!

Luke 15:8-10

Jesus often told stories to teach people something special about God. The coins in this story were very precious. They were a gift from the lady's husband when they were

married, like a wedding ring is today. Her worry turned to great joy when the coin was found. Jesus wanted people to know there is as much joy in heaven when one person repents of sin and turns to God for salvation. Angels celebrate and God is delighted. After all, we each belong to him in the first place and are just coming back to where we belong.

Draw in the found coin and add smiley faces to all the coins



Talk to God!

God, our father, we read in your book the Bible that you love us and delight in those who come to you. Thank you for loving us. Thank you that we are so precious to you.

After grandpa finished his stories and two packets of marshmallows had been toasted and eaten, the girls started to think of places they would like to go for their next holiday. Soon every one was happy and they all agreed it had been a great holiday.

