

FOOTPRINTS



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD, SC

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 10, Issue 4
April, 2024

LIVE

First Christian Church

"(4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—" (Ephesians 2:4-5 ESV)

2024 Theme www.fccgwd.org

After Easter is over, now what?

The day after a major event or milestone is filled with questions about the next step. We finished our school year, what should we do for summer? Our football season has ended, should we start training for next year? We just graduated high school, what are we going to do with our lives?

When Jesus rose from the dead, He spent the next 40 days with His disciples proving that He is

alive while giving instructions for the next step. He was already showing them what to do while He walked the earth, and now it was time to start doing their part. This applies to the church too. We just celebrated Easter, and now we are entering the next phase of the season. What are we going to do? Perhaps we should do what Jesus told us to do when He gave the Great Commission. It was not just a fancy way to end a movie about Jesus, it is our next step.

I
JESUS
L
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R
D

I love our church!
Earl Winfrey
Earl@fccgwd.org

Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD

Address:

First Christian Church
474 Deadfall Road West
Greenwood SC 29649

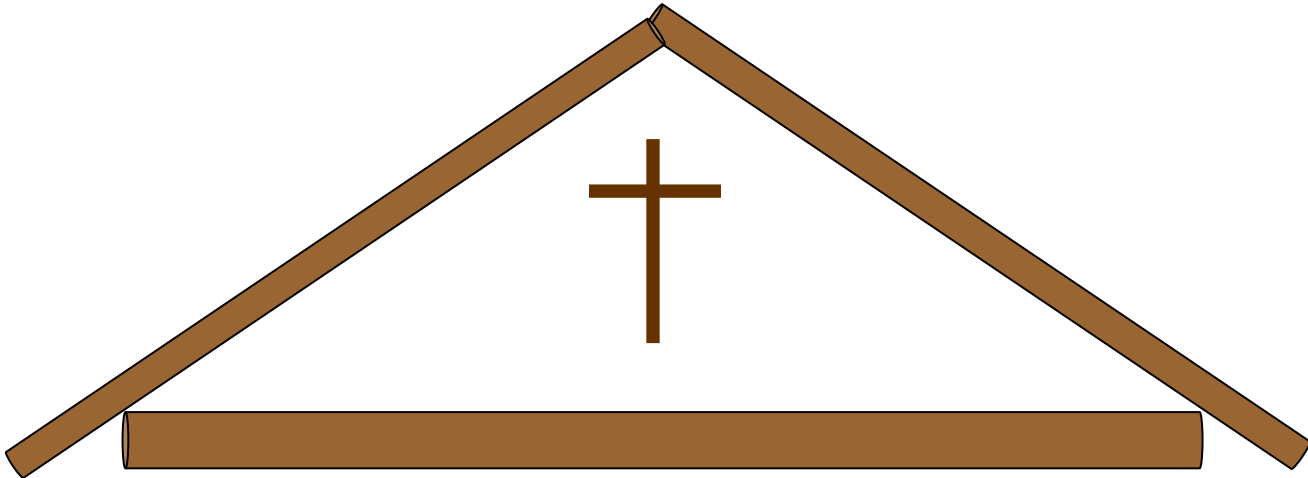
Church Office:

864-223-2940
Earl@fccgwd.org

Please keep us informed of any address changes so we can keep our records up to date.

What Kind of Church is First Christian Church?

First Christian Church is a non-denominational Elders-led Church located in Greenwood, SC. We are part of the movement to restore the simplicity of New Testament Christianity. We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God, that He lived a sinless life, offered His life for ours on the Cross, and rose on the third day to live forever. We believe that salvation comes through simple obedience to the plan of salvation that is laid out in the pages of the New Testament.



Core Beliefs

A common misconception is that all churches believe and preach the same thing. Unfortunately that isn't the case. In a world that is greatly divided spiritually it is very important to know just exactly what a church believes and practices. We welcome the opportunity to sit with you and discuss these core beliefs in depth.

We believe...

1. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God who died for our sins and arose from the dead. **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**
2. That the Bible is the inspired Word of God - "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path".
2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105
3. That every person has worth as a creation of God but "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" **Romans 3:23**
4. That forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life are available to those who trust and obey Christ as Savior and Lord. **John 3:16**
5. That we are saved by grace through faith in Christ. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
6. That the Church is the body of Christ on earth and exists to save the lost and edify the saved.
Ephesians 4:1-16
7. That Jesus Christ will one day return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **1 Thes 4:13-18**
8. That those accepting Christ must repent of sin, confess their faith and be baptized into Him.
Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38

For more information about baptism, see our Baptism FAQ located on our website

Biblical Foundation



FP#13 (4/1) - Now that April is upon us, we can turn our eyes to our own lives and work on the spring cleaning that was mentioned last month. Did you find an area of your life that needs some cleaning up? This week would be a good time to move forward with a plan to improve that area of your life.

FP#14 (4/8) - Since Easter has come and gone, what are we going to do? What happens next? Unfortunately, for many people, both Christian and Non-Christian, this is a time to return to life as usual as if the holiday had no effect whatsoever on our lives. This should not happen. We need to pray for God to shake us up.

FP#15 (4/15) - The season of Lent, Holy Week, prayer walks, and other church group activities provide many opportunities for reflection and meditation on what is most important, and that is our relationship with the Lord. How can we remove the distractions and focus on the spiritual side of our lives?

FP#16 (4/22) - The weather is getting warmer, the days are getting longer, and the air is being choked out by pollen. In a similar manner, sin has the ability to choke out what would be a good life. That is why we need to be praying for rain that will wash away the pollen and in the spiritual realm, we need wisdom to rain down on us so we can see how to get rid of the sin that so easily entangles us. What are you struggling with? Is there a way to get rid of it? Pray for discernment so you can see how to fight it.

FP#17 (4/29) - May is coming, and our church is moving towards the next season with summer on the horizon. Before we get to summer, we have Mother's Day, Memorial Day and school will be ending the year soon. Now would be a good time to start praying for our church as planning will be happening for events to move us through the summer months while the kids are out of school.

Wisdom of Larry the Cable Guy:

42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.

ESTABLISH AUTHORITY

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

Jesus did not run a democratic organization. Not once did He call for a vote on the course that should be followed. He was in charge. He based His authority on the Scriptures and on the commission He had from His Father. Even He submitted to a "higher" authority - "Not My will but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

In this day, when nonauthoritarian leadership is lauded at every turn, it is important to note that no successful organization is ever built or maintained without strong ultimate authority. Ask any of the great corporate leaders. Was there ever any doubt who was boss when Iacocca was at Chrysler, Watson at IBM, Perot at EDS, or Buffet at Berkshire Hathaway? Who ran Wal-Mart? You can bet Sam Walton did.

Participatory decision making may be okay to an extent, but only when there is real, ultimate, final authority at the top. Be sure there is no doubt about where the buck stops in your organization (In our case, the church). Know the extent of your authority and exercise it. Establish and maintain authority.

INSIST ON ABSOLUTES

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

From pontificating pundits tweedy talk show academics who have never met a payroll, we hear that it is not politically correct to insist on absolutes. From truth to justice, all things are relative, they say. It's how you feel about it that counts. "Two diametrically opposing thoughts can both be true," they say, "Because there is no absolute truth."

Please don't try to run your business (Or the church) by this nonsense. Jesus insisted that some things are true and others false, that some things are right and others wrong, that some things are good and others evil. He even insisted that there is only one way to be reconciled to God, and that one way is through faith in Him. Talk about tough! Talk about dogmatic! Jesus never equivocated. Sincerity didn't count with Him if what you believed was sincerely wrong.

A lack of absolutes can lead to all kinds of corporate problems, from petty thievery to major crime. It leads to shoddy products and shoddy practices in the marketplace. "I didn't think I was doing anything wrong" is a common defense of everything from manipulating stock to adding extra nicotine to already lethal cigarettes to building cars with dangerous fuel tanks. Teach the right way, insist on the right way, be an example of the right way. Follow Jesus' example.

Who will be our Next Man Up?



Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

"The most important tasks the church can do are those that only the church can do."

- Dr. Joe Ellis

BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS



"We should always have staples in the pantry"

One of the great benefits of being an adult volunteer in scouts is the continuing education that is provided for the leaders. Learning how to lead a group of teenagers in an age of rebellion mixed with the obsession with electronics and other indoor activities is a huge task for anybody, especially when nobody is getting paid to lead. I know that BSA has a damaged reputation and is not as highly regarded as it once was, but the training they offer is still top notch, and at the top of the list is Wood Badge training.

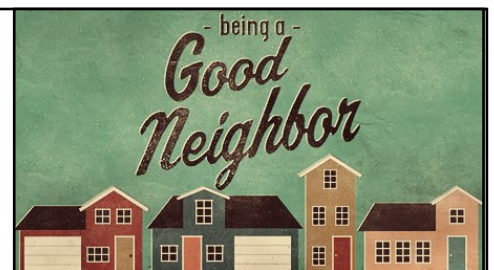
Wood Badge is their main course for training the leaders who want to make it to the next level. They spend a couple of weekends with other adult leaders taking a mix of outdoor skills and classes that are focused on helping them grow as leaders while having fun at the same time. They break off into patrols and have a series of competitions and challenges to help them bond as a group and take turns leading. At the end of the course, there is a final project that has to be approved and then completed by a candidate before he/she is given the Wood Badge diploma and the recognition that comes with it. I have heard Wood Badge called the "PHD" of scouting, and I tend to agree with that statement.

When my dad took Wood Badge, he had a couple of sayings that were repeated throughout the course and brought home to us. This month, I will use one of his phrases: we should always have staples in the pantry. What are staples? Well, they are the little pieces of metal that are punched into paper in order to hold them together, but that's not important now. Ok, that was too hard to resist, so I had to go there! Staples are items like peanut butter and jelly which can be easily stored and available for a quick meal or snack when there is nothing else to eat. Staples will keep you from going hungry between trips to the grocery store, so we should always have them available. Along with PB and J, in our house, Ramen Noodles would be considered a staple.

In ministry, a staple could be a lesson or communion meditation that you have available just in case somebody ended up missing a Sunday or forgot that it was his/her time to teach. They are always available for those times when we are called upon to fill in. Some people have sermons as well just in case the preacher is sick and has to take a Sunday off. We should always have staples in our spiritual pantry so we can keep our people from going hungry.

Host a neighborhood block party

This is a great way to be a good neighbor to the entire neighborhood all at once. Don't worry — it doesn't necessarily require that you do all of the planning and execution single-handedly. Just present the idea, get a few neighbors to help you out, and head up your little committee. It's a wonderful chance for people to step beyond their doorsteps and get to know each other in a fun and carefree setting.



Tip: Organizing it as a potluck frees you from the responsibility of cooking or catering!



This month's Church myth: "Money is the root of all evil"

Have you ever heard something that sounded so good that it must have come from the Bible? My favorite example of that is Benjamin Franklin's famous quote "God helps those who help themselves" which is nowhere to be found in the Bible. It may have been influenced by the Bible and it is a good quote, but it is not in the Bible. There are also times when Bible verses get twisted after so many misquotes and it causes people to think much differently about what they read. This month's church myth is such a verse. 1 Timothy 6:10 has been used and abused for so long that nobody seems to care about the fact that it does not say what people think it says.

For years, I have been taught that money is the root of all evil and I learned to use money as a way to pay the bills and nothing more. That was until I finally read the verse and studied it. Paul never said that money is the root of all evil. He said that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Here is the verse with the previous verse to build context:

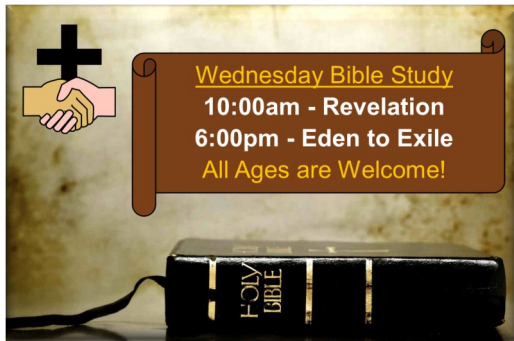
1 Timothy 6:9-10, "(9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

As you can see, verse 9 says that the people who desire to be rich fall into temptation and can end up destroying themselves. Verse 10 reinforces this idea by saying that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is not saying that money is evil and it does not say that it is the root of all evil either. It says that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil which is a general statement that loving money too much can be a bad thing. But is loving money really bad?

Looking at the original Greek word for the phrase "Love of money" can help us understand what kind of love this is. The phrase can be traced back to coveting, so this is a covetous type of love that can drive a person to commit illegal acts in order to gain it. That is certainly unhealthy, but it is not the money's fault. Money is only a resource that can be used for good or bad. It is up to each person to make it good or bad so the root of the evil is the person's desire, not the money. If a person desires money in an unhealthy way, it can bring evil consequences.

Along with that, verse 9 says that those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, but that does not mean the sin is unavoidable. It is possible to resist the temptation, but it requires the right heart for a person to become rich without evil consequences. And with the right heart, many great things can be done with money so this myth is busted.

Places to go, People to see, Things to do





Wednesday Bible Study
 10:00am - Revelation
 6:00pm - Eden to Exile
 All Ages are Welcome!

**What events should we plan?
 Let us know what you want to do!**




So, Ferb, what do you wanna do today?

Need a place to pray?
 Our sanctuary is available every
 3rd Friday of the month at 9am.
 No pressure. No preaching. Just prayer!

474 Deadfall Road W
 Greenwood SC 29646
 www.fccgwd.org



First Christian Church

“Pray for FCC”

We want to cover our church in prayer on a weekly basis. Along with the many prayers that go up on our behalf, I am declaring every Tuesday to be a day for us to offer up special prayers specifically for our church. Please join us by praying at some point every Tuesday!

Insults for Fun

Are you always so stupid, or is today a special occasion?

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month’s question:

When the Israelites came to Elim, there were seventy palm trees there? (Ex 15:27)

Winners: Michaela Winfrey/Naomi Godsey/Steve Skinner



Be one of the first 3 people to answer correctly and you will be a winner!

Be one of #4-10 to answer and you will receive an honorable mention!

Honorable Mention: Michael Winfrey, Wil Winfrey, Phillis Jackson

This month’s question:
Who did Joseph’s brothers sell him to?



The Meaning Behind the Song: Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) by Hillsong United

One The song "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" by Hillsong United is a powerful worship anthem that has touched the hearts of millions across the globe. Released in 2013 as part of the album "Zion", the song has since become a staple in many church services and Christian gatherings. Its poignant lyrics and emotive melody have drawn listeners closer to their faith and inspired them to trust in God's sovereignty, even in the midst of life's uncertainties.

The song serves as a reminder that, just like Peter walking on water towards Jesus in the biblical account, we are called to step out in faith and trust God's guidance. The lyrics speak of going "where feet may fail" and being led "deeper than my feet could ever wander." It encourages believers to let go of their fears and surrender to God's will, recognizing that He is capable of leading them to places they never thought possible.

The inspiration for "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" came from the band members personal experiences with trusting God in times of uncertainty. They drew inspiration from the account of Peter walking on water in Matthew 14:22-33, when Peter's faith was tested as he stepped out onto the stormy sea.

The phrase "where feet may fail" refers to the challenges and uncertainties we face in life. It symbolizes moments when we feel overwhelmed by the storms around us, unsure of our own abilities to navigate through difficult situations. The song encourages us to rely on God's strength and trust that He will guide us through the waves.

This song has resonated with so many people because it addresses universal themes of faith, trust, and surrender. The heartfelt lyrics and beautiful melody touch the depths of the soul, reminding listeners of the importance of relying on God's guidance and stepping out in faith.

<https://oldtimemusic.com/the-meaning-behind-the-song-oceans-where-feet-may-fail-hillsong-united-by-hillsong-united/>



RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Strawberry Cheesecake Dip

Ingredients: 8 oz cream cheese, softened; 1 cup confectioner's sugar; ½ teaspoon vanilla extract; ½ cup heavy cream; ¼ cup strawberry jam; 1 package graham crackers;

Instructions:

1. In a bowl, add softened cream cheese, confectioner's sugar, and vanilla extract. Using a hand mixer or stand mixer, mix until fully combined and incorporated. Set it aside.
2. In a separate bowl, add heavy cream. Using a hand mixer or stand mixer with a whisk attachment, whip for about 2-3 minutes to medium peaks.
3. Gently fold whipped cream into cream cheese mixture until fully incorporated. Spread cheesecake dip into a wide, shallow bowl and top with strawberry jam. Use a knife to swirl jam into dip.

Serve immediately with graham crackers, or store in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

Stand by Your God

"I will call on him as long as I live." Psalm 116:2b

Consider the fruit that comes from spending time with your heavenly Father. In Galatians 5, Paul writes that "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (vs 22/23). Think about each item on that list. Which of us doesn't need a touch of God's love, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control in our life? Those are things—as well as guidance, wisdom, hope and a deeper knowledge of Him—that He wants to give us as His children.

"But," you say, "who has time? My 'To Do' list is always longer than my day. I run from the time the alarm goes off in the morning until I fall into bed at night. How can I possibly find time to do one more thing? When could I find even a few minutes to read the Bible or pray?" I answer your question with a question: Are you doing what's important in your day—or only what is urgent?

God greatly desires to spend time alone with you. After all, you are His child (John 1:12, Galatians 3:26). He created you; He loves you, and He gave His only Son for your salvation. Your heavenly Father wants to know you, and He wants you to know Him. The Creator of the universe wants to meet with you alone daily. How can you say no to such an opportunity?

So, make it your priority to spend time with God daily. There's not a single right time or one correct place. The only requirement for a right time with God is your willing heart. Your meeting time with God will vary according to the season of your life and the schedules you are juggling. Jesus often slipped away to be alone in prayer (Luke 5:16), but even His prayer time varied. He prayed in the morning and late at night, on a hill and in the upper room (Mk 1:35; Lk 22:41-45; Mt 14:23; Jn 17).

The times and places where we meet God will vary, but the fact that we meet alone with God each day should be a constant in our life. After all, God has made it clear that He is interested in us who are His children (1 Peter 5:7).

What should you do in your time alone with God? After you've read and meditated on God's Word for a while, spend some time with Him in prayer. Talk to Him as you would to your earthly parent or a special friend who loves you, desires the best for you, and wants to help you in every way possible.

Time with your heavenly Father is never wasted. If you spend time alone with God in the morning, you'll start your day refreshed and ready for whatever comes your way. If you spend time alone with Him in the evening, you'll go to sleep relaxed, resting in His care and ready for a new day to serve Him.


Remember, too, that you can talk to Him anytime, anywhere—in school, at work, on the freeway, at home—about anything. You don't have to make an appointment to ask Him for something you need or to thank Him for something you have received from Him. God is interested in everything that happens to you.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Prayer - 9:30am Coffee - 9:45am S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon	Pray for FCC reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Mid-Week Bible Study 10am and 6pm (All ages)	Mission of the Month: Greater Gwd United Ministry	Weekly bulletin will have the most current information	All events subject to change if needed
	1 Job 28:1-19	2 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Job 28:20-28	3 Psalm 111	4 Proverbs 1:1-7	5 Prov 1:8-19	6 Prov 1:20-33
7	8 Proverbs 4:1-9	9 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Prov 4:10-19	10 Prov 4:20-27	11 Proverbs 2:1-5	12 Prov 2:6-15	13 Prov 2:16-22
14	15 Deut 8:1-10	16 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Deut 8:11-20	17 Deut 30:11-20	18 Psalm 37:1-11	19 (Heb 12:1-11) 3rd hr. (9am) prayer time in the Sanctuary	20 Prov 3:1-12
21	22 1 Kings 3:3-14	23 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Proverbs 1	24 Proverbs 2	25 (Proverbs 4) Newsletter Submissions Due	26 James 3:13-18	27 Prov 3:13-18
28 Andrew Goforth Preaching	29 Gen 37:1-11	30 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Gen 37:12-36		Leadership meets as needed	Communion Meditation: 4/07 - Frank Jackson 4/14 - Bruce Brower 4/21 - Michael Winfrey 4/28 - Frank Jackson	



April 07 - The Fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1)
 April 14 - The Value of Wisdom (Proverbs 2)
 April 21 - Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:1-12)
 April 28 - Andrew Goforth preaching

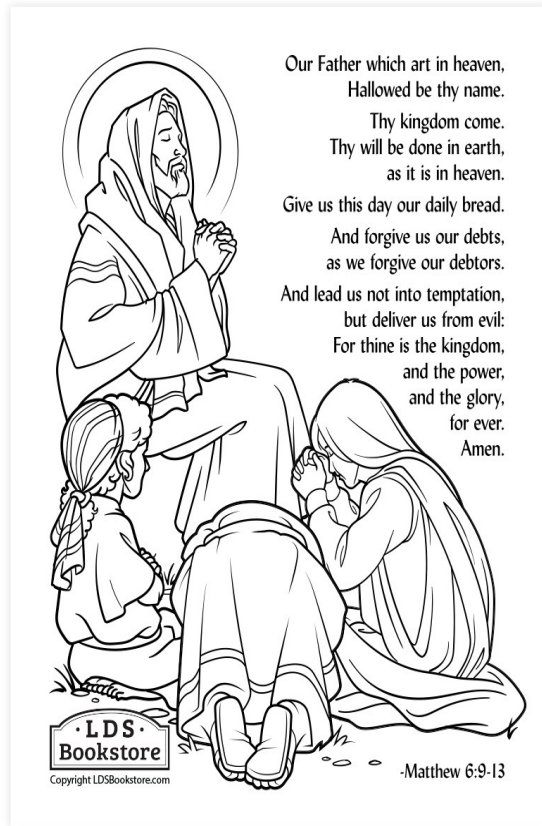
“Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.”
 (Proverbs 3:7 ESV)

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 (www.fccgwd.org)

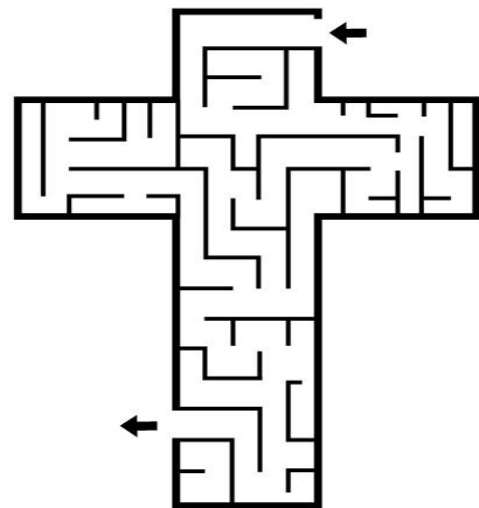


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“ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ”
Matthew 28:16



Cross Maze



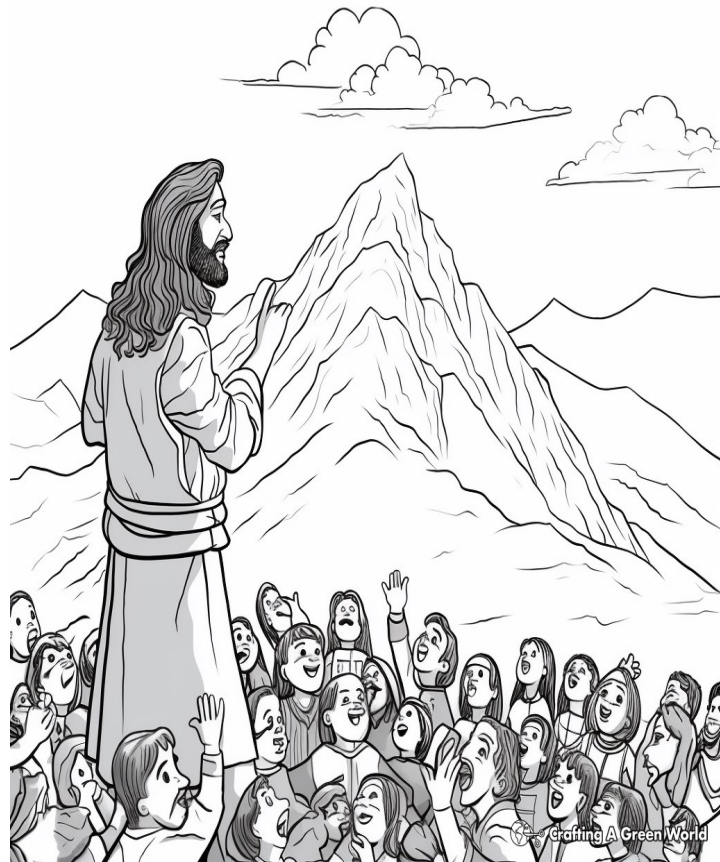
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Yay! Jesus has risen! Now what? Well, when Jesus rose, he immediately got to work. He went out teaching everyone about God, and he was spreading the gospel. Well, what should we do about it? Well, Jesus gave us the Great Commission (verse located to the right), telling us to be disciples and spread the gospel too! So now, I want you to go out and spread the gospel for everyone to hear!

Michaela Winfrey

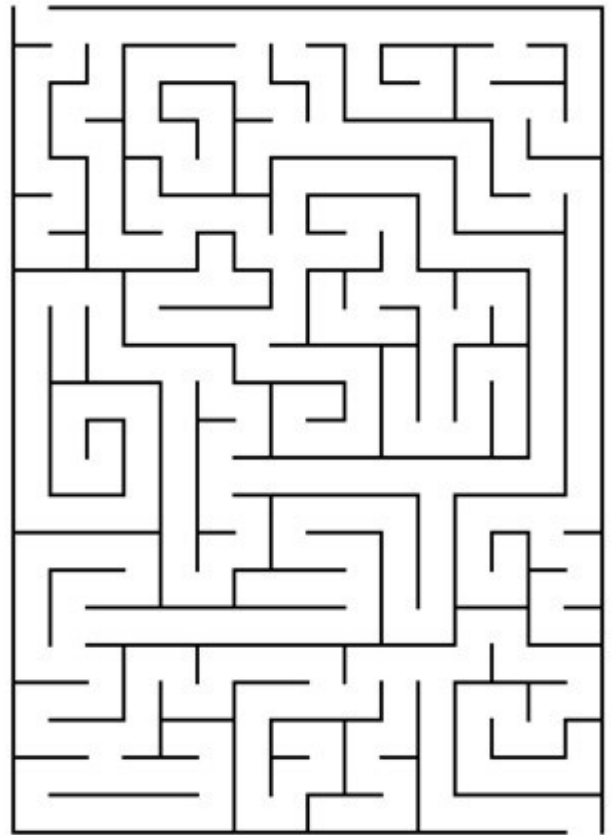
“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20



Start!

Maze 3



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Finish!

