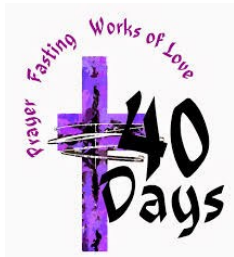




# Allen AveNews

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Mark Hofman  
695 Allen Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442



March 5  
Ash Wednesday

There they crucified him,  
and with him two others,  
one on either side,  
with Jesus between them.  
John 19:18



April 18  
Good Friday



April 20  
Easter

## Special Collections



**March 9**  
Muskegon Christian  
**April 18**  
Good Friday  
World Renew  
**April 27**  
GEMS International

## The Road to Joy through Suffering



Acts 5:41-42 “The apostles left the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing** because they had been **counted worthy of suffering** disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.”

Stop for a moment and consider what Luke just told you. After the day of Pentecost, Jesus’ apostles kept preaching and teaching in Jerusalem. The religious leaders brought them into the temple to question them. Even after finding them innocent, the Sanhedrin (Jewish ruling council) had them whipped and flogged. And as they left, they re-

joiced.

Can you imagine leaving God’s house after being whipped? Can you imagine the fear you might feel going into the unknown? But for these believers, they felt joy. The angel who’d earlier freed them from prison told them to keep preaching. They were healing and driving out demons all in Jesus’ name. Yet, it was their disgrace—the rejection and persecution they faced—which gave them joy. They’d been counted worthy.

What does it mean for Christians today to be counted worthy of suffering disgrace? Is it the self-ish “martyrdom” of looking to play society’s victim? Is it the bitter spirit of competitive complaint, always thinking someone out there has things better?

Consider Paul’s words to the Roman Christians: “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Do we have this same long view of our sufferings and struggles in this life? What if Jesus meant these words in his sermon: “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.” (Luke 6:21b-22)

The road through suffering is long and tearful, but joy awaits. There are eternal pleasures at the Father’s right hand. (Psalm 16:11)

Jesus’ death and resurrection teach us to “be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.” (Romans 12:12) During Lent and Easter we’ll be hearing about how walking this road to joy through suffering looks like the joy that was set before Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). He endured the cross for us because he was willing to suffer for our joy.

Finally, Peter’s words will help us walk this road, yet again: “But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.” (1 Peter 4:13)

—Pastor Mark



Note: If you exchange assignments with someone, let Susan Vanderlaan know so she can have it right in the bulletin. susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org or 231.722.6411



**Coffee Schedule**

March	2	Laurie & Roger Slorf
	9	Amber & Dean Johnson
	16	Toni & Scott Schuitema
	23	Judy Vaandering, Sue Secord
	30	
April	6	Marcia & Mike Breuker Kelly Dauser
	13	Sandy Volkers, Ron Friday
	20	Congregational Life
	27	Laurie & Jack DeJonge

**Nursery Schedule**

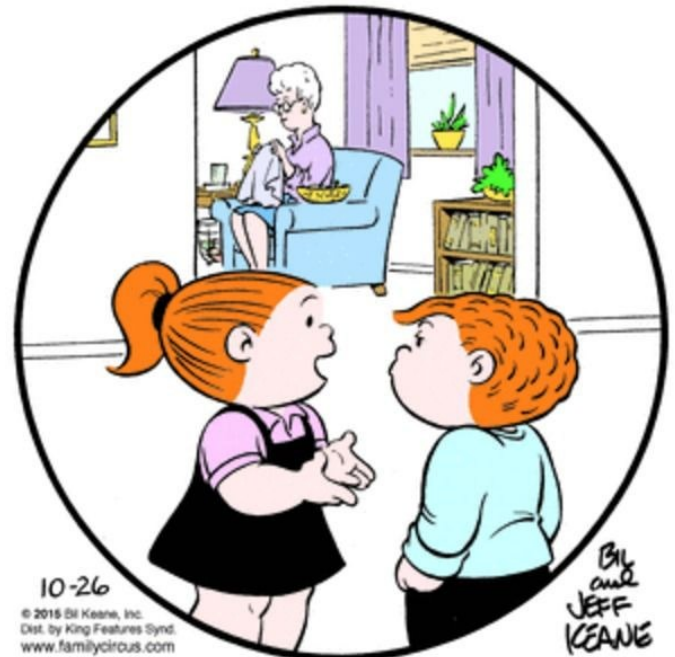
March	2	Sherrie Wolffis, Tayla Vlasma
	9	Nancy Rop, Mary Patton
	16	Beth VanRees, Aethan Hofman
	23	Karen Alphenaar, Melisa Vlasma
	30	Amber Johnson, Maelin Vlasma
April	6	Laurie DeJonge, Beth VanRees
	13	Sue Sytsema, Tayla Vlasma
	20	Carol Peterman, Melisa Vlasma
	27	Amber Johnson, Maelin Vlasma



Nursery



There are ways to send anonymous emails, but I’m not telling. Besides, if you think you have to say it anonymously, you probably shouldn’t say it at all.



“The two places we know we’re always welcome are church and Grandma’s house.”

# Consumer Scams

Understanding scams and mitigating the risks



	Romance Scams	Online Sale Scams	Work/Job Scams	Loan Scam	Refund Scam
What Is It?	A scam where the victim provides, receives or expects to receive money related to a romantic relationship they believe they are in—typically with someone they met online. Scammers will use many different social media platforms to meet and socialize with victims.	A scam where the victim provides, receives or expects money related to an online sale. A person will typically give out their login or bank account information, believing this is an appropriate way to conduct transactions. They may also send their own funds to a scammer who fakes an item being sold.	A scam where the victim provides, receives or expects money related to a job they have located online in which they believe they will be working from home. Fake jobs will include paperwork, payroll services, and more.	A scam where the victim believes they are obtaining a loan. These fake loans are typically found through social media and target people with poor credit. They often involve the customer giving out their banking credentials.	A scam in which a scammer pretends to be a legitimate company issuing a refund to one of its customers. The refund turns out to be the victim's own funds, which the scammers move from account to account. Victims will send the funds to scammer, not realizing it is their own money.
Scammer Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain the victim's confidence</li> <li>Use the perceived relationship to convince the victim to act on their behalf (sending their legitimate funds, receiving/sending illicit funds, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entice the victim with something that is 'often 'too good to be true'</li> <li>Obtain access to victim's bank account</li> <li>Convince victim to send funds for sale (which is fake)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convince the victim of employment</li> <li>Use the victim to transfer illicit funds (fraudulent checks, wires, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persuade the victim to seek money through fake loan</li> <li>Obtain access to victim's bank account or convince them to conduct illicit funds transfers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pretend to be legitimate entity in order to obtain access to victim's online banking</li> <li>Use internal transfers to convince customer of overpayment (resulting in the victim sending funds)</li> </ul>
Red Flags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationship is long distance with love interest constantly unable to meet in person</li> <li>Sweetheart asks to utilize victim's bank account to facilitate funds movement</li> <li>Sweetheart asks victim to lie (to friends, family, bank employees, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer is too good to be true</li> <li>Buyer/Seller will not meet in person</li> <li>Items being sold use stock photos and may have conflicting information</li> <li>Buyer/Seller uses urgency to push for financial transaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unrealistic job descriptions or compensation; short or non-existent job interview</li> <li>Job has victim using personal bank account to conduct 'business transactions'</li> <li>Company is conveniently located far away from the victim</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loan found through individual on social media</li> <li>Victim is asked to provide online banking credentials in order to facilitate loan processing (this gives the scammer access to the account)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caller pretending to be providing refund needs access to victim's computer and online banking</li> <li>Caller pressures victim to 'accept' refund; they may use coercion or sympathy as well</li> <li>Victim is asked to send wire, buy gift cards, etc., to fix 'overpayment'</li> </ul>
What Can You Do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercise caution when meeting and interacting with people online</li> <li>Practice good social media etiquette</li> <li>Always do your research, ask questions, and know the risks of sending money</li> <li>Walk away when red flags are present; report fraud or suspicious activity</li> </ul>				

# How to Load What's App for AACRC Prayer Texting Groups





## What is WhatsApp?

A **Free communication** app which allows you to send messages, make voice and video calls, and share images and documents.

**WhatsApp** has end-to-end encryption, so only you and the person you're communicating with can read what's sent, and nobody in between, not even WhatsApp.

For more information on security, please access <https://www.whatsapp.com/security>

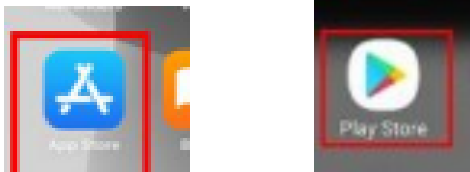
### What you will need

- ✓  **Internet connection** (WiFi or Mobile data)
- ✓  **Tablet / Mobile**

**HOW TO INSTALL?** See RED outlined boxes in pictures

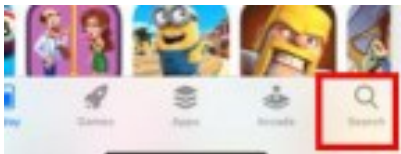
**For iPhone and android:**

\*\*\* Left Pictures are for iPhones & Right are for Android Phones:

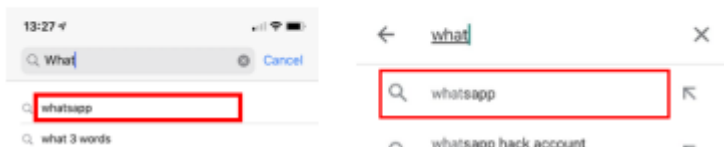


STEP 1: Open the app store/ play store

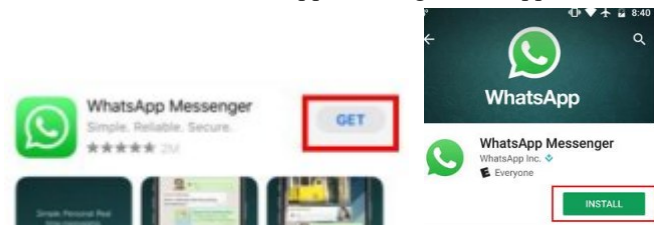
STEP 2: Click the magnifying glass at the BOTTOM of the app screen



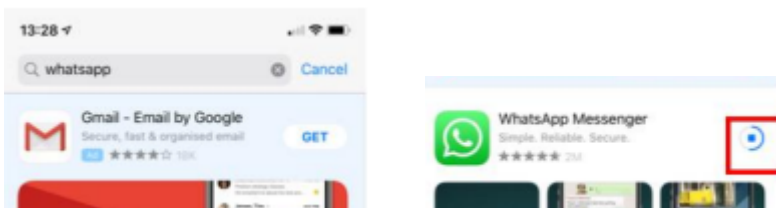
## STEP 3: In the search bar type 'whatsapp'



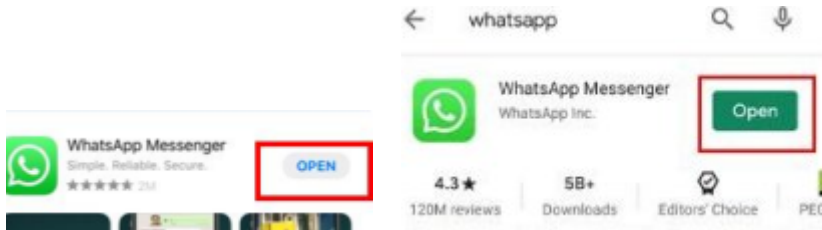
STEP 4: When the 'WhatsApp Messenger' box appears click the 'GET' / 'INSTALL' button on (it should be free)



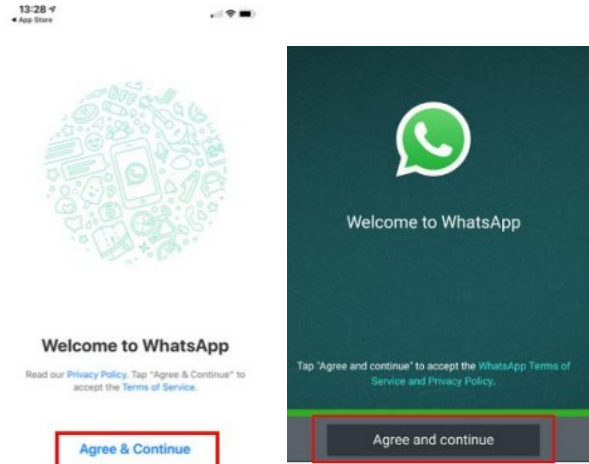
STEP 5: The app will start downloading



STEP 6: When the app has finished downloading the 'OPEN' button will appear.



STEP 7: Open the app and click 'Agree and continue'. This will send you to the next page where you can enter your phone number and begin to use the app.



STEP 8: ASK PEG ROP TO SEND YOU AN INVITE. Include which group you wish to be connected to: **CONVERSATIONAL** or **INFORMATION ONLY** group.

**Information only** is used for those who cannot or do not want to receive any response messages only the original. They will respond to the individual if they choose. These are usually those who are still working. No prayer icon responses or thumbs up responses for this group.

**Conversational Group** is for those who like or want to respond to the group with a text, update, correction, additional information, thanks, prayer icon or thumbs up icon.

STEP 9: Tap Join group in the message that invites you.

CONTINUE if prompted. If not Prompted you will be added to the group by the administrator (Peg Rop) and sent a text message & What's App text verifying you received the message and are ready to go.

**What if I can't join a group invite?**

If you see "You can't join the group or community because the invite link was reset", the link is no longer valid. Text Peg Rop to send you a new link.

Questions? Call or text Peg Rop Note that Stan, Steve or Pastor Mark may also be able to help.

*Thank you for helping make this prayer chain easier to get the messages out. The Council and Technology committee are looking at removing **the ONE CALL app** as the cost for not using it to its potential and only for Prayer Time does not seem to be a good use of our monies. **What's App is free of charge** and many more people know how to use it.*

*Blessings, Peg Rop February 2025*

# CADET SUNDAY



The Cadet counselors are Pastor Mark, Dave VanRees, Devin Snyder, and John Kortman. They have been helped out by Dale Johnson and Jim Malda.



## Who's Who in the Pew

Bob and Elaine Holwerda

Bob and Elaine thank everyone for your warm embrace in welcoming them to Allen Avenue!



Bob and Elaine have both grown up on and spent the first 46 years of their marriage on the southwest side of the Chicagoland area. They have 7 children and 12 grandchildren with whom they always treasure being around although they are scattered from Nashville to Chicagoland with 3 families here in Michigan (Muskegon, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo). Elaine went to Moser Business School and Bob spent one year at Trinity Christian College.

Bob absolutely loves being a carpenter and has passed that passion on to two of his sons. Bob also loves working for their son, Ben, at Elevation Carpentry here in Muskegon. In his spare time Bob loves to catch up on the news, read, and play the guitar.

Elaine has taught piano for 3 years and loves watching the children progress. Currently she is teaching piano after school at Muskegon Christian School and finds the atmosphere of the school very uplifting. In her spare time she likes to read and knit and sometimes sew.

They are excited to be part of what God is doing at Allen Avenue and searching for where they will best serve.

# GEMS UPDATE

It's hard to believe but we only have 2 months left for GEMS! I thought I'd better update you before our year is over! Remember back in November when the GEMS put together Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes? Well, our boxes went to girls in Guyana. Thank you so much for helping with that service project and please keep praying for the girls there who have heard about Jesus through this ministry. In December, we took a field trip and went to The Christmas Story Trail at Maranatha. Stations relating to the birth of Jesus told us the whole story. We made a craft, we roasted marshmallows and drank hot chocolate, and we sang Christmas carols. It was a fun night out and a great way to celebrate the birth of our Savior. In January, Mr. Malda gave us (and the Cadets) a special presentation and told us amazing details about astronomy and outer space which just showed us how great and awesome our God is! And just earlier this month you helped our fund raising efforts by buying subs and croissants. We raised \$917.25 thanks to your overly generous support! Thank you so much!! Next month we will be busy! We meet on Ash Wednesday so Pastor Mark is going to talk with us (and the Cadets) about what we observe during Lent and what it means for us. Saturday, March 8 we are having a lock-in (replacing our sleepover meant for younger counselors!) where the girls, among other things, will be doing the baking for our annual GEMS Bake Sale to be held on March 9. And then on Saturday, March 22 we will be going on another field trip to Fredrick Meijer Gardens to see the butterfly exhibit. Our theme this year has been Transformed: Changed by God's Word from the Inside Out and the logo is a butterfly. So, the money raised by our 2 fundraisers will cover the cost to see the butterflies. The girls are gaining skills to navigate God's Word. We are learning that God's Word tells us the Truth about who we are and who God is and what He has done for us. And what we learn from God's Word changes us, transforming us through the work of the Holy Spirit to be more like Jesus. Please keep praying for these precious GEMS as we wrap up our year.

And thank you again for all your support for this ministry!

—Jill, Amber, Charry, Emily, Aida, Renee

**Noah builds an ark.**  
Genesis 6:1-22



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# ✝ Church is Fun ✝

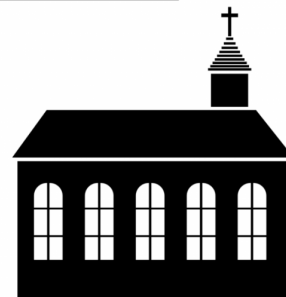
## Word Search



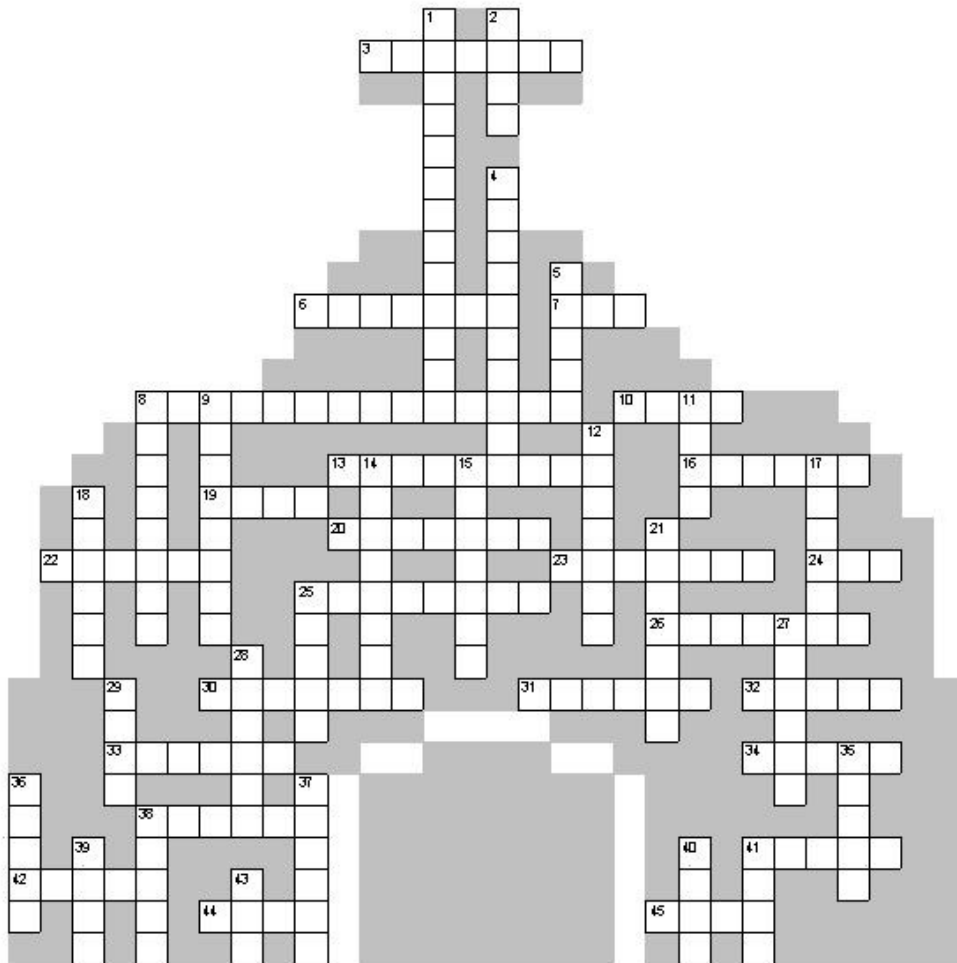
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J	E	S	U	S	F	N	K	P	C	H	U	R	C	H	M	X	L	F	O
X	O	P	F	Q	L	U	H	O	L	Y	N	F	A	I	T	H	I	O	N
W	R	C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	Z	D	H	A	A	K	D	E
I	Q	F	A	X	T	W	J	P	I	H	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	M	O
S	K	U	A	E	G	N	I	T	G	O	D	S	L	B	E	L	I	E	F
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O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

**Word list:**

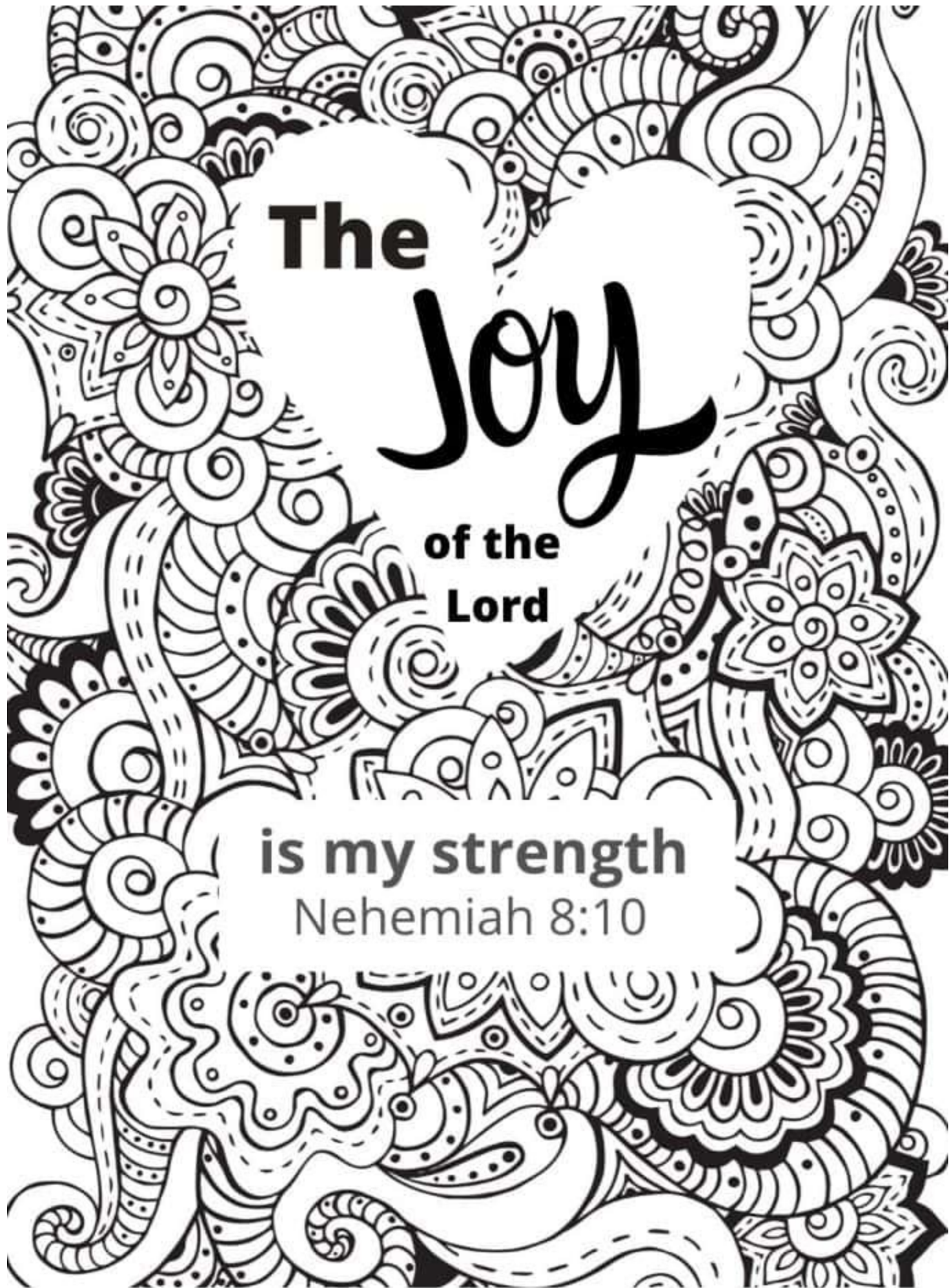
- |              |            |           |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| BELIEF       | FRIENDSHIP | JOY       |
| BLESSINGS    | GIVING     | LOVE      |
| CHRIST       | GOD        | MERCY     |
| CHURCH       | GRACE      | OBEDIENCE |
| COMPASSION   | GUIDANCE   | PATIENCE  |
| COURAGE      | HEALING    | PEACE     |
| ETERNAL      | HEAVEN     | SALVATION |
| FAITH        | HOLY       | SPIRIT    |
| FAITHFULNESS | HOPE       | TRUTH     |
| FORGIVENESS  | JESUS      | WISDOM    |



## People of the Bible



- | Across   |   | Down  |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| 3. Title of the kings of Egypt                 | 31. Thrown into the lion's den                | 1. First to see the risen Christ                                      | 27. A doubtful one  |
| 6. Deceives Samson                             | 32. Swallowed up by a great fish              | 2. Killed Abel  | 28. Mary's husband  |
| 7. First woman                                 | 33. Jacob's eldest son                        | 4. The handwriting was on his wall                                    | 28. Had a coat of many colors                             |
| 8. Builder of Babylon; takes Jerusalem captive | 34. A shepherd boy who God chooses to be King | 5. A fisherman who walked on water                                    | 29. Mother of Jesus                                       |
| 10. First man                                  | 38. Destroys Jericho                          | 8. Cupbearer to Antaxerxes I; rebuilds Jerusalem's wall               | 35. The promised son of Abraham                           |
| 13. Father of John the Baptist                 | 41. Betrays the Christ                        | 9. Jacob's youngest son   | 36. Ruth's mother-in-law                                  |
| 16. Queen who helped Mordecai save the Jews    | 42. Led the Israelites out of Egypt           | 11. First murder victim   | 37. Lazarus' busy sister                                  |
| 19. Brother of Jesus                           | 44. Built an ark                              | 12. Son of Abraham and Hagar  | 38. The Christ; the Son of God and Savior of the world    |
| 20. A prophetess and judge of Israel           | 45. Marries Boaz                              | 14. One of the three who survived the fiery furnace                   | 39. Hairy hunter who sold his birthright                  |
| 22. Aaron's sister who leads a victory song    |   | 15. Father of the faith   | 40. First king of Israel                                  |
| 23. Called out of his tomb                     |   | 17. Was transported into heaven in a chariot of fire                  | 41. Wrote the Book of Revelations                         |
| 24. Afflicted by Satan                         |   | 18. Brought Nathanael to Christ                                       | 43. Abraham's nephew; his wife turned to a pillar of salt |
| 25. Saul's son; loved by David                 |   | 21. A tax collector who became an apostle and an author of the gospel |   |
| 26. Paul's young "son in the faith"            |   | 25. Wrestles with an angel  |   |
| 30. A king known for his wisdom                |   |   |   |



**The**

**Joy**

**of the  
Lord**

**is my strength**

Nehemiah 8:10

# BIBLE WORD SEARCH!

BASIC WORDS OF THE BIBLE

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

JESUS CHRIST  
SALVATION  
JEW  
GENTILE  
HOLY SPIRIT  
GOD THE FATHER  
PERSECUTE

PRAY  
TITHE  
MINISTRY  
BIBLE  
HOLY  
SACRIFICE  
FAITH

MIRACLE  
NAZARETH  
BETHLEHEM  
JERUSALEM  
BAPTIZE  
TEMPTATION  
SIN



