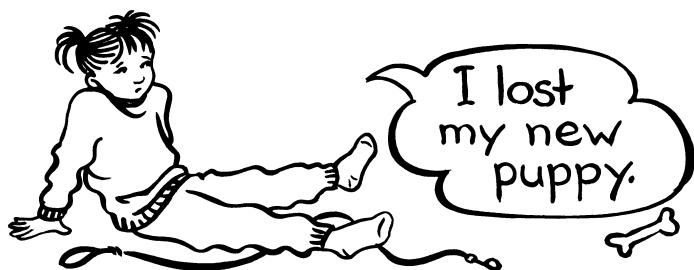


Hard times

God is with you even in the hard times. Stephen knew God was with him. How would you help this boy and this girl in their hard times? How would you pray for them?



We pray for people facing hard or sad times. Be with them. Be with us as we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

This week

Find small stones. Wrap a bright colored piece of fabric around small stones and tie it with a ribbon to make prayer rocks. Keep one for yourself and give one to someone going through a hard time.

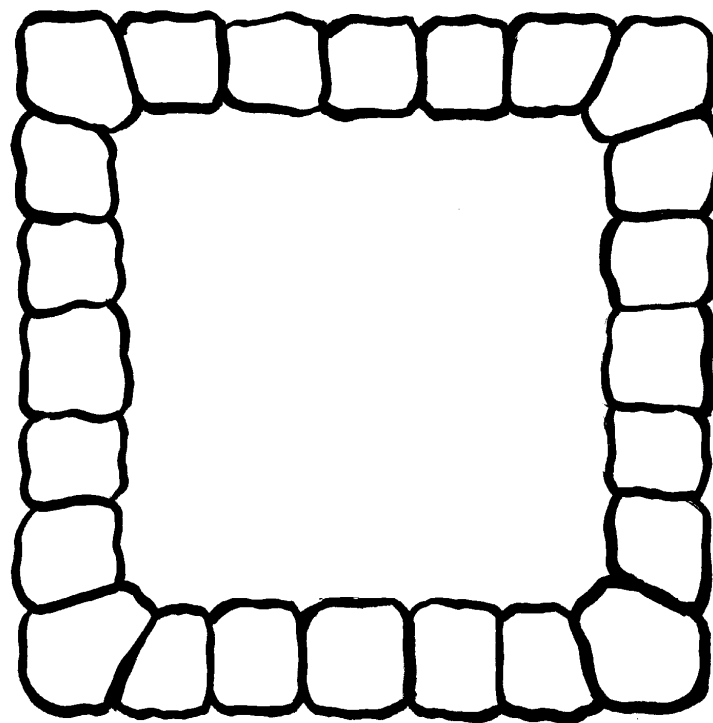


gather

Welcome to worship.

Today is the fifth Sunday of Easter.

Draw a picture of a house made from stones, making a special stone, or cornerstone, at one of the lower corners.



What would happen if someone took out the cornerstone? The shaky house would fall down! Jesus is the cornerstone of our lives. Without him our lives are shaky, too.

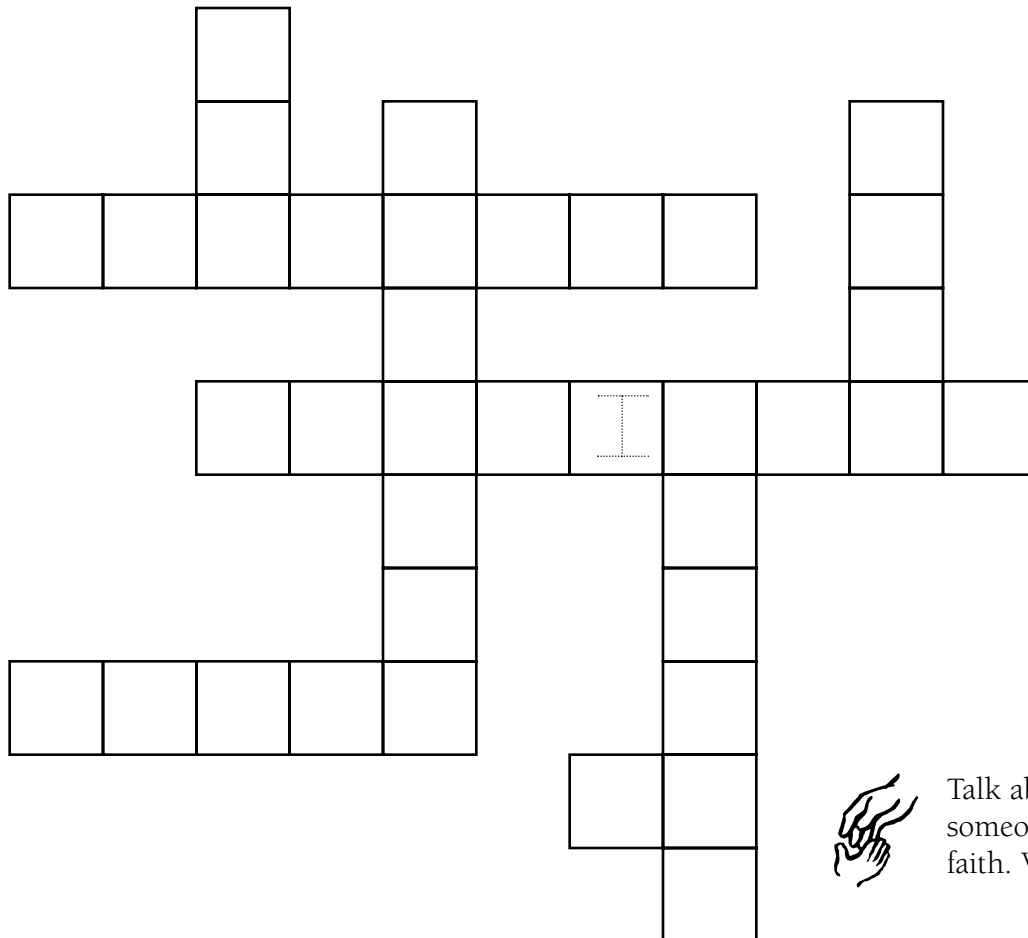
I am

John 14:1-14

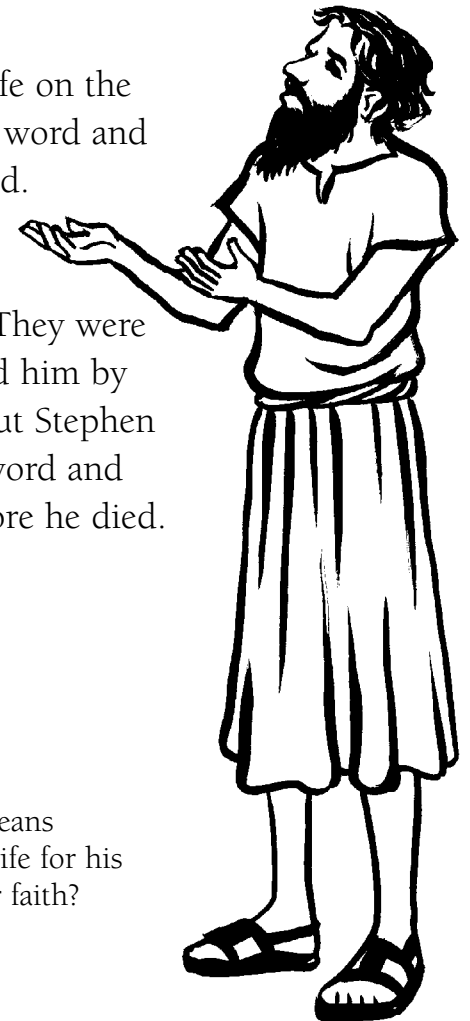
Jesus taught his disciples how to believe in him: “Don’t be troubled or worried. Believe in God, the Father, and in me. I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus reminded them to keep praying to God: “I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Our lives begin with Jesus at the center of all we do. Trace the letter “I” in the center box of the puzzle. Fit the underlined words above into the crossword puzzle below.



Stephen built his life on the solid rock of God’s word and preached about God. There were people who did not want Stephen to speak. They were so angry they killed him by throwing stones. But Stephen believed in God’s word and prayed to God before he died.



Talk about the word *martyr*, which means someone like Stephen who gives his life for his faith. What do you “give up” for your faith?