



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

November 23, 2014

Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 95:1-7a (7)

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46



Thanks Living. *Object:* A thank you card.

When someone does something nice for you, what do you do? You say, "Thank you," don't you? Sometimes that just doesn't seem to be enough. Has someone ever done something for you that was so nice that you wanted to do more than just say, "Thank You." I have. When that happens, I sometimes send them a "Thank You" card. Everyone enjoys receiving a "Thank You" card.

Another way you can show your thanks when someone does something really nice for you is by doing something nice for them in return. For example, if someone invites you to spend the night and you have a really good time, you should return their kindness by inviting them to come and spend the night with you.

It is always important to show our appreciation when someone does something for us, isn't it?

Well, I don't know anyone who has done more for us than God has. God provides food when we are hungry and water when we are thirsty. He heals us when we are sick and he comforts us when we are sad. The Bible tells us that he is an ever-present helper in times of trouble.

Because of all God has done for us, we say, "Thank you." But somehow that doesn't seem to be enough. We could write him a "Thank You" card, but I don't think the Post Office could deliver it, do you? I have a good idea, why don't we do something nice for him in return? But how?

Jesus told us how to do it. Jesus, said, "Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you do it for me." That means when we feed someone who is hungry, it is the same as doing it for Jesus. When we visit someone who is sick, it is the same as doing it for Jesus. When we give clothes to those who are in need, it is the same as doing it for Jesus.

There is a very special name for this way of saying, "Thank you." I call it "thanks living." "Thanks Living" is when we show our thanks by the way we live. "Thanks living" is when we look at the many ways God has blessed us, and we thank him by being a blessing to others.

Let's pray and ask God to help us to offer our thanksgiving by "thanks living."

Our Father, we come into your presence with thanksgiving. Help us to turn our thanksgiving into thanks living. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David.
Alleluia (Mark 11:9)

Word Search Puzzle

W	L	J	R	R	S	I	C	A	Y	N	G	D	H	T
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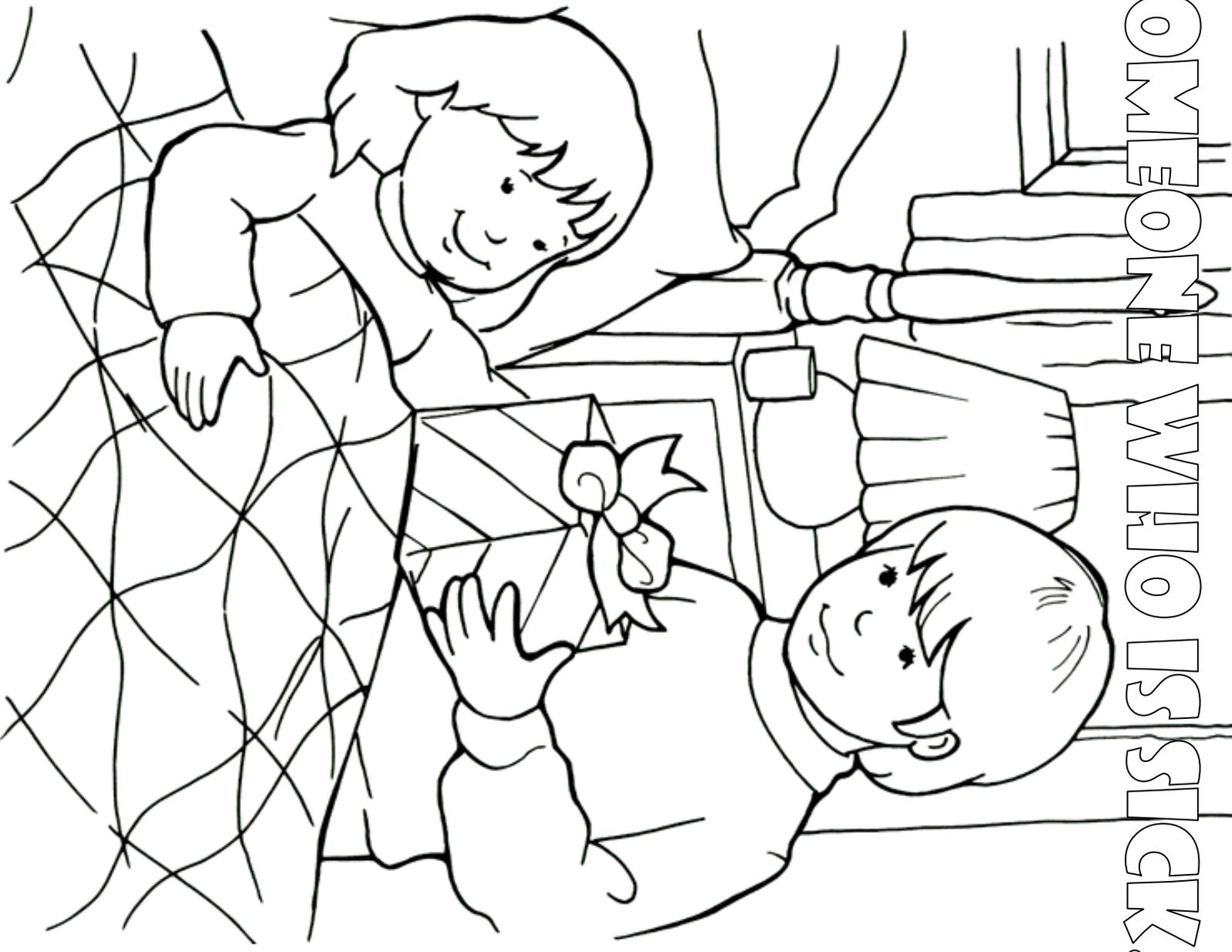
CLOTHED	SHEPHERD	HUNGRY	KING	STRANGER
LEAST	BLESSED	THRONE	SICK	EAT
GLORY	LIFE	ANGELS	DRINK	THIRSTY
BROTHERS	FATHER	ETERNAL	PRISON	COME

THANKS LIVING CHARADES: Divide the children into teams and let each team act out a charade of something they can do to help someone in need. The teacher should write some ideas on slips of paper that the children can draw out of a bag.

A MOMENT OF THANKS CONTEST: Let the children volunteer to play against another player for one minute. Ring a bell or have some other signal to start. Each child will name as many things as they can think of for which they are thankful. There will need to be a score keeper/listener for each player. When one minute is up, see who has the most things for which they are thankful on their list. This can be done as teams as well, if teacher desires.

LAUNDRY BASKET OF THANKS: Before class begins, the teacher will place items all around a designated area for the children to collect and place in a laundry basket. Suggested items might be canned foods, a mini vacuum, clothes, toys, stuffed pets, cleaning products. When all of the items have been found and placed in the laundry basket, the teacher can talk about each item and discuss ways that they might show their thanks to their parents. (Helping fix dinner, picking up their toys, helping clean house, raking leaves, keeping their room clean.)

I CAN BE A FRIEND TO
SOMEONE WHO IS SICK.



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