

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*



August 16, 2015

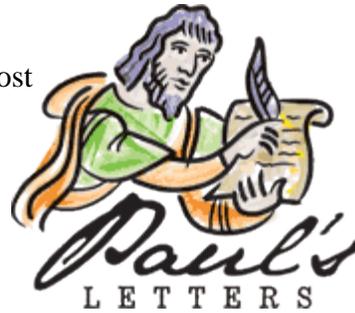
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

*Proverbs 9:1-6*

*Psalms 34:9-14*

*Ephesians 5:15-20*

*John 6:51-58*



**All Day Preaching and Dinner on the Grounds.** Object: Picnic Basket

How long has it been since you wrote a letter? I mean a real, honest-to-goodness, hand-written letter. We don't write letters much anymore, do we? Letters have pretty much been replaced by phone calls, emails, text messages, and tweets. But there was a time when letters were our main way of staying in touch with friends and family. I still remember when I left home and went away to college. Every day I went to the mail box hoping to get a letter from home. These letters were always full of news about the family and also contained a lot of good advice from mom and dad. They would often suggest things like:

- Don't stay out too late
- Get plenty of rest
- Keep your room clean
- Study hard
- Remember what we taught you

Today's Bible lesson is a letter from the apostle Paul to his friends in the church at Ephesus. Paul was a missionary and he traveled all around starting new churches. After starting a church, he stayed in touch with them through writing letters. Paul wanted to make sure that they were doing the things that God wanted them to do and were following the teaching of Jesus.

One of the great things about Paul's letters is that, not only did he give good advice to the people he was writing to, but his advice is just as useful for us today. Here are a few of the things Paul told the church at Ephesus that we would do well to follow.

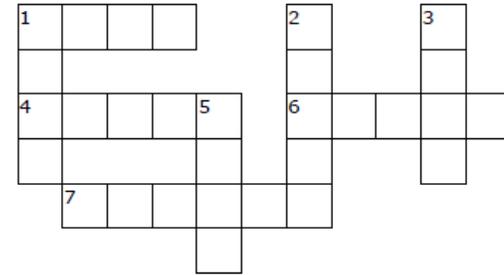
- Be careful how you live
- Don't be unwise but wise
- Make the most of every opportunity
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit
- Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord
- Give thanks to God for everything

Writing letters may never be as popular as it once was, but thankfully, we still have the letters of Paul. They are full of great advice.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I abide in them. Alleluia (John 6:56)

Father, we are thankful that your Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write such great letters. Help us to read and follow his advice so that we may live a life pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen  
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## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. A drink made from fruit, especially grapes
4. A short musical composition with words
6. Beautiful sounds made by the voice or instruments
7. To express appreciation for something

### DOWN

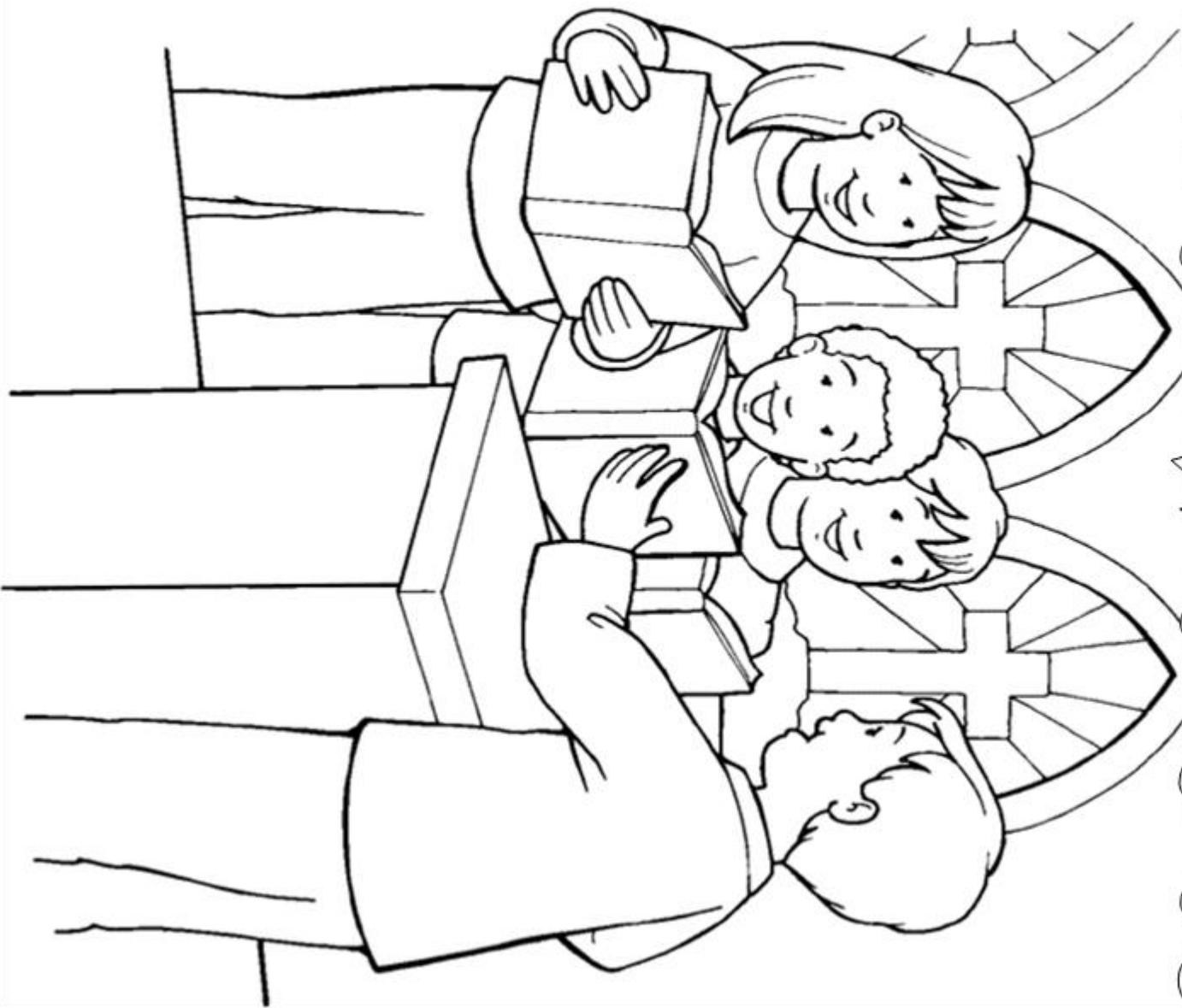
1. Having good judgement or common sense
2. Songs of praise to God
3. Something that causes great harm
5. To make music with the voice

|       |       |        |       |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| SING  | SONGS | THANKS | HYMNS |
| MUSIC | WISE  | WINE   | EVIL  |

**PLEASING JESUS CHAIN:** Children can be given at least 12-15 thin slips of construction paper (about 1 inch wide and 3 inches long). Encourage children to write one of God's instructions on each slip of paper. After all their slips of paper have been written on, the children can loop them together to form a chain and hang "God's Instructions" around their necks.

**ALPHABET LETTERS:** The teacher can cut out large alphabet letters to place on the classroom door or wall. Children can each take a letter to write something about today's lesson on each letter (similar to an acrostic). Make sure letters are bright colored and children have markers so that the word they write on the letter, will be clearly seen.

# LET'S PRAISE JESUS!



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