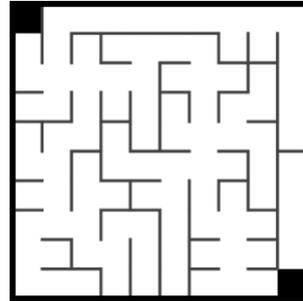




*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

December 29, 2019

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23



First Sunday of Christmas

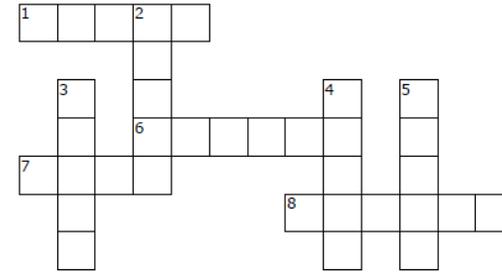
Good morning friends! Have any of you seen one of these before? What is it? (allow for answers). Yes! It's a maze. Pretty Ah-mazing, right?! What do you do with a maze? You have to figure out how to get from start to finish without running into the obstacles. What happens if you run into one of those road blocks? (allow for answers) Well, we could turn around, or use our eraser, right? So, no big deal! We get to have fun with figuring out the right way to get to the finish line.

In our gospel lesson from Matthew, we hear that Joseph and Mary are in a bit of a scary maze situation themselves. They aren't really sure of the right way to turn, but if they go the wrong way, the evil king, Herod will kill them. But...God steps in like God always does and tells Mary and Joseph exactly where to turn, pointing them in the exact direction they should go so that their family will be safe.

God leads Joseph and Mary away from destruction while also leading them towards life. And guess what? God wants to do the same thing for us. When we listen for and follow God's directions, God will help us see what turns and decisions to make that will direct us to live our best life. ****adapted from Rfour.org****

Gracious God, help us to open our ears and our hearts so that we can hear and follow your directions to live our best lives. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. To see images and hear voices in your mind while sleeping
- 6. To run away from someone or something; break loose; get free
- 7. To cause someone to die
- 8. A female parent

DOWN

- 2. A heavenly servant of God
- 3. A person from the time of birth until he or she is fully grown
- 4. The king of Judea who tried to kill baby Jesus
- 5. The part of every twenty-four hour period when it is dark

HEROD	NIGHT	CHILD	KILL
DREAM	ESCAPE	ANGEL	MOTHER

Activity: Make your own maze. On a sheet of paper, draw a maze complete with plenty of obstacles or road blocks. Give it to one of your friends to see if they can find their way to the finish line.

Discussion Question: What are some obstacles that keep you from following Jesus? Think about some friends that may lead you down the wrong path, or times that you don't always listen to your parent(s).

Family Table Prayer for December:

God of love, joy, and light
we thank you for your son.
For Mary, and her baby boy,
Our savior, and all that he has done. Amen.

December Memory Verse: Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

ESCAPE TO EGYPT
(MATTHEW 2:13-23)

