

# Sunday School at Home

Sunday School at Home Resources for the season of Lent and Easter Sunday (2021) prepared collaboratively by Immanuel United Church in Winnipeg and Crossroads United Pastoral Charge (St. Andrew's United Church in Elm Creek and Carman United Church)

## Note for Good Friday and Easter

This resource packet is designed for children ages 2 – young teen. This week we did not develop a separate sheet for young children. We have included in the resource for this week a number of Easter activities suited to children of all ages. The story this week includes an opportunity for the children to draw the story as it is told or paraphrased. Children who are not old enough to understand the story might still want to draw based on some of the key words in the text of the story. We encourage the grown-ups to read through the resources and decide which are best suited for the children in your household.

Remember, if your child/children do one or more of the suggested activities and want to share their work with the congregation, please be in touch with Ha Na Park at

[minister.iuc@gmail.com](mailto:minister.iuc@gmail.com)

and ask about the possibility of sharing some of the children's activities.

## **Sharing our Bible Story for Today**

We know today's story is important because the story of what we call Holy Week and Good Friday are found in all 4 gospels, sometimes making up at least half of the entire book! This week we have selected several scenes from this long story and we have created a kind of graphic novel or colouring book format so that kids can create their own illustrations. It is difficult for all of us, no matter our age, to understand the stories of the final week of Jesus' life. We encourage you to wonder together without expecting to find a lot of easy answers. This is a conversation that has been going on since Jesus was born 2000 years ago so we don't have to figure it all out this year!

## **Following Jesus the Servant Leader**

(find the story at the end of this document and posted on our church websites with your Sunday School at Home resources – if you don't have access to a printer, contact your church for a printed copy!)

*Excerpts taken with permission from The Family Story Bible, Ralph Milton and Wood Lake Books and from When God Was Flesh and Wild: Stories in Defense of the Earth, by Bob Haverluck (copies available from CMU Bookstore in Winnipeg)*

## **Thinking and Talking about the Story**

The story of Jesus' death is a part of the story of his life and his resurrection. Death makes us feel a lot of different feelings – maybe sad, angry, tired, confused.... what other feelings might you or other people you know feel when death happens? When we are feeling big feelings, there are many things we can do to take care of ourselves and others – what are 2 or 3 things you do that help you feel safe and loved when you are feeling big feelings?

Ask an adult you know and trust what helps them when they have big feelings.

## Putting the Story into Action

1) We would love to see your illustrations for this week's story, Following Jesus the Servant Leader.

2) PRAYING: Jesus often took time to pray. People from all faith traditions have special prayers that help them feel connected to God and to God's world. You may have received a pocket prayer from Carman United Church. We hope it will remind you that we can talk to God when we are happy or sad and when we see other people or places that are happy or sad or hurting. We can ask God to help us be servant leaders like Jesus, taking time to notice people and places that are often ignored. Did you know that pretzels were first made by people who wanted to teach children how to pray? Think of the way a pretzel crisscrosses and imagine folding your arms to pray, like a pretzel! We call that a pretzel prayer – just one more way to pray and talk to God! You might enjoy making pretzels (recipe is posted on our websites) together this week!

3) Spend time outdoors and “*Take a Sacred Pause*”. Many people find peace in the beauty of the natural world. And spring is a great time to enjoy the change of seasons and all the promises of new life right outside our door! What signs of spring and new life do you see when you are outside this week?

4) Do you have a question about the story? Send us an email and we will respond! We love questions – the harder the better! And I still haven't received any questions!

5) If you haven't already done so you might want to check out the activities and recipes posted for the previous Sunday!

*Carman United Church and St. Andrew's United Church families - to share your responses to this week's story visit Carman United Church Face Book page or email the church office Karen.mcgill@crossroadsunited.com. Visit [www.crossroadsunited.com](http://www.crossroadsunited.com) and see Sunday School At Home to view previous lessons and stuff people are sharing.*

*Immanuel United Church families –If you are willing to have your art shown before or during worship, please ask your grown-ups to take/help you take a picture of your drawings and send the picture(s) to Ha Na to be shared before or during the service on Sunday.*

## **Praying at Home**

(Before a meal – a repeat after me prayer)

Jesus,

waiting is hard

when we don't know what will happen.

This year

there have been lots of unknowns.

Keep us company

as we wait to see

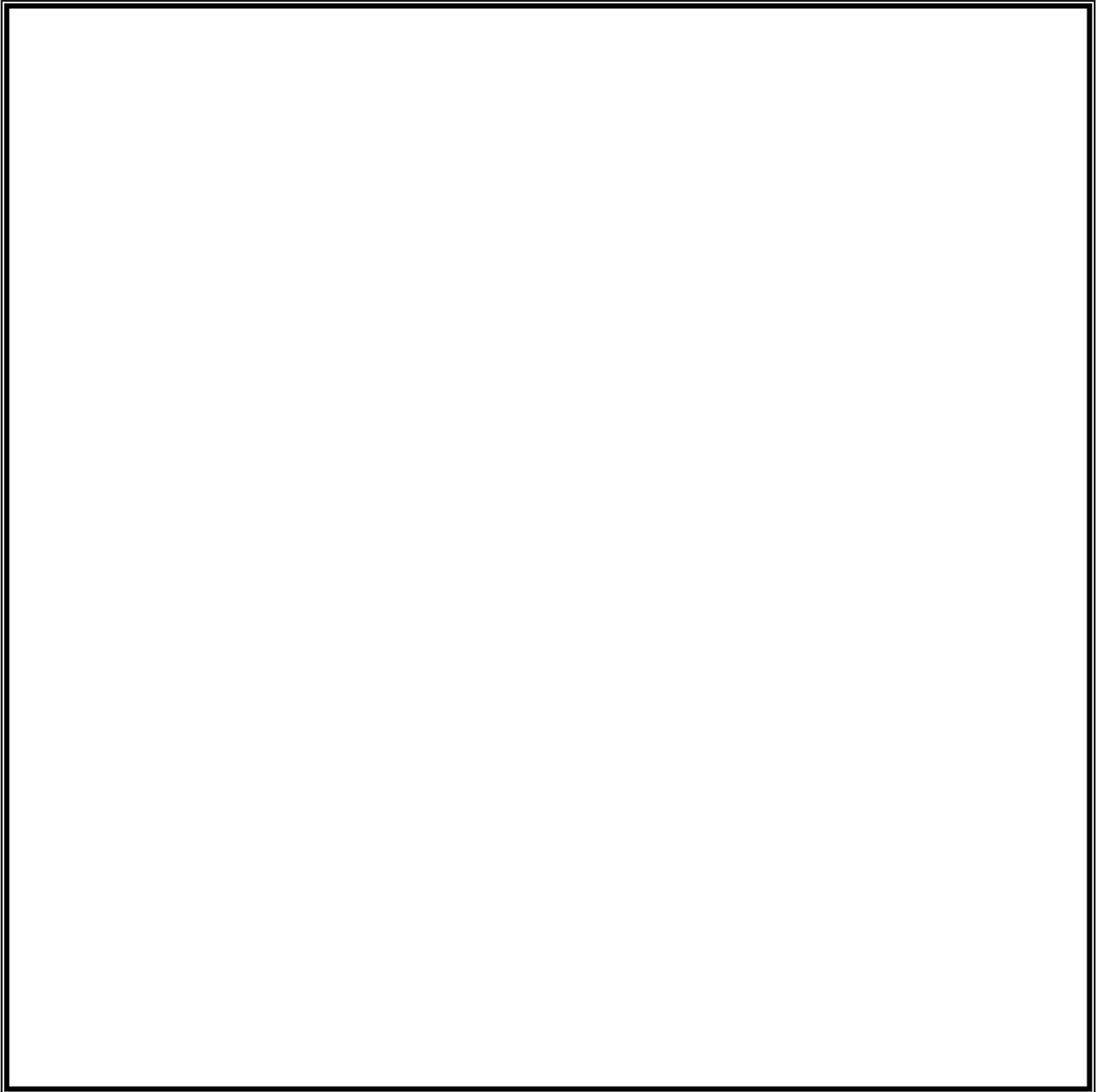
what God is doing.

Amen.

*(Selina Mullin, [jesusglueandglitter.wordpress.com](http://jesusglueandglitter.wordpress.com))*

*Sunday School at Home Resources for the season of Lent and Easter Sunday (2021)  
prepared collaboratively by Immanuel United Church in Winnipeg and Crossroads  
United Pastoral Charge (St. Andrew's United Church in Elm Creek and Carman United  
Church)*

# Following Jesus, the Servant Leader



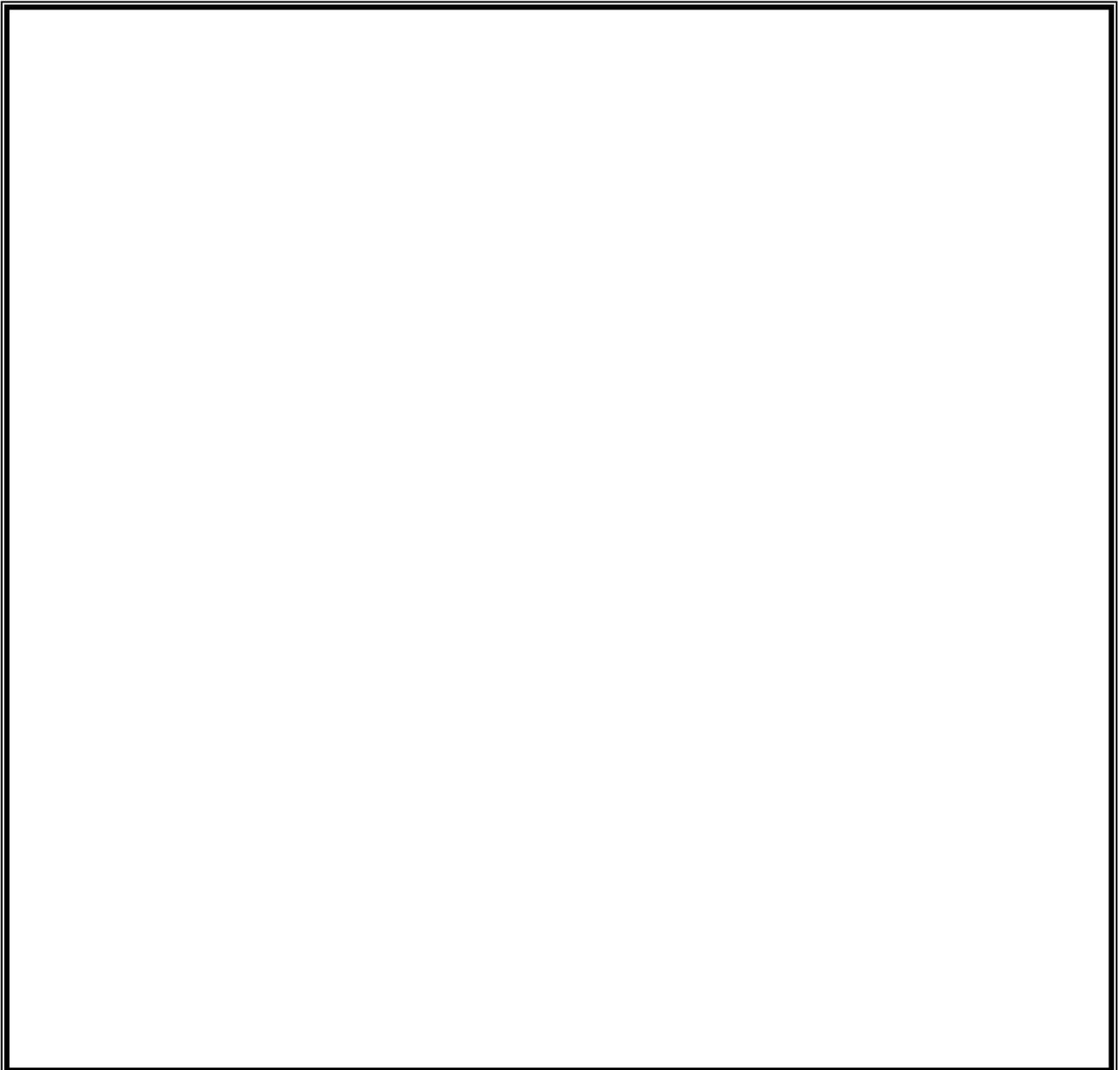
Written by followers of Jesus (over the past 2000 years)

Illustrated by YOU!

Jesus' disciples got into an argument about which one of them was most important.

"My friends, please!" said Jesus.

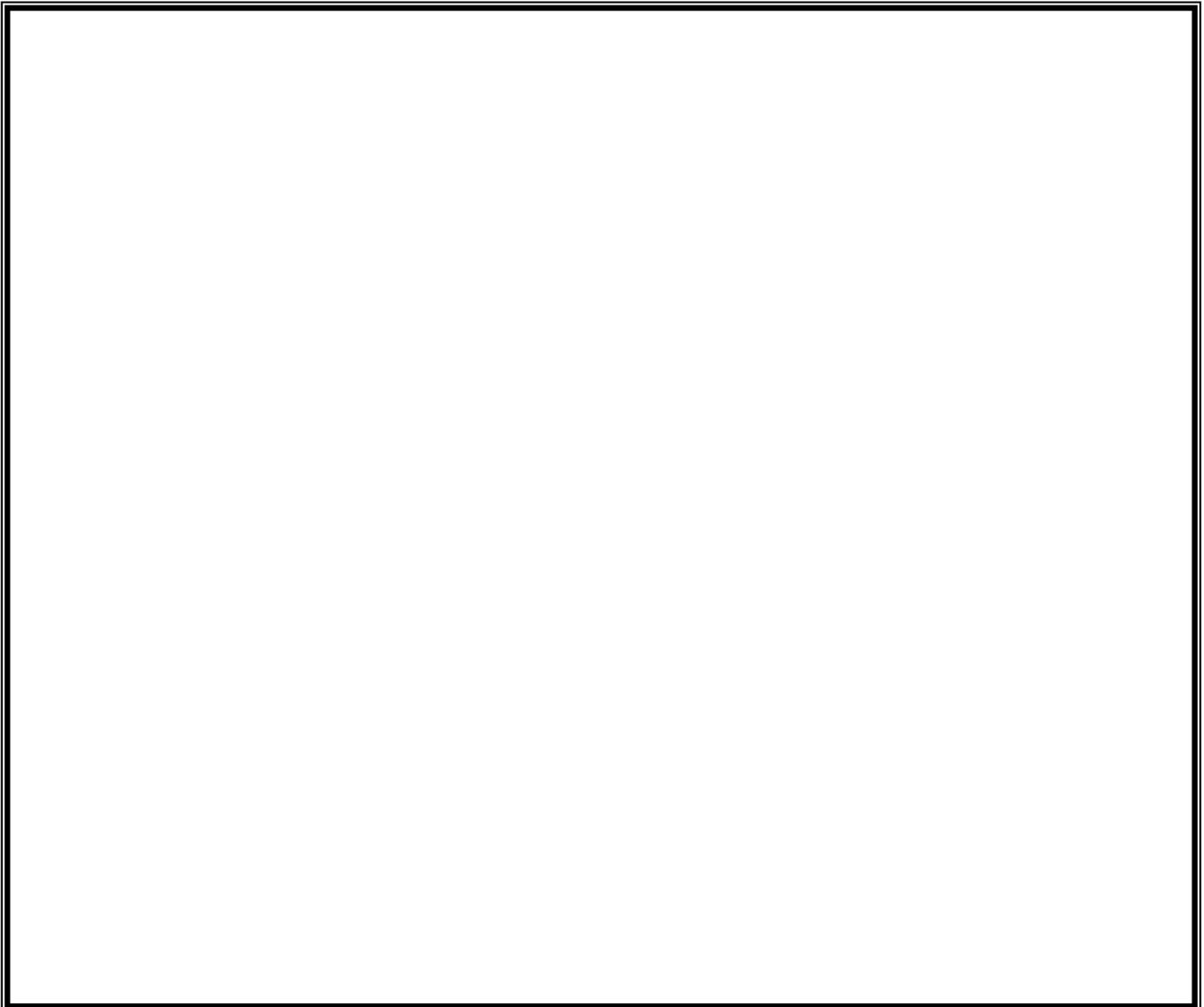
"That's the way people argue when they don't know about living in God's way. But that's not the way you should be. In God's Shalom, things are different. The one who is weakest is more important than the one who is strongest. The one who is poorest is loved more than the one who is rich.



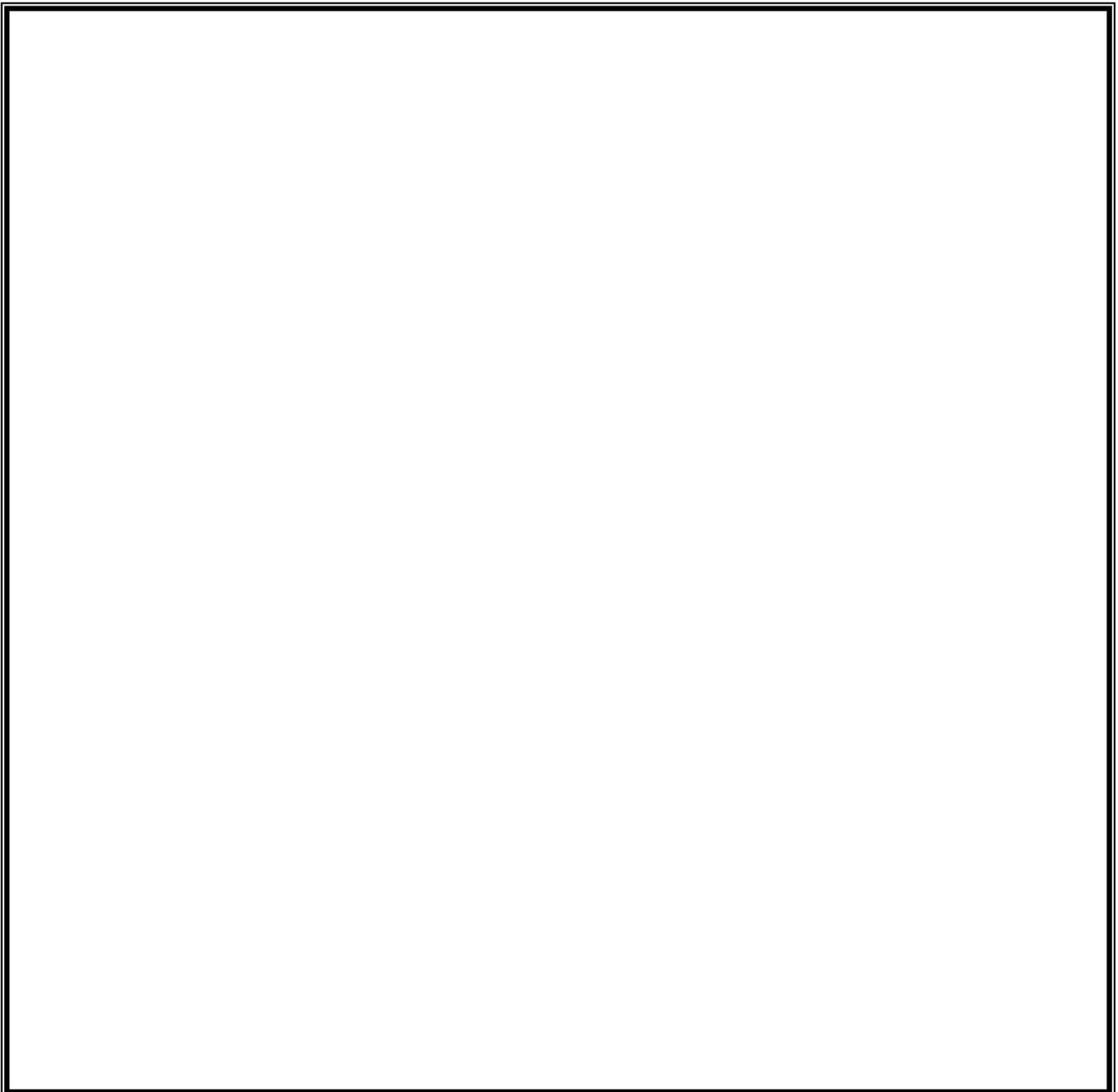
“I am your servant. I want to be your friend.”

On Tuesday morning, near the temple, as Jesus sat in a tree’s shade, he thanked it for protection from the hot sun. Soon, women were bringing their children to Jesus, hoping he would bless them. But right away, the disciples were bullying, “Buzz off, eh! This isn’t kiddies time! Hey you, take a hike! You’re bothering the Prince of Peace!”

Before they said one more word, Jesus stopped his would-be followers with a sad shake of his head and happily became a holy hill with children crawling and climbing all over him. A hill and a little tree that talked: “To these little ones, your kin, belongs the kingdom of God. And when you big ones become as children, it will belong to you.”

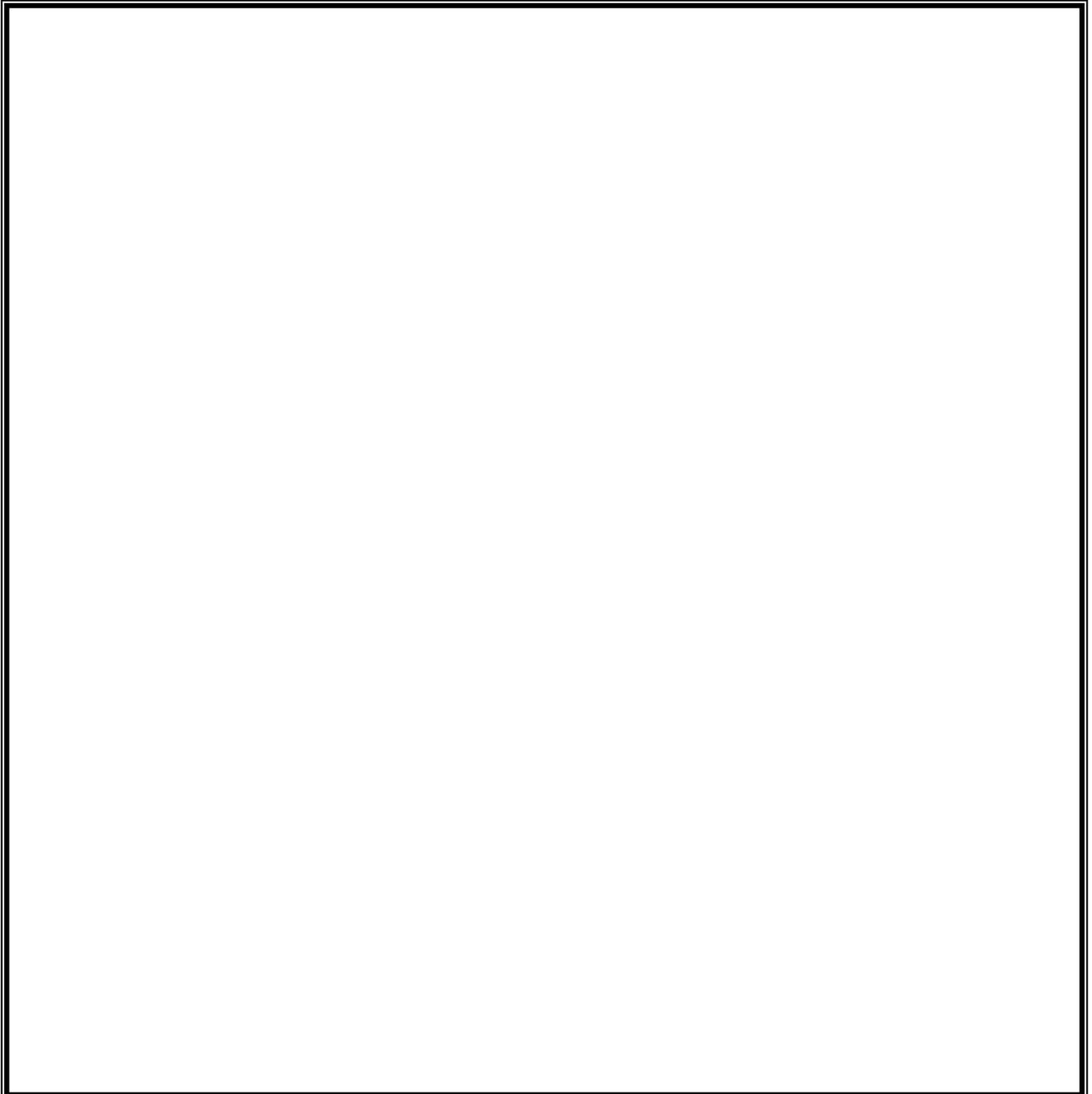


Later that day, Jesus led his followers out of the City to a little park called Gethsemane. Had you been there, sitting under an olive tree, you might have heard Jesus say, "The times we live in are troubled. You know this. But this, you don't seem to know. Because things are serious, you must start playing-around. So like children, play. Play among what is, and unhide the good that is hidden in plain sight and the good that is yet to be." As Jesus said this he stood up, bowed to the earth, and then continued the somersault. One, two, three, seven and a half world turning somersaults. Until dizzy, he lay on the earth, laughing. "Now it's your turn."



After Jesus shared bread and drink with his friends at their last supper together, he reminded them to always hold onto God's promises.

Do you remember the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah and to all the Hebrew people? It was God's covenant. God promised to love us always. To be with us forever. And God gave us a rainbow so we would remember that covenant. I am giving you God's promise again. Live in God's way. Live the way I showed you.



Jesus kept teaching the same things, right to the end of his life.

“I have come to show people how to live in God’s way. That’s why I was born. I want people to know what is true and what is good.”

Even though we call the day that Jesus died “Good Friday” it was of course a very sad day for his friends and family. None of them knew what would happen next. They didn’t know that Easter was just around the corner. Some of them stayed close to him even though they were scared. Others were so scared they had to hide themselves away. They would be very surprised by Easter!!

No matter how sad or scared or confused we feel, God is always with us. This hymn imagines the lullaby God sings to us to remind us that we are always within the reach of Jesus’ love and held by God’s promises.

*I have called you by your name, you are mine;*

*I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.*

*I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.*

*You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.*

(More Voices 161)



*Excerpts taken with permission from The Family Story Bible, Ralph Milton and Wood Lake Books and from When God Was Flesh and Wild: Stories in Defense of the Earth, by Bob Haverluck.*

*When God Was Flesh and Wild: Stories in Defense of the Earth can be purchased at*

CommonWord **Bookstore** and Resource Centre. 2299 **Grant Ave. Winnipeg** MB R3P 2N2 Tel: 204.487.3300 / Toll-free: 1.877.231.4570. Fax: 204.487.3858