

I Don't Know How To Love...

Key Words: **Orphan**

Key Verse: "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." *John 14:18*

"I love chocolate," said Paul. Matthew said, "I love bubble gum." Carolyn added, "I love — whatever group is number one!" All the children looked at Sam, but he shook his head. "I don't love anyone or anything." Carolyn said, "You must love your mom and dad. Everyone loves their parents." "Huh!" exclaimed Sam. "I don't have a dad, and Mom's got a boyfriend, but I hate him. I hate her because she doesn't love me anymore, she only loves him."

Nobody knew what to say. They knew Sam was right. He was becoming a loner; he felt safer that way. "Anyway," continued Sam, "I don't know what love feels like, but I know you can't love chocolate or bubble gum or rock stars. You can like them a lot, but you can't really love them."

"Well, I know what love feels like," exclaimed Carolyn. "Maybe I don't actually love rock stars, maybe I just adore them and listen to them all the time. Maybe that's not real love, but it's like love." "No, it isn't," argued Paul. "I love my parents and my little sister, but I don't want to be with them all the time. I certainly don't want to listen to them over and over! But I'd be really sad if they weren't around. I rely on them. Perhaps that's love."

"You don't need love," declared Sam. "Nobody loves me and I'm never going to love anyone ever again. Love's awful. I used to love my mom, and I just got hurt. If you don't love anyone, you don't get hurt." They all heard what Sam said, but it didn't feel right. Deep down inside they felt really sorry for Sam. They knew he was missing out on something important.

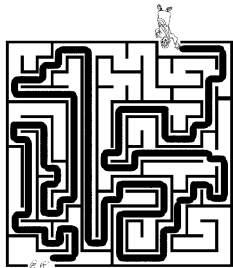
"I know who I really love," Carolyn announced. "I love God. It's easy to love God because he somehow lives inside each of us and loves us all more than anything in the whole world. You don't have to think about him all the time, he's just always there when you need him, but never interfering. You could love God, Sam. God would never let you down, and he'd always be there if you felt hurt. God is great."

Sam stared at her and for the first time there was hope in his eyes. Then he shrugged. "Come on," he said, and the children jumped to their feet and ran outside.

Questions

Why was Sam afraid to love?

Do you think Jesus' disciples felt he was leaving them alone?



Maze

Letter Tile Puzzle
If you love me, you will
keep my commands.

ANSWERS

Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
John 14:15-21



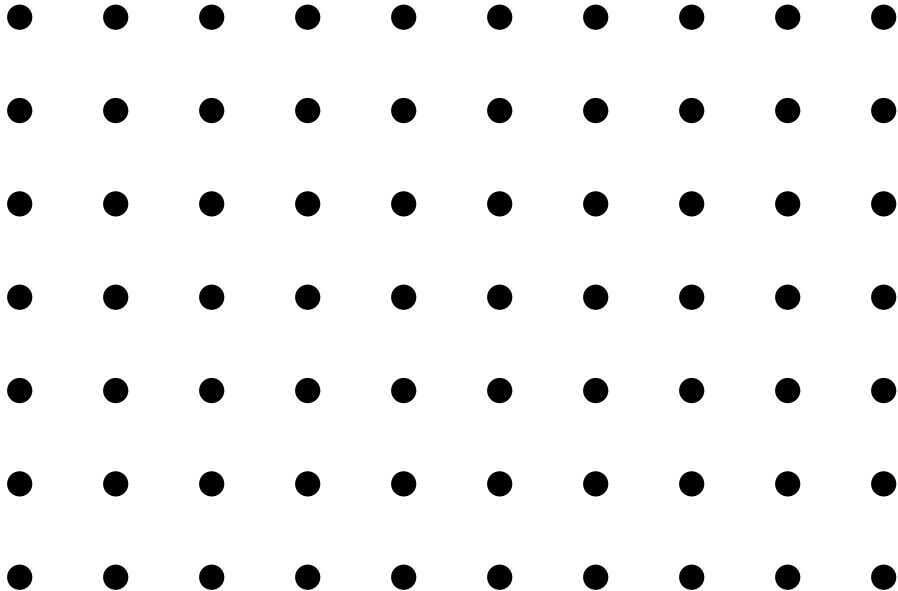
Letter Tile Puzzle

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message from today's Gospel story. Each tile has the same number of characters (letters, spaces, and punctuation). Spaces are shown as blanks on the letter tiles.

M	A	N	L	O	N	T	S	I	L	L	U	W	I	F	M	E	,	M	Y
K	E	Y	O	Y	O	U	E	P	D	M	E	V	E	C	O	M			

Square O Dots

Play this fun game with a friend. Each of you takes turns connecting two dots together. When your line completes a square, you win that square. When you win a square, either write your initial in it or color it your color. Then you get another turn! The one with the most squares wins!



Maze

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus explains that a part of God comes and lives inside of us to teach us and to take care of us. Every person who loves God will never be all alone again and will always be loved. Help Sally find Jesus so that she can learn all about how God loves her more than anything in the world by drawing a path from Sally to Jesus.

