

Getting Ready for the Story

GOD PROVIDES

*This week's story is Isaiah 55:1-9.
The theme is Provide.*

WHAT ARE SOME DOORS INTO THIS STORY?

After you read the Bible text for this week's story, try one or more of these ways to enter the story further and prepare yourself to share it with kids.

Fasting

Spend a day not snacking as a way of contemplating this story. The key verse for the lesson is uttered by Isaiah when he speaks for God: "Everyone who is thirsty and hungry should come to me." Every time you think you want a snack, ask yourself what you are really hungry for. Chances are, you are not hungry for a candy bar or chips. When we acknowledge that what we hunger for is something much deeper, God meets us there. God meets us in our little wilderness of letting go of what pacifies us and gives us what we need to live.

Homelessness

God's people in Babylon were hungry for the familiar foods of home. What foods say "home" to you? Macaroni and cheese? Chicken and potatoes? Sushi? Falafel? Tortillas and beans? Cook one of your favorite meals for yourself and your kids—at home! Or find out how you can volunteer to cook at a homeless shelter in your area.

Take a Walk

Go for a walk to contemplate this story. As you get into a comfortable walking rhythm, think about how God asked the people in the story to trust that God would provide for them. As you come to each corner on your walk, think about all the decisions you make each day. Do you feel like you are trusting God? What and who helps you trust?

WHY DOES THIS STORY OR THEME MATTER TO KIDS?

Read about these ways to view the story and today's theme through a kid lens to help inspire you as you prepare for Sunday school.

Home (PreK–Grade 2)

Young children are tied to home. Their faith centers on family, security, and love. When they hear the story, they will want God's people to be able to go home. Talk to this age group about our church home, and how God brings us to a place where many people eat together and pray together. Making a connection between what we do at home and church can set a great foundation of trust for little ones.

God's Way (Grades 3–6)

Upper elementary kids are learning to think more abstractly and will grasp that trusting in God to provide is not as easy as it sounds. Sometimes God calls for great sacrifice on our part. God may ask us to share what we have and be satisfied with less. God will ask us to bravely live in ways that others may not understand. Upper elementary kids need mentors in the faith to show them how it's possible to trust in God's ways.

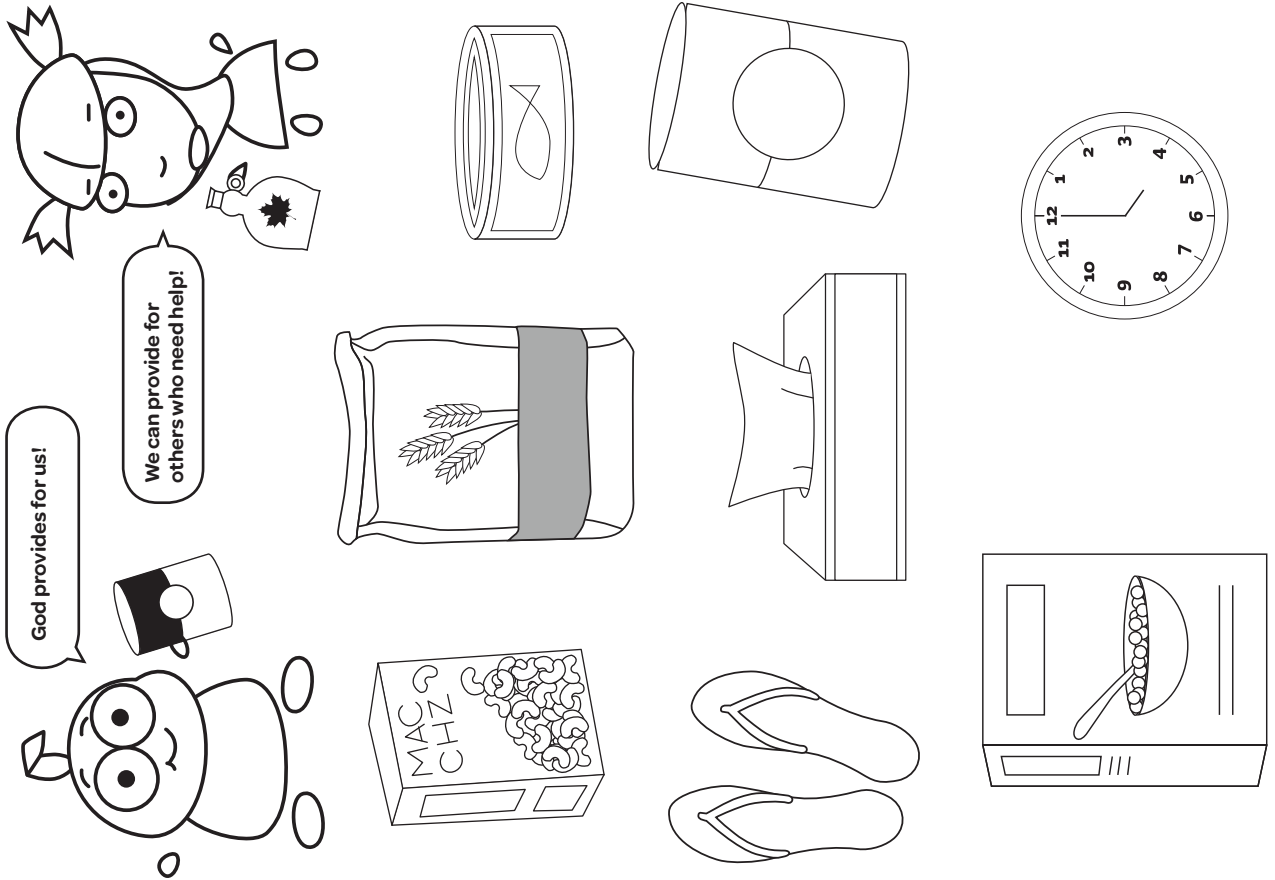
Sharing Our Food (All Kids)

How might kids get involved in feeding hungry people? Kids of all ages understand feeling hungry themselves. They experience compassion for kids who don't have enough to eat. With your help, all kids can combine their commitment to fixing a problem with making a plan to help those who are hungry.

PRAYER

God is big, and God provides for us. God is big enough to remember what we want, what we need, and who we are—even when we forget. Trust God's big promises with your big prayers. Pray for refugees who long to go home and for their new neighbors and friends in countries where they are finding new homes.

Circle things you can donate to a food shelf.



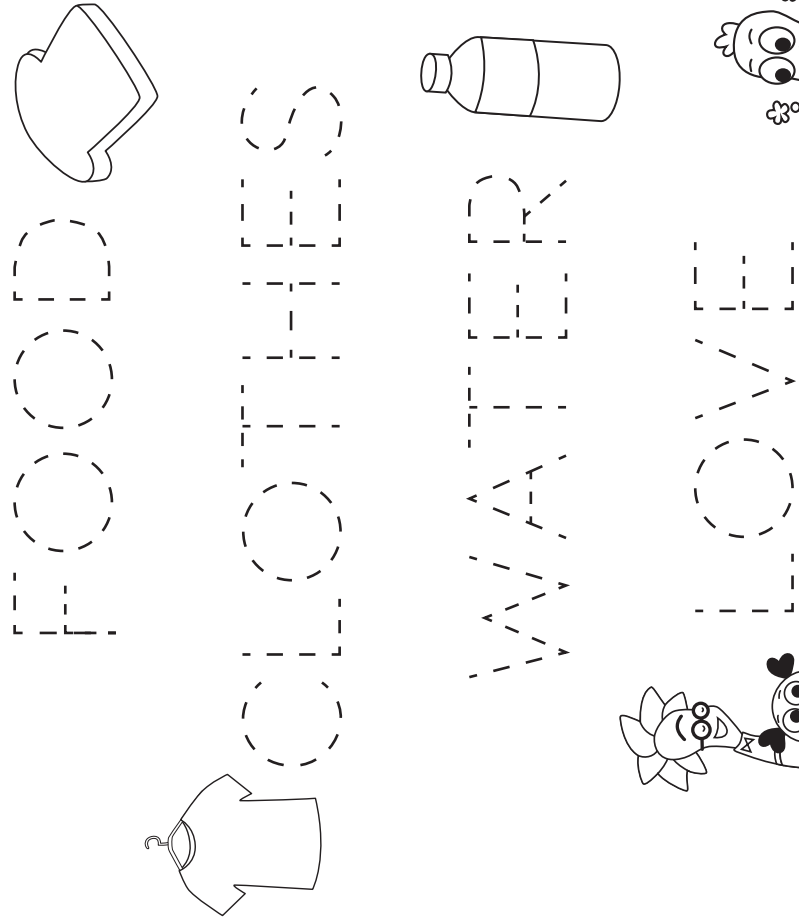
God Provides

TODAY'S THEME IS PROVIDE.



To PROVIDE means to give and support.

Trace these words of what people may provide to you.



What can you provide others?

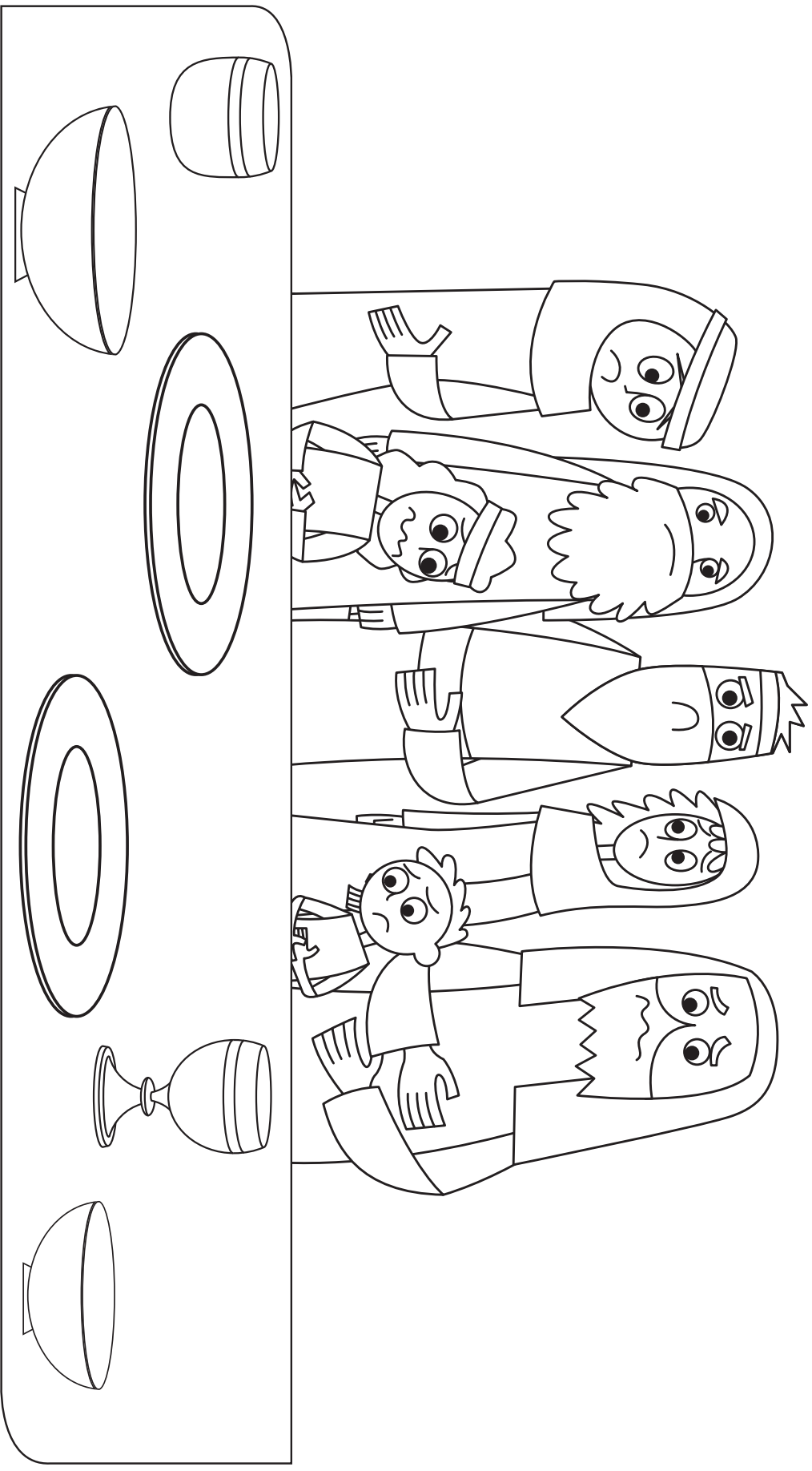
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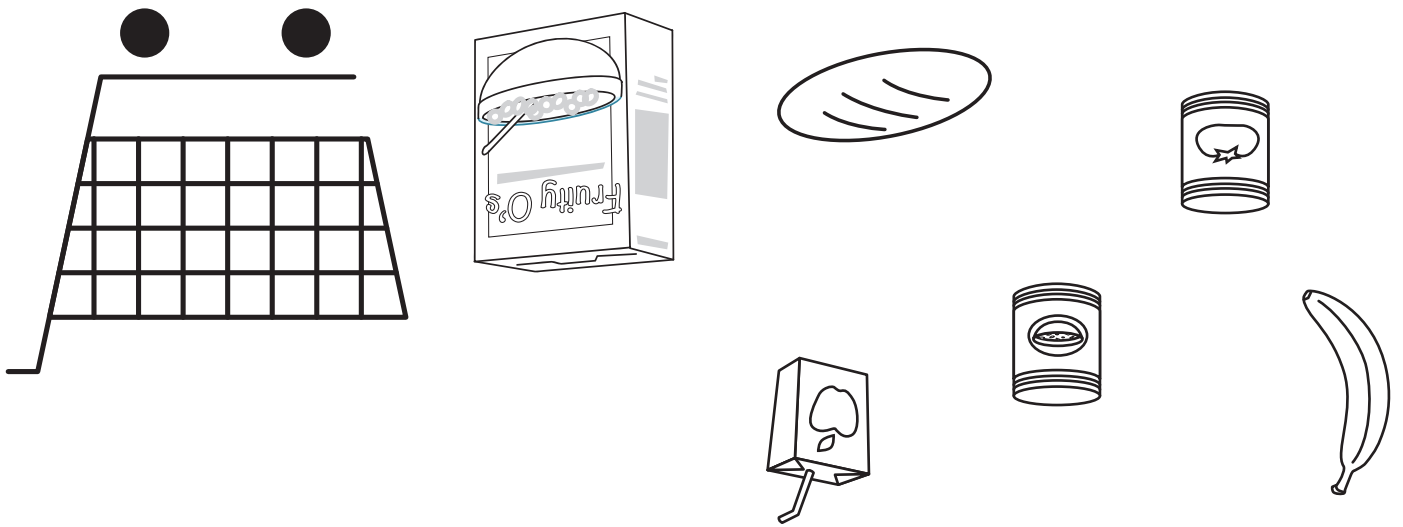
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Isaiah stood up and called out God's words: "Everyone who is thirsty and hungry should come to me! I will give you water. I will give you food!"

These people are hungry. Draw some of your favorite foods to give to them.



Today our church family prays for ...



What can you provide for them? Draw a line from the food to the cart if you think it can be donated to the food pantry!

Does your church help a local food pantry?



TODAY'S THEME IS PROVIDE.

God Provides

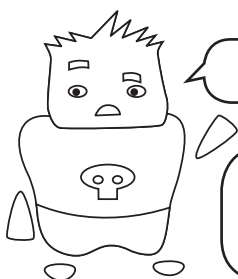


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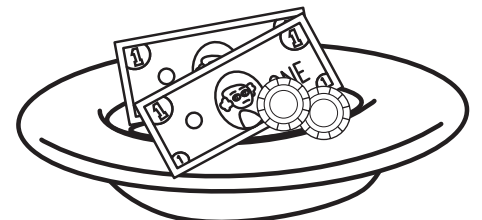
The offering is one way we give back to God.

Look through the announcements in today's worship bulletin. Write down the ways God uses your church to provide for other people.

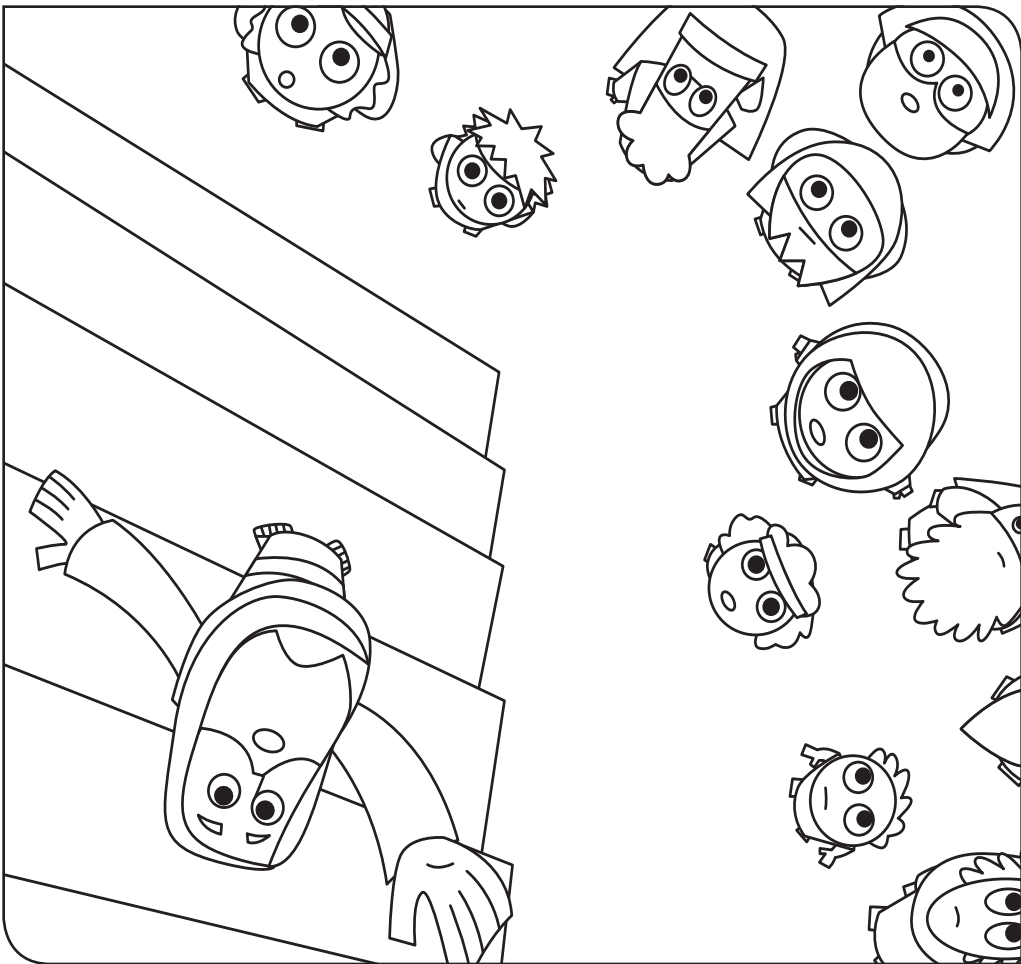


People just give money to the church?

People are offering their money to God, Burt. God works through the church so we can do things to help other people.



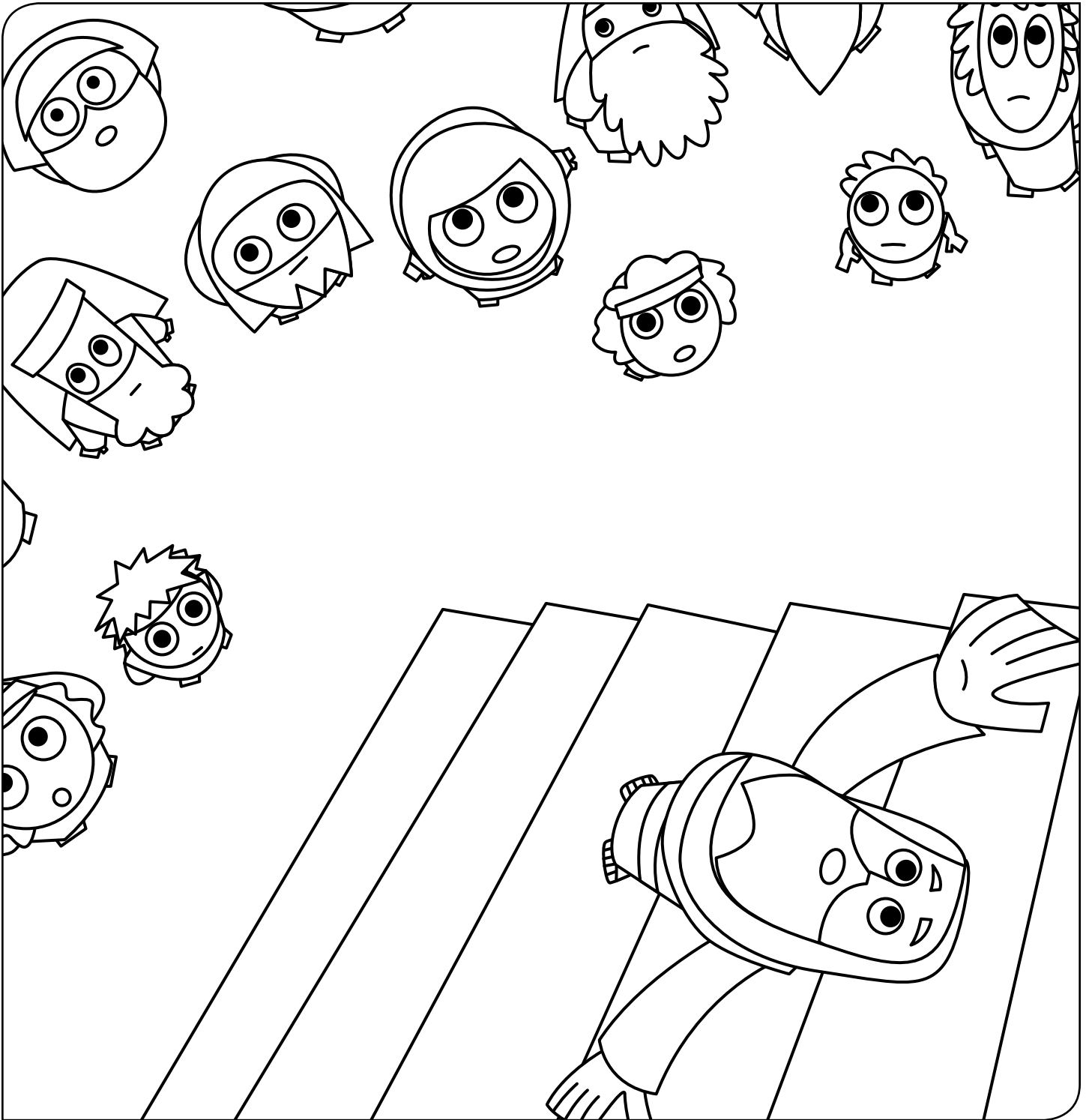
"Follow ME. My ways are the BEST! Do you see how the sky is much HIGHER than the Earth?" All God's people looked UP. "That's how much BIGGER and BETTER my ways are than yours."



Draw a picture of what you think the people saw when they looked up.

Today our church family prays for ...

God Provides



God promised to give the Israelites all they needed. How does God provide for you?