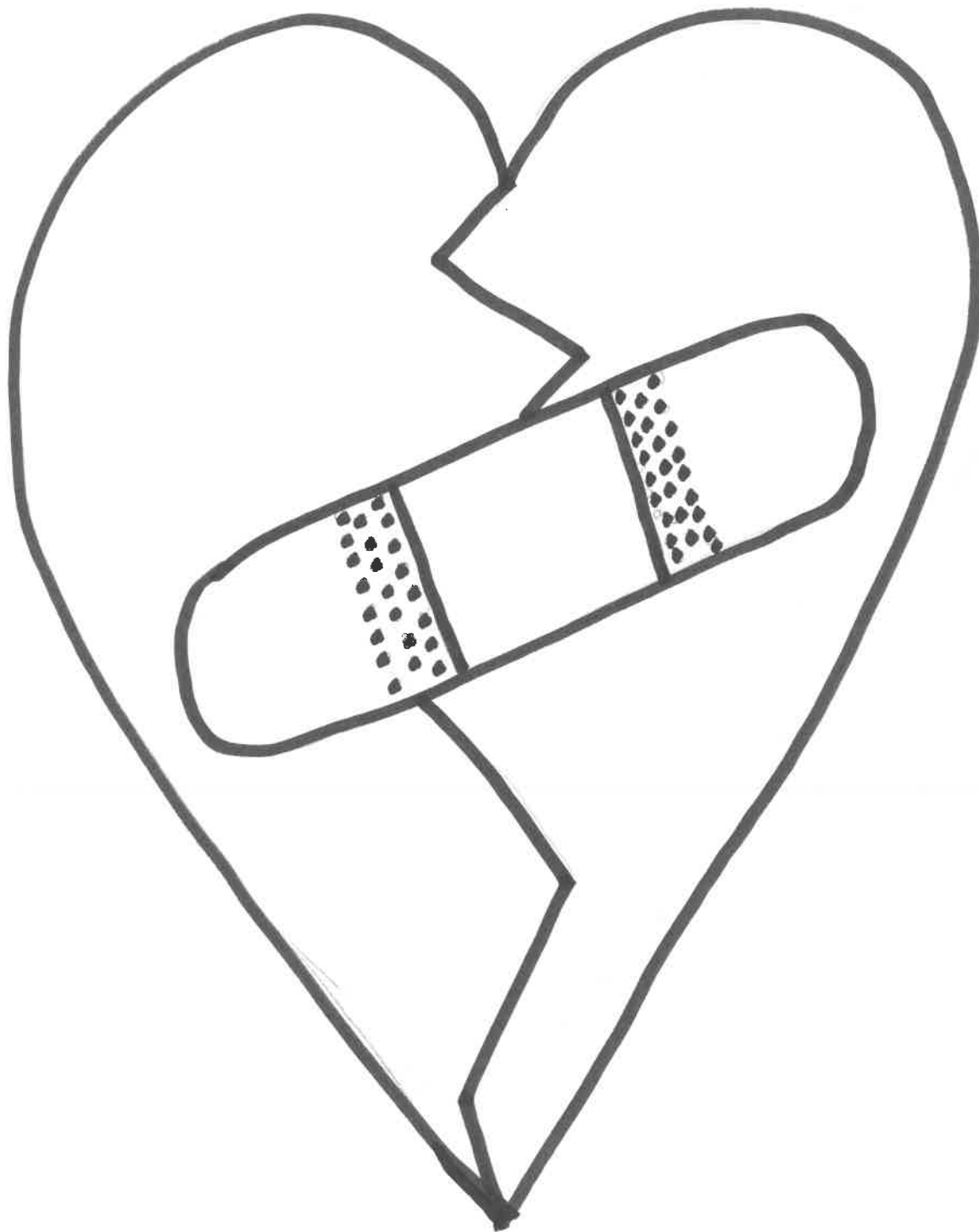


WHY
CHURCH?

COLORING
BOOK

WHY CHURCH?



BECAUSE CHURCH IS RESTORATION

WHY CHURCH? BECAUSE CHURCH IS RESTORATION.

Read Mark 1:25-41.

Here you will find three different stories about Jesus healing people who are sick or hurting.

When you are sick or hurting, what do you need? A band-aid perhaps?

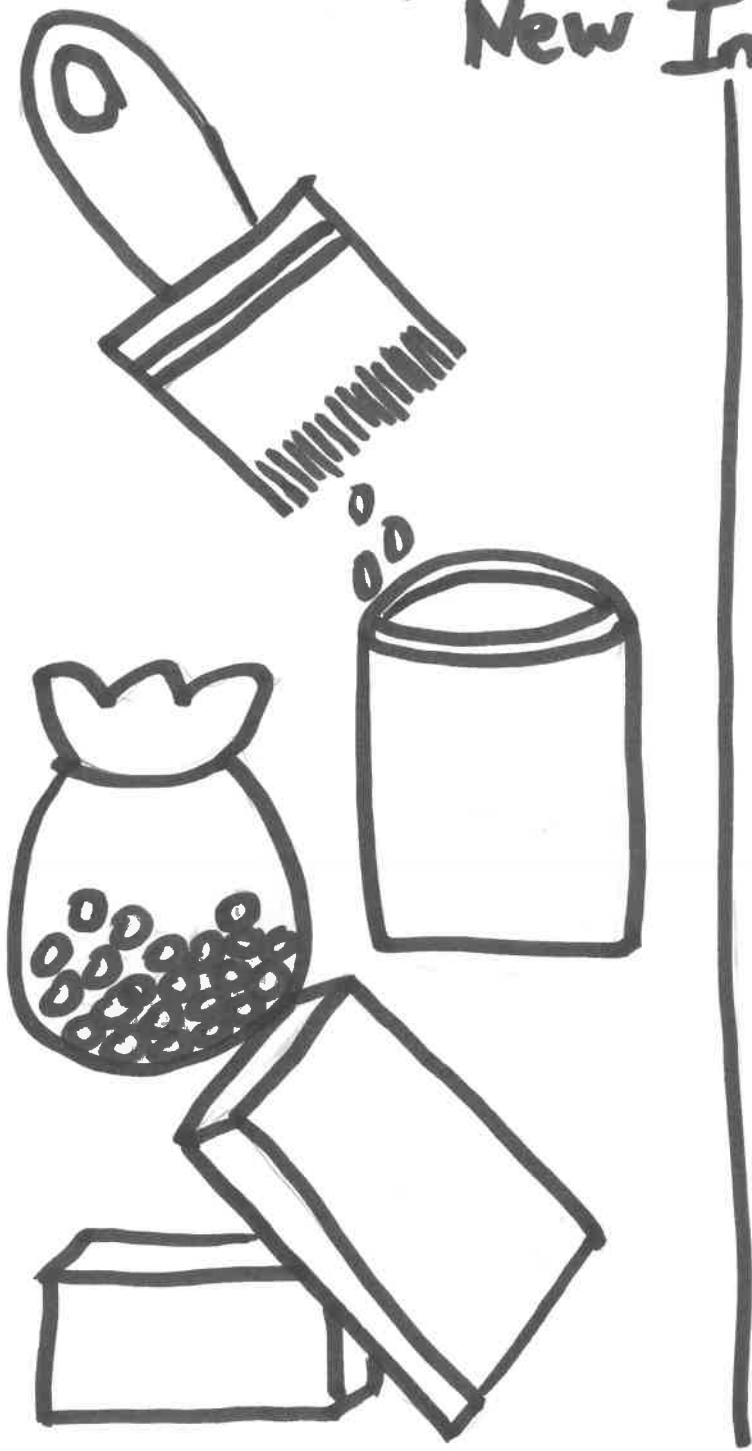
Who do you search for to help you feel better? Is it a doctor? A nurse? A parent or other special person at church?

When your heart is sick or hurting, you can always find Jesus to heal you too.

Pray: Dear Jesus, whenever I am sad or not feeling well, thank you for healing my heart and giving me others to help me through the pain. Amen.

WHY CHURCH?

Using These Toys, Create a
New Invention!



BECAUSE CHURCH

ENCOURAGES REIMAGINATION

WHY CHURCH?

BECAUSE CHURCH ENCOURAGES REIMAGINATION.

Read Mark 2:1-22.

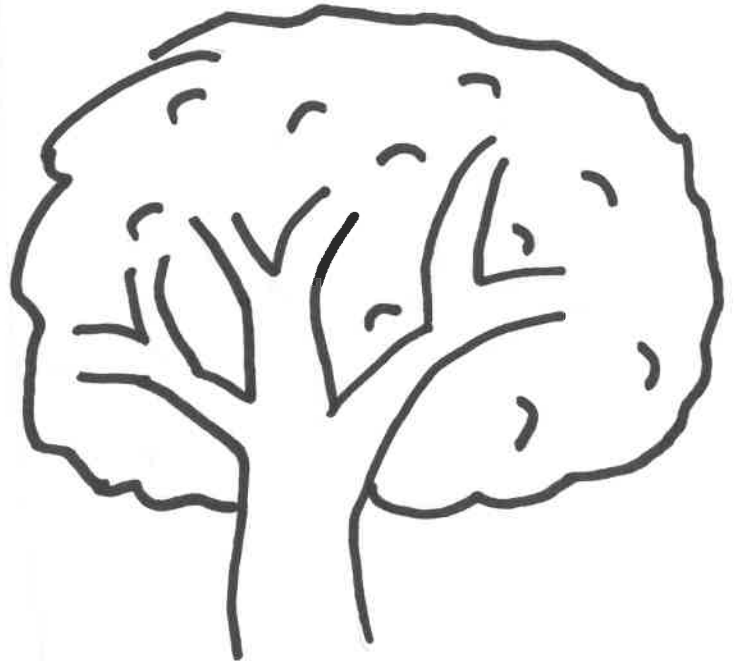
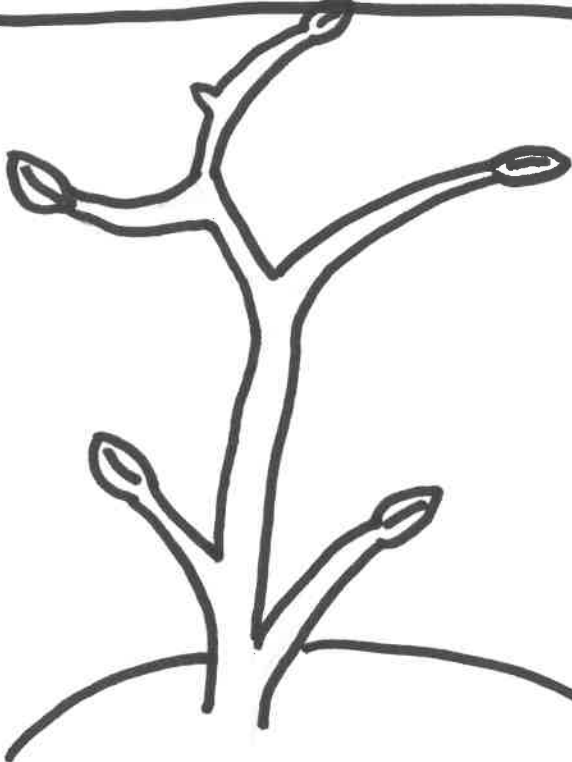
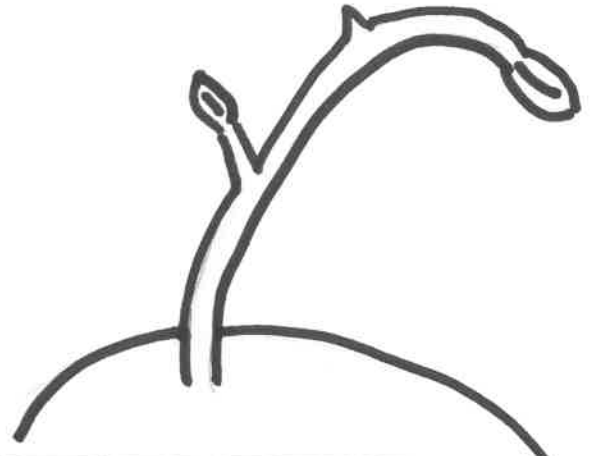
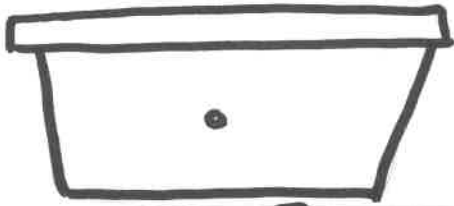
Jesus is becoming so well known for healing people, that many people crowd him wanting to get close. A man who is unable to walk can't get close enough to see Jesus, so his friends get really creative! They cut a hole through the roof where Jesus was teaching and lower the man right next to him! A little imagination helped the man get well!

Next, Jesus helped the people reimagine what the church looks like. It's not a place for only the best behaved people to go. It's for everyone! Just as Jesus ate with tax collectors, whom the other people did not like at all, so we are called to reimagine what church should be today.

Here's a drawing to encourage your imagination. Try reimagining how a paint brush and paint can, a bag of marbles and wood blocks could be used to create a whole new toy!

Pray: Dear Jesus, Just as you helped the people of Israel back then imagine a different way of being church, help us see church in a new way too. Amen.

WHY CHURCH?



BECAUSE CHURCH IS A RE-CREATION OF
BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

WHY CHURCH? BECAUSE CHURCH IS A RE-CREATION OF BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITIES!

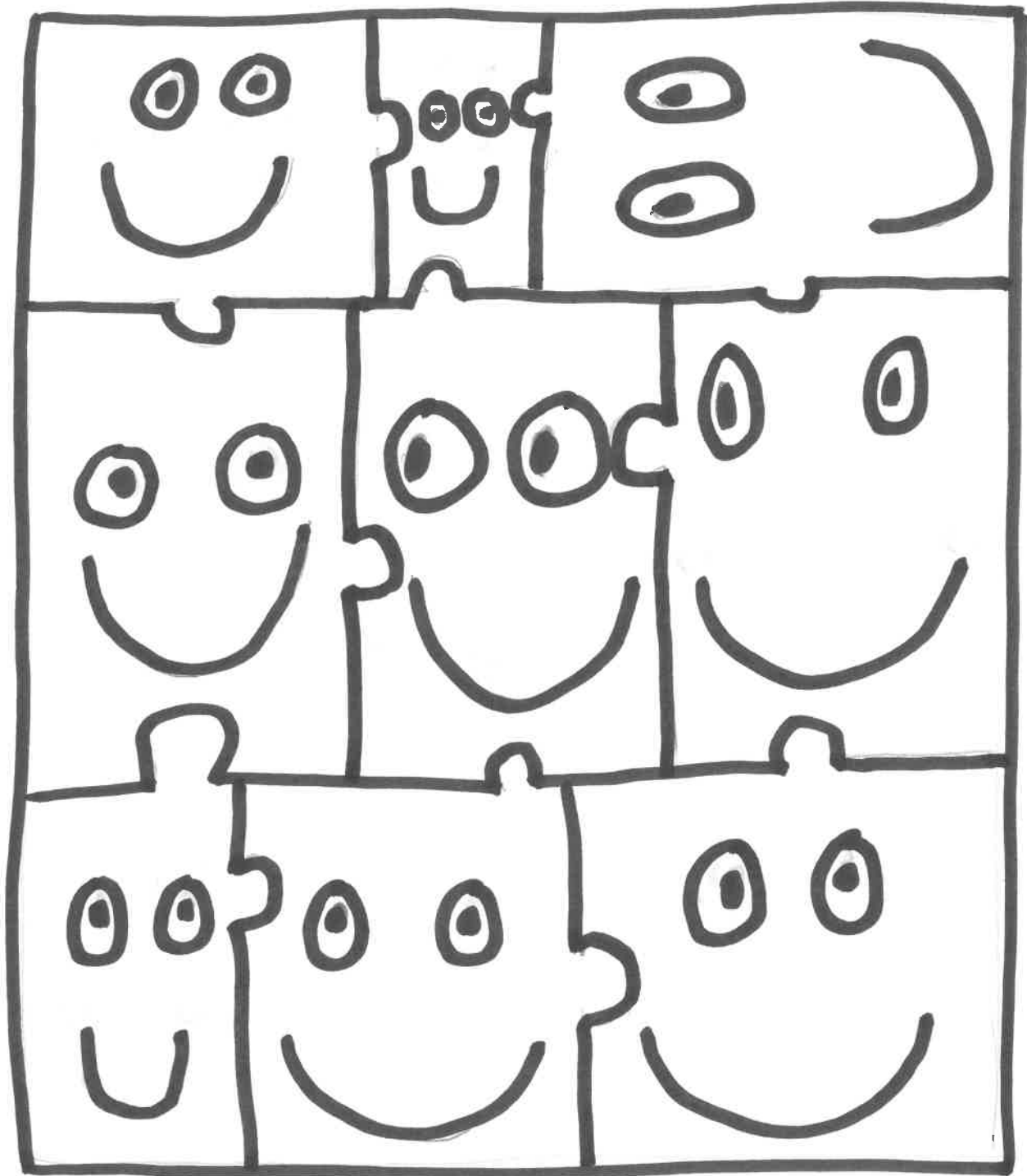
Read Mark 4:1-34.

In these stories, called parables, Jesus is teaching the people about what the kingdom of God is like. The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. A tiny seed that grows and grows into the largest of trees where birds can build their nests! If God can do that with a tiny seed, imagine how God can use even the smallest of churches and create so many ways for the kingdom of God to work in the world!

In what ways can you see your church work in the world for God and for God's creation?

Pray: Creator God, Thank you for giving us the church to help us see so many ways for your kingdom to work for good in our world today. Help us re-create these opportunities to grow and care for one another. In Jesus name, amen.

WHY CHURCH?



BECAUSE CHURCH IS ALL ABOUT
RECONNECTION

WHY CHURCH?

BECAUSE CHURCH IS ALL ABOUT RECONNECTION.

Read Mark 5:1-20.

Sometimes people have terrible things happen to them that drive them away from their communities. In this story, a man has been plagued by terrible demons in his mind that force him to do and say terrible things. Jesus drives the demons away and heals the man. No longer does the man have to be alone. He is reconnected with his community and with God. That's what the church is all about: reconnecting people with God, with one another and with all of God's creation. We're all pieces of a puzzle connected by Jesus.

How does your church help reconnect people with each other?
With God? With God's creation?

Pray: Dear Jesus, Thank you for church. Thank you for all the ways you bring us together like pieces of one big puzzle of your creation. Amen.

WHY CHURCH?



BECAUSE CHURCH TELLS AND
LIVES THE RESURRECTION STORY

WHY CHURCH?

BECAUSE CHURCH TELLS AND LIVES THE RESURRECTION STORY.

Read Mark 5:21-43

To resurrect something is to make it alive and whole again. The greatest story of resurrection is the one Jesus went through himself when he died on the cross and three days later rose from the dead to live again. Before this, though, Jesus resurrected two different people into new life. One, a woman who had been bleeding badly for many years and another, a girl who had died. Through words and images and ways of caring for one another, we tell and live the resurrection story of Jesus and how all of God's people are made alive again because of Jesus.

What pictures do you see of resurrection at your church?

Pray: Jesus our Savior, because of your own resurrection story, we too are made alive forevermore. Thank you for all the ways our churches tell and live out this amazing story of death into life! Amen.

WHY CHURCH?



BECAUSE OUR CALLINGS RECEIVE
REORIENTATION

WHY CHURCH?

BECAUSE OUR CALLINGS RECEIVE REORIENTATION.

Read Mark 6:1-29.

It is not an easy thing to follow Jesus. Jesus wasn't welcome to preach and heal people in his hometown. John the Baptist, who was born to preach the good news about Jesus, died a terrible death for doing what he was called to do. Our churches help us come together and get reoriented when our calls to serve Jesus and our neighbor get really hard. When times are really hard and we lose our way, the church helps us and our callings get pointed back in the right direction – just like a compass.

What are some of the ways coming to church help us get reoriented or pointed back in the right direction toward Jesus?

Pray: Help us, Jesus, when serving you and loving our neighbor and world is so hard. Thank you for all the ways your church helps us when we are off track and have heavy loads to bear.
Amen.

WHY CHURCH?



BECAUSE THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IS
THE REDEMPTION OF OUR HEARTS

WHY CHURCH?

BECAUSE THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IS
THE REDEMPTION OF OUR HEARTS

Read Mark 7: 1-23

God's people in Israel were given hundreds of laws to follow. Some of them had to do with keeping themselves clean and pure in matters like eating. But Jesus challenged those laws. In the kingdom of God, Jesus said it matters more how people love one another from the heart than from following the purity laws. That's what the kingdom of God really looks like.

The church's work is to warm our hearts to be more loving towards God and towards each other. One way to do that is to give warm soup to comfort hungry people. How else does your church help you be more loving like God wants us to be?

Pray: Loving God, we look to you for help in creating clean and loving hearts within us. Thank you for all the ways you love us.
Amen.

WHY CHURCH?



BECAUSE CHURCH
PROCLAIMS JESUS' REVELATION

WHY CHURCH?

BECAUSE CHURCH PROCLAIMS JESUS' REVELATION

Read Mark 8:27 – 9:8.

Jesus' followers, Peter, James and John discover who Jesus really is: God's beloved son, the Messiah. Once revealed to them, it was now their job to listen to him, take up his cross, and tell the good news. Telling the good news of Jesus didn't stop with Peter, James and John. The story of Jesus and the good news proclaimed every week at church. Church points us to the cross of Jesus, through which we have new life.

How does church point us to Jesus and proclaim who Jesus really is? In what ways does the church tell the story?

Pray: Jesus, you are the Messiah. The savior of the world!
Thank you for our church that helps us see who you are and helps us share your story with the world. Amen.

WHY CHURCH?
COLORING BOOK WITH DEVOTIONS

ART WORK:
BROOKE HOWELL,
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH,
LAKEVILLE

DEVOTIONS AND LAYOUT:
SHARI HOWELL, INTERN PASTOR,
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ST PAUL