

# BYZI KIDS

ByziKids  
April 2020



LET'S COLOR  
TOGETHER!

PG.7

Let's sing  
about LOVE!



PG.8



PG.16

YOU ARE  
INVITED!

Bonus puzzle  
All are welcome!



PG.6

#autism?

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## HELLO BYZIPARENTS! CHRIST IS RISEN!

John 9:2-4 Rabbi, "his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him."

We might also ask, "Why was my friend born deaf?"

Or "why did my neighbor become sick with cancer?"

Or "why was my brother born with a heart-defect?"

My own little brother was born with a heart defect. He lived for 10 years and then passed into eternal life when I was 12. I remember having to be quiet and good during the times when my mom needed to focus just on him. I remember not being allowed to have chocolate in our home because it could have sent him into a fatal heart rhythm...I didn't like that. I remember having to stand up to the bullies on the bus who teased him because of his scars and the way he walked...he had to be taught to walk again after atrophy set in while he was recuperating from his last surgery at 7 years old.

I remember the day I went to visit him after that surgery. I had not seen him in six months, and he was so thin and so pale that I gasped. Then he smiled happily and said, "Hey! Want to play with my new truck?" So I climbed onto his hospital bed, and we played. He didn't tell me about the fact that he couldn't walk anymore or about the failed attempts to place an IV earlier in the day. He didn't mention the fact that he had coded three times since the last time I saw him. I found out about all those events years later. He just wanted to play with me. He was the bravest person I ever knew.

So what would have happened if I had not known him? What if I had no one to learn to be quiet for? What if there was no one for whom I had to fast? What if there was no one to model such bravery and downright cheerfulness for me? Would I have ever been able to learn how to set myself aside for the sake of another?

Christ did that. My brother did that. Every soul who inhabits a broken body does that for us so that we can learn how to become more like Jesus.

It was not sinfulness that caused my brother to be born as he was, or to have died as he did. It was so the power of God could be seen in him...by me.

Praise God in all things!

-Written by Lynne Wardach



## HARD TO LOVE

### **Exodus 4:11**

**The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"**

Imagine that you just ran a long distance, and as you stop to take a break, you want nothing more than to take a deep drink of the water bottle you are lugging around. This thirst you have is intense, and the water you are about to drink is the only thought in your brain, which screams, "WATER, WATER, WATER!" Then, just as you put the bottle up to your lips, you see someone staring at you lying on the ground, drenched with sweat and blood, calling out weakly, "Water, water" There is a moment wherein your heart you say, "But...I AM thirsty." This moment quickly passes though, because you see that this person NEEDS the water you have, you immediately rush over and give them your water.

This story depicts a true act of LOVE. This kind of love is agape, the highest form of love; it is a love that requires sacrifice, a love that can require discomfort. When Christ died for us on the Cross, this was agape. He was not comfortable in His death. It was a real sacrifice. These examples of agape are extreme, but what if I told you that Christ allows us to try and be like Him all the time?

It is easy to love the people who always fill us up and make us happy, the sort of people we go out of our way to see. These people might be the ones that are always there for you, even when they ask for something giving to them is a breeze. There are also those people who we encounter they may even be strangers, that drain us, we feel like they are work to be around, we might even avoid them. These people might also require accommodations to assist them in everyday life. Maybe they can't talk, hear, see, or walk. It is easy to love a friend who can run with us, a friend who can laugh with us, a friend who always sees things the way we do. It is easy to love a friend that we never need to compromise for, but this is not agape, and while this sort of love is essential, it does not impact us to the same degree.

### **LUKE 18: 35-41**

**As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"**

You see, it is easy to love people who don't need anything, and it is incredible to have those people in our life who are easy, but Christ doesn't just indulge us with Grace. Christ also asks us to give out the Grace He gives us. You should go to Liturgy so that you can be filled up with this Grace and go out into the world and give it to the people He asks for your help to reach. The Grace Christ gives you is like the water you wanted to keep after the run, satan whispers, "But...what about me?", and it's your job no matter how great the need is to pour out HIS Grace. Christ shows us how to behave. We see Christ model the proper behavior for the people in Luke 18 above. When the people tell the blind man to be quiet, Jesus instead asks the man what he needs. In fact, Jesus consistently sets an example to love those who society has cast aside. God asks you to pour the Grace out, knowing that you also need it; however, He always provides what we need, and His Grace is a neverending spring.

### **2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10**

**...or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

- Written by Lillian Baron

# CAUGHT YOU LISTENING

## WITH MRS. SYLVIA DORHAM



April 5

GOSPEL: JOHN 12: 1-18

There are many characters in today's Gospel. Match each person to what they did.

Jesus	Anointed Jesus' feet, wiped them with her hair
Lazarus	Complained about the ointment
Martha	Came to see Jesus and Lazarus
Mary	Went to Bethany and Jerusalem
Judas Iscariot	Planned to kill Lazarus
Crowd of Jews in Bethany	Made and served supper to Jesus
Chief Priests	Went to meet Jesus with palm branches
Great Crowd in Jerusalem	Was at the table with Jesus

April 12

GOSPEL: JOHN 1: 1-17

Today's Gospel tells us a lot about Jesus Christ. Choose a word to fill in the blanks.

In the beginning was the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(God Word Light)

In him was life, and the life was the \_\_\_\_\_ of men.  
(God Word Light)

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(God Word Light)

And the \_\_\_\_\_ became flesh and dwelt among us  
(God Word Light)

\_\_\_\_\_ came through Jesus Christ.  
(Joy and peace Word and light Grace and truth)

# CAUGHT YOU LISTENING

April 19

3

GOSPEL: JOHN 20: 19-31

In today's Gospel, the disciples 'feel' a lot of emotions. See if you can figure them out.

the doors being shut for \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews

The disciples were \_\_\_\_\_ when they saw the Lord

Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "\_\_\_\_\_ be with you."

"Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails... I will \_\_\_\_\_."

"My Lord and my God!" \_\_\_\_\_

WORD BANK: PEACE FEAR BELIEF GLAD NOT BELIEVE

April 26

4

GOSPEL: MARK 15:43-47; 16:1-8

Use your math skills to decode what the Angel said to the women.

A = 4 E = 9 H = 14 I = 0 N = 12 R = 5 S = 17

" \_\_\_\_\_ !"  
12+2 6+3 7+7 3+1 18-1 3+2 3-3 20-3 4+5 16-4

# CAUGHT YOU LISTENING

## Jesus Wants These People to Come to Him

BONUS PUZZLE



Jesus made everybody.

Jesus loves everyone he made.

None of us are perfect.

My arm does not work perfectly.

Her brain may be different.

He may not be able to see clearly.

Does Jesus love people whose bodies or brains are different?

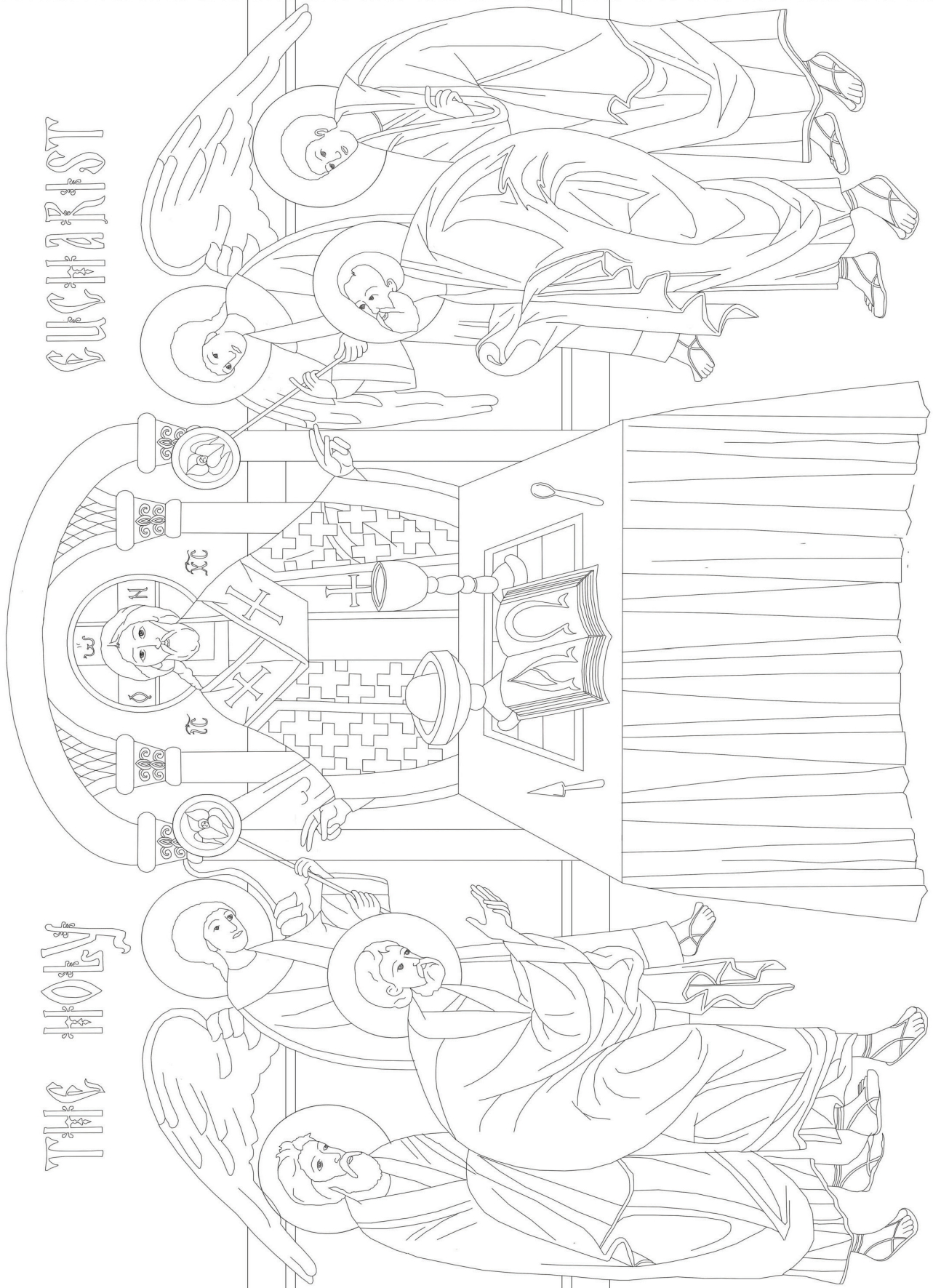
Solve this puzzle to see if Jesus says to keep some kids away from him because they're different.

Instructions:

The letters in each vertical column go into the squares directly below them, but not always in the same order they appear. An 'X' indicates the end of a word. When you put all the letters in their correct squares, you will be able to read Jesus' words from left to right.

F	O	R	M	E	D	E		L	M	M	T	L		D	C	D		L	N	O		N
L	E	O	B	I	H	T	T	H	E	E		A	N			H	O		D	R	E	
	C	T		T			O		I	T			E				I				T	

EUCCHARIST



THE HOLY

# WOULD YOU LOVE ME?

To the tune of , "If You're Happy and You Know It"

Music and Lyrics by Sylvia Dorham  
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SCAN TO HEAR



## LYRICS

If my hand didn't work  
Would you love me?

If my foot didn't work  
Would you love me?

If my mind couldn't think And my eyes  
wouldn't blink If my face was all pink,

Would you love me?  
If your hand didn't work

I would love you  
If your foot didn't work  
I would love you

If your mind didn't think  
And your eyes wouldn't blink If your  
face was all pink,  
I would love you!

God made you like you are So I love you  
You have a big scar And I love you  
You're a child of the King And the joy  
that you bring Is the reason that I sing,  
Yes, I love you!







***“If you’ve met one kid with autism, then you’ve met one kid with autism.”***

This quote is a common saying amongst people familiar with **autism**. However, I feel that this saying applies to all people, if you’ve met one person, you’ve met them. Each person is unique and has their personality and preferences. The interesting thing about **autism** is that people who have it don’t look any different than anyone else; they typically don’t have visible aids like a wheelchair or helmet. Instead, **autism** affects a person’s brain.

**Autism** is a neurological disorder that is caused by genetic differences. People who have **autism** have atypical brain function; this means that the way they experience the world is different than most people. To someone with **autism**, a noise like a church bell ringing might be physically painful or upsetting. To cope with it, they might wear earmuffs or cover their ears with their hands. Not only are sensory experiences different, but routines can also be critical.

For example, someone with **autism** might get used to the colors decorating the church being red for the season. As we know, liturgical colors change from season to season, so if the colors in the church change to green without warning, this might be overwhelming to someone with **autism** and cause them to be upset.

These examples might seem silly, but this is the reality that many people with **autism** must face because they don’t experience the world the same way as most people,

those with **autism** are the ones who are expected to change. To “fit in” with the rest of us, people with **autism** must work hard to cope with a world that, at times, can cause them pain and confusion. They are made to replace actions that are seen as “weird” or “rude” with alternative behaviors. Some people with **autism** do something that is called stimming, sometimes this looks like hand flapping, rocking back and forth, or other repetitive motions. Seeing someone doing this can be scary and make you worried about them, people with **autism** are sometimes taught to rub something small in their pockets or play with a “fidget” toy to disguise this behavior. Sometimes, they can’t hide it and are too overwhelmed. When someone with **ASD** is overwhelmed, this is called a meltdown. Some might view this as a tantrum or bad behavior, but imagine living in a world where something like a tag in your clothing is not only irritating but physically painful; this is what it can be like to have **autism**.

You might already know someone with **autism**, or perhaps you are someone who has **ASD (autism spectrum disorder)**. The next time you see someone acting strangely, try not to judge them. Remember, they might not experience the world the same way as you. God made them different, and that’s a good thing because not only do people with **autism** see the world differently; just like you, they can change it.

*- Written by Lillian Baron*



## Silent Mary

All people communicate!

We can use body posture, gesture, tone of voice, facial expressions, communication boards, music, art, writing, sign language, sounds, and words as ways to communicate. Our brains use patterns and chemicals, as well as perceptions and language, to figure out what's going on in our bodies and what's going on out in the world. People with autism have a difference in their neurological system that changes how they receive, process, and send out the body's communication.

People who have autism tend to be exceptional at noticing visual details and processing these with great speed which makes mathematics (another language) a strong point. These individuals also tend to have the ability to remember many things that may have happened a long time ago. Those with autism can have stronger visual processing and a remarkable ability to focus on things that interest them, giving them a great depth of knowledge on a topic. Those are fantastic skills! God tells us (in 1 Corinthians 12) that He gives each and every one of us these strengths on purpose in order to serve each other in the common good!

If you are interested in learning more about how people with autism communicate you can read this wonderful article by our friend,



*Mrs. Catherine Alexander*, who can clearly explain some of the things that neuro-typical people might misunderstand about our friends with autism.

>Intro by Catherine Alexander

**Do you ever wonder what it would be like to have a conversation with Jesus? What do you think His conversation would be like if He were to talk with someone who had autism?**

There was once a German mystic, an Augustinian nun from the 18th century, named Anne Katherine Emmerich who was blessed with visions from God, seeing everything from the creation of the angels to the events of the present day. She was declared "Blessed" by the Church in 2004 because of her extraordinary piety. She once saw the visit that Jesus made to the house of Mary and Martha that was discussed in the book of Luke.

### **Luke 10:38-42**

**As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."**

Blessed Anne Katherine shared details that the Lord had told her from that biblical story revealing that Mary was a very special person indeed! It appears from this story that Mary may have been autistic. She was non-verbal, meaning that she rarely spoke, and preferred to spend her time alone rather than deal with the difficulty of trying to communicate with those around her who just did not understand. Jesus, however, understood her perfectly. The following story is based on that account.

## A STORY OF "SILENT" MARY :

During the time of Jesus, in a town called Bethany, there lived a man named Lazarus and his three younger sisters, Martha, Mary, and little Magdalen. None of them had ever married, and so they all lived together in the family home. Lazarus was the oldest and was a fine big brother. Martha was next, the oldest girl, and was a wonderful cook and housekeeper. Little Magdalen was cute as a button and she entertained them all with her bubbly personality and silly stories; and in the middle was Mary.

They called her Silent Mary because she did not speak. She was serious all the time and never, ever, smiled. She did, however, sew very well, she helped Martha with the housework, and was very much loved by her brother and sisters. They were a very happy family.

One day Lazarus came home and told his sisters that there would be a very special guest for dinner that evening. Jesus was coming! Lazarus was a great friend of Jesus and they all loved when He would visit them and talk about the Kingdom of Heaven. Martha, with the help of her sisters, began to clean the house and prepare the food for the feast. When Jesus arrived Lazarus ran out to meet Him and welcomed Him into their home. Martha was still in the kitchen when Jesus began to speak. Silent Mary sat at His feet, listening to His parables with great interest. She rarely made an appearance when they had company, as loud noise and crowds of people always seemed to overwhelm her. Martha felt surprised at this, and a little sad that she had to prepare dinner alone in the kitchen, without the usual help of her sister. She wanted Jesus to excuse Mary so she would be free to help her, but instead Christ assured her that Mary's place at his feet was indeed the best place for her and that He wouldn't deprive her of it. When it came time for dinner to be served Mary, as usual, retired to her room to eat. She didn't ever eat with the rest of the family but preferred to take her meals in her room, alone. She did a lot of things alone and in silence, which made her a bit of a stranger in her own family. Yet her family understood her need to do things differently and they accommodated her needs as best they could.

After dinner, Jesus and Lazarus walked and talked in the garden while the sisters cleaned up. It was a beautiful night. Martha and Mary washed the dishes together as they did every evening after dinner and Magdalen sang a quiet song for them while they worked. Lazarus came to the kitchen door and said that Jesus had asked to speak to Mary! Martha looked surprised to hear this because Mary typically spoke with no one. Whatever could He want to say to her? Without a moment's hesitation, Mary wrapped her shawl around herself and walked out into the garden to meet Him. Lazarus and his other two sisters ran to the window to peek at them as they walked together in the garden. Would she speak? What would Jesus say to her? They saw that neither of them spoke a word, but each communicated to the other silently, in their own way. Jesus understood the thoughts that Mary had at that moment. She wondered about the things He spoke of at dinner; how the Pharisees were angry at some of the things He and His disciples were preaching. She feared for His safety. Although she didn't speak, she understood some of the things Jesus spoke about better than anyone and she loved Him with her whole heart. Jesus communicated to her that He loved her too and wanted her to know that He appreciated her concern for Him. He wanted her to know that she was so very pleasing to God just the way she was. He had created her this way for a very special reason and she was fulfilling it perfectly. Her perfect love for Him was going to be something that would support Him in the days to come when He would suffer so much hatred from those who were supposed to love Him, but who were incapable of understanding Him the way she did. He wanted her to know that. All this took place in the silence of their two hearts as they walked together along the path in the moonlight. When their walk was over, Mary returned to her room in silence and Jesus thanked His hosts and retired for the evening with a happy heart because of the love of his silent friend.

*-Written by Lynne Wardach*



# I SPY IN MY LITTLE "I" CON

## HEALING THE BLIND MAN

In this icon we see a depiction of Jesus healing a blind man that is found in **John 9:1-7**

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Silo'am" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.



THEOPHAN THE CRETAN  
EARLY 16TH CENTURY

Medieval artists did not represent time the way we generally do today. Most paintings you see today are illustrations of a single moment in time, such as the Annunciation. In contrast, this icon includes more than one moment of time.

*Can you point out both events?*

We see Jesus heal the blind man and we see the man washing in the pool, depicted in same picture. Notice how the colour of the mountains is used to help us see the two different moments.

*Do you remember what we learned previously about mountains?*

They reach up to Heaven and are the closest to God. They are let us know were the event is taking place.

*Which disciples do you think are standing behind Jesus?*

Some are old and some are young.

The Gospel reading doesn't tell us which disciples were speaking with Jesus.

*How do you think the blind man felt after he was healed by Jesus?*

*How do you think his parents felt when suddenly their son could see?*

Long ago, during the time of Christ, people often thought that those who were sick or could not have children had sinned and that God was punishing them.

*What does Jesus say about this?*

This icon show us that all God's children are loved and that suffering can be used to show God's Glory and to bring us to holiness.

ANSWER KEY TO CROSSWORD

- APRIL ANSWERS:  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE
- ACROSS:  
1. MYSTERY  
4. AGAPE  
6. HEALING  
7. SELFISHNESS  
8. WEAKNESS  
10. DAVID
- DOWN:  
2. THEOTOKOS  
3. BETHANY  
5. INCLUSION  
9. AUTISM



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

# STAND

THIS MONTH'S STAND & STAND JR. VERSES. SUBMIT A VIDEO OF YOURSELF RECITING THE VERSES TO BYZIMOM.COM TO UNLOCK THE NEXT PART OF YOUR ARMOUR!



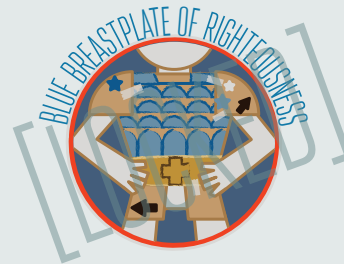
VERSES:

EPHESIANS 2:10

FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.

EPHESIANS 4: 4-6

THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO THE ONE HOPE THAT BELONGS TO YOUR CALL, ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, WHO IS ABOVE ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL.



JUNIOR VERSES (6YRS & BELOW):

LUKE 6:31

AND AS YOU WISH THAT MEN WOULD DO TO YOU, DO SO TO THEM.



*O Virgin Theotokos*

PRAYER

Beneath your

compassion

we take refuge

O Virgin Theotokos.

Despise not our

prayers in our need

but deliver us from

danger.

For you alone are

pure and blessed!

AMEN.

ByziKids bookmark 4 of 12

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE

### MEANWHILE...

Once upon a time a Byzantine princess loved her schoolwork so much, she became famous throughout the world.

Princess Anna

Komnene was born in 1083 and was expected to study subjects that society considered suitable for women -- like court etiquette and the Bible. But Princess Anna loved Greek myth and philosophy. To read them, she had to learn ancient Greek while studying secretly late at night. Once her parents understood that her love for learning was more than a passing phase, they hired tutors for her.

Now she was free to learn all she could, and that included classical literature, rhetoric, history, philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, and medicine. She exhausted her tutors with her requests for more Aristotle commentaries.

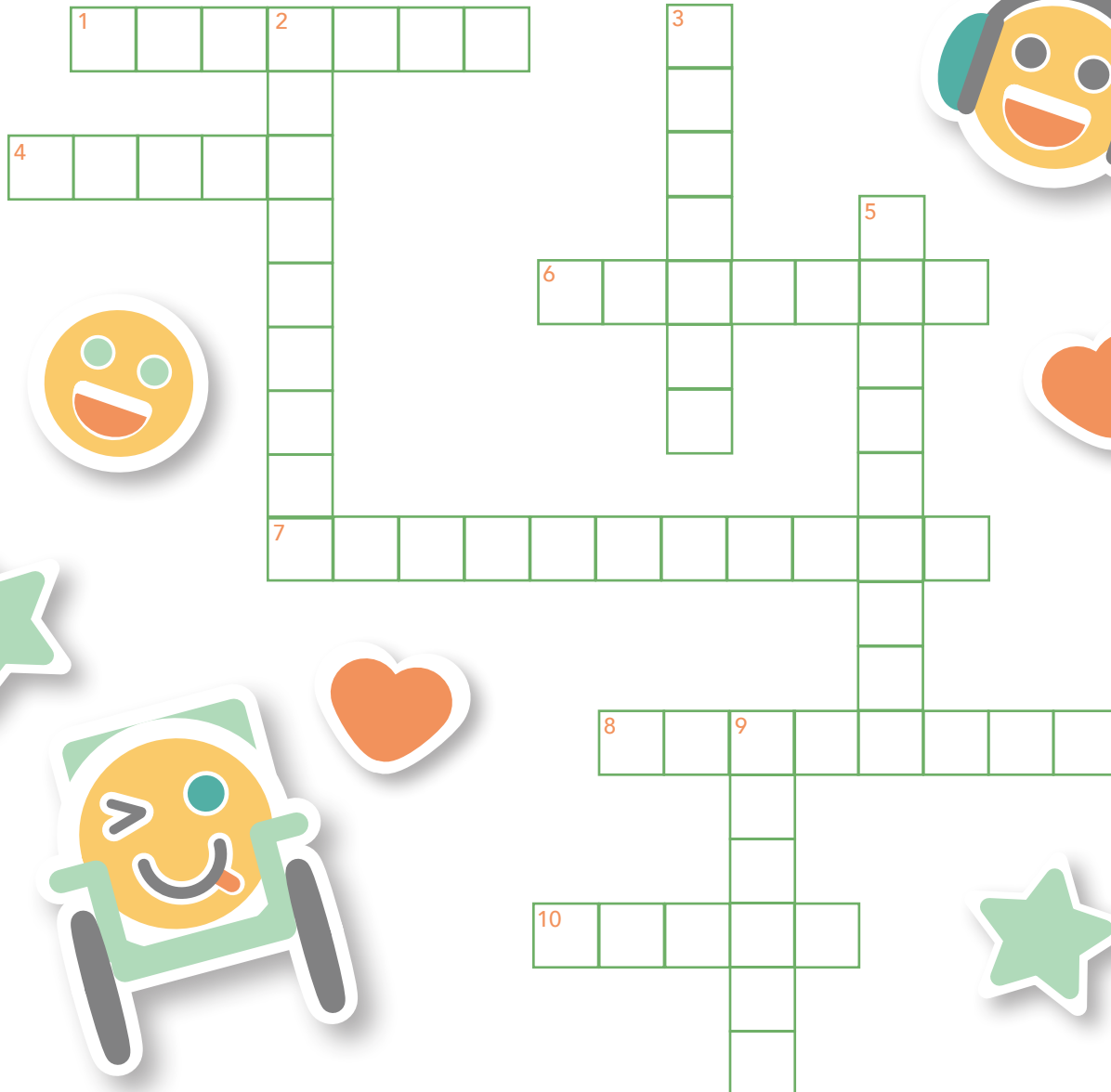
She married at age 15, and she and her husband helped her parents in their government. Princess Anna became advocates for the people supporting them in their search for justice.

But the thing princess Anna is best remembered for is the 500-page history she wrote about her father, Lexios Komnenos's reign. Her book is called the "Alexiad" and is written much like the old Greek myths and epics she loved. The Alexiad has been copied and read worldwide and is an essential first-hand account of her father's reign.



-Written by Judith Jolma

# April Inclusion Crossword puzzle



## ACROSS

1. A WORD USED TO DESCRIBE CHRIST'S PRESENCE AMONG US, WHAT HE DID AND CONTINUES TO DO FOR US.
4. THE WORD FOR THE HIGHEST FORM OF LOVE IS \_\_\_\_\_.
6. THE MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE AND THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK ARE TWO MYSTERIES OF \_\_\_\_\_.
7. KINDNESS CAN HEAL YOUR SOUL OF \_\_\_\_\_.
8. IN 2 CORINTHIANS, ST. PAUL SAYS THE LORD TOLD HIM, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN \_\_\_\_\_."
10. THE BLIND MAN OF JERICHO CALLED OUT, "JESUS, SON OF \_\_\_\_\_, HAVE MERCY ON ME!"

## DOWN

2. BENEATH YOUR COMPASSION WE TAKE REFUGE, O VIRGIN \_\_\_\_\_.
3. LAZARUS AND HIS SISTERS LIVED IN THE TOWN OF \_\_\_\_\_.
5. A WORD WHICH MEANS WE SHOULD WELCOME ALL.
9. A NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER THAT IS CAUSED BY GENETIC DIFFERENCES.



## A KING'S INVITATION

**Once upon a time**, there was a king who wanted to throw a big party for his son who was to be married. So he filled his banquet hall with every delicious and beautiful and expensive thing. Then he sent messengers to the richest, most beautiful and most important people in all the land inviting them to come celebrate his son's wedding feast.

But the important people were too busy, the beautiful people didn't want to come. The rich people were not impressed by the king's invitation. The king was angry but then he had an idea. "If the rich, beautiful and important people won't celebrate with me, I will invite the poor, sick and the lonely to my feast." So that is just what he did. He gave new clothes to everyone so the guests would be as beautiful as the feast itself.

I bet you could attend a thousand parties and would never meet more grateful, happy people anywhere.

Jesus told this story to some very important people to help them understand that God has a very special relationship with the poor and the sick.

We can see it in every liturgy. Hand cradled in hand they process down the church's center aisle: Christians joyfully called to the supper feast of the lamb.

Each one of them is broken. Some need help walking, some make odd noises, some have a temporary cast or cold. All have an illness deep inside called sin. Our Lord calls us all to his table for healing.

Sometimes God chooses to heal someone of their illness in order to show us how he can also heal our broken souls. Do you remember the Gospel story of the friends who lowered a man down through the roof so Jesus would heal him? (If not, ask your parents to tell you that story). They thought Jesus would heal his legs so he would walk. But Jesus healed his soul first.

In Jesus' day people thought that God punished people by giving them disabilities. They thought that the good people were healthy and the sick people were sinners. This made them feel good about staying away from people who made them uncomfortable. But Jesus let them know just how very wrong this thinking is. When they saw a man who was born blind, the disciples asked Jesus,

"Who sinned, this man or his parents?" They thought that God had cursed the man with blindness because either he or his parents had done something really awful. Jesus' answer surprised them: his blindness was for the glory of God.

Sometimes we see suffering and we think the person suffering needs to be healed. But maybe it is the person suffering who needs to heal us. You see, not all disabilities are visible and sometimes those with physical struggles are the ones most healthy on the inside.

Is there anyone in your congregation who sits in a wheelchair? Have you ever considered how difficult it must have been for that person to get dressed, leave their home and come to liturgy? But Liturgy is so important to them, they come. They are like the thankful guests at the King's feast. Would you come if it took that much work? Once Jesus saw a very poor woman place the last of her money in the offering box. He told the disciples that she gave more than anyone else because she gave all she had. The same thing is true when those with disabilities come to church. When you see someone who can't speak making loud noises in liturgy, look closer. They are lifting their voice in song. Their song is beautiful to the Lord. Join your voice to theirs and praise God.

Have you ever seen someone walking with a cane and thought to hold the door for them? Or move slowly around them? Or pull out a chair so they can sit down? That person is teaching you kindness and that kindness will heal your soul of selfishness which is far more crippling than feet that don't work.

Age has a way of disabling even the strongest of us. Elderly people often can't hear well, or their voices are too weak to be heard. But if you sit very still and pay attention, they can tell you stories and have wonderful words of wisdom. It is a little bit like a treasure hunt. It can require hard work to talk with someone who can't hear or speak well, but the conversation can be filled with riches.

Unfortunately, adults often forget that we are all the same on the inside and can need help remembering. Do you remember the story of Job? When he faced great tragedy, his neighbors scolded him saying he must have done something wrong. Some people are like Job's negative neighbors and say mean things. Sometimes, they scold parents whose children suffer with autism. They tell them, "control your children," or they think that loud children need to go to a cry room, or they think badly of the sick just like the people in Jesus' day. And sometimes this causes people to leave the church and never come back. But you can help these adults remember that Jesus sent a very special invitation to the poor and to the sick. They are his guests of honor. When you bring a cup of water to the elderly, invite the child with down syndrome to play, or sit beside the blind person, you can help remind the adults that Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost and that we were all once lost.





## FINDING GOD AT DIVINE LITURGY

When you go to Divine Liturgy on Sunday, take a moment and consider all the ways in which we find God there.

### **Well, first we walk into the Church!**

Yes! We do. But what if our legs couldn't get us there? Could we still find God? How?

### **We make the sign of the cross and venerate the icons!**

Yes! We do! But what if our arms were missing, or wouldn't move for us. Could we still find God? How?



### **We see the faces of the saints on the gorgeous icons on the tetrapod and iconostasis!**

Yes! We do! But what if our eyes were blind and all we could see was darkness. Could we still find God? How?

### **We hear the beautiful singing and listen to the prayers, the Gospel and the homily!**

Yes! We do. But what if our ears didn't work and it was silent there. Could we still find God? How?



### **We smell the incense as the priest blesses us and the entire church!**

Yes! We do! But what if we didn't smell the scent? Could we still find God? How?



### **We focus our minds on the presence of God there and on the prayers being said and the coming of Jesus to us in the Eucharist.**

Yes! We do! But what if our mind couldn't focus. What if we couldn't help but become distracted? Could we still find God? How?



### **We taste the Eucharist.**

Yes! We do! This is the best part: even if we do not have the ability to taste the bread or the wine, we know that Jesus is present in them. He assures us that He is there whether we recognize Him or not; whether we can see Him, smell Him, hear Him, feel Him, or taste Him, or even if you are unable to focus on Him, He is there with us and we are with Him!



**Now consider this:** Often, when our senses work perfectly, we can take them for granted and not realize how difficult life can be for someone with a disability. This does not mean that they can not participate! When one of these senses is missing or deficient, it is usually the case that all of the others are still there to help us!

### **When you go to Liturgy, remember these things:**

YOU have the opportunity to be the legs for those who can not walk. YOU can give help to those who can not see or hear.

YOU can bring Jesus to those who have trouble focusing on Him!

Walk into the Church reverently and hold the door or make a place for those who can not walk in by themselves and must be brought in by their family and friends.

Be the arms of someone who can't hold a book for themselves or who might need help opening the door.

Look at those around you and identify those in your congregation who may need help to find God because of a disability and then offer your services to those in need.

**Be Seen:** Make the sign of the cross and venerate the icons with care so that those who can't, but will see you do so, can be uplifted.

**Listen:** to the prayers and to the homily quietly so that others who might not be able to hear well are able to understand what the priest is saying.

**Sing:** when it's time to sing! Sing joyfully to help those who are unable to sing to at least join you in praising God in their hearts! Be patient when they sing too loudly or scream out. It may be the best they can do and it just might bring them joy to praise God in that way.

**Love:** all our brothers and sisters so that we can fully participate in the life of the Trinity! When we look for God's goodness in another and seek to understand them, we welcome them not only to the parish but into our friendship and community!

**Accept:** others where they are in their journey with God while calling them up to where they will be. Do you have a mental or physical impairment, learning difference, or disability which you haven't accepted and can learn to "let go and let God" in order to love even yourself?

Keep in mind that if one part of the body doesn't work well, there are so many other ways to find God at the Divine Liturgy AND so many people who can help just by offering them some understanding, like YOU!

>>CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

## FINDING GOD AT DIVINE LITURGY CONT.

### Observe:

What are some ways your Church accommodates those with disabilities?

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### Think:

Can you think of any other ways that your church family might make it easier for those with disabilities to participate in the life of the congregation?

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## GUARDIAN ANGEL EMPATHY GAME

Here is a way for you to try to understand how people with disabilities have to navigate the world. Together with your family members, make up a simple obstacle course throughout your house. Put down a pillow to step over, a chair to go around, or a table to crawl under.

Now find a partner. One of you will be the Believer and the other will be his Guardian Angel. The Believer will assume some article of clothing that will give him a handicap, like wearing a blindfold or a hat pulled over his head. Maybe he can wear Dad's heavy boots, or perhaps he can pull his arms inside his sweater so he can not use them.

Have the Guardian Angel lead the Believer through the course and see how difficult it might be to navigate while they have the handicap. At the end of the course, switch places and try a different handicap to see what it would be like to navigate the course that way.

When you are done, have a cup of tea with Mom or Dad and discuss what you have learned. Did you need your Angel's help trying to do some of the things on the course? How did it feel when you couldn't do something as well as you usually do? How did it feel when you did? Keep this in mind when you meet someone who really can't hear or see, or walk well, or use their arms and see what you might be able to do to be a Guardian Angel for them!

- Written by Lynne Wardach

Have you ever wished there was something similar to the Christmas Jesse Tree activity to help you better prepare your children for Pascha?

**NOW THERE IS!!**

### *The Zacchaeus Tree*

*A Family Guide Through  
the Season of the Great Fast*



by  
Lynne Drozdik Wardach

## The Zacchaeus Tree!

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# Christ Our Pascha: Catechism Lesson

## The Seven Mysteries

We have all heard the word “*mystery*” before. Maybe you like to read mystery stories. These stories contain a puzzle that you have to try to figure out. Maybe a crime has been committed, and you have to figure out who did it. Maybe you might be interested in the mysteries of outer space, or the mysteries of the Egyptian pyramids.

In Eastern Christianity the word “*mystery*” has a very special meaning. It may be used to describe something we cannot ever really understand, like the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

Basically, however, it is used to explain the mystery of Christ’s presence among us. **The Mystery is Christ** — and all He did and continues to do for us. We can begin reading about the Seven Mysteries in our **Catechism on page 138**. After Our Lord ascended into heaven, He also still remained with us, with His Church. The Church is His presence among us, it is where He meets us, His people. We meet Christ in the Seven Holy Mysteries. God shows us His Love and gives us His Grace. God’s grace is His very life within us. We must respond to this gift of God with love and thanksgiving. Our friends in the Latin Rite call these Seven Mysteries, the Seven Sacraments.

**The Seven Mysteries and the Seven Sacraments are the same thing. The Seven Mysteries fall into one of three categories.**

### The Mysteries of Christian Initiation

1. Baptism,
2. Chrismation
3. Eucharist

### The Mysteries of Healing

4. Repentance
5. Anointing of the Sick

### The Mysteries of Service

6. Holy Orders
7. Marriage

Today, we are going to see what the Catechism has to say about the Holy Mysteries of Healing. **Let’s turn to page 153** to learn about these two Mysteries.

We remember the story of Adam and Eve and the sin they committed in the Garden. This “fall” affects all of us. We see the sad results that entered the world in the form of sin, sickness, suffering and death. God did not abandon us after this fall but sent His Son into the world to heal and save us. When Our Lord was on earth He loved to forgive sins and heal the people who came to Him. He still continues to do this today in His Church **in the two Mysteries of Healing, the Mystery of Repentance and the Mystery of the Anointing of the Sick.**

**The Mystery of Repentance** is sometimes called Confession. Repentance means to know our sins, be sorry for them and confess them. No matter how bad our sins are, God loves to forgive us when we are sorry and confess our sins. Every priest has this special power to grant us God’s forgiveness. Sorrow for sin is called contrition. When we are sorry for our sins, have contrition, confess them to a priest, and make up our mind not to sin again, God always forgives us. Going to confession frequently helps us to resist temptation and stay strong.

**The Anointing of the Sick** is the other Mystery of Healing. When Jesus lived on earth, people came to Him for healing and forgiveness. In the early days of the Church, the Apostles were often called to pray and heal those who were sick. Today, the church continues to do this for those who are sick or dying. Sometimes this Mystery takes place in church but not always. You might have seen someone in your family get very sick. A parent might have called a priest to their bedside to anoint them with holy oil and give them this comforting Mystery. This would have given the sick person many graces and may have cured them of their sickness. But maybe they did not get better!!! So, what happened???

This Holy Mystery always grants us healing and grace but sometimes a person’s physical sickness is not healed. But, something just as wonderful does happen. This mystery gives a spiritual healing that helps the person see their suffering in the light of God’s love, mercy and Divine Providence. They are given the grace to unite their suffering to Our Lord’s own suffering and life-giving death on the cross. Our sufferings now have a new meaning. This is a great comfort to good people who have been given great sufferings in this life. This mystery will help to strengthen our faith in God’s victory over death. These sufferings offered to God with love become a path to salvation for ourselves and for others!

-Written By Julie Luckey



# BYZIKIDS//calendar



## 2020 APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 + + PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY	5 + + + GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY	6 + + + GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY	7 + GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY	8 + GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY	9 + GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY	10 + + LAZARUS SATURDAY
11 + + THOMAS SUNDAY	12 + + PASCHA	13 + VENERABLE FATHER THEODORE TRICHINAS	14 + VENERABLE FATHER THEODORE SYKEOT	15 + + GREAT MARTYR & WONDERWORKER GEORGE	16 + VENERABLE FATHER TITUS WONDERWORKER	17 + VENERABLE FATHER & CONFESSOR NICETAS
18 + + SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS	19 + + PRIEST MARTYR SIMEON, COUSIN OF THE LORD	20 + PRIEST MARTYR JANUARIUS & COMPANIONS	21 + + VENERABLE FATHER THEODORE SYKEOT	22 + + 9 HOLY MARTYRS OF CYZICE	23 + + GREAT MARTYR & WONDERWORKER GEORGE	24 + + HOLY MARTYR SABBAS THE GOTH
25 + + SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS	26 + + PRIEST MARTYR SIMEON, COUSIN OF THE LORD	27 + + HOLY APOSTLES JASON & SOSIPATER	28 + + HOLY APOSTLES JAMES THE GREATER	29 + + HOLY APOSTLE JAMES THE GREATER	30 + + HOLY APOSTLE JAMES THE GREATER	31 + + HOLY APOSTLE & EVANGELIST MARK



**SCAN ME TO FIND OUR ONLINE ACTIVITIES! (PASS:MYSTERIES)**

BLUE: FASTING DAYS ★ : ACTIVITY FOUND ONLINE + : HOLY DAY