

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD
**JESUS TEACHES
US TO PRAY**
A BIBLE LESSON FOR KIDS



Poet Prints TEACHING



JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

This packet was designed to be an easy way to teach foundational Bible stories to kids in first, second, and third grades. Each lesson in this series is structured the same and can be taught in about 40 minutes!

Step One: Read or watch the Bible story.

Gather your group together and read the Lord's prayer from your preferred Bible translation. Some children's Bibles also include this story, though they are more rare.

Rather watch it? Many animated Bible stories are available for free on YouTube. Try searching "The Lord's Prayer Bible Story for Kids" in the YouTube search bar. Be sure to watch it fully before showing it to your class to be sure it's appropriate.

Jesus modeled prayer and the importance of prayer many times when he was on earth. He often withdrew to the wilderness or to a quiet place to pray. He would find time to pray to God, despite being busy with teaching, healing, and traveling.

Simply put, prayer is communication with God. It's talking to God and listening to God. Prayer is a way to tell God about what's happening in your life. It's a way to praise Him, confess our sins, and ask Him for help.

Why is Prayer Important?

Prayer is important because it deepens our relationship with God.

Ask students to think of a close friend. *What do they like to do together? Now imagine that they never talked to that friend again. They never say hello. They never talk. They never play together. What would that friendship be like?* A friendship where you don't spend time together or talk isn't really a friendship.

In a similar way, you can't have a relationship with God if you never do anything together. Prayer is one important way to grow closer to God. It helps to build your friendship (relationship) with Him.

Prayer in the Bible

There are several significant places where we see people pray in the Bible:

- Hannah prayed for God to give her a baby, and God answered her prayer with Baby Samuel.
- Queen Esther had people praying and fasting for her before she went to see the king. This resulted in the Jewish people being spared from death.
- Moses talked with God regularly, but the first time was at the burning bush when God told Moses to return to Egypt. God used Moses to rescue the Israelite people.
- King Hezekiah prayed when Jerusalem was under attack by the Assyrians. He asked all the people to pray with him, and God defeated the Assyrians.
- Jonah prayed in the belly of the great fish. The fish spat Jonah out, and Jonah went to preach in Ninevah.

Use the [questions provided](#) to lead a discussion on prayer.



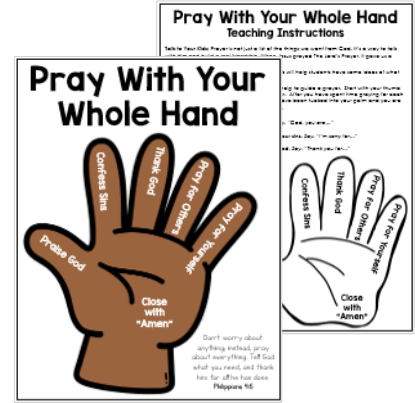


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Step Two: Pray with your whole hand.

Use the teaching [instructions on page 6](#) to guide students through one way to pray. Display the Pray With Your Whole Hand poster in your classroom. Consider printing off a copy for each student to take home.

The Whole Hand Prayer is designed to give kids a simple framework for their prayer time praying a long list of things they need from God. While any prayer is valuable, the 'whole hand' prayer method helps students to see beyond themselves during prayer time.



Step Three: Start a prayer journal.

Craft: Prayer Journal

Before the lesson begins, print off a prayer journal for each student. There are four different journals to choose from:

- [NIV Prayer Journal with Blank Boxes](#) (to write or color)
- [NIV Prayer Journal with Lines](#)
- [KJV Prayer Journal with Blank Boxes](#) (to write or color)
- [KJV Prayer Journal with Lines](#)

Printing Tip: The journals are designed to be printed on a single piece of paper. To do this, select '**print on both sides**' from your printer settings, and make sure it is set to **flip on the short edge**.



This simple prayer journal is a great way to help kids learn to journal their prayers. Students can draw or write their prayers! This is a great chance to practice the whole hand prayer method. Try putting on some worship music and giving students time to draw or write their prayers.

Kids may want to keep the 'Confess Sins' portion of the journal private. I suggest providing a sticky note to cover their writing/drawing when they are done with this section.

Give kids who are done early one of the intricate coloring pages provided. They can color the page as they continue to listen to the worship music. These are also [available with KJV verses](#).

Step Four: Finish with the take-home worksheet.

The 'Lord's Prayer' coloring page is the perfect way to wrap up the lesson and create a take-home page that includes caregivers in what you have learned. Students will color a picture, write down their memory verse, and add the key takeaway (a "big idea") from the story.

Memory verse suggestion from the story:

Pray continually.
1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV)

Big idea suggestion: We can spend time with God in prayer.

Pray With Your Whole Hand

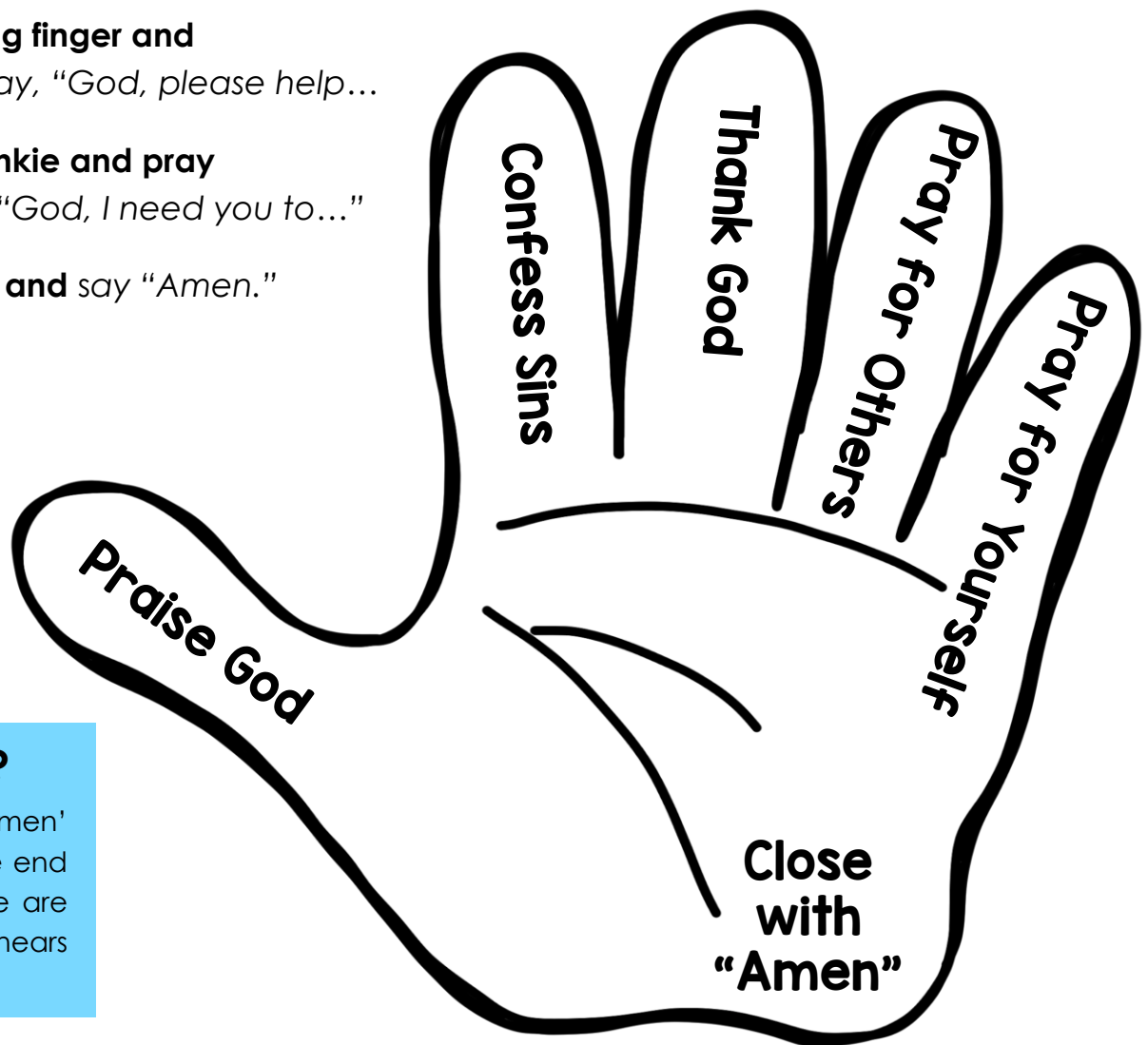
Teaching Instructions

Talk to Your Kids: Prayer is not just a list of the things we want from God. It's a way to talk with Him and build a real friendship. When Jesus prayed The Lord's Prayer, it gave us a great example of how to talk to God.

TIP: Keep your prayer ideas poster handy. This will help students have some ideas of what to pray for as they come to each finger!

Instruct Students: You can use your hand to help to guide a prayer. Start with your thumb and work your way towards your pinkie finger. After you have spent time praying for each thing, tuck that finger down until all fingers have been tucked into your palm and you are ready to end your prayer with Amen. prayer.

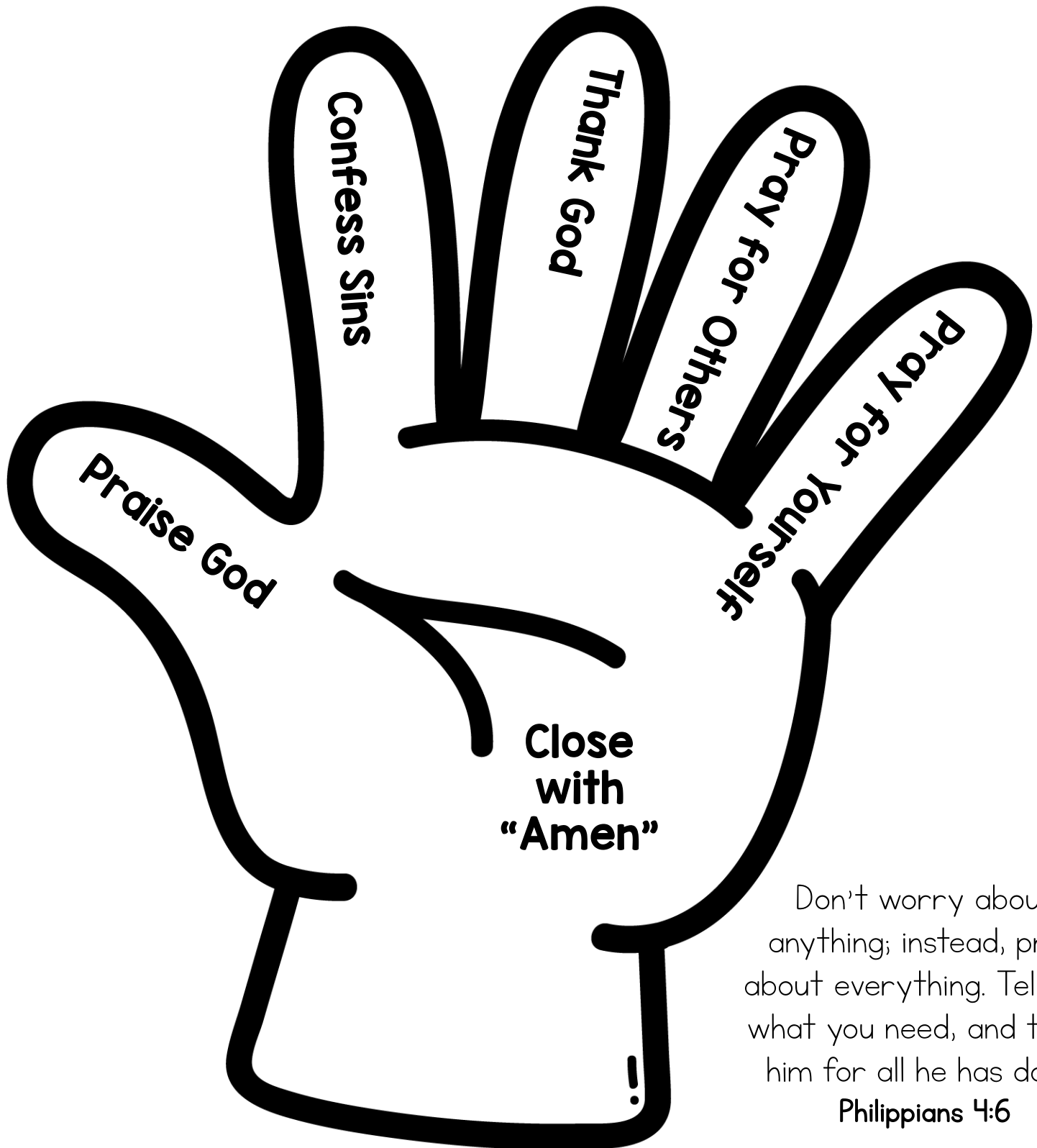
1. Put down your thumb and praise God. Say, "God, you are..."
2. Put down your index finger and confess your sins. Say, "I'm sorry for..."
3. Put down your middle finger and thank God. Say, "Thank you for..."
4. Put down your ring finger and pray for others. Say, "God, please help..."
5. Put down your pinkie and pray for yourself. Say, "God, I need you to..."
6. Squeeze your fist and say "Amen."



Did You Know?

In Hebrew word 'Amen' means "so be it". We end prayers with amen we are confident that God hears us and will respond.

Pray With Your Whole Hand



Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Philippians 4:6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTION #1

What is prayer?

QUESTION #2

What are some things we should be praying about?

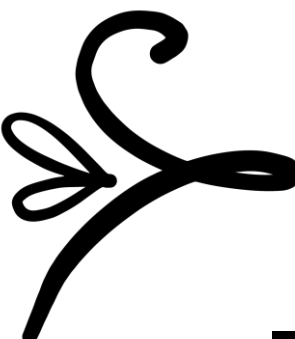
QUESTION #3

How did Jesus teach us to pray?

QUESTION #4

Why is prayer important?

PRAY FOR YOURSELF...



AMEN.

's

name

PRAYER JOURNAL

This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6:9-13 NIV



PRAISE GOD...

God you are

THANK GOD...

Thank you for

CONFESS SINS...

I'm sorry

PRAY FOR OTHERS...

Please help

PRAY FOR YOURSELF...

AMEN.

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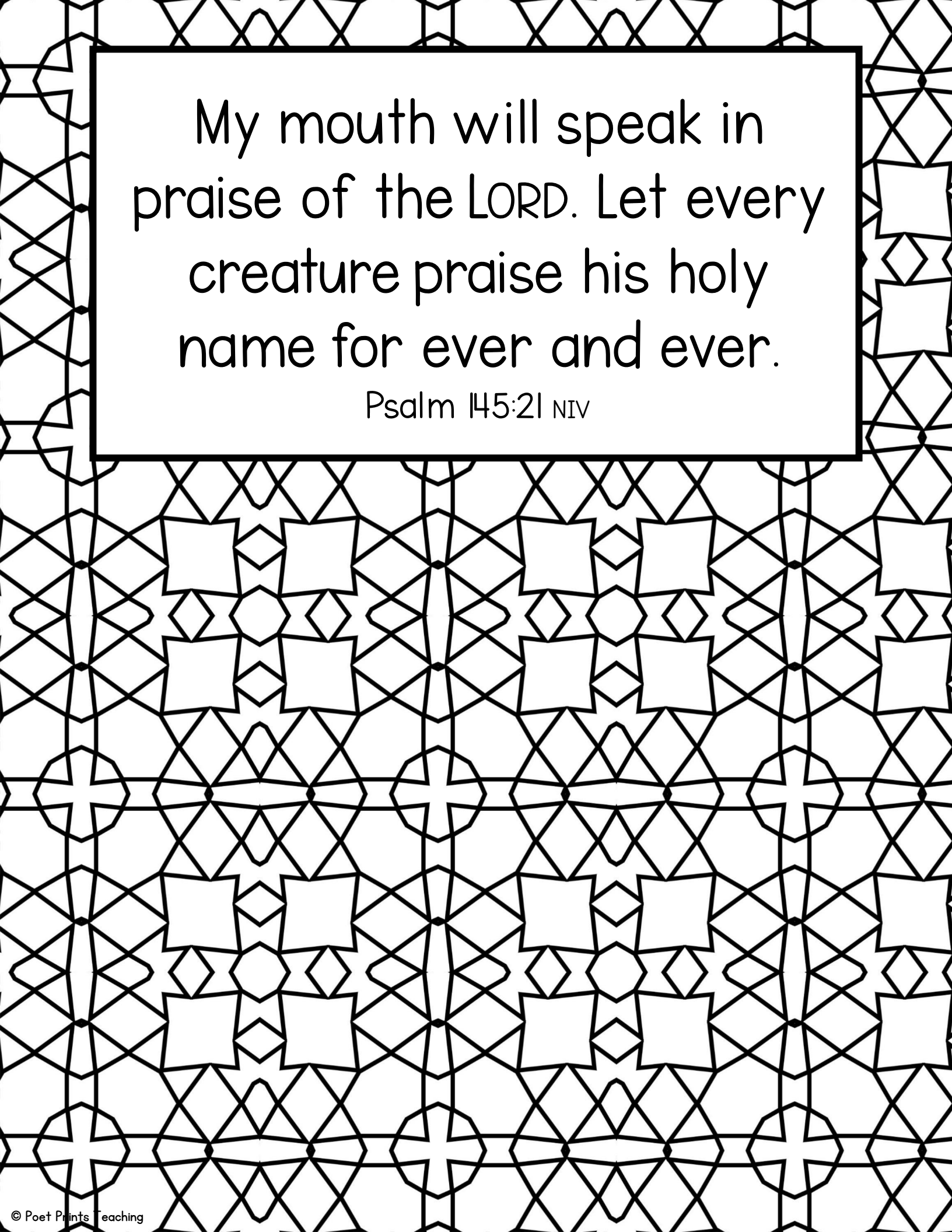
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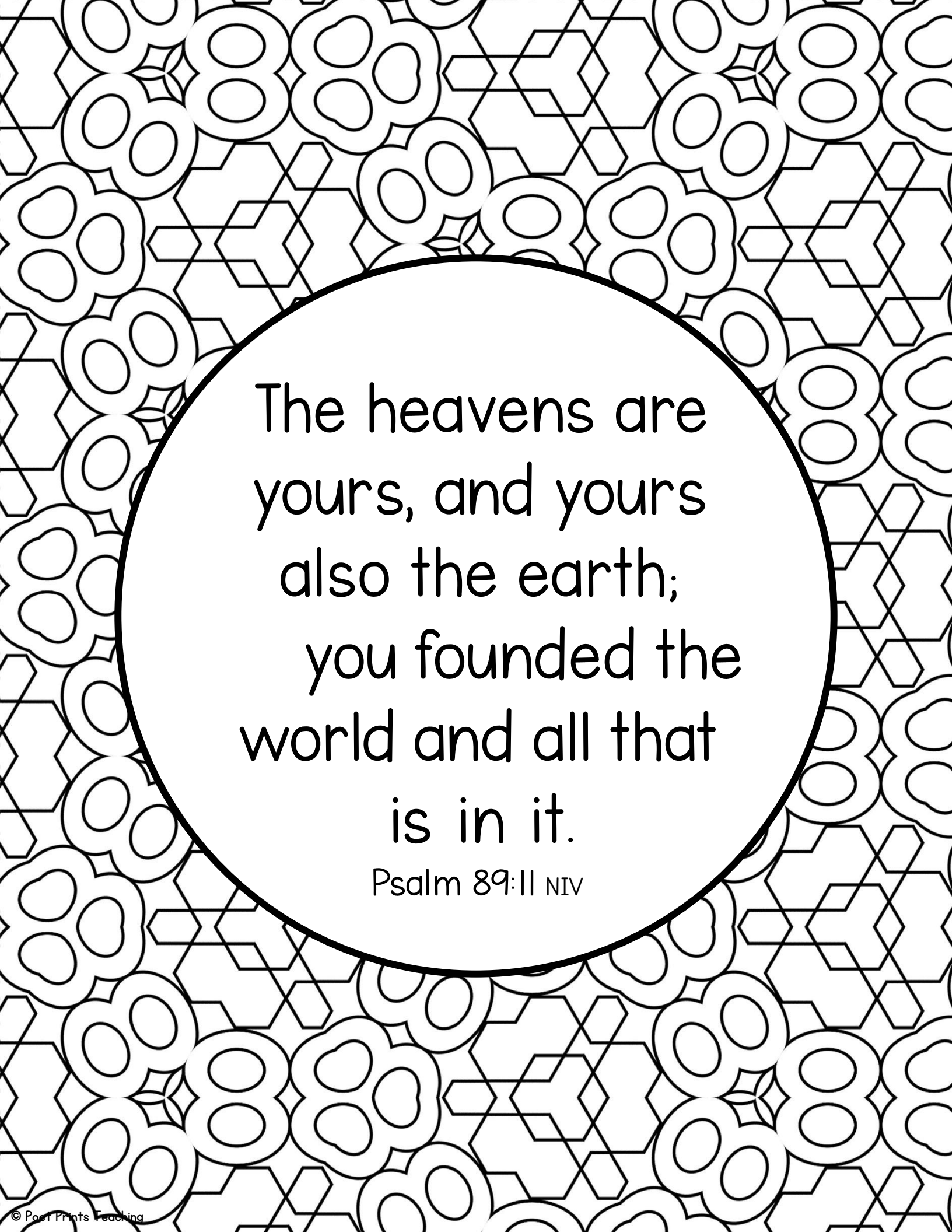
PRAY FOR OTHERS...

Please help



My mouth will speak in
praise of the LORD. Let every
creature praise his holy
name for ever and ever.

Psalms 145:21 NIV



The heavens are
yours, and yours
also the earth;
you founded the
world and all that
is in it.

Psalms 89:11 NIV

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MEMORIZE THIS:

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

PRAY FOR YOURSELF...

AMEN.

's

name

PRAYER JOURNAL

After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in
earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil: For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13 KJV



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God you are

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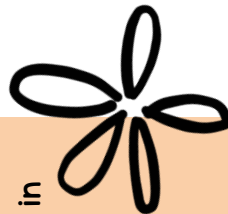
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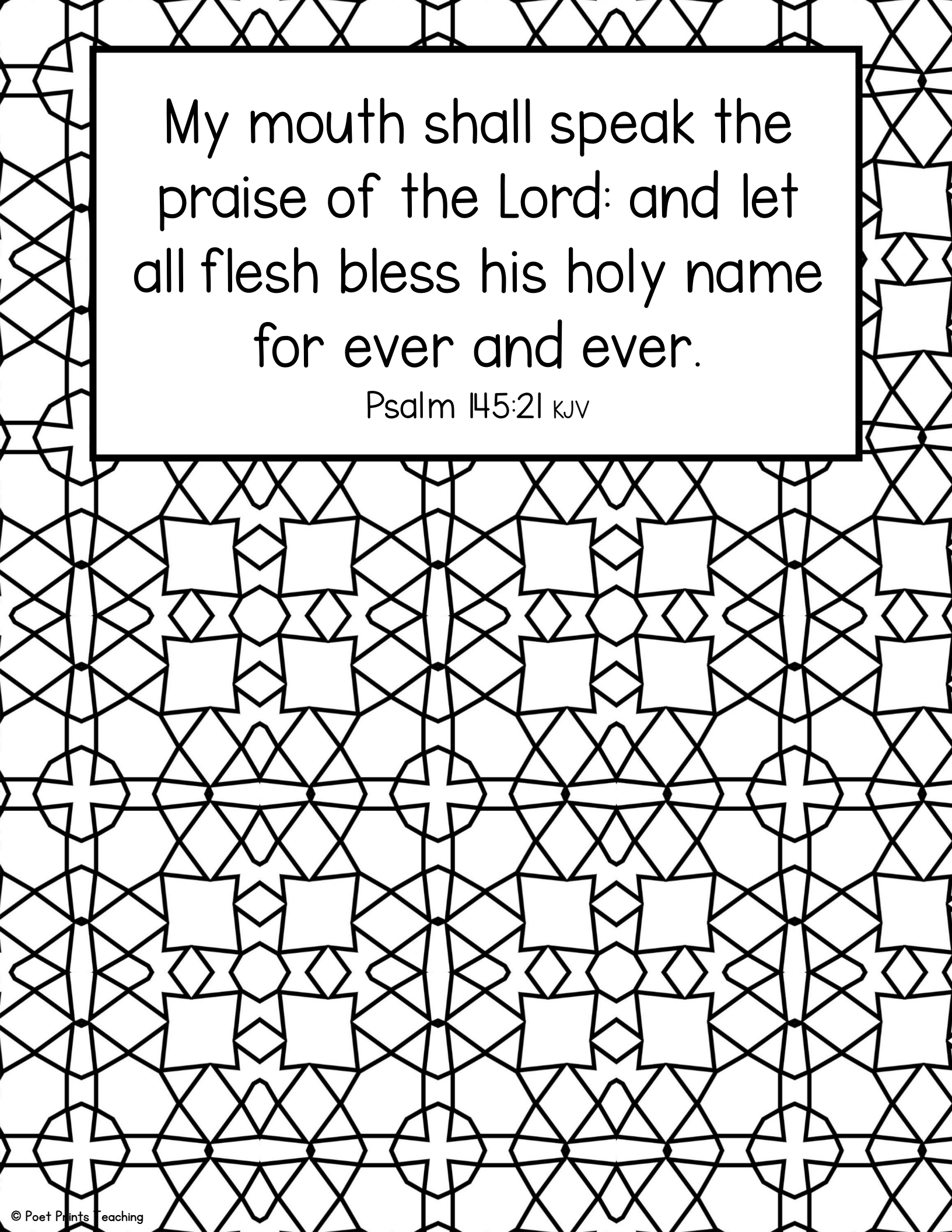
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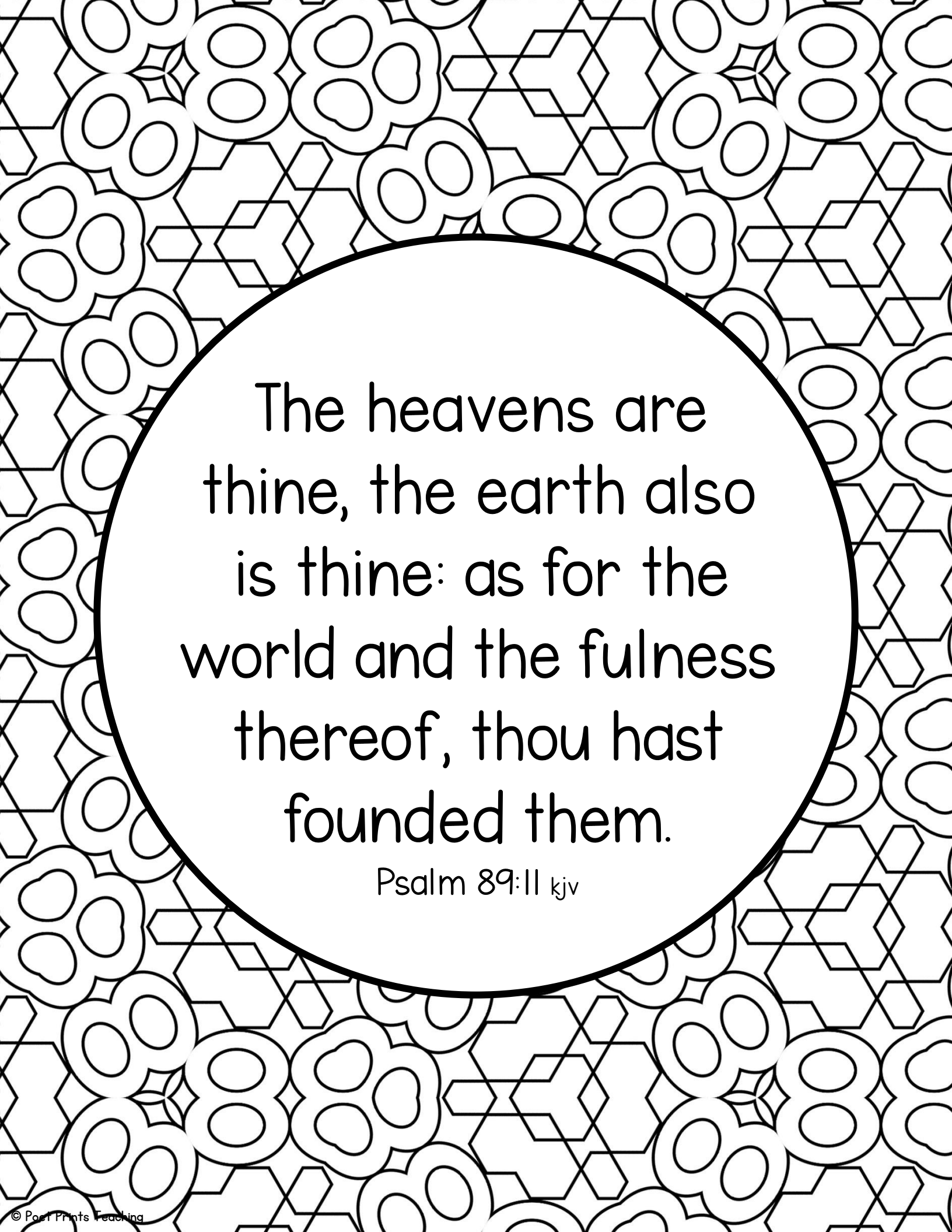
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Please help



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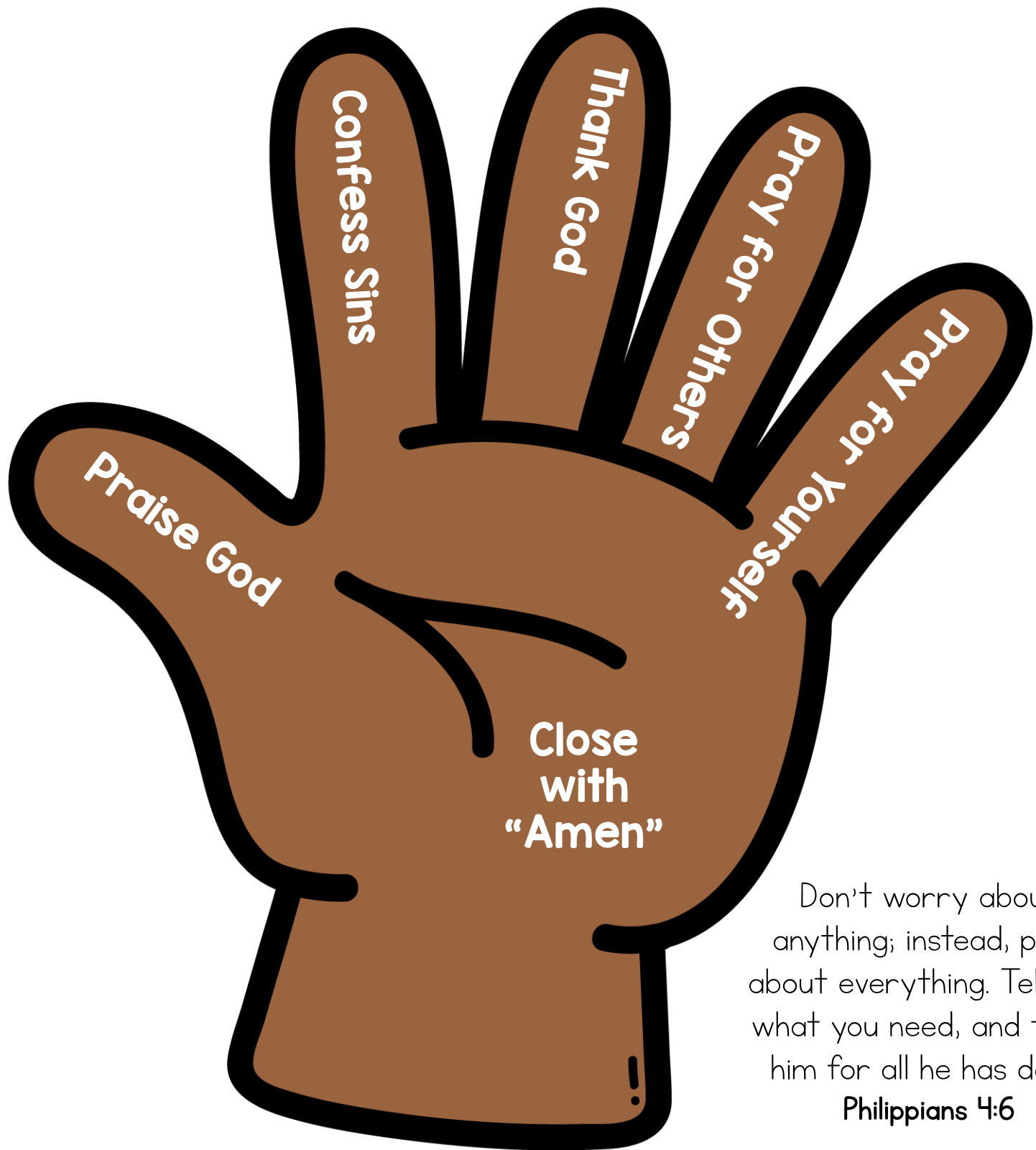
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Pray With Your Whole Hand



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Philippians 4:6

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MEMORIZE THIS:

Pray
continually.

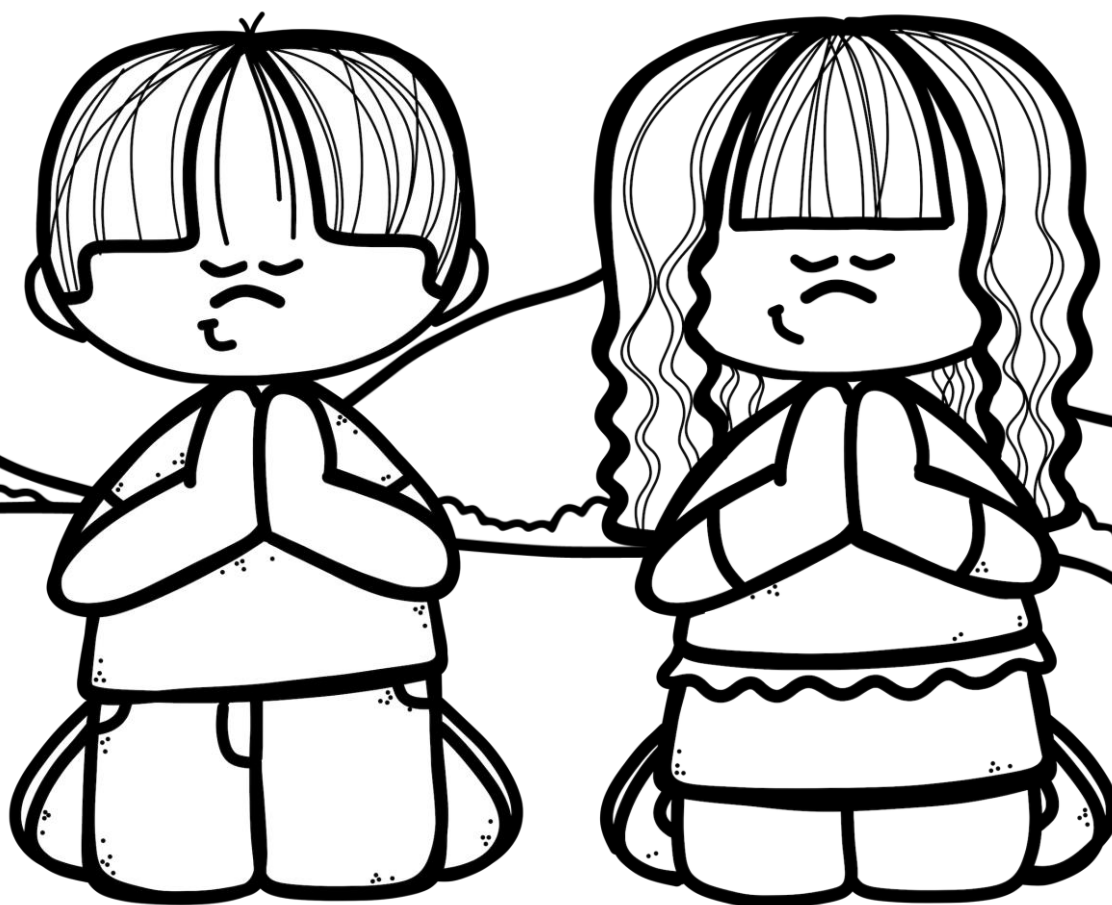
1 Thessalonians 5:17 NIV

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

We can
spend time
with God in
prayer.

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Pray
without
ceasing.

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