An open Bible with a yellow bookmark is placed on a wooden table. To the right of the Bible is a teal coffee mug. The background is a softly blurred indoor setting with a framed picture on the wall.

Coffee Break Bible Study Sheets

...learning God's Word one cup of coffee at a time...

by Anne Bean

www.annebeancreative.com

Welcome!

I'm so glad you found your way to Anne Bean Creative and Coffee Break Bible Study Sheets.

These studies are designed to help you go deeper into God's Word in about the same time it takes for you to enjoy your favorite cup of coffee. They're simple & quick yet they go deep!

As you go through these studies be led by Holy Spirit - if He leads you to linger on a certain study or section, obey. After all, abiding in The Vine is the sweetest place to be.

Each Coffee Break Bible Study sheet has two pages of creative, meaningful study and a coordinating Scripture colorable (Feel free to color outside the lines!)

Enjoy your coffee and your study...

God is good!



@ABeanCreative



facebook.com/AnneBeanCreative

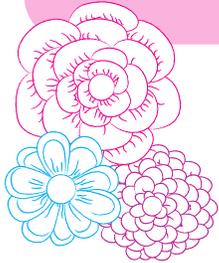
www.annebeancreative.com



Beauty for Ashes

"...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes..."

Isaiah 61:3 NIV



Welcome to a sweet time of intimacy with the Lord. Here in Isaiah 61, we find a large scale promise of who Jesus is and how He will redeem the world. Yet, lean in and you will also see that these promises are for you individually on a very personal level, straight from the heart of Father to you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's take some time to look at each verse in Isaiah 61:1-3 and see how God has touched our lives with each one of these promises. I encourage you to luxuriously & slowly reflect on each promise.

Let's begin!

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor."

Jesus is anointed to preach good tidings to the poor. One *explanation of good tidings tells us that it has to do with beauty. No, not the "photo-filter beauty" of this day and age but the joy & cheerfulness that comes to one's soul (& even one's face) upon receiving the good news.

Additionally, the word "poor" here means lowly, afflicted & meek. Have you reflected lately on the afflicted state your soul was in prior to having the good news come alive in your life?

Take a moment right now to thank Jesus for preaching the good news to you through His Holy Spirit. Fill in the blanks below to complete this simple "One sentence testimony."

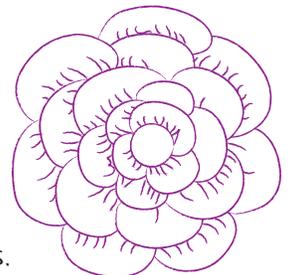
Before Jesus I was _____, _____ & _____ but now because of Jesus I am _____, _____ & _____.

Share this testimony on social media!

"He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted..."

When we think of a broken heart, we think of a heart shattered into many pieces but alas, Jesus binds up our broken pieces and brings us into wholeness.

In the flower petals, write all the ways Jesus healed your broken heart. Then color in the entire flower symbolizing that Jesus takes our broken pieces, heals them and makes something beautiful out of our lives.



"...to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners..."

↳ John 8:36

↳ Colossians 1:13

Beauty for Ashes

We have covered so much precious ground already and there's a lot more to go. Let's continue!

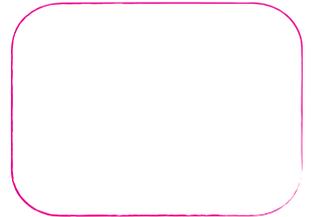


"to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion..."

"...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes..."

The Greek word for ashes here literally means ashes and figuratively means worthlessness. Wow! Wait. What? God will give us a crown of beauty for our worthlessness? Yes please!

In the Old Testament when the Israelites would mourn, they would often throw dust & ashes on their heads. God is telling us that in Christ, He has replaced our crown of ashes (brokenness due to sin) and replaced it with a crown of beauty (acceptance & redemption). →



Pause & calmly ponder God's generosity. Then draw a picture of your crown of beauty. If there are any ashes that you still need to surrender to God so that He can make something beautiful out of them, do so now.

"...the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."

As we continue on with this verse, we see that God is a God of great exchanges. In Christ, God exchanged our mourning for the oil of gladness (rejoicing & exultation). He exchanged our spirit of despair for a garment of praise. Praising God, remembering the good things He has done, cures heaviness of heart & life. Take a praise break right now to clear out any cobwebs of despair that may have gathered in your life. As you do so, prepare to see God move (2 Chron 20:22).

"They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD for the display of His splendor."

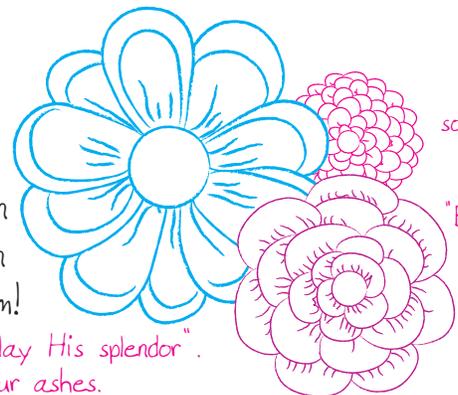
As we close, please take careful note of why God has done all these miraculous works in our lives...

"...for the display of His splendor."

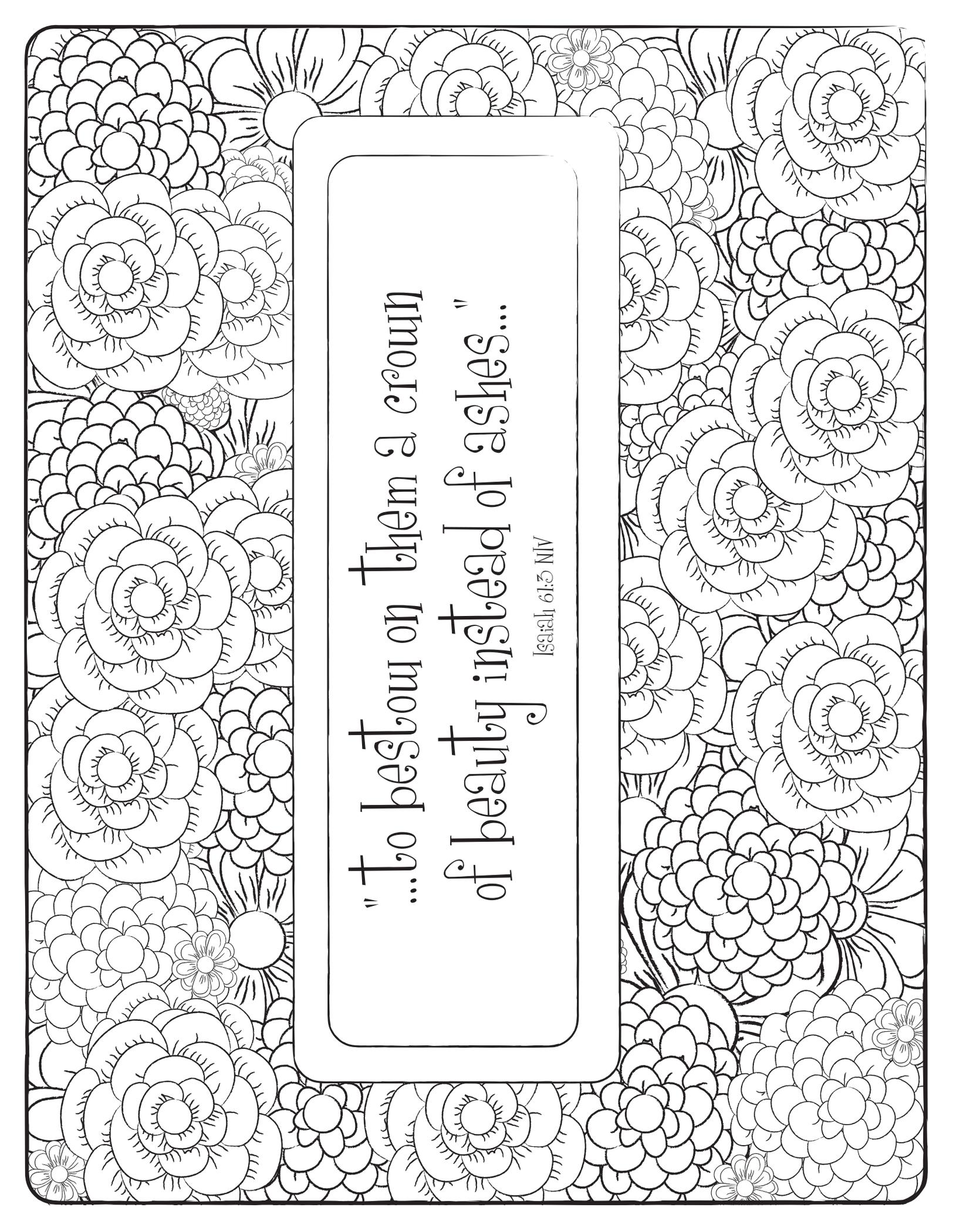
Yes God loves us. Yes we matter to Him. But it doesn't stop there. His redemption in our lives is not to put us on easy street until Jesus returns. God does these miraculous works in our lives so that we can know Him and make Him known. In other words, display His splendor so that others may know Him!

For our last activity, fill in the flowers with words describing how you will "display His splendor".

May God continue to bless you as you experience His beauty for your ashes.



For a beautiful song as you finish, listen to "Beauty for Ashes" by Upper Room



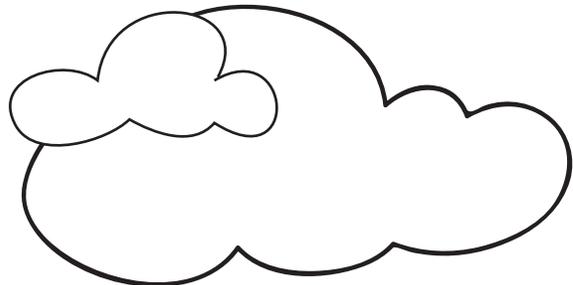
*"To bestow on them a crown
of beauty instead of ashes..."*

Isaiah 61:3 NIV

Draw, journal or doodle

additional thoughts + inspiration here...

Citizens of Heaven



"But we are citizens of heaven,
where the Lord Jesus Christ lives."

Philippians 3:20NLT

Have you ever had a "selah moment" with this verse? A moment where you pause and calmly think about what it really means to be a citizen of heaven?

Citizen: an inhabitant of a city or town, especially one entitled to its privileges or franchises

← We are entitled to the full rights & licenses of heaven all because of Jesus!
See Ephesians 1:20-22 and Ephesians 2:6,7

Check out the King James translation:

"For our conversation is in heaven..." Philippians 3:20

Conversation comes from the Greek word politeuma which means the constitution of a commonwealth, form of government and the laws by which it is administered

This means that when we are born-again we are not only legal residents of heaven entitled to the privileges of heaven but we are also governed by and under the administration of heaven.

Yay, this is exciting news! This further confirms that we "do not belong to the world" (see John 17:14) and don't have to live as the world preaches (greed, selfishness, vanity, worry) but get to live our lives according to God's heavenly "policies" (love, joy, generosity, serving others). What a wonderful way to live!

Consider the following questions:

- What authority do I have as heaven's citizen? (See Matthew 28:18)
- How does knowing I'm heaven's citizen affect my day-to-day decisions & activities?

HEAVEN

C I T I Z E N S H I P C A R D

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Rebirth: _____

Expires: Never

"But we are citizens of heaven,
where the Lord Jesus Christ lives."
Philippians 3:20NLT

X _____

Close your eyes and imagine (feel/see) yourself in heaven.

What sounds do you hear?

Who do you see?

What colors are there?

What brings you the most joy as you imagine yourself there?



Now it's time to fill out this ID card, draw a picture of yourself in the box and even cut it out & carry it with you as a daily reminder of your true citizenship!

Isn't it nice to know that if we don't get a chance to meet on earth...that we'll meet in our homeland! ☺

C i t i z e n s o f H e a v e n

How does it feel to be a card carrying, straight up citizen of heaven? *Did you put your new ID card in your wallet yet?*

Now that we know where our true citizenship is, let's take a quick look at what's happening with this earth according to 1 John 2:17a NLT:

"And this world is fading away, along with everything people crave."

This earth is passing away!

Why then do we spend so much time concerned with the things of this world when we know they are only temporary? They are passing away as we speak. A much better, more profitable, use of our time is shown to us in Colossians 3:2 NLT:

"Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth."

How often have you let heaven fill your thoughts? Let's take some time right now to do just that! Look up the following verses and write or draw what they reveal to us about heaven.

Revelation 4

John 14:2

→ Revelation 21:2

To learn even more about the new Jerusalem, read the entire chapter!

Hopefully all this talk about heaven and what awaits us is encouraging you and stirring up thoughts about how we can "live heavenly" now - while still on earth. After all, Jesus said, "...Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."

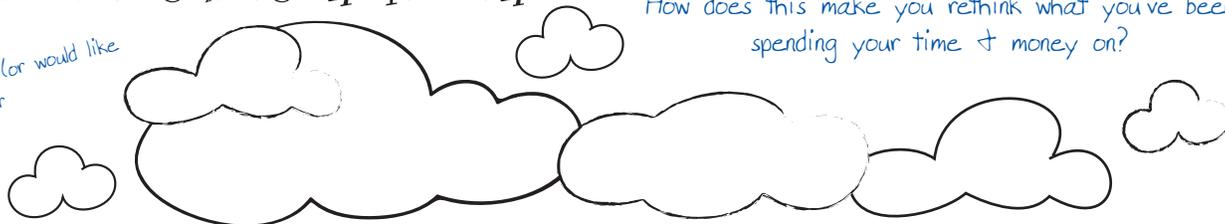
One final point we must examine is found in Matthew 6:19-20a NLT:

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves can break in and steal."

Store your treasures in heaven..."

We are impacting our eternity by how we live today! How does this make you rethink what you've been spending your time & money on?

In the fluffy clouds, write all the ways that you are (or would like to start) storing up your treasures in heaven!

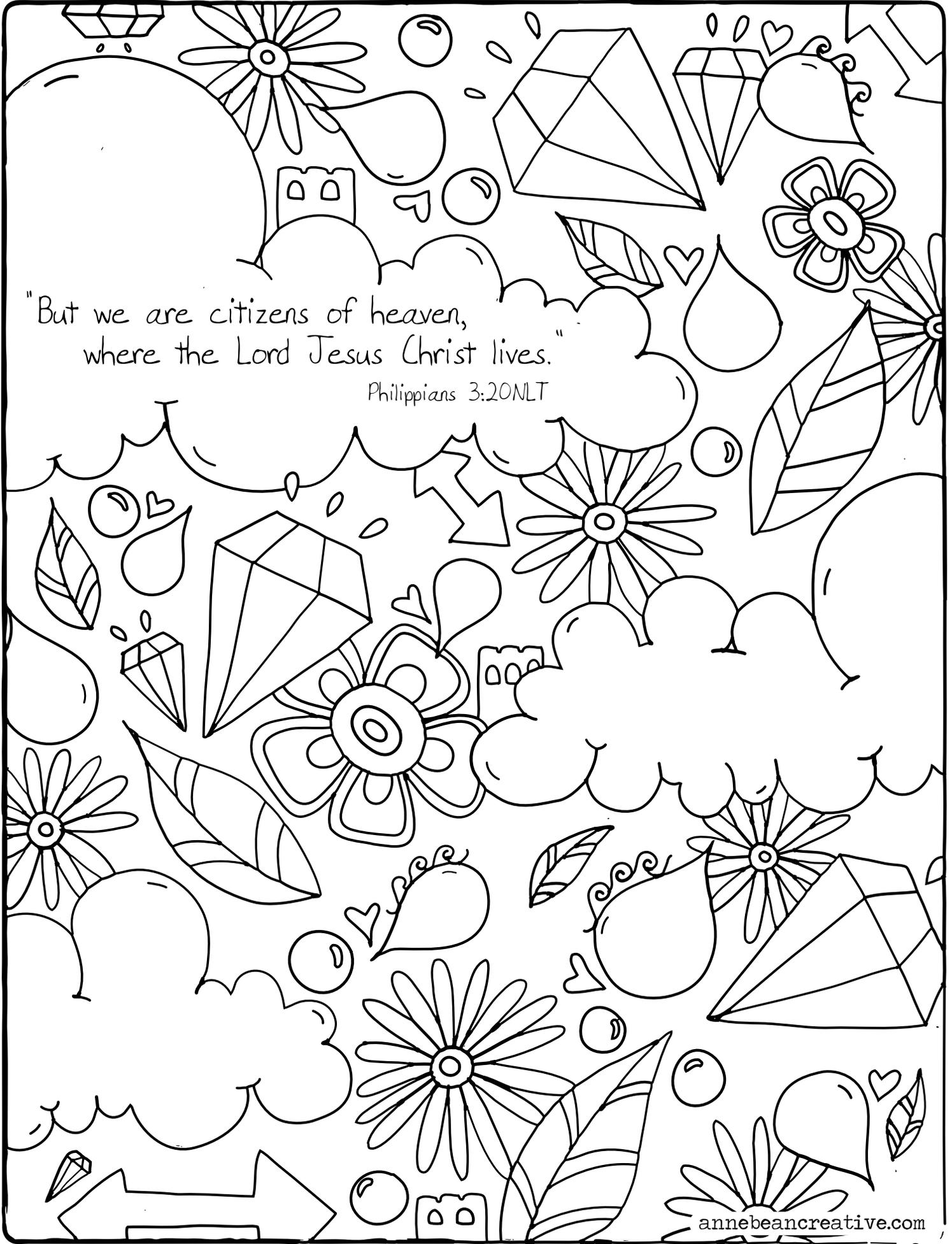


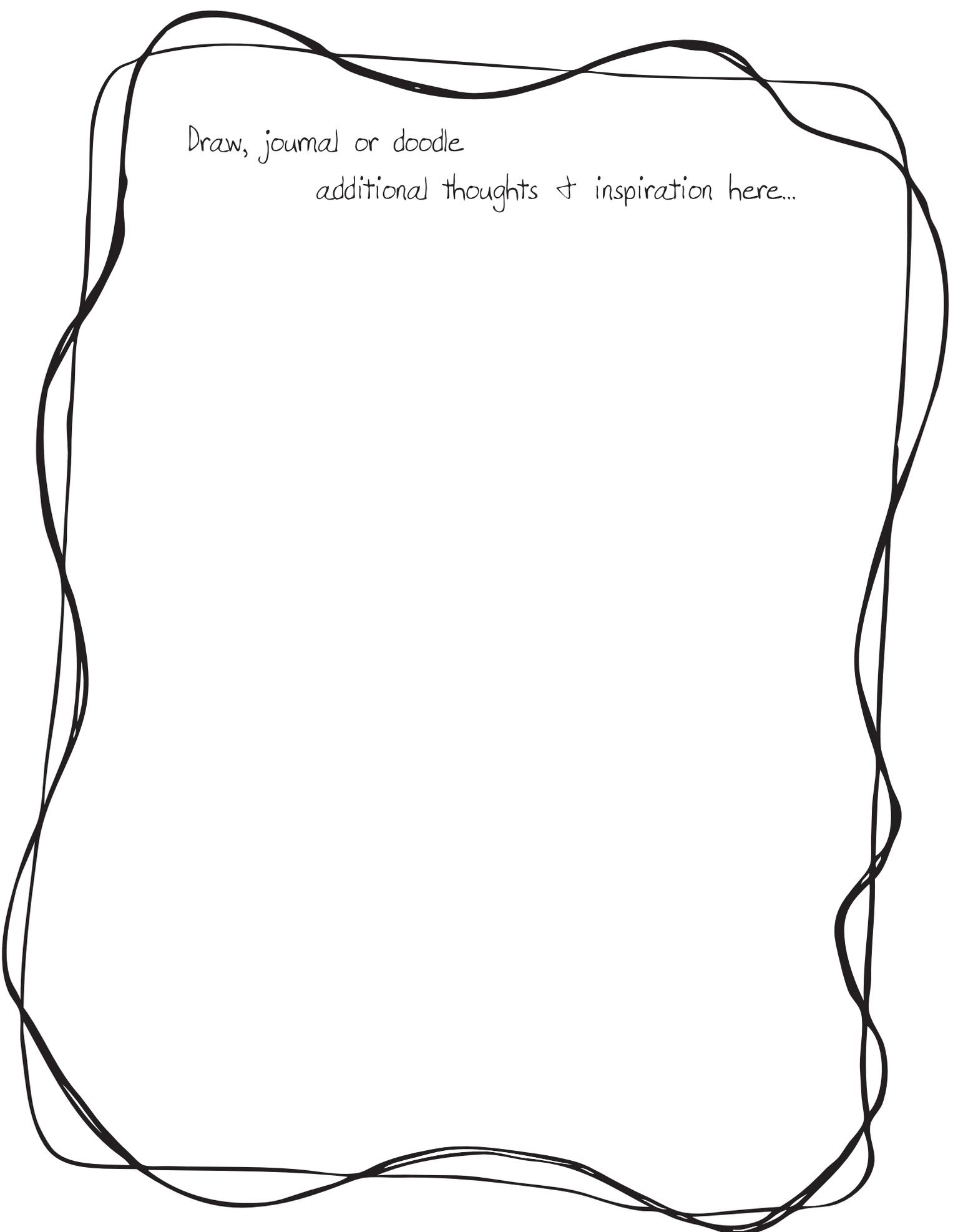
Heavenly Father, thank you that through Jesus Christ you have made us citizens of heaven!

"The New Jerusalem" Read Revelation 21-22 to identify the symbols in the drawing & add your own.

"But we are citizens of heaven,
where the Lord Jesus Christ lives."

Philippians 3:20NLT





Draw, journal or doodle

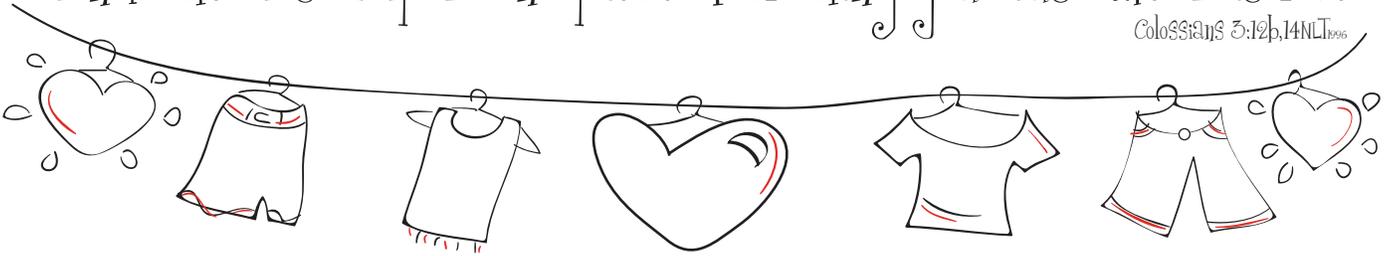
additional thoughts + inspiration here...

Clothed in Love

...you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love.

Colossians 3:12b, 14 NLT 1996



First let's take a look at God's love for us in the verses below. God is so good that only after He has already shared His perfect love with us does He ask us to go and share it with others. He equips us first!

Take another look at Colossians 3:12-14. What are the other attitudes of the heart that God wants us to clothe ourselves with? Write them here:

"...God is love." 1 John 4:8b NLT

"We love each other as a result of his loving us first." 1 John 4:19 NLT

"For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." Romans 5:5b NLT

You see, God has already infused us with His love. In fact, it's in you right now. Fully alive, active & operative and waiting to be expressed through you. *Yes, you!*

Draw pictures in the spaces below representing God showering you with His love, you receiving His love & loving Him in return and finally, you sharing His love with others!

L

Draw God

O

Draw You

V

Draw Others (that you can show God's love)

E

Draw More Others (that you can show God's love)

All love originates from God because God is love. In fact let's take another look at Romans 5:5b. The New King James translation says:

"...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

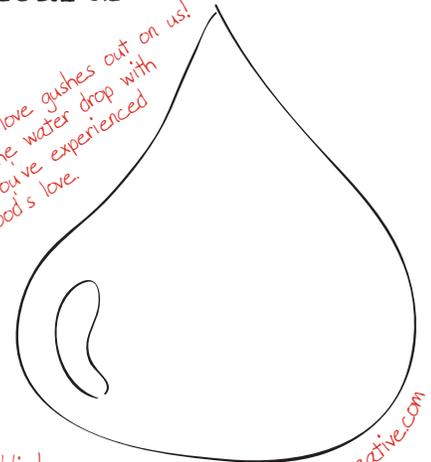
Circle the words 'poured out' in the verse. Let's look a closer look at their definition:

Pour out: shed abroad, shed forth, bestow or distribute largely, to gush out, spill *God has poured out His love on us...doesn't it just make you smile?!*

God's love gushes out on us! Fill in the water drop with times you've experienced God's love.



Close your eyes and meditate on the above Scripture which tells us God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Ask God what He'd like to show you about that verse. Imagine (feel & see) God's love being poured forth into your spirit; His love pouring out from Him, saturating you from the inside out. You are overflowing with His love. You are forever changed. *How sweet it is to be loved by Him!*



www.anebearcreative.com

Before we move on, let's share a quiet moment with God thanking Him for His magnificent love. Perhaps you need a fresh revelation of God's love for you. If so, put the study down and seek Him. Don't rush it - these quiet moments with God change us. See you soon!

Clothe d in Love

Welcome to page 2! I knew you'd make it. Now that we have established that we are drenched in God's love, let's explore more! The word used for love in all of these verses is agape.

Agape: determined, committed & selfless good will, charity, desire to do good to others, desire for the other's best, kindness

In Colossians 3:12-14 God gives us a patchwork of virtues and tells us to clothe ourselves with them. He tells us agape (love) is what holds them all together.

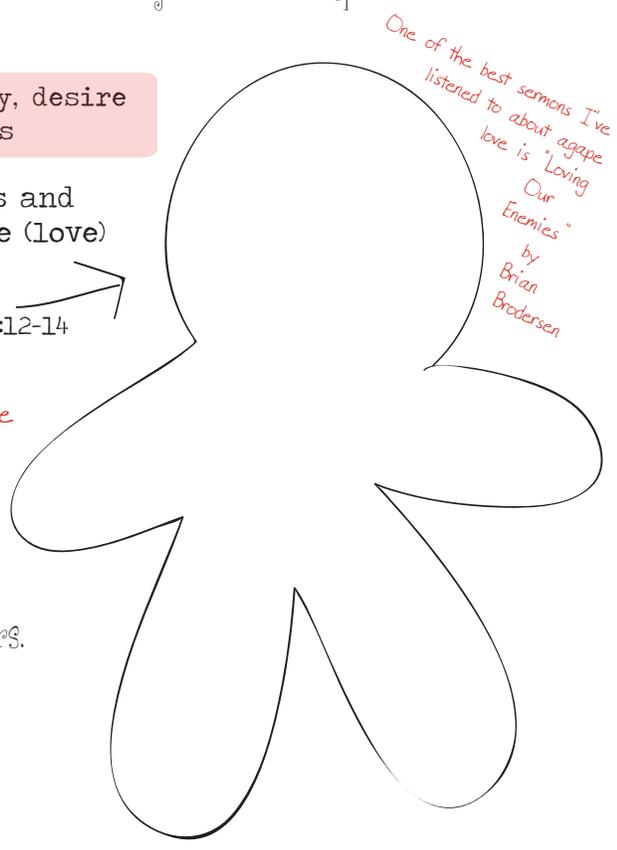
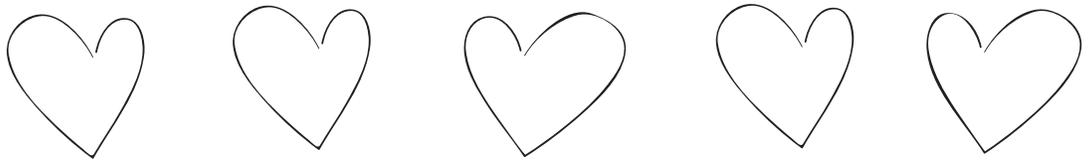
Clothe this mini-you in the virtues mentioned in Colossians 3:12-14 with agape (love) holding them all together.

Philosopher Thomas Jay Oord has defined agape as an intentional response to promote well-being when responding to that which has generated ill-being.

Time for a self-check! Read through the following statements and see what Holy Spirit wishes to reveal to you regarding these areas of your life. No condemnation here. This is simply an opportunity to see where God's agape love is very evident in your life and where you may need to focus some of your time and prayers.

- I consistently display agape love to my coworkers.
- I consistently display agape love to my family.
- I consistently display agape love to church members.
- I consistently display agape love to my friends.
- I consistently display agape love to strangers.

Fill in the hearts with the names of the people you desire to cover in God's agape (love). Ask God right now to reveal to you new ways of loving those folks!



Last, but not least, let's look at one more important aspect of Colossians 3:14.

"And the most important piece of clothing you must **wear** is love." Colossians 3:14NLT 1996

The NIV translation says it this way, "...put on love." One definition of 'put on' says to sink into like clothing.

What's your favorite piece of clothing? How do you feel when you put it on? Do you purposefully "put on" God's love?

My favorites are my black jacket + cheetah rain boots. They make me feel comfortable, warm, protected + fun!

iagination break

In the morning as you are getting dressed, or even while you're still in bed, close your eyes and imagine (feel & see) yourself sinking into God's agape love.

*Speak It: "Thank you God that I am clothed in your love today!"

May we all sink deeper & deeper into God's love so that we may wear it and display it to the world as our finest piece of clothing!

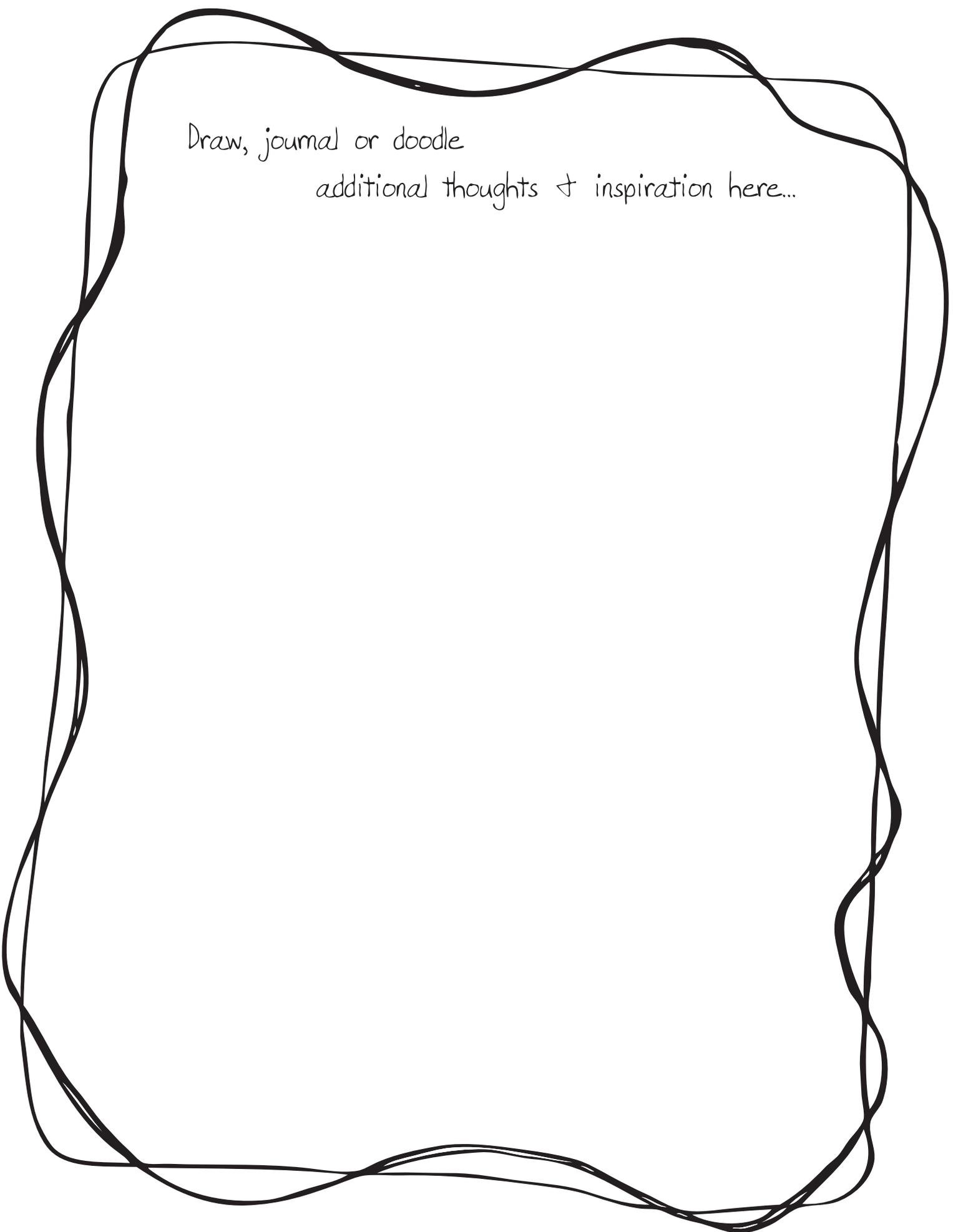
Join me in a closing prayer, won't you?

Magnificent Father we wholeheartedly thank you for your amazing love which has been poured into our hearts. We receive it and declare it is operating in our lives. Help us each day to put on love as our most important piece of clothing and share your love with the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Dress, hat, mittens, glasses & socks of love! Fill in the hearts with other ways we can "dress" in love.



"And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love." Colossians 3:14 NLT



Draw, journal or doodle

additional thoughts + inspiration here...

Delight in the Lord

"Delight yourself also in the LORD,
and He shall give you the desires of your heart."
Psalm 37:4 NKJV

At first glance this verse seems fun + light-hearted - a promise that when we cheer in God, we'll get everything we want. At second glance, we find a challenging verse that causes us to get real in a deep way as we answer the question, "Am I truly delighting in the Lord?" Let's start by reflecting on what we know about Psalm 37:4. In your own words, write what God is telling us in this verse:

Now let's take a look at the definition of delight!

delight

-to be soft, delicate, tender

Clay must stay soft in the potter's hands (Isaiah 64:8). Our hearts must stay tender before God (Hebrews 3:15).

-to take great pleasure in; exquisite satisfaction

Delight comes from a root word meaning to be brought up in pleasure; to be pampered

The picture that comes to mind when I read the above definitions is of an adorable fluffy puppy rolling in the green grass on a warm Spring day. The dog frolics in the grass, enjoying himself without a care in the world. What picture represents delight to you? Draw it in the box below!



Just like a dog frolicking, a baby laughing or a passerby taking a moment to smell the roses, we don't overanalyze the things we delight in - we simply bask in their presence + enjoy the moment. Have you basked in God's presence + enjoyed the moment with Him lately?

Before we move on, let's make sure we're all on the same page regarding our hearts.

The Bible warns us that our hearts can be evil (Jeremiah 17:9) however when we make that life-changing decision to follow Jesus Christ, we are given a new heart with new desires (Ezekiel 36:26).

*Non-conformist minister *Matthew Henry (1662-1714) has some light to shine on this matter.*

"He [God] has not promised to gratify all the appetites of the body and the humours of the fancy, but to grant all the desires of the heart, all the cravings of the renewed sanctified soul. What is the desire of the heart of a good man? ...to know, and love, and live to God, to please Him and to be pleased in Him."

For too long I heard this verse with a carnal ear believing that if I could just get myself to delight in God enough that He would give me everything I wanted. If that's you as well, meditate on the verse and ask Holy Spirit for a fresh understanding.

I d e l i g h t i n y o u L o r d .

Color in the words as you declare this to God!

Delight in the Lord

Now that we're on the same page let's delight in Him some more, shall we?

Charles Spurgeon once wrote, "Every name, attribute, word or deed of Jehovah should be delightful to us..." In the stars below fill in some of God's amazing attributes that you wish to delight in!



I hope by now you are seeing the truth that God, Himself, is our delight rather than the gifts He gives us. Certainly, He gives us good things to enjoy but may we always delight in Him as our heart's chief aim. Let's take a look at some more Bible verses that give us reason to delight in Him!

These verses help us keep our eyes on who God is rather than what He gives us.

"...in your presence there is fullness of joy..." Psalm 16:11b

"...I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." Genesis 15:1b

Now it's time for one of those deep life-changing questions! Get ready for it...

"How would my life be different if I made delighting in God a priority?"

I asked the question as our study opened now ask yourself again, "Am I truly delighting in God?"



Close your eyes and imagine your typical day. How often do you find yourself delighting in the Lord? Close your eyes and imagine a new typical day where delighting in the Lord is a natural part of every moment.

See Romans 8:28 for how we can delight in even difficult situations.

What does it look like for you to delight in the Lord on a daily basis?

What you will need to change/add/delete from your day to ensure you are delighting in the Lord?

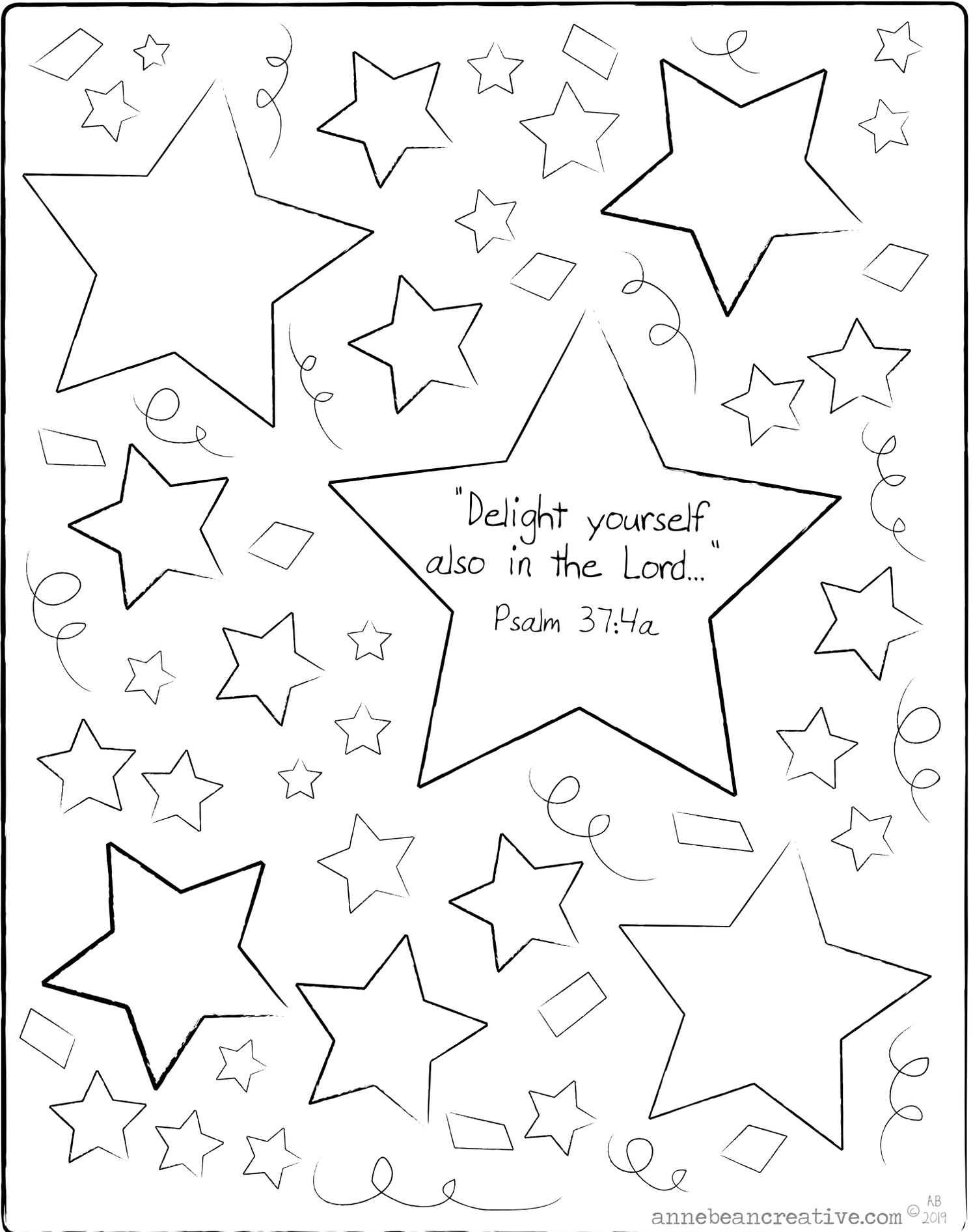
Let's close with some fun! We've explored many different facets of delighting in the Lord. We'll close by writing a "Delight in the Lord" haiku. Yes, a haiku...don't worry, you can do it! Plus, it will give you a precious souvenir of our time together and serve as a reminder to delight in the Lord!

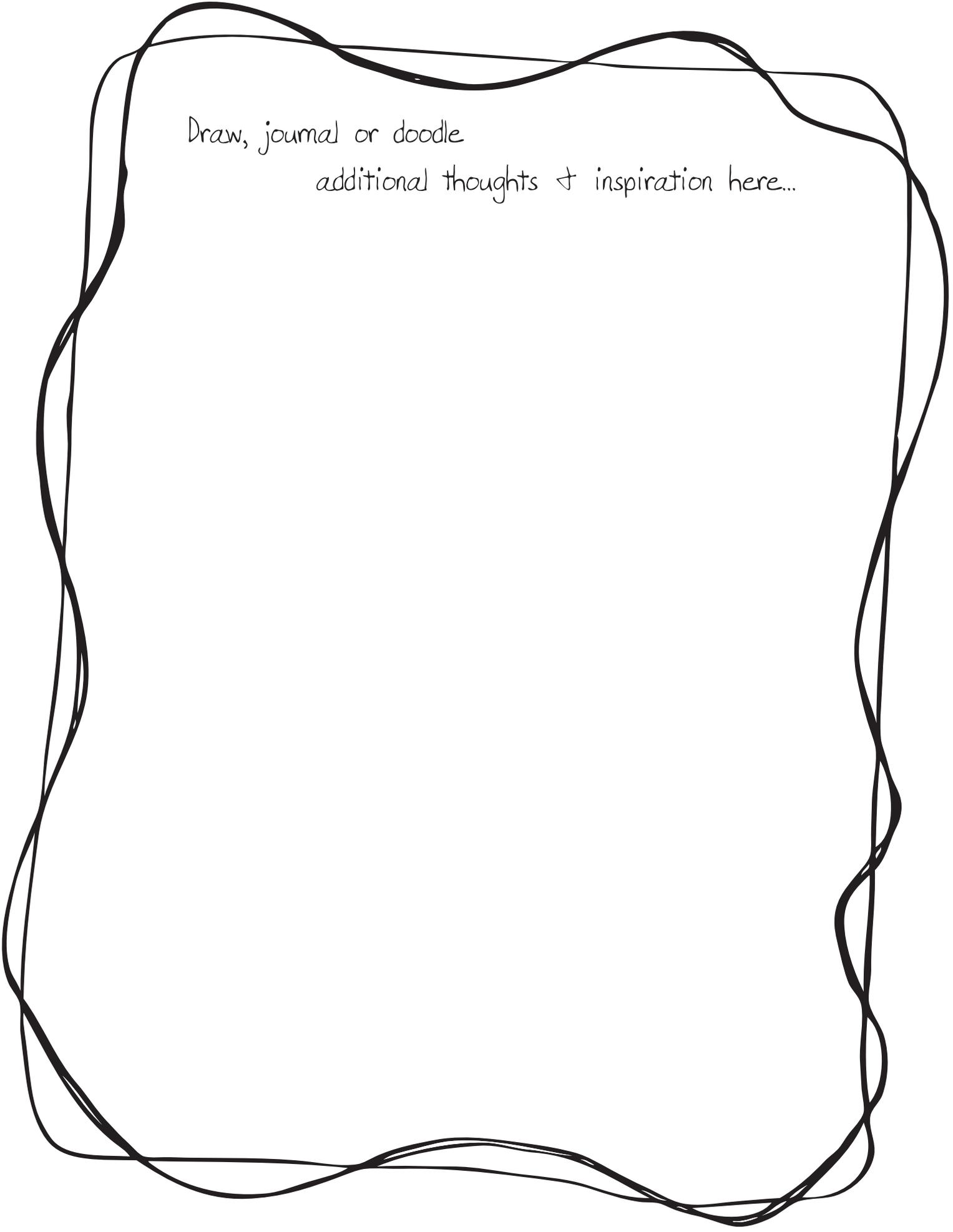
Haiku directions! A haiku is a poem with 3 lines (no need to rhyme). The 1st line has 5 syllables, the 2nd line has 7 syllables and the 3rd line has 5 syllables. Write & illustrate your haiku below.

Share your haiku on social media to inspire others!



Surprise! You're throwing a "Delight in the Lord" party! Color the picture & fill in the stars with all the amazing reasons that we'll delight in the Lord at your party!

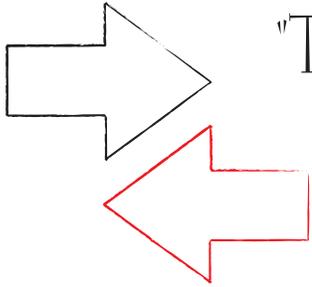




Draw, journal or doodle

additional thoughts & inspiration here...

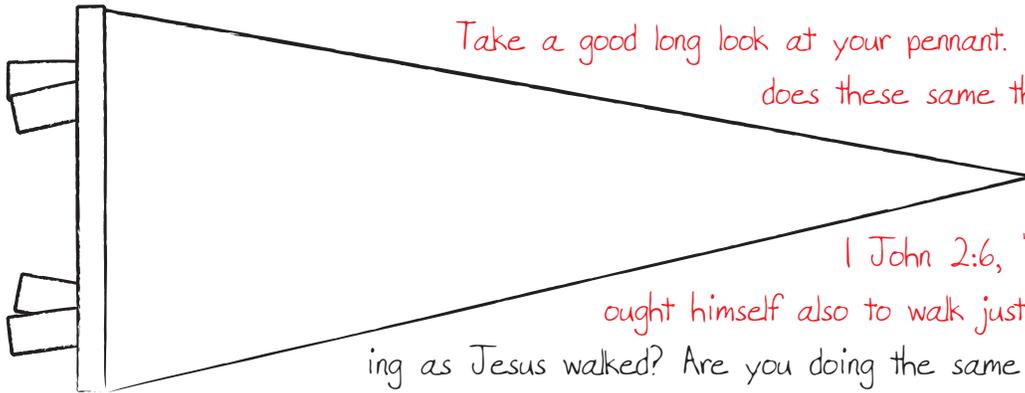
Follower or Fan



"Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Luke 9:23 NKJV

Welcome friends! Get ready for a life-changing study that challenges you to define whether you are a follower or a fan of Jesus. Followers get in the game while fans merely sit on the bleachers. This study is based on a teaching that God has used to drastically change my life titled "Not a Fan" by Kyle Idleman. While this study isn't affiliated with Kyle Idleman's work, what follows are my teaching notes & activities that God has used to rock my world. I believe He'll do the same for you. Let's do this!

We'll start with a creative exercise. Decorate the pennant below as if it were Jesus' pennant - celebrating all that He has done past, present, future. Go ahead & do it now!



Take a good long look at your pennant. A follower gets in the game and does these same things. (A fan, on the other hand, only cheers from the bleachers for Jesus.) We are told in 1 John 2:6, "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." Are you walking as Jesus walked? Are you doing the same things you drew in the pennant?

Now let's take a look at some of Jesus' first followers.

"Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Simon Peter & Andrew → They immediately left their nets and followed Him." Matthew 4:19-20

"Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him." Matthew 4:21-22

What do you notice about how Simon Peter, Andrew, James & John responded to Jesus' call to follow Him?

Have you responded in a similar way?

For more, read Matthew's "follower" story in Luke 5:27-28

FolloweR or Fan

Let's take a deeper look at Luke 9:23, this time from the Amplified translation. We'll break the verse down into three parts and reflect on each part. Write your answers in each corresponding box.

Thank you Holy Spirit for leading us into all truth as we go deep with this verse.

"And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to follow Me [as my disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests]..."

Selfish interests that I have already set aside

Selfish interests that I need to set aside

"...and take up his cross daily [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come]..."

"Crosses" I have willingly endured

"Crosses" God may be calling me to endure

"...and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me].

How I have conformed to Christ's example

Ways I still need to grow in conforming to Christ's example

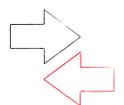
Well, I said we'd go deep and I wasn't kidding! Let's take a look at one final Bible verse.

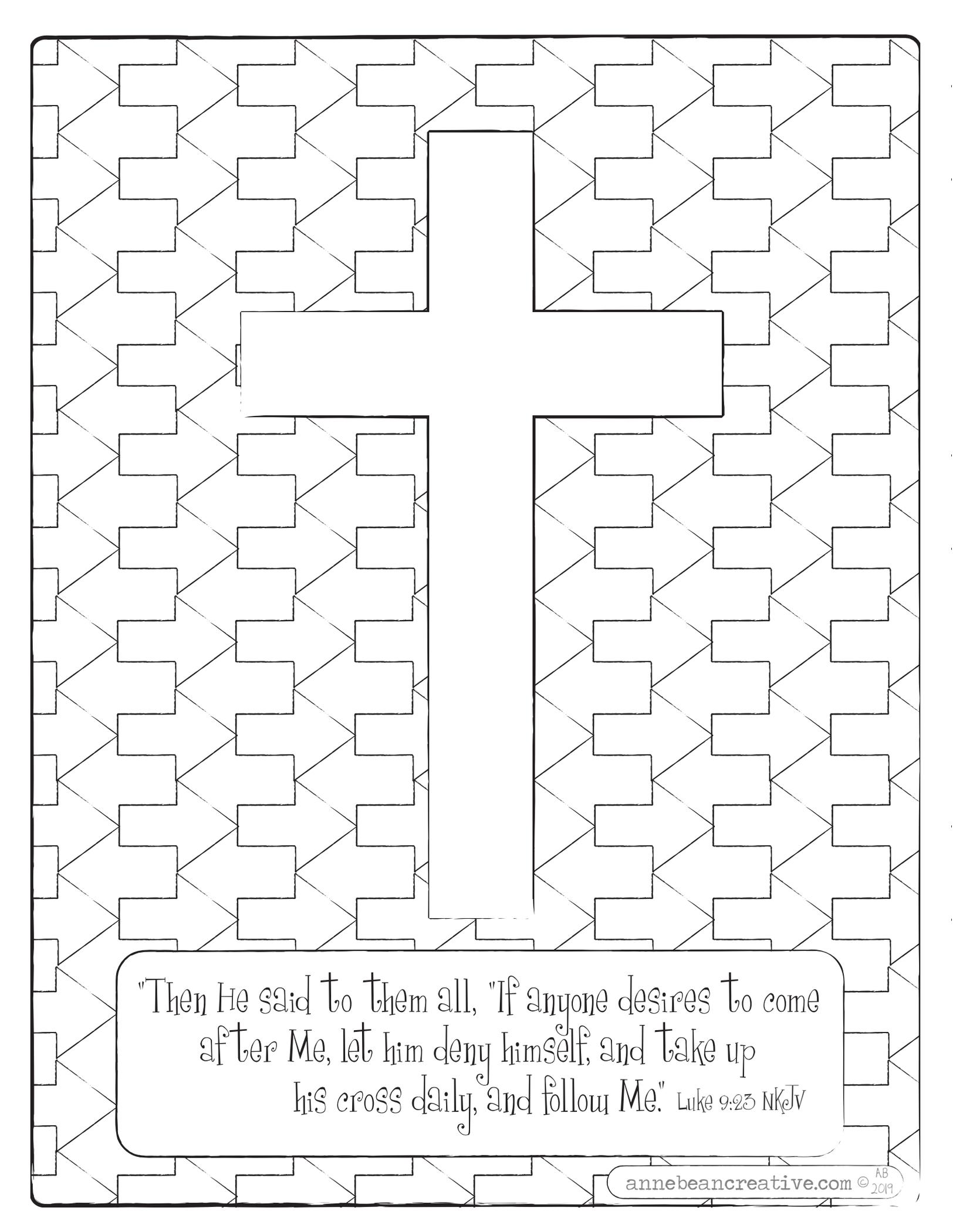
"For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." James 4:14b NKJV

Wow, what a sobering Scripture. As followers of Christ, we only have a short time here on Earth to represent Him before we "vanish away." With that in mind, for our last activity write your own one sentence epitaph. Thinking about how we want to be remembered can help us start living that way right now - it can help ensure we're a **follower** rather than just a fan.

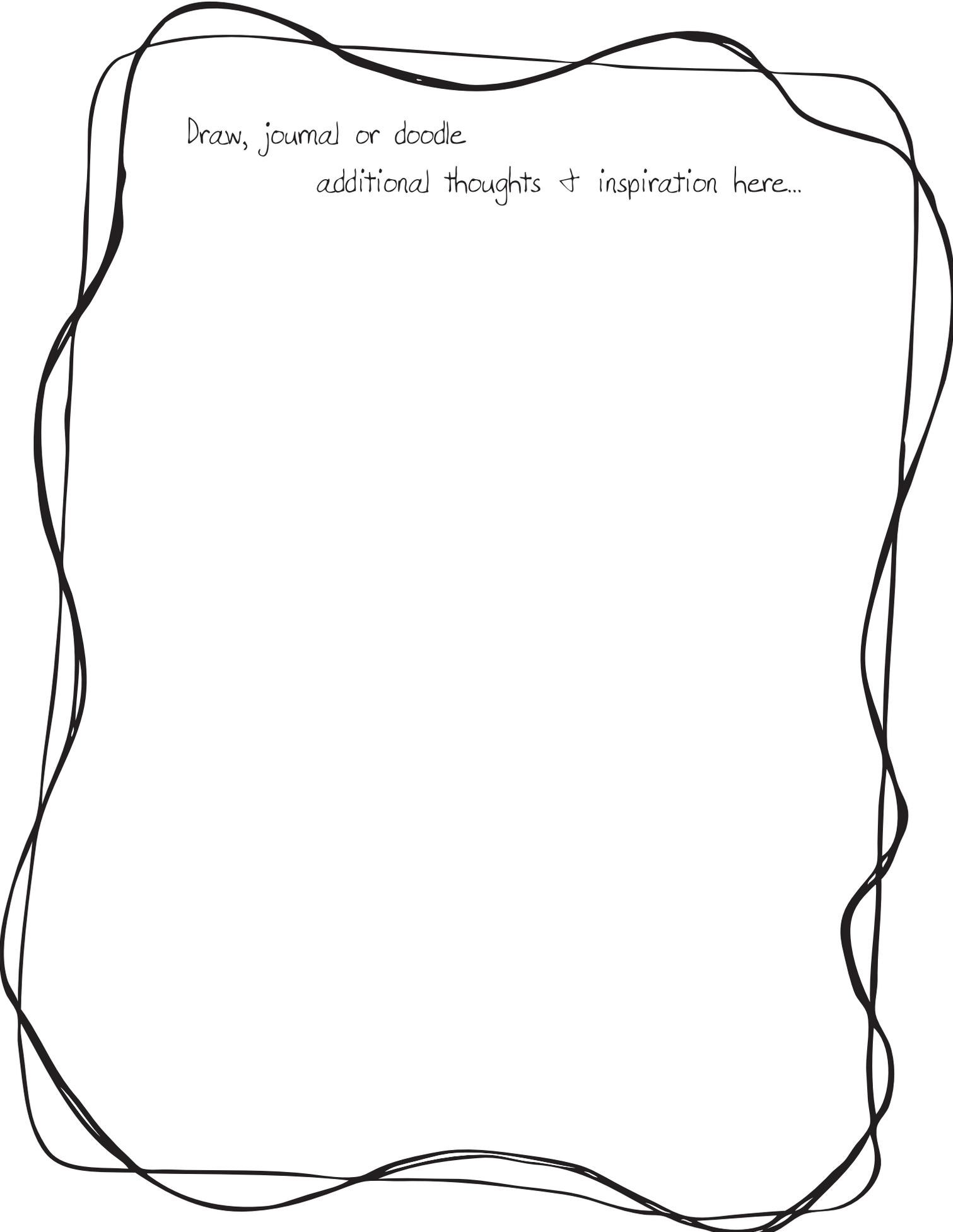
My epitaph: _____

Thank you for joining me and may we press forward in the faith as we **follow** Him!





"Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Luke 9:23 NKJV



Draw, journal or doodle

additional thoughts † inspiration here...

Heaven's Yes!



"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us." 2 Corinthians 1:20 NKJV

What can I say about this verse other than, "Yes!"? As if we needed any more assurance that God is faithful, trustworthy and able to deliver on all of His promises, here we have Paul reminding us that in Christ Jesus, all of God's promises are "Yes + Amen!". Makes me exhale a big sigh of relief with a contented smile on my face. Our God is faithful indeed and since He's said "Yes!" to us, let's examine how we need to say "Yes!" to Him and get into agreement with His will for our lives.

I say "Yes!" to my identity in Christ!

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name..." John 1:12

"...you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God..." Ephesians 2:19

Underline the parts of these verses that identify who we are in Christ. Then use the underlined words to write a declaration of who you are in Christ. Speak the declaration out loud.

Encourage others!
Share your declaration
on social media.

It is amazing to me that in Christ we get to be members of God's own household! It reminds me of Little Orphan Annie's delighted wide-eyes as she first walked into Daddy Warbuck's mansion, learned of all the amenities that were now available to her and sang, "I think I'm gonna' like it here!"

Imagination } Close your eyes and imagine yourself walking into God's "mansion"; a member of His household. As you look around, take in all the blessings + promises that are now yours!
Break! } See yourself as God sees you. Write or draw your reflections in the space below.

I enjoyed taking the time to mindfully reflect on the household of God...it reminded me of Philippians 4:8

Heaven's Yes!

I say "Yes!" to my divine design!

"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." Psalm 139:14a
Let's take a clearer look at the definitions of fearfully † wonderfully...

fearfully: with respect & honor **wonderfully:** distinct & distinguished

Say, "Thank you Lord I am made with respect † honor, distinct † distinguished!"

"My frame was not hidden from You, When I was being formed in secret, and intricately and skillfully formed [as if embroidered with many colors] in the depths of the earth." Psalm 139:15 (AMPC)

Wow! This verse tells us that when God formed us it's as if He "embroidered us with many colors". Imagine the Father lovingly † purposefully weaving the strands of your life together. Fill in the "thumbs up" with the colors you imagine God used when He created you!

We must humbly accept that we are divinely designed and that our life has divine purpose. Let's explore some of our God-given purposes...



I say "Yes!" to God's purposes!

"...to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places..."
Ephesians 3:10

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." Matthew 28:19a

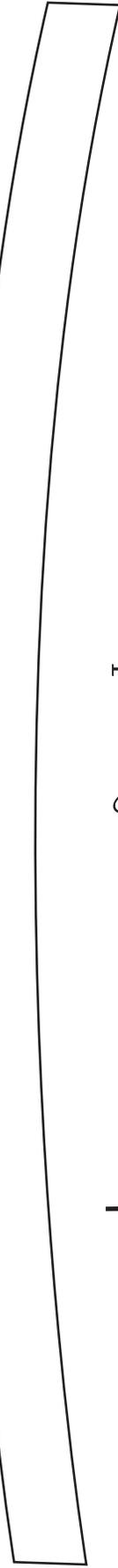
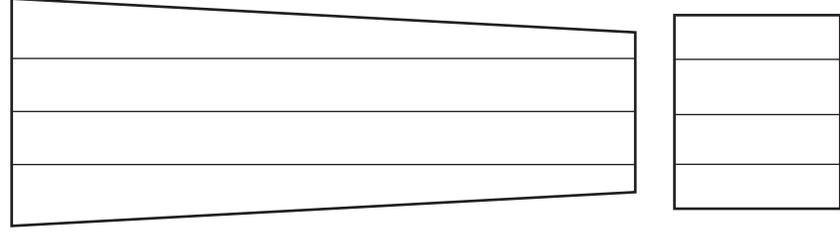
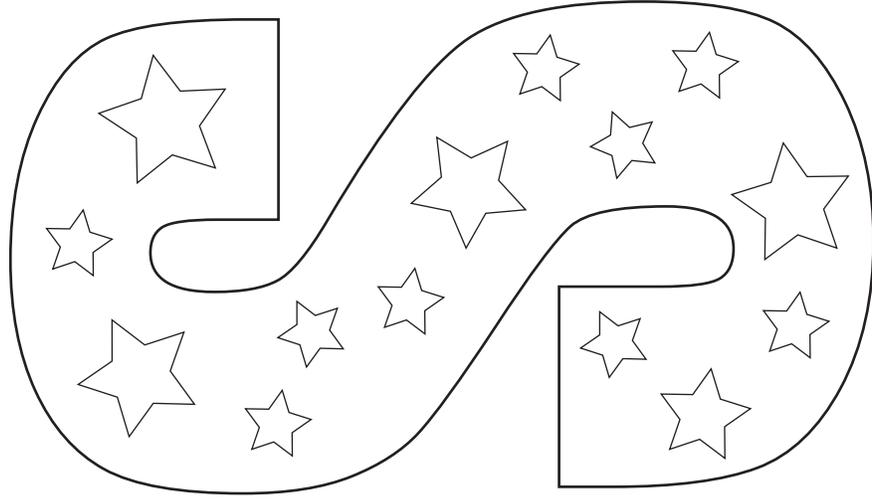
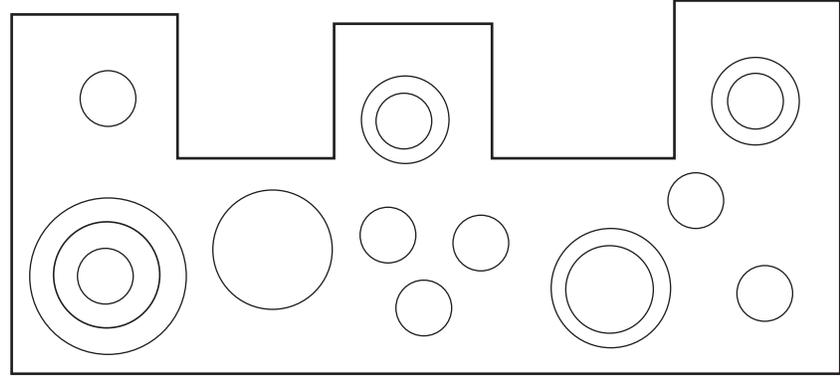
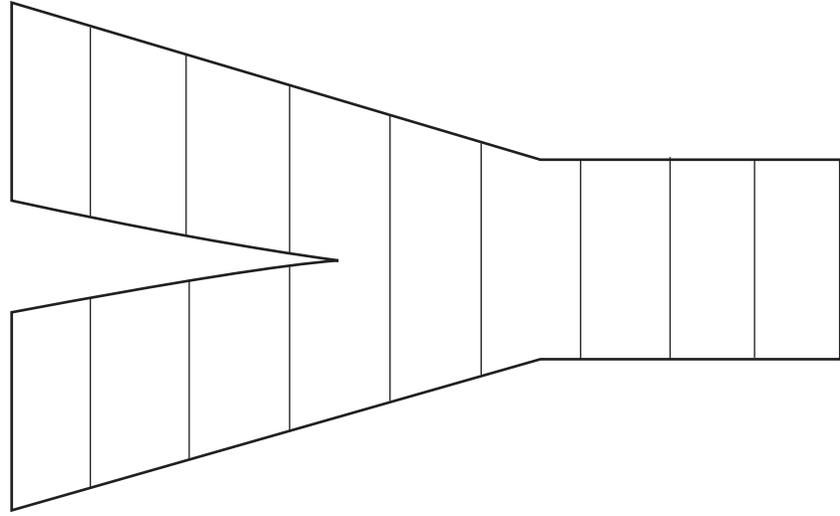
What are our God-given purposes shared in Ephesians 3:10 † Matthew 28:19? Why are they important?

How can you say "Yes!" to these purposes on a daily basis? _____

For great resources on disciple-making, check out multiplymovement.com

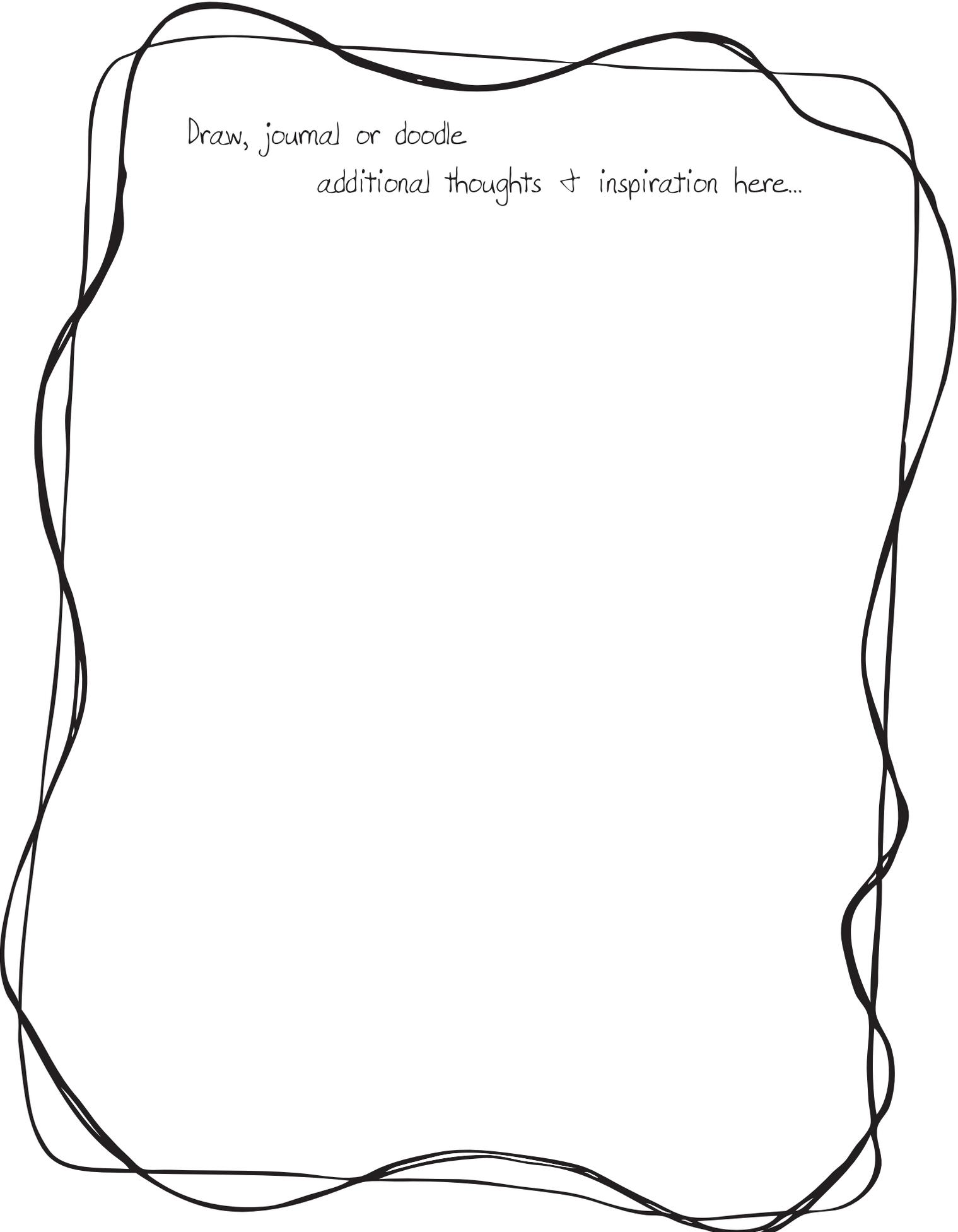
We can see that getting into agreement with God and saying "Yes!" to what He says "Yes!" to is an important part of our journey with Jesus. As you continue to follow Jesus, you will find many other truths in the Bible that we must say "Yes!" to but for now keep boldly declaring,

I say 'Yes!' to my identity in Christ, my divine design & to God's Purposes!



"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes,
and in Him Amen, to the glory of God Through us."

1 Corinthians 1:20 NKJV



Draw, journal or doodle

additional thoughts + inspiration here...

His Nature in Nature



"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Romans 1:20 NIV

Have you stepped outside lately? Looked to the sky, enjoyed a bouquet of fresh flowers, listened to the crashing ocean waves or heard the song of a bird? As you do so, you may think you're merely spending time in creation but read the above verse again and you'll see each moment in creation is an invitation to learn more about our Creator. In this study we'll take a look at some of the verses in the Bible that talk about the different parts of nature and what God is showing us through them.

Let's get started! In each of the boxes below draw one of your favorite parts of nature. Then fill in the blanks to reflect on how these parts of nature reveals His nature to you.

When I see _____
(nature)

I am reminded of God's _____ .
(aspect of God's character)

When I see _____
(nature)

I am reminded of God's _____ .
(aspect of God's character)

Share one of your above sentences on social media to inspire others!

Now that you've had time to reflect on your favorite parts of God's awe-inspiring creation, let's dive into some "nature-based" Scriptures starting with a look at the sky.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.
There is no speech of language where their voice is not heard." Psalm 19:1-3

Wow! Come again? The heavens declare the glory of God and there is no speech or language where they cannot be heard? Take a moment and go look up at the sky wherever you are. Be still before God and ask Him what He is showing you about Himself through the sky you gaze upon.

Describe the sky you saw and what God was showing you about Himself: _____

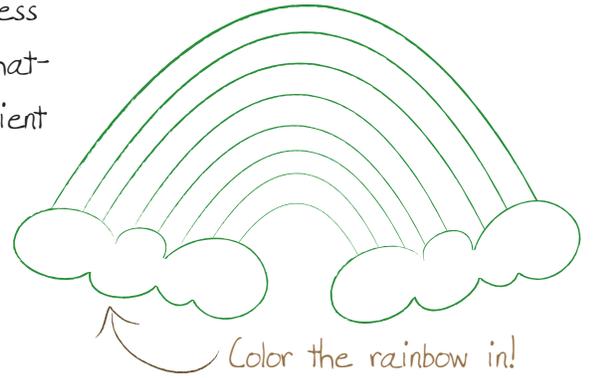
His Nature in Nature

Let's continue our look into God's nature in nature!

"Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life." Genesis 9:14-15

Who knew that a rainbow could speak so loudly of God's faithfulness & long-suffering? After all, He is God and He could do with us whatever He pleases, yet here we see His promise to be ever so patient with us. When you think about God's promise that the rainbow represents, which of His other character traits come to mind?

Fill in each arc of the rainbow with the different character traits of God that you are thankful for!

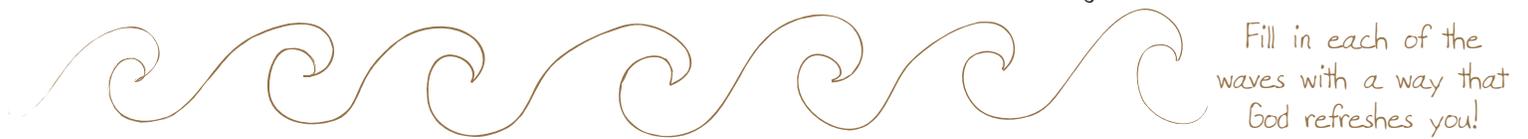


Now let's take a look at water!

"Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea - the LORD on high is mighty." Psalm 93:4

The word mighty in the above verse means great or majestic. God is revealing His majesty through the breakers of the sea - even more majestic than the breakers of the sea is He!

Imagination } Close your eyes for a moment and imagine yourself standing on the shoreline of the
Break! } great waters. Listen to the sound of the water crashing up against the breakers.
Take in the beauty. Pause & praise God; let His majesty refresh you.



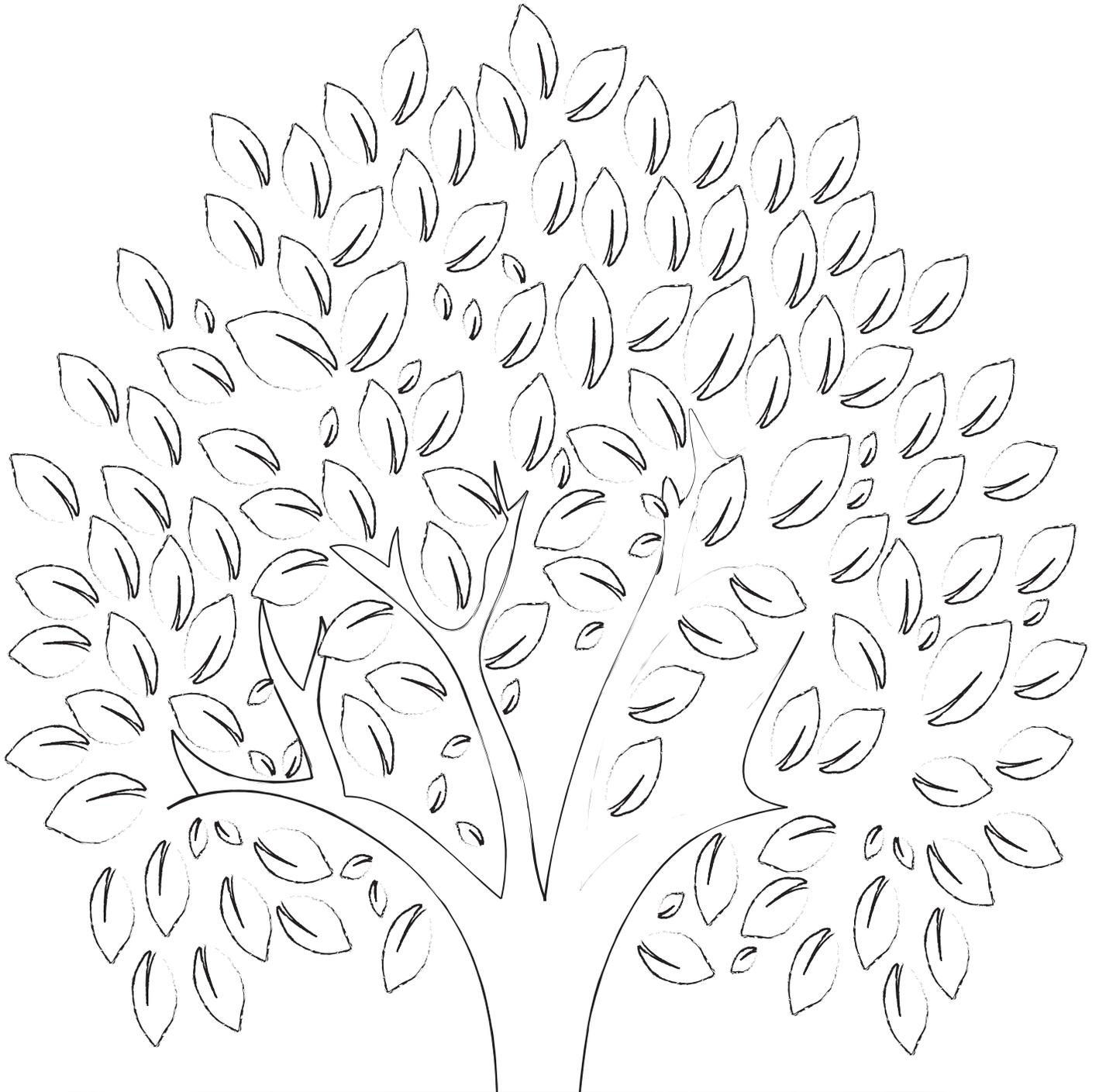
As we close, let's take a look at the grass & flowers to again remind us of God's faithfulness!

"All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever..." 1 Peter 1:24-25a

This verse speaks to me about everything as we know it fading away yet God's word standing firm forever. In fact, in this verse we are told His Word is forever established in heaven. So we can literally look at the grass & the flowers and be reminded that our Father is a faithful Father who keeps His word forever!

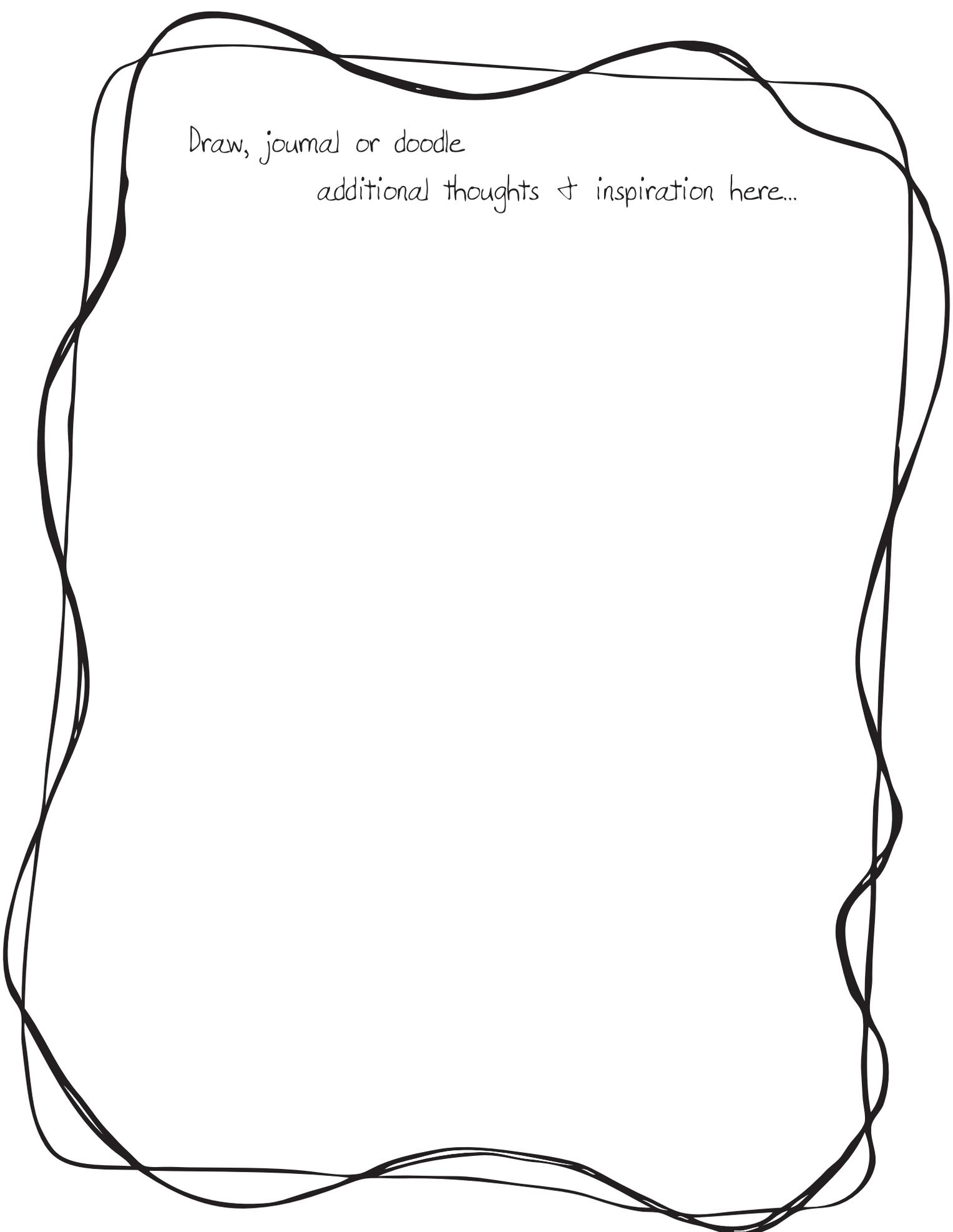
For our final exercise, write one of your favorite Bible verses amongst the grass... and remember... His eternal power & divine nature can be seen in nature so that no-one is with excuse!





"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

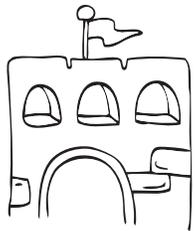
Romans 1:20 NIV



Draw, journal or doodle

additional thoughts & inspiration here...

The Kingdom of God



"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33 NKJV

Matthew 6:33 is one of those pivotal verses that we all seem to know & love to quote. I learned this verse as a church hymn when I was a youngster and I still sing the song today! Recently as I was singing it out, I thought to myself, "Sure, I can quote the verse but what does it really mean to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness first?" Let's seek together, shall we?



This verse is part of Jesus' first recorded teachings. He sat down on a mountainside and began teaching the crowds. Close your eyes & take a moment to imagine you're part of that crowd eagerly anticipating the first teachings of Jesus.

Are we as enthused today to hear the teachings of Jesus as we were when we first heard?

Jesus teaches the crowd to seek God's kingdom first. He then asks them why they worry about their clothes and encourages them not to worry about what they will eat or drink. He then states, "For the pagans run after all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them."

Pagans worry, children trust. As children of God how should we behave? _____

Remember, we are children of a good, good Father!

Let's take a deeper look at the definitions of a few of the words from this verse.

seek

to covet earnestly, strive after & aim at

↳ yearn to possess

↳ make great efforts to obtain

first

first in rank, influence & honor, chief, principal

↳ Are we giving God's kingdom first place in honor & influence in every situation?

kingdom

the right of authority to reign & rule, royal power

righteousness

God's way of doing & being right, attitude & character of God, the state of being acceptable to God

↳ We are made acceptable to God through Jesus Christ!

Now go back and circle the definitions above that stand out to you.

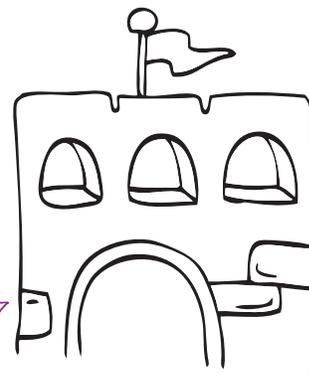
Rewrite Matthew 6:33 using the words you circled above:

Remember, seeking God's kingdom first means in every situation! Not only first thing in the morning but in all the events of your day.



Encourage one another! Take a moment right now to share your Matthew 6:33 rewrite on social media.

The verse then states that "all these things" will be added unto you. Write what those "things" are inside the castle & flag.



The Kingdom of God

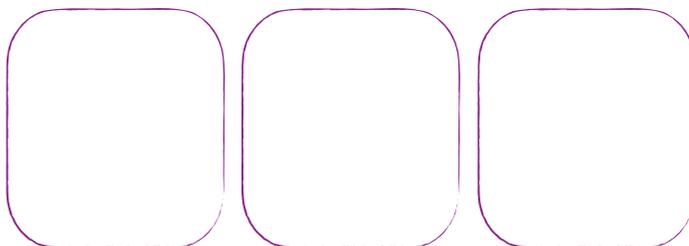
Wow, we're already halfway done and there's so much more to discover about this amazing verse! Something that I find interesting is that Jesus mentions the Kingdom of Heaven very early on in His ministry. In fact, in my Bible the section is titled "Jesus Begins to Preach" and Jesus' first words under this heading are:

"...Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17b From this point on in the study, we will use the terms "kingdom of God" + "kingdom of Heaven interchangeably.

The words "at hand" mean to bring near or to join one thing to another. Jesus joined Heaven's Kingdom with Earth but even more so, He joined God + man together. ← Selah (pause + calmly think of that)

Let's get creative!

- In Box 1 draw God & Heaven
- In Box 3 draw man & Earth
- In Box 2 draw Jesus joining them together



List ways in which Jesus brought Heaven to Earth: (See Matthew 4:23)

How beautiful that Jesus brought Heaven + Earth; God and man together. Let's read more about God's kingdom!

"...the kingdom of God is not eating & drinking, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17b

We've already explored the definition of righteousness, but let's look at peace and joy.

peace

tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation; harmony, felicity

joy

gladness, calm delight, cheerfulness

This verse shows us that the kingdom of God is something more than outward appearances + actions. Are righteousness, peace + joy part of your inner life?

Here's another verse with insight into God's Kingdom →

"For the Kingdom of God is not in word but in power!" 1 Cor 4:20

In this verse we learn that the kingdom of God is not just talk but power to change your life. How is God's kingdom changing your life everyday?



Let's finish up with a call to action...

Jesus prayed in Matthew 6:10, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

This shows us that the kingdom of God can be released on this earth. But how, you ask? Through you!

"For indeed, the Kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:21b

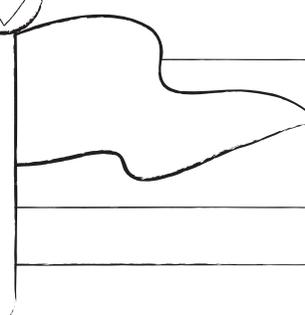
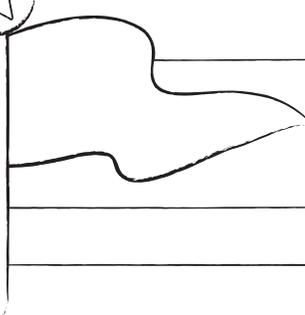
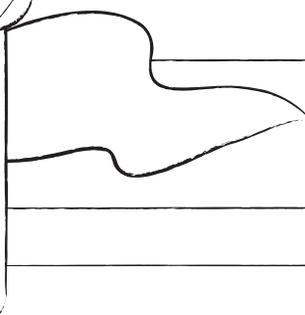
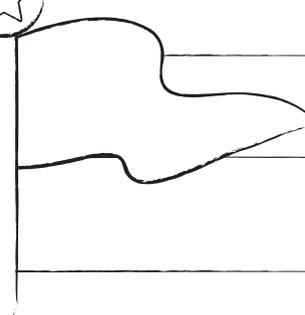
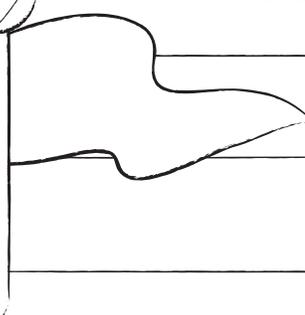
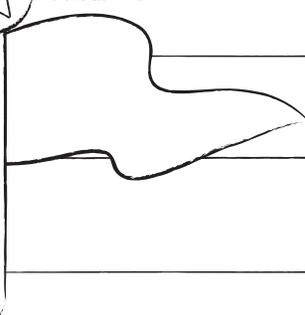
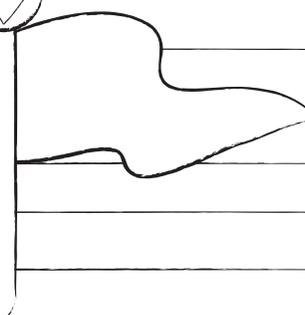
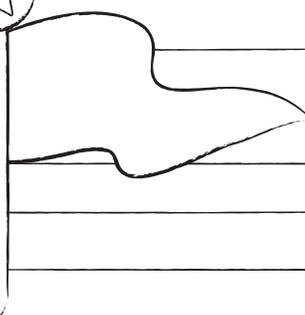
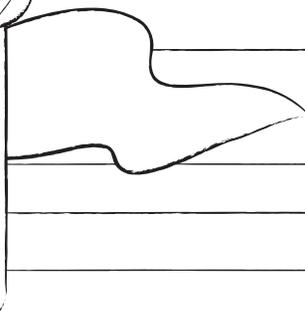
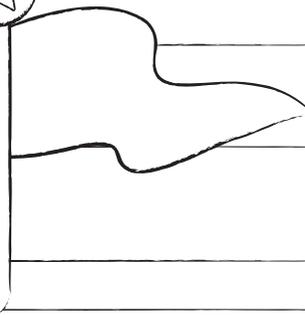
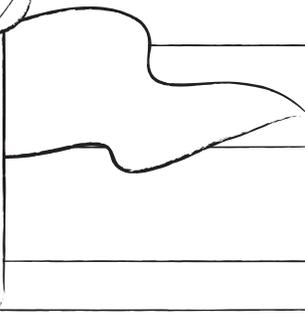
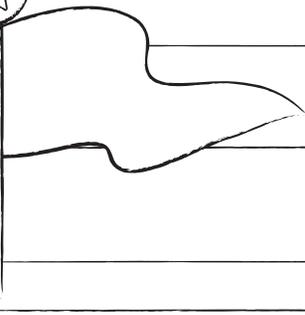
For insight on how to operate under Heaven's rules see Matthew 16:19

God's kingdom came to earth through Jesus and then, through Christ in you! As children of our good, good Father we are privileged to seek (aim at) first (in influence) His kingdom (reign + rule) and His righteousness (His way of doing + being right) and release Heaven on Earth everywhere we go!

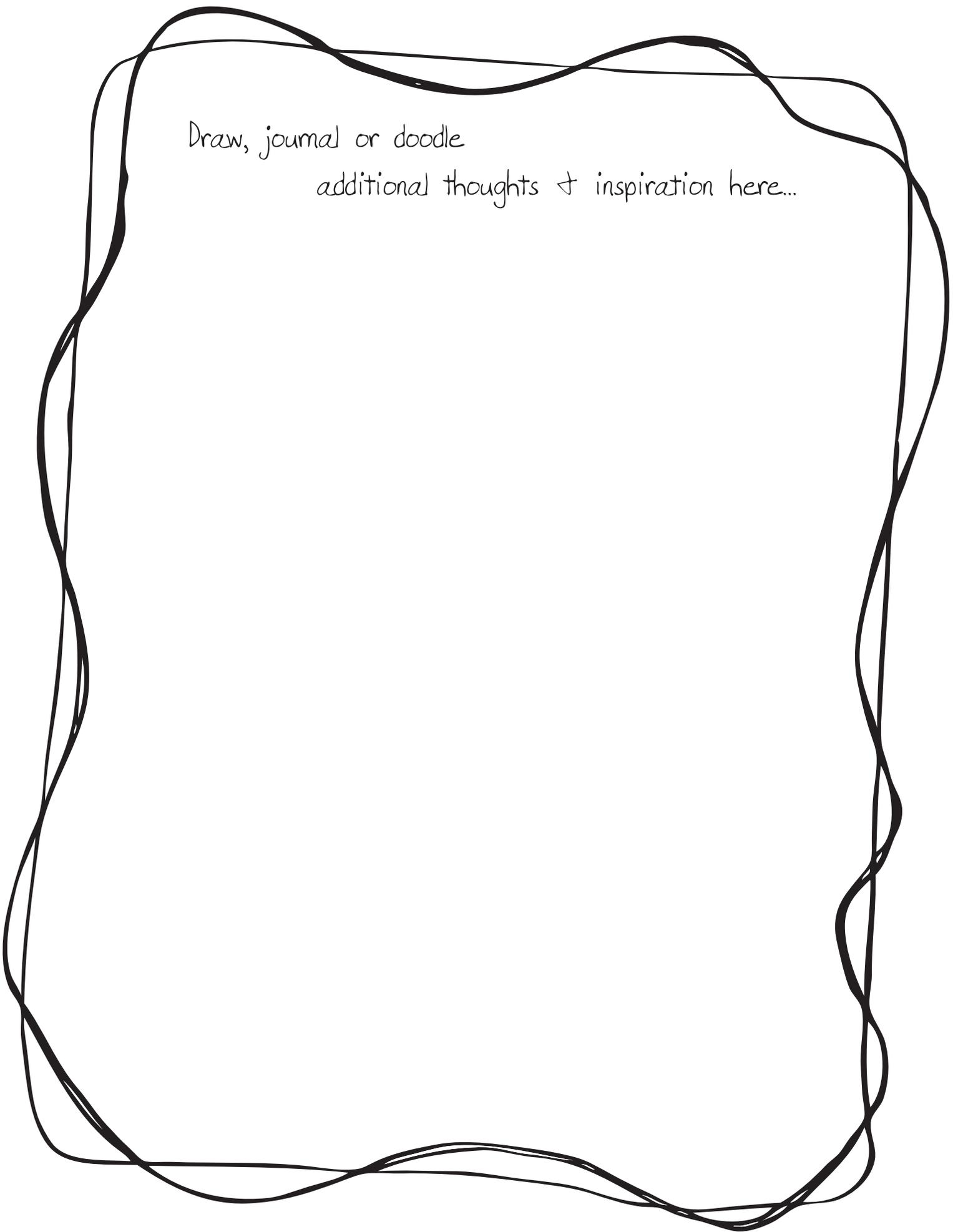
As we close, reflect how you will release the Kingdom of heaven on earth today: _____

Remember, seek first the kingdom of God!

Flags often display pictures & words symbolizing the people & places they represent. Decorate the flags below with pictures & words representing the kingdom of God.



"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33NKJV



Draw, journal or doodle

additional thoughts + inspiration here...

The Mind of Christ



"..for we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:16bNLT

Welcome! This lesson starts big - really big. Start by reading 1 Corinthians 2:16 above. Read it again. And again slowly. This time out loud. Now one more time. This verse (just like all of God's Word) has the power to change your life! The first time it caught ahold of me, I skimmed over it as I was 'diligently' completing my Bible study homework. All of a sudden Holy Spirit put a halt in my spirit. I had just skimmed over a verse that is key to victorious Christian living. Right then I knew He was leading me back to dwell, meditate on and ponder the riches of this verse. Now then, with that in mind, go ahead and read it one more time. Do as I did and sit with it for a few quiet moments. Take your time...we'll wait!

In the space below, rewrite the verse replacing "we" with your name:

Speak it out loud.
Sounds good doesn't it?!!



Start imagining (feel/see) what the mind of Christ in you looks like.

- What should my thoughts be?
- How do I make decisions?
- What ideas do I dwell on?

Let's take a nice deep look at the parts of this verse!

"... for we have the mind of Christ."

to have, hold, possess, hold fast,
lay hold of, to adhere to or cling

Take a look at the verse rewritten to use some of the above definitions:

the faculties of perceiving, understanding,
feeling, judging, determining, perceiving divine
things, recognizing goodness, hating evil,
judging soberly, calmly, impartially, thoughts,
feelings, purposes & desires

I possess, adhere and cling to the understanding, feeling, determining, perceiving of divine things,
calm & impartial judgment, thoughts, purposes and desires of Christ!

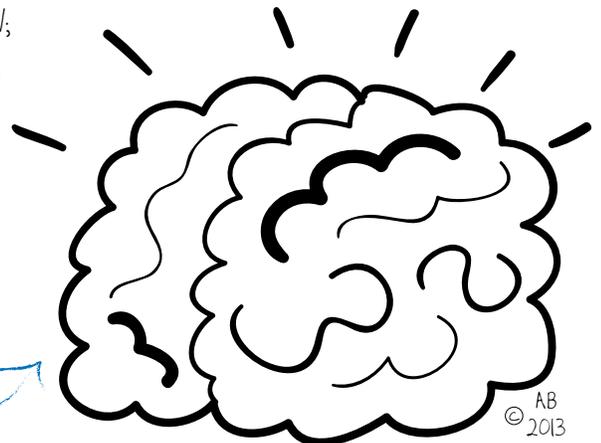
Wow, doesn't that rock your world?! Because of God's free gift to us, we are the current possessors of the mind of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Prince of Peace, King of Kings and Lord of Lords Himself! This isn't some hocus-pocus, far off promise for some other time. This is a promise for NOW; for every believer! This promise is for: _____

Mind of Christ Checklist:

- Be joyful always
- Pray continually
- Give thanks in all circumstances
- Love God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength
- Love your neighbor as yourself

Sound familiar?
See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
and Mark 12:29-31 for more!

Fill in the brain with all the different areas of your life that you'd like God to renew unto the mind of Christ. Take a moment to pray over these areas right now.



The Mind of Christ

Let's start page 2 with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much that you have given us the free gift of salvation through your Son Jesus Christ. Father, thank you because of that gift we get to live in victory while here on earth. Thank you for this time of study with you. Holy Spirit please continue to enlighten Your Word to me. We boldly declare we have the mind of Christ and we thank you for this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Now let's get straight to work as we still have a lot to cover!

The mind of Christ is a precious gift we receive as a result of our born again nature. We receive it by faith just as we did salvation. God wants to see us overcoming in all areas of our lives and the mind of Christ plays a large part in that victory.



It's like clothing! You wouldn't put on a new party dress over old rags. You gotta take off the old rags (wrong thinking) and put on the new party dress (mind of Christ).

Let's take a look at a verse that will teach us how to keep our minds clean!

"...throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes." Ephesians 4:22-23

Did you catch the two steps mentioned in maintaining the mind of Christ?

- 1) Throw off your old sinful nature and former way of life 2) Let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes

↳ No longer identify with it - it's not who you are! ↳ Check out Romans 12:2 for more on this!

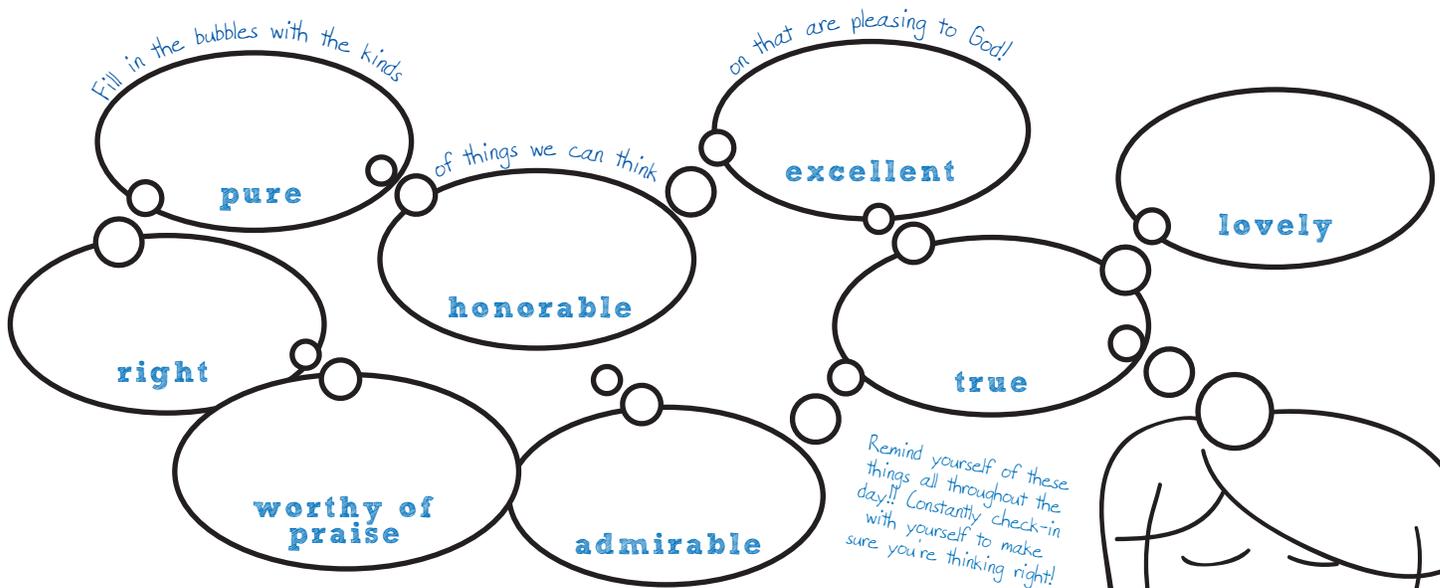


Close your eyes and imagine (feel/see) yourself in a sticky situation where old patterns of thinking have come up. Now hear yourself saying, "I no longer think like that. I have the mind of Christ and I dwell on thoughts that are pleasing to Him!" How good did that feel?! Now when you're faced with a similar situation in your day to day life, you'll be ready to respond with the mind of Christ!

Now that we know we must no longer identify with our old patterns of thinking, let me show you what we must fill our new minds up with!

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing...Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

Philippians 4:8NLT



Additional "Mind" Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 2:5-15, John 17:17

Congratulations! If there were a mind of Christ trophy, I'd give it to you. Constantly renew your mind unto His

Word and enjoy the process of being transformed. God is with you every step of the way!

Now please do me one last favor and boldly declare, "I have the mind of Christ!"

Creatively following Him at www.annebeancreative.com



true

*pure
lovely*

*renewed
thoughts*

*helmet
of
salvation*

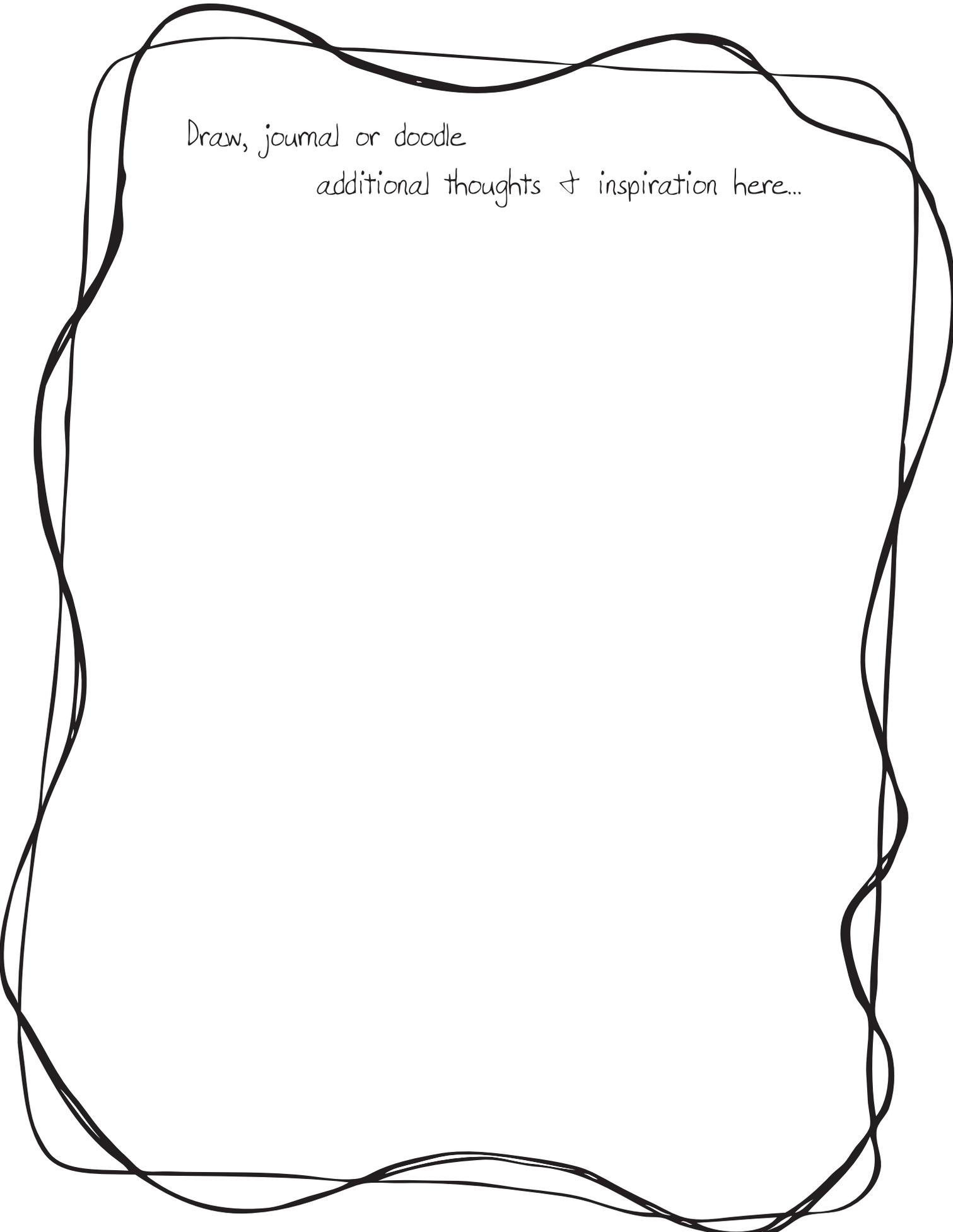
*be
transformed*

*"...for we have the
mind of Christ."*

1 Corinthians 2:16b NLT

*excellent
honorable
praiseworthy*

admirable



Draw, journal or doodle

additional thoughts † inspiration here...

Rooted, Fruited & Abiding



...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you,
being rooted and grounded in love,

may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height -
to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fulness of God."

Ephesians 3:17-19 NKJV

Ready for some sweet, juicy fruit? Good fruit that nourishes yourself & others and brings glory to God?
Fruit that lasts? As followers of Christ we are called to bear good fruit (Matthew 7:17).

Let's examine being rooted in Christ, fruitful for God's Kingdom & abiding in Him.

The above verse speaks of being rooted & grounded in love. Let's take a look at another "root" verse.

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith..." Colossians 2:6-7a NKJV

These are two powerful verses that talk about our roots. Have we even checked our roots lately?
No, not our hair in need of our regular touch-up but our spiritual roots; our foundations - what are
we rooted in? Let's take a deeper look at the definition of rooted.

rooted: to strengthen with roots, to render firm, to fix, establish, cause a person or a thing to be thoroughly grounded

Underline the words that speak most to you about how you want your relationship with Jesus to be.

Imagination Break! } Close your eyes and imagine yourself out in your garden (or instead of imagining, just head outside to the garden). Give a tug on a few different flowers & weeds. Some pull up easily with little effort and some tire you out as you pull & pull but they just won't budge.

What did you learn about being rooted in Jesus from the "Imagination Break" activity?
Draw or write your reflections below.

As followers of Christ we are called to be the type of "flowers" that are so rooted in God's love that even a good strong "tug" from the circumstances of life can not and will not uproot us because we are rooted, grounded and built up in Him. How will you root yourself in Him today?

Rooted, Fruited & Abiding

Now that we've talked about being rooted, let's examine the relationship between roots & fruits!

Roots & fruits go perfectly well together! In fact, when I originally drew the picture on the right to go along with Ephesians 3:17, I thought I had drawn it incorrectly. Ephesians 3:17 talks about being rooted in love yet the picture shows a bloom of love. But then God graciously showed me the picture wasn't wrong at all. You see, when we're rooted in love, the fruit that blooms is love.



The fruit begins at the root!

Since the fruit begins at the root, let's take some time right now to ask God to show you His insights about your roots in the following areas of your life. Draw or write the insights God shows you.

Lord what am I rooted in regarding my identity?

Lord what am I rooted in regarding my purpose?

Lord what am I rooted in regarding my relationship with you?

Praise God for healthy roots! Ask Holy Spirit for help in any needed "root adjustments" He shows you!

Now let's move on to fruit!

Fruit is an important part of our Christian walk. In Galatians 5:22-23 we are told:

"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control..."

Just as a tree naturally bears fruit, we as Christians are called to naturally bear good fruit. A fruit tree does not toil & labor to squeeze fruit out. Just as a fruit tree naturally soaks up nourishment from the soil, rain & sun so must we abide in the vine to receive the nourishment we need to bear fruit.

Let's take a deeper look at abiding...

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." John 15:4 NKJV

abide: stay, do not depart, continue to be present, to maintain unbroken fellowship with one, not to become another or different

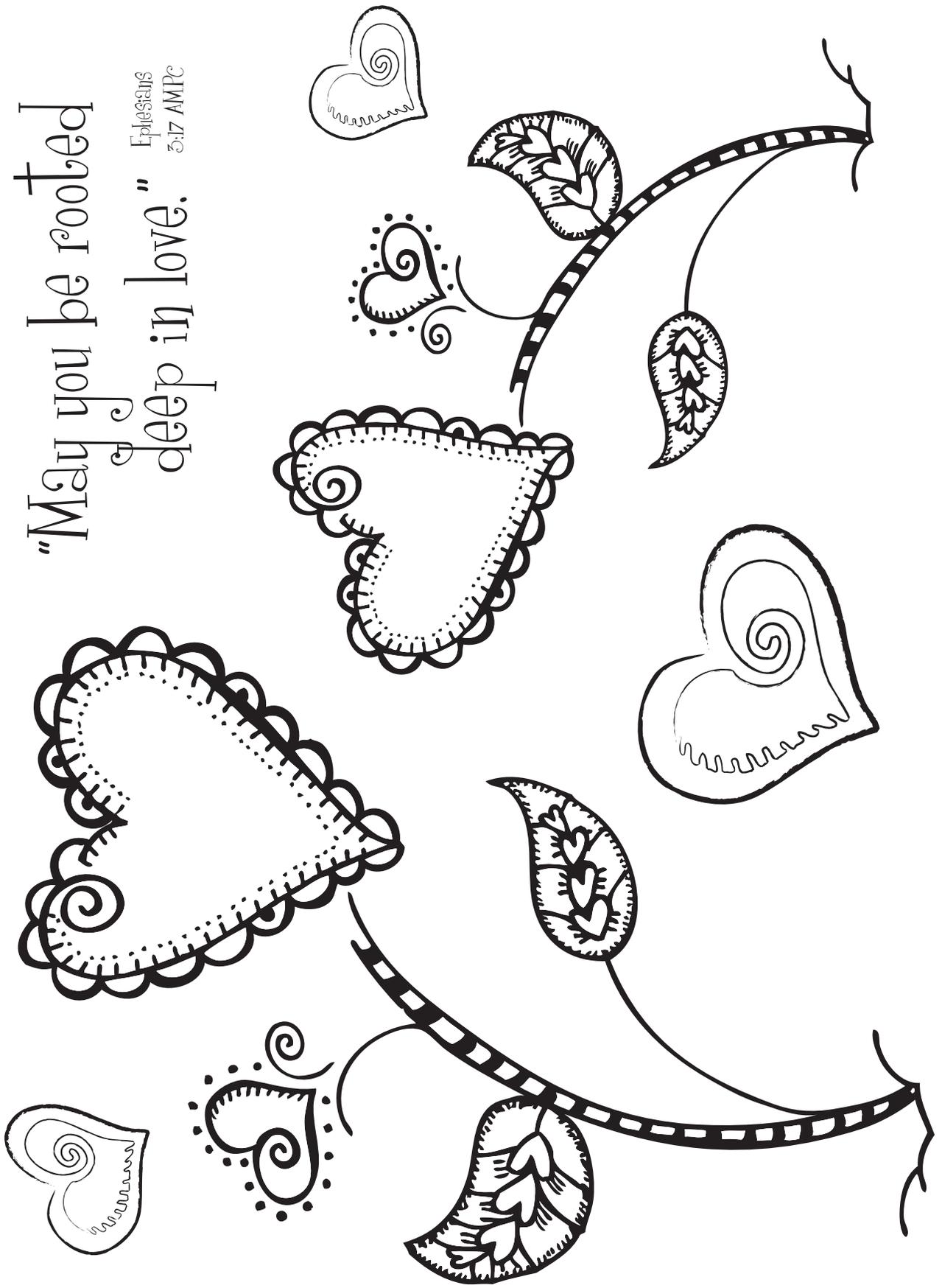
Wow! Those are some deep definitions of abide. Are we continually present with Jesus? Do we maintain unbroken fellowship with Jesus? Take some time right now and write/draw an abiding prayer to Jesus using the above definitions. Create from your heart - speaking to Him about How you want to abide in Him.

My abiding prayer...

Share your abiding prayer on social media to inspire others. Remember, we are the body of Christ and are called to encourage one another daily! With that said, I encourage you to stay

Rooted, Fruited & Abiding in Him!

"May you be rooted
deep in love."
Ephesians 3:17 AMPC



Draw, journal or doodle

additional thoughts + inspiration here...

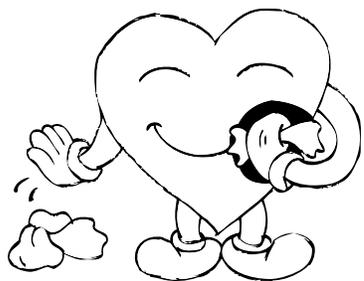
let every heart prepare him room

You've heard the lyrics before...

Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let Earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room.

Familiar right? In fact you've probably heard this Christmas song so many times that you can instantly sing along anytime you hear it. Well, one afternoon as I was decorating my Christmas tree, God used this song to minister to my heart. He used the analogy of cleaning house to teach me about preparing my heart. In the same way that we prepare our house when we're expecting a special visitor, we must look to prepare our hearts for Jesus this Christmas season. With that in mind, let's get to cleaning & preparing, shall we?

We'll start with a few "heart preparation" questions...

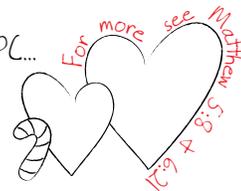


- How have you prepared your heart for Jesus this Christmas season?
- How have you prepared your home & family for Jesus this Christmas season?
- What areas do you need to clean out to "prepare Him room"?

Check out our Heartman! He's preparing his heart by cleaning out anything that keeps him from receiving the true gift of Christmas.

Why do we need to keep our hearts clean? Part of the answer can be found in Ephesians 3:17a AMPC...

"May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell (settle down, abide, make His permanent home) in your hearts!"



Wow, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords desires to dwell in our hearts! To put it lightly, Jesus is the most important "houseguest" we'll ever receive. Are we keeping the home of our hearts ready for Him?

Let's stand in awe of Him for a few moments, shall we? Read Isaiah 9:6 AMPC below...

**"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given...
...His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father [of Eternity], Prince of Peace."**

How has Jesus shown Himself faithful in the following positions & roles in your life? Write your answers below.

Wonderful Counselor

Mighty God

Everlasting Father

Prince of Peace



let every heart prepare him room

Great! Let's continue on with the "cleaning house & preparing our hearts" analogy. Typically when we get our house ready (in the natural) for houseguests, we'll do things like rearrange furniture, throw out our old stuff and decorate with new decor. Let's look at each one of these preparations from a spiritual perspective.



Natural: Rearrange furniture

Spiritual: Rearrange priorities

Reflect on the past week.
What have you spent your time on?
Any priorities that need rearranging?

Part of preparing our hearts is having proper priorities. Let's look at what God says our priorities need to be...

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33 NKJV

What is God telling us in Matthew 6:33? _____

What parts of your life need rearranging in order to live out Matthew 6:33? _____

Imagination } Close your eyes and see yourself sitting intimately with the Father. You feel the warmth from His loving presence. He wraps you in His arms and you lovingly whisper, "I seek you first Lord." Break!



Natural: Throw out your old stuff

Spiritual: Throw out your old ways

"...since you have put off the old man with his deeds."
Colossians 3:9 NKJV

As we continue to prepare our hearts, here's what God has to say about throwing things out...

"...let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly & cleverly) clings to and entangles us..." Hebrews 12:1 AMPC

Ask Holy Spirit if there any unnecessary weights - things like depression, worry, fear, greed, pride or anger - that you need to throw aside & clean out this Christmas season (see Ephesians 4:31). Sit quietly, listen for the answers and then cast your care on the Lord (1 Peter 5:7). Thank you Holy Spirit for leading us into all truth as we prepare our hearts.



Natural: Decorate with new decor

Spiritual: Decorate with God's decor

"...and have put on the new man..."
Colossians 3:10a NKJV

Now that we've thrown out our old ways, here's the new decor God gives us...

"...put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another and forgiving one another...put on love."

Colossians 3:12-14a NKJV

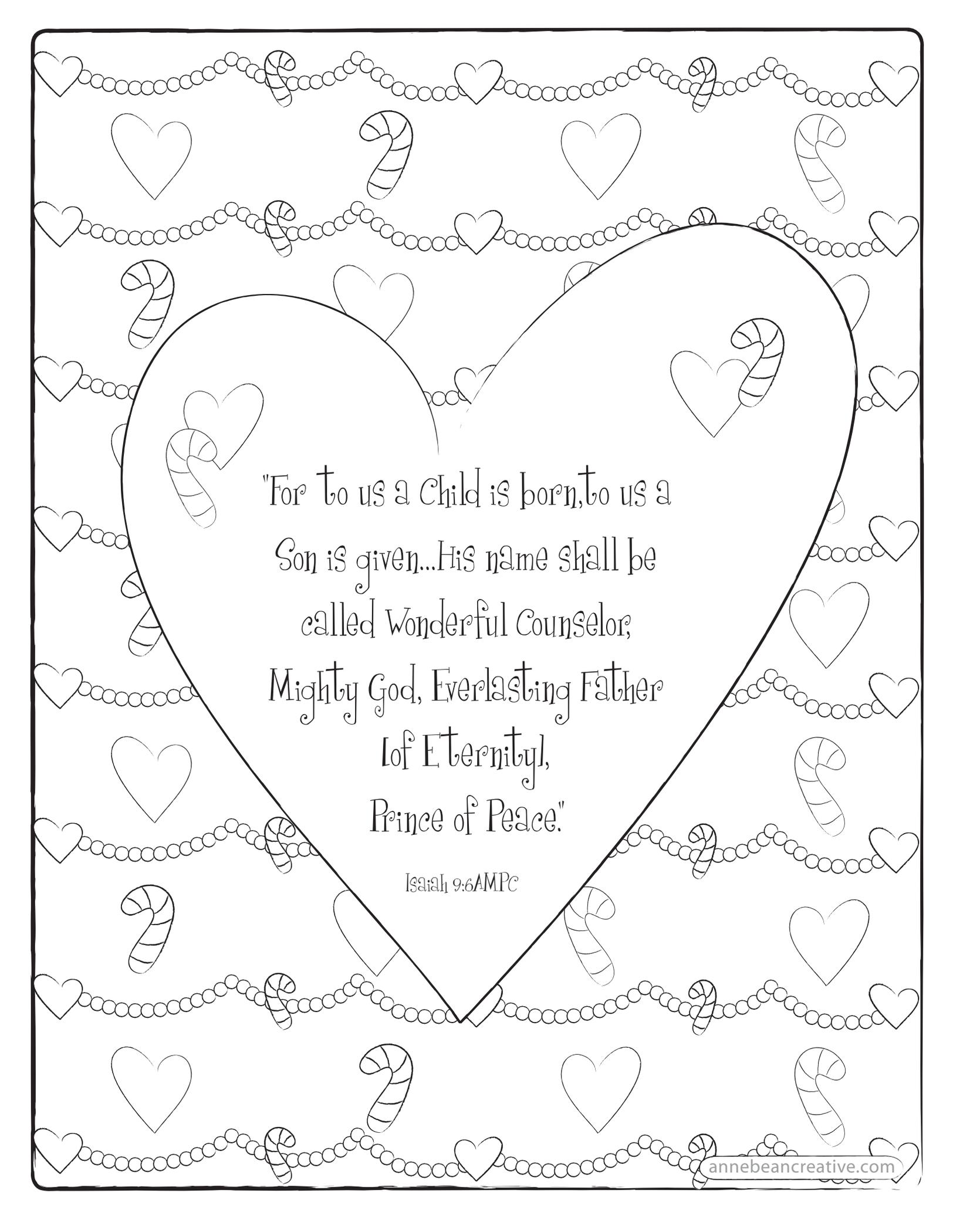


This is the beautiful "decor" which will welcome Jesus as He abides in our hearts. Meditate on each attribute and then decorate the above heart with those that will adorn your heart this Christmas season as you welcome Jesus and prepare Him room. Joy to the world, indeed. Let's close in prayer...

Heavenly Father we come to you in the beautiful name of Jesus. We thank you for this time together. We ask Holy Spirit that you would continue to lead us even deeper into preparing our hearts into a beautiful home where You, O Lord Jesus, may abide. We love you. Amen.

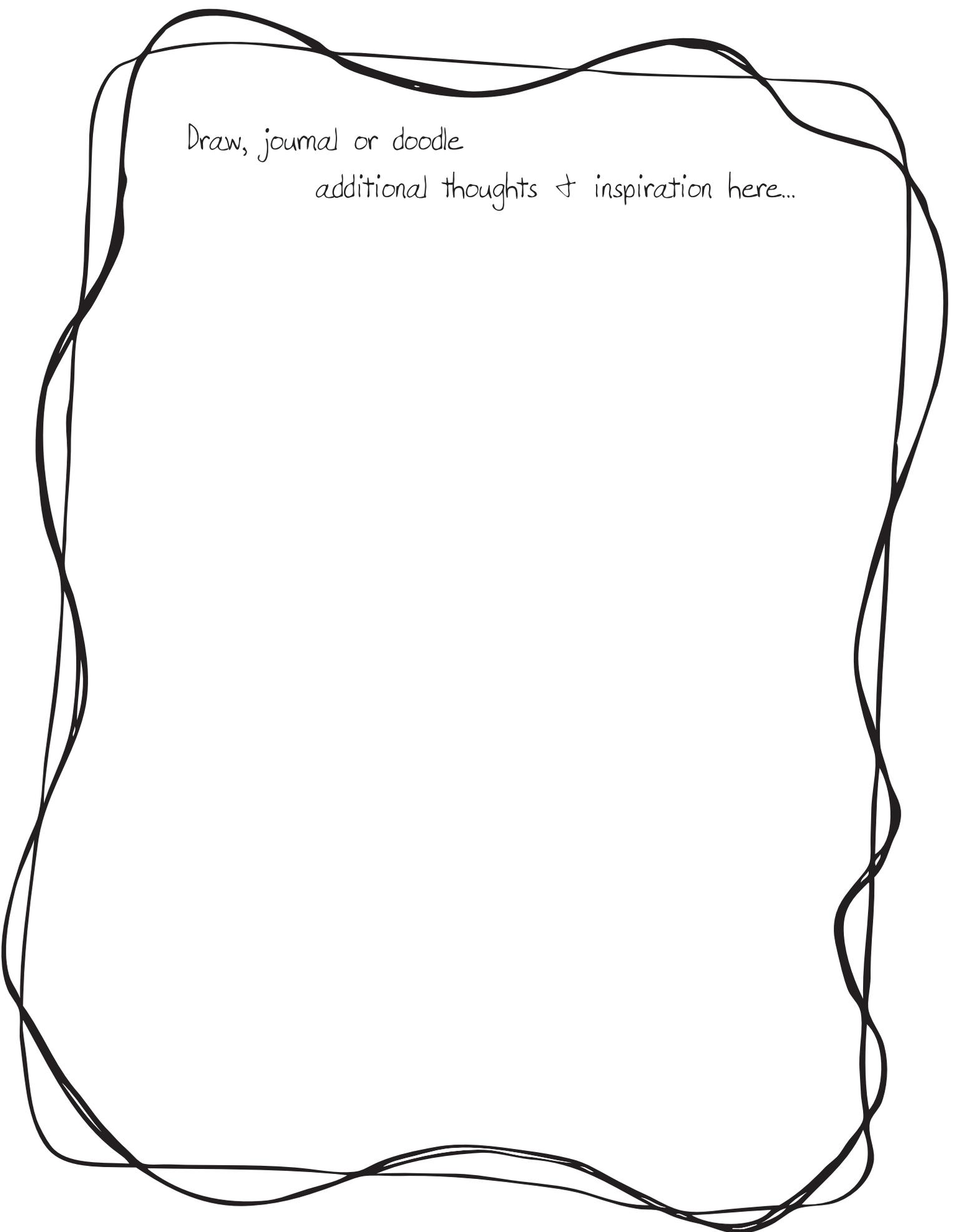
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Scripture quotations taken from the Amplified® Bible (AMPC), Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. www.Lockman.org





"For to us a Child is born, to us a
Son is given... His name shall be
called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father
of Eternity,
Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6 AMP



Draw, journal or doodle

additional thoughts + inspiration here...