



**ST NINIAN'S UNITING
CHURCH**

MARCH 10th, 2024

JOHN 3:16

LENT WEEK 4

This is one of the most well-known bible verses and I was wondering just how enormous God's love for us is and as that's the case how would we measure it. We live in a time when people like to measure everything – so how could we do this?

When I open a packet mix cake to bake a cake, I have to add certain ingredients to it, such as oil. The instructions tell me how much I need, so that's how much I put into the mix. Psalm 23:1-5 includes 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...my cup overflows.' So I guess if the cup overflows with God's love, I suppose we couldn't use a measuring cup to measure it.

If I was to ask a builder to build me a tree house in the backyard I would have to give them the measurement for how high off the ground it had to be, so they would know how many steps I would need to get up into the tree house. So this time I would need to supply a tape measure, is this how I could measure God's love? Psalm 108:4 tells us that God's love is higher than the heavens. If that's the case then I don't think we can use a tape measure, because there isn't one that long in all the world!

So perhaps I could measure time. Everyone is so busy and having enough time to do what's important. I wonder if I could use a clock to measure how much time it takes before I stop being interested in reading about Jesus, doing Pebble puzzles,

**For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son.**

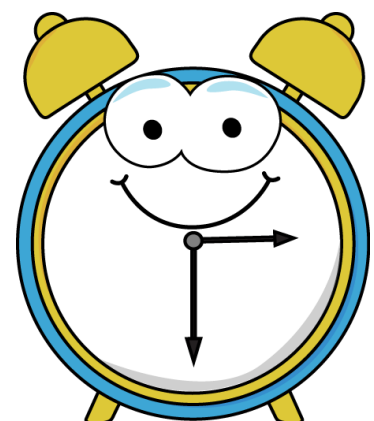
John 3:16a NIV

colouring in pictures about the story or listening to the songs today in Pebbles. I wonder if I could use a clock to measure how long God's love will last. Psalm 103:17 reminds me that God's love lasts forever and it doesn't run out. That is so fantastic, I suppose it's no use trying to measure God's love through a clock.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” So, just how can we measure a love like that? The truth is, we can't. Even better still, we don't need to, but we do need to experience it.

The prayer for you today is this, that you understand how wide, how long how high, and how deep God's love really is. May you experience God's love to the fullest measure.

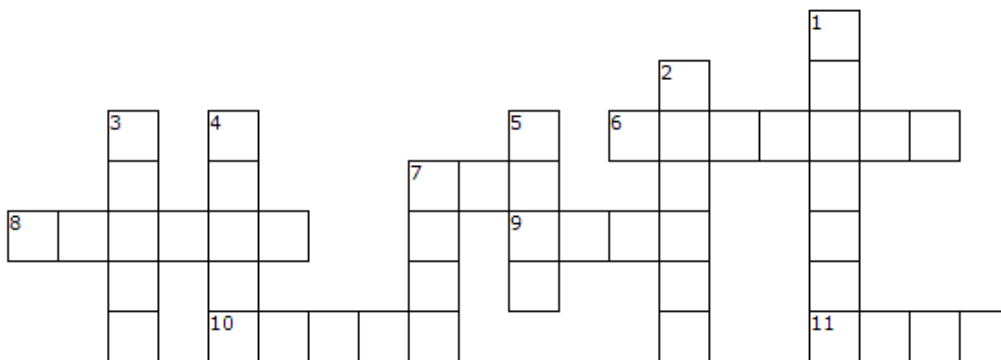
Dear God, thank you for your love which so big that you gave your one and only Son so that we could have eternal life. In Jesus' name, amen.



Measuring God's Love

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16 (NIV)

Based on John 3:14-17 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 6. To accept something as true, genuine, or real
- 7. A male child
- 8. To die or be destroyed
- 9. To care very deeply for someone
- 10. A serpent or reptile)
- 11. The period of time from birth to death

DOWN

- 1. Lasting forever, without end
- 2. Hot, dry area of land with few trees or plants
- 3. The earth with its inhabitants and all things upon it
- 4. Received the ten commandments from God
- 5. Alone in its kind, nothing like it
- 7. To rescue from danger or harm

SNAKE	ETERNAL	SAVE	LOVE
LIFE	SON	PERISH	DESERT
ONLY	BELIEVE	MOSES	WORLD

God So Loved the World

Decoder

For God So Loved the World

John 3:16 (NIV)

Name: _____

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)



Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	W	S	G	D	K	I	Z	T	Q	M	P	J	F	E	R	V	B	X	A	C	U	L	N	H	Y

1. 2-25-1-15-17-15-16 _____
2. 2-1-16-23-5 _____
3. 4-1-5 _____
4. 18-15-23-7-15-17-15-3 _____
5. 4-20-17-15 _____
6. 23-7-14-15 _____
7. 3-1-24 _____
8. 15-9-15-16-24-20-23 _____
9. 23-1-17-15-5 _____
10. 12-15-16-7-3-25 _____
11. 1-24-23-26 _____

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

God	gave	whoever	eternal
loved	only	believes	life
world	Son	perish	

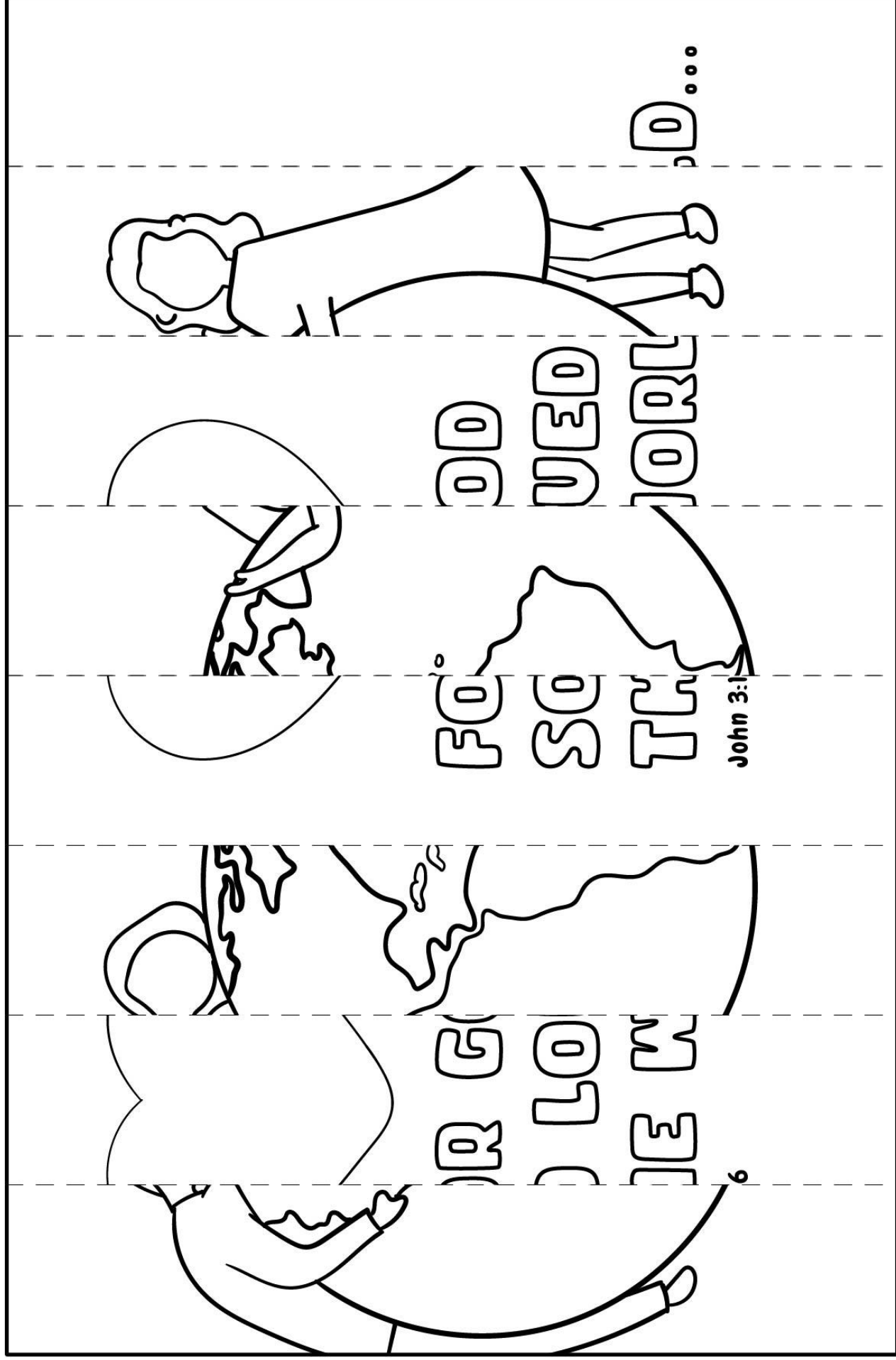


FOR GOD SO LOVED THE
WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE
ETERNAL LIFE.

JOHN 3:16

Fan-Fold Coloring

Color the picture and fold the dotted lines.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uianSSDaxc>

