



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

MARCH 16TH, 2025

BASED ON LUKE 13:31-35



I remember singing a little song called 'Five little Ducks went out one day' with our children in the car when they were little and starting to get a restless. This is a long time before any devices were part of everyday life, let alone part of the car's options.

This song is just a cute little song that shows how much the mother duck loves her little ducklings. The thing about the song is that each time the little ducklings went out, one of them got lost along the way. Finally, the mother duck had lost all of her little ducklings, but she never gave up on finding them. Like mothers do when they can't find one of their children, they call out for them until they find them. I don't think the mother duck would be very happy if only one of her ducklings were to come back! She would have kept calling and calling until she could see all five of her ducklings together at once. Imagine all the quacking she would have had to do!

This story is a lot like the love that Jesus has for His children. In Mark we hear the story about the day that Jesus looked over the city of Jerusalem and he cried. He said, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."

The reason for Jesus' crying was because he was very sad about what was happening in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a very special place for God's chosen people. But when Jesus came, the people of Jerusalem rejected Him, they didn't want to know Him at all and that made Him very sad – he wanted them to start following the new ways that Jesus was telling them about in his stories and parables. He promised a blessing for those who would accept Him. We're promised that same blessing today. Like a mother hen, Jesus calls His children who is everyone, to come to Him so that He can shelter and protect them.

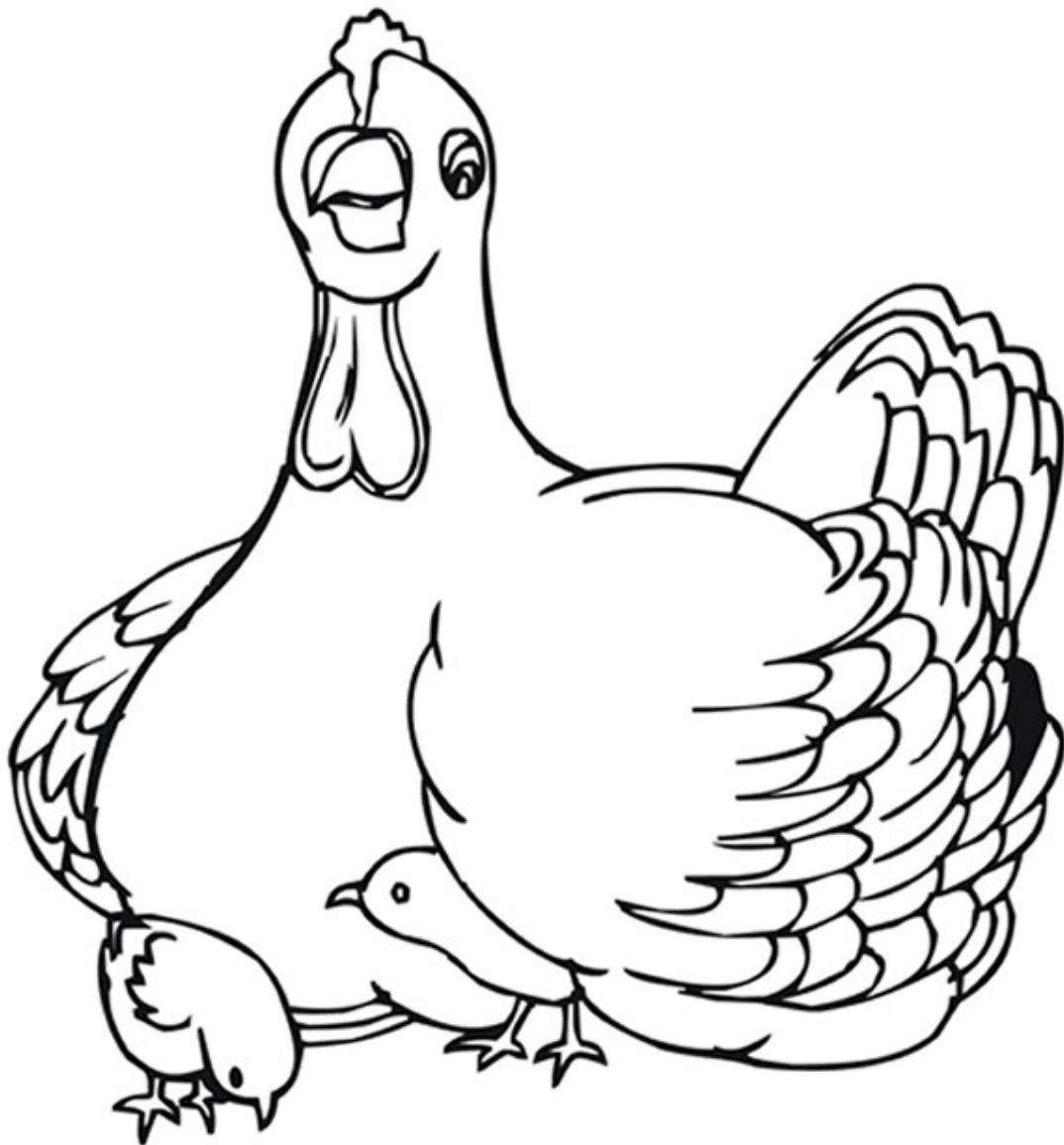
Even though Jerusalem rejected Jesus, He never stopped calling His children. Even if only SOME of His children come back to Him, He won't stop calling. If ALMOST all of His children come to Him, He still won't stop calling. Our Bible teaches us that Jesus loves His children so much that He won't ever stop calling until ALL of His children come back. He might even be calling you today!

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PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, thank you for calling out for me, even when I don't seem to hear you, you keep calling out for me.

Amen



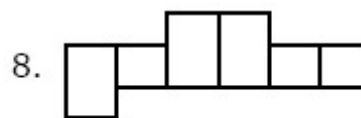
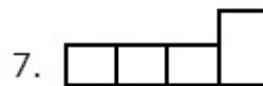
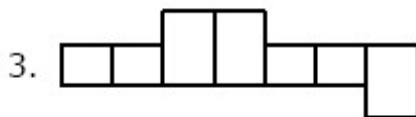
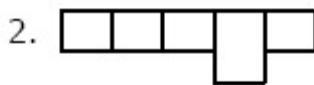
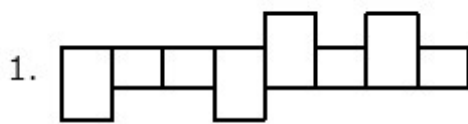
**"How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"
Luke 13:34b (NIV)**

Jesus Weeps for Jerusalem

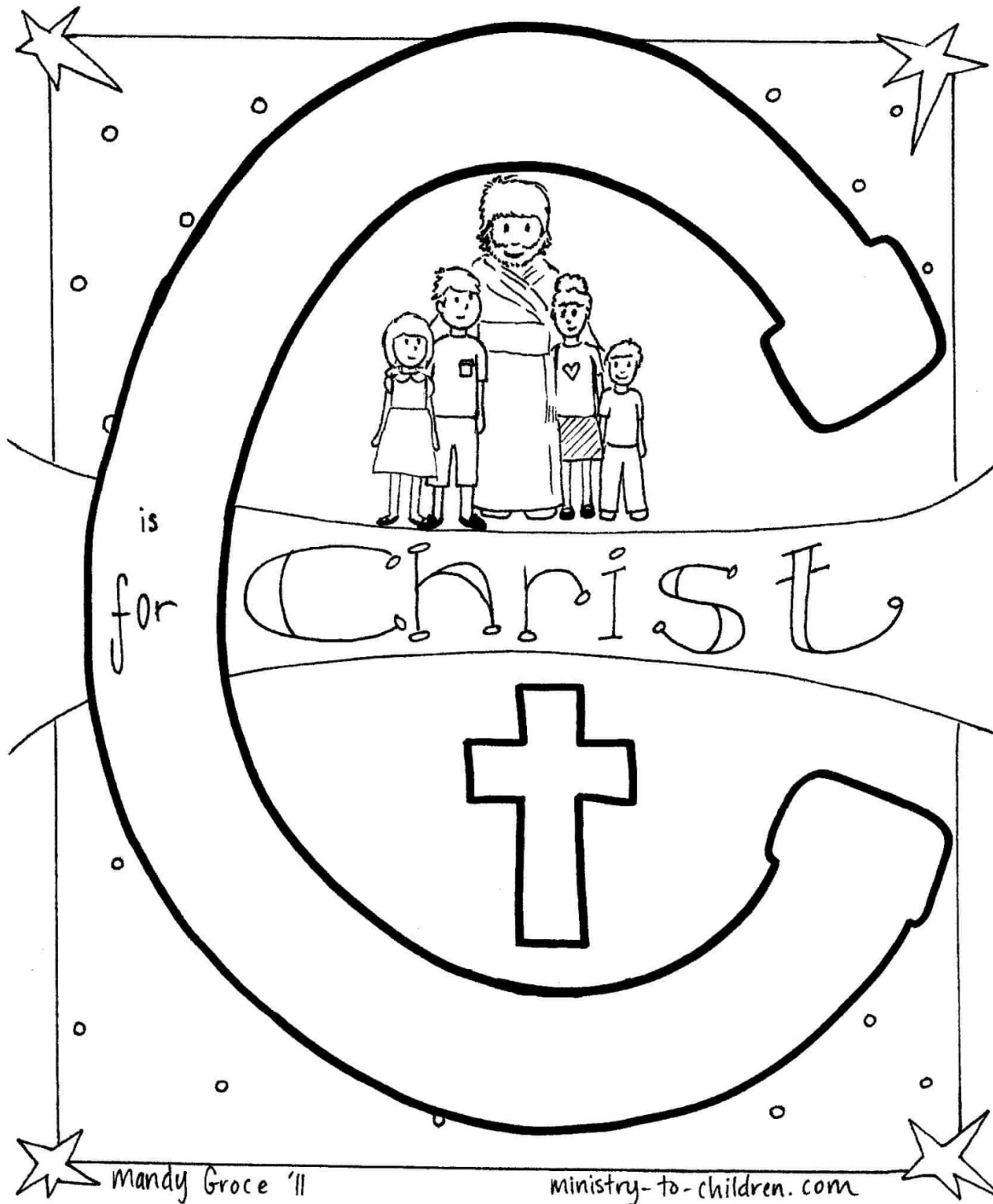
"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" Luke 13:34 (NIV)



Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.

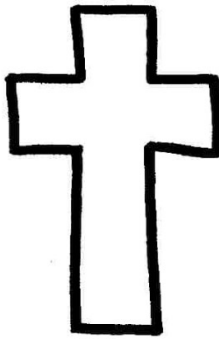


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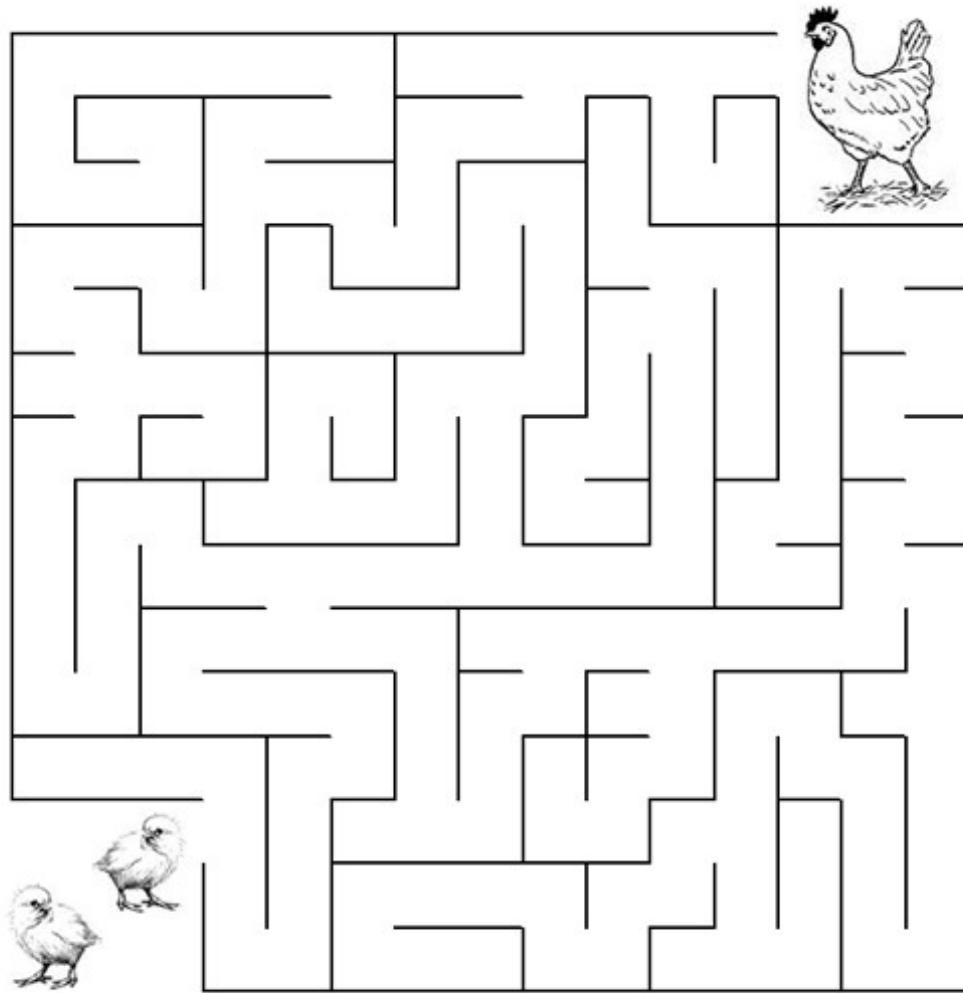
is
for

CHRIST



Mandy Groce '11

ministry-to-children.com



A nicely told story today instead of music – I hope you enjoy the story and the pictures!

