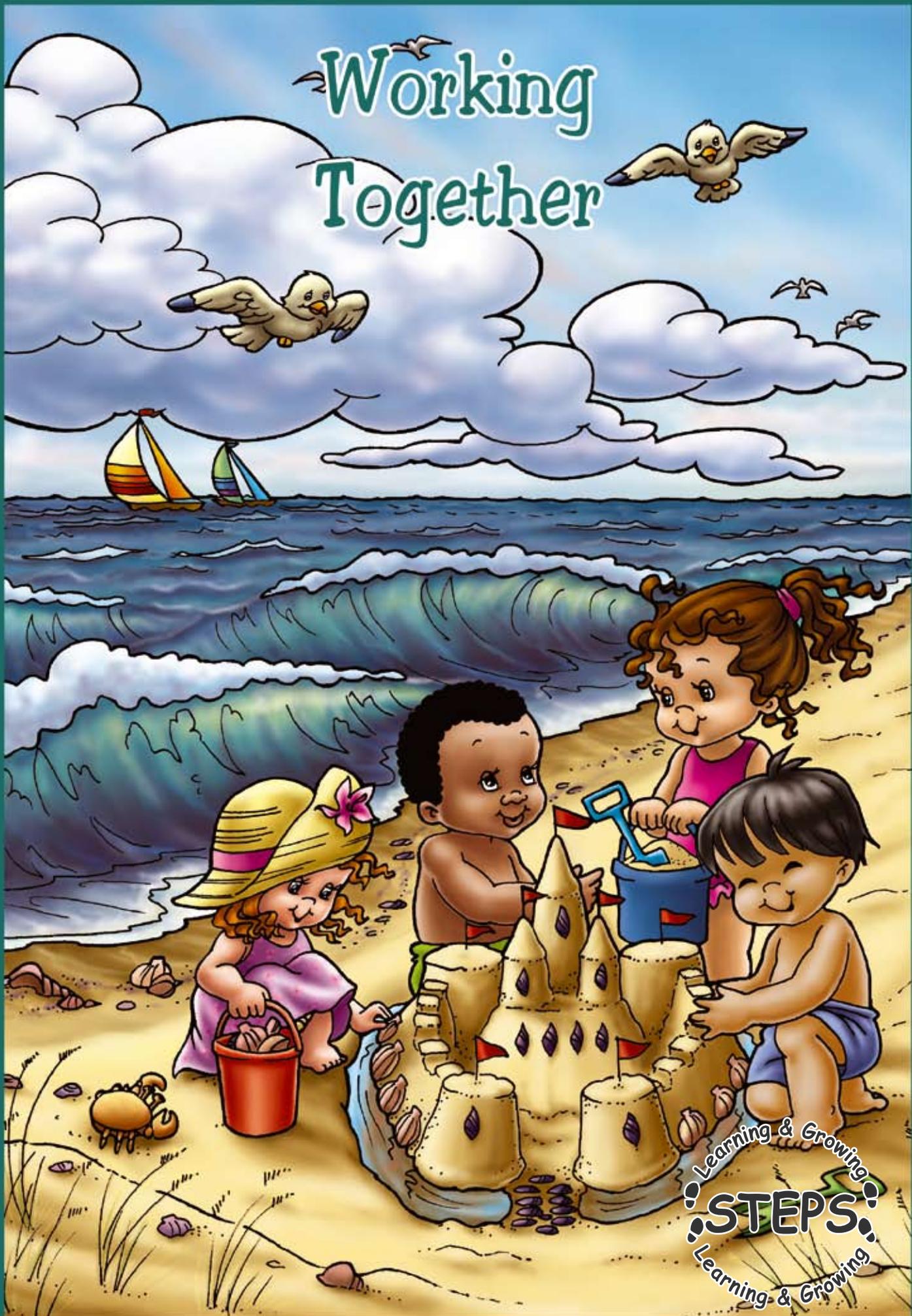


Working Together

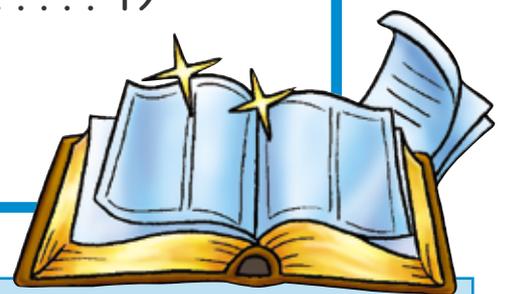


Learning & Growing
STEPS
Learning & Growing



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As a team we do it better. That's the way to get things done—everybody helping everyone!

By Amber Darley and Agnes Lemaire

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Many Trunks Make Light Work

There once was a little elephant named Tolongo. He grew up in the savanna* with his mother and a couple of other elephant families. They would roam the grasslands in search of food, and when they found sufficient plant life, as well as a good water supply, they would stay for a while until the waterhole dried up or until the food became scarce.

Tolongo was growing steadily by the day. When he was first born he had to learn how to stand up and walk, but now he was learning to use his trunk to do interesting things. He was learning to pick up heavy objects with his trunk, as well as spray water on himself when he got hot, not to mention drinking, eating and all of the other necessary things in an elephant's life.

He loved to bathe in the waterhole while talking to his hippopotamus friend Rhingo. The days were hot and it was always refreshing to cool off in the water. But Tolongo couldn't stay in the water all day, as he had to work hard to learn all about how to be a good elephant.

Tolongo grew into a strong elephant, but sometimes he was too self-confident and proud. He began to think that he could do everything on his own and that he didn't need anyone else to help him. It was true, he could often do things on his own, as he was a very capable elephant, but he learned one day that sometimes things are better done together.

"Good morning, Tolongo," said Kalana, his mother. "Did you sleep well last night?" "I did, thank you," he replied.

"What would you think about helping your friend, Matally, with his chores today?" mother asked. Matally was one of the other young elephants in their herd, and the two of them often didn't get along with each other. They were always trying to be better than the other; and they wanted all the other elephants in their herd to know who was the superior elephant—the strongest and the wisest.

"Why can't he do his jobs on his own?" Tolongo whined.

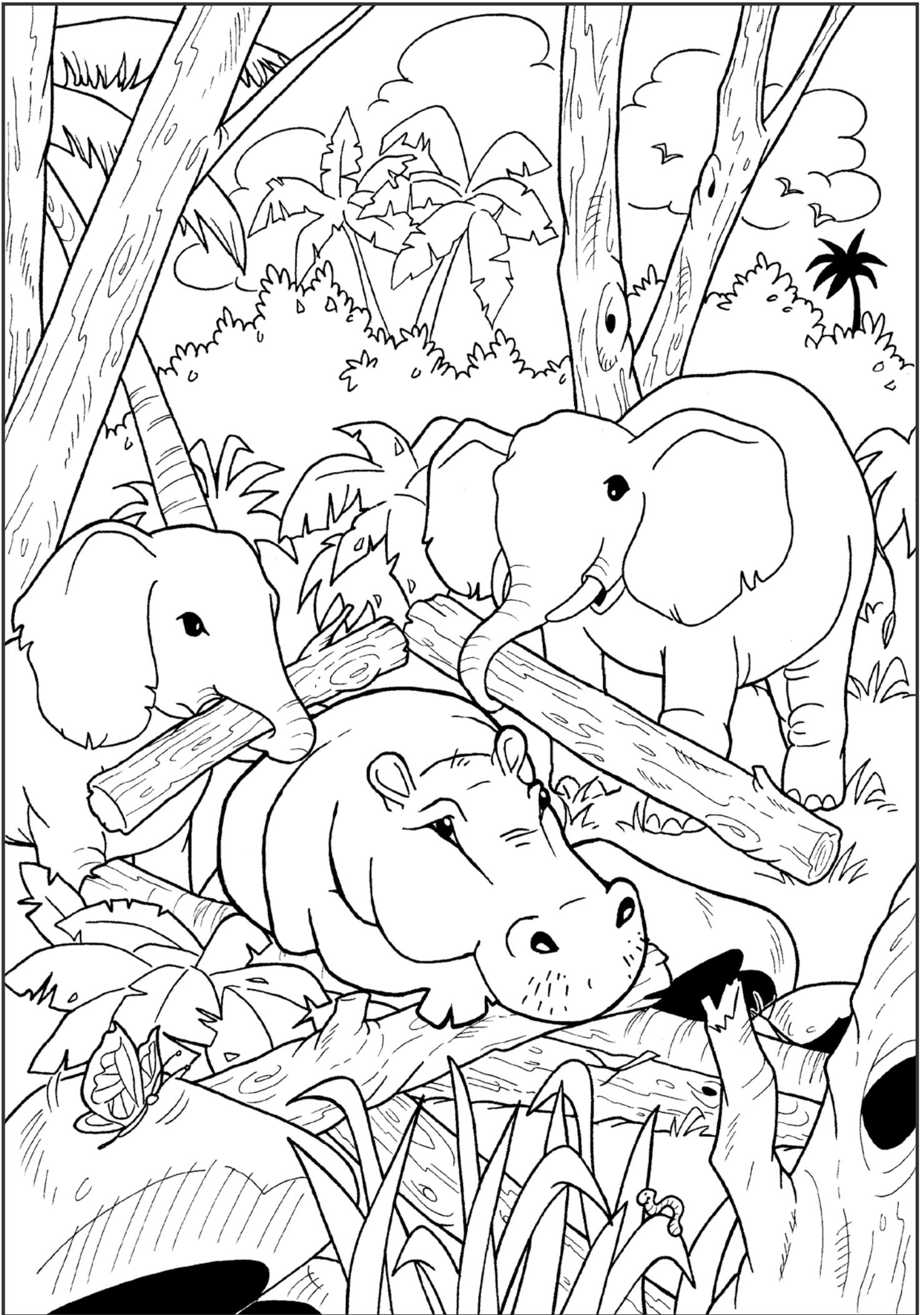
"Well, he usually does, but today mother has asked if you would help Matally pull down some of the large branches for the younger elephants to feed upon. It's a big job and the loads will be heavy. We just thought it would be nice if you two could work together and get the job done in half the time," Kalana answered.

"Oh, all right, if I have to help him, I will. But first let me go down to the waterhole and take a swim with Rhingo," Tolongo said with a tone of irritation in his voice. "I'll see you later, mother," he called back, as he swiftly headed off in the direction of the waterhole.

Upon arriving, he discovered that Rhingo was nowhere to be seen. What could have become of him? Tolongo wondered. He's always here every morning, I never miss seeing him. He must be hurt. I'll have to go and look for him to see if there's anything I can do. Maybe Matally has seen him. Since he has explored different parts of the area that I've never been to, maybe he'd want to come with me to see if we can find him.

Tolongo quickly went back to the herd, found Matally, told him of the emergency, and asked him if he'd have the time to come with him to look for Rhingo. "I'd be glad to help," Matally said. "He can't be far, he never goes very far. Let's get to business right away. You go that way and I'll go this way, and we'll end up meeting each other somewhere in the middle. If you meet up with him and he's hurt, then stay with him until I meet up with you. I'll do the same if I find him first."

The two young elephants set out on their expedition to find Rhingo. It wasn't long before Tolongo came upon the poor hippopotamus. There he was, caught in a poacher's* trap; he



couldn't move. He was a sad sight to behold, poor Rhingo. Tolongo felt so sorry for him and wished that there was something they could do.

"How long have you been here, good friend?" he asked.

"I was peacefully wandering around last night, looking for some food, when suddenly I found myself in this trap. I've been here for quite a few hours now and don't know what to do. I'm hungry, I'm hot, I'm thirsty, I'm not as young as I used to be, and I'm just dying to get out from under this. Can you help me, good friend?"

Tolongo wrapped his trunk around one of the logs that formed the trap and pulled with all of his might. It moved slightly, but he just wasn't strong enough to move it on his own. How foolish of me to think that I can do everything on my own. I now see that there are times when we all need each other. There are some things that we elephants have to do together. I have been so proud to think that I don't need anyone's help, and that others shouldn't need my help either, but I now see that I am helpless on my own. I hope Matally gets here soon, and together I hope that we'll be able to move this heavy log.

As soon as those thoughts left his head, he looked up, and to his happiness saw Matally coming in his direction. Within seconds he was at Tolongo's side, and together, with all of their strength, they moved the logs away and freed Rhingo.

"Thank you!" exclaimed Rhingo. "I'm so thankful that I have such good friends as you; thank you for finding me and helping me—together!"

Rhingo had to rest for quite a few days. One of his legs had been hurt and had to heal. During that time the two new friends—Matally and Tolongo—were by his side the entire time. They'd bring him food, and even fill up their trunks with water to give him a bath. They both learned a valuable lesson that day. They learned that they could get so much more accomplished when they worked together. They made one of the greatest discoveries of all: they discovered that they needed each other.



- Why do we need to work together?
- What are some things that you need more than one person to do?
- What are the benefits of working together? Give some examples such as sharing farm equipment in farm cooperatives etc. What about working together with someone that you don't particularly like? Should you try to work with them anyway to reach a goal or accomplish a task?
- Are we meant to be able to do everything on our own? Why or why not?
- The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 4:9, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor." And in another verse, "One can chase a thousand and two can put ten thousand to flight" (Deuteronomy 32:30). How can you do much more when you work together with others?

***savanna**: a flat grassland of tropical or subtropical regions

***poacher**: somebody who hunts or fishes illegally, usually while trespassing on other people's property

The Badger and the Honey Guide

Once upon a time, long, long ago, in a great big forest, there lived a sad little bird and a honey badger. Though these two creatures were very different, their Creator had given them both one thing in common—an attraction to bees' nests.

The little bird was sad because, although she knew where many swarming hives were located throughout the forest, she was never able to get to the goodies inside. How she longed to feast upon the delicious beeswax that the bees stored their honey in.

The only problem was that her desired food was buried deep within their hives, protected by many hundreds of little buzzing occupants equipped with deadly stingers. She did not know what she could do.

One sunny morning the little bird sat atop a branch overhanging one of the largest hives she had ever seen. She sat there watching the bees as they flew in and out of the old trunk that served as their home, trying to devise a plan. But the more she thought about it, the more hopeless it seemed.

The hive was sealed, with only a small opening for the bees to get in and out. Even if she could get close, the sting of the bees would finish her off before she could eat anything. "No use enjoying a beeswax meal if it will be my last!" she chirped.

Just then, a honey badger came waddling by. He, too, had a passion for the honeycomb. He loved to suck all the delicious honey from it to the last drop. He readily raided the homes of bees, whenever he could find one. Honeycomb was his treasured and favorite delight.

What a find I have today, he gloated as he eyed the same beehive protruding from the trunk. Setting his eyes on a section of the hive, he prepared to attack. Fearlessly he stormed towards the hive, ripped off a large portion, and made off with his delight in no time. Angry at the intrusion, the bees began to sting him wildly, but, to the bird's surprise (for she was watching all), their stings did not seem to faze the badger in the least. He had no fear of the bees, for they could not harm him.

Just then, the bird thought of a plan. Surely, if I can show the badger where he can find more honey, he will give me a share of the profits also. That way we can both help each other.

The bird flew down to where the badger was finishing off the last of his treasured sweetness. "Those bees make pretty good stuff, don't they?" she chirped up.

"You're telling me!" the badger replied, licking his lips. "I just wish I could find it a little more often."

"Well, I think I can be of help," the little bird replied. "You see, I know where there are lots of hives, which means lots of honey."

"You do?"

"Sure! You see, bees also produce my favorite food, beeswax and larvae*, and I can easily detect them when they are around. But the problem is that I can't get into the hive without the bees getting at me first. I noticed you don't have a problem with that."

"Ah, yes, those bees can never bother me. You see, I have a bee-proof coat. The only place they can get me is on my nose, but even then it is just a tickle." He let out a laugh.

"Which is what makes my plan so perfect," the bird declared.

"What plan?" the honey badger asked, curious to know what she had in mind.

"Well, it's like this: I can find the hives and show you where they are, and then you can do the job of opening the honeycomb. Then you can have the honey, and once the bees are scattered, I'll finish off the rest."

"I couldn't have thought of a better idea myself," cried the honey badger. "I think we're going to be best of friends."

And so started an amazing partnership between the little bird, who became known as the honey guide, and the honey badger. From that day on, whenever a honey guide would lead a badger to the site of a hive, in return he would always leave her a share in appreciation for her help.

Moral: Working together as a team produces the best results.



- What did the honey guide and the badger accomplish by working together?
- Talk about some examples of things that are much easier when done together than alone.
- Give some examples of people working together to accomplish a task. Read 1 Corinthians 12 and discuss it. Give other examples in nature where animals work together or plants and animals work together. You may need a week to do research on this topic. Bring your report to the next class and let's discover the marvels of nature together.

***larvae:** the worm-like young of an insect between leaving the egg and changing into a winged form.



The Carpenter's Tools

Early one morning in the tool shed, long before the carpenter came to work, some of his tools got together to discuss some problems that had come up between them:

Ruler: Mr. Hammer is just too noisy with his work, pound, pound, pound.

Sandpaper: I agree. I can hardly stand it with all that noise he makes; it gives me a headache. He's so inconsiderate.

Screwdriver: Yes, yes, yes. I suggest we get rid of him.

Hammer: Well, if I go, then Mr. Ruler will have to go too. He's always measuring everyone as if he were the only one who knew what was right. Measure, measure, measure.

Saw: I agree! We don't need him telling us what he thinks is right.

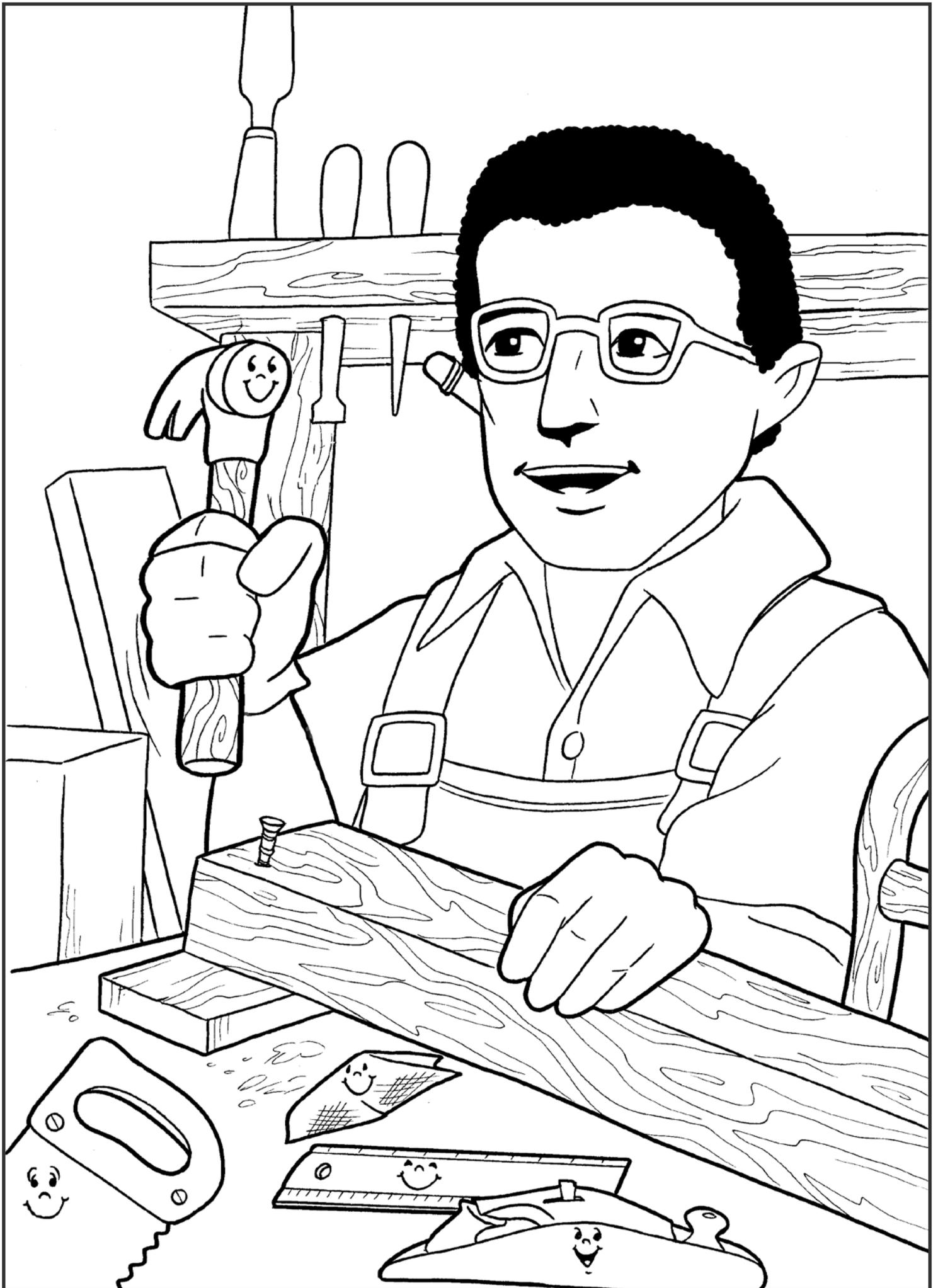
Ruler: Well then, Mrs. Screwdriver will have to leave too. She's so difficult to work with. You have to turn her around and around to try to get her to do anything.

Hammer: That's for sure. Turn, turn, turn.

Screwdriver: Well, if I go, then you'll have to get rid of Mrs. Sandpaper. She's rougher than she ought to be, and she's always rubbing people the wrong way. Scratch, scratch, scratch.

Sandpaper: I'll go if you wish, but then Mr. Saw should also leave. His teeth are way too sharp, and he makes such a mess on the floor with all the sawdust that has to be cleaned up. Saw, saw, saw.

Just then, they heard the carpenter coming into the workshop. The carpenter gathered his tools and began making a plan to build a beautiful chair. But to build it he needed all the tools. He used the saw, he used the hammer, he used the ruler, he used the screwdriver, he used the sandpaper. And he made a beautiful chair.



Carpenter: There, it's done! Thanks, tools. I couldn't have done it without each and every one of you. You all made it possible for me to build this beautiful chair!

At the end of the day the tools gathered together once more:

Ruler: Fellow tools, I want to apologize for thinking that any one of you was less important than the rest of us. I have seen how the carpenter needed each one of us in order to make that chair over there.

Saw: I cut those pieces of wood, but they wouldn't have made anything without Mr. Hammer and Mrs. Screwdriver's help to put in the nails and screws.

Hammer: Without Mr. Ruler the whole thing would have been pretty crooked.

Screwdriver: And without Mrs. Sandpaper it wouldn't be as smooth and nice as it is, and people would get splinters.

Sandpaper: I can see that the conclusion is that we all need each other, isn't that right?

And all the tools chorused together:

Yes!

To make something nice for all to see
The carpenter needs us all to be
Working together in harmony
As a team in unity



- Could the carpenter make anything nice with just one tool?
- Explain how all were needed to make the lovely chair.
- What different things could each one do that the other could not do?
- How does this apply to you and your friends? Talk about the different talents each of you have.
- Imagine what happened next in the story. Do you think one tool was better or more important than another? Some tools are seldom used. Are they less important?
- Do you ever call people names who do things differently than you do? What the tools saw as faults in the other tools were actually just their way of getting their job done. Should we ever criticize others who are trying to make an honest living even if it is an unpopular job, like the garbage collector, or the sewer worker? How do you think God looks on these people?

Who Flies the Kite?

A teacher talked to the children about making and flying kites. He quoted some lines about kite-flying. Here they are:



Who flies the kite?

"I," said the boy; "it is my joy;
I fly the kite."

Who flies the kite?

"I," said the wind; "it is my whim,
I fly the kite."

Who flies the kite?

"I," said the string, "I am the thing
That flies the kite."

Who flies the kite?

"I," said the tail, "I make it sail;
I fly the kite."

Who flies the kite?

All are wrong; all are right;
All fly the kite.

Now belonging to a team is like that. A team is like a body, with hands and feet, and eyes and ears and nose, and it takes every one of these parts, and more, to make a body. Jesus needs every one of us to do His Work, and each must play his part. Don't forget—all fly the kite.

Prayer and Praise

Thank You Jesus for all my friends. Thank You that You made us all different so we can help each other. Please help us to work together in love and unity. Amen.

Memory Fun



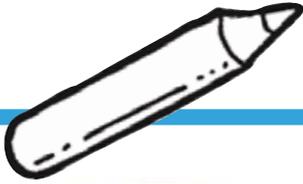
Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.

Ecclesiastes 4:9

Pencil Page

What Is Teamwork?

Can you find and circle all the words that describe working together? You can go vertically, horizontally or diagonally.



unity
harmony
love
team
helper
together

counsel
discuss
share
everyone
friend
two

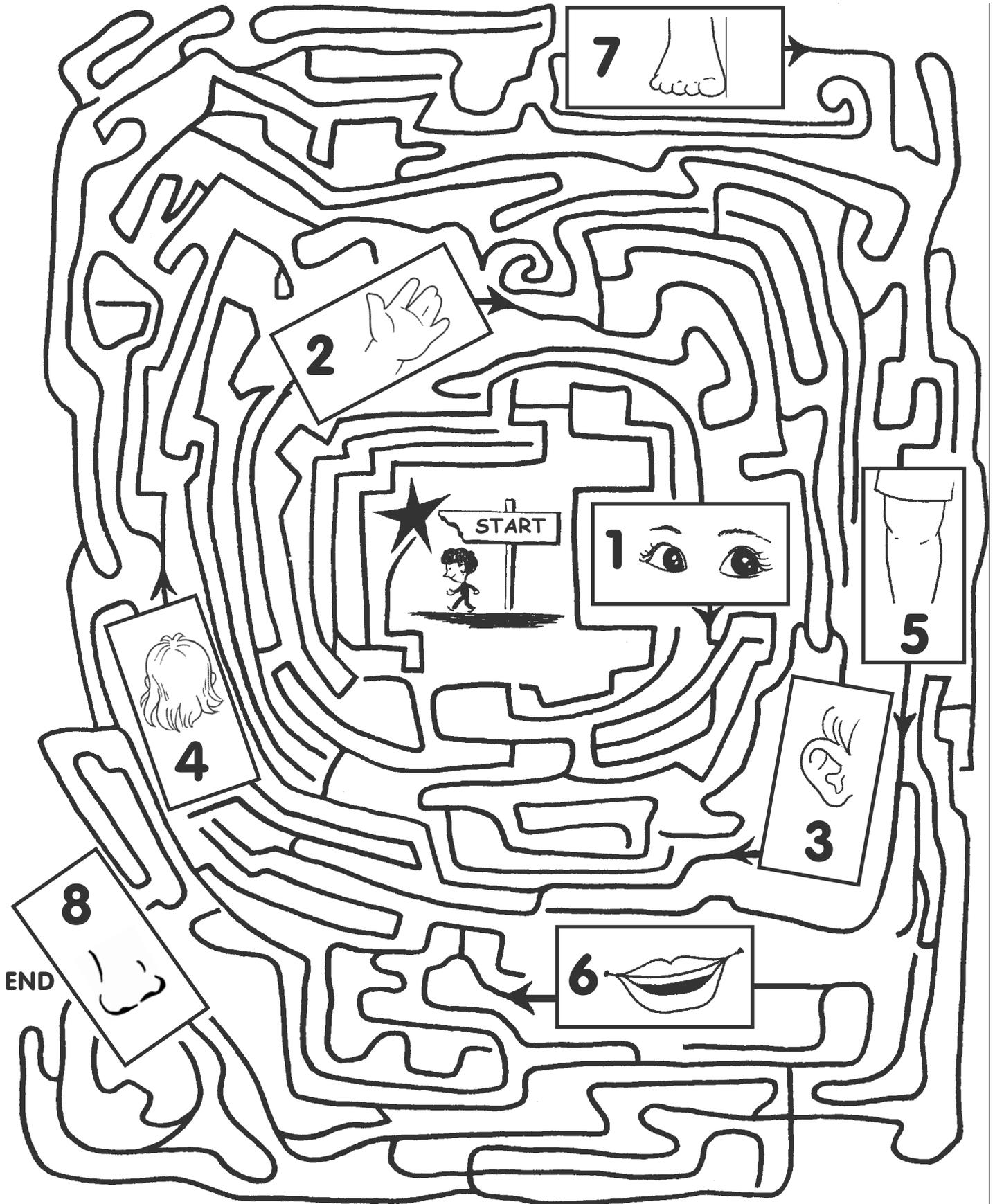
A	B	T	K	H	E	L	P	E	R
U	H	E	F	R	V	E	S	D	X
N	V	A	F	E	E	W	H	I	C
I	P	M	R	Q	R	O	A	S	O
T	W	O	I	M	Y	H	R	C	U
Y	H	C	E	L	O	V	E	U	N
S	H	A	N	E	N	N	Y	S	S
W	L	N	D	W	E	A	Y	S	E
T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	Y	L

Color the picture



Body Maze

Stay on the black lines without crossing on a white space and find your way, following the numbers in order. In your travels, can you find some of the body parts which make up the whole body? You will see how each one is very important and needed in order to make the whole body work, just like each one of us is important to God's plan.



Make and Do

We're a Team!

Cut out this picture on the dark black lines. Give each piece of the puzzle to a different person. Have them color their part without the others looking at how they color it. When all have finished, put the puzzle back together and see what a colorful masterpiece all have made. This shows how each one is needed in order to make something beautiful.



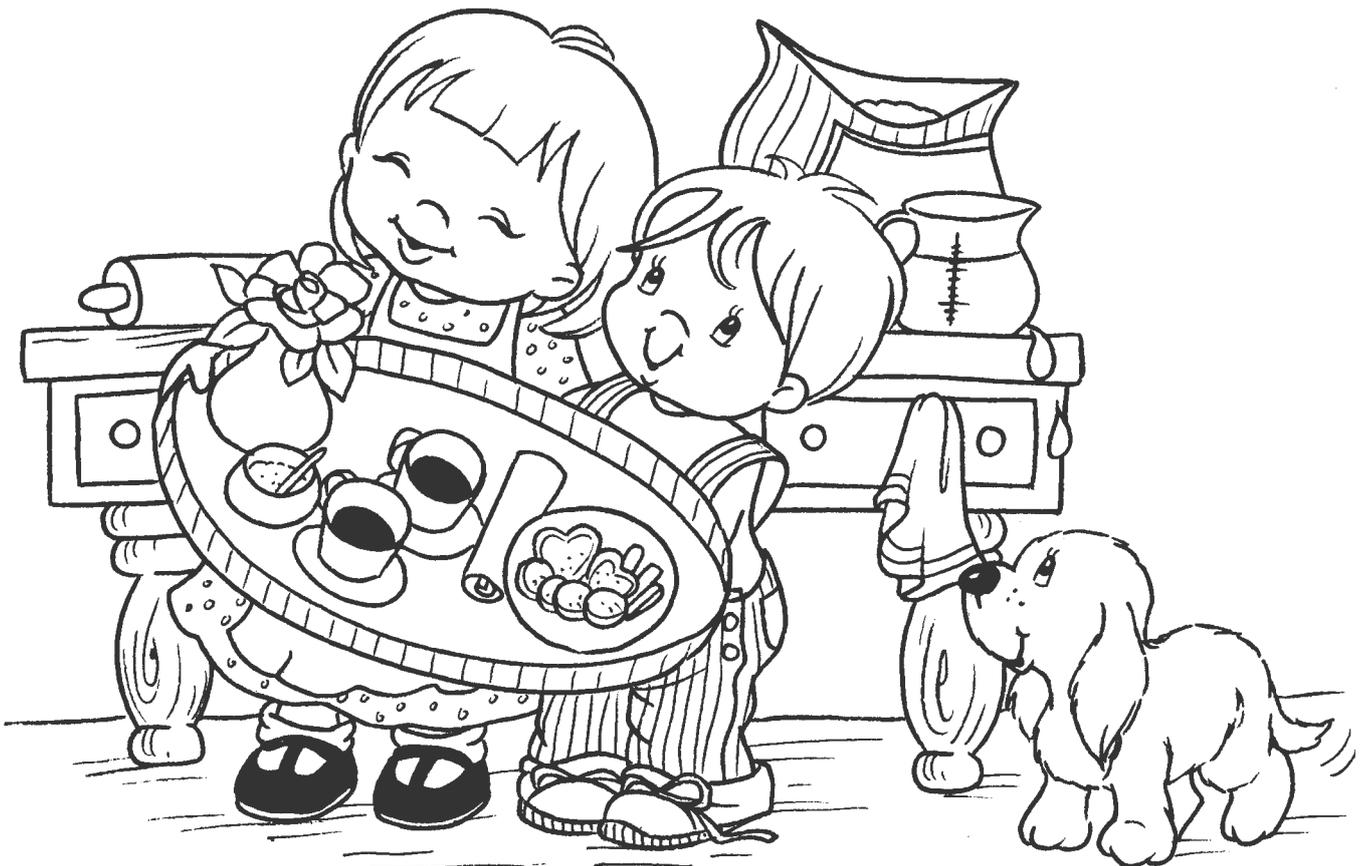
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From Jesus—with Love



One of the blessings I give you in life is that you have each other! I give each of you special talents and I make each of you different so that you can help one another. I didn't make each person the same. What if you were all good at sports and none of you were good at cooking? Or what if you were all farmers and no one was a teacher? That would make life pretty difficult, wouldn't it?

And so I have designed it that each of you can do certain things, and when you work together, you do a much better job! Isn't it much more fun to do the dishes together, or to plant a garden together? Even playing wouldn't be very fun if you did it all on your own! So let's all work together in love and harmony, helping each other and having lots of fun together!



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