

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went out and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

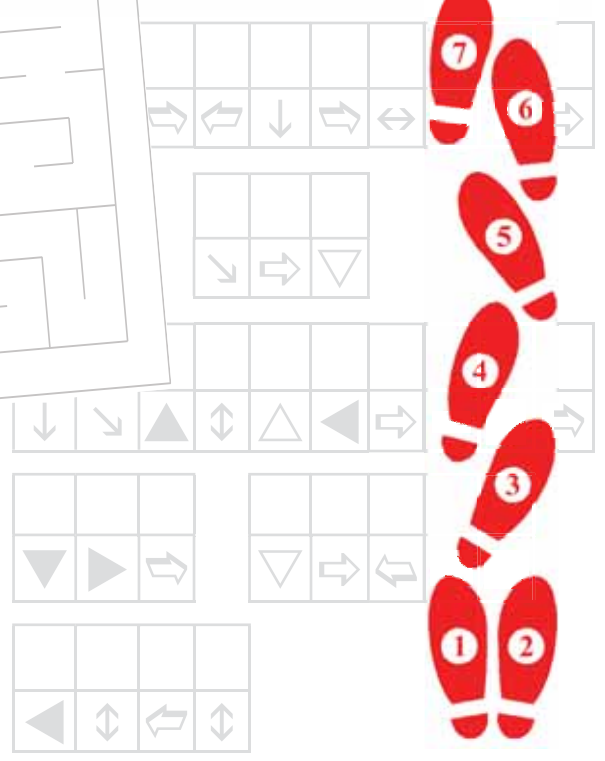
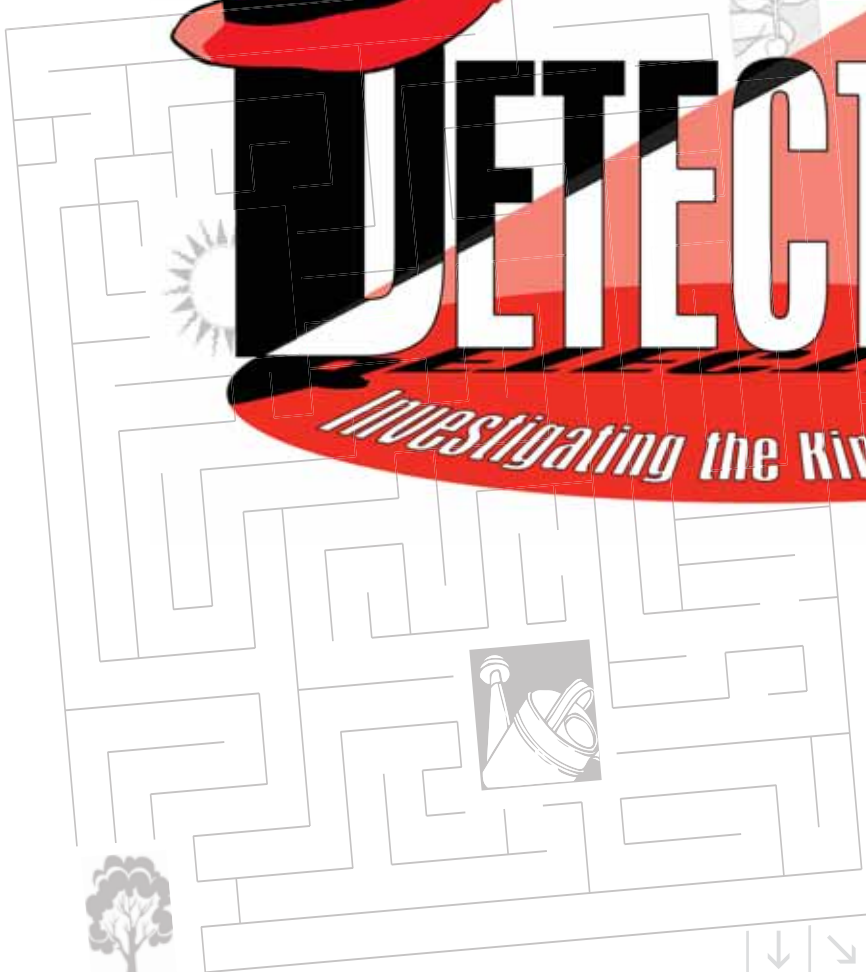


difficult



# DETECTIVES

*Investigating the Kingdom of God*



Student Book  
difficult



Grab your  
magnifying glass  
and secret decoder  
because...

## The Word of God!

It's time to get into...

The parables of Jesus from the book of Matthew have always been some of my favorite passages. Jesus chose to teach the crowds with riddles and let people try to interpret His teaching, but He explained the lessons for his disciples.

Let your imagination fly, and pretend you are a detective to discover what Jesus meant in each of these parables we will be studying in this unit.

The more you investigate, the more you will learn from each lesson.

Soon you will have figured out the super-secret message hidden in these pages and you will have the answer to the question...

**Where is the kingdom of God?**

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Each week there is a secret code hidden somewhere on the page. With your secret decoder you can investigate and find each letter and solve the riddle. Add the letter from each week to each box and at the end of this unit, you will have the answer!

*Search for  
Jesus'  
footprint,  
and when  
you find it,  
follow it!*

# DETECTIVES

Investigating the Kingdom of God

## Word Find

- sow      root
- seed    thorns
- path    hear
- sun     went

## Footprint 1



### The Sower



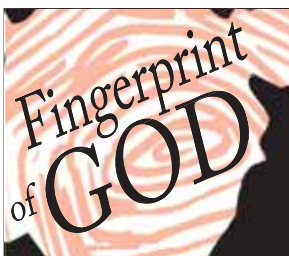
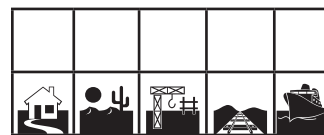
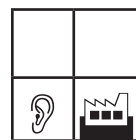
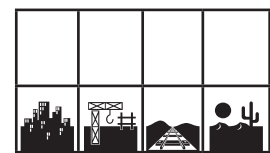
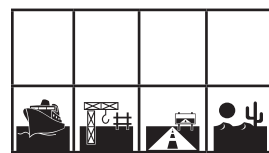
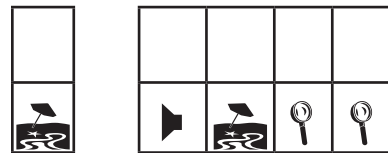
Matthew 13:3-23

3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear."



V	C	R	U	W	N	A
L	S	O	W	E	E	P
T	H	O	R	N	S	T
T	E	T	R	T	E	B
P	A	T	H	U	E	U
E	R	S	U	N	D	I
N	U	T	M	O	G	A

## The Secret Message



## Memorize

"But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it." Matthew 13:23a

**HOMEWORK: Read Matthew 2**

key





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

key

## Footprint 2

### The Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30

24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 28 "'An enemy did this,' he replied."



## Word Find

HARVEST JESUS  
HEAVEN WHEAT  
BARN WEEDS  
SEED GOOD  
GROW SOW



## The Secret Message

☞	☠	☹	✠	☞	☞	☞			

☞	✌	☠	☹	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞

☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞

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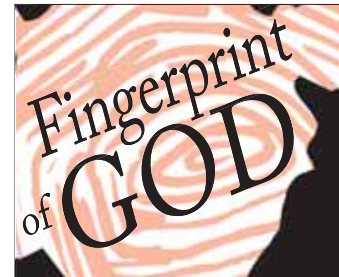
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## Memorize

"...they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil." Matthew 13:41b



**Homework: Read Matthew 4**  
**Finished reading Matthew 2**

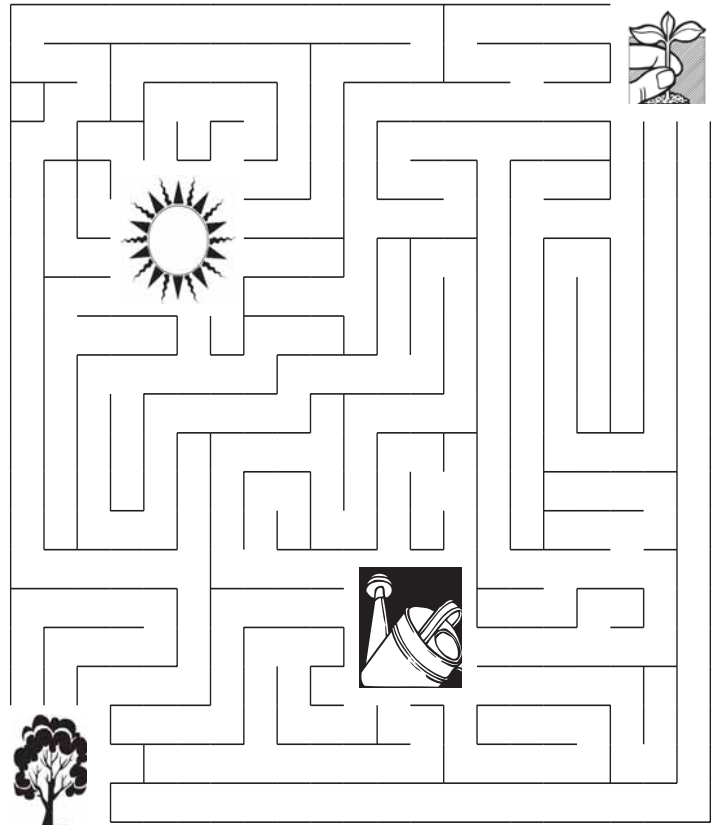


# DETECTIVES

Investigating the Kingdom of God

## Maze

Find the way from starting as a seed to becoming a large tree.



key

- ✓
- ☞
- ☒
- ☞
- ☞
- ☞
- x
- ☞
- ⊗
- ☒
- ☞
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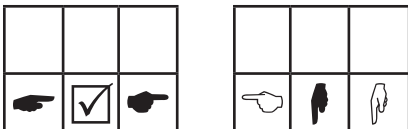
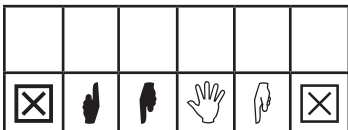
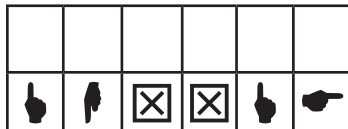
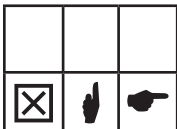
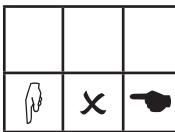
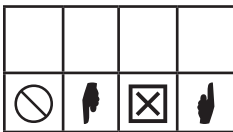
## Footprint 3

### The Mustard Seed

*Matthew 13:31-32*

31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

### The Secret Message



## Memorize

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed... when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants..." *Matthew 13:31b, 32a*



**Homework: Read Matthew 5**  
■ *Finished reading Matthew 4*





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E  
Y

## Footprint 4

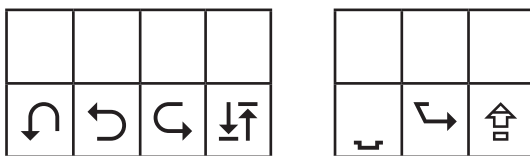
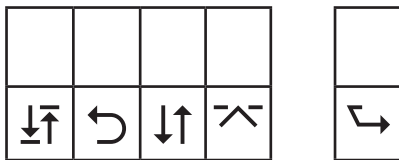
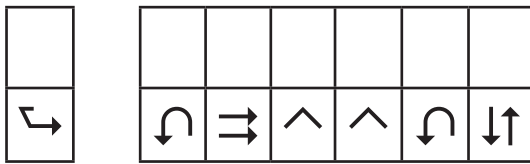
### The Yeast

Matthew 13:33-35



33 He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.” 34 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. 35 So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”

### The Secret Message



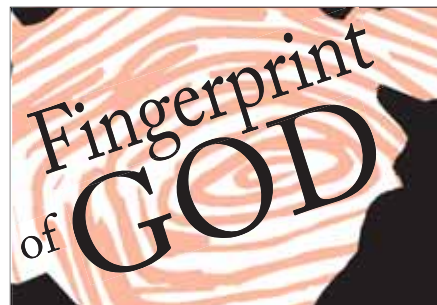
### Word Find

FLOUR            WOMAN  
HEAVEN         DOUGH  
KINGDOM        PARABLE

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

### Memorize

“The kingdom...is like yeast...worked all through the dough.” Matthew 13:33b



You are important



**Homework: Read Matthew 6**  
 Finished reading Matthew 5





## Footprint 5

### The Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

Matthew 13:44-46



44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

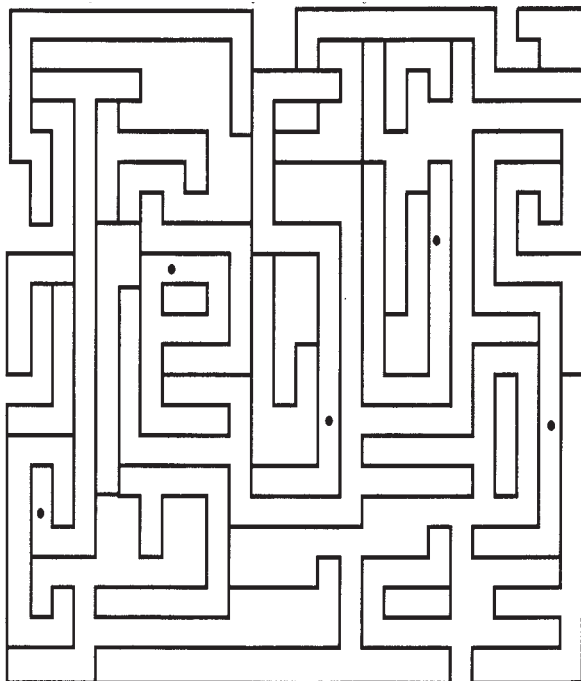
45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

### Hidden Word

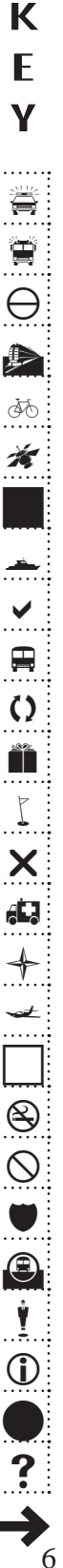
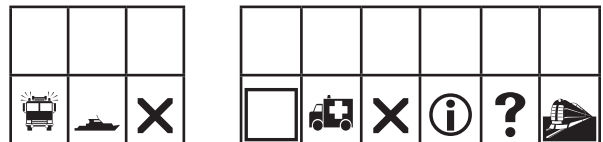
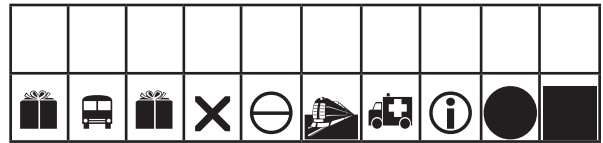
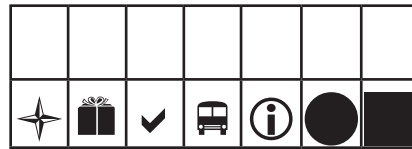
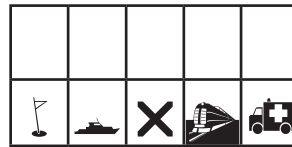
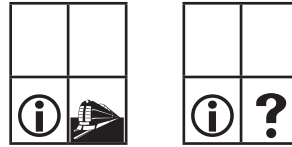
Who is the treasure?

(To find the answer, color the spaces that contain a dot.)



## Look for the things of God

### The Secret Message



### Memorize

"When he found one (pearl) of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."  
Matthew 13:46



**Homework: Read Matthew**  
 Finished reading Matthew 6



key

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- ↗
- ▣
- ◆
- ♋
- &
- ♎
- 
- ♋
- ◆
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## Footprint 6

### The Lost Sheep

*Matthew 18:10-14*



10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?

13 And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. 14 In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish."

### The Secret Message



♋	♋	♋	♋	♋

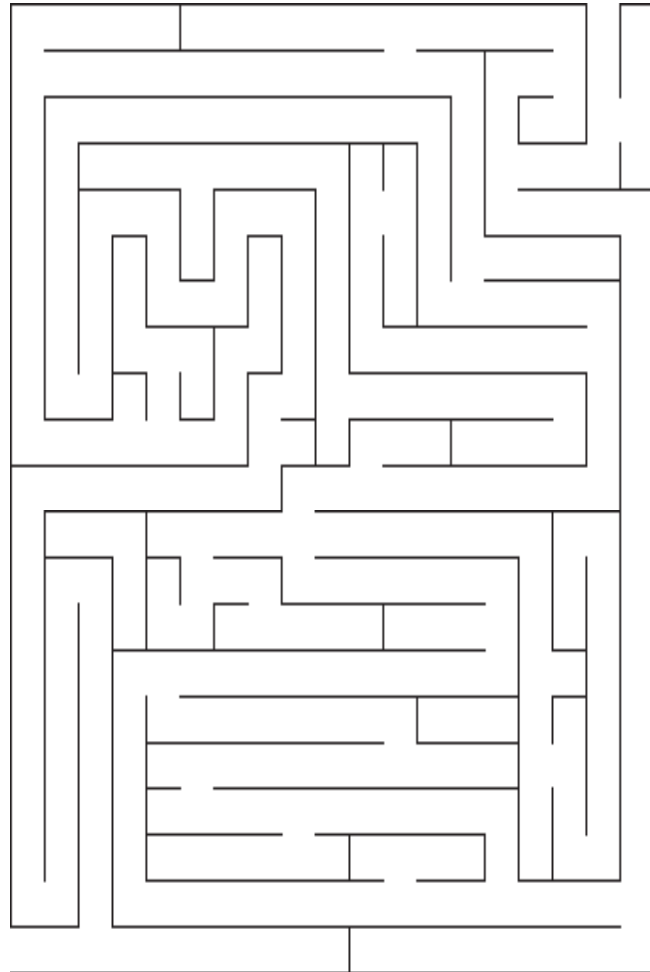
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♋	♋	♋	♋

God loves you

Homework: Read Matthew 8  
■ Finished reading Matthew 7

Maze



### Memorize

"...your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish." *Matthew 18:14b*







# Footprint 7

## The Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18:21-35



23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”



### Memorize

“Shouldn’t you have had mercy ...just as I had on you?” Matthew 18:33

**Homework: Read Matthew 12**  
 Finished reading Matthew 8

What did the servant say when he knelt before the king?

(To understand the phrase, write down the letter in front of the one given below.)

CF

QBUJFOU

XJUI NF

**You always have to forgive**

### The Secret Message

Hand	Bomb	+	Drop	Snowflake	

Point	Hand	Sun	Point	Hand	+	Point

Point	Sun	Hand	Bomb

Snowflake	Point	Point	

Point	Point	Peace	Sun

KEY





key

- ⑦
- ⑤
- ①
- ②
- ⑥
- ②
- ⑧
- ③
- ⑨
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- 9

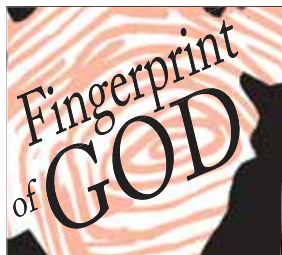
## Footprint 8

### The Workers



Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 3 About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ 5 So they went. 6 “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ 7 ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ 9 The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ 13 “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ 16 “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”



### Memorize

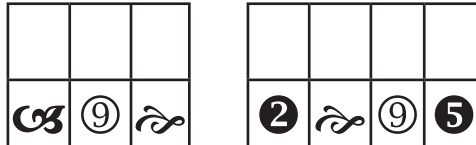
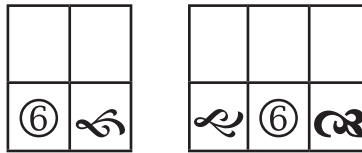
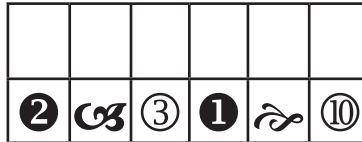
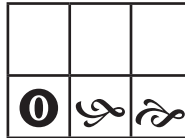
*“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”*

Matthew 20:16 b



**Homework: Read Matthew 15**  
 Finished reading Matthew 12

### The Secret Message



Unscramble the words to understand the message.  
 fiLe si ton yaswal irfa.





# Footprint 9

## The Two Sons

Matthew 21:28-32



28“...There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’  
 29“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.  
 30“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.  
 31“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”  
 “The first,” they answered.  
 Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”

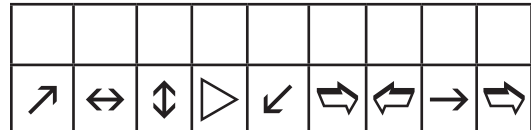
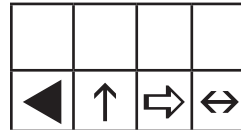
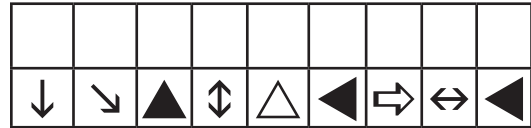
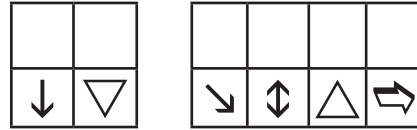
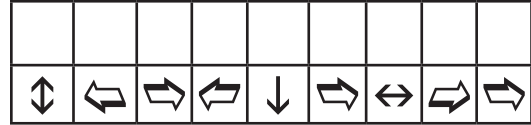
### Memorize

"... even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him."  
 Matthew 21:32b



**Homework: Read Matthew 16**  
 Finished reading Matthew 15

### The Secret Message



Key



### Maze

Help the two sons to get to the farm.





## Word Find

SERVANT      SON  
 FATHER      GOD  
 RESPECT      DO  
 KILLED      WORK  
 EVIL



K	F	A	T	H	E	R
I	W	E	V	I	L	E
L	G	R	A	P	E	S
L	O	W	O	R	K	P
E	D	R	M	O	S	E
D	H	E	O	D	O	C
S	E	R	V	A	N	T

## The Secret Message

✓	⊗	⊗	☞	☞	⊗	x
✓	☑	☞	☞	⊗	☞	☞
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key



## Footprint 10

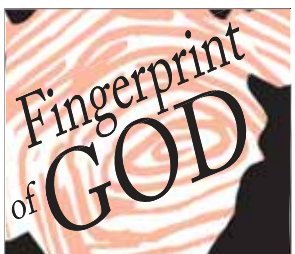
### The Tenants

Matthew 21:33-45

33“... There was a landowner who planted a vineyard.... He rented the vineyard to some farmers... 34When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. 35The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. 36Then he sent other servants to them ...the tenants treated them the same way. 37Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. 38But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ 39So they took him ... and killed him. 40Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”  
 41“‘He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,’” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants...”  
 43“‘Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.’”

## Memorize

"...the kingdom ... will be... given to a people who will produce its fruit." Matthew 21:43b



**Homework: Read Matthew 18**  
 ■ Finished reading Matthew 16



## Footprint 11

### The Wedding Banquet Matthew 22:1-14

2“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 4 Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited... everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ 5 But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. 7 The king was enraged. ... 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.”

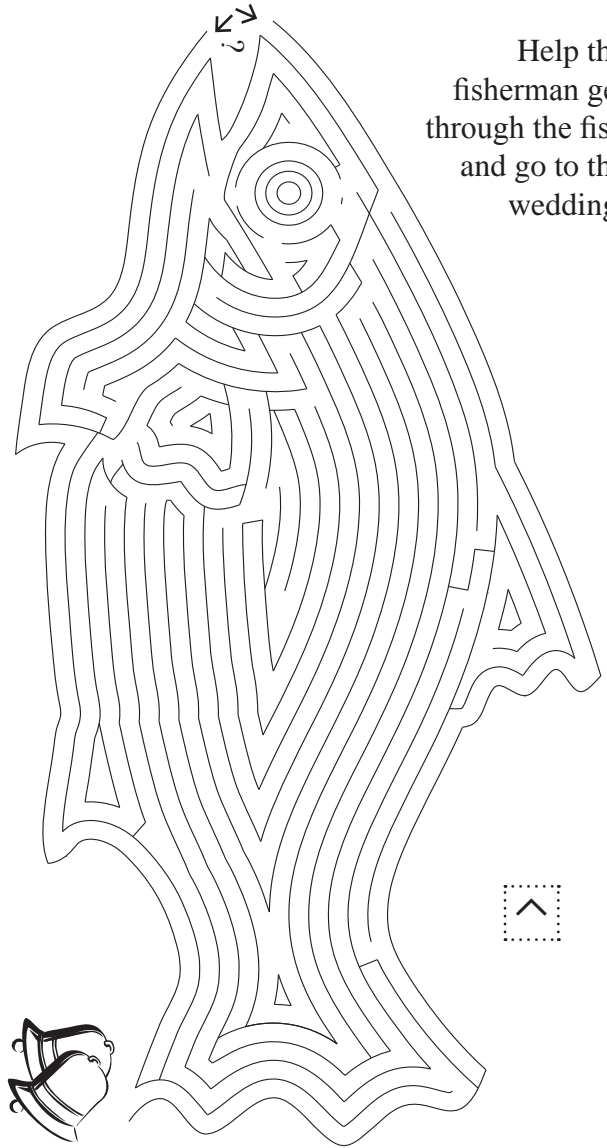
### Memorize

*"Invite to the banquet anyone you find... the bad as well as the good..."*  
Matthew 22:9b, 10b



**Homework: Read Matthew 26**  
 Finished reading Matthew 18

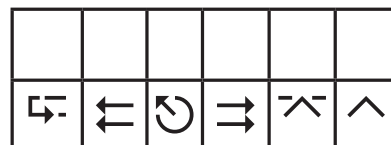
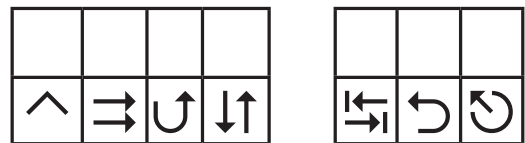
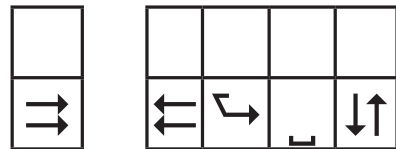
Help the fisherman get through the fish and go to the wedding.



k  
e  
y



### The Secret Message





## Word Find

TEN  
GIRLS  
LAMP  
GROOM  
DOOR

FIVE  
WISE  
FOOLISH  
LOCKED  
OIL

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



key



## Footprint 12



### The Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

1 "...The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they... fell asleep. 6 At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom!...' 7 Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived.... And the door was shut. 11 Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' 13 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

### The Secret Message

●	♋	◆	♌	♎	◆	♎	
♍	☉	□	♋	◆	♋	♎	■
♌	◆	♌	□	△	♎	♎	△
□	♋	○	△	●	♋	♋	♌



### Memorize

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." Matthew 25:13

**Homework: Read Matthew 28**  
Finished reading Matthew 26



## Footprint 13

### The Gold Coins



*Matthew 25:14-30*

14 Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability... 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19... The master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, '... See, I have gained five more.' 21 His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 22 The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,... see, I have gained two more.' 23 His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 24 Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, ... 25 ... 'I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant!'

Unscramble the words to understand the message.

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ouy tisingt nad

gonid githonn.

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## The Secret Message

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👤	🚢	⬤	🎁	⊖				
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🏠	🚢	🎁	🏠	🚢	👤	⬤	⬤	?
🚢	🚢	⬤	🚢	🛡️				

## Memorize

*"...You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things...."*  
*Matthew 25:21b*

**Finished reading Matthew 28**

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

**difficult**

Detectives Difficult  
English



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