

LENT Resources from Illustrated Ministry



As we prepare for the second Lent & Easter season during the COVID-19 pandemic, Illustrated Ministry has a variety of quality, digital faith formation resources you can choose from. Below you will find descriptions of two brand-new products for 2021. The samples for each product are found at the end of this PDF. On the second page, you'll find additional information about some of our best-selling Lenten materials. If you have any questions about these products, catch us on social media or contact us [here](#).

Lent 2021 Theme

The theme for our new products draws its inspiration from Jesus' teaching about storing treasures in his Sermon on the Mount. This Lent, we invite you to explore the many treasures you have in your life. Some are physical treasures we can touch, hold, store, and give. Some treasures are invisible, yet still greatly matter and guide our lives. **By exploring Gospel passages about treasures and matters of the heart, we invite you to wonder more deeply about what kinds of treasure matter, why we store treasures, and the power these treasures have in our lives.**

We will focus on the following scripture passages throughout the two products listed below on this page:

Week One: Matthew 6:19–21

Week Two: Luke 2:41–52

Week Three: Matthew 19:16–26

Week Four: Luke 12:13–34

Week Five: Matthew 13:45–46

Week Six: Palm/Passion – Mark 9:30–37

Week Seven: Easter – Matthew 27:62–28:10

AN ILLUSTRATED LENT FOR FAMILIES: REFLECTIONS ON THE HEART

This is a family devotional for Lent.

An Illustrated Lent for Families includes seven devotions (one for each week of Lent and one for Easter) that explore the theme of storing treasures. Each week's devotion includes a scripture, a short reflection, discussion questions, an activity families can do together, a coloring page, and a prayer.

This is the fourth in a series of our Lenten resources for families. You can also find information (and samples available) for three other Lenten family resources on our store:

An Illustrated Lent for Families: Reflections on Fasting

An Illustrated Lent for Families: Reflections on Prayer

An Illustrated Lent for Families: Reflections on Giving

Who is this product for?

If you're looking for something to send home to families, or to include in a Lenten box or kit you're putting together, this resource would be perfect. It includes activities that young children can enjoy, and could also be adapted to an online Sunday School program for kids. We've seen churches use it in a variety of ways.

Also, if you're looking for something to use with your own family at home, consider purchasing this product.

Product Pricing

Personal Use: \$9.99 (Not available for churches to select)
Ministry Use (Church Size: 1–100 members): \$39.99
Ministry Use (Church Size: 101–500 members): \$49.99
Ministry Use (Church Size: 501+ members): \$69.99

WHERE YOUR HEART IS: AN ILLUSTRATED DEVOTIONAL

This is an illustrated devotional/coloring book for Lent.

This unique intergenerational resource is a hybrid devotional/coloring resource. Our illustrated devotional has captivating reflections, hand-crafted illustrations, and an engaging layout and design. It includes seven weekly devotions for all ages, as well as illustrations to color and opportunities to doodle and engage with the content in fun and creative ways.

Each weekly devotion includes a scripture, a reflection, discussion questions suitable for all ages, a "going deeper" section with additional questions, illustrations to color, and spaces for doodling and responding to prompts.

Who is this product for?

If you're looking for something to make available to your entire congregation, this resource would be perfect. The discussion questions can be used with younger children, and the "going deeper" questions make this a thoughtful resource for all ages. This is a great resource to use with youth groups, college ministries and Adult Bible studies.

Also, if you're looking for a personal devotional to use during Lent this year, check out the sample and consider purchasing this product.

Product Pricing

Personal Use: \$9.99 (Not available for churches to select)
Ministry Use (Church Size: 1–100 members): \$29.99
Ministry Use (Church Size: 101–500 members): \$39.99
Ministry Use (Church Size: 501+ members): \$59.99

Additional LENT Resources

Over the years, Illustrated Ministry has created Lenten resources for churches and families. Some of our most popular products have included coloring posters, coloring pages, and devotional guides on a variety of Lenten themes. If you're looking for a creative way to engage your community this Lent, we'd encourage you to take a look at our **Lenten Psalms**, **Stations of the Cross**, and **Seven Last Words** materials.

What's included? For each of these themes, you can purchase coloring posters (both physical and digital), coloring pages (digital only), and a devotional guide (digital only). The devotional guides come in a downloadable PDF form, so they are easy to share with your participants.

How would I use these? Our coloring posters have been fantastic opportunities to gather together in community with people of all ages for coloring & conversation. That is obviously not possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, but we've seen churches come up with some innovative and creative solutions. Some churches have set up coloring stations outdoors, and invited people to come in shifts to color a poster together. Others have purchased our high-quality physical coloring posters, cut them up and distributed them to families and church members, and then put the pieces back together to create a beautiful art display.

Another option would be to host an online discussion using one of the devotional guides and the coloring pages. Allow participants to color and reflect during the week, and then gather online to go through the devotional guide together and share their reflections.

Learn more about the different themes below. You can also download samples of the devotional guides and find them on our store here: store.illustratedministry.com/collections/lenet

LENTEN PSALMS (YEAR B)

Our Psalms materials use the Psalm texts from the Revised Common Lectionary (Year B).

Each of the illustrations in the coloring posters and coloring pages highlights specific themes and emotions from that Psalm. Words and phrases from the Psalms are also incorporated into the illustrations.

In the Psalms, we encounter the vast array of human emotions. During a difficult time in our world, and during a season like Lent, spending time in the Psalms can be incredibly healing.

Browse resources & learn more here: <http://illstrtdm.in/LentenPsalms>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Invite your community on a journey following the footsteps of Christ with our Stations of the Cross materials.

The coloring posters, coloring pages, and devotional guide will immerse your community in the biblical account of the last days and hours of Jesus' life.

The Stations of the Cross illustrations are engaging and appropriate for all-ages. These resources provide a creative, engaging, and participatory way for people to connect with their faith.

Browse resources & learn more here: <http://illstrtdm.in/Stations>

SEVEN LAST WORDS

Our Seven Last Words materials illustrate the seven last words of Jesus in a way that is meaningful for all ages and visually-appropriate for even very young children to reflect on the last moments of Jesus' life.

Participants will encounter how the themes that come from the cross can profoundly impact their daily lives through coloring posters, coloring pages, and a devotional guide.

Many churches find these resources perfect for Holy Week or use them for Good Friday services and programs.

Browse resources & learn more here: <https://illstrtdm.in/7words>

Alleluia & Worship Resources

Alleluias: We also have resources for you if your community "buries the Alleluias" during Lent, including three different beautifully-illustrated Alleluia coloring pages & posters you can use, as well as a children's moment focused on Burying and Raising the Alleluia.

Worship Resources: We publish yearly worship resources that include Children's Worship Bulletins and Illustrated Children's Moments. You can also buy them just for Lent if you'd like to try them out with your community.

Learn more about these resources here: store.illustratedministry.com/collections/lenet

REFLECTIONS on THE HEART

an illustrated
LENT
FOR FAMILIES

SAMPLE
ONLY



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AN ILLUSTRATED LENT FOR FAMILIES: REFLECTIONS ON THE HEART

We are thrilled to provide families with a resource for engaging their children in faith formation at home during Lent. Our *Illustrated Lent for Families* and *Illustrated Advent for Families* have been used by thousands of families around the world, and we're excited to share this edition with you.

The theme for this edition of *An Illustrated Lent for Families* is Reflections on the Heart. As we journey through this season of Lent together, families are invited to focus intentionally on the spiritual discipline of evaluating what the heart treasures. Some are physical treasures we can touch, hold, store, and give. Some treasures are invisible, yet still greatly matter and guide our lives. By exploring Gospel passages about treasures and matters of the heart, families will reflect on what kind of treasure matters to us, why we store treasures, and the power these treasures have in our lives. Starting with Ash Wednesday and going through Easter, each weekly session will have a scripture, reflection, discussion questions, activity, coloring page, and prayer.

Our Lent devotionals are written for all ages. We believe you'll find appropriate questions and discussion topics in each devotional for your children, no matter the age. At the same time, feel free to tweak content and questions to work for your family. You don't need to do all the activities for it to be a meaningful experience. Take a look at the devotionals, see what you think will work best for your family's schedule, and find time each week to gather together.

Each devotional consists of the elements below:

Scripture: The scriptures are selected Gospel passages concerning treasures and matters of the heart.

Reflection: A brief reflection is offered for each of the scripture texts. It might make sense for you to read this section to your family, or you may want to read it for yourself and see what questions or themes will resonate best for your family.

Discussion and Coloring Page: This is a chance for some family conversation. Since we love coloring here at Illustrated Ministry, we find some of the best conversations often happen while coloring and doing something creative together. We suggest discussing the questions offered (tied to the scripture and activity) while coloring the week's coloring page.

Family Activity: The weekly activity invites your family to experience prayer together. As with all our suggestions for spiritual formation, please adjust or customize the activity for your family. We hope you find something that works in your context and opens you toward spiritual growth.

Prayer: Finally, each week's devotional ends with a short prayer you can say or invite your children to repeat after you. This simple ritual can end your family's weekly devotional time and can also be used as a prayer throughout the week.

As you use these resources, we would love to hear what was helpful and what suggestions or comments you have. We desire to create quality resources for your family's faith formation, and we appreciate your feedback. You can always reach us at info@illustratedministry.com or find us on the following social networks:

Facebook Page: facebook.com/illustratedmin
Facebook Group: facebook.com/groups/illustratedmin
Pinterest: pinterest.com/illustratedmin
Twitter: twitter.com/illustratedmin
Instagram: instagram.com/illustratedmin

We're so grateful you're a part of our Illustrated Ministry community! Our Facebook Group is a growing group of customers and friends. If you're looking for ideas and suggestions in how to use any of our products (including this one!), request to join here: facebook.com/groups/illustratedmin

We also love to see photos and hear stories about how you are using our products. When you are posting photos or comments online, please use the hashtag #illustratedmin or #anillustratedlent or tag us in the photos so we can see them. That allows us to be part of the conversation and you to be part of our online community. Additionally, checking the hashtag on various social networks is a great way to get to see how other families and churches are creatively using our resources.

Blessings on your Lenten journeys!

The Illustrated Ministry Team

BEST PRACTICES FOR SHARING ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY'S RESOURCES

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If you purchased this product by selecting *Personal Use*, this file is for personal and individual family use only. You can use it as many times as you or your family desires, but we ask that you do not share this file.

If you purchased this product by selecting *Ministry Use (Church Size: ### members)*, we've found that there are three good ways to share our files with your community.

Email: Depending on the size of your congregation, we encourage you to email files to those who want to use the resource. Another option is to put an announcement in your bulletin, asking those interested in receiving the files to email the person with access to the resource.

Note: Please do not include attachments or links to download our files in any emails/newsletters that are posted publicly online with services like Mailchimp, Constant Contact, etc. Links of this nature are searchable by Google, and the files become accessible to the general public.

Posting Online: We generally discourage posting our files online because they become accessible through Google searches. We do not want the general public to have access to our products free of charge. One option is to put the files on a password-protected page of your website, or use a private Facebook Group. Please remember to take the files down after you've finished using them.

Note: Please do not post the password in a bulletin or newsletter that is posted publicly online.

Print: Most congregations who purchase our digital files choose to print out the materials. Printing the materials is probably the easiest way to share the resources with your community.

Thanks for understanding, and we appreciate your support!

The Illustrated Ministry Team

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

REFLECTION

When Jesus was twelve years old, he was traveling with his parents. They became separated after the Passover festival. Jesus' parents searched for him for several days. They were worried and anxious because they loved their son, Jesus, very much. He was their treasure. When Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus, he was sitting in the temple talking to the teachers and asking them questions. Mary was probably frustrated when she asked, "Why have you treated us like this?" She wanted Jesus to be safe, always.

Jesus treasured his parents, but Jesus also had another treasure. He liked to be in the temple, talking about God. He called God his "Father." Of course, we know Jesus would spend his whole life talking about God and teaching others about God's love. But Mary and Joseph did not understand this at the time. Sometimes parents and children do not understand each other's treasures. That is okay. It happens a lot.

But Jesus and his parents figured it out together. Jesus followed their directions and went home to Nazareth with them. Mary took Jesus' thoughts very seriously, even though they were mysterious. That's what we do for each other when we love each other. We take each other seriously, even if we don't understand or even sometimes agree.

The key to sticking together, even when people do not understand one another, is curiosity. Curiosity helps us remain open to each other, continue learning about each other, and respect each other. But it doesn't work very well unless everyone is curious. Grown-ups have to start because they are older with more experience. They show curiosity about their children's ideas. Children can be curious too. They ask questions and try to learn about their parents' ideas. When everyone is curious, we learn about each other's treasures and understand one another a little bit more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been lost or separated from a family member in a public place? Tell the story of what happened.
- What is something your family member treasures or cares about that you don't totally understand? Bonus: Ask a curious question about that!
- Is there something you treasure that you wish your parents, children, grandparents, grown-ups, or peers would be more curious about? If so, share!

ACTIVITY

When you live with someone, it is easy to assume you know everything about them and how they think. But just as Mary and Joseph learned new things about Jesus, we can learn new things about each other.

Make a "curiosity" seat in your living space. Invite each family member to take turns to sit in the curiosity seat and answer three or more questions about themselves. You can make up your own questions, or you can use these suggestions.

- What is the last thing you were excited about?
- What is your best travel memory?
- Which friend do you trust with your thoughts and ideas?
- If you could choose a family activity we would all do together tomorrow, what would it be?
- When you finish, share what you learned or what surprised you about the experience.

PRAYER

God,

You know our minds and hearts.

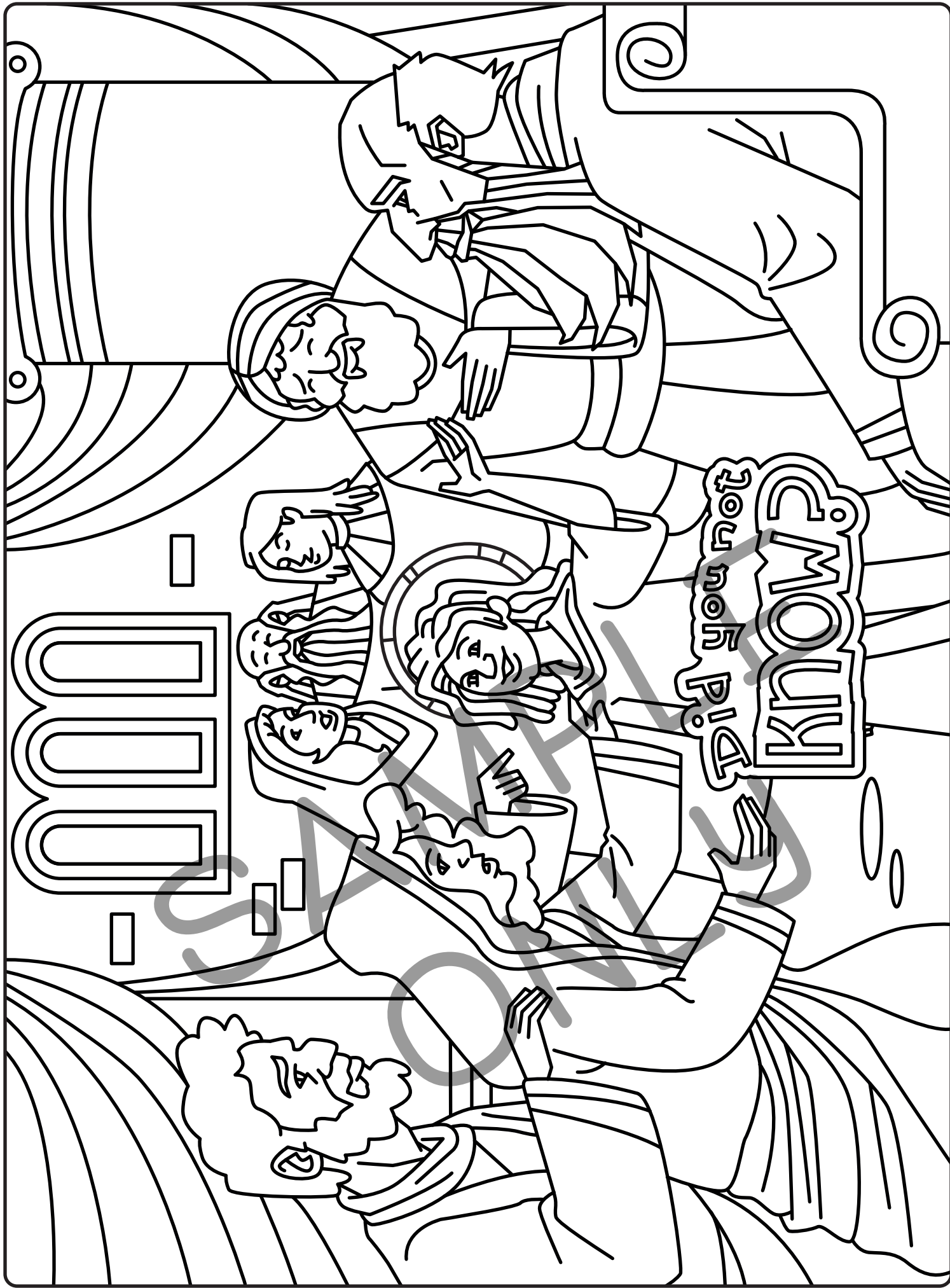
You understand our treasures, even when no one else does.

No matter how silly we feel, you always take us seriously.

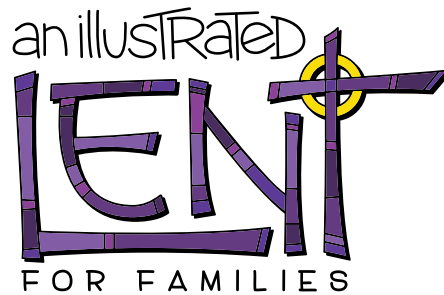
Help us love each other and be curious about our differences.

Amen.

SAMPLE
ONLY



Do you not
KNOW?



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WHERE YOUR HEART IS

AN ILLUSTRATED DEVOTIONAL

SAMPLE ONLY



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WELCOME TO *WHERE YOUR HEART IS: AN ILLUSTRATED DEVOTIONAL*

Our Illustrated Devotionals are meant to be colored in and doodled/drawn on. You will see opportunities to color, doodle, draw, and respond to prompts throughout the devotional. We invite you to allow the illustrations and spaces for creativity to draw you deeper into reflection.

Our theme's inspiration comes from Jesus' teaching about storing treasures in his Sermon on the Mount. This Lent, we invite you to explore the many treasures you have in your life. Some are physical treasures we can touch, hold, store, and give. Some treasures are invisible, yet still greatly matter and guide our lives. **By exploring Gospel passages about treasures and matters of the heart, we invite you to wonder more deeply about what kinds of treasure matter, why we store treasures, and the power these treasures have in our lives.**

We encourage you to explore how these ideas and themes influence how you view God, your faith, and the world. This Lenten devotional is written to be used individually or with a group, intergenerationally, or with youth groups or adult studies.

So grab a pen, some crayons or colored pencils, and start working through the devotional.

As you use these resources, we would love to hear what was helpful and meaningful, as well as any suggestions and comments you have for improvement. Your feedback helps us continue to create quality faith formation materials. You can reach us at info@illustratedministry.com or find us on the following social networks:

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Instagram: instagram.com/illustratedmin

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Our Facebook Group is a growing community of our customers and friends. If you're looking for ideas and suggestions for using this resource or any other product suggestions, request to join here:

fb.com/groups/illustratedmin

We also love to see photos and hear stories about how you are using our products. When you post photos or comments online, please use the hashtag #illustratedmin or tag us in the photos so we can see them. That allows us to be part of the conversation and you to be part of our online community. Additionally, checking the hashtag on social media is a great way to see how other families and churches are creatively using our resources.

Peace be with you!

The Illustrated Ministry Team



BEST PRACTICES FOR SHARING ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY'S RESOURCES

Thank you for making this purchase from Illustrated Ministry. We are grateful you have chosen our materials to support your faith formation, as well as that of your family and your congregation. We make our products available digitally because our customers find this to be the most efficient way to receive them. In order for Illustrated Ministry to continue producing the quality products you know and love, we ask for your care and respect when sharing your digital purchases. Detailed information about your license can be found on the copyright page.

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The Illustrated Ministry Team



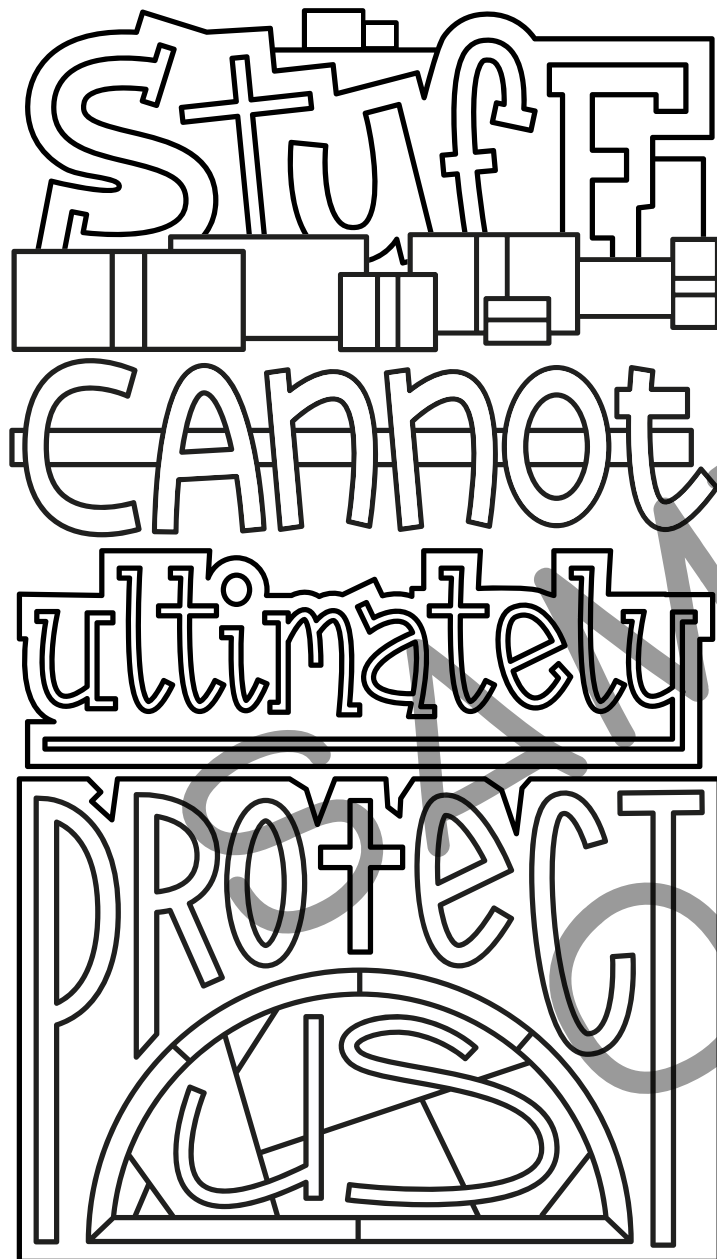
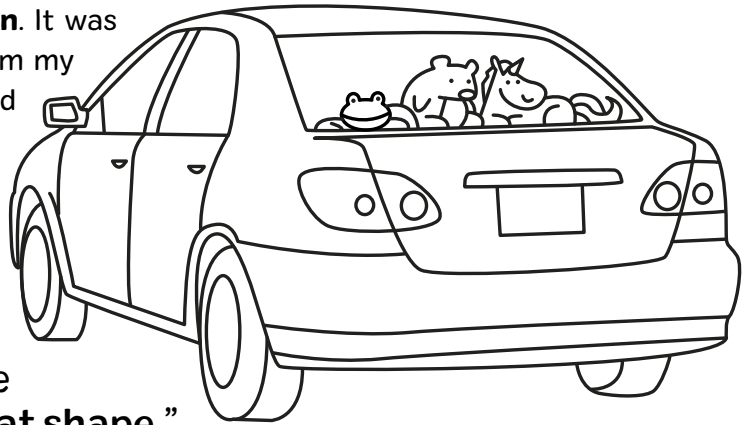
STORING UP TREASURES

MATTHEW 6:19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

When I was 21 years old, **my car was stolen**. It was my first car, a silver Toyota I'd bought from my grandma. It took me to my college campus and back home again countless times, on a few Spring Break trips, to a summer internship in the Rocky Mountains, and to a stint with a community project in Mississippi.

When I got the call saying it had been found, I was warned. "Don't get too excited," the police officer told me. "**It's not in great shape.**"



It was an old car with about a zillion miles on it, so it wasn't in great shape even before it was stolen. But I wasn't prepared for the damage that had been done to it in the week it was gone—mirrors broken off, cigarette burns in the seat cushions, trash everywhere.

What upset me most, though, was what was missing.

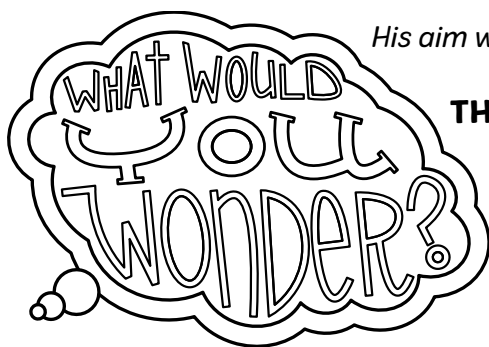
The things I kept in that car wouldn't have seemed valuable to anyone else, but they mattered to me. The glove compartment was stuffed with notes passed to me in the hallway by a high school friend that always cheered me up whenever I re-read them. Along the back windshield, I'd lined up stuffed animals: a frog from my college roommate, a bear from my parents, and a unicorn. I kept a book of mazes for when I was hauling kids around, but friends my age seemed to enjoy it, too. There were a lot of good memories attached to a lot of cheap things in that car, and whoever stole it also emptied it of all of that. I had the vehicle back, but the piece of my heart it contained was gone.

"Stuff cannot ultimately protect us, and we cannot ultimately protect it," writes New Testament professor Amy-Jill Levine.⁽¹⁾

The nod to moths, rust, and thieves is a reminder our stuff is vulnerable to both natural and human forces, both unintentional wasting away and purposeful destruction.

If our hearts are wrapped around our stuff,
if we find our treasure in what is easily damaged,
what becomes of our hearts
when the stuff is destroyed?

Parable scholars Bernard Brandon Scott and John Dominic Crossan suggest Jesus uses images like the ones in this teaching—moths, rust, and thieves—not to answer questions, but to *start conversations*. Meaning, if we read or hear this story and we turn to each other and say, “wait... what?” that’s precisely the reaction Jesus intended.



His aim wasn't to tell people what to do but to invite them to

THINK in new ways,

QUESTION how things are and why,

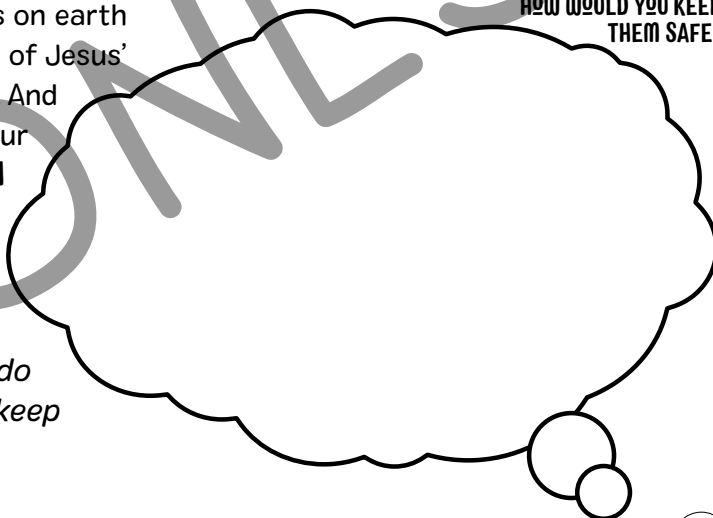
and really **WONDER** about how they might participate in making their world more like what God intended at creation.

IF YOU WERE IN THE CROWD HEARING THIS, WHAT WOULD YOU TURN AND SAY TO THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU? WHAT WOULD YOU WONDER?

Maybe the warning about storing up treasures on earth is pretty clear. That theme reappears in several of Jesus' teachings, even other stories in this devotional. And we get caught when we commit ourselves to our stuff. **We ACCUMULATE, we OBSESS, and we TURN AWAY from the needs of neighbors all around us while we stockpile resources for ourselves.**

But we **are** encouraged to store up treasures—in heaven. *So...what might those be? How do we collect them? What does it mean to keep them safe?*

WHAT TYPES OF TREASURES MIGHT YOU STORE IN HEAVEN?
WRITE SOME OF THEM DOWN IN THIS SPACE.
HOW WOULD YOU KEEP THEM SAFE?



When I think about this instruction from Jesus, to concentrate on the kind of treasures thieves can't break in and steal, *I know it's not really a reminder not to keep notes from old friends or favorite stuffed animals in my car.* Deep down, I can still recall those notes and smile, think about that stuffed frog and be flooded with memories of my roommate, and bring to mind the relationships those physical things were touchstones for.

All along it was what they pointed to, not the things themselves, that were really of value to me.

Jesus' teaching isn't just a warning from one way of living our lives; it's also a call toward another way. It's a realignment, a redirection of our hopes, our dreams, and our attention. As we journey through Lent, as we ponder the treasures in our lives, maybe we will find where our hearts are.



QUESTIONS to DISCUSS

What does your stuff make easy for you? What does it make hard?

Is there a physical, tangible thing you really love, whose loss you would mourn, if it were stolen or destroyed? Can you tell a story about what it is, and why it matters to you?

GOING DEEPER

Amy-Jill Levine states that stuff cannot “ultimately” protect us, but some stuff does offer us some protection. How can we honor that, without making it into our treasure?

How do you understand the connection between your treasure and your heart?

What is something you hold in your heart that can never be stolen or destroyed?

ENDNOTES

Session One

- (1) Amy-Jill Levine, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020), 97.

SAMPLE
ONLY



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