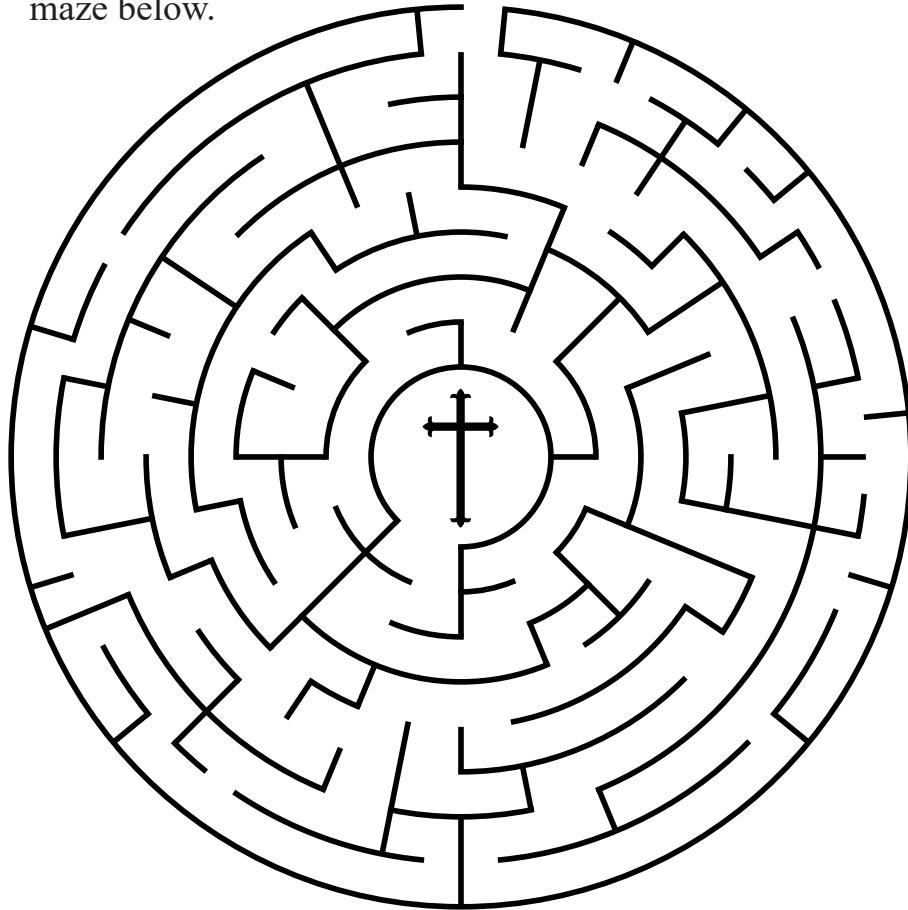


The Cross Is at the Center of Everything!

Whatever age we are, whether a preborn baby or a grandpa in a nursing home or hospital bed, “**God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**” (Romans 5:8). Find the cross in the maze below.



“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”
(1 John 3:16)

“We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)



FROM AGE TO AGE THE SAME



God made you—and grandparents, too! The Bible says that that you “**have been borne by [the LORD] from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save**” (Isaiah 46:3b-4).

It’s time to get your crayons out! Color the picture above. When you are done, say a prayer of thanks for your family and for the grandpas and grandmas in your life!

“A Story About the Times of Your Life” ... (Read this story for yourself or have someone read it to you)

We all know about time, right? We learn a lot about time from moms and dads. You know, “It’s time to get up, eat, brush your teeth, got to school, do your homework, take a bath, go to bed!” You’ve heard these before! But listen to what the Bible says about time: **“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”** (Ecclesiastes 3:1). There is a time for everything! Let’s look at some of the times of your lives.

There was the time of your **Life Day**, when you started growing inside your mom. And you kept growing and growing until there was the time of your **Birth Day**! Everyone has a birthday. Then there was a time for your **New Life Day**! That happened when you were baptized and became God’s own very special child.

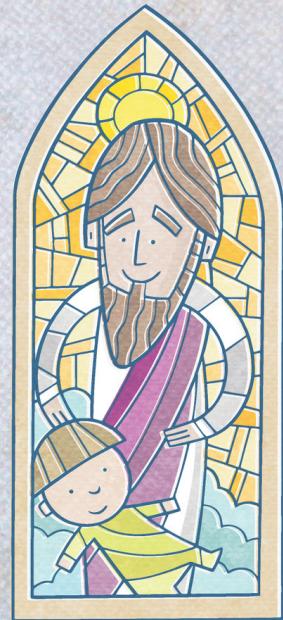
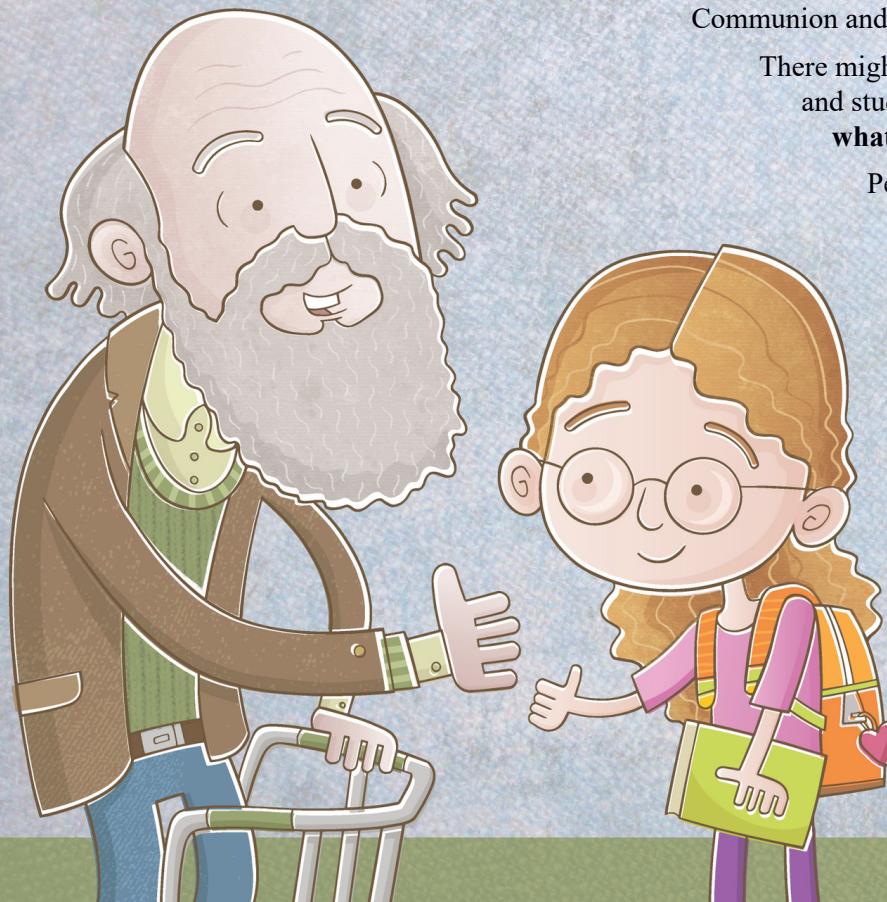
You’ve had times of **growing as your body got bigger and bigger**. By coming to church and Sunday school, you’ve had times of **growing in your faith** in Jesus as your Savior. You have times of going to school to **grow in knowledge**. You will have a time when you will be confirmed and be able to come to holy Communion and begin a whole new time of growing in faith.

There might be a time in your life when you **go to college** and study to be a teacher or pastor or engineer—or **whatever God might have in store for you**.

Perhaps there will be a time when you will **meet someone special and get married**! If you do get married, God may bless you with children.

Then as you keep getting older, there will be a time **when you will be old**, like your grandma and grandpa are now. Then, at just the right time that only God knows, **He will call you to be with Him in heaven**. Heaven will be such a wonderful place that no matter how many good times we have had here on earth, heaven will be far, far, far better!

Look at all these times in your life! And do you know what is so, so wonderful? **The Bible tells us that God has all of our times in His hand!** It is good to know that all of our times are in the hands of God who loves us so very much. And do you know what is so special about God’s hands that tells us He loves us? He has nail scars in His hands. **Jesus loved us so much He was nailed to a cross to suffer all God’s anger over our sins in our place! But He did not stay dead! No, He rose again and He is alive and He is with us and He has all of our times, the things that have happened and the things that will happen, in His hands!** That is really, really good news!



Please pray with me. Dear Jesus, thank You for all the times of my life, those that have happened and those that will. Thank You for holding them in Your nail-scared hands. Help me trust that You will always do what is best for me. In Your name, Amen.