

Kids Bible Lesson about Work (Labor Day)

 ministry-to-children.com/bible-lesson-about-work

Tony Kummer

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2010

Have you ever taught children what the Bible says about the value of work? Then you might enjoy this simple lesson plan that explains why our jobs matter to God. Children need to understand that working hard glorifies God. Work is one way we love our neighbors and fulfill our purpose in life. These truths are relevant in all of life. I first wrote this for my children's church, but it would work well as a labor day Sunday School lesson for children. You could also reduce the key points of this lesson for a children's sermon about labor day.

Kids Bible Lesson about Work



Bible Passage: The following are referenced at least once in this lesson. Genesis 1:28, Genesis 2:19-20, Colossians 3:23, Genesis 2:2, Matthew 22:39, Luke 19:10, Proverbs 14:23

Bible Lesson Topic: Working Hard, Vocation

Target Age Group: K-5th graders

Target Time Frame: 30 minutes

Original Teaching Context: Children's Church or Sunday School

You Can Help: Please leave your feedback and suggestions for this lesson plan. Others will benefit from your ideas.

Learning Goal #1: After this lesson, the children will demonstrate understanding of the Bible's teaching about work... (indicator #1) by discerning between true and false statements related to this topic.

Learning Goal #2: After this lesson, the children will demonstrate new positive attitudes about work... (indicator #2) by asking their parents for extra responsibilities at home (then reporting back next week).

Explanation: The Bible say much about the topic of work. Some pastors summarize this teaching as the doctrine of vocation. In this lesson, children will be introduced to these concepts and challenged to have positive attitudes about work.

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Bonus Ideas: Try these free resources if you need more activities for teaching about work.

- Watch and print our [Children's Sermon on Labor Day](#)
- Use our [3 Questions to help kids think about work and vocation](#)
- Compare our [Working for Jesus Sunday School Lesson](#)
- Compare the [free Labor Day Lesson](#) from Children's Ministry Deals
- Coloring Page: [Do everything for the glory of God.](#)

Supplies Needed:

- Write the following job titles on large index cards (or small sheets of paper): garbage collector, animal doctor, police person, house builder, mother
- A small item to indicate who is allowed to talk, I suggest a small ball.
- A way to display the verses such as PowerPoint, marker board, or poster board.
- Large index cards, or half sheets of paper, for children to write down their take home challenge. You might prepare these in advance if your time is limited.
- (Optional) Enough Bibles for children to lookup the passage in a sword drill.

Sunday School Lesson: Work Matters to God

Introduce Memory Verse Activity

(Say) Kids please listen closely while I say today's Bible verse. Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Now copy after me as we say it together.

Point to yourself as you talk and to the kids for their turn to repeat. Here are the suggested breaks for their repetition.

Colossians 3:23 (pause) Whatever you do, (pause) work at it with all your heart, (pause) as working for the Lord, not for men. (pause). Colossians 3:23 (pause)

Transition: *(Say) Today we're learning about work and how God cares about our jobs. Let's play a game to think about different kinds of work.*

What's This Job Charades: Call on volunteers to come and act out the job titles you've written on large index cards. Offer help for younger children and hints as they act out the job. After the children have guessed correctly have a short debrief by asking:

- *How does this person help others?*

- *What would happen if nobody did this work?*

Proceed through all the job titles until complete, or stop after about 5 minutes.

Transition: (Say) *God gives people many different types of work, but they all are important and help other people. Now we're going to see what God says about work in the Bible.*

Bible Teaching (or Sword Drill):

Display these verses for the children to see and have one volunteer read each. If you're class has many confident readers you can use these verses as a sword drill. Briefly explain each verse and it's relation to the topic of work. I've included some suggested *debrief comments in italics*. If time is short focus on the first three verses listed below.

- Genesis 2:19-20 NIV "Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field."
(Say) *So God gave people work from the very beginning, even before sin broke the world—God wanted people to work.*
- Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.(Say) *Did you realize that Jesus had a job to do while on Earth and he's still doing that job now.*
- Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. (Say) *So God wants us to do our best and work for him in all our jobs.*
- Matthew 22:39 Love your neighbors as yourself. (Say) *God also wants us to help others by our work. We can show love for our neighbors in working hard at our jobs.*
- Proverbs 14:23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. (Say) *This is the way our world works, working hard will make your life easier and allow you to help others even more.*
- Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (Say) *This idea of working is part of the way God made us to be. He designed our bodies and minds to make other things better. This is part of what it means to 'rule over the earth.'*

Transition: (Say) *Work must be important to God because he says so much about it in the Bible. Lets get in small groups now to talk about the work you do even now as kids.*

Discussion Groups: Have the children sit in circles (legs crossed and knee to knee) in groups of about five. Use a small item such as a ball to indicate who has the turn to talk.

(Say) The person with the ball gets to tell the group what jobs they have at home. Then pass the ball around the the next person. Only the person with the ball should be talking, everyone else needs to listen to their friend.

After all the groups have completed this first task, *(Say) Now let's pass the ball around again and talk about what work you would like to do when you are a grown up.*

Transition: After they finish the second round of discussion, *(Say) Let's all go back to our regular seats. We are going to play a game to see how much you've learned today.*

Lesson Review Questions:

(Learning Indicator #1) Read the following list of statements. Explain to the children that some are true and some are false. Ask the children to respond to each statement by standing up if they are true, or sitting with arms crossed if false. After each statement, reveal the answer and very briefly reinforce the correct answer. If some children initially respond wrongly, give hints to help them get it right before you reveal the answer.

- Yucky jobs are not important to God. (False: *all work matters to God*)
- Building houses can glorify God. (True)
- Only the preacher's work really matters to God. (False: *all work matters to God*)
- God wants everyone to work hard. (True)
- Jobs that make less money are less important. (False: *all work matters to God*)
- Jesus did the hardest job ever. (True: *He died to bring us back to God*)
- People are most happy when they work hard and help others. (True: *God made us to work hard and love other people*)

Take Home Challenge: (Learning Indicator #2) *(Say) I want to help you have a better attitude about work, so here is what I want you to do. After church, ask you parents for extra things you can do around the house. Tell them you want to glorify God by working hard.*

Pass out index cards with the following statement: I will do the following work to serve God and help others _____. For extra review, have the children write the Colossians 3:23 memory verse on the back side.

Ask the children to bring these cards back in one week and let them share what they did with the class. If you pastor is supportive, he can even read one of these cards to the congregation on Sunday morning.

3 Questions to Help Children Think about Vocation & Calling

 ministry-to-children.com/helping-children-think-about-vocation

Tony Kummer

November 2,
2010

Too often, kids get the wrong idea about calling. They begin to think the only way to serve God is to become an one of the three Ms when they grown up: **M**inister, **M**issionary, or **M**arried to one of those.

While we should honor these religious vocation, children need to know that God calls people to many other important vocations. In our attitudes and conversations, we can highlight ways that regular people serve God in their everyday life. Both parents and ministry leaders can show them this truth.

Here are three questions to appreciate God's work through almost any career path:

1. How does this job show God's glory?

Help kids see how 1 Corinthians 10:31 works out in real life. "Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." Different types of work can do this in special ways. Example: Teachers demonstrate the importance of knowledge, and Christ is the source of all wisdom. Artists show the importance of beauty, and God is a maker of all that is beautiful.

2. How does this career show love for others?

We all know that God wants us to love other people. 1 John 3:23 says it simple enough, "Love one another." Different jobs can fulfill this command in unique ways. Examples: Restaurant workers can show love through their service. Nurses show love when they care for hurting people. Home builders demonstrate love when they supply safe houses for others.

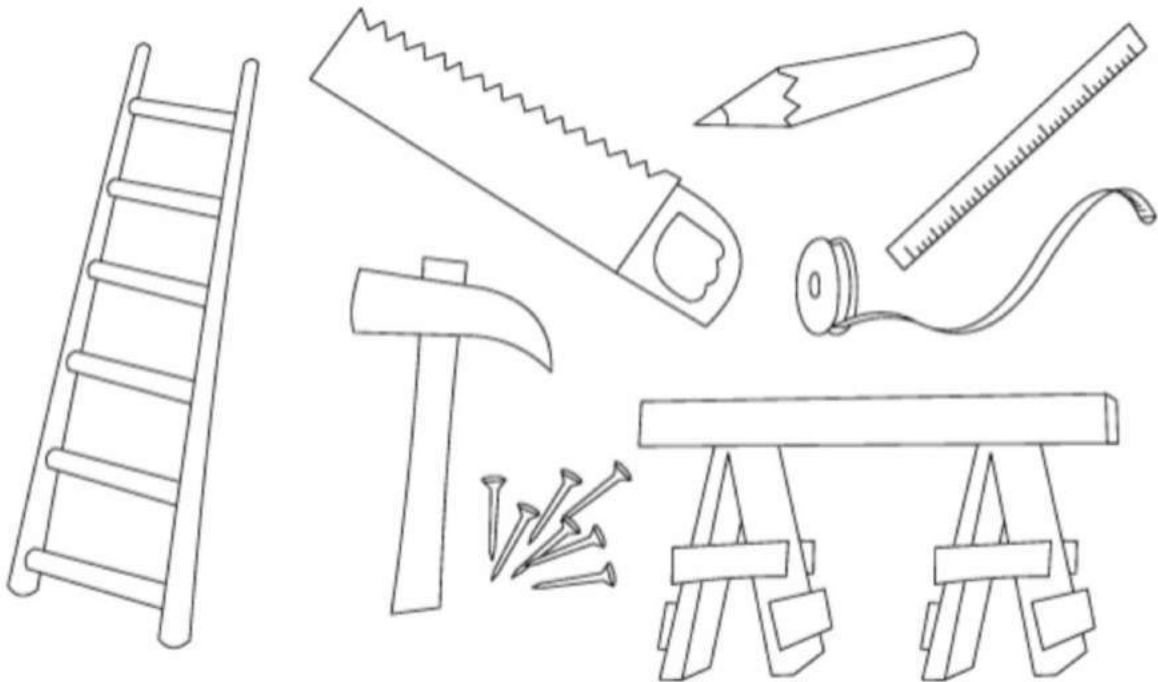
3. How does this work fight against the effects of the Fall?

We know that at the end of time, Jesus will restore all that was broken in our world. Revelations 21:5 says, "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'" Kids need to see how their many vocations prefigure this reality now. When we think forward to that day, our work can give testimony of the world that will come. Example: Garbage men fight against the corruption in our word by removing the trash. Medical researchers are seeking to cure disease.

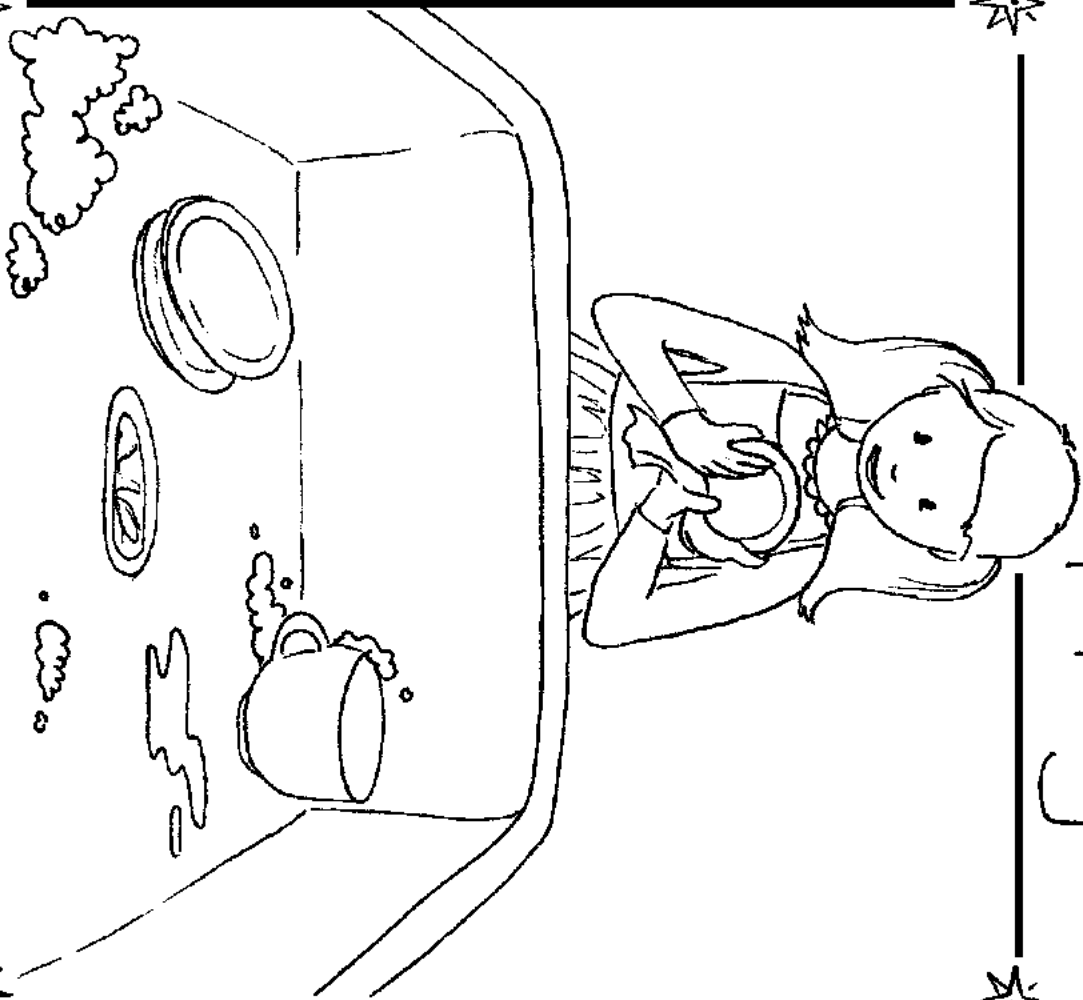
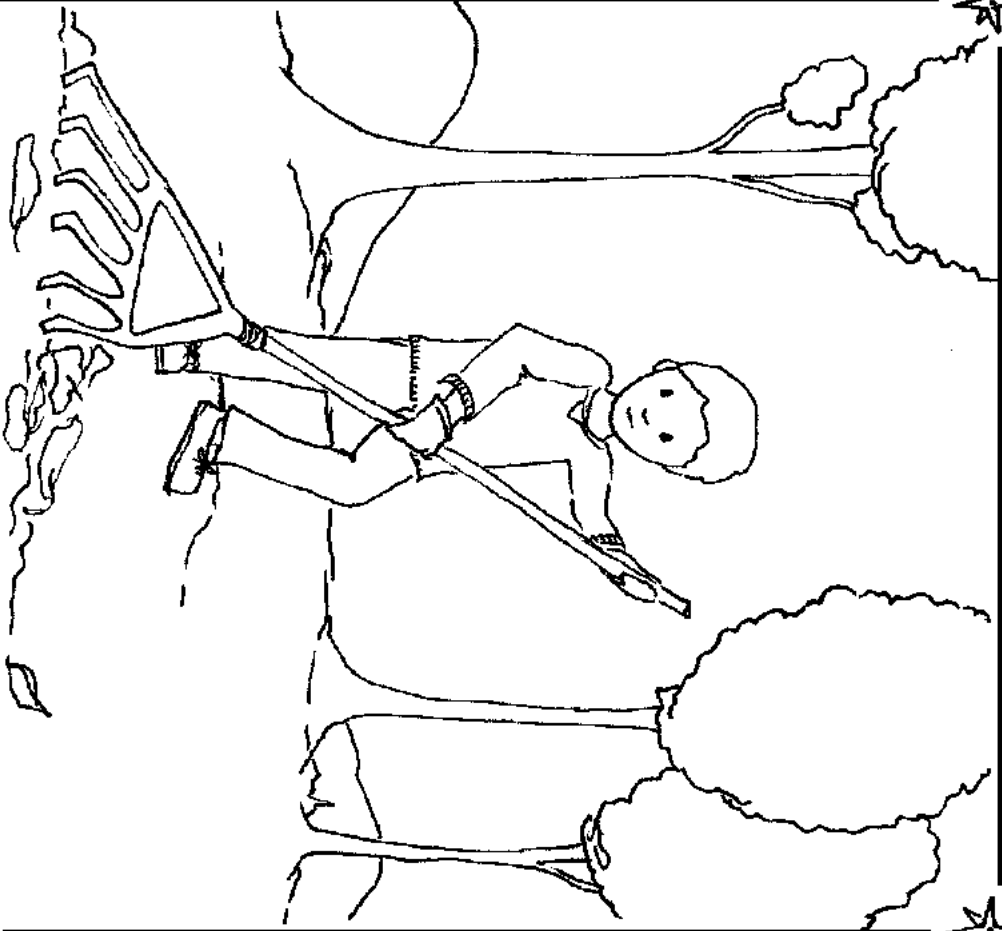
This questions are just a starting point, but a robust Christian worldview will recognize the value of many types of callings. As ministry leaders, how can we make these truths clear to ordinary families?



**Whatever you do,
work at it with all your
heart, as working for
the Lord, not for men.
Colossians 3:23**



Whatever you do, do everything



for the glory of God. 1 cor 10:31

We hope you enjoy this free resource.

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Help you tell kids about Jesus!

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“The Blessing of Rest”

Children’s Sermon for Labor Day



Children’s Message: The Blessing of Rest

Labor Day Thoughts

Main Objective: In our culture, we thrive on perpetual momentum, constantly keeping busy and trying to “work” and accomplish as much as possible. Unfortunately, this

sometimes even rubs off on kids, who are hustled from one practice to another and feel the weight of performance. This message seeks to communicate the importance of rest. Whether the occasion is Labor Day, back to school, or just taking a break in general, it’s essential to pause and appreciate God’s commandment to periodically cease our labor.

Law/Gospel Theme: Under the weight of the law, we are tempted to be always doing, achieving, trying to reach something. The blessing and beauty of the Gospel reminds us that we do not have to be always busy or working nonstop. God has not made us human “doings” but human “beings.” His grace already covers anything we might need. He allows us to rest in His peace.

Object Lesson Props: Calendar or day planner, phone, clock (optional)

Bible Passage: Various verses referenced (see below)

Bonus Ideas: Some more inspiration for your teaching

- Watch the [video example](#) of this message or browse all [object lessons](#)
- Compare our full [Labor Day Sunday School Lesson](#)
- See another [lesson about work and rest](#) from Children’s Ministry Magazine
- [Keep the Sabbath coloring page](#) from our [10 Commandments Coloring Book](#)



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Labor Day Children's Message: The Blessing of Rest

Greet students, in a somewhat flustered or "busied" manner

Hello friends! So, I have something I want to share with you today, but first I have a question...has anyone done anything special this week? Anything important? I mean, have you made a serious contribution to society, or maybe earned an award, or finished a lot of special assignments? Anybody? Well, here's what I want to show you (*take out planner/calendar, packed full of writing and tasks*):

This is my planner. You see, in it I have all of the essential dates and things I need to remember. As you can see, I am extremely busy. In fact, I have a lot of important tasks on here, and I have to have them written down, or I might forget them and miss something. Plus, it's fun to see what I've accomplished and check off my boxes as I do things. See, here's my meeting, and there's my job, and here's my gym appointment, and over here is the run club...oh look! I even have things spilling over into the next months.

Look at September already...oh, and on this day (*point to date*) we have "Labor Day." That means a lot of places are closed, because a long time ago in America, some people got together and decided we needed to honor workers. They arranged a special holiday to celebrate people who work hard, and on Labor Day we can take a day off. But I happen to think that day off might be a great opportunity to catch up on some extra work!

Let's see what I can check off my list...

(have a phone alarm or friend call arranged ahead of time, so that a phone goes off. Or you can just pretend that the phone is going off in a pocket. Have a "conversation" to emphasize your busy-ness).



Hello? Oh, hi there! Yes, I know it's been awhile since we got to hang out....yes, I know. I have just been sooooo busy...hmm, let me peek at my calendar here. Wow, there's a lot going on. Well, let's see....maybe I could meet up on October—no, wait, I'm leading a Sabbath seminar then. Ummm, how about....well, we might need to wait until Thanksgiving. Or, let's see, I could squeeze you in, how about November 15th? Probably around 9-9:30. We can grab some coffee. I'll have my work with me, just in case...Okay, great. See you then. Thanks, Mom! Love you!
(*"hang up"*)

So, that would not be a kind way to treat my mom, would it? In case you didn't notice, that was a joke. But sometimes we do get a little too busy, don't we? See, we get so caught up in tasks and being busy and looking important and doing things, and sometimes we miss what is truly important in our lives!

We think if we are busier than others that will make us special somehow. We think we need to be on the go and doing things all the time. But you know what? The Bible tells us otherwise.

In fact, God commands us to sometimes take a break and rest. In fact, He took a day off! After making the world and everything in it, God took the seventh day and rested. Now, God did not need to rest necessarily, but wanted to set an example for us. We need to take time to pause and re-charge. In the Psalms, God says to "be still and know that I am God."

He wants us to be still and just chill! God did not make us to be always working. We don't have to do anything or achieve anything to be acceptable in His eyes. God loves us just the way we are, because that is how He made us!

Jesus promised to help us carry our work load, and not to worry about this world. Jesus also told us not to think too highly of ourselves. Life is not a race to see who can do the most things. In order to be great in God's eyes, we need humility, thinking less of ourselves.

When we let ourselves rest, we recognize that God is in control. He will take care of what we need. We are human, and cannot do everything on our own power.



Taking rest reminds us that we are dependent on God for everything. He has already given us all we need, and we can pause and enjoy His presence. So whether it is Labor Day or any day, don't forget to take a break!

Children's Prayer Moment

(Have kids repeat each line, if desired)

Dear God,
Thank you for all of your blessings
Thank you for the stories of the Bible.
Help us remember to rest in You
And be more aware of your presence
Thank you for your love
We love you, God!
Thank you for Jesus
In His name, Amen!



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Bible Verses for this Children's Sermon

*And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when He rested from all His work of creation. ~ **Genesis 2:3***

*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. -**Exodus 20:8-10***

"Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,

*I will be exalted in the earth!" -**Psalms 46:10***

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." -**Matthew 11:28-30***

*For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. -**Luke 14:11***



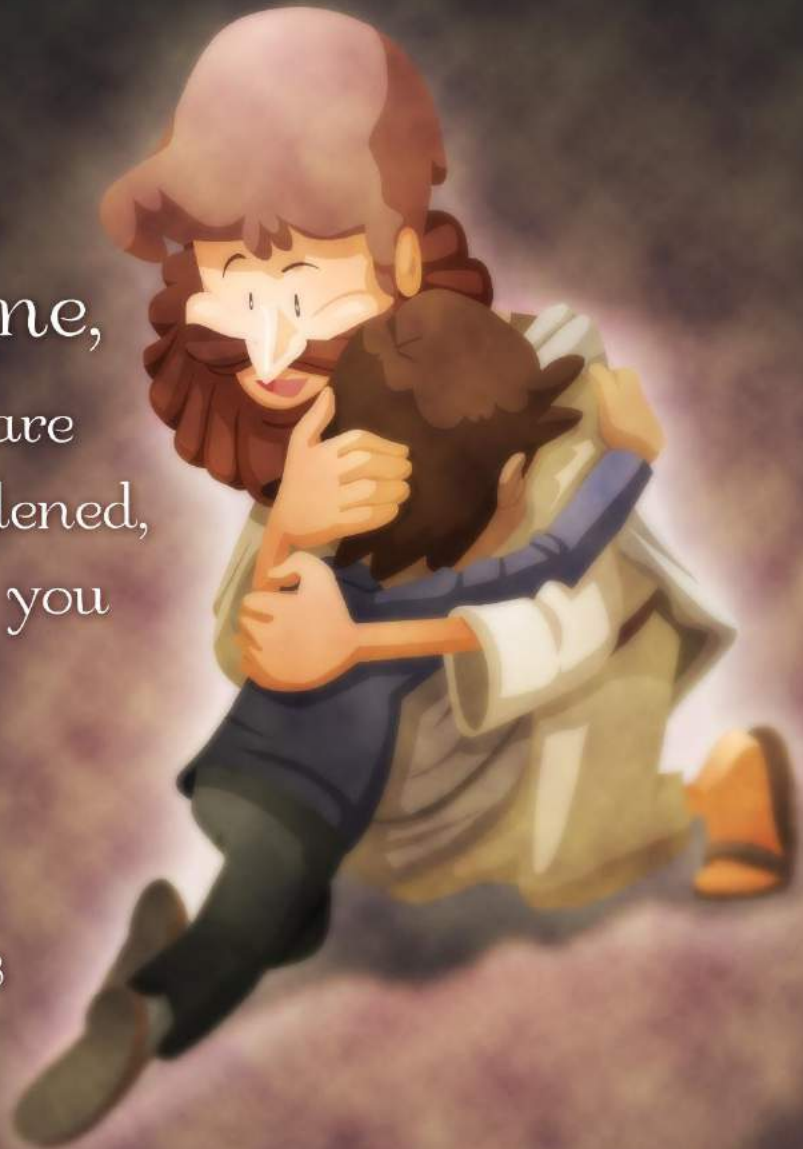
Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28 NIV

Come to me,
all you who are
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rest.

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Matthew 11:28



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