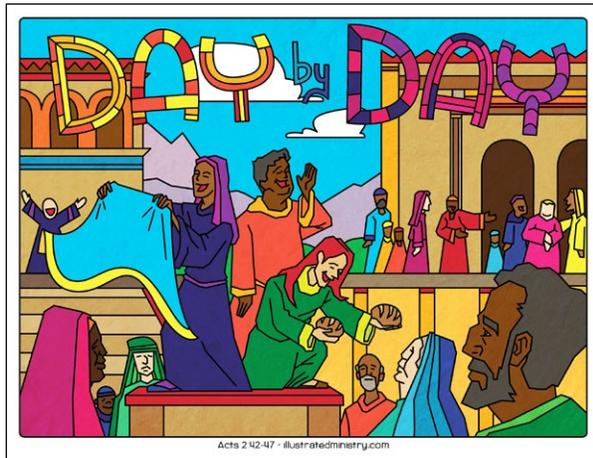


Faith Formation Resources for the Fourth Sunday of Easter



DRAW IT
Can you think of a time you were punished or felt pain for doing something right and good? Peter talks about this, and how Jesus faced that too. Draw your memory of your experience here.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN
Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:15-16, John 1:1-6

Illustrated MINISTRY
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Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

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RESOURCES FROM ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY

As the world struggles to adjust to life amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, necessary disruptions are affecting all aspects of our lives. Schools are closing, places of worship are canceling services, sports seasons are being suspended, and we are all adjusting to this new way of life. Illustrated Ministry hopes that these faith formation resources are meaningful and helpful to you.

We will be sending a weekly email during the COVID-19 pandemic which will include faith formation resources for all ages. We will be following the Revised Common Lectionary, and most of the resources will line up with the appropriate texts for each of the Sundays. If this resource was forwarded to you, and you would like to sign up to receive the weekly email in your inbox, you can sign up at: illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve

The weekly resource consists of a variety of resources, including children's worship bulletins, devotionals, and coloring pages. There are a variety of different ways you could use these resources at home:

- As a family, put together an order of worship. You can use this as an interactive piece to the scripture reading and message/sermon.
- Use this as an individual or family devotional to reflect on throughout the week.
- Get a group of friends together, virtually, and color the coloring page and reflect on the scripture passage.
- While you watch your church's virtual worship service, your children can color the coloring page or do the activities in the children's worship bulletin.

We hope you enjoy this resource, and if you have any questions about it, you can always reach us at info@illustratedministry.com. If you want to connect with others and see how they are using our resources, you can also follow us on social media:

Facebook: fb.com/illustratedmin
Instagram: instagram.com/illustratedmin
Twitter: twitter.com/illustratedmin
Pinterest: pinterest.com/illustratedmin

Our Facebook Group is a growing community. If you're looking for ideas and suggestions for using this resource, you can request to join here:
fb.com/groups/illustratedmin

Peace,

The Illustrated Ministry Team

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 3

Describe a time when you witnessed or benefited from an act of kindness that had a big impact on you and inspired you to do the same. *Note: If you are with a group, have each person take a turn sharing.*

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reflection

This scripture from the Book of Acts gives us a glimpse into the early church. People saw how Jesus healed people, gave them new life, and all the good things he did for them. He fed huge crowds of people, made sick people better, welcomed people who didn't have friends, ate with people no one wanted to sit with, and showed them God's abundant love. These early followers of Jesus were inspired to follow in his ways and do good as well. Then other people were inspired by them, and the church grew and grew. Take a look at the illustration and name some of the acts of kindness you see happening in the image.

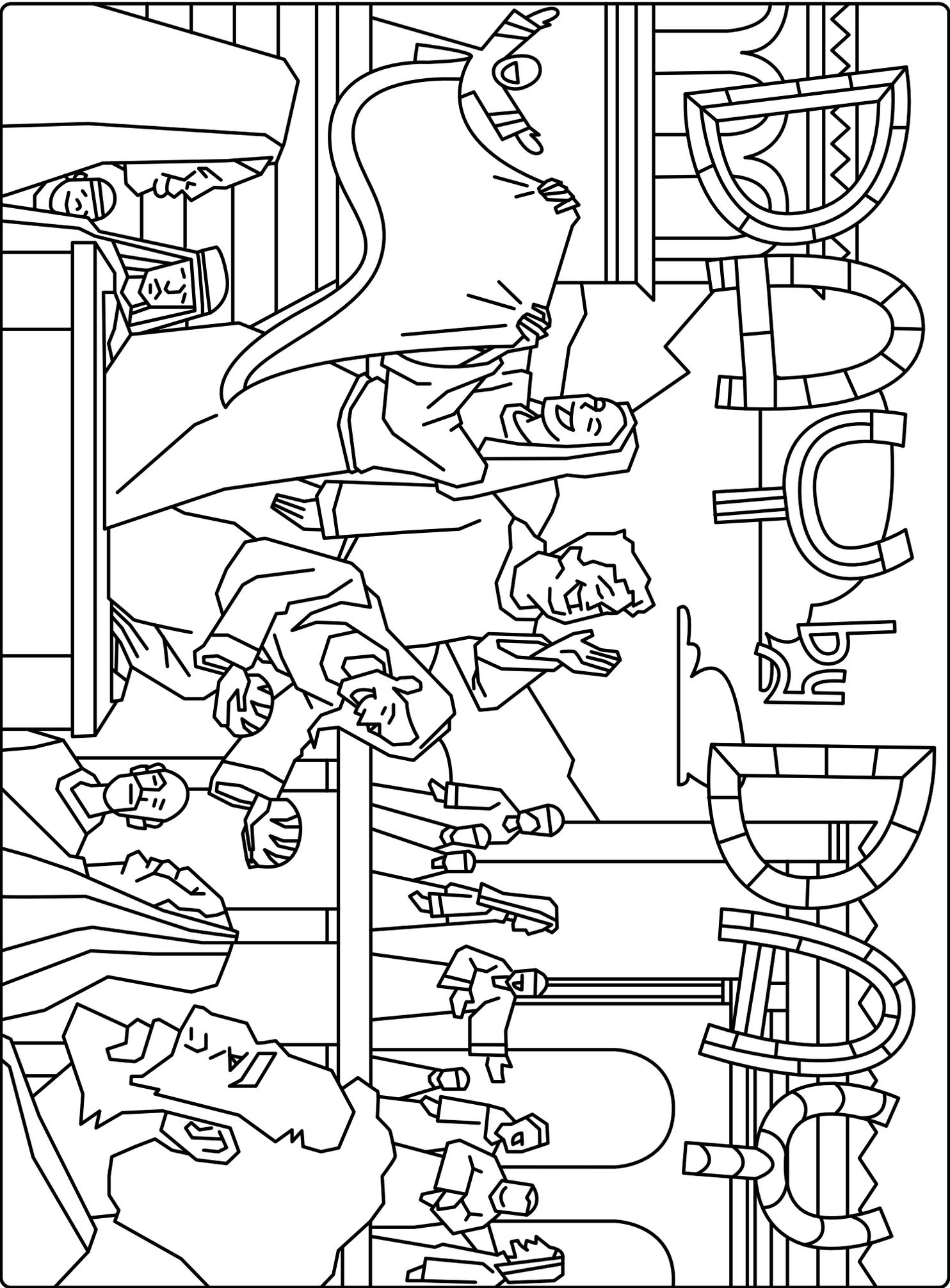
All these years later, we are inspired by Jesus to show God's love and help others just like these early followers of Jesus did. It is especially important to be thoughtful and creative with our kind acts as the physical distancing measures we've been practicing during the COVID-19 outbreak begin to roll back. Some of the ways we show people love right now look different than they used to. How we show love in our homes, communities, and the world now requires us to think differently and creatively. It's what the early church was doing in our story for today, and it's what we are doing too. It takes time to notice needs, make the space to respond to them, and practice acts of kindness again and again. What ways can you think of to follow Jesus' example in your own life right now?

Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of a time you saw someone doing something kind for someone else, or for you? What was it?
2. How did it make the other person feel? How did it make you feel?
3. Can you think of something kind you saw someone else do which inspired you to do the same?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for setting such a powerful example of kindness and love. Help us follow your example by helping others and practicing kindness. **Amen.**

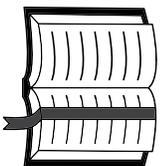
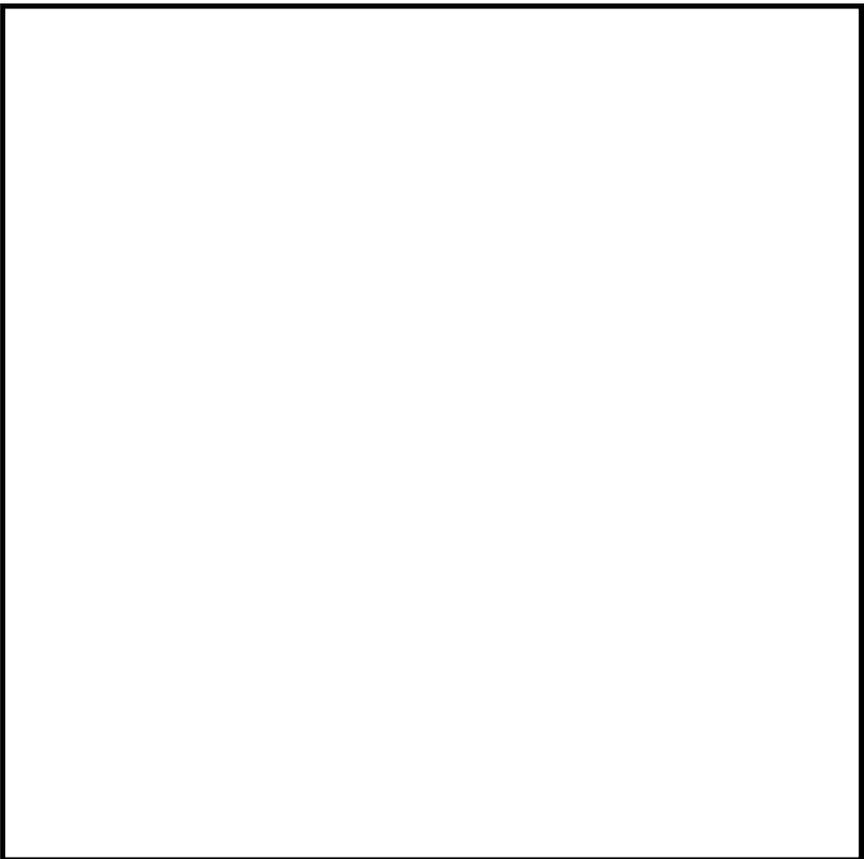


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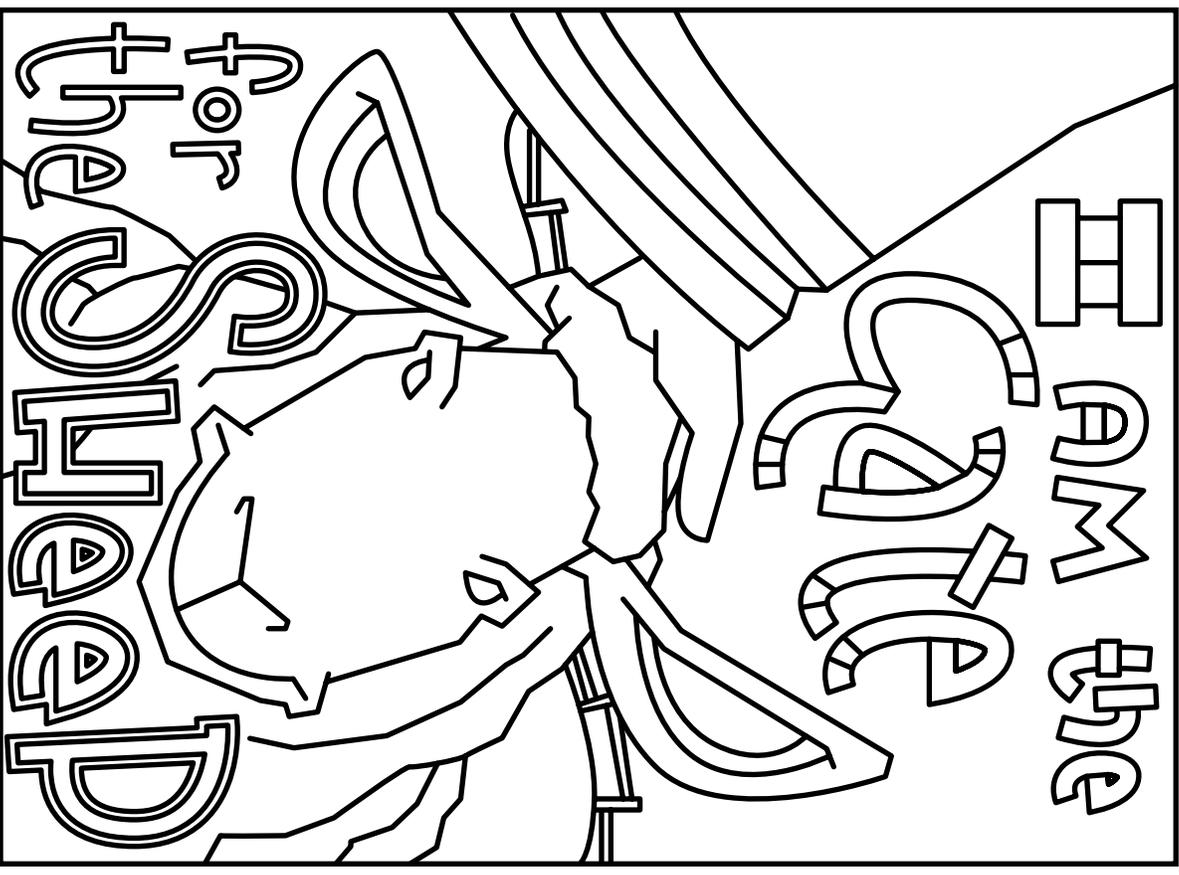


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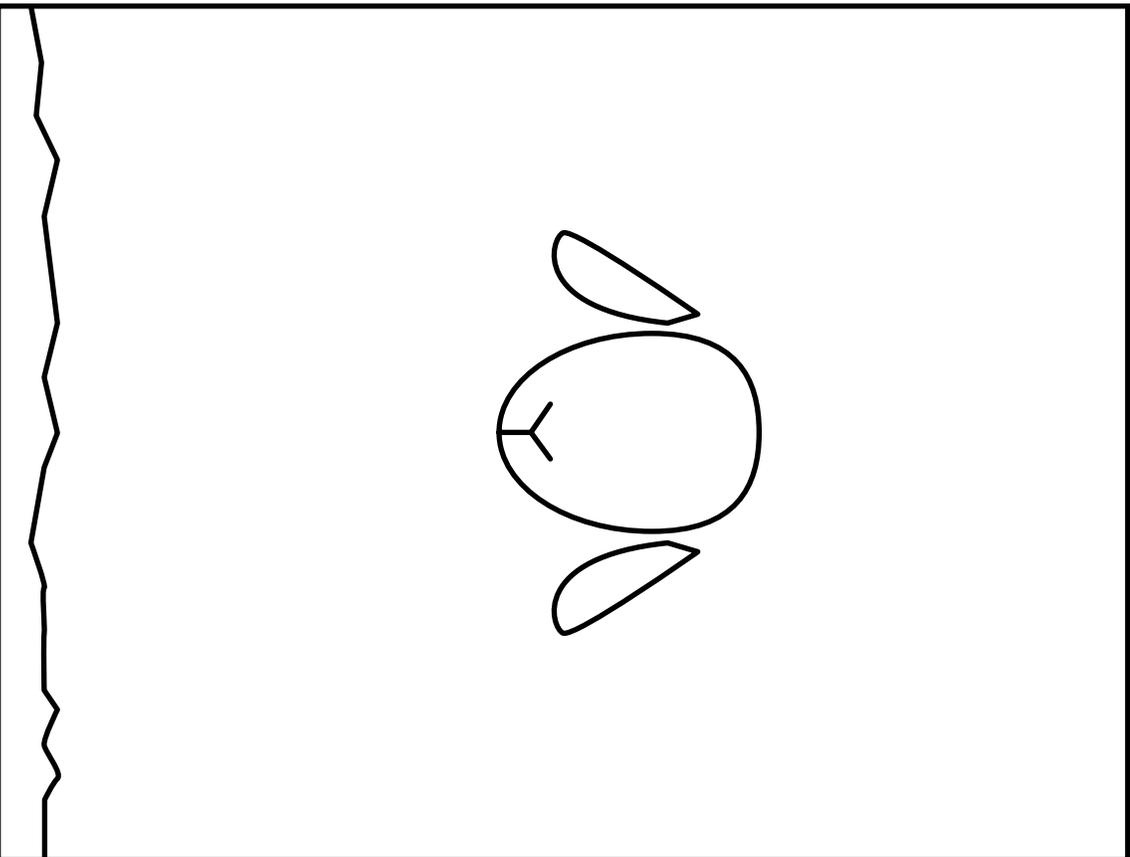
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10.



FINISH the DRAWING

Psalm 23 describes God as a loving Shepherd who takes care of us, protects us, and blesses us. Finish the drawing of the sheep. Inside the sheep, write or draw some ways God takes care of you.



UNSCRAMBLE IT

How does the book of Acts describe the early Christian community and the way they lived together? Unscramble the words to find out!

L A L H O W D L I E V E B E R E E W

G E T R E T H O D N A A H D L L A S I T H G N

N I M O N O M C H E T Y K O R B E

D E B A R T A E M H O N A D E A T

R H I E T D O F O T I W H D A G L A D N

R E N U S O G O S H E R A T , I N G I A P R S

D G O D N A V N G A H I W O D O L G I L

D O W A R T L A L E T H L E P E O P .



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ADAM WALKER CLEVELAND is an artist, pastor, pastor's spouse, and father of four (two living). Adam is an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and after doing youth ministry for over 15 years, he founded Illustrated Ministry, LLC. He resides in Racine, Wisconsin with his wife and children.