

Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool with five porches; in Hebrew it is called Bethzatha. A large crowd of sick people were lying on the porches—the blind, the lame, and the

paralyzed. A man was there who had been sick for



thirty-eight years.

John 5:1-5 GNT

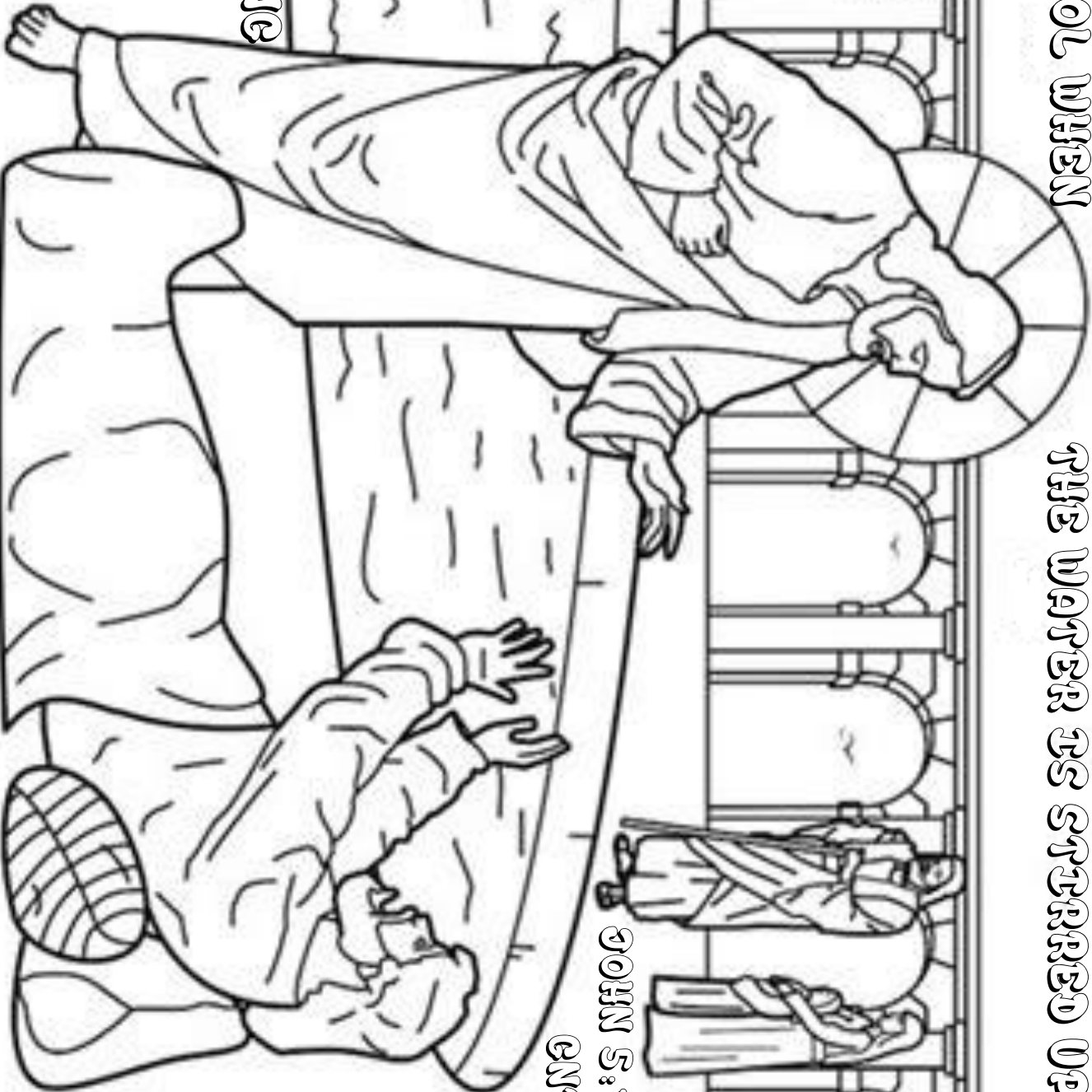
JESUS SAW HIM
LYING THERE,
AND HE
KNEW
THAT
THE MAN
HAD BEEN
SICK FOR
SUCH A LONG
TIME; SO HE
ASKED HIM,

"DO YOU WANT TO
GET WELL?"
JOHN 5:6 GNT



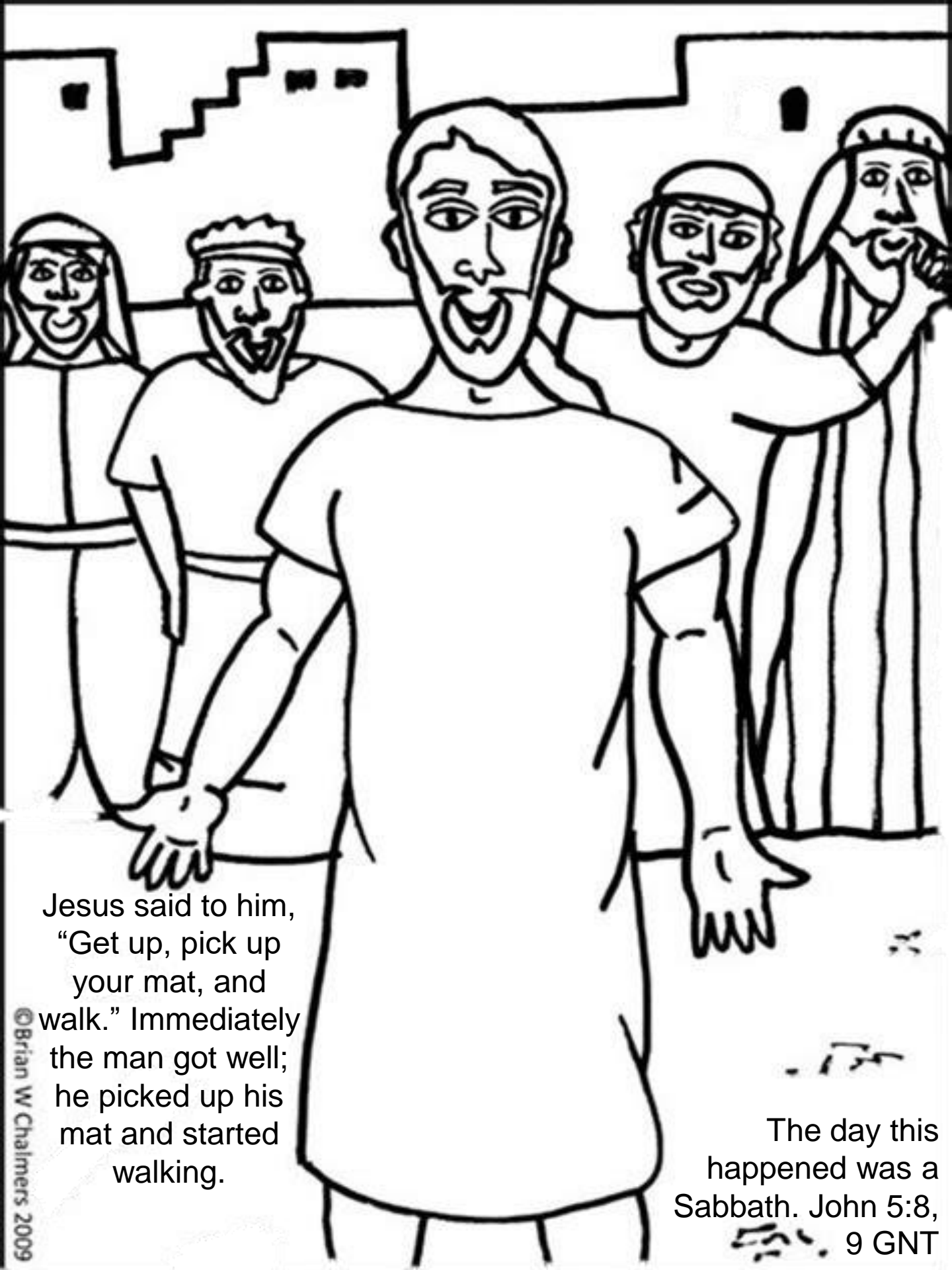
THE SICK MAN ANSWERED, "YES, I DON'T HAVE ANYONE HERE TO
PUT ME IN THE POOL WHEN

THE WATER IS STOPPED UP,



JOHN 5:4
END

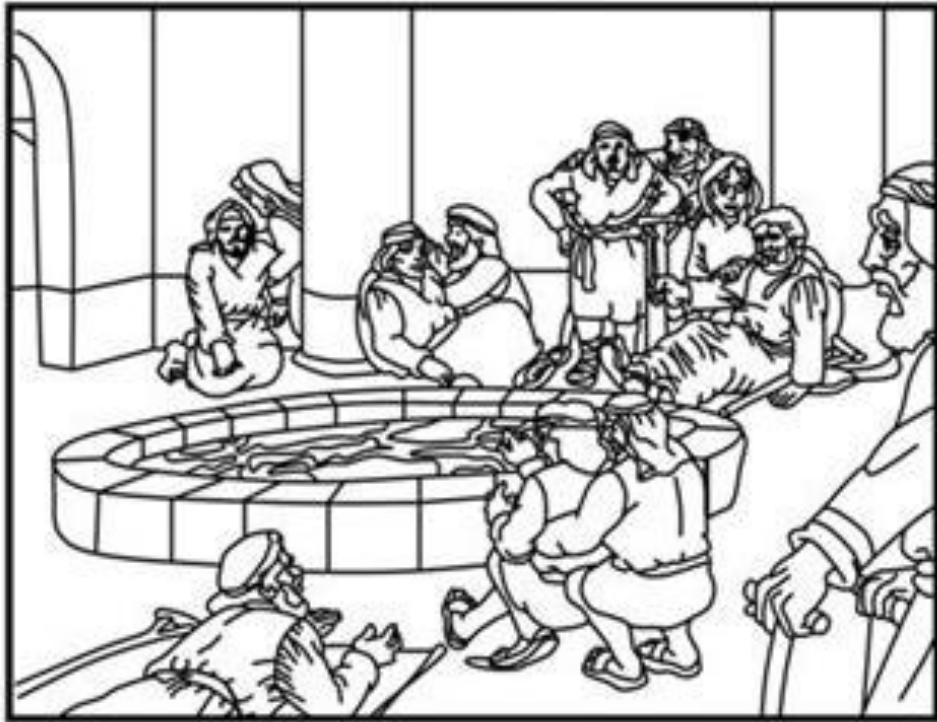
WHILE I AM TRYING
TO GET IN,
SOMEBODY ELSE
GETS THERE
FIRST."



Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your mat, and walk." Immediately the man got well; he picked up his mat and started walking.

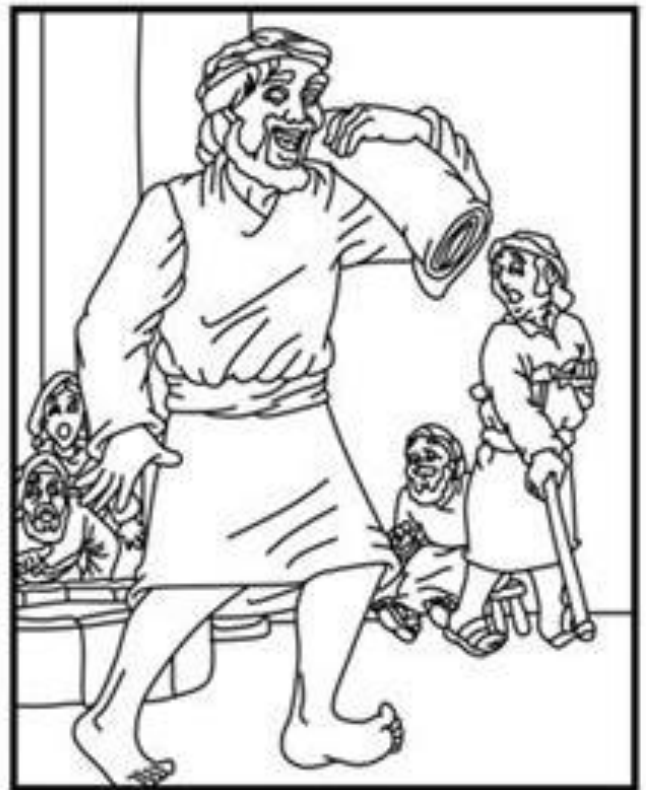
The day this happened was a Sabbath. John 5:8, 9 GNT

A man who had been paralyzed for 38 years was lying at Bethzatha pool hoping to be healed. Jesus saw the man and asked if he wants to be healed.



The man said he tries to get into the pool, but has no one to help him.

Jesus told the man to pick up his mat and walk. So, he did!



John 5:1-9

A man has been paralyzed for 38 years. He's in the place where he needs to be in order to be healed. Jesus finds him there – still unhealed. Jesus asks if he wants to be healed. The man says he's trying, but people with help or who can move faster than he can always get into the pool first. Jesus tells the man to get up, take his mat, and to walk. As the man is trying to get up, Jesus heals him. He is able to get up, take his mat, AND walk! It's a pretty great miracle healing story. Today, Reverend Tim Smith asks us to consider this story as one about the Journey Toward Forgiveness. That would mean the parts of the story also mean something about forgiveness. Feel free to include Reverend Tim Smith's ideas here. You might need to use the back!

So, what's up with the pool? Some versions of the Bible say God sends an angel to the pool to stir it. While the water is moving, whoever gets into the pool first is healed. Is that how God works? Only the first come is served? Is it one forgiveness per customer?

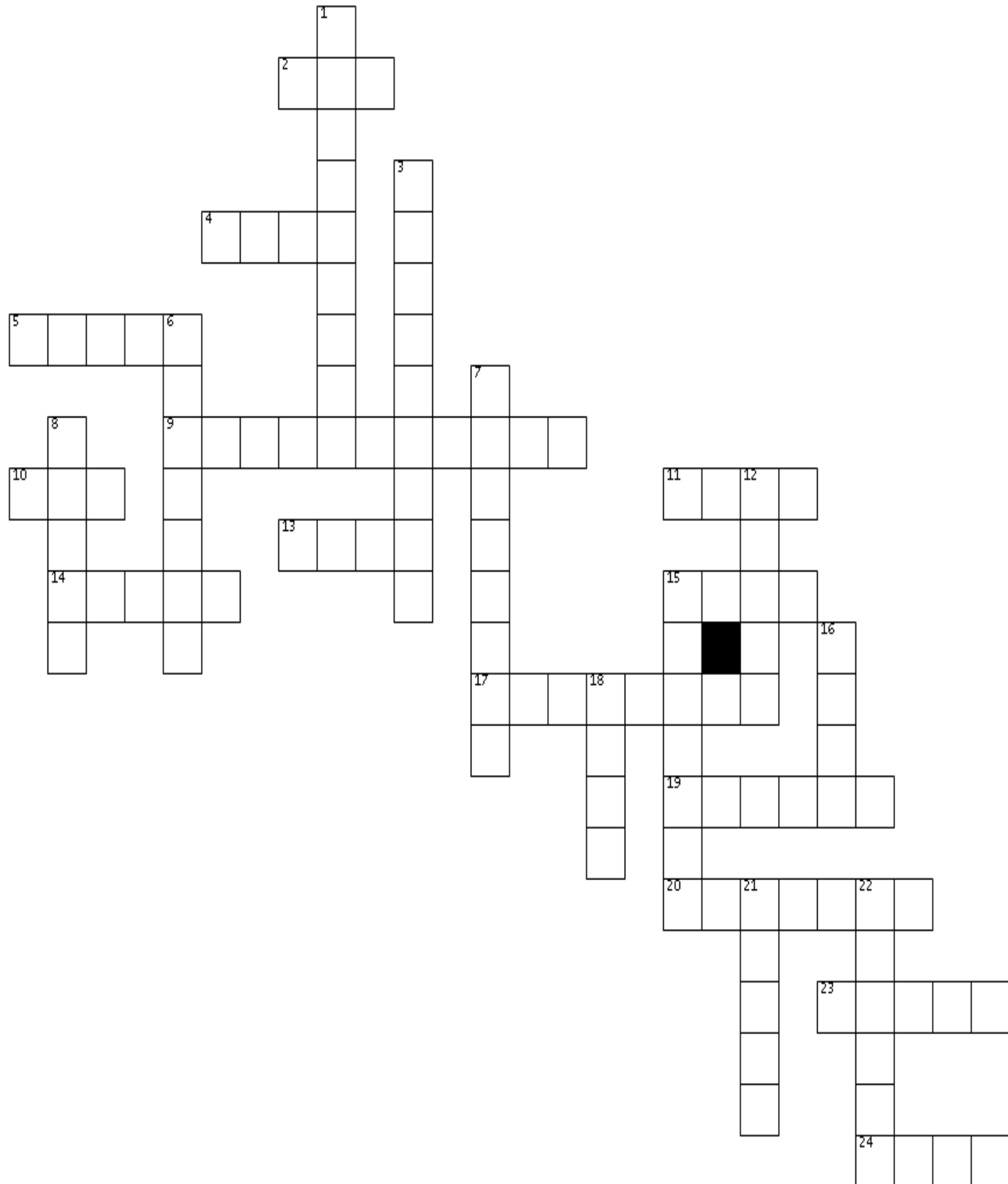
Surely, Jesus's question would be, "Do you want to be forgiven?" What would the man's answer be, and what about the 38 years?

The man was healed/forgiven while following Jesus's instructions. What are Jesus's instructions to us about how to be forgiven? How do (When have) you follow(ed) Jesus's forgiveness plan?

If this is a journey, what is the destination?

John 5:1-9 GNT

The clues for the Cross Word Puzzle below are on the next page.



John 5:1-9 GNT

These are the clues for the Cross Word Puzzle on the previous page.

ACROSS

2. This item makes it a little more comfortable to sleep on the floor.
4. The opposite of unhealthy.
5. Another name for The Messiah.
9. Another word for right away.
10. A title that shows respect to a man.
11. The opposite of healthy.
13. Unable to walk easily.
14. What you call a lamb when it is grown.
15. A body of water that is smaller than a pond, and is usually fed by a spring.
17. Replied to a question.
19. The language King David spoke.
20. The day that is holy to God.
23. When you're sick, this is usually the most comfortable way to position your body.
24. The part of a fence that moves.

DOWN

1. Unable to move.
3. King David's capital city.
6. Used a spoon to mix.
7. A big, community party.
8. Another word for at the head of the line.
12. Lots of people together in one place.
15. In the Mid-West, we like to sit here and watch the neighborhood.
16. The counting number between 4 and 6.
18. A word that means to travel on your feet.
21. Unable to see.
22. Making a real effort to get the job done.

MY SERMON NOTES

For kids

Today's Date:

Message Title:

Speaker:

Bible verses in today's message:

Important points in today's message:

Words I didn't understand from today's message:

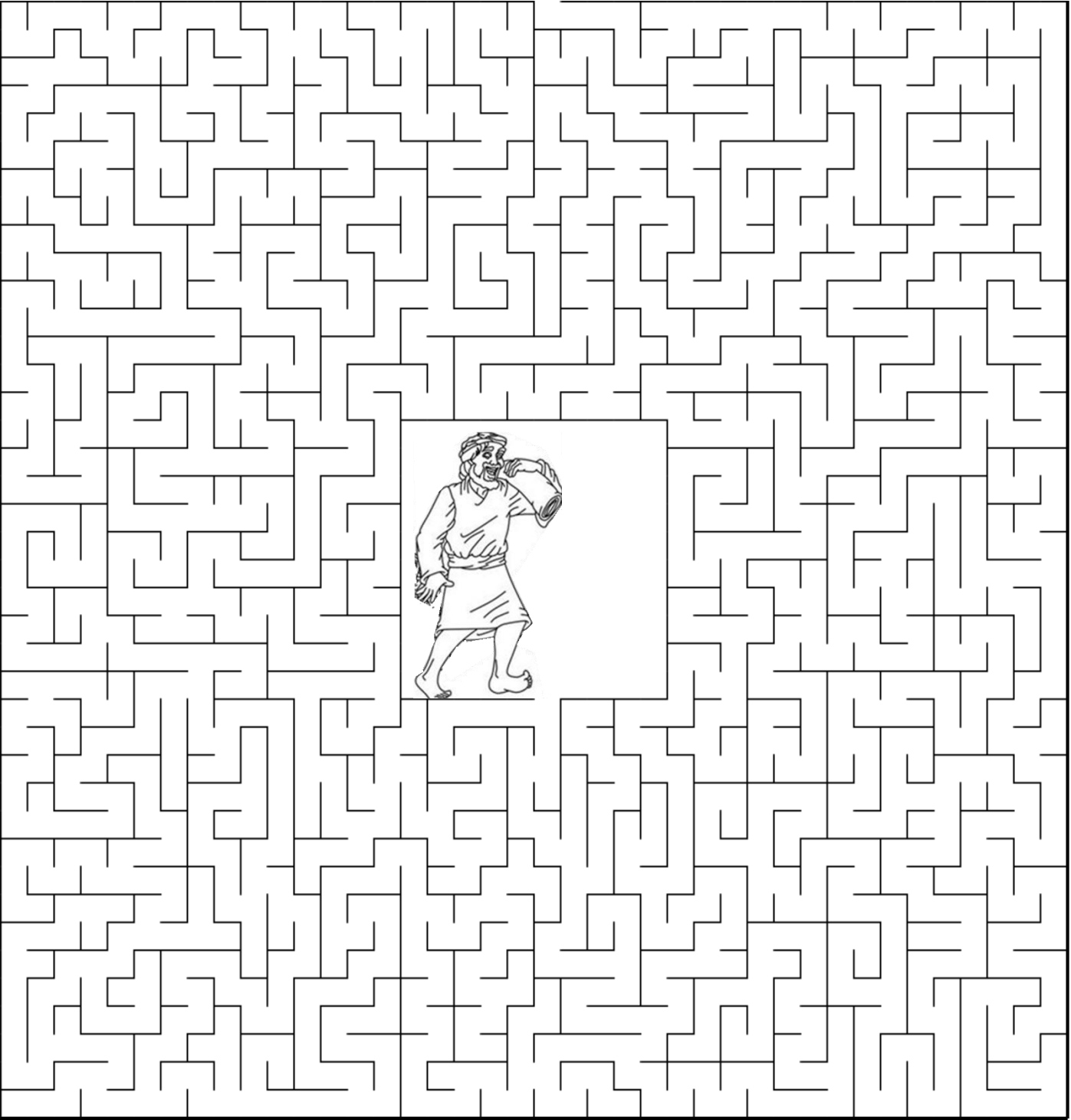
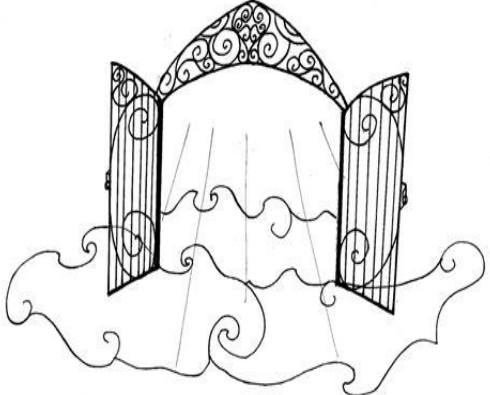
Questions I have from today's message:

Make a tally mark every time you hear one of the words below:



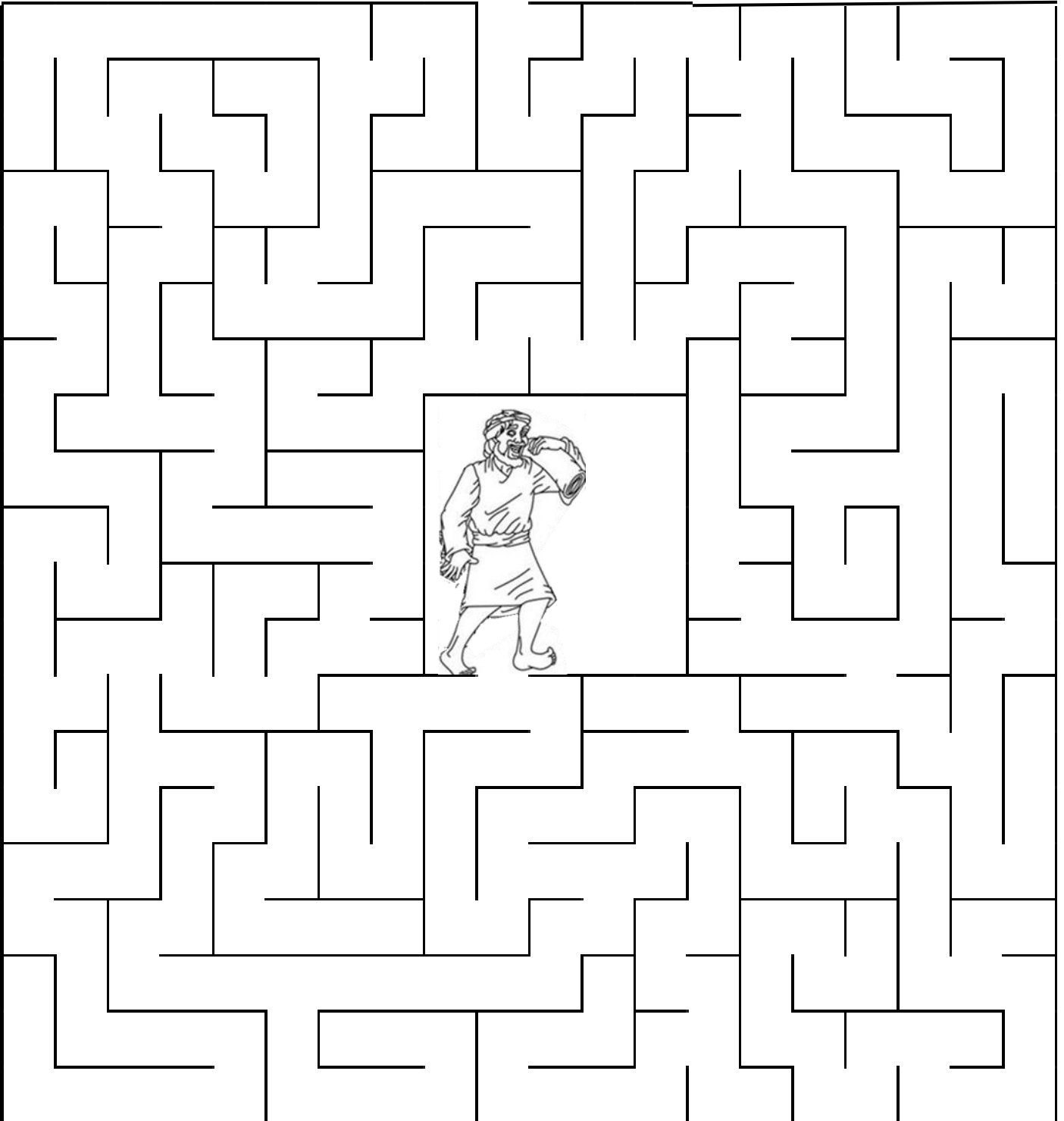
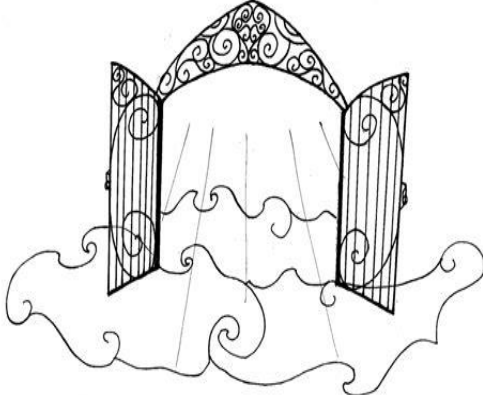
John 5:1-9 GNT

United Methodists believe that we will join God, Jesus and The Holy Spirit in heaven when we complete our Journey Toward Forgiveness. Help the man find his way through the maze to heaven.



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Reverend Tim Smith has asked us to consider this week's scripture as a parable for the Journey Toward Forgiveness. We have to look to another part of the Bible to find Jesus's specific instructions on how to reach forgiveness. The instructions? "Forgive others." So, that's our activity for this week. Find someone you need to forgive and work on forgiving. Now, I'm hearing Paul's voice in my head. "NO! We shouldn't go around sinning so that God's Grace in forgiving us can shine around being obvious to others!" Everyone of us has troubles enough each day. We don't have to manufacture more. That's pretty close to in the Bible, too.

There are experts who can help you with the tough ones. I'm talking about: Abuse; sins that strike at the core of who you are; current, ongoing sinning; long-term, ingrained, has become a grudge sins.

For the easier sins, here's what I know about forgiving them:

1. Recognize and acknowledge the pain.
2. Know that you are still a worthwhile person who is loved by God.
3. Understand that the pain means either the person who sinned against you
 - a. Is wrong, and continue living your righteous life.
 - b. Has a point, and start taking steps to live a more righteous life.
4. Let go of the pain.
5. Forgive.
6. Remember the situation as a warning about
 - a. Being hurt again.
 - b. Remaining firmly on your new path.
7. It may be appropriate to talk to the person about the situation.

The man in this week's scripture, never gets into the pool. Reverend Tim Smith asked us to consider this story as a parable for forgiveness. But, I just can't get the image of Teddy Grahams diving into a pool of dip out of my head. Keebler Elves would be super cute, too!

This recipe isn't super sweet. Substituting cream cheese for the Neufchatel will make it a little sweeter. Just ignore the banner asking about cookies.

<https://www.snackworks.com/recipe/fruity-yogurt-dip-teddy-grahams-181910/>

