



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

July 26, 2020

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

8th Sunday After Pentecost

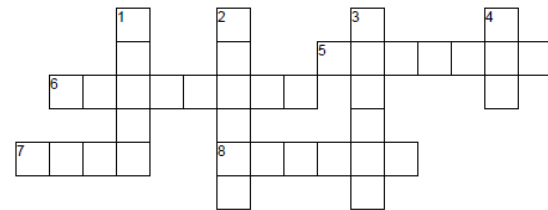
ARRGGGGG! Ahoy Mateys! Have you ever pretended to be a pirate? One year for Halloween, I dressed up as a pirate. I had the best outfit complete with an eye patch, a peg leg, and a stuffed parrot that I taped onto my shoulder. Following the map of our neighborhood, I was on the hunt for treasure in the form of CANDY!!!

In our Gospel lesson from Matthew this morning, Jesus is talking to a crowd using parables again. Remember, parables are stories that make us think and teach us a lesson. In this parable, Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy, he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." What do you think the treasure might be? The treasure is God's love for us. God's never-ending, all-encompassing, loves-us-no-matter-what love! The person in the parable who found it gave up everything to have the greatest treasure of all. There is no other love like God's love, and you don't really even need a map to find this treasure because it's already in your heart. God created you and loved you EVEN BEFORE YOU WERE BORN! Yo ho ho!

Creator God, your love is our greatest treasure. Help us to be treasure hunters and find love wherever we may go to share with the rest of the world. Amen.



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

5. A territory or country ruled by a king or queen
6. Something of great value such as silver, gold, or jewels
7. Gave something in exchange for money
8. The place where God is

DOWN

1. An open area of land without buildings on it
2. Purchased something by paying money for it
3. To be kept out of sight so no one can find it
4. A feeling of great happiness

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|---------|--------|--------|----------|
| KINGDOM | HIDDEN | HEAVEN | TREASURE |
| FIELD | SOLD | BOUGHT | JOY |

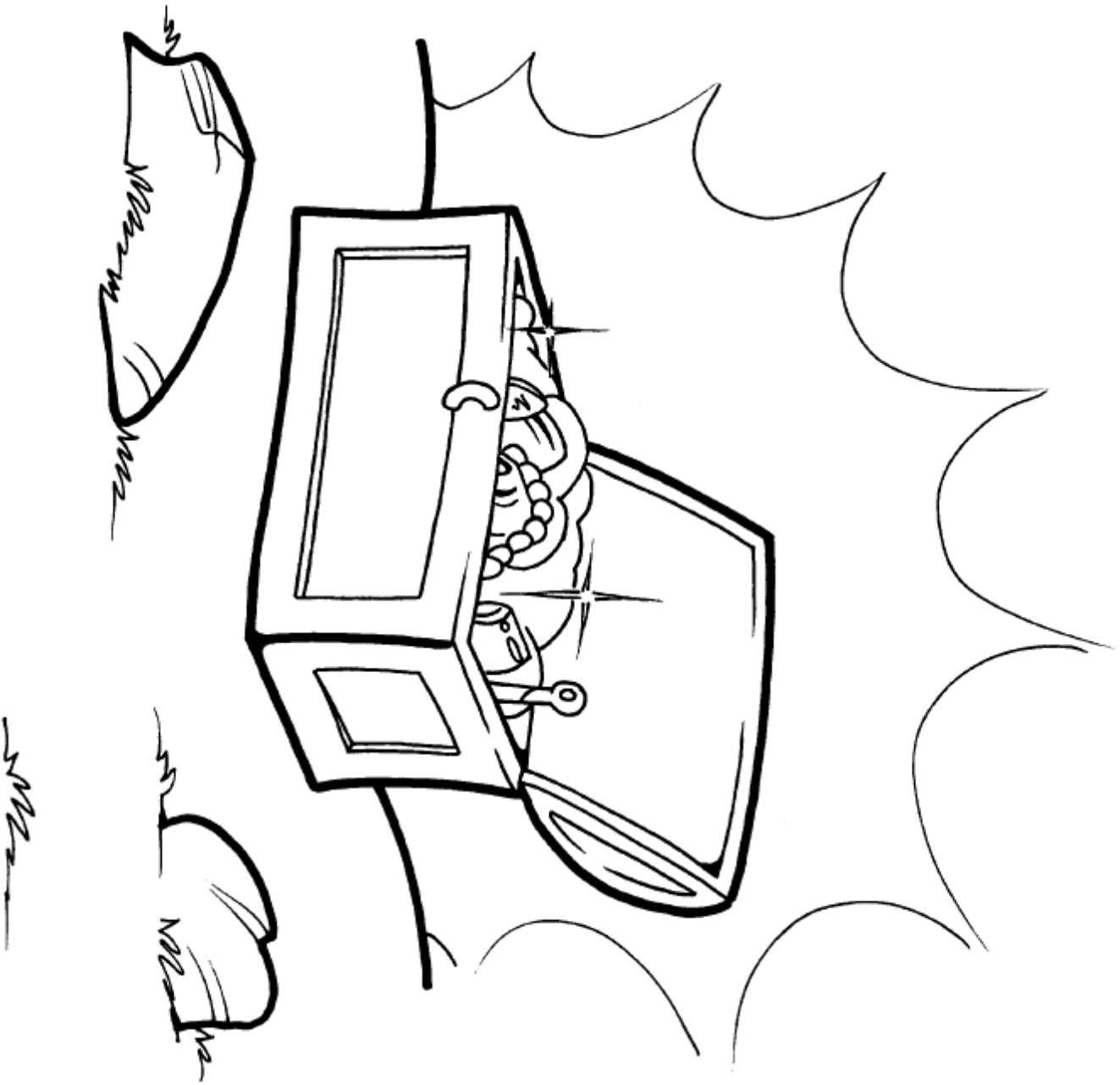
Activity: Make a treasure map, journeying your life! In the center of your map, make a great big heart....from there, mark the day you were born, and place an X on your map. Use an X to mark each milestone in your life...baptism, first communion, the birth of a sibling, or any other point in your life that you felt especially blessed. All of these events connect back to the heart, which is God's love.

Discussion Question God places "treasures" in our lives to help us remember God's love for us. What are some of your treasures?

Family Table Prayer for July:

Fireworks and hot days
Lazy Summer kind of ways
Family time and memories we share
Thank you, God, for Jesus, who always cares.
Amen

July Memory Verse: Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Romans 8:26



The Treasure in the Field

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44