

Hello lovely Sunday School,

I hope you are all well and have been managing in the heeeeeeeaaaaaaat! I do miss the cool air inside the church on these hot, hot days. The calm cool space of the church is normally a beautiful place to escape to on hectic Summer Sundays!

Please do contact me or Mother Juliet if there is anything you or your grown-up want to talk to us about. Contact information is on the church website, or you can find us on the Sunday School WhatsApp group.

Today's Gospel reading reminds us that God should be at the heart of everything we do. Have you seen those little wooden toys called 'Russian Dolls'? The ones where you twist the big one open and you find an almost identical one inside, and then you open that one up and there's another almost identical one inside. My dad used have a set that was lots of penguins - but you can get all different types.



I couldn't help thinking of Russian Dolls when I read the first sentence of today's Gospel . It says,

'Jesus said to the twelve: 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.'

Can you count the 'welcomes' in that sentence? Yep four. Four 'welcomes' in one sentence. As with our last two Gospel readings, here Jesus is talking to his disciples about what to do and how to behave when they are going out to spread the good news about Christianity, but he reminds them that at the heart of what they are doing is God.

It's so easy to get wrapped up in the things that seem to make us Christian. We all do it – if you look back to the beginning of what I've written here, you can see that I write about missing the church building – and I do – but its not the church building that makes me a Christian. Having a wonderful church and a load of lovely people to see every Sunday **helps** me to be a Christian, but what **makes** me a Christian is having God at the centre of everything I do.

Whenever I would take apart my Dad's Russian dolls, I'd wait for the satisfaction of getting to the end; finding the last little doll - the one that you couldn't take apart – the one right at the centre of the others. As Christians and disciples, what is it the centre of what we do? Over the last couple of weeks we have thought of God as a powerful hand supporting us, having our back and knowing us so well that He knows the number of hairs on our head, but today Jesus reminds us that God works from inside us too, from our hearts. Jesus knew that the disciples he was sending out to share his good news truly had God in their hearts. He knew that this would mean they had to open up and be honest about being Christians.

As disciples, God is with us, in our hearts. This is what Jesus was saying to his disciples: because everything you do comes from your heart and God is in your heart, when people are guided by you, they are guided by God. It's sometimes hard to be a Christian, but with God at the centre of what you do, we reflect his message and reflect his glory and help other people to find Him too.

I'm sending you loads of love, Sunday School.

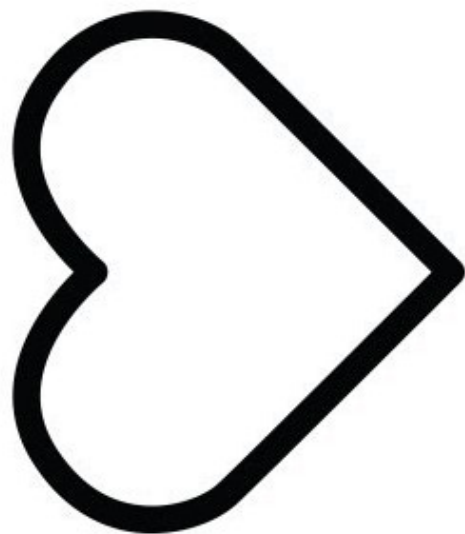
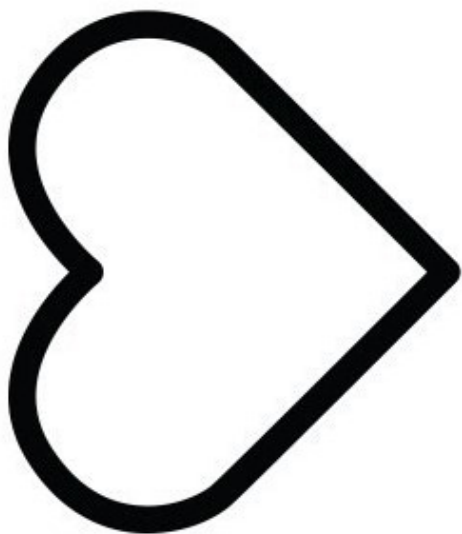
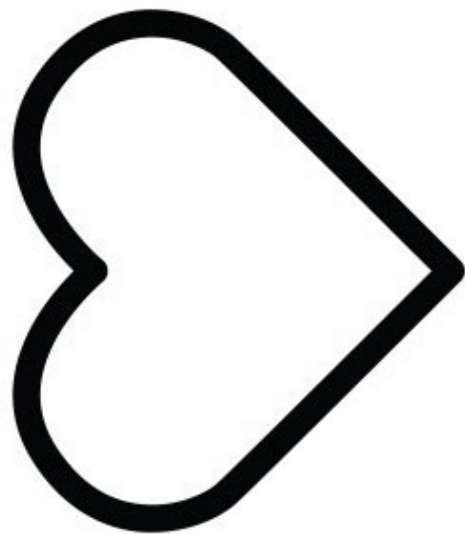
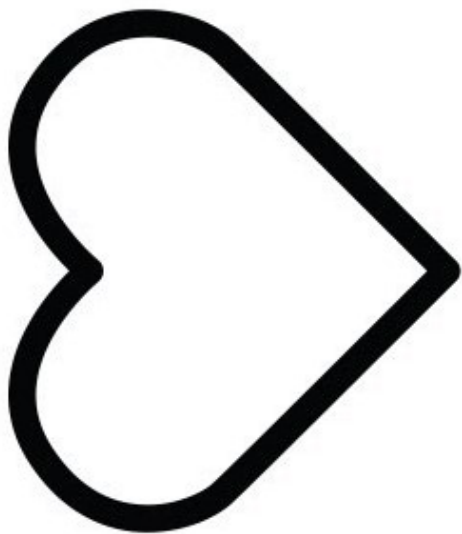
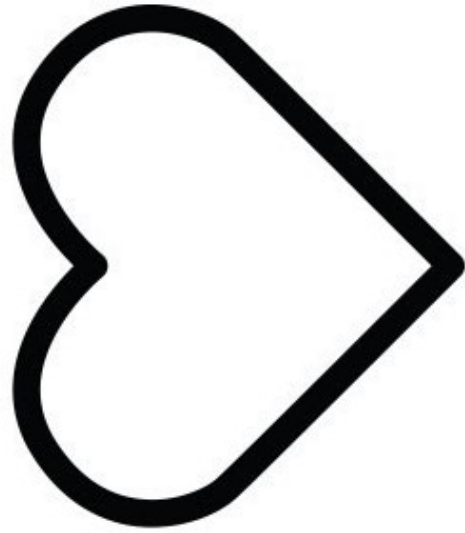
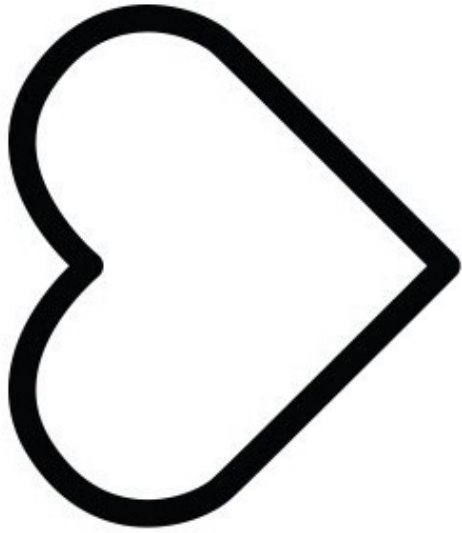
I've added some resources for you on the next pages.

May God keep you safe and healthy and happy.

Amen

A Russian doll for you to colour

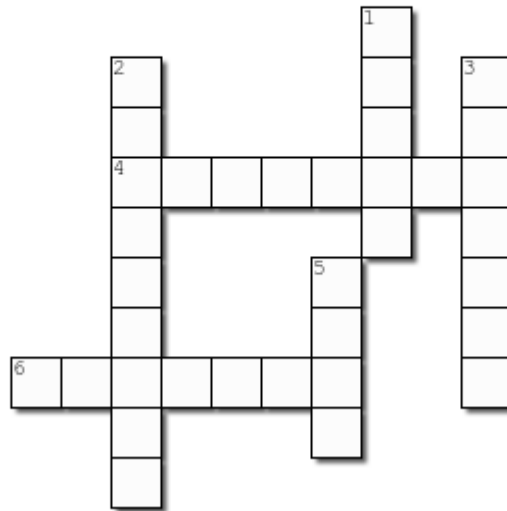




Use these hearts however you would like to. Colour them in, cut them out or write on them to share the good news about Jesus.

God is in our hearts

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

- 4.** Our church is called St.....
- 6.** A word we use to make people feel at home

Down

- 1.** In today's Gospel reading, who is talking to the disciples?
- 2.** This is the name we use for Jesus's followers
- 3.** The type of Doll we were talking about today
- 5.** To find the next Russian doll, you need to o_ _n the bigger one