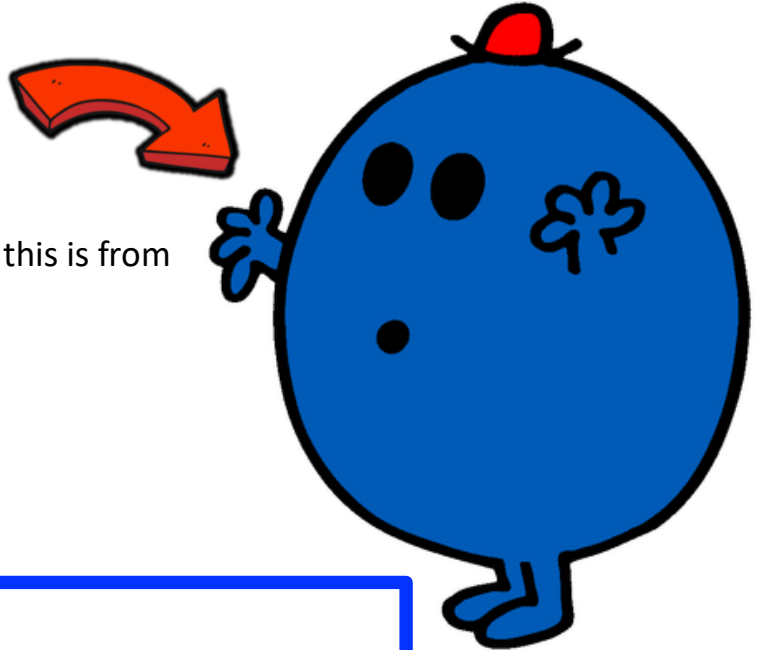


Ezra 6. 1-10

King of kings!

Who is this?



Can you remember which character this is from the books by Roger Hargreaves?

Write the answer in the box below

(The question is a clue, by the way!)

MR _____

Oh dear! What was I meant to remember?



People try different ways of making sure they remember something important.

Some people turn a chair upside down in their home!

Some people tie a knot in their handkerchief!

And some people tie a knot round their finger!

These things help remind people there's something important for them to remember ...

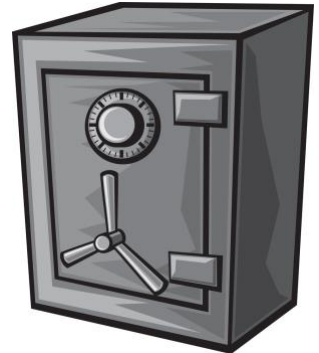
... but they still have to remember what it is they have to remember!

Hide .. and safe

Some documents are quite important. They need to be kept safe.

So people try and find a 'safe' place to keep them.

Here are some documents which people usually try to keep in a safe place: see if you can tell what they are and write in the box beneath what each one is.



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

BIRTH

Registration district: London Borough of
Sub-district: Administrative area: Enter No. 71

1. Date and place of birth	CHILD
2. Name and surname	J. Sex Female
4. Name and surname	FATHER
5. Place of birth	6. Occupation
7. Name and surname	MOTHER
8.(a) Place of birth	8. (b) Occupation



P _ _ _ _ _ T

B _ _ _ _ C _ _ _ _ _

B _ _ _ C _ _ _

But sometimes people store a document away so safely and then a long time later can't find it when they need it – because so much time has passed that they've forgotten where they put it!

That's the sort of problem with which the Bible passage today begins.

Read

Ezra 6.1-2

The king of Persia was looking for a very important document which a previous king had stored safely away.

King Darius then issued an order, and they searched in the archives stored in the treasury at Babylon.² A scroll was found in the citadel of Ecbatana in the province of Media



But where was it?

The king knew it must be somewhere safe!

But it wasn't where he thought it would have been!

Eventually he found it a long way away from where he'd been looking.

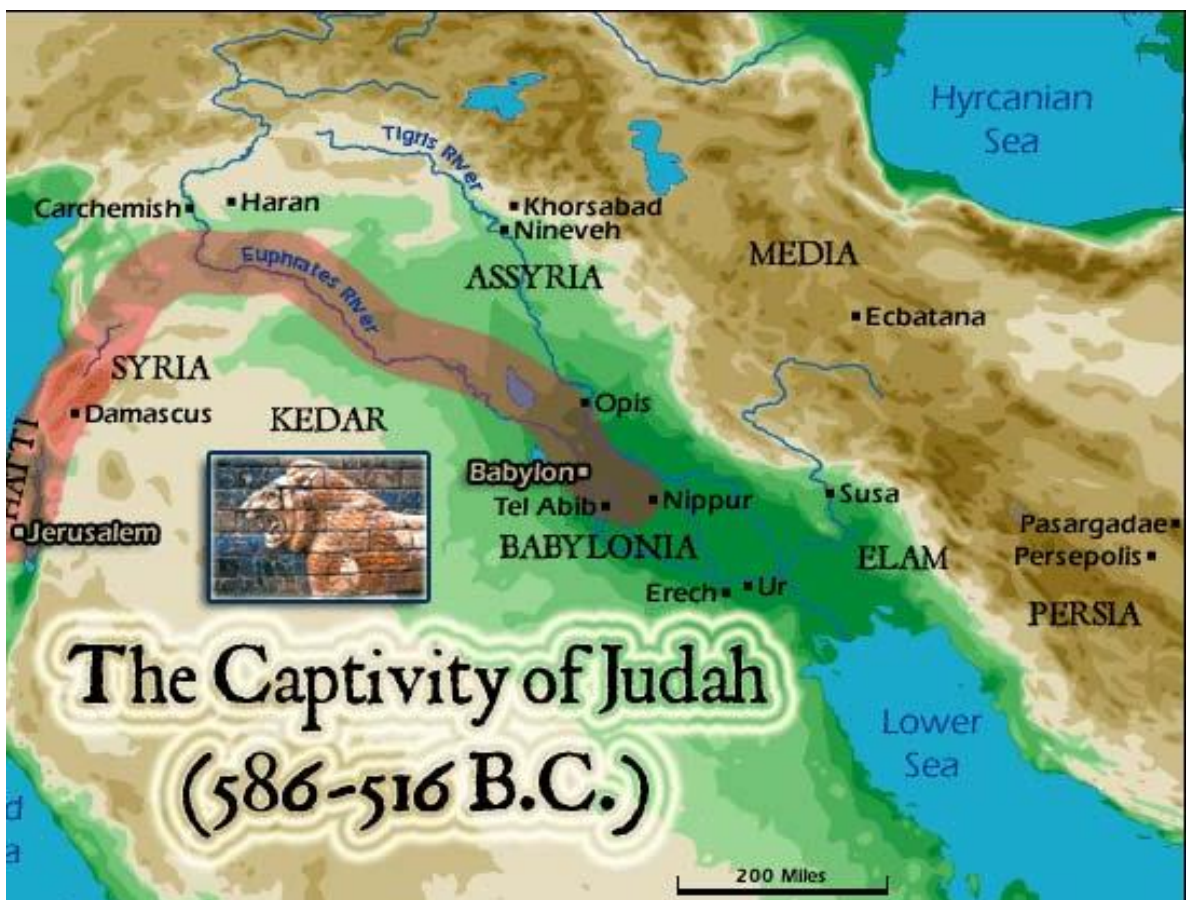
The king had been looking for it in **Babylon**

... and he found it at last in a place called **Ecbatana**

Look at the map below and draw a circle round **Babylon** and **Ecbatana**.

See if you can work out (roughly) how far away they were from each other

Tick the box below the map which you think is nearest the correct answer



50 miles

350 miles

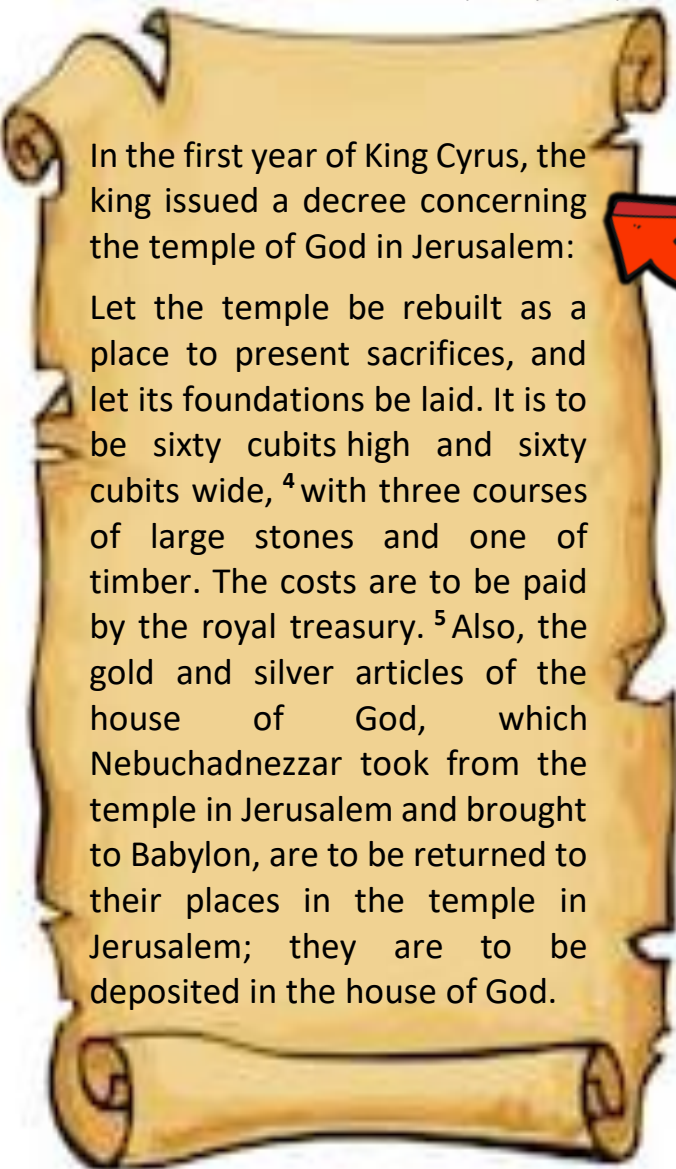
650 miles

950 miles

God keeps things safe!

God made sure that the document didn't get destroyed.

And He made sure, too, that, when it was needed, it was found.



In the first year of King Cyrus, the king issued a decree concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem:

Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices, and let its foundations be laid. It is to be sixty cubits high and sixty cubits wide, ⁴with three courses of large stones and one of timber. The costs are to be paid by the royal treasury. ⁵Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, are to be returned to their places in the temple in Jerusalem; they are to be deposited in the house of God.

The document was a 'decree' which a previous king 20 years earlier had made.

Read

Ezra 6.3-5

Fact file:

The king was called _ _ _ _ _

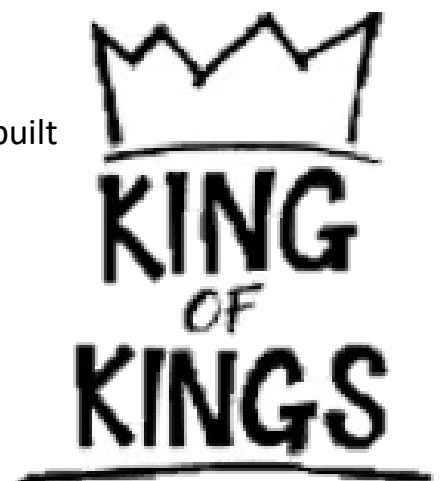
He was saying that the _ _ _ _ _
was to be rebuilt in Jerusalem

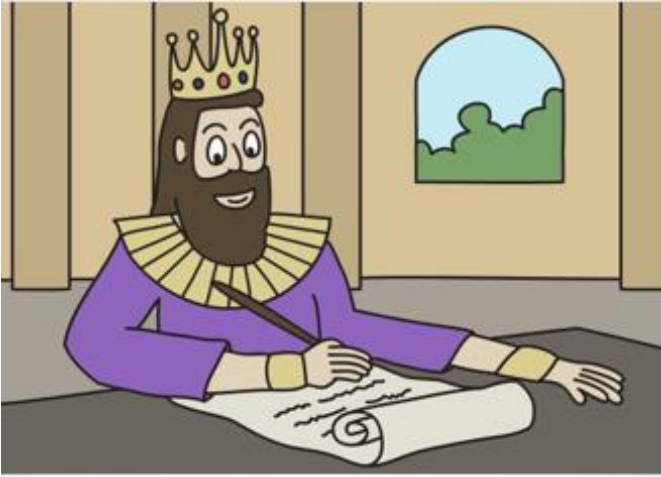
The cost was to be paid for by
the **r** _ _ _ _ _ **t** _ _ _ _ _

In other words, the king was saying that his country would pay for the building, whatever it cost!

So God made sure that –

- the king gave permission for the building to be built
- the decree giving that permission was kept safe
- the document was found when it was needed
- the building would be paid for





The new king was called Darius.

(He was the king you read about in the story of Daniel and the lions: you can read that story in Daniel 6).

When Darius at last found the document, he gave a new order.

Read

Ezra 6.6-10

Tattenai and the other officials had written to the king because they wanted the work on the temple to stop.

But God made sure that the very opposite happened!

The king's reply told them –

- to stay away from the work on the temple:
- not to interfere with the work:
- to let the exiles build the temple:

and ...

- to pay for the work from the officials' money!

⁶Now then, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and you other officials of that province, **stay away** from there. ⁷**Do not interfere** with the work on this temple of God. **Let the governor of the Jews and the Jewish elders rebuild this house** of God on its site.

⁸Moreover, I hereby decree what you are to do for these elders of the Jews in the construction of this house of God:

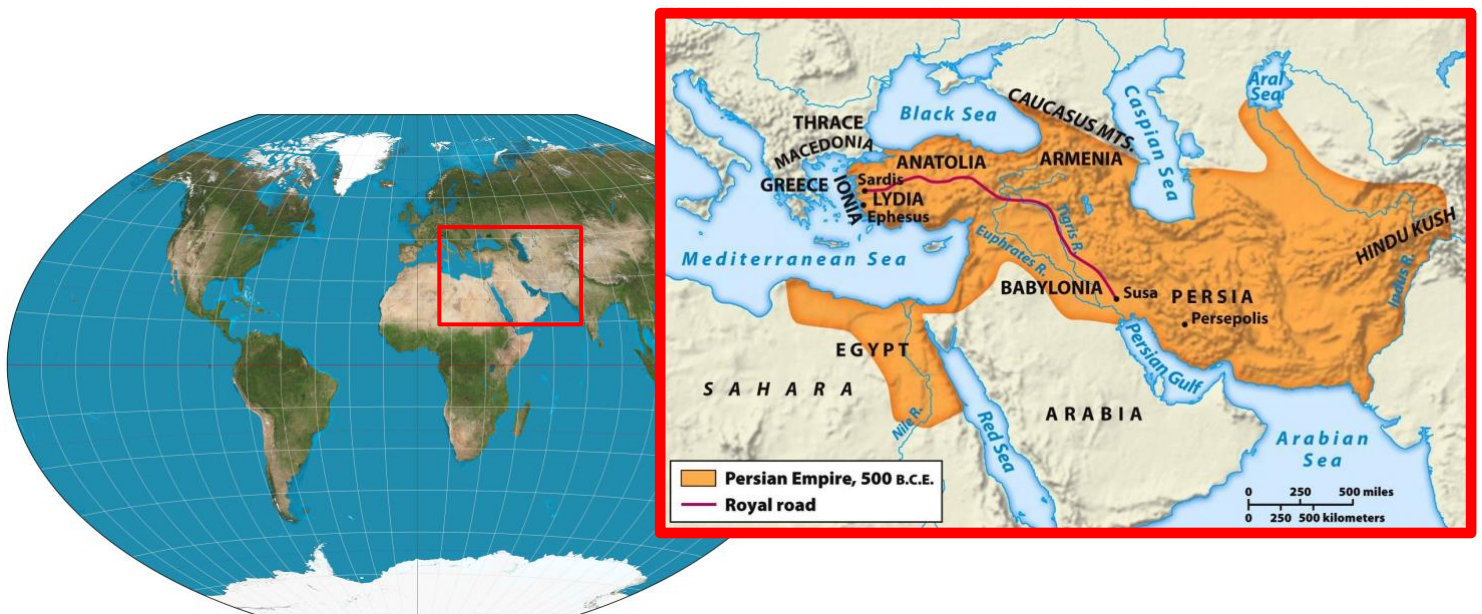
Their expenses are to be fully paid out of the royal treasury, from the revenues of Trans-Euphrates, so that the work will not stop. ⁹Whatever is needed – young bulls, rams, male lambs for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, and wheat, salt, wine and olive oil, as requested by the priests in Jerusalem – must be given them daily without fail, ¹⁰so that they may offer sacrifices pleasing to the God of heaven and pray for the well-being of the king and his sons.

Kings and queens may rule ...

.. but God *over*-rules!

God is the King above all kings.

Darius was king of the Persian Empire – which was huge!



It was so big you could fit about 70 countries the size of Scotland into it!

So Darius was a very powerful and a very important king.

But God is the *great* King, King over all kings.

He is able to get even the most powerful kings of the earth to do what He needs them to do.

And He has said that He will be with His people always: and He can sort out any problem we may have!



A prayer

Think about what you've been learning today.

Now try praying this prayer (or making up your own prayer!)

Thank You, Jesus, for the ways You help Your people.

I really like reading about how You looked after Your people when their enemies tried to stop them doing Your work.

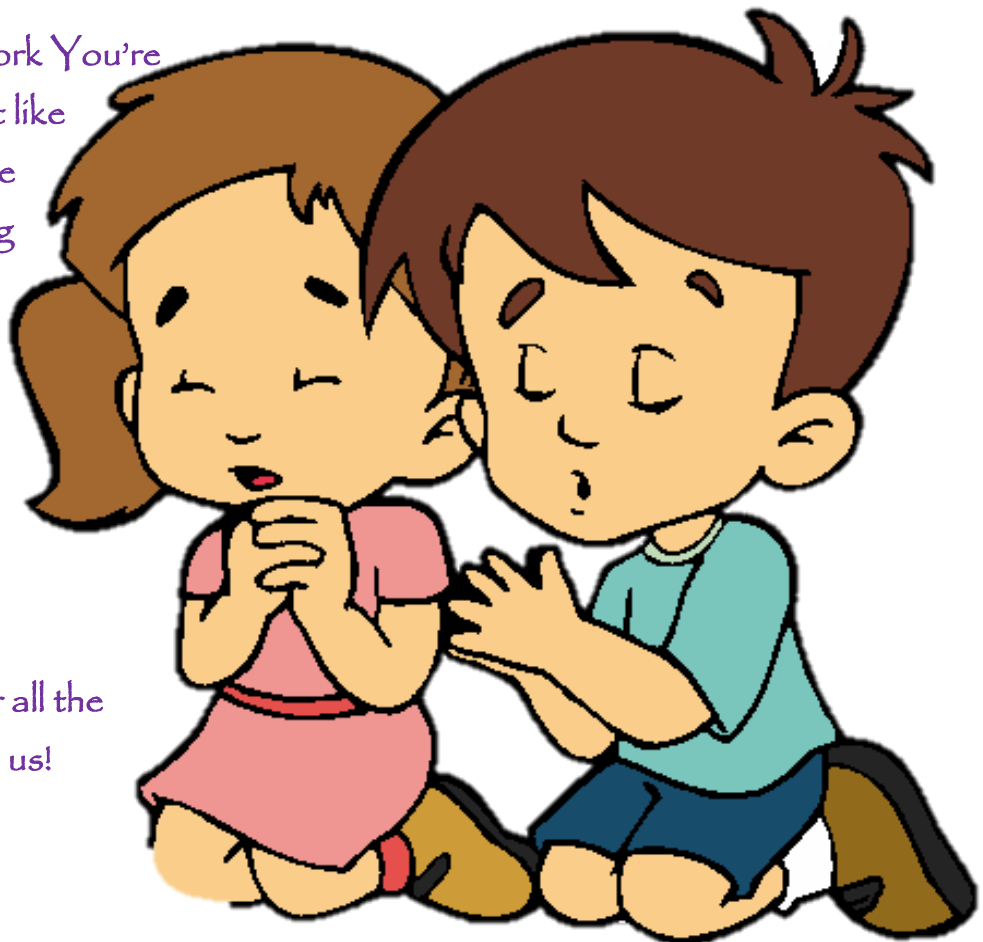
I'm glad that You're the one who's in charge of the world and that You're wiser and stronger than the greatest kings.

I want to share in the work You're doing in the world – just like the exiles in the passage today who were building the temple for You.

Please help me day by day to trust You: help me to remember that You're always with me.

Thank You, Jesus, for all the amazing ways You help us!

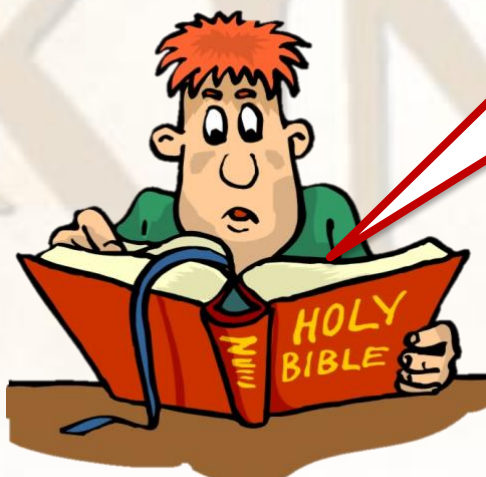
You're the best!



Today's verse for you to try and remember!

Ezra 6.12

**"May God, who
has caused His
name to dwell
there, overthrow
any king or
people who lifts
a hand .. to
destroy this
temple in
Jerusalem"**



1 TIMOTHY 6:15

A PUZZLE

Can you find what you're looking for in this picture?
Try colouring in the picture as well!

Hidden Pictures®

Decorating for the Holidays

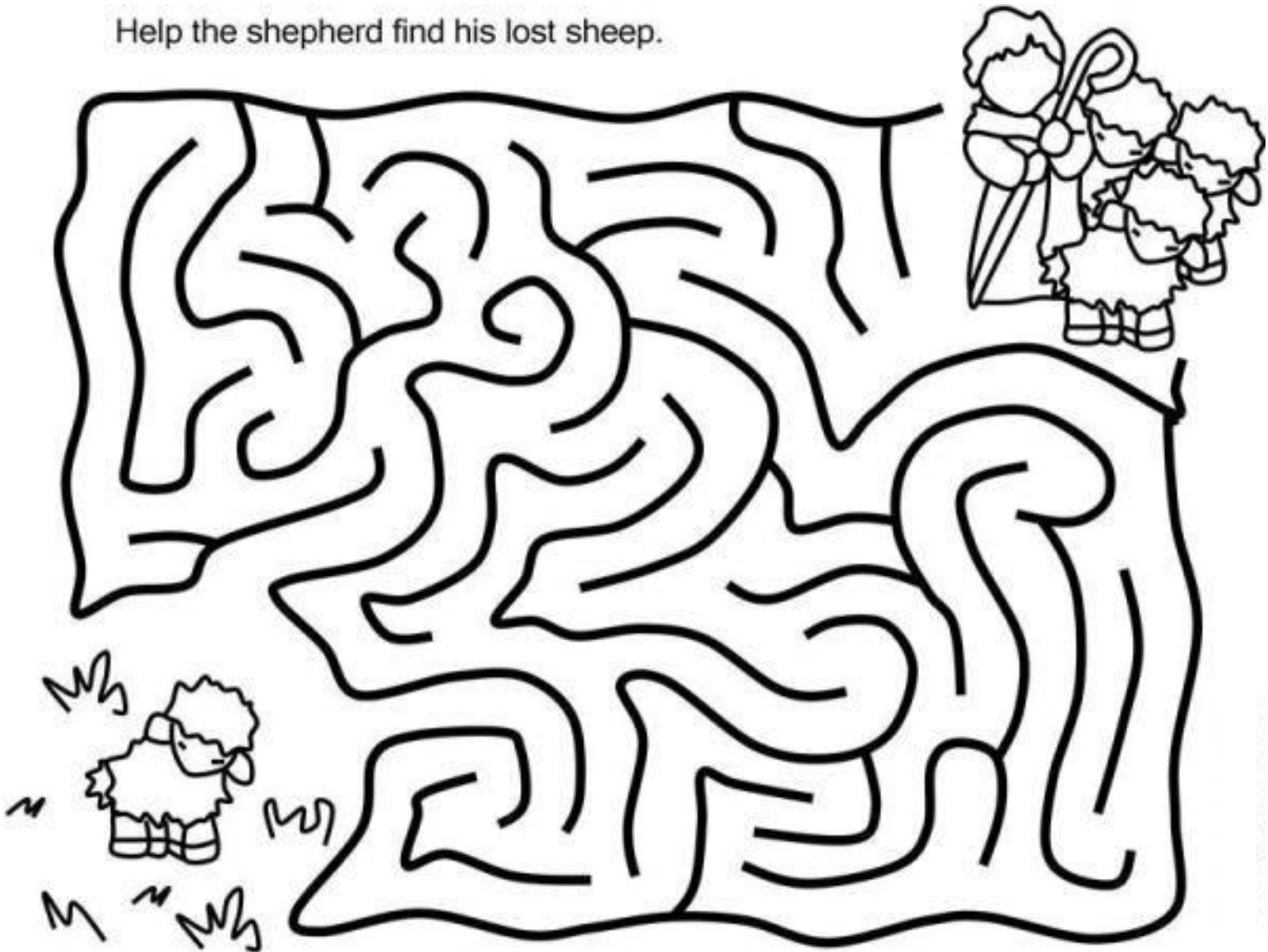


Can you find these hidden objects?



Sheep get lost too!

Help the shepherd find his lost sheep.



You can read the story which Jesus told about a sheep that got lost and about the shepherd going off to find it in

Luke 15.3-7.

For you to COLOUR IN



Jesus said -

I Am



the **GOOD SHEPHERD**