

# Tonight's

Tonight's passage speaks about believers being like oak trees. There's an oak tree like this one on each page of the worksheet. See if you can find the oak tree on each page!



## passage – Isaiah 61.<sup>3</sup>

# theme – All change!



Below you'll see a description of 4 famous fairy tales. See if you can work out which pictures belong with which fairy tale: draw a line between the pictures and the correct fairy tale. Then colour in the pictures!

### Sleeping Beauty

An ancient fairy tale about a princess who is cursed by an evil fairy to sleep for a hundred years: eventually she is wakened from that permanent sleep by ... well, check it out for ...

### Cinderella

An old folk tale, dating back thousands of years. A poor girl is ignored by her sisters and hated by her stepmother, but she is wonderfully given a new future after attending a ball where she meets .. well, you probably know the story, don't you!

### The Frog Prince

A German fairy tale collected by the Brothers Grimm in 1812. A man has become a frog under a wicked spell: when the princess kisses him he becomes .. well, you can guess from the title!

### The Ugly Duckling

A classic 19<sup>th</sup> century fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen: the story of a duckling who is made fun of by his brothers and sisters because they think he is ugly. But he discovers a whole new life as a ... well, read the story!

These fairy tales recognise a deep longing in us all, a sense that we were made for something better, and that a wonderful change is possible.

The Bible is not a fairy tale! It tells what God has actually done in history to make that change possible. Tonight's passage speaks about the wonderful change which Jesus brings about in the lives of those who trust in Him.

Read **the big**  
**Isaiah 61**  
verses 1-3

# exchange

He has sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup>and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty **instead of** ashes, the oil of joy **instead of** mourning, and a garment of praise **instead of** a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendour.



Jesus changes everything!

3 times in these verses you'll see the phrase '**instead of**' is used.

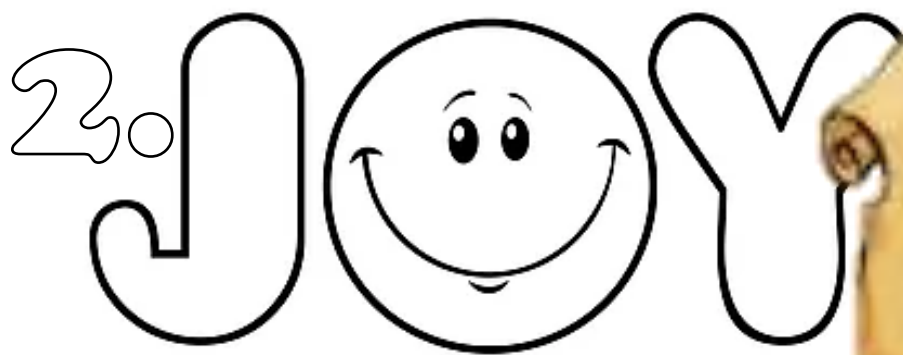
That's explaining the 3 main ways in which He changes what our experience will be in life.

## 1. beauty instead of ashes

In the ancient world people sometimes put 'ashes' over themselves as a way of showing that they were sad and miserable. Not a pretty sight!

Instead of a life that's ugly and unattractive, Jesus works by His Spirit to create in His people a beauty.

# The Beauty of Holiness



instead of mourning

God is full of joy!

Jesus wanted His followers to experience that joy for themselves.

See if you can fill in the missing words in these verses from the Bible: you can look them up in

### John 15.10-11

**10** If you keep My **c \_ \_ a \_ \_ s**, you will remain in My **l \_ \_ \_**, just as I have kept My Father's **c \_ \_ a \_ \_ s** and remain in His **l \_ \_ \_**.

**11** I have told you this so that My **\_ o \_** may be in you and that your **\_ o \_** may be **c \_ m \_ l \_ t \_**

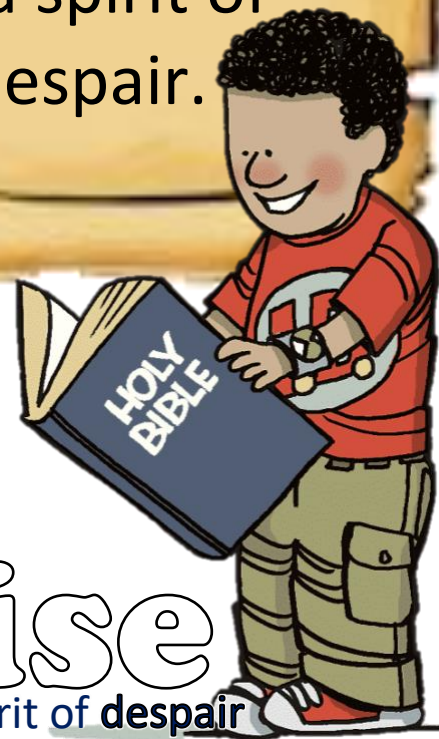
### Isaiah 61

verse 3

the oil of joy  
instead of  
mourning,

and

a garment of  
praise instead  
of a spirit of  
despair.



### 3. praise

instead of a spirit of despair

The name 'Judah' (from which God's people were called 'Jews') means simply 'praise': their name was a reminder that God's people are called to be **a people of praise**.

When we trust in Jesus, He opens our eyes to see how good and great He is, how wise and kind, how strong and true: and He fills our hearts with a spirit of praise.

So we no longer spend our lives grumbling and complaining but rejoicing in all that God has done – and will yet do!



Read  
**Isaiah 61**  
verse 3

# your calling

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendour.

Oak trees are big and strong, they have a long, long life (they can still be there after 1,000 years!) – and they look pretty impressive too!

When our lives are ‘planted’ in the soil of our trust in the Lord Jesus, we too become big and strong in God’s service, we’re given a life which will last forever – and God means that when people see what He has made of our lives, they should be impressed by how amazingly great God is!

Speaking of how ‘a maze ing’ God is, try the maze below!

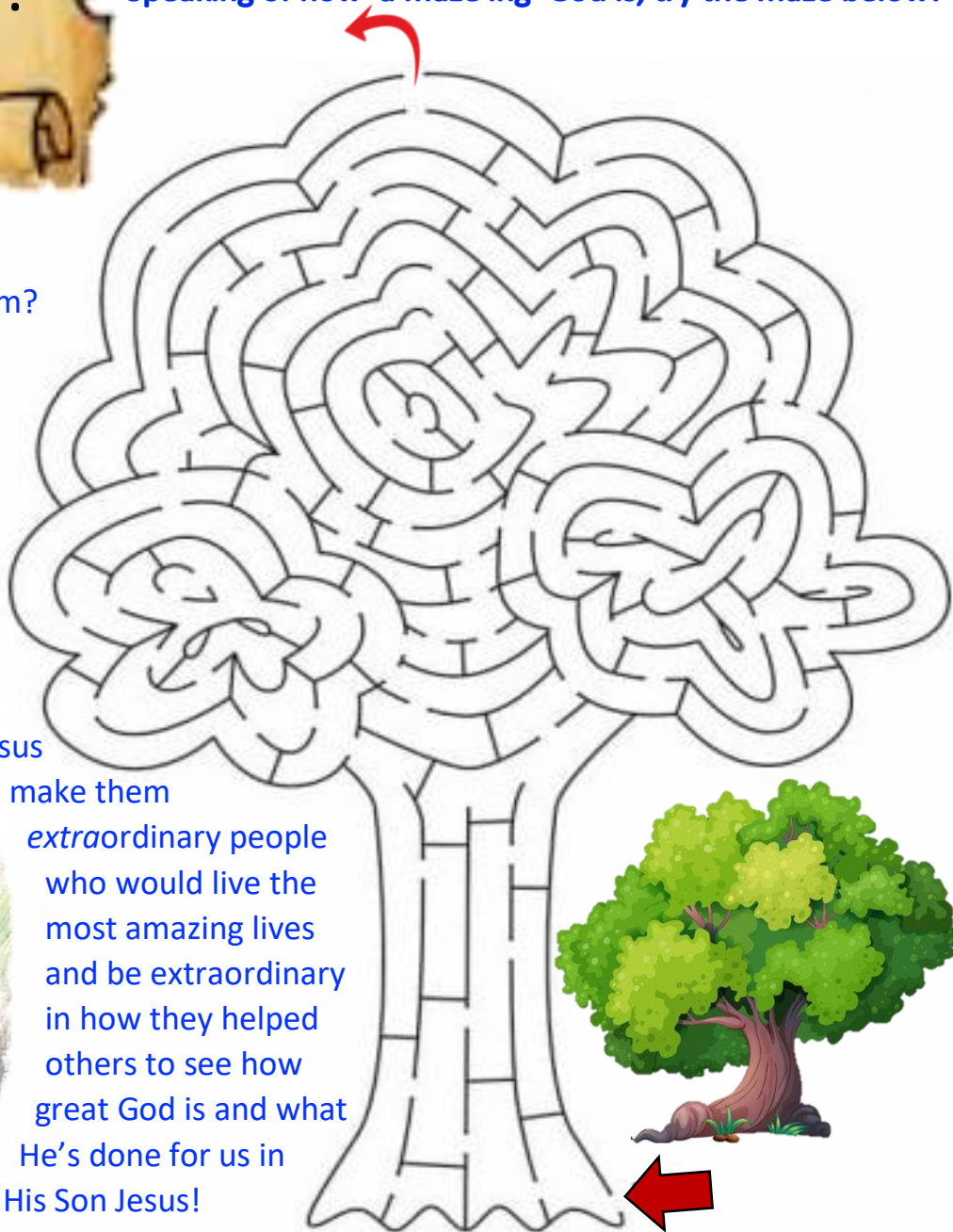
Remember what Jesus said to the fishermen when He first called them?

“Follow Me  
and I will \_\_\_\_\_ you  
\_\_\_\_\_ of men”

They had been just ordinary fishermen...

... but Jesus would make them

extraordinary people who would live the most amazing lives and be extraordinary in how they helped others to see how great God is and what He’s done for us in His Son Jesus!





*Think about what you've been learning in this worksheet.*

*Speak to God about what you've learned: if you want, use this prayer to help you*

**Thank You, Lord Jesus, for the ways in which You change everything!  
You are totally amazing!**

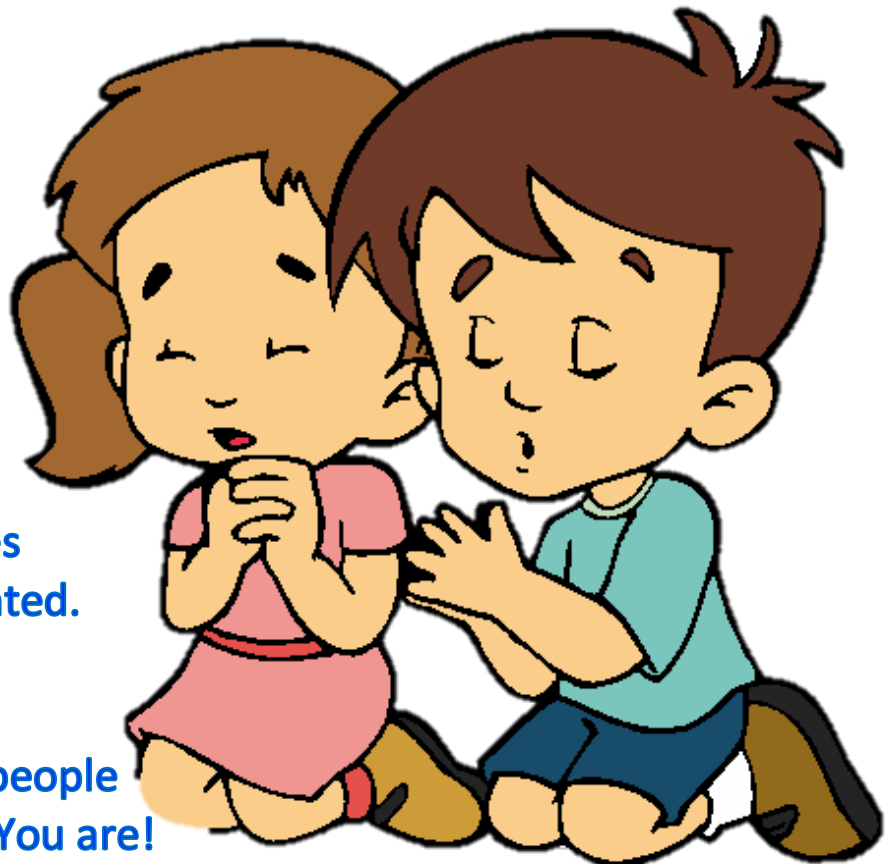
**Thank You that You help us live our lives in a way that fills our hearts with joy,  
puts praise on our lips, and gives our lives a beauty which attracts other  
people to You.**

**Please do that in my life!**

**Help me to trust You day by day  
and to look to You all the time  
to be my help.**

**I'm glad that You're able to  
make Your people as big and  
strong in serving You as oak trees  
are when they've been well planted.**

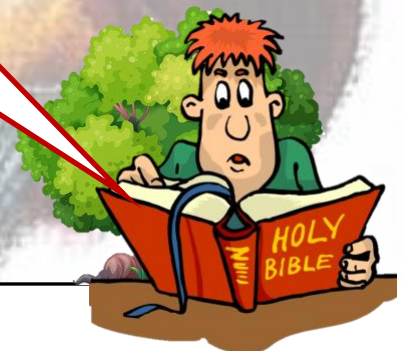
**May my life always show other people  
how good and strong and great You are!**



# Today's verse for you to try and remember!

**".. I will make you  
fishers of men"**

**Matthew 4.<sup>19</sup>**



# A WORDSEARCH ...

this wordsearch is based on Mark 1.16-20, the story of Jesus calling the fishermen

J B T G X L I J N T D O W G I N L T Z H E Q K Q  
H B O A N D K G Z L W J Y K Y B B R O T H E R S  
L E F J K D C I G Y K R V M M M J N E T P U C D  
J Q H E P P F T F B T C F C I P K K N P L I J G  
O D S S O M O V O I K I B V W D I D C J H C V U  
U G V U T Y L B R K M L G B A X Q Z D G J H T R  
F Q G S H J L U S C C J S S B A E H Q J D M N R  
H Q W O S B O V H G M N J G H E T B A P V R A X  
D L P R B O W J G V K Z I J X B O A T W J J P K  
M W S T R V M W A K I W T D X P D A J N H O J U  
C I U U H L B G G N V O Z A W A J R N H Q I H E  
X V N A U W N J A M E S X E T I O Y E Z F N P J  
V N K W Z C E F C P V L H S Y M Z H F M S I I M  
P E T E R Z E C H P N U Q U C M V M N L A E K K  
C N J E R A A U U U D M T Y U H Q C R I S U Y K  
M O A V Q N S H O R E O F T U A K S I K E Q I W  
Q M Y O A B B N T O Y B C W C P M T K C L E J D  
D E P B J G H T Z J J D R Y Y S T Z F B P K Y P  
W N F A F F M U O E F I S H I N G V N W I H J K  
W D V G D Y S Z D C S I C B Y U I B S W C L V Z  
I I E P G A N D R E W D S Q H A R Q U W S N N O  
M N V H E R M S E A O F G A L I L E E T I K A X  
N G T O W V K Z V J O K B H R D Z L G T D H Z T  
E W L O H L H V V S Y W B L U O B K A K U I D K

brothers  
follow  
Andrew  
boat  
Net

shore  
John  
Peter  
Jesus  
Fishing

mending  
James  
Disciples  
Sea of Galilee



# COLOUR in the picture

