

John's Special Summer

Key Word: Friends

Verse: As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you... *John 15:9a*

John wanted to be splashing and playing in the water with his friends in the pool, but he was terrified. He didn't know why he was afraid of water; he only knew that as soon as he felt the water he went rigid with fear. He had tried to learn to swim, but he just couldn't do it.

John had given up. Mandy got out of the pool and sat beside him. "I suppose you're going to tell me how wonderful it is and try to drag me in," John said nastily. Mandy simply said, "No, I just thought I'd sit here with you for a while." Soon John realized Mandy didn't want anything from him, and was just content to be there.

When all the others went home, Mandy said, "I'll teach you to swim, if you like." John was angry that Mandy knew his secret and he was still terrified of going near the water. "No thanks," he said.

She seemed so sure of herself that he took courage and allowed himself to go into the water up to his chest. After that, he and Mandy went to the pool every evening when no one

else was there. It took the whole summer before he could lift one foot off the bottom of the pool. Mandy was patient. Eventually John managed to swim two strokes and in another day or two he found himself swimming across the pool. He was thrilled.

Years later, when John was grown up, he thought about the summer he learned to swim. He thought, "Mandy gave herself to me for the whole summer and asked for nothing in return. I bet that's what Jesus meant when he talked about love. That's the sort of love I want to offer people, love which is patient and gentle and kind, and asks nothing in return. That sort of love leads to terrific joy."

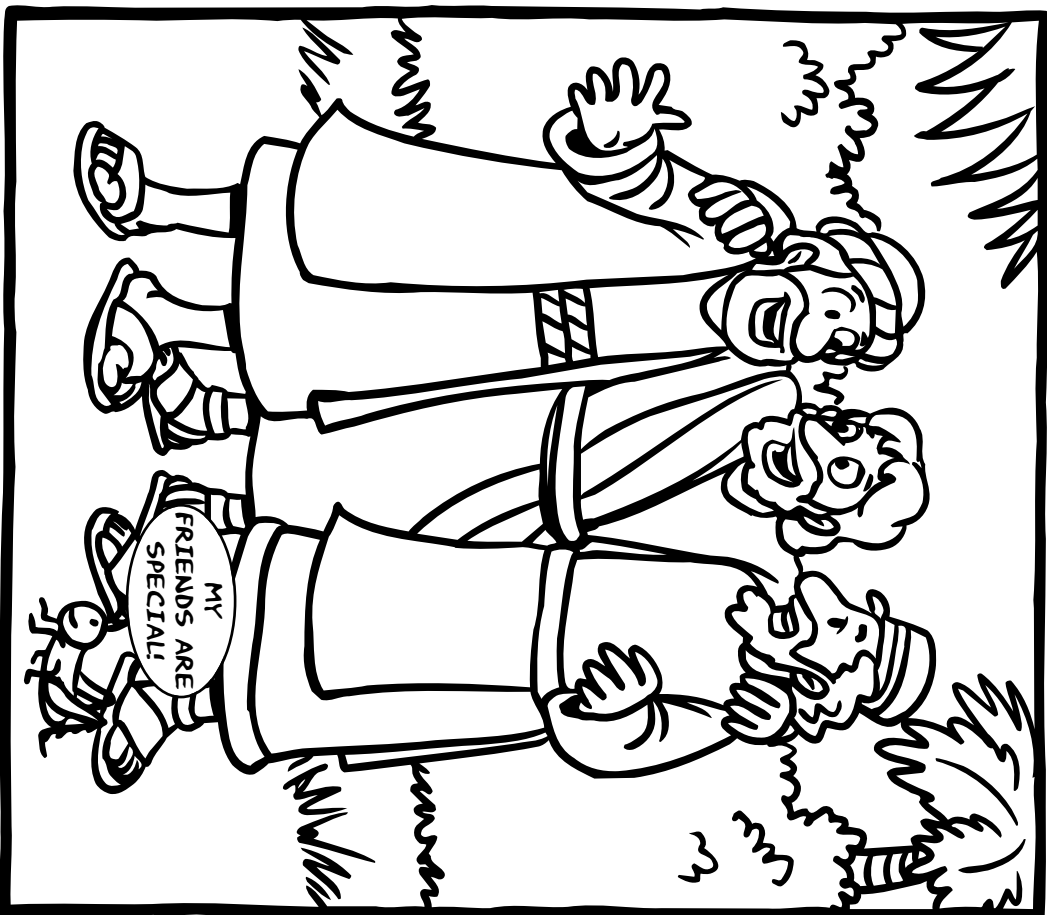
Questions

Why was John afraid of letting Mandy teach him to swim?

Jesus talks about friendship in today's reading. What do you think makes a person a true friend?

Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
John 15:9-17



10. BIRDS
9. NECKLACE
8. HAT
7. MOUTH
6. HAND
5. SANDAL
4. SASH
3. APRON
2. GRASS
1. LAMB

PICTURE DIFFERENCES



CROSSWORD

Answers

HIDDEN MESSAGE

THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

Hidden Message Puzzle

Write each numbered letter in the order they are given on the corresponding blanks below to reveal a message from today's Gospel story.

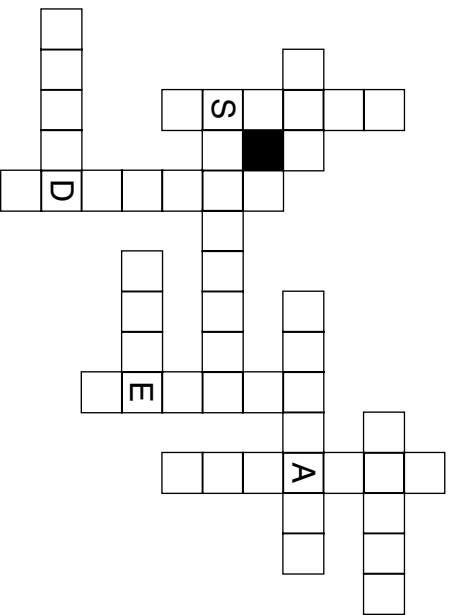
Y	A	T	N	A	H	L	Y	L	O	H	A	O	T	S	O	O	
2	5	1	5	6	8	9	10	3	5	10	1	8	4	5	6	9	2
0	V	A	H	I	V	U	E	T	V	N	E	E	D	E	U	E	R
3	8	1	5	7	9	10	5	1	3	4	8	9	9	4	2	3	5

1 1 1 1 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 5
 6 6 7 8 8 8 9 9 9 9 10 10 10

Crossword Without Numbers Puzzle

Fill in the empty spaces with letters that will spell one of the words at the left.

- WORD LIST**
- 3 Letter Words
JOY
 - 4 Letter Words
NAME
 - 5 Letter Words
LOVED
FRUIT
 - 6 Letter Words
MASTER
CHOOSE
 - 7 Letter Words
GREATER
FRIENDS
COMMAND
 - 8 Letter Word
SERVANTS



Picture Differences Puzzle

Below are two drawings. There are ten differences in these drawings. How many can you find? Circle the differences as you find them.

