



A NEW RESOURCE FROM ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S MINISTRY





illustrated
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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illustratedchildrensministry.com

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Born in Skokie, Illinois.

Powered by Starbucks and San Pellegrino Limonata Sparkling Lemon Beverages.



WELCOME TO AN ILLUSTRATED EARTH: CELEBRATING GOD'S CREATION

Thank you for your purchase of *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation*. We are excited about this new curriculum, and the opportunities it will provide for churches to spend time reflecting on Bible stories that celebrate various aspects of God's creation.

While this curriculum was initially designed as a summer Sunday School curriculum, it certainly has the capacity to be utilized much more broadly than that. Here at Illustrated Children's Ministry, we imagine the lessons and coloring pages could be used as a component in your Vacation Bible School program, as a fall Sunday School curriculum, as a mid-week intergenerational program or as a curriculum for a family ministry gathering at your church. In whatever way *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation* meets your ministry needs, we hope it's a blessing to all who encounter it, offering you and those you serve opportunities to connect with each other and with God.

STRUCTURE OF LESSONS

This is a curriculum that focuses primarily around a particular biblical story for the week, and all of the components of the lessons point back to that biblical story. Our goal is to offer you a low-prep to no-prep curriculum that can easily be led by anyone in your congregation. We don't have a list of supplies (other than photocopies if you need to make them and crayons/markers/colored pencils for coloring). In hopes of minimizing your work load, we have intentionally designed *An Illustrated Earth* in such a way that it requires little background material and reading prior to presenting the lesson. What emerges is a simple but meaningful lesson focused around hearing a biblical story, reflecting on it with open questions and discussion and a chance to create a piece of art based on the story.

Gathering: Since much of the lesson is focused on listening, discussing and coloring, this gathering time gives you a chance to lead an activity that might be more active. We provide you with a sample gathering activity, but you are welcome to come up with your own that suits the children's needs and temperaments in your ministry. Though this doesn't need to be overly involved, it's a good opportunity for movement and for the children to introduce themselves if that is necessary in your context.

Story Time: This is the time set aside for becoming familiar with the biblical story for that week. There are a variety of ways you can introduce the kids to the story. First, we have provided you with a paraphrase of the passage that has been written specifically for children. Second, we provide you with that same paraphrase broken up into a script. If you have some older children in your group, this would be a great opportunity to allow them to stand up and narrate the story. Depending on the story, you may choose to have some of the younger children act out the story while it's narrated and directed by the older children or teachers. Finally, we have created Illustrated Story Cards for each lesson. These story cards each have very simple line drawings that depict one part of the story. The goal is to offer children the opportunity to put the cards in the proper sequence, matching the illustrations with the story in scripture they've just heard.

Imagining Together: This is not so much a time to make sure they received the information or facts of the story, but rather, an opportunity for the children to share what stood out to them and what they imagined when they listened to the story. Depending on the time you have set aside for this lesson, you may choose to do this portion while coloring the poster or sheets, or you may want to spend a little time imagining with the children first, and then move on to the coloring.

Coloring: If you purchased our Illustrated Earth Coloring Posters, you will have a poster that corresponds with each lesson. Each poster has a word, phrase or portion of the biblical passage incorporated into the design.

Coloring is an opportunity to continue talking about the story, while asking questions and seeing where the conversation takes you. Because many of the story's elements are integrated into the coloring design, it may be fun to encourage the children to search out as many symbols as they can that communicate an aspect of the story.

If you didn't purchase the large coloring posters, you can use this as time for individual coloring with the included coloring sheets. We have provided you with both the design of the poster, and a simplified coloring sheet for your younger children.

Closing Prayer: Whether you simply read the prayer, or have the children repeat after you - use this as a chance to "close" your time together as you wait for parents to come pick up their children. As you approach the end of your time together, this is a great short ritual to do with the children; it creates a sense of community and preparation as they enter back into the world.

An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation is a new resource, and the first curriculum that Illustrated Children's Ministry has published. As is the case with all of our products and resources, we would love to hear from you about what was helpful and meaningful and what suggestions or comments you have for us about the materials. We want to create quality resources for children in the church, so we appreciate your comments and feedback.

You can reach us at hello@illustratedchildrensministry.com or find us on the following social networks:

Facebook: facebook.com/illustratedCM

Pinterest: pinterest.com/illustratedCM

Twitter: twitter.com/illustratedCM

Instagram: instagram.com/illustratedCM

We also love to see photos and hear stories about how you are using our materials. When you are posting photos or comments online about *An Illustrated Earth*, please be sure to use the hashtag #anillustratedearth, so we can be part of the conversation and you can be part of our online community.

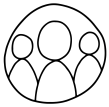
Blessings,

Illustrated Children's Ministry



SEPARATION OF THE WATER

Week 1: Genesis 1:6-10



GATHERING

Since much of the lesson is focused on listening, discussing and coloring, this gathering time gives you a chance to lead an activity that might be more active. We provide you with a sample gathering activity, but you are welcome to come up with your own that suits the children's needs and temperaments in your ministry.

With the children lined up in one line, teach them to do the wave. The person on the end begins the wave by standing and raising their hands over their head. The next child in the line does the same right afterward and so on. Then have the kids line up in two lines, facing each other, and have the children do the wave across from each other and down the line at the same time.

Talk with them about where they've seen waves before. Ask what it was like to watch their friends as well as trying to pay attention to timing. Finally, ask them if this exercise reminds them of any stories in the Bible.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

As the children in your faith community begin summer and begin to spend a lot of time outside, this lesson is a reminder of the awesomeness of God's creation. As they prepare to go on vacations with their families, to go to camps, to spend days outdoors playing, this is a reminder of the goodness of God's creation. God Said...and God saw how good it was. And our challenge is to see just how good the world is this summer.



STORY TIME

One of the goals of An Illustrated Earth is to help children become more familiar with some of these stories and to help increase biblical literacy. There are a variety of ways you can introduce the kids to the story. First, we have provided you with a paraphrase of the passage that has been written specifically for children.

Second, we provide you with that same paraphrase broken up into a script. If you have some older children in your group, this would be a great opportunity to allow them to stand up and narrate the story. Depending on the story, you may choose to have some of the younger children act out the story while it's narrated and directed by the older children or teachers.

Finally, we have created Illustrated Story Cards for each lesson. These story cards each have very simple line drawings that depict one part of the story. The goal is to offer children the opportunity to put the cards in the proper sequence, matching the illustrations with the story in scripture they've just heard.

GENESIS 1:6-10

An the second day God created the world, God said, "Let there be a covering that separates the waters." So God separated the waters below from those above. God called this covering Sky. There was morning and night the second day God created the world. Then God said, "Let all the water below the sky come together in one place so dry land appears. God called the land Earth and the water Sea. God saw how good it all was."



IMAGINING TOGETHER

After you've spent some time with the story, we encourage you to reflect with the children about the story and see what stood out to them. This is not so much a time to make sure they received the information or facts of the story, but rather, an opportunity for the children to share what stood out to them and what they imagined when they listened to the story.

Depending on the time you have set aside for this lesson, you may choose to do this portion while coloring the poster or sheets, or you may want to spend a little time imagining with the children first, and then move on to the coloring.

We would encourage you to think about what questions make the most sense for your context, and certainly you can add to the list below - but here are a few questions that you could reflect on with the children:

- *What is awesome about this story?*
- *What do you love about water?*
- *Where's your favorite place to go with water?*
- *Why does God call the water good?*



COLORING

If you purchased our Illustrated Earth Coloring Posters, you will have a poster that corresponds with each lesson. Each poster has a word, phrase or portion of the biblical passage incorporated into the design. Coloring is an opportunity to continue talking about the story, while asking questions and seeing where the conversation takes you. Because many of the story's elements are integrated into the coloring design, it may be fun to encourage the children to search out as many symbols as they can that communicate an aspect of the story. If you didn't purchase the posters, we have included 8.5x11 versions of those designs so each child can color their own individual coloring sheet.



CLOSING PRAYER

Whether you simply read the prayer, or have the children repeat after you - use this as a chance to "close" your time together as you wait for parents to come pick up their children. As you approach the end of your time together, this is a great short ritual to do with the children; it creates a sense of community and preparation as they enter back into the world.

God,
 You are our Good Creator
 All that you made is
 awesome and beautiful.
 As we use water today,
 we will remember you
 and give you thanks.
Amen.

SCRIPT: GENESIS 1:6-10

Reader 1: On the second day God created the world, God said, "Let there be a covering that separates the waters."

Reader 2: So God separated the waters below from those above.

Reader 1: God called this covering Sky.

Reader 2: There was morning and night the second day God created the world.

Reader 1: Then God said, "Let all the water below the sky come together so dry land appears."

Reader 2: God called the land Earth and the water Sea.

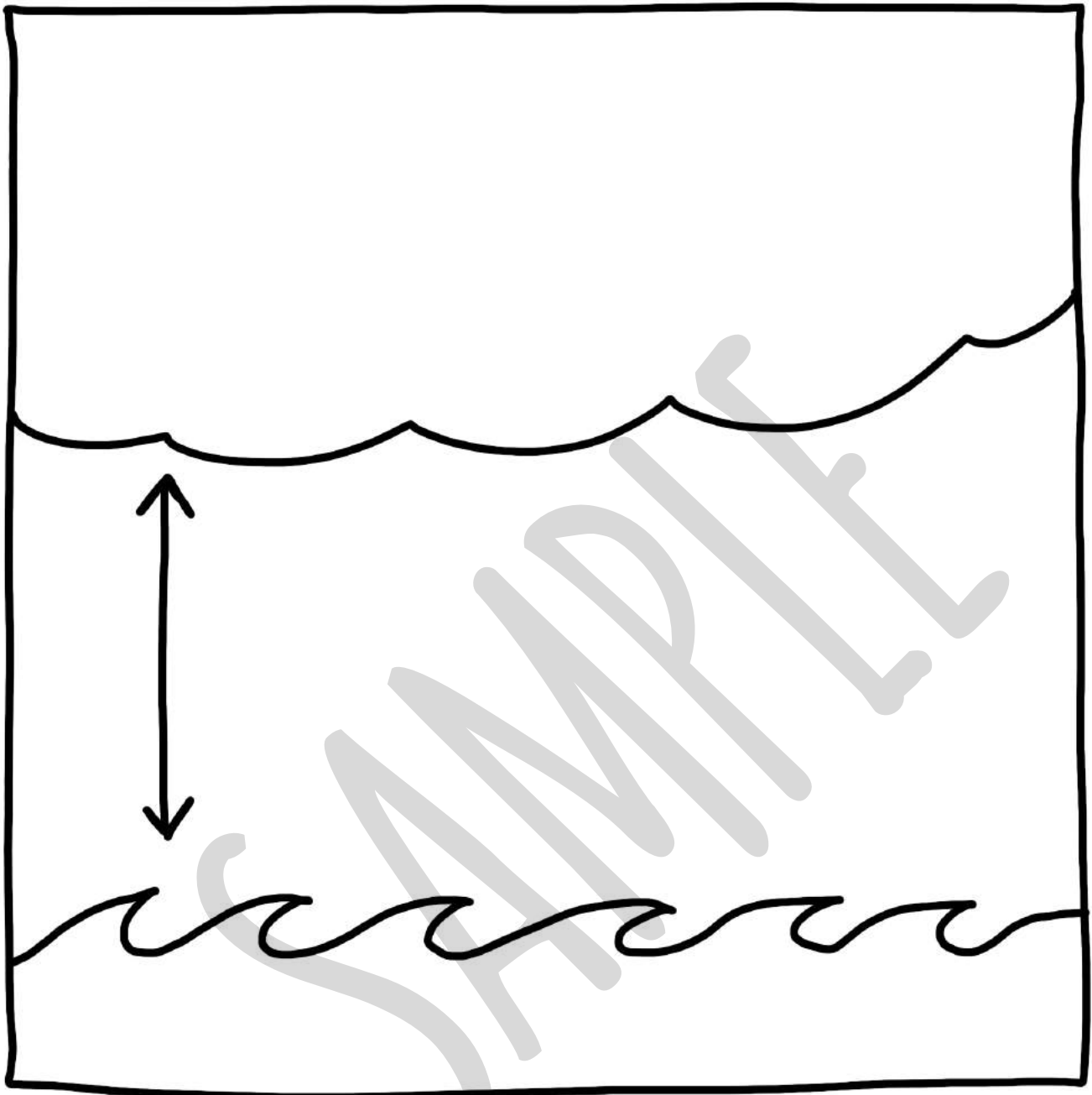
Reader 1: God saw how good it all was.

ILLUSTRATED STORY CARDS

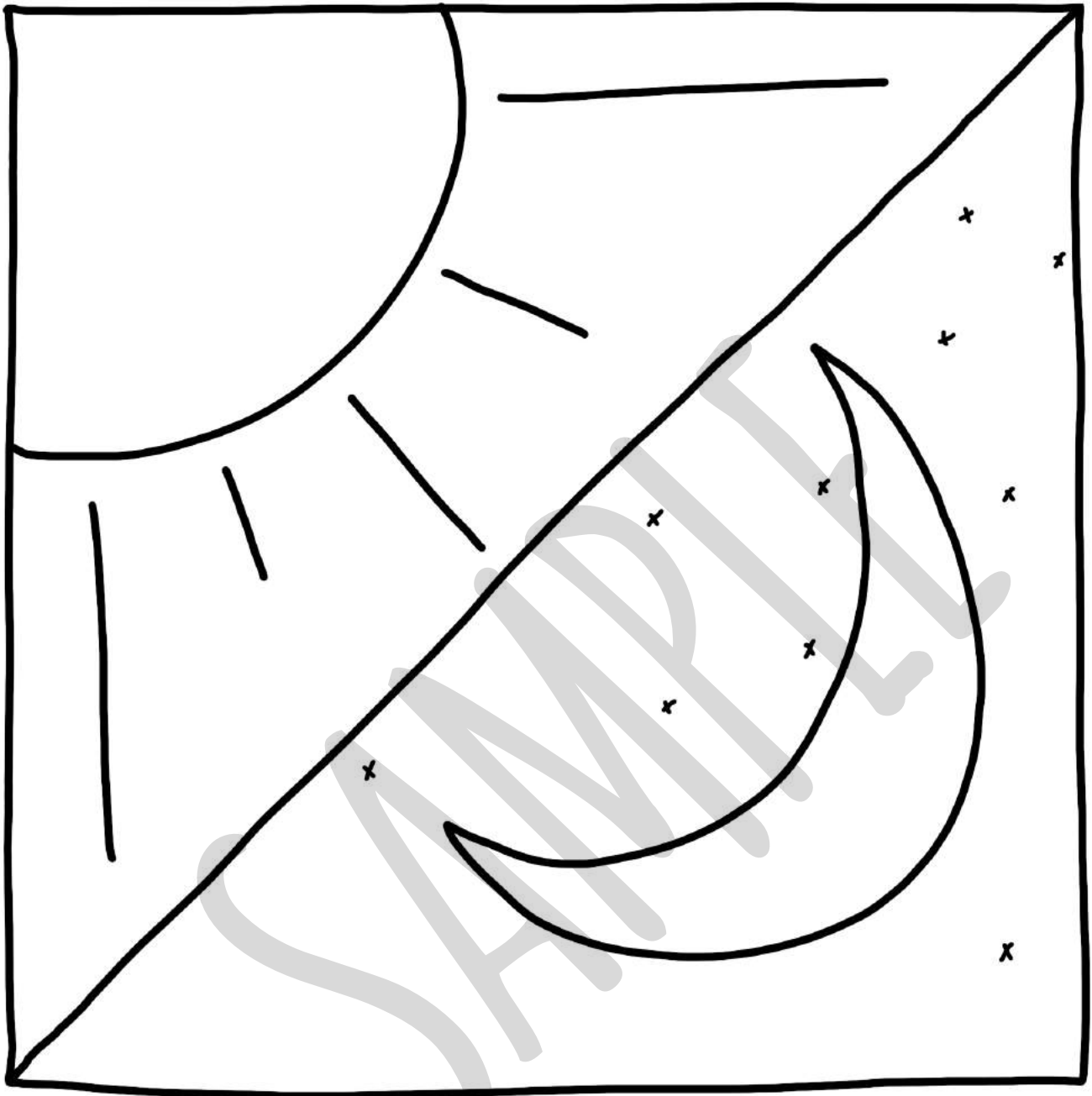
On the following pages you will find the Illustrated Story Cards for Genesis 1:6-10.

Print out the Illustrated Story Cards and have them ready for children to go through after you've read them the Bible story. You could print out a set for each child, or you could have the children get together in groups to put the story in the right order.

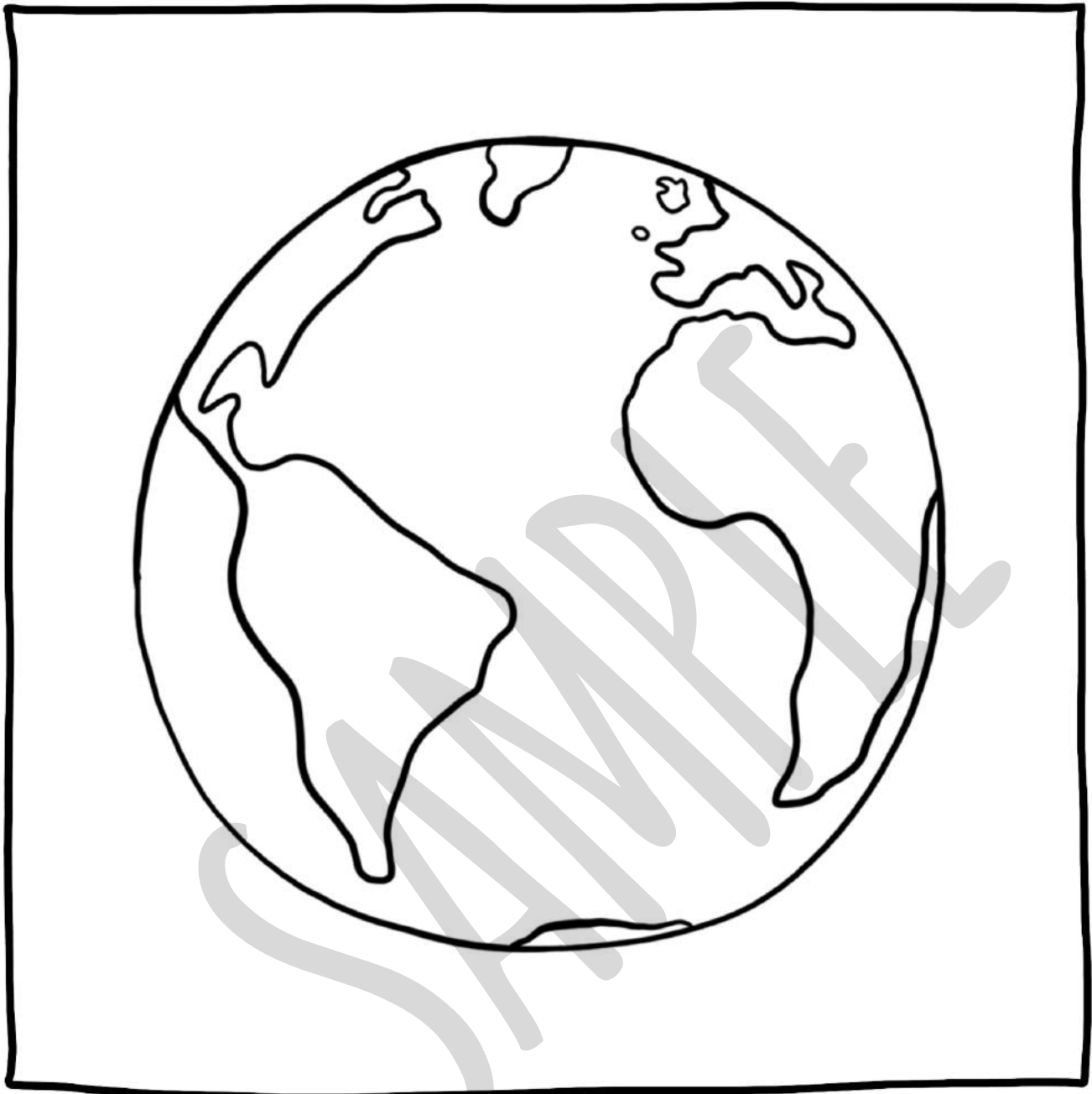
SAMPLE



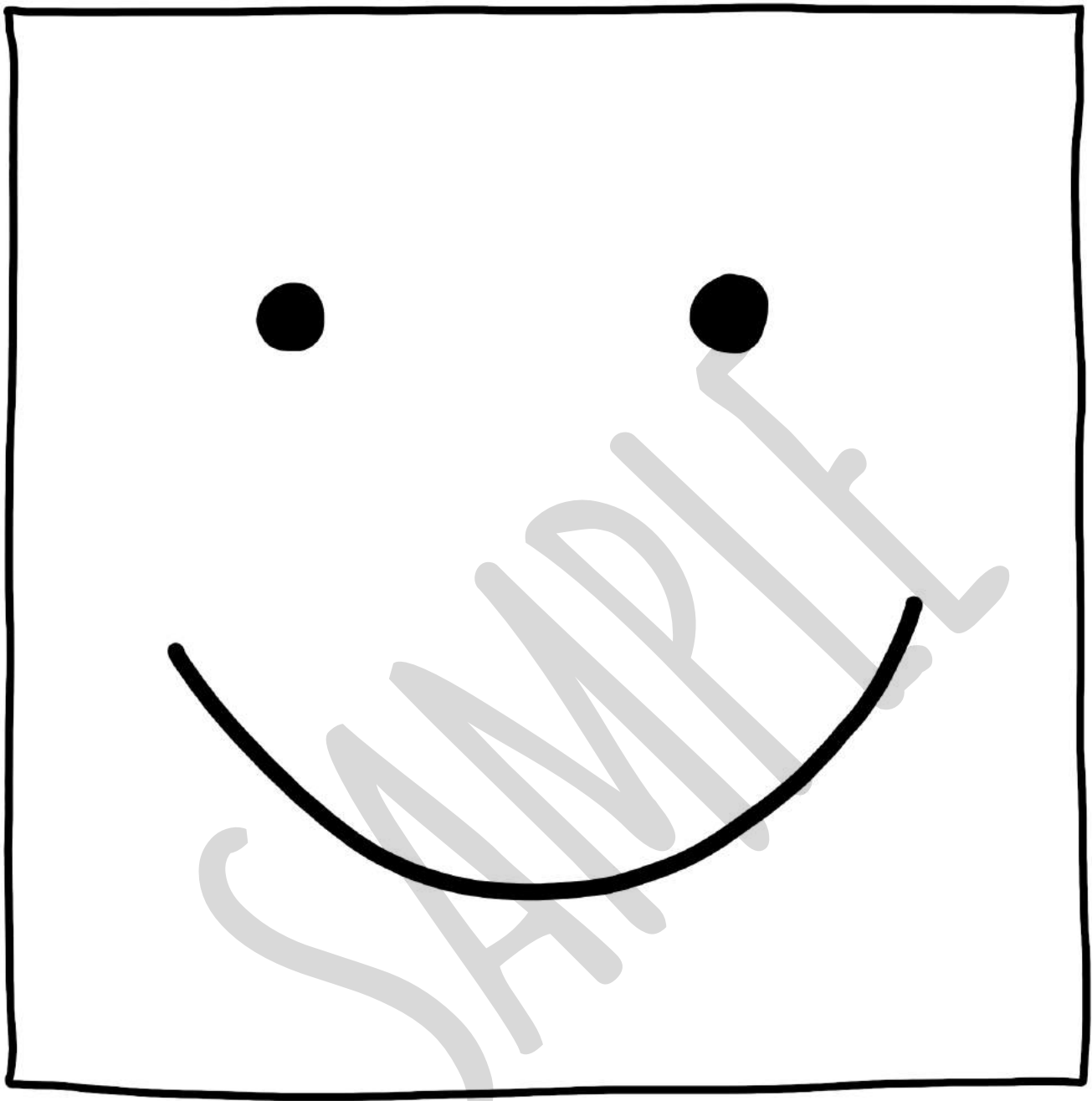
GOD MADE A COVERING FOR THE WATERS AND CALLED IT SKY.



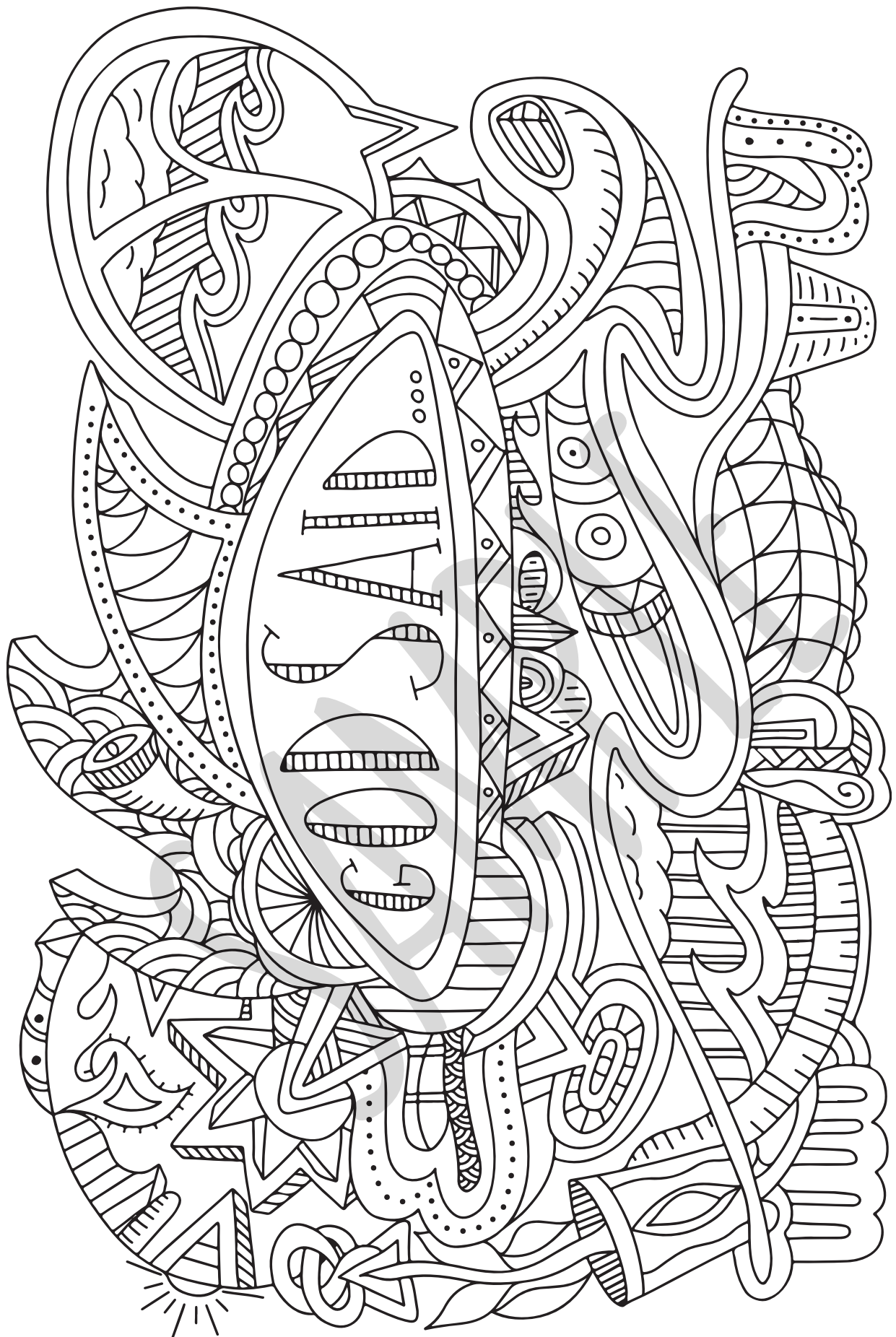
THERE WAS MORNING AND NIGHT ON THE SECOND DAY GOD
CREATED THE WORLD.

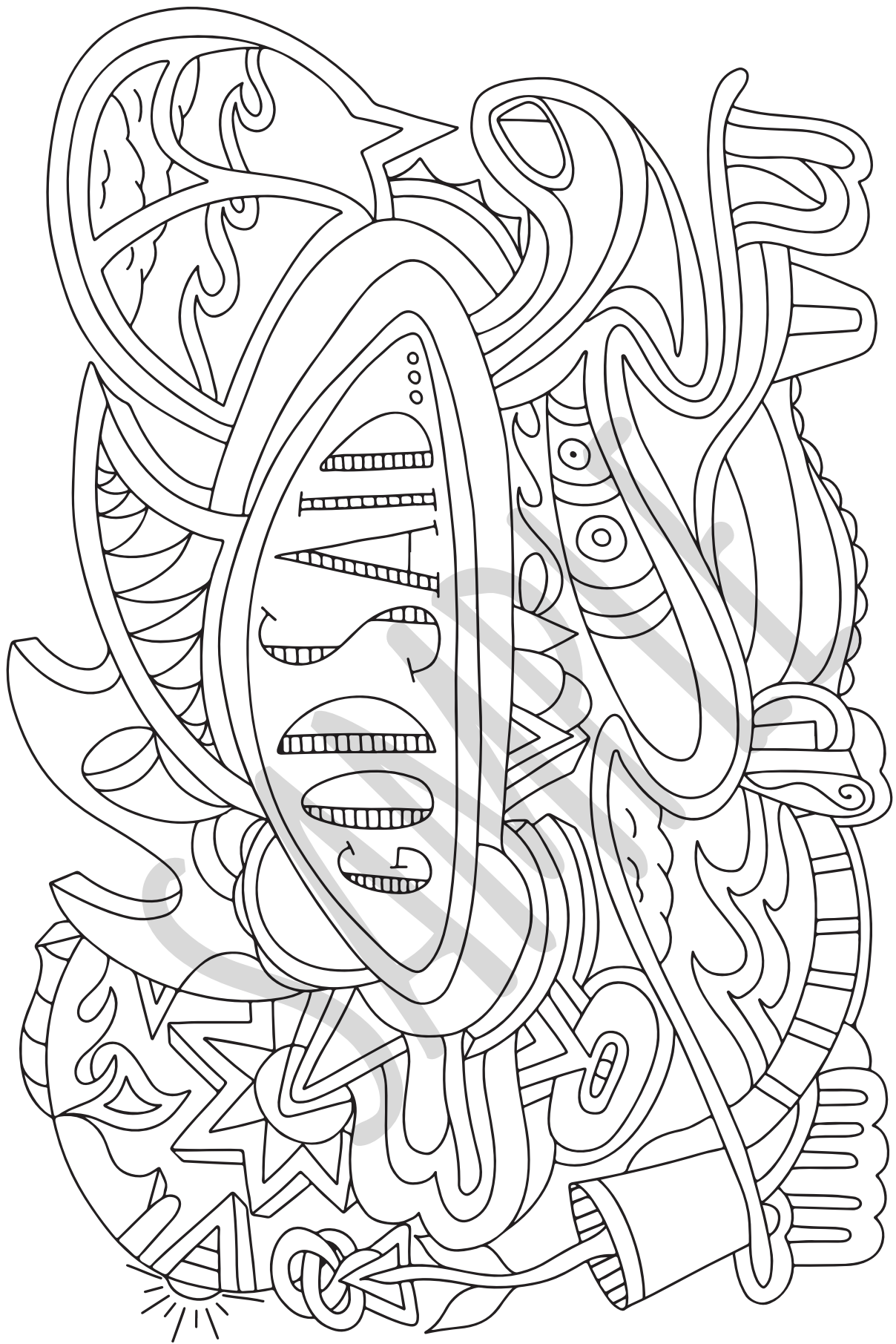


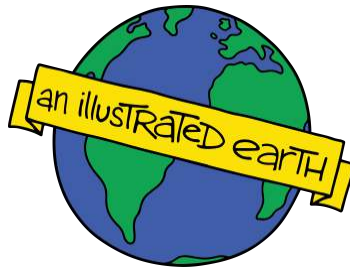
GOD SEPARATED THE WATER AND LAND.



GOD WAS VERY HAPPY WITH HOW GOOD EVERYTHING WAS.







ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Alissa Ellett has worked in ministry for fifteen years, serving in churches across California. She earned her Masters in Christian Education from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and is currently serving as Children's and Youth Director at University Presbyterian Church in Fresno, CA, where she lives with her husband, James, and daughter, June. What gets her going? Live music, spicy Thai food, cream Earl Grey tea, travel, and creating beauty and depth no matter the medium, especially if it elicits one uncovering their place in God's ecology.

Arianne Braithwaite Lehn is a mother, one half of a clergy couple, writer, and ordained minister with the PC(USA). As a South Dakota native, Arianne originally planned on Law School until God called her to Taiwan where everything changed. She later graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago). She now lives with her husband, Jeff (the other clergy couple half) and their one-year-old daughter in Fort Wayne, IN. Arianne loves creating things - on the page, in the kitchen, out in nature, and in relationships. She blogs [here](#).

Erika Marksbury is Senior Pastor of the creative, welcoming First Baptist Church of McMinnville, Oregon, and mom to two exhausting, inspiring boys. She's been shaped by growing up in the Midwest, participating in a racial justice project in the South, attending seminary in the Northeast, and studying in Kenya. She coordinates Practicing Families, a blog where parents share hilarious/poignant/cringe-worthy/helpful stories of what it's like to explore faith with kids.

ABOUT THE EDITOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Adam Walker Cleaveland is an artist, pastor, pastor's spouse and father to a hilarious 4 year old boy. After doing youth ministry for over 15 years, Adam began Illustrated Children's Ministry in September of 2015, and has been excited to see the overwhelming response from pastors, Christian educators and parents from around the world. Visit [Illustrated Children's Ministry](#) to learn more about this growing resource, and you can find more information out about Adam at adamwc.com.