

**SENDING OUT THE 72**

New Testament Lesson #63

As Jesus traveled, he saw the crowds, that they were as “sheep without a shepherd.” He told his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).

The next thing recorded is that Jesus sent out the Twelve “like sheep into the midst of wolves” (Matthew 10:16), with very specific instructions as to how they were to preach the Good News to the house of Israel (Matthew 10:5-23, Luke 9:1-6). They returned and reported all they’d done.

A little later, Jesus chose 72 others and sent them in pairs ahead of him to every place Jesus intended to visit. These were his instructions:

- Carry no purse, no bag and no sandals.
- Greet no one on the road.
- Whatever house you enter, say, “Peace to this house”.
- Remain in the same house, eating and drinking what is provided.
- Do not move from house to house.
- If welcomed, cure the sick and tell the people that the kingdom of God has come near them.
- If not welcomed, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against those people.

Jesus told the 72 that whoever listened to them would, in effect, be listening to Him, and whoever rejected them would be rejecting Him.

After their mission, the 72 returned with joy, telling Jesus that his name cured all diseases, and even the demons were subject to them in his name.

Jesus responded, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning.” He further told them that they would have power over “snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you.” But he warned them not to rejoice in this power, but instead to “rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

**POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

- Jesus’ instructions to the 72 are similar to those he gave to the 12 (see Matthew 10:1-24).
- Satan literally means “adversary,” and in this case, every form of the adversary was subject to his name.
- An example of power over snakes, with nothing hurting a believer, is found in Acts 28:5.

**Sending Out the 72**

- I. Jesus sent the 12 out to preach to the people of Israel.
- II. Jesus chose 72 persons to visit places Jesus planned to visit.
  - A. They were to behave quietly and respectfully.
  - B. They were to cure the sick and announce that the kingdom of God was near.
  - C. Jesus said whoever listened to the 72 would listen to Jesus.
- III. The 72 returned to Jesus after their mission.
  - A. They told Jesus of the healing they had done in his name.
  - B. They reported that demons were driven out.
  - C. Jesus said to rejoice not in power, but because their names (the 72) were written in heaven.

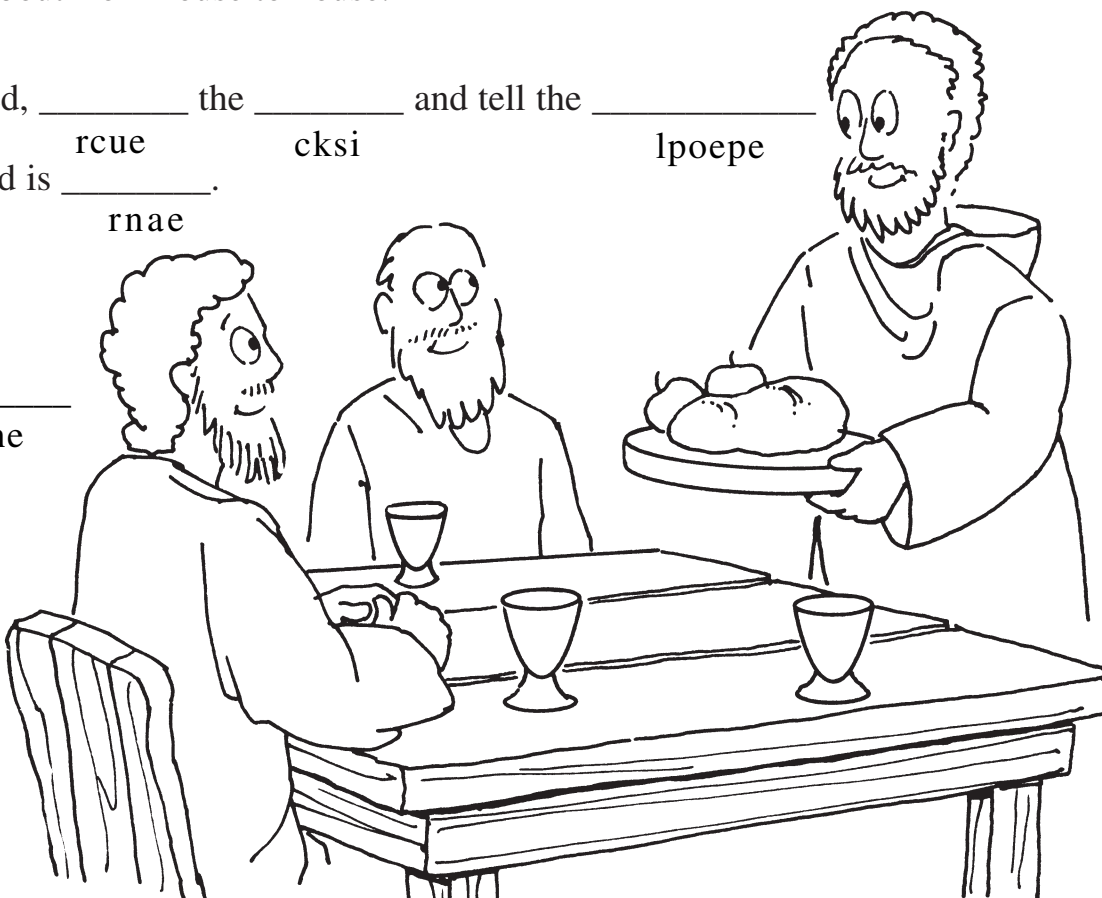
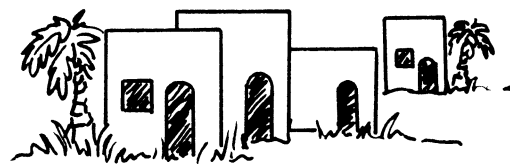
**ANSWER KEY:**

1. purse, bag, sandals
2. Greet, road
3. house, Peace
4. eat, drink
5. move
6. cure, sick, people, near
7. not, shake, dust, feet

Jesus chose 72 others and sent them ahead of Him to the places He intended to visit.

The 72 had very specific instructions. Unscramble the words below to find them.

1. Carry no \_\_\_\_\_, no \_\_\_\_\_, no \_\_\_\_\_.  
psrue                      gba                      lsndaas
2. \_\_\_\_\_ no one on the \_\_\_\_\_.  
rGtee                      drao
3. Whatever \_\_\_\_\_ you enter, say, "\_\_\_\_\_ to this house."  
souhe                      ecaPe
4. Remain in the same house, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ what they provide.  
tae                      krdin
5. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ about from house to house.  
vome
6. If you are welcomed, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and tell the \_\_\_\_\_  
the kingdom of God is \_\_\_\_\_.  
rcue                      cksi                      lpoepe  
rnae
7. If you are \_\_\_\_\_  
tno  
welcomed, \_\_\_\_\_  
ksahe  
the \_\_\_\_\_ off  
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your \_\_\_\_\_.  
tfee

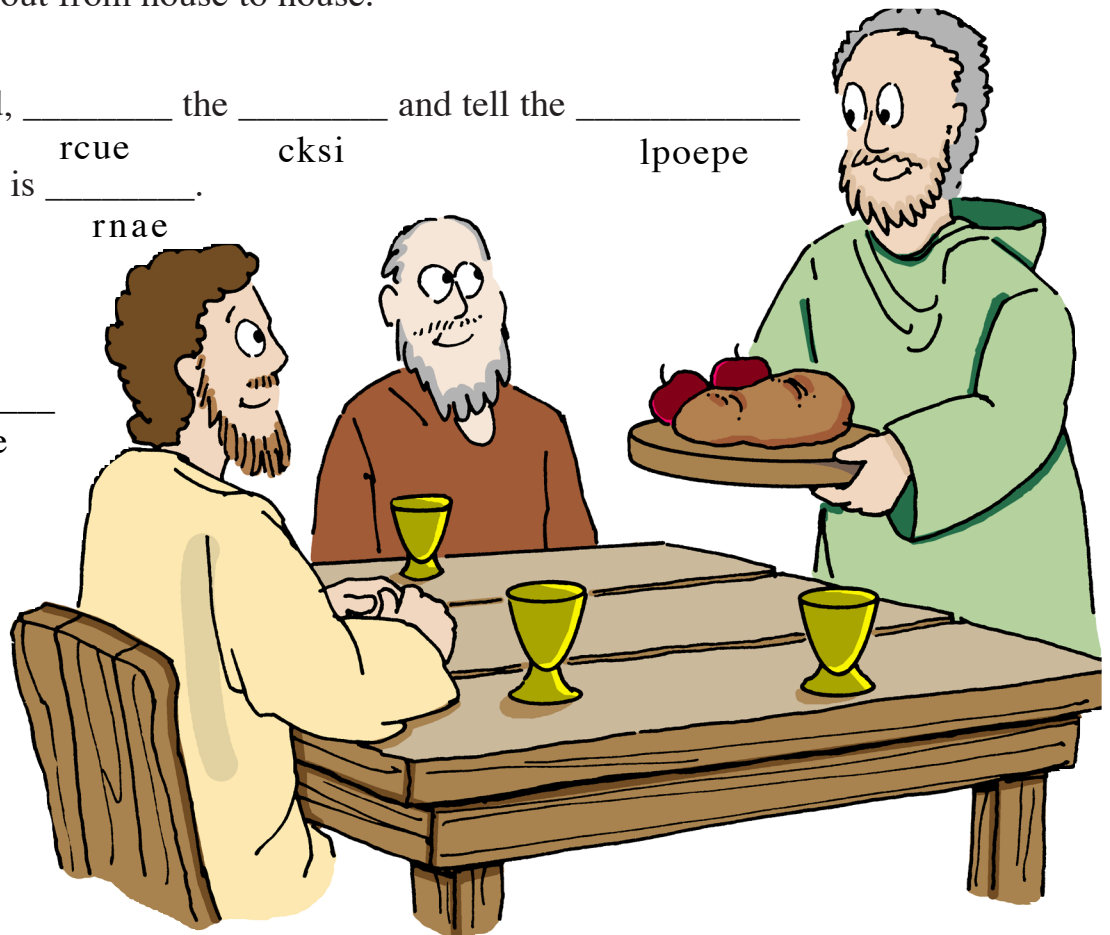


Name \_\_\_\_\_

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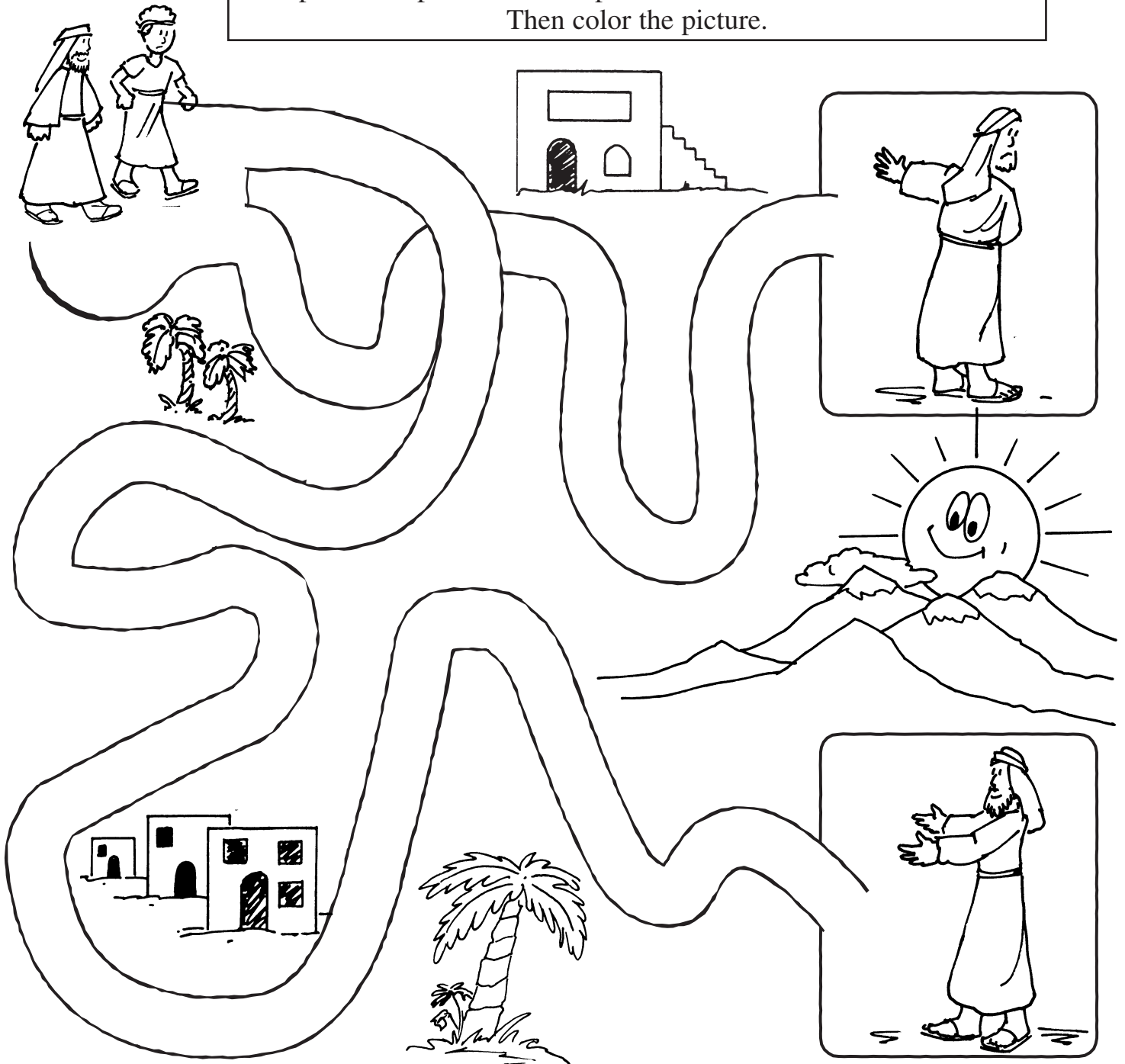
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                                 vome
6. If you are welcomed, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and tell the \_\_\_\_\_  
   rcue    cksi    lpoepe  
         the kingdom of God is \_\_\_\_\_.  
   rnae
7. If you are \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 tno  
         welcomed, \_\_\_\_\_  
   ksahe  
         the \_\_\_\_\_ off  
                                 tsdu  
         your \_\_\_\_\_.  
                                 tfee



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus sent His disciples out to visit towns and to preach the Good News.

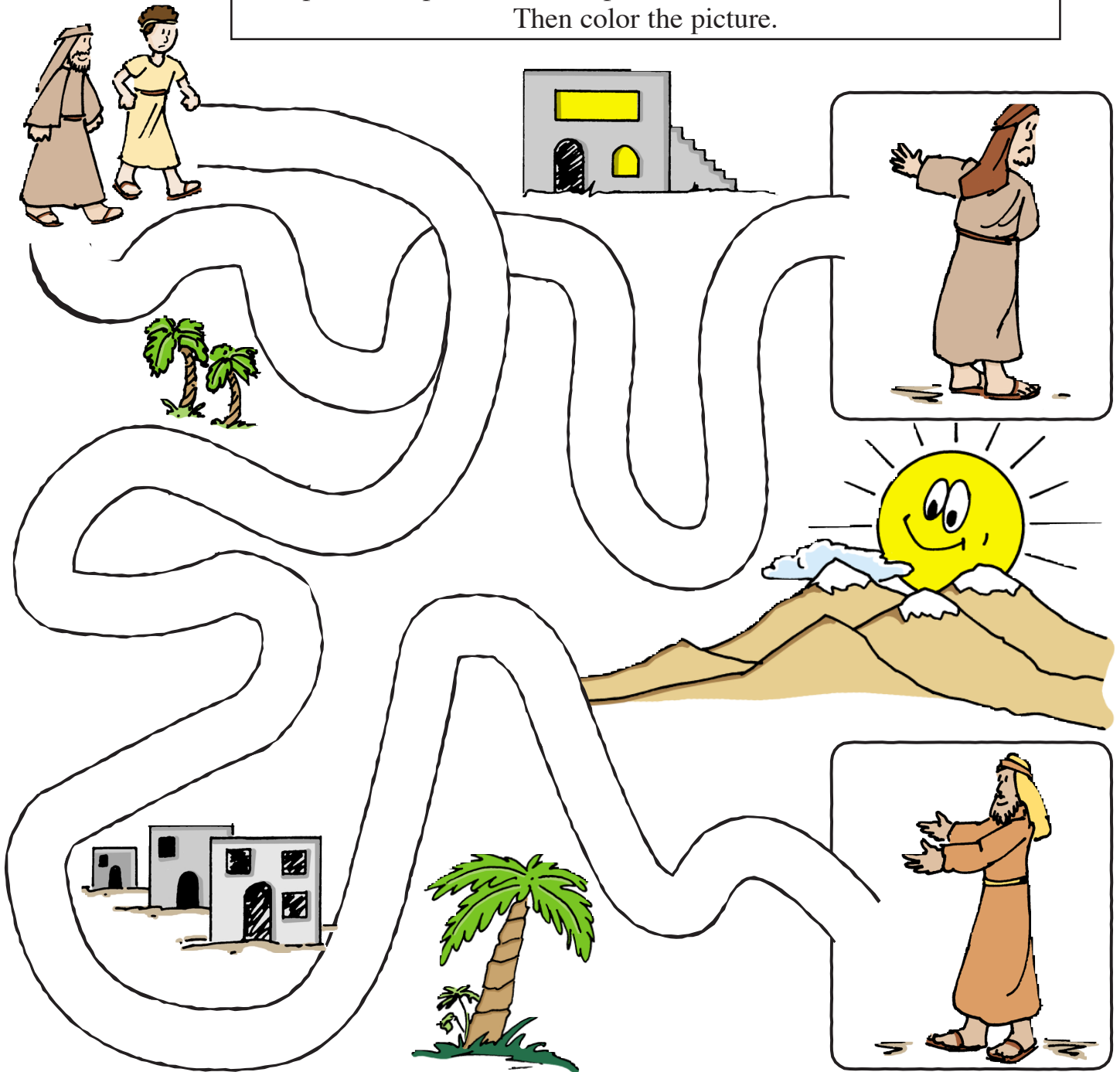
Help the disciples follow the path to the one who welcomes them.  
Then color the picture.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Help the disciples follow the path to the one who welcomes them.  
Then color the picture.



Name \_\_\_\_\_