

CARTOONS





St Iohn Neumann, Part II

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- Paul Discovers His Passion

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COOL CATHOLIC

Returning to the Father's Love





Holy Humour

SMART KIDS

Little Writers

My Story

My Canvas



Luminous Library





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FDITORIAL

Guard Your Soul: A Lesson from a Cracked Screen

Recently, I accidentally dropped my phone. At first, it seemed fine - just a small crack on the screen but within two days, the screen became completely unusable! I had to take it to the service centre, and replacing the display cost me a lot of money. I was a little disappointed about the unexpected expense, but it made me think about something important.

The phone broke because I hadn't used a good phone case or screen protector. These are meant to absorb the impact of a fall and protect the phone, but since they weren't good quality, they couldn't do their job. This made me realise how important it is to protect the things we value.

But do you know what's much more precious than a phone? Your life! Your life is a wonderful gift from Jesus, who loves you so much. He wants you to be holy and pure, just like Him. But just like a phone needs a good case and screen protector, we need to guard our souls from harm. Without protection, we can fall into temptations and sin, which makes Jesus verv sad.

So, how can we protect our souls? Here are a few ways:

- 1. Prayer: St Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16 to pray continually. That means we can talk to Jesus anytime, anywhere! Say little prayers like. Thank You, Jesus, or I love You, Jesus, throughout the day. Prayer is like a shield for your soul.
- 2. Holy Mass: Do you go to Mass only on Sundays? Why not try going during the week too? Bring your family along and spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist. It's like recharging your soul with His love!
- **3. Confession:** If you've already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. make it a habit to go regularly. Going to confession every two weeks is a great way to keep your soul clean and pure.
- **4. Bible Reading:** The Bible is full of God's promises and wisdom. Try reading a little bit every day, even just one paragraph. It's like food for your soul, helping you grow closer to Jesus.

By practising these spiritual habits, we can keep our souls holy, pure. and protected from harm. Just like a good phone case protects your phone, prayer, Mass, confession, and reading the Bible protect your soul.

Remember, Jesus loves you more than anything in the world. He wants you to be happy and close to Him. So, let's guard our souls and stay pure, just like He wants us to be.

Jesus loves you! Happy reading!



Nobin Jose, Singapore

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JESUS make me Yours

- RYAN ECKELKAMP » 16 YRS



S LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I've been Catholic. My parents have been practicing Catholics before my birth, but I'd never actually felt connected to God. It always felt like God would never act in my life, and I felt like I had been forgotten by God because of my mental health condition - that was until my confirmation retreat. I went for the retreat with an open mind but didn't expect anything to come from it. The weather really couldn't have been worse. It was cold, cloudy, and raining the whole time. Additionally, I had been going through a really hard time with my mental health and felt lonely; the miserable weather only compounded this. So during the retreat I just felt worse and worse. That is until adoration. When I walked into the building, just a small stage with a portable altar surrounded by a concrete floor, I felt like sitting up in the front, which I rarely do. Before we started adoration, a brother gave a talk. He spoke about going deeper into faith and how it isn't easy, and this really resonated with me. Towards the end of his talk, as he was preparing us to go into adoration,

I was completely in the love of God, and His hand was on my back. Ever since then, I've understood that God is present in everyone's lives, and He forgets no one.

he asked us to think about what we wanted to ask God for. I knew what I wanted to ask Him: I didn't want to feel lonely anymore. That very moment I asked God - while the brother was still speaking, I immediately noticed that the loneliness I was so used to, was completely gone. This made me overjoyed, and I couldn't wait for adoration to start. When it did, I felt completely at peace, and I decided that I wanted to spend adoration praising God. So I did, and I repeated a phrase to myself all the while: 'Jesus, make me yours.' At one point during the adoration, someone prayed over me. In doing so, she put her hand on my back, but when she took her hand off, I still felt it there. I checked behind me in shock, and on seeing no one there, I broke down in tears.





She stood weeping at Jesus' feet, and began

to bathe his feet

with her tears

and to dry them

with her hair.

Then she anointed

his feet with the

perfume.

JESUS ANOINTED BY A SINFUL WOMAN

Jesus was invited by one of the Pharisees to his house to have dinner, so he went to the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table.

(LUKE 7:36-50)

A woman in that town, who lived a sinful life, learned that Jesus was there, so she came with an alabaster jar of perfume.

When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself.

If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is – that she is a sinner.



Jesus spoke up and said to him.

Simon, I have something to tell you.



Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?



I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.

You have judged correctly.





I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but this woman bathed my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but this woman has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.

The Jesus turned to the

woman and said:



The other guests began to murmur.

Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in

peace.



STORY: SR. SUMA THOMAS CSM

ILLUSTRATIONS: SOOSANNA JAXON

Returning to the Fairer's Love



hile finding treats in pastel wicker baskets is a good and exciting thing, it isn't the greater good we should be seeking on Easter morning. What is this 'greater good'?

The answer isn't what but Who.

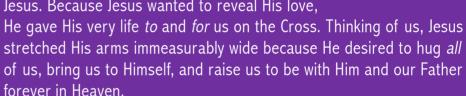
God is the *greatest* good because He is Goodness Himself!

I'd like you to imagine that you're putting on the mind of Christ. Think back to the story in St Luke's Gospel of the prodigal son and his father. In this parable, the younger son asks for his portion of his father's goods. The son then leaves home and wastes all he has been given. This is why the younger son is called 'prodigal,' meaning he does not use his wealth wisely. When the son realises that he no longer has the money to support

himself, he trusts his father's mercy and returns to him. You would expect his father to be quite mad. Maybe the son would get punished — perhaps no dessert for a whole week!

But that doesn't happen. The father joyously *runs* to his son, who 'was lost and now is found,' hugging and kissing him. The father is so happy that his son has returned that the son receives a ring, a robe, the fattened calf for the celebration, and shoes as gifts!

This is what Easter is all about. God shows us who He is: a patient and gentle Father who waits for His prodigal children to return to His Love — to return to Him. Instead of giving us a ring, a fancy robe, shoes, and the fattened calf, God gives us Someone better: His very self through His Son, Jesus. God loves us so, so much that, while we were still lost in our sin and couldn't recognise His presence in our lives, He gave us Jesus. Because Jesus wanted to reveal His love,



Do you remember what Jesus says?

'No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' That doesn't necessarily mean having to shed your blood for

the Faith, but it does mean following Jesus with your whole heart by being kind to your friends and family, helping people in need, giving food to the poor, praying for yourself, the Church, and the world, and letting God's love guide you.

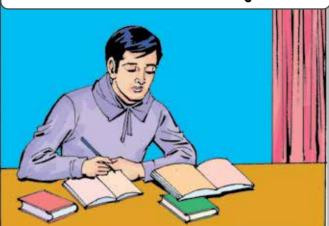
May your hearts be raised with Christ this Easter, and may His love shine through your kind words and good deeds!



ST JOHN NEUMANN

Part 2

Neumann entered the seminary of the Diocese of Budweis on 1 November 1831. He enjoyed his studies and received excellent grades.



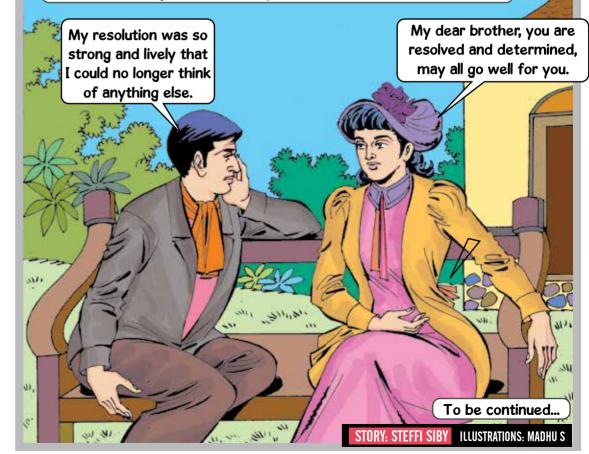
John and his friend Adalbert were inspired by a lecture given by the seminary director on St Paul's missionary activities. They wanted to dedicate their life to missionary life after seminary and they heard that priests were needed in America. I want to be a I am going with you. missionary in America!

John went to the University of Prague and hoped to learn English there as preparation for America. By the end of his time there, Neumann was able to use German, Czech, French, English, Spanish, and Italian, as well as Latin and Greek. His mastery of languages would greatly help him to do God's work.



Everyone who breathes, high and low, educated and ignorant, young and old, man and woman, has a mission, has a work. God sees every one of us; He creates every soul . . . for a purpose. As Christ has His work, we too have ours; as He rejoiced to do His work, we must rejoice in ours also.

There were many obstacles in John's pursuit of missionary work in America. His bishop decided there would be no more ordinations as they had a high number of priests already. His family was against his desire to go to America, apart from his sister Veronica.



12 KAIROS BUDS



Strength

Dear Diary,

Today I had a swimming competition but I hadn't practised for it in a long time since school had been too hectic. I only had two days to practise and I didn't have much hope of winning anything because the other kids at the meet had had months of preparation.

When we left home in the morning, I was nervous but my father reassured me that I just needed to do my best. I had five events to compete in. After the first event, I found out that I'd come last and felt terribly disheartened. Though I was certain I wouldn't make it to top three, I never thought I'd end last. So, as I sat wondering whether I should pull out of the other events, I heard a voice from somewhere. My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the strength of my heart and portion.

Immediately, I looked around but there was nobody nearby. So I just closed my eyes and prayed to God, offering the rest of my events to Him. When I looked up, I felt happy and free. And I knew that as long as I swam for God, the results would not matter.

When my next event was announced, I went and swam. When I finished the race and turned around, I saw that I was not last. My Dad was already at the finish line, congratulating me - I came second! For a moment, I didn't believe him but then my competitors came up and congratulated me too! Over the next three events, I won first, second, and third! I won four medals and was so happy! When I came home, I thanked God for what He had done. I realised that even though I had not practised, it had been God who gave me the strength to win.

Do you have a faith experience you'd like to share for this page? Send it to us at kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org with your

My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the strength of my heart and portion forever. (Psalm 73:26)

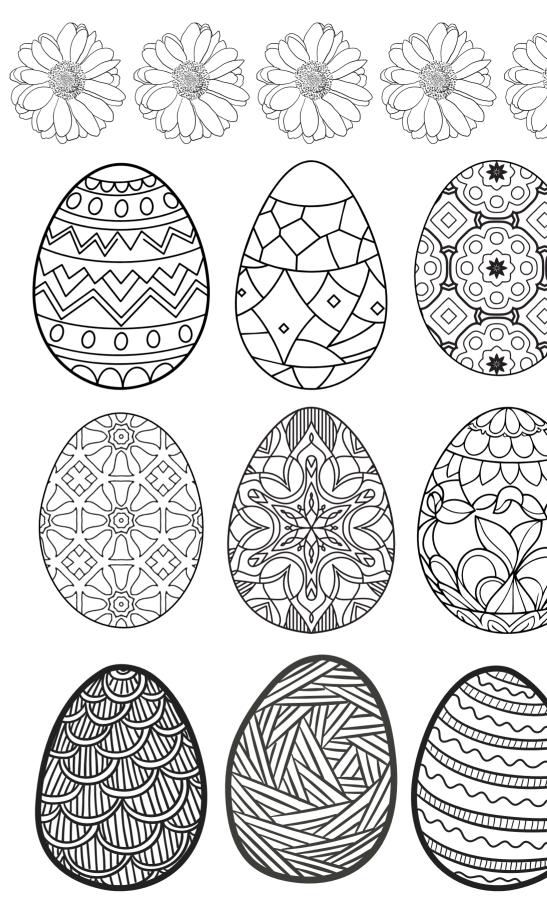
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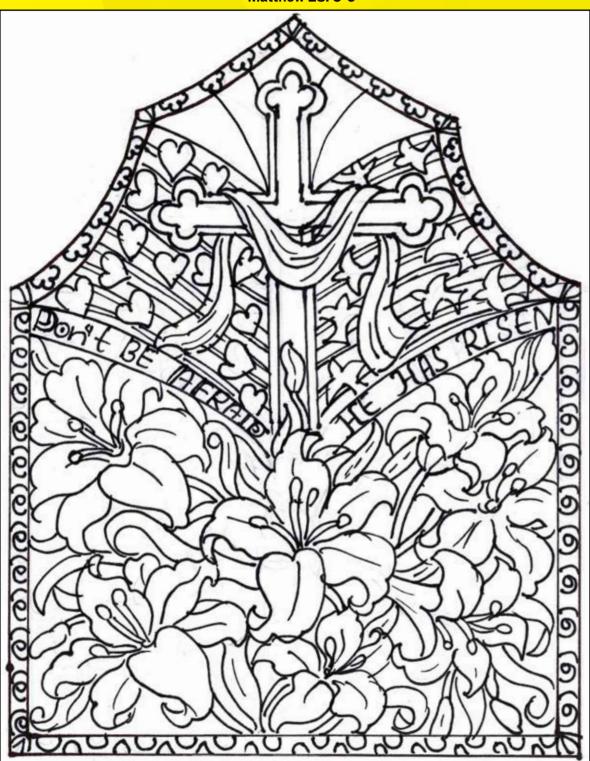






'Learn and Colour'

Don't be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just like He said! **Matthew 28: 5-6**

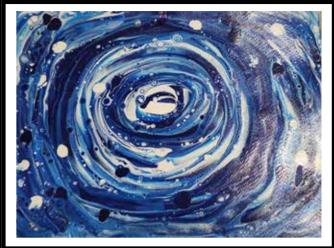




ELANA MARIA NEBIN » 6 YRS » GERMANY

SITHARA ARUN » 11 YRS » DALLAS, USA





RACHEL IGNATIUS » 5 YRS » KOCHI, INDIA









EPHREM THOMAS BEN » 10 YRS » AUSTRALIA



Art and articles can be sent by email to kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org. Please include full name, age, place/country.

























































Step 1: Fold the A4 sheet as instructed.

Step 2: Cut out church doors and windows from black paper.

Step 3: Create window panes by sticking torn colour papers.

Step 4: Assemble doors and windows.

Step 5: Craft a paper cross using black paper.

Step 6: Attach the cross to the paper clip.











Thick A4 sheet (white

• Wooden craft paper clip

preferred)

 Scissors Gum

Colour papers





22 KAIROS BUDS



HOLY -DRJOSEPH SEBASTIAN SATURDAY The Toughest Day

Holy Week is the most important week in the Christian calendar, leading up to Easter Sunday. It includes Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday – each marking a significant part of Jesus' journey to the Cross and His resurrection.

RELATING HOLY WEEK TO OUR LIVES

Holy Week isn't just about remembering Jesus' journey – it reflects our own life experiences.

Jesus' Journey	Our Life Experiences	Our Feelings
Maundy Thursday (The Last Supper, Eucharist)	Our big days — birthdays, graduation, achievements	Excitement, joy, surrounded by people
Good Friday (Suffering and crucifixion)	Struggles, failures, betrayals, hardships	Painful but not alone – some support, some criticism
Holy Saturday (Jesus in the tomb)	Times of loneliness, uncertainty, depression	The hardest — feeling lost, no answers, no support
Easter Sunday (Resurrection)	Success after struggles, breakthroughs	Joy, celebration, and people cheering us on

HOLY SATURDAY

In comparison to all the days of the Holy Week, Holy Saturday is most often overlooked, but it holds deep meaning. It's a day of silence, waiting, and reflection before the joy of Easter. Generally, it is:

A Quiet Day

No Mass, churches remain solemn.

A Day of Preparation – Homes and churches are cleaned for Easter.

A Day of Fasting – The final day of fasting and Easter vigil.

The Easter vigil – A special nighttime service with candlelight, prayers, and celebration.

THE CHALLENGE OF HOLY SATURDAY EXPERIENCES IN **OUR LIFE**

From among all the four special days, the deeper meaning, connections and linkages that Holy Saturday has to our life, as shared above, is rarely considered.

Good Friday experiences are the most painful that we generally speak off – with struggles,

failures, betrayals, and hardships.

We also focus more on the Easter experiences coming after Good Friday, often missing the Holy Saturday in between – the process each person has to go through. To reach Easter after Good Friday, we have to go through the Holy Saturday experiences: times of loneliness, uncertainty, the toughest being of feeling lost, no answers and no support. It's when:

- We feel abandoned, lost, and confused.
- No one seems to understand or help.

Yet, this is where true faith and trust in God matter the most. Can we endure these moments without losing hope? Can we say, Thy will be done, O Lord, even when we don't understand? A priest once told me: 'Joseph, just go to church and, in silence, look at the Cross. The Cross will enlighten you.' So, the next time you feel like you're in a Good Friday moment brace for the Holy Saturday season too. Not to be worried or disturbed but hopeful.



- 1. Trust in God's Purpose Romans 8:28.
- 2. Pray Honestly Psalm 42:11.
- 3. Rely on God's Strength Isaiah 41:10
- 4. Look to the Eternal Hope Revelation 21:4.

REMEMBER

Easter is coming. Hold on. Trust in Him. Amen.





With four cousins, the cool and beautiful village and all that space to play, Grace Acres was Kevin's favourite place too.

Key, there is a reason, but Dad and I cannot say anything more right now." Mom said.

But I don't see why I can't go along with Lizzie! It's not like I have things to do here!

Kev, if it makes you feel better, I'll be helping Aunt Tessa and Uncle Kenneth at the farm most of the time, said Lizzie trying to placate Kevin.

A few days later, Lizzie left for Grace Acres. To make matters unbearable for Kevin, nearly all of his football-playing friends left for vacations too.



These holidays are the worst! Kevin grumbled to himself as he took Buddy for a walk in the park, one evening. After a couple of rounds around the park, and with Buddy tired too, Kevin sat down on the bench near the football pitch. The kids playing there were all younger than him. After watching them for some time, Kevin realised that the kids were not familiar with the basic skills. Though they were trying to play the game, there was some confusion. Seeing a boy he recognised from school, Kevin walked up to them.

> 'Hi Jeremy!' 'Oh! Hi Kevin!' Jeremy responded with a

'I was just watching you all play. But it looks like you all could do with some practising the basics, Kevin said. Actually, we were hoping to have Olly give us some lessons, but his family have all gone on vacation.

Yeah, I know, Kevin replied. Oliver - Olly to all his football mates - was one of Kevin's friends.

Hey, you know what, Jeremy, I can help you guys out. I have to walk my dog in the evenings anyway, so after that I can coach vou all.

Really?! That would be awesome, Kevin!" Great, see you guys tomorrow then!



At dinner that evening.

'All okay, Kev?' Dad asked, smiling.

Yeah, Dad. Things won't be that bad after all. I'm going to be helping the kids in the park with their football."

That's wonderful, Kevin.' Mom said. 'See, things eventually turn out for good."

And you will soon have some company here too, said Dad. Your friend from Akanyo, Mathias Kato will be coming here on a student exchange programme. He'll be staying with us for a little while.

Really, Dad?!"

'So now you know why we couldn't send you to Grace Acres with Lizzie! Mom said, laughing.



26 KAIROS BUDS KAIROS **BUDS 27**

THE WINGFEATHER SAGA

- ANNA-CLAIRE ANTHRAPER » 13 YRS

have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1 reminds us of how much our Heavenly Father knows and loves us. Names play a pivotal role in our life; they provide us with an identity and give us belongingness. The Wingfeather Saga, an award-winning book series written by the gifted author and recording artist Andrew Peterson, tells an amazing story, perfectly portraying an adventure fantasy series for kids, as well as providing a deep insight into how each of our names is intrinsic to our identity.

Set in the fantasy world of Aerwiar, the series follows the three Igiby siblings, Janner, Kalmar (nicknamed Tink), and Leeli. Janner is the eldest and has always felt the responsibility of taking care of his younger siblings. Gifted in the 'Form of Word,' he is a steady, caring, and trustworthy brother who takes his role in the family seriously. Tink is quite different, always jumping headfirst into trouble, inadvertently dragging his siblings along with him. Underneath the reckless exterior, however, he is a boy who loves his family more than anything. Leeli is the youngest, and a gifted musician. Crippled in one leg, she hops around on her crutches as quickly as the boys and brings joy to the family with her sweet voice singing lullabies.

The children's mother, Nia, is with them at

all times, through all their adventures, loving and caring for them. Their grandfather, the ex-pirate Podo Helmer, protects them with a vigour and spirit that lasts to the very end. Together, the lgibys brave the wrath of the fearsome Fangs of Dang who are out to catch them on the orders of the Nameless One. As they travel north through the continent of Skree and across the Dark Sea, they encounter deadly toothy-cows, the mystical king of the dragons, a camp of back-stabbing stranders, and hundreds of Fangs.

Through all these adventures one thing remains true – the steadfast love between the siblings. The connection between them, and their ability to communicate over long distances may be due to their heritage, or to the magic gifted to the Jewels of Anniera. But, in the end, it is their devotion to each other that keeps them together.

The fact that we have names proves that someone cared so much about us; they show that we are loved. At the start of the series Tink is unreliable and is prone to running away. However, as the book progresses, he transforms into a trustworthy boy, worthy of the

kingly name of Kalmar. On the other end is

kingly name of Kalmar. On the other end is the Nameless One, who gave himself the name of Gnag; abandoned and unnamed at birth, he bears a hatred for all around him, grudging others the love shown to them at birth that gave them a name. But God, in His heavenly majesty and power, is at work in Aerwair as well, under the guise of The Maker, and calls to Himself the broken and perfect alike.



This story is a masterfully crafted maze of family, treachery, magic, wars, dragons, and above all the strong love which binds the Igibys together even when they are hundreds of miles apart. The Wingfeather Saga may seem like any other fantasy book, but under the light and funny exterior lies a story with a true heart and good morals that can influence and change our understanding of stories for the better.

CRYPTOGRAM

Can you decipher the words that are in code using the below clues?

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Word Search

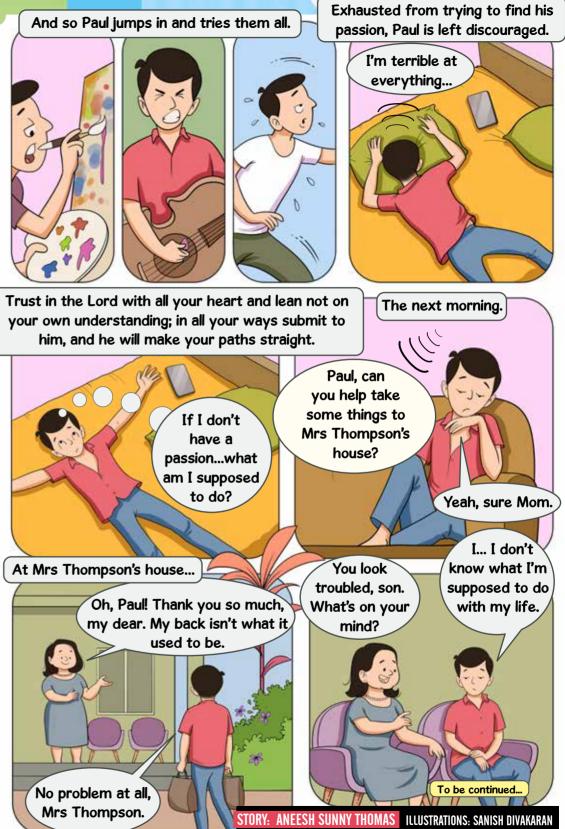
Find the words you solved in cryptogram from the grid below.

Z	L	Е	R	X	C	V	В	N	М	L	K	J	Н	G
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your passion, you'll

just know! It'll feel
like magic!



KID CATHOPEDIA Catholic Encyclopedia for kids!

Barnabas

Greek: Βαρνάβας | MEANING: Son of Encouragement

Barnabas was an early Christian disciple and missionary. He played a crucial role in spreading the Gospel and supporting the Apostle Paul.



Barnabas was not his original name! His real name was Joseph, but the apostles called him Barnabas because he was always encouraging others (Acts 4:36).



Just like Barnabas encouraged the early Christians, we too can be encouragers in our daily lives.

A kind word, a helping hand, or simply being there for a friend can make a big difference. Encouraging others strengthens friendships, builds confidence, and spreads God's love!

MATCHING PAIRS

Match the correct description with the name. Draw lines to connect them!

Column A

- Barnabas
- Paul
- Mark
- Apostles

Column B

- Travelled with Barnabas and later wrote one of the Gospels.
- Barnabas' missionary companion who wrote many letters in the New Testament.
- Gave Barnabas his nickname because of his encouragement.
- Sold his land and gave the money to help the early Church.



D -4 'A -5 'B -2 'G -L :19wsu

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