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CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

God has a dream for the world where all forms of life exist together in harmony and have their own beautiful and special purpose. All human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. This means we can think, learn, love, make choices, laugh and enjoy life. We have also been given the special task of caring for all creation.

GOD CREATED US TO LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY, TO ENJOY THE WONDERS OF CREATION, AND TO RELATE PERSONALLY TO A LOVING GOD.



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION PROVIDES US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESTORE RELATIONSHIPS AND THE ORIGINAL STATE OF BLESSING CREATED BY GOD.

QUESTIONS

What does it mean when we say that all creatures should exist in harmony?

What are some of the things that make humans different from other creatures?

USING THE BIBLE

Read Genesis 1:27-31.

What are some of the creatures God has given to us?

How are we to act towards other creatures and the beauty of creation?

Write out verse 31.

This verse tells us about God's understanding of all of creation.

Write a prayer to God giving thanks for creation, with human beings as part of that creation.

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

Go to page 11 and complete Activity 1.

WE MAKE CHOICES

Because we have been created in God's image, we have the ability to think and choose. As we grow in understanding, we learn that each choice has a consequence.



GOOD CHOICES

Good choices result in positive outcomes. They strengthen friendships, build trust and confidence, and strengthen family and community life.

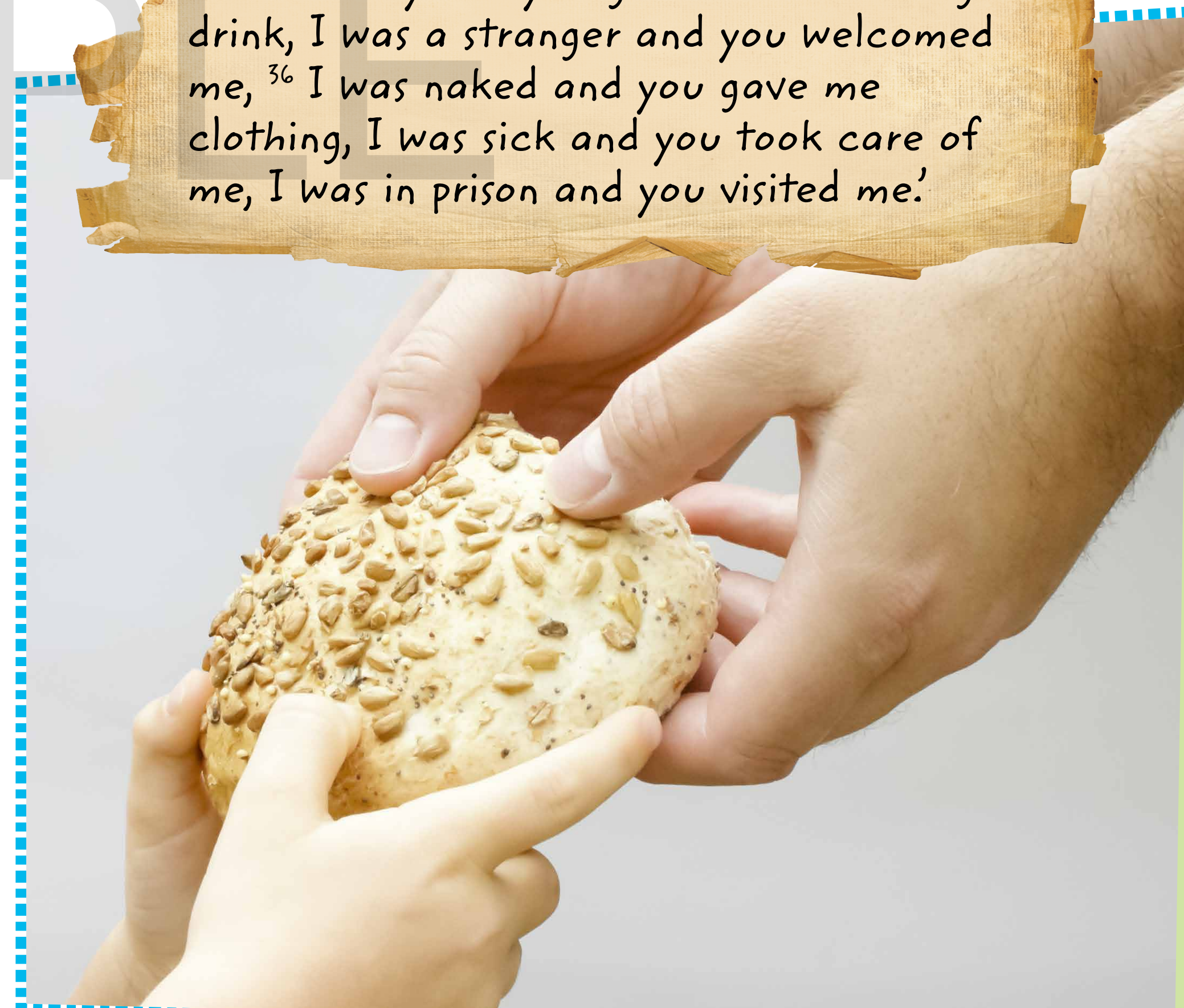


POOR CHOICES

Poor choices lead to disappointment, sometimes broken relationships, a lack of peace, feelings of hurt, anger, brokenness and resentment.

Jesus challenges his disciples and lets them know what they must do to be his true followers. What Jesus expects of his followers is that they treat all people with respect and understanding. Jesus even goes so far as to say that when we do good things for another person, *he is that other person.*

³⁵ 'for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'



QUESTIONS

How do we know we have made a good choice?

How do we know when we have made a poor choice?

What might be some of the consequences of a poor choice?

USING THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 25:35–36 and 25:40

What are some of the practical ways we can be of service to people in need?

What kinds of human need does Jesus talk about in this story?

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

Go to page 24 and complete Activity 2