

# 1 Hear Hope

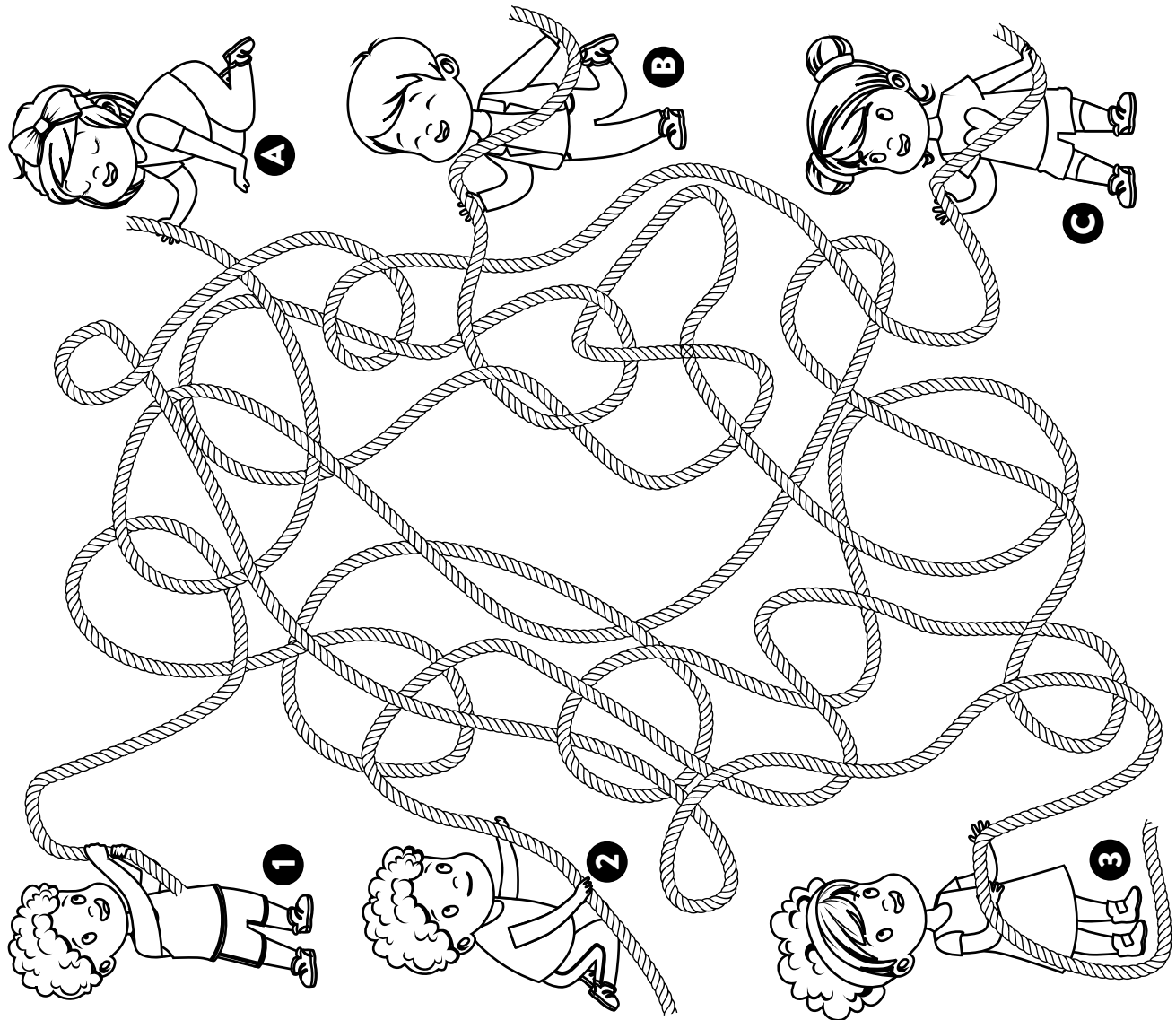
## WAYS TO PRACTICE HEARING HOPE AT HOME

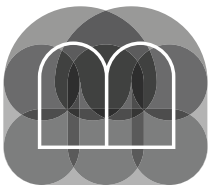
In Hebrew the word for *hope* and *rope* are the same word—*tikvah*. The image of a rope keeps us connected and holding on to the hope we find in God. We hear hope in the stories of God's actions with God's people and the hope it then gives others.

- Read some stories about God's promises in a Bible storybook. Check out the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, Moses and Miriam, and the many other brave women and men in *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible* (Flyaway Books, 2018). Watch the YouTube video "Promises Worship Video" ([bit.ly/FMPromisesDance](https://bit.ly/FMPromisesDance), 2:52). Dance and sing along to the hope you hear!
- A question that may be asked at the end of the day or week is, "Where have you seen God today (or this week)?" Instead of seeing, talk together about where you have *heard* hope today (or this week). Have you *heard* hope in the stories that friends tell you? Have you *heard* hope in the news of your neighborhood or city, our country, or the world? How can you be someone who helps others *hear* hope?
- Listen to music you like. Where do you hear hope in the tune or the words? Listen to music you don't usually listen to and ask yourselves the same question. Wonder together how we can hear the hope others hear in the music they like.

God of hope, open our ears to your words of hope, spoken through Scripture, heard on the voices of others, and sometimes in places we don't expect. Amen.

These children are offering their ropes of hope to each other. Can you find the pairs?





## BIBLE STORY

Based on Joshua 2

Long ago, there was a woman named Rahab. She lived in Jericho.

One evening, Rahab heard a knock on her door. When she opened it, two men she didn't know were standing there. She could tell by how they were dressed that they weren't from the city.

"You must be the Hebrew people that we've heard so much about," she said. "We've heard how God parted the sea for you and has been with you in many battles."

"Please hide us," the men said. "Our leader, Joshua, sent us to the city to see if we would be welcome in Jericho, but the king heard and now he is after us."

Rahab thought about what she had heard about the Hebrew people. Her life was hard in Jericho. Perhaps it would be better with these people of God. She decided to help these spies. She took them up to the roof and hid them under the grain she was drying there.

Just then, there was a booming knock on the door. A group of soldiers sent from the king were standing on her doorstep. They said to her, "Bring out the men who have come. They have come to spy on us and learn how to beat us in battle."

Rahab decided to protect the spies with hope for a better life for herself and her family. She said, "True, the men came to me, but they ran away before the gate closed. I don't know where they went, but if you hurry, you may be able to catch them."

The soldiers left. After they were gone, Rahab went to the men and helped them escape over the wall of the city by using a red rope. Before they left, she made them promise that they would save her and all of her family when they came back.

The men agreed and told her to hang the same red rope in her window so that they would remember the promise they made to her.

Did they keep their promise? Did Rahab begin living with the Hebrew people? Our answer is in the beginning of Jesus' story. In the first chapter of Matthew, there is a long list of Jesus' ancestors, and Rahab's name is there in verse 15! Rahab's hope became part of Jesus' family. And Jesus is the hope of the whole world.

