Have you heard the saying, “He bought it for a song?” It means for far less than what the item is worth. Songbirds on the Indonesian island of Java are being trapped. That is against the law. People buy the caught birds. They want the birds to win money in singing contests. Will Java be able to protect its wild songbirds? Psalm 104:12 reminds us that the birds of the heavens sing among the branches. Stop and listen for those songs.
It is time to garden.

Ready? Set. Grow!
Friends share seeds.
Neighbors lend tools.
Gardeners give tips.
Do you have one?

Stores are selling out of flowers, vegetable plants, soil, and seeds. Why? People are planting. Victory gardens are back. They were popular during World War I. Gardens cheered people up during times of war. They provided fresh food. Gardens cheer us up too. Gardeners share photos of their yards. They pass along gardening tips. Gardens remind us that God makes all things grow. **Genesis 1:11** says, “And God said, ‘Let the Earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the Earth.’ And it was so.”

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Malcolm Evans works at a farm in the city of Chicago. It provides food for people in need.

AP Photos
The Hu family runs the Royal Palace café in a small town in the Netherlands. Sometimes it is hard to get help. Mr. Hu bought two waiter robots. He says they can carry drinks and dishes to and from the tables. That will free human waiters to help with customers. Maybe Mr. Hu’s diners will think of good names for the robots. You may have people in your church who are called “deacons.” That word in Greek also means “waiter” or “servant.” Read Acts 6:1-7 to learn about the first deacons.
How many silly mistakes can you find? Describe them.
What is the Moon made of? We cannot see. Mapmakers used old and new pictures taken from space. They added color. Bedrock is tan. Craters are purple. Plains are blue. Lava is red.
Look at all that water!

The Sea of Galilee is full again. Water laps against the sand. Trees stick out of the water. That looks silly!

But no one can see the trees. Everyone is at home.

The Sea of Galilee is in Israel. It is also called Lake Kinneret. Winter rains filled the lake. It hasn’t had so much water in twenty years! The lake is full. But its beaches are empty. They are closed. No one can see the full lake for now. Jesus spent time by the Sea of Galilee. Remember when He calmed the lake’s stormy waves? “And He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?’ Then He rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm,” says Matthew 8:26.

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Everyone needs a friend to talk to. Some older adults are lonely. They can’t go out like they used to. A phone call cheers them up. Volunteers make the calls. They don’t want anyone to be lonely. What do they talk about? Everything! People talk about their hobbies. They talk about vacations and happy memories. “I get off the phone with a smile,” says one volunteer. Psalm 94:19 says, “When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.”

These two ladies are new friends. They met with a phone call. Dell Kaplan must stay home. She gets lonely. Then Holly Ryckman calls her. They chit-chat. The phone calls make both ladies smile.
Listen to the sentences. Call out the rhyming words that finish each one.

1) I see a gas **pump** next to a tree ____.
2) The pump has a **nose** instead of a ____.
3) Instead of a **price** I see a pair of ____.
4) Standing on the **trunk** is a smelly ____.
5) On the **hood** is a pile of ____.
6) The **lights** are covered by two green ____.
7) Look, flames! One **tire** is on ____.
8) I see a wooden **oar** sticking out of the ____.
9) Instead of a **handle**, there hangs a ____.
10) I see **feet** on the passenger ____.
11) On the driver’s **hat** sits a little brown ____.
12) Instead of a **tie**, the driver is wearing a ____.

**Rhyming Words:**
- pie
- kites
- dice
- candle
- seat
- skunk
- wood
- bat
- door
- hose
- fire
- stump
It is hidden treasure!

Spring comes. Lake Michigan’s ice melts. And the near-freezing water is clear as can be. A Coast Guard helicopter flew over the lake. What did the crew see on the lake’s bottom? Shipwrecks!

Lake Michigan’s clear water clouds up as summer temperatures rise. Algae blooms and other events make it hard to see the lake’s bottom. That’s why the Coast Guard crew took photos of the five wrecked ships they saw in April. Experts say there could be about 1,500 shipwrecks in Lake Michigan waters! Most sank 80 to 100 years ago during the stormy months of October and November. Read Acts 27 to learn what being in a ship during a bad storm is like. The Apostle Paul was in that wreck.

United States Coast Guard

Scientists count bugs. They have bad news. More bugs were flying on Earth 30 years ago. The insect population [pop-you-LAY-shun] is shrinking. Cities are growing and bugs are losing their habitats. God created insects. Read Genesis 1:24. “And God said, ‘Let the Earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the Earth according to their kinds.’ And it was so.” Insects pollinate crops to help them grow. They flit and flutter to spread pollen among plants. How many bees and butterflies have you seen lately?
Christine Reynolds is a librarian in California. She filled her car with books. People could check out a new book at her car. Janelle Will lives in a small town in Michigan. She has a little free library. She keeps it full and germ-free. Visitors can take a book or leave a book—or both. Some people also put puzzles, games, and toys into their little libraries.

The Apostle Paul reminded the elders in Ephesus that Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than receive.” Read Acts 20:35.
It’s kind to lend a hand. Match each shadow shape to a person. Put letters from each correct match in the blank circles. The circles spell two words. What are they?

*An example is done for you.*
People are on the lookout.

Asian giant hornets hitched a ride to Washington last year. They are BIG pests.

The hornets are two inches long. Their heads are huge. And they gobble up whole hives of bees at a time. These hornets must go.

Scientists at Washington State University asked all people in the state to look out for the big hornets. But they should be careful. The hornets’ stingers can go through most beekeeper suits. And the pests kill bees. Farmers need bees to pollinate apple, blueberry, and cherry crops. Scientists want to trap the hornet queens. The other hornets will die without a queen. The prophet Isaiah compared swarming bees to the armies that would bring God’s judgment on His people. Read Isaiah 7:18.
The test flight was a success.

Pilots took the VSS Unity spaceship for a spin. It blasted off the ground. It glided through the air. The spaceship landed back on the ground. Its quick trip was great!

A carrier plane took the small spaceship high up into the sky. The VSS Unity glided through the clouds. It soared almost as fast as the speed of sound. What a great test flight! Virgin Galactic plans to give people quick, fun trips to space soon. What a wonderful way to see God’s creation. Psalm 148:3 says, “Praise Him, Sun and Moon, praise Him, all you shining stars!”
The Girl with a Pearl Earring is a mystery.

Scientists did a scan of the old painting. They found that the girl has eyelashes!

A curtain behind her is green. The earring’s dab of white was painted last.

But they still don’t know: Who was that girl?

Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer did this painting 355 years ago. Scientists recently took scans of it. They learned that Vermeer started with brown and black paint. He drew the girl’s outline in black on a green background. Then he painted her skin, jacket, collar, headscarf, and the pearl. But we do not know the girl’s name. Isaiah 43:1 comforts us with this: “But now thus says the Lord, ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.’”
Trace each gray letter as you find it in the picture.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Elephants make the long journey to their village. They are going home. These elephants are out of a job. They are un-employed. Tourists are gone. Elephant parks are closed. The elephants must go home. People in the villages will take care of them.

A big thirst! The elephants take a break to get a drink from a creek in Thailand.

They are going home.

These elephants are out of a job. They are un-employed. Tourists are gone. Elephant parks are closed. The elephants must go home. People in the villages will take care of them.

Tourists aren’t coming to Thailand to see elephants. Animal camps can’t afford to feed the big animals. So caretakers are marching hundreds of elephants home. Villagers are glad their elephants are back. The elephants make happy noises. They run to the creek. They have fun with village children. Home is the best place for the elephants. God gave Adam the big job of naming all the animals. Genesis 2:19 says, “And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.”
Scientists’ plans hit a snag.

The Arctic Ocean. A big ship. Icy cold. Polar bears. Dark nights. Scientists got used to these. But it was time to go home.

The new crew was stuck in Germany. Doctors had to be sure no one had the virus.

The German research ship Polarstern has been in the Arctic Ocean since last September. Scientists onboard study the ocean and climate there. Many of those people were set to go home in April. Then the coronavirus hit. New scientists and crew were ready replacements. But they needed to wait in Germany. No one with the virus would be allowed to go.

Hebrews 13:8 reminds us, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” We need not fear changes in our plans.
Kids in and around Homer, Alaska, were stuck at home like you this spring. Librarian Claudia Haines had an idea: Read stories over the radio. Station KBBI’s engineer helped. And Thursday story hour was on the air. Little kids, bigger kids, moms, and dads all listened in. The children could call the station at the end. They could say, “Hi!” or “Happy Birthday!” to friends. \textit{It is right to look to the interests of others. It is what Jesus does. Read Philippians 2:4.}
Can you find 13 differences. Is something missing or a different color or shape? Tally the differences here.
How many birds are there?

Wow! There are flamingos everywhere. They are big and pink. They stretch their long necks. The birds are happy in the quiet lagoon. Shhhhh! These birds like peaceful water.

Flamingos are spreading their wings over the Narta Lagoon in Albania. The calm lagoon is perfect for the pink birds. There aren’t cars honking or people talking. The lagoon isn’t crowded with people. It is crowded with flamingo feathers! It is hard to count all the birds at the Narta Lagoon. But God knows exactly how many there are. “I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine,” says Psalm 50:11.
Did you visit a national park this summer?

All parks closed in March. People needed to stay safe. But parks began to reopen in May. Folks who visited Bryce Canyon kept the rules. Many did not at the Great Smokies park.

Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah opened to hikers on April 30. Not many people came. And those who did were careful. The picture was a bit different on May 11 at Great Smoky Mountain National Park. It’s on the border between North Carolina and Tennessee. Parking lots were packed. Lines of cars snaked through the park. Many people did not wear masks. Philippians 2:4 is a good reminder to all of us. “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
It’s a library for mothers.

This library stores sourdough [SOW-er-doh] bread starters. Each is called a “mother.” Starter makes bread rise. No two are alike.

Karl De Smet tends this library. A baker might spoil his own supply. He can get a glob from his “mother” at the library.

This library is in St. Vith, Belgium. It holds 125 sourdough starters. All are kept in a refrigerator. Yeast is bacteria (teeny living things made by God). Yeast helps bread rise. Long-ago bakers began with a mixture of flour and water. That mixture captured wild yeast from the air—and from the bakers’ hands. The starter got passed down from mother to child. Yeast leavens (makes to rise) bread. Matthew 13:33 says, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it all was leavened.”
Find 10 differences between the two racing pictures. Describe each one. Make a tally mark in the red box for each one.
Storm season has come.

Summer is time for hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean. Strong wind blows. Rain pounds. Water rises.

The same kind of storm happens in the Indian Ocean. It is called a cyclone. A powerful one hit India in May.

A hurricane forms over warm ocean water. Warm, wet air rises. Soon clouds form. They begin to spin and blow toward land. Atlantic hurricanes usually hit the United States between June 1 and November 30 each year. But the first storm this year (named “Arthur”) came in May.

Cyclones form in the North Indian Ocean from March to December. Cyclone Amphan battered India, also in May. Psalm 135:7 tells us that God “brings forth the wind from His storehouses.”

AP Photos
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Where do bison roam?

Big, hairy bison once roamed our country. There were millions. Only thousands live in the West now.

About 200 soon will have new homes. They will move from Colorado to North Dakota.

Almost all of those long-ago bison were hunted and killed. Eleven thousand wild bison live on public lands today. Two hundred of them will be sent to the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. Others will live at North Dakota’s Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Bison once provided food and clothing to Native Americans. They are part of Indian traditions. Colossians 1:16 reminds us that “by [Jesus] all things were created in heaven and on Earth.”
French artist Guillaume Legros goes by the name “Saype.” He painted “Beyond Crisis” in Switzerland. A girl is looking out over the mountains. The chalk children around her are holding hands and dancing. The painting seems to say that there is hope after the virus. The paint is made from chalk, water, and milk proteins. It is meant to melt away.

Isaiah 40:8 reminds us, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”
What happened first? Plans were drawn. Number 1 is circled. What happened next? Circle the right number to put the pictures in order.
It’s old and new at the same time.

Old news. U.S. astronauts flew into space. Russian rockets took them.

New news. SpaceX built a rocket. It blasted off from Florida in May. Two astronauts were onboard. No other U.S. rocket has shot into space for nine years.

Only governments (China, Russia, the United States) have sent people into space until now. And NASA astronauts had not lifted off from the United States for nine years. That’s when private companies like SpaceX began making rockets. Astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken arrived safely at the International Space Station. Their stay will last for up to 110 days. Psalm 19:1 reminds us, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.”
How tall is that mountain?

A team from China is climbing to the top of Mt. Everest. The team has many questions. How deep is the snow? How fast is the wind? How tall is the mountain? The team will find out.

Exactly how tall is Everest? China sent a team to the top. The group will use satellites to measure the mountain. Scientists will study the mountain’s resources. It’s a good time for the team to climb Everest. The mountain is empty. China and Nepal closed Everest to other climbers. It will open again. Would you like to climb it one day?

Remember that God made Mt. Everest. “The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place that you appointed for them,” says Psalm 104:8.

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Arianna Sacripante and her teammates have Down syndrome. They do synchronized swimming in Rome, Italy. They all swim, dance, and do acrobatic routines in the water at the same time. They were going to perform in Japan this summer. Synchronized swimming is not an Olympic sport yet. This team wants to show the world that it should be. It wants to compete in the Paralympics. Hardships teach us to be like Jesus. Romans 5:4-5 says, “Endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame.”

Arianna is on a swim team. It was to perform after the Olympics this summer. The coronavirus changed those plans. The girls practice at home. They will keep at it. They will show the world what Down swimmers can do—next year.
These birds are flying all directions. Look at the compass.

Color each bird for the direction it is flying, like this: