

Bright Germs for His crown

JULY - SEPTEMBER ISSUE 2023
JESUS SAVES MISSION CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Number our days

We have reached the middle of 2023. From 1 Jan to 30 Jun, 181 days or 4344 hours or 260640 minutes have passed! Have we been faithful and used the time God has given to us properly? Sometimes it is hard to be obedient and we want to do as we wish, like watching TV, playing games or just lazing around.

Psalm 90:12

**So teach us to number
our days, that we may
apply our hearts
unto wisdom.**

May God help us to use
our time wisely so that
we can please Him!

Mrs Edelweiss Ling

Ezra 9:6

And said,

**O my God, I am
ashamed and blush
to lift up my face to
thee, my God:**
for our iniquities
are increased over
our head, and our
trespass is grown up
unto the heavens.

against God.

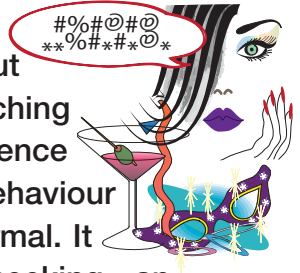
You may be young now but spending much time watching ungodly shows will influence you to accept ungodly behaviour and bad language as normal. It could lead to your seeking an unbelieving life partner. God is very grieved and saddened when we seek only to please ourselves. Do you see the need to be sorry and confess your sin as Ezra did?

Let's pray: ✨

"Dear Lord, I am sorry for enjoying watching those ungodly behaviour on TV. I am ashamed to call myself a Christian and yet find pleasure in bad behaviour. Please forgive me and be merciful to help me to put away those things that come between You and me." Psalm 101:3

Hear Me When I Call I am ashamed

Ezra cried to God in sorrow and shame when he learnt that the religious leaders had married unbelievers! They had committed a great and terrible sin

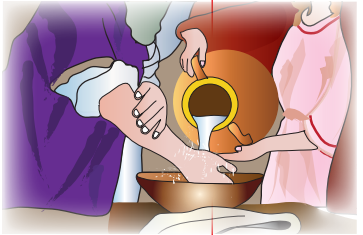


by Mr Jerry Teng

Phrases

'I have no clue what this question is about - asking me to teach you how to answer it would be like the blind leading the blind.'

Blind leading the blind



In Matthew 15, the Pharisees were upset that Jesus' disciples did not follow their tradition of washing hands before meals. Jesus told the disciples to "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch". He was describing the foolishness of the Pharisees in being blind to God's law while demanding that others follow their man-made traditions. Pride can blind us in our walk with God, for example, when we think our interpretation of the scripture is more important than God's Word. To counter this, we must constantly search the Scriptures, like the Berean Christians, and ask God to teach us the way. We must be careful not to follow anyone who will lead us away from God.



And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch

Matthew 15:14b



by Ms Grace Ee

GemSTORY



Missioner Mary Chow

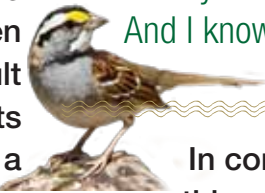
I trusted in Jesus in 1976. I was a tailor then. In 1977, I was called into full-time ministry. I started teaching in JSM kindergarten and also did outreach and visitations for about 10 years. When I was a young Christian, I disliked hearing messages about serving full-time, and struggled with it. But I obeyed God and served Him in Ipoh and Kuala Kangsar. During these 40 plus years of serving, sometimes I felt downhearted. Full-time ministry is very tough but I trust in God. He gives me joy and peace. There is purpose and satisfaction even in discouraging and difficult times. God watches and protects me. Once when I was in a car accident, He protected me

from serious injury even when the car was smashed up!



The hymn "His eye is on the sparrow" encourages me.

Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely,
And long for heav'n and home;
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is he;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me



In conclusion, remember this verse and be faithful!

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,
while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh,
when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.

Feelings



2 Timothy 1:7 says that **God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.**

Indeed, God does not give us the spirit of fear, so why then does God allow us to experience tightness in our stomach, a pounding heart and sweaty hands - unpleasant sensations linked to the emotion we know as fear? It seems strange, but God actually designed us to have fear - the healthy type of fear that will keep us away from danger and out of trouble. It is an emotion that keeps us safe and alive. If we are completely fearless, we are more likely to end up in dangerous situations and may even end up dying early. Thus, fear has its purpose. However, we must fear the



right thing. Luke 12:5 says we should **fear God rather than man.** We should fear Him because God has the power to destroy both our body and soul whereas humans can only destroy our bodies. 1 John 4:4 reminds us that we don't have to fear evil beings because the Holy

Spirit in us is far more powerful. Proverbs 9:10 reminds us that when we fear God, we will start to be wise and do the right things.

What about when we are stuck in a difficult situation where we fear two different things? For example, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego feared being thrown into the fiery furnace. However, they also feared offending God. Of these two fears, they feared God more than the fear



of being burnt to death. Thus, they chose to offend the human king and be thrown into the raging fire rather than to offend their heavenly King. Like these three, we must be wise to fear displeasing and disappointing God above all our other fears.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

by Mrs Mary Hui

History Of The Church

THE EARLY CHURCH TIMELINE

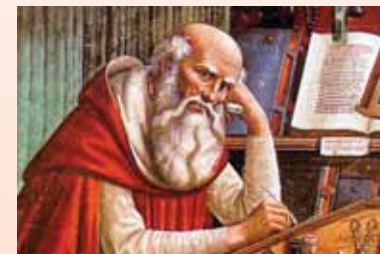
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Chrysostom's preaching

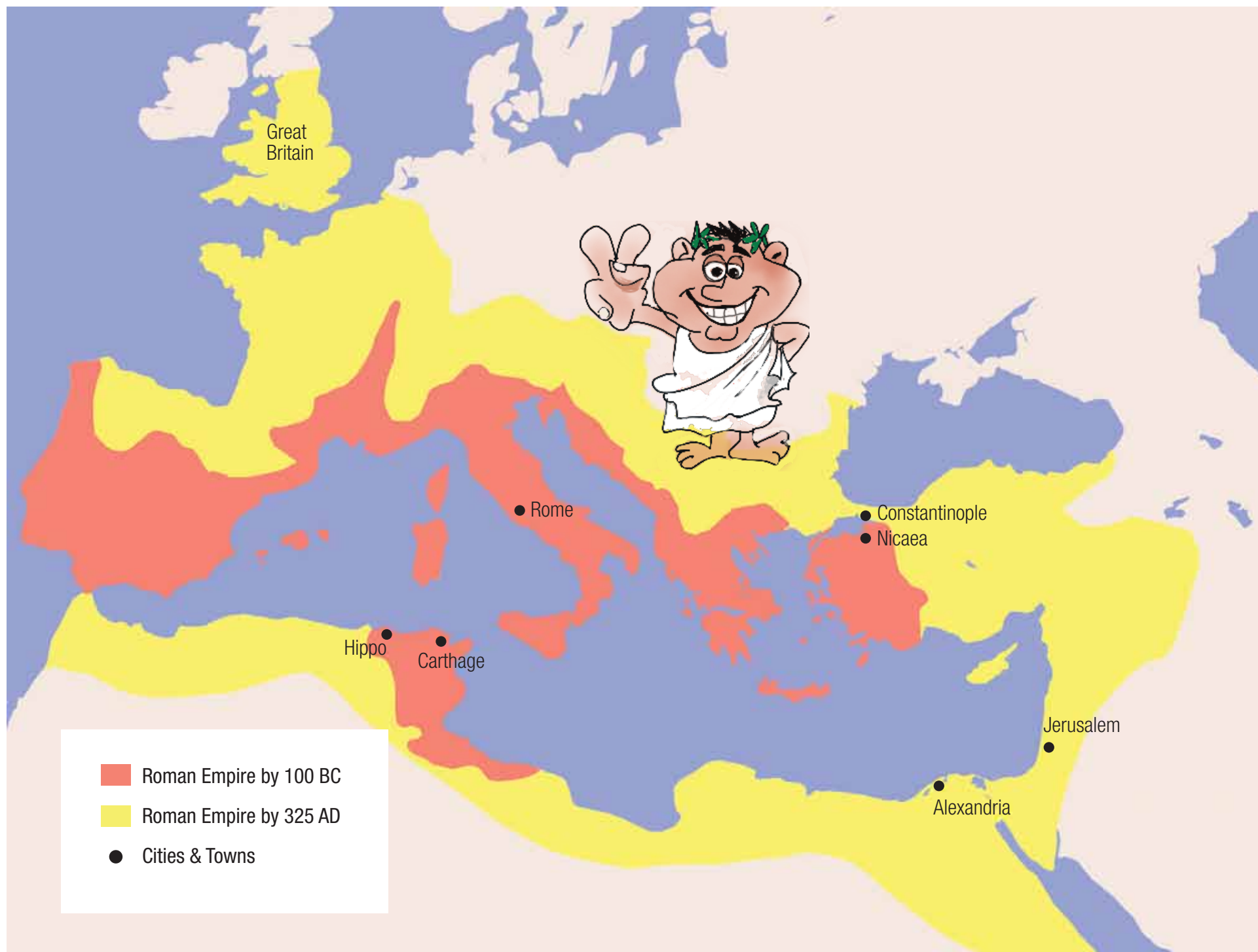
Chrysostom was a gifted preacher who used the Bible's words to inspire and challenge his listeners to change. Because he courageously preached strongly against sin, he was opposed by both church and political leaders.



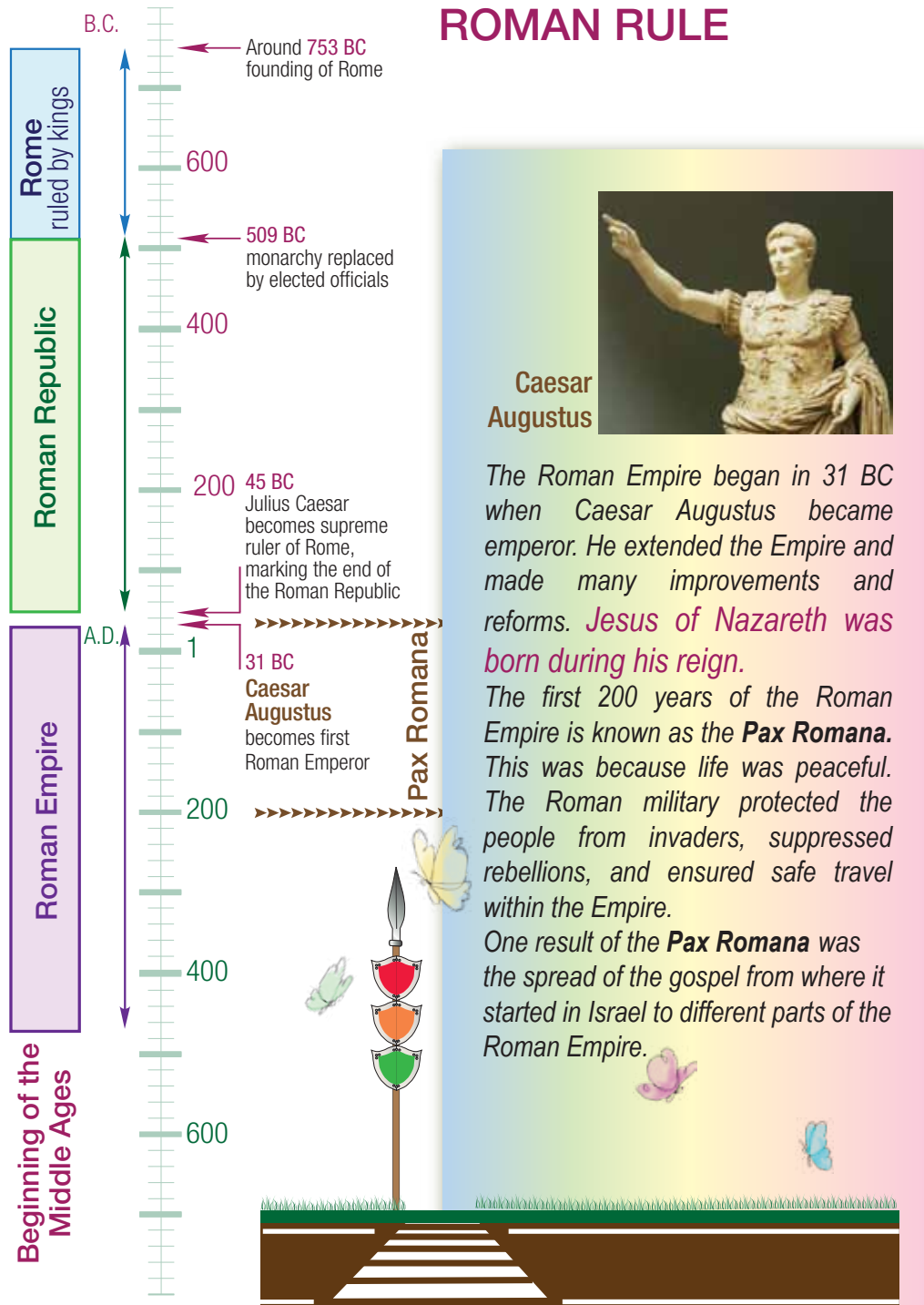
Jerome and the Vulgate

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Early translations of Scripture were often inaccurate. Damasus, bishop of Rome, wanting the Bible translated into Latin, assigned this task to his secretary, Jerome, who was fluent in both Latin and Greek. Jerome even learned Hebrew so he could translate more accurately. The final translation, the Vulgate (meaning common), was admired by scholars. However, this meant ordinary people could not understand the worship service or the Bible. Eventually, the Vulgate was considered so sacred, translating it into common languages was banned.



HISTORY OF ROMAN RULE



Spotlight:

God's grace

Ephesians 2: 8-9 tells us that we are saved by God's grace, through the work of Christ, not because of who we are or what we can do.

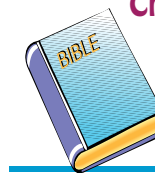


Augustine (issue 2) is an example of God's grace. Born in 354 A.D., in what we know as Algeria, his intelligence was recognized at an early age. Determined to give him the best education available, his parents eventually sent him to study in the capital, Carthage. There Augustine found sexual temptations irresistible, took a concubine and fathered a son. Because of his struggles with his sensual nature, he was attracted to a religion that taught that good would prevail over evil by abstinence and prayer. He despised Christianity, introduced by his mother, as suitable only for the simple-minded.

Then the powerful preaching of Bishop Ambrose taught him that Christianity could be both eloquent and intelligent. Hearing of uneducated hermits withstanding temptations of the world, Augustine was shamed by his powerlessness over his sins.

One day he heard the voice of a child saying, "Take it and read it." Picking up a Bible, he read verses 13 - 14 from Romans 13.

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.



Romans 13:14

He would later recall how, "all shadows of doubt fled away as if before a tranquil light that infused (his) heart." Surrendering his mind and heart to God, Augustine found peace. His deep, personal experience of God's grace influenced the rest of his life.

Have we experienced God's grace in our lives?

Faith of our Fathers

John Wesley

From a young age, John Wesley received disciplined Bible training from his mother, Susanna Wesley. When John was six, he was miraculously saved from his burning house and his mother was convinced that God had a special purpose for him.

After graduating from Oxford University, John was ordained an Anglican priest. In 1729, he joined a group nicknamed "Methodists" because its members were earnest in seeking God through methodical study of the Bible.

In 1735, Wesley first came across



Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn.



Moravian Christians when sailing to North America. He was astonished when they continued to sing hymns during a raging storm and realised that he did not have the same assurance and peace. In 1738, he heard a sermon about the work of God in the heart through faith in Christ. Wesley finally had the assurance that Christ had saved him from the law of sin and death. He began preaching the message of salvation through faith in God's grace alone, travelling far and wide by horseback, often preaching in open air to whoever would listen.

Wesley once said: "Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn". May we learn to be like him, faithful and on fire in serving God.



by Sherhwyn Leong



Seeing God in nature around us

PHYSICS

Pressure

Have you ever wondered why sharp objects like knives are able to slice through food easily, yet a skier does not sink into the snow? It is because of the physics principle known as pressure. Pressure is the force exerted over a given area. Greater force results in greater pressure. Concentrating the force into a smaller area increases that pressure. The blade of a knife has a small area in contact with what it is cutting. Since the force is packed into this tiny area, the pressure exerted on the surface is immense. On the other hand, skis have a large surface area in contact with the snow. The



Help me Lord!

Thank you Lord!



weight of the skier (the force) is thus spread out, resulting in a lower pressure. These examples illustrate how we need both high and low pressure in our daily lives.

In the same way, God uses both times of distress (high pressure), and calm (low pressure), for our good. Times of distress or hardship help us learn to be steadfast as our faith is tested. Times of calm or peace allow us to enjoy God and meditate on His word.

All things work together for good to them that love God

Romans 8:28



by John Ong

Choices

I ran away from my master the king, as he was seeking to kill me. He pursued me relentlessly even as I went from one place to another to hide. Once, I had a close escape when the king and his men surrounded me. However, they left me when they received news of the enemy's attack. My men and I quickly ran away to En-gedi to hide. While I was in hiding, the king returned with 3000 men and sought my life. We



were inside the cave when the king came to the cave and relieved himself there. Though my men urged me to kill him,

I did not. Instead, I secretly cut off a corner of the king's robe. Was I foolish? Did I make a right choice? To find out more, read 1 Samuel 24.

Say not thou, I will recompense evil, but wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee.



Proverbs 20:22

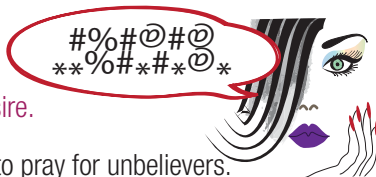


I am ashamed



Circle True (T) or False (F)

- The religious leaders had committed a great sin in marrying unbelieving women.
- Ezra confessed this sin to God with sorrow and shame.
- He also fasted.
- God is pleased when we do what our hearts desire.
- One of the ungodly examples in the passage is to pray for unbelievers.
- Some key words in the prayer are "sorry", "ashamed" and "forgive".
- God will forgive when we confess our sins.



T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F

Colour the letter above the answer (T/F) of each statement and write the letters on the dotted line.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
R C	E O	M N	T O	E R	S N	E T
T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F

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