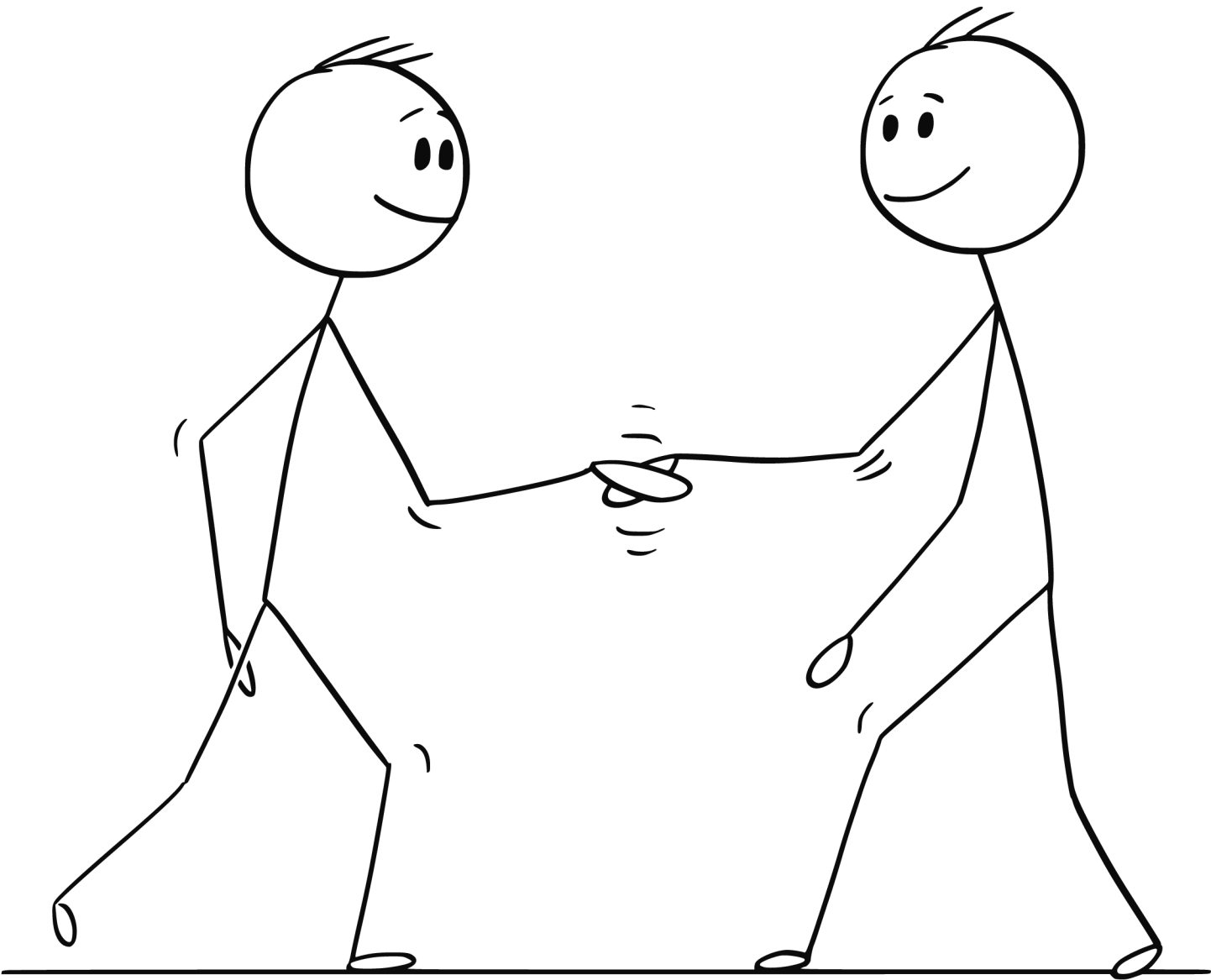


The Bond of Peace

NAME :



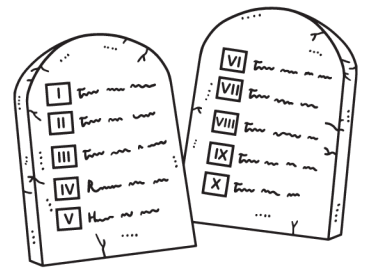
Our Bible lesson comes from the books of Acts and Ephesians, do you all remember who wrote the Book of Acts? (we talked about it last time I was here visiting...). the fact should be in your pocket somewhere, unless you lost it or washed your pants...

and who wrote Ephesians?

When problems occur in the church family, God wants Christians to treat one another with love and respect.

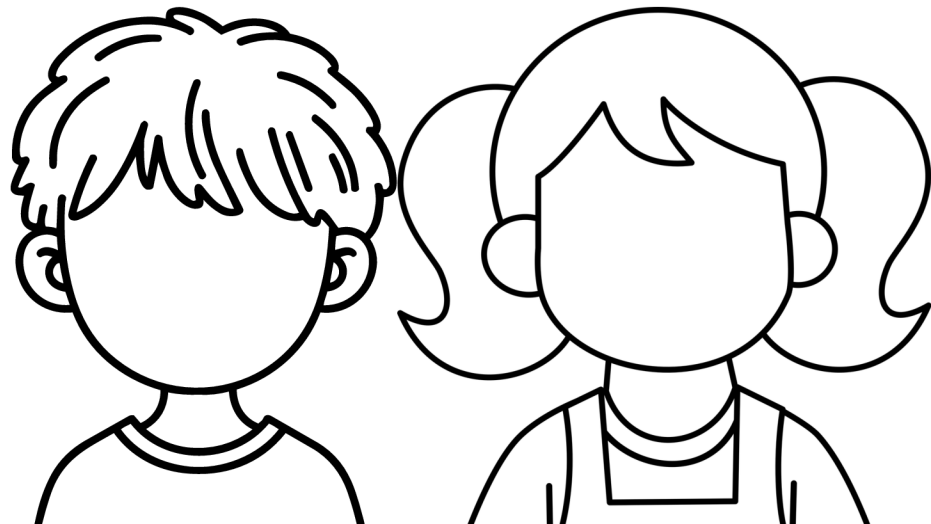
How many commands did Jesus give while he was here on earth?

How many commands did Moses have?



How many rules did the Jews make ?

- 613 commandments (known as mitzvot) in the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament).
 - Positive commandments: **248**
 - (things you should do)
 -
 - Negative commandments: **365**
 - (things you should not do)



Seven Men Chosen to Serve

6 But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. **(did the 12 speak privately or out in the open in front of everyone)**

3 And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility.

4 Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.” **(did they know how to effectively use their talents from the Lord?)**

5 Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith).

6 These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them.

7 So God’s message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

What would happen if we thought that one part of our body was more important than the other?

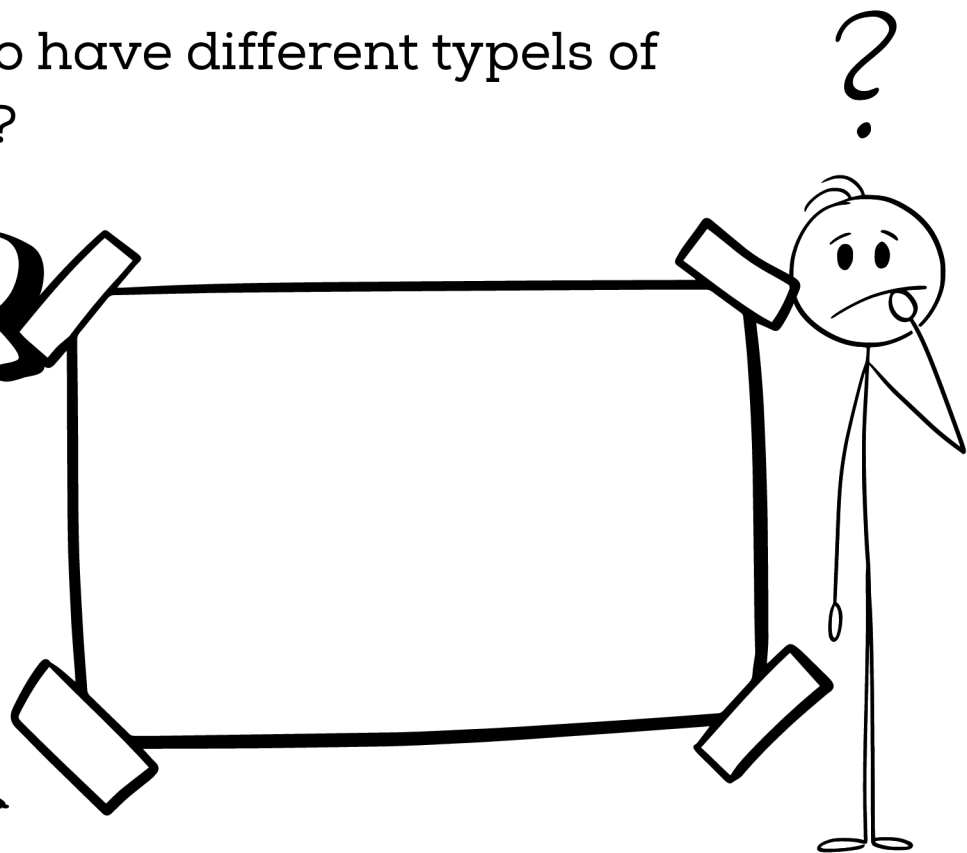
I tend to think that my tummy is way more important than my attitude when I am hungry - how about you? Do you allow yourself to lash out at others when you are hungry? We need to pray about that don't we?

What would happen if we allowed ourselves to think that one person's talents were more important than another's? What do you think would happen?

Why is it important to have different types of people in our church?

ANSWER

let's talk
it out ☆



The Big Picture (Acts 6:1-5)

The early church was growing fast! But with more people, there was a problem: some widows (women whose husbands had died) weren't getting their fair share of food. The apostles were too busy teaching to handle food distribution, so they asked the church to pick seven wise men to help.

These men needed to be full of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, and faith. The people chose seven men, including Stephen and Nicolas



1. Stephen: The Brave Follower

- Who was he? Acts 6:5 describes Stephen as a man “full of faith and the Holy Spirit“.
- What did he do? He was chosen to serve food, but he did much more! God gave him power to do amazing miracles and wonders. He was brave and spoke the truth about Jesus, even when people didn’t want to hear it
- Why is he important? Stephen became the very first Christian martyr, meaning he died for his faith in Jesus because he refused to stop telling people about Him. Even when he was dying, he showed Jesus’ love by asking God to forgive the people who were hurting him.

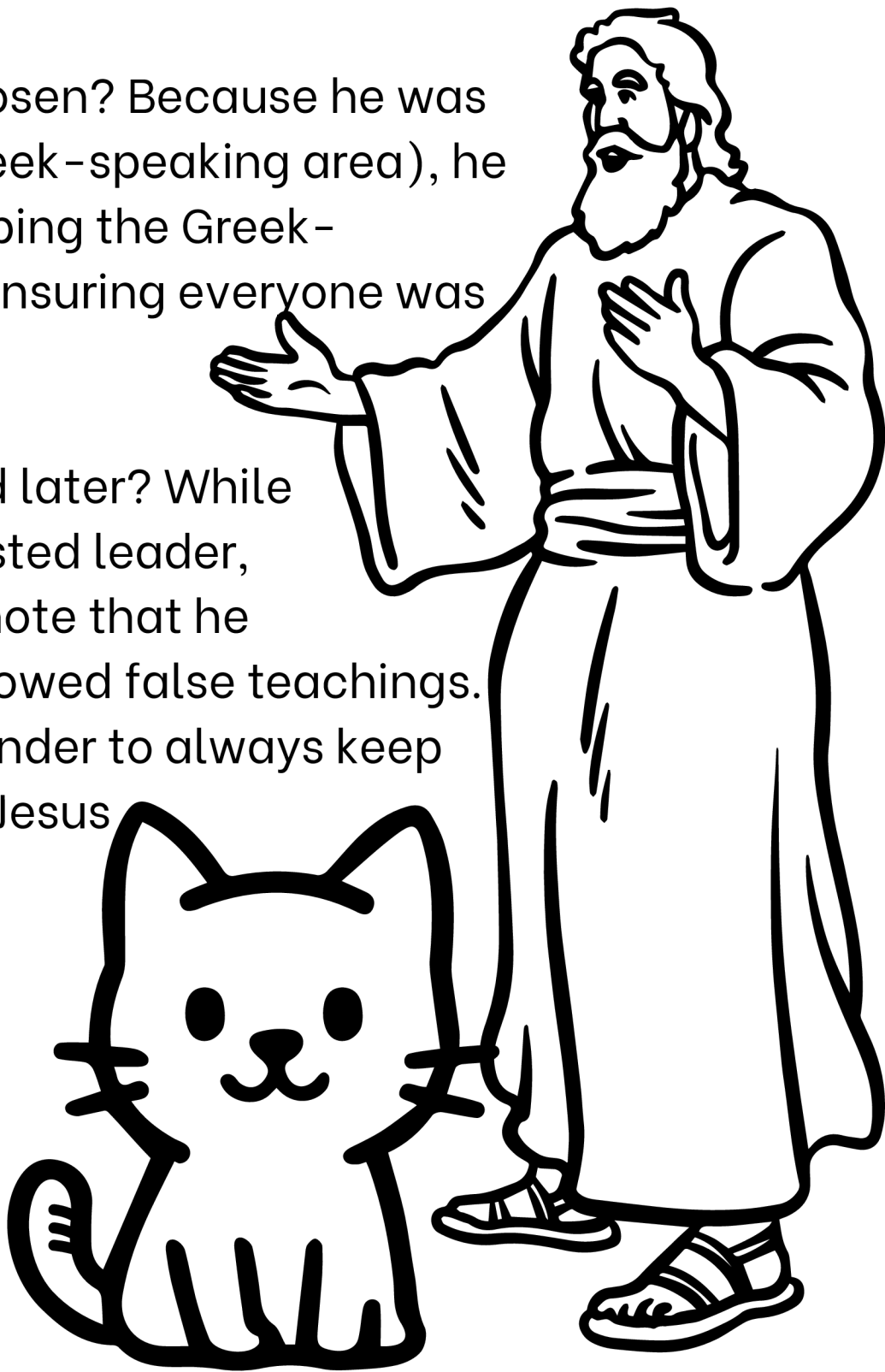


2. Nicolas: The New Believer

- Who was he? Acts 6:5 says Nicolas was a “proselyte from Antioch“. This means he was not born a Jew, but he loved God and had converted to Judaism before becoming a Christian.

- Why was he chosen? Because he was from Antioch (a Greek-speaking area), he was perfect for helping the Greek-speaking widows, ensuring everyone was treated fairly.

- What happened later? While he started as a trusted leader, some researchers note that he may have later followed false teachings. He serves as a reminder to always keep our hearts close to Jesus



A C B L O V E C S D E G H F I
J A M O N P R S H T A V D R E
K R I S M I L E A B U C W I G
L E X J N K M L R S B U Y E F
T R U S T O P Q E C T A W D H
Z G H K I L J K I N D N E S S
E R E S P E C T V F E U D H O
X M P A R O S U E W T B C I P
A N S U P P O R T S Y Z A P R
Q D A F B G C H T R U S T M N
G E N E R O U S J K L H E L P

HUG
LOVE
TRUST
FRIENDSHIP

HELP
SHARE
RESPECT
KINDNESS

CARE
SMILE
SUPPORT
GENEROUS

The Big Problem (Acts 6:1-5)

Sometimes families think that the people in church should not have conflict, struggles, fight or be rude.

Is this a good way to think? Why or Why not?

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

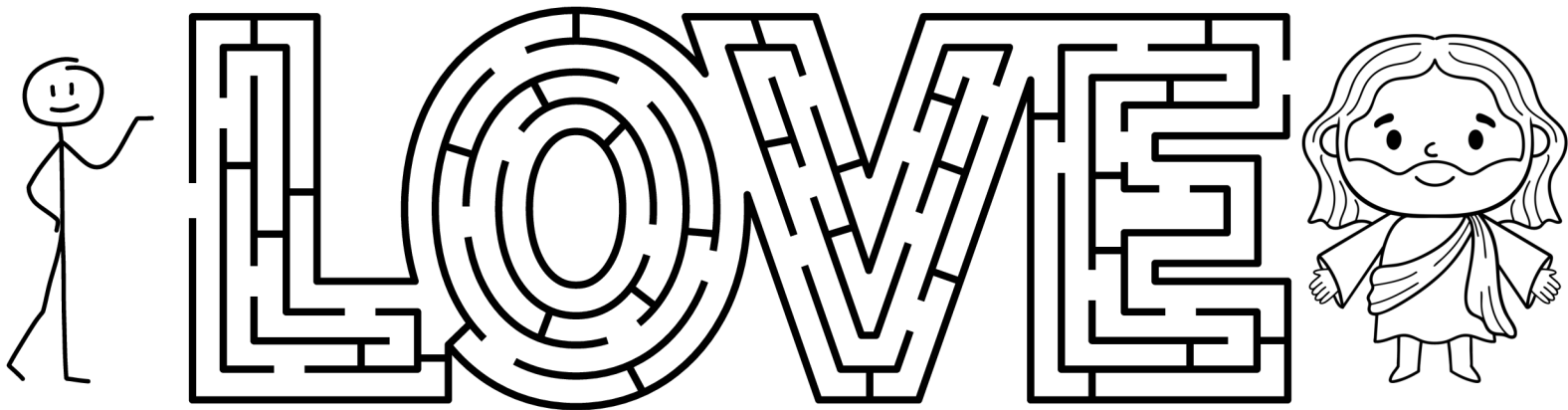
Because we are humans, we have misunderstandings, feelings we can't hide, hungry bellies, sickness, stress, the list goes on and on... and those things can cause us to have bad attitudes, lash out at others without meaning to, and lead to conflict in our church. (what is the church?)

When we think about God's love for us, how many times he forgives us when we sin and how he treated people while he was here on earth, we will remember that forgiveness is the key. We need to forgive and move on with life, to reconcile with others as much as we can and to give people space if they need it.

Is it kind to force yourself in someone's space if you know you make them uncomfortable?

How does being aware of this and acting on it show your God-given talents?

Respecting other people is so important.



jealousy

anger

impatience

disappointment

feeling left out

**how can your attitude
help solve the problem?
and how can you control
your attitude?**



Ephesians 4:1-6

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 one God and Father of all,

who is over all, in all, and living through all.

Ask	Give	Say,	Share
someone to play with you	someone a compliment	"Please"	Help a teacher clean up after class
Pick up trash on the ground in the church courtyard	Draw a picture for someone	Hold open the door for someone	Follow directions the first time you are asked
	Write a thank you note to your pastor		

What are ways this Scripture in Ephesians tells us to treat one another?

What actions show God's love for one another?

What are some problems that might be caused by people being disrespectful?

How do you respond when someone treats you with respect?

What is the best way someone can respect you?

How could that action help in solving a problem?

What are some problems that might happen in our class?

How could we solve those problems while showing God's love and respect to others?

Does settling a problem mean that we will always get what we want?

How did Jesus solve problems?

Squares of Kindness

Give someone a compliment

Ask someone to play with you

Ask an older person some questions about when they were little at church

Share with someone

Hold open the door for someone

Offer help to someone

Say, "Please" to someone

Help a teacher clean up after class

Pick up trash on the ground in the church courtyard

Draw a picture for someone

Say, "Thank you" to someone

Write a thank-you note to your pastor

Use kind words

Be kind to someone new at Sunday school

Follow directions the first time you are asked

Pick flowers for your mom

How Jesus handled conflict:

- **Talk Directly (Private Approach):** If you have a problem with a friend, go to them privately first, rather than complaining to everyone else.
- **Listen First:** Jesus listened to all sides to understand the real issue before responding.
- **Use "I" Statements:** Instead of saying "You did this wrong," explain your feelings, like "I felt sad when...".
- **Forgive Freely:** Jesus taught to forgive others just as God forgives us.
- **Be Kind and Gentle:** Use a soft answer to turn away anger, rather than shouting back.
- **Ask for Help:** If you can't solve it alone, involve a trusted adult or wise friend to help you make peace.
- **Pray About It:** Before (or during) a fight, pray for a calm heart and wisdom.
- **Walk Away from Fights:** You don't have to respond to every mean comment. Sometimes, walking away stops the fight.

The goal of solving a conflict is to fix the friendship, not just to prove you are right

So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too. (Acts 6:7)

God's message was received well because the Christian Church used Scripture, prayer and wisdom from the Holy Spirit to deal with this conflict well. Let's remember these important tools so we can help people become Christians too!

Let's
pray



