

The Big Race

Key Word: **Ready**

Key Verse: "You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."
Luke 12:40

"You coming?" Andy was nearly ready to go.

James yawned. "What for? The race is five weeks away! I'll start in a week or two."

Andy shrugged. It was all right for James. He was the best runner in the school, and strong at it. James would probably win the big race anyway, though Andy, and all this training would be a waste of time. Still, he'd worked out a training schedule, so he might as well begin.

Mostly when he was running, Andy didn't meet anybody else. But one day, when he was up to nine miles, he came across a man lying in a ditch. He wondered whether or not to stop, as the man was probably drunk. Then he thought he ought to stop, because the man might need a doctor.

He ran over. The man's leg was bent at a funny angle. Andy made sure the man was still breathing, then ran a further mile to the nearest house and called the ambulance.

On the day of the big race, Andy finished in good time, and to his surprise, managed a slightly better time than James. But his biggest surprise came when he was called onto the platform by the race

organizer and handed an envelope with a check for \$500. Then the organizer explained that the sponsor of the race was a diabetic who had fallen into a diabetic coma early one morning and had rolled into a ditch. If Andy hadn't come along at the right time, the sponsor wouldn't be alive today.

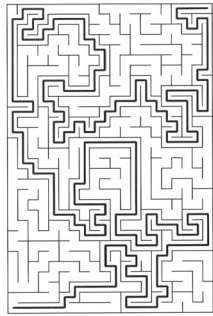
James was cross when it was all over. He couldn't believe Andy had beaten him. "Anyway," he said, "it was just luck, being there at the right time. And just luck that you finished ahead of me, too."

But Andy laughed and shook his head. "Not luck," he said. "You have to be ready for surprises in this life. You never know when something's coming your way, so you've got to be trained and ready to deal with it. And it was all well worth it in the end."

Questions

In the story, how did Andy make himself ready for the big race?

How can we make ourselves ready for Jesus?



Maze

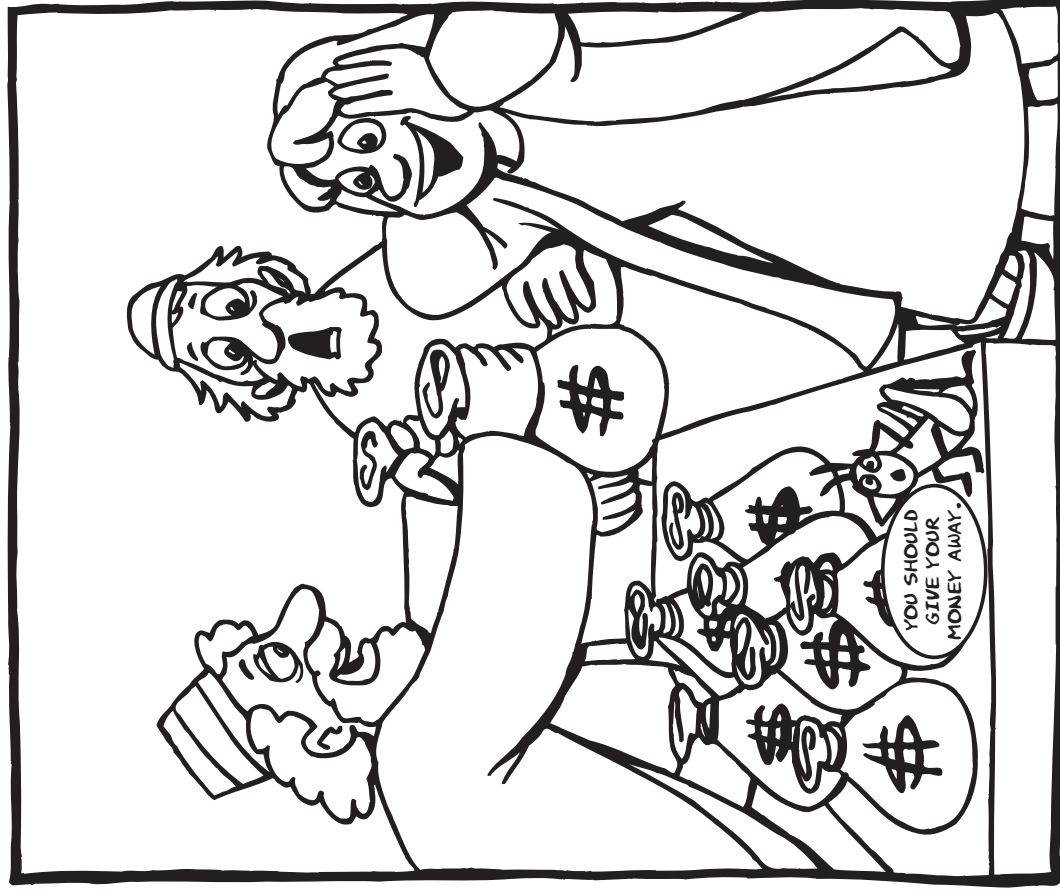
Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit.

Cryptogram

Answers

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Across | Down |
| 4. Afraid | 1. Kingdom |
| 5. Possessions | 2. Lamps |
| 8. Heaven | 3. Action |
| 9. Heart | 4. Alms |
| | 6. Slaves |
| | 7. Son of Man |

Crossword Puzzle



Gospel Grams



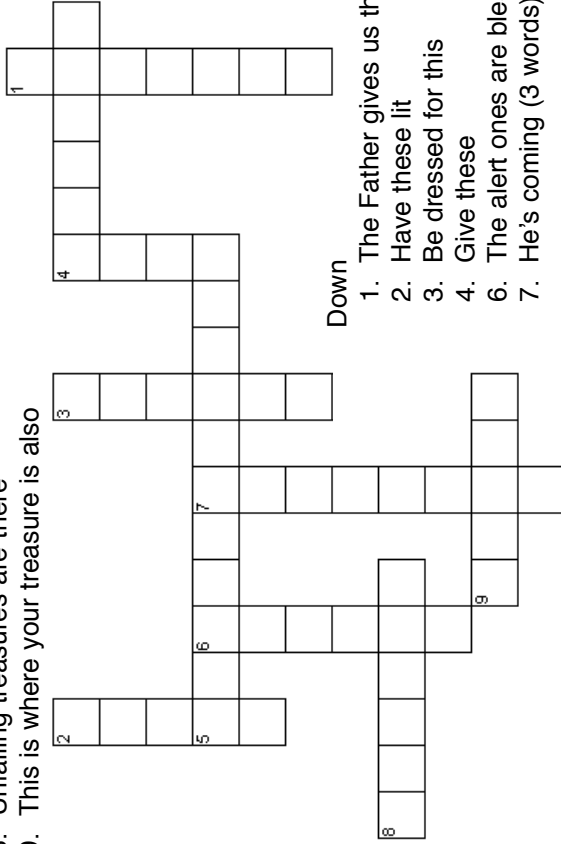
Today's Gospel Story
 is from
Luke 12:32-40

Crossword Puzzle

Complete this crossword puzzle using the clues from today's Gospel story, Luke 12:32-40. Read the clues. Then fill in the squares below with the answers.

Across

4. Do not be _____
5. Sell these _____
8. Unfailing treasures are there _____
9. This is where your treasure is also _____



Down

1. The Father gives us this _____
2. Have these lit _____
3. Be dressed for this _____
4. Give these _____
6. The alert ones are blessed _____
7. He's coming (3 words) _____

Cryptogram

Below is a verse from today's Gospel story. Each letter is substituted for another. Use the letter patterns and trial and error to help you figure out this puzzle. Can you decipher this message? Three of the letters are already done for you.

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

E E E

 14 24 12 18 24 21 21 24 12 23 17 18

T E H E

 8 1 7 2 17 9 8 9 12 26 8 16 24

 13 17 3 18 11 8 4 20 21 11 2 7

Maze

Today's Gospel story tells about being ready for Jesus when he comes. We need to be ready just like watchful servants who are waiting for their master to come back from a wedding feast, even if he comes at midnight or later. We must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when we are not expecting him. Help Jesus get to the people who are watchful servants.

