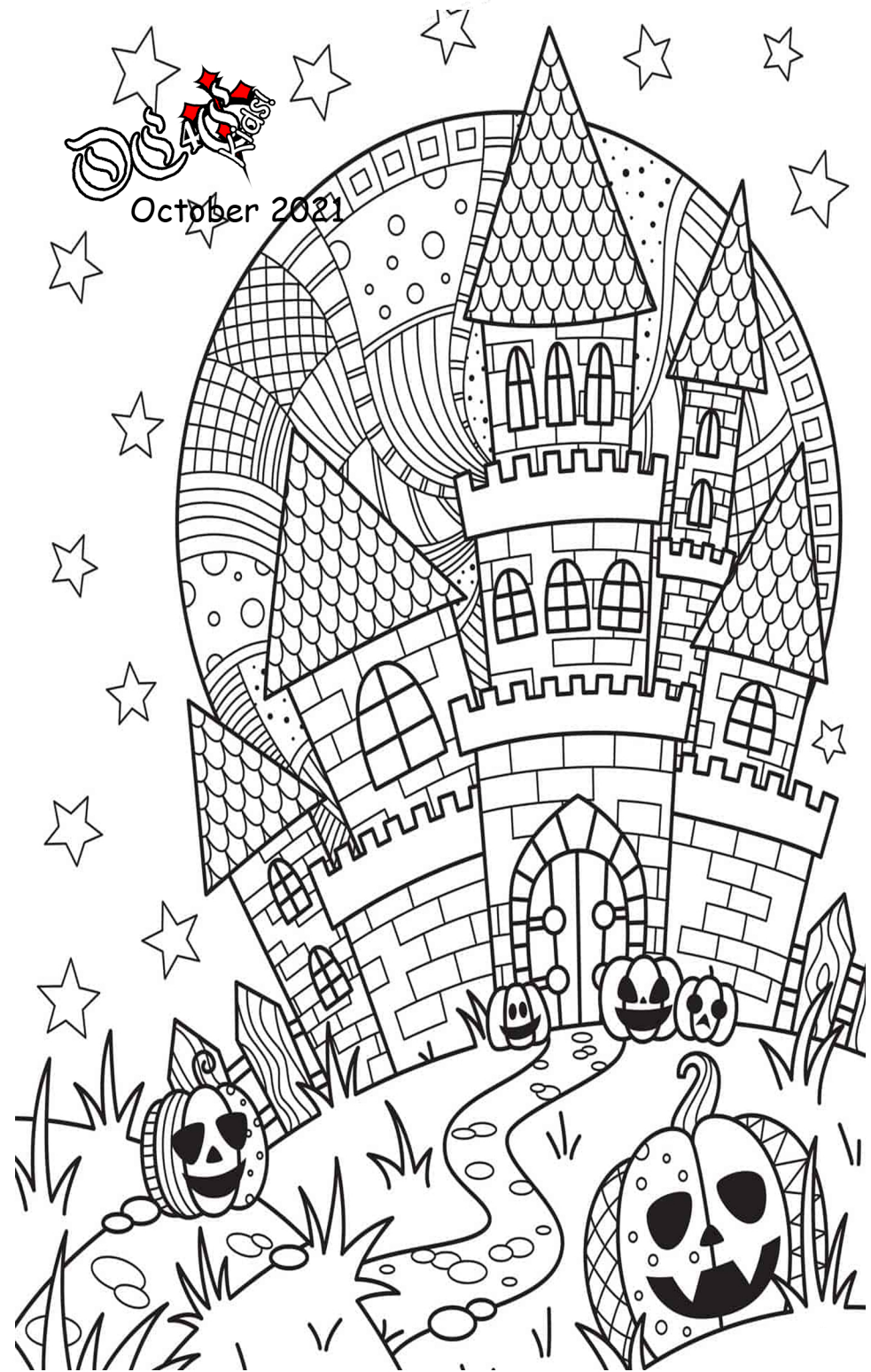
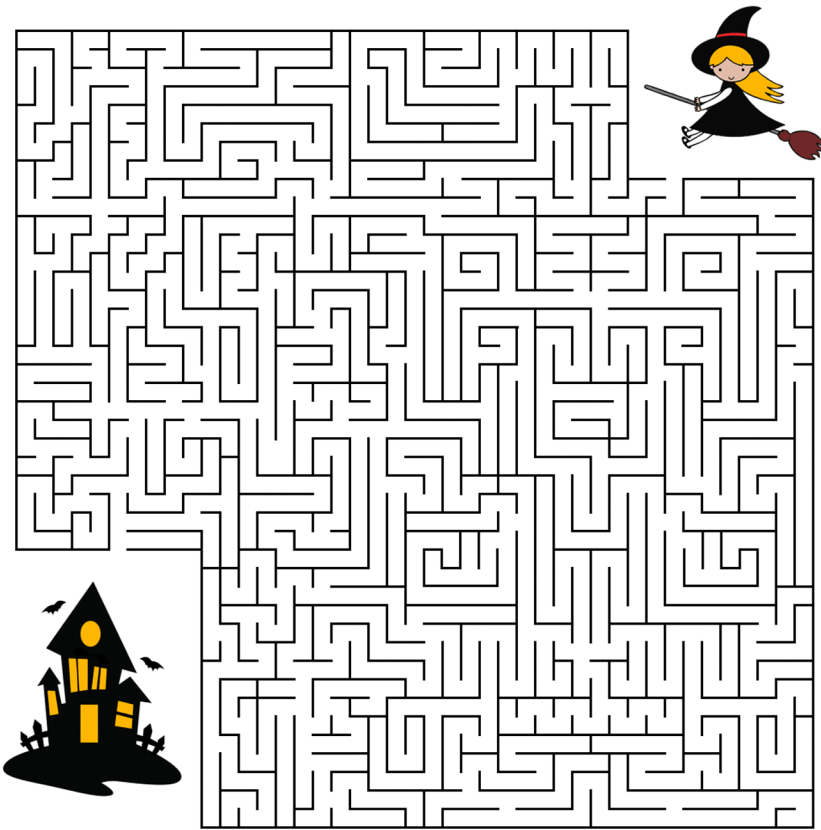


“Even though these people didn’t know me, and they sinned against me, I love them as much as I love you.”

And then at last, Jonah understood that God truly is slow to anger, and always willing to forgive us when we turn to him.

Now he knew that our wonderful God truly is tenderhearted and forgiving, and overflowing with a love for us that will never end.





OR
"THE CHICKEN OF THE SEA"



freely adapted from
THE BOOK OF JONAH
By Paul Dallgas-Frey

... continued from last time

JONAH POUTS



When God first called Jonah, Jonah did the exact opposite of what God asked him to do. But God didn't give up on him. God used him to accomplish his plan. It was just a little more painful than it had to be!

But now, Jonah was mad.

These people did mean, rotten and nasty things. They were famous for it! They didn't follow God, and still they had everything they wanted. It wasn't fair!

"How come they should get off so easy!" Jonah grumbled to himself. Secretly he had been looking forward to watching God really punish them good.

Now God was giving them a second chance.

"I knew this would happen," Jonah said to God. "I knew you would let them off the hook!"

I guess Jonah forgot just WHO got let off the hook in the first place.

"I knew it!" Jonah said to God. "I knew that you are full of everlasting love, and that you are always ready to forgive and to hold back from punishing."

So Jonah walked to the edge of the city and sat down to pout. Maybe the city would go up in a ball of fire anyway. That is what he was hoping to see.

Now, the sun was burning down on Jonah. Sweat was rolling down his face and stinging his eyes.

So God made a bush grow up next to where Jonah was pouting, to shade him from the sun.

Jonah was thankful for the bush and the comfort of the shade.

But the next morning, God sent a worm to eat the roots of the bush. The bush withered and died. When the sun came up, God sent a scorching eastern wind, heated by the desert. The sun beat down on Jonah's head until Jonah nearly fainted.

Jonah cried out to God (well, whined, more likely!) "Why don't you just take my life now, and save me from this misery!"

Poor Jonah. He was having such a rough time!

"Jonah, Jonah, Jonah!" God said to him. "Do you think I have stopped loving and caring for you? I could never do that!"

"You are so upset because I let a little bush die - but you want me to destroy the whole city of Ninevah! Aren't all these people worth far, far more than a little weed?"

"Didn't I forgive you, even though you tried to run away from me? I love you so much!"