

GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

Introductory Lesson How To Use Your Bible

We are so happy you have chosen to study this set of lessons. You will be able to do all the activities if you have a Bible. There are many different versions and translations of the Bible. They use different words but the meaning is the same. You may use any version, but if you have a choice, choose one that is easy for you to read.



WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

Mark the following statements about the Bible with a **T** for true or an **F** for false.

In the Bible I can:

- _____ Learn how people lived long ago
- _____ Read interesting stories
- _____ Find out how other people handled problems like mine
- _____ Play games and quizzes
- _____ Find help when I feel mad, sad or lonely
- _____ Learn how God feels about me
- _____ Improve my reading skills

*If you chose all of them
like I did, you are right!*



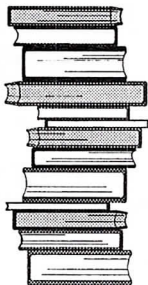
The Bible is divided into two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Look through the first few pages at the front of your Bible. There you will find a list of all the books with the page number where each book begins.

*The Old
Testament
books were
written
before
Jesus was
born.*



*The New
Testament
was
written
after
Jesus was
born.*



Using the list you found, write OT for Old Testament or NT for New Testament next to each book to show where it appears in your Bible.

Mark _____

Exodus _____

Ruth _____

Jonah _____

Titus _____

Romans _____

A Bible text usually looks like this. . .

The name of the
book comes first.



Next comes the
chapter number.



John 3:16



Last is the verse
number.



*Now try to find Genesis 1:1 in your Bible.
Ask an adult if you need help.
Genesis is the first book of the Bible.
Find the first chapter.
Now find and read the first verse.*

GREAT!

*Now try to find Matthew 1:21.
Matthew is the first book of the New Testament.
It is about 2/3 of the way through your Bible.
Next find chapter 1.
Now find and read the 21st verse.*

EXCELLENT!



*Some people have trouble
finding texts in their Bibles at
first. Here are two tips to help.*



1. The more you use your Bible, the faster you will be able to look up texts.
2. Each book of the Bible is divided into chapters.

Some books have **MANY** chapters.

The *longest* book in the Bible is Psalms.
Look in the book of Psalms to see how many chapters it has.
Write the number on the line below.



Five books have only **ONE** chapter.

Can you find one of them and write its name below?



Bible Fun . . .

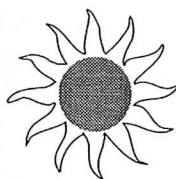


Look up the texts below in your Bible. Then draw a line from the text to the picture that goes with it.

Genesis 8:1



Psalms 1:3



Matthew 2:3



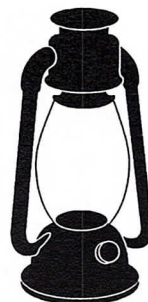
Mark 4:21



Luke 21:25



John 6:3

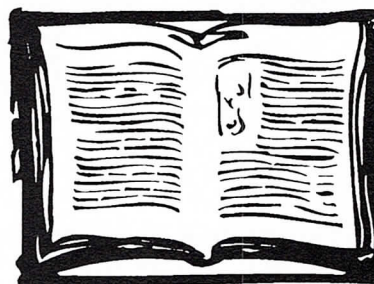
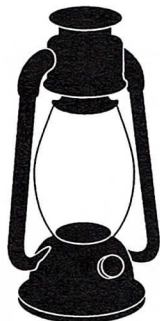
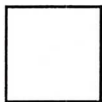


More Bible Fun . . .

Look up Psalm 119:105 in your Bible.

[The book of Psalms is right in the middle of your Bible.]

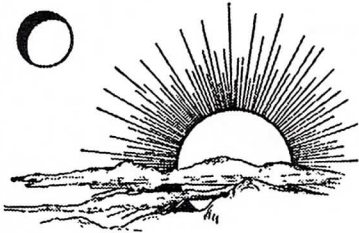
Write a number below each picture to show the order in which they appear in this text.



A King named David wrote this text. He also wrote most of the psalms. The Bible must have really important things in it, if King David said it was a light to his path!

In this set of lessons, we will be looking up verses from only 5 books in the Bible: Genesis, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

As you read about each book below, place a bookmark or a piece of paper in that book so that you can find it easily as you look up the texts in the lessons.

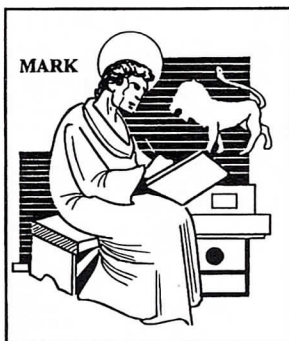
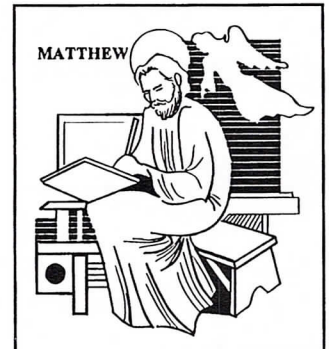


GENESIS means beginning, and it is the first book of the Bible. You will find it close to the front, after the Table of Contents and a few other pages of information about the Bible.

MATTHEW is the first book of the New Testament. It is found about 2/3 of the way through the Bible. It is a book about Jesus' life here on earth. Guess who wrote it.

That's right! It was **Matthew**!

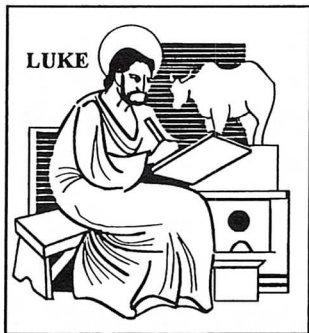
How many chapters does the book of Matthew have?



MARK is also a book about Jesus. It comes right after Matthew but is a shorter book than Matthew.

How many chapters does Mark have?





LUKE was a doctor who also wrote a book about Jesus. You will find it right after the book of Mark.

How many chapters does Luke have?



John was one of Jesus' best friends. He wrote a book about Jesus too. You will find it right after Luke. It is called the Gospel of John.

How many chapters are in John?





You will notice the words referring to God are capitalized. That is to show how important He is.

By the way, have fun coloring all the pictures.

Enjoy getting to know the Son God sent to be your friend!

GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

LESSON 1

God Plans Ahead

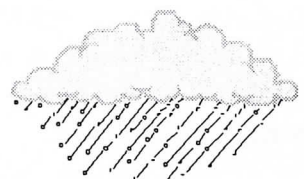
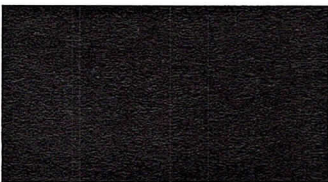
The Bible is a story about God's love for people on this earth. Here is how the story begins . . .

Long before the earth existed, God planned ahead.

God, the Creator, planned to make people in His very own image. They would be like Him in many ways. Most important, they would have free choice. They would not live by instinct like most animals, nor like robots who just do as they are programmed. They would be thinking, reasoning people who could choose what to do.

What did God start with when He came to make this earth a home for people? Turn to your Genesis bookmark and find Chapter 1, verse 2.

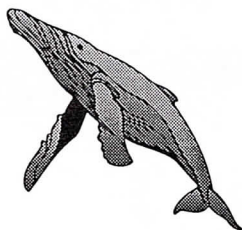
Circle the pictures below that show what verse 2 describes.



God always plans ahead. He knew He wanted a world with flowers, whales, parrots and people.

What did God need to do first?

Under the pictures below, write what would need to be created *before* they could live. The first one has been done for you.



air
land
water
light



On the first day, God started with **light**. He knew plants and creatures would need light in order to grow, and the people and animals would also need light to see what they were doing. He created the spectrum of colors, which is what light is made of. Aren't you glad He did not make our world just black, white and gray?



The next day God created something equally important if life was to survive on this planet.

The **atmosphere**.

The reason we cannot live on the moon is because there is no atmosphere there – no air that we can breathe, no humidity or moisture that humans, animals and plants need in order to live.





On the third day, God created **dry land** so we wouldn't have to swim all the time. After that, He just kept on creating.

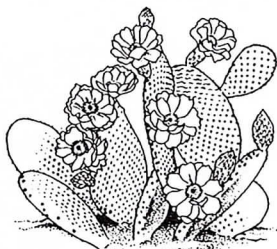
God created **food** for the creatures He planned to place on His new planet. He created **shelter** for them under and in the massive trees. He created **plants** in the sea to provide food and shelter and oxygen for the sea animals He was planning.

He also created automatic air purifiers. That's right! **Leaves** and all plants with green in them, work as air cleaners and make more oxygen for us to breathe.

Isn't God awesome! He thinks of EVERYTHING!



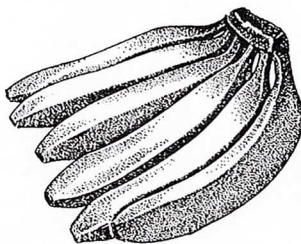
In the pictures below, decide if each picture is food, air cleaner or shelter. Draw lines from each word to the correct pictures. You may choose more than one answer.



FOOD

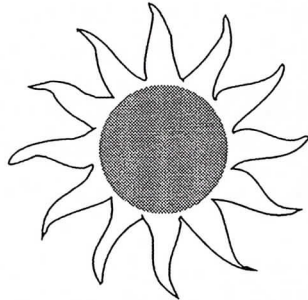
SHELTER

AIR CLEANER





On the fourth day, God set up more ways of keeping time besides just counting the days. The lights for both day and night that we call the sun, moon and stars appeared.

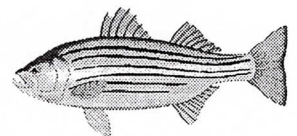
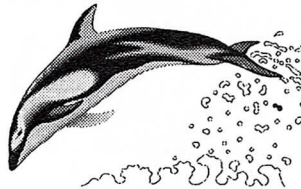


*Read about this in
Genesis 1:14-19.*



God had said everything was good so far, but don't you think He really had fun on the fifth day?

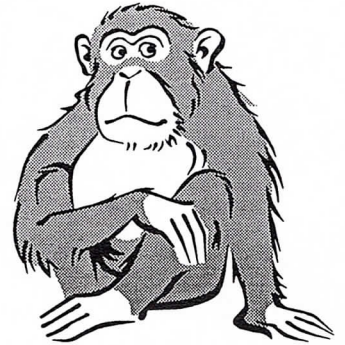
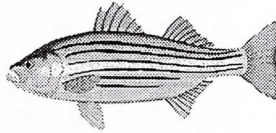
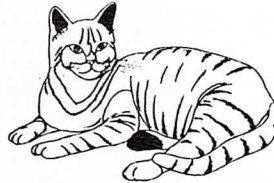
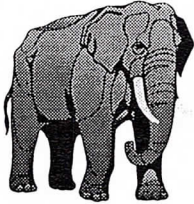
Read Genesis 1:20 and circle what God created on the fifth day.





The sixth day was another busy day! What did God create?

Read Genesis 1:24-25 and put an **X** through the creatures God did not create on the sixth day.



God was not finished yet. He formed a man out of clay and named him Adam.

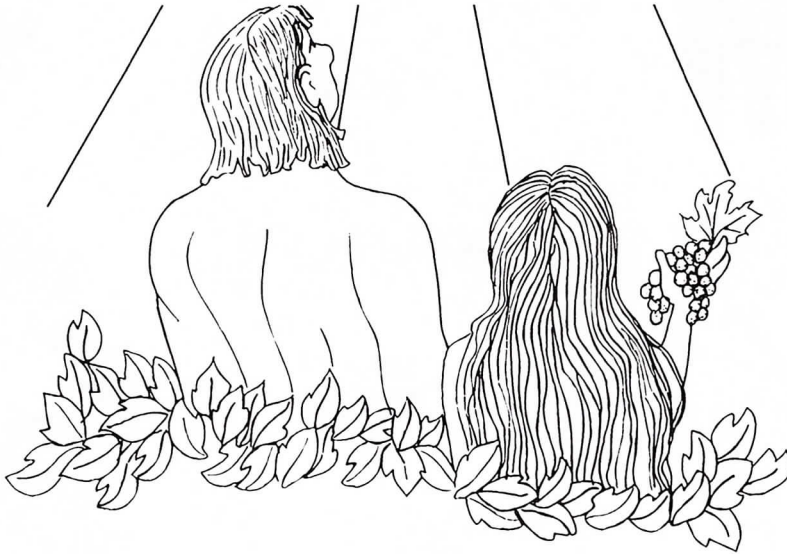
Then God introduced Adam to a lot of new friends. You can read about this in Genesis 2:19, 20.



After seeing all the animals in pairs, Adam was lonely, even with all those “pets.”

Did God know this?

He certainly did! God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and then took a rib out of Adam’s side and used it to make a woman!



Why do you think God used a body part of Adam to make Eve?

Read the answer in Genesis 2:23, and write the reason on the line below.



That’s right! Adam loved Eve because she was a part of him.



God made the seventh day as a special time for rest and friendship with Him, the loving Creator. God's plans were not only for the physical needs of people but for their social and spiritual needs as well. No matter how busy He was, He would take time to be with them every week.

Remember that God created people with the ability to choose. He did not force them to love and trust Him. What if one of them chose to disobey? God knew that life apart from Him was not possible. But He could not bear the thought of losing even *one* of His children. So God had planned ahead for that emergency.



Sure enough, the two new humans did make a very bad choice.

Did they immediately drop dead?

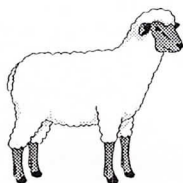


*You can read this sad story
in Genesis, chapter 3:1-7.*

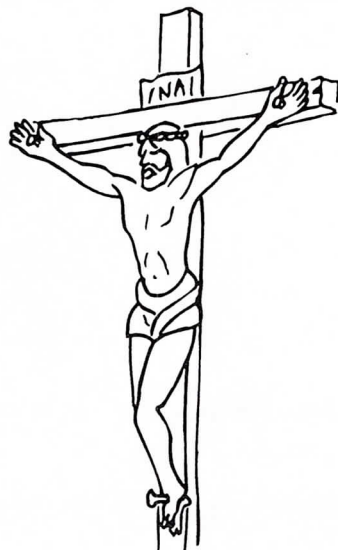
God's plan swung into action. He came to visit Adam and Eve in their garden home. They felt guilty, afraid and naked. God made them clothes so they would feel comfortable and He explained His emergency plan.

A descendant of the woman would save them (see Genesis 3:15). Until that person came to save them, God asked them to do something that made them very sad. They had to kill a little lamb. This was so hard for them to do. Every time this happened, it would remind them of the Perfect One who would die because of their bad choices just like the innocent lamb died even though it had done nothing wrong.

Despite Adam and Eve's mistakes, God made it possible for them to choose to accept His gift of life.



Would other humans accept
God's offer of life?



*It would be so hard to
kill a little lamb. I'm glad
that stopped when the
Perfect One came.*

***If you keep studying these lessons,
you will learn how to accept God's
offer of life today!***



GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

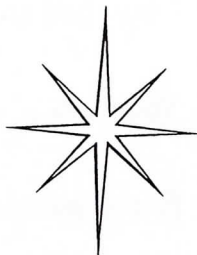
LESSON 2

Coming To Be With Us



What is Christmas all about?

Circle the pictures below that show the *true* meaning of Christmas.





Read the real story of Christmas in Luke 2 in your Bible. But first, let's look at the events that led up to the first Christmas.

About 2000 years ago, there was a young woman named Mary. She loved God very much and was looking forward to the coming Messiah just like all the other Hebrew girls her age.

One day . . .



Mary, don't be afraid. God is with you. You are going to have a baby boy. His name will be Jesus.



How can this happen? I am not even married! But I am willing because God knows best.

Read their conversation
in Luke 1:26-38



Circle the statements below that the angel told Mary.
Cross out the ones that are not in the Bible.

Your son will be a king.

Hang up your stockings by the fire.

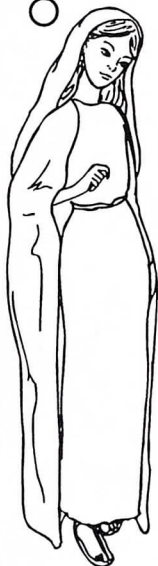
Your baby will be named Santa Claus.

He will rule forever.

Fix a special Christmas dinner.

You should decorate a tree.

I'm afraid Joseph is going to be unhappy.



And he was. Joseph did not understand what had happened, or how Mary could be pregnant.

Where they lived, if a woman got pregnant from someone other than her husband, she was punished by stoning. People threw rocks at her until she was dead.

Joseph loved Mary and did not want to see her killed. He decided to divorce her quietly and keep the whole thing a secret.

Then, one night when Joseph was asleep . . .

Joseph, don't be afraid to marry Mary. Her baby is from God. You should name Him Jesus. He will save people from their sins.



You can read this story in Matthew 1:19-21.

Joseph felt much better. He believed the angel and married Mary, but they did not get a chance to live happily ever after . . .

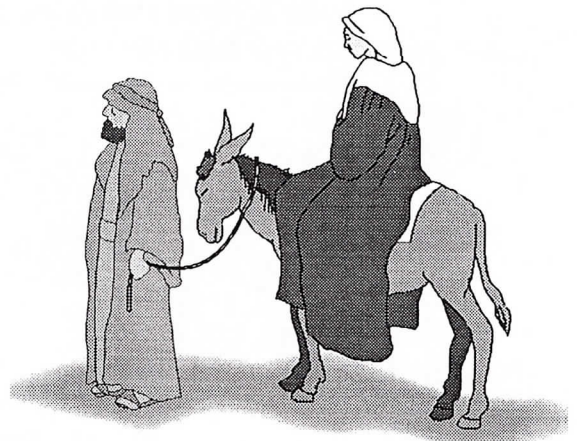


Far away in Rome, the Emperor Caesar Augustus made a law that everyone in the world had to go back to the town where they were born to register and pay taxes.

Joseph had been born in Bethlelehem, a long way from Nazareth.

It was not a good time for making a trip. Mary's baby was going to come soon.

Still, they had no choice. It was the law!



When they got to Bethlehem, there was more bad news . . .

I have no room in my inn, but I suppose you could sleep with my animals.



Oh Joseph! What are we going to do? The baby is coming soon!

That night Baby Jesus was born. His mother wrapped Him tightly in a cloth (the kind of baby clothes used back then) and placed Him in the animals' feed box because there was nowhere else to put Him. God's Son, the King of the universe, was born among the animals and slept in a feeding trough!



It makes me feel sad that there was no room for Jesus when He came to earth.

We can't change what happened back then, but we can make room in our hearts for Him today.



Do you have room in your heart for Jesus?



Color the heart with your answer in it.



Outside the town of Bethlehem, some shepherds were in the fields with their animals. Suddenly they were frightened by a bright light!



*Do not be afraid. I have great news!
The Messiah has been born. You will
find Him lying in a manger.*

*What a
strange
bed for a
Baby King!*

Let's go find Him!



Then a large group of angels sang a song of praise.

“Glory to God in heaven and on earth
Let there be peace
For the people who please God.”



The shepherds hurried into the town of Bethlehem. Somewhere there was a Baby King . . . lying in a manger.

In Bethlehem the shepherds found the baby, just as the angel had told them. They were so excited to be His first visitors. They knelt down and worshipped Baby Jesus.

Micah, a prophet, had written hundreds of years before Baby Jesus was born that the Messiah would be born in Bethelhem. And it had come true, just as God had said!



God was right on schedule. He had sent His Son as a baby with a human body to save human beings and be their friend.

How hard it must have been for God. Would people treat His Son well? Not so far. Nobody was expecting Him or had room for Him.



*God must love us
A LOT!*



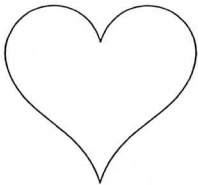
Fill in the blanks below, using the pictures as clues.

For God _____ the _____

so much that He gave His only _____

so that whoever believes in _____

may not be lost but have eternal life.



You may check your answer by looking up John 3:16.

GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

LESSON 3

Jesus Was A Child Like Me

When Baby Jesus was eight days old, His parents took Him to the temple to be blessed. They could not afford the usual thank-you offering for a baby (a pair of doves). But God had a plan for poor people, too. They could bring a pair of pigeons instead (pigeons were much cheaper).

God had told an old man named Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Messiah. Simeon held Baby Jesus in his arms. He was so excited!

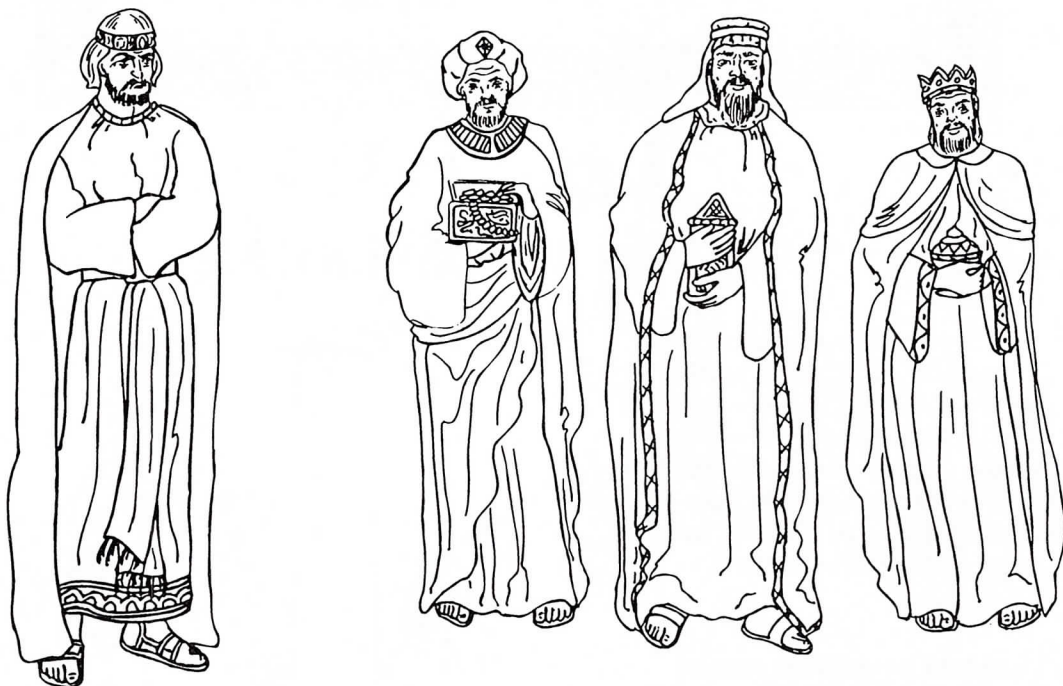
Anna was a prophetess who was 84 years old. She lived in the temple and also had been waiting for the Messiah to come. She came up to Jesus' family and started thanking God and telling people that this was the Promised One who would set Jerusalem free.



Far away, wise men noticed a new star in the sky. They believed it meant a new king had been born. Following the star, they traveled to Jerusalem to honor the new baby.

They went to the palace where King Herod lived, and were surprised not to find a baby. King Herod was very unhappy at the idea of anyone else being king instead of him.

Read what King Herod told the wise men in Matthew 2:7, 8.



Do you think that was what Herod really planned to do?



Circle the correct answer.

Yes

No



Then the star led the wise men to Bethlehem and they found Baby Jesus. They knelt down and worshipped Him and gave Him expensive presents.

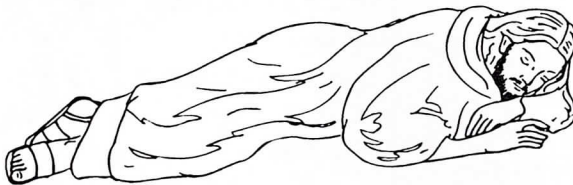
The wise men planned to tell King Herod they had found the baby, but an angel warned them in a dream NOT to go back to see Herod. So they went home another way.

Herod was angry when he realized that the wise men had tricked him.



Read about Herod's horrible decision in Matthew 2:16.

*Joseph! Wake up!
Take Mary and
the baby and
leave right now
for Egypt!*



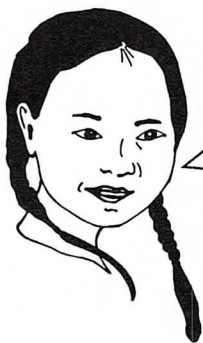
What did Joseph do?



Circle the correct answer. You can find it in Matthew 2:14.

1. He decided to sleep until morning and then leave.
2. He thought he was having a bad dream.
3. Right away he did as the angel told him.

Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus had to run away to Egypt until it was safe to come home again. They were glad for the expensive gifts the wise men had given Jesus. They could sell them and use the money on their trip. They lived in Egypt until Jesus was a little boy.



Our family had to move because of my dad's job. I don't know anyone here, and I miss my old friends. Can Jesus understand how I feel?



My family has moved to a new country. At first I did not even understand the people when they talked to me. Can Jesus understand what it is like to have to go to a strange country?

There is fighting in my country, and my family has had to run away to be safe. Now we live in a refugee camp. Does Jesus understand what it is like to be a refugee?



What do you think?

YES

NO

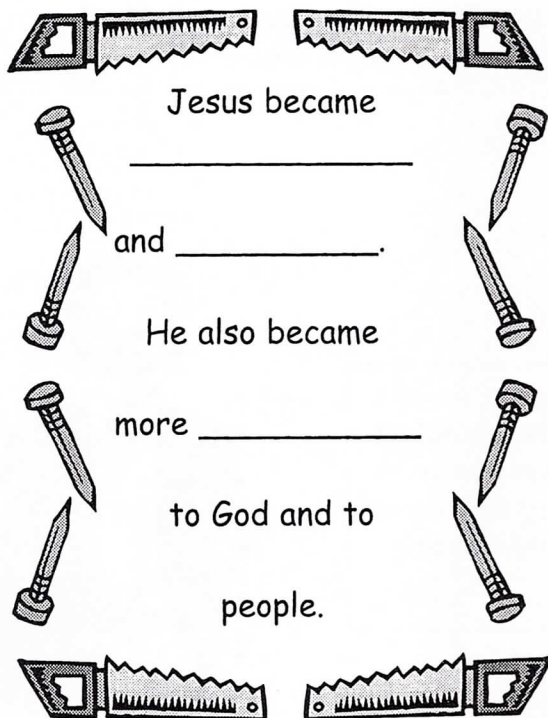
After King Herod died, Joseph, Mary and young Jesus moved back from Egypt. Herod's son was ruling in the part of the country where Bethlehem was, so they went to the town of Nazareth where they would be safe.

There, Joseph ran a carpenter shop and Jesus helped His dad. (Joseph was really his stepdad since God was Jesus' real father.)

Joseph was older than Mary, and already had children, so Jesus had stepbrothers, who were not always kind to Him. They probably missed their mother, who had died. Sometimes it annoyed them that their dad's new wife (Mary) thought her little Son was perfect, even though He really was.



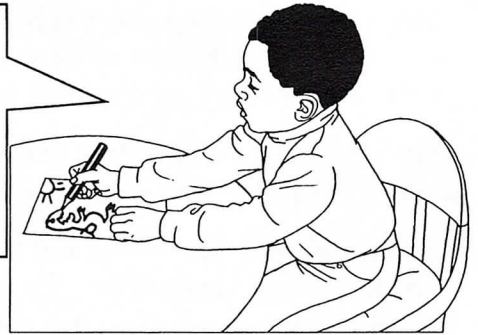
Sometimes people think that children from poor families or step families cannot be as successful as other children. But Jesus came from a step family, and they were very poor. What does the Bible say about Him. Read Luke 2:52.



Choose the correct words from those provided below to fill in the blanks.

taller, wiser, annoying, pleasing,
weaker, stronger, brighter, dull

I have a stepfather who has other children too. We don't always get along, and sometimes they are mean to me. It makes me feel better to know that Jesus understands how I feel because He grew up with these same problems.



My family does not have very much money. Sometimes things are really hard. It makes me feel better to know that Jesus understands exactly what that is like. I can talk to Him about my problems because I know He understands.

My family runs a business, and so I spend a lot of my time helping my parents with their work. Sometimes it is hard to work so much when I know other children are playing, but I know Jesus understands. He worked in a family business too!



When Jesus was 12 years old, His parents took Him to the temple in Jerusalem. It was very exciting. He got to watch the priests do their work, join in the singing, and watch the sacrifices.

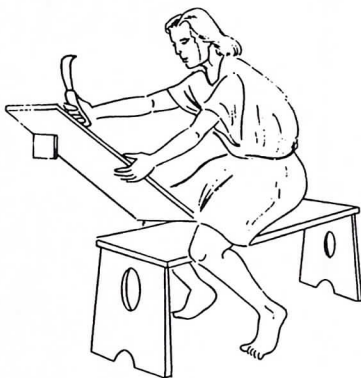
While He was there, He came to understand WHO He was and what His job would be. He watched the lambs being sacrificed and realized that HE was God's Lamb.

He spent time in the temple talking with the priests. They were very surprised at how much He knew about the Scriptures (the Bible back then), and how smart He was.

Thinking Jesus was with them, Joseph and Mary had started home.

When they realized He was missing they were very worried. But they found Him in the temple talking with the priests.

In Luke 2:49 read Jesus' answer to Mary when she finally found Him.



Jesus returned home with His parents. He helped Joseph in his carpenter shop as He continued growing up. Jesus trusted God to tell Him when to start His job as God's Son and special Lamb.



Circle the correct answers below.

To be like Jesus, I will be:

OBEDIENT

HELPFUL TO MY PARENTS

LAZY

HARDWORKING

WATCHING T.V. ALL THE TIME

STUDYING THE BIBLE

KIND TO OTHERS

FAITHFUL IN MY SCHOOL
ASSIGNMENTS

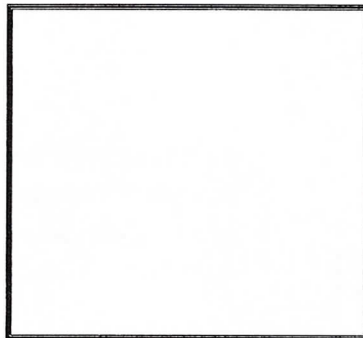


*Jesus showed us
that it IS possible
to grow up
pleasing God.*

*I want to be
like Jesus. I
will pray
and ask
Him to help
me.*



If you want to be like
Jesus too, ask Him to
help you, and then
draw your picture in
this box.



GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

LESSON 4

Jesus Begins His New Job

John the Baptist was a prophet. A prophet is someone who speaks for God and gives His messages to people. John talked to people about turning back to God. He was trying to help them get ready to meet Jesus, God's son, who would be coming soon. When they gave their lives to God, John dipped them under the water in the river to show that their old sinful lives were washed away and now they had a new spiritual life.



You can read John's story in Luke 1 and Luke 3:1-23.

I'm sorry for all the wrong things I have done.

I hope He comes soon!



Jesus lived at home and worked as a carpenter until He was 30 years old. Now it was time for Him to start His public job as God's Son.

Jesus came down to the water and asked John the Baptist to baptize Him. John did not want to. Jesus had been perfect all His life. He did not have any sins to be forgiven.

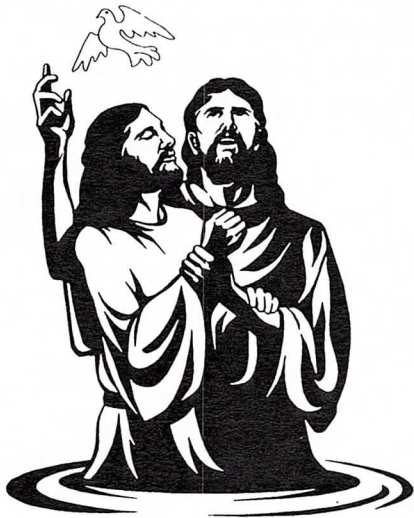
But Jesus wanted John to baptize Him as an example for the people who would follow Him.

Read the story in Matthew 3.



Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

He doesn't look like a lamb to me!



Read Luke 3:22. Ever since then, Christians have used a dove as a symbol representing God's Holy Spirit.

Jesus was not quite ready to begin His ministry. He left the crowded river bank to find a quiet place where He could pray and talk with God. He walked far up into the rocky wilderness where He could be alone—just Him and God.



How long did Jesus stay in the wilderness?
You can find the answer in Luke 4:1.
Write it on the line below.

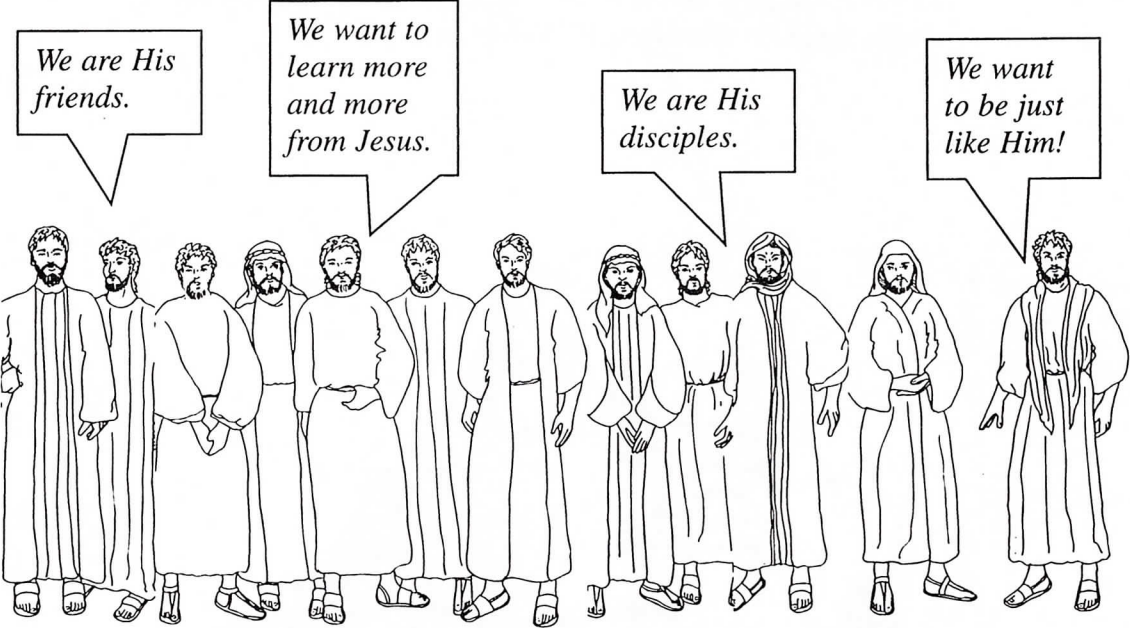


What a *long* time to go without food!



In Luke 4:1-15 you can find out more about what happened while Jesus was in the wilderness.

Now Jesus chose twelve men to work with Him and learn how to help people.



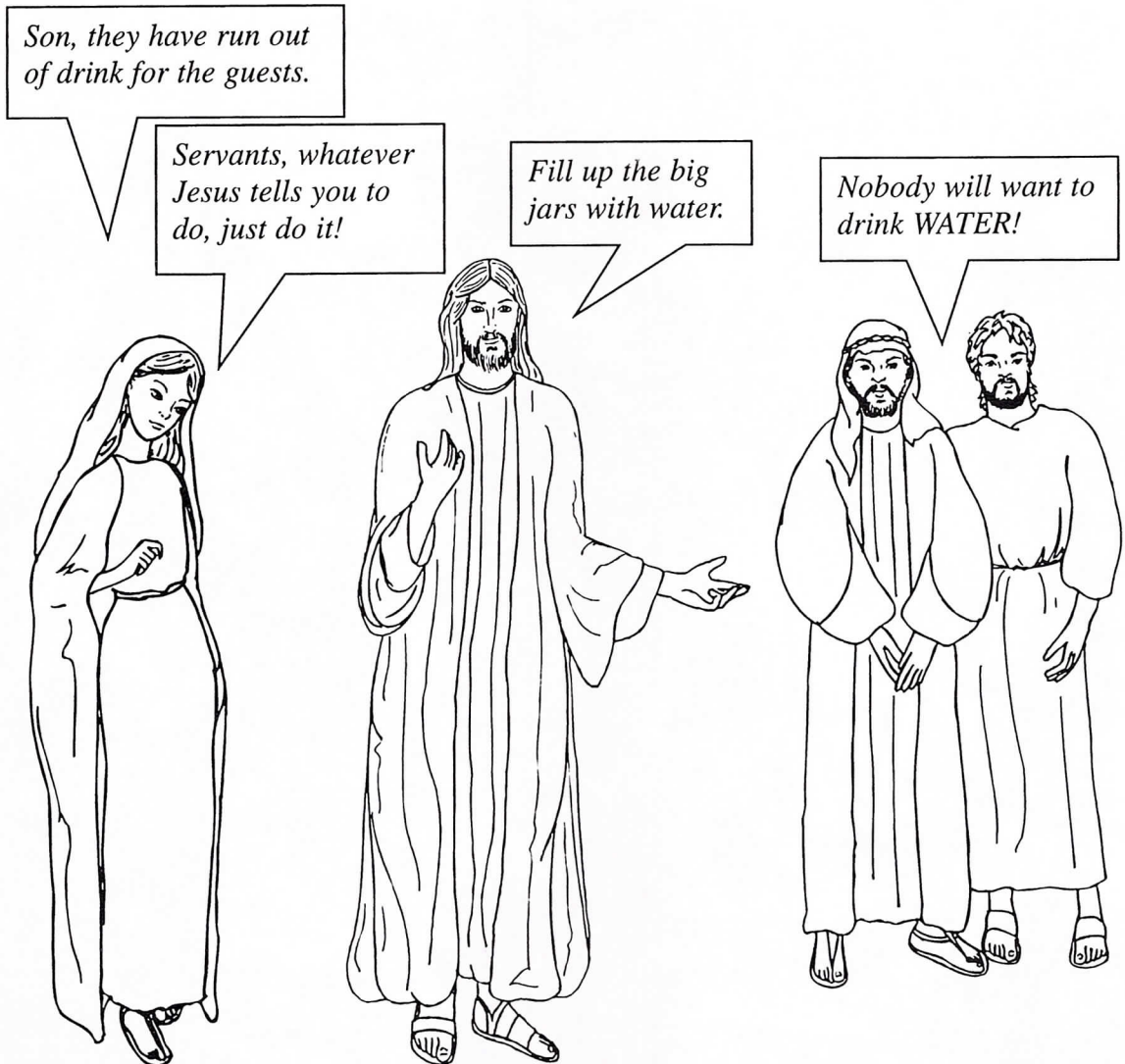
In Luke 6:12-16 you can find the names of Jesus' twelve friends. Write them on the lines below.

1. _____	7. _____
2. _____	8. _____
3. _____	9. _____
4. _____	10. _____
5. _____	11. _____
6. _____	12. _____

Jesus and His disciples traveled north. They came to a town called Cana. Jesus' family was in Cana for a wedding. A wedding is supposed to be a very happy celebration, but some people at this wedding were worried. They did not have enough drink for all the guests.

What could they do?

Jesus' mother was one of the guests helping at the wedding.



Jesus told the servants to pour a drink for the man in charge of the party. The servants *did not* want to do this!

Jesus made grape juice out of plain water!

This is the best juice I have ever tasted.

Yes! It is really good.

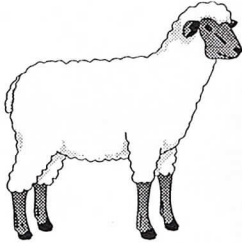


Have you ever been to a wedding? God loves weddings. He wants us to be happy celebrating marriage. It is something He approves of. That is why Jesus' first miracle made a wedding celebration happy for everyone.



REVIEW QUIZ

Who do these pictures remind you of? Draw a line from the picture to the person's name. You may have more than one picture for the same name.



John the Baptist



Mary



Jesus



Angel



Eve



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GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

LESSON 5

Jesus Taught the Be Happy Attitudes

Everywhere Jesus went lots of people wanted to hear what He said. One day a large crowd of people followed Him out of the city and into the countryside. Jesus led them up onto a hill where He sat down and talked to them. In this "Sermon on the Mount" Jesus told the people the secrets of being happy even when they were having hard times.



1

Humble people can be happy, because the whole Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them.

2

Those who are sad can be happy, for they will be comforted.

3

Those who are gentle can be happy, for the entire world will belong to them.

4

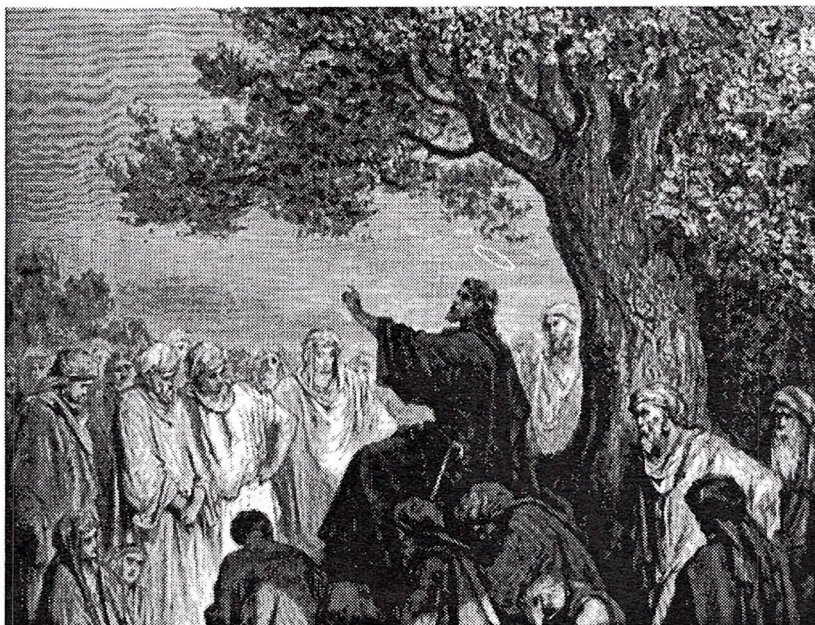
Those who really want to be good can be happy, for they will be completely satisfied.

6

Those whose hearts are pure can be happy, for they shall see God.

5

Those who are kind and forgive others can be happy, for they will also be forgiven.



7

Peacemakers can be happy too, for they shall be called God's children.

8

You can also be happy if you are picked on and treated badly because you are my friend. Be really glad, for you will have great rewards in heaven.



*Jesus' entire sermon is really interesting.
You can read it all in Matthew 5, 6, & 7.*



There is a happy attitude that applies to each situation below. In the boxes next to each child, write the number of the “Be Happy Attitude” that will help them.

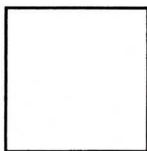
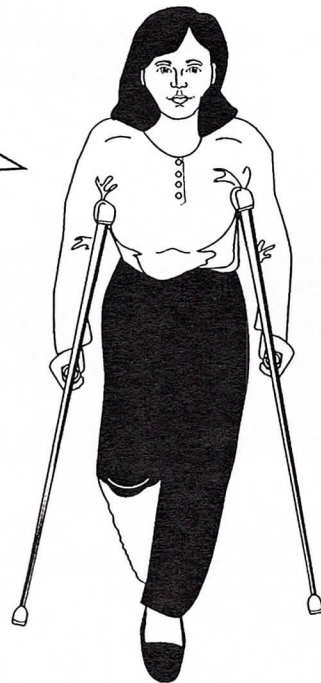
I am so discouraged. I want to be like Jesus, but I keep forgetting and doing naughty things. Maybe Jesus will not like me.



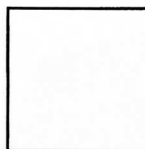
My dog Sarah died. I miss her so much. I have had her since I was a baby, and I loved her a lot!



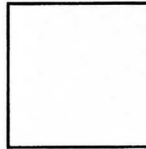
This guy at school is really mean to me. He calls me names and even pushed me down once. I do not hit back, but I talk to a teacher about my problem.



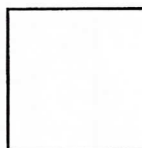
I want so much to be like Jesus. I would like to be as good friends with Him as Enoch was. Enoch was a man in the Bible who never died. When he was old he was taken to heaven without dying to live with God because they were such good friends. I want to be best friends with Jesus too.



My brother borrowed money from me weeks ago. I have enough money and he doesn't, so I forgave his debt. He doesn't have to pay me back.



Two of my friends had a magazine at school with naughty pictures in it. They were laughing and telling a lot of those kinds of jokes too. I did not stay with them because I do not want to think bad thoughts.

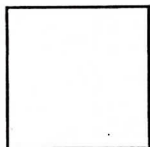




My two best friends are angry with each other. I am going to invite them over to my house and help them be friends again instead of hurting each other.



I don't have any friends. Other boys and girls won't sit with me because I do not like the kind of jokes they tell, and they call me a "goody-goody." I am lonely, but I still want to be like Jesus.





Look up these texts from Jesus' sermon and match them to the picture that fits best.

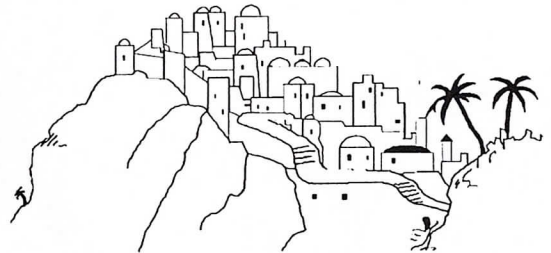
Matthew 5:15



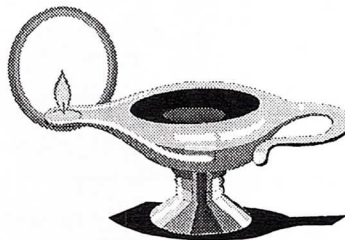
Matthew 5:13



Matthew 5:14



Matthew 5:39





Look up Matthew 6:25-28. Then match the pictures to the blanks in the sentences below. Write the correct number next to each picture.

Look at the (1) _____. They do not plant or gather
 (2) _____. But your Heavenly (3) _____ feeds them.
 Why worry about (4) _____? See the (5) _____? You are
 more important to God than they are. If He takes care of them, He will
 take care of you too.



GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

LESSON 6

Jesus Can Cure Anything

When Jesus lived on this earth He helped many sick people. One day He and His friends were walking together on the road toward Jericho. A blind man named Bartimaeus was sitting by the road begging for money.



*Jesus! Help me!
Jesus! Help me!*

*Oh be quiet,
you nasty
beggar! We
are trying to
listen to Jesus!*



To find out what happened next, look in your Bible in Mark 10:51, 52.
Circle as many answers as apply:

From this I learned:

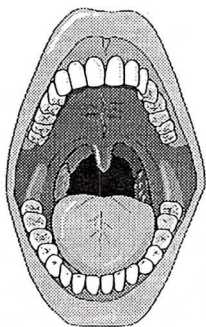
1. Jesus only helps rich people.
2. Jesus helps poor people too.
3. Jesus has power over disease.
4. Jesus helps those who ask Him.

Another day some people brought a man to Jesus who could hardly talk and could not hear. They begged Jesus to help him.

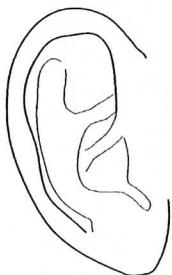
***Read the story in Mark 7:31-35.
Then do the quiz below.***



Instructions: Draw a line from the questions to the correct body part.



1. Where did Jesus put His fingers?



2. What did Jesus touch after He spit?

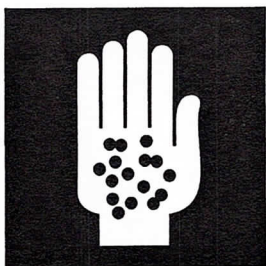


Circle all the true answers.

I learned from this story:

1. It is good to ask Jesus to help my friends.
2. Sometimes Jesus does things we do not understand.
3. Jesus has no power over deafness.

When Jesus lived on earth, some people had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. In those days it was incurable. People's skin got worse and worse until their fingers and toes and sometimes their noses rotted and fell off.



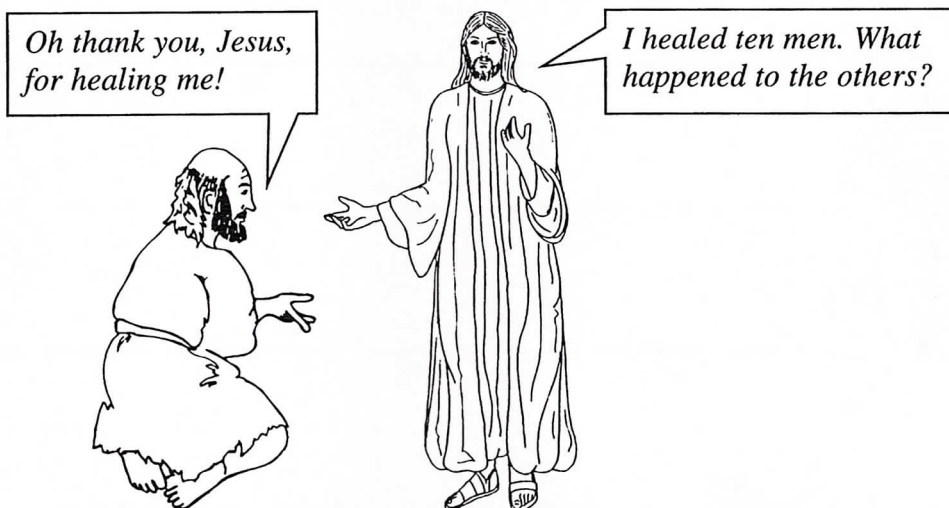
People who had leprosy were made to live outside the town and away from healthy people. If healthy people walked by, lepers had to shout, "Unclean! Unclean!" so that the healthy people would not accidentally get too close and catch the disease.

Everyone was afraid of people with leprosy. They were even hated by many people.

One day when Jesus and His friends were walking, ten men with leprosy were nearby. "Unclean! Unclean!" they shouted. But when they heard it was Jesus they shouted, "Please help us!" And Jesus did!

Jesus sent all of them to the priest to be inspected. Only a priest could pronounce a leper recovered and allow him to go back home to his family and friends. The priest examined the ten men. They had brand new skin. There was no trace of the leprosy left, not even scars! He pronounced them healed.

Later . . . one man came back to Jesus.



***You can can the story about
the lepers in Luke 17:11-19.***



How sad! Jesus had healed all ten of them, but only one man came back to say “Thank you.” Jesus does many good things for us too. He made our world and He takes care of us and gives us the things we need. Do we always remember to tell Him thank you?



In the thank you note below, write some of the things you appreciate.

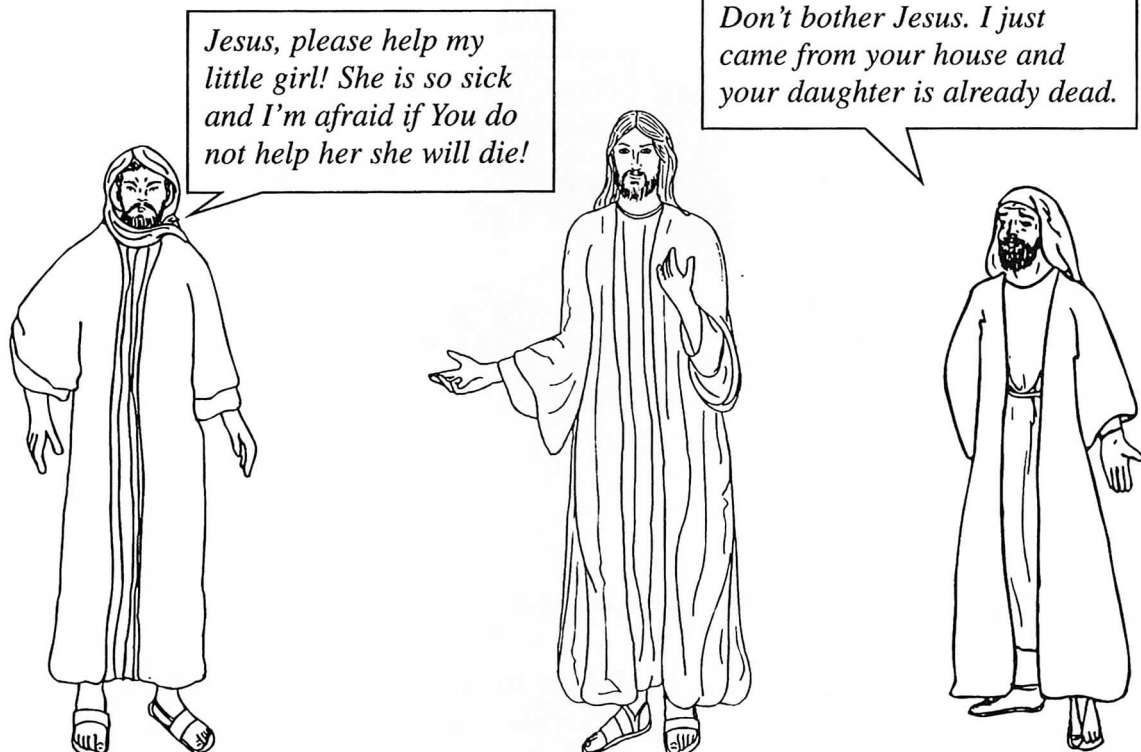


Thank You, God, for . . .

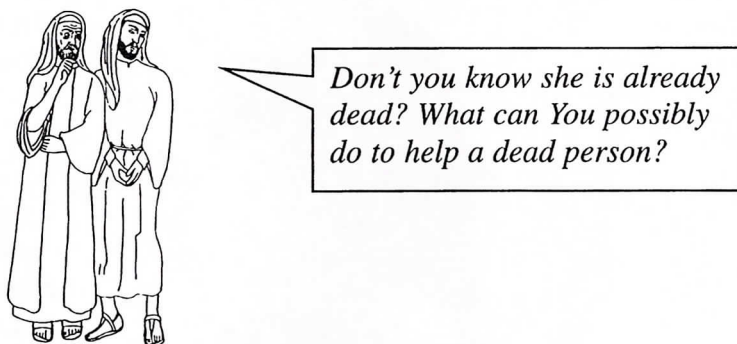


Some people still get leprosy today but there are medicines that can help them.

A man named Jarius hurried through the crowds around Jesus. He had come to ask Jesus to heal his little girl.



Jesus went to Jarius' house anyway. "She is just sleeping," Jesus said. When He arrived at the house, people were crying. He asked everyone but the girl's mother and father to stay outside. The rest of the crowd stopped crying and laughed at Him.



Jesus ignored them and went into the girl's room. You can read what happened next in Luke 8:55, 56.





Circle all the correct answers:

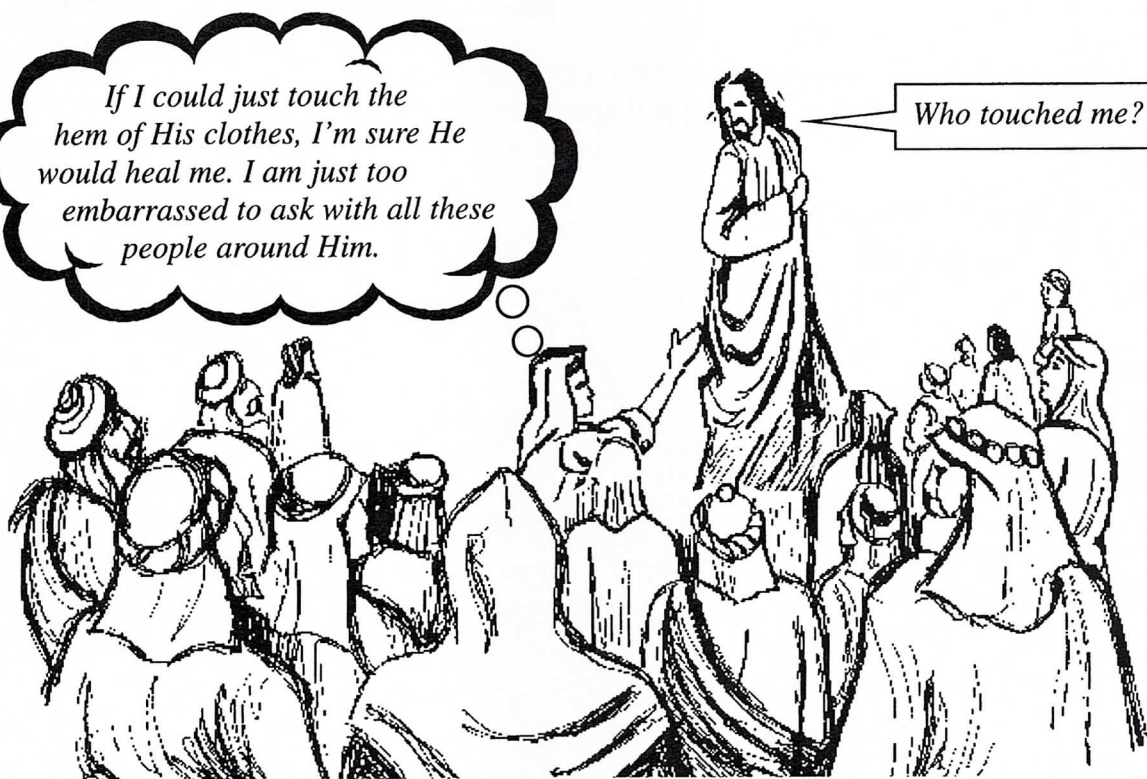
1. For friends of Jesus, being dead is just like being asleep because He will wake them up again some day.
2. Jesus doesn't care about girls.
3. Jesus is even more powerful than death.



While Jesus was on His way to Jairus' house, a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years was in the crowd. She hoped Jesus could heal her too, but she was too shy to ask Him. [This story is found in Luke 8:43-48.]

If I could just touch the hem of His clothes, I'm sure He would heal me. I am just too embarrassed to ask with all these people around Him.

Who touched me?



Jesus cares about women's problems too!



The people thought He was being silly. There was a huge crowd with lots of people bumping into each other. It could have been *anyone*. But Jesus knew about the sick woman. He knew she was too shy to ask, and He was happy to help her.

Fearfully, the woman came forward. "It was me," she said. She was afraid she was in real trouble for bothering this famous teacher.

"Dear woman," said Jesus kindly, "your faith has healed you. Go in peace." How wonderful she felt. Jesus understood. And He had healed her!

Read Matthew 4:23, 24.



Read the statements in the shapes below
and cross out the ones that are not true.

Jesus
can help me
too
if I
ask Him.

Jesus cares
only about
adults.

Jesus only
helps men.

Jesus cares
about everyone,
EVEN ME!

Jesus helped
children too.

Jesus can heal
any problem!

Jesus only helps
rich people.

I want
to be His
friend.

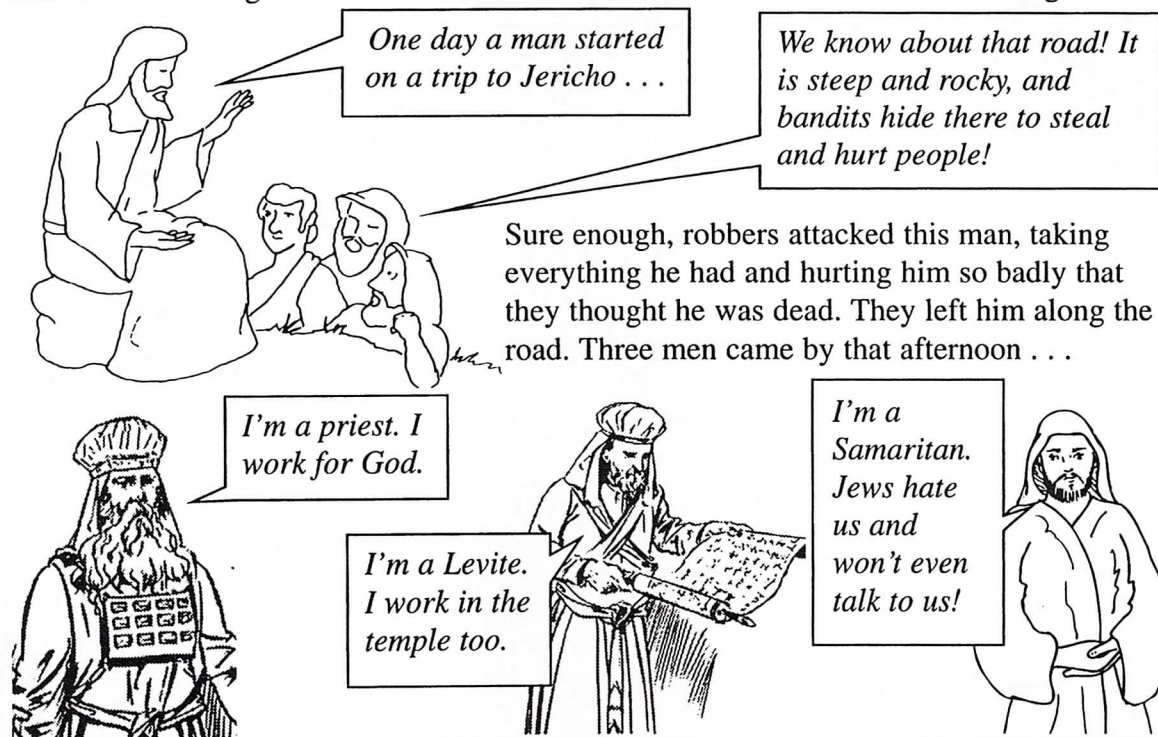
Jesus
is stronger than
death.

GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

LESSON 7

Jesus Was The Greatest Story Teller

Jesus told a lot of stories. In fact, most of His sermons were stories. This made His sermons interesting so that even children could understand what He was teaching.





*Find this story in Luke 10:30-34.
Now match the men with their
responses to the injured man.*

*I couldn't touch him.
I might get blood on my
new robe!*

*This
man is hurt!*



*Here, let me help you! I have
something in my bag for
your cuts and bruises. I will
take you to an inn near here.*



*He sure is a mess! I don't
have time to stop. I have more
important things to do. After
all, I work for God!*



Jesus asked the crowd, "Which of these people was his neighbor?" Circle the person YOU think acted like a good neighbor, doing what Jesus would do. How do you think Jesus wants *us* to act toward people who are hurt?

Like the Priest

Like the Levite

Like the Samaritan

Jesus told the story of a man who owed a large amount of money to a king.

He said to the king, "I owe you so much money I'll never be able to pay it back, even if I work all my life. If you throw me in jail, my family won't be able to pay you either."

The king responded, "OK, I will forget the money you owe me."

"Oh, Thank You, Thank You!" cried the man.



On his way home, he met a man who owed him a little bit of money. "I want my money right now!" he shouted.

"I don't have any money with me today, but I will pay you back soon," answered the other man.

"No!" shouted the man. "Give me my money right now!"

The king was very angry when he found out how mean the man had been to his friend who only owed him a little bit of money. So the king called the man back in and said, "Since you aren't willing to forgive the small debt of your friend, I won't forgive your huge debt either!"

If God has forgiven every wrong you do in your entire life, what does He expect you to do when someone wrongs you?

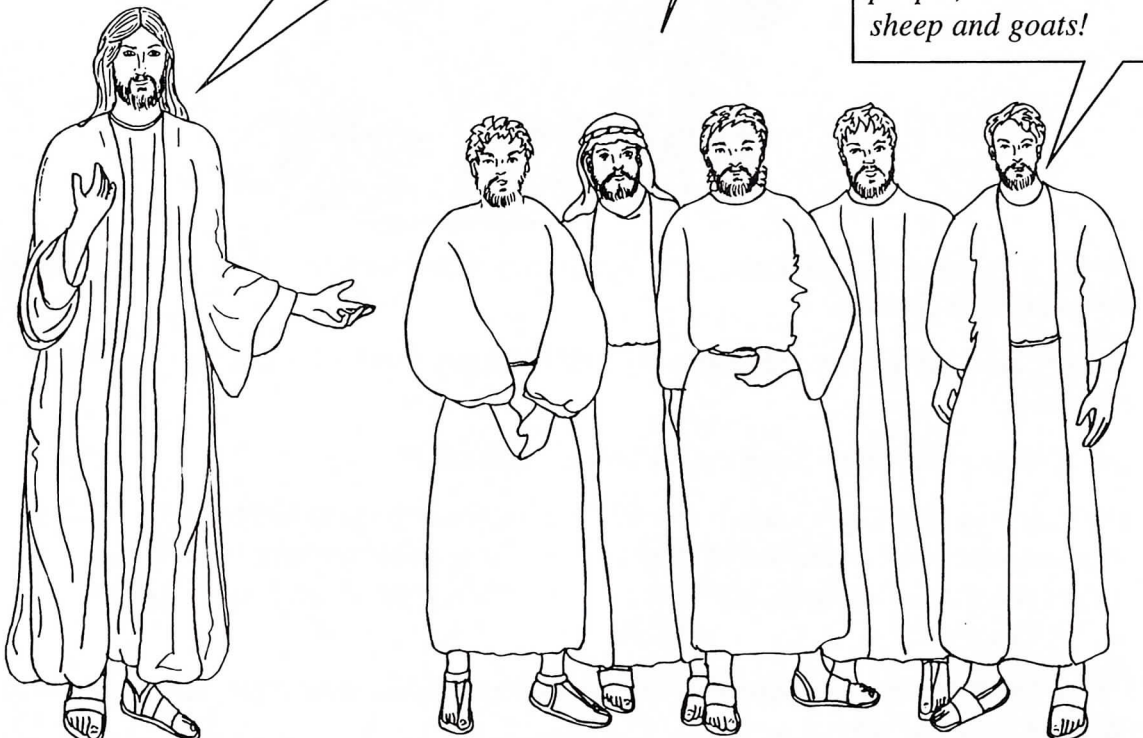
One day Jesus said . . .

Someday I will come back to earth again, but I will come as a King from heaven to take you home with Me. When I do, I will divide the sheep from the goats.

To the sheep I will say, "When I was in prison, you came to visit Me. When I was sick, you helped Me. When I was naked and hungry, you gave Me food and clothes. When I was thirsty, you gave Me a drink."

I know about dividing sheep and goats. Every night I have to divide my flocks. They eat together during the day, but the sheep and goats have to sleep in separate places.

I think He is talking about two groups of people, not real sheep and goats!





To the goats I will say, "When I was in prison, sick, naked, hungry and thirsty, you did nothing!"

Both the sheep and goats will say, "We don't remember ever seeing You in any of those situations!"

Then I will tell them, "The things you did for even the most unimportant person counted as if you did them for Me!"

The way I treat other people must really be important to Jesus. I guess I should treat everyone I meet as if they were Jesus, no matter how they act.



Another story Jesus told . . .

I work for my Dad. He is rich. When he dies I will get half of his money and I will be rich too!



I'm tired of working for Dad. I don't want to wait until he dies. I want my money now! I could have big parties, lots of friends, and do many exciting things. I'm going to ask Dad for my money NOW!

The father felt very sad, but he gave his son the money. The son left home immediately. Every day the father thought, "I'll watch for my son to come home. I will forgive him if he will just come home!"

My friends all left when my money ran out. They didn't like me . . . just my money. At least I have this job feeding pigs. Even THEY eat better than I do!

*My dad's servants live a lot better than this! Maybe if I went back and apologized he would let me live there and work for him as a servant. At least I would have decent food to eat. I am SO hungry!
I'm going HOME!*





*In Luke
15:20, 23
you can find
out what the
father did
when his
son
returned.*



Jesus also told a story
about a lost sheep.
Read Matthew 18:13
and choose the
shepherd's response.

☐

I am *so* glad I found you. You are *very* precious to me!

☐

You stupid sheep! Why can't you stay with the others. I am sick of always having to go and find you. You dumb animal.

☐

Oh well, I don't care. I have 99 other sheep anyway. What's one missing sheep to a rich guy like me?



Read Luke 15:8-10 to find the story Jesus told about a woman who lost a coin.



How does God feel about people?
Draw a line to the correct picture.

Which story tells us how God feels about people who are lost but don't know how to come back to Him?

Which story tells us how God feels about someone who is lost and wants to come back to Him?

Which story tells us how God feels about people who are lost and don't even know they are lost?

How does this make you feel about God?



Circle all the true answers.

1. I love Him too!
2. I want Him to find me.
3. I have to think about it some more.



GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

LESSON 8

Jesus Can Fix Any Problem

Everyone has problems. When Jesus was here on earth people had problems too. Jesus was great at fixing the problems they had.



Jesus, the tax collector asked me if you pay the temple tax. I told him yes.

From others, of course.

Peter, do kings collect taxes from their own sons or from others?

Everything in this world belongs to my Father. But He will solve your problem. Go catch a fish and look in its mouth.





Peter and his friends were fishermen before they became Jesus' helpers. Peter knew that fish usually do not have anything in their mouths that help with taxes. But Peter had learned to do what Jesus said, even if it sounded strange. So he went to his boat and started fishing. It was not long before he caught a fish. Carefully he pried the fish's mouth open and . . .



*You can read this
amazing story in
Matthew 17:24-27.*



Jesus didn't make Peter rich from the money in the fish's mouth. Jesus only provided what Peter **NEEDED**. When we have problems Jesus will also help us.

One night, after a long day of teaching and healing people, Jesus was very tired. So He and His friends got into a boat and sailed out across the Sea of Galilee.

Even today, the Sea of Galilee has problems with sudden, violent storms because it is between two mountains. That night was stormy too. The wind blew down on the lake and whipped the water up into big waves. The rain pelted down, and the thunder roared.

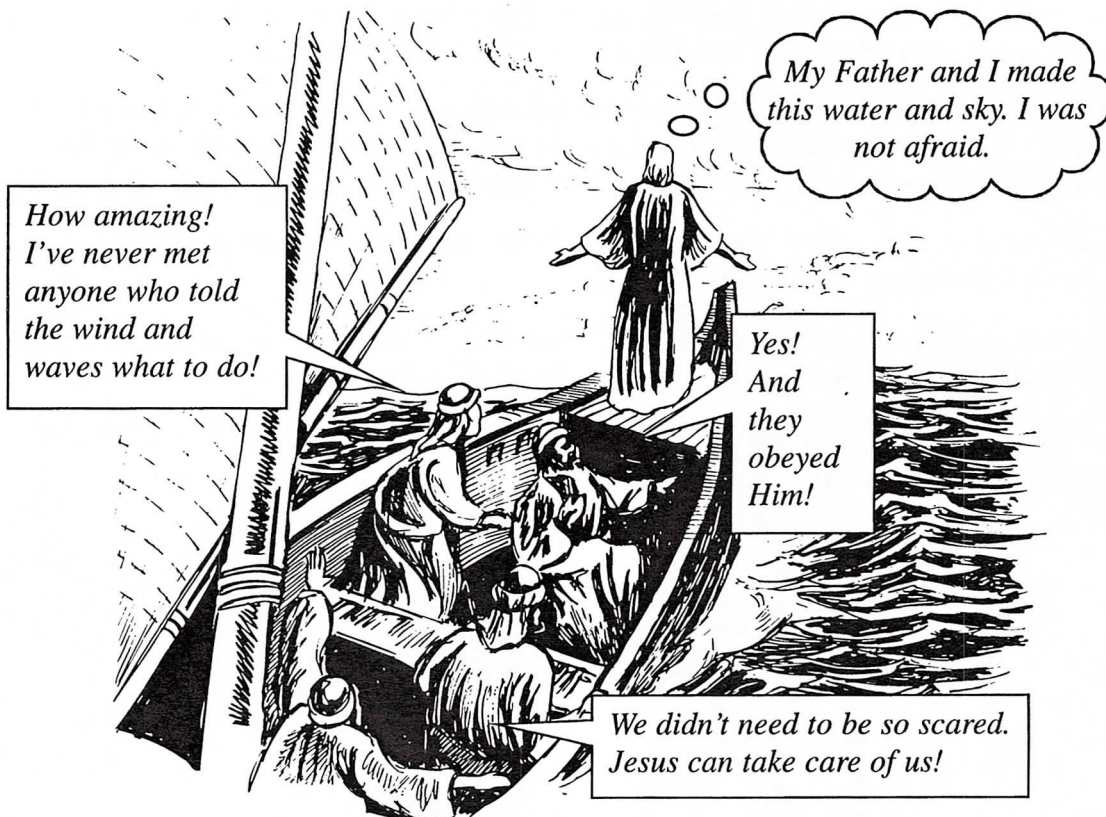
The disciples were terrified! They knew other fishermen had drowned in that lake during sudden storms. Where was Jesus?

Jesus was sound asleep. His disciples awakened Him by shouting to be heard above the noise of the storm, “Don’t you care that we are all going to drown?”

Jesus was not scared. He stood up in the boat and spoke to the storm. “Peace! Be still!” Suddenly the storm stopped and it was very quiet.



You can read this story in Mark 4:35-41.



*Sometimes I feel afraid
during big storms. It is good
to know that Jesus is stronger
than any storm and that He
can stop it.*

*He doesn't always calm the storms.
Sometimes He just calms ME.*





Either way, it's good to know that if Jesus is with us, we never have to be afraid! But how can we know that Jesus is with us? We can't see Him.

Jesus promised he would never leave us. You just have to invite Him into your life and there He is. You can't see Him, but He is always there with you.



Bow your head and say,

*"Jesus, I want to be Your friend.
Help me learn to trust and love You
like You love me. Amen."*

And Jesus will!

One day Jesus was getting ready to tell stories. But there was such a huge crowd of people who wanted to listen that Jesus led them to a hillside where there was room for everyone. The Bible says there were so many people that only the men were counted. 5,000 men were there. [This story is found in John 6:1-13.]



Jesus saw the people were hungry. "Where shall we buy bread?" He asked.

"We have no money to buy food for this many people," responded a disciple.



Jesus prayed and thanked God for the food. Then He broke the bread in half, and in half again. He just kept breaking it, and there seemed to be more each time!



The disciples passed the food around until everyone had eaten. There were even leftovers!

Jesus had fed all those people with *one* little boy's lunch.

We don't need to worry about getting enough to eat. Jesus can take care of us even when there is only a little bit of food.



If I share my things Jesus can multiply them to help many, many people instead of just me.



Jesus must think children are important because He can use what we have to offer right now! We do not have to wait until we are grown up to be friends with Jesus and help Him.



Look up the texts and match them to Jesus' promises below.

Matthew 6:31, 32

John 16:33

Matthew 28:20

Matthew 28:18

In this world, you will have trouble, but cheer up! I have won the battle over the world.

All power in heaven and earth has been given to me.

You can be sure that I am with you . . . to the very end!

Don't worry about food or clothes. Your heavenly Father knows you need these things.



GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

LESSON 9

Jesus Is My Ticket To Heaven

*So many people are
angry with me. I will not have
a quick and easy death at the
altar like the lambs.*

*My friends will be
frightened and discouraged.
I wish I could prepare them for
what is coming.*



Jesus had come to earth to die. The time was getting closer. This had been the plan from the beginning of time. Every person who has ever lived has sinned. Jesus' death would make forgiveness available to everyone. Because of Jesus' love and sacrifice, every person on earth has the choice of whether or not to accept the gift of life.

God's people had sacrificed lambs for 4,000 years, waiting for this event. But when it happened, they did not understand it.

One night, Jesus took His friends and went to pray. Many things were on His mind.

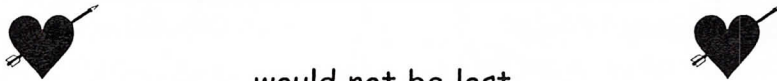
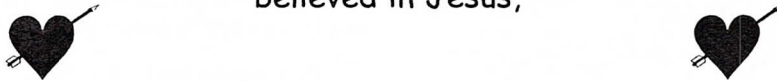
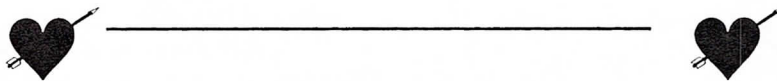
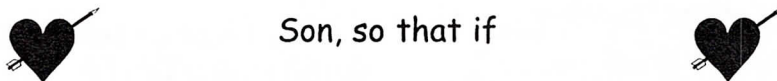
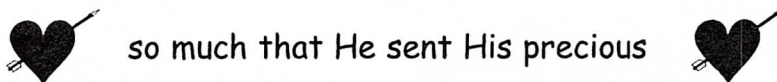
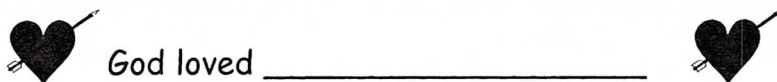
*Oh God! I don't want to be hurt and die! If
there is any other way for my friends to be
saved, please change this plan!*

*Even though this will be so hard, I will do
whatever You decide is best.*

There was no other way. God loved the people He had created. Jesus did too. Even if it meant Jesus being tortured to death, God and His Son loved us so much that They felt it was worth the price to save us.

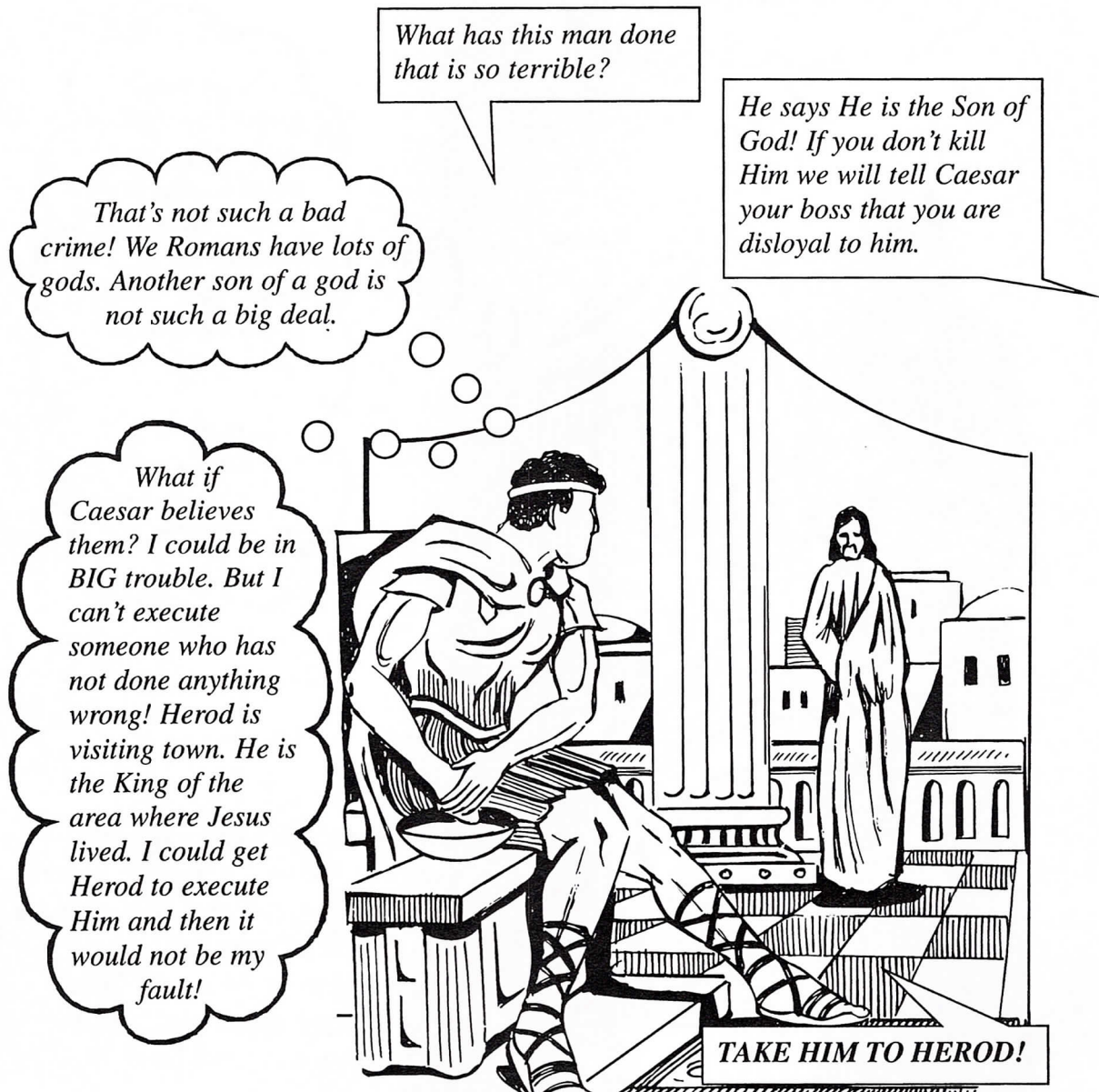


Write your name on the lines below.



Yes, it is in the Bible. You can read it in John 3:16.

Soldiers came to the garden and arrested Jesus. His disciples ran away in fear. First He was taken to the priests' court, called the Sanhedrin. The priests wanted to give Him the death sentence because He had said He was the Son of God. But only the Romans were allowed to pass the death sentence, so they took Him to Pilate, the Roman Governor.



I am excited about meeting Jesus. I hear he can do miracles. I'll command him to do some for entertainment!

I can never forget how I killed John the Baptist when he accused me of sinning. If I save the life of this prophet I will stop feeling guilty about John.

This man looks innocent. I will ask him questions and set him free.



Jesus would not answer Herod's questions. He would not talk at all or entertain the sinful king with miracles. Jesus' miracles were only to help people, not to save Himself. Herod became angry and disgusted. His soldiers began to tease Jesus.

*Let's put a purple robe
on Him just like a King!*

*Here, I made a crown out of
thorns. Have Him wear this!
Being a king isn't so much
fun, is it?*

Hail, King of the Jews!

*They say He is a
prophet. Let's see if
He really is. I'll
blindfold Him.*

*Hey, prophet!
Who hit you?*

*Who hit you
this time?*

*Which one of
us spit on you?*



*King Herod, we have had Jesus here a long
time. He won't talk to us. What do you want
us to do with Him?*

Take Him back to Pilate. Jesus is his problem, not mine.

Pilate was not happy to see Jesus coming back. He didn't know what to do. The crowd outside his fortress was shouting, demanding Jesus' execution.

Pilate's wife sent him a message begging him to let Jesus go.

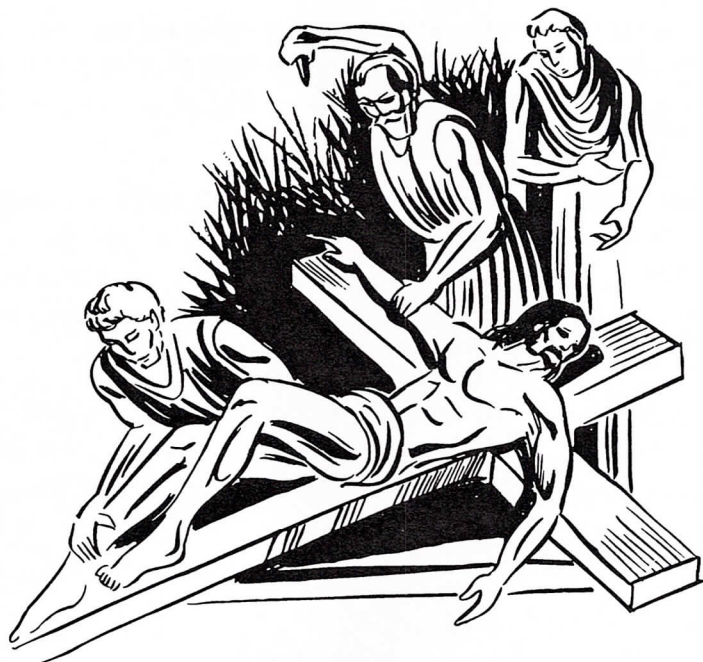
Pilate decided to have Him whipped. Then maybe the crowd would feel sorry for Him.

Jesus was brought back, beaten and bleeding. He looked terrible! Pilate stood Him on the balcony so the people could see Him. They continued to shout "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" (Crucifixion was the cruelest form of death.)

Pilate washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "His death will be your responsibility."

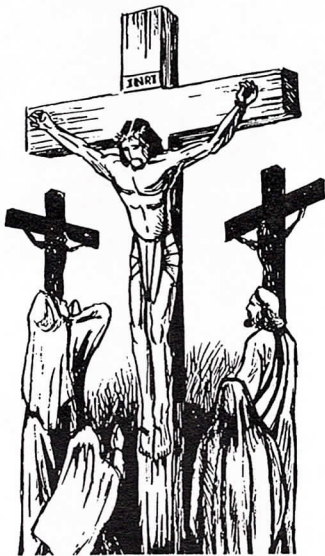
The soldiers tried to make Jesus carry His cross to the place of execution, but He was so badly hurt He kept fainting. Someone had to help Him.





Jesus and two criminals from jail were dragged to the execution site and nailed to crosses on a hill. A crowd of people from the city followed along to watch.

Jesus' friends watched too. How could He let them do this to Him? He could fix anything! *Why* was He letting this happen? They were so discouraged. They did not remember that Jesus was the Lamb of God.



In the temple as Jesus died, the priest was just getting ready for the evening sacrifice of a lamb. Suddenly there was an earthquake. The tall curtain that hid the holiest part of the temple from view, was ripped from top to bottom. The priest dropped his knife and the lamb ran away!

Jesus, who is God's real Lamb, had been killed. No more little lambs needed to die in the temple. Jesus had done what He came to do. Now people could choose to accept His forgiveness instead of dying for their own sins. They could choose everlasting life with God who loves us so much. Jesus had won, but nobody completely understood what that meant.

Jesus died on a Friday afternoon. The disciples wondered if the soldiers would come to kill them. Before dark, some of Jesus' friends took Him off of the cross and put Him in a tomb. The door was covered with a very large, heavy stone. Jesus' friends planned to return Sunday to bury Him properly.



*Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
all tell the story of Jesus' death.*



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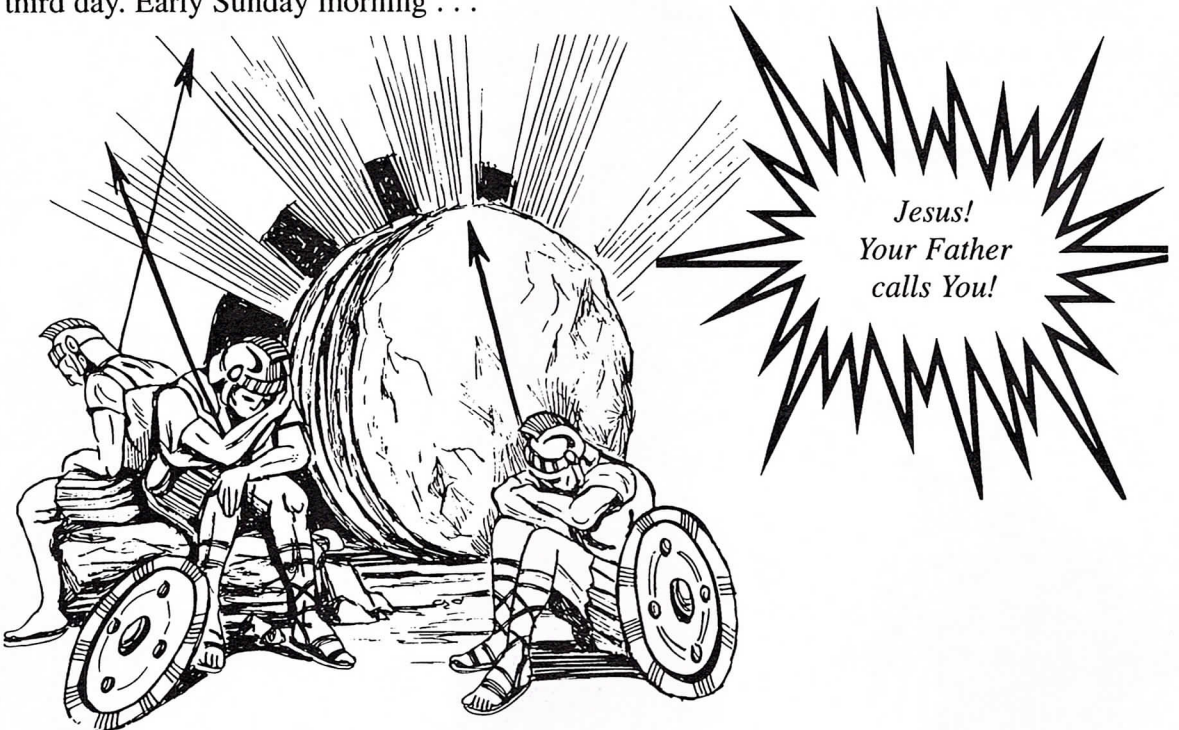
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GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

LESSON 10

What Jesus is Doing Now

All weekend Jesus rested in the tomb. The priests were worried that the disciples might steal Jesus' body and claim He was alive, because Jesus had said He would rise on the third day. Early Sunday morning . . .





Read Matthew 28:11-15 to find out what happened to the soldiers.



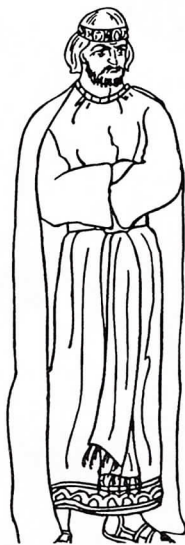
Match the people to what they did . . .

Offered the soldiers money
to tell a lie

Sent soldiers to guard Jesus' tomb

Told Jesus' friends that He was
not dead anymore

Cried because she could not
find Jesus



Where is Jesus?

*He
is not here,
for He has
risen.*

*That is wonderful!
We need to go and
tell the others!!*

Still later . . .

*Peter
and John said that Jesus'
body is gone. Who stole it? I
want to wrap it in spices as is
proper for dead people.*

*Because they've taken
Jesus' body away, and
I don't know where to
find Him!*

Why are you crying?

Mary!

*Oh Jesus! It's You!
You are alive!*

Read this story in John 20:10-18.

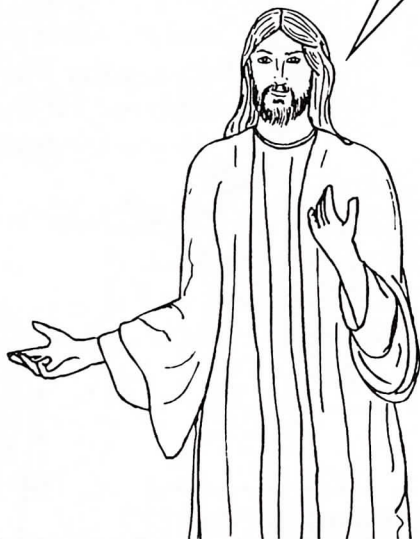
This weekend has been so terrible! I can't believe Jesus would let them kill Him. I really thought He was the Messiah, but I guess I was wrong.

I'm glad we are going back to Emmaus. There is nothing in Jerusalem for us now that Jesus is dead. The Messiah was supposed to be a victorious king. Getting killed by the Romans seems to rule Jesus out.

Well, uh, what do you know about it anyway, stranger?

Why?

Didn't Isaiah's prophecies of the Messiah call Him a suffering servant? And didn't it say that He was bruised and hurt for our sins and by His stripes we are healed?



When the men reached home they invited the stranger to come in for supper. The conversation continued.

He had bloody stripes all over His back after Pilate had Him whipped.

You are right! The prophet Isaiah did say those things.

Didn't John the Baptist call Him the Lamb of God? For the Lamb to do its job, didn't it have to die for the people's sins?

Yes!

Oh, yes!

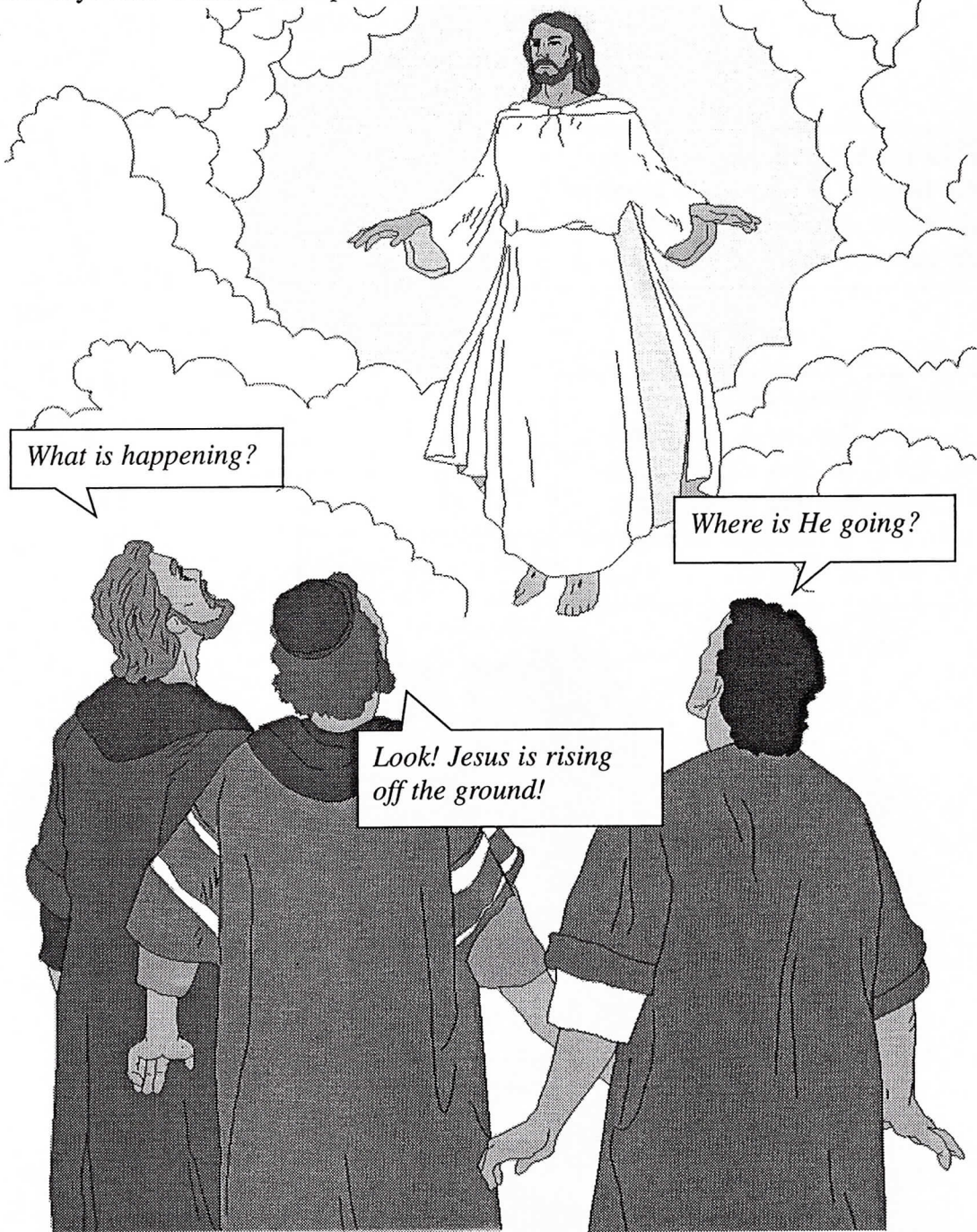
And didn't Jesus say if they destroyed this temple He would raise it up in three days? Could He have been talking about the temple of His body rather than the temple in Jerusalem?

You mean you think Jesus might be alive again?

Look! Nail marks! Jesus, it is YOU! You are alive!

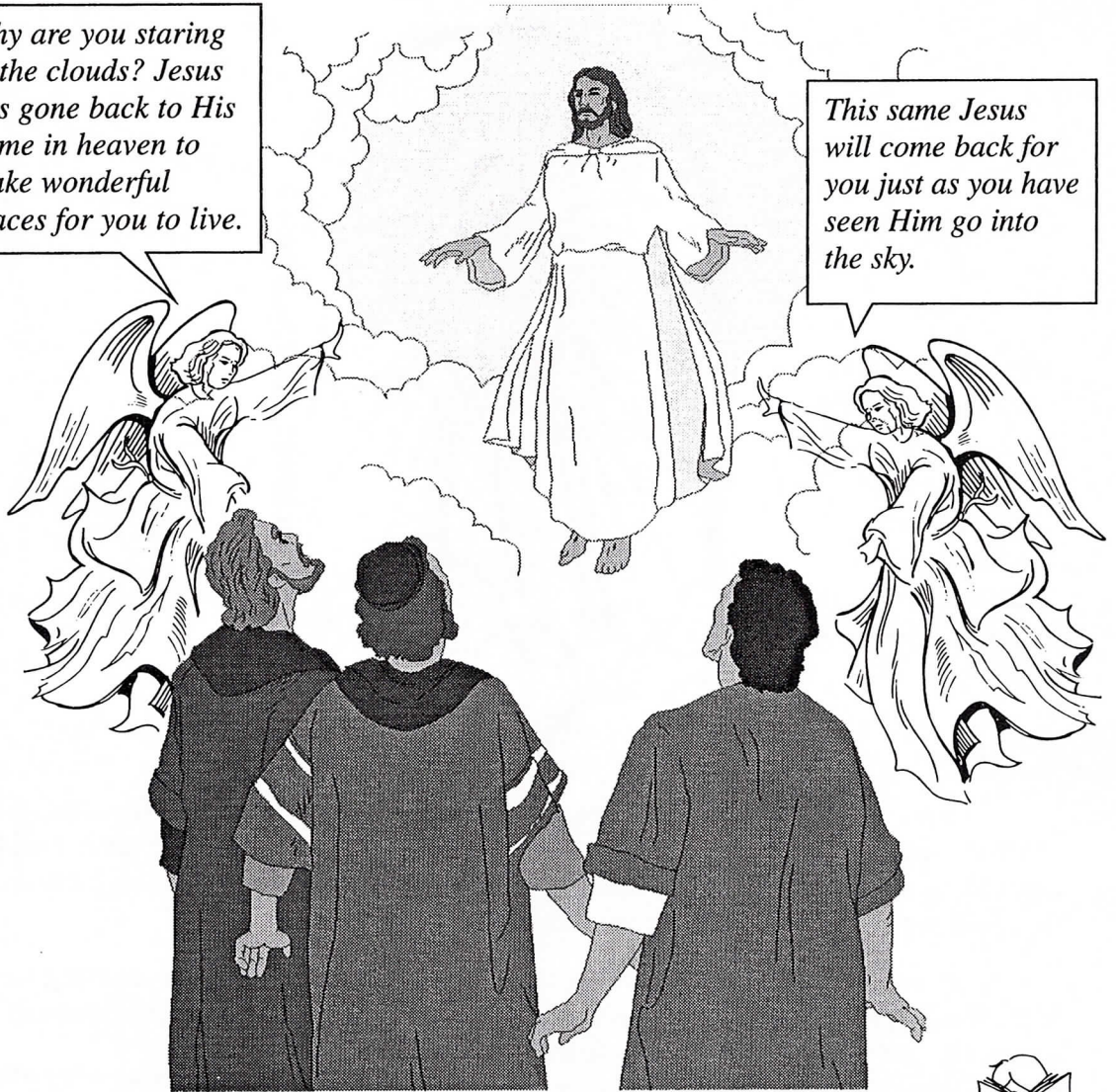


A few days later with His disciples on a mountain near Jerusalem. . .



Why are you staring at the clouds? Jesus has gone back to His home in heaven to make wonderful places for you to live.

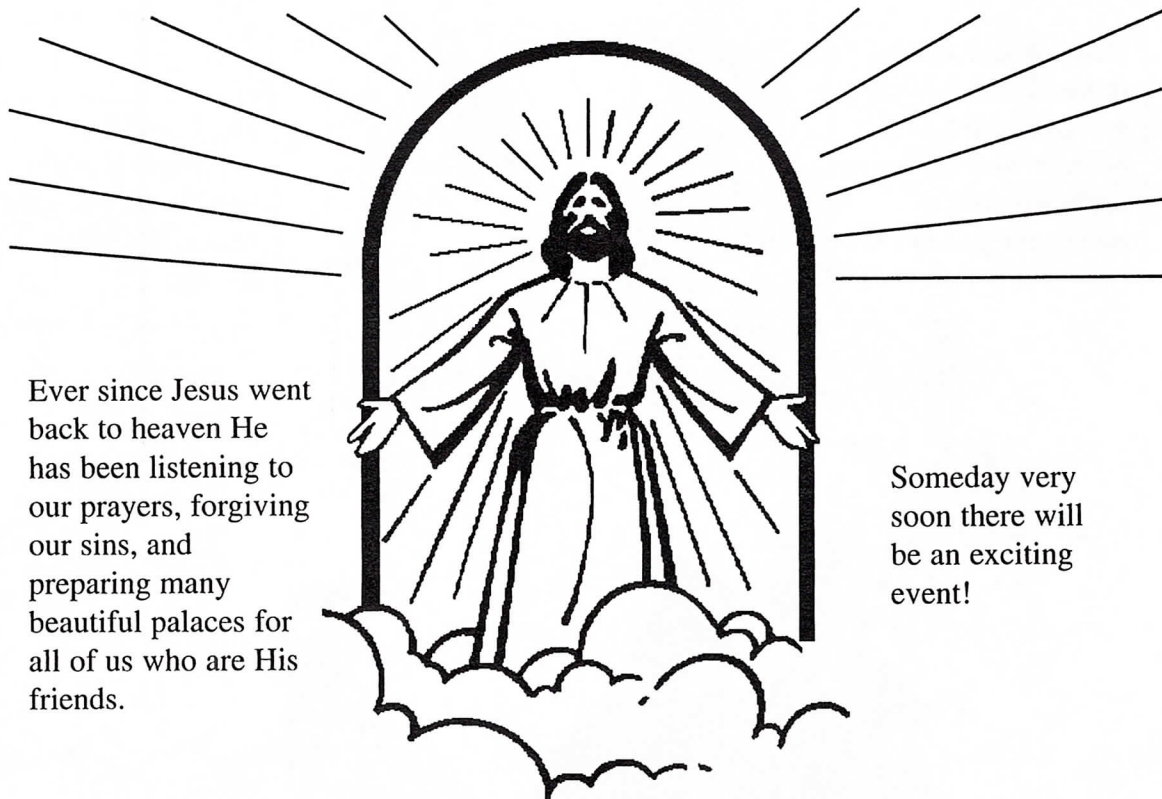
This same Jesus will come back for you just as you have seen Him go into the sky.



What had Jesus told them? Read John 14:1-3.



Jesus did not leave the disciples alone. He sent His Holy Spirit to be with them, because the Holy Spirit can be in many places at once. He helped the disciples become powerful preachers to teach many people about Jesus. Those people were called Christians because they followed Jesus Christ. About one third of the people in our world today are Christians because they believe in Jesus.



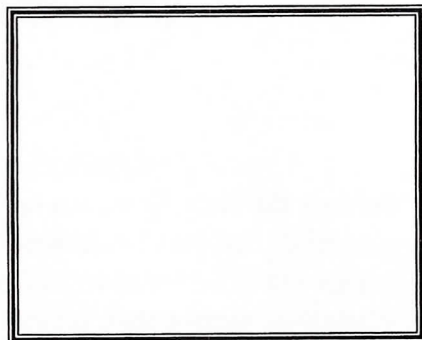
Ever since Jesus went back to heaven He has been listening to our prayers, forgiving our sins, and preparing many beautiful palaces for all of us who are His friends.

Someday very soon there will be an exciting event!

Just as the angels promised, Jesus will come back and take His friends to live forever with Him. He has promised us that when we go home with Him there will be no more tears, sadness, sickness or suffering. All these things happen here on earth, but they will *never* happen when we are living with our friend Jesus.

Even if you had been the *only* person in the world who ever did anything wrong, Jesus would have come to this earth to live and die just for you. Have you chosen to accept His gift of life? All you have to do is close your eyes and pray. Tell your friend Jesus that you love Him and accept His gift.

Are you a Christian too, joyfully looking forward to the day when Jesus comes again? Draw a picture of *your* happy face waiting for Jesus to come.



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