

# Stories, Colors & More

for Ages 3-5



Winter 2023-2024





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# Your Visual Schedule



Welcoming  
and  
Preparing



Guided  
Play



Hearing  
the  
Story







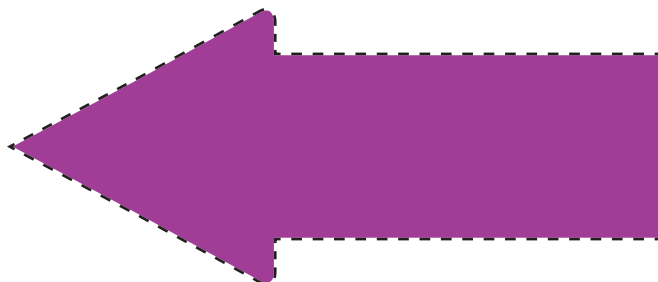
Reflecting  
on God's  
Grace



Activity  
Choices



Loving and  
Serving  
God





## Children with Disabilities and Special Needs

## Support Map

**M** Movement

Some children need to move more than others. Setting boundaries for appropriate movement can allow the leader to meet the needs of the group while also meeting the needs of the child. Mark a place on the floor with tape, a mat, or a pillow. Be clear that the child can move within this space. Sometimes having two spots (chairs and pillows or mats) can be helpful.

**T** Transitions

Transition times provide a challenge to children. Clear expectations, follow-through, and routine help with those times, but they may not be enough for some children. For children who struggle with transitions, consider quick physical activities—such as doing chair push-ups, squeezing your hands together, and stretching—before or after the transition.

**TD** Tactile Defensiveness

Sometimes children struggle with textured objects such as glue, clay, finger paint, and chalk. For some children, textures create real anxiety. Allow and encourage children to explore textures without pressure, and provide opportunities to wash or wipe their hands right away. For children who struggle with texture, find a way to participate in the activity without getting their hands dirty, such as being a timekeeper.

**A** Adapting Activities

You can adapt an activity by process, product, or environment—the way that something is done, what is done, or the setting in which it is done. Giving extra support in the completion of a task is an example of changing the process; having children make something different is an example of changing the product. Instead of thinking, “This child can’t do this,” think, “How can I change this activity so that this child can do it?”

**B** Behavior

Children’s behavior can challenge us, disrupt the group, and lead to unsafe situations. Be clear about what you expect before you do the activity. If you don’t want children to touch one another while they are in a circle, tell them that before they touch one another. Clear expectations let children know what the rules are. Using the included visual schedule is a great way to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for children to remember.

**C** Supporting Children Who Have Difficulty Communicating

Reach out to parents and caregivers about alternative forms of communication used by children. Learning a few words in American Sign Language, becoming familiar with the Picture Exchange Communication System, or exploring how to support with other assistive technologies are examples of showing hospitality to the children. In addition, give children time to respond and to share; for some children, listening and speaking may take longer.

**FA** Food and Other Allergies

Remove all food and other products containing allergens. Post signs to help people remember the allergy. Have all children wash their hands and faces to avoid triggering a reaction.

**L** Listening

Attending to a story or comprehending instructions can be a challenge for children who struggle with attention. Supporting these children requires consistency, clear expectations, and organization. Some hints that may help include clearly communicating expectations before the activity, checking for understanding, providing visual support as well as verbal instructions, building movement into activities, and supporting transitions.



## Children with Disabilities and Special Needs

## Support Map

**LG Leadership and Generosity**

Focus on the strengths of the children, and learn to see them as gifted members of your community. Look for opportunities for them to express generosity. Offer them ways to practice leadership, such as passing out items, holding visual aids, helping other children, or serving as the example in games and activities.

**LD Supporting Children Who Have Difficulty with Reading and Writing**

Whenever children read aloud, ask for volunteers. Calling on a child who does not read at grade level may make him or her feel embarrassed and unwelcome. Always encourage children to write or draw pictures as part of their responses. Children then can share their drawings.

**MS Supporting Children with Mobility Supports**

As you set up, think about ample space between furniture to maneuver a wheelchair or walker. Think about materials and how they are positioned. Doing a roll-through in a wheelchair or walker can be a helpful way to make sure that your room setup is accessible. Think about including your children who use assistive devices. For example, seating all children on chairs or placing materials for a game on a table instead of on the floor are simple ways to create a more welcoming community.

**VI Visual Impairment/Blindness**

Talk with parents, caregivers, and children about the strengths and abilities of the child, as well as the best ways to offer support. Large print or special lighting may allow full access to the materials. Talk with parents or caregivers about the use of the copy machine or scanned images and a computer or tablet to enlarge print. Encourage children to describe their pictures and other creations in words as they share them.

**D Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

To create a welcoming environment for children who are deaf or have difficulty hearing, provide visual supports, such as written instructions and copies of the stories told. Employ an interpreter, and encourage children and adults in the community to learn to communicate through American Sign Language. Limit background noise. Face a person before speaking. Become familiar with children who use assistive technology. Be sure to check with parents or caregivers of children who use cochlear implants or hearing aids about any special considerations.

**F Fairness**

To make every child feel welcome and successful, think about fairness in a different light. Fairness is not every child getting the same thing; it is every child getting what she or he needs.

**FM Fine Motor**

Children ages 3–5 are developing their fine-motor skills. Support them by giving them opportunities to cut and color. Some children may become frustrated by those activities; you can help them by providing prepared materials.

**SD Sensory Defensive**

Some children have strong reactions to different stimuli. Help them feel more comfortable by putting them in charge of the challenging sensations, allowing them to take actions such as turning the lights on or off.

**Ask for Help**

A team approach to including people with disabilities in your congregation helps build understanding and knowledge in the congregation, provides support for the child and family, and makes including all of God's children in church school an attainable goal.



## God's Peaceable Kingdom

(based on Isaiah 11:1-9)

Long, long ago and far, far away, a country was surrounded by war and fighting.

It was very scary.

The people were frightened. "What will happen to us?" they asked.

The prophet Isaiah knew that God had important words to share.

"Listen to God's word," said Isaiah. "I have good news to share."

The people gathered around to listen.

"One day, people will stop fighting," declared Isaiah. "Even the animals will stop fighting. The wolf and the lamb will be friends. The leopard and the goat will live in peace. The cow and the bear will share the same food. And a little child will lead them. The whole world will be filled with God's love."

*I wonder, "What other animals could be friends?"*

"Hooray!" said all the people.

The people waited and watched for signs of God's world of love. They began to see signs everywhere.

"I see God's world of love when we share," said one person.

"I see it when we use kind words," shouted a little boy.

"We see God's world of love when we help others," sang a group of girls.

"Yes!" replied Isaiah. "When we follow God's way of love, the world will change. And God's love and peace will spread everywhere."

*I wonder, "What can we do to share God's love?"*











## Say Yes to God

(based on Luke 1:26–38)

In a small town called Nazareth lived a young woman named Mary. She was to be married to a man named Joseph. One day, God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary.

Gabriel had a very special message to deliver.

*I wonder, “What will Gabriel say to Mary?”*

The angel appeared in the room where Mary was and said, “Be glad, Mary! God is with you. You are very special to God.”

Mary was very surprised, and a bit afraid, to see an angel. She was also quite confused by Gabriel’s words.

“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” Gabriel said right away. “God has chosen you. You are going to have a special baby boy. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and be called Son of the Most High.”

Now Mary was even more surprised. “How can I have a baby?” she asked. “I’m not even married yet.”

“God will make it happen. God’s Spirit will be with you. Your baby will be holy and called the Son of God,” replied Gabriel.

Then Gabriel asked Mary, “Did you know your cousin Elizabeth is going to have a baby?”

This news came as a big surprise to Mary. Elizabeth was much older, far too old to have a baby. No one expected her to have a baby now.

“Do you understand, Mary?” Gabriel asked. “God can do anything. Nothing is impossible for God.”

Even though her heart was pounding, Mary knew what to say.

“Yes,” Mary said. “Here I am. I am ready to do whatever God wants me to do.”

Then the angel left her, and Mary decided to go visit Elizabeth.

*I wonder, “What did Mary and Elizabeth talk about?”*





## Nothing Is Impossible

(based on Luke 1:37, 39-40, 46-55)

Mary had just received some big news! An angel came and visited Mary, and told her she was going to have a baby. The baby would be Jesus, God's Son!

*I wonder, "How did Mary feel hearing that news?"*

And the angel had told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was having a baby too. So Mary left immediately for Elizabeth's house. She couldn't wait to tell Elizabeth about the angel and what he had to say.

The two women were so glad to see each other. They talked and laughed and sang. They talked about their special babies. They told stories about angels with unexpected messages.

Mary remembered that the angel had told her, "Nothing is impossible with God!"

Mary was so happy that she sang a song to God. She sang:

"My heart praises God and my spirit rejoices!

God has looked on me with grace.

I am happy. God has chosen me to be the mother of Jesus.

God has done great things for us.

God sends the rich away with empty hands.

God lifts up those who feel unimportant and fills the hungry with good things.

The promises of God are coming true.

God's love goes on forever."

Mary was so happy that she sang that song, but maybe it was more than a song. Maybe it was about the seemingly impossible things God would do, for nothing is impossible with God!

*I wonder, "What can God do?"*





## Shepherds Glorify God

(based on Luke 2:1–20)

Mary was going to have a baby. One day, the ruler decided everyone needed to be counted. Mary and Joseph had to go from their home to a small town called Bethlehem to be counted. They traveled a long way. (*walk in place*) When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was nowhere for them to stay. They were told there was a stable where they could sleep. In that place, with animals around them, Mary's baby was born. (*pretend to rock a baby in your arms*)

Mary and Joseph wrapped the baby Jesus in some soft cloths. (*pretend to wrap a baby in a blanket*) They laid him in a manger, the box filled with straw where the animals ate.

That same night, in the fields not far away from the town of Bethlehem, a group of shepherds watched over a flock of sheep. Everything was calm and quiet. (*sit on the floor, acting sleepy*)

Suddenly, the night sky lit up with light. An angel from God appeared. The shepherds were frightened and began to shake. (*act frightened*)

*I wonder, "Why do people shake when they are afraid?"*

"Do not be afraid," the angel said. "I bring you good news. Today in Bethlehem, a special baby has been born for you. He is God's chosen one. You will find him wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger."

Then lots and lots of angels appeared. (*move arms like an angel's wings*) The shepherds gasped in surprise. (*act surprised*) The angels were singing to God. It was beautiful.

"Glory to God in heaven," they sang. "And peace to all who live on the earth."

Then the angels left. The shepherds looked surprised at what had just happened.

"We have to go to Bethlehem," said one of the shepherds.

"We need to see the special child the angel told us about," said another.

So they all jumped up and hurried to Bethlehem. (*jump up and run in place*)

They found the baby and his mother and father just like the angels said, wrapped in a cloth and lying in a manger. The shepherds told Mary and Joseph about the angels' song and the angel's message.

"We had to come and see," they explained. (*kneel down*)

Mary and Joseph welcomed the shepherds into the stable. Everyone gathered around the manger to look at Jesus, the special baby sent from God. (*pretend to rock a baby*)

The shepherds tiptoed quietly out of the door and went back to their sheep. (*tiptoe in place*) As they went back to work, the shepherds sang and thanked God. They told their story over and over again. Everyone who heard it was amazed.

*I wonder, "What can I do to share the story of Jesus' birth with others?"*





**Bring Him Gifts**

(based on Matthew 2:1-12)

One night, some wise ones were looking into the starry sky. They saw a special star. They had never seen it before. They knew that a special star meant something special. They knew it meant a super special person had been born.

“We must go see this special baby,” they said. So they packed their clothes, they packed gifts for the baby, they loaded their camels, and they started on a long, long trip. They didn’t know where the baby was, so they followed the star.

Finally, they came to the big city of Jerusalem. They thought they were close to the special child. They decided to visit the king and ask him if he knew where the baby was.

*I wonder, “Will the king know where Jesus might be found?”*

The king didn’t know about the baby. He was jealous. He didn’t want anybody to be special but him. One of the king’s helpers said, “If there is a special baby, it will be born in Bethlehem.”

“We will go to Bethlehem,” said the wise ones.

*I wonder, “How will the wise ones get to Bethlehem?”*

The wise ones climbed back onto their camels. They followed the star and went to Bethlehem. The star led them to a little house. They were so glad to be at the end of their long journey!

And there they found the baby Jesus! Jesus was with his mother, whose name was Mary, and his father, whose name was Joseph. The wise ones were happy to see this special child. They gave his parents the gifts they had brought. Then they started on their way home.















## Jesus' Baptism

(based on Mark 1:1-15)

Long, long ago, there was a man named John. He was a prophet, a messenger of God.

Every day, he went down to the Jordan River to share God's messages. John knew that someone very special was coming. He wanted to help the people get ready.

*I wonder, "Who is the special person they were waiting for?"*

"Turn to God!" John shouted. "Get ready for the one who is coming to show us God's love and God's way. Change your lives! Come and be baptized!"

Many people came out to the river to hear John. One by one, the people decided to change their lives and follow God. One by one, they waded out into the water of the Jordan River and stood before John. John said a prayer and gently dipped each person under the water, baptizing them.

Then one day when Jesus had grown up, he came to the river where John was baptizing. Jesus walked out into the water and stood before John. He asked John to baptize him. John was surprised. He knew that Jesus was the special one they had been waiting for to show them God's love. But Jesus insisted. So John said a prayer and gently dipped Jesus in the Jordan River, baptizing him.

*I wonder, "Was the water cold, warm, or hot?"*

As Jesus came out of the water, something amazing happened. The clouds parted and the sun shone. The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove. A voice was heard that echoed all around. "You are my beloved Son," God said. "I am so pleased with you."

After this, Jesus went off to a quiet place to get ready to tell people about God's love. It was going to be a huge job. But Jesus knew God would be with him every step of the way.









Credit: Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church







Credit: First Presbyterian Church of Medford









## Jesus Begins His Ministry

(based on Mark 1:16–20)

When Jesus was all grown up, he went to the Jordan River and asked John to baptize him. Then Jesus went into the wilderness. He stayed there for forty days. Then Jesus left the desert and was ready to start his ministry.

The first thing Jesus did was find some friends to help him. As Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two fishermen named Simon Peter and Andrew. Jesus called out to the two fishermen, “Follow me! I will make you fish for people.” Simon Peter and his brother Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him. A little way further, Jesus saw two more brothers, James and John. He called them too. They jumped out of the boat, leaving their father with the nets, and followed Jesus.

*I wonder, “What made the fishermen leave everything and follow Jesus?”*

On the sabbath day, Jesus and his friends went to the synagogue to worship. Jesus stood up and taught the people worshiping that day. People were amazed at what he had to say. He was so brave and confident; he was very different from the other teachers.

While Jesus was teaching, a man disrupted the lesson with shouting. Jesus was able to calm the unruly man. Once again, the people were amazed. They told others about Jesus and soon all the region knew who Jesus was and what he could do.

Another time, Jesus and his friends went to Simon Peter’s house. Simon Peter’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever. Jesus took her hand and made her well. She felt so good that she made dinner for them.

By the time the sun went down, so many people had heard about Jesus and what he could do that many, many people gathered outside the home. They brought people who were sick and hurting. Jesus healed them too.

The next morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went to a quiet place to pray.

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John went looking for Jesus. They told Jesus that people were looking for him. Jesus said, “Let’s go on to the neighboring towns. They need me too. I will tell everyone God’s good news because that is what I came to do.”

*I wonder, “What is the good news that Jesus has?”*

Jesus and his friends went from town to town, healing people and telling everyone about God’s love.





## Four Friends' Faith

(based on Mark 2:1-12)

Jesus was walking from town to town with his friends, telling everyone he met about the good news of God's love.

When he came home, people were so glad. They wanted to see him and hear him teach. Some of them were sick and wanted Jesus to heal them. A huge crowd of people were at his house. There was no room inside or outside!

A young man wanted to see Jesus. He was paralyzed and could not walk. His legs wouldn't move at all, no matter how hard he tried! He had four very good friends, and all four of them wanted to help their friend. (*point to Friend 1, 2, 3, 4 for responses*)

They decided to take their friend to Jesus! There were so many people at the house they couldn't even get to the front door. They couldn't see Jesus! They couldn't hear Jesus! They couldn't carry their friend to Jesus! (*point to Friend 2, 3, 4, 1 for responses*)

The four friends looked all around them. They looked to the left. They looked to the right. They looked down, and then they looked up! (*point to Friend 3, 4, 2, 1 for responses*)

They carried their friend on his mat up the outside stairs to the roof. They found some loose tiles and moved them aside and began to dig through the layers of dried mud that made up the roof. Soon a small hole appeared. Dirt dropped onto the people below. They looked up to see a large hole growing in the roof. Now the friends could see Jesus! Now they could hear Jesus! But how could they get their friend to Jesus? (*point to Friend 4, 1, 2, 3 for responses*)

The friends gently lowered their friend down on his mat through the hole in the roof. People moved aside, pressing against the walls, to make room for the man on his mat.

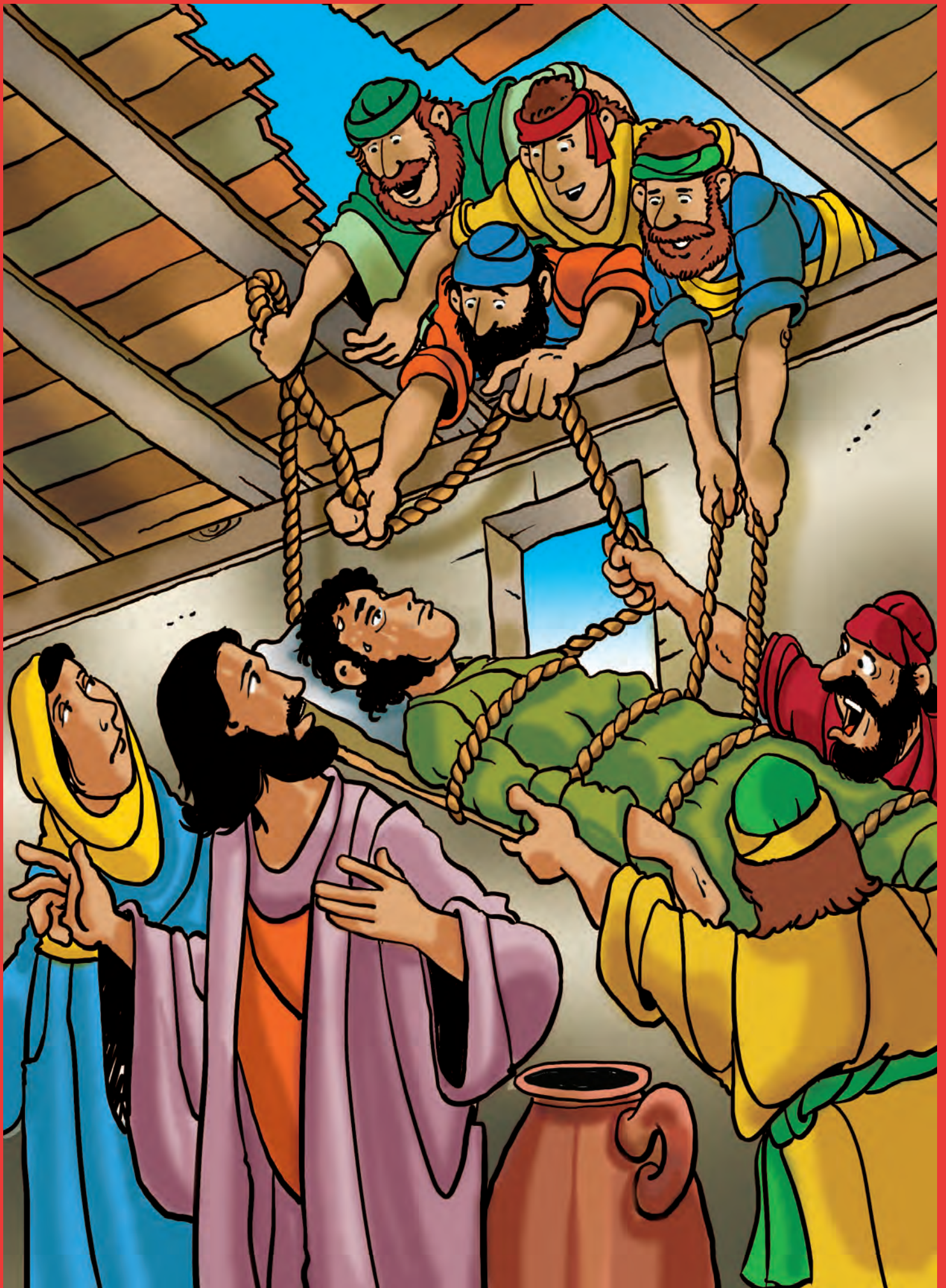
When Jesus looked up and saw the hot, sweaty, caring, hopeful faces of the four friends peering through the hole, he saw their faith. Jesus turned to the young man on the mat and said, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Some people in the room—experts in religious law—squirmed when Jesus said this. They looked at one another, thinking and grumbling: "What? Only God forgives sins!" "He can't speak for God." "This young man didn't go through proper channels or follow our rules." "This is unheard of!"

Jesus knew what they were saying and asked them, "Why don't you just ask these questions out loud? I'll ask you; is it easier for me to say, 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Stand up, take your mat, and walk'? I could do either. But, so you know I do have the authority to forgive sins," Jesus turned to the young man and said, "Stand. Take up your mat and go home." The man who could not walk immediately stood up, gathered up his mat, and walked right out the front door in front of everyone. The crowd was amazed and praised God, saying, "Wow! We've never seen anything like that!" Jesus healed the young man, and all because four friends said (*all respond together*).

*I wonder, "How can we be good friends?"*





## Jesus Helps in a Storm

(based on Mark 4:35–41)

One day, Jesus had finished teaching and felt tired. It was time to relax.

*I wonder, “What did Jesus do to relax?”*

“Let’s sail across to the other side of the lake,” suggested Jesus. “It’s time to leave the crowds behind for a while, so we can rest.”

Jesus and the disciples climbed into a boat and got ready to sail. It was a beautiful evening and the weather was good. A nice breeze filled the sail and pushed the boat along. Jesus went to the back of the boat, put his head on a pillow, and fell fast asleep.

All of a sudden, the weather changed. A fierce storm arose.

Swoosh! went the wind.  
Crash! went the waves.  
Flash! went the lightning.  
Roar! went the thunder.

*I wonder, “How big were the waves? How did they move?”*

The waves grew bigger and bigger. The little boat started rolling from side to side. The disciples thought the storm would pass by, but it just got worse.

Swoosh! went the wind.  
Crash! went the waves.  
Flash! went the lightning.  
Roar! went the thunder.

The wind roared harder and the waves got bigger. Water from the waves splashed into the boat. Jesus’ disciples were afraid. They called out to Jesus.

“Wake up,” they shouted. “Help us!”

Jesus woke up. He felt the strong wind. He saw the lightning. He heard the thunder. He felt the boat rocking. He stood up and spoke to the wind and the waves. “Be quiet,” he commanded.

Immediately, the wind stopped blowing. The rain stopped falling. The waves stopped splashing. Everything became quiet and still. Just like that.

Jesus asked his disciples, “Why were you so scared? Did you forget to trust God? God is with you. Be at peace.”

The disciples were amazed and said to one another, “Did you see that? Even the wind and the waves obey him.”





## Jesus Feeds Hungry People

(based on Mark 6:30-44)

One day, a huge crowd came to a hillside outside of the town to hear Jesus talk about God's love. It was very crowded and people were everywhere. There were more than five thousand people.

Jesus taught them about God all day long. The sun went down and it was time for supper. Everyone was hungry.

Jesus' disciples came to him and said, "It's late. Send the people away. Tell them they need to go into town to find food."

"You give them food to eat," Jesus replied.

*I wonder, "How did the disciples feel when Jesus told them to feed the people?"*

One disciple looked around and said, "The crowd is too big! We don't have enough money to buy food for everyone."

Jesus said, "Go see if anyone has food to share."

The disciples went to see if anyone had some food. "We have 1, 2 fish," they said, "and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 loaves of bread."

Jesus smiled, "Bring the food to me and ask the people to sit down."

When everyone was settled, Jesus took the five loaves and two fish. He thanked God for the food and gave it to the disciples to pass out to the people.

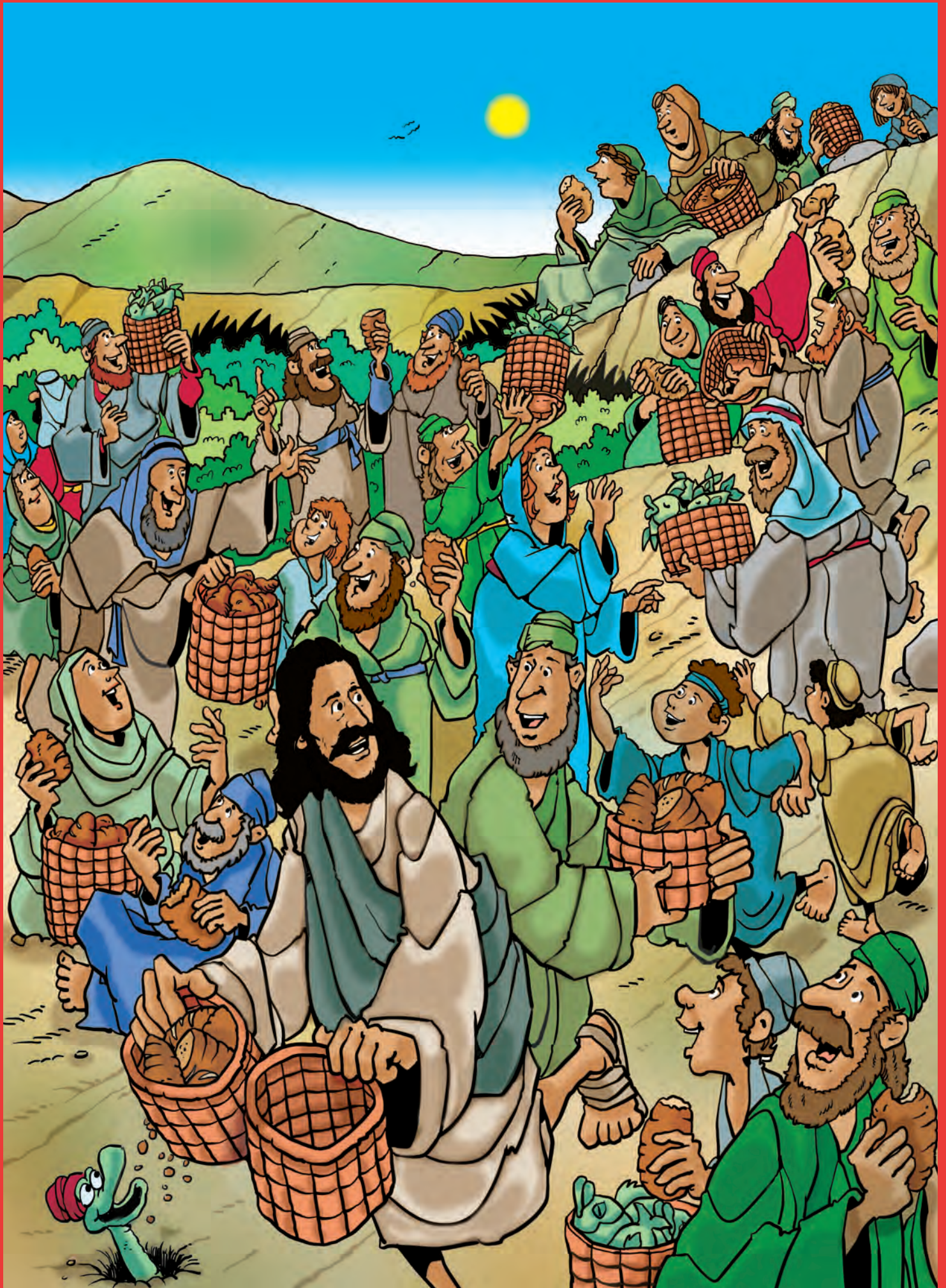
The most amazing thing happened. Somehow those five loaves and two fish fed every single person in the crowd. More than five thousand people ate until they were full.

There was more than enough food for everyone. In fact, there were so many leftovers that they filled 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 baskets.

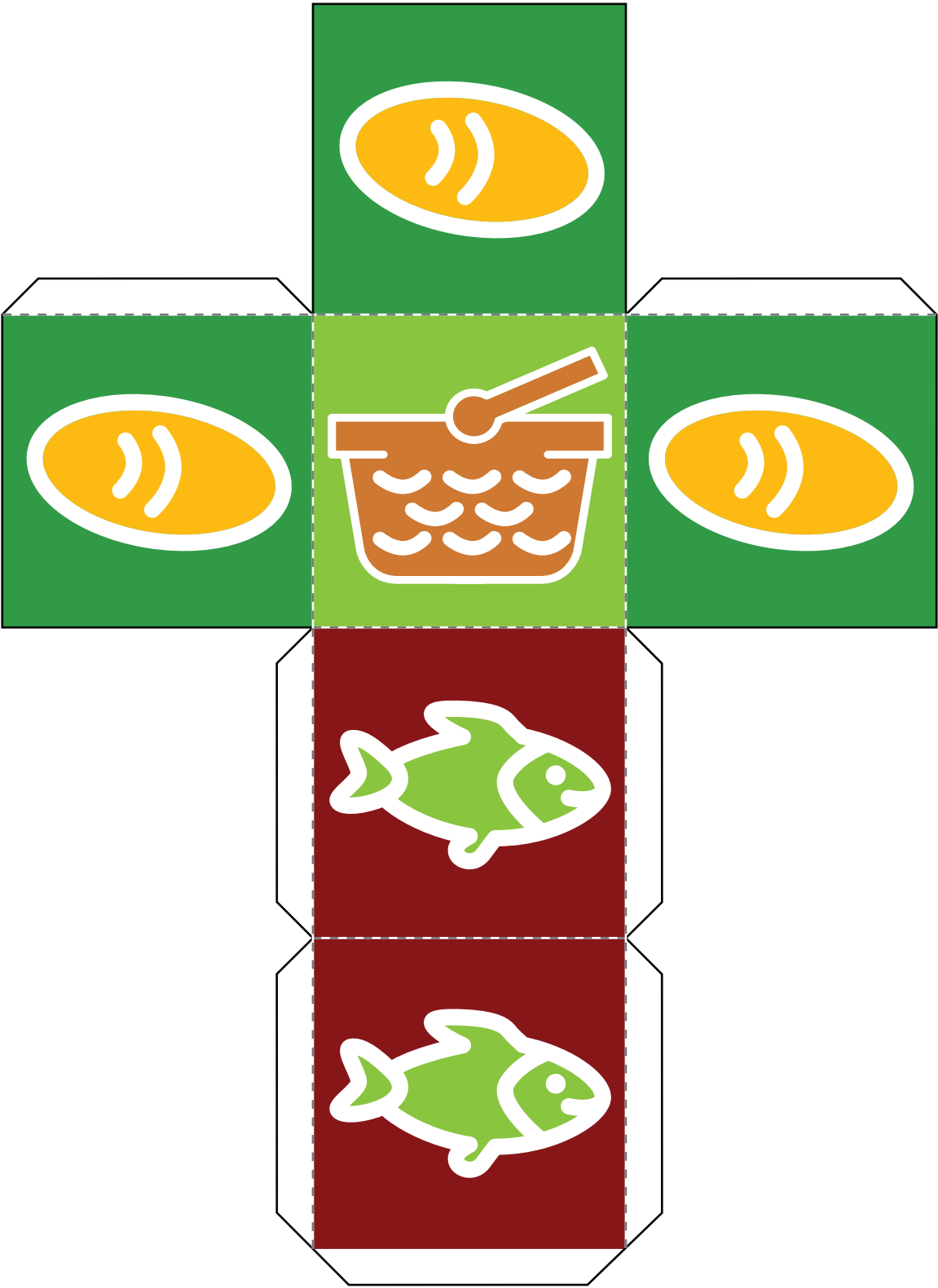
The people began to walk home. They had seen something amazing. God turned five loaves and two fish into a huge meal that fed everyone.

*I wonder, "What can we do to help feed others like Jesus did?"*













## Jesus Loves Children

(based on Mark 10:13–16)

Jesus was busy, busy, busy.

Every day, crowds of people came to see Jesus. Sometimes there were so many people that it was hard to even get close to him. Some people wanted to hear Jesus teach. Others were hoping he would do something amazing. Lots of people who were sick came to see if Jesus could make them better.

Jesus was busy, busy, busy.

Parents also brought their children to see Jesus. They wanted Jesus to bless the children.

*I wonder, “Why did parents want Jesus to bless their children?”*

The disciples got annoyed when they saw the parents and children coming toward Jesus.

“Jesus is too busy to bother with children,” one disciple said.

“He has much more important things to do,” said another.

“Let’s send them away,” said a third.

The disciples stood in front of the parents and their children, blocking their way to Jesus.

“Don’t bother Jesus!” one disciple said.

“Look at all these people waiting to see him! Jesus is much too busy to see you today,” said another.

“Go away!” said a third.

The children were sad. They really wanted to see Jesus.

The parents were sad. They really wanted Jesus to bless their children.

They started to leave.

Jesus saw the children leaving and called out, “Let the little children come to me! I want to spend time with them. Don’t keep them from me!”

When the children heard Jesus, they ran to him. They chattered and laughed. Jesus hugged them and blessed them.

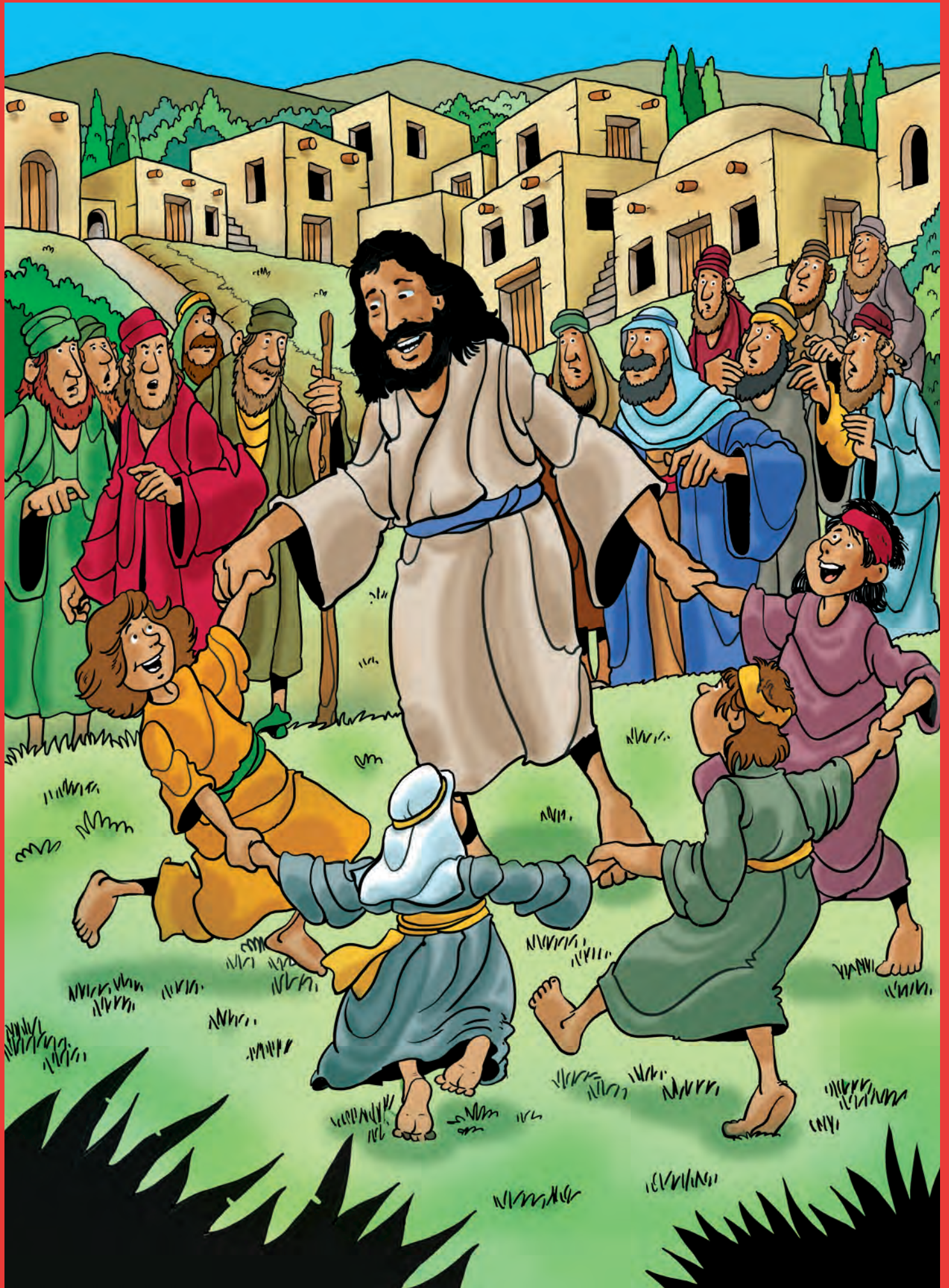
The disciples were puzzled. “Why is Jesus spending time with children?” they asked each other. “Children are not as important as these other people.”

*I wonder, “Why did the disciples think that children were not as important as others?”*

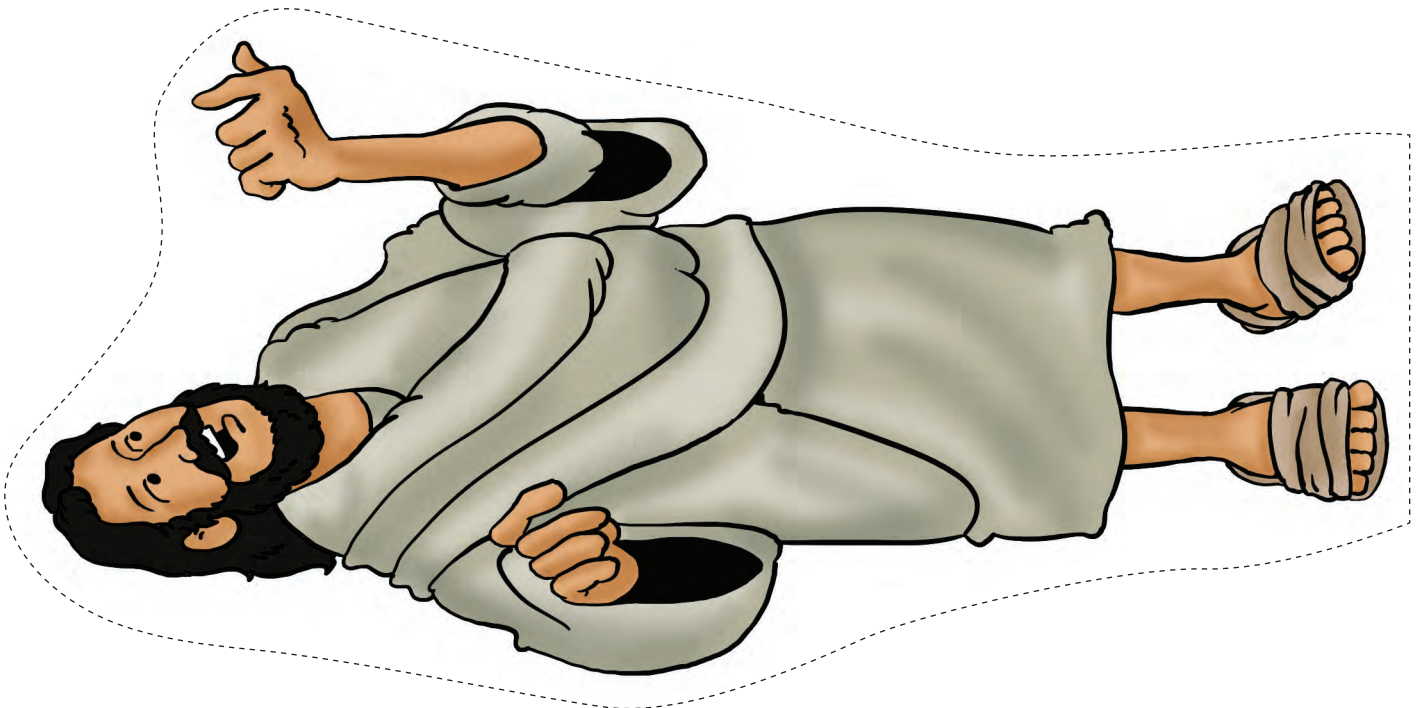
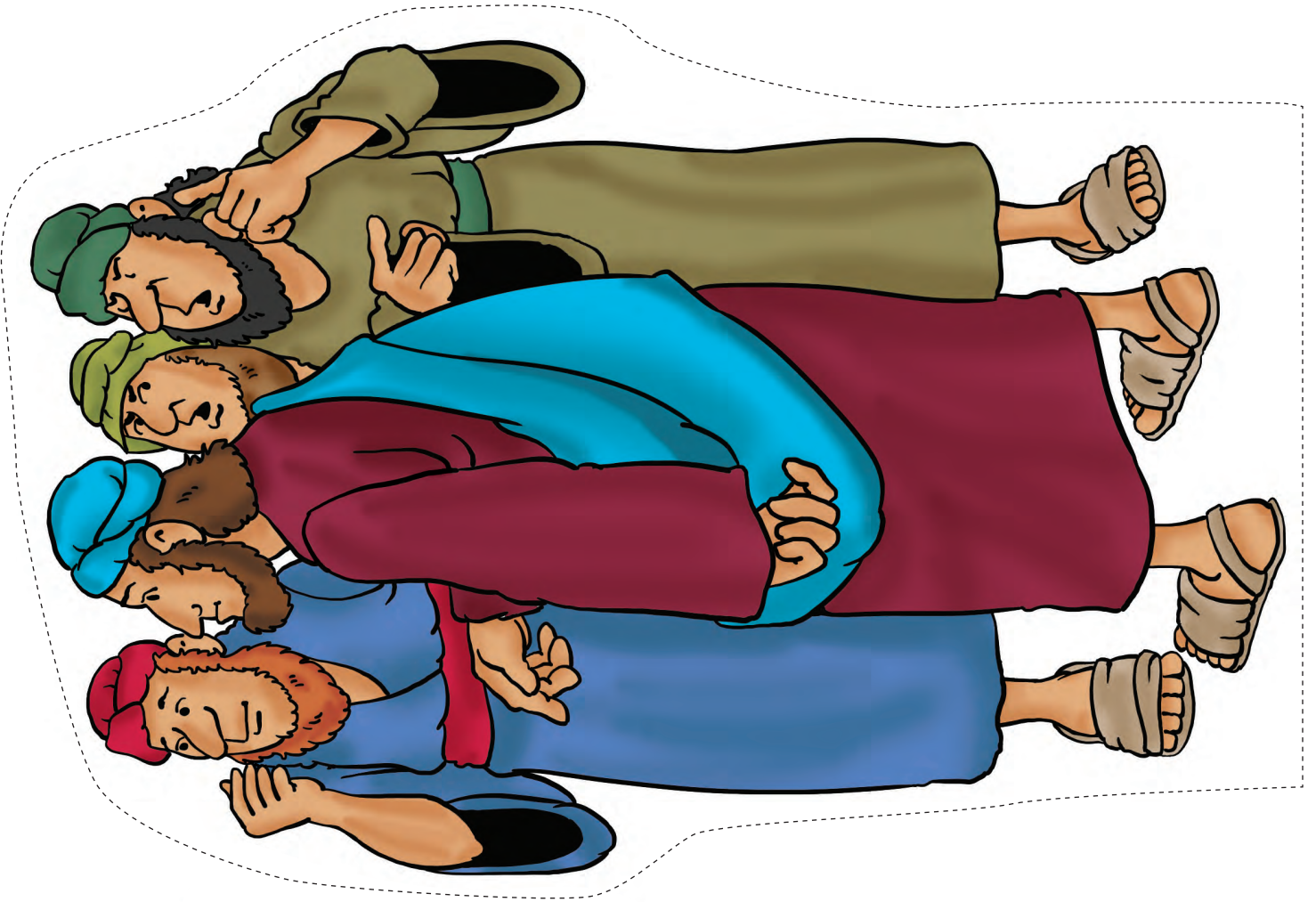
Jesus could see that his friends did not understand.

“Children are important to God,” explained Jesus. “They teach us about trusting and living in God’s ways. Watch and learn from them.”











## The Great Commandment

(based on Mark 12:28–34)

One day, a religious leader asked Jesus a question. “Jesus,” he said, “I have a question for you. There are many books full of God’s laws, but what is the most important law?”

This was a tricky question. The laws of God had been written down a long time ago. There were hundreds of different laws to remember. No one could agree which one was the most important.

*I wonder, “What kind of laws did God’s people follow?”*

The crowd waited and wondered.

How would Jesus answer the question?

Which law would he choose?

How could Jesus choose just one?

Jesus thought about the laws that he learned when he was a boy. There was one law that was very special. He said it every day. His mother said it every day. His father said it every day. His friends said it every day.

Jesus said, “Love God with all your heart. Love God with all your soul. Love God with all your mind. Love God with all your strength.”

*I wonder, “Why is loving God so important?”*

The people nodded to each other. They all knew this law. Each one of them said these words every day.

Then Jesus said, “Wait. I haven’t finished.”

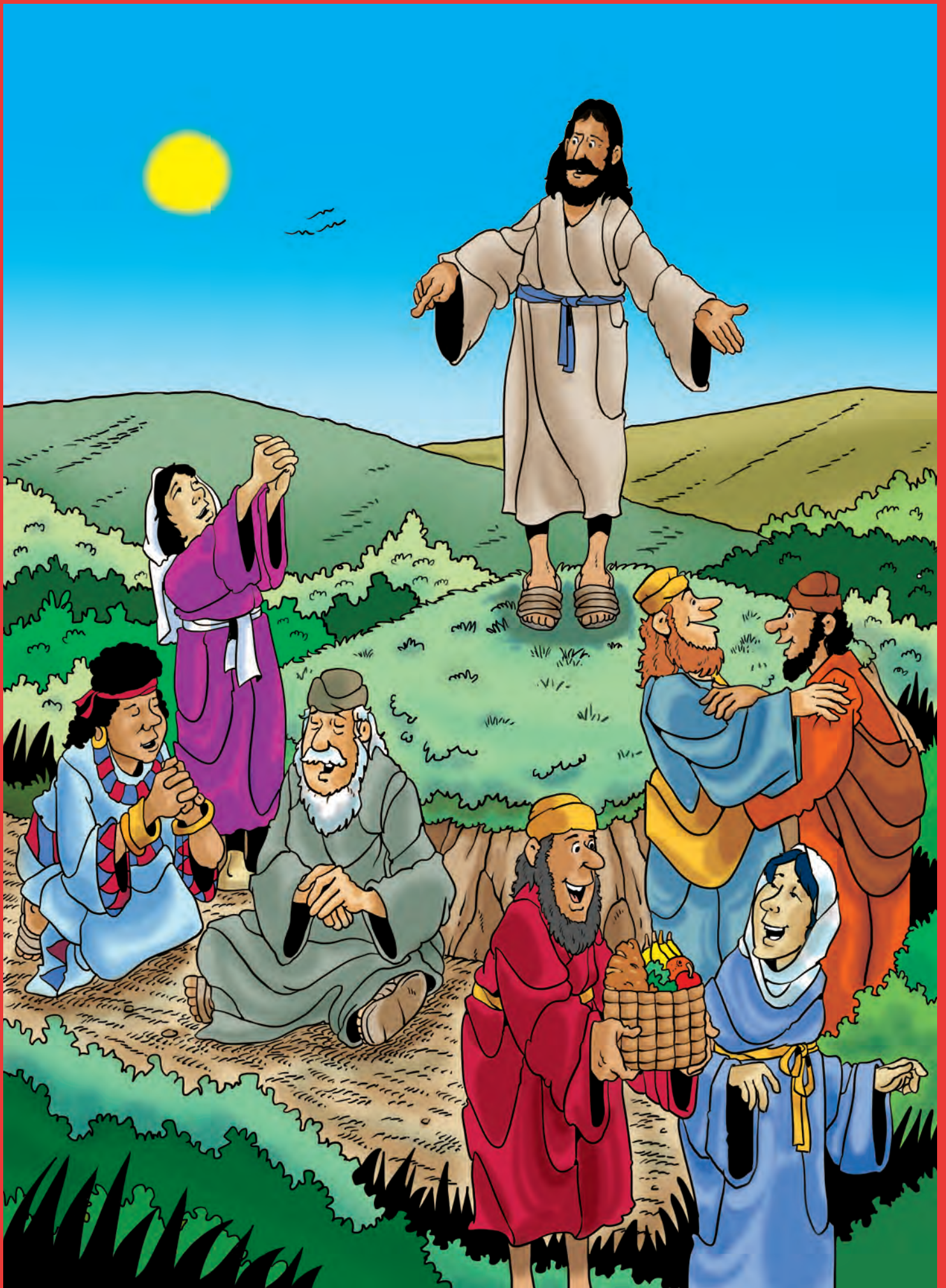
Everyone leaned in. They wanted to hear what else Jesus had to say. They listened carefully so they wouldn’t miss his words.

Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus smiled at the religious teacher. “Remember these two things,” he said. “Love God and love your neighbor. This is the most important law.”

Jesus answered the question well. The religious leader realized that Jesus was a wise and helpful teacher.







**Love God!**

**Love God!**

**Love God!**

**Love God!**

**Love God!**

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**Love God!**

**Love God!**

**Love God!**

**Love God!**

**Love God!**

**Love God!**







**Love  
neighbor!**



**Love  
neighbor!**



**Love  
neighbor!**



**Love  
neighbor!**



**Love  
neighbor!**



**Love  
neighbor!**



**Love  
neighbor!**



**Love  
neighbor!**



**Love  
neighbor!**



**Love  
neighbor!**



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## Anointing Jesus

(based on Mark 14:3–9)

Jesus came to the city of Jerusalem. People were so excited to see him!

They stood by the road and waved palm branches, shouting, “Hosanna! Hosanna!”

*I wonder, “What does ‘Hosanna’ mean?”*

After that Jesus was busy. He visited the temple and he talked to the leaders. They wanted to trick Jesus to show that he was a fake.

Then Jesus and his friends walked to a little town called Bethany, not very far from Jerusalem. They went to eat dinner at the home of a friend called Lazarus.

Jesus was sitting at the dinner table talking with his friends, when a woman came in. She was carrying a beautiful jar filled with perfumed oil. The oil smelled so good! And it cost a lot of money. But the woman didn’t worry about how much the oil had cost. She broke open the seal on the jar and poured the oil on Jesus. That may sound strange to us, but it was a very loving thing for her to do. Putting oil on someone’s head is called *anointing*. We still do that today, but we use just a little bit of oil.

The woman poured all of the fragrant oil out on Jesus’ head! Everyone in the whole room could smell it, and it smelled so beautiful. Jesus was very happy, and it felt good to be anointed. He knew the woman loved him so much that she wanted to share the very best she had, to pour out the expensive oil for him, so he would feel good.

But some of the other people at the dinner table were angry! They thought that the woman was being wasteful. They thought she should have sold the expensive oil. They said she could have used her money to help poor people. They scolded her! They said, “Why did you do that?! You could have sold that beautiful jar of oil for a lot of money! You could have given the money to people who really need it!”

*I wonder, “How did the woman feel?”*

But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why are you giving her such a hard time about some oil? Of course, money will always help the poor, but there will always be poor to help. Keep showing them kindness. But you will not always have me. She has done a beautiful thing for me with this oil, a service that you don’t even know about. She has used this oil to anoint my body for its burial for there will be no chance to do that soon.”

The other people did not understand. They were wondering what Jesus meant.

Then Jesus said, “Believe it or not, from now on, whenever people tell the story of God’s love, they will remember this beautiful and generous thing she did. They will tell this story in memory of her.”







Praise God, praise God, all ye little children.  
God is love, God is love. (*Repeat both lines*)

Love God, love God, all ye little children.  
God is love, God is love. (*Repeat both lines*)

Thank God, thank God, all ye little children.  
God is love, God is love. (*Repeat both lines*)

Help God, help God, all ye little children.  
God is love, God is love. (*Repeat both lines*)







*Refrain:*  
*My soul magnifies the Lord.*  
*My soul magnifies the Lord,*  
*and my spirit has rejoiced in God my*  
*Savior.*

For he thinks of me,  
 and he cares for me,  
 and from now on all those around will  
 call me blessed.  
*(Repeat)*

*(Refrain)*

He is mighty and has done great things  
 for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
*(Repeat)*

*(Refrain two times)*





**Refrain:**

*Mary had a baby, yes, God.  
Mary had a baby, O yes, God.  
Mary had a baby, yes, God,  
Jesus in a manger at Bethlehem.*

Angels told the shepherds: yes, God.  
Angels told the shepherds: O yes, God.  
Angels told the shepherds: yes, God,  
Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Wise men came to honor him, yes, God.  
Wise men came to honor him, O yes, God.  
Wise men came to honor him, yes, God,  
Jesus in a manger at Bethlehem.

**(Refrain)**







What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*Refrain:*

*This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
(Refrain)

So bring Him incense, gold,  
and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king to  
own Him.  
The King of kings salvation  
brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
(Refrain)







We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor  
and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*Refrain:*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign.

*(Refrain)*

Frankincense to offer have I:  
Incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising gladly raising,  
worshipping God Most High.

*(Refrain)*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*(Refrain)*

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
sounds through the earth and skies.

*(Refrain)*





Jesus says God cares for us, . . . ,  
 Jesus says God cares for us,  
 each and every day.

Jesus says God cares for me, . . . ,  
 Jesus says God cares for me,  
 each and every day.

Jesus says God cares for you, . . . ,  
 Jesus says God cares for you,  
 each and every day.

Jesus says God cares for us, . . . ,  
 Jesus says God cares for us,  
 each and every day.



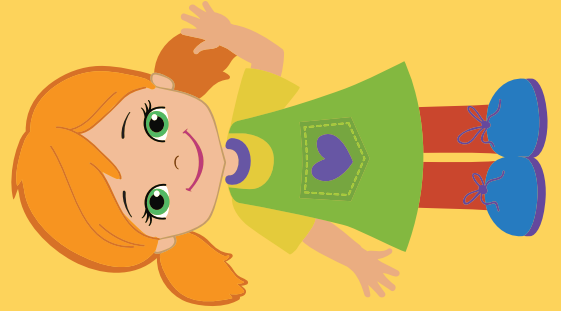




Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart, . . .

Lord, I want to be more loving  
in my heart, . . .

Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
in my heart, . . .







Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,  
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here;  
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea;  
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood 'round his knee,  
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;  
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,  
all in the love light of Jesus' face.





With my hands open wide,  
I will give to you, give to you, give to you.

With my hands open wide,  
I will give to you all that you need.

With a happy heart,  
I will give to you, give to you, give to you.

With a happy heart,  
I will give to you all that you need.

With a loving heart,  
I will give to you, give to you, give to you.

With a loving heart,  
I will give to you all that you need.







If anybody asks you,  
who I am,  
who I am, who I am;  
If anybody asks you,  
who I am,  
tell them I'm a child  
of God.







I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,  
down in my heart, (*Where?*) down in my heart,  
(*Where?*) down in my heart.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,  
down in my heart, (*Where?*)  
down in my heart to stay.

I've got the peace that passes understanding,  
down in my heart, (*Where?*) down in my heart,  
(*Where?*) down in my heart.

I've got the peace that passes understanding,  
down in my heart, (*Where?*)  
down in my heart to stay.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,  
down in my heart, (*Where?*) down in my heart,  
(*Where?*) down in my heart.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,  
down in my heart, (*Where?*)  
down in my heart to stay.





Little children, sing your thanks to God. (clap, clap) *(Repeat)*  
Little children, sing your thanks to God,  
thanks to God, thanks to God. (clap, clap)

Little children, clap your thanks to God. (clap, clap) *(Repeat)*  
Little children, clap your thanks to God,  
thanks to God, thanks to God. (clap, clap)

Little children, dance your thanks to God. (clap, clap) *(Repeat)*  
Little children, dance your thanks to God,  
thanks to God, thanks to God. (clap, clap)

Little children, shout your thanks to God. (Thanks!) *(Repeat)*  
Little children, shout your thanks to God,  
thanks to God, thanks to God. (clap, clap)

Little children, praise the Lord your God. (clap, clap) *(Repeat)*  
Little children, praise the Lord your God,  
thanks to God, thanks to God. (clap, clap)









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