

# Stories, Colors & More

for Ages 3-5



Year 1, Fall









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# Your Visual Schedule



Welcoming

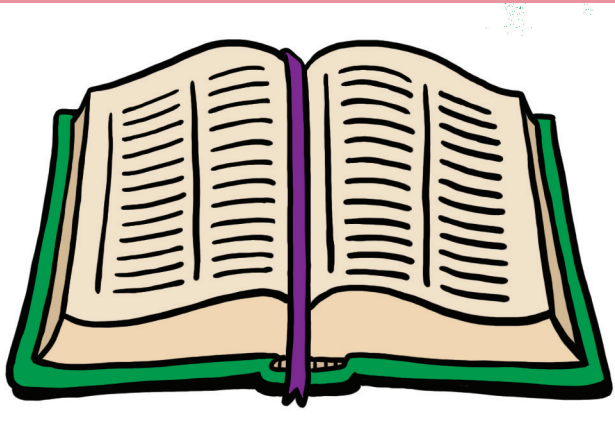


Guided  
Play



Getting  
Ready for  
Story Time





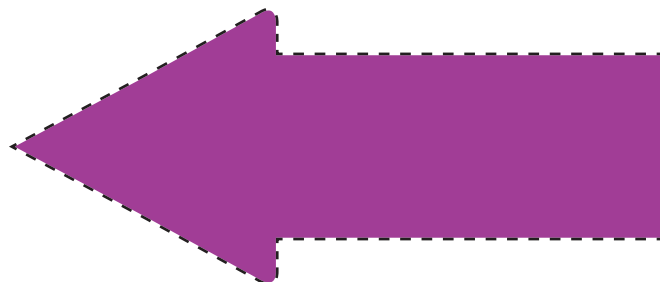
Story Time



Activities



Loving and  
Serving  
God





## 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 Makes a Home**

(based on Genesis 2:4b–9, 15–23)

God created the world. God made the sky and the ground. Streams of water bubbled up from the ground to water the earth. No grass or plants grew in the new world, however.

Out of the dirt, God formed a person—Adam. God breathed life into Adam.

God grew a garden named Eden where Adam could live.

In the garden, God made every kind of tree and plant. Some of the trees and plants were beautiful to look at. Others provided food to eat. Adam lived in the garden with all the trees and plants that God had created.

*I wonder, “What was Adam’s favorite thing in the garden?”*

Even with all the magnificent things that God had created, God knew that Adam needed a helper.

God said, “I will create a companion for Adam.”

God created many different kinds of animals and birds. Adam named every animal that walked on the earth and each bird that flew in the sky.

*I wonder, “What animals did God create that day?”*

After God had created all the animals, there was still no companion for Adam.

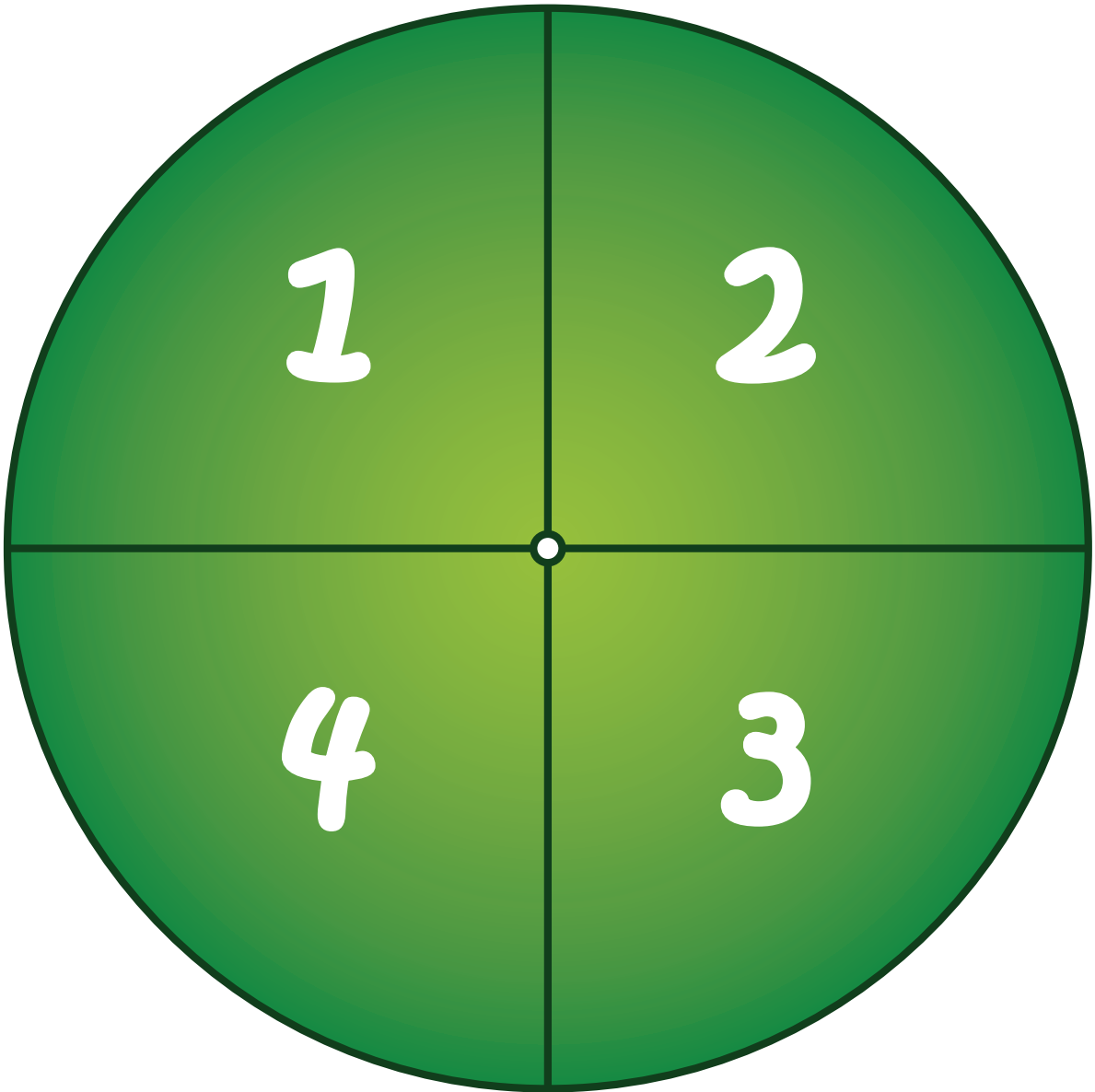
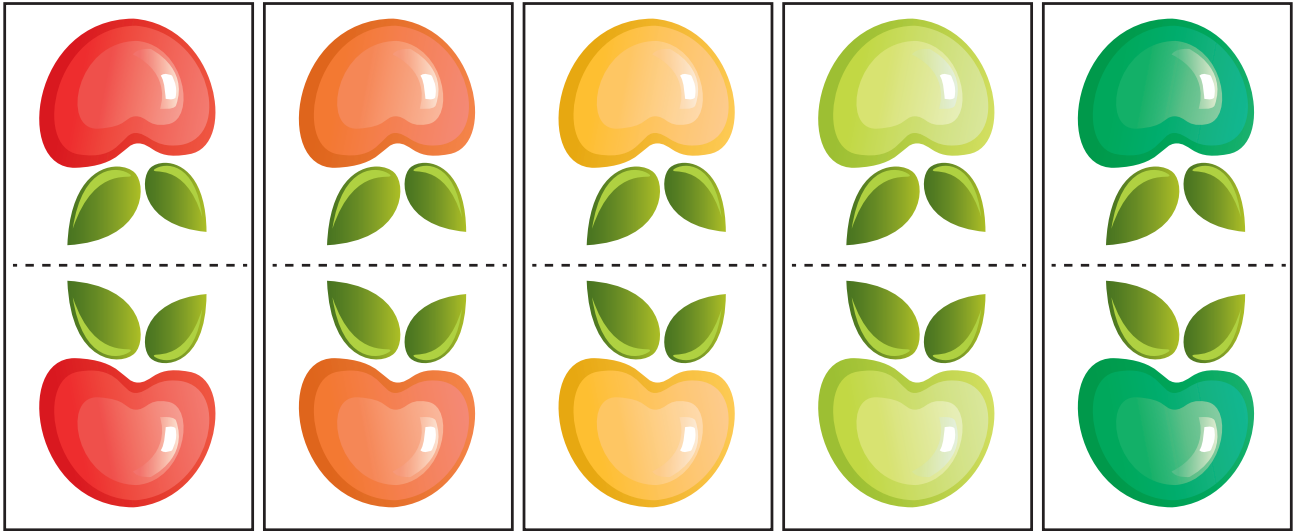
*I wonder, “Who will God create as a companion for Adam?”*

God made Adam fall into a deep sleep. God took a rib from Adam’s side to make a helper. Then there were two people, a man and a woman—Adam and Eve.

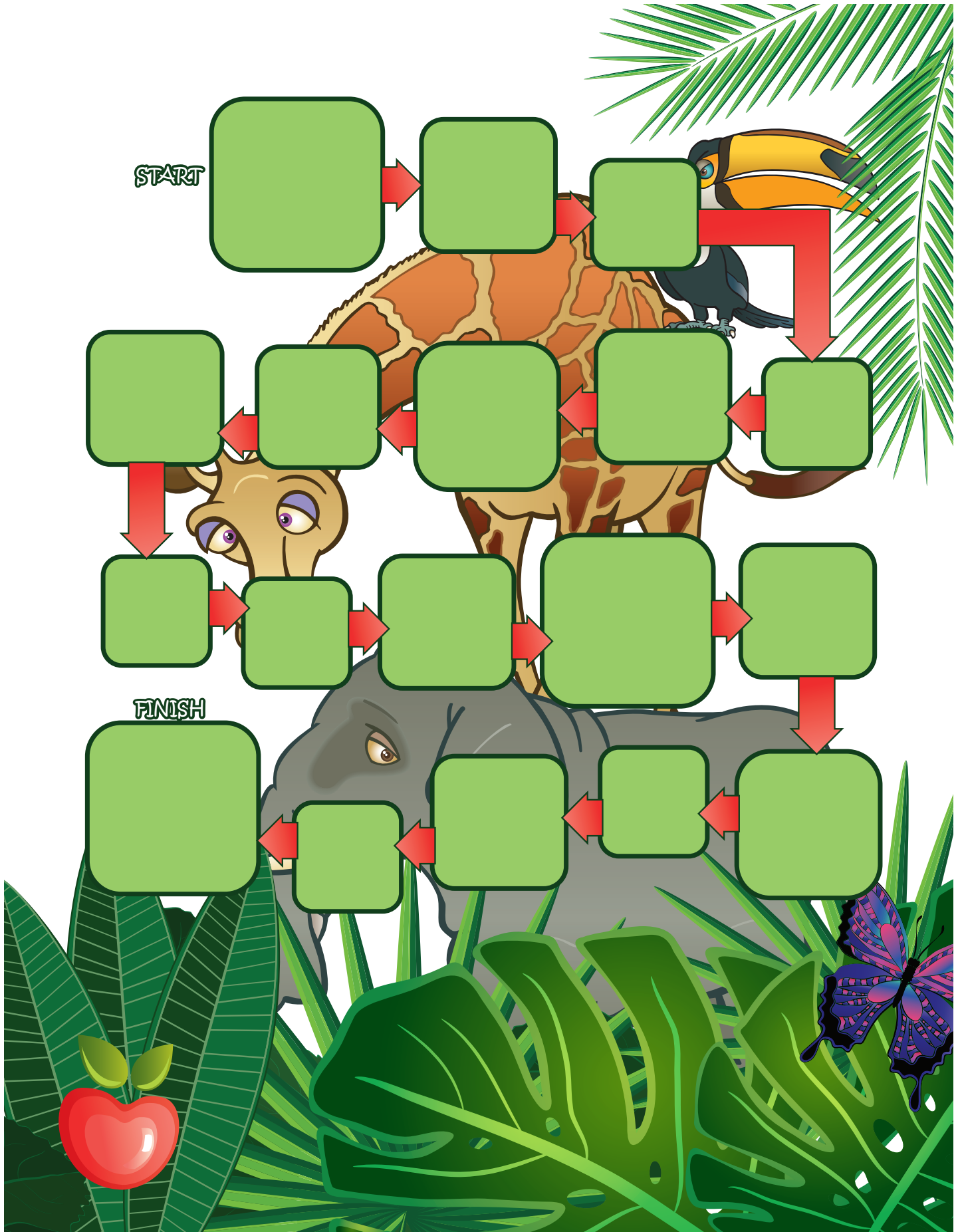
When Adam saw Eve, he was so happy. He said, “At last there is someone who is like me.” Adam and Eve helped God care for the new world.





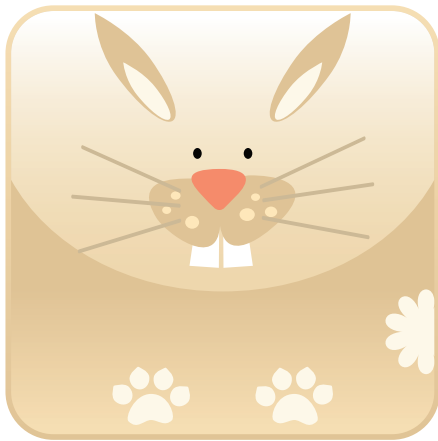
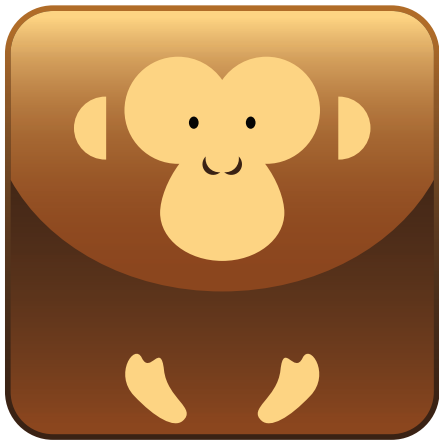
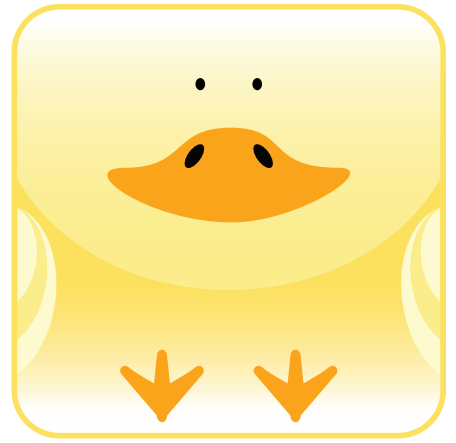




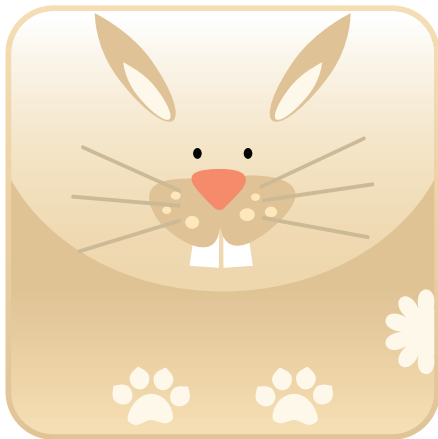
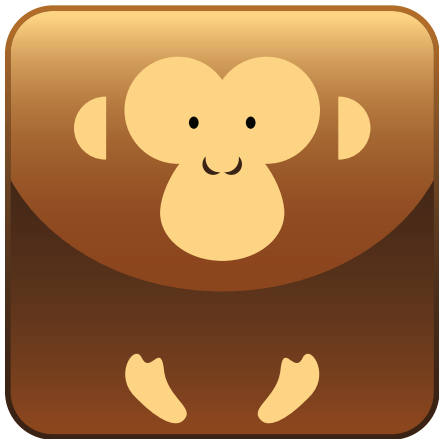
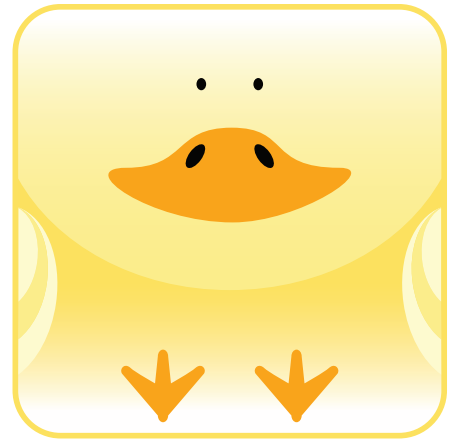














## God Makes a Promise

(based on Genesis 12:1–9; 15:2–6)

There once was an old man named Abraham who lived with his wife, Sarah. They loved each other very much. They also loved God.

One day, God said, “Abraham, I want you and Sarah to leave your home. I will show you where to live. Pack all your things and go. Don’t worry; I will show you the way.”

*I wonder, “What did Abraham and Sarah packed?”*

Old Abraham and old Sarah trusted God. They gathered everything they could carry. They gathered everyone who lived with them. And they followed God to a new home. God was with them every step of the way.

Old Abraham and old Sarah came to the land of Canaan (KAY-nuhn). They traveled up a mountain to Shechem (SHEE-kuhm). It was a holy place, because people heard God’s voice there.

*I wonder, “What does a holy place look like?”*

In Shechem, God made a promise: “Abraham and Sarah, you have done well. I give this land to you, your children, and your children’s children.”

But Abraham said, “But Sarah and I are so old. And we still have no children.”

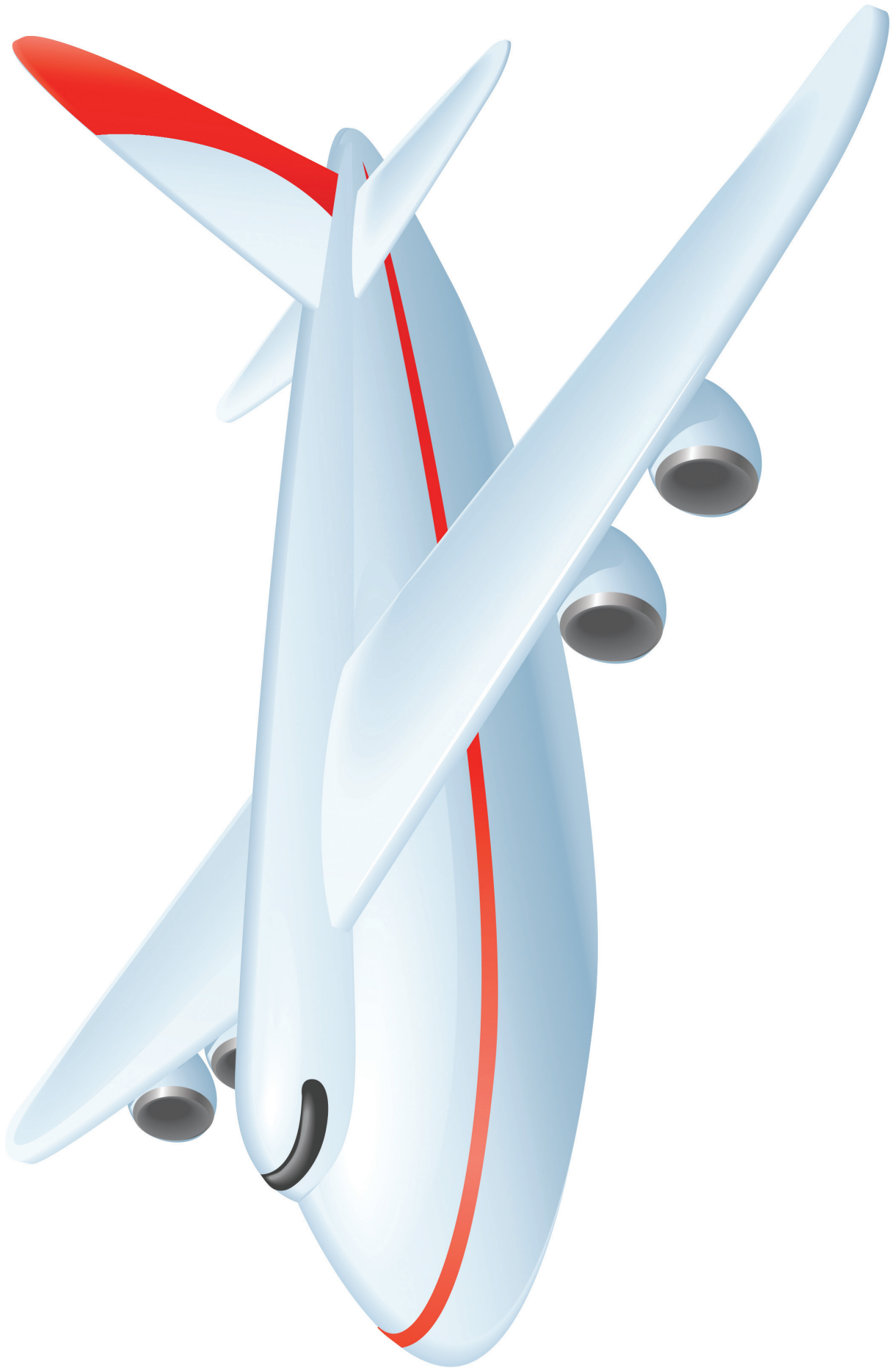
God told Abraham, “Look up at the sky. Count the stars. That is the number of children you will have.”

*I wonder, “What do you think about when you see the stars in the sky?”*

Old Abraham piled stones to help him remember and give thanks for what God had promised.

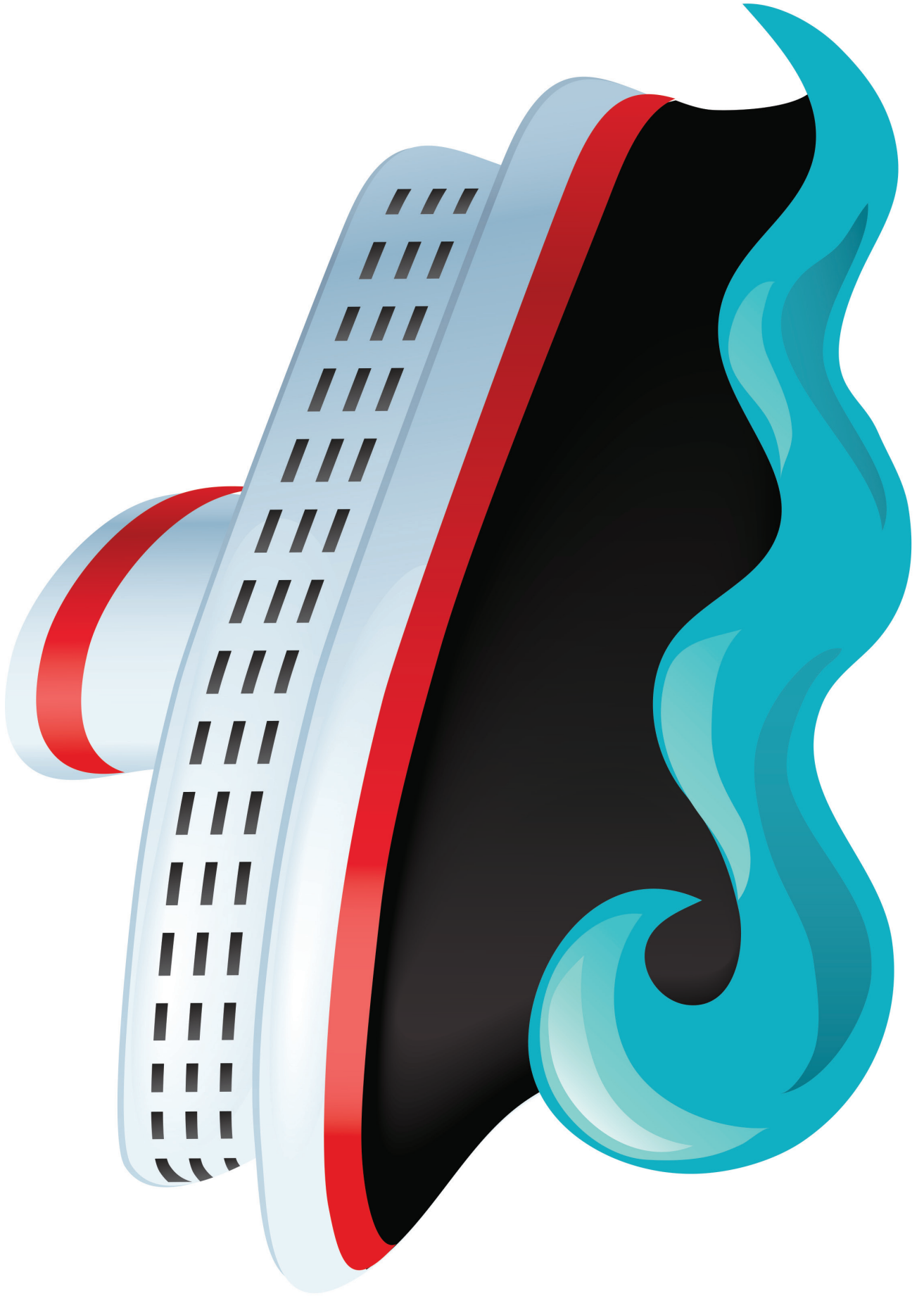




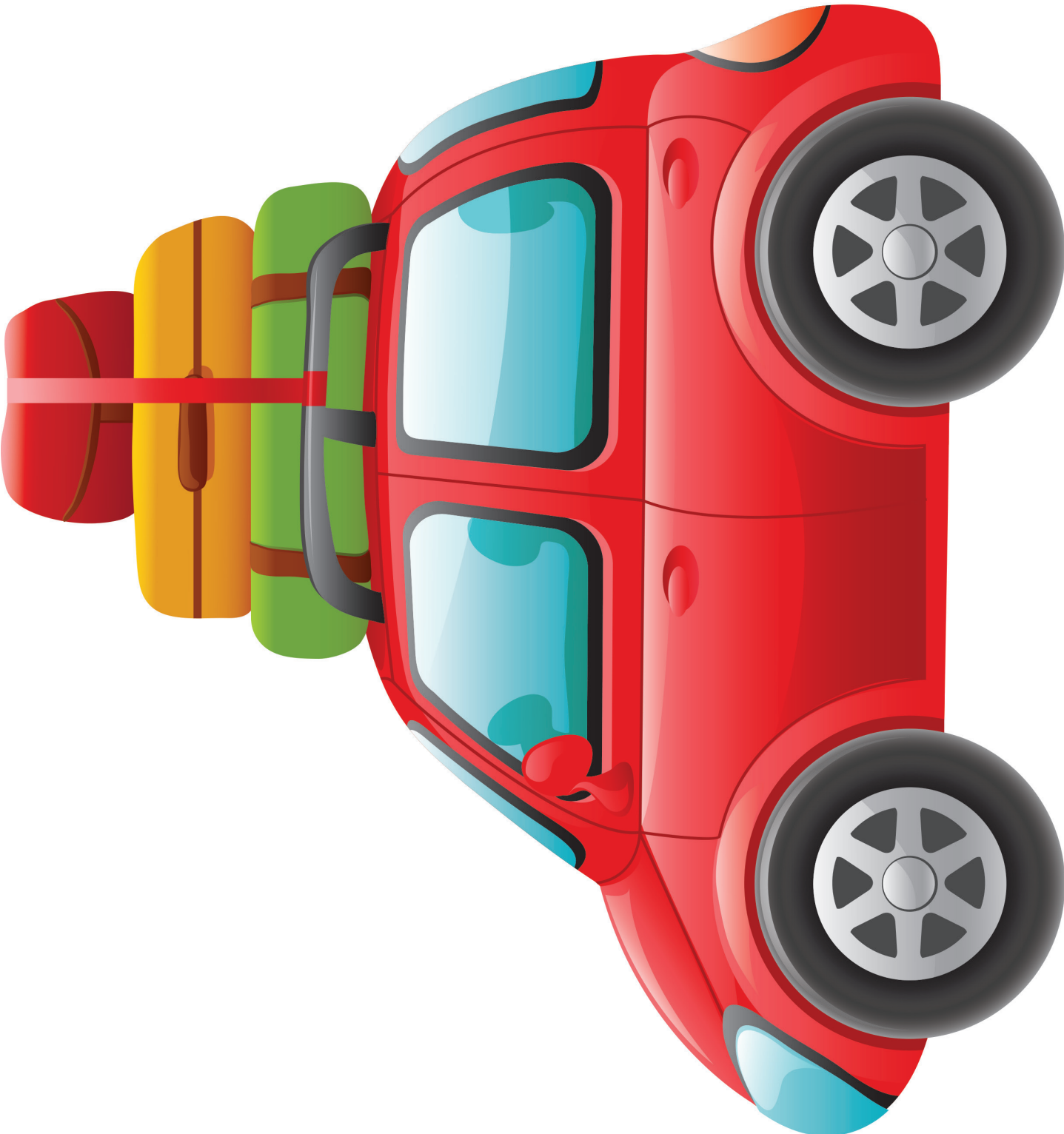














## God Blesses Ishmael and Isaac

(based on Genesis 16; 21:1-7, 9-13)

Old Abraham had two sons. His first son was named Ishmael. Ishmael lived in the camp with his mother, Hagar. Hagar was one of Sarah's helpers.

When Ishmael was thirteen years old, God told Sarah she would have a baby, too. Sarah laughed at the news.

Later, when their baby was born, Abraham and Sarah called him Isaac, a word that means "laughter."

*I wonder, "Why did Sarah and Abraham name their son 'laughter'?"*

Sarah loved Isaac. But she didn't like Ishmael and Hagar. One day, Sarah saw Ishmael and Isaac playing together. She heard Ishmael laughing. She became very upset and stormed over to Abraham.

*I wonder, "Why was Sarah angry at hearing Ishmael's laughter?"*

Sarah cried, "I don't want Isaac playing with Ishmael!" Abraham was sad, because he loved both Isaac and Ishmael.

God said, "Don't worry. I will bless both Isaac and Ishmael. I love them both, too."

God blessed both of Abraham's sons just as God had promised.

*I wonder, "Do you know that we are all God's children?"*

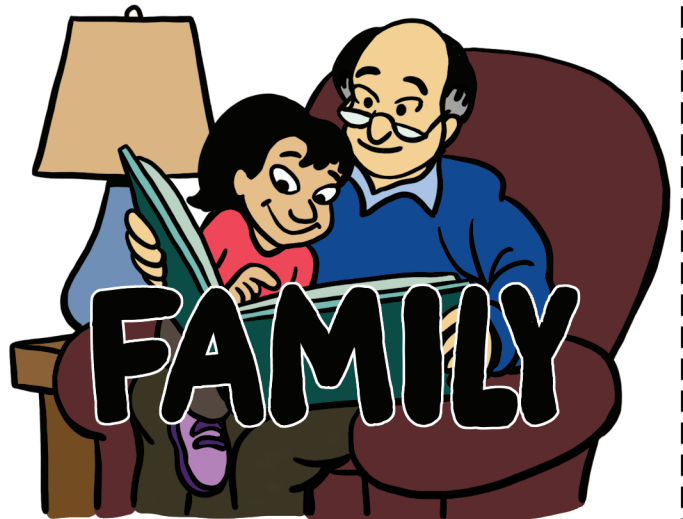














## God Gives Joseph Dreams

(based on Genesis 37:1-11)

Jacob loved all his children. But he loved his youngest son, Joseph, the most. Joseph's brothers did not like him. Joseph was a tattletale. Every night, he told his father when his brothers made mistakes or didn't do their work right.

Even worse, Jacob had a new coat made for Joseph. It had long sleeves and came all the way down to his ankles. It was a lot nicer than any of the clothes his brothers had. Joseph wore it just to show off.

*I wonder, "What did Joseph's coat look like?"*

Even worse, Joseph had dreams that one day he would be a king and the brothers would bow down to him. That made the brothers angrier!

Joseph told his dreams to his father, and even his father became angry with him.

"Do you really think you will become our king?" snapped Jacob. "Are we going to bow to you? That's crazy!"

The brothers were pleased that their father had spoken harshly to Joseph.

Even when things became worse and worse, God's love surrounded Joseph and his brothers. God had a plan for something good, not only for Joseph and his family, but for all people. God was going to bless them all.

*I wonder, "How do we know that God is always with us, even in sad times?"*







## God Saves the People

(based on Exodus 12:31–42)

Long ago, the Hebrew people lived as slaves in Egypt. Pharaoh, the ruler of the land, made them work very hard. The people cried out to God for help.

God heard their prayers. God sent Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. Moses went to the palace many times to ask Pharaoh to let them go. Every time, Pharaoh said, “No!”

*I wonder, “Why did Pharaoh say, ‘No!’?”*

Finally, God told Moses to prepare the people to leave Egypt.

The Lord God said:

“Cook a meal to remember. Eat sour food and remember how sad you used to be as slaves. Eat flat bread and remember that your bread had no time to rise before leaving Egypt.”

*I wonder, “Why did God want the people to remember their time as slaves?”*

Pharaoh sent for Moses. He was furious!

“I’ve changed my mind! Get out of my sight, Moses, you and all your people! Pack up your belongings and leave right now!”

Moses ran back to tell the people. Finally, after all these years they could leave.

There was so much to do. Everything had to be packed up in a hurry. Everyone helped. Moms and dads, boys and girls, aunts and uncles, grandmas and grandpas, all helped.

*I wonder, “What did the people take as they left Egypt?”*

Some prepared the animals. Some made bread dough and wrapped it in cloth. Others packed up clothes, cooking pots, and sleeping mats.

Moses started walking through the streets, and the people followed. Soon thousands and thousands of people were following Moses. They had worked together, and now they were free.

The people gave thanks to God. God had helped them. It would be a long journey, but they knew that the Lord God would be with them every step of the way.





(based on Exodus 16:1–8, 13–15; 17:1–7)

Long, long ago the people of God were slaves in Egypt. God heard their prayers and their cries. God sent Moses to “Let my people go!” Moses led the people of God out of Egypt. God saved the people.

Each day there was something like bread covering the ground for the people to gather. When the people saw it, they asked each other, “Man hu? (What is it?)” because they didn’t know what it was.

After leaving Egypt, the people had to cross the desert to get to the land God promised them. It was hot. It was dry. It was tiring. And the people of God started to grumble and complain.

Moses said, “It is manna, the bread which God has given you to eat.”

The people were happy.

“I’m hot!”

But then they got hot, and thirsty, and tired again. They

“I’m thirsty!”

grumbled and complained that they were thirsty and needed water to drink.

“I’m tired of all this walking!”

Once again, God heard their cries. And God was faithful. And God took care of the people.

Then they said something quite unbelievable.

*I wonder, “What will God give the people to drink?”*

“We wish God had left us in Egypt! We used to have as much food as we wanted. Why have you led us into this desert to starve?”

God told Moses, “Take your staff and strike the rock. Water will come out of the rock for the people to drink.”

But God heard their cries once again. God told Moses what God would do.

So Moses walked up to the rock and struck it with his staff.

Moses told the people, “God has heard you and God is

Crack! Whoosh!

faithful. God will take care of you. God will make bread come from heaven like rain so you can have food to eat.”

Water came pouring out of the rock for all to drink.

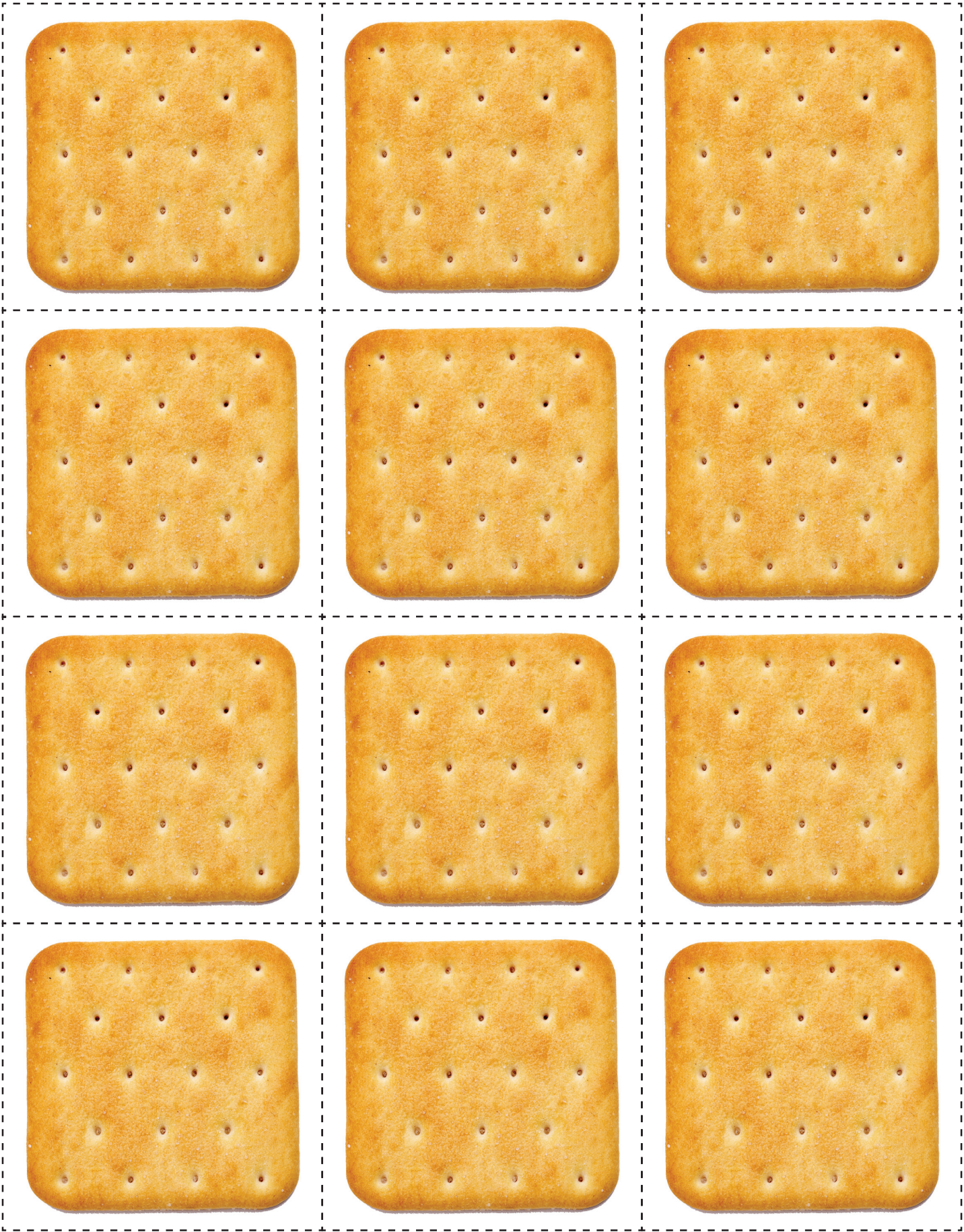
*I wonder, “How would God send food to the people?”*

And God was faithful. And God took care of the people.











## God Proclaims Jubilee

(based on Leviticus 25:1-12, 25-28, 35-42)

Moses and the people of God had wandered in the wilderness for many years. Now they were ready to settle in their new home.

Moses called the people to a big meeting. God wanted to tell them how they should live in their new home. God told Moses what to say.

“People of God,” Moses announced, “soon you will go into your new home. You will farm the land. For six years (*hold up six fingers and count to six*), you will grow food and work in the fields. But in year seven (*hold up seven fingers and say, “Seven”*), the land and all the workers need to rest.”

“Every 49 years will be the year of jubilee,” Moses continued. “In that year, you will give thanks for your freedom.”

Leader: Sound the trumpets! (*make a trumpet noise*)

**Children: It’s time to celebrate!**

The people were curious. What was this year of jubilee?

Everyone will have homes. Everyone will be free to enjoy life.

Leader: Sound the trumpets! (*make a trumpet noise*)

**Children: It’s time to celebrate!**

“Wow!” exclaimed the people. “This is good news! God loves everyone the same.”

Leader: Sound the trumpets! (*make a trumpet noise*)

**Children: It’s time to celebrate!**

“Our God is a fair God. God wants us to treat others fairly too.”

Leader: Sound the trumpets! (*make a trumpet noise*)

**Children: It’s time to celebrate!**

So the people went into the land and followed God’s ways. And every 49 years they celebrated the year of jubilee just as God had told them.

Leader: Sound the trumpets! (*make a trumpet noise*)

**Children: It’s time to celebrate!**

*I wonder, “How did they celebrate?”*





## God Chooses Deborah as a Leader

(based on Judges 4:1-10)

Long, long ago, God called people to be helpers to God's people.

The helpers were called judges.

The judges helped people know what God wanted them to do.

There was a woman named Deborah who was a judge. She was a wise woman. She was a brave woman.

Deborah had a palm tree that she liked to sit under. When she sat under her tree, people could come and ask for help.

People came and said, "Judge Deborah, what should we do about this?"

And other people came and said, "Judge Deborah, what should we do about that?"

*I wonder, "What kind of help did the people need?"*

God helped Deborah know what to say.

Deborah showed the people God's fair and loving ways.

One day, Deborah asked a soldier to come and see her.

The soldier's name was Barak.

Deborah said to him, "Barak, God has a job for you. God wants you to make the king stop being mean to the people. God will help you."

Barak thought about it.

He said to Deborah, "I will do it if you go with me."

*I wonder, "Why did Barak want Deborah to go with him?"*

Deborah was a wise woman and knew she could help Barak.

Deborah was also a brave woman, so she said, "I will go with you."

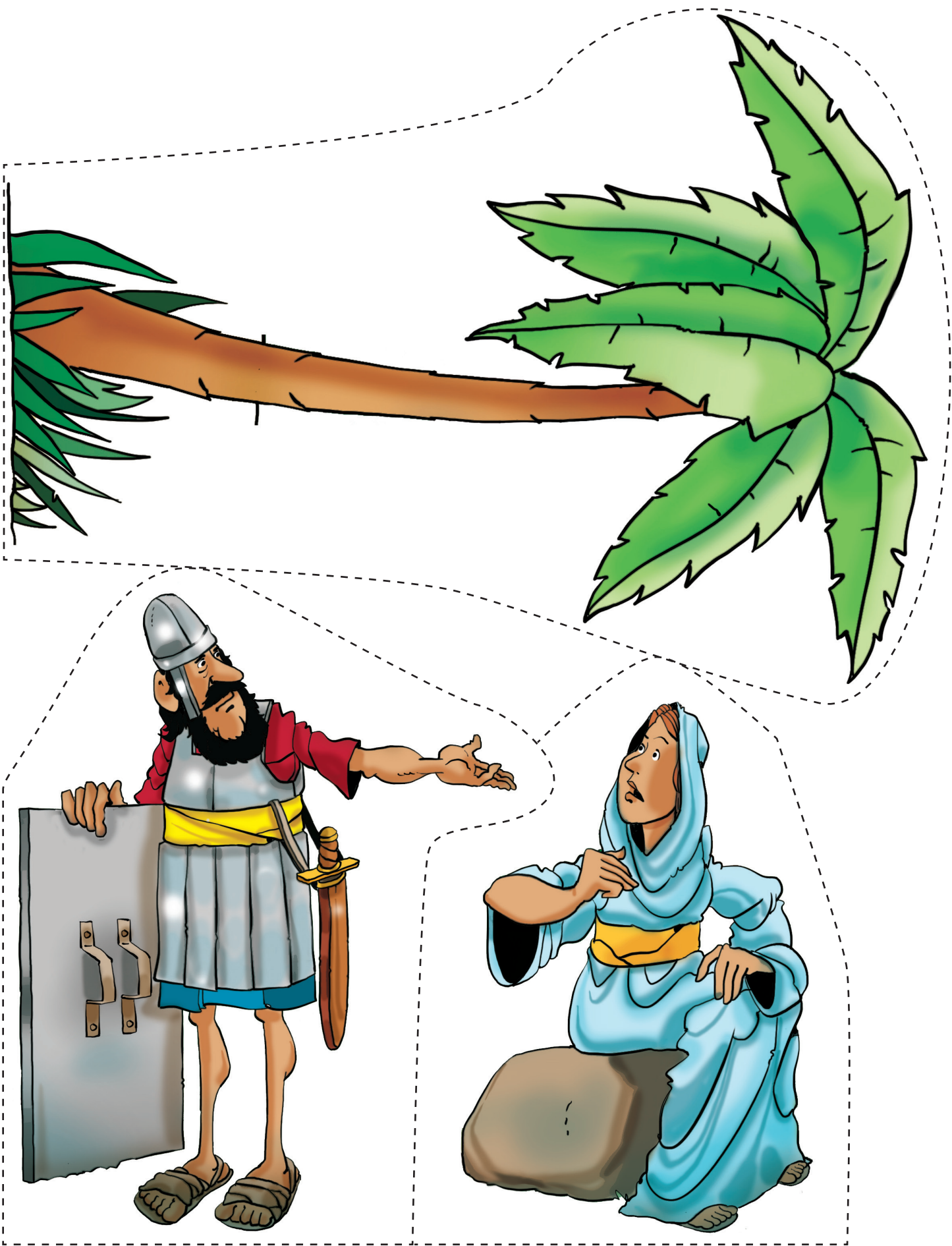
Together Deborah and Barak, and Barak's army, stopped the king who was mean.

God had helped them.













## God Sends Elijah to Help

(based on 1 Kings 17:8-16)

Long, long ago, it did not rain for days, then weeks, and then months. Elijah, a prophet of God, had no food. But God looked after Elijah and told him to go to a town and find a woman who would feed him.

*I wonder, "How did Elijah find the woman?"*

Elijah listened to God. He left his home by the brook and traveled to the town. When he arrived, he saw the woman by the gate. She was gathering sticks for a fire.

Elijah called out to the woman for help. "I am starving," he said. "Please, give me something to eat."

"I have nothing," the woman replied, "only a jar of flour and a little oil." "I only have enough for my son and me to have one meal. After that, our flour and oil will be gone."

*I wonder, "What could she make with flour and oil?"*

Elijah told the woman not to be afraid. "Go to your house," Elijah said. "You will find enough flour and enough oil to last until the rains come. God will look after us."

The woman went home to make some bread. There was enough bread for the woman, her son, and Elijah to eat that night.

The next day, she discovered more flour and oil. She made bread again. They ate for another day.

The next day there was more flour and oil. She made bread again, and they ate for another day.

Day after day, there was enough flour and oil to make bread for the woman, her son, and for Elijah. Every day, there was enough flour and oil left over to make more bread. The flour never ran out, and the jar of oil did not run dry.

It happened just as God had promised! God was looking after them one day at a time.

*I wonder, "How did they share with others?"*



## God Speaks in Stillness

(based on 1 Kings 19: 1-18)

Long, long ago, there was a man named Elijah. He was a prophet, a messenger of God. He spoke God's word to the people. Some were happy to hear it (*make a happy face*) and some were not (*make an angry face*).

*I wonder, "Why would people not be happy to her God's word?"*

The king was one of those people who did not like God's words. Elijah was afraid, so he ran to the desert to hide from the king (*pat thighs rapidly*). He wanted to find God, but he couldn't see God in the desert (*place one hand above eyes searching*).

Elijah laid down under a tree. He was hungry and tired and fell asleep.

An angel of God tapped Elijah on the shoulder and said, "Wake up! Eat something!"

Elijah opened his eyes and saw flatbread baking on glowing coals and a jar of water! But he didn't see God (*place one hand above eyes searching*). He ate and drank, and then went back to sleep.

The angel came a second time and tapped him. "Wake up!" the angel said. "Eat something, because you have a lot of God's work to do."

Elijah got up, ate and drank. Then he traveled to God's mountain to find God, but he did not see God there (*place one hand above eyes searching*).

That night, God spoke to Elijah saying, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

Elijah replied, "I am looking for you (*place one hand above eyes searching*). I am tired and afraid."

God said, "Go out and stand on the mountain. You will find me."

A powerful wind tore through the mountains (*make a loud swishing sound*) and broke stones into pieces. But God wasn't found in the wind (*place one hand above eyes searching*).

Then the earth quaked and shook (*stomp feet*). But God wasn't found in the earthquake (*place one hand above eyes searching*).

Then there was crackling fire (*rub hands together quickly*). But God wasn't found in the fire (*place one hand above eyes searching*).

"Surely God would have been in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire," Elijah thought.

*I wonder, "Where is God?"*

But then there was silence (*place finger to lips and say, "shh"*)—total silence. And then a gentle, quiet whisper of God speaking to Elijah (*whisper, "Elijah"*).

God whispered, "Why are you here, Elijah? To find me? I am always with you. Go. You have work to do, and I will be with you (*wrap arms around self*)."





## God Calls Jeremiah

(based on Jeremiah 1:4-10)

Many years ago, there was a young boy called Jeremiah.

One day, Jeremiah heard God's voice. At first, Jeremiah thought he was dreaming. Why would God be talking to him? But it wasn't a dream. God really was speaking to him.

*I wonder, "How did Jeremiah know it wasn't a dream?"*

"Jeremiah, I have chosen you to do a special job," announced God. "You will be my prophet. You will take my message to all the people."

Jeremiah was surprised. He was only a young boy. Who would listen to him?

"I can't do this," said Jeremiah. "I won't know what to say. I'm too young to do this job."

"Don't say you are too young," answered God. "All you have to do is listen. I will tell you where to go, and you will go there. I will give you a message, and you will speak it. I will put my words in your mouth and tell you what to say."

Jeremiah knew that these words were very important. He had to tell them to the people.

He went out to be God's messenger. He told the people: "God loves you! Follow God! Be kind! Love one another!"

*I wonder, "How can I be God's messenger?"*



My words will be  
your words.





## God Calls for Justice

(based on Amos 1:1; 5:6-8, 10-15, 21-24)

Long ago, there lived a shepherd called Amos. He was a good man who tried hard to follow God's loving ways. Amos saw how many people were not following God's ways.

They were not sharing their food with people who were hungry.

They were not sharing their belongings with people who had none.

They were being mean to one another.

*I wonder, "Why were people being mean?"*

Amos knew that he had to speak out. God had given him a message.

"Listen to God," Amos said. "Change your ways and follow God."

The people refused to listen to Amos, but the prophet kept on trying:

"God wants you to share your food with people who are hungry.

"God wants you to share your belongings with people who have none.

"Be kind to one another."

*I wonder, "What can we share with others?"*



## God Hears Daniel's Prayers

(based on Daniel 6:6-23)

Long ago, there was a man named Daniel.  
He was far away from home in a different land.

*I wonder, "Why was Daniel far away from home?"*

Daniel was a hard worker and a faithful man.

Even though he lived in a place where people believed in many gods, Daniel was faithful to the one true God.

He prayed to God three times every day.

Some people didn't like that Daniel was such a hard worker and wanted to get rid of him.

They tricked the king into making a rule that said no one could pray to the one true God.

They could only worship the king.

*I wonder, "How did they trick the king?"*

Daniel was faithful to the one true God. He broke the king's rule and still prayed to God.

The people who didn't like Daniel told the king, and the king had to follow his own rule and punish Daniel.

The king put Daniel in a den of lions.

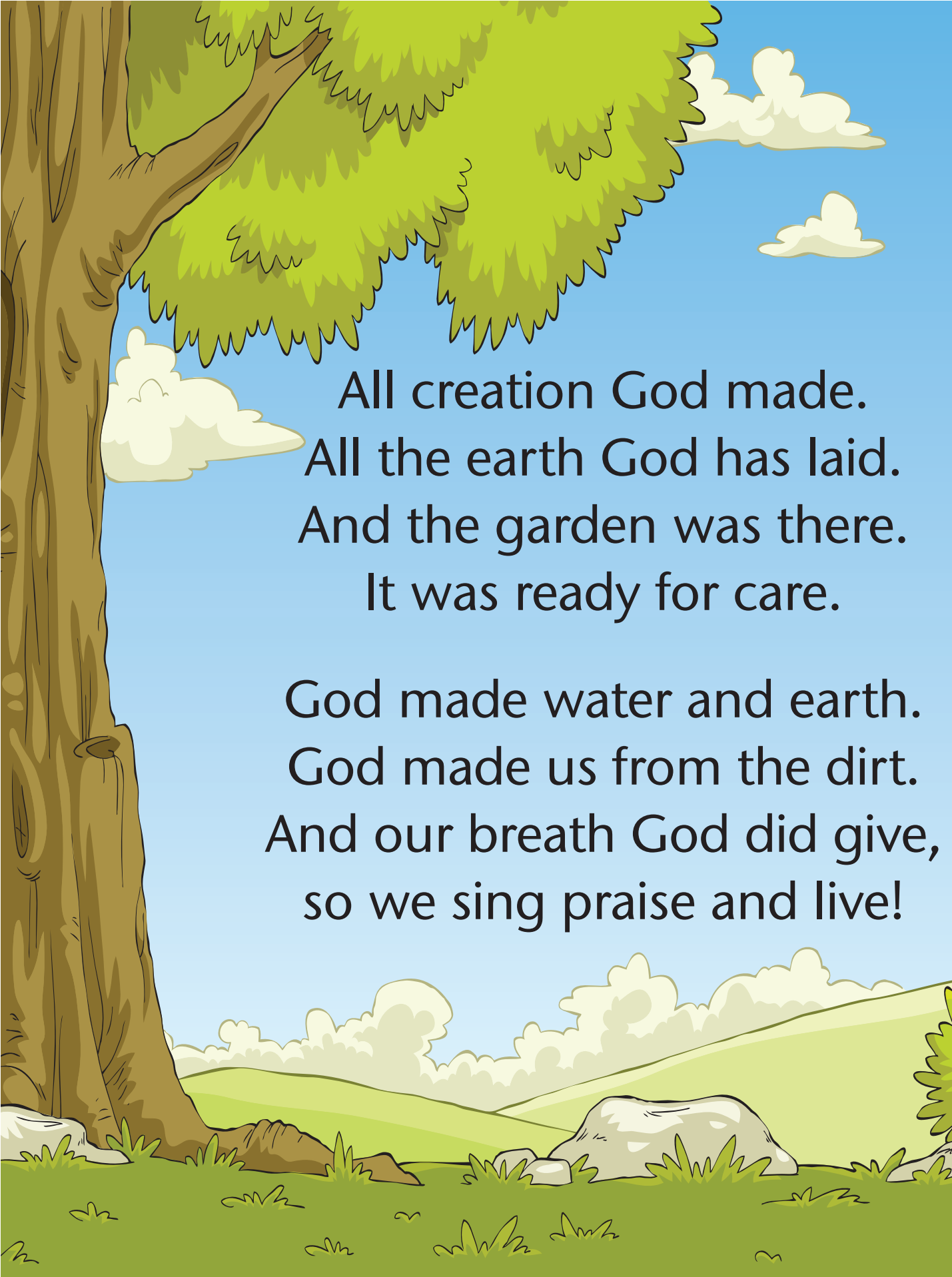
Daniel was scared, but he was a faithful man and he prayed to God.

God was with Daniel in the lions' den, and God closed the mouths of the lions so Daniel was not hurt.

Daniel was faithful to the one true God and prayed to God three times every day.







All creation God made.  
All the earth God has laid.  
And the garden was there.  
It was ready for care.

God made water and earth.  
God made us from the dirt.  
And our breath God did give,  
so we sing praise and live!



I worship and adore you,  
I'm bowing down before you.  
Thank you! Thank you, Holy God!







1 The whole world is in God's hands,  
the big, round world is in God's hands,  
the whole world is in God's hands,  
the world is in God's hands.

2 *The wind and the waves\** are in God's hands,  
*the wind and the waves\** are in God's hands,  
*the wind and the waves\** are in God's hands,  
the world is in God's hands.

3 \*The fish and the birds

4 \*All of the animals

5 \*All the world's people

6 \*You and me





1. God makes a promise and keeps it,  
 God makes a promise and keeps it,  
 God makes a promise and keeps it,  
 God promises to **love**.
2. ... God promises to **care**.
3. ... God promises to **forgive**.
4. ... God promises to **listen**.
5. And we can keep our promises,  
 and we can keep our promises,  
 and we can keep our promises,  
 'cause God has shown us how.







Our God is with me everywhere;  
all day and night, I'm in God's care.  
It doesn't matter where I go,  
'cause God is with me, this I know.







This is the day, this is the day,  
that our God has made.  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that our God has made,  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day,  
that our God has made.

Come unto me, come unto me;  
O my people, come; O my people, come  
Sing praise to God, sing praise to God;  
I will make you one, I will make you one.

Come unto me; O my people, come.  
Sing praise to God, I will make you one.  
Come unto me; come unto me;  
O my people, come.

This is the day, this is the day,  
that our God has made.  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that our God has made,  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day.

This is the day that our God has made.

This is the day that our God has made.





When Moses traveled far from home, . . . ,  
When Moses traveled far from home,  
God took care of him.

When I travel far from home, . . . ,  
When I travel far from home,  
God takes care of me.

When I'm sad and all alone, . . . ,  
When I'm sad and all alone,  
God takes care of me.

No matter where I go today, . . . ,  
No matter where I go today,  
God will go with me.





Dance and sing,  
for God will be with you,  
glory, hallelujah!

*Refrain:*  
*Dance and sing for joy,*  
*glory, hallelujah!*







Freedom is coming.  
*(Repeat twice)*

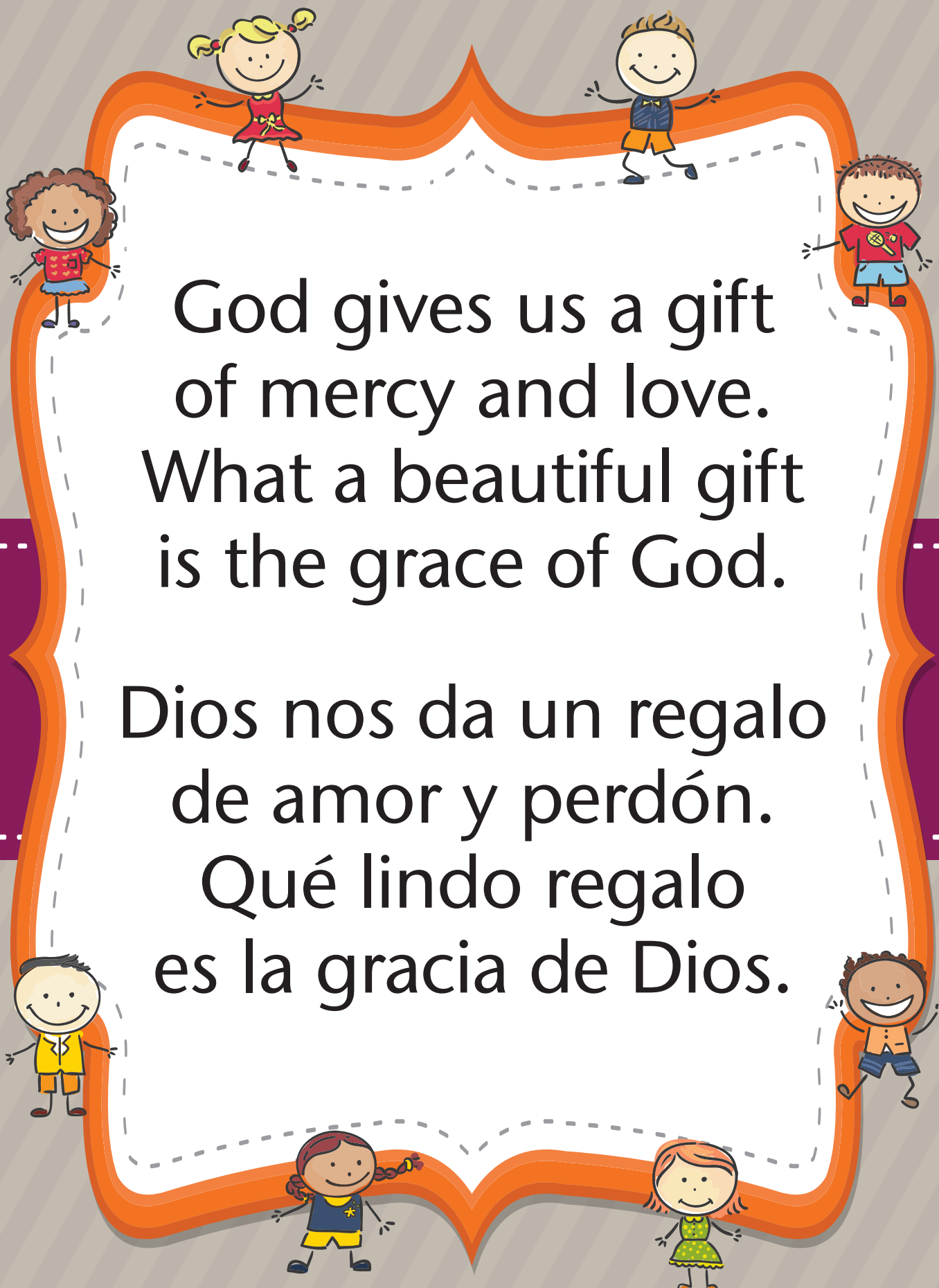
Oh yes, I know.

Jesus is coming.  
*(Repeat twice)*

O yes, I know.







God gives us a gift  
of mercy and love.  
What a beautiful gift  
is the grace of God.

Dios nos da un regalo  
de amor y perdón.  
Qué lindo regalo  
es la gracia de Dios.





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