

Stories, Colors & More

for Ages 5-7



Fall 2023





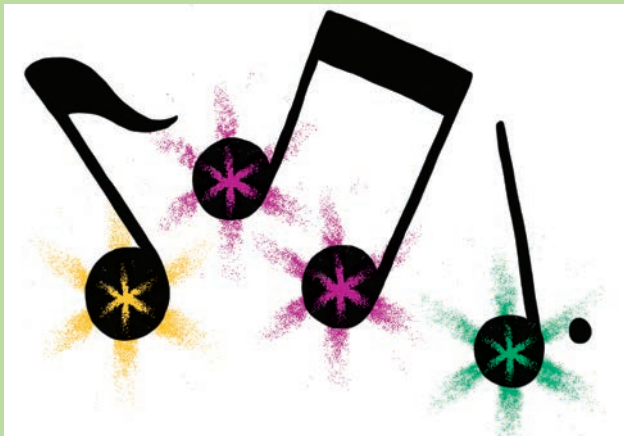
Table of Contents

SCM i–ii: Your Visual Schedule	1–3
SCM iii–iv: Special Needs Support Map	5–7
SCM 1: Noah and the Ark	9
SCM 2: Rainbow Promise	11
SCM 3: Abram and Sarai Went	19
SCM 4: Jacob Sees the Face of God	23
SCM 5: Miriam Rejoices	27
SCM 6: Love God, Love Others	29
SCM 7: Welcome the Stranger	33
SCM 8: The Shepherd Boy and the Giant	41
SCM 9: Abigail Makes Peace	45
SCM 10: Elisha Helps a Family	47
SCM 11: A Girl Shares Her Faith	49
SCM 12: Esther Saves Her People	51
SCM 13: Work for Peace and Justice	53
Music & Melodies	59

Your Visual Schedule



Welcoming
and
Preparing



Singing
and
Praying



Hearing
the
Story



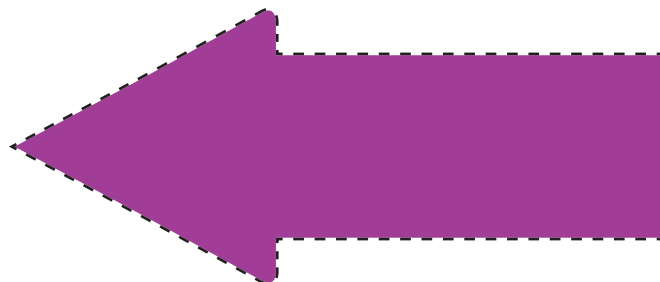
Reflecting
on God's
Grace



Activity
Choices



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.

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.

Noah and the Ark

(based on Genesis 7–8:19)

Once there was a man called Noah who was the only person God saw following in God's ways. God told Noah that rain was coming. There was going to be so much rain that the rivers would overflow. So many rivers would overflow that there would be a massive flood. It would be the biggest flood the world had ever seen.

"Everything in the whole world will be covered in water," God explained. "I want you to build a big boat. I will bring all the animals of the world to you. The boat must be big enough to keep your family and the animals safe."

I wonder, "How big was the boat?"

So Noah and his family went to work. *Crack! Crack! Crack!* went the axes. *Rasp! Rasp! Rasp!* went the saws. *Bang! Bang! Bang!* went the hammers.

Finally, after many weeks, the boat was ready. It was enormous.

God told Noah it was time to bring the animals on board. Noah opened the door to let them in. Animals were everywhere. Two of every kind. Cows mooed. Snakes slithered. Ducks quacked. Lions roared. Chickens clucked. Dogs barked. Elephants trumpeted. Bees buzzed. What a noise!

I wonder, "How did the animals get along?"

Finally, Noah and his family went into the boat and God closed the door.

Soon it began to rain. It rained and rained and rained. It rained for forty days and forty nights. Noah and his family and all the animals were safe in the boat. They waited and waited. Everywhere they looked, they saw nothing but water.

Just when Noah and his family thought they would never see dry land again, God sent a warm wind to blow on the water. The rain stopped, the sun came out, and the water began to go down. After many days, the boat finally came to rest on the dry ground.

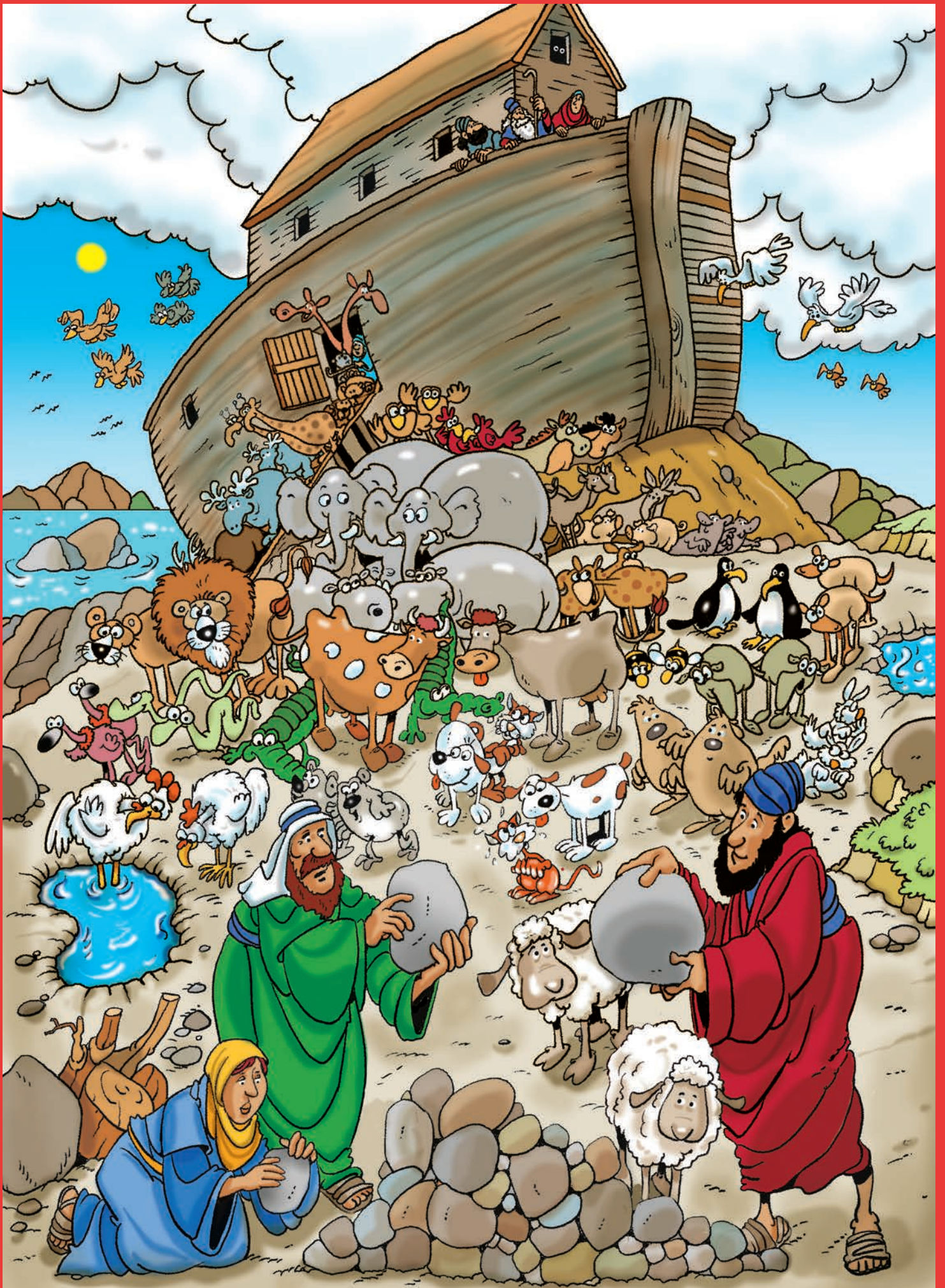
I wonder, "How did they all feel when the sun finally came out?"

At last, God told Noah it was time to leave the boat.

"Hurray!" shouted everyone. Noah opened the door and all the animals rushed out!

Noah and his family were thankful to be alive. They were so glad the flood was over. They piled up rocks to make an altar to God. Then they said thank you to God for keeping them safe.

God saw that Noah's family had been faithful and responded with gratitude. God was pleased and thought, "I will never flood the whole earth again. There will always be spring, summer, fall, and winter. There will always be day and night."



Rainbow Promise

(based on Genesis 8:20–22; 9:8–17)

It was over. The rain had stopped. The flood was gone. The ark was back on dry ground. The gigantic boat that had been so noisy and full was empty and quiet. All the animals had left to find new homes.

I wonder, “What were the animals’ new homes like?”

Noah and his family were thankful to be alive. They were so glad the flood was over. They piled up rocks to make an altar to God. Then they said thank you to God for keeping them safe.

Then God spoke to Noah and his wife and children:

“Never again will I flood the whole world,” God promised.

“From this day on, there will always be time for planting and picking the food that grows.

“The day will always follow night.

“The cold days of winter will always be followed by the warm days of summer.

“For as long as the earth shall be.

“I make this promise to you and your children’s children. I make this promise to every living being that breathes.”

Then God said to Noah and his family, “Look up to the sky.”

Noah and his family looked up. There in the sky was a beautiful rainbow.

“I have put my rainbow in the sky,” God explained. “It will be the sign of the promise I have made with you and all living things. It is a reminder of the promise between us.”

Noah and his family went out into the world and found a new home. Every time they saw a rainbow, they remembered God’s promise.

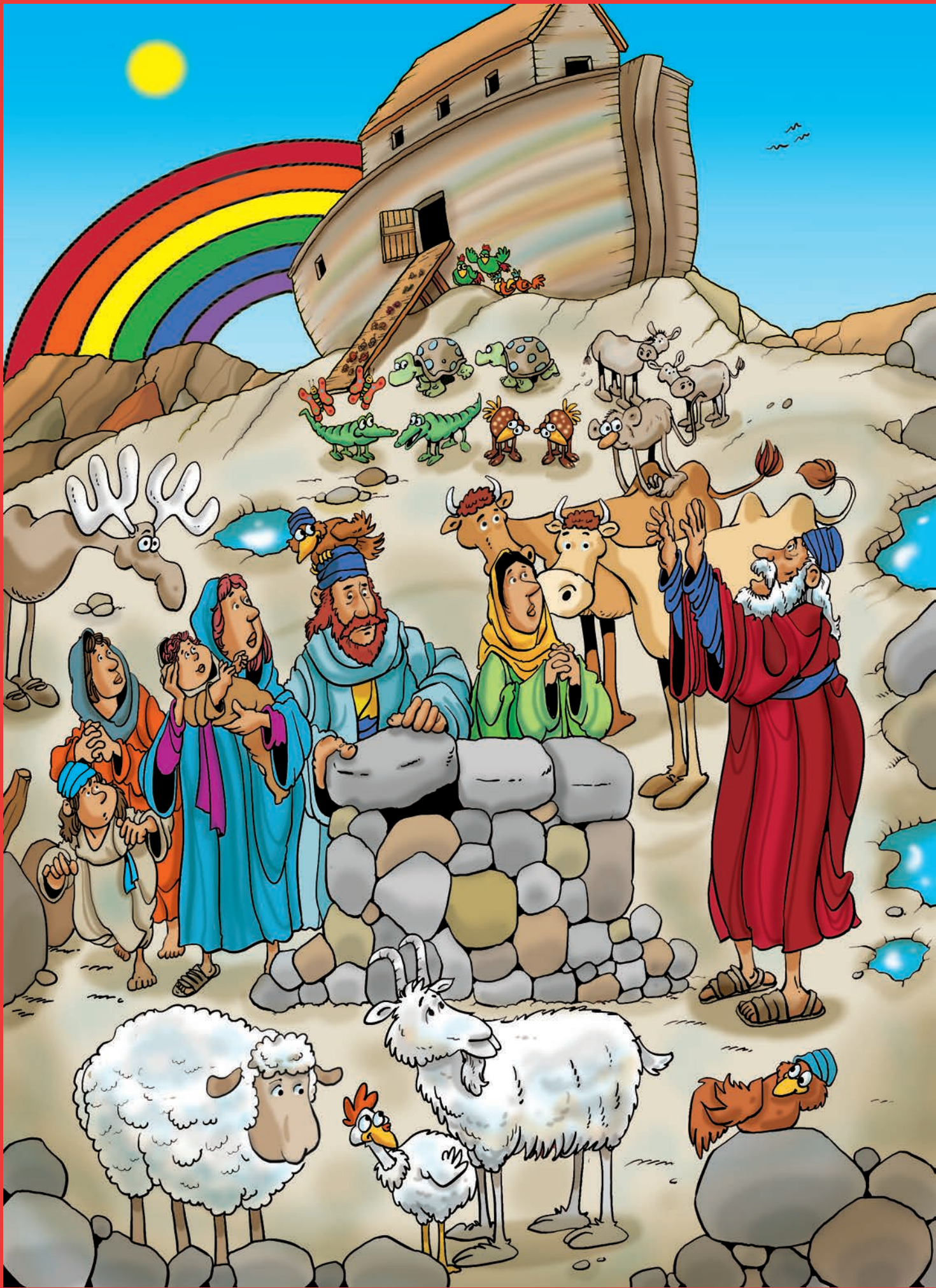
I wonder, “What do you think about when you see a rainbow?”

They told their children and their children’s children.

Down through the ages, the people of God passed on the story of Noah and God’s wonderful promise of love.

Now it is our turn to pass on the story.

I wonder, “Who will you tell about God’s promise?”









Abram and Sarai Went

(based on Genesis 12:1-8)

Long, long ago, God kept trying to be friends with humans, but people wanted to try things their own way. After several tries with everyone, God focused in on one couple. At that time, their names were Abram (A-brum) and Sarai (SAY-rai). (Later God would change their names to Abraham and Sarah, but that's another story.) Maybe, God thought, working together with one or two people would be easier than the whole world, and the whole world could receive the blessings God had for everyone through these two.

God said to Abram and Sarai, "Go! Take all your family, your brothers and sisters and cousins and second-cousins—everyone—and go to the land I will show you." Before they could even ask a question, God said, "I will make of you a great nation." Abram and Sarai probably wondered how that could be since they were old, they didn't have any children, and it would take lots of descendants to make a great nation. But they didn't say anything. God continued, "I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing to many others."

I wonder, "How will Abram and Sarai be a blessing to others?"

God promised them three things:

- 1) a land to live on;
- 2) children, and their children's children, and so on and so on; and
- 3) a blessing so that they would bless the rest of the world.

God didn't even ask for anything in return! There was no discussion about "if you do this, then I will do this." God just asked them to go and trust that God would keep these promises.

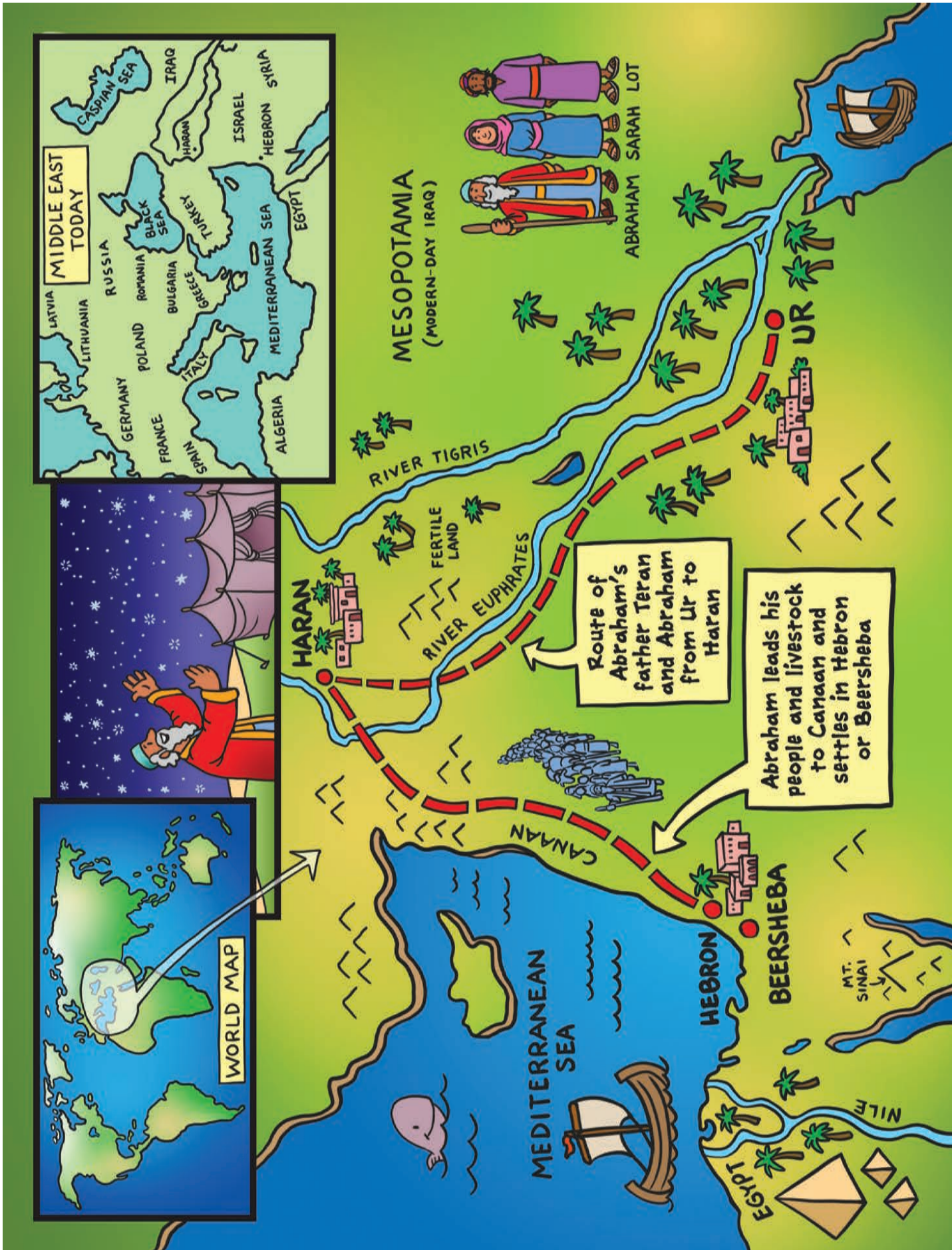
Even though God's promise was just some words at this point, Abram and Sarai trusted and obeyed God. They, and all their family, packed up their tents and pots and pans, and loaded their donkeys and camels, and herded their sheep and goats, and set forth for the land God would show them.

I wonder, "What did they see on their journey?"

When they arrived, God said, "To your children, and your children's children, and so on and so on, I give this land." Even though it was a bit of sandy desert, no children yet, and blessings to come, Abram and Sarai trusted God. They built an altar—stones placed upon stones—to remember what God had said and done for them and their family. And they praised God.

I wonder, "What might God be asking us to do?"





Jacob Sees the Face of God

(based on Genesis 32:1–33:15)

Esau (EE-saw) and Jacob had not spoken for a long time. Jacob had stolen Esau's blessing. Esau hated him for it. He was so angry with Jacob that he wanted to kill his brother.

Jacob ran away to escape Esau's anger.

God told Jacob to go home. Jacob and his family traveled back to the land where Esau lived—the land that God had promised to Jacob. When they were a few days into their journey, Jacob learned that Esau was coming to meet him with four hundred of his strongest men. Jacob was very worried!

That night, Jacob and his family came to a river. Jacob helped his family cross the river to set up camp. Then he went off by himself.

Alone and afraid, he worried, "What am I going to do?"

I wonder, "What would you do if you were afraid and alone?"

Suddenly, a stranger stepped from the darkness. The man grabbed Jacob. They began to wrestle. All night long, the two men struggled. The stranger grabbed Jacob's thigh so hard that he tore the muscle. Still Jacob hung on.

"Let me go," the stranger cried.

"I won't let you go until you bless me," responded Jacob.

"What is your name?" asked the stranger.

"Jacob," replied Jacob.

You will not be called Jacob any longer," explained the stranger. "You will be called Israel. You wrestled with God and with men, and you won."

I wonder, "What would a wrestling match with God be like?"

The stranger blessed Jacob and left. Jacob named the place Peniel (PEHN-ih-ehl), which means "face of God."

"Tonight I saw God face to face," marveled Jacob as he crossed the river to join his family, limping because of the torn muscle.

As the sun appeared, Jacob looked over the land. He saw a cloud of dust in the distance. It was Esau and his four hundred men!

Esau's army came closer and closer. Jacob could hear the stomp, stomp, stomp of their feet on the ground.

I wonder, "What will happen when Esau meets Jacob?"

Jacob went ahead of his family. He bowed to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. Jacob didn't know what to expect.

With joy, Esau ran to Jacob and wrapped his arms around him. Both brothers were crying. Jacob could hardly believe what was happening.

"God has surely blessed me," Jacob cried. "Seeing you is like seeing the face of God!"

Jacob introduced his brother to his family. They were friends again. God had brought them back together. God's love had changed everything.





Miriam Rejoices

(based on Exodus 15:2-21)

As the waters of the Red Sea closed in, the Israelites stood on the far side. They could have been captured. They could have been taken back to Egypt. Now they were safe.

I wonder, "What happened next?"

"We are free!" a few began to shout. Then more and more joined in. "We are free! We are free!" They all began to celebrate God's gift of freedom.

Miriam couldn't stay quiet. She couldn't keep her feet from dancing. Miriam was Moses' sister. Miriam remembered how Moses had passed safely through the water as a baby in a basket. Now Moses opened a way for the people to cross safely through the water to escape Pharaoh's army.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Soon other women joined Miriam in leading the people in rejoicing. They sang, danced, and played their tambourines. All the women felt the power of God's gift of freedom as they swayed and leapt to the music:

Leader: God is my strength.

Children: God is my song.

All: God has saved us.

Leader: God sent a wind to make a path through the water.

Leader: God is my strength.

Children: God is my song.

All: God has saved us.

Leader: God rescued us and led us to safety. Let us praise God.

Leader: God is my strength.

Children: God is my song.

All: God has saved us.

Miriam and the people gave thanks for God's salvation. They sang out their thanks for God's grace and mercy.

The people sang, danced, and played music! They knew God was with them. They knew God would look after them.

Sometimes when you are jubilant, you just have to sing and dance!

I wonder, "What did God think of the people's singing and dancing?"



Love God, Love Others

(based on Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18)

It had been a long journey for Moses and the people. For many years, they had trekked through the wilderness. It had been an incredible adventure.

Now at last their new home was in sight. Everyone was jubilant and excited. They talked about the long journey and dreamed about their new home. God had promised that it would be beautiful.

Moses called the people together. He wanted to talk to them before they went into their new home.

I wonder, "What did Moses want to say?"

"Don't forget!" Moses said. "Follow God's rules so you will live in peace and have good lives. Teach them to your children and your grandchildren."

The people nodded to each other. "We won't forget God's rules," they replied.

"Listen carefully!" Moses continued. "Now I will tell you the most important thing of all."

I wonder, "What is the most important thing?"

"God is our one and only God," said Moses.

Leader: Love God with your whole heart, soul, and strength.

Children: Love your neighbor as yourself.

"What's the most important thing?" asked Moses.

Leader: Love God with your whole heart, soul, and strength.

Children: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Moses told the people to repeat the words over and over.

"Say these words until they become a part of you," instructed Moses. "Say them when you get up. Repeat them when you go to bed."

Leader: Love God with your whole heart, soul, and strength.

Children: Love your neighbor as yourself.

That night, all through the camp, people said the same thing over and over.

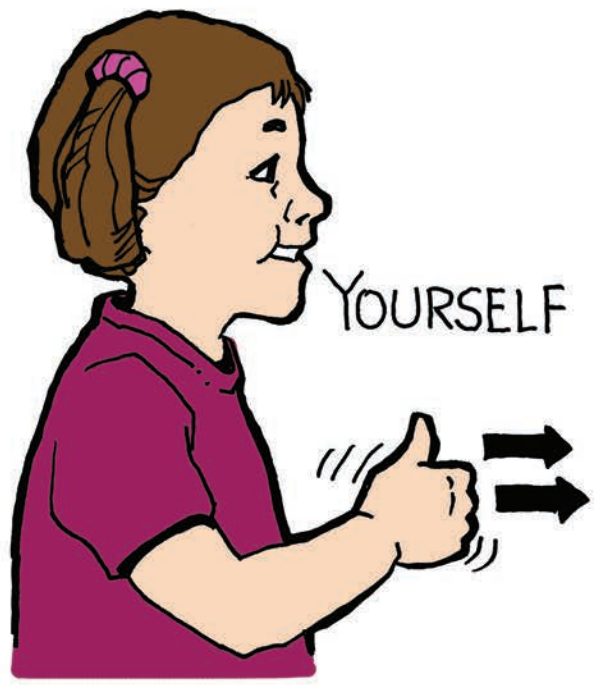
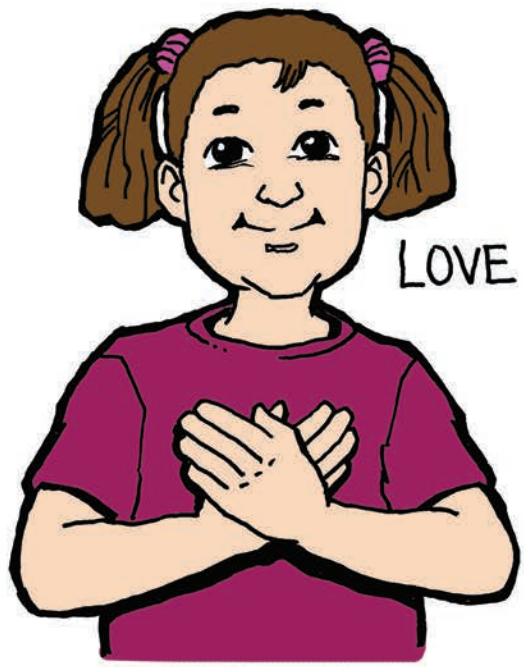
Leader: Love God with your whole heart, soul, and strength.

Children: Love your neighbor as yourself.

The people did as Moses told them. They taught the words to their children and their grandchildren. They passed them down through the ages so no one would forget.

I wonder, "When do we hear those words today?"





Welcome the Stranger

(based on Ruth 2:1–4, 14–23; 4:13–22)

Naomi and Ruth had been on a long journey. They had traveled all the way from the land of Moab to Naomi's home in Bethlehem. Naomi tried to stop her daughter-in-law, Ruth, from coming with her.

I wonder, "Why did Naomi try to stop Ruth?"

"You will miss your family," she explained to Ruth.

But Ruth refused to leave Naomi.

"Do not try to send me home," Ruth insisted. "I promise I will never leave you. I will go wherever you go. I want to live with you, wherever you live. I will love the people you love. And I will love your God."

After a long hard journey, the two widows finally reached Bethlehem. They quickly settled into their new home. It wasn't easy at first because they did not have enough money to pay for food and other things.

One day, Ruth had an idea. In that time, it was the custom for farmers to let the women pick up the grain that dropped during the harvest. Ruth went out to the fields of a farmer named Boaz.

Boaz had heard about Ruth's kindness. He knew that she had left her home in Moab to come to Bethlehem with Naomi. He was aware that her life was hard. Boaz welcomed Ruth into his fields.

"You are welcome to pick up grain here," Boaz told Ruth. "When you get thirsty, please help yourself to the water in my water jars."

I wonder, "Why was grain important?"

Boaz wanted to make sure that Ruth found enough grain. "Make sure you look after Ruth," he ordered the farm workers. "When you cut the grain, leave plenty behind for her to pick up."

At lunchtime, Boaz called Ruth over to sit in the shade of a big tree. He made sure that she had plenty of food to eat.

Ruth worked hard in the field until evening. When she came home that night, she had a huge basket of grain. Naomi was amazed! Where had it all come from? Ruth told Naomi how kind and welcoming Boaz had been.

I wonder, "What did Ruth and Naomi do with the basket of grain?"

Ruth went to Boaz's fields every day to gather grain. Eventually, Ruth and Boaz got to know each other, and they decided to get married. Boaz welcomed Ruth and Naomi into his house. It wasn't long before God blessed Ruth with a beautiful baby boy. Ruth and Boaz were overjoyed. They named their son Obed.

Naomi loved her grandson and helped take care of him. She thought about everything that had happened and gave thanks for God's love and care.





You gave half of your sandwich
to a person who forgot their lunch.

**Pick up 1 piece
of grain.**

Gleaning Kindness Game

Boaz asked his
farm helpers to
leave grain for Ruth
to pick up.

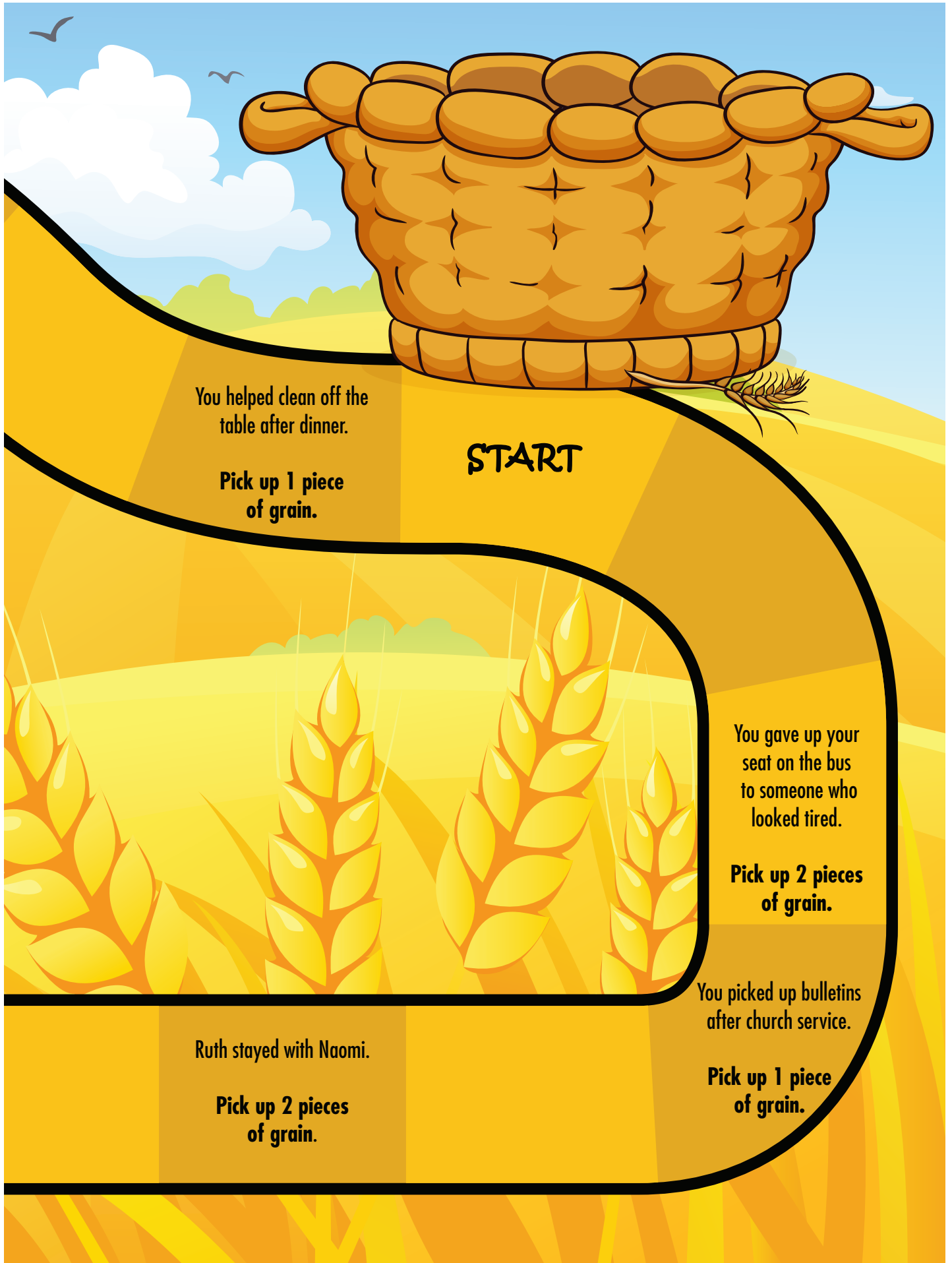
**Pick up 3 pieces
of grain.**

You read a book
to your sibling.

**Pick up 1 piece
of grain.**

You cleaned up your room
without being asked.

**Pick up 2 pieces
of grain.**



You helped clean off the table after dinner.

Pick up 1 piece of grain.

START

You gave up your seat on the bus to someone who looked tired.

Pick up 2 pieces of grain.

You picked up bulletins after church service.

Pick up 1 piece of grain.

Ruth stayed with Naomi.

Pick up 2 pieces of grain.

The Shepherd Boy and the Giant

(based on 1 Samuel 17)

David had an important job. Every day, he took care of his family's flock of sheep. It was his job to keep the sheep safe from danger. Sometimes he would use his slingshot and stones to scare away wild animals who would hurt them.

I wonder, "How many sheep did David take care of?"

David's brothers were in King Saul's army. Israel was at war with the Philistines.

One day, David's father called him in from the fields. "Please take some food to your brothers," he said. "I want to know if they are safe. Go and find out."

David set off with the gift of food. It was a long walk, but finally, he saw two armies in the distance. The king's army was on one side of a valley, and the Philistine army was on the other.

I wonder, "Why were the armies in the fields?"

The Philistine army had a soldier named Goliath. He looked like a giant. He was enormous and powerful and a big bully. He used his size and strength to scare the Israelites.

Every day, Goliath taunted Saul's army. "Choose your best soldier to fight me. If he wins, your people will win the war. If I win, your people will be our prisoners." Goliath laughed and shouted, "I will crush you!"

Goliath terrified everyone in the king's army. (1) No one wanted to fight the giant!

David heard Goliath shouting. He went to the

king. "I will fight Goliath," he said.

At first, King Saul laughed. "You don't stand a chance," the king said. "You are only a boy!" (2)

"I have protected my sheep from wild animals," replied David. "God kept me safe then. God will keep me safe now. I can defeat this giant."

Finally, King Saul agreed to let David fight. He gave David his helmet, armor, and sword to wear, but they were too heavy and much too big for him. "I can't move with this stuff on," David complained. "Let me do this my own way."

David took off the armor, ran down to the river, and found five smooth stones.

He walked toward the giant, Goliath.

Goliath was astonished. (3) "Have you come to fight me with a sling and stones?" Goliath sneered. Then he laughed and laughed.

"My strength comes from God. I am not afraid of you," answered David. (4)

I wonder, "How could David be so sure?"

He placed a smooth stone into the sling, whirled it around, and let it go with a snap. The rock shot out, zipped through the air, and hit Goliath in the forehead.

Goliath swayed and staggered, and fell to the ground. When the Philistine army saw what David had done, they ran away in fear! (5) David had defeated Goliath because he knew God was with him.





Abigail Makes Peace

(based on 1 Samuel 25)

David was on the run from King Saul who wanted to have him killed. David had nowhere to go, so he lived in some caves in the hills. About six hundred men came to live with him.

I wonder, "How did six hundred men live in caves?"

There was a rich man called Nabal (NAY-buhl) who lived in the Maon (MAY-aaN) wilderness. He owned a huge flock of sheep and goats, which he kept in the hills. Sometimes thieves would raid the flocks. But David and his men chased away the bandits and stopped them from stealing Nabal's sheep.

One day, David heard that Nabal was visiting the men who looked after his sheep. David sent some of his men to take a message to the wealthy farmer. When they arrived, they greeted Nabal politely.

"When your shepherds camped near us we looked after them," the messengers reminded Nabal. "We stopped thieves from stealing your sheep. Since we helped you, would you share some of your food and drink with us?"

Nabal was rich, and he had plenty of food to share, but he did not want to give anything to David and his men.

I wonder, "Why didn't Nabal share?"

"Who is this David?" Nabal answered rudely! "This country is full of thieves and robbers. I see no reason to share my food and drink with a band of runaway nobodies."

The messengers returned to David and told him everything Nabal had said. David was furious. He told his men to get their swords and follow him. A massive army of angry men followed David and set out for Nabal's camp.

Meanwhile, one of Nabal's workers ran to tell Nabal's wife, Abigail, what had happened. "David and his men looked after the sheep and us," the man explained. "Now Nabal has been rude to them and will not share his food and wine. There's going to be big trouble with David if we don't do something to stop it."

I wonder, "Why would he think there would be big trouble?"

Abigail sprang into action. She ordered her servants to pack their donkeys with two hundred loaves of bread, two large clay jars of wine, the meat from five sheep, a large sack of roasted grain, one hundred handfuls of raisins, and two hundred handfuls of dried figs. Then she set out with her helpers to meet David.

As soon as Abigail saw David, she got off her donkey and bowed down. "Please, sir," she begged. "Please accept these gifts I bring and forgive my husband."

David listened to Abigail. He gave thanks to God that she had come and stopped the trouble between him and Nabal.

"You are a wise and kind woman. You have prevented a terrible and violent thing from happening," he explained. "Don't worry; I will do as you have asked."

David and Abigail departed in peace.



Elisha Helps a Family

(based on 2 Kings 4:1-7)

Elisha (ee-LIE-shuh) was a prophet of God. God would give him messages to tell the people, and Elisha would pass on the messages to them.

I wonder, "How did God give messages to Elisha?"

One day, a woman with two sons stopped Elisha on the street. She was in trouble and needed God's help.

"Please, sir," the woman cried, "I am a widow. My husband followed in God's ways, but sadly he died. When he was alive, he owed a man some money, and now that man is coming to take my two sons as payment. Please help me."

Elisha wanted to help the woman. "I think God can help," he replied. "What do you have in your house that we can use?"

The woman thought. She was very poor, so all she had to give Elisha was a small jar of olive oil.

I wonder, "What help could the small jar of oil be?"

Elisha told the woman and her sons to go out and find as many empty jars as they could. They should borrow from their neighbors and friends.

The boys went out and did just as Elisha said. They went from house to house and gathered up all the old empty jars they could find. They carried them all home to their mother.

Elisha told the woman and her sons to go inside the house and shut the door. "Pour the oil into all the empty jars," he instructed. "Keep filling up the jars."

The woman did not know how this could happen because she only had one small jar of oil. How could it fill all those empty jars? Still, she did as Elisha said. The boys carried the jars to the table, and the woman filled them with oil from her small jar. Then they brought more jars and filled those too. Somehow the oil kept coming. Soon there were loads of jars all filled with oil.

I wonder, "How many jars of oil were there?"

When they had finished filling all the jars, the woman rushed outside to tell Elisha. He told her to go and sell the oil. "You'll earn lots of money," Elisha said. "Then you can pay your bills, and you'll have money for what you need."

The woman sold the oil, and there was enough to pay off all the money that she owed. She hugged her two boys and went home. Now her sons would not be taken away from her! The woman and her two sons said thank you to God for the gift of the oil.



A Girl Shares Her Faith

(based on 2 Kings 5:1-14)

[1] Long, long ago there was a great man named Naaman (NAY-uh-muhn) from the country of Aram (A-ram). He was the commander of the king's army. He was a mighty warrior. He had won many battles for Aram. There was just one thing wrong. Naaman had leprosy, a terrible skin disease that others could catch. This mighty warrior suffered.

[2] In the house of Naaman there was a young girl who served Naaman's wife. She was from Israel and had been captured in one of Naaman's raids. She was a believer in God. She saw Naaman's suffering and said to Naaman's wife, "If only Naaman could be in Israel with Elisha, the prophet of God. He would be healed of his disease."

I wonder, "How did the girl know about Elisha?"

[3] Naaman went and told the king exactly what the young girl had said, word for word. The king, who liked Naaman, said, "Go! I will send a letter to the king of Israel." Naaman went with silver and gold and fine clothes, and the letter that said, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

[4] Elisha heard about the letter and said to the king, "Send this man to me so that he may know that there is a prophet of God here." So Naaman, and his horses and chariots, went to Elisha, the prophet of God. Elisha told Naaman to go and wash in the Jordan River seven times and he would be made well. Naaman was angry and roared, "Why did I come all this way just to wash in a river? We have rivers where I live!"

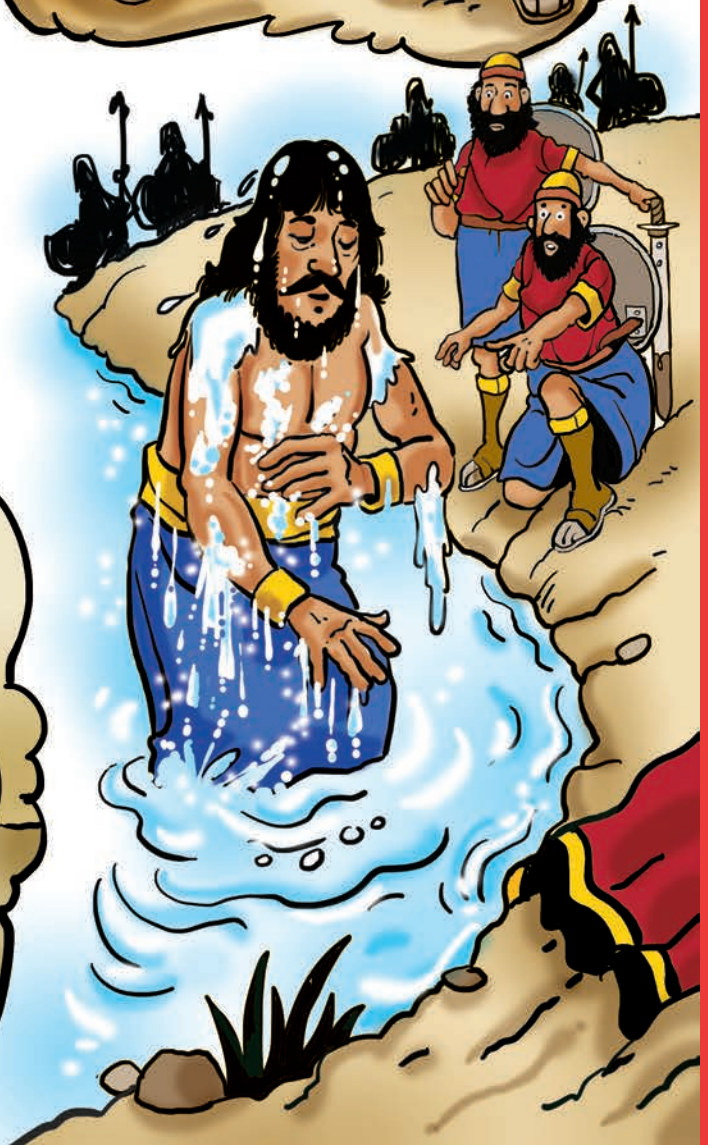
I wonder, "Why was Naaman upset?"

[5] Naaman's servants ran after him, saying, "If Elisha had asked you to do something difficult, would you have done it? This is a simple thing. All you have to do is wash in the river and be healed."

[6] So Naaman went to the river and washed seven times according to the word of the prophet of God. He was healed of his disease. Naaman went to Elisha and, in front of all his soldiers and servants, said, "Now I know that there is no God except the God of Israel."

[7] And, just to think, it all started with a young girl who bravely shared her faith.

I wonder, "What might happen if I share my faith with another person?"



Esther Saves Her People

(based on Esther 4-7)

Many years ago in Persia, a great king named Ahasuerus (A-has-you-er-us) was married to Queen Esther. Queen Esther came from a Jewish family, but the king and the people in his court did not know this.

The king's chief officer, Haman (HAY-muhn), was a cruel and proud man. Haman was determined to see all Jewish people destroyed. He told many lies.

"O great king," Haman whispered. "People are living in your land who refuse to obey your laws. You should have them killed before they cause too much trouble."

The king trusted Haman. "Go ahead," he replied. "Do whatever you want."

I wonder, "Why did the king trust Haman?"

Haman was delighted. He rubbed his hands together in glee as he went to give the order. "Now I can get rid of them all," he gloated.

Now it happened that Queen Esther had a cousin named Mordecai (MOR-duh-kye), who heard what Haman planned to do. He sent a message to the queen that said, "Please help us. You are the only one who can save us now."

I wonder, "What could Esther do?"

When Esther heard what Mordecai wanted her to do, she was afraid. In those days, there was a law that said no one could go to the king without permission. Esther sent word to Mordecai telling him about the law.

"I could be killed," Esther explained.

Mordecai asked Esther to be brave. "Please speak up," he begged. "It could be that you were made queen so that you could save us at this terrible time."

The queen decided to speak out for her people. "I will pray for three days before I go to the king," she declared. All the Jewish residents in the city prayed with her.

Finally, Queen Esther was ready. She invited the king and Haman to a special meal. The king was very impressed. "This has been a wonderful meal," he declared. "Now it is my turn to give you a gift. I will give you anything you want."

The time had come to save her people. Esther took a deep breath. "O great king," she pleaded. "Please save my people."

The king was outraged. "Who would dare to harm you or your people?" he thundered.

Esther pointed to Haman. "That man!" she cried.

Haman gulped and spluttered. He was in big trouble. The king had him arrested and taken away. The Jewish people were saved.

When Mordecai heard the news, he was overjoyed. He sent word to all the people that they had been saved. What a party they had. Everyone sang and danced and gave thanks to God for saving them.

Every year since that time, the Jewish people have gathered together on Purim (POOR-im) to tell the story of how brave Queen Esther saved the day.

I wonder, "Could I be as brave as Esther?"



Work for Peace and Justice

(based on Micah 4:1-8)

Many years ago, the people of Israel were sorrowful. They lived in difficult times when there was a lot of unfairness and fighting in the world.

The people were fed up. “What will happen?” they asked each other. “Will the fighting ever end? Will there ever be fairness in the world?”

Then someone came along who gave the people hope. It was the prophet Micah (MYE-kuh). Micah knew that God had a vital message for the people. It was an amazing vision filled with wonderful ideas.

I wonder, “What were the wonderful ideas?”

“Listen!” exclaimed Micah. “One day all the people of the world will follow God’s loving ways. On that day, people will not need their weapons anymore. They will turn their spears and their swords into garden tools. There will be no more war. There will be no more fighting. The whole world will live in peace.”

I wonder, “How did the people feel when they heard Micah’s hopeful words?”

“That sounds incredible!” exclaimed the people.

“When will it happen?” they asked Micah.

“We must make it happen,” replied Micah. “If we follow God’s ways, the world will change. God’s fairness and peace will spread everywhere.”

The people liked the sound of that. “We must start now,” they cried. “We must follow in God’s loving ways and help bring justice and peace to the world.”

The people found many different ways to do this. Some shared what they had with those who had nothing. Some people stood up for those who were being bullied. Some looked after children who had no parents. Some used kind words to solve problems.


I wonder, “What else could the people do to follow God’s loving ways?”

God’s vision of peace and justice brought hope to the people. They tried hard to follow in God’s loving ways and bring God’s peace to the land. They hoped that one day God’s peace and fairness would spread all over the world.









Rise and shine and give
God the glory, glory!
(Repeat two times)
Children of the Lord.

Noah and his sons will
build all the arky, arky.
(Repeat two times)
Children of the Lord.

Promise to people that love
brings the rainbow, rainbow.
(Repeat two times)
Children of the Lord.

Rise and shine and give
God the glory, glory!
(Repeat two times)
Children of the Lord.



Wherever I may wander,
wherever I may be,
I'm certain of God's loving care;
God's care is over me.

God made the great high mountains
and made this wide blue sea.
God made the sky, where eagles fly.
God made the world and me.

Throughout God's whole creation,
I see the loving care
for everyone in every land,
God's children everywhere.



Dance and sing for God will be with you.
Glory! Hallelujah!

Dance and sing for God will be with you.
Glory! Hallelujah!

Dance and sing for joy.
Glory! Hallelujah!

Dance and sing for joy.
Glory! Hallelujah!



May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

*Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

¡Dios de la esperanza, danos gozo y paz!
Al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad.
Dios de la justicia, mándanos tu luz,
luz y esperanza en la oscuridad.

Estribillo:

*Oremos por la paz,
cantemos de tu amor.
Luchemos por la paz,
fieles a ti, Señor.*



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*)



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.



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)



Love, love, love, love:
Christians, this is your call.
Love your neighbor as yourself
for God loves us all.

Love, love, love, love:
the gospel in a word is love.
Love the Lord with all your heart,
your strength, and your soul.

—adapted words for verse 2



Shalom, chaverim! Shalom, chaverim! Shalom, shalom!
Lehitraot, lehitraot, shalom, shalom.

Glad tidings we bring of peace on earth;
good will toward all;
of peace on earth, of peace on earth,
good tidings we bring.
(Repeat)



God's love for us is truly amazing.
(Repeat two times)

How great is the love of God.

God's love goes higher than everything.
God's love goes deeper than everything.
God's love is wider than everything.
How great is the love of God!

El amor de Dios es maravilloso.
(Repeat two times)

¡Cuán grande es el amor de Dios!

Tan alto que no puedo ir arriba de él.
Tan bajo que no puedo ir debajo de él.
Tan ancho que no puedo ir afuera de él.
¡Cuán grande es el amor de Dios!





101004



ISBN 2370001728431



2 370001 728431