

Stories, Colors & More

for Ages 5-7



Spring 2024





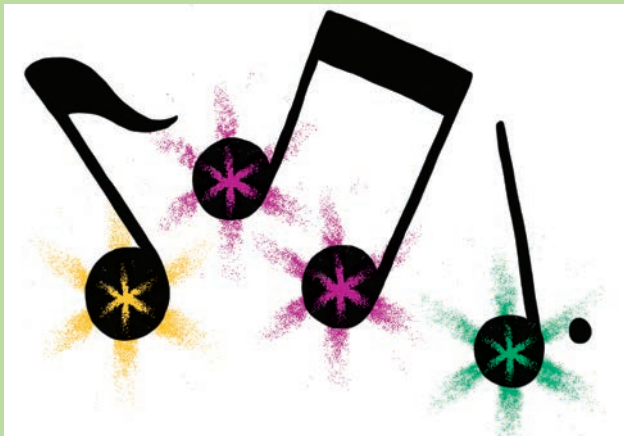
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Your Visual Schedule



Welcoming
and
Preparing



Singing
and
Praying



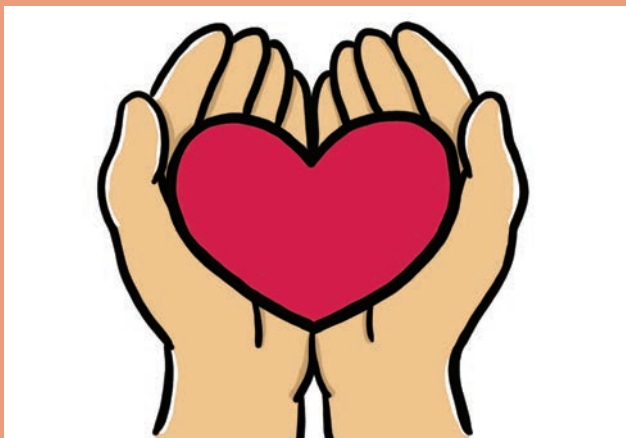
Hearing
the
Story



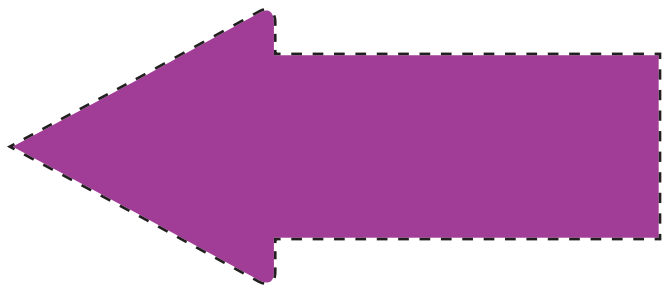
Reflecting
on God's
Grace



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.

Jesus Feeds the Disciples

(based on Mark 14:12–25)

Passover was a special time in Jerusalem. Thousands of people came from all over the land to celebrate. Every spare room in the city was filled with people preparing for the Passover meal.

I wonder, “How do you think the people prepared for the Passover meal?”

Jesus wanted to celebrate Passover with his friends. He sent Peter and John to Jerusalem to get everything ready.

“Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a jar of water,” Jesus instructed. “Follow him and he will lead you to a house with a large room for us to use. Go and get everything ready for our Passover meal.”

I wonder, “What kinds of food did people eat at the Passover meal?”

Peter and John followed Jesus’ directions and found the room that Jesus had reserved. They began to prepare the Passover meal.

Soon everything was ready. Jesus and the other disciples arrived and everyone sat down on the cushions around the tables.

During the Passover meal, Jewish people gathered to remember how Moses led their people out of Egypt to a new home. But on this night Jesus did something different. He took bread and held it up to give thanks to God. Then he broke it apart and gave it to his friends.

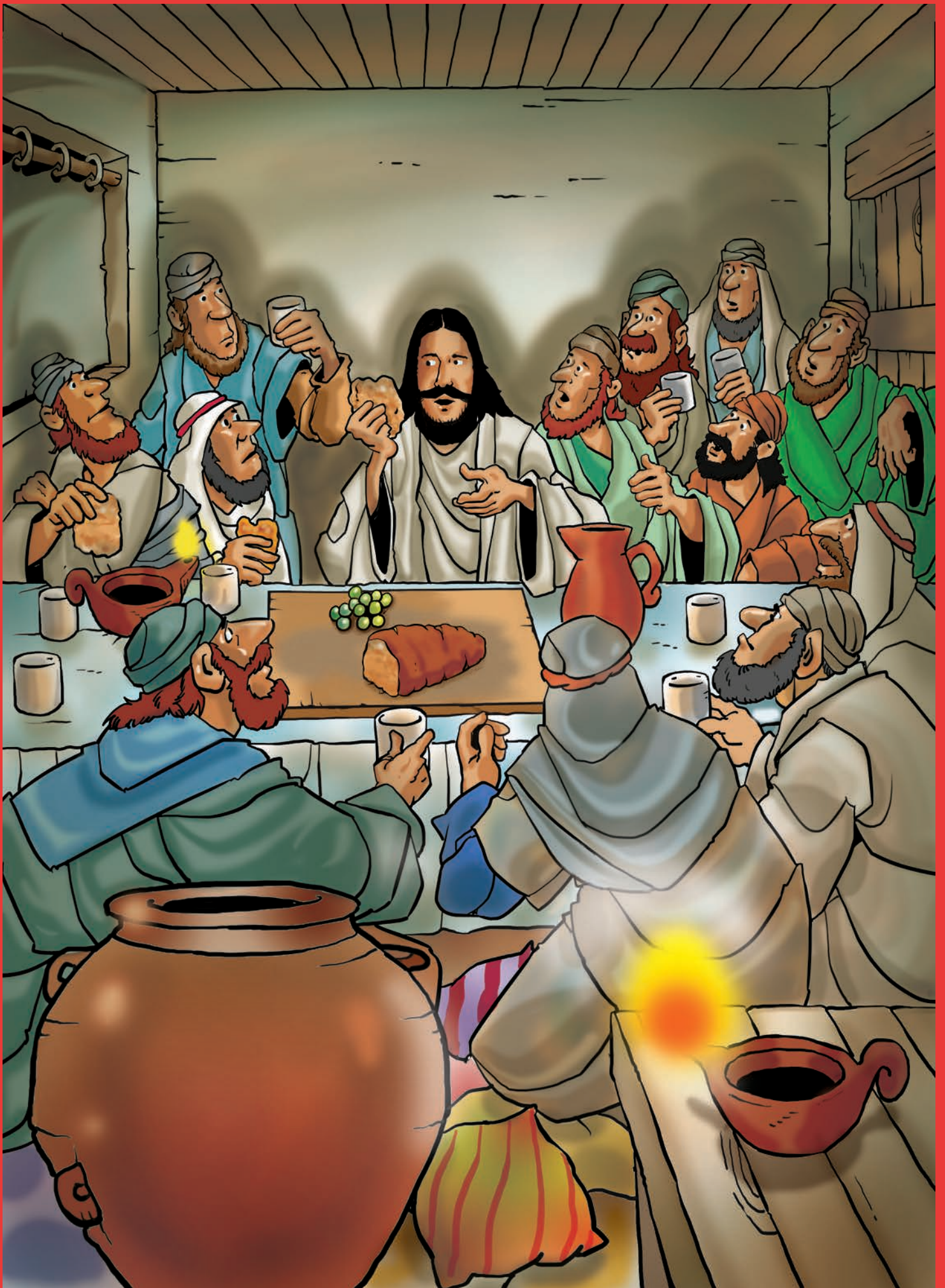
“Eat this bread and remember that I am always with you,” he said.

At the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine and held it up to give thanks to God. He passed the cup around the table for everyone to drink.

“Drink this wine,” Jesus told them. “Remember me and all I have taught you.”

Jesus seemed sad as they ate together. He knew that trouble was coming. His friends didn’t know it yet, but it was the last supper they would eat together.

I wonder, “What trouble was Jesus talking about?”





Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

(based on John 13:1-17)

It was just before the Passover festival. Jesus knew that soon he would have to leave his disciples and go to be with God. Jesus loved his friends. They had been traveling together for a long time.

I wonder, "What is it like to love your friends?"

One night, they gathered for a special meal. Everyone was tired and hungry. They all sat at the table. They wondered who was going to wash their feet. After walking along hot, dusty roads, their feet were sweaty and dirty.

Jesus got up from the table and wrapped a towel around his waist as a servant would have done. He poured some water into a bowl and began to wash one of his friends' feet! Then he dried them off with the towel.

The disciples looked at Jesus and looked at each other. They were shocked. Only the lowest servants in the household washed the feet of guests. They could not believe that Jesus was washing their feet like a servant.

I wonder, "What does it feel like to have your feet washed?"

One by one, Jesus washed each of the disciples' feet. Then it was Peter's turn. Peter looked at him and said:

"Jesus, are you really going to wash my feet?"

"You don't understand what I am doing," Jesus answered. "I'm teaching you something very important."

I wonder, "What lesson did Jesus want to teach his friends?"

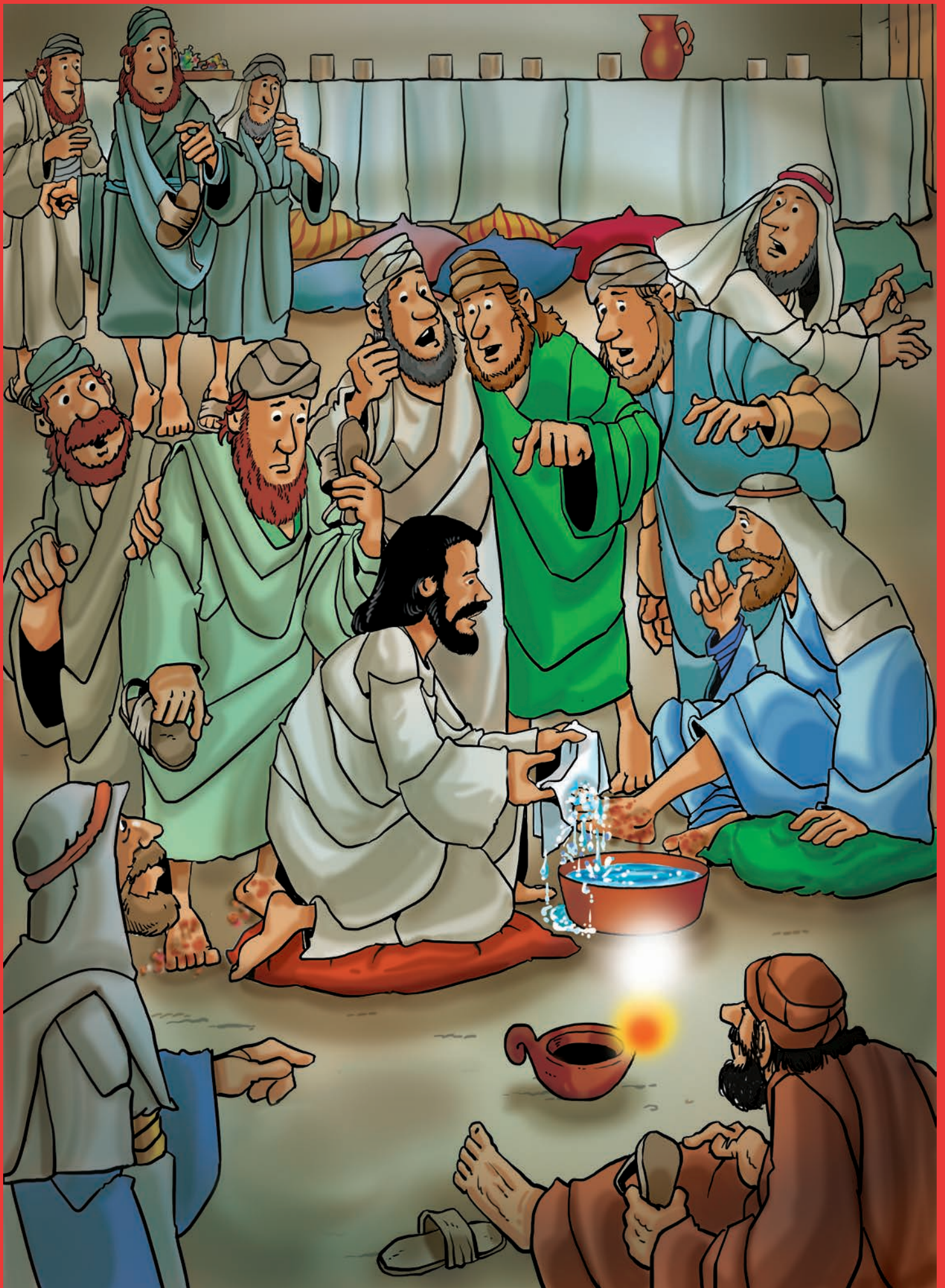
"I can't let you wash my feet," protested Peter. "They're so dirty. This is a job for a servant."

"Peter, if you don't let me wash your feet, you can't follow me," replied Jesus.

So Peter let Jesus wash his feet.

Jesus finished washing everyone's feet. He explained that he wanted to teach them an important lesson about friendship.

"No one is better than anyone else," explained Jesus. "If I can serve you, then you can serve each other. Follow me and do what I do."



Peter's Denial

(based on Mark 14:26–31, 66–72)

Jesus and his friends had come to Jerusalem for the Passover. They gathered for a special meal together, and when they were finished eating, Jesus gave them bread to eat and wine to drink, and told them that he would soon have to die. They sang a hymn together and then they walked to a place called the Mount of Olives.

Jesus knew that he would soon be arrested and taken away. He knew that he was going to be killed. He told his friends that all of them would eventually abandon him. He said, "All of you will become deserters." He meant that, someday, each of them would run away or pretend that they did not know him. Then he told them, "After I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

Peter loved Jesus. He did not think that he could ever pretend not to know Jesus! Peter said to him, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I won't! **No, I won't!**" (*Yes, you will!*)

But Jesus knew better and said to Peter, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

But Peter did not believe it. He said to Jesus, "Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny you! Not me! **No, I won't!**" (*Yes, you will!*)

And all of the rest of Jesus' friends said the same thing, "**No, I won't!**" (*Yes, you will!*)

Later that night, the soldiers came and arrested Jesus. The soldiers led Jesus away and took him to the home of the high priest. Peter was waiting outside the high priest's home, in the courtyard where a fire was burning. Peter was standing by the fire to keep warm, when one of the servant girls saw him. She stared at him and said, "You were one of the people with Jesus!"

But Peter denied it! (That was the first denial.) The girl said, "**Yes, you were!**" (*I was not!*)

Peter said, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." He went out into the front courtyard of the house. The **rooster** (*Cock-a-doodle-doo!*) crowed for the first time.

The servant girl saw Peter again. She told the other people who were standing around him, "This man was with Jesus." But Peter denied it again. (That was the second denial.) The girl said, "**Yes, you were!**" (*I was not!*)

After a little while, the people who were standing out in front of the house said to Peter, "You come from the same place Jesus did! You were one of the people with Jesus!"

Peter was really angry. He shouted and swore and said, "I do not know this man you are talking about. I was not with him."

The people said, "**Yes, you were!**" (*I was not!*)

That was the THIRD time Peter denied Jesus!

At that very minute, the **rooster** (*Cock-a-doodle-doo!*) crowed for the second time.

Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

I wonder, "How does it feel to betray a friend?"



Jesus Dies and Is Buried

(based on Mark 15:33–(39) 47)

Jesus had come to Jerusalem about five days before, riding into the gates of the city on a donkey. When he got close to the town, people were standing by the road to greet him. They were so excited! They shouted, “Hosanna! Hosanna!” They waved branches and cheered, and some of them even threw their coats onto the road for the donkey to walk across.

That’s exciting, isn’t it?

I wonder, “How did they feel?”

But then, after Jesus got to the city, things started to change. Some of the people who loved Jesus stuck with him, but others turned on him. There were people who didn’t like Jesus, and they wanted to get rid of him. They schemed and plotted behind his back, and then Jesus was arrested. He was taken before Pilate to be judged, and the people turned against him. So Jesus was taken out to a hill and hung on a cross to die. It was a terrible punishment, especially because Jesus had done nothing wrong.

Jesus was hung on the cross in the morning, and right at noon, the whole land became as dark as night. The darkness lasted for three hours. Then at three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

That’s so sad, isn’t it?

I wonder, “How does that make you feel?”

The Bible tells us, “Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last breath. There was a Roman soldier there, who had watched everything that happened. When Jesus died, the soldier said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

This is a hard, sad story.

I wonder, “What do you think about what happened to Jesus?”

Nearby, three women who were friends of Jesus watched and waited. These women followed Jesus, and they provided for him. Only the women were still there; all the men had run away, even Jesus’ closest friends! Those women were pretty brave. They loved Jesus so much!

Finally, that evening, a man named Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked if he could take Jesus’ body and bury him. Pilate gave the body to Joseph, who wrapped Jesus’ body in cloth and laid it in a tomb that was like a cave, a space carved out of rock. Then he rolled a heavy stone in front of the tomb. Two of the women saw where Joseph put Jesus’ body.

I wonder, “What do you know about the surprising thing that happened next?”





Jesus Is Alive

(based on John 20:1-18)

It was very early on Sunday morning. A woman called Mary Magdalene walked along the road. She was crying.

I wonder, "Why do you think Mary was crying?"

Mary was one of Jesus' friends. Three days earlier, she had watched soldiers kill Jesus on the cross. Now he was dead and buried.

Mary wanted to go to the tomb where they had put Jesus' body. When she arrived, she saw that the tomb was open and empty.

Mary was very upset. What was going on? She ran to tell Jesus' disciples. They came back to the tomb as fast as they could. It was definitely empty. The disciples didn't know what to do, so they went back home.

Mary didn't want to go home. She stayed by the tomb, crying. First Jesus had died and now his body was gone. She didn't know what to do.

Suddenly, Mary heard a noise. She turned around and saw a man standing behind her. Mary was crying so hard that the tears made it difficult for her to see.

"Why are you crying?" the man asked. "Who are you looking for?"

Mary thought it was the gardener. "Sir," she sobbed, "If you have taken Jesus away, please tell me where his body is."

I wonder, "Why did Mary think that he might be the gardener?"

"Mary," the figure said.

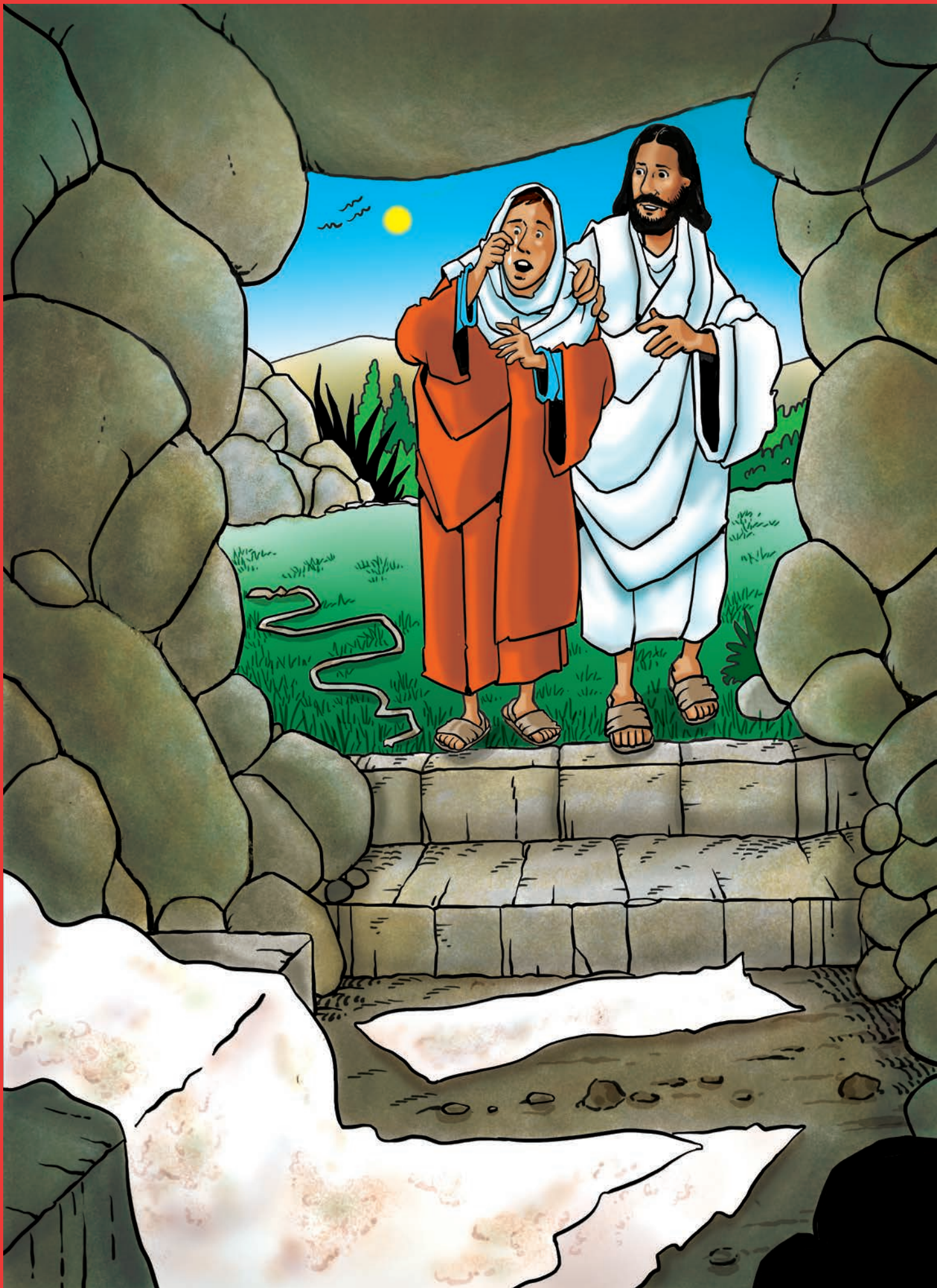
As soon as Mary heard her name, she knew who he was. It was Jesus! He was alive!

I wonder, "What did Jesus' voice sound like when he spoke Mary's name?"

"Go and tell the other disciples what has happened," instructed Jesus. "Tell them that I am going to be with God."

Mary ran as fast as she could to tell the other disciples. She had a wonderful message to deliver.

"I have seen Jesus! He is alive!"



Gone Fishing

(based on John 21:1-14)

After Jesus died, some of the women who were his friends went to the tomb and found it was empty! Jesus was alive! He spoke with Mary and then with the disciples. There were other stories too about people who had seen him and talked to him. This is one of those stories when Jesus appeared to his friends, not dead, but alive!

Some of the disciples—those who had been fishermen like Peter and Andrew, James and John, and some others—didn't quite know what to do with themselves. They had seen Jesus alive, but he wasn't leading them from place to place teaching and healing. They weren't quite sure what to do. They didn't have a plan for Jesus dying and then being alive. So they did what they knew how to do—they went fishing.

They fished all night long but didn't catch a thing. Not one little fish.

Just as the sun rose, Jesus was standing on the beach but the disciples didn't know it was him. Maybe the sun was in their eyes or the early morning fog made it difficult to see. Then Jesus asked them what they were doing, pointing out that they didn't have any fish. They agreed. No fish.

Then Jesus told them to cast their nets over the right side of the boat and they would find some fish. The disciples thought this was pretty odd. They had been there all night with no fish. How could a guy on the beach know where the fish were? But they threw their nets over the right side of the boat, and immediately there were so many fish in their nets they could hardly hold onto the nets.

I wonder, "How did it feel to try to hold the nets full of fish?"

Then John knew. He said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

I wonder, "How did John know it was Jesus?"

Peter jumped into the sea and swam to shore. He was so excited to see Jesus. The others rowed the boat, dragging their nets full of fish. There were 153 large fish!

By the time they got to the beach, Jesus had a fire going, roasting some fish, and he had some bread. Jesus called to them to bring some of the fish they had caught too. He said, "Come! I've made you breakfast."

Fish and bread. This all seemed familiar. They didn't need to ask who this was right in front of them. They knew it was Jesus, breaking bread and feeding them, just like he always had.

I wonder, "What other stories about Jesus feeding people does this remind you of?"



Peter's Commission

(based on John 21:15-17)

After Jesus died and was buried, some women who were his friends found his tomb empty. Jesus appeared to his disciples. He was alive!

Seven of his disciples, not knowing quite what to do, headed home to the Sea of Galilee and went back to fishing. They were on their boat and fished all night long, but they didn't catch even one fish! Then they saw a man on shore who told them to cast their nets on the other side of their boat. Strange as it seems, they caught a lot of fish when they did this. John told Peter that it had to be Jesus on shore. Peter was so excited he didn't even wait for the boat to get to shore. He jumped in and swam to Jesus! Jesus had a little fire going, and he cooked fish and bread and invited them to eat.

After breakfast was finished, Jesus pulled Peter aside to talk.

I wonder, "What does Jesus want to talk with Peter about?"

Jesus said, "Simon, son of John." (Jesus was being kind of formal, but he was very serious, so he used Peter's full name; it was like saying, "Simon Peter Johnson.")

". . . Do you love me more than these buddies of yours? More than fishing? More than anything?"

Peter was quick to answer. "Yes, Lord. You know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

I wonder, "Peter was a fisherman. What did Jesus mean?"

Then Jesus asked Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter answered again, a second time, feeling deep relief that he could tell Jesus, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

Then Jesus asked Peter a third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

I wonder, "Why did Jesus keep asking Peter if he loved him? Why three times?"

Peter felt hurt.

He wondered why Jesus was asking him the same question three times. Peter remembered the night Jesus was arrested. People asked him three times, "Weren't you one of the followers of Jesus?" and three times Peter said, "No!" Now Jesus was asking three times, "Do you love me?"

Peter answered, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Then Peter realized that Jesus loved him too. He understood that Jesus wanted him to care for the others who also loved Jesus. He knew that he would show his love for Jesus by loving and caring for others, just like Jesus had asked him.





Grain on the Sabbath

(based on Mark 2:23–28)

One Sabbath, Jesus and his disciples were enjoying a relaxing day. They knew that God created the Sabbath to be a special day for people to enjoy. It was a day set aside to worship God and rest.

I wonder, “What did Jesus and the disciples do to relax?”

Jesus and his friends decided to go for a walk. They passed through a field of grain. The grain waved back and forth in the warm breeze.

It was lunchtime and everyone was hungry, so they picked some stalks of grain to eat. They rubbed the heads of grain back and forth in their hands.

Finally, the husks rubbed off. The disciples blew them away and tossed the kernels into their mouths. The crunchy grain tasted delicious!

They were having such a lovely, relaxing day.

But not everyone was happy. Some religious leaders were watching Jesus and his friends. They saw the disciples picking the grain and got upset.

“It isn’t right,” they said. “Jesus’ friends are doing work on God’s special day.”

I wonder, “Why were people told not to pick grain on the Sabbath?”

“Why are your followers picking the grain?” they asked Jesus. “You know it’s against the rules to do that on the Sabbath day.”

Jesus could see that the Pharisees didn’t understand the Sabbath. So he reminded them about one of their faith stories.

“Do you remember our great king David?” Jesus asked. “Remember the time that David and his men were hungry because they had no food to eat? David ate the special temple bread that is only for the priests. Then he gave some of the bread to his men, so they wouldn’t go hungry either.”

The religious leaders nodded their heads. They knew the story well.

“David and his men were allowed to eat that bread because they were hungry,” Jesus continued. “In the same way, we can pick and eat the grain on the Sabbath when we are hungry. The Sabbath is a gift for us. We shouldn’t weigh it down with all these rules and regulations.”

I wonder, “What rules and regulations were they to follow?”

Jesus and his friends went on their way and continued to enjoy the day. They had a big job to do, but on the Sabbath day they were glad to rest.







Jesus Heals a Little Girl

(based on Mark 5:21–24, 35–43)

Jesus and the disciples stepped out of the boat onto the sandy shore. Crowds of people came to meet them. A man named Jairus (JI-ruhs), a leader of the local synagogue, came up to Jesus and fell at his feet.

I wonder, “Why did Jairus fall at Jesus’ feet?”

“Jesus, can you come?” Jairus begged. “My daughter is sick and I think she’s going to die. Please come and lay your hands on her so that she will get better and live.”

Jesus went with Jairus, but they could not move very quickly because of the huge crowd. So many people wanted to see Jesus.

Finally they got through the crowd and walked as fast as they could toward Jairus’s house. Before they arrived, servants met them with terrible news.

“Your daughter is dead!” they sobbed. “Don’t bother Jesus anymore.”

Jairus began to weep. They were too late to save his little girl.

“Don’t be afraid, Jairus,” Jesus said. “Just believe and your daughter will get better.”

At Jairus’s house, everyone was weeping and wailing for the dead girl.

Jesus pushed past the crying people. “Why are you making all this noise?” he asked. “The child is not dead; she is just sleeping.”

I wonder, “Why did Jesus say that she was just sleeping?”

Everyone laughed at Jesus because they knew that the little girl was dead. She had even stopped breathing. Jesus went into the room where the child lay. He asked everyone to leave except for his disciples and the girl’s parents.

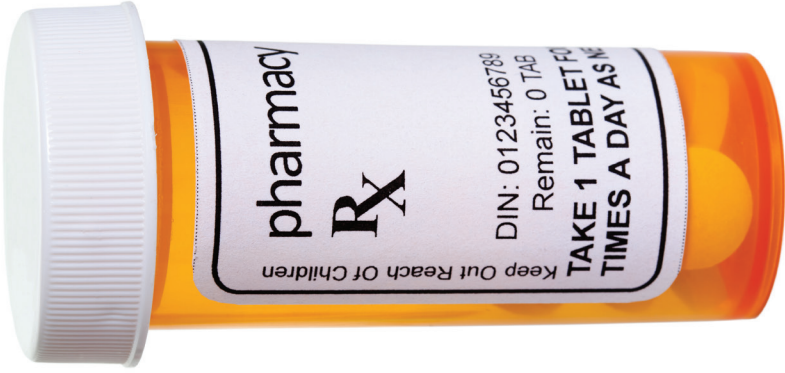
I wonder, “Why did Jesus ask the people to leave the room?”

Jesus took the girl by the hand and said, “Little girl, get up!”

Immediately, the girl got up and began to walk around. Her family was amazed. They jumped up and down for joy.

“Let’s get something to eat!” said Jesus. “Your daughter is better and needs food.” So they all shared a meal and gave thanks to God.







Who Is the Greatest?

(based on Mark 9:33–37)

Jesus was walking with his friends to the town of Capernaum.

I wonder, “Why did Jesus walk everywhere?”

It was a long walk, and along the way some of the disciples began to argue with each other.

I wonder, “Why were the disciples arguing?”

They didn’t want Jesus to hear them, so they walked slowly behind him.

“I am the greatest disciple,” boasted one of Jesus’ disciples.

“You are not,” exclaimed another. “I listen better and do far more to help. That makes me the greatest disciple.”

“No way,” said another. “I must be the greatest disciple because Jesus asks for my help all the time.”

“You are all wrong,” said another one. “I have been following Jesus since the beginning. I am the greatest disciple.”

The argument went on for some time. Eventually, they arrived in the town of Capernaum and stopped to rest. When they were all settled, Jesus spoke to the disciples. “What were you arguing about on the way here?”

There was complete silence. The disciples all looked at the floor because no one wanted to answer.

I wonder, “Why didn’t the disciples want to answer?”

Jesus knew what his friends had been arguing about. “Come with me,” he said. “I have something to show you.”

Jesus walked over to where some children were playing and said, “If you want to be really great, you must look after others and help them.”

Jesus reached out and picked up a child. “Even the children and those that seem the least important are great in God’s eyes,” he said. “Whoever welcomes a child in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes God. That is God’s way, and that is how we should live.”



We Give in Gratitude

(based on Mark 12:41-44)

One day, Jesus and his friends were sitting in the temple courtyard. Jesus was watching people put their gifts to God into the offering box.

Some people walked proudly up to the box with large bags of silver. They made a big show of putting their money into the box!

I wonder, "What does it look like to walk proudly?"

The people around them were impressed. "Look at all that money," they thought. "God will be so pleased with that offering."

A little while later, a poor woman walked up to the offering box. Her husband had died and she had no family to look after her. She did not have very much money. In fact, she only had two small coins left.

The woman loved God very much. She showed her love by giving an offering in the temple.

When she reached the offering box, she dropped her two small coins into it.

Then she bowed her head, said a short prayer to God, and went home.

I wonder, "What do you think the woman said to God in her prayer?"

Jesus noticed her offering.

"Did you see that?" Jesus asked. "This woman gave far more than all the others today."

His friends were surprised. The woman gave only two small coins. What could God do with that? How did two small coins compare to the large bags of silver other people had given?

Jesus could see his friends were puzzled. "All those rich people have plenty of money," he explained. "They buy what they want and give God what is left over."

"The widow only had two small coins, and she gave it all to God. She has no money left. The woman gave more because she gave everything she had."

I wonder, "How did the woman feel after giving all her money to God?"



Pentecost

(based on Acts 2:1-4, 38-39)

Jesus' friends were in Jerusalem. Jesus had told them to go there and wait for the Holy Spirit. Every day they would meet together to pray. They wondered how long they had to wait. When would the Spirit come?

On the day of Pentecost, all of Jesus' disciples were gathered together as usual. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind. It filled the whole building with its sound. The disciples looked at each other with wide eyes. What was going on?

Then it happened. Small flames started swirling around the disciples and touched each person in the room. It was the Holy Spirit! Everyone began talking in different languages as the Spirit helped them to speak.

I wonder, "What did the flames feel like?"

There were many people staying in Jerusalem. People from faraway countries were visiting the city to celebrate Pentecost. When they heard the noise of the wind, a huge crowd gathered. Each person heard Jesus' followers speaking in their own language. They listened to the good news about the great things God had done.

Then Peter stood up and began to speak.

I wonder, "What is Peter going to say?"

"Turn back to God," Peter cried. "Be baptized in the name of Jesus. God's love will come to you, and you will receive the Holy Spirit too. This promise is for you and your children. God's love is for all people everywhere."

The Holy Spirit blew through the crowd that day, and many people became followers of Jesus. The visitors went back to their homes in far-off lands. They were filled with the Holy Spirit who helped them live the way that Jesus lived. They couldn't stop talking about the great things that God had done. And so the message of Jesus began to spread everywhere.

I wonder, "What did they do to live like Jesus?"



Share Everything

(based on Acts 2:37-47)

Everything had changed. The Holy Spirit came down as fire and wind. The people in Jerusalem heard the Spirit arrive. They were amazed by what they saw and heard.

“What should we do?” The people cried. “We want to be followers of Jesus too.”

I wonder, “What could they do to be followers too?”

“Remember what Jesus said,” Peter replied. “Be baptized in the name of Jesus. God’s love will come to you and you will receive the Holy Spirit too.”

Thousands of people were baptized. It was the start of the very first church.

Everyone in the first church loved Jesus very much. They wanted to learn more about him. The disciples told them many stories. They explained how Jesus showed God’s love. They described how he died on the cross and came back to life. They talked about the things Jesus said.

Every day, more people heard about Jesus and believed in him. The disciples could even help sick people get better just like Jesus had. They knew that God must be with them.

I wonder, “What were some of the stories that the disciples told about Jesus?”

Day after day, the followers of Jesus gathered to worship God in the temple. Then they went to different homes to eat together. They remembered the last supper that Jesus ate with his disciples. Everyone felt close to Jesus even though they couldn’t see him.

The people in the church tried hard to live the way Jesus did. People who were rich would bring their money to share with those who didn’t have anything. Some people sold their houses and fields and used the money to help others.

Everyone liked the followers of Jesus, because they were so kind. Hundreds of people decided to become disciples, and so the church grew and grew.



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

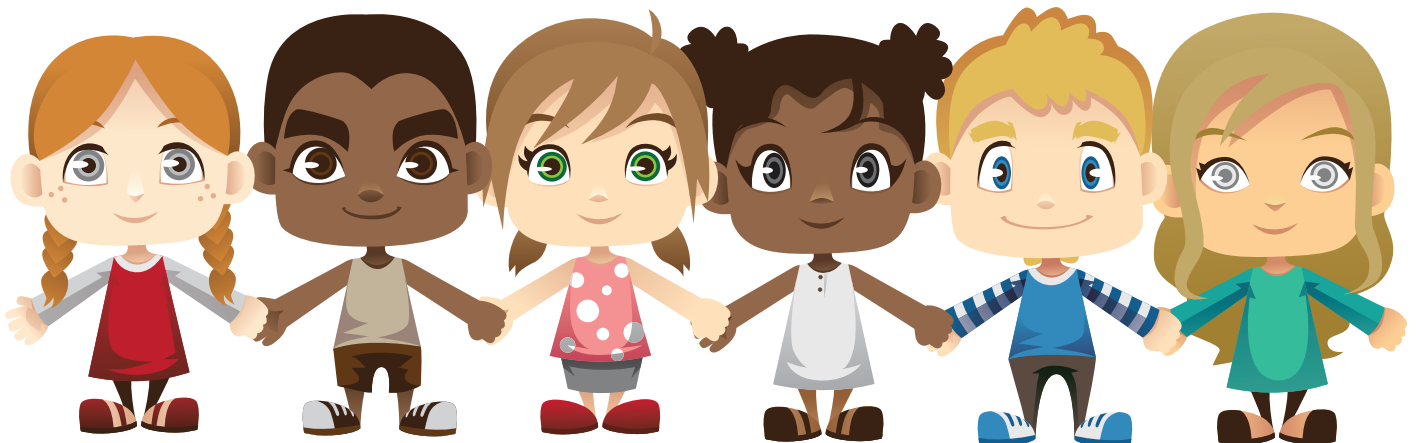
God made the great high mountains
and made this wide blue sea.
God made the sky, where eagles fly.
God made the world and me.

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



Praise God, all you nations.
People of God, sing praise!
Praise God, all you nations.
People of God, sing praise:
God's love is great and endures forever.
Praise God, all you nations.
People of God, sing praise!

Da n'ase! Da n'ase!
Da Onyame ase!
Da n'ase! Da n'ase!
Da Onyame ase!
Efiase oye n'a n'adoe doe so.
Da n'ase! Da n'ase!
Da Onyame ase!



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.

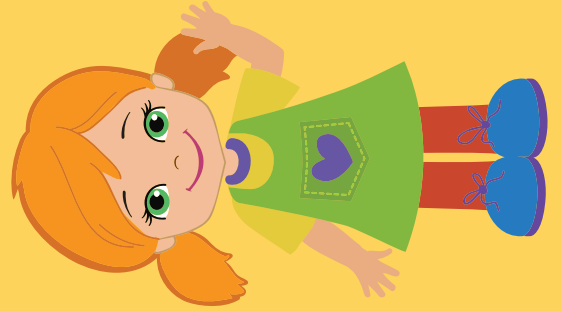
Jesus says God cares for us, . . . ,
Jesus says God cares for us,
each and every day.



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, . . .



Let us break bread together on our knees; (*repeat*)

Refrain:

*When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (*repeat*)
(*Refrain*)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (*repeat*)
(*Refrain*)



Gbemi, gbemi, Jesu.
Gbemi, gbemi, Jesu.
Amen. Amen.

Ghami, ghami, Jesu.
Ghami, ghami, Jesu.
Amen. Amen.

Lift me, lift me, Jesus. . . .
Amen. Amen.

Save me, save me, Jesus. . . .
Amen. Amen.



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.



Were you there when they
crucified Jesus? (*Were you there?*)
Were you there when they
crucified Jesus?
O! Sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they
crucified Jesus? (*Were you there?*)

Were you there when they laid
him in the tomb? (*Were you there?*)
Were you there when they laid
him in the tomb?
O! Sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him
in the tomb? (*Were you there?*)

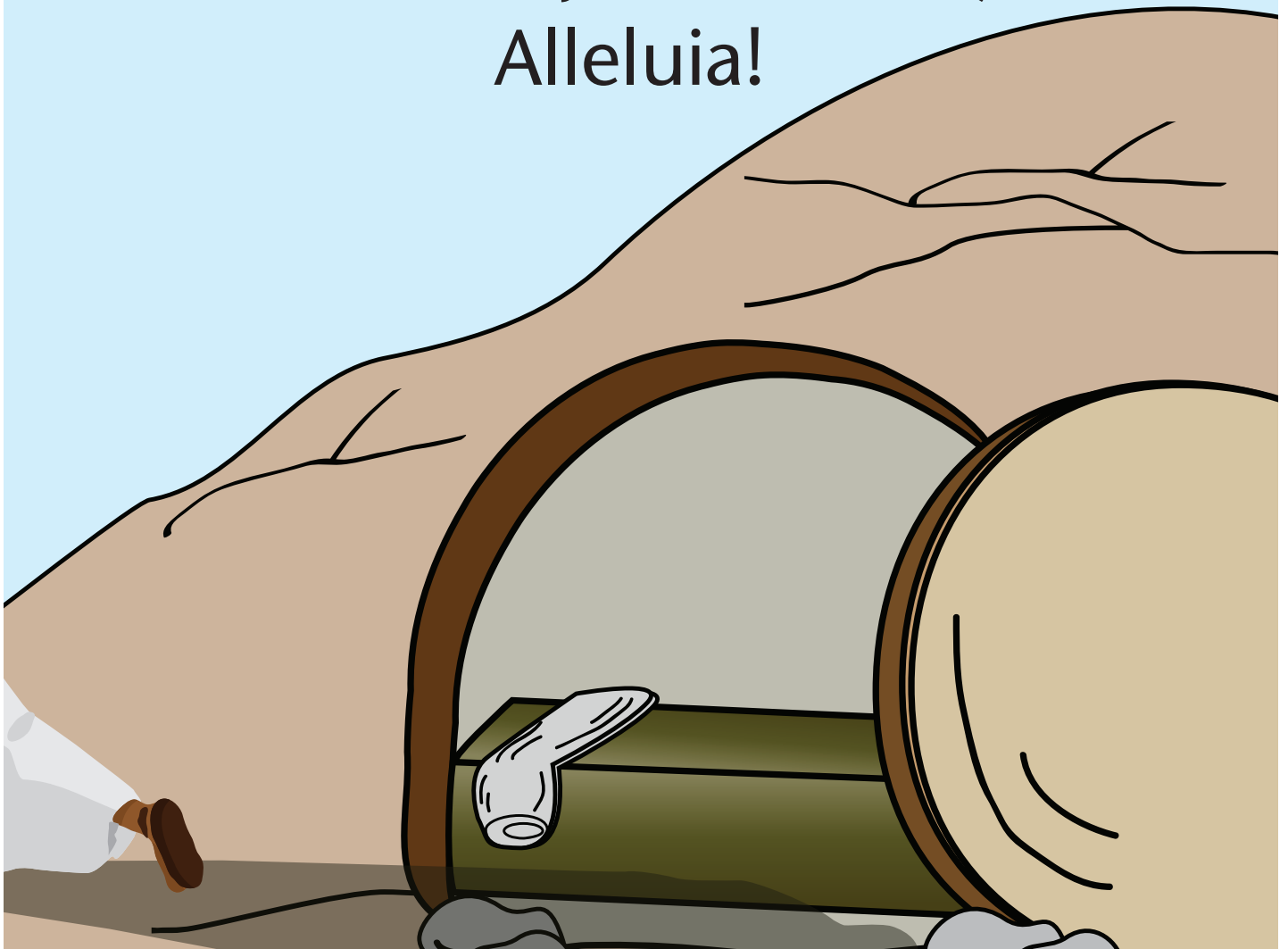


It is Easter, come and sing,
Alleluia!

Jesus is alive, we sing,
Alleluia!

This most happy day we sing,
Alleluia!

Because Jesus is alive,
Alleluia!



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)

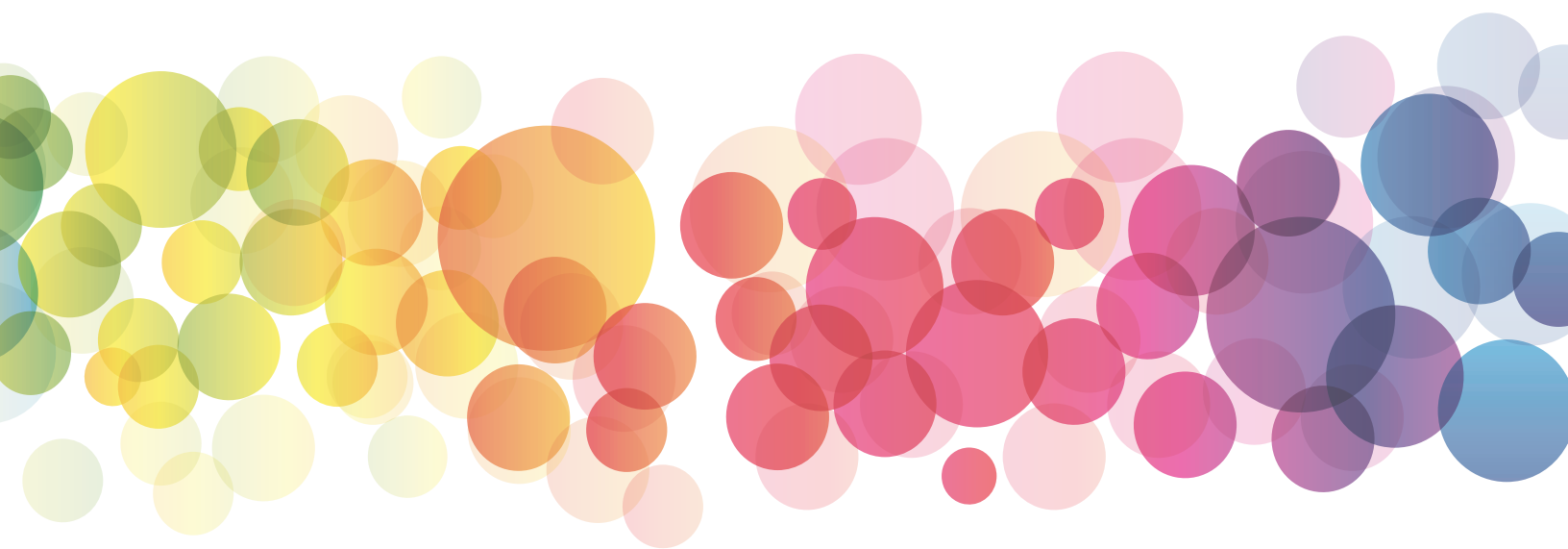


I have washed your feet,
yes, I your teacher,
have washed your feet,
this I do in love.

I have washed your feet,
now follow my example,
do everything you do in love.

Do everything you do in love.





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