

Stories, Colors & More

for Ages 8-10



Winter 2023-2024





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Your Visual Schedule



Welcoming
and
Preparing



Singing
and
Praying



Hearing
the
Story



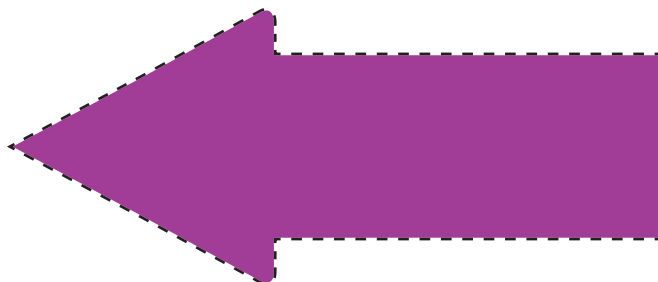
Reflecting
on God's
Grace



Activity
Choices



Loving and
Serving
God



Children with Disabilities and Special Needs

Support Map

M Movement

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

T Transitions

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

TD Tactile Defensiveness

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

A Adapting Activities

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

B Behavior

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

C Supporting Children Who Have Difficulty Communicating

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

FA Food and Other Allergies

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

L Listening

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

Children with Disabilities and Special Needs

Support Map

LG Leadership and Generosity

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

LD Supporting Children Who Have Difficulty with Reading and Writing

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

MS Supporting Children with Mobility Supports

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

VI Visual Impairment/Blindness

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

D Deaf/Hard of Hearing

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

F Fairness

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

SD Sensory Defensive

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

Ask for Help

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

God's Peaceable Kingdom

(based on Isaiah 11:1-9)

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

The people who lived in that country were frightened. "What will happen to us?" they asked each other. "Will the fighting ever end?"

Then someone came along who gave the people hope. It was the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah knew that God had an important message to share. It was a message filled with hope.

"Listen to God's message," exclaimed Isaiah. "I have good news to share."

I wonder, "What good news did he have to share?"

The people gathered around to hear.

"One day the whole world will live together in peace," declared Isaiah. "In this world of love even the animals will look after each other. The wolf and the lamb will be friends. The leopard and the goats will live together in peace. The cows and the bear will share the same food."

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

The people were amazed—what a beautiful world this would be. "Tell us more," they asked.

"Nothing terrible or scary will happen again," explained Isaiah. "The whole world will be filled with people who love God and follow in God's loving ways."

"Wow!" said all the people.

"Wait a minute," said one person. "God's world of love is already beginning."

"It's true," said another. "I see God's world of love when we share."

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

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

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

The people didn't forget the wonderful message that Isaiah had given them. They shared the good news with their children and their children's children. Then they waited and watched for signs of God's world of love. They began to see signs everywhere.

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









Say Yes to God

(based on Luke 1:26–38)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mary knew what to say, even though her heart was pounding. “Yes,” Mary said. “Here I am. I am ready to do whatever God wants me to do.”

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

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



Nothing Is Impossible

(based on Luke 1:37, 39–40, 46–55)

Mary had just received some big news! She was going to have a baby, and not just any baby, but God's Son! And the angel had told her about her cousin Elizabeth having a baby too. She left immediately for Elizabeth's house. She couldn't wait to tell Elizabeth about the angel and what he had to say.

I wonder, "What will Mary tell Elizabeth about her big news?"

The two women were so glad to see each other. They talked and laughed and sang. They talked about their special babies. They told stories about angels with unexpected messages. Mary remembered that the angel had told her, "Nothing is impossible with God!"

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

My heart praises God. My spirit rejoices in
God my Savior.

God has looked on me with grace.

I am just a servant, but everyone will see and
remember that God has chosen me and done
great things for me. God is holy!*

God's grace is for all who are in awe,
generation after generation.

God, the strong and powerful God, brings low
the rich, the proud, and the powerful.

God, the loving and gracious God, lifts up
the oppressed, embraces the poor, and fills the
hungry with good things.

The promises of God are coming true.

God's love goes on forever.

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

*I wonder, "What things seem impossible to
you that might be possible with God?"*



Shepherds Glorify God

(based on Luke 2:1–20)

Night came to the small town of Bethlehem. It had been a busy day. The Roman emperor gave orders that everyone must return to their hometown to be counted. Bethlehem was crowded with people who came to be registered.

Mary and Joseph joined others on the trip to Bethlehem. When they arrived, there was no place for them to stay, so they settled in with the farm animals. In that place, with animals around them, Mary's baby was born.

Mary and Joseph wrapped the baby Jesus in some soft cloths, made a bed in the straw for him, and tried to rest. Soon they drifted off to sleep.

That same night, not far away from the town of Bethlehem, a group of shepherds watched over a flock of sheep. Everything was calm and quiet as the shepherds talked to each other.

I wonder, "What do shepherds do?"

Suddenly the night sky lit up with a brilliant light. An angel from God appeared before the astonished men. The shepherds were terrified and began to shake.

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

The shepherds gasped in surprise. As they watched, a huge choir of angels appeared singing to God. It was beautiful!

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

Then the angels left them just like that. The shepherds sat and looked at each other in shock. For a moment, they couldn't speak. The sound of the angels' voices echoed in their minds.

"We have to go," stammered one of the shepherds. "We must go to Bethlehem and see the special child the angel told us about." So they all jumped up and hurried down to Bethlehem. It didn't take long to find Jesus.

The shepherds crowded into the stable where Jesus lay sleeping. They told Mary and Joseph about the angels and the angels' message.

I wonder, "What did Mary and Joseph think about the angels' message?"

"We had to come and see for ourselves," they explained.

Mary and Joseph welcomed the shepherds into the stable. Everyone gathered around the manger to look at the special baby sent from God.

Finally, the shepherds tiptoed quietly out of the door and went back to their sheep. As they went back to work, the shepherds sang and thanked God. They told their story over and over. Everyone who heard it was amazed.

I wonder, "What can you do to share the message of the angels?"



Bring Him Gifts

(based on Matthew 2:1-12)

A long, long way from Bethlehem lived some very wise men called magi (MAY-jai). At night, the magi studied the stars. One night, they saw a brand-new star.

The magi gathered to talk about this bright new star. Where had it come from? Did it have a special meaning? After a lot of thinking and a lot of talking, they decided that the star had an important message.

“Someone special has been born!” they declared. “It is a new king.”

“We must leave right now,” exclaimed one of the magi. “We must follow the star, find the child, and bow down to him.”

And that’s what they did. They fetched their camels. They packed for the journey. They chose very special gifts to give to the new king. Then they set off on their camels.

The magi traveled at night so they could follow the bright star. Night after night, they rode their camels. Night after night, they followed the star. It was a very long journey.

Finally, the magi arrived in Jerusalem. They went at once to the royal palace of King Herod. If a new king had been born, surely he would be living in the palace.

I wonder, “Where will the magi find the one called the newborn king?”

“Where is the baby born to be king?” they asked King Herod. “We saw his star in the eastern skies, and we have come to worship him.”

King Herod was not very happy to hear the magi’s question. In fact, he was upset. He didn’t want any other kings being born. He talked with his helpers and went back to the magi.

“My helpers tell me that child you are looking for is in Bethlehem,” Herod explained. “Go find the child, then come back and tell me where he is. I want to bring gifts to the new king too.”

The magi climbed back onto their camels. They followed the star and went to Bethlehem. The star led them to a little house. The magi were so glad to be at the end of their long journey! They went inside and saw Jesus with Mary, his mother.

One by one, the magi knelt down and gave Jesus special gifts: gold, sweet-smelling frankincense, and precious myrrh (MER).

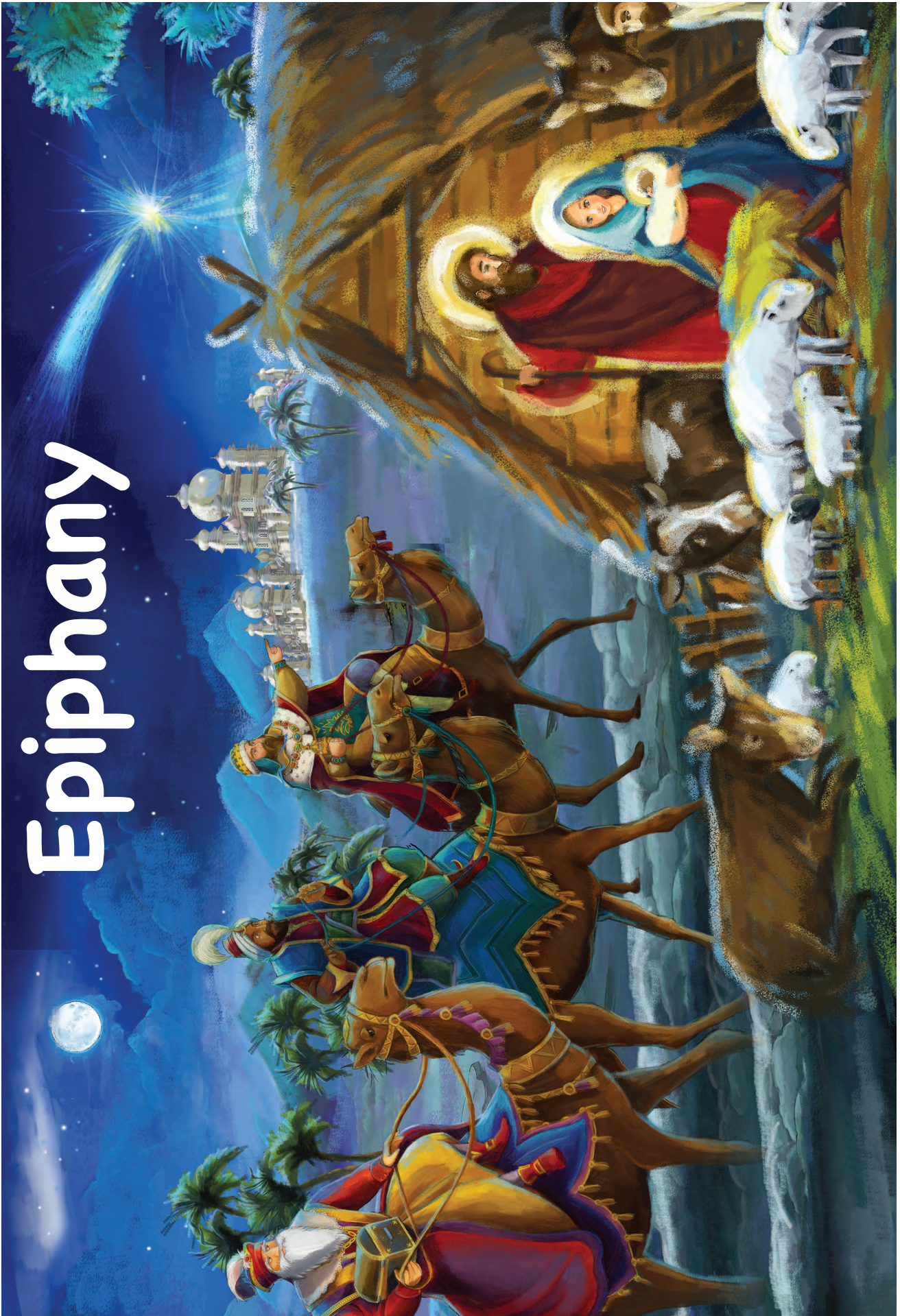
I wonder, “What other gifts could the magi have given Jesus?”

I wonder, “What gifts might you give the baby Jesus?”

That night, God sent dreams to the magi, warning them not to go back to King Herod. The next day, they said goodbye to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. They climbed onto their camels and went back home by a different way.



Epiphany



Jesus' Baptism

(based on Mark 1:1-15)

John led an unusual life. He lived out in the wilderness and wore clothes made from camel's hair. When he felt hungry, he ate locusts and wild honey.

I wonder, "What do locusts and wild honey taste like?"

John didn't mind. He was a prophet from God. So every day, he went down to the River Jordan to pass on God's messages.

"Turn to God!" John shouted. "Change your lives. Come and be baptized!"

The word went out that a prophet from God was teaching at the river.

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

John knew that someone very special was coming. He wanted to help the people get ready.

I wonder, "How did John know someone special was coming?"

"Turn to God!" John called. "Get ready for the one who is coming to show us God's love and God's way. Come into the water and I will baptize you."

Then, one day, Jesus came to the river where John was baptizing.

Jesus walked out into the water and stood before John. Once again, John said a prayer, helped Jesus dip under the water, and lifted Jesus up again.

As Jesus came out of the water, something amazing happened. The heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove.

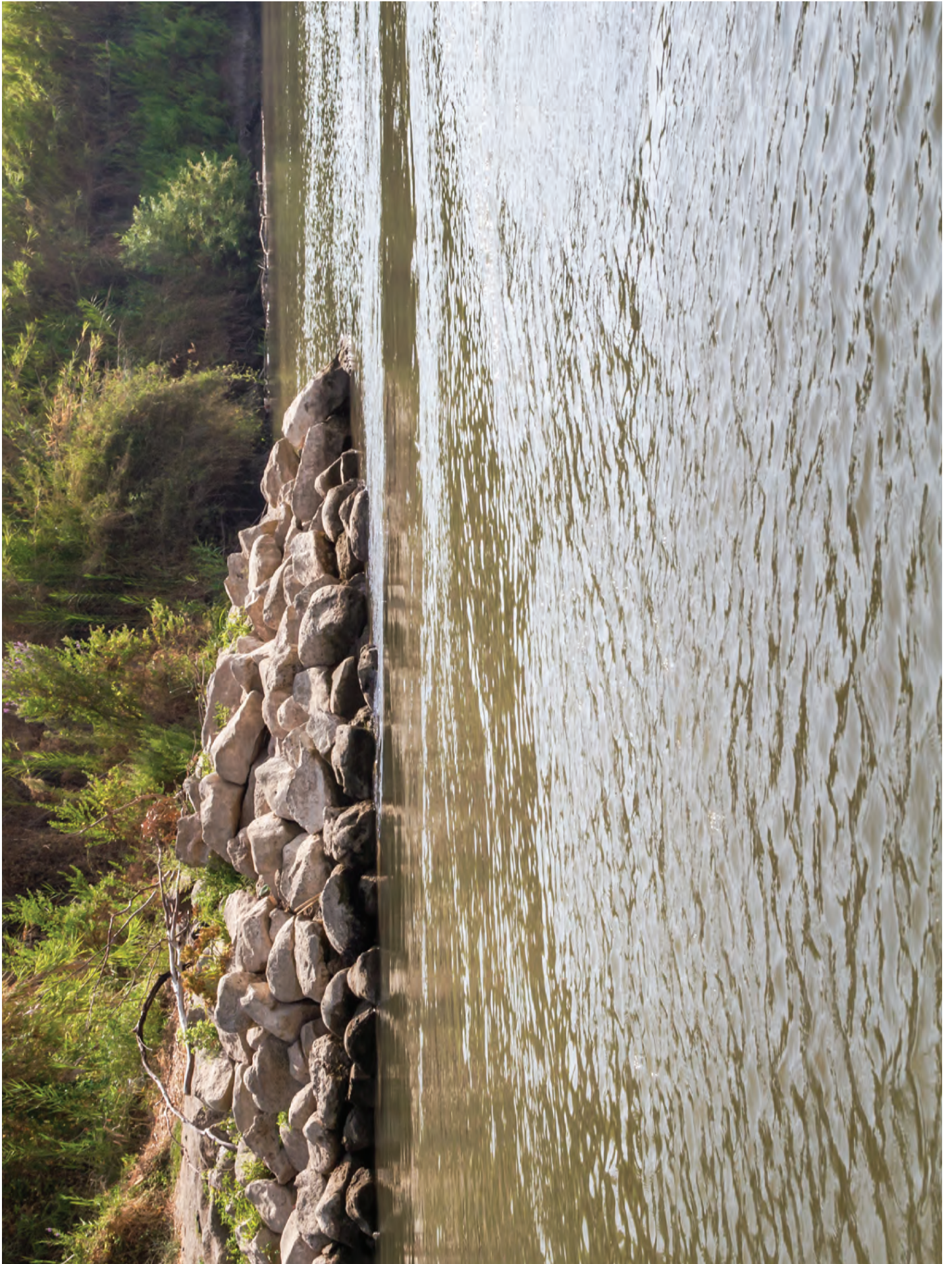
Then Jesus heard a voice that echoed all around, "You are my beloved Son," God said. "I am so pleased with you."

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

I wonder, "What did Jesus do to get ready to talk about God's love?"







Jesus Begins His Ministry

(based on Mark 1:16–39)

After Jesus was baptized, he went into the wilderness. After forty days, he left the desert and was ready to start his ministry.

I wonder, “What will Jesus do?”

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

On the sabbath day, Jesus and his friends went to the synagogue to worship. Jesus stood up and taught the people worshipping that day. People were amazed at what he had to say. He was so confident; he wasn’t like one of the other teachers.

I wonder, “What did Jesus teach them about?”

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

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

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

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

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

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







Four Friends' Faith

(based on Mark 2:1-12)

Jesus had been out teaching, healing, and proclaiming the good news of God's love. When people heard he was home, so many gathered at the house to hear what he had to say that it was full, inside and out!

Four friends carried their friend to see Jesus. Their friend was a young man who was paralyzed and could not walk. They had heard that Jesus had healed people and they wanted Jesus to help their friend. So, the friends brought him to the house only to find it so full of people they couldn't even get to the front door.

I wonder, "What will they do?"

"What now?" one of them asked.

"How about the roof?" another wondered.

"Let's do it!" the other two shouted.

So, the four friends climbed up the outside stairs to the roof of the house with their friend who was lying on a mat. They found some loose tiles and moved them aside. Then they began to dig through the layers of dried mud that made up the roof. It was hard work, and they hadn't brought tools. Soon a small hole appeared. Dirt and debris dropped down on the people below. They looked up to see a larger and larger hole growing in the roof. The friends gently lowered their friend down on his mat through the hole. People moved aside, pressing against the walls, to make room for the man on his mat.

I wonder, "What did Jesus think about what was going on?"

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

I wonder, "Why did Jesus say that to the young man?"

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

Jesus knew what they were saying and asked them, "Why don't you just ask these questions out loud? I'll ask you, is it easier for me to say, 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Stand up, take your mat, and walk'? I could do either. But, so you know I do have the authority to forgive sins," Jesus turned to the young man and said, "Stand. Take up your mat and go home."

The man who could not walk immediately stood up, gathered up his mat, and walked right out the door in front of everyone. The crowd was amazed and praised God, saying, "Wow! We've never seen anything like that!"

The four friends grinned at one another and scrambled off the roof to meet their friend.







Jesus Helps in a Storm

(based on Mark 4:35–41)

It was a beautiful evening. Jesus had finished teaching for the day and felt tired. It was time to relax.

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

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

I wonder, “What does it feel like to sleep on a boat?”

All of a sudden, the weather changed. A fierce storm blew up and battered the boat. Swoosh went the wind! Crash went the waves! Lightning flashed across the sky and thunder roared. The waves grew bigger and bigger.

The little boat started rolling from side to side.

I wonder, “What did it feel like to be on the boat during the storm?”

The disciples thought the storm would pass by, but it just got worse. The wind roared harder, and the waves got bigger. Water from the waves splashed into their boat. Jesus’ disciples were terrified. They called out to Jesus.

“Wake up!” they shouted. “Can’t you see we’re going to sink? Don’t you care what happens to us?”

Jesus woke up. He looked at the storm. He looked at the waves. He felt the strong wind. He stood up and spoke to the wind and the waves. “Be quiet!” he commanded.

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

I wonder, “What did the disciples’ faces look like when the storm stopped?”

Jesus turned to his disciples and asked, “Why were you so scared? Haven’t you learned to trust God? Be at peace.”

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



Jesus Feeds Hungry People

(based on Mark 6:30–44)

One day, a huge crowd came to hear Jesus talk about God's love. There were over five thousand people. It was very crowded and people were everywhere.

I wonder, "How would five thousand people be able to hear Jesus?"

The crowd stayed all afternoon and into the evening. The sun went down, and it started getting dark. It was time for supper. Everyone was hungry.

Jesus' friends came to him and said, "It is already late. Send the people away. They need to go to the farms and towns to buy some food to eat."

I wonder, "Where could the people have found food?"

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

Philip looked around, "Look at this massive crowd," he exclaimed. "We don't have enough money to buy food for everyone. We would all have to work a month to earn enough to buy that much bread!"

"How many loaves of bread do you have now?" Jesus asked. Then he told them, "Go and see."

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

Jesus smiled. "Bring the food to me and ask the people to sit in groups on the grass."

"Sit down, everyone!" called the disciples.

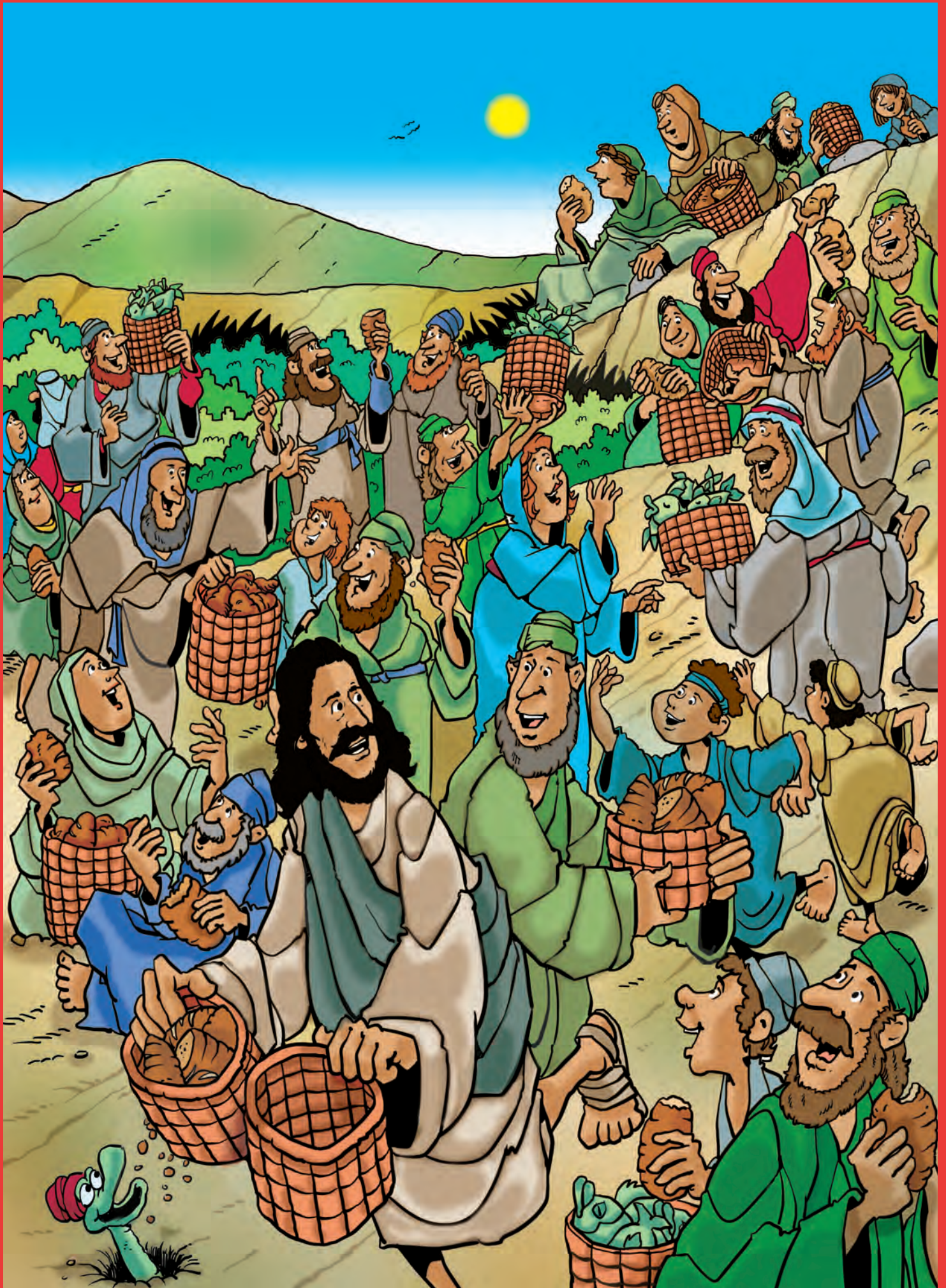
When everyone was settled, Jesus took the five loaves and two fish. He thanked God for the food and gave it to the disciples to pass out to everyone.

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

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

I wonder, "What did the disciples do with the leftovers?"

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



Jesus Loves Children

(based on Mark 10:13-16)

Jesus and his disciples went from one town to another. Crowds of people came to see him wherever he went. Most days there were so many people that it was hard to even get close to Jesus.

I wonder, "Why did crowds come to see Jesus?"

Some people wanted to hear Jesus teach. Others were hoping to see him do something amazing. Lots of sick people came to see if Jesus could help them get better. Jesus was busy from morning to night.

I wonder, "What did Jesus do to rest?"

One day, some parents brought their children to Jesus so that he could bless them.

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

I wonder, "Why were the disciples so annoyed with the children?"

"Jesus is far too busy to bother with a bunch of children," they complained to each other. "He has much more important things to do. There are so many people that need help."

So they tried to stop the children and their parents.

"Stop bothering Jesus!" they cried. "Look at all these people waiting to see him! Jesus is much too busy to see you today."

The children were disappointed. They really wanted to see Jesus. The parents felt sad. They just wanted Jesus to bless their children. The parents and their children turned away and started to leave.

When Jesus saw what was happening, he got upset. "Let the little children come to me," he called. "I want to spend time with them. Don't keep them from me!"

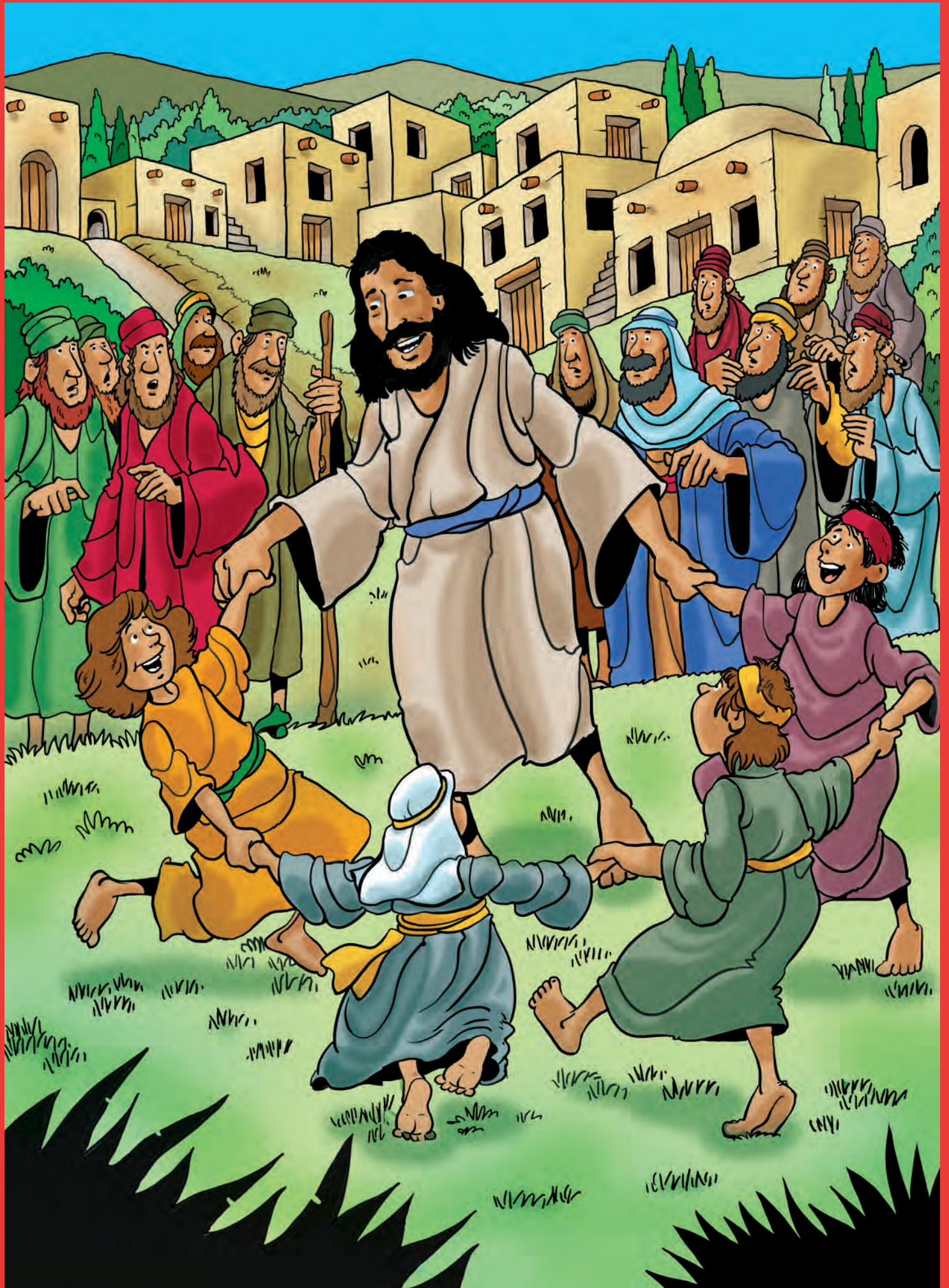
When they heard Jesus call them, the children ran up to him. They chattered and laughed together.

The disciples were puzzled. They asked each other, "Why is Jesus spending time with children? They are not as important as these other people."

Jesus could see that his friends didn't understand.

"You have it wrong," explained Jesus. "Children are important to God. They teach us about trusting and living in God's ways. Watch and learn from them."

Then Jesus hugged the children and blessed them.











The Great Commandment

(based on Mark 12:28–34)

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

This was a tricky question. The law of God had been written down a long time ago. There were hundreds of different laws to remember. No one could agree which one was the most important. Religious leaders had argued about it for many years.

I wonder, “What kinds of laws were there?”

The crowd waited and wondered. How would Jesus answer the question? Which law would he choose? All the laws were important. How could Jesus choose just one?

Jesus thought about the laws that he learned when he was a boy. There was one law that was very special. He recited it every day. It was the law that Moses had asked the Jewish people to always remember.

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

The people nodded to each other. They knew the law by heart. Each one of them spoke the law every day.

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

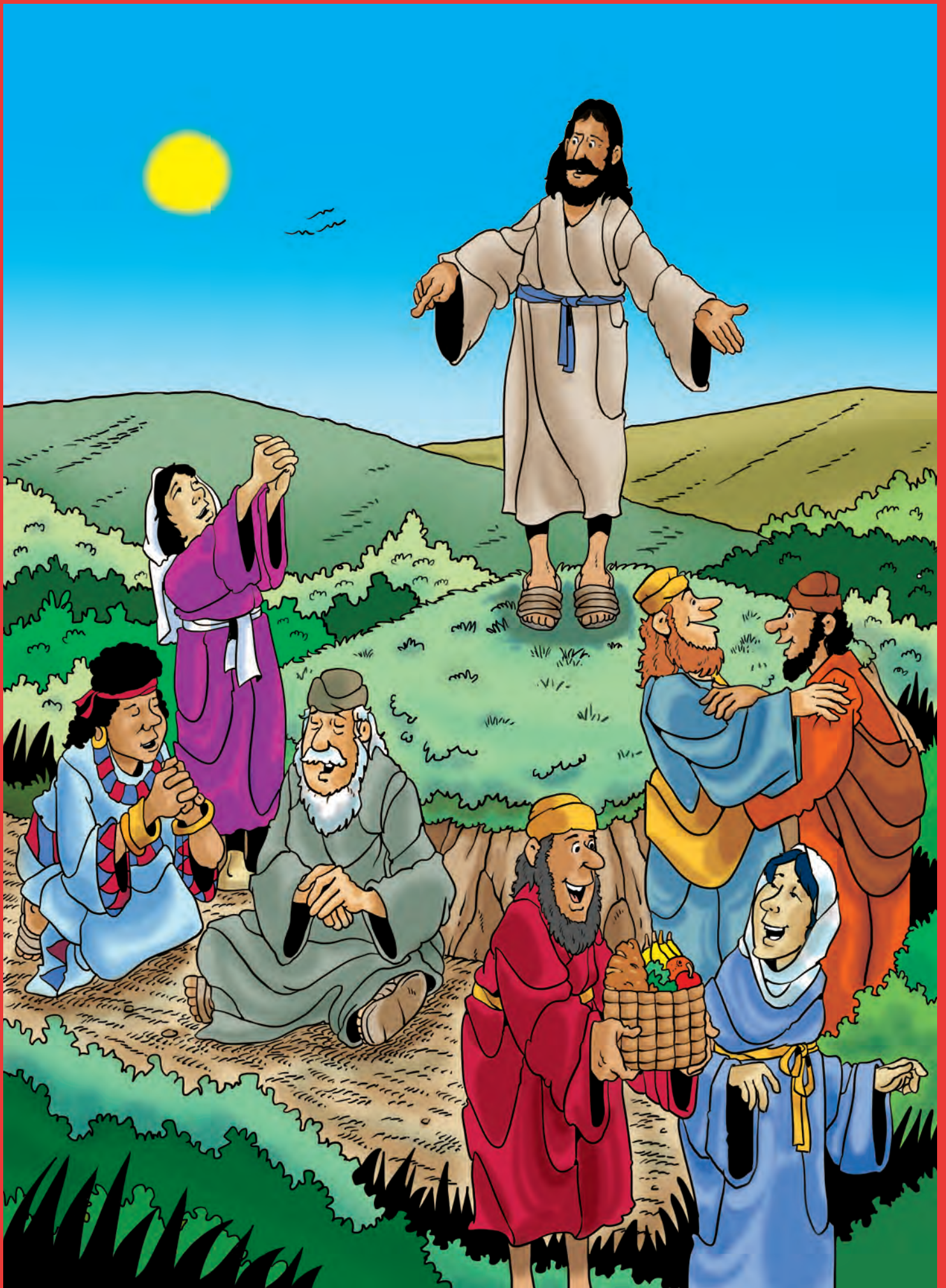
Everyone wanted to hear what else Jesus had to say. They listened carefully so they wouldn’t miss his words.

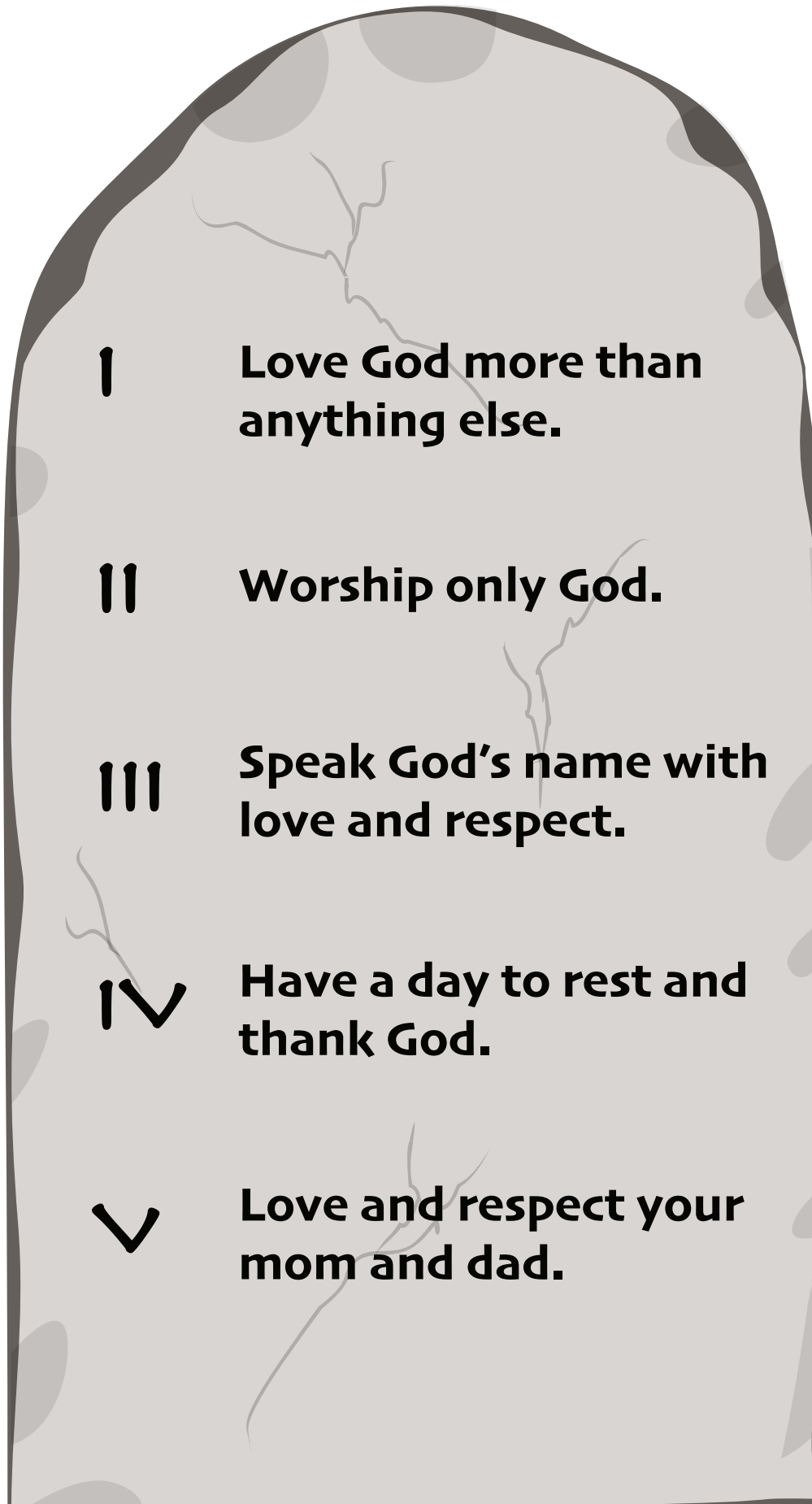
Jesus looked at everyone and said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

I wonder, “Why were these two laws so important to Jesus?”

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

The religious leader was impressed. Jesus had answered the question well. He was a wise and helpful teacher.







VI

**Never hurt anyone
with your words
or actions.**

VII

**Be faithful to your
husband or wife.
Keep your promises.**

VIII

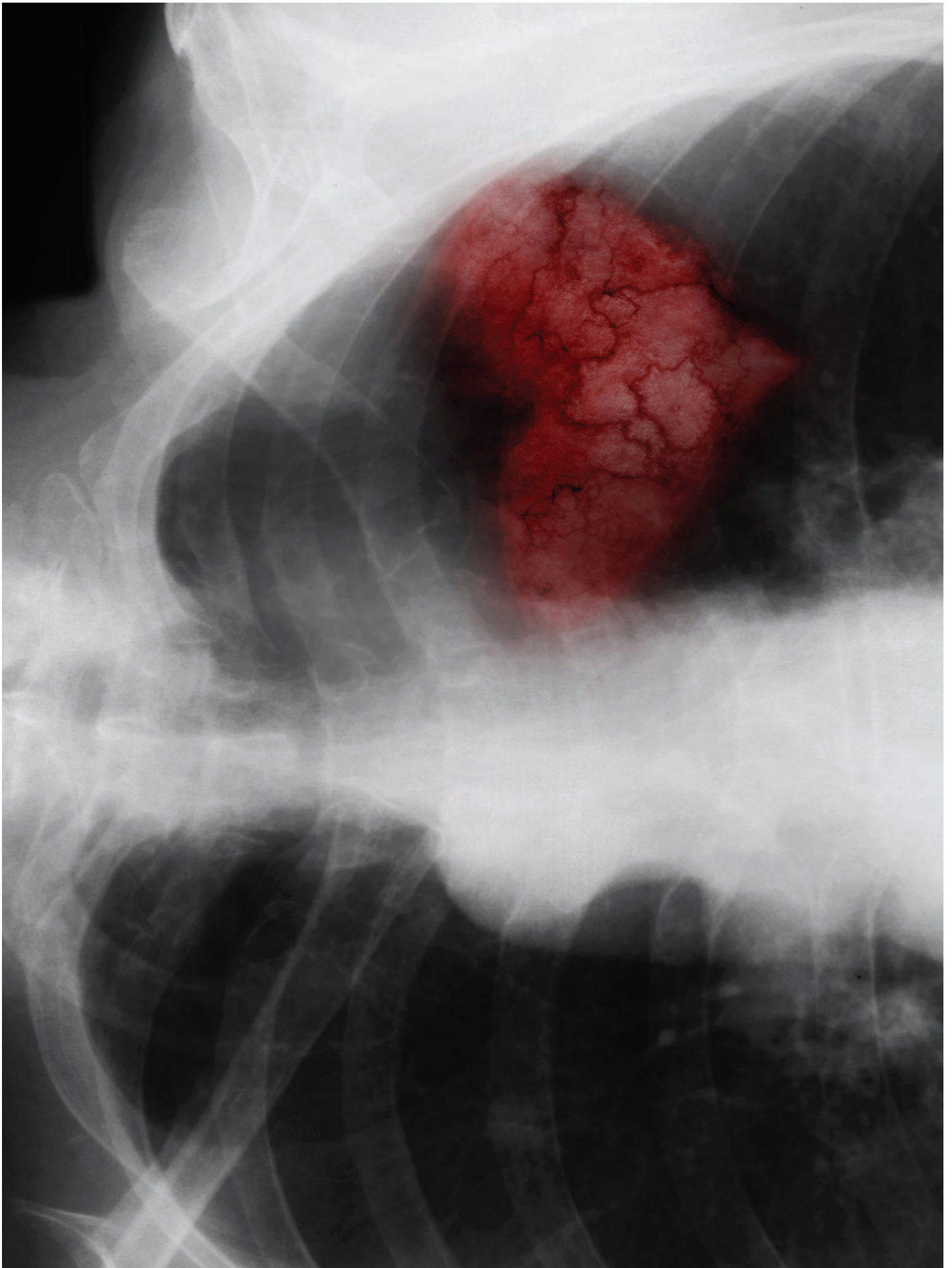
**Don't take anything
that isn't yours.**

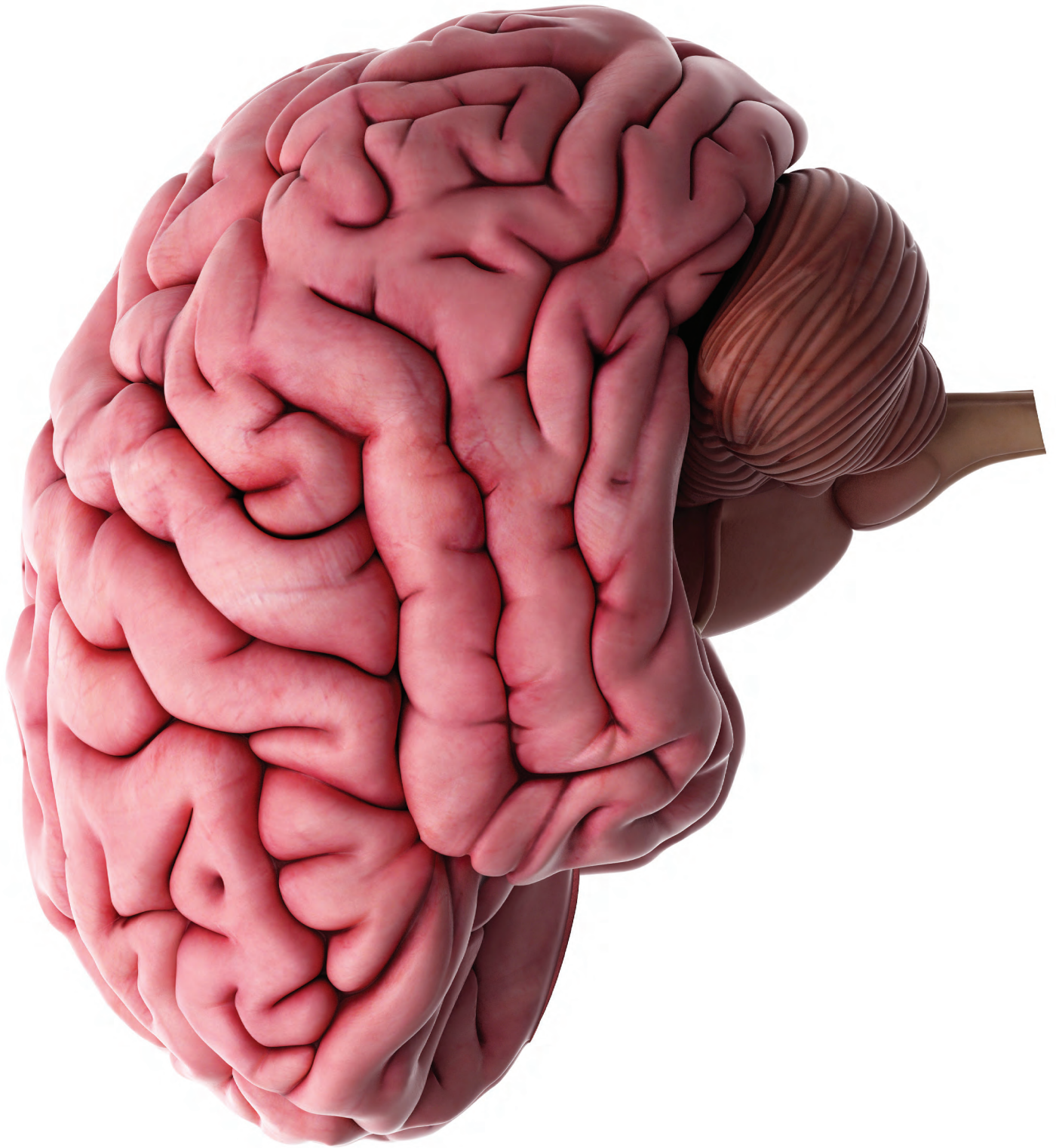
IX

Always tell the truth.

X

**Be happy with what
you have. Don't want
what others have.**









**“Love God
with all your
heart, soul,
and mind;
and love your
neighbor as
yourself.”**

Anointing Jesus

(based on Mark 14:3–9)

Earlier in the week, Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding a donkey. Crowds cheered him, waving palms and shouting, “Hosanna!” But then things changed. His days were filled with visits to the temple and religious leaders trying to trick him with questions to show he was a fake.

I wonder, “Why did the religious leaders want to show Jesus was a fake?”

Now it is two days until the Passover meal. Jesus and his followers are in Bethany, a village just outside Jerusalem, having dinner at a friend’s house. While Jesus is at the table, a woman comes in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfumed oil. She breaks open the seal on the jar and pours the oil on Jesus, anointing him. It is a moment of beauty in the midst of all that is happening and is to come. Jesus smiles. He knows what she is doing, and it warms his heart.

Some of the others, however, are shocked and angered. They see only something expensive being wasted that could have been sold for quite a bit of money and used to help the poor. They scold the woman.

They can’t see what Jesus sees. They don’t know what Jesus knows.

I wonder, “What does Jesus know?”

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

The others are silent, wondering what Jesus is saying.

Jesus continues, “Believe it or not, wherever my story is told, wherever the good news of God’s love is proclaimed, this beautiful thing that she has done will be told in memory of her.”

I wonder, “What things may be told about me someday that I have done to show love and kindness?”



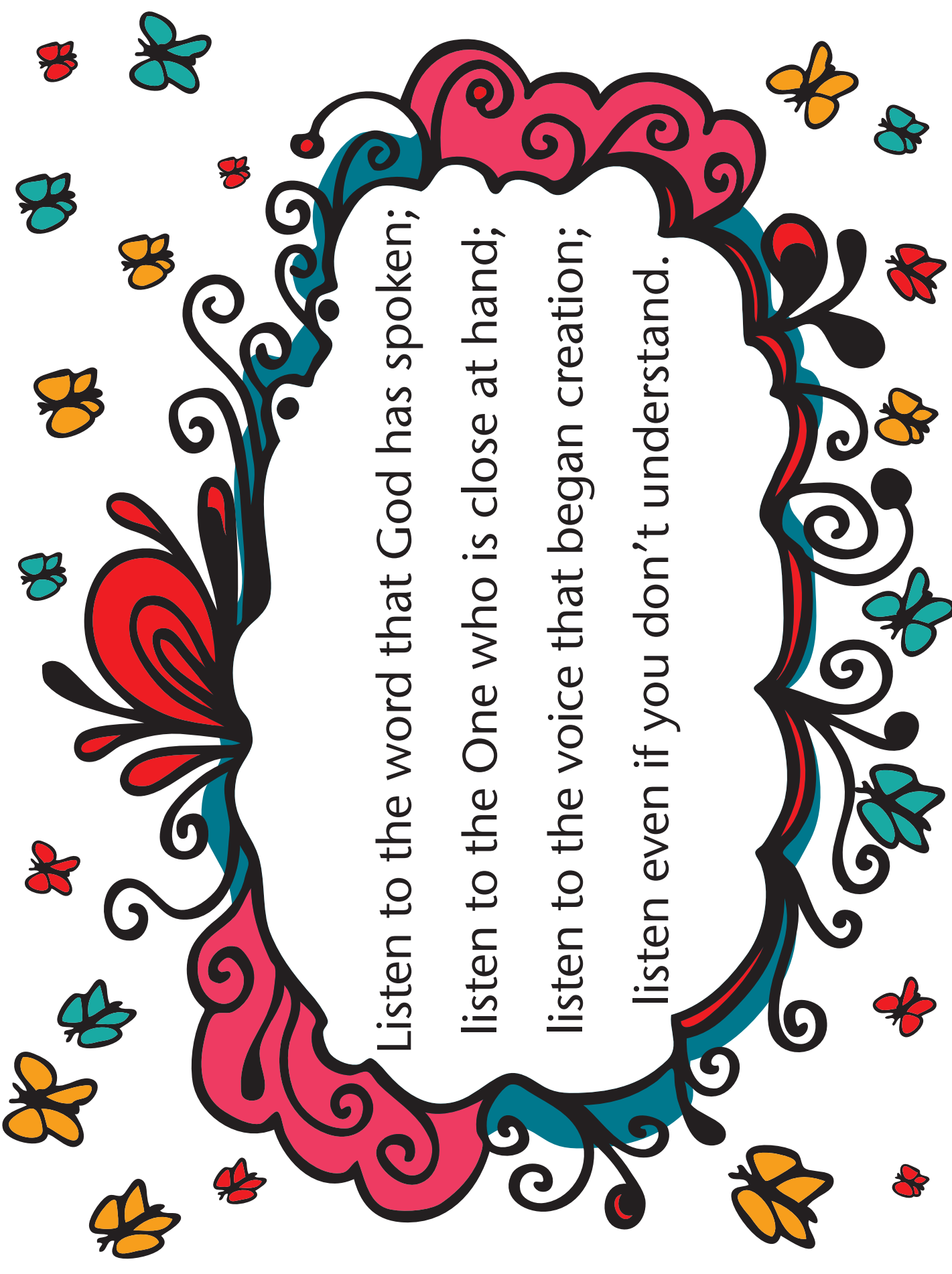


Wherever I may wander,
wherever I may be,
I'm certain of God's loving care;
God's care is over me.

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.





Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don't understand.

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*)



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

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

(Refrain)

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

(Refrain two times)



Refrain:

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

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

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

(Refrain)



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

Refrain:

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

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

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



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

Refrain:

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

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

(Refrain)

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

(Refrain)

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

(Refrain)

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

(Refrain)



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

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

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

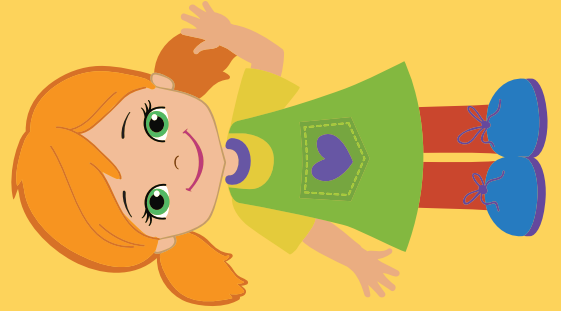
Jesus says God cares for us, . . . ,
 Jesus says God cares for us,
 each and every day.



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

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

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



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

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



I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing,
(Repeat two times)
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna walk when the Spirit says walk,
(Repeat two times)
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna leap when the Spirit says leap,
(Repeat two times)
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna praise when the Spirit says praise,
(Repeat two times)
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.



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.



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)



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!



102006



ISBN 2370001756182

