

Stories, Colors & More

for Multiage
(Ages 5-10)



Year 1, Summer





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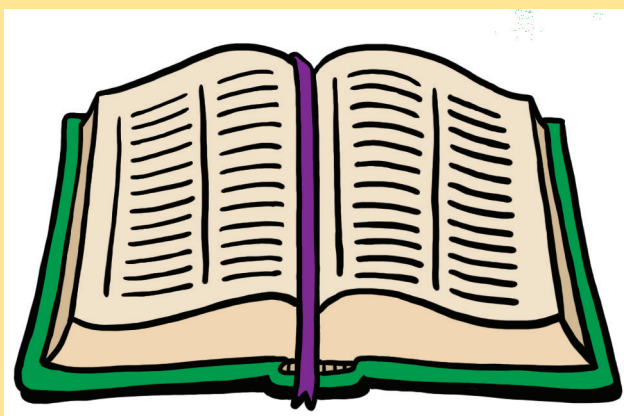
Your Visual Schedule



Welcoming
and
Preparing



Singing
and
Praying



Hearing
the
Story



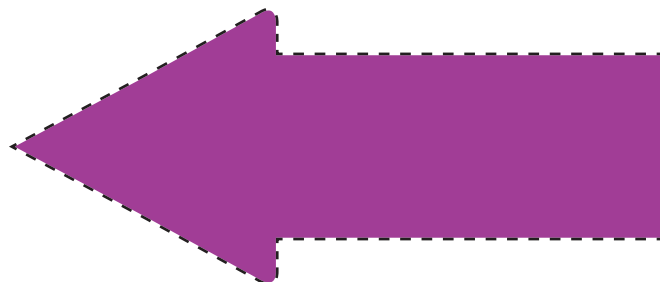
Reflecting
on God's
Grace



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.

Peter Tells about Jesus

(based on Acts 2:14a, 22–42)

It was the day of Pentecost. Jesus' followers had gathered to pray when it happened. The Holy Spirit had come on all of them. Now they were filled with power, just as Jesus had promised.

The disciples ran outside and began to tell people about Jesus. Lots of people were visiting the city. They came from many lands to celebrate Pentecost. The followers of Jesus found that the Holy Spirit helped them speak in other languages. It was incredible. A crowd quickly gathered. The people were amazed. They could all hear the good news in their own languages.

I wonder, "Why were the people amazed?"

Then Peter stood up and began to speak. He spoke to the crowd for a long time. He explained that God had made a promise many years ago. God promised that one day the Holy Spirit would come on all people.

"That day has come!" Peter declared.

Then Peter told the crowd about Jesus. He told how Jesus was sent by God to teach about God's love. He explained how Jesus healed those who were sick and did other amazing things.

Then Peter talked about Jesus' arrest and death on the cross.

"But Jesus didn't stay dead," Peter shouted. "God raised Jesus up. Death couldn't hold him down. Every one of us saw Jesus alive. Now Jesus has been taken back to heaven and sits at the right hand of God. Jesus is God's chosen one."

I wonder, "Why is Jesus God's chosen one?"

Peter explained that now the Holy Spirit would be with everyone who believed and followed Jesus.

"This promise is for you, your children, and all the people who hear the good news of Jesus," Peter announced.

Everyone was quiet. They were all listening to Peter's story. Many, many people were baptized and became followers of Jesus that day. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit too.

I wonder, "What did being filled with the Holy Spirit feel like?"

When Pentecost was over, they went back to their homes in far-off lands. The Holy Spirit helped them tell the story of Jesus to others. The message of Jesus began to spread to the ends of the earth, just as Jesus had said it would.



All Things in Common

(based on Acts 2:43-47)

After the day of Pentecost, the disciples told many people about Jesus. Soon many people in Jerusalem wanted to join them. They were baptized and became followers of Jesus.

They would get together every day to talk about Jesus and pray together. They would talk about the things Jesus did and the things Jesus said. The followers wanted to learn to live the way Jesus lived and love the way Jesus loved.

I wonder, "How would they love the way Jesus loved?"

The Holy Spirit helped them to do the things that Jesus did. Sometimes they would heal the sick. Sometimes the disciples would do other miracles. It was an exciting time.

I wonder, "What miracles did Jesus' friends do with the help of the Holy Spirit?"

All the believers lived together in peace. They shared everything. Those who were rich shared their money with those who had none. Some of them sold their homes and shared the money so all had what they needed.

Every day they would meet in the temple to worship God. Then they would eat together. Those who had food would bring extra to share with others. Nobody went hungry. Everyone had enough to eat. It was wonderful.

The followers of Jesus loved to praise God. They would go out into the city to tell about God's love. Many people joined their community. Everyone was welcomed into the family.

Those who were lonely found friends.

Those who had no family were looked after.

Those who were sick were healed.

All knew they belonged. They knew God loved them. They wanted to love God too. Jesus had taught his friends how to love God by showing love to others, so that's what the first Christians did. They shared everything and loved each other. And the church grew and grew.

I wonder, "How can we be like the first Christians?"













Healing and Praising

(based on Acts 3:1-10)

The temple was an extraordinary building in the city of Jerusalem. Every day many people came to the temple to pray and worship God.

There was one man who went to the temple every day, but he could not go inside like everyone else. This man could not walk. He had been born lame, so his legs didn't work. Every day his family carried him to the temple gate, so he could lie there and beg for money.

One day, Peter and John came to the temple to worship God. When the man saw them coming, he held out his hand and asked for money.

"Please sirs," he begged, "do you have some money to spare? I need the money to live."

I wonder, "How would he live without money?"

Peter and John looked down at the man and felt sorry for him.

"Look at us," Peter said.

The man looked up eagerly. He thought it was his lucky day! He thought he was going to get some money.

"We don't have any money," explained Peter and John. "But we have something much better to give you."

The man was terribly disappointed. What could be better than money?

"In the name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk!" proclaimed Peter. Then he grabbed the man and pulled him to his feet. "What are you doing?"

cried the man. "My legs won't hold me up." But suddenly, the man felt his legs become strong. He could stand.

I wonder, "How would it feel to be able to walk for the first time?"

It was incredible! Even though the man had never walked in his whole life, he began to move his legs. At first, he thought he would fall, but he soon found his balance and discovered he could walk.

He was so excited that he started walking and jumping and praising God. He followed Peter and John into the courtyard of the temple. All the people in the temple saw him walking around and singing praises to God.

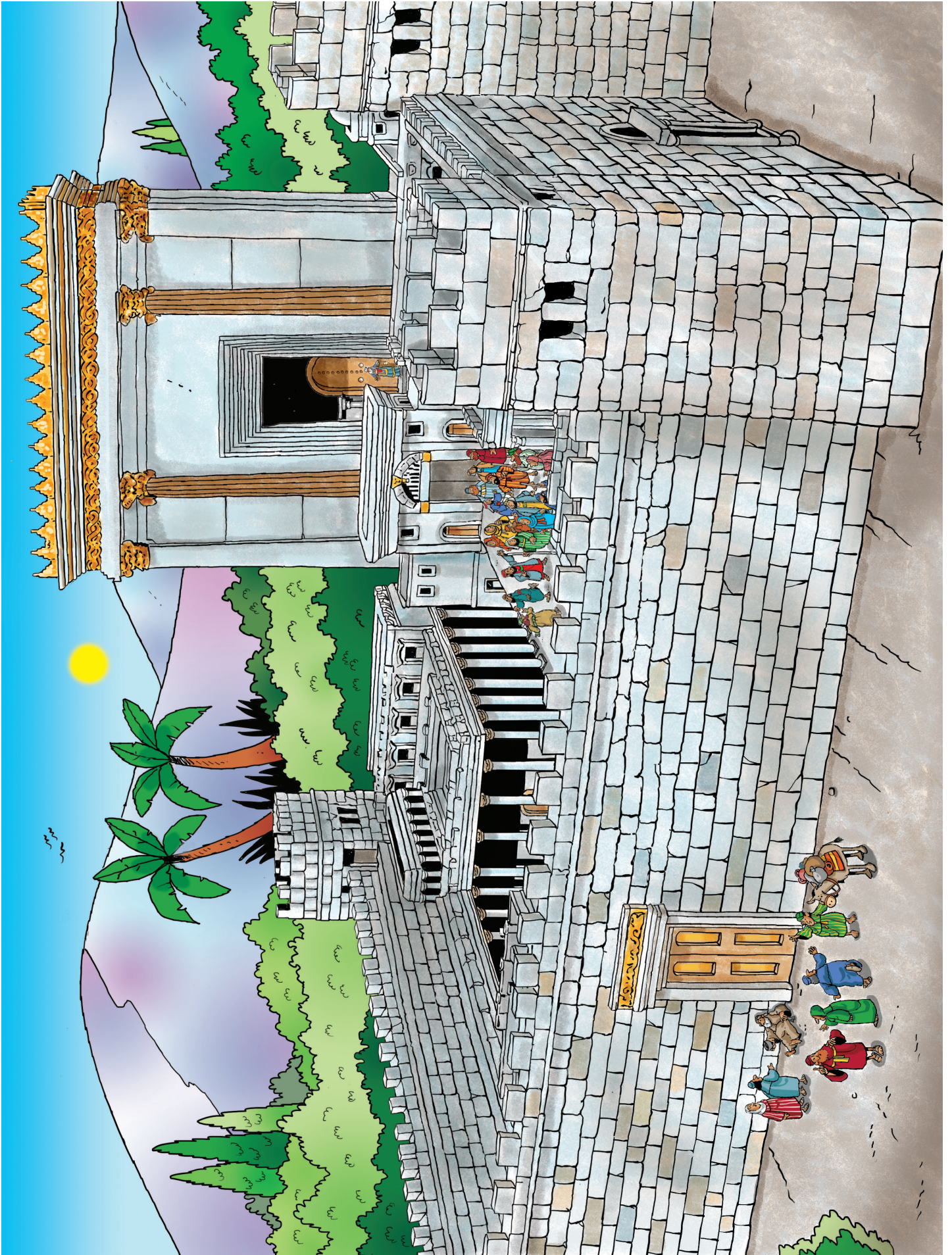
They knew that he was the same man who begged beside the temple gate.

I wonder, "How did the people know it was the same man?"

"What happened to him?" they asked each other in astonishment. "Isn't this the lame beggar? Now he is walking and leaping."

Everyone was astonished by what had happened. They asked other people, "Did you see what happened?" And they exclaimed, "This man was lame, but now he can walk!"





God's Grace Poured Out

(based on Acts 9:1-22, 1 Timothy 1:12-14)

Many years ago, just after the time of Jesus, there lived a man named Saul. Saul did not like Christians and tried to stop them from spreading the good news of Jesus. One day Saul got permission to go to the city of Damascus (duh-MAS-kuhs) to arrest the followers of Jesus and throw them all in jail.

I wonder, "Why did Saul want to throw Jesus' friends in jail?"

On the way to Damascus, something amazing happened. Jesus appeared to Saul in a blinding light and talked about the things Saul was doing. Afterward, Saul could not see. Some people helped him get to Damascus and for three days he could not see.

Ananias (an-uh-NAI-uhs) was a man who lived in the city of Damascus. Jesus came to Ananias in a dream and told him to pray with Saul. Ananias did not want to go. After all, Saul had come to Damascus to arrest the Christians. Jesus told Ananias to go and pray with Saul anyway.

"I have chosen Saul for a special job," Jesus explained.

I wonder, "Why did Jesus choose Ananias?"

Ananias went to see Saul to pray with him. As they prayed, God's grace was poured out on Saul and his eyes were healed. He could see again.

Saul became a leader in the church. He traveled to many places with the good news of Jesus.

Saul's life was completely changed by God's love. The changes were so big that Saul started using his Roman name, Paul.

I wonder, "How did Paul's life change?"

Sometimes Paul would write to other people about what happened.

"I used to say terrible things about Jesus and I was cruel to his followers," Paul would explain. "But Jesus forgave me because I didn't understand. God's grace was poured into my life and changed me completely. I am a new man. Praise be to God who lives forever."





John Newton worked for many years on slaving ships. He had learned about God as a child through his mother's lessons, but he chose to live in rebellion against God in his early adult life. There were several moments in John's life when he called on God and had spiritual experiences. At one point, he decided he wanted to be a minister. He studied while he continued working in the slave trade. After dedicating his life to God, he worked to make the conditions of slaves better on the slave ships. Over the years, he eventually came to believe that slavery was wrong, and he worked to end it. He became blind in his later years.

John Newton wrote the famous hymn "Amazing Grace."

Paul Meets Lydia

(based on Acts 16:9–15)

In the city of Philippi (fih-LIHP-ai) lived a businesswoman named Lydia. Lydia bought and sold expensive purple cloth. Lydia and her friends loved God very much. Every Sabbath they would gather by the river outside the city gate to pray.

I wonder, “What is it like to pray beside a river?”

One day Paul, Timothy, and Silas came to the river. They were followers of Jesus. They had traveled to many different places to teach people about Jesus. God had led them to Philippi. The three men had been searching for a place to worship.

Lydia and her friends invited the men to sit down and talk with them. They talked and talked all afternoon. Paul, Timothy, and Silas told Lydia and the other women all about Jesus. It was a very long story.

Lydia had never met Jesus, but she really liked Paul’s stories. Lydia knew that she wanted to become a follower of Jesus right away.

“I want to follow Jesus and live in God’s way,” Lydia said to Paul. “I want to be a follower of Jesus and share God’s love with everyone. Will you baptize me?”

Paul agreed, so Lydia went to fetch everyone who lived in her home. Everyone was baptized in the river that afternoon. It was the start of a brand new way of life.

I wonder, “What did Lydia tell her family that made them want to be baptized?”

Lydia opened her heart to the good news about Jesus. After her baptism, Lydia opened her home to Paul and his friends and invited them to stay for as long as they wanted. They spent many days telling people about Jesus. Many people came to listen and learn about following in God’s ways. In addition, Paul, Timothy, and Silas spent a lot of time encouraging them.

I wonder, “Why did Lydia open her home to Paul and his friends?”

After a while, it was time for the men to leave. Paul, Silas, and Timothy needed to move onto the next city. After they left, Lydia and her friends kept on telling others about Jesus. Eventually Lydia became the leader of a brand new house church. Many people came to Lydia’s home to learn about Jesus. Everyone was welcomed and the church grew and grew.



Paul Sings in Jail

(based on Acts 16:16–34)

Paul and his friends wanted everyone to hear the amazing story of **Jesus**. They traveled from one town to another bringing the good news to anyone who would listen.

Not everyone was happy to hear what **Paul and his friends** had to say. Sometimes people became very angry.

I wonder, “Why were some people angry to hear about Jesus?”

One day **Paul and Silas** helped a **slave woman**. Her owners got very upset. They grabbed **Paul and Silas** and marched them to the courthouse.

“These men are troublemakers,” they **said** to the judge. “They are upsetting our city and disturbing the peace.”

The **leaders** didn’t want any trouble, so they had **Paul and Silas beaten** and thrown into **prison**. The **jailer** was told to watch them carefully. He would be punished if they escaped.

The **jailer** put **Paul and Silas** into a room in the middle of the jail cell deep inside the **prison**. He chained their feet to **heavy blocks of wood**. They could not move.

Paul and Silas were sore from the **beating**. Their legs ached from the chains. The **prison** was cold and uncomfortable. But even in this very tough situation **Paul and Silas** began **singing** and **praying** to God. All the other **prisoners** listened.

About midnight the ground began to rumble. It was an earthquake. Suddenly the **prison** doors flew open and all the chains fell off the **prisoners**.

Now the **jailer**, who had been sleeping, awoke with a jump. He saw that all the **prison** doors were open and was terrified. He thought that all the **prisoners** had escaped. “Oh, no!” the **jailer** cried. “What will I do?”

I wonder, “Who will help the jailer?”

Suddenly the **jailer** heard Paul’s voice, calling, “Don’t worry. We are all here.”

The **jailer** called for a light. Sure enough, everyone was still there. He rushed into **Paul and Silas’** cell. The **jailer** trembled as he got down on his knees. “What must I do to be saved?” he cried.

“Believe in God’s servant **Jesus**,” Paul **said**. The **jailer** took **Paul and Silas** to his home. Then he and his family listened to the good news about **Jesus** and God’s love.

“We want to become followers of **Jesus**,” they said. “Will you **baptize** us?”

Paul and Silas baptized the **jailer** and his family that night. Afterward everyone had a big feast. The whole household celebrated because the people had found God’s love and became followers of **Jesus**.



The Same Spirit

(based on 1 Corinthians 12)

Many years ago, a group of people met as part of God's church. They lived in the city of Corinth (KAWR-ihnth). One day, they began to argue about who was the best follower of Jesus.

I wonder, "Why would they argue about being the best?"

Some of the people in the church sent a message to their friend Paul asking for help. Paul wrote a letter back to help the church understand some important things. When the letter arrived, the people gathered to hear what Paul had to say.

Dear friends,

God has given each one of us special gifts and talents. We can all do different things and all these gifts come from the Holy Spirit.

I wonder, "What gifts come from the Holy Spirit?"

Some of us teach, while others understand hard things. Some of us have great faith, while others can heal the sick and do amazing miracles. All these gifts come from the Holy Spirit.

The church is like a body. As you know, a body is made up of different parts. Each part has an important job to do.

Some people are like the eyes because they notice people who need help. Others are like the feet because they travel to many places with the good news of Jesus.

Some people are like the mouth because they use words to teach and encourage. Others are like the hands because they help people.

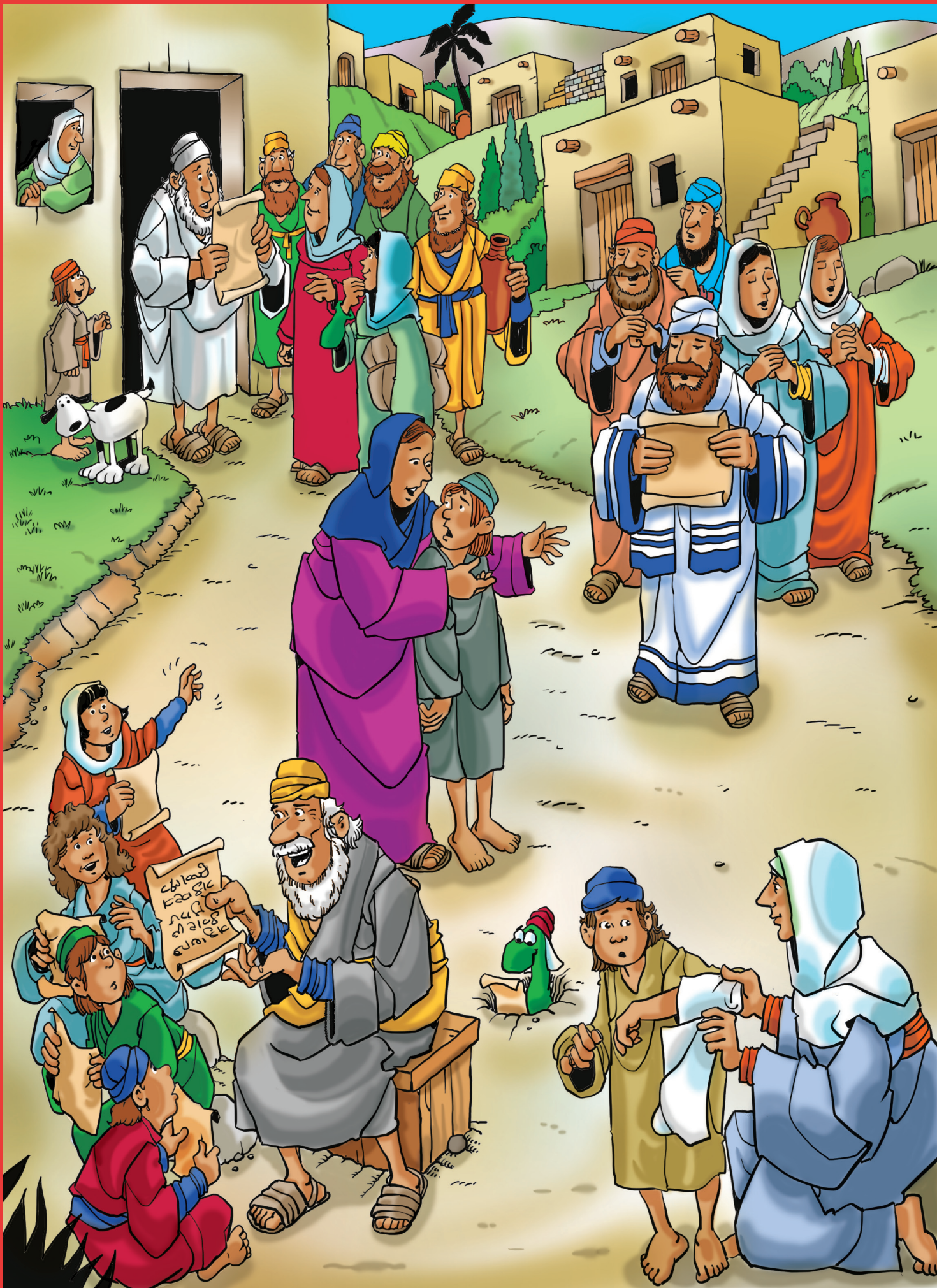
Each person in the church is part of the body. Everyone does something different, but we all work together to show God's love. Remember, dear friends, we need each other because we are all part of God's church.

Your friend,

Paul

I wonder, "How are we part of God's church?"

The people realized it was silly to argue about who was the best follower of Jesus. They were all important! They all had a job to do and they needed each other. If they worked together, they would be able to do wonderful things for God. And that's what they did!





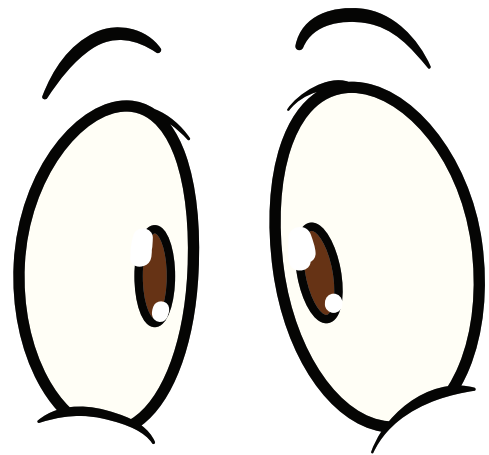
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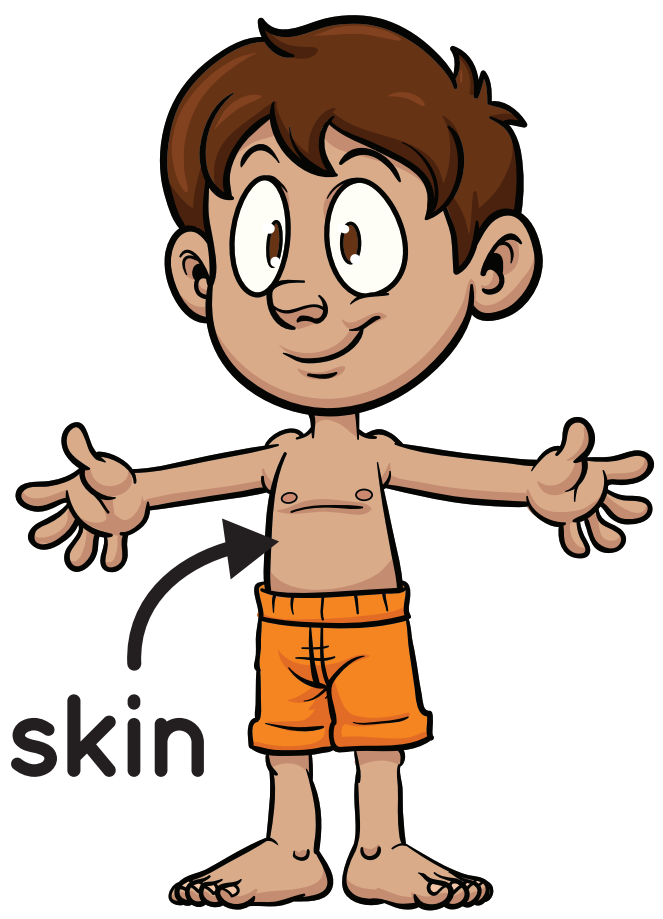
foot



mouth



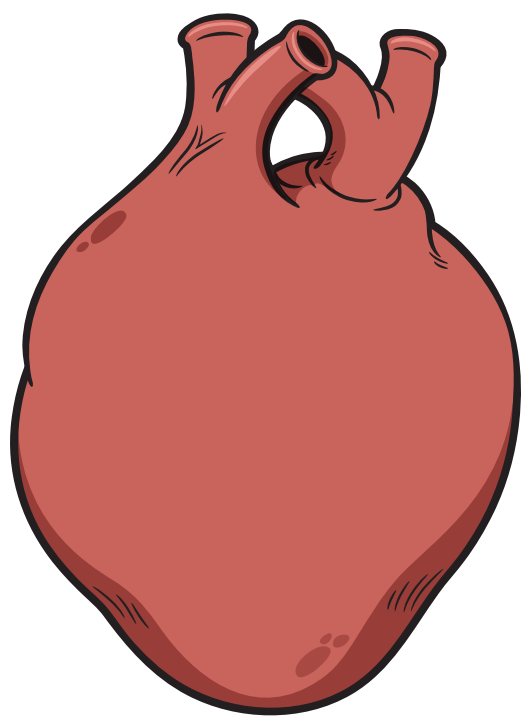
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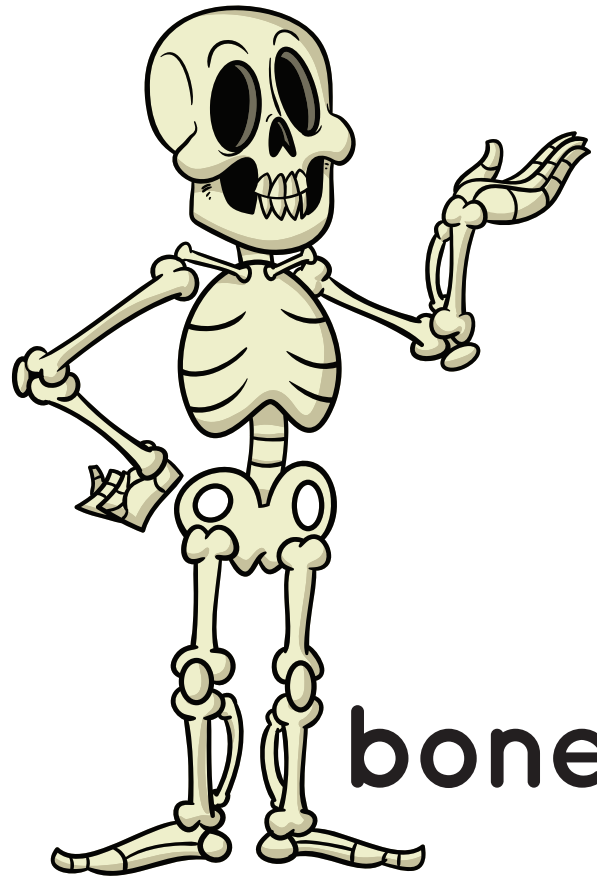
skin



ears



heart



bones

Love Is . . .

(based on 1 Corinthians 13)

The followers of Jesus traveled to many places to teach about Jesus. Wherever they went, people believed their message, and the church grew. Many new leaders began to help the disciples.

One of these new church leaders was named Paul. Paul traveled to many faraway cities and countries. One of the new churches he helped was in Corinth (KAWR-ihnth).

Even when he could not travel, Paul wrote letters to his friends in Corinth, teaching them about Jesus and helping them to know how to live as Christ's followers.

I wonder, "How did letters get to people in Paul's time?"

Once when the people in the church in Corinth were having disagreements, Paul wrote to tell his friends about love. This is what he wrote:

Even if I speak like an angel, with the most beautiful words, if I do not speak in love, I sound like a banging gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I can tell the future and understand all the mysteries of the world, or have so much faith that I can make a mountain move, without love, I am nothing.

Even if I give away all my possessions, if I have no love, it means nothing.

Love means being patient.

Love means being kind.

Love does not get jealous or brag or act rudely.

Love doesn't insist on its own way, get irritable, or keep score.

Love isn't happy with injustice but is happy with what's right.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never ends.

As for everything else—words and knowledge—they will end. They are all bits and pieces, but love is everything.

When I was a child, I did childish things. But now that I am an adult, I do different things.

In the same way, we are like God's children: We only know a little of what God knows. Later God will show us everything!

For now, though, God has given us three gifts to help us: faith, hope, and love.

And the greatest of these three is love.

Wow! The people in the church in Corinth were so happy to hear about love. They wanted to try and live as God's followers, loving God and loving one another.

I wonder, "How can we love like Paul describes?"



God's House

(based on Ephesians 2:17-22)

The followers of Jesus traveled to many faraway cities and countries to teach about Jesus.

Wherever they went, people believed their message, and the church grew. One of the new church leaders was Paul. After visiting a place, Paul often wrote letters to the people to teach them about Jesus and help them to know how to live as Christ's followers. After Paul died, his helpers continued to write these letters.

I wonder, "Why were letters so important?"

One of the places where believers gathered as a part of God's church was a place called Ephesus (EH-fuh-suhs). As in many places at that time, there were no church buildings, so the people of God met in someone's house. One day a letter came for the people in Ephesus. It spoke about living the way Jesus did and loving the way Jesus loved. It was a long letter, and here is part of it.

Dear friends in Christ,

You are like a house that God owns. God's house is built on the foundation that the apostles and prophets prepared. The whole house is joined together in Christ, and he makes it grow and become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Christ, you are being built together with all people who love God, no matter what differences you have. All of you are being made into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

The people thought carefully about the letter. They thought about all the ways God's Spirit was making them into a house.

I wonder, "How can the church (or believers) be a place where God lives?"

One person said, "We are like a house with the Bible as our foundation. We learn from the prophets' and apostles' words."

Another commented, "We are like the walls and roof of the house because we protect each other and keep each other safe."

"And," said still another, "we are like the doors of the house. We welcome all sorts of people, whether they want to know more about Jesus or they need food and clothing. And we go out to help people wherever we can."

The people began to talk about the beautiful things God had done for them. Before long, they were saying thank you to God for all the good things in their lives.

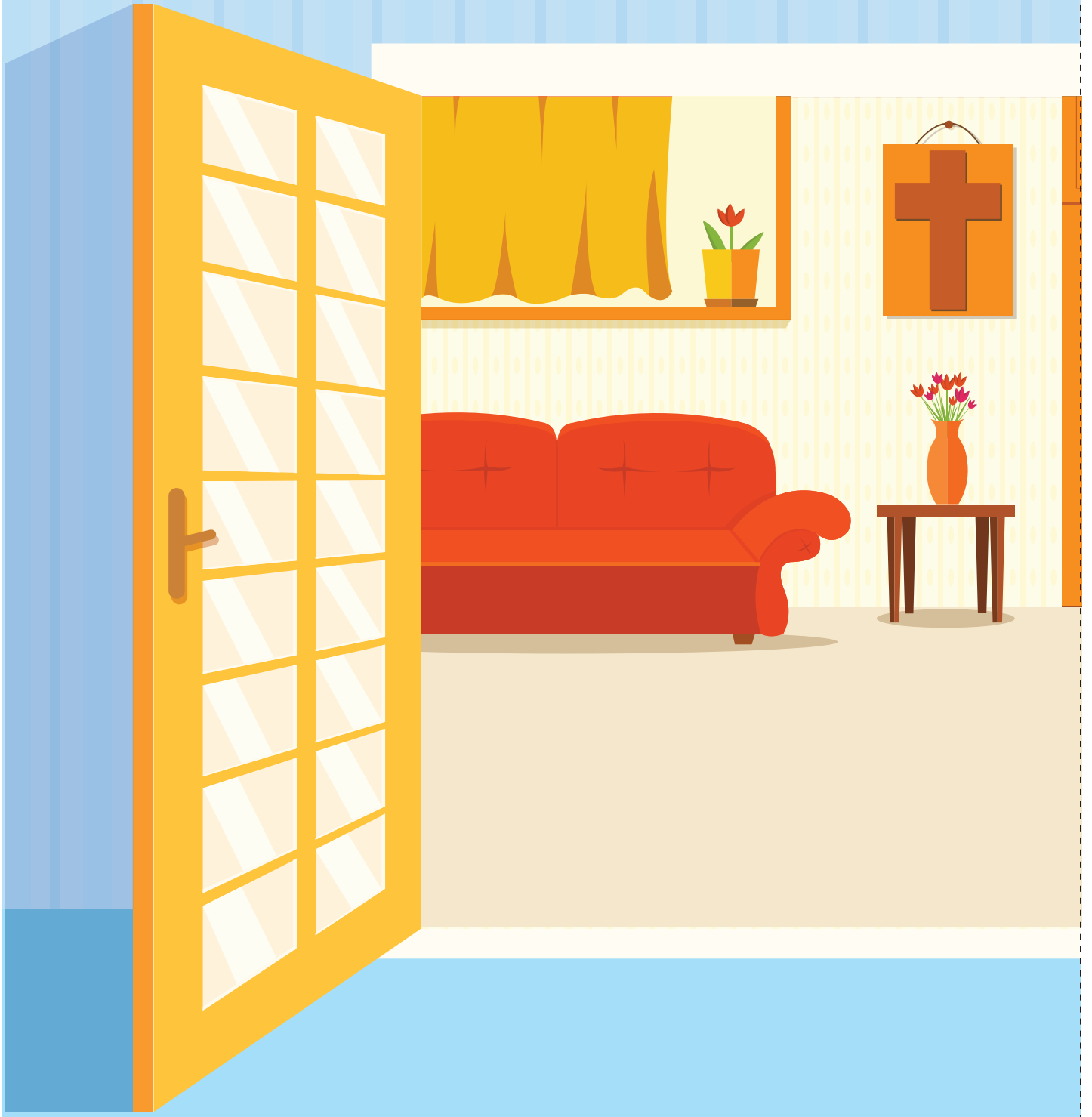
"Hey!" shouted someone. "God's Spirit is already fashioning us into a house with Jesus as the cornerstone that keeps us all connected. Let's give thanks for God's gifts."

I wonder, "How can we give thanks for God's gifts?"

So that's precisely what they did. Every time the people met, they worshiped God and gave thanks for God's gifts. And as they did, they grew stronger in love and faith.



Come



on in



God, thank you for ...

Green



Blue



Purple



Red



Orange



Rejoice!

(based on Philippians 4:4-9)

Paul was a follower of Jesus. He traveled to lots of faraway places to spread the good news about Jesus. Many people who heard Paul speak about him became followers of Jesus too. Paul started churches, baptizing people and teaching the new followers about God's love, Jesus, and how to live as he taught. After Paul left a place, the Christians would meet together to worship and learn and help others. One place where Paul told the story of Jesus was the city of Philippi (fih-LIP-eye).

Paul ran into some difficulties in Philippi. He and Silas were put in jail for telling people about Jesus. Later, after Paul left Philippi, life was not easy for the new believers. Some people didn't want them telling others about Jesus. Then they heard that Paul was put in prison in another city.

I wonder, "What did the people think would happen to them if they talked about Jesus?"

The people were sad that Paul was in jail and life was hard for them in Philippi. They were discouraged and wondered if they had enough faith to keep living the way God wanted them to live. Paul heard that the people in Philippi were discouraged, so he wrote a letter to them. He wanted to encourage them in their faith. He wrote:

My dear friends in Christ,

I love you and miss you so much. You bring me such joy. Be strong in the Lord.

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I will say, Rejoice!

Show everyone that you are gentle and kind. Jesus will come again soon.

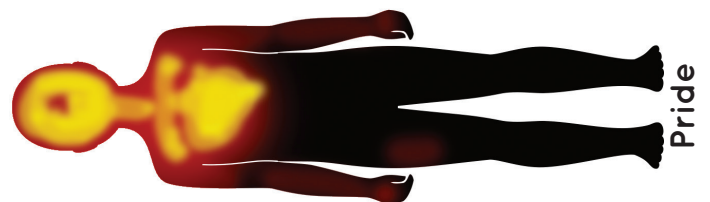
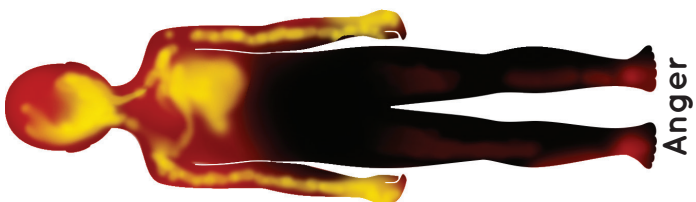
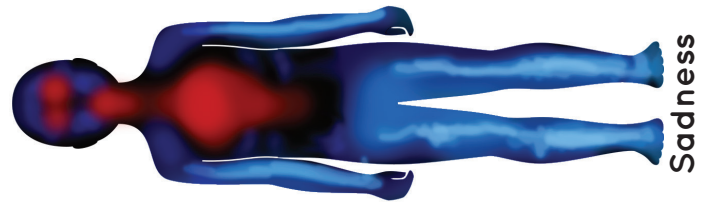
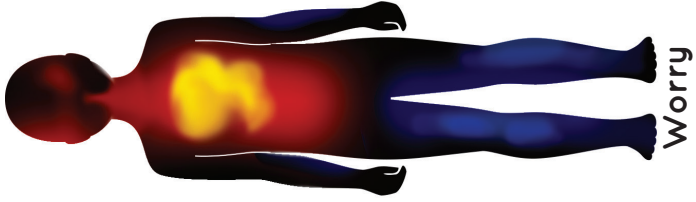
Do not worry about anything. Instead of worrying, pray. Let God know everything. And when you pray, be sure and give thanks to God. It is then that God's peace will settle upon you, calming your hearts and your minds, knowing that Jesus is with you. It's hard to understand, but that's how God works.

Finally, my brothers and sisters in Christ, whatever situation you are in, focus your thoughts on the good and not the bad. Instead of worrying, think about things that are good and true, that are right and bring honor, that are beautiful and worthy of praise. Practice what you learned from me. Do what I have told you and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you.

The believers in Philippi were so happy to read Paul's words. They knew that, even when Paul was in difficult situations, he trusted God to be with him. Paul knew God's peace, and he wanted them to know it too. Yes, they would practice what they had learned from Paul. They would rejoice and give thanks in all things!

I wonder, "What can I do in a difficult situation?"





Clothing Christ-Style

(based on Colossians 3:12-17)

A long time ago, there was a place where the followers of Jesus met together as part of the church. This was in the city of Colossae (ko-LAH-see).

When the church met, there was a lot of singing and praying and talking. The people loved Jesus very much. They wanted to learn how to live like Jesus and show God's love the way Jesus did.

One day, a letter arrived from their friend Paul. The church loved getting letters from Paul. He had taught them so much about following in Jesus' way of love.

I wonder, "Who is Paul?"

"I wonder what Paul has to say this time?" the people said to each other.

They all gathered around to hear what Paul had to say. It was a long letter and this is part of it.

Dear Friends,

God has chosen each one of you to live a life of love. This means that every day you must put on God's clothes of kindness, caring, and gentleness. Be patient with each other. If someone does something wrong, then forgive them. God has forgiven you, so you should forgive others.

The most important thing to wear each day is love. If you have love, you won't go wrong.

Live in peace and remember to give thanks for all of God's blessings. Read the Scriptures and sing to God often. Do everything in the name of Jesus.

From your friend,

Paul

I wonder, "How would someone wear love like clothes?"

The people listened to Paul's words. They tried very hard to follow his advice. They kept Paul's letter very safe and passed it on to their children and their children's children. Eventually, Paul's letter was written into our Bible, so that followers of Jesus everywhere would remember to put on love every day.



¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. — Colossians 3:12–17 (NRSV)

I Remember You Constantly

(based on 2 Timothy 1:1-14)

Alexander couldn't wait! He was so excited that it was the first day of the week because this was the day the church gathered in his parents' home for worship. Everyone brought delicious food to share, such as olives and barley bread. Alexander loved to sing songs about Jesus and to hear the letters from Paul read aloud. He loved that his entire family would gather together. He was especially glad that he would see his grandmother today!

Today's letter from Paul was extra special. Paul wrote it for Alexander's father, Timothy. Alexander couldn't wait to hear what Paul had to say to his father.

I wonder how the letter got to them since there was no post office.

Timothy sat among the gathered believers and said:

“As many of you know, for years the apostle Paul has traveled in the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. When he visited our town, Paul made friends with many people, including my mother Eunice and my grandmother, Lois. My mother and grandmother followed the teachings of Jesus. The story of Jesus was so exciting and so wonderful that they taught me to be a follower of Jesus as well.”

Alexander glanced at his father's mother and grandmother. They were beaming with delight!

I wonder why Alexander's grandmother was so happy.

“When I was a young man, Paul invited me to travel with him and to teach about Jesus to lots of different people. The story of Jesus was so marvelous and so stupendous that I had to pass it on. With gratitude to God, I now pass the story to you. Hear what Paul has to say in his letter:

“Dear Timothy, my beloved child,

This is your friend Paul writing to you. I remember you constantly and thank God whenever I think of you. I pray for you every night and day.

“Keep teaching the good news of Jesus as I taught it to you. Teach with faith and love.

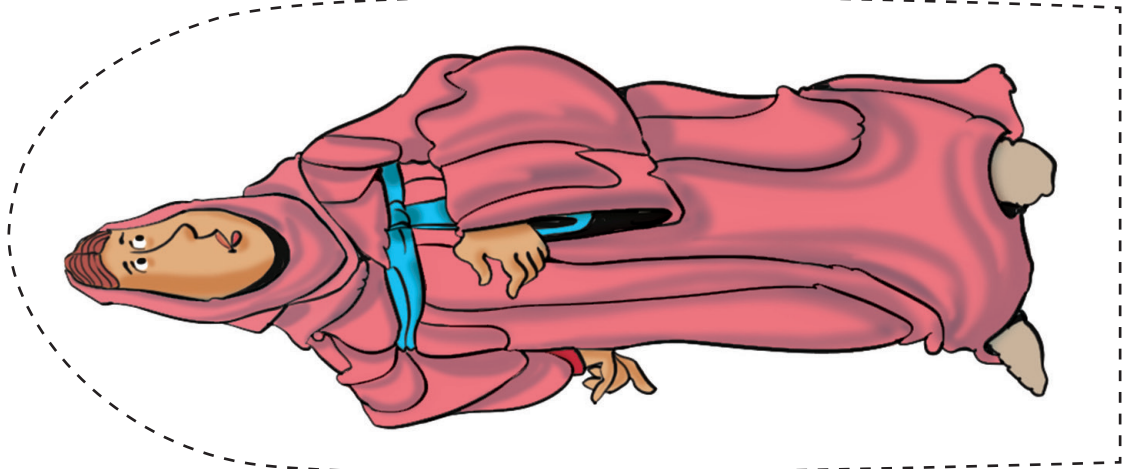
“And remember, Timothy: God's word is like a treasure within you and the Holy Spirit will help you guard that treasure.”

Timothy challenged the gathered believers. “Now you have heard the story. It's your turn to pass it on. Who will you tell?”

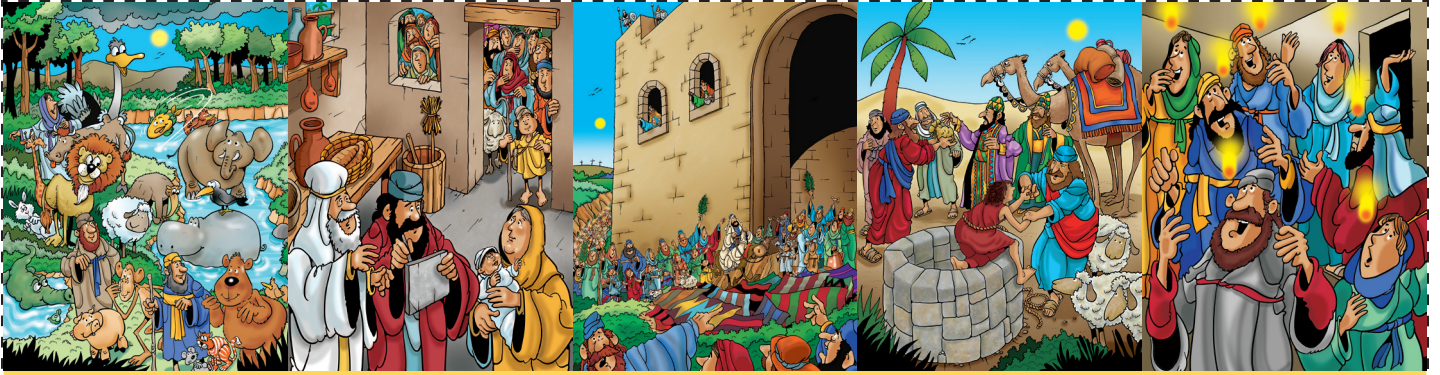
Alexander puffed with pride to hear of Paul's love for his father. Even more, he wondered who he would pass the story to. It was so marvelous and so stupendous that he just had to pass it on!

I wonder who Alexander could pass the story of Jesus to.





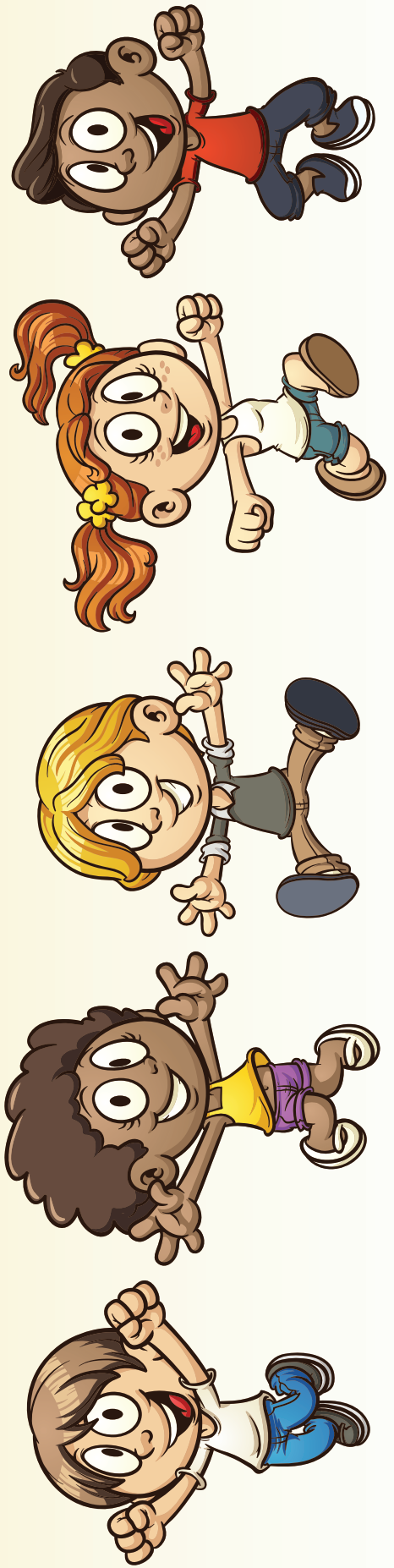
I thank God
every time I
think of you!



Bible Stories We Love



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



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

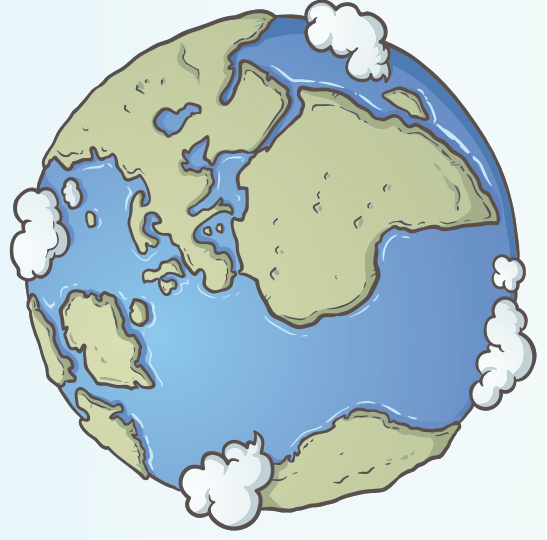
2 *The wind and the waves** are in God's hands,
*the wind and the waves** are in God's hands,
*the wind and the waves** are in God's hands,
the world is in God's hands.

3 *The fish and the birds

4 *All of the animals

5 *All the world's people

6 *You and me



1. God makes a promise and keeps it,
 God makes a promise and keeps it,
 God makes a promise and keeps it,
 God promises to **love**.

2. ... God promises to **care**.

3. ... God promises to **forgive**.

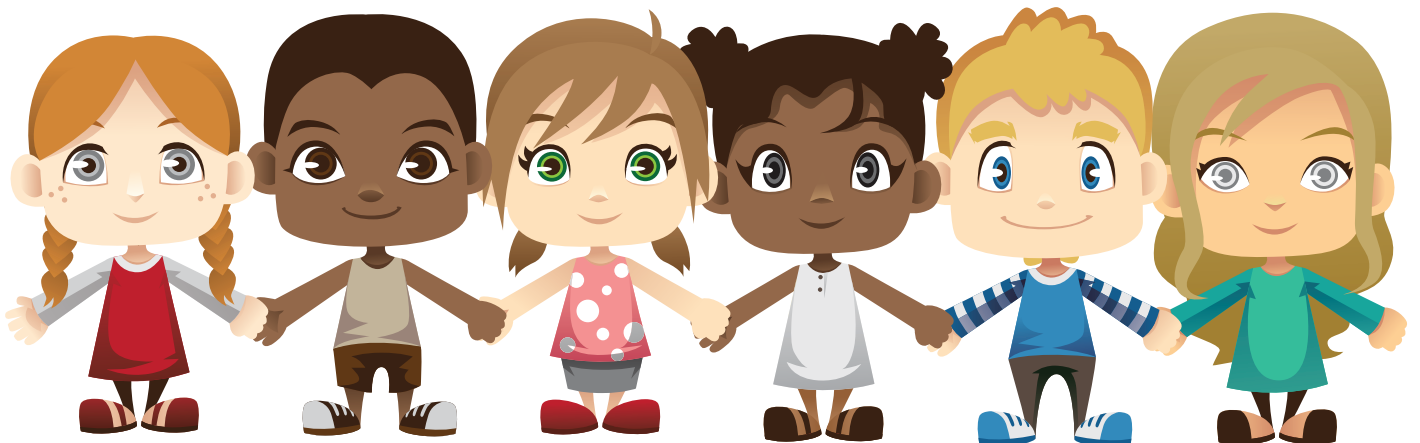
4. ... God promises to **listen**.

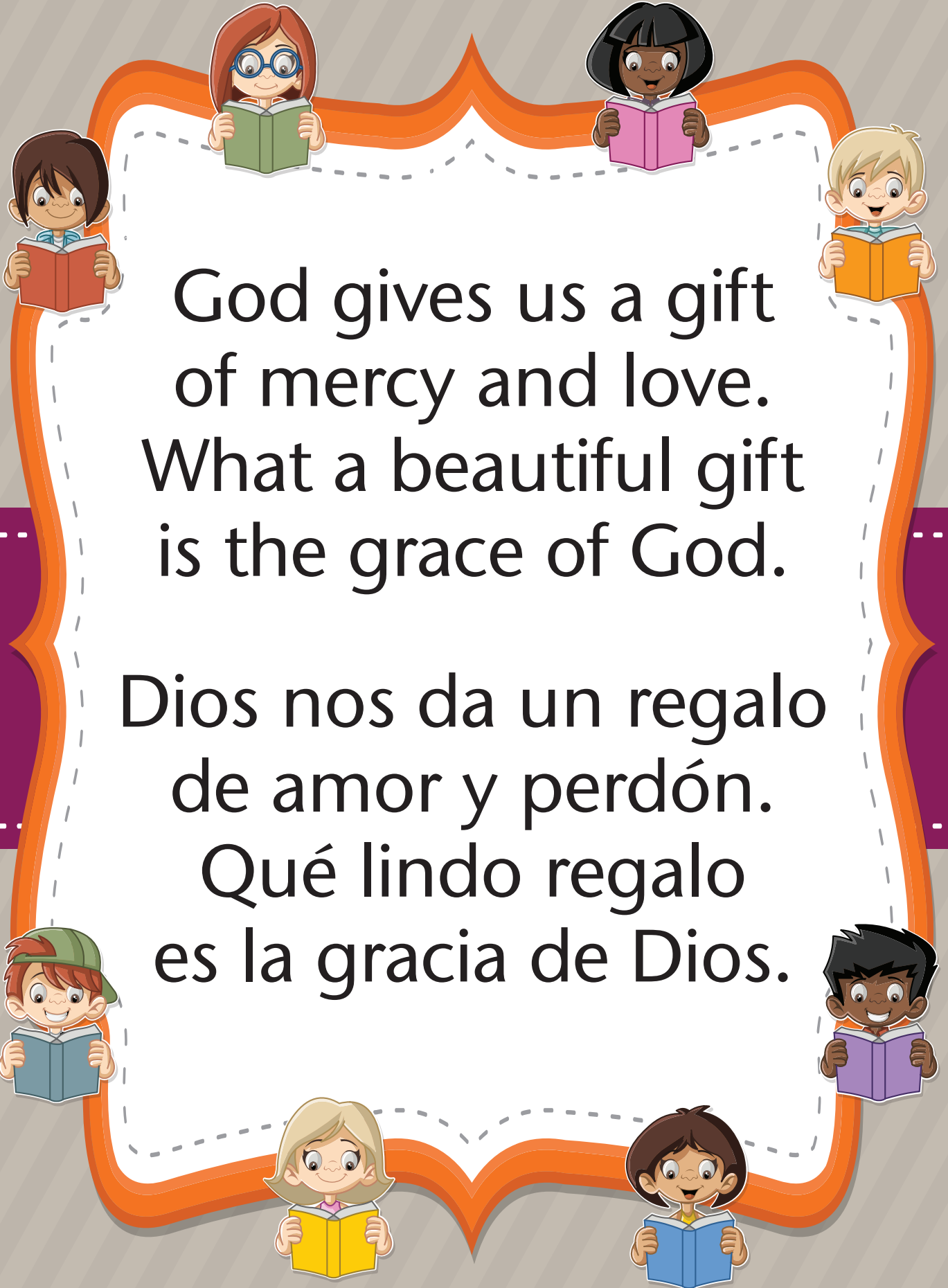
5. And we can keep our promises,
 and we can keep our promises,
 and we can keep our promises,
 'cause God has shown us how.



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!





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

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

I've got peace like a river;
... , in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain;
... , in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean;
... , in my soul.



1. I'm gonna live so (live so)
God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I'm gonna live so (live so)
God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
2. I'm gonna work so (work so) . . .
3. I'm gonna pray so (pray so) . . .
4. I'm gonna sing so (sing so) . . .



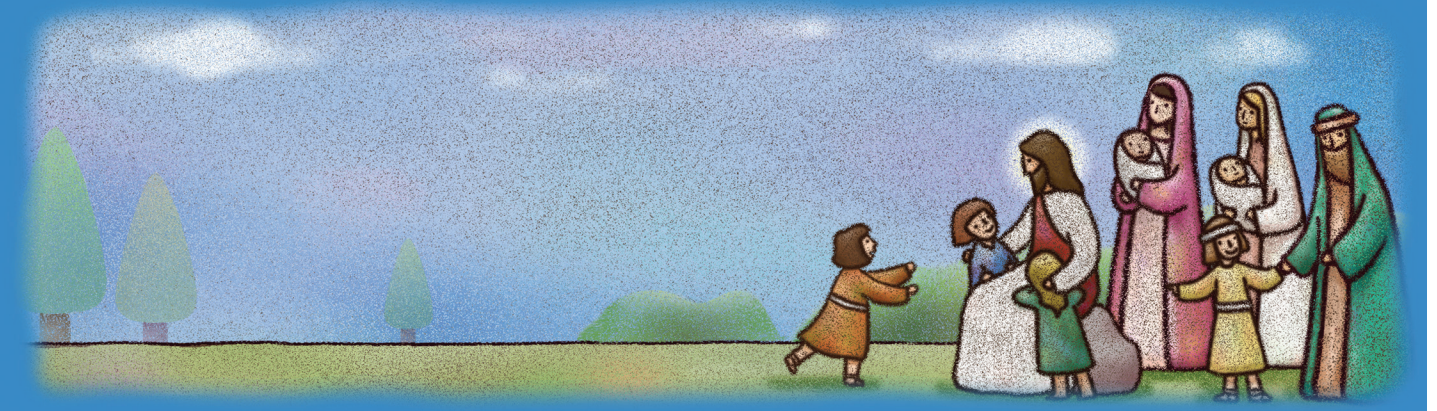
Jesus taught us how to love,
love one another.

Jesus taught us how to love,
our sister and our brother.

Jesus taught us how to love,
our neighbors far and near,
our friends at school and in the park,
and those of us right here.

Jesus taught us how to love,
our father and our mother.

Jesus taught us how to love,
love one another.





Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

We are dancing in the love of God,
we are dancing in the love of God.
We are dancing in the love of God,
we are dancing in the love of God.

We are dancing, we are dancing, oo-oh!
we are dancing in the love of God.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

Siyahamb', siyahamb', oo-oh!
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.



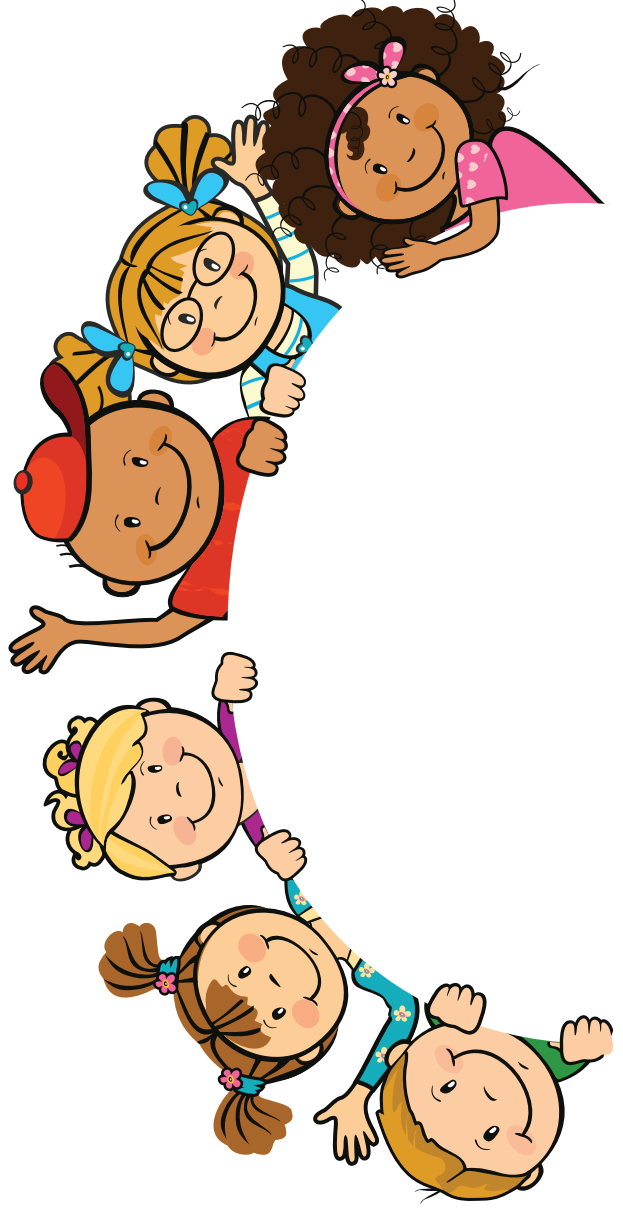
God loves you, and I love you,
and that's the way it should be.
We love each other like sisters and brothers,
and that's the way it should be.

Dios te ama y yo te amo
y así es como debe de ser.
Nos amamos como hermanos y hermanas,
y así es como debe de ser.

God loves you, and I love you,
and that's the way it should be.
We love each other like sisters and brothers,
and that's the way it should be.



The circle of love goes around, around.
The circle of love goes around.
Stop, reach out, someone needs you,
and the circle of love goes around.
Stop, reach out, someone needs you,
and the circle of love goes around.





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