

A Child's First **BIBLE**



"The Lord is my shepherd"

A Child's First Bible

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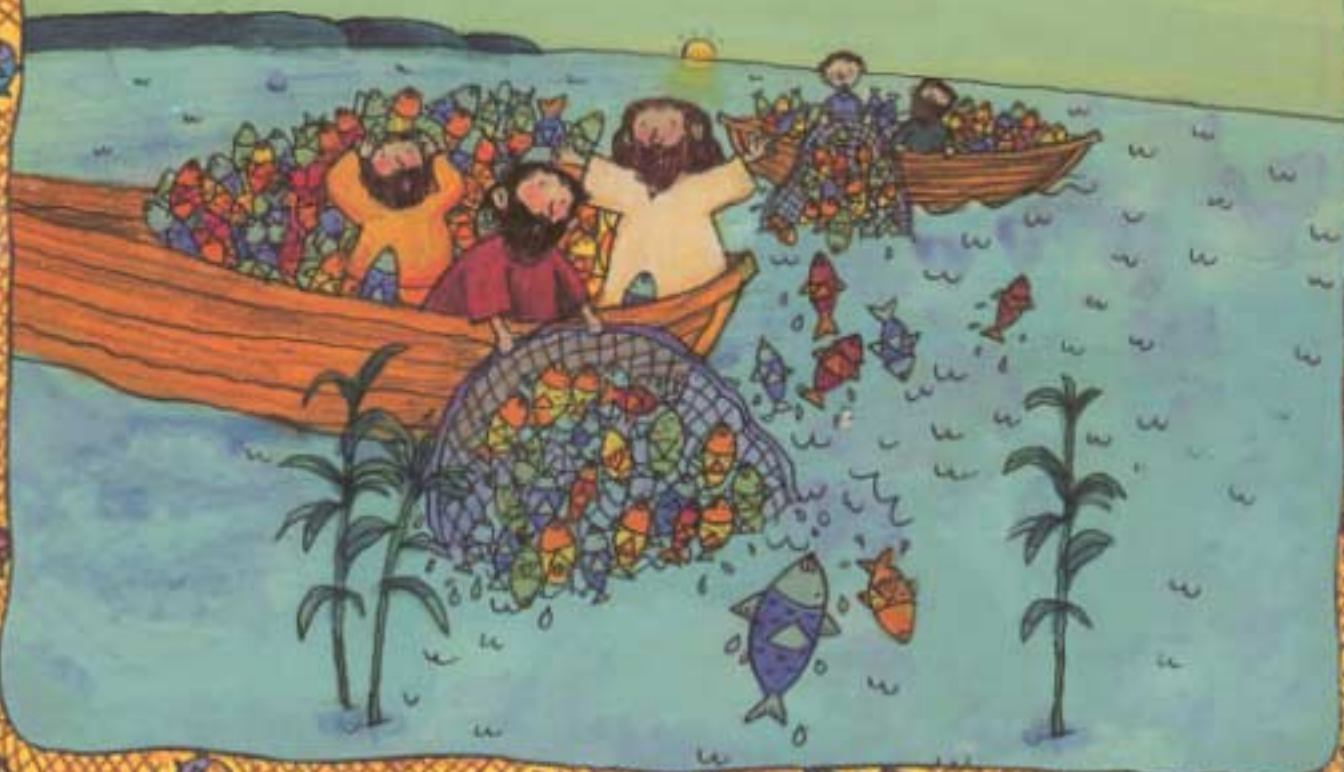
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A Child's First
BIBLE

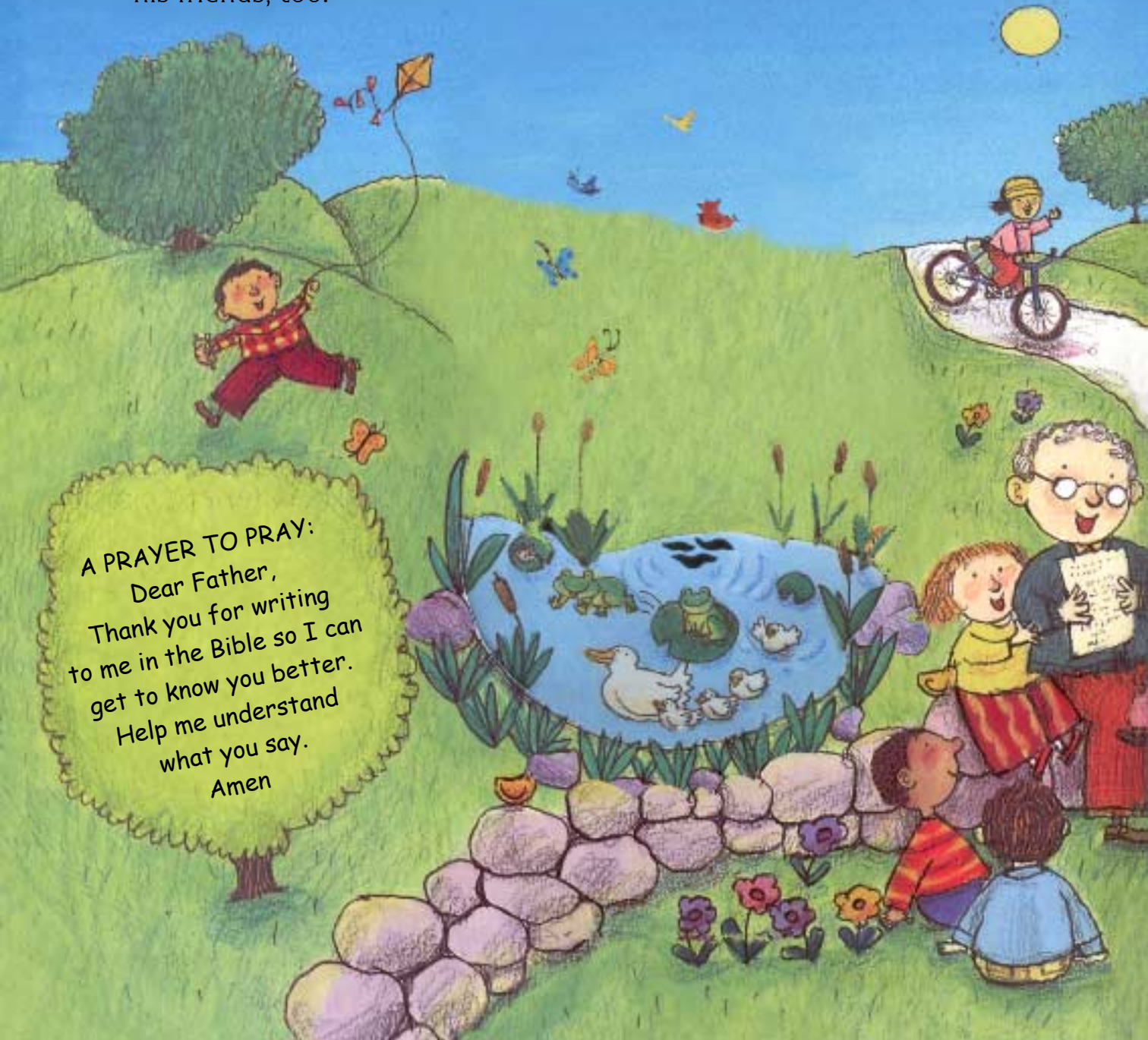
Retold by Sally Lloyd-Jones



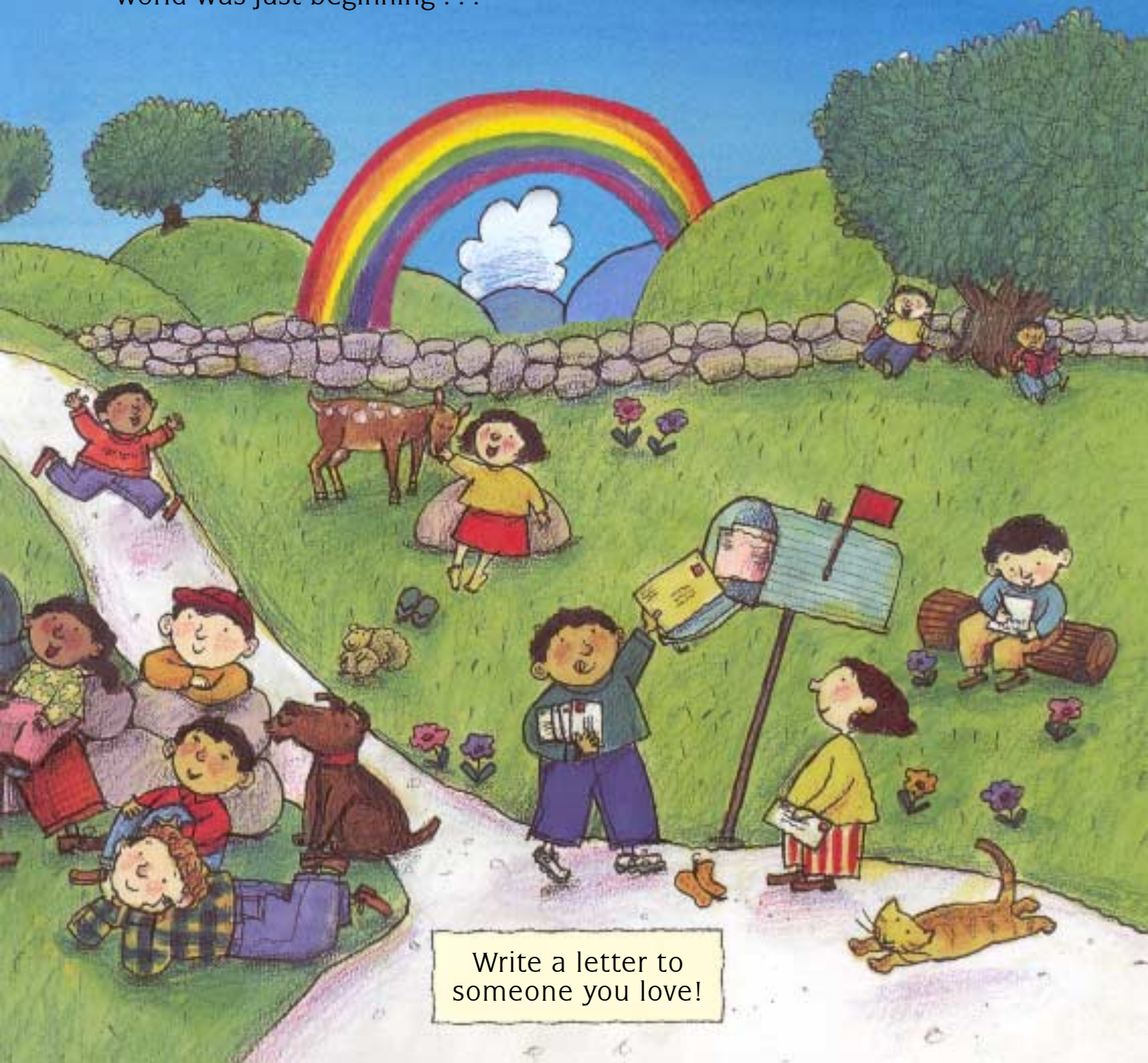
What Is the Bible?

The Bible is like a letter. People write letters when they want to tell you something. The Bible is like a letter from God to you and me. It tells the story of God's love for us. We read about God and his friends and the adventures they went on. The Bible tells us that God wants us to be his friends, too.

A PRAYER TO PRAY:
Dear Father,
Thank you for writing
to me in the Bible so I can
get to know you better.
Help me understand
what you say.
Amen



Best of all, the Bible tells us that God didn't just write us a letter. He came to meet us! He sent his Son, Jesus, to live with us and show us what God is like! But our story starts long before that, back when the world was just beginning . . .



Write a letter to
someone you love!



When
God says
something,
it happens!



Adam
gave the
animals
names.
Do you
know
some of
their
names?

CREATION FROM
GENESIS 1-3

The Very Beginning

In the beginning, everywhere was dark and still and empty. But God was there. And he had a plan. "Let's have some light!" he said. And all the lights came on!

That's how it was when God spoke. Whatever he said, it happened! Mountains, rivers, sky, sea, plants, and animals filled God's world. Then God made a man and a woman. He called them Adam and Eve. He gave them everything they needed, and he loved them with all his heart.



The Floating Zoo!

Later on, people forgot about God and they did mean things. Only Noah loved God. One day God said to Noah, "I will start again. A flood will wash everything away. Build a big boat and bring along two of every animal. I will keep you safe. I promise."

The rain came, but God kept Noah safe. When the rain stopped, the boat landed on a mountain. Noah thanked God. Then God made a new promise. "I won't flood the earth again," he said, and painted a beautiful rainbow in the sky to prove it.



God
keeps his
promises!



Do you
know
all the
colors
of the
rainbow?



NOAH FROM
GENESIS 6-9



Nothing
is too
hard for
God. He
can do
anything!



Look out
at the sky
on a clear
night.
How
many
stars can
you
count?

ABRAHAM AND
SARAH FROM
GENESIS 15-21

Abraham and Sarah

God told Abraham to count the stars. Abraham tried. "One, two, three..." But there were too many. He lost count. "I'll give you so many children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, you won't be able to count them either!" God said.

"But we don't have any children," Sarah said laughing. "And we are too old to have babies!"

God asked, "Is anything too hard for me?"

Sure enough, God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby. They named him Isaac, which means "laughter."



Joseph the Dreamer

When Joseph was a boy, he had special dreams. Once he dreamed his brothers knelt down before him as if he were a king. His brothers didn't like this dream at all. So they sold him to some slave-traders who took Joseph to Egypt and made him a slave. But God was watching over Joseph.

The king of Egypt made Joseph an important ruler. Years later, Joseph's family came to Egypt to buy food. They knelt down before Joseph not knowing he was their brother. When he told them who he was, they were afraid. Joseph's dream had come true. But Joseph said, "God meant it for good!" Then he wept for joy and kissed his brothers.



Even in
bad times,
God is
working
to make
things
good.



Can you
remember
a dream
you've
had?





When
it seems
like
there's no
way out,
God
can make
a way!



What's
the
biggest
wave
you've
ever seen?

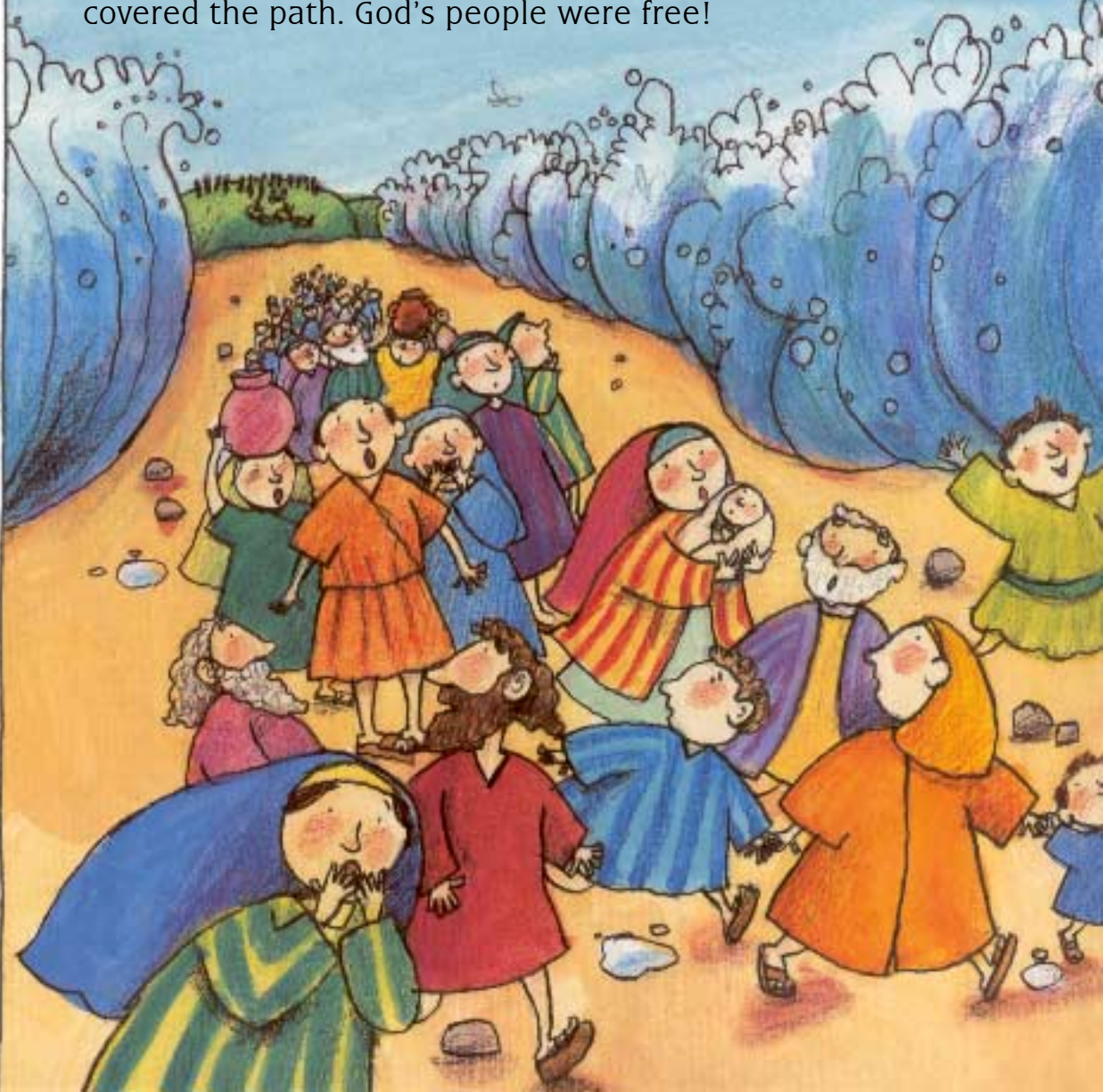
MOSES FROM
EXODUS 3-14

Moses and the Great Escape

The Egyptians made God's people into their slaves. But God had a plan to rescue them. He chose Moses to help.

One night, Moses and God's people escaped into the desert. But they couldn't get away. In front of them was the sea. Behind them were the Egyptians. Moses said, "God will rescue us!"

And God did. He sent a strong wind to blow all night. The wind blew the sea back and made a dry path so God's people could walk across. When the Egyptians tried to follow, the water covered the path. God's people were free!







God is
a friend
who will
never, ever
leave you.



Who is
your best
friend?

RUTH FROM
RUTH 1-4

Ruth and Naomi

Naomi was sad. Her husband and her sons had died. She felt alone and now she wanted to go back home to Bethlehem.

A girl called Ruth lived with Naomi. They were best friends. When Naomi said goodbye, Ruth wept and clung to her. "I'm your friend, and I will never leave you!" Ruth told her. Naomi said that Ruth should go home to her mother and father. But Ruth said "Wherever you go, I want to go. Where you live, I want to live too." So Naomi took Ruth with her to Bethlehem.

In Bethlehem, they worked in a farmer's field. The farmer married Ruth and they had a baby. They were very happy. And so was Naomi.



David and the Giant

One day a scary giant came out to fight. He was Goliath. "Who's brave enough to fight me?" he roared. No one spoke up. God's people were afraid.

David was only a boy, but he wasn't scared. He knew God was stronger than Goliath. "I'll fight you!" David said.

Goliath just laughed a horrible laugh. David flung a small stone with his sling. It hit Goliath between the eyes. Everyone held their breath. Goliath fell to the ground.

God's people cheered. David had defeated the giant—with a small stone and a great God.



With God
on your
side, you
can do
anything!



Goliath
was 9 feet
tall! How
tall are
you?

DAVID AND
GOLIATH FROM
1 SAMUEL 17





God is
strong
enough
to
protect
you!



Have
you ever
seen
a lion?

DANIEL FROM
DANIEL 6

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel loved God. Now God made Daniel very smart. He was so smart he became the king's top helper. The other helpers were jealous, and they made a plan. "Oh King!" they said. "Let's make a law that everyone must pray only to you. If they don't, we will throw them to the lions!" The king liked this new law.

But Daniel still kept on praying only to God. So the helpers told the king. The king was sad. He had to follow his law and so he threw Daniel into the lions' den. But God kept Daniel safe! The king was happy. He freed Daniel and changed his law. "Daniel's God is the real God!" he said. "Pray to his God instead!"



Jonah and the Big Fish

Jonah didn't do what God said. When God said, "Go to Nineveh," Jonah said, "No!" and sailed off somewhere else instead. Then God sent a big storm. The ship started to sink, so the sailors threw everything into the sea.

"The storm is my fault," Jonah said. "Throw me into the sea, and the storm will stop." They threw Jonah in and the storm stopped. Then God sent a big fish to rescue Jonah. It swallowed Jonah and spat him out onto a beach. This time when God said, "Go to Nineveh," Jonah went. The people listened to him, and they learned to do what God said. Just like Jonah.



It's always
better to
do what
God says-
the first
time!



What's
the
biggest
fish
you've
ever seen?

JONAH FROM
JONAH 1-4



Nothing is
impossible
for God!



Jesus' name means "God to the rescue." What does your name mean?

MARY AND
THE ANGEL
FROM LUKE 1

Mary and Gabriel

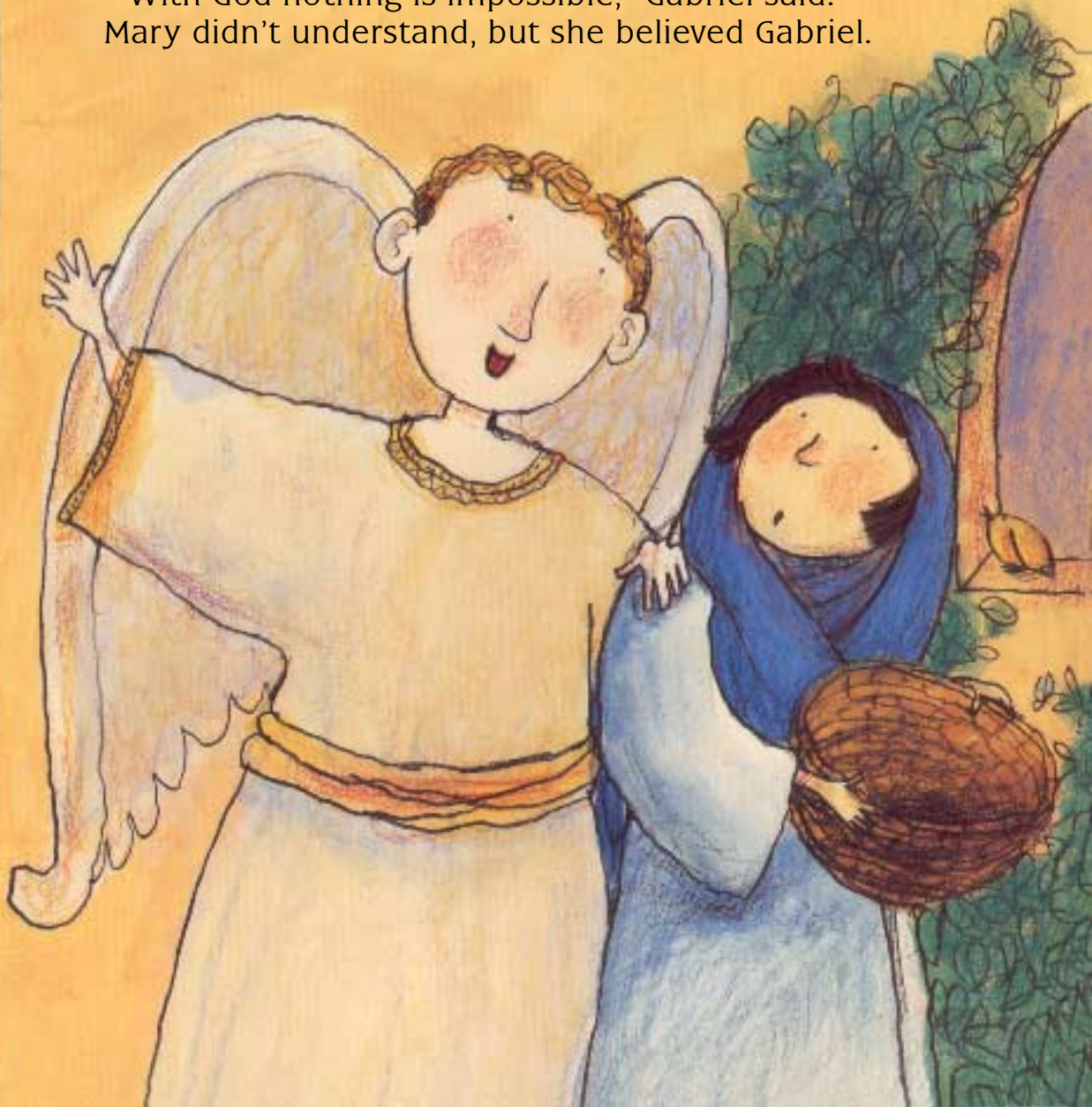
Gabriel was an angel. He had a special job. He took messages from God to people on the earth. One day God sent Gabriel to visit a young girl called Mary.

"Don't be afraid," said Gabriel. "God loves you. He is going to give you a baby. He will be God's Son. You will call him Jesus."

"How can I have a baby?" Mary asked. "I don't have a husband."

"With God nothing is impossible," Gabriel said.

Mary didn't understand, but she believed Gabriel.

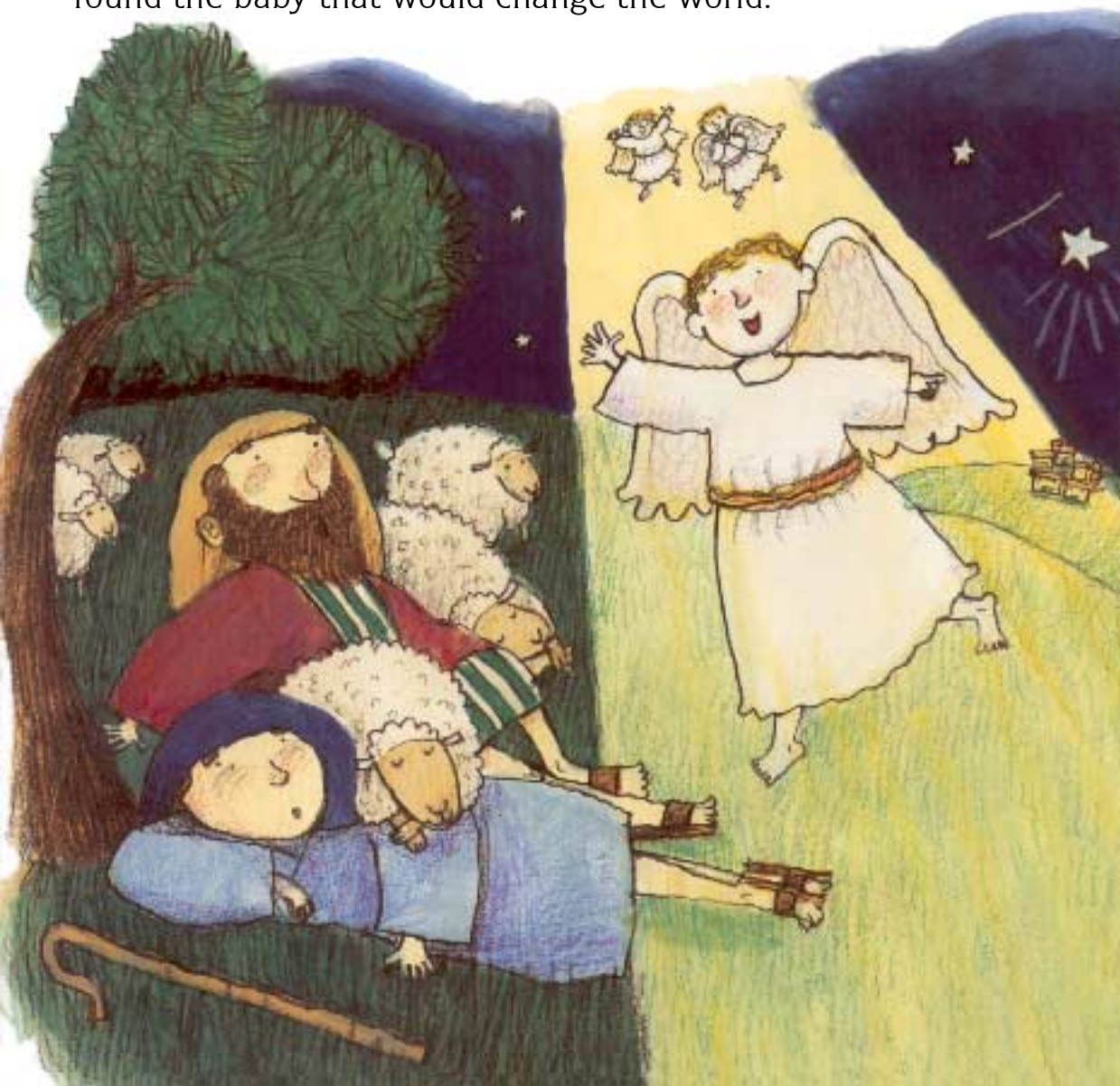


Shepherds and Angels

In the fields near Bethlehem, some shepherds were looking after their sheep. The night was still and dark, and the shepherds were falling asleep. Suddenly a bright light shone on them. They rubbed their eyes—and they saw an angel.

“Don’t be frightened,” the angel said. “I’ve got good news for everyone! God’s Son has been born tonight! You will find him in a manger.” Then the sky filled with angels, singing to God.

The shepherds ran all the way to a small stable. There they found the baby that would change the world.



Jesus
is God's
good news!
He came to
show us
that God
loves us.



What
song can
you sing
to God?

THE SHEPHERDS
AND THE ANGELS
FROM LUKE 2



God
gives us
everything
we need-
just in
time!



Do you
remember
being a
little baby?

The First Christmas

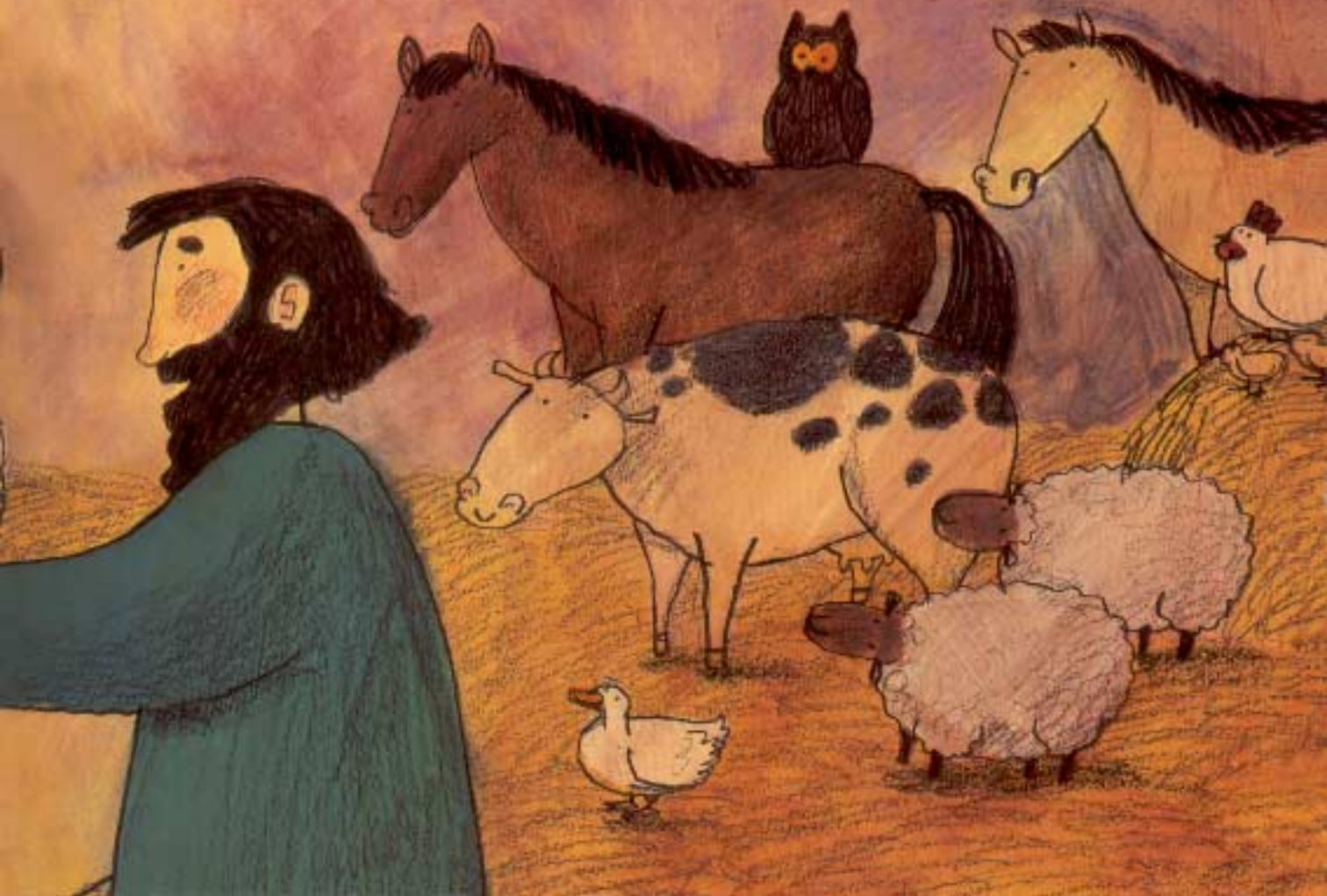
Mary and Joseph loved each other and they got married. One day they had to go on a long trip to Bethlehem.

When they came to Bethlehem, they were tired and it was getting late. Soon Mary would have her baby. But they couldn't find anywhere to stay. All the rooms were taken and all the beds were full. People were even sleeping on roofs and floors!



A kind innkeeper said they could sleep in his stable. It didn't have any beds, but it was warm and dry.

That night God sent a special star to light up the night sky. And there, in the stable, as the gentle animals watched, a little baby was born to Mary. And they named him Jesus. He was God's Son. It was just as the angel Gabriel had said.





Jesus can
do things
we can't!



What are
you good
at doing?

JESUS AND
HIS FRIENDS
FROM LUKE 5

Peter the Fisherman

Peter was washing his nets when Jesus said, "Let's go fishing!" Now, Peter was good at fishing. But he'd been fishing all night—and caught nothing. But because Jesus asked him to go, he went.

This time, Peter and his friends caught so many fish that their nets started to break. Another boat came to help. Peter and his friends filled both boats so full of fish that the boats started to sink. Peter was afraid. He had never seen anything like this.

"Don't be afraid," Jesus said. "Come and follow me!" Peter and his friends left everything and followed Jesus.



Walking on Water

One day Jesus' friends were sailing across a lake. Suddenly a big storm came. Everyone got scared. Then they saw a man walking—on top of the lake! Then they got really scared. "It's a ghost!" they cried. But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid! It's me."

"Lord, is it you?" Peter asked. "Can I walk on the water, too?"

"Come on," Jesus said. So Peter climbed out of the boat and walked to Jesus—on top of the water! Then Peter looked down at the big waves. He got scared and started sinking. "Help!" he cried.

Jesus caught him. "Peter," he said. "Why were you scared?"



**Jesus is
stronger
than
whatever
scares us!**



What do
you get
scared of?

JESUS WALKS
ON WATER FROM
MATTHEW 14



When you
give God
what you
have,
however
small, it's
always
enough!



What do
you like to
eat at a
picnic?

JESUS FEEDS 5,000
FROM LUKE 9
AND JOHN 6

The Big Picnic

Jesus was talking to a huge crowd of people. It was nearly dinner time. Jesus' friends asked him to send everyone home. "We don't have enough money to buy dinner for everyone!" they said.

Jesus said, "They don't need to go." Just then, a little boy came forward and gave Jesus his picnic lunch—five loaves and two fish.

"It's not enough!" Jesus' friends said.

But Jesus knew it was enough. He took the boy's lunch and thanked God. Jesus' friends gave food to the people. Everyone ate until they were full. There was even food left over—12 basketfuls!



The Man Who Couldn't Walk

Jesus could do things no one else could do—like turn water into wine, or make blind people see. People came to Jesus for help.

One time, four men carried their friend to Jesus. Their friend couldn't walk, and they wanted Jesus to make him better. They couldn't get into the house where Jesus was because it was full of people. So they climbed onto the roof and made a hole in it. They lowered their friend down through the roof, right in front of Jesus.

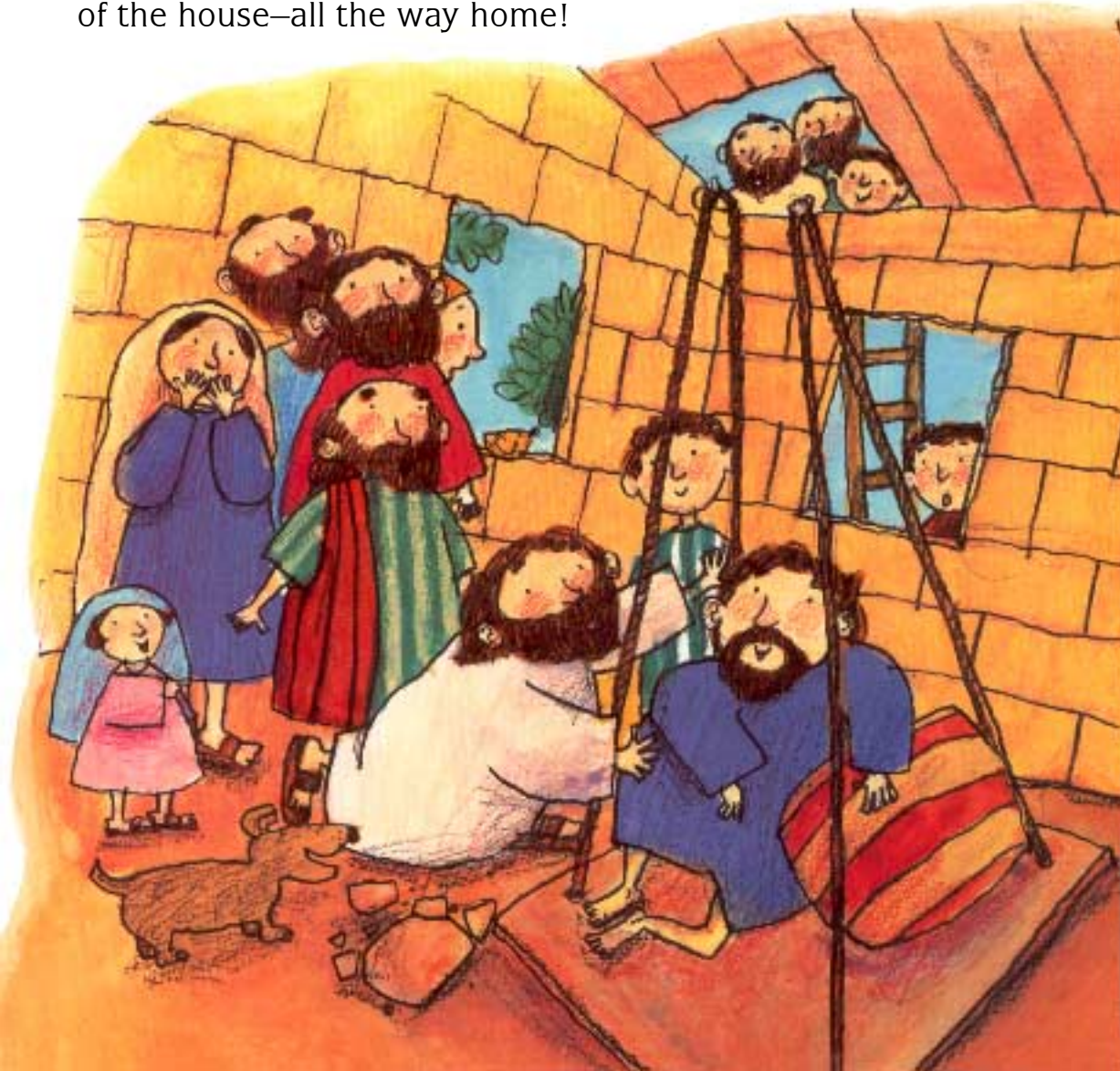
Jesus saw the man and said, "You can get up and walk!" The man believed Jesus, and immediately he got up and walked out of the house—all the way home!



We can
come to
Jesus for
help, too!



Is there
anything
you'd like
help with?



JESUS HEALS
A MAN FROM
MARK 2
AND LUKE 5



God
loves you
more
than you
can
imagine!



What's
the best
party
you've
ever had?

THE STORY
OF THE LOST SON
FROM LUKE 15

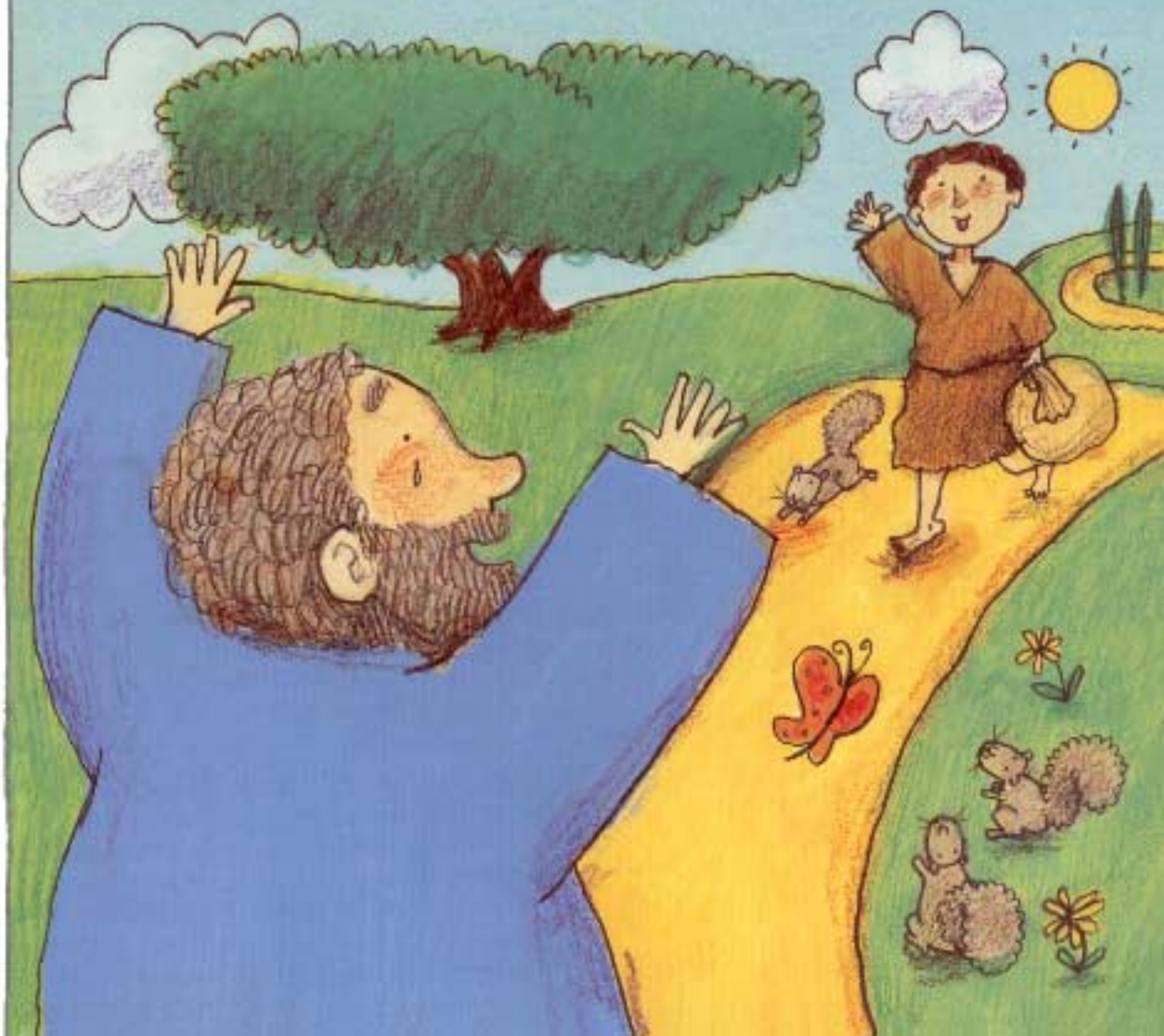
The Lost Son

Jesus liked telling stories with special meanings—like the one about a loving father and his son. One day the son said, “Give me my share of money.” So the father gave his son what he wanted.

The son took the money and traveled far away. He was happy. He could do whatever he wanted. But he wasted all the money and had to get a job feeding pigs. “What am I doing?” he thought. “I’ll go home!” But what if his father had stopped loving him?

The father saw his son coming and ran out to him. He hugged and kissed him. “Let’s have a party!” the father said.

Jesus said God is like the father. He won’t ever stop loving us.



God's Wonderful Surprise!

Jesus knew that not everyone liked him. The leaders were jealous of him. Some were so angry they wanted to kill him. They didn't believe that he was God's Son. So they killed Jesus on a cross and put his body into a tomb. They rolled a huge stone in front of it.

Jesus' friends were very sad. But God had a wonderful surprise for them! First he sent an earthquake. Then he sent an angel to roll the huge stone away.

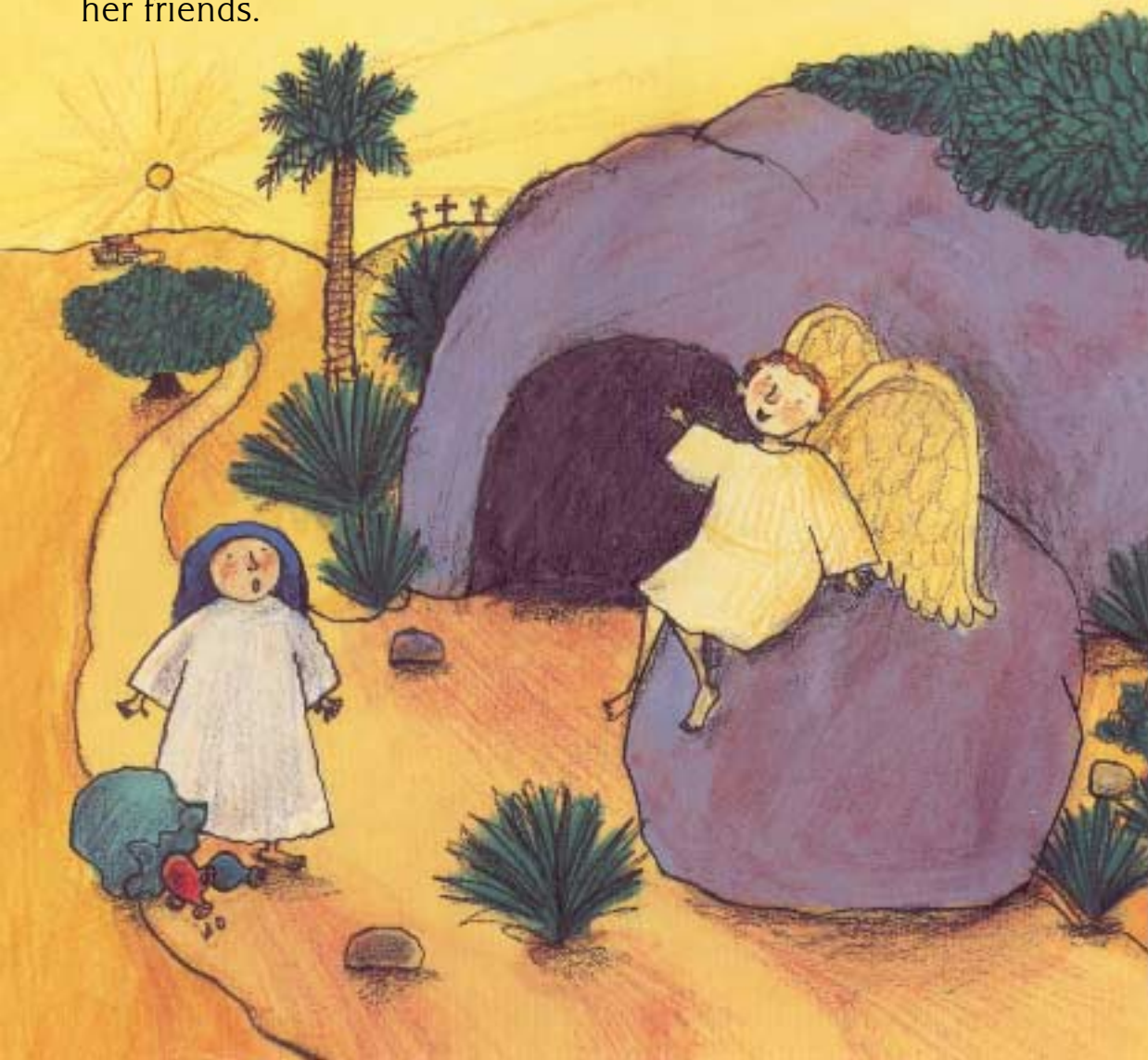
When Jesus' friend, Mary, came to the tomb, she found an angel there. "Jesus isn't here!" the angel said. "He's alive again!" Mary wasn't sad anymore. Jesus was not dead! She ran to tell her friends.



Jesus
is
alive!



What's
the best
surprise
you've
ever had?



THE RESURRECTION
FROM
MATTHEW 27-28
AND JOHN 19-20



If you ask
him, Jesus
will be
your best
friend,
too!



Can you
make
breakfast
for
someone
you love?

JESUS PREPARES
BREAKFAST FROM
JOHN 21 AND
MATTHEW 28

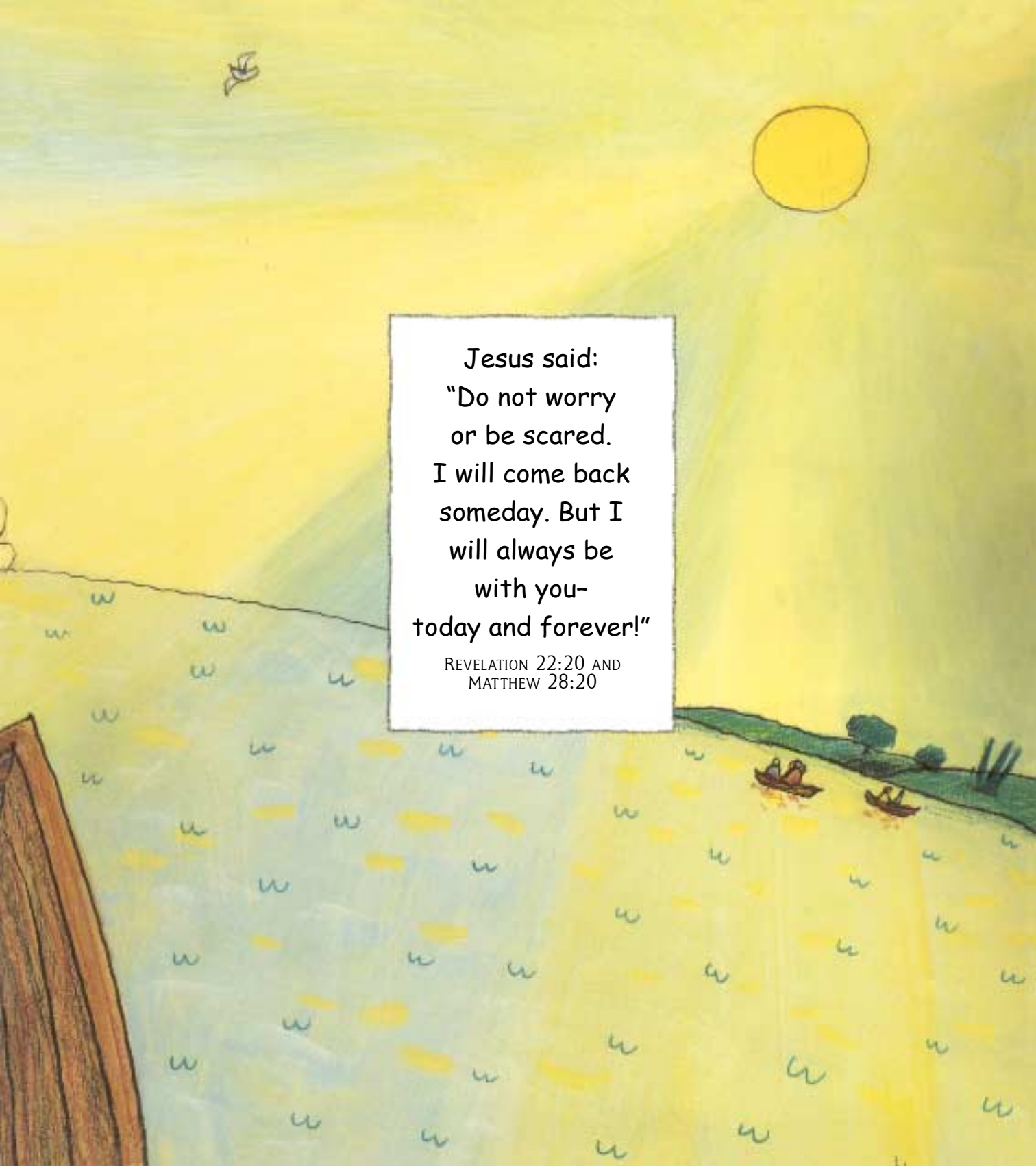
Breakfast on the Beach

One night, Jesus' friends went fishing but they caught nothing. A man called out from the shore, "Friends, try again!" That time they caught more fish than they could pull in. They remembered another fishing trip. Suddenly they knew who was on the shore. It was Jesus! He was alive! Peter leaped out of the boat and swam to shore.

Jesus cooked fish on a campfire. "Breakfast time!" he said. They were so happy to be with their best friend again.

Later Jesus went back to heaven and his friends didn't see him anymore. But they always remembered what Jesus said.





Jesus said:
"Do not worry
or be scared.
I will come back
someday. But I
will always be
with you-
today and forever!"

REVELATION 22:20 AND
MATTHEW 28:20