

The Story Bible



130 Stories of God's Love

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Editors

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The Story of Creation

The Bible begins with God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. It tells the true story of how God made all things. He filled the world with perfect and good things. He made the world for you.

I wonder . . . how will God make all things? How will He give us life?

God Creates the World *part 1*

Genesis 1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form. It was empty. Darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. God saw that the light was good. God separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light Day. He called the darkness Night. And there was evening and there was morning. It was the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a big space between the waters. Let it separate the waters above from the waters below.” And it was so. God called the open space Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning. It was the second day.

creates

empty

hovering

separated



Ask

Who created Day and Night, the Heaven, the Seas, the Earth, and all kinds of plants and trees with seeds? What did God do to create things?

Do

Roll a ball or toss a beanbag with a partner. As you do so, name something God created that has seeds.

Together say, "I praise You, O God!"

Pray

Dear God, through the power of Your word, You created such a beautiful world. Thank You for it! Amen.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place. Let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth. The waters that were gathered together He called Seas. God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth plants that make seeds. Let the earth bring forth fruit trees that give fruit in which is their seed. Let each make seeds according to its kind on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth plants making seeds according to their own kinds. The earth brought forth trees giving fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning. It was the third day. ❀

God Creates the World *part 2*

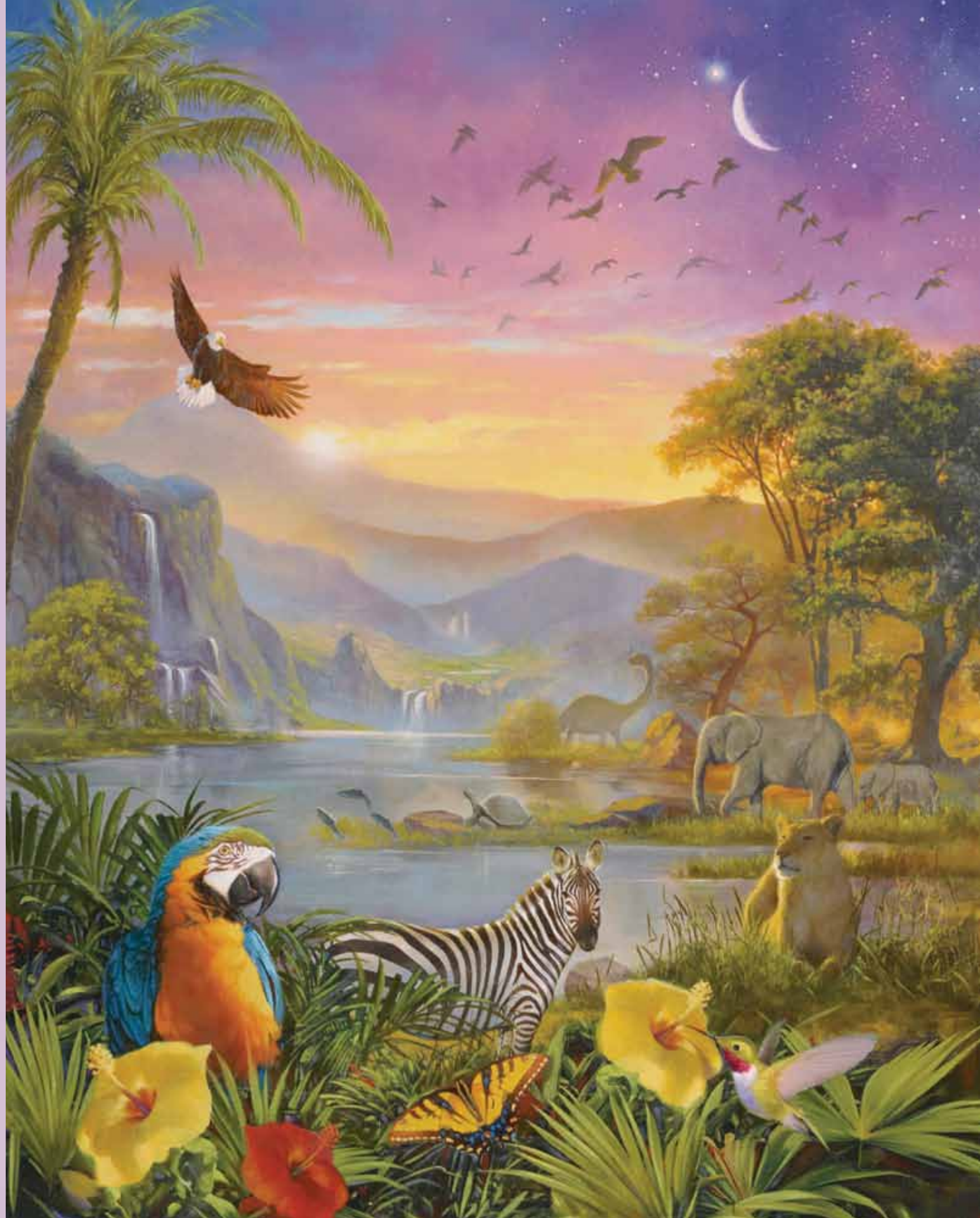
Genesis 1-2

God said, "Let there be lights in the heavens to separate the day from the night. Let them be for signs and for seasons. Let them be for days and years. Let them give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights and the stars. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning. It was the fourth day.

God said, "Let the waters swarm with living creatures. Let birds fly in the heavens." So God created the sea creatures and every living creature in the water. He created every bird. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them. He said, "Fill the waters in the seas. Let the birds fill the earth." And there was evening and there was morning. It was the fifth day.

swarm
image





God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds.” And it was so. God made the animals. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. Let them rule over the fish and the birds and over the animals.”

So God created man in His own image. Male and female He created them.

God blessed them. He said, “Fill the earth. Rule over every living thing.” God said, “I have given you every plant and every tree for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that He had made. It was very good. And there was evening and there was morning. It was the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished. Everything that filled them was finished. On the seventh day God finished His work and rested. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. ❀



Ask

What lights did God make?
What did God put in the water and in the sky?
What did God do when He was finished?

Do

Pretend to be twinkly stars.
Quickly open and close your hands and eyes.
Pretend to be fish and birds.
Swim with your arms, then flap them as wings.
Pretend to be land animals.
Hop, jump, crawl, wiggle, or walk.
Then sit down and rest.

Pray

Dear God,
I believe that You made the heavens and the earth.
I praise You for these good gifts.
Amen.

God Creates Adam and Eve

Genesis 2

God formed the man of dust from the ground. He breathed into him the breath of life. Man became a living being.

God planted a garden in Eden. He put the man there. God made every tree pleasant and good for food. The tree of life was in the middle of the garden. So was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden.

God put man in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. God told him, "You may eat of every tree of the garden. But do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you shall surely die."

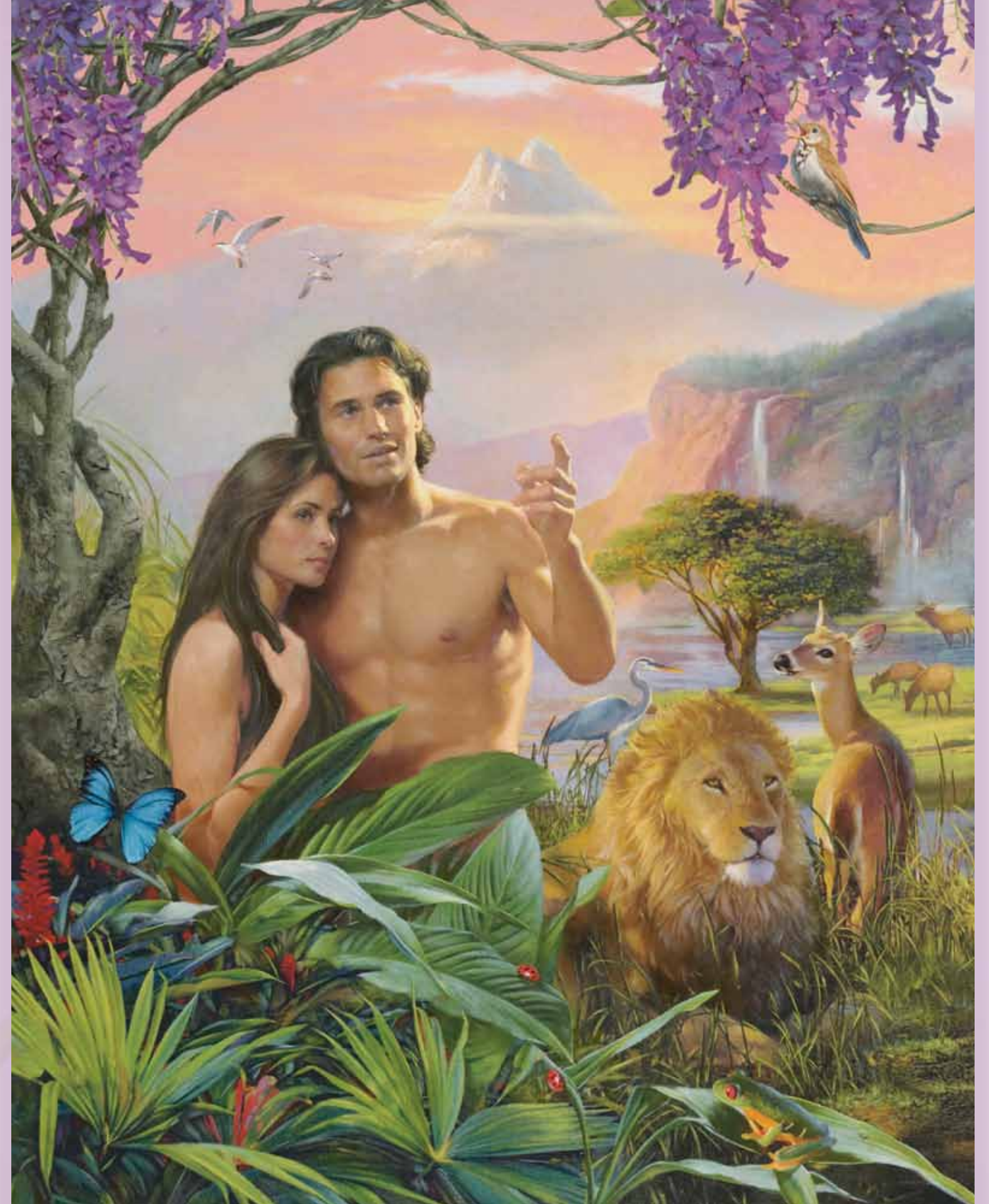
Then God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make a helper for him." God had formed out of the ground every animal and every bird. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them. The man gave names to all the animals and birds.

pleasant

tree of life

tree of the
knowledge of
good and evil

ashamed



Ask

What special job did God give to Adam?
How did God make Eve?

Do

God formed Adam from the dust of the ground. Use play dough to make some creatures. Can you make your creatures come alive? No. God is the one who gives life.

Pray

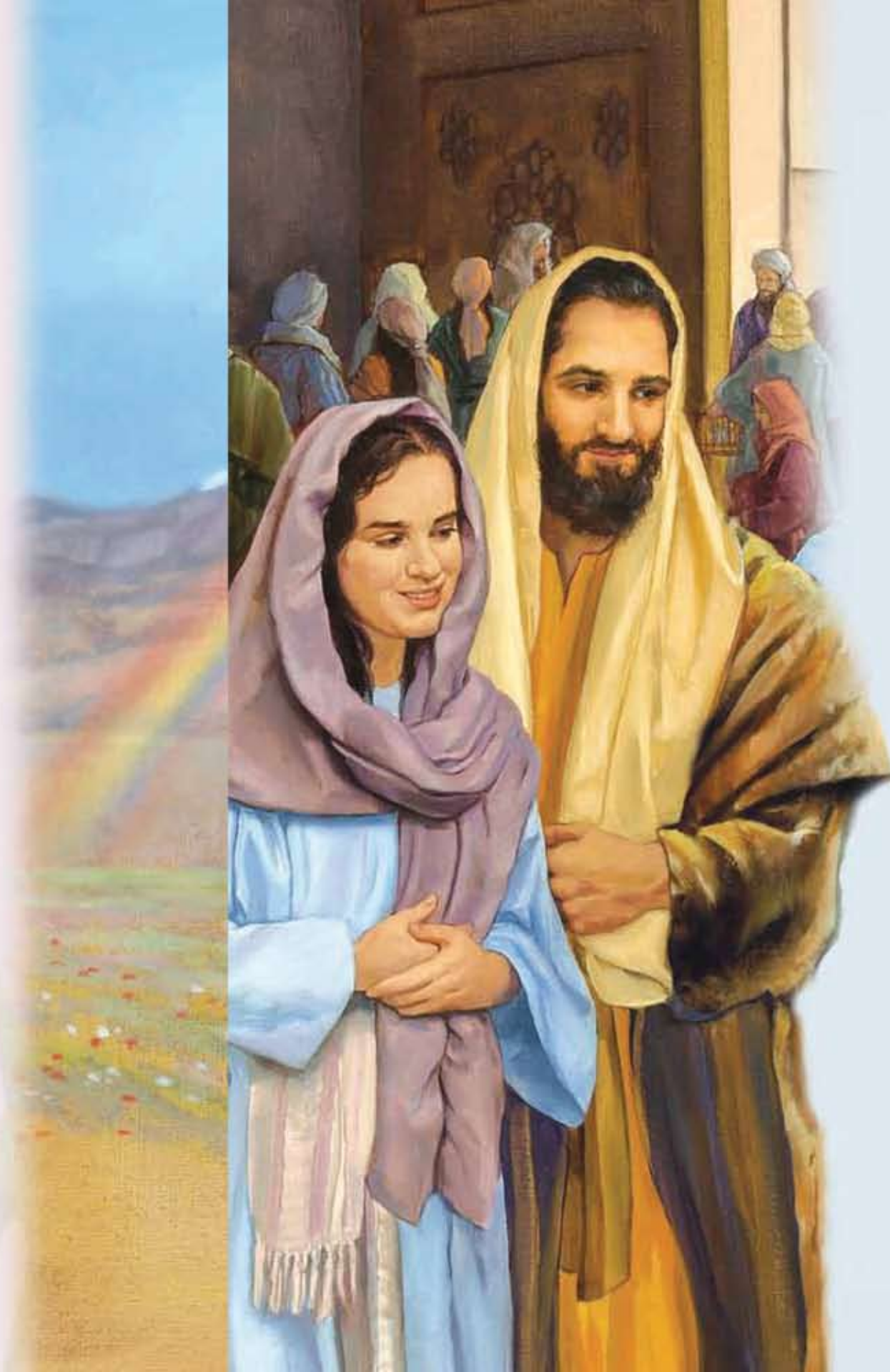
Dear God, take care of me and all creation through Your love. Thank You for the love of Jesus, my Savior. Amen.



But there was no helper for Adam. So God caused a deep sleep to come upon the man. While he slept, God took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. God used the rib He had taken from the man to make a woman. Then God brought her to the man. Then the man said,

“At last, this is bone of my bones. This is flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman.”

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother. He shall hold on to his wife. They shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked. But they were not ashamed. ❖



The Christmas Story



For many years God promised a Savior. He gave this promise through many prophets. Then the time came for God to fulfill His promise. It was just the right time.

This is Joseph and Mary. They know the Savior is coming. They know He will be great. But they do not know how He will come, how He will appear. Do you know how the Savior will appear? That's the next part of the story. I wonder . . . what will God do?



The Birth of John Foretold

Luke 1

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God. They kept all the commandments of the Lord. But they had no child. For they were both old.

Now Zechariah was serving as priest before God. He was chosen to enter the temple of the Lord. There he burned incense. A large group of people were praying outside. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord. The angel stood on the right side of the altar. And Zechariah was afraid when he saw him.

But the angel said, “Do not be afraid. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son. You shall call his name *John*. And you will have joy. For he will be great before the Lord. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.”



incense
appeared
vision
signs
conceived

Ask

Who surprised Zechariah in the temple?
What good news did he tell Zechariah?
What happened to Zechariah?

Do

Try using your hands to talk. Give someone a message using signs.
How would you say, "I saw an angel"?

Pray

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your angel to Zechariah with good news. Help me believe the Good News that Jesus is my Savior. Amen.

Zechariah said, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man. My wife is old too."

And the angel said, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God. I bring you this good news. And behold, you will not be able to speak until the day that these things take place. For you did not believe my words."

The people were waiting for Zechariah. They were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was not able to speak to them. And they knew that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them. For he could not talk.

And when his time of service was ended, he went home.

Soon Elizabeth conceived. She said, "The Lord has done this for me." ★



The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1

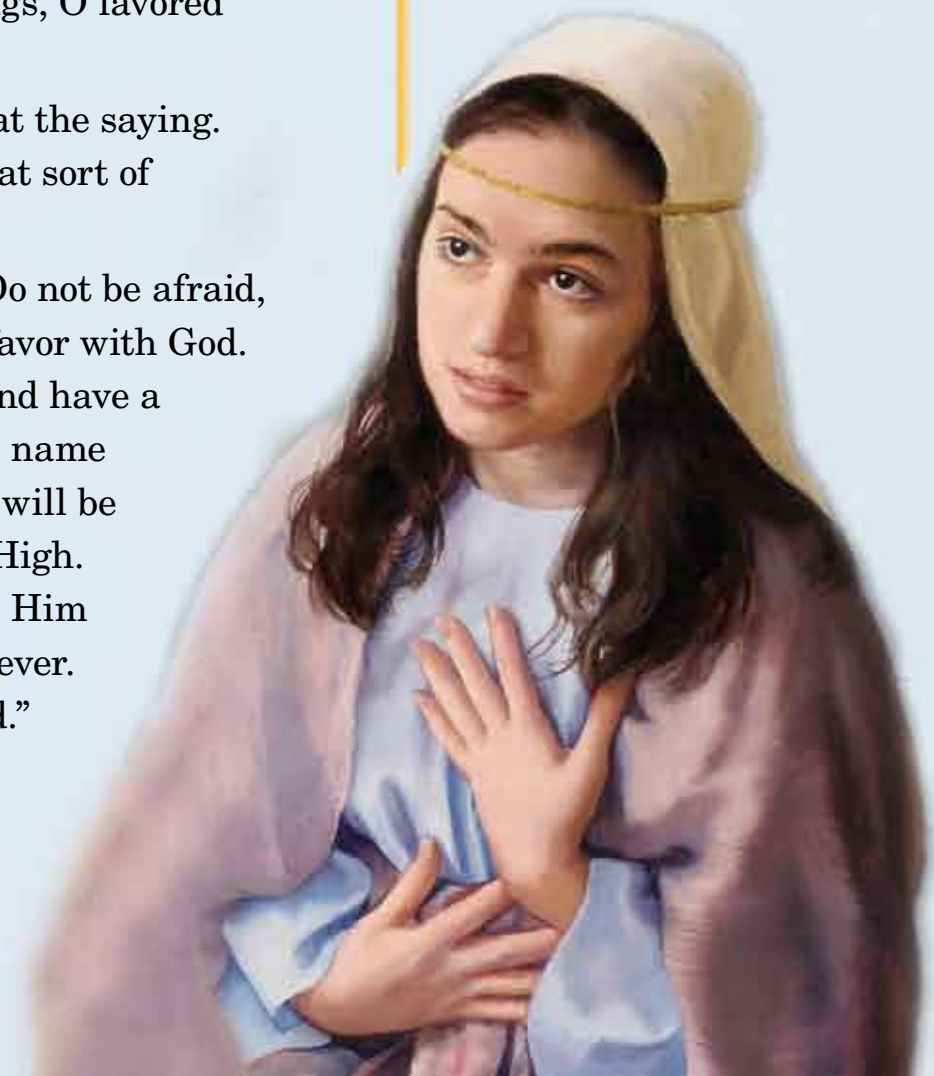
The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee. The city was named Nazareth. Gabriel came to a virgin. She was promised to marry a man whose name was Joseph. He was of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The angel said, "Greetings, O favored one. The Lord is with you!"

But Mary was troubled at the saying. She did not understand what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. For you have found favor with God. Behold! You will conceive and have a Son. And you shall call His name *Jesus*. He will be great. He will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give Him the throne. He will rule forever. His kingdom will never end."

virgin
favored
conceive



The Lord's Supper

Luke 21-22

Every day, Jesus was teaching in the temple. But at night He stayed on the mount called Olivet. Then early in the morning all the people came to Jesus in the temple to hear Him.

Now the feast drew near. It is called the Passover.

The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put Jesus to death. Judas went to the chief priests and officers. Judas told them he would betray Jesus to them. And they were glad. They agreed to give Judas money.

Then came the day on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us. Then we may eat it."

Then the hour of the feast came. Jesus reclined at table. The apostles were with Him. He said to them, "I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

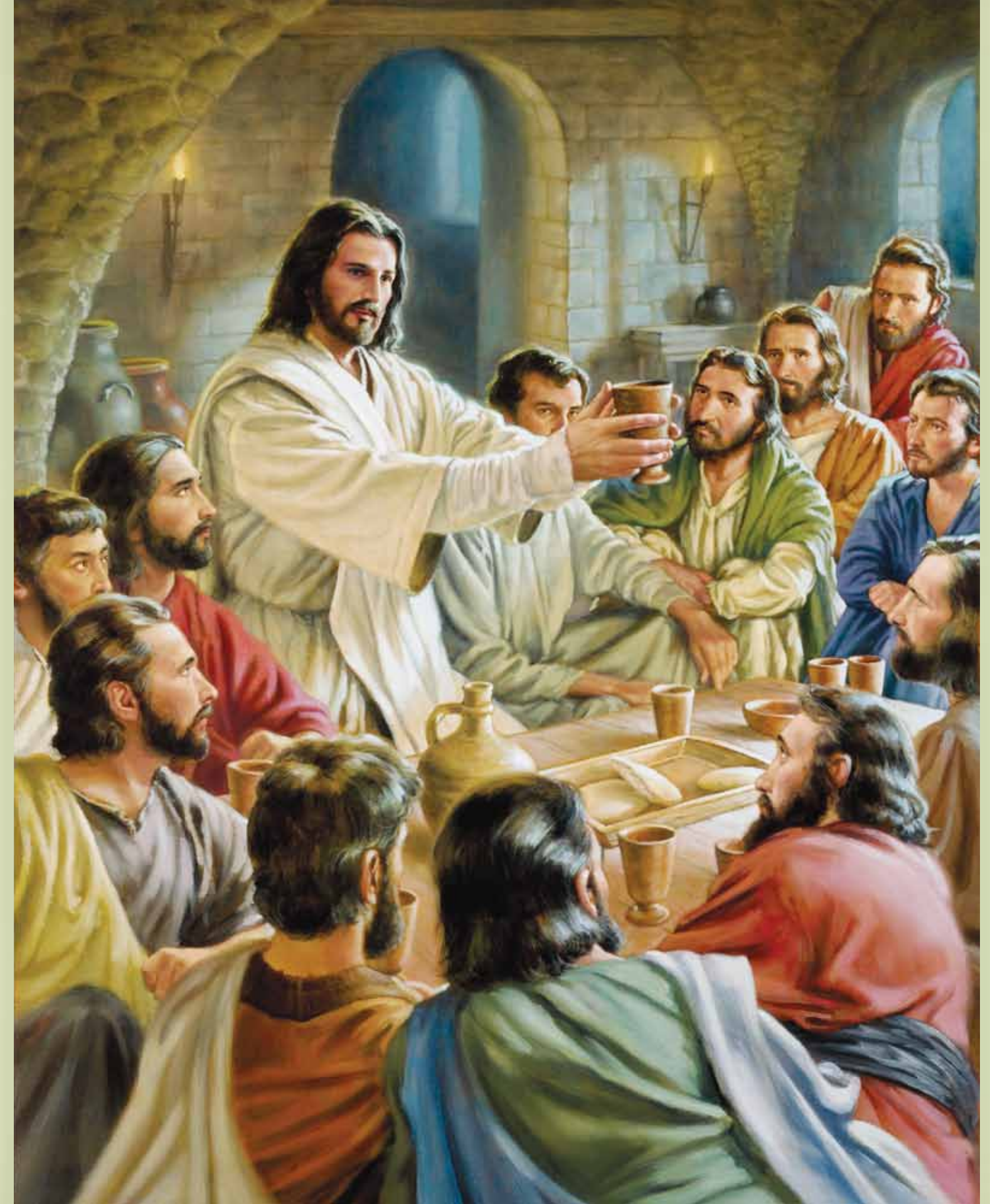
Passover

betray

reclined at table

remembrance

covenant



Ask

Look at the story picture. What are Jesus and His disciples doing?

What is Jesus saying?

Who will eat the bread and drink the wine?

Do

Ask a parent to help you make unleavened bread. Unleavened bread is similar to the bread Jesus gave His friends and to the bread we use in Holy Communion.

Pray

Dear Jesus, help me to remember always that You died on the cross for me. Amen.

Jesus took bread. When He had given thanks, He broke it. He gave it to them. And He said, "This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

And likewise He took the cup after they had eaten. He said, "This cup is poured out for you. It is the new covenant in My blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays Me is with Me on the table."

And the disciples began to question one another. They wondered which of them it could be. ✠



Peter Denies Jesus

Mark 14

After supper, the disciples sang a hymn. Then they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus said, "You will all fall away. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

Peter said to Him, "They may all fall away. But I will not."

And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, it will happen this very night. Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

They went to a place called Gethsemane. And Jesus said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

Late at night, Judas came. With him came a crowd with swords and clubs. Now Judas had given a sign. He said, "The one I will kiss is the man. Catch Him."

Judas went up to Jesus at once. He said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed Him. And they laid hands on Jesus and took Him. And all the disciples left Jesus and ran away.

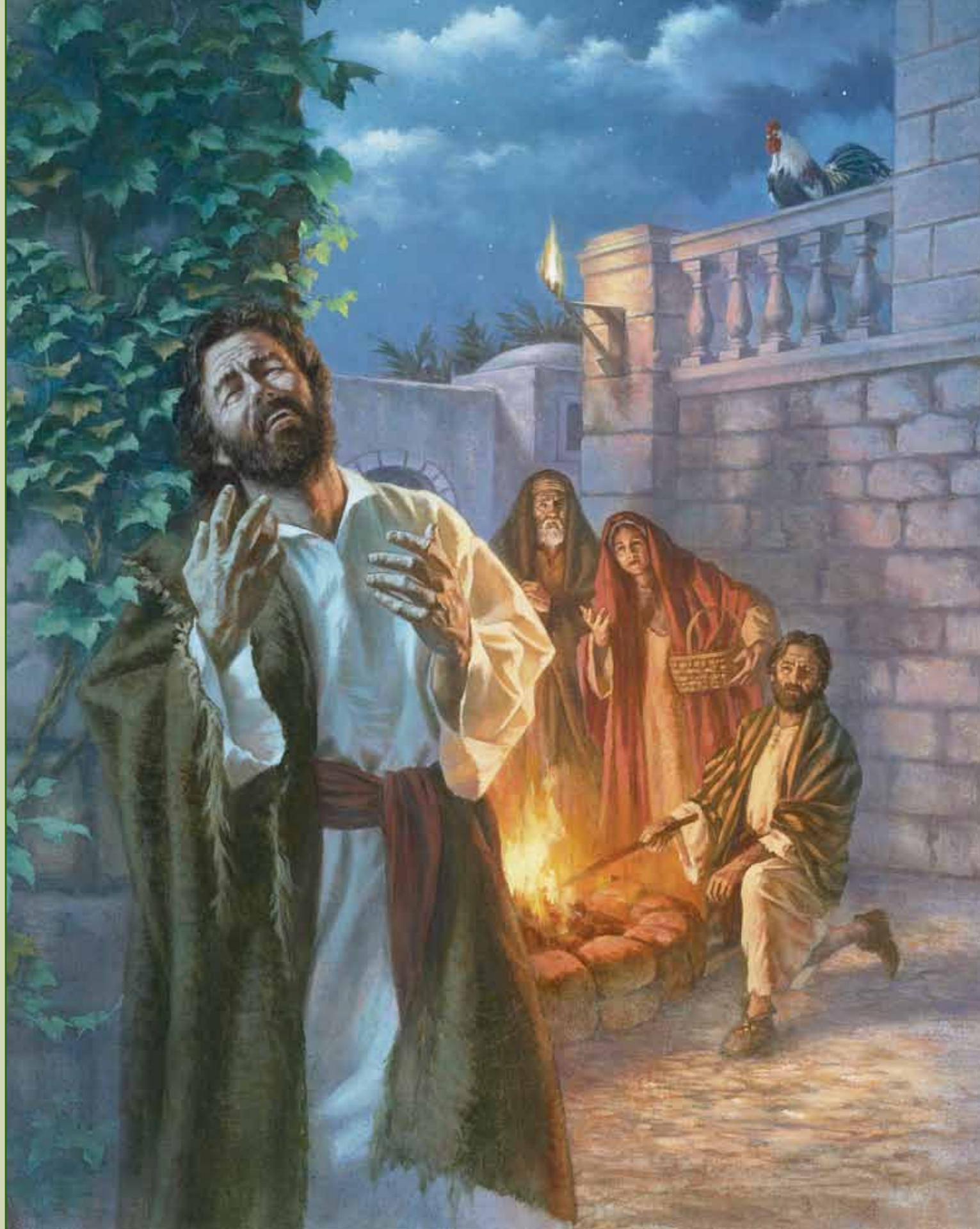
hymn

Rabbi

condemned

Galilean





The crowd led Jesus to the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. He went right into the courtyard of the high priest.

Some people told lies about Jesus. But Jesus remained silent. He made no answer.

The high priest asked Him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”

Then Jesus said, “I am.”

And they all condemned Him to death.

Peter was below in the courtyard. One of the servant girls saw Peter warming himself. She said, “You were with Jesus.”

But he denied it. “I don’t know what you mean,” Peter said. And he went out into the gateway. And the rooster crowed.

Then the servant girl said to others, “This man is one of them.”

But again Peter denied it.

Later, others again said to Peter, “You are one of them. For you are a Galilean.”

But Peter began to swear, “I do not know this man.” And immediately the rooster crowed a second time.

Peter remembered. Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” And Peter wept. ✙

Ask

What did the people ask Peter? Did Peter tell the truth?

Do

Learn to make the sign of the cross.

Crosses remind us that Jesus forgives us.

Remember, Jesus is ready to forgive us when we do not tell the truth.

Pray

Dear Jesus,
sometimes I
am afraid too.
Sometimes I do
not tell the truth.
Please forgive me.
Thank You for
loving me.
Amen.

The Passion of Christ

Matthew 27

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made plans against Jesus. They wanted to put Him to death. So they bound Him. They led Jesus away to Pilate the governor.

Now Jesus stood before the governor. The governor asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jesus said, "You have said so." But He gave him no other answer. So the governor was greatly amazed.

At the feast the governor often released a prisoner whom the crowd wanted. The governor had a prisoner called Barabbas. He had killed people. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus?"

They said, "Barabbas."

Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus?"



Ask

What did the people want Pilate to do to Jesus?

For whom did Jesus die on the cross?

Do

Count the crosses in your home.

Each time you find one, say, "Jesus died for me."

Pray

Dear Jesus,
I am sad when I see pictures that show how people were mean to You. Thank You, Jesus, for suffering and dying on the cross to take away my sins and give me a home in heaven. Amen.

They all said, "Let Him be crucified!"

And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?"

But they shouted all the more, "Let Him be crucified!"

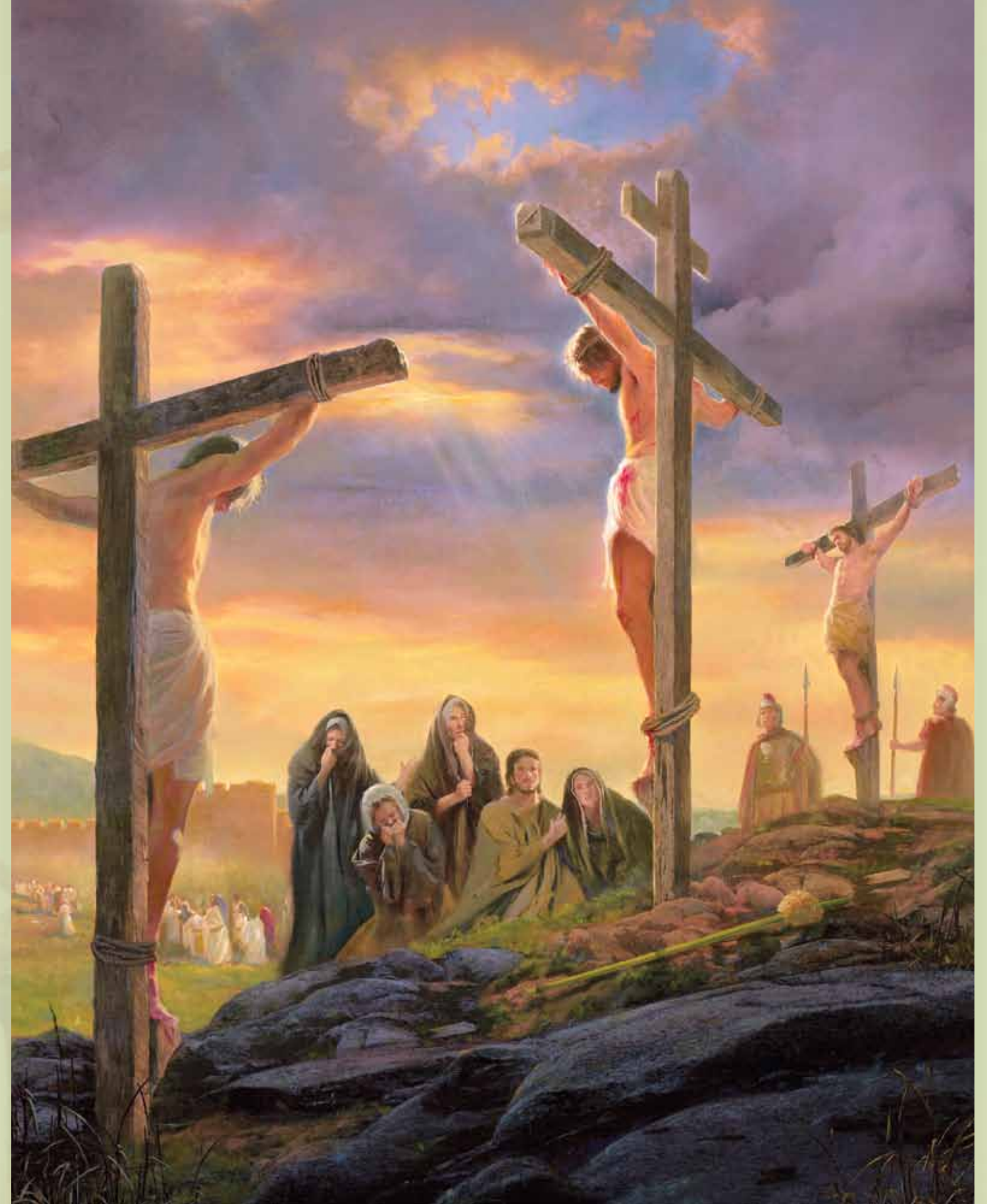
So Pilate took water and washed his hands before the crowd. He said, "I am innocent of this man's blood. See to it yourselves."

And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

Then Pilate released Barabbas.

The soldiers of the governor took Jesus. They stripped Him. They put a red robe on Him. They twisted a crown of thorns. They put it on His head and put a reed in His right hand. And kneeling before Him, they mocked Him. They said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on Him and struck Him on the head.

Then the soldiers led Jesus away to crucify Him. ✙



Jesus Dies and Lives Again

Luke 23–24

The soldiers led Jesus away. They seized Simon of Cyrene and laid the cross on him. He carried it behind Jesus.

Two criminals were led away to be put to death with Jesus. They came to the place that is called The Skull.

There they crucified Jesus and the criminals. One was on His right, and one was on His left.

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. For they do not know what they do.”

The people stood by, watching. But the rulers and the soldiers mocked Jesus.

One of the criminals said to Jesus, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!”

But the other said, “Do you not fear God? This man has done nothing wrong.”



Ask

Where are the women in the picture? What are the angels saying to the women? Where is Jesus?

Do

Blow Easter bubbles. What's inside the bubble? Pop one and find out. The bubbles are empty. The tomb was empty too.

Pray

Dear Jesus, You can do anything! You even can come back to life! Thank You for dying to pay for my sins. Thank You for making it possible for me to live forever in heaven with You. Amen.



And he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

And Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

There was darkness over the whole land. Then Jesus called out with a loud voice. He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!" And He breathed His last.

Now there was a man named Joseph. He took down Jesus' body. He wrapped it. And he laid Jesus in a tomb cut in stone. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed. They saw the tomb.

On the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

But when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Then, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.

The men said to the women, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?

Jesus is not here. He has risen!" ✠



Jesus Rises from the Grave

Jesus suffered under Pilate. Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. But on the third day He rose again from the dead!

The disciples were afraid. They did not want Jesus to die. They did not understand that He would rise again. I wonder . . . how will Jesus teach them? How will they see that Jesus is alive?

