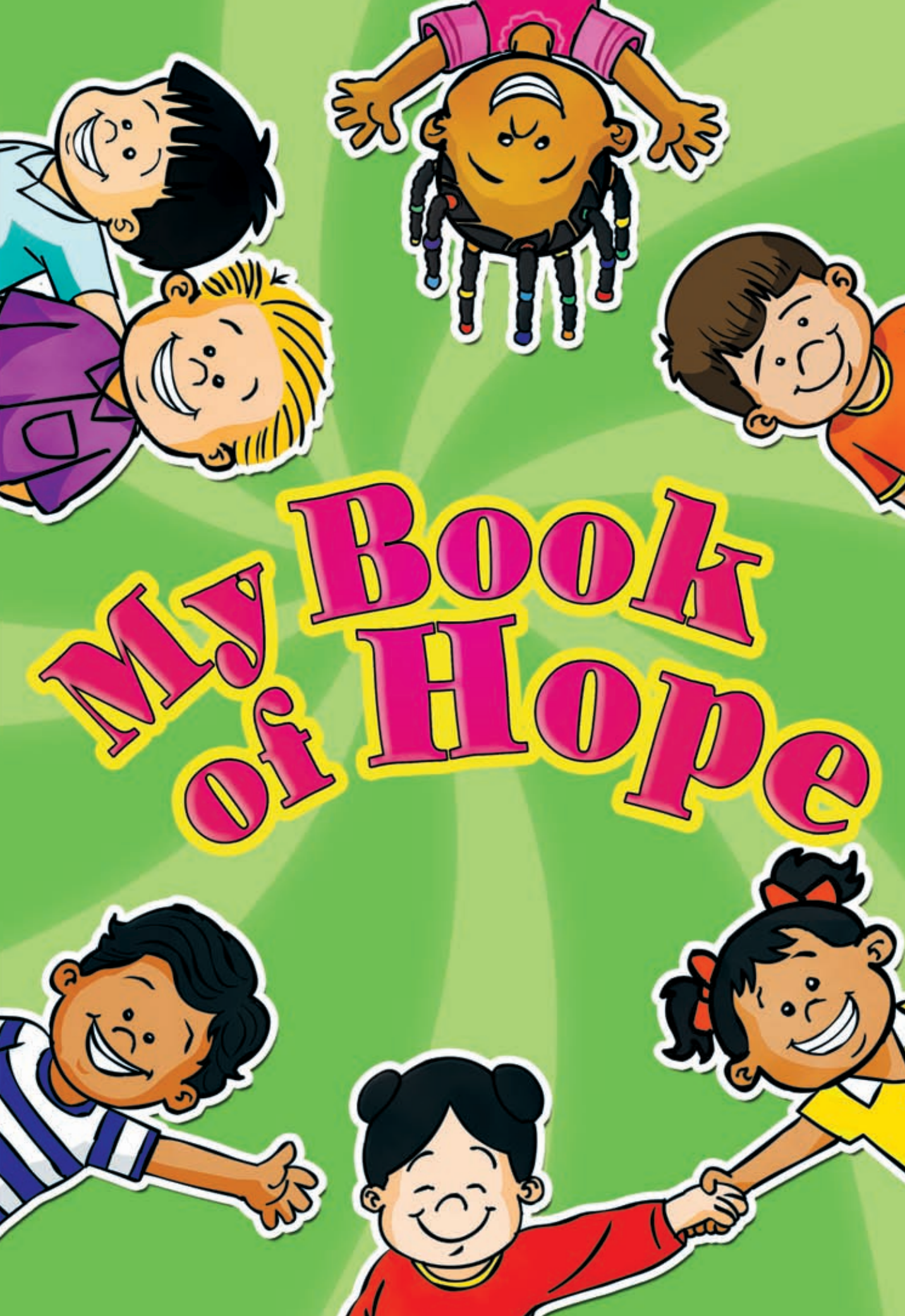




My Book of Hope

This book belongs to:

Name



Draw a picture of yourself in the mirror.

Some of the words in the **BOOK OF HOPE** are from another book called the **BIBLE**. These words from the **BIBLE** have a name and a number next to them. The name and number are like an address. They tell you where you can find the same words in the **BIBLE**. Each 'address' is written in **blue**.

There are words written in **green** on some pages. Try to find each one. Then look for the special box that tells what that word means.



My Book of Hope

A book just for me!

This is my very own **BOOK OF HOPE**. It is a story about me and the God who made me. It is also a story about His love for me and for all the people of the earth.

My **BOOK OF HOPE** tells me about God's Son, Jesus. Jesus can do anything. Yes, anything that is good! He can heal people that are sick. He can feed people who are hungry. Jesus can even keep me safe in a storm.

Most of all, Jesus teaches me how to know God. He teaches me some very important lessons that every child should know. Look! Some of the things I can learn from Jesus are written on my balloons:



SELF-RESPECT: loving yourself because God made you special.

SELF-CONTROL: doing the right thing, even when you do not want to.

In the very beginning, **God made the earth and everything in it.** He made the sky, the land and the oceans. God filled the land with plants and trees.

He made the sun, the moon and the stars. Then He hung them in the sky to shine.

God made the world and



Next, God made fish to swim in the sea. He made big fish and little fish. He made funny fish and pretty fish.

God made animals of all kinds. Some He made soft with fur. Others He made big and strong. Some He made very long!¹

How many animals in the picture can you name? What sounds do they make? How many fish can you find?

God looked at everything He had made and it was good. 'But now for the most important part,' He said with a smile.

Take a close look at the picture. What do you think is missing? What do you think God made next?

everything in it.'
Acts 17:24



People. God made people!

God made the first man and the first woman. He called the man Adam. The woman's name was Eve.



God put them in a beautiful garden. He showed them all that He had made. God said, 'Take good care of it!'



Look at the box below. Circle the things that God made when He **created** the world.



People are the most special part of everything God made. Do you know why? It is because we can talk to God. He loves us and we can love Him too.

Every day God came to the garden to walk with Adam and Eve. He loved them so much that He gave them a rule to keep them safe. What was that rule?



God told them that one tree in the garden was **forbidden**. He said, 'Do not eat the fruit from that tree. If you do, you will die.'

Adam and Eve loved God. They thought, 'That isn't hard! We will never disobey God.'²

CREATED: to make something out of nothing at all. This is something only God can do.

FORBIDDEN: not allowed; against the rules.



'God created each of us.'

Malachi 2:10



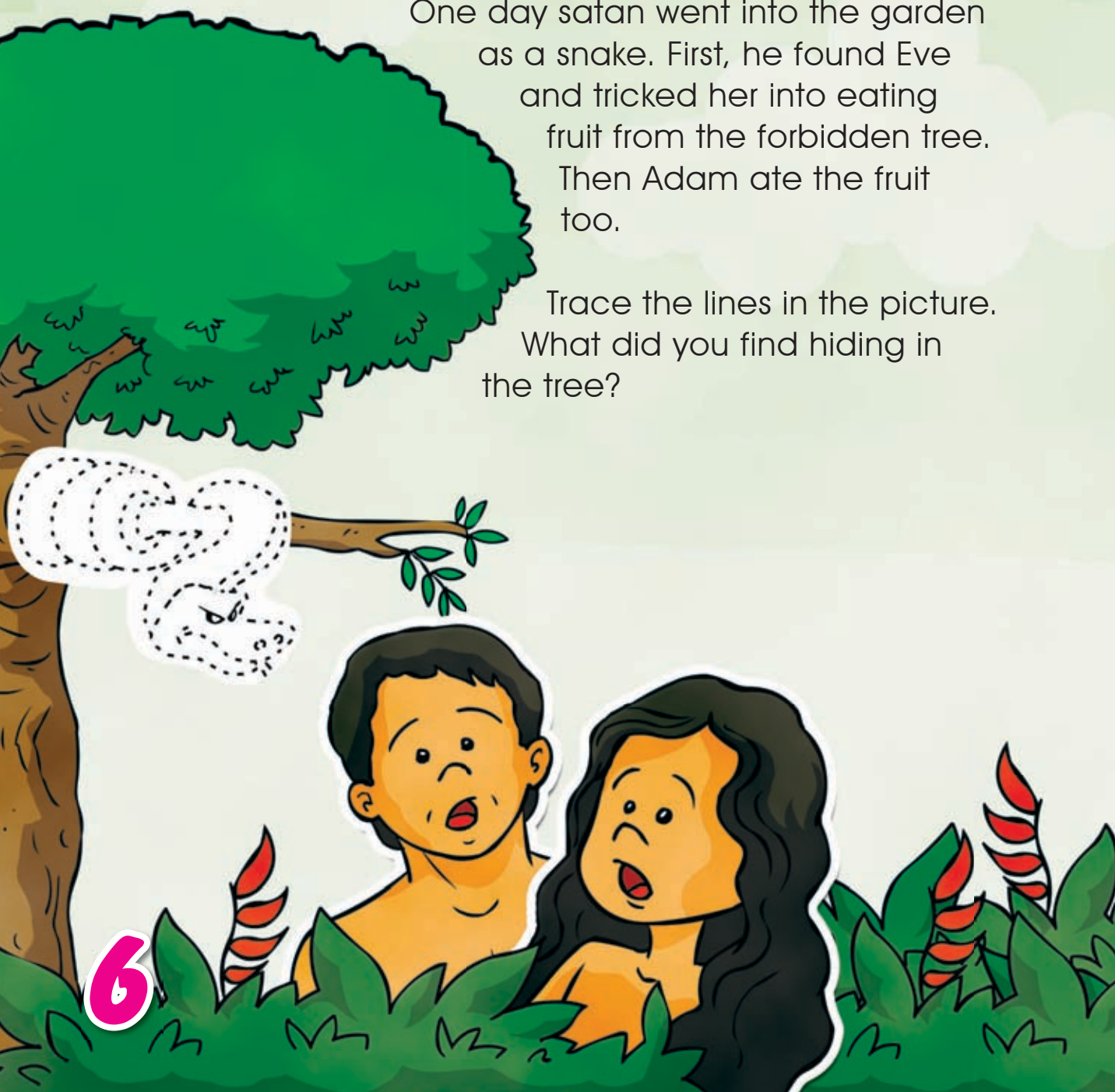
Soon Adam and Eve found out that there was a problem; a very big problem!

God had an enemy. His name was satan. He wanted to hurt God's **perfect** world. He wanted to hurt God.

Satan knew how much God loved Adam and Eve. So, satan made a plan to **trick** them. He wanted Adam and Eve to disobey God.

One day satan went into the garden as a snake. First, he found Eve and tricked her into eating fruit from the forbidden tree. Then Adam ate the fruit too.

Trace the lines in the picture.
What did you find hiding in the tree?



‘People did what they wanted to do.’

Romans 1:24

God loved Adam and Eve. He knew what was best for them, but they did not listen. Before this, they felt so close to God. Now they tried to run away and hide. This was a very sad day for the world.³

Adam and Eve had sinned against God. The world was not a perfect place anymore.



What does it mean to sin? To sin means to say, think or do something that God says is wrong.

After Adam and Eve sinned, their children also disobeyed God. Before long, the earth was full of people. All of them began to do things that God said was wrong.⁴



Why is it so important to obey God?

PERFECT: without any mistakes.

TRICK: to make people believe something that is not true.

Well, there is no one else like God. There never has been. There never will be.

God knows everything. He is perfect. He always does what is right. He never makes a **mistake**. God is so great! He can see everyone on earth; all at the same time!⁵

God knew what was best for Adam and Eve because He made them. He loved them. He wanted Adam and Eve to love Him too. Instead, they disobeyed. It was as if they said to God, 'I know better than You. I will do what I want!'

That does not sound very nice, does it? But sometimes I act the same way. God calls this sin. That is why **Romans 3:23** says, 'All of us have sinned.'

A wise king once sadly said:

'It is true – no one always'



Sin makes God's heart sad.

Adam and Eve knew they should obey God, but they did not. After that, things just got worse and worse. People did not love God. They also did nasty and unkind things to others.

Even so, God loved the people He had made. He wanted to be their very own Father. He gave more rules to help people do what was right. But because of sin, no one could ever keep all the rules.⁶



does what is right.'
Ecclesiastes 7:20

Look at the signs the children are holding. Finish the letters to find some of God's good rules.

MISTAKE: making a wrong choice; doing the wrong thing.





Would people ever learn to love and obey God like they should? What about the sin problem? It was like a big ugly spot on the heart of every person on earth. How could it be washed away?⁷



Some people might have thought that the problem was just too big, even too big for God. The truth is that nothing is too big for God! That is what makes Him God!⁸



IMPOSSIBLE: something that cannot be done.

‘Nothing is impossible for God.’

Luke 1:37

God had the answer and the answer was a baby. A baby? Yes, God would send His Son Jesus to the earth as a baby. Jesus would show people how to become God’s children too!

From the very beginning, Jesus was with God. They were together when God made the world.

The whole world waited for Jesus to come. Jesus would fix the big sin problem. While everyone waited, the sin in people’s hearts grew. It filled the whole earth with bad things. **The world needed Jesus very much!**

Look at the lines in the box. Copy them to draw a sad face on the world.



Then one day God sent an **angel** from **Heaven**. He came to visit a young woman named Mary.

Mary was very surprised to see the angel! I would be surprised too. How about you?



The angel said, 'Mary, do not be afraid. I have some good news! God is giving you a son. You will call him Jesus.'

God had promised that one day He would send His Son. **God always keeps His promises**. Now Jesus was coming. How very exciting!

Just before Jesus was born, His parents, Mary and Joseph, had to travel to the town of Bethlehem. The city was full of visitors. Joseph and Mary could not find any place to rest.

At last, they went to a barn where the farm animals slept. Jesus was born there. He spent His first night in a bed of hay!¹⁰

**‘God loved the people of
this world so much that
He gave His only Son.’**

John 3:16

I wonder what animals might have been sleeping nearby. How many animals can you find hidden in the picture? Circle each one.



'Many angels

Do you know what else happened that night? **God sent an angel to tell shepherds that Jesus was born!**

The shepherds were out in a field watching their sheep. Suddenly the night sky grew bright with light.

'What is happening?' the shepherds asked.

The angel told them, 'Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news. This news will bring joy to you and to the whole world too! Tonight, Jesus has been born!'

Then the shepherds saw more angels in the sky! All of them were singing about this good news. It was quite a party!

Connect the dots at the top of the next page.
What did you find?





Joined in Praising God.'

Luke 2:13

The angel told the shepherds to go find Jesus in the town of Bethlehem. He said Jesus would be lying in a bed of hay. So, off they went to greet Him.

The shepherds found Jesus exactly as the angel said. They were so **amazed**!

After that, they began telling everyone, 'Good news! Jesus has come!'¹¹

Jesus' birthday was about 2000 years ago. It was a very big day for the whole world. It has become a special holiday.



Can you guess the name of the holiday? Yes, it is called Christmas!

PRAISING: giving thanks to God.

AMAZED: very, very surprised.

When Jesus was 12 years old, His family went on a trip. They travelled far away from their town. They were going with many others to the **temple** to **worship** God.

On the way home, Mary and Joseph could not find Jesus. They were very afraid. Where was He? They looked inside and outside. They looked under and they looked over and they asked everyone they saw.

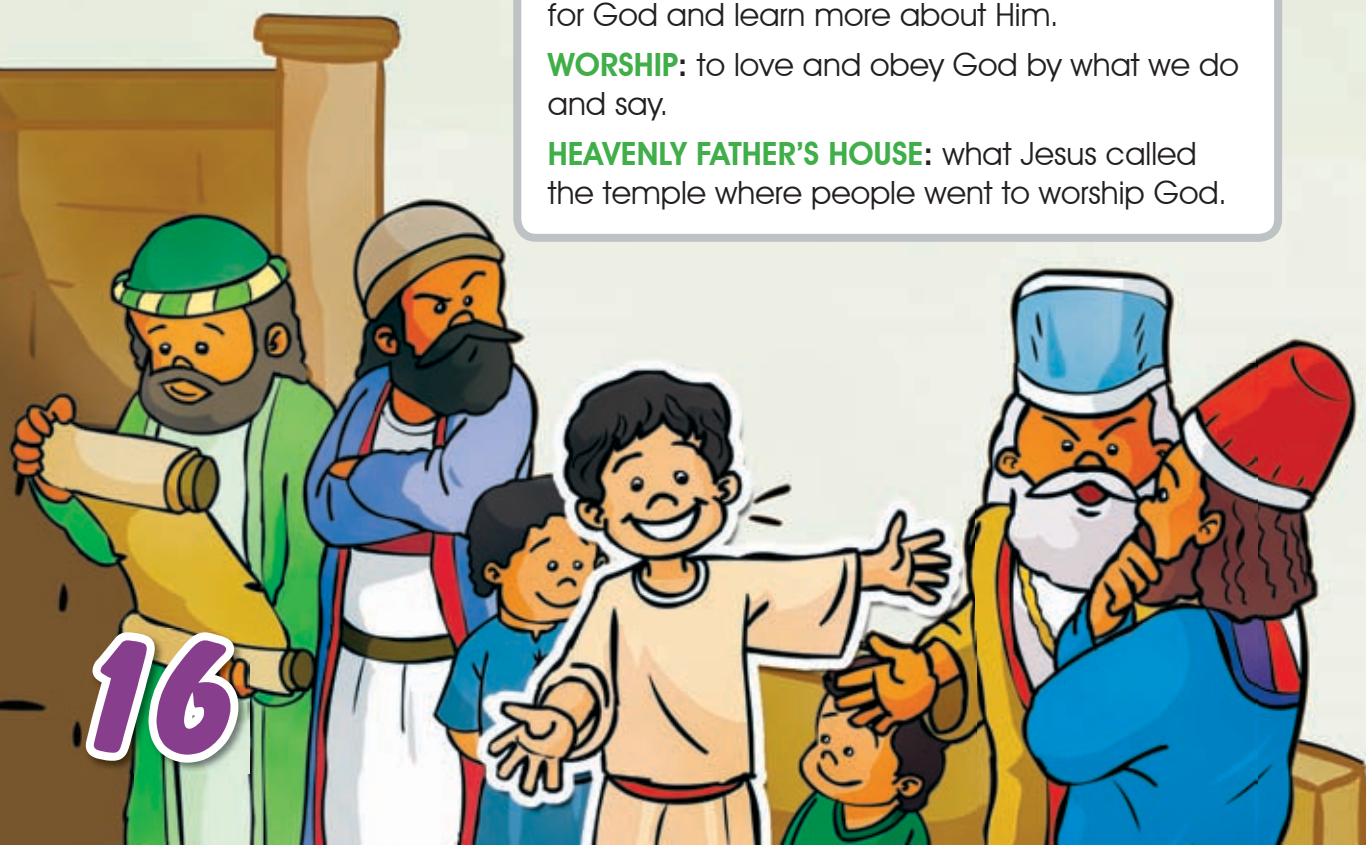
Look at the maze at the top of the next page. Can you help Mary and Joseph find their way to Jesus?

‘Obey your father and mother.’ Ephesians 6:2

TEMPLE: a place people went to show their love for God and learn more about Him.

WORSHIP: to love and obey God by what we do and say.

HEAVENLY FATHER’S HOUSE: what Jesus called the temple where people went to worship God.





After three days, they found Him. Do you know where He was? He was safe inside the temple.

What do you think Jesus was doing there? He was talking with the teachers.

The teachers were surprised how much Jesus knew about God. 'He is only a child,' they thought.

Jesus did not know that His parents had been looking for him. He said, "I thought you knew that I was here. This is My **Heavenly Father's house**."

Mary and Joseph were very happy that Jesus was safe. This time they all went home together.



Jesus loved His parents.
He obeyed them. This made God very happy.

Jesus grew strong and wise. Everyone liked Him very much.¹²

After Jesus was grown up, He went to hear a man teaching about God. The man's name was John.

John was teaching beside a river. Many people came to hear him. They knew they had not loved God like they should. They felt sorry for the wrong things they had done.

The people asked God to forgive them. Then, they stood with John in the river. He put them under the water. Quickly, he brought them up again. This is called water baptism. Even today, people do this to show that they want to obey God.

Jesus asked John to do this for Him too. When Jesus came up out of the water something very special happened! God's Holy Spirit landed on Jesus like a beautiful dove. Then the people heard God speak from Heaven.¹³ He said:

**'This is My dear Son,
I am very**



TEMPTED: try to get someone to do wrong.

SCRIPTURES: words from God's book, the Bible.

CHOICE: to decide what you will do.

Yes, Jesus is God's Son. But when He was here on earth He still had to choose to do the right things.

After Jesus' baptism, He went alone into the desert. Satan met him there. He tried to get Jesus to disobey God.

Satan **tempted** Jesus many times. But Jesus said, 'Go away satan! The **Scriptures** say: "**Worship the Lord your God and serve him only**".'¹⁴



Satan won with Adam and Eve but he lost with Jesus. I want to be like Jesus and make the right **choice**!

pleased with Him.⁹ Matthew 3:17

Here is a list of good choices you can make today. Choose a word from the list. Fill in the blanks to finish each sentence. One letter in each word has been done for you.

I will o _ _ _ the rules.

I will be _ _ _ d to others.

I will always tell the _ _ u _ _.

I will _ h _ _ _ with others.

I will say I am _ _ _ _ y when I do something wrong.

TRUTH

SHARE

KIND

SORRY

OBEY



Jesus chose 12 men to be His **disciples**. The disciples went everywhere with Jesus. He taught them many things about God. Then the disciples helped Him to tell others.

Jesus told them, 'We must go to the nearby towns. I want to tell them the good news. This is what my Father wants me to do.'¹⁵

And what was the good news? **Jesus came to tell everyone that God loves them.**

God wants us all to become His children; just like Jesus. That means God loves us very much!¹⁶

'Let the

DISCIPLES: people that Jesus chose to help Him tell others about Father God.



One time a big crowd came to listen to Jesus. Many children were there. They all wanted to get up close to Jesus. Do you know what the big people did? They told the children, 'Be quiet and go away! Jesus is busy!'

The children were sad. Jesus saw this. He said, 'Stop! Bring the children here! You must learn to love Me with all your heart like these children. If you do not, you will never really know God.' Then He hugged the children and let them sit on His lap.¹⁷

Show the order of the story. Write the numbers **1, 2, 3, 4** in the correct boxes.

children come to me.'
Mark 10:14



Jesus did many things to show the people what His Father is like. He showed them God's power and love by doing miracles. A miracle is something that only God can do.

Everywhere Jesus went He healed people that were sick.

That is a miracle!



If they were blind, He made them see. If they were deaf, He made them hear. Some had never been able to walk. When Jesus touched them they began to run and jump!¹⁸



One time a little boy was too sick to come to Jesus. His father met Jesus in the street.

'Please, Jesus,' he said. 'Come to my house. My son is going to die!'

Jesus said, 'Because you **believed** in Me, your son will live. Go home. His fever is gone.'

The father went home and found his boy happy and well just like Jesus said!¹⁹



Another time, Jesus went to the house of a little girl who had died. Many people were there. Everyone was crying.

Do you know what Jesus did? He took the child by the hand. He said, 'Little girl, get up!' And she did!

Her mother ran to get some food. Her father was so happy he did not know what to say!

No one was crying now! They began telling everyone about Jesus and His miracles.²⁰

**'Jesus went around
doing good and healing
everyone.'** Acts 10:38

HEALED: to make a sick person well.

BELIEVE: to know in your heart that Jesus is God's Son.



Jesus often prayed to His Heavenly Father. He knew that God had important things for Him to do. **Jesus always wanted to obey His Father.**²¹



After praying, Jesus would teach the people more about God. Here are some of the things Jesus wanted everyone to know:

1. Sometimes people worry. They worry about having food to eat. They worry about having clothes to wear. But Jesus said that God always knows what we need. He promises to take good care of everyone who loves and obeys Him.²²





2. Love God more than anything or anyone. Love Him with all of your heart, mind and strength! Love others as much as you love yourself. Treat people the same way that you want them to treat you!²³

3. Prayer is talking with God. Jesus said we can talk with God anywhere. Anytime. About anything at all. He is always listening!

One time Jesus taught His followers to pray like this:



‘Father, help us



to always respect Your name. Help everyone on earth to want to obey You. Give us the food we need today. Forgive us for doing wrong things. Help us to forgive others too! Help us to obey You even when we are tempted to do wrong things.”²⁴

RESPECT: to treat God’s name properly, to honour His name.

People followed Jesus everywhere. Once they sat all day on a hillside listening to everything He said. They even forgot to eat!

After a while they became hungry. The children started to fuss. What were they going to do? There was nowhere to buy food.



Just then, a little boy said, 'I have five small loaves of bread and two fish. I want to share my lunch.'

The disciples thought this was silly! How could such a little bit of food feed over 5000 people?

It was not silly to Jesus. He took the little boy's lunch in His hands and thanked God for it. Then He tore it into pieces. Every time a piece was torn off, there was more in its place!



Before they knew it, all 5,000 people had eaten. There was even food left over!²⁵



Which pictures in the box do not belong in the story of the boy who shared his lunch? Draw an ✕ over them.



One night Jesus and His disciples got into a boat. They were going to tell other people about God. A big storm began to blow. Their little boat went up and down in the dark water.



The disciples were afraid but Jesus was not!
He pointed to the storm and told the wind and waves to calm down. They did just what Jesus said!²⁶

Now, some people were very happy with Jesus. They said, 'We know that God sent Him to teach us. He can do great miracles because God is with Him!'



Others did not like the things that Jesus said. They did not want to love and obey God. They became angry. They wanted to kill Jesus.

These people made a secret plan. They planned to tell lies about Jesus. Then, they wanted Him **arrested**. This made satan very happy!²⁷

Jesus knew these things would happen. He told His disciples but they did not want to hear it. It only made them sad.

They did not know this was all a part of God's plan to fix the sin problem. **Jesus had never done anything wrong but He was willing to be punished for the sins of the whole world.** That is just how much He loves us!²⁸

ARRESTED: to be caught and taken by the police.

PUNISHED: to get in trouble for doing something wrong.

PREPARE: to make something ready.

HOLY SPIRIT: God's Spirit that lives inside of everyone who follows Jesus.



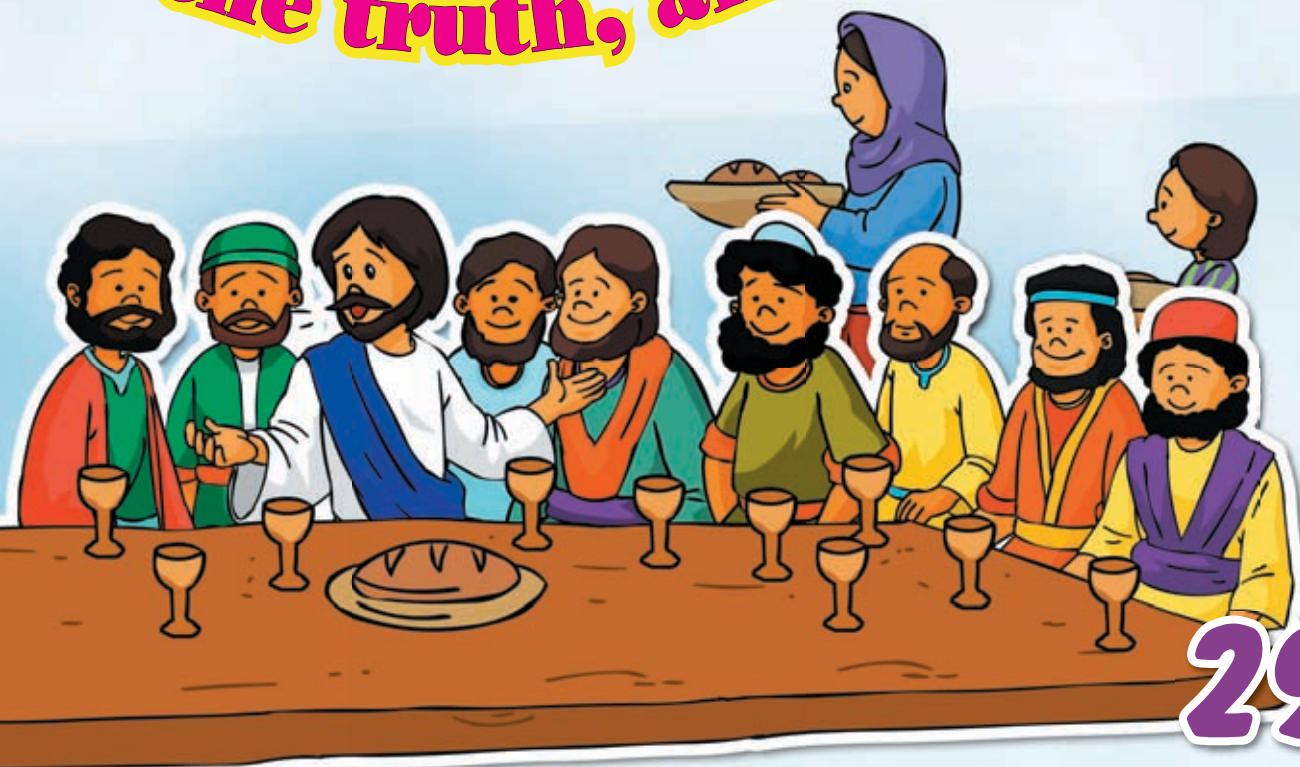
Jesus knew He would soon return to His Father in Heaven. He did not want His followers to be afraid. He told them, 'Do not worry, I am going to My Father's house. I am going there to **prepare** a place for each of you.

'I will come again someday. Then I will take everyone who loves Me to live with Me. They will live forever in Father God's house.

'While I am gone you will not be alone. I will ask the Father to send you the **Holy Spirit**. He will always be with you. He will help you remember the things I have taught you. He will live inside you. He will help you to obey God.'²⁹

Jesus said:

**'I am the way,
the truth, and the life!'**
John 14:6



That night Jesus went outside with His disciples to pray. While He was there, soldiers came to arrest Him. They took Jesus to the leaders. Many people came. Some told lies about Jesus. Others hit Him and spat in His face. Jesus stayed quiet. He did not fight back.³⁰



The leaders decided to have Jesus killed.

The soldiers took Him to a hill where bad men were being punished. They nailed Jesus' hands and feet to a wooden cross. Then they stood it in the middle of two other crosses.

Even then, Jesus was loving and good. Before He died, Jesus did something very special. He asked His Father to forgive the people who were nasty to Him.³¹

Suddenly, the ground began to shake. It was still daytime but the sky became dark as night. The soldiers were afraid because of what they had done. Their leader said:

'This man really



After Jesus died, two of His followers wrapped His body in a cloth. They placed Him in a **tomb**. A very big stone was put over the doorway.

Jesus' followers were very sad. They missed Jesus so much.³³



But three days later, a wonderful thing happened! Once again, the ground began to shake. Then a bright shining angel came down from heaven. He rolled the great stone away!

The soldiers guarding the tomb were very afraid. They could not believe their eyes! Jesus was alive!

Later that morning, some of Jesus' friends came to His tomb. At first, they were afraid. His body was gone!

The angel told them, 'Do not be afraid! Jesus is not here. God has made Him alive again! Hurry! Go tell His followers. Jesus will visit you very soon.'³⁴

was the Son of God.'

Mark 15:39

TOMB: where people's bodies were put after they died.



31

That night many of Jesus' followers were together in a big room. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there with them! They were all so happy!³⁵ After this, Jesus visited His followers many times.

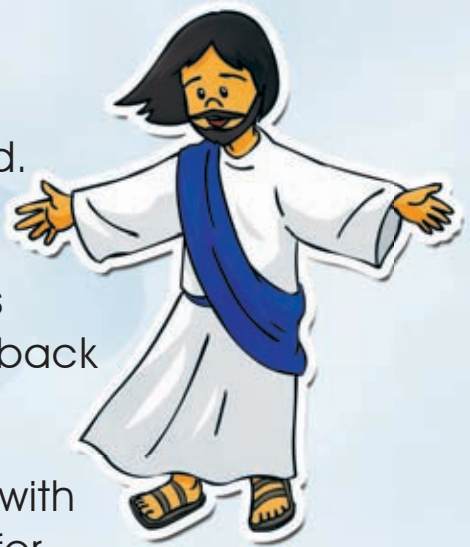
Jesus would soon be going back to live with His Father in Heaven. So, He gave his followers an important job to do. He said, 'Tell everyone about Me and My Father God. Let them know that God wants to be their Father as well!'³⁶

One day, as Jesus was talking, His followers saw His feet lift off the ground. Up, up He went; right into the clouds!

Two angels came and said, 'Jesus has gone home to Heaven. He will come back someday in the very same way.'

That is good news! Jesus is in Heaven with Father God. Soon He will come back for everyone who loves Him.³⁷

The children in the picture below are very happy! Can you draw the smiles on their faces?



'Jesus will come back someday.' Acts 1:11



SO LET'S REVIEW:



1

God made me. He loves me and wants me to be His child! He wants me to live with Him forever in Heaven someday.

2

There is one problem; sin. The sin in my heart makes me want to do wrong things. This keeps me from being God's child.

3

Everyone has the same problem. That is why Jesus came. He died on the cross to take the punishment for all the wrong things we have done.

4

If I ask Him, Jesus will forgive me all my sins. Then God will be my Father too!

5

He will give His Holy Spirit to live inside me. The Holy Spirit will help me love and obey my Father God.

Do you want God to be your Father? Why not tell Him now?



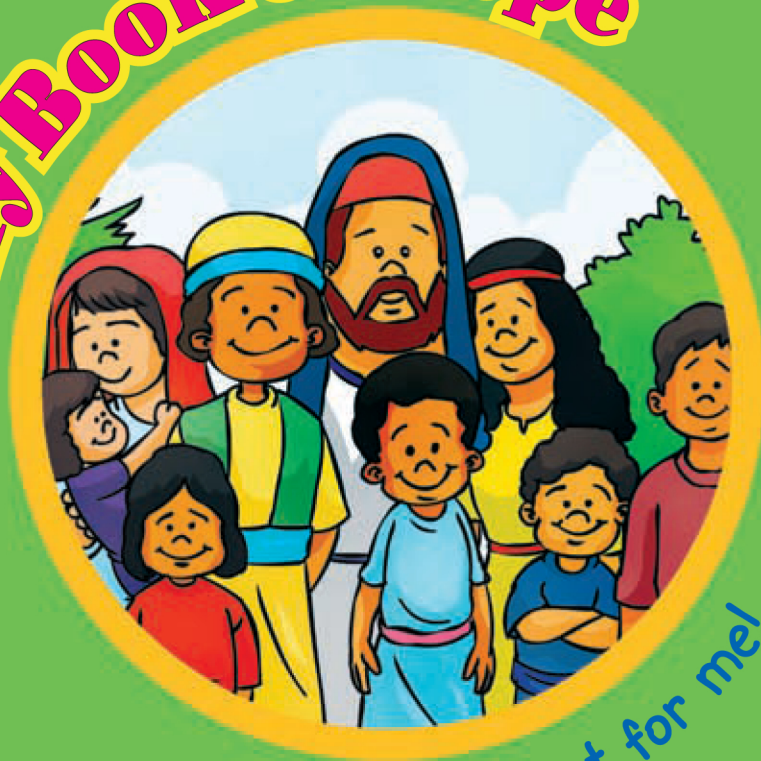
Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to die for my sins. I am sorry for the wrong things I have done. Please forgive me. Thank you for making me Your child and giving me Your Holy Spirit. I love You. Someday I will live with You in Heaven!



Scripture Index for Grownups who want to know more:

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My Book of Hope



A book just for me!