

# FOR GOD SO LOVED



For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 KJV

**This book is dedicated to  
The Glory of God.**



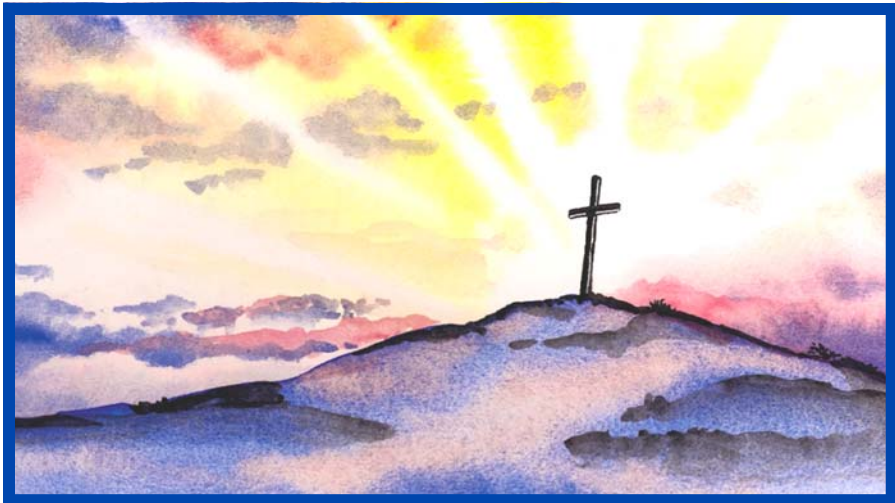
**“The heavens are telling  
of the glory of God.”  
Psalm 19:1a NASB**

# FOR GOD SO LOVED



**Written & Compiled by Sandy Harris**  
**Designed by Norma Hays**

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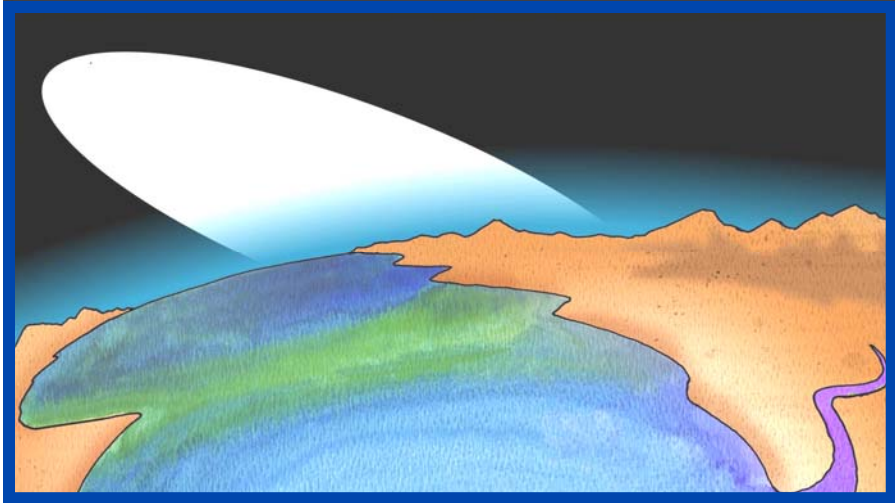
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## GOD, SIN, AND A BEAUTIFUL PLAN

Before there were any people or any animals or plants or oceans, God always was. God never had a beginning, and God will never have an end! God is holy and pure. That means God is always good, and God is love.

In His love and goodness, God created this magnificent world. When you create something like a picture or a building out of Legos, you make it from materials that already exist. But, God didn't do that when He made our universe of stars, planets, moons, and our world of plants, animals and people. The Bible says in Genesis 1: 3,6,9,11,20,24, and 26 that God spoke and each of those things were created. Just imagine God saying, "Let there be light," and light immediately began. Before that, everything was dark!

Jesus said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world." All the beautiful light, and everything good in our world is from Jesus!

But, there is also bad in our world. People are unkind, they lie and cheat, they hurt others, and they may even hate people or God. What causes that, since Jesus is only good, and there's not even **one dot** of bad or evil in Him?

The Bible tells us very early in God's Word that God has an enemy, and his name is Satan or the devil. When God created the angels before the earth was made, He created them as beautiful heavenly beings who would carry out His wonderful plans.

However, one beautiful angel was called in Isaiah 14:12 "star of the morning," which means "shining one" in the Hebrew language of the Old Testament. This angel "had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty." (Ezekiel 28: 12b-19)

This angel was even in Eden, God's garden and was dressed in jewels. Because of his beauty and splendor this angel said, "**I will** ascend (go up) to heaven; **I will** raise my throne above the stars of God, and **I will** sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** make myself like the Most High (God.)." These words of Satan are found in Isaiah 14:12-14.

Satan wanted to overthrow God's power because he wanted to be God. He even had some of the angels follow after him, but God said to Satan in Isaiah 14:12a, "How you have fallen from heaven!" Someday God will send Satan and his bad angels to



hell. Hell is a place of darkness, and Satan will never be able to get out! Satan could have never defeated God, because God is **ALL POWERFULL!**

Because Satan is God's enemy, he hates the people God created and loves, and so he wants us to follow him and not God. The first people he tried to trick were Adam and Eve. The story of Satan and Adam and Eve is found in *Genesis*, chapter 3. Sometimes the Bible uses the name of "serpent" or "devil" for Satan, and in *Genesis*, Satan disguised himself as a serpent and spoke to Eve.



God had told Adam only one "No." He said not to eat the fruit from the tree of "the knowledge of good and evil" or they would die. Just one thing. So, what did Satan try to do? He tried to get Adam and Eve to disobey God's one "No." He said, "You surely shall not die! For God knows that in that day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing **good** and **evil**." Up to this time when they had obeyed God's one command, Adam and Eve had **only known good!** Nothing bad, nothing evil. God had given them that command to protect them. Satan lied to Adam and Eve about God!

In John 8:44, Jesus says Satan is "the father of lies." That means he is the one who thought up lying! He loves when people lie, because it means people are following him and not Jesus. That's why it's so important to tell the truth; we don't want to follow God's enemy! What does Jesus say about Himself? He says He is **the** truth (John 14:6). In fact He tells us, "I am **the** way, **the** truth, and **the** life; no one comes to the Father (God), but through **Me**." In the Greek language of the New Testament, the word "the" means "the one and only," so Jesus is the one and only truth!

Because Adam and Eve listened to Satan and ate the fruit, sin came into God's beautiful, perfect world. They hid from God because they knew they had disobeyed. Adam blamed Eve for giving him the fruit to eat, and Eve blamed the serpent. Many sad things would happen from the moment that sin entered our world. Today we see things that make God sad every day: unkindness, hate, bullying, lying, disobedience to parents, and the list could go on and on.



Even though God made Adam and Eve leave His perfect Garden of Eden, He already had a plan. The plan is first told to us in Genesis 3: 15b. God would provide a way for people to have their sins forgiven and one day live in heaven with God. Amazingly, heaven is even more beautiful than God's garden in Eden!



That plan would be free to us, but it would cost God everything! It would cost the life of His one and only Son, Jesus. God's plan to forgive us would mean that He would send Jesus into our sinful world. He would give His life on a cross to pay for the sins of the whole world, and then on the third day after He died, He would rise from the dead!

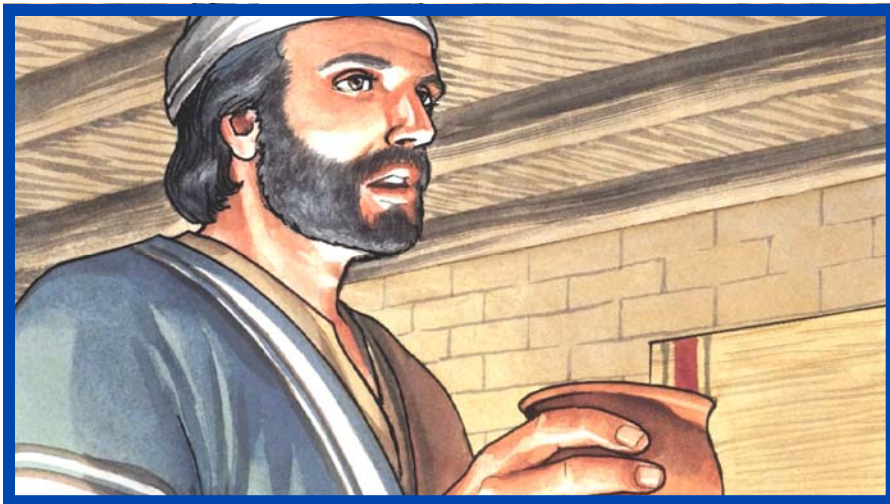
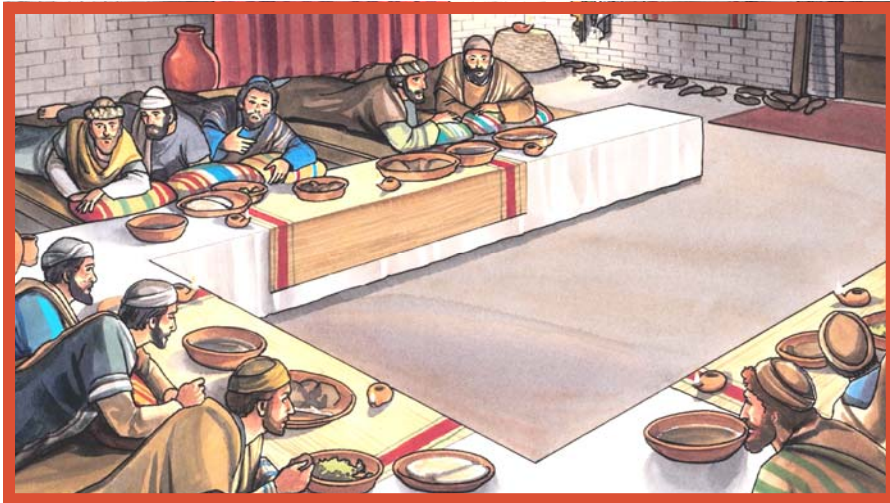
Anyone who would ask Jesus to forgive their sins and accept Him into their life as Savior would have their hearts washed clean and their sins forgiven. God would write their names in His special "Book of Life," and they would become part of God's family, who would forever live in heaven with Him!

**\* Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins and come to live in your heart?**

**Note to parents:**

\*The New American Standard Bible was used in Scripture quotations in this story.

\* The plan of Salvation is included at the end of this book.



## JESUS, A CROSS, AND OUR FORGIVENESS

Why would Jesus, the King of the whole universe, leave all the beauty and perfection of heaven and come to earth as a tiny baby? The answer is a simple one: to teach us about God's love, His Kingdom, and to invite us to be a part of God's family!

After He turned 30 years old, Jesus spent 3 years teaching people about God. The synagogue leaders were jealous of Jesus because He could heal people who were sick, and people loved hearing Jesus teach about God. But mostly, the leaders were angry because Jesus said He was God's Son. Because of that, the priests and other leaders were trying to find a way to kill Jesus and get rid of Him once and for all!

Sadly, one of Jesus' 12 disciples had evil in his heart. His name was Judas, and he went to the officials and offered to help them arrest Jesus. He said, "What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?" They handed Judas 30 pieces of silver.

As Jesus celebrated the special Passover Feast with His disciples, He looked at them and said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray (turn against) Me." The disciples were shocked and each asked if it was him.

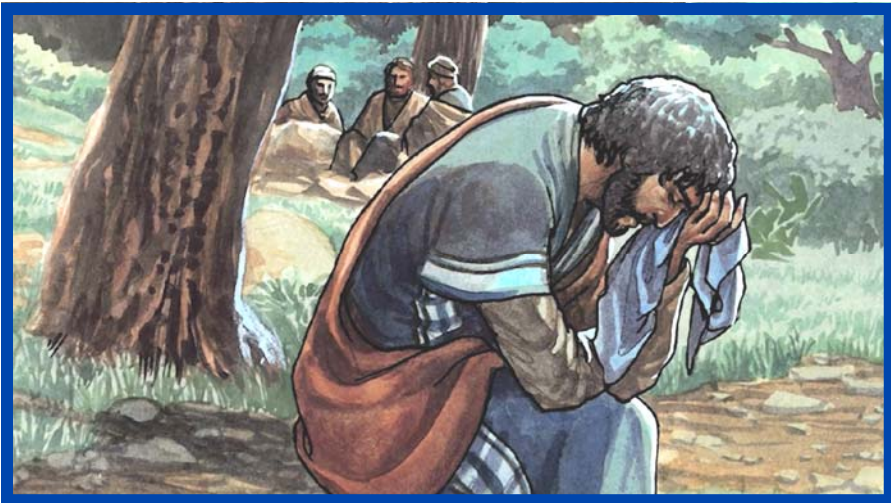
Judas said, " 'Surely, it is not I, Rabbi?' (which means Teacher) He (Jesus) said to him, 'You have said it yourself.' "Because Jesus knows all things, He knew exactly who would turn Him over to the synagogue officials!

After they finished their dinner, they sang a hymn (song), and they went out to the beautiful Mount (Mountain) of Olives, to a garden called Gethsemane.

Jesus wanted to pray, and He asked the disciples to sit and wait for Him. He took Peter, James, and John close to where He was praying. Jesus was very sad in His heart as He prayed to God, His Father, because He knew that the next day He would die.

He "fell on His face saying, 'My Father, if it is possible let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will but as Thou wilt.' "Jesus was telling God that He didn't want to have to die, but because that is the only way people could get their sins forgiven, He was willing to follow God's plan. No one could kill Jesus because He has all power, but Jesus wanted people to be able to live in Heaven, so He willingly would give His life.





Jesus went back and found the 3 disciples sleeping, and He said to Peter, "So you men could not keep watch (stay awake) with Me for one hour?" Jesus did that 3 times! He prayed to His Father, and each time He came back, He found the disciples sleeping!

Finally, Jesus told them that it was time. As He was talking, Judas came up with a crowd who had clubs and swords. They were sent there by the chief priests and leaders of the people. Judas had told the officials that he would go up and kiss Jesus on the cheek, and then they could lay hands on Him and grab Him. "And Jesus said to him (Judas), 'Friend, do what you have come for.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him."

They took Jesus to Caiaphas, the high or head priest, where the leaders were gathered together. These men tried to get people to lie about Jesus so they could put Him to death. Then the high priest asked Jesus this question, " I adjure You (charge You under oath) by the living God , that You tell us whether You are the Christ (Messiah or Promised One), the Son of God."

"Jesus said to him, 'You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you hereafter you shall see the Son of Man (Jesus) sitting at the right hand of power (beside God's throne), and coming on the clouds of heaven.' "

The high priest was so angry that Jesus said He was God's Son that he even tore the robes he was wearing!

Because of this answer the leaders said, "He is deserving of death." Jesus had told the truth, but these men would not believe Him! "Then they spit in His face, beat Him with their fists and slapped Him."

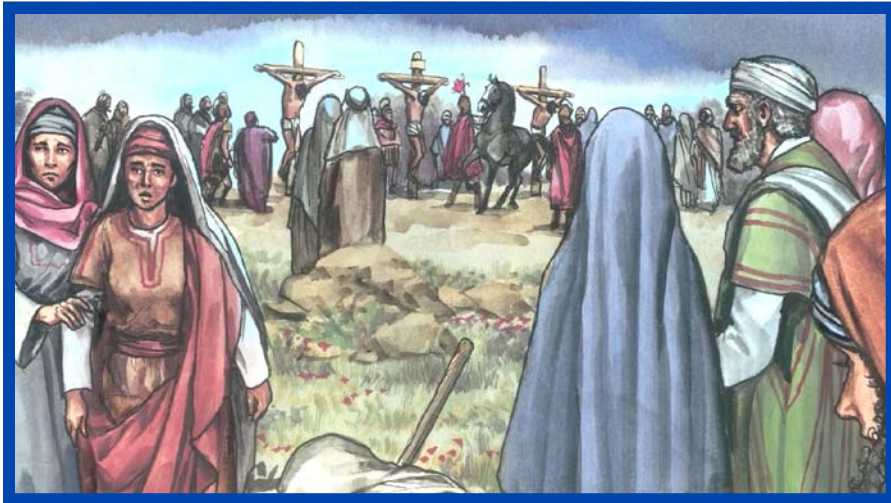
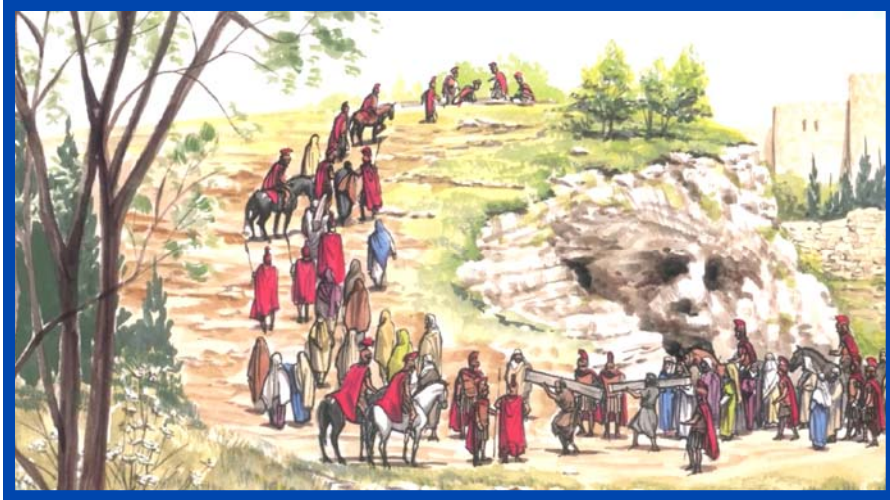
"Now when morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel (talked among themselves) against Jesus to put Him to death; and they bound Him (tied Him up with ropes or chains), and led Him away, and delivered Him up to Pilate, the governor."

Pilate found Jesus innocent, but the religious leaders cried out, "Let Him be crucified!" (killed by nailing someone on a cross) Sadly, Governor Pilate had Jesus beaten with whips that had pieces of metal on the ends!

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus to a special place and put a red robe on Him. They wove a crown of thorns and put it on His head and made fun and mocked Him saying, "Hail King of the Jews!" They spit on Jesus and took a stick and beat Him on the head. After they had mocked Him, they took the robe off of Jesus and then put His own clothes back on Him.

Then the soldiers brought Jesus outside and found a man from Cyrene in northern Africa, named Simon. They made him carry the cross they were going to use in Jesus' death. The soldiers brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means "The Skull." It is a high hill outside Jerusalem made from huge rocks which are shaped like a skull. The soldiers took large metal spikes (nails) and hammered them into the hands and feet of Jesus in order to place Him on the cross.

Two robbers were being crucified at the same time as Jesus. One said terribly mean things to Him, but the other one believed Jesus was God's Son and he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom !" Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you shall be with me in Paradise," which is another name for Heaven.



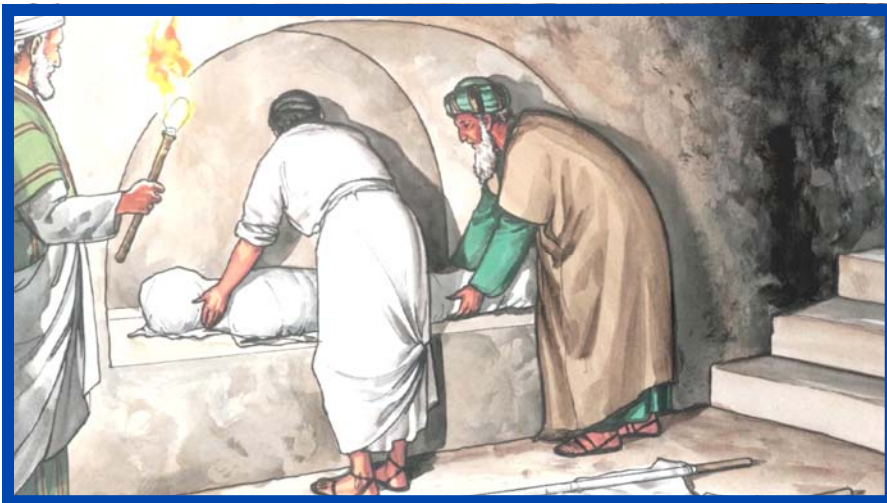
By this time, it was 12 noon, and God caused darkness to cover the whole land until 3pm in the afternoon. During this time, Jesus, the **only One** who never sinned, took our sins and paid for them with His life. He cried out "with a loud voice, 'Father, into Thy hands I commit (give) my Spirit.' And having said this, He breathed His last (breath)."

**Mark 15:39** says, "And when the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, 'Truly, this man was the Son of God!'"

### Notes to Parents:

- \* This story is found in all 4 Gospels: Matthew 26-27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22-23; and John 18-19.
- \* The Bible quotations are from the New American Standard Bible and are from all 4 Gospels.
- \* A synagogue was a place where the Jewish people worshipped God.
- \* A centurion was a Roman soldier in charge of 100 men.
- \* You may want to discuss with your child why they think Jesus would call Judas "friend" as he came to betray Him.







## THE RESURRECTION

How sad the disciples and friends of Jesus were after He died! One of the followers of Jesus was Joseph, a rich man from the city of Arimathea, who was a well-known member of the Jewish Council. He had not voted to crucify Jesus when the leaders put Jesus to death. On the Friday afternoon when Jesus died, the Bible says that Joseph gathered up courage and went in before Governor Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate wondered if Jesus was already dead, and when the centurion answered yes, Pilate gave Joseph the body of Jesus. He bought a linen cloth and wrapped Jesus in it. Then he laid the body in his own new tomb, which was a cave he had carved out from rock. Afterwards, he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.

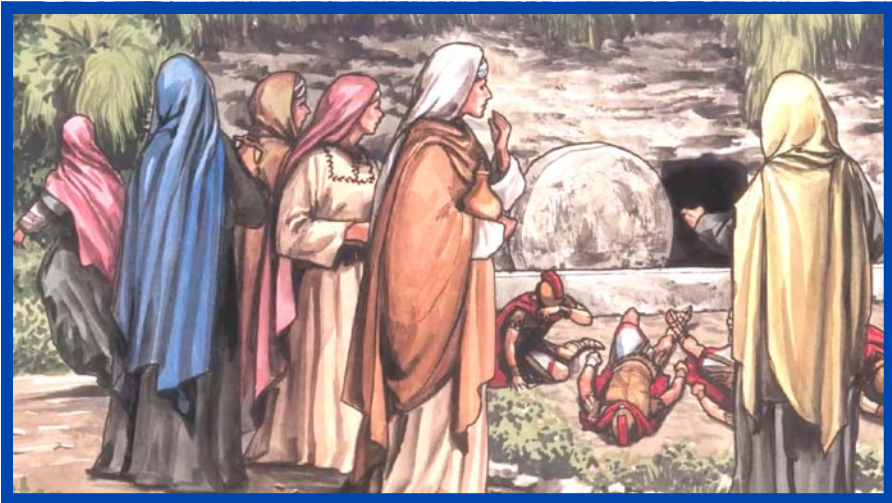
On Saturday of that week, the Jewish officials who had Jesus killed, got permission from Pilate to put guards in front of the tomb. Then on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary the mother of James, brought spices that they might come and anoint the body of Jesus. They wondered who would roll the stone away. And they were saying to one another, " 'Who will roll away the stone for us in the entrance of the

tomb?' And looking up, they saw the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large." (Mark 16: 1-4)

"And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended (came down) from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow, and the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. " (They fell to the ground, overcome by the shock of seeing a real angel.) (Matthew 28:1-4)

"And the angel answered and said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.' " (Matthew 28: 5-6)

The women left the tomb filled with great joy as they ran to report to the disciples what they had seen and what the angel had told them.



"And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren (believers in Jesus as their Savior) to leave for Galilee, and there they shall see Me.' " (Matthew 28: 9-10)

The disciples were together, talking about Jesus being alive, and while they were wondering about all that had happened "He Himself stood in their midst (in the middle of where the disciples were). But they were startled and frightened." They couldn't believe what they were seeing! (Luke 24:36-37)

Jesus said to them, " 'See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when He has said this, He showed them His hands and His feet, and while they could not believe it for joy, and were marveling, He said the them, 'Have you anything to eat?' And they gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate it before them." ( Luke 24:36-43)

The disciple John wrote the story of that Sunday night of the Resurrection this way in John 20:19-21: "When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when

the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples therefore rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus therefore said to them again, 'Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' "

Then Jesus helped the disciples understand all the Old Testament Scriptures that had told about Him coming to earth, dying for people's sins and rising from the dead.

Jesus stayed on our earth for 40 days after His resurrection. He met a number of times with His disciples, and was seen by more than 500 people at one time! (I Corinthians 15:6) Before He went back to heaven, Jesus gave instructions to His followers.

"Jesus came up and spoke to them saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe (do) all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' " ( Matthew 28: 18-20)



In Acts 1:8-11, we read about the final moments of Jesus on our earth before He went back to heaven. Jesus told His followers, " But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses (people who tell others about Jesus) both in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.' "

" And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing (looking) intently into the sky while He was departing, behold two men in white clothing stood beside them..."

These were angels who took on the form of men, and they said," Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come (back) in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

**Notes to parents:**

\* The story of Joseph of Arimathea is found in Matt. 27: 57-60; Mark 15:43; Luke 23: 50-53; and John 19: 38-42.

\* The Resurrection is found in Matt. 27:62- Chapter 28; Mark 15: 47-Chapter 16; Luke 24: 1-12, and John 20:1-29.

\* The New American Standard Bible was used for the quotations in this story.





## THE JOY OF HEAVEN

Heaven is so beautiful, that not even in our imaginations could we ever think of how wonderful it is! I Corinthians 2: 9 tells us, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him."

Jesus taught in John 14:2-3, "In my Father's house are many dwelling places (mansions); if it were not so, I would have told you, for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

Can you imagine Jesus getting our beautiful mansions ready for us in heaven? No matter how beautiful we could imagine them, that wouldn't even come close to what Jesus is preparing for those who love and follow Him!

John, the disciple of Jesus, was invited to see into heaven, and was told to write what he saw. In Revelation 4:1-11, we learn that John saw a beautiful throne. He viewed the glory or shining of God in beautiful colors of jasper (clear, diamond like) and sardius, a fiery red color. Around God's throne was a rainbow, like an emerald, which is green in appearance.

Jesus promised many times that one day He would come back to our earth. In Revelation 19:11, God also had an angel show the Apostle John a vision of the future. It was a like watching a movie that was happening, and but in real life it hadn't happened yet. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it (Jesus) is called "Faithful and True..." Verses 13-16 give us some other names for Jesus: "The Word of God" as well as "King of Kings" and "Lord of Lords." These are only a few names of our wonderful Savior!

After Jesus wins 2 final battles when He returns to earth, Satan will be thrown into hell with the bad angels that follow him. They will live there forever, while all those who love Jesus will be in heaven.

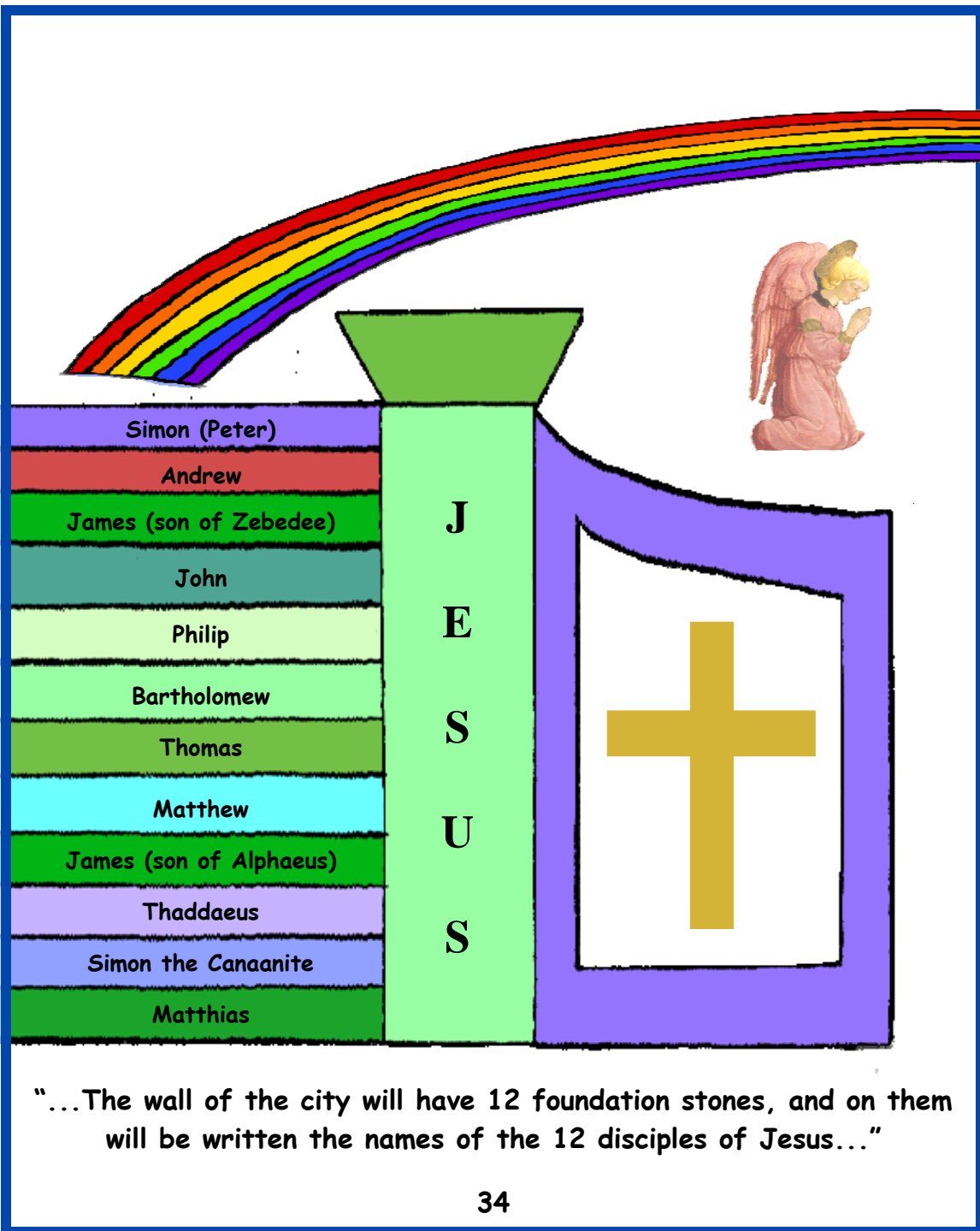
Then God showed John a vision of the future new heaven and new earth that God will create.

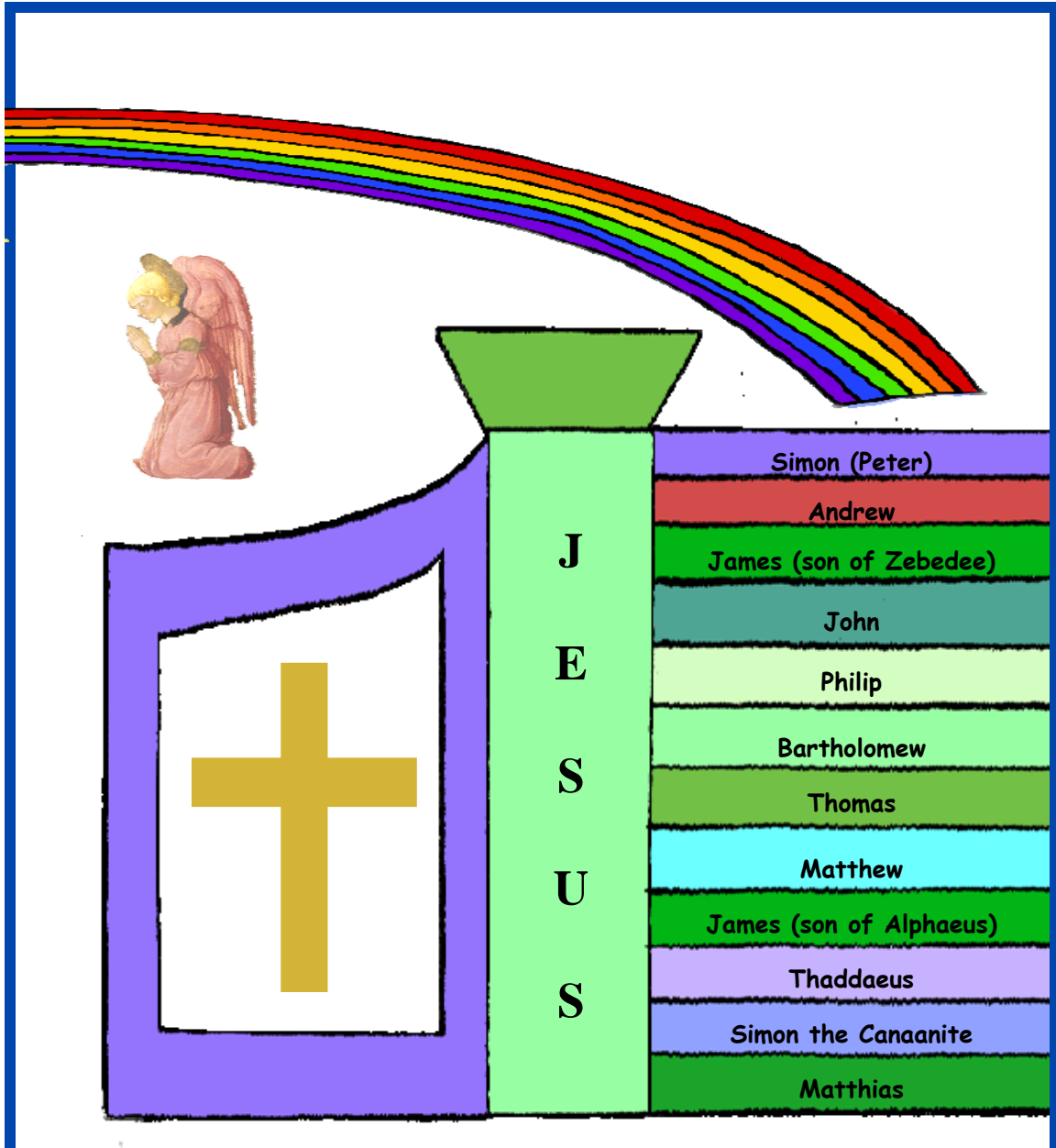
There will be a beautiful, holy city, called the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. We will be called His people, and He will live among all of us that love Him. We will live in the beautiful city together. "There will be no more death or sorrow, or crying or pain." (Revelation 21: 4). Just imagine falling down while you're running, and it won't even hurt!

The city will be filled with the glory (beautiful shining) of God and will "sparkle like a precious gem (jewel), crystal clear..." It will have high walls, with 12 gates, guarded by 12 angels. The wall of the city will have 12 foundation stones, and on them will be written the names of the 12 disciples of Jesus, who is called "The Lamb of God."

An angel told John the measurements of God's beautiful city of heaven. In the vision, John saw that it was a cube shape and was 1,500 miles long, 1,500 miles wide, and 1,500 miles high. The walls measure 216 feet thick! The wall was made of jasper (a clear, yellow tan gem), "and the city was pure gold like clear glass."

The wall of the city was built on foundation stones with every kind of clear, precious stone. "... the first was jasper ( clear, diamond like color); the second was sapphire (blue); the third agate or chalcedony (light blue); the fourth emerald (green); the fifth sardonyx (dark red); the sixth sardius (red); the seventh chrysolite (yellow); the eighth beryl (green); the ninth topaz ( yellow brown); the tenth chrysoprase (light orange); the eleventh jacinth (brown); the twelfth, amethyst (purple)." (Revelation 21:19-21)





"...Jesus, who is called the Lamb of God."

"And the 12 gates were 12 pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent (clear) glass. (Revelation 21:21)

"And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed..." (Revelation 21:25)

"And he (the angel) showed me (John) a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Jesus) in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing 12 kinds of fruits, yielding its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations...and the throne of God and of the Lamb (Jesus) shall be in it..." (Revelation 22:1-3)

"And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them (be the light surrounding them), and they shall reign (rule with Jesus) forever and ever." (Revelation 22:5)

Near the end of the last book of the Bible, John says these words: "Come, Lord Jesus." What a wonderful day that will be! Jesus, the King of all the universe, will come and take us to our gorgeous forever home in heaven, which will be more amazing than we could ever imagine!

### Notes to Parents:

\* The New American Standard Bible was used for all quotations except for I Cor. 2:9, which is the New Living Translation.

\* The Greek word for "dwelling places" in John 14:2-3 is **monē** which means "mansions."

\* There are 2 battles Jesus will someday fight on earth. The first is fought with the sword, which will come from His mouth. This may be the Word of God, which is called the Sword of the Spirit in Ephesians 6:17. The second battle is won with fire coming down from heaven. These battles are found in Rev. 19: 11- Chapter 20:7 and Rev. 20: 7-10.

\* You may want to explain that those who love Jesus and die before He returns to earth will already be in heaven.



“...Well done, thou good  
and faithful servant  
you were faithful  
over a few things,  
I will make you ruler over  
many things...”  
Matthew 25:21 NKJV





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## The Plan of Salvation

1. Confess your sin.

"All have sinned." Romans 3:23 NKJV

2. Ask Jesus to save you.

"Whoever will call on the name of the LORD  
will be saved." Romans 10:13 NASB

3. Pray like this:

Dear Jesus: "Please forgive me of my sins  
and come into my life.

Thank you Jesus, for saving me."

Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth,  
and the life; no one comes to the Father,  
but through me. John 14:6 NASB

Today on \_\_\_\_\_(date)

\_\_\_\_\_(name)

accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

# FOR GOD SO LOVED



**"For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish  
but have eternal life."**

**John 3:16 ESV**