

CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY BOOK



Children's Bible Story Book

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Introduction to the Children's Bible Study Book

Children play an important role in the Kingdom of God. In the gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jesus tells the disciples to allow the children to come to Him, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven. In Deuteronomy we are charged to teach our children the truths of God's word day and night. There can be no greater charge than to bring God's children to a saving knowledge of Him.

To do this we must help the children develop a clear understanding of who God is – what characterizes God, how has he worked through history to show himself to mankind, and how does he interact with us today. These Bible stories were developed so that children could have a clear understanding of who God is and how to relate to Him. Each story is written to reveal the characteristics of God and how he has worked in the lives of people. They show God's desire for relationship with His creation. The stories are taken from the Bible with an attempt to be closely worded with the Word of God. Along with the story are questions that relate to the story and help to draw out God's truths. They will clarify certain points of the story, reinforce key concepts and help the children to apply the lessons of God's word to their own lives. The prayers help the children focus on who God is and how He is at work in their lives.

The memory verse will relate to a key concept of the story or focus on a revealed characteristic of God. The Bible instructs us to hide His word in our hearts, that we might not sin against Him. Children memorize easily and quickly so there is no better time to begin to hide His Word. Practice each story throughout the week so that you can read the story with fluency and expression. It is important to look up once in awhile and look the children in the eyes. This will help them to feel connected to the story. In preparing the lesson, read the chapter(s) in the Bible from which the story was taken. Read the chapter before and after so that you are prepared to answer the children's questions.

In preparing the lesson, if you are unsure of an answer yourself, ask your pastor. Give the children thinking time when asking the questions. If the children are unable to answer, give them clues or hints before giving them the answers. They will remember their own conclusions longer. Allow different children to respond and try to avoid having the same child continuously answer. The prayer is meant to be a guide to help focus the children on the points of the story that are relevant to their lives and point them towards are Heavenly Father. Feel free to add to them. In the teacher's guide there are several games to enrich the memorization of verses. Make this a fun activity for the children to reinforce the joy of learning God's word. Also review previously learned verses as time allows. Most children learn more by doing than hearing. Include drama, puppets, crafts and other extended activities to enrich the story and reinforce learning. There are many ideas listed in the Teacher's guide. Offer a variety of activities so that children who learn in different styles can benefit. Have fun telling the stories and interacting with the children.

Pray that each will develop a love for God's word and a desire to know and serve their Creator God. It is our hope and prayer that by the end of a three-year cycle of Bible stores that children throughout Africa will have a firm foundation of God's Word and a clear understanding of who God is. We hope that through these stories many will find the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and their lives will be transformed forever.

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
Deuteronomy 11:18-20

Across THE WORLD, there are millions of children needing to hear about the Love of Christ. It is the intent of the Church of the Nazarene to teach this truth to our children, our future leaders. Children learn in many ways. Some can learn just by hearing, and then doing. Others must see, hear, and do. Most need lots of repetition to learn a task well. Can you imagine a doctor operating on you after just reading a book on "How to operate"!!! A combination of activities that use senses increases the chances of positive learning. If you only teach by lecture, there is a possibility that children can become restless, troublesome, or bored. If there is no application, what is the point of learning?

When it comes to teaching children about God, remember these 5 points:

1. **OBSERVATION** - Children learn by observation. Are you a godly role model? Are you practicing what you teach?
2. **PARTICIPATION** - Invite children to join in learning. Use a variety of methods when teaching. Children learn through drama, lecture, games, object lessons, etc.
3. **APPLICATION**- Show and share with the children how to apply the truths found in Scripture. Provide opportunities for children to participate in the truths of God through effective activities and ministry.
4. **REPETITION**- Practice makes perfect!
5. **EVALUATION** - Have the children learned the lesson and can they apply it to their lives.

DEVELOPMENTAL LEARNING

An important aspect of teaching and learning is understanding the normal growth and development of children.

THE TODDLER (2-3 yr. Olds) Toddlers have a short attention span and are very active. They obey one command at a time. They play next to, but not with other children. They like to touch and play with materials. For this age group simple rhyme songs, with simple actions, repetition of a simple story/theme....for example...."God loves me. God made me. God made animals", the use of pictures if possible and simple puppets work well.

PRESCHOOL AGED CHILD (4-5 year olds) Preschoolers love to pretend. They begin to play co-operatively with other children. They question everything. They are very active, but can be coordinated enough to cut, color, draw, etc. They are capable of memorization. Activities for this age would include songs with actions, repetition in storytelling, having them repeat the story...simple acting., puppets, simple object lessons that have to do with the lesson, Bible memorization....simple verses.

SCHOOL-AGED CHILD (6 -12 years of age) School-aged children like to do tasks in the real world. They are learning to be responsible. They are learning to read and write. They like to play fair and conform to what is socially acceptable. They need praise and encouragement and are easily hurt by criticism. As they mature they are able to consider the "why" of behavior and arrive at moral judgments discerning right from wrong. They would benefit from acting out situations, real life application questions, quizzes, drills, memory games, community participation and service, object lessons, puppets, Bible memorization, songs, Scripture reading.

AS YOU PREPARE TO TEACH CHILDREN

1. Pray for each child THROUGH OUT the week.
2. Pray for wisdom and direction as you work on preparing the lesson.
3. Read over your lesson material early in the week. This gives you time to think about it through-out the week. If you do not understand the lesson, this gives you time to meet with your pastor, or possibly another teacher to discuss the lesson.
4. Gather any items that you may need before you teach. This may involve making visuals, or crafts. It is important for a teacher to be prepared BEFORE class so that you can make the most of the time you have with the children.

PRESENTATION

1. **BE THERE!** As a teacher, it is important that you are there before the children. This gives you time to set up, pray, as well as get to know your students better.
2. **Know your lesson.** Be sure to read the Bible story and understand where it 'fits' in the Bible. What was happening before, and what happened after? Feel free to use different voices if there is conversation in the story to let the children know the different characters. Make your voice interesting to listen to, but not silly.
3. **Singing/ Praying together** can settle children down
4. **Teach the lesson.** Use creativity, and student participation. (see section in manual about creative teaching ideas)
5. **Application:** Think of practical ways in which the students can apply the lesson in their own lives.
6. **Repetition/activities/crafts**
7. **Bible memorization**
8. **Prayer time/ singing time.**

CREATIVE IDEAS FOR TEACHING

1. **Action songs/music.** Create actions to the words of songs. Or have children dance honourably. Children all like to play instruments. Small pieces of thin, dried bamboo sticks, sand inside of a cardboard roll (toilet paper roll) with plastic bag secured on both ends with elastic/rubber bands are ideas for rhythm instruments. Have children create their own instruments using clean safe tins, sticks, soda caps.
2. **Puppets:** finger puppet, hand-puppets, stick puppets, ruler puppets. A puppet can be made out of anything. Use it to 'talk' for you or tell a story. Be sure to let the child know that it is only a puppet. It has no life, nor power. Puppets can also be used by the children to re-tell a story.

3. **Bible verse memory work**

Fun ideas for memorizing Bible verses, or books of the Bible:

- a) Tossing a mini-sand bag** (2 small square pieces of material sewn together, and filled with clean, dry sand) between students, with each student saying one word at a time, then gently throwing the bag to the next child. If the bag falls to the ground, you start again. Try to say the entire verse without dropping the bag
- b) Erase a Word:** If you have a chalkboard, write the entire verse on the board. Have the children read the verse. Then allow one child to erase a word. Repeat the verse with the erased word. Continue until all the words are erased, and the verse is said without any written words.
- c) Puzzle:** Write the memory verse on a piece of paper. Use a heavy marker to draw shapes around the words. Cut the shapes out, and have the children put the shapes back together to make the verse.
- d) Hopping game:** With a stick, draw a space in the sand or dirt for each word of the verse. Have each child hop on one foot from space to space saying each word.
- e) Word scramble:** Write out each word of a verse. Give each child one word each, and have the children spread out in a room. When you say 'go', the children have to place themselves in the proper order of the verse.
- f) Drawing the verse:** Have the children print out the verse, and draw a picture and color it.
- g) Mystery Verse:** On the chalk board, write out the Bible verse using symbols. Be sure to write the symbols on the board, and what letter they represent.
For example: L= # O= ** V= % E= <>
Therefore, the word # ** % <> is LOVE.
- h) Hide the Verse:** Copy the verse on a piece of paper. Choose one person to be "It" and send that person out of the room, or have them close their eyes. Choose another child to hide the verse she has written. Call "IT" back into the room and let him start hunting for the verse. Group claps loudly when "It" is close to the verse and softly when farther away. Ask the class to repeat the verse each time the verse is found.

i) Find the Words: Print the verse on one part of the chalkboard. On the other part, print the words hidden in a grid as shown below. Ask the children to find and circle one word at a time. Recite verse each time a word is found.

For example: Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Romans 12:9

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| ABHATECDEF | |
| WHATFGHIJK | |
| LMNOPISWXY | (I HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THE WORDS |
| ABEVILDEFG | THAT WOULD BE CIRCLED) |
| HIJKCLINGT | |
| TDABCDNTOP | |
| XYWHATNVWY | |
| WISABCDEF | |
| GOODSTUWXT | |

j) Sing-a-Verse: Write the verse on a chalkboard. Ask the children to make up a tune for the verse, or work on a tune together. Sing the verse together.

4. DRAMA: Give the children opportunities to act out Bible stories. Let the children take turns playing the main characters. Have simple objects on hand, to be used in role playing such as old pieces of extra wrapper material, hats, sticks, or whatever objects that would help in telling the story.

After practicing, the children may want to share their drama with the rest of the church on a special occasion.

Drama can also be used to act out what the children should do when faced with certain questions or situations. Ask, "What would you do if...?" It is important for you as a teacher to assist the child, especially if they are not sure what they should do. Be sure to rely on Biblical wisdom.

5. OBJECT LESSONS:

OBJECT LESSONS: Using available objects to teach a Biblical lesson. A lesson can be reinforced when a visual is used. Objects should be easily obtainable such as rocks, stones, salt, candles, matches, sand, water, oil, bread, your own body, plants, vines, weeds, roots, sticks, insects, animals, (if available), running shoes, etc. Before using objects pray for wisdom. Ask yourself, "Will this assist or distract from the lesson?" Involve the children as much as possible.

Here are some examples:

SALT

Matthew 5:13 " You are the salt of the earth....."

Theme: Salt is essential for life; it also preserves and flavors. We can be like salt in helping to bring the Word of Life to others; we should also try to preserve and flavor the world for God.

Ideas: Child can see and taste the salt. They can list the types of food that salt is added to.

PLANTS

Col. 2:6,7 "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness"

Ideas: Have 2 plants with you. One in a pot, and the other that has been pulled out of the ground, with its roots exposed. Ask: What do plants need to live? (water, air, healthy soil) Which plant do you think will live? (the one in the pot) Why?

Theme: Just as a plant must have its roots in the ground to live and to grow well, so we must be firmly planted in Christ to grow as Christians

ARTS/CRAFT IDEAS FOR BIBLE STORIES

Modeling Clay: Children love to be creative with their hands. Here is a simple recipe for making homemade modeling clay. If you have access to food colouring or dyes, you might want to make several different colours of clay to make the children's art projects more interesting to them.

10 g (2 teaspoons) Crème of Tartar

250 g (1 cup) flour

2.5 g (1/2 teaspoon) Salt

15 g (1 tablespoon) cooking oil

250 ml (1 cup) water

Mix all ingredients together in a cooking pot until a smooth paste is formed. Cook slowly over low heat until dough comes away from side of pot. Remove dough from pot and knead for 3 minutes. Store it in an airtight container.

Wooden Crosses: use either sticks, or thin pieces of dried bamboo. Wrap strips of palm branch rope at the 'x' place.

Baskets: use grass/reeds (whatever is used locally) to make small woven baskets. Ask someone who knows how to make baskets to come teach you. Can be used in many different Bible stories.

Finger puppets/stick puppets: create puppets using scrap pieces of material or paper. Cut out the outline of a person, and make pullover clothes.

Sheep: Wrap cotton around a stick, with two sticks bent over each end for legs

Fish: Paper. Cut out the shape of a fish, and color, or cut other colourful pieces of scrap paper and glue on.

Scroll: Take two pieces of stick, same length, and a piece of paper. Tape, or staple paper around the sticks. Roll the two ends together to make a scroll.

Sailboats: use recycled small juice boxes, or plastic water bags. Cut, or fold into the shape of a boat. Float them in a bucket of water.

Bible-time house: use cardboard box, with a flat top. Cut a hole in the side for a door. Make stairs out of cardboard to go to the roof.

Nature People: Using Maize leaves, plantain/banana leaves make figures of people. Use palm branch sticks as a body, and form leaves over top of sticks (Arms extending from the center stick)

Bible-verse Bookmarks: Have children write the Bible verse on strips of paper and draw a picture of a part of the Bible story.

LEADING CHILDREN TO CHRIST

The most important part of Children's ministries is introducing children to God. Children need to know God, to understand who Jesus is and how they can have a personal relationship with Him. Salvation is real for the children who respond. Whatever the reason, accept the child's need to know God, and guide the child's steps toward salvation.

WHEN ARE CHILDREN READY:

1. They have a concept of the person of God. They understand that God loves them and wants their love in return.
2. They know the difference between right and wrong. They must be genuinely sorry for wrong-doing. Understanding the Biblical standard of right and wrong is essential. Children need to know that sin is disobedience to God, and sin hurts God.
3. They have a basic understanding that Jesus made salvation possible.
4. They are able to make the choice to claim Jesus as their personal Savior.
5. Trust the Holy Spirit's guidance.

STEPS TO SALVATION The A.B.C.'s

A. **ADMIT** you have sinned. Tell God what you've done, be sorry for it, and be willing to quit. "FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD" (ROMANS 3:23)

B. **BELIEVE** God loves you and sent His Son Jesus to save you from your sins. Ask for and receive the forgiveness God is offering you. "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE" (JOHN 3:16)

C. **CLAIM** Jesus as your Savior. Respond with love and follow Jesus. "EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED" (ROMANS 10:13)

WHEN A CHILD RESPONDS:

Help children who respond by:

1. Briefly explain the steps to salvation.
2. Use scripture to make the invitation personal.
3. Allow children to pray. Encourage children to talk to God and ask forgiveness for wrongdoing.
4. Review the experience. Ask children to tell you in their own words what they experienced. Close with a prayer of thanks. Let children know you are happy and excited about their conversion. Emphasize this is an important life decision.

Telling the stories of the Bible and helping the children to remember the truths is your mission and goal. May God bless and inspire you as you teach the Word!

Creation

Bible Story 1: Genesis 1-2

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1

wanted the man to take care of it. God saw that Adam was lonely and He knew this was not good. He needed a helper. He brought before the man all the creatures He had created. Adam named all the animals, but he did not find a helper among them. So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took a rib from Adam's side and with it He made a woman. God saw everything that He had made, and it was very good. God had finished all His work so on the seventh day He rested. He blessed the seventh day, making it a holy day, a Sabbath, a day set apart from all other days.

1. What did God create on each day of creation?
2. What did God do on the seventh day?
3. What is your favorite thing that God created?
4. Why did God put man in the Garden of Eden?
5. How do you think God wants us to treat His creation today? Are we doing that? How?
6. From what you heard in this story, how do you know that God cares about how we feel?

Prayer: We thank you God for all you created. Help us to take care of what you have given us and to keep the Sabbath Holy.

In the beginning there was no time, there was nothing and no one, only God. Then God created the heavens and the earth. At that time water and darkness covered all the earth. On the first day God said, "Let there be light" and so there was. God called the light, day and the dark, night. On the second day God spoke and the waters separated so that there was a huge space above it. God called the space, "sky." On the third day God commanded dry land to appear. He said, "Let the land produce plants." Plants of all shapes and sizes and colors appeared each with their own seeds. On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to mark off the seasons and the days and the years." The larger light, the sun, was to rule over the day and the smaller light, the moon, was to rule over the night. He also created the stars. On the fifth day God spoke and living creatures both big and small filled the waters. He created all the birds that fly in the sky. On the sixth day God spoke again and all kinds of living creatures covered the land, wild animals, livestock and creatures that crawl on the ground. God said, "Let us make man in our likeness. Let him rule over the fish in the waters, birds of the air, all the creatures and over all the earth." God formed man out of the dust of the earth. He breathed the breath of life into him. God put the man, Adam, in the beautiful Garden of Eden that He had planted. He

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." NIV



The Fall

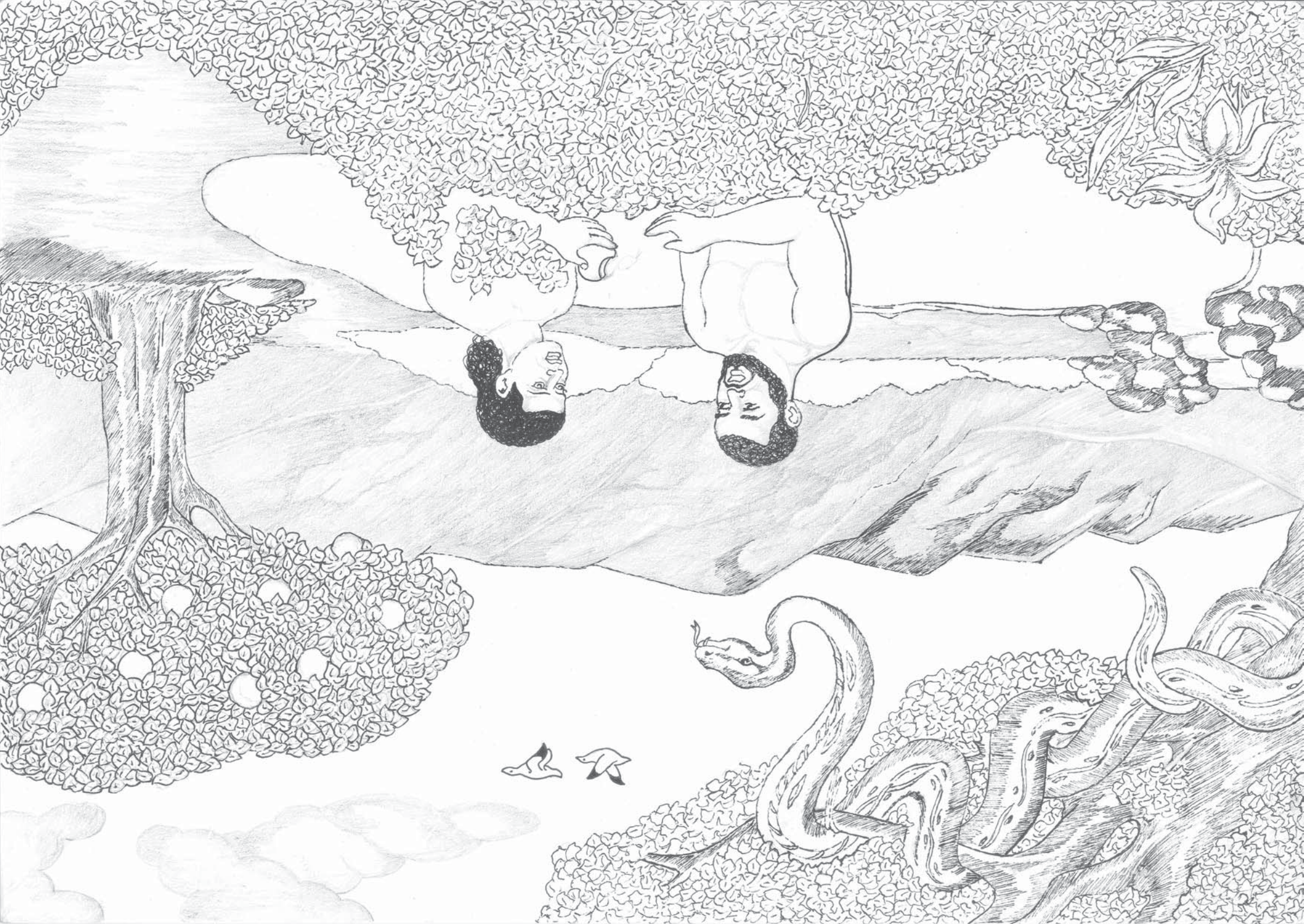
Bible Story 2: Genesis 3

Memory Verse: Romans 5:12

naked and ashamed.” God knew then that Adam had eaten from the tree. “Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” God asked. Adam blamed Eve for giving him the fruit. Eve blamed the serpent. “He tricked me,” she said. God cursed the serpent, making him lower than any other animal and forced to crawl on the ground. He said, “I will cause there to be hatred between you and the women. Her son will crush your head and you will crush his heel.” He told Eve that she would bear children in pain. God continued to Adam, “You will have to work hard to produce the food you need to eat. You were created from the dust of the earth and when you die you will return to it.” Because of their disobedience, the Lord God drove them out of the Garden of Eden, never to return again.

1. Of which tree were Adam and Eve told not to eat? What would happen to them if they did?
 2. How did the serpent trick Eve?
 3. Why do you think God was walking in the garden?
 4. Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?
 5. Can we hide our sin and disobedience from God?
 6. What was the result of Adam and Eve’s disobedience? What is the consequence of our sin?
- Prayer:** God forgive us for our sins. Help us not to focus on ourselves but want to obey all your commands. Amen.

When God created the heavens and the earth, He created a beautiful place called the Garden of Eden. God put all sorts of trees in the garden full of fruit that was both tasty and beautiful. He placed Adam and Eve there. They did not have to work for their food nor did they have to make clothes, as they were not ashamed of being naked. God asked only one thing of Adam and Eve, “You may eat the fruit of any of the trees in the garden. But if you eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you will die.” One day, the serpent, who was the most clever of all the animals God had created, approached Eve asking, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees?” Eve replied that they were allowed to eat of any of the fruit, except that of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil or they would die. The serpent did not give up so easily. He said, “Surely you won’t die. Your eyes will be open to all sorts of new knowledge. You will know the difference between good and evil and you will be like God.” Eve looked at the beautiful fruit. It would make her wise. She took the fruit and ate it. She gave some to Adam. Instantly, they both realized they were naked. They sewed leaves together to clothe themselves. Then they heard the Lord God walking in the garden. They hid from Him. God called out to them. Adam answered, “I hid from you when I heard you for I was



Cain and Abel

Bible Story 3: Genesis 4

Memory Verse: Genesis 4:7

Adam and Eve must have been very sad to leave God's beautiful Garden of Eden. Soon however, Eve delivered a baby boy whom she named Cain saying, "with the Lord's help I have given birth to a male child." Later she had Cain's brother, Abel. Cain became a farmer, working the ground. Abel became a shepherd. One day Cain brought an offering for the Lord of some of his produce from the earth. Abel also brought an offering to the Lord. He brought the best pieces of meat from some of the firstborn male lambs. The Lord was pleased with Abel and his offering, but He was not pleased with Cain or his offering. Cain became angry and his face was sad. God asked Cain, "Why are you angry? Why are you so miserable? If you do what is right, you will be accepted. But if you do not do what is right, sin is waiting at your door to attack you like a lion. You must not let it!" Cain went to his brother, Abel, and invited him to take a walk with him in the fields. Then Cain struck down his brother, killing him. The Lord again spoke to Cain, "Where is your brother, Abel?" Cain replied, "How should I know? Is it my job to watch my brother?" The Lord was not fooled. "What have you done?" he asked Cain. "Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground where you spilled it. Because of this the ground will forever be cursed to you. You will work it and give your crops to me, but you must master it."

1. What offering did Able and then Cain bring the Lord?
 2. Why was Cain so angry?
 3. What warning did God give Cain? Did he listen?
 4. Why did Cain kill his brother Abel?
 5. How did God punish Cain?
 6. Are we responsible for the well-being of our brother? Our extended Christian family? Other people?
- Prayer:** Father, forgive me for times when I was jealous of somebody else's good fortune. I ask you to help me always do what is right in your sight. I want to always live in your presence. Amen.

Genesis 4:7 "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."



The Flood

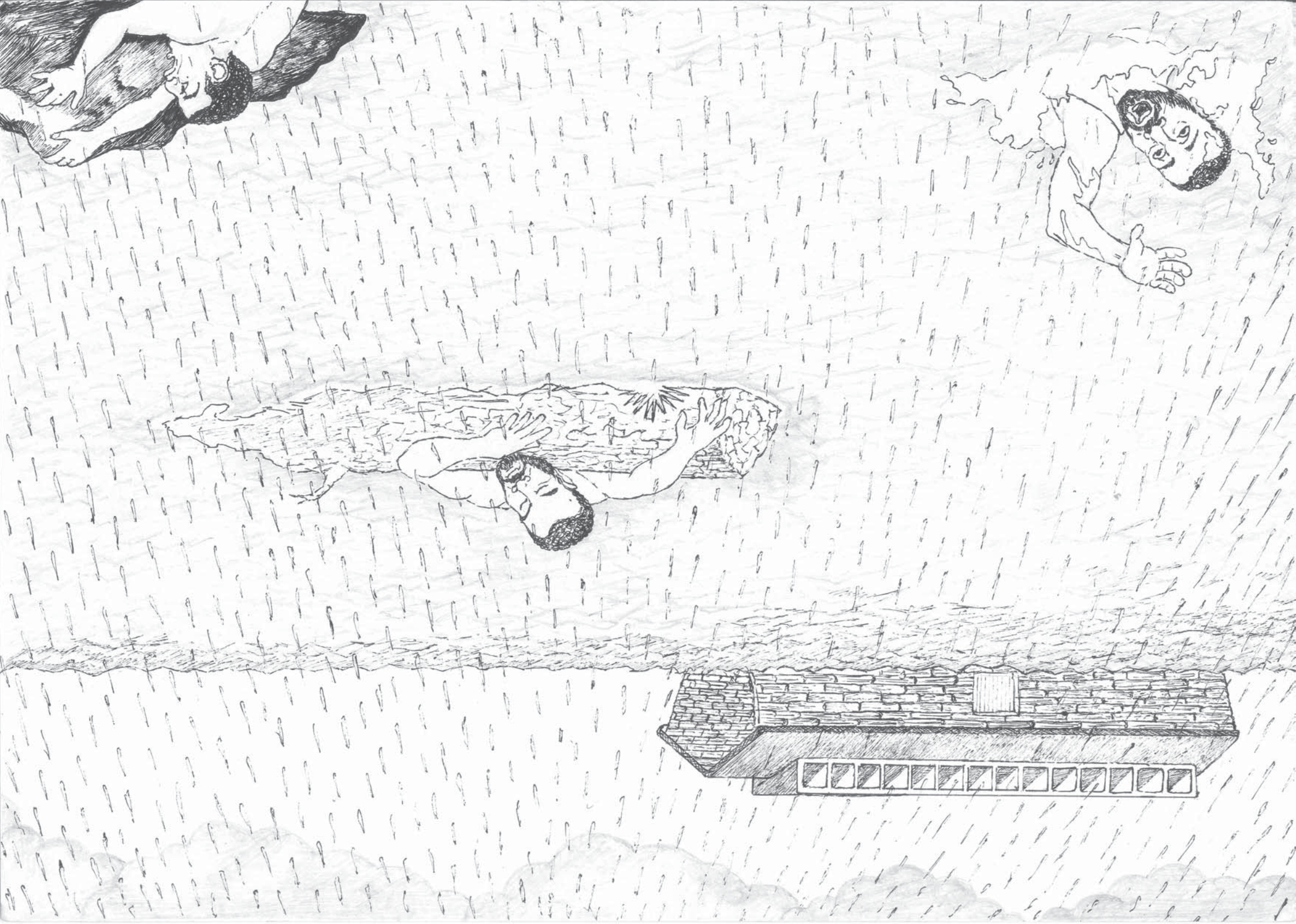
Bible Story 4: Genesis 5-10

Memory Verse: Genesis 6:8

After God created Adam and Eve, he told them to have many children. Soon the earth was filled with people. Many lived to be very old. One man, named Methuselah lived to be 969 years old! He had a grandson, who was named Noah. When Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of three boys: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. After that, God decided to limit how long a man could live and said about man "he is mortal; his days will be 120 years." Over the years, mankind became very wicked and did evil things. This made God so sad that he wished he had never created man! He decided to destroy mankind, including all the animals and creatures that lived on the land as well as the birds of the air. But there was one man who lived a good and right life in the eyes of God; it was Noah. He loved and obeyed God. So God was going to save Noah and his family but a flood that would cover the whole earth would destroy everyone else. Now God told Noah to build a huge boat called an ark out of wood. The ark was to have a roof, rooms inside, and space for all the animals. Noah built it exactly how God told him to. When the ark was done, God told Noah to bring into the ark two of every kind of living animal and creature, male and female, as well as every kind of bird. Then God said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family." So they did, along with all the creatures of Genesis 6:8 "But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord." NIV

- and God closed the door. Then God sent the rain. Water from the deep broke through the earth. For 40 days and 40 nights the earth filled with water and was covered! Every living thing that moved on the earth was wiped out. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. The waters flooded the earth for 150 days before the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat. When it was safe God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark!" Noah built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed an animal. This was pleasing to God. God promised that never again would the whole earth be flooded. The sign that he gave Noah was the rainbow in the sky. God blessed Noah and his sons and told them to multiply upon the earth.
1. Before the flood, how did the people of earth behave?
 2. Who lived a good and right life before God and man?
 3. What did God tell Noah to build? Why?
 4. Why do you think God destroyed the earth?
 5. What promise did God make after the flood?
 6. How do you think God wants us to live today?

Prayer: We know that you are a powerful God. Teach us to live a right life before you. Thank you for keeping your promises and help us to do the same. Amen.



The Tower of Babel

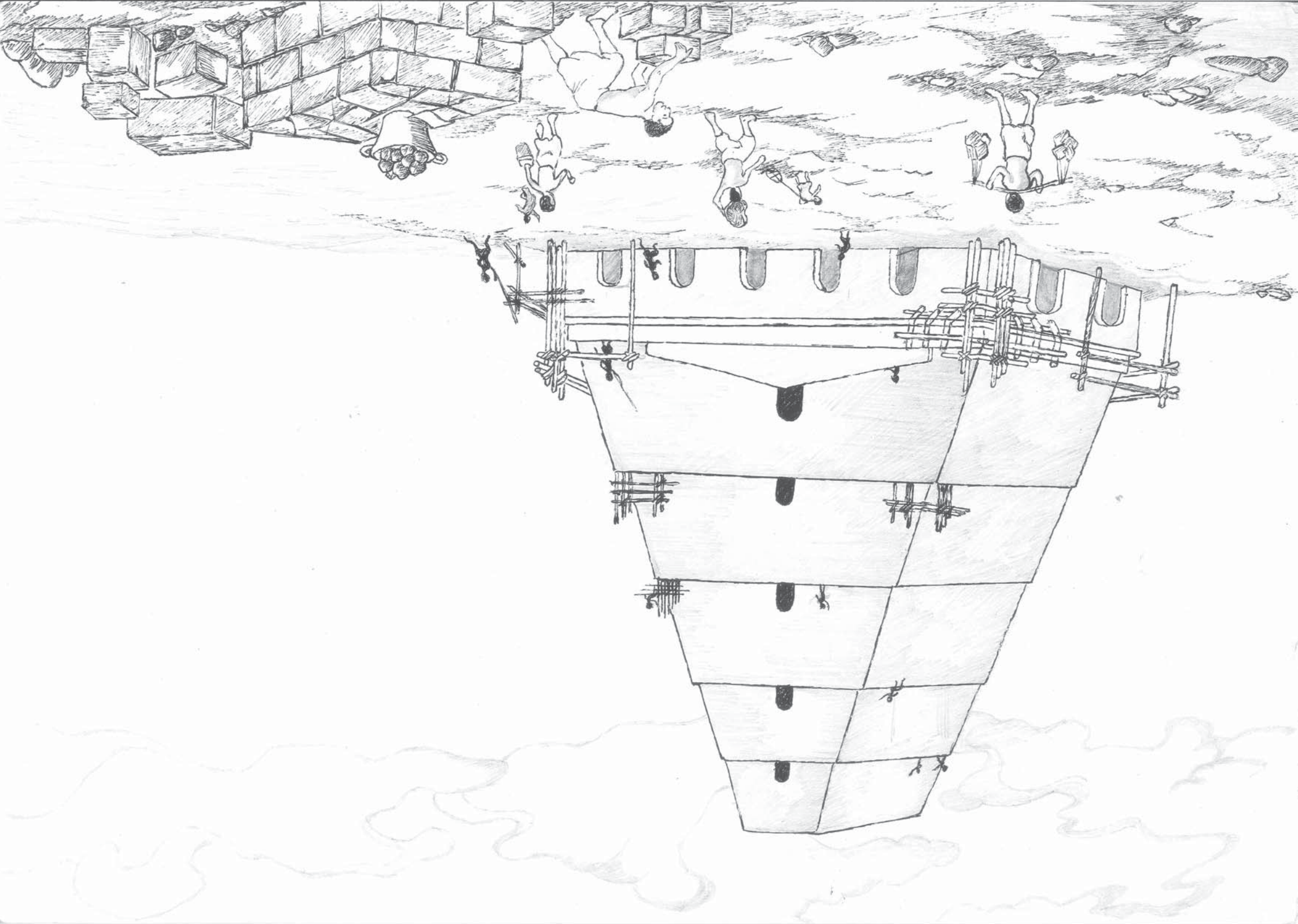
Bible Story 5: Genesis 11

Memory Verse: Proverbs 16:20

After the flood, Noah and his family grew and grew to become a multitude of people, who soon made up nations that spread across the land. At that time, everyone in the whole world spoke the same language. People started to move towards the east and settle in the plains of Shinar. The people did not obey what God had told them to do: They were to fill the whole earth, but instead they said to each other, "Let us make bricks and bake them well." They used bricks instead of stone and they used tar instead of mortar. With these bricks and tar they wanted to build a city with a tower that reached to the heavens! That would have been a very tall building!!! The reason they wanted to build such a tall tower was so that they could make a name for themselves and become a strong and powerful nation that did not need any help from anyone, not even God. Then the Lord came down and saw the city and tower that the men were building. The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the Lord confused their plans so they could not even understand what the other person was saying. They stopped building the city. God then scattered all the people from that place to different parts of the earth. The

1. What did God tell Noah's family to do after the flood?
2. What did the people of the world do to disobey God?
3. Why did the people build a city and tall tower to the sky?
4. What did God do when He saw such behavior?
5. Why do you think God confused their language?
6. How are people today disobedient and self-centered? How does God want us to live?

Prayer: Thank you God for being all wise and powerful. Help us to live a life that always pleases you, through our obedience to your Word. Help us to want what you want, and not to seek our own prideful desires. Thank you for your faithfulness and grace even when we do the wrong things. Amen.

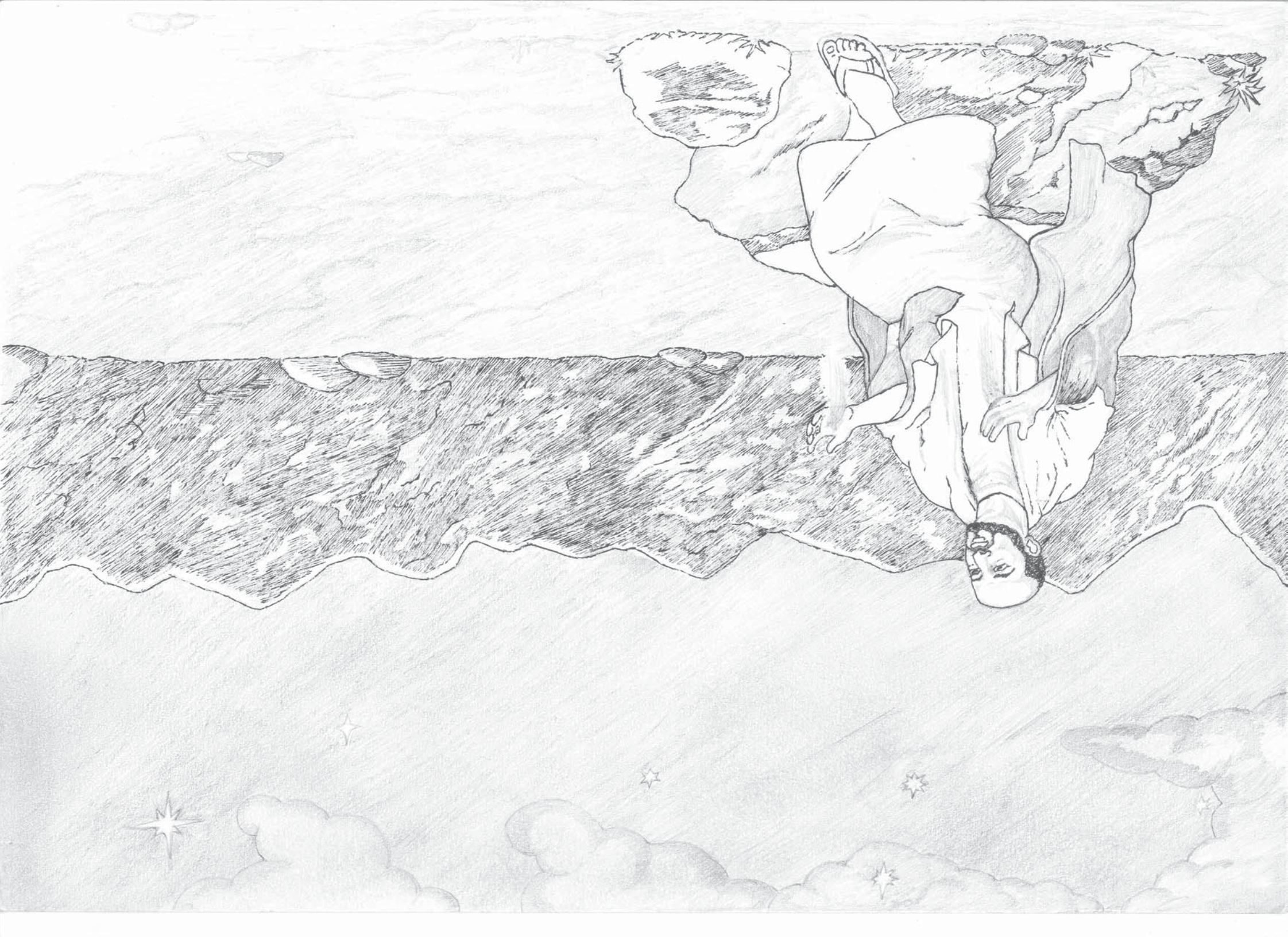


Canaan. God spoke to Abram and said, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north, south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever." God told Abram that his descendants would be too many to count like the sand on the seashore! Abram thanked God and built an altar to the Lord. God said to Abram, "Look up into the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can! So shall your offspring be!" Because Abram believed God and obeyed, God called him righteous. God told Abram that he would now be called Abraham because the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land!"

1. What did God ask Abram to do?
2. What did Abram do in Egypt that was not right?
3. What were the two promises God made with Abram?
4. How did Abram respond and what did God call him?
5. Why is a covenant something that cannot be broken?
6. What does it mean to be righteous? Can we become righteous before God's eyes?

Prayer: Thank you Lord for keeping your word. As children of the promise you gave to Abraham, help us to be obedient to you. May we also always keep our promise. Amen.

Many years after the flood, there lived a man named Abram who was a descendant of Shem. Abram and his wife Sarai lived in a place called Haran. One day the Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." God told Abram that He would make him into a great nation and that his name would be great. Abram obeyed God. With all their belongings packed, Abram, Sarai and his nephew Lot set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in the land, they pitched a tent near Bethel and built an altar of praise to the Lord. There was famine in the land so Abram went to live in Egypt. Now, Abram's wife was beautiful and Abram was afraid that the officials of Pharaoh would kill him and take Sarai to be the Pharaoh's wife. He told the officials that Sarai was his sister. Sure enough they took her to be Pharaoh's wife and did not hurt Abram. In fact Abram was given much livestock, silver and gold. But God was not pleased! God made Pharaoh and those in his household very sick. When Pharaoh found out about Abram's lie he gave Sarai back saying, "here is your wife. Take her and go!" When Abram returned to the Negev there was not enough land for both Abram and Lot's animals and wealth, so they decided to move away from each other. Lot moved close to the wicked city of Sodom but Abram lived in the land of



Hagar and Ishmael

Bible Story 7: Genesis 16

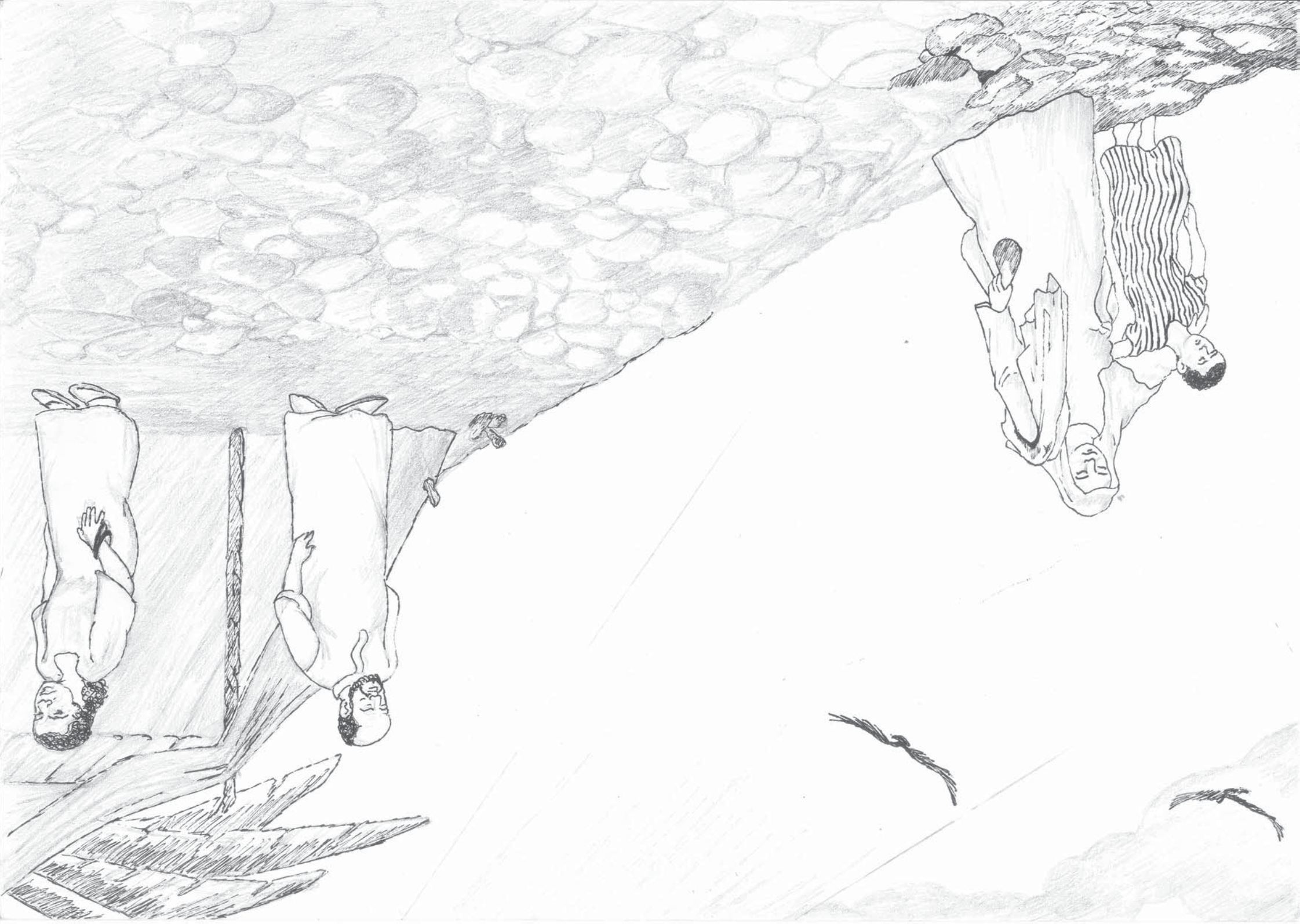
Memory Verse: Genesis 16:13b

Many years after God had given Abraham His covenant to Sarai, Abrams' wife had bore him no children, so she said to Abram "The Lord has kept me from having children" and so she tried to solve the problem by herself. She told Abram to take her Egyptian maidservant, Hagar to be his wife. Hagar gave birth to a son and they named him Ishmael. Then Hagar began to despise Sarai making sure she knew that Hagar was carrying Abraham's child. Sarai became so angry and jealous of Hagar. She went to Abraham and told him "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me." Abraham responded, "Do with her whatever you think best." So Sarai mistreated Hagar until she fled from their home. She wandered into the desert with her son Ishmael in despair. There near a spring the angel of the Lord found Hagar and asked, "Where have you come from, and where are you going?" Hagar told the angel that she was running away. But the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." He promised, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." Hagar was so encouraged that she gave this name to the Lord. "You are the God that who sees me, for

1. How did Sarai try to solve the problem that Abraham had no son?

2. What name did Abraham give to Hagar's son?
3. When Hagar had her son how did she react to Sarai?
4. What made Hagar return to her family?
5. How does the mark of circumcision show how important it is to identify ourselves as God's children?
6. When we do things our way, instead of God's way, what is the result?

Prayer: God we thank you that you are the God that sees us the way we are. We pray for your will in our lives and not for our own selfish desires. We are your children. Amen



Sodom Destroyed

Bible Story 8: Genesis 18-19

Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 12:14

One day while Abraham sat at the door of his tent, he saw three visitors approaching and recognized that they were from the Lord. He asked Sarah to quickly prepare food and Abraham begged the visitors to stay. After the feast that Abraham provided he walked with the visitors to see them on their way. Then the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?" Abraham was to become a nation that was to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right. Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry." Then Abraham, knowing that his relative Lot was living in the city, began to plead with Lord. "What if there are fifty righteous people in the city, will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" The Lord answered, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." Then Abraham was bold and asked if the number was even less like 45, 40, 30, 20, or even in 10 would he spare the city. The Lord promised that if even ten were found he would be merciful. So Abraham went home. When the two angels arrived at Sodom they found Lot at the city gate. Lot to them to his home and prepared a meal. Then the men of Sodom, both young and old surrounded their home and demanded that Lot would give the visitors to them to do sinful acts. Lot stepped out of his house and pleaded with them to go away. But they shouted all the louder, "Get out of our way!" and they planned to force the doors down. Then the angels pulled Lot back into the house and struck all the men with blindness so they could not find the door. They told Lot to take his family and flee because God was going to destroy the city with fire. So Lot, his wife and daughters were led from the city and the angel said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back or you will be swept away!" And God rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah and everything was destroyed. Lot's wife turned back to look and she turned into a pillar of salt. God saved Lot and his daughter that day, but the wicked were destroyed.

1. Who came to Abraham's tent?
2. What was God's plan for the city of Sodom?
3. Why did Abraham plead on behalf of the city?
4. How many righteous people would have saved the city from destruction?
5. Why do you think Lot's wife looked back?
6. How is God both merciful but also a just God?

Prayer: God forgive us for our sins. Thank you for your mercy and help us to never go back to our sinful life. Amen.



Abraham's Sacrifice

Bible Story 9: Genesis 22

Memory Verse: Genesis 22:18

When Abraham was an old man, God made a promise to him. God promised Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation. In return God expected Abraham to obey all that He asked. Abraham waited years for the promised baby. Finally when he was nearly 100 years old, Abraham and his wife Sarah had their first child – Isaac. He was the fulfillment of all God's promises. One day, when Isaac was a young boy, God spoke to Abraham. "Take your only son whom you love so very much to a mountain in the land of Moriah. There give him to Me as a burnt offering." Amazingly, Abraham didn't argue with God. The very next morning he and his son with two of their servants headed for Moriah. Abraham cut wood for the burnt offering. It was three long days before they saw Moriah. When they were some distance away Abraham said to his servants, "Wait here while the boy and I worship. Then **we** will come back to you." Abraham placed the wood on Isaac and carrying the fire and a knife Abraham and Isaac began walking. Isaac knowing God required a blood-offering spoke up, "Father, we have wood and fire, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "The Lord, Himself, will provide, my son." When they had reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar to the Lord and laid the wood upon it. He took Isaac, tied him up, and laid

him upon the wood on the altar. As he raised his hand to kill his son, the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. "Abraham! Abraham! Do not lay a hand against Isaac. I now know that you revere God above all else because you did not even refuse Him your son Isaac, your only son." He Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the brush. He sacrificed the ram on the altar as a burnt offering instead of Isaac. Abraham called that place, The Lord Will Provide. The angel of the Lord then declared, "because you have not withheld from me your only son Isaac, I will bless you. I will make your children after you as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the grains of sand upon the seashore. All nations on earth will be blessed because of your children. All of this will happen, because you obeyed me."

1. What did God ask Abraham to do to his son, Isaac?
 2. Abraham told the servants that 'they' would return. Do you think he knew what would happen?
 3. How hard was it for Abraham to tie up his son as the sacrifice? How do you think Isaac felt?
 4. How did God provide for Abraham and Isaac?
 5. What did God promise Abraham because he obeyed God without question?
 6. Do you trust God even when things don't seem to be going the way you expect or want? How do we get faith like this?
- Prayer:** God help us to have the faith of Abraham. We thank you for being the God that provides. We will obey you. Amen.

Genesis 22:18 ""And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." NIV



A Wife for Isaac

Bible Story 10: Genesis 24-25

Memory Verse: Isaiah 25:1

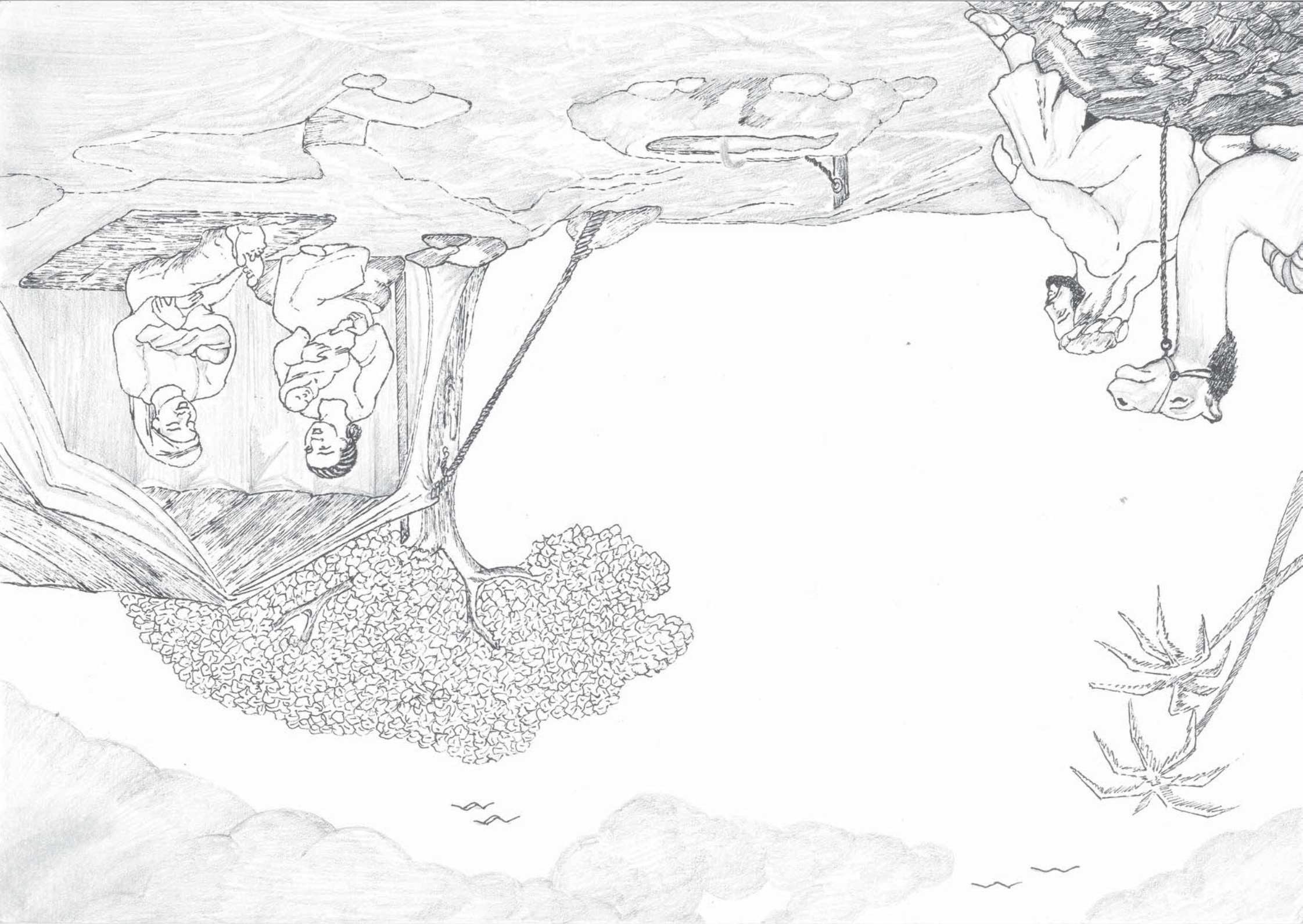
wanted to make sure she was the one. "Whose daughter are you?" he asked. "Is there room in his house for us to spend the night?" "I am Rebekah, Nahor's granddaughter," she replied. Nahor was Abraham's brother! The man bowed down and worshipped the Lord. "I praise the Lord, God of my master Abraham. The Lord has not stopped being kind and faithful to Abraham. He has led me on the right road straight to the house of his relatives." So Rebekah returned with the servant to Canaan to Abraham and Isaac. Isaac married Rebekah and he loved her. After they had been married 20 years God answered Isaac's prayers and Rebekah gave birth to twins! They named them Essau and Jacob. Essau was born first but Jacob had a hold on Essau's foot. The race between the brothers was on! God continued to bless Jacob, Essau, and Isaac, Abraham's promised son.

1. Did Abraham want Isaac to marry a Canaanite woman?
2. Why was Abraham so sure that his servant would find a wife for Isaac among his relatives?
3. What sign did the servant ask the Lord to give him?
4. How had the Lord been faithful to Abraham?
5. How did the birth of the twins fulfill God's covenant?
6. How can you be sure that God will keep his promises?

Prayer: Thank you, God for keeping your promises and being faithful to your people. Help us to be faithful to your Word and to search for your guidance in our lives. Amen.

Isaiah 25:1 "O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago." NIV

Abraham was a very old man when he decided it was time for Isaac to marry. Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman among those living in Canaan, as she would not know their God. So he sent his most trusted servant to the land he had left to find a wife from among his relatives. His servant was afraid that a young woman would not want to leave her family to travel so far to marry a stranger. However, Abraham's faith never wavered. "I have walked with the Lord all these years and He has kept His promises. He has made an oath to me that I - and my descendants - will inhabit this land. An angel of the Lord will go before you and God will give you success." The servant left for Abraham's country. He stopped at a well just outside the town of Nahor. There he prayed, "Lord, You are the God of Abraham. Grant me success on this mission. If a young woman comes to this well and says to me, 'have a drink of water and your camels too' then I will know that this is the one you have chosen." Before he had even finished his prayer a beautiful young woman with a jar on her shoulder came out. The servant rushed over to greet her. She said to him, "Have a drink, sir," and lowered her jar for him to drink. She then said, "I'll get water for your camels as well." She ran back and forth from the well until all the camels had been given water. The servant watched her closely. He



Jacob Cheats Esau

Bible Story 11: Genesis 25-27

Memory Verse: James 2:1

him and then he will give you the blessing instead of Esau." "But, Mother," said Jacob, "how can I convince my Father that I am Esau. He is hairy where I am smooth. If he knows that I have tried to trick him, he will curse me." So Rebekah dressed Jacob in Esau's clothes and covered his hands and bare neck with the skins of goats. When Jacob brought the meal into his father, Isaac touched his hands, which were covered with the goatskins, and smelled the clothes that belonged to Esau. Isaac said to Jacob, "You sound like my son Jacob, but you feel like my son Esau." So he gave Jacob his blessing saying, "May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness— May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed, and those who bless you be blessed." And so Jacob, the deceiver, took both the birthright and the blessings from his brother, Esau.

1. What were the names of Isaac and Rebekah's twins?
2. How were the twin boys so different?
3. Was it right for Isaac and Rebekah to show favoritism to one son over the other?
4. Why do you think Esau cared so little for his birthrights?
5. How did Jacob trick Esau of the blessing from their father?
6. How will God continue to bless the children of Abraham through Isaac making them a great nation?

Isaac and Rebekah, had twin sons. The babies within her constantly struggled with each other. The first to be born was Esau. He was red and covered with hair. Jacob was born next with his hand holding his brother's heel. As they grew up, it became obvious that they were very different. Esau was a hunter and liked wide-open spaces. Isaac loved the meat Esau provided and so he favored him above his brother. Jacob was quiet and stayed near the tents. He became Rebekah's favorite. One day Jacob came in from the wilderness, tired and hungry. He begged Jacob, "Quick, give me a bowl of that stew. I am so hungry." Jacob thought quickly. "First sell me all the rights that belong to you as the oldest son." Esau replied, "Brother, I am starving to death. What good are those birthrights to me now?" Esau despised his birthrights by selling them for a bowl of lentil stew and some bread. As Isaac grew older he became blind and was afraid that he would soon die. He called for his oldest son, Esau. He said to him, "Esau, go out and hunt some wild animals. Prepare it for me, as I like it. Then I will give you my blessing before I die." Rebekah overheard this conversation. She quickly called Jacob. She said, "Your father is about to give his blessings to your brother. Do just as I say. Bring me two of the finest young goats of the flock. I will fix them just the way your father likes it. You take it to



Jacob Wrestles with God

Bible Story 12: Genesis 31-33

Memory Verse: Genesis 32:28

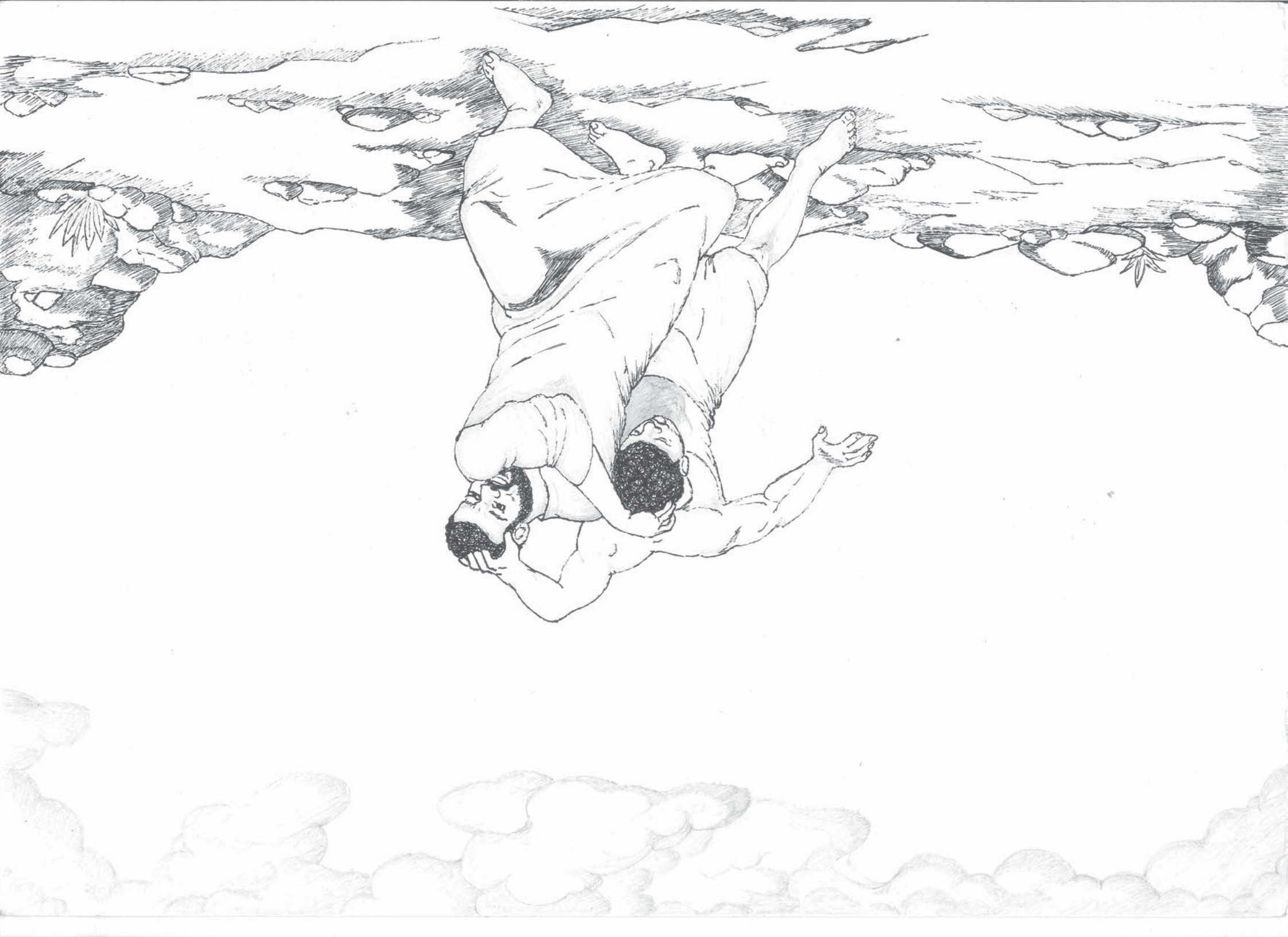
asked Jacob to let him go, as it was morning. Jacob replied, "I won't let you go until you bless me." Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." When he re-joined his family he looked up and saw Esau coming with 400 men. Jacob put the servants in front and Leah with her children behind. Rachel and Jacob were last. When he reached his brother, he bowed down to the ground. But Esau ran to meet Jacob throwing his arms around him. Both brothers cried. Esau asked Jacob, "Why have you sent me all these herds. I already have plenty. Keep what you have." Jacob replied, "No, please! Keep them. I had hoped to do something to please you. Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God." God kept his promise to be with Israel and he blessed him.

1. Why did Jacob flee to the land of his Uncle Laban?
2. What did God promise Jacob in his dream?
3. How did Laban trick Jacob into working for him so long?
4. Why was Jacob's name changed to Israel?
5. How was Jacob expecting his brother Esau to greet him?
6. Why is forgiveness so much better than bitterness?

Prayer: Thank you for the example of Esau's forgiveness. May we always treat others with grace and peace and not hate. Amen.

When Jacob tricked his brother and father, and received the birthright and blessing that belonged to the oldest son, Esau was furious and threatened to kill him. His mother, Rebekah, sent him away to her brother, Laban. On his way there, God came to him in a dream. He promised Jacob that all nations on earth would be blessed because of him and his children. When Jacob reached Laban's home he fell in love with his daughter Rachel. Jacob agreed to work for his uncle for seven years so that he could marry her. Laban tricked him, giving him Rachel's older sister, Leah instead. Jacob worked another seven years to have Rachel as well. God blessed Jacob giving him great ability with the livestock. Because of him, Laban prospered. Then because of strife, one day Jacob decided it was time to leave with his wives, children, and flocks. God spoke to Jacob, "Go back to your father's land and I will be with you." So Jacob did as the Lord told him. As Jacob neared the place where Esau lived he became fearful. He chose hundreds of his livestock to give to his brother as gifts. He sent them ahead with his servants, That night he sent ahead his wives, children, and all he owned across the river. He alone was left in the camp. A man came and struggled with him there. At last the man saw he could not win and so touched the inside of Jacob's hip. Immediately Jacob's hip became twisted. The man

Genesis 32:28 "Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." NIV



Joseph's Dreams

Bible Story 13: Genesis 37

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

and cover up his blood? Come, let us sell him to these traders!" They pulled Joseph out of the well and sold him for twenty coins of silver. Now, what would the brothers tell their father? They took Joseph's beautiful coat, tore it, and dipped it in blood to make it look like a wild animal had attacked Joseph. When they arrived home, they said, "We found his clothes. He loved his son so much and thought that Joseph was dead. Meanwhile, Joseph was taken all the way to Egypt where the traders sold him to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's official captains of the guard. Joseph was sad.

1. How did Joseph's special coat make the brothers feel?
2. What did Joseph tell his brothers that made them mad?
3. Why did the brothers want to kill him? What did they do?
4. If you were Joseph, how would you feel towards you brothers?
5. How does one sin lead to committing another sin?
6. What feelings of their father, did the brothers overlook?

Prayer: Heavenly father, you know the plans for us. Help us to trust in you even when we are mistreated. Thank you for always directing our paths, as we trust you. Amen.

There was a father whose name was Jacob. He had twelve sons. Joseph was the first born of Jacob's second wife, Rachel. Jacob loved Joseph more than the other sons and made a beautiful coat for Joseph. This made all Joseph's brothers very jealous. One night, Joseph had a dream about gathering the wheat grain together in bundles. In his dream, Joseph's bundle of wheat stood up and all the others gathered around his and bowed down before his. He also had another dream about the sun, moon and eleven stars that were all bowing down before him. He told these dreams to his brothers and father. "Oh", his brothers said, "What! Are you going to rule over us!" Joseph's brothers hated him even more. Joseph's father rebuked him, but continued to think about the dream. One day, Joseph's father asked him to go check on his brothers who were out in the field looking after the sheep. "Here comes that dreamer!" they said. "Let us kill him and throw him into this deep dry well." When the oldest brother, Reuben, heard this, he said, "No, let us just throw him into the well." He planned to rescue Joseph later. The brothers grabbed him, tore off his beautiful coat and threw him into the deep dry well. While the brothers were eating their food, they saw a group of traders with their camels carrying things to take down to Egypt. Judah, one of the brothers, said, "What will we gain if we kill our brother

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." NIV



The Integrity of Joseph

Bible Story 14: Genesis 39-40

Memory Verse: Psalm 25:21

dreamed about a vine with three branches ripe with grapes that were squeezed into Pharaoh's cup to drink. Joseph told the cupbearer that in three days he would be released from prison and again serve the king. The chief baker dreamed that he was carrying three baskets of bread on his head and birds were eating the bread. Joseph told the baker that in three days Pharaoh would hang him to die and that the birds would eat his flesh. After three days, both dreams came true. God enabled Joseph to interpret the dreams. The cup-bearer remembered Joseph's kindness and on the day the king had a dream, Joseph was called and placed in Pharaoh's court as an advisor to the king. God blessed Joseph's integrity and placed him in authority.

1. What things did Potiphar's wife do that were wrong?
2. How did Joseph respond to Potiphar's wife?
3. How did God bless Joseph in Potiphar's house and in the prison? Did Joseph deserve his punishment?
4. How does God want us to act when we are wronged?
5. Why did God give visions and understanding to Joseph?
6. Why is doing the right thing always the best thing to do?

Prayer: Jesus, thank you that you never leave us or fail us, even when others treat us wrongly. Help us to make right decisions that please you. Amen.

NIV

Psalm 25:21 "May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you."

Joseph was a slave in Egypt and worked for a captain of Pharaoh's guard named Potiphar. Joseph was a hard worker and everything he did pleased his master. God gave Joseph strength and blessed him in all that he did. Because of this, Potiphar trusted Joseph and put him in charge of his entire household. Now Joseph had strong muscles and was handsome. Potiphar's wife noticed Joseph and said, "Joseph, come be with me!" but Joseph refused. Everything was given to Joseph to care for, but not Potiphar's wife. This would be a wicked thing to do before both Potiphar and God! One day while Joseph was in Potiphar's house, and all the other workers were gone, Potiphar's wife took the chance! She grabbed Joseph's cloak and said, "Come, be with me!" Joseph pulled away, leaving his cloak behind and ran out of the house. When she saw his cloak, she called her husband and lied, "Look! Joseph came to attack me, but I screamed and he ran out of the house!" Potiphar was very angry; so angry that he put Joseph in prison. Even in prison, the Lord blessed Joseph. The prison warden put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. Joseph was successful in all that he did. In prison, Joseph met two servants of Pharaoh's, the cup-bearer and the chief baker. One night they both had a dream they did not understand. Joseph listened to their dreams and asked God to help him understand them. The cupbearer



Joseph Saves His Family

Bible Story 15: Genesis 41-46

Memory Verse: Genesis 50:20

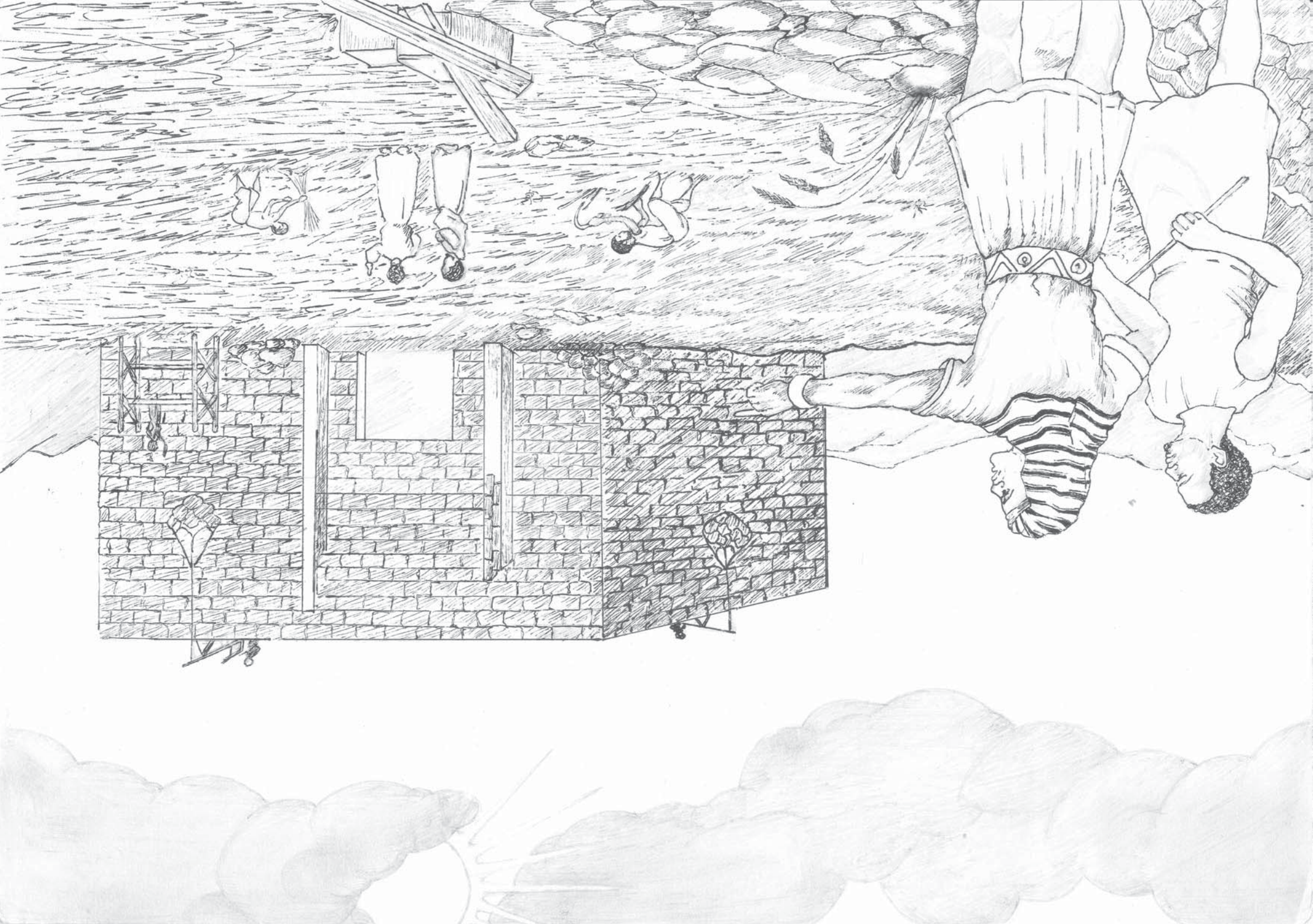
While Joseph was in jail, Pharaoh had two dreams one night and didn't know what they meant. His cupbearer told Pharaoh that Joseph could interpret dreams. Joseph was called and he told Pharaoh the dreams meant that there would be 7 years of harvest followed by 7 years of famine. Pharaoh saw Joseph's wisdom and put him in charge of all the land. During the years of plenty, Joseph had all the people bring one fifth of their grain to be stored. When the famine came, the people had food to eat because of Joseph. Jacob, Joseph's father, who lived in the land of Canaan, heard that there was food in Egypt. "Go to Egypt, my sons, and buy food for us so that we will not die." Benjamin, the youngest son, stayed home. The brothers went to Egypt to buy grain. Joseph immediately knew them, but they did not recognize Joseph. Joseph asked them many questions about their family and accused them of being spies. He wanted them to bring Benjamin back to Egypt to prove what they had said was true. Simeon, was forced to stay behind in Egypt, to be released upon Benjamin's return. Joseph gave grain to the brothers and replaced the silver that they used to buy the grain without the brothers knowing it. On their way home, they discovered the silver in their sacks and were afraid! They told their father everything. Jacob was sad. "Joseph and Simeon are no more and now you want to take

Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." NIV

Benjamin!" When the family had eaten all the grain, Jacob told his sons to go back to Egypt. Judah, took responsibility for Benjamin and returned with twice the amount of silver, and many gifts to give to the ruler of Egypt. When they arrived, Joseph saw Benjamin and was so moved he wept. He had a very special meal prepared for the brothers before sending them back with plenty of grain, the silver, and his own cup, which his servant secretly placed in Benjamin's sack. After leaving, Joseph sent his servant after the brothers to accuse 'the one with his cup.' Judah pleaded for Benjamin's life and they all bowed before Joseph begging for mercy. Joseph could wait no longer. He told them the truth, "I am Joseph." They rejoiced together! Pharaoh gave land in Egypt to Joseph's family so they came and were all saved.

1. How did God use Joseph to save his family from death?
2. Did Joseph trust his brothers? Did he love them?
3. How did Joseph 'test' his brother's love for Benjamin?
4. How can we trust God during difficult times?
5. How did Joseph respond to God throughout his life?
6. What lesson do we learn from Joseph's life?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that you understand our lives and all that we face. Help us to trust you and be obedient in everything. Thank you for your strength. Amen



Baby Moses

Bible Story 16: Exodus 1-2

Memory Verse: Psalm 91:2

Nile. She saw the basket and had it brought to her. When she opened the basket and saw the crying baby she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Seeing the compassion on the face of Pharaoh's daughter, the baby's sister spoke out, "Do you want me to go and get a Hebrew woman to take care of the baby for you?" When Pharaoh's daughter agreed, the young girl rushed to get her mother. Pharaoh's daughter asked the baby's mother to nurse him, and offered to pay her. So she took him back home and when he was older she returned him to Pharaoh's daughter who named him Moses because, "I pulled him out of the water." So Moses was saved from death and grew up in the palace of the Pharaoh. God was preparing him for a great task for the Hebrew people.

1. Why did Pharaoh want to kill the Hebrew baby boys?
 2. How did the mother of Moses try to save her baby?
 3. Who found the basket that held baby Moses?
 4. Who took care of baby Moses for Pharaoh's daughter until he was older?
 5. How did God prepare Moses even as a child?
 6. In what ways does God protect and guide us?
- Prayer:** Thank you Father for your love and protection. Help us to trust in you for all our fears. Help us to serve in the places that you have called us. Amen

Many generations went by after Joseph invited his father, Jacob, and his brothers to live in Egypt during the time of the great famine. Many generations of Jacob's descendants lived and died in this land far from their home. They became known as the Hebrews or Israelites. Though they had once been honored guests, the Egyptians had enslaved them. Still God blessed them and they became so numerous that the Egyptians began to fear them. Pharaoh, the Egyptian ruler, decided that all Israelite baby boys were to be murdered. He told the midwives to kill them at birth, but they feared God more than Pharaoh, so they did not. Pharaoh then ordered his soldiers to go to their homes and throw all the baby boys into the Nile River. This caused great sorrow among the Israelites. During this time a woman from the tribe of Levi had a baby boy. She knew that if he was found he would be killed. For three months she hid him until she knew that it was no longer possible. She was determined to save her little boy, so she formed a dangerous plan. She made a basket from tall grass. She coated it with tar so that the water could not enter. She carefully placed her baby boy in the basket and put it among the tall reeds along the Nile River. Her daughter stayed close by to watch. Soon the Pharaoh's own daughter came to bathe in the waters of the



The Burning Bush

Bible Story 17: Exodus 3

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:18-19

Pharaoh of Egypt with miraculous signs so that they would even give them all kinds of goods, articles of gold and silver. Moses still felt afraid of the task. "What if no one believes me?" The Lord instructed Moses to throw his staff down upon the ground. It turned into a snake. The Lord told him to take the snake by the tail and at once it became a staff in his hand again. The Lord said, "When the people see this sign, they will believe that I appeared to you." After all of this Moses still asked God to send someone else, as he was unable to speak well. The Lord was angry, but he told Moses to seek his brother Aaron to speak for him. Though afraid, Moses finally believed and God was with him and provided for him. When God calls, He always provides.

1. Why did Moses kill the Egyptian and run away?
2. How did God say His name and what does it mean?
3. What was God going to do for his people? Why?
4. What did Moses' staff become when thrown down?
5. How did the Lord reassure Moses and provide for him?
6. Why should we not be afraid of God's call on our life?

Prayer: Father, We are humbled that you would use us to do your will. Thanks for not giving up on us. I pray that you will empower us to do what you have asked. Amen

Moses grew up in the palace of the Pharaoh of Egypt, but he never forgot that he was a Hebrew. He saw the suffering of his people who were Egyptians slaves and he felt sorry for them. One day, he saw a Hebrew man being beaten by his Egyptian master. Outraged at the injustice, Moses fought and killed the Egyptian. In fear of his life, Moses escaped to Midian in the desert where he married Zipporah and worked for her father. One day when he was watching over his father-in-law's sheep near the mountain of Horeb, Moses saw a bush that was on fire but did not burn up. God called out to Moses from inside the bush. Moses answered, "Here I am." God replied, "Take off your sandals for the place you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I have seen the suffering of my people at the hands of their Egyptian slave drivers. I will bring them up out of that land to the land of milk and honey. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." Moses was afraid. "Who am I that I should bring the people up out of Egypt?" God assured him that He would be with him. "But what if the people ask me what is the name of this God of our fathers?" Moses asked. God replied, "I am who I am. Tell them I AM has sent me to you. My name will always be The LORD." God promised to bend the will of the

Psalm 145:18-19 The Lord is near to all you call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. NIV



The Plagues of Egypt

Bible Story 18: Exodus 7-11

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 33:3

God sent Moses and his brother Aaron to see the mighty Pharaoh of Egypt. He promised Moses that He would bring His people out of Egypt. God knew that Pharaoh would not want to listen to them so he instructed Aaron to throw down the staff of Moses before Pharaoh. It became a snake. Pharaoh called forth his magicians who also threw down their staffs. Immediately they became writhing snakes. But the rod of Moses swallowed up all the other snakes. God instructed Moses to ask Pharaoh to let his people go to worship Him in the desert. Pharaoh had a hard heart, so God turned the Nile River and all the waters to blood. However, Pharaoh refused to allow the Israelites to go and worship God. God sent Moses to Pharaoh again and when he again refused, Aaron stretched out the rod over the Nile and frogs covered the land. Pharaoh begged Moses to pray and remove the frogs from the land, and promised to let them go. As soon as the frogs died, he became stubborn and again refused. So God sent gnats throughout Egypt. The wise men urged Pharaoh to let the people go, but Pharaoh's heart was hard. Moses told Pharaoh that God would send flies over all of Egypt, but not Goshen, where the people of God lived, so that Pharaoh would know that it was God. Flies destroyed Egypt, but not Goshen. Pharaoh relented and called Moses to pray. However, as soon as the God sent Moses and his brother Aaron to see the mighty Pharaoh of Egypt. He promised Moses that He would bring His people out of Egypt. God knew that Pharaoh would not want to listen to them so he instructed Aaron to throw down the staff of Moses before Pharaoh. It became a snake. Pharaoh called forth his magicians who also threw down their staffs. Immediately they became writhing snakes. But the rod of Moses swallowed up all the other snakes. God instructed Moses to ask Pharaoh to let his people go to worship Him in the desert. Pharaoh had a hard heart, so God turned the Nile River and all the waters to blood. However, Pharaoh refused to allow the Israelites to go and worship God. God sent Moses to Pharaoh again and when he again refused, Aaron stretched out the rod over the Nile and frogs covered the land. Pharaoh begged Moses to pray and remove the frogs from the land, and promised to let them go. As soon as the frogs died, he became stubborn and again refused. So God sent gnats throughout Egypt. The wise men urged Pharaoh to let the people go, but Pharaoh's heart was hard. Moses told Pharaoh that God would send flies over all of Egypt, but not Goshen, where the people of God lived, so that Pharaoh would know that it was God. Flies destroyed Egypt, but not Goshen. Pharaoh relented and called Moses to pray. However, as soon as the

flies disappeared, Pharaoh's heart became stubborn once again. So God caused the livestock - all the donkeys, sheep, goats, cattle and camels - of the Egyptians to die. But still Pharaoh refused. God sent boils that covered the Egyptians, and then God sent hail destroying all of the Egyptians crops and living things outside. God sent locusts that ate all the plants, crops and food. Each time Pharaoh asked for forgiveness, gave permission, and then refused when the plagues were removed. Finally God covered Egypt with darkness for three days so that no one could see. This time when Pharaoh spoke to Moses he told him to go and never speak to him again. God was not surprised at Pharaoh's reaction for He knew Pharaoh's heart. It was His plan that all people throughout the generations would marvel at God's miraculous deliverance of His people.

1. Name the nine plagues brought upon Egypt.
2. What happened to the snakes of the magicians?
3. What did Moses ask of Pharaoh many times?
4. Why did Pharaoh refuse to let the Israelites go?
5. Why do you think God hardened the heart of Pharaoh?
6. How does God deliver His children from sin today?

Prayer: Father God, we trust you to take care of us even when we are not able to take care of ourselves. Help us to wait on your timing. Thank you for your deliverance through Jesus Christ your son from the bondage of sin. Amen



The First Passover

Bible Story 19: Exodus 11-12

Memory Verse: 1 John 1:7b

of Egypt cries and walls were heard as parents discovered the lifeless bodies of their firstborn sons. There was not a home in Egypt that was not visited by the angel of death. The blood of the lamb protected the Hebrew children, just as God had promised. During the night Pharaoh called for Aaron and Moses. He said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites. Go, worship the Lord as you have asked." So Moses and the people left Egypt after 430 years in bondage with many riches given to them by the Egyptians. The Lord said to them, "You must remember this day for all time. You and your children must celebrate this day as a feast in honor of the Lord." God accomplished that which he had promised his people and they found favor with God.

1. Why was God judging Egypt with the plagues?

2. What was the last plague and why was it the worst?

3. How were the Hebrews saved from the angel of death?

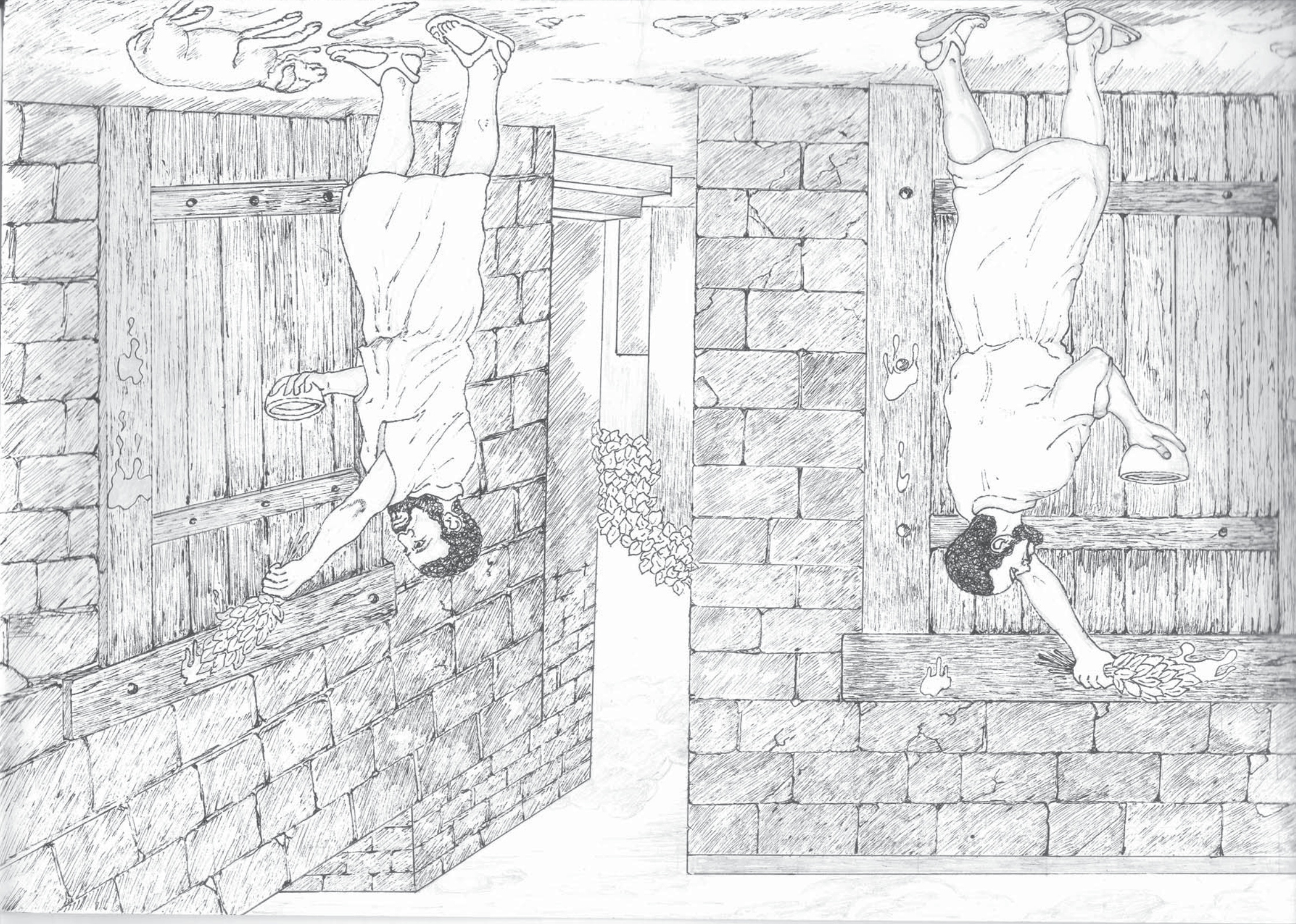
4. How does the Passover resemble our faith in Christ?

5. Why did the Hebrews eat quickly with their coats tucked in and sandals on their feet?

6. What did God tell the Hebrews to do for all time? How do we as Christians celebrate our deliverance from sin?

Prayer: Father God, we thank you for protecting us and saving us from the penalty of sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. We pray that we will never forget what you have done for us. Help us to be obedient to your commands. Amen.

God had heard the cries of His people who were slaves in Egypt, and sent Moses to Pharaoh to demand their release. Despite the many terrible plagues the Egyptians had endured at the hand of the Lord, Pharaoh refused to allow the Hebrews to leave. The Lord told Moses that there would be one more plague, more terrible than all the rest. After this plague the Egyptians would know that the Hebrews were God's protected people. God would judge the Egyptians for all that the Hebrews had suffered while in bondage. The angel of death would visit all of Egypt killing the firstborn male of both men and cattle. Only those who obeyed the instructions of the Lord would be saved. For seven days they were to eat only bread without yeast, and all yeast must be removed from their homes. On the first and seventh day the Hebrews came together for a special service. On the seventh evening they were to kill a spotless lamb, and taking a branch of hyssop, they were to paint with blood the insides of their doorposts, the tops and sides. The Lord said to them, "The blood of the lamb will be a sign for you. When I see the blood I will pass over your home." The lamb was roasted and eaten quickly along with bitter herbs. They were to eat with their coats tucked in and their sandals on their feet. The Hebrews did all the Lord commanded them celebrating the Passover and waited in anticipation for the angel of the Lord to pass over their homes. Throughout all



Escape Through the Red Sea

Bible Story 20: Exodus 14

Memory Verse: Exodus 14:13-14

side. There was a wall of water on their right side and on their left side. The Egyptians chased them but their chariots sunk into the sand. When the Israelites had crossed over, Moses held his staff over the sea and the walls of water flowed over the Egyptians, covering the entire army – all the chariots and all the foot soldiers. Not one Egyptian was left alive. The Israelites were amazed at what the Lord had done for them. They sang songs of honor and praise to Him. "Lord, who among the gods is like you? You are majestic and holy. The earth swallowed up the Egyptians. Because your love is faithful, you will lead the people you have set free. The nations will hear about it and tremble. The Lord will rule forever and ever." Exodus 15:11-14, 18 NIRV

After the last plague that left the firstborn male of all the Egyptians dead, Pharaoh finally relented and allowed the children of Israel to go. God led them into the wilderness. In the day they were led by a pillar of cloud and by night a pillar of fire. God led them to the Red Sea where they set up camp. God wanted the Egyptians and the Israelites to know that He was the one true God. Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he regretted allowing his slaves to go. He gathered up his finest chariots and soldiers to retrieve the Hebrew slaves. When the Israelites saw the Egyptian army descending upon them they were terrified. They cried out to Moses, "Why did you ever bring us up out of Egypt! We were better off serving the Egyptians than dying here in the wilderness!" Moses encouraged them, "Do not be afraid. You will never have to see the Egyptians again. Just stand back and see how the Lord will deliver you today." The pillar of cloud moved between them and the Egyptians causing darkness to their armies. The Lord commanded Moses to hold his staff out over the Red Sea. All night Moses stood holding his staff while the strong East Wind blew aside the waters of the Red Sea. The sea parted leaving dry land on which the children of Israel could cross over to the other

Exodus 14: 13,14 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." NIRV

1. What led the Israelites by night and by day?
2. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart again?
3. How did the Israelites react to Pharaoh's mighty army?
4. What allowed the Israelites to cross over the Red Sea?
5. What happened to the Egyptian army?
6. In what ways does God deliver His people today?

Prayer: Lord of the Universe, your miraculous powers are awesome. May we never be fearful but understand your greatness. May you lead us into your holy place. Amen.



The Ten Commandments

Bible Story 21: Exodus 19-20

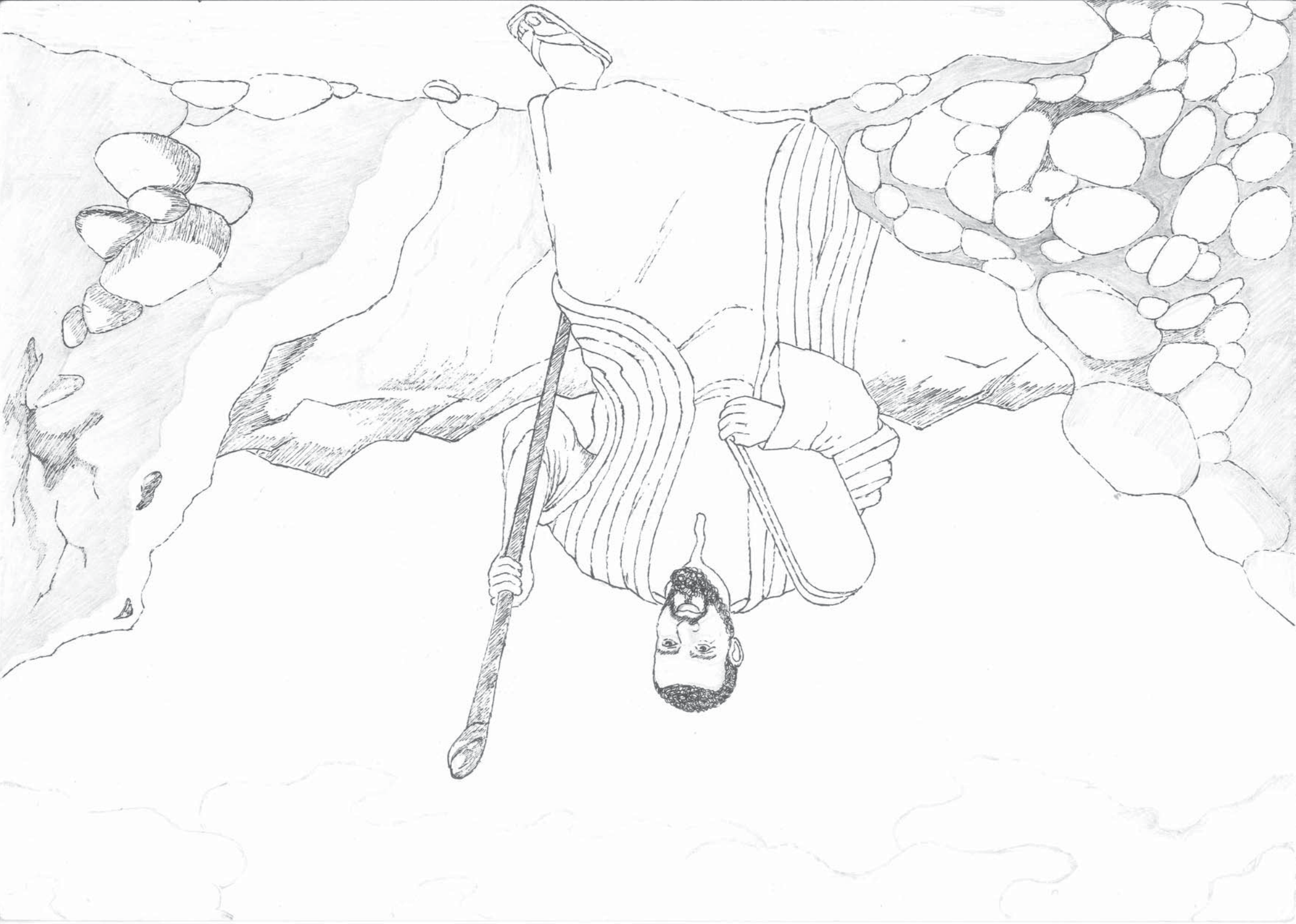
Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:17a

give themselves to someone besides their husband or their wife. They must not steal. They were to tell the truth and not say false things against others. They were to be satisfied with what God had given them and not covet what belonged to others. God told the Israelites not to be afraid of Him. He had given them these commandments so that they could respect God and keep from sinning. Obeying God's commands helps us to live a fulfilled life without regrets and with great blessing.

1. What was God's promise to the Israelites? What were they to do in return?
 2. What would happen to those who hate God? To those who loved God?
 3. Why should you honor your father and mother?
 4. What are some things people covet?
 5. Why did God give us the 10 commandments?
 6. How can you keep all the commandments all the time?
- Prayer:** Lord we are thankful that you have called us to be your people. Thank you for the commandments that guide our lives. Give us your Holy Spirit's power to keep your commandments. Help us to live a life pleasing in your sight. Amen.

God delivered His people from the bondage of Egypt. He promised to lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey. God said, "I have brought you out to myself. I have carried you on eagle's wings. You will be a holy nation – a nation of priests that will be an example to all the nations. Out of all the earth you will be my treasure. All I ask is that you keep my commandments." God took Moses up to the top of Mount Sinai to meet with him. There He gave Moses His law for the children of Israel written on stone tablets. They were to have no other gods but Him. God said, "I am a jealous God. I will punish those who hate me and their children and their children's children. But I will show loving kindness for all time to those who love me and keep my commandments." They were not to make any idols, not of anything in heaven or on earth, nor should they bow down to worship them. They were not to misuse God's name. The seventh day was to be a Sabbath day, a holy day, set apart to honor God. "For I created the heavens and the earth in six days and on the seventh day rested." They were to honor their father and their mother. God said, "Then you will live long in the land I have given you." God told them they were not to murder. They were not to commit adultery – to

Deuteronomy 6:17 "Be sure to keep the commands of the LORD your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you." NIV



The Tabernacle

Bible Story 22: Exodus 35 - 37

Memory Verse: 1Chronicles16:29

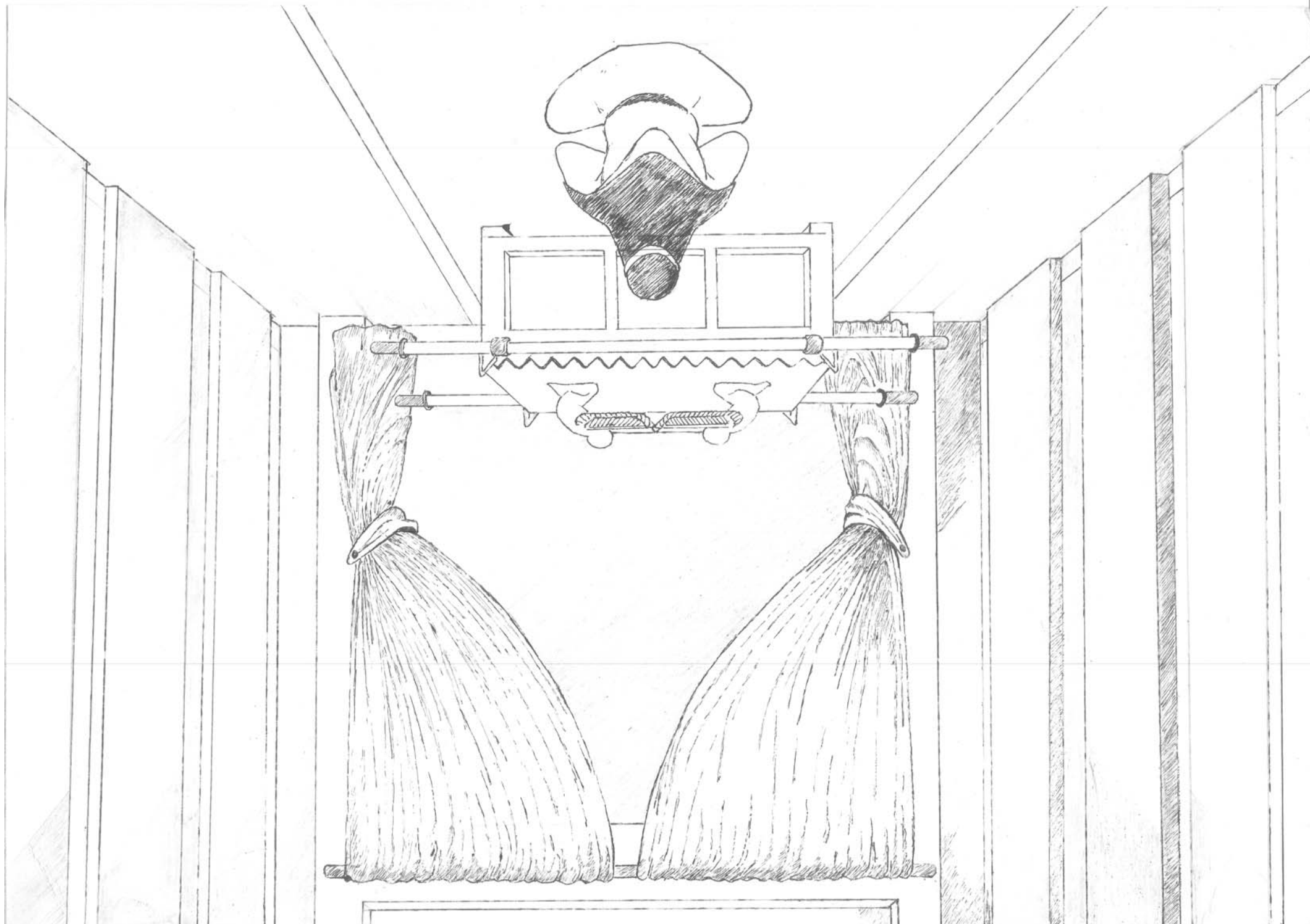
God had given Moses all the instructions and details of how to build the Tabernacle, the place where the Israelites would meet to worship God and bring their offerings and sacrifices. The Tabernacle was a place for God's presence to come and be amongst the people. Now was the time to begin the building! God knew the building of the Tabernacle would need skilled and knowledgeable workers for many different jobs. Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—to make beautiful designs for work in gold, silver and bronze; to cut and place stones; to work in wood and to be involved in all kinds of craftsmanship." The building of the Tabernacle would be a big job, so God also chose a man named Oholiab, to help do the work and teach many others. So much was needed!! Moses had asked the Israelites to bring offerings of gold, silver, bronze, yarn and fine linen; goat hair, skins of rams and of hippos; acacia wood, olive oil, spices, precious gems and stones. The people willingly brought these items to the builders until they had to say, "STOP, we have enough!" All the skilled men went to work following the exact instructions given to Moses by God. Curtains were made out of the finest twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn with designs of cherubim woven in them. Loops to hang the

1 Chronicles 16:29 "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; Bring an offering and come before him; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness." NIV

Prayer: We love you Lord and worship you. Your Holy presence is what we long for. Thank you for always being faithful. May our lives bring you glory and honor. Amen.

1. What was the Tabernacle for and why was it built?
2. What did God give Moses for building the Tabernacle?
3. How did the people of Israel participate in the project?
4. What was the ARK and why was it important?
5. When God asks us to do a task, how do we respond?
6. How do we keep the Holy presence of God in our lives?

of God's Holy presence. Tabernacle became a place of worship and reminded them was as symbol of God's covenant with his people. The shadowing the cover. The ARK carried sacred items and cover, facing each other, with their wings spread upward and cherubim made of gold were placed at either ends of the gold rings were placed on each side in order to carry it. Two wood, covered with pure gold, both inside and out. Four Bezalel built a special chest, called the ARK, out of acacia Everything was given an exact measurement from God. Wood was cut and made into frames with silver bases. Hair and for the top of the tent out of ram skins dyed red. Curtains to go over the tabernacle were made out of goat curtains and gold clasps to fasten them were made.



The Twelve Spies

Bible Story 23: Numbers 13-14

Memory Verse: Psalm 56:4

people; they are stronger than we are." These 10 spies then moved about the people of Israel and gave a very bad report that caused much fear and doubt in the people's minds and hearts. The people rebelled against God and Moses and said, "We should chose a leader and go back to Egypt." God was angry because of their unbelief and threatened to destroy them all. But Moses and Aaron prayed for God's mercy on His people. God forgave them but said they must face the consequences of their contempt against God. Every adult more than 20 years old would die in the desert and the people would wander for 40 years; one year for each day the spies had explored the land. The people mourned for their great loss, but just as God promised, the older generation never saw the Promised Land, only their children.

1. What did Moses want to know about Canaan?
2. How did Moses choose the men to explore the land?
3. What did Caleb and Joshua think the people should do?
4. How were they different from the other 10 spies? Why?
5. What was the Israelites punishment for their unbelief?
6. Who do people tend to trust when they face a challenge or fear? Who do you trust when God gives direction?

Prayer: Lord God, thank you for keeping your promises. Help us to trust you when we are afraid and to believe what you say is true! Forgive us when we behave like the 10 spies and Israelites who forgot what a mighty God you are. Amen.

NIV

When the Israelites were close to Canaan, God wanted them to see the land. The Lord told Moses to send 12 men, one from each of the Tribes of Israel, to go and explore the land of Canaan. Canaan was the land that God had promised to give to Abraham's descendants, and now the time had come to enter in! Moses told the spies to bring back information about the people; were they strong or weak? About the land and soil; was it good or bad? About the towns; did they have strong walls or no walls at all? The spies went into the land of Canaan, and found the answers to Moses' questions and after 40 days they returned to give their report to Moses, Aaron, and all the Israelite community. "Yes!" they began. "There were many people of many different cultures. In fact, there were some who were giants. We seemed like grasshoppers compared to them. The land had very fertile soil, which grew very tasty fruit!" The men showed the single branch of grapes that was so large they had carried it back on a pole between two men. They described the land as "flowing with milk and honey." They also reported very large cities with big strong walls protecting them. One of the 12 spies, named Caleb said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." Joshua, in faith agreed with Caleb to take the land God had promised them. But the other ten spies said, "We can't attack those Psalm 56:4 " In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. "



Crossing the Jordan River

Bible Story 24: Joshua 3-4

Memory Verse: Numbers 23:19

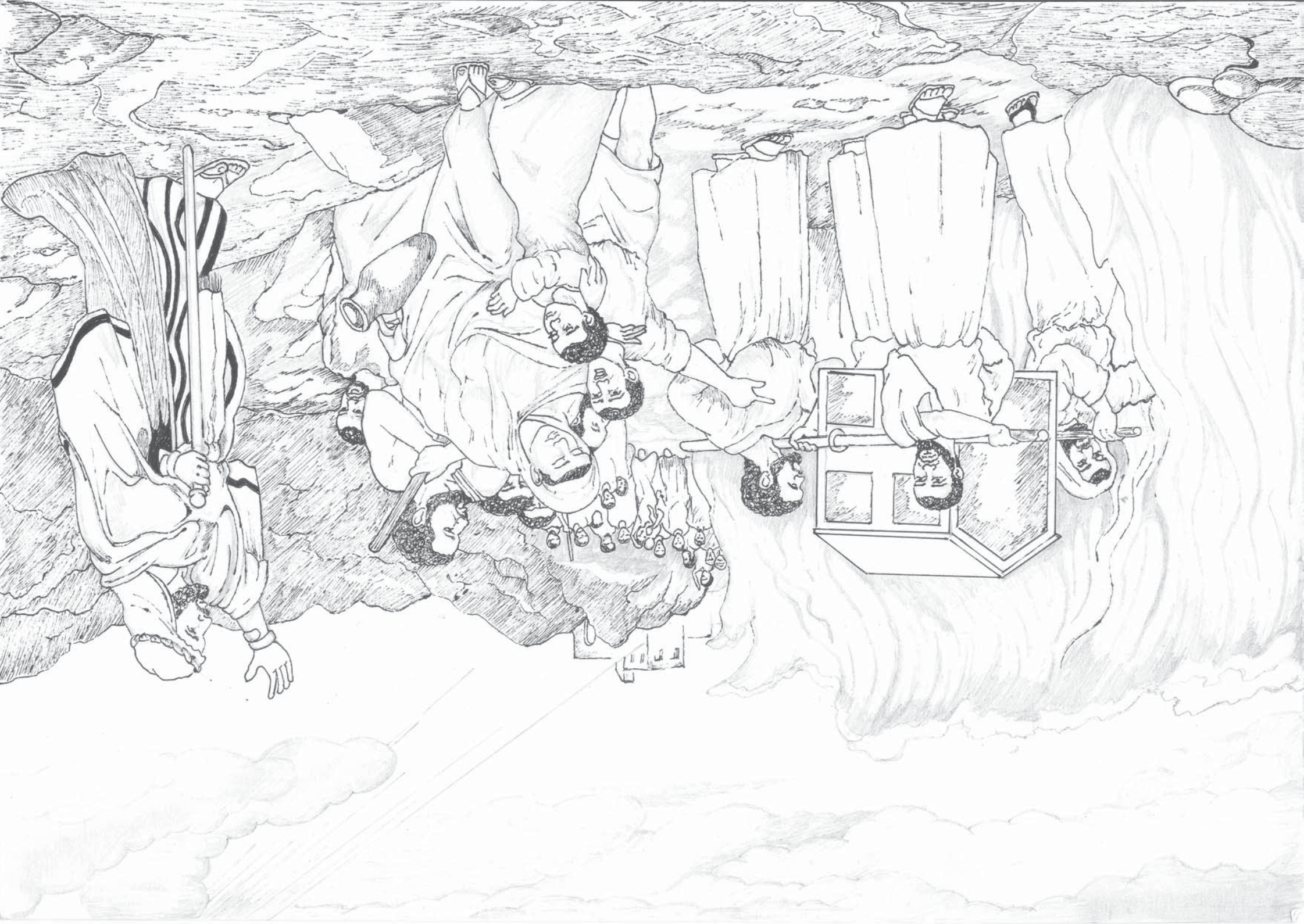
Lord told Joshua to choose one man from each of the 12 tribes to go out to the dry riverbed and pick a stone. Joshua set up in Canaan the 12 stones and said, "Let these stones be a reminder to you and your children of how God stopped the Jordan River for you to walk on dry ground over to the land which God promised you." God did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God. The Lord told Joshua, "Command the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant to come up out of the Jordan." As soon as they set their feet on the land, the waters of the Jordan ran at flood level as before. God fulfilled His promise!

1. What promise did God give Abraham for his people?
2. What did God do to prove His presence with Joshua?
3. How did the people cross the river Jordan to Canaan?
4. Why did Joshua put 12 stones in one place?
5. Why did God dry up the Jordan River for His people?
6. How do we know that God keeps His promises?

Prayer: Lord, you are faithful and always keep your promises. Thank you! Help us to walk in obedience and to always remember what you have done for your people. Amen

The time had finally come! The Israelites had spent 40 years in the desert because of their disobedience. Moses was now dead, but had appointed Joshua as the new leader. Early one morning, the Israelites moved their camp close to the river Jordan. On the other side of the wide river was Canaan; the land that God had promised to Abraham's descendants. After 3 days, officers were sent throughout all the people giving this order: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go since you have never been this way before." Joshua gave the order to the priests; "Move out! Carry the Ark of the Covenant to the Jordan River and stand in the water." The river had flooded. As soon as the priests' feet entered the Jordan River, the water from upstream stopped flowing! It piled up in a heap a great distance away. There was no water to flow downstream to the sea, so the floor of the river became dry ground! The priests walked before the Israelites to the middle of the riverbed and stopped. All of Israel followed and walked past the priests who were holding the ark. They walked on dry ground all the way across the river, TO THE PROMISED LAND! When everyone was safely across, the

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should



Fall of Jericho

Bible Story 25: Joshua 6

Memory Verse: Joshua 1:9

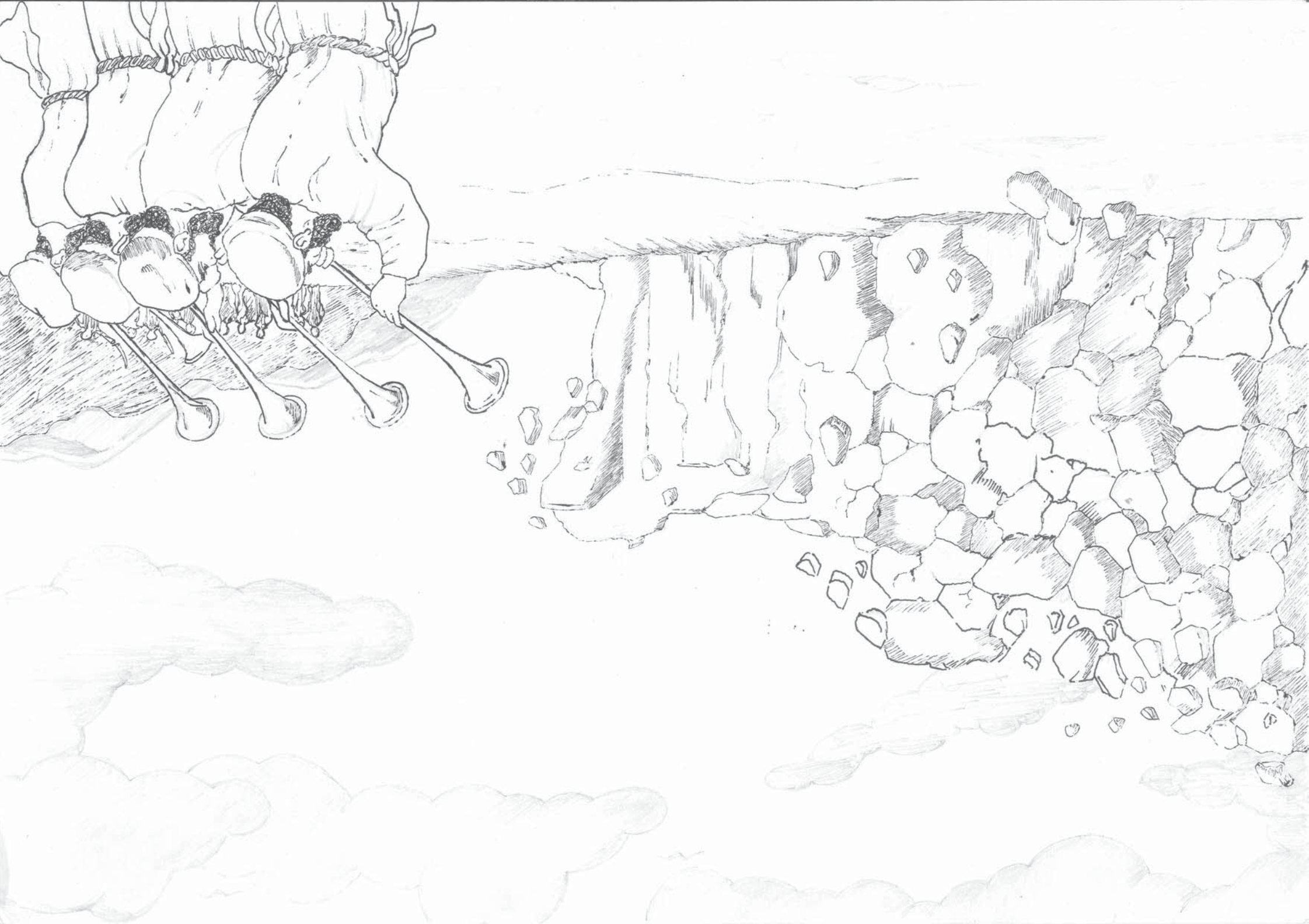
wall all around Jericho came tumbling down!!! The army could enter into the city and destroy every living creature as God commanded them to do, except for Rehab and her family, who had helped the spies. The army of Israel burned the whole city, but they put silver, gold, bronze and iron into safekeeping for the use of the Lord. Any items that were used to worship false gods were to be destroyed. Israel obeyed the Lord God. God, in His awesome power fought the battle of Jericho by bringing down the walls.

1. What instructions did God give Joshua and the people of Israel with regards to entering Jericho?
2. How did Joshua and the people of Israel respond?
3. How many times did they march around Jericho?
4. What happened when the trumpets sounded and the people shouted?
5. Who is always faithful in HIS WORD and promises?
6. How can we have the same faith as Joshua and the Israelites?

Prayer: Lord, Thank you for your faithfulness in your Word. You always keep your promises. Help us to place our trust and faith in you and to walk in obedience, knowing that it is by your awesome power that the battle is won! Amen.

The Israelites were now on Canaan soil, the Promised Land. Before them was a city called Jericho, which had strong tall walls to keep invaders out. The people of Jericho had heard about Israel and their God and were afraid. All their gates were closed tightly and no one entered or left the city. The Lord told Joshua that He would deliver the city of Jericho into their hands, but how? Not by the strength of the army but by God's plans! The Lord gave the instructions to Joshua, and now was the time to act. This is what the Lord commanded the people of Israel to do: The army will go in front, followed by seven priests blowing trumpets, followed next by the priests who carried the ark of the Lord. At the back, a guard of men followed the ark. This group of men were to march around the strong wall that surrounded Jericho once, not yelling out a battle cry, but keeping their voices quiet. When they finished marching around the wall once, they were to return to their camp. For six days they did exactly this. The seventh day was different. This time they marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On the seventh time around, the priest sounded a loud long trumpet blast, which was the signal for attack. Joshua commanded the people: "SHOUT!" For the Lord has given you the city! What happened next was a miracle. That big, thick, strong

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." NIV



Gideon Defeats the Enemy

Bible Story 26: Judges 6 - 7

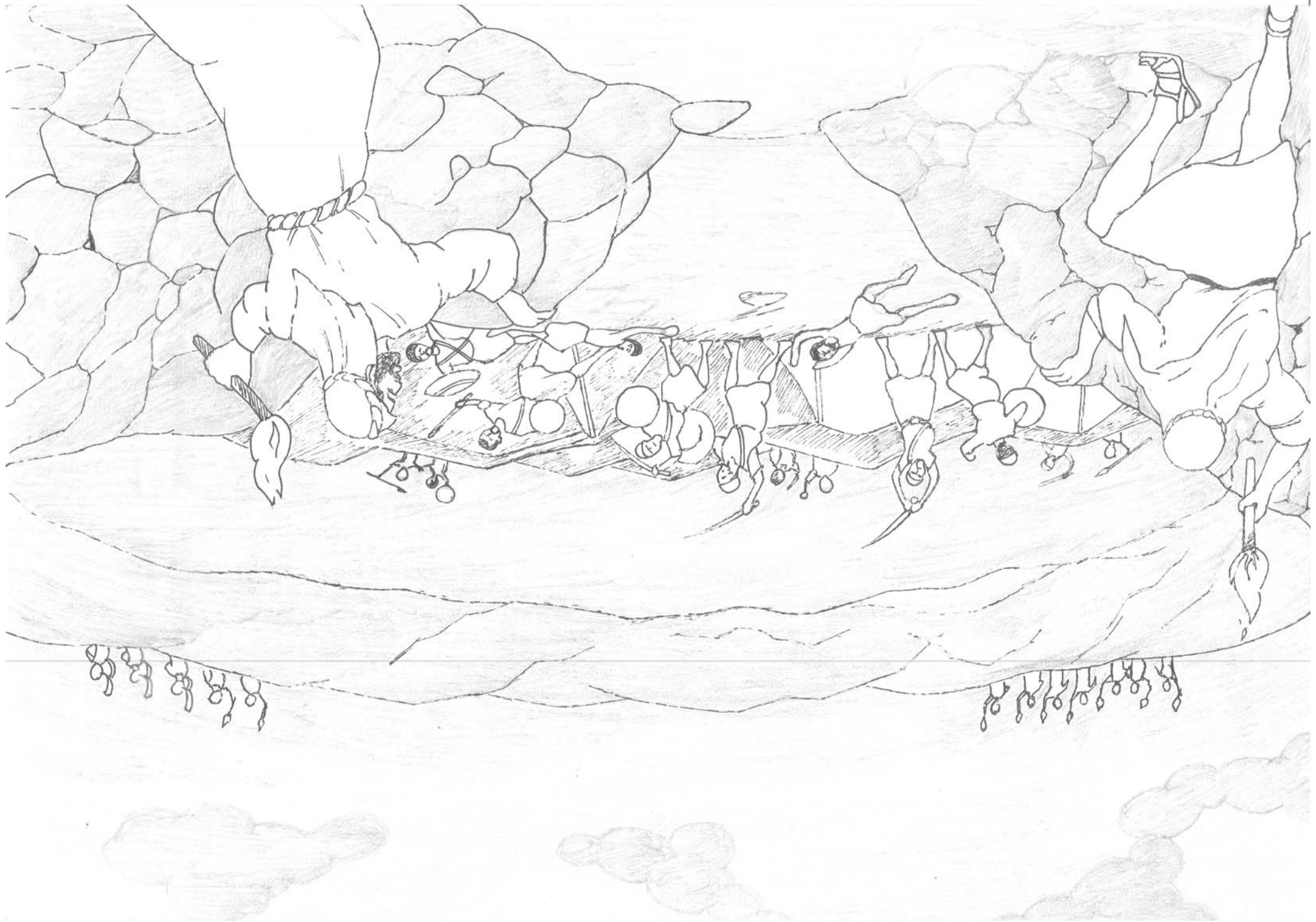
Memory Verse: Psalm 28:7

Joshua had led the Israelites into the land of Canaan, but after his time, God raised up judges to lead the people. Instead of driving out the people of the land as God had commanded them, the Israelites lived among them and soon they began to worship the idols and false gods. As a result of their disobedience, the people of the land defeated them and took back their land. The Midianites came against God's people and destroyed the crops and animals that the Israelites needed to survive. The people cried out to God in despair! God heard their cry and sent an angel to call a man named Gideon. He was hiding in the wine press threshing wheat when the angel said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." Gideon didn't feel like a mighty warrior. "My clan is the weakest, and I am the least in my family." The Lord answered him, "I am sending you! I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together." Gideon wasn't sure about that! Gideon asked for a sign from God to show him that this was truly God's will. God was patient, and each time he asked, God showed Gideon that He was truly with him. Gideon made a covenant sacrifice to the Lord and then assembled a great army of the Israelites for war. The Lord God said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into your hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, Psalm 28:7 "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped." NIV

announces now to the people, 'Anyone who is afraid, leave.'" Then 22,000 men went home that had stood with Gideon. God told Gideon, "Take the rest to the waters edge to drink. Chose only those who drink by cupping water to their mouths with their hands." Only 300 were finally chosen. Gideon was afraid because the enemy was so large they were like locusts covering the land. Then Gideon placed his men surrounding the enemy on the hilltops. In their left hands they held a torch covered by a clay pot, and in their right hand a trumpet. At his signal they were to smash their jars, blow the trumpets, and shout, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" When the Midianites saw they were surrounded, God sent in a panic and confusion, and they began to fight amongst themselves as they fled. The tribes of Israel were called to attack the fleeing Midianites and God gave the victory to Gideon! Once again God had delivered his people.

1. Why was God disappointed with the Israelites?
2. How did Gideon feel when God called him to lead?
3. How did God use Gideon as a judge or leader?
4. How did Gideon choose the men to fight with him?
5. What did Gideon give each warrior to fight with?
6. What do we learn from the story of Gideon about God?

Prayer: Thank you God for being our strength. We want to obey you and do what pleases you. Help us to trust and obey. You alone are our strength! Amen.



The Lord Calls Samuel

Bible Story 27: 1 Samuel 1 - 3

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5-7

he heard his name called out and once again he went into Eli. Eli realized what was happening. So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If you hear your name called out again, answer 'Speak, Lord, I am listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down again. The Lord came and called out, "Samuel!" Samuel answered as Eli had told him, "Speak, Lord, I'm listening." The Lord shared with Samuel the terrible things He was going to do in Israel and to the family of Eli, who sinned against the Lord. As Samuel grew up, God continued to appear at Shiloh, giving Samuel messages. Everything Samuel heard from God he shared with the people of Israel and it all happened just as he said it would. Everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was a true prophet who spoke the word of the Lord and God used him to guide his people.

1. Why was Hannah so sad? What was her prayer?

2. How do you think Hannah felt when she gave young Samuel to Eli to serve the Lord?

3. Who was calling Samuel in the night?

4. Why do you think God choose Samuel to serve Him?

5. Why did God have to punish the sinful sons of Eli?

6. What happens to those who obey the call of the Lord?

Prayer: Lord, we know your ways are good. You delight in doing good things for us. Help us to trust you. We want to obey you and serve you for the rest of our lives. Thank you, that you protect and lift up those who follow you. Amen

Proverbs 3:5-7 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your path straight" **IV**

Hannah was sad. She should be happy. She and her husband's family were in Shiloh to celebrate a time of sacrifice to the Lord. But she felt bitter. She had no children, and other women ridiculed her. This year she could not take it any longer. She went to the house of the Lord weeping bitterly. She promised God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to the Lord to serve Him forever. God heard Hannah's cry and took pity on her. The next year she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel. When Samuel no longer needed to nurse, Hannah kept her promise, and made the trip to Shiloh with Samuel. She took him to the priest Eli in the house of the Lord saying, "I prayed for this child. The Lord gave me what I asked for, so now I am giving him to the Lord. He will serve the Lord as long as he lives." Now the sons of Eli the priest did evil things and defiled the sacrifices to the Lord even though they were priests. Eli did nothing to stop them. Samuel, however, served the Lord just as Eli taught him. One night after everyone had gone to sleep, Samuel heard a voice calling his name. He went to Eli, the priest, and said, "Here I am. You called me?" But Eli said, "I did not call you. Go back and lay down." So Samuel went back and lay down. Again he heard his name. He went into Eli saying, "Here I am." Eli denied calling him. So Samuel lay down again. Once more



Samuel Anoints Saul

Bible Story 28: 1 Samuel 8-10

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 7:23

Samuel ruled over the people all his life and was a good judge, but near the end of his life the people could see that there was no one to follow in his footsteps. The Israelites went to the prophet, Samuel, saying, "We want a king just like the other nations." Samuel tried to talk the people out of it. "You are turning your backs on the Lord who has saved and kept you all these years. You don't know how hard it will be for you. A king will force your sons to fight for him. Your daughters will have to make things for him. He will take your servants, your crops and your livestock." But the people refused to listen to Samuel. The Lord spoke to Samuel and told him that He, the Lord their God, would give them a king. "I have seen how much my people are suffering. Their cry for help has reached me." Now at this time there was a young man named Saul from the tribe of Benjamin who was more handsome than any man in the land. His uncle had sent him out looking for his donkeys. Saul had looked everywhere for them and finally his servant suggested that he ask Samuel, the prophet. As Saul approached Samuel, the Lord said, "This is the man I told you about. He is the one who will govern my people." Saul felt unworthy. "But I am from the smallest tribe of all Israel and my family is the least among them." Samuel had a feast with Saul and assured him that he was God's chosen king. As they left

Samuel the next morning, he told Saul's servant they would find their donkeys and to go on ahead of them. Samuel then took a flask of oil, poured it over Saul's head and kissed him saying, "Has not the Lord anointed you leader over his people?" And God changed Saul's heart and he accepted his call. Samuel summoned all the tribes of Israel together at Mizpah and declared that God would choose their leader from among them. Samuel divided the people until the name fell to Saul, but no one could find him. The people searched and there was Saul, crouched behind the baggage. When he arose from his place of hiding he stood head and shoulders above every other man. Samuel presented him to the people of Israel saying, "See this man." the Lord has chosen for you. Surely there is none like him." Then all the people shouted out, "Long live the King!"

1. Why did the people of Israel want a king over them?
2. How did the Lord feel about the request for a king?
3. What did Samuel say a king would do to the people?
4. How did Samuel show Saul that God had chosen him?
5. Why do you think Saul hid from the people that day?
6. Was having a king over Israel a good or bad idea?

Prayer: Lord, we ask you for wisdom in making decisions. May we always live according to your plans, rather than our desires. Help us to accept your calling in our lives. Amen

Jeremiah 7:23 "But I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you." NIV



David and Goliath

Bible Story 29: 1 Samuel 17

Memory Verse: Psalm 18:25,35

David took with him only his wooden staff, his sling, and five smooth stones that he placed in his shepherds bag. Goliath saw David approaching. He cursed David saying, "I'll feed your body to the wild animals and the birds of the air." David replied, "You come at me with sword and spear but I come against you in the name of the Lord. The Lord will hand you over to me and the whole world will know there is a God in Israel." As Goliath moved toward him, David rushed him, placing a stone in his sling. The stone whizzed through the air striking Goliath, sinking deep into his forehead. Goliath fell face down on the ground. David ran to the fallen Philistine and cut off his head with Goliath's own sword. In fear the Philistine army ran away, and the army of Israel chased them. The battle was won that day by the faith of a shepherd boy in a great God. The battle belongs to the Lord!

1. Who was Goliath and why did everyone fear him?
2. What was his challenge to the army of Israel?
3. What was David's reaction to the challenge?
4. Why did David feel that he could defeat Goliath?
5. What did David use to defeat the mighty Goliath?
6. How does God help us face difficulties in our lives?

Prayer: Father, thank you that we do not have to fight our battles on our own. You are the all powerful God and we turn our hearts towards you, our shield and defender. Amen

During the reign of King Saul, the Philistines mighty army terrorized the people of Israel. Among the Philistines there was one particular warrior that struck terror in the hearts of the soldiers of Israel more than any other. His name was Goliath and he was a giant. He stood nearly 3m tall. He wore a bronze helmet and bronze guards on his legs. His bronze coat weighed more than 57kgs. The iron point on his spear weighed about 7kgs. Each day he would come out and shout over to the soldiers of Israel. "I dare you to send out just one brave man from among you to fight me. If he wins and kills me, we will be your slaves. But if I win and kill him, you will be our slaves!" For forty days Goliath issued his challenge. For forty days the army of Israel stood helpless in fear. A shepherd boy named David was at the camp of Israel to deliver food to his brothers. He heard Goliath and was amazed at the fear of the army. "Who does this man think he is? He curses the army of the Living God? Why do you allow him to shame us?" David was sent to Saul. David said to him, "Don't let Goliath cause you to lose hope. I will fight him!" Saul tried to talk him out of it, but David was determined. "While watching my father's sheep I have killed both a lion and a bear. If the Lord can save me from them, he can save me from this man." Saul dressed him in his own armor. They were stiff and heavy so David refused them.

Psalms 18:25,35 "To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me." NIV



David Becomes King

Bible Story 30: I Samuel 15-16, II Samuel 5-7

Memory Verse: Psalm 149:3-4

people." So David made a covenant with the people before God and he was anointed king. David and his men captured the Fort of Zion from the Jebusites. It became known as Jerusalem, the City of David. Because of David's obedience, God gave him complete victory over the Philistines. With great celebration and thanksgiving, he brought the ark of God to Jerusalem. God spoke to David. "I will make your name one of respect throughout the world. I will set up a royal house for you and your kingdom will be secure – it will last forever." David praised God. "Lord, who am I that you should do anything for me? And yet, you have promised me that someone in my line will always reign in Israel. There is no one like you. You are the only true God. All the nations of the earth will know of the great and wonderful things you have done. The Lord rules over all; He is the God of Israel!"

Saul became a weak king. He was afraid of displeasing the people so he did not always obey God. This made the Lord regret that He had chosen Saul. He decided he would take the throne away from Saul and his family and choose someone else. God told Samuel he was to go to the family of Jesse, and from his sons he would choose a king. The first son appeared. He was so handsome and tall that Samuel thought for sure he must be the chosen one. But God told him, "Stop looking at outward appearances. I look at what is in the heart." The second son wasn't the one either. Seven of Jesse's sons came before Samuel, but God did not choose any of them. Samuel asked if there were any other sons. Jesse said that there was another much younger son who tended the sheep. When David, Jesse's shepherd boy, was brought before him, Samuel knew that this humble boy was their future king, God's chosen one. He anointed David's head with oil. Many years later, after killing Goliath, the Philistine giant, David became a great warrior in Saul's army. King Saul became jealous of David's popularity and tried to kill him. David and his men became fugitives, hiding from Saul. David even had an opportunity to kill Saul as he lay sleeping, but he refused to kill God's anointed king. After the death of King Saul, the people came to David saying, "The Lord has said you will be a shepherd over my

1. Why did God decide to take the throne from Saul?
2. What is God looking at when he judges character?
3. Why was Saul so jealous of David?
4. Why did God promise David his kingdom would last?
5. What was David's response to God's promise?
6. How does our life testimony bring honor to God?

Prayer: Lord of heaven you are mightier than any ruler of any nation. Give me a humble heart before you so that I may obey you and bring you joy, just as David did. Amen

Psalm 149:3-4 "Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp. For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation." NIV



The Wisdom of Solomon

Bible Story 31: 1 Kings 3-6

Memory Verse: Proverbs 15:33

King Solomon loved the Lord and obeyed Him in all he did. One night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said, "Ask for anything." Solomon answered, "You made my father, David, a great king. But I am like a child not knowing my duties. I want to know how to chose right from wrong. Please give me an understanding heart to rule your people." The Lord was pleased with Solomon's answer. "You could have asked for wealth, power, or peace from your enemies. But instead you asked for wisdom. So I will give you wisdom such as no one has ever seen. I will also give you what you did not ask for, both riches and honor. No other living king will be as great as you." And so Solomon reigned as king with great wisdom. One day two women came to Solomon. One of the women was holding a newborn baby. The other woman said, "We both live in the same house. We both had baby boys. This morning when I woke up, the baby laying with me was dead. I looked closely and saw that it was not mine. This other woman had my baby laying next to her." The other woman denied it. Solomon looked at the two women and then demanded a sword. He instructed his servant to cut the baby in half, giving each woman one of the halves. The woman who had spoken to him cried out, "Please do not kill my baby. Give it to this woman – just let him live." The other woman said, "Go ahead! That way neither of us will have him." King Solomon gave the baby to give compares to knowing you. Thanks for your great love.

Prayer: Father, give us understanding hearts to know and love you more deeply. We know that nothing this world can give compares to knowing you. Thanks for your great love.

1. What did Solomon ask God for when he was king?
2. What did God give to Solomon because of his answer?
3. How did Solomon choose the real baby's mother?
4. Why was Solomon so careful in building the temple?
5. Why did God bless Solomon's reign with peace?
6. God promises to be with us; what does He ask of us?

the first woman. "You are truly the living baby's mother!" All of the people of Israel and the kings of other nations heard this story and marveled at the wisdom of Solomon. Because God had given peace to Israel, He instructed Solomon to build a temple on the 480th year since the people had been delivered from Egypt. Solomon took great care in building the temple. The stones were shaped where they were cut so there would not be the noise of hammer or chisel in the temple. He used the finest cedar from Lebanon to cover the inside walls. Cherubim, flowers, palm trees and gourds were carved into the wood. Gold covered the walls of the Holy of Holies and the altar of incense. It took Solomon 7 years to complete the temple. The Lord said to the people, "Obey my commands; be honest and blameless. Then my eyes and heart will be turned towards this temple. My name will be on it forever."



Fire From Heaven

Bible Story 32: 1 Kings 18

Memory Verse: Joshua 24:15

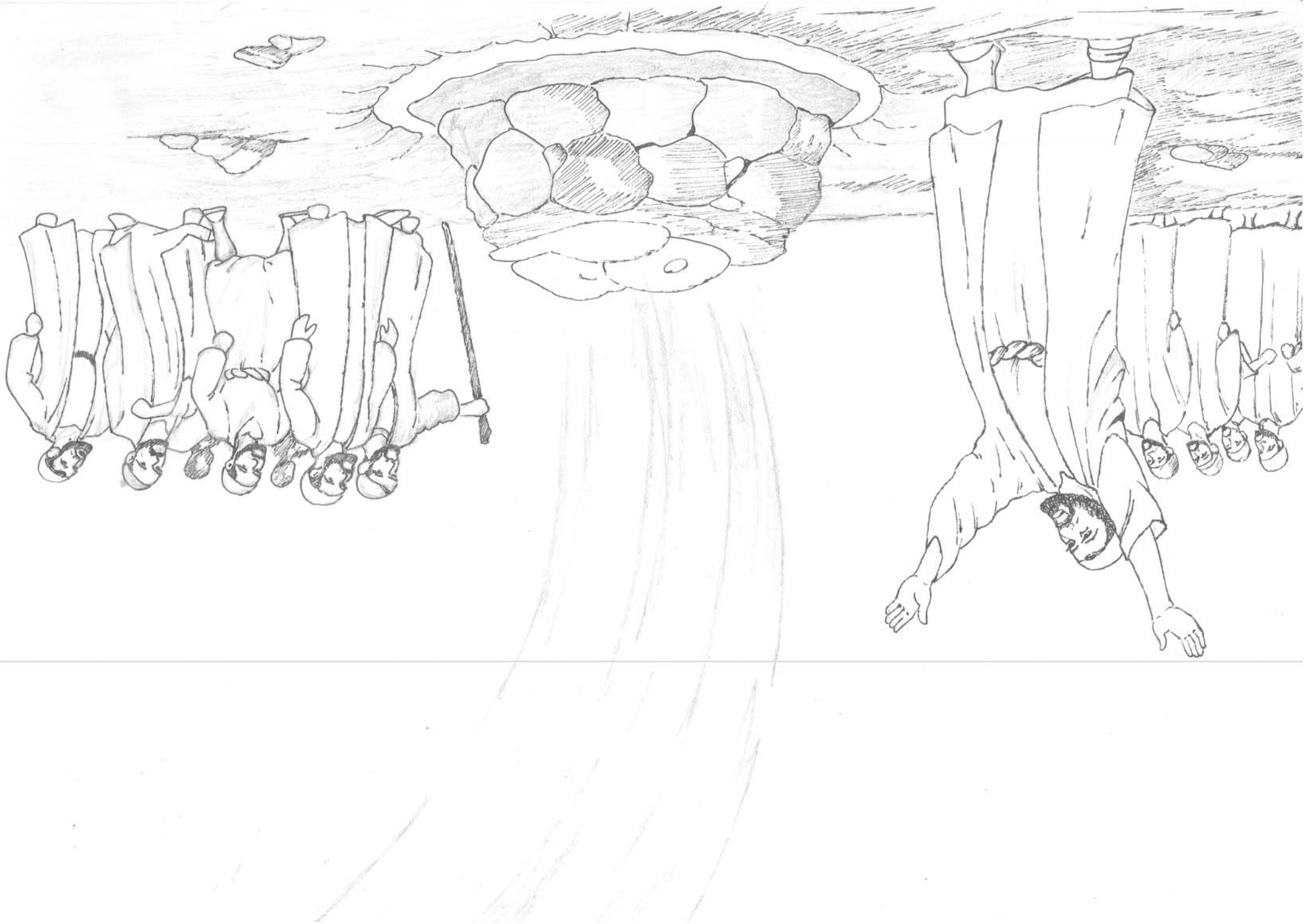
Then Elijah called the people to him. They dug a deep trench around the altar. Elijah placed the wood on the altar and then put the bull on top. "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood," Elijah directed the people. "Do it again, and again." The water ran down the altar and filled the trenches! Then Elijah prayed, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench! When all the people saw this, they fell on the ground and cried out, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!" The people then seized the false prophets and killed them.

1. Why did God's people worship other gods like Baal?
2. How did God punish the people of Israel?
3. What challenge did Elijah present to the people?
4. How long did the false prophets call on their god?
5. How did God show that HE ALONE IS GOD?
6. What does God expect from each of us?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you alone are God. We want to walk in your ways and be obedient to all that you command. Forgive us our sins and protect us from evil lies. Amen.

In the time when Ahab was king of Israel, there was a prophet named Elijah. Now King Ahab was an evil man who worshipped the false Baal gods. As a punishment, God, through his prophet Elijah told King Ahab that there would be no rain. After three years of no rain, God sent Elijah back to him. When King Ahab saw Elijah, he called him the trouble-maker of Israel. Elijah replied, "I have not made trouble for Israel, but you and your family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals. Now call the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table. So the day was set and as the people gathered on Mount Carmel, Elijah asked them, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." Elijah commanded the people to gather two bulls. The prophets of Baal took one bull, prepared it, and placed it on the wood on the altar. "Do not light the fire." Call upon the name of your god. If he answers by fire, then he is God. The prophets of Baal did just as Elijah said. They called out from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted but there was no response. All day and into the evening they continued, dancing, crying out, even cutting themselves with swords but still nothing.

Joshua 24:15 "But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." NIV



Elisha Called to Service

Bible Story 33: | Kings 19-20

Memory Verse: Psalm 4:3

he was in the presence of God. God asked Elishah what he was doing. Elijah said, "Lord God, ruler of all, I've been true to you, but the people of Israel have turned against you. They have killed your prophets. I am the only one left and they want to kill me!" God reassured Elijah. "You are not alone. There are 7,000 people in Israel I have kept for myself who have not bowed down to Baal. Go and anoint Elisha – he will be my prophet after you." Elijah got up and did as the Lord instructed. He found Elisha plowing his fields with a team of oxen. Elijah threw his coat over the shoulders of Elisha passing on to him the authority of the one who would speak for God. Elisha killed his oxen as a sacrifice to God, burned his plow, and saying goodbye to his parents followed Elijah learning what it meant to serve the Lord.

1. Who was Elijah running away from?
 2. What did Elijah pray that the Lord would do?
 3. How did God take care of Elijah?
 4. Where was God's presence found? In the wind, the earthquake, the fire or the whisper? Why there?
 5. What did Elisha do when Elijah called him to serve?
 6. When we are discouraged, where do we find hope?
- Prayer:** Thank you, Father, for providing for us when we are tired or discouraged. Make us aware of your presence at all times. Help us to hear your whisper when you call and be set apart from the things of this world to serve you. Amen.

Psalm 4:3 "Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD will hear when I call to him." NIV

Elijah was a prophet of God. He had served God faithfully. He had stood up to the king and proven that God was the one true God and had rid the land of the prophets of the false god Baal. But now he was running for his life. He had heard that Jezebel, queen of Israel, planned to kill him just as she had killed all the other prophets of God, and this brave prophet was afraid. He ran into the desert until he came to a small tree. He lay down under it and began to pray. "Lord, please take my life. I've had enough!" Exhausted, he fell asleep. Suddenly he was awakened by a touch. An angel was there, telling him to eat. He looked and saw by his head a flat cake of bread and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then slept again. Once again the angel woke him up with the instruction to eat and drink for he was going to travel far. For forty days and nights he traveled until he reached the mountain of God, Horeb. He spent the night in a cave. The next day he received a message from God. "Go out and stand on the mountain in front of me. I am going to pass by," Then there was a strong wind – so strong that it tore apart the rocks of the mountain. But the Lord was not in the wind. And then an earthquake shook the mountain, but God was not in the earthquake. A fire came, but God was not in the fire either. After the fire, there was a gentle whisper. Elijah put his coat over his face – he knew



Jesus' Baptism

Bible Story 34: Mark 1:9-11

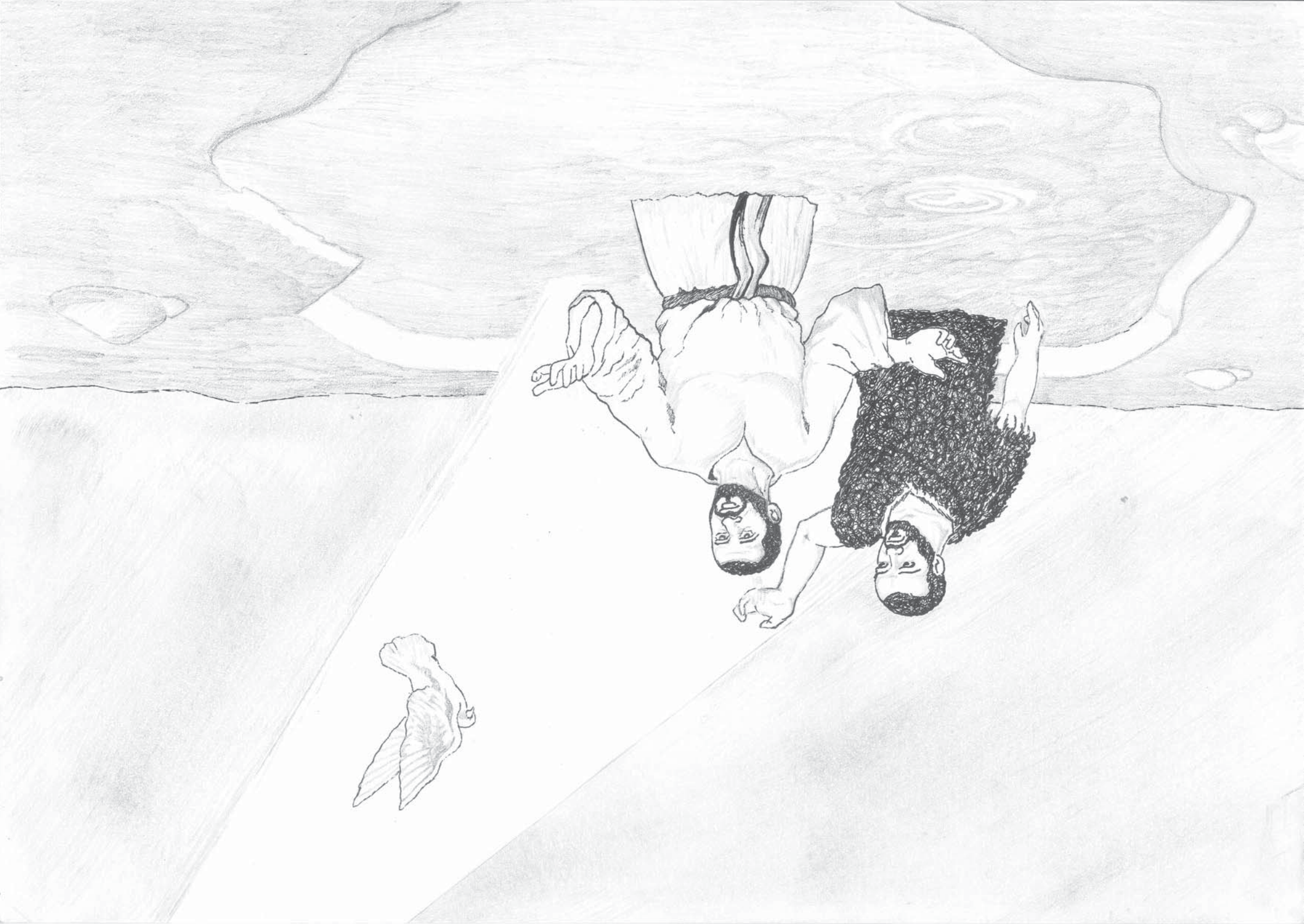
Memory Verse: Mark 1:11

And a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." God was telling all the people that Jesus would be the Savior of the world. Jesus, himself, would be the one to take away our sin. In baptism we go down in the water repenting of our sins, in the same way that Jesus death on the cross was a perfect sacrifice for sin. When we rise up out of the water we join Jesus who rose from the dead to eternal life. Jesus' baptism declared to all those present and to all who heard from these witnesses, that He was truly the SON OF GOD. Then Jesus left and went into the desert to fast and pray. This was the beginning of Jesus' public ministry where He was revealed to others.

1. Who was preparing the way for the Lord?
2. What was the reason that John baptized people?
3. How would Jesus baptize those who came to him?
4. What descended from heaven and rested on Jesus?
5. What special message was announced in a loud voice from heaven when Jesus came up out of the water?
6. Why should we be baptized when we believe in Jesus?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending us Jesus your Son to show us the right way to live. Help us to live our lives dead to sin and alive and obedient to your ways, just as your son Jesus did when he was here on earth. Amen.

In those days, John the Baptist came preaching in the desert of Judea saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." The life of John was foretold by the prophet Isaiah, "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, made straight paths for him.'" John was preparing their hearts for the coming of Jesus, God's son, who would truly take away the sins of the people. John the Baptist lived in the wilderness eating locusts and wild honey. He wore clothes made of camel hair and he had a leather belt around his waist. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea confessing their sins and they were baptized in the river Jordan. John told the people, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." One day as John was baptizing in the river, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized. When John saw him he tried to deter him saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Jesus did not need to repent from sin, for he had not sinned, but Jesus showed us that he was in a right relationship with God the Father through his baptism. Then John baptized Jesus in the river and as Jesus rose up out of the water, He saw heaven being



Jesus' Temptation

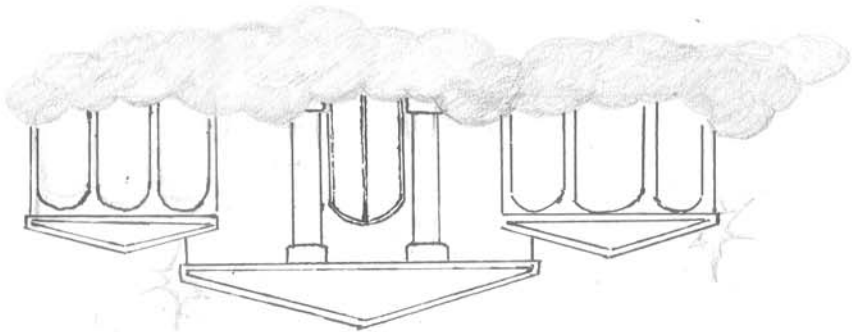
Bible Story 35: Mark 1:12-13

Memory Verse: James 4:7

After Jesus' baptism at the river Jordan the Spirit of God led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil. While Jesus was in the desert, he did not eat for forty days and forty nights. Jesus was very hungry. Knowing how hungry Jesus must have been, the devil said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus told the tempter, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Jesus could have used his power to do just as the devil said, but he refused. He would not use the power of God for his own personal needs! Again, the devil tried to tempt Jesus by taking him to the highest point of the temple and saying, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down." The devil then quoted a verse from the scripture about the angels, "And they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." Jesus once again responded with the words from scripture: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' The third time, the tempter took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and told Jesus that he would give these over to Jesus, if only Jesus would bow down and worship him. Jesus replied, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' " Then the devil left him and the angels attended to Jesus

1. Where was Jesus lead to be tempted by the devil?
2. How do you think Jesus might have felt after forty days and forty nights in a desert?
3. What did the devil tell Jesus to turn the stones into?
4. Why did the devil want Jesus to jump from the temple?
5. What authority did Jesus use against the devil? Who did Jesus say he would worship and serve?
6. When we face temptation, how can we resist the devil like Jesus did?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for helping us to overcome every temptation by the power of your Holy Spirit. Be our strength and help when the devil tempts us. Thank you for the Bible, the Word of God, so that like Jesus, we can obey and resist the lies and temptations of the devil. Amen!



Calling the Disciples

Bible Story 36: Mark 1-3

Memory Verse: Mark 1:17

Jesus was teaching one day on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The people were so eager to hear him that they pressed closer and closer. Jesus saw two boats at the edge of the water. Immediately he got into one of them and asked the fishermen in the boat to go out a little way so that he could continue to speak to the people. The fishermen in the boat were Simon and his brother Andrew. When Jesus had finished teaching, he said to Simon, "Go out deeper and let down your nets." Simon answered him, "Teacher, we have been working all night and have not caught a single fish. But because you say so, I will let my nets down again." Amazingly they caught so many fish that their nets began to tear, and the boat was so full it nearly sank. They called their partners - James and John, the sons of Zebedee, to help. Their boat nearly sank as well. Simon was distraught. "Lord, go away," he cried, "For I am a sinful man!" "Don't be afraid," Jesus replied. "From now on you will be fishers of men." The men - Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John - left everything and followed Jesus. They are not the only men who gave up all they had to follow him. The next day as Jesus was leaving for Galilee, he found Philip. Jesus simply said to him, "Follow me." Not only did Philip follow, he also told his friend, Nathaniel about Jesus, the promised Messiah. Jesus chose men from all different walks of life.

Mark 1:17 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." NIV

1. Why did Jesus need to get in the boat?
 2. How many fish had Peter caught during the night?
 3. What was Simon Peter's reaction to the boatload of fish? Why do you think he reacted that way?
 4. Why do you think the tax collectors were hated?
 5. Why did Jesus say he came for the sick not the healthy?
 6. What might we need to give up to be a disciple of Jesus? What do we gain?
- Prayer:** Lord, thank you for calling me to follow you just as I am, not waiting for me to be perfect. I give you all I have. Give me the courage to become a fisher of men. Amen.



Jesus Heals the Paralytic Man

Bible Story 37: Mark 2:1-12

Memory Verse: Mark 2:12

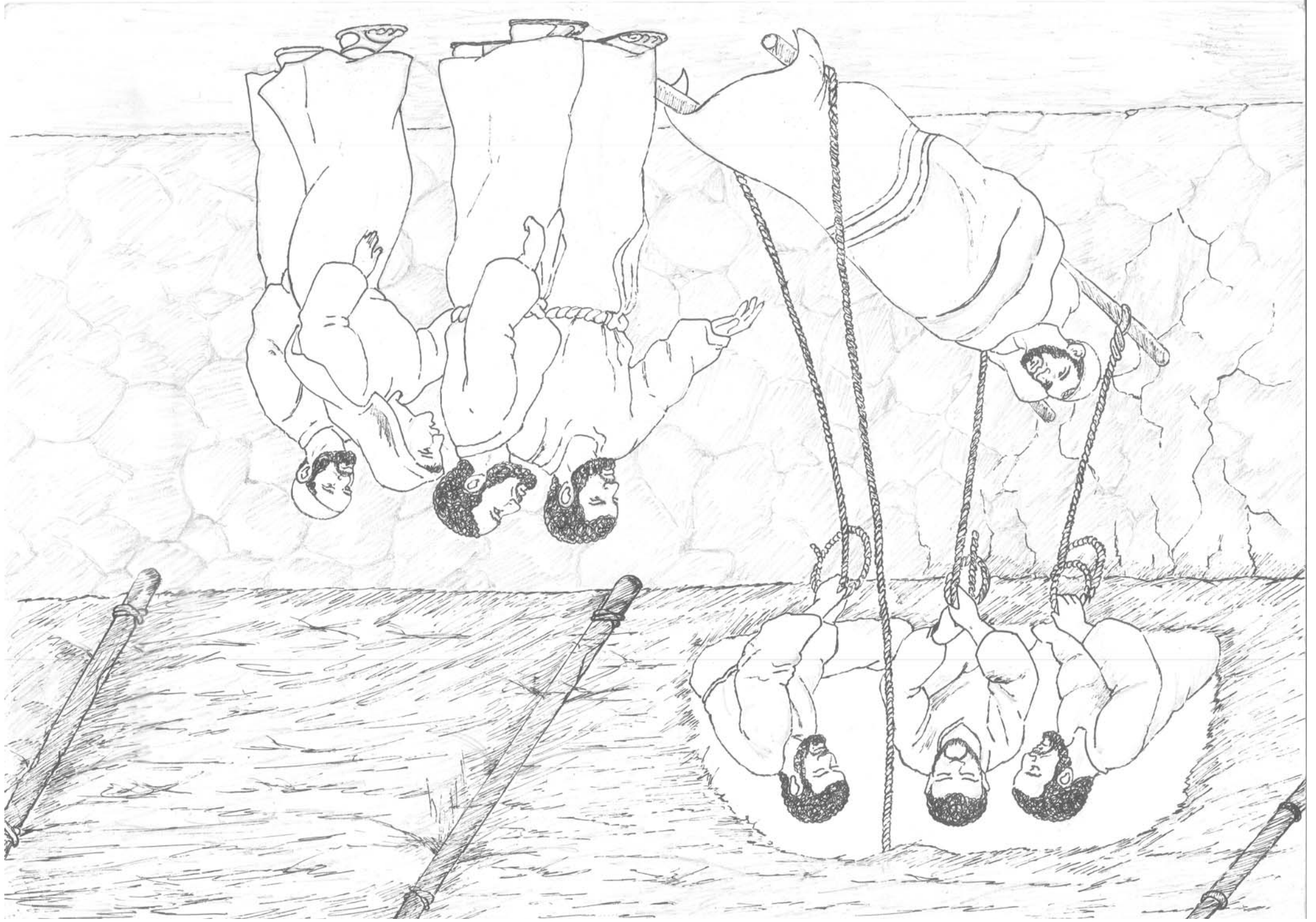
know that the son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." then He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." The man got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. All the people were amazed and they praised God! Jesus is truly the Son of God. He not only has the power to save people from their sins, he can also heal the sick. More and more people continued to follow Jesus saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

1. What were people saying about Jesus?
2. Why were so many people crowded in the room?
3. What did the four friends do for their paralysed friend?
4. What did Jesus say when he saw the friend's faith?
5. What made the teachers angry?
6. How did Jesus prove that he truly is the Son of God?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you that you sent your Son, Jesus Christ to earth to show us your great love. We confess that he is the Son of God, who can forgive sins and heal. We worship and praise you! Amen.

Jesus had been going around the county side proclaiming the good news and healing many people. The news of what he was doing spread quickly. The blind could see! The deaf could hear! Those with diseases were made well. Evil spirits were cast out! Oh, how the people talked about Jesus and followed him wherever he went. One day, Jesus was in a home in the town of Capernaum. So many people came there was no room left, not even outside the door. People pressed in from every side to listen while Jesus preached the Word of God to them. There was a man who was paralyzed and could not walk so his strong and faithful friends carried him to Jesus. Approaching the house, there was no way they could get inside, so the four friends carried the man up the stairs to the flat roof. How could they ask Jesus to heal their friend? They made a hole in the roof by digging through it and lowered the man on a mat to the floor, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." This made the religious teachers of the law angry! How can Jesus say this? Who can forgive sins but God alone? they thought. Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may

Mark 2:12 "He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" NIV



Calming the Storm

Bible Story 38: Mark 4:35-41

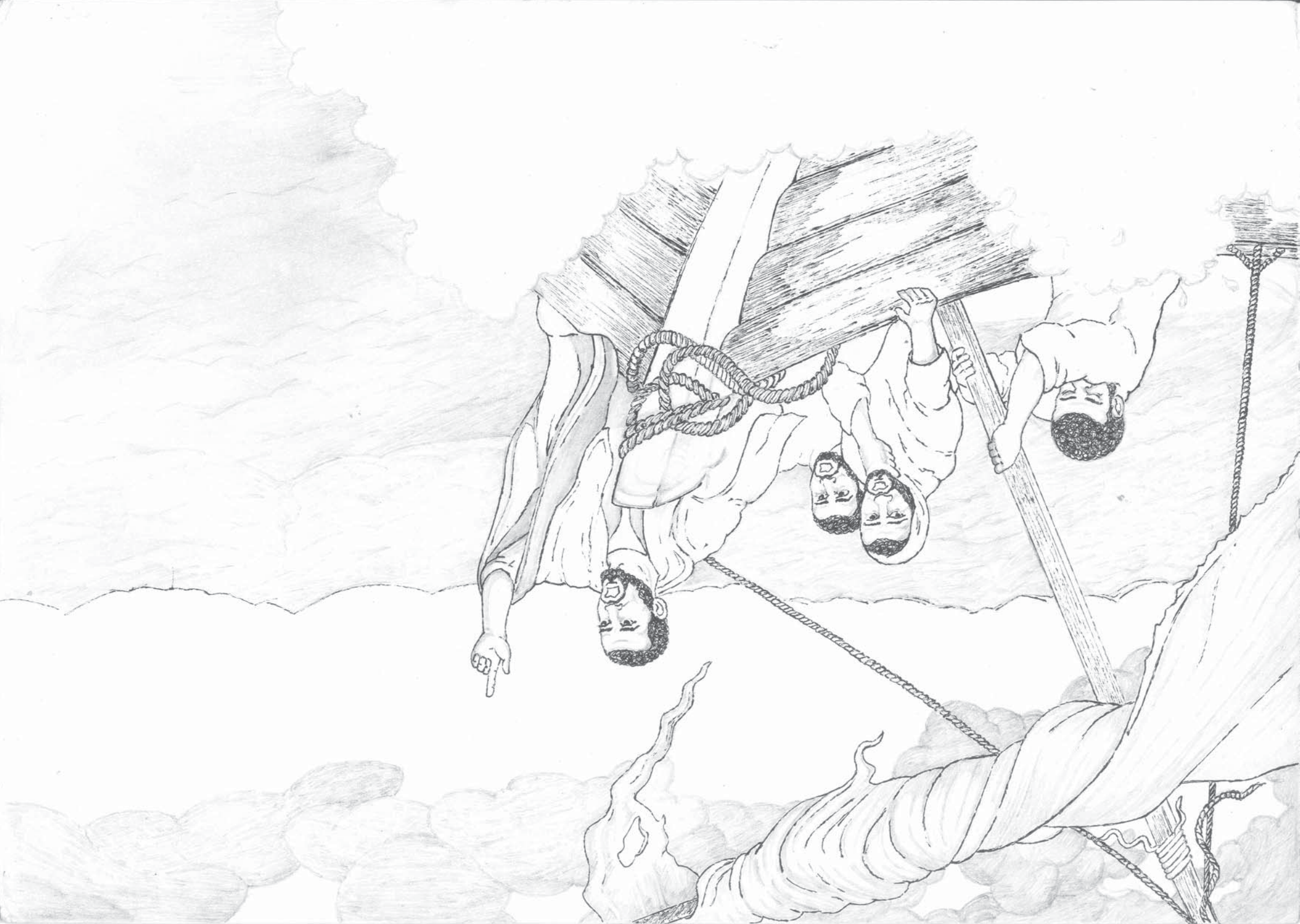
Memory Verse: John 14:27

Jesus continued to teach the people every day. With many parables Jesus spoke the Word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. He spoke the truths about the scriptures in a way that people could remember them and the people loved to hear him teach. When he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. After a day of teaching about the kingdom of God, Jesus wanted to cross over to the other side of the lake with his disciples. The crowd of people that had been listening to Jesus stayed behind on the shore while Jesus and his disciples got into a boat and set off to sail to the other side. It was evening, and Jesus was tired. He found a cushion to sleep on at the front of the boat. While they were going, an angry storm came up and caused the waves to crash over the side of the boat. Up and down, side-to-side the boat was tossed as more and more water came in over the sides! The disciples were frantic and feared that they would all drown as the boat was tossed back and forth, and up and down in the big waves. "Wake up Jesus! Wake up! Don't you care if we drown," shouted the anxious disciples over the sound of the fierce wind. Jesus got up and spoke to the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. No more wind. No more waves tossing their boat. No more waves crashing over the sides of the boat threatening to sink the boat and drown the men. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They had seen Jesus perform many miracles during the time they had spent with him and yet they did not fully comprehend the power of God that dwelt in Jesus. The disciples were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Then they reached the shores on the other side of the lake in the region of the Gerasenes. The disciples continued to marvel at all that Jesus had done.

1. How was Jesus feeling when he got into the boat?
2. How did the disciples feel when the storm came up?
3. How do you think they felt towards Jesus as he slept?
4. What did Jesus do in response to the disciples fear?
5. What did the disciples still have to learn about Jesus?
6. How can we trust Jesus more when we are fearful?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that you are always with us. Thank you that you never leave us, nor forsake us, even in the midst of the storm. Thank you that you truly are the Son of God and that we can place all our faith in you! Help us to trust you in the storms of our lives. Amen.

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." NIV



Jesus Drives Out the Demons

Bible Story 39: Mark 5:1-20

Memory Verse: Mark 5:19

pigs. The herds rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. The men who were tending the pigs saw all of this happen and they ran off to tell the people in the town and countryside what had happened. When the people came to see for themselves they saw the man who once was demon-possessed was now dressed and in his right mind. The people were not happy because their pigs were now dead and they were afraid and begged for Jesus to leave. As Jesus and his disciples were getting in the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus responded by saying, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." So the man went away and did just what Jesus said. All the people who heard were amazed!

1. What made the man who lived in the caves run around screaming and cutting himself with stones?
2. When the man saw Jesus, what did he do?
3. What did the evil spirits in the man call Jesus?
4. What happened when Jesus drove out the demons?
5. How did Jesus change the man's life?
6. How do we see God's power over darkness today?

Prayer: Thank you for loving and caring for us when we don't deserve it. We know you have power over evil spirits and you change lives. Help us tell others about your love.

On the day Jesus and his disciples had crossed the lake and arrived in the region of the Gerasenes, there came a man with an evil spirit from the tombs to meet them. Day after day, and night after night, the man would wander among the tombs and he would cry out and cut himself with stones. The village people tried time after time to tie his hands and feet with chains, but the man, who had evil spirits living in him, was stronger than the chains and he would break free and continue to cry out in despair. No one was strong enough to subdue him. He continued to live in the caves where the dead were buried, without hope and with much fear. When the man with the evil spirits saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the region. About two thousand pigs were feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." Jesus gave them permission and the evil spirits came out and went into the

Mark 5: 19 "Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." NIV



Feeding the Five Thousand

Bible Story 40: Mark 6:30-44

Memory Verse: John 6:35

It had been a full day of teaching for Jesus' disciples. They gathered together to share with Jesus all that they had done and taught. There had been so many people coming and going that they did not have a chance to eat, and they were hungry and tired. What was needed was a quiet, restful place! Jesus said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a quiet place. "Look! There goes Jesus," said those who recognized where Jesus was going. They ran ahead by foot and reached the very place that Jesus and his disciples were going before they arrived. When Jesus saw the crowds he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus began to teach them many things. It was becoming late in the day and they were far from any village. "Send these people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat," the disciples told Jesus. Jesus answered, "You give them something to eat." The disciples were surprised by Jesus response. How would they feed so many? There were about five thousand men, plus all the women and children! It would take eight months of a man's wages just to feed everyone; was their response to Jesus. "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked the disciples. They found just five loaves and two fish. Hardly enough to even feed themselves let alone five thousand men! "Tell all the people to sit down on the green grass in groups," Jesus commanded the disciples. So they sat the crowd down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Jesus then took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, and when he gave thanks He broke the bread. Then he gave them to his disciples to share with all the people. Everyone ate until they were satisfied. Then the disciples collected twelve baskets full of broken pieces of bread left over. God had truly provided an abundant blessing that day!

1. Why did Jesus take the disciples to a quiet place?
2. Who arrived at the shore before the disciples arrived?
3. What was Jesus' first response to the crowd of people?
4. How much food did the disciples present to Jesus?
5. About how many people were fed that day by Jesus?
6. How does Jesus meet the needs of people today?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you have shown us that you have great love for your people. You always see the needs and provide for us. May we willingly give to you what we have so you can use it for your honor and glory. We praise you, Lord. Amen.

John 6:35 "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, And he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'" NIV



The Transfiguration

Bible Story 41: Mark 9:2-13

Memory Verse: Mark 8:29-30

disappeared. On the way down the mountain, Jesus told Peter, James and John not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They listened, but they did not really understand what 'rising from the dead' meant. The three disciples asked Jesus, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things." They realized that He was speaking about John the Baptist who had come before Jesus to prepare the way. The disciples had seen with their own eyes the glory of God come upon Jesus. He had truly showed himself as the Son of God. Peter and the others continued to marvel at all that Jesus had done.

1. What was Peter's response to Jesus question about himself? How was this confirmed on the mountain?
 2. Who went with Jesus up a high mountain?
 3. What happened to Jesus clothes on the mountain?
 4. Who appeared on either side of Jesus?
 5. After the cloud covered them, what did the voice say?
 6. From this story, how do we know Jesus was the Christ?
- Prayer:** Jesus, you are the Son of God. The fullness of God dwells in you and we worship you as Lord and Savior, because you are the Son of God! Amen.

Jesus and his disciples went to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. While walking Jesus asked the disciples "Who do people say I am?" They replied "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." Then Jesus asked, "But what about you? Who do you say that I am." Peter replied to Jesus "You are the Christ the Son of the living God." Jesus was pleased with his answer. He had understood who Jesus was as it was revealed to him by God. Then Jesus told the disciples not to tell anyone this truth because His time had not yet come to fully reveal who He was. Six days later, Jesus took the three disciples Peter, James and John up to a high mountain where they were all alone. Before their eyes, Jesus' clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. Suddenly, Elijah and Moses appeared before them and were talking with Jesus. The frightened disciples didn't know what to do so Peter said to Jesus, "It is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." Then a cloud appeared and covered them and a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. Elijah and Moses had

Mark 8 : 29-30 "But what about you? He asked. " Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." NIV



Blind Bartimaeus Sees Again

Bible Story 42: Mark 10:46-52

Memory Verse: Mark 10:52

the crowd ran to help him, "Cheer up! On your feet! Jesus is calling you." And with that, Bartimaeus jumped up, threw his coat aside and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked Bartimaeus. "Teacher, replied Bartimaeus, 'I want to see.'" Then Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has healed you." Immediately Bartimaeus received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. What a wonderful transformation in Bartimaeus' life! Going from being blind and begging to following Jesus! Bartimaeus' believed that Jesus could heal him. Jesus' mercy and Man and the Son of God! We serve a powerful God with a humble heart in great faith in our Lord.

1. What were James and John really asking Jesus?

2. Why did blind Bartimaeus shout out for mercy?

3. How did the crowd of people respond to Bartimaeus?

4. What did Bartimaeus want from Jesus?

5. How do you think Bartimaeus' life was changed?

6. How did Jesus show His power; show his love?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for your mercy and kindness to us. Help us to follow your ways and to walk in obedience and faith. Show us the areas in our life that are not pleasing to you. We want to walk in your light and truth. Amen.

Jesus was a humble servant to the people he met. Even though He is the Son of God he walked with his disciples and among the people preaching the good news. God demonstrated through Jesus that He is all-powerful and yet humble. Two of Jesus disciples, James and John, came to Jesus and asked him, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." Jesus responded, "You don't know what you are asking? Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus showed his disciples that He was not there for position or power, but was there to serve others, and love others. One day when Jesus and his disciples together with a large crowd were leaving the town of Jericho, there was a blind man named Bartimaeus who was sitting by the roadside begging. As the crowd was passing by him, Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was coming his way, so he yelled out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" There were those in the crowd that tried to discourage him by shouting back at him to be quiet. This only made Bartimaeus shout all the more: "JESUS, SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME!" Jesus heard Bartimaeus shout and so he stopped and said, " Call him." Some of the people from

Mark 10:52 "Go, said Jesus, "your faith has healed you. " Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus." NIV



Children's Bible Story Book

Advent Season Stories



An Angel Visits Mary

Bible Story A1: Luke 1:26-56

Memory Verse: Luke 1:31-32

Gabriel. "I am the Lord's servant," she said. "Let it happen to me just as you have said." Then the angel left her. Mary hurried to the hillside town where her cousin lived. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting she called to Mary, "Why has the mother of my Lord come? As soon as I heard you troubled by his greeting and wondered what it meant. Gabriel told her not to be afraid because God was pleased with her. Then he told her the most amazing news. She would become pregnant and give birth to a son. "You will call his name Jesus," the angel told her. "He will be great and He will be the son of the Most High. God will make him a king just like David who reigned long ago." Mary was confused and questioned what the angel had told her since she was still a virgin. Gabriel assured her that God would make a way. The power of God would cover her so that the baby she would carry would be the Son of God. "Nothing is impossible with God," the angel declared to her. He told her about her cousin, Elizabeth. Even though she was too old to have children, God had enabled her and her husband Zechariah to have a son they were to name John. She was already six months pregnant. He would grow up to be the Lord's witness who would tell people about the Messiah, God's son. After hearing this, Mary humbly answered

1. What did Gabriel say was going to happen to Mary?
2. Who was the baby going to become?
3. Why did Mary question what the angel told her?
4. Who was Elizabeth & Zechariah's baby to become?
5. Why did Elizabeth say that Mary was so blessed?
6. What was Mary's reaction to what God had told her?

Prayer: Father, Your word says that nothing is impossible. Lord, when life seems too hard, help me to trust you more and put my faith in you. You always keep your promises. Like Mary did, we give you praise for your goodness. Amen.

Luke 1:31-32 "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." NIV



Birth of Jesus

Bible Story A2: Luke 2:1-7

Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6-7

The power of the Lord came upon a virgin named Mary, and she conceived a child, the Son of God. It soon became obvious to Joseph, her promised husband that she was pregnant, though he had never been with her. He was a kind and godly man and he did not want to shame Mary in public. He planned to divorce her quietly, but then the angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife," the angel told him. "The baby she carries was given to her through the power of the Holy Spirit, not of any man. The baby will be a son and you are to name him Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins." Many years before the prophet Isaiah had said, "The virgin shall give birth to a son and he will be called Immanuel, 'God with us.'" (Isaiah 7:14) When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel had told him. He took Mary home as his wife. Now it happened at that time, that Caesar Augustus wanted a list of all the people throughout the Roman Empire. He made a law demanding that everyone must go to the town of their forefathers to be counted. Joseph and Mary left their home in Nazareth in Galilee and traveled to the town of Bethlehem because they were of the line of King David. While they were there the time came for Mary to deliver her baby. She gave birth to

1. What did Joseph want to do secretly when he found out Mary was pregnant?
2. Why was it right for Joseph to take Mary as his wife?
3. Why was Joseph to name the baby 'Jesus'?
4. In what kind of place was Jesus born and why?
5. Why was it important that Jesus be born in Bethlehem and that he be a descendant of King David?
6. How does it make you feel to know that what God says He will do?

Prayer: Father God, thank you that you always do what you promise. We can trust your Word, the Bible, to be true all the time. Lord, we ask that you always help us to do what is right no matter what other people will say or think. We want to please you more than anyone else. Amen.

Isaiah 9:6-7 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." NIV



Shepherds Visited by Angels

Bible Story A3: Luke 2:8-20

Memory Verse: Luke 2:10-11

heard. It was all just as the angels had said. On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, Mary and Joseph, took the baby to the temple in Jerusalem to offer their sacrifices according to the Law of Moses, and gave him the name Jesus. Mary and Joseph were amazed with all that happened and returned to their home with joy in their hearts. Jesus grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him.

1. What was the great news brought to the shepherds?
2. Who was this special baby of whom the angel spoke?
3. How did the shepherds react to all that the angels had told them about the Christ child?
4. Why do you think God chose to announce the Messiah to humble shepherds instead of famous leaders?
5. What was so amazing about the birth of Jesus?
6. What does Jesus birth mean to each of us in our lives?

Prayer:

Dear Father, thank you for the amazing gift of your son Jesus. Thank you that this gift is for everyone, both rich and poor. Just like the shepherds, fill us with the amazement of your love so that we will tell every one of Jesus and the forgiveness from sin He brings. Amen.

The night of Jesus' birth was unlike any that had ever happened before. In a field not too far away from Bethlehem, there were shepherds watching their flocks of sheep. An angel bathed in the light of God's glory appeared before them. They were terrified! But the angel of the Lord said to them, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today, in Bethlehem, the town of David, a special child has been born. He is the Savior, Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly with the angel was a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God. "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace to men with whom His favor rests," proclaimed the angels. As soon as the angels left, the shepherds said to each other, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem and find the baby the Lord told us about!" They rushed to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby in the manger, just as the angels had said. The shepherds spread the news to everyone about what had happened with the angels and what had been said about this child. Everyone who heard the story was amazed. But Mary treasured all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their fields praising and glorifying God for all that they had seen and

Luke 2:10-11 "But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. " NIV



Gifts of the Magi

Bible Story A4: Matthew 2:1-23

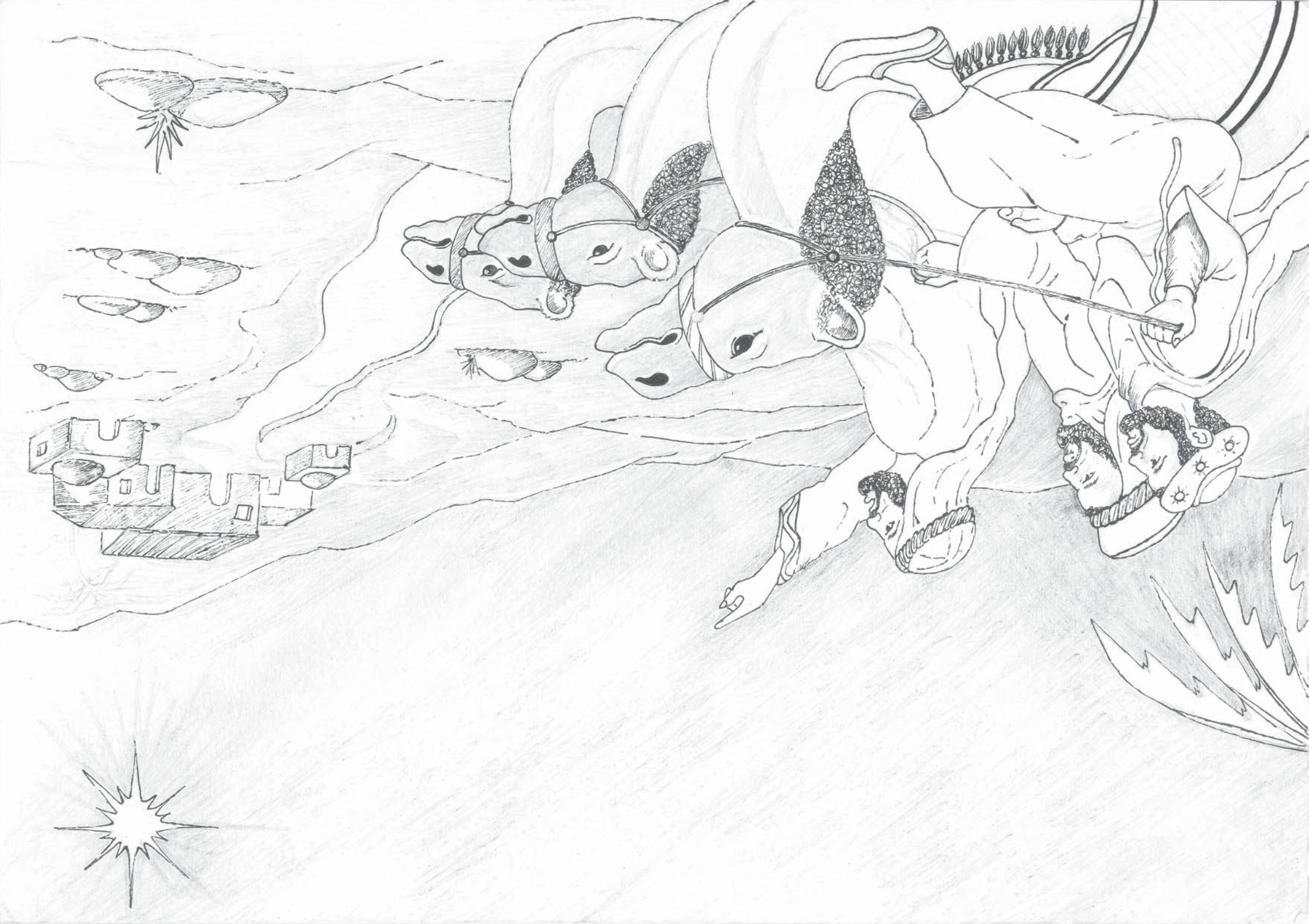
Memory Verse: Matthew 2:1-2

to Egypt. Herod soon realized that he had been tricked and the new king. He ordered that all boys two years and younger in the area of Bethlehem were to be killed. The prophet Jeremiah had written about this long ago. "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." After the death of King Herod an angel appeared to Joseph again in a dream telling him to return to Israel. But when Joseph heard that Herod's son was now ruling he was afraid to go back to Judea. Instead he took his family to the town of Nazareth in Galilee fulfilling the prophecy that said, "He will be called a Nazarene."

1. Why were the Magi following the star from the east?
 2. Why was Herod so upset about the birth of Jesus?
 3. What was Herod's real plan when he told the Magi to find the child so he could also worship Him?
 4. What did the Magi give to Jesus as gifts?
 5. What terrible act did King Herod do in his anger?
 6. How do we show honor to Jesus like the Magi did?
- Prayer:** Lord we are thankful for your protection in our lives, like you did for Jesus when he was a child. Like the Magi, I give you the gift of my heart and life out of love for you. Amen.

Matthew 2:1-2 "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." NIV

After Jesus was born, Magi, or Wise Men, from the East came into Jerusalem asking for the child who was born to be king of the Jews. "We have seen his star in the sky, and have come to worship him," they said. King Herod was upset when he heard the news. He called all his religious leaders and asked them where this child was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "The prophet, Micah, wrote long ago of the birth of a ruler and shepherd of Israel who would come out of Bethlehem." King Herod secretly invited the Magi to come speak to him and told them to go to Bethlehem and search for the child. As soon as they found him they were to report back to Herod. "I want to worship him, also" Herod said. The Wise Men set out for Bethlehem. The star, that had been guiding them, went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. They went in and found him with his mother Mary. They bowed down to worship him, giving him their precious treasures – gold, frankincense and myrrh. Having been warned by God not to return to Herod, they returned another way to their own country. After the Magi had left an angel came to Joseph in a dream. "Take the child and his mother to Egypt staying there until I tell you to return. Herod will look for the child to kill him." During the night, Joseph fled with Mary and Jesus



Jesus Visits the Temple

Bible Story A5: Luke 2:21-52

Memory Verse: Matthew 2:52

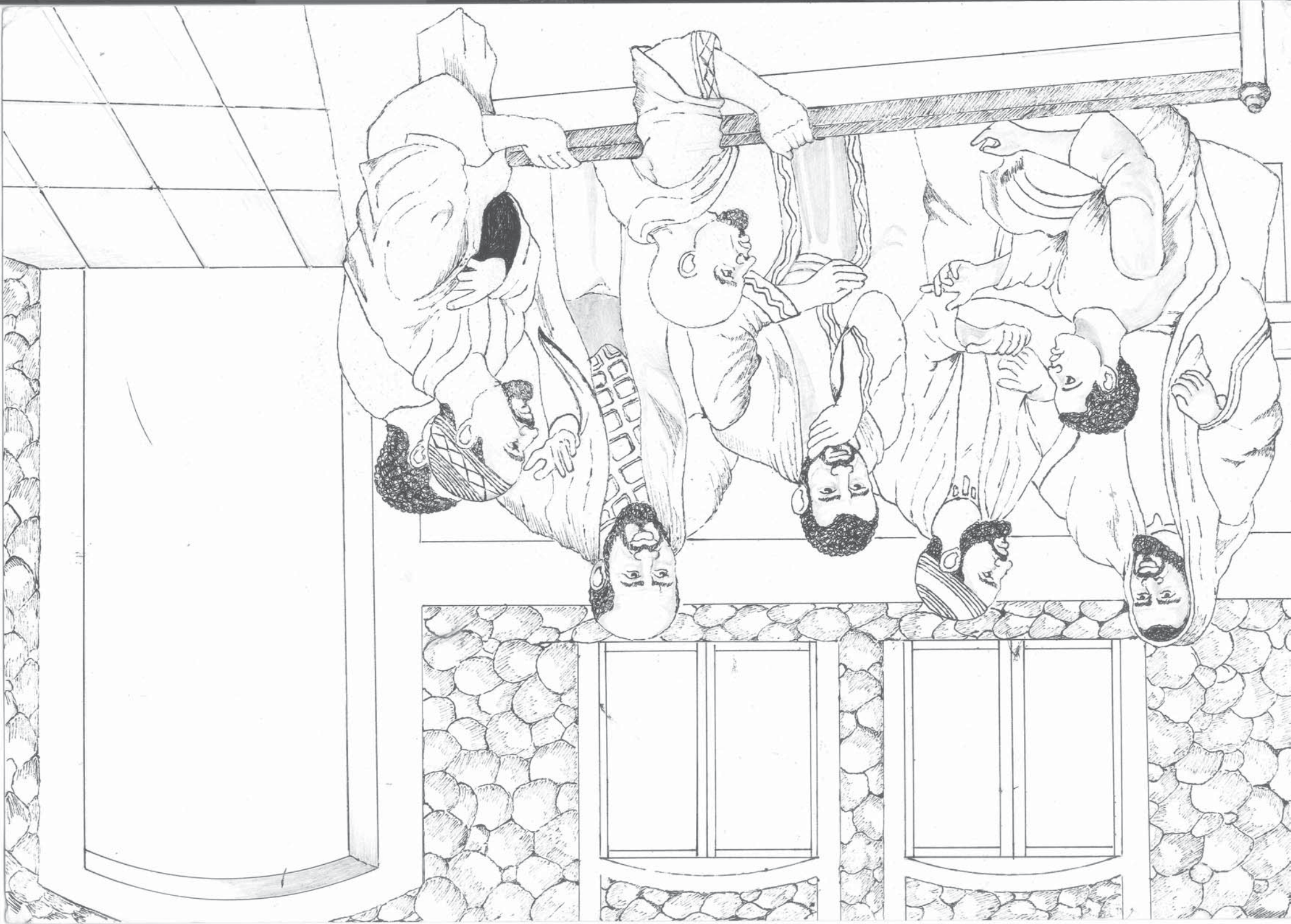
later, they found Jesus in the temple courts with the religious teachers. He was listening and asking them questions. Everyone was completely amazed at his understanding. His mother was upset. "Son, how could you treat us like this? Your father and I have been frantically looking for you everywhere," she said to him. "But, why were you looking for me?" Jesus replied. "Did you not know that I had to be in my Father's house?" Mary and Joseph did not really understand what he meant. Jesus returned to Nazareth with them and he was obedient to them. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

1. What did Simeon and Anna say about the baby Jesus?
2. Why did God reveal to Simeon who Jesus really was?
3. Why did Mary and Joseph go to the temple every year?
4. Where did they finally find the twelve-year-old Jesus?
5. Jesus said that he had to be at His Father's house? What do you think He meant?
6. How do we know that Jesus was truly the Messiah?

Prayer: Father, thank you for sending Jesus to save everyone from their sins. Thank you that it doesn't matter where we come from or who we are, your salvation is for us all. We ask that just like Jesus you help us to grow in knowledge of you and your love. Amen

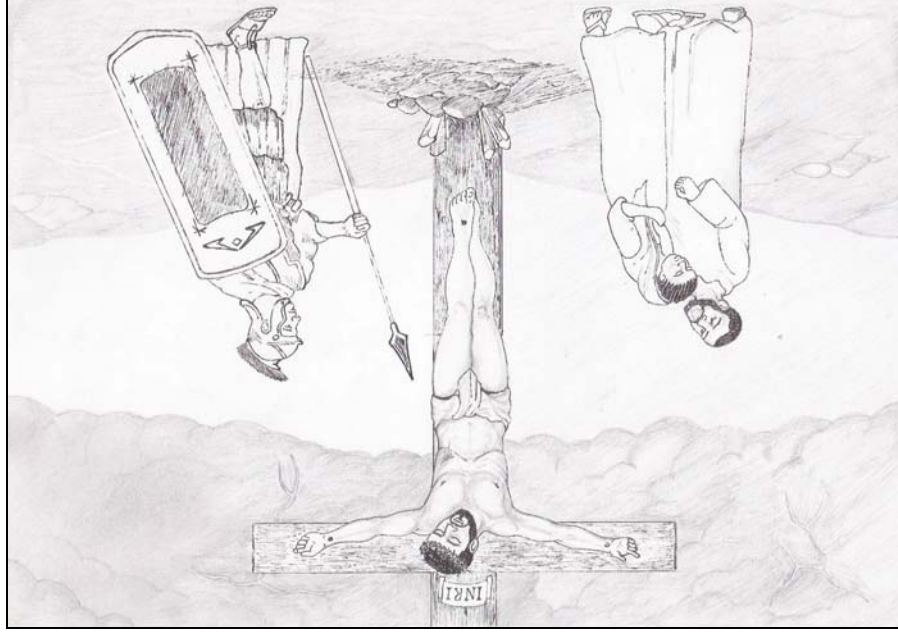
Matthew 2:52 "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." NIV

When Jesus was eight days old, according to the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought him to the temple to be circumcised and presented to the Lord. At the temple was a godly man by the name of Simeon. God had told him he would not die until he had seen the promised Messiah. As soon as Simeon took Jesus in his arms he recognized that this was the long awaited Messiah and proclaimed, "For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." Living at the temple there was also a prophetess named Anna, who prayed night and day. She came up to them at that moment. She gave thanks to God that she had lived to see the child who would bring freedom to Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph were amazed at what they heard. Every year after this Mary and Joseph made the journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. All Jews celebrated their deliverance from the ancient Egyptians in this way. When Jesus was twelve years old, and they were on their way home from the Passover celebration, they suddenly realized that Jesus was not with them. Thinking that he would be with other friends or family traveling with them they continued on for a day. When they discovered he was not with anyone, they hurried back to Jerusalem to search for him. Finally, three days



Children's Bible Story Book

Lent Season Stories



The Triumphal Entry

Bible Story L1: Luke 19:28-40

Memory Verse: Luke 19:38

Jesus had spent much time teaching his disciples and those who were following him. The time of the Passover Feast was before them, and they made their way to Jerusalem. Before reaching Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of his disciples saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" tell him "the Lord needs it." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' The disciples did as Jesus asked and brought it to Him, threw their cloaks on the colt, and put Jesus on it. Jesus rode the colt to Jerusalem with the disciples walking along side. A very large crowd had gathered and they spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the tress and spread them on the road. This was the way that they showed honour to someone they considered royalty! The crowds that walked in front and behind Jesus shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest." Jesus was being treated and welcomed like a king. Some of the religious leaders in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied "if they keep quiet, the very stones will

Luke 19:38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" NIV

cry out!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, all the people were curious and wanted to know, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." During Jesus time, the Jews were not happy with the Roman government that controlled them. They wanted freedom and to chose their own leader! Many of the crowd saw Jesus as an answer to be an earthly king! A king that would get rid of the Romans! A king that would rule and set them free! They did not fully comprehend that Jesus is the KING. King of Kings! Lord of Lords! The Almighty God, in the flesh. Yes, he came to set them free, but not in the way they imagined he would. Today, we can truly say, as the crowds of long ago, "Hosanna in the highest." "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" We know why he came! HE IS THE ETERNAL KING!

1. What did Jesus say they would find in the next village?
2. How did the crowds show honour to Jesus?
3. What were the crowds expecting Jesus to become?
4. Why were the religious leaders upset with Jesus?
5. How was Jesus truly the Eternal King?
6. How can Jesus become King in your life?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we honour you as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Be the Ruler in our lives. We humbly bow before you! Amen.



The Last Supper

Bible Story L2: Matthew 26:17-30

Memory Verse: Luke 22:19-20

betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." Then Judas, the one who would betray him said, "Surely it is not I, Teacher?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you." While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body broken for you." Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. He said, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." Jesus prayed for them and when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

1. What did the Passover Feast remind the people of?
2. What did the unleavened bread and wine represent?
3. Who did the disciples find with a room ready for them?
4. When Jesus spoke of the betrayal, how did the disciples react? Who did Jesus say would betray him?
5. What are we to do when we celebrate the Last Supper?
6. In what way has Jesus become the Passover lamb?

Prayer: Jesus, you were the Passover lamb. You shed your blood for all who believe so that we could be saved. We are forever thankful for your perfect sacrifice. Amen.

Luke 22: 19-20 "And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'" In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'" NIV

Jesus and his disciples had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast. This feast was a reminder to the people of God's deliverance from Egypt when death 'passed over' the homes of the Israelites but came to the homes of the Egyptians killing every first-born son. God had protected them by the blood of the lamb. On the day of Unleavened Bread, Jesus sent two of his disciples into the city to find a room for the feast. A man carrying a jar of water met the men and led them to a house. The disciples said to the owner of the house: "The Teacher asks: 'Where is my guestroom, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" The owner showed them a large upper room furnished and ready for their use. All of this took place just as Jesus had told them. The disciples then gathered all the food, herbs, lamb, wine and unleavened bread that they would need for the meal. When evening came, Jesus and the twelve disciples gathered and ate the food set before them. While they were eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me." One by one, with sad hearts, they told Jesus that they wouldn't betray him. But Jesus responded, "It is the one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who



Prayer in Gethsemane

Bible Story L3: Mark 14:32-41

Memory Verse: Mark 14:36

After the last supper that the disciples and Jesus shared together, they went to a special garden on the Mount of Olives called Gethsemane. It was one of Jesus' favorite places to go and pray. Jesus told his disciples to sit down while he went on to pray. "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, because he knew like sheep they would scatter when He the shepherd was taken away. Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not!" Then Jesus looked at Peter and said, "I tell the truth, this very night before the rooster crows, you yourself will disown me three times." But Peter insisted, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same. Then He took with him Peter, James and John and went to pray. Jesus' heart was so overwhelmed with sorrow that he was very distressed and troubled. "Stay here and watch," he told them, as he walked on a bit further. Jesus knew what was about to happen. He knew that sinful men would come and take him away and kill him. His soul ached so much in knowing this that he fell to the ground and cried out in prayer. "Abba Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." He was asking God the Father if there was any other way, but more so, Jesus wanted God's will to be done. While Jesus was praying, the disciples grew tired and fell asleep. When Jesus returned to them he asked Peter, "Are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?" He then told them, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Once again Jesus went off to pray the same prayer. He prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he returned, he again found them sleeping because they were very tired. Returning a third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" While he was still speaking a crowd approached to take him.

1. What did Jesus go to the garden to pray about?
2. Who did Jesus say was going to disown Him 3 times?
3. What did Jesus ask the disciples to do while he prayed?
4. How does praying help us when we are weak?
5. Why did Jesus say "yet not what I will, but what you will"?
6. What does God want for our lives and how can we learn to be obedient to God's will like Jesus was?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us Jesus. We know that you are always with us when we face difficult situations. Lord, like Jesus, we want your will in our lives. Help us to be faithful in prayer and trusting you when others treat us badly. Help us to be faithful. Amen.



Jesus Arrested

Bible Story L4: Mark 14:43-50, 66-72

Memory Verse: Mark 14:38

Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane praying to his Father because He knew the hour of trial and suffering was upon Him. His disciples were with them, when Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, appeared with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. Judas had gone to the chief priests, teachers of the law, and the elders and for thirty silver coins he told them he would hand over Jesus to them, and now these men had come to find Jesus. Judas, known as the betrayer, had made plans ahead of time with the men to show them who Jesus was. "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away with your swords and clubs." At once, Judas went up to Jesus and called him "Rabbi", meaning teacher, and then he kissed Jesus. The men grabbed hold of Jesus and arrested him. Then one of those who were standing with Jesus in the garden took out his sword and hit the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear! "Put away your sword!" Jesus said to the man. "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?" Jesus knew that the scripture spoken by the prophets must be fulfilled by his death and He was willing to pay the price. Jesus then healed the servant. "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, giving us Jesus, who obeyed your perfect will. Amen.

Then Jesus went with them willingly and all the disciples deserted him and ran away. They took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the elders had assembled. Peter followed at a distance right to the courtyard and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. A servant girl came to Peter and said, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it in front of them all, "I don't know what you are talking about," he said. Peter went to the gate where another girl said, "This fellow was with Jesus!" He denied it again. Then others heard his accent and accused him again, "Surely you are one of them!" Peter shouted, "I don't know the man!" At that moment the rooster crowed and Peter remembered Jesus words, "Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times." Then Peter full of remorse went out and wept bitterly.

1. Who betrayed Jesus?
2. How did Jesus respond to Judas and the crowd of men?
3. Why didn't Jesus fight or run? What did the disciples do?
4. Why did Jesus say the scriptures must be fulfilled?
5. How many times did Peter deny that he knew Jesus?
6. How can we be obedient to God's Word and plan when evil actions from others come upon us?

Prayer: Thank you heavenly Father for giving us your Word. Help us to live our lives according to your will. Thank you for giving us Jesus, who obeyed your perfect will. Amen.



Trial of Jesus

Bible Story L5: Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-19

Memory Verse: Mark 14:61b-62a

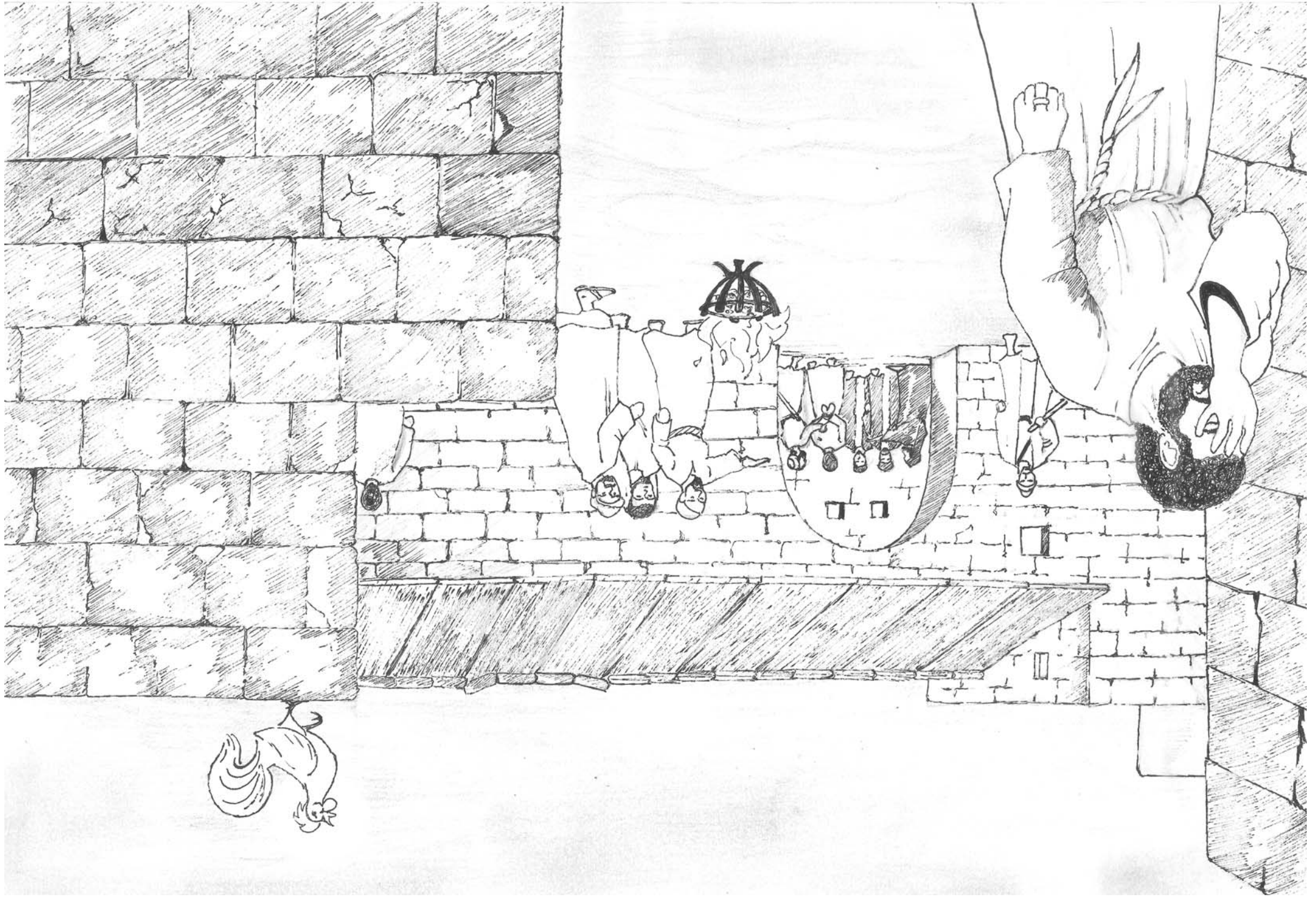
amazed that Jesus did not answer. There was a custom during the Jewish Passover feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man named Barabbas who was a murderer was in prison but when presented to the crowd they shouted for Barabbas to be released rather than Jesus, who had committed no crime! Pilate then asked the crowd of people: "What should I do with the one you call the king of the Jews?" "Crucify him!" they shouted. "Why", asked Pilate, "what crime has he done?" The crowds shouted even louder, "Crucify him!" Pilate then told them that he would not be responsible for Jesus' death but gave Jesus over to the wish of the people! Jesus was given to the soldiers who took him to the palace, put a purple robe on his back and a twisted crown of thorns on his head and mocked Jesus, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they hit him with a rod and spit on him. Jesus suffered so much for you and I.

1. What did the high priest and the elders accuse Jesus of?
2. What was the punishment for his crime by their law?
3. Why was Jesus taken to Pilate for his trial?
4. Who did Jesus say he was when asked by the priest?
5. Who did the crowd call for to be released from prison?
6. How can we speak the truth when in difficult situations?

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for speaking the truth and for being faithful in the face of people speaking lies about you. Help us to live like you as faithful people. Amen.

Mark 14:61b-62a "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus." NIV

The crowd of men took Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to the high priest where all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law had assembled. These men were looking for evidence to put Jesus to death and many told lies about him. "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'" Even in their false testimony, these men could not agree with each other! The high priest asked Jesus: "Are you not going to answer?" Jesus remained silent. Then Jesus was asked: "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." This made the high priest so angry and shocked that he tore his own clothes in protest! To these leaders Jesus was saying he was equal with God! This deserved death! Some of the men began to spit on him. They blind folded him and struck him with their fists, then shouted, "Prophesy! Who hit you." The law decided to take Jesus to Pilate, who was the Roman governor. Pilate asked Jesus: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied: "Yes, it is as you say." The chief priests accused Jesus of many things and Pilate wanted to know from Jesus if these matters were true. Pilate was



Crucifixion of Christ

Bible Story L6: Mark 14:20- 15:47

Memory Verse: Romans 5:8

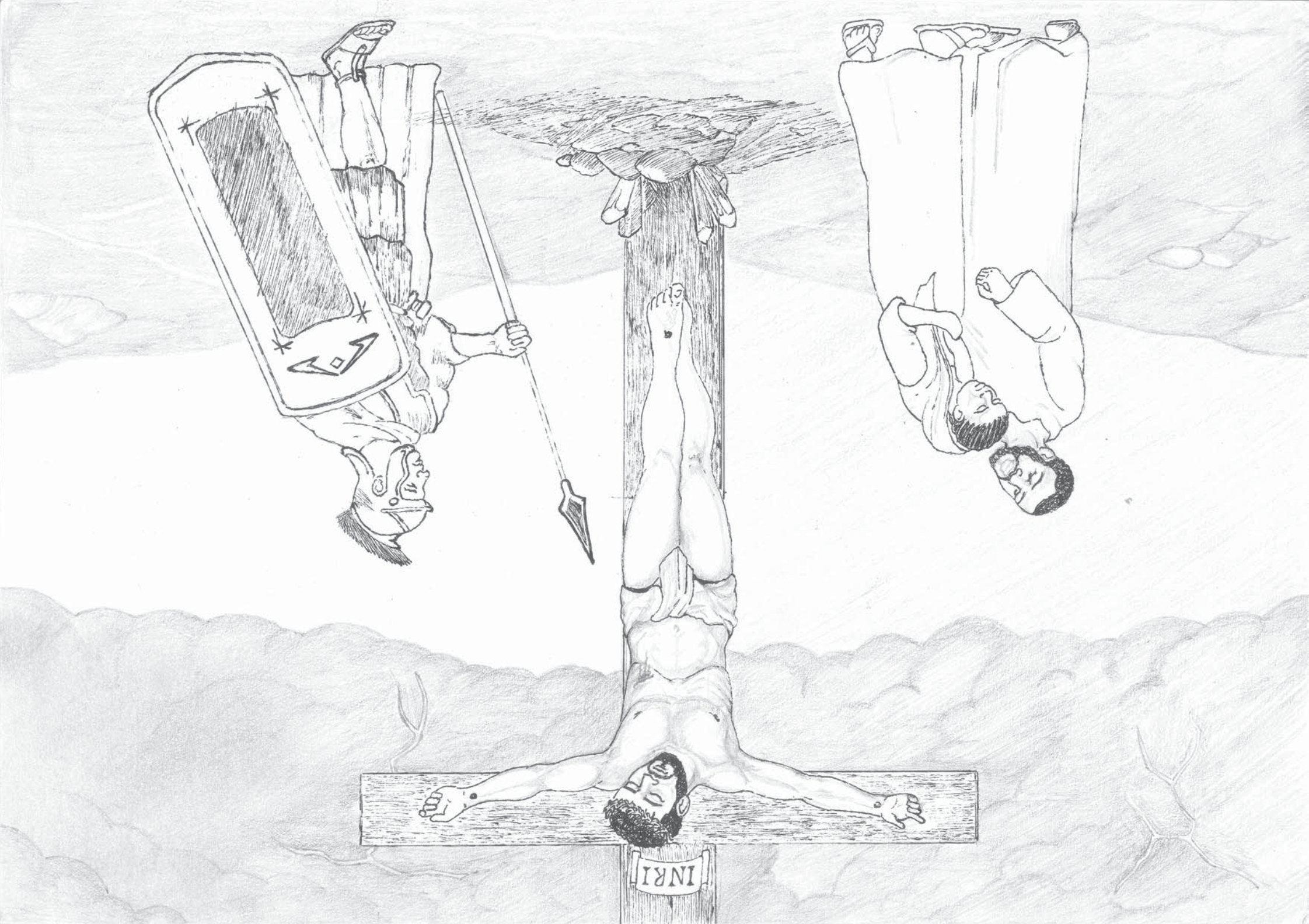
God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some thought he was calling out to Elijah. One man offered Jesus a drink, but others told him to leave him alone, for they wanted to see if Elijah would come and take Jesus down off the cross. Then Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" and he took his last breath and died. At that very moment, the curtain that hung in the temple that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks split. Tombs broke open and bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life and appeared to many people in Jerusalem. When the centurion and all others who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified and said, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

1. How did Jesus suffer at the hands of the soldiers?
2. Why did the religious leaders want Jesus crucified?
3. How was Jesus treated when he hung on the cross?
4. What amazing things happened when Jesus died?
5. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? Did he deserve to die in such a terrible way?
6. For whom did Jesus suffer and die upon the cross?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you willingly suffered and died on the cross, so that we could be saved from our sins. Thank you for loving us enough to sacrifice your innocent blood. Amen.

Romans 5:8 "Bt God Demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." NIV

The soldiers mocked Jesus. They hit and spat on him. When they had finished humiliating him, they took off the purple robe and placed on Jesus his own clothes. Then they led Jesus out to crucify him. Jesus was forced to carry his own cross but he was weak from the beating and the load was too great for him. A man called Simon from Cyrene, who was passing by, was forced to carry Jesus cross for him. The guards led Jesus to a hill called Golgotha, which means "The Place of the Skull." This is where the Romans would take criminals to be killed. Jesus was offered a drink that would ease his pain, but when he tasted it, he refused to drink it. The soldiers laid Jesus across the wood and nailed his hands and feet to the cross. Then standing the cross up, they crucified Jesus where he would suffer and die. Above his head they placed a sign that read, "THE KING OF THE JEWS." They crucified two robbers with him, one on either side of Jesus. Those who walked by threw insults at Jesus and said in mocking voices, "Save yourself, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way, the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him saying, "He saved others, but he can't save himself! Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Between noon and mid afternoon, darkness came over the whole land. At the ninth hour, Jesus cried out, "My



INRI

Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Bible Story L7: Mark 15:40-47, 16:1-8

Memory Verse: John 11:25

As evening approached on the night Jesus was crucified, the women, who had spent time with Jesus and had cared for his needs watched in despair. Jesus body still hung on the cross. A man named Joseph of Arimathea, an important member of the high court of the Jews, yet was a follower of Jesus, boldly asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus had already died but after confirming this truth, gave Joseph the body of Jesus. So he took the body down and wrapped it in linen and placed it in a new tomb cut out of the rock. A large stone was rolled against the entrance of the tomb. Two of the women, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where Jesus was laid. The next day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to see Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while Jesus was still alive he said 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead." Pilate answered, "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and put a seal on the stone and left soldiers to guard the tomb. When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and wondered who would roll the stone away from the entrance. Suddenly the earth trembled and an angel from heaven appeared, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. The angel's appearance shown like lightening and the guards fell to the ground like dead men. The women saw the angel and were terrified. The angel said, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He is risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.'" So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid, yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. On the way Jesus appeared to them. "Greetings," he said, "Do not be afraid." They came to him and held onto his feet and worshipped him. In the following days Jesus appeared to many of his disciples and comforted them, giving them commands before ascending to heaven just as He promised.

1. Who took Jesus body from the cross and buried him?
2. Why did the chief priests want the tomb secured?
3. Who came to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus?
4. Who suddenly appeared and rolled the stone away?
5. How did Jesus defeat death and fulfill his promise?
6. Why does Jesus resurrection give us hope today?

Prayer: Thank you, Father God for raising Jesus from the dead. We believe that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead, so we too can have the hope of eternal life. Amen

John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." NIV

