

Little Dwellers

Light in the Darkness

Week 8

We've been reading the bible every day for seven weeks now! Have you learned a lot? Did you had fun? We sure have! Believe it or not, we learned about God and Jesus during all of our activities. The stories, songs, crafts, coloring, dancing, prayers. Everything we've learned about was all a part of God's plan. This week, we'll learn even more about God's plan. God loves us so much and wants to take care of us forever. Enjoy week 8!!

Please watch for the Little Dweller's weekly information to be loaded on our platforms. Be sure to stay in contact with The Dwelling:

1. Website: www.thedwellingtx.org
2. Facebook page: [The Dwelling TX](#)
3. The Dwelling App: Download the ShareFaith App and Select "The Dwelling"
4. Email: thedwellingtx@gmail.com

Topic: The Church & New Creation

Day 1 – Jesus Goes to Heaven

- We will be mimicking Little Dwellers during our normal Sunday service. Please watch the video with your little dweller: https://youtu.be/cjxOfMdz_w The images from The Beginner's Bible are listed on pages 6 – 9.
- Here are some questions you can ask your Little Dweller about today's bible story:
 - Why did Jesus die on the cross? **So we could leave with Jesus in heaven!**
 - What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? Tell **everyone about Jesus, baptize them, and teach them to obey the 10 commandments**
- Prayer: Choose THANKS / PRAISE / MISTAKES / REQUEST / PROTECTION to use to pray with your Little Dweller.
- Craft: 32 – 33
- Song: <https://youtu.be/B9W6-HGFunA>

Day 2 – The Holy Spirit Comes

- Please read the story “The Holy Spirit Comes” with your Little Dweller. The images are on pages 10 – 13.
- Here are some questions you can ask your Little Dweller about today's bible story:
 - What is the Holy Spirit? **God's spirit. He helps people to do God's work, believe in Jesus, and to live like him.**
 - Peter told people about God's plan. What was God's plan? **He sent Jesus to save everyone from the mistakes we make.**
- Prayer: Choose THANKS / PRAISE / MISTAKES / REQUEST / PROTECTION to use to pray with your Little Dweller.
- Coloring page: 34
- Song: <https://youtu.be/MPvnZILn6EY>

Day 3 – God Sends Help

- Ask your little dweller what yesterday’s story was about.
- Please read the story “God Sends Help” with your Little Dweller. The images are on pages 14 – 17.
- Here are some questions you can ask your Little Dweller about today’s bible story:
 - What could you see on their heads after the strong wind?
Flickering flames. Fire that didn’t hurt or burn.
 - Jesus had gone up into heaven, but he felt closer than ever. Where did they feel Jesus? **In their hearts.**
- Prayer: Choose THANKS / PRAISE / MISTAKES / REQUEST / PROTECTION to use to pray with your Little Dweller.
- Coloring page: 35
- Song: <https://youtu.be/B9W6-HGFunA>

Day 4 – The First Church

- Please read the story “The First Church” with your Little Dwellers. The images are on pages 18 – 19.
- Questions to ask your Little Dweller about today’s bible story:
 - What did the people do during church? **They prayed sang songs, and ate food together.**
 - Did more and more people learn about Jesus each day? **Yes!**
- Prayer: Choose THANKS / PRAISE / MISTAKES / REQUEST / PROTECTION to use to pray with your Little Dweller.
- Coloring page: 36
- Song: <https://youtu.be/MPvnZILn6EY>

Day 5 – A New Way to See

- Please ready the story “A New Way to See” with your Little Dweller. The images are on pages 20 – 23.
- Questions to ask your Little Dweller about today’s bible story:

- Did Saul like people who loved Jesus? **No. He wanted to catch them and put them in prison.**
- After saw a very, very, very bright light and then he couldn't see for three days. Jesus made it so Saul could see again. After Saul could see again, was he still mean? **No. He even changed his name to Paul.**
- Prayer: Choose THANKS / PRAISE / MISTAKES / REQUEST / PROTECTION to use to pray with your Little Dweller.
- Coloring page: 37
- Song: <https://youtu.be/B9W6-HGFunA>

Day 6 – Jesus is Coming

- Please read the story “Jesus is Coming” with your Little Dwellers. The images are on pages 24 – 26.
- Questions to ask your Little Dweller about today's bible story:
 - What did John see in his vision? **An angel and Jesus**
 - What place did John write about in his book? **Heaven**
- Prayer: Choose THANKS / PRAISE / MISTAKES / REQUEST / PROTECTION to use to pray with your Little Dweller.
- Coloring page: 38
- Song: <https://youtu.be/MPvnZILn6EY>

Day 7 – A Dream of Heaven

- Please read the story “A Dream of Heaven” with your Little Dweller. The images are on pages 27 – 31.
- Questions to ask your Little Dweller about today's bible story:
 - One day, heaven will come down to earth and make it perfect again. Do we know when that will happen? **No.**
 - Why didn't John write “the end” at the end of his story? **Because the story isn't over yet!**
- Prayer: Choose THANKS / PRAISE / MISTAKES / REQUEST / PROTECTION to use to pray with your Little Dweller.
- Coloring page: 39

- Song: <https://youtu.be/B9W6-HGFunA>



Jesus Goes to Heaven

Matthew 28:16–20, Luke 24:44–51; Acts 1:6–11

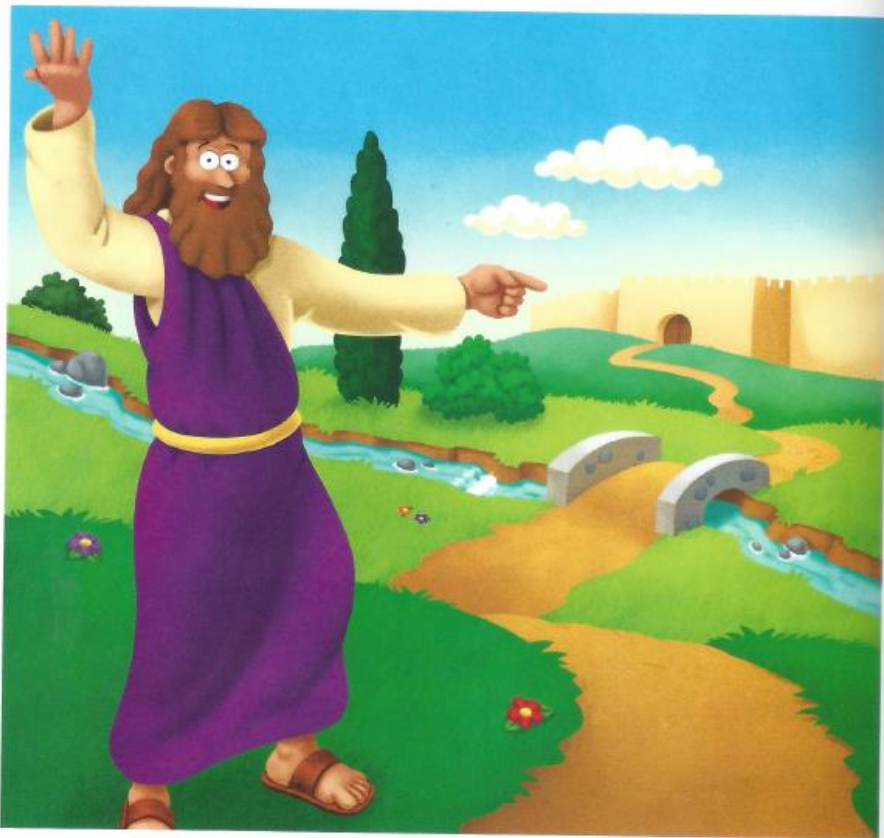
Jesus had told his disciples, “I gave my life so that you could be with me in heaven. I am going there to prepare a wonderful new home for you. When I come back the next time, I will take you with me.” But now it was time for Jesus to leave.

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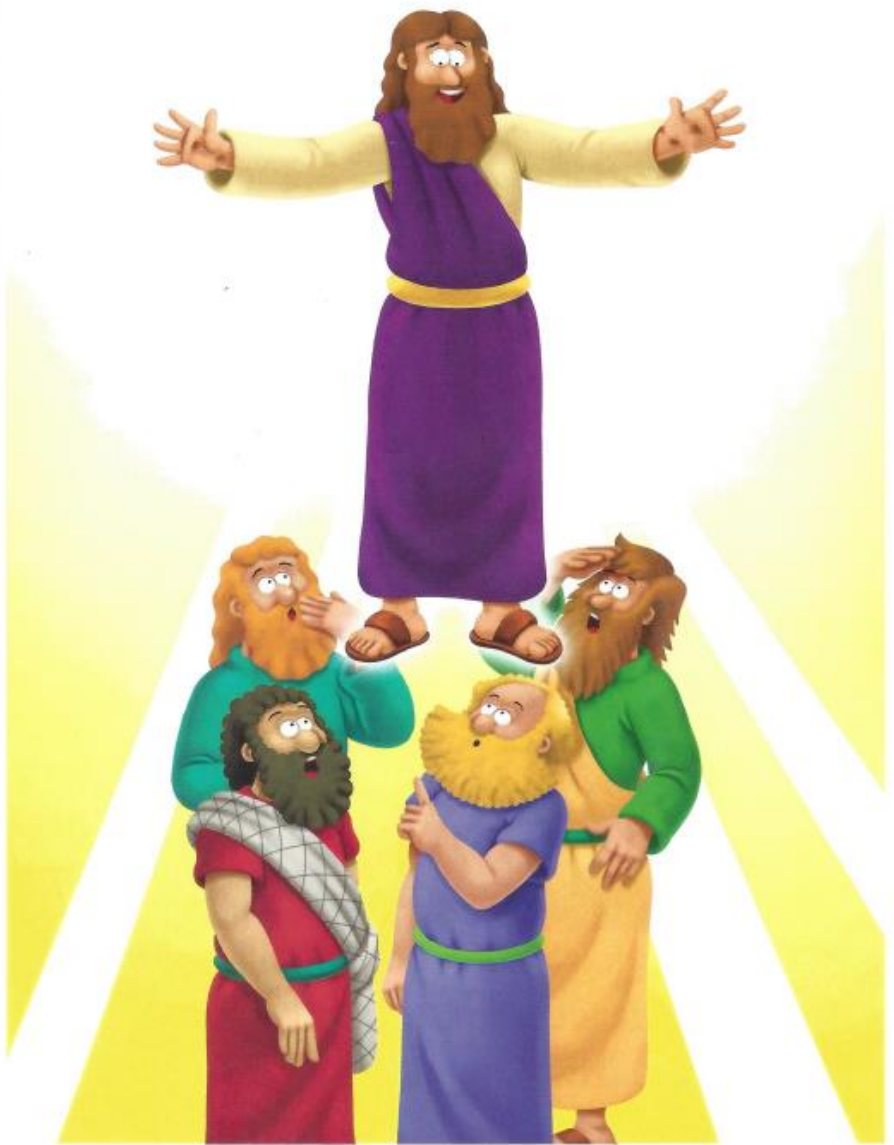
Jesus said, “God has given me complete power over heaven and earth. Go and tell everyone the good news. Make new disciples. Baptize them and teach them to obey my commandments. Don’t ever forget, I will always be with you.”

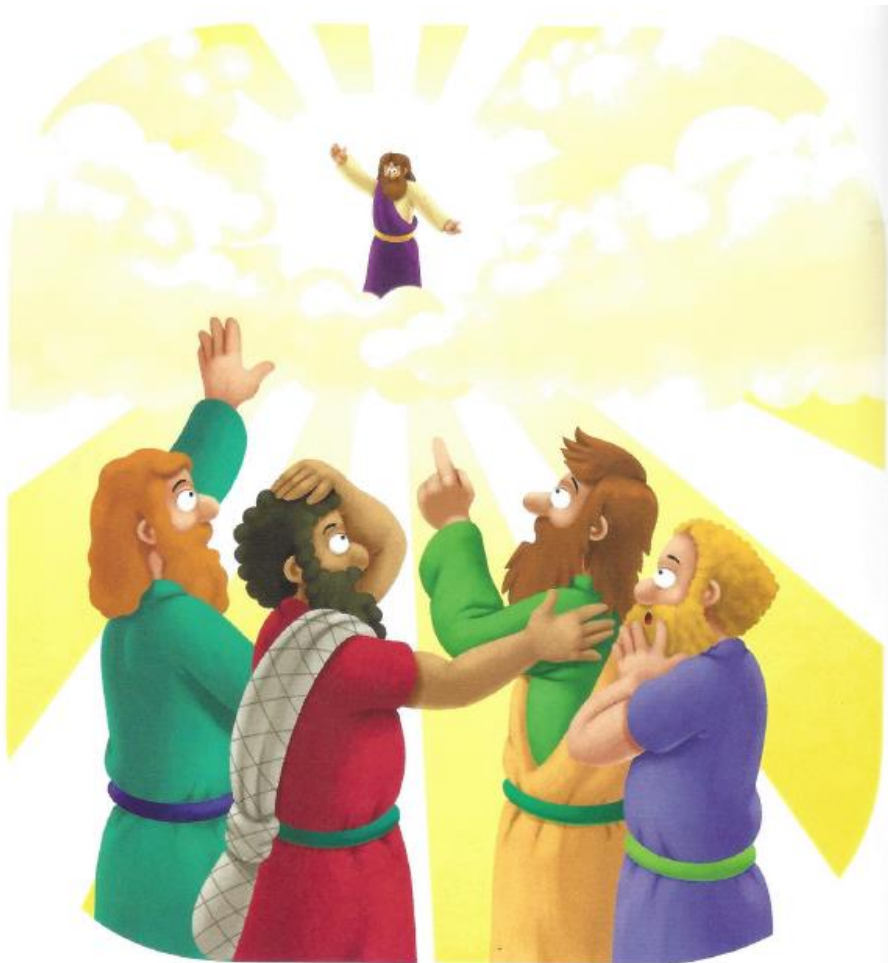
467



“Go to Jerusalem and wait there,” said Jesus. “The Holy Spirit will come to you. He will give you power to tell people about me. Now the time has come for me to go to heaven. Do not be afraid.”

468





Then Jesus went up toward heaven in a cloud. His disciples stared at the sky for a long time.

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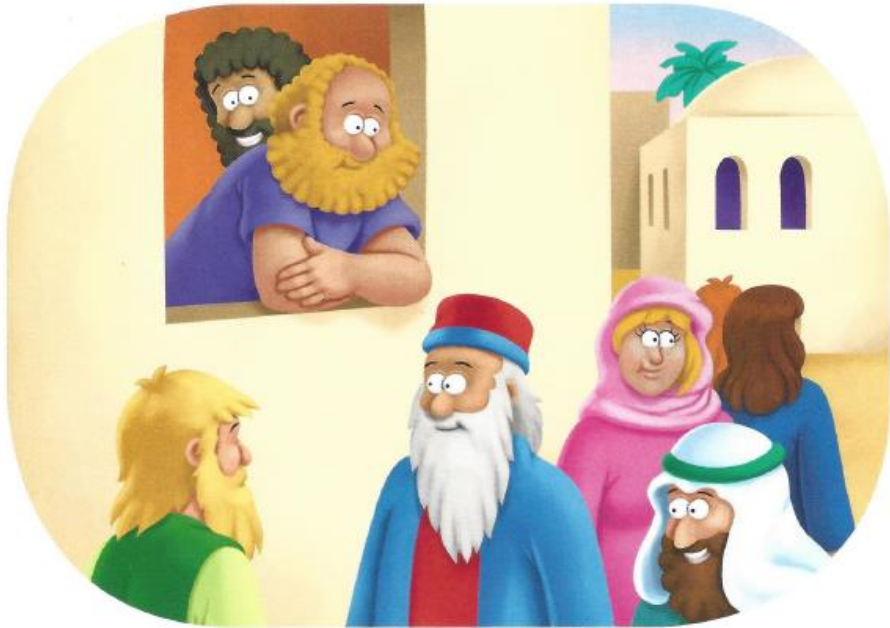
All of a sudden, two angels appeared. They asked, “Why are you standing here looking at the sky? Jesus will return the same way you saw him go.”

471



Then the disciples remembered what Jesus had said. They returned to Jerusalem and waited for the Holy Spirit to come.

472



The Holy Spirit Comes

Acts 2

Thousands of people went to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish holiday called *Pentecost*. They came from many countries and spoke many different languages. Jesus' disciples were staying there. They were praying together.

473



Suddenly, a noise filled the room. It sounded like a strong wind blowing. The *Holy Spirit* appeared as tongues of fire on each of them.

474



They started talking in languages they did not know. The people in Jerusalem heard the noise and came to see what was happening.



The crowd was amazed and asked, “How are you able to speak *our* languages?” Peter said, “The prophets told us this would happen.”



Then Peter told them about God's plan.
"God sent Jesus to save everyone
from the bad things we have done."

477



The people asked, "What should we do?"
Peter replied, "Ask Jesus to forgive you
for your sins and be baptized in the
name of Jesus Christ."

478



On that day, 3,000 people believed in Jesus. The disciples baptized all of them.

479

God sends help

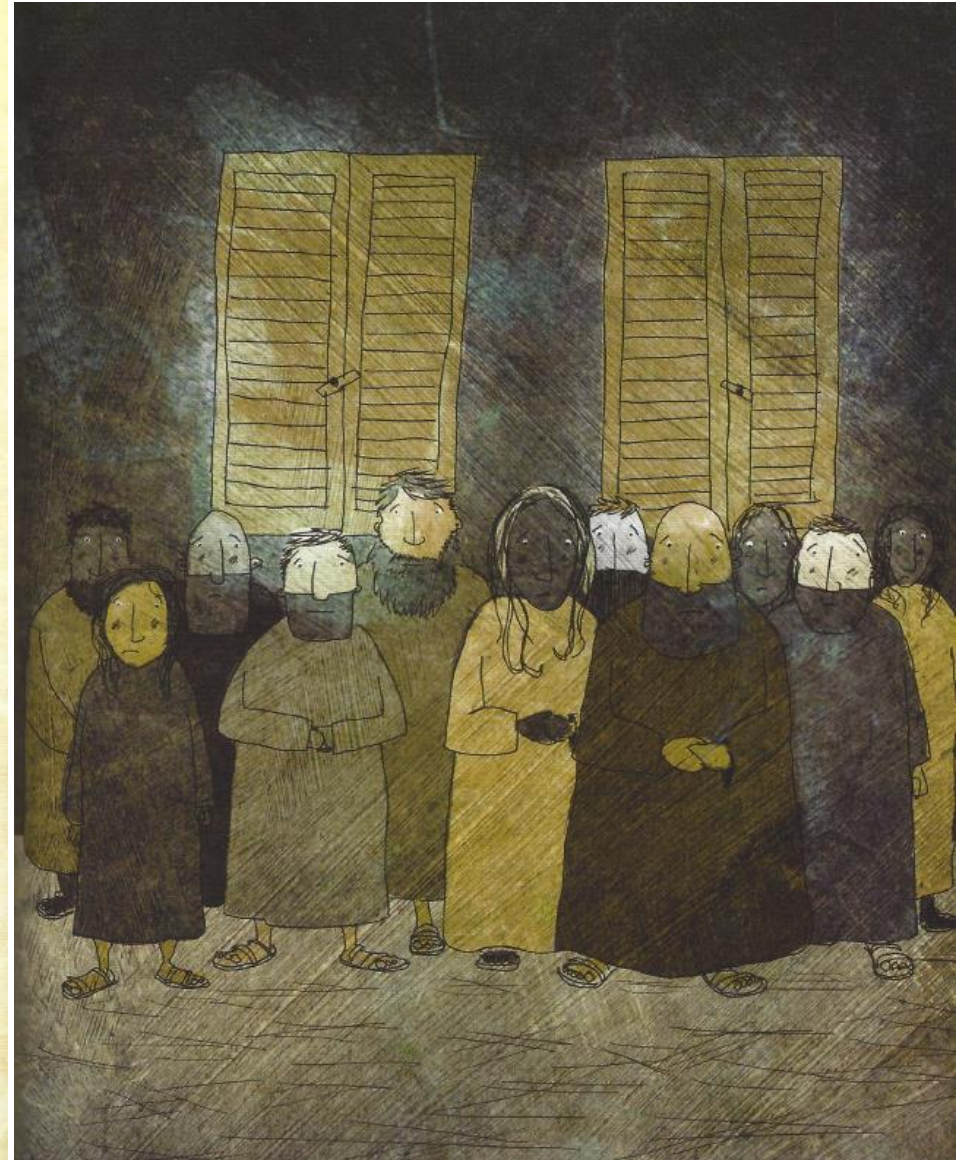
Pentecost, from Acts 1 – 5; John 15

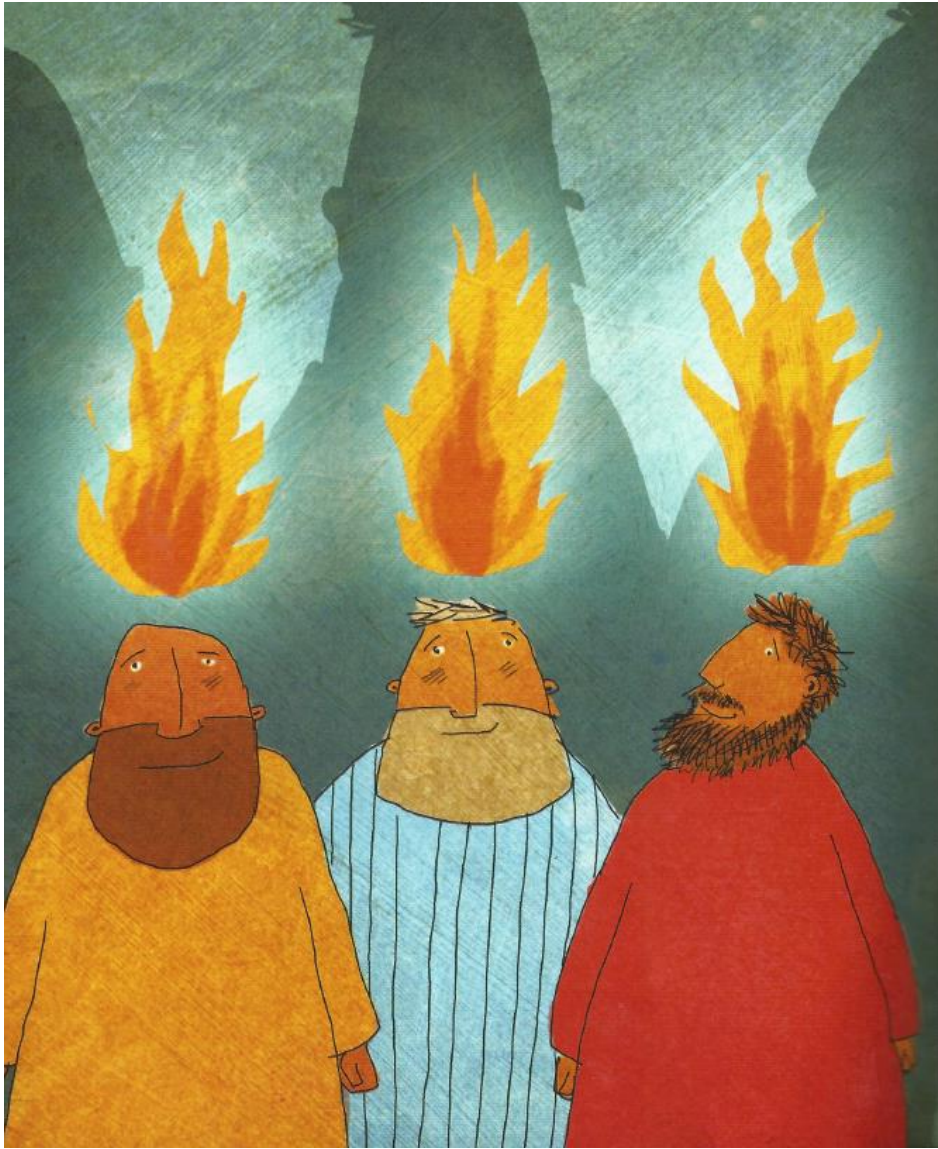
JESUS' FRIENDS AND HELPERS huddled together in a stuffy upstairs room. Even though it was sunny outside, the shutters were closed. The door was locked.

"Wait in Jerusalem," Jesus had told them, "I am going to send you a special present. God's power is going to come into you. God's Holy Spirit is coming."

So here they were. Waiting. Actually, mostly what they were doing was just being scared and hiding. (You can't blame them – their best friend had left; the Important People and Leaders were after them; and Jesus had given them a job they didn't know how to do.)

As they waited, they were praying and remembering – remembering how, from the beginning, God had been working out his Secret Rescue Plan.





Suddenly, a strong wind filled the little room, whistling through the walls, rustling the straw on the floor. And there — on everyone's heads, shining in the gloom — were flickering flames. Fire that didn't hurt or burn.

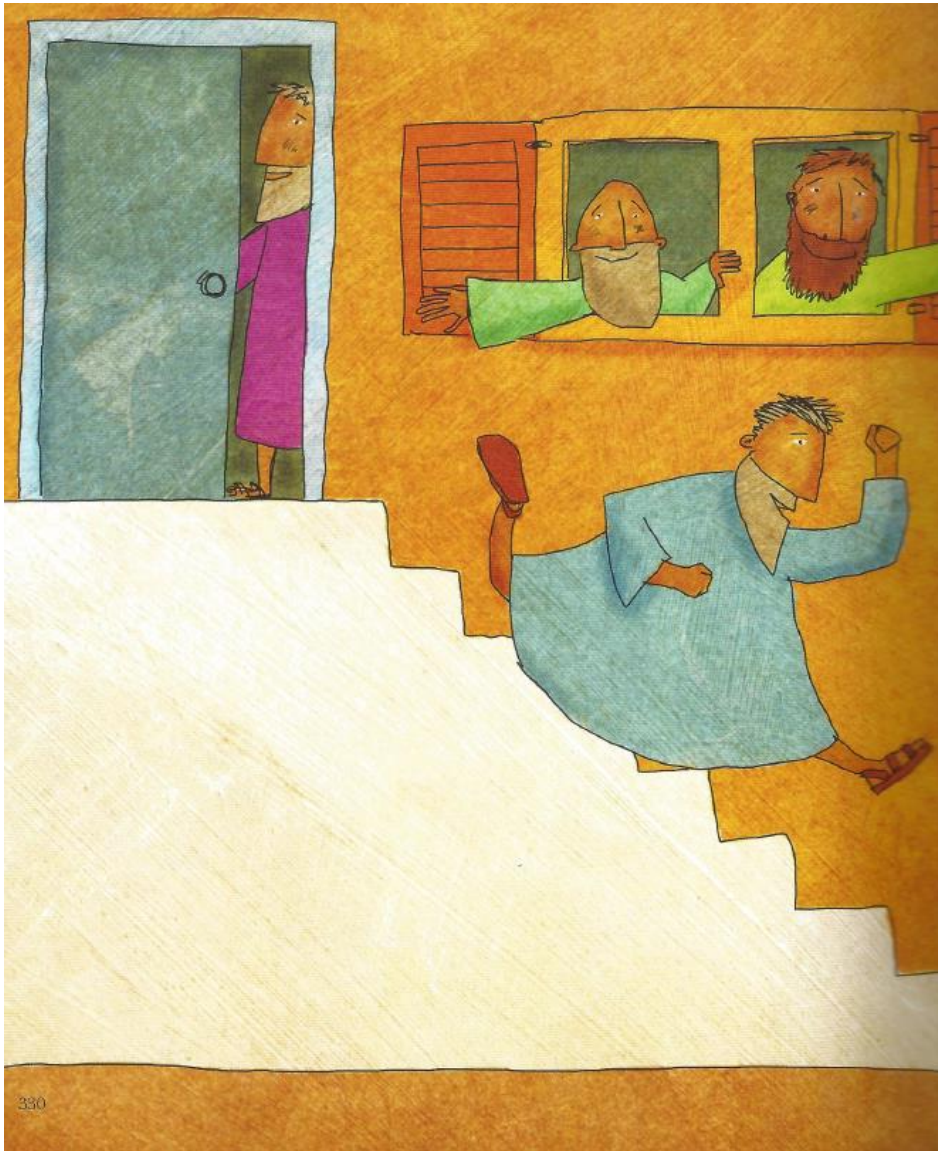
And something more: inside, in their hearts, they felt a strange heat, almost as if all the coldness and hardness were melting away. As if their broken hearts were mending. And God was giving them brand new hearts — hearts that could work properly.

How it happened they didn't know, but they knew God's power had struck their hearts ablaze — and Jesus himself was coming to live inside them.

They had seen Jesus go away, but now he was closer than he had ever been — inside their hearts. And this time nothing could ever separate them. Jesus would always be there. With them. Loving them. Whispering the promise that would get rid of the poison and the terrible lie and the sickness in their hearts. God's wonderful promise to them: "You are my child. And I love you."

"Make your home in me, as I make my home in you," Jesus had said.

Could it be? Heaven was coming into their hearts.



They threw open the shutters. Sunlight flooded their room, as love had flooded their hearts. And the little room was filled with happy noises. Dancing feet, singing, laughing.

They unlocked the door and surged out into the streets — as if they had never been afraid.

Peter spoke in a loud voice, so everyone could hear: “Jesus died for you!” he said. “Because he loves you. But God made him alive again. He has rescued you!”

People stopped. And listened. The words sank down deep into their hearts and worked like a medicine that makes you well. Like the antidote to a deadly poison. Like a kiss that wakes you from a deep sleep.

“Stop running away from God!” Peter said. “Run to him instead! So he can love you. And make you free!”

And Peter told them the wonderful Story of God’s Love — God’s Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love. How Jesus had come. All that had happened.



There were lots of people from faraway countries in Jerusalem. They couldn't speak the same language but as they listened to Peter, everyone could understand what he was saying — in their own languages!

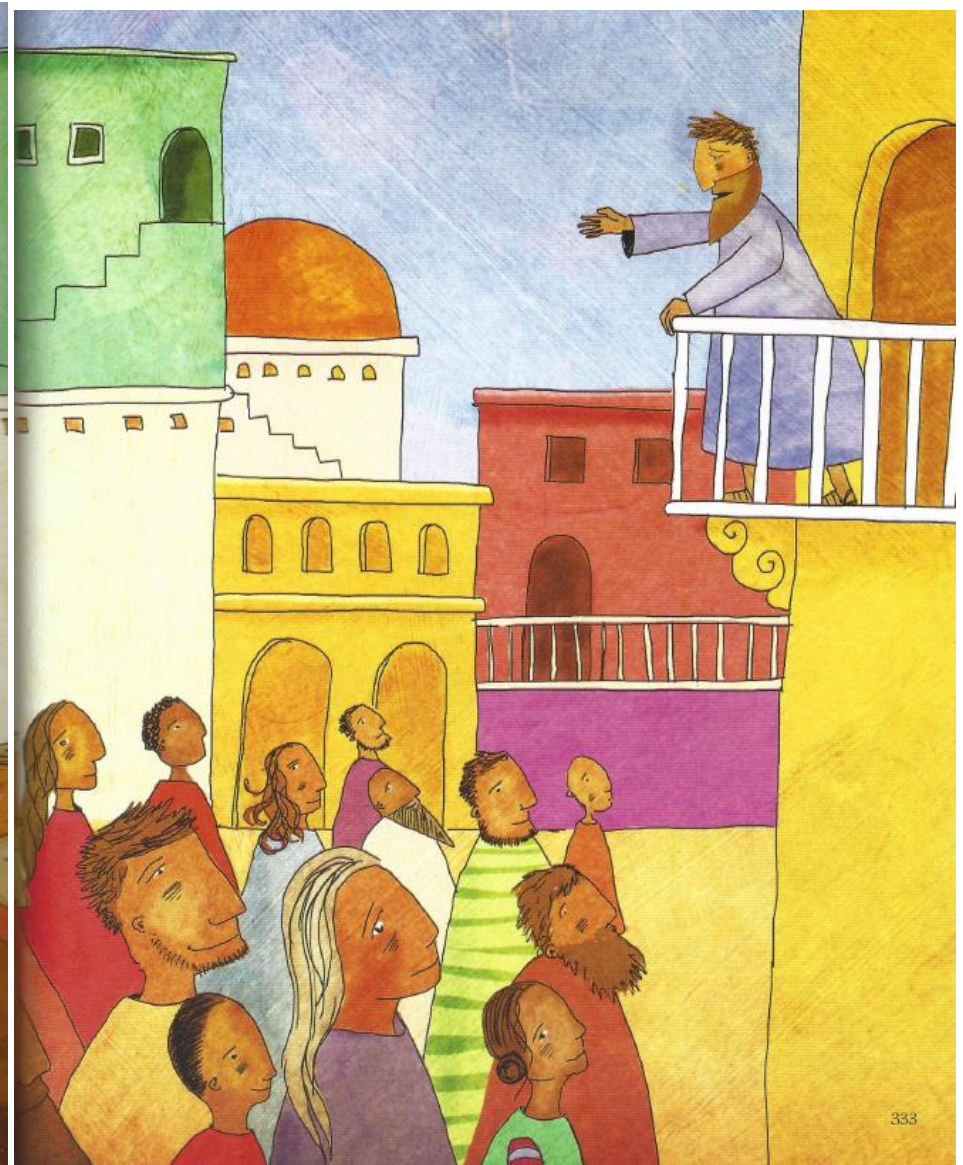
Many people believed. And became Jesus' new friends and helpers. And the wonderful news of Jesus spread. Like sparks from a fire. To villages. Towns. Cities.

Every day, more and more people believed.

And so it was that the family of God's children, his special people, grew.

One man was watching. "I'll stop this!" Saul said.

But this was God's Plan. And nothing in all the world would ever be able to stop it.





The First Church

Acts 2:42-47

The new believers studied with the disciples. They learned many things about God and God's plans.

480



They prayed together.

481



They sang songs and praised God.

482



They ate meals and celebrated the Lord's Supper together. They shared everything they had with each other. God added more and more believers to the church every day.

483

A new way to see

*The story of Paul, from Acts 6–9, 12–28;
Colossians 2, Romans 8, Ephesians 2*

OF ALL THE PEOPLE who kept the rules, Saul was the best.

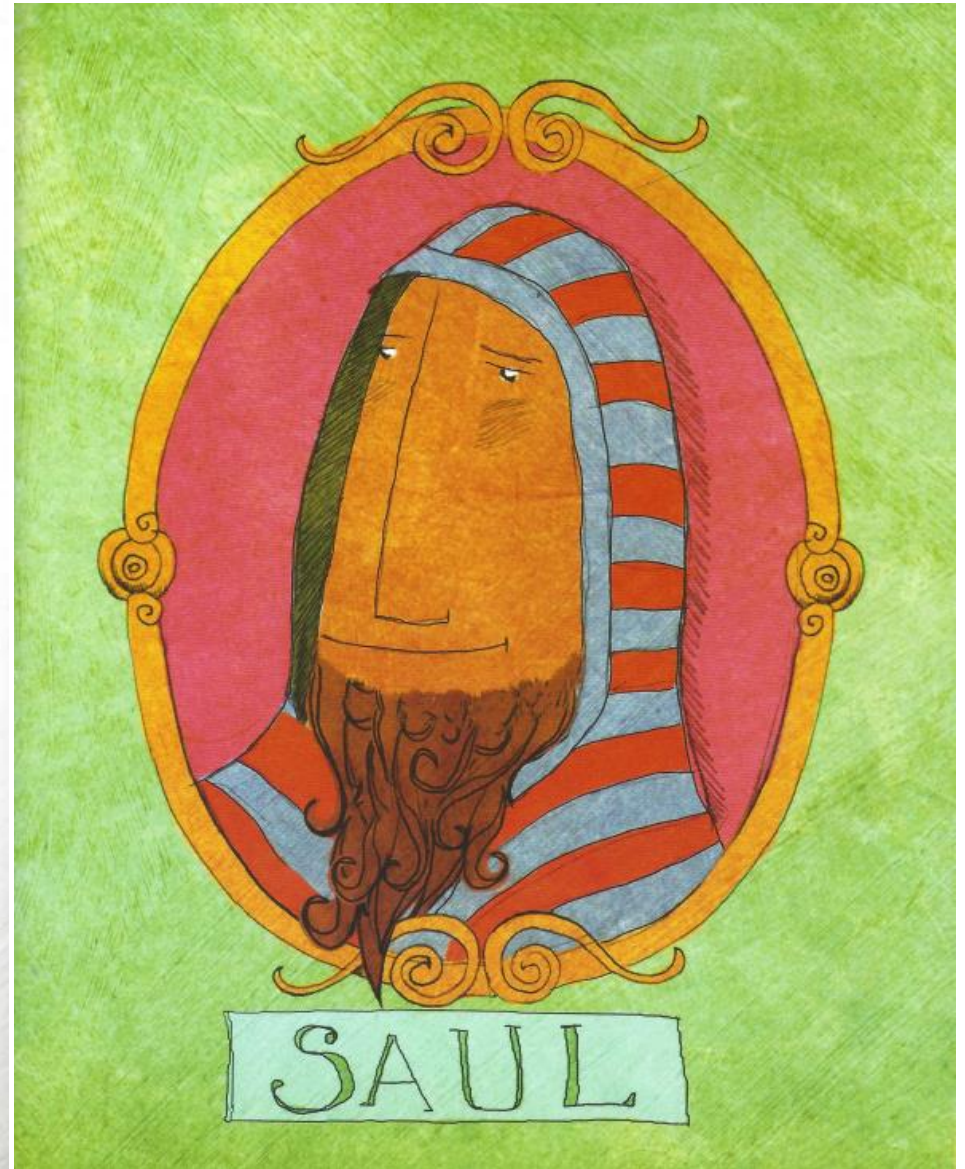
“I’m good at being good!” he’d tell you.

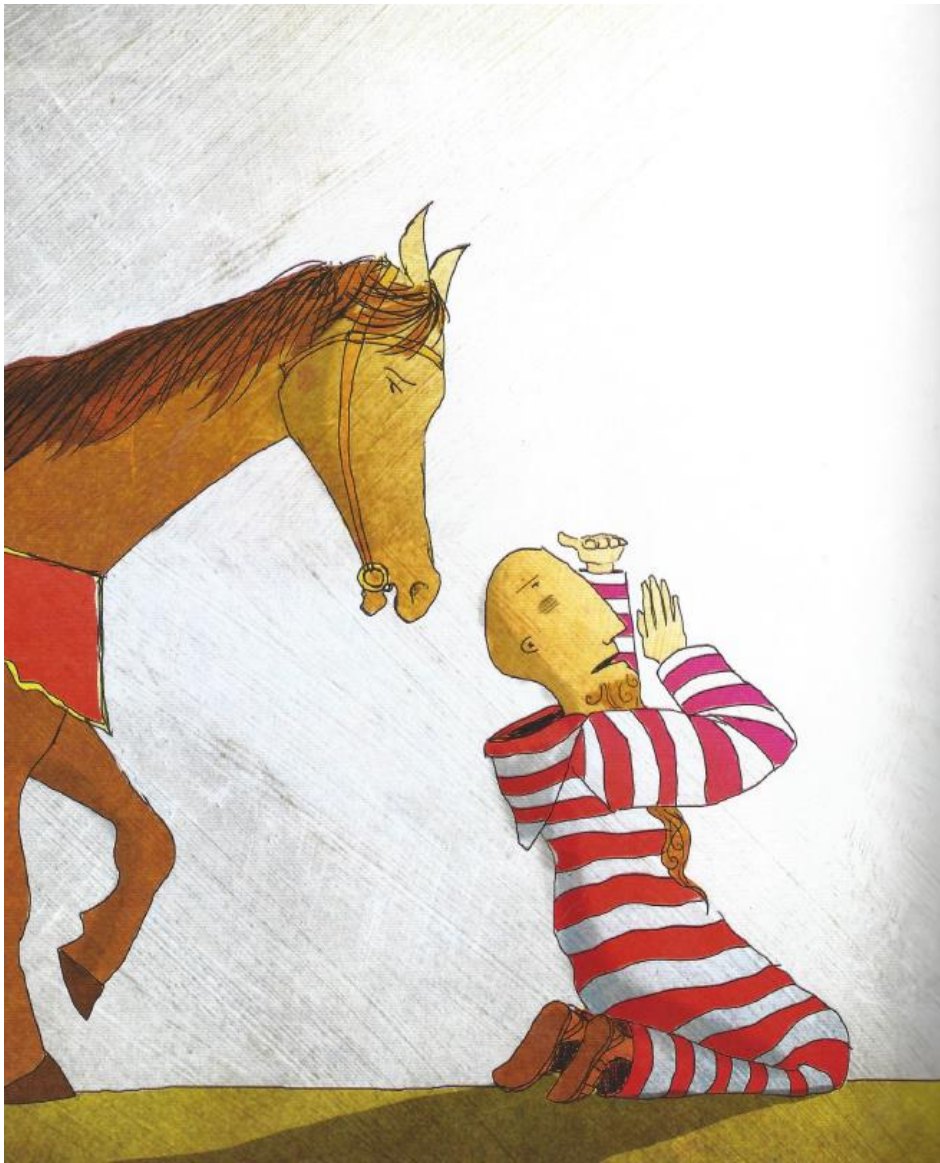
He was very proud. And very good. But he wasn’t very nice.

Saul hated anyone who loved Jesus. He traveled around looking for them. He wanted to catch them and put them in prison. He wanted everyone to forget all about Jesus. He didn’t believe Jesus was the Rescuer. And he didn’t believe Jesus was alive, either.

You see, Saul had never met Jesus.

So one day, Jesus met Saul.





Saul was on his way to Damascus when suddenly a dazzling light flashed like lightning. It was brighter than the sun. It was too bright. Saul shielded his eyes and fell to the ground.

He heard a loud voice. It was too loud. It gave Saul a headache.

“Saul! Saul!” said the loud voice. “Why are you fighting me?”

“Lord?” Saul answered, “Who are you?”

“I am Jesus,” said the voice. “When you hurt my friends, you are hurting me, too.” Saul’s whole body trembled.

“Go to the city,” Jesus said. “I’ll tell you what to do.”

When Saul opened his eyes, he couldn't see. His helpers had to hold his hand and lead him like a little child. Saul was blind for three whole days — and yet it was as if he was seeing for the very first time.

Meanwhile, there was a man called Ananias who loved Jesus. Jesus came to him in a dream: "Go to Saul and pray for him, and I will make him see again."

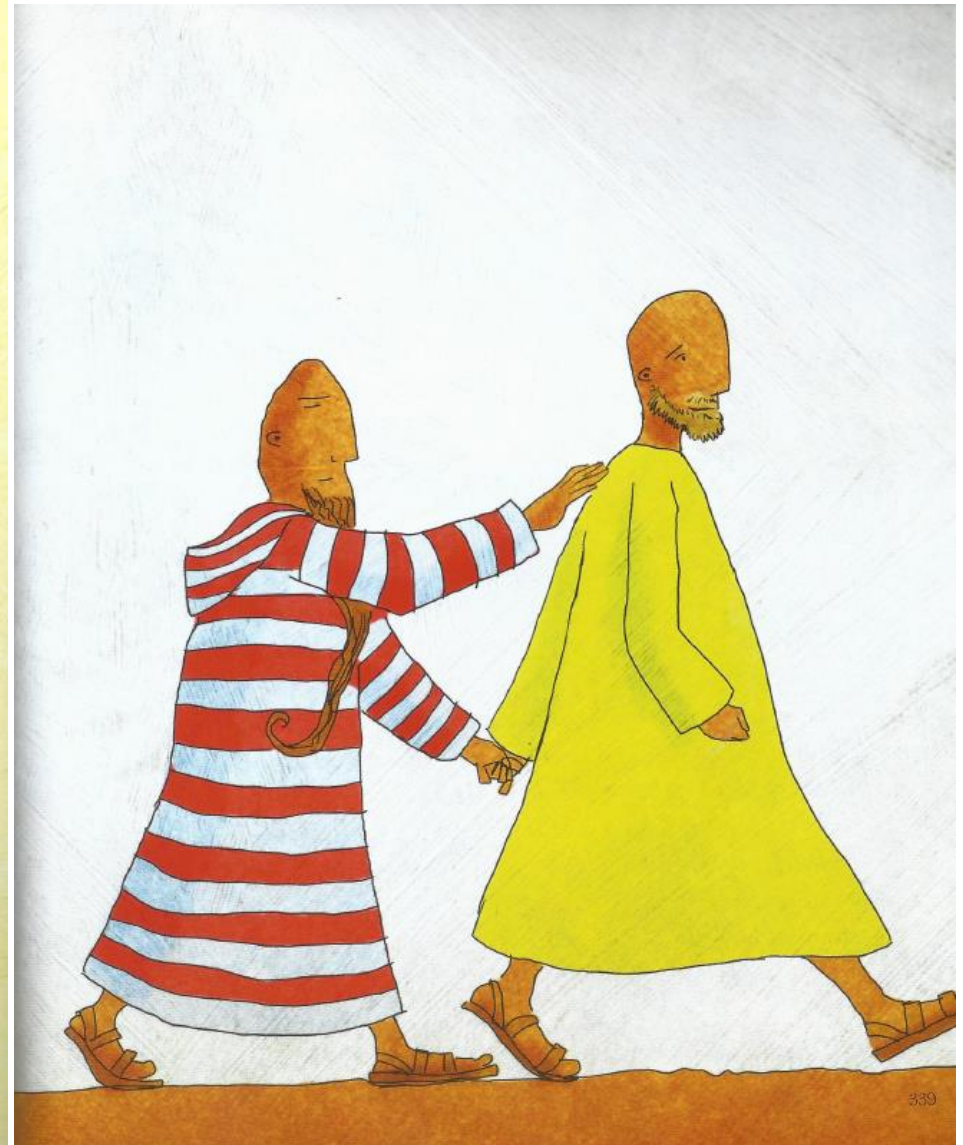
Ananias knew all about Saul and how he hated Jesus' followers. "Lord, he has come to hurt us!"

But Jesus told Ananias, "Saul is the one I've chosen to tell the whole world who I am."

So Ananias went to Saul. "Brother Saul," Ananias said, "it was Jesus you met on the road." And Ananias prayed for Saul.

Suddenly Saul could see again, but he saw everything differently. He wasn't mean anymore. He even changed his name from Saul to Paul, which means "small" and "humble" — the very opposite of proud.

And do you know what Ananias' name means? "The Lord is full of Grace." (Grace is just another word for gift — which is funny, because that's just what Paul's message was all about from then on.)





PAUL

“It’s not about keeping rules!” Paul told people. “You don’t have to be good at being good for God to love you. You just have to believe what Jesus has done and follow him. Because it’s not about trying, it’s about trusting. It’s not about rules, it’s about Grace: God’s free gift — that cost him everything.”

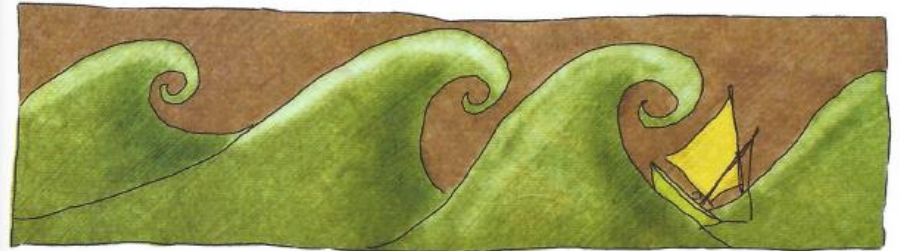
What had happened to Paul? He met Jesus.

Paul got a new job. He called himself a servant and traveled everywhere telling everyone about Jesus. He got shipwrecked — three times! He even ended up in prison.

“God loves us!” he wrote from prison. “Nothing can ever — no, not ever! — separate us from the Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love of God he showed us in Jesus!”

And so it was, just as God promised Abraham that dark night all those years before, the family of God’s children grew and grew.

Until one day, they would come to number more than even all the stars in the sky.





Jesus Is Coming!

Revelation 1:1-2; 21:2-4

Many years later, the disciple John lived on an island. While he was there, an angel came to him in a vision.

504



In the vision, a bright light surrounded Jesus. He spoke to John, “Do not be afraid. Write a book about what you see and send it to the churches.”

505



In the vision, John saw God sitting on his throne. A rainbow sparkled all around him. John saw that everything bad on the earth had come to an end.

506



Then John saw a new heaven and a new earth. God said, "There will be no more death or sadness or crying or pain. I will live with my people forever."

507



Then Jesus promised,
“I am coming back soon.”

508

A dream of heaven


John sees into the future, from Revelation 1, 5, 21, 22

JOHN WAS ONE OF Jesus' helpers. He was old now and living on an island, which might sound nice except it was a prison. (The Leaders put him there to stop him from talking about Jesus, but I'm sure you don't think a little thing like being in a cell, in a prison, on an island, in the middle of an ocean, could stop God's Plan, do you?)

One morning, Jesus appeared — right there, in John's cell. Jesus' eyes were bright, shining like the sun. "I am going to show you a secret, John," Jesus said, "about when I come back." His voice was like the sound of rushing waters. "Write down what you see so God's children can read it, and wait with happy excitement."


Then Jesus gave John a beautiful dream — except John was wide awake and what he saw was real and one day it would all come true...



A king wearing a crown and a white robe sits on a throne. He is surrounded by various animals: a pink stork, a yellow and black tiger, a green crocodile, a purple butterfly, and a colorful bird. A man in a blue robe is bowing down in front of him. The scene is set on a rocky, hilly landscape.

I see a throne. And on the throne is a king
And the King is Jesus. All around the throne
people are bowing down. They are giving him
their treasures.

There are loud cheers and
clapping, clapping and bright
laughter like a thousand waterfalls
and everyone bursts out singing
a new song...

A man in a green robe is kneeling and holding a book. He is surrounded by animals: a yellow lion, a red bird, a green turtle, and a green frog. The scene is set on a rocky, hilly landscape.

"This is our King! The Lamb who died, so we don't have
to - our Rescuer. All Honor and Glory! Forever and ever."
And every creature everywhere, in heaven and on earth
and under the earth and in the sea, joins in.

And then
From all around
A wide
Immense
Beautiful
S i l e n c e

And I see Satan - God's horrible enemy -
thrown down, defeated

I see a sparkling city shimmering in the sky:
glittering, glowing – coming down!
From heaven.
And from the sky
Heaven is coming down to earth!

God's city is beautiful. Walls of topaz, jasper, sapphire. Wide streets
paved with gold. Gleaming pearl gates that are never locked shut.

Where is the sun? Where is the moon?
They aren't needed anymore. God is all the
Light people need. No more darkness!
No more night!



And the King says, "Look!
God and his children are together again.
No more running away. Or hiding.
No more crying or being lonely or afraid.
Because all those things are gone.
Yes, they're gone sick or dying.
Everything sad has come untrue.
And see – I have wiped away every tear from every eye!"

And then a deep, beautiful voice that sounded like thunder
in the sky says, "Look, I am making everything new!"

It was hard to squeeze all John saw into words. And fit it onto a page. And cram it into a book. All the words on all the pages of all the books in all the world would never be enough.

“I am the Beginning,” Jesus said, “and the Ending!”

One day, John knew, Heaven would come down and mend God’s broken world and make it our true, perfect home once again.

And he knew, in some mysterious way that would be hard to explain, that everything was going to be more wonderful for once having been so sad.

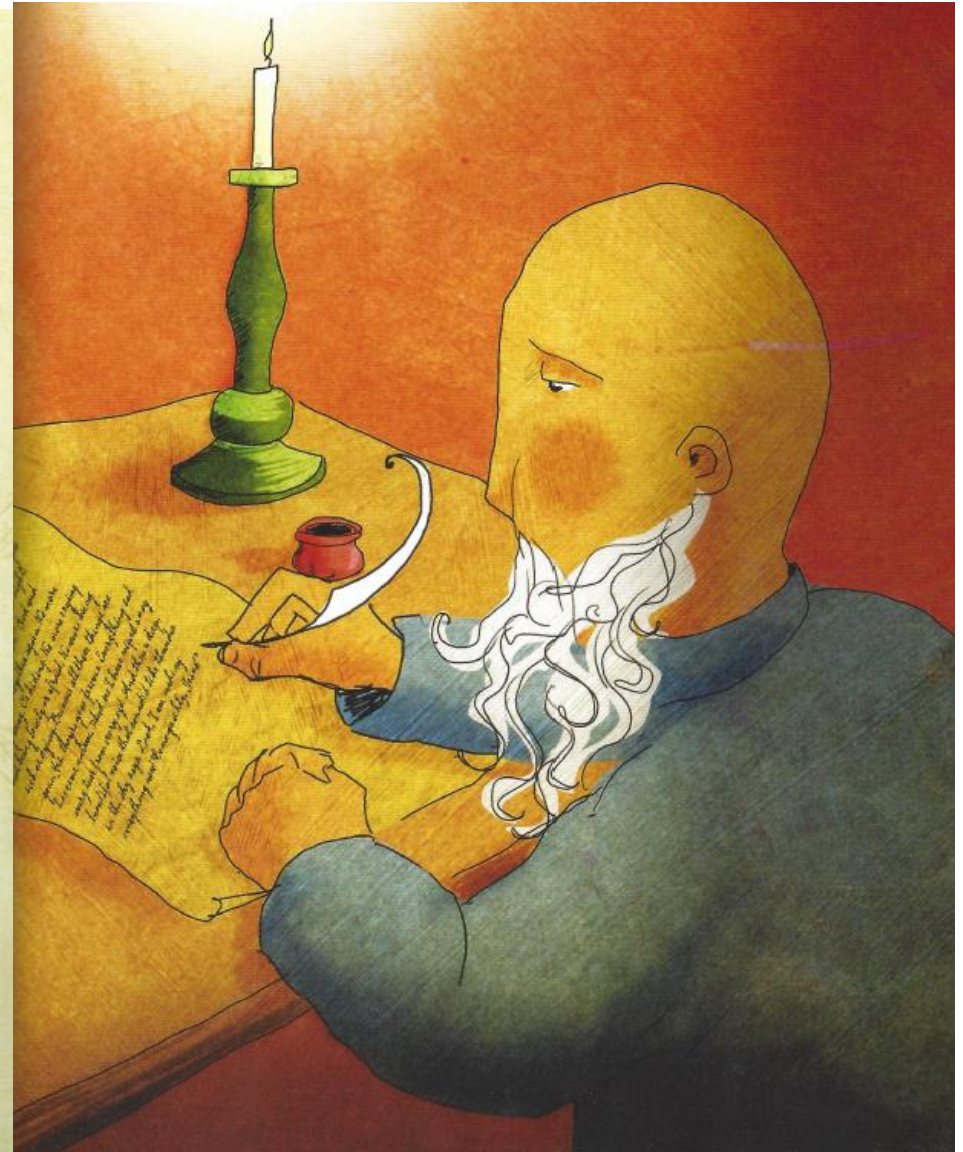
And he knew then that the ending of The Story was going to be so great, it would make all the sadness and tears and everything seem like just a shadow that is chased away by the morning sun.

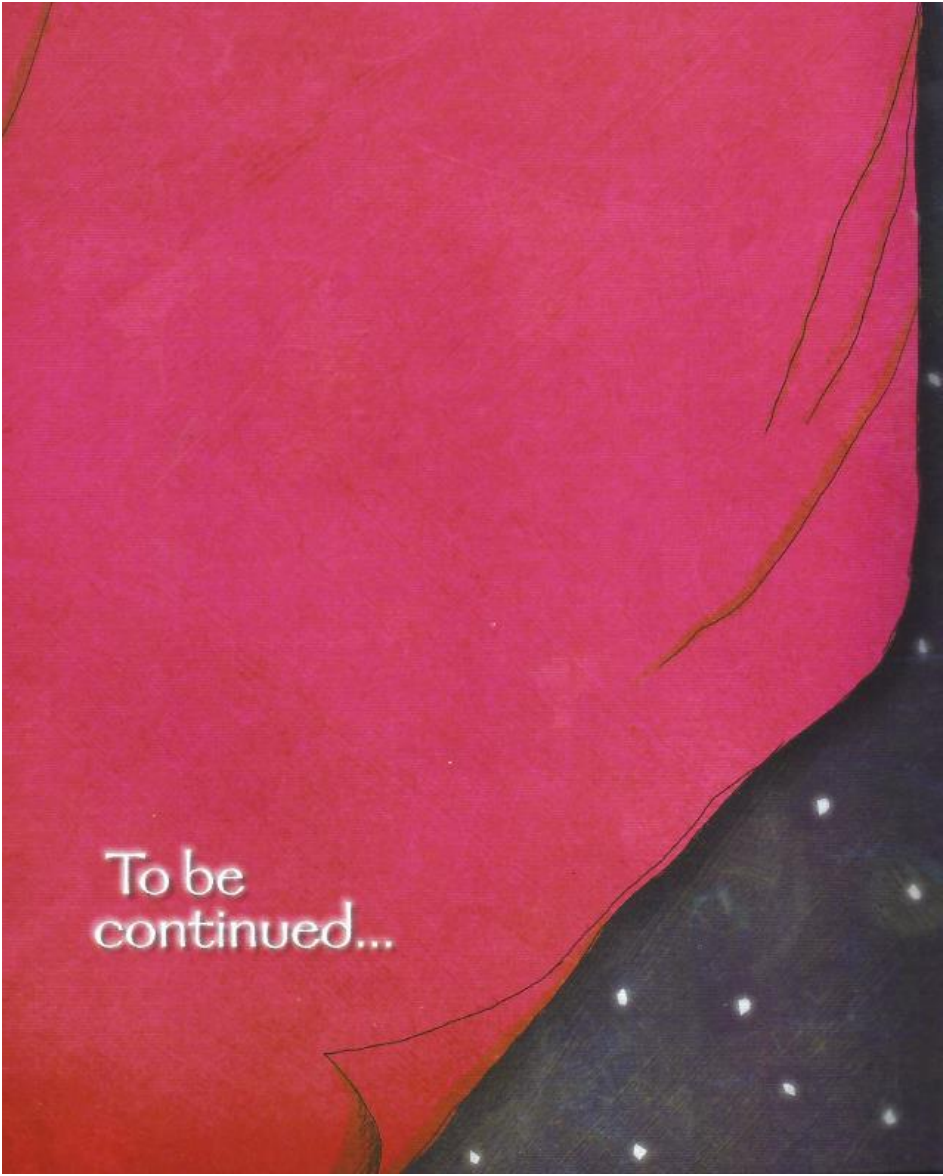
“I’m on my way,” said Jesus. “I’ll be there soon!”

John came to the end of his book. But he didn’t write “The End.” Because, of course, that’s how stories finish. (And this one’s not over yet.)

So instead, he wrote: “Come quickly, Jesus!”

Which, perhaps, is really just another way of saying ...





To be
continued...

Jesus Goes to Heaven Craft

Materials:

- Disposable cup
- Blue paint, marker or tape
- Cotton Balls
- Glue and tape
- Yarn or other string
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Templates (below)

Instructions:

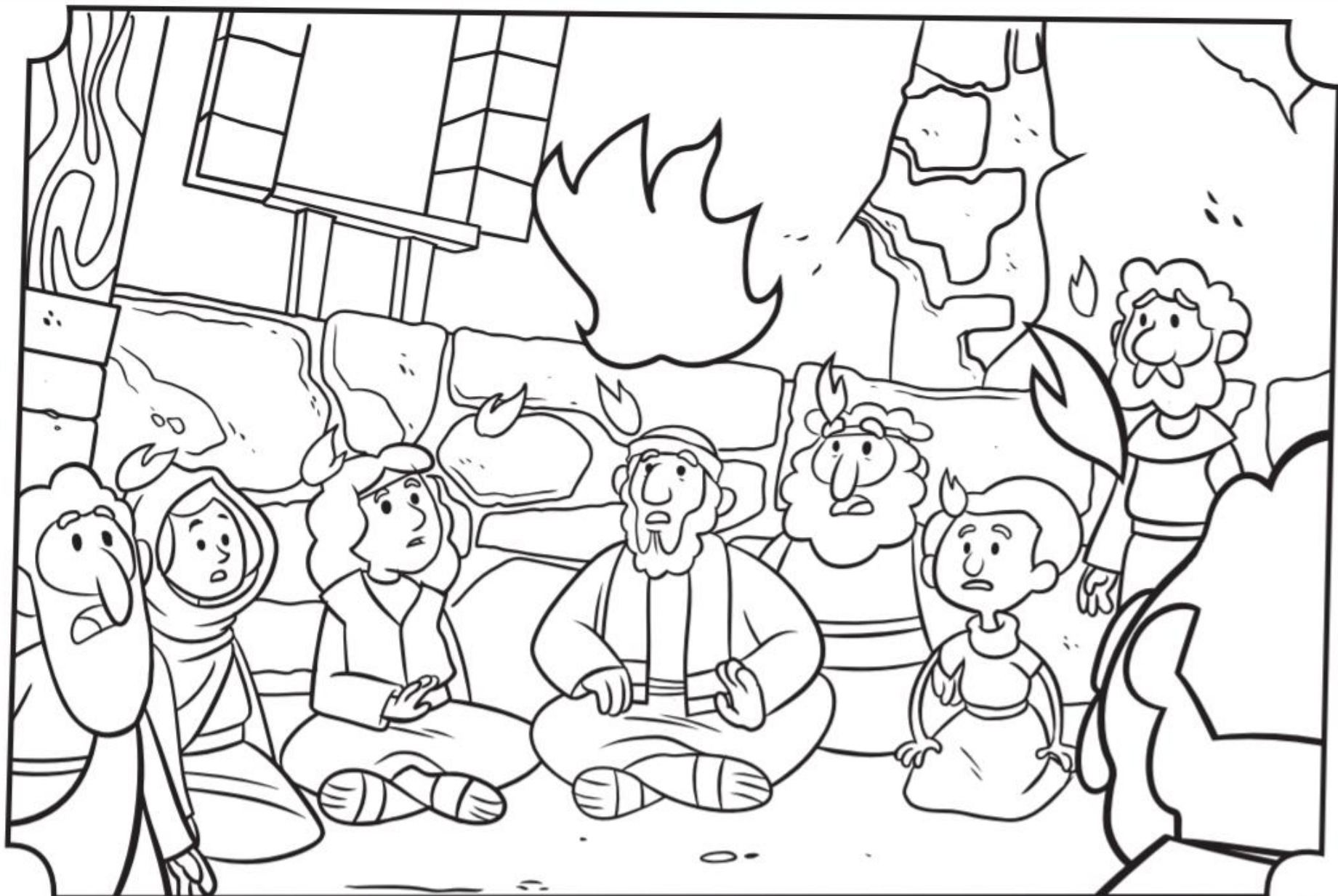
- Paint, color, or tape the cup blue and allow to dry
- Using scissors, punch a hole in the top of the cup
- Color and cut out the templates provided
- Feed the yarn through the hole in the cup
- Tape Jesus to the bottom and cloud to the top of the yarn
- Glue a few spots on the outside of the cup & place cotton balls on glue



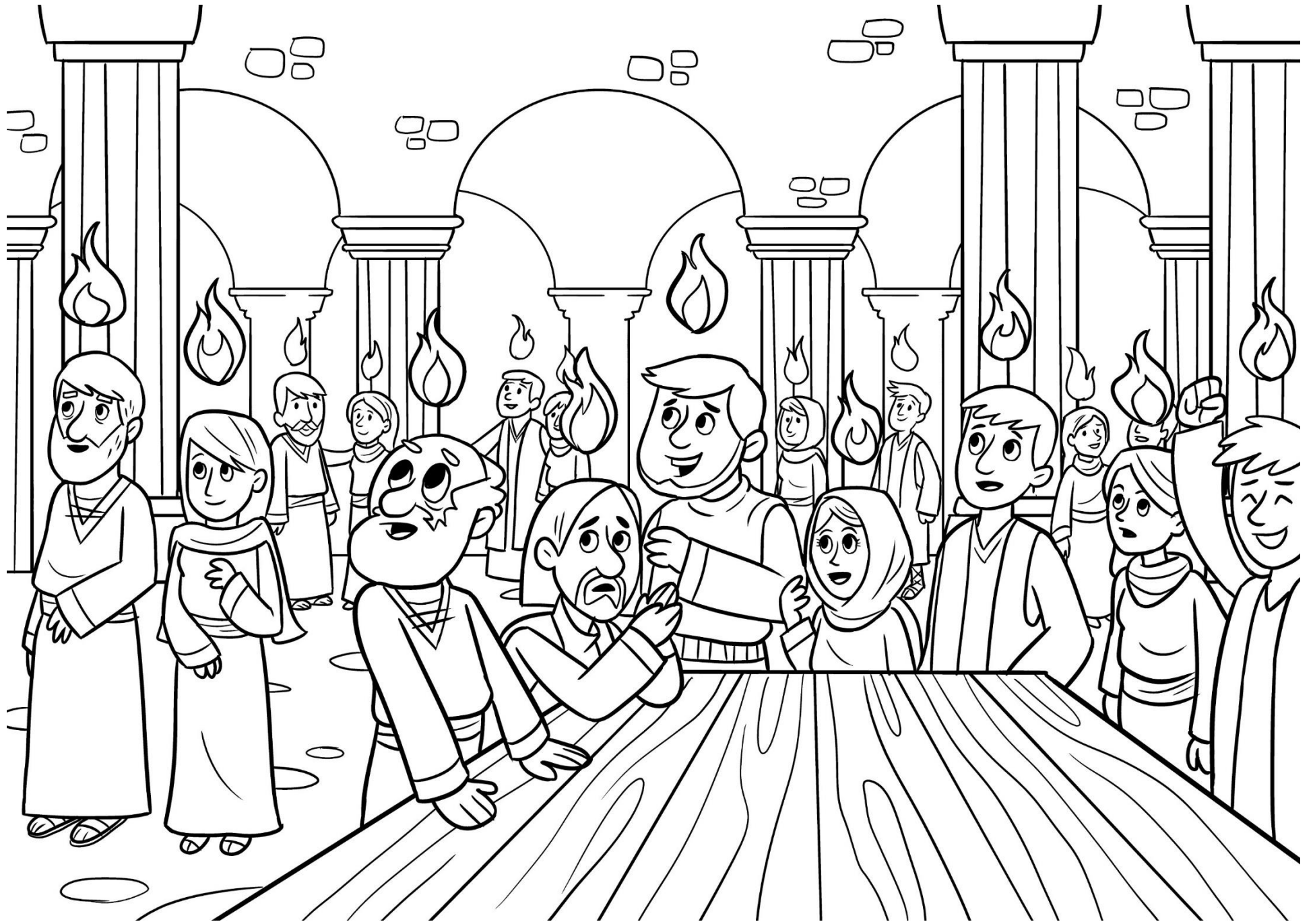
Templates:

This same Jesus, who
has been taken from you
into heaven, will come back in the
same way you have seen him go
into heaven. Acts 1:11





Jesus had promised his followers a special helper - the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Acts 2:1--4









Hh

is for
Heaven



