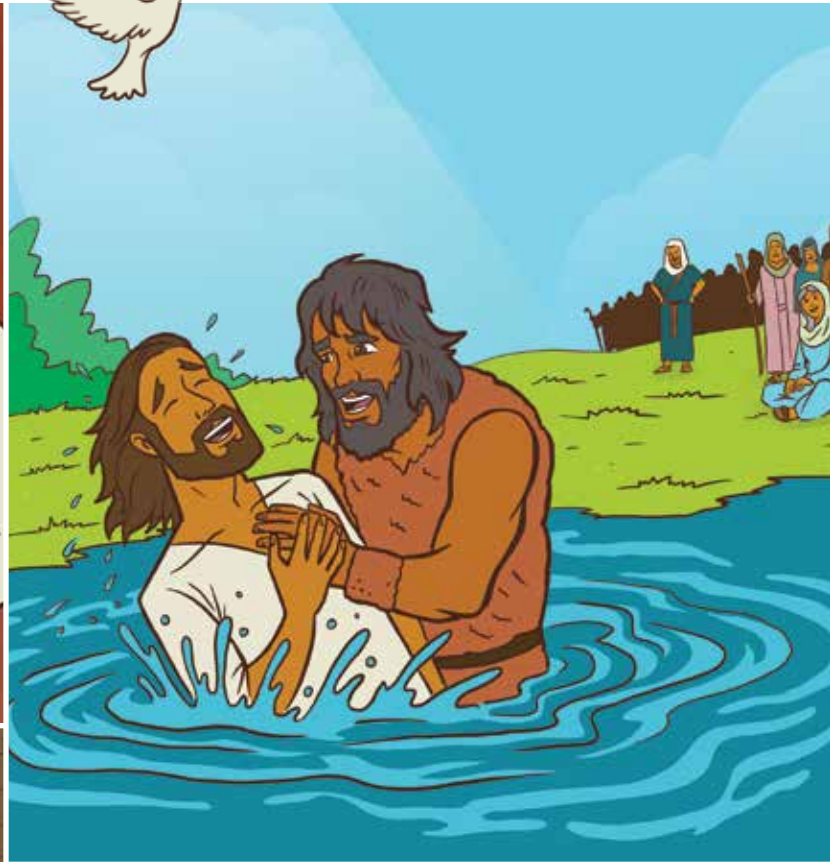


JOURNEY

Through Mark



FAMILY EDITION | STORYBOOK

JOURNEY

Through Mark

FAMILY EDITION | STORYBOOK

Recommended for 1st Grade & Younger

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Journey Through Mark
Family Edition | Storybook

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How To Use This Resource

This resource is a Family Edition intended for children from birth to first grade. It is meant for non-readers and early readers to use. This resource was created to be used as a family, so while there are activities that children may be able to do independently, ideally parents and children will read and learn together.

- 1.** Journey Through Mark: Family Edition | Storybook includes 8 stories from the book of Mark. The book is designed to feel more like a storybook than a traditional Bible, so the stories have been paraphrased to present simple words and concepts. Our hope is that this will feel like a storybook that children will want to read again and again.
- 2.** The Family Edition | Storybook has two days of content each week. However, we know that younger children do best with brief, focused lessons and lots of repetition. So, feel free to complete the activities in one day or spend multiple days as a family on the content. For example, you could read the story and answer the question on the first day. On the second day, you could reread the story and do the coloring page. On the third day, you could reread the story and do the activity page.
- 3.** For each story in this resource, you will find: 1 reflection question, 1 coloring page, and 1 activity page. In creating this version of our Family Edition | Storybook, our hope is to make it as accessible as possible to even the youngest learners. We encourage you to help your child try all of the activities in the book. With guidance and support, you might be surprised at what they are able to do!
- 4.** Each story also has a bottom line. This is what we hope your child will learn from hearing and talking about the story.
- 5.** Remember to close your family time in prayer. With young children, a great way to do this is to create a simple structure that you repeat. For example, “Dear God, thank You for the Bible. Thank You for teaching us (*insert bottom line*). Amen.”



VERSION

The New International Reader's Version (NIRV) was used as inspiration for the paraphrasing in this edition.

MEMORY VERSE

Each week, there is a memory verse for you to practice with your child. Take time to help your child memorize the verse throughout the week by reading the verse together, creating hand motions, or drawing pictures to represent the words.

Introduction to Mark

Mark is the second gospel in the New Testament. The gospels are the books of the Bible that tell the stories of Jesus' birth, life, and death. Some of these stories are similar to those you read in Journey Through John, Journey Through Luke and Acts, and Journey Through Matthew.

WHO WROTE THE GOSPEL OF MARK?

Many people believe that a man named John Mark is the writer of the book of Mark. John Mark was one of the early followers of Jesus. He is mentioned twice in the book of Acts (12:12; 15:37). He spent time spreading the good news of Jesus with both Peter and Barnabas after Jesus died.

BIG IDEAS

In Journey Through Mark, we focus on the example that Jesus set for us when He was here on earth. Jesus is the very best role model we can have! The Bible tells us that we should be imitators of Jesus, living our life just like He lived His. Some specific things to focus on as you read are:

- Understanding why Jesus had to die on the cross and why this is actually good news!
- How can you follow Jesus' example by praying anywhere, at any time, about anything?
- How can you share your time, talents, and treasures generously?
- Who can you share the good news of Jesus with?

We hope that this book will provide the opportunity for even the youngest learners to grow in their knowledge of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for us. From this knowledge, we hope that kids will begin to grow in their own personal relationship with Jesus and come to know Him as their forever friend!

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

The Story of Mark 1:1-11

In the Old Testament, God used people called prophets to deliver messages to His people. God gave a prophet named Isaiah a very important message to share. He said that God was going to send a special messenger who would prepare the way for the Messiah, the person who was going to rescue the Jewish people. When God's people heard this, they did not know when it would happen, and hundreds of years passed. Today's story is about the arrival of that very special messenger.

A man named John the Baptist appeared in the desert. John was an unusual man. He wore clothes made from camel's hair and a leather belt. He ate honey and bugs called locusts. He spoke to the people just like the prophets had long ago. He told the people that they should stop sinning and be baptized and that God would forgive them. Many of them came to listen to what John had to say. Some admitted their sins and then John baptized them. Baptism is when someone chooses to be dunked underwater to show that they believe in God. John told the people that there was an even more powerful person coming after him. This person wouldn't just baptize people with water, but He would give people the Holy Spirit.

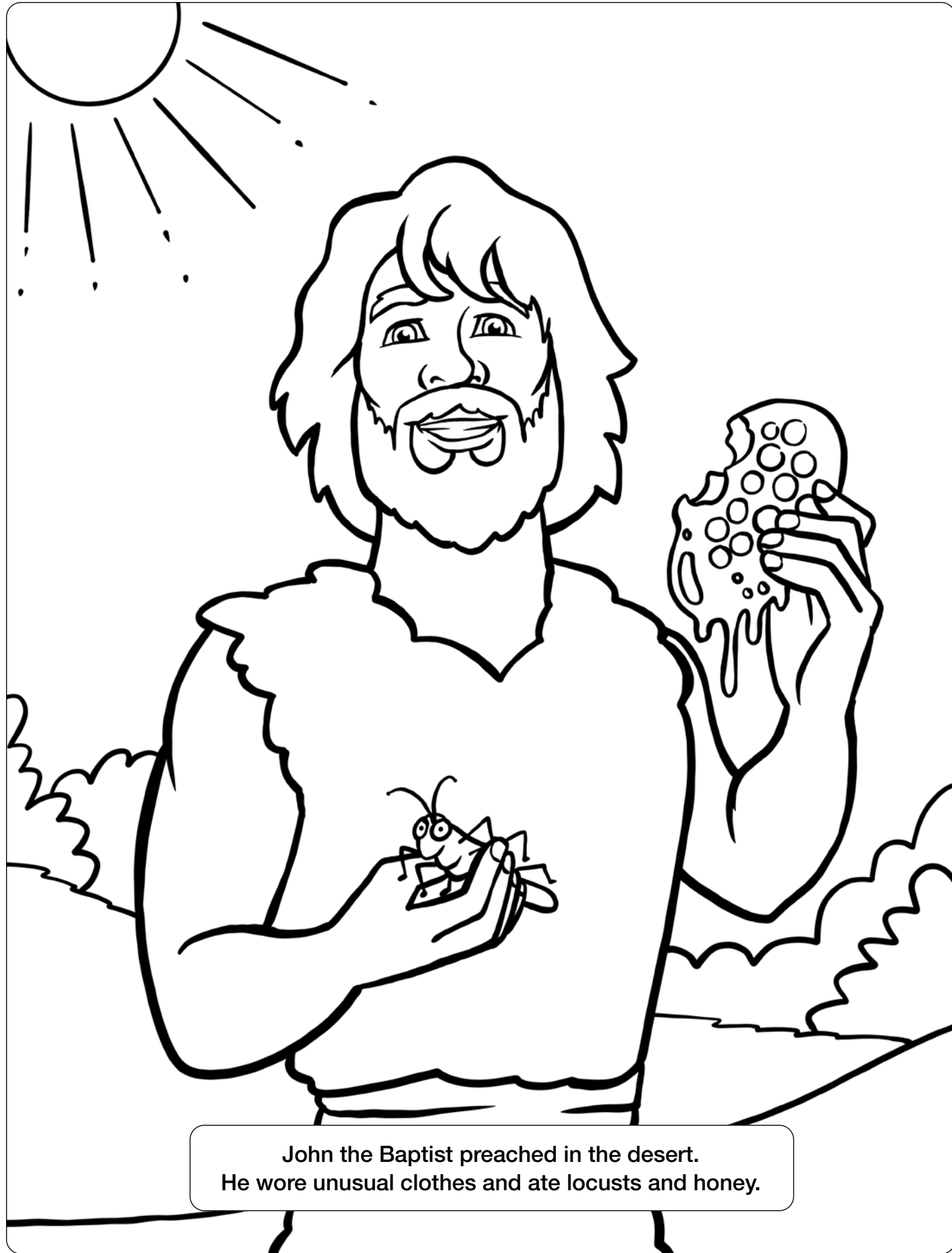
Some time later, Jesus came out to see John the Baptist in the desert. John baptized Jesus in the river. When Jesus came up out of the water, the sky opened, and the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus in the form of a dove. Then, God spoke and told Jesus that He loved Him and was happy with Him.

Jesus came to save us from our sins.

Who did God send to rescue His people?

Memory Verse
Mark 1:11b

You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you.



John the Baptist preached in the desert.
He wore unusual clothes and ate locusts and honey.

Find the Differences

Circle the 5 differences between the two pictures. Then, color the pictures.



Jesus Prays in a Quiet Place

The Story of Mark 1:35-39

Jesus is the Son of God, but when He lived on Earth, He was also a regular person. Jesus felt emotions just like you. For example, He could feel happy, sad, angry, and lonely. He lived a normal life just like you. He had a family and friends. He talked, walked, and thought. In today's story, He prays. While Jesus lived on Earth, He showed us how He wants us to live. So, if Jesus took time to pray alone, that means we should also take time to pray alone. Prayer is not something that we do only at church, at dinner, or at bedtime. We don't need an adult with us to pray. Prayer is just talking to God. We can pray anywhere, at any time, about anything.



One morning, Jesus got up very early while it was still dark outside. He left His house and went to find a place where He could be alone. He spent time praying to God. Later, His friends came to look for Him. They had all been wondering where He was. Jesus got up and said, "Let's travel to some other nearby towns so that I can preach and teach there too. This is why I have come to earth." So, Jesus and His disciples traveled all around the area preaching in the synagogues and healing people.

**We can pray anywhere,
at any time, about anything!**

What is something you can pray to God about right now?

Memory Verse
Mark 1:11b

You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you.



Jesus and His disciples traveled all around the area preaching in the synagogues and healing people.

Crack the Code

Use the code to uncover the mystery message below.

A	B	C	E	G	H	I	M	N	O	P	R	T	U	W	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

 15 4 3 1 9

 11 12 1 16

 1 9 16 15 6 4 12 4 ,

 1 13

 1 9 16 13 7 8 4

 1 2 10 14 13

 1 9 16 13 6 7 9 5 .

Jesus Heals a Man

The Story of Mark 3:1-6

In Jesus' time, there was a group of people called the Pharisees. The Pharisees were leaders in the synagogue, the place where the Jewish people worshiped God. One of the jobs of the Pharisees was to make sure that the Jewish people were following all of the laws that God had given to Moses long ago. There were many laws and one of them said that no one should do any work on the Sabbath, the 7th day of the week. This law wasn't specific about what was work and what wasn't, but the Pharisees had made a list of all the things *they* thought people shouldn't do on that day. In today's story, Jesus challenges the Pharisees on what is most important – following the rules or loving God and others.



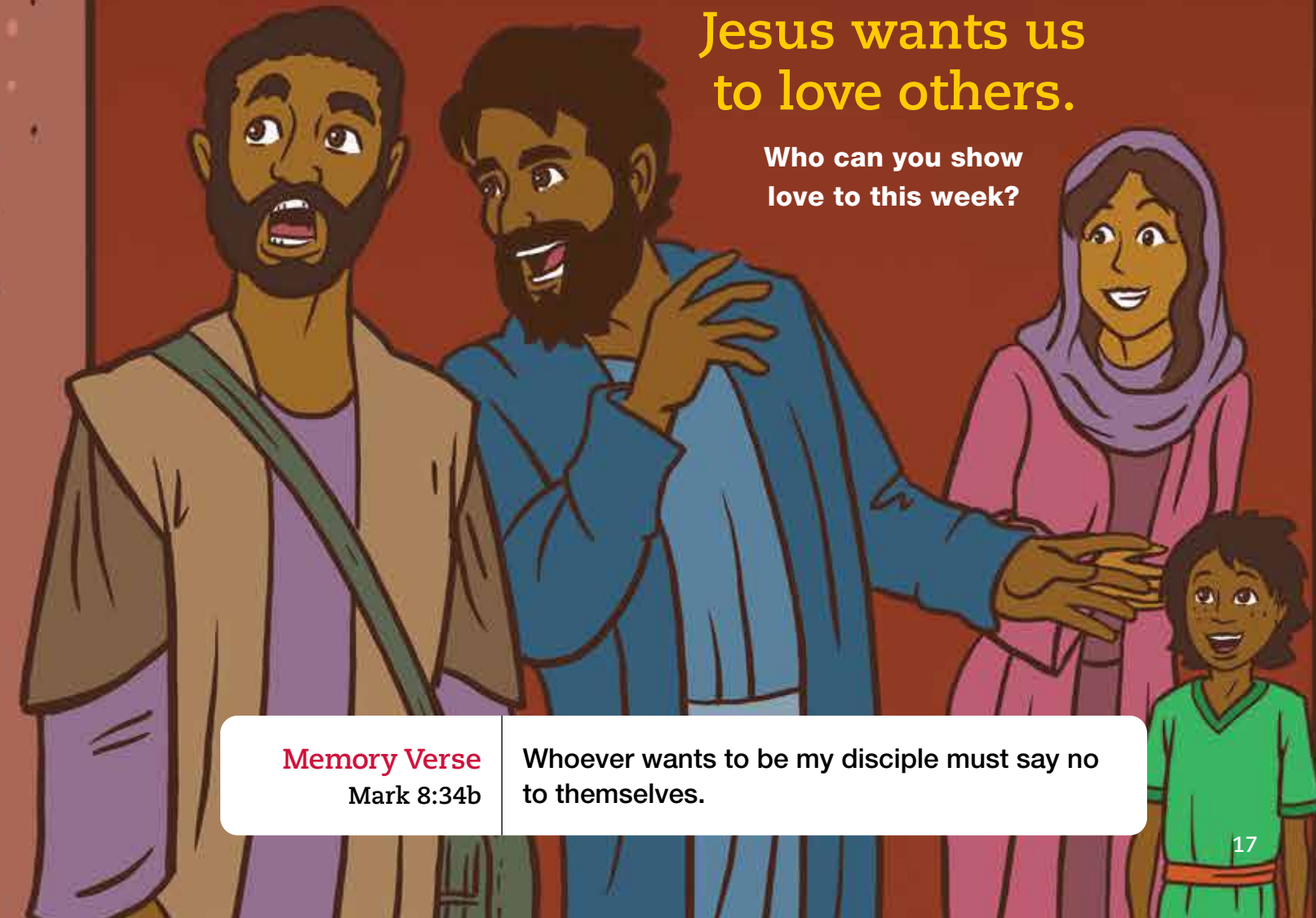
One day, Jesus went to a synagogue. There was a man there who had a hand that was damaged and out of shape. Jesus told the man to stand up. The Pharisees watched Jesus closely. They wanted to see what He would do. Jesus asked them, "What does the law say we should do on the Sabbath? Should we help people or not? Should we save lives or hurt others?" No one answered Jesus.

Jesus became very angry because the Pharisees cared more about appearing to be good than actually doing good things and helping others. So, He told the man to hold out his hand. The man did this, and his hand was healed!

This made the Pharisees very mad because they thought that Jesus had broken the rules about doing work on the Sabbath. So, they began to make a plan to kill Jesus.

Jesus wants us to love others.

Who can you show love to this week?



Memory Verse
Mark 8:34b

Whoever wants to be my disciple must say no to themselves.



Jesus healed the man's hand and made it good as new!

Mystery Message

Color in each square below that contains the letters G, K, X, or Z to find the hidden message in the remaining letters.

Z	K	J	E	S	U	S	G
K	Z	X	G	Z	G	X	K
W	A	N	T	S	G	U	S
X	K	G	Z	K	X	Z	G
Z	T	O	G	L	O	V	E
G	Z	X	K	X	Z	G	X
X	O	T	H	E	R	S	Z

Jesus Tells a Story About Seeds

The Story of Mark 4:1-20

Jesus taught people about many different things. He liked to use parables to help people understand what He meant. Parables are stories that teach a lesson. Jesus used examples from everyday life and nature that people were familiar with to help them understand new things He wanted them to learn. In today's story, He talks about a person planting seeds in the ground. Seeds need sunlight, water, space, and good soil to be able to grow. Jesus talks about the different places where the seeds landed. As you listen to the story, think about whether those places have all the things a seed needs to grow.

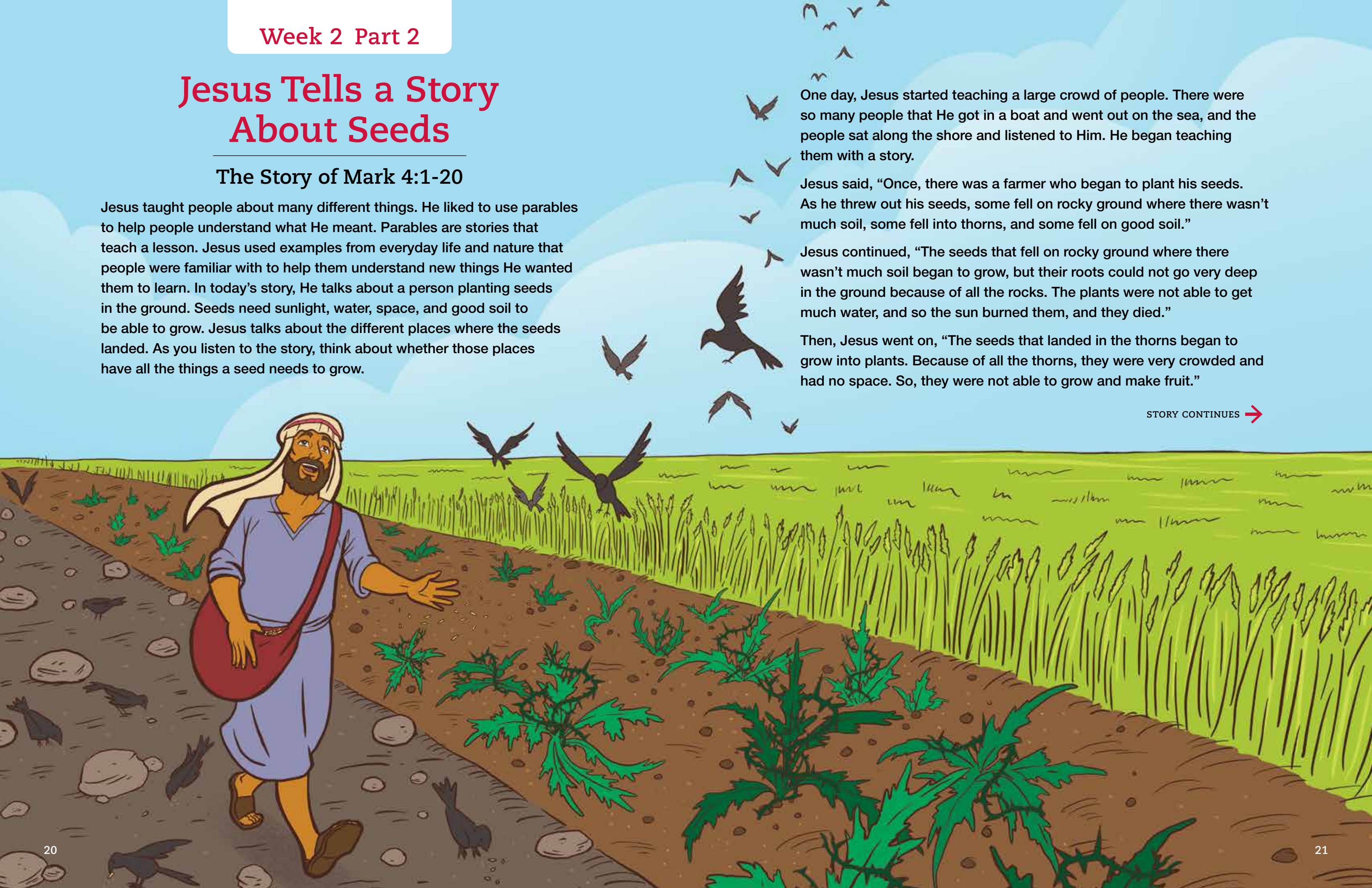
One day, Jesus started teaching a large crowd of people. There were so many people that He got in a boat and went out on the sea, and the people sat along the shore and listened to Him. He began teaching them with a story.

Jesus said, "Once, there was a farmer who began to plant his seeds. As he threw out his seeds, some fell on rocky ground where there wasn't much soil, some fell into thorns, and some fell on good soil."

Jesus continued, "The seeds that fell on rocky ground where there wasn't much soil began to grow, but their roots could not go very deep in the ground because of all the rocks. The plants were not able to get much water, and so the sun burned them, and they died."

Then, Jesus went on, "The seeds that landed in the thorns began to grow into plants. Because of all the thorns, they were very crowded and had no space. So, they were not able to grow and make fruit."

STORY CONTINUES →





Finally, Jesus said, “The seeds that fell on the good soil were able to grow and make lots of fruit.”

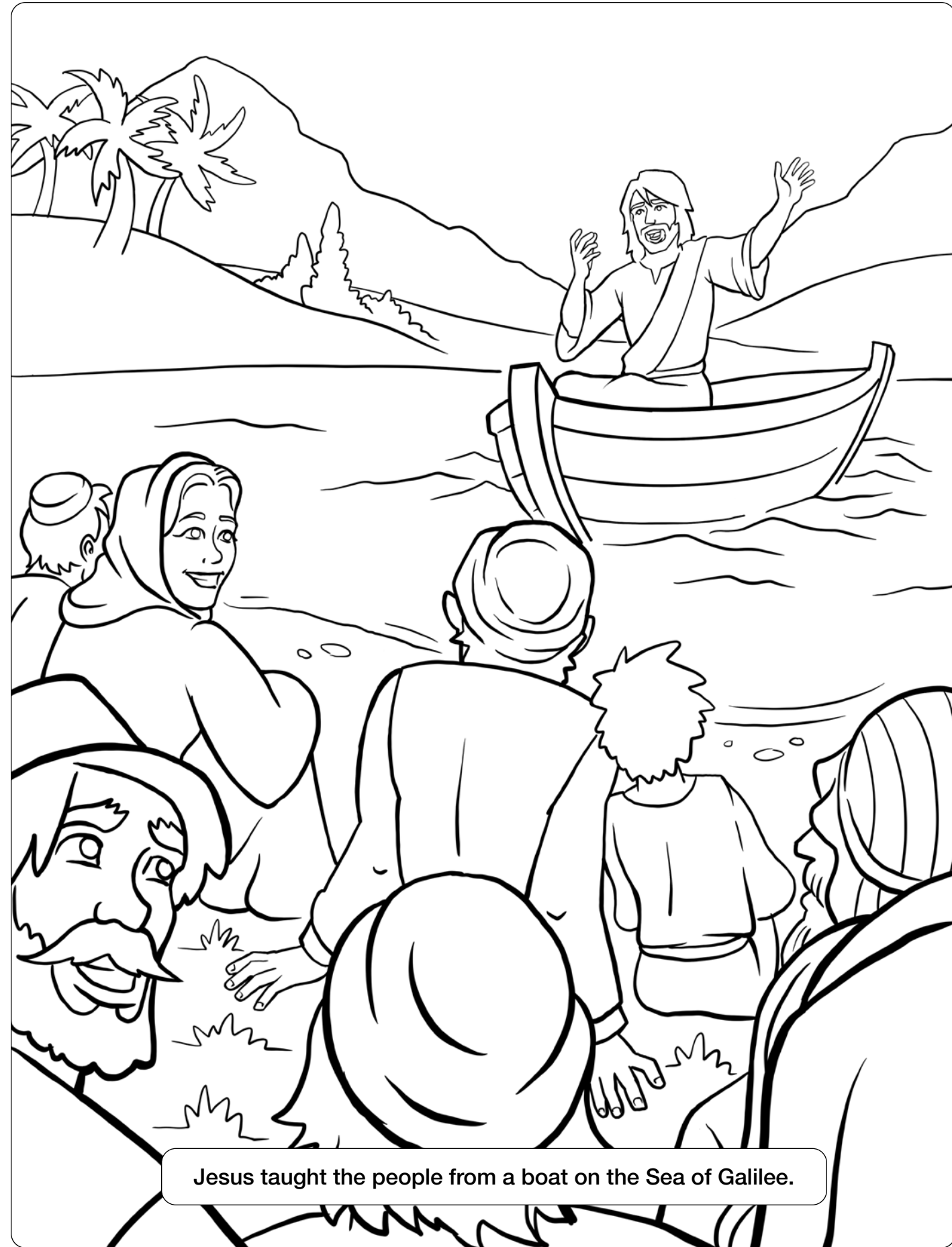
Later, when Jesus was alone with His disciples, they asked Him about what the story meant. He said, “The seeds in my story are like God’s message. The farmer scattering his seeds is like God speaking to His people. Some people hear the message, and they are like the seeds on the rocky soil. They are excited at first, but they don’t grow very much in their faith. So, when difficult things happen in their lives, they no longer believe. Other people are like the seeds that land among the thorns. They hear God’s Word, but they also hear other messages about how money and belongings are more important. God’s message is crowded out, so they don’t do good things or produce fruit. Finally, the seeds that fall on the good soil are the people who hear God’s message and grow in their faith. They become strong and have trust in God. They do good things and produce lots of fruit.”

Jesus wants us to grow in our faith.

Which kind of seed do you think Jesus wants us to be? Why?

Memory Verse
Mark 8:34b

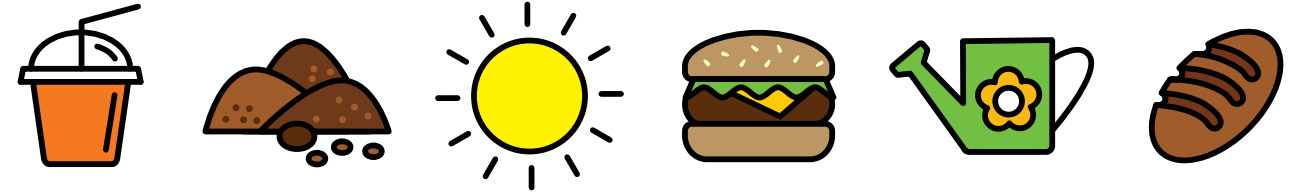
Whoever wants to be my disciple must say no to themselves.



Jesus taught the people from a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

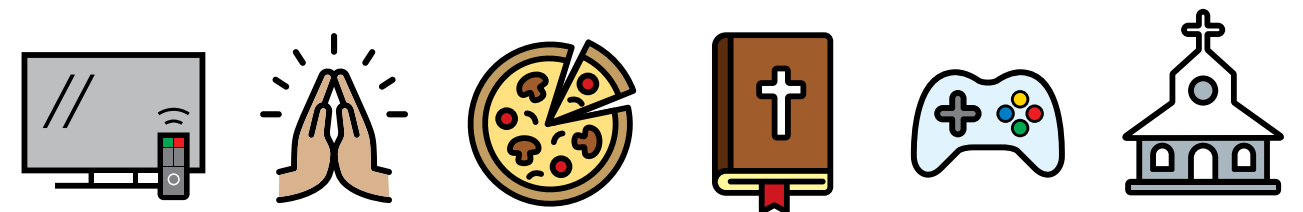
What Helps Plants Grow?

Circle the things below that help a plant grow.



What Helps Us Grow?

Circle the things below that help us grow in our relationship with Jesus.



Draw a picture of yourself doing something that will help you grow closer to Jesus.



A Widow's Generous Offering

The Story of Mark 12:41-44

Often, we hear the message that it is good to get more and more things – more toys, more games, and more money. It might seem like having these things can make us happier or more important. In today's story, Jesus shows us that the most important things aren't the belongings we have. The most important thing is that we have a kind and giving heart. Jesus does not mind if we have a lot or a little. What He cares about is that we are generous with the things we do have.

Jesus went to visit the temple where the people worshiped God. While He was there, He sat and watched people put their money into the offering box. This was how they gave back to God to thank Him for all He had given them. Jesus noticed that some people were very rich and made a big show of throwing lots of money into the box. Then, He saw a poor widow, a woman whose husband had died. She dropped two very small coins into the box.

Jesus called His disciples over and said to them, "That poor widow just gave more than all the other people did. They gave a lot of money because they are rich, but still have lots of money left. The widow gave everything she had to live on. She was the most generous of all."



Jesus wants us to be generous with all that we have.

What is something (time, money, things, or talent) that you could give generously to God or others this week?

Memory Verse
Mark 12:44b

But she gave even though she is poor.
She put in everything she had.



We can be generous with all that we have.

Seek and Find

Find all 8 of the hidden items and color them.

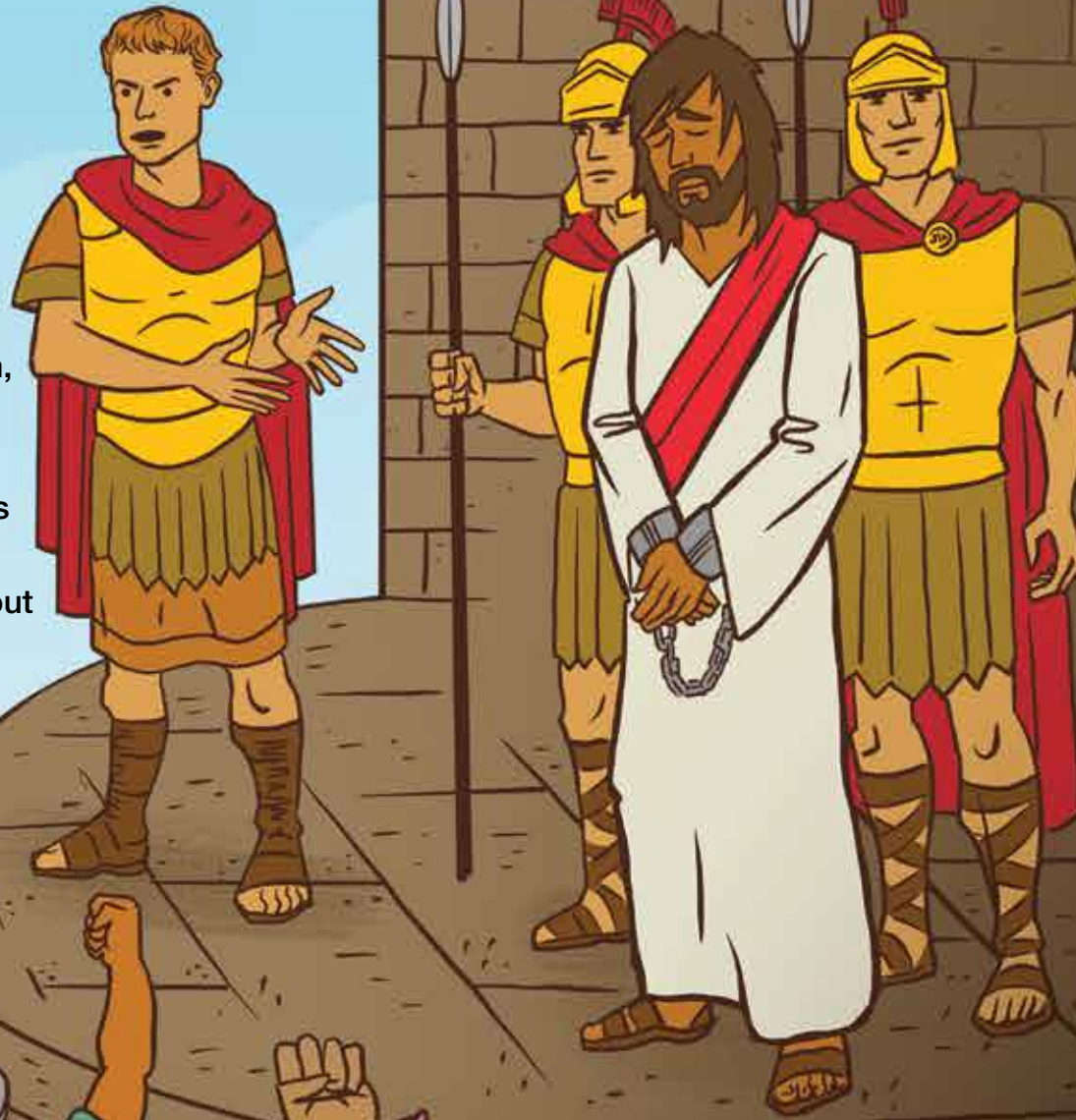
- ball
- butterfly
- fish
- flower
- grapes
- pencil
- sock
- star



Jesus is Arrested & Brought to Pilate

The Story of Mark 14:32-65 & 15:1-15

We have read how the things that Jesus did made the Pharisees angry. These leaders made a plan to get rid of Jesus. One night, they sent soldiers to arrest Him while He was praying in a garden with His disciples. The soldiers brought Jesus before the Sanhedrin, the court of priests. They were looking for a reason to kill Jesus. They asked Jesus if He was the Messiah, the one that God was sending, and Jesus said, "yes." They did not believe that Jesus was actually God's Son. Because He said that He was, the Sanhedrin believed He was committing a very serious sin. Today's story is about what happened to Jesus after He saw the leaders of the Sanhedrin.



Early in the morning, the Jewish leaders took Jesus to see Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews. Jesus did not answer Pilate's question. Pilate was not convinced that Jesus had done all of the things that the Jewish leaders accused Him of. He knew that they wanted to get their own way.

In that time, it was a tradition for Pilate to release one prisoner every year during a celebration called Passover. Pilate thought that the people might choose Jesus to be freed. So he asked the crowd, "Should I let Jesus, the King of the Jews, go free?"

There was another prisoner named Barabbas. He had fought the rulers of the country and had killed some people during the fighting. The Jewish leaders stirred up the crowd against Jesus. So, instead of asking for Jesus to go free, they asked for Barabbas.

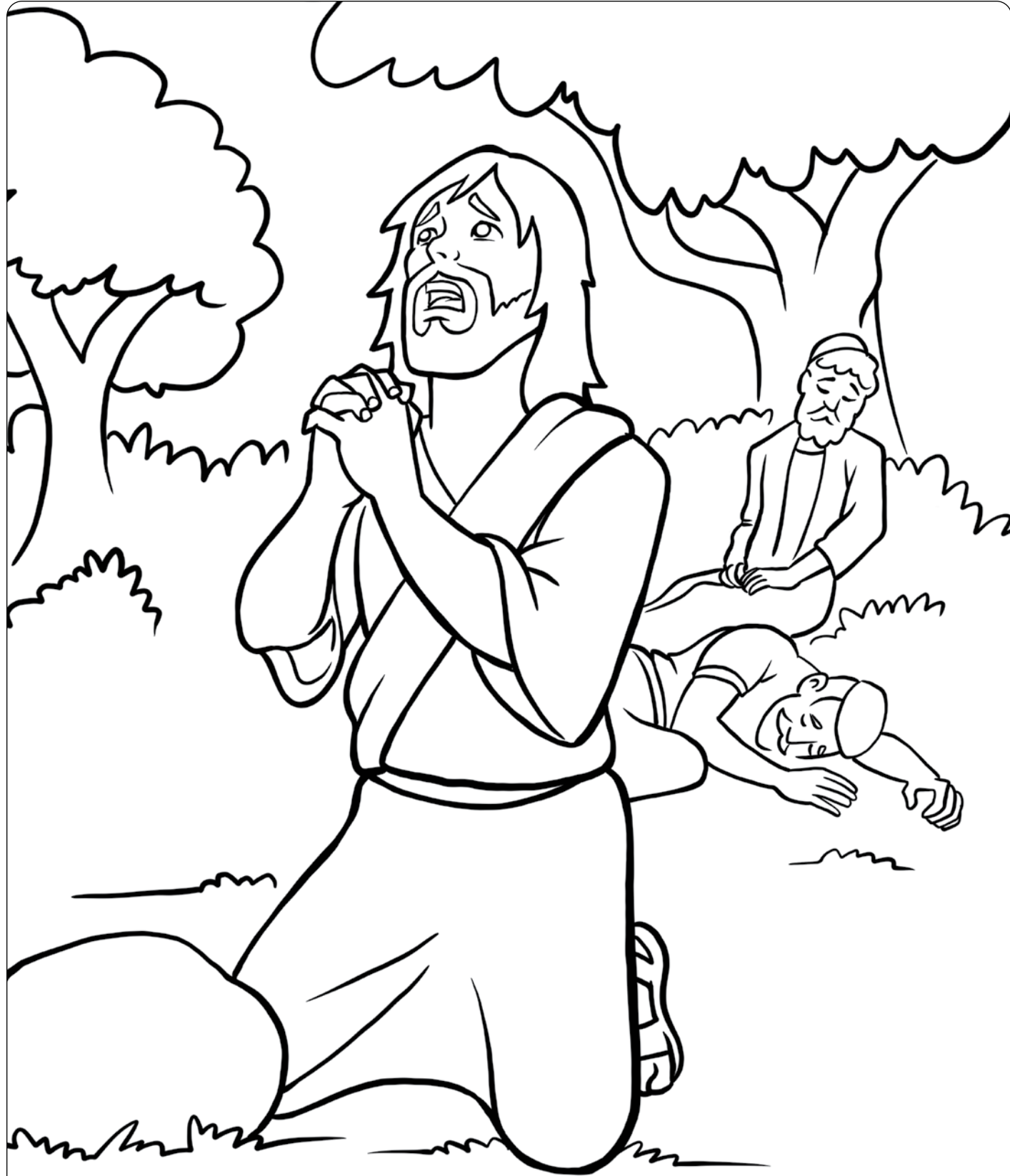
Pilate asked the crowd what should be done with Jesus. They shouted, "Crucify Him!" Pilate asked the people what wrong Jesus had done. The crowd ignored him and shouted even louder, "Crucify Him!" So, Pilate handed Jesus over to die on the cross.

Pilate ordered Jesus to die on a cross.

What bad thing did the Jewish leaders think Jesus had done?

Memory Verse
Mark 12:44b

But she gave even though she is poor.
She put in everything she had.



Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples when some men came and arrested Him.

Jesus' Journey to the Cross

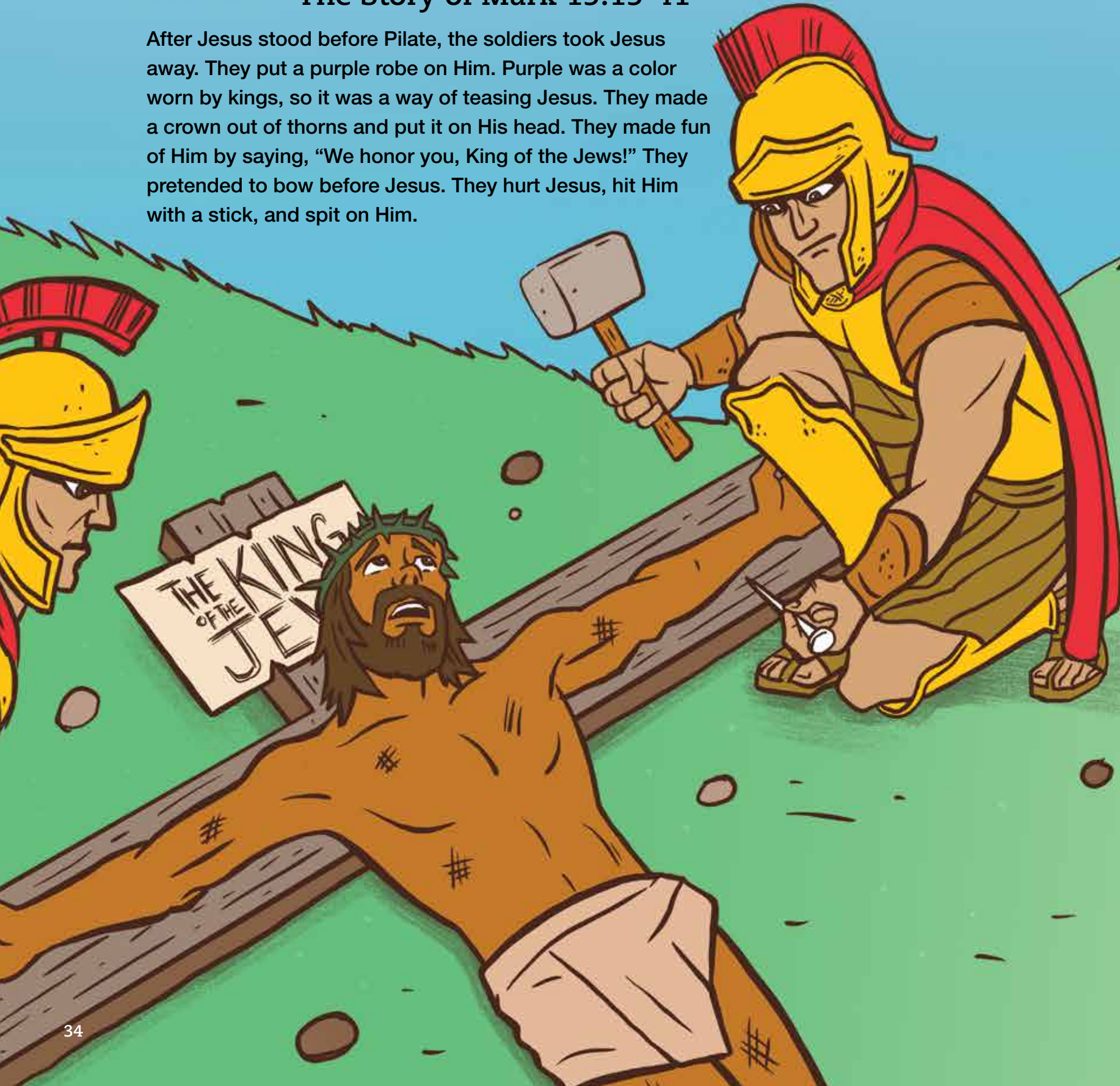
Find the path that Jesus followed from the Garden of Gethsemane to Pilate.



Jesus' Death

The Story of Mark 15:15-41

After Jesus stood before Pilate, the soldiers took Jesus away. They put a purple robe on Him. Purple was a color worn by kings, so it was a way of teasing Jesus. They made a crown out of thorns and put it on His head. They made fun of Him by saying, "We honor you, King of the Jews!" They pretended to bow before Jesus. They hurt Jesus, hit Him with a stick, and spit on Him.



Then, the soldiers led Him out to Golgotha, the place where He would die. They took Jesus' clothes. At nine o'clock in the morning, they nailed Jesus to the cross. On the cross, they put a sign that made fun of Him again. It said "The King of the Jews." Jesus was crucified with two other men, one on His right and one on His left. The people there made fun of Jesus and shouted at Him, saying, "Can't You come down from the cross and save Yourself?" The priests and the Jewish leaders also made fun of Jesus. They said, "He could save others, but He can't even save Himself!"

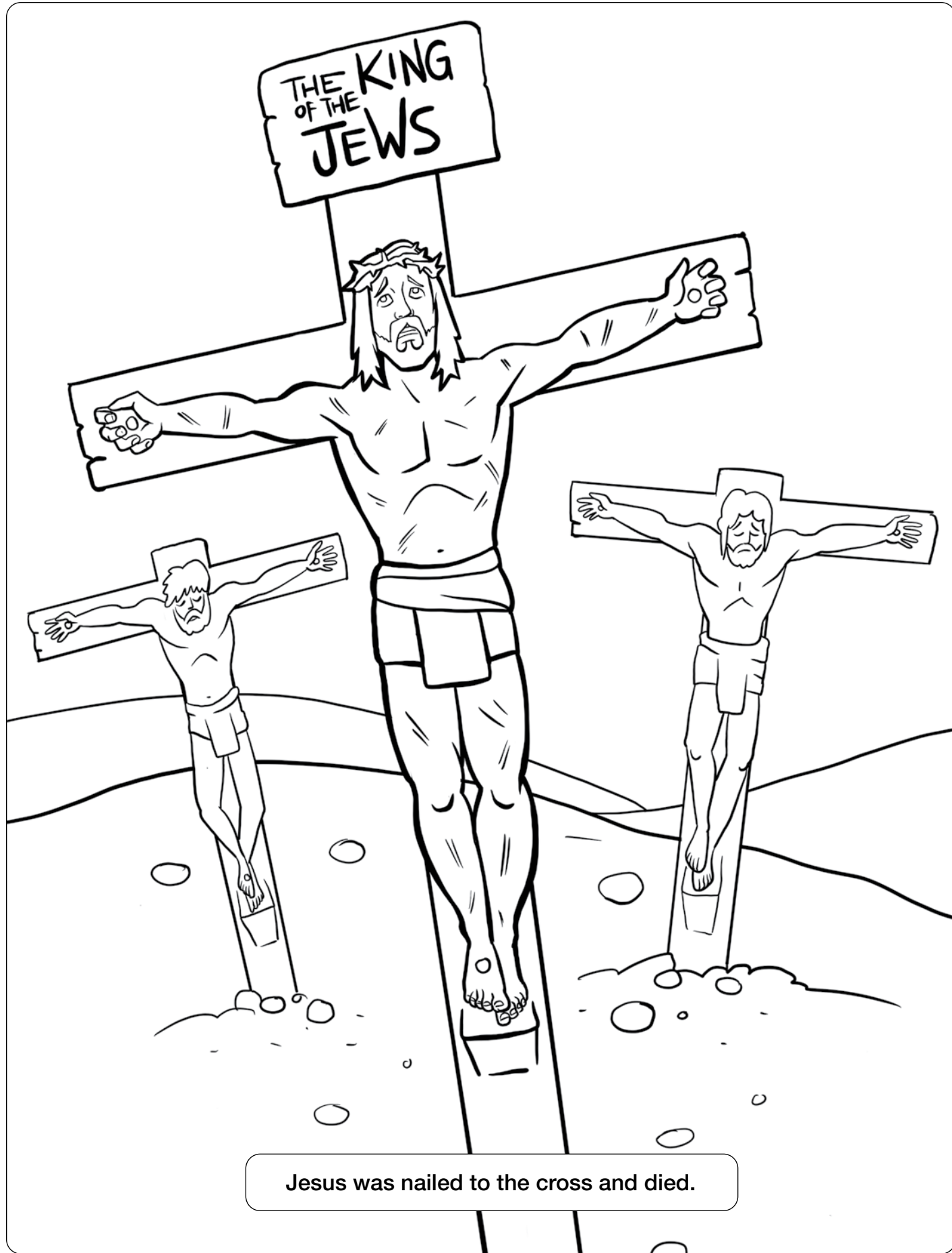
At noon, the whole land became dark. The darkness lasted for three hours. At three o'clock in the afternoon, Jesus yelled out to God saying, "My God, My God, why have You left Me?" Someone offered Jesus a sponge soaked with wine vinegar. Then, with a loud cry, Jesus took His last breath and died. A Roman commander stood watching Jesus die and said, "This man must be the Son of God!" Mary Magdalene and several other women were in the crowd watching all of this happen. They had followed Jesus and had helped take care of Him.

Jesus died on the cross.

How does it make you feel hearing about Jesus' death?

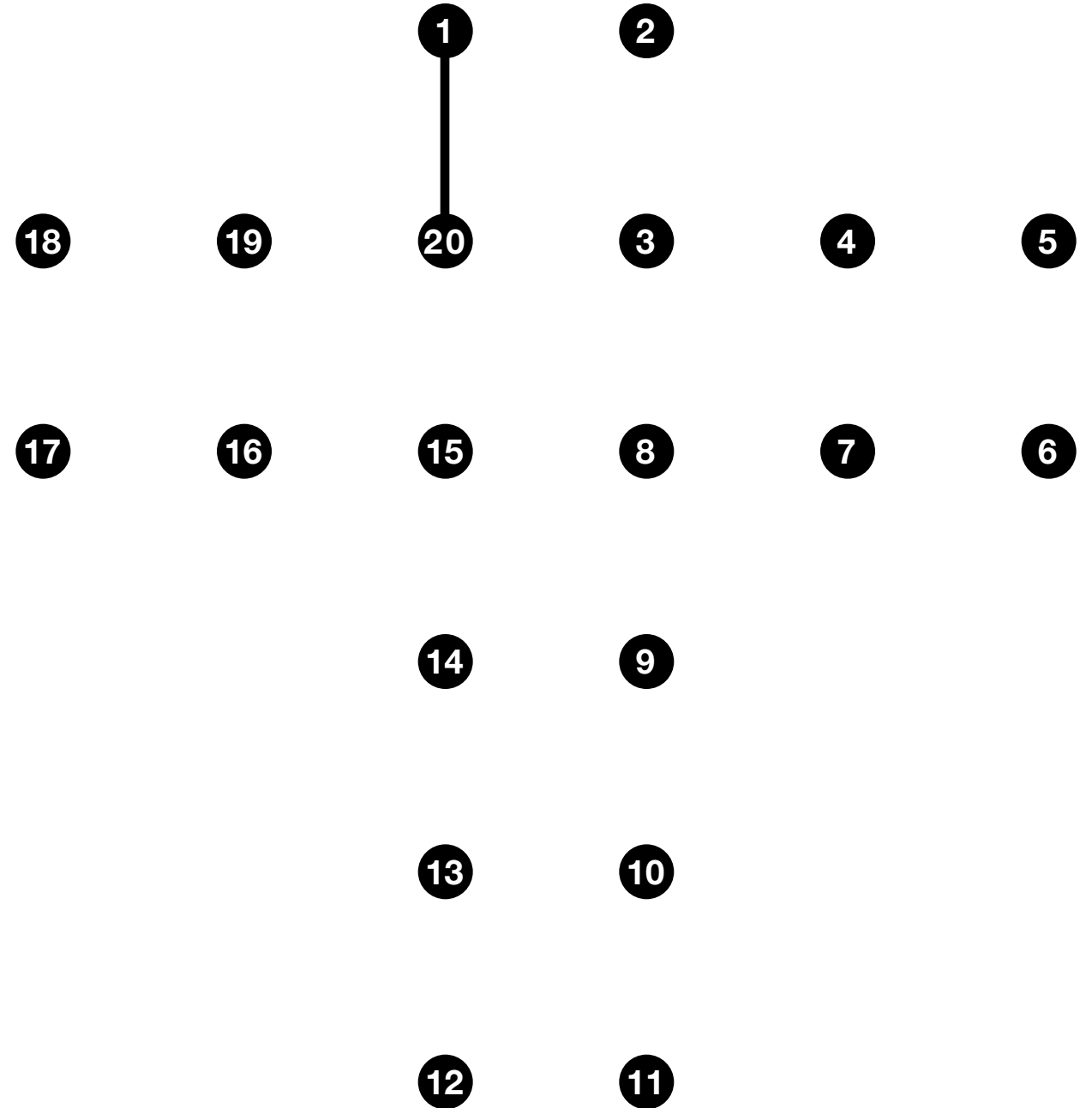
Memory Verse
Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world.
Preach the good news to everyone."



Connect the Dots

Connect the dots starting at the number 1 to find the hidden picture. Then, color in the picture.



Jesus Rises from the Dead

The Story of Mark 15:42-16:20

After Jesus died, a man named Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus' body. He took Jesus' body to a tomb cut into a rock. He wrapped Jesus up in linens and placed Him in the tomb. He had a giant stone rolled in front of the entrance to the tomb.



The next day, Mary Magdalene and a few other women went to the tomb. They saw a young man wearing a white robe sitting there. They were surprised and afraid. He said, "Don't be worried. I know you are looking for Jesus, but He has risen. He isn't here anymore! Go and tell His disciples that He is coming to see them." The women were confused and shaking with fear. They didn't understand what had happened. They ran from the tomb. Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' friends. When she found them, they were crying over Jesus' death. She told them about what she had seen and that Jesus was alive, but they did not believe her.

Later, Jesus appeared to two of the disciples who were out walking. They told the others what had happened, but the disciples still did not believe that Jesus was alive.

Then, Jesus appeared to all 11 of the disciples. Finally, they believed that He was alive! He told them to go and tell everyone about what He had done on the cross. When people believed the good news and were baptized, they would be saved. When Jesus finished speaking, He was taken up into heaven. The disciples began to go out and tell everyone everywhere the good news about Jesus.

We can tell others the good news about Jesus!

Who can you share the story of Jesus with this week?
What will you tell them?

Memory Verse
Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone."



Jesus appeared to two of the disciples after He rose.

Tell the Good News!

To play the board game below, you will need: a different coin or game piece for every player and 1 die. Place all game pieces at Start. The youngest player plays first. Roll the die. If you land on a space with directions, follow them. The first player to reach Finish wins!

Start		Name one person you can tell the good news about Jesus.	GO BACK 2 SPACES	
				What is the good news about Jesus?
ROLL AGAIN		GO AHEAD 1 SPACE	Shout, "Jesus loves me!"	
Name one person who saw Jesus after He rose from the dead.		GO BACK 3 SPACES		Read or say Mark 16:15 out loud.
				Finish

