

Willem de Vink

JESUS MESSIAH

The man who changes the world



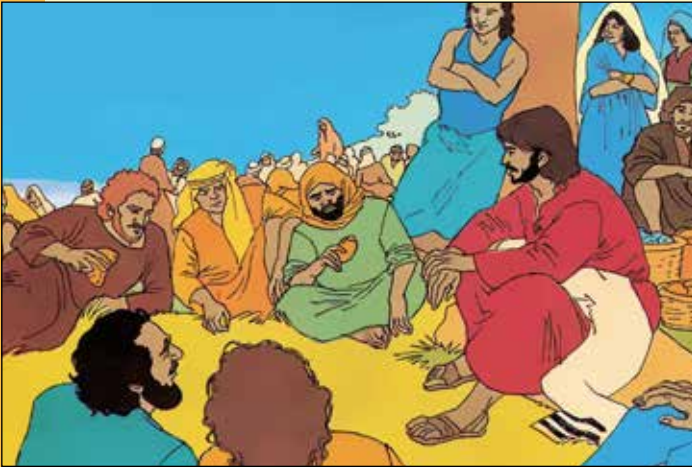
**1.4 million
comic books**
printed in more than
99 languages

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Jesus' time

Our era begins with the birth of Jesus. People travelled on foot or on a donkey, camel, or on horseback. Major parts of Europe, the Middle East, and Northern Africa were occupied by the Roman Empire. Most people could not read or write, yet the Jews in Israel could. They were called 'the people of the Book'.

Who is Jesus Messiah?

Jesus lived about 2,000 years ago in Israel. We call Him 'Jesus Messiah' or 'Jesus Christ'. It means that He is King. Yet, He is not just a King. Jesus is called 'the Son of God' and also 'the Son of Man'. This means that He belongs to God and to human beings. The history of Jesus' life is described in the Bible. It is the greatest story of all time.

God speaks in the Book, the Bible. He is the Creator of all existing things and He wants to be friends with all people. Jesus showed that very clearly!

Jesus' birth

Jesus' mother, Mary, was not yet married when Jesus was conceived. She was still a virgin until after He was born. Yet God arranged it that Jesus could be born. This miracle had been announced in the books written long before Jesus' time. Jesus was not born as a hero or something special. He was born in a stable as there was no other room available.



What is...

Angel: An invisible messenger of God (p.5).

Bible: In the Bible you can read about how God looks at people and how He deals with them.

Blessing: All the good things which God wants to give to people who are doing what He wants.

Communion: Followers of Jesus remember His death and resurrection with bread and wine (p. 41).

Cross: Instrument of torture on which Jesus died of His own free will. It has become the sign for all of Jesus' followers (p.25, 50).

Disciple: Follower of Jesus (p.18).

Easter: The feast at which Jesus' resurrection is celebrated. The Jews celebrate Passover on the same days (p.38-54).

Eternal life: Life with Jesus as God intended it. It overcomes death and has no end (p.23, 29-30 and 59).

Faith: You trust God to do what He promised to do (p.58).

Forgiveness: God forgives, although nobody deserves it. God forgives if you are really sorry for sinning and are willing to change. Forgiveness is possible because Jesus bore the punishment which we deserved (p.58).

God's Kingdom: God's Kingdom is present where people obey Him.

Holy Spirit: God's Spirit by which He wants to live in people who are following Jesus (p.58).

Jesus: The name of God's Son, meaning, 'God saves'.

Messiah: 'Anointed King'. Messiah (a Hebrew word) is translated in Greek as Christ (p.52, 55).

Prayer: You talk to God, quietly or aloud and you listen to Him (p.18, 19, 42).

Resurrection: Jesus rose from the dead. One day everyone will rise from the dead. Then God will judge each human being (p.53-57).

Return: Everything will be made new when Jesus returns to earth. Heaven and earth will be renewed by God (p.57).

Satan: The invisible enemy of God and men (also referred to as the Devil).

Sin: The things we do which are against God's will and which prevent us from reaching the goal which God has for us (p.4).

Son of God: Name of Jesus. He was God Who came to earth as a human being, as the Son of God.

Israel in Jesus' time

Capital: Jerusalem.

Provinces: Galilee, Samaria, Judea.

Size: Approximately 28,000 km² (10,810 sq. miles).

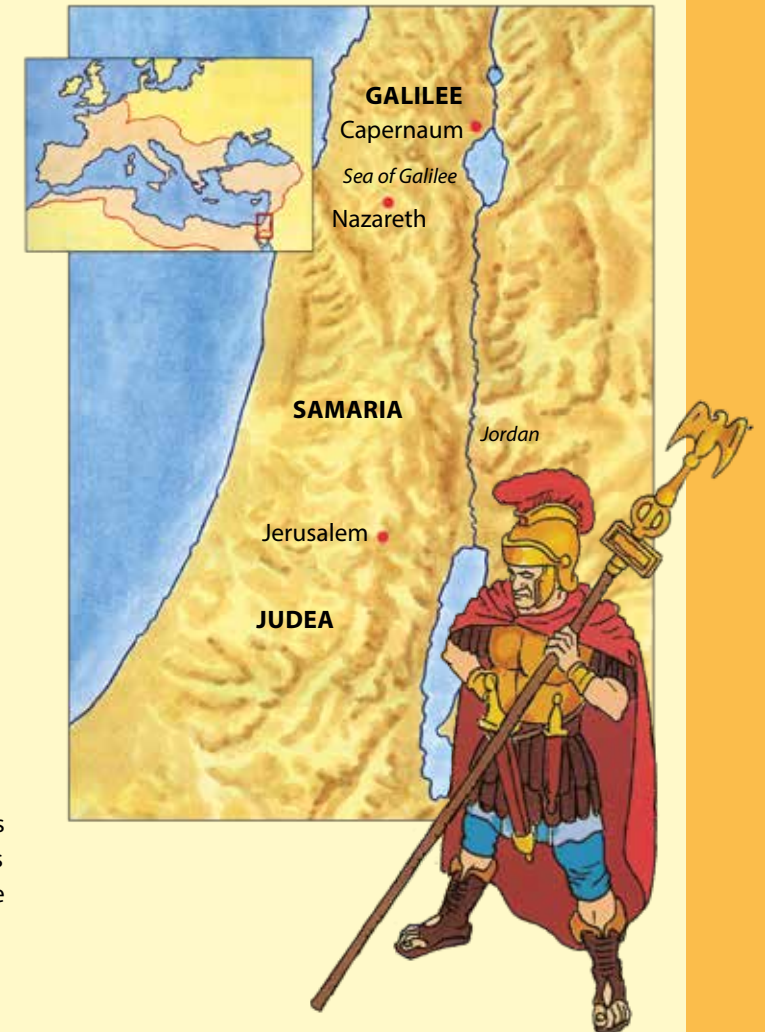
Climate: Subtropical.

Politics: Since 63 BC (before Christ) the Romans have been in control in Israel.

Government: Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, rules in Israel. Tiberius, the Roman Emperor, rules over him.

Religion: Judaism. The Jews have a temple in Jerusalem. There are priests doing all kinds of work for the religion and there are teachers (such as the Pharisees) who must instruct the people from the Bible.

Languages: Hebrew (the language of the Jews), Greek (the internationally spoken language), Latin (the language of the Romans).



The Bible

The story of Jesus is recorded in the Bible. No other book has been read, and is read, more often than the Bible. It is a book full of books. It took 1500 years to write all these books. The Bible was completed about 1900 years ago. It contains all kind of stories about how God is involved in people's lives. The story of Jesus shows most clearly Who God is.



The history of Jesus

The Bible contains 4 books that describe the life of Jesus. They are named after the authors. The authors all lived in the time of Jesus.

1. Matthew – a disciple of Jesus. He used to work as a tax collector. He describes especially how Jesus dealt with the people of Israel (the Jews).

2. Mark – was still a teenager when Jesus did His work. He writes quite a bit about the miracles which Jesus performed.

3. Luke – was a medical doctor. He did not personally know Jesus. Luke describes how Jesus dealt with people.

4. John – was also a follower of Jesus. He mainly shows Who Jesus is. Jesus is God, Who became man to free people from their sins.



Jesus' death and resurrection

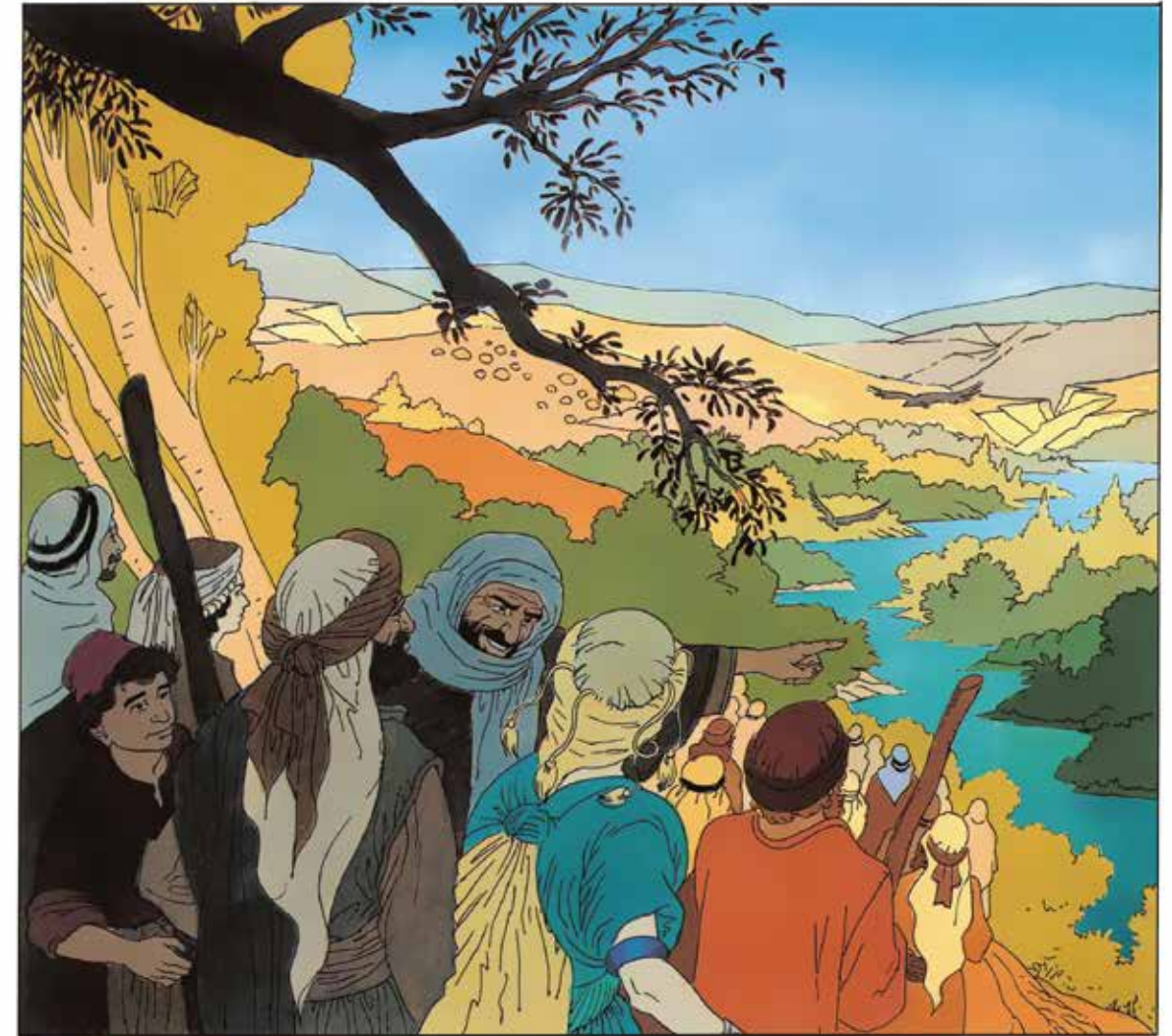
Why did Jesus die?
The explanation is given in the Bible.

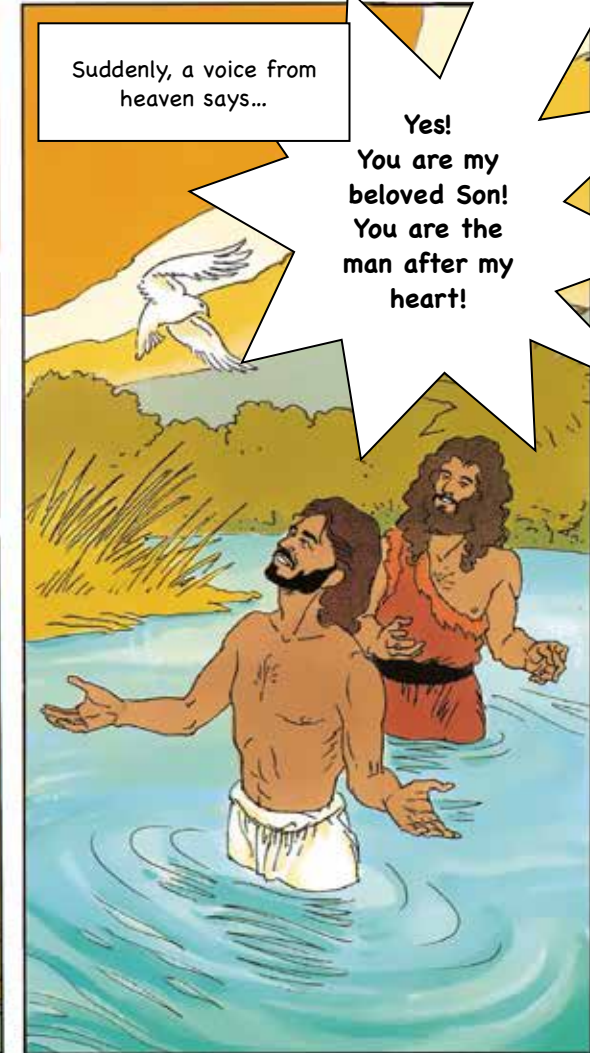
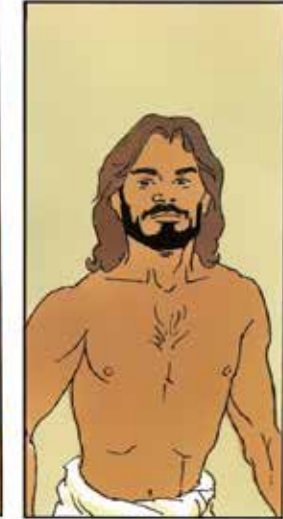
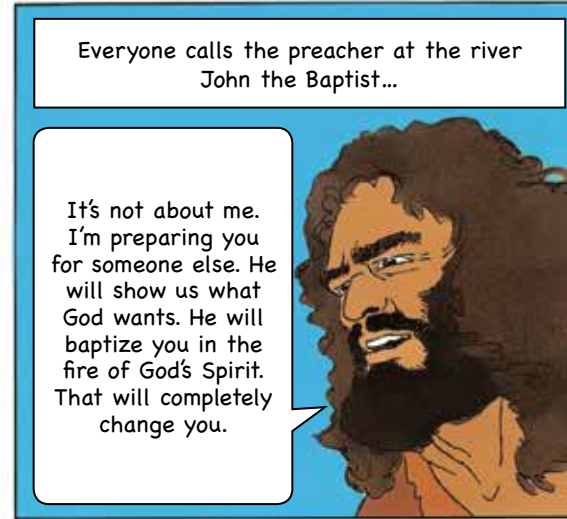
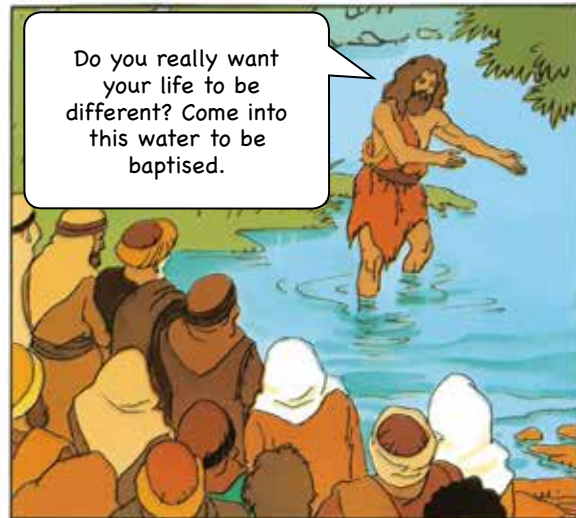
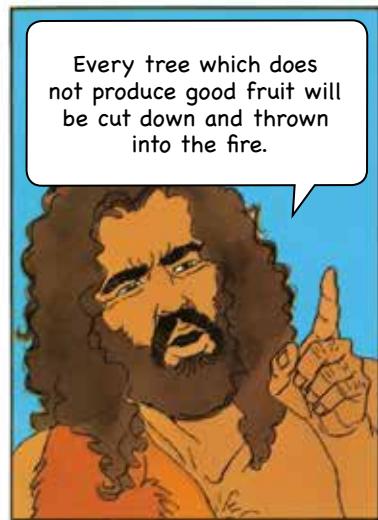
All people do wrong things sometimes. Things which God does not approve of and which make Him angry or sad. They are called sin. All those sins may prevent people from being friends with God. That is why Jesus came. Of His own free will Jesus took upon Himself the punishment for our sins. That punishment was death. Since Jesus died for us, we can become friends again with God. But we do need to be sorry about what we have done wrong.

Jesus rose from the dead. God made Him live again. By this God showed that He is more powerful than death. Jesus now lives with God. And because He lives, He can always be our friend. He wants to help us live in a way that brings joy to God.

Jesus' miracles

Jesus performed many miracles. The Bible mentions more than 40 healings. By means of these miracles, Jesus showed God's power and love and that He wants to help people and make them happy.





John the Baptist prepares the people of Israel for the coming of the messiah. At this time, Romans govern the largest part of the world. Israel is only a small part of the large Roman Empire...

ISRAEL
Capernaum
GALILEE
Nazareth
Cana
Mediterranean Sea
Jordan
Jerusalem
JUDEA

The Jewish people long for the messiah. In their old books, his coming is predicted by the prophets. He will make Israel great...

But at the river Jordan, John the Baptists points out Jesus as the sacrificial lamb...

Look! He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

God's Spirit leads Jesus into the desert...

Jesus is alone in the wilderness for 40 days and nights. He does not eat. He prays. He prepares himself for his task...

Jesus has to carry out God's plan. God wants people freed of their fear of condemnation and death...

Yes Father! I want to do what you want!

Jesus takes on Satan, the invisible ruler of darkness. This enemy of God and mankind rules the world with hatred, sickness and death...

But Satan puts thoughts into Jesus' mind to lure him away from God's mission...

If you are the Son of God, then turn these stones into bread!

No! It is written in God's Book: 'One does not live by bread alone. One lives by every word God speaks'.

If you are God's Son, then prove it! Jump off the temple roof. Isn't it written that the angels will carry you?

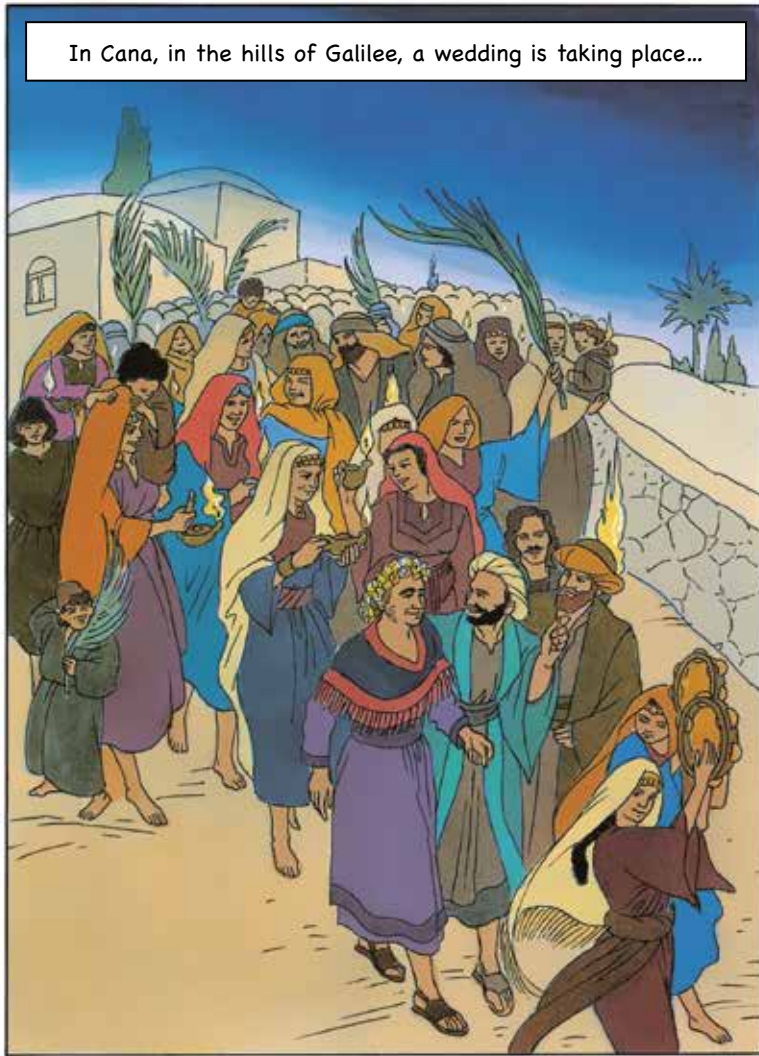
No! It is also written: "You shall not challenge God".

Look! I will give you all the power on earth. But you have to kneel down before me.

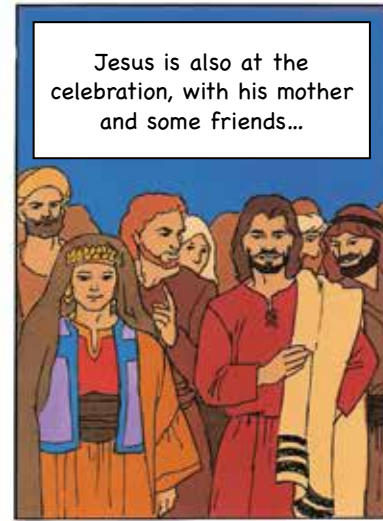
Leave me Satan! For it is written: "God alone is the One we are to worship and serve."

After that Satan leaves Jesus alone for the time being. Angels come to serve Jesus...

Jesus returns to the province of Galilee where he is from. He is full of God's Spirit. As he travels, people join him. They are curious if Jesus is the messiah...



In Cana, in the hills of Galilee, a wedding is taking place...



Jesus is also at the celebration, with his mother and some friends...



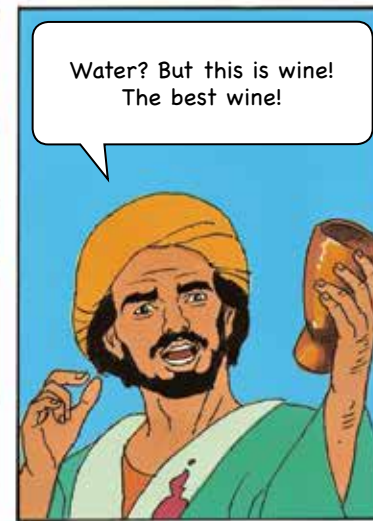
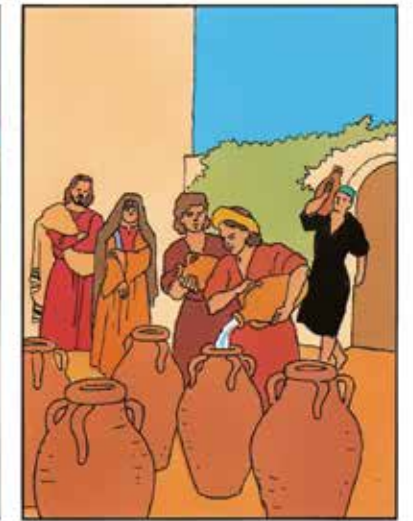
But half way through the celebrations...

What a disaster! The wine has run out!

Just do what Jesus tells you!



Fill these large jars with water and let the Master of the Ceremonies taste it.



Water? But this is wine! The best wine!



?



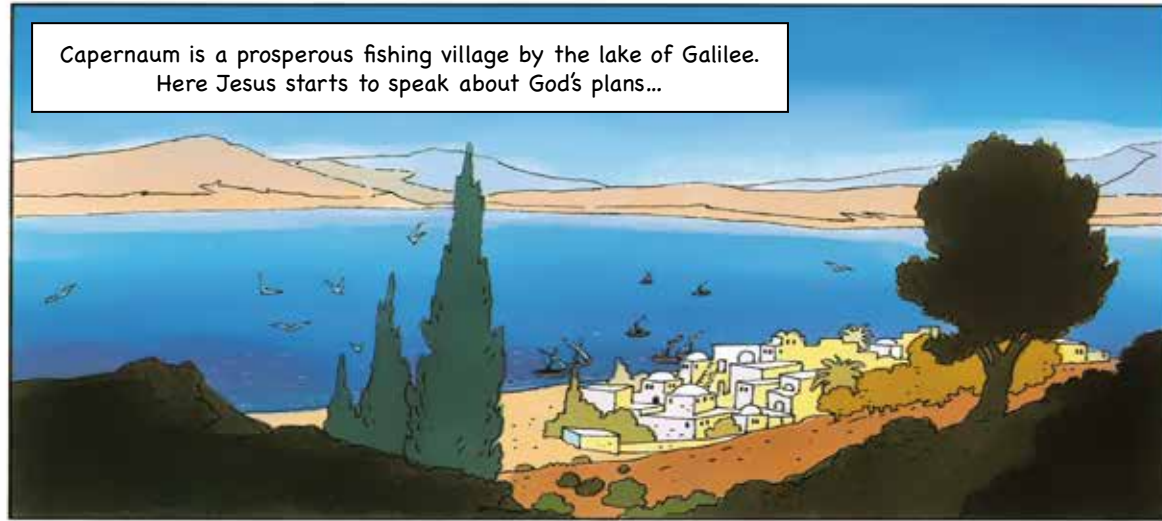
Taste this! You have kept the best wine till last.



What a party! What a wedding! Water that's turned into wine! The best wine!

Jesus of Nazareth did that!

Who is he?



Capernaum is a prosperous fishing village by the lake of Galilee. Here Jesus starts to speak about God's plans...



And here he chooses his first disciples...



Peter, let's sail to deeper water and put your nets out there.



Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.



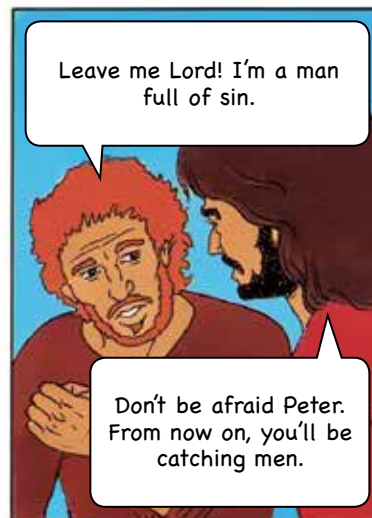
But if you say so...



What! I can't believe it!



James! John! Come and help! It's the catch of a lifetime!

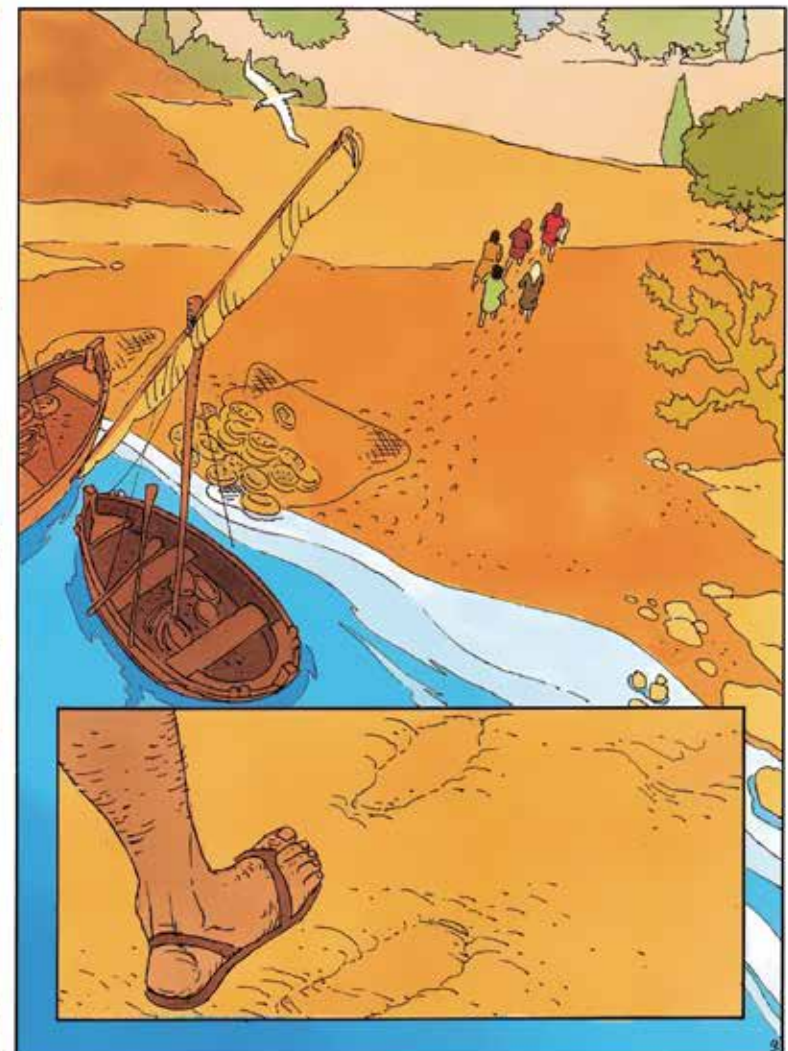


Leave me Lord! I'm a man full of sin.

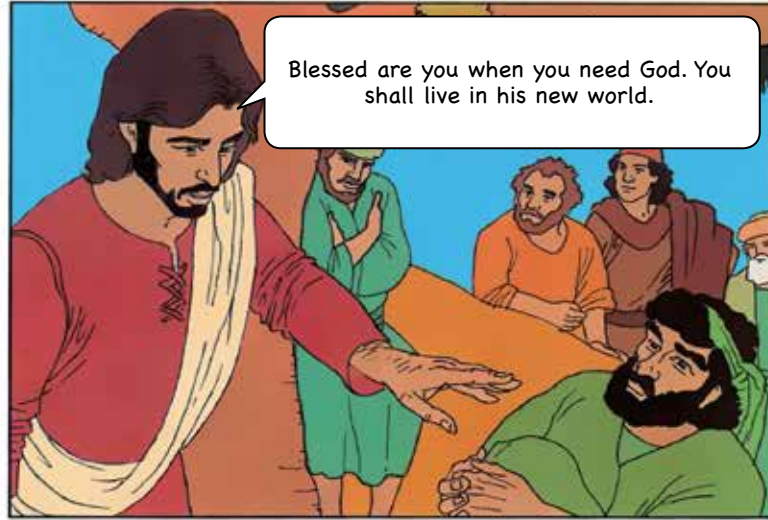
Don't be afraid Peter. From now on, you'll be catching men.



Follow me!



Jesus travels with his disciples through the north of Israel. He is telling everybody that God's kingdom is coming. His words are full of power and full of grace. He heals the sick and frees people of demonic powers. Many people follow him. They even come from other provinces and from Jerusalem, the capital of Israel...



Blessed are you when you need God. You shall live in his new world.

Blessed are you when you desire God's goodness. You shall receive plenty.



Blessed are you when you have sadness. You shall find comfort.



Blessed are you when you do good to others. God shall be good to you. And when you make peace, you shall be called a child of God.



Do to others as you want them to do to you.



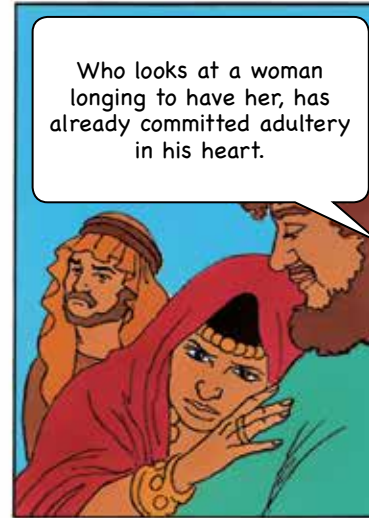
Love your enemies and pray for them.



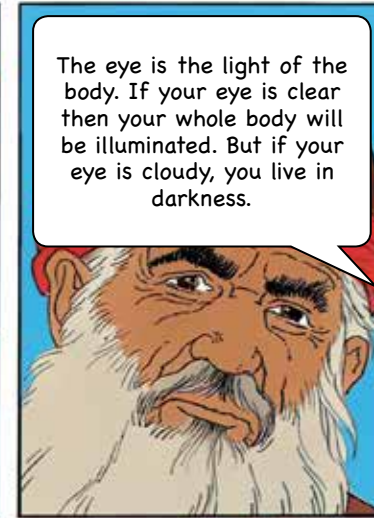
Do good secretly, not to attract attention.



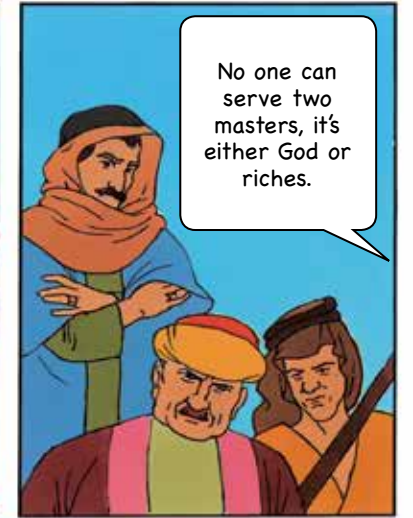
Who looks at a woman longing to have her, has already committed adultery in his heart.



The eye is the light of the body. If your eye is clear then your whole body will be illuminated. But if your eye is cloudy, you live in darkness.



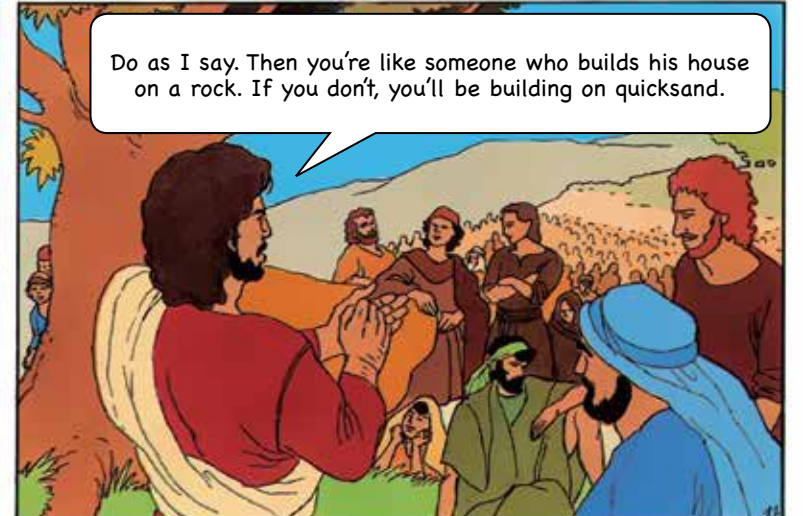
No one can serve two masters, it's either God or riches.

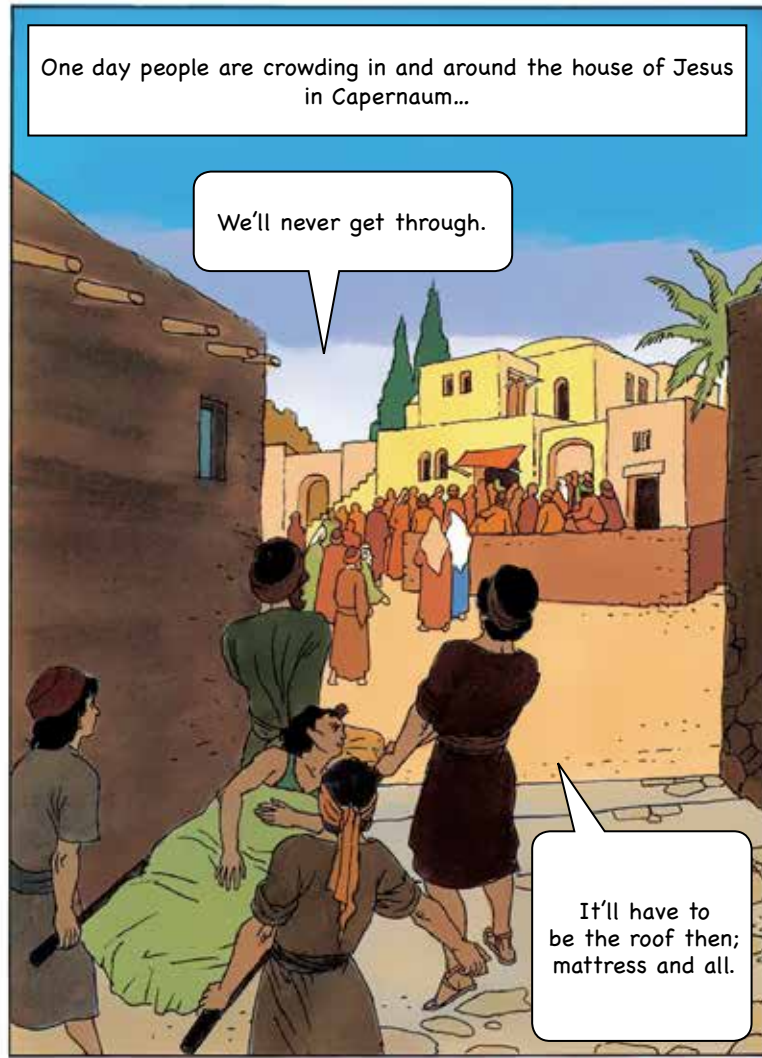


Don't worry about tomorrow. Seek God first and what he wants, the rest will follow.



Do as I say. Then you're like someone who builds his house on a rock. If you don't, you'll be building on quicksand.





One day people are crowding in and around the house of Jesus in Capernaum...

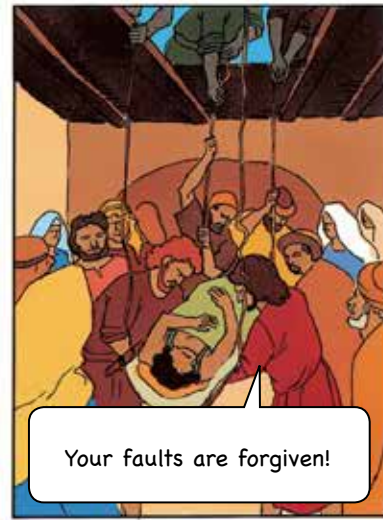
We'll never get through.

It'll have to be the roof then; mattress and all.



What's happening up there?

Leave them! Those friends have a lot of faith.



Your faults are forgiven!



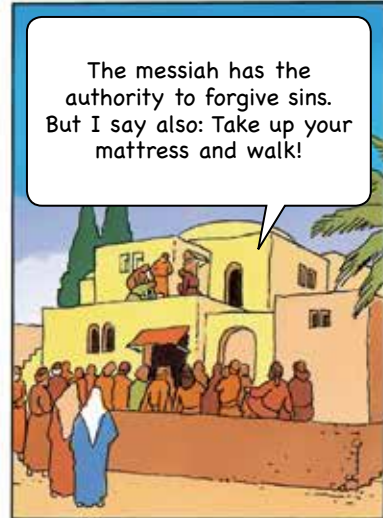
Did you hear that? How dare he say that!

He's mocking God!

Only God can forgive sins.



What is easier to say: Your sins are forgiven, or: Get up and walk?



The messiah has the authority to forgive sins. But I say also: Take up your mattress and walk!

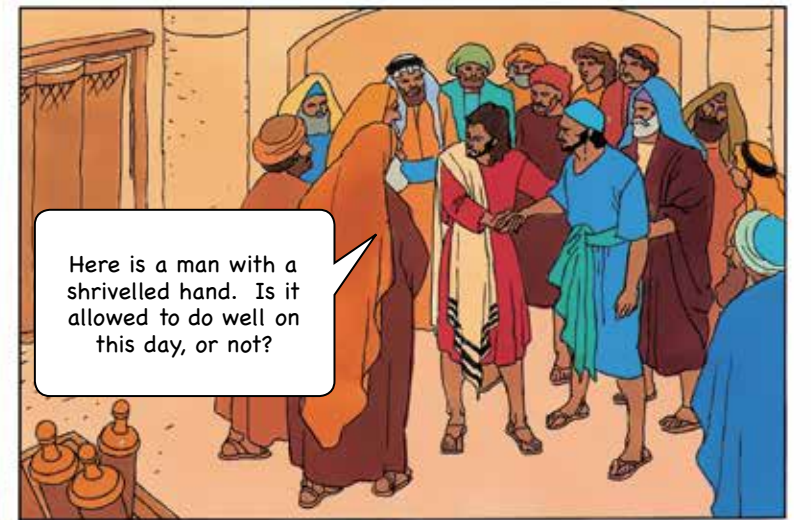


Incredible!

The lame can walk!

Yes! I am healed! Thanks to Jesus!

Jesus does many good things. And he speaks with wisdom and authority. He radiates nothing but mercy and grace. But not everyone is happy with him. The leaders want to uphold the law. They look to see if Jesus is keeping the rules. Like on the Sabbath. On this first day of the week it is strongly forbidden to do any kind of work...



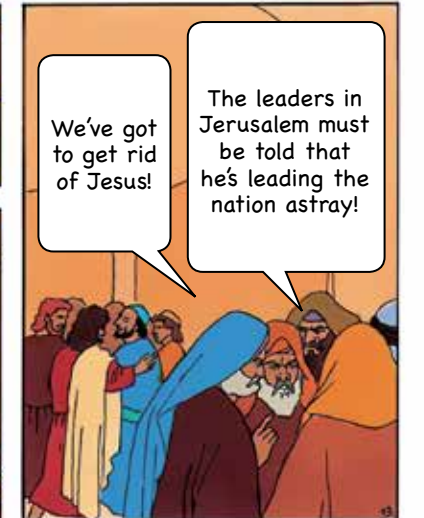
Here is a man with a shrivelled hand. Is it allowed to do well on this day, or not?



Stretch out your hand!



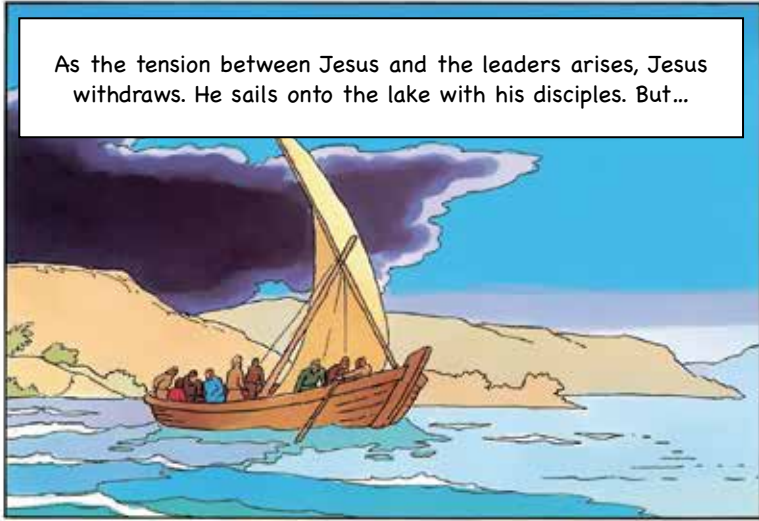
Hurray! I'm healed!



We've got to get rid of Jesus!

The leaders in Jerusalem must be told that he's leading the nation astray!

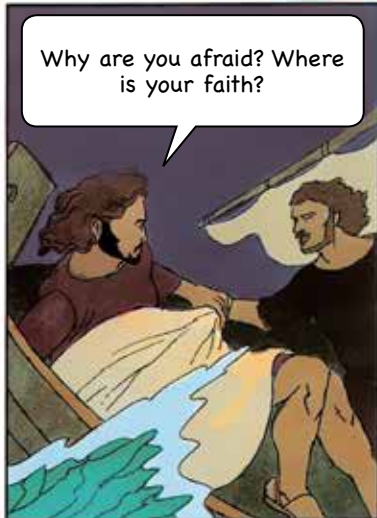
As the tension between Jesus and the leaders arises, Jesus withdraws. He sails onto the lake with his disciples. But...



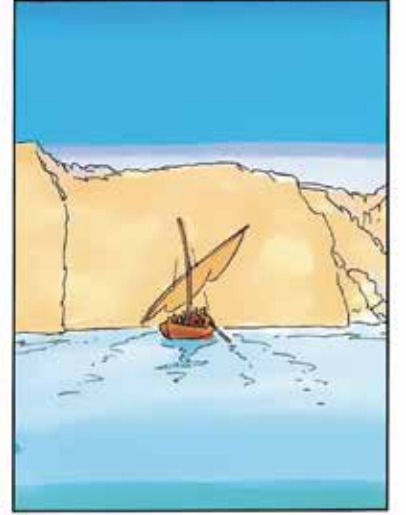
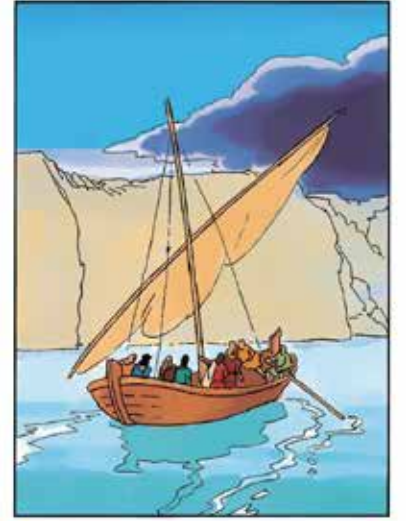
Master! Help!
We're going under!



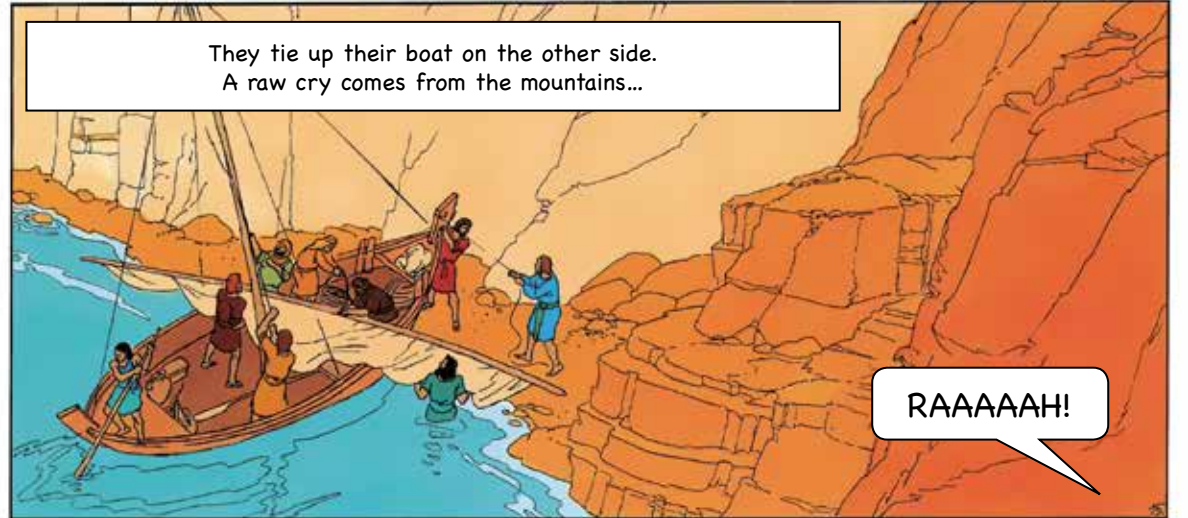
Why are you afraid? Where
is your faith?



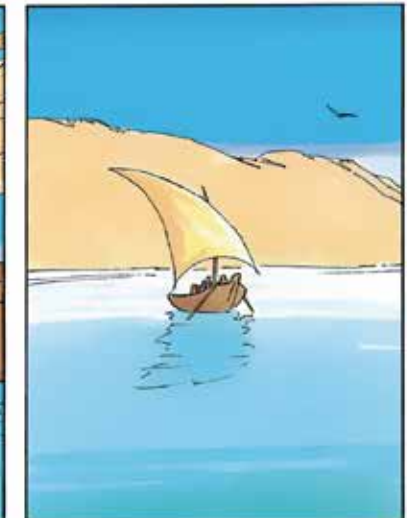
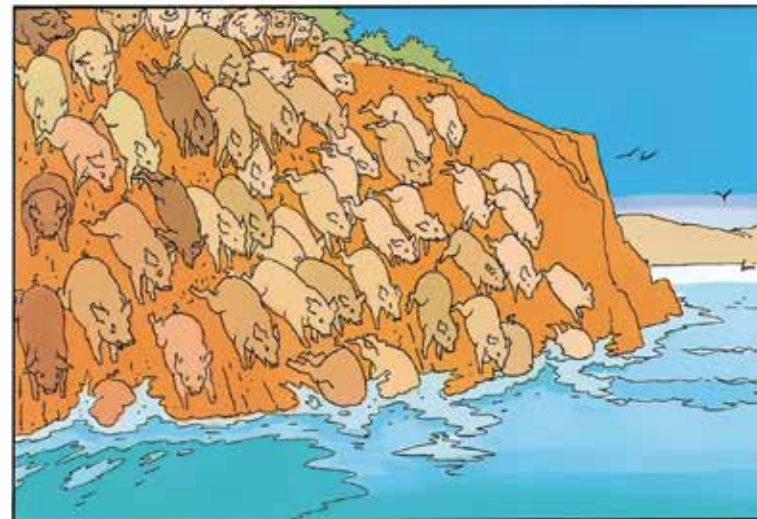
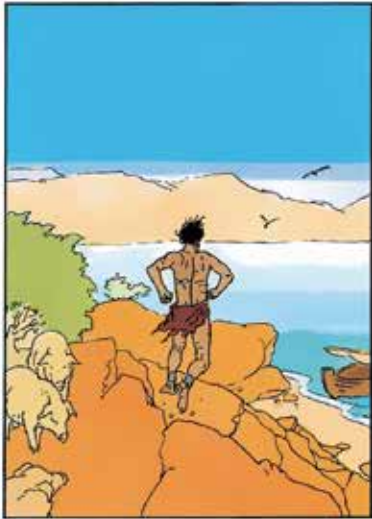
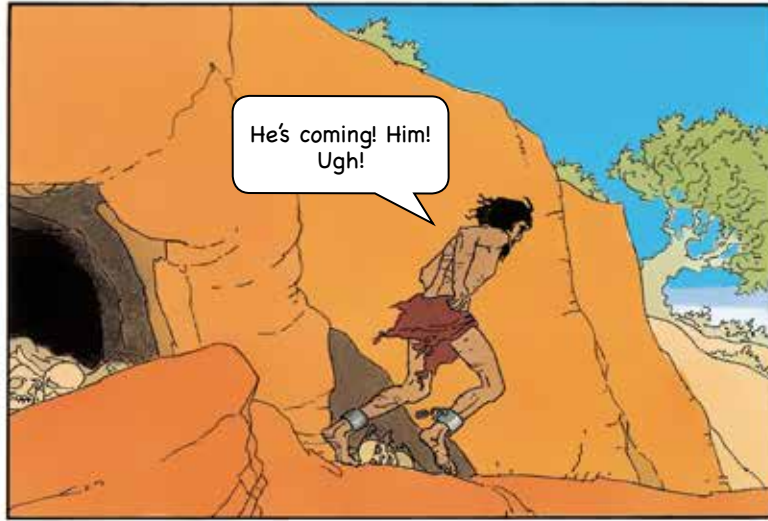
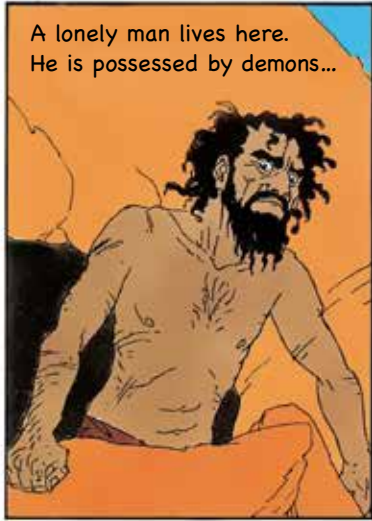
Quiet!
Be still!

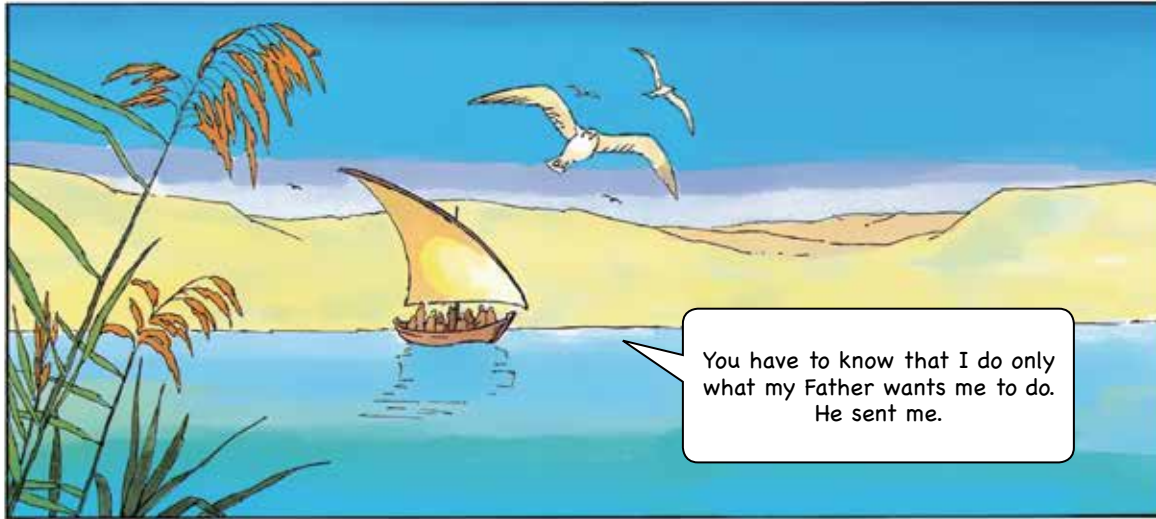


They tie up their boat on the other side.
A raw cry comes from the mountains...

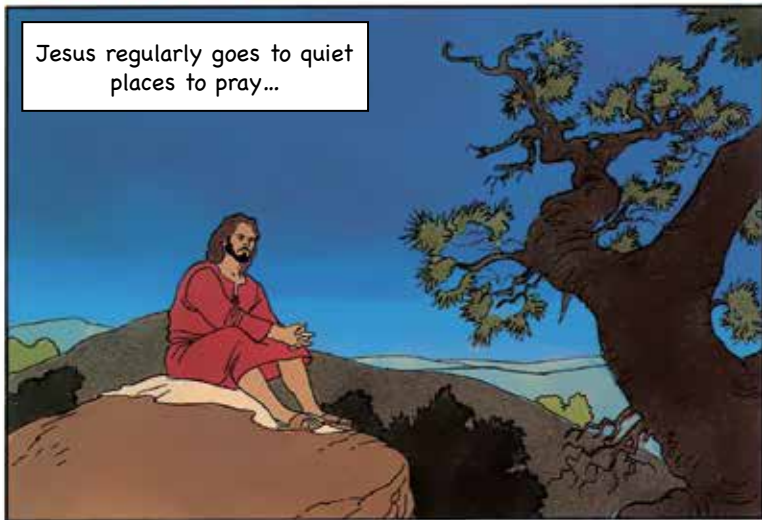


RAAAAAH!

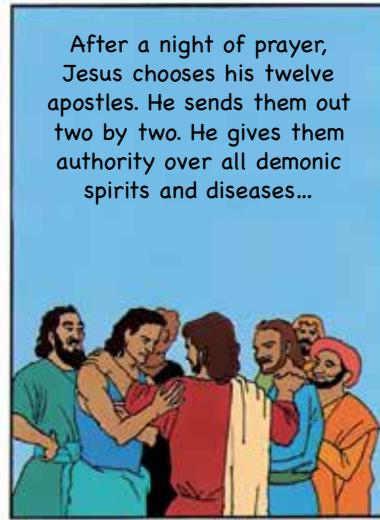




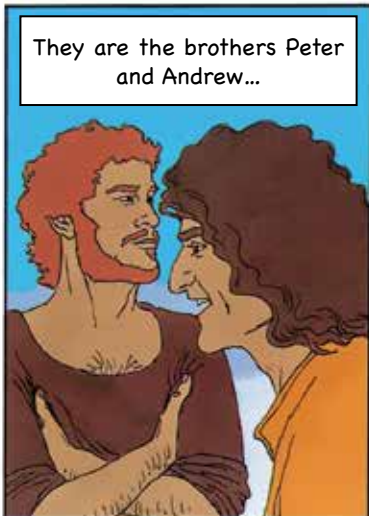
You have to know that I do only what my Father wants me to do. He sent me.



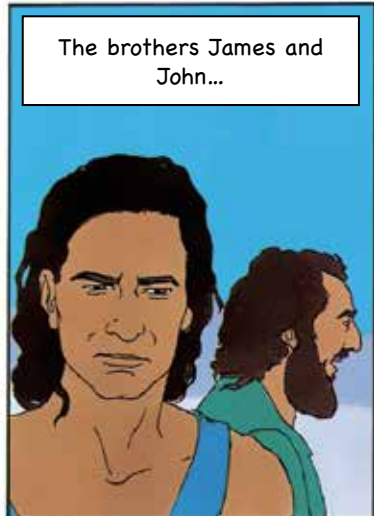
Jesus regularly goes to quiet places to pray...



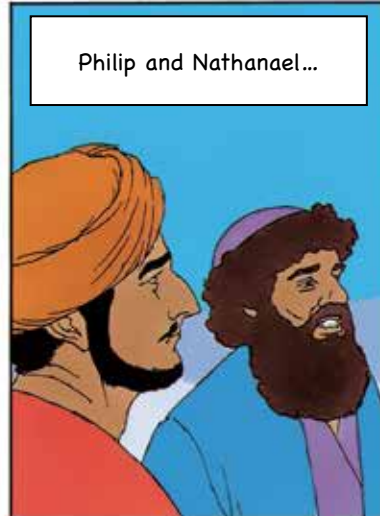
After a night of prayer, Jesus chooses his twelve apostles. He sends them out two by two. He gives them authority over all demonic spirits and diseases...



They are the brothers Peter and Andrew...



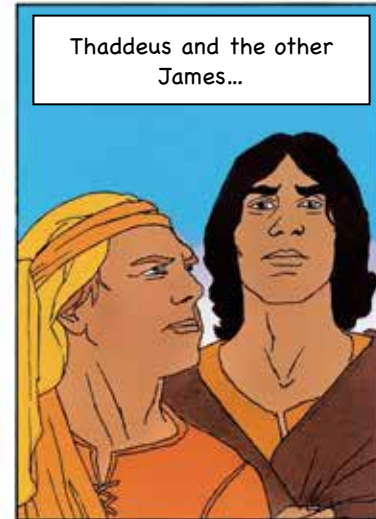
The brothers James and John...



Philip and Nathanael...



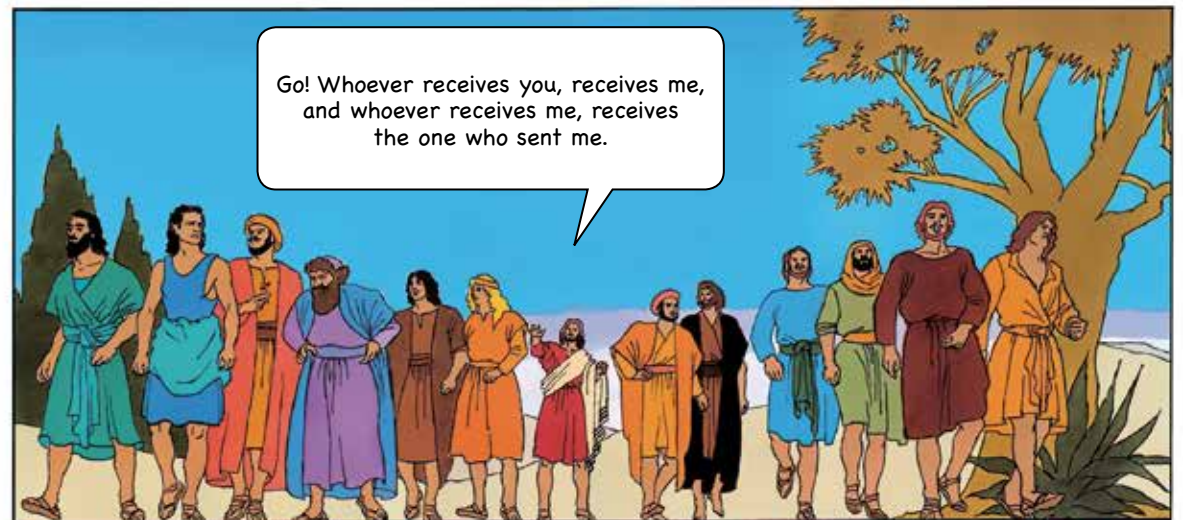
Thomas and Matthew (who previously collected taxes for the Roman occupiers)...



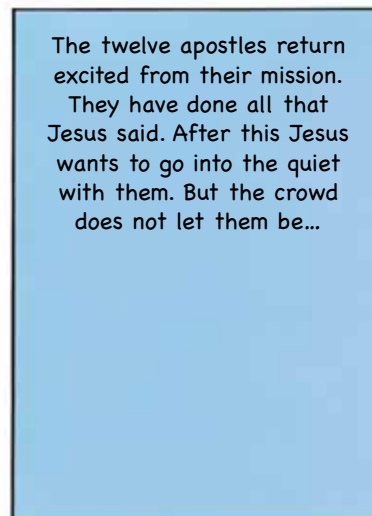
Thaddeus and the other James...



Simon, the resistance fighter and Judas Iscariot...



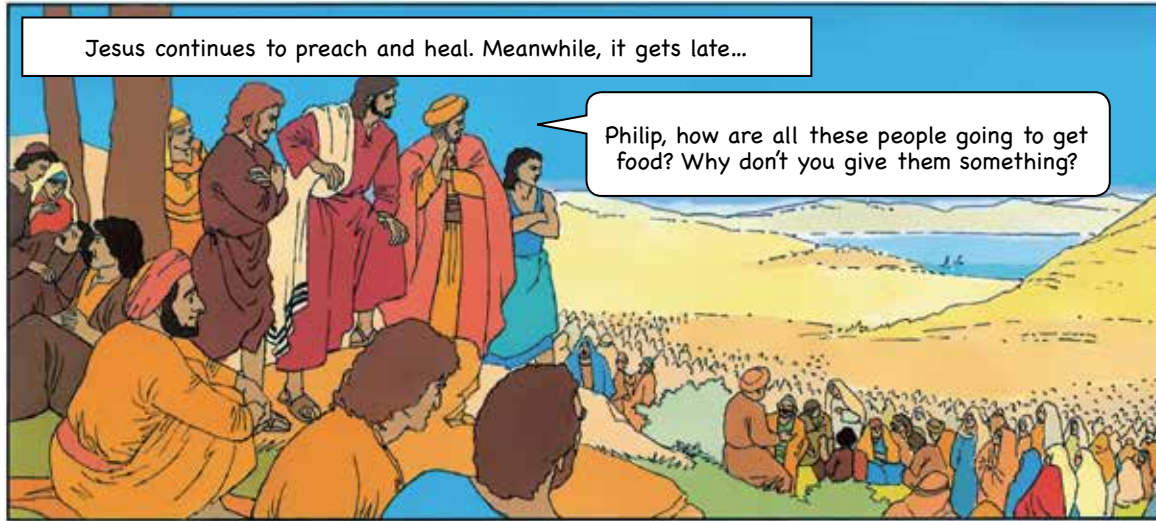
Go! Whoever receives you, receives me, and whoever receives me, receives the one who sent me.



The twelve apostles return excited from their mission. They have done all that Jesus said. After this Jesus wants to go into the quiet with them. But the crowd does not let them be...

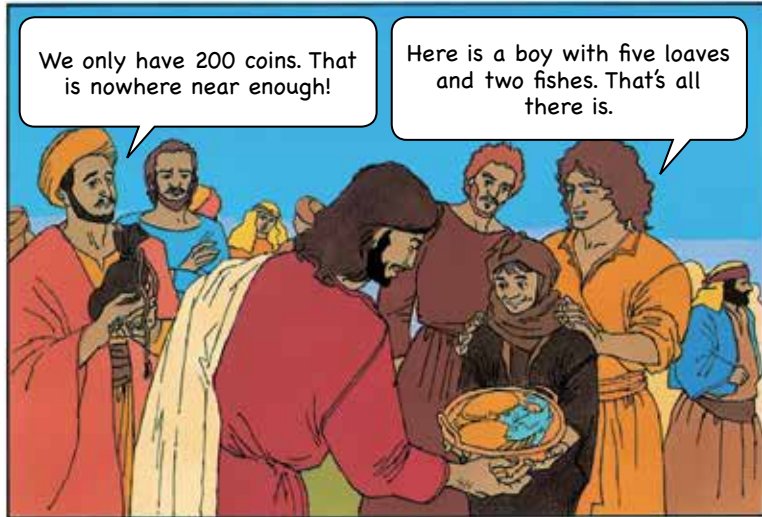


Look! The harvest is big, but the workers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that he will send workers out to gather in the harvest.



Jesus continues to preach and heal. Meanwhile, it gets late...

Philip, how are all these people going to get food? Why don't you give them something?



We only have 200 coins. That is nowhere near enough!

Here is a boy with five loaves and two fishes. That's all there is.



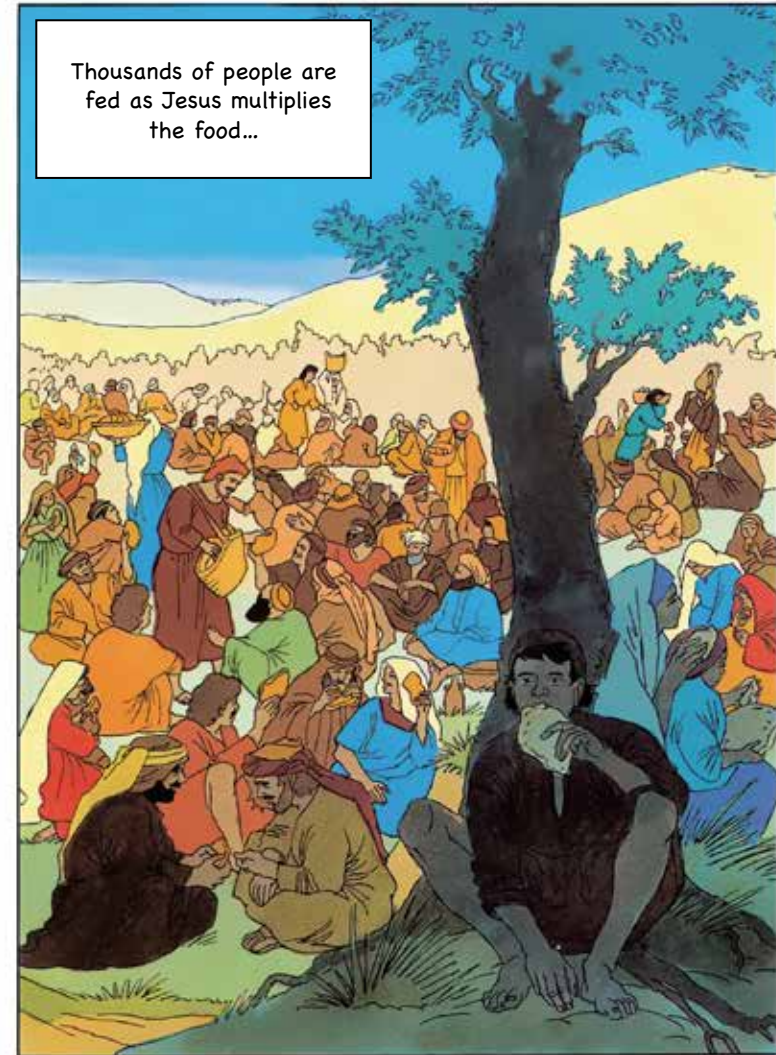
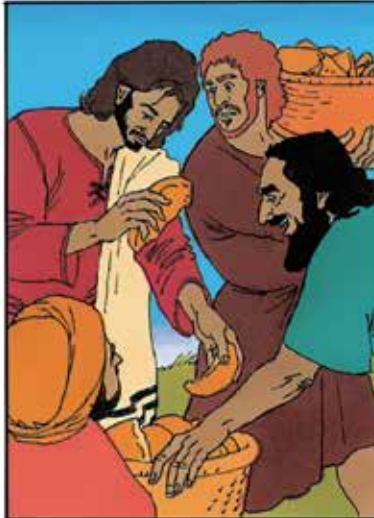
Get the people to sit in groups of fifty.



Jesus thanks God...



He breaks the bread and the fishes...



Thousands of people are fed as Jesus multiplies the food...



He is truly the messiah that was promised to us!

We've got to make him a king!



Look! There are twelve full baskets left over!



It's time to send the people home. Take the boat and go to the other side. I'm staying here in the mountains to pray.



That night...



Aaaaah!
It's a ghost!

Don't be afraid.
It's me!

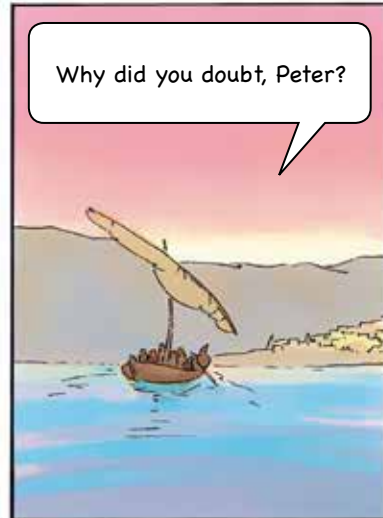


Lord if it's you,
tell me to come
to you on the
water.

Come!



Lord, save me!



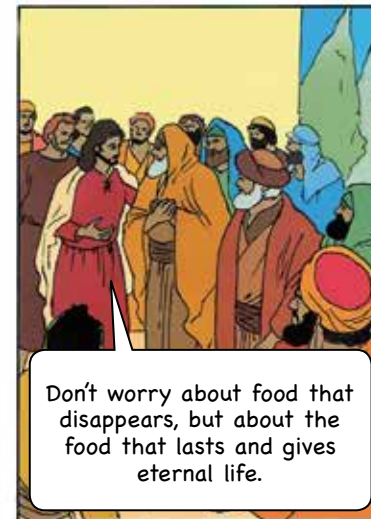
Why did you doubt, Peter?

Some want to make Jesus king. They hope that he will drive out the the Roman occupiers. Jesus' opponents are on the increase. Even though he helps people, the religious leaders think he violates the law. They want to set the people against him and get rid of him...

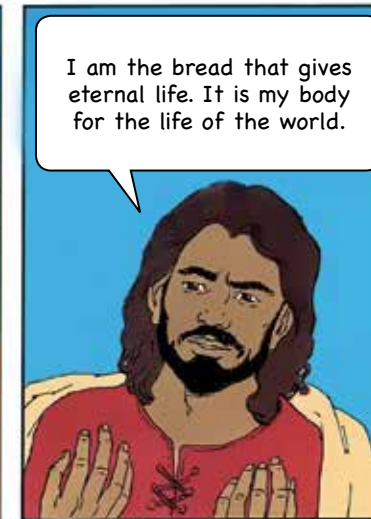


Master when did
you get here?

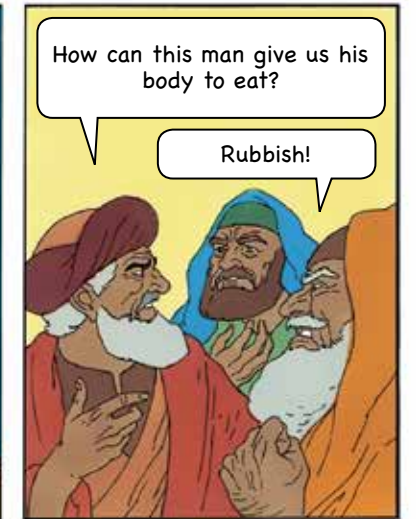
Are you looking
for me because
of the bread I
gave you?



Don't worry about food that
disappears, but about the
food that lasts and gives
eternal life.



I am the bread that gives
eternal life. It is my body
for the life of the world.



How can this man give us his
body to eat?

Rubbish!



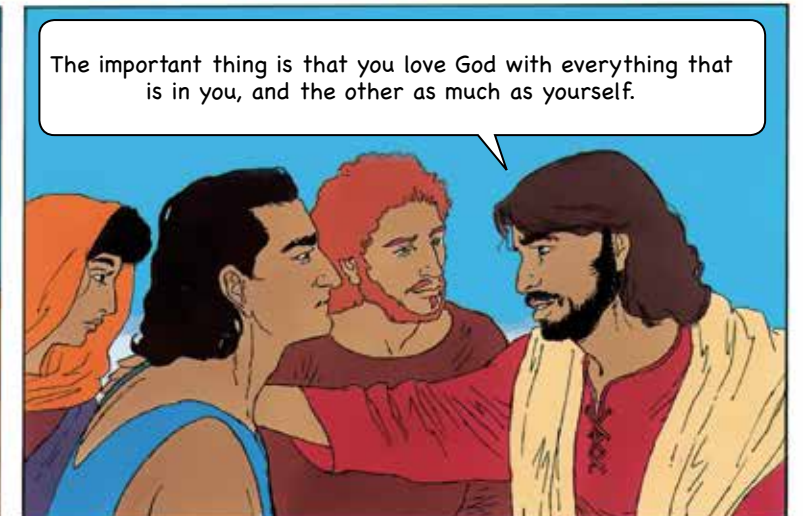
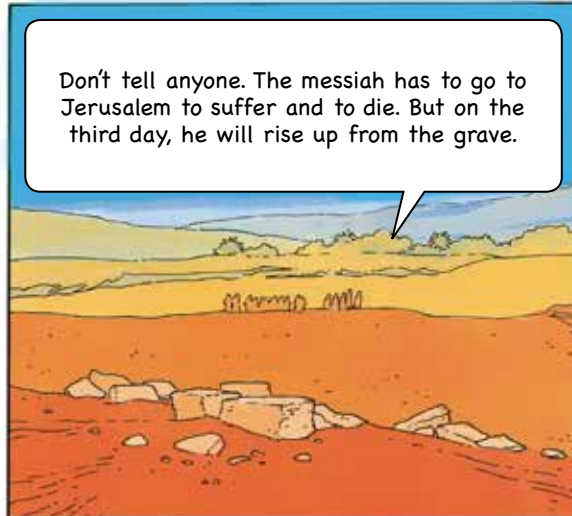
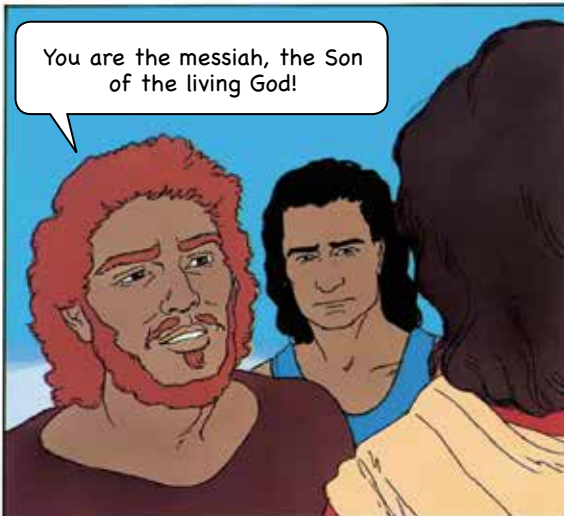
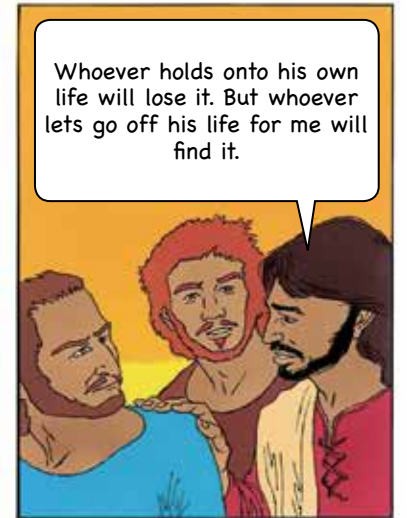
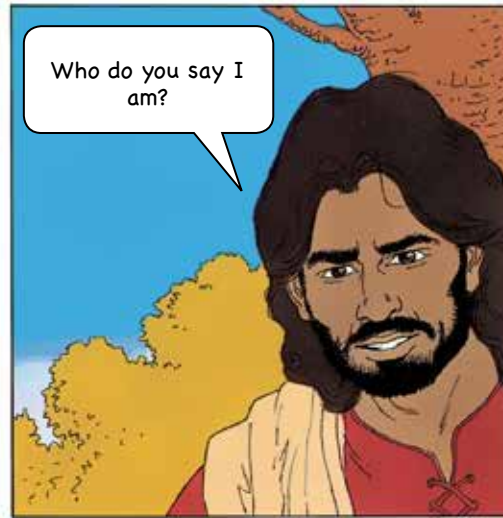
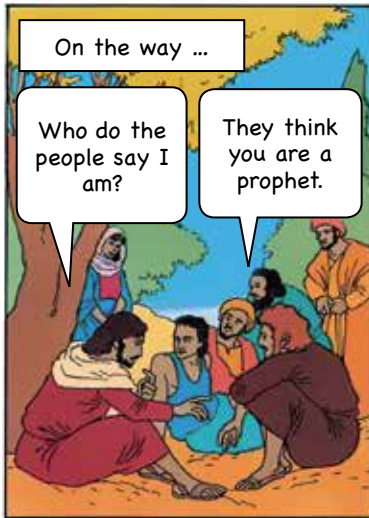
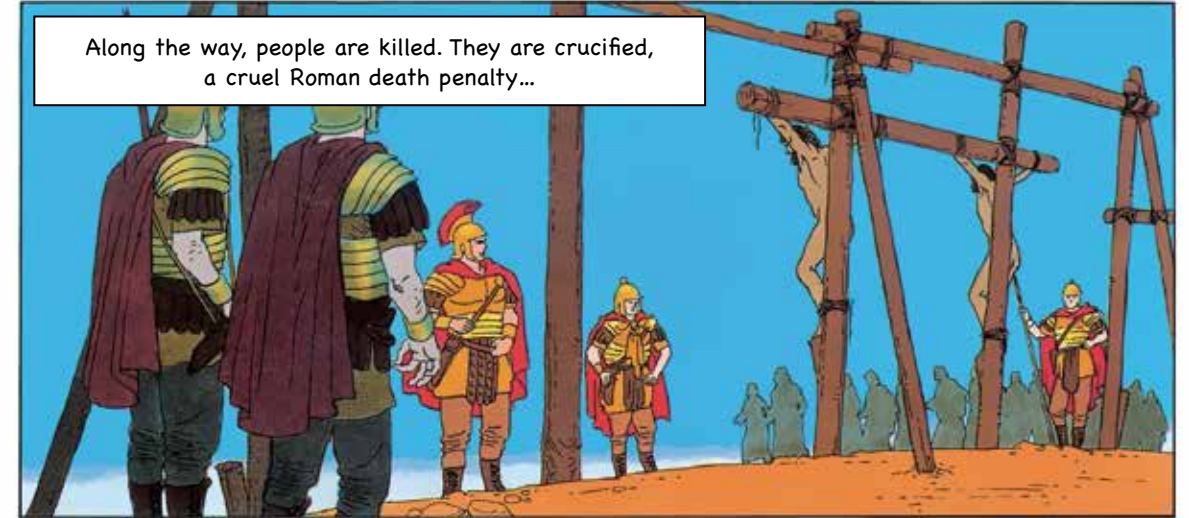
Go away!

He's just deceiving
everyone.



Don't you want
to go as well?

Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have words of
everlasting life!





In Israel, people with a skin disease are unclean according to the law. They live separated. They may not be touched by anyone...

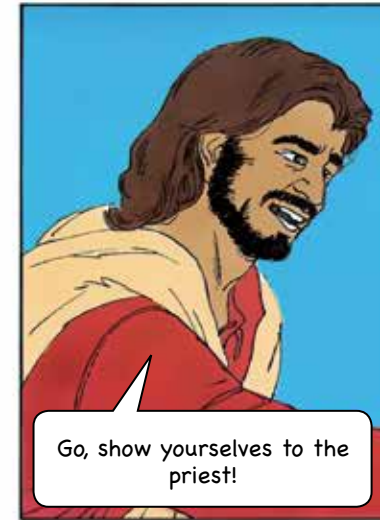


The sick must shout to warn they are coming...

Unclean! Unclean!



Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us.



Go, show yourselves to the priest!



Go to the priest? To be examined?

Will we be healed then?



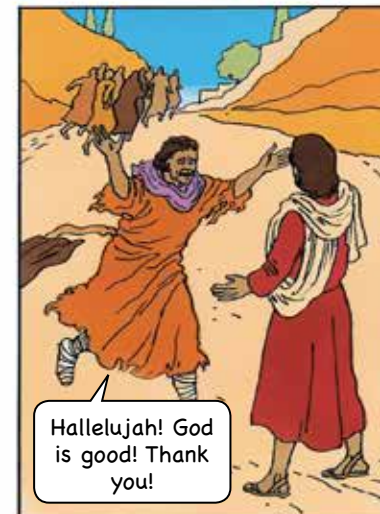
? !



Yes! Whole!



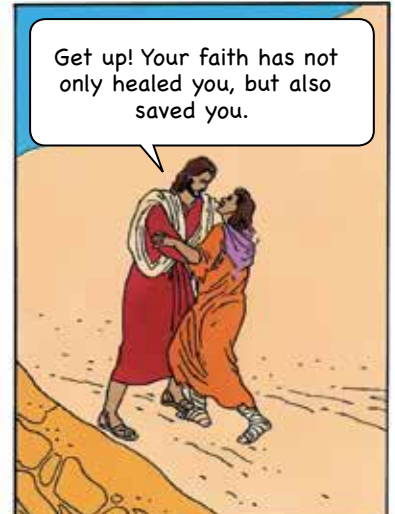
We are well! Come!



Hallelujah! God is good! Thank you!

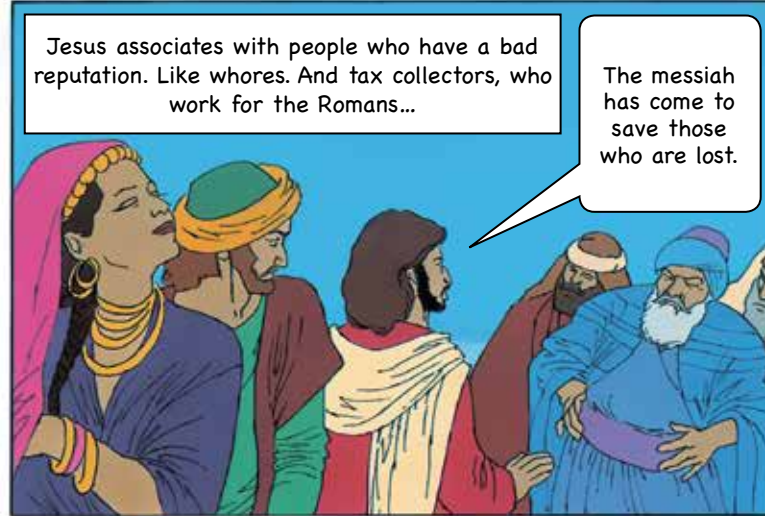


Were not all ten of you made clean? Where are the others to thank God?



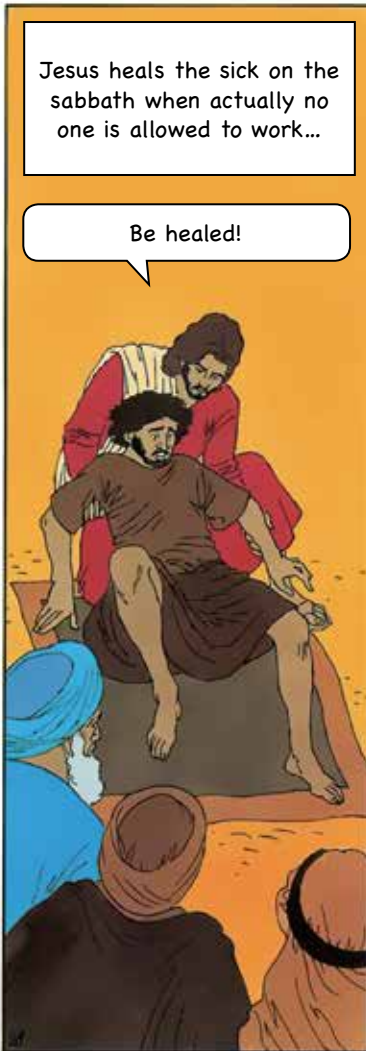
Get up! Your faith has not only healed you, but also saved you.

The religious leaders in Jerusalem send men to Jesus to hear him out. It can't be that he is only good. They want to catch him on something so they can accuse him...



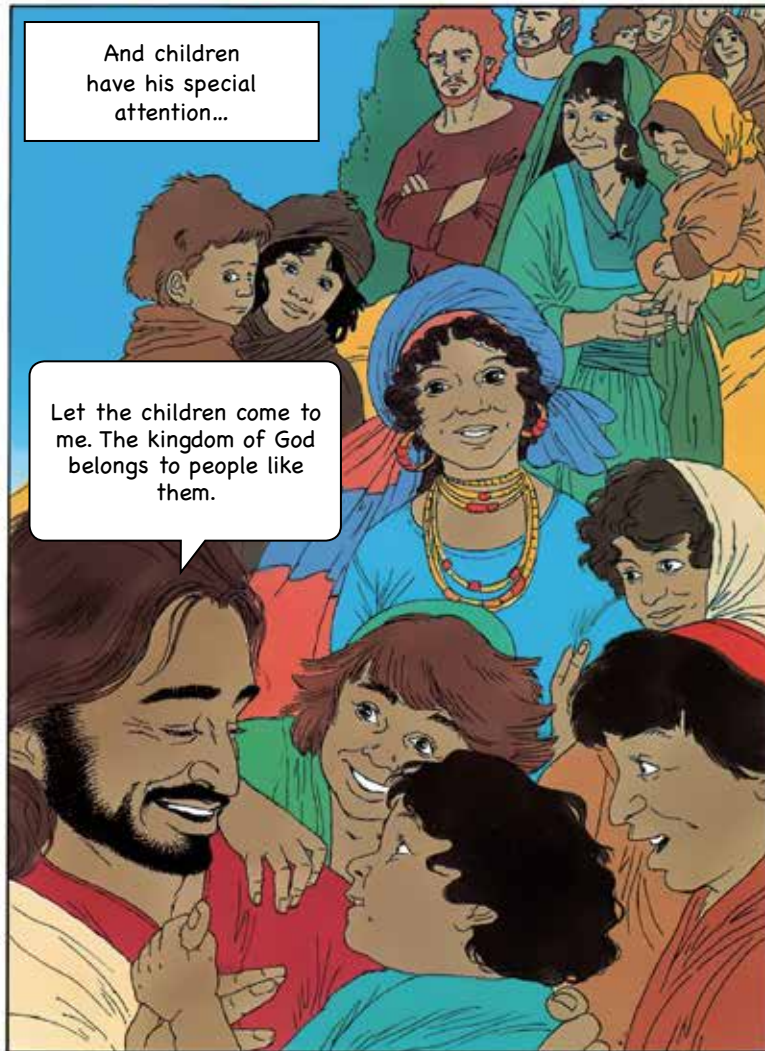
Jesus associates with people who have a bad reputation. Like whores. And tax collectors, who work for the Romans...

The messiah has come to save those who are lost.



Jesus heals the sick on the sabbath when actually no one is allowed to work...

Be healed!



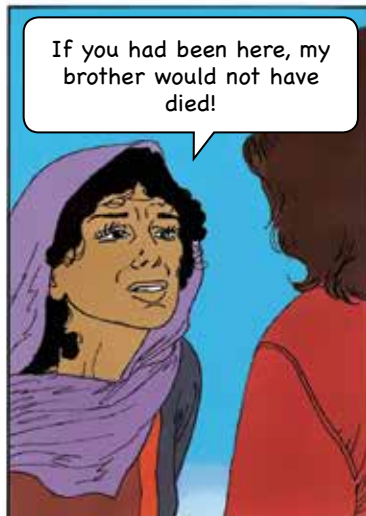
And children have his special attention...

Let the children come to me. The kingdom of God belongs to people like them.

Jesus is called to Bethany, a village near Jerusalem. Lazarus is ill. He and his sisters, Martha and Mary, are friends of Jesus. When Jesus arrives in the village, he hears that Lazarus was buried four days ago...



Lord!



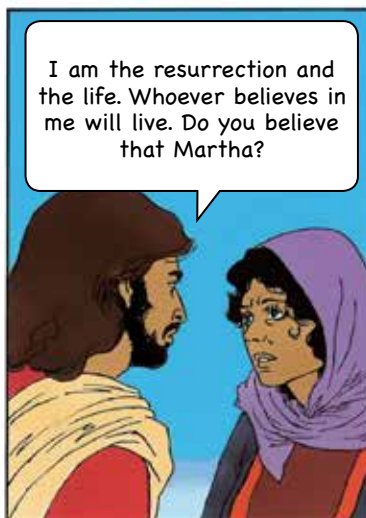
If you had been here, my brother would not have died!



Your brother shall rise again, Martha.



Yes, I know. He will live again at the resurrection on the last day.



I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live. Do you believe that Martha?

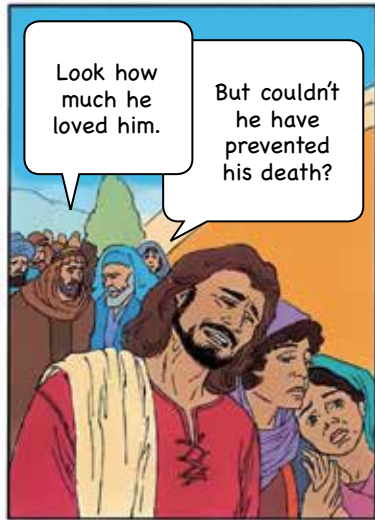


Yes Lord! I believe that you are the promised messiah who was to come. The Son of God.



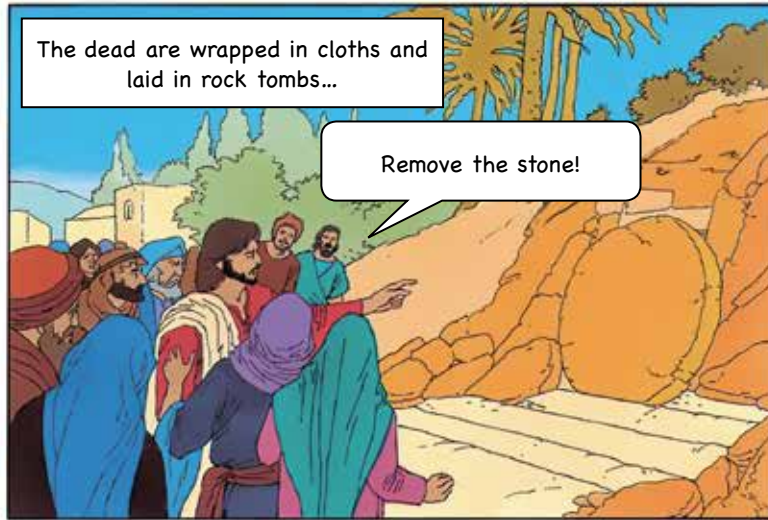
Where have you buried him?

Come and see, Lord!



Look how much he loved him.

But couldn't he have prevented his death?



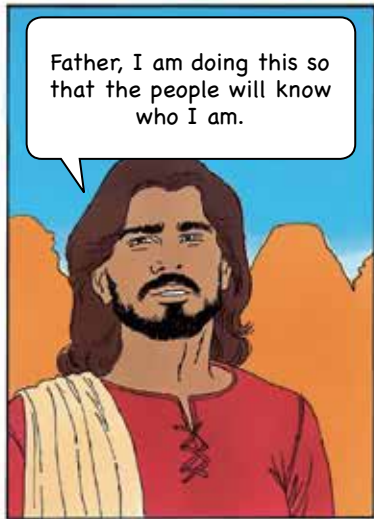
The dead are wrapped in cloths and laid in rock tombs...

Remove the stone!

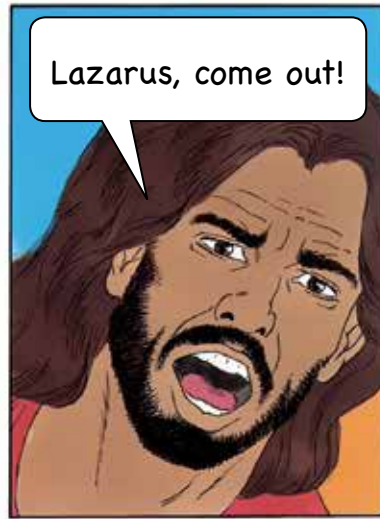


Lord, it will stink. It's already been four days...

You will see God's glory.



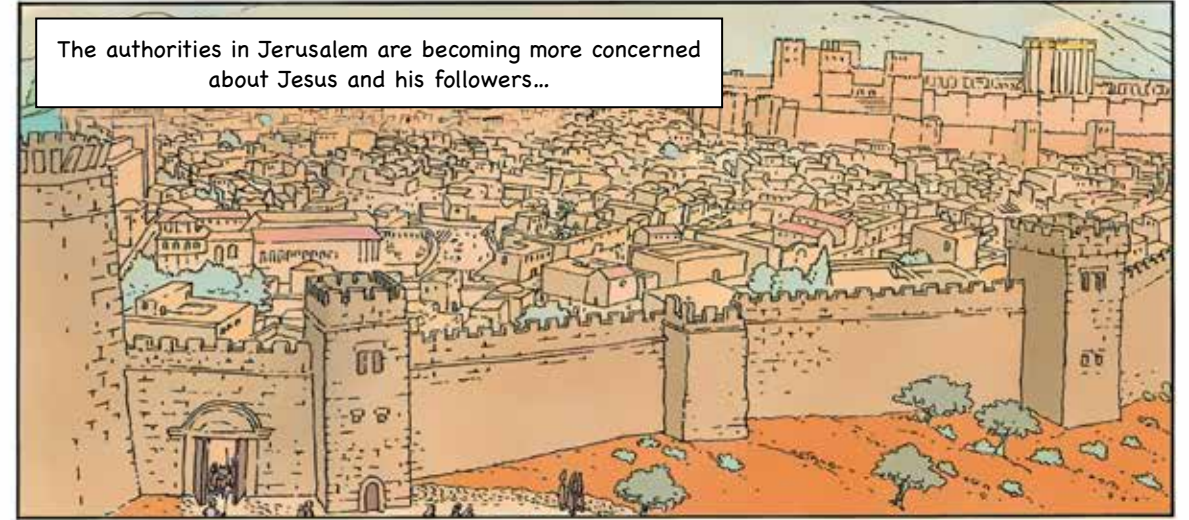
Father, I am doing this so that the people will know who I am.



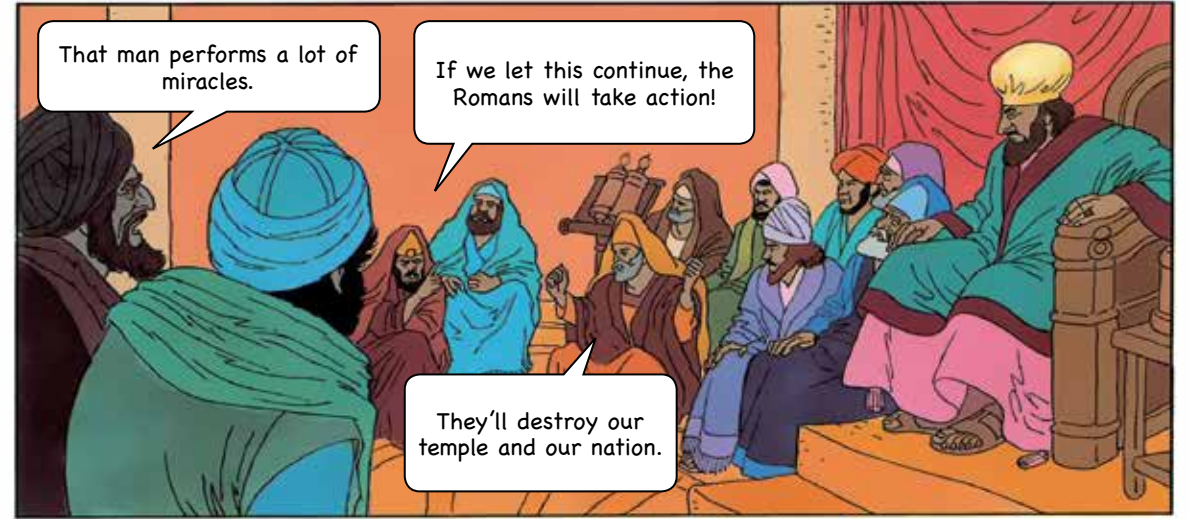
Lazarus, come out!



Loose him and let him go.



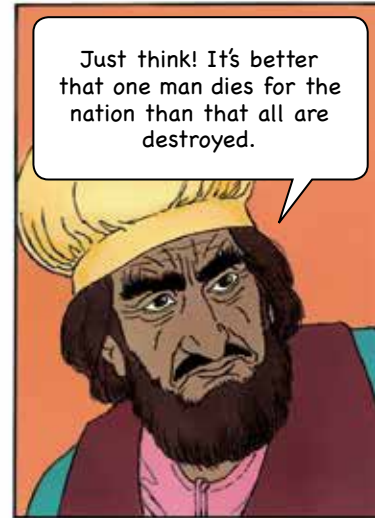
The authorities in Jerusalem are becoming more concerned about Jesus and his followers...



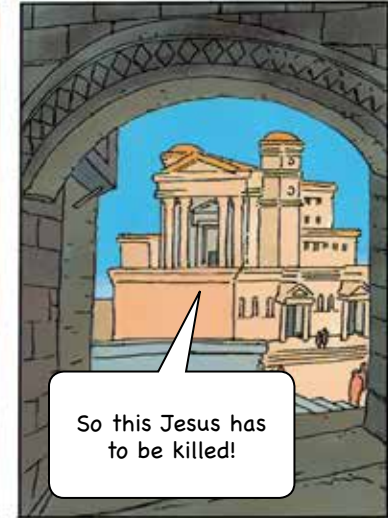
That man performs a lot of miracles.

If we let this continue, the Romans will take action!

They'll destroy our temple and our nation.

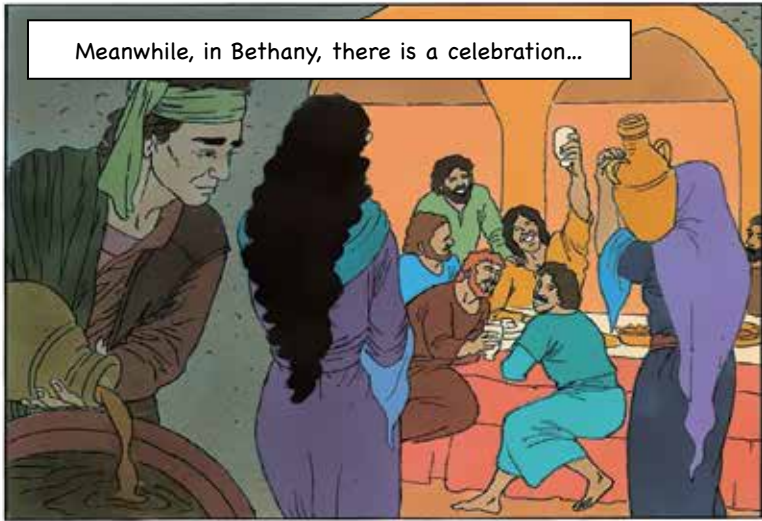


Just think! It's better that one man dies for the nation than that all are destroyed.

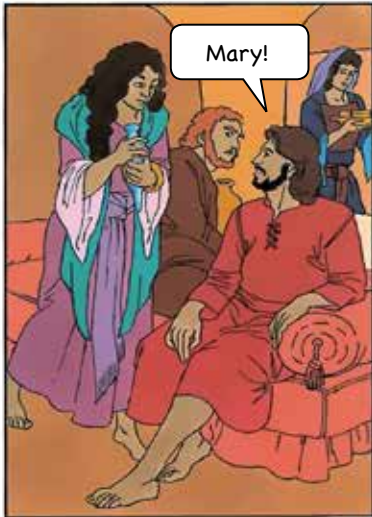


So this Jesus has to be killed!

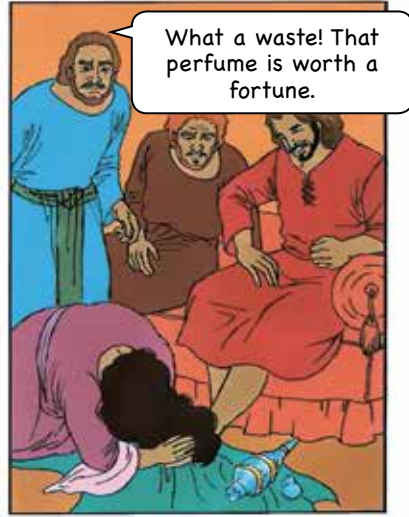
One man has to die for all men! That is why the religious leaders look for an opportunity to catch Jesus. He is on his way to Jerusalem. That is convenient. They want the Romans to sentence him to death...



Meanwhile, in Bethany, there is a celebration...



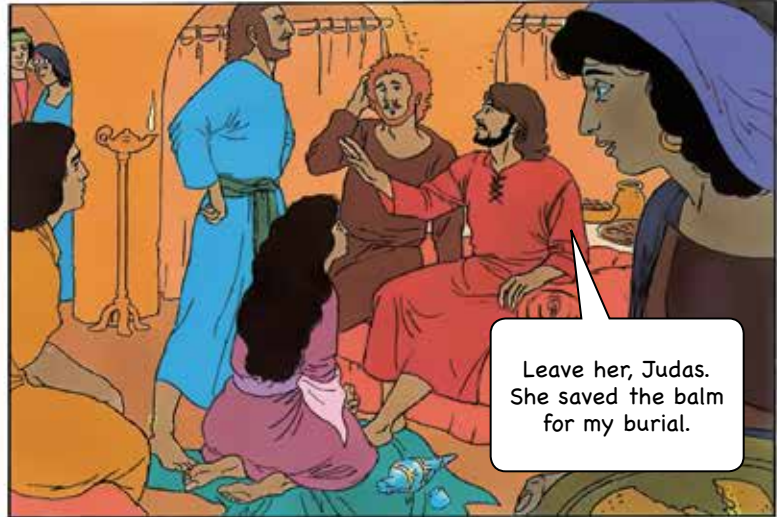
Mary!



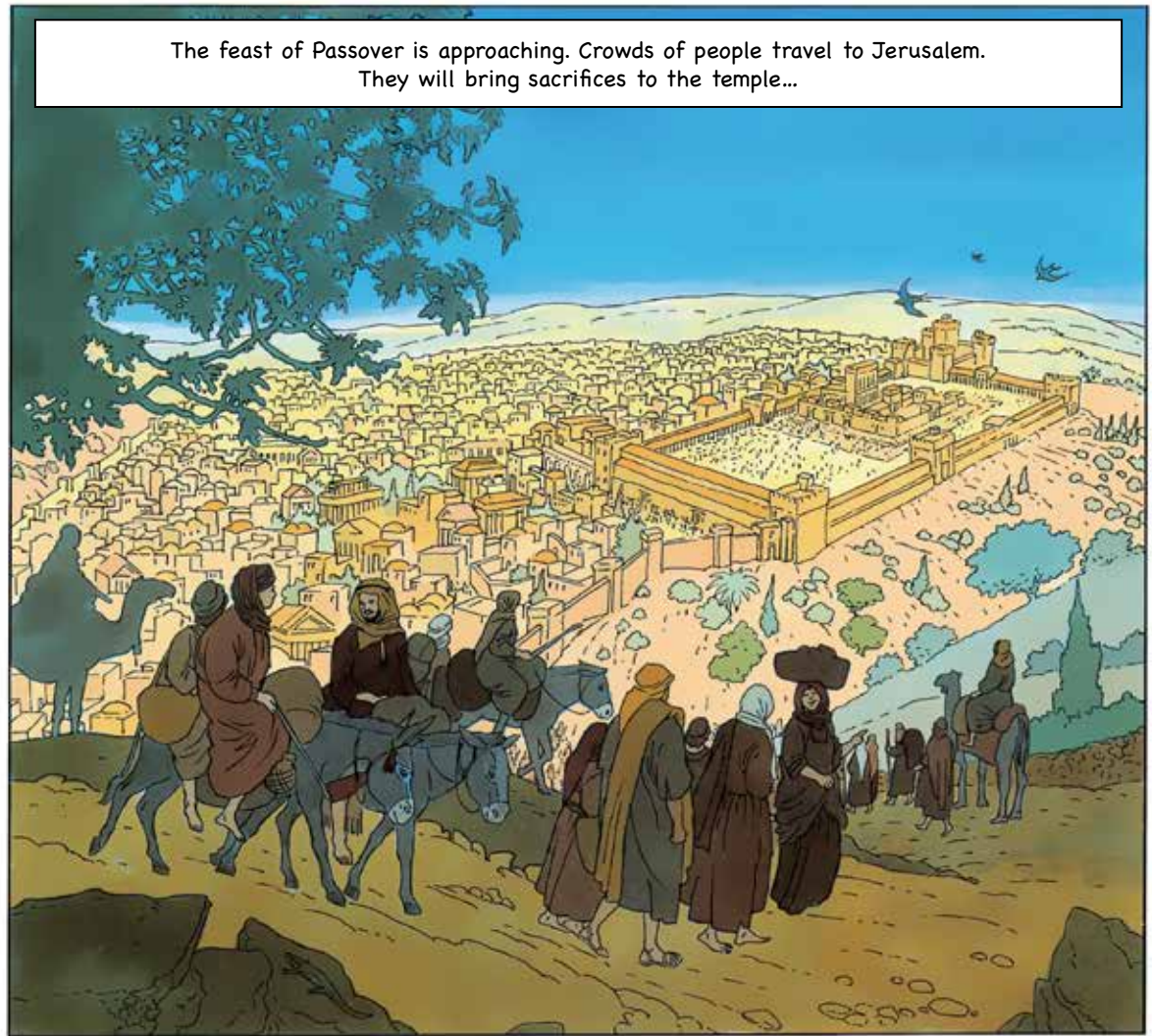
What a waste! That perfume is worth a fortune.



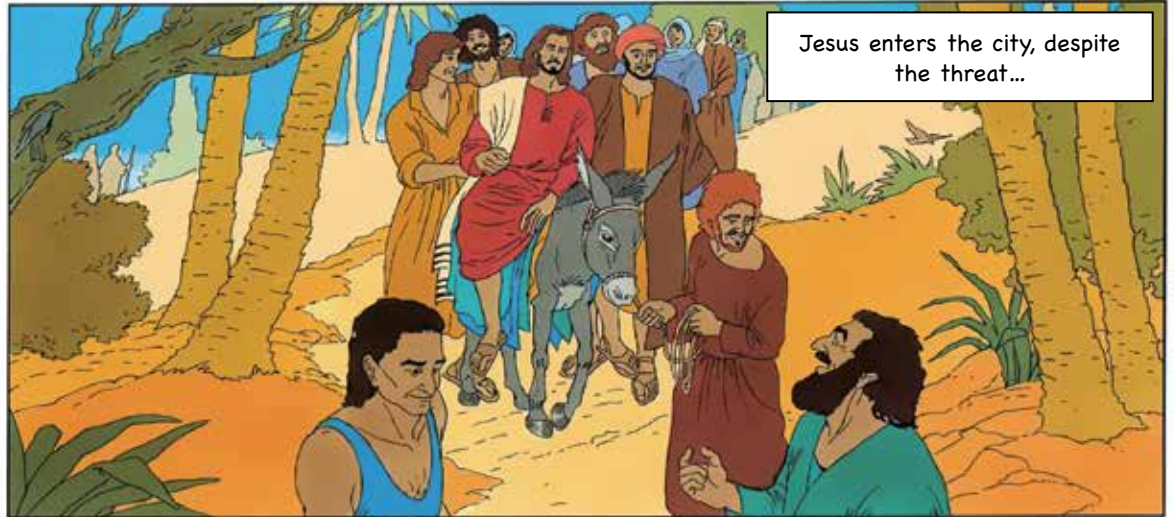
We could have sold it. We could have given the money to the poor.



Leave her, Judas. She saved the balm for my burial.



The feast of Passover is approaching. Crowds of people travel to Jerusalem. They will bring sacrifices to the temple...



Jesus enters the city, despite the threat...



The people cheer at him...

Hurray!

Hosanna!

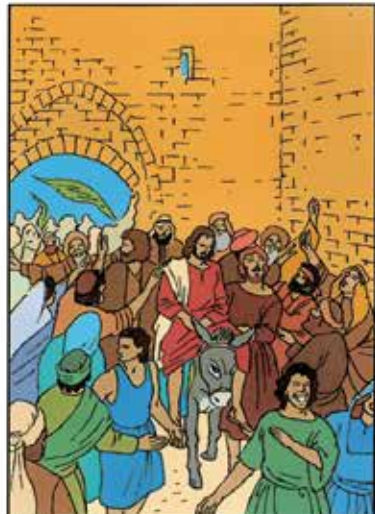


Long live the man who comes in God's name!

The king of Israel!

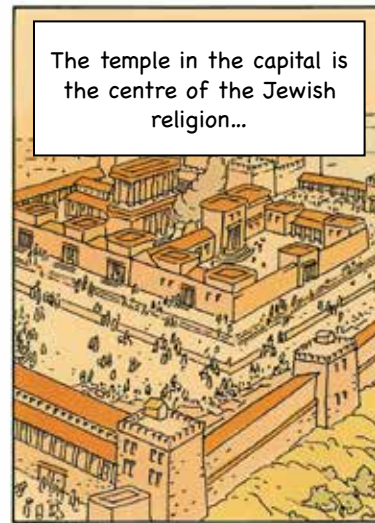


Jerusalem, if you just knew how to receive peace. But you don't want to.

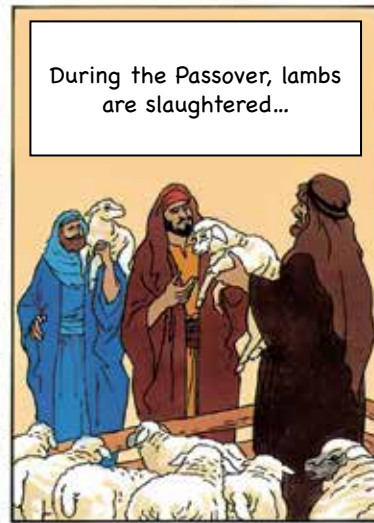


The whole world is following after him.

He has to stop this!



The temple in the capital is the centre of the Jewish religion...



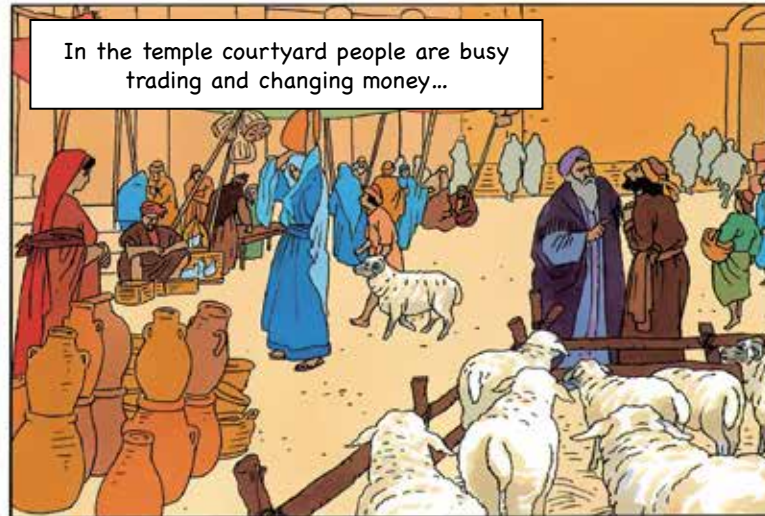
During the Passover, lambs are slaughtered...



They are sacrificed in the temple so people get rid of their sin...



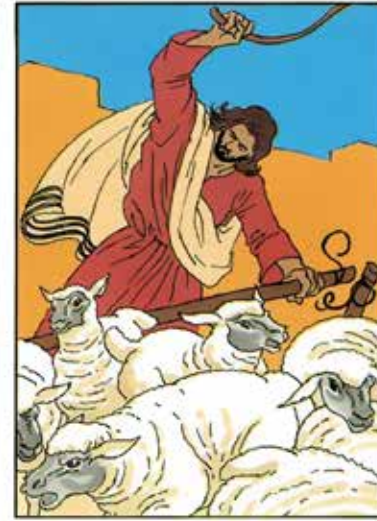
But what sacrificial lamb can really free people from guilt, shame and fear of judgment?



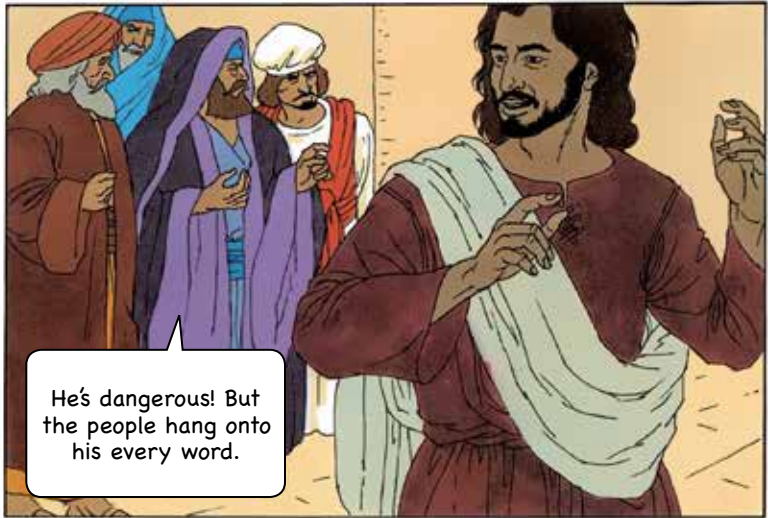
In the temple courtyard people are busy trading and changing money...



Suddenly, Jesus is there...



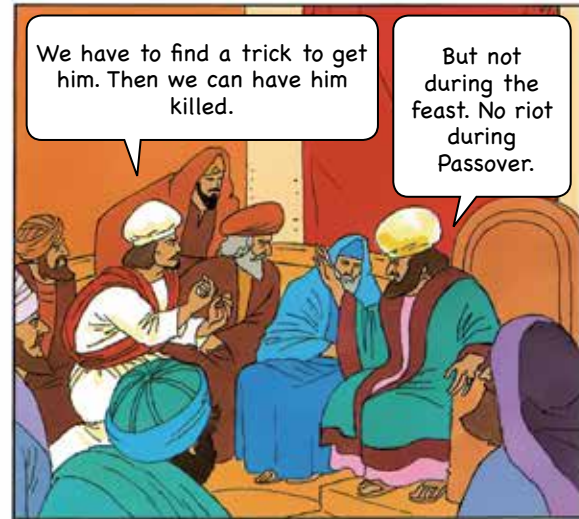
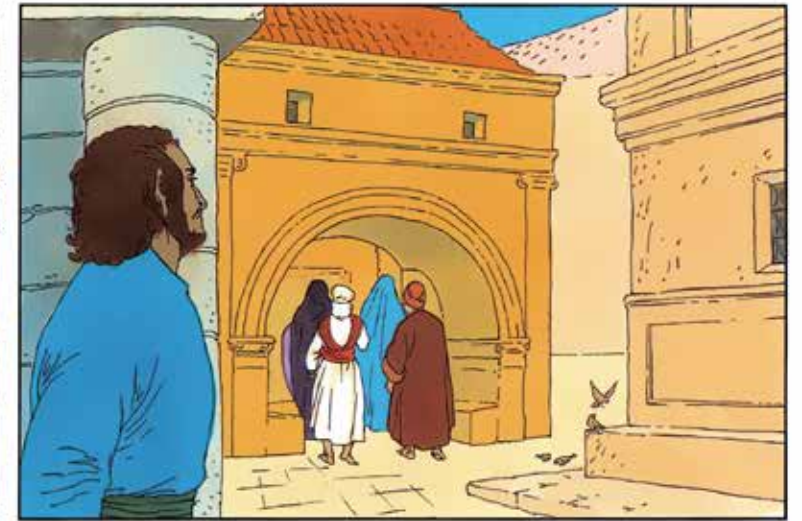
God's house should be a house of prayer. But you have made it into a den of thieves.



He's dangerous! But the people hang onto his every word.

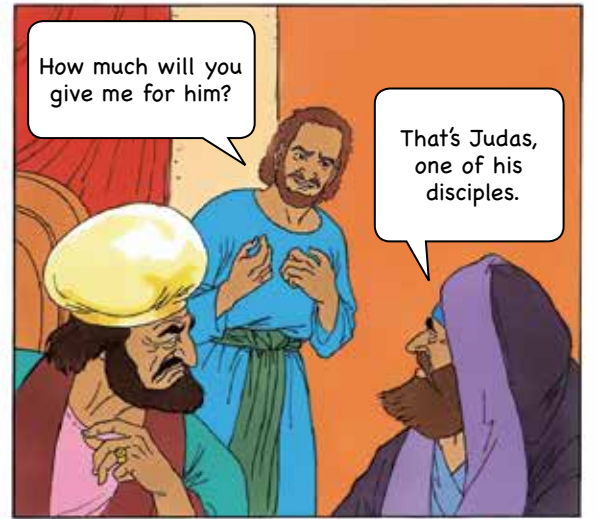


We must find a good moment to get rid of him.



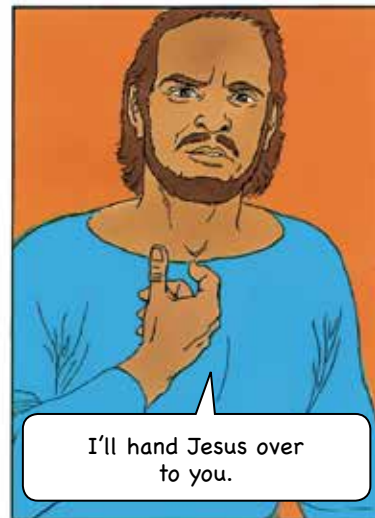
We have to find a trick to get him. Then we can have him killed.

But not during the feast. No riot during Passover.

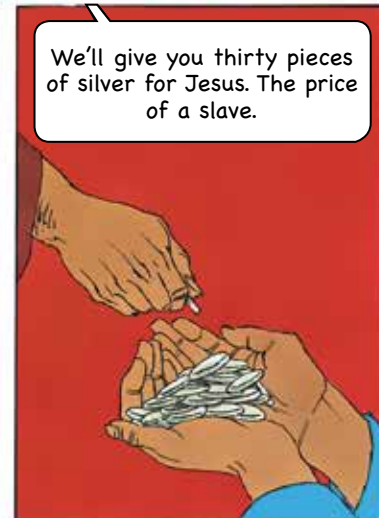


How much will you give me for him?

That's Judas, one of his disciples.



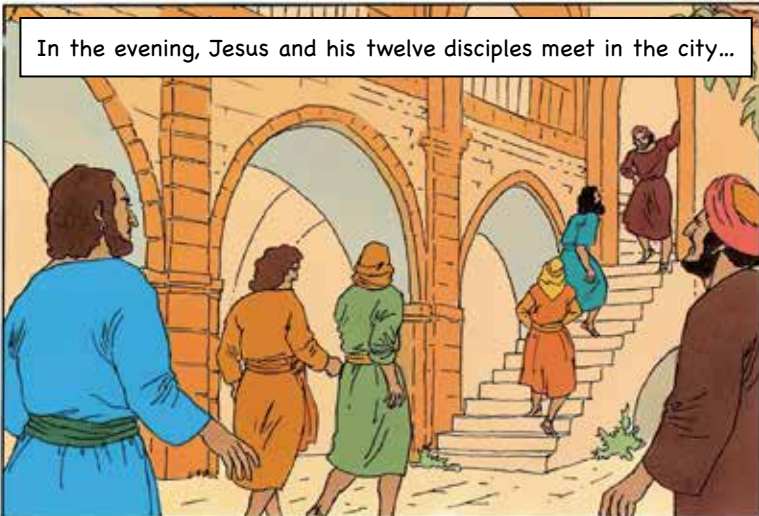
I'll hand Jesus over to you.



We'll give you thirty pieces of silver for Jesus. The price of a slave.



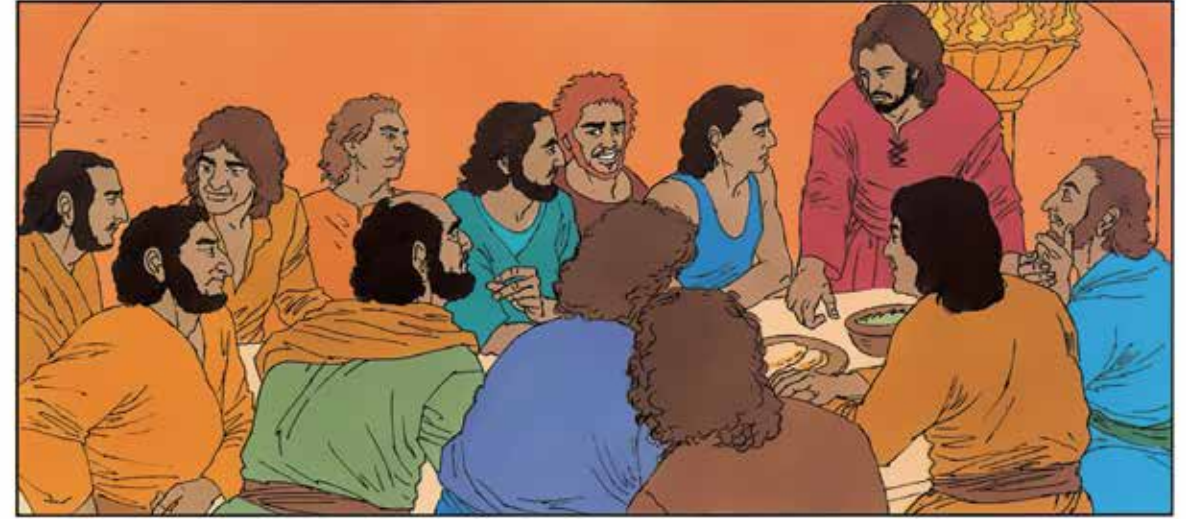
In the days before Passover Jesus speaks to the people in the temple. He predicts that Jerusalem will fall. Everyone will have to flee. But he will keep on loving the people. Then he asks Peter and John to prepare the Passover meal...



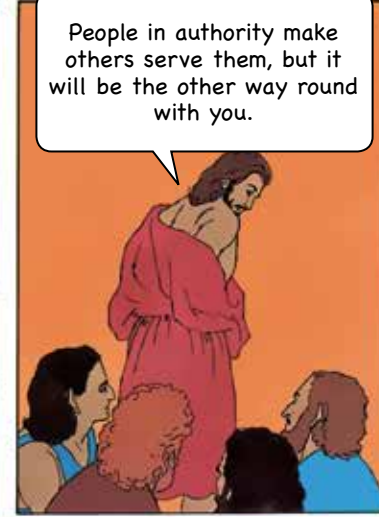
In the evening, Jesus and his twelve disciples meet in the city...



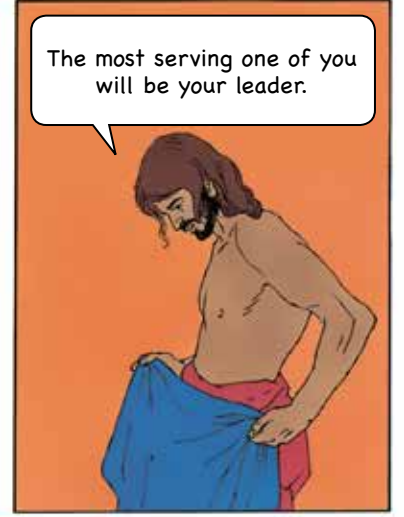
I'll do it tonight.



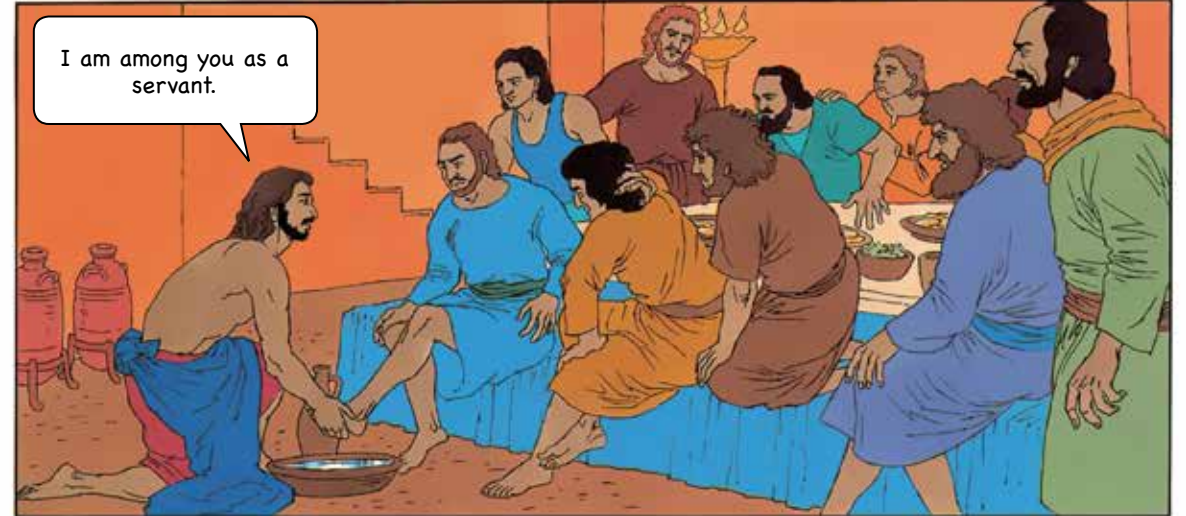
I've looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I suffer.



People in authority make others serve them, but it will be the other way round with you.



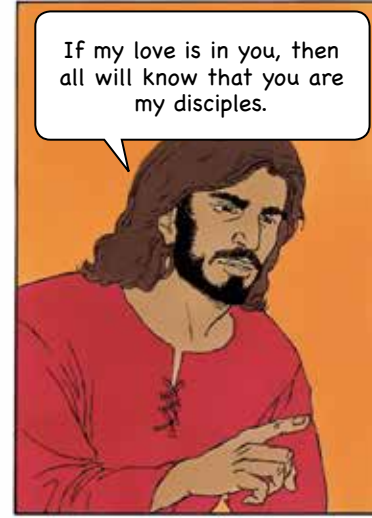
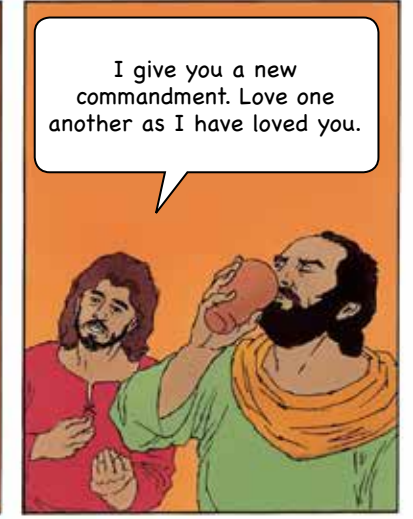
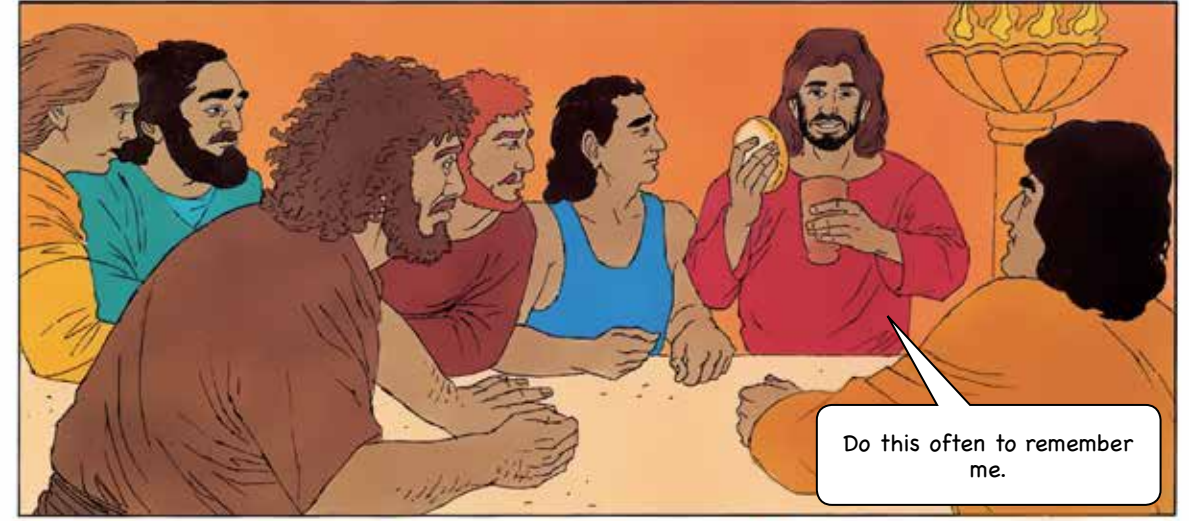
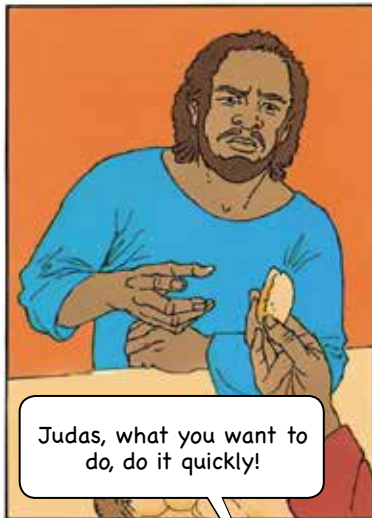
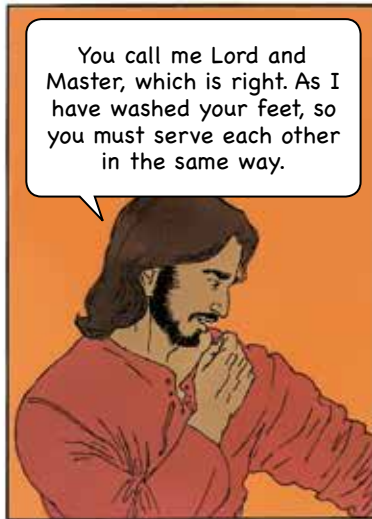
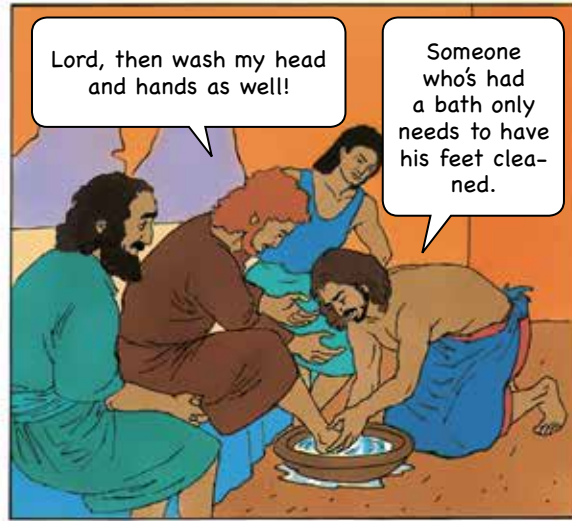
The most serving one of you will be your leader.



I am among you as a servant.



If I can not wash you, Peter, you don't belong to me.



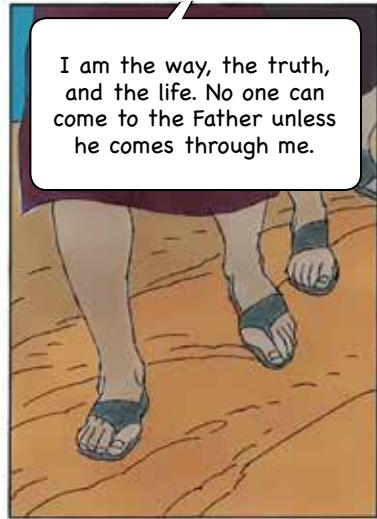


Later that evening, Jesus and his disciples leave the city. Judas isn't with them...

I'm going to leave you, but the Father will send his holy Spirit to you. He'll help you and will always be with you.



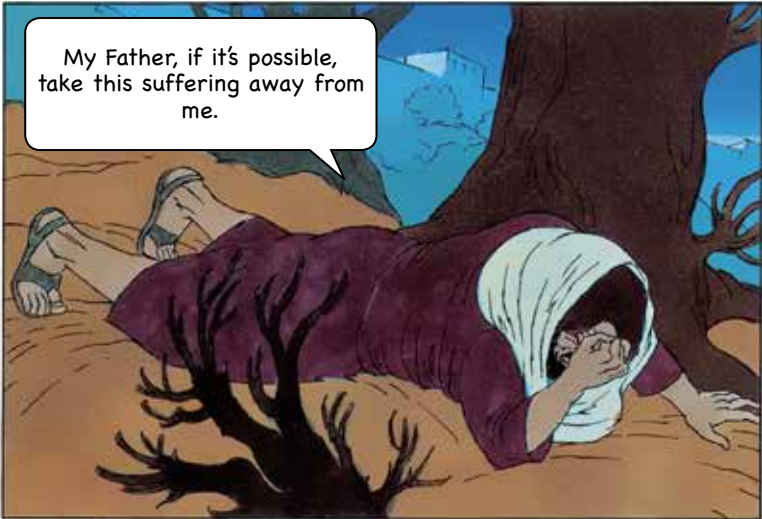
You know the way to the place I'm going.



I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father unless he comes through me.



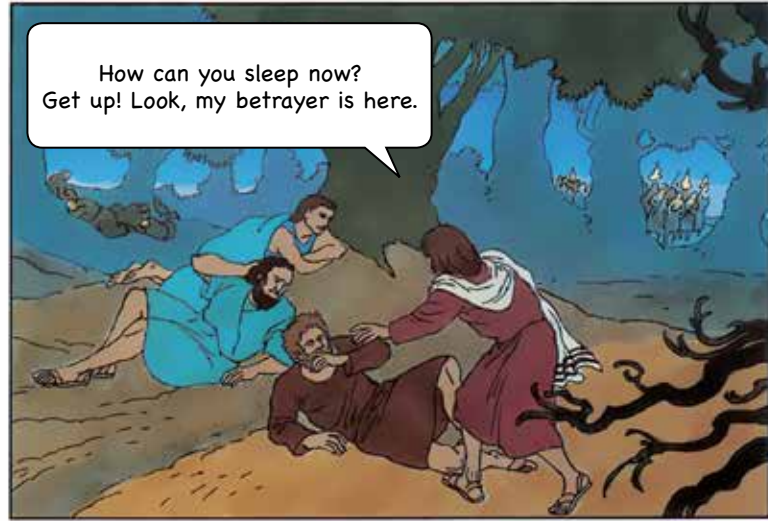
You stay here. I am going a little further to pray.



My Father, if it's possible, take this suffering away from me.



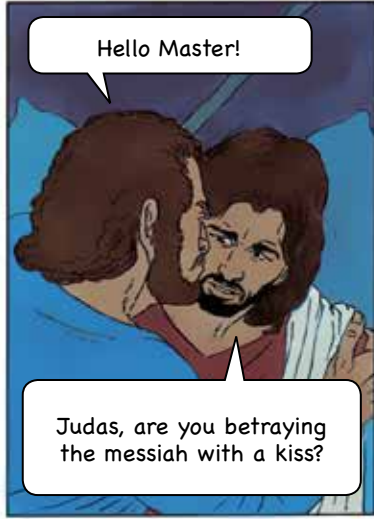
But not my will but your will must be done!



How can you sleep now? Get up! Look, my betrayer is here.



Grab the one I kiss.



Hello Master!

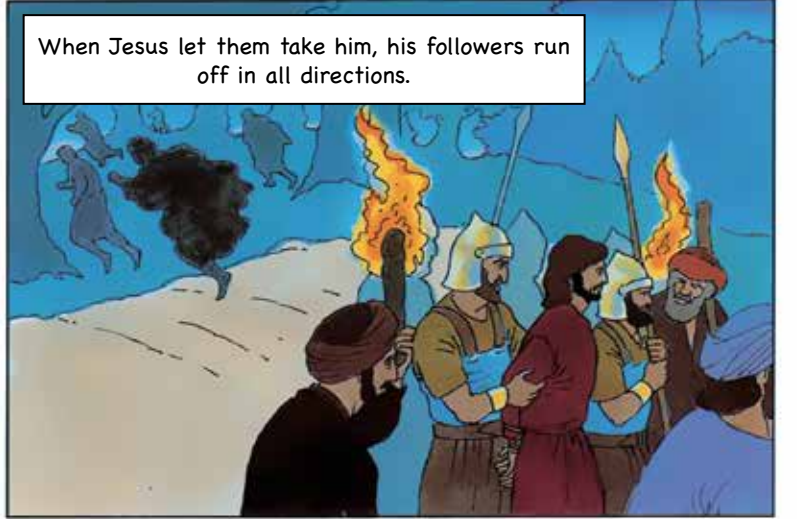
Judas, are you betraying the messiah with a kiss?



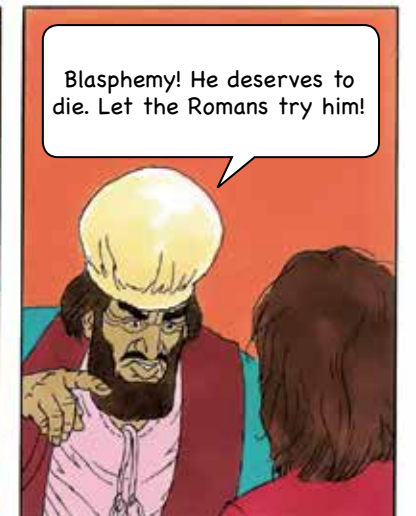
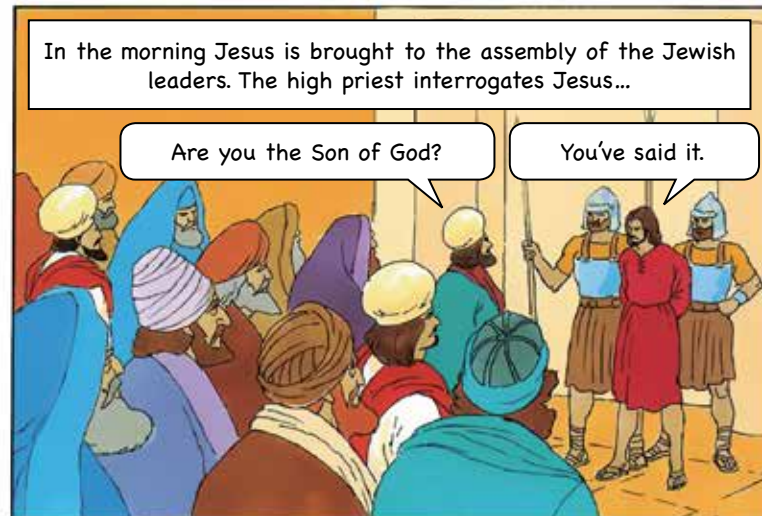
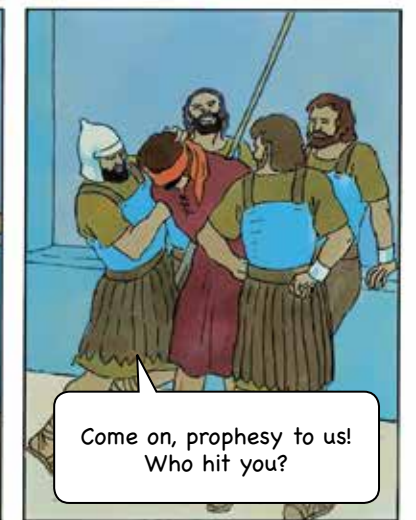
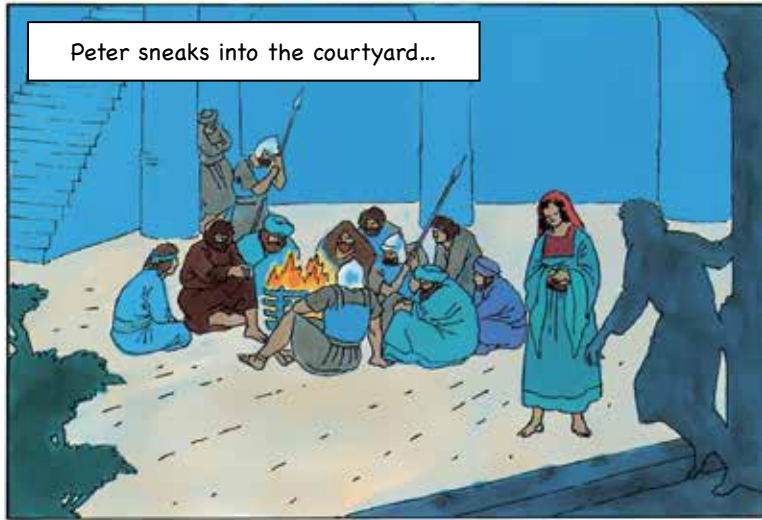
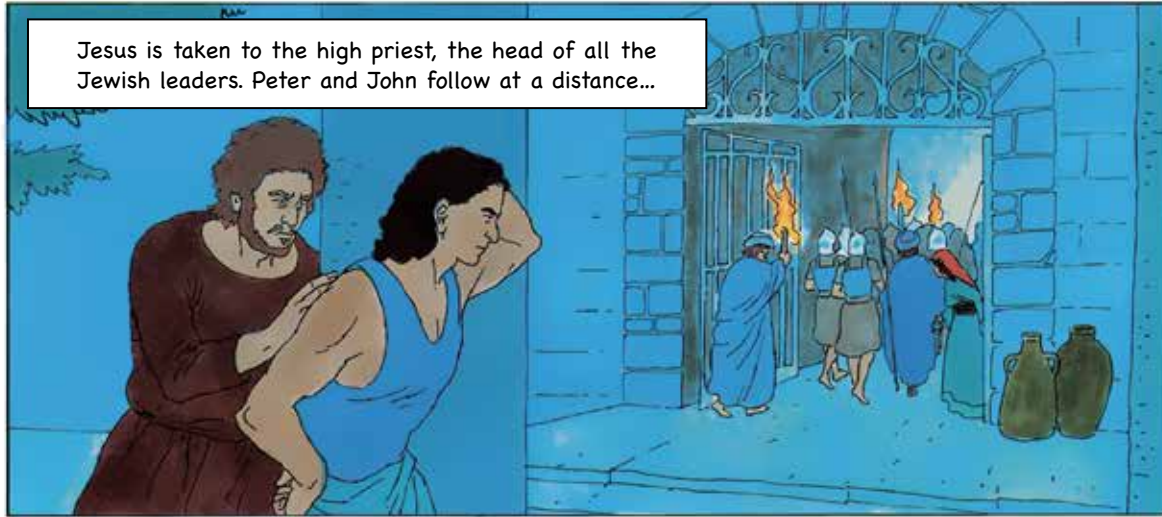
Lord, shall we fight?



Stop!



When Jesus let them take him, his followers run off in all directions.





Jesus is brought to the Roman governor, Pilate. The Jewish leaders stir up those watching. They shout all kinds of accusations...

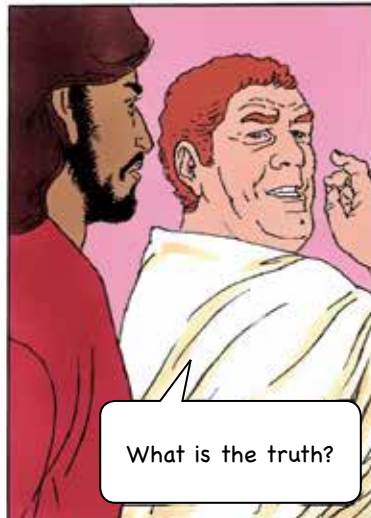


What do you say to all these accusations? Nothing?



What have you done?

I've come to testify to the truth.



What is the truth?

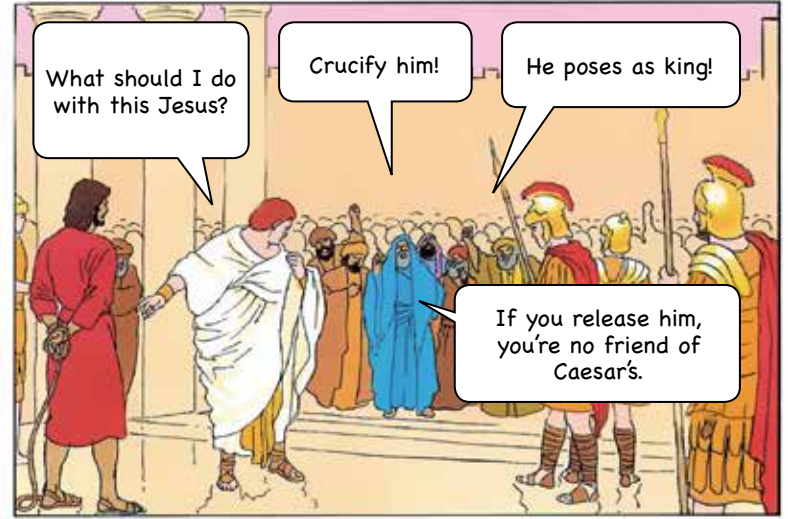


I find no fault with him. It's the feast of the Passover. Who shall I release: Barabbas or the king of the Jews?



Barabbas!

Set Barabbas free!

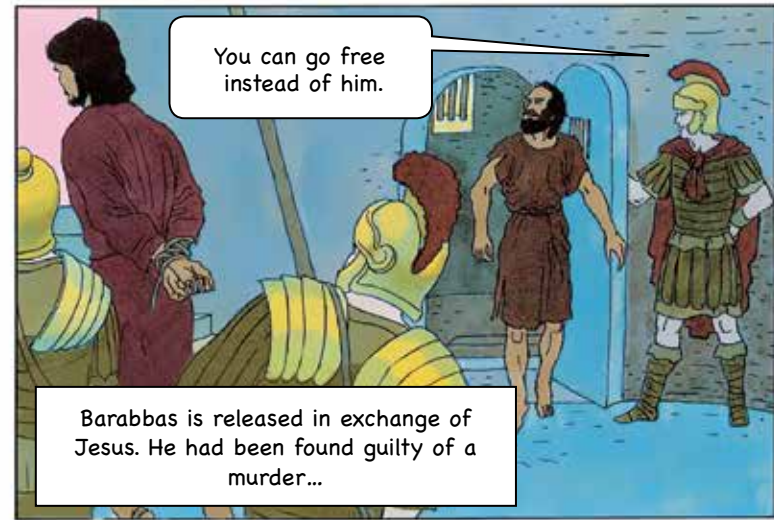


What should I do with this Jesus?

Crucify him!

He poses as king!

If you release him, you're no friend of Caesar's.



You can go free instead of him.

Barabbas is released in exchange of Jesus. He had been found guilty of a murder...



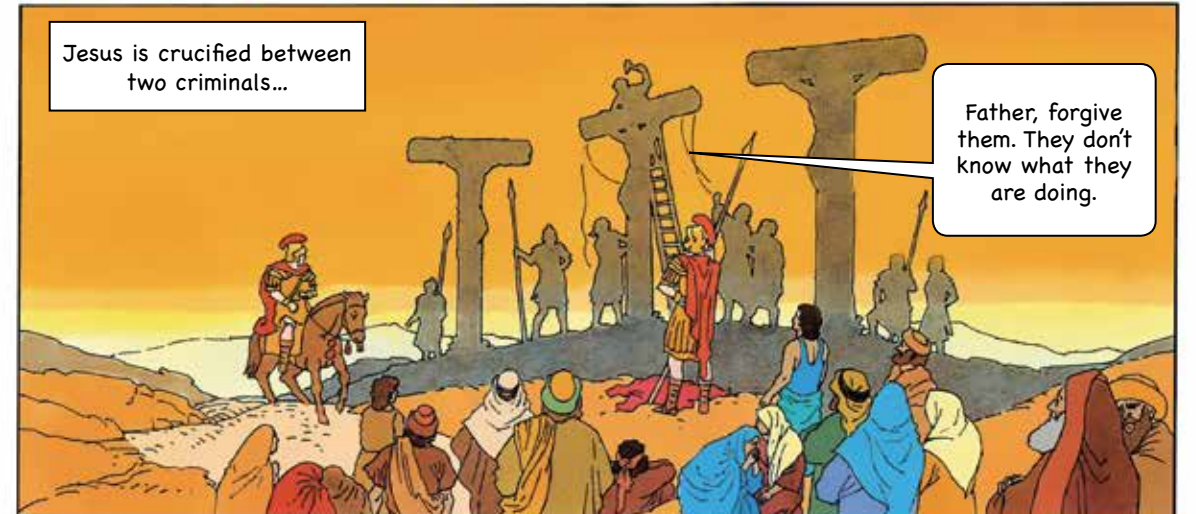
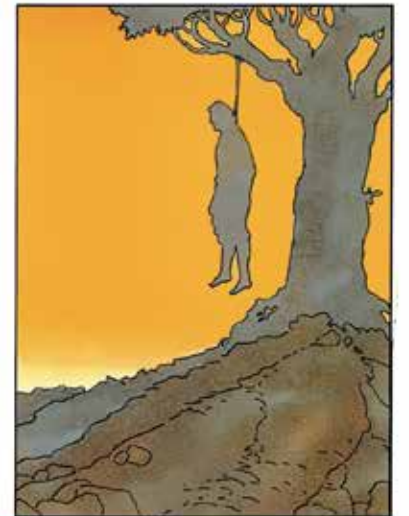
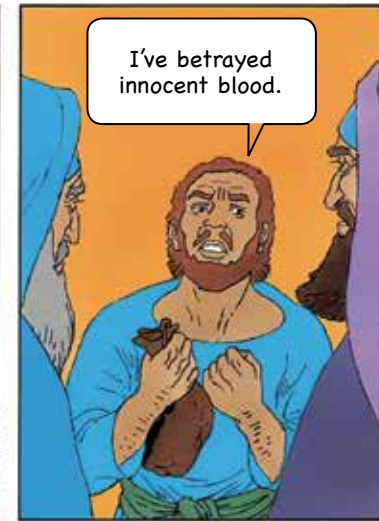
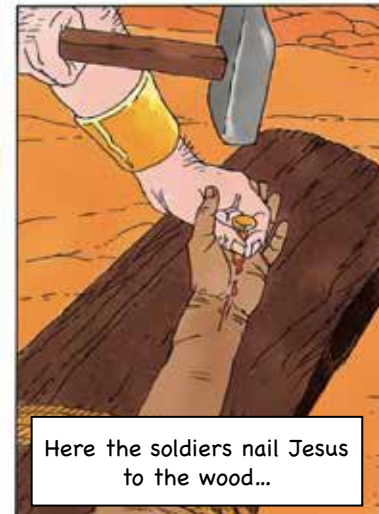
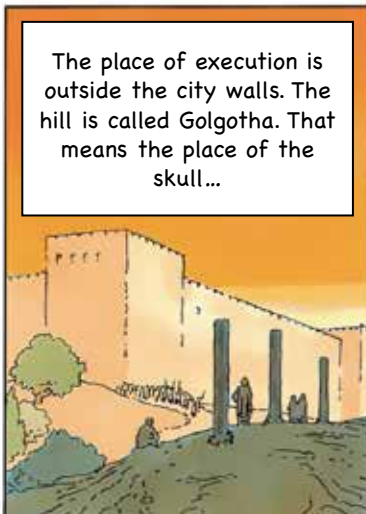
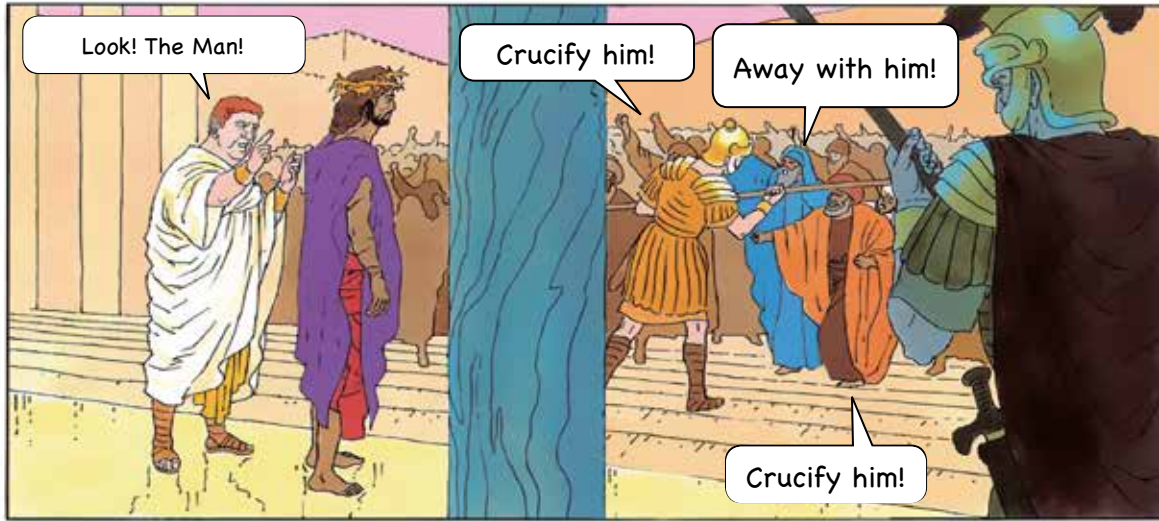
... 37, 38, 39!

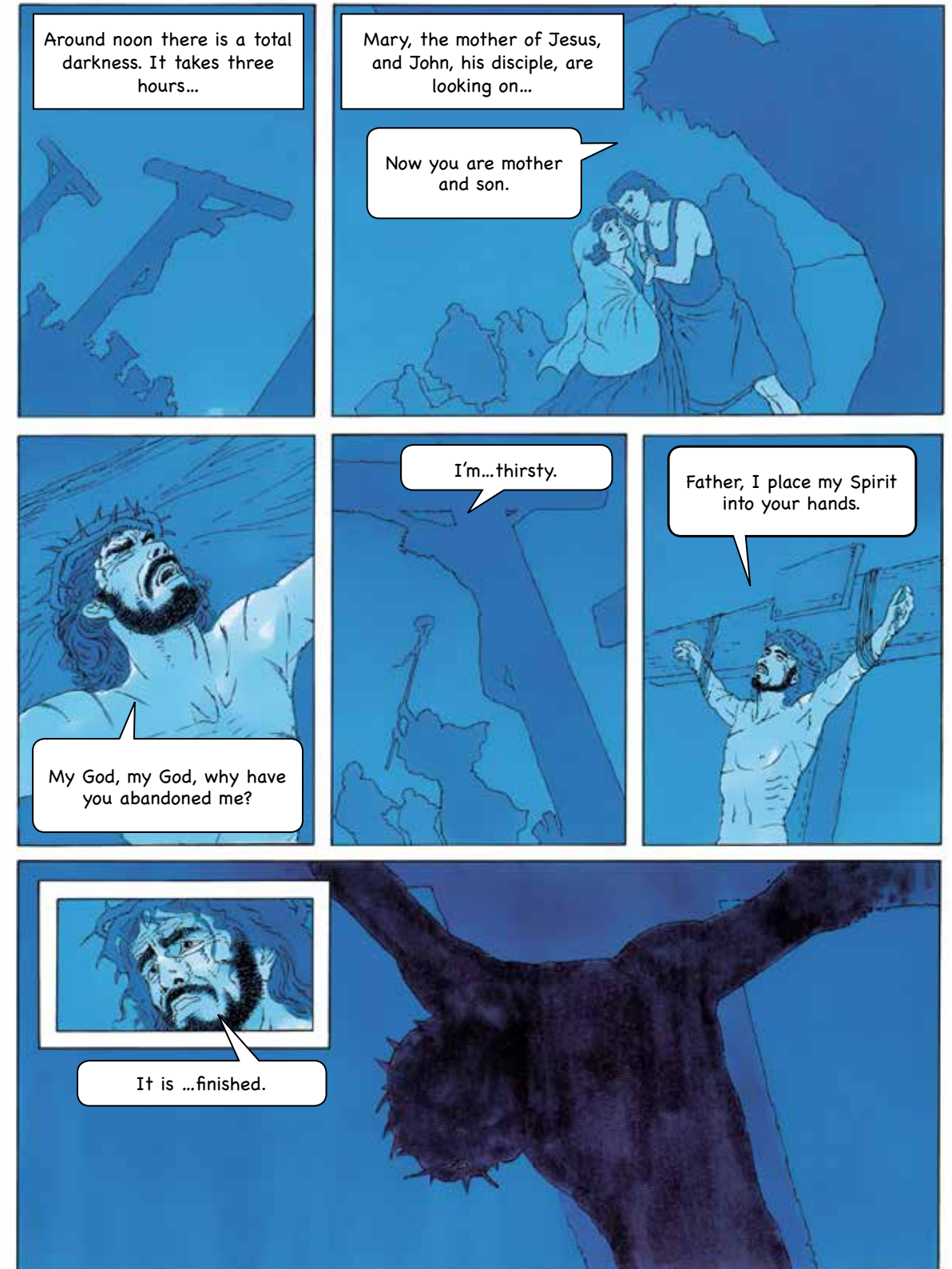
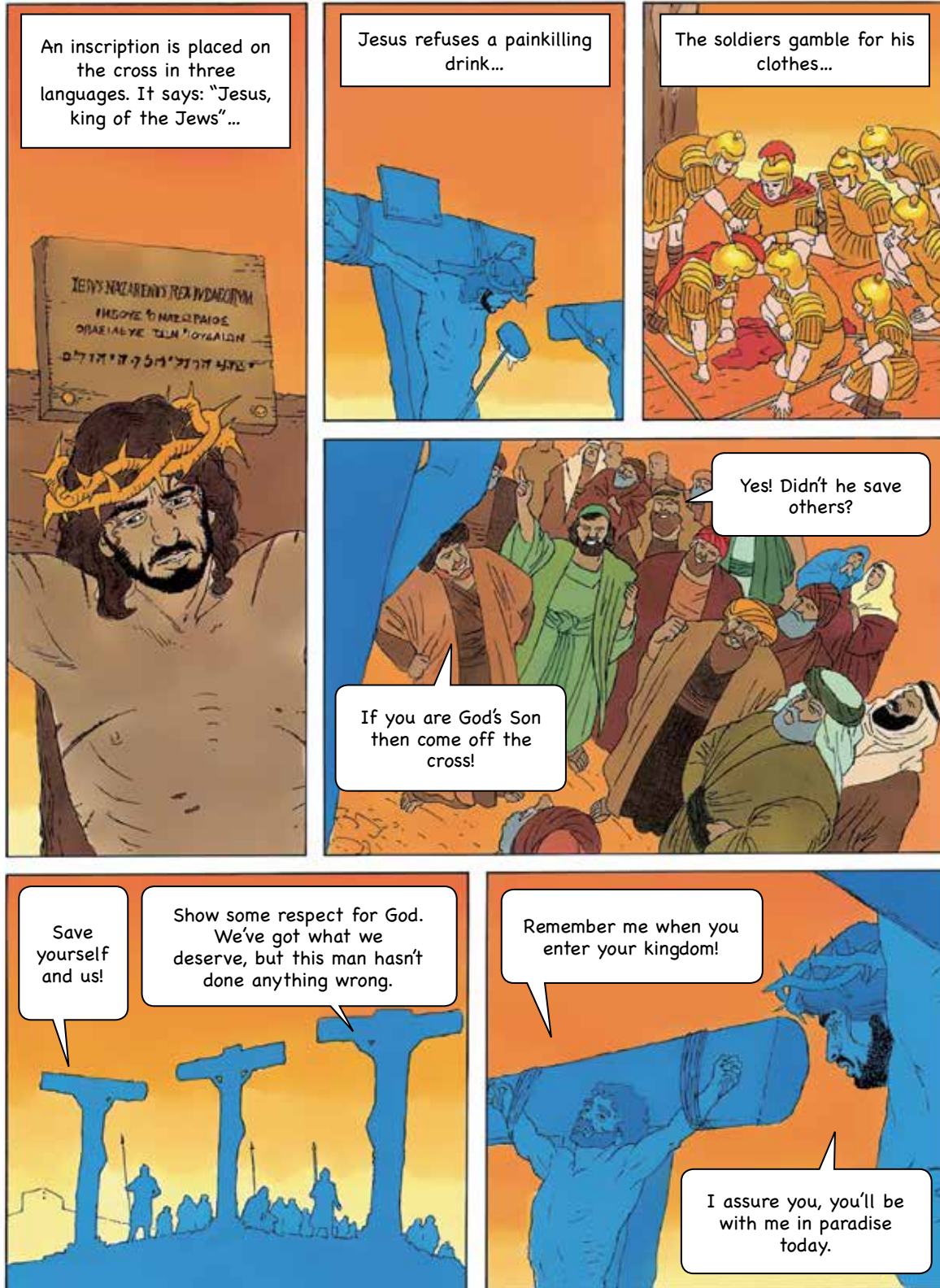


I am innocent of his blood.



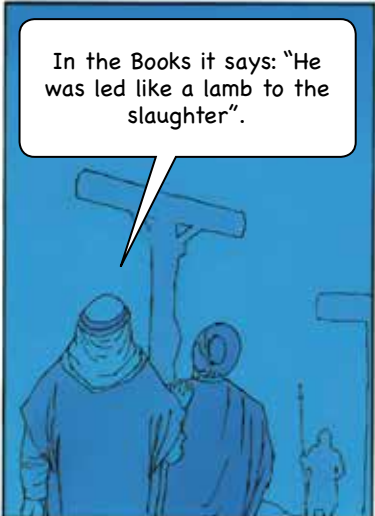
Hail, king of the Jews!







Jesus dies at three in the afternoon. One soldier pierces Jesus' side. Water and blood flow out. His heart is broken...



In the Books it says: "He was led like a lamb to the slaughter".



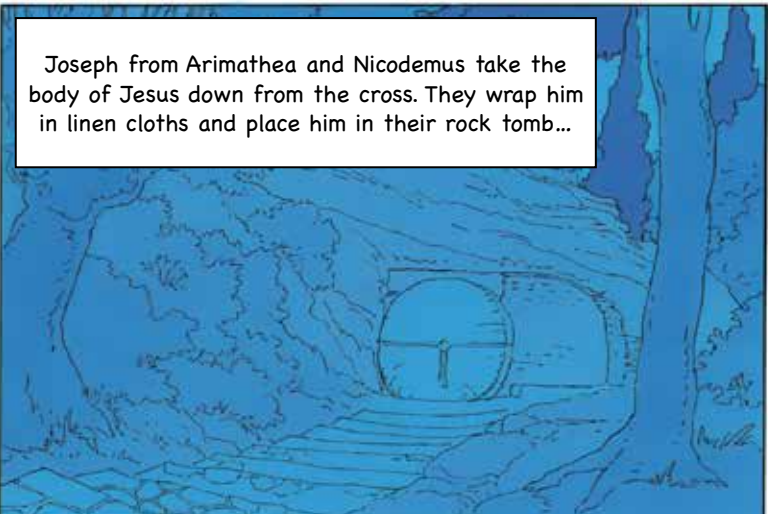
"He was maltreated for our faults, killed for our sins".



Was he the messiah who was to come or not?



Come, we'll ask if we can bury him.



Joseph from Arimathea and Nicodemus take the body of Jesus down from the cross. They wrap him in linen cloths and place him in their rock tomb...



After the days of rest that are set for Passover, some women go to the tomb ...



The stone has been rolled away!



Why do you look for the living one among the dead? He has risen. Go and tell his disciples!



When they hear this, Peter and John run to the tomb...



What happened?



It's completely empty.



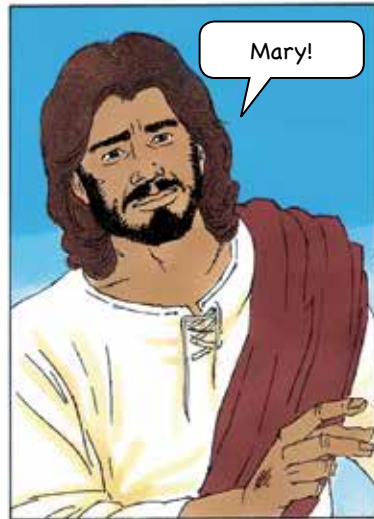
Outside, in the garden...



Woman, why are you crying?
Who are you looking for?



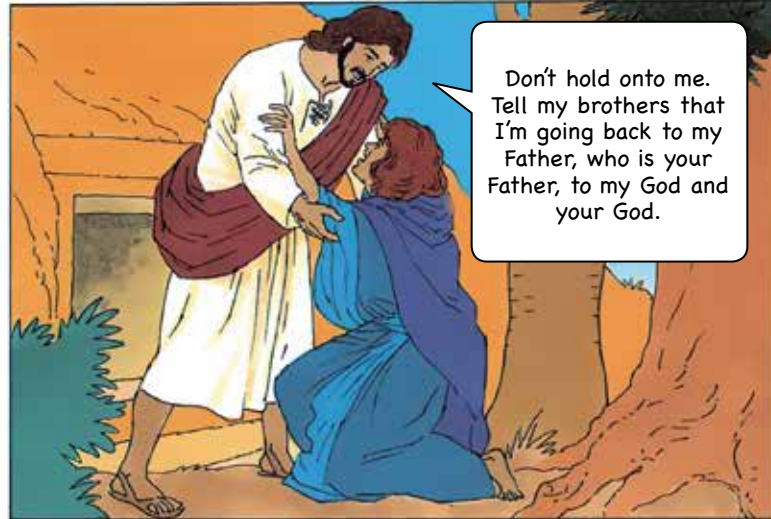
Gardener, have you taken
him away?



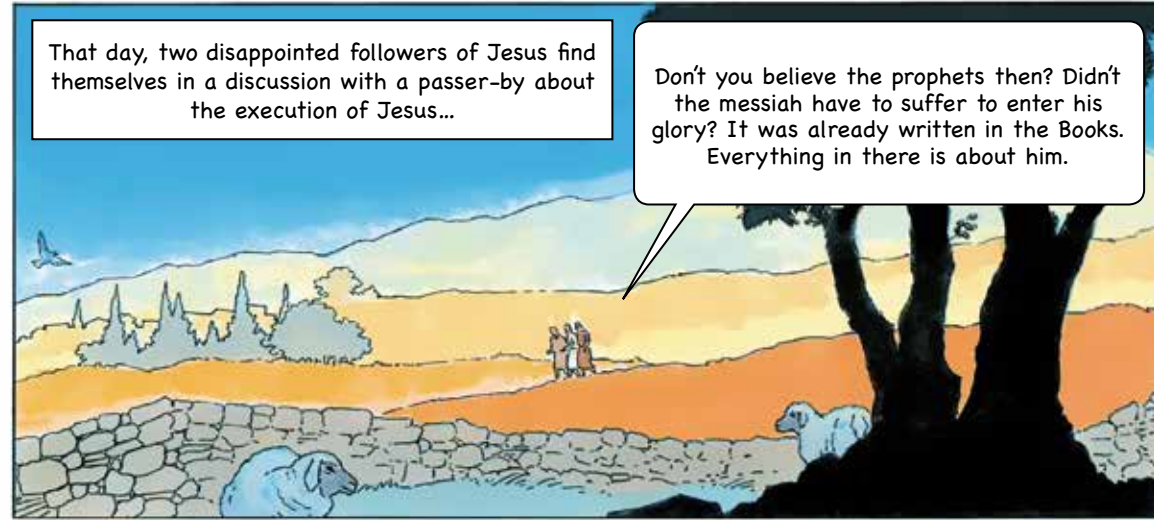
Mary!



Master!



Don't hold onto me.
Tell my brothers that
I'm going back to my
Father, who is your
Father, to my God and
your God.



That day, two disappointed followers of Jesus find
themselves in a discussion with a passer-by about
the execution of Jesus...

Don't you believe the prophets then? Didn't
the messiah have to suffer to enter his
glory? It was already written in the Books.
Everything in there is about him.



While passing the bread,
their guest suddenly
vanishes...

But that
was Jesus
himself!



They leave immediately to find their friends in Jerusalem...

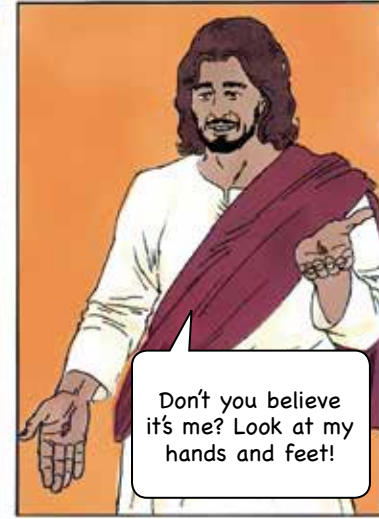
We've seen the Lord!

Mary has as well!
And Peter!



All of a
sudden...

I wish you
peace!

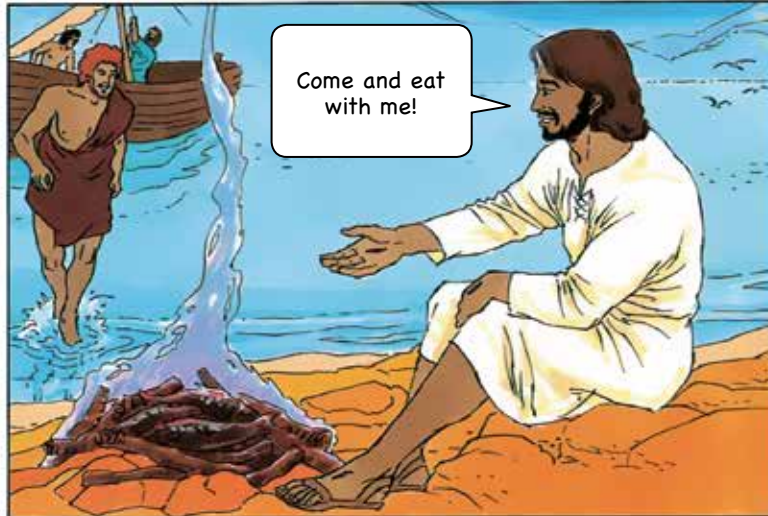
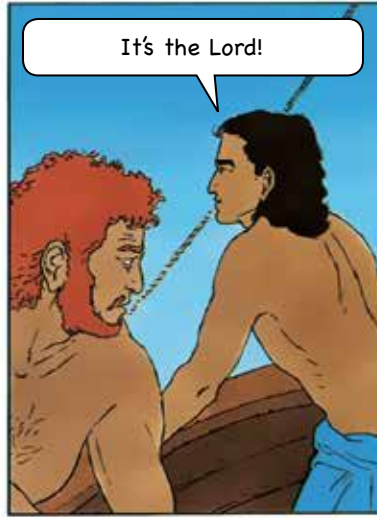


Don't you believe
it's me? Look at my
hands and feet!

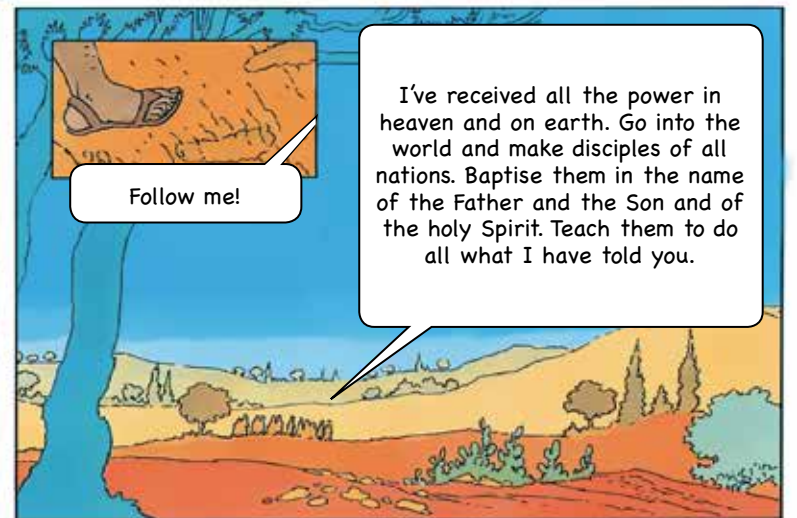


My Lord
and my
God!

Jesus appears to his followers over a period of forty days. He even meets five hundred people at once. His disciples return to Galilee. One day when they are fishing again...



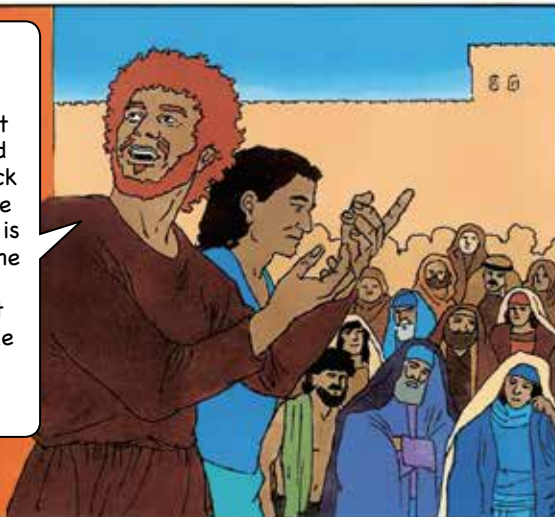
Jesus asks Peter this question three times...



After these words Jesus leaves the earth. He is taken up into heaven. But he has said that he will come back again...

Jesus' followers stay behind to pray. After fifty days, on the day of the Pentecost, the holy Spirit comes upon them. The same Spirit who was in Jesus now also lives in them and those who will believe in him. His followers are his powerful witnesses. More and more people hear about Jesus...

Listen people! Death could not hold Jesus. God brought him back to life and made him Lord. Jesus is the very first one taken in God's glory. And that glory is available to us!



Jesus' followers go into the world, despite great opposition...

Jesus is the Son of God! We can become God's children as well!



This message is also proclaimed through letters...

I am not ashamed of this good news. It is God's power that saves people. It was already written in the Books: "If you believe it, you are good in God's eyes. Then you shall live!"

Now more and more people all over the world meet to pray together and read the Bible. They live in God's grace. They experience his favour. They love each other and help those in need. They even love their enemies. They break bread and pass the wine around to remind them that their sins are forgiven. And that they have received a new and powerful life, full of God's Spirit...

Jesus has made it possible for men to live together in peace...



Be grateful for his love! Take it from him! And worship him!



God sent his son to the world not to judge us, but to save us. Because God loves us so much, that he gave his only Son. Everyone who believes in him will no longer be lost, but will have everlasting life!



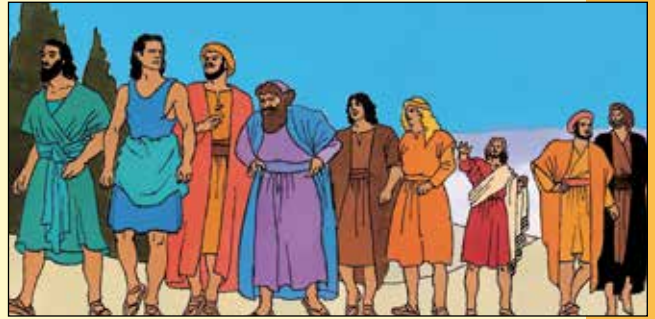
Jesus and you

The story of Jesus has an open end. Jesus became the Friend of a great many people, then and now. The world has changed. Many people do not travel on donkeys or on horseback but travel by car and aeroplane. But this makes no difference to Jesus. He can be just as near to us as when He walked about in Israel.

He may be invisible, but He is just as real. He wants to be a Friend for you today. You may listen to Him and you may love Him.

Do you want to know more about Jesus and about life with Him? Then you may do the following:

- 1. Start to read the Bible for yourself** (start for example by reading the part written by Luke).
- 2. Start to pray** (speaking with God and listening to Him – you don't need to use special words).
- 3. Talk to other people about Jesus and the Bible.** Jesus wants His followers to meet together and encourage each other as they learn more about Him.



Prayer

If you are sorry for the wrong things you have done and if you want to be friends with God, you could pray a prayer like this:

*“Dear God, You love me.
You gave Jesus, Your only Son. He died on a cross for all the wrong which I have done.
Please forgive me for what I have done wrong. I am sorry.
Thank you, that Jesus is on my side.
I always want to belong to you.
Will You please help me live the way You want me to live? Will You always stay close to me?
Thank You for answering my prayer.
You do what You promised!”*

Text and illustrations: Willem de Vink.

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