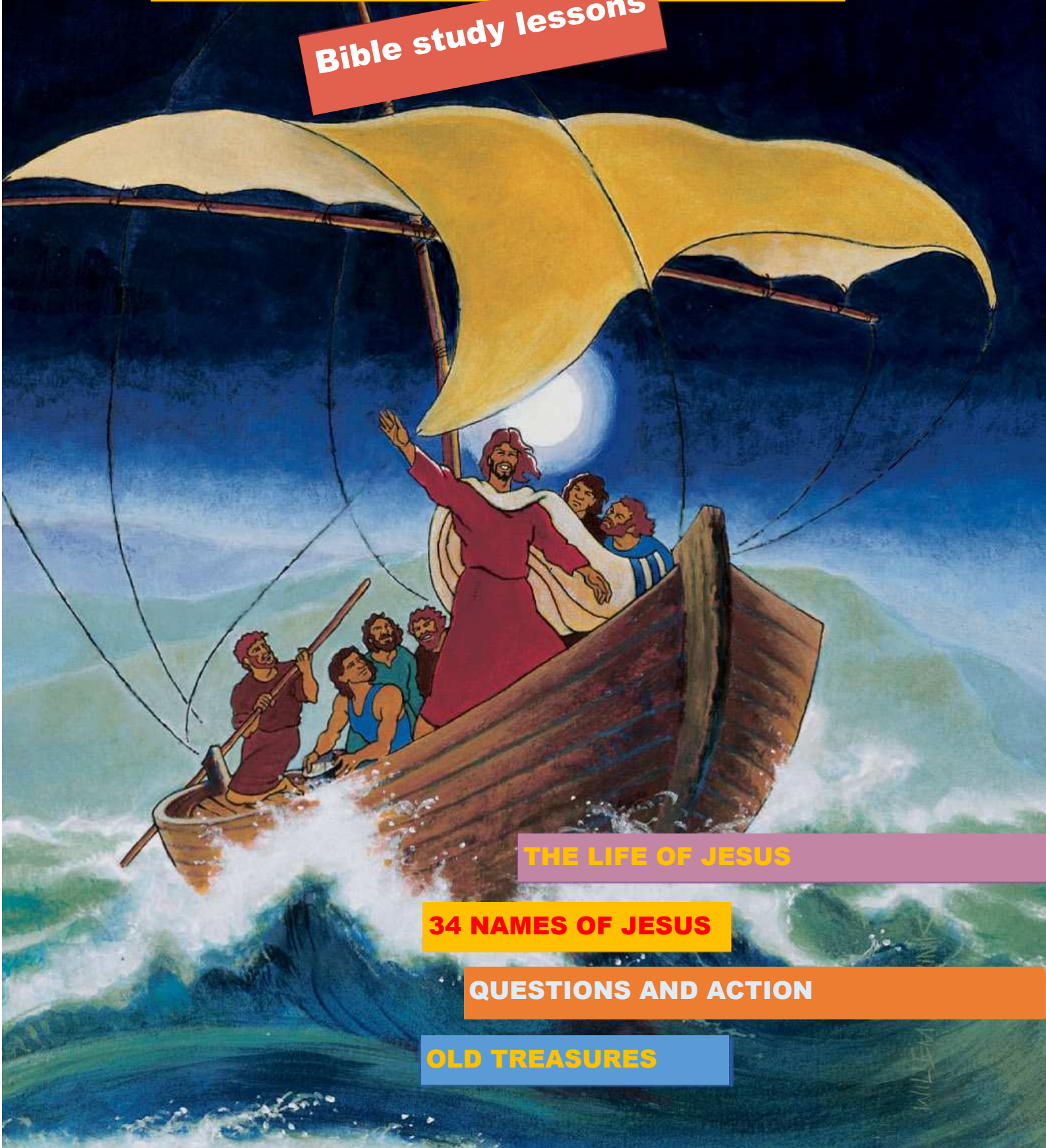


Jesus Messiah

34
lessons

Bible study lessons



THE LIFE OF JESUS

34 NAMES OF JESUS

QUESTIONS AND ACTION

OLD TREASURES

Jesus the Messiah

near to you

*34 strip stories
with a Bible lesson*

Colophon

Jesus the Messiah near to you

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Introduction

This guide contains 34 Bible lessons on the life of Jesus, the Messiah. They were developed from the picture story book entitled Jesus the Messiah. This guide can be used to facilitate the study of the life of Jesus, in groups but also for personal study.

Jesus, the Messiah is a unique book:

- The narrative gives a clear presentation of Jesus' life and the importance of his person;
- The text and illustrations combined tell the Gospel story: it emphasizes the important message of the Gospels;
- The content is faithful to the Bible.

Each of these studies is based on one or more pages of comics. These pages are included at the beginning of each study.

Each study addresses a theme, such as Here comes Jesus!, The invisible battle, "Follow me!", To Believe is to Trust Jesus, etc.

Each study consists of several elements which can be grouped into two categories:

- Pieces of Information on the person of Jesus in the Bible, background information in the Old Testament and the world of the Bible;
- Ways of application that help to put into practice what you learned.

A table of contents provides a summary of all studies, and is at the end of this book.

This guide is a very useful tool for anyone who wants to (better) know Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

How to use this book?

This book is made up of 34 lessons. Each lesson begins with a picture story about a part of Jesus' life, which is followed by explanation and learning activities. Each lesson has the same parts.

THE PICTURE STORY

A part of Jesus' life in word and picture form.

READ FOR YOURSELF

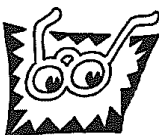
This story about Jesus' life can be found in one of the books of the Bible. This book and verse reference is given above the picture story.

OLD TREASURES



Hundreds of years before Jesus came, the oldest books in the Bible were already writing many things about Him. These lessons are a journey of discovery through the whole Bible!

WHO IS JESUS?



Jesus is so important that He was given more than 200 names in the Bible. In each of the lessons of this book you will learn about one of Jesus names.

EXTRA INFORMATION



All kinds of interesting and background information will help you to understand the story even better.

MEMORY VERSE

This is an important Bible verse you should never forget. You can memorize it.

REFLECT

How you can use this Biblical passage in your own daily life. Sometimes an extra tip or quiz is added.

DO YOU KNOW...?



Questions to review what you have discovered in this lesson

ACTION POINT!

Each lesson has an assignment, to put into practice what you have learned.

BIBLE READING

A Bible reading guide gives you a Biblical passage for each day of the week, related to this chapter.

What do these words mean?

Angels

Messengers of God, normally invisible, who God sends from Heaven.

Bible

Bible means 'books'. In the Bible you read who God is, what He thinks about people and how He relates to them.

Blessing

All the goodness that God desires to give to people who trust in Him.

Communion/Eucharist

With bread and wine the followers of Jesus remember that they have died and risen with Him.

Cross

Torture tool for execution, on which Jesus died voluntarily in order to take away our sins. It has become the symbol for all followers of Jesus.

Disciple

Jesus pupils. Jesus Himself choose twelve pupils.

Eternal life

Life with Jesus, the way God meant it to be. This life overcomes death and knows no end.

Faith

You trust that God will do and will give what He has promised.

God's kingdom

Wherever people trust in God, God's Kingdom is present.

Gospel

'Good news'. The Good news about Jesus as it was written down by the authors of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Grace

'Goodness not earned'. All you get from God you get freely. That is because God has forgiven your mistakes when Jesus

took your sins upon Himself.

Jesus

The name Jesus, God's Son means 'God saves'.

Messiah

'Anointed King'. Messiah (a Hebrew word) is in Greek 'Christ'. Jesus the Messiah is also called Jesus Christ.

Pray

You talk with God, quietly or out loud, and you listen to Him.

Resurrection

Jesus rose from the dead. One day everyone will rise from the dead. God will then pronounce judgment on those who did not believe. Whoever believes in Jesus will share His live forever.

Return

When Jesus returns to the earth, nothing of the old will remain. Heaven and earth will be renewed by God.

Righteousness

God's righteousness came to the world, when Jesus carried out the punishment for all the sins of the world. Doing so, mankind received the privilege to be God's children and His inheritors.

Satan

The invisible opponent of God and people (also called 'the devil').

Sin

Those things opposing God. Jesus took the sins of the whole world upon Himself. His grace is always greater than sin.

Son of God

Title of Jesus. He was God who came to earth as a human being, as the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God, He lives in people who believe in Jesus.

Introduction

Jesus lived about 2,000 years ago in Israel. We call Him 'Jesus Messiah' or 'Jesus Christ'. It means that He is the 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 man. The history of Jesus' life is described in the Bible. It is the greatest story of all time!

Jesus' Birth

Jesus' mother, Mary, was not yet married when Jesus was born. She was still a virgin. Yet God arranged that Jesus could be born. Long before Jesus' time this miracle had been written and announced in the Bible books. Jesus was not born as a hero or as a special one. He was born in a stable for there was no other room available.

Jesus' Time

Our era starts with the birth of Jesus. That is more than 2000 years ago. People travelled then by foot or by donkey, camel, or on a horseback. Major parts of Europe, the Middle East, and Northern Africa were part of the Roman Empire. Most people could not read or write, yet the Jews in Israel could. They were called 'the people of the Book'. God speaks in their Book, the Bible. He is the Creator of all existing things and He wants to be friends with all people: Jesus shows that very clearly!

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.

4x the story of Jesus

The Bible contains 4 books that describe the life of Jesus. These books are called "the four Gospels". 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, but did many interviews of eye witnesses of Jesus. Luke describes how Jesus dealt with people.

4) **John** – was also a follower of Jesus. He shows who Jesus really is: Jesus is God who became man to free people from their sins. He called Himself 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'

Israel in Jesus time

Capital: Jerusalem.

Provinces: Galilee, Samaria, Judea.

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

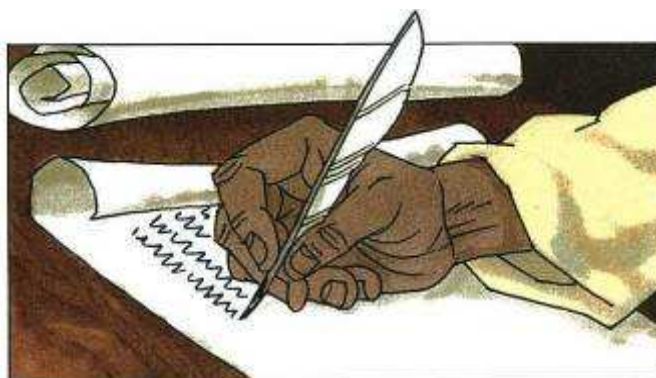
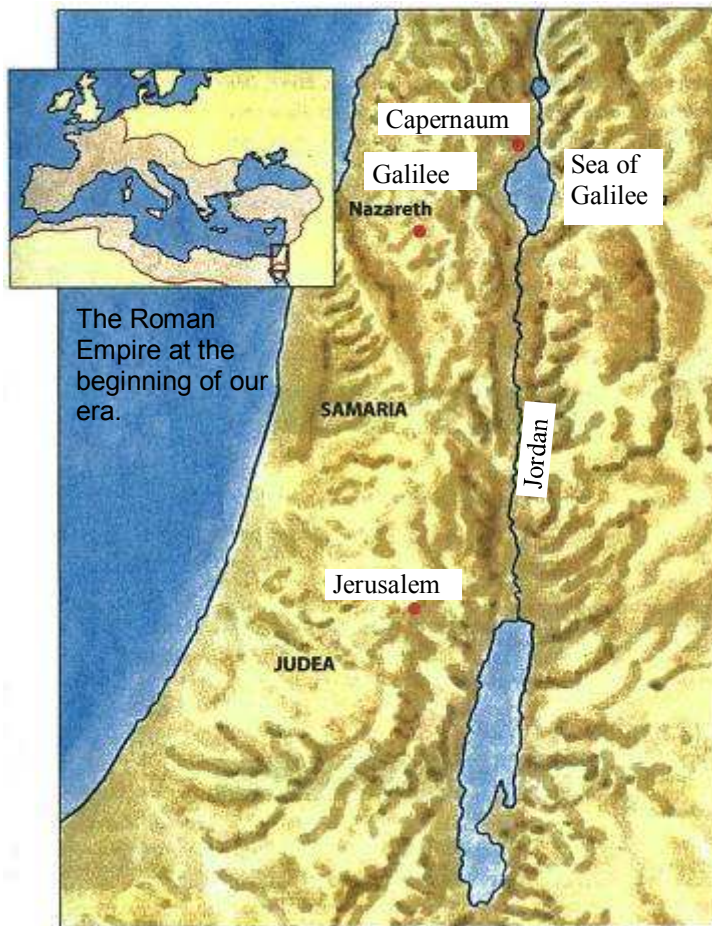
Climate: Subtropical. With warm, dry summers and mild, humid winters.

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. He is emperor of the Roman Empire.

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 old language of the Jews), Aramaic (the conversational language), Greek (the internationally spoken language), Latin (the language of the Romans).

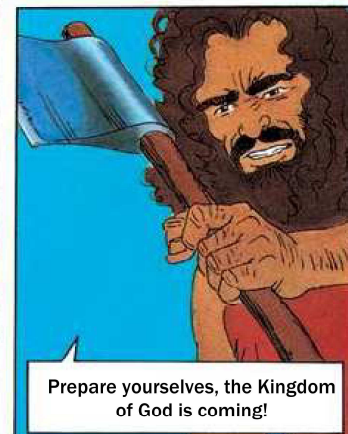


Books were written on scrolls of parchment or animal skin.



HERE COMES JESUS!

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 3:1-17

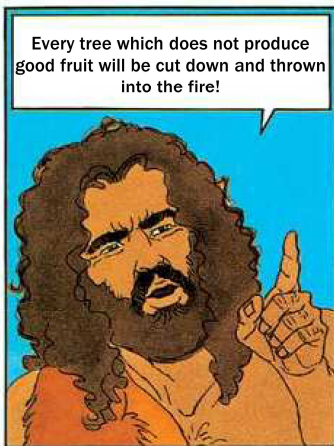




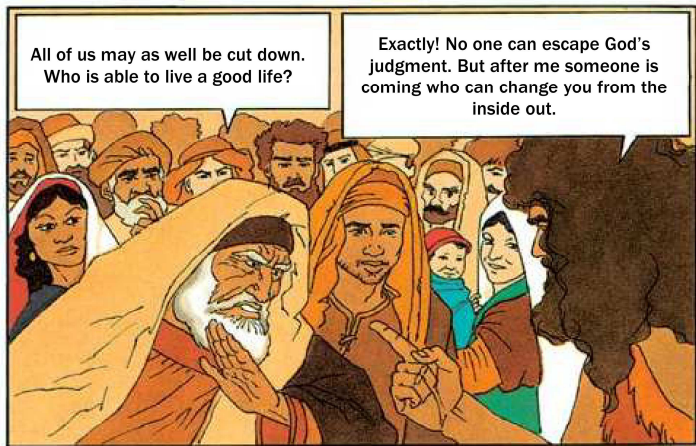
Start a new life!



The axe of God's judgement is already at the root of the trees...

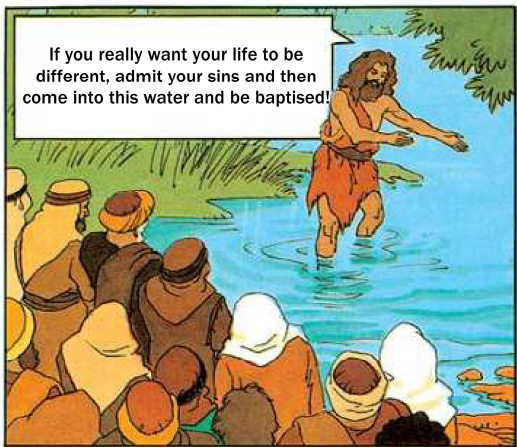


Every tree which does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire!



All of us may as well be cut down. Who is able to live a good life?

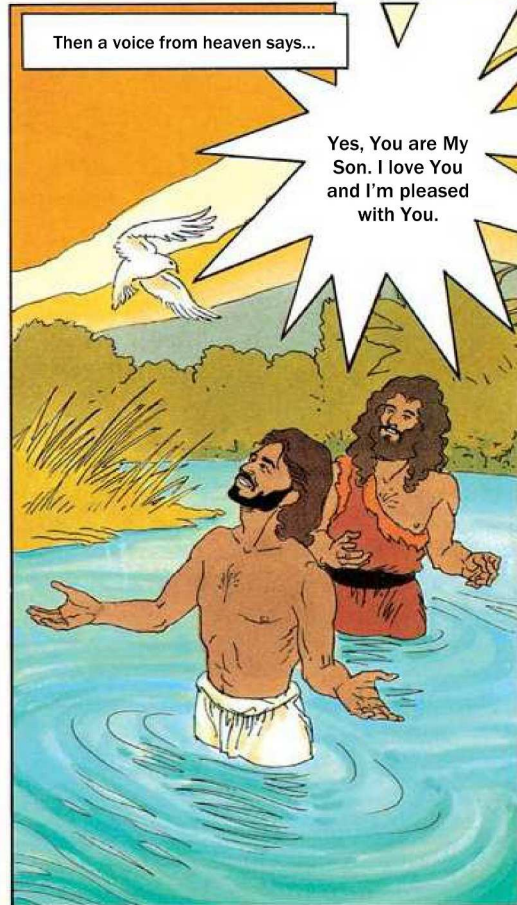
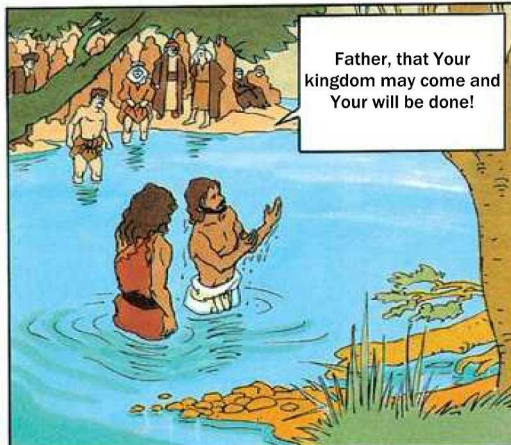
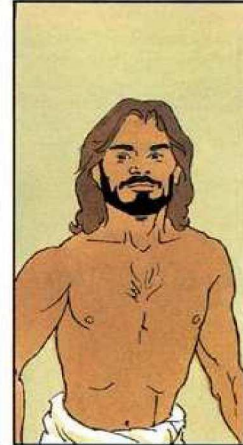
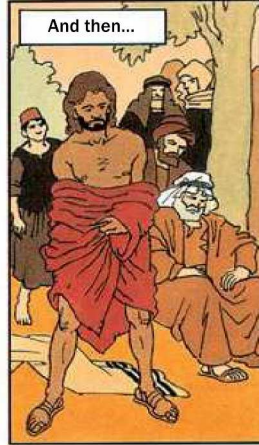
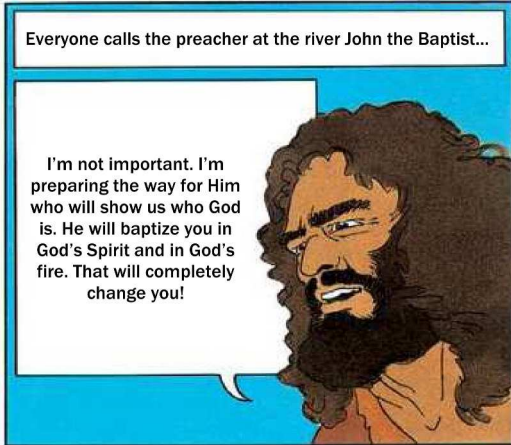
Exactly! No one can escape God's judgment. But after me someone is coming who can change you from the inside out.



If you really want your life to be different, admit your sins and then come into this water and be baptised!



Now you are cleansed from your sins to start a new life!





HERE COMES JESUS!

A prophet in Israel! It has been 450 years since Israel last had a prophet. That is why so many people come to John the Baptist.

What is so special about a prophet? He is a spokesman from God. He speaks in the Name of God, sometimes about good things, but more often He speaks about things that need to be changed. He has to tell the people this, whether they want to listen or not. A prophet is a messenger from God.

Could anyone in Israel just say: "I am a prophet. I speak in God's Name." Not at all. If you said something that did not come true, you were stoned to death. Even so, Israel had many prophets. Moses was a very famous one. And so was Elijah. Some prophets wrote down in books what they heard from God - like David (in the Psalms), Isaiah and Jeremiah.

One thing stands out. All the prophets in the Bible point to the Messiah. He is the Saviour God had promised. He is the man who will come to set things right according to God's will. That's why the people are looking out for this Messiah. The prophets have spoken about Him for more than 1500 years. But still He hasn't come...

Until John the Baptist came. With him a new period of time started. He did not just talk about the Messiah. He also pointed to Him!



OLD TREASURES

The old books of Israel told about a forerunner. He would prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. The prophet Isaiah wrote about this. It was 750 years before John the Baptist came.

A voice cries out, "Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord! Clear the way in the desert for our God! Fill every valley; level every mountain. The hills will become a plain, and the rough country will be made smooth.

MEMORY VERSE

*"There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
(John 1:29)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Beloved Son

And a voice from heaven said: "This is My own dear Son, with whom I am pleased." (Matthew 3:17; 17:5)

Jesus is God's own dear Son. The one in whom God is pleased. Why? Jesus lives close to God. And He does what God says. He lets Himself be baptized in water even though He has never done anything wrong. But He does it because it is God's will and because He loves God.

There is a great love between God the Father and Jesus the Son. That is why heaven opens up for Him. Mark writes in his book that heaven is torn open! That is how much God wants to tell just how much He loves Jesus: "My own dear Son!".

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE!

The Lord God had a special plan for the life of John the Baptist. He had planned that a long time ago. That is the reason why that plan had already been written in the old books. God also had a special plan for the Lord Jesus. Never so much had been written about someone in advance as about Jesus.

But do you know that God also has a special plan for your life? The Bible says that He knows every person long before his or her birth. Are you curious to know what God plan is for you? Live close to Him. Then it will become clearer every day what God's special purpose is for you. Exciting, isn't it?

THE BIBLE

Old Testament
4000 years of history
Over 300 prophesies:
"The Messiah will come!"

New Testament
100 years of history
The prophesies became real:
"The Messiah did come!"

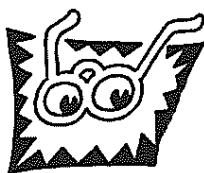
*Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and the whole human race will see it. The Lord Himself has promised this."
(Isaiah 40:3-5)*



Malachi also wrote about the forerunner, the messenger of the Messiah:

"I will send My messenger to prepare the way for Me." (Malachi 3:1)

Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament. There were no more prophets in Israel for 450 years after Malachi. That was not good. It seemed as if God no longer wanted to deal with the land. Someone wrote: "There has never been so much misery in Israel as it was in the time when there were no prophets." (Quoted from the book Maccabeus).



EXTRA INFORMATION

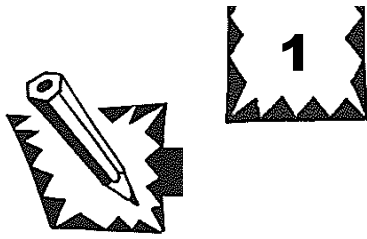
The Bible - Book of Promises

The Bible is a special book. God captured His promises in this book. He is saying: "I hold Myself accountable for them." When you put your promises on paper you call that a testament. The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

About 4000 years of history is written in the Old Testament. It is the history of God and mankind. It is especially the history of God with the people of Israel.

The stories in the New Testament cover a period of about 100 years. They tell about Jesus the Messiah and why He is important for the whole world. Whoever knows the New Testament will also understand the Old Testament better (and vice versa).

There are many predictions (prophesies) about the Messiah in the Old Testament: more than 300. In the New Testament, this prophesies became reality in the life of Jesus. God's plan and purpose became completely clear through Jesus. His promises are still valid for all who believe in Jesus.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Why John was called "The Baptist"?

2. Before John the Baptist, how long there was no prophet in Israel?

3. In whose name does a prophet speak?

4. To whom do all the prophets point?

5. What is a testament?

6. How many prophecies about the Messiah are written in the Old Testament?

- a) More than 10
- b) More than 100
- c) More than 300

7. Who called Jesus "My own dear Son"?

TIP

In the "Bible reading" you will find a Bible text for every day. Read them and you will discover much more about the things you have learned in this lesson!

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 1:6
Mon	Matthew 3:1-6
Tue	Matthew 3:7-12
Wed	Matthew 3:13-17
Thu	John 1:1-9
Fri	John 1:10-15
Sat	John 1:16-18



ACTION POINT!

The name Jesus means "The Lord saves".

Look up the meaning of the following words in a dictionary.


Messiah:



Christ:

THE INVISIBLE BATTLE

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 4:1-12

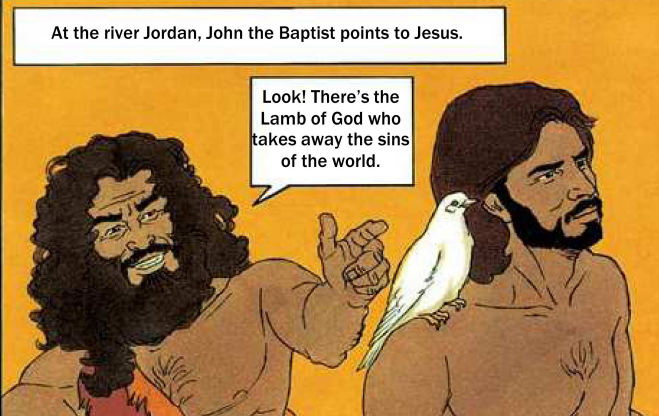
It's at the beginning of our era that John the Baptist is preparing Israel for the coming of the Messiah. At this time Israel is only a small part of the large Roman Empire.



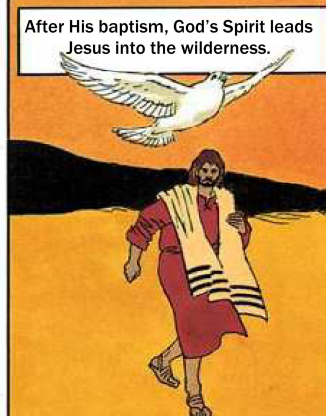
The Jews in Israel feel helpless and oppressed. The people are looking forward to the time when the Messiah will come. He is the Redeemer whose coming is predicted in the old Jewish books. This Messiah will let God's justice triumph.

At the river Jordan, John the Baptist points to Jesus.




Look! There's the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

After His baptism, God's Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness.

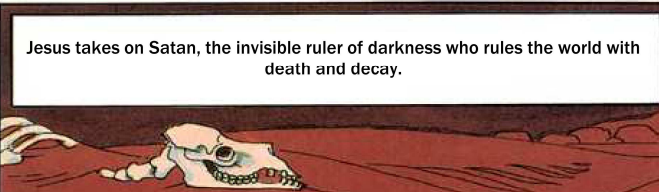
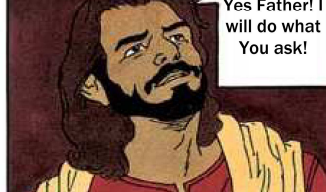


He stays there for 40 days and nights. While He is there He does not eat. He prays and fasts to be able to see clearly what His task is.

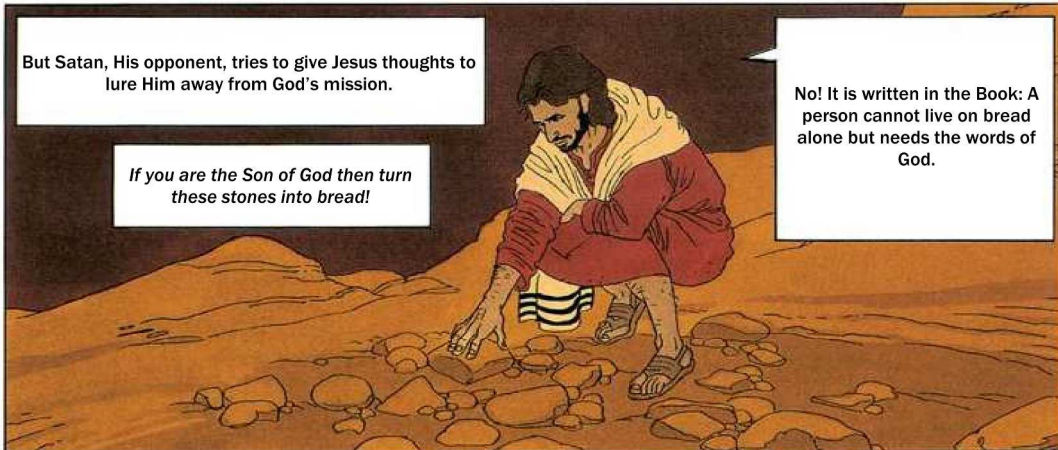


To succeed, Jesus has to make God's intentions clear in the world. It's God's plan that people are released from the grip of death.

Jesus takes on Satan, the invisible ruler of darkness who rules the world with death and decay.

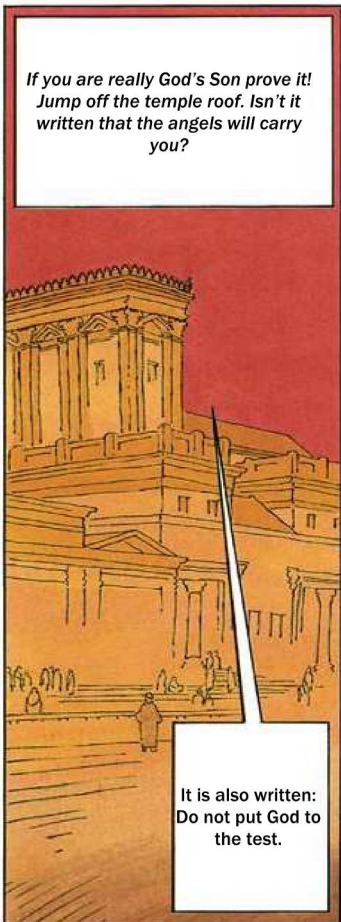
Yes Father! I will do what You ask!



But Satan, His opponent, tries to give Jesus thoughts to lure Him away from God's mission.

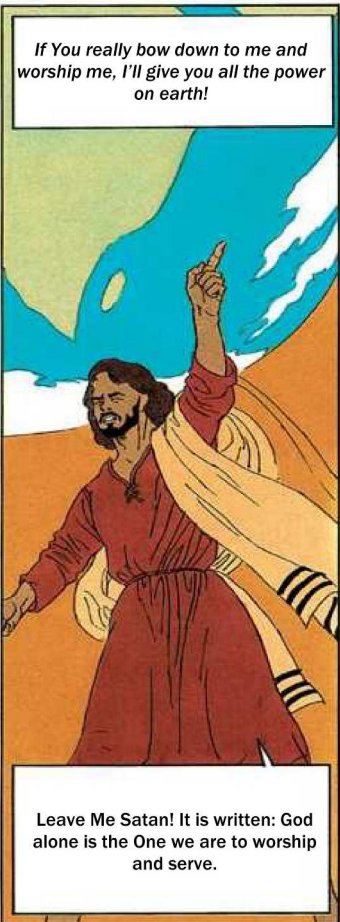
If you are the Son of God then turn these stones into bread!

No! It is written in the Book: A person cannot live on bread alone but needs the words of God.



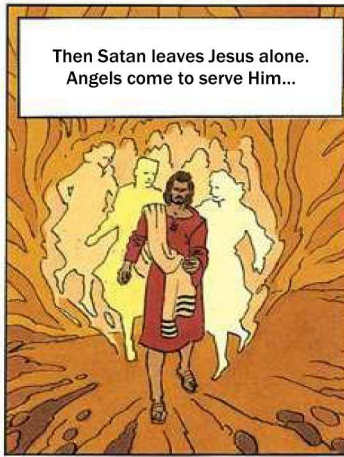
If you are really God's Son prove it! Jump off the temple roof. Isn't it written that the angels will carry you?

It is also written: Do not put God to the test.

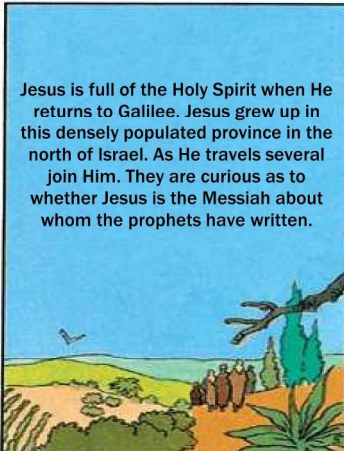


If You really bow down to me and worship me, I'll give you all the power on earth!

Leave Me Satan! It is written: God alone is the One we are to worship and serve.



Then Satan leaves Jesus alone. Angels come to serve Him...



Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit when He returns to Galilee. Jesus grew up in this densely populated province in the north of Israel. As He travels several join Him. They are curious as to whether Jesus is the Messiah about whom the prophets have written.



THE INVISIBLE BATTLE

An occupation is never good. Somebody else is the boss. He can just do as he pleases with you and your country. Israel is occupied by the Romans during the time of Jesus. But for Jesus that is not the main issue. The whole world is occupied territory. It is invisible, but nevertheless very noticeable. That's where the battle is.

The Lord God should be ruling the world with love and righteousness. After all, He is the Creator of everything. But Satan holds the world in his grasp. That is why the world is not what it should be.

Satan means "opponent". He is the enemy of God and man. Satan is a fallen angel who actually wants to be like God. Satan is also called "devil". That means "accuser": someone who falsely accuses someone. He uses a clever trick to become the boss of the world: People are listening and obeying Him! They do! That's why the world is occupied territory.

Satan is an invisible enemy. He carries out his battle in our thoughts. God wants us to listen to Him. Every time we trust in God's Word Satan loses territory. The battle is to get peace and trust in God's Word. That's what Jesus is doing in the desert.

MEMORY VERSE

*"So then, submit to God. Resist the Devil, and He will run away from you."
(James 4:7)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Son of God

*"Jesus Christ is the one who came with the water of his baptism and the blood of his death. He came not only with the water, but with both the water and the blood. And the Spirit Himself testifies that this is true, because the Spirit is truth."
(1 John 5:6)*

Jesus does not have to prove that He is the Son of God. Satan is tempting Him, "If you are God's Son, do this or do that". But Jesus is not fooled. God had spoken in the Bible and that is enough. Jesus doesn't need to earn God's love. He is the beloved Son of God because God Himself said so. God has the final word!



OLD TREASURES

The earth is occupied territory, because people have listened to Satan. This is something you can read in the first chapters of the Bible. In these chapters, you can also read the first reference to the Messiah and His victory. The seed of the woman (Jesus, who was born of the Virgin Mary) shall crush the head of the snake (Satan).

"I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel." (Genesis 3:15)



EXTRA INFORMATION

What is sin?

1. Missing your goal.
2. Not needing God.
3. Doing or thinking opposite to what God has revealed in His Word.

Sin keeps you away from God. That's why sin brings death. But God wants us to live in eternity with Him. Listen and trust that He tells you about all these things.

SAY NO TO WRONG THOUGHTS!

Do you understand it?
The invisible battle?
It is within your thoughts. It is about Whom you trust.
Say no to wrong thoughts.
Think rather of what God wants.
Say no to hate.
Say no to lies.
Say no to jealousy.
Say no to pride.
Say no to greed.
Say no to impurity.

Say yes to the Lord Jesus.
Say yes to God's great love for you.
Say yes to all the praise God praises you.
Say yes to all the things God loves to bless you.

TIP

God's Word, the Bible, helps you to say no to wrong thoughts. And God's Spirit, who gives you power, will also help you. Jesus, who is in you, is stronger than the one that occupies this world!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Who owns the world?

But who occupies the world?

2. What does "Satan" mean?

What does "devil" mean?

3. What is sin?

4. Where do we fight the "invisible battle"?

- a) In the desert
- b) In the army
- c) In our thoughts

5. When does Satan flee from us?

6. The first prophecy about the Messiah in the Bible (Genesis 3:15) says?

- a) The Messiah is an enemy of the woman
- b) The Messiah gains victory over the snake by crushing its head
- c) The Messiah won't come for a long time.

7. How do you know Jesus is the Son of God?



BIBLE READING

Sun	James 4:7
Mon	Matthew 4:1-4
Tue	Matthew 4:5-7
Wed	Matthew 4:8-11
Thu	Genesis 3:1-6
Fri	Genesis 4:3-7
Sat	1 John 3:7-8



ACTION POINT!

Fill in your own name in this Bible verse:

"For God loved

that He gave His only Son: so that

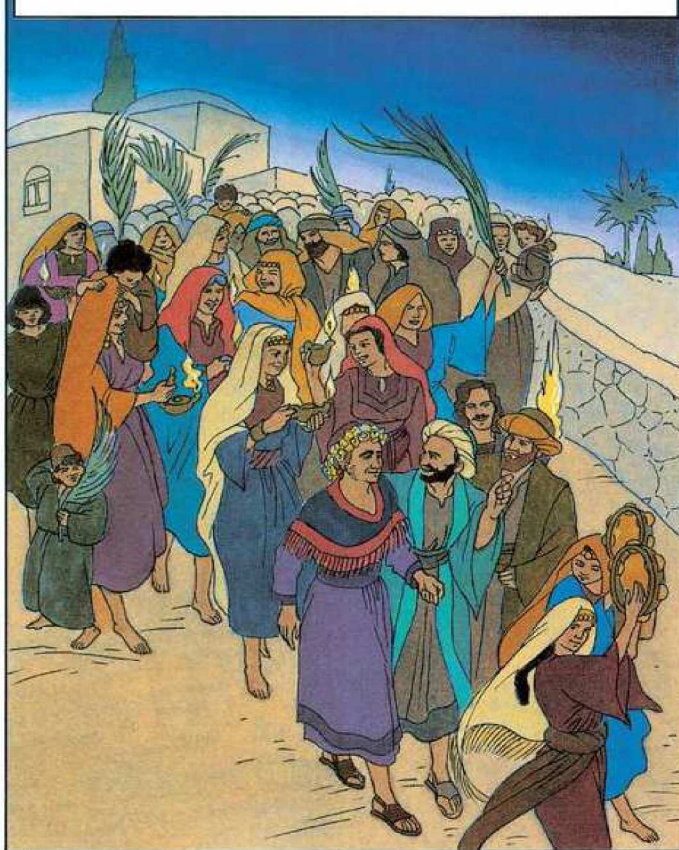
who believes in Him, not die but have eternal life." (John 3:16).



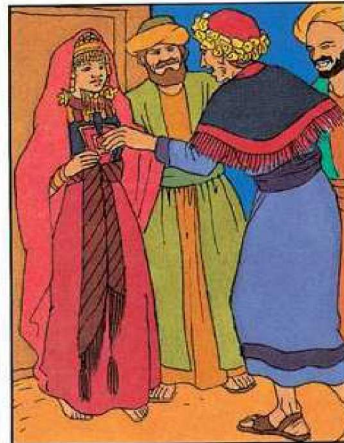
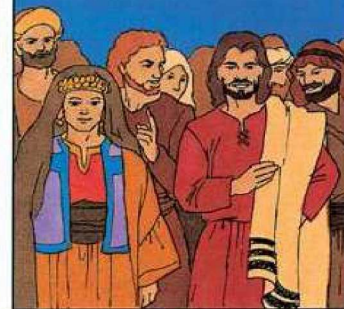
THE CELEBRATION GOES ON

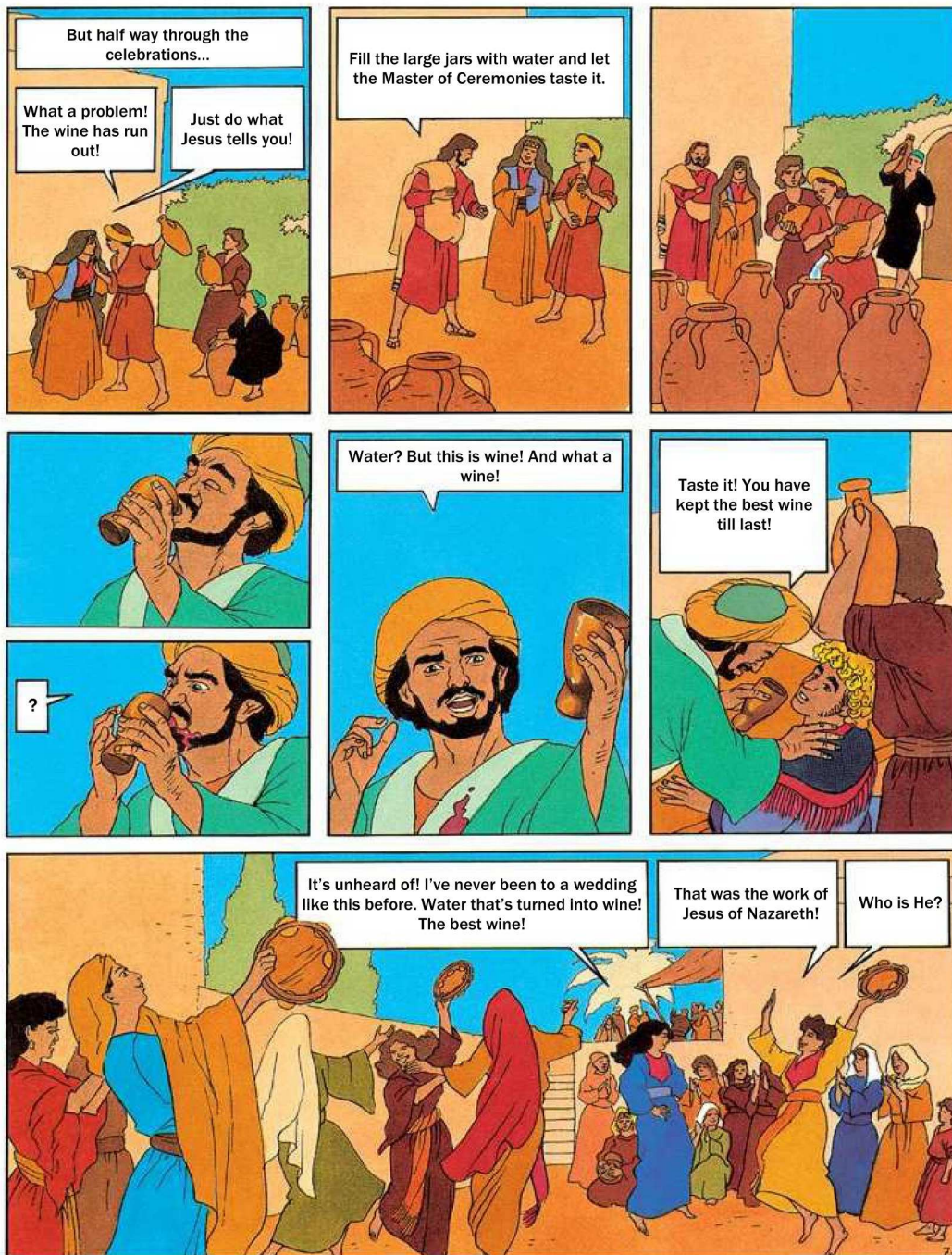
READ FOR YOURSELF: John 2:1-11

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



Jesus is also at the celebration together with His mother and some of His friends.







THE CELEBRATION GOES ON

How does the Lord Jesus begin His public ministry? It's at a celebration, a wedding. This takes place in Cana, in the north of Israel. The Lord Jesus has grown up in that neighbourhood. He is just one of the local people and participates in all the activities of their daily life. He is one of the guests.

But then the celebration takes an unpleasant turn. There is no more wine. That means that there will not be a happy ending for this celebration. Jesus feels how painful the situation is. What should be done? Mary, His mother, has complete faith in Jesus. For 30 years since His birth, she has silently waited for the moment when Jesus would start working.

And then, quietly, Jesus performs a miracle. In the inner court of the house are six big jars. These are used to wash hands and do the laundry. Each jar holds 100 litres of water. But Jesus turns that water into wine. The best wine there is!

Jesus begins his public ministry not with words, but with a miracle. Ordinary water turns into the best wine. It is as if He wants to say, "Just watch out. I make all things new." And so it is. Everything that looks normal becomes different when Jesus is near. Life becomes a celebration, right to the end!

MEMORY VERSE

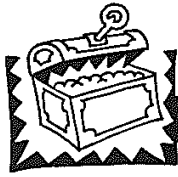
"May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice!"
(Philippians 4:4)

WHO IS JESUS?

Son of Man

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; He came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people."
(Mark 10:45)

Daniel 7:13,14 talks about a Son of Man who shall reign as King forever. Does this refer to a superman? No, it talks about Jesus, who was just as human as you and me. That's right! The dear Son, the Son of God, is also a son of man. The Son of man, because He was the first human as God intended how a man should be.



JESUS GIVES JOY!

Jesus is so normal that He wants to be part of your everyday life. But He is also so special that He wants to make your ordinary life special. He is there for you when you are sad. And He is there for you when you are happy.

Surely, He wants you to have joy in your life. His joy! That is stronger than anything you'll ever experience. Jesus' joy is stronger than your deepest sorrow. Sometimes you may lose that joy. Listen to God's soft quiet voice again and hear how much He loves you. You will find understanding and comfort and new joy in Jesus.

TIP

You will feel a deep joy when you realize how much God loves you. You can be sure if you look to Jesus what He did for you! Keep your eyes and ears on Jesus every day!

OLD TREASURES

Marriage is very important to the Lord God. That is because love is very important to Him. Nowhere else can people love each other as much as they do in a marriage relationship.

In the beginning, at the creation God brought a man and woman together so that the two would become one. You can read about marriage in the second chapter of the Bible. That's how important it is to God.

*"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one."
(Genesis 2:24)*



EXTRA INFORMATION

The wedding

In the days of Jesus, a wedding was a big festivity. In the evening, the bride would wait for the groom in her parent's house together with her friends. He would leave his house with a group of friends to pick her up from her house. Along the way, the group would become a whole procession. The musicians at the front and family and friends behind, carrying flowers and palm branches. Torches and lamps would light up the procession.

After they were brought together, the groom would say "According to the Law of Moses, you are my wife and I am your husband from now on." After that the couple would be crowned with a ring of flowers like a real king and queen. While the musicians and dancers create a festive atmosphere, a banquet was held. The celebration could last for a week.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How did Jesus for the first time show who He is?
 - a) He performed a miracle
 - b) He went to a Wedding
 - c) He said right away who He is.
2. How old was Jesus when He began His public ministry? (Luke 3:23)

3. How much wine was in each water container?

4. What are the names of the first man and woman in the Bible?

5. What has faithfulness to do with marriage?

6. The Bible calls Jesus the Bridegroom. The people who believe in Him are called the Bride. Why?

-
7. Son of man means:
- a) Jesus is God's Son and not really human
 - b) Jesus is God's Son and was completely human
 - c) Jesus is an angel

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 2:1-5
Mon	John 2:6-11
Tue	Philippians 4:4-7
Wed	Genesis 2:18-25
Thu	Ephesians 5:22-33
Fri	1 Peter 3:1-12
Sat	John 15:9-12

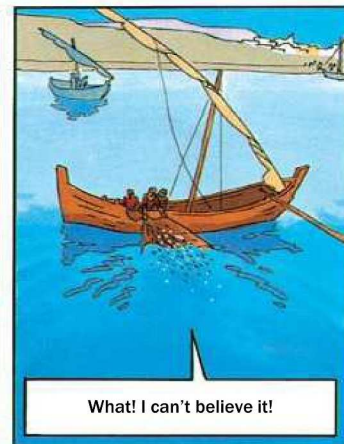
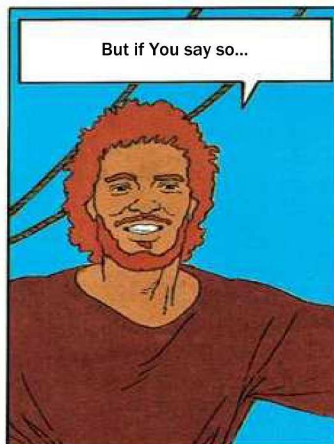
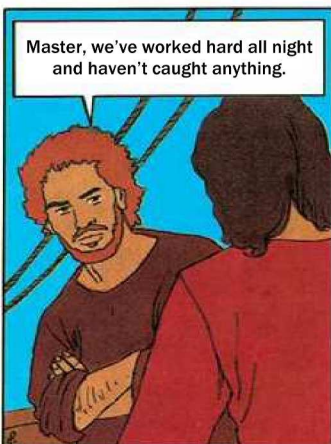
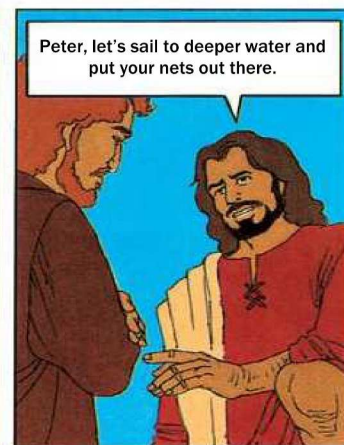
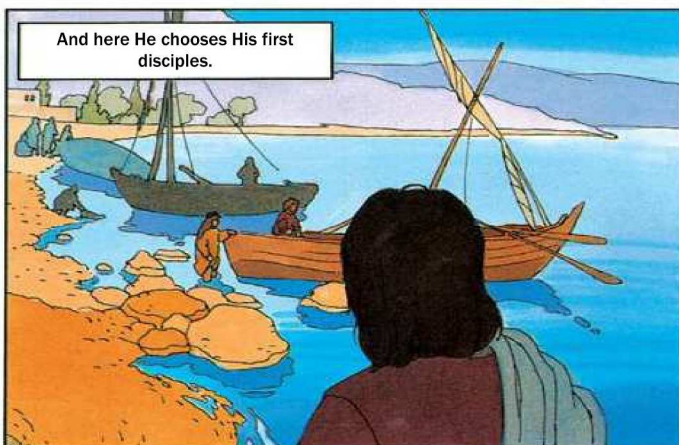
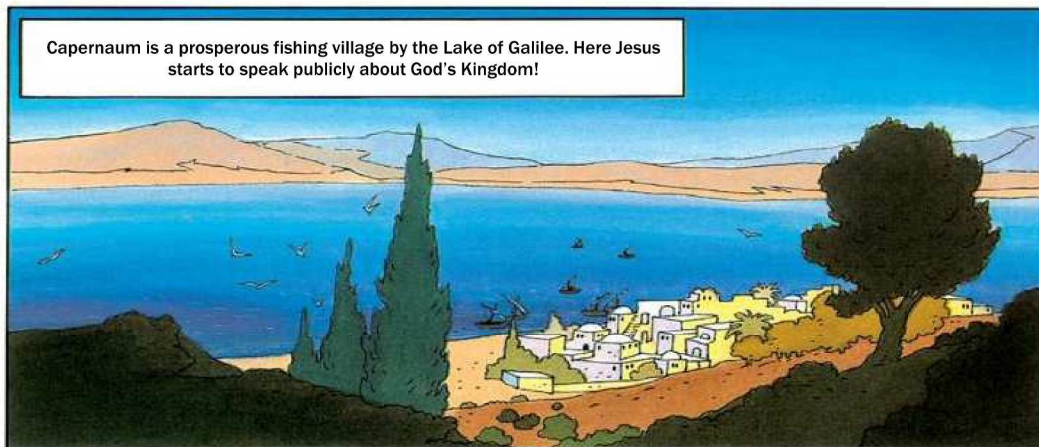


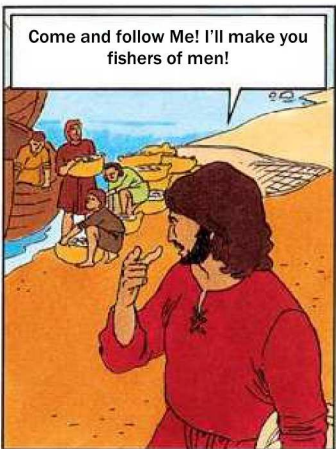
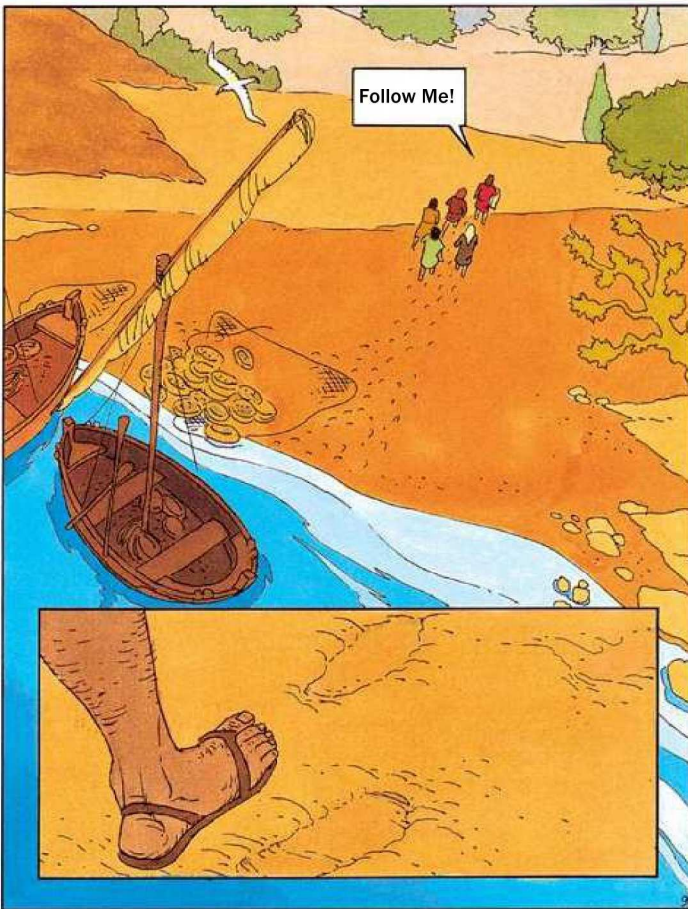
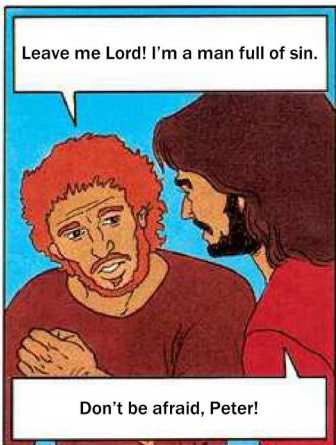
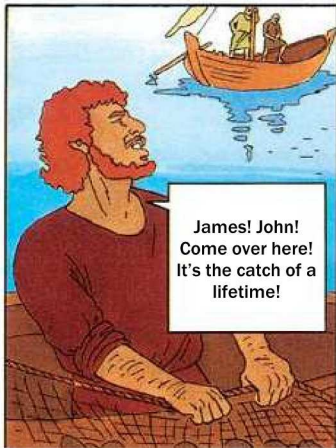
ACTION POINT!

Do you know people with a good marriage (perhaps your parents)? Tell them that it makes you happy. Make a drawing for them. Write under your drawing the names of the man and woman, followed by "Love is eternal" (1 Corinthians 13:8).

"FOLLOW ME!"

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 4:12-22







"FOLLOW ME!"

A few fishing villages lie around the Sea of Galilee. One of them is Capernaum, where Jesus lives after He leaves His parental home in Nazareth.

The fishermen work from the harbour. Just like Peter and Andrew, two brothers, James and John, also brothers, work for their father. All four were present at the Jordan river when John the Baptist pointed out that Jesus is the Messiah.

The fishermen are quite surprised when Jesus tells them what to do to get a big catch. What does Jesus know about fishing? But when they catch so many fish, they are convinced. Jesus should stay around. Then fishing will go well. Success will be guaranteed.

Jesus shows with this miracle that He can intervene in the daily lives of people. It is like the story when He worked a wine miracle at the wedding in Cana. These miracles are not meant to make our lives easier. However Jesus has a better plan. He wants people to follow Him. Keep trusting Him even when it becomes difficult. "Follow Me!" That means following Jesus. He leads you on the only good way. He is the Way Himself. Like the fishermen in this miracle God provides to you abundantly. Now you can share God's gift abundantly to others. You will become a fisher of men.

QUIZ

When you follow Jesus, you love to do what Jesus would do. Therefore, what would you do?

- When someone says, "Let's steal something from that store"?
- When someone is being teased?
- When you can escape easily with just a little white lie?
- When someone is mean to you?
- When someone is better than you?
- When someone asks for help?

MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus said to them:
"Come with me, and I will
teach you to catch peo-
ple!"
(Matthew 4:19)*

WHO IS JESUS?

The Way

*Jesus answered Him:
"I am the Way, the Truth,
and the Life; no one goes
to the Father except by
me." (John 14:6)*

Whoever follows Jesus will come to God. Jesus tells you the truth about what God thinks of you. The disciples could follow Jesus because they physically saw Him. We can follow Jesus because we believe in Him. Believing is holding on to what you cannot see. Hold on to Jesus who lives in you. Then you're on your way with Him. The Way.



OLD TREASURES

Galilee is the name of the northern part of Israel. Of the twelve tribes of Israel, the tribes of Zebulun, Naphtali and Asher settled there. In the days of Jesus, Galilee was a Roman province. The people of Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, looked down on this area. Nevertheless Jesus begins His public ministry there.

That way an old prophecy is fulfilled:

“There will be no way for them to escape from this time of trouble. The land of the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali was once disgraced, but the future will bring honour to this region, from the Mediterranean eastwards to the land on the other side of the Jordan, and even to Galilee itself, where the foreigners live. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.”
(Isaiah 8:23 - 9:2).



EXTRA INFORMATION

The Sea of Galilee is a fresh water lake. The river Jordan passes this lake. It is 20 km long and 11 km wide and is 60m deep at the deepest point .

The lake lies 212 metres below sea level (the other big lake in Israel, the Dead Sea, lies 393 metres below sea level and is the lowest point on earth).

The Sea of Galilee is surrounded by mountains, as high as 600 metres on the east side. Sometimes storms can suddenly burst out when the wind blows down from these mountains.

The lake is rich in fish resulting in lots of fishing boats coming from the seven towns along the shore. The Sea of Galilee is also known as the Lake of Tiberius, the Lake of Gennesaret, and the Sea of Kinneret.

DO YOU FOLLOW JESUS?

When you follow Jesus, your life won't be ordinary any more.

Out of something ordinary Jesus makes something special . Like those common fishermen they become fishers of men.

They follow Jesus' footsteps and become on fire for Him.

Jesus says “Follow Me” to the people who love Him and want to be His followers.

How do you follow Jesus today:

Do you hear His voice?

Do you read His Word?

Do you follow His advice?

Is He your role model?

Is He the Way you follow?

When you love Him, you love to do this.

He can be fully trusted!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What town is Jesus going to live?

2. What is Galilee?

3. Give two other names for the Sea of Galilee.

4. Who is the brother of whom?

John - Andrew - James - Peter

5. What does Jesus want the 4 fishermen to catch?

- a) More fish
- b) Birds
- c) Men

6. What were the first words that Jesus preached in public? (Matthew 4:17)

7. Where does Jesus, the Way, lead us to?



BIBLE READING

Sun	Matthew 4:19
Mon	Matthew 4:12-17
Tue	Matthew 4:18-22
Wed	Luke 5:4-11
Thu	John 14:1-7
Fri	Psalm 139
Sat	Isaiah 35:5-10



ACTION POINT!

Fishers of men look for people to catch. How do you catch people for God?

Fishing steps:

1. Think of people you know who don't live with Jesus.
2. Write down the name of one of these people.
3. Pray a couple of days for him/her.
4. Give the person something that can help him or her to think about God. (for example a Bible verse you write down, a song, a gift or some help)

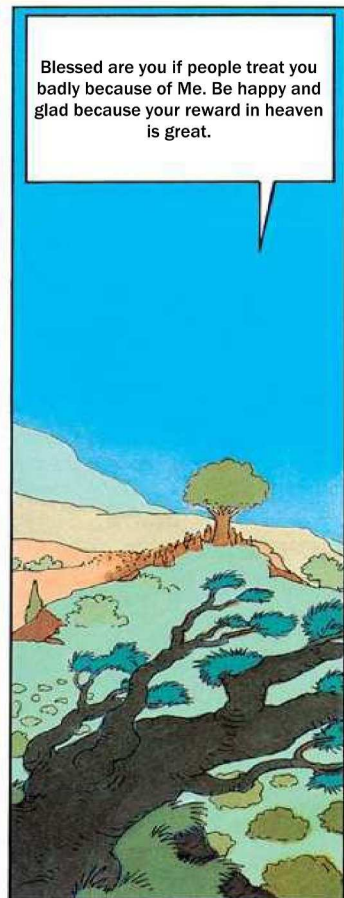
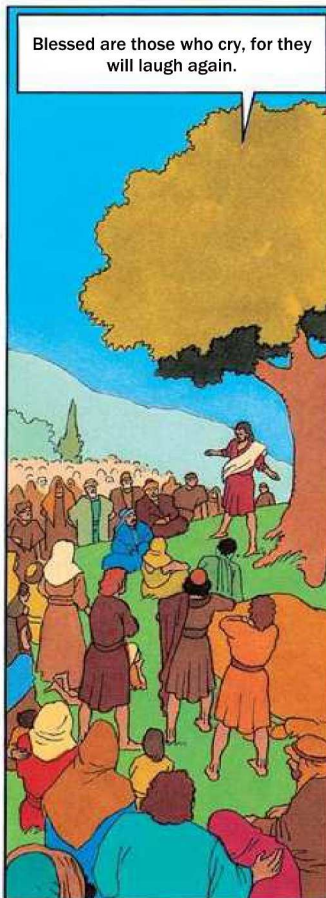
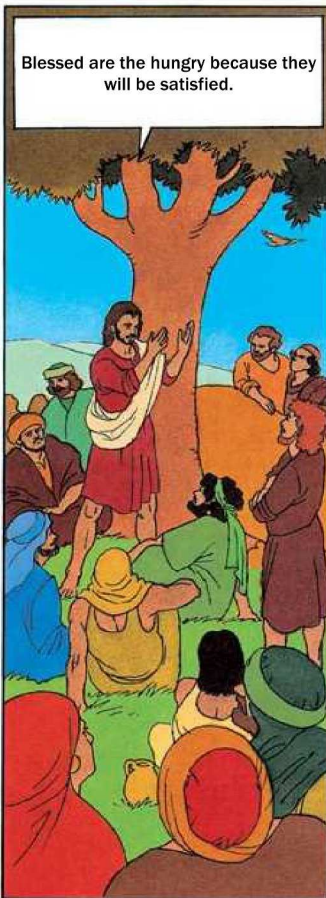
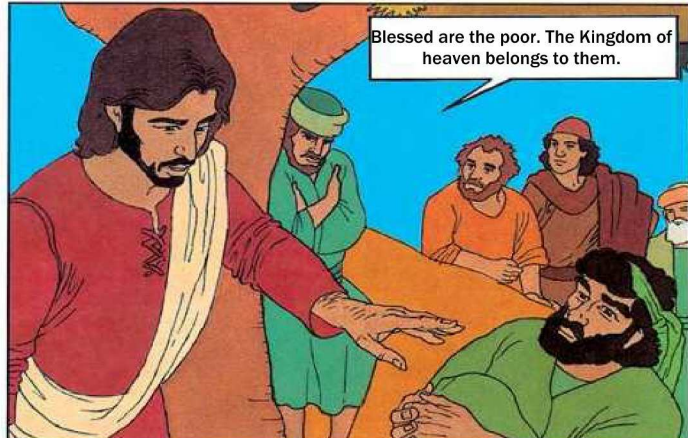
You may just tell how good God is for you. These are all ways to fish for men. God will do the rest.

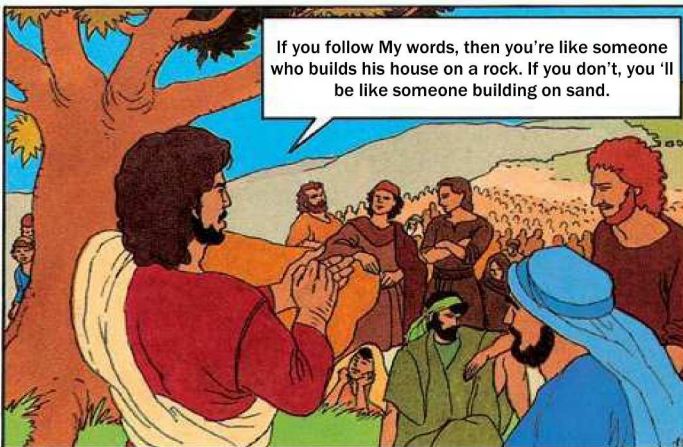
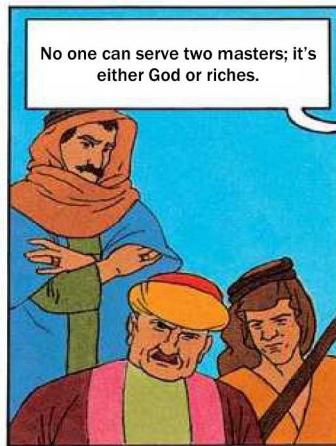
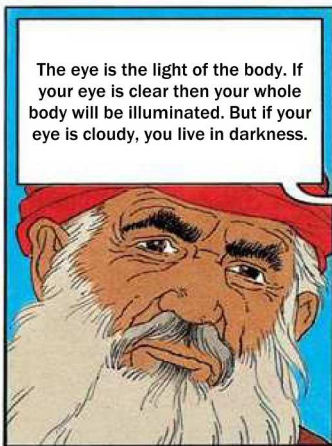
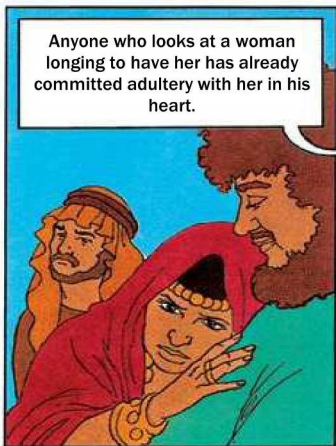
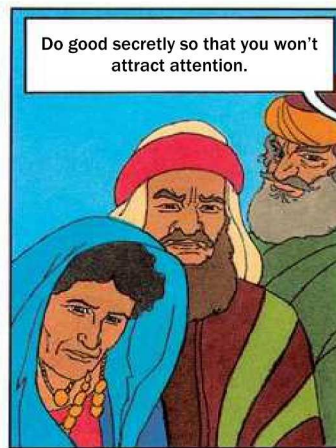
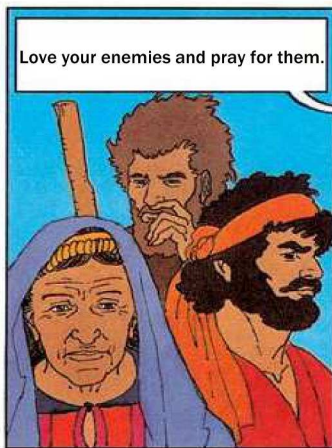
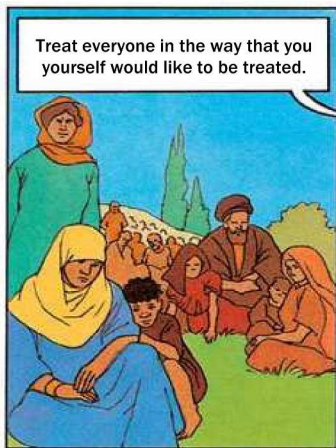
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THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

READ FOR YOURSELF: *Matthew 5:1-16*

Jesus travels all over Galilee with His disciples, telling everyone about the Kingdom of God. He heals all sorts of diseases, driving out demonic spirits and the people are amazed and follow Him. They even come from other provinces and Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. They hang on to His every word...







THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

How does God want us to live?

It is all written down. Nobody needs to err. You can read all about it, learn from it and put it into practice.

How does God want us to live?

Moses wrote five books about how to live. These are the first five books of the Bible. Together they are called “the Law” or “the holy teaching”. The Law is God’s teaching how people need to live right. Jesus knows nobody can keep the Law completely. You need God’s guidance through His Spirit.

How does God want us to live?

You need to listen and look to Jesus.

For Jesus it’s not just saying words. What He says He does. He does what God meant. Because of Jesus we can listen to God’s Word and we can read God’s Word. That’s how we learn to do God’s word. The Law can’t help us to live right in our own strength. Jesus can! He changes you by His Spirit, so you can live right the way God wants you to do.

MEMORY VERSE

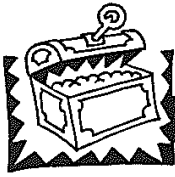
*“Do for others what you want them to do for you: this is the meaning of the Law of Moses and of the teachings of the prophets.”
(Matthew 7:12)*

WHO IS JESUS?

The Living Word

*“We write to you about the Word of life, which has existed from the very beginning. We have heard it, and we have seen it with our eyes; yes, we have seen it, and our hands have touched it.”
(1 John 1:1)*

The Lord Jesus is first of all someone who speaks. He speaks words of God and He shows that the words of God are true. He not only speaks the word of God, He also does the word of God. He is the Word of God. Whatever God says, Jesus proves it to be true.

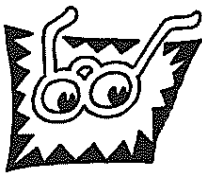


OLD TREASURES

Moses was the first prophet of Israel in the Old Testament. He wrote the first 5 books of the Bible. Together they are called "the Law". In these books you can find the Ten Commandments. These form the core of the Law of Moses.

God wrote the words of the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets. Nevertheless, God's Word would one day come in an even more powerful way to the people. God would express His word in the life of one man: the Messiah. He is called the Word of God. Moses heard the following words from God about the Messiah:

"I will send them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will tell Him what to say, and He will tell the people everything I command. He will speak in My name, and I will punish anyone who refuses to obey Him." (Deuteronomy 18:18-19)



EXTRA INFORMATION

The rabbi

In Israel the weather is usually warm and dry. That is why it is not strange that Jesus teaches outdoors. Sound travels well on a mountain. So, when Jesus has to speak to large crowds, He does that from a mountain.

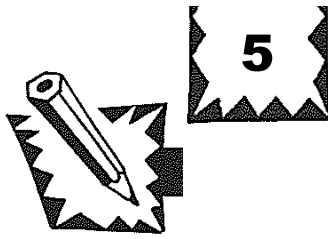
People are used to listen to a rabbi, a teacher. In Jesus' time Jewish children also went to school. The Old Testament, the Jewish Law, is their only school-book. At school they even got biscuits with Bible verses written on them. In that way the children learnt to get the teaching of the Law inside, literally to taste the Law. Jesus comes inside your heart with Gods Spirit. He writes Gods love and will in your heart (Hebrew 8:10-12)

DO WHAT JESUS SAYS

If you love Jesus, you also love the Word of God. You love the Bible and you will do what the Bible tells you to - what Jesus Himself tells you to.

If you do what Jesus says, you will notice how true His words are. His words are good and to the point.

Can you do what Jesus says? Yes you can, when you believe in Jesus, Jesus lives in you by His Holy Spirit. He will help you. He is like a motor to live the life God loves us to live.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Write down the names of the first five books of the Bible:

2. Who wrote them?

3. Write out the verse Jesus summarises the Law of the Old Testament (Matthew 7:12).

4. Where did Jesus teach the lessons you can read in Matthew 5 to 7?

5. With what does Jesus compare people who do what He says?

6. What happens to a house that has no foundations, but is built on sandy ground (Matthew 7:27)?

7. Why is Jesus called: the Living Word?

- a) He makes God's Word true through His life
b) He can speak in a very lively way
c) He is one of the many prophets

BIBLE READING

Sun	Matthew 7:12
Mon	Exodus 20:1-17
Tue	Matthew 5:1-30
Wed	Matthew 5:43 - 6:1
Thu	Matthew 6:19-33
Fri	Matthew 7:24-27
Sat	1 John 1:1-4



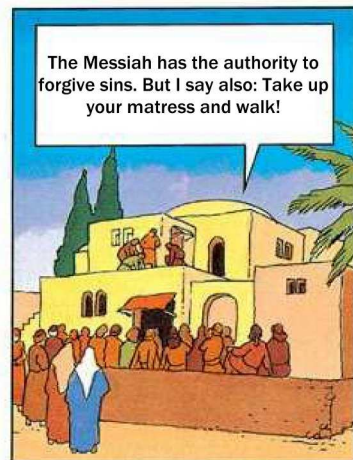
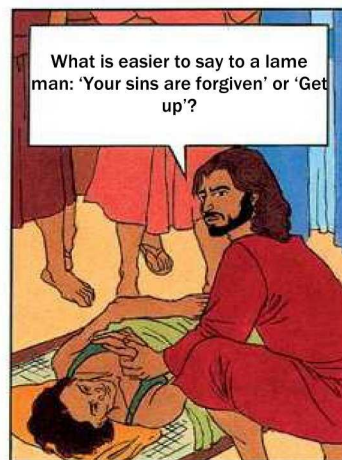
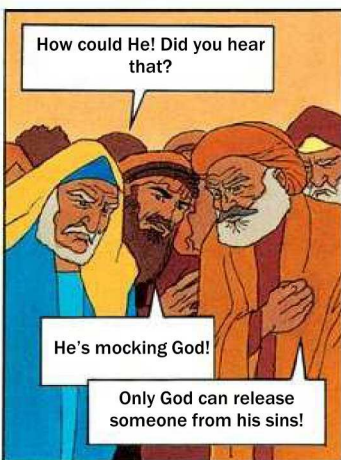
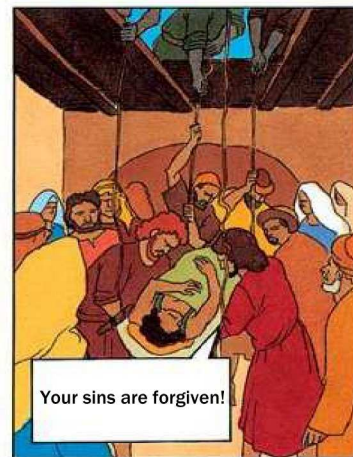
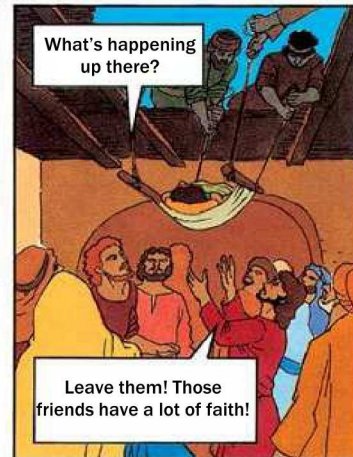
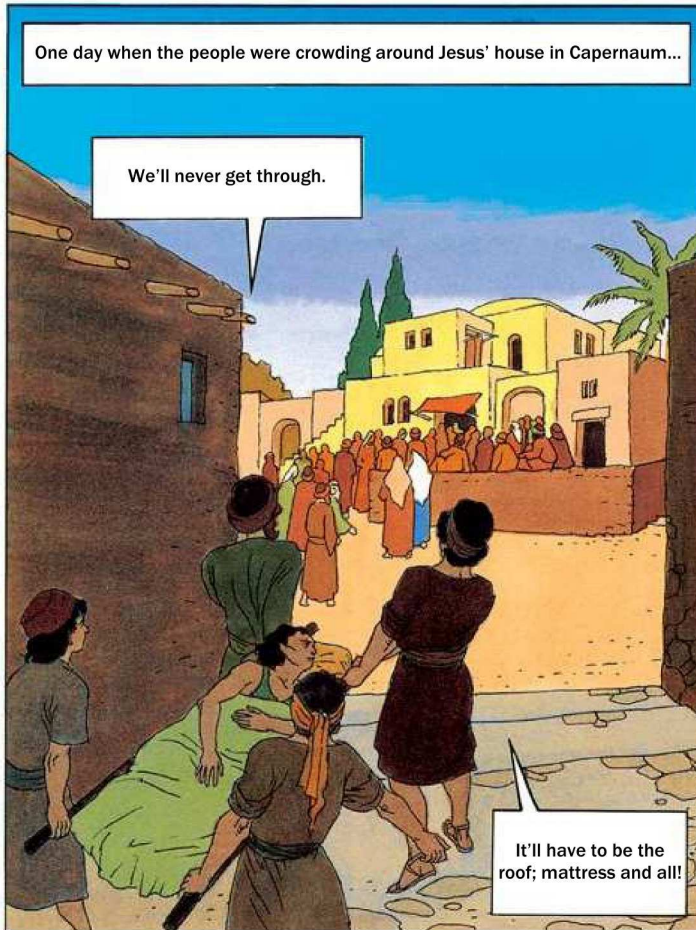
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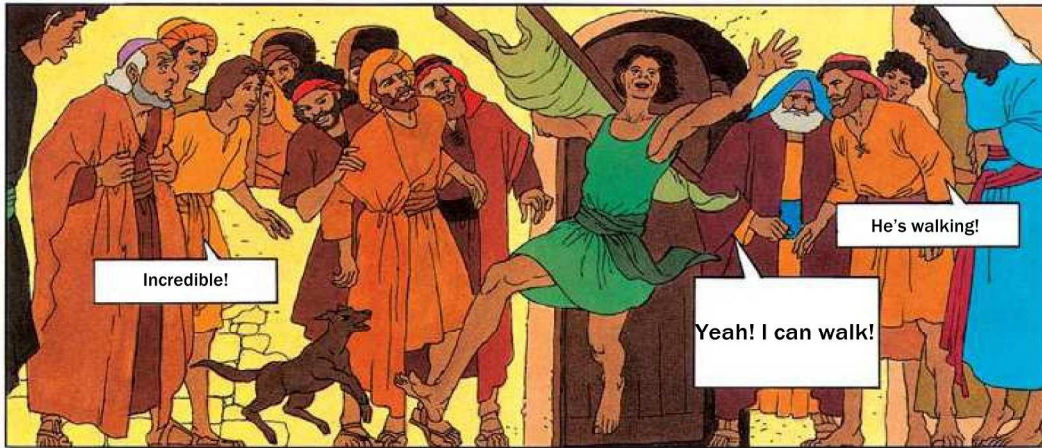
Pray the prayer that Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV)

*"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven
our debtors.
And lead us not into tempta-
tion,
but deliver us from evil."
For yours is the kingdom
and the power and the
glory, forever.
Amen!"*

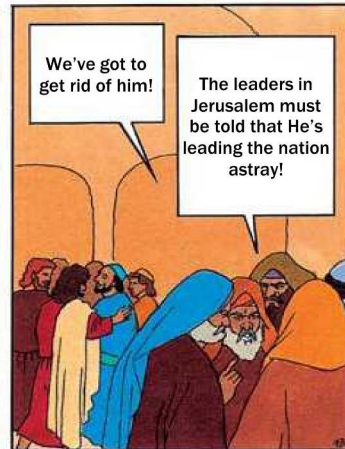
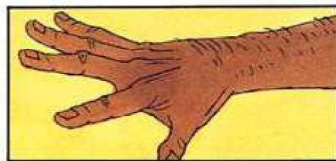
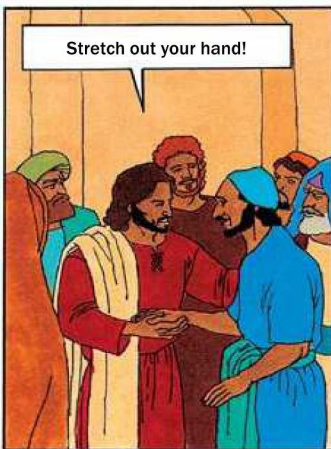
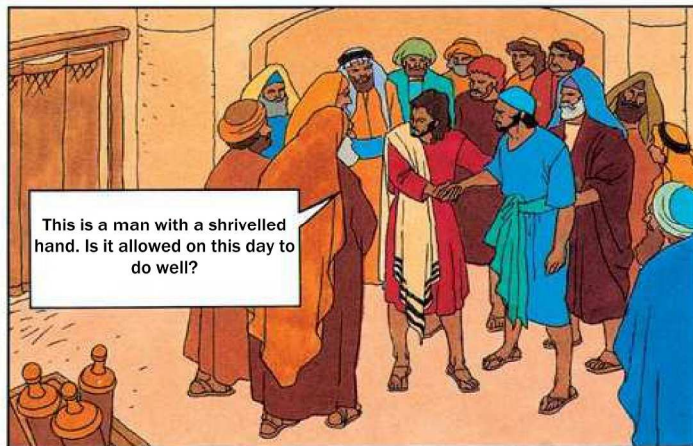
HEALED!

READ FOR YOURSELF: Luke 5:17-25, Luke 6:6-11





But not everyone is happy with Jesus' actions. The religious leaders keep notice if Jesus is keeping the rules of the Sabbath. On this day in Israel it is strongly forbidden to do any kind of work.





HEALED!

For the people in Israel it is clear that the Lord Jesus is a special person. Not only does He speak very well, He also does many good things. He even heals sick people! With His miracles Jesus shows that God wants to put right all those things that have gone wrong. He forgives sins and He heals sicknesses.

The people know that God is good and has pity on those people who are suffering. They have read about that in the Old Testament. And the history of Israel is clear proof of that. But now they see it with their own eyes that God makes things whole. They see it in Jesus, who shows concern for sick and weak people.

Do you know that the New Testament speaks 41 times about Jesus healing people? Many times it said He healed all the sick. No wonder people are very excited. But even so with all these miracles they do not put their trust in Jesus. There will come a time when most people will leave Jesus. Why?

Because faith has nothing to do with what you see. You can experience miracles but still not long for Jesus. Faith is in your heart. When you have come to love Jesus, then you will stay with Him. Keep trusting that He will make everything turn out right. That is real faith!

MEMORY VERSE

*"Praise the Lord, my soul,
and do not forget how
kind He is. He forgives all
my sins and heals all my
diseases."
(Psalm 103:2,3)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Doctor

*"Doctor, heal your-
self." (Luke 4:23)*

Jesus shows through healing people that God wants people to be whole. Inside and outside, in their spirits and in their bodies.

The people in His birth-place Nazareth do not believe in Him. Jesus knows what they are thinking: "Doctor, heal yourself." That is why He did not perform miracles there.

And yet He is the One whom God promised to send. His miracles prove that He is the Messiah. That is why He says in another place:
*"What I do, that is, the
deeds My Father gave Me
to do, these speak on My
behalf and show that the
Father has sent
me." (John 5:36)*



OLD TREASURES

Some people think that our body is not important to God. They think that He only thinks about the inside of the people, their spirit. No, He also takes care of our physical needs. The Lord God presents Himself in the Old Testament as healer (doctor).

"If you will obey Me completely by doing what I consider right and by keeping My commands, I will not punish you with any of the diseases that I brought on the Egyptians. I am the Lord, the one who heals you." (Exodus 15:26)

Another quote:

"I will make you well again; I will heal your wounds," (Jeremiah 30:17a)

This promise is fulfilled thanks to Jesus, the Messiah:
"But because of our sins He was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment He suffered, made whole by the blows He received." (Isaiah 53:5)



EXTRA INFORMATION

Religious Rules

Studying the Law (the Old Testament) in Jesus' time was the highest thing the Jews could do. That is the reason why the Jews were known as the "people of the Law".

The Law was read aloud on the Sabbath day in the synagogue. In every city or village there was such a synagogue (a house of prayer).

Besides the Law, the teachers of the Jews had written all sorts of other books, with rules that everyone should obey. For example, there were, 39 things that were forbidden on the Sabbath day (our Saturday). However all these laws did not make you a man to God's heart. You need Jesus to be able to be seen holy by God and God's Spirit to do what God wants. (2 Corinthians 3:16)

MIRACLES HAPPEN!

Sometimes a miracle may happen in your life. God loves you so much and sometimes He wants to show you that this way!

The Lord Jesus loves you. The biggest miracle is however that He forgave all your sins. He accepted you to become a child of God. He feels it when you're sick or when you are in trouble. You can always bring everything to Him. He loves to perform a miracle in your life. Have you ever noticed any? Just pay attention. Have you thanked the Lord God for it?



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Jesus did mainly two things. Fill in the blanks:
Jesus forgives

Jesus healed the

2. Why did the four men bring their paralysed friend to Jesus through the roof?

3. What did Jesus see in those four friends (Luke 5:20)?

4. What is easier to say to a paralysed man:
(mark with a cross):

- a) Your sins are forgiven?
 - b) Stand up, take your bed and walk?
- Explain why:

5. How many times it is written in the New Testament that Jesus healed someone?

6. Which people are angry that Jesus heals people?

7. What does Jesus want to prove with His miracles (john 5:36)?



BIBLE READING

Sun	Psalm 103:1-5
Mon	Luke 5:17-26
Tue	Luke 6:6-11
Wed	Luke 4:16-24
Thu	Exodus 15:22-27
Fri	1 Peter 2:24-25
Sat	1 Thess. 5:23-24



ACTION POINT!

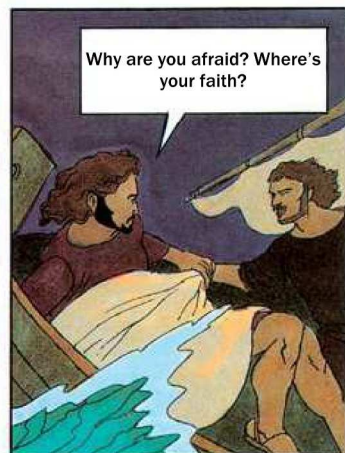
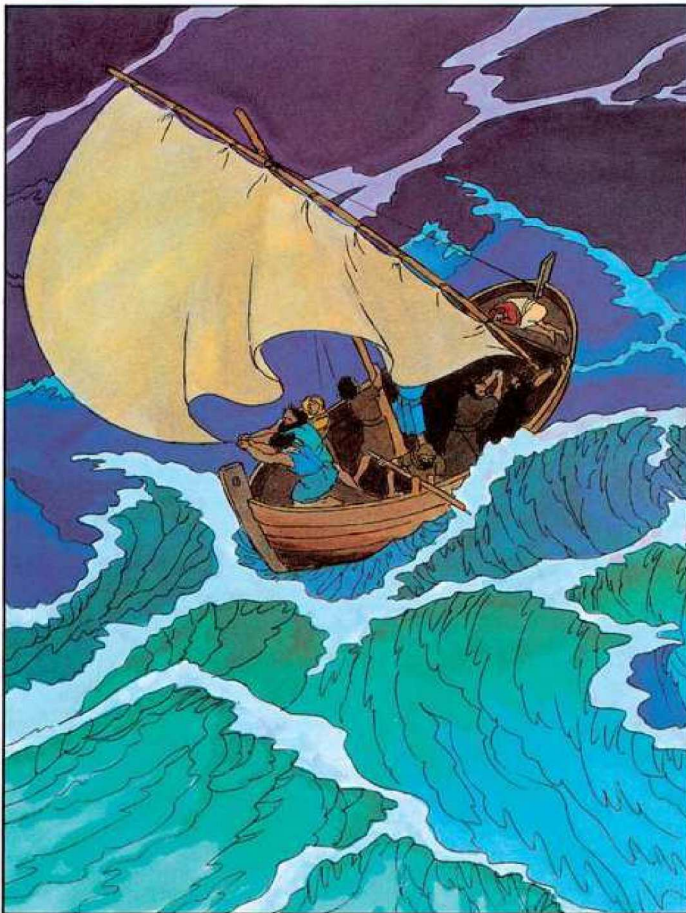
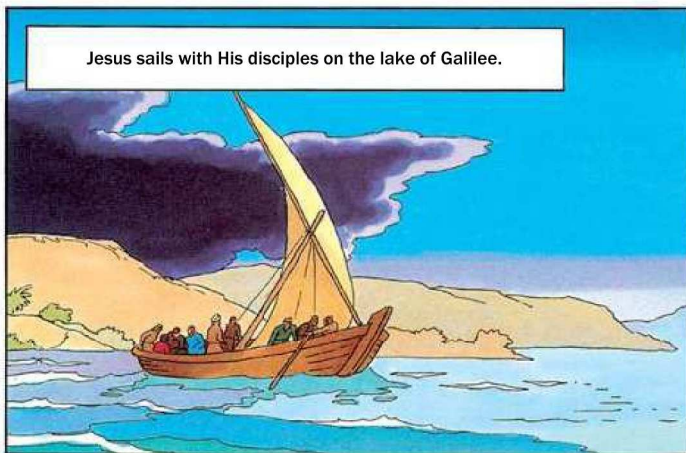
Take the time to think about what kind of miracles God has done in your life.

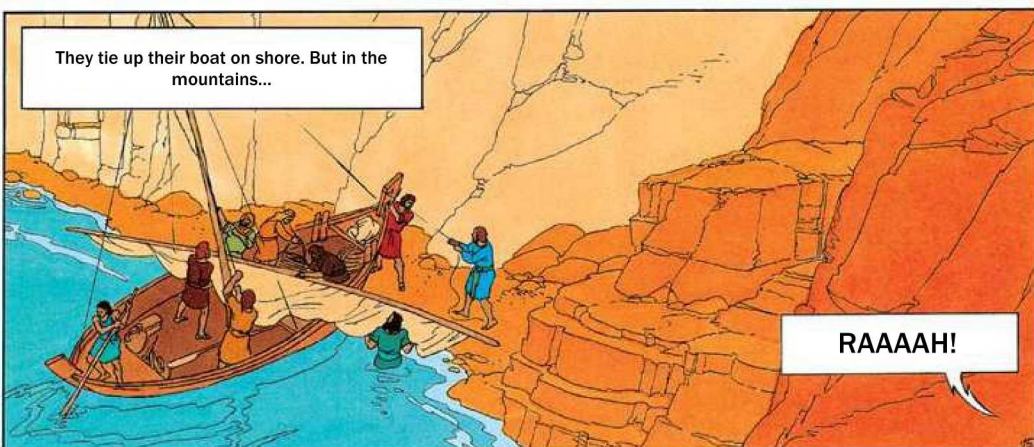
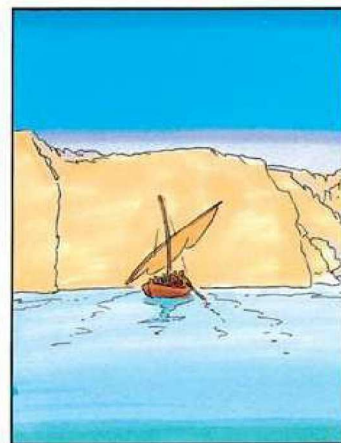
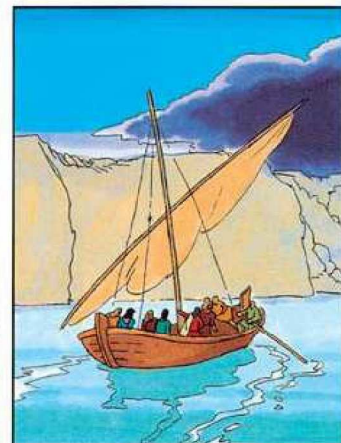
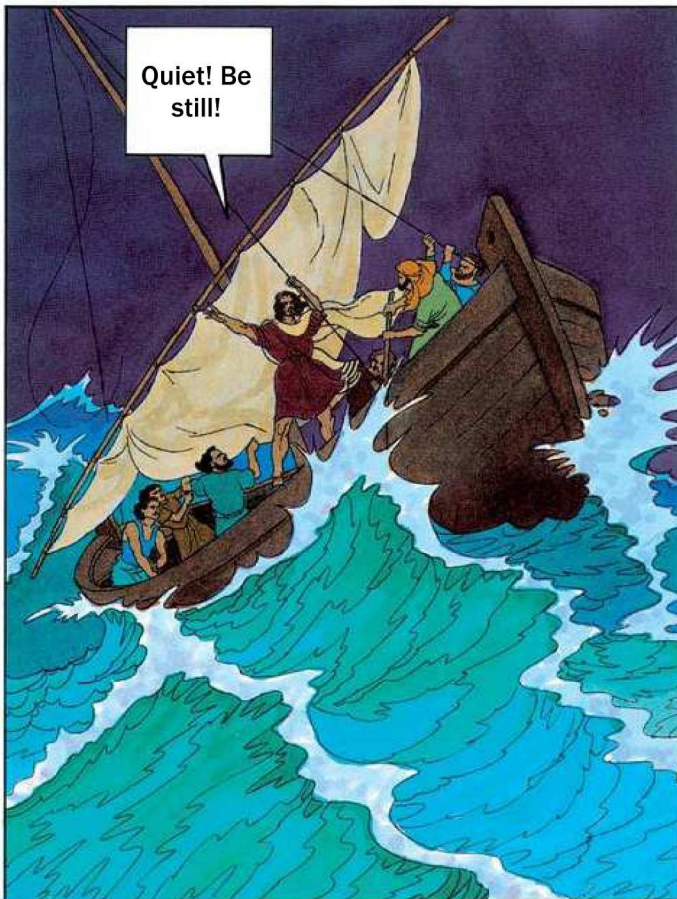
Write them down and praise God for all of them.



WITH JESUS IN THE BOAT

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 8:23-27







WITH JESUS IN THE BOAT

The disciples of Jesus are in big trouble. It's good they go to their Master with them. He may have a solution...

Of course He has a solution. Jesus rules over everything, even over the storm. Jesus sleeps in the storm. He has peace even then. He just commands the storm; So much power He has.

Nature suffers a lot from the results of sin. It can rage extremely wild. Jesus is the Lord over creation: Even nature must obey Him.

Problems may enter your life suddenly like a storm. Suddenly it happen: a stupid mistake, a wrong decision, a fight, annoying people, feeling insecure, or just bad luck. Fear starts filling your heart.

You don't have to be afraid if you are close to Jesus. He fills you with His peace and His faith. Maybe you still don't have that much faith in Him. Bad luck? Or do you bring all your worries to Jesus? What I would do: I would bring it to Jesus, I would pray; I would listen to what He tells.

He promises He will always be with you. When He says so, you can have peace. In every circumstance He has the last word. Trust in His word. Then everything will be calm again.

MEMORY VERSE

*"If God is for us, who can be against us?"
(Romans 8:31b)*

WHO IS JESUS?

The First

*"Christ existed before all things, and in union with Him all things have their proper place.
He is the head of his body, the church; He is the source of the body's life. He is the firstborn Son, who was raised from death, in order that He alone might have the first place in all things."
(Col. 1:17-18)*

God spoke and all things were created through His Word (Genesis 1). In the very beginning, Jesus already existed. He is God's Word. God made all things through Him. (John 1:1-10).

Jesus was the first, when God created everything. He is also the first who rose from the dead. That is why everything and everyone should bow before Him. When Jesus speaks, it happens. Everything and everyone will someday say: "Jesus is Lord!"

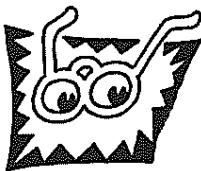


OLD TREASURES

Hundreds of years before Jesus came it was written in the Psalms that the coming Messiah would have authority over nature.

*"I have exalted a young man from among the people.
I have found David My servant;
with My sacred oil I have anointed Him.
I will set his hand over the sea,
his right hand over the rivers.
He will call out to me, `You are My Father,
My God, the Rock My Saviour.
I will establish his line forever,
his throne as long as the heavens endure."
(Psalm 89:19b,20,25,26,29 NIV)*

Many times in the Old Testament the Messiah is called David (as in Psalm 89:20). But when you read carefully, you notice that it is not about King David, who ruled over Israel and died. It is about the Messiah who is born as a descendant of David and who will rule as king for ever. (That is what you read, for example, in Psalm 89:36,37)



EXTRA INFORMATION

Storm

The Sea of Galilee is surrounded by beautiful mountains. When a storm passes the mountains, it can fall down on the lake. The water becomes wild, as if you were blowing in a bowl. The water has nowhere to go. The waves whirl and hit everything. The small fishing boats have no real chance in such wild storms.

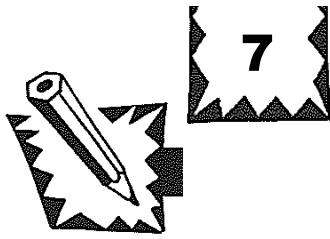
Sometimes storms and water floods are caused by the powers of darkness. Think about the Great Flood in Noah's time. God saved Noah and his family in the ark. (Genesis 6:18) Noah's name means "peaceful". He had the same peace and the same faith as Jesus. That's why God gave him so much grace.

GO TO JESUS WITH YOUR PROBLEMS

When something goes wrong, you can do one of three things:

1. Feel sorry and let it be.
2. Try to find a solution yourself as soon as possible.
3. Go to Jesus with your problems.

What do you do?



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What is Jesus doing when the storm falls on the lake?

2. What are the disciples doing in the storm?

3. Why does Jesus reprimand the disciples for being afraid in the storm?

- a) Jesus cannot change the fact that it is storming.
- b) Everybody can see that it's only a small storm.
- c) They are safe with Jesus, even in the heaviest storm.

4. What does Jesus do to solve His disciples' problems?

5. With what did God create the world?

6. Why is Jesus the master over creation?

7. Why is Jesus called the First?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Romans 8:31-39
Mon	Matthew 8:23-27
Tue	Psalms 89:9-19
Wed	Psalms 89:20-38
Thu	Psalms 107:23-31
Fri	Colossians 1:15-20
Sat	John 1:1-10

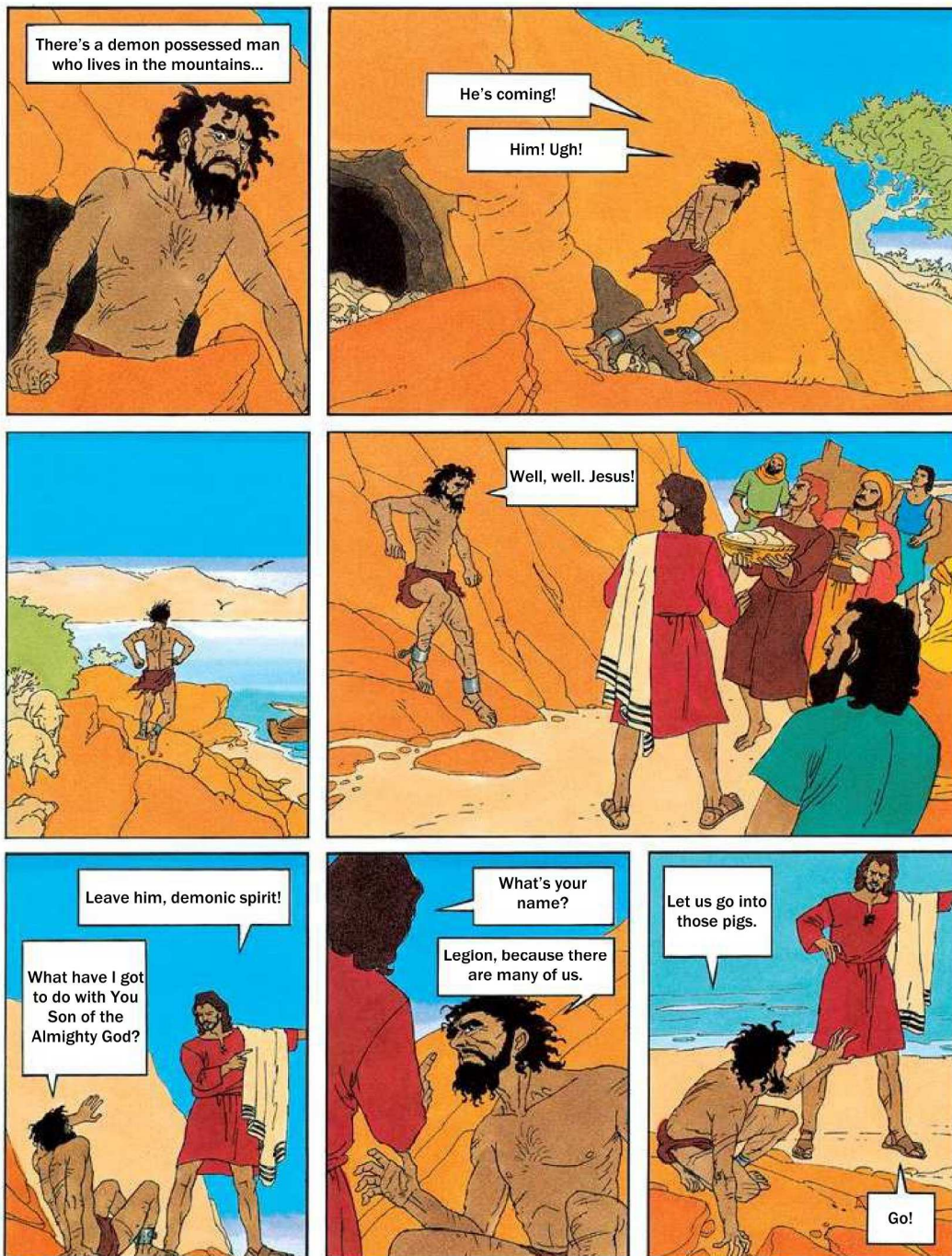


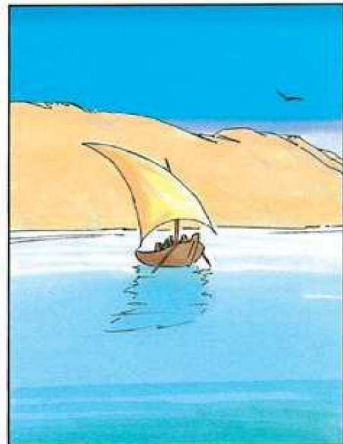
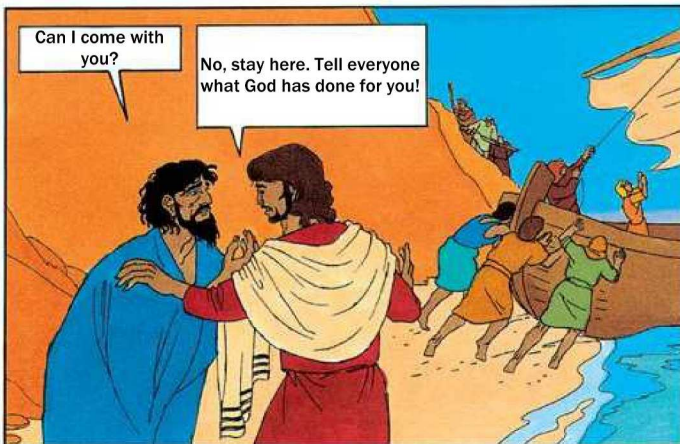
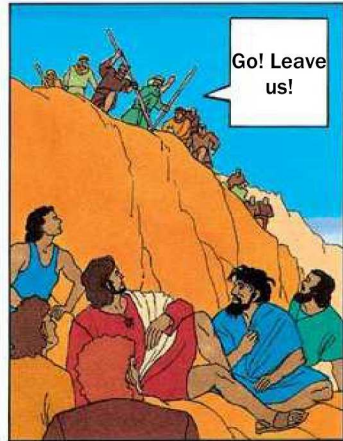
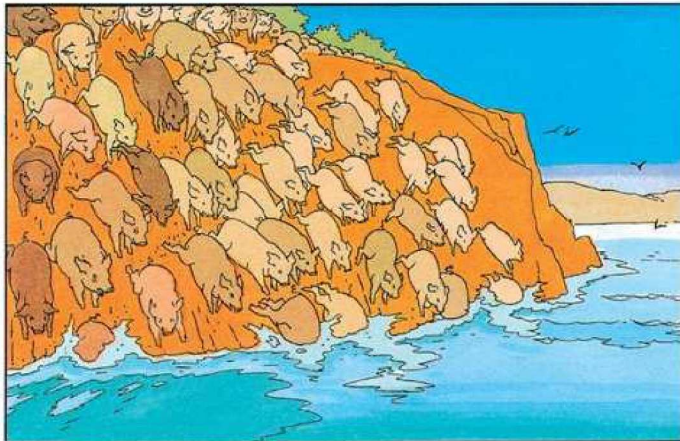
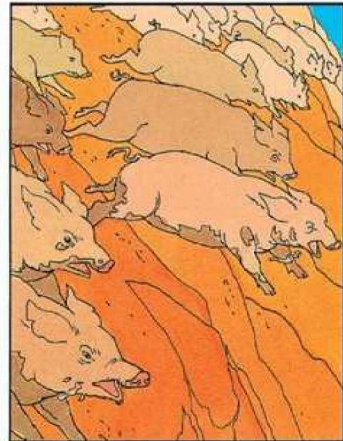
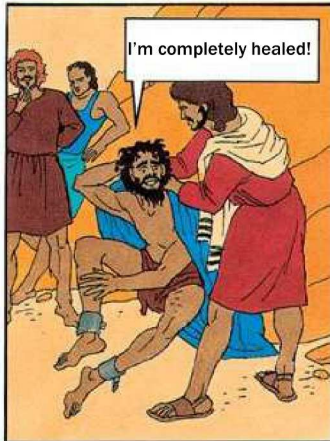
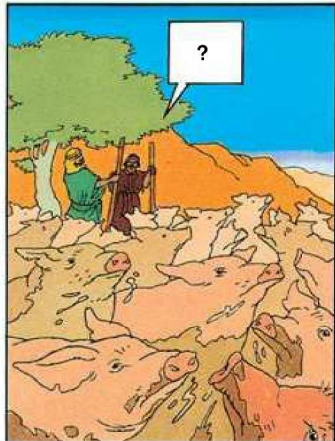
ACTION POINT!

- Take a piece of paper.
- Write down all the problems Paul mentioned in Romans 8:31-39: 7 items in verse 35 and 6 items in verse 38.
- Make up at least three more. Also write your own problems.
- And then write over it the words of Romans 8:31 in red ink.

FREE OF SATAN'S POWER

READ FOR YOURSELF: Mark 5:1-20







FREE OF SATAN'S POWER

Beware! The devil is strong. But ... Jesus is stronger! That is why you do not need to be afraid of the devil. He has to leave you alone; he has no right to bother you.

The devil (Satan) is invisible. But he is there. And sometimes you can see his influence in people. He is determined to overpower people. The minute you give in to Him, he grabs hold of you, so that you do not anymore do what you yourself want. You become addicted to ugly things and habits. You lose control of yourself. You become lonely. And you start hating yourself. Until Jesus comes along ...

The Lord Jesus goes with His disciples to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. There in the mountains outside of Israel a collision takes place between two worlds: between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness: Jesus against the powers of the devil. There is a possessed man, kept prisoner by evil spirits. They make him very strong, but also terribly unhappy.

Then Jesus comes! And where Jesus comes the devil flees. Jesus frees people from the devil's influence, because He is much stronger!

MEMORY VERSE

*"The Son of God appeared for this very reason, to destroy what the Devil had done."
(1 John 3:8b)*

WHO IS JESUS?

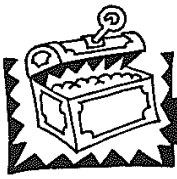
Deliverer

*"You are my help and my deliverer; O my God."
(Psalm 40:17 NIV)*

Jesus is stronger than all the powers of Satan. He is even stronger than death. Jesus entered death. But He also rose from death. And because He was victorious He is able to deliver people from their sickness, addiction or fear. He is the Deliverer!

*"Only that way could He deliver people, who had feared death their whole life long, out of bondage".
(Hebrews 2:15).*

*That is why Jesus says:
"If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free." (John 8:36)*



OLD TREASURES

Isaiah was born about 770 B.C. and lived in Jerusalem. He wrote the longest book in the Old Testament (66 chapters). No other prophet wrote as clearly about Jesus as did Isaiah. When Jesus reads a passage from Isaiah in the synagogue, He says that this is talking about Himself (Luke 4:16-21).

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent Me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners” (Isaiah 61:1).



EXTRA INFORMATION

Satan

In the Bible Satan has a number of names. These names reveal clearly that he is God's enemy and that he desires to destroy people:

- devil (Ephesians 4:27);
- evil one (1 John 2:14);
- chief of the demons (Mark 3:22);
- accuser (Revelation 12:10);
- father of all lies (John 8:44);
- ancient serpent (Revelation 12:9);

Satan also has helpers: demons, evil spirits, fallen angels. But Jesus has defeated all these powers!

WITHSTAND SATAN

Are you afraid of the devil? Are you afraid of death? Or are you bound to ugly habits?

If you belong to the Lord Jesus the devil has no say over you. Jesus wants to take all your fears away. He wants to free you from every kind of addiction. He fills you with his peace. By simply trusting Jesus you withstand Satan. Listen to Him!

TIP

Whenever you are afraid, you can say: “But with Jesus I am more than conqueror!” The devil can not argue with this at all.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Where did the possessed man live?

2. 'Possessed' means:

- a) That you are doing well.
- b) That evil spirits are living in someone.
- c) That you are very strong.

3. How do the people know that the possessed man is healed?

4. What does Jesus tell the healed man to do?

5. With what are people doing that are being influenced by the devil?

6. Why does God not approve of consulting with spirits and practising divination (Deuteronomy 18:12)?

7. Why is the Lord Jesus called Deliverer?



BIBLE READING

Sun	1 John 3:8
Mon	Mark 5:1-20
Tue	Deuteronomy 18:9-15
Wed	Psalms 40:14-18
Thu	Luke 4:16-21
Fri	Hebrews 2:14-15
Sat	Colossians 2:13-15



ACTION POINT!

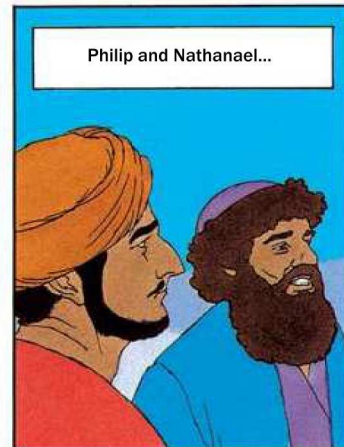
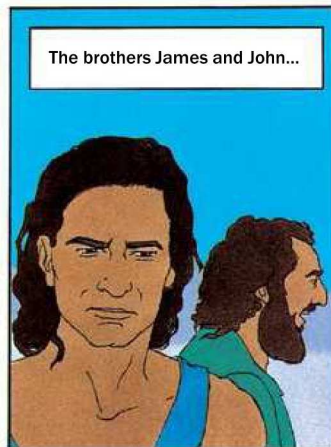
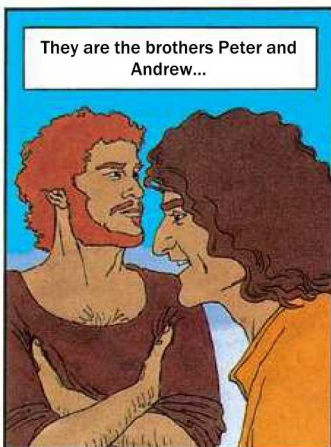
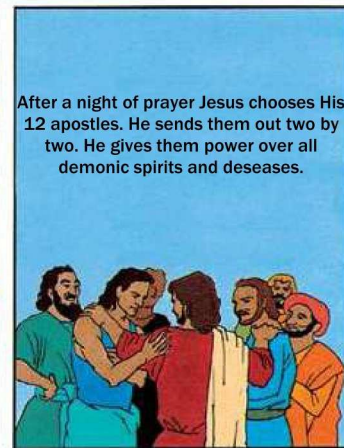
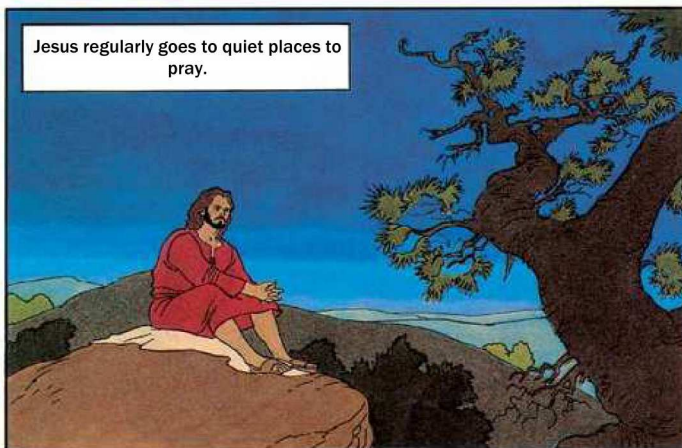
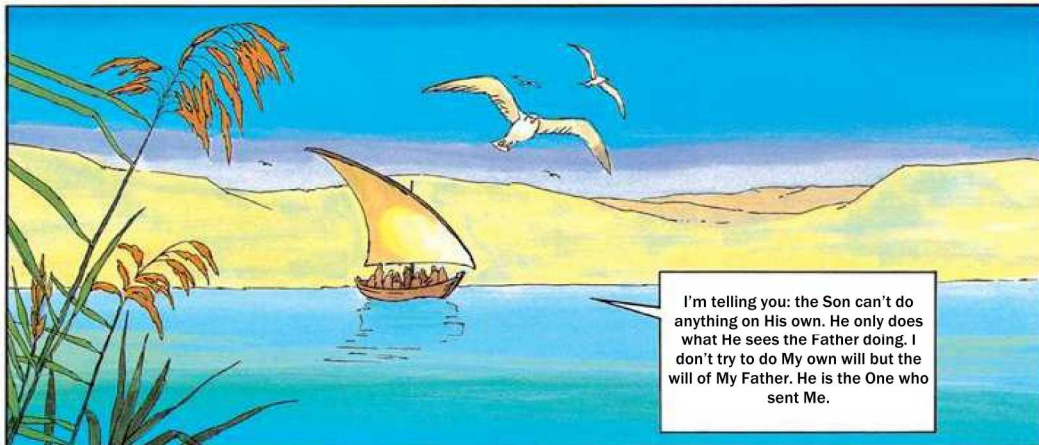
This time: Don't do it!
Never do it! Never do what? Never look for 'power' to get special advantage, other than from Jesus.

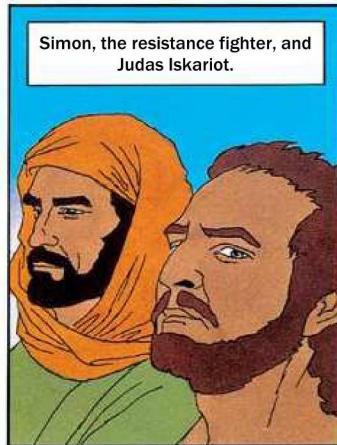
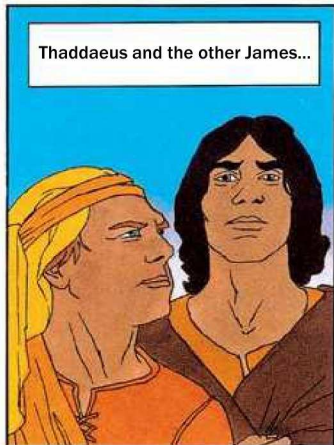
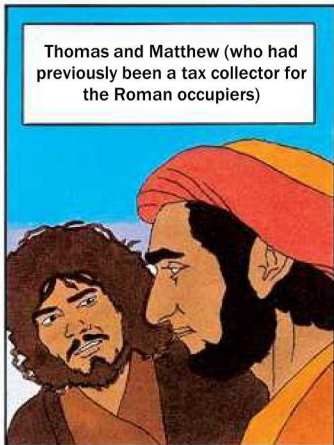
It seems fun at first, advantageous, but you quickly get attached to it. And it gets you into all sorts of new problems. Gambling. Drinking. Smoking. Using drugs. Occult games. Spin glass. Reading horoscope. Calling up spirits. Fortune telling. Divination. Spells. Paranormal healing.

By doing these things you are opening a door for satanic powers. Say no to anything of which Jesus is not the boss. Don't do it!

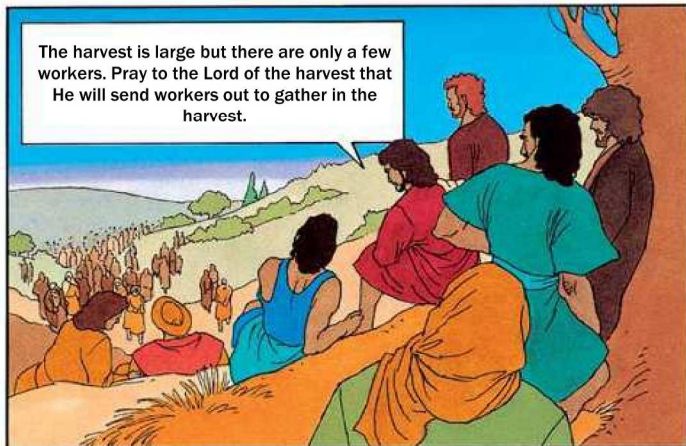
THE MISSION

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 9:35 - 10:4





The 12 apostles return excited about their mission. After this Jesus wants to go to a quiet spot with them, but the crowds won't leave Him alone.





THE MISSION

It is clear: the Lord Jesus prays for people. You read that again and again.

It is also clear that He loves all sorts of people. You can see that by the way He chooses His disciples. There are shy people among them and people who talk a lot. They are fishermen, an accountant, a freedom fighter, a book-worm. For Him they all have the same worth.

In one thing all the disciples are the same. They all love Jesus (except one, but we will talk about Him later). That is why they all really want to go with Him. They leave everything behind in order to follow Him: their parents, their house, their work. They are young men. They also leave behind their own plans for the future. Because following Jesus is more important than everything else. The meaning of disciple is, after all, 'one who follows'.

Are only these 12 His disciples? No. The Lord Jesus also has many more followers. Maybe you are one of them. The story of Jesus and His disciples is not yet finished! It gets even more exciting. The story continues in your own life...

MEMORY VERSE

*He said to His disciples,
"The harvest is large, but
there are few workers to
gather it in. Pray to the
owner of the harvest that
He will send out workers
to gather in His harvest."
(Matthew 9:37-38)*

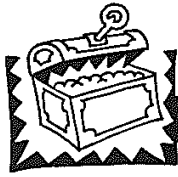
WHO IS JESUS?

An example

*It was to this that God
called you, for Christ
Himself suffered for you
and left you an example,
so that you would follow in
his steps (1 Peter 2:21)*

Jesus sets the example in serving others.

*"You call Me Teacher and
Lord, and it is right that
you do so, because that is
what I am. I, your Lord
and Teacher, have just
washed your feet. You,
then, should wash one
another's feet. I have set
an example for you, so
that you will do just what I
have done for you"
(John 13:13-15)*



DO WHAT JESUS DID

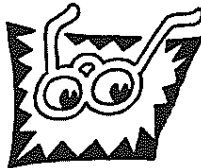
If you pray for workers in the harvest, the Lord Jesus will also choose you to start working. What will you say then? Yes, Lord? If you love Jesus, then you want to tell that to your friends.

How do you become a disciple of the Lord Jesus? Pay attention to Him, stay close to Him and trust Him. That is what followers do. They follow no one else. They don't go their own way. A disciple of the Lord Jesus asks: "Lord, what do you like me to do?" And that is what you do!

OLD TREASURES

*"The Sovereign Lord has taught Me what to say, so that I can strengthen the weary. Every morning He makes Me eager to hear what He is going to teach me."
(Isaiah 50:4)*

The Messiah is Himself actually also a follower, a disciple. He follows the Lord God. He talks like a learner, because He says only that which God wants Him to say. That is how the prophet Isaiah saw Him acting in the future. And that is the way the people in Israel seven centuries later saw Jesus relating to God the Father. And that is how we see that He is one with the Father.

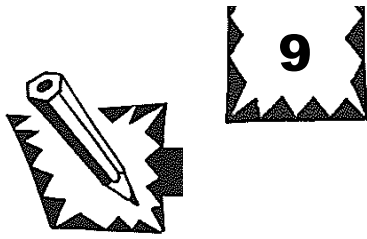


EXTRA INFORMATION

Why 12 disciples?

God had chosen Israel to be a blessing for all the nations of the world. They were to make known who God is. Israel was made up of 12 tribes (from the 12 sons of Jacob).

When Jesus chooses 12 disciples it signifies a new beginning. The disciples have the privilege of spreading the news that God is doing something new. They are to declare that Jesus has come to save sinners and to heal the sick. First they are told to take that good news (the gospel) only to Israel. But later, they are to take the gospel to the whole world. That happens after Jesus leaves the earth and the disciples have received the Holy Spirit.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What is the meaning of 'disciple'?

2. In the time of Jesus one person might have more than one name. Some of His disciples also had more than one name. Look them up:

Peter (Matthew 10:2) =

Thomas (John 21:2) =

Matthew (Mark 2:14) =

3. Why does Jesus choose exactly 12 disciples?

4. What were the crowds like (Matthew 9:36)?

What does Jesus want to be for them?
(Look it up in John 10:11)?

5. What does Jesus mean with 'the harvest' in Matthew 9:37?

- a) The ripe wheat in Galilee
- b) The disciples
- c) The crowd of people

6. Who is the 'owner of the harvest' in Mathew 9:38?

7. Are there still disciples of Jesus today? Why?

BIBLE READING

Sun	1 Peter 2:21
Mon	Luke 6:12-13
Tue	Matthew 9:35 - 10:2
Wed	Matthew 10:37-40
Thu	Isaiah 50:4-5
Fri	John 5:19-20
Sat	John 13:13-17



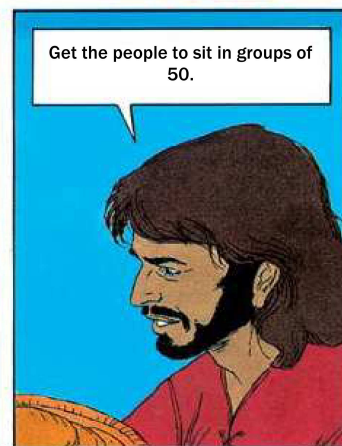
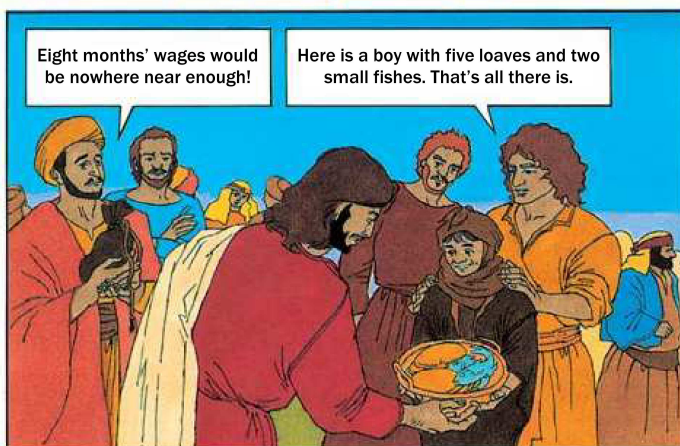
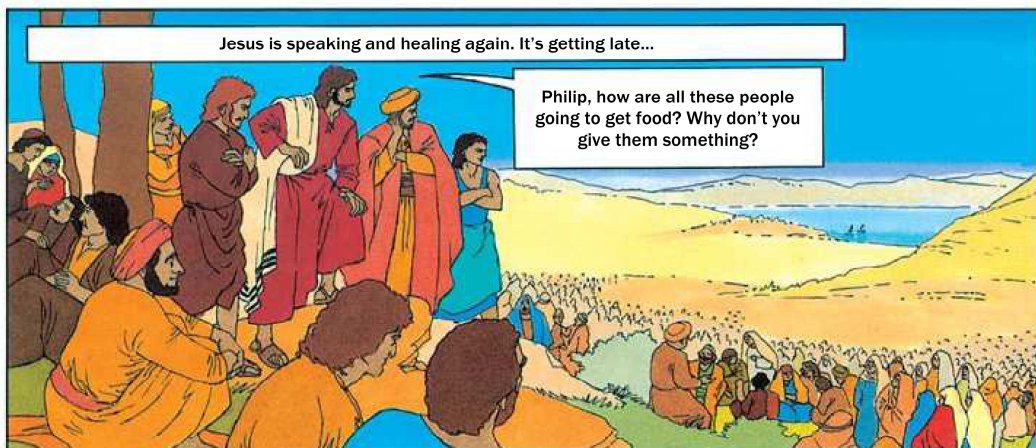
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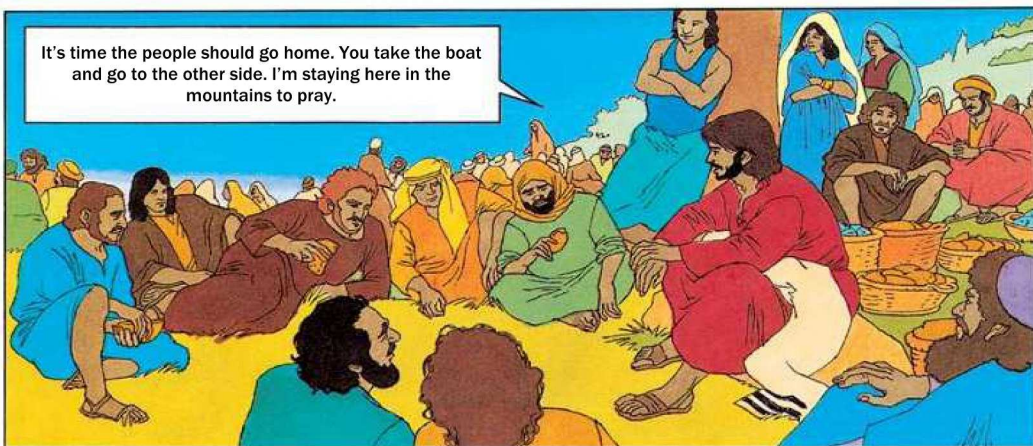
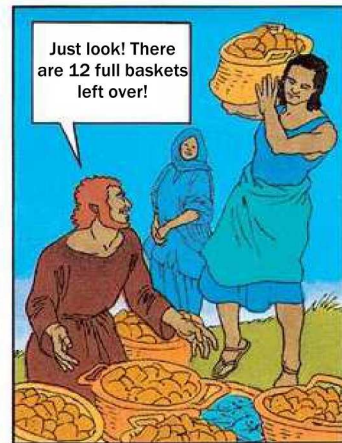
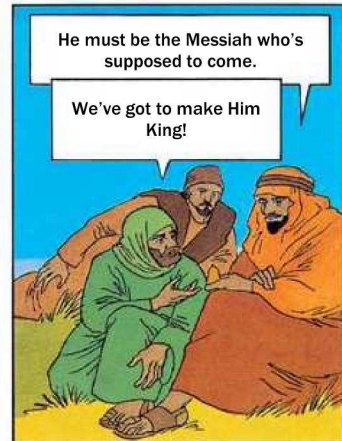
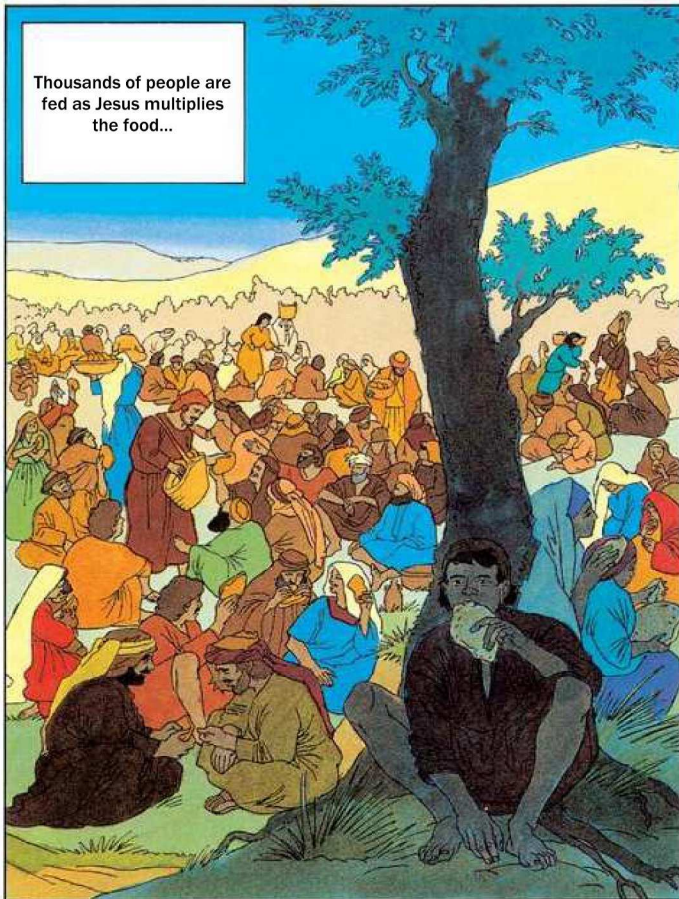
Jesus is our example.
In what ways do you want to do like He did? Make a check mark.

- Pray for people who have gone out to share the gospel in the world. (Write down for whom you are going to pray.)
- Pray for someone who is sick. (For whom?)
- Tell someone about God. (Whom?)
- Make someone happy with a beautiful passage from the Bible. (Whom?)
- Pray for more workers in the harvest.

JEZUS GIVES MORE THAN ENOUGH

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 6:1-15







JEZUS GIVES MORE THAN ENOUGH

It is amazing what a packet of lunch can do! It begins like this. A crowd of people are following the Lord Jesus towards the mountains. In order to listen to Him Jesus is concerned that they have become hungry. He wants to do something about that. But the disciples do not have much faith in the Lord Jesus' being able to provide for the needs of these people.

Philip figures out how much money is needed to get food for everyone. Not nearly enough. Andrew finds out how much food there is available among the people. It is not very much. Only a small boy is willing to give to the Lord Jesus the food He has taken with Him.

But take note well! When five loaves and two small fish pass through Jesus' hands, a whole crowd of people can eat from it. There are even lots leftovers. Imagine how happy that boy must have been that his lunch could mean so much for others!

Did you know that you too can mean much for other people? That which you give into Jesus' hands can be multiplied. Then it becomes a blessing for other people. That is just how God wants it. Because God is a God of more than enough!

MEMORY VERSE

*"I have come in order that you might have life; life in all its fullness."
(John 10:10)*

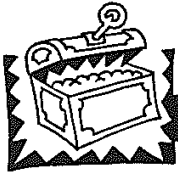
WHO IS JESUS?

Good shepherd

*"I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep."
(John 10:11).*

No one takes so good care of His sheep as Jesus does:

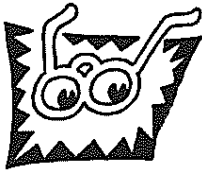
*"I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me."
(John 10:28).*



OLD TREASURES

The Lord said to Moses, "Now I am going to cause food to rain down from the sky for all of you. The people must go out every day and gather enough for that day." (Exodus 16:4).

God is delighted to provide for our needs. He is full of grace. About 1300 years before the Lord Jesus handed out bread, God also performed a miracle with bread. That was in the wilderness. The people of Israel were wandering through the wilderness under Moses' leading, on the way to the Promised Land. But there was no food. Then God made it rain manna, it was like white flour kernels.



EXTRA INFORMATION

Shepherds

In many places in the Bible you read about shepherds. Abel, the first person in history to be murdered, was a shepherd. Abraham, the ancestor of the people Israel, was a shepherd also. Moses was for a long time a shepherd too, before he led the people Israel out of Egypt. David was a shepherd, before he became king of Israel. And it was shepherds who were the first to get the message of the birth of the Messiah. Shepherds in the Middle East do not walk behind their flock like they do in the West. They walk out in front of the flock, to lead the sheep to grazing places and to protect them from wild animals. The leaders of the church of Jesus are also sometimes called 'shepherds'. They make sure that their flock is protected and gets the best food.

GIVE TO JESUS!

The boy gave what he had to the Lord Jesus: Five loaves and two small fish. It didn't seem like much. But Jesus could do very much with it. Never say: I don't have anything important to give to the Lord Jesus. Everything you give to Him can change in His hands to a blessing: to something what make others happy.

TIP

Because you can't see the Lord Jesus, maybe you think you can't give anything to Him. But that is surely not so. You can give something to Jesus by giving it to someone near you. Do it with joy and in love.



DO YOU KNOW...?

- 1. How do Philip and Andrew want to help Jesus find food?

Philip:

Andrew:

- 2. How many people (!) have to be fed (John 6:10):
a) 5,000
b) More than 5,000
c) Less than 5,000
- 3. What does Jesus do before He hands out the food (John 6:11)?

- 4. What does Jesus do at the end of this busy day?

- 5. Make a check mark by the right description of a good shepherd:
a) He knows His sheep by name - protects His sheep - leads his sheep to good pastures.
b) He knows His sheep by name - protects His sheep - lets them seek for food themselves.
c) He does not really know His sheep - forgets His sheep - thinks only of how He can be happy.
- 6. A shepherd provides protection and food for his sheep. What might the sheep be able to give to the shepherd?

- 7. Why do you think that the leaders of the churches of Jesus today also get called 'shepherds'?
answer:



BIBLE READING

- Sun John 6:1-15
- Mon Exodus 16:1-12
- Tue Ezekiel 34:6-16
- Wed John 10:6-15
- Thu Psalm 23:1-6
- Fri 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
- Sat Philippians 4:12-20



ACTION POINT!

This week give something away every other day. Pray that the Lord Jesus will make what you give a blessing for the one who gets it. And thank Him that He gives you more than you need for yourself. Then discover how good it is to give things away. That is something you will want to do often!

Monday I give

to _____

Wednesday I give

to _____

Friday I give

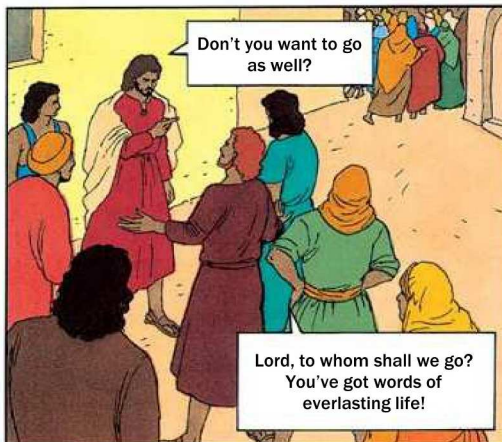
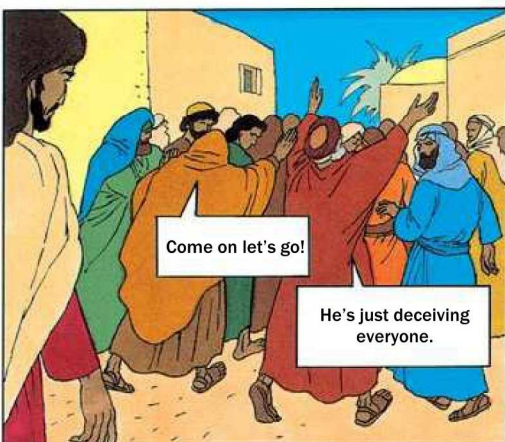
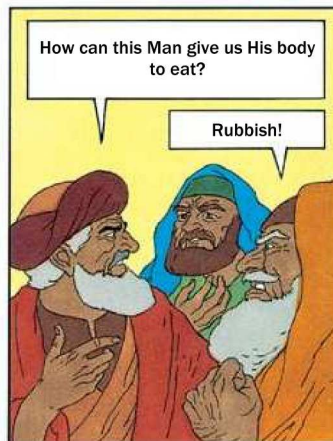
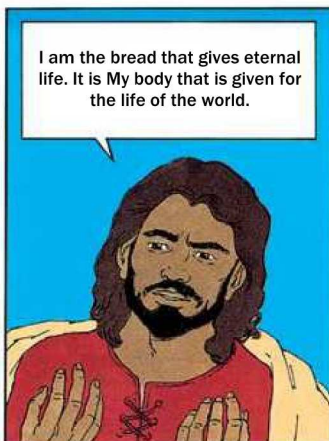
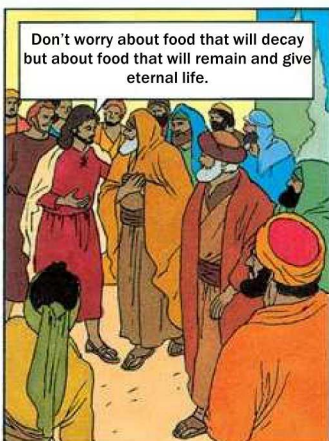
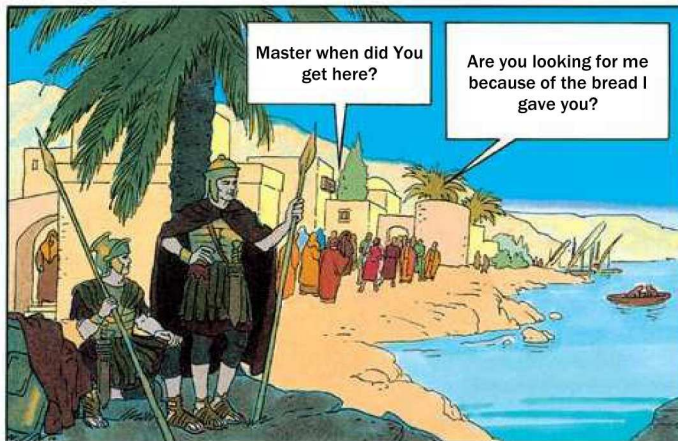
to _____

TO BELIEVE IS TO TRUST JESUS

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 14:22-33, John 6:22-40, 60-69



There are people who want to proclaim Jesus as king. They hope that with His leadership the Roman occupiers will be ousted. Jesus' opponents are also on the increase. They're continually criticising Him. They want to set the people against Him and get rid of Him.





TO BELIEVE IS TO TRUST JESUS

Peter really wants to believe in the Lord Jesus. He just steps right out of his old, familiar boat. But when he starts walking on the water, he sees the waves around Him, he loses his courage completely. He calls to Jesus, so that he will save him. He has begun to doubt. Fortunately the Saviour is right there.

“To believe or not to believe”, that's the question if you want to keep walking with the Lord Jesus.

Just think back to the previous story. The Lord Jesus gave food to a large crowd. To do that, He only needed five loaves and two fishes. Everyone ate from that, because that is what Jesus wanted.

But a different kind of bread is needed to receive eternal life: The body of Jesus, which He will give as a means of salvation from death. He forgives your sins, so that you do not have to be judged. That is how Jesus wants it. You need to believe in order to receive that salvation. Whoever does not believe, will not take of that strange bread.

The Jewish leaders think the word of Jesus about the bread that gives everlasting life is just nonsense (rubbish). They could have believed Jesus, but they didn't want to. Jesus also wants to be their saviour, but they do not want to be saved by Him. They do not want to stay near to Jesus. They leave.

Other followers of Jesus leave Him, because they cannot believe Him. Others continue with Him. Like Peter. Even though he sometimes doubts, he keeps on believing in the Son of God.

MEMORY VERSE

*"Whoever believes in Him
will not be disappointed."
(Romans 10:11)*

WHO IS JESUS?

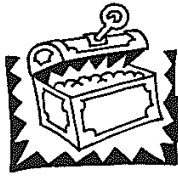
Saviour

*"She will have a son, and
you will name Him Jesus;
because He will save his
people from their
sins." (Matthew 1:21)*

Mary is a young woman from Nazareth.

She is told that she will bring a special child into the world, without a man being involved. The Holy Spirit will make it happen. The angel gives her and her fiancé Joseph the instructions to name Him Jesus. That means 'God saves'. Because even the name of this child must be a sign of God's purpose.

*"Then the whole human
race will know that I am
the Lord, the one who
saves you and sets you
free. They will know that I
am Israel's powerful
God." (Isaiah 49:26)*



KEEP ON LISTENING TO JESUS!

Unbelief will take you away from Jesus. Belief will bring you closer. Everyone has the choice of following Jesus, or of walking away from Him. Will you go on with Jesus?

Do you trust Him? Then keep on listening to Him. His word is the very best food for you.

Even if sometimes you do not see how you can keep following Him, you can come back to Him again. He will not let you go, because He is your Saviour!

TIP

The names of Jesus help you to worship Him. Make a nice poster of the names of the Lord Jesus and hang it up. Look at it often. Whenever you do, worship Him by saying: "Lord Jesus, you are ..." filling in a name each time. As you honour the Lord Jesus with His names, you will experience His joy!

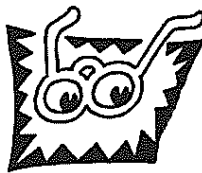
OLD TREASURES

The Lord God often had to scold the people of Israel for having so little faith in Him. The conflict between belief and unbelief is an old story that comes up through the whole of history. Even when the Messiah comes unbelief will still exist. Isaiah already said that.

*"Who would have believed what we now report?
Who could have seen the Lord's hand in this?"
(Isaiah 53:1)*

Job was in the middle of great difficulties. But he learned not to trust in Himself anymore, but in God.

"But I know there is someone in heaven who will come at last to my defence." (Job 19:25)

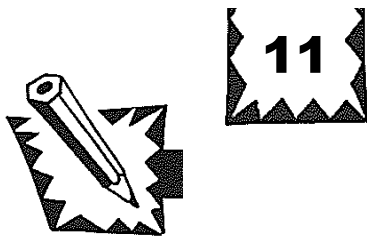


EXTRA INFORMATION

Seven times 'I am ...'

"He is the one!" say the prophets. "I am the one!" says the Lord Jesus. No one has ever made such powerful statements about Himself as He. In the Gospel of John we hear Him say in seven different ways how He calls Himself.

1. "I am the bread." (John 6:35)
2. "I am the light." (John 8:12)
3. "I am the gate." (John 10:7-9)
4. "I am the good shepherd." (John 10:11)
5. "I am the life." (John 11:25)
6. "I am the way." (John 14:6)
7. "I am the vine." (John 15:5)



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What does the name Jesus mean?

2. When does a person get saved by Jesus (Romans 10:9)?

3. When did Peter begin to sink (Matthew 14:30)?

4. Can you see from the picture story what Jesus immediately did when it looked like Peter would sink (Matthew 14:31)?

5. Which bread remains and gives eternal life:

- a) The bread that Jesus multiplies.
- b) Jesus Himself.
- c) The bread in the time of Moses that God gave to Israel in the wilderness.

6. Which word does not belong with the others?
Bread - Light - Door - Fisherman - Shepherd - Life - Way - Vine

7. What do the disciples call Jesus after the miracle on the water (Matthew 14:33)?

And what does Peter call Jesus when he decides to continue following Him (John 6:69)?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Matthew 14:22-33
Mon	John 6:22-40
Tue	John 6:60-69
Wed	Matthew 1:18-24
Thu	Isaiah 49:1-7, 26
Fri	Romans 10:9-17
Sat	Psalms 25:1-15



ACTION POINT!

Jesus is called by many names in the Bible. In this lesson 8 names have been mentioned.

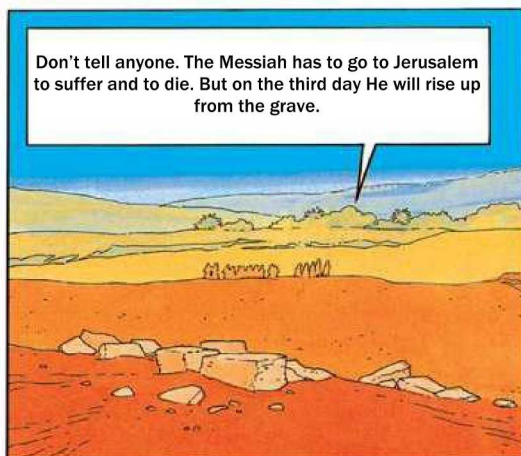
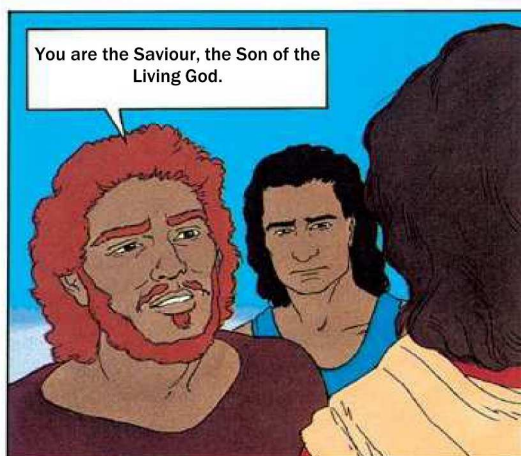
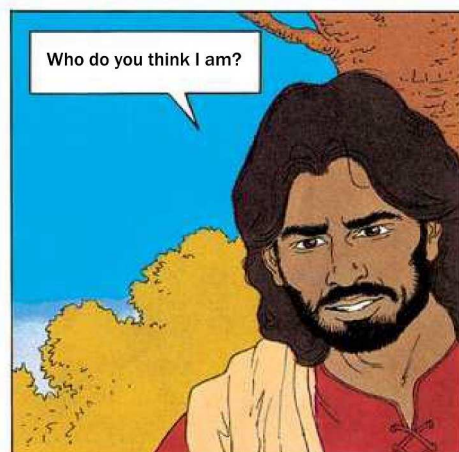
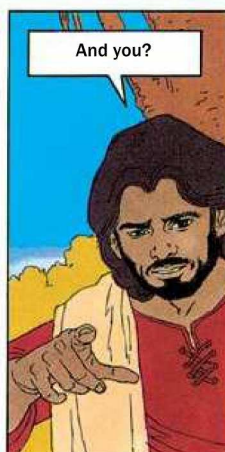
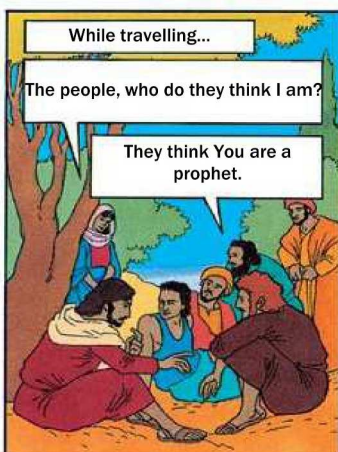
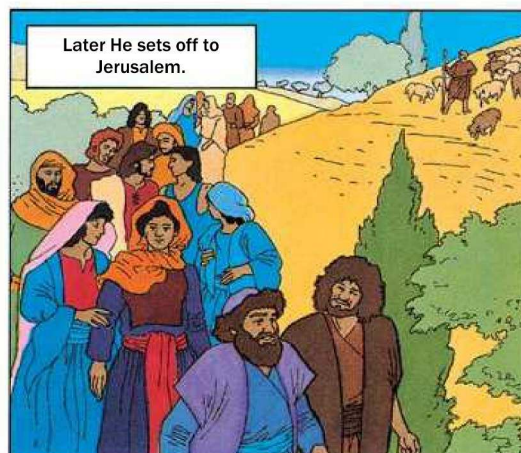
Write them down.

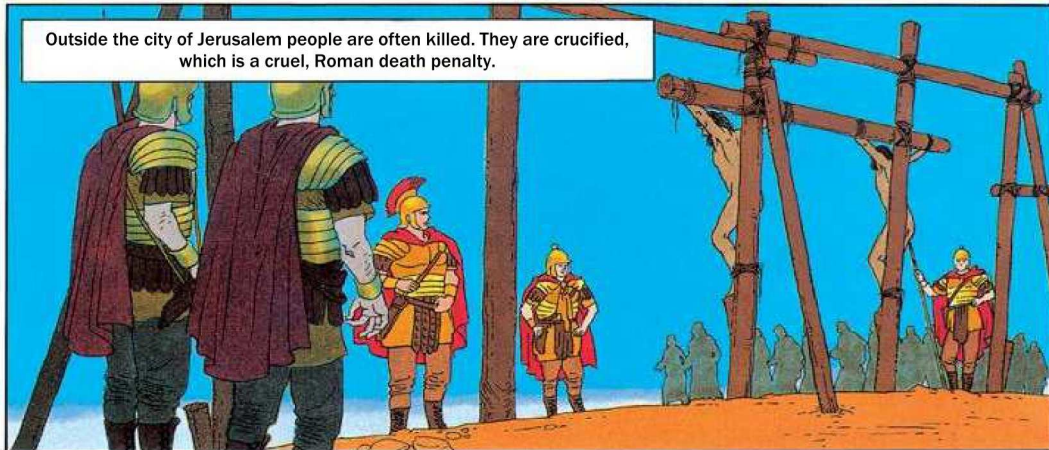
Add to those names the ones that you learned about in the previous lesson. Now you have 18 names. Try to remember these names. And when you pray, you are welcome to sometimes address Jesus with some of these different names.

They help you to get to know Him even better!

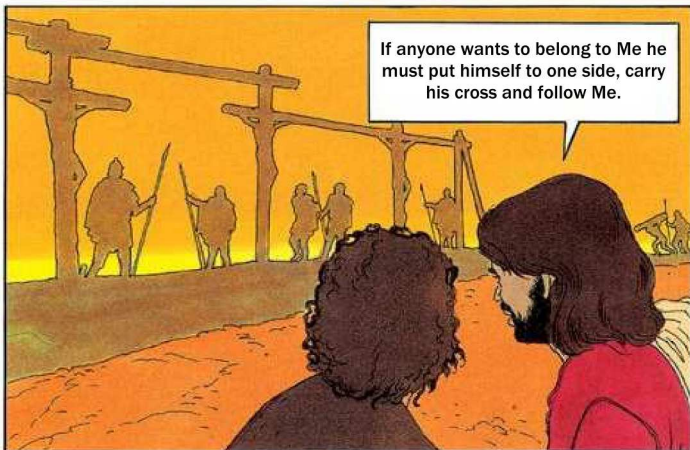
"TAKE UP YOUR CROSS!"

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 16:13-28

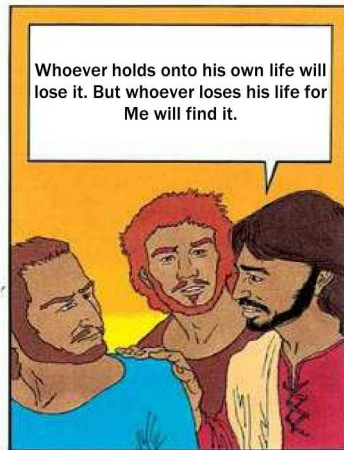




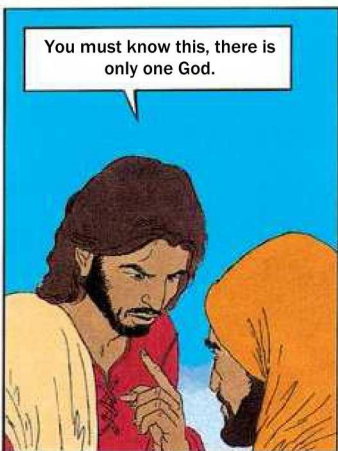
Outside the city of Jerusalem people are often killed. They are crucified, which is a cruel, Roman death penalty.



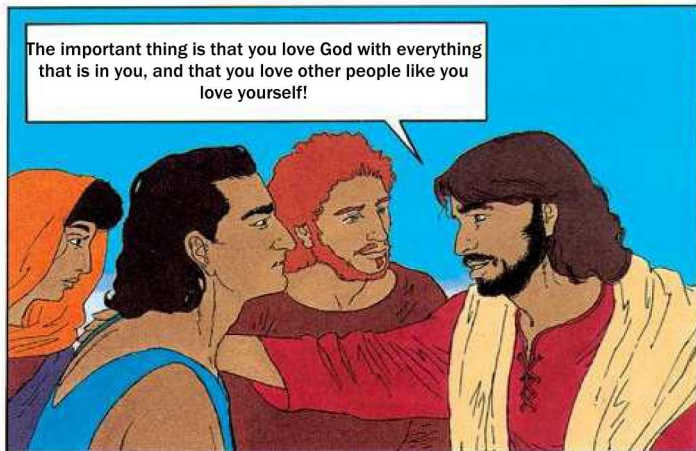
If anyone wants to belong to Me he must put himself to one side, carry his cross and follow Me.



Whoever holds onto his own life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for Me will find it.



You must know this, there is only one God.



The important thing is that you love God with everything that is in you, and that you love other people like you love yourself!



"TAKE UP YOUR CROSS!"

The method used for capital punishment by the Romans is crucifixion. Other nations also use this form of capital punishment. Criminals are hung up on wooden crosses beside the road until they die.

To increase the agony even more, the condemned people have to carry their own timbers to the place where they will die. These planks are fastened together in the form of a cross, and then the condemned are hung up with ropes and nails. They die after hours (sometimes days) of suffering from dehydration in the heat and from cramp and exhaustion.

The disciples refuse to accept that the Lord Jesus will go to Jerusalem to die there. The Messiah, the Son of the living God, will surely not be crucified? And why does He say that they too will carry a cross? Is that the only way to follow Him?

Taking up your cross does not mean to commit suicide. But that you follow Jesus and rather trust in Him than in yourself.

Paul says it like this:

"So far as the Law is concerned, however, I am dead — killed by the Law itself — in order that I might live for God. I have been put to death with Christ on His cross, so that it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave His life for me."
(Galatians 2:19, 20)

WHO IS JESUS?

Christ

"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

Christ means: 'Anointed one'. It is the title that is given to the promised Messiah. That is the man whom God will anoint to be an everlasting king.

He is already predicted by Jacob in Genesis 49:10a:

Jesus is a descendent from Judah:

"Judah will hold the royal sceptre and his descendants will always rule"

MEMORY VERSE

*"If anyone wants to come with Me, he must forget self, carry his cross, and follow Me."
(Matthew 16:24)*

SURRENDER YOURSELF!

Taking up your cross means denying yourself and denying yourself means that you consider others more important than yourself. That is not always easy. Our ego often gets in the way. But you can learn it: by surrendering yourself to Jesus. So that He becomes more important than you. It is not hard to surrender yourself to Him, because He loves you so much. If you learn to think of Him first, that will help you to think more of others. The Lord Jesus is the only one who can free you from being self-centred (2 Corinthians 5:15).



OLD TREASURES

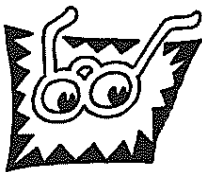
The very first Bible passage that Jewish children have to memorize is this one from Deuteronomy:

*"Israel, remember this! The Lord —and the Lord alone—is our God. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."
(Deuteronomy 6:4-5).*

For the Jews it is not surprising that Jesus points to this text as the summary of God's commandments. It is part of their creed. They recite it every day. However, it is surprising that Jesus connects another passage with it, from Leviticus:

"Love your neighbours as you love yourself. I am the Lord." (Leviticus 19:18b).

The Jews know 613 commandments from the Law of Moses. But these two commandments, according to Jesus, contain the whole Law. He Himself makes this come true in full. And He gives you His love and then you can do it too. God's Spirit makes it possible that from now on you can love God and love others.



EXTRA INFORMATION

Why Jesus Christ?

Often you hear people say Jesus Christ when they are talking about Jesus.

Why the word Christ after Jesus?

Christ is a Greek word (the New Testament was written in Greek, the world language of that time). The Hebrew word for Christ is 'Messiah' (Hebrew is the language of the Jews). It is one of Jesus' titles. Christ means: the anointed King.

Why the anointed King?

Priests, prophets and kings were anointed with oil in the Old Testament.

That signified, from now on the Lord God supports them. He gives them authority.

Jesus is anointed with the Holy Spirit. His followers also are anointed with the Holy Spirit. God supports them.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How are the wooden planks brought to the place of crucifixion?

2. What are the three causes of death for someone who is crucified?

a.

b.

c.

3. What does Jesus mean by taking up your cross?

- a) That you have to die like a criminal.
- b) That everyone needs to see how humble you are.
- c) That you are offering yourself to Jesus.

4. What does Jesus Christ mean?

- a) Jesus the anointed king.
- b) Jesus the son of Christ.
- c) Jesus saves.

5. What does Jesus Messiah mean?

6. Have a look at the map in the picture story. Is Galilee in the north or the south of Israel?

And where is the Mediterranean Sea?

7. What does Jesus think is more important: to love God or to love your neighbour?



BIBLE READING

Sun	Mark 12:29-31
Mon	Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Leviticus 19:18
Tue	Luke 10:25-37
Wed	Matthew 16:13-20
Thu	Matthew 16:21-28
Fri	Matthew 11:27-30
Sat	Galatians 2:20



ACTION POINT!

Love can be measured by the amount of time you give for another.

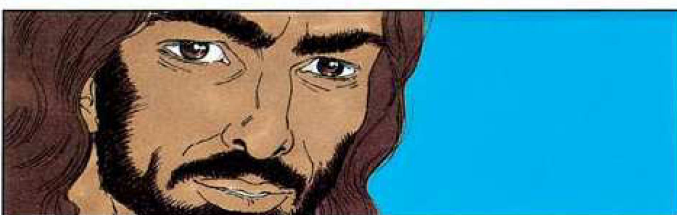
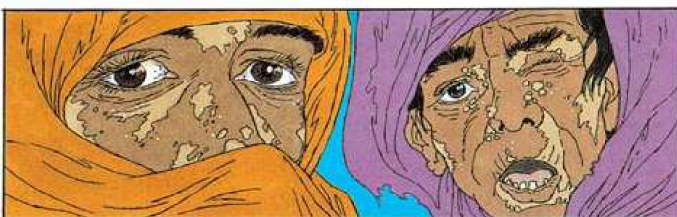
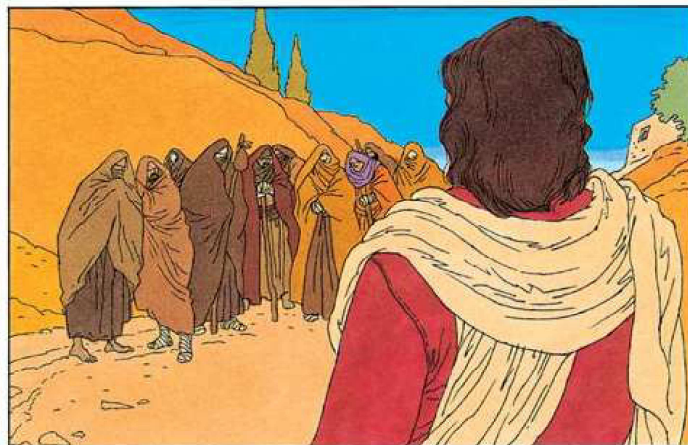
Think of an average weekday in your life. Think of how you spend your time:

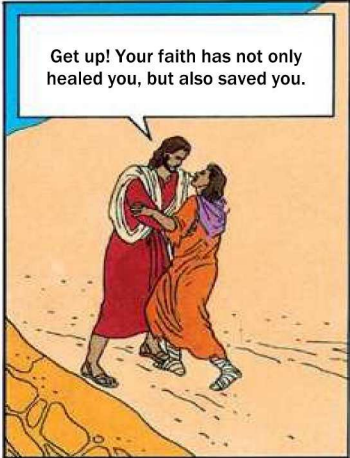
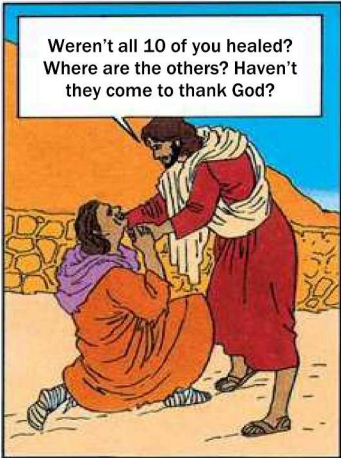
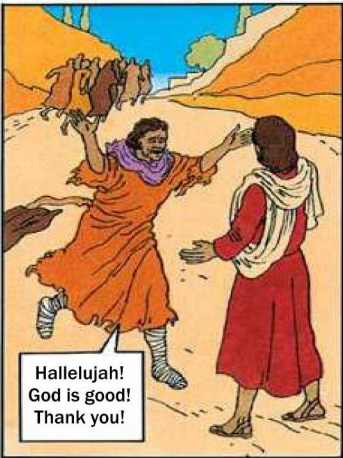
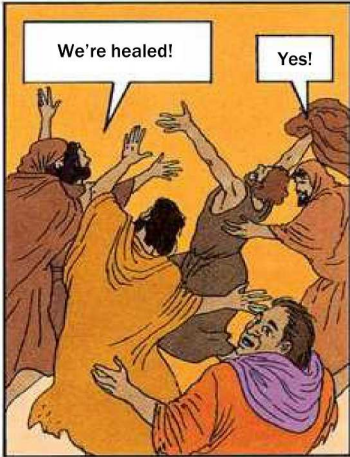
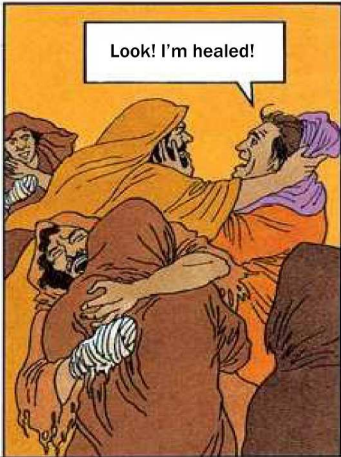
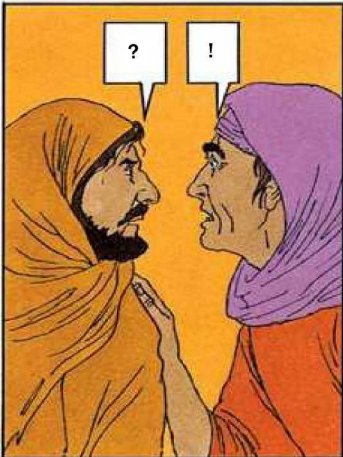
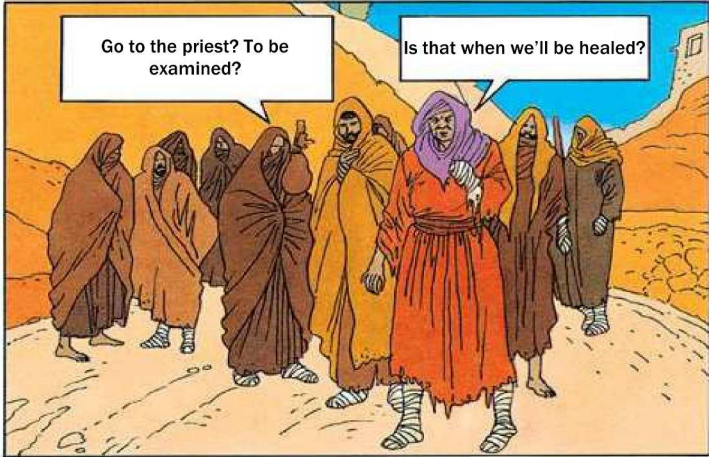
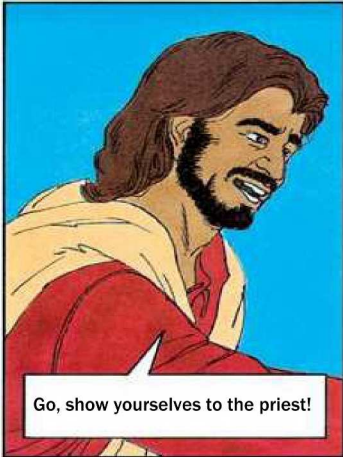
1. How many hours a day do I spend for yourself?
2. How many hours a day do I spend on family and friends?
3. How many hours a day do I spend on other people?

Don't keep on thinking only of yourself; but think also of others!

BE THANKFUL!

READ FOR YOURSELF: Luke 17:11-19







BE THANKFUL!

The Lord Jesus travels to Jerusalem. On the way He meets people who have leprosy (leprosy is a skin disease). They live by themselves, because it is forbidden for them to be in contact with healthy people: because of the danger of catching the disease.

If healthy people should happen to come near them, the sick are obligated to give a warning. They call out: "Lepers! Lepers!" Or they rattle an instrument, making a lot of noise.

But Jesus does not walk around them to keep His distance. That is why they dare to speak to Him. They have heard of the miracles that Jesus performs... What a miracle it is when He does heal them too! They hurry to the priest. Because the priest can arrange that they can participate again in normal life. Surely that is the most important thing to do, now that they are well again? No, that is not the most important. More important is Jesus Himself. It is more important to thank Him!

TIP

Use your ten fingers to thank the Lord Jesus. Don't stop giving thanks until you have named ten things for which you can be thankful. Giving thanks ten times is never too many.

MEMORY VERSE

*"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always give thanks for everything to God the Father."
(Ephesians 5:20)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Saviour

*"It was Jesus, a descendant of David, whom God made the Saviour of the people of Israel, as He had promised."
(Acts 13:23)*

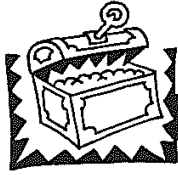
The Lord Jesus receives the title Saviour right at his birth:

*"This very day in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord!"
(Luke 2:11).*

Saviour is another word for 'one who blesses', 'redeemer' or 'one who rescues'.

It means: The one who brings wholeness (happiness).

It is a name that invites us to be thankful!



THANK JESUS!

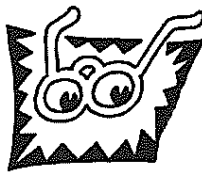
Do you regularly talk with Jesus? You can ask Him anything. You can also tell Him about the things that make you happy. Give Him thank for that! If you experience something nice, after a while you may forget. But if you live close to Jesus, thankfulness keeps bubbling up within you. That is being truly happy.

Thank the Lord Jesus every day. You will feel warm and happy inside when you give thanks! That is because by giving thanks you make the Lord Jesus happy. And in that way also His Spirit, who lives within you.

OLD TREASURES

In the Old Testament it also happens a few times that God heals people from leprosy. It happens, for example, with Moses (Exodus 4:6-7) and his sister Miriam (Numbers 12:10-14). It also happens with Naaman, a Syrian general: He follows the advice of his housekeeping servant girl, he goes in search of the God of Israel, in the hope that He will heal Him.

"So Naaman went down to the Jordan, dipped Himself in it seven times, as Elisha had instructed, and he was completely cured. His flesh became firm and healthy, like that of a child. (2 Kings 5:14)



EXTRA INFORMATION

Leprosy

Leprosy is an incurable disease. First it affects the skin. White patches form all over the body. But later the illness goes deeper. Fingers and toes rot away, the nose, the ears. All feeling disappears from the body. After a while comes death.

The priest has to judge whether a person is incurably sick or not. If it is the case, the sick person has to live separated from the community, outside the town or village. Nobody is allowed to come in contact with him or her, because a leper is unclean. Lepers often live together as a group, in order to have some support from each other.

The Lord Jesus has healed people of leprosy at different times. Then they were not anymore excluded by the Law, but they were again fully welcome in the community, thanks to God's grace!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Leprosy is:
 - a) an incurable disease
 - b) a punishment
 - c) rough skin
2. Why are lepers made to live separated from healthy people?

3. Name three people from the Old Testament who are healed from leprosy.

4. The man who comes back all by himself to thank Jesus is a foreigner. Where is he from (Luke 17:16)?

5. Do you know what Luke's profession was, the man who wrote the story of the ten lepers (look up Colossians 4:14)?

6. There are several words that are similar to Saviour. Which of the following words does not belong in the list?

Redeemer - Priest - One who blesses - One who rescues

7. How often does Paul think you should thank God (Ephesians 5:20)?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Luke 17:11-19
Mon	Luke 5:12-16
Tue	2 Kings 5:1-19
Wed	Leviticus 13:45-46, 14:1-4 Mathew 3:13-17
Thu	Acts 13:23-26
Fri	Ephesians 5:10-21
Sat	Colossians 2:6-7



ACTION POINT!

Thankfulness is something you can practice. Give thanks in the morning to the Lord Jesus for good things for the new day.

List the good things in the evening that have happened during the day and thank the Lord Jesus for those too.

Of course you can also talk with Him about the things that were hard. But never forget to give thanks. Jesus is so good to you. There is no one who loves you more!

"BECOME LIKE A CHILD"

READ FOR YOURSELF: Luke 19:1-10 and Matthew 19:13-15

The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem send their servants to Jesus to spy on Him as he is travelling. They are totally opposed to His actions.

He associates with people who have bad reputations such as prostitutes, tax officials who deal with the Romans...

The Messiah has come to look for those who are lost and to save them.

Because Jesus heals on the Sabbath...

Be healed!

And children have His special attention...

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



"BECOME LIKE A CHILD"

How amazing that the Lord Jesus is so often misunderstood. By the religious leaders who slowly but surely become His most dangerous opponents. But also by His own followers, who so badly want to be important.

The Jewish leaders have problems with Jesus, because He does things which according to their laws are not allowed. And what makes it even worse: He associates with people who in their eyes are not at all acceptable. Jesus' followers have problems with Him when He also pays attention to children: Children couldn't be as important as they are, are they?

But Jesus is interested in the small and the weak. Sinners and sick people and children have a special place in his heart. Because He knows how badly they need Him. He knows how happy He can make all of them.

People who think they know everything so well do not feel they need Jesus. But the people who simply want to believe what He says are the ones who do. "It is the humble people to whom God gives grace" (James 4:6). People who want to become like children, may enter God's kingdom. God's Father Heart also wants to include children in His plans. Children can trust deeply in God the Father. They can be very fine tuned to the Holy Spirit and be used by Him.

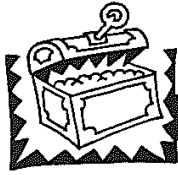
MEMORY VERSE

*"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
(Luke 19:10)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Friend of bad people
*'Look at this man! He is a glutton and a drinker, a friend of tax collectors and other outcasts!'
(Matthew 11:19).*

Is Jesus, a friend of bad people? These names are meant as slander, because the opponents of the Lord Jesus think of Him in that way. But really this is a title of honour for Jesus. It is true. He has come to search for all those who are lost and to rescue them. He doesn't condemn anyone, because He is full of grace!



DARE TO BE VULNERABLE

God is the best Father there is. No one loves His children as much as He does. He also loves you. That is why you never need to be afraid of Him. Not even when you have done or thought something wrong. He loves you so much that He gave Jesus for you. And Jesus took all your mistakes upon Himself, all your sins. That is why you are always welcome by God.

"There is no fear in love; perfect love drives out all fear."

(1 John 4:18)

Do you doubt God's love at times? Then look at Jesus. On the cross He has proven how much He loves you!

OLD TREASURES

*"O Lord, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world! Your praise reaches up to the heavens; it is sung by children and babies. You are safe and secure from all your enemies; you stop anyone who opposes you."
(Psalm 8:1-2).*

God's purpose is that children are also part of His plans. Children can trust deeply in God the Father. Because of that they can be very finely tuned to the Holy Spirit and be used by Him. From the Old Testament we know Joseph, Samuel, David and the child-king Josiah, all of whom were being used by God when they were still children or teenagers.



EXTRA INFORMATION

Training a child

In the time of the New Testament the Jews have a simple and effective way to train their children from the Bible. The directions for training come from Proverbs 22:6: *"Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives."*

Children are a gift of God. That demands special care and attention of the parents. Children are expected to have respect for their parents. They have to honour their father and mother.

From their third year children get daily lessons in the synagogue. Only in the mornings, so that there is enough time left over for playing, or when they are older to learn a trade. When a Jewish boy turns 13 years old, he may take part in the life of adults.

God promises that His Spirit, thanks to Jesus, will also be upon children (Isaiah 59:21; Joel 2:28). The Spirit also tells the children, how God wants us to live.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Why do the Jewish leaders have problems with Jesus?

2. Why do the disciples have problems with Jesus?

3. What does Jesus do if you happen to wander from the right way (Luke 15:4-7)?

4. Why is 'Friend of bad people' a title of honour for Jesus:

- a) Because He looks for bad people and saves them
- b) Because He thinks that bad people are really good.
- c) Because He is no different than they

5. At what age does a Jewish child begin to take part in the life of adults?

6. Why do you have to become like a child in order to be big in God's kingdom (Matthew 18:4):

- a) Because your faith needs to become more simple and trusting.
- b) Because you first still have to learn a lot before you can go further.
- c) Because you need to let your parents go before you.

7. What does 'Abba' mean (read Romans 8:15 NIV)?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Luke 19:1-10
Mon	Mark 7:1-8
Tue	Matthew 11:16-19
Wed	Matthew 18:1-5
Thu	Matthew 19:13-15
Fri	Romans 8:13-19
Sat	Psalm 8



ACTION POINT!

Have you sinned? Then do not stay away from God. That is the last thing you should do, because He desires to help you.

Say about sin what God says about sin. Sin is wrong, but it is forgiven (1 John 1:9).

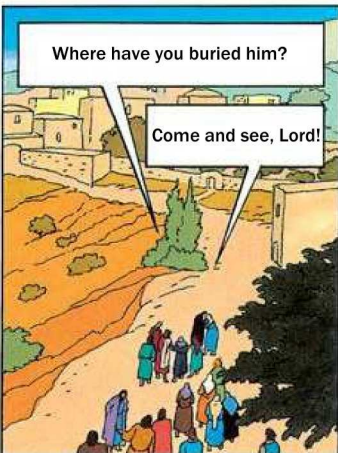
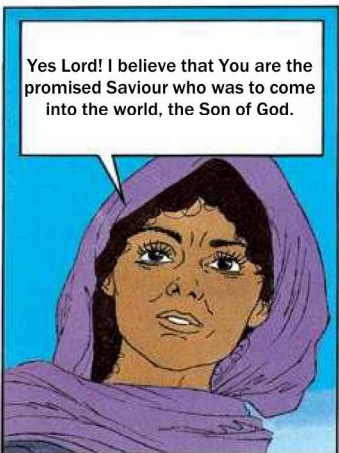
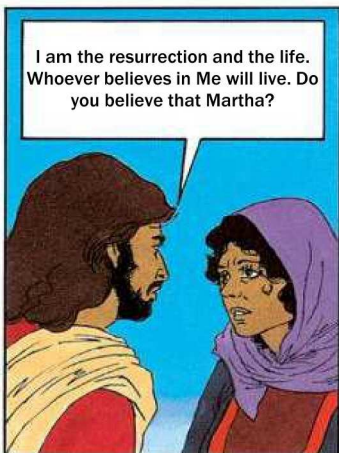
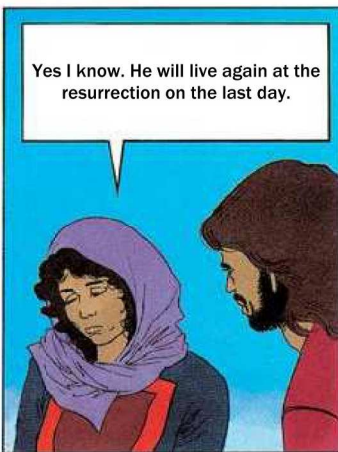
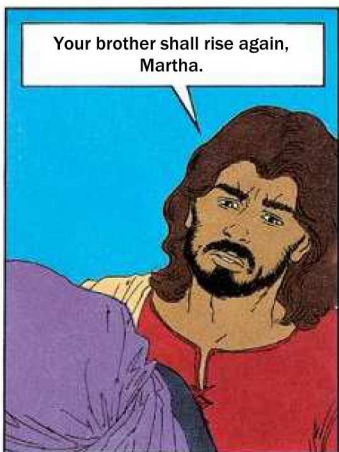
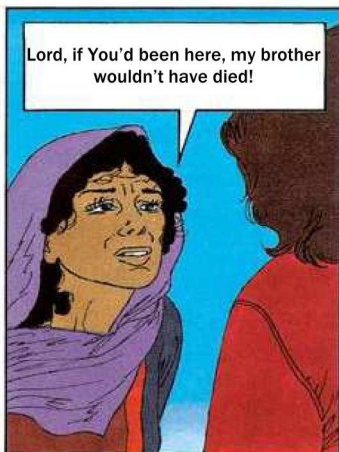
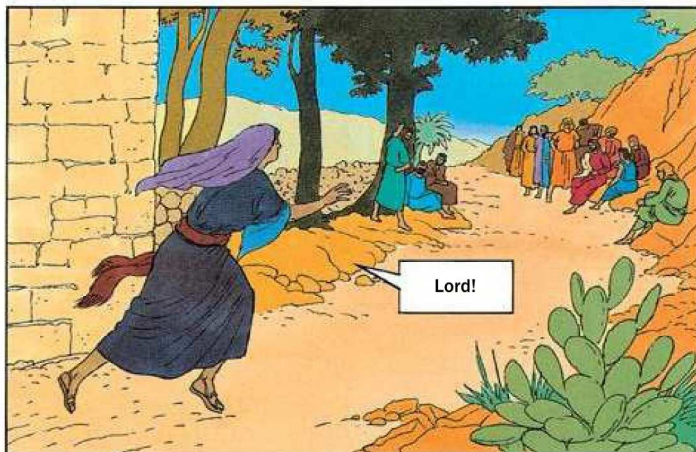
Say also what God says about you. You do stupid things at times, but you are still his child (1 John 3:1).

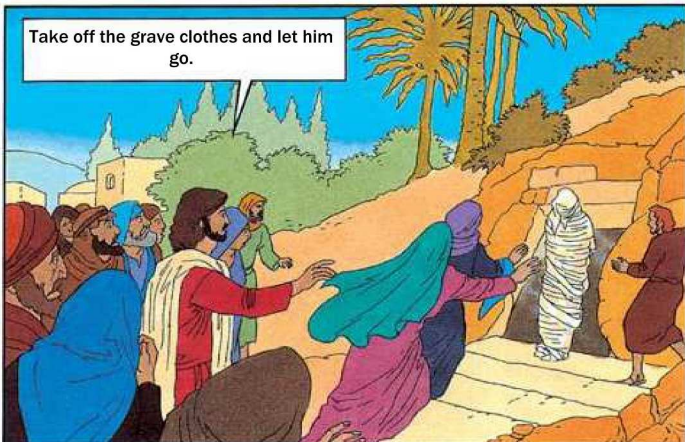
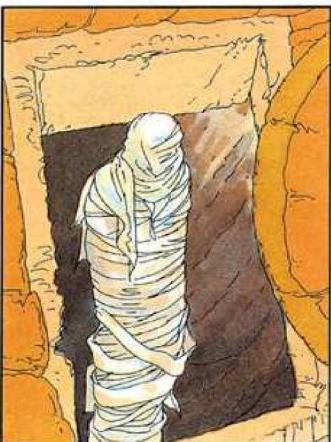
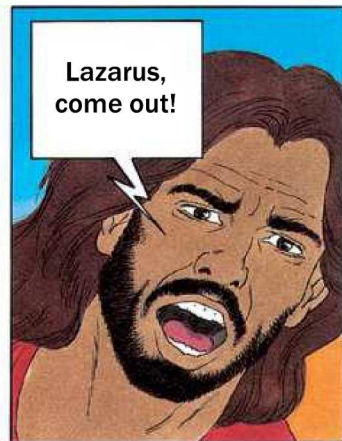
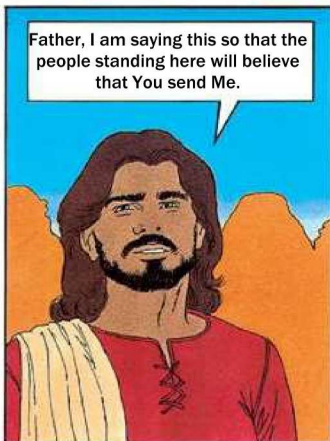
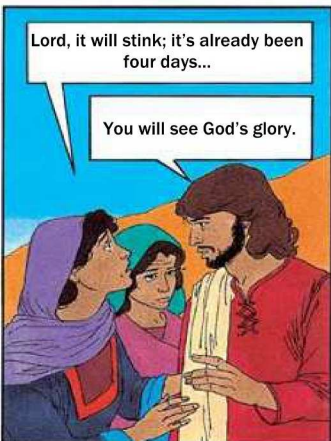
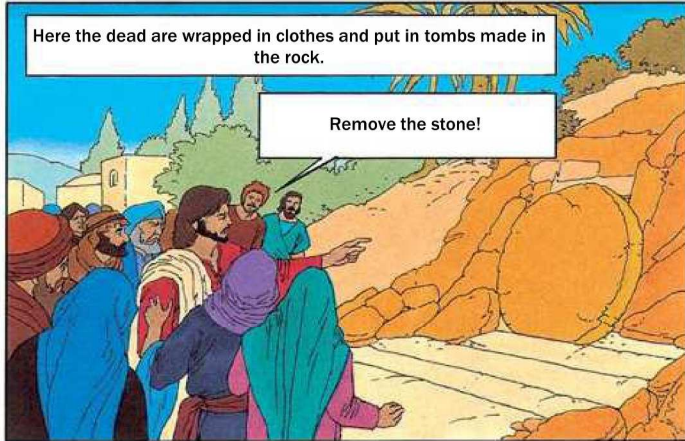
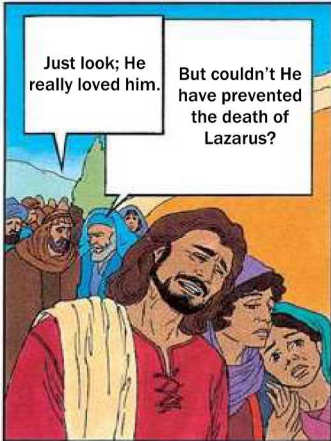
Jesus has made all that possible, and He will help you to change and to stop sinning. So, when you have made mistakes, say: "In spite of the mistakes, God is still my Father and I am His child, because Jesus has made it alright for me. That's why I want to do it right next time."

JESUS GIVES LIFE

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 11:17-44

Jesus is called to Bethany, a village not far from Jerusalem. Lazarus is ill. Lazarus and his two sisters Martha and Mary are good friends of Jesus. When Jesus arrives in Bethany He hears that Lazarus was buried four days ago.





JESUS GIVES LIFE

Bethany is a village about 3 kilometres from Jerusalem. Here the Lord Jesus is in dangerous territory, because the Jewish leaders from the capital city want to arrest Him. But Jesus does not allow Himself to be dissuaded from visiting his friends.

He knows the house of Martha and Mary well. He has been there in the past with His disciples. On that visit, Martha had been caring for the guests. Mary had sat near Jesus' feet to listen to Him. Jesus had said Mary has chosen the right thing. (Luke 10:38-42). But now their brother Lazarus has died. They have wrapped his dead body in strips of cloth and laid it in a tomb in the rock.

Sooner or later everyone meets the point of death. But God never intended it that way. Death is the result of sin. But God has Himself provided a solution. Jesus says to Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life." Death is not the end of everything. Jesus can give you everlasting life.

In doing so Jesus is performing a wonderful miracle. He shows in that way that indeed He has all power over life and death!

MEMORY VERSE

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me will live, even though they die."
(John 11:25)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Life

Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me." (John 14:6).

Jesus gives people life, because He is Life. He has been raised from the dead in order to give us everlasting life. When you have discovered that truth, you cannot remain silent about it anymore.

Therefore John says:
"We write to you about the Word of life, which has existed from the very beginning. We have heard it, and we have seen it with our eyes; yes, we have seen it, and our hands have touched it. When this life became visible, we saw it; so we speak of it and tell you about the eternal life which was with the Father and was made known to us." (1 John 1:1-2).

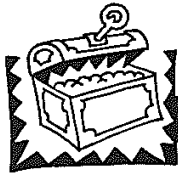


LIVE A LIFE THAT IS ETERNAL

The Lord Jesus shows that He is boss of all things. Even of death. That is why you never need to be afraid of death.

Do you believe that you can have everlasting life with Jesus? And that you will soon see Him as He is? You can really long for that.

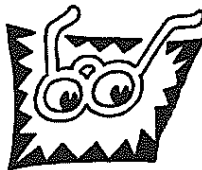
It is wonderful that you can already get to know Him well now. The Lord Jesus said that "eternal life means knowing me and knowing, the only true God" (John 17:3). Everlasting life has already started!



OLD TREASURES

The prophet Ezekiel, about 600 years before Christ, has an impressive vision (a kind of dream while you are awake). The vision shows that God's voice has the power to bring the dead back to life. Ezekiel sees a valley full of bones of dead people. In what seems like a film in reverse, the bones come back together to form skeletons and then are covered with flesh. Then God breathes his Spirit into all those people!

God said to me, "Mortal man, prophesy to the wind. Tell the wind that the Sovereign Lord commands it to come from every direction, to breathe into these dead bodies, and to bring them back to life." (Ezekiel 37:9).



EXTRA INFORMATION

Burial

In warm countries, the body of a person who has died soon begins to decay. That is why the dead person is buried immediately, on the same day as the death. Before burial, the body is covered with fragrant balsam, to dispel the smell of death. It also is wrapped in linen cloths. Spices are put between the layers of cloth.

Wealthy people possess a grave carved in the rock. The grave has rooms, in which the dead bodies get laid on stone benches against the wall. The opening of the grave is closed off with a large flat stone, which after three days gets cemented in place.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How long has Lazarus been lying in the grave by the time Jesus arrives in Bethany?

2. Do you see in the picture story how a grave in the rock gets closed off?

3. How can you tell by looking at Jesus in one of the pictures that He really loves Lazarus?

4. How does Jesus show that He has all power over life and death?

5. Why does Jesus perform this miracle (John 11:42, 45)?

6. With what does God make the dead to live again in Ezekiel's vision:

- a) With a Big Bang.
- b) With His Word.
- c) With a magic wand.

7. How is it possible to have died and still be living (John 11:23-26):

- a) You are not really alive, you become a spirit
- b) Jesus gives you back your life
- c) You appear in a different form in another living being



BIBLE READING

Sun	John 11:17-44
Mon	Luke 7:11-17
Tue	Mark 5:35-43
Wed	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Thu	John 5:17-29
Fri	John 14:1-7
Sat	1 John 1:1-4



ACTION POINT!

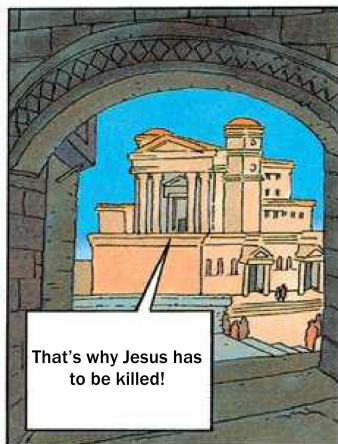
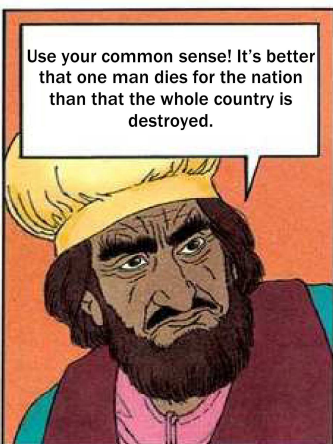
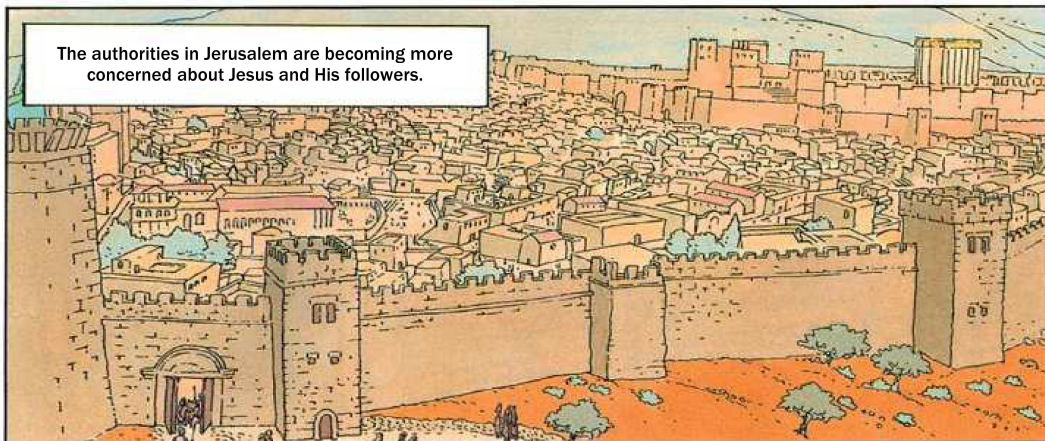
Create a comic strip with yourself as follows:

- a. Draw the border of a rectangular comic strip picture (don't make it too small).
- b. Draw a big speech balloon at the top.
- c. Draw yourself under the speech balloon.
- d. Write Martha's statement of belief from John 11:27 in the speech balloon.

Her creed has now become your own creed!

"HE MUST DIE!"

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 11:45-54



From that moment on the Jewish leaders look for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to the Romans. They are the only ones authorised to give the death penalty.

"HE MUST DIE!"

The Lord Jesus has called Lazarus back from the dead to be alive. The people react in two ways to this miracle. A large group believes in Him. Just like Martha, Lazarus' sister, they now know for certain that He is the son of God. But other people turn even more strongly against Jesus than ever. Why?

These people are afraid that Jesus will cause big changes to happen in Israel.

Imagine if Jesus would be called out by the people to become king. The Roman occupiers would never stand for that. A bloodbath might be the result. And if that should actually happen, they would lose their important position. The Romans would put the blame on them for the uprising and then oppress the land severely.*

The leaders of the Jews prefer to keep the Romans as friends. They don't have any desire to see an uprising. They prefer to condemn an innocent person. Therefore the high priest says that it is better if one single person dies rather than the people as a whole. In saying so He is speaking on behalf of God, who desires that one person be exchanged for all people. Jesus will die and in that way be able to give his life to all people.

(*A good 40 years later, what the Jewish leaders were so afraid of does happen. In 70 AD Jerusalem is destroyed by the Romans.)

MEMORY VERSE

*"Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made Him share our sin in order that in union with Him we might share the righteousness of God."
(2 Corinthians 5:21)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Atonement offering

"God has given Christ Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement."

(Romans 3:25 NIV)

Every year the high priest has to select an atonement offering to be offered on the Day of Atonement. With this offering (a young goat) God again takes away the sins of the people. Caiaphas, who is high priest at the time of the Roman occupation, selects Jesus as atonement offering. He says that Jesus has to die for the people. But not in the way he thinks, to keep the Romans as friends, but to establish God's friendship with the people forever. Jesus takes away sin.



FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

Jesus does not condemn us. He forgives our sins. That is why we can always be in a good relationship with God. God also desires that we do not condemn one another. But that we forgive one another. He desires that we live in good relationship with one another.

By His Spirit, His love can become our love. With that love we can relate well to one another. We can even forgive our enemies.

Have you received God's love? Do you know how much He loves you? Then you can also share that love towards others!

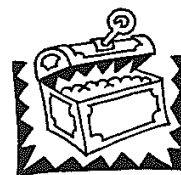
OLD TREASURES

The Atonement offering

The Great Day of Atonement is the climax of all Jewish feasts. On that day, in the temple in Jerusalem, the high priest brings an offering to God. A young goat gets slaughtered and this offering reconciles the people with God. This reconciliation means that the existing enmity between God and people has come to an end. A sinner has to die. However God is gracious, because the animal dies in the place of the sinner.

The offering is not a trick of bribery to put God in a gracious frame of mind, but a sign that God wants to forgive sin. But the Law with its rituals was only temporary. God promised another sacrifice that would forever carry away the guilt of the world. He is the Messiah, who gives His life. God forgives through Jesus once and for all time. Thanks to Him people can now become 'heirs': sons of God.

The Lord says: "It was My will that He should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so He will see His descendants; He will live a long life, and through Him My purpose will succeed. (Isaiah 53:10).

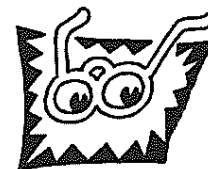


EXTRA INFORMATION

The Jewish leaders

The Romans are keeping Israel occupied. However, they do leave some of the governing in the hands of the Jews. That way they give them the feeling that they too have a say in their own lives. But when it comes to important decisions, the Roman authority has to give his consent: for example, regarding the question of someone being guilty of the death sentence.

The High Council is the highest court of the Jews. Here the most important decisions are made. The High Council is also known as the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin meets in a room in the temple area in Jerusalem. The council has a membership of 70 men: high priests, heads of families and scribes.





DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Why is there a group of people in Israel against Jesus:
 - a) Because He refuses to do miracles for them.
 - b) Because He puts their important position in danger.
 - c) Because He is against Israel.

2. What is the High Council called that is the governing body of Israel?

3. How many men are in the High Council?

4. What is the name of the high priest who suggests the plan of executing Jesus?

5. What is the meaning of 'reconcile' (look it up in a dictionary)?

6. Which of the following is true (read 'Old Treasures' again carefully):
- a) An offering is made, in the hope that God will be merciful
 - b) An offering is made, because God is not merciful
 - c) An offering is made, because God is merciful

7. For whom has God exchanged Jesus?



BIBLE READING

Sun	John 11:45-54
Mon	Romans 3:23-31
Tue	Leviticus 16:15-17,32
Wed	Hebrews 9:1-15
Thu	Hebrews 9:16-28
Fri	1 John 1:5-2:2
Sat	Luke 7:27-38



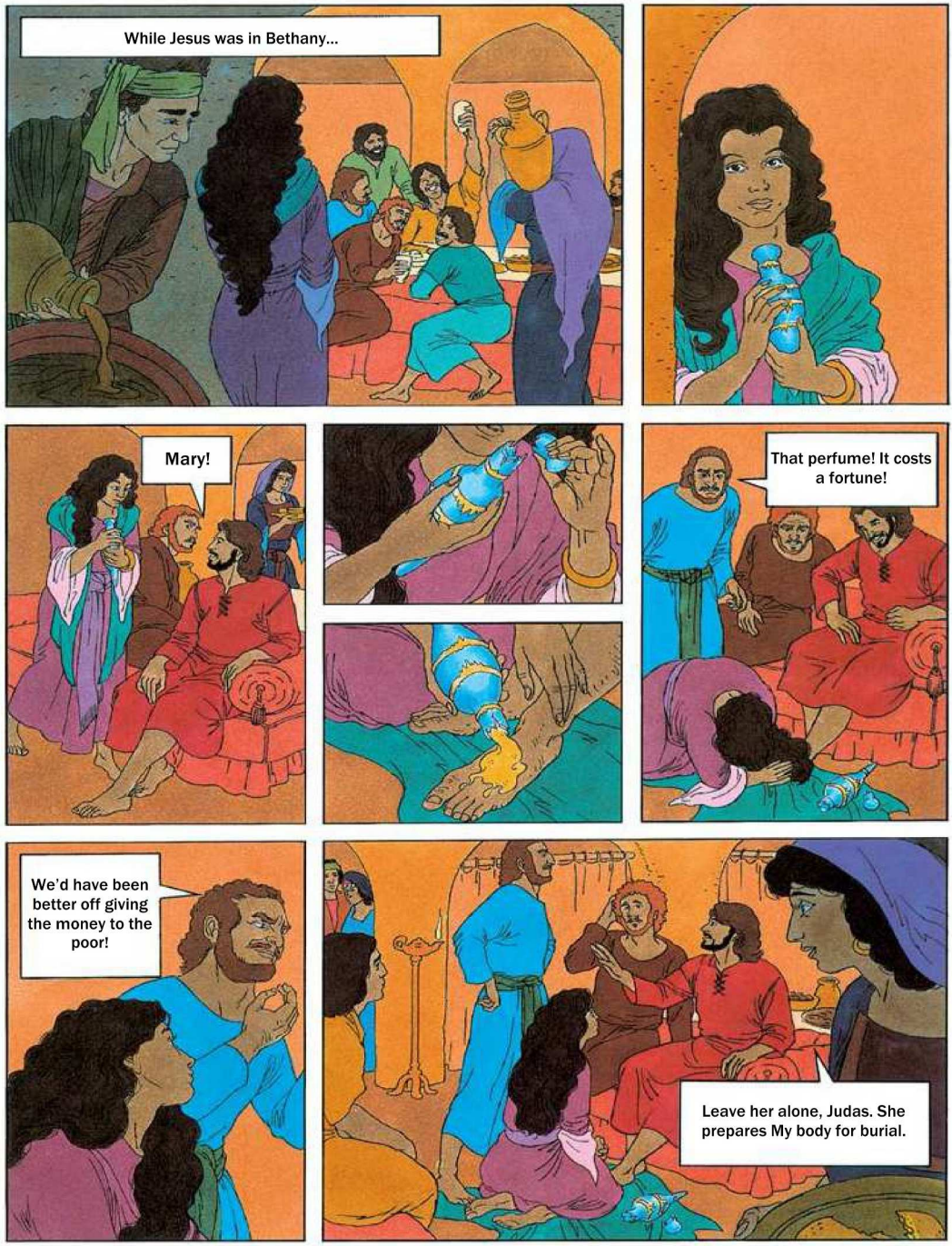
ACTION POINT!

Sometimes you might be angry with other people. You might say they are bad. Reject and condemn them.

But at such times remember that Jesus does not reject or condemn them. He is the very best, but He still desires to forgive the very worst. He has forgiven you too. With His love, you are able to forgive and love others. His Spirit is in you!

HONORING JESUS

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 12:1-11





HONORING JESUS

The Lord Jesus knows that He will die. He has said that a number of times. In Jerusalem plans are being laid to kill Him. In spite of that He goes to Bethany, near Jerusalem. That is where Lazarus, Martha and Mary live.

Everyone is talking about how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. But Mary is thinking about Jesus Himself. That is why she brings Him a special gift: a bottle of pure nard perfume, from faraway India. It is worth at least 300 silver coins: a whole year's salary.

Normally a small amount of this kind of balsam is used for a burial. Now Mary pours out the whole bottle, all 300 grams of it, over Jesus' feet.

Some time ago, Mary had been sitting at the Lord Jesus' feet listening to Him (Luke 10:38-42). She knows who He is. He is the Messiah, the anointed one. That is why she anoints Him.

Jesus is pleased with her gift. He sees it as an encouragement to die. It is as though the balsam already prepares Him for burial.

MEMORY VERSE

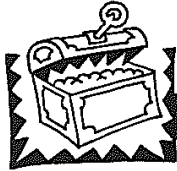
*"Giving thanks is the sacrifice that honours me, and I will surely save all who obey me."
(Psalm 50:23)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Anointed one

"The kings of the earth prepared themselves, and the rulers met together against the Lord and His Messiah." (Acts 4:26).

This is a passage from the book of Acts. In this book are stories about the disciples who succeeded the Lord Jesus. In this passage the disciples recalled a verse from the Psalms that speaks about the anointed one of God. The passage is about Jesus the Messiah. Messiah (Hebrew) or Christ (Greek) literally means 'anointed'. Jesus is the anointed one because He is anointed and affirmed by God through the Holy Spirit to carry out his task.



OLD TREASURES

God gives great victories to His king; He shows constant love to the one He has anointed (Psalm 18:50)

God supports His anointed one. King David long ago knew that when he wrote this psalm, 1000 years before Jesus came. Jesus knows it too. He is taking the most difficult path that anyone could ever take. He will freely take the sin of all people on Himself. But He will overcome death, because God will stand by and support Him.



EXTRA INFORMATION

Hallelujah!

In the Bible we read much about singing and making music. We find many different kinds of songs, songs of love and songs of lamentations, songs of feasting and songs of protesting, children singing, choir and solo. And through all the centuries people have sung along with the Bible.

Often in songs, God is put in the centre. That is called praising God. Praising God on your own is in itself wonderful, but doing it together you experience even more strongly how much He is worthy of being worshipped. God is good! His goodness and grace and love are eternal! That is why we sing again and again: Hallelujah! Because that means: let us praise the Lord!

WORSHIP HIM!

If you marvel at someone it is not difficult to say why. With God it is the same. You can feel free to tell God why you admire Him. You can worship Him. You will find that you receive more words with which to do that. And if you run out of words, you can sing a hymn or recite a Psalm out loud. You please God with your worship. And you become happy yourself too.

TIP

Remember Jesus when you sing 'hallelujah' in a song. He is worthy to be praised. And He hears you: He is always with you!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What is in Mary's bottle and how much does it cost?

2. What thoughts come to Jesus when He is anointed with balsam by Mary?

3. How is Judas Iscariot called in John 12:6 and why?

4. With what does God anoint Jesus:

- a) With Mary's perfume
- b) With the Holy Spirit
- c) With water at his baptism

5. What does 'Hallelujah' mean?

6. Find 3 Psalms that begin and end with the words 'Praise the Lord!' ('Hallelujah!')

7. In Revelation 19:4 NIV we read: 'Amen, hallelujah!' Translate those two words into ordinary English:



BIBLE READING

Sun	John 12:1-11
Mon	Acts 4:23-31
Tue	Psalm 2
Wed	Psalm 50:14-23
Thu	Revelation 7:9-12
Fri	Psalm 136
Sat	Psalm 150

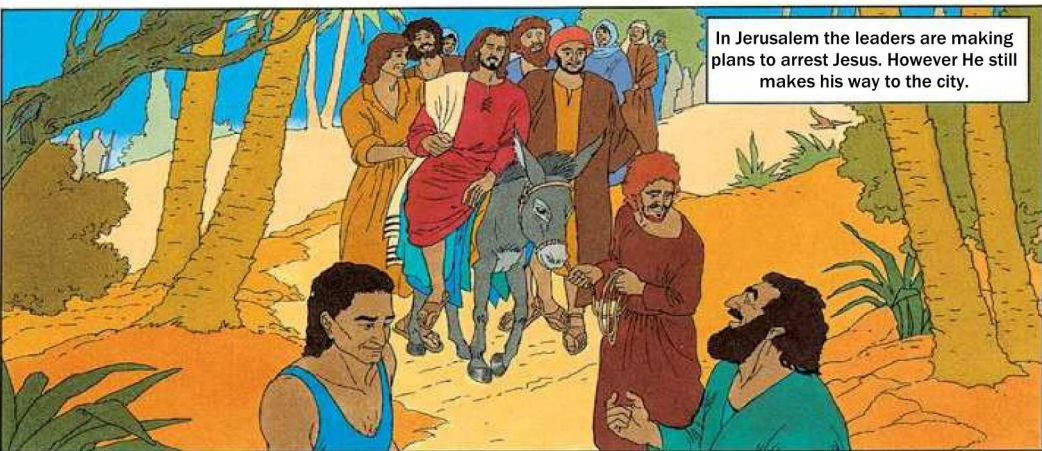
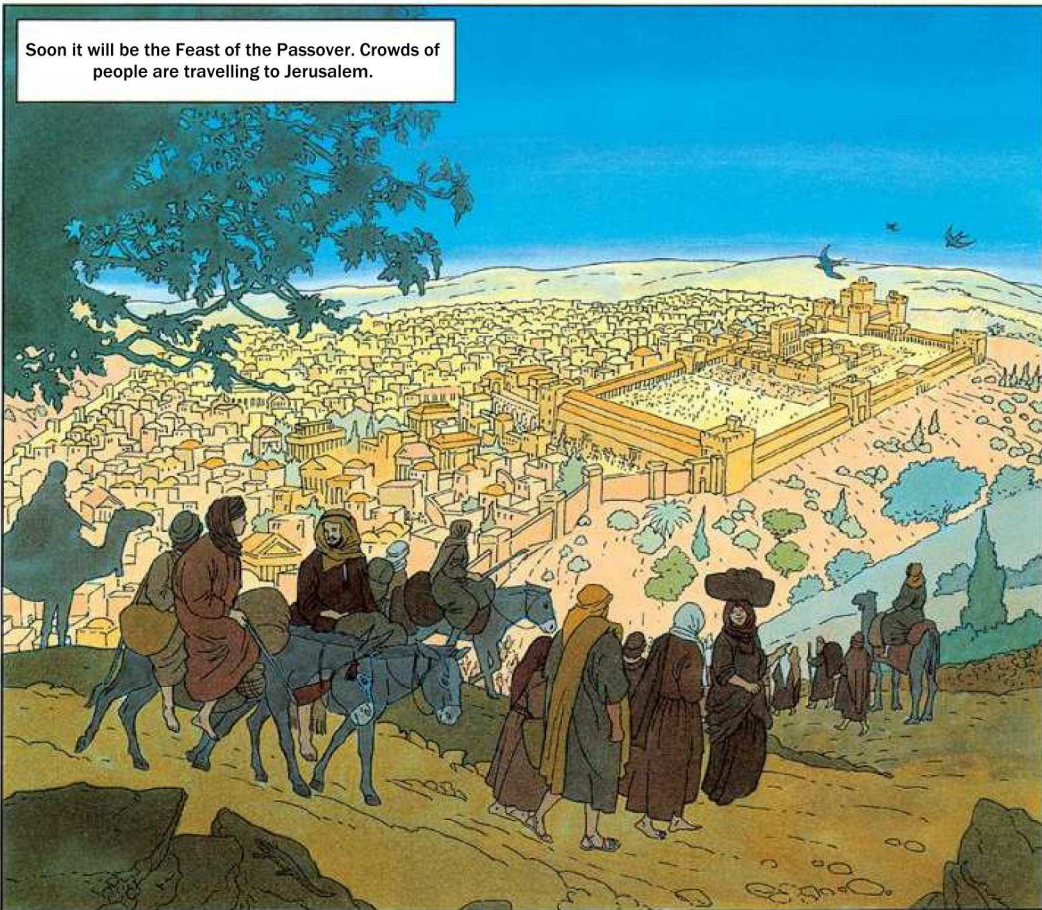


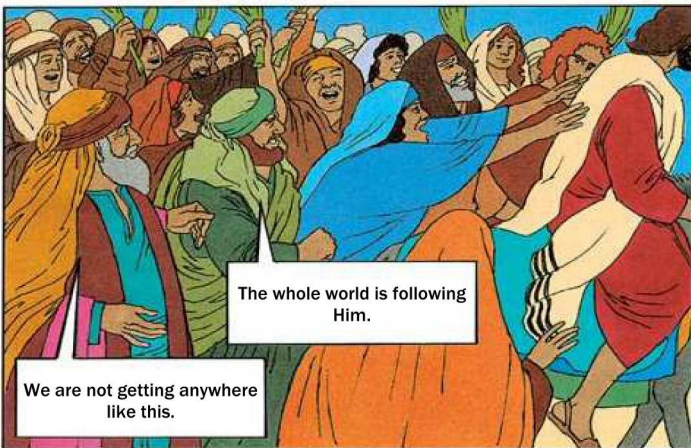
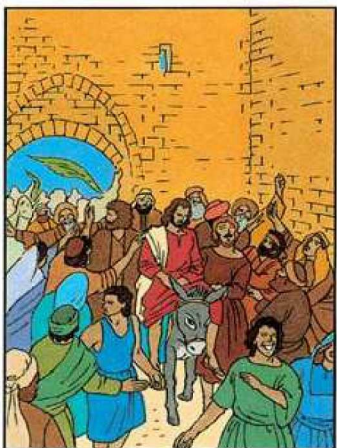
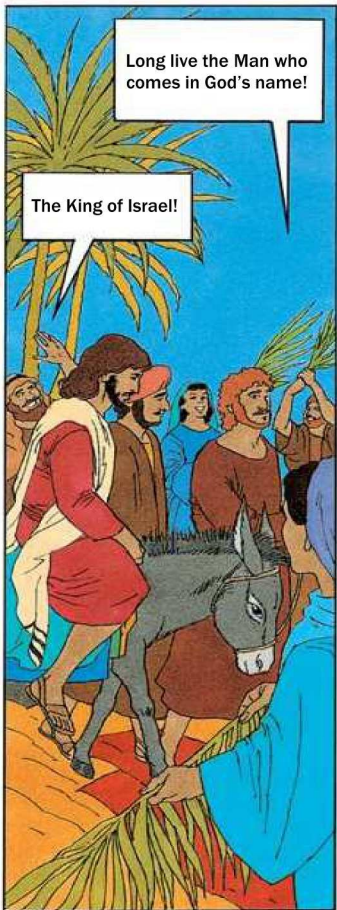
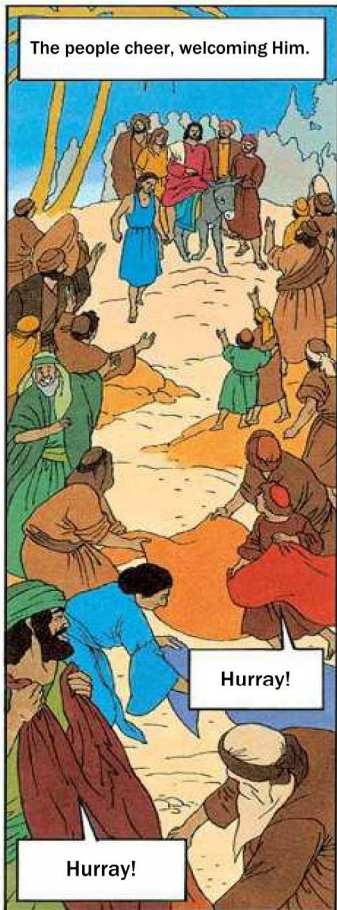
ACTION POINT!

Have a look at Psalm 113. It begins and ends with 'Praise the Lord!' Actually this is twice 'Hallelujah!' And then read Psalm 117 (NIV) as well. That is the shortest of all Psalms, but it too is a real Hallelujah psalm!

THE HUMBLE KING

READ FOR YOURSELF: Luke 19:29-44







THE HUMBLE KING

We are nearing the most important event in the life of the Lord Jesus: His last Pasha (Passover meal), followed by His suffering, dying and resurrection. Matthew devotes seven chapters on it in his book. Mark and Luke devote each five and John as many as nine (almost half of his book).

Tens of thousands of people come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. They come from all of Israel and even from other lands. They remember the delivery of their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt. It is logical that they now hope for their own delivery of their land from the power of the Romans. They long for a Messiah. Every year the pilgrims sing:

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

But now that song has a special meaning. Because there comes Jesus! Surely He will be their king!

But Jesus thinks very differently about it. He knows the prophecies concerning the Messiah. Yes, He will become king. But in a very different way than the people expect. By riding into Jerusalem the Lord Jesus gives Himself over to die. After that He will make known what kind of king He is. The people around Him do not realize this, not even his disciples. Jesus weeps. He weeps for the city, He weeps for the people. The people do not want a king who changes their lives. Jerusalem, city of peace, will reject the king who is able to bring real peace.

MEMORY VERSE

*"For all who make themselves great will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be made great."
(Luke 18:14)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Honoured King

"Fling wide the gates, open the ancient doors and the great king will come in! Who is this great king? He is the Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, victorious in battle." (Psalm 24:7, 8).

The Lord Jesus never said He would be king of a land with borders here on earth. And already in the prophecies about the Messiah we read that His reign will stretch out without borders, over all people and over the whole world. Jesus does not get it by force, but by giving Himself over to God.

That is why Hebrews 2:9 says:

"We see Him now crowned with glory and honour because of the death He suffered."

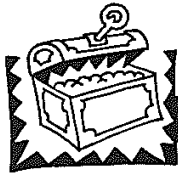
HUMBLE YOURSELF

Jesus forgets about Himself. He weeps for the people. You can see that He sees others as more important than Himself.

What about you?
 Do you have respect for other people?
 Do you let others go ahead of you?
 Are you willing to help those in need?
 God desires for you to be like the Lord Jesus. That is only possible if He is King in your life.

Let His Spirit change you:

- He changes pride into humility.
- Desire for honour into modesty.
- Jealously into showing honour.
- Selfishness into generosity.
- Arrogance into caring about others.

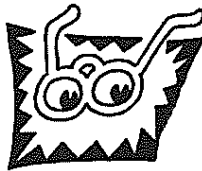


OLD TREASURES

In the Old Testament the Messiah is described as King, but also as Suffering Servant. Those two always go together. You can read that, for example, in Zechariah, where also the young female donkey is mentioned, on which this humble King will ride (about 550 years before this happens).

"Rejoice, rejoice, people of Zion! Shout for joy, you people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you! He comes triumphant and victorious, but humble and riding on a donkey - on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9).

The Messiah is completely different than the world around Him. He does not trust in His own strength. He trusts in God. God will make Him to be a King forever.



EXTRA INFORMATION

Jerusalem

Jerusalem was made capital city of Israel by King David. It became the holy city for the Israelites when his son Solomon built the temple here. The city is situated at an elevation of more than 750 meters above sea level and more than 1000 meters higher than the Jordan River. Other capital cities actually were seldom built on such heights. That is why Jerusalem is also endearingly called 'Zion', after one of the mountains on which the city stands. Jerusalem was at that time extra imposing because of the walls, the towers and the twelve gates. For the Israelites it was always special to travel to Jerusalem for the yearly festivals.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Which of the four evangelists writes the most about the events around Jesus' last Passover meal?

2. Who made Jerusalem the capital city of Israel?

3. Cross out the name that does not fit in this list:

- Zion
- Jerusalem
- City of gold
- City of David
- Harbour city
- Holy city

4. Why does Jesus ride into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey:

- a) Because He is tired and sad.
- b) Because He is humble.
- c) Because He wishes to be cheered as the king.

5. What do the people do with their coats as Jesus passes by?

6. What does Jesus say about the stones when the Pharisees want the disciples to be quiet (Luke 19:39-40)?

7. Look again at the picture story: what does Jesus do when He sees the city?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Psalm 122
Mon	Luke 19:29-44
Tue	Zechariah 9:8-12
Wed	Psalm 24
Thu	Luke 18:9-14
Fri	John 12:12-19
Sat	John 12:20-28

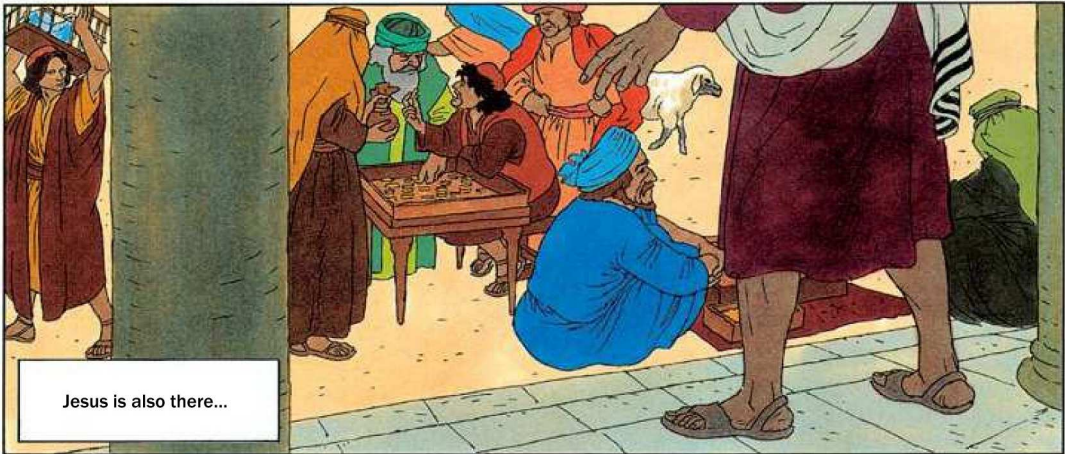
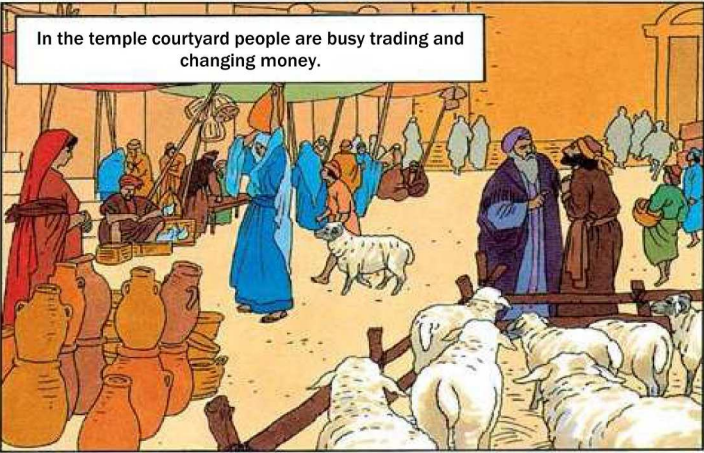
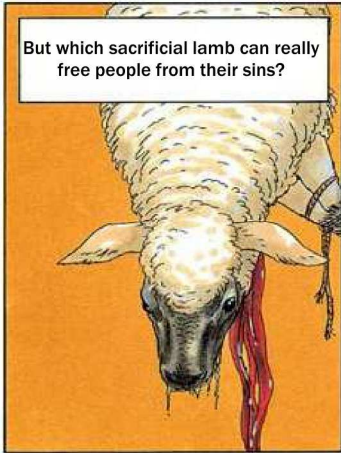
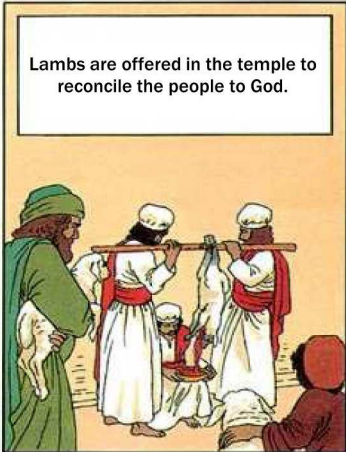
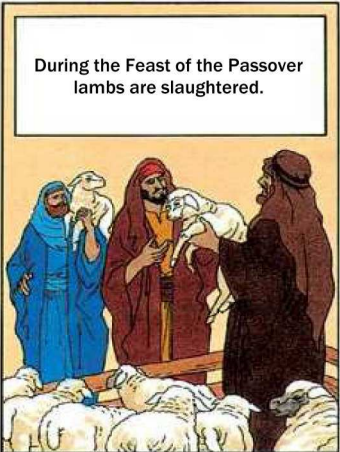
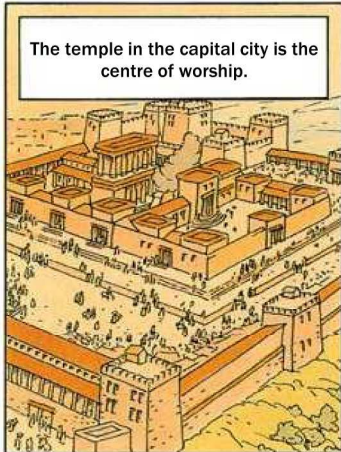


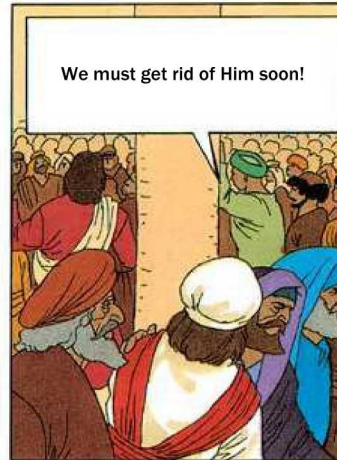
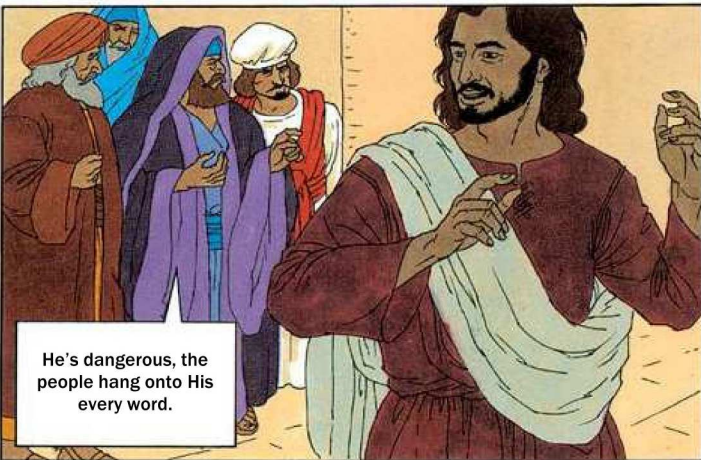
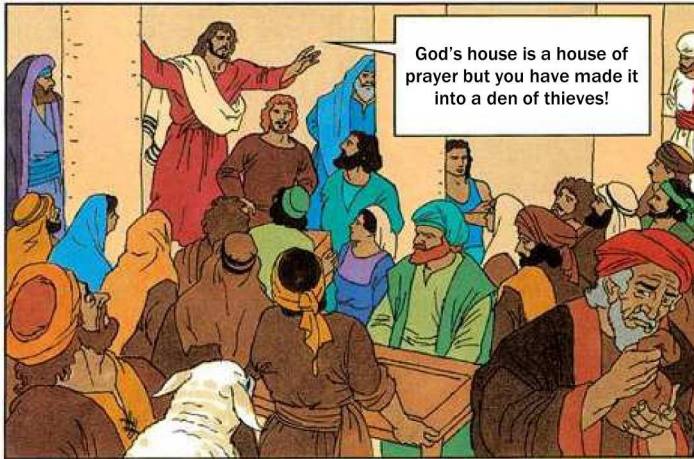
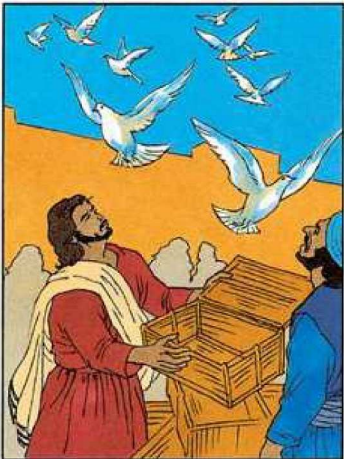
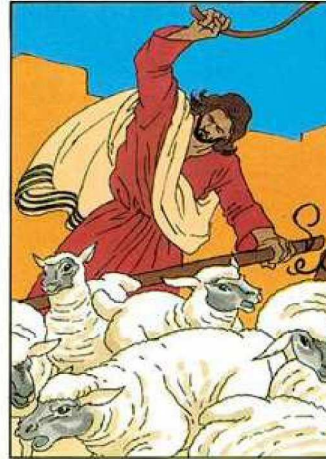
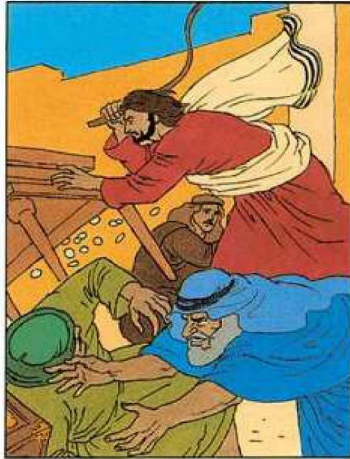
ACTION POINT!

Make a list of ten names of important or famous people you know. Write underneath: I want to be like Jesus to be the least of all.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____

BIG CLEANSING





READ FOR YOURSELF: Luke 19:45-48

BIG CLEANSING

During the Passover festival the Jews travel to the temple to offer a sacrifice there. Every time again, that sacrifice makes things right between them and God. In the forecourt of the temple everyone buys an animal for sacrificing, a lamb or a pair of doves. These cannot be bought with ordinary money. You first need to change your money into temple currency.

And so, there is much activity in the temple courtyard when the Lord Jesus arrives. Because of all the trading, it looks more like a market place. It does not look like a Holy place of prayer, as it was meant to be and also not like a place to meet with the Lord God. Because all the trading, the people do not realize anymore God's grace, His free goodness and His undeserved favour. That is why Jesus is angry. He chases out the traders. Many people are glad that Jesus does this. They think, see, He is a hero after all. But the leaders are indignant. That's the end of their money making.

MEMORY VERSE

"Surely you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you!" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

WHO IS JESUS?

Great High Priest

"Let us, then, hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God — Jesus, the Son of God." (Hebrews 4:14).

This means that Jesus, the Son of God, is our great High Priest, who has gone to heaven in order to help us. And so we should not for a moment doubt Him.

The High Priest served in the temple every year. He offered blood for the sins of the people. But first he had to make a sacrifice for his own sins. Only in that way was he allowed to appear before God each year in the "Most Holy Place".

The Lord Jesus is the perfect High Priest. He is without sin. And He has offered his own blood for our sins. He did that once and for all time (Hebrews 10:10). And so our body can be a temple of God, in which He lives. Thanks to Jesus God's Spirit stays in us all the time (John 14:15-16).



YOU ARE A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

In the temple, the Jews could experience the presence of God. It was the place to meet with the Lord God: a house of prayer.

Thanks to the Lord Jesus you can be aware of God's presence in your own life. He will never desert you. Wherever you may be, you can always meet with Him. Your own life is a place of prayer.

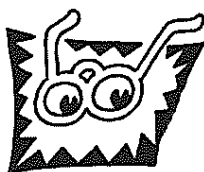


OLD TREASURES

In the Old Testament king David receives the promise that one of his descendants will build a temple for the Lord God. This is not referring to his son Solomon (who actually did build the first temple), but to a king who will sit on the throne forever: the Messiah. He makes you into a temple and lives in it forever.

"He will be the one to build a temple for me, and I will make sure that his dynasty continues forever."

(1 Chronicles 17:12).



EXTRA INFORMATION

The temple

Temple is another word for 'holy place' or 'house of the Lord'. As many as three times the temple of the Israelites was destroyed.

The temple was in three parts: the fore-court, the Holy place, and the Holy of Holies.

- a. The fore-court open for all Jewish men and women (segregated) to enter. Here they gave their offerings to the priests, who sacrificed them in the Holy place on the altar.
- b. The Holy place was forbidden for the people; only the priests served here to perform special rituals. The priests were from the tribe of Levi.
- c. The Holy of Holies was the place of meeting with God. Here only the High Priest was allowed to enter once a year. On the Great Day of Atonement he had to cleanse the nation. That was done with the blood of a specially chosen animal that was sacrificed.

Though the Lord God was present invisibly in the Holy of Holies, it was already stated in the Old Testament that He does not live in a house made by human hands. His desire is to live in people.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Which three leaders of Israel built a temple?

2. Name the three parts of the temple.

3. On which day is the High Priest allowed to enter the Holy of Holies?

4. With what does the High Priest cleanse the nation from sin?

5. Why is there no more temple service needed?

- a) Because Jesus has swept the temple clean.
- b) Because there is no temple anymore.
- c) Because Jesus desires to make us into a temple.

6. Jesus is the perfect High Priest?

- a) Because He Himself is without sin, has brought a lamb as sacrifice and lives eternally with God to defend us.
- b) Because He Himself is without sin, has brought Himself as a sacrifice and lives eternally with God in order to defend us.
- c) Because He Himself is with sin, has brought a lamb as sacrifice and serves in the temple.

7. In which temple does God desire to live?



BIBLE READING

Sun	Luke 19:45-48
Mon	John 2:13-22
Tue	1 Chronicles 17:7-15
Wed	Malachi 3:1-4
Thu	Hebrews 7:18-28
Fri	Hebrews 2:10-18
Sat	1 Corinthians 3:9-17



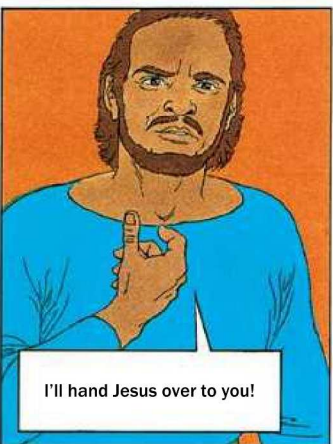
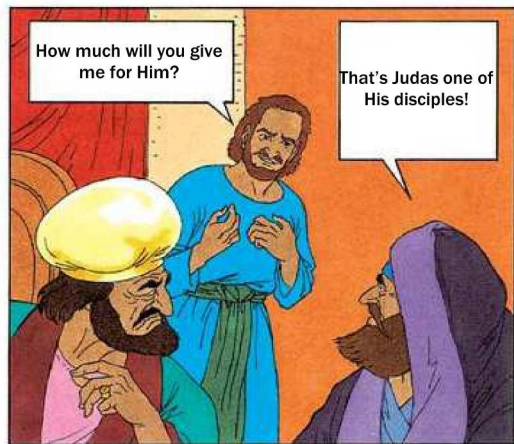
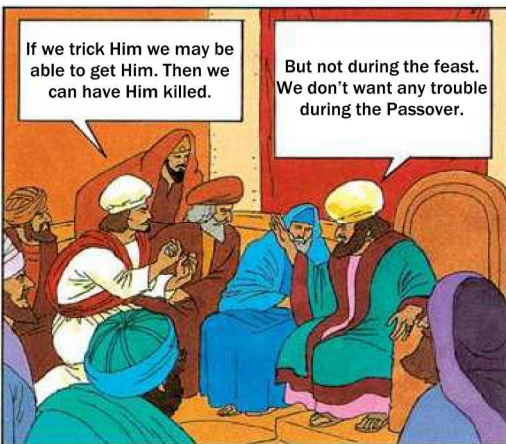
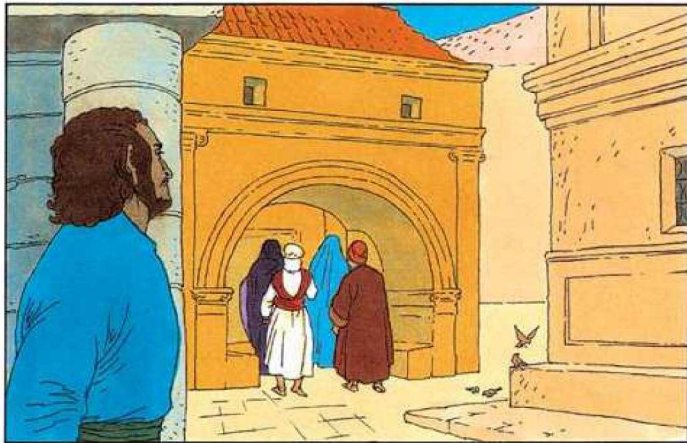
ACTION POINT!

Jesus has made it possible for you to be a temple of God.

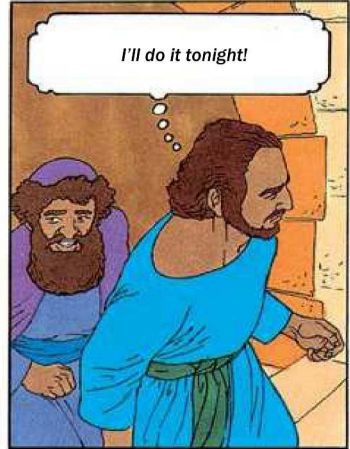
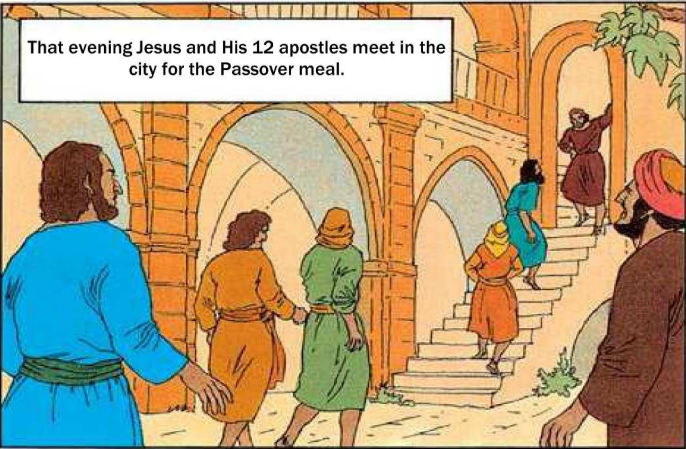
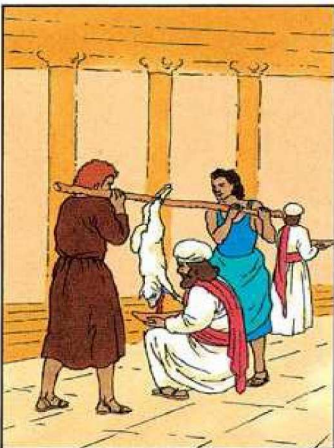
You can meet with Him any time, because no one is closer to you. Jesus has made everything alright between you and God. Thank Him, talk with Him and sing for Him!

THE BETRAYAL

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 26:14-19



Jesus spends the days before the feast of the Passover speaking to the people in the temple, although the leaders continually try to make it difficult for Him.





THE BETRAYAL

The Lord Jesus is speaking to the people in the temple. In the mean time His opponents are making plans to kill Him. How would they? If they just grab Him, the people will turn against them. They will have to incite the people to reject Him. But then they will first need to prove that He is not the Messiah.

Suddenly, from an unexpected source, they get the assistance they want. One of Jesus' own twelve disciples comes to them: Judas Iscariot. He will lead Jesus right into the hands of his enemies. Discreetly, so that there will be no disturbance. And when Jesus will be condemned to be killed, everyone will see that He has no power at all.

Who is Judas? He too was chosen by Jesus as one of His disciples. He is the only one of the twelve who comes from Judea. All the others are from Galilee.

Jesus gives him a responsible task. He is to manage the finances. In outward appearance he is not different from the other disciples. But the Gospel writer calls Judas a thief, a person in who the devil has forced himself and also a betrayer. Why? He has never trusted and accepted Jesus. In the company of the disciples he seeks his own advantage. And he thinks he will get that advantage by handing Jesus over...

MEMORY VERSE

"For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God." (Ephesians 1:7)

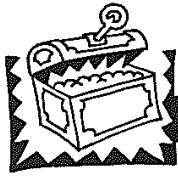
WHO IS JESUS?

Passover Lamb

"You must remove the old yeast of sin so that you will be entirely pure. Then you will be like a new batch of dough without any yeast, as indeed I know you actually are. For our Passover Festival is ready, now that Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Jesus has made us completely new. Like new, fresh dough. Sin belongs to our old life, but not to our new life.

The Passover lamb for the Israelites announced a new time of delivery from the slavery in Egypt. But a common Passover lamb is not able to free people from the slavery of sin. Only the Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ, can do that.



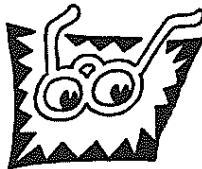
KEEP TRUSTING IN JESUS

Sometimes we have to choose: do we trust in the Lord Jesus, or do we go our own way? Sometimes it seems attractive not to do what Jesus wants. Tell a small lie to make it easier for yourself. Associate with bad friends. Get rich by unjust means. Act as though you are very good. These are all temptations to gain something for yourself. In all these ways you are trusting in your own strength. But if you trust in Jesus, you know for sure that He will give you "life in all its fullness". (John 10:10).

OLD TREASURES

Judas receives 30 pieces of silver for his betrayal. That is also the payment for a slave (Exodus 21:32). This way the prophecy from Zechariah 11:12 is fulfilled. It says there that the people do not value the work of the Good Shepherd (Jesus) more than 30 silver coins, the value of a slave.

I said to them, "If you are willing, give me my wages. But if not, keep them." So they paid me 30 pieces of silver as my wages. (Zechariah 11:12).



EXTRA INFORMATION

The Jewish Passover festival

The Jewish Passover festival (the 'Pasha') lasted seven days. During those days people ate only unleavened bread. No yeast was allowed to be used. That is why the Passover festival was called 'the feast of unleavened bread'.

On the day of preparation a Passover lamb was slaughtered. A part of the lamb and the blood was offered in the temple. The meat had to be eaten all before morning. At the evening meal the food consisted of bitter herbs, unleavened flat loaves of bread and wine.

The first Passover (also called Pesach, passing by) was celebrated when the Israelites left Egypt. The blood of slaughtered lambs became their salvation (Exodus 12). Wherever that blood was visible on the doorposts the judgement passed them by. Now the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin, so that for everyone who believes in Him there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1).



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Which task does Judas get from Jesus?

2. What does Judas get as payment for betraying Jesus and what is it worth?

3. Which two disciples prepare the Passover meal (Luke 22:8)?

4. Why is the first Jewish Passover festival called Pesach (passing by) (Exodus 12:26, 27)?

5. What do we celebrate at Eastern?

6. What does the blood of Jesus do with our sin (1 John 1:7)?

7. Why is Jesus called the Passover Lamb?

- a) He dies in the temple.
- b) He is the sacrifice for our sin.
- c) He already existed before Moses instituted the Passover festival.

BIBLE READING

Sun	Matthew 26:14-19
Mon	Exodus 12:1-20
Tue	Exodus 12:21-42
Wed	Hebrews 11:24-29
Thu	1 Corinthians 5:6-8
Fri	Revelation 5:6-14
Sat	James 1:9-16



ACTION POINT!

Fill in:

For sin pays its wage:

_____ ; but God's free

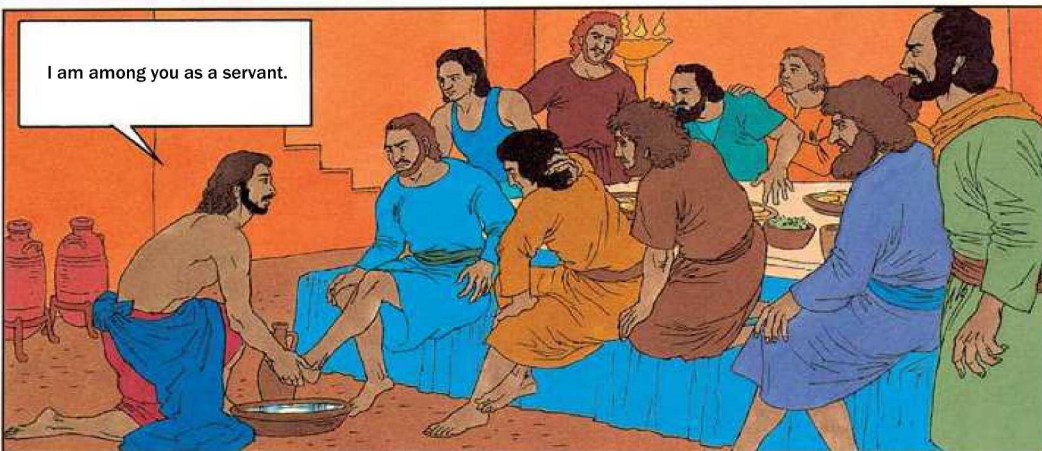
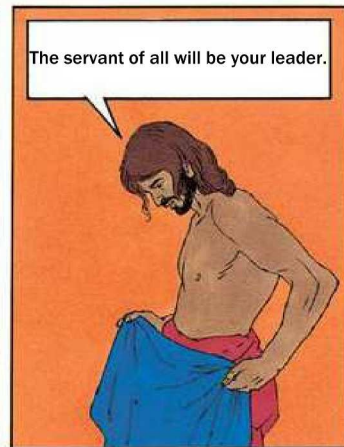
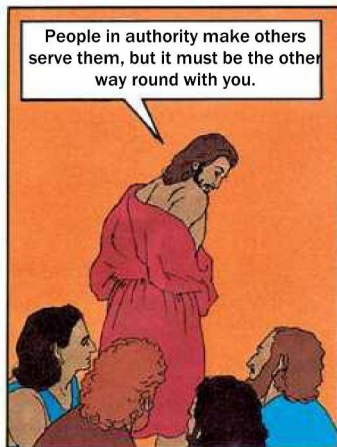
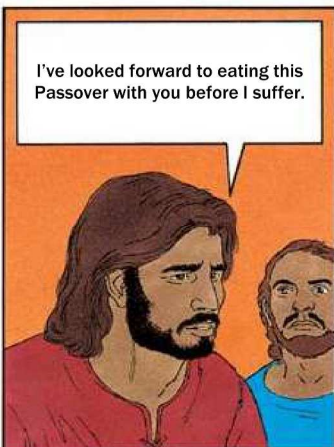
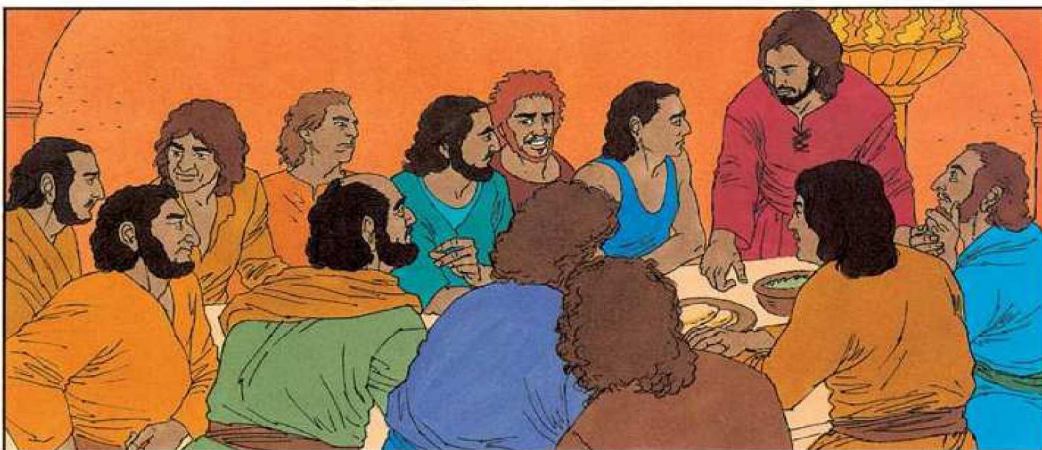
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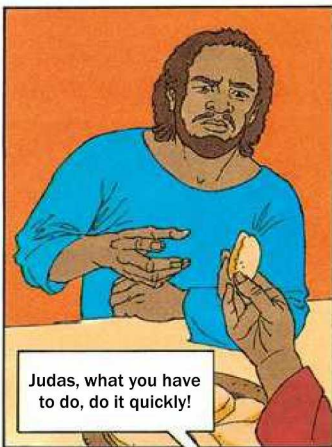
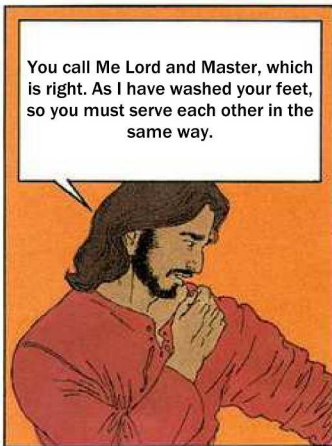
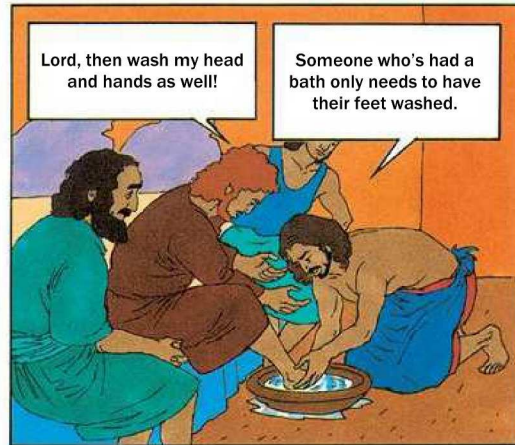
_____ *in union with Christ Jesus our Lord.*

(Romans 6:23).

THE FOOTWASHING

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 13:1-35







THE FOOTWASHING

The Lord Jesus knows that He is going to die. He also knows why. But before that He wants to tell His disciples once more what is most important for Him. He does that during His last Passover meal with the twelve.

You can read about those most important things that Jesus said before his death in John 13-17. And what is striking in those chapters? That the Lord Jesus speaks more than 30 times about love. Love is what is the most essential for Jesus: the love of God the Father for his children, the love of Jesus for people, the love that Jesus' followers have for Him and for each other and for all people. The love of God!

Jesus shows what that love means: by washing the feet of the disciples. It is a dirty job that gets done in warm countries by slaves. Jesus, who has just recently been welcomed into Jerusalem as king, humbles Himself now as a servant. Why? He sees others more important than Himself. He gives Himself. **That** is love!

John was so moved by Jesus' love that he was later called the 'apostle of love'. He therefore also calls himself 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'. John begins his story about the arrest of Jesus with these words:

"It was now the day before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved those in the world who were his own, and He loved them to the very end" (John 13:1).

MEMORY VERSE

*"And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
(John 13:34)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Servant

"Who is greater, the one who sits down to eat or the one who serves? The one who sits down, of course. But I am among you as one who serves" (Lucas 22:27).

The disciples are surprised that Jesus washes their feet. Perhaps they have forgotten that the Messiah was already called Servant in the Old Testament. And yes, Jesus also washes the feet of Judas, the man who will betray Him.

Jesus says:

"Love your enemies."

And He does what He says. On the cross He demonstrated His love by taking away the sins of the whole world. That is why we can be clean and pure before Him.

Fantastic, don't you think? That makes us love Him even more!



YOU HAVE JESUS' LOVE IN YOU

What do you know about love as Jesus intends it? Nothing, unless you discover how much the Lord Jesus loves you. He has made you clean and pure. If you receive love from Him, you too are able to share love with people around you.

How do you receive the love of Jesus? Listen to everything what the Bible says as if Jesus is saying it to you personally. Trust that everything Jesus is doing is also for you. With your whole heart thank Him. You will be filled with His love and you can start sharing it with others.

TIP

When you talk to Jesus, you can feel warmth in your heart. When you thank you can become enthusiastic, because of His love. This warmth, this enthusiasm and love, you can share. Give yourself to others, as the Lord Jesus has given Himself to you.



OLD TREASURES

The Messiah is called king in the Old Testament, but also a servant, a slave. Such opposite titles are difficult to understand as naming one person, until you get to know Jesus.

“Here is My servant, whom I strengthen - the one I have chosen, with whom I am pleased. I have filled Him with My Spirit, and He will bring justice to every nation” (Isaiah 42:1).

“My servant will succeed in His task; He will be highly honoured” (Isaiah 52:13).

But before the Messiah will be honoured as God's servant, He will be humiliated and despised by people ...



EXTRA INFORMATION

Slavery

A slave was the possession of his master. He was not a slave freely. You became a slave if you could not pay back your debts or maybe your parents had been slaves before you.

Slaves could be sold easily to another owner. They did the dirtiest jobs in the house or in the business. On the other hand, sometimes they were given honourable work and some even become managers in business. In Jesus' day there was slavery in all countries of the world. But slaves in Israel had to be released after six years.

The Bible calls people slaves of sin. No matter how good you try to be, you keep doing wrong. You are chained to it. Jesus humbled Himself to become a slave in order to buy us free from slavery. He changes us from slaves who think we have to earn God's grace into children of God who freely receive God's grace!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How many times does Jesus mention love in John 13-17?

2. Who usually washes the feet of guests before the meal?

3. Cross out what Jesus does not do:

*He gets up from the table -
takes off his cloak -
wraps a towel around His waist -
pours water in a basin -
washes the hands of the disciples -
washes the feet of the disciples -
dries them off with the towel around His waist.*

4. By what nickname is the disciple John known?

5. How does John know that Judas is the betrayer (John 13:25, 26)?

6. Which important command does Jesus give His disciples?

- a) Have love for one another.
- b) Wash each others' feet.
- c) Do not betray Me.

7. How will people know who are disciples of Jesus (John 13:35)?



BIBLE READING

Sun	John 13:1-20
Mon	Luke 22:24-27
Tue	John 13:21-35
Wed	Isaiah 42:1-9
Thu	Psalm 115
Fri	Psalm 116
Sat	Philippians 2:1-11



ACTION POINT!

Write on a piece of paper in large letters:

LOVE =

Now list the things that are said about love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

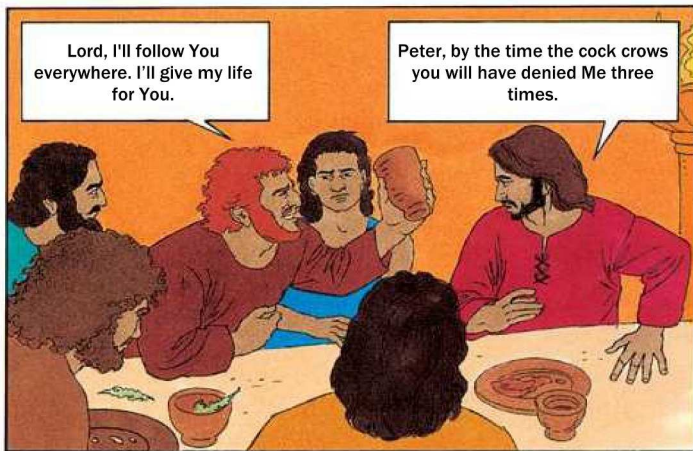
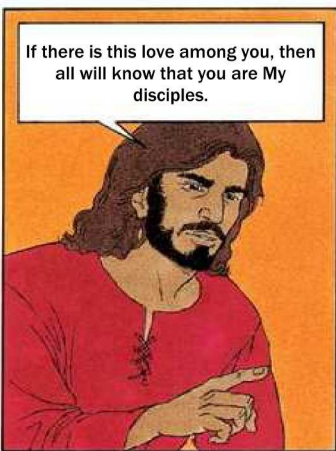
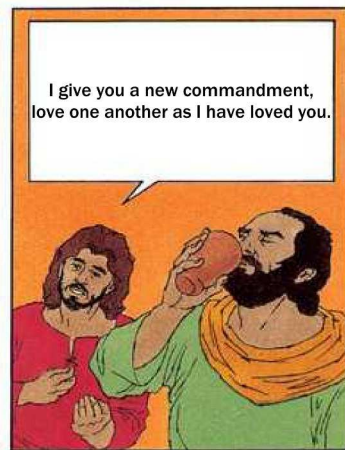
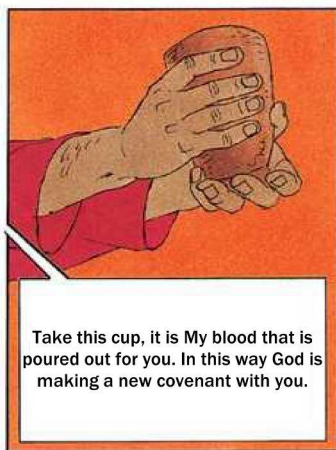
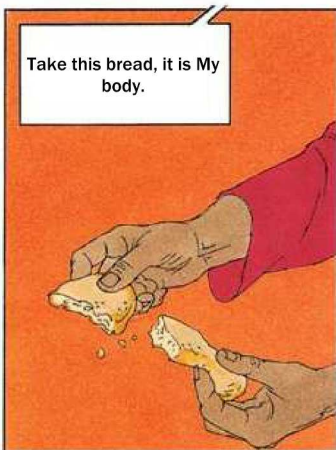
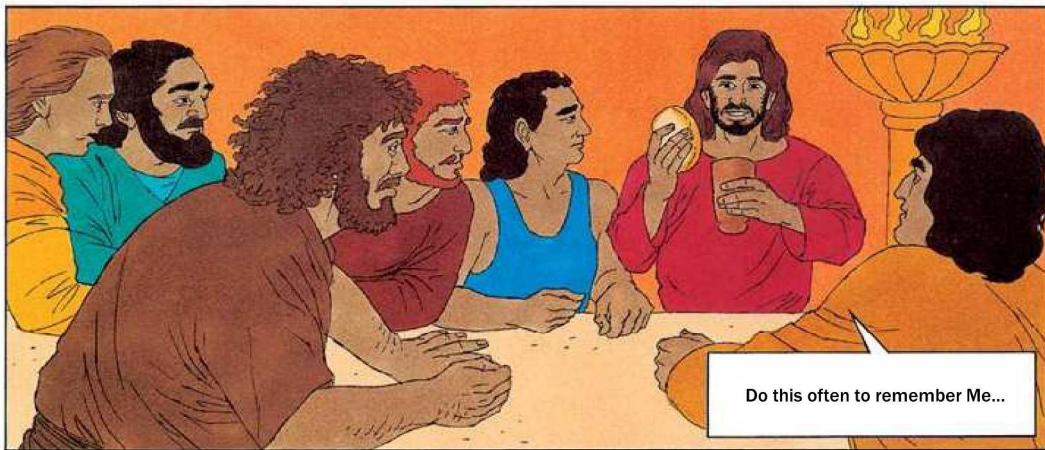
And under the list write:

Love never ends!

(Put the piece of paper on a prominent place on the wall.)

COMMUNION

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 26:2-30 and John 13:34-38





COMMUNION

The Lord Jesus sits with His disciples at table. He hands around bread and wine. While He does that He says that people must always keep celebrating this meal. Because the bread and the wine keep reminding us that He gave Himself for us.

Every time you celebrate this holy meal you take in Jesus' love. You experience what He has done. He gave His life for you. You can see it. You can taste it. You are involved with all your senses. Jesus' gift of His life for you is as real as eating this bread and drinking this wine is real for you.

In eating the **bread** you think of the body of Jesus that He sacrificed His life unto death for you and for me. In drinking the **wine** you think of Jesus' blood. With the blood He made a new covenant between God and mankind. God made a new agreement: Our sins are forgiven. That is why eternal friendship is possible between God and us.

Every time we celebrate Communion or Eucharist, we experience again that the Lord Jesus gives Himself for you and me. The Lord God has declared His love for us. And He keeps to His covenant, to His promises. Jesus established the Lord's Supper, so that we will never forget this new covenant. His promises make us thankful and happy. That is why the Communion is sometimes called 'the Lord's supper' or 'the festival meal of thanksgiving'.

MEMORY VERSE

"The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them." (John 15:13)

WHO IS JESUS?

Love

*"God is love. God showed His love for us by sending His only Son into the world."
(1 John 4:8b-9a)*

If you want to know how great God's love is, you have to look at Jesus. Only the Lord Jesus can teach you what love is.

He says:

"The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them." (John 15:13)

He did only give His life for His friends, but even for His enemies. (Romans 5:8). His love is pure grace, rich and overflowing and undeserved!



OLD TREASURES

In the time of Moses the Lord God made a covenant with His people. It was confirmed with the blood of animal sacrifices. That blood was sprinkled over the people.

“This is the blood that seals the covenant which the Lord made with you when He gave all these commands.” (Exodus 24:8).

The prophet Jeremiah writes God's promise in the Old Testament that a new covenant will come. God's laws will then no more be laid on people from the outside. People will get a new heart, in which God's Spirit lives. And so they will know from the inside what God desires.

“The new covenant that I will make with the people of Israel will be this: I will put My law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.” (Jeremiah 31:33).



EXTRA INFORMATION

The Communion

The Communion is meant for everyone who loves Jesus. There is strength in it, every time you eat and drink of it. That is, it strengthens your faith in the perfect, completed work of Jesus.

- The bread stands for Jesus' body. He carried out our sicknesses in His body, so that we might receive healing (Isaiah 53:4-5).
- The wine stands for Jesus' blood. His blood flowed, so that we are cleansed from sin and forgiven (Ephesians 1:7).
- There is no bitter herb in the Communion anymore, like in the Pesach meal of the Jews. Jesus has taken the bitter guilt of sin upon Himself.

The followers of Jesus in the early church know the power of the Communion. And so they often celebrated it daily in their homes. (Acts 2:46).

TIP

It is wonderful what Jesus has done for you. Every time you take bread and wine at the Communion say: “Thank you Jesus!”

GODS COVENANT STANDS!

When a man and woman get married, they make a covenant. That is called a marriage contract. They promise each other to be faithful. Both of them sign in a book. And give each other rings as proof.

The marriage contract begins when they say yes to each other. But after that the contract has to be maintained. You have to pay attention to each other. Talk over everything together. Listen well to each other. Think of each other. Celebrate regularly that you belong together. And show that you appreciate the other by giving gifts.

God has made a covenant with you when He gave Jesus. He has spoken His ‘yes’ and will always remain true to that. If you love Him, you will want to maintain that covenant. Communion helps you to do that.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How are the old covenant and the new covenant sometimes called?

2. For whom was the old covenant meant?

And for whom is the new covenant meant?

3. With what blood was the old covenant sealed?

And with what blood was is the new covenant sealed?

4. What is the Communion sometimes called?

5. What do the bread and the wine stand for?

Bread:

Wine:

6. Where and how often did the first Christians take Communion?

7. How has God shown what love is? (John 15:13)?



BIBLE READING

- Sun Matthew 26:26-30
- Mon 1 Corinthians 11:20-32
- Tue John 13:34-38
- Wed Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Thu Hebrews 9:11-15
- Fri John 15:9-17
- Sat 1 John 4:7-16



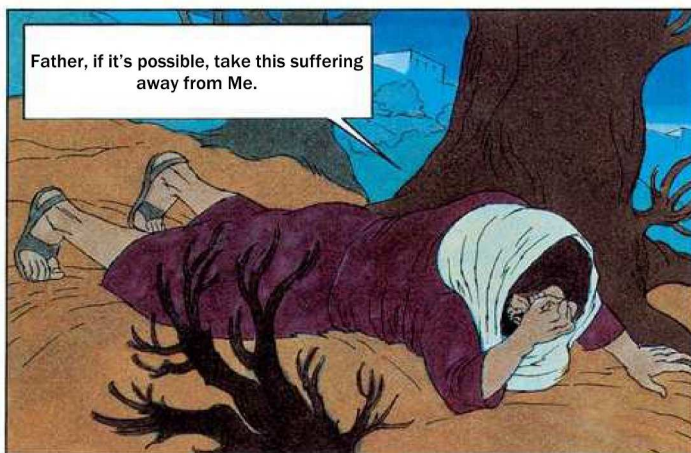
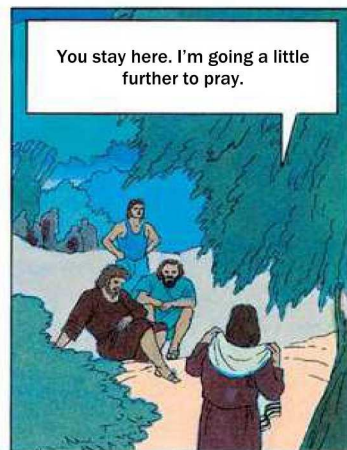
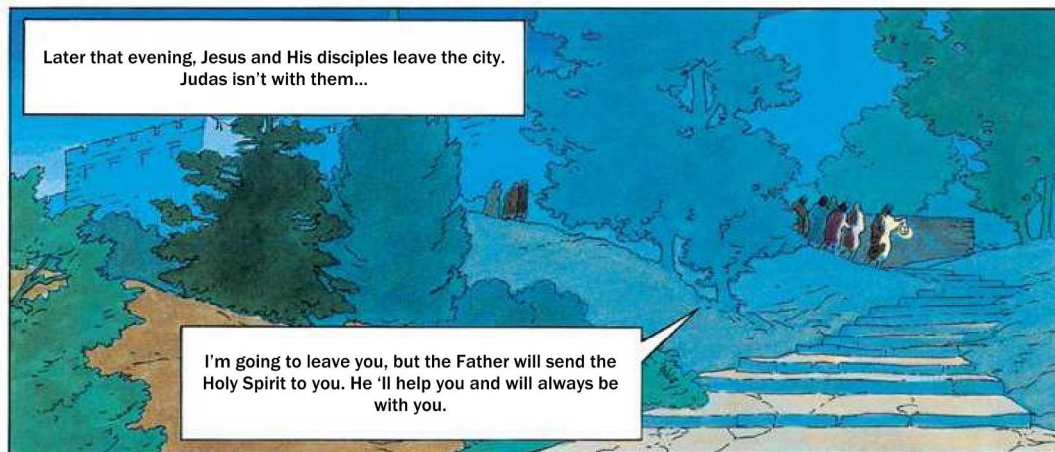
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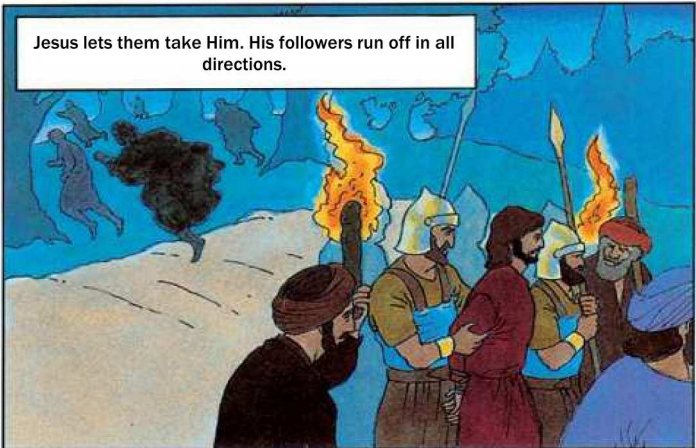
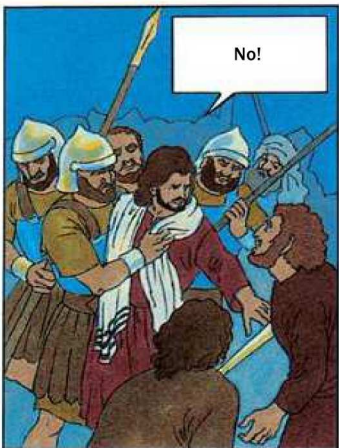
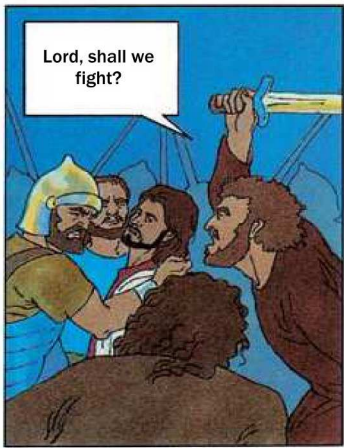
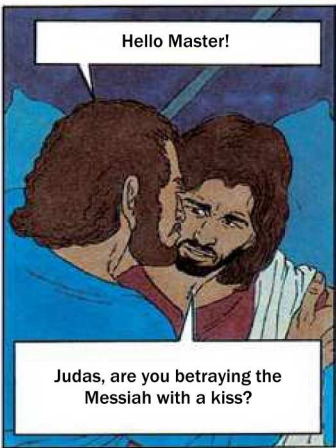
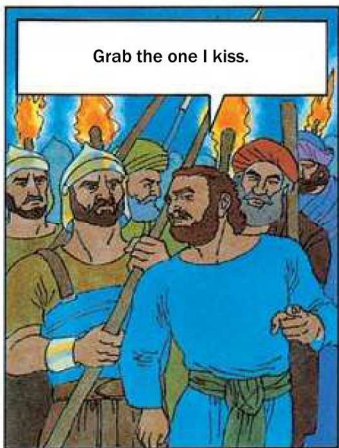
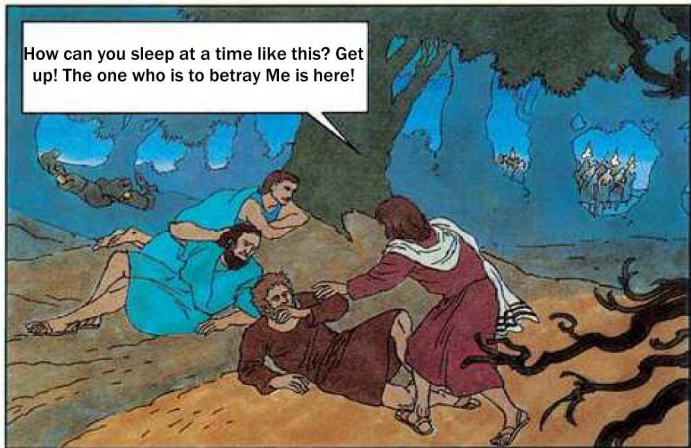
Write down three ways in which God maintains His covenant with you.

- 1. _____
- _____
- 2. _____
- _____
- 3. _____
- _____
- _____

THE ARREST

READ FOR YOURSELF: *John 14:1-31 and Matthew 26:36-56*







THE ARREST

Jesus and His disciples are celebrating the last supper in the upper room in Jerusalem. In closing they sing Psalms 115-118. Traditional these Psalms are sung at the end of the Passover meal. Then they leave the city. They go to a quiet place, a garden. This garden lies below the Olive Mountain and is called Gethsemane. This means 'olive press'.

Jesus wants to pray here in silence. He does this often at night. But this time His prayer is really intense. He struggles with the question of how He can fulfil Gods purpose. How He can obey till death.

Obeying can be really hard, especially when the other person asks you to do something difficult. If you love the one who asks something hard of you, obeying becomes quite different. Even when it is a hard command, you are able to do it happily, because you can do it out of love.

That is also how it is between God the Father and Jesus, Gods Son. The Lord Jesus has the hardest command in history ahead of Him. The Lord God asks Him to suffer and to die so that He can take the sins of all people on Himself. And He obeys to go, because of His love for the Father. *"But the world must know that I love the Father; that is why I do everything as He commands me"* (John 14:31).

MEMORY VERSE

"My Father will love those who love Me."
(John 14:21b)

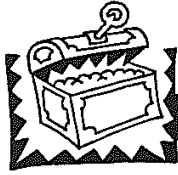
WHO IS JESUS?

Brother

"Those whom God had already chosen He also set apart to become like His Son, so that the Son would be the eldest brother in a large family."
(Romans 8:29)

Jesus is the way to the Father. He became like us to be able to bring us to the Father. Thanks to the Lord Jesus you and I have received the same Father as He, and because of this we belong in His family. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus!

"That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them His family." (Hebrews 2:11b).



NOT WHAT YOU WANT, BUT WHAT GOD WANTS

Love and obedience go together. If you love the Lord Jesus, then you will gladly do what He asks of you. That is why He says:

"If you love me, you will obey My commandments" (John 14:15).

If you love God then you have faith that He has the best in store for you. God's Spirit will lead you to do what He wants.

TIP

Not what you want, but what God wants you to do will make you happy.

Say what Jesus said:
"Not what I want, but what You want!"

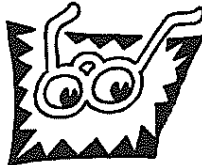
OLD TREASURES

In the Psalms (that were written 1000 years before Jesus) it already shows that the Messiah is still a very young man when He struggles with God's command to suffer and die.

"O God, do not take Me away now before I grow old. O Lord, you live forever; long ago you created the earth, and with Your own hands You made the heavens" (Psalm 102:24-25).

From Luke 3:23 we know that Jesus begins to teach in public when He is approximately 30 years old. Three years later He is arrested, and all of His friends forsake Him. God had already foreseen this as well. It is written in Zechariah, a book what was written about 520 years before Christ.

"The Lord Almighty says, "Wake up, sword, and attack the Shepherd who works for Me!" (Zechariah 13:7a).



EXTRA INFORMATION

Justice and order

The Romans are the boss in Israel. But the Jewish High Court (the Sanhedrin) must help to keep order in Jerusalem. For this reason the Jewish leaders have a temple guard under their authority, and if it is necessary Roman soldiers. The temple guard is armed with sticks. The Roman soldiers have swords. The High Council may pass judgement themselves. If however the death sentence is involved, the Roman officials must have to sign and carry out the death sentence.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What is the name of the garden where Jesus goes to pray and what does that name mean?

2. Why does Jesus do exactly what God the Father asks of Him:

- a) Because He is scared to make mistakes.
- b) Because He wants to be a good person.
- c) Because He loves the Father.

3. With what words does Jesus end His struggle in prayer (Matthew 26:39)?

4. How does Judas show the soldiers whom they must arrest?

5. What does "a Judas kiss" mean:

- a) a deed of betrayal.
- b) a false bite.
- c) a man kisses another man.

6. What does Jesus sweat when He is praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:44)?

7. Why are we called brothers of Jesus (Hebrews 2:11)?

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 14:1-14
Mon	John 14:15-31
Tue	Matthew 26:36-46
Wed	Matthew 26:46-56
Thu	Hebrews 2:10-15
Fri	Psalms 40:5-9
Sat	Hebrews 5:7-9



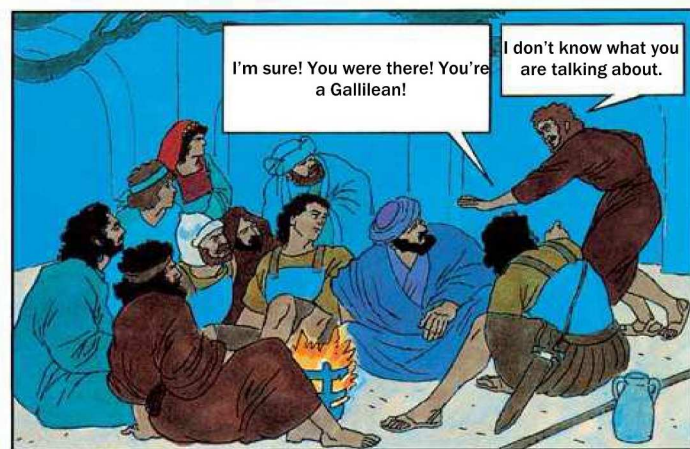
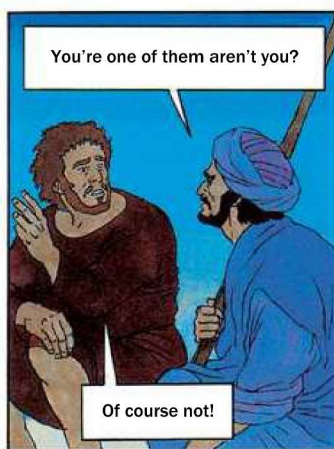
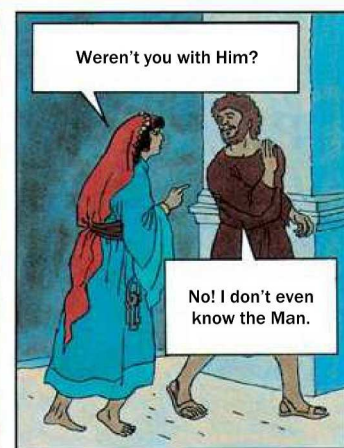
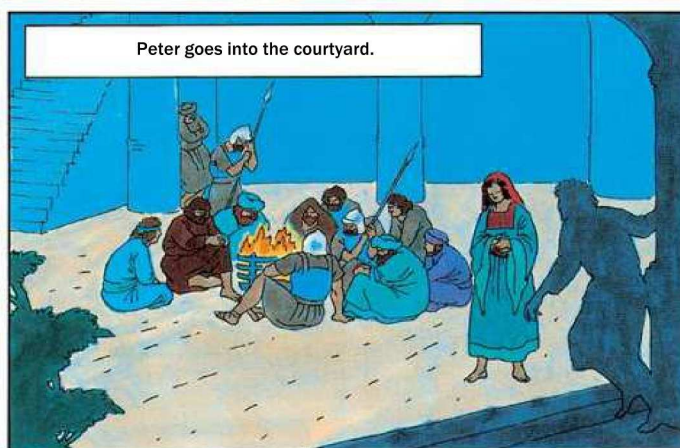
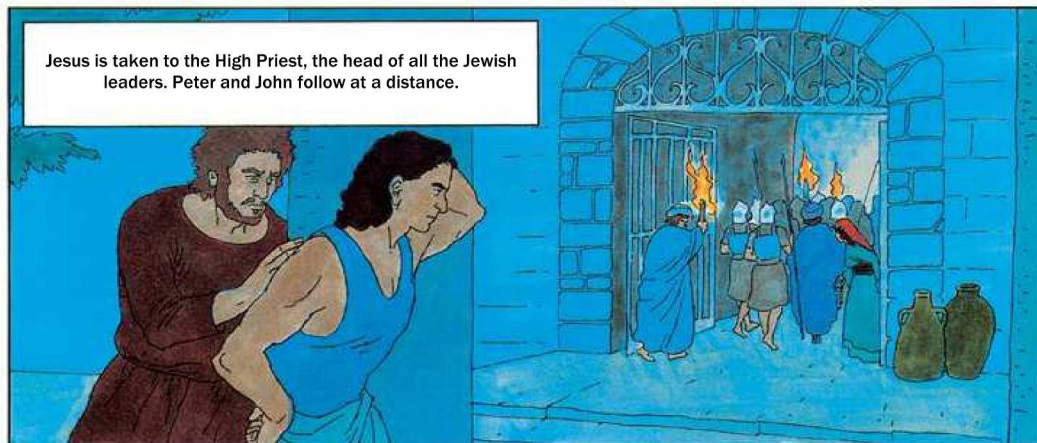
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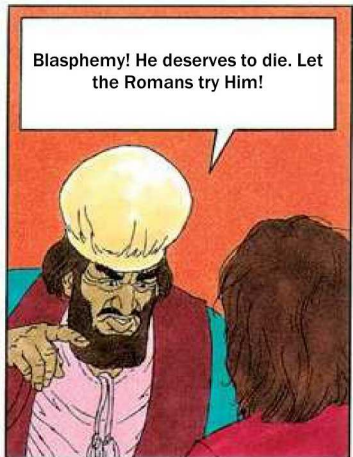
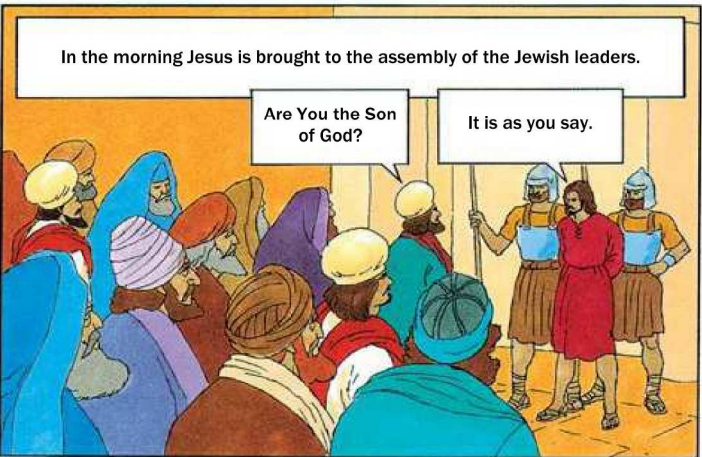
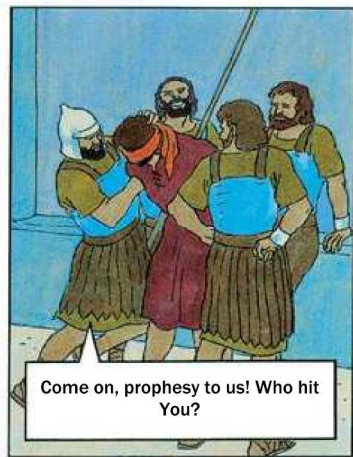
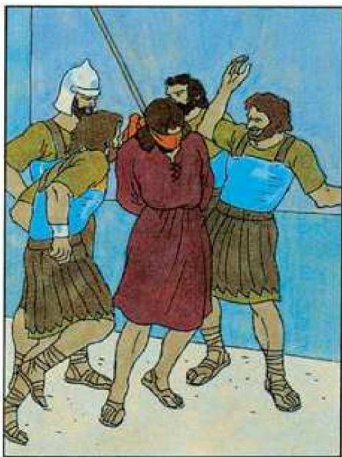
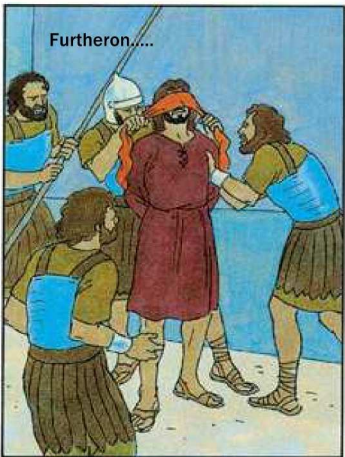
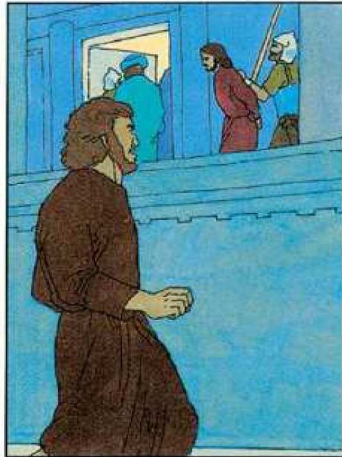
Maybe you need to do something difficult? Talk to God about it!

Thank Him that He loves you. That He will help you. You can always trust that He will take care for the right outcome.

THE TRIAL

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 26:57-75







THE TRIAL

It is night time when the Lord Jesus is arrested. Because the temple is closed at night He is taken to the house of the high priest. There He is tried, mocked and beaten. The disciples have fled. But Peter and John follow at a distance. When Peter is recognized at the court yard he pretends that he does not know who Jesus is. He renounces his master.

How badly Peter fails! At the beginning of the evening he had said several times that he would follow Jesus everywhere and that he would give his life for Him. And when Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane he had even used his sword to defend Him. But now when everything seems lost he turns away from the Lord Jesus.

The rooster crows! This is going to be a bad day. Peter realises it. And he cries.

Peter is questioned by the servants. He renounces Jesus. And he escapes arrest. Jesus is questioned by the leaders. He stays true to Gods assignment. And he gets convicted.

Jesus stays steadfast. He trusts that God will take care of Him. He makes Himself weak but He continues. Out of love for God and out of love for the people for whom He is going through this all. Even for Peter.

MEMORY VERSE

*"But whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."
(Romans 9:33b)*

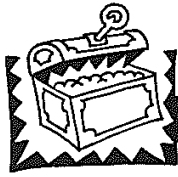
WHO IS JESUS?

Cornerstone

"The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all." (1Peter 2:7b)

Few people understand how Jesus can still be the Son of God even when He is weak and vulnerable. Many people feel annoyance towards Him. But they are wrong. They will stumble over Him, just as you stumble over a stone.

Jesus is the cornerstone. The cornerstone determines how the house is going to be built. Jesus can decide how your house is going to look like. He, who trusts in Jesus, learns you can build on Him. You are standing on the foundation of grace.



YOU CAN BUILD UPON JESUS

Maybe you feel you are young and strong. You may think that you can conquer the world. You feel like Peter, before Jesus was arrested. But in everybody's life there comes a day when you are weak and vulnerable. That's the time when you either trust the Lord your God or you try to save yourself no matter what it costs. God can be trusted any time, because He loves you like no one else can. He will never, ever, forsake you. You can count upon Him!



OLD TREASURES

The Messiah was going to be rejected as a worthless stone. That is written in the Psalms. It also says something nobody counted on: God chooses that worthless stone to fulfil his plans. He builds on Jesus a new future for His children. Jesus becomes the foundation for His church with the grace that He brings.

*"The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all. This was done by the Lord; what a wonderful sight it is!"
(Psalms 118:22-23)*

EXTRA INFORMATION

Building houses

In Israel houses are built with thick stones. These are whitewashed, because white keeps the heat out. The houses of the rich people have a courtyard where the animals live. In the rural areas animals live inside the houses. The staircases are built on the outside of the house. They lead to the roof, because the flat roofs are also used for living.

Many houses are built out of natural stone. The rocky underground is used as the foundation. When the building begins, the cornerstone is the first stone to be placed. It is larger than the other building stones, because it functions as a carrying stone. This cornerstone connects the walls. It is very important how this stone is placed, because it determines how the rest of the house will be built. For this reason, a good cornerstone is very important for a good construction of the building. Just like the cornerstone, Jesus is very important for the construction of our lives and the church.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How many times does Peter renounce his master that night?

2. What does Peter remember when the rooster crows?

3. Look again at the picture story. Who does Peter see when he flees from the house of the high priest?

4. On the grounds of which saying do the leaders sentence Jesus? (Matthew 26:64)?

5. Why is Jesus called a stone that is condemned by the builders:

- a) Jesus is rejected by the people
- b) Jesus is not a good carpenter
- c) Jesus is beaten

6. Why is the cornerstone so important for building a house?

7. Who can you always keep trusting:

- a) Yourself
- b) Your friends
- c) The Lord God



BIBLE READING

Sun	Matthew 26:57-68
Mon	Matthew 26:69-75
Tue	Psalms 118
Wed	Romans 9:30-33
Thu	Ephesians 2:20-22
Fri	Matthew 7:24-27
Sat	1 Peter 2:4-10



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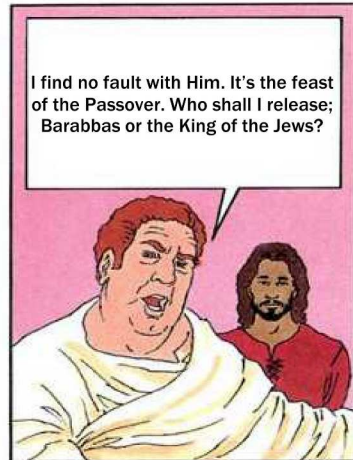
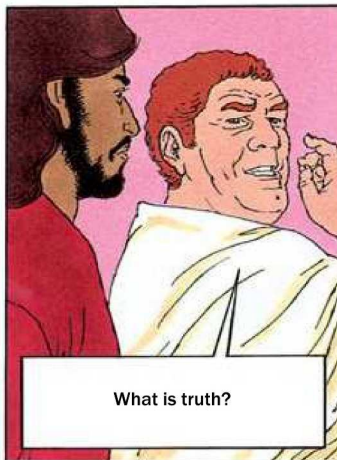
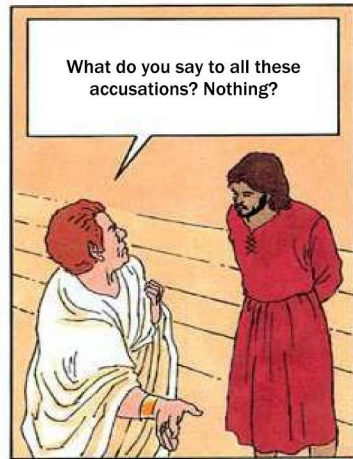
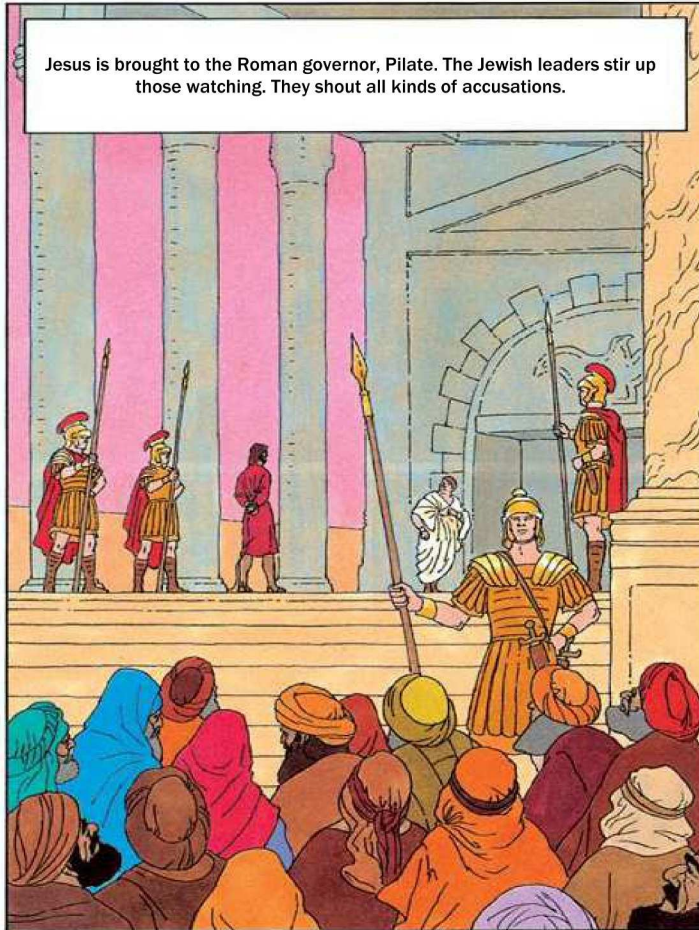
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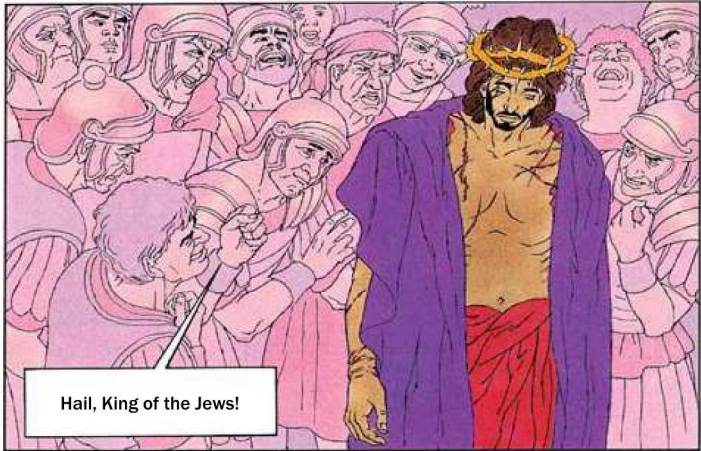
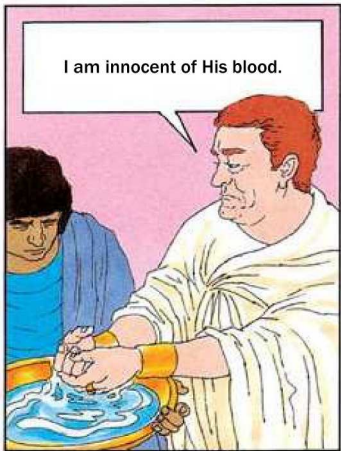
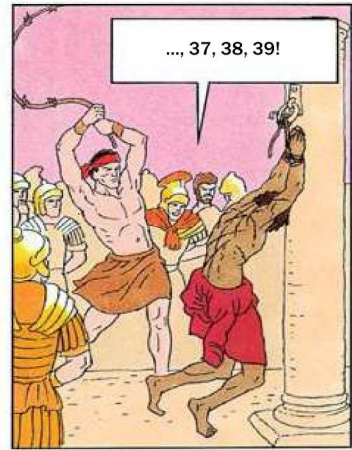
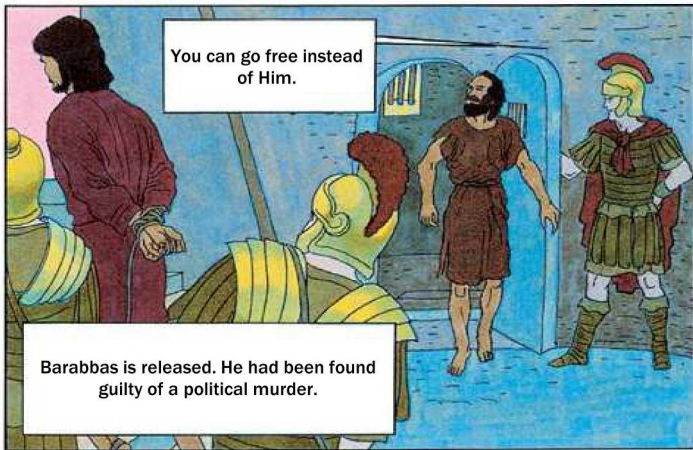
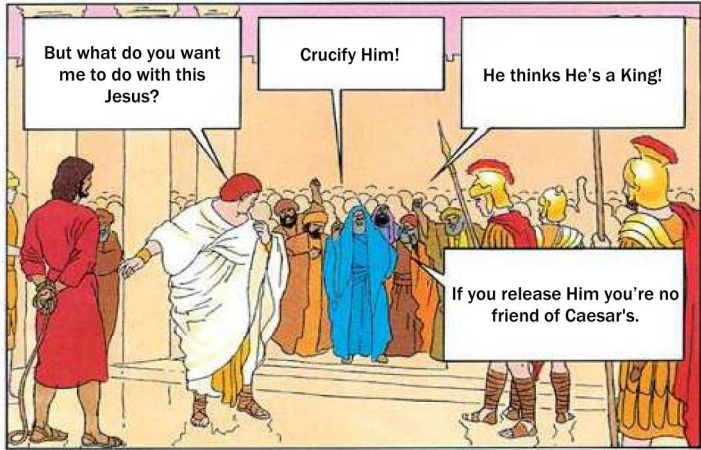
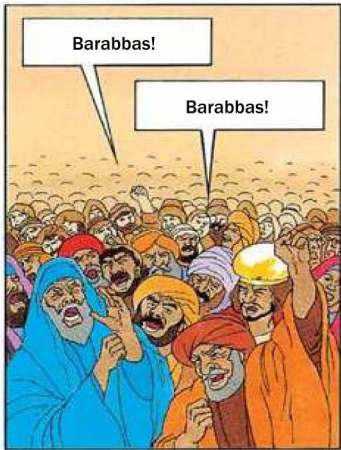
If we are not faithful,

*because He cannot be false to Himself.
(2 Timothy 2:13)*

THE DEATH SENTENCE

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 27:11-30 and John 18:28-40







THE DEATH SENTENCE

Now that the people see Jesus as a prisoner of the Romans, they think very differently about Him. First He was their hero, their awaited king. But now, in their eyes, He is a pitiful character. That's why it is not difficult for the Jewish leaders to fan the flame of hatred against Jesus among the people.

Jesus must be put to death. Because he who makes Himself equal to God, deserves the death sentence. That's what the Jewish leaders think. But Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, doesn't think this man has any guilt. Even his wife Claudia Procula interferes. She dreams about Jesus and warns her husband that He is not guilty. But Pilate is under pressure by the crowd screaming outside. Then it appears he doesn't take the truth too seriously.

The Lord Jesus' work seems to turn into a failure. The rulers ridicule Him. Yet God has everything in control. He wants Jesus to be exchanged for all people. That He will die in our place, and in exchange we will receive His life. But no one knows that yet. First Jesus has to suffer much more, all by Himself...

MEMORY VERSE

"But for those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, this message is Christ, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God."

(1 Corinthians 1:24)

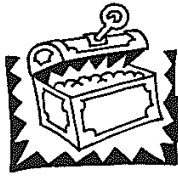
WHO IS JESUS?

The Man of sorrows

"We despised Him and rejected Him; He endured suffering and pain. No one would even look at Him; we ignored Him as if He were nothing."

(Isaiah 53:3)

You can't hardly imagine what Jesus, who is the Son of God, had to endure during all of his suffering. He, who is without sin, became a man of sorrow and grief, of pain and suffering, of mockery and judgement, because He took our sins and sicknesses upon Himself.



WHEN YOU ARE WEAK YOU ARE STRONG

People always want to be strong and clever. They trust that their own strength and wisdom work best. But with people who live with God, it's just the other way around.

When you have become weak and foolish, God can start to do a work in your life. He wants that you trust in Him so that He can show you how strong and wise He is. If you trust He helps, He can give you His grace. It has everything you need plus much more. You do not deserve His grace because you do your best, but you receive it because God loves you so much.

TIP

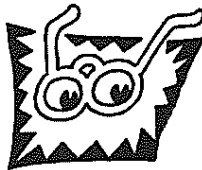
You feel vulnerable when people tell lies about you. Do not try to defend yourself, but have confidence that God is on your side. That's how you are strong!

OLD TREASURES

The suffering of the Messiah is foretold in great detail in the Old Testament. But when the time comes, nobody can believe that someone who has humbled himself so much can be the promised redeemer.

*"I bared My back to those who beat me. I did not stop them when they insulted me, when they pulled out the hairs of My beard and spat in My face."
(Isaiah 50:6).*

*"He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; He never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, He never said a word."
(Isaiah 53:7).*



EXTRA INFORMATION

The Roman government

Pontius Pilate is governor of Judea from 26-36 AD. He is the representative of Emperor Tiberius in Rome. Pilate rules from the Roman city of Caesarea on the coast of the Mediterranean sea of Israel. But during the Jewish feasts he stays temporarily in the impressive Roman palace in Jerusalem. In Jerusalem the Jews are allowed via their council, the Sanhedrin, to rule, but they are not allowed to take justice into their own hands.

Only the Roman emperor has the right to put someone to death.

Whipping is a Roman punishment that the condemned receive before they are crucified. The whip is a leather belt that has pieces of metal and glass sewn into it. The Jews had a procedure established that 39 beatings are given on the back. With 40 beatings or more the criminal might possibly die. That is why they call the beating the 40-minus-one punishment.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. For which crime has Barabbas been convicted?

2. With what is Jesus compared in Isaiah when He is standing silent before the rulers who are condemning Him? (Isaiah 53:7)

3. Look at the picture story. What is Pilate doing as he swears that he is not guilty of Jesus' blood?

4. What makes the whip, used at the beating, extra cruel?

5. With which three things do the soldiers clothe Jesus as a fake king:

- a) With a spear, a crown of thorns and boots.
- b) With a stick, a crown of thorns and a throne.
- c) With a stick, a crown of thorns and a cloak

6. What does God do with the 'wisdom' of the wise people (1 Corinthians 1:19)?

7. What is Christ of God (1 Corinthians 1:24)?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Matthew 27:11-25
Mon	Matthew 27:26-31
Tue	John 18:28-40
Wed	Isaiah 50:4-11
Thu	Isaiah 53:2-7
Fri	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Sat	1 Corinthians 12:9-10



ACTION POINT!

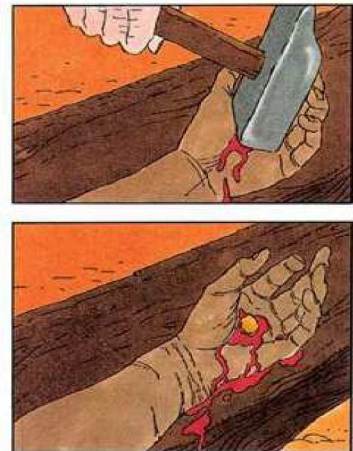
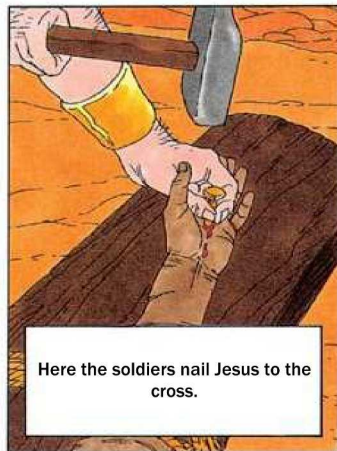
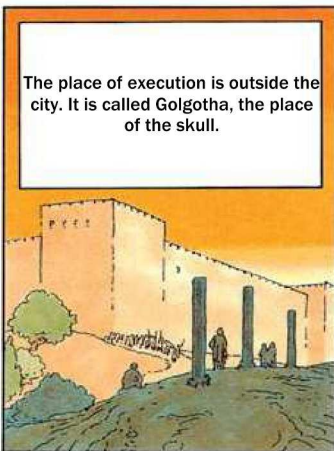
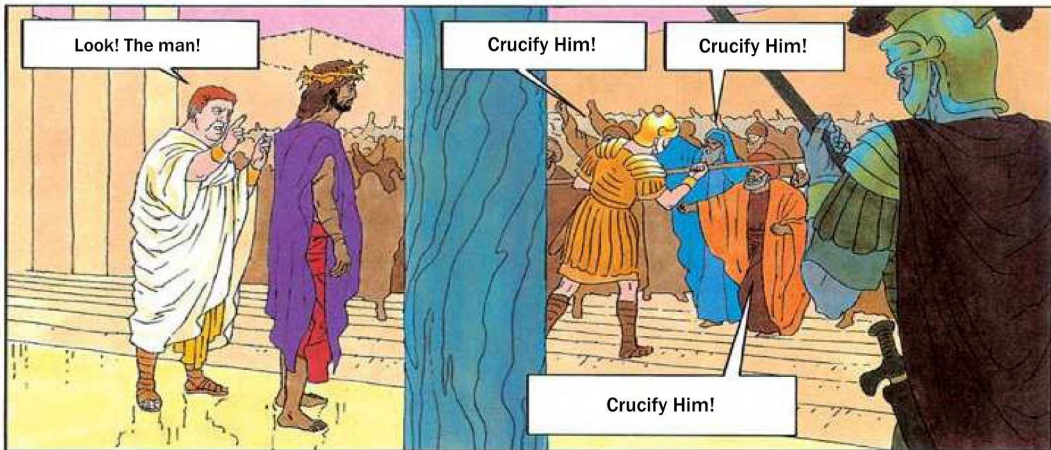
What do you do when someone says something bad about you? Or tell lies about you?

You often feel vulnerable when other people tell lies about you. What do you do? Do you pray for those people?

Trust that God will be your witness. He will give you justice!

TO THE CROSS

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 19:1-18





TO THE CROSS

Look at that man! What has become of Him?
He's standing there all alone, the only one who is silent in
the chaos. Why?

He gave people joy by turning water into wine. But now
He is causing anger among the crowd. He healed the
sick and made friends with sinners and played with the
kids. But now everyone is turning against Him. He said
that you first had to seek God's kingdom, without worry-
ing about tomorrow. But despite that kingdom all of the
sins of the world are being put on Him. He quieted the
storm. But now He is silent while the crowd rants and
raves. The man, who was hailed into Jerusalem last
week as a king, is now being carried away. See the man!
He is being written off as dead.

Jesus is going the way of the cross. He will do what no
other man is able to do. He will bring restoration between
God and the people. You and I need peace with the Lord
God. We need redemption from the curse of sin. Jesus
will take care of that. On this crossroad of history Jesus
opens the way to God.

MEMORY VERSE

*"Certainly not God, who
did not even keep back
his own Son, but offered
Him for us all! He gave us
his Son - will He not also
freely give us all things?"
(Romans 8:32b)*

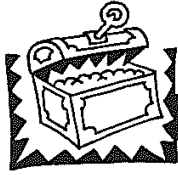
WHO IS JESUS?

Mediator

*"For there is one God,
and there is one who
brings God and human
beings together, the man
Christ Jesus."
(1 Timothy 2:5)*

Jesus came to bring the
people back to God. He
mediated between God
and mankind. He vouched
for us with His own blood.
He brought peace.

Jesus stands up for us.
No one can stand in for us
between God and the
people as He. Because
He is a person. And He is
also the Son of God. He is
completely good. And He
has carried all the evil of
all the people. He is the
perfect mediator.



GOD PROVIDES

Even if you watched the news all day, you still wouldn't understand the terrible things people do to each other. Nobody can fully understand how terrible sin actually is. But when you see what Jesus had to go through, you understand it a little bit. The best, purest Person was so humiliated by people! Amaze of God's grace, that He wanted to go that far for us!

OLD TREASURES

Abraham has finally received what the Lord God has promised, a son. But then God asks the impossible: that Abraham would offer that only son. Abraham continues to believe that God will keep his promise. And that's just how it happens. There on the mountain, Moriah, God gives a lamb to be offered in the place of Abraham's son. God will provide.

Abraham named that place "The Lord Provides." And even today people say, "On the Lord's mountain He provides." (Genesis 22:14)

God provides on the mountain Moriah an offer for Abraham, who trusts in God. Later on God provides, on the same mountain, an offer that takes the place for all the people who trust in Him. He gives there His only Son, Jesus the lamb as an offering.



EXTRA INFORMATION

Golgotha

Jerusalem is built on seven mountains. One of them is mount Moriah, where Abraham received the lamb as an offering. Jesus is crucified just outside of the city on mount Golgotha. That is the Armenian word for 'skull'. Golgotha lies at the crossing of two roads: the road from Samaria to Jerusalem and the road from Joppa to Jerusalem. The Romans cause terror to passersby by crucifying convicts along the sides of that busy intersection.

The condemned must walk 600 meters from the Roman palace to the mountain. That crossing, via the streets of the capital city and through the city gates attracts many spectators. The crossing itself is a horrible event. The convict is undressed and his hands are nailed to the crossbeam and tied on with rope. On top of the hill a wooden pole has been erected. The crossbeam is raised with the man on it to the pole and nailed together. Then the feet of the convict get nailed on as well.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Look at the picture story. How is Jesus appearance when He appears before the people in front of the palace?

2. Look up what Jesus is named in John 19:1-7:

a

b

c

3. What is another name for 'Golgotha' (John 19:17)?

4. How are the hands of the convict fastened to the crossbeam of the cross?

5. What does God provide when Abraham has to offer his only son?

6. What does Abraham name the place where he receives the lamb of offering? (Genesis 22:14)

7. Why is Jesus the perfect mediator between God and the people:

- a) He is the Son of God and He is man.
- b) He always looks for the middle way.
- c) He is acknowledged by everyone.

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 19:1-18
Mon	Luke 23:26-31
Tue	Genesis 22:1-14
Wed	1 Peter 2:21-25
Thu	Hebrews 13:1-16
Fri	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Sat	Romans 8:31-37



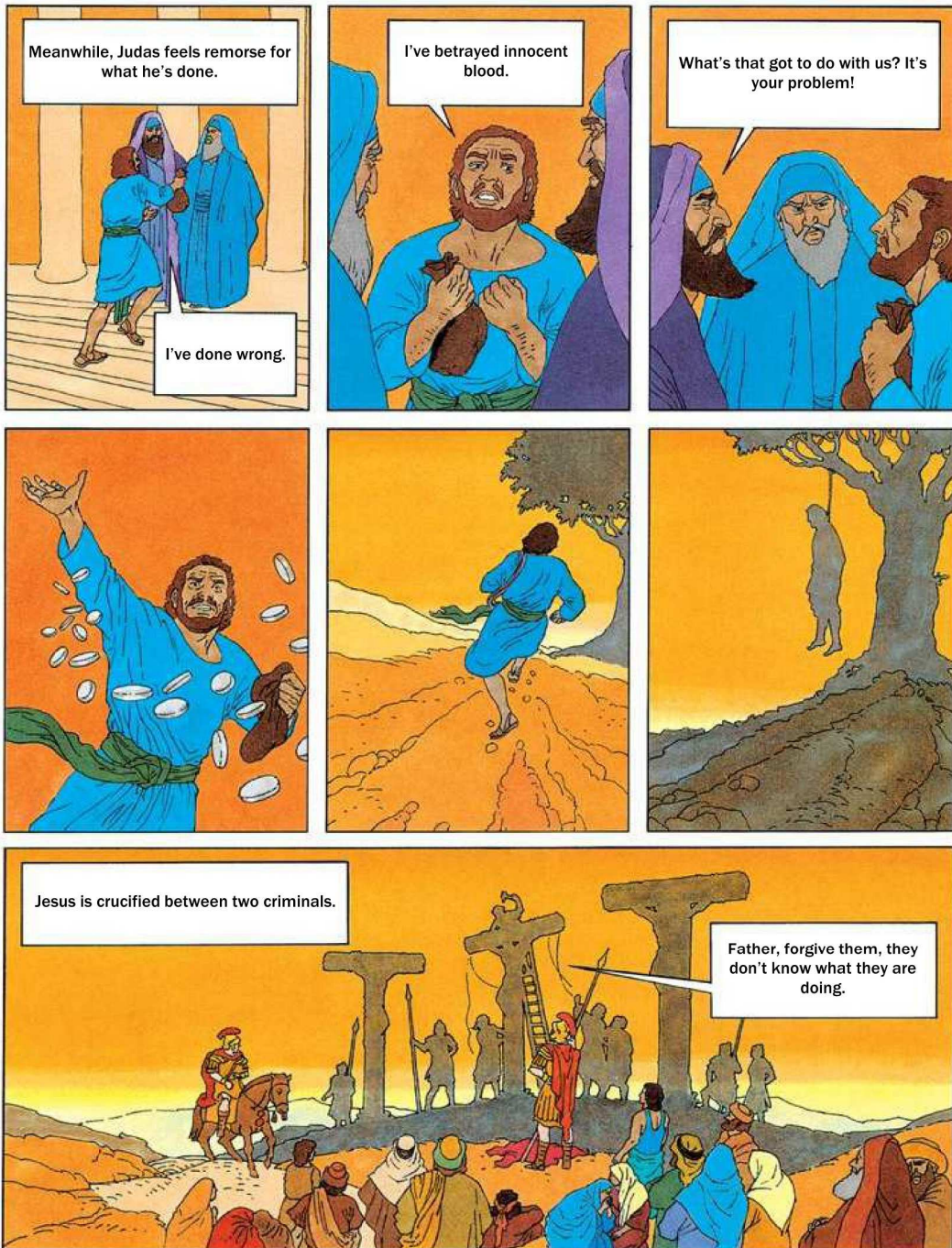
ACTION POINT!

If God gave Jesus to us;
Will He not also provide in
all our daily needs?

You can trust that you will
never be too short with
God as your father.
No, you will have enough
for yourself and will be
able to share and give
away to others.
He provides!

CURSED

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 27:3-10 and Luke 23:32-34





CURSED

Judas Iscariot is one of the twelve. He also has been chosen by Jesus. He also is loved and wanted by Him. But getting profit is worth more to him than his Master. He betrays Jesus with a kiss.

But when Judas realizes what he has done, he regrets it. Even so, this regret does not bring him back to Jesus. Not to the cross where he can receive forgiveness. He never really believed in Jesus and His grace. That is why he takes his life into his own hands and hangs himself.

The Lord Jesus also is hanged. He doesn't take His life by His own hands. He gives Himself over to God. He desires the best for you and me, even for His enemies. That is why He hangs on the cross. He says: 'Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing'.

The cross contrasts to all people who only care about themselves. You can join the self-willed people who think that they can do it all without God's help. You can reject Jesus and His cross. But why not accept God's offer? The Lord Jesus carried your punishment on the cross.

The cross leads to a crossroads in everybody's life. It means a choice:

Do I desire to go my own way?

Or do I desire to go with Jesus?

And do I surrender myself over to God's grace?

And do I trust He will give me what He has promised?

MEMORY VERSE

"But by becoming a curse for us Christ has redeemed us from the curse that the Law brings."

(Galatians 3:13a)

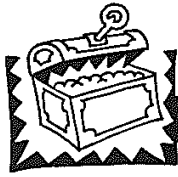
WHO IS JESUS?

Lord of Glory

"The wisdom I proclaim is God's hidden wisdom, which He had already chosen for our glory even before the world was made. None of the rulers of this world knew this wisdom. If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

(1 Corinthians 2:7-8)

Jesus went the way of the cross, because He knew that this would bring the highest form of glory. His suffering and death would turn into a mighty victory. He is the Lord of glory. You and me are allowed to be part of that glory.



TIP

Do not be afraid of trouble. Jesus has carried the curse. You are now privileged to have His blessing.

NOT A CURSE, BUT A BLESSING!

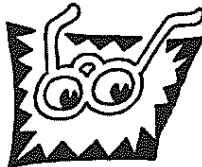
Sin causes all kinds of misery. You feel guilty. You feel ashamed of yourself. You are afraid of punishment and judgement. All of those things no longer belong in your life if you live with Jesus. You know that He has taken the curse of the sin upon Himself.

When Satan accuses you and makes you think that there is no pardon for you, do not listen to him. Look into the eyes of Jesus, who is looking into yours. He was hanged on the cursed wood, and He says, 'I love you and My Father pardons you. Come!'

OLD TREASURES

"Because a dead body hanging on a post brings God's curse on the land." (Deuteronomy 21:23b)

The Law of Moses talks about the death penalty of hanging on a pole (post). That means it is really bad for such a criminal: he is cursed by God. The Jews did not want to give any person such a terrible punishment and that is why in practice, nobody got hanged, until the Romans introduced Crucifixion. When Jesus hangs on the dead wood of a cross, He is struck by God's curse. Through this, Jesus fulfills the law. He becomes cursed, so that we are never cursed by God again. Instead of cursed we are now being blessed.



EXTRA INFORMATION

Thorns and thistles

In Genesis 3:17-18 the Lord God says that the earth is cursed and that is why it will bring forth thorns and thistles. The Lord Jesus gets a crown of thorns pressed on his head. The soldiers do this to mock this 'King'. They do not know that they are actually showing that Jesus is carrying the curse of the world.

Jesus has freed us from the curse that sin has caused. When He returns, He will also take away the curse that is troubling the whole creation.

That is why we read in Isaiah 55:13:

"Cypress trees will grow where now there are briars; myrtle trees will come up in place of thorns. This will be a sign that will last forever, a reminder of what I, the Lord, have done."



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Where does Judas throw down the money that he gets for delivering Jesus (Matthew 27:5)?

2. What does being hanged mean in the Old Testament?

3. What do the thorns and thistles in Genesis 3:18 represent?

4. What does the crown of thorns that Jesus wears represent?

5. What do the leaders of the world not know when they crucify Jesus (1 Corinthians 2:7):

- a) That Judas has betrayed Jesus?
- b) That someone who gets hanged is cursed?
- c) That the death of Jesus brings glory to the people?

6. How long has God already had His plan with Jesus (1 Corinthians 2:7)?

7. Look at the picture story. What are Jesus' first words when He gets hanged on the cross?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Matthew 27:3-10
Mon	Luke 23:32-34
Tue	1 Corinthians 2:6-9
Wed	Genesis 3:8-19
Thu	Romans 8:15-25
Fri	Hebrews 10:26-31
Sat	Hebrews 10:32-39



ACTION POINT!

Draw a mountain with a large cross.

Write all kinds of sins on the cross. Remember that Jesus has taken all of your sins upon Himself dying on the cross.

He wants you to leave all of your sins there. God will not think of them anymore!

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

READ FOR YOURSELF: Luke 23:32-46, Matthew 27:46-50, John 19:25-30

An inscription is placed on the cross in three languages which says: "Jesus, King of the Jews."

Jesus refuses a painkilling drink.

The soldiers gamble for His clothes.

Yes! Didn't He save others?

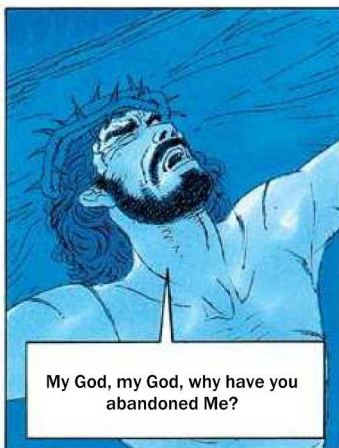
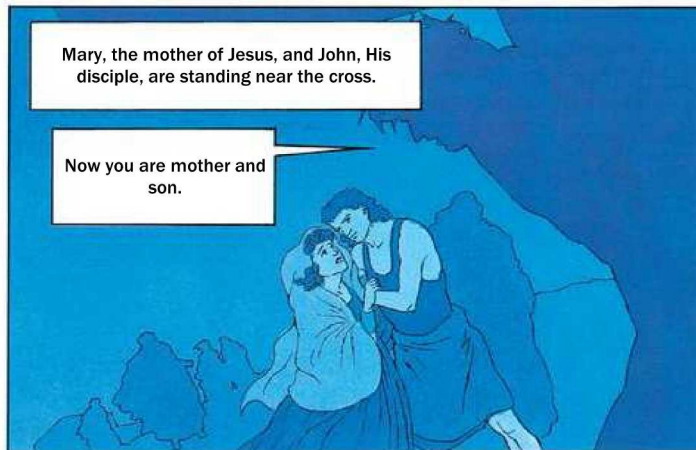
If you are God's Son then come off the cross!

Save Yourself and us!

Show some respect for God. We've got what we deserve but this Man hasn't done anything wrong.

Remember me when you enter Your kingdom!

I assure you, you'll be with Me in paradise today.





JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

The Lord Jesus is hanging on the cross. How can He find support for His tortured body? When His arms hold Him up, the wounds in His hands tear open. But when He shifts His body weight down, it presses on His feet that have been nailed. He moves up and down and the pain shoots through His limbs.

Jesus is exhausted. It was a night full of hardships, without sleep, food or anything to drink. The skin of his back was beaten into shreds. His back muscles have been affected by the beating. With every movement He feels the bleedings. His head hurts, because of the sharp pain that is caused by the thorns.

The exhaustion causes waves of cramps. His breast muscles become paralysed and His heart is being pressed together. He has to push Himself upwards in order to be able to gasp for some air. He is losing blood and moisture and in His feverish body He feels the chill of death approaching.

The Son of God hangs on the cross between Heaven and earth. He is hanging there because that is what He wanted. He does that for you and me. He trades places with us. He carries the sin and sickness of all people, so that we can receive His goodness and dignity. The Lord Jesus hangs on the cross for six hours. Then He bows his head in peace and gives up His spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

"But God has shown us how much He loves us - it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" (Romans 5:8)

WHO IS JESUS?

The Crucified

"He is not here; He has been raised, just as He said. Come here and see the place where He was lying." (Matthew 28:6)

The people make a caricature of who Jesus really is.

- In the Jewish court He is mocked as prophet.
- In the Roman palace He is mocked as king.
- On the hill of Golgotha, He is mocked as priest.

But as the crucified one, He shows that He is truly prophet, truly king and truly priest. He is all of it, because on the cross He is exactly the one that God promised. Nobody understands any of it as He hangs there. But later, when He has risen from the dead, the people will understand why He had to die.

NEVER FORGET WHAT JESUS HAS ACCOMPLISHED

Jesus gave His life for you on the cross. He carried your guilt, your shame, your judgement. Do you want to receive His gift? Everyone who meets the Lord Jesus has to answer that question. How do you receive His gift?

By Believing in Him. By thanking Him for taking your sin upon Him. That He gives you life, full of divine strength and love.

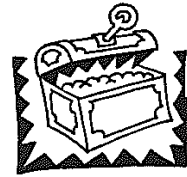
TIP

Never forget what Jesus did.
Why He died for you on the cross.

“That His blood has cleansed you from all sin”.
And that His death has given you eternal life.
You can never thank Him enough for that!

OLD TREASURES

*“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
I have cried desperately for help,
but still it does not come.”
(Psalms 22:1)*



The Psalms are sometimes called the prayers of Jesus. Psalm 22, very accurately expresses the suffering of the Messiah. It is an impressive prophecy, in which many details about the crucifix of the Lord Jesus are predicted. Halfway Psalm 22 the tone changes. It tells the victory that God gives. That all generations need to hear!

*“Future generations will serve Him;
they will speak of the Lord to the coming generation.
People not yet born will be told:
“The Lord saved his people.” (Psalm 22:30-31).*

EXTRA INFORMATION

The Crucifixion

Crucifixion is the Roman punishment for slaves, criminals and agitators. The cross is made up of three parts: the horizontal pole (in Latin it is called the 'stipes'), the cross-beam (the 'patibulum') and the board (the 'titilus'). The board describes the crime. It is worn around the neck of the criminal and sometimes it is nailed to the top of the cross.



The horizontal pole is anchored in the ground where the punishment is being carried out. The cross-beam (that weighs about 30-50 kilos) has to be carried there by the criminal. His hands (or wrists) are fastened to it with nails or rope. In this way his body, on the cross-beam, is raised up to the pole. Finally the feet of the criminal are nailed to the pole.

On the board above Jesus' head Pilate wrote:
“Jesus of Nazareth, king of the Jews”

The Jews become very upset when they read that.
In Hebrew it was written like this:

“Jeshua Hanazarei Wamalekh Hayhudim”

The first letters on the board in the Hebrew language form the name of God: JHWH.

That's how Jews write the name of God in Hebrew.

By writing these words on the board the name of God is now above Jesus head!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Count in the picture story, how many times Jesus says something as He hangs on the cross. (tip: The first sentence can be found in the previous chapter.)

2. What is written on the board that is nailed to the cross above Jesus' head?

3. There are several women by the cross. Name one of them.

4. Which disciple is standing near the cross?

5. Does Jesus really want to die?

- a) No, because crucifixion is a great humiliation
- b) No, because He is the Son of God who is not allowed to die.
- c) Yes, because by doing so He fulfils Gods plan for the world.

6. Jesus always calls God, Father, when He prays. But one time in the whole Bible He calls Him God, at the cross. What does He say to God then?

7. Write out the last sentence that Jesus says before He dies:

BIBLE READING

Sun	Luke 23:32-46
Mon	Matthew 27:46-50
Tue	John 19:25-30
Wed	Psalms 22:1-22
Thu	Psalms 69:1-22
Fri	John 3:13-18
Sat	Romans 5:7-11



ACTION POINT!

Jesus said:

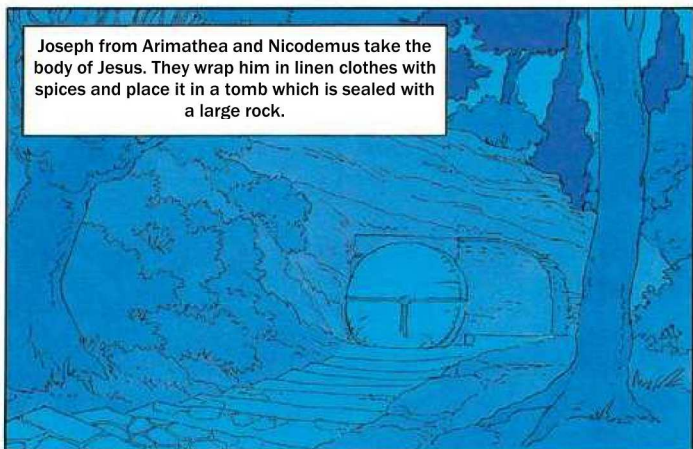
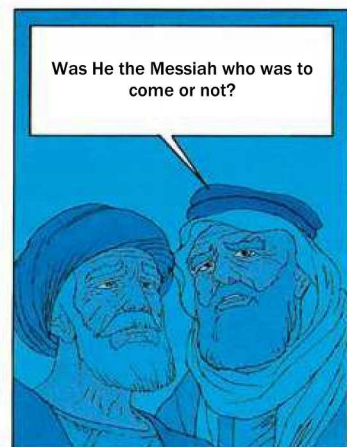
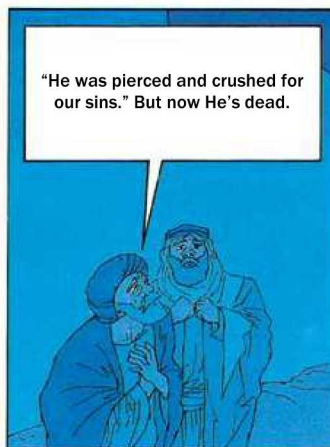
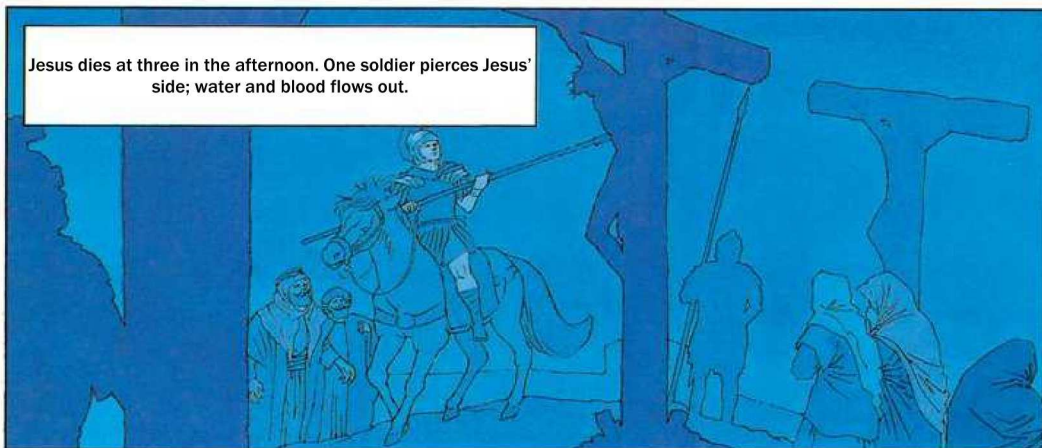
"It is finished!"

He has made everything good again between God and you.

Think of these words especially when things go worse. Don't be afraid. Jesus went through them all. It is finished!

THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 19:31-42



THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS

Jesus is dying on the cross. Everyone who is there can see that. Even so, more is happening with the Lord Jesus than you can see. He dies differently than any other person. In the unnatural darkness of that day He gets all of our sins loaded onto Him. Jesus was without sin. But He is made a sinner. All of our sins and sicknesses go into His body. And He carries the consequences of that...

What happens as a result of sin? Those who don't do what God wants can't live in His presence. They have to die. Sin is followed by death. The Jews usually bring offerings in the temple: offering lambs. In the hope that such an offering would be able to reconcile the problem of sin. But a lamb can never really make-up what people have done wrong.

There is only one solution for sin. That is the offering of Jesus on the cross. Through that, He can save us from the power of Satan. God makes His Son a sinner, by laying all of our sins on Him. When Jesus gives His life and dies, He is dying for our sins. He carries the punishment for you, for me, for the whole world. He gets condemned so that we can be free. In that moment God has deserted Him. Terrible! But He does not want it differently. He becomes one with us so that we can become one with Him.

**THANKS TO JESUS YOU HAVE
BEEN ACCEPTED!**

MEMORY VERSE

"For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God." (Ephesians 1:7)

WHO IS JESUS?

Perfect and Spotless Lamb

"For you know what was paid to set you free from the worthless manner of life handed down by your ancestors. It was not something that can be destroyed, such as silver or gold; it was the costly sacrifice of Christ, who was like a lamb without defect or flaw." (1 Peter 1:18-19).

John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as God's lamb of offering. It was at the start of His ministry:

John cries: "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29b).

Isaiah also writes about the Messiah as a lamb:
"He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; He never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, He never said a word." (Isaiah 53:7).

In Revelation 5:11-13 we read that Jesus is worshipped by everyone as the lamb that was killed.

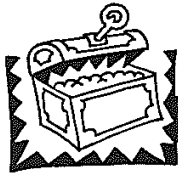


TIP

Read all of Isaiah 53. It describes the suffering on the cross that Jesus went through and why.

THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS IS A SOURCE OF HOPE AND HEALING

The cross of Jesus has become a well known symbol. It is made up of two lines. One from top to bottom and one from left to right. Do you think that might have any specific meaning? The line upwards could have to do with our relationship with God. And the line from left to right could be about our relationship as people with each other. Reflect on that the next time you see a cross.



OLD TREASURES

The prophet Isaiah foretold the suffering and dying of the Messiah hundreds of years before Jesus came. Nowhere in the Bible it describes Gods meaning with Jesus better than in Isaiah 53. It speaks of how He must suffer and die, but also that He will live again and why. He makes us righteous in God's eyes. Righteous means that you have been accepted by God.

*“After a life of suffering, He will again have joy; He will know that He did not suffer in vain. My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them.”
(Isaiah 53:11).*



EXTRA INFORMATION

Death on the Cross

Crucifixion can last many hours and sometimes even several days. The crucified dies through dehydration and choking. Sometimes the soldiers speed up the death of the one who is hanging by breaking their bones. That is not necessary with the Lord Jesus: He has already died. He gave his life freely. The blood and water that flow out of Jesus' side shows that Jesus' heart is probably broken.

Usually the bodies of the criminals are burned. But friends of Jesus take care of His body. They receive the permission of the Romans to take Him from the cross and lay Him in a new burial cave . That happens quickly because something like that is forbidden for the Jews, during the Sabbath day. The following day is a very special Sabbath; it is the beginning of the Passover.



DO YOU KNOW...?

What does the cross mean for you?

Fill in the missing words:

- 1. That Jesus is the perfect offering for sins:
He took punishment upon Himself.

- 2. Thatdon't have to be afraid of God's judgement
onlife: on the cross He has forgiven

- 3. That received God's grace to always be allowed
to live close by Him.

- 4. That Satan has lost: death is not the end, because
Jesus has overcome the death and He gives
.....eternal life.

- 5. That Jesus gives the wonderful life that God
meant for

- 6. What does the word grace mean?

- 7. What does it mean that you are righteous in God's eyes?

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 19:31-42
Mon	Isaiah 53
Tue	Ephesians 1:4-10
Wed	Colossians 2:13-15
Thu	1 Peter 1:14-21
Fri	Hebrews 10:1-14
Sat	Revelation 5:6-13



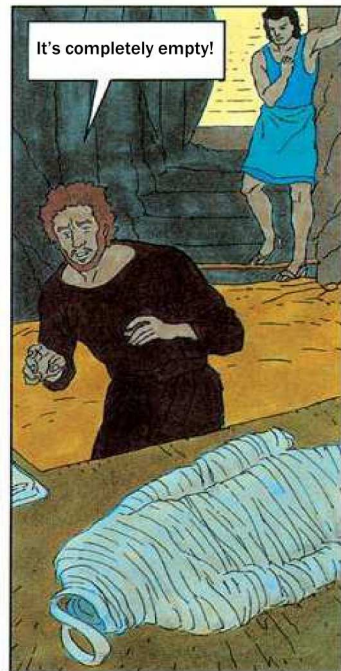
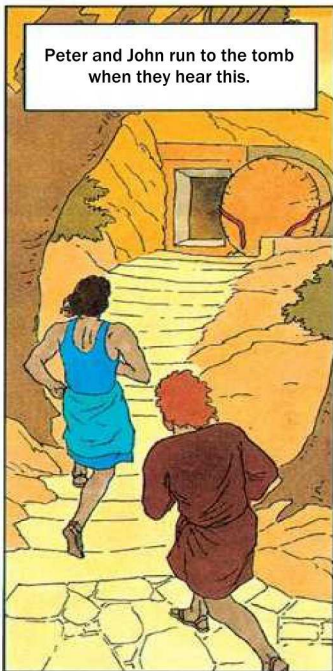
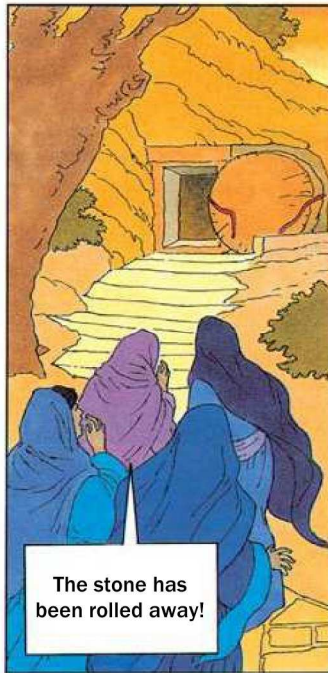
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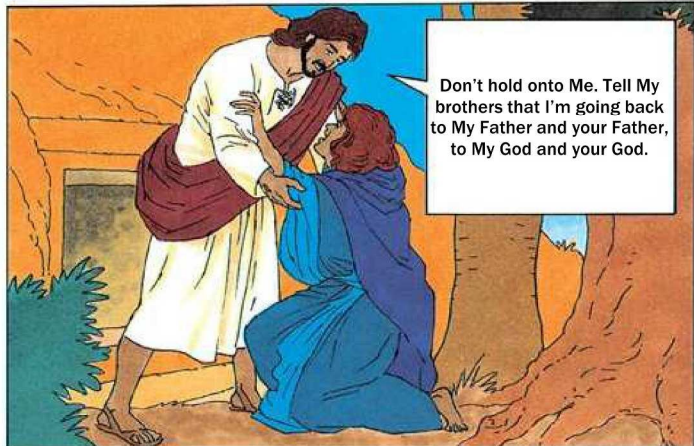
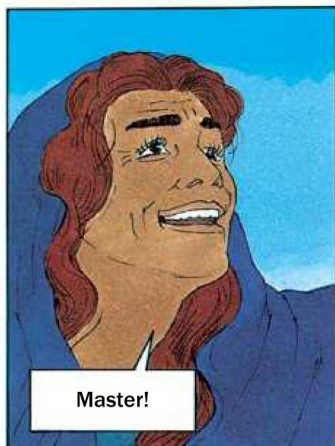
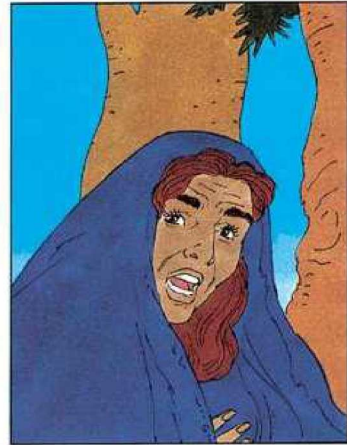
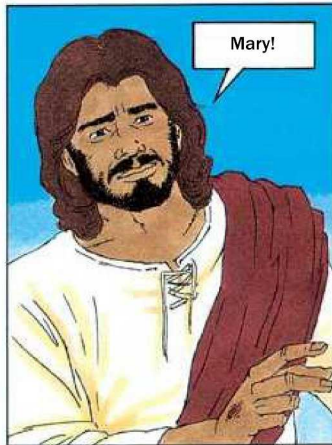
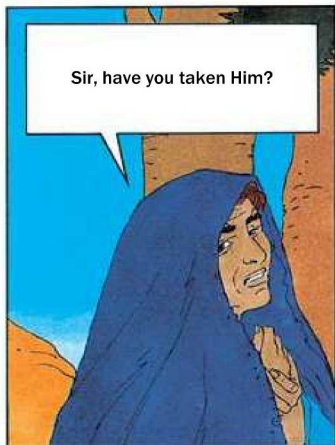
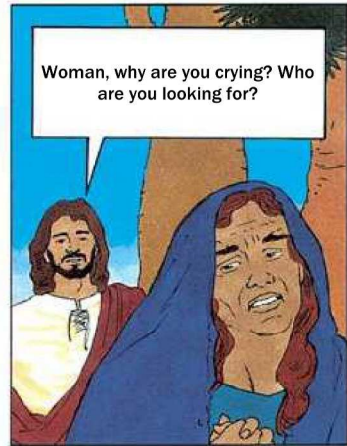
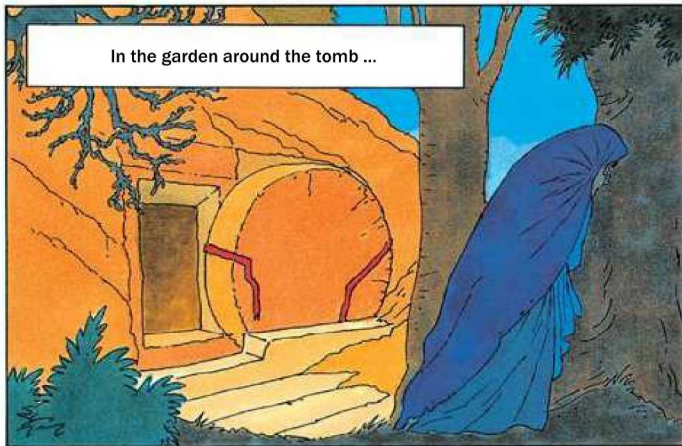
Read:
Deuteronomy 28:2-12.

Meditate on the fact that thanks to Jesus God wants to share all these blessings with you.

JESUS LIVES!

READ FOR YOURSELF: Mark 16:1-9 and John 20:1-18







JESUS LIVES!

The most unbelievable thing happens. Something that no one thought would happen: However the Lord God had already planned it from the very beginning. Watch! Jesus has risen from the dead! Hear! He speaks! Feel it! He lives!

On the first day of the week, Jesus breaks the power of death. Through God's strength He is raised from the dead. He has a new, exalted body. After the Lord Jesus has left the grave, angels roll the stone away from the grave. Now the women, Peter and John can all see it with their own eyes: the grave is empty. They see the linen bandages lying there just as they had been wrapped around the body of Jesus. But the body is not in there anymore. Something very extraordinary must have happened to Jesus.

The first one to meet the Lord Jesus on Easter morning is Mary of Magdalene. She sees Him, but she doesn't recognise Him, because she doesn't expect Him. Until He calls her by her name: "Maria!" Then she gives the strongest testimony about Jesus that a person can ever give: "I have seen the Lord!"

MEMORY VERSE

*"That while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience He brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved."
(Ephesians 2:5)*

WHO IS JESUS?

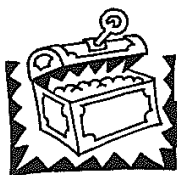
The Living One

"Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; He has been raised. Remember what He said to you while He was in Galilee." (Luke 24:5-6)

The Lord Jesus is the first person who receives a new, eternal life with a new, heavenly body, just as God meant it. With His death and resurrection He took care that the God's plans with you and me could be fulfilled. Thanks to Jesus you may always live in God's presence.

That is why Jesus in Revelation 1:17-18 says:

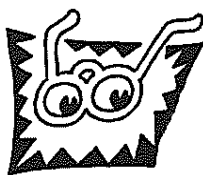
"Don't be afraid! I am the first and the last. I am the living one! I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I have authority over death and the world of the dead."



OLD TREASURES

When the Old Testament speaks of the Messiah, it also speaks of His victory over death. In Genesis 3:15 it already speaks of how He will crush the head of the snake (of Satan). And in Isaiah 53 is written how He will offer his life, but then He will live again to be able to see many children (verse 10-12). In Psalm 16 David, who died 1000 years before the Lord Jesus came, writes about the Messiah's victory over death.

"Because you protect Me from the power of death. I have served you faithfully, and you will not abandon Me to the world of the dead." (Psalm 16:10)



EXTRA INFORMATION

Easter celebration

Christians have something to celebrate! Christ rose from the dead! Because this happened during Easter, Easter has become the most important Christian feast. Because Jesus gave His life as an offer lamb for the whole world, Easter has gotten a richer meaning than it had in the Old Testament. Then it was just a feast for the Israelites.

Now it is celebrated all over the world. Everyone says to each other:

"The Lord is risen indeed!"

Because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, Sunday has become the most important day of the week for Christians.

YOU WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE WITH JESUS!

Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Then you can believe that you will rise just like Him. Death will not be the end. Your current temporary body will become an eternal, heavenly body.

John says it like this:

"My dear friends, we are now God's children, but it is not yet clear what we shall become. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He really is" (1 John 3:2).

TIP

In nature it also happens that the body from some living beings change into another body.

Have you noticed how the caterpillar becomes a butterfly?

This transformation can not really be compared with the change that we will undergo.

However whenever you see a butterfly, you can meditate on the fact that once we will live in a new and perfect body.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. On which day of the week does Jesus rise from the dead?

2. Who rolls the stone away from the grave (Matthew 28:2)?

3. Look at the picture story. What does the roll of band-ages look like in the empty grave?

How could Jesus have gotten out of that?

4. How is it that Jesus has already left the grave when the stone is rolled away?

- a) He took a different exit.
- b) He has received a different body, that can't be stopped by anything.
- c) He rolled the stone away Himself and then rolled it back again.

5. Who is the first person whom Jesus meets after His resurrection?

6. Why is Jesus called the Living one? (Revelation 1:18)

7. Why do you not have to be afraid of death?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Mark 16:1-9
Mon	John 20:1-18
Tue	Luke 23:54-24:9
Wed	Matthew 27:62-28:8
Thu	Psalm 16
Fri	Colossians: 1:13-23
Sat	Ephesians 2:1-10



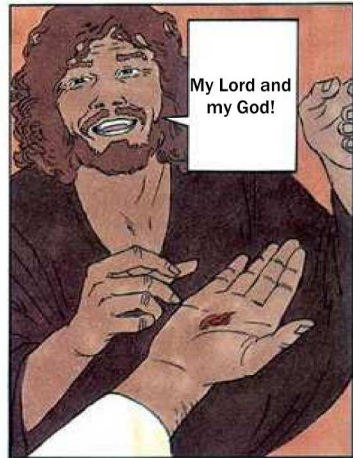
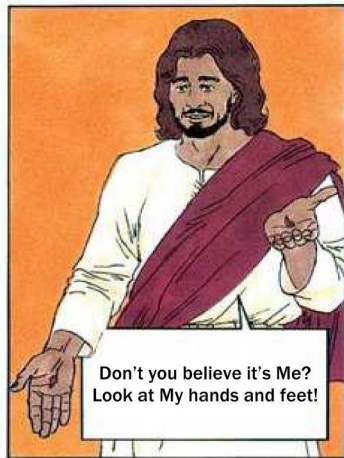
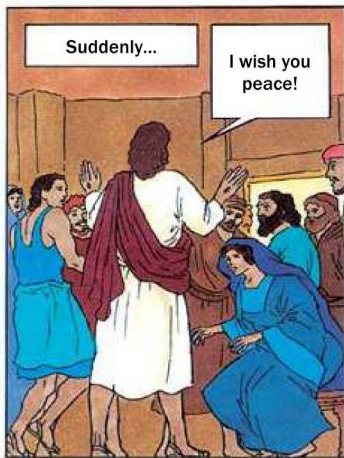
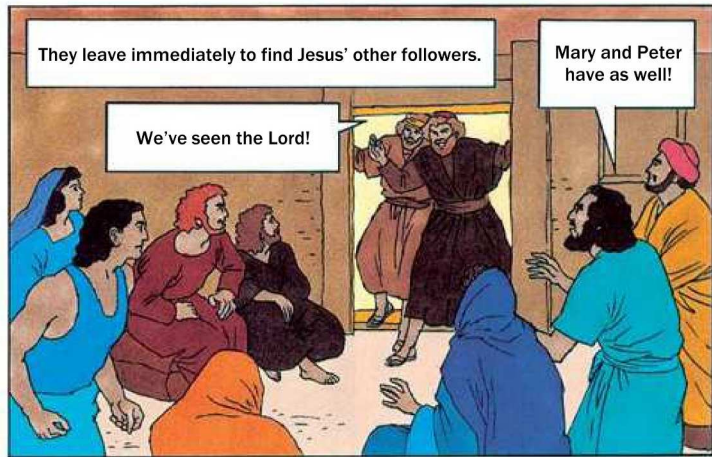
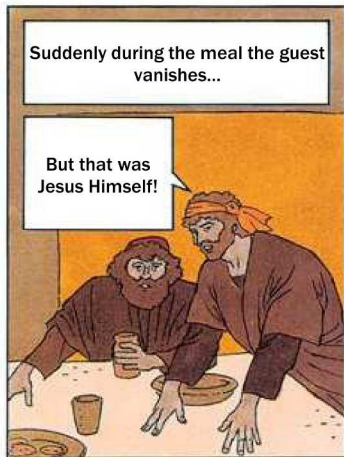
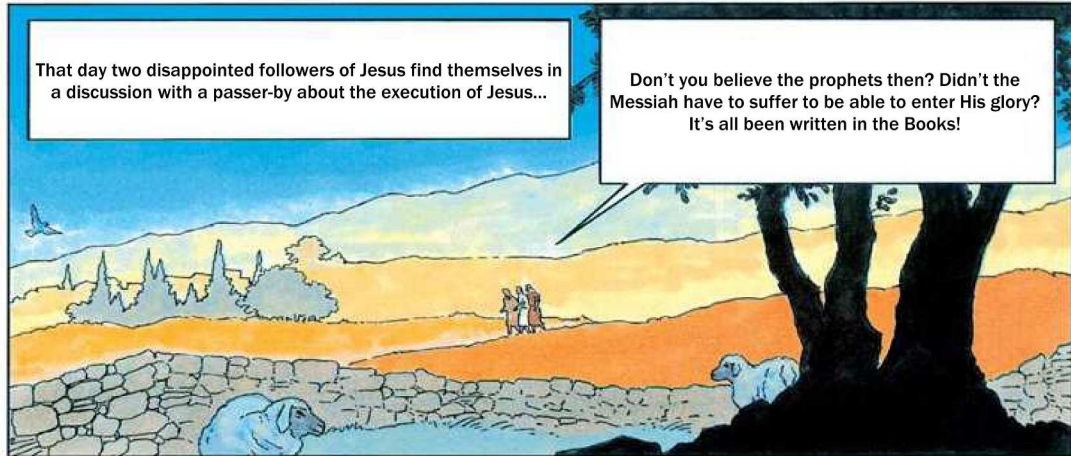
ACTION POINT!

Think about dying. Everybody dies. Is that completely normal? No, death is not normal. Everybody knows that. Nobody is happy with death. Are you afraid of the moment that you will die? Talk to the Lord Jesus about dying. He has conquered death!

- a. Thank Him for rising from the dead.
- b. Thank Him that He has power over death.
- c. Thank Him that after death you live with Him for eternity.

JESUS WITH US

READ FOR YOURSELF: Luke 24:13-43 and John 20:19-29





JESUS WITH US

Suddenly, miraculously, as in a shock, Jesus is standing in the middle of His disciples. Some even don't recognize Him, so sad and beaten they are by the death of their Master. He was so good. He should have become the king? However He let Himself be crucified as a criminal.

The resurrection is the last thing that they expected. But Jesus Himself convinces them. He lives! They see the risen Lord with their own eyes. How is it possible! Mary of Magdalene, the disciples, the women, Cleopas of Emmaus and his friend - all kinds of people who love Jesus see Him again.

Paul mentions in one of his letters that more than 500 eye witnesses met Jesus at once, between His resurrection and His return to Heaven. When He writes this fact in 1 Corinthians 15:6, most of them were still alive. They can confirm that. Many of them are prepared to die for their testimony - so strongly they are convinced of Jesus' resurrection. It has changed their lives completely.

John writes later:

"We have heard it, and we have seen it with our eyes; yes, we have seen it, and our hands have touched it. When this life became visible, we saw it; so we speak of it and tell you about the eternal life which was with the Father and was made known to us."
(1 John 1:1-2)

MEMORY VERSE

"But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"
(1 Corinthians 15:57)

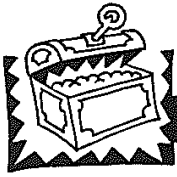
WHO IS JESUS?

My Lord and my God
Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at My hands; then reach out your hand and put it in My side. Stop your doubting, and believe!" Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!"
(John 20:27-28)

Jesus, the Son of God, dies as a vulnerable human being on the cross. But through His resurrection from the dead He proves that He is God. Spontaneously Thomas calls the Lord Jesus "My Lord and my God".

Also in the Old Testament, the Messiah is called God: Mighty God:

*"A child is born to us!
A son is given to us!
And He will be our ruler.
He will be called,
"Wonderful Counsellor",
"Mighty God",
"Eternal Father",
"Prince of Peace"."*
(Isaiah 9:6)



OLD TREASURES

Isaiah writes about the new eternal life in several places in his book. For example:

“Those of our people who have died will live again! Their bodies will come back to life. All those sleeping in their graves will wake up and sing for joy. As the sparkling dew refreshes the earth, so the Lord will revive those who have long been dead.” (Isaiah 26:19)



EXTRA INFORMATION

The heavenly body

With death, life is not over. The Bible says that after death, people still continue to exist. A person has a spirit, a soul and a body. The body is the visible part; the spirit and the soul form the invisible part. The body perishes, but the invisible part of every person stays alive. Followers of Jesus may continue to live in God's presence after their death. That becomes possible through the offering that Jesus brought for our sins.

The Bible also teaches that everybody who has died will one day receive a new body. A recognizable body, just like Jesus received when He rose from the dead. The future body is different from our 'earthly body' that we have now. It is no longer subject to sin and death of this earth. That is why it is called a 'Heavenly body'.

WORSHIP HIM AS LORD AND GOD

Read Luke 24:1-35. Jesus tells His followers in this passage how they should read the Old Testament from now on. They must search for Him in there.

Do you do the same when you read the Bible? Search for Jesus. Then you will notice that your heart will also start to burn!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How does Jesus explain to the men that are on the road to Emmaus what the Messiah had to endure (Luke 24:27)?

2. How does Jesus explain to His other disciples what He has done? (Luke 24:44-48)

3. How does Jesus help Thomas with his doubt?

4. What does Thomas call Jesus as soon as he believes?

5. How do we know that the heavenly body of Jesus still looks like His old earthly body?

6. At least how many people saw Jesus after His resurrection?

7. Why is it good to tell your friends that Jesus is raised from the dead?

- a) Because otherwise you won't receive a reward from God.
- b) Because through faith in Jesus your friends will receive eternal life.
- c) Because your friends need to become just like you.

BIBLE READING

Sun	Luke 24:13-43
Mon	John 20:19-29
Tue	Isaiah 9:1-6
Wed	Romans 8:31-39
Thu	1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Fri	1 Corinthians 15:12-22
Sat	1 Corinthians 15:35-58



ACTION POINT!

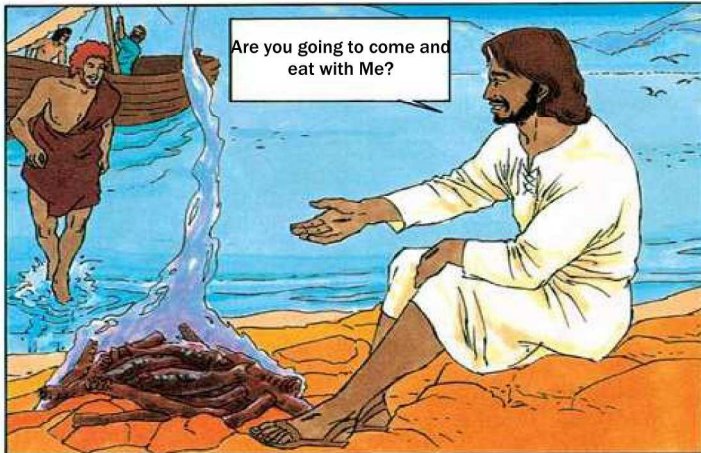
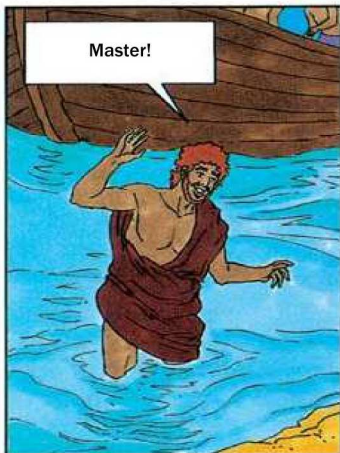
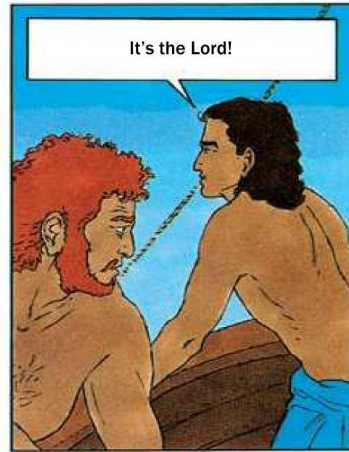
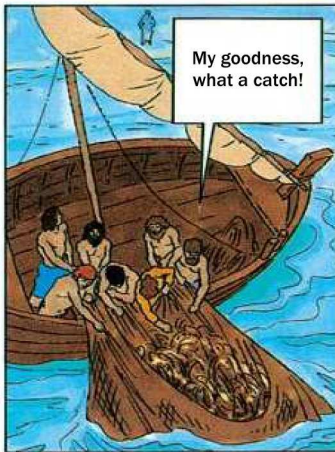
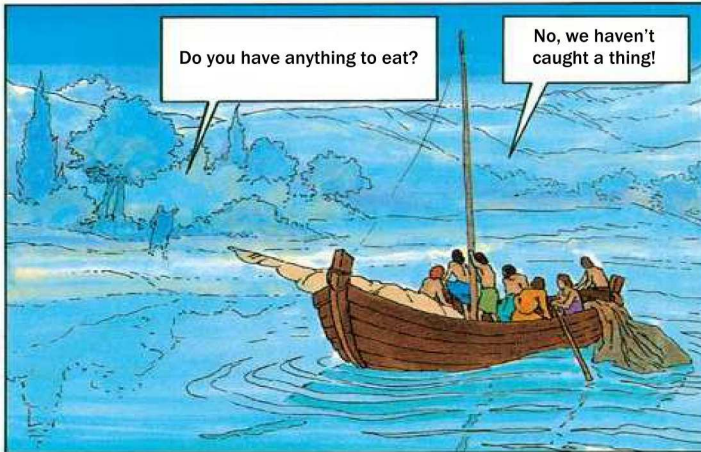
Read
Deuteronomy 28:2-14.
Thanks to Jesus, God
wants to give you all
these promises!

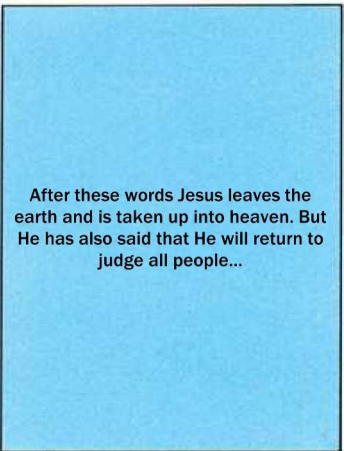
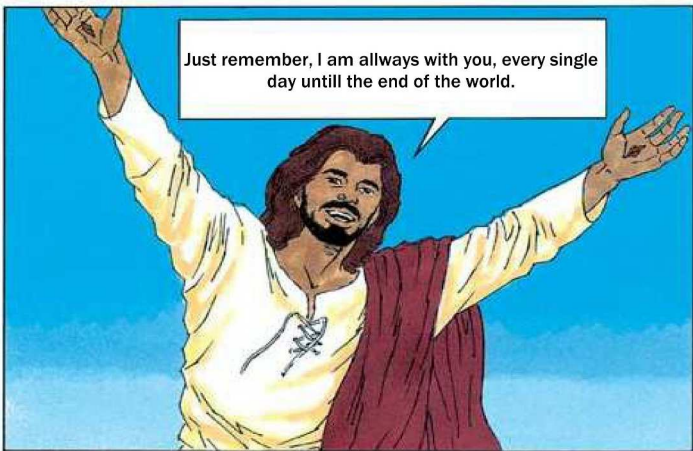
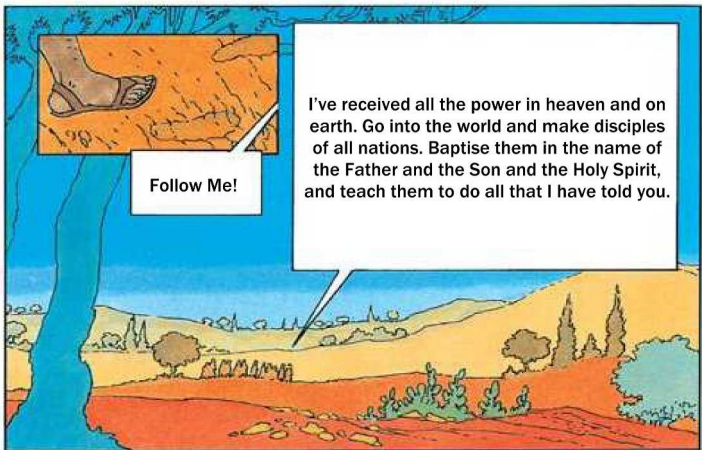
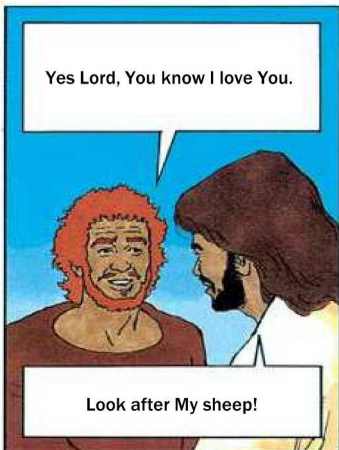
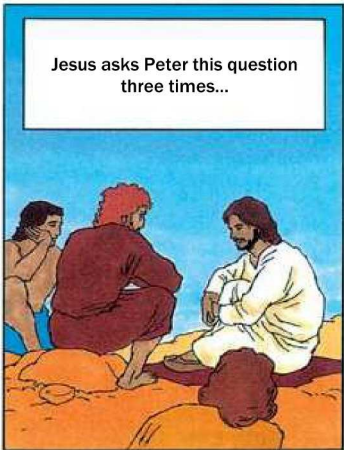
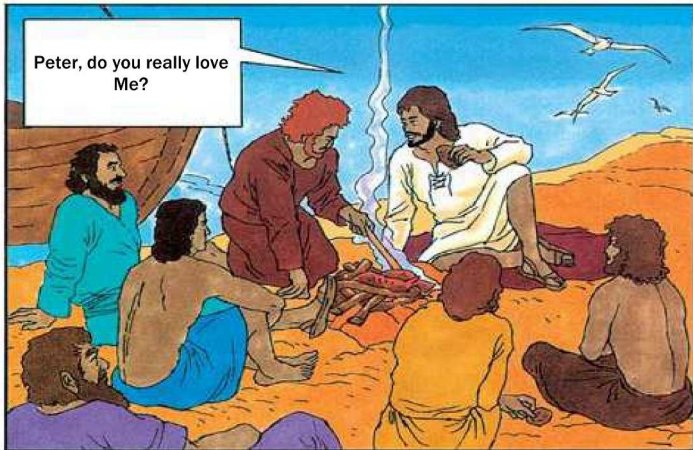
Read also
Deuteronomy 28:15-68.
Thanks to Jesus are
these curses not for you
anymore. Jesus took all
these curses on the cross
for you!

NO MORE "ME FIRST!"

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 21:1-19 and Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus appears to His followers over the next 40 days. He even appears to 500 people at once. One day some of the apostles are fishing in the Lake of Gallilee...







NO MORE "ME FIRST!"

Before Jesus came to earth He had great glory. But He gave up everything. He was obedient to God, even to death on the cross. That's why God's plan could be accomplished. There is forgiveness for all sins because Jesus died for you. You may live in God's presence and love. That's thanks to Jesus, who received all power.

If you give your live to Jesus, you become his property. He will take care of you now. Now, Peter also has to learn who his life belongs to. For a long time he has been the boss of his own life. He turned his back on Jesus when it got too difficult for him. Yet his love for Jesus remained, because Jesus forgave him everything. That is why he can continue with Jesus and still complete his mission. This time however with the Lord Jesus at the first place.

If you really love Jesus, then He becomes the number one in your life. Then you follow Him and you do what He says. You are available to help other people. And if you do something that He doesn't want, then you are still allowed to come back to Him. He has forgiven your sins. With His Spirit He helps you to make good what has gone wrong and to keep following Him.

MEMORY VERSE

*"Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him."
(Romans 6:8)*

WHO IS JESUS?

The one who is, who was and who is to come
*"I am the first and the last," says the Lord God Almighty, who is, who was, and who is to come."
(Revelation 1:8)*

Revelation, the last book of the Bible, tells of many things that will come. But Revelation is first and foremost a book in which you get to know Jesus better. He has always been there, He is here now and He will always be there. He is the Alpha (the first letter of the Greek alphabet) and the Omega (the last letter of the Greek alphabet).

Everything was started by Him and everything will keep going thanks to Him. When Jesus comes back, everything will be renewed. He says:
"Yes indeed! I am coming soon!" (Revelation 22:20)



JESUS IS NUMBER 1

If you think that you are the most important, everything revolves around yourself. That is called self-centred. Such people are usually not very kind towards those around them. They are proud. And pride is the beginning of all sin. But if you receive God's grace, then pride cannot exist anymore. Grace is really an undeserved favour. You only can receive grace if you are humble. (James 4:6).

The Lord Jesus thought you are very valuable. He gave his life for you. He longs for you, give yourself to Him. He longs you find Him the most important in your life. Only that way pride can disappear in your life. If Jesus becomes number 1, then you don't focus as much on yourself. You become someone who can mean a lot for other people. And that is exactly what God wants you to be!



OLD TREASURES

The Lord God is good and just. He will judge everyone. That happens on the judgement day, the great day of the Lord, when He will make everything right again. On that day God looks at how you have lived. But if you believe in Jesus you don't have to be afraid that He will condemn you. You will receive eternal life. In many books of the Bible you read about this day, the judgement day of God.

“Many of those who have already died will live again: some will enjoy eternal life, and some will suffer eternal disgrace. The wise leaders will shine with all the brightness of the sky. And those who have taught many people to do what is right will shine like the stars forever.”
(Daniel 12:2-3)



EXTRA INFORMATION

Judgement Day

God has a specific day when the Lord Jesus will come back. He only knows when that will be. Then He will make all things right. People, who have rejected Jesus, will themselves be rejected. They will be condemned together with Satan. The Bible calls that 'the second death'. But people, who trust in the perfect love of God, won't have to be afraid, because they won't be *condemned*.

“There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)

“Love is made perfect in us in order that we may have courage on Judgement Day; and we will have it because our life in this world is the same as Christ's. There is no fear in love; perfect love drives out all fear. So then, love has not been made perfect in anyone who is afraid, because fear has to do with punishment.”
(1 John 4:17-18)



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How many times did Peter deny that he knew Jesus when Jesus was taken prisoner?

And how many times did Jesus ask him if he still loved Him?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:15. For whom are you living?

3. Read Galatians 2:20. Who lives in you?

4. Why do you not have to be afraid of the judgement day if you believe in Jesus?

5. What does it mean that Jesus is the 'Alpha and Omega'?

6. Look up Revelation 22:20. Jesus says here: "Yes indeed, I am coming soon!" Write down what the answer is in that verse:

7. What is the last sentence of the Bible?

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 21:1-19
Mon	Matthew 28:16-20
Tue	Acts 1:1-14
Wed	Philippians 2:1-11
Thu	1 John 1:5-2:6
Fri	Romans 6:1-13
Sat	Revelation 22:8-21



ACTION POINT!

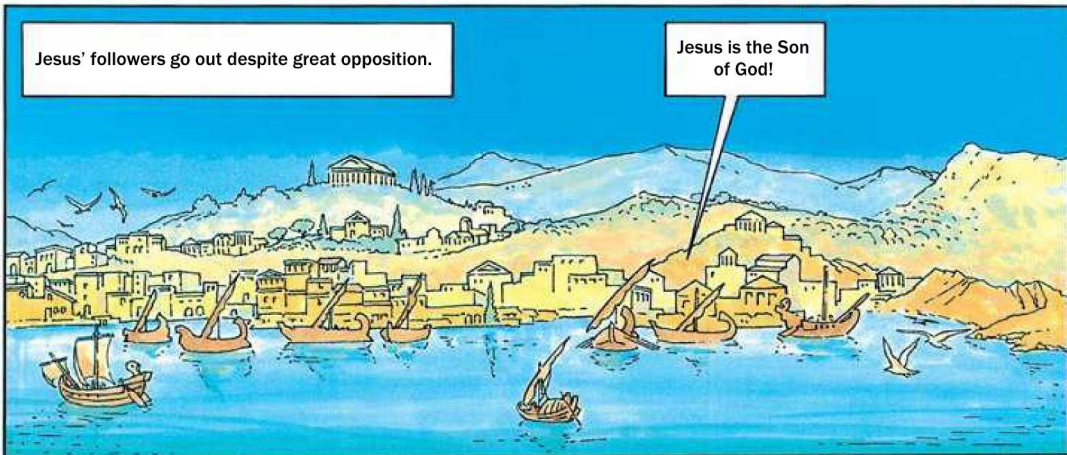
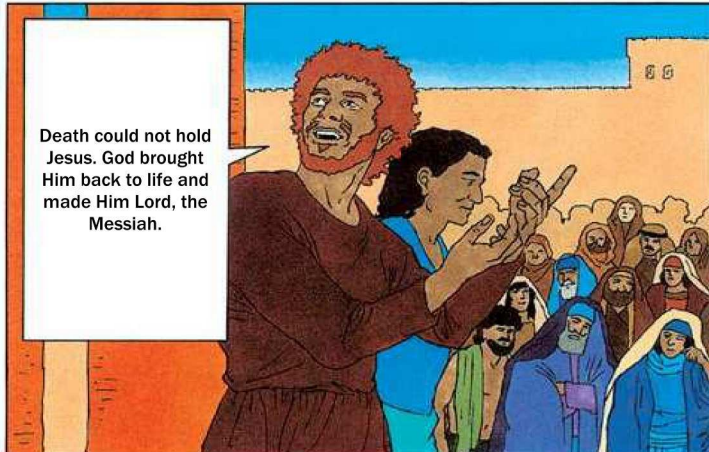
Take a flower bulb (or an onion). It looks like it has no life. However it has life inside!

Plant it in a pot with earth. When, after a time a flower starts to grow, you can think of the Lord Jesus who rose from the dead and about your new life in the future.

WITNESS

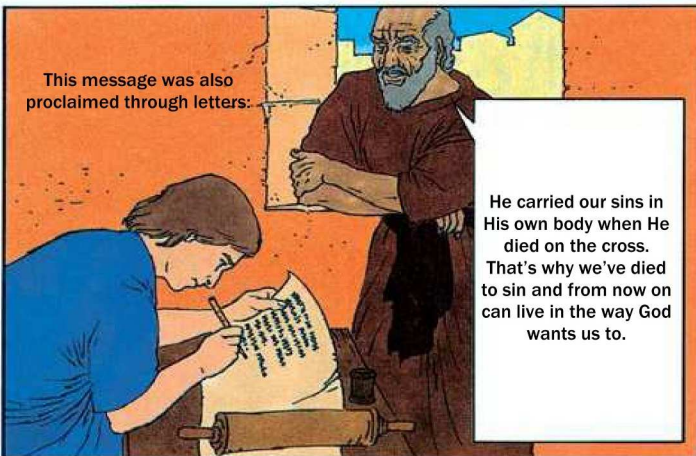
READ FOR YOURSELF: Acts 2:22-39

His followers wait in Jerusalem, praying. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, fills them. The same Spirit which was in Jesus now also lives in them. He enables them to become new people who testify powerfully about Jesus.



Jesus' followers go out despite great opposition.

Jesus is the Son of God!



This message was also proclaimed through letters:

He carried our sins in His own body when He died on the cross. That's why we've died to sin and from now on can live in the way God wants us to.

Now followers of Jesus all over the world meet to pray together and to read the Bible. They break bread and pass the wine around to remind them of the death of Jesus. It is God's desire that they will share His love, which lives in their hearts, with those around them.

WITNESS

Jesus departs to heaven. Even so His followers do not feel alone. In His earthly body the Lord Jesus could only be in one place at a time. But with His Spirit He can be everywhere and with everyone. Thanks to Jesus' offer all His followers may receive the Holy Spirit and have Him always with them.

Now, the Spirit of God that was in Jesus, also lives in His followers. Their body has become a home for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit bears witness of Jesus. That's why Jesus' followers can preach about Him convincingly. They possess a new strength now. They have become different people. They are full of Jesus. And full of Jesus, they bring God's good news to the whole world. Full dedication they carry out Jesus' directions whatever it may cost.

Today it's not any different. Whoever receives Jesus' offer also receives the Holy Spirit. If He begins to work in your life, you become a different person. He makes you full of Jesus. You will see this in your words. You love to speak about Him full of conviction. These words of God will help other people also change and become followers of Jesus. You will see this in your deeds and it will change your character. Love for other people comes in your heart. More often you will think good for them and you will mean more for them. You will become more like Jesus!

MEMORY VERSE

"Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God Himself were making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends!"
(2 Corinthians 5:20)

WHO IS JESUS?

Apostle of God

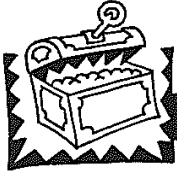
"My Christian brothers and sisters, who also have been called by God! Think of Jesus, whom God sent to be the High Priest of the faith we profess." (Hebrews 3:1)

Apostle means 'sent by someone'. Jesus was sent by God. He was sent with the command to show God's love to all people. He did that perfectly!

The 12 disciples are also called 'apostles'. They are sent by Jesus with the command to bring the message of God's love and salvation to the ends of the earth. But their mission is not completed yet. Now we are also sent by the Lord Jesus to tell of Him and to show how much God loves us. The Holy Spirit helps you to accomplish this mission joyfully!



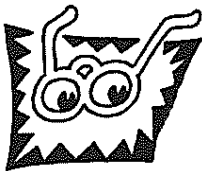
YOU ARE A WITNESS OF JESUS!



OLD TREASURES

In the time of the Old Testament it was not quit normal that the Holy Spirit was in many people. Because of sin, that was impossible. Yet God announces that another time will come when His Spirit can be in all people. Then people will speak God's words through His Spirit. Men and women of different ages and from all social positions will be full of the Holy Spirit. Not just a few prophets will speak the Words of God, but all kinds of people, even children. Jesus made that possible!

“Afterward I will pour out My Spirit on everyone: your sons and daughters will proclaim My message; your old people will have dreams, and your young people will see visions. At that time I will pour out My Spirit even on servants, both men and women.” (Joel 2:28-29)



EXTRA INFORMATION

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Jesus. He is God's breath, who, just like the wind, can be everywhere. He breathed life into creation. And He brings the life of God in people. He is the Spirit that gives eternal life. He gives us God's strength. He helps us to better understand God's way of thinking. He helps us to better know Jesus as the truth. When you don't trust in Him you can make the Holy Spirit sad or even that He leaves you. But even then the Holy Spirit is ready to help.

Thanks to God's Spirit we never have to feel rejected by God. He is always close by to help us out. That is why He is also called our Advocate and Comforter.

YOU ARE JESUS' WITNESS

When you follow Jesus, your life won't stay the same. Jesus makes your life from something ordinary to something special. Just like the disciples that were just ordinary fisherman, they become fisherman of men. They follow Jesus everywhere and are on fire for Him.

Jesus says: “Follow me!” to His followers, the people that love Him. When you love Him you love to do what He wants you to do. You can fully trust Him!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Give two other names for the Holy Spirit.

2. Why is the Holy Spirit also called the Comforter?

3. What does the Holy Spirit give you strength for?

4. Why can the Holy Spirit now live in all people who belong to Jesus:

- a) Because Jesus has cleansed us from all sins so that the Holy Spirit can feel at home in us.
- b) Because the Holy Spirit is actually just the breath that everyone has.
- c) Because the Holy Spirit has always been with all the people over the whole world.

5. What does 'apostle' mean?

6. In the picture story you can read a part of the letter written to the Romans.

Who wrote this letter (Romans 1:1)?

7. Fill in the missing words:

The Holy Spirit changes your words, because you will begin to speak of with conviction.

The Holy Spirit changes your actions, because

He helps you to become more like



BIBLE READING

Sun	Acts 2:22-39
Mon	Joel 2:25-32
Tue	John 14:15-27
Wed	John 15:17-27
Thu	Galatians 5:13-26
Fri	Romans 1:1-17
Sat	2 Corinthians 5:6-20



ACTION POINT!

Are you excited for Jesus?

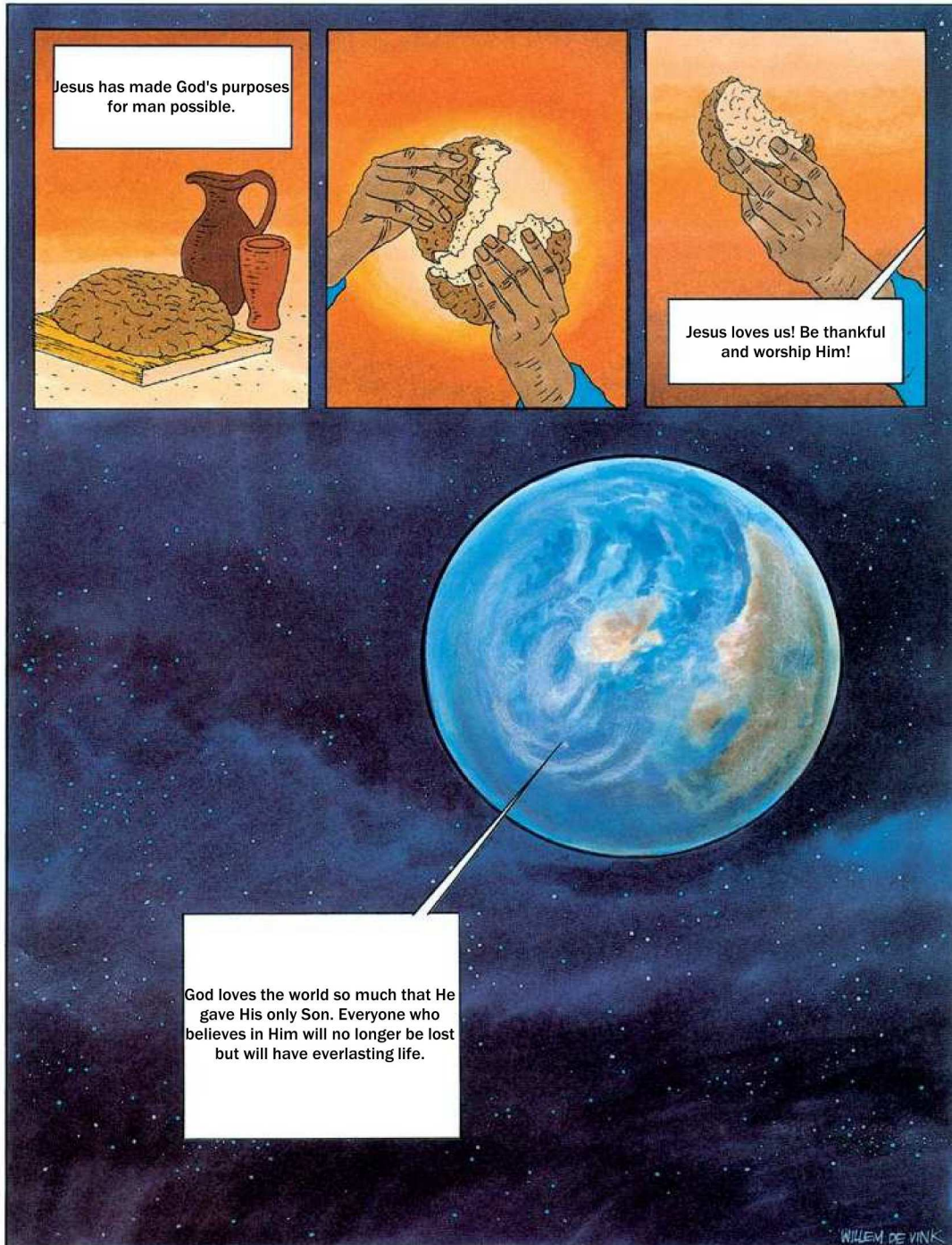
Talk about Him with your parents, your brothers and sisters. Also show Him in your life.

Talk about Him with your friends at school or when writing letters or email.

The Holy Spirit will overflow you with Jesus. He will excite you so other people can also be excited for Jesus.

GOD IS CLOSE BY!

READ FOR YOURSELF: Acts 20:17-32



GOD IS CLOSE BY!

Does the story of Jesus come to a close? No, it continues, every day, every minute, every second. It continued in the lives of millions of people through the centuries. And it continues in your own life.

Which story? The story of God and you together! He will be close to you. The Lord God loves people and He has set Himself apart for us. That is how He has done it from the beginning and that is how He will always keep doing it. How can you know that for sure? The Lord Jesus shows who God is and how much God loves you. The Lord Jesus makes it so clear that God's love always existed and will continue to exist for you and for the world. That grace you can experience with other Christians in church fellowship in Jesus Christ. That is the place where God's Word can be heard, where you worship God together. Where you become more enthusiastic to tell others about Jesus.

Look at Jesus. That is what God is like. That is His love. So close-by! Once you have discovered this, really, once you have discovered Him, you want to tell the whole world!

MEMORY VERSE

*"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life."
(John 3:16)*

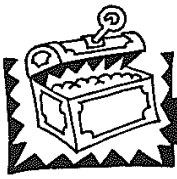
WHO IS JESUS?

Emmanuel

*"Well then, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name Him 'Emmanuel' (which means 'God is with us')"
(Isaiah 7:14)*

In Matthew 1:21-23 you can read that the Lord Jesus received this name from Isaiah at His birth. Jesus is Emmanuel: God with us. God has set Himself apart for people since the creation. The Lord Jesus has made that clear. He came for us, and He was completely there for us. And He is still here with His Spirit. That is why He is 'God with us'. Thus when He leaves earth He says:

*"And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."
(Matthew 28:20)*



GOD GOES FURTHER WITH HIS COMMUNITY

OLD TREASURES

"The new covenant that I will make with the people of Israel will be this: I will put My law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people." (Jeremiah 31:33)

Throughout the whole Bible you can read that the Lord God longs for a people for Himself. People completely dedicated to Him, because they know and love Him. When the Old Testament writes about a new covenant (a new testament), it speaks about people with changed hearts. The Lord Jesus made that change possible. He took away the sin that caused the separation. The Holy Spirit living in you makes it possible to know God. God and His people together are one now. Through those people, the church of Jesus, God shows the world who He is.



EXTRA INFORMATION

The church and missions

The first community of followers of Jesus (the first community of the church) was formed in Jerusalem. But already very quickly many communities originate around all of Israel and even outside of Israel. Everyone can see that something special has happened with these people. They love each other! The disciples of Jesus preach the gospel (good news) everywhere. In this time the followers of Christ are being called Christians for the first time. That is actually a term of abuse, but Christians think of it as a title of honour.

Continuously more people are filled with the Holy Spirit. They have love for other people and enthusiastically spread the

BE CLOSE WITH JESUS

Did you find a place to meet with the church of Jesus? You can discover much more about Jesus in such a place. At home you also can learn from Him. Talk to Him and read your Bible!

news of Jesus. Like Paul. First he persecuted the followers of Jesus. But he becomes a strong apostle of Jesus when he meets Him personally. He starts communities in all kinds of cities along the main streets of the Roman Empire. He lays the foundation for grace for all the communities that follow.

The gospel is even now being spread throughout the whole world. Everywhere groups of Christians come together to celebrate Jesus' love by partaking the Lord's Supper. In turn they send people out. They help the poor and the weak from the abundance that God gives them. There never have been as many Christians as there are today. Jesus lives, and that can be seen through His followers. They go out to share His love.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What does the name Emmanuel mean?

2. What does the word Gospel mean?

3. Who was the first martyr of the Christian church (Acts 7:58-60)?

4. What is a church fellowship?

- a) A building with Christian images or statues.
- b) A group of Christians that fellowship together in God's grace.
- c) A group of people that live in the same town

5. What does Paul do in his house in Rome (Acts 28:30-31)?

6. Through what have you become to be Gods own people (Ephesians 1:11)?

7. For how long has it been Gods plan to make us all His children through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:4-5)?



BIBLE READING

Sun	John 3:1-21
Mon	Acts 2:40-47
Tue	Acts 20:17-32
Wed	Acts 28:16-31
Thu	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Fri	Ephesians 1:1-14
Sat	Ephesians 3:14-21



ACTION POINT!

The Bible doesn't end with the life of Jesus. Read Acts to read how the story continues with Jesus followers and the churches that were started. Also read the letters that were sent to these churches.

And Continuing...

In the first years after Jesus' death and resurrection the churches of Jesus grows rapidly. More and more churches are added, all over the Roman Empire. One particular man is especially used by God for this. This man is Paul.

Paul calls himself a 'late-comer'. He is appointed by God as apostle later than the twelve disciples. He is appointed with a special purpose. He has the privilege of laying the foundation of God's grace for the church of the future. He gets a glimpse into heaven. He sees Jesus and all that He has prepared for God's children to use on earth (Galatians 1:11-12, Ephesians 3:2-3).

Paul tells all he saw and heard on his journeys to everyone who is willing to listen. In this way churches come into being all over. He writes it all down in the letters that he sends around to those churches. We know 14 letters of Paul's which are all in the Bible. What does he write in these letters?

God desires children

Paul writes that God really desires to have many children. And that God's father heart is so full of goodness and love. He has prepared a perfect way for that to happen: Everyone who believes in Jesus is privileged to be a child of God. Thanks to Jesus, God gives his children an everlasting and abundant life.

"God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us his sons and daughters — this was his pleasure and purpose. Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son!"
(Ephesians 1:5,6)

That is why He gives Grace

Everything what stands in the way to receive God's love and goodness has been removed by Jesus. God gives us freely which we could never earn. He changes us from having a negative balance (He forgives us our debt) into a positive balance (He blesses us with his goodness). That is Grace!

"Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He has brought us by faith into this experience of God's grace, in which we now live. And so we boast of the hope we have of sharing God's glory!"
(Romans 5:1-2).



Paul the Benjaminite

Paul is from the tribe of Benjamin.

(Romans 11:1)

He is proud to be so.

Benjamin was the youngest brother of Joseph, the only one that was born in the land of God's promises.

(Genesis 35:16-19)

Joseph had eleven brothers, but he especially loved Benjamin.

When he rescued his brothers from the famine, he showed special grace to Benjamin.

(Genesis 43:29)

Benjamin got five times as much food

(Genesis 43:34),

five times as many sets of clothing

(Genesis 45:22)

and also the royal cup.

(Genesis 44:5,11)

In this way Joseph seems to be like Jesus, who wants to give us as the youngest brother extra blessings.

Paul understood that well!



Now you are justified with God

Because you believe in Jesus, you have been justified through Him. That means that you have been accepted as God's child. You can be sure of that. And that's why you can also be sure that He will give you everything that He desires for his children.

"The Spirit makes you God's children, and by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, "Father! My Father!" God's Spirit joins Himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children. Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings He keeps for his people, and we will also possess with Christ what God has kept for Him; for if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory." (Romans 8:15-17).

If you believe

What do you have to do yourself? Only believe. Believing is to say yes to God. To trust God. You are not required to do first all kinds of good works or to be a good person in God's eyes. You can trust that He loves you anyway.

"For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it." (Ephesians 2:8).

He fulfils his promises

God has made many promises in the Bible. It is wonderful to discover them, because God desires to fulfil them all for his children. Jesus makes that come true.

"It is He who is the "Yes" to all of God's promises. This is why through Jesus Christ our "Amen" is said to the glory of God" (2 Corinthians 1:20).

You are living in the Light

When you believe in Jesus you have been taken by God from darkness and transferred into light. That means that He has inoculated you into Jesus. In Him there is no condemnation, even if you sometimes do something wrong. His grace is always greater.

“There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1).

When you have inner peace you learn more

God gives you the assurance that you are wanted, loved, and privileged. So now, you are at peace with yourself, you can learn all what God wants you to do and you can learn all what Gods want you to expect.

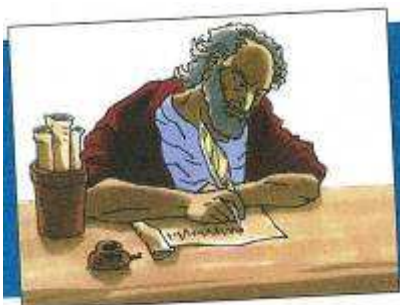
He gives you everything you need in order to do what He desires.

“You yourselves used to be in the darkness, but since you have become the Lord's people, you are in the light. So you must live like people who belong to the light, for it is the light that brings a rich harvest of every kind of goodness, righteousness, and truth.” (Ephesians 5:8-9).

In a strong church community

Paul entrusts the church communities he starts the gospel of Grace. It is only by Grace that fellowship can grow stronger and stronger.

“And now I commend you to the care of God and to the message of his Grace, which is able to build you up and give you the blessings God has for all his people.” (Acts 20:32).



The letters

of Paul

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians

Still today!

Still today the gospel is being heard throughout the whole world. Everywhere groups of people gather who gladly hear God's Word of Grace.

They celebrate Jesus' perfect fulfilled work on the cross with “the Lords Supper”.

They are full of God's Spirit who leads them to do God's will. They share God's love by caring for each other, but also by caring for the needs of others.

They help the poor and the weak from the abundance that God gives them.

Jesus is alive. You can see so in His followers.

They go out to share His love. I hope to see it in you too!

1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews

A prayer

I have not stopped giving thanks to God for you.
I remember you in my prayers
and ask the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the glorious Father, to give you the Spirit,
who will make you wise and reveal God to you,
so that you will know Him.

I ask that your minds may be opened to see his light,
so that you will know what is the hope
to which He has called you,
how rich are the wonderful blessings
he promises his people, and
how very great is his power at work in us who believe.

This power working in us is the same as the mighty
strength which He used when He raised Christ from
death
and seated Him at his right side in the heavenly world.
Christ rules there above all heavenly rulers,
authorities, powers, and lords;
he has a title superior to all titles of authority
in this world and in the next.
God put all things under Christ's feet
and gave Him to the church as supreme Lord over all
things
The church is Christ's body,
the completion of Him
who Himself completes all things everywhere.

(Ephesians 1:16-23)

Outline of Contents

Lesson no.	Lesson	Comic Page	Lesson Page	Read for yourself	Memory verse
1.	Here comes Jesus!	1	9	Mat 3:1-17	John 1:29
2.	The invisible battle	4	15	Mat 4:1-12	Rom 16:20
3.	The celebration goes on	6	20	John 2:1-11	Phil 4:4
4.	Follow me!	8	25	Mat 4:12-22	Mat 4:19
5.	The sermon on the mount	10	30	Mat 5:1-16	Mat 7:12
6.	Healed!	12	35	Luke 5:17-25, 6:6-11	Psa 103:2-3
7.	With Jesus in the boat	14	40	Mat 8:23-27	Rom 8:31
8.	Free of Satan's power	16	45	Mark 5:1-20	1 John 3:8
9.	The Mission	18	50	Mat 9:35-10:4	Mat 9:38
10.	Jesus Gives More than Enough	20	55	John 6:1-15	John 10:10
11.	To Believe is to Trust Jesus	22	60	Mat 14:22-33, John 6:22-40, 60-69	Rom 10:11
12.	Take up your Cross!	25	65	Mat 16:13-28	Mat 16:24
13.	Be Thankful!	26	70	Luke 17:11-19	Eph 5:20
14.	Become like a Child	28	75	Luke 19:1-10, Mat 19:13-15	Luke 19:10
15.	Jesus Gives Life	29	79	John 11:17-44	John 11:25
16.	He Must Die!	31	84	John 11:45-54	2 Cor 5:21
17.	Honoring Jesus	32	88	John 12:1-11	Psa 50:23
18.	The Humble King	33	92	Luke 19:29-44	Luke 18:14
19.	The Big Cleansing	35	97	Luke 19:45-48	1 Cor 3:16
20.	The Betrayal	37	102	Mat 26:14-19	Eph 1:7
21.	The Footwashing	39	107	John 13:1-35	John 13:34
22.	Communion	41	112	Mat 26:26-30, John 13:34-38	John 15:13
23.	The Arrest	42	116	John 14:1-31, Mat 26:36-56	John 14:21
24.	The Trial	44	121	Mat 26:57-75	Rom 9:33
25.	The Death Sentence	46	126	Mat 27:11-30, John 18:28-40	1 Cor 1:24
26.	To the Cross	48	131	John 19:1-18	Rom 8:32
27.	Cursed	49	135	Mat 27:3-10, Luke 23:32-34	Gal 3:13
28.	Jesus Dies on the Cross	50	139	Luke 23:32-46, Mat 27:46-50, John 19:25-30	Rom 5:8
29.	The Sacrifice of Jesus	52	144	John 19:31-42	Eph 1:7
30.	Jesus Lives!	53	148	Mark 16:1-9, John 20:1-18	Eph 2:5
31.	Jesus With Us	55	153	Luke 24:13-43, John 20:19-29	1 Cor 15:57
32.	No More "Me First!"	56	157	John 21:1-19, Mat 28:16-20	Rom 6:8
33.	Witness	58	162	Acts 2:22-39	2 Cor 5:20
34.	God is Close By	59	166	Acts 20:17-32	John 3:16

Outline of Contents

Lesson no.	Who is Jesus	Old Treasures	Extra Information	Worksheet
1.	Beloved Son	Isa 40:3-5	The Bible	God had a plan for your life
2.	Son of God	Gen 3:15	What is sin?	Say yes to everything God wants you to do
3.	Son of Man	Gen 2:24	Weddings	Jesus gives joy
4.	The Way	Isa 8:23-9:1	The Sea of Galilee	Follow Jesus
5.	The Living Word	Deu 18:18-19	The Rabbi	Do what Jesus says
6.	Doctor	Exo 15:26, Jer 30:17, Isa 53:5	Religious rules	Miracles happen!
7.	The First	Psa 89:20, 26, 27, 30	Storm	Go to Jesus with your problems
8.	Deliverer	Isa 61:1	Satan	Withstand Satan
9.	Example	Isa 50:4	Twelve disciples	Do what Jesus did
10.	The Good Shepherd	Exo 16:4	Shepherds	Share what Jesus gives!
11.	One who rescues	Isa 53:1, Job 19:25	Seven times 'I am'	Keep on listening to Jesus!
12.	Christ	Deu 6:4-5, Lev 19:18	Why Jesus Christ?	Surrender yourself!
13.	Saviour	2 Kings 5:14	Leprosy	Thank Jesus!
14.	Friend of Sinners	Psa 8:3	Training children	God loves you like the best Father
15.	The Life	Ezek 37:9	Burying the dead	Live a life that is eternal
16.	Atoning Sacrifice	Isa 53:10	The Jewish leaders	Forgive one another
17.	The Anointed One	Psa 18:51	Hallelujah	Worship him!
18.	Honoured King	Zech 9:9	Jerusalem	Humble yourself
19.	Great High Priest	1 Chron 17:12	The Temple	You are a temple of the Holy Spirit!
20.	Passover Lamb	Zech 11:12	The Jewish Passover Feast	Keep trusting in Jesus
21.	Servant	Isa 42:1, 52:13	Slavery	You have Jesus' love in you
22.	Love	Exo 24:8, Jer 31:33	Communion	God's agreement stands firm
23.	Brother	Psa 102:24-25, Zech 13:7	Law and order	Not what you want, but what God wants
24.	Cornerstone	Psa 118:22-23	Building houses	You can build upon Jesus
25.	Man of Sorrows	Isa 50:6, 53:7	The Roman government	Not your own strength, but God's strength makes you strong
26.	Mediator	Gen 22:14	Golgotha	God Provides
27.	Lord of Glory	Deu 21:23	Thorns and thistles	Not a curse, but a blessing!
28.	The Crucified One	Psa 22:2, 32	The Cross	Never forget what Jesus has accomplished
29.	Perfect and Spotless Lamb	Isa 53:11	Crucifixion	Thanks to Jesus you have been accepted!
30.	The Living One	Psa 16:10	The Passover Feast	You will have eternal life with Jesus!
31.	My Lord and my God	Isa 26:19	The heavenly body	Worship Him as Lord and God
32.	The one who is, who was and who is to come	Dan 12:2-3	The day of judgement	Jesus is Number 1
33.	Apostle of God	Joël 2:28-29	The Holy Spirit	You are a witness of Jesus
34.	Emmanuel	Jer 31:33	The church and missions	Be close with Jesus

Answers lesson 1 to 34

1. HERE COMES JESUS!

1. John baptises people in the Jordan River
2. 450 years
3. Lord God
4. to the Messiah
5. a document with a set of promises
6. 6c
7. God the Father

2. THE INVISIBLE BATTLE

1. Lord God
Satan
2. opponent
accuser
3. Missing your goal, Not needing God,
Breaking God's commandments.
Doing or thinking other than God tells you.
4. 4c
5. when we say no to Satan and yes to Jesus
6. 6b
7. Because God said so

3. THE CELEBRATION GOES ON

1. 1a
2. 30 years
3. 100 liter
4. Adam and Eve
5. In marriage 2 people make a contract
that they will be faithful to each other.
6. The relationship Jesus wants
with us is like a marriage.
7. 7b

4. "FOLLOW ME!"

1. Capernaum
2. Galilee is the name of the northern part of Israel.
- 3.1 Lake of Tiberius or Gennesaret
- 3.2. the Sea of Kinneret.
4. John with James, Andrew with Peter
5. 5c
6. Turn away from your sins, because
the Kingdom of heaven is near!
7. to God

5. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

1. Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
2. Moses
3. Do for others what you want them
to do for you: this is the meaning
of the Law of Moses and of
the teachings of the prophets.
4. a mountain near the sea of Galilee
5. people that build their house on a rock
6. it fell
7. 7a

6. HEALED!

1. sin
sick
2. So Jesus would heal him
3. Faith
4. 4a
Because Jesus doesn't want to just speak
words He also heals the man.
5. 41 times
6. the Pharisees and teachers of the Law
7. that God the Father has sent Him

7. WITH JESUS IN THE BOAT

1. Jesus sleeps in the storm
2. they are working very hard to keep the boat dry
3. 3c
4. He speaks to the storm to be silent.
5. His words
6. Because Jesus is God who created everything.
7. because He is God who has
no beginning and no end.

8. FREE OF SATAN'S POWER

1. the other side of Lake Galilee
in the territory of Gerasa
2. 2b
3. Jesus fills him with peace
4. Go back home to your family and tell them
how much the Lord has done for you
and how kind he has been to you
5. evil things
6. God hates people who do these disgusting things
7. He set you free from additions and fears.

9. THE MISSION

1. one who follows
2. Simon
the twin
Levi
3. Israel was made up of 12 tribes
4. they were worried and helpless
like sheep without a shepherd
the Good Shepherd
5. 5c
6. God
7. yes, if we follow Jesus we are His disciples.

10. JESUS GIVES MORE THAN ENOUGH

1. by buying food with money
by asking people if they brought some food
2. 2b
3. He gave thanks to God
4. He wants to pray at a quiet place
5. 5a
6. wool for clothes
7. leaders take care of the people:
they find spiritual food and protection from evil

11. TO BELIEVE IS TO TRUST JESUS

1. God saves
2. If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from death
3. he noticed the strong wind and he was afraid
4. Jesus reached out and grabbed Peter's hands
5. 5b
6. Fisherman
7. Truly you are the Son of God!
you are the Holy One who has come from God

12. "TAKE UP YOUR CROSS!"

1. Jesus had to carry it to the place of crucifixion
2. dehydration
cramp
exhaustion
3. 3c
4. 4a
5. Jesus the anointed King
6. north
west
7. it is both equal important

13. BE THANKFUL!

1. 1a
2. leprosy can be spread easily from person to person
3. Moses, Miriam and Naaman
4. Samaritan
5. medical doctor
6. priest
7. always

14 "BECOME LIKE A CHILD"

1. He does things which according to their laws are not allowed and He associates with people who in their eyes are not at all acceptable.
2. He also pays attention to children
3. He tries to find people that are lost.
4. 4a
5. 13 year
6. 6a
7. father

15. JESUS GIVES LIFE

1. 4 days
2. with a big round rock
3. Jesus weeps
4. He raises Lazarus from the death.
5. So the people would believe that Jesus is sent by God the Father.
6. 6b
7. 7b

16. "HE MUST DIE!"

1. 1b
2. Sanhedrin
3. 70 men
4. Kajafas
5. a. To reestablish a close relationship between.
b. To settle or resolve.
c. To bring (oneself) to accept:
d. To make compatible or consistent:
6. 6c
7. with me

17. HONORING JESUS

1. pure nard perfume, from faraway India.
300 silver coins: a whole year's salary
2. He sees it as an encouragement to die.
It prepares Him for burial.
3. thief, because He carried the money bag and also would help himself from it.
4. 4b
5. let us praise the Lord.
6. Psalms 106, 113, 117
7. It shall be true and certain,
let us praise the Lord!

18. THE HUMBLE KING

1. John
2. King David
3. Harbour city
4. 4b
5. they spread their clothes in the way.
6. if they would be quiet,
the stones would cry out
7. He weeps about the city

19. BIG CLEANSING

1. King Solomon, Zerubbabel, King Herod
2. fore-court, Holy place, Holy of Holies
3. the Great Day of Atonement
4. the blood of a specially chosen animal that was sacrificed
5. 5c
6. 6b
7. in my body

20. THE BETRAYAL

1. He is to manage the finances.
2. 30 pieces of silver
That is also the payment for a slave.
3. Peter and John
4. The angel of death passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when striking the first-born.
5. answer; That Jesus rose again from the death.
6. It cleanse us from sin.
7. 7b

21. THE FOOTWASHING

1. 30 times
2. a slave
3. washes the hands of the disciples
4. apostle of love
5. Jesus give Judas a piece of bread and dips it in the dish
6. 6a
7. if they love one another.

22. COMMUNION

1. old testament and new testament
2. Israel
people who believe in Jesus
3. animal blood
Jesus blood
4. the Lord's supper
5. Bread stands for Jesus' body, our sicknesses.
wine stands for Jesus' blood, clean us from sin
6. daily
7. He died in our place.

23. THE ARREST

1. Gethsemane. This means 'olive press'
2. 2c
3. Yet not what I want, but what you want.
4. by kissing that person
5. 5a
6. blood
7. we are made holy through Jesus
and now have the same Father

24. THE TRIAL

1. 3 times
2. That evening he had said he would follow Jesus everywhere and that he would give his life for Him
3. another servant girl
4. Jesus says He is the Son of Man, Gods'son
5. 5a
6. because it functions as a carrying stone,
and it connects the walls
7. 7c

25. THE DEATH SENTENCE

1. murder
2. lamb
3. washing his hands
4. it has pieces of metal and glass sewn into it
5. answer; 5c
6. God destroys the wisdom of the wise
7. the power and the wisdom of God

26. TO THE CROSS

1. like a suffering king
2. answer; King of the Jews
the man
the Son of God
3. the place of the skull
4. nailed to the crossbeam
and tied on with rope
5. ram
6. The Lord Provides
7. 7a

27. CURSED

1. down in the Temple
2. he is cursed by God
the earth is cursed
4. curse of the world
5. 5c
6. before the world was made.
7. Forgive them, Father! They don't
They don't know what they are doing

28. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

1. 7 times
2. Jesus of Nazareth, king of the Jews
answer in 3 languages
3. Mary
4. John
5. 5c
6. My God, My God, why have
you abandoned me?
7. Father! In your hands
I place my spirit!"
He said this and died

29. THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS

1. our, our
2. we, our, us
3. we
4. us
5. us, us
6. grace is that Jesus took our sins on Him,
7. God doesn't punish us anymore.

30. JESUS LIVES!

1. Sunday
2. an angel of the Lord
3. it is shaped as Jesus body.
He has a new Heavenly body.
4. 4b
5. Mary
6. Jesus was dead, but now
He is alive for ever and ever.
7. Jesus has authority over death
and the world of the dead

31. JESUS WITH US

1. from the Scriptures, the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets.
2. from the Law of Moses, the writings of the prophets, and the Psalms.
3. Jesus shows His wounds in His hands and in His side.
4. My Lord and my God!
5. De disciples recognise Jesus.
6. more than 500
7. 7b

32. NO MORE "ME FIRST!"

1. 3 times
3 times
2. Jesus who died and was raised to life.
3. Christ
4. Jesus took all my punishment on the cross.
5. Jesus is the beginning and the end of everything.
6. So be it. Come, Lord Jesus!
7. May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with everyone.

33. WITNESS

1. Spirit of God
Spirit of Jesus
2. He comforts when you are feeling lonely.
3. to witness
4. 4a
5. sent by someone
6. Paul
7. Jesus

34. GOD IS CLOSE BY!

1. God is with us
2. good news
3. Stephen
4. 4b
5. He welcomed all and preached about the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. It is God's purpose, He had decided that from the very beginning.
7. Even before the world was made.

Get to know Jesus the Messiah better!

No one has ever done what Jesus did.
No one has ever said what He said.
And no one else is called by so many names.
No single other person has changed so many people.
Whoever gets to know Jesus will never be the same again!

In this book you will discover more about
all the things Jesus did. And about what He said.
You will also get to know many of his names.
In that way you can learn to know Him better.
He will come near to you. That is why this book is called:
"Jesus the Messiah near to you".

This book brings Jesus the Messiah near through comic
strip stories, Bible lessons, activities and
a lot of supplementary information.

Willem de Vink is an author, illustrator and popular speaker.
His comic strip story in this book also appeared as the comic
strip 'Jesus Messiah'. It has been published in more than
fifty languages.