

GOD MAKES A BEAUTIFUL WORLD

Genesis 1-2; 3:20

Long, long ago - before anyone can remember - God made the world. At first it was lonely and dark.

Then God made the light. He said, "Let there be light," and light came. God was pleased with it. He called the light "day." And he called the darkness "night." God did these things on the first day of Creation.

Then God made the space above the earth. He called it "sky." God did this on the second day of Creation.

Next God said that the waters covering the earth should become oceans and lakes, and dry land should appear. God also made grass grow, and bushes and trees. All this was on the third day of Creation.

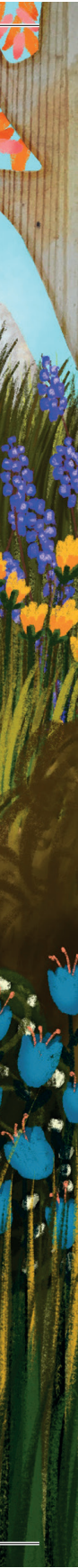
On the fourth day God let the sun shine in the daytime, and the moon and stars at night.

On the fifth day God made large sea animals and little fish. And he made birds, like ducks and geese, to fly over the water and swim in it. He made other birds, like eagles, robins, pigeons, and wrens, to fly over the land and live in the woods and fields.

On the sixth day of Creation God made animals that walk on land. He made wild elephants, lions,







tigers, and bears. He made tame rabbits, horses, cows, and sheep. And he made little insects, such as ants and bees.

Then God made someone very special. He took some dust from the ground and formed it into a man's body. God gave life to the body, and the man began to breathe. God named the man Adam.

The Lord God planted the beautiful Garden of Eden as a home for Adam. In it God planted trees full of delicious fruit. God told Adam he could eat any fruit except the fruit from one tree. That was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If Adam obeyed God, he could live forever. But if Adam took even one bite from that tree's fruit, God said he would die someday.

Adam was lonely, for he was the only person in all the world. So God decided to make another person who would live with Adam and help him. God put Adam to sleep. Then God took one of Adam's ribs and made a woman from it. When God brought the woman to Adam, she became his wife. And Adam named her Eve.

God looked at all he had made in six days, and he was very pleased.

On the seventh day, God rested. It was a quiet day, different from all the others - a holy day of rest.

Look at the picture and name some things that God created.

How did God make Adam?

What did God tell Adam he could do?

What did Adam need to do so he could live forever?

How did God make Eve?

THE WORLD'S SADDEST DAY

Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-16



Satan is a wicked spirit. He tries to make people do things that are wrong. He came to Eve in the Garden of Eden. He was in the shape of a serpent.

Satan asked Eve, "Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit of any of the trees in the Garden?"

"We may eat any of it except from one tree," she replied. "We are not to eat the fruit of the tree in the middle of the Garden. God said that if we do, we will start growing old and die."

“That’s not true!” Satan told her. “It won’t hurt you at all! Really, it’s good and will make you wise.”

Eve should have gone away and should not have listened to Satan. But instead, she went over and looked at the tree. The fruit looked good! So she ate some fruit. She gave some to Adam, and he ate it too. Then they were afraid of God and tried to hide.

God was angry. He told the serpent, “You will have to crawl in the dust all your life.”

God told the woman, “You will have pain when your children are born.”

God told Adam, “You will have to work hard to get food to eat. And someday you will die. Your body will become dust again.”

But God still loved Adam and Eve. So he made clothes for them before he sent them out of the beautiful Garden. He also promised to send a Savior. That Savior was God’s Son, Jesus, who came years later to die for everyone’s sins. (Perhaps you already know that after Jesus died, he came back to life. Now he lives in heaven with God the Father.)

All of us do bad things. We sin, just like Adam and Eve did. But God forgives us if we ask him to, because Jesus died to take away our sins.



Did Adam and Eve obey God or Satan?

How did God punish Adam and Eve?

When God was angry, how did he still show his love?

When we do bad things, what can we ask God to do?

A NEW HOME FOR ABRAM

Genesis 11:27-12:10



Far away in the land of Ur (which was in the country we call Iraq), there lived a seventy-five-year-old man named Abram. The people of Ur worshiped idols of wood and stone. This was very wrong, for God had said people must worship only him. God told Abram, "Leave this country. I will show you another land where I want you to live."

So Abram left home with his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and his servants. Even though he didn't know how far he would have to go or how long he would have to travel, he believed God would take care of him.

Abram and the others had to cross wide rivers and a dry, lonely desert. Yet God took care of them and brought them safely to the Promised Land of Canaan. Today we call it the land of Israel.

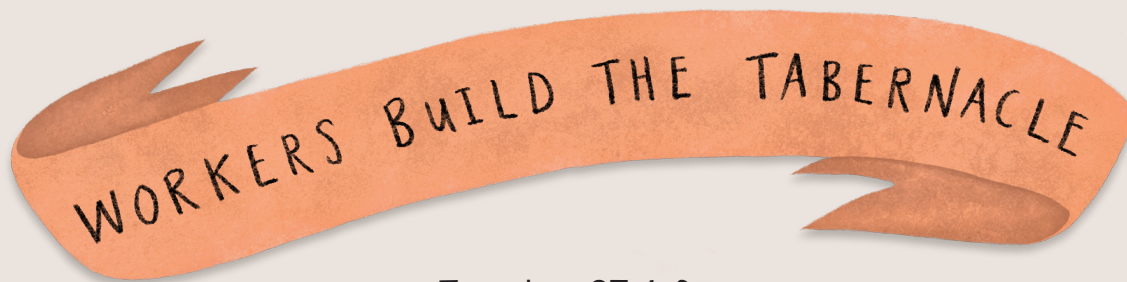
"I will give this whole country to you," God told Abram. "It will belong to you and to your children forever." Then Abram built an altar and worshiped God.

God kept Abram safe from other people living in the new land who might have hurt him. But when crops didn't grow well in the fields, the people had little to eat. So Abram and his family went away for a while to a country called Egypt, waiting until there was more food in Canaan.

Why did God want Abram to move away from the people of Ur?

What was the name of the new land where God safely brought Abram?

What is the country called today?



WORKERS BUILD THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 35-40;
Leviticus 16; Hebrews 7

Now it was time to build the Tabernacle. Moses invited the people to bring their gifts of gold, silver, bronze, wood, and whatever else was needed. Each family gladly brought gifts. Finally there was enough, but the people kept bringing more. Moses had to tell them to stop!

Workers chosen by God made curtains for the roof and walls of the Tabernacle. They also made a curtain to hang inside it, and another for the entrance. They covered board frames with gold. They put cloth over the whole Tabernacle.

Then the workers made Aaron's beautiful clothes. Gold bells at the bottom of his robe chimed as Aaron went in and out of the Tabernacle.

One worker made the Ark of the Covenant. This beautiful box with two gold angels on top was the most important part of the Tabernacle because it was a special place to meet with God.

When the Tabernacle was finished, the cloud pillar that had led the people came down and covered it. God's glory filled the Tabernacle.

The Ark was in the inner room. This room was called the Most Holy Place. The Lord told Moses that only Aaron, the high priest, could go in there. And Aaron could go there only once every year.

Aaron offered gifts or sacrifices for his sins and for the sins of the people. Many years later, Jesus, the Savior, was born. After he grew up, he did not offer sacrifices. But he became a sacrifice

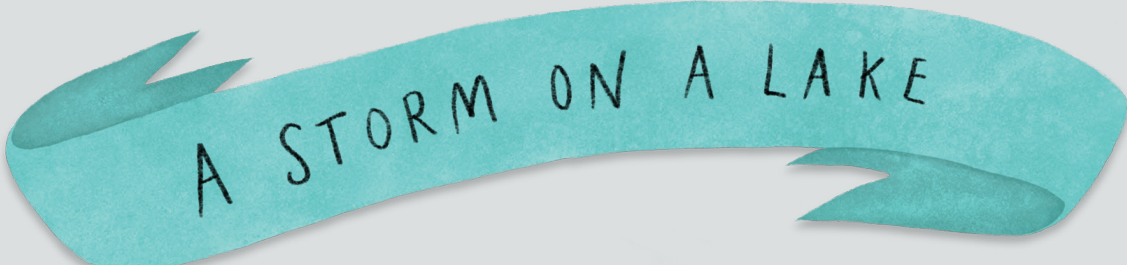
when he died on a cross for our sins. Aaron is not alive today and cannot pray for us. But Jesus came back to life. Then he went up to heaven. Jesus is alive in heaven, and every day he is asking God to forgive us when we pray.



How did families help with the building of the Tabernacle?

What did Aaron offer God for the sins of the people?

How did Jesus become a gift or sacrifice to God?



A STORM ON A LAKE

Matthew 8:23-27;
Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

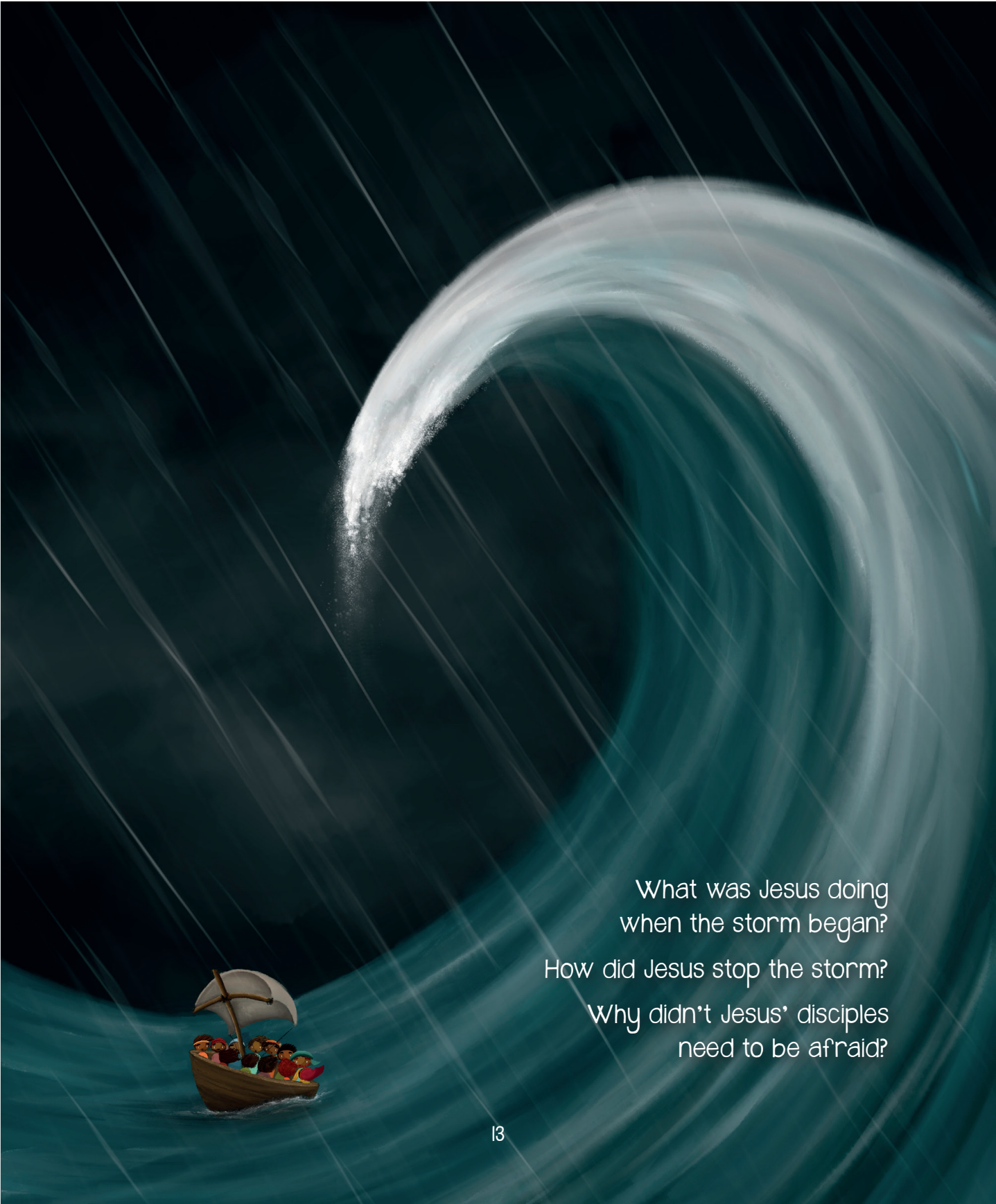
It was evening when Jesus and his disciples got into a boat. They began sailing over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. But suddenly the wind began to blow very hard, and there was a terrible storm on the lake. High waves came up over the sides of the boat. Soon it was getting full of water and beginning to sink. But Jesus was asleep at the back of the boat.

“Teacher!” the disciples shouted at him. “Save us! We’ll all be drowned!”

Then Jesus stood up and spoke to the wind and the water. He said, “Be quiet!”

The wind stopped blowing, and the water became very still and quiet. There were no more high waves, so water wasn’t coming into the boat anymore. Then Jesus asked his disciples, “Why were you afraid? Why do you have so little faith?”

Even though the disciples were Jesus’ friends, it was hard for them to understand how Jesus could make the wind and the water obey him. They still didn’t know that Jesus was God’s Son, and that he could do anything! They asked each other, “Who is Jesus anyway? How did he do that?”



What was Jesus doing
when the storm began?

How did Jesus stop the storm?

Why didn't Jesus' disciples
need to be afraid?



THE CROSS

Matthew 27:32-54;
Mark 15:21-39; Luke 23:26-47; John 19:17-30

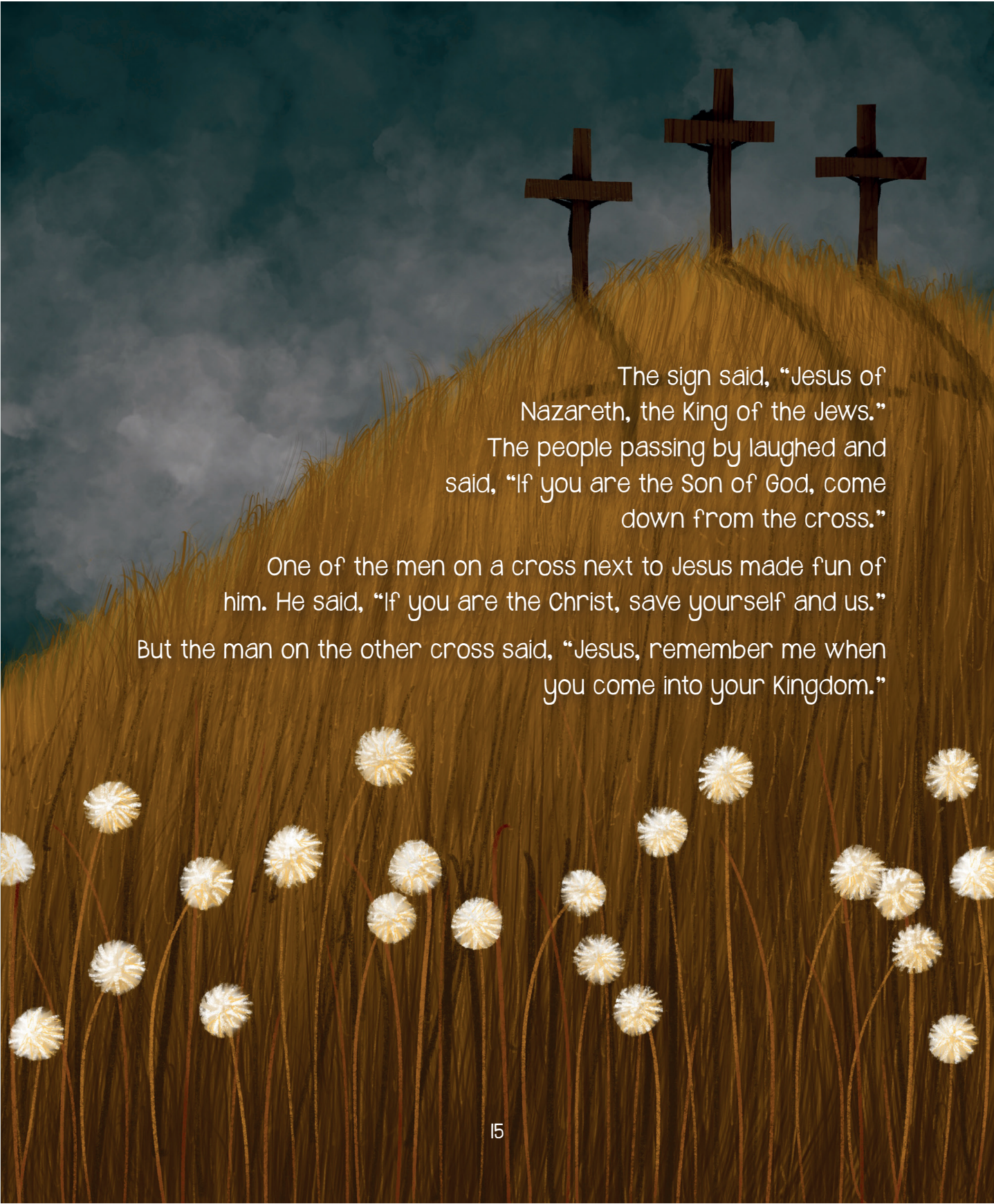
Jesus had to carry a heavy wooden cross to a place outside the city. But Jesus had no more strength, so he fell. Along the way a man named Simon was coming in from the country. When the soldiers saw him, they made him carry the cross. A crowd followed Jesus out to a place called The Skull, or Calvary. There the soldiers nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross.

Jesus prayed for those who hurt him and for those who told them to do it. "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing," he said. Jesus knew they didn't understand that he is the Son of God. They tried to give him a sour drink so he wouldn't feel the pain so much. But Jesus wouldn't drink it.

Two other men were hanging on crosses with Jesus. One was on his right side, and the other was on his left. Both of them had done many wrong things.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when the soldiers put Jesus on the cross. He hung there until three o'clock in the afternoon. The soldiers took his clothes and divided them up among themselves. Then they rolled dice to see who would get his coat.

Pilate told the soldiers to place a sign on the cross above Jesus' head.



The sign said, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."
The people passing by laughed and said, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

One of the men on a cross next to Jesus made fun of him. He said, "If you are the Christ, save yourself and us."
But the man on the other cross said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

Jesus told the second man, "Today you will be with me in heaven." Jesus wanted the man to know that his sins were forgiven and that as soon as he died, he would go where Jesus was going.

Jesus saw his mother and his disciple John standing near the cross. He asked John to take care of his mother as if she were his own mother:

From noon until three in the afternoon there was darkness over all the land. God sent the darkness because wicked men were killing his Son.

At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "My God, why have you left me?" God had turned away from him because he was carrying everyone's sins. Jesus was dying to take the punishment for those sins - those wrong things everyone does.

Then Jesus said he was thirsty. One of the men standing ran to get a sponge and filled it with sour wine. He held it up on a stick to Jesus' mouth so that he could drink it. Jesus tasted it. Then he cried out, "It is finished!" And he bowed his head and died.

At that very moment, the earth shook, rocks broke apart, and dead people who had loved God came out of their graves. When the Roman soldiers saw all of this, they were filled with fear. They said, "This really was the Son of God!"

Who helped Jesus carry his cross?

For whom did Jesus pray while he was on the cross?

Tell about the two men who were on crosses on each side of Jesus.

When Jesus died, what happened to make the soldiers believe he was God's Son?



JOHN'S WONDERFUL VISION OF HEAVEN

Revelation 1:9-20; 4; 14; 21-22

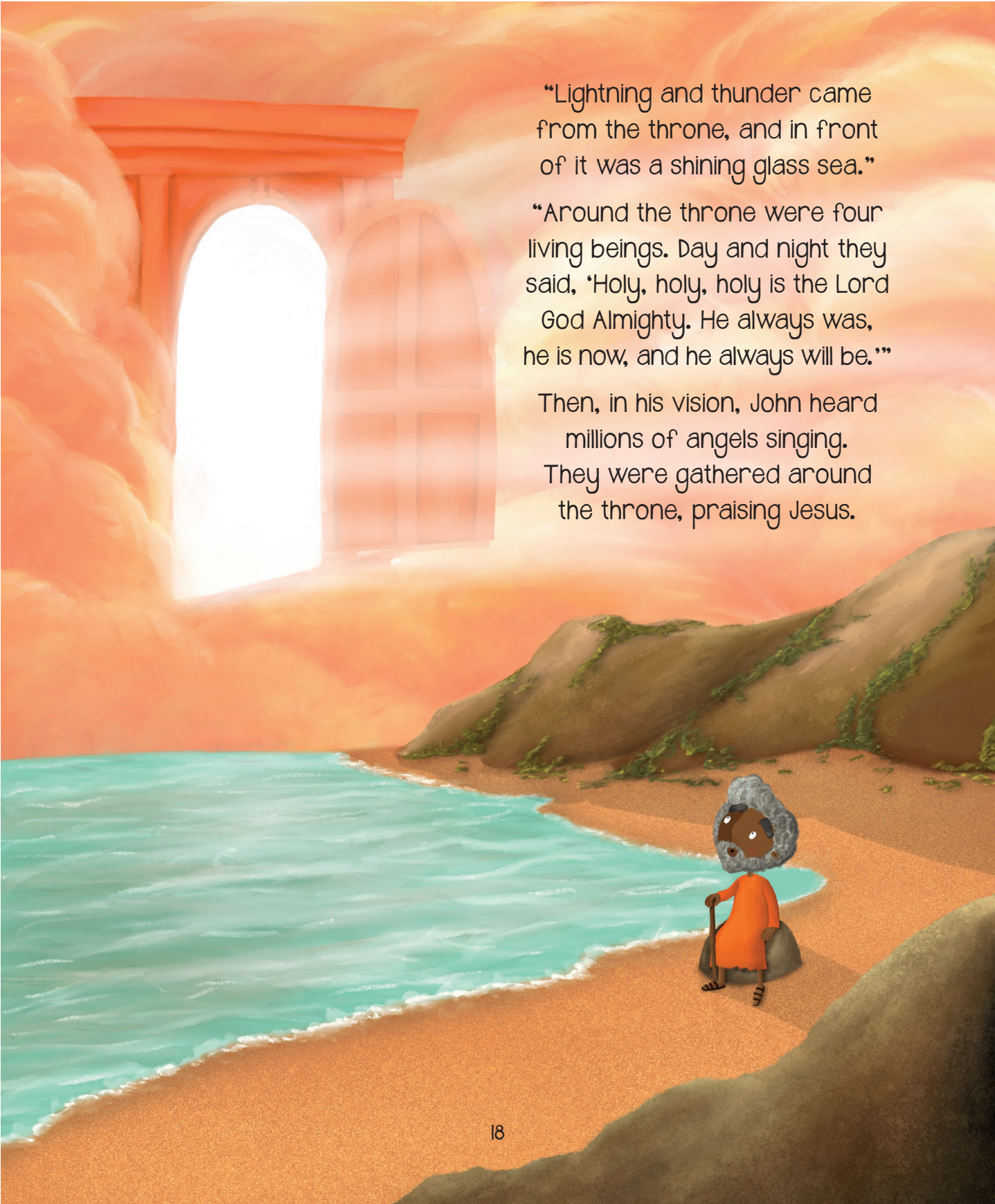
When Jesus' disciple John was very old, he was a prisoner on an island called Patmos. He was sent there as a punishment for preaching about Jesus.

One day as John was worshiping God, a strange and wonderful thing happened to him. He saw a vision. Even though he was wide awake, in his mind he saw Jesus in heaven. "His eyes were bright like flames of fire," John wrote. "His feet were as bright as shiny metal, and his voice made a loud sound like stormy waves against the seashore. He held seven stars in his right hand and a sword with two sharp edges in his mouth. And his face was as bright as the sun."

John fell down in front of Jesus, but Jesus put his hand on John's head and said to him, "Don't be afraid. I am the First and Last, the living one who died but is now alive forever and ever! I hold the keys of death and the grave. And I want you to write down what you see."

John saw a door standing open in heaven. The same voice spoke, sounding like a loud trumpet: "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen."

Suddenly John's spirit was in heaven, even though his body did not leave the island! "I saw a king's throne and someone sitting on it," he wrote. "Light flashed from him as from a shiny jewel, and the glow of another shiny jewel made a circle around his throne like a rainbow.



“Lightning and thunder came from the throne, and in front of it was a shining glass sea.”

“Around the throne were four living beings. Day and night they said, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. He always was, he is now, and he always will be.’”

Then, in his vision, John heard millions of angels singing. They were gathered around the throne, praising Jesus.

After that, an angel flew across the heavens, carrying the Good News about Jesus to every nation, tribe, language, and people. “Fear God,” the angel shouted. “And praise his greatness. For the time has come when he will sit as judge. Worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all the springs of water.”

Then, after seeing many terrible things that will happen on earth, John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. It was beautiful! As it came down, John heard a loud shout from the throne in heaven: “Look, the home of God is now among his people. He will live with them, and they will be his people. He will take away their tears, and there will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All of that will be gone forever.”

The whole city was filled with the greatness of God. It was like a shiny jewel. John said it was made of pure gold and was as clear as glass!

John heard a very important message about that city. Nothing evil will ever be done there. The only people who can go in are those whose sins have been taken away because they have asked Jesus to be their Savior. Their names are written in Jesus’ Book of Life.

Jesus says, “I am coming soon!”

If we believe Jesus is the Savior, we will be happy to say with John and everyone else in God’s family, “Amen! May it be so. Come, Lord Jesus!”

When John had a vision of heaven, how did Jesus look?

What did four living beings sing day and night around God’s throne?

What are some sad things that will be taken away when we live with God in heaven?

Who will get to go to heaven?