


Andrew Wilson



The Boy
from the
House of
Bread

Illustrated by
Arief Putra

The Boy from the House of Bread



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BH
kids
Nashville TN

EUROPE

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

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Published in 2022 by B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, Tennessee

978-1-0877-5560-1

Dewey Decimal Classification: CE

Subject Heading: BREAD / JESUS CHRIST / MIRACLES

Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible,
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Printed in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China in January 2022

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 • 26 25 24 23 22

AFRICA

*For Jacob, Theo,
Evangeline, Sam,
Isobel, and Noelle.*

ASIA

My name is Alex. I'm eight and a half,
And I come from an African town in the Med.
But most of this story is not about me.
It's the tale of a boy who was born in a shed—
The boy from the house of bread.

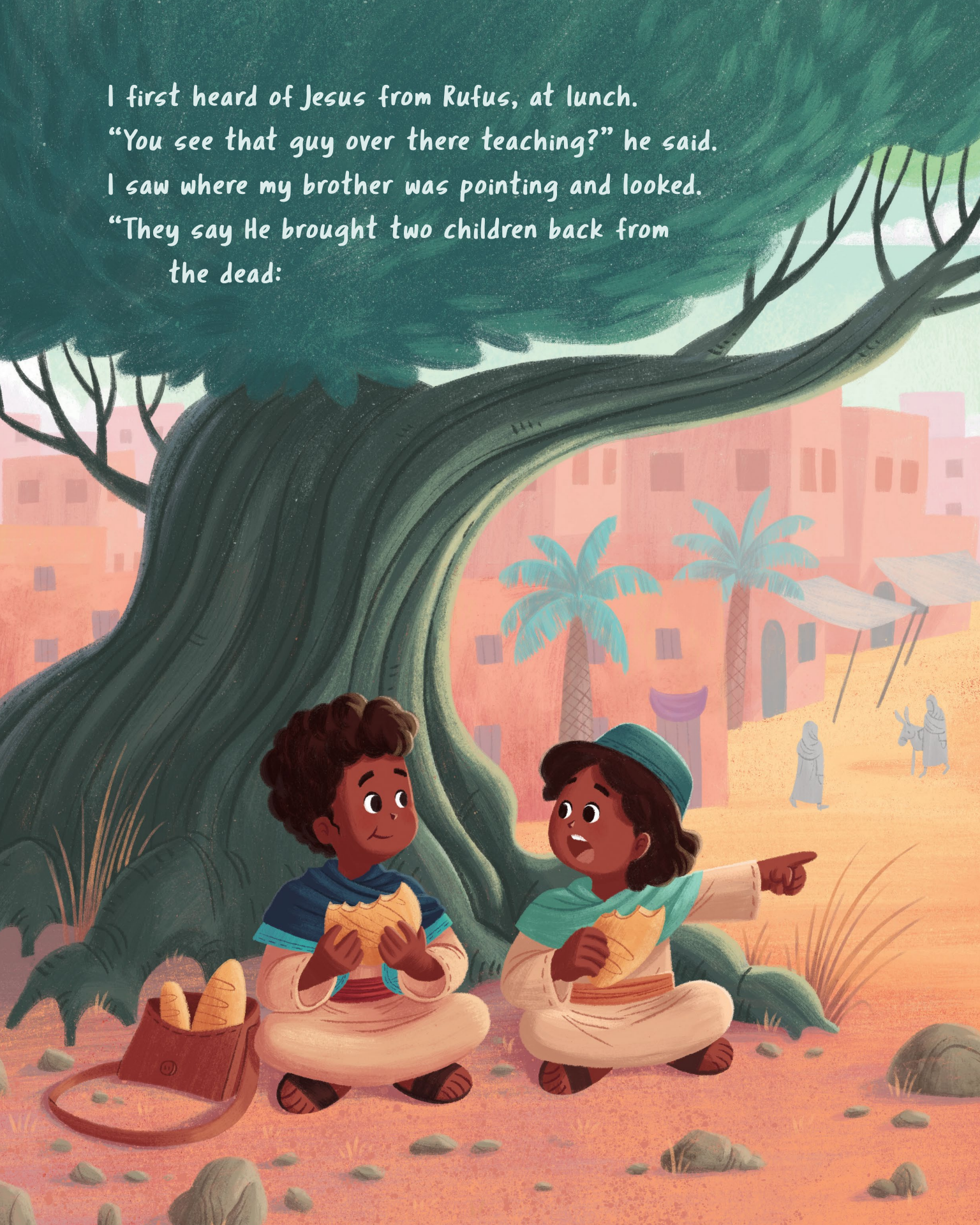


BETHLEHEM
(The House of Bread)

ISRAEL



I first heard of Jesus from Rufus, at lunch.
“You see that guy over there teaching?” he said.
I saw where my brother was pointing and looked.
“They say He brought two children back from
the dead:





A widow's young son, an important man's daughter.
They say He heals blindness and walks on the water.
They say He was born when His mom wasn't wed,
In the town they call House-of-Bread."

I stared at the teacher. He didn't look much—
No rippling muscles, no crown on His head.
So I started to listen to what He was saying.
“The kingdom of God is like this,” He said.




Then He told us some stories of scattering seeds
And harvesting crops and pulling up weeds.
He kept on describing the kingdom of heaven
With stories of flour, of wheat, and of leaven,
And feasting, and everyone poor being fed.
They all seemed to be about bread.



Once, around lunchtime, my brother and I
Were part of a crowd in a ravenous mood
When Jesus's helper came over and asked,
"Did you boys remember to bring any food?"



An illustration of a man with long, wavy brown hair and a light brown complexion. He is looking down with a slight smile at a plate of food. The plate is held by a hand from the bottom left. On the plate, there are several golden-brown fish sandwiches and one whole blue fish. The background is a soft, light blue with wavy patterns, suggesting a window or a wall. The man's hair is thick and wavy, and he has a small goatee. He is wearing a light brown tunic with visible stitching. The overall style is soft and painterly.

“Just a fish sandwich,” I said with a grin.
“Perfect,” he said. So I gave him my tin.

He took it to Jesus, who offered a prayer
Then broke the bread loaves before starting to share.
The food just kept coming . . . so much fish and bread
That it made an incredible, edible spread



With nobody hungry and five thousand fed.
“I have never seen anything like it,” I said.
“A man who can multiply bread!”





Remember:

Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.—Deuteronomy 8:3

Read: John 6:35–51

Jesus said He is the “bread of life,” which made a lot of people angry. They didn’t really understand what He meant, and some of them thought it was about munching on His physical body.

Jesus was really saying that just as our bodies need to eat food, our hearts and minds need to be filled with Him. He provides us with the strength and life we need, and the way we receive that strength and life is by coming to Him and believing in Him (v. 35). Believing in Jesus is pictured as eating the bread of life, and when we do that, we receive life that goes on forever (v. 51).

Think:

1. How do you feel when you haven’t had enough to eat?
2. Why do you think Jesus tells so many stories about seeds, wheat, yeast, flour, and bread?
3. How many Bible stories can you name where Jesus gives people physical bread to eat?
4. In the story, do you think Alex is happy that he met Jesus? Why?
5. What difference did meeting Jesus make to Alex’s life? What difference has it made to yours?

Note to Parents:

Although we know that Simon of Cyrene, who carried Jesus’s cross, had sons called Alexander and Rufus (Mark 15:21), we are never told that Alex (or Rufus) met Jesus. This story imagines what it might have been like for Alex if he had, but we have no idea whether he heard Jesus’s teaching, saw His miracles, witnessed the cross, or ate with Jesus afterward.

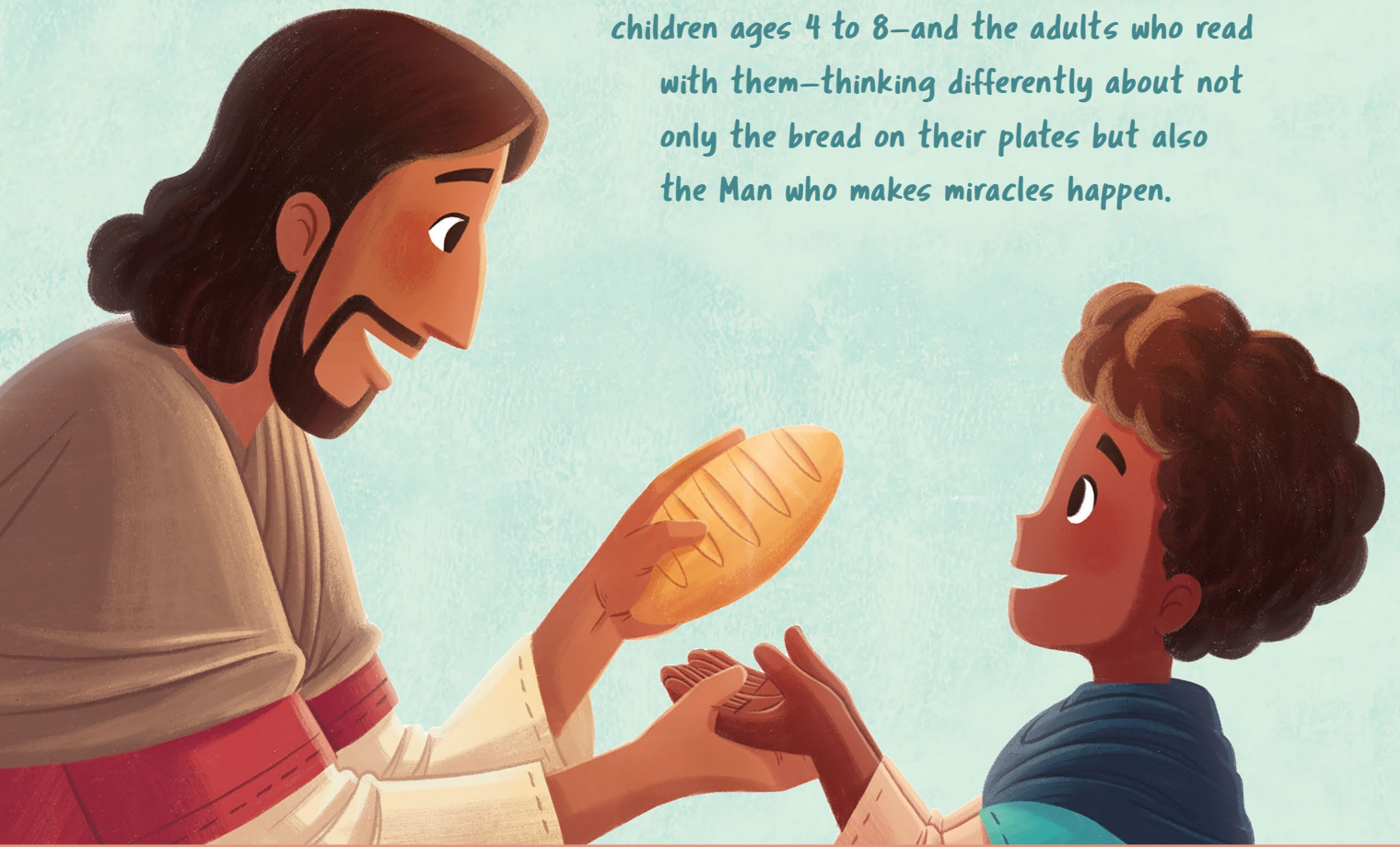


An ordinary meal, an extraordinary Man, and a world changed forever.

Young Alex keeps hearing about a Man from the house of bread who has miraculous powers, who heals the sick and walks on water. When Alex finally witnesses the miracles and meets the Man, his life is forever changed.

The Boy from the House of Bread shares the story of Jesus's ministry in a compelling way, through the eyes and voice of an African boy. Walk with Alex as he watches Jesus multiply loaves and call Himself the life-giving Bread.

This recurring symbol fascinates Alex and leaves children ages 4 to 8—and the adults who read with them—thinking differently about not only the bread on their plates but also the Man who makes miracles happen.



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Bonus Content
Inside

Andrew Wilson is the teaching pastor at King's Church London and the author of *Sophie and the Heidelberg Cat*. He has three children called Zeke, Anna, and Sam, and he has written a number of other books—but none of them have pictures.

JUVENILE FICTION/Religious/Christian/Historical

Printed in China

ISBN 978-1-0877-5560-1

USD \$14.99

51499

