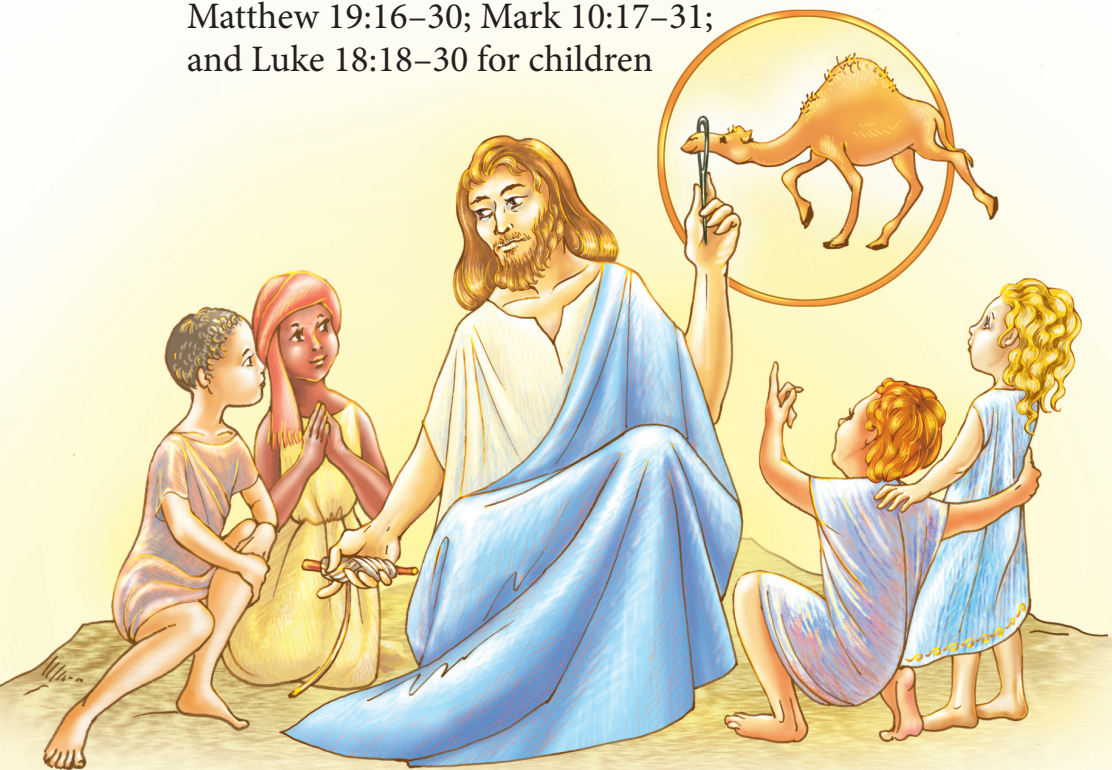


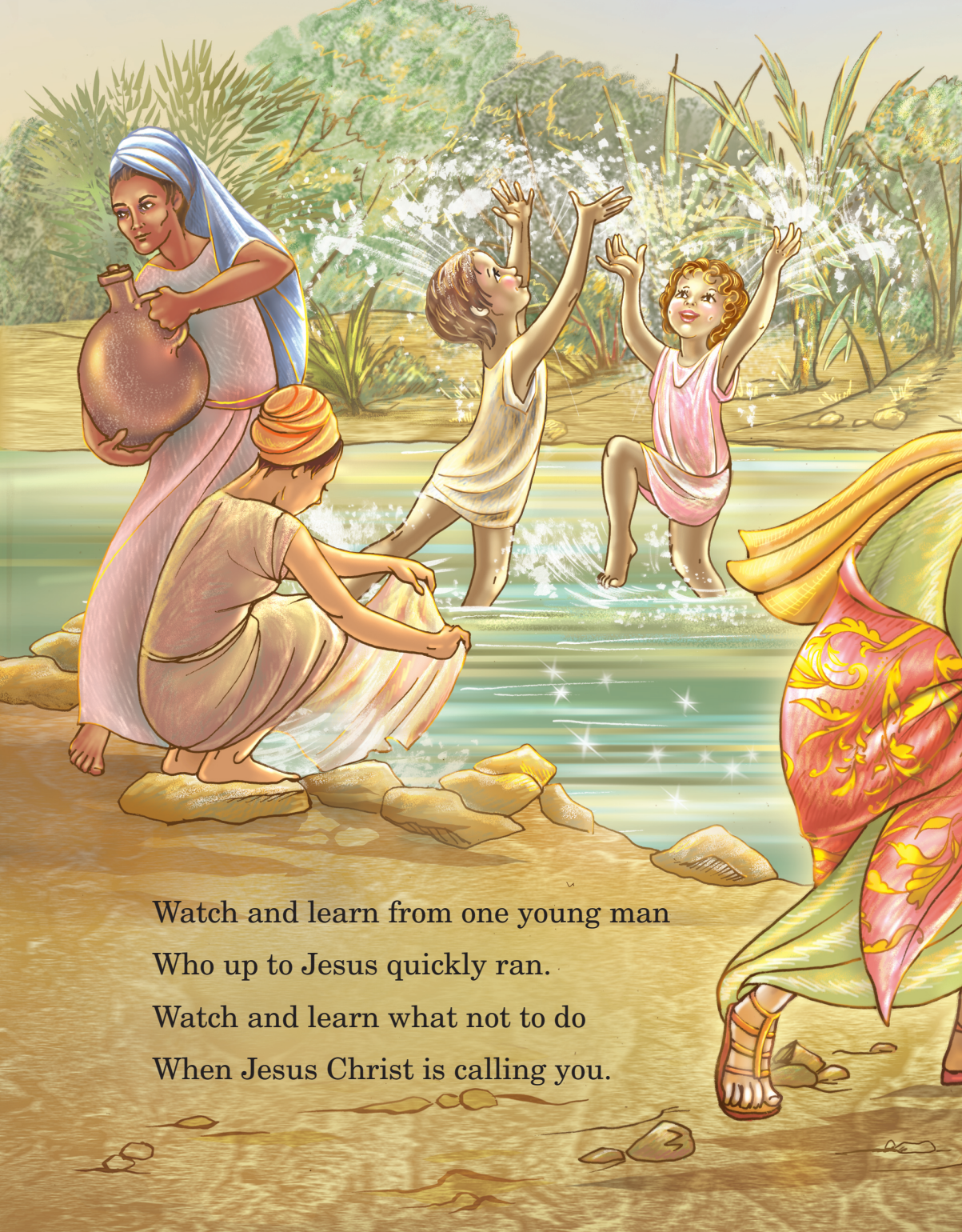
# Jesus *and* the Rich Young Man

Matthew 19:16–30; Mark 10:17–31;  
and Luke 18:18–30 for children



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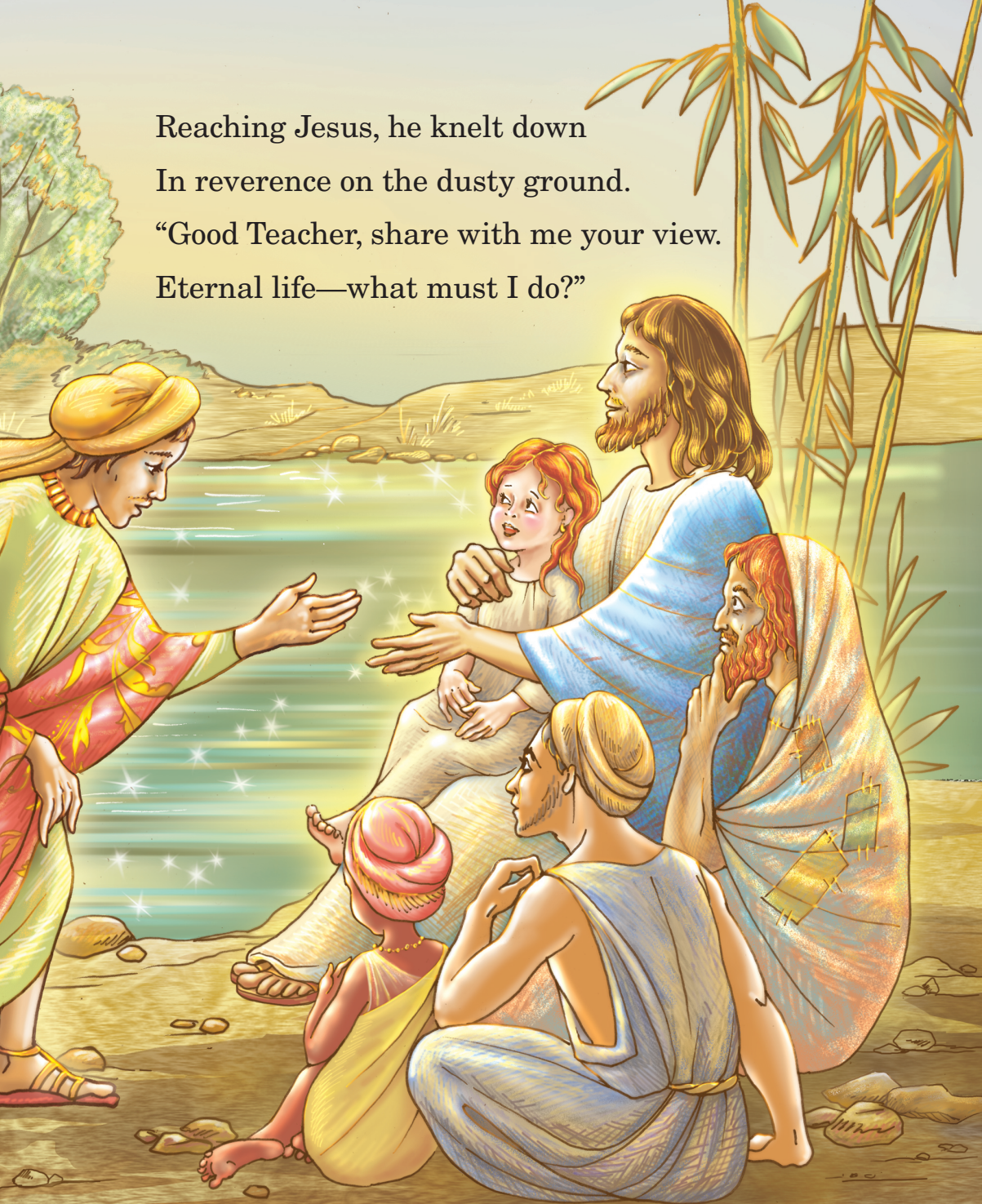
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Watch and learn from one young man  
Who up to Jesus quickly ran.  
Watch and learn what not to do  
When Jesus Christ is calling you.



Reaching Jesus, he knelt down  
In reverence on the dusty ground.  
“Good Teacher, share with me your view.  
Eternal life—what must I do?”



Dear Parent,

The value of good behavior cannot be underestimated. We are happy when our children behave well. But we don't love our children for what they do—we love them for who they are.

The encounter between Jesus and the rich young man takes place immediately after Jesus welcomes the little children to Himself. He tells the disciples, "for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). The children don't have to do a thing to earn heaven. But to the young man in the verses that follow, Jesus says to obey the Ten Commandments perfectly and to give up his material wealth.

The rich man and the disciples who listened closely to the conversation were examples of faithful believers who kept the commandments. If anyone could earn their way to heaven through behavior, it would be these men. What's more, the disciples had given up everything to follow Jesus. (The rich man, however, could not make such a sacrifice; his treasure was earthly.)

How good do we have to be to get into heaven?

The encounter between Jesus and the rich young man teaches us that we are powerless on our own to earn eternal life. No matter how well-behaved we are, no matter how generous we are, no matter how much we sacrifice, we simply cannot be perfect enough—keep the Law well enough—to earn heaven. "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

It is only through childlike faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God who kept the Law perfectly for us, that heaven is ours.

The Editor

