



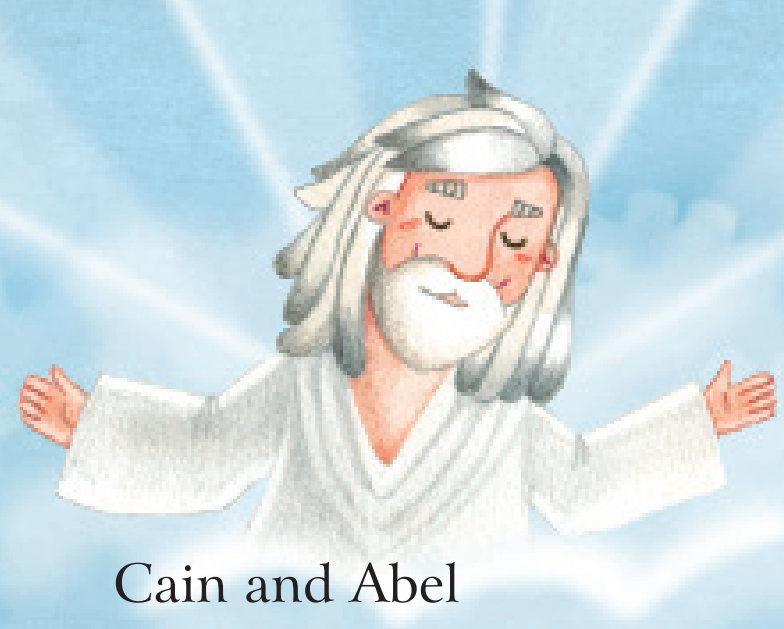
## The Creation

First, God created light, the sky, the seas, and the earth. God also created the sun, the moon, and the stars in the heavens. Then he made flowers and trees grow.

Later God created all the animals, from birds to colorful fish. Finally, God created a man and a woman, whom he named Adam and Eve.

God created all the wonders in the world in six days, and on the seventh day God rested.





## Cain and Abel

Adam and Eve had two sons. Cain worked in the fields tending crops, and Abel tended sheep. One day they made an offering to God. Abel offered God his sheep, and Cain offered his crops from the fields.

God was very pleased with Abel's offering. Cain, filled with envy and jealousy, killed Abel. When God asked him about Abel, he said he didn't know where his brother was. But God knew the truth, and God was very angry. He punished Cain and sent him away from his home forever.



# Noah's Ark

God warned Noah that a huge storm was coming. Noah needed to build a big ship to save himself with his family. He also needed to bring on board a pair of animals from every species: lions, elephants, monkeys, giraffes, zebras, birds, etc.

Then it began to rain until the earth was flooded. When the rain finally stopped, Noah released a dove that returned with an olive twig in its beak. Noah, his family, and the animals had been saved from the great flood!





## The Promise to Abraham and Sarah

Abraham and Sarah lived in a beautiful tent and took care of their sheep and camels. They had never lost hope of having a son, but by now they were very old, and this seemed impossible.

One day, God told Abraham that he would have a family as vast as the stars in the sky. When Sarah heard that, she laughed—but nothing is impossible for God. She had a baby named Isaac, and God's promise was fulfilled.

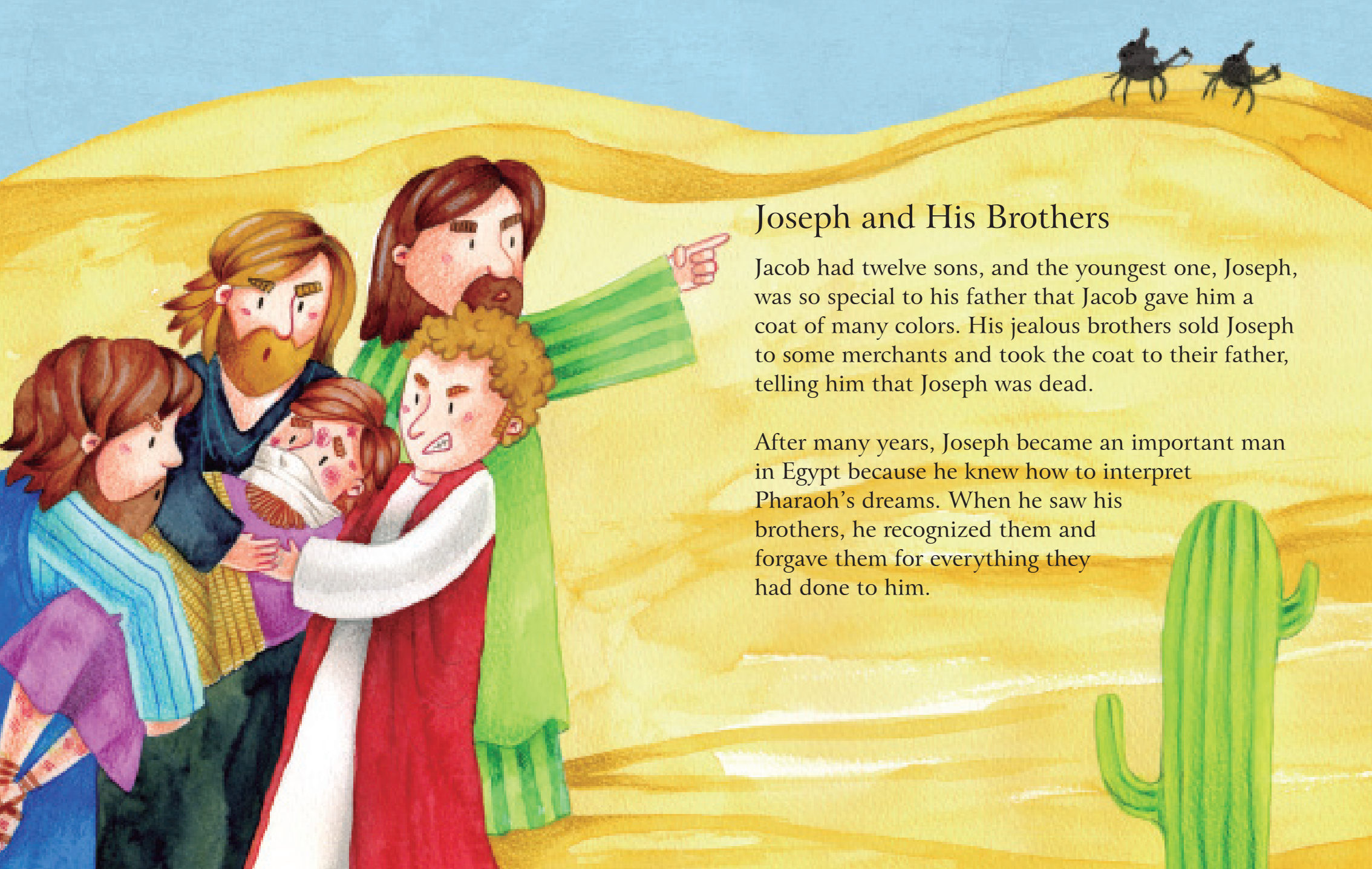




## Jacob's Dream

Jacob was one of Isaac's sons. One day, while Jacob was working for his uncle, he stopped to rest, and he had a dream in which he saw a ladder that stretched

to the sky, and angels were going up and down it. At the end of the ladder was the Lord, who told him: "Don't be afraid. I am God, and the land you are in now will be your home and your family's home."



## Joseph and His Brothers

Jacob had twelve sons, and the youngest one, Joseph, was so special to his father that Jacob gave him a coat of many colors. His jealous brothers sold Joseph to some merchants and took the coat to their father, telling him that Joseph was dead.

After many years, Joseph became an important man in Egypt because he knew how to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. When he saw his brothers, he recognized them and forgave them for everything they had done to him.

# Moses and Pharaoh

In Egypt, the mother of baby Moses left him in a basket in the Nile river in order to save him. Pharaoh's daughter found him and raised him.

Moses grew up seeing Pharaoh's injustices toward the Israelites, who were Pharaoh's slaves.

God told Moses to free the people and to guide them through the desert, arriving at the Red Sea. Then God opened the sea so that the Israelites could pass through it and arrive in the land that God had promised them.



## Samson's Strength

Samson had been chosen since he was a little boy, and he was very strong. He told Delilah that the secret of his strength was in his hair; if his hair were cut, he would lose his strength. Delilah cut his hair, and the Philistines were then able to seize him and put him in jail.



In time Samson's hair grew back, and one day, in order to make fun of him, the Philistines tied him to the columns of their temple. Samson prayed to God, and with all his strength he pulled down the columns, defeating his enemies.





## David Defeats Goliath

Goliath was a Philistine giant who was threatening everyone, and no one dared to fight against him. David was a young shepherd who decided to confront Goliath with his slingshot and some stones.

When Goliath saw him he laughed at him, but David wasn't afraid. With great strength he hurled a stone that struck Goliath on the forehead, knocking him down to the ground. David had defeated Goliath the giant, and the Philistines ran away forever.





## Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel was a wise man who prayed to God every day. Some of his enemies were full of envy, and they asked the king to write a law forbidding Daniel to pray.

Then, the king punished Daniel by putting him in a den full of lions.

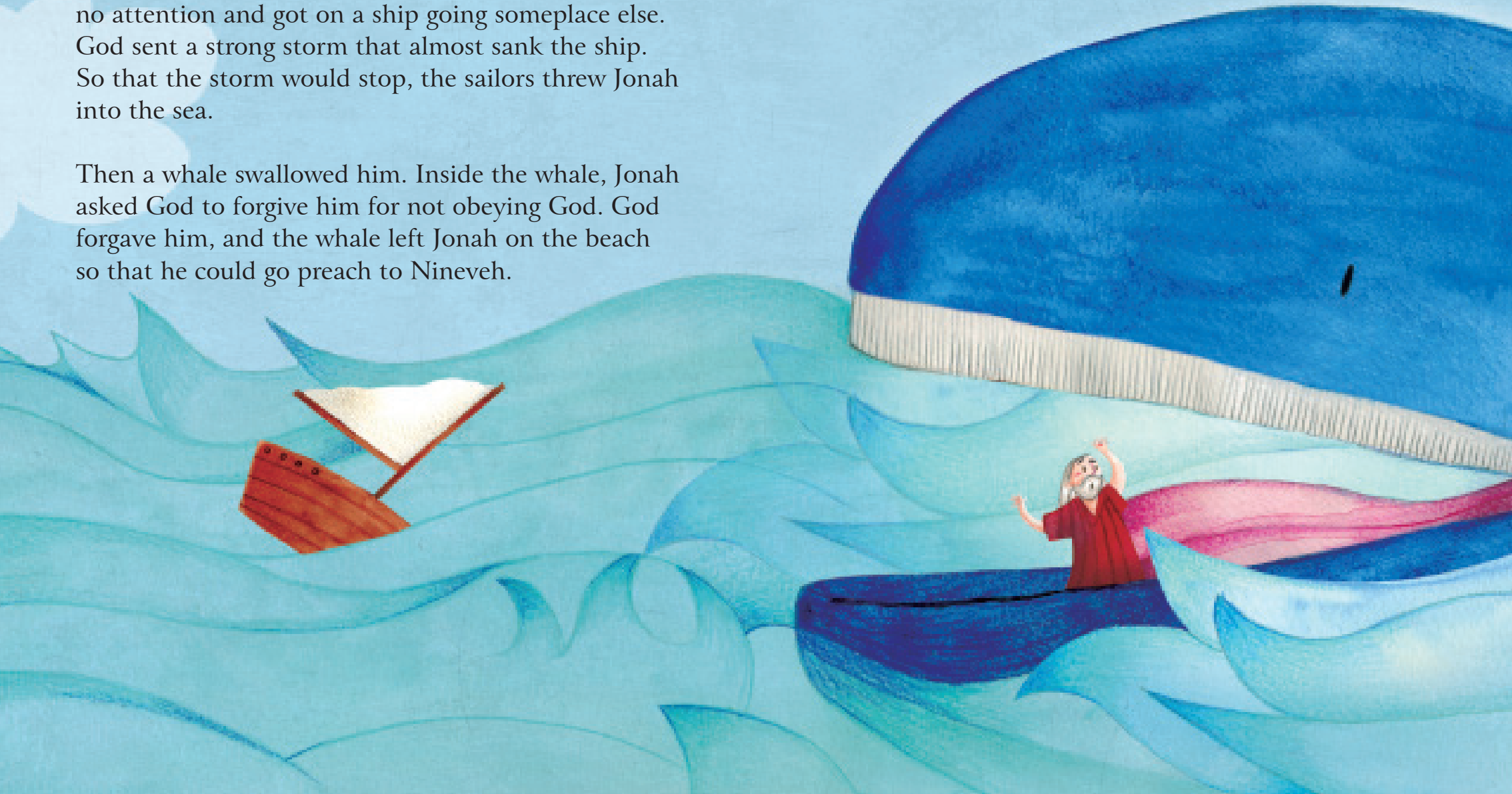
The next day the king went to the den and Daniel was safe. He told the king that God had sent an angel who had closed the lions' mouths. The king was very happy, and he gave an order that from then on, people should pray to Daniel's God.



# Jonah and the Whale

God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah paid no attention and got on a ship going someplace else. God sent a strong storm that almost sank the ship. So that the storm would stop, the sailors threw Jonah into the sea.

Then a whale swallowed him. Inside the whale, Jonah asked God to forgive him for not obeying God. God forgave him, and the whale left Jonah on the beach so that he could go preach to Nineveh.





## An Angel Visits Mary

Mary was a young woman who lived in Nazareth. She was engaged to Joseph, and her wedding was to take place soon. One day an angel named Gabriel appeared to Mary.

The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid. God has blessed you, and you are going to have a special baby that you will name Jesus. He will be the Son of God." Amazed, Mary said, "How can this be possible?" And the angel answered her, "Trust in God. Everything is possible for God."





## Jesus Is Born

Joseph and Mary, who was expecting a baby, had to go to Bethlehem to be registered. They were very tired after the journey, but all they could find was a stable in which to spend the night. There, the baby Jesus was born, and Mary laid him in a manger.

Meanwhile, in a faraway land, the Three Kings discovered a bright star and followed it to Bethlehem, where they knew a great King had been born.

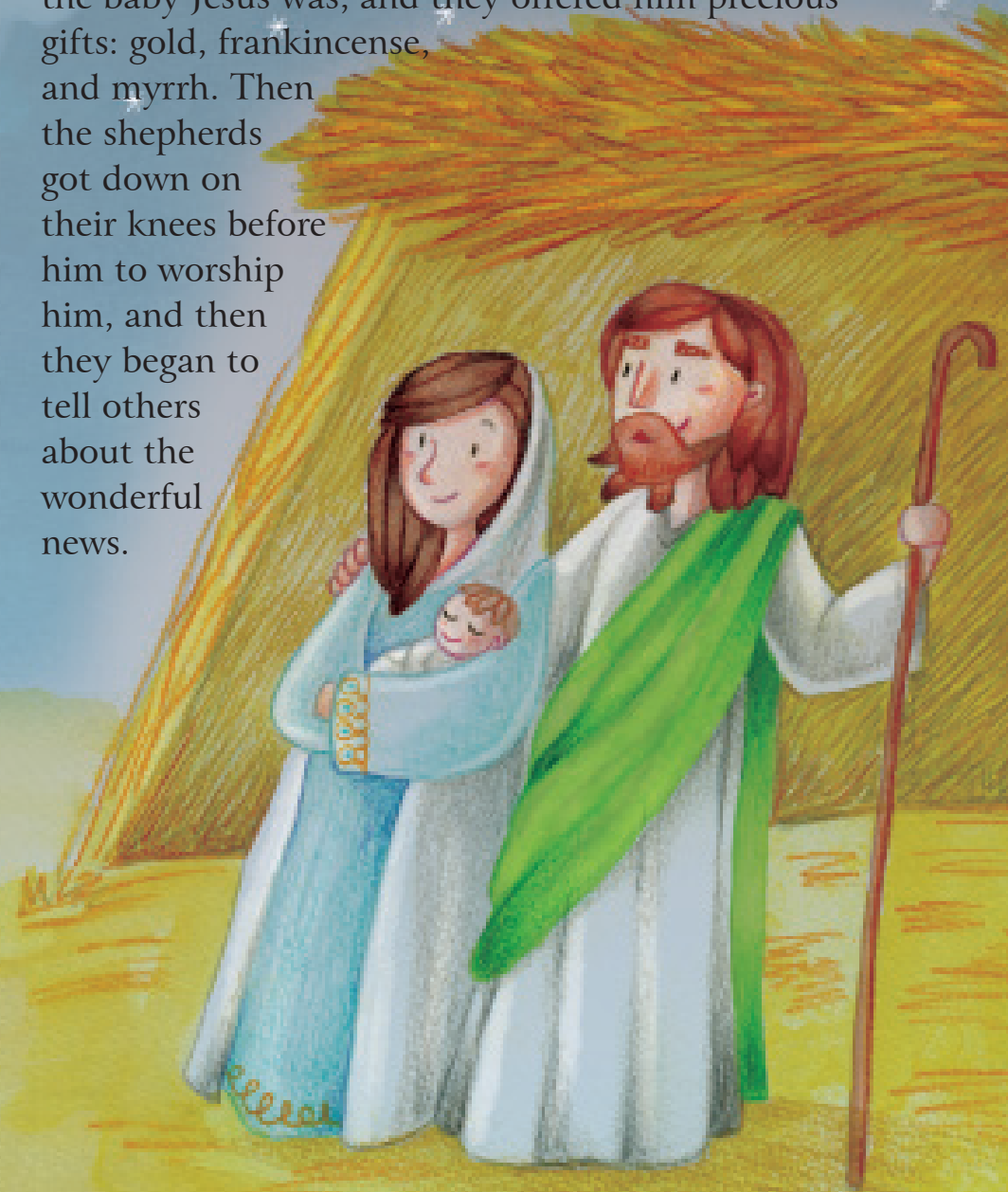


## O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

That night an angel appeared to some shepherds and told them, "I'm bringing you good news. Today the Son of God has been born. Go and see him." And the shepherds started on their way.



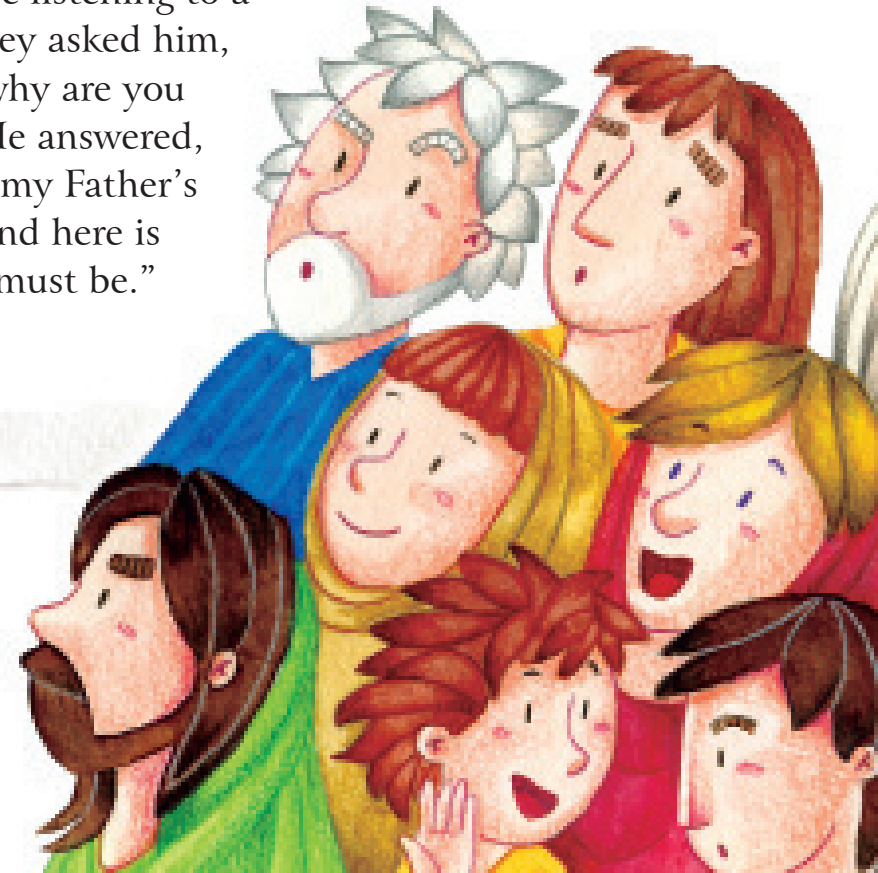
The star led the Three Kings right to the stable where the baby Jesus was, and they offered him precious gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then the shepherds got down on their knees before him to worship him, and then they began to tell others about the wonderful news.



## Jesus in the Temple

When Jesus was twelve years old, he went with his parents to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. On their way home they didn't find him in the group of travelers, and, worried, they went back to find him. He was in the temple talking with the teachers.

Very surprised that those wise men were listening to a child, they asked him, "Jesus, why are you here?" He answered, "This is my Father's house, and here is where I must be."



# Jesus's Baptism

John the Baptist was Jesus's cousin, and he lived in the desert. He was baptizing many people in the river Jordan. One day Jesus asked John to baptize him like the others, but John tried to refuse, because he knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

As John was baptizing Jesus, from heaven a voice was heard, saying, "You are my beloved Son." And the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, landed on Jesus.

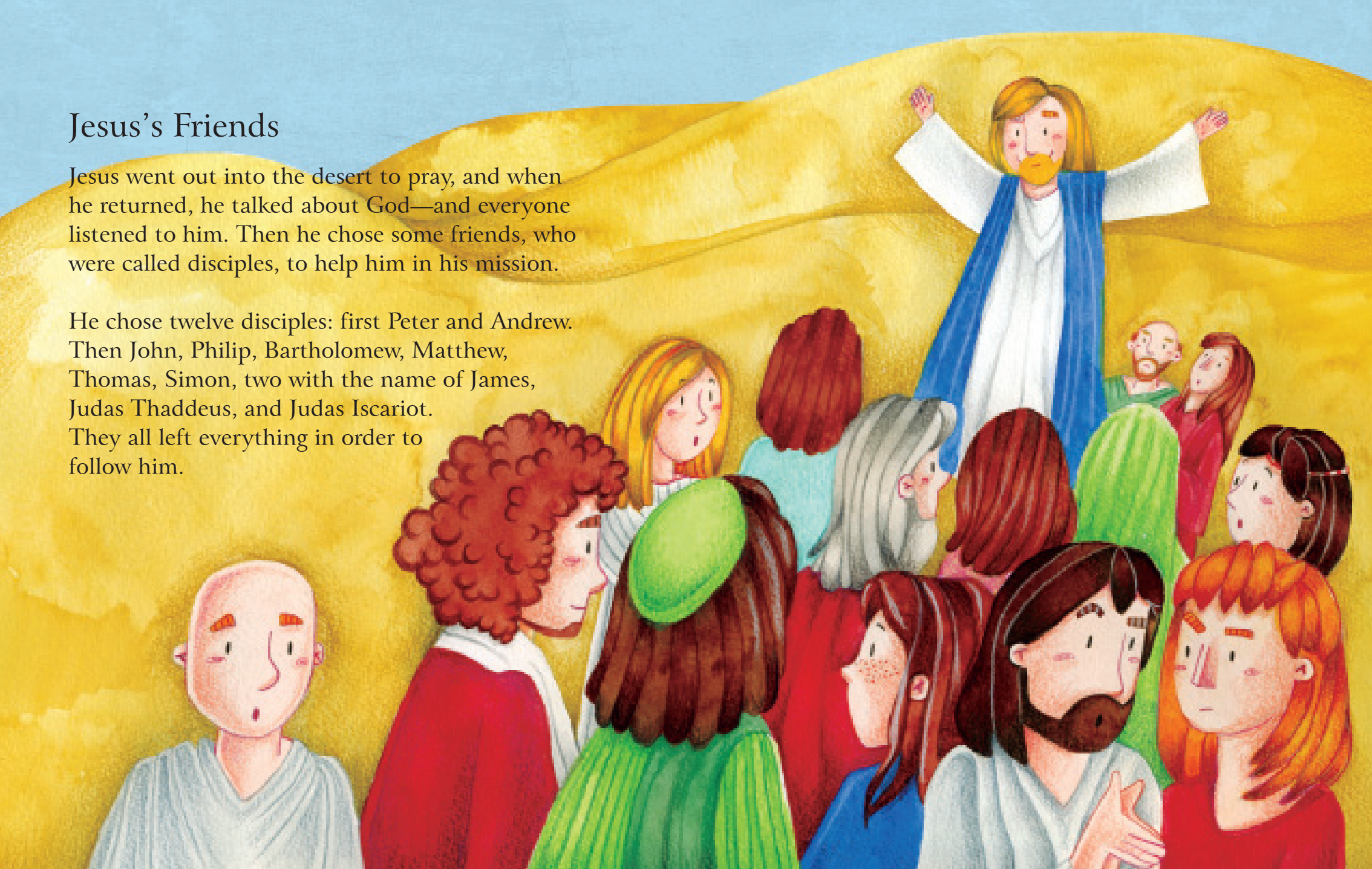




## Jesus's Friends

Jesus went out into the desert to pray, and when he returned, he talked about God—and everyone listened to him. Then he chose some friends, who were called disciples, to help him in his mission.

He chose twelve disciples: first Peter and Andrew. Then John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, Simon, two with the name of James, Judas Thaddeus, and Judas Iscariot. They all left everything in order to follow him.



# The Good Samaritan

One day Jesus told a story: “On the road from Jerusalem to Jericho some thieves attacked a man and left him badly wounded.

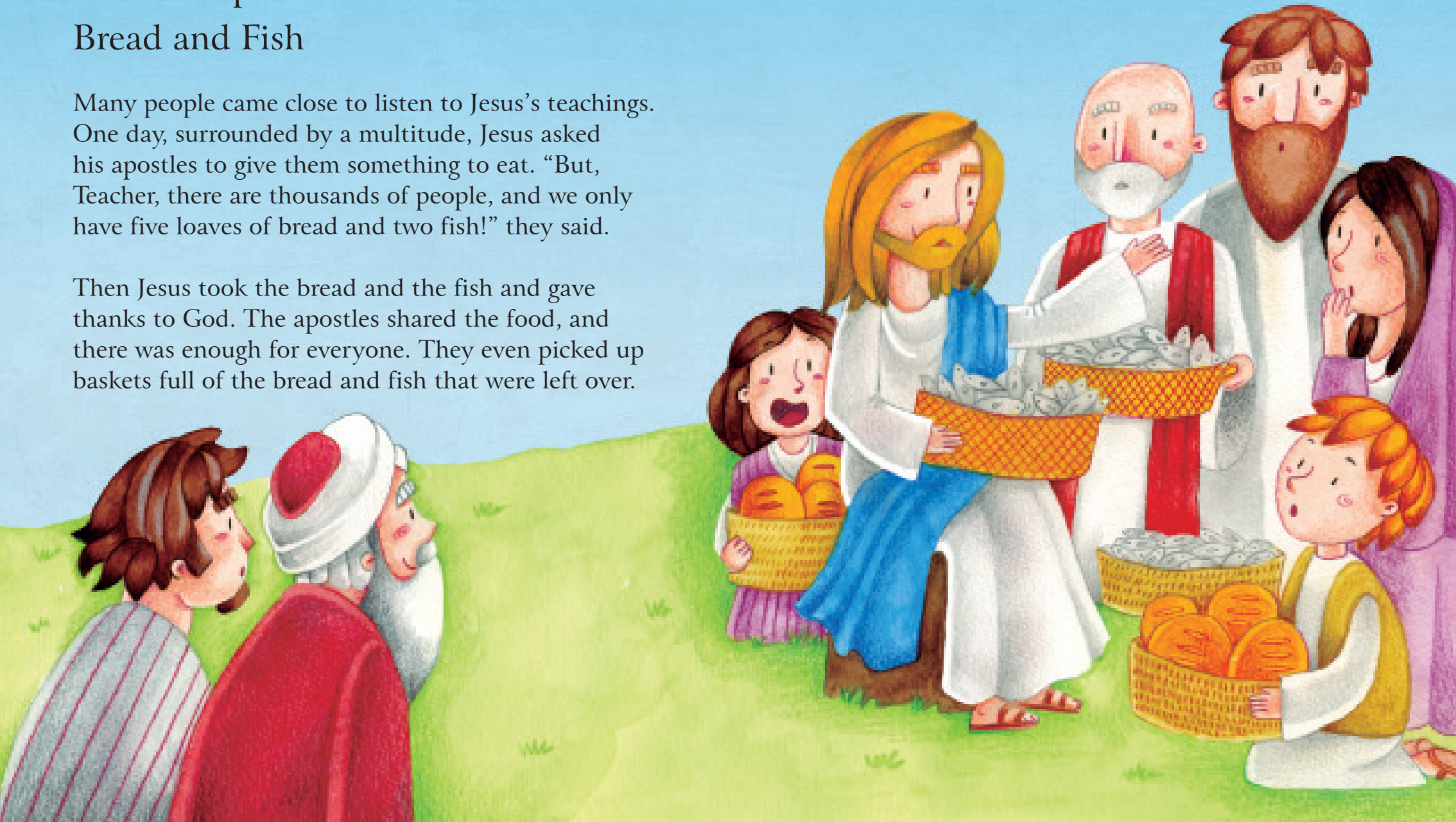
“Soon afterward a priest and a Levite passed by, but no one stopped to help him. Finally, a Samaritan passed by and picked him up, took care of him, and gave some money to an innkeeper so he would care for the wounded man.” Jesus told this story to explain who behaved well toward the man who had been hurt.



# The Multiplication of the Bread and Fish

Many people came close to listen to Jesus's teachings. One day, surrounded by a multitude, Jesus asked his apostles to give them something to eat. "But, Teacher, there are thousands of people, and we only have five loaves of bread and two fish!" they said.

Then Jesus took the bread and the fish and gave thanks to God. The apostles shared the food, and there was enough for everyone. They even picked up baskets full of the bread and fish that were left over.



## The Lost Sheep

One day Jesus explained that he is like a good shepherd: “The good shepherd always takes care of his sheep, and he would do anything for them. Imagine that you have a hundred sheep and you lose one. How would you feel?”

“You wouldn’t stop looking for your lost sheep until you found it. I am like the good shepherd who is looking for his lost sheep, and I will search for every one of you if you become lost.”





# Jesus Walks on the Water

On one occasion, the disciples were in a boat while Jesus was praying on the shore. Suddenly, they saw Jesus approaching, walking on the water. Simon Peter said, “Lord, can I also walk on the water?”

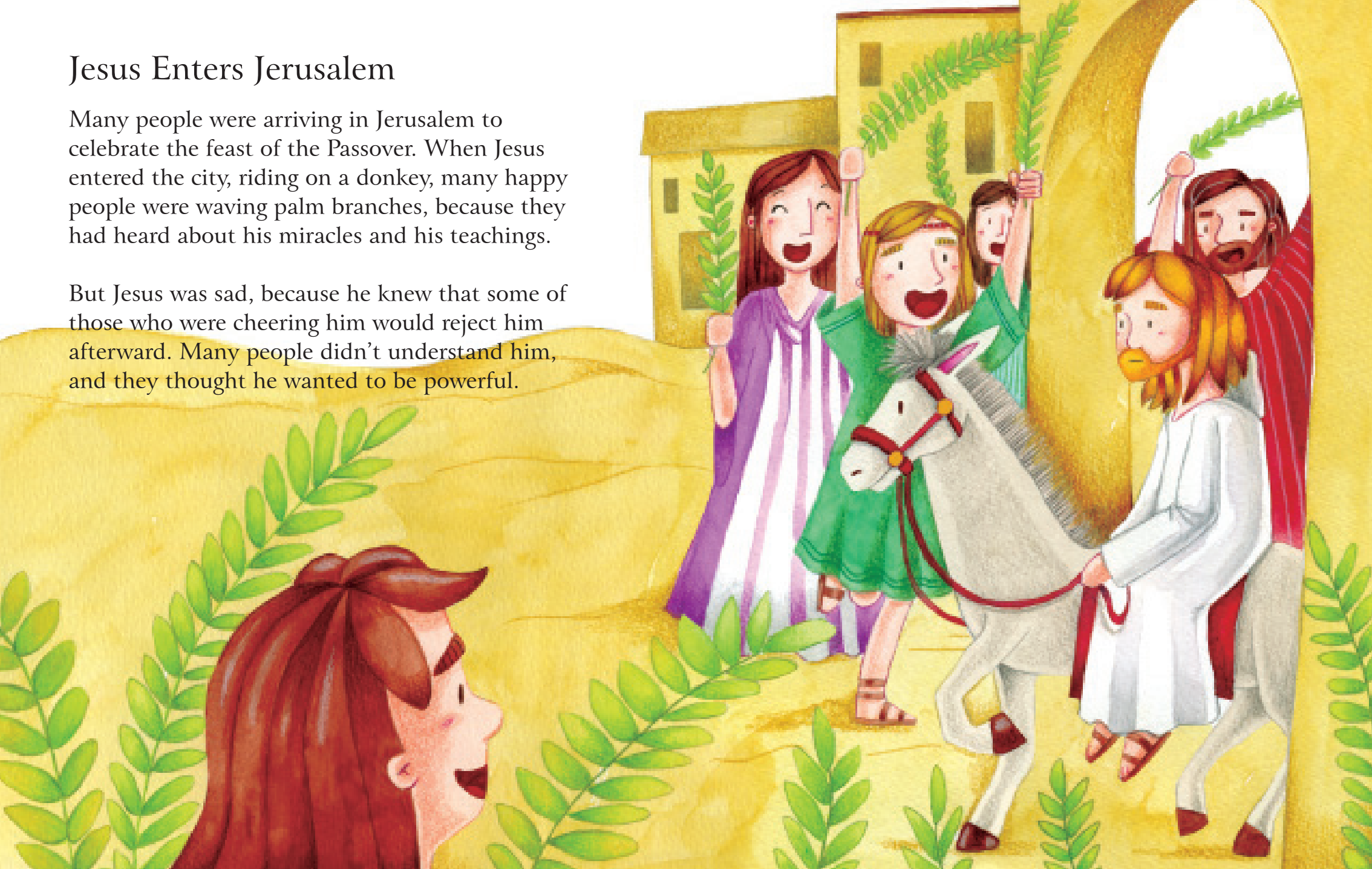
Jesus told him, “Come.” Peter began to walk but the wind came up and he was afraid. Jesus, to prevent him from sinking, took his hand and said, “You must have faith.”



## Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Many people were arriving in Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover. When Jesus entered the city, riding on a donkey, many happy people were waving palm branches, because they had heard about his miracles and his teachings.

But Jesus was sad, because he knew that some of those who were cheering him would reject him afterward. Many people didn't understand him, and they thought he wanted to be powerful.



# The Last Supper

Jesus knew that some would betray him, but first he wanted to have supper with his disciples. He washed their feet and told them, "Love one another as I have loved you."

During the supper Jesus also broke the bread, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you." Later he passed a cup of wine to them, saying, "Drink it, because this is my blood. Do this in memory of me." Afterward, Jesus and his disciples went to pray in a garden called Gethsemane.



## Jesus's Passion

While Jesus was praying in the garden, some Roman soldiers went to arrest him. The high priests and the Jewish authorities condemned Jesus as a traitor and accused him of saying he was the king of the Jews.

That Friday afternoon Jesus died on the cross. At that very moment the sky became dark and the earth trembled. Then many people murmured that Jesus really was the Son of God.





# Jesus Is Alive!

After that they buried Jesus in a tomb and closed it up with a big stone. After three days some women went to embalm the body, and they saw that the stone had been rolled aside.

The disciples were gathered in a house, and Jesus appeared in the midst of them, saying to them, "Peace be with you." Jesus had risen and will always be with us!

