

JESUSMYROLE Model

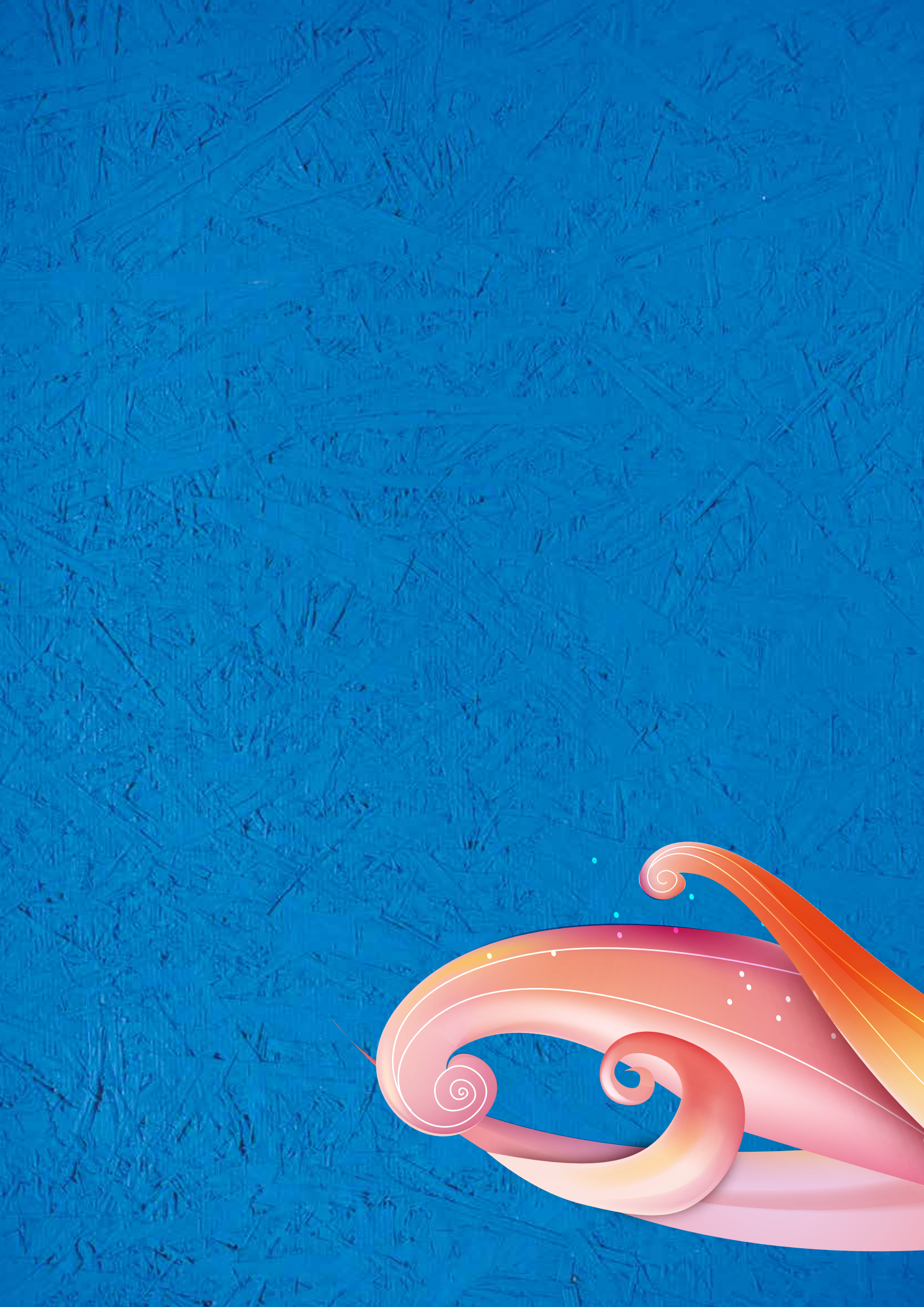


JESUSMYROLE

Model

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Presentation

Dear friends,

Time seems to fly! One starts a project, and without realising it, one finds that one is already half way through it, in no time at all. This is what actually happens in the information lessons we are holding in order to know more about Jesus and learn how to live as Christians, now that we are growing up.

During our meetings this year, we will discover how Jesus builds us up to be persons who can make the right choices in life. As we grow older, we become aware that even very basic choices in our everyday life can be difficult. This should not discourage us if we keep in mind that we are special persons to Jesus; we will never lack anything with him by our side.

The team together with Fr Carl-Mario Sultana

Production of the Secretariat for Catechesis 2016

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Contents

1. He builds me up to be strong

Understanding myself and my identity	2
A look at what others feel	4
God gives me freedom to choose	6
What am I to do? How can I help?	8
Why does evil exist?	10
What makes an action good or bad?	12
How can I build a strong character?	14
In the footsteps of the saints	16

3. I leave it all in his hands

God sees deep within us	42
I am a special person to God	44
A courageous heart	46
How do we cultivate a courageous heart?	48
A heart full of friendship	50
How do we strengthen our friendships?	52

5. Through him I lack nothing

Who among you is without sin?	74
The hidden story	76
A merciful person	78
Avoiding prejudice	80
The first witness!	82
God has a mission for us	84
The voice among many voices	86
Let us celebrate our faith	88

2. He makes me a responsible person

Life is a gift from God	20
To follow the right road	22
Wisdom: Between rocks and sand	24
How can I live the virtue of wisdom?	26
Justice: The rich man and Lazarus	28
How to fight injustices	30
Strength: Going against the current	32
Where do I get this strength from?	34
Balance: Finding balance in life	36
Jesus was there for everyone	38

4. We are special to him

Moments of weakness	56
Avoiding selfishness	58
Returning to the right road	60
Seeking help	62
Peter's mistake	64
Peter's remorse.	66
How does God communicate with us?	68
A heart open to God	70







**HE
BUILDS
ME UP
TO BE**
strong

1

Understanding myself and my Identity

How do you describe yourself in a few words? Do you find this difficult to do like many others? But, if you stop to reflect, you will find that there are some things that are very important to you. Without them you are not you! Today we are going to talk about them.

STICK A PHOTO OF YOURSELF

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME

God is good all the time
He put a song of praise
in the heart of mine.
God is good all the time
Through the darkest night,
His light will shine.
God is good,
God is good all the time.

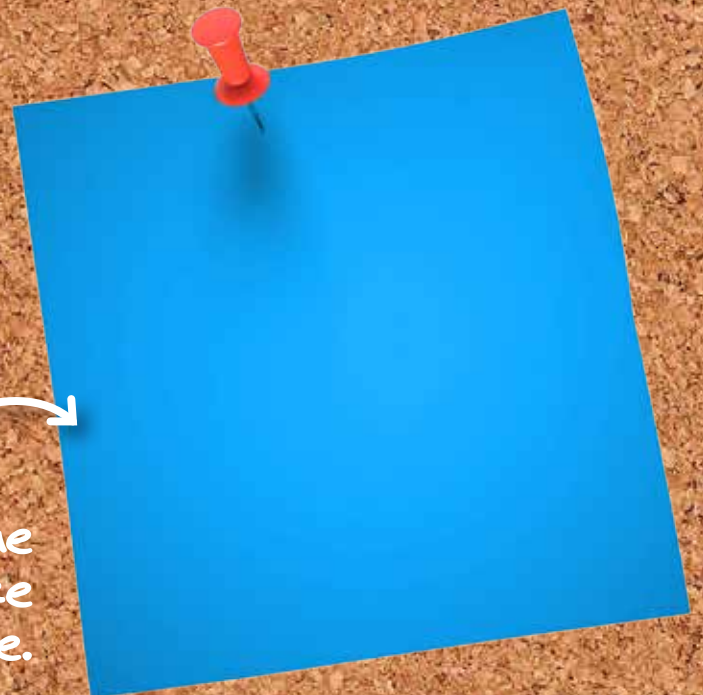
If you're walking through the valleys
And there are shadows all around.
Do not fear, He will guide you
He will keep you safe and sound.
He has promised to never leave you
Nor forsake you, and His word is true.

God is good all the time
He put a song of praise
in the heart of mine.
God is good all the time
Through the darkest night,
His light will shine.
God is good, God is good,
God is good, He is so good
God is good,
God is good all the time.

This is I 

These are not I

HERE STICK PICTURES OF OTHER
PEOPLE FROM MAGAZINES OR
NEWSPAPERS.



Finally, write down some
characteristics that make
you unique.

A look at what others feel


HERE STICK THE PAPER ON WHICH YOU WROTE HOW YOU LOOK AT YOURSELF.

Draw the emotions which they are feeling

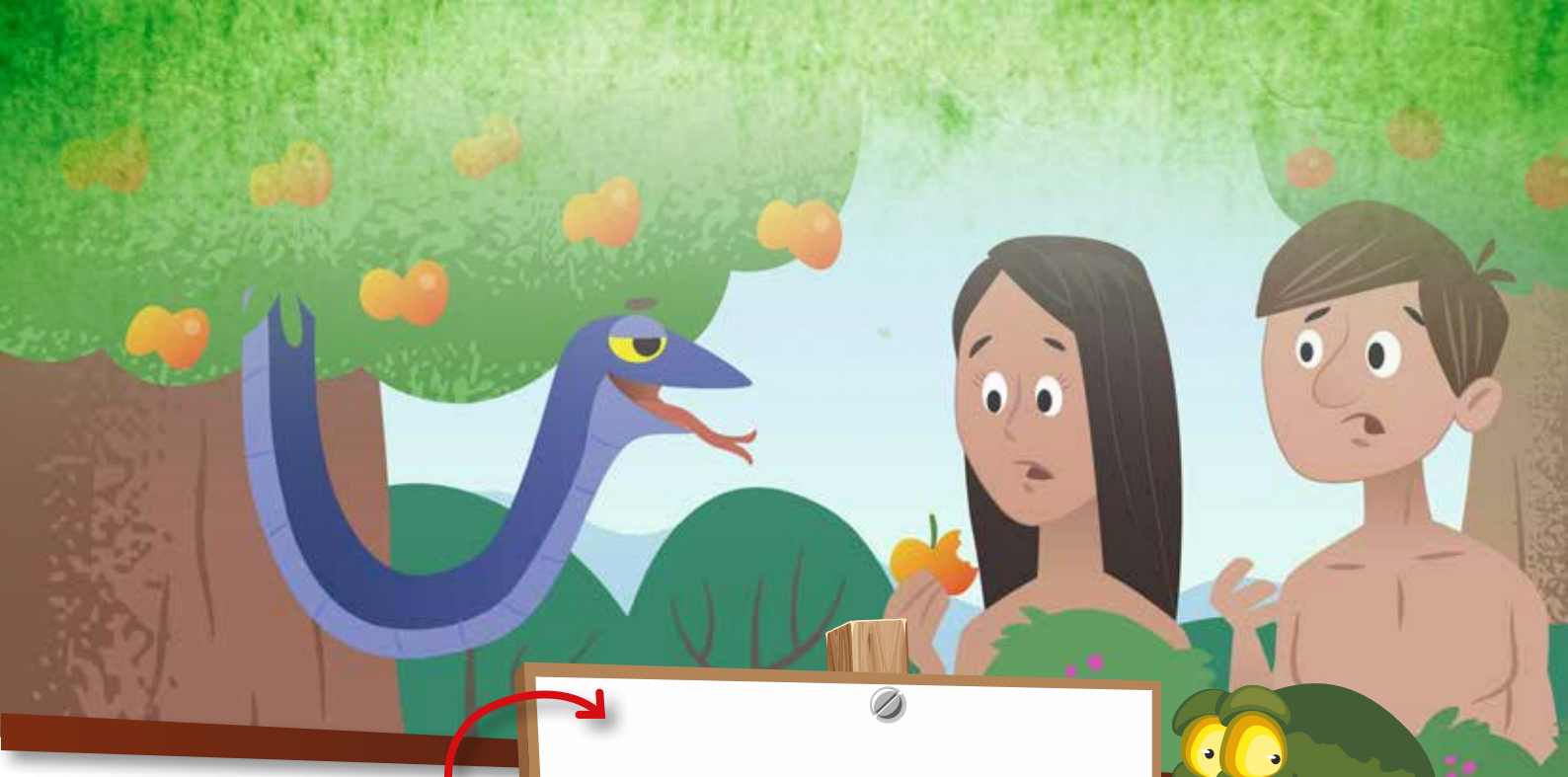
HERE STICK THE PAPER ON WHICH YOUR FRIENDS WROTE HOW THEY LOOK AT YOU.



God gives me freedom to choose....

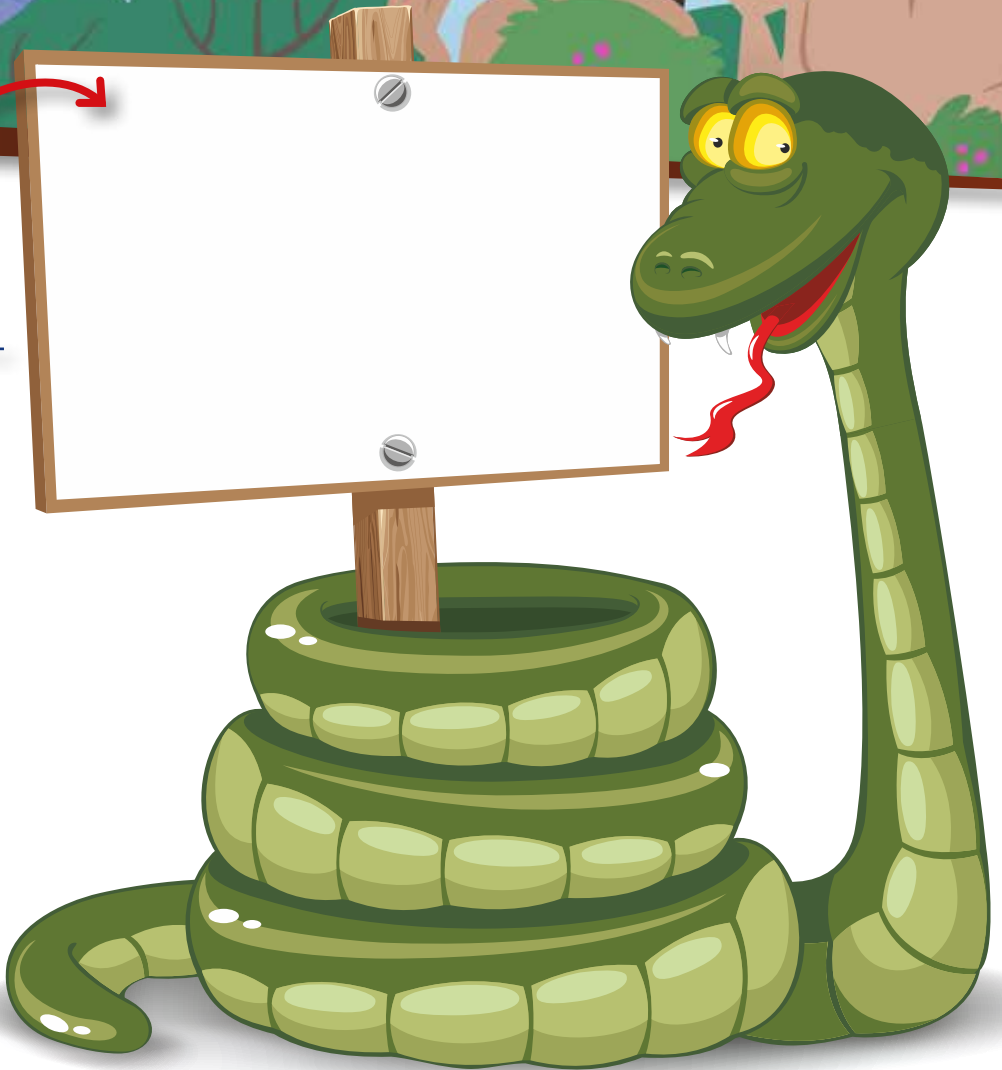
A young girl with a red hood and a blue dress is walking through a forest. She is carrying a large wicker basket filled with white fabric. The background shows a large tree trunk on the left and a path leading into the woods with some red flowers in the foreground.

If we stop for a moment to think, we shall realise that in life we are continuously making choices.... What are we going to wear? What game are we going to play? Which programmes are we going to watch on television? Which of our friends are we going to meet? The list of our choices is endless. Some of these decisions are not hard to take and do not cause any ill-effects, either way, but there are others whose impact on us is greater. Therefore, it is important that before we make these decisions, we reflect on how they will affect us. The story of the girl in the red hood is an example of how our choices may affect our lives.



In this space, list some of the difficulties you encounter.

In the rest of the page, write down those things in life that help you.



What am I to do?

How can I help?

What do we do when we meet someone who is sad or ill? Our first reaction might be to remain aloof and let others worry. But, at the bottom of our hearts, we all have that secret wish to help others. Patch Adams revealed his secret wish when he went to hospital wards to help others the way he knew.

Hereunder write about what Patch Adams did and the effects his actions had on others.

SHEPHERD OF MY SOUL

Shepherd of my soul I give you full control,
Wherever You may lead I will follow.
I have made the choice to listen to Your voice,
Wherever You may lead I will go.

Be it in a quiet pasture or by a gentle stream,
The Shepherd of my soul is by my side.
Should I face a mighty mountain or a valley dark and deep,
The Shepherd of my soul will be my guide.

*Write a prayer to God to help you make a difference
in the lives of others in times of need.*

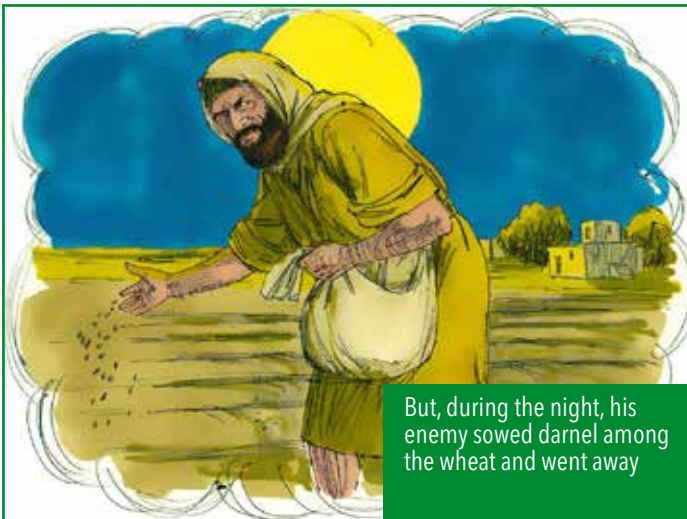
Why does evil exist?



The parable of the wheat and the darnel. Mt 13, 24-43



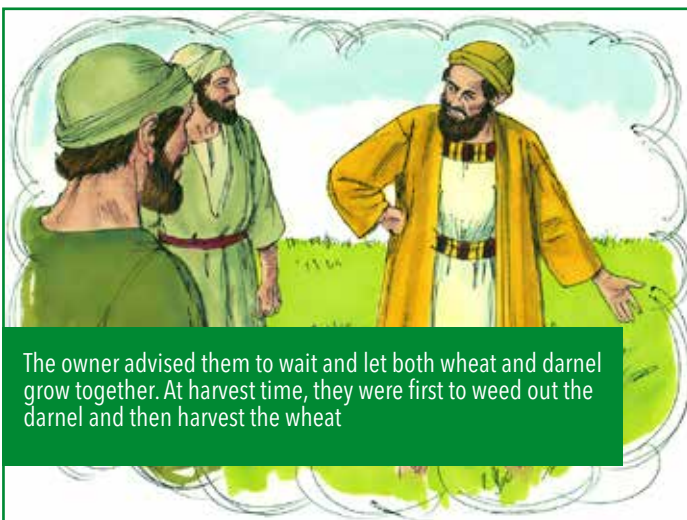
Once, there was a man who sowed in his field the best seeds he could buy.



But, during the night, his enemy sowed darnel among the wheat and went away



When the wheat sprouted, the labourers noticed the darnel and asked the owner of the field if they could uproot it.



The owner advised them to wait and let both wheat and darnel grow together. At harvest time, they were first to weed out the darnel and then harvest the wheat

DISCUSSION:

1. Why, do you think, the owner of the field wanted the darnel to grow alongside the wheat?
2. What was Jesus thinking of when he spoke about the darnel?
3. Why can't we get rid of the darnel from the very first?
4. What can we do not to let the darnel affect us?

What was Jesus thinking of when he talked about the wheat
and the darnel?
Try to find examples and stick the pictures in the blank spaces.

The Darnel

The Wheat

What makes an action good or bad?



The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit...

for they will be comforted.

Blessed are those who mourn...

for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the meek...

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after justice

for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are the merciful...

for they will see God.

Blessed are the pure in heart...

for they will find mercy.

Blessed are the peacemakers...

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who are persecuted in my name...

for they will be called sons of God.

THE BEATITUDES SONG

Blessed are the poor in spirit
those who see the sin in their hearts.
Blessed are the ones who are weeping
'cause sin has torn the whole world apart.

Blessed are the meek and humble
God will freely give them all things.
Blessed are the ones who are hungry
and thirst for justice and wait on their King.

We are the salt of the earth
so we're gonna shake, shake, shake
like a salt shaker.
We are the light of the world
so we're gonna shine, shine, shine
till the night's no more.
We're gonna shine, shine, shine
till the night's no more.

Blessed are the merciful
whose sins are forgiven so they can forgive.
Blessed are the pure in heart
God will show his face to them.

We are the salt of the earth
so we're gonna shake, shake, shake
like a salt shaker.
We are the light of the world
so we're gonna shine, shine, shine
till the night's no more.
We're gonna shine, shine, shine
till the night's no more.

Blessed are the ones who make peace
loving others with the Saviour's love.
Blessed are those bullied for their faith
Great in God's Kingdom will be their reward.

We are the salt of the earth
so we're gonna shake, shake, shake
like a salt shaker.
We are the light of the world
so we're gonna shine, shine, shine
till the night's no more.
We are the salt of the earth
so we're gonna shake, shake, shake
like a salt shaker.
We are the light of the world
so we're gonna shine, shine, shine
till the night's no more.
We're gonna shine, shine, shine
till the night's no more.

How can I build a strong character?



What do I need to be a disciple of Jesus today? What qualities do I have to foster? Around the drawing of the heart, write down those qualities which you think may help you to follow in the steps of Jesus.

In this space stick the pictures of people whom
you admire for their strong character.

I AM COUNTING ON GOD

Joy unspeakable that won't go away,
and just enough strength to live for today.
So I never have to worry what tomorrow will bring
'cause my faith is on solid rock.
I am counting on God.

I am counting on, I am counting on God.
I am counting on, I am counting on God.
I am counting on, I am counting on God.
I am counting on, I am counting on God.

In the Saints' footsteps...

Though we barely realise it, there are many things around us which may help us walk in Jesus' footsteps. Among these, there are family members, priests, catechists and other people who, by word or example, help us to become better persons. Above all, there are the saints who came before us and succeeded in getting where we all wish to go. We may be greatly helped by them on our pilgrimage behind Jesus.



Find the hidden words:
Jesus, Nicodemus, Pharisee, truth, teacher, birth, new.

a n e w b d f b c J d a c
c e g k j b e i l e j d i
x a c h P h a r i s e e b
d t d k e b m t c u a o g
e r n a c q d h l s c d w
i u d m j a p e d f h a b
f t e a c h e r c p j b v
g h l c f b n i a h o d g
i h m i r h k j s k t a u
b l c N i c o d e m u s a

Write a prayer to God to help you build a strong character.



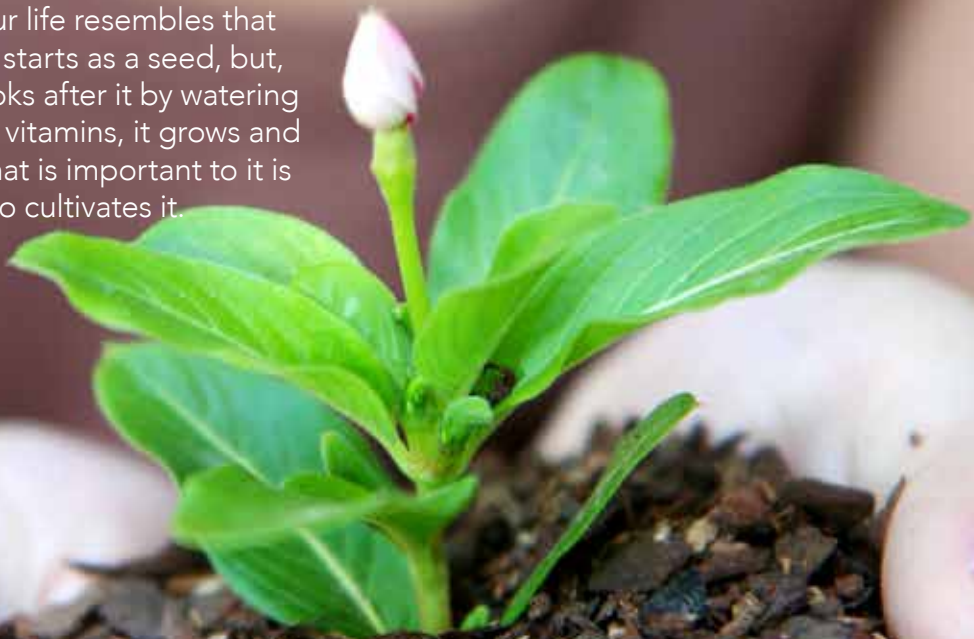


**He makes
me a
responsible
person**

2

Life is a gift from God

Sometimes, our life resembles that of a plant. Life starts as a seed, but, if someone looks after it by watering it and giving it vitamins, it grows and bears fruit. What is important to it is the person who cultivates it.



HOW BEAUTIFUL LIFE IS!

Kemm hi sabiħa l-ħajja,
Sabiħa l-ħajja, sabiħa l-ħajja
Meta inti jkollok is-sliem fil-qalb
Kemm hi sabiħa l-ħajja,
Sabiħa l-ħajja, sabiħa l-ħajja
Meta inti tkun ferħan.

**Ġesù Kristu ġie
bħala Salvatur
Ha jsalvak mid-dnub,
jagħmlek bniedem pur. (x2)**

**Ġesù Kristu ġieb
vera paċi u sliem
U jagħti ħelsien
lil min m'għandux sliem. (x2)**

**Ġesù Kristu ħaj
bħala l-kbir qassis;
U lest biex jurik
kif issir qaddis. (x2)**

**Ġesù Kristu hu dak
li jagħti s-serħ;
Jidħol fik u lest
biex jimliek bil-ferħ. (x2)**

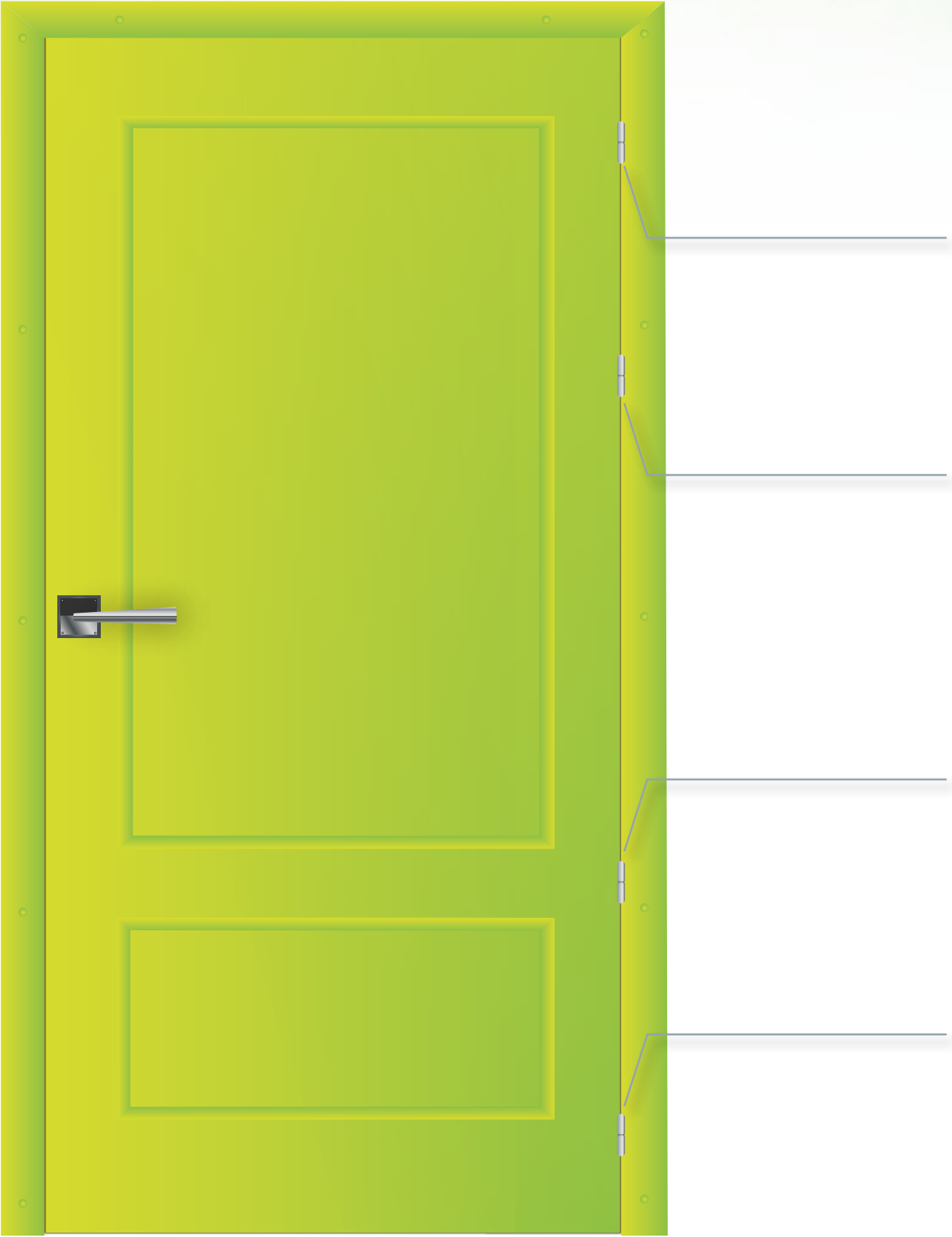
IN THIS SPACE STICK A PAPER ON WHICH YOU
HAVE LISTED ANY BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCES



To follow the right road...

How do we know which is the right road? The world is full of roads, some of which lead us to God while others take us away from him. But, God has not left us alone in front of this great decision. Through those who love us, God teaches us, cares for us and sees that we are going in the right direction. One type of aid with which he provides us on our journey consists of four qualities, which are strong tools in our hands if we allow them to grow within us.

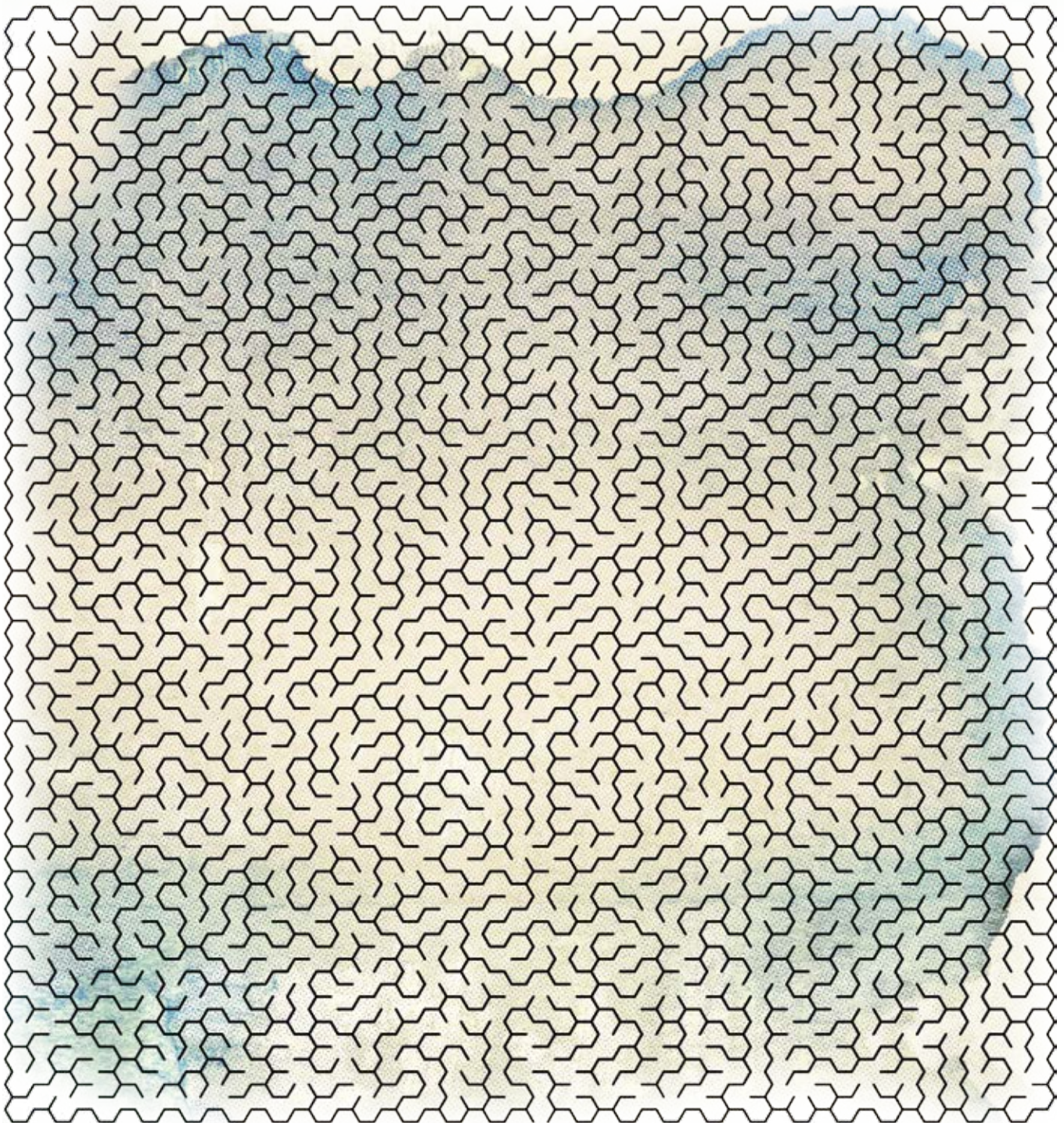
On the door, list the good deeds you do. Near the hinges, write down the cardinal virtues.



Wisdom

Between rock and sand

Start from here



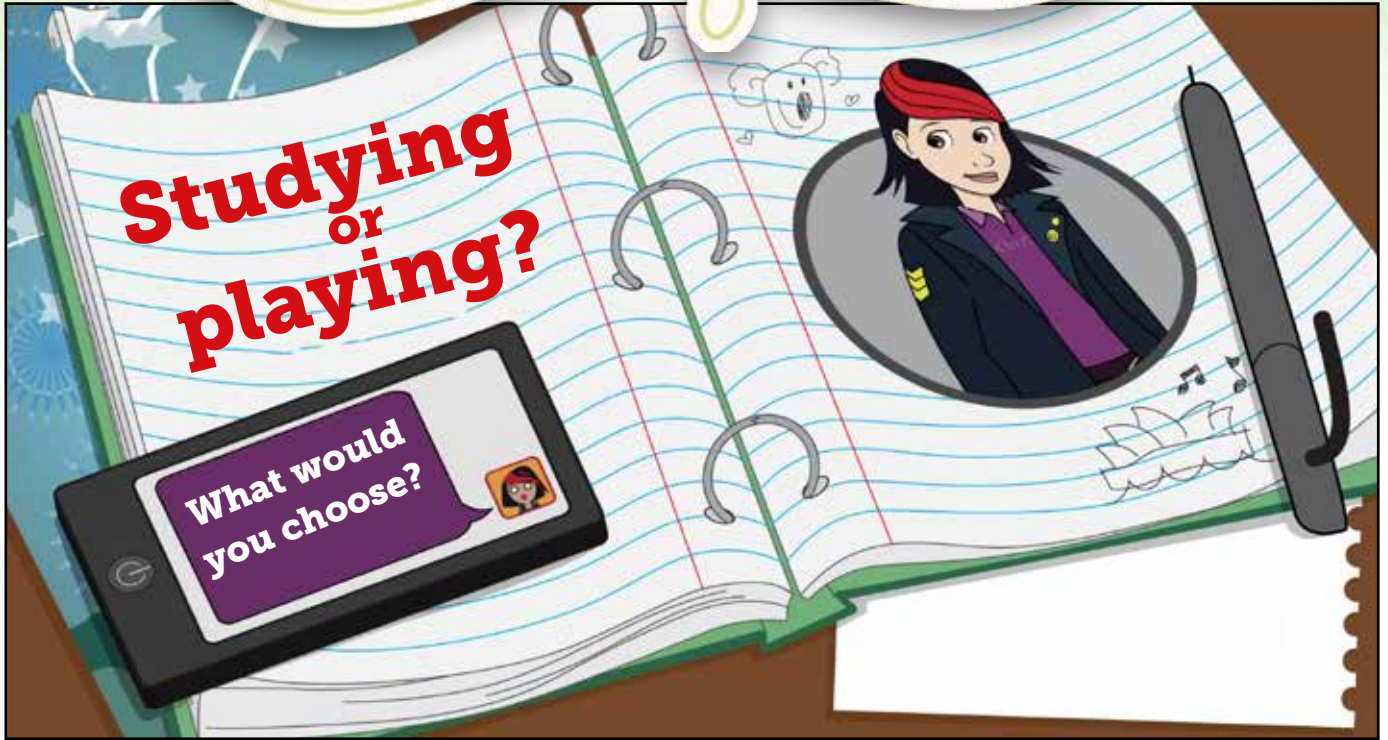
to finish here

The house of wisdom



How can our life be built on strong foundations?

How do I live the virtue of wisdom?



Wisdom is the first of the virtues upon which we build our lives. These pictures relate the story of Amy and her friends, who are overjoyed because at last, the game they have long been waiting for, is on sale. But, the school teacher will be giving them a test next morning. What is Amy going to do? Is she going to be wise and make the right choice?



THE NEXT DAY IN CLASS

Tomorrow you will be given a test on Chapters 3 and 4. Come prepared.



BACK AT HOME



Amy! Aren't you on line? Did you try the game? I have already passed the first two levels. It is much more beautiful than I expected. Get connected to the Internet so that I will show you what I have done.

Amy! Aren't you online? Did you try the game? I have already passed the first two levels.



What do you think Amy should do?

Justice:

The rich man and Lazarus

Many times, Jesus taught by telling short stories, which we call parables. These parables are clearly understood by listeners and do not need long explanations afterwards. Once, Jesus narrated the story of a rich man, who lived a life of luxury, and of a poor man called Lazarus. When they died, they both received what they deserved: the poor man enjoyed happiness in heaven, while the rich man, who had squandered his wealth and never helped the needy, ended in a place of suffering. Read the story in the gospel of St. Luke, Chapter 16: 19 – 31.

Which injustices affect you most?

Write a letter to God asking him to help you be just.

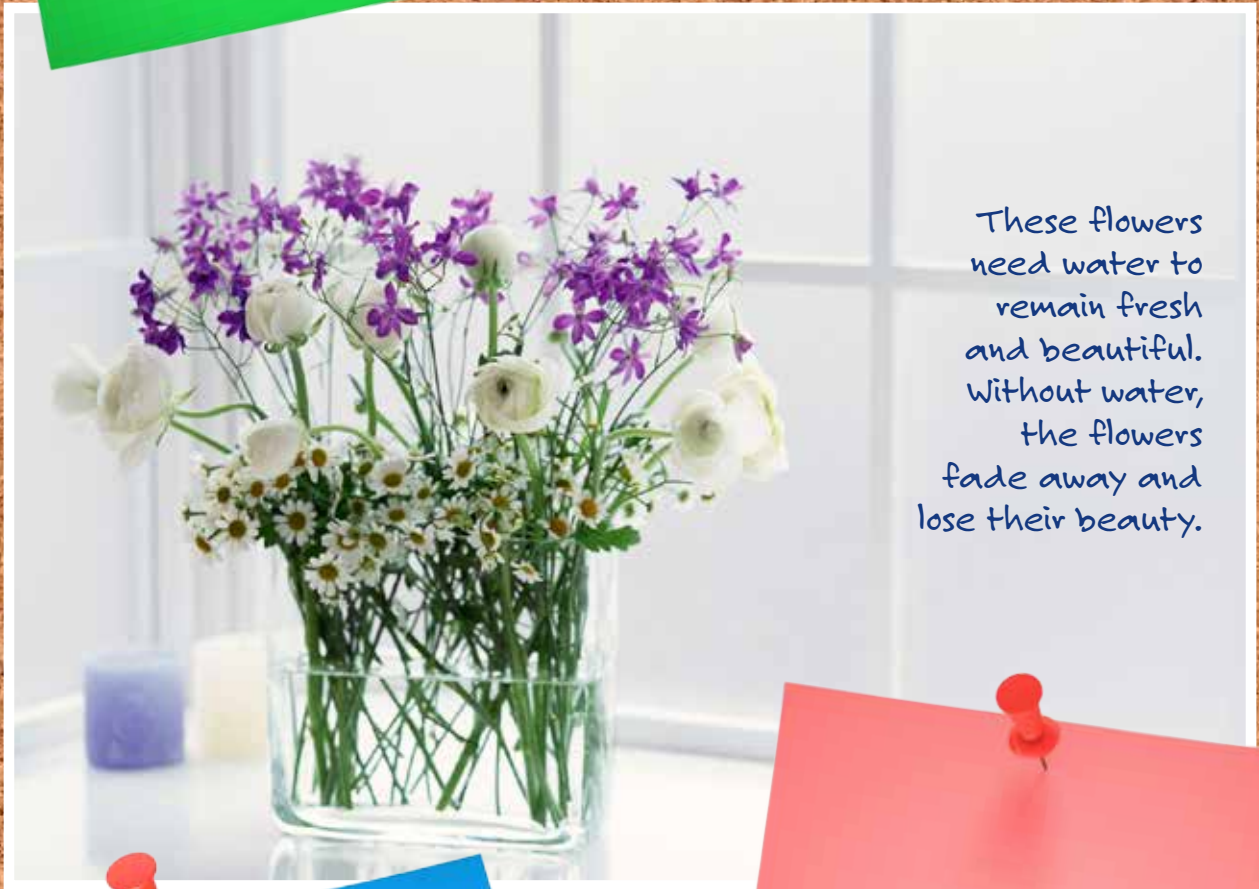
How to fight Injustices

Sister Theresa had already been helping children in India. But once, she saw the great poverty that existed in a neighbouring town and felt that she could do more. God was calling her to care for those who had been deserted by their loved ones. From then on, Mother Theresa started a new mission within the Church, which is today widespread all over the world. Mother Theresa is an example to us to work for greater justice in the world, not only by words, but by trying to redress any injustices we happen to meet.





In the three coloured spaces list those things with which our life remains a just one.



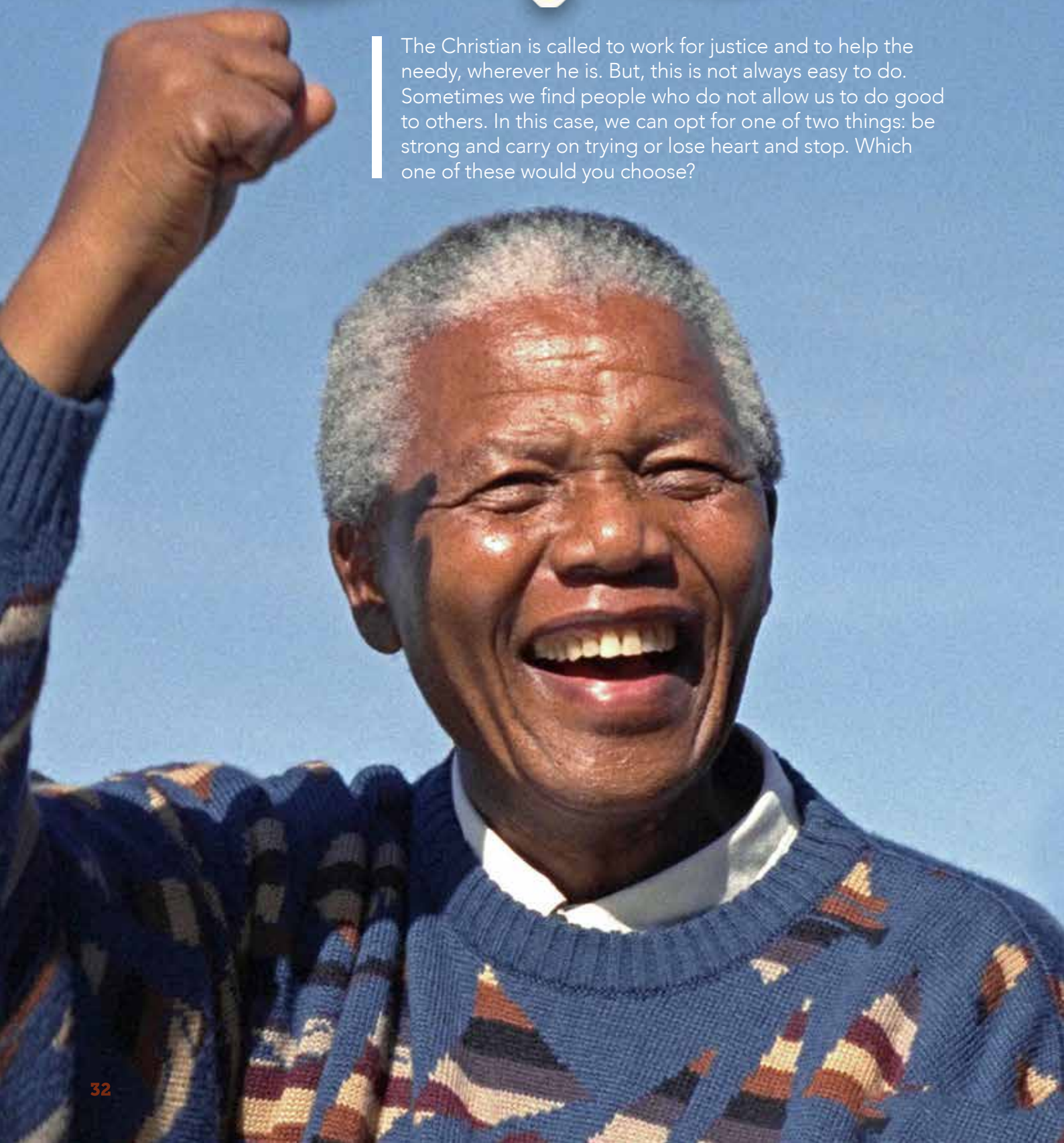
These flowers need water to remain fresh and beautiful. Without water, the flowers fade away and lose their beauty.



Strength:

going against the current

The Christian is called to work for justice and to help the needy, wherever he is. But, this is not always easy to do. Sometimes we find people who do not allow us to do good to others. In this case, we can opt for one of two things: be strong and carry on trying or lose heart and stop. Which one of these would you choose?



Look up the story of another person who showed great strength of character in his/her life and briefly write down this story.

STICK A PHOTO OF THE PERSON YOU ARE WRITING ABOUT.

Where do I get the strength from?

JESUS YOU ARE MY SUPERHERO

He's the one who makes the sun shine
He's the one who puts the moon in the sky
He's the one who hangs the stars
One by one.

He's the one who makes the birds sing
He's the one who makes your dreams so high
He's the one who makes me smile
Day by day.

**Jesus you're my superhero
You're my star, my best friend
Jesus you're my superhero
You're my star, my best friend.**

Better than Spiderman
Better than Superman
Better than Batman
Better than anyone.

**Jesus you're my superhero
You're my star, my best friend
Jesus you're my superhero
You're my star, my best friend.**

Better than Yu Gi Yo
Better than Barbie
Better than Action Man
Better than anyone.

**Jesus you're my superhero
You're my star, my best friend
Jesus you're my superhero
You're my star, my best friend.**



Write down examples when you need the virtue of strength.



Balance:

Finding balance in life

Everyone has favourite and less favourite things in life. If we are not careful, we will find ourselves doing only our favourite things, finding no time for the less pleasing ones. But, in our life we must have balance and find time for everything. Imagine if we were to spend all our days playing and watching TV; we would not sleep or eat or do exercise. Do you think this would be good for our health? The same thing applies when we spend whole days without exercising our brains by reading and studying. Therefore, our days must be well planned. School helps us a little to find this balance, but we still need to learn how to plan our time so that we will obtain the virtue of balance.





I sleep

I get up

I revise what we have done at school

I do my homework

I go to the Catholic Doctrine class

I help others

I get washed

I go to school

I play

I watch TV

I eat



My typical day

6AM

7AM

8AM

9AM

10AM

11AM

12PM

1PM

2PM

3PM

4PM

5PM

6PM

7PM

8PM

9PM

10PM

I chat with my parents

I attend music or drama lesson

I pray

I meet with my friends

Jesus was there for everyone



Among the many role models existing, Jesus surely holds a special place for Catholics, or better still, for Christians, as he is the person we should model our lives on. In his life, Jesus was always ready to help those who needed him: children and adults, the poor and the rich, the healthy and the sick. They all needed help and Jesus was there to give it.

Wherever he went, Jesus found great crowds waiting for him. Some were there to listen to him or to talk to him. Many others wanted him to help them with his miracles. This was a typical day for Jesus.

HERE STICK THE PAPER YOU USED FOR THE CLASS EXERCISE.

GOD IS WATCHING OVER YOU

When you're jumping,
jumping up and down.
When you're spinning,
spinning round and round.
God's seeing
everything you do.
Cause he's watching,
watching over you.
Hey!

**God is watching
watching over you.
24 / 7 watching over you.
Your life is in his hands,
woah, woah,
He's got great big plans,
cause he's watching over you.**

When you're waving
your hands are up in the air,
when you're shouting
no matter when or where,
God's seeing
everything you do.
Cause' he's watching
watching over you
Hey!

**God is watching
watching over you.
24 / 7 watching over you.
Your life is in his hands,
woah, woah,
He's got great big plans,
cause he's watching over you.**

**God is watching
watching over you.
24 / 7 watching over you.
Your life is in his hands,
woah, woah,
He's got great big plans,
Woah...**

**God is watching
watching over you.
24 / 7 watching over you.
Your life is in his hands,
woah, woah,
He's got great big plans,
cause he's watching over you.**



**I leave it
all in his
hands**

3

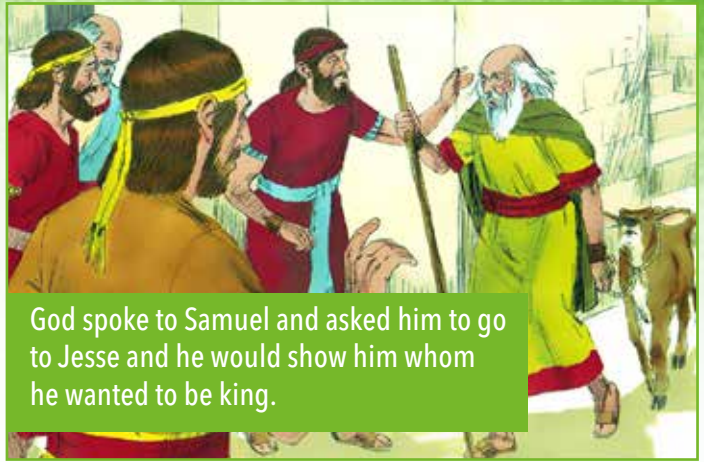
God sees deep within us

When God chooses somebody, he does not look at how intelligent, capable or popular the person is. God chooses someone who loves him and who wishes to do good in his life. We find many instances in the Bible where God chooses somebody relatively unknown or unpopular and through him God performs great things. What is important to God is what lies deep in the heart.

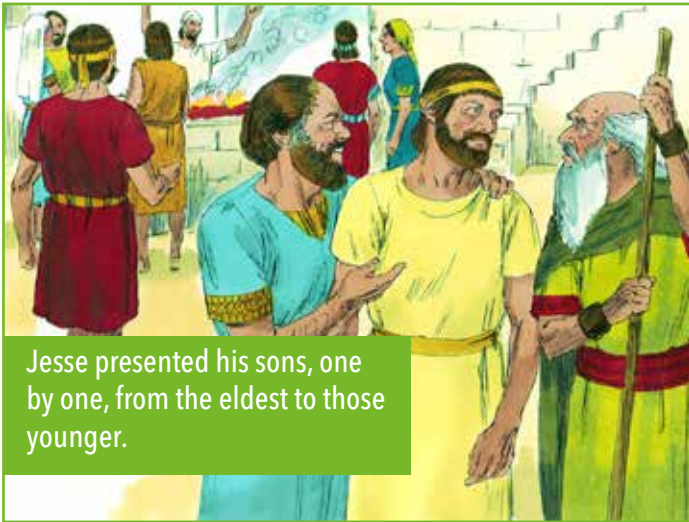


God sends Samuel to choose a new king

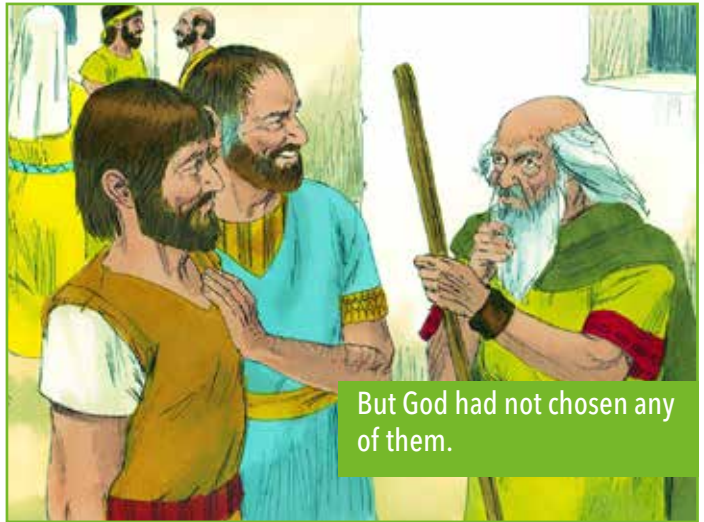
1 Sam 15, 1-23



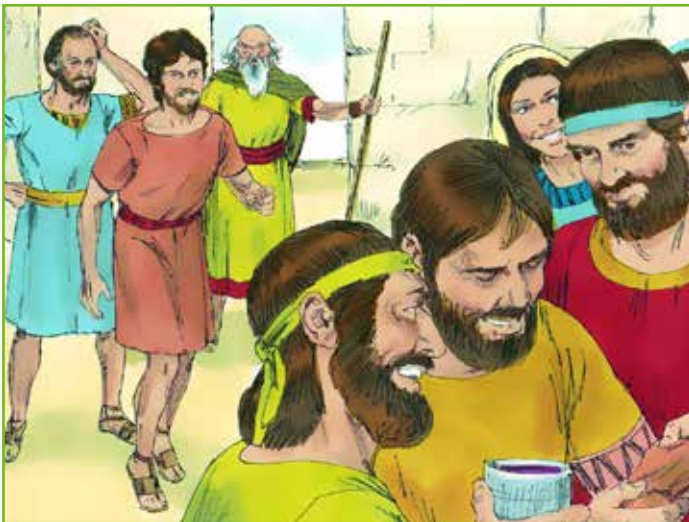
God spoke to Samuel and asked him to go to Jesse and he would show him whom he wanted to be king.



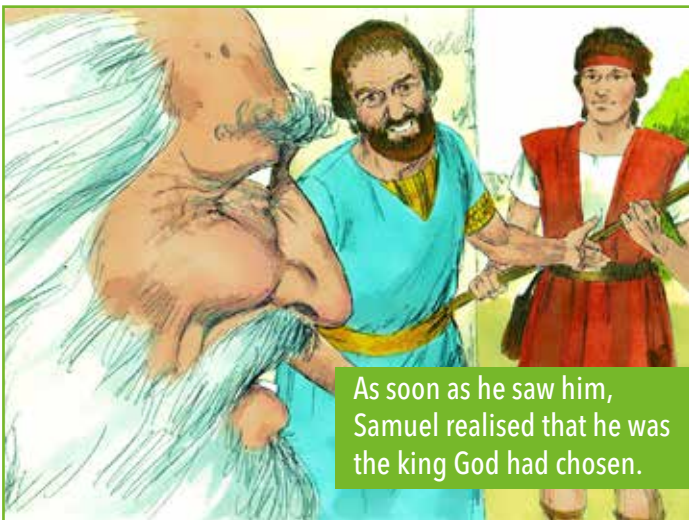
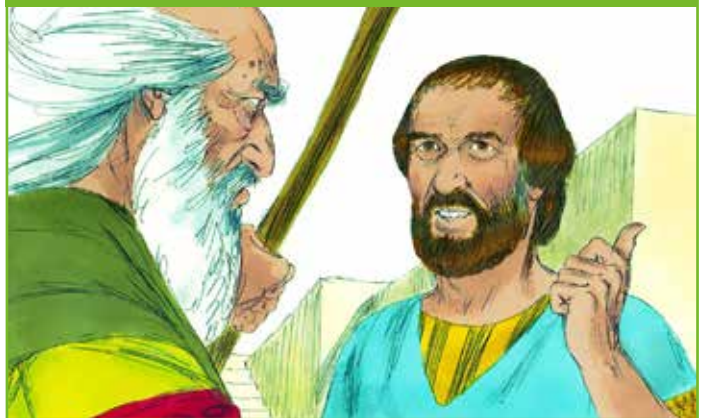
Jesse presented his sons, one by one, from the eldest to those younger.



But God had not chosen any of them.



Then Samuel asked if there were any more children and Jesse said that the youngest one was guarding sheep.



As soon as he saw him, Samuel realised that he was the king God had chosen.

DISCUSSION:

1. Why did God not want King Saul ?
2. Whose son was going to become the new king?
3. Why did Samuel think that Jesse's eldest boy was going to become king?
4. Man sees persons as they appear externally. What does God see?
5. David was not with his brothers when Samuel arrived. Where was he?

I am a special person to God

Each and everyone of us has many talents and good qualities. But, it is not always easy to be aware of them. Often it is difficult to tell straight away if a person is good hearted or not. It is also difficult to grasp from a person's appearance whether that person is going to be a good friend. It seems that these qualities are deeply hidden and to discover them one has to get to know the person, little by little.



I

and I am a special person to God

BELOVED CHILD

Ohhh, yeah (2x)

My day is filled with smiles
The sadness is gone. Joy is in my heart
This happiness I can't deny,
Oh God, You are the reason why
Ohhh, yeah.

You blessed me with a home
a family to take care of me,
I'll never be alone.
With brothers and sisters and so many friends You
blessed me, yeah.

**I am your beloved child, oh God
You make all things oh so wonderful,
I am your beloved child, oh God
And I will be forever thankful, forever faithful.**

Ohhh, yeah (x2).

A Courageous heart



In the Bible we read stories of many courageous people who did not allow fear to overcome them in the moment of need, but plucked up courage and forged ahead. Among these, we read about David, who was still too young to be a soldier. Yet, with God's help, he won against Goliath, a soldier who had never yet been beaten.

DISCUSSION:

1. In whom did David place his trust?
2. What weapons did David use?
3. What was David's job while his brothers were away fighting?
4. Why, do you think, did David win against Goliath, even though he had inadequate weapons?



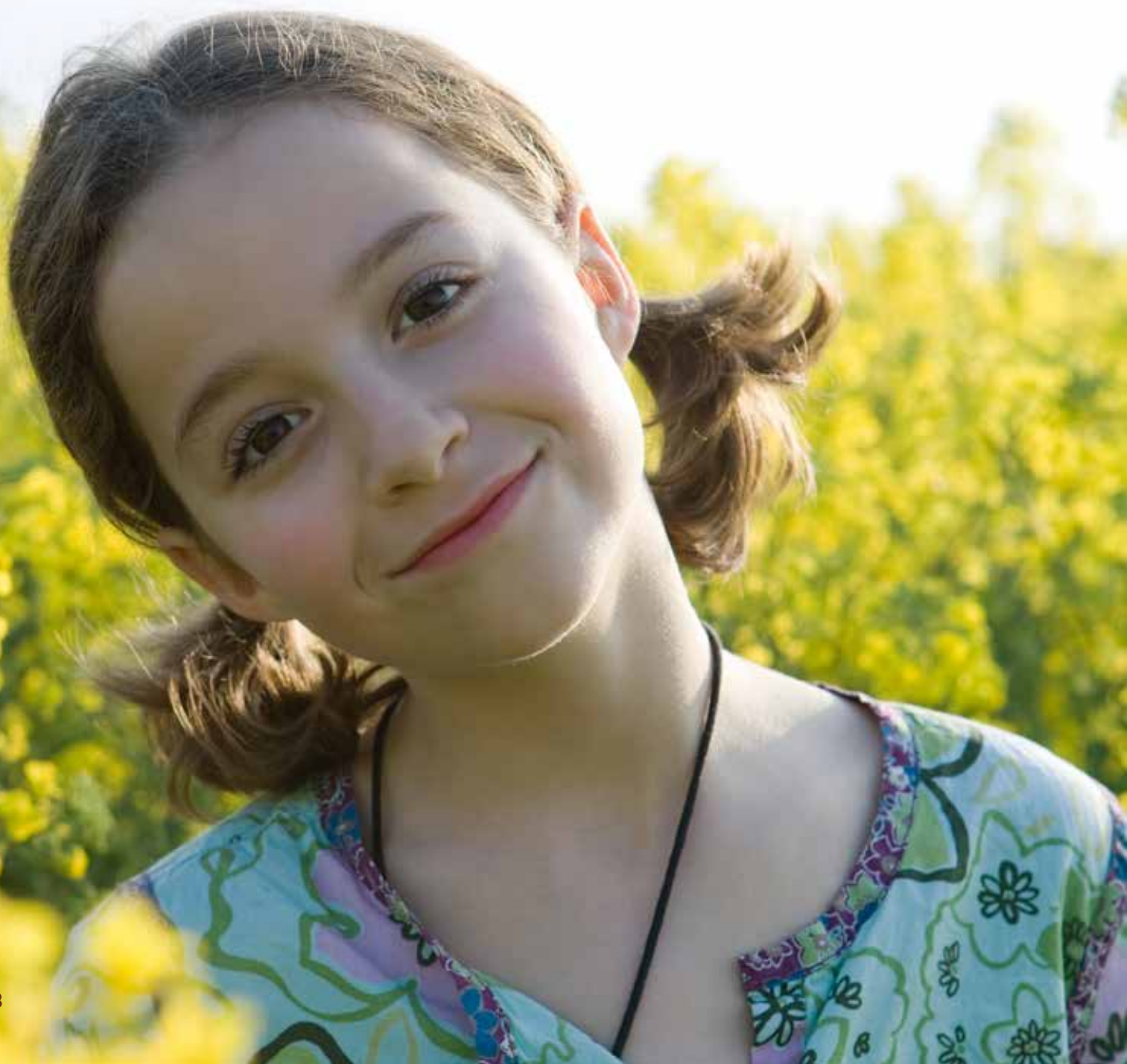
HERE, STICK A PICTURE OF A PERSON YOU CONSIDER TO BE A HERO.



on these small papers write down the reason why you consider the person a "hero"

How do we cultivate a courageous heart?

As already mentioned, the Bible is filled with stories of common people, or people with no special abilities who, at strategic moments, allowed God to work in them and did things nobody had ever done. These stories should not remain just incidents of the past. We should not read these Bible stories just for their interesting aspects, but we must learn from them. Like those personalities of old, we should conquer our fear and become persons who cultivate a courageous heart.



With five pebbles, David won against the soldier Goliath. Which are the five qualities we should cultivate to be winners in life? Write these qualities around the pebbles.



A heart full of friendship

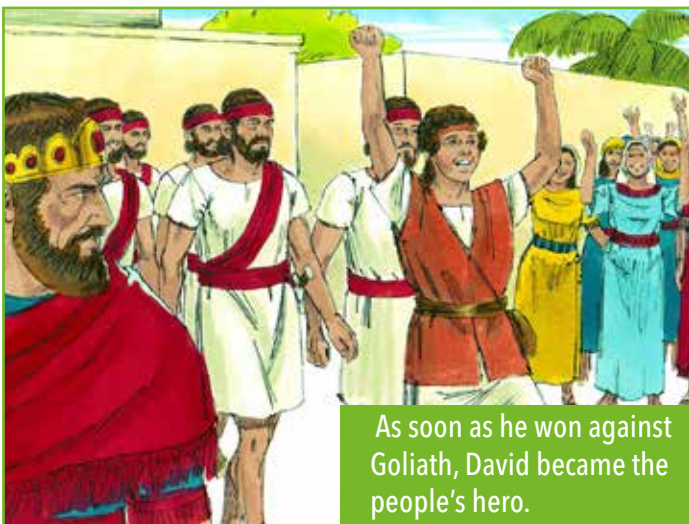
David grew up to become the greatest leader the Jewish people ever had. Yet, he did not achieve this unaided. God was with him to help him in his difficulties. When he heeded the advice of others, he won great battles. Among these advisers there was the prophet Samuel, who gradually prepared him to become a good future king. David also had many friends, among whom was his special friend Jonathan, the son of King Saul. His friendship was very important to David.





The friendship between David and Jonathan

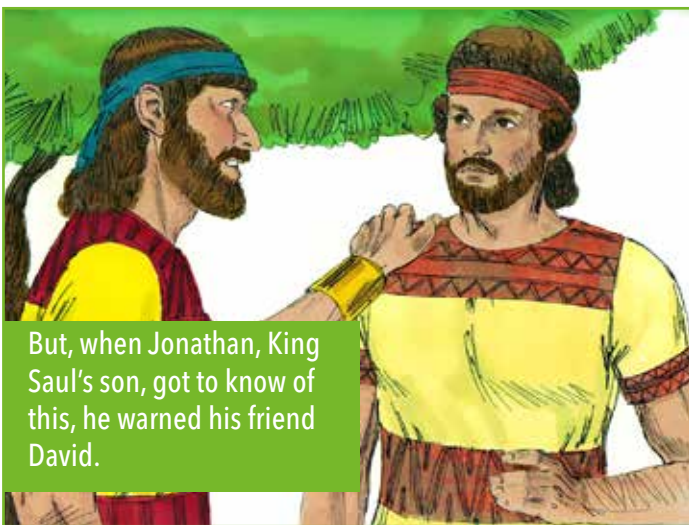
1 Sam 18,1 – 20,42



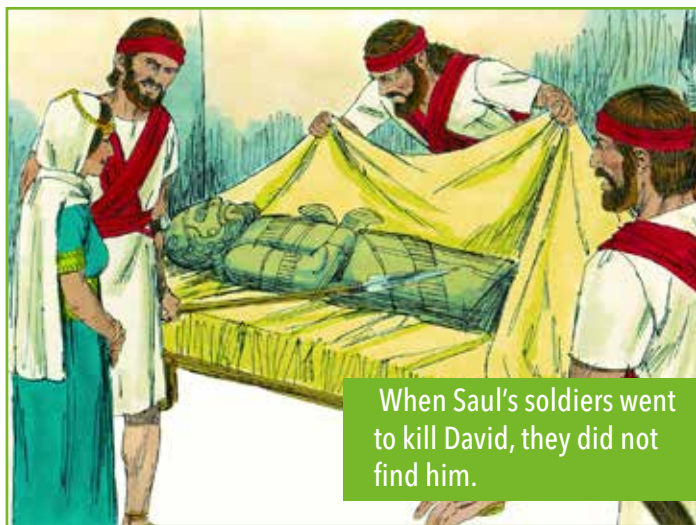
As soon as he won against Goliath, David became the people's hero.



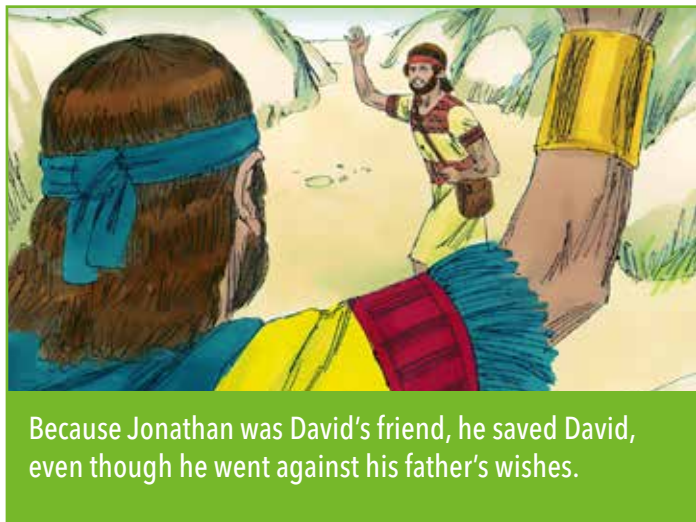
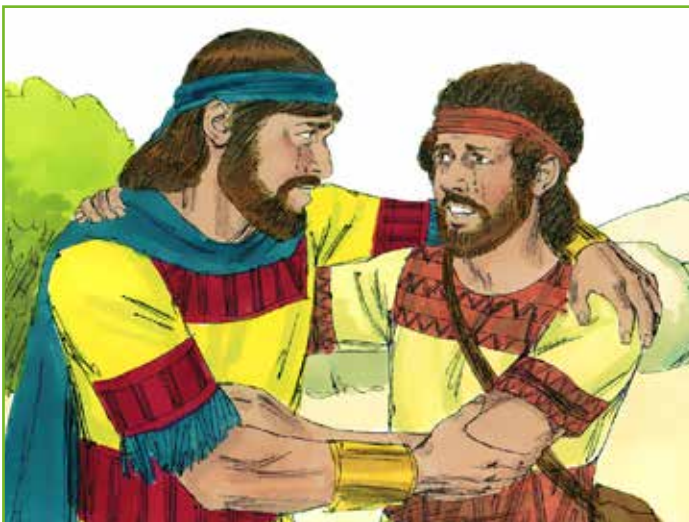
When he saw David's popularity, King Saul became jealous and started planning how to get rid of him.



But, when Jonathan, King Saul's son, got to know of this, he warned his friend David.



When Saul's soldiers went to kill David, they did not find him.



Because Jonathan was David's friend, he saved David, even though he went against his father's wishes.

How do we strengthen our friendships?

David and Jonathan were great friends and they always helped each other. We all wish to have friends like these. A first step to make this possible would be for us to be good friends to those around us. We can start by asking ourselves, "What do we wish that others would do for us?" The answer which comes to our mind is the next step for us to build strong friendships.



We must also remember that, besides the friends we meet at school and at the Catholic Doctrine classes, we have a special friend, who sometimes hides himself from us. This is Jesus. We do not see him as we see our classmates, but he is really with us all the time. Sometimes it is easy for us to forget him, but he never forgets us and is always ready to hear us and help us in our needs.



FL-EWKARISTIJA NSIB LIL GESÙ

Ġesù hu l-akbar ħabib
Lest biex Hu ħajtu jagħtik,
Ġismu u demmu ried joffri 'l bnedmin
Sabiex inkunu henjin.

Ġismu hu l-hobż għall-bnedmin
Bih lilna jgħajjixna jrid
L-inbid jinbidel fid-demm ta' Ġesù,
Bih magħna jagħmel patt ġdid.

**Fl-Ewkaristija nsib lil Ġesù.
Aħna t-tfal tassew inħobbuk.
Ġejna lkoll nirċevuk
Sabiex ġo qalbna nżommuk.**

**Fl-Ewkaristija nsib lil Ġesù.
Aħna t-tfal tassew inħobbuk.
Ġejna lkoll nirċevuk
Sabiex ġo qalbna nżommuk.**

Ġesù jmexxina jrid;
Qribu jżommna f'kull ħin,
Hu r-ragħaj it-tajjeb u aħna l-merħliet;
Lilna jindokra jrid.

Meta nitbiegħdu xi ftit,
Lilna fil-merħla ma jsibx;
Lin-nagħaġ mitlufa jfittex u jsib,
Miegħu jgħaqqadna mill-ġdid. **R/.**

Ġesù hu l-aqwa ħabib
Tagħna t-tfal ċkejna helwin;
F'din il-qalb safja rrid nirċevih,
Miegħi ngorru f'kull ħin.

Miegħu niltaqa' kuljum
Għax Hu tagħna l-ħabib;
F'dik id-dar ċkejna jistenna jkun
Lilna mmorru nżuruh. **R/.**





**We are
special to
him**

4

Moments of weakness

Take a look at this castle. Although many years have passed since it was built, it is still standing strong. But this is not always true in the case of buildings like this. Despite the fact that these buildings were built well, some of them are in a very bad state. Sometimes, there are only piles of stones or parts of walls left. Why is this castle still whole while others have crumbled or disappeared? What makes such a building strong?



Around this castle, write down the qualities
we need to remain strong.

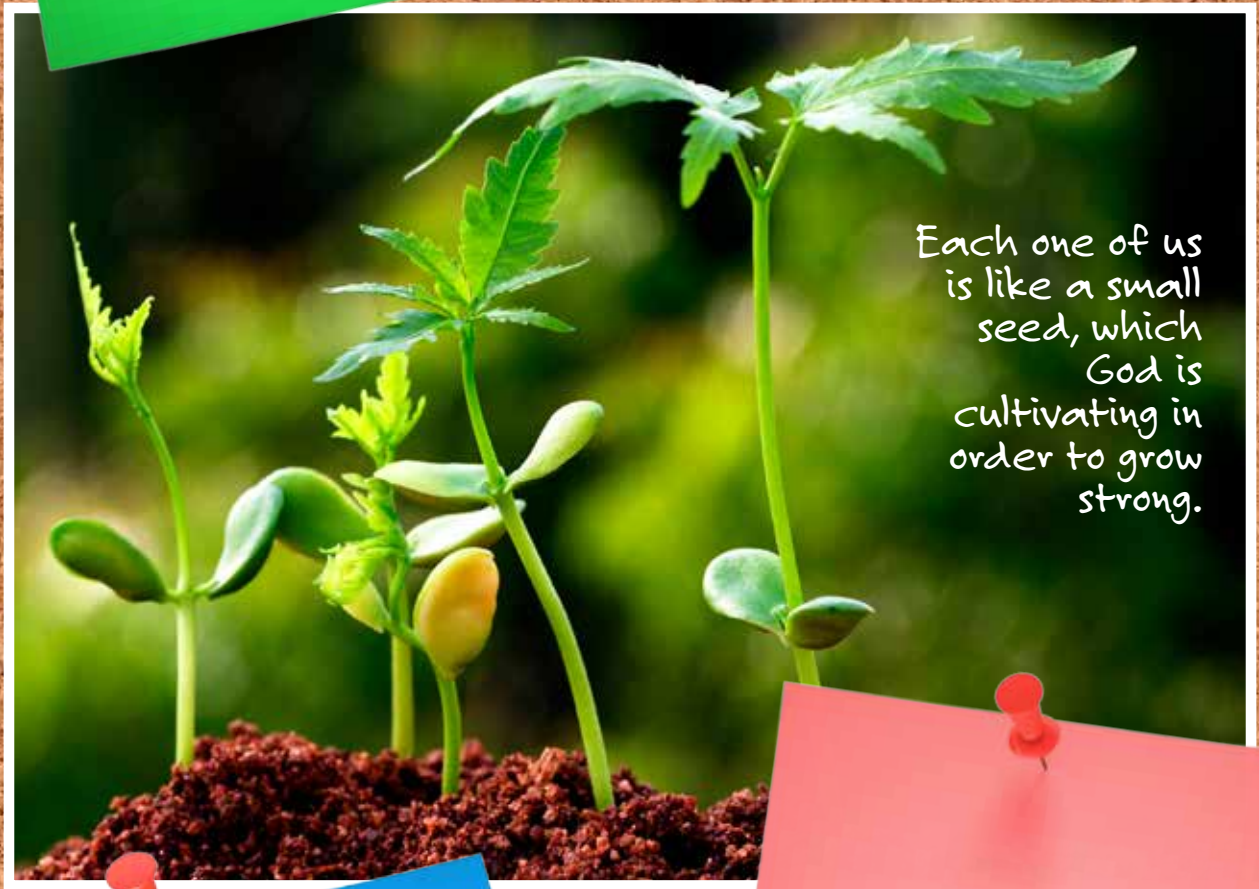


Avoiding selfishness

David's story teaches us that selfishness is at the root of the mistakes we make. It makes us believe that we are better than others and that our wishes and needs are more important than those of others. Let us therefore learn from David's experience to distance ourselves from our weakness when faced with selfishness.



In these small papers list the moments when you feel you can trust God.



Each one of us is like a small seed, which God is cultivating in order to grow strong.



Returning to the right road

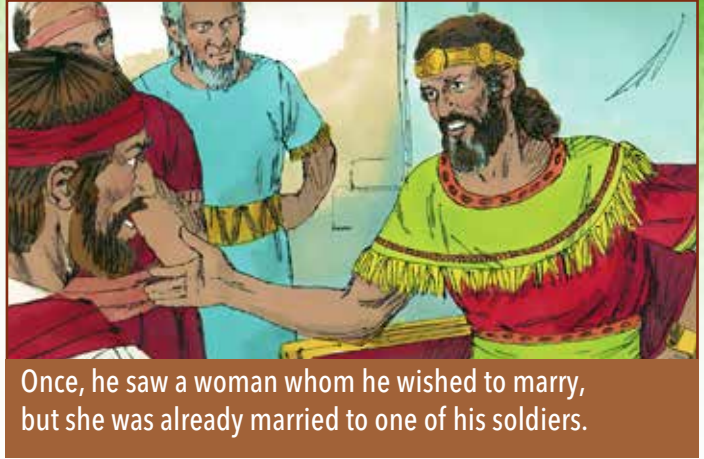
God never leaves us alone. Even when we try to escape from him, he waits for the right moment to enter again our hearts. Often, he does this by making us meet someone who can help us or who can point out our mistakes.

Nathan opens David's eyes

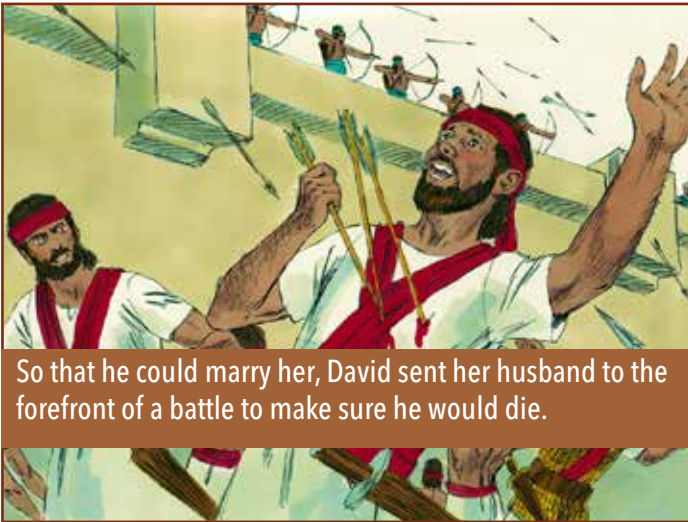
2 Sam 11,1 – 12,25



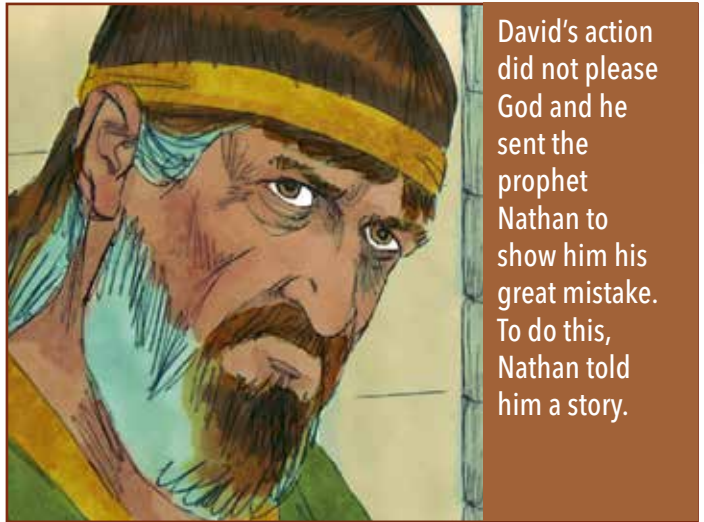
David was a great king, but he sometimes made grave mistakes.



Once, he saw a woman whom he wished to marry, but she was already married to one of his soldiers.

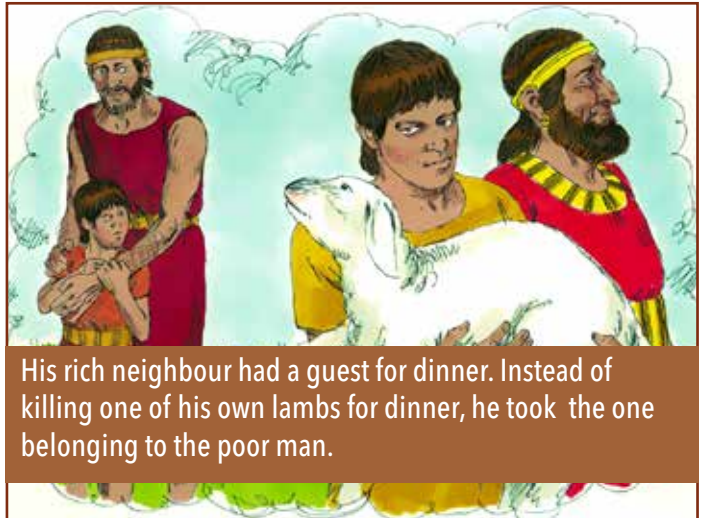


So that he could marry her, David sent her husband to the forefront of a battle to make sure he would die.

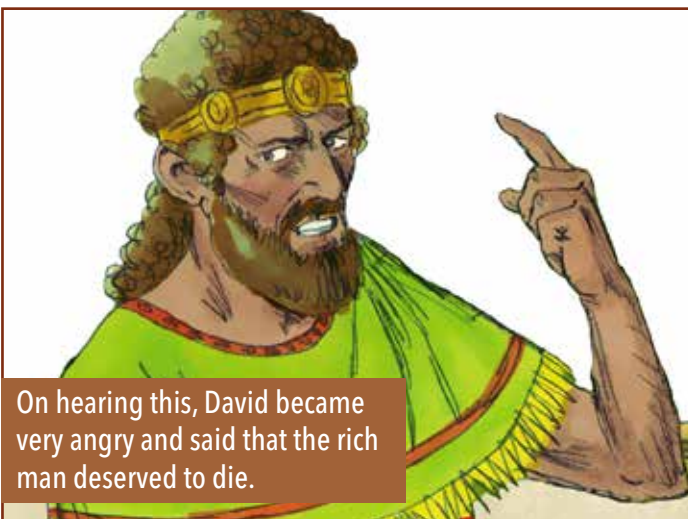


David's action did not please God and he sent the prophet Nathan to show him his great mistake. To do this, Nathan told him a story.

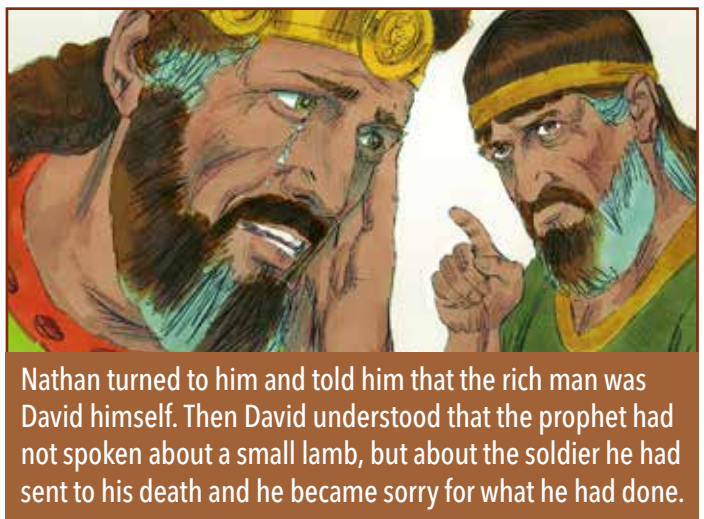
There was once a poor man who, with the money that he had saved, bought a small lamb to serve the needs of his family.



His rich neighbour had a guest for dinner. Instead of killing one of his own lambs for dinner, he took the one belonging to the poor man.



On hearing this, David became very angry and said that the rich man deserved to die.



Nathan turned to him and told him that the rich man was David himself. Then David understood that the prophet had not spoken about a small lamb, but about the soldier he had sent to his death and he became sorry for what he had done.



Seeking help

In King David's story we read that the prophet Nathan warned David that if he did not change his way of life, he would suffer the same fate as King Saul. David sought Nathan's advice as he knew that Nathan wished him well. Whom should we seek to be given good advice?

EVERY MOVE I MAKE

Every move I make
I make in You.
You make me move, Jesus,
Every breath I take
I breathe in You.

Every step I take
I take in You.
You are my way, Jesus,
Every breath I take
I breathe in You.

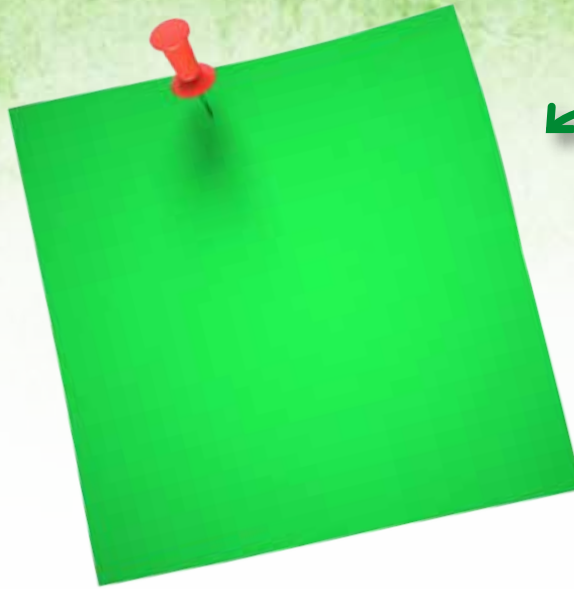
Na-- na-- na na na na na (x3)

Every move I make
I make in You.
You make me move, Jesus,
Every breath I take
I breathe in You.

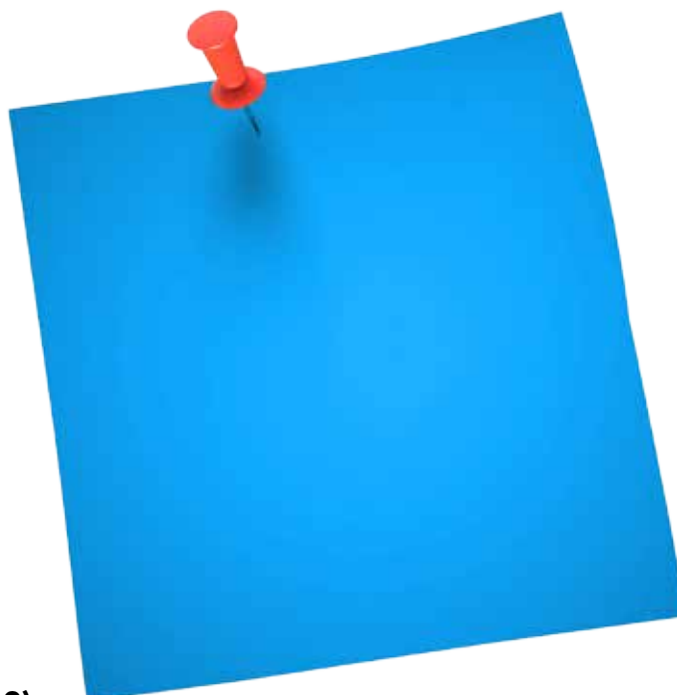
Every step I take
I take in You.
You are my way, Jesus,
Every breath I take
I breathe in You.

Waves of mercy
Waves of grace,
Everywhere I look
I see Your face.
Your love has captured me,
Oh my God, this love
How can it be?

Na-- na-- na na na na na (x3)



In these small
coloured spaces
list the persons
that you think
could be of
help to you.

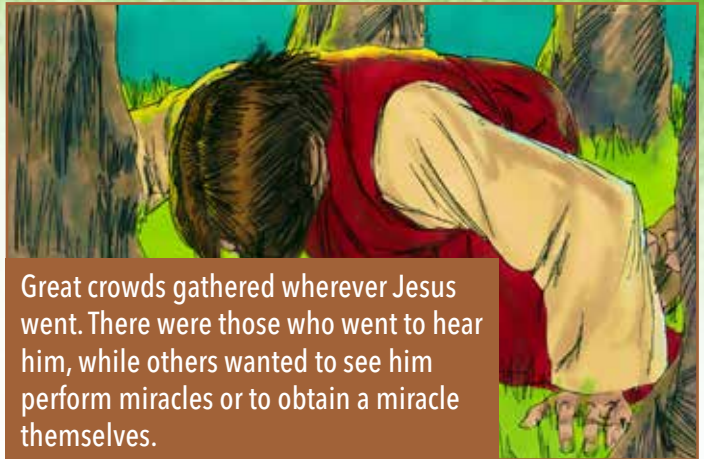


Peter's mistake

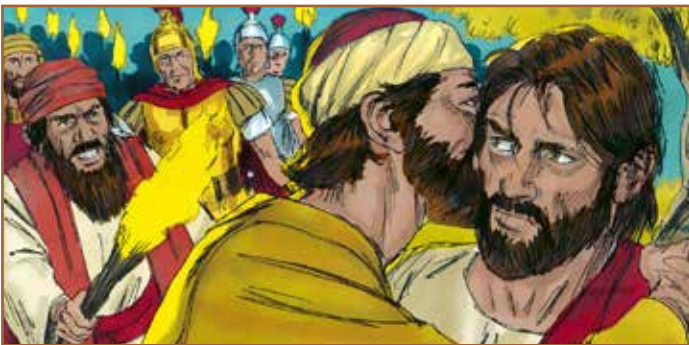
Peter was one of Jesus' best friends. He was one of his first disciples and he was constantly by Jesus' side. Peter heard Jesus preach. He saw him working miracles and also knew him quite well. Yet, like what also happens to us, he had a moment of weakness, when he was overcome by fear and made a mistake.



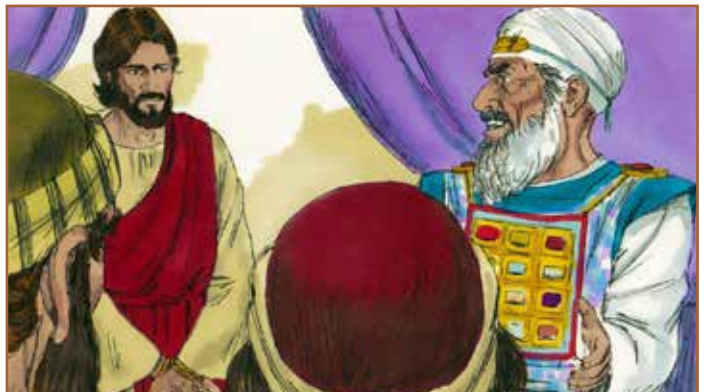
Peter's denial Gw 18, 1-27



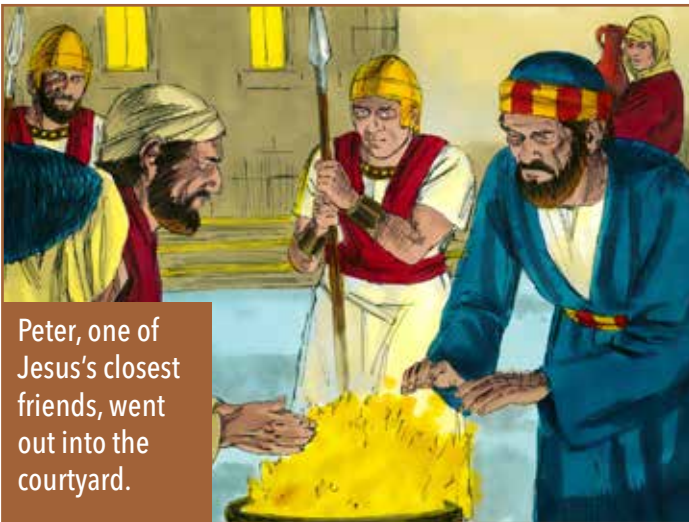
Great crowds gathered wherever Jesus went. There were those who went to hear him, while others wanted to see him perform miracles or to obtain a miracle themselves.



But, at the end of his life, nearly everybody deserted him, including the ones nearest to him. Judas was one of the first to leave him and he betrayed him for thirty pieces of silver.



He was taken before the leaders of the temple who, while pretending to be good people lied about him, wanting to condemn him to death.



Peter, one of Jesus's closest friends, went out into the courtyard.



When a woman recognised him as one of Jesus' disciples, he denied this and not only once.



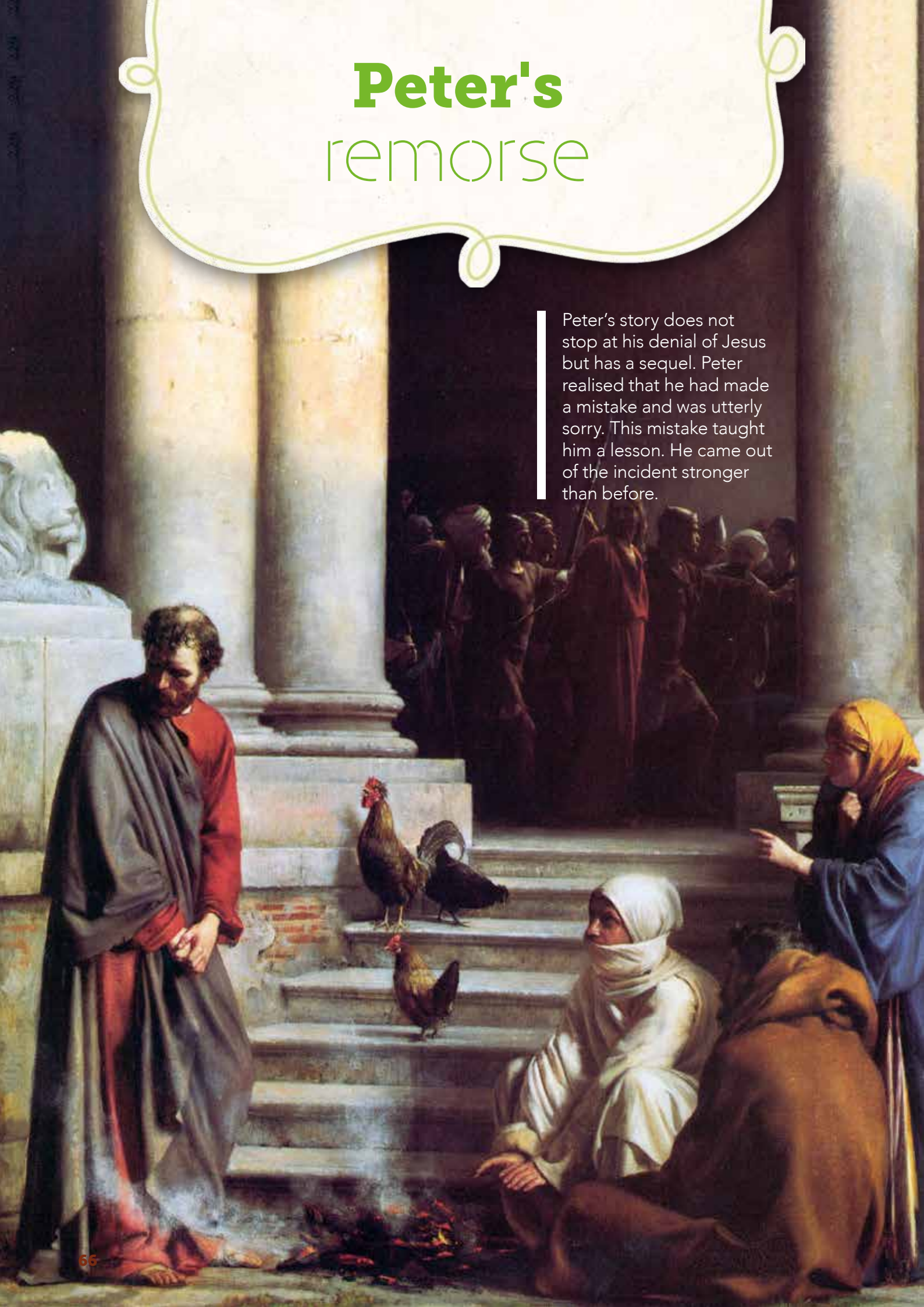
Peter told them that they did not know what they were saying. He said that he had never seen Jesus before. He lied to get away from them. He lied because he was afraid!



Feeling very sorry, he ran away because he realised that he had made a mistake. He also remembered that Jesus had told him that he would deny him.

Peter's remorse

Peter's story does not stop at his denial of Jesus but has a sequel. Peter realised that he had made a mistake and was utterly sorry. This mistake taught him a lesson. He came out of the incident stronger than before.



See if you can answer these questions related to the story of Peter's denial and its aftermath. Look up the episode in the gospels of Matthew (Chapter 26 from verse 69 onwards), Mark (Chapter 14 from verse 66 onwards, Luke (Chapter 22 from verse 54 onwards) and John (Chapter 18 from verse 15 onwards). The four evangelists narrated the story not so much to draw our attention to Peter's mistake, but to make us aware of the infinite love of Jesus . When we are sorry for our mistakes and go back to him, Jesus welcomes us back and continues doing great things with us.

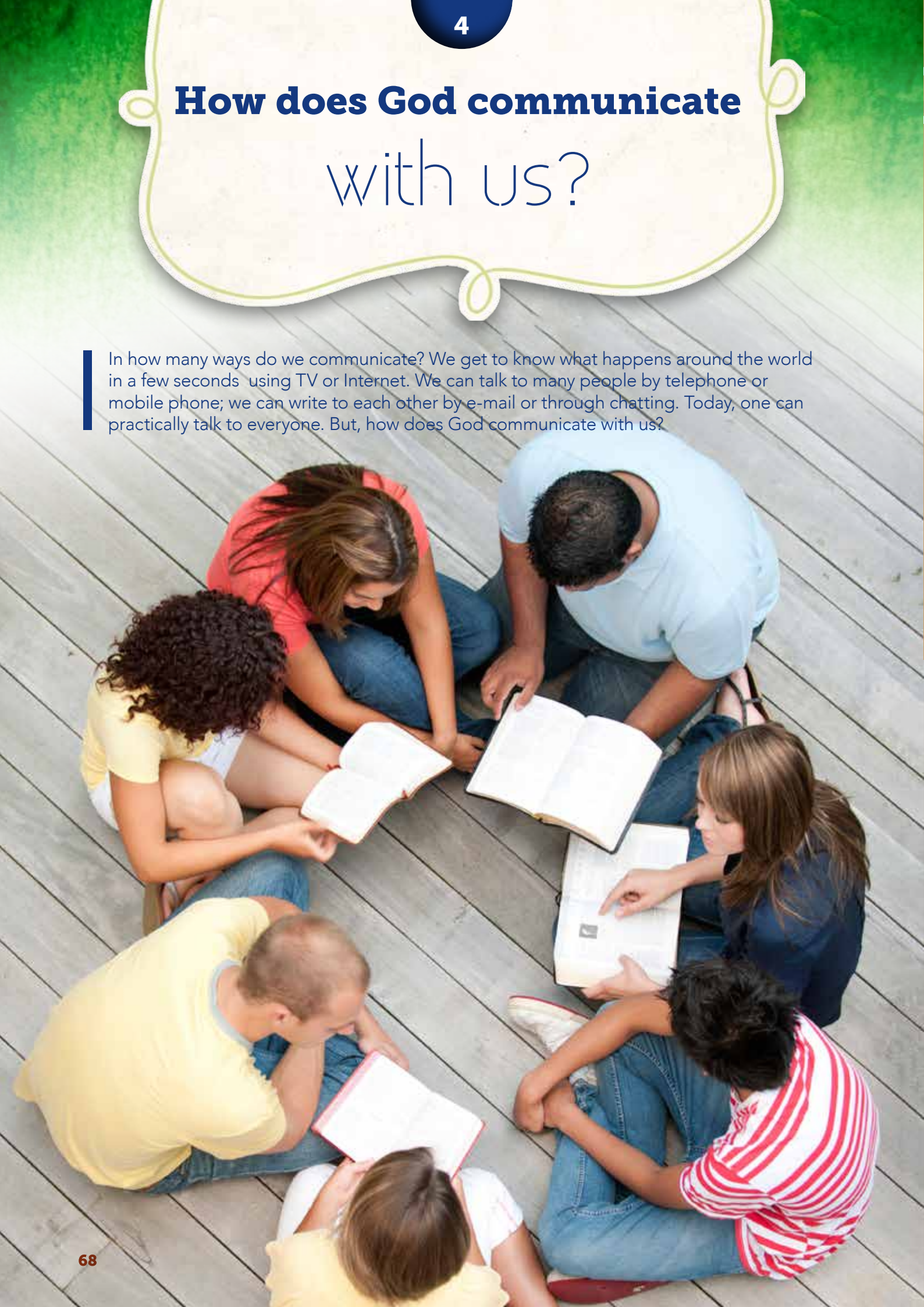
FIND THE WORD

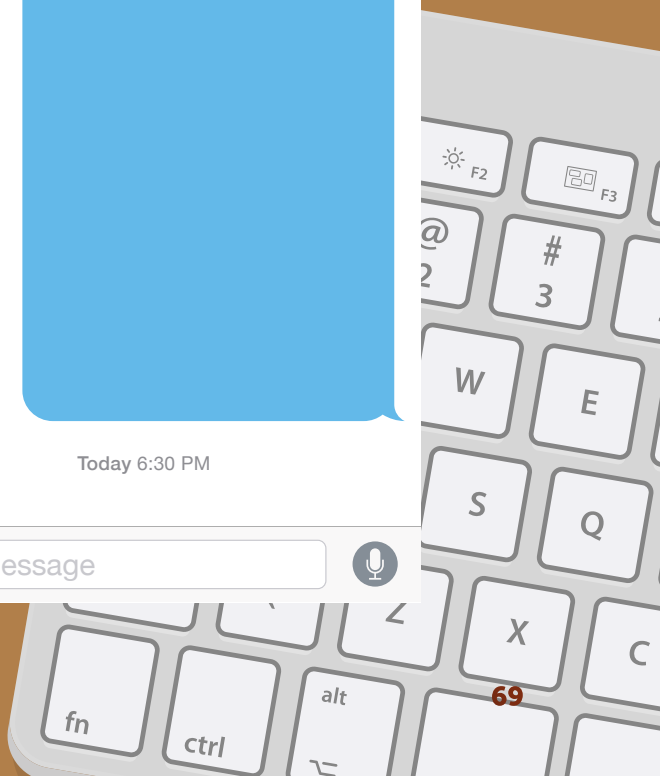
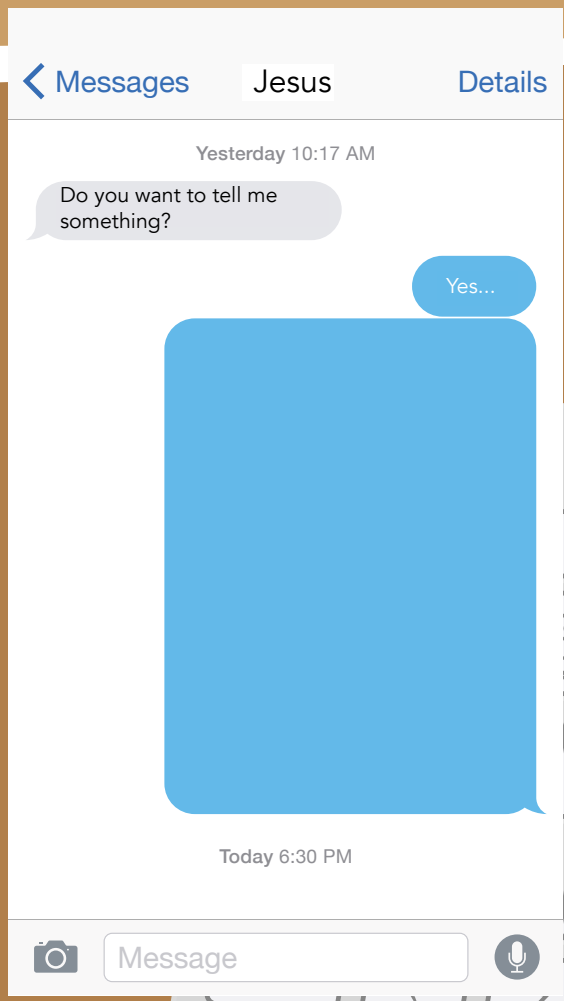
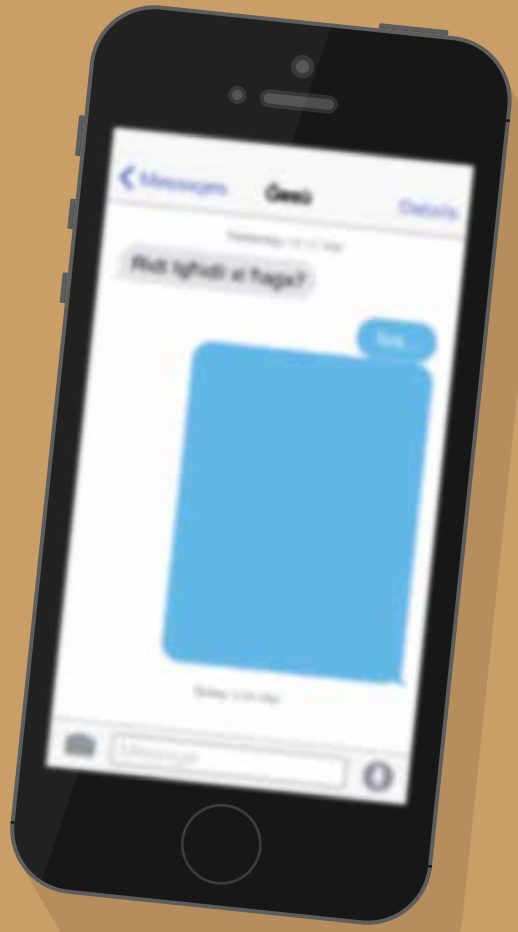
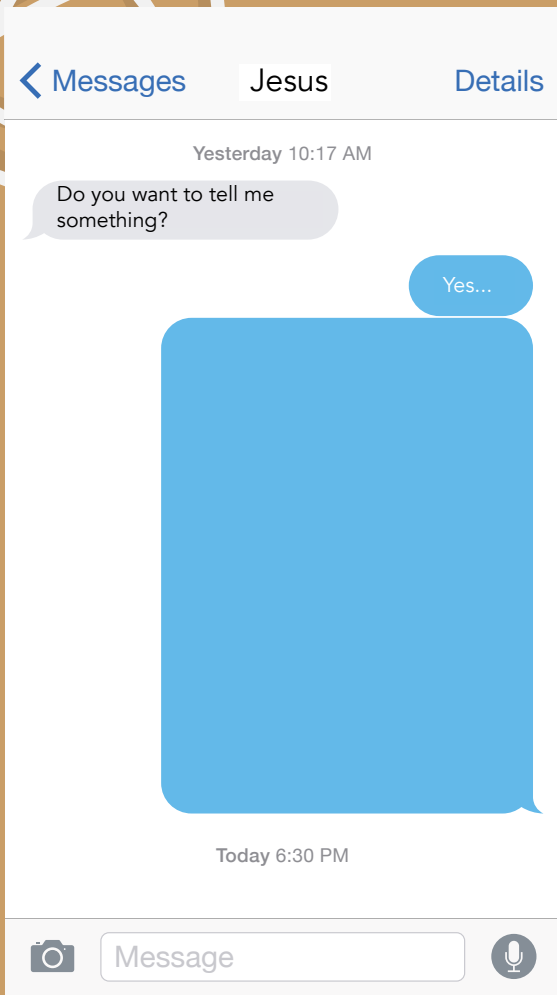
1. Jesus made him the head of the Church, but he denied him and said that he did not know him.
2. It crowed after Peter denied Jesus three times.
3. Peter was in this place when he was recognised as being a friend of Jesus.
4. Who recognised Peter?
5. What did Jesus do when he met Peter again?
6. What do we call Peter's successor today?

a f c e h b k n n o c j P
d c l p j o d f p g z s e
c o u r t y a r d v k w t
g c z a m w r j u e b x e
i k h f q b d k c z i l r
c f P k c t a s y f r p a
d f o r g a v e h i m j i
l i p g s p l a x z l h e
r h e u b q n w e y a m o
b c t k h g s e r v a n t

How does God communicate with us?

In how many ways do we communicate? We get to know what happens around the world in a few seconds using TV or Internet. We can talk to many people by telephone or mobile phone; we can write to each other by e-mail or through chatting. Today, one can practically talk to everyone. But, how does God communicate with us?





A heart open to God

Although we do not see him, God is always there for us and when he sees we are in need of help, he sends it through the many people we meet – parents, teachers, catechists and many, many others. However, we have to be attentive, as it is very easy for us to miss this help because we do not recognise it. Our heart must be open to God.



This week try more to put your trust in God.
In the blank spaces, keep a note of how you trusted in him.

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me

He will be my guide
Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength
for each new day
He will make a way,
He will make a way

Oh, God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me

He will be my guide
Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength
for each new day
He will make a way,
He will make a way

By a roadway in the wilderness,
He'll lead me
And rivers in the desert
will I see
Heaven and Earth will fade
but His Word will still remain
And He will do
something new today

Oh, God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me

He will be my guide
Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength
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something new today

Oh, God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me

He will be my guide
Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength
for each new day
He will make a way,
He will make a way
With love and strength
for each new day
He will make a way,
He will make a way





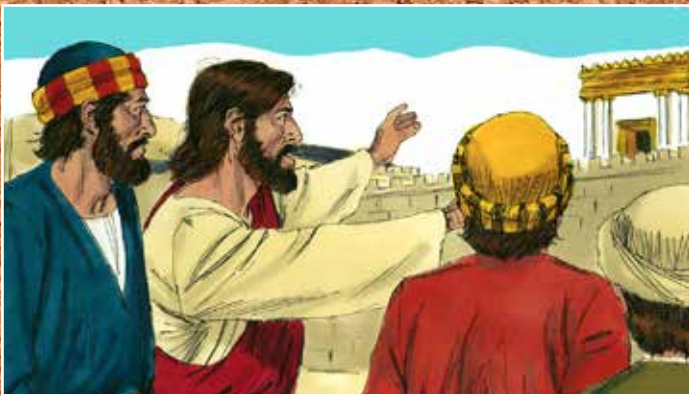
**Through
him I lack
nothing**

5

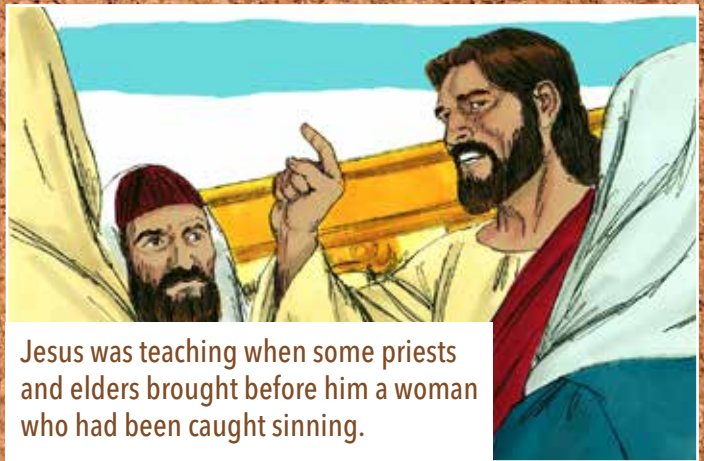
Who among you is without sin...

Jesus always had a kind heart, not only with those who were suffering but also with those who had made mistakes in their lives. He used to say that it was those who were ill that needed a doctor. As a doctor of the soul, Jesus was always ready to help those who had erred and wanted to become better.

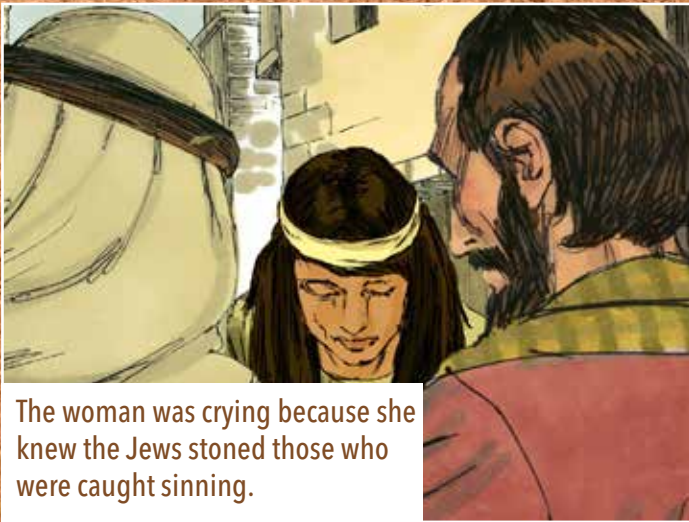




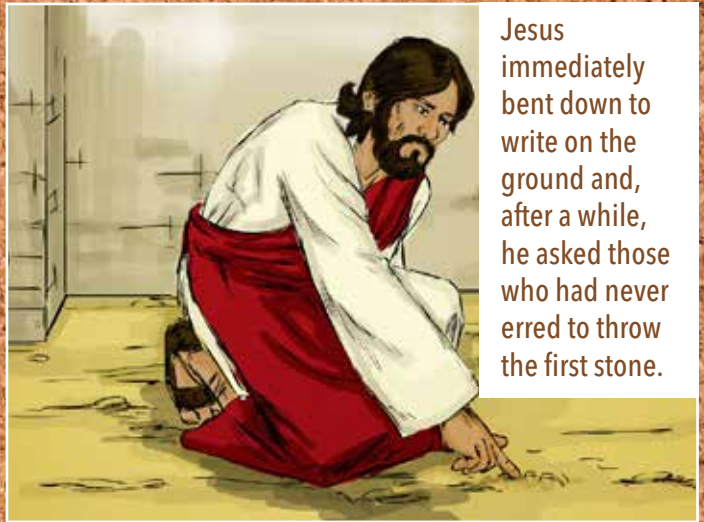
Who is without sin... John 8, 1-11



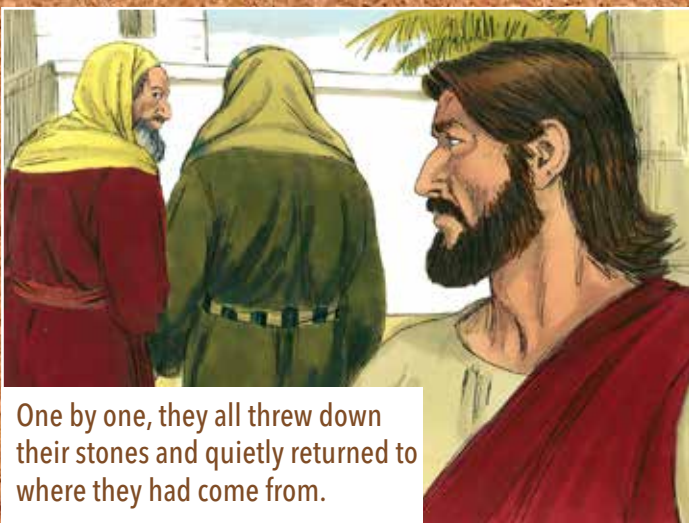
Jesus was teaching when some priests and elders brought before him a woman who had been caught sinning.



The woman was crying because she knew the Jews stoned those who were caught sinning.



Jesus immediately bent down to write on the ground and, after a while, he asked those who had never erred to throw the first stone.



One by one, they all threw down their stones and quietly returned to where they had come from.



Jesus saved the woman from the mob which wanted to kill her. He then asked her to change her life.

We all make mistakes. What is important is that we try to do better. Which part of your life do you wish Jesus to help you improve?





The hidden story

When we meet somebody for the first time, we immediately try to find out if the person is going to be a friend or not. This happens to everybody. But, before we come to any conclusion, it is important to give ourselves time to get to know the person. Anthony's story shows us that we should never judge others. Maybe, there is a reason behind the unease or embarrassment a person is feeling, that we know nothing about.

Anthony's story

Anthony was brought up in a good family. His mother accompanied him everywhere – in the morning to school and in the afternoon to catechism classes or private lessons. One day, however, all this changed. Anthony refused to let his mother accompany him anymore. She began to worry as she did not know what had happened to make him act this way.

After a few days, Anthony's mother asked him why he did not want her company anymore. Anthony hesitated to answer but, when his mother insisted, he told her the truth. His mother's hands were so wrinkled and ugly that he felt embarrassed in front of his friends, who used to tease him about this. Anthony was confused. He did not want his mother to know of his shame, yet, he did not want his friends to ridicule him. So, he decided to do without her presence.

When his mother heard all this, she lowered her eyes and said nothing. After a few minutes, she looked into her son's eyes and, instead of explaining, she told him that she wanted to tell him a story. The story went like this :

Once there was a woman who had a beautiful baby boy, whom everybody admired. His mother loved him very much and was ready to do everything for him. One day, something unexpected happened. She was on the roof hanging up the washing while the boy was playing in his cot. A gust of wind toppled the lighted candle in front of the statue of Our Lady and it touched a curtain, starting a fire, which quickly spread towards the cot. Meanwhile, the mother finished her job and came down from the roof with the empty laundry basket. She saw the smoke

coming out of her son's room, and putting down the basket, rushed into the room. Because of the smoke, she could not see the boy, but she could hear him crying in his cot, a sign that he was still alive. She covered her mouth with her jersey not to swallow smoke and made for the cot. Just at that moment, the shelf holding the statue fell into the cot, near her son. Without stopping to think, she grabbed the burning shelf and threw it away far from the baby. She picked up her son and ran out of the room .

She kissed her son and rang the emergency services, She could not stop crying, both from the fright she had had and from the pain in her hands which were badly burnt and swollen.

When Anthony's mother finished relating the story, the boy's eyes were drenched with tears as he understood that the baby son saved by his mother was none other than he himself and that the woman with the burnt hands was his mother.

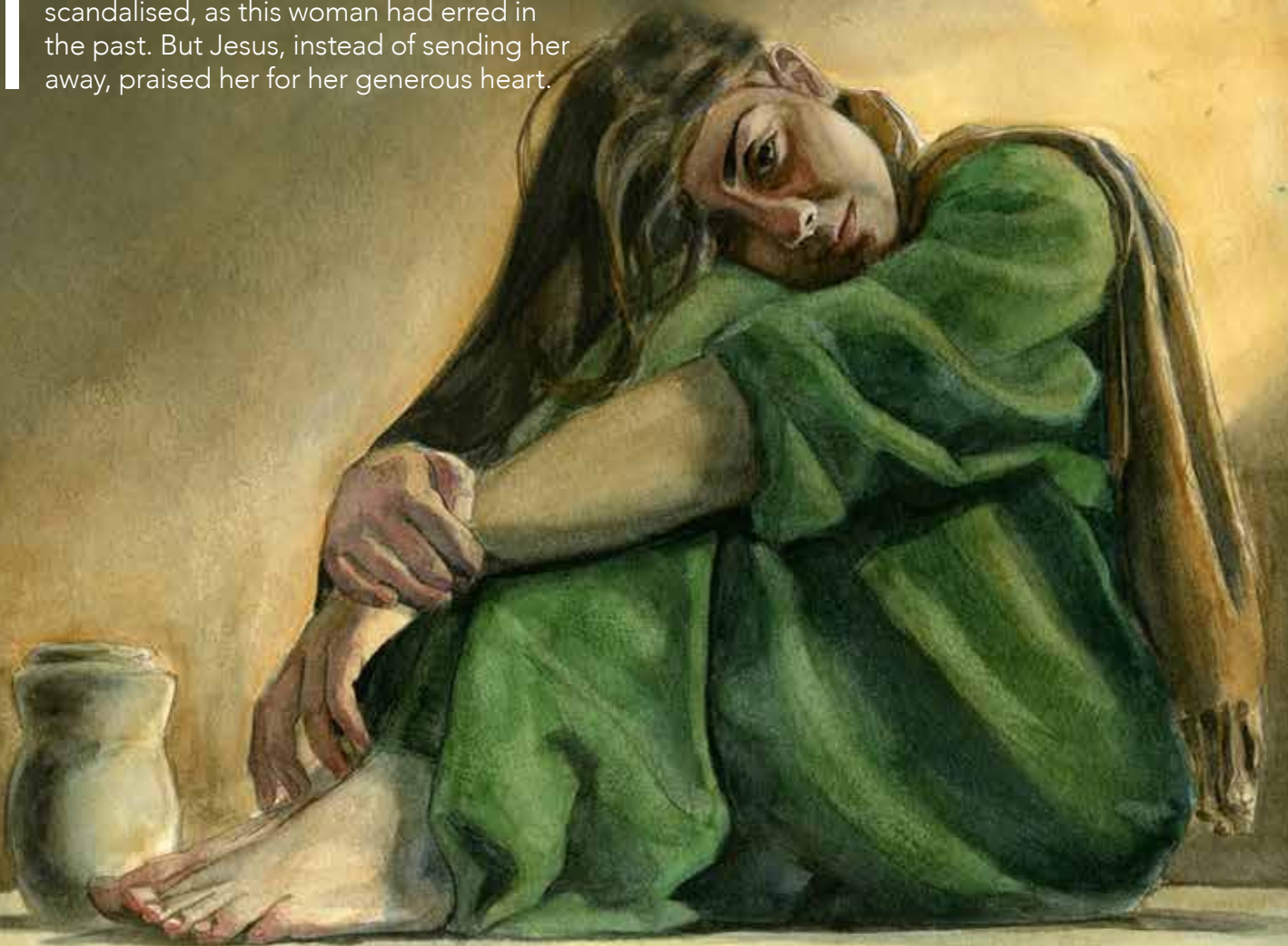
How sorry he was that he had judged his mother! From that day on, he was no longer embarrassed to go out with his mother. He was proud of his mother's courage. She had saved his life, even though this meant that she had ruined her hands.

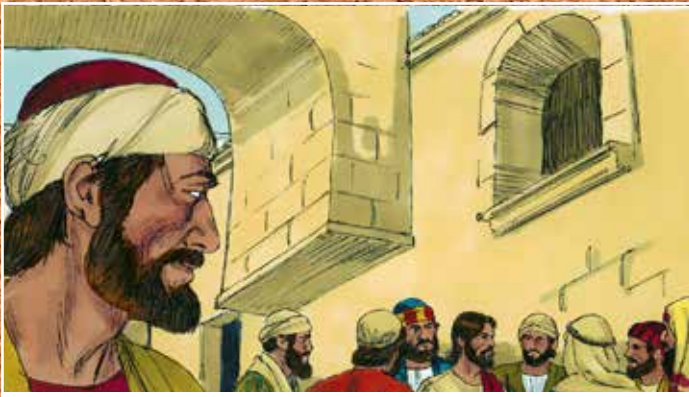
Have you ever wrongly judged somebody, like Anthony did? What are you going to do so that you do not judge persons wrongly?



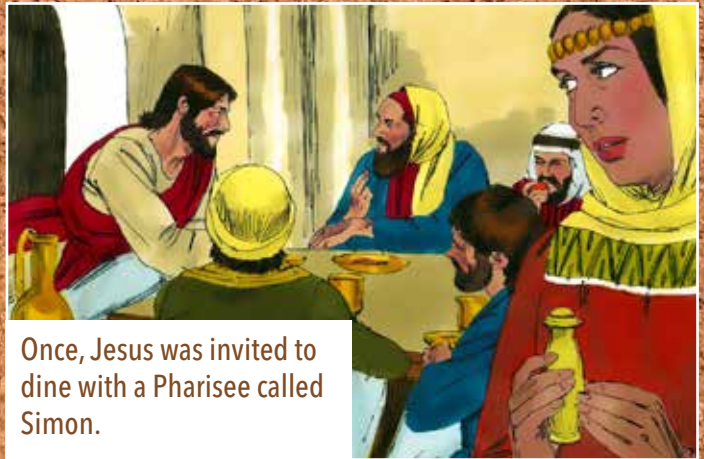
A merciful person

Once, Jesus was invited to dine at the house of a Pharisee. While he was talking to the owner of the house, a woman came in and anointed his feet with very precious oil. The owner of the house appeared scandalised, as this woman had erred in the past. But Jesus, instead of sending her away, praised her for her generous heart.

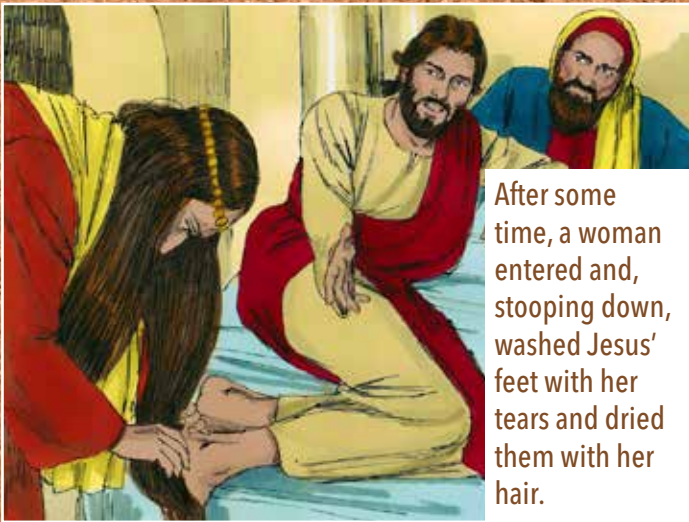




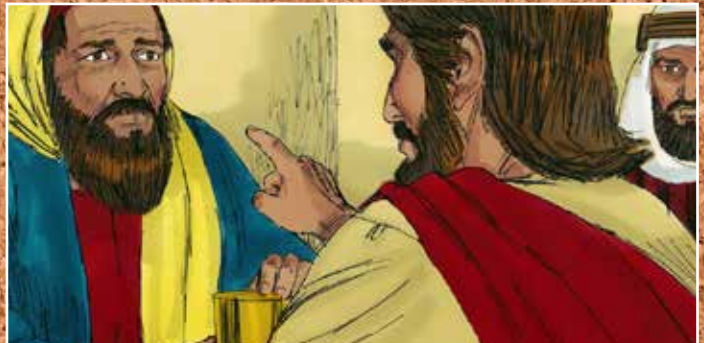
Real repentance Lq 7, 36-50



Once, Jesus was invited to dine with a Pharisee called Simon.

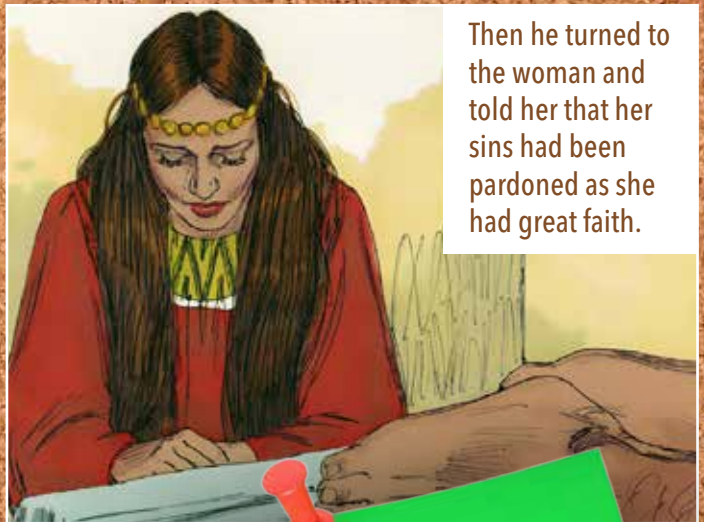
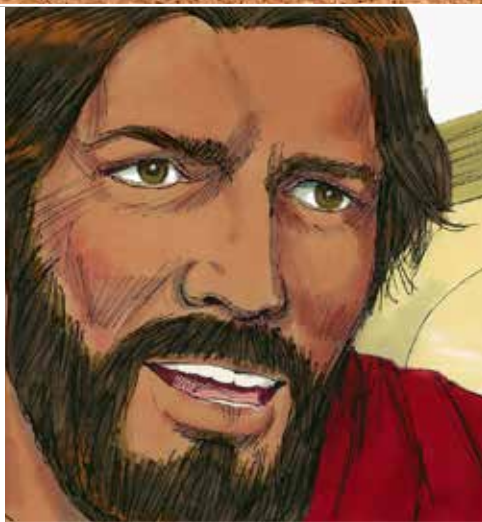


After some time, a woman entered and, stooping down, washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.



Simon thought that if Jesus were really a prophet, he would not have allowed her to do that, as she had a dubious past. But Jesus stopped him immediately and scolded him.

Jesus told Simon that he should learn from that woman because, though he was his guest, Simon had not washed his feet, as was the custom to show respect to guests.



Then he turned to the woman and told her that her sins had been pardoned as she had great faith.

This woman gave of her best to Jesus. What can you yourself offer Jesus?



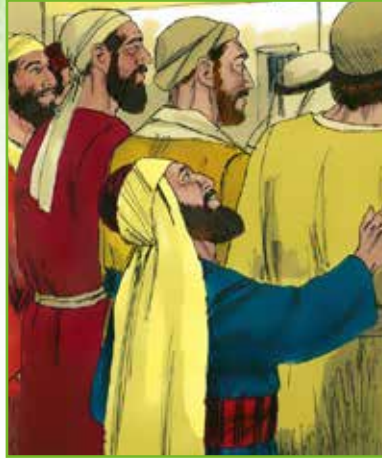


Avoiding prejudice

Wherever Jesus went, crowds followed him to see and to listen to him. His words were very welcome to them and his miracles made him more popular. All sorts of people followed him ... among them well-known sinners.



Conversion Lq 19, 1-10

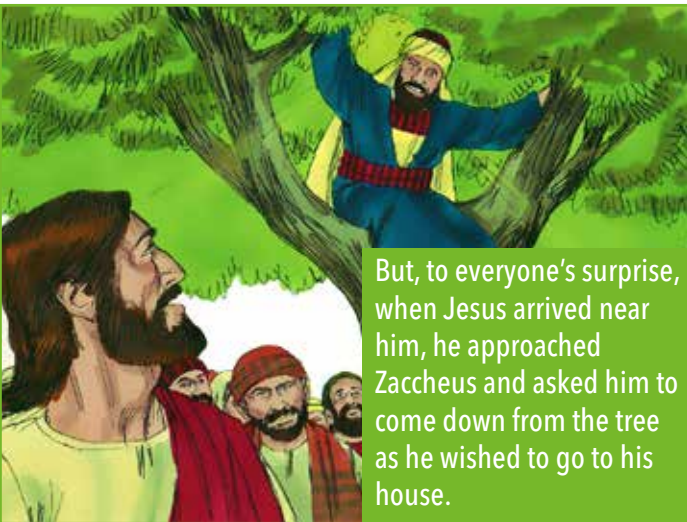


Zaccheus was a publican, working for the Romans collecting taxes. People considered the publicans as being traitors as they worked for the Romans. They were also said to be robbers because they taxed people more than what the law asked for.

One day Jesus was passing near his house and Zaccheus came out to see him. Because he was short, he could not see Jesus but nobody made way for him because he was a publican. So he climbed up a tree to be able to see Jesus.

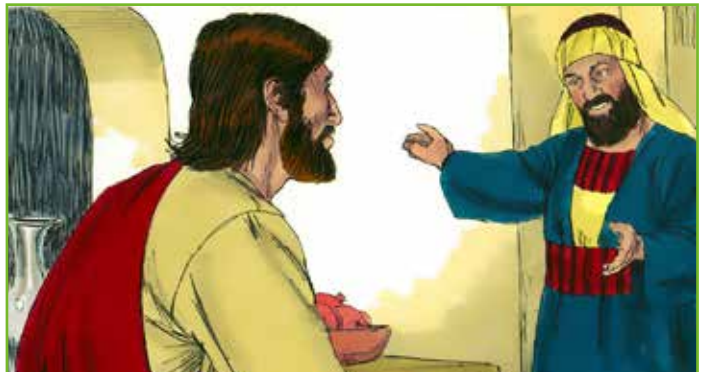


Briefly write down what you think is the central message of this story.



But, to everyone's surprise, when Jesus arrived near him, he approached Zaccheus and asked him to come down from the tree as he wished to go to his house.

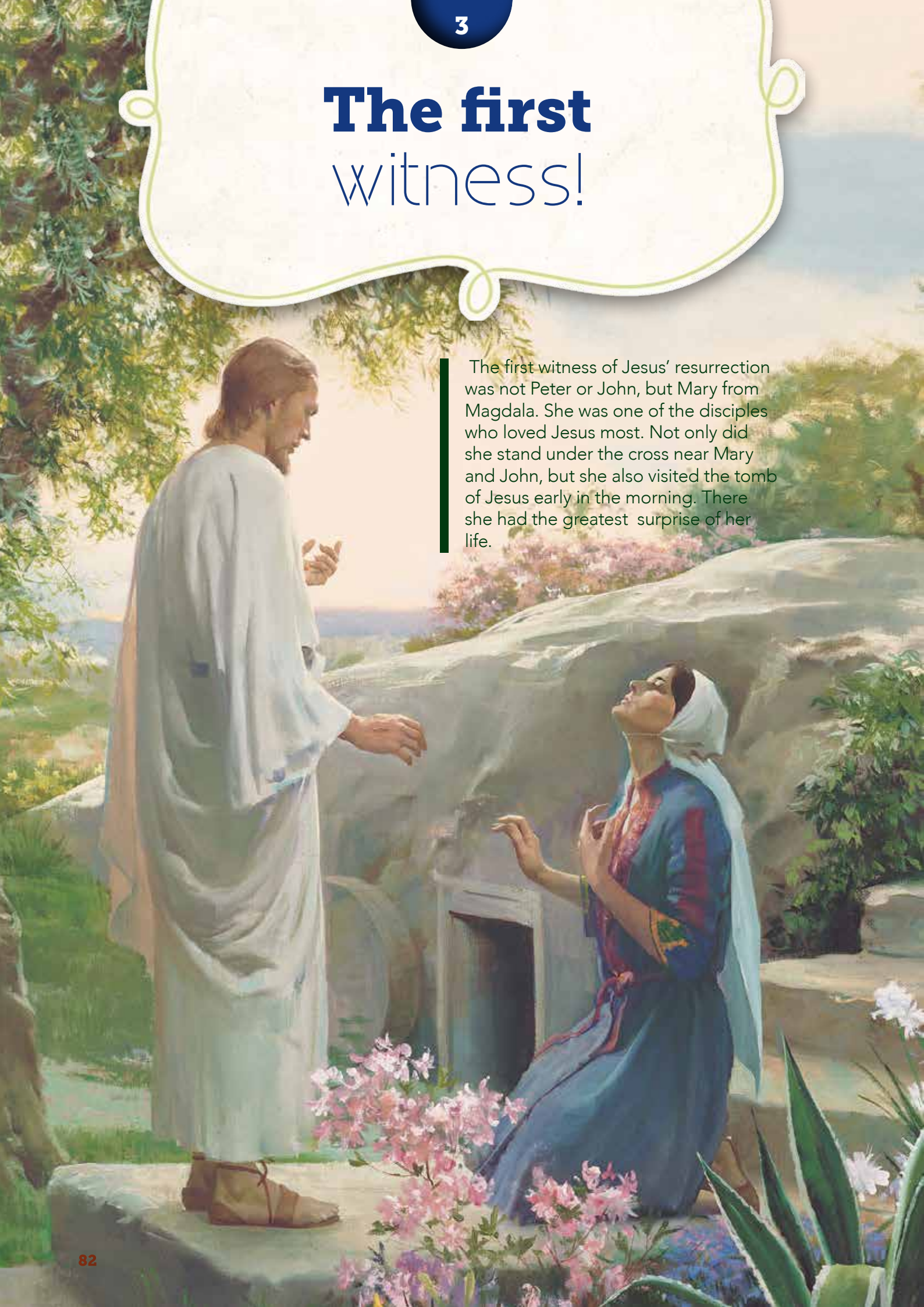
People started to complain about this, but Jesus' choice made a great difference to Zaccheus.



Zaccheus decided to give half of his wealth to the poor. He was also ready to repay four times the money he had obtained by cheating. He had really changed!

The first witness!

The first witness of Jesus' resurrection was not Peter or John, but Mary from Magdala. She was one of the disciples who loved Jesus most. Not only did she stand under the cross near Mary and John, but she also visited the tomb of Jesus early in the morning. There she had the greatest surprise of her life.



Interview with Mary

Part one

PRESENTER: Dear listeners. I welcome you to another programme "Curiosities" on Jerusalem FM radio station. As usual, during this programme we present personalities who have met with unusual experiences. With me in the studio I have Mary of Magdala. Hello, Mary. In the name of all our listeners, I welcome you to our programme. To start with, Mary tell us about your meeting with Jesus.

MARY: I stayed with him until the end – until they lowered him from the cross and I saw them bury him. I wanted to be sure in which tomb they laid him because I couldn't bear not to go and visit him. And, in fact, that is what I did. Early on the morrow, before dawn, when it was still dark, a few friends and I went to anoint him, as is our custom. But, as soon as I arrived, I had the greatest fright of my life.

PRESENTER: Why? What had happened?

MARY: When we neared the tomb, we saw that the stone had been moved. I couldn't believe my eyes, as the stone was too heavy to move. Besides, the tomb had been guarded. We looked at each other and were unsure what to do. Full of panic and confusion, I ran back to the place where the apostles were hiding.

PRESENTER: It was very courageous of you to go near the tomb, when the apostles, tall and strong men remained hidden because they were afraid. Did the apostles believe that the stone had been moved?

MARY: When I told them, Peter and John ran towards the tomb to check what had happened. I followed them, but I had no strength to go in. It had already been a shock to me to find an empty tomb. Imagine if I had also to see the place where he had been laid. I tried to understand what had happened. Ever since I had met Jesus, I had followed him everywhere he went. But now, I had gone to look for him and had not found

him. At one moment, I happened to look inside the tomb and had the second fright.

PRESENTER: Why?

MARY: As I stooped down and peered in, I saw two angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the feet of the place where Jesus had been laid. They asked me, "Why are you crying?" I replied, "They have taken away my Lord and we do not know where they have placed him."

PRESENTER: You must have been amazed at the sight of those angels!

MARY: That was nothing compared to my amazement when, while staring open-mouthed at the scene, I heard

a familiar voice behind me. At that moment I could not place that voice. I turned round and saw a man who I thought was the person tending the garden. I asked him earnestly whether he had removed the body of Jesus. Only he could have moved the body. I quickly begged him, "Sir, if you have removed him, tell me where you have placed him and I will bring him back here."

PRESENTER: I can just imagine how you were feeling.

MARY: Suddenly the man in front of me called me "Mariam!" In great surprise I replied, "Rabbuni!" which means 'Master'. With joy that I cannot explain, I went to embrace him but he immediately stepped back, saying, "Do not touch me because I have not yet gone to my Father. Go to my brothers and tell them that I am going to my Father and your Father, my God and your God."

PRESENTER: You have left me speechless. What did you do then?

MARY: Immediately, I ran back to the disciples the second time, but this time I was not frightened and sad but filled with great joy. I went to tell them the good news and to narrated what I had seen and what Jesus had told me. I went straight in and said, "I saw the Lord."

PRESENTER: I have had various guests in this studio who have narrated many different stories. But, I assure you that neither I nor our listeners have ever heard the like of your story. Mary, I again take the opportunity to thank you for sharing this experience with us. It was certainly an occasion to obey Jesus' mission ... that of spreading the good news among everyone. Dear listeners, I hope you enjoyed the programme. I bid you farewell and hope that you keep next week's appointment with me. Till next week, God bless.



God has a mission for us



Interview with Mary

Part two

PRESENTER: We welcome you to another programme in our series "Curiosities". As many of you know, last week my guest in the studio was Mary, who related her extraordinary story of being the first to witness the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Many of you listeners have rung us up or e-mailed their wish to ask Mary again to the studio to tell us more about her experience. With great pleasure, I can tell you that Mary gladly accepted our invitation and, for the second time, is here with us in this studio. May I remind you that those who wish to talk to us, may do so by dialling the station number or by sending us an e-mail. The telephone lines are now open. I do not wish to waste any more time on this introduction because I know that Mary has much to tell us. Welcome, Mary. In the name of

our listeners I thank you for your presence among us.

MARY: I greet you and all those who are following us. I thank you for inviting me again to your radio station.

PRESENTER: Mary, last week you left us speechless when you related your unique experience. For those who were not with us last week, I will repeat what Mary recounted. Mary went near the tomb of Jesus to anoint him with oils, according to our custom. Yet, when she arrived, she found the tomb empty. Some time later, she met a man who she thought was a normal person. Later, she realised that he was Jesus – the one, who a few hours before had been buried as a dead person. Now, he was alive! Jesus had risen from

the dead and Mary was the first witness of this unique happening.

MARY: That is so. Yes, yes, it is so! From that day, my life as well as that of the other disciples of Jesus changed completely. The apostles spent about 40 days going about with Jesus, during which time Jesus worked miracles to show his greatness. Among these miracles, there is the one when he appeared to the disciples of Emmaus and the other one when he walked on water. After this time, Jesus rose to heaven, from where after 10 days, he sent us the Holy Spirit and thus began the life of the Church.

PRESENTER: Your story never stops surprising us. In fact, all of us in

Jerusalem remember the strong wind that arose suddenly on that day. It was on that day that the apostles came out of the house where they were sheltering and started preaching and baptising in the name of Jesus.... Before continuing, I would like to take a telephone call. Hello! I welcome you to our programme. What would you like to tell us?

LISTENER: Hello! First of all, I would like to thank Mary for the experiences she is sharing with us. We are dumbstruck by what you have told us. I want to comment about the change brought about by these apostles. My children are crazy about them; they want to follow them everywhere. When we go to the synagogue, we can see the apostles surrounded by people. Where do they get this strength from?

MARY: You are right! Ever since we met the risen Jesus, our energy seems to have increased and it also seems that we never tire. His strength works within us and our joy continues growing day by day. Jesus fills us with so much peace which we find hard to describe. We want to work more and more. There has been an increase in the number of people who want to follow Jesus. His teaching is beautiful and the apostles are working wonders through him.

PRESENTER: It appears that Jesus did not go to heaven and things stopped there. You are carrying on the mission he started.

MARY: You are right! Jesus' mission on earth was just a beginning. He showed us how we should live, but that was not all. We and many others are carrying on with what he started. In fact, he wished that we would go and broadcast his teachings to all nations. These were his last words.

PRESENTER: After hearing all these things you have mentioned, one is driven to ask who Jesus is and whether it would really be a good thing to follow him. Do you find any difficulties in this mission?

MARY: We meet with many difficulties, especially created by those who do not want to accept Jesus or who have not

yet understood the real joy and peace which come only from him. In fact, some of us have already received threats of imprisonment and others have been expelled from their place of work because they are following his teaching. Jesus himself warned us that those who choose to walk in his footsteps will suffer a lot.

PRESENTER: Doesn't this make you lose heart?

MARY: Not in the least. On the contrary, it fills us with greater courage as we know that Jesus is always with us. If this mission did not come from him, and were he not always with us, there would not be so many people approaching us to learn more about him. With his help we are every day getting stronger among ourselves and with him.

PRESENTER: While out and about, you see and meet different people. How do you recognise the ones that are Jesus' followers? Do you wear some sort of sign to show that you are his followers?

MARY: On the outside there is nothing to show that we follow Jesus. We wear no special sign or do extraordinary things. On the other hand, we always try to lead a good life, as much as we can. What guides us in our life is what Jesus told us. He gave us an example of how to do this.

PRESENTER: What keeps you together?

MARY: Love ... that is the key to everything. When we love each other, we get closer to each other and to Jesus. He showed us the greatest love when he died for us on the cross and rose from the dead so that all of us will be able to enjoy him. Love is common to all and is the means through which we can show that we truly are Jesus' disciples.

PRESENTER: Mary, as we can see, Jesus gave you a great and special mission and you are doing your best to do it well. Tell me, if I want to follow Jesus, do I also have to do what you are doing?

MARY: No. Not at all. Each person has his/her mission to fulfil. He/she lives a good life according to his/her position.

For example, if one is a parent, one must be a good parent; if one is a teacher, a policeman, a nurse or has any other job, one must do it to the best of one's abilities. Even children have a role in Jesus' mission.

PRESENTER: What is the children's role?

MARY: Everyday they should try to be a little bit more like Jesus, who loves them very much. They should do what they have to do in the best possible way. They can be witnesses even when they are with their friends.

PRESENTER: You have used a difficult word. What do you mean by that word "witness"?

MARY: To be a 'witness' means that you are following Jesus by doing what he wants. People cannot see Jesus, but they see you following in his footsteps. Thus, they will be seeing Jesus in you... This becomes more difficult when those around you hinder you from doing so. But Jesus promised us that he would always be with us. He himself promised this when he said, "I will always be with you, till the end of time."

PRESENTER: Mary, you have given us much to think about. When our listeners switch off the radio, I am sure that they will keep thinking about what you have said. Once more, we have come to the end of this interview. We thank you very much for being with us and we hope to meet you again in the near future. We also thank our sponsors with whose support we are able to put up this programme. Bye till next week!



The voice among many voices



Our world is filled with different noises, all competing to draw our attention. Radios blare out music, there are adverts on TV, interesting videos to watch on the Internet, people talking and sharing their opinions. But, among all these voices, there is a voice that would make a beautiful difference in our life, if we listened to it. This is the voice of Jesus. Although his voice does not stand out like other voices, those who heed him will find that their lives will become much better and they will look for opportunities to listen to him.

In which places should we look to hear the voice of Jesus?
Stick pictures of places where we can find Jesus.

Write a prayer to God asking his help so that you will always follow him.

Let us celebrate our faith

MULEJ F'IDEJK

**Hsibijietna ndawru lejn l-artal
u naraw is-Sagrificju tas Salib,
f'dal-mument offrut ghalina lkoll.
Biex fuqek tiehu t-toqol ta' kuljum.**

**Mulej f'idejk,
jien naghti hajti lilek.
Mulej f'idejk,
ma' dal-hobż u l-inbid.
Mulej f'idejk,
hawn hi r-rieda tiegħi.
Fuq dan l-artal,
hawn jien Mulej.
Hawn jien.**

Nelle tue mani consegno la mia vita,
insieme con il pane e questo vino.
Signor ti do tutto cio che sono.
Ecco mi qui davanti a te.
Signor. Signor.

We turn our hearts before the altar now.
To behold the Sacrifice on Calvary.
At this moment broken for us all,
that we may be all we're called to be.

Lord here we are,
this life we have to offer.
All we are, with this bread and wine,
we lay it down:
all that we are and will be.
Before You now.
Here we are. We're Yours.

YOUR LIFE WILL CHANGE

From the page to your heart
God's word is where you are,
read it now,
and your life will change.
Its' exciting, surprising!
Each and every day
read it now
and your life will change,
oh oh oh
and your life will change,
oh oh oh (x2)

God's word will surprise you,
God's word will amaze you,
God's word will surprise you!

Read it now,
and your life will change,
oh, how your life will change!

From the page to your heart
God's word is where you are,
read it now
and your life will change.
Its' exciting, surprising
each and every day
read it now
and your life will change,
oh oh oh,
and your life will change,
oh oh oh (x2)

Here stick the message of Jesus that you found during the class activity.

IDDEĊIDEJT

Iddeċidejt Mulej, li ħajti rrid naghtik.
Jien noffrilek lili nnifsi kif jien.
Ħudni f'idejk u aġmel bija dak li trid.
Kun int, Mulej, is-sid ta' ħajti.

Hawn jien Mulej,
jien lest għalik u għal kulma trid.
Hawn jien Mulej,
bi mħabba kbira għalik

Hawn jien Mulej,
u ikkmandani dak li trid
Hawn jien Mulej, iddeċidejt.





segretarjat ghall-katekezi