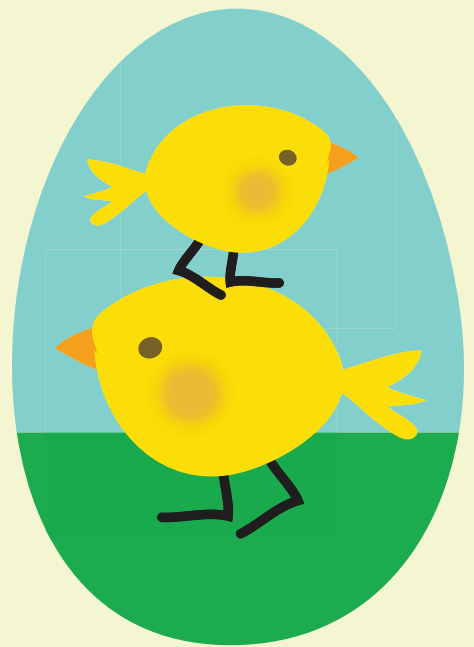
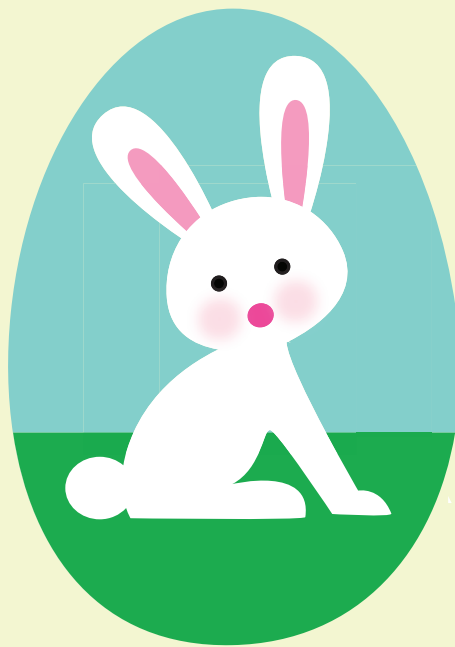


The Very Different Easter

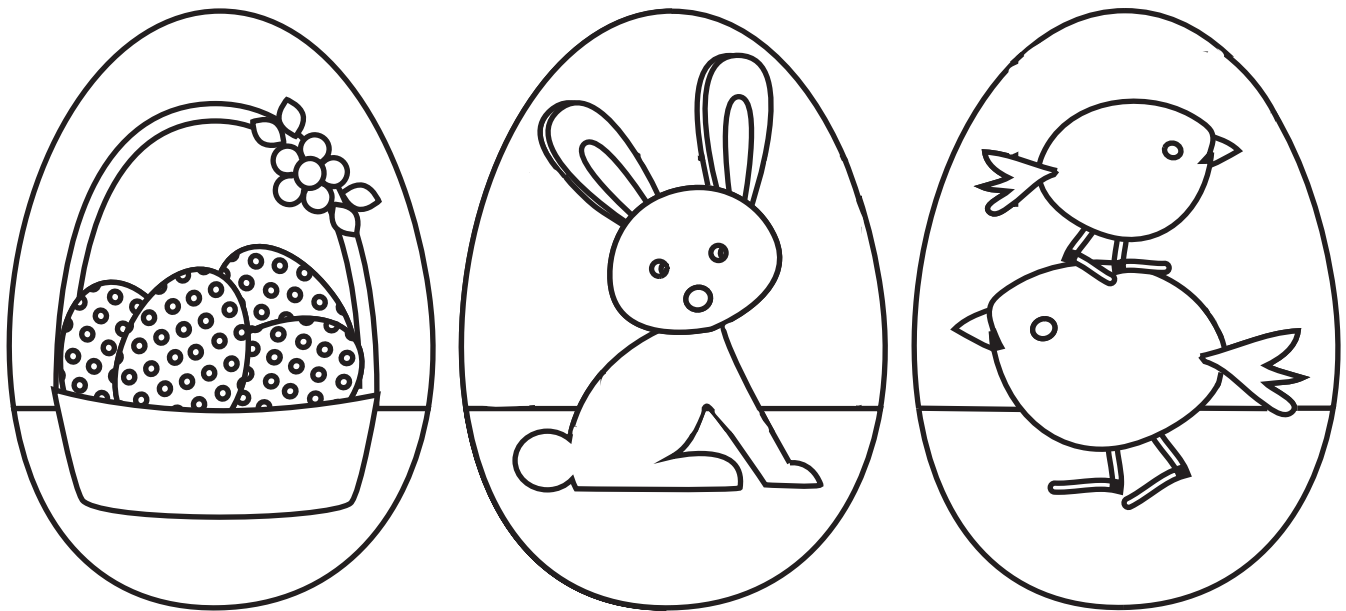
a coloring book to learn about the first Easter



Constance Dever

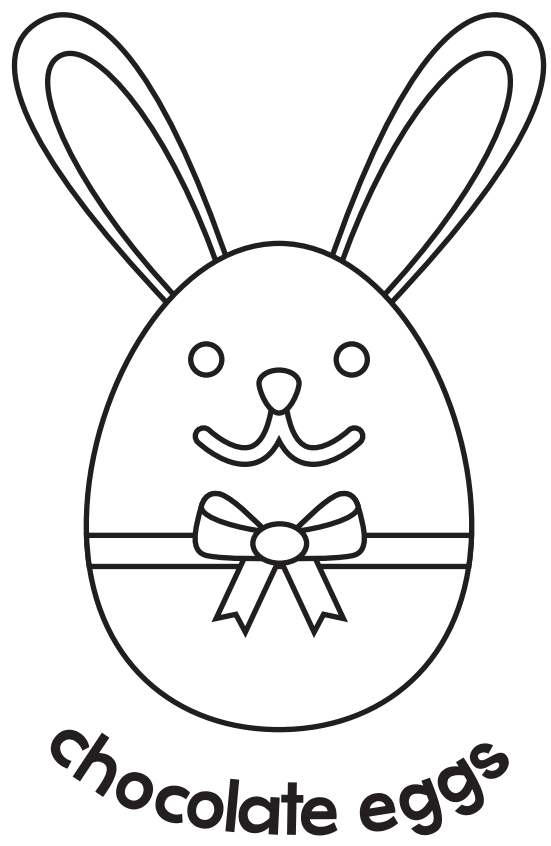
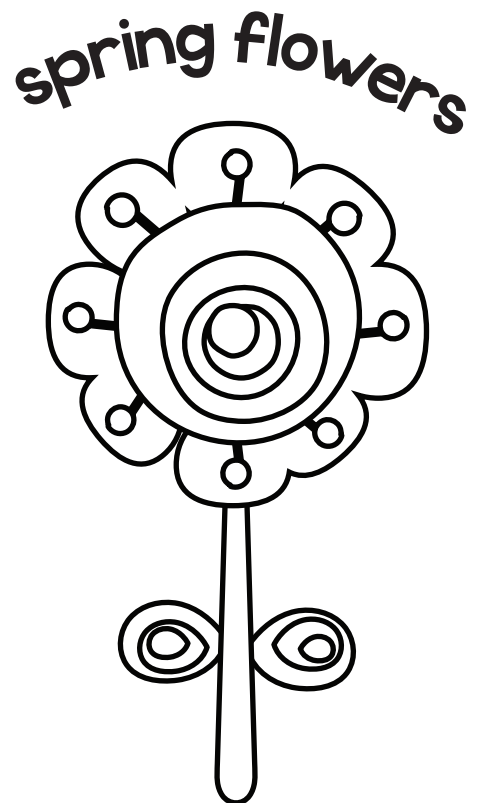
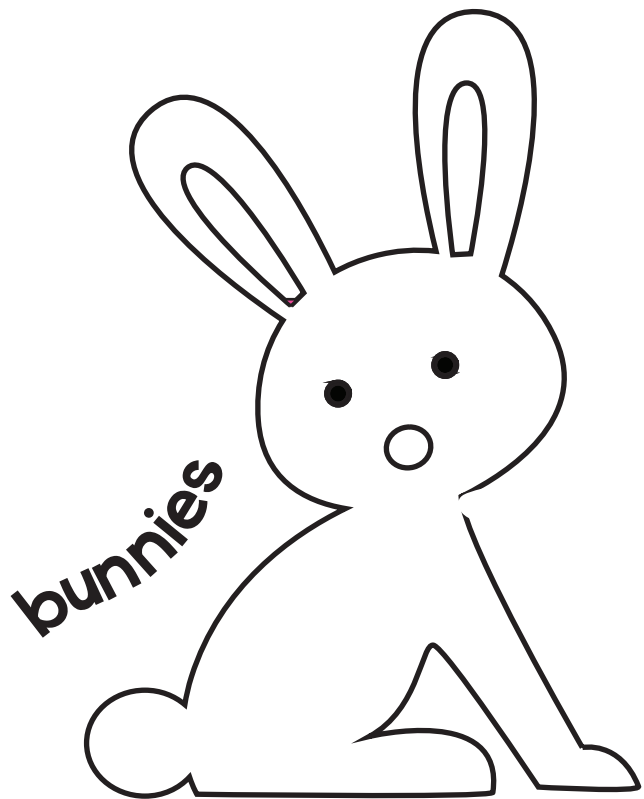
The Very Different Easter

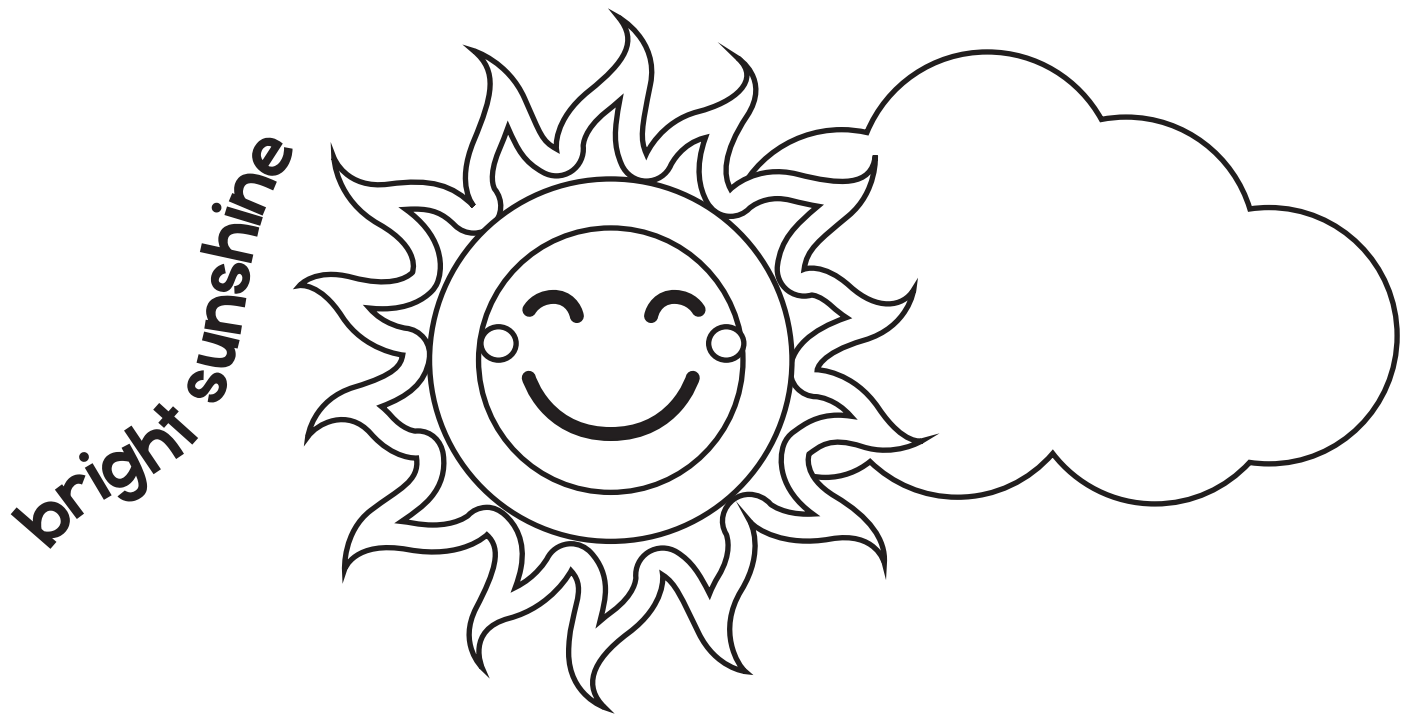
a coloring book to learn about the first Easter



Constance Dever

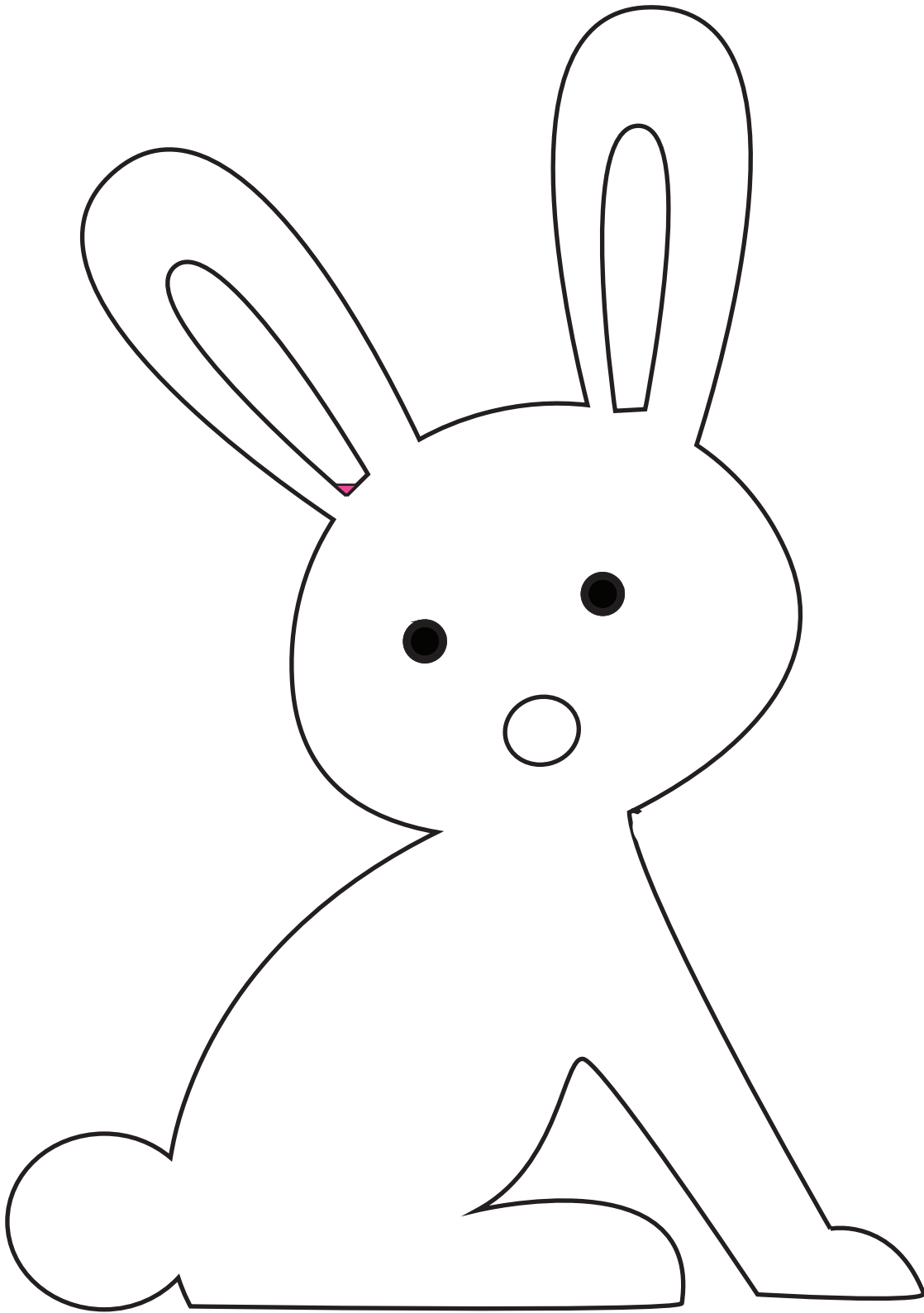
What do you think of when you think of Easter?





These are some of the many things you might enjoy this Easter.
But did you know that long ago, there was a very different Easter?
It was the FIRST Easter. Let's take a look...

On the first Easter, there were no fluffy, toy bunnies.

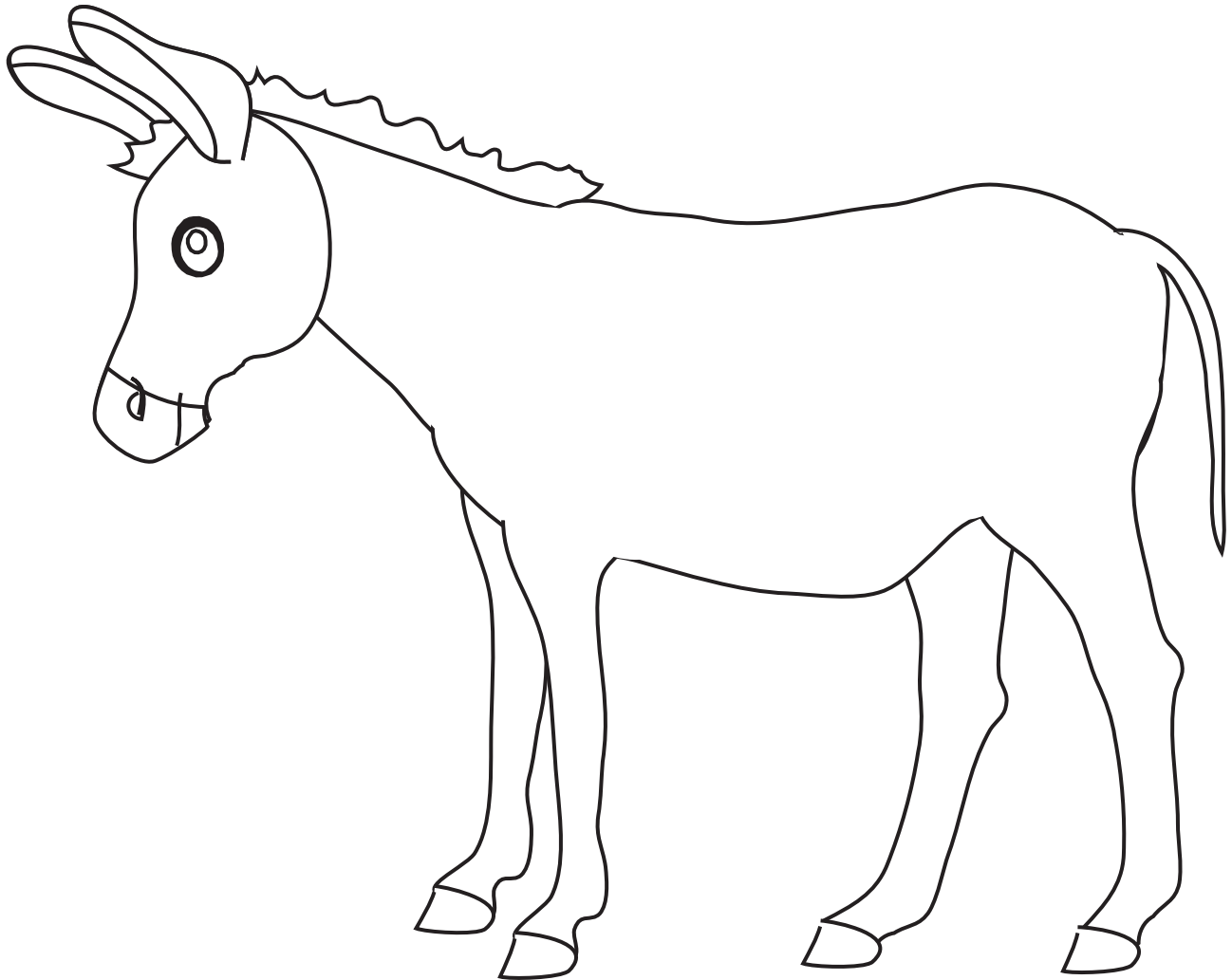


Easter Bunny

But, there was a young donkey.

Crowds of people cheered Jesus as he rode the donkey into Jerusalem. They wanted Jesus to be their new king. They hoped he would get rid of their enemies. They wanted him to give them a better life, filled with good things... right now!

But Jesus hadn't come to be that kind of king. He had come to die to give them something far better than the good things they wanted.. He would make the way for them to have eternal life with God.



Matthew 21:9

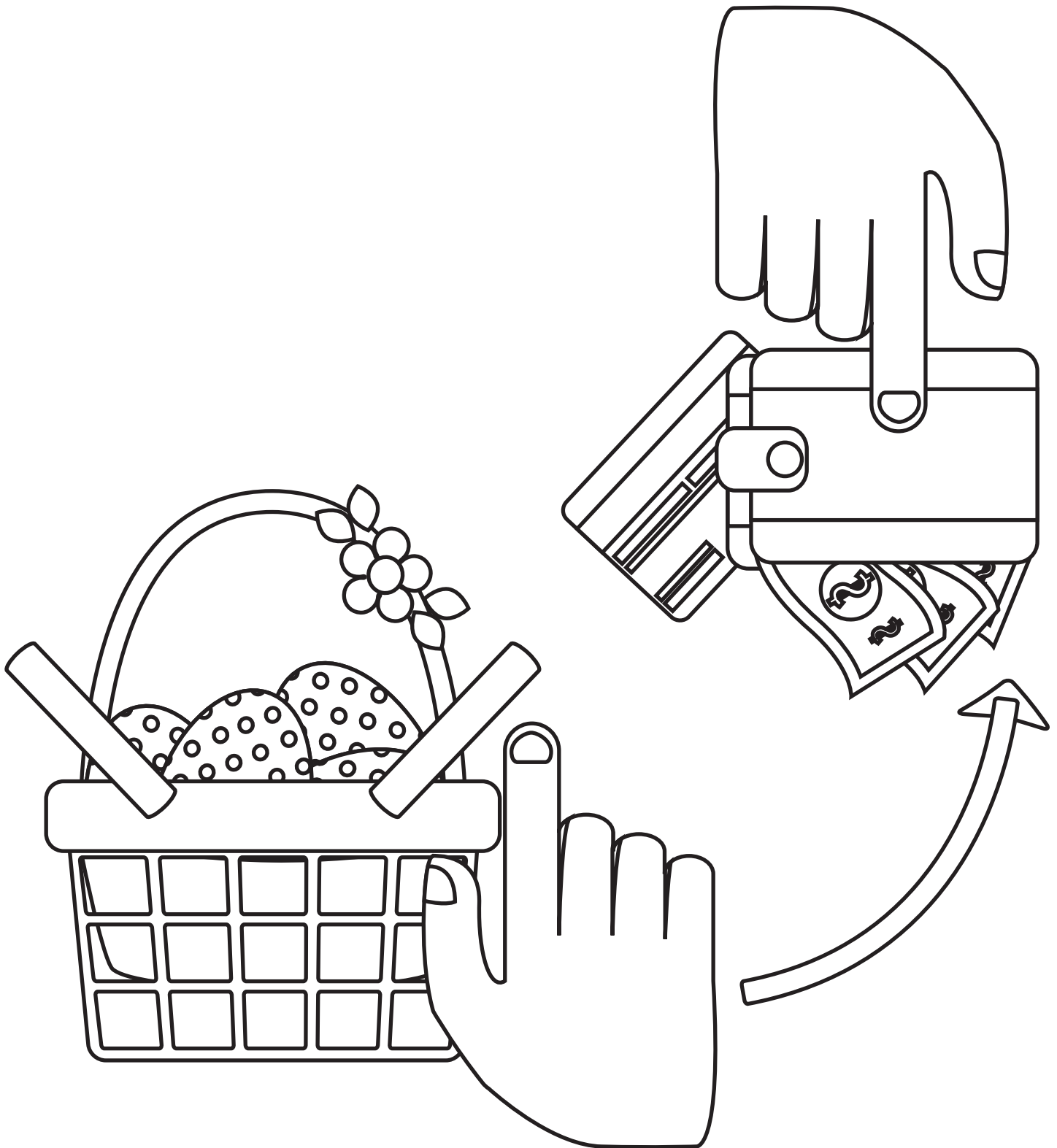
Some of the people went ahead of him, and some followed.

They all shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Psalm 118:26)

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

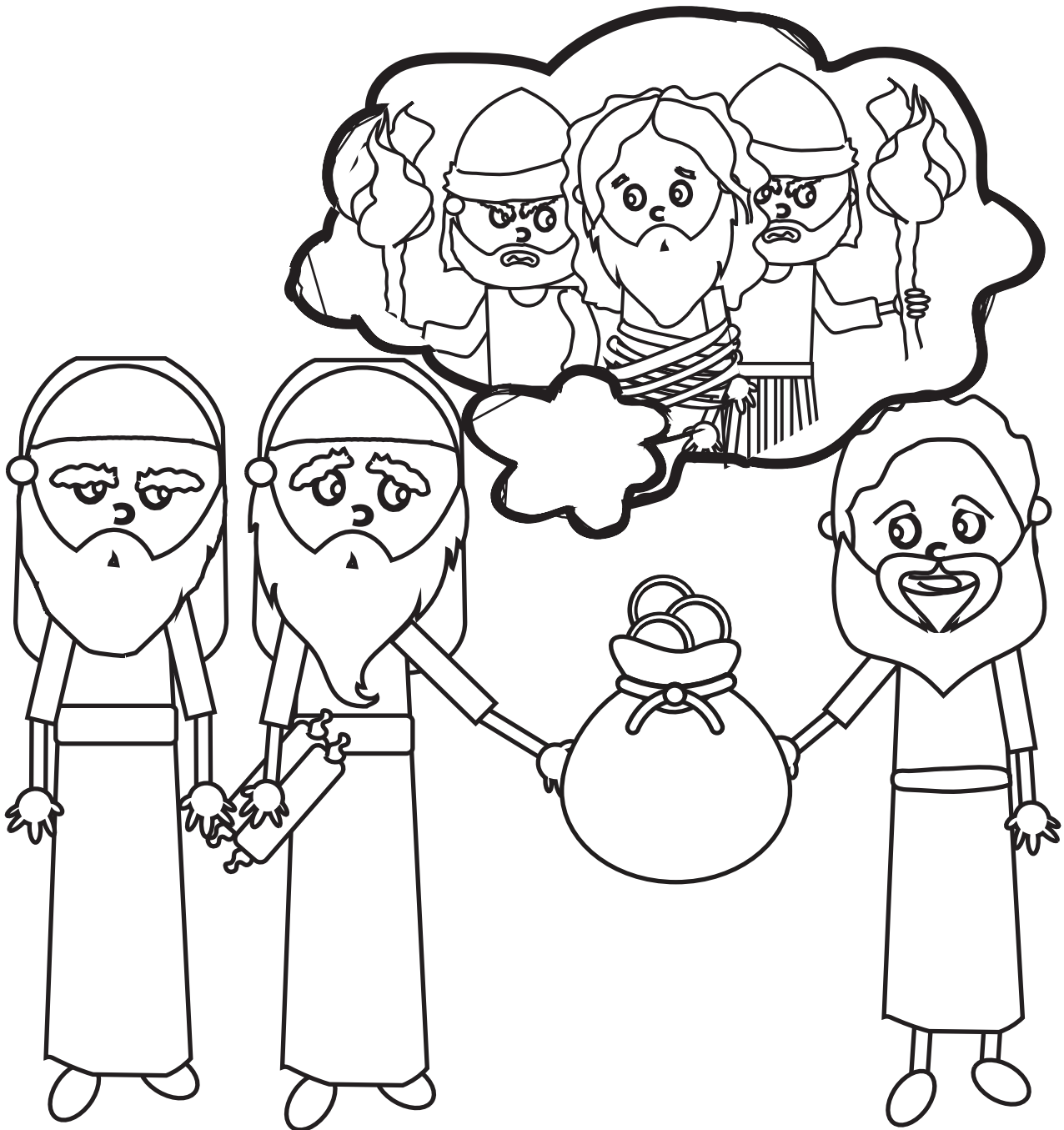
On the first Easter, there weren't mommies and daddies paying at shops for Easter treats for their kids.



Paying for Easter Treats

But, enemies paid to capture Jesus.

Jesus' close friend, Judas Iscariot, loved money. He agreed to help Jesus' enemies. He would show them where they could find Jesus and take him away... if the price was right..



Matthew 26:14-15

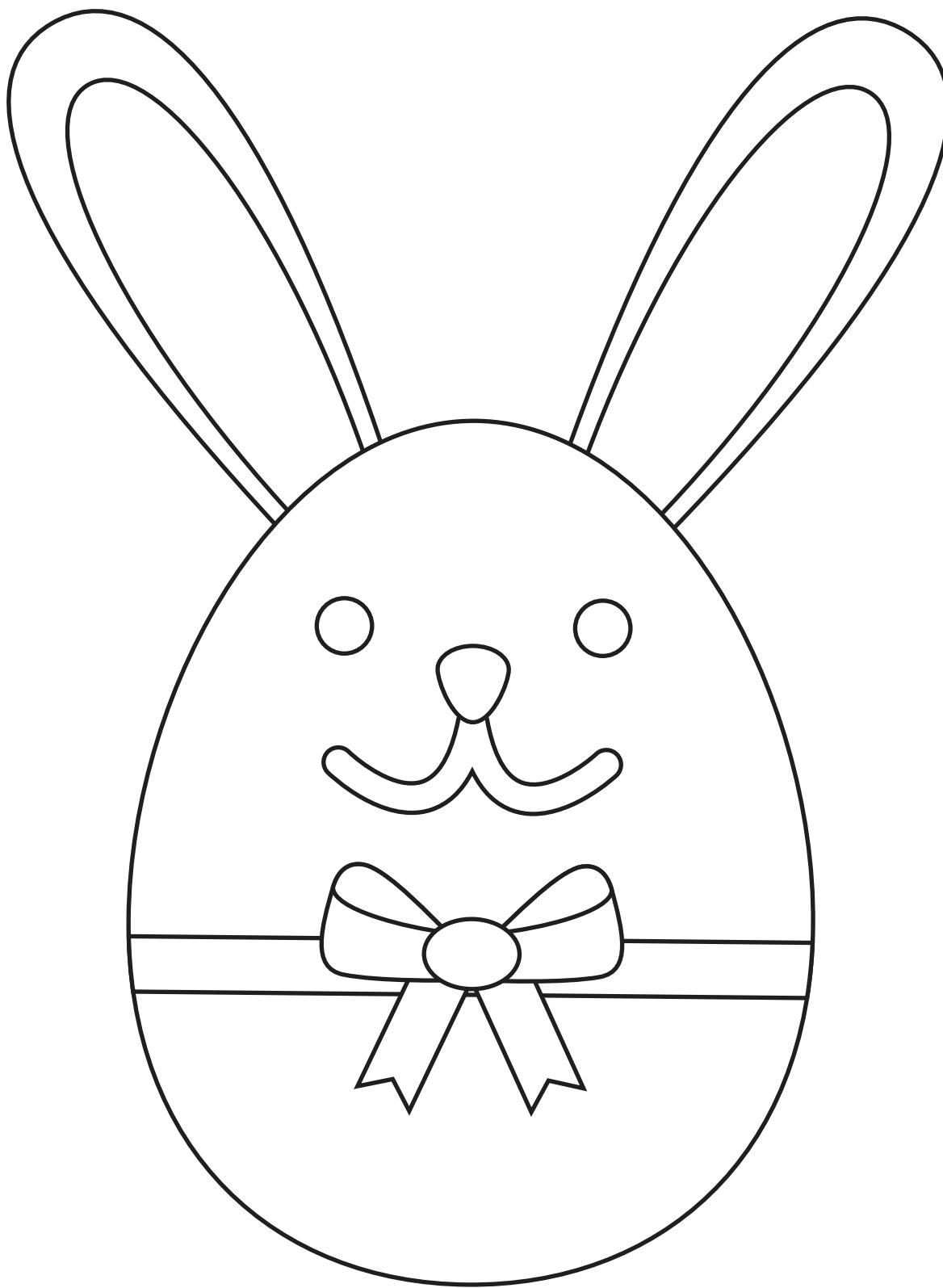
One of the 12 disciples went to the chief priests.

His name was Judas Iscariot.

He asked, "What will you give me if I hand Jesus over to you?"

So they counted out 30 silver coins for him.

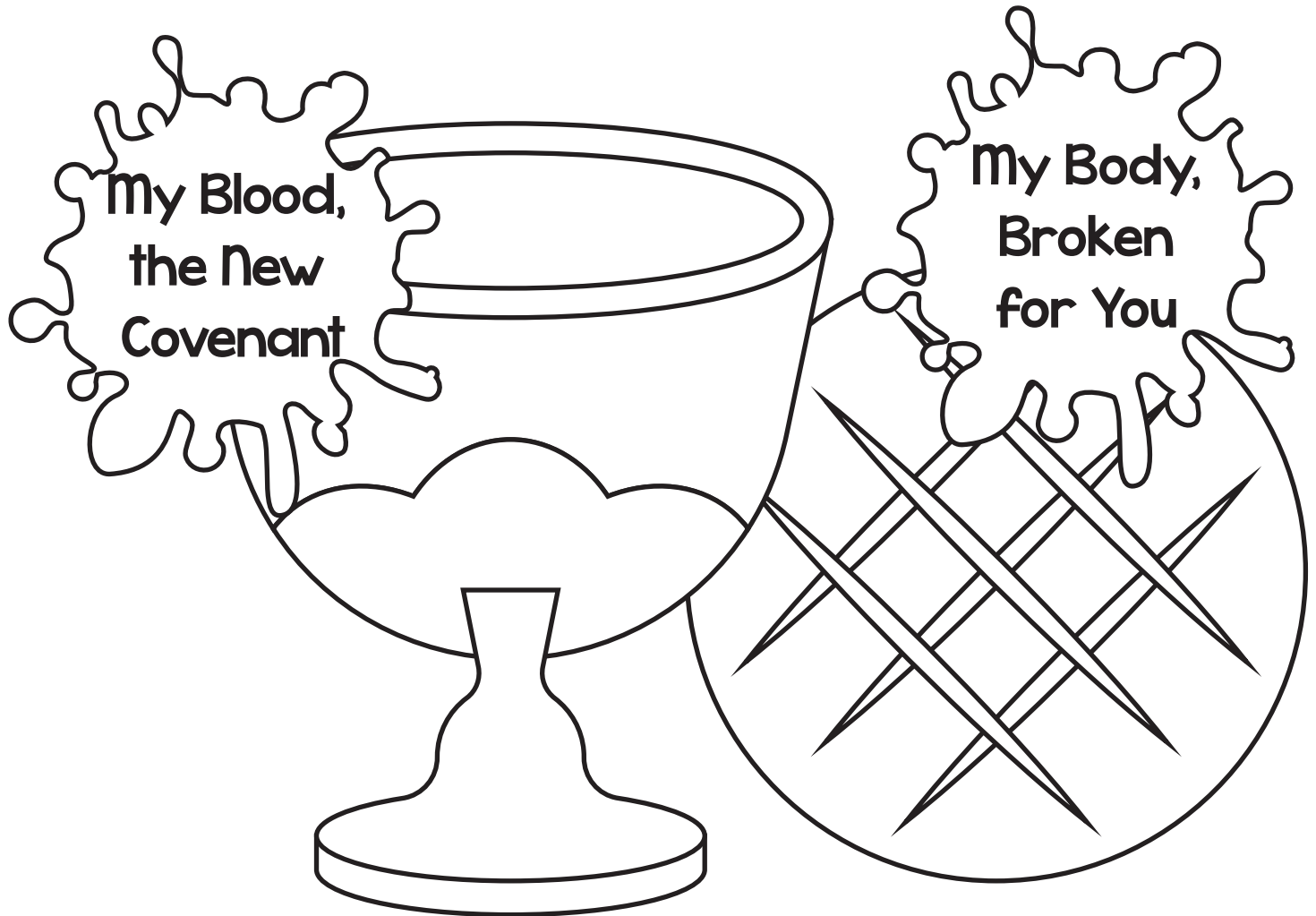
On the first Easter, there weren't chocolate Easter eggs to eat.



Chocolate Easter Eggs

But, Jesus shared a special meal with his close friends.

Jesus used the old, Passover meal to tell them about the wonderful, new promise God was making with his people. Jesus would pay for their sins, himself, when he died on the cross. Their sins would be forgiven once and for all!

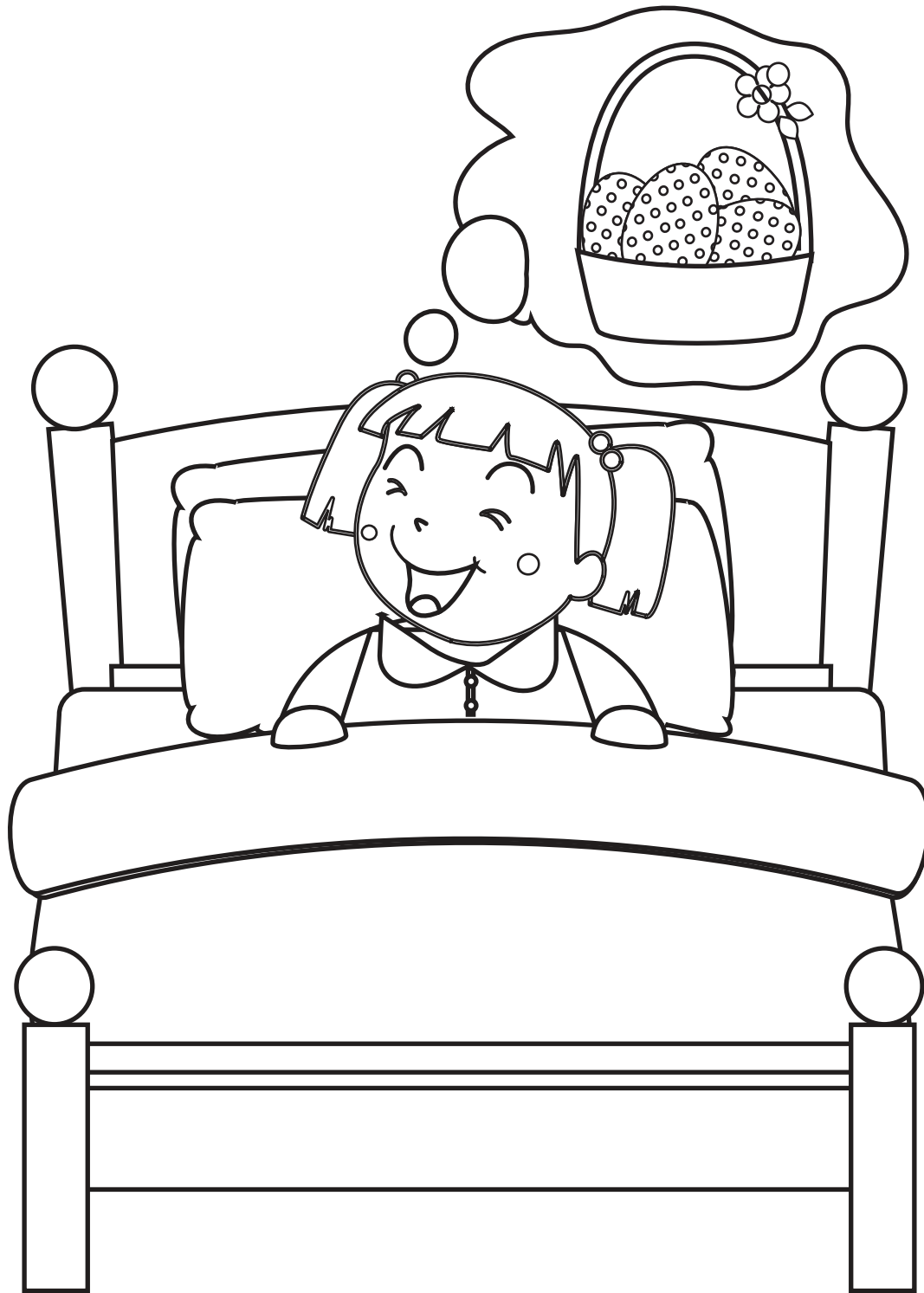


Matthew 26:26-28

While they were eating, Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks and broke it.
He handed it to his disciples and said,
"Take this and eat it. This is my body."

Then he took a cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them.
He said, "All of you drink from it.
This is my blood of the covenant.
It is poured out to forgive¹¹ the sins of many people."

On the first Easter, there weren't happy thoughts about the fun things that would happen the next day.



**Happy Thoughts about Fun Things
Happening the Next Day**

Instead, Jesus was very sad and troubled.

On the night before Jesus died, Jesus thought about how very hard it would be to suffer and die on the cross for the sins of God's people. He did not like suffering any more than we do. Jesus prayed to God, his Father, to help him. And God did!



Matthew 26:26-28

[Jesus] fell with his face to the ground.
He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible,
take this cup of suffering away from me.
But let what you want be done, not what I want."

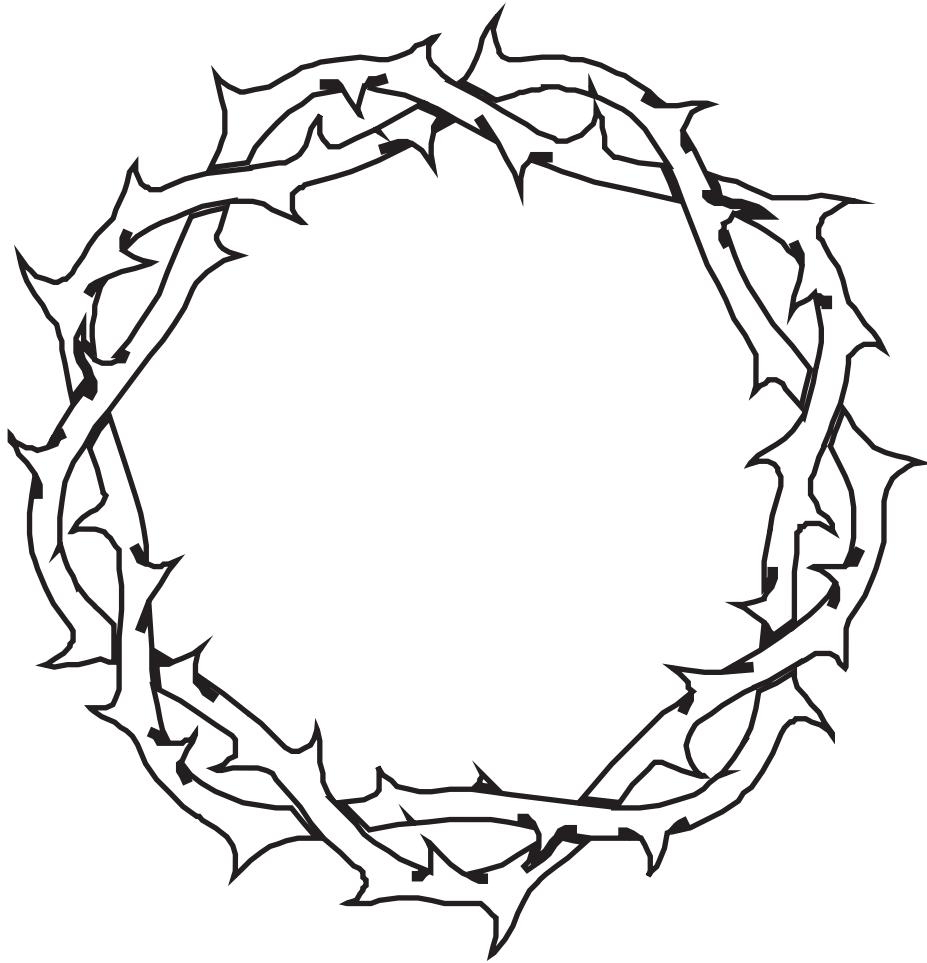
On the first Easter, there weren't friends and family
having fun together.



**Fun Times with
Friends and Family**

Instead, Jesus' friends all left him.

When enemies came to capture Jesus, his friends all ran away.
They left Jesus to suffer alone at the hands of his enemies.

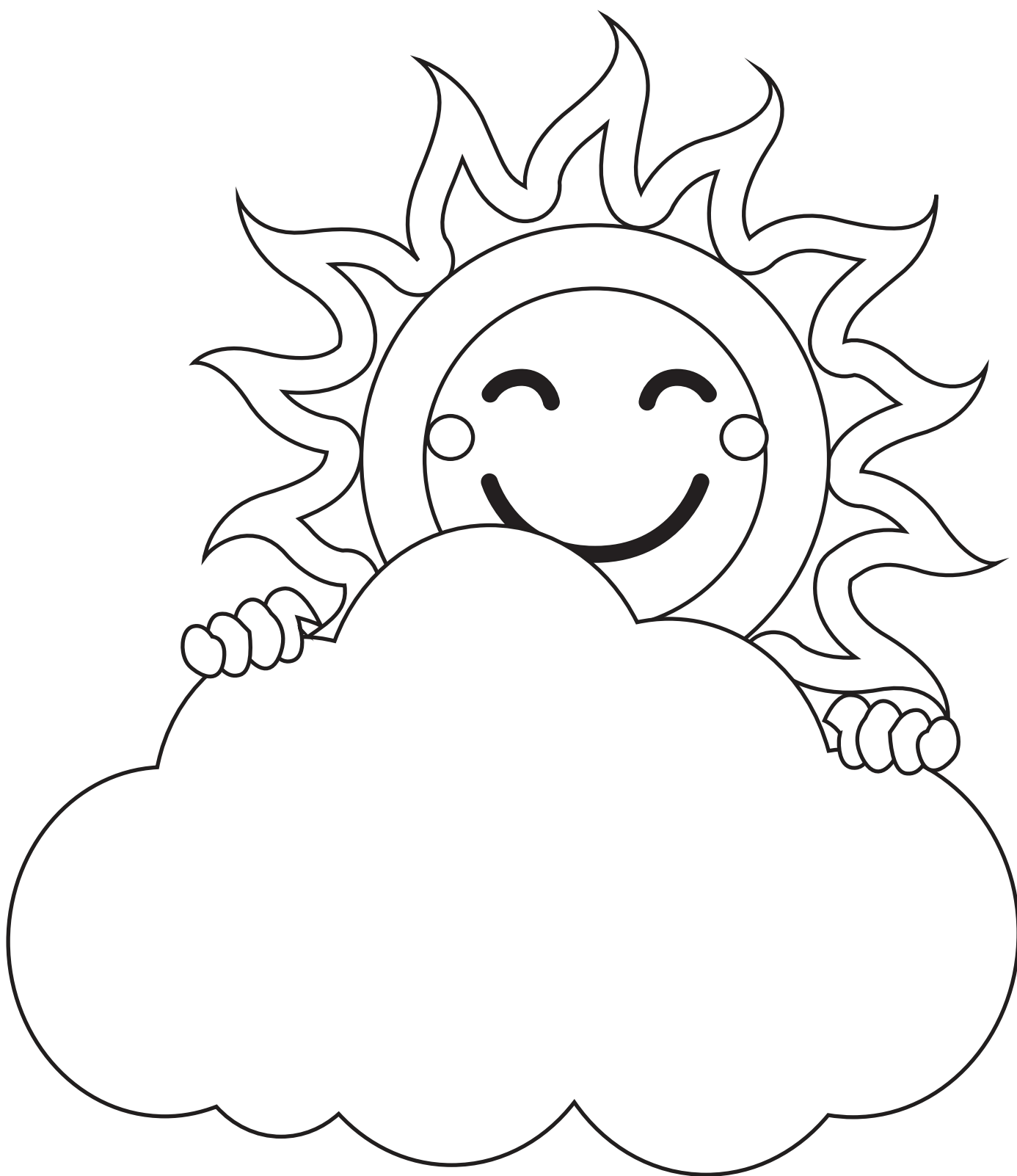


Matthew 27: 2,26-31

They tied him up and led him away.
Then they handed him over to Pilate, who was the governor.
Pilate let Barabbas go free. But he had Jesus whipped.
Then he handed him over to be nailed to a cross.

They took off his clothes and put a purple robe on him.
Then they twisted thorns together to make a crown.
They placed it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand.
Then they fell on their knees in front of him and made fun of him.
“We honor you, king of the Jews!” they said. They spit on him.
They hit him on the head with the stick again and again.
After they had made fun of him, they took off the robe.
They put his own clothes back on him.
Then they led him away to nail him to a cross.

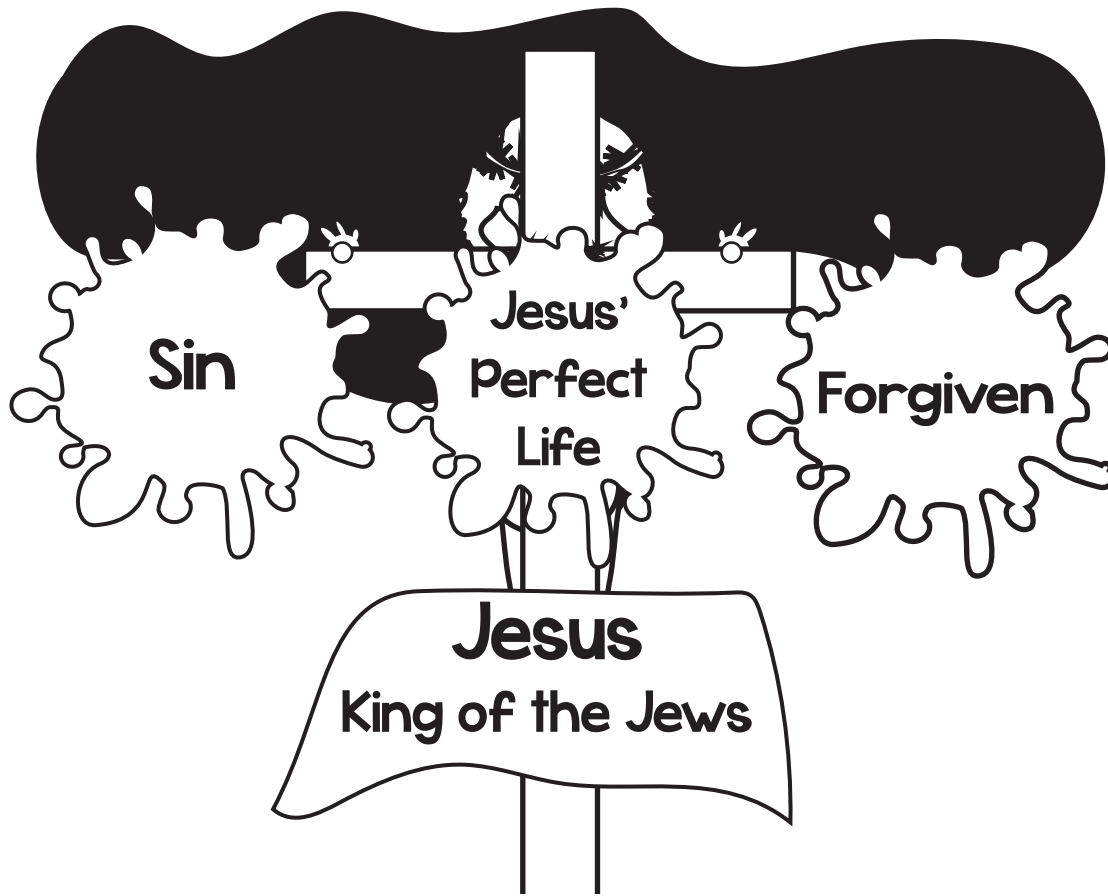
On the first Easter, there wasn't bright sunshine all day long.



Bright Sunshine

It was as dark at night in the middle of the day.

As Jesus suffered on the cross for the sins of God's people, everything became as dark as night for three hours. Oh, what a very big thing Jesus was doing! Even the sun refused to shine!



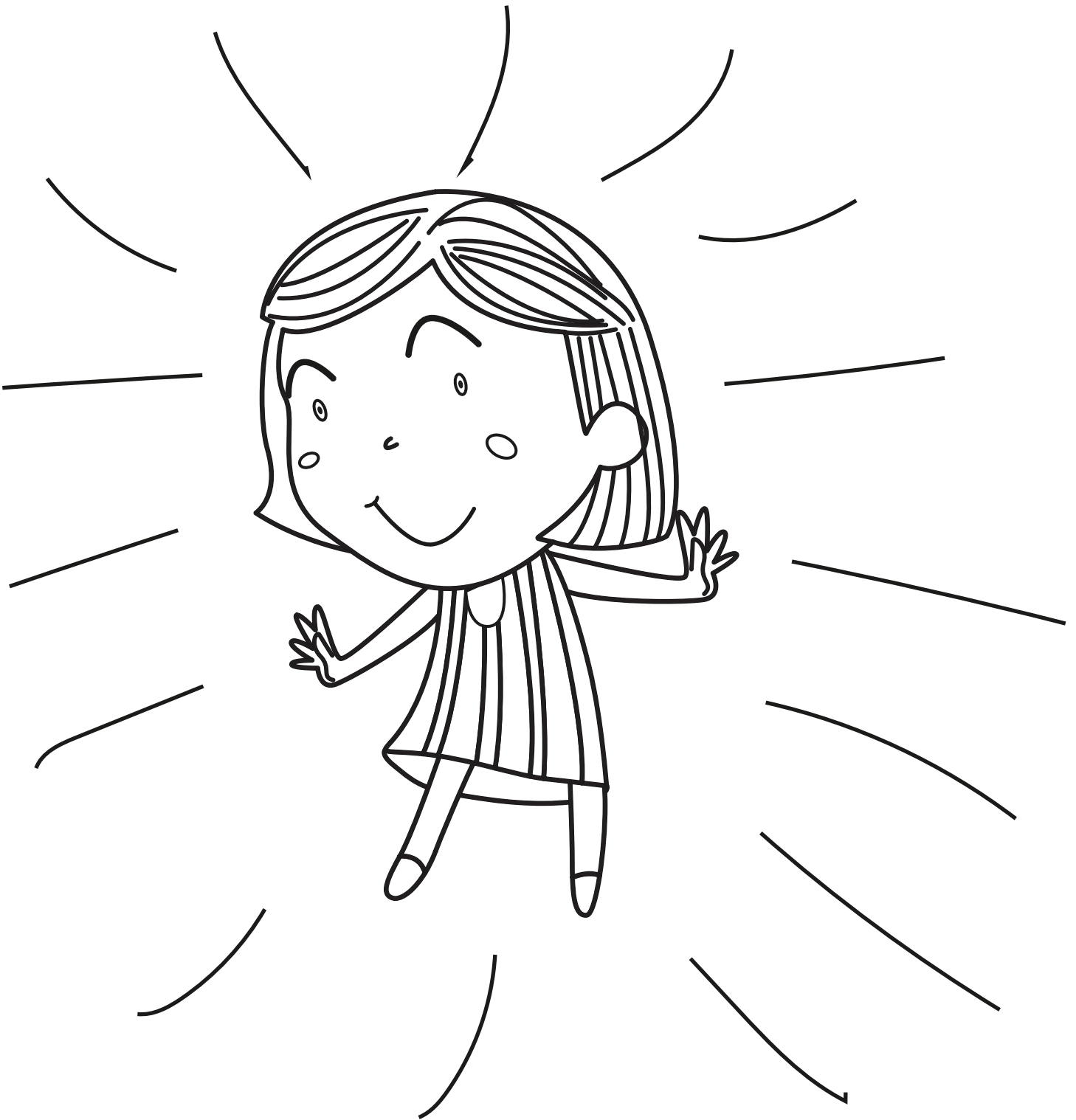
Matthew 28: 33,35-37,45-47

When they had nailed him to the cross, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Above his head they placed the written charge against him. It read,
"THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

From noon until three o'clock, the whole land was covered with darkness.
About three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice.
He said, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" (Psalm 22:1)

After Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, he died.
At that moment the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom.
The earth shook. The rocks split. The Roman commander and those guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened. They were terrified.
They exclaimed, "He was¹⁷ surely the Son of God!"

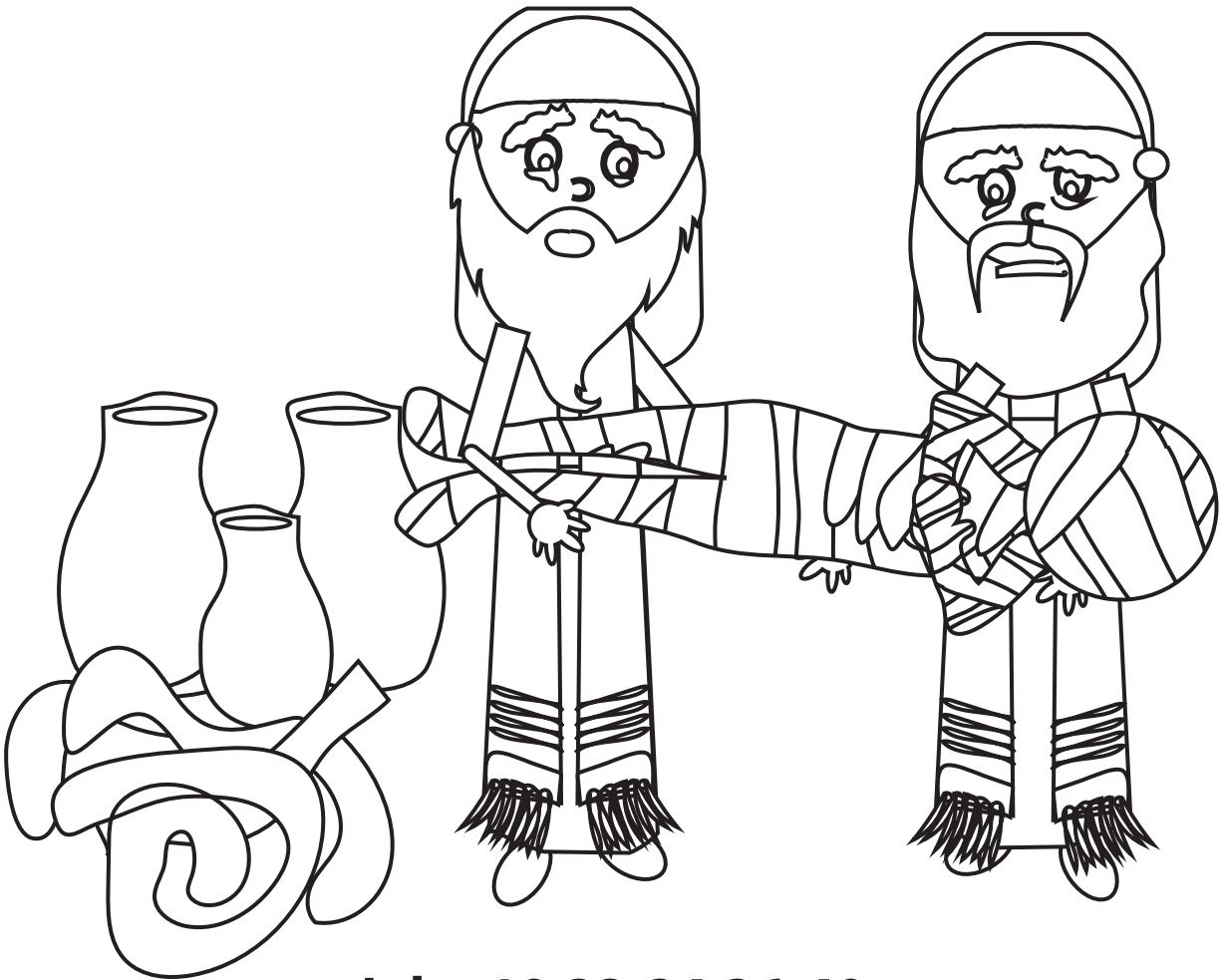
On the first Easter, there weren't
beautiful, new Easter clothes to put on.



Beautiful, New Easter Clothes

Instead, they put strips of plain linen on Jesus' body.

Friends took Jesus' body down from the cross. They prepared it to be buried.. They wrapped his dead body in strips of linen covered with sweet-smelling spices.



John 19:33-34,36-40

The soldiers saw that [Jesus] was already dead. So they did not break his legs.

Instead, one of the soldiers stuck his spear into Jesus' side.

Right away, blood and water flowed out.

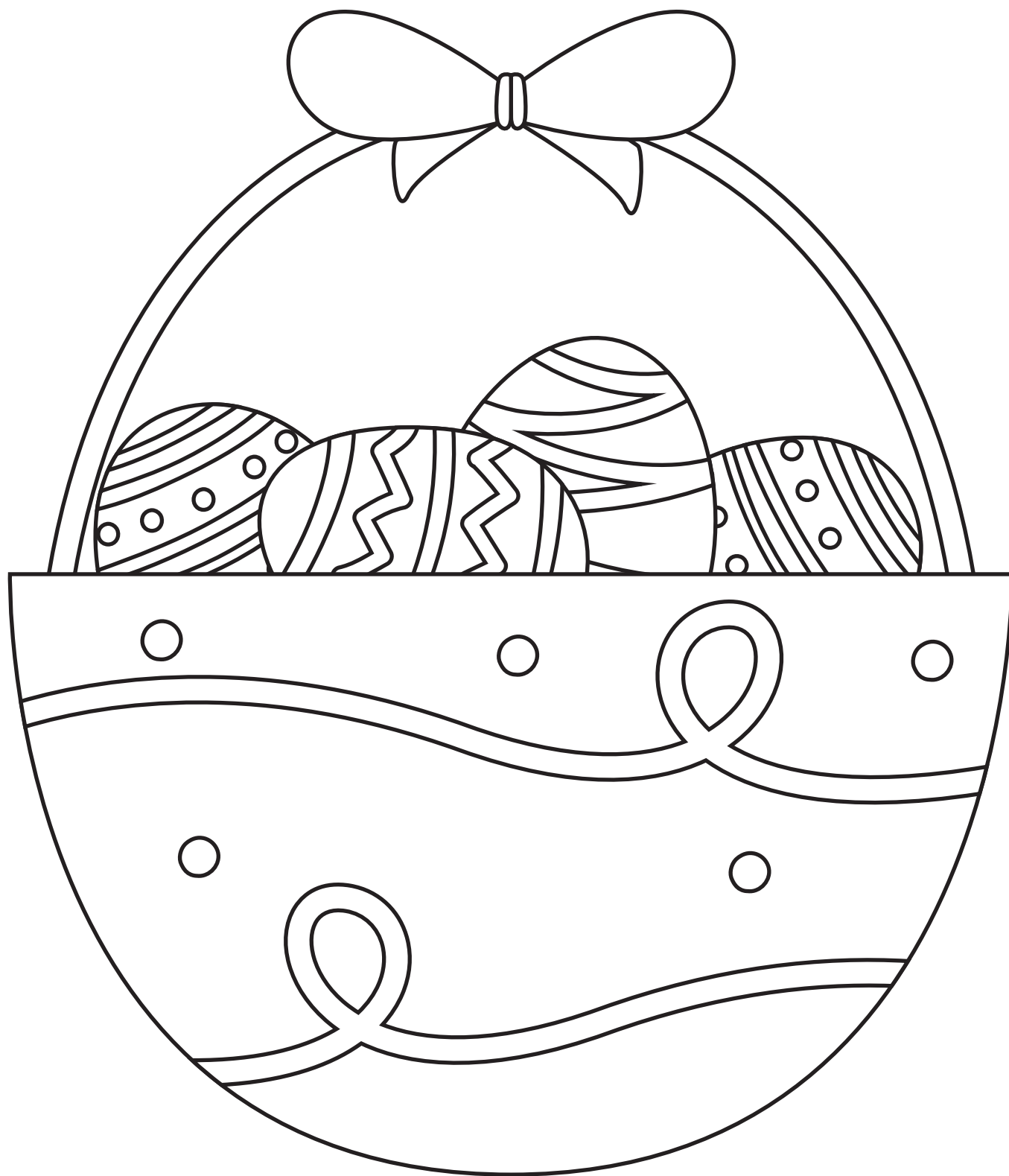
These things happened in order that Scripture would come true.

It says, "Not one of his bones will be broken."

Scripture also says, "They will look to the one they have pierced."

Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus' body. After Pilate gave him permission, Joseph came and took the body away. Nicodemus went with Joseph. Nicodemus brought some mixed spices that weighed about 75 pounds. The two men took Jesus' body. They wrapped it in strips of linen cloth, along with the spices. That was the way the Jews buried people.

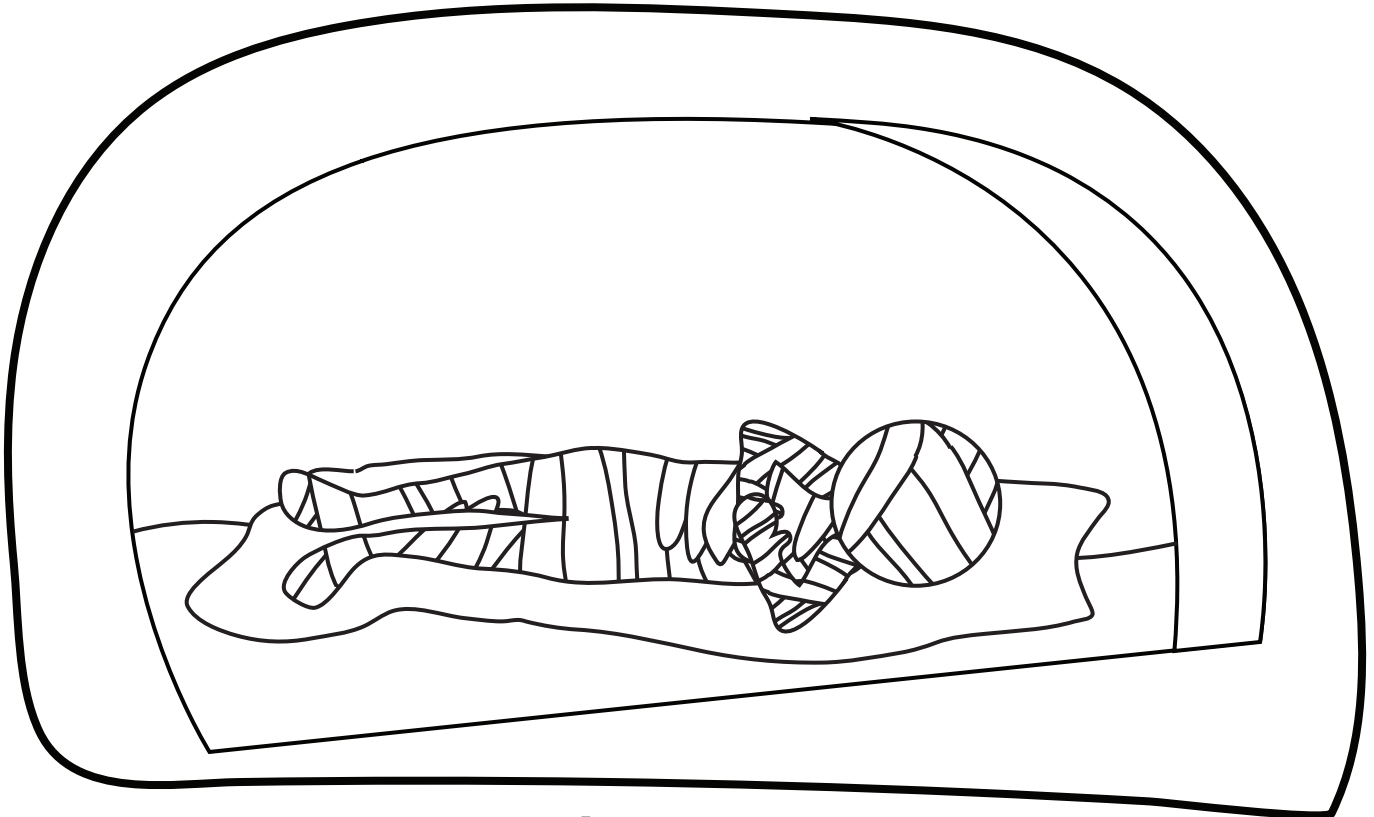
On the first Easter, there weren't Easter baskets
filled with Easter eggs.



Easter Eggs in a Easter Basket

Instead, there was a tomb (a cave grave) to put Jesus' body in.

Joseph used his own tomb for Jesus' body. He put it inside, then he rolled a heavy stone in place like a big door. Jesus' enemies sent soldiers to guard the tomb. They remembered Jesus said he would rise from the dead. They wanted to make sure his body stayed put!



Matthew 27:60-65

[Joseph] placed [Jesus' body] in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb. Then he went away.

The next day ...The chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate.

"Sir," they said, "we remember something that liar said while he was still alive.

He claimed, 'After three days I will rise again.'

So give the order to make the tomb secure until the third day.

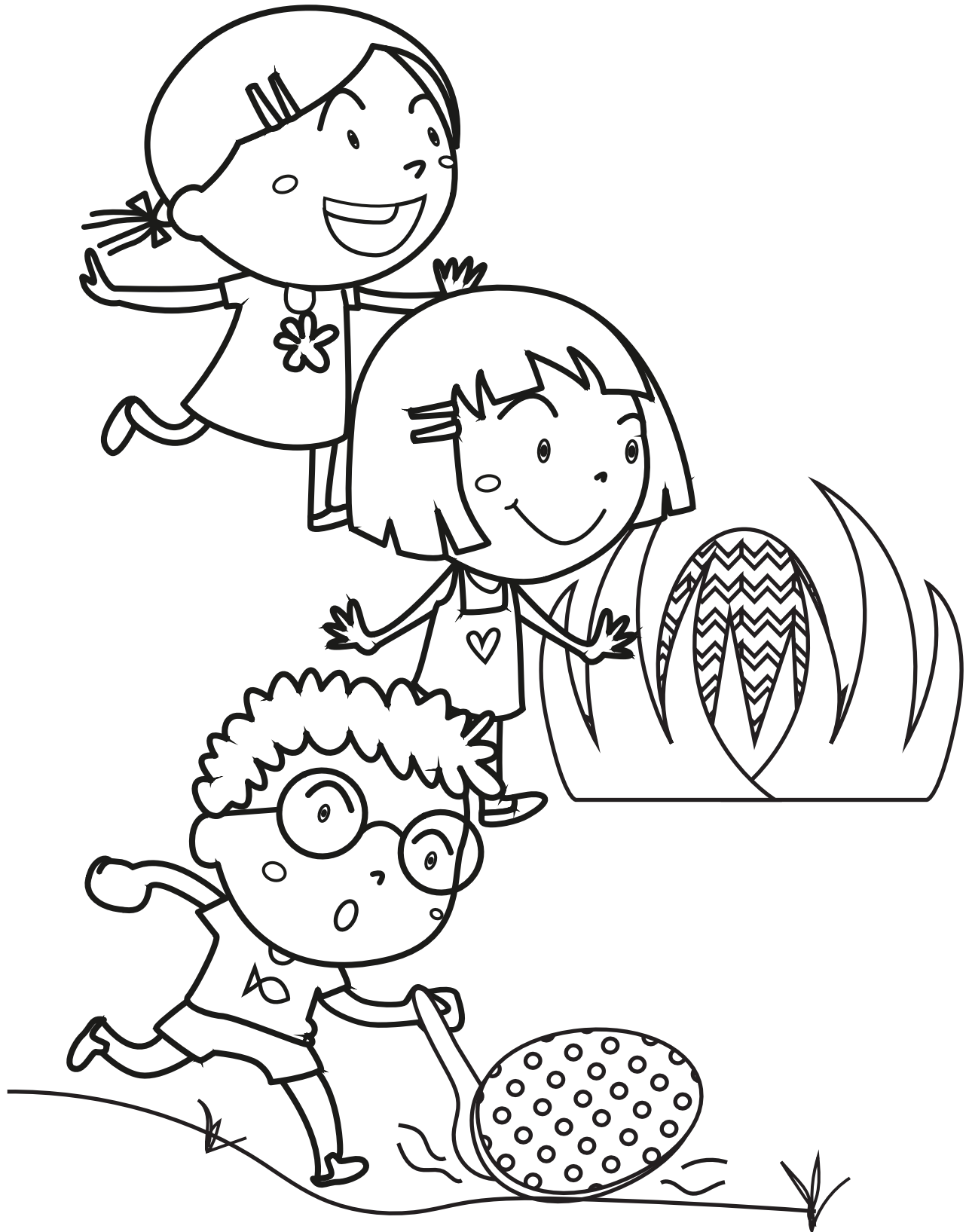
If you don't, his disciples might come and steal the body.

Then they will tell the people that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

This last lie will be worse than the first."

"Take some guards with you," Pilate answered. "Go. Make the tomb as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure.

On the first Easter, there were were no
Easter Egg Rolls or Easter Egg Hunts.



Easter Egg Roll and Easter Egg Hunt

But, there was a stone rolled away and a hunt for a missing body.

On Sunday, the morning of the third day, some women who were Jesus' friends went to care for his body. An angel rolled the stone away from Jesus' cave grave. And what did they see? Jesus' body was missing. He had risen just as he said he would!

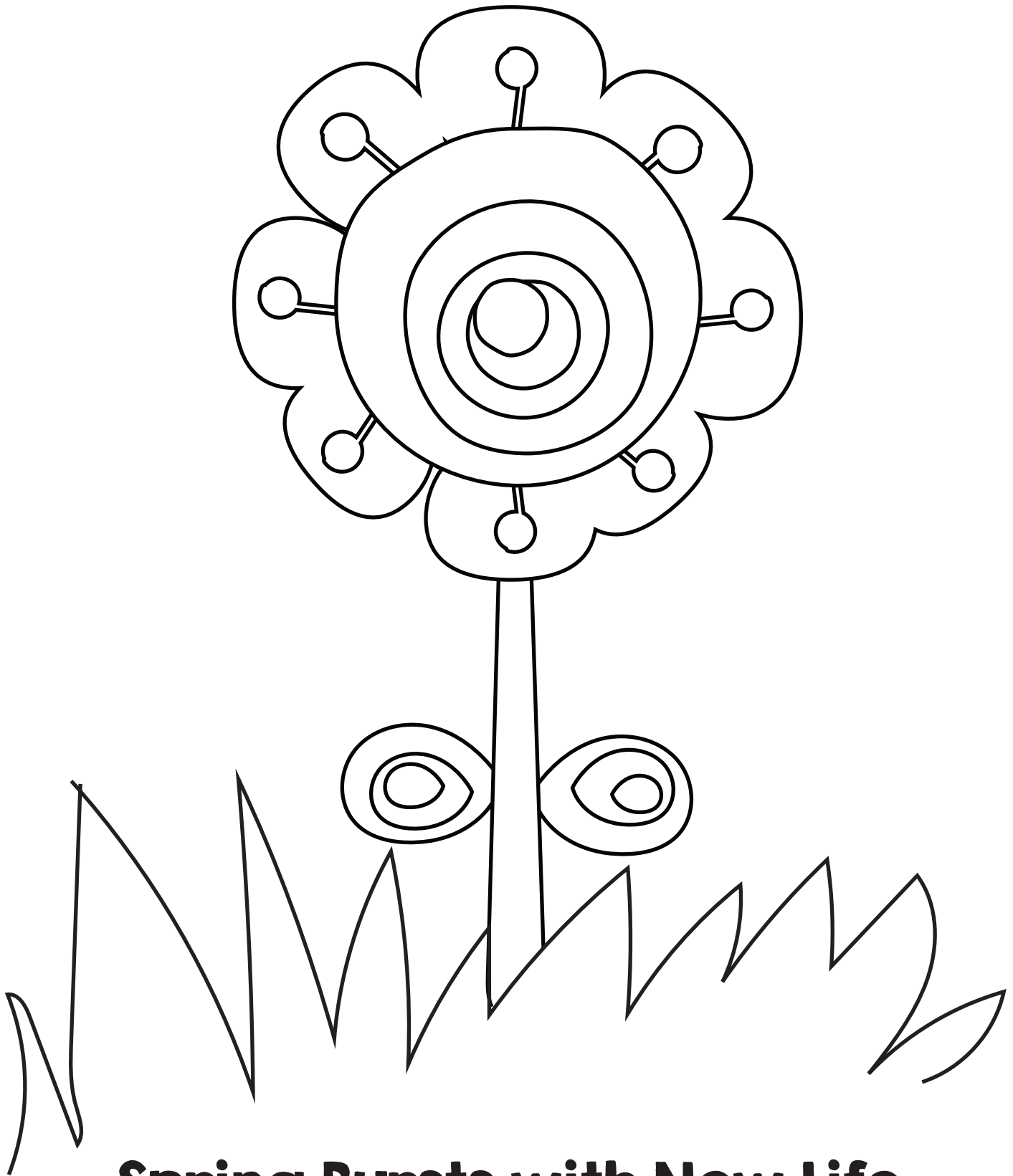


Matthew 28:1-8

It was dawn on [Sunday], the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb... An angel rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly! Tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead'"

So the women hurried away from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings!" he said. They came to him, took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

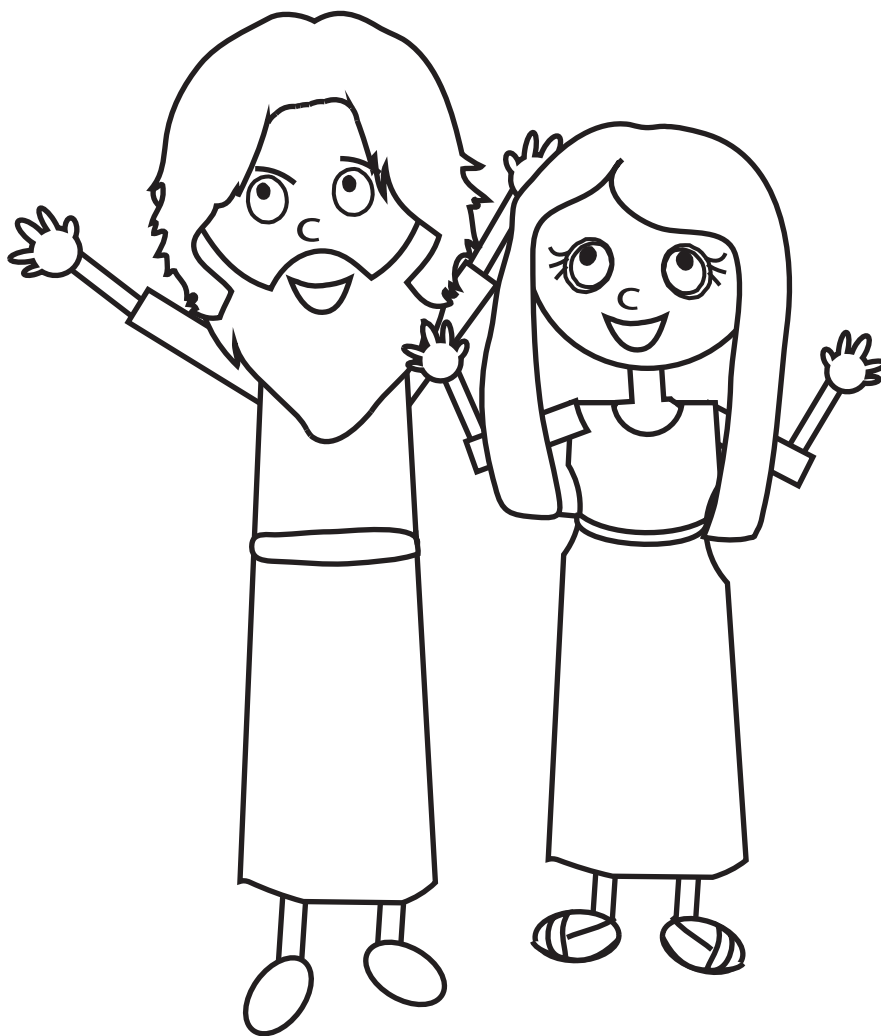
On the first Easter, people weren't celebrating spring and all the new life bursting into the world after a long, cold winter.



Spring Bursts with New Life

Instead, they celebrated that Jesus had burst forth out of the grave to live forevermore!

Jesus had really beaten sin and death. He proved that when he rose up from the dead. How Jesus' followers praised God that first Easter Sunday! Because of Jesus, they could know God and be a part of God's family forever. He would give them new hearts. He would help them love God and live the lives God wanted them to live.



Acts 2:42,44,46-47

The believers studied what the apostles taught.
They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together...
They shared everything they had...Their hearts were glad and sincere.
They praised God. They were respected by all the people.
Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

And that's why even to this day, God's people from every place and every time, have kept on celebrating what Jesus did on that first, very different Easter. There is nothing better than knowing God and being a part of his family. This is the Easter gift that Jesus gave them when he died on the cross..



**God's People from
Every Place and Every Time**

But that wonderful Easter gift, from that first Easter, is just the beginning! God's people look forward to God's great big FINAL gift when Jesus comes back. He will bring an end to sin, sickness, sadness and death for good! He will give his people a brand-new, perfect world to live together with Him forever.. He will be their King and how happy they will be! It will be Perfect Wonderfulness!

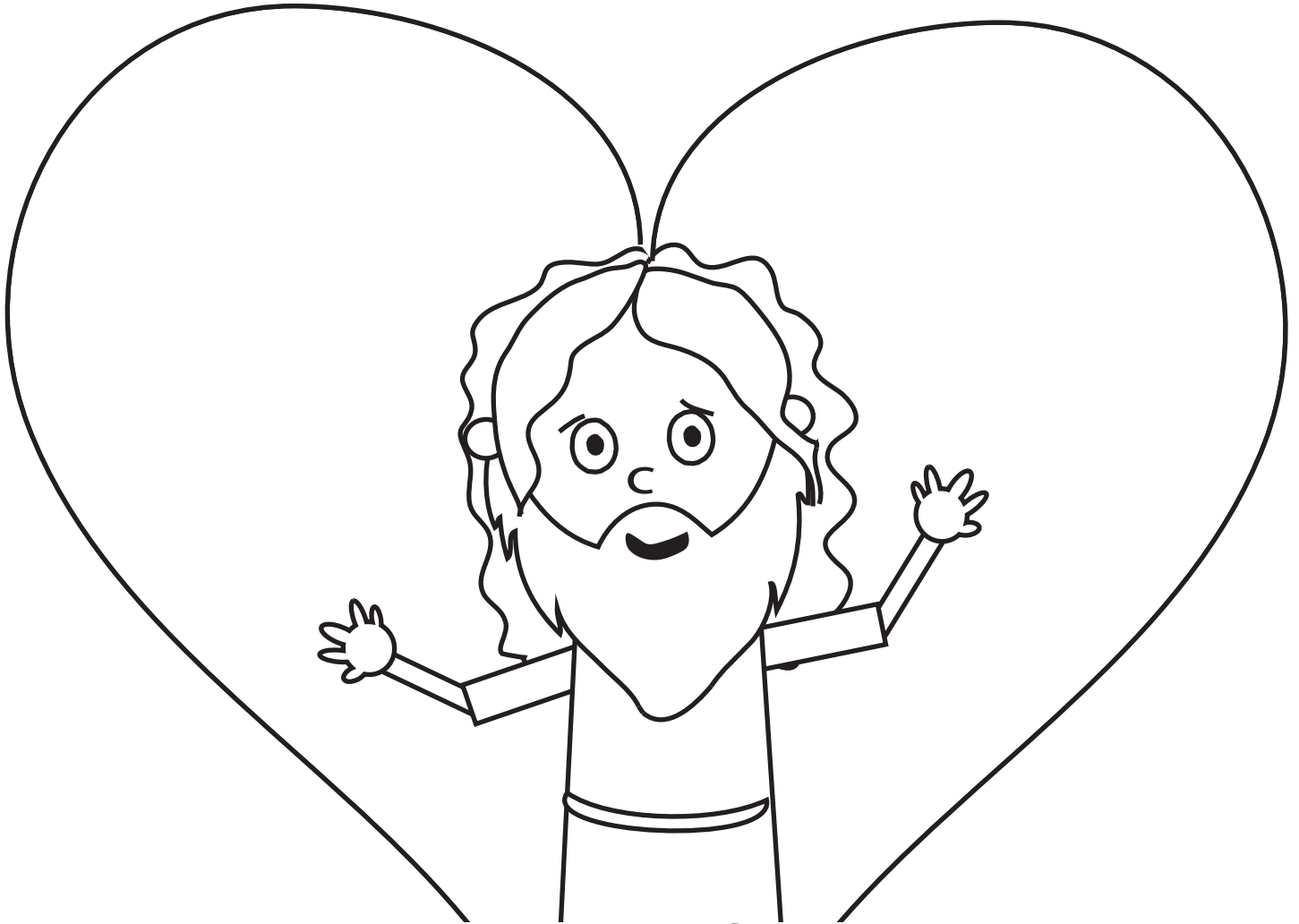


Revelation 21:1-4

I saw a new heaven and a new earth...

"Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death.' And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be.

And that's why God's people share about Jesus with all who will listen. "Turn away from your old way of life! Turn to Jesus. Ask him to be your Savior! He will forgive your sins and make you a part of God's family." they say. This the good news they love to tell.



Savior



John 3:16

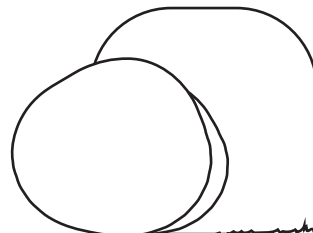
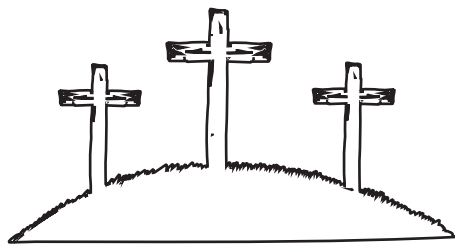
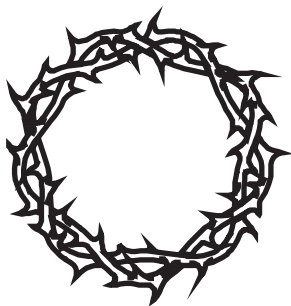
God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.
Anyone who believes in him will not die, but will have eternal life.

They want everyone to know God. They want everyone to be his people and enjoy him forever!

This VERY different Easter present., that comes from that first, VERY different Easter., is the best Easter present anyone can EVER receive!



Ask God to help you receive this gift!
He loves to answer this prayer!



And that's the story of the very different Easter.

The story of an amazing God
who has loved us so much that he would send
his dear Son, Jesus, to suffer and die
to save people like you and me!

Now it's our turn for a very different Easter!

Let's not just enjoy Easter fun this Easter.
Let's lift up our voices to praise
this tremendous God.
Let's not just hunt for candy eggs,
that we will enjoy for only a moment.
Let's seek Jesus, who we can enjoy forever!

"Whoever comes to me I will never drive away." John 6:37



Dear God,
Thank you for loving us so much that
you sent Jesus to save us. Work in our hearts!
Help us to give our lives to you and
to trust in Jesus as our Savior.
This is how we can know you and be your people.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

