

THE

ADVENTURE



you might be surprised
WHO is in it!

P.S. At the end of this ADVENT-ure, see if you can name all the stories on this cover picture!

The ADVENT-ure

Do you know what an Adventure is?

An adventure is going somewhere new, and all the exciting things that happen along the way.

Do you know what Advent is?

"Advent" is just a big word that means "Someone's coming!" The four weeks leading up to Christmas are called Advent by Christians. Why? Because it's a special time to think about the most important someone who came at Christmas: Jesus.

What's an ADVENT-ure?

Okay, you know what an adventure is, and now you know what Advent is. Put them together, and you get an ADVENT-ure: following God's plan to send Jesus--not just once, but twice!

Be an ADVENT-urer!

So, why not make this Advent--these days leading up to Christmas--an ADVENT-ure? Follow along the readings from The Big Picture Story Bible (by David Helm), find the answers to the questions, place the stickers, and color the pictures.

By the end of this ADVENT-ure, you'll know much more about God and his amazing plan. It's a plan that started before the beginning of time, ran right through that first Christmas... and keeps on going to the very end of time. Wow!

The ADVENT-ure Begins

I can't tell you WHEN the true story behind this ADVENT-ure began exactly. It began long before there were days, months and years. I can't even tell you WHERE it began exactly, for it began before there was earth with all its mountains and trees, birds and animals...or even heaven filled with angels.

But even though I can't tell you WHEN it began or WHERE it began, I can tell you a little bit about what it was like: it was "Perfect Wonderfulness"!

What is Perfect Wonderfulness? It is perfect love, joy, peace and goodness that comes from knowing and loving God, the greatest someone there is to know. If you think this sounds good, you are right! It is better than anything that you or I can ever imagine.

This ADVENT-ure is the most amazing story of the God's love for us. It's the story of what God chose to do because He wanted people like you and me to know Him and enjoy Him forever. God would make the way for us to taste His Perfect Wonderfulness in our lives even now. With the promise that later, we can be completely filled up with His happy goodness.... FOREVER! How can this happen? What was God's plan? That's what this ADVENT-ure is about, so...

Let's Get Started!

The Story of God's Love for...



People Like You and _ _ _

I - World of Mouth

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 14-20

Genesis 1:1-25; John 1:1-3

“In the beginning,
God created
the heavens
and the earth.”

== Genesis 1:1

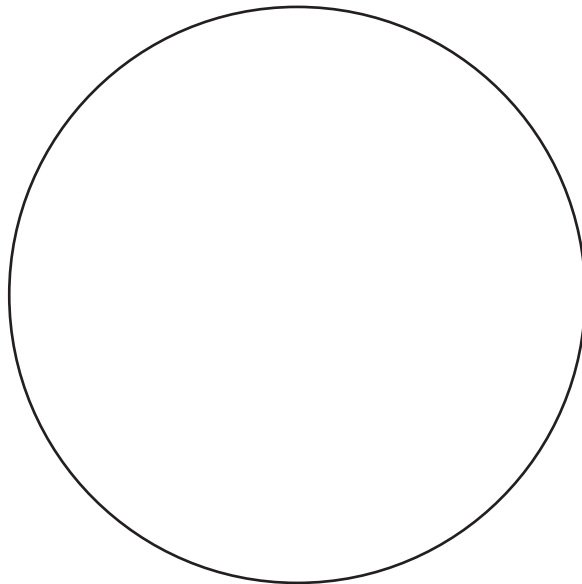
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God created the whole
world with just His...



W

2 - Made for More

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 21-35
Genesis 1-26-2:25

“God created human
beings in his image*...
He created them
male and female.”

Genesis 1:27

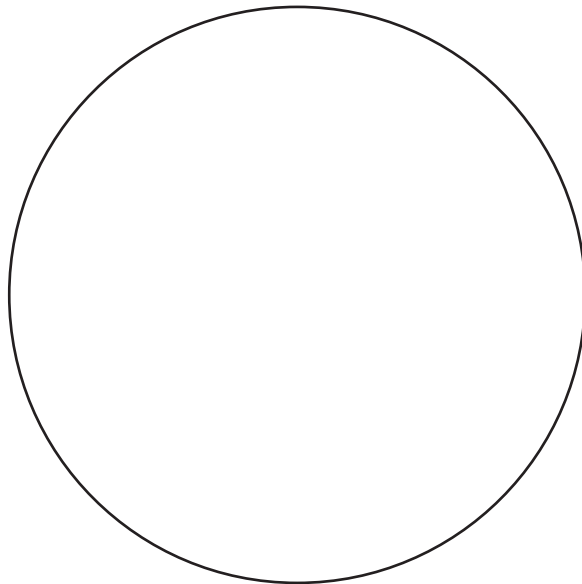
* made in God's image means made with a spirit, a special heart to know and love Him

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2



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God Made People
with a Special Heart to...



Know and love _____

3 - The Great Bait and Switch

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 37-49

Genesis 3:1-6: Romans 5:12,15,19; 1 Corinthians 15:22

“Sin entered
the world because
one man sinned.
And death came
because of sin.”

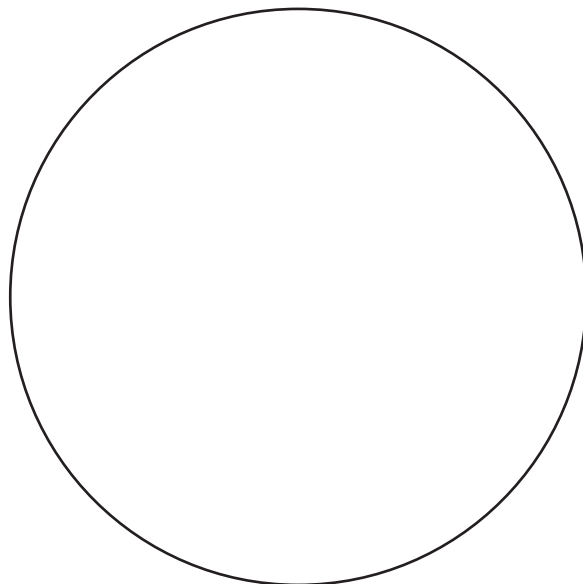
Romans 5:12

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3



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Death, Sin and Sadness Come
When Adam and Eve...



Chose to Dis _____
God

4 - A Ray of Hope

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 51-66

Genesis 9:8-13

“I have set my rainbow
in the clouds, and it will
be the sign of
the covenant between
me and the earth.”

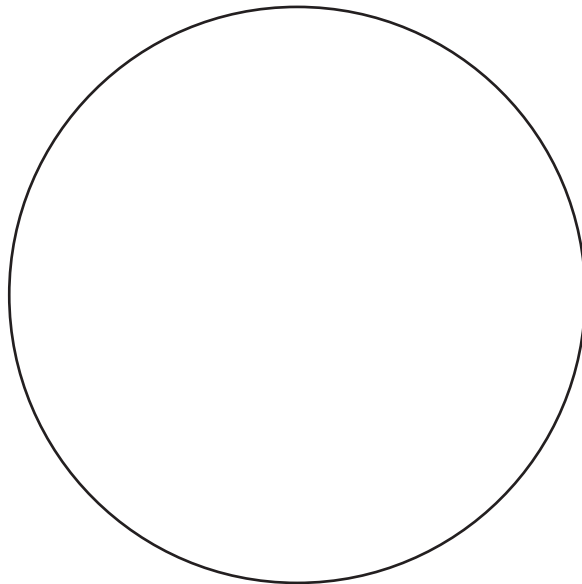
Genesis 9:13, NIV

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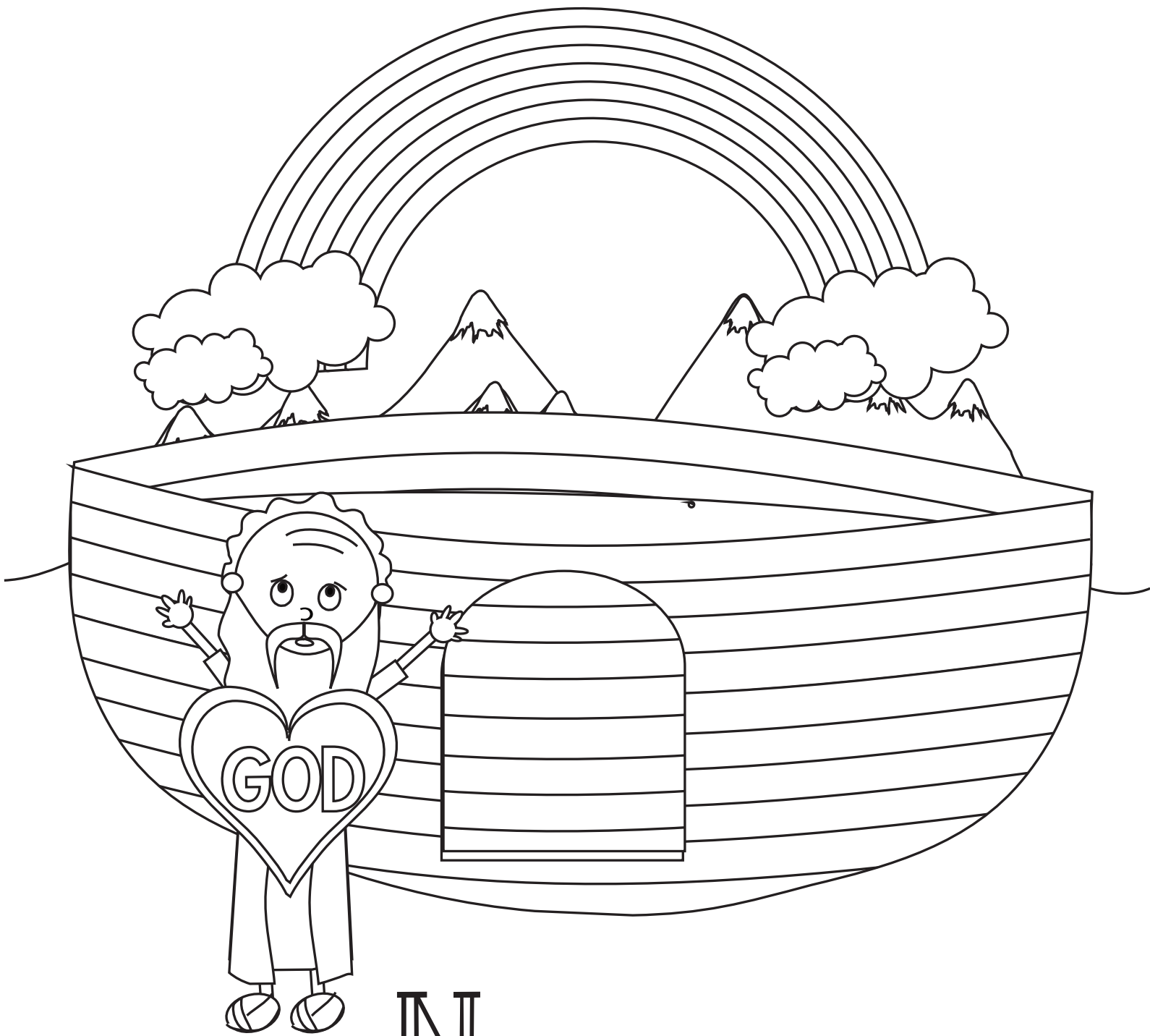
4



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When everyone else kept
disobeying God,



N _ _ _

trusted and obeyed.

5 - The Star-Studded Family

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 67-81

Genesis 15:5-6, 22:17-18

“All the peoples
on earth

will be blessed

through you.”

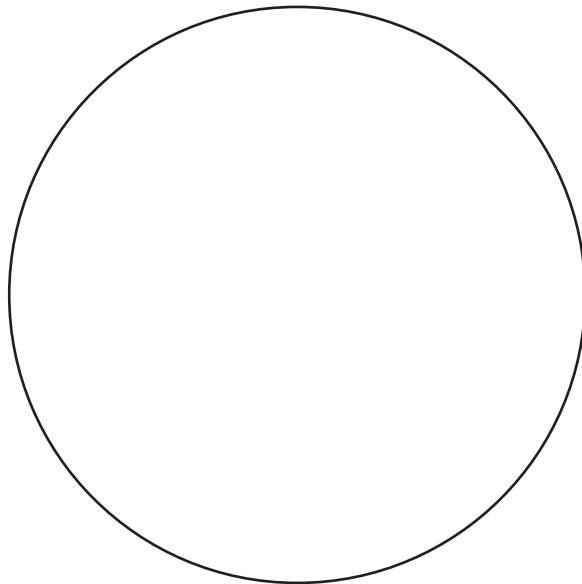
Genesis 1:23

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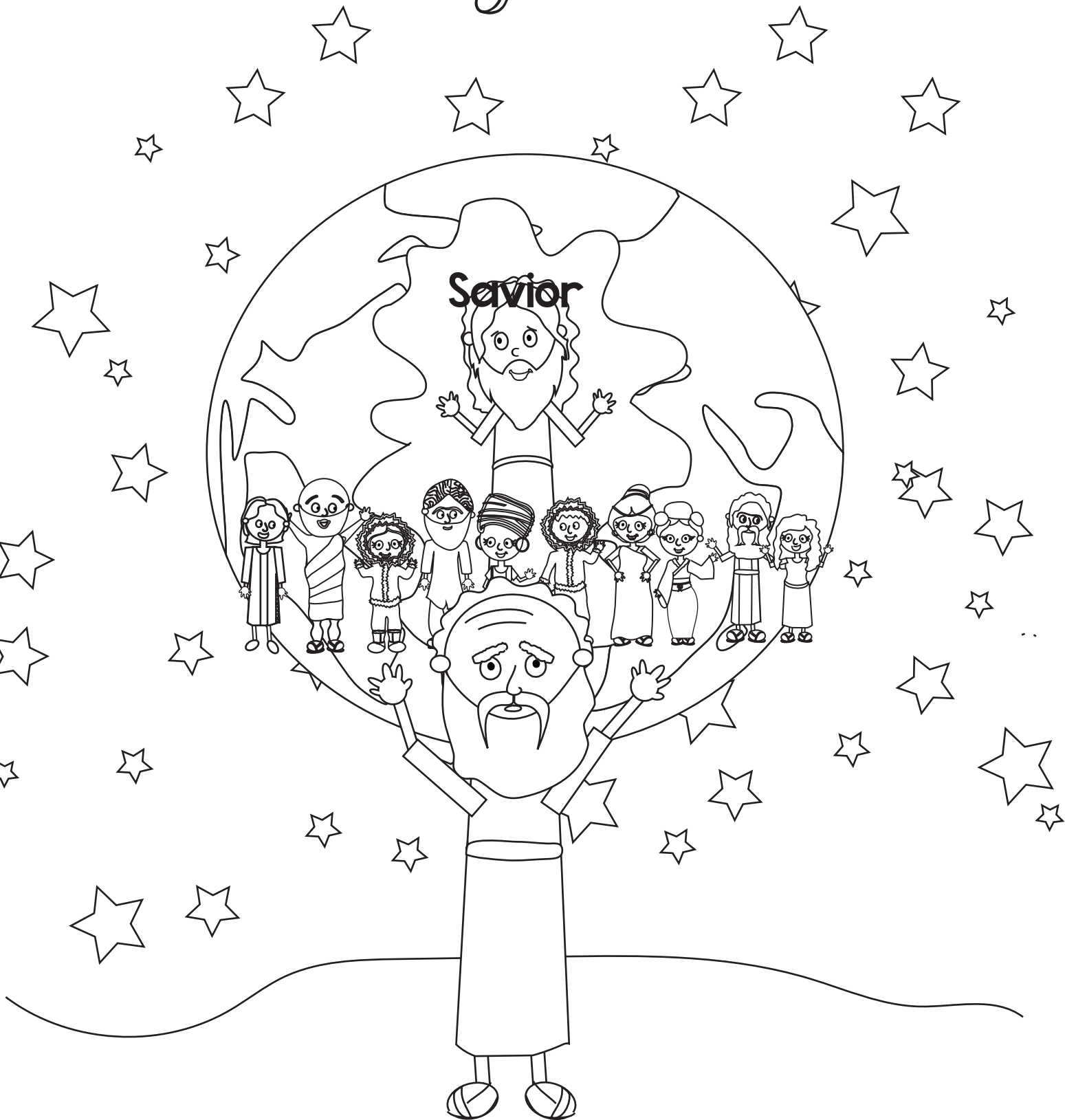
5



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God Promised Abraham to use
his family to bless...



A _ _

Peoples

6 - Growing Gains

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 83-87
Genesis 28

“Your children will
be like the dust
of the earth that
can't be counted.”

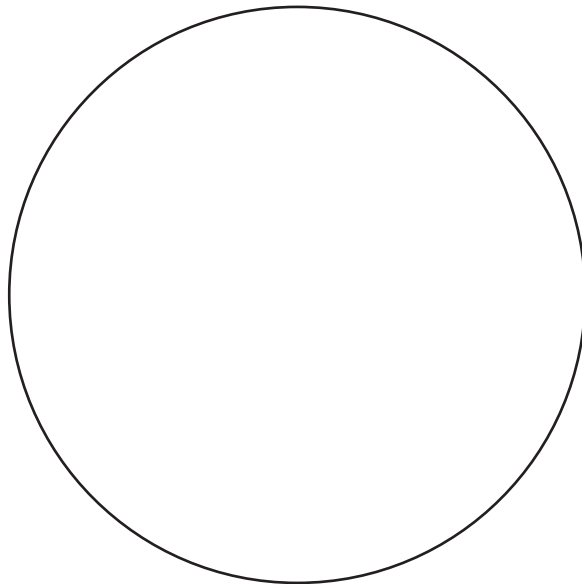
Genesis 28:11

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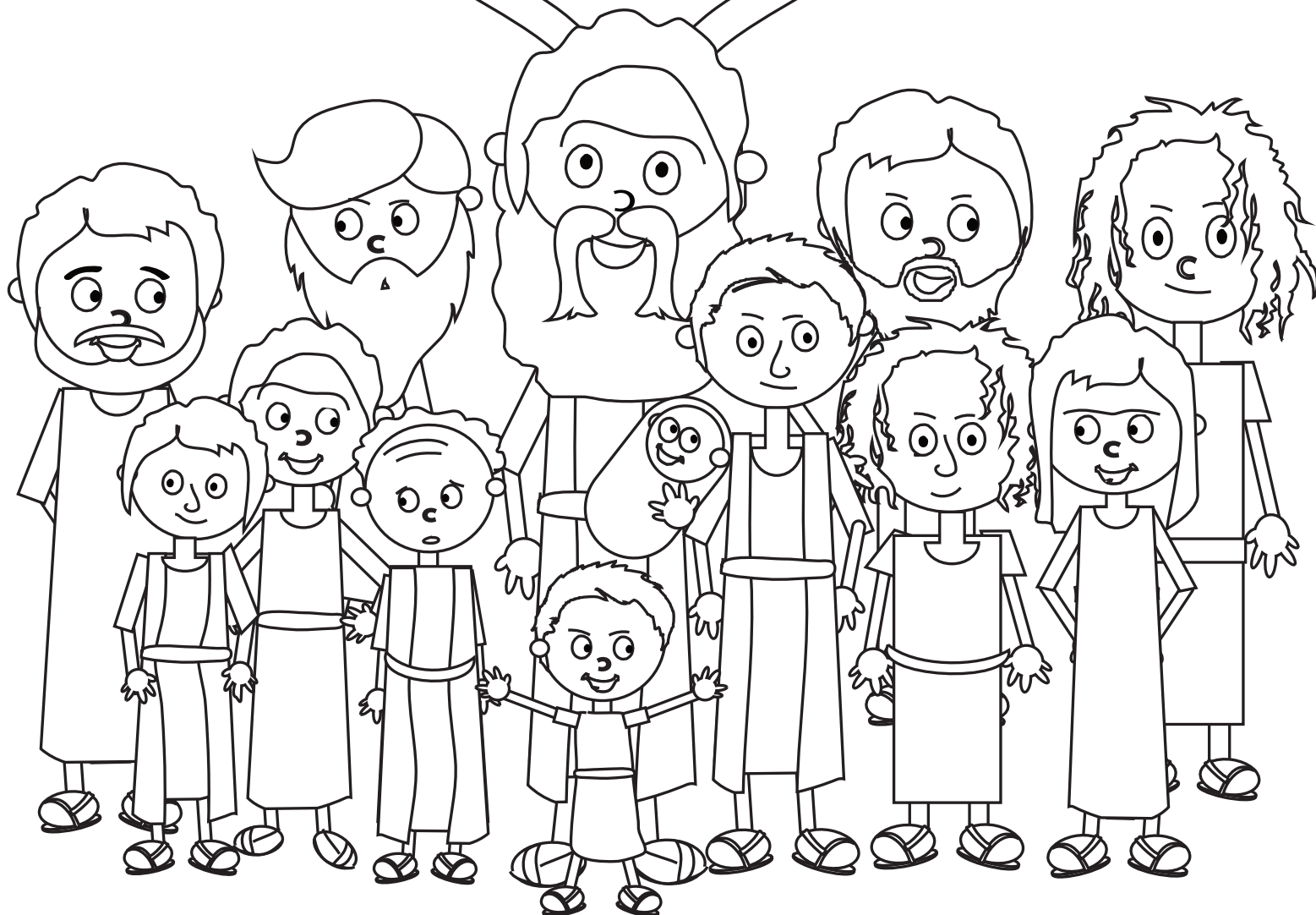
6



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God gave Abraham's grandson,
Jacob...



twelve

7 - Growing Pains

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 87-91
Genesis 37, 39

“Joseph had been
taken down to Egypt...

The Lord was
with Joseph.”

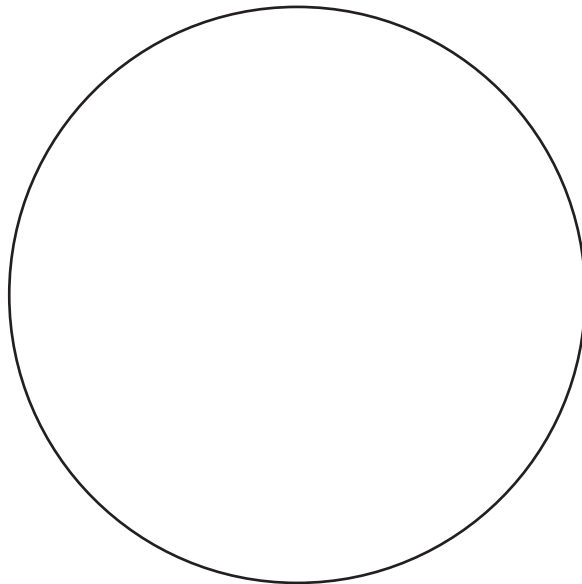
Genesis 39:1,2

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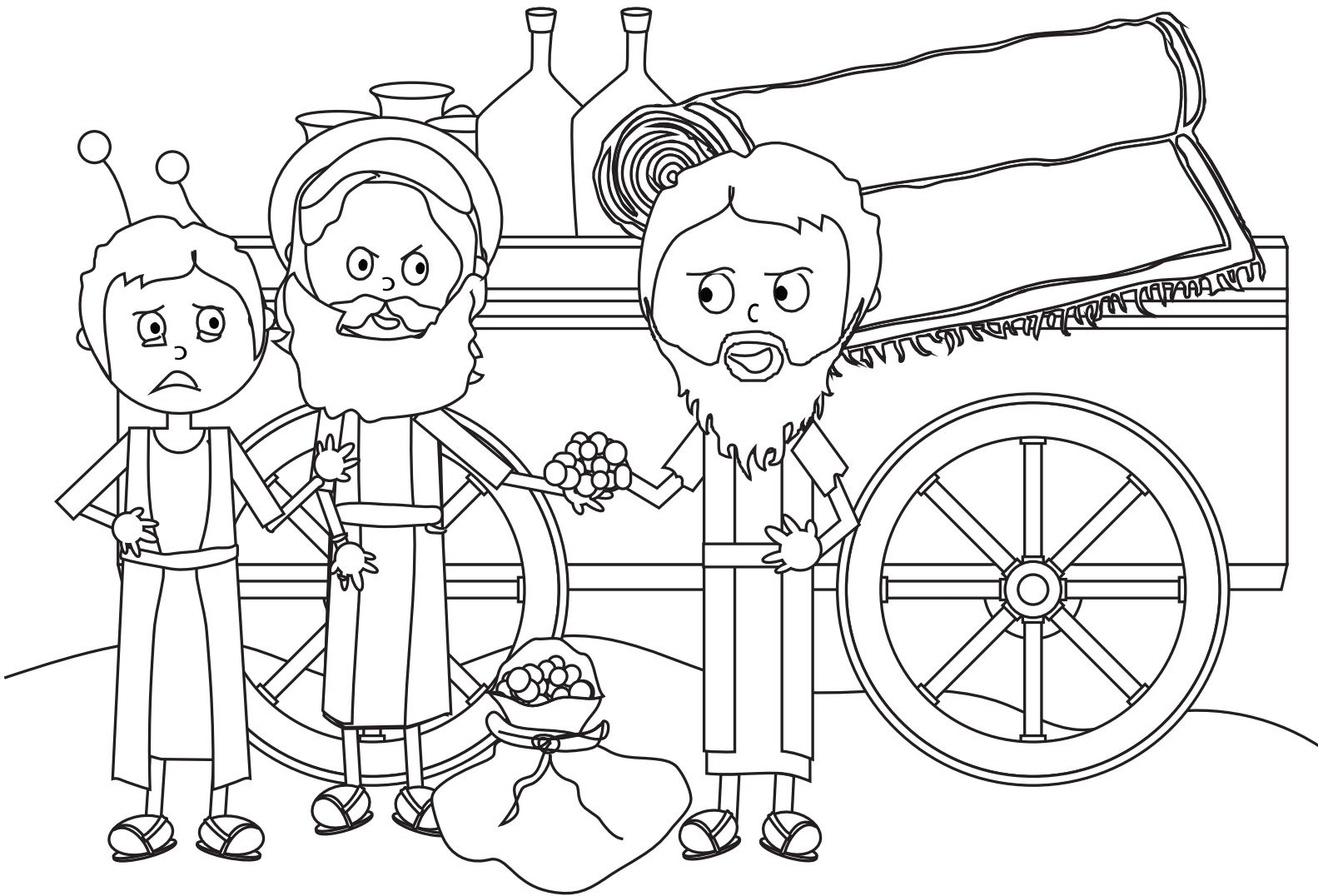
7



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Joseph's jealous brothers
sell Joseph to be a slave, but...



Gi goes with him

8 - Good for Evil

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 92-101

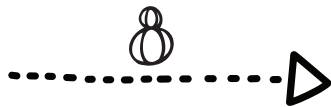
Genesis 39-45; Romans 8:28

“You sold me here...

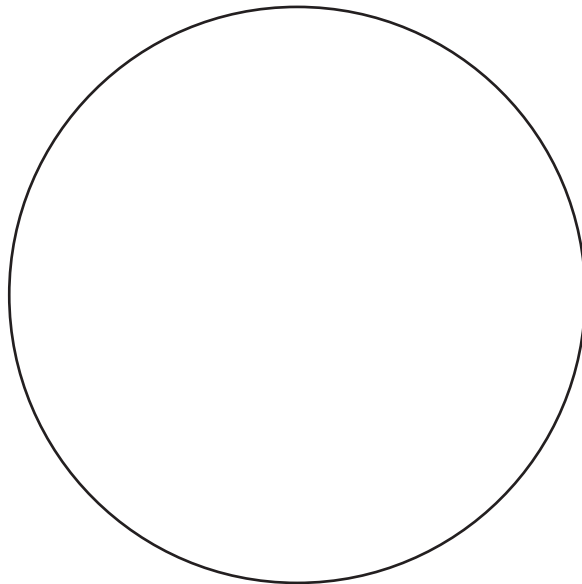
[but] God sent me here
to save your lives by an
act of mighty power.”

Genesis 39:1,2

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What Joseph's brothers meant
for evil, God...



planned for G _ _ _

9 - Weary Work

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 103-111

Genesis 46-47; Exodus 1:1-14

“I have seen
the troubles my people
have suffered.

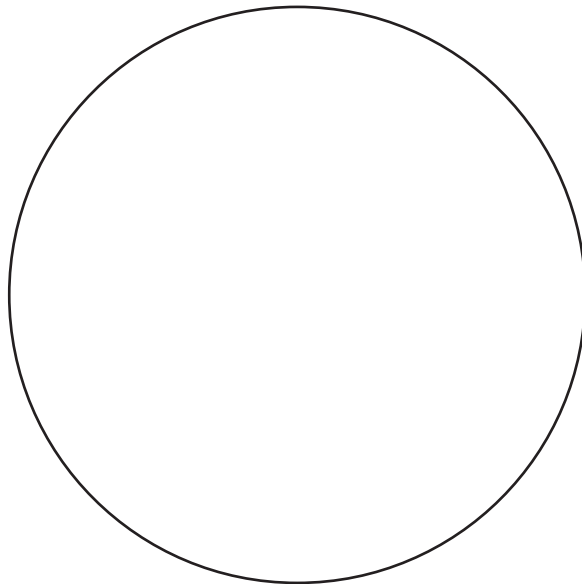
I am concerned
about their pain.”

Exodus 3:7

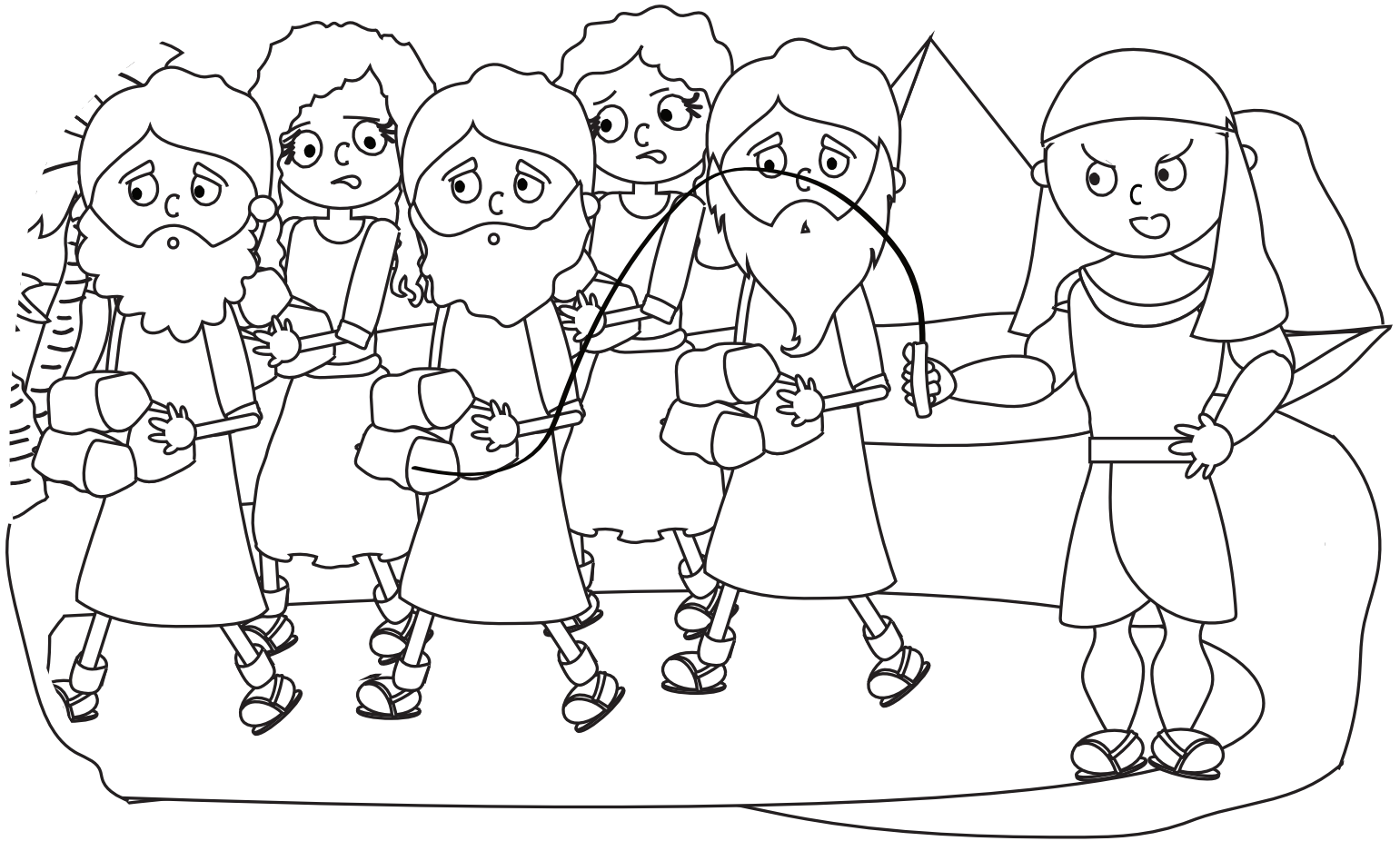
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A new king came and made the
people of Israel work for him...



as his

S

10 - Help Is on the Way

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 111-115

Exodus 2:1-10; Exodus 3:1-22

“When you go to the
people of Israel, tell
them, ‘I AM’ [the LORD]
sent me to you.”

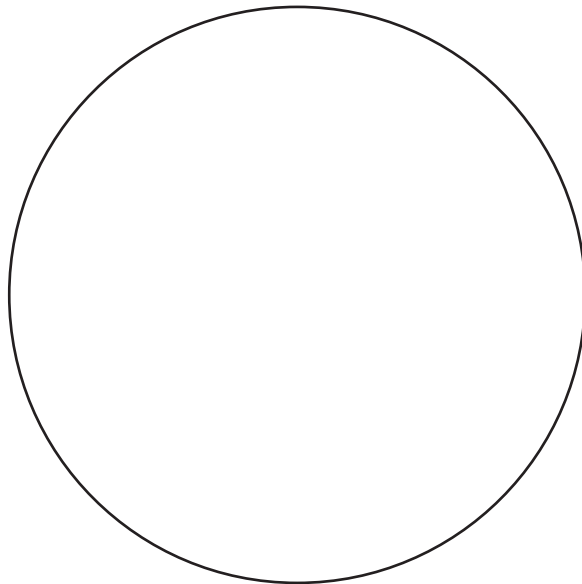
Exodus 3:13,14

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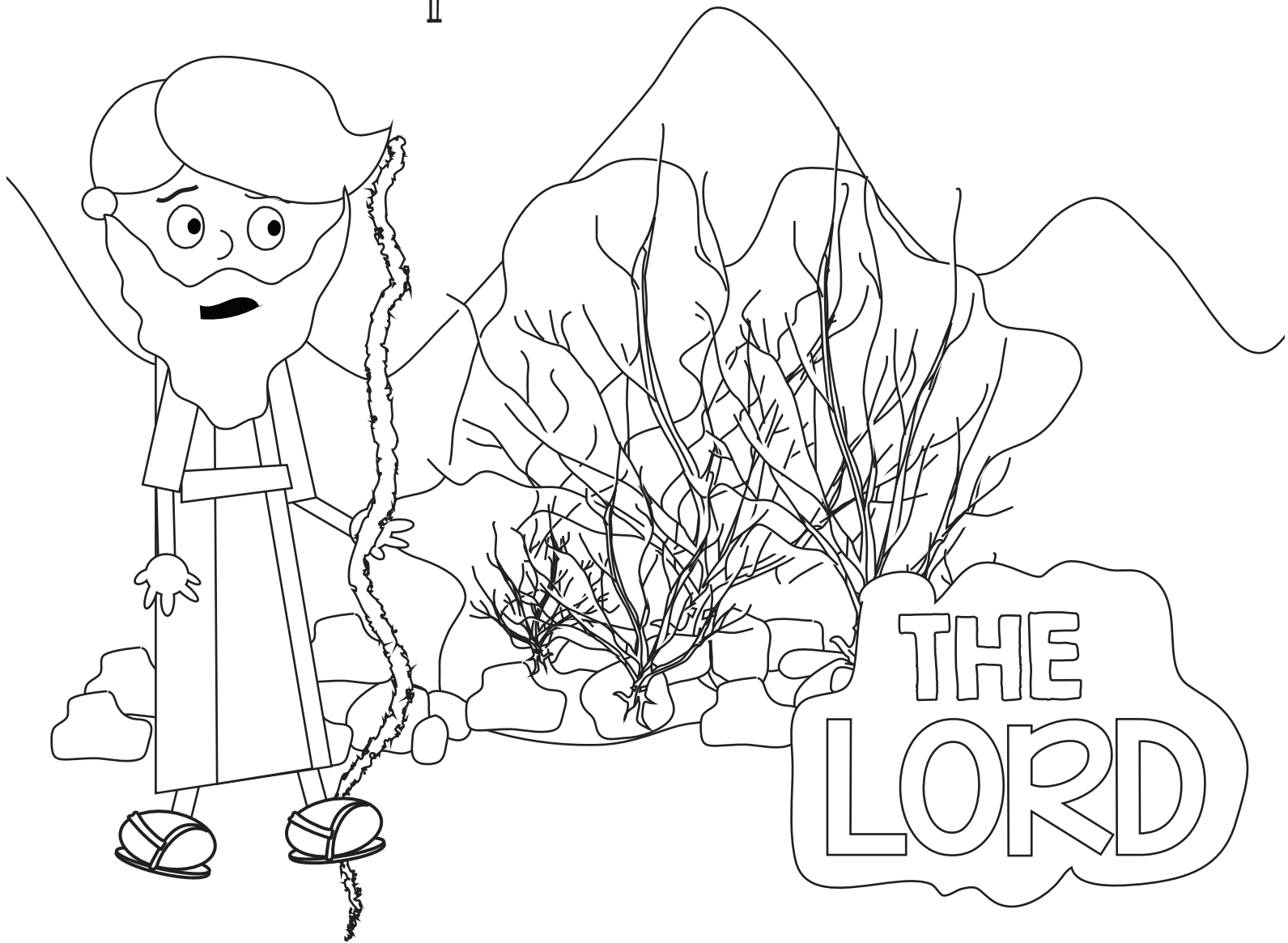
10



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When baby Moses grew up, the
LORD spoke to him and ...



and sent him to

R

God's people from slavery.

II - The Big No-Show

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 114-121
Exodus 8-10

“Who is the Lord?

Why should I obey him
and let Israel go?

I do not know the Lord.

And I will not let Israel go.”

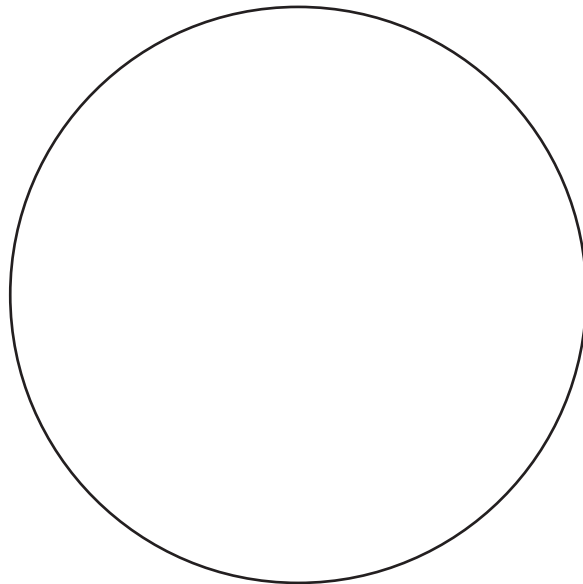
Exodus 5:2

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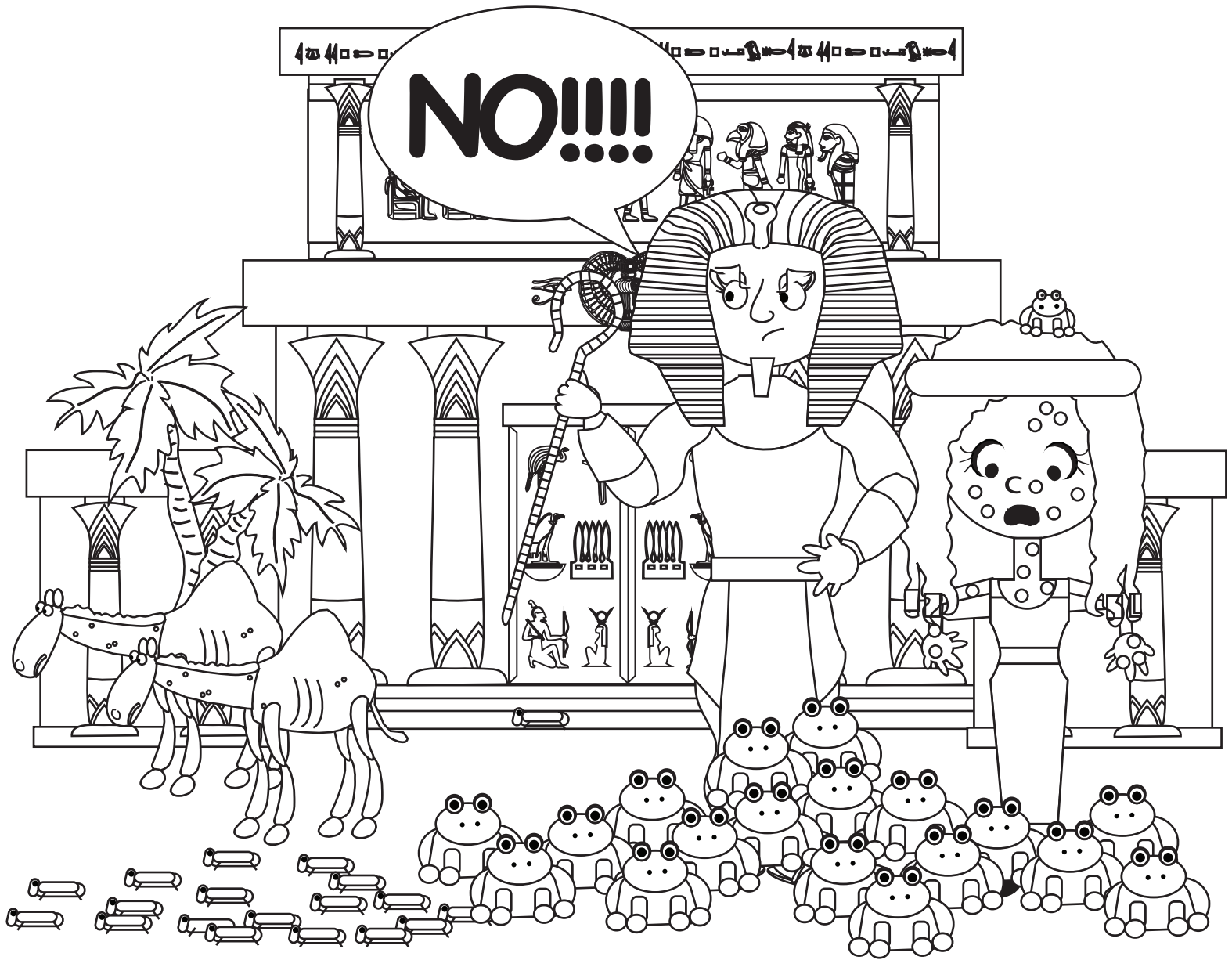
11



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No matter what terrible things
the Lord sent, the king...



still said _____

12 - The Last Straw

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 134-131

Exodus 11-12

"I will punish all the gods of Egypt.

I am the Lord.

But the blood will be a sign...

I will pass over you.

Nothing terrible will hurt you
when I punish the land of Egypt."

Exodus 12:12,13

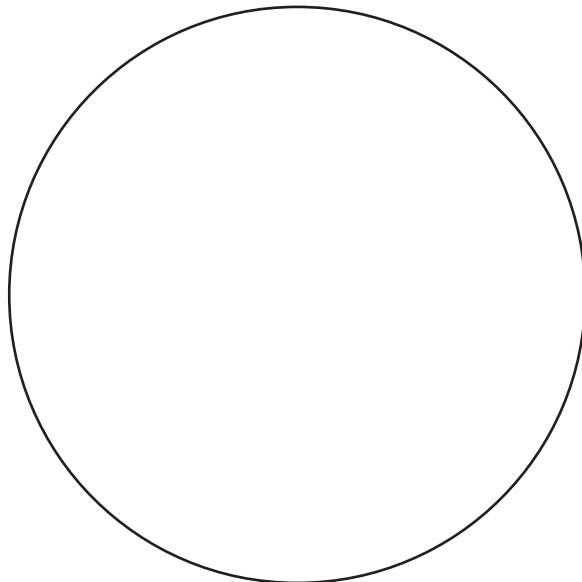
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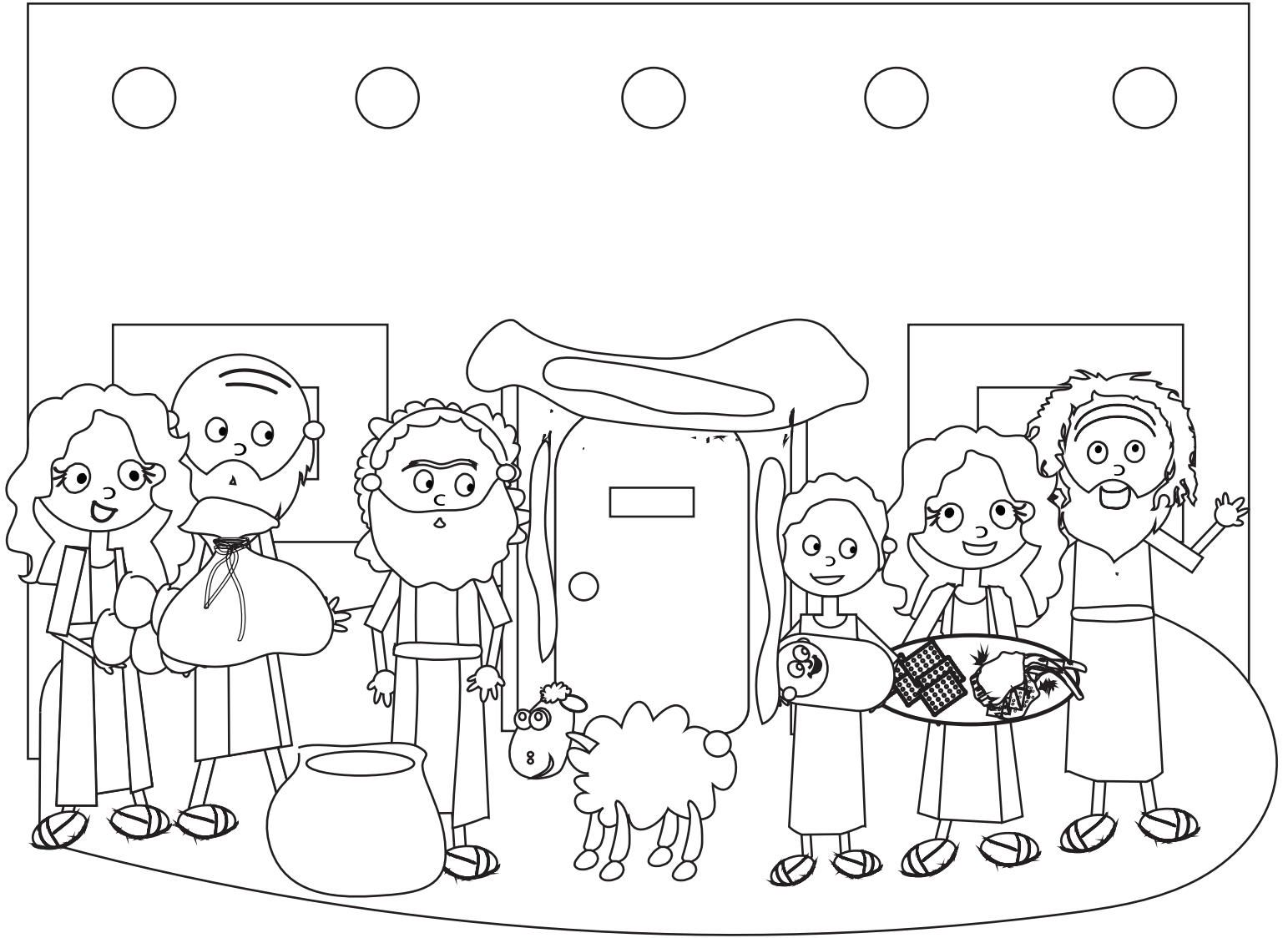


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The LORD passes over
His people by the ...



blood of a L _ _ _

13 - How to Love

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 130-139
Exodus 20

“Love the Lord your God

with all your heart

and with all your soul

and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give
you today are to be on your hearts.”

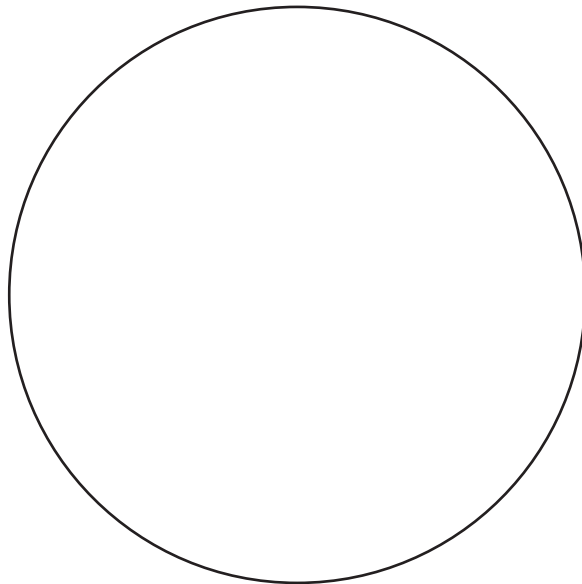
Deuteronomy 6:5,6

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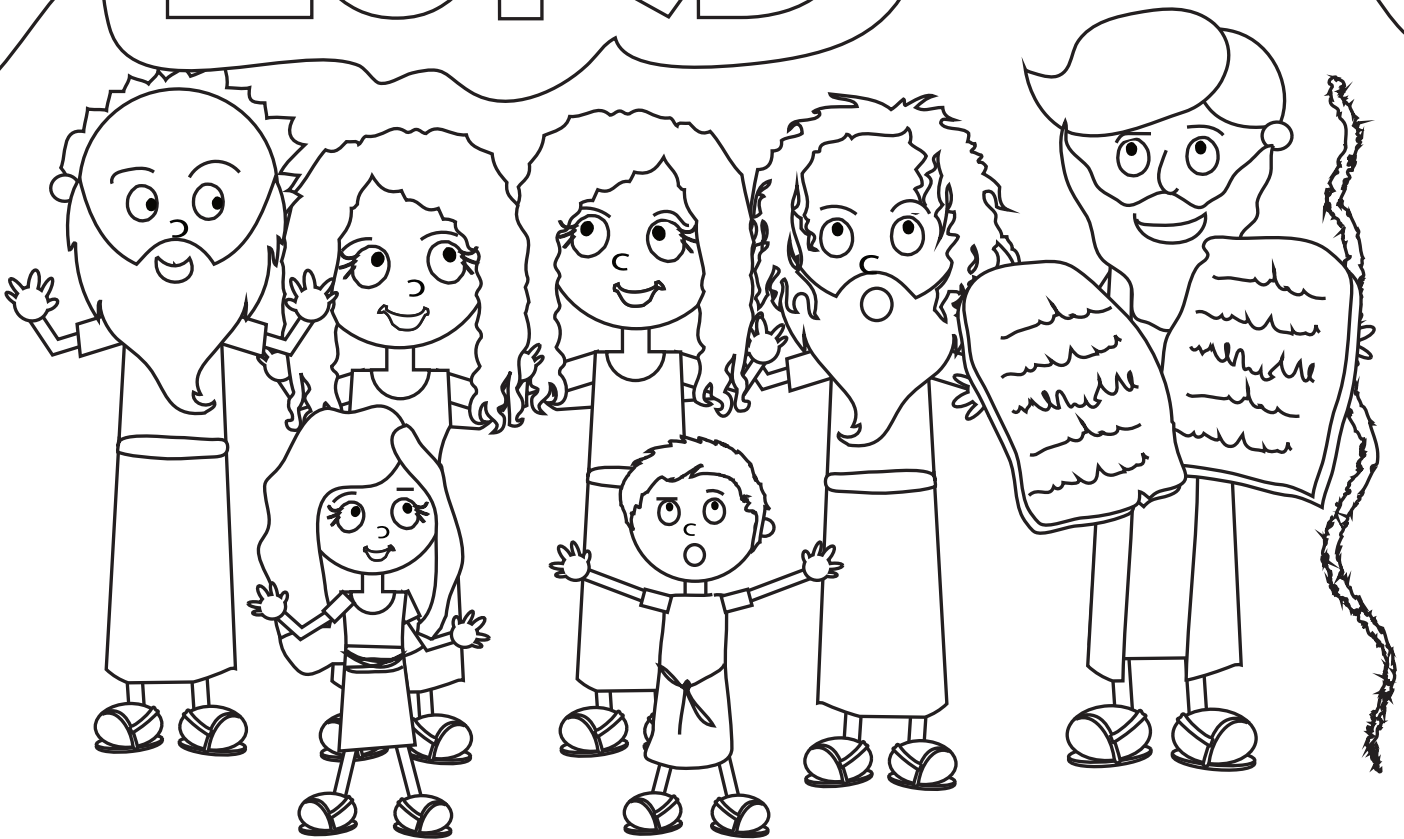


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God gave His laws to
show His people...

THE
LORD



how to L _ _ _

14 - Home at Last

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 141-153
Joshua 1-4, 6

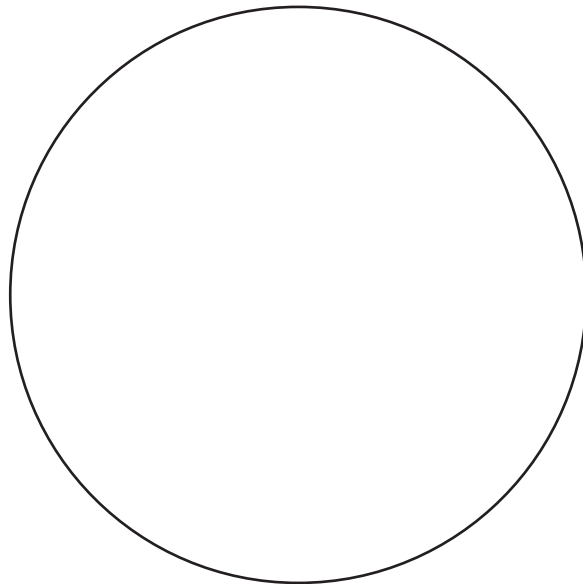
“The Lord said,
“I have come down
to deliver them and
to bring them up
to a good land.”
Exodus 3:7,8

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14



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15- The Mighty Fall to the Small

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 154-163

1 Samuel 17

“The Lord does not need
swords or spears
to save people.
The battle belongs
to him!”

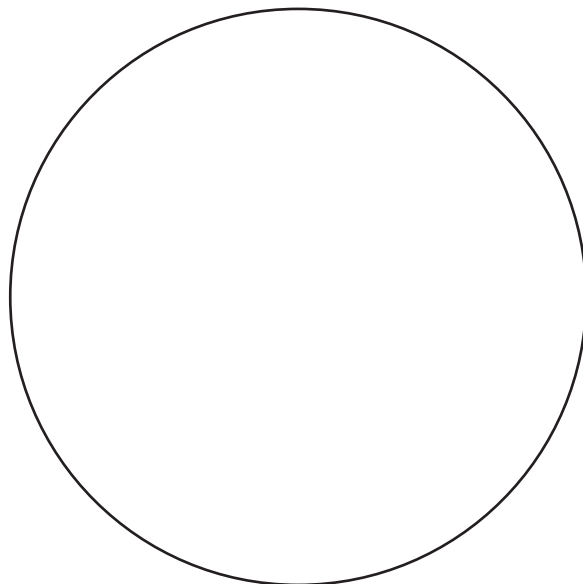
1 Samuel 17:47

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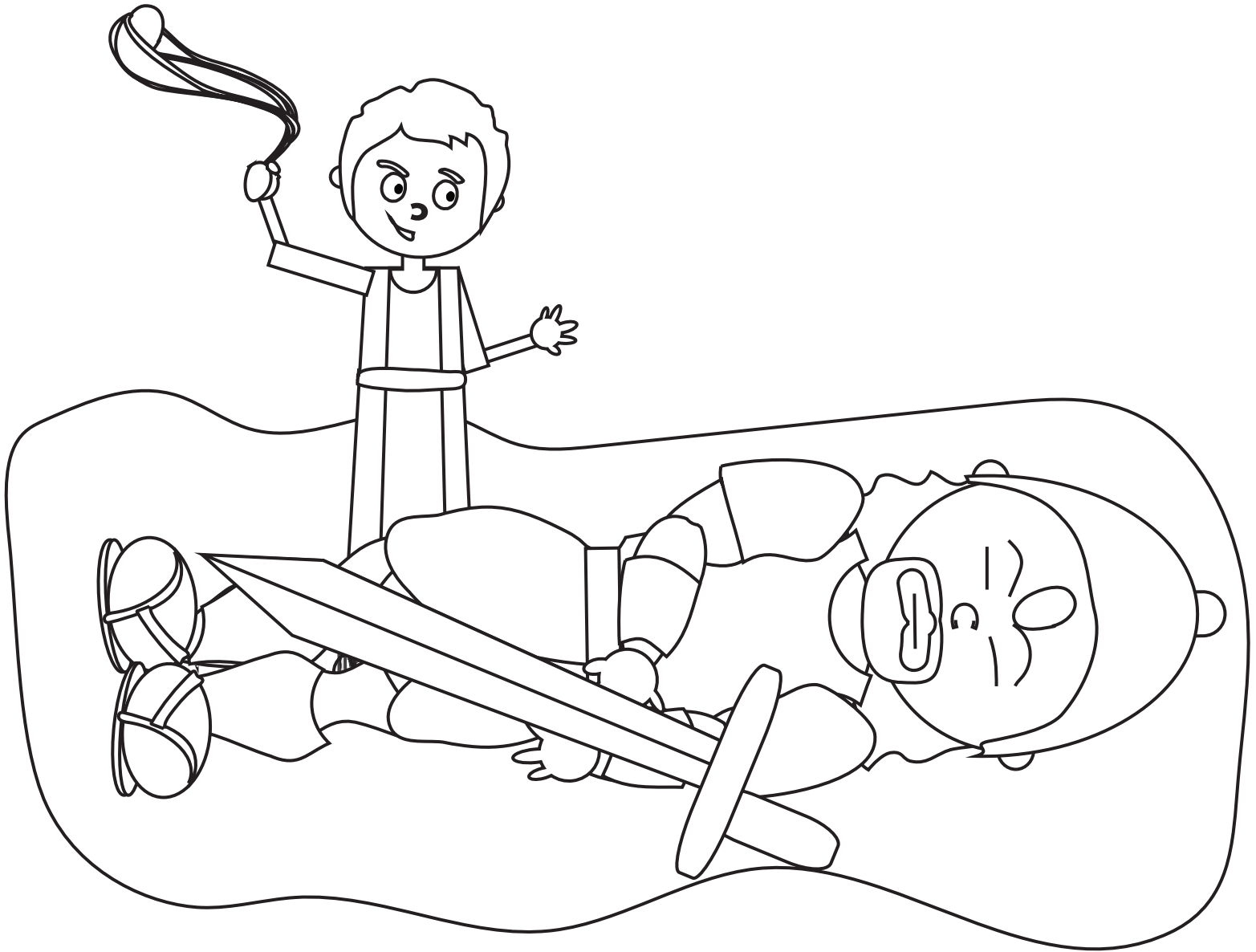
15



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Enemies May Be Strong,
But God...



Is Always Str _____ er

I6- Happy King, Happy People

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 164-166

1 Samuel 8-10, 16:1-13, 2 Samuel 8:14,15

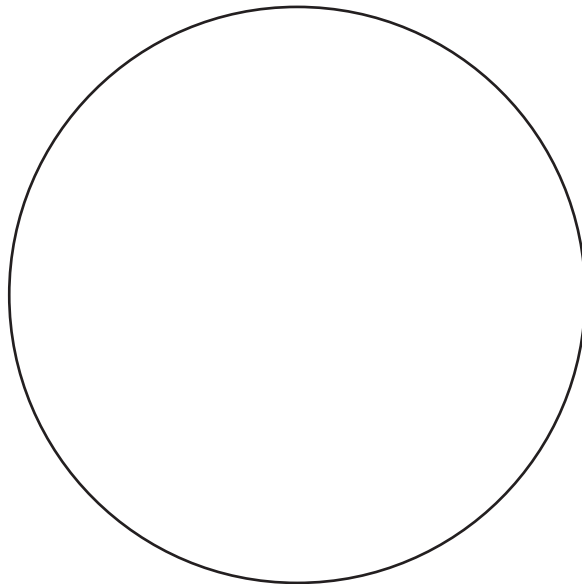
“David reigned over
all Israel and did
what was
just and right
for all his people.”
2 Samuel 8:15

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16



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King David loved God and
lived for Him and ...



the people were

H

17- The Kingdom to Come

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 167-172

2 Samuel 7

I will set up the throne
of the kingdom

[of one of your sons].

It will last forever.”

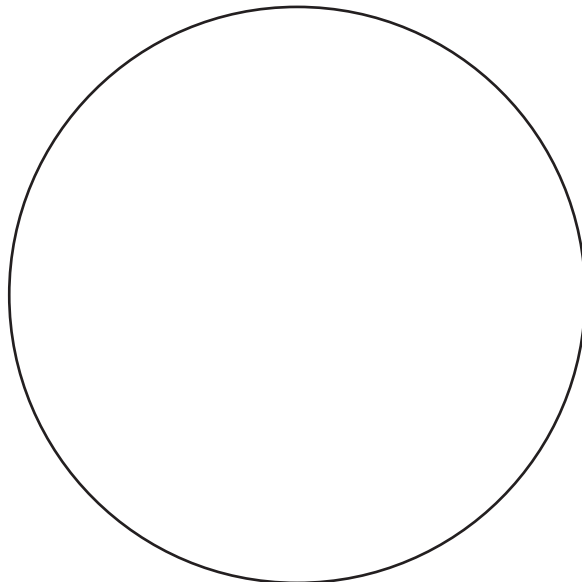
2 Samuel 7:13

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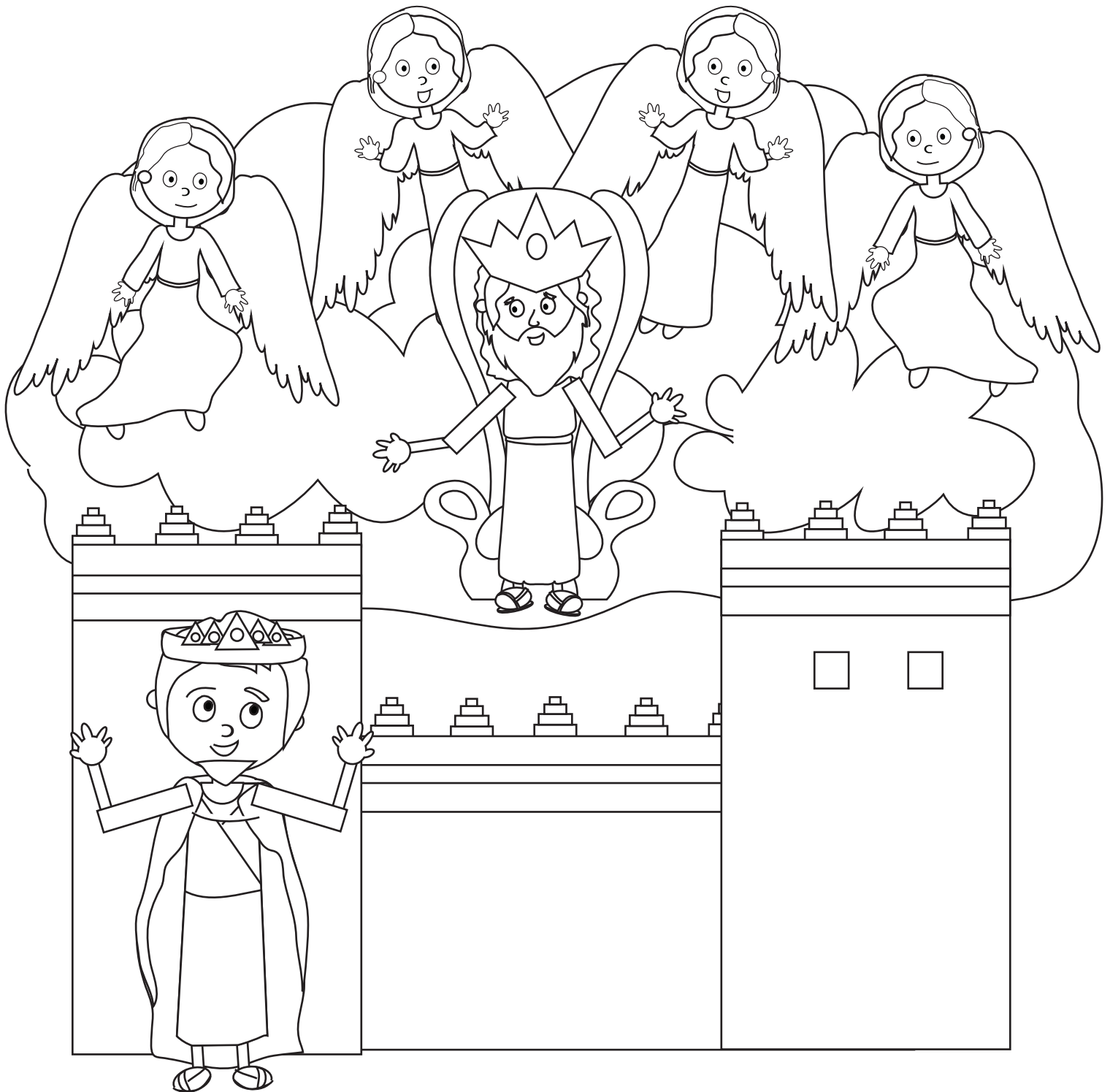
18



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The Forever King will be from...



D

_____ 's Family

18- Magnificent Meeting Place

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 174-185

2 Chronicles 3-5, 1 Kings 10

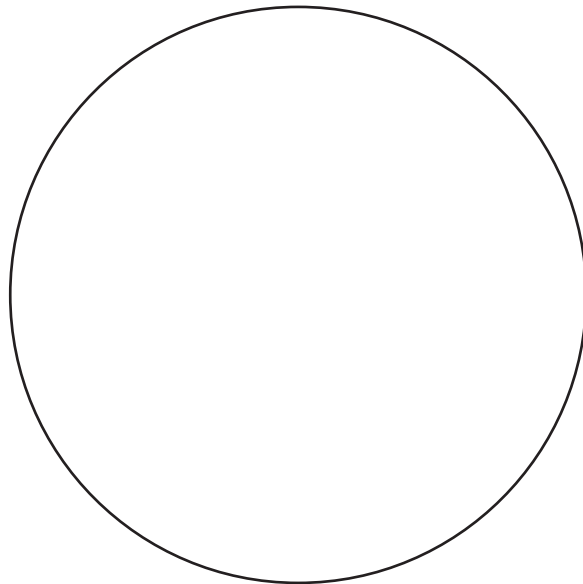
“One of your own sons
will build a house
where I will
put my Name.”
2 Samuel 7:13

Sticker

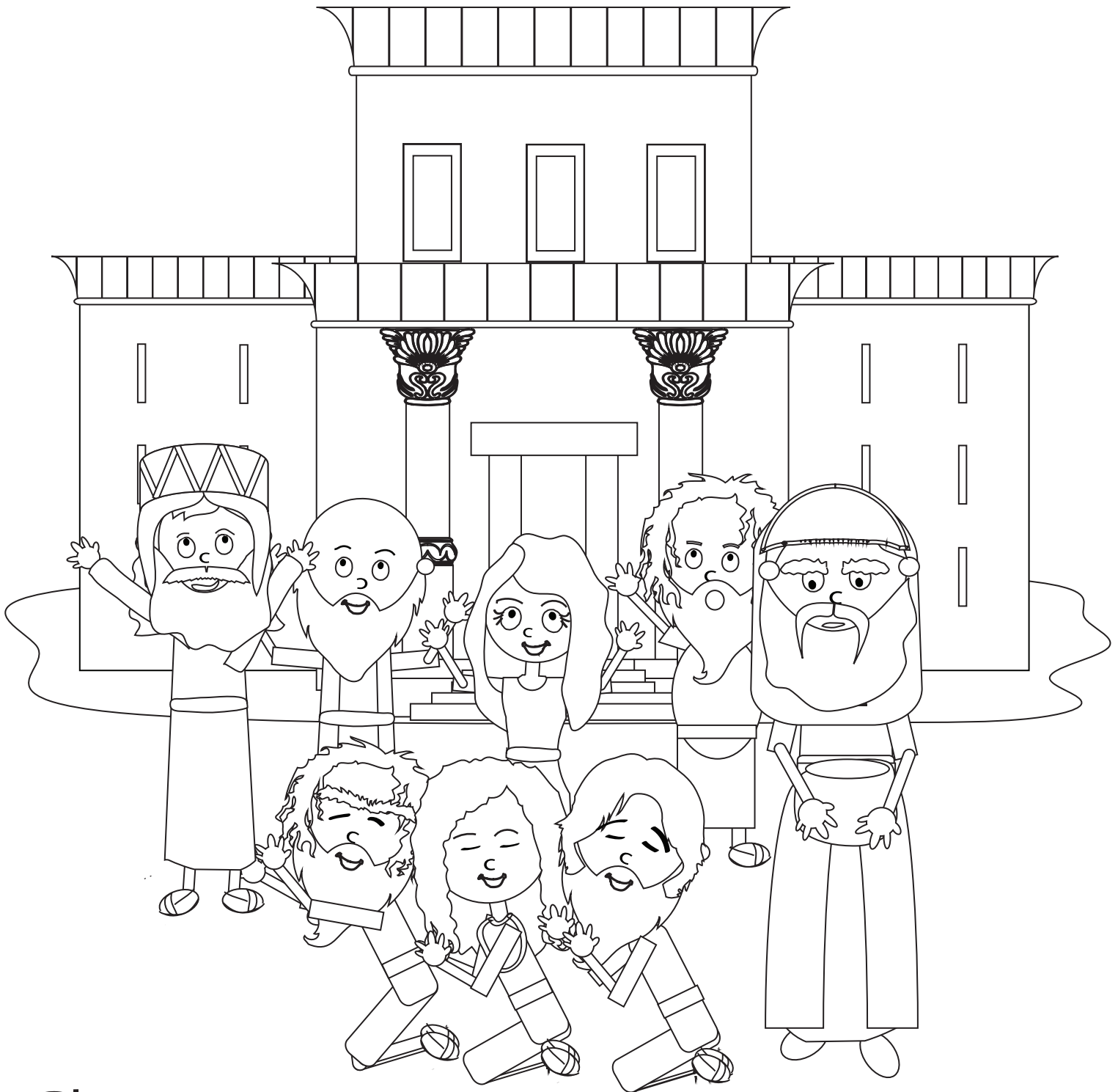
18



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The new, beautiful worship
place was built by King...



S

19 - The Foolish Wise Man

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 187-189

1 Kings 3, 4:29-34, 10, 11, 18:20

“Even though the Lord,
appeared to Solomon twice
and commanded him not to
worship foreign gods,
Solomon did not obey the Lord
but turned away from him.”

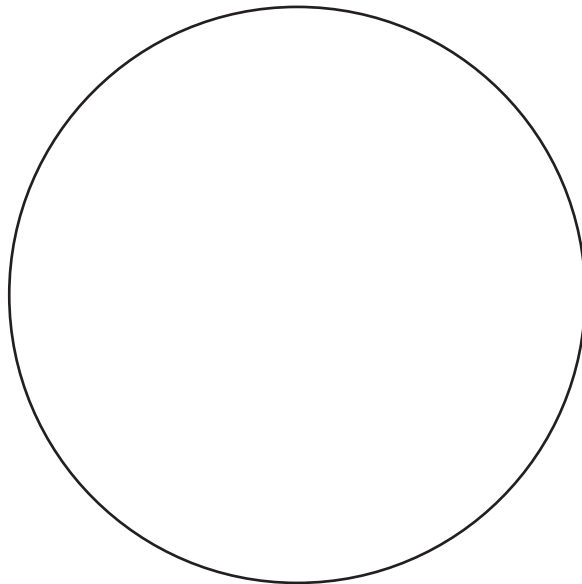
1 Kings 11:9

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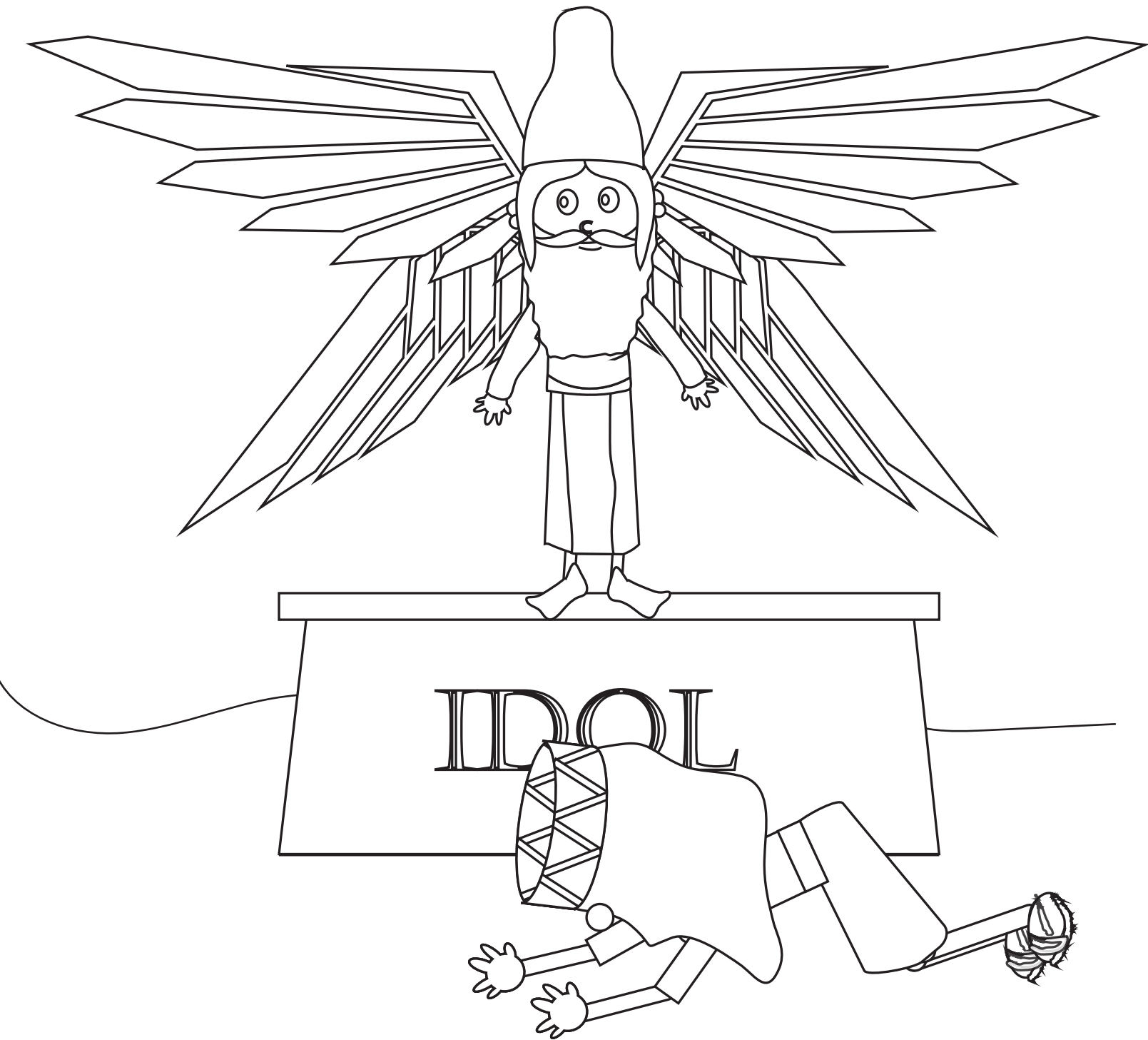
19



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Solomon turned away
from the Lord to...



worship



20 - The Great Showdown

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 188-197

1 Kings 18

“Answer me, O Lord,
that this people may know
that you, O Lord, are God,
and that you have turned
their hearts back.”

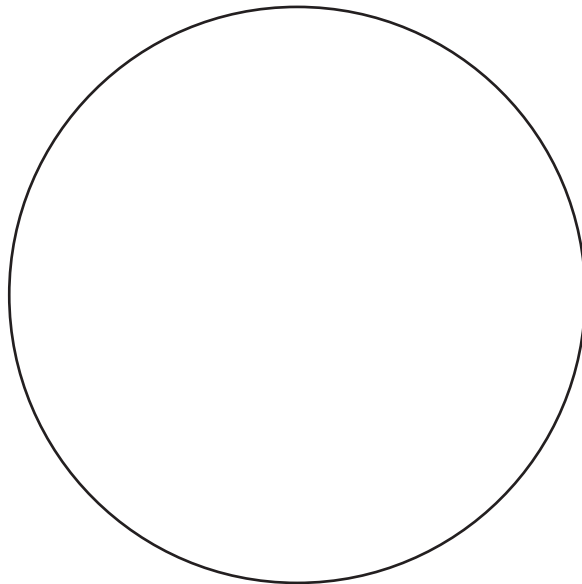
1 Kings 18:37

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20



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God helped His people
turn away from idols when...



Elijah prayed and God sent down

F _ _ _ _

21 - Homeless People

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 198-209
2 Chronicles 36

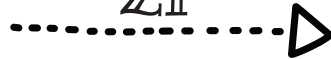
“By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down and wept,
When we remembered Zion*.”

Psalm 137:1

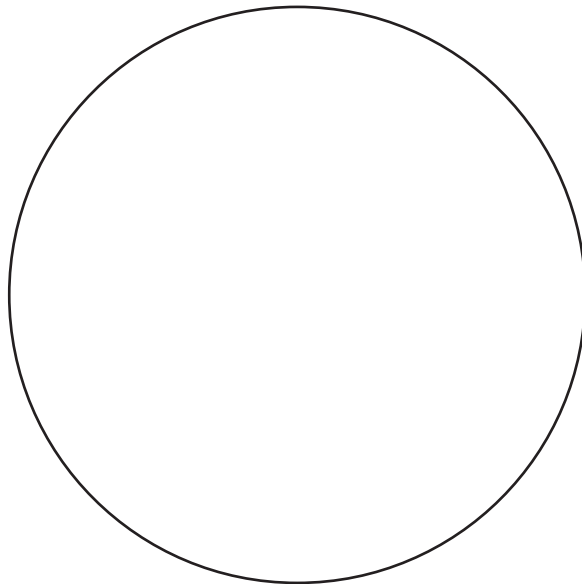
*Zion is another word for the beautiful homeland God gave His people.

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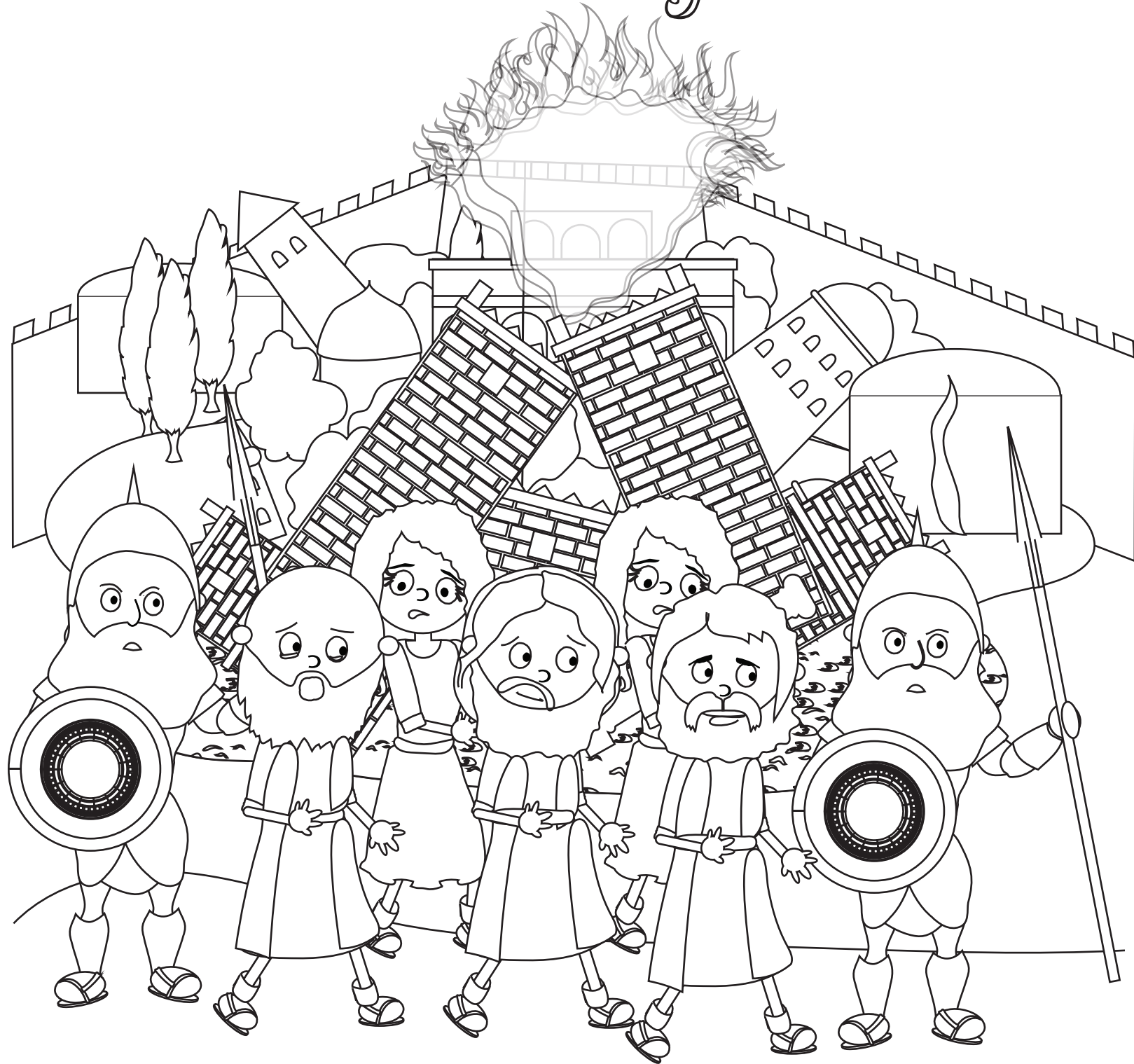
21



Goes
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The people kept on disobeying,
so finally...



God sent them away from the beautiful

L _ _ _ _

He gave them.

22- Comfort Comes

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 221-219

Daniel 1, 9

“I have good plans for you.
I don't plan to hurt you.
I plan to give you hope
and a good future...
I will bring you back.”

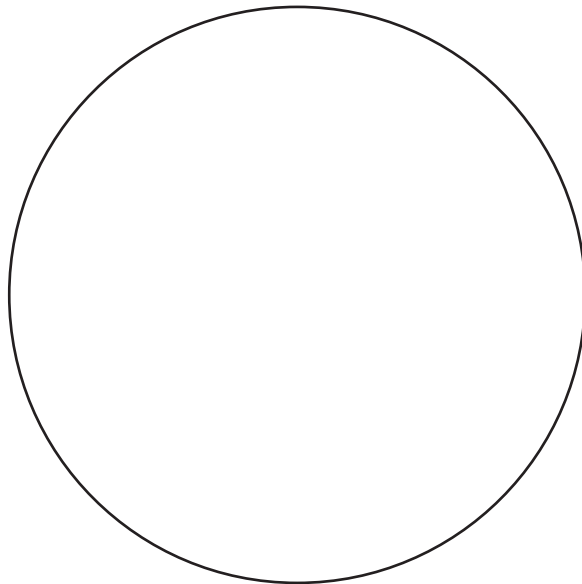
Jeremiah 29:11,14

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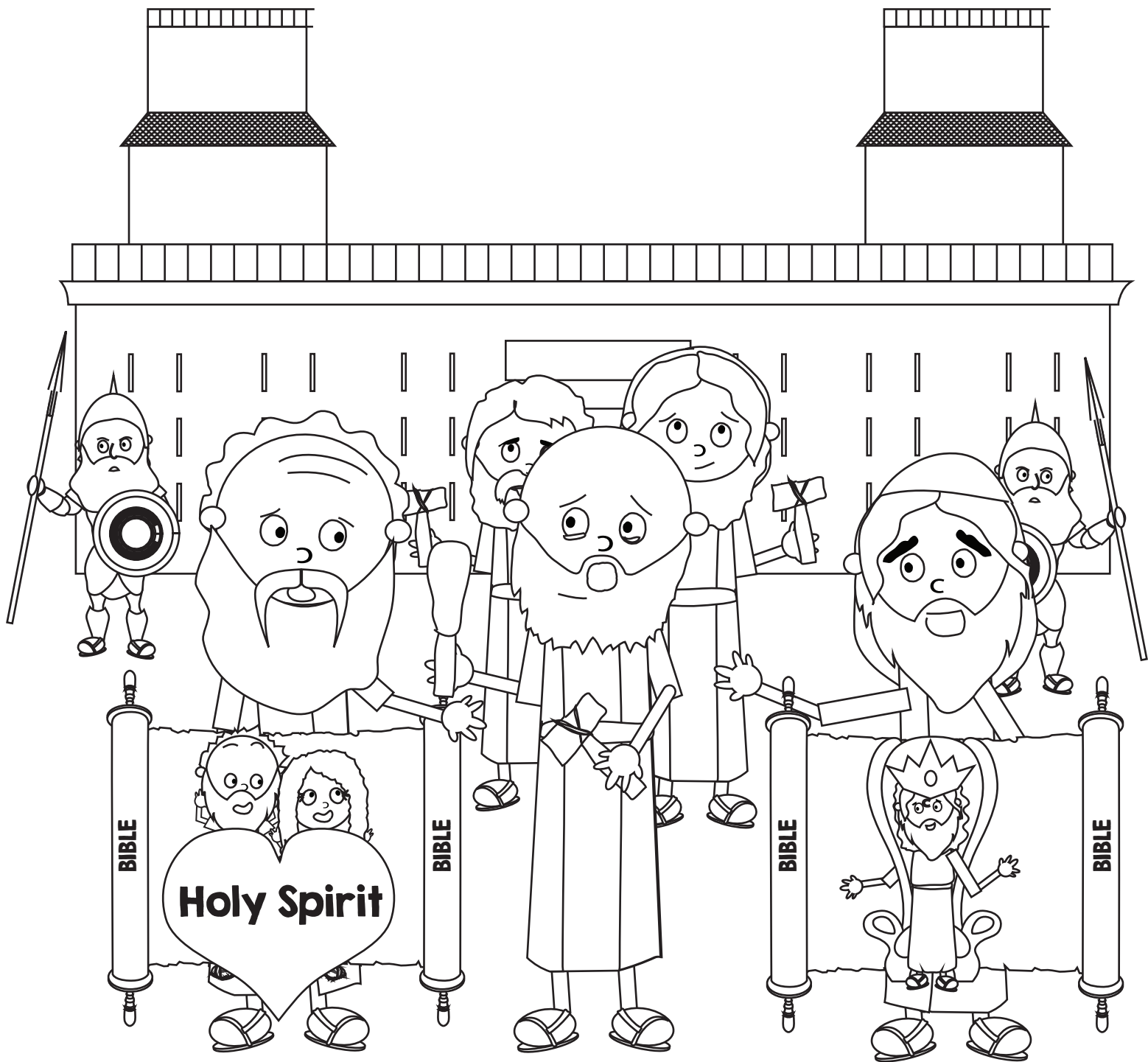
22



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Far from home, God
comforted His people with...



Promises of G _____
things to come

23 - The Do-Over

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 218-227

Ezra 1, 3 Nehemiah 1-9

“With praise and thanksgiving,
they sang to the Lord.

All the people shouted loudly,
“Praise the Lord!

The foundation of
his Temple has been laid.”

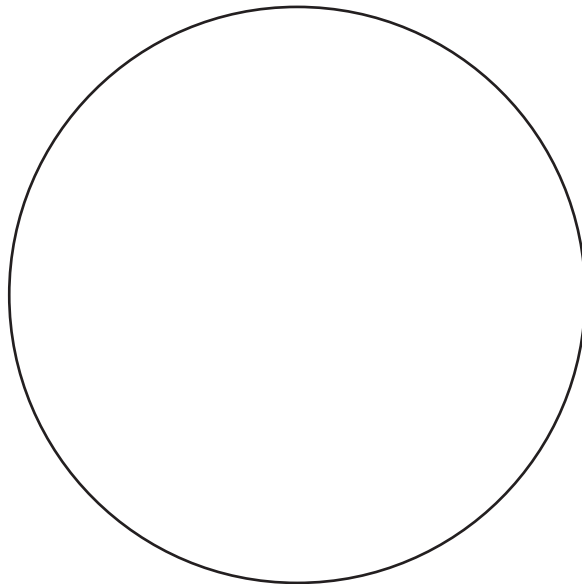
Ezra 3:10,11

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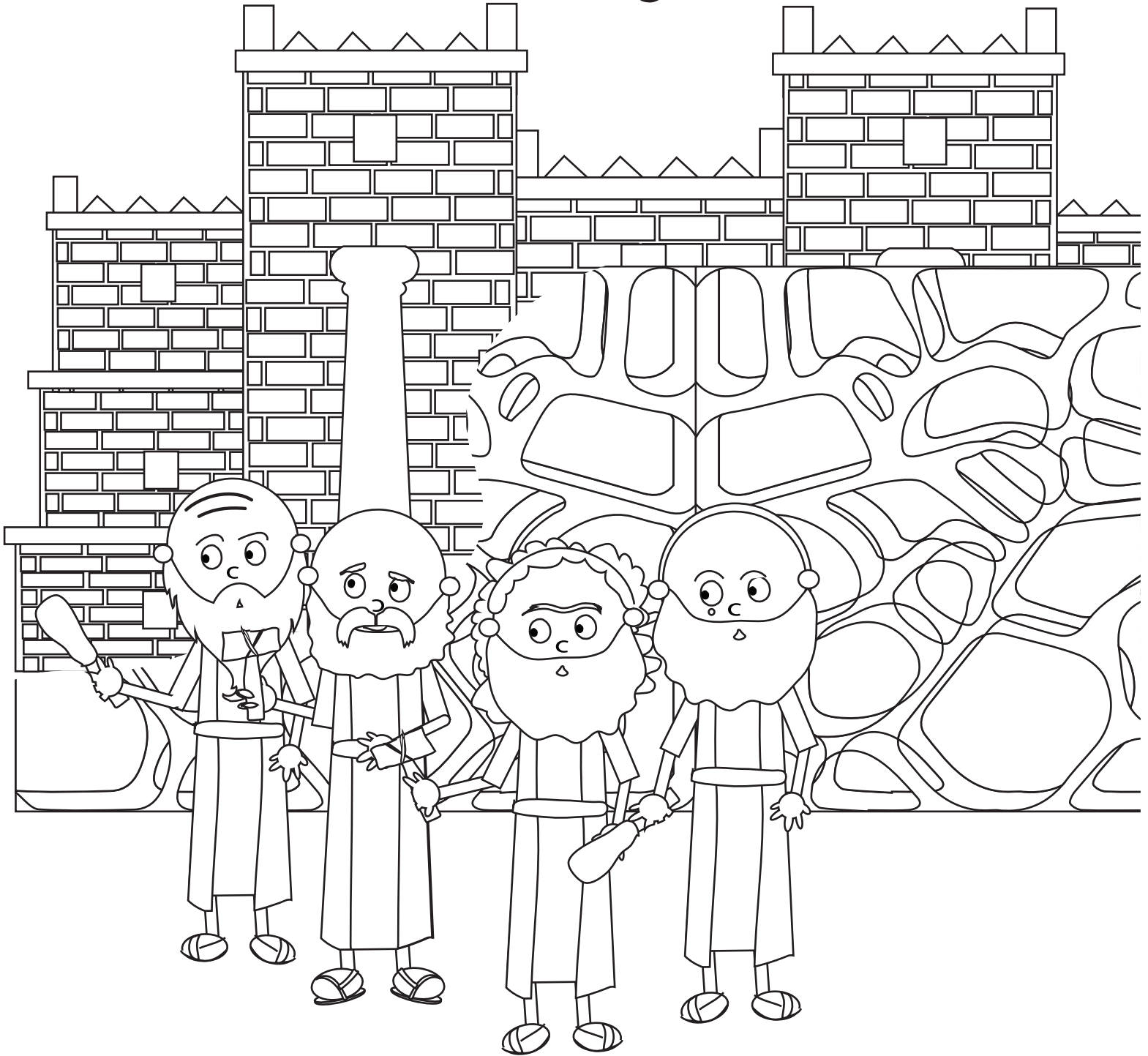
23



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Here



Just as God promised,
He brought...



His people H _____
to start again

24 - A King Caesar Didn't Count On

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 228-257

Luke 1:26- 2:7

"You will give birth to a son,
and you will name him Jesus.

People will call him
the Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give him
the throne of King David.
His kingdom will never end."

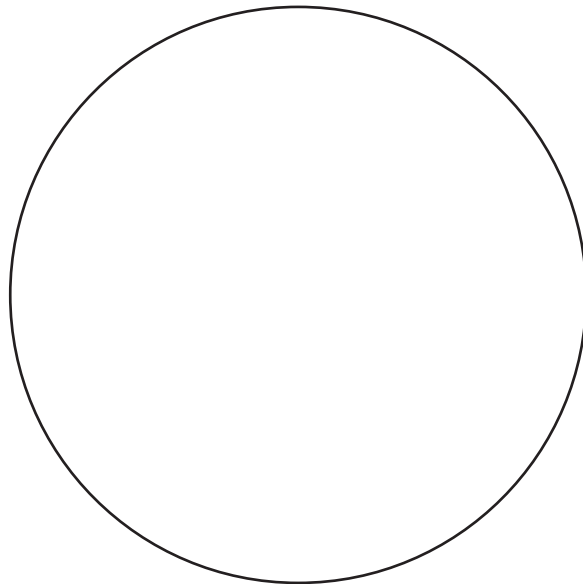
Luke 1:31

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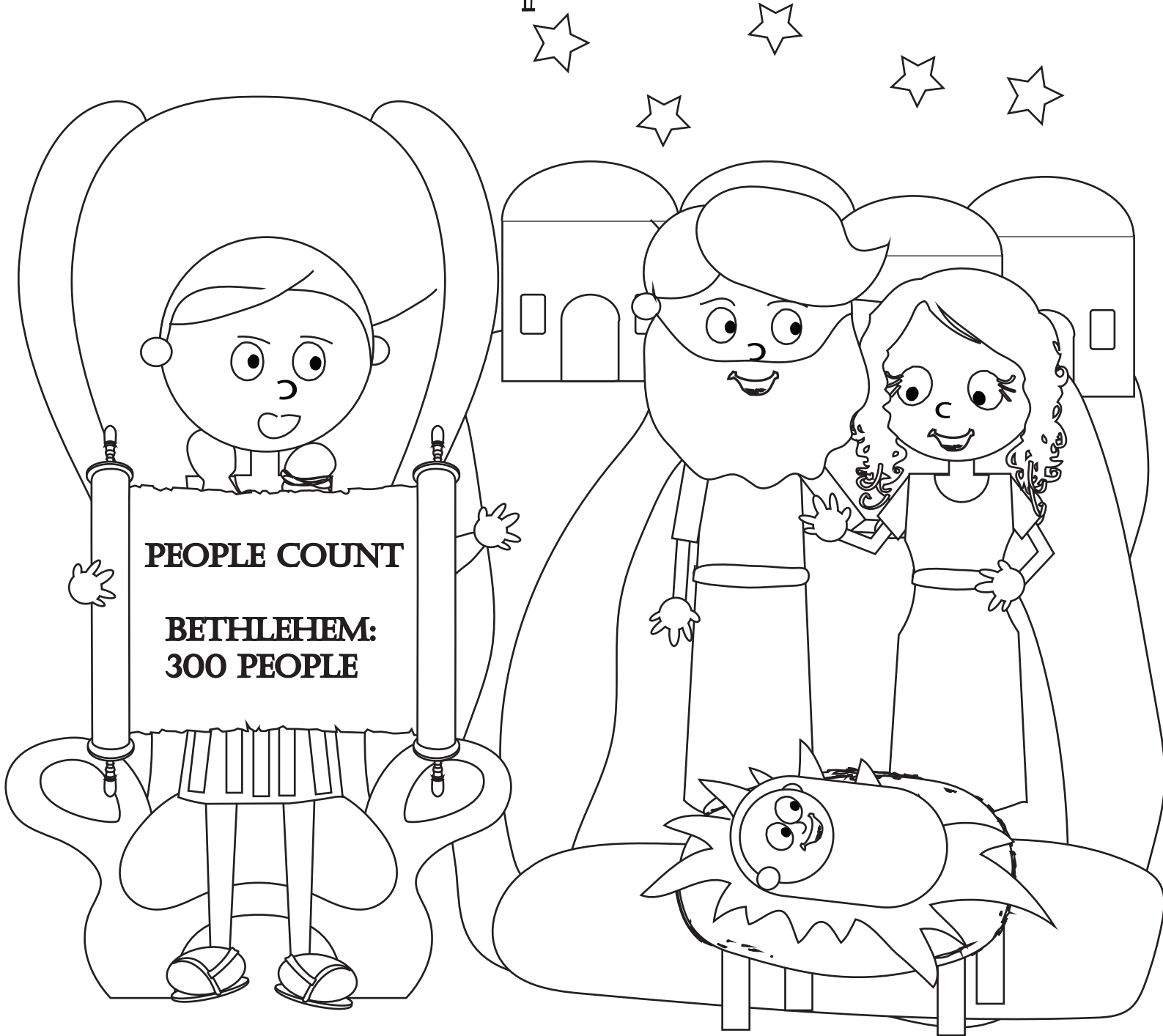
24



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One king counted people in
his fancy palace, but...



the great, Forever King was born in a

S

25 - A Message in Lights

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 259-269

Luke 2:8-28

“Don’t be afraid,

because I am bringing you
some good news.

It will be a joy to all the people.

Today your Savior was born
in David’s town.

He is Christ, the Lord.”

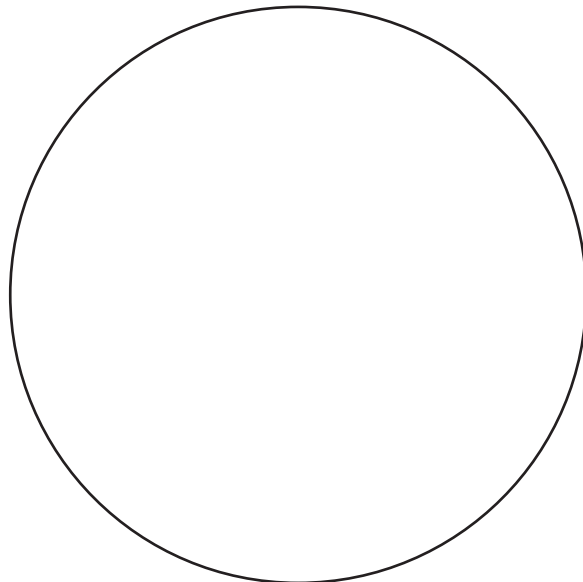
Luke 2:10

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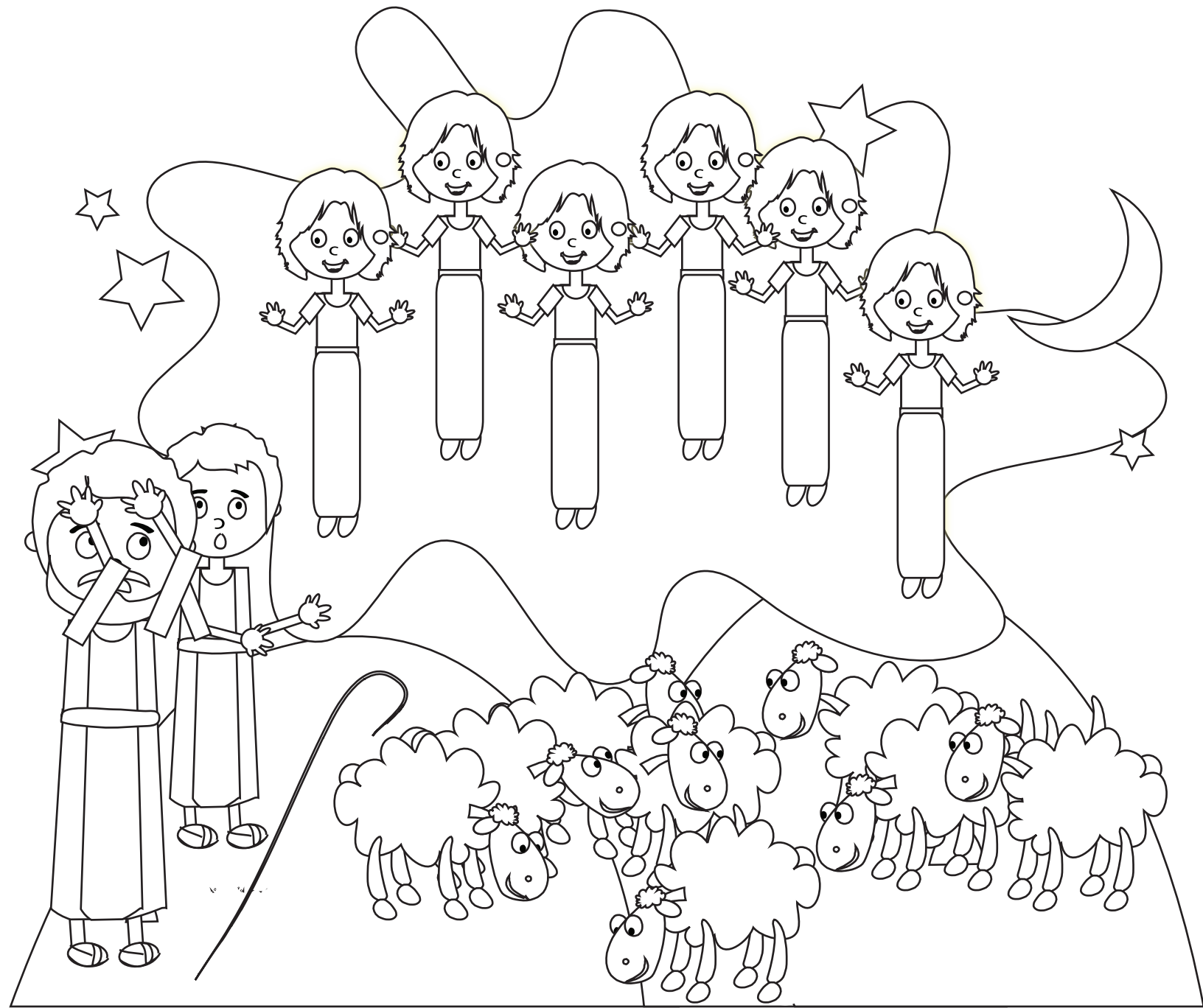
25



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Bright angels tell the
shepherds the good news that...



Christ the Savior is

B



26-The Wilderness Man's Message

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 271-285

Luke 3:1-22

Jesus also was baptized.

As he was praying,

heaven opened.

A voice came from heaven: “

You are my beloved Son;

with you I am well-pleased.”

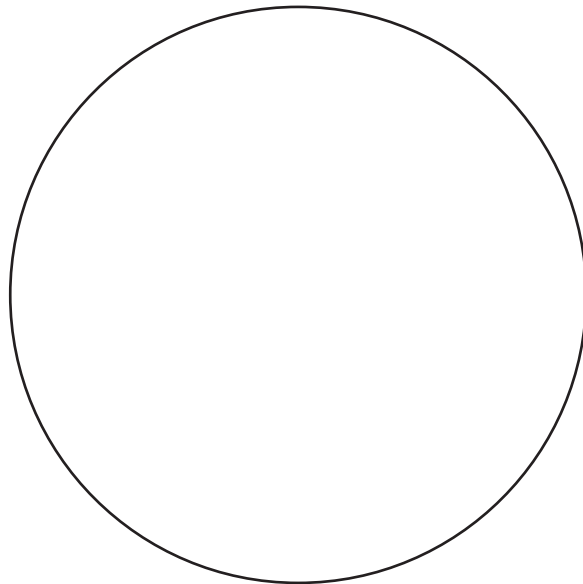
Luke 3:21-22

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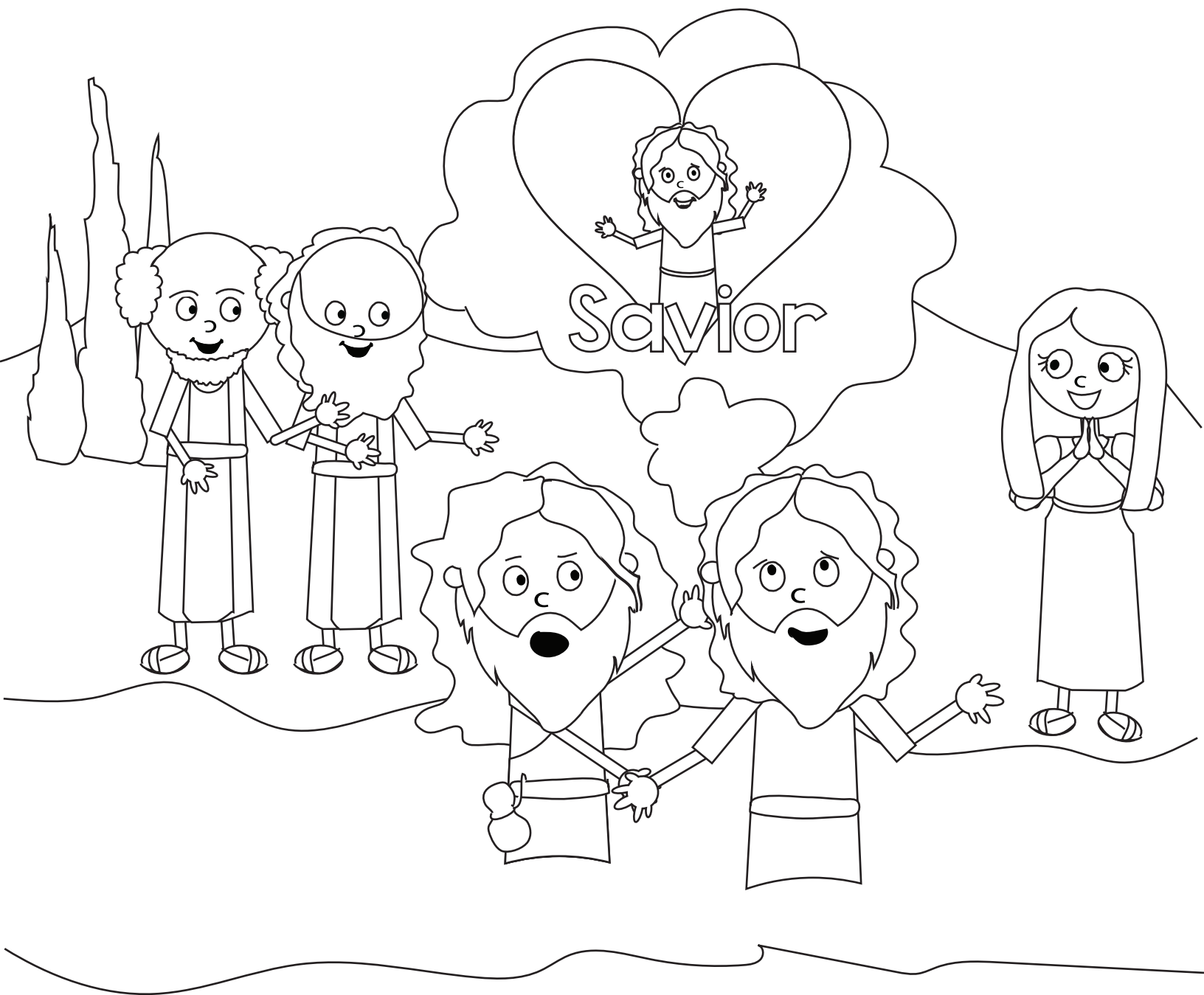
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John prepares the way for ...



J _ _ _ _

27 - The Body Builder

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 287-305

John 2:13-22

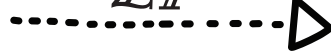
“Destroy this temple,
and I will raise it up
in three days.”

When [Jesus] was raised
from the dead, his disciples
remembered and believed.”

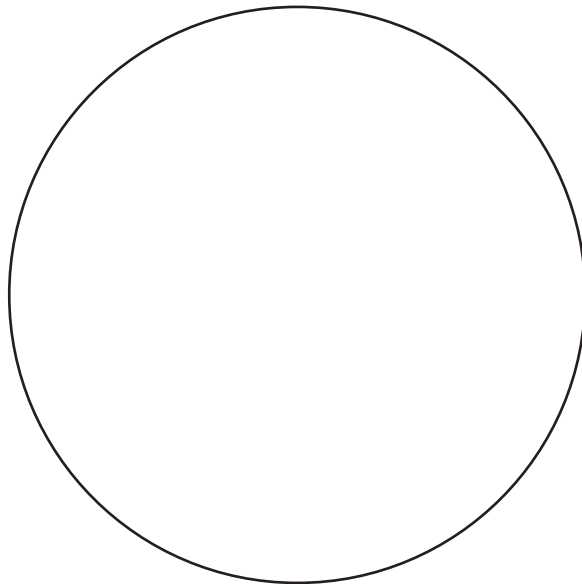
John 2:19,22

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27

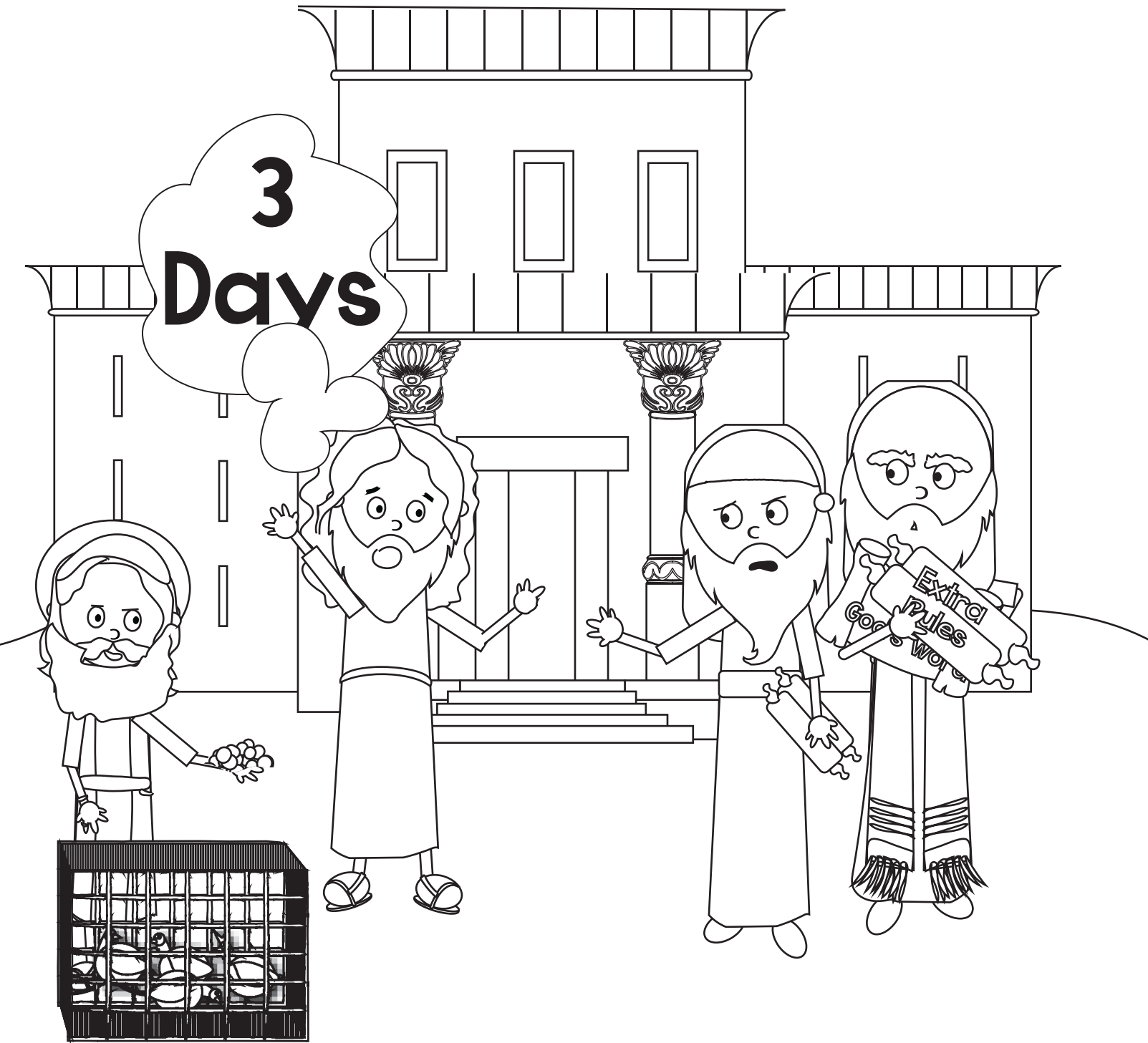


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Jesus was the temple that He would...

3
Days



raise in three D _ _ _ _

28 - The Second Birthday

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 307-321

John 3:1-21

“No one can see

God’s kingdom unless
they are born again.

“People give birth to people.

But the Spirit
gives birth to spirit.”

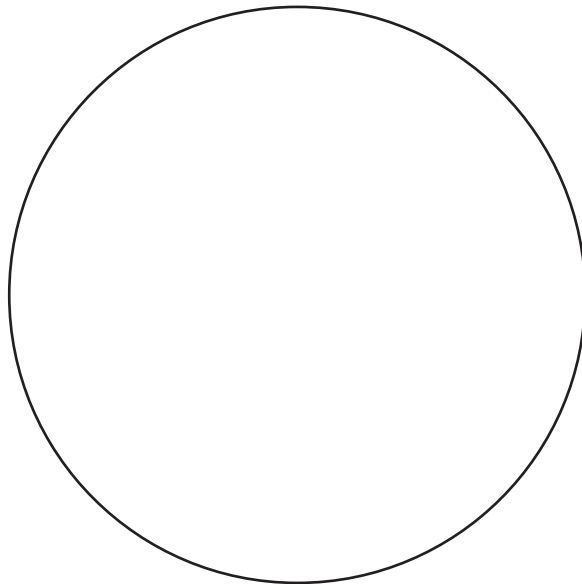
John 3:3,6

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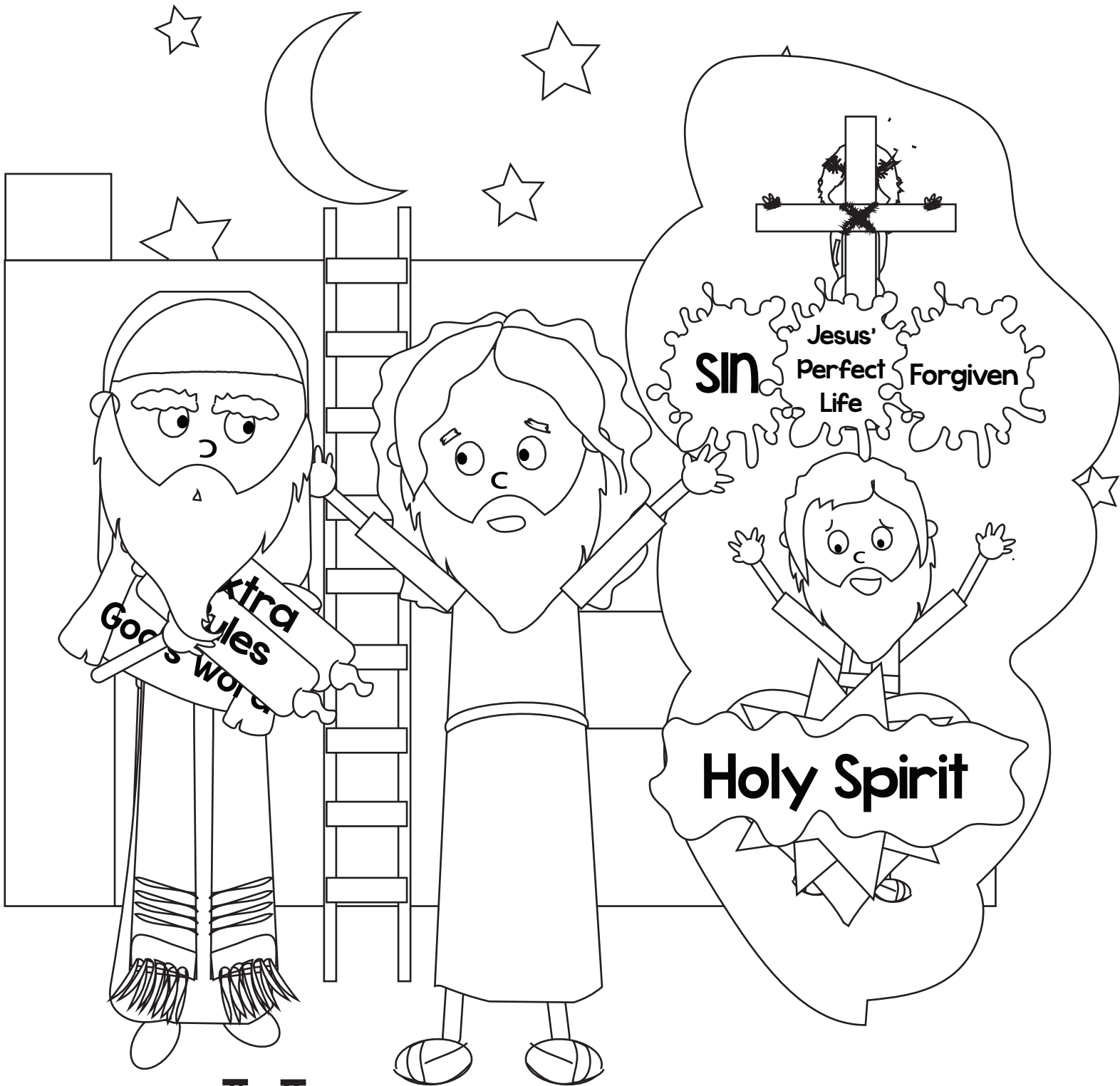
28



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God's Holy Spirit can change us in our...



H

29 - The Blind Man Who Saw

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 323-335

John 9

“Do you believe in the Son of Man*?”

You have now seen him.

In fact, he is the one
speaking with you.”

The man said, “Lord, I believe.”

And he worshiped him.”

John 9:35,37,39

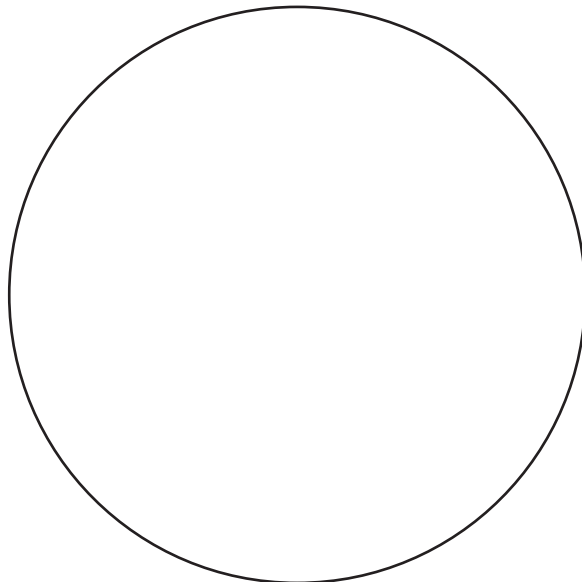
*Son of Man was a special nickname for the promised Forever King.

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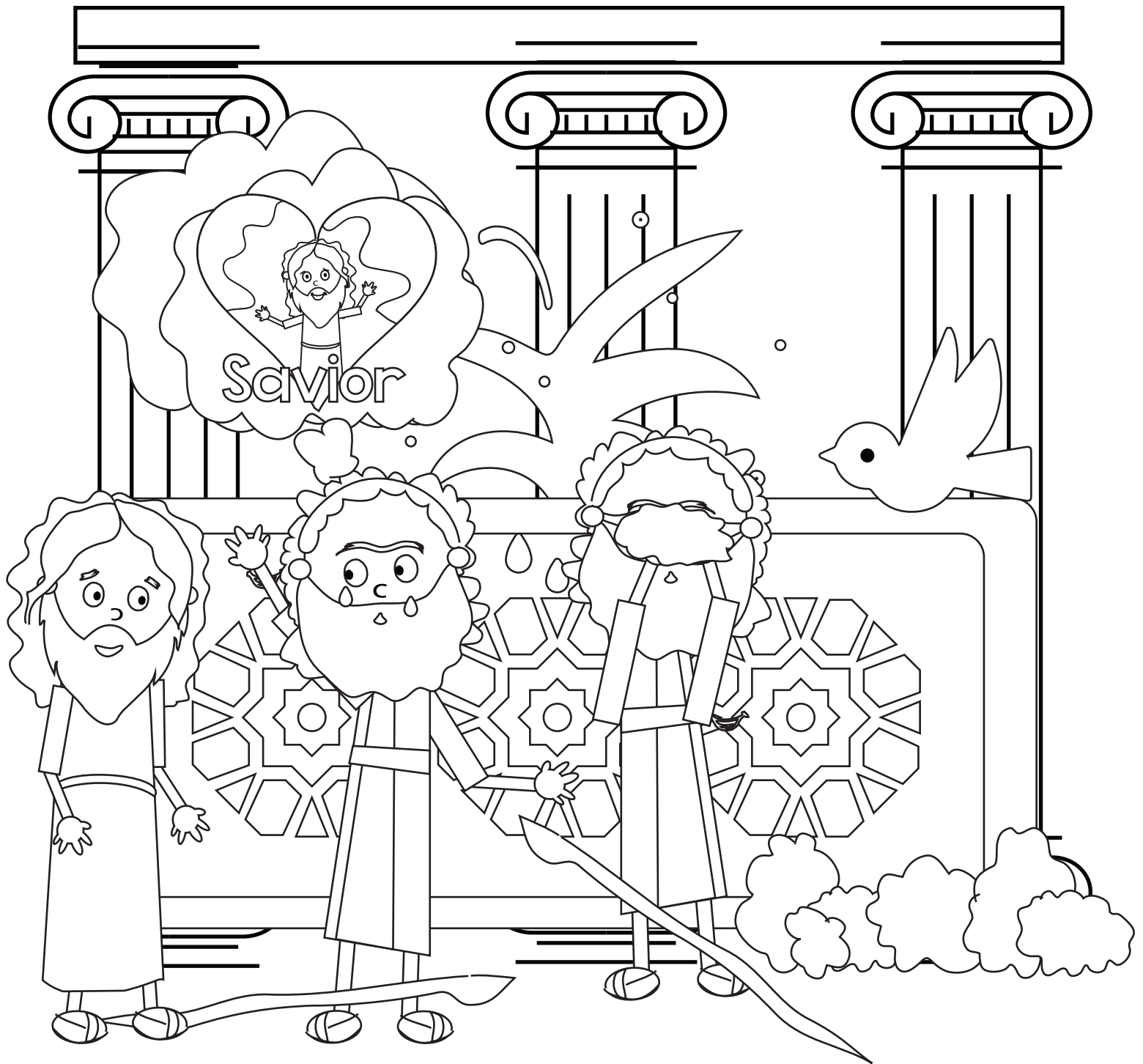
29



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The blind man saw that Jesus was...



the promised

S

30 - Dead Man Comes Back

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 337-355

John 11

"I am the resurrection and the life.

The one who believes in me,

even if he dies, will live.

Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe
you are the Messiah, the Son of
God, who comes into the world."

John 11:25,27

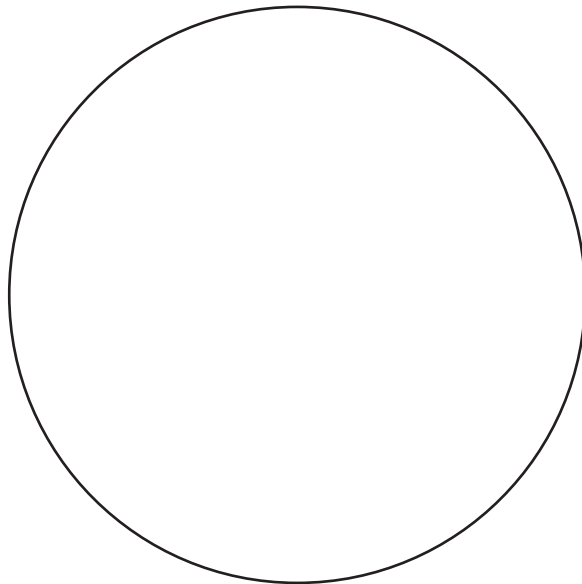
* Resurrection is a big word that means rise from the dead.

Sticker

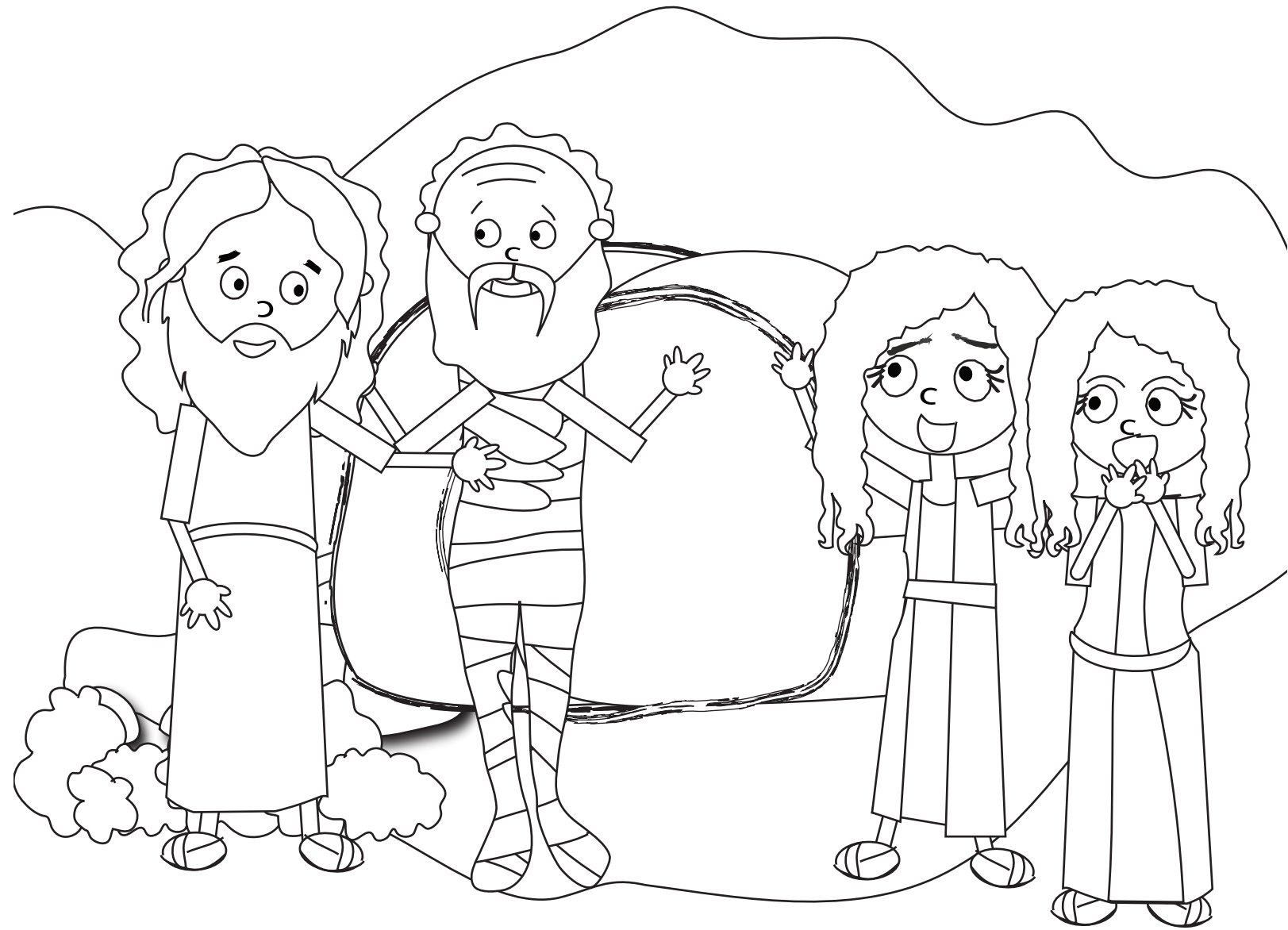
30



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Jesus showed that He even had
power over...



D

31 - The Darkest Day

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 354-381
Luke 22-24

“Jesus knew everything
was now finished
that the Scripture
might be fulfilled.

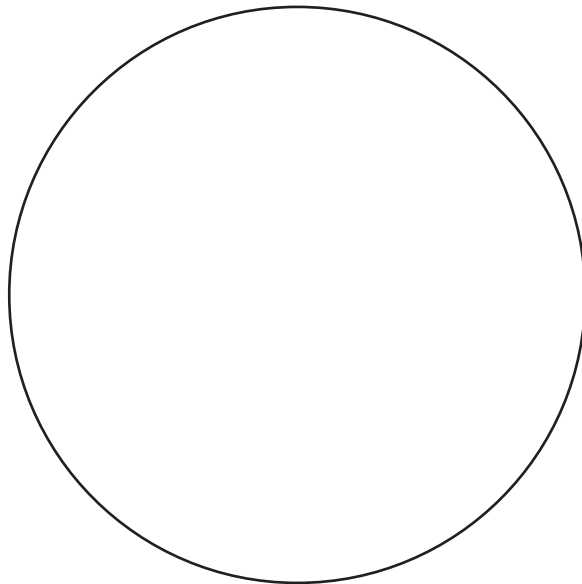
“It is finished,” [he said.]
Then bowing his head,
he gave up his spirit.”
John 19:28,30

Sticker

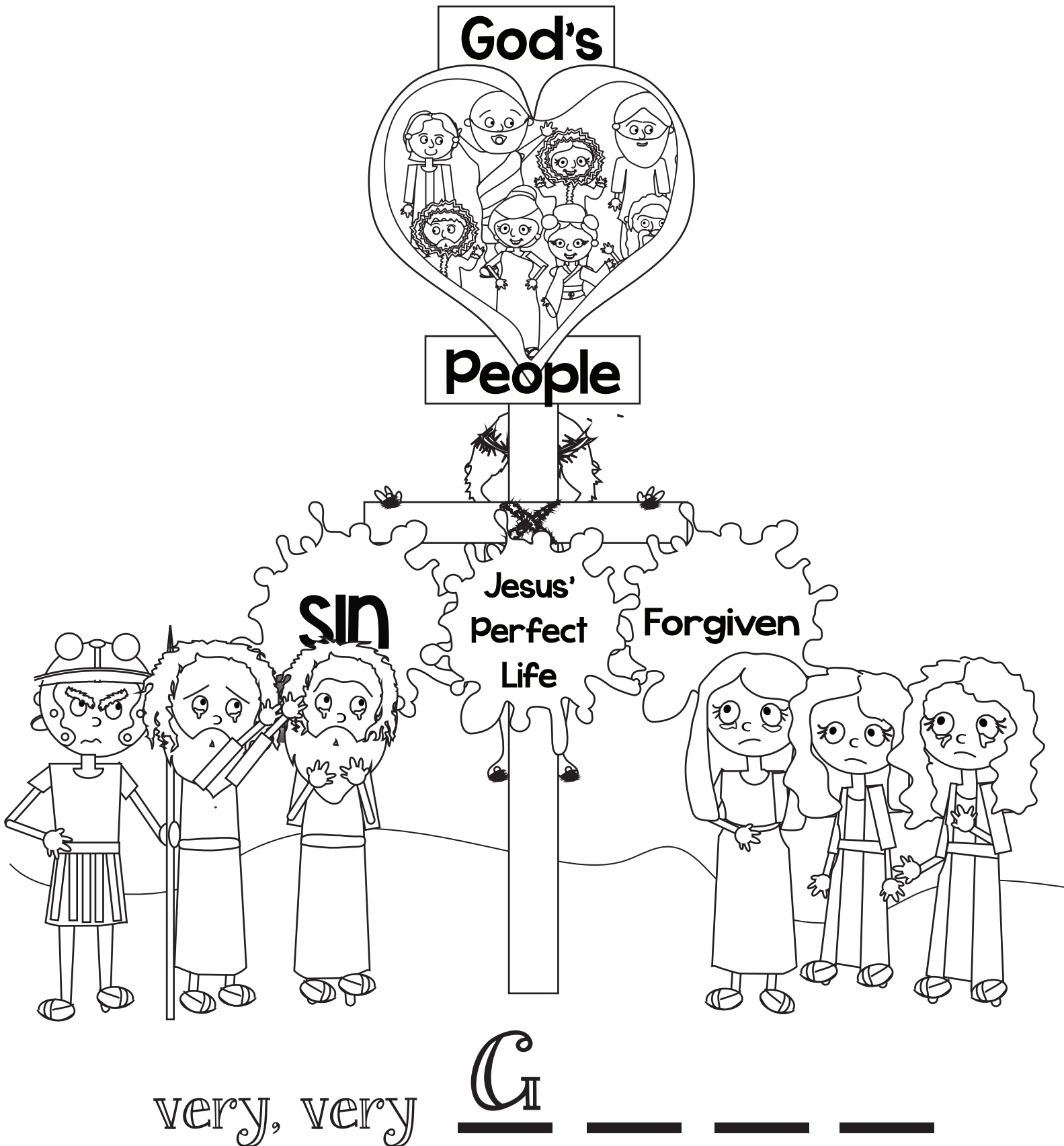
31



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Enemies killed Jesus, but God
was doing something...



32 - Dead Man Comes Back

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 383-395

Luke 24:1-43

“Why are you looking
for the living
among the dead?

He is not here,
but he has risen!”

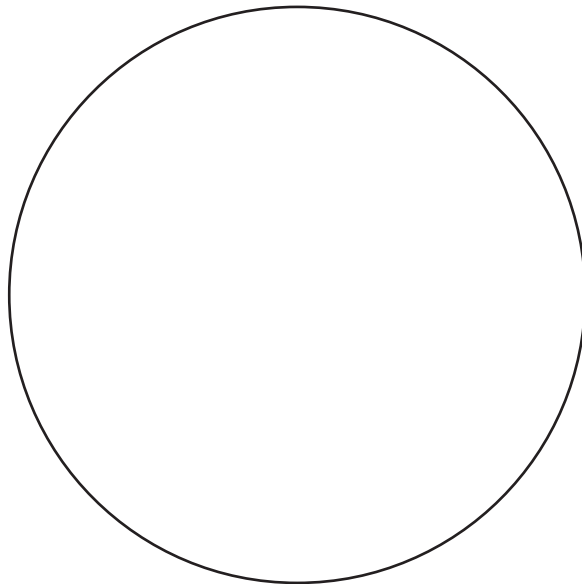
Luke 24:5,6

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32

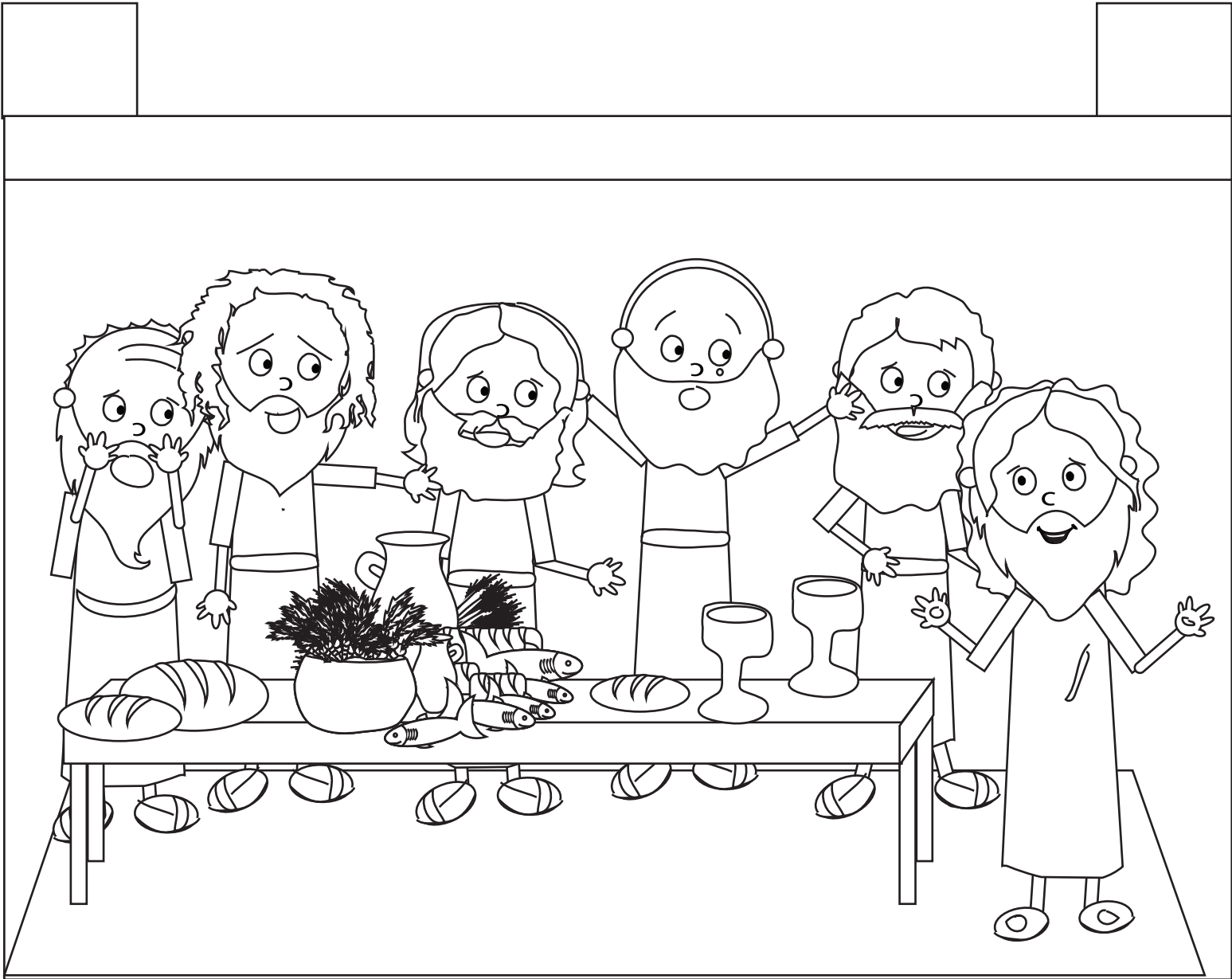


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Jesus had done it.

He beat sin and death! He was...



A

33 - The Mystery Solved

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 397-411

Luke 24:13-48

“These are my words
that I spoke to you
—that everything written
about me in the Law of Moses,
the Prophets, and the Psalms
must be fulfilled.”

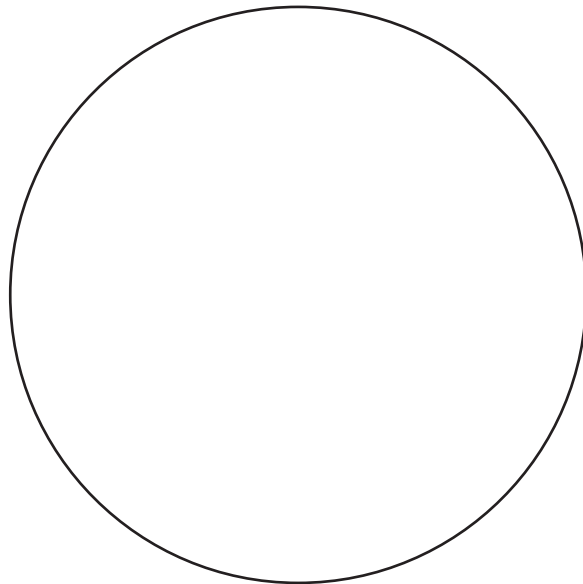
Luke 24:44

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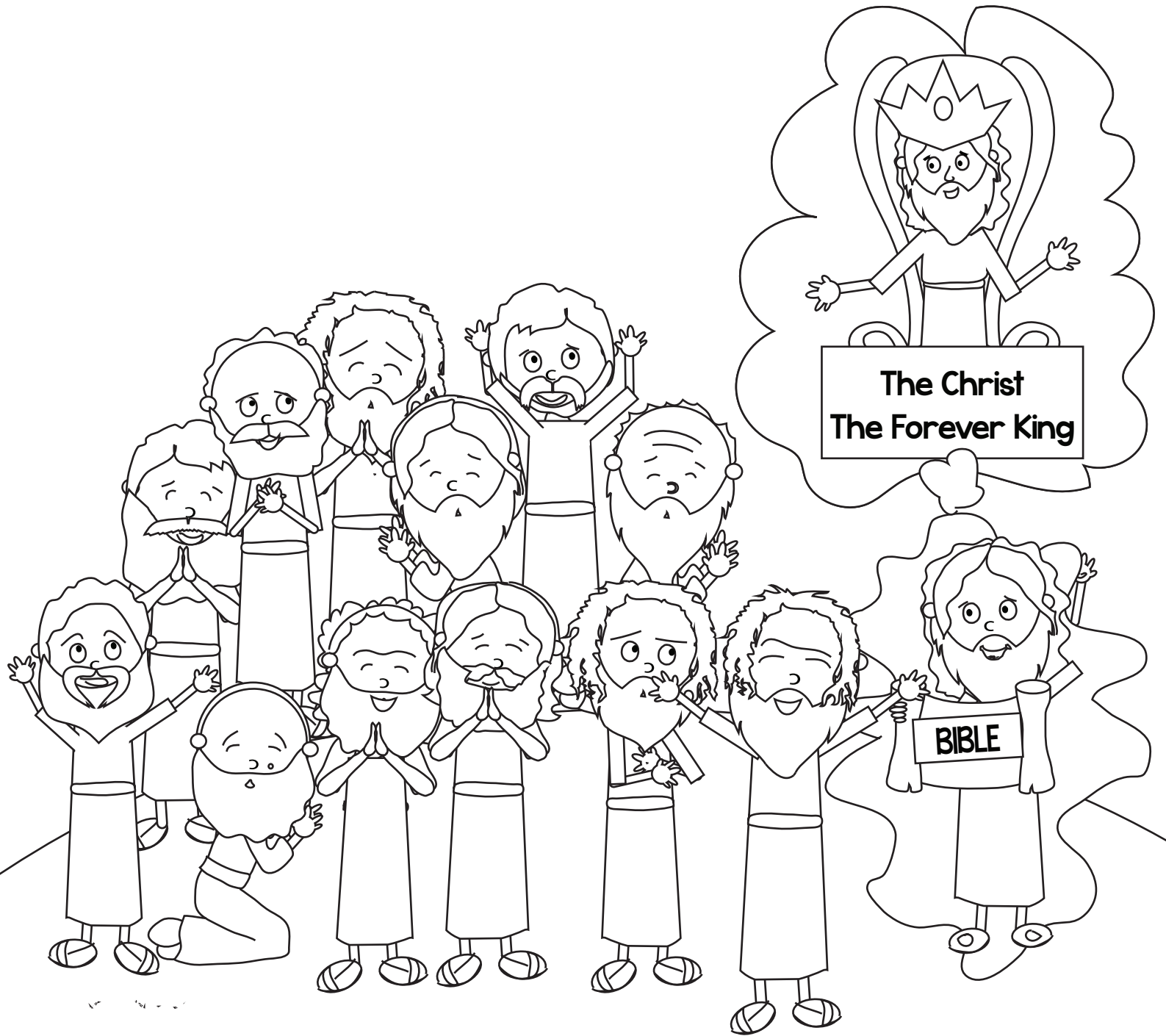
33



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Jesus showed his friends all of God's
promises about Him written in...



the B _ _ _ _

34 - The Inside Gift

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 413-426

Acts 1-2

“But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit
has come on you,
and you will be my
witnesses ... to the
ends of the earth.”

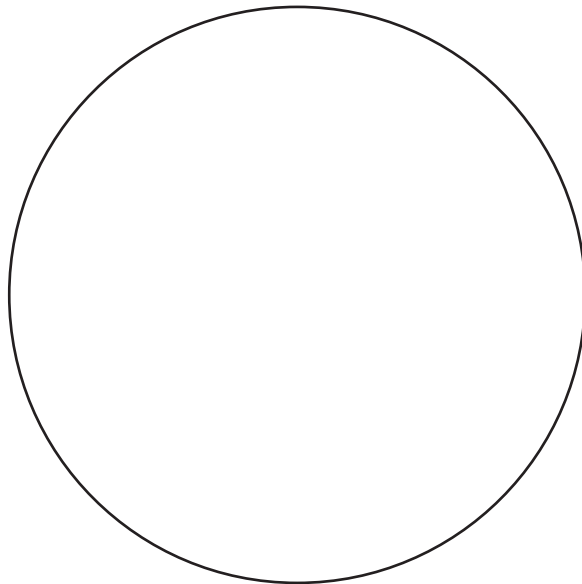
Acts 1:8

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34



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The Holy Spirit was God's...



G _____ to live inside His
people and help them know God
and live for Him.

35 - The Word Gets Out

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 427-435
Stories of Paul throughout the Book of Acts

“I write these things
to you who believe in the
name of the Son of God
so that you may know
that you have eternal life.”⁹⁹

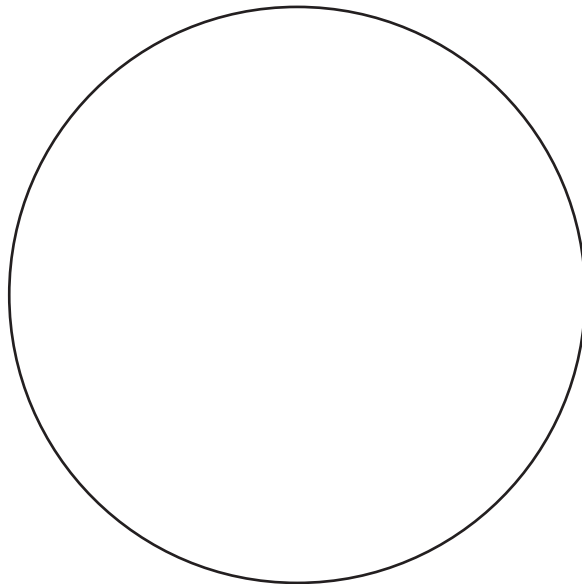
1 John 5:13

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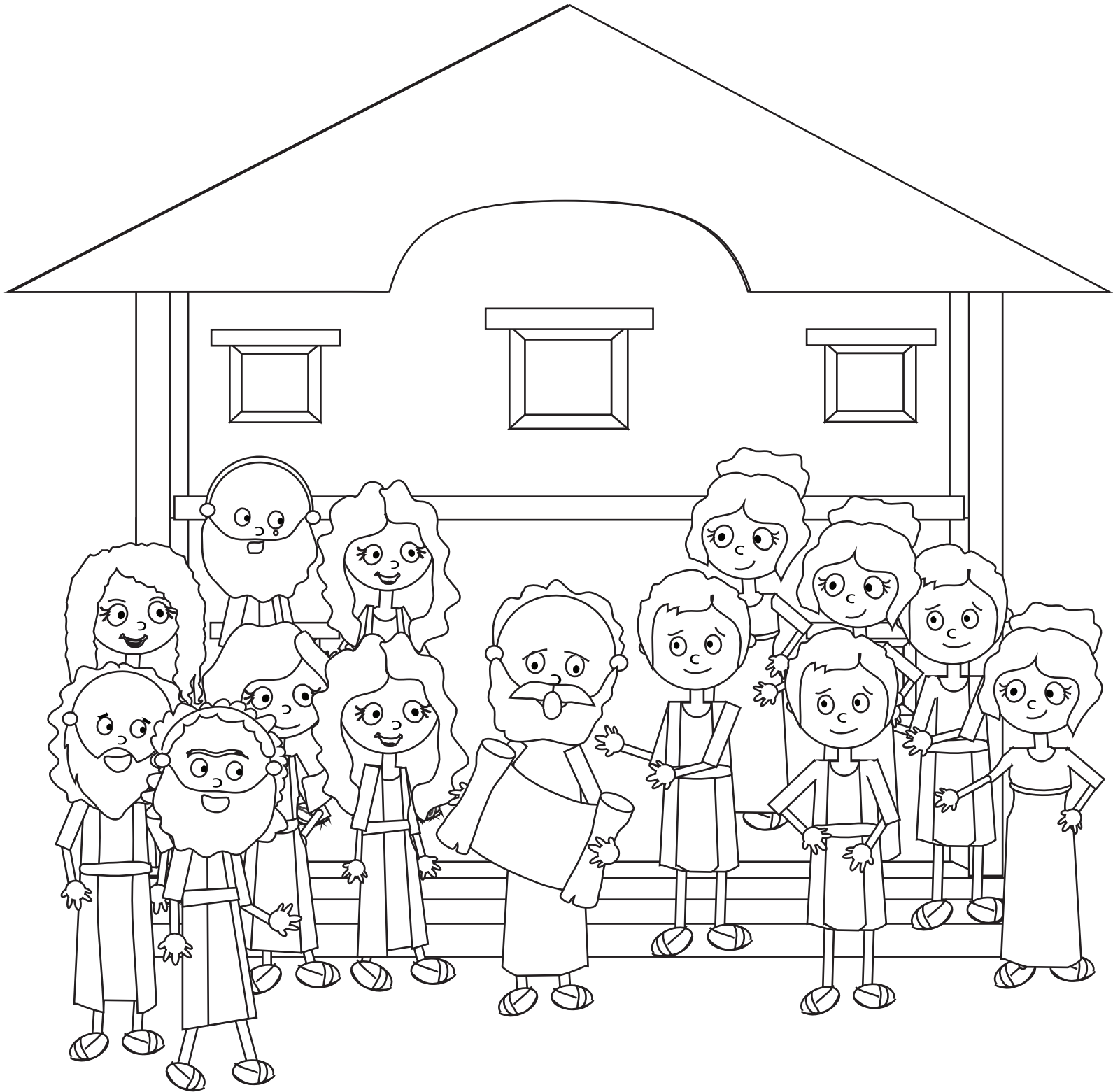
35



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God spoke to His people through the...



L

godly leaders wrote them

36 - Perfect Wonderfulness Forever

Big Picture Story Bible, pgs 437-453

Revelation 21

“I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

“Look! God now makes

his home with his people.

He will live with them. They will be his people.”

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.”

Revelations 21:1,3,4

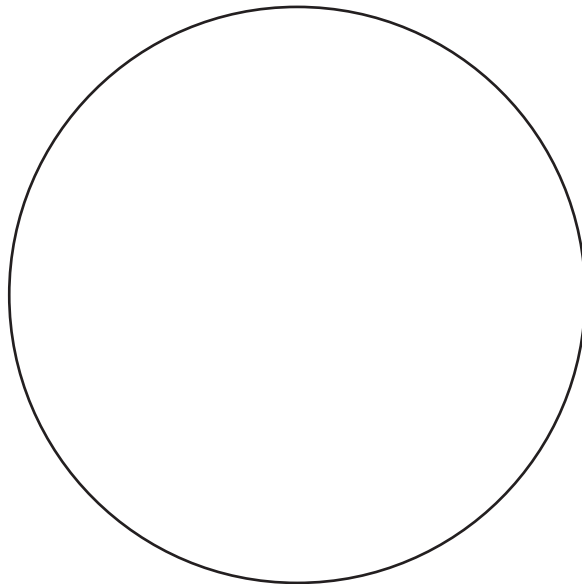
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36

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God's people will enjoy Perfect
Wonderfulness with King Jesus...



F

37 - Mystery Person

Who's the mystery person in this ADVENT-ure?
They're looking back at you in the mirror-- It's YOU!

Listen to these words Jesus spoke to Nicodemus that night, long ago:

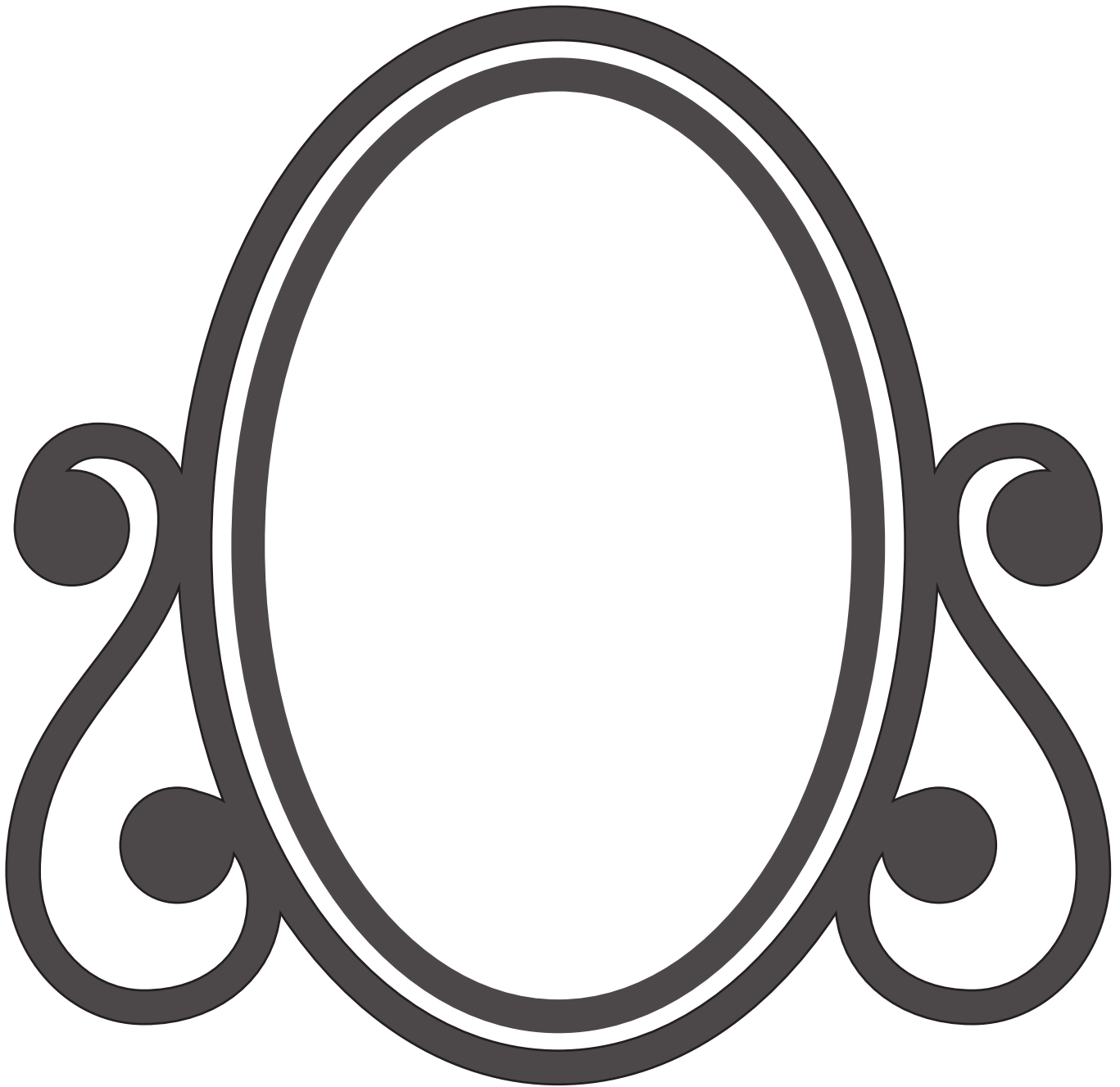
For God so loved the world
that he gave his
one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish
but have eternal life.

John 3:16

It is through God's Son, Jesus, that we can have eternal life-- that taste of the Perfect Wonderfulness of God in our hearts, now. And one day, we can be wrapped up and filled up completely in God's Perfect Wonderfulness living face-to-face with Him, forever.

Ask God to help you trust in Jesus as your Savior. He loves to answer this prayer. The Forever King would love for you to know Him. He would love to be YOUR king!

Who is the mystery person in
this ADVENT-ure? Draw your
face in the mirror because...



it's Y

Key to Cover Pictures



God creates
the world



Solomon builds the
Temple



God creates
people



God tells Daniel He will
bring the people back
home after 70 years



Adam and
Eve disobey



Jesus is born



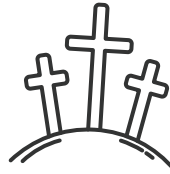
Noah and the
Ark



Jesus raises Lazarus
from the dead



The LORD speaks
to Moses



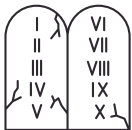
Jesus dies on
the cross



The Passover



The tomb is empty



God's Law: The
10 Commandments



Jesus is alive!



The Ark of God's
Presence



God sends the Holy
Spirit into hearts



Settling in God's
Promised Land



The good news of
Jesus spreads



David and Goliath



Jesus is the
Forever King

