

Tropinka

The Little Path

Christian Magazine for Kids

Isn't it amazing that our world is so alive and full of life?

Let's do our best to protect it and keep it that way!



Exploring Faith With Friends Around the World!



Issue #1
2012



GOOD ADVICE

COPY DOWN ALL THE RED LETTERS AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO READ THE ADVICE GIVEN BY THE APOSTLE PAUL IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS.



Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

A DEEPER MEANING

part 7

Elena MIKULA

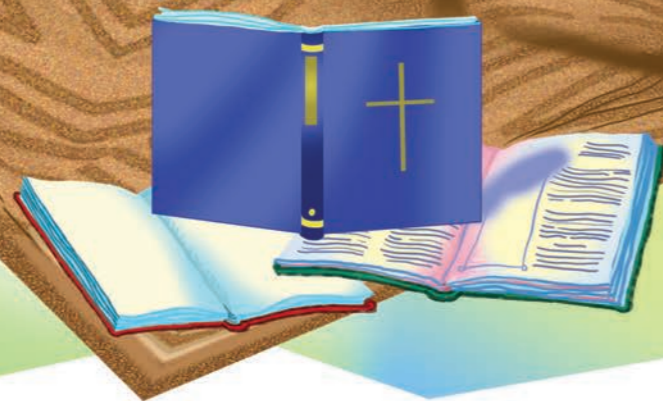
One evening, Mary got a phone call from Peter. "It works!" Peter shouted over the phone.

"What works?" Mary asked. She wasn't sure what he was talking about.

"The flowers! I gave my mom flowers and she was so happy! It made her smile and laugh all evening. Dad gave me this



strange look. He started working on our old vacuum cleaner, then changed his mind and went in the kitchen to help Mom. After dinner, we sat on the couch, looking at old pictures and laughing. You know, I really do have great parents and I love them a lot."



“Good! I just finished writing the fifth commandment on our model of the Ten Commandments. Will your dad let you come over to my house?” Mary asked.

“I think so, but if he gives me a job to do then we’ll have to get together another time. I’m going to try very hard to listen and do what my parents tell me to do,” Peter answered.

Peter’s dad didn’t have any jobs for his son, so Peter and Mary met at Mary’s house that evening.

“‘You shall not murder.’ Short and simple. That’s an easy command, easy to understand and easy to follow,” Peter said.

Mary shook her head. “I agree it’s easy to understand, but it’s not that easy to obey this commandment. It has a deeper meaning!”

Peter’s eyes got big and round. “You think you could break this commandment and kill someone? Mary, you’re scaring me!”

Mary carefully wrote the sixth commandment on the model of the stone tablets and laid the marker aside. “Do you know what Jesus Christ said about this commandment? He taught that even saying curses – which are bad words – against another person is murder.”

“He did?”

Mary jumped up and disappeared into her room. She came out carrying her very own Bible. “Yes. And listen to this. “ She opened her Bible and began to read Jesus words about the sixth commandment. “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.”

“Oh man, does that mean we’re all murderers? What can we do?”

“Don’t use bad words, don’t call people bad names, don’t wish evil on anyone – not even your enemies. Don’t let hate have a place in your heart,” Mary said.

“What do I do if it still happens? For example, Greg always calls me names and makes fun of me.” Peter looked down at the floor. “Today, I called him a bad name, too.”

She continued reading. “Jesus said, ‘If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.’”

Mary closed her Bible and asked, “Now, don’t you know what to do?”

“Yes, I know. Let’s pray. Then I need to go and talk with Greg right away! I need to ask his forgiveness for what I have said to him. I don’t want to be even a little bit like a murderer.”

(To be continued)



Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA



The Sixth Commandment

When I was a kid – that was 50 years ago, which is a long time – my family (and by family, I mean my parents, my brother, my sisters and I) lived in Kyrgyzstan. Summer vacations were so long it seemed like they could go on forever! From the end of May until the first of September, we had the whole summer to ourselves. When we didn't need to take care of the cow, prepare the hay, or help gather the harvest, we were free to go hunting or fishing.

The other kids and I made our own slingshots and went around shooting sparrows. There were hundreds of them out by the barnyard. Of course, we weren't a real threat to the birds since it's not easy to hit a sparrow using a slingshot. Once, I noticed a bird sitting on a telephone wire. Using my slingshot, I aimed and shot at it. To my surprise, it dropped like a rock onto the dusty road. We ran over to it and saw... a swallow! Blood trickled from its beak and the head tilted back at an unnatural angle. We stood dumbfounded. I had killed a swallow! It was dead. I cradled it in my hands, blew on it, and rocked it back and forth. Nothing worked – it didn't stir.

I never picked up the slingshot after that. This painful memory haunts me to this day. In the sixth commandment God said:

“You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13).



Of course He meant people shouldn't kill each other, but my childhood experience helped me understand what “You shall not murder” means.

The Bible says, “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from

any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being’” (Acts 17:24–28). God gives life to everyone and man doesn't have the right to take it away. That right belongs to God alone. Only He decides when and how a man's life will end.

Different books and movies show how easy it is for people to kill each other. Movies make us want to cheer when the bad-guy dies. We can't let ourselves get used to that. We can't let ourselves think that one person has the right to kill another. God very clearly says, “You shall not murder.”

We are called to take care of God's creation. That means we should protect life on this earth. We can help feed the birds – especially in the cold weather – and protect the nature and wildlife around us. God appointed man to rule over creation – that's a difficult task, but also a great honor.

Waldemar ZORN



DO NOT MURDER

**Murder is an ugly word.
Murder is a sin.
Taking someone else's life
Is an awful thing.**

**Cain was angry. In his anger,
He attacked his brother.
What do we do when we are angry?
Are we hurting others?**

**Cain killed Abel, took a life,
Lied to hide his sin.
God, who knew his every thought,
Saw the sin within.**

**When our mouths says hateful things
The words we say leave scars.
Speaking kind and caring words,
Let's share the truth and grace that's ours.**

**Hate and murder are alike
We must love, not hate.
Let's encourage those around us.
Share God's love, it's not too late!**



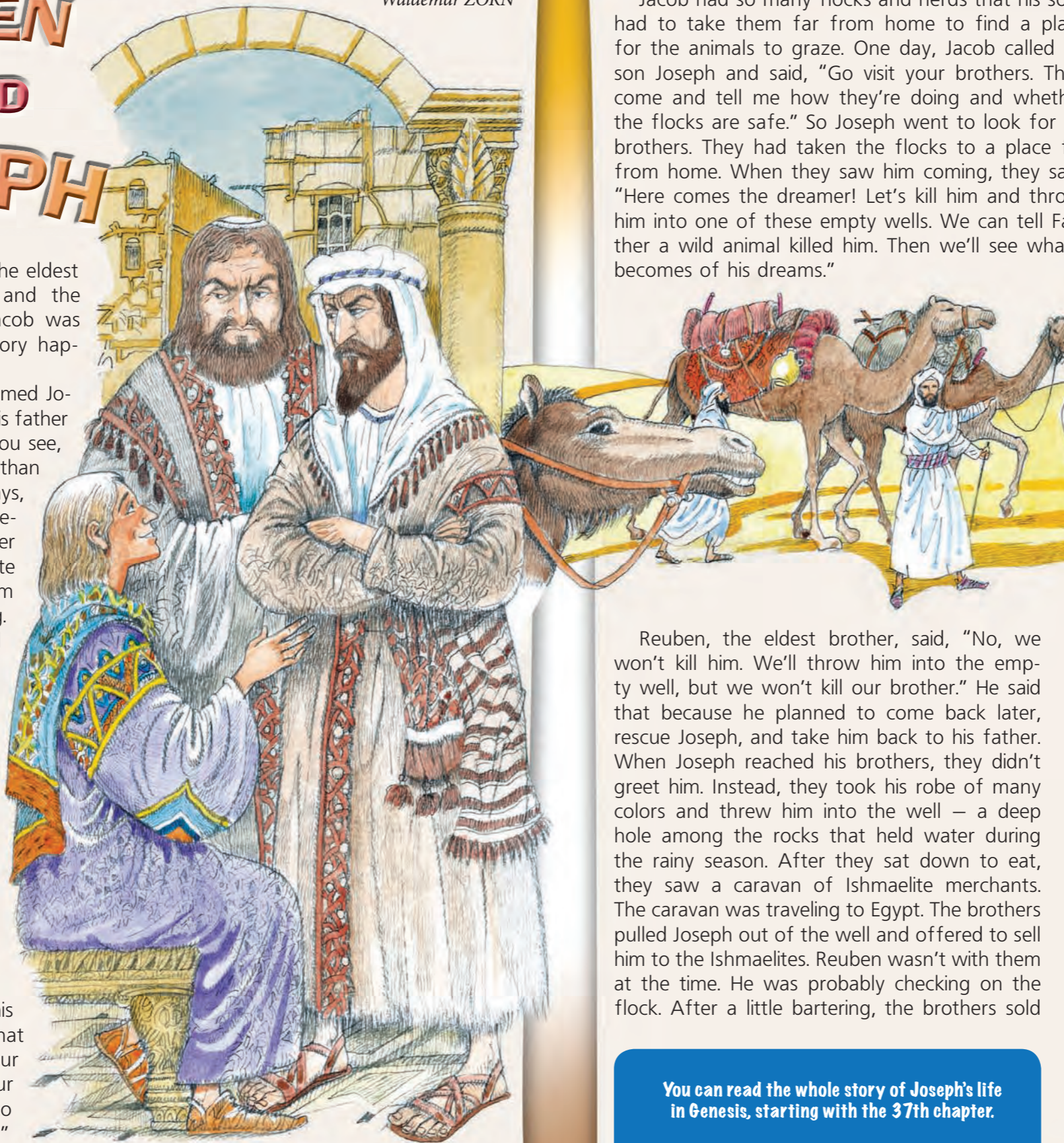
REUBEN AND JOSEPH

Waldemar ZORN

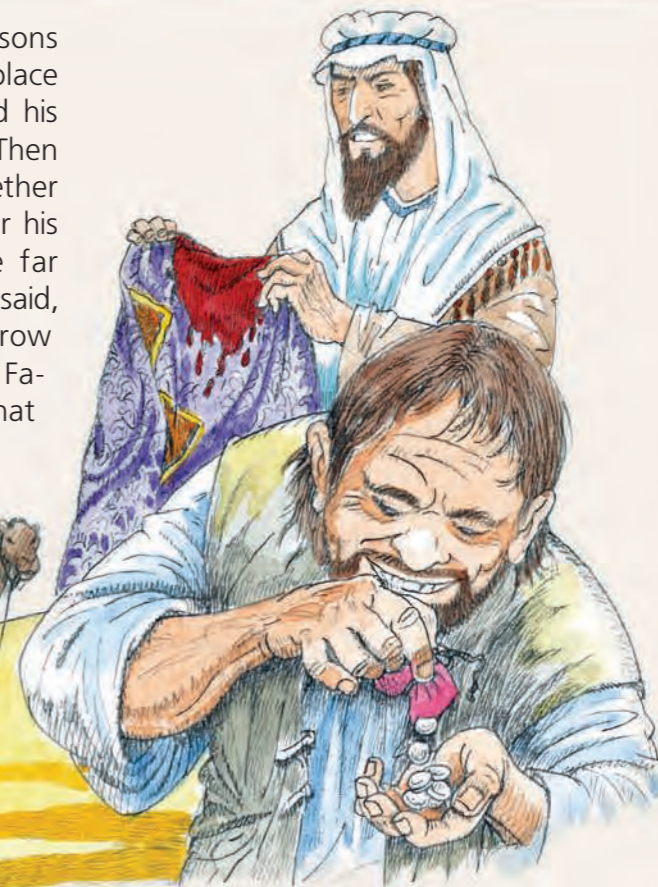
Jacob had twelve sons. The eldest son's name was Reuben and the youngest was Benjamin. Jacob was already quite old when this story happened.

One of Jacob's sons, a boy named Joseph, was only 17 years old when his father gave him a coat of many colors. You see, Jacob loved his son Joseph more than the rest of his children. In those days, a coat of many colors was a very special gift. The other brothers had another reason for hating their father's favorite son, Joseph. He used to tattle on them and tell his father what they were doing.

One night, Joseph dreamed he and his brothers were gathering bundles of grain. His bundle stood up, and the bundles his brothers had gathered bowed down to it. Without wasting any time, he told his brothers about the dream. "You think you're going to rule over us and tell us what to do?!" Joseph's brothers cried. They hated Joseph because of what he said, because of his dream, and because he was their father's favorite. Some time passed and Joseph had another dream. "Listen to this," he said to his father and his brothers, "I dreamed the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me." This time even his father objected saying, "What sort of a dream was this? You think your mother and I — along with your brothers — are going to bow down to you?"



Jacob had so many flocks and herds that his sons had to take them far from home to find a place for the animals to graze. One day, Jacob called his son Joseph and said, "Go visit your brothers. Then come and tell me how they're doing and whether the flocks are safe." So Joseph went to look for his brothers. They had taken the flocks to a place far from home. When they saw him coming, they said, "Here comes the dreamer! Let's kill him and throw him into one of these empty wells. We can tell Father a wild animal killed him. Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams."



Illustrated by Alexander BASS

Reuben, the eldest brother, said, "No, we won't kill him. We'll throw him into the empty well, but we won't kill our brother." He said that because he planned to come back later, rescue Joseph, and take him back to his father. When Joseph reached his brothers, they didn't greet him. Instead, they took his robe of many colors and threw him into the well — a deep hole among the rocks that held water during the rainy season. After they sat down to eat, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelite merchants. The caravan was traveling to Egypt. The brothers pulled Joseph out of the well and offered to sell him to the Ishmaelites. Reuben wasn't with them at the time. He was probably checking on the flock. After a little bartering, the brothers sold

Joseph for 20 pieces of silver. (Now you could buy an inexpensive used car with that amount of money.)

The caravan was gone by the time Reuben returned to his brothers and saw that Joseph was not in the well. "What did you do with him?" he asked fearfully. "What will I tell Father?"

The brothers talked it over and came up with a plan. They tore Joseph's robe of many colors, smeared it with the blood of a goat they had killed, and sent it to their father. When Jacob recognized the robe he had given his favorite son, he tore his clothes, sprinkled ashes on his head, and wept loudly. "A wild animal must have killed my son. Now there's no room in my heart for joy," Jacob cried out.

He thought Joseph was dead. However, the amazing story of Joseph's life had just begun. It started with the fact that Reuben, the eldest brother, didn't let the others kill Joseph.

You can read the whole story of Joseph's life in Genesis, starting with the 37th chapter.



Created by Dima BELYASHOV
Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

WHICH ANSWER IS RIGHT?

1. WHO LIVED THE LONGEST?

- a) Adam
- b) Methuselah
- c) Lamech



2. WHO WAS THE FIRST MAN TO BE MURDERED?

- a) Cain
- b) Abel
- c) Seth



3. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE LAND WHERE ABRAHAM BUILT THE FIRST ALTAR TO GOD?

- a) Chaldea
- b) Canaan
- c) Egypt



4. WHO LOST ISAAC'S BLESSING?

- a) Esau
- b) Rebekah
- c) Jacob



5. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF MOSES' BROTHER?

- a) Reuben
- b) Nathaniel
- c) Aaron



6. WHAT DOES THOMAS MEAN?

- a) Hero
- b) Twin
- c) Wealthy



7. WHAT DID PONTIUS PILATE DO BEFORE SAYING, "I AM INNOCENT OF THIS MAN'S BLOOD"--- IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!"

- a) He didn't do anything
- b) He washed his hands in front of the people
- c) He painted his hands white



8. WHO WAS THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR?

- a) Stephen
- b) Apollos
- c) Anna



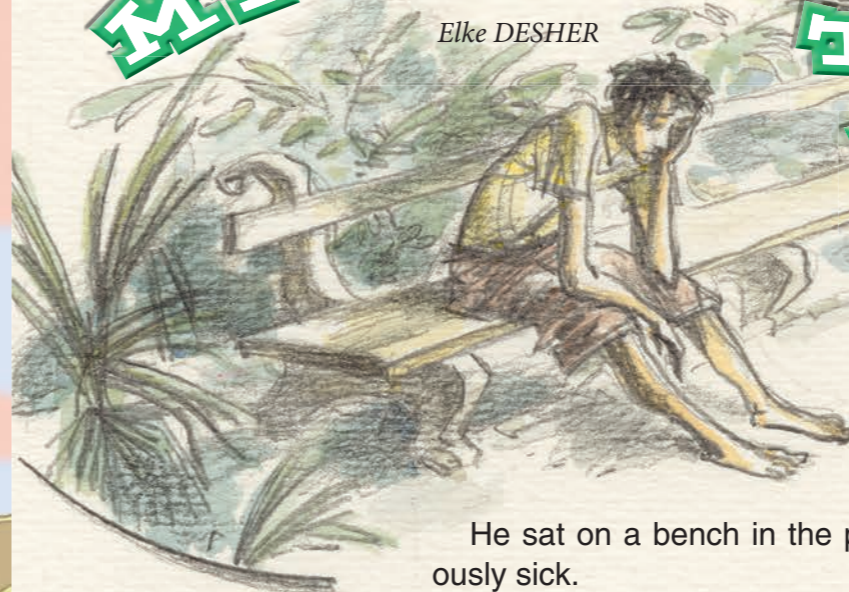
You'll find the answers on page 31.



Once upon a time, where and now, well, beer, pro, al, wa

MY FRIEND FROM THE PARK

Elke DESHER



From Brazil, South America

He sat on a bench in the park, skinny as a twig and obviously sick.

"Are you hungry?" I asked.

He nodded.

"Come with me, I'll give you something to eat."

He didn't think about it for long and got up to follow me to a small building where other homeless children had gathered. Each got a plate of rice and beans. What a delight! After the meal we sang together and I told them Bible stories. When the other children scattered, I came up to the new boy.

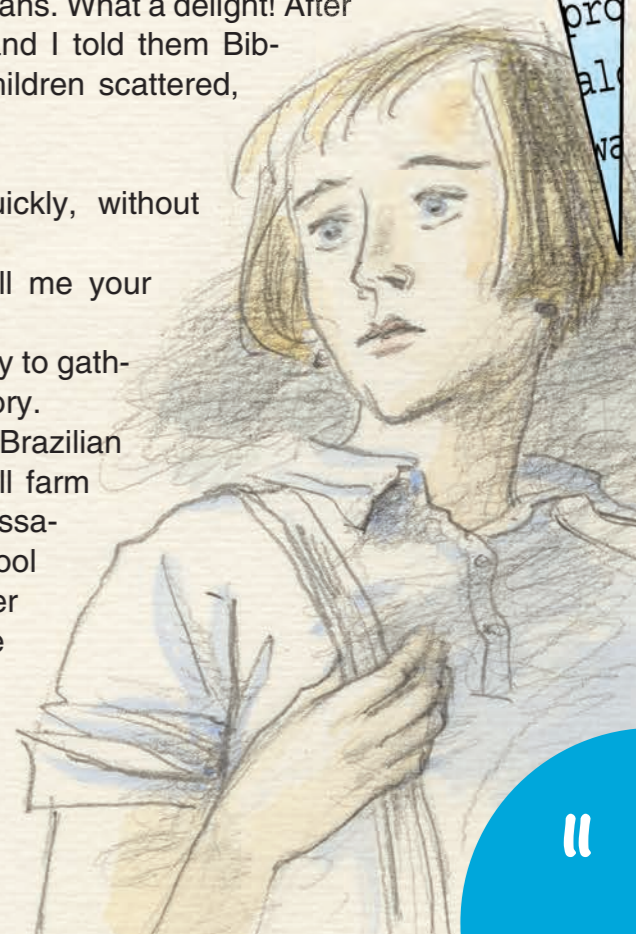
"What's your name?"

"Andre." He answered quickly, without looking at me.

"Where are you from? Tell me your story?"

It took some time for the boy to gather the courage to begin his story.

Andre grew up in a small Brazilian village. His father had a small farm and grew rice, beans and cassava. Andre couldn't go to school every day because his father often needed help with the farm. Sometimes he was sad because his family was poor. It was so frustrating! How he wanted to buy a new



pair of pants or a bicycle! But of course, he didn't have the money for that.

Often, he dreamed of being rich and living in one of the big cities of Brazil. That's all people ever talked about. At the age of 12, Andre decided he was sick of being poor and wearing pants with patches. As he took the last cassava tubers home, Andre made his decision. When he found his friend, Fernando, he whispered, "Meet me out by the cassava field. I need to talk to you!"

The sun, a great red ball of fire, sank behind the field while the boys sat under a palm tree and made plans.

"Come with me," Andre began. "We'll get out of here for good."

"Get out of here? Where will we go?" Fernando didn't understand what his friend meant.

"To Rio or Sao Paulo, anywhere but here. We'll get jobs and earn money, lots of money."

"What about our parents? What will they say?"

"Hmm... we'll send them a postcard when we get to the city."

"But they'll be worried about us."

"Yes, but life will be so much better in the city.

Just think about all the money we'll make! Then we can help our parents and our brothers and sisters."

"Well, it's not a bad plan. Okay, I'll go with you," Fernando decided after thinking it over.

The next day, when no one was looking, the boys ran away. They climbed into the back of a truck that stopped outside their village and hid between the bags of rice.

Three days later, two tired and very hungry boys arrived in Sao Paulo. Everything in the city was new and interesting. They met some kids at the bus station who got money by begging. These kids gene-

rously shared their bread and even gave the boys a piece of cardboard to sleep on. Andre tried to find work, but no matter where he went, the people were unfriendly and turned him away.

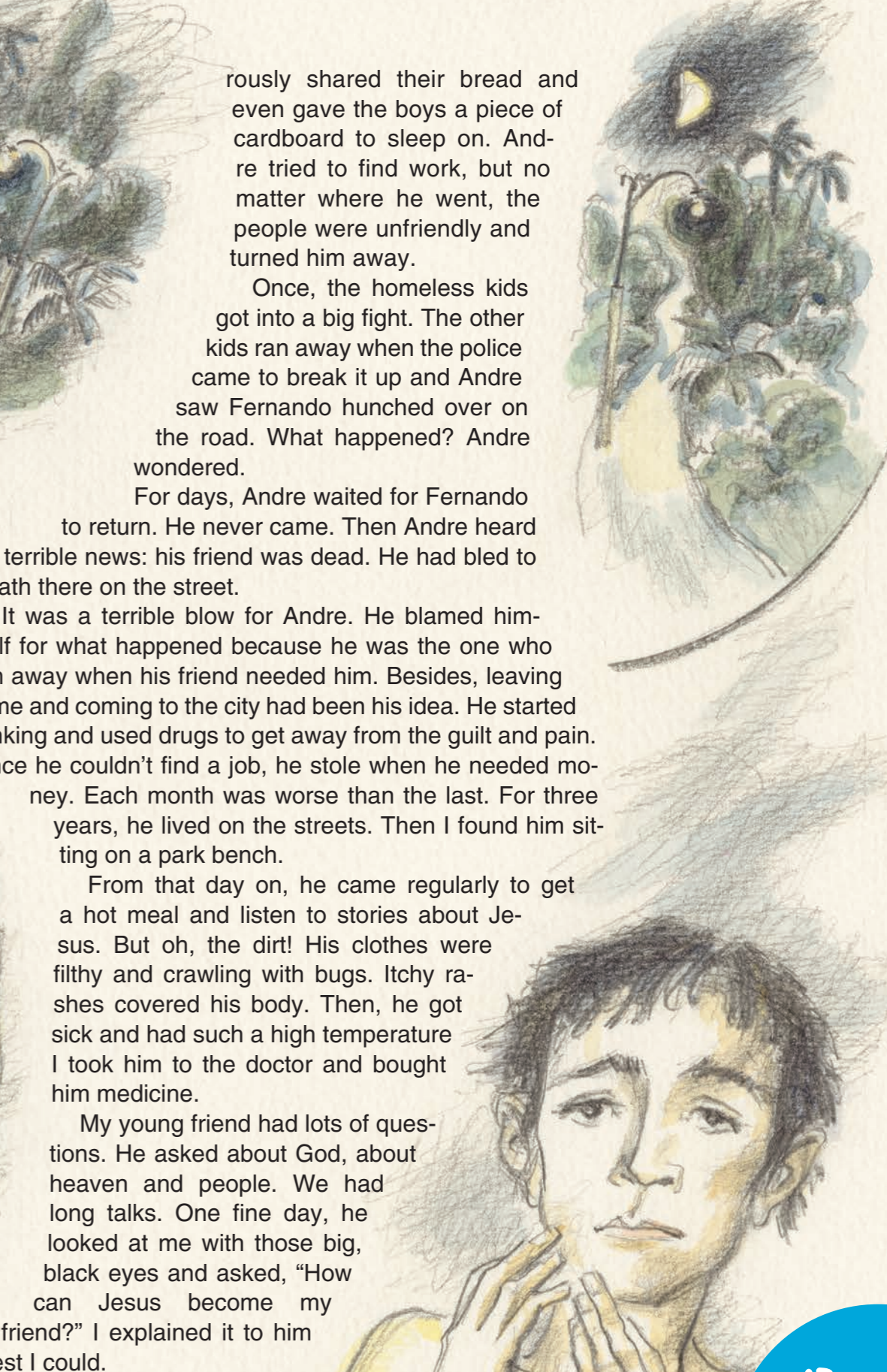
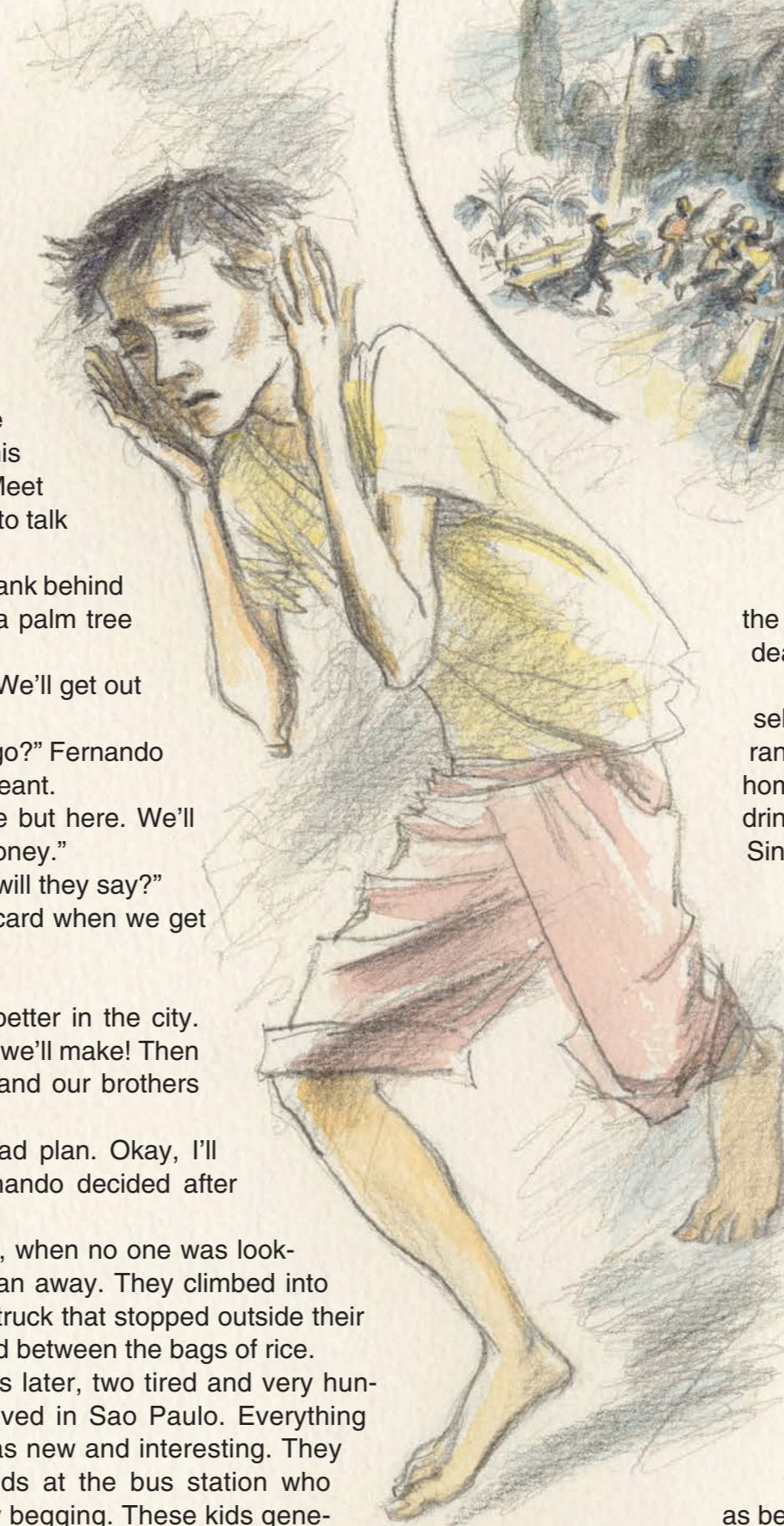
Once, the homeless kids got into a big fight. The other kids ran away when the police came to break it up and Andre saw Fernando hunched over on the road. What happened? Andre wondered.

For days, Andre waited for Fernando to return. He never came. Then Andre heard the terrible news: his friend was dead. He had bled to death there on the street.

It was a terrible blow for Andre. He blamed himself for what happened because he was the one who ran away when his friend needed him. Besides, leaving home and coming to the city had been his idea. He started drinking and used drugs to get away from the guilt and pain. Since he couldn't find a job, he stole when he needed money. Each month was worse than the last. For three years, he lived on the streets. Then I found him sitting on a park bench.

From that day on, he came regularly to get a hot meal and listen to stories about Jesus. But oh, the dirt! His clothes were filthy and crawling with bugs. Itchy rashes covered his body. Then, he got sick and had such a high temperature I took him to the doctor and bought him medicine.

My young friend had lots of questions. He asked about God, about heaven and people. We had long talks. One fine day, he looked at me with those big, black eyes and asked, "How can Jesus become my friend?" I explained it to him as best I could.



Folding his hands, Andre started to pray. "Jesus, take my life. I want to become your friend." After a pause he continued, "We're so different. You're good and I'm bad. I've stolen, lied, and used drugs. I ran away from home and left Fernando when he needed help. I'm sorry; forgive me. Jesus, if you love me even though I've done all these bad things, then I want to be your follower. I want you to be the only master in my life."

Suddenly, Andre knew he was Jesus' friend. That meant he was a child of the Heavenly Father. Joy and relief filled his heart. He decided to tell his homeless friends about it, but they made fun of him.

"Wimp, coward!" they laughed. Was this the same Andre they had known? The one who always came up with new ideas and pranks? No, this Andre wasn't like him at all. He didn't want to get drunk with them and refused to help them steal.

I tried to get Andre into a shelter or an orphanage, but none of the places had room. In the end, I decided he could stay with me. First, he had a hot shower. He loved it and stood, laughing and singing as he bathed. For the first time in months, he had a chance to wash with soap. We threw his old clothes away and dressed him in clean clothes.

"Now I'm clean on the inside and on the outside!" Andre said, his face beaming.

He quit using drugs, but I knew something still bothered him.

One evening, before praying and turning in for the night, he clenched his fists in anger and said, "I have to find him. Then I'll kill him."

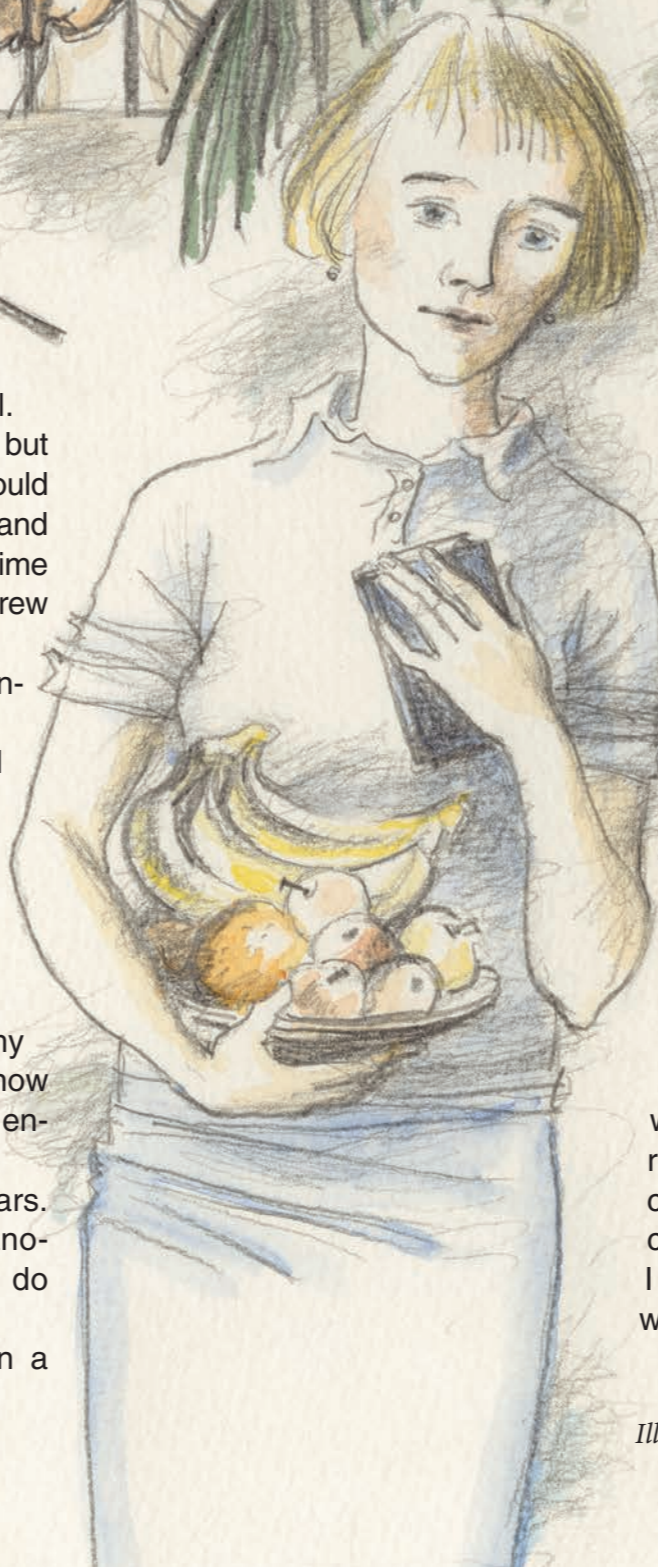
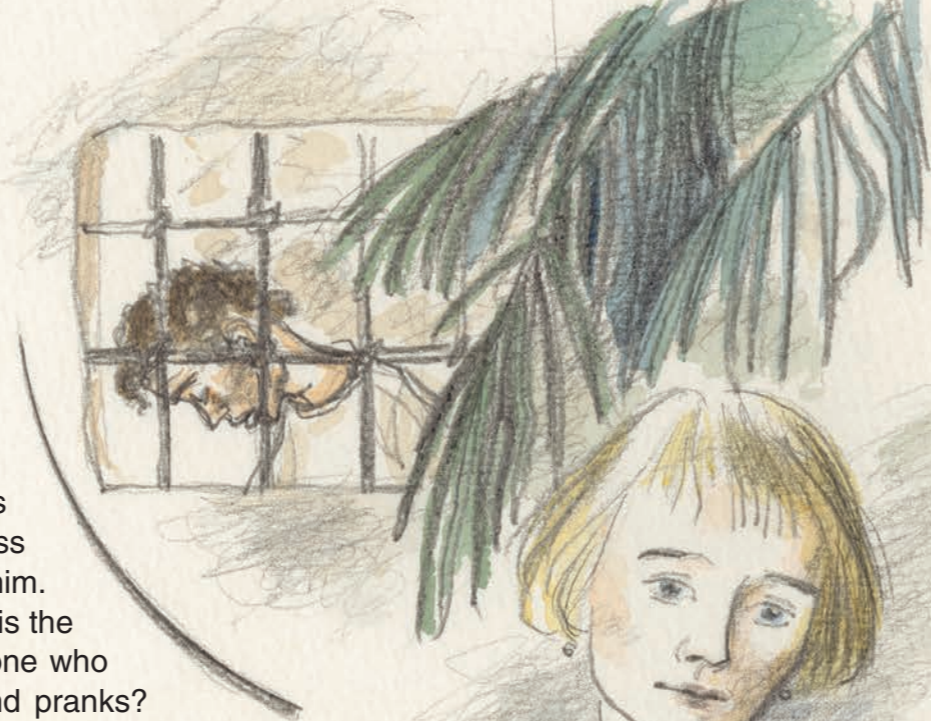
"Who, Andre? Who do you want to kill?" I asked in horror.

"The one who killed Fernando!" For a second, my friend hesitated. "But if I really think about it, I know it's wrong. Jesus wants us to forgive our enemies."

I saw Andre fighting to hold back tears. "One voice says, 'Kill him!' And another says, 'Don't kill him!' What do I do?"

"You know, today I was in a prison for juveniles," I said.

Andre was listening.



"There, I met a boy locked up behind bars. He's just a little older than you, wears rags, and has the saddest eyes I've ever seen. He's a murderer."

"You think he killed Fernando?" Andre interrupted me.

"I don't know, Andre. Our city has so many boys who have become murderers because of poverty and their circumstances."

Andre looked out the window. For a second, he saw himself out there, living on the street. Hunger, drugs, alcohol, fights, sleeping on a sheet of cardboard. He had a good life now, one he didn't deserve. What about the others?

Before I could continue the story he asked, "Will you visit him again?"

"Yes, of course."

"Will you bring him anything?"

"What do you mean?"

Andre thought for a moment. "He's probably hungry. I think he'd like it if you brought him some white bread rolls and bananas... and a Bible."

"A Bible?" I was surprised.

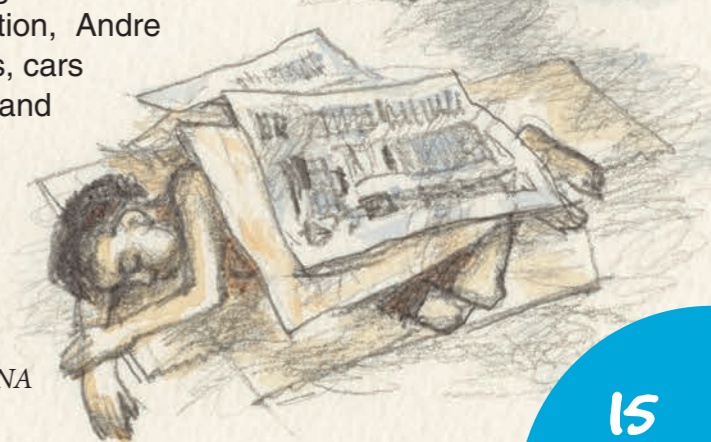
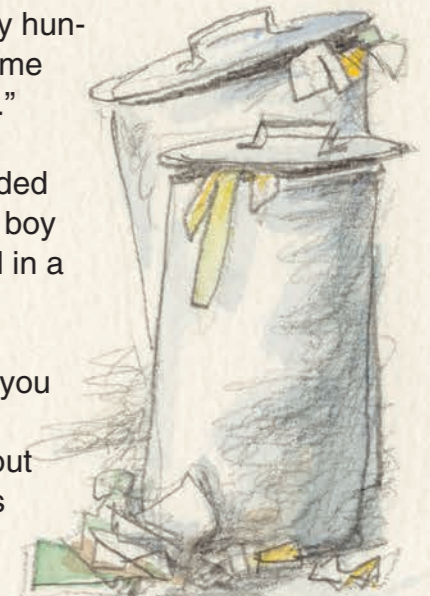
Andre's attitude had changed. He sounded like a completely different person. "Yes, this boy needs to know that Jesus loves him," he said in a broken voice.

I was speechless.

"Andre, what changed your mind? First you wanted to kill him and now..."

"Ah, well, it's just that I started thinking about what Jesus would have done for this boy who's in prison. Jesus would have somehow shown the boy that He loves him, right?"

Shortly after our conversation, Andre went to sleep. Out on the streets, cars rumbled, crowds murmured, and children slept on sheets of cardboard. "When will it end," I thought with sadness. "Who will help them?"



Illustrated by Elena MIHAILOVA-RODINA

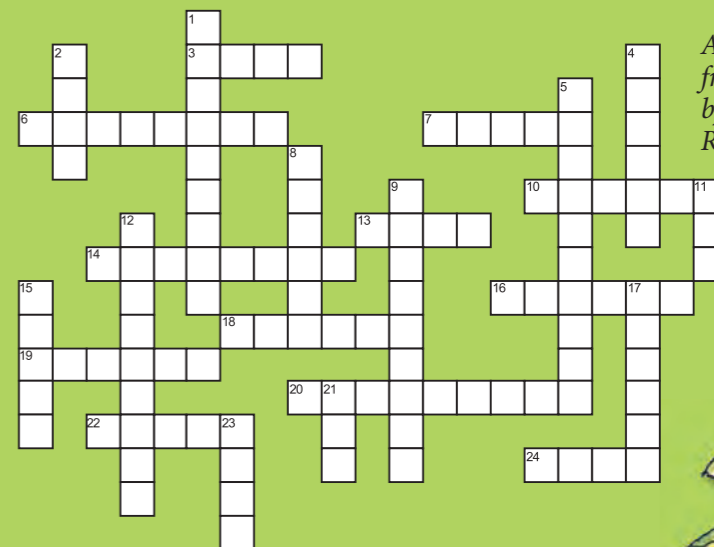
THE MISSING WORDS

These Bible verses are missing something. Fill in the missing words. Then copy down the first letter of each word and you'll discover the missing word in the last verse.

FOR THOSE WHO KNOW THE BIBLE

Crossword

Adapted from puzzle by Valentina RYAHOVSKAYA



Across:

- 3. Beautiful animal with strong, sturdy legs (Isaiah 35:6)
- 6. Agreement between God and the Israelites (Jeremiah 34:13)
- 7. Instrument that caused Christ's death (John 19:17-18)
- 10. Another name for Tabitha (Acts 9:36)
- 13. Young animal covered with thick, warm fibers (Isaiah 53:7)
- 14. Landform similar to a large hill (Luke 3:5)
- 16. Location of the calling voice (John 1:23)
- 18. Reason for gathering at Gog and Magog (Revelation 20:8)
- 19. Architectural element similar to a column (1 Kings 7:15)
- 20. Location where Peter warmed himself (Mark 14:66)
- 22. God said, "Let there be _____" (Genesis 1:3)
- 24. Present with God from the beginning (John 1:1)

Down:

- 1. Action performed by Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 11:12)
- 2. Doing this will produce a harvest (Galatians 6:9)
- 4. The gates of Hades will not overcome this (Matthew 16:18)
- 5. Reaction of Jesus' parents (Luke 2:48)
- 8. Our Savior (Luke 2:11)
- 9. The commander had Paul stand before them (Acts 22:30)
- 11. Created by God on the second day (Genesis 1:6-8)
- 12. Gallio would have listened to this (Acts 18:14)
- 15. A poisonous snake (Proverbs 23:32)
- 17. Special thanks for works or services (Matthew 5:12)
- 21. Taken by the wise for their lamps (Matthew 25:4)
- 23. A populated area (John 4:8)



"_____ who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him" (1 John 3:15).

4

"The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill _____ with justice and righteousness" (Isaiah 33:5).

3

"The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to _____" (Proverbs 10:8).

5

"But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you that you may be _____ of your father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45).

7

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many _____" (Genesis 50:20).

1

"Good _____ wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard" (Proverbs 13:15).

6

"So, the chief priests made plans to kill _____ as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him."

"While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother _____ and killed him" (Genesis 4:8).

2

Did you know... that the giant clam (one of the largest living bivalve mollusks) can be up to 47 inches across and weigh up to 440 pounds! It has sometimes been called the man-eating clam. If a diver touched the mantle of the clam, causing it to close, he wouldn't be able to open it again because of the strength of the giant clam's muscle. If a man got his arm caught in this clam, he could die when he runs out of oxygen, but rumors that these clams are dangerous are greatly exaggerated. In fact, the giant clam is one of the most endangered clam species.

Illustrated by Julia PRAVDOHINA

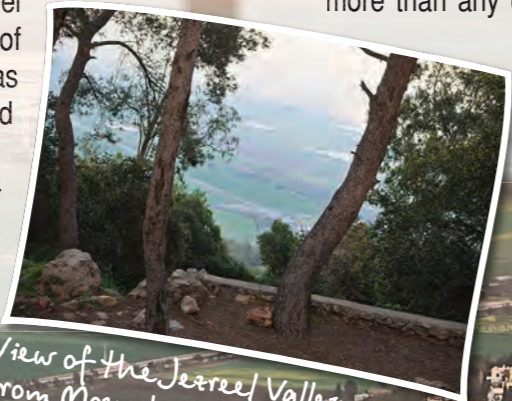
The Jezreel Valley



A group of tourists from Canada stood on top of Mount Carmel. Below them lay a great, fertile landscape. In the bright sunlight, it looked like a green carpet of fruit trees and vineyards mixed with fields of grain.

"The Jezreel Valley is one of the richest agricultural areas in Israel," the guide explained. Everyone listened silently. They didn't want to miss any of the details and gathered around him. "It is farmed by communities known as kibbutz and moshav. Settlements in the Jezreel Valley are located on the edges of the hills surrounding the valley, as well as the passes leading into and out of the valley.

"The Jezreel Valley is the largest valley in Israel. Its name comes from the ancient city of Jezreel, which means God Sows.



View of the Jezreel Valley from Mount Carmel

Sometimes this area has also been called the Plains of Esdraelon or the valley of Megiddo. The Jezreel Valley stretches from Mount Carmel in the west to the Jordan in the east. It is about 24 miles long and 12 miles wide. Two rivers flow through the Jezreel Valley. The Harod River empties into the Jordan and the Kishon River flows into Haifa Bay in the Mediterranean Sea.

"Besides separating the hills of northern Galilee from Samaria, the Jezreel Valley forms a passage between the Jordan River and the Haifa Bay lowlands. In ancient times, this region held great strategic value because it included the sea route from the Nile to the Euphrates. That's why, throughout history, this area saw many battles – more than any other place on earth! The valley was not just a place of senseless bloodshed, but also a place of wars between good and evil."

"Maybe that's why the last battle – a war between good and evil – will be fought here. The place called Armageddon is around here somewhere, isn't it?" a woman asked.

"Yes, Armageddon – also called the ancient city of Megiddo – was located on a ridge overlooking the Jezreel Valley. It was on an important trade route between Syria and Egypt. That's why many wars were fought over this fortified city. Records of Thutmose III show that capturing this city was more difficult for him than conquering a thousand other cities. Today, the ruins of Megiddo appear as a 200 foot mound in an area protected as part of a national park. The book of Revelation tells us that the last battle will be fought at Armageddon. Christ will defeat the devil and God will triumph."

"Could you tell us what happened here during Bible times," a young man asked.

"Certainly. In this valley, archaeologists unearthed the ruins of the city-states that were defeated by Israel in the days of Joshua. These cities included Megiddo, Taanach, Jokneam (now



called Yokenam), and possibly Kadesh. In the days when Deborah and Gideon led Israel as judges, God miraculously delivered this valley and His people from powerful enemies. A century later, Jehu, king of Israel, rode through this valley to Jezreel where he would carry out God's sentence on Jezebel and the wicked house of King Ahab. Ahaziah, king of Judah, died here after fleeing from Jehu. It was also in this valley that Josiah, king of Judah, was killed while trying to detain the army of Pharaoh Necho II."

"Napoleon was here," added a man whose appearance suggested he could be a history teacher. "If I'm not mistaken, this is where he fought the Turkish army in 1799."

"Yes," the guide agreed. "And in 1918, during World War I, the British General Allenby defeated the army of the Ottoman Empire in this valley."

"What a view!" a boy exclaimed. He was probably the son of the history teacher. The group fell silent as they imagined armies of Canaanites, Egyptians, French dragoons, and troops of other nations coming from all directions and making their way to the spot where the last war would be fought against God and His people!

Did you know...
that the red Hussar monkey is the fastest of all the primates? Unlike other apes, it lives on the ground and escapes from danger by running away. These monkeys can reach speeds of 24 miles per hour!



Jezreel Valley



VALLEYS OF ISRAEL

Word search

Fill in the blanks with the names of the valleys, and then find the names in the word search.

King's _____



Absalom erected a pillar as a monument to himself in the King's _____ (2 Samuel 18:18).

Valley of _____

David is well know because of the enemy he defeated while the Israelites camped in the Valley of _____ (1 Samuel 17:2-4).

Valley of _____

When the Philistines camped in this valley, three of David's warriors entered the camp to bring David water from the well in Bethlehem (2 Samuel 23:13-17).

Valley of _____



This valley was part of the inheritance of the tribe of Judah (Joshua 15:1-12).

Valley of _____

God will judge the nations in this valley (Joel 3:12).

The Lord helped Gideon defeat the Midianites in this valley (Judges 6:33, 7:12-25)

Valley _____

The sun and the moon stood still for almost the whole day while the people of Israel fought against the Amorites (Joshua 10:5-14).

Valley _____

Valley _____

The people of Israel camped in this valley during their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness (Numbers 21:10-12).

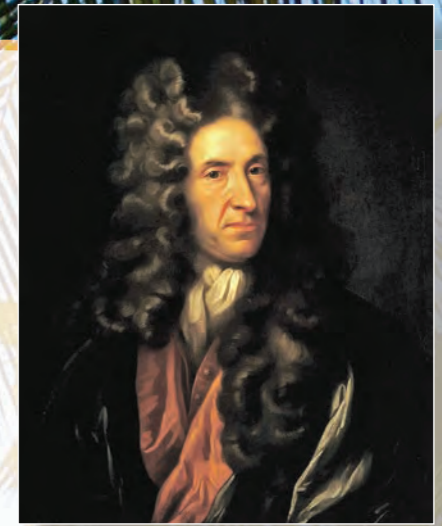
J M Q R Z G M Z X T T
 J E R E P H A I M A C
 Y K Z D M O N N I H C
 T G H R Y K R F B P H
 Q F Z G E Y T A N A K
 F T E D L E I C X H F
 H P R L L J L H K S Z
 M Y E Z A J A H P O X
 J V D L V L D M X H R
 X K O M E D D L L E P
 G N F L L X B Y D J G

Answers on page 31.

Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

Daniel Defoe

1660-1731



Who doesn't love interesting stories about adventures, pirates, and sailing to distant lands? Who hasn't read about the extraordinary adventures of a sailor who got caught in a storm and ended up on a deserted island? Who doesn't remember the picture of a man wearing animal hides – a funny pointed hat on his head, an umbrella in his hand, a parrot on his shoulder, and his good friend, Friday, beside him. Of course we've all read, watched, or at least heard about Robinson Crusoe. Today, we're going to describe the writer who created this amazing character.

Moving to England

By the end of the 16th century, England was the richest and most influential country in Europe. The rulers managed to overcome the divisions in their country, unite the regions under the rule of Queen Elizabeth, improve the economy, create a powerful navy, and begin developing lands beyond the ocean. All these achievements happened after England accepted the Reformation, which began in 1517 in Germany with Martin Luther's speech. In this speech, he called people to a living faith in God and rejected meaningless religious rituals. Freedom of religion was promised. That meant the end of oppression and persecution based on religious reasons. In other countries, these freedoms didn't exist. That's why immigrants from many different countries flocked to England. Together with other Protestants from the Netherlands, the Defoe family moved to England. Like many of the other families, the Defoes specialized in weaving, growing flax, and breeding sheep. This family business continued in their new land. By the beginning of the 17th century, some members of the Defoe family had also moved to the capital and started working in trade.

The future writer's childhood

In 1660, in the parish of St. Giles at Cripple-gate London, baby Daniel was born. In those days, merchants and artisans lived in that area. The father of the future writer



Illustration by the artist A.F. Lyde, 1865.



worked as a merchant. The family was Presbyterian and the Bible played an important role in their family life.

Daniel's childhood was like that of most other kids – fun and games on the narrow cobblestone streets, working in his father's shop, and Sunday services at a small church. However, Daniel's mother died when he was seven and his carefree childhood came to an end.

The adults in the family also experienced their share of shocks. The first blow was the law published in 1662 under the title "On uniformity." With this law, the new king of England, Charles II, ordered all of his subjects to join the Anglican religion. When the "Book of Common Prayers" was published, it also gave people directions on how they had to worship God. Those who didn't follow the king's orders were called dissenters and considered to be criminals. Many of the priests and believers who disagreed with the new rules were accused, found guilty, and executed. Others had to hide from the police or leave England.

Daniel's father managed to stay in England, but the lives of the family members and their property remained in constant danger. Daniel certainly remembered a fear of rulers, but he also learned how God loves and cares for those who are faithful to Him. Many of the hardships Daniel Defoe experienced during his life came from the fact that he was a dissenter, but he never turned away from what he believed and had been taught as a child.



The Great Fire of London. Painting, 1675.

To protect themselves from the plague, doctors dressed in a coat covered with wax or animal fat and wore a beak-like mask filled with aromatic herbs.
Engraving, 1656.



The second major blow was the plague that struck London in 1665 and killed a fifth of the population. Five year old Daniel saw empty neighborhoods, boarded-up houses, empty streets, black carts with dead bodies, and undertakers carrying torches and wearing scary masks. A year later, when the deadly disease became less of a threat, there was the infamous Great Fire of London. This fire turned the city into ruins. Tragedies like death from plague, the horrible red glow of the fire that destroyed entire neighborhoods, and the loss of his mother taught Daniel to value life – a lesson he never forgot. Half a century later, when he wrote his famous novel about Robinson Crusoe, Daniel had his character, Robinson, live out this value and save Friday's life.

Business career

Daniel's father wanted his son to become a priest, but dissenters couldn't study at many of the best schools. Despite the difficulties, the boy grew up to be a well-read writer with had a wide range of interests. He knew six languages and understood subjects like economics, politics and geography. Not only was he a brilliant journalist, but also one of the founders of British journalism. However, his opponents made fun of him for not having a classical education. Since Daniel followed in his father's footsteps and became a merchant, he traveled throughout Europe and studied the manners and customs of

people in Spain, France, Portugal, Italy, and many other countries.

Writing

When Daniel Defoe turned 25, the leadership of the country changed once again as James II, a Stewart, began his reign. He tried to restore the Catholic Church in England. Many didn't like this change. Some even followed Prince Monmouth as he tried to take the throne in the Monmouth Rebellion. Daniel supported the rebels, but the government suppressed the revolt and many were forced to go into hiding in France. Political tensions between England



Daniel Defoe at the pillory. Engraving, 1862.

and France hindered Daniel's business dealings. He didn't do well as a merchant – for most of his life he was in debt – but he succeeded as a writer.

Daniel Defoe's pamphlets, political satire, poems, and religious articles were published in almost all the newspapers and magazines of that time. They were directed against corrupt judges or hypocritical priests and defended the poor and the dissenters oppressed by the state religion. His pamphlet "The Shortest-Way with the Dissenters" was written to fight against the religious oppression. Those who read, sold, or published this pamphlet were arrested

and fined. The author himself was punished with three days of standing chained in the pillory. All over London, leaflets were hung calling people to throw stones at him (sometimes people were killed by crowds throwing stones at the prisoner), but when the crowd gathered they threw flowers to Defoe!

The hero of the famous novel

In 1719, when Defoe was 59 years old, a book was published. This book made him famous. Its title was "The Life and Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe." Biographers and literary experts still argue about it. Many talk about the way it shows the influence of John Bunyan, who wrote "The Pilgrim's Progress." There are even some that say the fiery preacher, Bunyan, was one of Defoe's teachers. Others wonder how a journalist became one of the founders of the English novel. However, any Christian reader who knows the Bible will see the life of Robinson Crusoe as the story of the prodigal son. After all, Robinson leaves home against his father's will, goes searching for fame and wealth, and finds himself in a terrible situation when he ends up on an island without any hope of being rescued. That's when he finds the help and strength he needs in a Bible discovered on the half-sunken

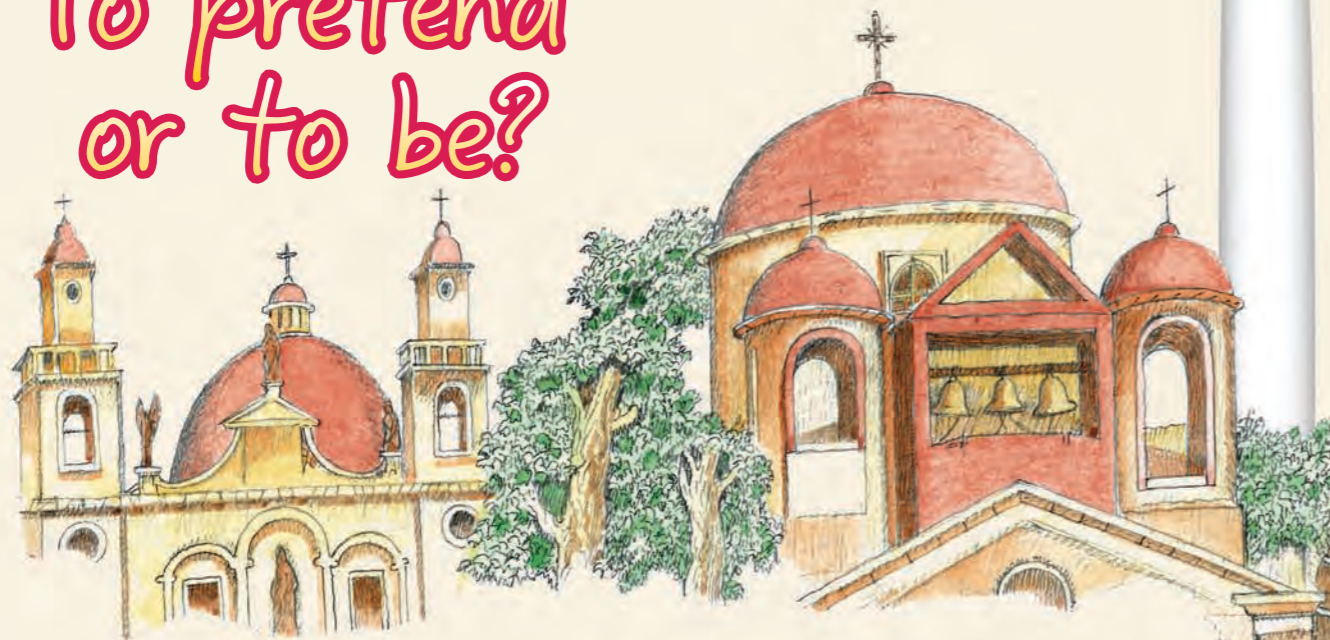
ship. After 28 years, Robinson – like the prodigal son in Jesus' parable – returns home a changed man.

The end of the journey

Daniel Defoe ended his earthly journey and went to be with his Heavenly Father in 1731, at the age of 71. A year later his wife died. They had lived together for 57 years and had eight children, two of whom died in infancy. A monument was eventually set up at the grave of this famous writer.

Nadezhda ORLOVA

7. To pretend or to be?

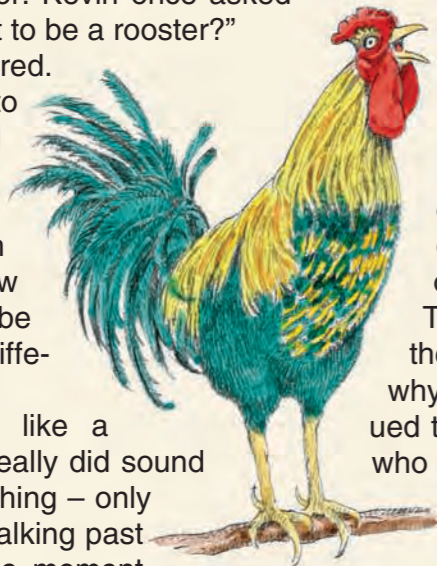


Kevin has an interesting ability. He can imitate just about anyone. If he whips out his cap, sticks it on his head at an odd angle, mismatches the buttons and buttonholes on his shirt, and starts coughing like an old man, you know he's an exact copy of old Mr. Brek from the third floor. Kevin once asked me, "Do you want to be a rooster?"

"No," I answered. "Then I'd have to get up early and I love to sleep in."

"Well, I'm going to pretend I'm a rooster right now and you won't be able to tell the difference!"

Kevin crowed like a rooster – and it really did sound just like the real thing – only Mrs. Ellen was walking past us and ruined the moment when she said, "A real rooster's call is even more beautiful."



Friends, I'm sure you'll all agree that the real thing is always better than a fake, but sometimes it's hard to tell one from the other. Emperor Constantine died in the 4th century. By then, Christianity was the official religion of the Roman Empire and people of all ages accepted Christianity and came to be baptized. Many parents had their children baptized because medicine wasn't well developed and childhood sicknesses often led to death. Parents wanted to baptize their children as soon as possible because they thought baptism would ensure the child went to heaven if he or she died at a young age.

Three hundred years had passed since the death of Jesus Christ. The bishops were busy discussing the nature of Christ, the Trinity, and other important and complex theological truths. They didn't look into what happens to babies if they die and what God's Word says about it. That's why the practice of baptizing young children continued to grow and the number of people in the church who never received teaching and preparation for baptism increased.

Augustine, a famous writer and theologian, lived during those days. In his autobiography, "Confessions," he wrote that his mother wanted to baptize him as a baby because he was sick. Then he got

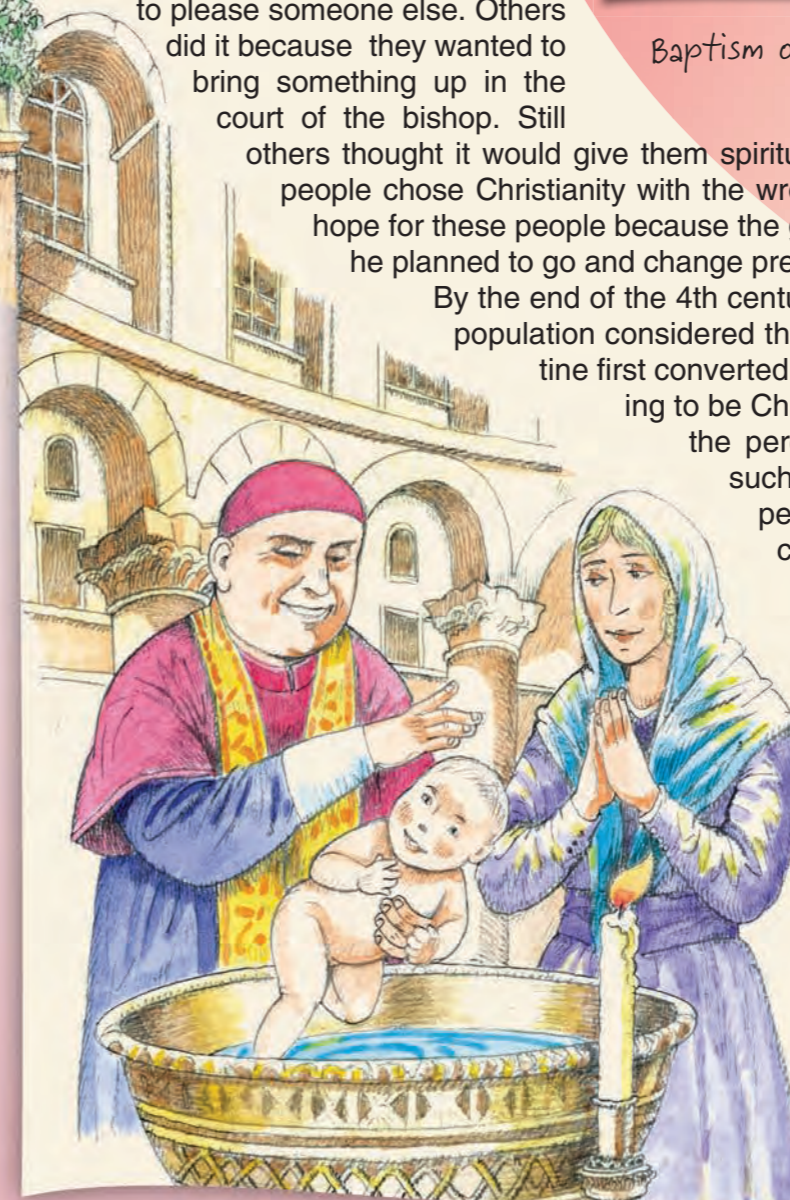
better and the baptism was postponed. Only at the age of 33, when he understood the truth of God's Word and came to faith after overcoming many doubts, did he get baptized and become a servant of God. That was not the case with Romanianus, friend and sponsor of Augustine. Romanianus was baptized as an infant and, even though he was a very kind and caring person who understood basic Christian truths, he couldn't leave the sinful life of the wealthy. There were many people like Romanianus at that time. Augustine explained that some became Christians because they wanted to please someone else. Others did it because they wanted to bring something up in the court of the bishop. Still

others thought it would give them spiritual protection or another advantage. Some people chose Christianity with the wrong motives, but Augustine said there was hope for these people because the grace of God can lead a person farther than he planned to go and change pretenders into genuine believers.

By the end of the 4th century, more than 90% of the Roman Empire's population considered themselves to be Christians. When Constantine first converted to Christianity, the number of people claiming to be Christians had been closer to 10%. How could the percentage of Christians change so much in such a short period of time? During times of persecution, only those who were truly dedicated and devoted to following Christ became Christians. Later, when Christianity became the state religion, many listened to the teachings of Christ, but didn't let the truths penetrate their hearts. They understood that Christianity had good teaching, but they didn't have a living connection to Christ. In other words, they said they were Christians, but in reality they were not followers of Christ. Is it worth pretending, but not being the real thing? Remember, the real thing is always better than a fake.



Baptism of Aurelius Augustine. Artist Jan van Scorel.



Illustrated by Alexander BASS



Ship masts, resin, and turpentine

Olga MARTYNOVA



Did you know

that the *Scots Pine* (*Pinus sylvestris*) is not the ordinary pine tree it may appear to be? Pine trees love sunlight. That's one of the reasons a pine forest is dry and full of light. If you walk through a pine forest you may find yourself walking on a carpet of lichens. Look at the beauty all around you! It's such a refreshing hike. Take a deep breath and smell the scent of resin and pine needles. The oil in the pine trees even has germ-killing properties. That's part of the reason retreats for people with lung problems are sometimes built in pine forests. The pine tree's needles, cones, and resin all have medicinal properties.

Did you know

that the Latin word for pine may have come from the Celtic word "pin" which means "cliff"? Maybe that's because pine trees are found in places where other trees can't grow – like on rocky cliffs and mountain slopes. Pine trees are considered special in many countries. Many northern people groups see pine trees as a symbol of life. In Japan, pine trees are a symbol of eternity. In China, they stand for devotion to duty and principles. In Russia people say, "There's no tree taller than a pine" and "the pine is beautiful wherever it grows." A pine tree can grow to be 300 to 500 years old.



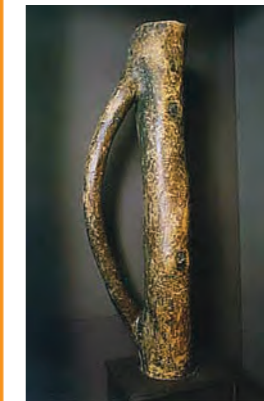
Did you know

that people have been using resin – that's the sap produced by pine trees – since ancient times? In the past, resin was often used to glue things together. For example, it was used to attach arrowheads and spears. Pitch, which is made from resin, was used on ships and burned in torches to light streets. The fossilized resin of ancient pine trees is known as amber, a stone used in jewelry. Resin is valuable in the chemical industry because rosin and turpentine are made from resin. By using these products, we can make solvents to dissolve chemicals, nice-smelling fragrances, and adhesives that keep things glued together!

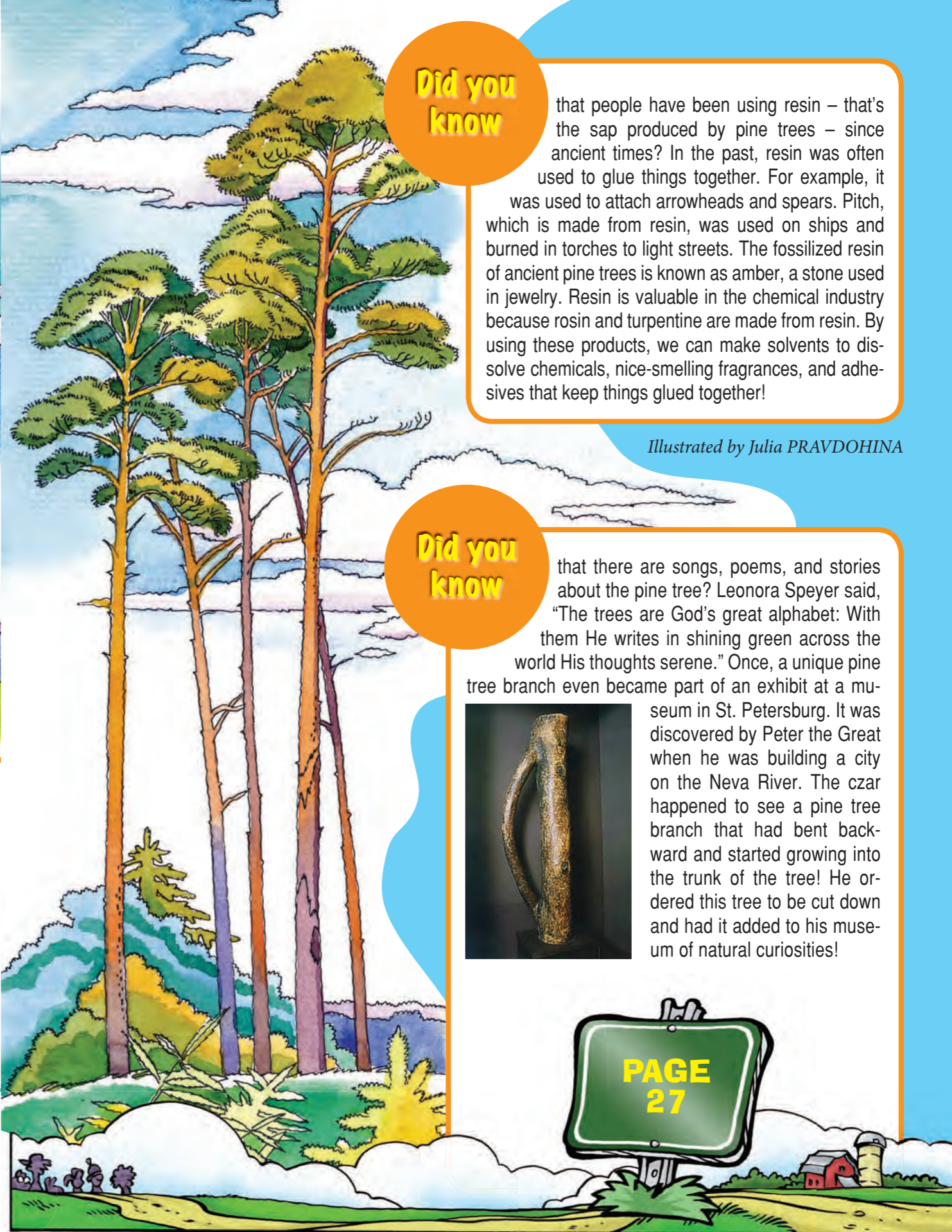
Illustrated by Julia PRAVDOHINA

Did you know

that there are songs, poems, and stories about the pine tree? Leonora Speyer said, "The trees are God's great alphabet: With them He writes in shining green across the world His thoughts serene." Once, a unique pine tree branch even became part of an exhibit at a museum in St. Petersburg. It was discovered by Peter the Great when he was building a city on the Neva River. The czar happened to see a pine tree branch that had bent backward and started growing into the trunk of the tree! He ordered this tree to be cut down and had it added to his museum of natural curiosities!

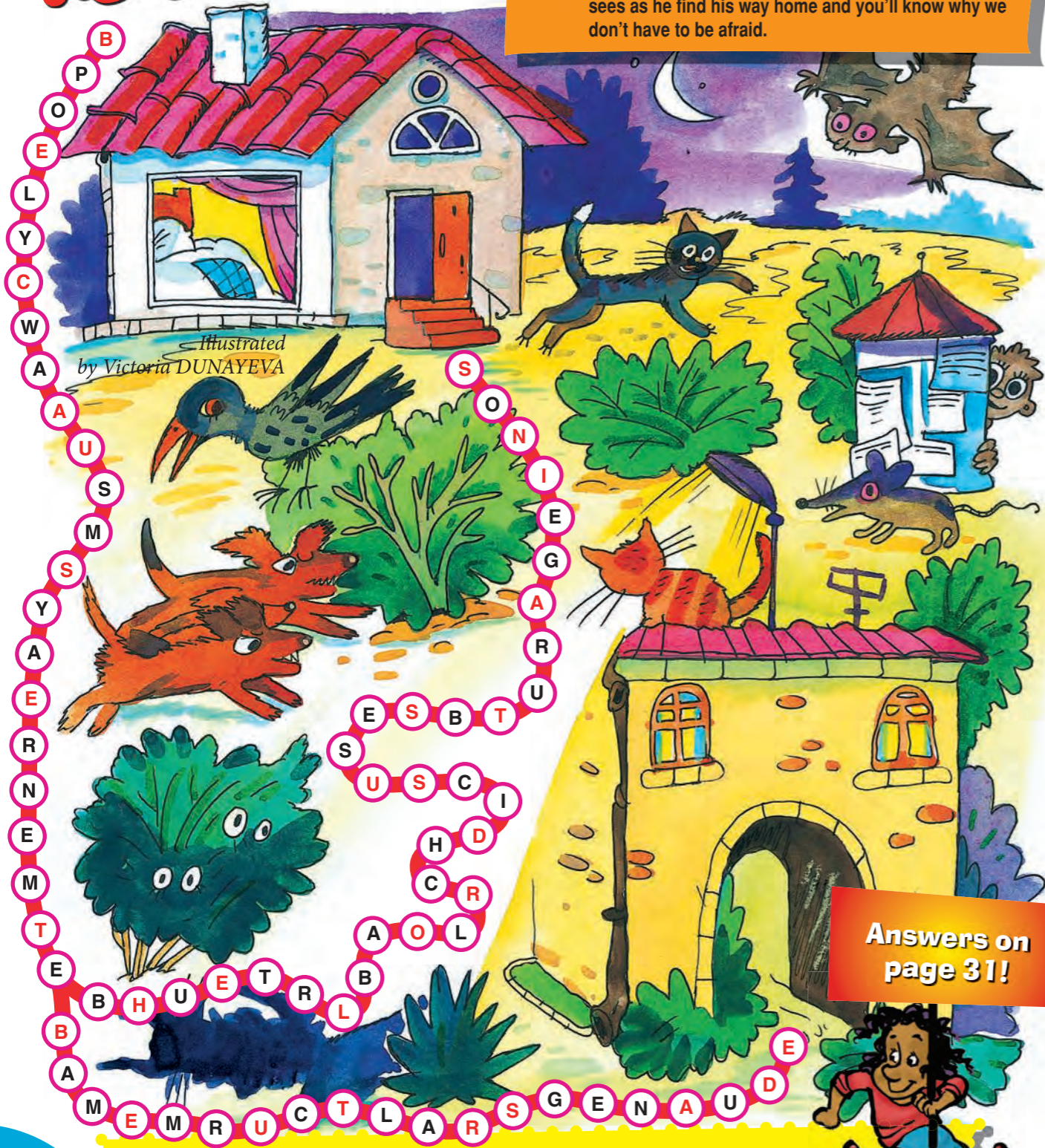


PAGE
27



NO MORE FEAR!

How do you feel when you have to be home alone or spend the night in a dark, empty house? Are you afraid? Finish the verse by writing out the red letters the boy sees as he find his way home and you'll know why we don't have to be afraid.



B
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C
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H
D
C
R
A
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T
R
L
E

Answers on page 31!

"I lie down and sleep; I wake again, _____ me" (Psalm 3:5).

THE HIDDEN WORD

How many times can you find the word "command" in this chart?

V	E	H	O	V	A	T	I	V	E	P	A	E	A	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	G	A	E
O	T	K	P	O	V	E	H	E	E	P	A	U	Z	A	P	O	V	E	D	J	H	O	U
H	E	B	E	C	A	P	P	O	P	O	V	E	D	Y	Q	T	C	L	A	V	Y	C	O
N	E	Q	H	Z	O	P	O	V	E	D	J	E	D	P	Y	C	A	L	E	M	M	O	P
B	L	A	G	O	C	M	O	V	E	H	E	N	P	O	C	O	V	E	D	H	M	K	
V	O	C	L	Q	B	E	M	O	C	P	O	D	A	B	O	O	A	T	V	O	E	G	O
C	Z	O	P	O	V	E	D	A	P	A	D	O	M	T	J	M	E	P	P	E	H	E	E
M	O	M	E	T	V	A	H	A	N	T	A	V	M	E	H	M	E	M	A	T	F	E	U
H	A	M	E	N	D	A	B	L	A	D	O	G	O	V	E	A	E	E	N	A	N	M	A
P	A	A	E	L	Z	O	P	O	V	A	V	E	C	J	D	N	A	M	M	O	C	M	B
K	O	N	A	B	L	E	K	P	Y	S	E	H	E	E	E	D	K	Y	S	E	H	A	E
E	V	D	Z	E	M	M	A	T	P	I	C	E	C	O	E	M	M	M	N	T	C	N	J
C	Y	B	B	O	T	A	H	E	E	M	E	I	V	O	C	K	P	E	C	E	H	E	E
T	V	O	P	E	H	E	E	Z	A	P	O	V	E	D	J	N	E	V	O	T	H	O	E
A	D	A	M	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	J	N	E	Z	H	J	D	E	L	O	V	E	K
V	N	Z	L	Q	B	E	G	O	C	P	O	D	A	B	O	G	A	N	V	O	E	G	O
O	A	Z	A	P	O	V	E	D	J	D	O	C	T	O	I	H	E	E	A	G	H	E	W
A	M	E	C	C	A	L	O	M	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	V	E	M	H	M	C	T	J
D	M	L	G	O	T	E	P	P	E	H	E	E	Z	A	P	O	V	E	D	J	M	O	P
C	O	L	O	M	O	H	X	P	E	C	T	E	A	H	E	H	E	C	T	O	P	O	I
E	C	T	E	H	A	Z	A	P	O	V	E	D	J	G	E	F	C	E	M	A	H	E	C
M	E	D	J	C	A	N	D	O	M	M	N	A	O	P	E	H	K	A	E	O	A	H	H
M	O	H	E	T	A	C	E	H	A	U	A	A	P	O	H	Z	A	P	O	V	E	D	J
C	V	E	T	L	O	Z	A	Z	A	V	Y	L	O	H	M	O	E	C	E	U	L	Y	M



WHICH DOESN'T BELONG?



Figure out which object isn't like the others and doesn't belong.

Illustrated by Elena MIKULA



Vitalik OSADCHUK, 11 years old, Ukraine



Natasha OBERIST, 15 years old, Ukraine



Ilya NAZARETS, 9 years old, Ukraine

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Send in your artwork! Draw a picture of your favorite Bible story. Or draw a picture of the 10 Commandments. Or both! Then send your artwork to Tropinka at the address below. We can't wait to see it!

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For elementary and middle school age children.



SOLVE WITH A BIBLE

Crossword



Across

2. Voluntary abstinence from food (Acts 14:23)
5. God told this person to bring the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3:1-10)
8. Metal used to make small, cheap coins (Mark 12:42)
9. Where Joseph stored grain (Genesis 41: 56)
11. Holiday when the Israelites celebrated the 14th day of the 1st month (Exodus 12:1-11)
12. "For man's _____ does not bring about the righteous life that God desires" (James 1:20)
13. Father, Son, and _____ Spirit (Matthew 28:19)
14. Name of the woman who asked to be called Mara (Ruth 1:19-21)
15. The sixth commandment: You shall not _____ (Exodus 20:13)

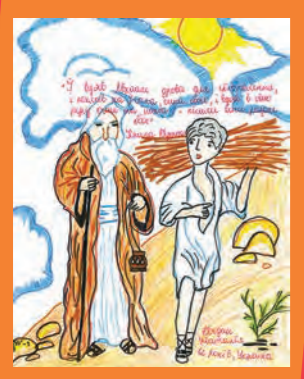
Down

1. Name of the Hebrew feast at which the Jews tried to stone Jesus (John 10:22-31)
3. "So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised _____" (1 Corinthians 15:42)
4. Name of the object in which the newborn Jesus was placed (Luke 2:4-7)
6. Jesus is the good _____ (John 10:14)
7. God created the sun and the moon on this day (Genesis 1:14-19)
10. "If you love me, you will obey what I _____" (John 14:15)

Adapted from puzzle by Olga MIHAILOVA, Kazakhstan

Answers

- Page 2: **ASSIGNMENT:** "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21)
- Page 10: 1-b, 2-b, 3-b, 4-a, 5-c, 6-b, 7-b, 8-a
- Page 16: 1) lives, 2) Abel, 3) Zion, 4) anyone, 5) ruin, 6) understand, 7) sons
LAZARUS
- Page 17: **CROSSWORD:** **ACROSS:** 3. deer 6. covenant 7. cross 10. Dorcas 13. lamb 14. mountain 16. desert 18. battle 19. pillar 20. courtyard 22. light 24. Word **DOWN:** 1. advancing 2. good 4. church 5. astonished 8. Christ 9. Sanhedrin 11. sky 12. complaint 15. viper 17. reward 21. oil 23. town
- Page 20: **WORD SEARCH:**
- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | Q | R | Z | G | M | Z | X | T | C |
| J | E | R | E | P | H | A | I | M | A |
| Y | K | Z | D | O | M | O | N | N | I |
| T | G | H | R | Y | K | R | F | B | F |
| Q | F | Z | G | E | Y | T | A | N | A |
| F | T | E | D | L | E | I | C | X | H |
| H | P | R | L | L | J | L | H | K | S |
| M | Y | E | Z | A | J | A | H | P | O |
| J | V | D | L | V | L | D | M | X | H |
| X | K | O | M | E | D | D | L | L | E |
| G | N | F | L | L | X | B | Y | D | G |
- WORD LIST:** valley, Elah, Rephaim, Jezreel, Zered, Aijalon, Jehoshaphat, Hinnom
- Page 28: "I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me" (Psalm 3:5)
- Page 29: **WORD SEARCH:**
- PUZZLE:** candy butterfly tree
- Page 30: **CROSSWORD ACROSS:** 2. fasting 5. Moses 8. copper 9. storehouses 11. Passover 12. anger 13. Holy 14. Naomi 15. murder **DOWN:** 1. dedication 3. imperishable 4. manger 6. shepherd 7. fourth 10. command



Natalia BOGDAN, 12 years old, Ukraine



Evgenia EDNAK, 11 years old, Ukraine



SNOW AND SUN

A wondrous sight is falling snow,
Chaotic patterns, blow wind, blow!
The fluffy flakes fly here and there,
Land on the ground, or dart through air.

The snow reminds me of the One
Who made it all — the shining sun,
The hillsides, gleaming with white light,
The wintry days, so crisp and bright!

My heart is bright and happy too
Because the God who makes things new
Forgave my sin and gave me life!
Sometimes it's hard, sometimes there's strife,
But God is good. He cares for me.
I've been forgiven. Now I'm free!

