

Tropinkka

The Little Path

Christian Magazine for Kids

What does
Commandment 8
mean to you?



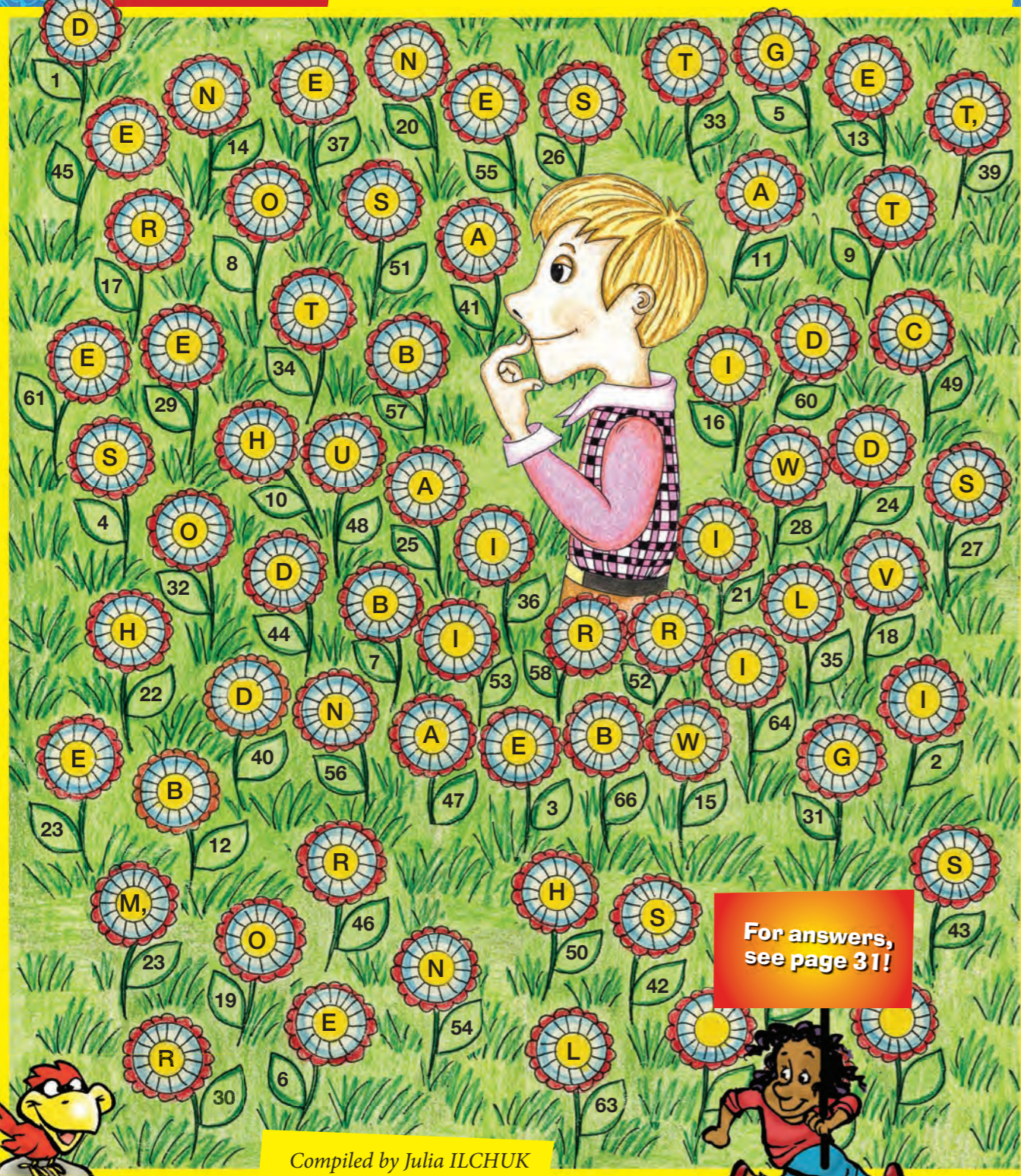
Exploring Faith
With Friends
Around the World!



BOUQUET

Help Jeff pick a bouquet of flowers.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
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Compiled by Julia ILCHUK

HOW TO STEAL A GRADE

Part 9

Elena MIKULA

"Listen, Mary, I never expected this from you!" Peter grumbled as they walked out of the school. "I thought we were friends. Aren't you at all sorry for me? You could have just let me copy your math homework. After all, you know I'm terrible with these equations."

"Yes, Peter, I do feel sorry for you," Mary answered.

"If you felt sorry for me, you'd help me out and give me the answers!"

"No, I don't want you to be a thief," Mary replied.

"A thief? What thief? Now you're calling me names! I never stole anything! Math homework has nothing to do with stealing."



"Come to my house tonight and I'll try to explain," Mary said to her angry classmate. "I'm not coming to your house, not today, not tomorrow!" Peter shouted as he stormed off. "You can forget about our friendship."

That evening, the doorbell rang. Mary opened the door and saw Peter.



"I just came because I was curious. I wanted to know what you were going to say."

I came just because I was curious. What else have you come up with, Mary?!



On the table, Mary had laid out the model of the Ten Commandments, paper, and markers. The Bible was open to a familiar passage, the 20th chapter of Exodus.

You shall not steal. Mary had penciled in the words of the eighth commandment on the cardboard model.

"Can you honestly say that you never stole anything?" Mary asked Peter.

Peter started to turn red because he knew Mary remembered what he did when they were in kindergarten.

"Are you talking about that toy car I took from Brian? I wasn't going to keep it; I just



borrowed it. Then it broke and I couldn't give it back," Peter explained, shifting his weight from one foot to the other. "I was so embarrassed when it fell out of my pocket!"

"I remember when that happened, but I want you to remember something else."

Peter thought hard.

"Cherries," Mary reminded him.

"Oh, cherries... the ones Roger and I took while we were camping? Was that stealing? The cherries didn't belong to anyone. They were just growing along the side of the road," Peter said.

"Then why did you two hide them from the rest of us and from the chaperones?"



"Why? Why...?"

"Those cherries were not yours! You felt guilty because you had taken something that belonged to someone else," Mary concluded.

"Okay, fine! You're the only perfectly holy one around here!" Peter turned away from his friend.

"No I'm not. I once...took...something that didn't belong to me." Mary blushed as she spoke.

"You? No way. What was it?"

"I found a hairclip under the table in the cafeteria, a beautiful clip with sparkling stones of different colors. I liked it so much! No one else was in the cafeteria, so I picked it up and hid it in my pocket. When I got home, I put it in my hair. It looked very nice, but I knew I couldn't wear it at home. If my mom saw it, she'd make me return it to its owner. I was also afraid to wear it at school. I had it for a whole week. Then I told the teacher what I had done."

"Did you find the owner?" Peter asked.

"Yes. And from that day on, I decided that I'd never take anything that didn't belong to me."

"Okay, fine, but how does the math homework fit in?" Peter wondered. "The math problems don't belong to anyone."

"The math problems don't belong to anyone, but the math answers do. When you copy the homework, you're stealing someone else's answers. Right?"

"Right," Peter admitted with a sigh. "But, since you're my friend, you're going to have to help me. I don't understand these equations at all."

"Of course I'll help you. Solving those kinds of math problems is easy!"

"Hey, Mary, are there any commandments for braggers?" Peter joked.



Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA



(To be continued)

The Eighth Commandment

Have you ever stolen something? No? Good. But if you have, you'll understand what I'm about to tell you.

It happened when I was five years old. The neighbor had some beautiful peas growing in her garden. Their stalks climbed high above the rows with a special ladder. Our garden and her garden were connected because our dog had dug a hole under the fence. You can't imagine how badly I wanted those peas. I believed nothing in the world tasted as good as fresh, juicy peas.

That's why I crawled under the fence and snuck into the neighbor's garden. I had only picked a couple of pods when I heard a stern voice calling my name, saying, "What are you doing?" I don't think she was angry, just surprised.

I was so ashamed and disgusted with myself that the peas I was chewing seemed tasteless. Right then and there, I got a better understanding of why God gave us the following commandment.



"You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15)

Through their hard work, honest people make sure their families have food to eat and clothes to wear. Thieves take from other people. You find them on subways, on buses, and in stores. A thief reaches into a mother or father's pocket and pulls out their entire salary for the month. Can you imagine what that means?

Maybe you think that taking something from a store and not paying for it is different. After all, the store has lots of things. No, that's called shoplifting and it's wrong. After all, everything in the store belongs to someone. We can only take and use that which belongs to us.

Stealing doesn't just apply to money and stuff. Honor can be stolen. Imagine a person is running a race. This person trips their opponent and, as a result, finishes first and wins the prize. That prize was stolen. There are many other examples. Copying a classmate's homework is stealing – you're taking knowledge and getting a good grade for what your neighbor knows.

Will people who get an award they didn't earn be happy? No, never. They will always remember the lie and be haunted by the fact that they didn't deserve the award.

God's Word says, "He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need" (Ephesians 4:28). Another way people steal is by using dishonest weights. Proverbs often mentions that using dishonest weights to rob people is an abomination to God. Dishonest weights might be used by a seller in the market. The seller who does this is stealing from others and hurting himself because he's doing a terrible thing before God. Will God bless him and his family? No, of course not. God gave a command. It applies to all people for all times: "You shall not steal."

Waldemar ZORN

Ilya VEZIKOV

DO NOT STEAL

God gives His children everything they need
And many times He gives them things that they like.
Like a good father, He wants them to be glad
Whether with a new ball, or a doll, or bike.

But because He provides and takes care of His kids,
He wants them to be joyful and content.
They should not be jealous of their friends' toys,
But be happy with their own toys that He sent.



one thing God commands all kids to do
Is to never take what is not yours!
Never steal anything, no matter how small,
From your friends, your parents, or from stores.

When you steal, you think you know more than God
About the things that "should" belong to you.
But God made you and He knows everything,
So your thoughts in this case are not true.

If you steal, you will hurt those that love you so much.
You will give your parents and God lots of grief.
Be happy and content with the things that you have,
And never, no never be a thief!

Did you know...
Did you know that some
birds build their nests near
a wasp nest to protect it
from "robbers"?





DANGEROUS TREASURE

Waldemar ZORN

The story I'm going to tell you happened many, many years ago. In those days, the people of Israel were on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land. They crossed the Jordan and conquered Jericho. You probably know that Jericho is one of the oldest cities in the world. Its walls fell as the Israelites sounded their trumpets. In this way, God allowed the Israelites to begin conquering the land He had promised to them.

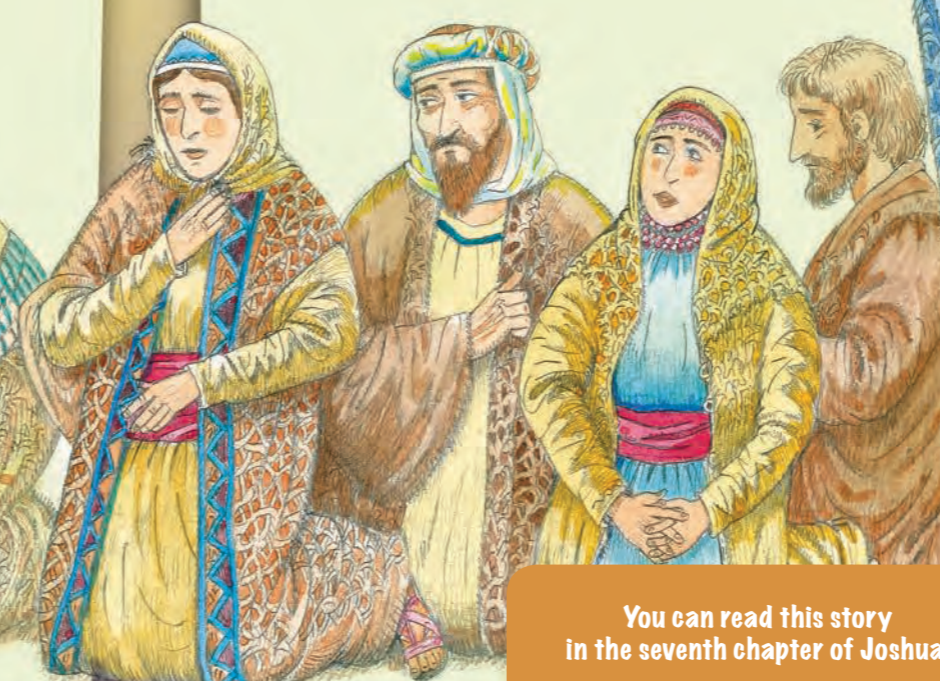
After that Joshua – Moses' former assistant who now led the people – sent spies into Ai, the town nearest to Jericho, to find out about the defenses of the region, their number of warriors, and so on.

The spies came back and reported, "Ai is small and insignificant. Two or three thousand men will be enough to conquer the city. Not all of the people will have to go."

As a result, a few thousand men confidently marched to Ai, believing it would be an easy victory. As soon as the men of Ai saw the approaching Israelites, they came out of the city gates and the battle began. The men of Ai had such courage and strength that the Israelites ran, fleeing from the defenders of the city.

The men of Ai chased them all the way to the stone quarries, a region near Jericho.

When the defeated Israelites returned to the camp, Joshua and the elders of Israel fell to their knees and started praying to God. In their grief, they took ash and sprinkled it on their heads.



"God, why did you let your people be defeated?" Joshua asked. "What will the other nations say when they hear this?"

"The Israelites are guilty. They stole that which belongs to me," God answered. "Tomorrow, have the people come tribe by tribe and family by family. Then you will find the thief."

Joshua did as God commanded. That morning, he commanded each tribe of Israelites to walk past the tabernacle. God indicated the tribe of Judah. Then the clans of Judah approached, one at a time, and the Zerahite clan was chosen. Out of the Zerahite clan, God pointed out the family of Zimri. One by one, the men of the Zimri family came forward and then everyone learned the thief was Achan!

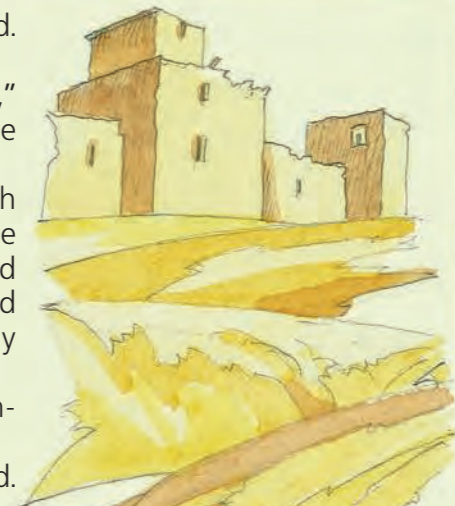
Joshua told Achan, "My son, give glory to the God of Israel. Confess and tell me what you've done."

"I am guilty before God and the people," Achan answered. "When the walls of Jericho fell and we plundered the city, I saw a beautiful robe from Babylonia, silver, and a wedge of gold worth 50 shekels. I wanted those things so I took them and hid them in the ground inside my tent."

Joshua sent people to look in Achan's tent and they found the stolen items. These things were supposed to be given to God and be kept in the treasury under the supervision of the priests so that they could be used for God's temple.

"Because you have brought trouble on Israel," Joshua said to Achan. "God will bring trouble on you."

They took Achan and his family to the valley of Achor to punish them according to the rules of that time and the laws of Israel. After they dealt with the sin of Achan, God turned his fierce anger away from Israel and was no longer angry at them.

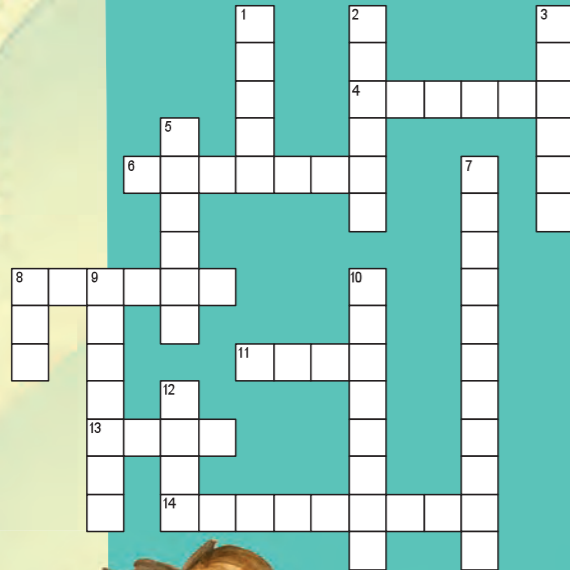


You can read this story in the seventh chapter of Joshua.

Illustrated by Alexander BASS

I READ THE BIBLE!

Adapted from crossword by Natalia SHULGA



Across:

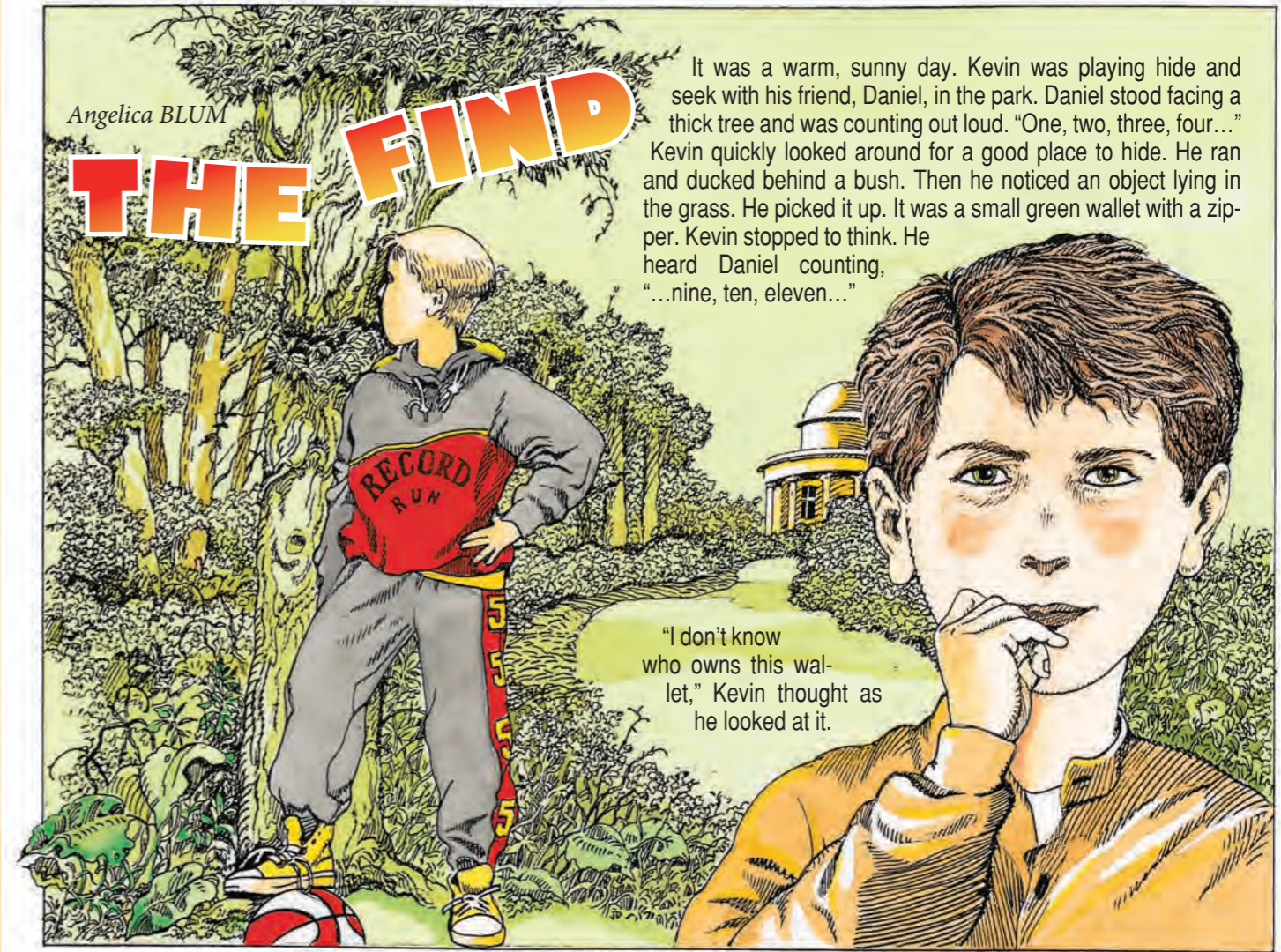
- 4. Paul saw an altar to the unknown God in this city (Acts 17:16, 22-23).
- 6. This animal is a symbol of speed (2 Samuel 2:18).
- 8. The seventh book of the Bible.
- 11. The first son of Noah (Genesis 5:32).
- 13. Rahab hid the spies on this part of her house (Joshua 2:6).
- 14. A great company of angels appeared to them (Luke 2:8-14).

Down:

- 1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not worship the golden ___ (Daniel 3:13-14).
- 2. Manna is also called the grain of this place (Psalm 78:24).
- 3. This son of Jacob introduced his father to Pharaoh (Genesis 47:7).
- 5. The walls of the new Jerusalem John saw were made of this (Revelation 21:17-18).
- 7. This often repeated word describes a life without God (Ecclesiastes 1:2).
- 8. This fruit of the Spirit is listed after love (Galatians 5:22-23).
- 9. The name of this judge who led Israel means "bee" (Judges 4:4).
- 10. This name means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).
- 12. Pharaoh saw these animals in his dream (Genesis 41:1-4).

Illustrated by Elena MIKULA

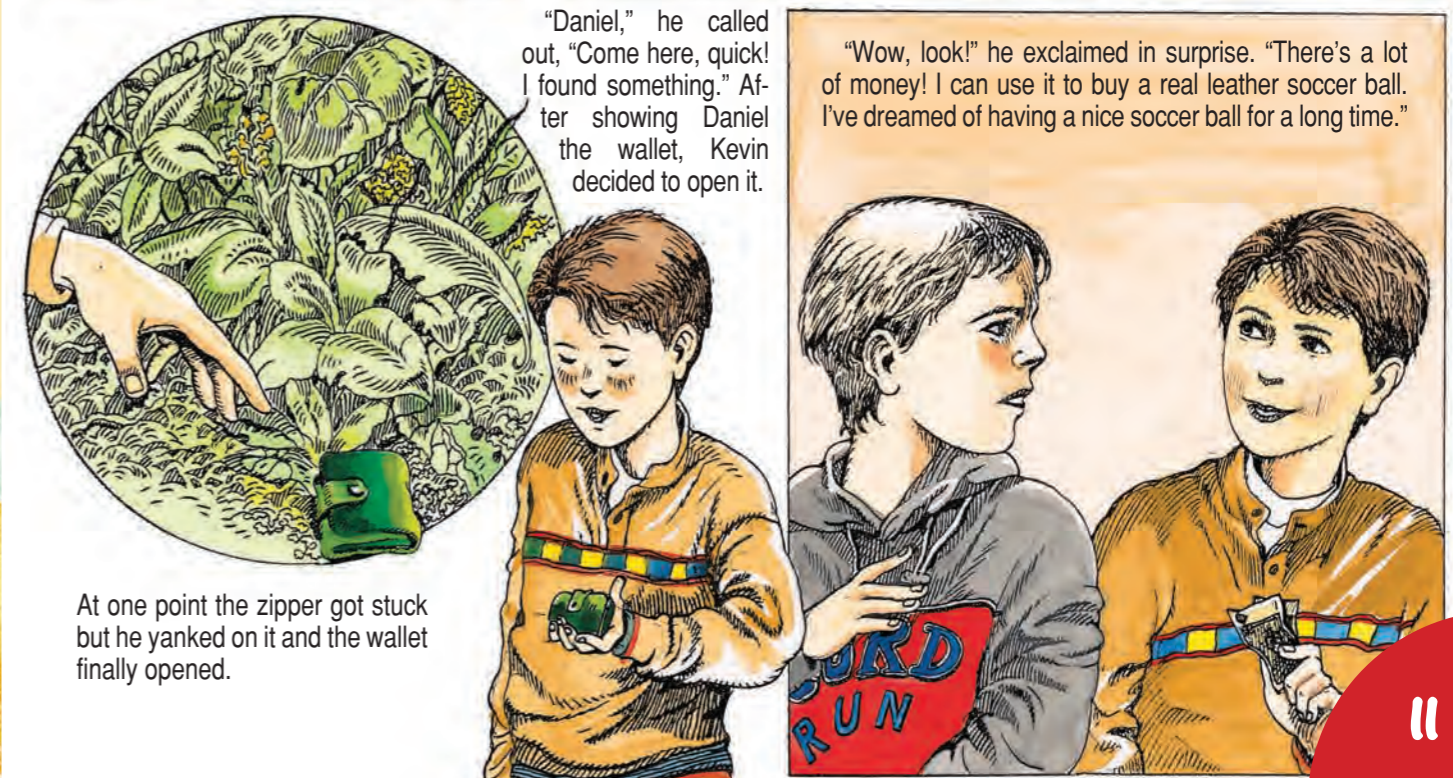
Check your answers on page 31



Angelica BLUM

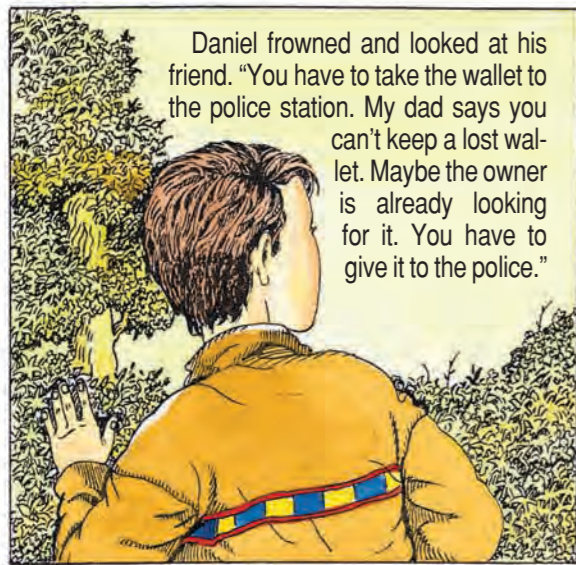
THE FIND

It was a warm, sunny day. Kevin was playing hide and seek with his friend, Daniel, in the park. Daniel stood facing a thick tree and was counting out loud. "One, two, three, four..." Kevin quickly looked around for a good place to hide. He ran and ducked behind a bush. Then he noticed an object lying in the grass. He picked it up. It was a small green wallet with a zipper. Kevin stopped to think. He heard Daniel counting, "...nine, ten, eleven..."

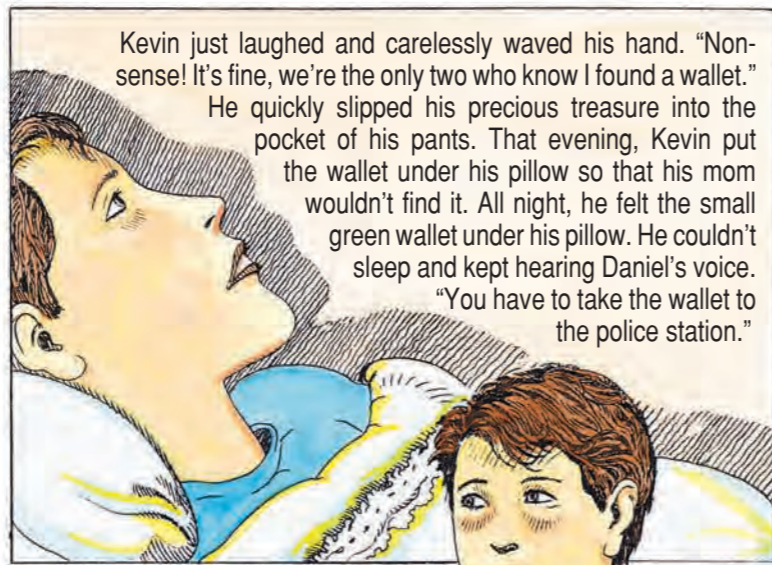


At one point the zipper got stuck but he yanked on it and the wallet finally opened.





Daniel frowned and looked at his friend. "You have to take the wallet to the police station. My dad says you can't keep a lost wallet. Maybe the owner is already looking for it. You have to give it to the police."



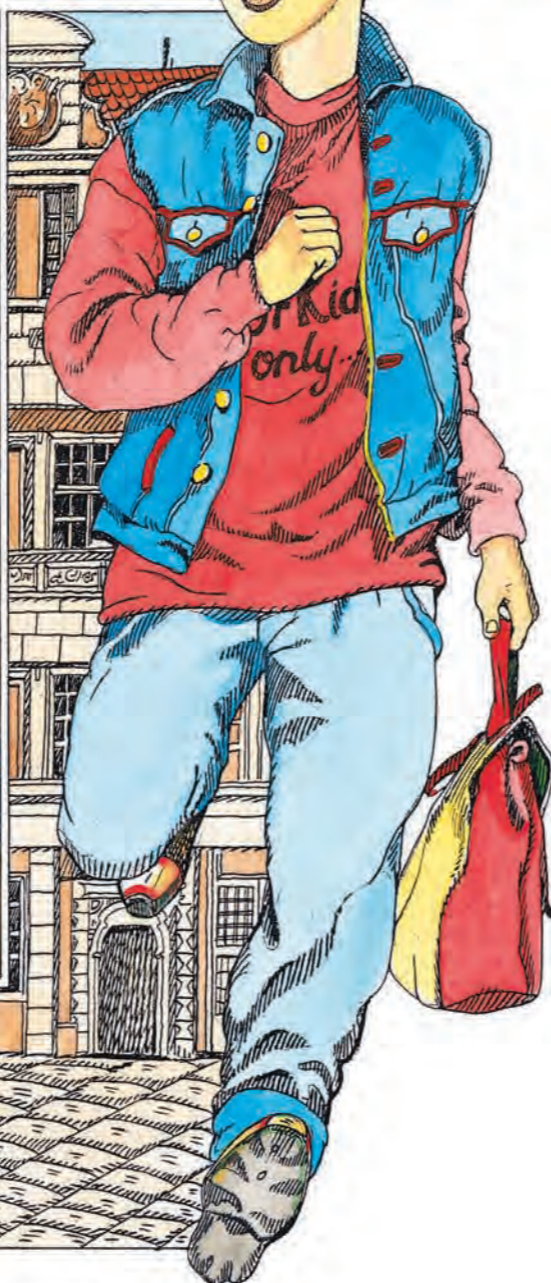
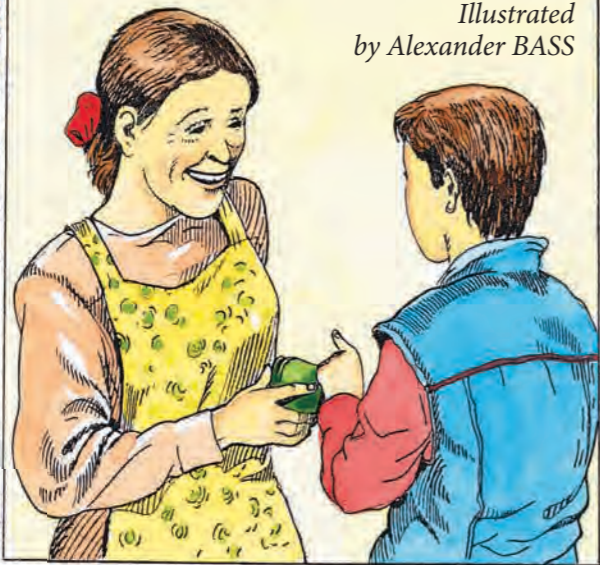
Kevin just laughed and carelessly waved his hand. "Nonsense! It's fine, we're the only two who know I found a wallet." He quickly slipped his precious treasure into the pocket of his pants. That evening, Kevin put the wallet under his pillow so that his mom wouldn't find it. All night, he felt the small green wallet under his pillow. He couldn't sleep and kept hearing Daniel's voice. "You have to take the wallet to the police station."



The next morning, Kevin was very tired. His sandwich lay on the kitchen table. After carefully placing the sandwich in his backpack, he swung the bag over his shoulder. Mother walked him to the door. Then he pulled out the green wallet and timidly said, "Here, take this. I found it yesterday. It was lying on the grass in the park. It has to go to the police station." Then he added, "Right now I don't need a leather ball anyway."

Waving goodbye to his mother, Kevin ran to meet up with Daniel, who was waiting right around the corner.

Illustrated
by Alexander BASS



The Eagle and the Turtle

Sitting on a log in the smoky kitchen, I asked Nkoko Eyenga (*nkoko* means grandmother) what could help a person change their life at the core and raise them to a higher level. She answered with the following story.

It's like this. You know the big eagle that spreads its powerful wings, soars above the jungle in wide circles, and catches foolishly bold monkeys? Well, his name is Kombekombe.

And the little turtle that lives among the plants, crawls over their roots, and eats many strange things, well he is called Koba.

Such different friends

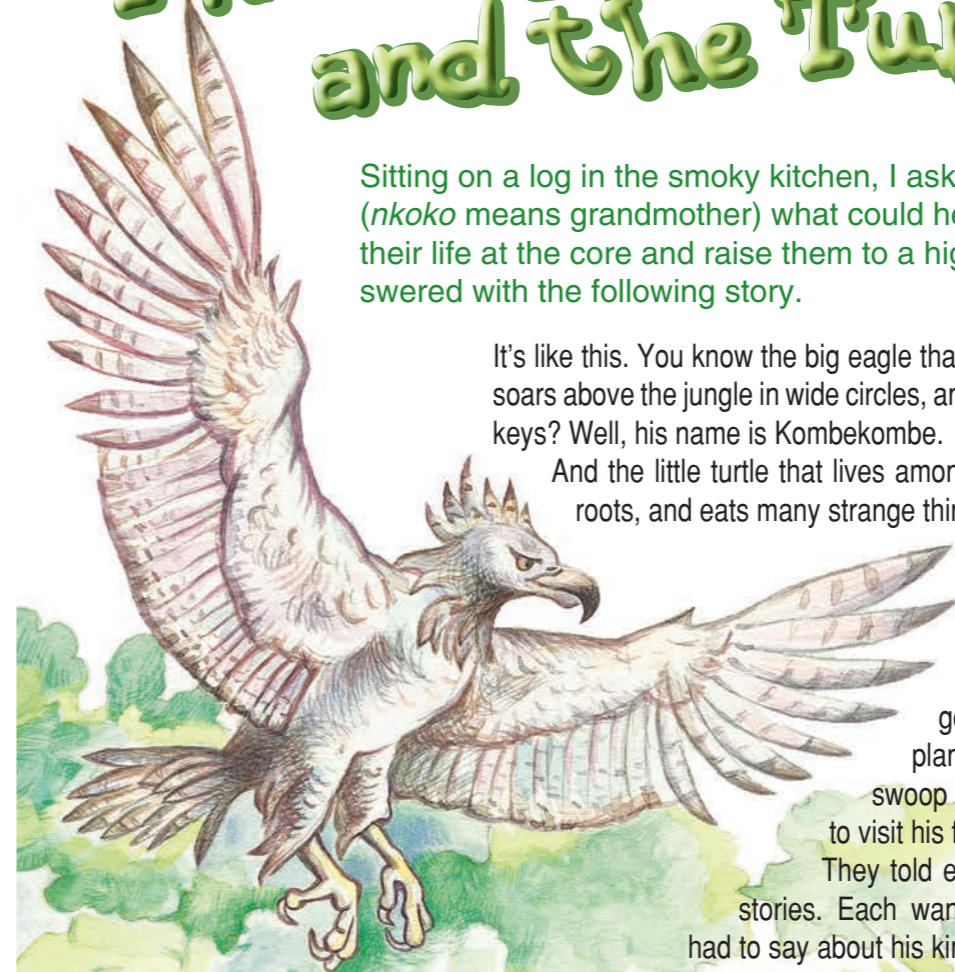
Kombekombe and Koba were good friends. Every day during his planned flight, Kombekombe would swoop down below the leafy treetops to visit his friend, Koba.

They told each other the most amazing stories. Each wanted to hear what the other had to say about his kingdom. For the eagle, stories about life among the roots of the forest floor sounded like tales of a strange and wonderful world.

Koba, in turn, loved hearing about the incredible world which spread out before his friend every day when he flew high above the treetops. Koba's wife was a good cook and his children were well-behaved. After eating with his friend, Kombekombe would circle upward and return to his nest.

One day Kombekombe said, "We're true friends, but a friendship should be based on equality. I come to visit you every day and eat at your house. When will you come to my house and meet my wife and children?"

"You're right," Koba answered. "I will definitely come to your house, but be patient for just a little bit longer."



Once upon a time
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Even training has its limits

That day, Koba started training. He practiced climbing trees every day but, no matter how much he stretched his short little legs, he couldn't get anywhere. However, turtles are very wise creatures – wiser than any of the other animals of the forest.

One day, after another unsuccessful practice, Koba told his friend, "Tomorrow I won't be here, but I prepared a package for your wife and children. Please stop by and pick it up!"

Then he gave his children directions saying, "Bring some big leaves and wrap me up in them like a package, then tie it with vines. When Kombekombe comes, give him the package, but don't tell him that I'm inside!"

They did just that. When Kombekombe came the next day, the children greeted him and said, "Papa is not home." They also gave him the package. As the eagle flew away he heard them shouting, "Be careful Uncle Kombekombe, don't drop the package!"

"Don't worry, it'll be safe with me," the eagle shouted back.

You can easily imagine how surprised Kombekombe's wife and children were when they opened the package. That's how – for the first time ever in the history of the world – a turtle came to visit an eagle.

Support through friendship

Koba could have trained for the rest of his life. All the turtles of the world could have helped him climb trees and he still wouldn't have made it to the eagle's nest. The same is true for people who want to rise to a higher level and become more spiritual. Man needs a friend who lives in the spiritual world and who loves him and has enough strength to carry him.

Nkoko Eyenga finished her story by saying, "I often have aches and pains. At such times, dark, unhappy thoughts come into my mind. Sometimes I'm angry with my daughter-in-law and then I feel bad. When those things happen, I remember my strong friend – Jesus – and ask Him to fill my heart and my thoughts. And He does! He takes me in His arms, like Kombekombe took the packaged Koba, and He carries me. Then you can hear me singing while I chop wood. I am transformed, and that's how I rise to a higher level almost every day. On such days, it's heaven here on earth."

Did you know ...
that birds throw empty eggshells out of the nest because they don't want to attract the attention of nest "robbers"? Some birds even carry the egg shells away from the nest before dropping them.

Illustrated
by Inna Kozina

FATHERS and SONS

Match the fathers and sons. The colored letter in the father's name stands for the first letter of the son's name. If you need another hint, look up the verse to see which son belongs with which father.

Compiled by Ekaterina KOLOMEETS

- K**ish (1Chronicles 8:33)
- A**aaron (1 Chronicles 6:3)
- A**mram (1 Chronicles 6:3)
- A**binadab (2 Samuel 6:3)
- D**avid (1 Chronicles 3:1)
- J**esse (1 Chronicles 2:13)
- A**hithophel (2 Sam. 23: 34)
- B**oaz (1 Chronicles 2:12)
- I**srael (1 Chronicles 2:1)
- I**saac (1 Chronicles 1:34)
- Z**adok (1Kings 4:2)
- S**hem (1 Chronicles 1:17)
- H**am (1 Chronicles 1:8)
- J**apheth (1 Chronicles 1:5)
- R**ehoboam (1Kings 14:31)

- Nadab
- Obed
- Azariah
- Mizraim
- Abijah
- Tubal
- Eliab
- Israel
- Saul
- Levi
- Eliam
- Ahio
- Absalom
- Elam
- Moses

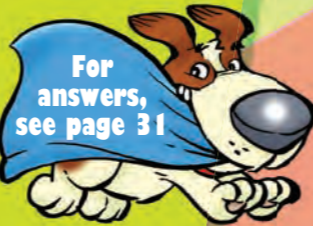


Did you know ...

that the bumblebee and other insects "steal" the nectar of plants with long, thin flowers because they can't reach the nectar with their proboscis? They make a hole on the outside of the flower and suck out the nectar. When they do this, they're not taking any of the pollen to bring to other plants, which is what plants need to make seeds and reproduce.

STEP BY STEP

Follow the line to spell out the Bible verse. You'll find out what people who believe in God should never do.



	HE	LO	HAS	AL	EN	TS	EA	
4:28	X X X X X X X						L	
IN	X X X X X X X						EPN.	
ER	X X X X X X X						GM	
	NG	WHO	NO	BE	TE	ST	US	



1. Dear Tropinka,

I really love your magazine for kids and want to receive it every year, but I have some questions. There are some things I don't understand. **Sometimes a person wants to take something that doesn't belong to her. Why doesn't God stop that person from wanting to take it?** It happened to me when I liked something another girl had, but then I remembered God. I thought about His holiness and His glory – that's what stopped me. I also have another question. Why does reading the Bible for a long time make a person tired and sleepy?

Sincerely, Alla K., USA

You've already found the answer to the first question! You wrote that when you were jealous of the other girl you "remembered about God" and this helped you not to sin. That's how God stops us when we want to sin and steal, lie, gossip, or do something else that is wrong. God protects His children from sin, stops them, and gives them thoughts about Himself, His love and holiness, Christ's death on the cross, and the awfulness of sin. Those of us who believe in God have His help through the Holy Spirit, who lives in our hearts. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to overcome temptation and turn away from sin. When we do that we feel joy, but each victory over sin happens because we choose not to sin. We must hear God's voice and choose to obey Him.

When we read the Bible, the enemy doesn't like it and tries to stop us. He sends us thoughts to distract us or encourages us to sleep. It is very good and very important for Christians to read God's Word regularly. Choose a time to sit down and read your Bible, a time when you're not very tired. Start your Bible-reading with a prayer and think about what you're reading. Instead of rushing through it, try to read a short section and think about what God is saying to you.

If you don't understand what you're reading, take a Children's Bible and reread the verses in a simple version. I know many grown-ups do that when they don't understand. Use a dictionary or an encyclopedia. You can also ask your Sunday School teacher for help. Understanding the wisdom of God's Word and letting it sink into your heart is very important and will bring you joy and blessings.

Answer by Elena MIKULA

2. Can we earn salvation by living a good life?

(Anya G., 10 years old, Ukraine)

The Bible says that we can't earn salvation because our very nature is sinful. Adam sinned and everyone who was born after him got his sinful nature. You and I were sinners when we were born. You can live a "good life" but, unless your heart has changed, those good works are no good to God.

God offers everyone forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Only the blood of Christ is enough to pay for our sins. "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (2 Corinthians 5:19). To those who have believed on Jesus Christ as Savior, God gives a new heart that can obey Him. That new heart is the home of the Holy Spirit.

Answer by Marina KUZNETSOVA

Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

Act I

Sawyer appears, followed by Nick.

Nick: Hi, Sawyer!

Sawyer: Hi, Nick! What are we going to do today? Want to come play at my house? I just got a new car. You have to come see it; it's really nice.

Nick: Playing with cars is for babies. I have a better plan. See that orchard behind the fence? Let's sneak in there and pick some apples while Sam and Mike distract the owner.

Sawyer: Picking apples from someone else's orchard is bad – it's stealing! Just yesterday my mom read the Bible verse that says stealing is a sin.

Nick: You believe in the Bible? Ha ha ha! Do you pray, too?

Sawyer: *(Timidly)* Actually, yes...

Nick: Look, if you don't come with us to pick apples, we're not going to be friends with you. Understand? We don't hang out with cowards.

Sawyer: Okay, let's go. I don't want you to think I'm a coward.

The boys disappear behind a screen.

Act II

Whispers from behind the curtain.

Nick: Wow, look at those apples!

Sawyer: Try to climb that tree. The apples there are huge.

Nick: Let's hurry while the guys distract the owner.

Sawyer: My pockets are full.

A dog wakes up and starts barking.

The boys scramble out of the orchard and run away. They reappear from behind the screen, rubbing their scrapes and bruises and laughing as they talk about their adventure.

Nick: Sam and Mike had the old man fooled. They talked up a storm and he believed every word.

Sawyer: Oh, no. *(He looks at his pants.)* What a big tear. I bet it happened when my pants caught on something while I climbed over the fence.

Nick: Yeah, now you have pants with ventilation! *(Laughing)* Well, it's time to head home. Tomorrow we'll tell Peter and Will about what we did. They'll be so jealous!

The friends split up and go home.

Cast

Sawyer
Nick, Sam and Mike *(friends of Sawyer)*
Mother
Father
Sawyer's Little Brother
Dog
Narrator *(voice behind the screen)*

(This skit is based on a story by Elena CHEPILKA)

Act III

Sawyer: *(Shuffles home and mutters)* Why was I so worried? Who cares if I took a few apples? No one would have noticed if it hadn't been for that dog. At least now the guys will respect me. They saw how well I jumped over the fence. Now they won't laugh at me or call me a coward. Well, here's my house...

Narrator: *(Voice from behind the screen)* Sawyer quietly slipped into his room, changed into his pajamas, dove under the covers, and fell asleep. He didn't hear his mother come in. As she folded his clothes, the stolen apples fell out of his pockets. That morning when Sawyer woke up, he didn't suspect a thing.

Act IV

Sawyer: *(Appears on stage, yawning and stretching)* I slept so well. Ouch, where did I get this scratch? Oh yeah, we climbed into the old man's orchard last night and I tore such a huge hole in my pants. Strange, I don't see it. Hmm... there's a patch over the hole and the apples are gone. Did my mom fix the hole? That means she saw the apples...

Narrator: *(Voice from behind the screen)* Sawyer broke out in a cold sweat at that thought.

Mother: *(Voice from behind the screen)* Sawyer, breakfast is ready!

Sawyer: Oh no, what do I tell my parents? They're always telling my little brother to follow my example. This is so embarrassing!

Mother: *(Voice from behind the screen)* Sawyer, your breakfast is getting cold!

Sawyer: Coming. *(Exits)*



Act V

Father, Mother, and Little Brother are sitting down to breakfast.
A bowl of apples stands at the center of the table.

Father: (In a friendly tone) Good morning, Sawyer!

Sawyer: Good morning. (He sits at the table.)

Narrator: (Voice from behind the curtain) Sawyer rubbed his eyes in amazement and wondered if he was dreaming. His parents looked at him as though nothing had happened. The bowl in the center of the table held the very apples Sawyer had stolen. Had his parents not figured out where the big, rosy apples came from?

Father: Well, it's time for breakfast. Sawyer, why don't you thank God for this food and ask Him to bless it?

Sawyer: Me?

Little Brother: Come on, I'm hungry!

Narrator: (Voice from behind the screen) Sawyer didn't know how to pray for the food when there were stolen apples on the table. What could he do? He squeezed his eyes shut and quickly said a prayer.

Sawyer: Lord! Thanks for always taking care of us and giving us food. Please bless this food. Amen.

Narrator: (Voice from behind the screen). At the table, Sawyer forced himself to eat an apple. Then he asked to be excused and went outside.

Everyone leaves.



Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

Narrator: (Voice from behind the screen) For some reason Sawyer's stomach felt sick all day as he thought about the apples. He couldn't wait for Dad to come home from work that evening so he could tell him the truth.

Father and Sawyer appear on stage.
Sawyer looks like he is talking (Silently moving his lips).

Father: Your mother and I knew where the apples came from, but we wanted you to confess and tell us what happened. Now let's go to the owner of the orchard so you can apologize for what you did.

The End.



Which answer is right?

Cross out the wrong answers to the questions about a Bible story with numbers, as well as a happy and a sad ending. You'll find the Bible story in 2 Kings 5.

- How many Israelite girls were in Naaman's house?
- How many letters did the King of Aram write?
- How many talents of silver did Naaman bring as a gift?
- How many shekels of gold did Naaman bring as a gift?
- How many sets of clothing did Naaman bring as a gift?
- How many messengers did Elisha send to Naaman, who waited at the door of Elisha's house?
- How many times did Naaman dip himself in the Jordan?
- How many gifts did Elisha accept from Naaman?
- Gehazi asked for how many sets of clothing?
- How many talents of silver did Naaman give Gehazi?

1	2	3
1	4	5
10	50	70
1 000	6 000	10 000
5	10	15
1	2	3
3	5	7
0	2	4
2	4	6
1	2	5

Color the picture and answer the following question: what did the woman do when she found the lost coin? (Luke 15:8-10)

The lost coin

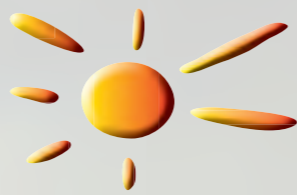
Illustrated by Elena MIKULA



Check your answers on page 31

Kidron Valley

Elvira ZORN

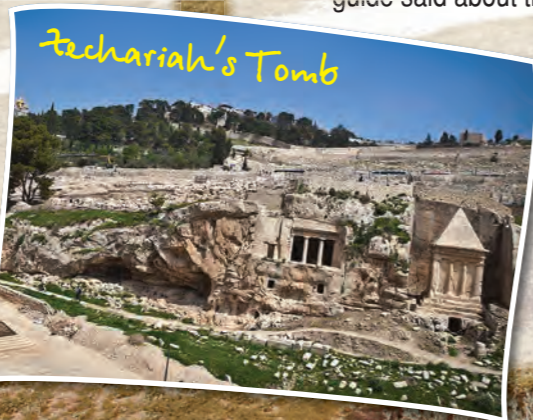


The Absalom Monument

"You know my parents were in Israel, right?" Greg asked his friend Joshua on their way to school. He handed Joshua a couple pieces of candy. "They came back yesterday. The candy is from Israel. That date candy is my favorite kind. Israel has a lot of date palm plantations. They make honey from the dates. I guess God had dates and not bees in mind when He promised to bring the Israelites into a land flowing with milk and honey. My parents told me some interesting stories about their trip. If you want, you can come to my house after dinner and I'll show you my dad's pictures."

"I'll be there," Joshua smiled. "I'd love to visit Israel. Maybe I'll go be a missionary there one day. One of the families from our church moved to Israel two years ago to start churches."

After dinner that evening, Joshua finished his homework and walked over to Greg's house. Sitting in front of the computer, the boys "traveled" through the cities of Israel, seeing the interesting sights, and Greg shared the stories he heard from his parents.



Zechariah's Tomb

While they looked at the pictures of the tombs in the Kidron Valley, Greg's mother came over.

"This is the Absalom Monument, which he set up for himself during his lifetime," Greg said, pointing at the image of a tomb with a cone roof. "During Absalom's rebellion, King David fled from Jerusalem through the Kidron Valley. And this tomb with the pyramid-shaped roof is called the tomb of Zechariah, right Mom?"

Greg's mother nodded.

"My dad told me a lot about this valley. He said many believe it's where the Last Judgment will take place. Mom, can you please tell us what the tour guide said about this place," Greg asked.

"The Kidron Valley is one of the two valleys near Jerusalem – the second one is the Valley of Hinnom," Greg's mother said, as she began the story. "It is east of the Old City of Jerusalem, between the Temple



Mount and the Mount of Olives. It got its name from the Kidron stream, which flows through it during the winter season after the rains. This valley is also called the Valley of Jehoshaphat, which means 'The valley where Yahweh will judge.' Based on the text from the book of Joel, some believe this is where the trumpet of the archangel will sound and the dead will be raised and brought to judgment before God. That's why there are many cemeteries on the slopes of the valley. Some of the graves are more than three thousand years old."

"These cemeteries aren't like our cemeteries," Greg added.

"Yes, there's yellowish-white sand everywhere. As you can see, the Jewish tombs are the rhombus-shaped boxes of white stone. During the time of the first temple (around 960 B.C.), tombs had been carved into the rock. What else did the tour guide say? Oh, in 1842 the Pentateuch was found in the



View of the Kidron Valley



Cemetery

tomb of Jehoshaphat. The roads to Bethany and Jericho pass through the Kidron Valley and Jesus walked through it when going from Bethany to Jerusalem and back again. After the Last Supper, Jesus went through this area when going to the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples.

"Some even suggest the royal valley mentioned in Genesis as the place where the king of Sodom met Abraham, might be the Kidron Valley, but this is doubtful.

"The Kidron Valley is the source of the Gihon Spring, which is where Solomon was anointed as king over Israel. Pure water from this source goes through the tunnel of Hezekiah and falls into the pool of Siloam.

"In the south, the Kidron Valley merges with the Valley of Hinnom. We also learned many interesting things about this valley."

"I'd love to hear about it, but it's time for me to go home," Joshua said with a sigh as he looked at his watch. "Maybe another time? Thank you so much! Seeing the pictures and hearing your stories, I almost felt like I was right there!"

Kidron Valley

9. The Church and the Government: who's in control?

In the VI century, Christianity had become so used to its involvement in the government that it couldn't imagine existing in any other way. By this time, the great Roman Empire had broken up. Because of its weaknesses, the empire could not resist the invasions of the barbarians – tribes of

Huns, Goths, Franks, and Germans. Many of these nomadic warrior-tribes lived by plundering others. Even in the IV century, they had started invading Western Europe and settling there, often capturing and pillaging Roman lands in the process.

In 476, the western part of the Roman Empire was no longer considered part of Rome. Instead, it was made up of many small, feudal states with unstable boundaries. Under these conditions, the church held the states together and unified them in morality, culture, and even



A Germanic tribe family



the economy. That's why bishops – the leaders of the church – had a lot of respect and authority in their communities. The Bishop of Rome, also known as the Pope, had the most authority. Many bishops, especially the Bishop of Rome, had to solve economic, political, and even military problems.

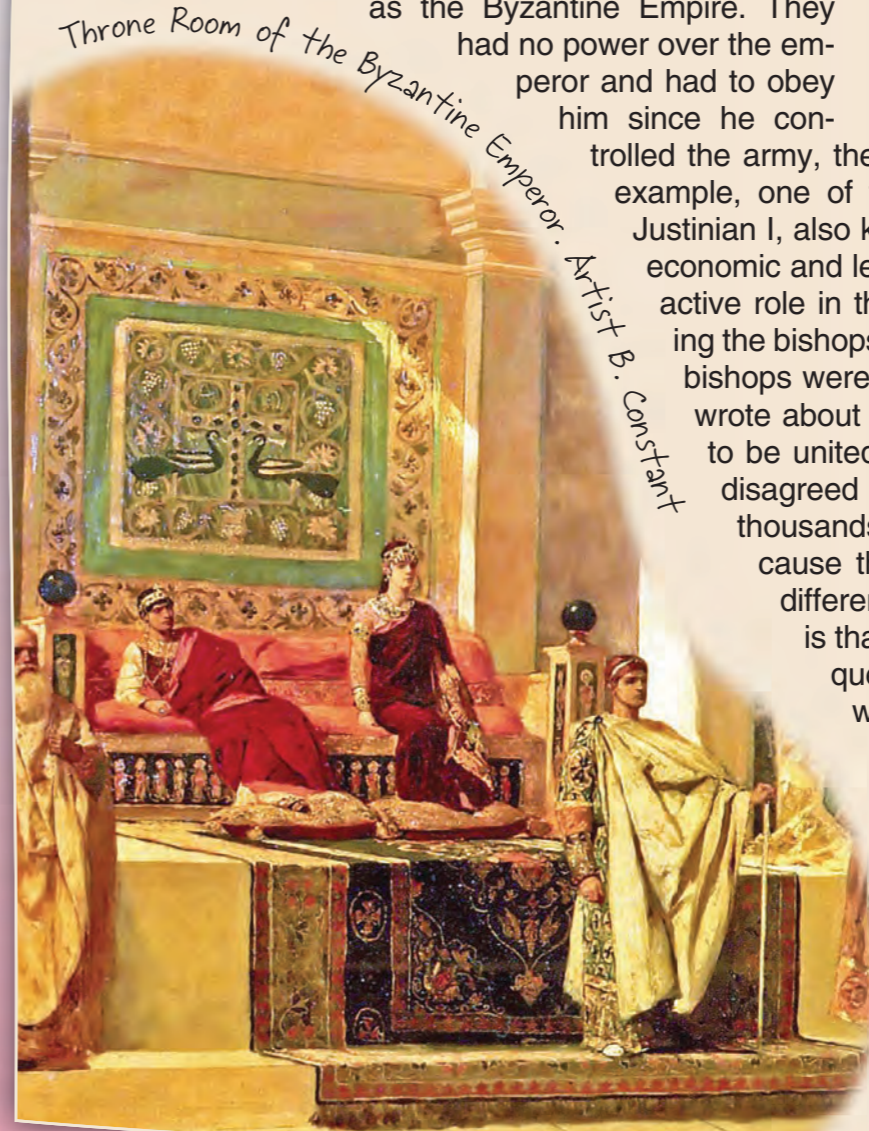
In 590, Gregory was elected to be the Bishop of Rome. He was from a wealthy family and had served as the mayor of Rome. However, he left that job as soon as he could and started working to help the poor. He spent time praying with them, teaching them about the Bible,

and preaching to them about living a godly life. When the plague broke out in Rome, Gregory led three days of fasting and praying for all of Rome. When the plague ended, the people elected him to be the Pope. From then on, Gregory used all of his skills in organizing to help the church and the people of Rome. For example, when the city was surrounded by enemy troops, the Lombards, Gregory, who later became known as Gregory the Great, helped to negotiate the lifting of the siege on Rome. He paid the salary of the Roman army from the church treasury and his reputation as the defender of Rome was greatly respected among the people. The Popes elected after Gregory also ruled Rome and tried to lead not only the bishops under them, but also the other kings of Europe.

Bishops had a different role in Constantinople, the capital of the eastern empire that later became known as the Byzantine Empire. They had no power over the emperor and had to obey him since he controlled the army, the finances, and the government. For example, one of the finest Byzantine emperors was Justinian I, also known as Justinian the Great. He led economic and legislative reforms and also played an active role in the church by appointing and removing the bishops of Constantinople. At the time these bishops were known as the patriarchs. Justinian I wrote about God because he wanted the church to be united and harshly punished anyone who disagreed with him. He ordered the deaths of thousands whom he considered heretics because their understanding of the Bible was different from his. The most amazing thing is that the bishops around Justinian never questioned him, not even when he was wrong in religious matters or when he interfered in the life of the church.



Emperor Justinian.
Basilica of Ravenna Mosaic



Throne Room of the Byzantine Emperor. Artist B. Constant

That's how Christianity found itself wrapped up in the government in two different ways. In the East, the Byzantine Emperors ruled the church and in the West, the Popes led the church and tried to control the emperors.

Pope Gregory I. Artist F. Zurbaran. 1626.



Romantic thieves

Olga MARTYNOVA

Did you know

that Australia, New Guinea and the surrounding islands are home to a special kind of bird that builds bowers? They are called **bowerbirds** (*Ptilonorhynchidae*). A bower is a place for a romantic evening. These birds are a close relative of the bird of paradise. The male birds use twigs to build their bowers among the bushes. They make a platform of twigs and stick longer twigs around the platform like a miniature stockade. The first Australian explorers thought these bowers were made by the native women to entertain their children or maybe built by kangaroos and paid no attention to the actual creators – the little birds fussing nearby.

Did you know

that Bowerbirds decorate their bowers with flowers (the wilted flowers are constantly replaced by fresh ones), berries, and all sorts of other objects like shells, pebbles, bones, and feathers? It's all meant to attract the girl Bowerbirds. When picking out colorful objects, the males try to choose colors that the females like. They even break the bowers of their rivals and steal their decorations. That's why Bowerbirds are like romantic thieves! One Bowerbird's collection included children's toys, a toothbrush, knives and forks, several cups and the matching pitcher, buckles, and even a real diamond! With such "treasures" this Bowerbird probably had no equal among his peers. A bower is like a theatre and like the tail of a peacock. The male bird shows off his bower with its rainbow of colors to impress the female. First he grabs one object, twirls while holding it in his beak and bows, and then he grabs another object. Day after day, he plays with colorful objects and repeats his display from June to November or December, often forgetting about food and possible danger.

Did you know

that bowerbirds are quite small? They are about the size of a starling (about 9–14 inches) with a strong bill, short tail, and powerful legs. There are 18 different species including the Catbird, Golden Bowerbird, and Satin Bowerbird.

Did you know

that after choosing her mate, the female Bowerbird builds a nest not far from the bower and lays up to three eggs? The female sits on the eggs to keep them warm and feeds the young when they hatch while the male continues to play with toys in his bower.



WHO AM I?

Elvira ZORN

I am a very well-known bird. If I told you how I looked you'd guess my name right away. I first want to tell you a little bit about myself, so I'll wait until the end to describe the way I look.

I am found throughout Europe and Asia (except for Northern and Central Asia and India). I'm also in North-West Africa, and the western parts of North America. I generally don't migrate.

My relatives and I can be found in forests, parks, gardens, groves, and places where people live. Our nests are built among the dense branches of trees or bushes. They are well-hidden from the eyes of onlookers. We enter these nests from the side. They are complex, sphere-shaped structures about 30 inches in diameter. The outside is made of thick branches and intertwined stems of grass held together with clay. On the inside, the nest is

made of smaller twigs covered by clay. The inside is also lined with moss, soft grasses, and plant roots. The roof is loosely woven together and serves to protect the eggs from predators. Around the middle of May, five to eight young hatch from the eggs. A month later, these little ones start learning to fly!

Our diet is made up of many different things. Farmers don't like us because we eat their crops when we peck at the seeds of grains, melons, and sunflowers. However, we bring more benefit than harm to farmers because we get rid of many harmful insects and rodents. That's just how the Creator made us.

I'll tell you a secret – I deserve the nickname "thief." I never pass up an opportunity to steal an egg or a baby chick from the nest of another bird. I have another bad habit – I can't resist taking small objects. Often the owners of these objects never know I took them. I especially love shiny objects made of metal or glass. Sometimes when I see teaspoons I forget all about being careful and, without thinking, I fly into the open window.

Have you guessed who I am? Just in case you're not sure, I'll describe myself. I'm known by my black and white markings and my long, bluish-green tail which fans out as I fly. My head, neck, chest, and back are black with a metallic purple or bluish-green shimmer and my belly and shoulders are white.

Of course, I'm easy to recognize. I'm the **ajdžavica** (*Pica pica*).



Stock Dove



Eurasian Oystercatcher



Illustrated by Julia PRAVDOHINA

The Strong Feeling

By Karina Sagaydak,
13 years old, USA

The feeling of fear
I didn't want it near.
I want to return
That same afternoon.

That afternoon, that day
When I took a different way
That God had made,
So now I am saved.

And now I'm not like before
But now I know more.
Christ opened up to me
So now I can see.

My plan is to tell
Those people that fell
That there's a new way
They can accept this day.

So I thank the Lord
For His Bible - the sword.
God's in my life now
And I could tell YOU how.

Right now I'm thinking...
And a thought is sinking.
It all fills my heart
Up to the top, like a cart.

I remember the day
And what a different way
My experience was
With a special cause.

Something was different.
I knew it the instant
My life took a turn
But it wasn't a concern.

I felt something strong
Like a soft song...
"Is it God that I felt?"
I let the feeling melt.

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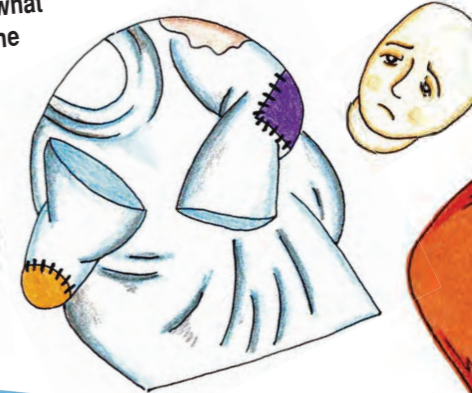
Created by Julia ILCHUK

in a STRANGE LAND

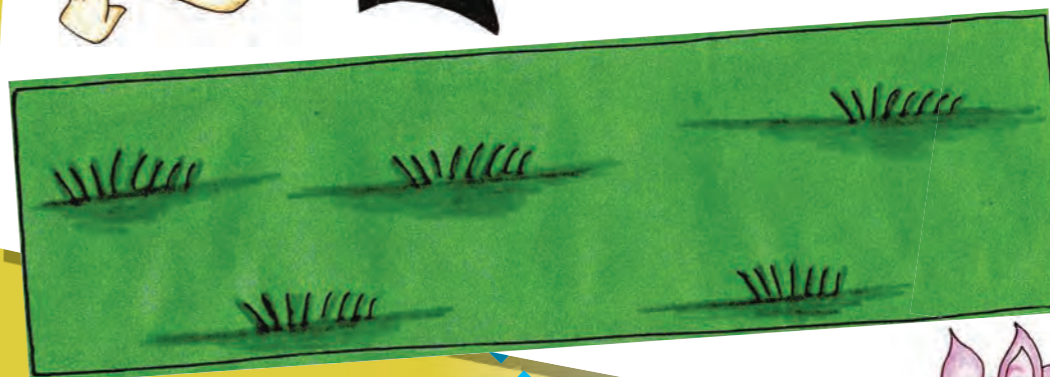
CRAFT



Do you know
the story shown
in the picture?
If not, open your
Bible to Luke 15:11-32
and find out what
happens in the
story.



"Let the wicked forsake his way
and the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn to the LORD, and
he will have mercy on him,"
(Isaiah 55:7)



DIRECTIONS:
Now cut out all the pieces. Take a 4.5 in x 6.5 in piece
of cardboard and glue the blue, red, and green
strips (the sky, the mountains, and the grass) to the
cardboard. Add the other pieces and
glue them in place, as shown in the
picture. Attach a piece of yarn to the
back and you can hang
your picture on the wall.





Stasik RAKHMANOV, 8 years old, USA

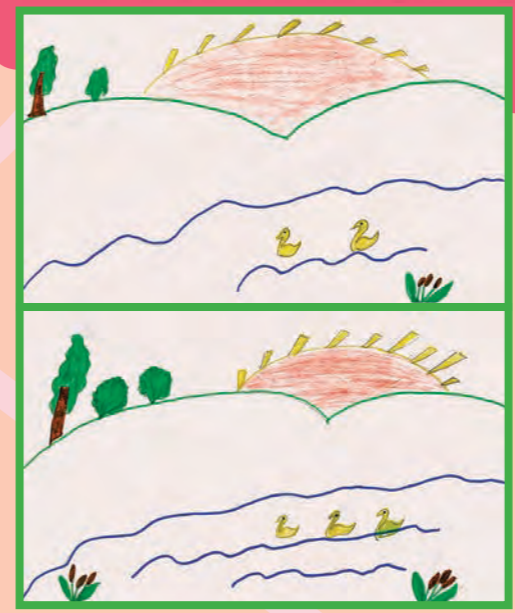


I live in Kyrgyzstan. I like the puzzles and stories because they are very interesting and helpful. I thank God for letting Nariste (that's Tropinka in the Kyrgyz language) to be published so we can know more about God. I want to thank everyone. May God bless you!

Aida MAMYTOVA, 10 years old

FIND FIVE DIFFERENCES!

Drawn by Dasha OLEINIK



Drawn by Dasha OLEINIK



Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus

Dear Tropinka! I like your magazine so much. It helps me know what is good and what is bad. I really love God and I also love your magazine. I'm 12 years old. I have lived in America for 10 years, but I was born in Belarus. I read Tropinka in two languages - Russian and English. The stories in it are very interesting. Thank you for everything!

Olya KRIVETSKAYA



Vera ALEKSIK, 14 years old, Ukraine



Galina PARNITSKAYA, 10 years old, Ukraine



Lina GORLOVA, 9 years old, USA



Dmitry MAMCHUR, 13 years old, Ukraine



PAGE 30

Answers

- Page 2: "This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome" (1John 5:3).
- Page 10: ACROSS: 4. Athens 6. gazelle 8. judges 11. Shem 13. roof 14. shepherds
DOWN: 1. image 2. heaven 3. Joseph 5. jasper 7. meaningless 8. joy 9. Deborah 10. Immanuel 12. cows
- Page 16: Nadab – son of Aaron, Obed – son of Boaz, Azariah – son of Zadok, Mizraim – son of Ham, Abijah – son of Rehoboam, Tubal – son of Japheth, Eliab – son of Jesse, Israel – son of Isaac, Saul – son of Kish, Levi – son of Israel, Eliam – son of Ahithophel, Ahio – son of Abinadab, Absalom – son of David, Elam – son of Shem, Moses – son of Amram.
STEP BY STEP: "He who has been stealing must steal no longer" Ephesians 4:28
- Page 21: WHICH ANSWER IS RIGHT: 1) 1, 2) 1, 3) 10, 4) 6 000, 5) 10, 6) 1, 7) 7, 8) 0, 9) 2, 10) 2 (2 Kings 5).
THE LOST COIN: She called her friends and neighbors to rejoice with her.
- Page 32: 1A, 2D, 3F, 4C, 5E, 6B

Published and distributed six times a year thanks to voluntary donations.

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To subscribe to this magazine or to send donation, inquiries and stories for publication, write to:

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P. 11–12: © Verlag Johannis, Lahr; "Die hochmütige Hummel"
P. 13–15: © Vereinte Evangelische Mission, Wuppertal
Pgs. 21, 32: © Bibellesebund, Marienheide

Tropinka was translated into English by Natasha Boykov

On cover: picture of Michal Bednarek/shutterstock.com

Contributing editing by Northland, A Church Distributed

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For elementary and middle school age children.



We thank God

Find the matching pairs of pictures. Each picture with a number matches a picture with a letter

for all the treats!

Psalm 104:14

