

# Tropinkka

The Little Path

Christian Magazine for Kids



Exploring Faith  
With Friends  
Around the World!



Issue #1  
2011

Discovering  
the Ten  
Commandments



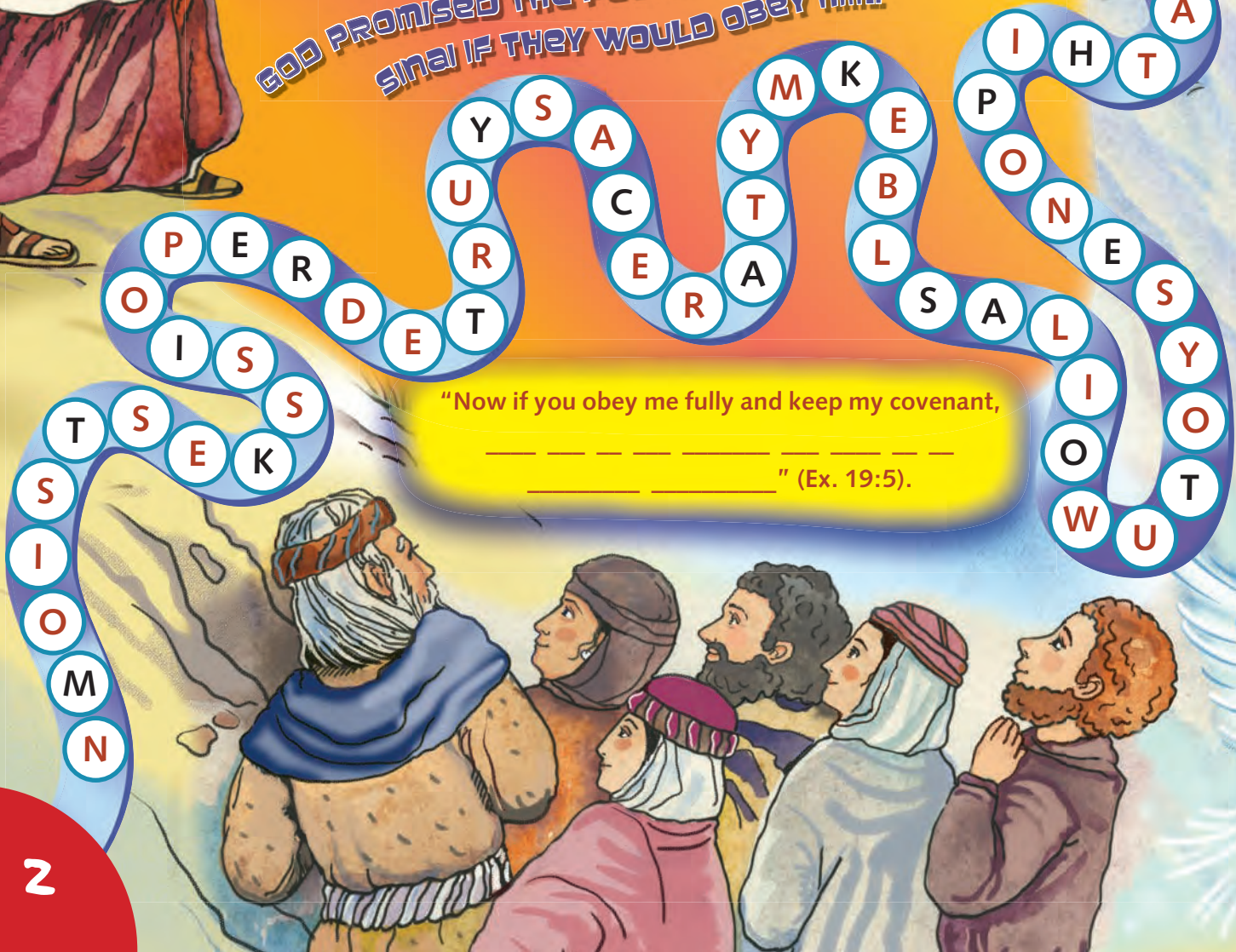


# The Promise

Illustrated  
by Victoria DUNAYEVA

FINISH THE VERSE BY WRITING OUT ALL OF THE BROWN LETTERS AND YOU'LL DISCOVER WHAT GOD PROMISED THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AT MOUNT SINAI IF THEY WOULD OBEY HIM.

"Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant,  
\_\_\_\_\_ " (Ex. 19:5).



# WHERE WAS GOD TODAY?

Natasha BOYKOV

Why do pets get sick and die?  
Why does God let people cry?  
Please, Mommy, tell me why.  
Where was God today?

Isn't He in control?  
Didn't He make my soul?  
Doesn't He keep the world whole?  
Where was God today?

Yes, child, God is in control.  
Yes, He made your soul,  
And He keeps all things whole.  
God was here today.

He watched over you all day,  
Heard you cry and heard you pray.  
God never went away.  
God was here today.



Illustrated  
by Victoria DUNAYEVA



# A MODEL OF THE STONE TABLETS

Elena MIKULA

Part 1

"Hi Mary!" Peter said as he sat down at his desk. Seeing his classmate's bandaged fingers he asked, "What happened to your hand?"

"Last night I was cutting something out and my scissors slipped."

"What were you doing, making a dress for your dolly?" Peter started laughing.



Mary frowned and shook her head. "You're very funny Peter."

"No seriously, what were you doing?"

"Making stone tablets. It's an assignment from Sunday School," Mary answered. Peter looked like he was about to make another joke so she quickly added, "Of course I'm not making real stone tablets. Mine are a cardboard model."

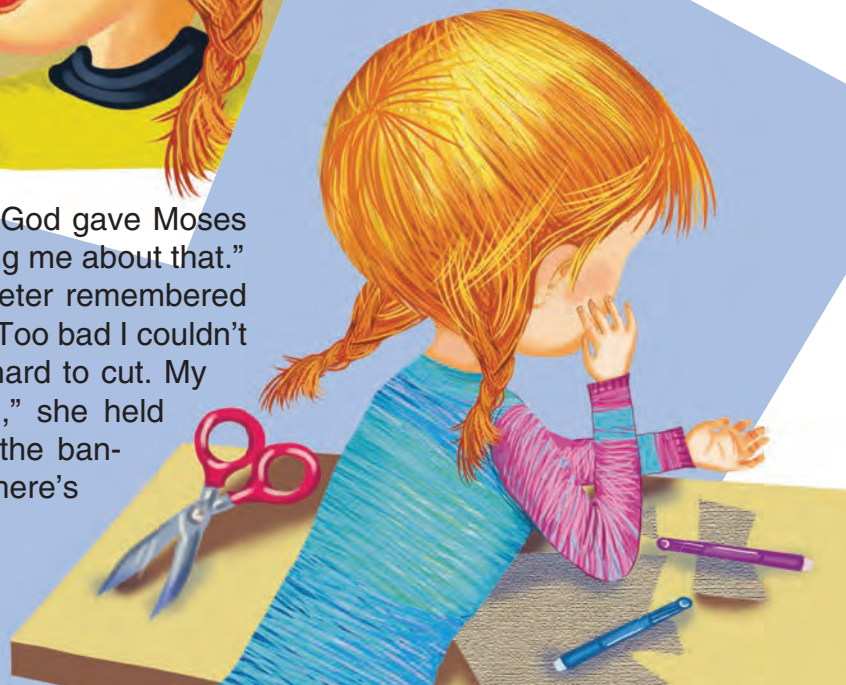


"Stone tablets, huh? Isn't that what God gave Moses on the mountain? I remember you telling me about that."

"Yes!" Mary was glad to see that Peter remembered the story she told of the stone tablets. "Too bad I couldn't finish the model. The cardboard was hard to cut. My scissors slipped and," she held up her hand with the bandaged fingers, "here's the result."



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"How about I help you cut it out after school?" Peter offered.

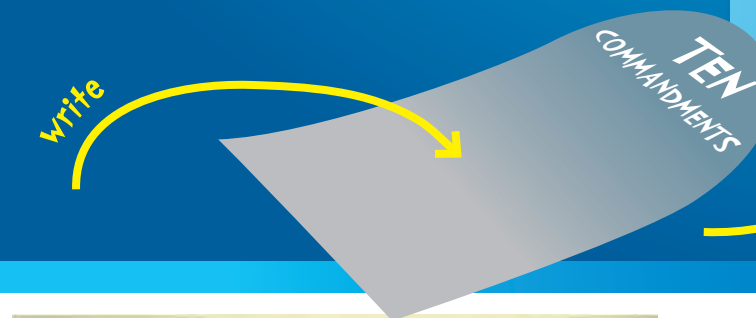
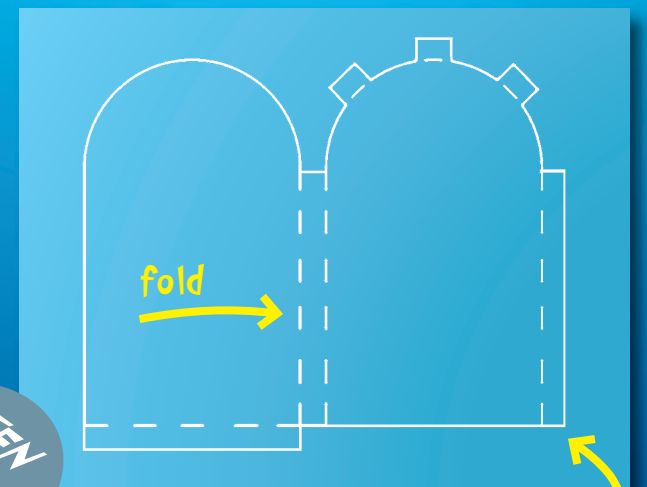
Mary agreed. When the bell rang at the end of the day, they went to Mary's house. An unfinished model of the stone tablets lay on her desk along with construction paper, glue, and markers.



"Look!" Mary said. "We have to cut it out by follow this line. Then we write the Ten Commandments on gray paper and glue it over the cardboard. How about you cut and I'll draw the lines and write out the commandments?"

Peter took the scissors and went to work. The cardboard was difficult to cut and he grunted with effort as he used the scissors.

"This is hard work!" he exclaimed.



"It was even harder for Moses. He had to chisel the tablets out of stone," Mary said. "But God was the one who wrote out the commandments."

Peter put the scissors aside to take a break and catch his breath.

"In what language did God write the Ten Commandments?" he wondered.

Mary thought for a moment. "Moses was a Hebrew, so they would have been written in Hebrew."

"Mary, that means God gave His commandments only to the Hebrews. Why do Americans, Russians, French people, and everyone else have to obey God's law? God gave that law to Moses on Mount Sinai because it was for His people. If God is the God of Israel, why do we call Him our God?"

"Why? Because there's no other God!"

"What do you mean? Remember when we studied Greek mythology in Social Studies? They had a whole bunch of gods on Mount Olympus. There was Zeus, Apollo, and Aphrodite." Peter continued listing the gods he knew about. "In Egypt they worshipped the sun god, Ra. Slavs worshipped Perun and the Scandinavians had Odin."

"Those aren't real gods," Mary explained.

Peter didn't look convinced. "How can you prove that?"

"Okay, have you ever seen Ra or Zeus? Do you think Ra could



have created the heavens, the earth, and the animals? And, if he created man in his image, would you want to be like him, Peter?"

"No, no! I was just wondering. I'm not saying that the God of Israel isn't our God."

Mary smiled. "It's just that in the Old Testament, God revealed what He wanted everyone to know through the nation of Israel."

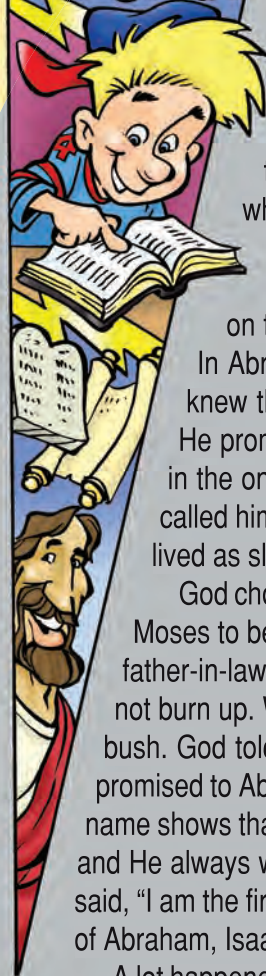
Peter finished cutting out the model of the stone tablets and laid the scissors aside. "I have to go. I want to get to soccer practice on time. How about we continue working on this tomorrow? I'll come over and we'll start writing out the Ten Commandments."

"Sure!" Mary agreed. "Thank you for your help!"

*(To be continued)*

Illustrated  
by Victoria DUNAYEVA

## BIBLE BASICS



# The God of Israel is our God

The Bible opens with these words, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Reading further, we learn how God saved Noah and his family from the flood. In the 12th chapter of Genesis, the Bible introduces us to Abraham. The Bible tells us a lot about this man. Do you know why? As we read about Abraham we learn that he believed God's promises. These promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The Bible says that those who have trusted in Christ are called the children of Abraham. That's how all nations on the earth are blessed through Abraham. You can find this promise in Genesis 22:18.

In Abraham's day, the nations worshipped the stars, idols, and spirits. However, Abraham knew the one true God and worshipped Him alone. God led Abraham into a country which He promised to Abraham's descendents, the Israelites. Abraham's son, Isaac, also believed in the one true God and followed Him. Later, God gave Isaac's son, Jacob, a new name and called him Israel. The 12 tribes of Israel came from the 12 sons of Jacob. These tribes of Israel lived as slaves in Egypt for over 400 years.

God chose one of these Israelites, a man named Moses, to lead the people of Israel. He called Moses to be the leader in a very interesting way. It happened while Moses was taking care of his father-in-law's sheep at Mount Horeb. God appeared to Moses in a bush that was on fire but did not burn up. When Moses approached to get a closer look, he heard God's voice from the burning bush. God told Moses to go to Egypt, free the Israelites from slavery, and lead them into the land promised to Abraham. Moses wanted to know God's name and God told him, "I AM WHO I AM." This name shows that God is different from the other gods, which are only idols. God exists, He always did and He always will. He's the only real God and there are no others. Through the prophet Isaiah, God said, "I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God" (Isaiah 44:6). That is why the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is our Heavenly Father.

A lot happened after Moses met with God at Mount Horeb. Once the Israelites finally left Egypt, they went through many trials. Then they came to the area where God had revealed himself to Moses and called him to lead God's people. There, the Israelites stopped for a long time. That was where God gave them the laws by which they needed to live. These laws would help them not be like the nations around them. Those nations worshipped idols made of wood, stone, and metal. They also sacrificed their children to some of these idols.

In addition to other laws, God gave his people the Ten Commandments. These commandments started with the following words:

**I am the Lord your God, who brought you out  
of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.**

The Ten Commandments were at the heart of the laws of Israel and eventually became the basis for the laws of many other countries around the world. We will take a closer look at these commandments in future issues of Tropinka.

Waldemar ZORN

# THE LAW ON STONE TABLETS

Waldemar ZORN

The Israelites have been in the desert for three months. When they left Egypt they took their flocks, their herds, and everything they owned. The crowd of Israelites traveling through the desert stretched for many miles. After the Red Sea parted, they walked across on dry ground and the Egyptian army drowned when they tried to follow the Israelites. Through this, the Israelites clearly saw God protecting them and that lifted their spirits.

Then they came to a great mountain in the Sinai desert and set up camp. Moses went up on the mountain and God spoke with him. God promised to bless the Israelites if they listened to Him and obeyed His commands. Moses then repeated God's words to the elders of Israel and all the people answered, "We will do everything the Lord has said." When Moses reported the people's answer to God, God said He would come in a thick cloud and speak with Moses on Mount Sinai so that all the people could hear. On the third day, everyone got together and approached the mountain, which smoked because God had come down onto it in flames. The people heard a loud noise and saw flashes of lightning followed by rumbles of thunder. Then God called Moses onto the mountain. There, Moses spoke to God face to face. Just imagine — he spoke with God the way you speak with your parents! God told him it was time for the people to learn the laws and commands by which they must live. Without these commands, they would become corrupt, be scattered, and perish. There on the mountain, God would give Moses the Ten Commandments. We call them the Ten Commandments because that is how many commandments there are. The first four guide man's relationship with God and the next six guide man's relationship with others.

God told Moses to bring Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel up onto the mountain. Before bringing them up, Moses built an altar for sacrificing burnt offerings to God and read the Book of the Covenant to the people of Israel. This Book of the Covenant was an agreement God made with Israel, that they would be His people and He would be their God. The people promised to obey God and do everything



He commanded. After that, Moses and the priests and elders went up on the mountain. There, God appeared to them and they saw His glory. The mountaintop must have looked like a huge shining jewel, as though heaven itself had come down!

As for Moses, God had him come up to the very top of the mountain. Moses took Joshua his aide and went up. A cloud covered the whole mountain and for six days the glory of God blazed like a fire on top of the mountain. Moses entered the cloud and stayed there with God for 40 days and 40 nights.

During that time, God gave Moses the laws which explained what the people could and couldn't do, who was to have what job, and how to organize the leadership of the nation. God also gave Moses specific instructions on building the tabernacle and worshipping God. In other words, God told Moses everything the people needed to know about God and how to serve Him.

God also gave Moses the stone tablets. On these flat pieces of stone, God wrote the most important commandments with His own hand. These were the Ten Commandments. When Moses came down the mountain, he saw the Israelites worshipping an idol. This made him so angry that he smashed the stone tablets. As a result, Moses had to chisel out a second set of stone tablets and God once again wrote out the commandments.

After meeting with God on the mountain, Moses gave the people directions for building a tent-like temple to worship God. This temple could be taken down and moved when the Israelites traveled from place to place. In the Bible, it is called the tabernacle. The Ten Commandments were kept in the tabernacle, in a box covered with gold and decorated with golden cherubim. This box was called the Ark of the Covenant. It stood in the most sacred place in the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies, and a thick curtain separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the sanctuary. In this most holy place, Moses spoke with God when he had questions and there, God revealed His will to Moses.

Moses' face shone after he spoke with God. When Aaron and the Israelites saw him they were afraid, so Moses started wearing a veil to cover his face.

*Illustrated by Alexander BASS*

If you open your Bible to the book of Exodus, you can read about these events in Exodus 19-31. You'll find the Ten Commandments listed in the beginning of the 20th chapter.



Can you list the Ten Commandments in the right order? Go ahead and order them.

# GOD'S COMMANDMENTS



**A**

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

**C**

You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**B**

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.



**D**

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

**E**

You shall not murder.



**F**

You shall not commit adultery.

**G**

You shall not steal.



**H**

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.

**I**

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

**J**

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

- First Commandment
- Second Commandment
- Third Commandment
- Fourth Commandment
- Fifth Commandment
- Sixth Commandment
- Seventh Commandment
- Eighth Commandment
- Ninth Commandment
- Tenth Commandment

## A surprisingly short psalm!

Psalm 117 may be the shortest psalm in the Bible, but it talks about a great topic — God's love for people.

There are many paths in this labyrinth, but only one will lead you to the exit. If you follow the right path you'll be able to read the main part of Psalm 117.



# ALWAYS REMEMBER

Andrei DESHKEVICH



Timothy lived with Grandpa in a distant Siberian village, a place surrounded by the endless pine forest of the taiga. The taiga is a type of marshy pine forest that is very cold. There, a man could walk for weeks and never meet another human being. Besides his grandpa, the boy had no other relatives. His parents died a long time ago – he couldn't even remember them – and his grandpa, who dearly loved him, was both mother and father to the boy. Grandpa was a good hunter. He sold animal furs and used the money to buy bread, butter, and anything else that they needed.

When the boy grew older, Grandpa started taking him along on trips to the taiga. He taught his grandson to move through the woods without spooking away the animals and to read animal tracks.

“Look Timmy, a wild boar passed through here. Only a boar leaves two-toed prints. Then again, a deer does too, but his are bigger. And here are wolf tracks. A wolf is especially dangerous in the winter when he's hungry.”

The grandson listened carefully and tried to learn everything he could about hunting. He turned out to be a very good student.

“Good work, grandson. You're just like your father!” Grandpa would say, seeing the way Timothy searched for tracks in the woods, identified the animals, and carefully cleaned the hunting rifle when they got home.

The boy saw that every day before going hunting, Grandpa would get down on his knees and pray. Only then would he go out into the woods. Once, Timothy asked, “What do you pray about before you go hunting?”

## Story Time



Once upon a time  
where  
and now  
well  
been  
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al  
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“I pray that God helps us as we hunt. We can't do it without Him. There is a verse in the Bible that says a horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord. It means we must be ready for the hunt, but whether or not we're successful depends on God. I always remember that my success depends on Him more than anything else.”

When Grandpa returned after a hunt, he always got down on his knees and thanked God for His help. The day Timothy learned that a successful hunt depended on God, he got down on his knees beside Grandpa and they prayed together.

The years passed. As the boy grew up, he became stronger and his skills improved. Timothy could now go into the woods by himself to hunt. As Grandpa got older, it became harder for him to walk for miles in the woods and his eyesight wasn't as sharp as it used to be. As a result, hunting became Timothy's job and Grandpa stayed home to take care of the house. Timothy still remembered that his success depended on God. Preparation, patience, and good hunting skills were important, but not nearly as important as God's help. That's why he always asked God to bless him in the hunt. After returning home, he prayed again, this time thanking God for letting him catch the wild game.

Timothy became a good hunter like his grandpa. Gradually, the game he brought home got larger and larger. Soon he was bringing back deer and boars. Once, he even managed to shoot a great big elk. He had to call his grandpa to come out and help him drag his prize home. Some time after that Timothy actually killed a bear!

That day he was especially proud. Hunting a bear by himself was very dangerous, but the young man did it! The bear didn't even hurt





Grandpa noticed the difference in his grandson. When he learned just how much Timothy's attitude toward God had change, he really started to worry.

"Timmy," he said one day, "I'm very happy that you have become a skilled hunter. I have to say that you're much better at it than I was at your age. However, I worry about you. You've completely forgotten about God!"

"Why do I need God? I hunt just fine on my own. You said it yourself, I'm better than you at hunting. When I started trusting in my skills, I became even more successful."

"Maybe you did, but that doesn't mean it all depends on you. God is merciful. He has been protecting you, even if you haven't asked for His protection."

"He doesn't need to protect me!" Timothy announced loudly. "I'm in control and I can handle anything that comes my way."

him. After that, the young hunter felt he could do anything.

Maybe that's why Timothy forgot to pray one day as he was getting ready to go hunting. Even though he forgot to pray, the young man brought back a young deer. He decided if he did just fine without God's help he might as well not ask for God's blessing. After that, Timothy stopped praying to God and became so proud that he saw himself as the best hunter in the area.

I am more brave and clever than the others, he thought. After all, I hunt for bear and lynx by myself. No one else does that, just me! As for God, why should I bother with Him? I haven't paid attention to God for a long time and I'm still just as successful as ever.

I guess that means success depends on me. In fact, I've become a better hunter since I stopped praying to God!



After that conversation, Grandpa grieved for his grandson. He knew what might happen because of the young man's pride.

Winter came. On one of those wintry days, Timothy got ready to go hunting.

"What are you planning to do, go out there by yourself?" Grandpa asked. "It looks like a blizzard is coming and we've had more than a few wolves around."

"Good, because I'm planning to get a wolf," Timothy answered. "So what if I'm alone? I can kill a bear by myself. Why should I be afraid of a wolf?"

"Timothy, at least wait one more day!"

"Stop worrying so much. I can find my way back through a blizzard," the stubborn grandson said as he walked out the door.

It's a nice day and there's no sign of a blizzard, Timothy reasoned as he walked farther and farther from the village. After going a considerable



distance he saw tracks in the snow. The tracks told him a pack of wolves had recently passed. Just what I needed! They're not far at all, thought the young hunter. He started following the tracks. They were fresh and he knew he was catching up to the wolves.

Timothy stepped out into a clearing and immediately saw the wolves. They saw him too. Since Timothy was alone, the leader of the pack decided to attack him. The wolf pack raced toward the young hunter. He never expected the animals to attack and had nowhere to go. Taking the rifle off his shoulder, Timothy aimed for the leader. He hoped killing this wolf would scare off the rest of the pack. Taking aim, he fired – and missed! The bullet flew past its target. He once again took aim and fired the rifle. This time the bullet missed the leader but hit one of the other wolves. The wounded animal yelped in pain and spun





around, but the loss of a pack member didn't stop the rest of the wolves.

Timothy didn't have time to reload the rifle. He sprinted for the nearest pine tree, hoping it would save him from the wolves. The pack surrounded him just before he reached the tree. Timothy grabbed the barrel of the rifle and hit the nearest wolf as hard as he could. The wolf grabbed the shoulder strap with his teeth and tore the rifle out of the hunter's hands. However, the attacking wolves had never been this close to a man and Timothy smelled like smoke. That smell alone scared most wild animals. The wolves hesitated. Timothy dashed for the nearest tree and climbed up the branches with the agility of a cat.

The wolves couldn't reach him, but now he didn't have his rifle. The wolves showed no sign of leaving. They stayed right beneath the pine, probably waiting for the man to climb down or freeze and fall out of the tree. Sitting in the pine, Timothy started getting very, very cold. The wind picked up and he knew that blizzard Grandpa predicted was coming.

Timothy finally understood the hopelessness of his situation. He sat in the tree in the middle of the great forest of the taiga and thought about how far it was to his village. No one there knew where he was or what was happening to him. No one could help him. The young man suddenly remembered his childhood and all the times he and Grandpa prayed for God to bless the hunt and keep them safe. He remembered the pride he felt when he killed a bear. That pride led to his decision to depend only on himself and not ask for God's protection. Now, Timothy felt like a poor, miserable creature facing certain death. He knew perfectly well that his strength, youth, and abilities couldn't save him.

"God, I know Grandpa was right! I was a fool to argue with him. Please forgive me for my foolish attitude. Forgive me for thinking so much about myself and forgetting about You. Of course everything depends on You. I'm nothing without You!" Tears ran down Timothy's cheeks. No trace of pride remained in his heart as he prayed, "Help me Lord. Lead me out of here!"

When he finished praying, his heart grew lighter. It felt like someone very close and very special was holding him with loving arms. He even felt a little warmer. Timothy looked down and saw that the wolves were gone.

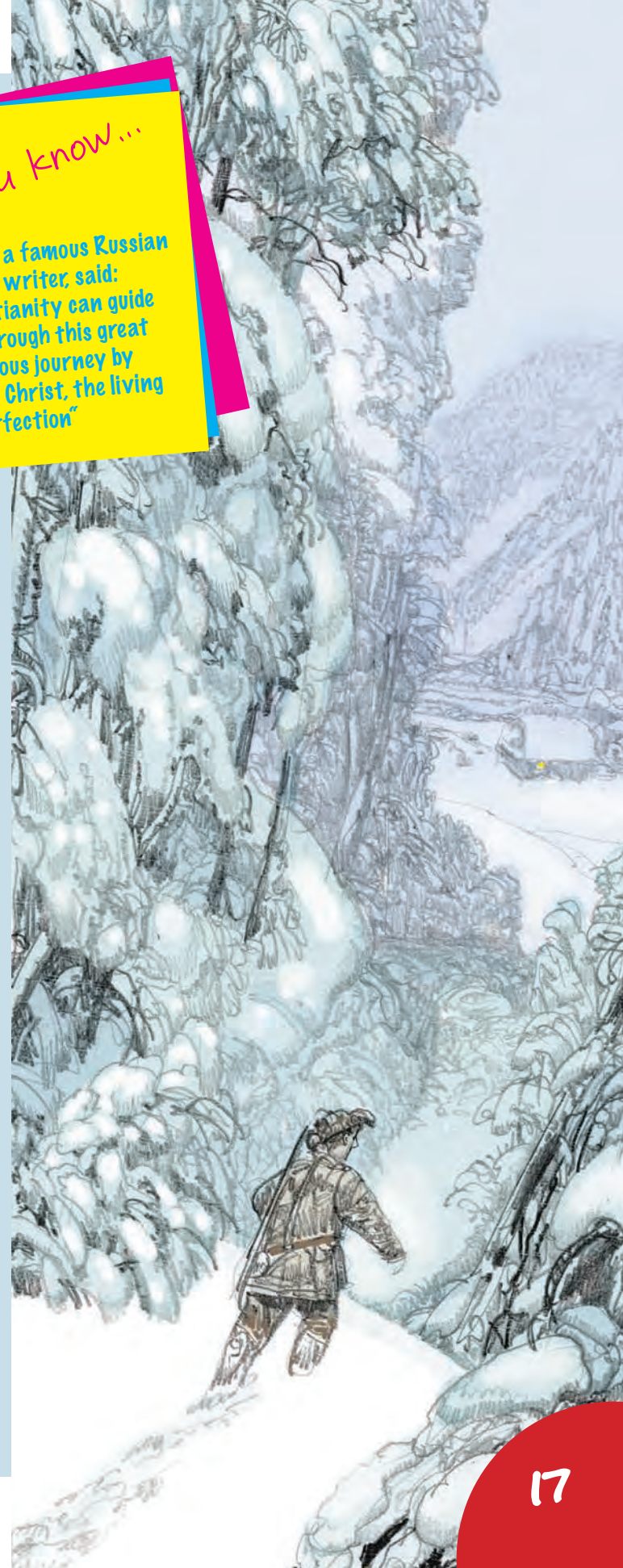
"Thank you Lord!" he whispered. The young hunter climbed down from the tree, picked up his rifle, and started for the village. He walked quickly and soon grew warm but the blizzard was coming and he knew he had to hurry. Timothy felt like someone was helping him, giving him the strength not just to walk, but to run. He even thought he might get home before the blizzard started.

Then he saw the village, the place where he was born and had known since childhood. He made it just in time. As soon as he stepped inside the house the wind started howling and thick, blinding snow flew in all directions. There in the house, he found Grandpa praying on his knees. With tears in his eyes, Timothy ran over to Grandpa and hugged the man who loved him and had taught him so much.

"Grandpa, understand... I understand..." Timothy repeated.

*Illustrated by Alexander MIKHNUHOV*

*Did you know...*  
K. Ushinsky, a famous Russian teacher and writer, said:  
"Only Christianity can guide a person through this great and dangerous journey by pointing to Christ, the living ideal of perfection"



# FIGURE IT OUT!

Answer the questions and write the answers in the indicated blue boxes. Fill in the missing mathematical signs in two green boxes. If you did it correctly, you will get the number of brothers Miriam had in the yellow box.

Joseph was sold for how many pieces of silver?  
(Genesis 37:28)

Bethany was how many stadia (.2 Kilometer) from Jerusalem?  
(John 11:18)

How many loaves of bread did the boy give Jesus? This bread fed 5000 people!  
(John 6:9)

How many years did it take Solomon to build his palace?  
(1 Kings 7:1)

How many years did God add to King Hezekiah's life because of his request to be healed?  
(2 Kings 20:6)

How many times did Naaman have to wash himself in the Jordan to be healed?  
(2 Kings 5:10)

How many young bulls were supposed to be sacrificed in the Feast of Tabernacles?  
(Numbers 29:13)

How many years did Jacob live with Laban?  
(Genesis 31:39)

	-		=	
-				+
			=	
=		=		=
	+		=	

Created by Elvira ZORN

Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

# DESERTS AND PEOPLE



1 Desert of Paran

The son of one of the patriarchs grew up in this desert. He was an archer skilled with the bow and arrow.



2 Desert of Shur

Here, the leader of the people followed God's command and threw a piece of wood into the bitter water, making it sweet. Then the people who had no water for three days could drink and quench their thirst.



3 Desert of Judea

One of the prophets preached in this desert and called for the people to repent saying, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near."

DAVID  
1 Samuel 23:14-15

MIRIAM  
Numbers 20:1

MOSES  
Exodus 15:22-25

These people were in the desert when God, through his faithful servant, gave them the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.



4 Desert of Sinai

ISRAELITES  
Exodus 19:1 - 20:21

JOHN THE BAPTIST  
Matthew 3:1-3

The sister of an Israelite leader died here during the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.



5 Desert of Zin

ISHMAEL  
Genesis 21:9-21

A young man hid here from the Israelite king who pursued him because he suspected the young man wanted his throne.

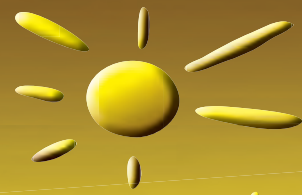


6 Desert of Ziph

Which Bible character goes with which situation? See if you can match the names with the pictures.

Illustrated by Larisa GOROSHKO

# The Sinai desert



For the past six months, Joe, Simon, and Igor have been working as interns in Haifa, Israel. They love being able to work in the Holy Land. On weekends, they have time to go sightseeing and visit places mentioned in the Bible. They've already seen lots of interesting things. They visited Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Eilat, and Masada, explored King Solomon's mines and the caves of Qumram, and swam in both the Red Sea and the Dead Sea. Now what they really want to do is visit Sinai, but they'll have to wait until they're done with their internship. They've already decided to take part in the Sinai Peninsula bike tour, which lasts for eight days. This bike tour sounds like a great adventure. It involves diving in



Gazelle

the sea between coral reefs, exploring the seemingly alien landscape of the Sinai region and the White Canyon, staying overnight in a real oasis while experiencing the Bedouin culture, and climbing Mount Sinai, which is called Mount Horeb in the Bible. The chance to climb Mount Sinai is really exciting for the guys. From reading the Bible, they know that this mountain is where God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and later gave him the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments.

From their research, they know Mount Sinai is 7,500 feet high and there are two ways to get to the top. The first involves climbing up 3,750 steps carved into the side of the mountain by monks. This way is shorter, but also more complicated. The second route is easier. It was paved by the Egyptian authorities and takes four to five hours, but you can ride a Bedouin camel part of the way. Tourists usually climb up the mountain



Dune Cat

at night with flashlights in their hands to be at the top when the sun rises. Dawn brings a breathtaking view of the Sinai desert.

The Sinai desert is a plateau below Mount Sinai. The Israelites camped on this plateau for about half a year after leaving Egypt. The prophet Elijah also traveled through the Sinai desert to escape from Jezebel. God gave him further directions at Mount Sinai.

The Sinai desert stretches from the sharp granite mountains in the south to the sand dunes in the north. This desert landscape is very diverse. It has high dunes of very fine white sand and spectacular mountain ranges with colored layers of minerals and deep canyons. Ancient fossilized shells, which are occasionally seen on the ground, remind travelers that there was once a sea here.

Wells and ancient oases are found in certain spots in the desert. The people



Jerboa



Sand Fox

who inhabit the little towns in this region have the same lifestyle their ancestors did hundreds of years ago. Few plants grow in this desert, but once in a great while, you may see a scraggly tree with a flattened canopy. As for animals, there are birds that live around small basins of water, mountain goats, dune cats, gazelles, jerboa, sand foxes, striped hyenas, and jackals. However, not everyone sees these animals on their journey through the Sinai desert. That's why many tourists say this desert is a lifeless region. After seeing the Sinai Peninsula for themselves, Joe, Simon, and Igor will be better able to imagine it through the eyes of the Israelites who traveled over this dry land many centuries ago.



Mountain Goat

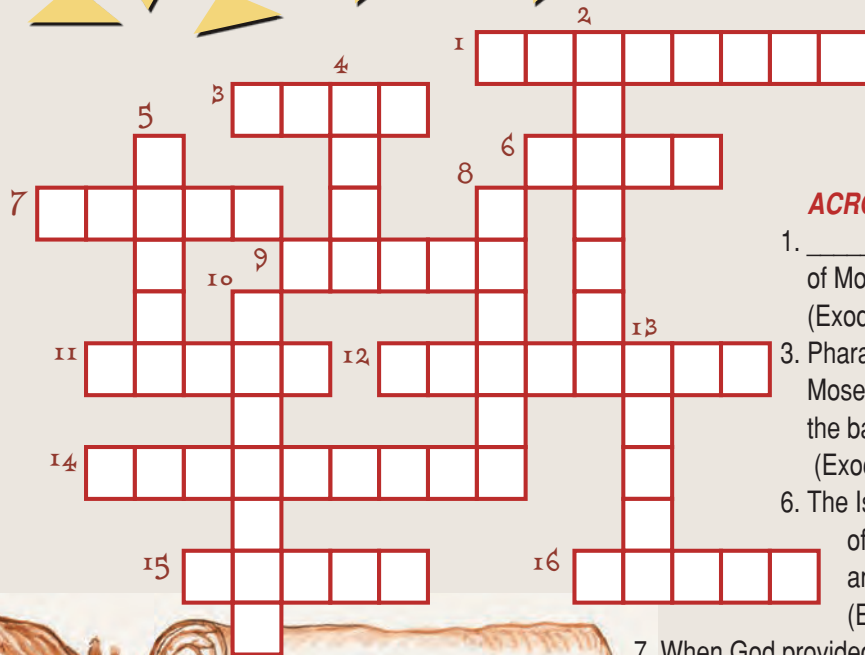
Illustrated by Julia PRAVDOHINA

**Did you know...**  
Blaise Pascal said, "There are only three types of people; those who have found God and serve him; those who have not found God and seek him, and those who live not seeking, or finding him. The first are rational and happy; the second unhappy and rational, and the third foolish and unhappy."



# Moses

Created by Irina GORINA



**ACROSS:**

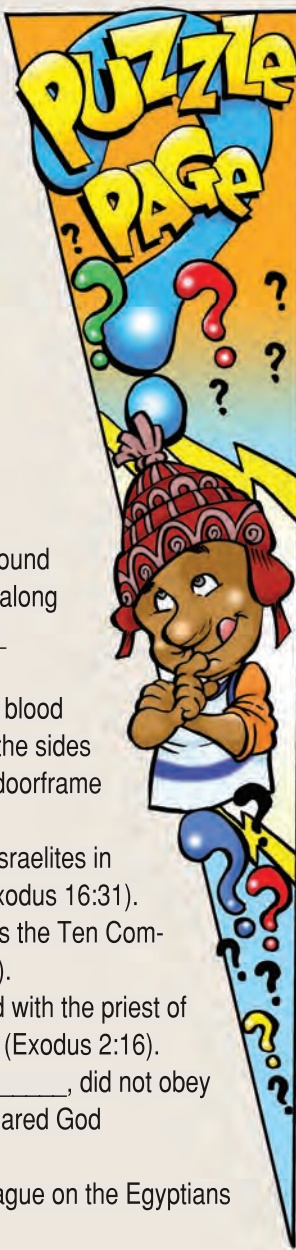
- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ was the name of Moses' wife (Exodus 2:18-21).
- 3. Pharaoh's daughter found Moses while walking along the bank of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 2:3-5).
- 6. The Israelites put the blood of this animal on the sides and tops of their doorframe (Exodus 12:3-7).

- 7. When God provided bread for the Israelites in the desert they called it \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 16:31).
- 9. On this mountain God gave Moses the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:20-20:17).
- 11. When Moses left Egypt, he stayed with the priest of Midian who had \_\_\_\_\_ daughters (Exodus 2:16).
- 12. The Hebrew midwives, Puah and \_\_\_\_\_, did not obey the King of Egypt because they feared God (Exodus 1:15-17).
- 14. The \_\_\_\_\_ son died in this last plague on the Egyptians (Exodus 11:4-5).
- 15. Pharaoh's daughter gave this name to the infant she found in the basket (Exodus 2:9-10).
- 16. Water turned into this when Aaron stretched out his staff (Exodus 7:19-20).

**DOWN:**

- 2. He refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt (Exodus 5:2).
- 4. Moses was born into the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 2:1).
- 5. The LORD turned Moses' staff into a \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 4:2-3).
- 8. Moses went to this place when he fled from Egypt (Exodus 2:15).
- 10. Moses' son was named \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 2:21-22).
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_ was Moses' father-in-law (Exodus 2:18-21).

Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA



Illustrated by Larisa GOROSHKO

## DO YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES?

Elena BOSHMAN



1

This person's name means In the Protection of God. He was wise and clever, a gold, silver, and bronze smith who also wove cloth and made clothes for Aaron the priest. God gave this man and Oholiab the task of making the tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the altar of incense, and the altar of burnt offerings.

Answer: Exodus 31:1-11



2

This person's name means Mighty Warrior. He was a judge of Israel during the seven years when the people of God were oppressed by the Midianites. After an angel of the LORD told him to save Israel, he destroyed the altar of Baal and cut down the sacred tree that grew beside it. While he lived, the nation had peace for 40 years.

Answer: Judges 6:1-8:28



3

This man was a priest in charge of the Levites who took care of the sanctuary. Before Aaron's death, Moses dressed this man in Aaron's robes. Together with Joshua, he divided the land of Canaan among the tribes of Israel.

Answer: Numbers 3:1-4, 32; 20:28; 34:17



4

His mother laughed when God told his father that they would have a son. That's why this man was given a name which means Laughter. He was born around 1900 BC near Gerar and Bersheeba. At the age of 40 he married Laban's sister, who gave later birth to twins.

Answer: Genesis 18:1-15; 24:1-67; 26:1 - 27:29



Sergei SANNIKOV

# 1. The beginning

Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome



You, my young friend, have probably seen many different temples, churches, mosques, and synagogues. Over six billion people live on the planet and most of them believe in God. Of course, on every continent people believe differently and in every country you can find people who worship their god in a different way. Christians are people who believe in God and, more specifically, are followers of Jesus Christ. The history of the Church and the Christian faith starts with Jesus Christ.

Christianity is the largest religion in the world. Every third person on the planet is a Christian. However, Christianity started from a small group of Jesus' disciples who were meeting in Judea.

This was around 30 A.D. At that time, there were only about 120 people in that group. When they got together they probably remembered the way they met Jesus, followed him, and saw the miracles He did. They knew that one of their own had betrayed Jesus, handing Him over to be tortured and killed. One of Jesus' disciples, a man named Peter, must have retold the story of what he saw at the high priest's house at least 10 times. "He was silent! Can you believe it? He had the power to make all the soldiers fall over like dead men, but he remained silent! He was tortured and killed,

but on the third day Jesus rose again. I saw him myself! Now here we are be-

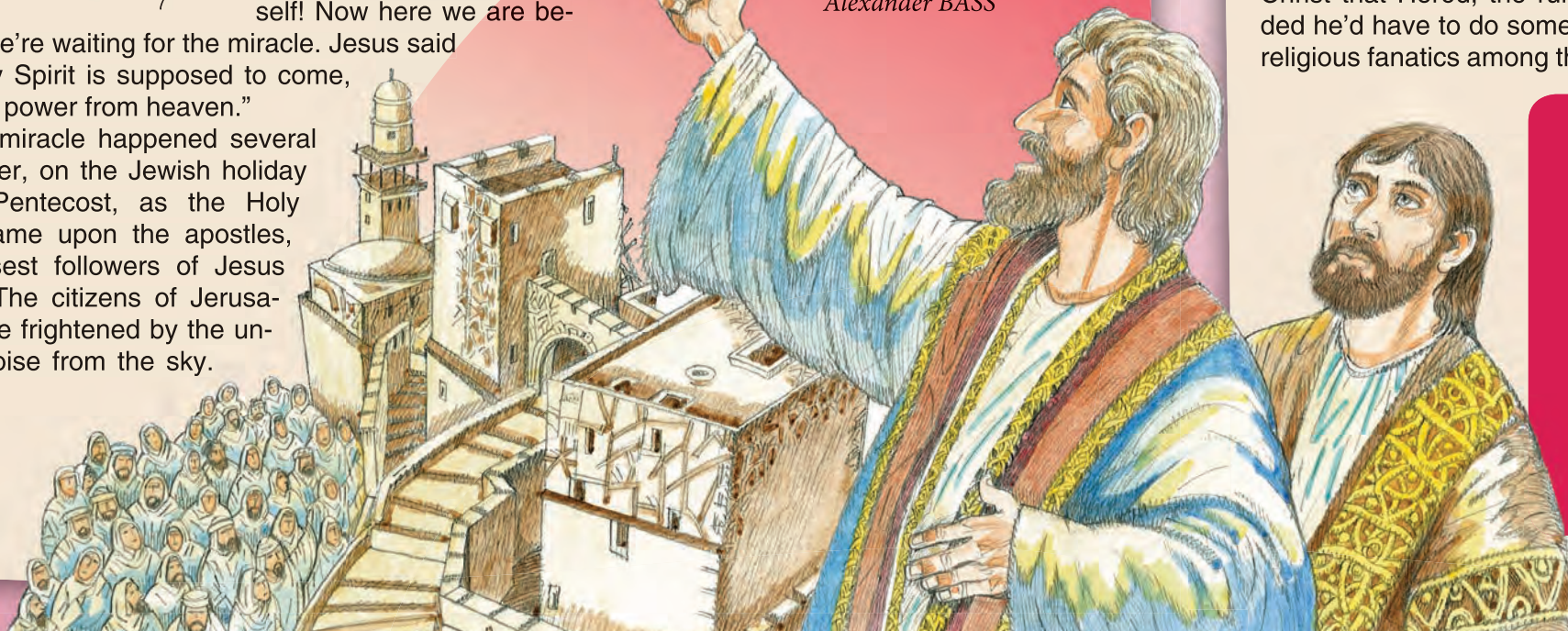
Illustrated by Alexander BASS



The Descent of the Spirit by the artist G. Doré

cause we're waiting for the miracle. Jesus said the Holy Spirit is supposed to come, bringing power from heaven."

This miracle happened several days later, on the Jewish holiday called Pentecost, as the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, the closest followers of Jesus Christ. The citizens of Jerusalem were frightened by the unusual noise from the sky.

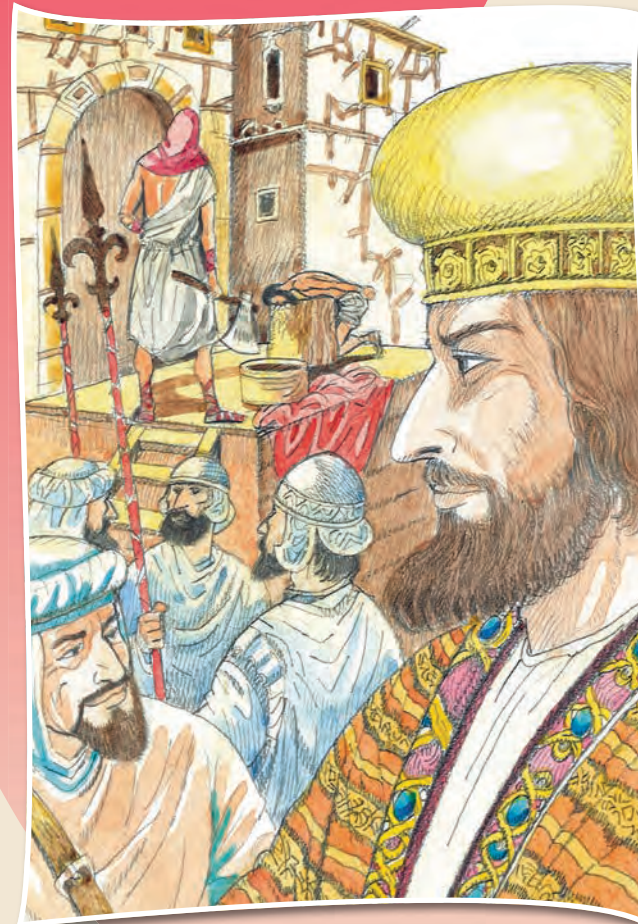


They filled the street and rushed to the house where the apostles had gathered. Everyone wanted to know what was going on.

The apostles started preaching to the crowd and the pilgrims who came to Jerusalem for the festival understood them because each one heard preaching in his own language! The apostles had never studied these languages but could use them to speak about the wonders God performed through Jesus Christ. They called people to repent and believe in Jesus the Messiah, the Promised One sent by God, who took the sins of the world upon Himself and died on the cross. The people believed and 3,000 were baptized that day. That was just the beginning.

About a year later the apostles and other disciples were still in Jerusalem. Every day, they met together in the temple and at each other's homes to pray and study the scriptures. They ate together and had communion, remembering their teacher. They preached and baptized new believers. The disciples weren't trying to create a new religion; they were just waiting for Jesus to return like He said He would. Maybe the first disciples thought He would come back in a few days or a few years. Jesus never said exactly when He'd return, but He did say that they needed to be ready to meet Him. However, some of the disciples in Jerusalem were convinced He would come back during their lifetime. They sold their houses and land, giving the money to meet the needs that arose.

Soon there were so many followers of Jesus Christ that Herod, the ruler of Jerusalem, decided he'd have to do something about them. The religious fanatics among the Jews killed Stephen



by stoning him. After that, Jesus' followers left Jerusalem. They went to Jewish synagogues in different cities and shared about Jesus in many different places. People repented and were baptized. Followers of Jesus Christ were first called Christians in Antioch. In time, the word "Christian" became the name used for all followers of Christ.

The Church of Saint Peter in Antioch was built at the site of the cave where early Christians met in secret during times of persecution.



# WHO AM I?

Olga MARTYNOVA

Let me introduce myself, I am a rare wonder of God's creation. After the elephant, my relatives and I are the largest of the land animals. Our bodies are usually 10 to 15 feet long and as much as 6.5 feet high. Our weight of two to four tons is very fitting for creatures as large as us. Our bodies may be massive and we do have short legs, but that doesn't mean we're slow like turtles. In fact, I can run pretty quickly and even reach speeds of 40 miles per hour. Our hides are thick and gray or brown. The skin of our Indian relatives gathers in folds that make it look like they're wearing armor made of separate plates.

Our main distinguishing feature is a horn on the nose. There may be one horn or two, depending on the species. The front horn grows above the nasal bone and – among species that have two horns – the second grows above the frontal bones of the skull. The largest known horn was about five feet long! It's because of our horns that we're often killed by poachers. According to the legends of the East, our horns have special medicinal value. Ground into a powder, they are said to be able to restore a person's youth and cure diseases like epilepsy and plagues. Modern medicine does not believe these claims, but the stories live on and we continue to be hunted. Some people believed that a cup made from our horn

would crack if anything poisonous was poured into it. That's why many rulers who feared being poisoned would give almost anything for a cup made from one of our horns.

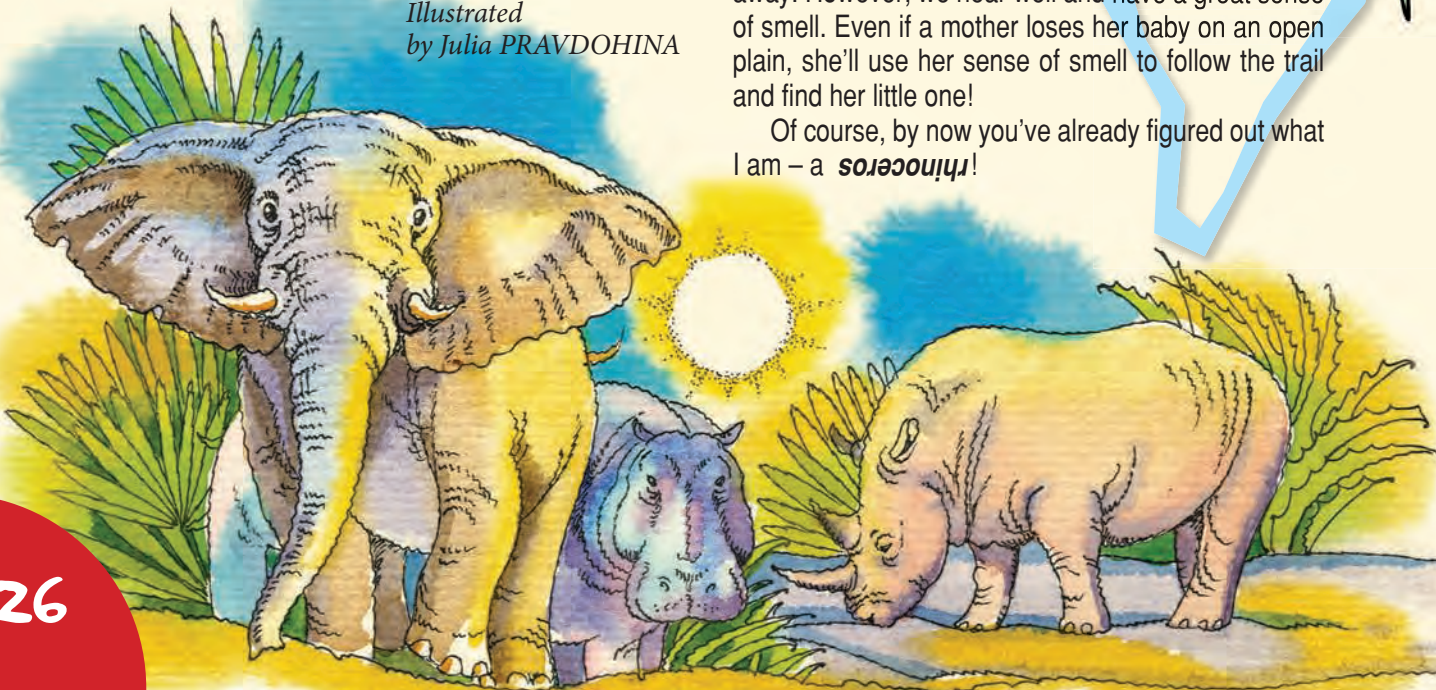
Out of the many species that once made up our family, there are only five left. Three of them live in Asia. The white species is the most common while the least common species include the Javan and Sumatran. Our Javan relatives are the most endangered large mammals in the world. Only a couple dozen of them are left on a preserve in Java. The black and white species live in Central and Western Africa. Our white relatives aren't actually white. They have wide mouths so the name white may have come from someone mistaking the word wide for white.

We eat grass and plants, but don't make the mistake of thinking we're harmless like sheep. We're very dangerous and unpredictable. We're also very strong. Once, in 1928, one of us knocked two train boxcars off the tracks!

Although we can see what's right in front of us, we're nearsighted and can't see things that are far away. However, we hear well and have a great sense of smell. Even if a mother loses her baby on an open plain, she'll use her sense of smell to follow the trail and find her little one!

Of course, by now you've already figured out what I am – a **rhinoceros**!

Illustrated by Julia PRAVDOHINA



## QUESTIONS and ANSWERS



WHO

WHAT

When

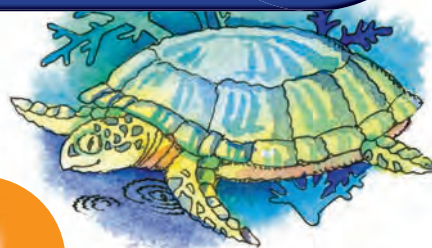
Why

Where

How

## Did You Know?

Illustrated by Julia PRAVDOHINA



**1** The largest of all turtles is the **leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)**. It can be up to 6.5 feet long and weigh 1,500 pounds. The span of the two front flippers may be 9 feet wide! This turtle is different from the other sea turtles because its carapace is covered by skin instead of a bony shell. Although clumsy on land, these turtles can swim at speeds of almost 22 miles per hour and reach a depth of nearly 4,200 feet when diving.

**2**

The largest of all crocodiles is the **saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)**. These reptiles can be up to 20 feet long and weigh 2,200 pounds. Adult crocodiles are strong enough to hunt and kill animals like horses and water buffalo. They are found in tropical waters from India all the way to Australia.



**3**

The largest of all frogs is the **goliath frog (*Conraua Goliath*)**. With a length of 13 inches, it's no wonder that this frog is named after a giant in the Old Testament. It really is a giant among the amphibians! When measured from snout to back flippers, this frog is nearly 3 feet long. Adult goliath frogs weigh up to 8 pounds and live in sandy, fast-flowing rivers.

**4**

The largest primate is the **gorilla (*Gorilla*)**. Adult gorillas can be 5 feet 9 inches high and weigh 440 pounds. Female gorillas only weigh half as much as the males. These peace-loving giants live in Africa and they're mostly vegetarians. A gorilla may eat up to 40 pounds of food per day.



The largest of the seals is the **elephant seal (*Mirounga*)**, also called the sea elephant. These animals live both on land and in the water. When they dive to catch their favorite food, sea elephants can hold their breath for over 100 minutes. Males can be 16 feet long and weigh 6,000 pounds while females are usually only 10 feet long and weigh 1,900 pounds. Sea elephants got their name because the males have a proboscis that looks a little like an elephant's trunk.

**5**

**6**

The largest land animal is the **African Bush Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)**. These elephants can be 24 feet long and 11.5 feet high. The average African elephant weighs 13,000 to 20,000 pounds. In one day, an elephant eats about 500 pounds of food (that's 5% of its body weight) and drinks 50 gallons of water!



# Solve the riddles and color the pictures!

Natasha BOYKOV

Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA



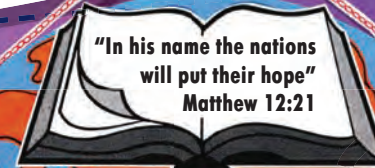
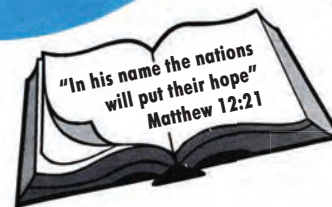
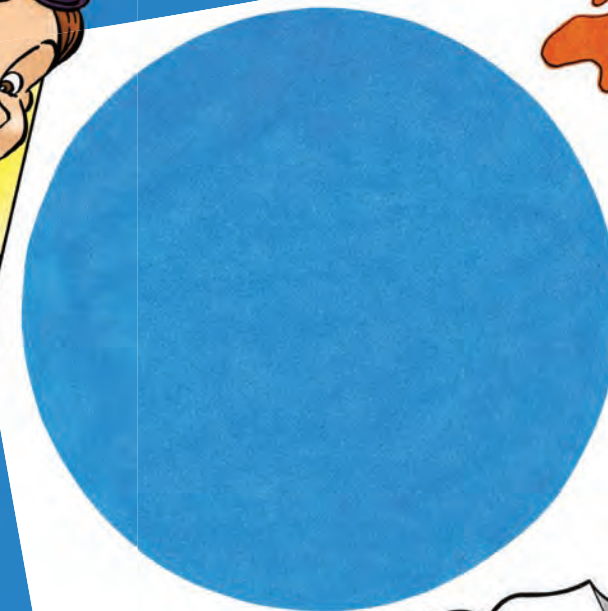
At God's command he built an ark,  
And the animals knew to come two by two.  
Then it started to rain and floodwaters came.  
Do you know this man's name?



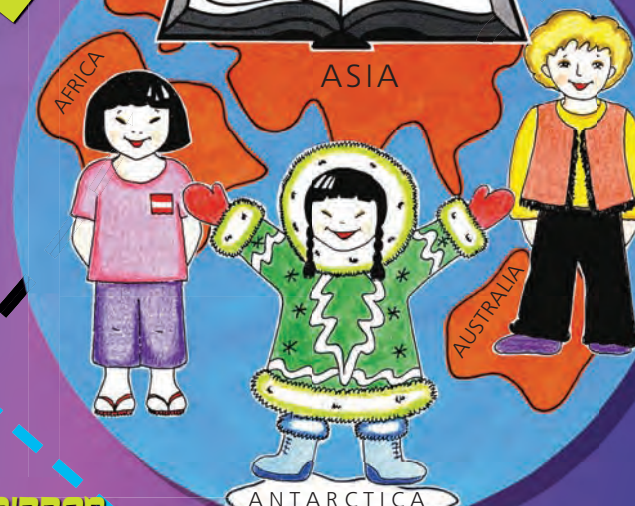
He was thrown in the lions' den  
Because three times a day he knelt to pray,  
But the lions never hurt him in any way  
And the king rejoiced that this man was okay!

## CRAFT CORNER

# COLLAGE



CUT OUT THE PIECES AND GLUE THEM TOGETHER AS SHOWN BELOW. OR MAKE A COPY OF THE PAGE, COLOR IT, AND THEN CUT THE PIECES OUT AND GLUE THEM TOGETHER.



GLUE A RIBBON OR A PIECE OF YARN TO THE BACK, AND THEN YOU CAN HANG YOUR COLLAGE IN THE WINDOW OR ON THE WALL.

Created and Illustrated by Julia ILCHUK



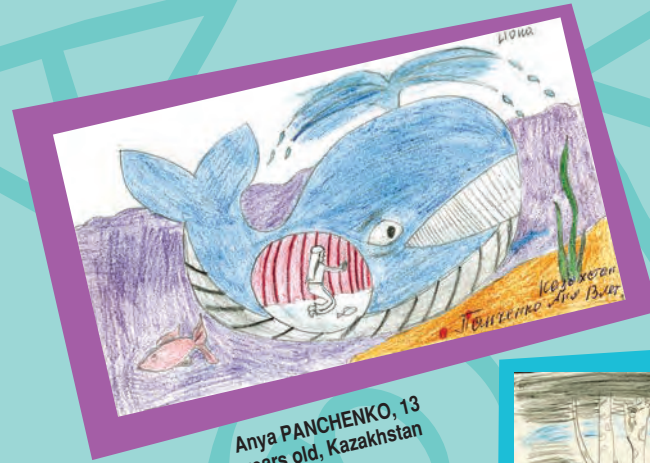
Hello Tropinka! We, the teachers and staff of Volgodonsk Christian School in Volgodonsk, Russia want to wish you all the best. Our school is very different from the other schools in Russia. We have 70 students. They study the subjects taught in all public schools, but in addition to that, the 1<sup>st</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders have two Bible classes each week. Almost all of our teachers are Christians and they tell the students about God not just in Bible class, but in all classes. As a school we celebrate holidays like Christmas, Easter, and Harvest Blessings. The poems and articles in Tropinka help us celebrate these holidays. Furthermore, we use some Tropinka articles – the ones about Christian authors like H. Beecher Stowe, K. Roy, and J. Bunyan – in our reading and literature classes. In these classes, students also read books by these Christian authors. Our school is 10 years old and we have been ordering Tropinka for the school library all 10 years. Right now we even have a display showing Tropinka from 1996 to present day. Many of our students also subscribe to Tropinka so they can reread their favorite magazine at home. Each time we receive a new issue of Tropinka we read it together in what we call "Tropinka Hour." Everyone at school also enjoys the different Bible assignments that are printed in the magazine. Tropinka, thank you for teaching us more about Jesus. We hope you continue to bring joy to your readers in the years to come. May God bless all the workers of this magazine!



Julia SVIRZHEVSKAYA, 8 years old, USA



Alina NAKAZNA, 11 years old, Ukraine



Anya PANCHENKO, 13 years old, Kazakhstan



Andrei DRAGAN, 11 years old, Moldova



Ivan GUSEV, 10 years old



Bringing the Ark of the Covenant into the Temple

Vasya OMEKOVETS, 11 years old, Ukraine



Philip LOBANOV, 12 years old, Russia



The Burning Bush  
Oleg HOLENKO, 13 years old

My name is Sergei VESYOLIH. I was saved on February 28 and got baptized on January 7, 2009. I'm very thankful for the many people I've met since I've come to know the Lord. Now I've started writing poems and I want to use them to bring glory to God.

Answers

- Page 2: Then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.
- Page 10: 1-A, 2-C, 3-H, 4-I, 5-D, 6-E, 7-F, 8-G, 9-B, 10-J.
- Page 11: Praise the LORD, all you nations for great is His love toward us.
- Page 18: 2 (1 Chronicles 6:3).

20	-	15	=	5
-	-	-	=	+
13	+	2	=	15
=	=	=	=	=
7	+	13	=	20

- Page 19: Desert of Paran – Ishmael, Desert of Shur – Moses, Desert of Judea – John the Baptist, Desert of Sinai – Israelites, Desert of Zin – Miriam, Desert of Ziph – David.
- Page 22: Across: 1. Zipporah 3. Nile 6. Lamb 7. Manna 9. Sinai 11. Seven 12. Shiphrah 14. Firstborn 15. Moses 16. Blood  
Down: 2. Pharaoh 4. Levi 5. Snake 8. Midian 10. Gershom 13. Reuel.
- Page 23: 1. Bezalel, 2. Gideon, 3. Eleazar, 4. Isaac.
- Page 28: 1. Noah, 2. Daniel.

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For elementary and middle school age children.





# GREAT IS THE NAME OF GOD!

Ilya VEZIKOV

Great is the name of God,  
To Him we sing our praise,  
Mighty is He to aid,  
And faithful in all ways.

He made the mountains tall,  
The oceans He made strong,  
Great is the name of God,  
Shall always be our song!

Great is the name of God,  
He is a King who saves,  
So let us worship Him,  
Who is faithful in all ways.



Anna UMNOVA, 11 years old, Russia



Irina GORINA, Ukraine

Moses and the Burning Bush



ВЛАДИЧЕНКО Diana, 9 years old, Ukraine



Maria SUHAYA, 7 years old, Ukraine