

Tropinkka

The Little Path

Christian Magazine for Kids

Remembering the Sabbath Day



Exploring Faith
With Friends
Around the World!



PRETTY LITTLE FLOWERS

Pretty little flower,
Smiling brightly, nodding,
Why are you so happy?
Why are your leaves bobbing?

Silly little boy,
I was made by God.
That's why I'm so happy;
Why I smile and nod.

Furry little bunny,
Why are your ears flopping?
Are you also happy
As you're running, hopping?

Yes, dear little boy,
God takes care of me.
I am His creation.
He meets all my needs.

Little chirping sparrow
Stretching out your wings,
Why are you so happy?
Why does your heart sing?

Little boy, because
God is very wise
He made birds like me
To fly and fill the skies.

Little boy, remember,
God is great and kind.
Lovingly He calls you
To come and be His child.

Illustrated
by Margarita KHREBTENKO

THE HOLIDAY

Part 5

Elena MIKULA

Mary and Peter had plans for Saturday. They wanted to continue working on the Ten Commandments model. That day, when the doorbell rang, Mary ran to open the door. It was Peter. He stood on the doorstep with a huge smile on his face and a container in his hands.

"Hi Peter!" Mary said. "You look like you're very happy about something. What did you bring?"

"Cherry pie. It's my favorite."

"Did you bring it for a special reason? Are you celebrating something?" Mary asked.

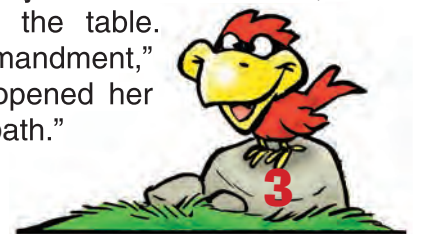
"No, no special reason. My mom always makes special food on the weekends and I thought we could eat it as a snack."



"Great! I'll get some cups and make hot apple cider!"

"How about we work on the project and after that we'll work on eating the pie," Peter suggested.

They did just that. Mary laid the cardboard, markers, and paper on the table. "We're on the fourth commandment," she announced as she opened her Bible. "It's about the Sabbath."



"Sabbath means Saturday, right? I guess we'll find out if we can eat cherry pie on Saturday!" Peter joked.

Mary read the fourth commandment. "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."

"Mary, does that mean we can't work on the Ten Commandments model today?" Peter said with a sad look on his face. "If we're not allowed to work then how can I do my homework or help my mom? I'm supposed to vacuum the house this Saturday. It sounds like the only thing we're allowed to do is eat cherry pie!"



"That's not exactly what those verses mean," Mary answered. "Jesus, Himself, helped people on the Sabbath. For example, He healed the man with a shriveled hand." Mary opened her Bible to the fourth chapter of Matthew. "People told Jesus He was breaking the fourth commandment but He said to them, 'If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.'"

"I understand that," Peter said. "Of course you have to save the sheep. But

what about vacuuming? Maybe it's better if I vacuum on Sunday. No, that won't work. I wanted to go to church with you on Sunday. What do I do?"

"You know, Peter, God gave this commandment to the Israelites so they would work for six days and set aside the seventh day for God. Saturday is the seventh day of the week. It's also Saturday is the day Jewish people go to the synagogue and worship God. Sunday is the day Christians go to church and worship God. Sunday is our day that's set aside for God, our Sabbath. That's why I think it's a good idea not to make plans for vacuuming or cleaning or working in the yard on Sunday. Do you understand?"

"I think so, but what if my mom asks me to help her wash the dishes on Sunday? Then what do I do?"



"Of course you should help her!" Mary answered.

"Because helping Mom with the dishes is kind of like lifting the sheep out of the pit?" Peter said.

"Yes. Jesus taught that we can do what is good on any day."

Peter leaned over Mary's Bible and looked over the fourth commandment. "How about we write this on our Ten Commandments model: 'Remember the Sabbath day



Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

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."

When she finished writing out the fourth commandment, Mary put everything away. Then she brought out and served hot apple cider and cherry pie!

"This pie is wonderful," Mary exclaimed and she took another big bite.

"Yup," Peter smiled, "There's nothing like resting with a piece of pie after doing some hard work."

(To be continued)



Natasha BOYKOV

A Special Day

“God blessed the seventh day and made it holy” (Genesis 2:3).

A special day,
A holy day,
Sunday!
We're going to visit God's house.
Faces clean and bright, all dressed up,
Let's go! We're going to visit God's house!

Walking into the church,
I wave to my friends.
People smile, they're so glad they came.
Music plays, we sing songs —
We sing them to God,
Our Creator, who made everything.

In the first six days God created the world,
Made the stars, and hung them in space.
When the seventh day came — God rested.
He has told us to do the same.

Sunday's a special day.
After a busy week
We need to rest.
God gives us rest.
Come with me,
Let's go to God's house!

Did you know...

that King David appointed 4000 singers and musicians to praise God in the temple? (1 Chronicles 23:5)

Illustrated by Inna KOZINA

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The Fourth Commandment



What's your favorite day of the week? When I was a boy, my favorite day was Sunday. Mother always baked something special for that day. My parents were very strict about observing the Sabbath. They said God Himself commanded us to work (or study and do schoolwork) for six days and rest on the seventh day. This commandment is recorded for us in the Bible:

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy” (Exodus 20:8)



When I woke up, I would see Mother in the kitchen as she set the table. Father would be in the living room, reading the Bible. We knew after breakfast we'd go to church at Karaganda, the large city not far from our small mining town. At church, we listened to the choir's singing and the message of the preacher. Often there were so many people at church that they didn't all fit inside the building. We went home for lunch and, as a rule, we always had guests. After lunch, my parents and the guests sang, read from the Bible, and got into heated discussions about one topic or another. I knew they talked about what they read in the Bible, but I was too young to understand their discussion. While they talked, I drew pictures, played, and read books. Later, we went to the evening service at church. That's how we spent our day of rest.

The fourth commandment — “Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy” — connects the commandments that talk about our relationship with God and our relationship with others. God cares about us. He wants us to have a day to calm our hearts and rest from everyday jobs like schoolwork, cleaning, or working at the office. We find this rest by spending time with God while reading His Word — the Bible — and going to church to worship God with other believers.

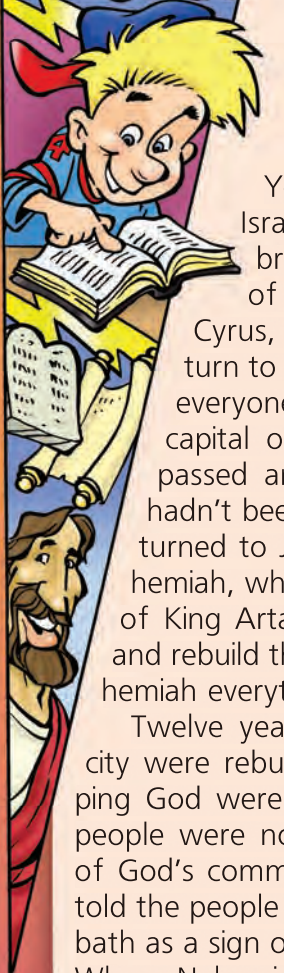
Why do Christians say Sunday is their day of rest? I think it's because the early church started doing this right after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the first day of the week, they would get together to pray, worship God, study His Word, and have Communion.

Sabbath means “rest” in Hebrew. God gave the Sabbath, a day of rest, to the people of Israel as a symbol of His relationship with them. I think that's why the first Christians chose the day Jesus Christ rose from the dead as their day of rest. The day Christ rose from the dead is a very special day! The Church was also born on this day. (You can read about it in the second chapter of Acts — be sure to pay attention to what it says about when this happened.)

In His law, God commanded us to remember the Sabbath. God knows it is very important for us to have peace in our hearts. That's why He gave us this commandment.

Waldemar ZORN





Nehemiah and the Day of Rest

Waldemar ZORN

You probably know that once, long ago, the Israelites were led away into captivity and brought to Babylon. After seventy years of captivity, during the reign of King Cyrus, the people received permission to return to Judah, their homeland; however, not everyone decided to go back. Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, was in ruins. Many years passed and important parts of the city still hadn't been rebuilt even though many had returned to Judah. God called a man named Nehemiah, who had a high position during the reign of King Artaxerxes, to also return to his homeland and rebuild the walls of the city. The king gave Nehemiah everything he needed to do this job.

Twelve years passed. The walls of the city were rebuilt and services for worshipping God were held in the temple, but the people were not following even the simplest of God's commands. For example, God had told the people of Israel to rest on the Sabbath as a sign of His relationship with them. When Nehemiah traveled through Judah on the Sabbath, he saw people harvesting crops and making wine. Others were loading goods onto their donkeys and taking these goods to Jerusalem. In the city of Jerusalem, the Sabbath was a busy market day, instead of a day of rest. Nehemiah was very upset by such careless behavior toward God's law. He commanded the gates of the city to be closed on Friday, the day before the Sabbath. Since the city



walls had already been rebuilt, the only way into the city was through the guarded gates.

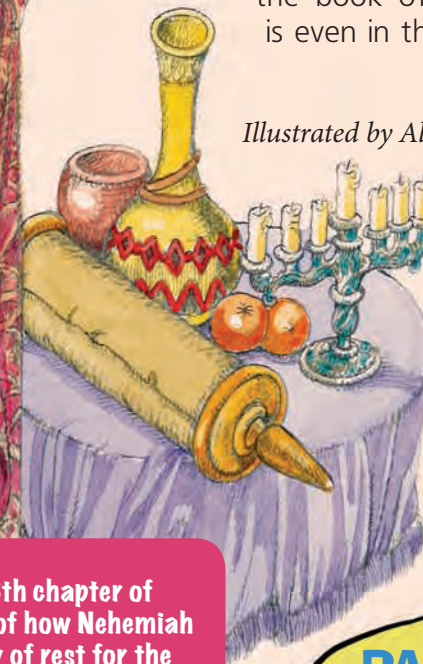
A couple times, merchants from other countries came and brought their goods on the Sabbath. Since they couldn't enter the city until the Sabbath was over, they spent the night outside the city walls. As a result, the area by the gate was filled with barking dogs, bleating sheep, neighing horses, and shouting merchants. So much noise on the Sabbath, the day of peace and rest! Nehemiah threatened to punish the merchants very severely if they ever came back on the Sabbath and disrupted the day of rest. Once the merchants understood they were not allowed to spend the night outside the city gates, Jerusalem was once again peaceful and quiet on the Sabbath.

Nehemiah also spoke to the people in the city who didn't rest on the Sabbath. He reminded them that their fathers went into captivity because they didn't keep the law God gave to Israel when He established His covenant with Moses and the people. Nehemiah told the people, "You are stirring up more wrath against Israel by breaking the Sabbath."

Nehemiah gave the job of guarding the gates to the Levites who served at the temple. That way, they could make sure the Sabbath was a day of rest. As they started reading and following God's law, the people of Israel once again became different from the pagan nations around them.

As governor of Judah, Nehemiah honored God's law and made sure it was followed by the people. God blessed him in a special way. His book, the book of Nehemiah, is even in the Bible!

Illustrated by Alexander BASS



If you open your Bible to the 13th chapter of Nehemiah, you can read the story of how Nehemiah made sure the Sabbath was a day of rest for the people of Israel.

DO NOT ENTER!

By Nehemiah's command, the gates of Jerusalem stayed shut on the Sabbath. Figure out which word goes in which box and you'll discover what Nehemiah said to God after he made sure the people of Jerusalem honored the day of rest.

REMEMBER	ME
	THIS
	O
MY	
AND	
	TO
ME	
TO	YOUR

(Nehemiah 13:22)

GOD

FOR

SHOW

LOVE

GREAT

ALSO

ACCORDING

MERSY

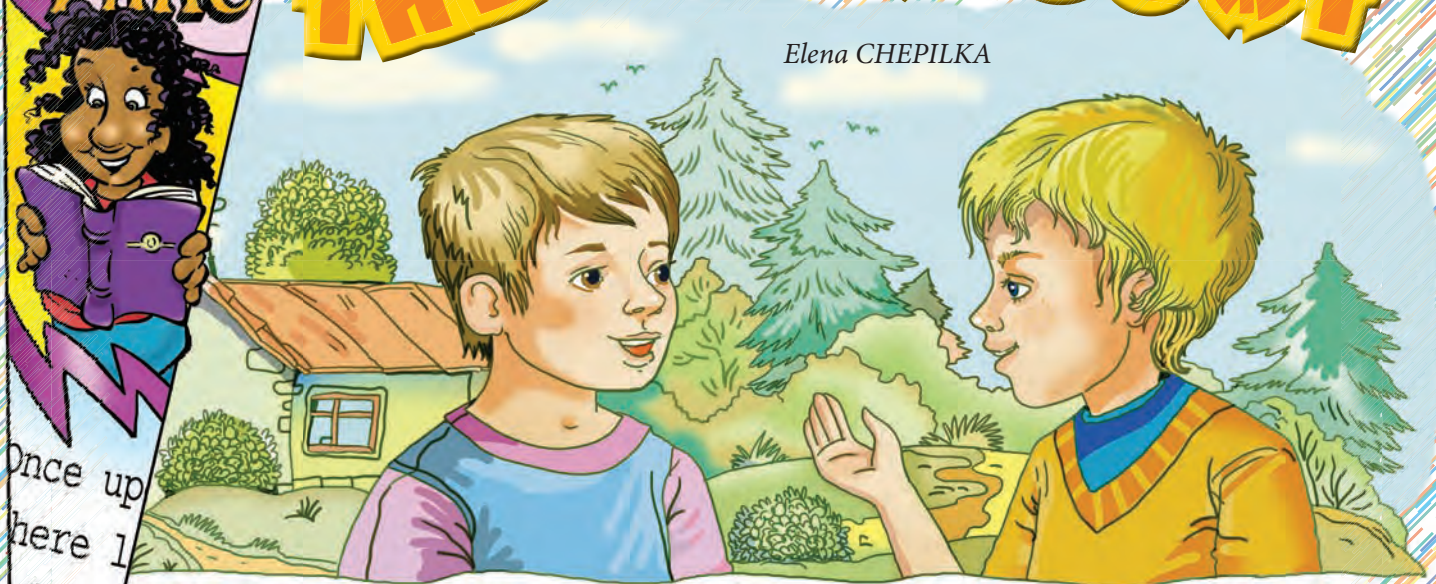
For answers, see
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Story Time

THE BABY GOAT

Elena CHEPILKA



Seth spent the first days of summer vacation unpacking boxes and missing his friends. His family had just moved to a new town because of his dad's job. After they cleaned the rooms of the new house and unpacked the most important boxes, Seth's mother said he could go outside and look over the neighborhood. Walking down the sidewalk, Seth studied the houses on both sides of the street and wondered what kind of people lived in each one. Did they have any kids? What about a dog or a cat? Then he saw a boy about his age with a large backpack on his back and a walking stick in his hands.

"I'm going to explore the woods," the boy announced. "Want to come?"

That's how Seth first met Brandon. They spent the rest of the day exploring the fields and woods behind the neighborhood. In the days that followed, they became good friends. Brandon taught Seth how to spot and avoid poison ivy, where

to catch tadpoles, and what kind of farms used to be in the area. Together, they discovered a patch of wild blackberries and found a great hiding spot behind some bushes at the edge of the pond. From that hiding spot, they could watch baby ducks swimming after their mother.

Brandon had a great imagination. They pretended they were pioneers looking for a place to build a log cabin or a pair of Indians hunting deer in the forest with bows and arrows. Every Saturday, after a week of climbing trees and exploring the woods, Seth invited his friend to come to church with him on Sunday morning. Each time, Brandon said he wasn't interested. Seth knew Brandon didn't like hearing about God, so he started praying for his friend.

"We should build a fort," Brandon said one day. "We'll make sure it has a roof that doesn't leak when it rains and we'll put a fence



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around it to protect us from all the wild animals.”

Seth smiled. The biggest wild animals they had seen in the woods were squirrels. “Sure, let’s build a fort!” he agreed.

“We’ll have to find the perfect spot for it. Let’s build it on top of a hill!” They looked around. There weren’t many hills in the area. “Come on!”

Searching for the perfect spot, they went deeper and deeper into the woods. After a while, Seth didn’t recognize any of the landmarks. He had never been to this part of the forest. It felt like they had been exploring for hours, but Brandon looked like he knew where he was going, so Seth followed his friend and didn’t say anything.

Suddenly, they heard barking and snarling. It sounded like a fight. Brandon gripped

his walking stick tightly as he crept toward the noise. Hiding behind one of the trees, he peeked into the meadow. “It’s a goat,” he whispered to Seth. “There’s a dog attacking a goat. She’s hurt. I think her leg is broken so she can’t run away. Quick, grab a stick. We’ve got to help her!”

“What? Brandon, we can’t go out there. It’s too dangerous! What if the dog attacks us?”

Just then, they heard the goat bleating and thrashing around. Yelling at the top of his lungs, Brandon waved his stick in the air and ran toward the dog. Seth remembered reading about dogs with rabies and how dangerous they were. What if this was one of those dogs? He couldn’t let it hurt his friend, so he grabbed a stick and ran after Brandon.

Seeing two boys yelling and running toward it with sticks must have scared the dog because it yelped and ran off into the woods. Seth and Brandon carefully approached the goat. It lay on its side, its matted fur covered with bright red blood. Even the grass around it was bloody.

“Seth, we have to do something!” Brandon cried, but it was too late. The goat’s legs started twitching and, within minutes, it was dead. The boys stood staring at the dead goat. Brandon had tears in his eyes. Seth wished he could think of something to say, but no words came to mind.

Several feet away, a twig snapped. Seth and Brandon looked up and saw a baby goat. It tried to get to its feet, but shook so much that it kept falling and getting tangled in the thorny thicket growing at the edge of the meadow.

“Hey there, it’s okay. We’re not going to hurt you. Did you and your mommy get lost in the woods?” Moving slowly, Brandon reached for the baby goat and started to untangle it from the plants. The frightened baby goat kept bleating. “It’s okay, the dog is gone. I know you want your mommy, but don’t be afraid, we’ll take care of you.”

Once they got the little goat out of the thicket, the boys took turns holding it and trying to get it to calm down. “It’s probably hungry,” Seth said. “What should we do? Bring it home with us?”

“We can’t leave it here,” Brandon replied. He picked up the little goat and led the way out of the clearing. The boys tried walking back in the direction they had come, but nothing looked familiar. After a while, Brandon admitted he was lost. They walked a little further. The baby goat kept





Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

Did you know...
that the Bible mentions
the Sabbath more often
than any other day of
the week?

bleating and the boys knew it was scared and hungry. Finally, Brandon sat down on a log and hid his face in the baby goat's fur. "I have no idea where we are. We might be walking in circles or walking deeper into the woods."

"Let's pray and ask God to help us," Seth suggested.

"You go ahead and pray if you want to, but it's not going to do any good."

Seth got down on his knees and started praying. He asked God to protect them and help them get back home.

"So did God tell you which way to go?" Brandon teased as soon as he saw his friend was finished praying. Seth was about to admit he still didn't know how to get home when he heard the rustling of someone or something moving through the forest. The rustling sounded like

footsteps. They hurried toward the sound and saw a man in a green jacket with a big backpack on his back. The man introduced himself as Jake Vanderveen. He was on his way home after bow hunting in the woods. The boys told him they were lost and explained why they were carrying a baby goat.

"Follow me, I'll show you the shortest way back to the road," Mr. Vanderveen said. Once they were out of the woods, he asked Seth and Brandon if they knew anything about taking care of a baby goat.

"I used to keep goats," Mr. Vanderveen explained. "Bottle-feeding such a little one is tricky, but it can be done. If you want, I'll take the kid — that's what you call a baby goat — and pick up some milk formula at the farm supply store down the road. You can come by my house tomorrow and see how your little friend is doing." Seth and

Brandon agreed. Mr. Vanderveen took the goat and gave the boys directions to his house. The boys made plans to come and check on the baby goat tomorrow after breakfast. Then Seth said "goodbye" to Brandon and hurried home. He didn't want his family to worry about him and wonder where he was.

The next day, Seth and Brandon walked to Mr. Vanderveen's house. The hunter met them at the door and took them to a small animal pen in the barn. They saw the baby goat lying under a blanket in a corner of a pen. It looked like it was sick. "I tried to feed him last night, but he wouldn't eat," Mr. Vanderveen said. "I'm going to try again this morning." He left the boys with the baby goat and went back to the house to get the bottle of milk.

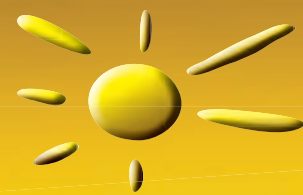
"Seth, do you think God heard you praying in the woods and answered you

by sending Mr. Vanderveen?" Brandon asked. Seth nodded. "Then maybe you should pray again. Pray that the baby goat will drink the milk and not die."

"Okay, I'll pray, but you should pray too. You believe God can save the baby goat, right? After I finish praying, you pray and ask God to help the baby goat. When you're done say 'Amen.'"

The boys knelt beside the animal pen and prayed together for the first time. Once Mr. Vanderveen came back with the bottle of goat milk, the baby goat quickly figured out what to do with the bottle and drank all the milk! The boys knew God had heard their prayer. Their little goat continued to grow all summer. It helped Seth and Brandon see that God answers prayers and, most importantly, it gave Seth many opportunities to tell Brandon about Jesus Christ.

The Negev Desert



"I got an email from Larissa!" Jill started telling her friend, Andrea, about the email Larissa had written. Just then, the bell rang and they hurried to class. "I printed it out. We can read it at recess," Jill whispered as they sat down and started working on the morning assignment.

Larissa's family had moved to Israel two years ago and settled in Beersheba, the capital of the Negev. In her emails, Larissa often described life in her new home. That's how Andrea and Jill knew that Beersheba was 71 miles away from Tel Aviv, the city where the cultivated land ended and the desert and plains began.

Larissa had written, telling them that Beersheba is one of the largest industrial centers in Israel. Most of the people living there are immigrants (Jews who have returned to their homeland). The ancient city of Beersheba, mentioned in the Bible, is on a hill just a few miles away from the modern city. When archeologists started uncovering that ancient city, they saw evidence of a great Hebrew settlement. This ancient Beersheba is the only city in Israel where archeologists found a plan for the city in their archeological dig. Beersheba was named by Abraham, who dug a well in this area to water his sheep. The first part of the name means "well" and the second part means "to swear an oath."



Excavations of ancient Beersheba

At recess, Jill found Andrea and together they read Larissa's email.

"Yesterday we got back from our family vacation to Eilat — that's a city on the shore of the Red Sea. I've heard Beersheba is about 150 miles away from Eilat. We drove the whole way on a road that runs across the Negev desert. This desert is huge! It covers more than half of Israel! If you're in the middle of the Negev, you've got the Mediterranean Sea to the west, the Desert of Sinai to the north, the Judean Desert to the east, and the Arabah valley to the south. In Hebrew, the word "Negev" means "dry." This was my first time crossing the desert. Maybe that's why it made such an impression on me. When you're traveling through the desert, you've got this strange, new landscape all around you. There are sandstone plateaus to the north and to the west. People can farm in these parts of the Negev because water is brought in through a special irrigation system. If you look at the limestone

hills to the south, you'll find deep canyons with red cliffs and hills covered in lavender. Acacias sway in the breeze. Mountain goats live on those hills and cliffs. Flocks of migrating birds stop in the Negev Desert on their travels. There are craters called makhteshim. They're only found in the Negev Desert. "Makhtesh Ramon" is the largest of these craters. An interesting sculpture park was built on the edge of this crater. Not far from the sculpture park is the famous "Bio Ramon," a botanical-ecological garden where people can see desert animals and six different desert habitats. Each one includes the plants, rock formations, and landscapes that are

normally found in that habitat. I had never seen anything like it before!

"It's exciting to see an oasis when traveling through the desert. There aren't very many of them. We stopped at one because we wanted to take a closer look at what it's like to be in an oasis. We also went to Timna Valley Park. People once said King Solomon had mines in this valley. The park is 15 miles from Eilat. You can walk through the park, drive through it, or order a camel ride and travel by camel! Steep cliffs of red sandstone surround the valley. Some of them are up to 2,700 feet tall. If you visit the park you can see rock drawings, stone arches, and pillar-like cliffs called Solomon's Pillars. These rock formations were formed by wind and water erosion.

"We saw lots of interesting things before we got to our destination. Want to know some other facts about the Negev Desert? Dad said herders and nomads have lived in the Negev since ancient times. Bedouins live there to this day. For centuries, they preserved their tribal lifestyle. The Negev desert is called the cradle of the Hebrew people because famous Bible characters like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob traveled through it. After leaving Egypt, the Israelites tried to cross the Negev twice. They were unsuccessful both times. David hid in the Negev when King Saul wanted to kill him. Also, Joseph took Mary and baby Jesus down a road that led through this desert when they fled from King Herod and went to Egypt.

"Let me tell you a little more about the shore of the Red Sea, where we spent our two-week vacation. The underwater life in this sea is really amazing..."

Just then, the bell rang. Jill and Andrea had to interrupt their reading of Larissa's email and go back to class.



The crater "Makhtesh Ramon"



The underwater world of the Red Sea near Eilat



The road to Eilat runs through the Negev



FOR THE BIBLE

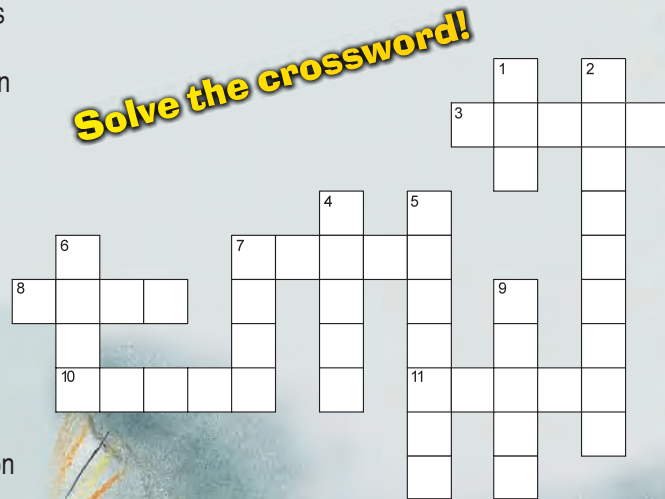
Created by Anastasia FILIPSKAYA
and Natasha BOYKOV

EXPERT



- Across:
3. What was the name of the baby who was put in a basket? (Exodus 2:1-10)
 7. The manna God gave the Israelites was what color? (Exodus 16:31)
 8. What animal did the Israelites worship in the desert? (Exodus 32:1-6)
 10. The waters of Egypt turned to what? (Exodus 7:19-20)
 11. Darkness covered the land of Egypt for how many days? (Exodus 10:21-23)

- Down:
1. Who should we love more than anyone else? (Mark 12:30)
 2. Nehemiah stopped men from Tyre from selling fish and other things in this city on the Sabbath. (Nehemiah 13:15)
 4. On which mountain did God give the Israelites the Ten Commandments? (Exodus 24:12-16)
 5. Who was supposed to guard the gates and help keep the Sabbath holy? (Nehemiah 13:22)
 6. The Israelites put the blood of this animal on the sides and tops of their doorframes. (Exodus 12:1-7)
 7. What did Moses throw into the water to make it sweet? (Exodus 15:22-25)
 9. Moses was supposed to strike the rock found in this place. (Exodus 17:5-6)



Solve the crossword!

Illustrated
by Larisa GOROSHKO



Did you know...

That the Old Testament describes the miracle of God multiplying bread? God did this through the prophet Elisha when he fed 100 men with just 20 loaves of barley (2 Kings 4:42-44).

PEOPLE IN THE DESERT

1 Desert of Paran
He was one of the 12 men who went to spy on the land of Canaan. When he returned to this desert he encouraged the frightened Israelites to conquer the land.

2 Desert of Sinai
While they were in the desert, this priest gave in to the people of Israel and made a golden calf for them to worship.

3 Desert of Shur
The father of all believers lived in this region between Kadesh and Shur.

4 Wilderness of Gibeon
Joab and the men of David under his command pursued the former captain of Saul's troops and his words stopped the battle.

5 Desert of Tekoa
God told this king of Judah and the people who were with him to come to the desert. There, Judah would meet the people of Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites who were coming to fight them.

6 Desert of Maon
The king and his men came to this desert because this king was pursuing his best general out of jealousy toward him.

CALEB
Numbers 13:1-31

SAUL
1 Samuel 23:19-28

ABRAHAM
Genesis 20:1

JEHOSHAPHAT
2 Chronicles 20:1-30

ABNER
2 Samuel 2:12-28

AARON
Exodus 32

Illustrated by Victoria DUNAYEVA

Which Bible character goes with which picture? Match the Bible character name to the desert scene where it belongs.

Created by Elvira ZORN

5. Daily Life

On special holidays we have special decorations, wear nice clothes, and eat special foods. The next day, life goes back to normal. The dirty dishes need to be washed and then it's time to sit down and do homework. Daily life continues. The beginning of Christianity was also a very special time. During the first 300 years of the early church, Christians did great things because of their faith. There are many stories about martyrs and the brave acts of the early Christians, but that's not all that they did. They showed they were Christians every day, at home and at work, through the way they treated their families and the people around them. Sometimes it's harder to be Christ-like in ordinary, everyday situations than when facing unusual hardships.

The early Christians didn't meet in big, beautiful temples or churches where they could sit in comfortable chairs and use things like microphones and projectors. Instead, they met in

each other's homes. Sometimes, because of persecution, they had to meet in the catacombs. These underground tunnels where the Romans buried their dead were the only place where they could safely meet and worship God. In their church services, they sang hymns, prayed, and listened to preachers who explained the Word of God. Everything was very simple and without fancy rituals or traditions.

The Lord's Supper has always had a special place in the life of the church. It is often called the Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving." During the early days of the church, it was held in the evening and combined with a special meal called the agape feast or love feast. Everyone brought food for this feast and shared it with each other so they could all eat together. However, this custom had almost disappeared by the third century A.D.



Justin Martyr, a philosopher who became a Christian in the second century A.D., described how the church celebrated the Eucharist. He wrote, "There is then brought to the president of the brethren bread and a cup of wine mixed with water; and he taking them, gives praise and glory to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Ghost... And when the president has given thanks... those who are called by us deacons give to each of those present to partake of the bread and wine mixed with water over which the thanksgiving was pronounced, and to those who are absent they carry away a portion." Only those who had been baptized were allowed to take part. Everyone else had to leave.

Those who had recently believed and repented were called catechumens. These people declared themselves to be Christians, but were still preparing to be baptized. Often this preparation took a long time — two to three years or even longer. The baptism was usually at the river on Easter or the day of Pentecost. Easter and Pentecost were considered the main Christian holidays. Christmas was hardly celebrated as a church holiday during the first centuries of Christianity.

The early Christians also had the custom of remembering martyrs and teachers. On the anniversary of a martyr's death, the church often had a service at his grave. They read the letters he wrote and described his heroic acts when facing death. After that, the ministers shared a message, prayed, and sometimes gave the Lord's Supper followed by the agape feast, a meal everyone ate together.

The way those Christians behaved looked very different from the behavior of the outside world. Christians didn't worship idols. They also wanted the life of their community to honor God. If a drunkard, a sexually immoral person, or a murderer was found among them, they drove that person out. People who said they were Christians, but during times of persecution continued to worship the Emperor as a god, were also forced to leave the church. However, they could come back if they were sorry for their sins and repented.

The early Christians were courageous, but what impressed the unbelieving world the most was the active love of the Christians. Each church took care of widows, orphans, and the sick. These people had no way to earn a living. Christians encouraged the prisoners and, whenever possible, helped them get released. Sometimes they took up collections of money to help pay the ransom for the release of a prisoner. At other times, these collections helped people in areas where there was sickness or a natural disaster. The early Christians weren't perfect.

They didn't get everything right, but they did try to live by the teachings of Jesus Christ.



Illustrated by Inna KOZINA

Where does the word fit?

Use the words from the word-bank to fill in the blanks of the Bible verses below.

good

lasting

Christ

disciples

city

mud

1. "For Moses has been preached in every _____ from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath" (Acts 15:21).
2. "He said to them, 'If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do _____ on the Sabbath'" (Matthew 12: 11-12).
3. "At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His _____ were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them" (Matthew 12:1).
4. "As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the _____ had to suffer and rise from the dead. 'This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ,' he said" (Acts 17:2-3).
5. "Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. 'He put _____ on my eyes,' the man replied, 'and I washed, and now I see.' Some of Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath'" (John 9:15-16).
6. The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a _____ covenant (Exodus 31:16).

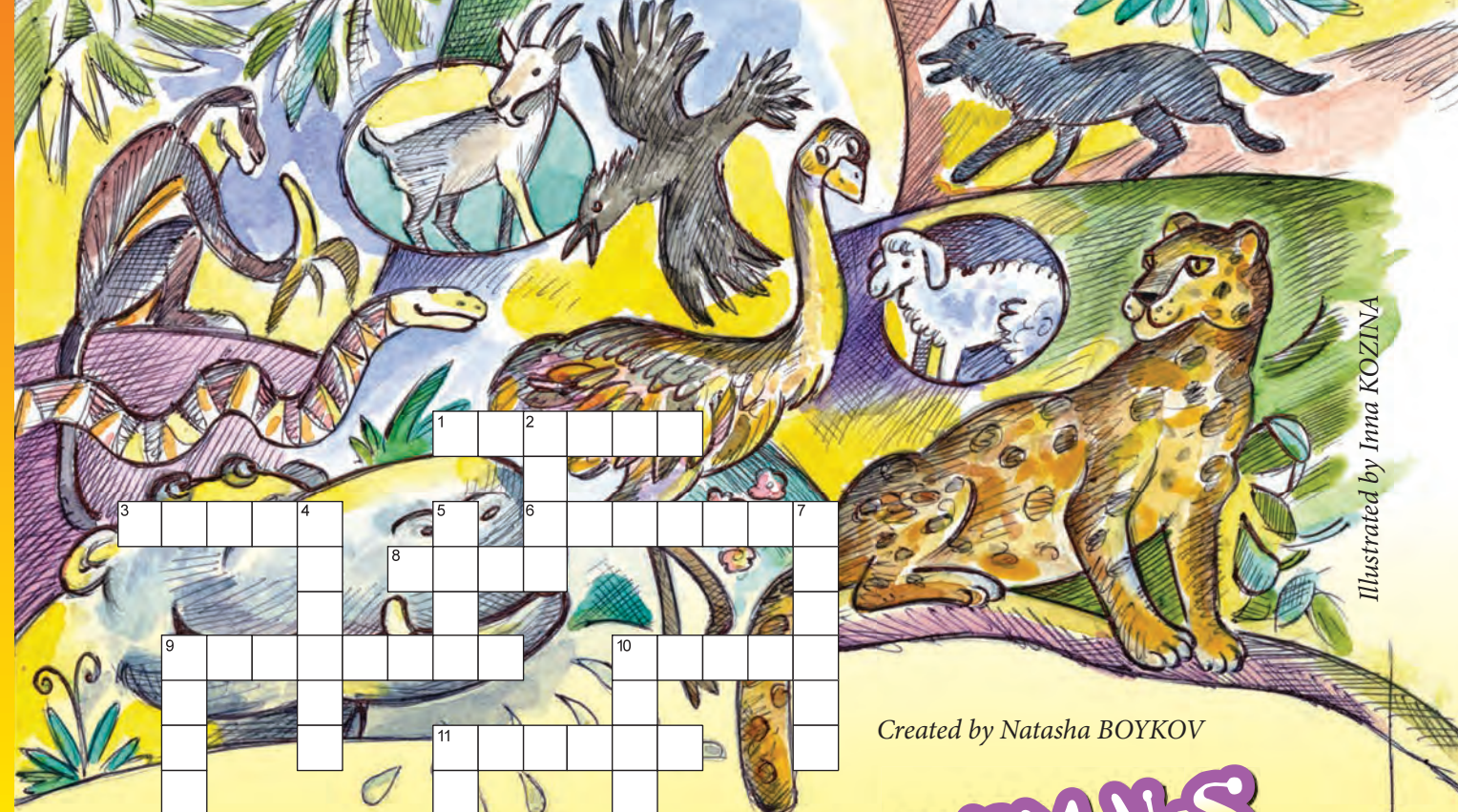
Created by Elvira ZORN

Read the Verse!

What happened to all the vowels in Jen's computer program? Help her fill in the vowels so she can read the Bible verse.

H □ wh □ dw □lls □n th □
 sh □lt □r □f th □ M □st
 H □gh w □ll r □st
 □n th □ sh □d □w
 □f th □ □lm □ght □

For answers, see Page 31



Illustrated by Imma KOZINA

Created by Natasha BOYKOV

ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE

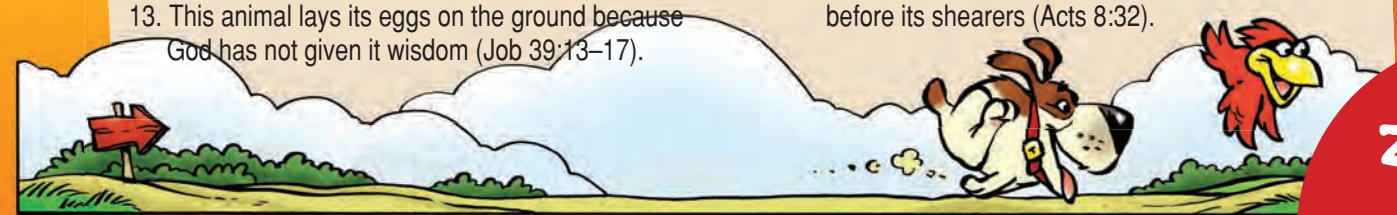
Solve the crossword

Across:

1. They were food for John the Baptist (Matthew 3:4).
3. This very venomous snake did not harm the Apostle Paul (Acts 28:3-5).
6. This animal cannot change its spots (Jeremiah 13:23).
8. This animal and the lamb will feed together (Isaiah 65:25).
9. The limbs of this animal are like rods of iron; its bones are like tubes of bronze. It ranks first among the works of God (Job 40:15-24). This is how the Bible describes what is possibly a dinosaur!
10. This animal is seen in the sky and knows her appointed seasons (Jeremiah 8:7).
11. This animal can be caught with the hands, yet it is found in the palaces of kings (Proverbs 30:28).
12. The Israelites were not supposed to eat this animal, which chews the cud but does not have a divided hoof (Leviticus 11:4).
13. This animal lays its eggs on the ground because God has not given it wisdom (Job 39:13-17).

Down:

2. Aaron made a gold statue of this animal (Exodus 32:4).
4. They brought the prophet Elijah bread and meat (1 Kings 17:6).
5. This animal was sacrificed as a sin offering (Numbers 7:16).
7. This animal spoke with a human voice (Numbers 22:28).
9. King Solomon had a fleet of ships that brought him apes and these animals (1 Kings 10:22).
10. This animal tricked Eve (Genesis 3:1-5).
11. Jesus was compared to this animal which is silent before its shearers (Acts 8:32).



WHO AM I?

I'm an example of one of the oldest family lines among my kind. I come from the Pinaceae family. There are only four species of us left, the Deodar, the Atlas (found in the mountains of Morocco and Algeria), the Cyprus, and yours truly — the Lebanon! The countries that we call home are very proud of us. I, for example, am a national symbol of Lebanon. The people of Lebanon have even put my picture on their country's flag.

What should I tell you about myself? I am tall and strong. When I reach up to the sky I can be up to 130 feet tall. I'm an evergreen and I have cones. Some of us reach the ripe old age of 1000 years and some can be even older! The canopy of the young is cone-like but, as we age, our canopy starts to look like

a wide umbrella. Tired travelers can rest and cool down in the shade of my branches. My needles are green or grayish-bluish green. They can be up to 1.2 inches long and, on young trees, they grow in clusters. My bark is flakey and dark gray. I grow very slowly, I love light, I'm not very picky about the soil, and I can survive for a long time without water. I can also survive frosts as cold as -22°F but I can be hurt by too much water.

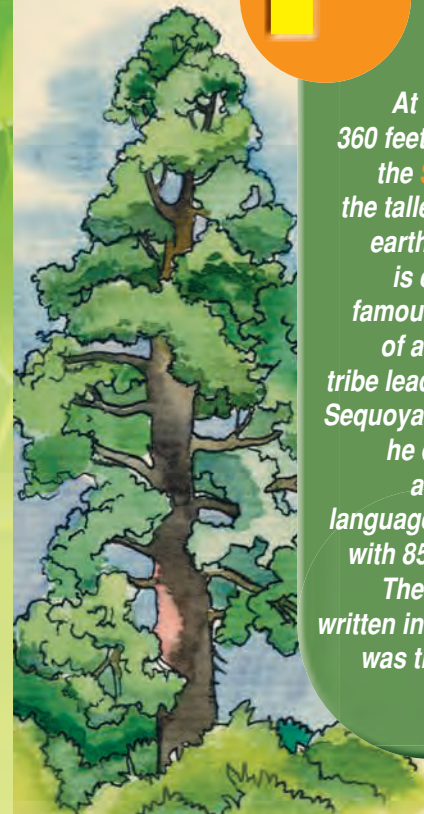
My wood is unique. It's red, aromatic, and has a bitter taste, which is what keeps pests from ruining it! Also, it does not rot. The wood is very solid. At the same time, it's nice and light. No wonder it's considered the best building material in the world! The sarcophagi of the pharaohs were made from my wood and Phoenicians sailed on the Mediterranean Sea in ships made from the trunks of my ancestors. That's not all! I was used to build the temple in Jerusalem and the palaces of King David and King Solomon (1 Kings 9:10–11). However, there's a downside to our popularity. In the past, entire forests of my ancestors were chopped down. That's why people today do everything they can to save us. For example, the Lebanese souvenir sellers who make crafts out of my twigs only use the twigs that have fallen to the ground. They even pay the government for the use of these twigs!

Don't be surprised at my popularity. You'll even find me mentioned in the Scriptures since my name often appears in lines of poetry! The prophet compared my beauty to the prosperity of Israel in Numbers 24:6 and the righteous were said to be like me in height and stature (Psalm 92:12). I'm sure by now you've figured out who I am. That's right — I'm the **Lebanon Cedar** (*Cedrus libani*)!

Olga MARTYNOVA

Illustrated
by Julia PRAVDOHINA

1



Sequoia

At more than 360 feet in height, the **Sequoia** is the tallest tree on earth. Its name is even more famous because of a Cherokee tribe leader named Sequoyah. In 1821, he developed a Cherokee language alphabet with 85 symbols. The first book written in Cherokee was the gospel.

2



Swamp Cypress

The **swamp cypress** — an evergreen tree that can be up to 160 feet tall — has aerial roots that stick up out of the water. These vertical, bottle-shaped roots are several feet tall and help the swamp cypress get the air it needs.

Did you know?



Elephant Tree

5

The **cucumber tree** grows on the island of Socotra, which is in northeastern Africa. This tree is part of the gourd family but it can be up to 20 feet tall with a trunk three feet in diameter. It has spiny leaves and yellow, cucumber-shaped fruit. That's why it's called a cucumber tree.

3

In a storm, the branches of the African **tamarind** tree bend but don't break. They are very, very strong. Grass doesn't grow under this tree and that makes it an important part of a barrier against fire.



Tamarind

Illustrated
by Ekaterina
PRAVDOHINA

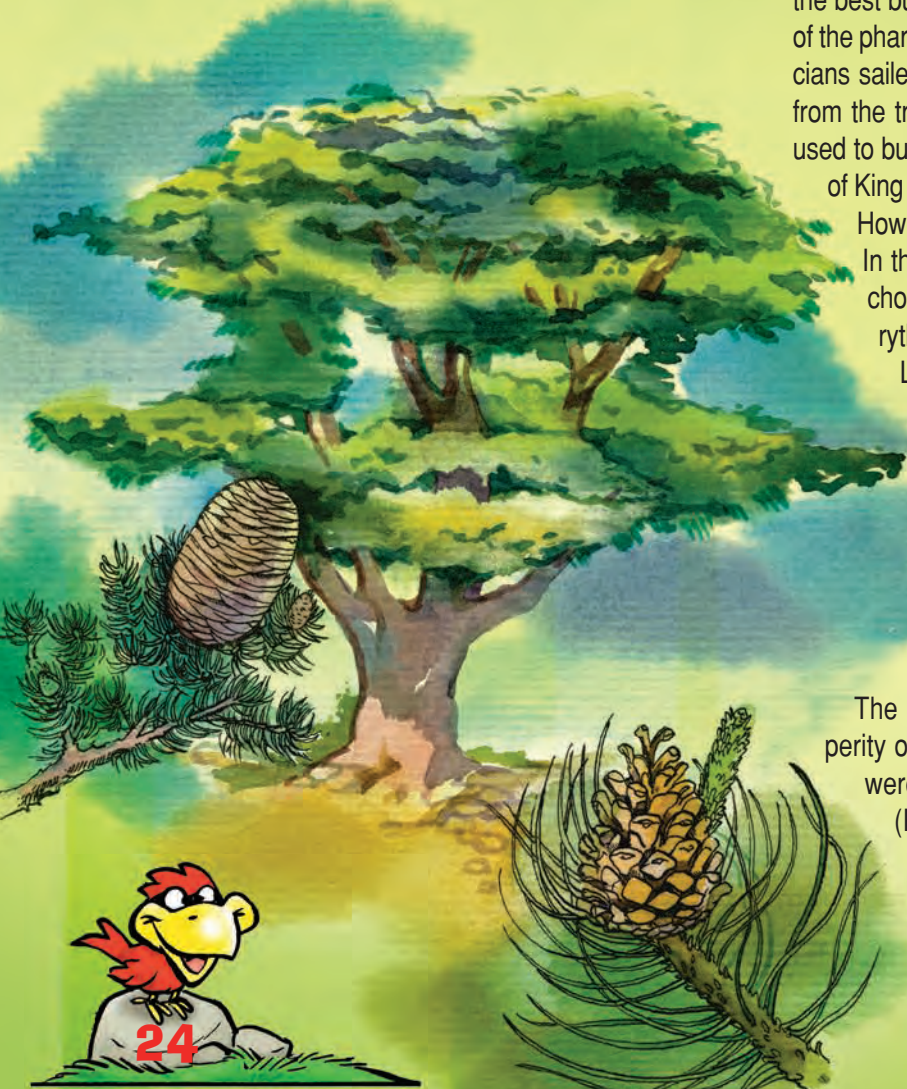
4

Elephant trees grow in California. Their thick trunk and limbs remind people of a tired, worn out elephant. Every year, these trees shed their papery bark.



Cucumber Tree

PAGE
25



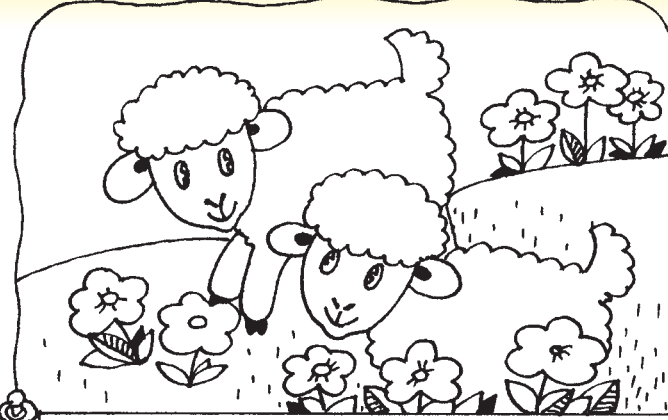
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MIKULA

PSALM 16

Color
the pictures!



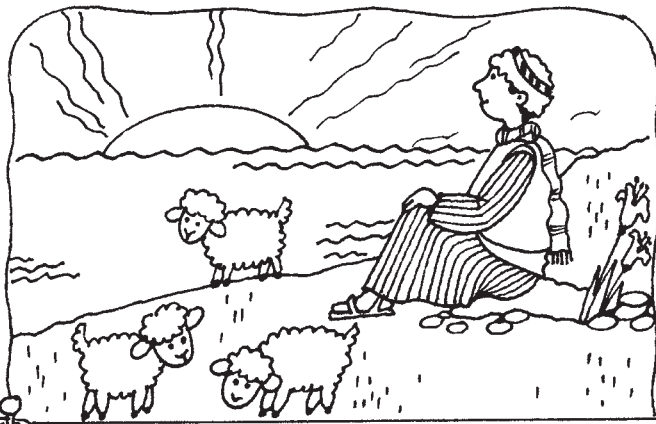
Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.



The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.



I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.



I say to the LORD,
"You are my Lord; apart from you I have
no good thing."



I say of the holy people who are in the land,
"They are the noble ones in whom is
all my delight."



I keep my eyes always on the LORD.
With him at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.



Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body
also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the
realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.



Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on my lips.



LORD, you alone are my
portion and my cup; you
make my lot secure.



You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your
presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.



GOD'S CREATION!

Can you find the names of all 12 animals?

Word search

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



LEAVES

See the autumn leaves
Flying in the breeze.
Joyful rush of leaves
Swept up by the breeze,
Hear the rustling leaves
Whisper secrets to the breeze.
With the blowing leaves
Praise God in the howling breeze.

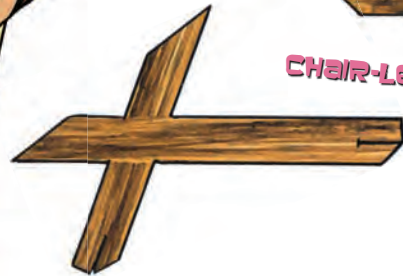
Illustrated
by Victoria DUNAYEVA

CRAFT CORNER

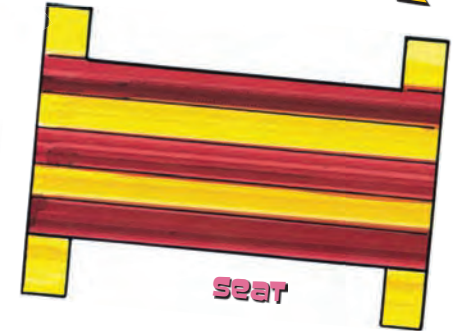


THE BEACH CHAIR

CRAFT

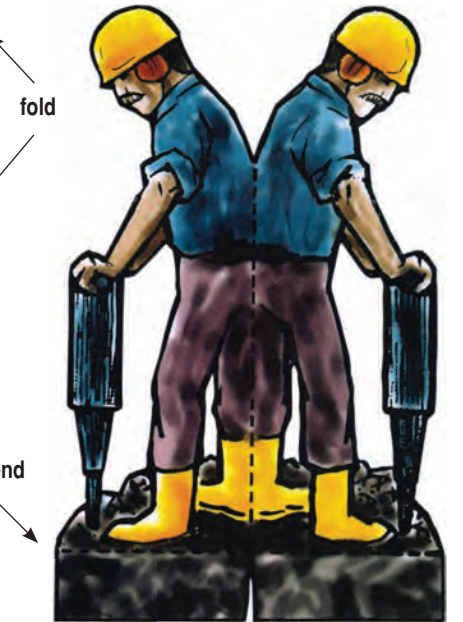


CHAIR-LEG PIECES



SEAT

People need rules to help them know how to behave. Following these rules helps them get along and not fight. That's why God gave us the Ten Commandments — the most important rules we have. The fourth commandment says we should work for six days and rest on the seventh day. In this craft, you can make a beach chair and use it as a reminder to rest on Sunday.



fold

bend

DIRECTIONS:

Cut slits in the chair-leg pieces. Then insert the tabs of the seat into these slits and bend the seat slightly. The worker in shorts is enjoying his day off. Bend him a little by bringing his knees to his stomach and let him sit in the beach chair. Now take the worker who is working and bend the tabs below his feet, folding them out. Fold this piece along the dotted line and glue the two sides together. Do the same with the kid who is resting.



God multiplying the loaves

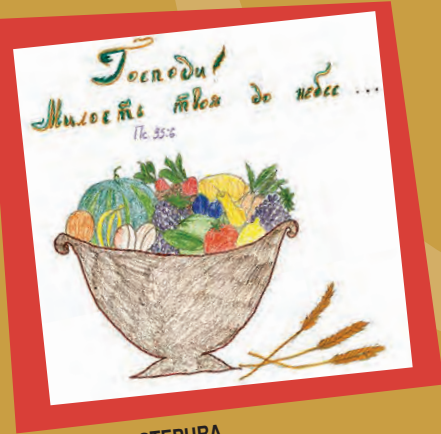
Carolina SHANTZ, 13 years old, Kyrgyzstan



Bogdan RUBAN, 9 years old, Ukraine



Natalia SNITYNSKAYA, 12 years old, Ukraine



Inna STEPURA, 11 years old, Ukraine



Tatiana TIGNYAN, 14 years old, Ukraine



Vitalik OSADCHUK, 11 years old, Ukraine



Ruvim ANTONOV, 6 years old, Russia



Nastya POSTAVNOVA, 9 years old, Ukraine



Timofey RIBALCHENKO, 10 years old, Ukraine



Svetlana MELNIK, 9 years old, Ukraine



Answers

- Page 10: **ASSIGNMENT:** "Remember me for this also, O my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love" (Nehemiah 13:22)
- Page 18: **CROSSWORD: ACROSS:** 3. Moses 7. white 8. calf 10. blood 11. three
DOWN: 1. God 2. Jerusalem 4. Sinai 5. Levites 6. lamb 7. wood 9. Horeb
- Page 19: **ASSIGNMENT:** Desert of Paran – Caleb, Desert of Sinai – Aaron, Desert of Shur – Abraham, Wilderness of Gibeon – Abner, Desert of Tekoa – Jehoshaphat, Desert of Maon – Saul
- Page 22: **ASSIGNMENT:** 1. city, 2. good, 3. disciples, 4. Christ, 5. mud, 6. lasting
READ THE VERSE: "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1)
- Page 23: **CROSSWORD: ACROSS:** 1. locust 3. viper 6. leopard 8. wolf 9. Behemoth 10. stork 11. lizard 12. camel 13. ostrich
DOWN: 2. calf 4. ravens 5. goat 7. donkey 9. baboons 10. serpent 11. lamb
- Page 28: **WORD SEARCH**

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



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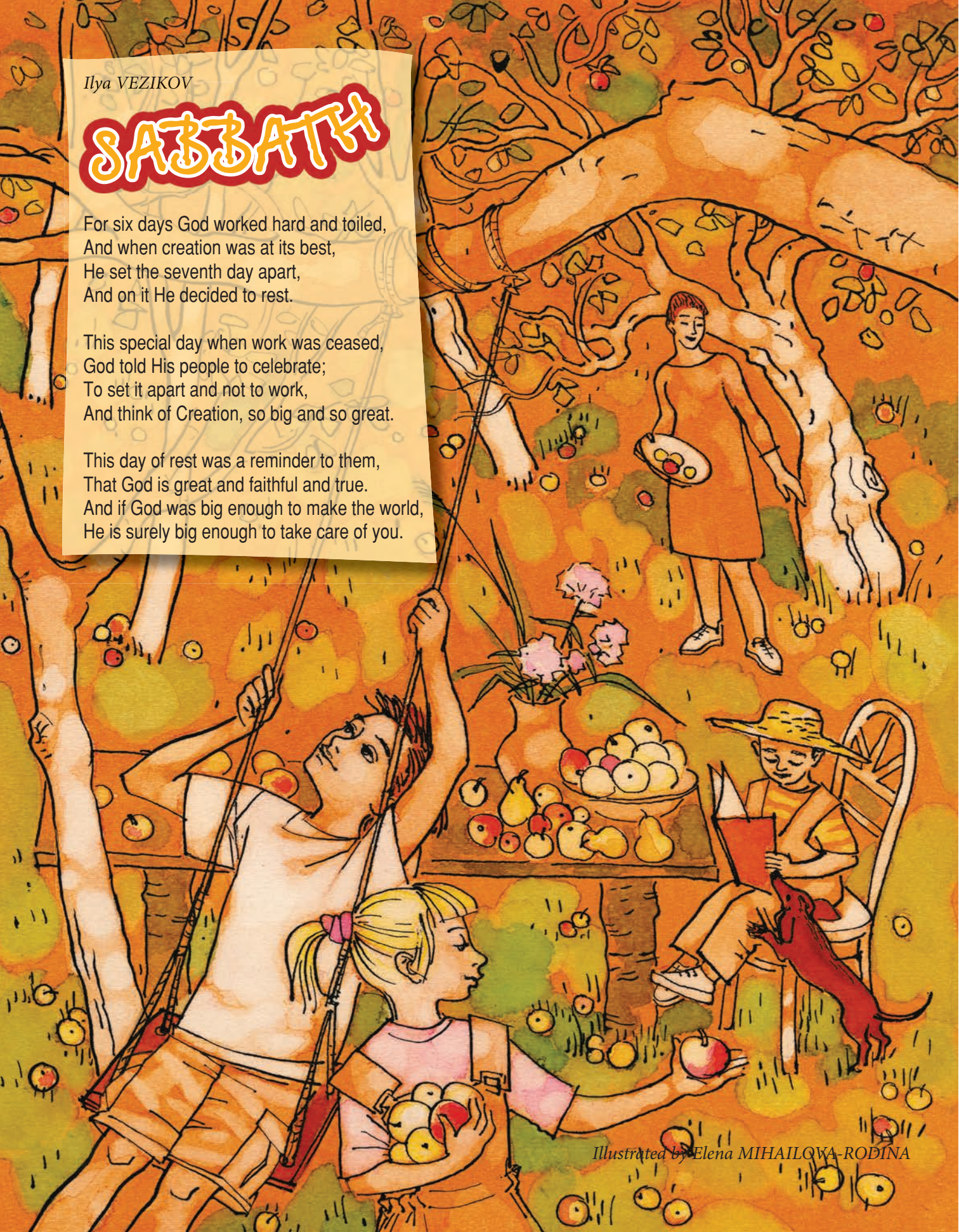
Ilya VEZIKOV

SABBATH

For six days God worked hard and toiled,
And when creation was at its best,
He set the seventh day apart,
And on it He decided to rest.

This special day when work was ceased,
God told His people to celebrate;
To set it apart and not to work,
And think of Creation, so big and so great.

This day of rest was a reminder to them,
That God is great and faithful and true.
And if God was big enough to make the world,
He is surely big enough to take care of you.



Illustrated by Elena MIHAILOVA-RODINA