

WHO IS JESUS?



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Printed in China

Jesus Christ. The Messiah.





Who is he? When did he begin?
Did he really rise from the dead?
What is he doing today?
Can we really know the truth about Jesus?

God's Written Record

Yes, we can know the truth! The Bible gives us the true account of Jesus the Messiah!

Certain men recorded the words God gave them in the collection of 66 books called the Bible. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18), so we can trust the Bible to tell us the truth about everything it teaches:

- ◇ The beginning of all things (Genesis 1).
- ◇ The disobedience of the first man and woman and God's promise to send a Savior (Genesis 3).
- ◇ The flood that covered the earth because of mankind's sinfulness (Genesis 6–9).
- ◇ The Savior whom God sent to earth 2,000 years ago.



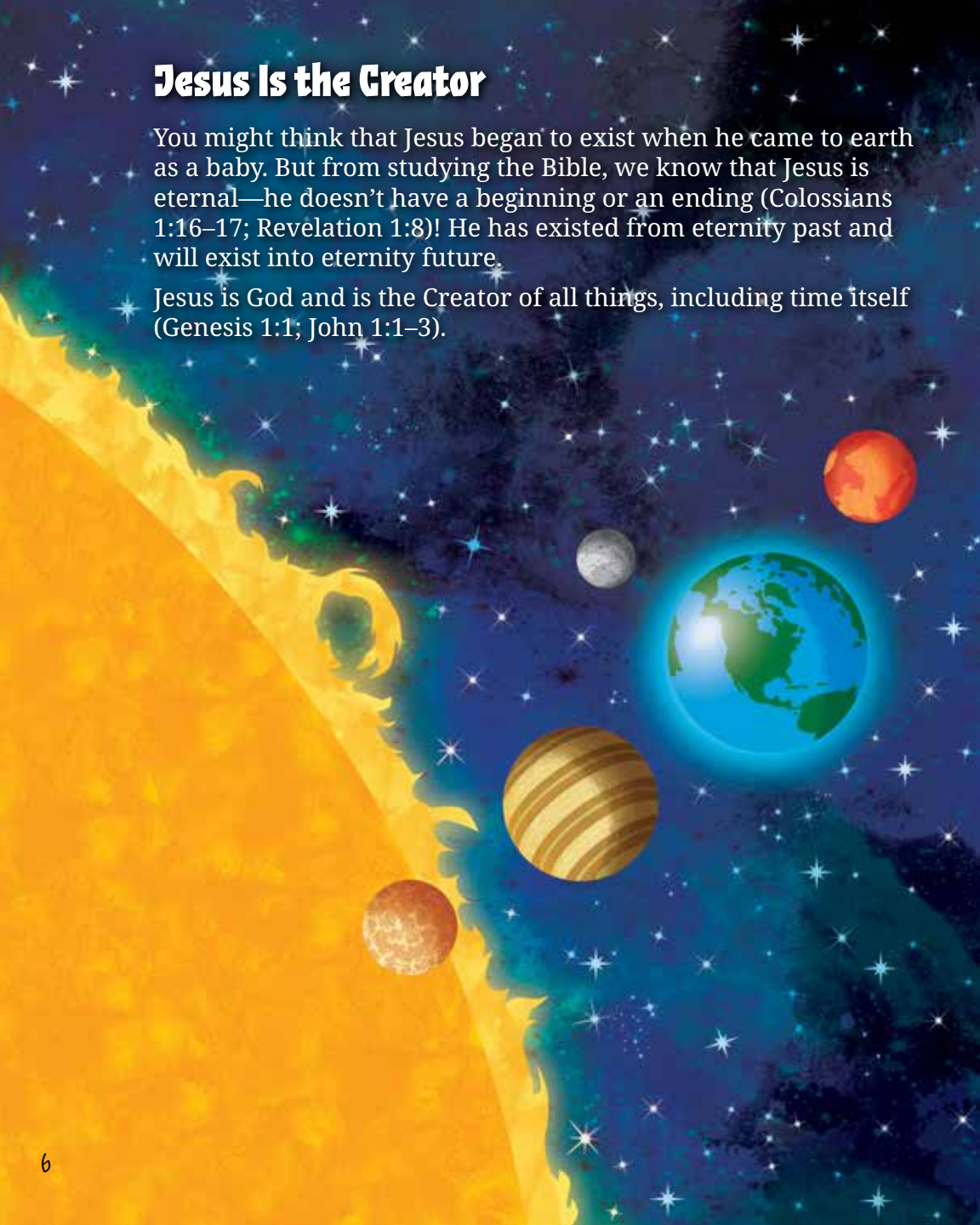
When we have questions, we need to read God's Word, the Bible, to find out the true answers.
Let's examine God's Word to find out the truth about Jesus!



Jesus Is the Creator

You might think that Jesus began to exist when he came to earth as a baby. But from studying the Bible, we know that Jesus is eternal—he doesn't have a beginning or an ending (Colossians 1:16–17; Revelation 1:8)! He has existed from eternity past and will exist into eternity future.

Jesus is God and is the Creator of all things, including time itself (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1–3).





Jesus Is Good

In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth in six days (Genesis 1:31). Because he is good, everything he does is good. His creation was “very good.”

He made Adam, Eve, and the animals and gave them plants to eat. They were holy and happy.

God said they couldn’t eat from one special tree. The punishment for disobedience was death (Genesis 2:17).

Instead of obeying God, Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s command and ate from the forbidden tree (Genesis 3). They sinned. Since that time, each of their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on—down to us—has been born a sinner and has disobeyed God (Romans 3:23). We all deserve to be eternally separated from God’s goodness in a terrible place called hell when we die (John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Revelation 21:8). But God offers us a wonderful gift—life with him in heaven forever!

God promised he would send a savior from sin (Genesis 3:15). And 4,000 years later, God sent his son, Jesus Christ, to earth.



Jesus Is the Son of God

A prophecy is a promise made before an event happens. From Genesis to Malachi, God made promises about when the Messiah, or “Anointed One,” would come to earth to save people from their sin. About 2,000 years ago, Jesus came to earth as that very promised Messiah! He was called Immanuel, which means, “God with us.”

Some of these promises were about the *birth* of the Messiah.

- ◇ He would be born of a virgin (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21–23).



- ◇ He would be a king (Jeremiah 23:5; Matthew 2:1–2).

◇ He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1).



◇ He would be given gifts (Psalm 72:10; Matthew 2:11).



Jesus is the Son of Man

In an amazing way, Jesus the Creator came to earth as a human baby. His birth was like no other!

- ◇ Gabriel, an angel, told Mary that she would have a baby—imagine that!
- ◇ A sky full of angels announced Jesus' birth to shepherds—imagine that!
- ◇ The king of the universe was placed in a feeding trough for animals—imagine that!
- ◇ Shepherds came to worship the baby king on the night of his birth—imagine that!
- ◇ Later, other kings showed up to worship him and brought expensive gifts for him—imagine that!
- ◇ Jesus was born to a woman—he was a human, like us. He is called the Son of Man. He came to earth to show us the way to life with God.





Jesus Is the Messiah

Jesus grew up but, amazingly, he never sinned! He always obeyed his parents, was always kind to his brothers and sisters, always told the truth. When he was 12 years old, his parents found him in the temple teaching the teachers (Luke 2:39–52).

He fulfilled the promises God made in the Old Testament about the *life* of the Messiah.

- ◇ He would be taken from Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:14–15).
- ◇ He would preach good news (Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 11:5; Luke 4:14–21).
- ◇ He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4–9).
- ◇ He would heal people (Isaiah 29:18, 35:5–6; Luke 7:20–22).

No one but Jesus fulfilled the promises made about the Messiah's life!



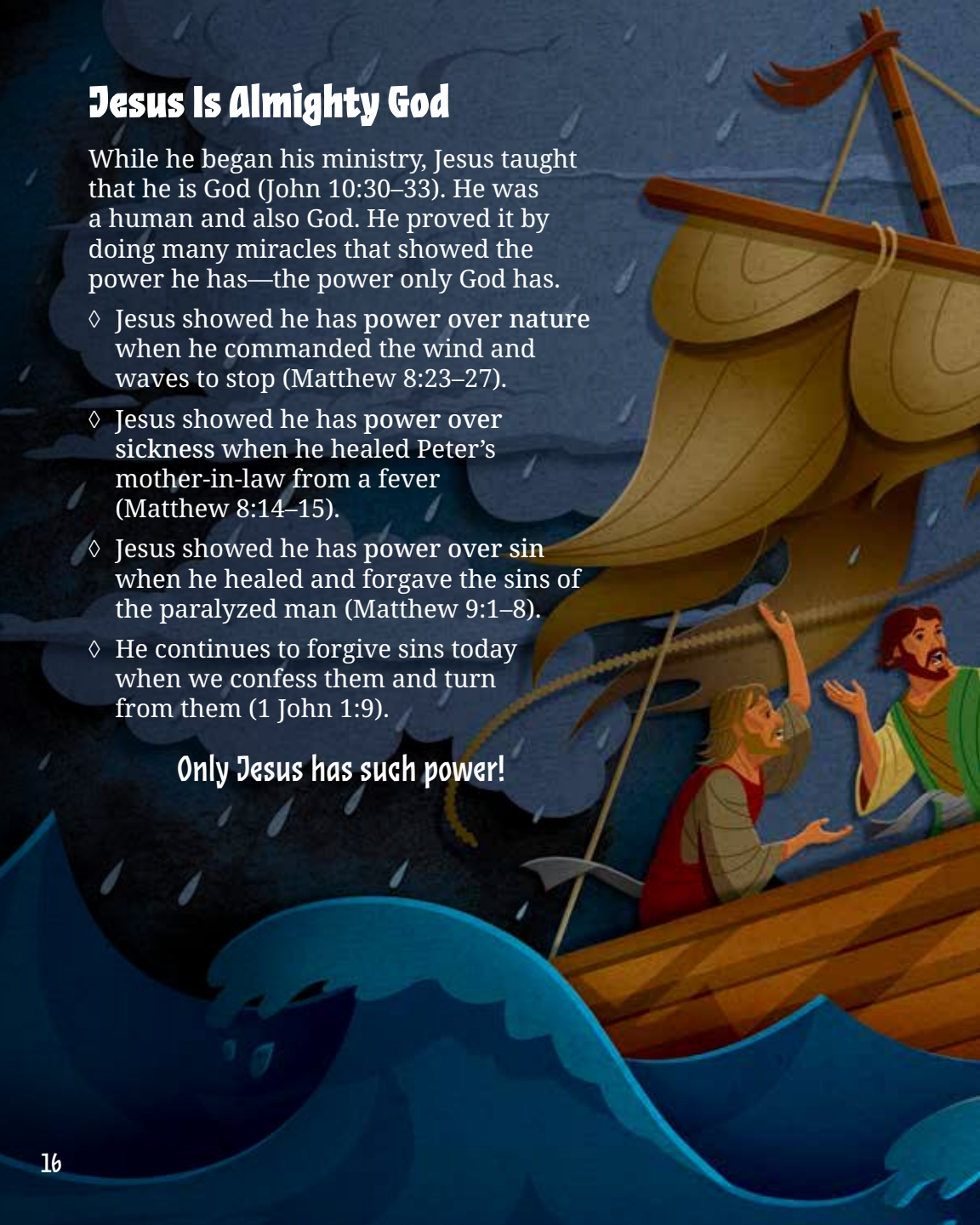


Jesus Is Almighty God

While he began his ministry, Jesus taught that he is God (John 10:30–33). He was a human and also God. He proved it by doing many miracles that showed the power he has—the power only God has.

- ◇ Jesus showed he has power over nature when he commanded the wind and waves to stop (Matthew 8:23–27).
- ◇ Jesus showed he has power over sickness when he healed Peter’s mother-in-law from a fever (Matthew 8:14–15).
- ◇ Jesus showed he has power over sin when he healed and forgave the sins of the paralyzed man (Matthew 9:1–8).
- ◇ He continues to forgive sins today when we confess them and turn from them (1 John 1:9).

Only Jesus has such power!







Jesus Died and Rose from the Dead

Some people didn't like that Jesus claimed to be God. They wanted him to die, even though he had done nothing wrong. He is perfect and without sin. They put him to death on a cross.

Jesus fulfilled prophecies God made in the Old Testament about the *death* of the Messiah.

- ◇ He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14–15).
- ◇ He would be pierced in his hands and feet (Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:31).
- ◇ His bones wouldn't be broken (Psalm 34:20; John 19:32–36).
- ◇ He would be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57–60).
- ◇ He would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31).

On the third day after he died, he rose from the dead!

No one but Jesus fulfilled the promises made about the Messiah's death!

Jesus Is the Risen Savior

Some people say Jesus didn't really die. They say he just fainted and later woke up, removed the grave clothes, moved the heavy stone, left the tomb, beat up the guards, and hid himself.

But crucifixion was a terrible torture, and the Roman soldiers pierced Jesus' side to make sure he was really dead before taking him from the cross (John 19:34). After he died, Jesus' body was wrapped with strips of linen with 100 pounds of spices (John 19:39-40). If he had fainted, he would not have been able to unwrap the heavy grave clothes by himself in such a weakened state. And he would not have been able to move the heavy stone and beat up the guards!

We know from reading the Bible that Jesus really died on the cross and was buried in a tomb. He was in the tomb for three days (Mark 15)!

**And no one but Jesus rose from the
dead and is still alive today!**







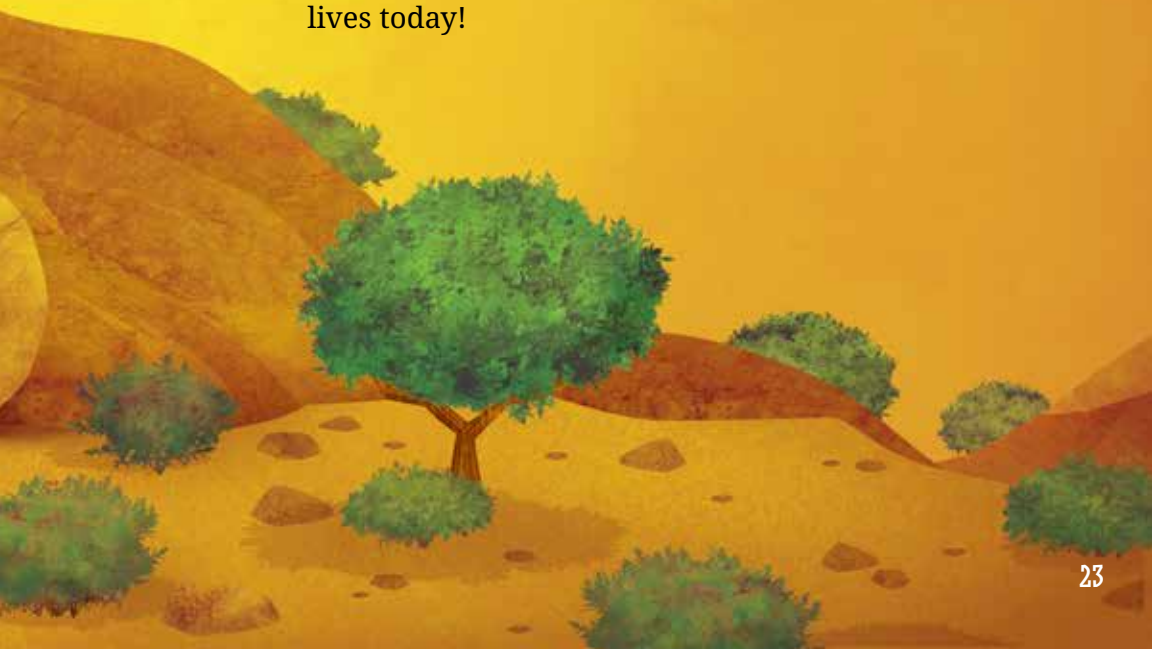
Some people say that Jesus didn't really rise from the dead.

Yet, Roman guards watched the tomb to prevent anyone from stealing Jesus' body (Matthew 27). And a massive stone weighing over two tons was rolled in front of the tomb and sealed. To get in or out of the tomb, someone would need to overpower the guards and also move that heavy stone.

Despite the guards and heavy stone, Jesus rose from the dead on the third day and left the tomb! Because the tomb was empty and they couldn't find a body anywhere, the Jewish leaders paid the guards to lie and say that the disciples stole the body (Matthew 28:11–15).

But Jesus was seen by many people after he rose from the dead: the women who came to his tomb (Matthew 28:1–10), his disciples (Acts 1:3), and over 500 people at one time (1 Corinthians 15:3–6).

The truth is that Jesus really did rise from the dead, just as he had said he would (Matthew 12:40; John 2:19). And he lives today!



Jesus Is the Only Way to Heaven

You may have heard that there are many ways to get into heaven or that God will let anyone who does good works into heaven. This isn't true.

Jesus said that he is the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father unless they believe in him (John 14:6). Jesus alone provides the way to eternal life (Acts 4:12).

Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. He loved us so much that he was willing to die in our place. When he was put to death on the cross, he paid the penalty for our sin. He rose from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted his sacrifice. When we say we are sorry for our sins (repent) and believe that Jesus died in our place and place our faith in him, we receive the gift of salvation from our sin (Acts 20:21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10). We become a child of God forever!





Jesus Changes Lives

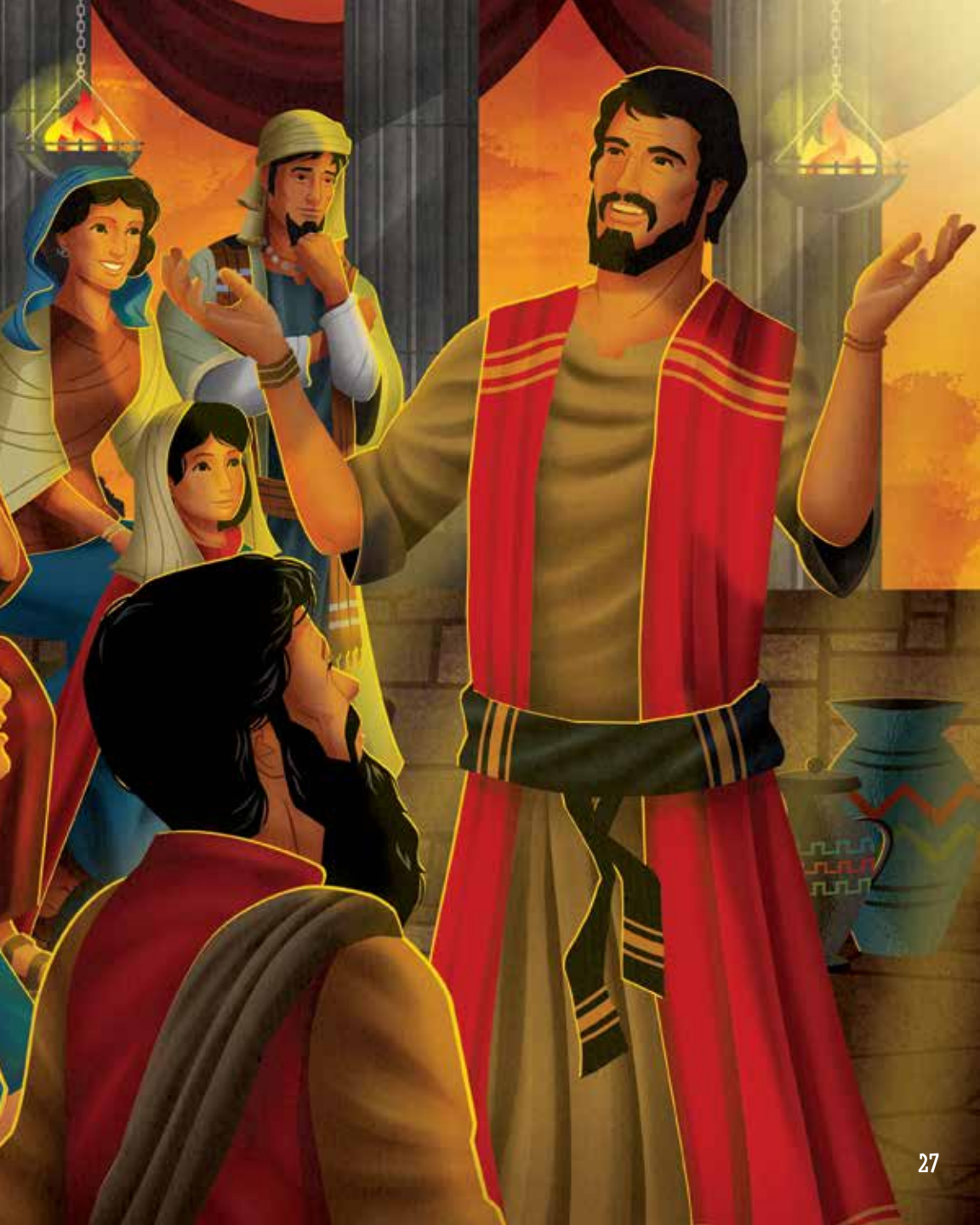
When Jesus was arrested, his disciples ran away in fear (Mark 14:50). When Jesus died, they were sad because they thought he wasn't the promised Messiah after all.

But their lives changed when they saw Jesus after his resurrection. They were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) and began to boldly tell people the good news about Jesus' death and resurrection on behalf of sinners. They were even willing to be beaten and die for what they taught (Acts 5:40–42).

They were no longer afraid but were instead courageous witnesses for the gospel! The change in their lives wasn't just because the tomb of Jesus was empty. They were changed because they had seen Jesus with their own eyes and received the gift of the Holy Spirit. They knew that Jesus is the Messiah, God who came to earth.

The disciples taught the truth so that you can believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and have eternal life (John 20:31). Have you believed in Jesus? He will give you the Holy Spirit, who will help you to become more like Jesus, live a life worthy of him, and tell others about Jesus.







Jesus Is Alive

After Jesus rose from the dead, he went to heaven to be with God the Father. Before he left, he promised his followers that he would return.

Since he returned to heaven, he has been building his church, which is the group of all people everywhere who truly believe Jesus is the only Savior (Matthew 16:18). He is interceding for his children, which means he brings the prayers of his people to God the Father (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1). And Jesus is preparing a beautiful place for those who love him and will spend eternity with him (John 14:2–3).

He has given his followers a mission until his return—we are to serve him and bring him glory through our obedience to his Word. And he wants us to share the good news of his salvation with our family, friends, and others around the world. Who can you tell about Jesus? How can you live for him?



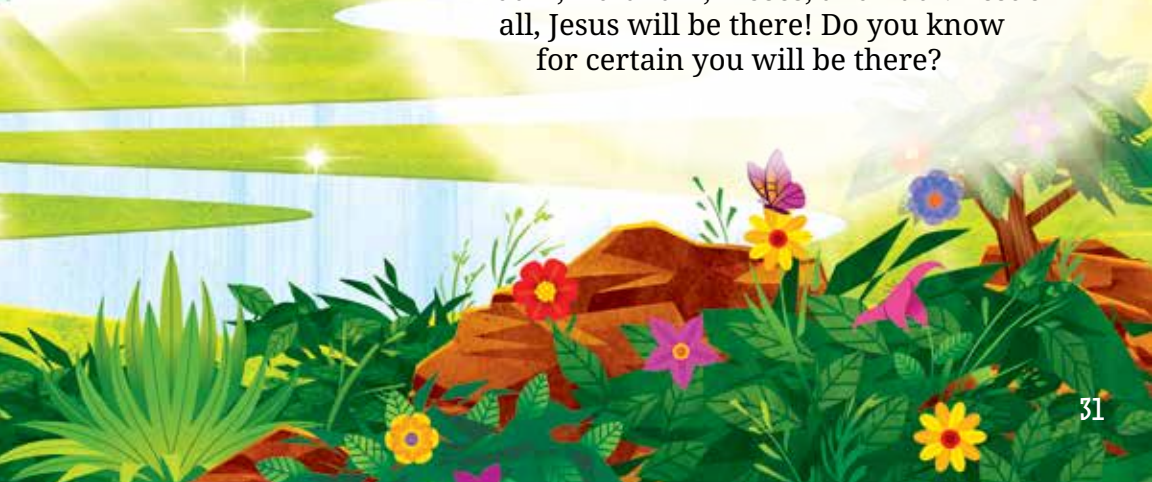


Jesus Is the King of Kings



Those who have received the gift of eternal life look forward to spending forever with Jesus in the new heaven and earth, where there are streets of gold (Revelation 21) and where there is only goodness because Jesus is there.

We may be able climb mountains, enjoy a walk through the woods, or sail on a river! We'll see friends who love Jesus and people from throughout time who believed in Jesus, like Adam, Abraham, Moses, and Paul! Best of all, Jesus will be there! Do you know for certain you will be there?





Who Is Jesus?

Jesus is truly God, the eternal Creator and Savior of the world. He is, he was, he is to come (Revelation 1:8). To discover more about him, we need to read and study his Word. The Bible tells us how we can live for him and serve others so that they, too, can receive his gift of salvation.

God's Word tells us the truth about the one and only everlasting King of kings and Lord of lords!

Did you know Jesus existed before he was born as the baby in the manger? Did you know he created the universe? And that he existed even before we read about him in Genesis 1:1? Do you know what he did while he was here on earth? Do you know what he is doing right now? Do you know what he will be doing in the future? Do you know how you can spend forever with Jesus?

Find out the answers in *Who Is Jesus?*

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ISBN 978-1-9844-1414-4



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\$2.99

