

Bible for Children  
presents



# THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH



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When Jesus died, His frightened  
followers hid themselves. After  
Jesus rose from the dead, He  
showed Himself to His disciples.  
Jesus was alive!





But - Jesus planned to leave them, to go back to Heaven where He had always lived with God, His Father.





Before  
He  
left,  
Jesus

promised  
His followers He  
would send the Spirit  
of God to be their Comforter  
and Help (John 15:26).





The  
time  
was near!  
A few days after  
Jesus left, God the  
Holy Spirit came.



It happened this way. About 120 followers of Jesus were praying together in a house.



Suddenly, the house was filled with  
the sound of a rushing  
mighty wind.





Forked flames of fire rested upon each person.



They were all filled with the Holy Spirit - just as Jesus promised!



Out in the streets, Jesus' followers spoke languages they had never learned.



Foreigners visiting Jerusalem  
heard the disciples talk  
about the wonderful  
works  
of God  
in many  
languages.



The visitors were amazed.  
"Whatever could this mean?" they  
asked. "They are full of new  
wine,"  
others  
mocked.



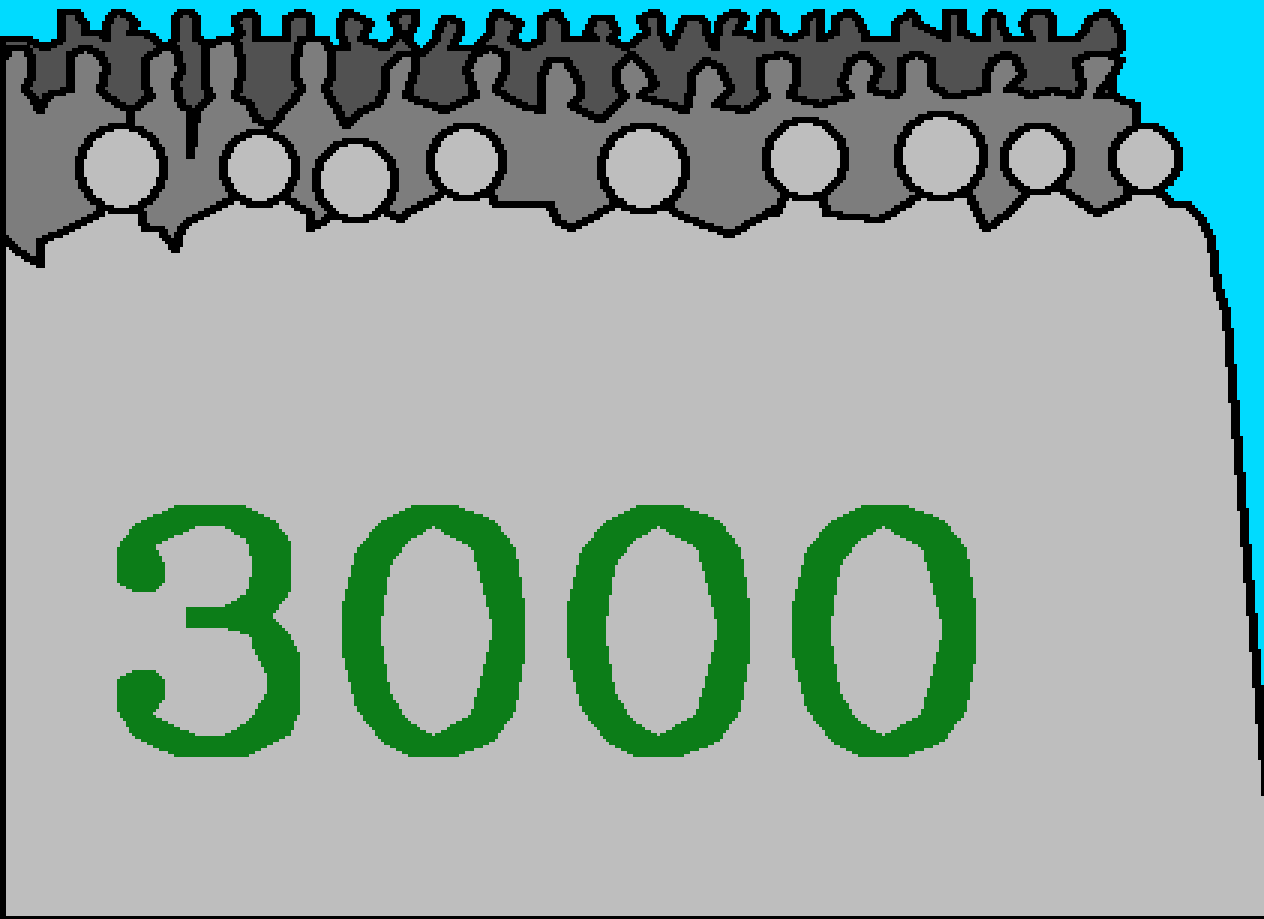
But Peter said, "These are not drunk ... this is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel ..."



Peter then reminded them that many years before, God had promised the Holy Spirit would come to bless and help people.



Peter told the people they must  
turn away from their sins and be  
baptized in the name of Jesus  
Christ.



3000



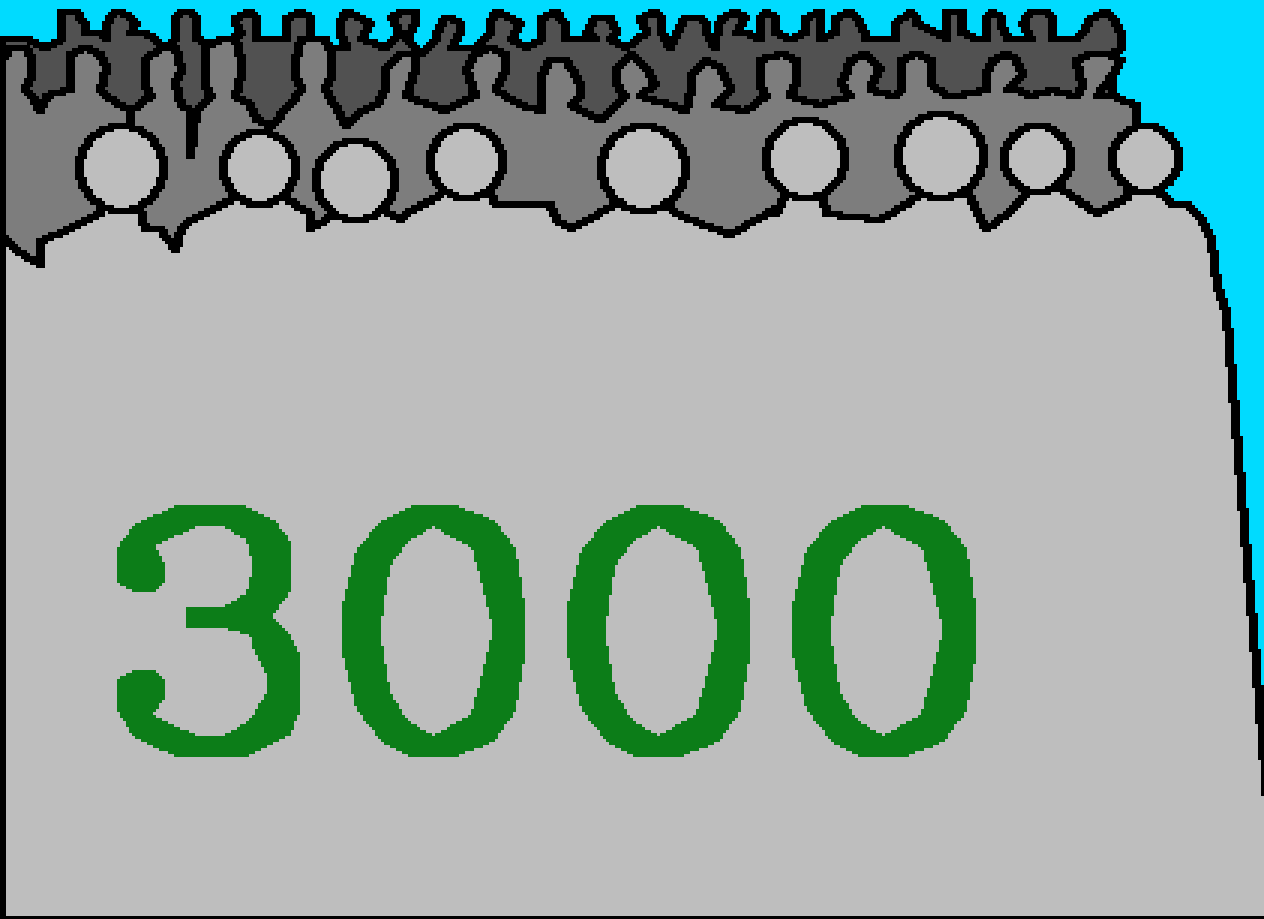


"... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," Peter said. Around 3000 people obeyed. They joined the disciples as worshipers of Jesus.

3000



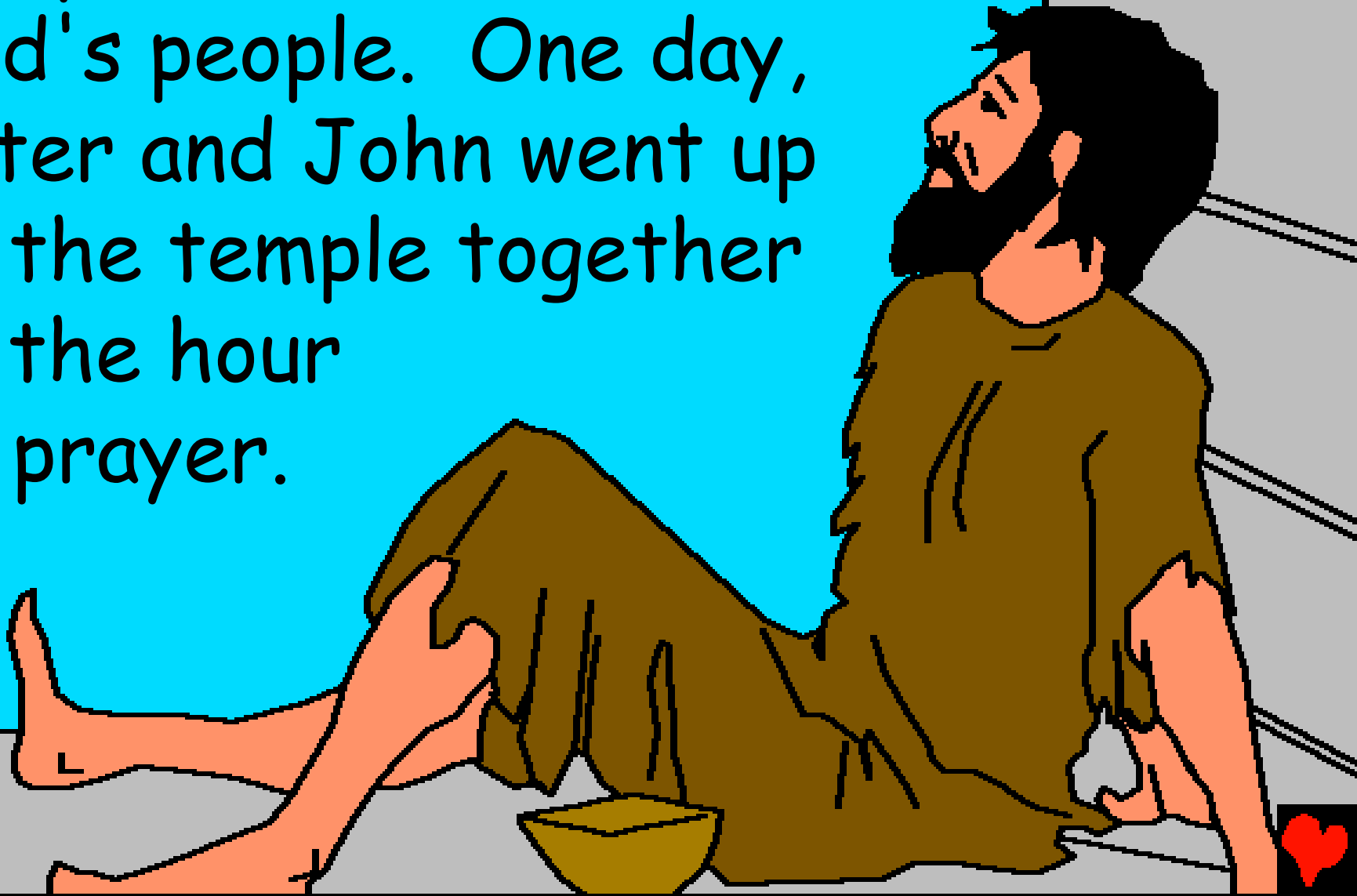
As time passed, more and more  
people were added to the church  
God started the day the Holy Spirit  
came.



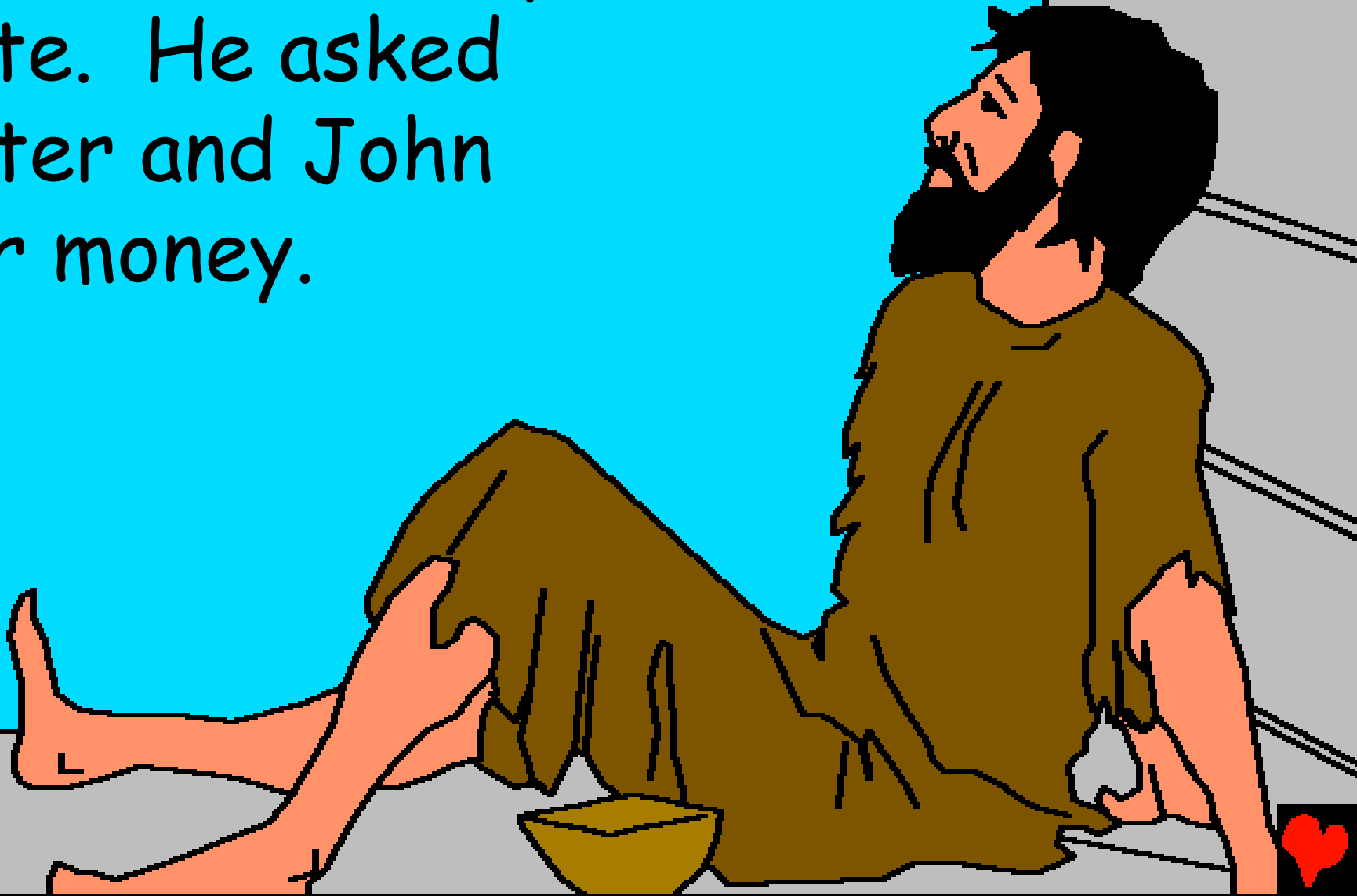
3000



The Holy Spirit brought His power into the lives of God's people. One day, Peter and John went up to the temple together at the hour of prayer.



A lame beggar sat outside the temple gate. He asked Peter and John for money.





Then Peter said,  
"Silver and gold  
I do not have,  
but what I do  
have I give you:  
In the name of  
Jesus Christ of  
Nazareth, rise  
and walk."

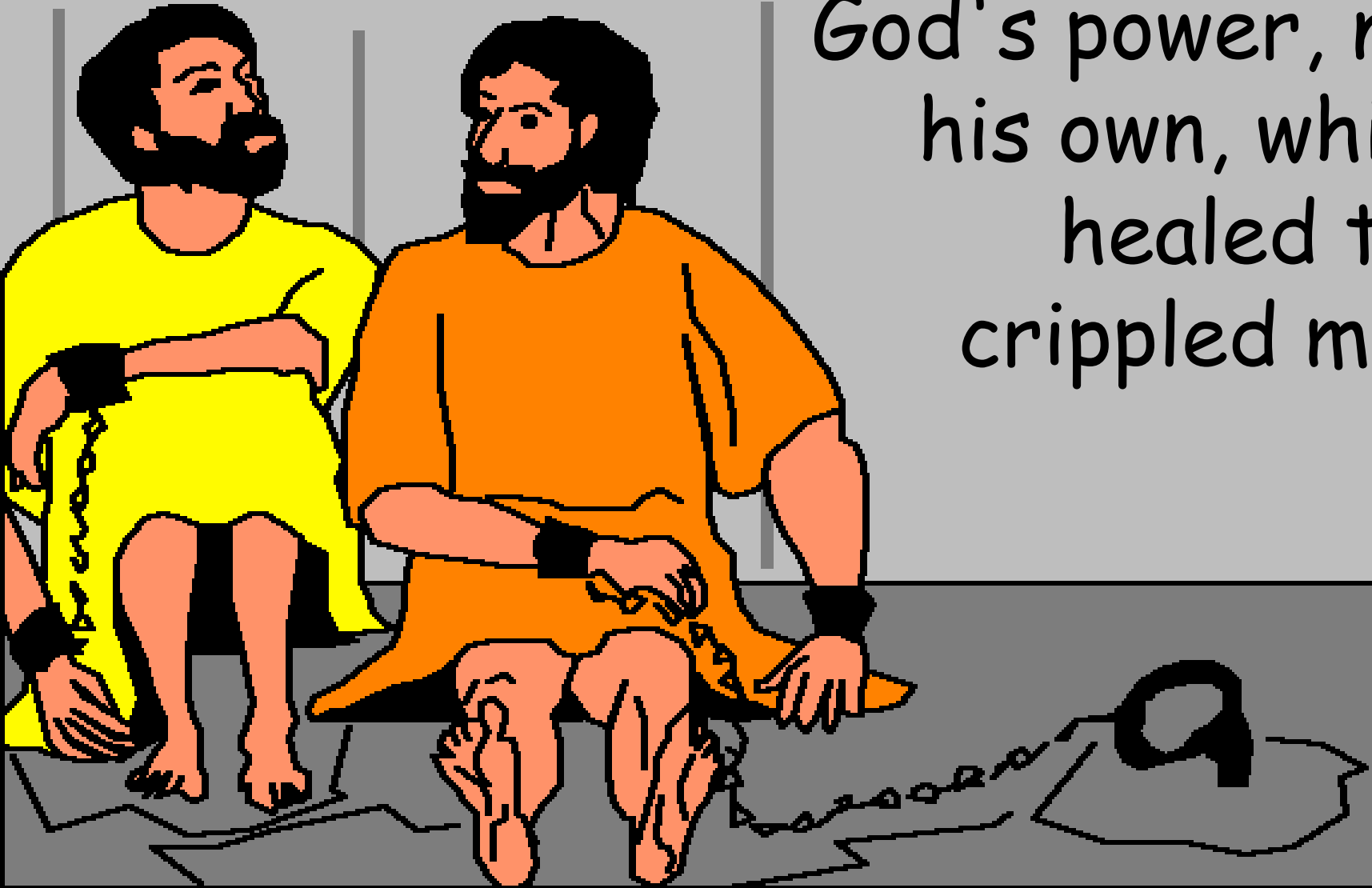




And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them - walking, leaping, and praising God.



A great crowd gathered, amazed at the miracle. Peter told them it was God's power, not his own, which healed the crippled man.



When Peter reminded these Jews that God raised Jesus from the dead, the temple leaders angrily seized Peter and John and put them in jail.

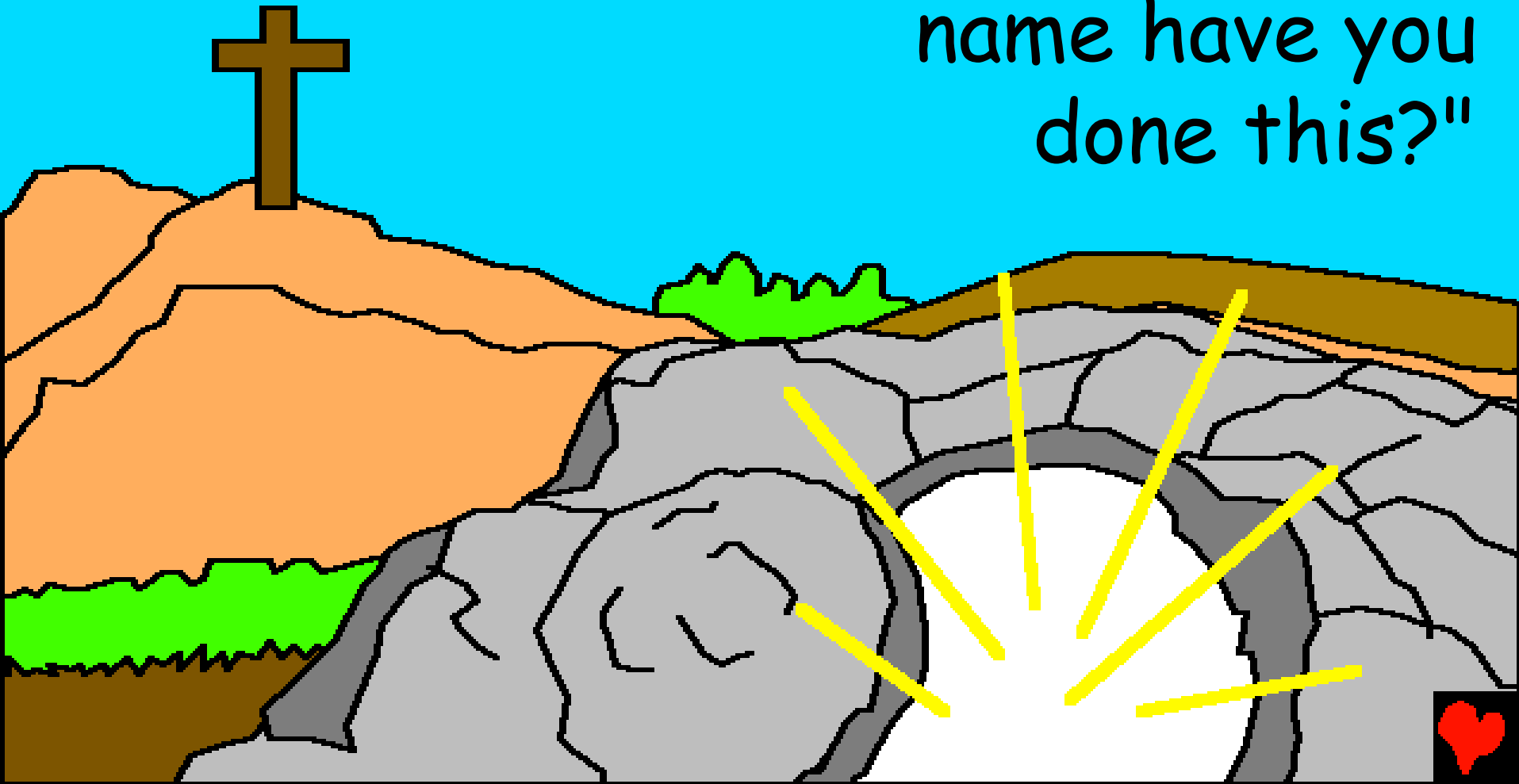




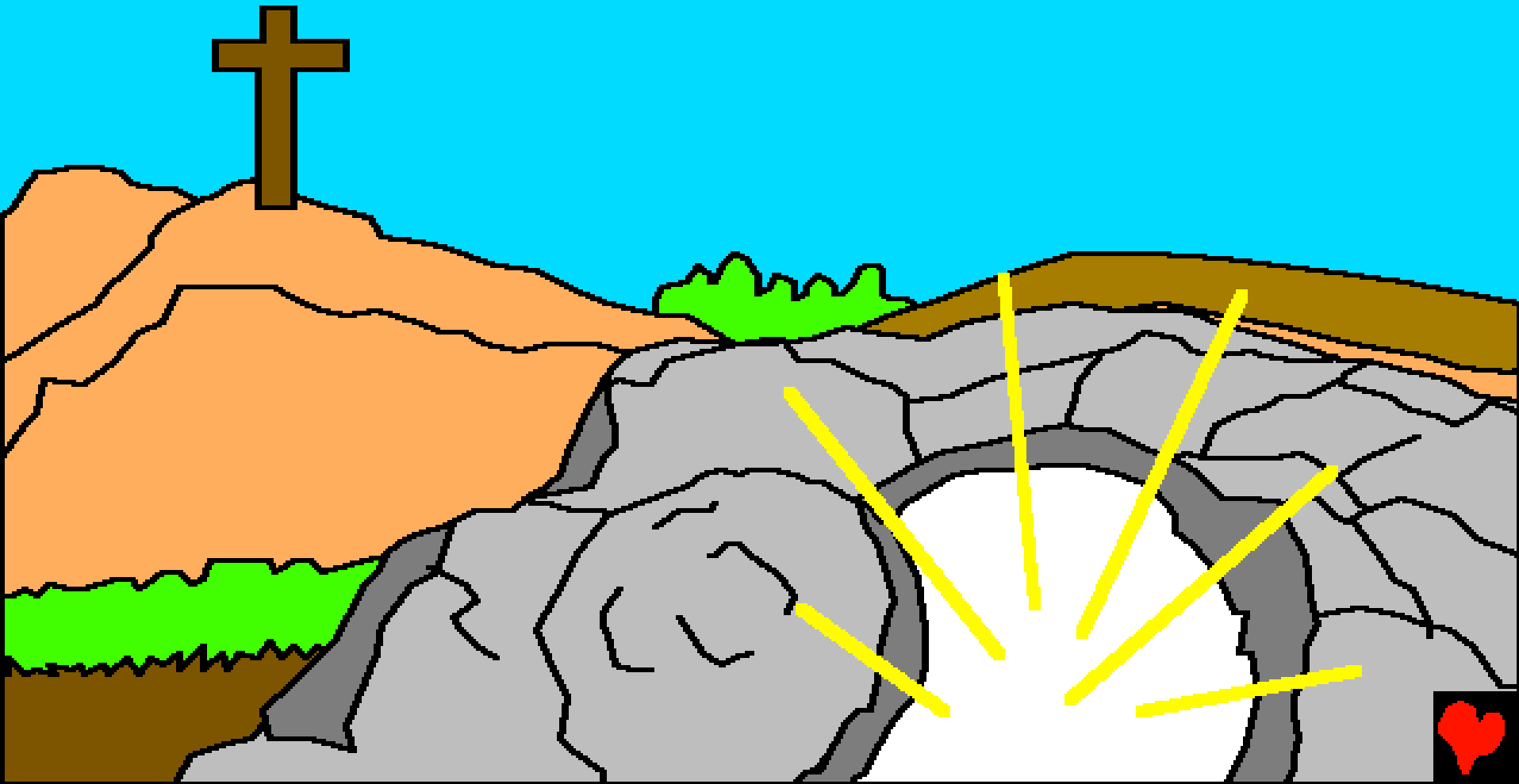
However, about 5000  
men believed  
in Jesus.



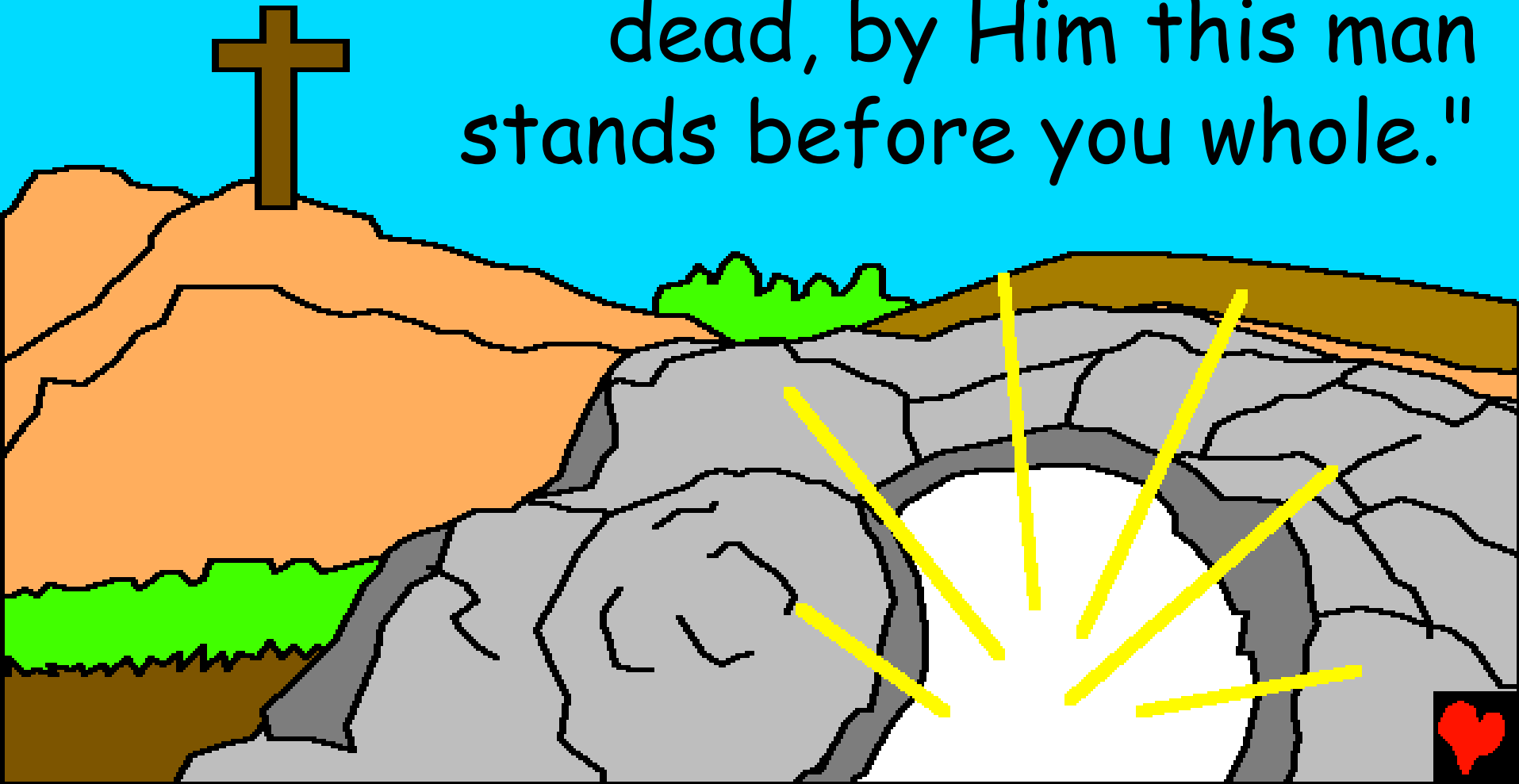
Next day, Peter and John stood  
before the Temple rulers. "By  
what power or by what  
name have you  
done this?"



the rulers asked. Filled  
with the Holy Spirit,  
Peter answered bravely.



"... by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom you crucified, Whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands before you whole."





Peter continued  
fearlessly,  
"...there is no  
other name  
under heaven  
given among  
men by which  
we must be  
saved."





Not wanting the people to believe on Jesus, the rulers severely threatened Peter and John. "From now on you must speak to no man in Jesus' name."





Peter had  
once been  
afraid to  
stand up  
for Jesus.  
But that  
was before  
the Holy  
Spirit came.



Now nobody could frighten him.  
Peter and John



answered,  
"Whether  
it is right  
in the sight  
of God to  
listen to you  
more than  
to God, you  
judge."







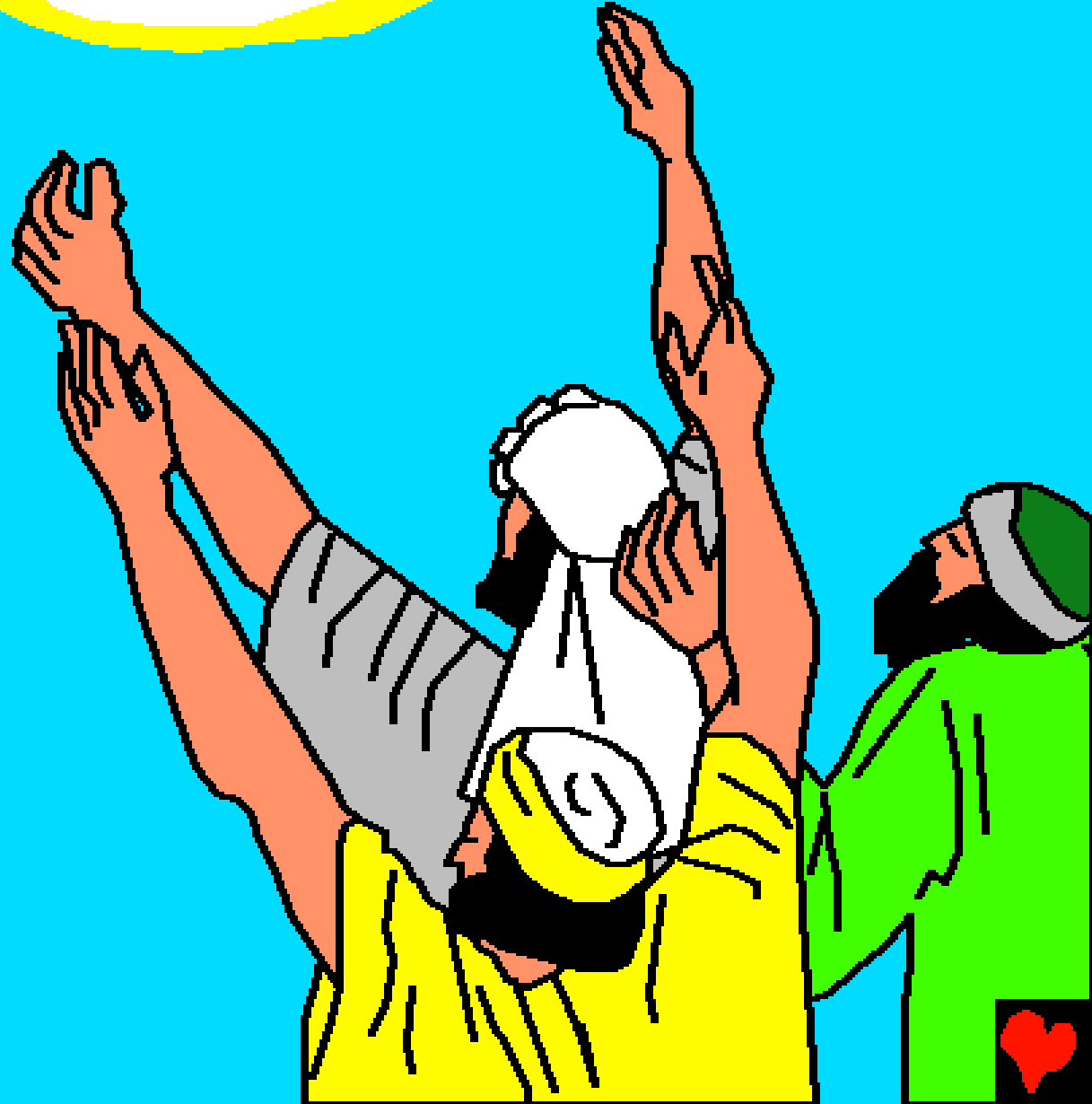
For we  
cannot  
but speak  
the things  
which we  
have seen  
and heard."



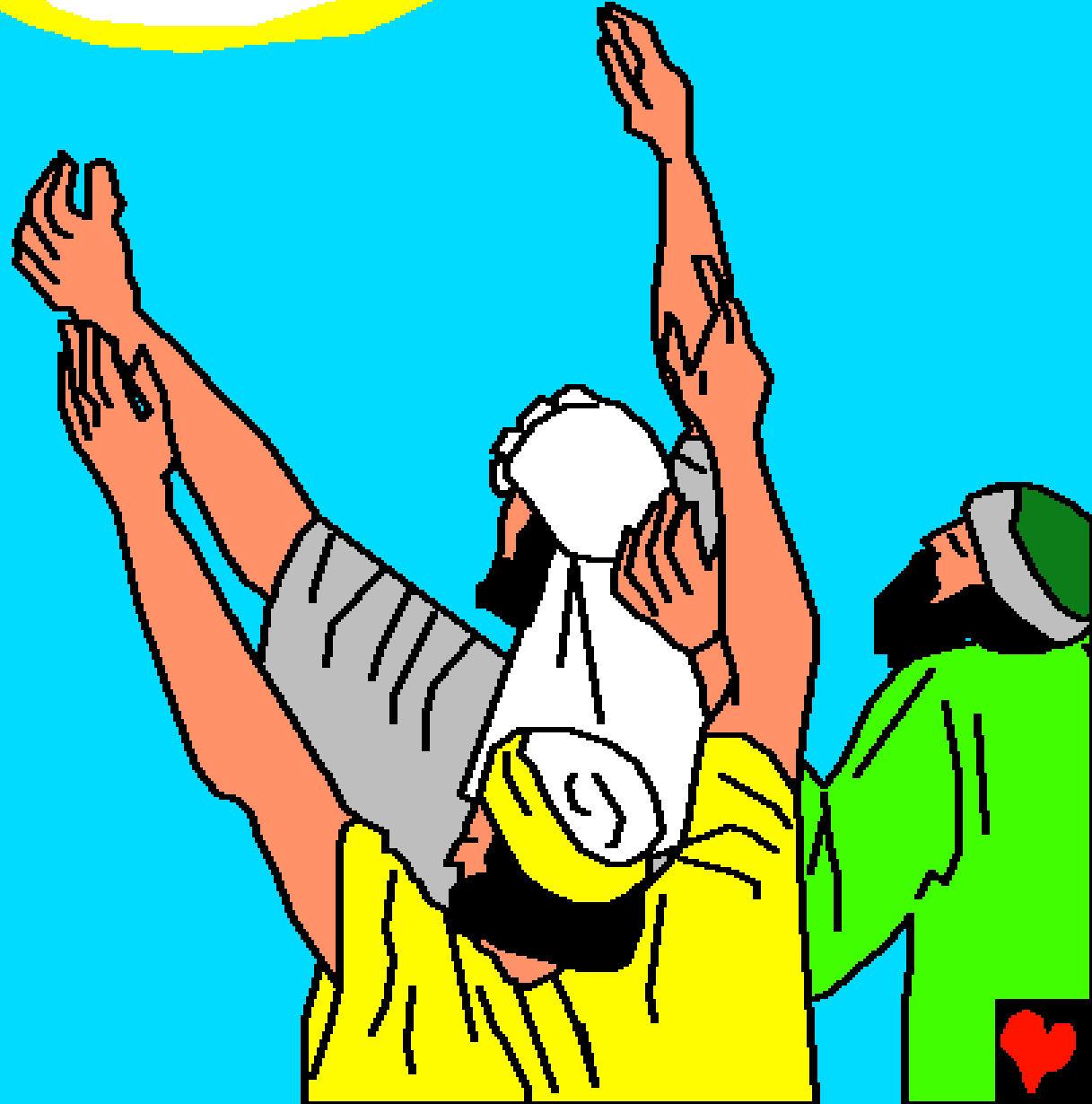
After  
more  
threats,  
the rulers  
released  
Peter and  
John.



God's  
brave  
servants  
told their  
companions  
all about jail  
and court.



Then  
they held  
a great  
prayer  
and praise  
meeting.



Again,  
God's Holy  
Spirit filled  
His people  
with power  
- and the  
infant church  
grew and  
grew.



# The Birth of the Church

A story from God's Word, the Bible,

is found in

Acts 1-4

"The entrance of Your Word gives light."

Psalm 119:130



The End



This Bible story tells us about our wonderful God who made us and who wants us to know Him.

God knows we have done bad things, which He calls sin. The punishment for sin is death, but God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and be punished for our sins. Then Jesus came back to life and went home to Heaven! If you believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive your sins, He will do it! He will come and live in you now, and you will live with Him forever.





If you want to turn from your sins,  
say this to God:

Dear God, I believe that Jesus died for me  
and now lives again. Please come into my  
life and forgive my sins, so that I can have  
new life now, and one day go to be with You  
forever. Help me to live for You as Your  
child. Amen.

Read the Bible and talk with God every  
day! John 3:16

