

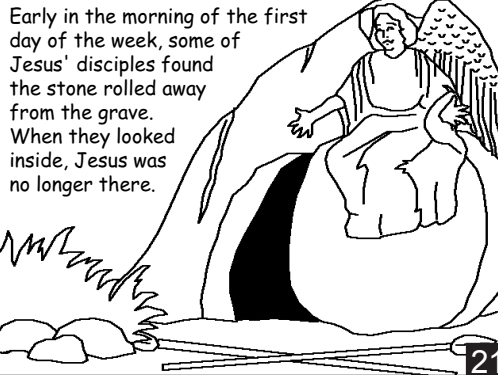
Then Roman soldiers sealed and guarded the tomb. Now nobody could get in - or out.

19



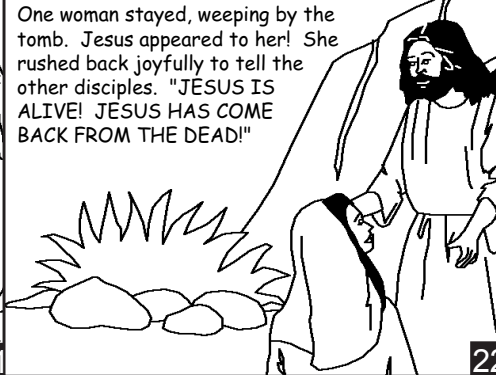
If this were the end of the story, how sad it would be. But God did something wonderful. Jesus did not stay dead!

20



Early in the morning of the first day of the week, some of Jesus' disciples found the stone rolled away from the grave. When they looked inside, Jesus was no longer there.

21

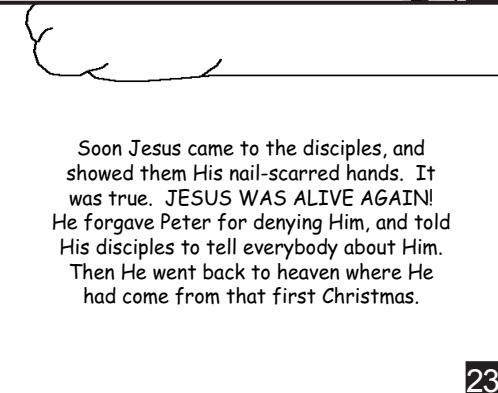


One woman stayed, weeping by the tomb. Jesus appeared to her! She rushed back joyfully to tell the other disciples. "JESUS IS ALIVE! JESUS HAS COME BACK FROM THE DEAD!"

22



# THE FIRST EASTER



Soon Jesus came to the disciples, and showed them His nail-scarred hands. It was true. **JESUS WAS ALIVE AGAIN!** He forgave Peter for denying Him, and told His disciples to tell everybody about Him. Then He went back to heaven where He had come from that first Christmas.

23

The First Easter  
 A story from God's Word, the Bible,  
 is found in  
 Matthew 26-28, Luke 22-24, John 13-21

"The entrance of Your Word gives light."  
 Psalm 119:130

Written by Edward Hughes  
 Illustrated by Janie Forest  
 Adapted by Lyn Doerksen  
 Story 54 of 60  
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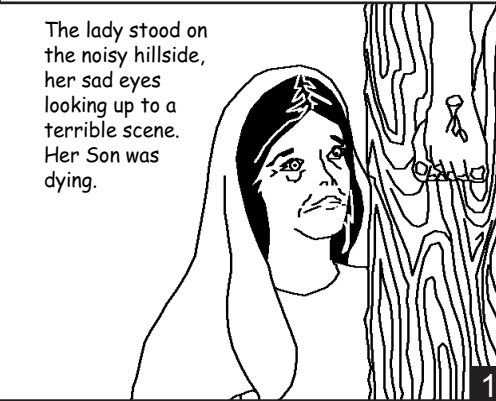
**God knows** we have done bad things, which He calls sin. The penalty for sin is death.

**God loves us** so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and pay our penalty. **Jesus came alive** and went back to Heaven! Now God can forgive our sins.

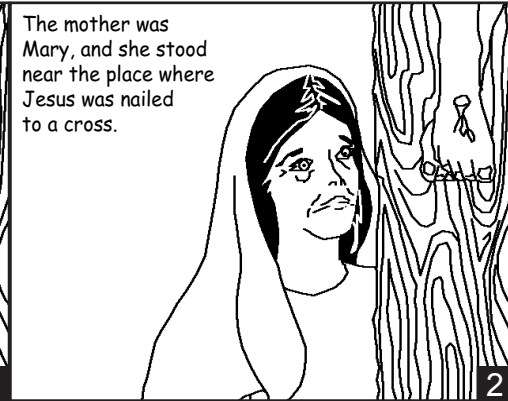
**If you want to turn from your sins**, say this to God:  
 Dear God, I believe Jesus died for me and now lives again. Please come into my life and forgive my sins, so I can have new life now, and then be with You forever. Help me live for You as Your child. Amen. John 3:16

**Read the Bible and talk to God every day!**

English



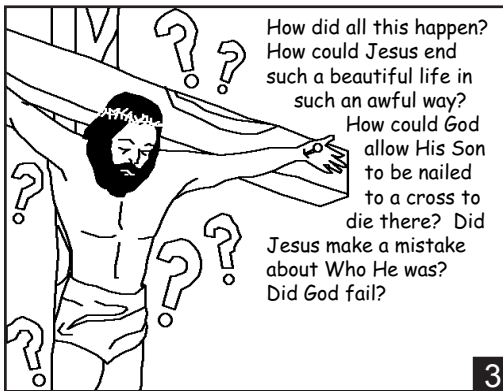
The lady stood on the noisy hillside, her sad eyes looking up to a terrible scene. Her Son was dying.



The mother was Mary, and she stood near the place where Jesus was nailed to a cross.

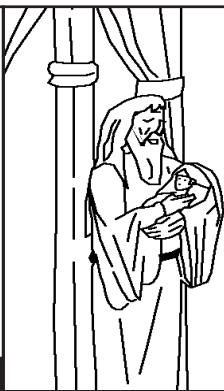
1

2



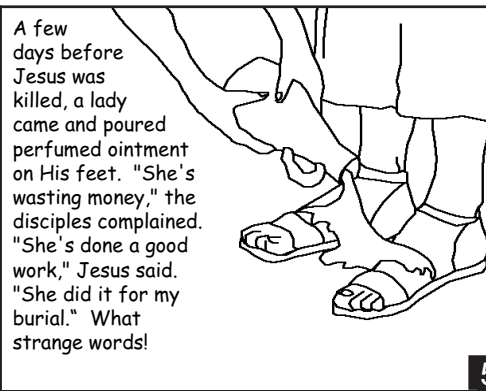
How did all this happen?  
How could Jesus end  
such a beautiful life in  
such an awful way?  
How could God  
allow His Son  
to be nailed  
to a cross to  
die there? Did  
Jesus make a mistake  
about Who He was?  
Did God fail?

3



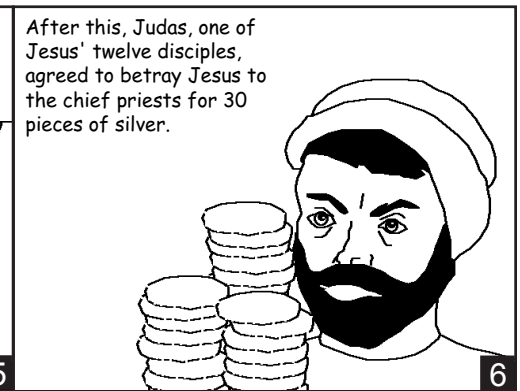
No! God didn't fail.  
Jesus hadn't made any  
mistake. Jesus always  
knew He would be put  
to death by wicked  
men. Even when Jesus  
was a baby, an old man  
named Simeon had told  
Mary that sadness lay  
ahead.

4



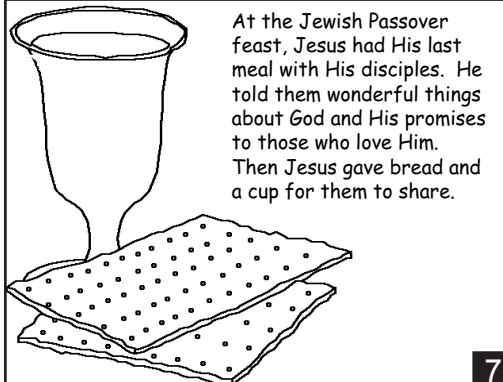
A few  
days before  
Jesus was  
killed, a lady  
came and poured  
perfumed ointment  
on His feet.  
"She's wasting money," the  
disciples complained.  
"She's done a good  
work," Jesus said.  
"She did it for my  
burial." What  
strange words!

5



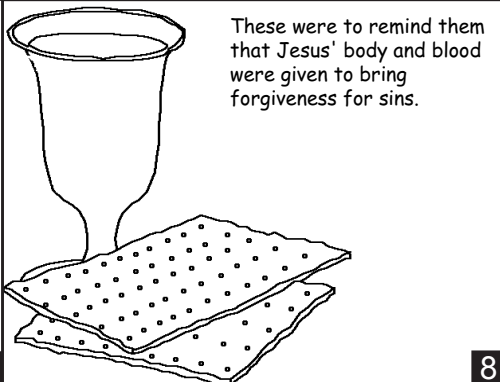
After this, Judas, one of  
Jesus' twelve disciples,  
agreed to betray Jesus to  
the chief priests for 30  
pieces of silver.

6



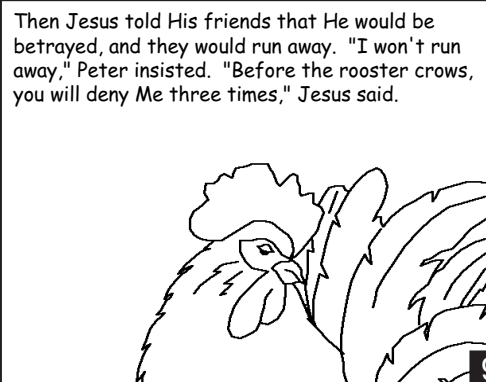
At the Jewish Passover  
feast, Jesus had His last  
meal with His disciples. He  
told them wonderful things  
about God and His promises  
to those who love Him.  
Then Jesus gave bread and  
a cup for them to share.

7



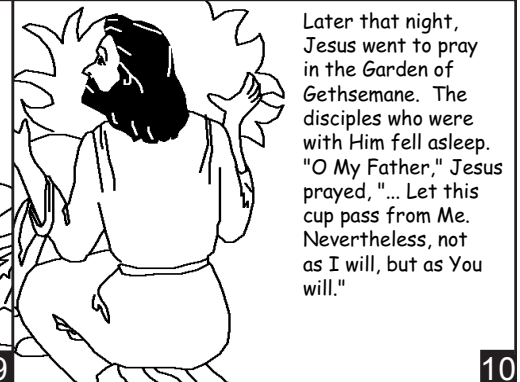
These were to remind them  
that Jesus' body and blood  
were given to bring  
forgiveness for sins.

8



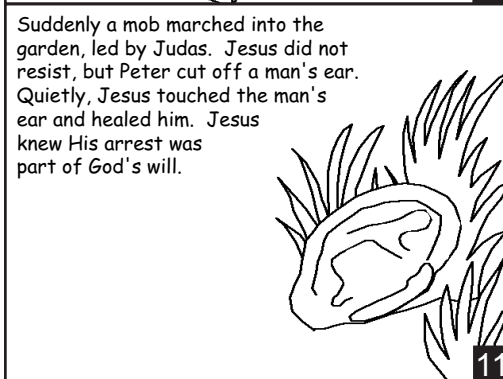
Then Jesus told His friends that He would be  
betrayed, and they would run away. "I won't run  
away," Peter insisted. "Before the rooster crows,  
you will deny Me three times," Jesus said.

9



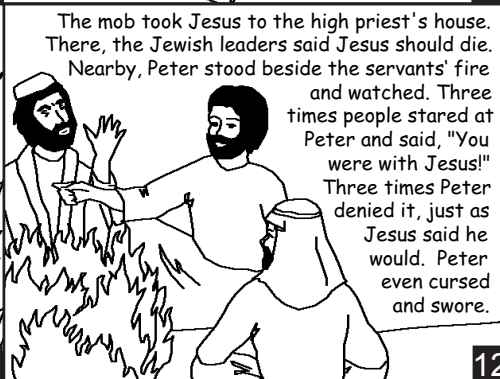
Later that night,  
Jesus went to pray  
in the Garden of  
Gethsemane. The  
disciples who were  
with Him fell asleep.  
"O My Father," Jesus  
prayed, "... Let this  
cup pass from Me.  
Nevertheless, not  
as I will, but as You  
will."

10



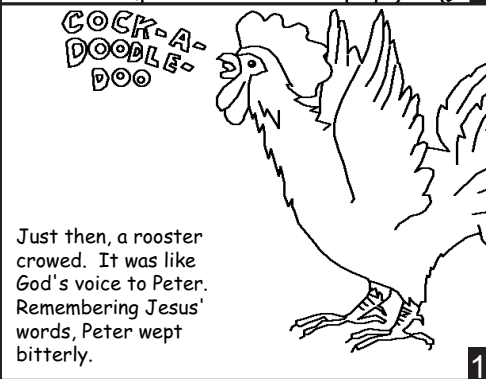
Suddenly a mob marched into the  
garden, led by Judas. Jesus did not  
resist, but Peter cut off a man's ear.  
Quietly, Jesus touched the man's  
ear and healed him. Jesus  
knew His arrest was  
part of God's will.

11



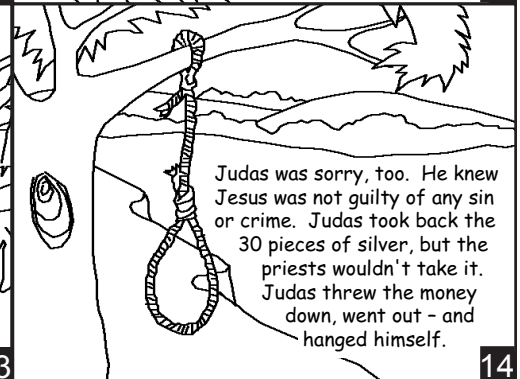
The mob took Jesus to the high priest's house.  
There, the Jewish leaders said Jesus should die.  
Nearby, Peter stood beside the servants' fire  
and watched. Three  
times people stared at  
Peter and said, "You  
were with Jesus!"  
Three times Peter  
denied it, just as  
Jesus said he  
would. Peter  
even cursed and swore.

12



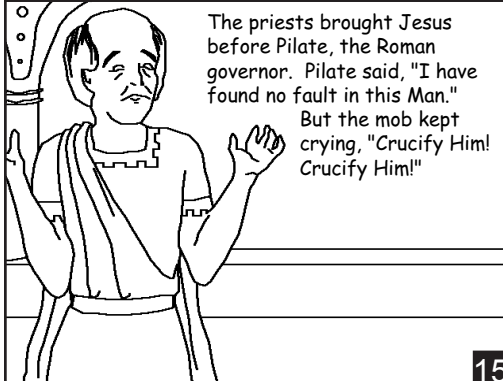
COCK-A-  
DOODLE-  
DOO  
Just then, a rooster  
crowed. It was like  
God's voice to Peter.  
Remembering Jesus'  
words, Peter wept  
bitterly.

13



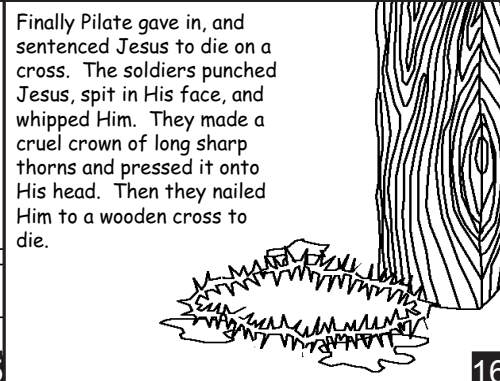
Judas was sorry, too. He knew  
Jesus was not guilty of any sin  
or crime. Judas took back the  
30 pieces of silver, but the  
priests wouldn't take it.  
Judas threw the money  
down, went out - and  
hanged himself.

14



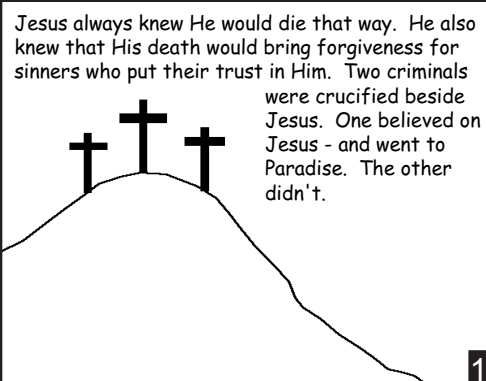
The priests brought Jesus  
before Pilate, the Roman  
governor. Pilate said, "I have  
found no fault in this Man."  
But the mob kept  
crying, "Crucify Him!  
Crucify Him!"

15



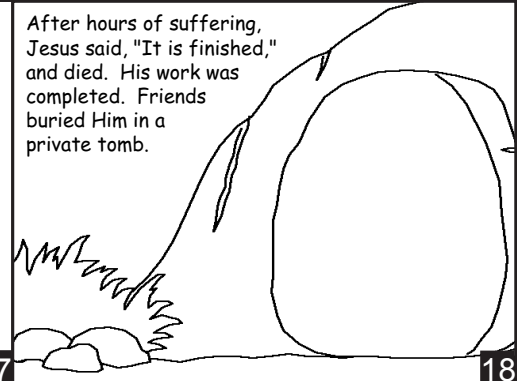
Finally Pilate gave in, and  
sentenced Jesus to die on a  
cross. The soldiers punched  
Jesus, spit in His face, and  
whipped Him. They made a  
cruel crown of long sharp  
thorns and pressed it onto  
His head. Then they nailed  
Him to a wooden cross to  
die.

16



Jesus always knew He would die that way. He also  
knew that His death would bring forgiveness for  
sinners who put their trust in Him. Two criminals  
were crucified beside  
Jesus. One believed on  
Jesus - and went to  
Paradise. The other  
didn't.

17



After hours of suffering,  
Jesus said, "It is finished,"  
and died. His work was  
completed. Friends  
buried Him in a  
private tomb.

18