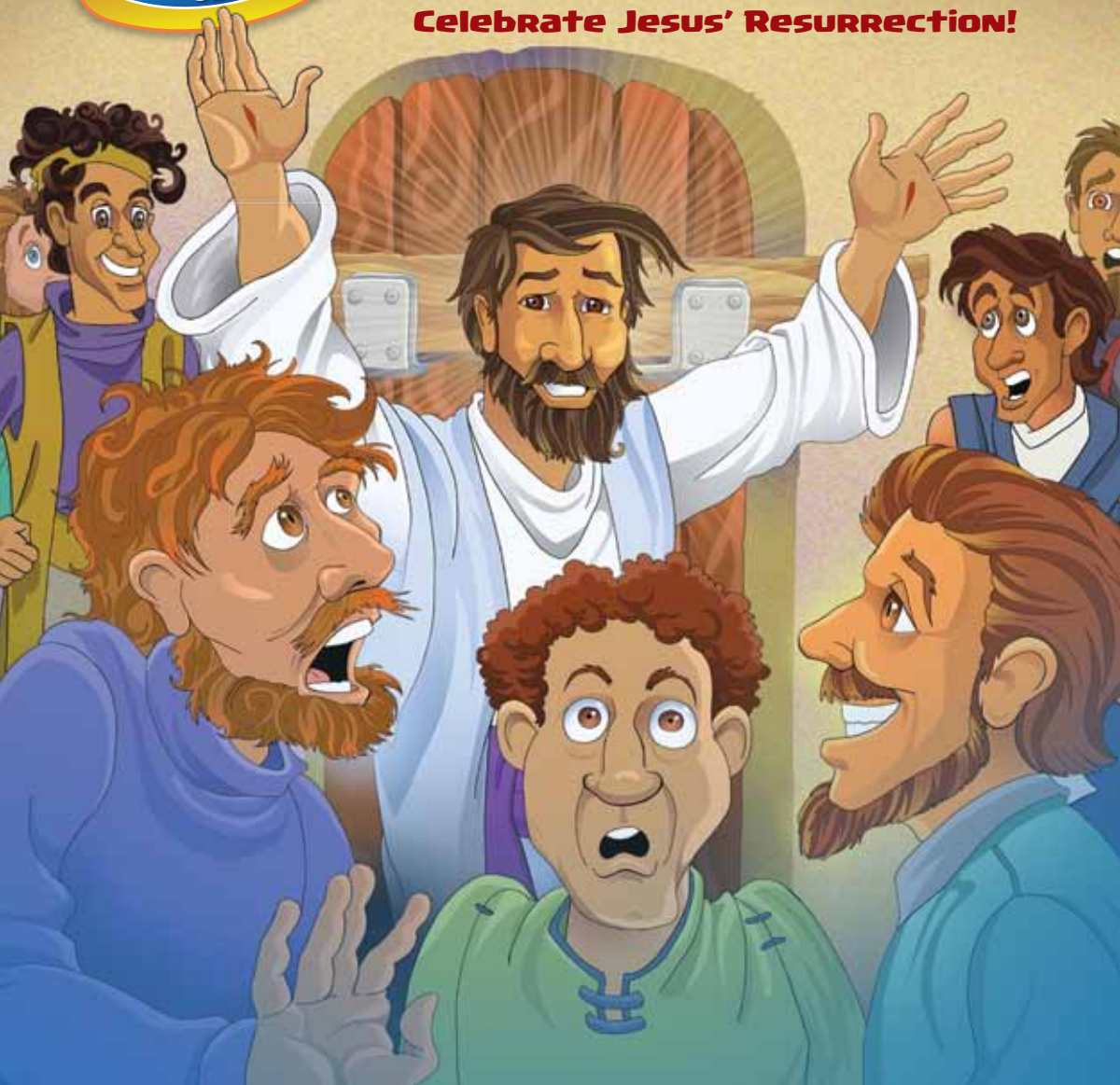




# THE Easter Story

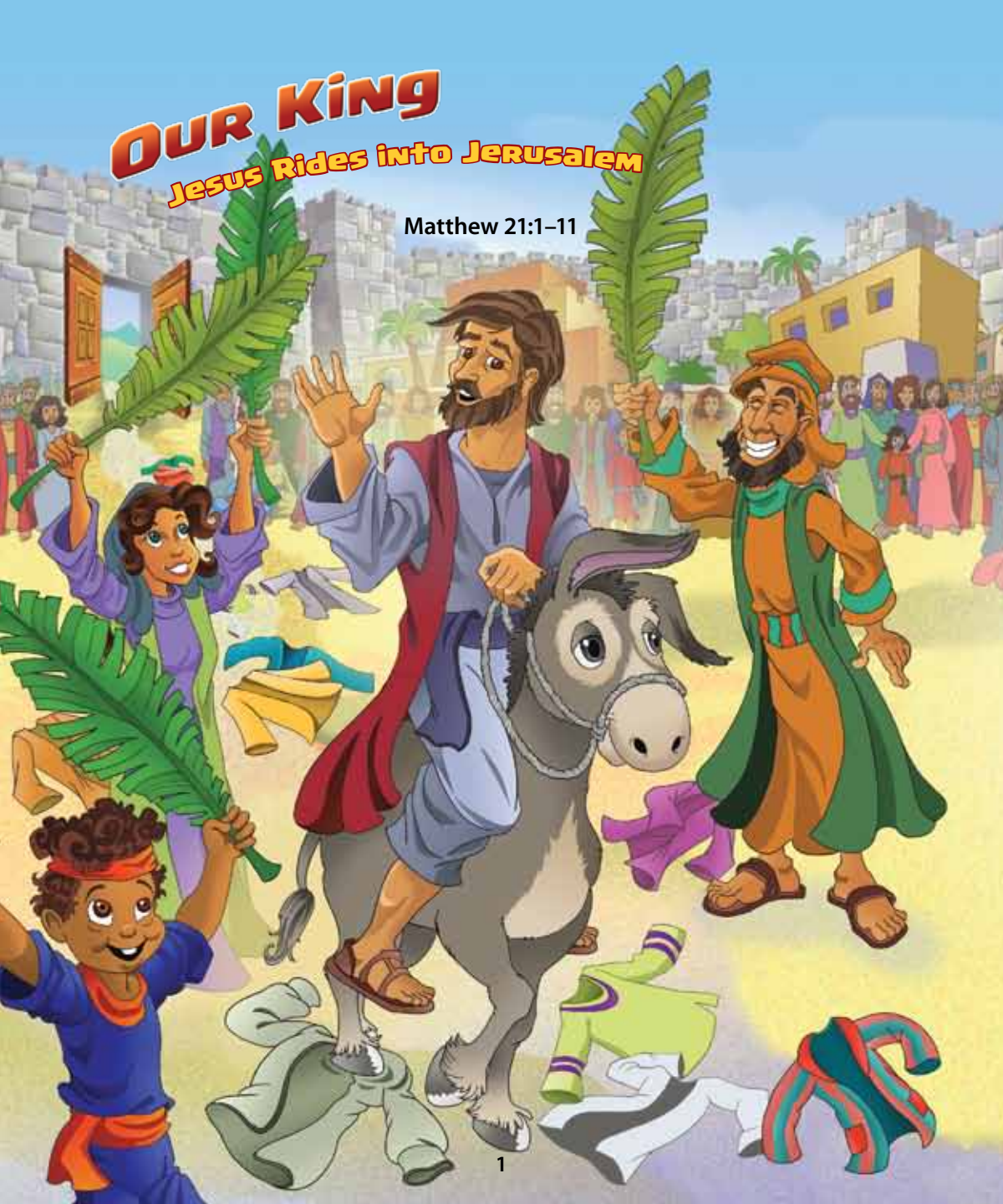
**Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection!**



# OUR KING

## Jesus Rides into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11



Jesus planned a special visit to Jerusalem. “I will ride into the city on a young donkey,” He told His disciples.

As the donkey clopped down the street, people swarmed around Jesus. “*Hosanna*—the Lord saves!” they cheered.

Many people spread their coats on the ground in front of Jesus. Others waved palm branches in the air. “Praise God in heaven for Jesus!” they rejoiced.

On that day, Jesus came to God’s people as their King. Everyone in the city was amazed!

### Discover God!

**God is our King!** Jesus rode into Jerusalem as King of God’s people.

*What can you do to praise King Jesus?*



# Stay Awake

## Jesus Prays in the Garden

Matthew 26:36–46



Jesus walked with His disciples to a grove of trees. “I am very sad tonight,” He told them. “Pray and wait for Me here.”

Then Jesus went to pray alone. “Father, please give Me strength to do what *You* want—not what I want.”

When Jesus returned, His friends were sleeping! “Wake up and pray,” Jesus reminded them.

Jesus left again and prayed, “Father, if *You* want Me to die to save *Your* people, I will.”

When Jesus went back, His disciples were asleep again. Jesus said, “Wake up! We still need to pray.”

### Discover God!

**God strengthens us!** Jesus prayed for strength to do what God wanted.

*Why is doing what God wants so important?*



# Dark Night

## Soldiers Arrest Jesus

Matthew 26:14–16, 47–56

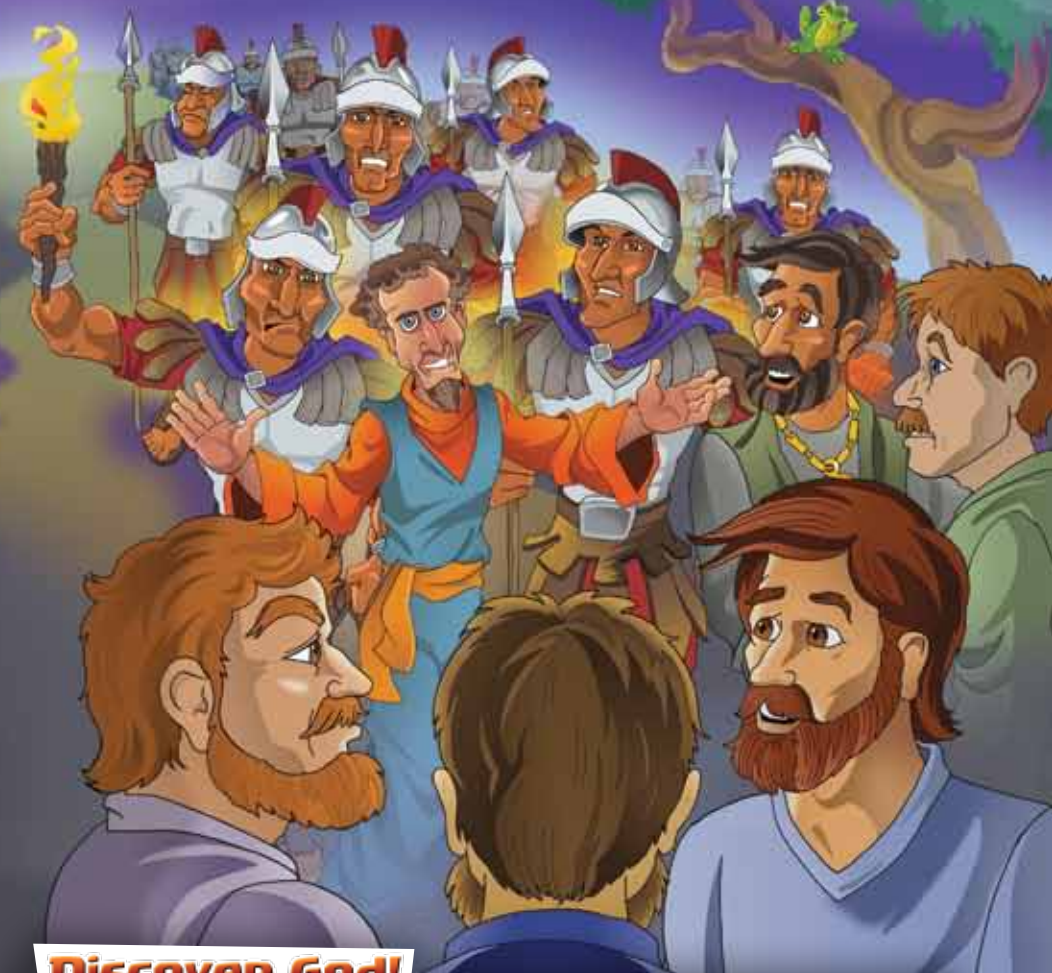
Judas was a disciple who pretended to be Jesus' friend. Jesus' enemies paid Judas money to help them arrest Jesus.

One night, Judas led soldiers straight to Jesus and the other disciples. He kissed Jesus and said, "Hello, Teacher."

"Friend," said Jesus, "Do what you came to do." Then the soldiers tied Jesus' hands and were mean to Him.

"The Bible says all these things will happen," Jesus announced.

The disciples didn't want to be arrested, too—so they ran away. Then the soldiers took Jesus with them.



### Discover God!

**God knows us!** Judas loved money more than he wanted to be Jesus' friend.

*What can you do to make Jesus your very best Friend?*

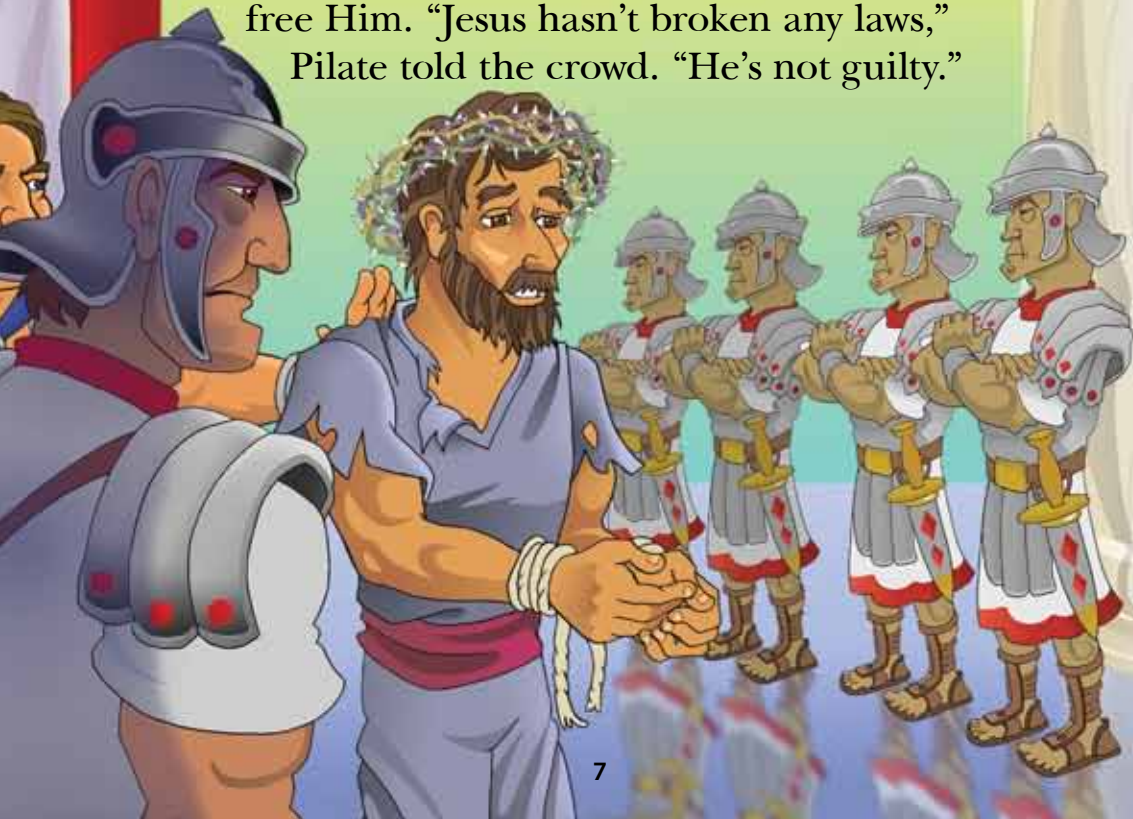
# Not Guilty

## Pilate Judges Jesus

John 18:28—19:16

Soldiers brought Jesus to the Roman leader, Pilate. To please the people, he let the soldiers beat Jesus up. They put a thorny crown on His head and made fun of Him.

Pilate talked with Jesus and decided to free Him. “Jesus hasn’t broken any laws,” Pilate told the crowd. “He’s not guilty.”



“Kill Him!” the evil leaders shouted.  
“Crucify Him!”

Pilate finally gave up. Soldiers made Jesus carry a heavy cross. While Jesus walked, He remembered the people He loved. He would do what was best for them.



### Discover God!

**God is righteous.** Pilate knew that Jesus had not done anything wrong.

*What can you do when someone is not treated fairly?*

# THE CROSS

## Jesus Dies and Is Buried

Matthew 27:31—28:10

Though Jesus had done nothing wrong, soldiers nailed Him to a cross. “Save Yourself now!” they laughed. Then they divided up His clothes.

Hanging on the cross hurt *very* much! It was *so* hard for Jesus. But He loved people and wanted to pay for all their sins.

Jesus called out to God, “Take My Spirit!”

When Jesus died, the sky turned black and the earth shook. Many people were sad and confused. One soldier said, “He surely was God’s Son!”

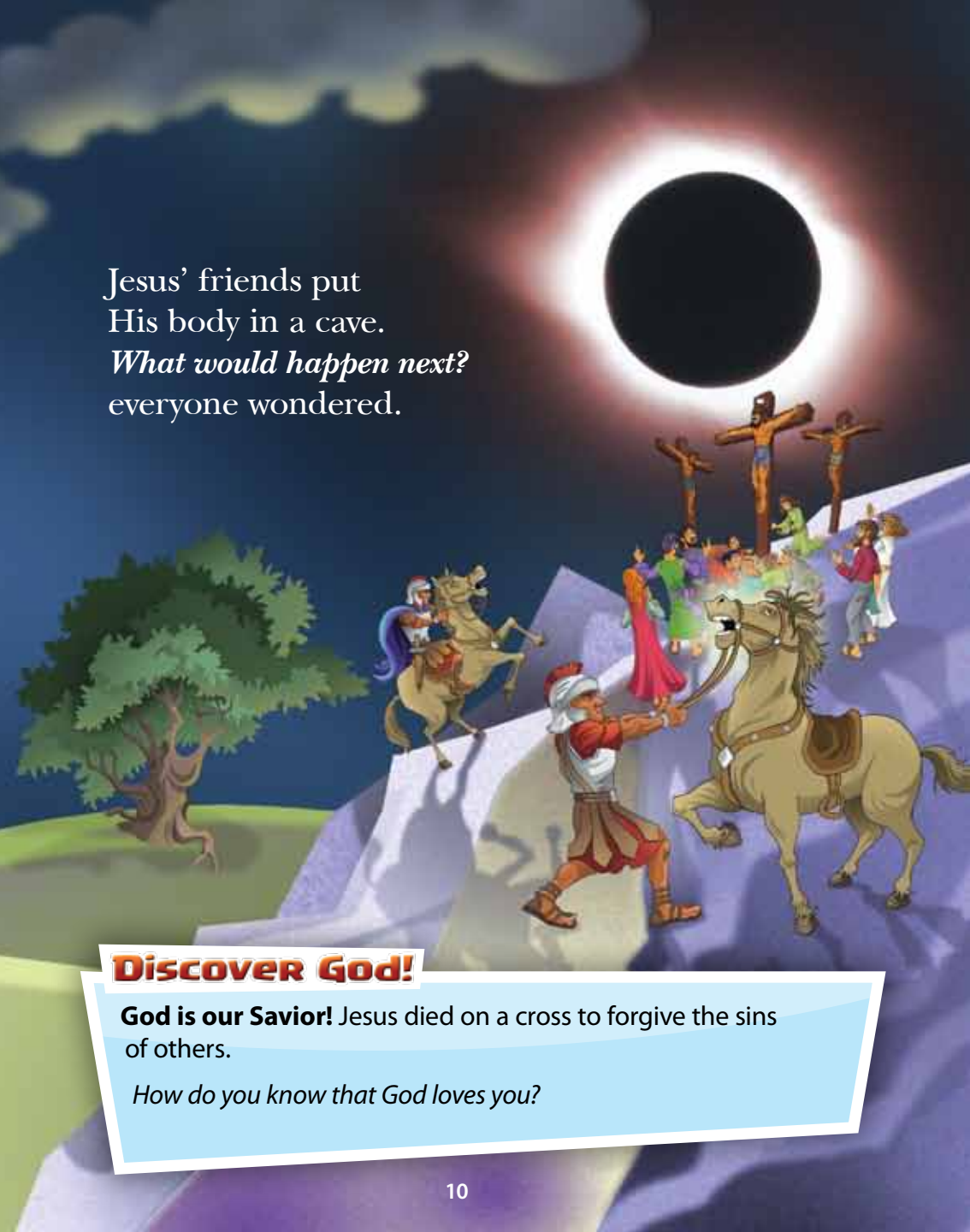


Jesus’ friends put His body in a cave. *What would happen next?* everyone wondered.

### Discover God!

**God is our Savior!** Jesus died on a cross to forgive the sins of others.

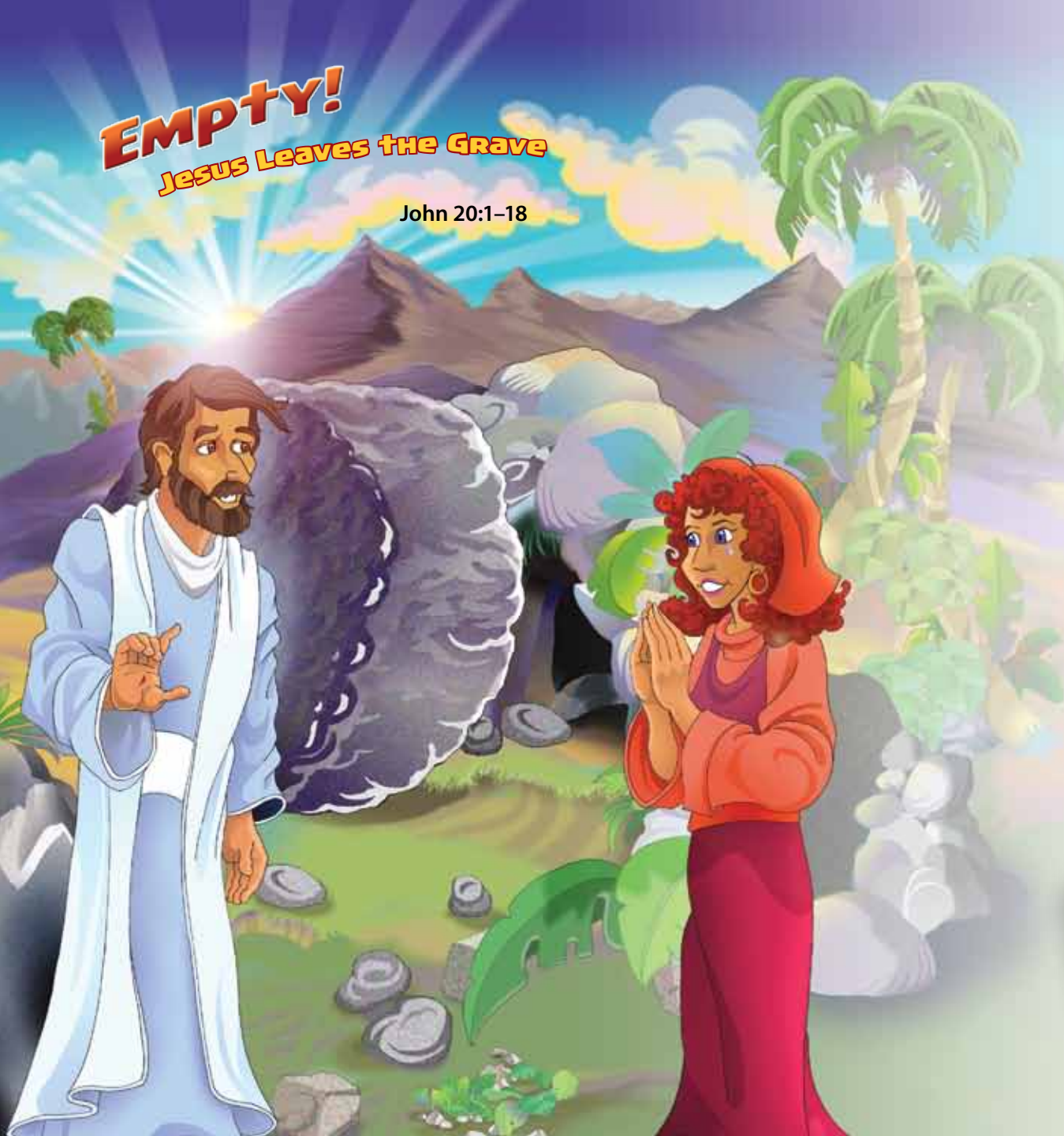
*How do you know that God loves you?*



# EMPTY!

## Jesus Leaves the Grave

John 20:1-18



Tears flowed down Mary's face as she walked to Jesus' tomb. *He's been dead three days*, she thought.

Mary was surprised when she arrived. Someone had moved the giant stone! Mary looked inside—Jesus' body wasn't there!

Two angels asked, "Why are you crying?"

"I can't find Jesus," she sobbed.

Mary turned and saw a Man standing nearby. "Mary! It's Me," Jesus told her. "Go, tell My friends that I'm alive! I'll visit them soon."

Mary ran to tell her friends the wonderful news. Jesus is alive!



### Discover God!

**God is victorious!** Jesus came back to life after He died.

*Who can you tell that Jesus is alive?*

# Ready, Set, Go!

## EVERYONE MUST KNOW

Matthew 28:16–20

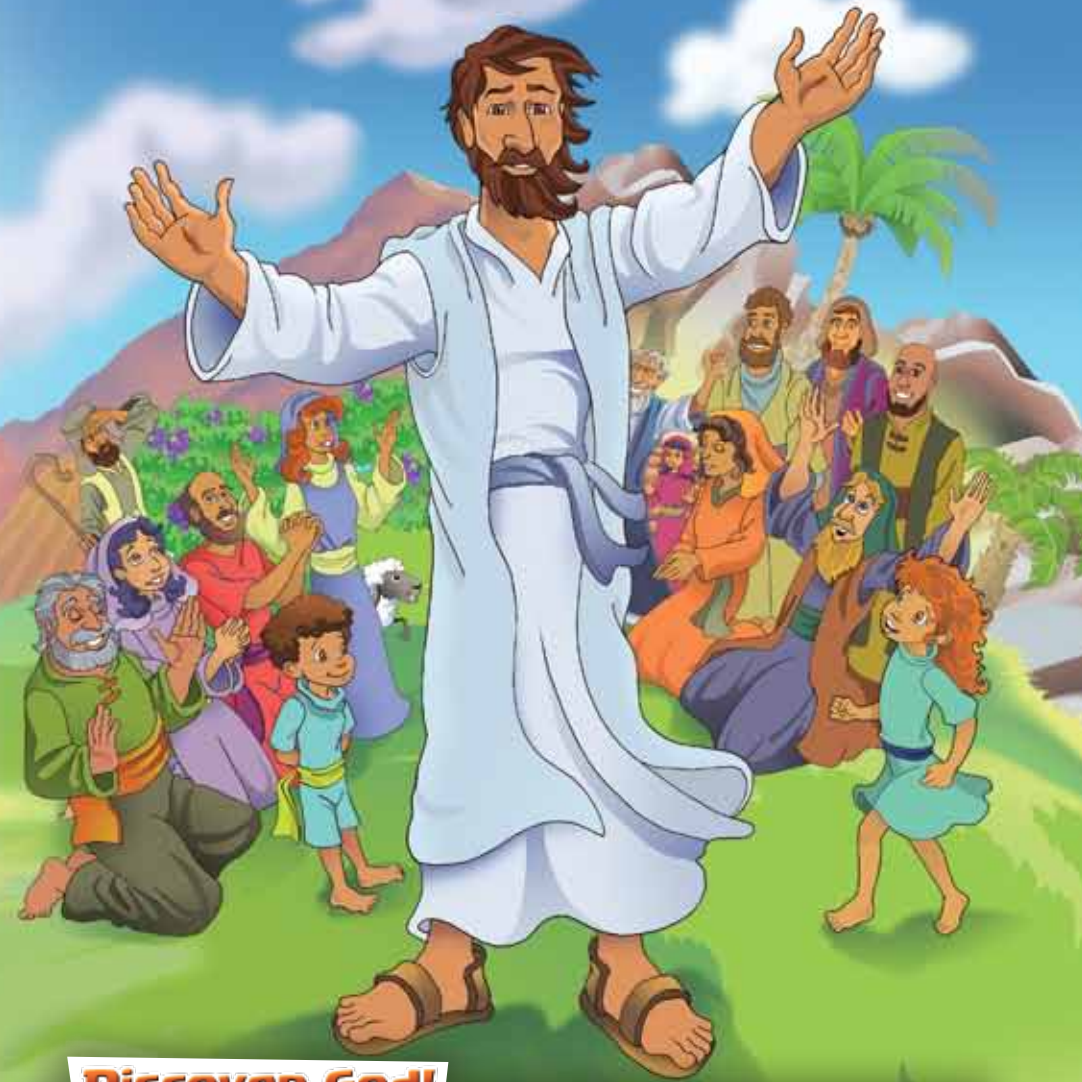
After Jesus died on the cross, God’s awesome power brought Him back to life!

“God has put Me in charge of everything,” Jesus told His disciples. “Now I have a very important job for you.

“Go teach people everywhere about Me! Then they will be My disciples, too. Tell them I will be their Friend. I will forgive their sins. And I will make a place for them in heaven.

“Baptize My followers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I say.

“And never forget,” Jesus smiled, “I will always be with you.”



### Discover God!

**God teaches us!** Jesus told His friends to go make disciples everywhere.

*Where can you go to tell someone about Jesus’ love and forgiveness?*



# Good News for Kids!



## God made you and loves you.

God is powerful. He created everything—including you. (Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:20)  
God is personal. He loves you and wants to be your Friend. (John 3:16; Romans 8:38-39)



## God knows everything about you.

Every person sins against God. (Daniel 9:4-5; Romans 3:23)  
Every person will pay for sin—including you. (Romans 5:12, 6:23a)



## God sent His Son to be your Savior.

Jesus left heaven and was born on earth. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; John 1:1,14)  
Jesus never committed a single sin. (1 Peter 2:21-22; Hebrews 4:15)



## Jesus died to forgive your sins.

He took the punishment you deserved. (1 Peter 2:24; Romans 5:8)  
His blood washed away your sins. (Hebrews 9:22; 1 John 1:7-9)



## Jesus rose to give you new life!

You can trust Jesus and become God's child. (John 1:12, 14:6)  
You can trust Jesus and receive new life. (John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17)



## Are you ready to trust Jesus as your Savior?

If you believe that Jesus died to forgive your sins, show your faith and begin your new friendship by praying—talking with God.

- Admit that you have sinned and need forgiveness.
- Thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross to forgive your sins.
- Tell God that you trust Jesus as your personal Savior and you choose to follow Him.
- Ask God to make you the kind of person He wants you to be.



## Trust God to empower you.

Jesus lives forever inside you. (Galatians 2:20; John 10:28, 15:5)  
The Holy Spirit will always guide you. (John 16:13; Acts 1:8)



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