

God Sent Jesus to Save Us

QUICK SESSION OVERVIEW

Opening Prayer	2 min
Watch and Discuss; Read and Explore	68 min
Show What You Know	10 min
Journal with Jesus	5 min
Closing Prayer	5 min

OBJECTIVES

- **TO DEMONSTRATE** that our story and Jesus' story are connected.
- **TO EXPLAIN** that God will go to unimaginable lengths to prove his love to us.
- **TO TEACH** that Jesus invites us to have a dynamic and personal relationship with him so that he can share his happiness with us and we can share it with others.

DON'T LET A SINGLE MOMENT GO TO WASTE . . .

- **Greet the children at the door.**
- **Let them know you are excited for them to discover Jesus.**

WELCOME

If there is one person we should each get to know in a deeply personal way, it is Jesus.

That's precisely why the task before you is so important! There is no story, no person more important for these young people to discover than Jesus. And, believe it or not, this might be the one opportunity these young people have to encounter Jesus in a powerful way.

It's good for you to take some time to feel the weight of this great task. It will give you a sense of urgency and a higher level of focus. But be careful not to let it overwhelm you. The temptation to think, "That's too great a task; I am only one person, after all!" will be tremendous.

When that thought enters your mind, take a step back and look at what other great men and women before you have done in the span of just one lifetime: Francis of Assisi, St. Paul, Thomas Aquinas, John the Baptist, St. Augustine, Teresa of Ávila, Thomas More, Joan of Arc, Edmund Rice, Don Bosco, John Vianney, Dominic, Patrick, Rita, Mary, and of course Jesus. Look also at what others have done in our time: St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II.

They too could have used the excuse, "I am only one person." The difference is, they didn't see themselves as one person, but rather as part of one body. Then, dedicated to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, they chose to serve, and choosing to serve is choosing to love.

Remember, Blessed is the fruit of thousands of hours of research, development, and testing. Every word, every image, every activity has been scrutinized, evaluated, and prayed over. You are not alone.



**Prayer
Icon**



**Read and
Explore**



**Watch and
Discuss**



**Show What
You Know**



**Journal
with Jesus**



**Time
Tracker**



OPENING PRAYER

Step-by-Step

- 1 Gather students for prayer. Wait for them to be quiet. Don't rush this; reverence takes patience and practice. Before reading the prayer aloud, take a deep breath to allow an additional moment of silence. You never know what God might say to your students (or you!) when given the opportunity.

Every yearning you have for good things is in some way a yearning for God.

Decision Point



3

God Sent Jesus to Save Us

God, our loving Father,
 thank you for all the ways you bless me.
 Help me to be aware that every person,
 place, and adventure I experience is an
 opportunity to love you more.
 Fill me with a desire to change and to grow,
 and give me the grace to become
 the-best-version-of-myself in
 every moment of every day.

Amen.



2 minutes

My Notes:

tip

Being specific lets your students know what is needed. A firm, not angry, voice sets the tone. "We are not talking right now; we are praying." "I am waiting on everyone to close their eyes to begin."

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

James 5:16



WATCH AND DISCUSS

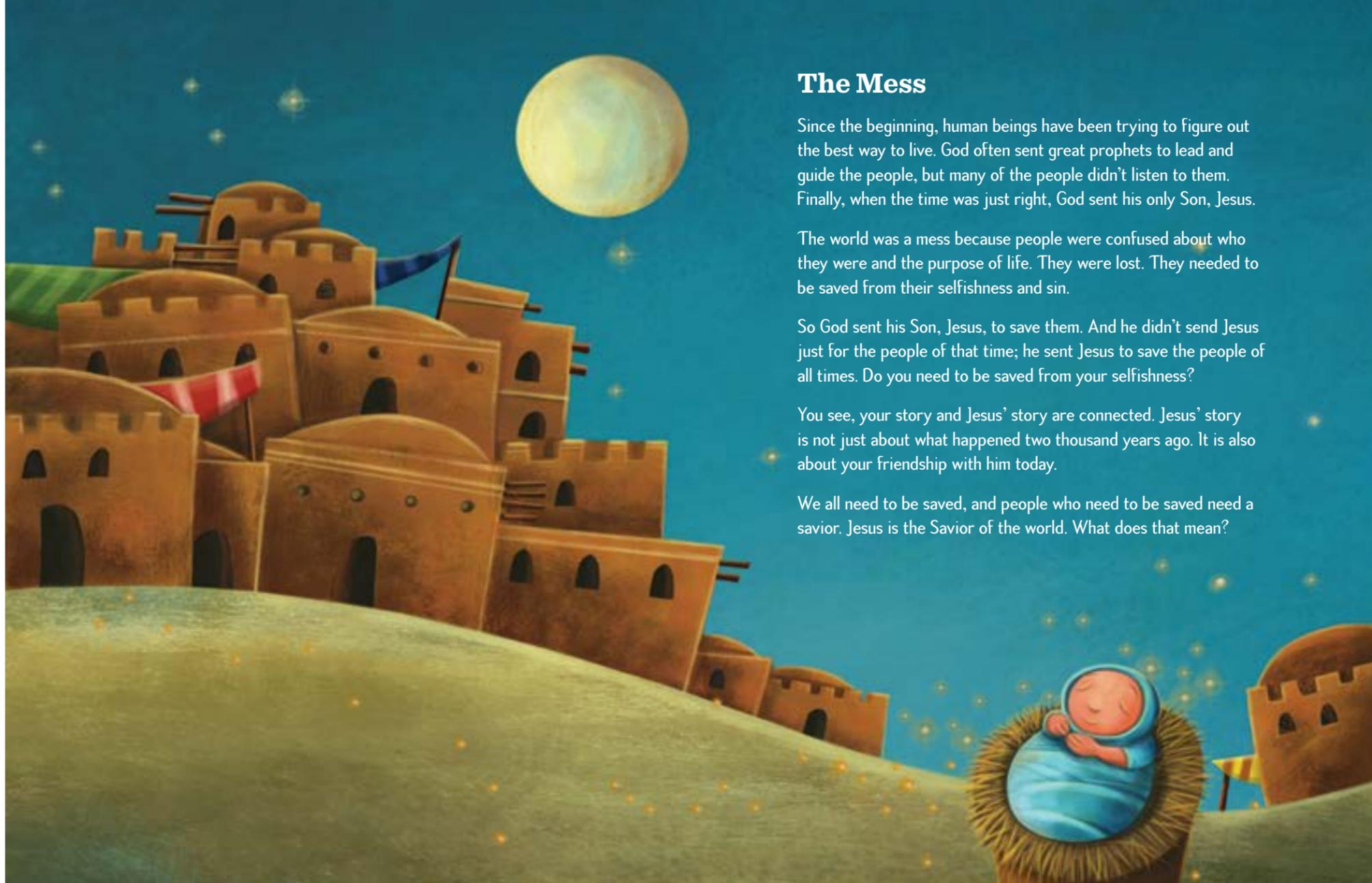
Step-by-Step

1 Introduce Episode 1 by saying: “In this episode Sarah saves Hemingway from a messy situation with some ice cream. Have you ever needed to be saved from a mess?”

2 Watch Episode 1.

3 Ask: “Jesus is Savior of the world. What does that mean?”

- BEING SAVIOR OF THE WORLD MEANS THAT JESUS SAVED EVERY PERSON WHO HAS EVER LIVED, AND WHO WILL EVER LIVE, FROM OUR SINS SO THAT WE CAN BE HAPPY ON EARTH AND HAPPY WITH GOD IN HEAVEN.
- IF THEY NEED HELP FINDING THE ANSWER, POINT THEM TO THE TEXT IN THE WORKBOOK.



The Mess

Since the beginning, human beings have been trying to figure out the best way to live. God often sent great prophets to lead and guide the people, but many of the people didn't listen to them. Finally, when the time was just right, God sent his only Son, Jesus.

The world was a mess because people were confused about who they were and the purpose of life. They were lost. They needed to be saved from their selfishness and sin.

So God sent his Son, Jesus, to save them. And he didn't send Jesus just for the people of that time; he sent Jesus to save the people of all times. Do you need to be saved from your selfishness?

You see, your story and Jesus' story are connected. Jesus' story is not just about what happened two thousand years ago. It is also about your friendship with him today.

We all need to be saved, and people who need to be saved need a savior. Jesus is the Savior of the world. What does that mean?



10 minutes

My Notes:

tip

Commenting and expressing appreciation for participation is encouraging to students. Some may be reluctant to speak out loud and may not be confident in front of other children or in front of peers they don't know. Small rewards can help students be sure you value their participation. Here are some examples that encourage participation:

- GIVE OUT A STICKER OR A SMALL PIECE OF CANDY WHEN YOU THINK THE CLASS OR A PARTICULAR CHILD NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT.
- HAVE THE CLASS APPLAUD A PARTICULAR STUDENT FOR PARTICIPATING.
- GIVE HIGH-FIVES AS A REWARD.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



READ AND EXPLORE

Step-by-Step

- 1 Give the children a moment or two to explore the illustration. And yes, that is a shark fin in the water!
- 2 If you have a story of a time when you were saved, share that story with the children.

We All Need Saving

Imagine you went into a store and ate an ice cream, even though you didn't have the money to pay for it. This would be wrong and illegal, and the storeowner would have every right to be very angry with you and call the police. But just at that moment a friend of yours comes into the store, realizes what is happening, and gives his own money to the store owner to pay for the ice cream you stole. Your friend has paid your debt. In this situation, your friend has saved you.

Another example would be if you went swimming at the beach and got caught in the current and carried out to sea. As the waves get bigger and you become tired, you start drowning.

But just at that moment a lifeguard comes along in a rescue boat and brings you safely back to shore. The lifeguard has saved you.



tip

Keep your sense of humor close by. Teaching the Catholic faith is a serious task; there's probably nothing more important. But it's also supposed to be fun. You never want to lose sight of the joy of being with young children. When a child does something humorous, share in his or her delight. It's easy to obsess over problems and worry about things you wish you'd done differently. Humor, though, brings much needed perspective. If you can maintain your humor, you'll be a much happier leader—and most likely, a better one, too.



My Notes:

Embrace the life and teachings of Jesus like you would a good friend whom you have not seen for a long time.

Decision Point

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Deuteronomy 31:8



READ AND EXPLORE

Step-by-Step

1 Remind your students: "When Jesus was on the cross, he thought of you!"

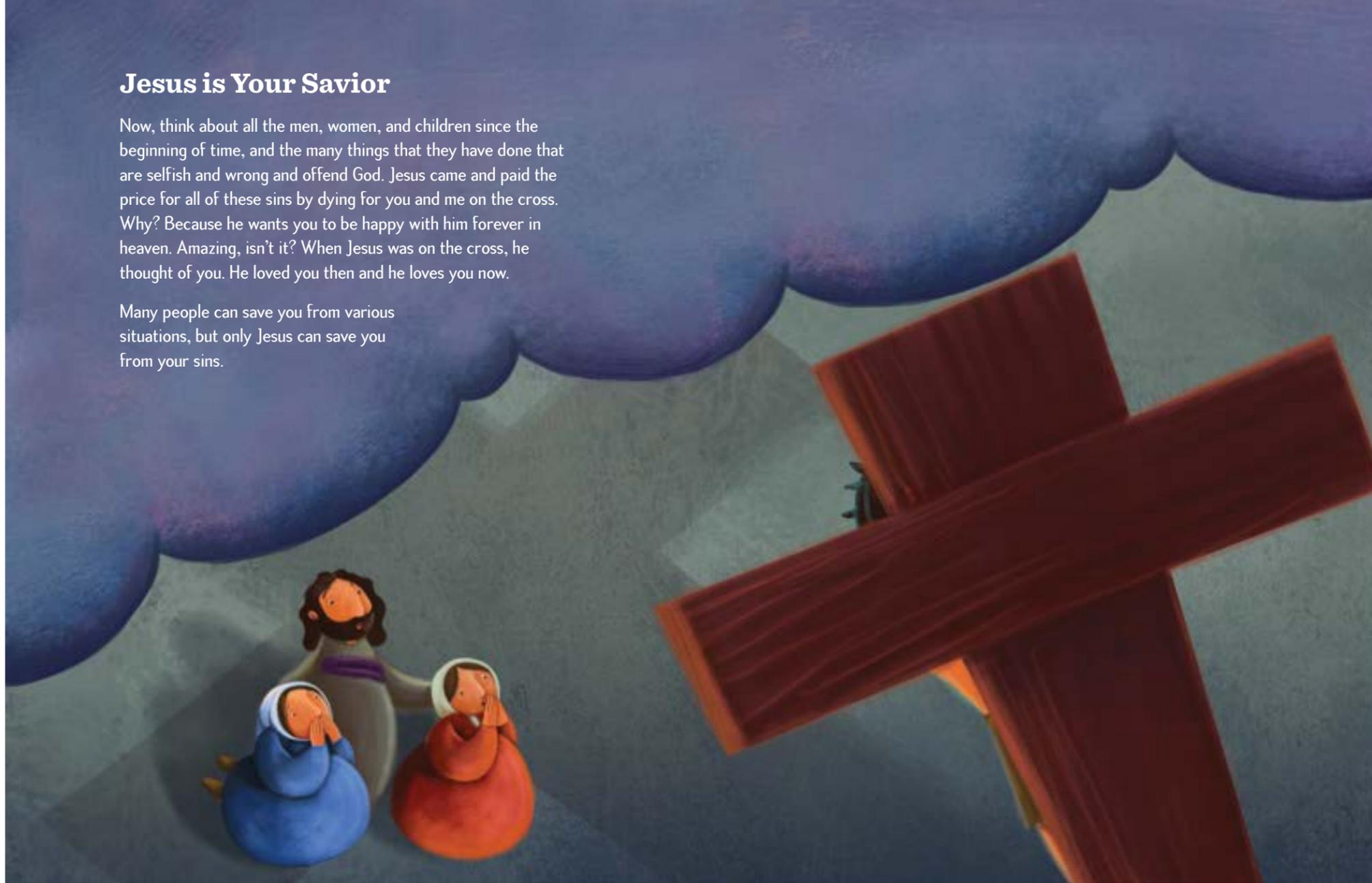
2 Ask them: "How does this make you feel?" Possible answers include the following:

- GRATEFUL
- HAPPY
- BLESSED

Jesus is Your Savior

Now, think about all the men, women, and children since the beginning of time, and the many things that they have done that are selfish and wrong and offend God. Jesus came and paid the price for all of these sins by dying for you and me on the cross. Why? Because he wants you to be happy with him forever in heaven. Amazing, isn't it? When Jesus was on the cross, he thought of you. He loved you then and he loves you now.

Many people can save you from various situations, but only Jesus can save you from your sins.



My Notes:

Jesus teaches that the essence of love is self-donation.

Decision Point

tip

Use repetition and reinforcement to your advantage. You can't expect your students to gain new knowledge after just one exposure. Repetition is key! This may be the first time some of your children learn that Jesus died out of love for them. This is a HUGE deal! Through repetition and reinforcement, you will be letting them know how important this reality is for their lives.

Jesus also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his footsteps.

1 Peter 2:21



WATCH AND DISCUSS

Step-by-Step

- 1 Introduce Episode 2 by asking: "Are you ready to meet Ben and Sarah's baby sister, Lily?"
- 2 Watch Episode 2.
- 3 Activity: SIMON SAYS
To play, perform a quick movement, like touching your nose, stating the movement as you do it. Unless you say, "Simon says," before you describe the movement, the children should not do it. If a child does the action without your saying "Simon Says" first, he or she is out and should sit down. Work fast to make it more difficult and to add humor. The sillier the movement, the more fun the group will have. Play until all the children are sitting or until two minutes have passed.

Jesus' Birth & Childhood

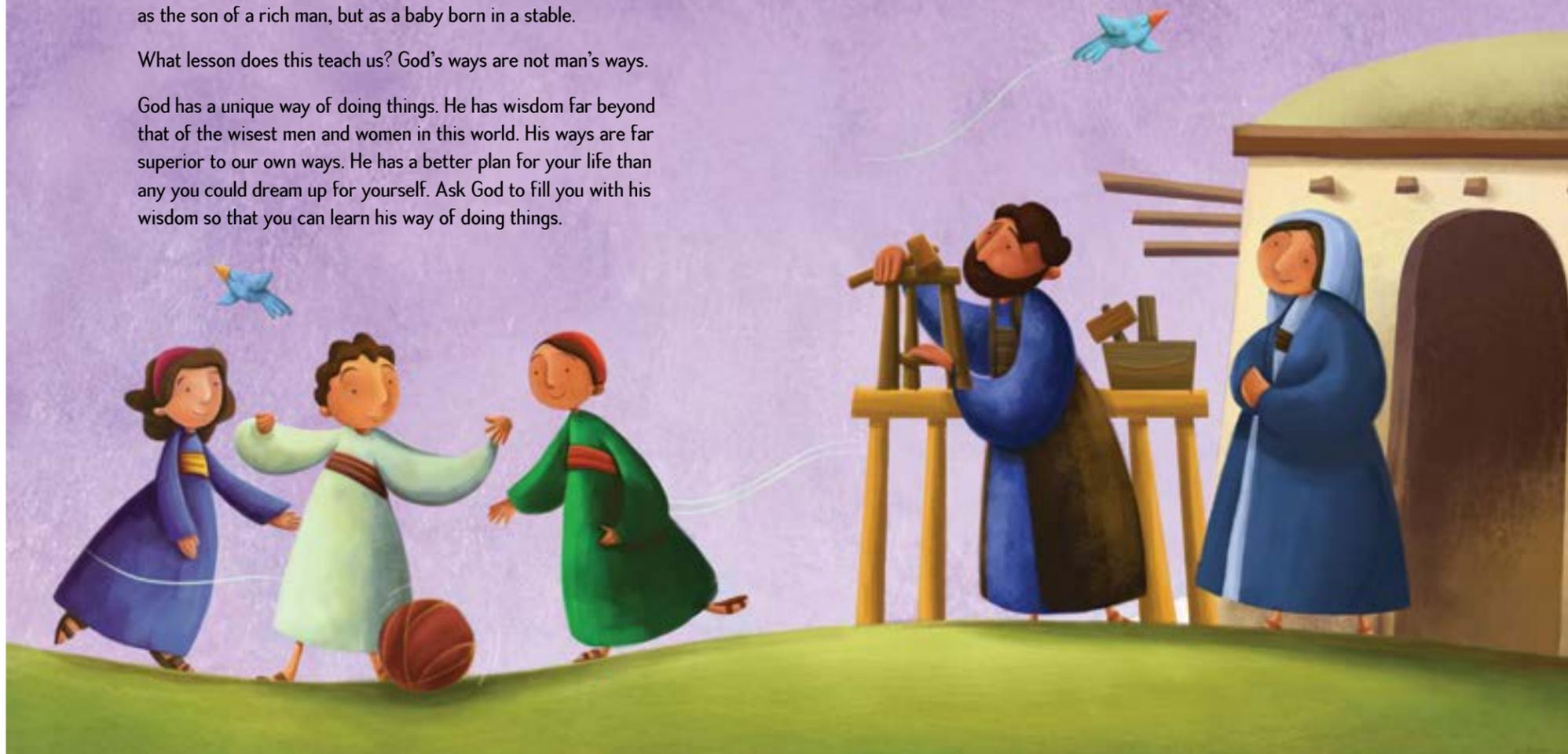
Jesus had a huge mission: to save every sinner in history from their sins. That's a big mission, right?

And yet, God in his wisdom decided not to come as the king of a great nation or as a powerful political leader. He didn't even come as the son of a rich man, but as a baby born in a stable.

What lesson does this teach us? God's ways are not man's ways.

God has a unique way of doing things. He has wisdom far beyond that of the wisest men and women in this world. His ways are far superior to our own ways. He has a better plan for your life than any you could dream up for yourself. Ask God to fill you with his wisdom so that you can learn his way of doing things.

God came into the world as a tiny, helpless child. Every year we celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth. Christmas is Jesus' birthday. But if Christmas is Jesus' birthday, why do you get presents?



My Notes:

tip

Listening skills are essential to living a rich and rewarding life. It is impossible to have great relationships if you are not a good listener. But most people are not good listeners. Explain to the students that one of the practical life skills they are developing throughout this program is the ability to really listen to God. Simon Says is a great way to help the children learn the importance of listening in a fun and entertaining way.

Whenever man attempts to do what he knows to be the Master's will, a power will be given him equal to the duty.

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen



READ AND EXPLORE

Step-by-Step

- 1 Have students think of a time when they lost something important to them. How did they feel when they lost it? Did they find it? If so, how did they feel when they found it? Feel free to participate and share a time when you lost and then found something important to you. Don't forget to thank them for sharing!
- 2 Give the children an opportunity to explore the illustration. Ask them: "How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they found Jesus?"

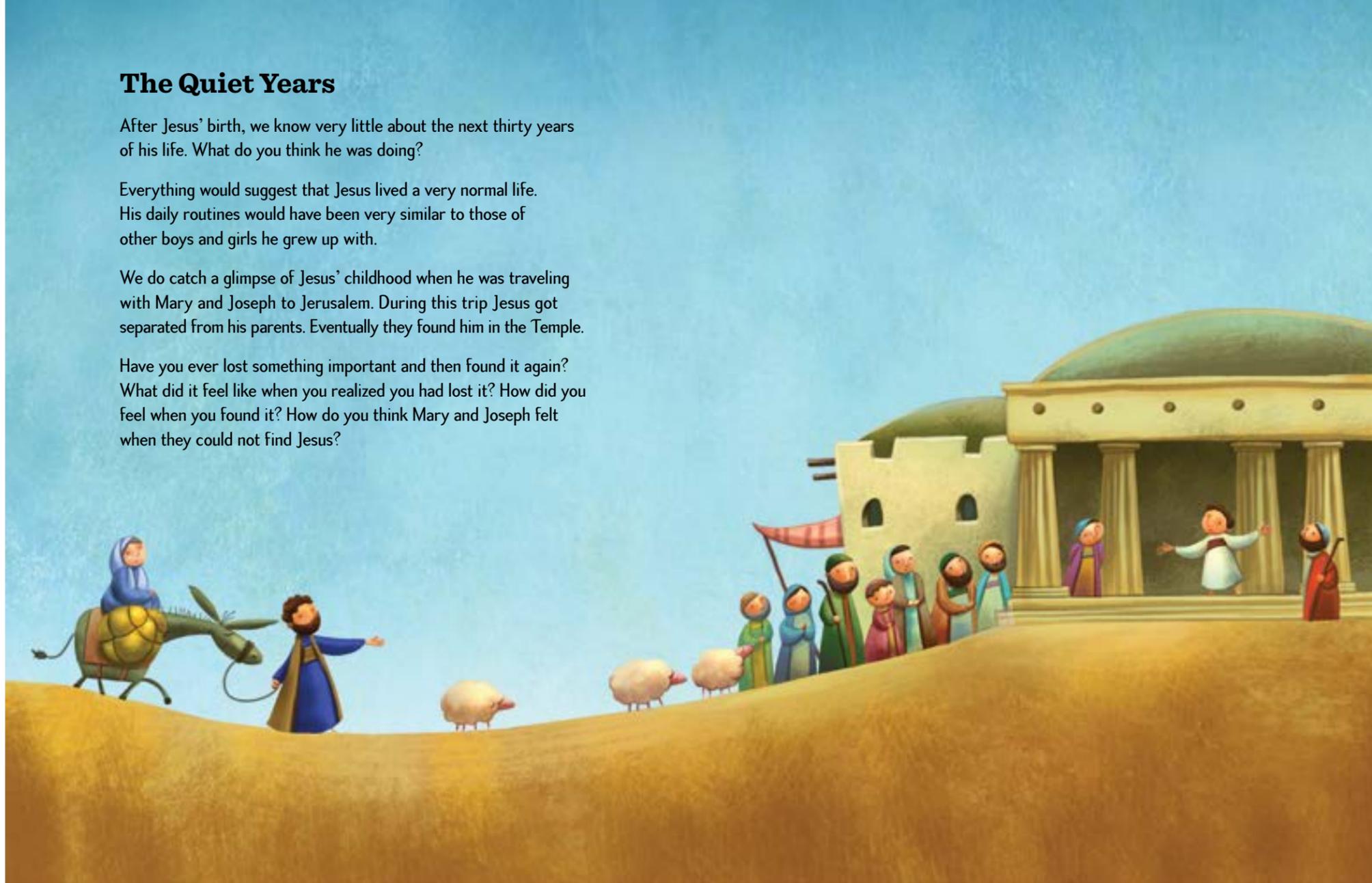
The Quiet Years

After Jesus' birth, we know very little about the next thirty years of his life. What do you think he was doing?

Everything would suggest that Jesus lived a very normal life. His daily routines would have been very similar to those of other boys and girls he grew up with.

We do catch a glimpse of Jesus' childhood when he was traveling with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem. During this trip Jesus got separated from his parents. Eventually they found him in the Temple.

Have you ever lost something important and then found it again? What did it feel like when you realized you had lost it? How did you feel when you found it? How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they could not find Jesus?



5 minutes

My Notes:

tip

Try to involve everyone in the conversation. Ask the boys and the girls an equal number of questions. Look around the room. Move the conversation around the classroom, trying to involve as much of the class as possible.

You can't ignore Jesus, because he changed things. He is the single greatest agent of change in human history.

Rediscover Catholicism

We have what we seek, it is there all the time, and if we give it time, it will make itself known to us.

Thomas Merton



WATCH AND DISCUSS

Step-by-Step

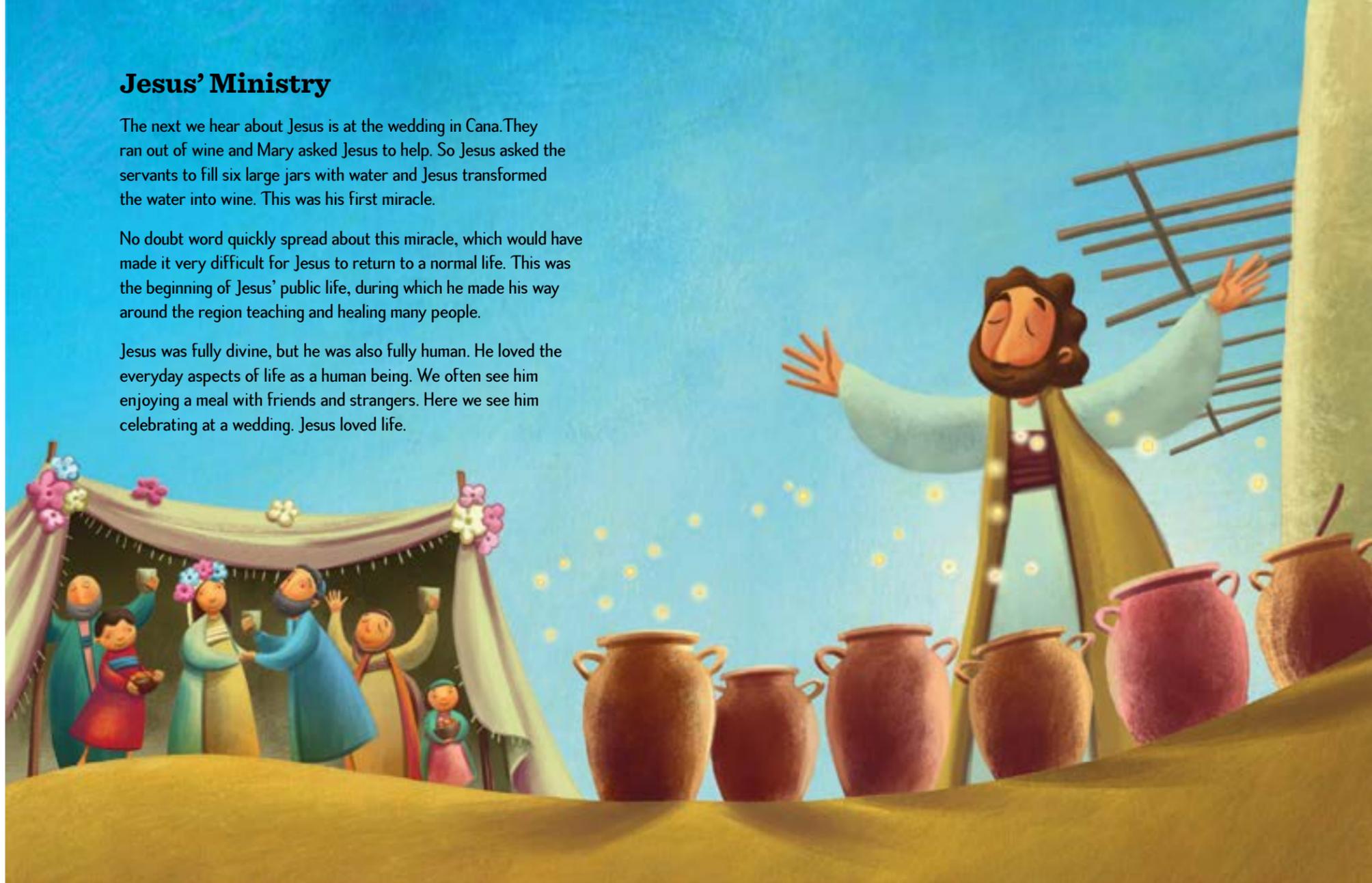
- 1 Introduce Episode 3 by saying: "I hope you are as excited as I am to learn about the life of Jesus!"
- 2 Watch Episode 3.
- 3 Activity: STRETCH!
Guide students in some stretching exercises. Have them stand up and follow your directions for an easy, instant energizer.

Jesus' Ministry

The next we hear about Jesus is at the wedding in Cana. They ran out of wine and Mary asked Jesus to help. So Jesus asked the servants to fill six large jars with water and Jesus transformed the water into wine. This was his first miracle.

No doubt word quickly spread about this miracle, which would have made it very difficult for Jesus to return to a normal life. This was the beginning of Jesus' public life, during which he made his way around the region teaching and healing many people.

Jesus was fully divine, but he was also fully human. He loved the everyday aspects of life as a human being. We often see him enjoying a meal with friends and strangers. Here we see him celebrating at a wedding. Jesus loved life.



My Notes:

tip

If you are following the suggested 90-minute format, this marks the approximate halfway point. It is a good time for a brief break. If you are running behind, take a quick look ahead and see where you can get back on track. If ahead of schedule, look for an opportunity in the next 45 minutes to spark a great conversation. If on time, press on and finish strong!

For more than two thousand years Jesus has been performing miracles in the lives of ordinary men and women. Now he wants to perform miracles in you and through you. Are you ready?

Rediscover Jesus

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:10



READ AND EXPLORE

Step-by-Step

- 1 Popcorn! Ask a different student to read each paragraph.
- 2 Ask the children: "How can you carry on Jesus' mission?" Remind them what Ben told Sarah when she asked him that very question.
 - BEING A GREAT FRIEND
 - TREATING OTHERS HOW I WANT TO BE TREATED
 - FOLLOWING THE COMMANDMENTS
 - GOING TO MASS

The Disciples

One of the things Jesus loved about life was friendship. At the beginning of his ministry, he surrounded himself with twelve disciples. He personally invited each of them to follow him. He knew that he was going to die to bring salvation to all humanity, and that others would be needed to carry on the mission.

In every place and in every time, Jesus calls men, women, and children to follow him and carry on his mission. He invites you to become one of his disciples in the world today.

How can you carry on Jesus' mission?



My Notes:

tip

Share with your children how God has invited you to carry on his mission by leading this class.

It is easy to be a follower, but to be a disciple means to be a student—to be humble, docile, and teachable, and to listen.

Rediscover Catholicism

We must be living witnesses of the beauty and grandeur of Christianity.

St. Gianna Molla



READ AND EXPLORE

Step-by-Step

- 1 Share with the children your favorite parable.
- 2 Ask the children, which parable is their favorite.

Jesus' Parables

Throughout his public life Jesus used parables to share his wisdom with ordinary people. These parables were easy for ordinary people to understand because they were based on examples from everyday life.

Jesus taught in this way because the religious leaders of his time had made everything very complicated. Jesus wanted ordinary people to be able to understand his message and make their way to God. He taught us that there is genius in simplicity. One of the most difficult things in the world to do is to take something that is complex and make it simple.

Which parable is your favorite?



My Notes:

tip

How into this session are you? Your students can tell. Get into it. If you don't feel like you are into it enough, spend some more time preparing for each session. Preparation breeds confidence.

Jesus was a radical. His life was radical. His death was radical. His teachings were radical. His love was radical. It changed the entire course of human history.

Rediscover Jesus

Christ's teaching will never let us down, while worldly wisdom always will.

St. Vincent de Paul



READ AND EXPLORE

Step-by-Step

- 1 Ask the children: "If you could perform one of Jesus' miracles today, which would you choose? Why?"

The Miracles of Jesus

Jesus performed hundreds of miracles. He healed the sick, made the blind see and the lame walk, and comforted the afflicted. He didn't do these things to show off or amaze people. Jesus performed miracles because he felt tremendous mercy for people and wanted to demonstrate the awesome compassion he had for those who were struggling and suffering. He also wanted people to be absolutely clear that he was not just a great teacher, but that he was God.

God has great compassion for his people. One of the ways we can share in Jesus' mission is by bringing his compassion to everyone who crosses our path in life.

If you could perform one of Jesus' miracles today, which would you choose? Why?



3 minutes

My Notes:

tip

Throughout the preparation for First Reconciliation, there will be times when things get difficult. Remember, when things get tough, just take it one day at a time, praying and working. If things get really tough, just take it one hour at a time, being friendly to those around you and doing what you have to do. And when things get really, really tough, just take life moment by moment. Do the best you can and leave the rest to God. We have to give him our "five loaves and two fishes." Then he will work the miracle and "feed the five thousand." Grace builds on nature, so we have to do our bit.

It is easy to fall into the trap of placing Jesus' miracles in a far-off place with people you never knew. But they are also here and now. It's a miracle that he forgives our sins even though he knows we will sin again. Would you forgive someone if you knew he or she was going to do it again?

Rediscover Jesus

The most incredible thing about miracles... is that they happen.

G.K. Chesterton



WATCH AND DISCUSS

Step-by-Step

- 1 Give them a preview of the next episode. Tell them why they are going to like it. But make sure you don't give too much away. This also lets them know that you are preparing for your time together. Don't think this is a meaningless act. They notice. And it matters.
- 2 Watch Episode 4.

Life requires courage. Courage animates us and is therefore essential to the human experience

Decision Point



The Cross, Resurrection, and Ascension

Most people thought it was just another Friday, but it wasn't. We call the day Jesus died on the cross Good Friday because it was the day that Jesus saved us from our sins and repaired our relationship with God. On that day Jesus was beaten, bullied, mocked, spat upon, cursed at, and crucified on the cross. Jesus knew all this would happen, and he let it happen anyway, because he loved us so much that he was willing to lay down his life for us.

God loves you so much. He will go to unimaginable lengths to prove his love for you.

tip

This whole session is about the life of Jesus and how he invites us to be a part of his story. Don't let this be the last time you talk about it though. Don't let up on the Jesus thing. We don't talk anywhere near enough about friendship with Jesus. Keep coming back to it. If we can help them develop this friendship with Jesus, a lot of other things will just fall into place.



8 minutes

My Notes:

The crucifix does not signify defeat or failure. It reveals to us the love that overcomes evil and sin.

Pope Francis



READ AND EXPLORE

Step-by-Step

- 1 Ask the children: "Do you want to go to heaven?" We can never spend too much time encouraging and helping our young people to think about heaven and the joy that awaits us.

The Resurrection

On Sunday morning, three days after Jesus died on the cross, he rose from the dead. We call this the Resurrection. Never before and never since has anyone raised himself from the dead.

The Resurrection is the most important event in history.

One of the reasons that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead was so that we could go to heaven. God wants you to live with him and the angels and saints in heaven forever.

Do you want to go to heaven? Why?

The Ascension

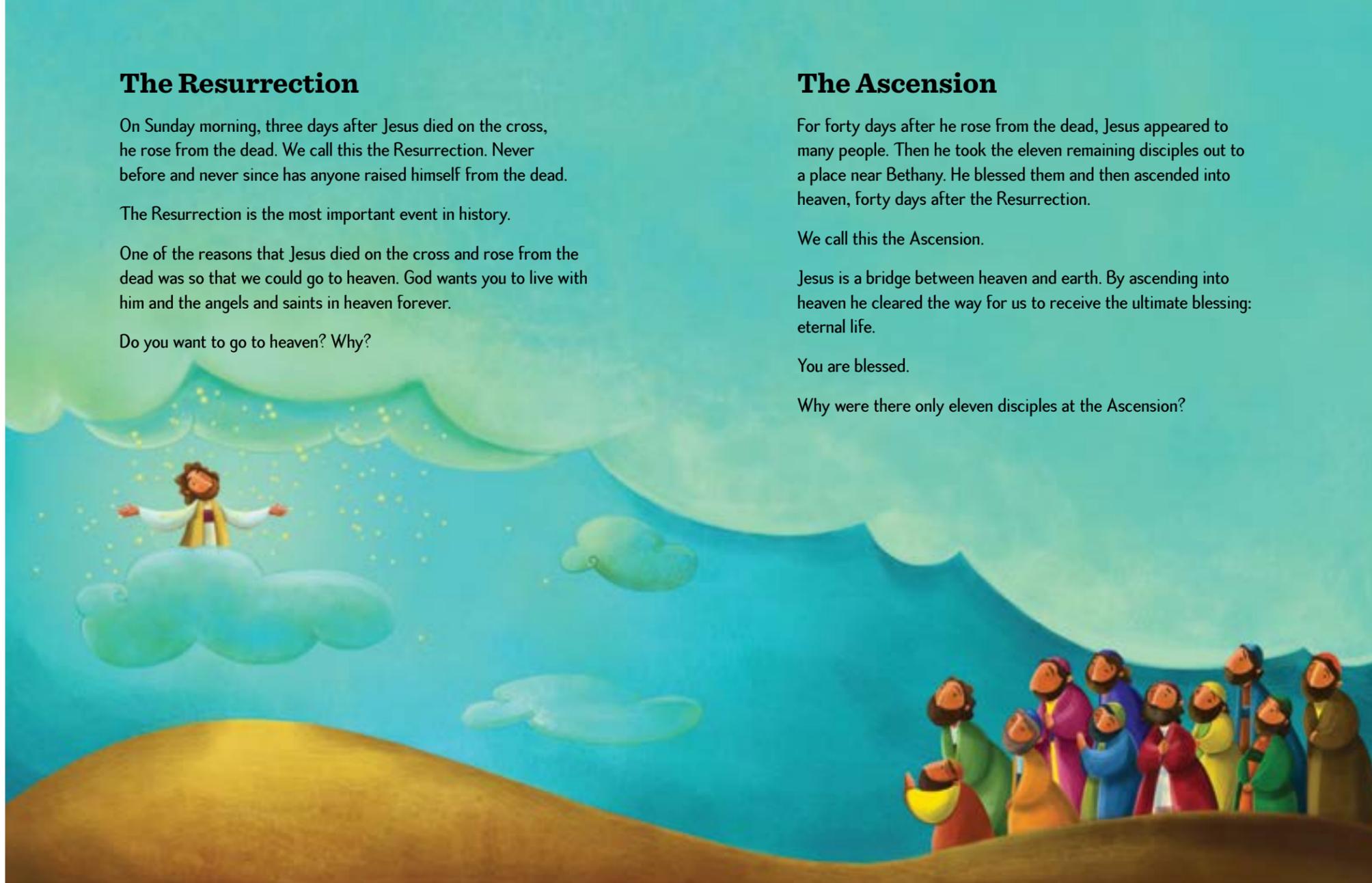
For forty days after he rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to many people. Then he took the eleven remaining disciples out to a place near Bethany. He blessed them and then ascended into heaven, forty days after the Resurrection.

We call this the Ascension.

Jesus is a bridge between heaven and earth. By ascending into heaven he cleared the way for us to receive the ultimate blessing: eternal life.

You are blessed.

Why were there only eleven disciples at the Ascension?



My Notes:

tip

Be you. Throughout your time together with these children, make sure they are getting to know you.

Every moment of every day, every situation, every person we encounter is an opportunity to become a-better-version-of-ourselves.

Resisting Happiness

The goal of our life is to live with God forever. God, who loves us, gave us life, our own response of love allows God's life to flow into us without limit.

St. Ignatius of Loyola



WATCH AND DISCUSS

Step-by-Step

- 1 Give the children time and space to explore the illustration. Let them ask questions and let the Holy Spirit inspire their imagination and sense of wonder.
- 2 Introduce Episode 5 by saying: "I am so excited to share this episode with you because the story of Pentecost is amazing! What you are about to watch really happened."
- 3 Watch Episode 5.

From the Bible: Pentecost

Before Jesus left the disciples to ascend into heaven he promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them live good lives and carry out their mission. Jesus makes that same promise to you. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide you so you can make great decisions, become the-best-version-of-yourself, live a holy life, and help other people experience God's love.

At Pentecost Jesus kept his promise.

After Jesus died on the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven, many people were angry at his disciples. The disciples were afraid of what the angry people might do to them.

One day they were all gathered together in an upper room when they heard a loud sound like a howling wind. Then the Holy Spirit descended upon them and filled them with the wisdom and courage they needed to carry out the mission Jesus had entrusted to them.

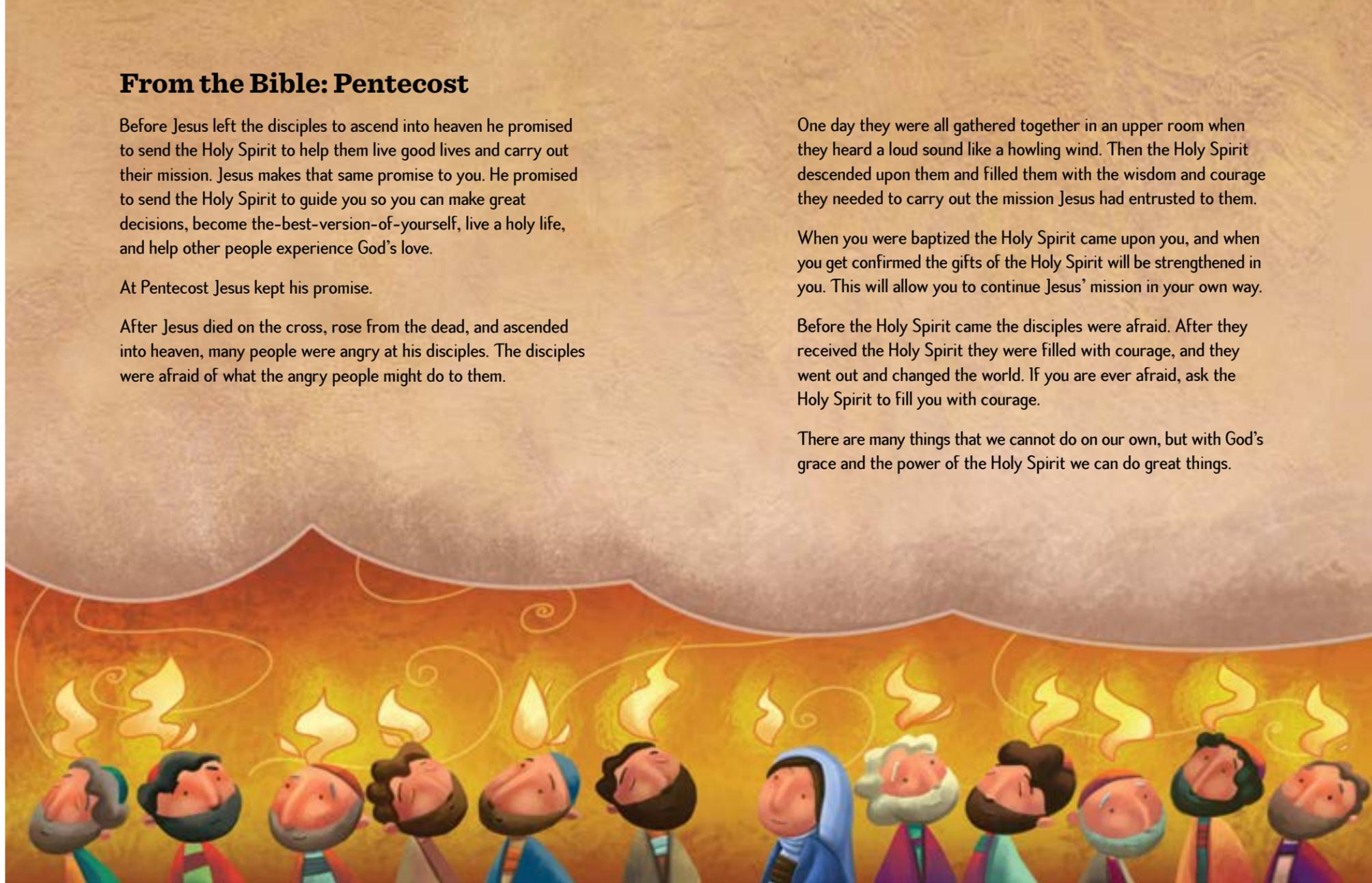
When you were baptized the Holy Spirit came upon you, and when you get confirmed the gifts of the Holy Spirit will be strengthened in you. This will allow you to continue Jesus' mission in your own way.

Before the Holy Spirit came the disciples were afraid. After they received the Holy Spirit they were filled with courage, and they went out and changed the world. If you are ever afraid, ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with courage.

There are many things that we cannot do on our own, but with God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit we can do great things.

tip

How is your relationship with the Holy Spirit? The power and grace given to the disciples at Pentecost is available to us now. Sadly many of us spend our entire lives without knowing how powerful the Holy Spirit can be when called upon. At least once a day for the next week, pray to the Holy Spirit and ask him to guide you in a specific question.



My Notes:

Read the Gospels and observe those who live by fear. Look also at those who trust Jesus and live by faith. Don't let fear paralyze you.

Mustard Seeds

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



WATCH AND DISCUSS

Step-by-Step

- 1 Introduce Episode 6 by saying: "In this next episode, Ben, Sarah, and Hemingway prepare for Isabella's surprise birthday party."
- 2 Watch Episode 6.

You and the Church

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. We celebrate Pentecost every year, just like you celebrate your birthday.

Jesus gave us the Church to pass his message on to the people of every place and every time. On Sunday at Mass Jesus' message is passed on to you and your family.

The Church also passes along the Sacraments, so that you can continue to receive the grace you need to you need to become the-best-version-of-yourself, grow in virtue, and live a holy life.

You are blessed to be a member of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

How do you think it would have been different being a Christian two thousand years ago than it is today?



My Notes:

tip

You have probably already discovered that the hardest part of making this a powerful experience is classroom management. You are in charge. Make sure your students know it. You don't need to scream or shout, but you do need to be firm, confident, and prepared.

The truth is, you cannot become the-best-version-of-yourself on your own. You need grace. The fullness of the invitation is to become the-best-version-of-yourself in Jesus.

Decision Point

Courageously follow the path of personal holiness and diligently nourish yourselves with the word of God and the Eucharist. The holier you are, the more you can contribute to building up the Church and society.

St. John Paul II



READ AND EXPLORE

Step-by-Step

- 1 Ask your students: "If you could be anyone in the Jesus story, who would you be?" If they need help, make suggestions: one of the disciples, Mary, Lazarus, Zacchaeus, the woman at the well, the Good Shepherd, etc.

You

Jesus' story doesn't stop there. In fact, for you Jesus' story is just beginning. He wants you to be part of his story.

It's real. Just like the lepers, the prodigal son, the woman at the well, and the disciples, Jesus wants you to be part of his story. And he wants to be part of your story too.

If you could be any person in the Jesus story, who would you be?

The Jesus story never ends. It is unfolding here, today, right now. And Jesus wants you to be a part of the story.

You are blessed to be part of the story. The mess of the world can make us sad at times, but Jesus wants us to be supremely happy. He invites us to have a dynamic and personal relationship with him so that he can share his happiness with us and we can share it with others.

So, each morning when you wake up and each night before you go to bed, take a minute to talk to Jesus.

tip

Take a moment to tell them why you love being a part of Jesus' story.



My Notes:

When we remove ourselves from the story of Jesus Christ, we become immune to the life-changing message of the Gospel and become slaves to the world.

Rediscover Jesus

What really matters in life is that we are loved by Christ and that we love him in return. In comparison to the love of Jesus, everything is secondary. And, without the love of Jesus, everything else is useless.

St. John Paul II



SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Step-by-Step

- 1 Have your children complete the activity page by themselves, with a partner, or as a group.
- 2 After three minutes ask the class: "Are there any questions you are struggling with?"
- 3 Briefly explain the answer to any questions they might have, referring back to the specific page in the workbook.

Show What You Know

True or False

1. T When Jesus was on the cross, he thought of you because he loves you. (p 74)
2. T Jesus wants you to become one of his disciples. (p 82)
3. T You are blessed to be a member of the Catholic Church. (p 95)
4. F The Sacraments help make you the-worst-version-of-yourself. (p 95)
5. T Jesus wants you to be a part of his story. (p 96)

Fill in the blank

1. Jesus loves life. (p 80)
2. It takes wisdom to be able to see God's ways and walk in them. (p 76)
3. Jesus wanted ordinary people to be able to understand his message and make their way to God. (p 84)
4. God will go to unimaginable lengths to prove his love for you. (p 89)
5. Jesus performed miracles because he felt tremendous mercy for people. (p 86)



6. The Resurrection is the most important event in history. (p 90)
7. God wants you to live with him and the angels and saints in heaven forever. (p 90)
8. Jesus is a bridge between heaven and earth. (p 91)
9. With God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit we can do great things. (p 93)
10. Jesus invites you to have a dynamic and personal relationship with him so that he can share his happiness with us and we can share it with others. (p 97)

Word Bank

LOVE DYNAMIC HOLY SPIRIT WISDOM HEAVEN MERCY
LOVES PERSONAL ORDINARY BRIDGE RESURRECTION

tip

Let students know that making mistakes is all right. Children often fear making a mistake or being embarrassed by not knowing an answer. Here are some tips for letting children know it's all right to make an error:

- WHEN YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, CALL ATTENTION TO IT IN A LIGHTHEARTED WAY
- LET THEM KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS
- TURN INCORRECT ANSWERS INTO POSITIVE TEACHING MOMENTS BY SAYING THINGS LIKE:

In some situations, that might work, but...

That is a good answer, but I think there is one that works better for that sentence.

I thought so too until I reread page X and learned...

Thank you for your answer. Did anyone else have a different answer?



10 minutes

My Notes:

Courage is a prerequisite for the life God has envisioned for you.

Decision Point

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6



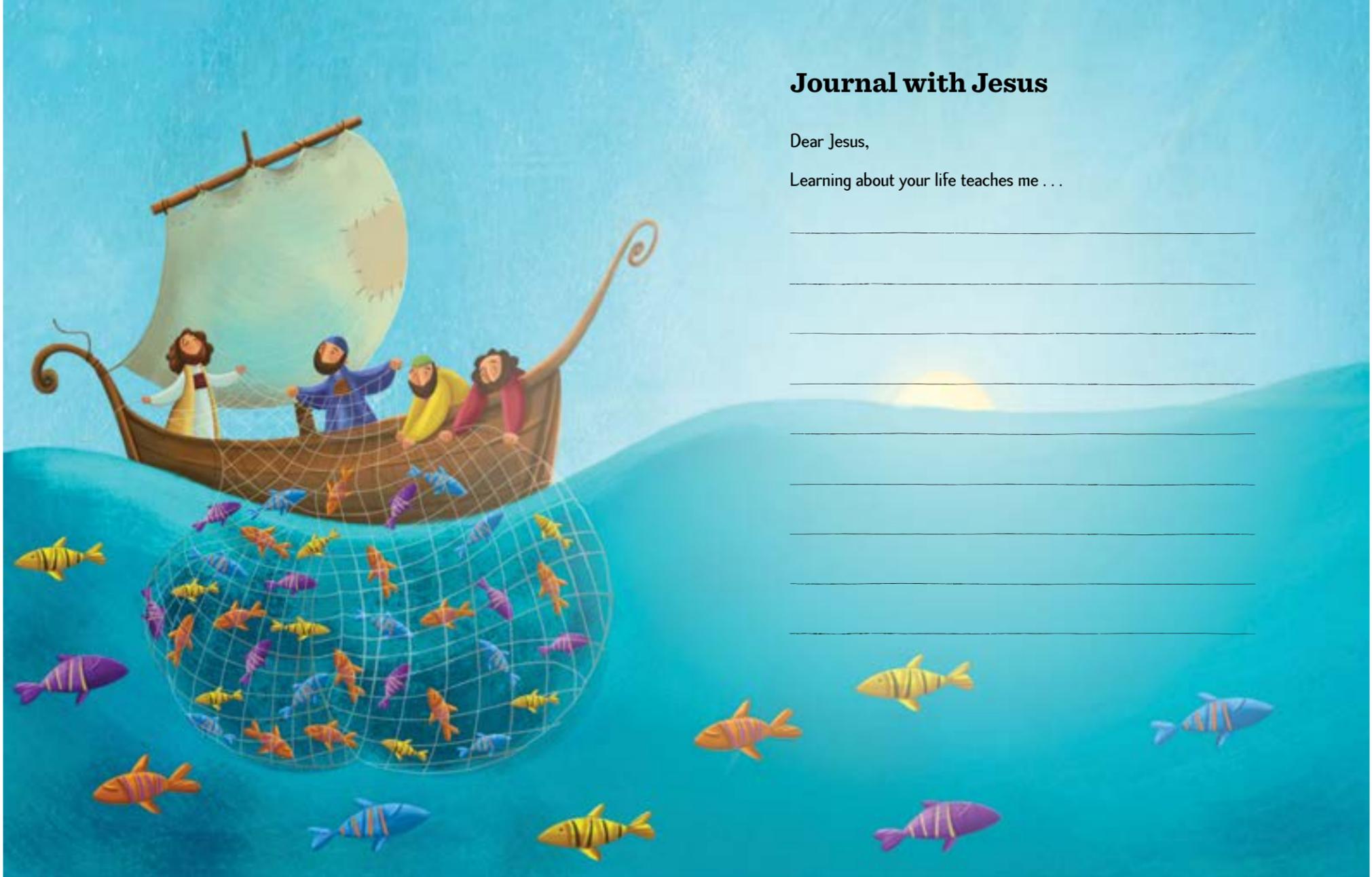
JOURNAL WITH JESUS

Step-by-Step

- 1 Invite your children to write a letter to Jesus.
- 2 Ask the children to remain silent during their journaling time.
- 3 You may wish to play some quiet, reflective music to help create the right mood in the classroom and to encourage the students to remain quiet and focused on journaling with Jesus.

One of the ways God loves us is by revealing himself to us. He does not remain a distant, anonymous God; he allows us to know him.

Decision Point



Journal with Jesus

Dear Jesus,

Learning about your life teaches me . . .



My Notes:

Few souls understand what God would accomplish in them if they were to abandon themselves unreservedly to him and if they were to allow his grace to mold them accordingly.

St. Ignatius of Loyola



CLOSING PRAYER

Step-by-Step

- 1 Watch Episode 7.
- 2 Ask the children: "What are some of the most important things you learned in this session?"
 - I AM A PART OF JESUS' STORY!
 - JESUS HAS A SPECIAL MISSION JUST FOR ME.
 - GOD LOVES ME ENOUGH TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR ME.
 - JESUS WANTS ME TO SHARE HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS.

To pray is to talk to God about anything that is in your heart: the things that bring you joy and the things that bring you sorrow; your hopes and dreams. In prayer you talk to God about everything.

Decision Point

Closing Prayer

Jesus said, "Ask and you shall receive" (Matthew 7:7). There are going to be times in your life when you don't know what to do. That's a great time to turn to the Holy Spirit and ask for insight. There are going to be times in your life when you need encouragement. The Holy Spirit is the great encourager. Turn to him and ask him to encourage you. There are going to be times in your life when you are afraid. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you courage. There are going to be times in your life when you don't know what to say. Turn to the Holy Spirit and ask him to give you the words.

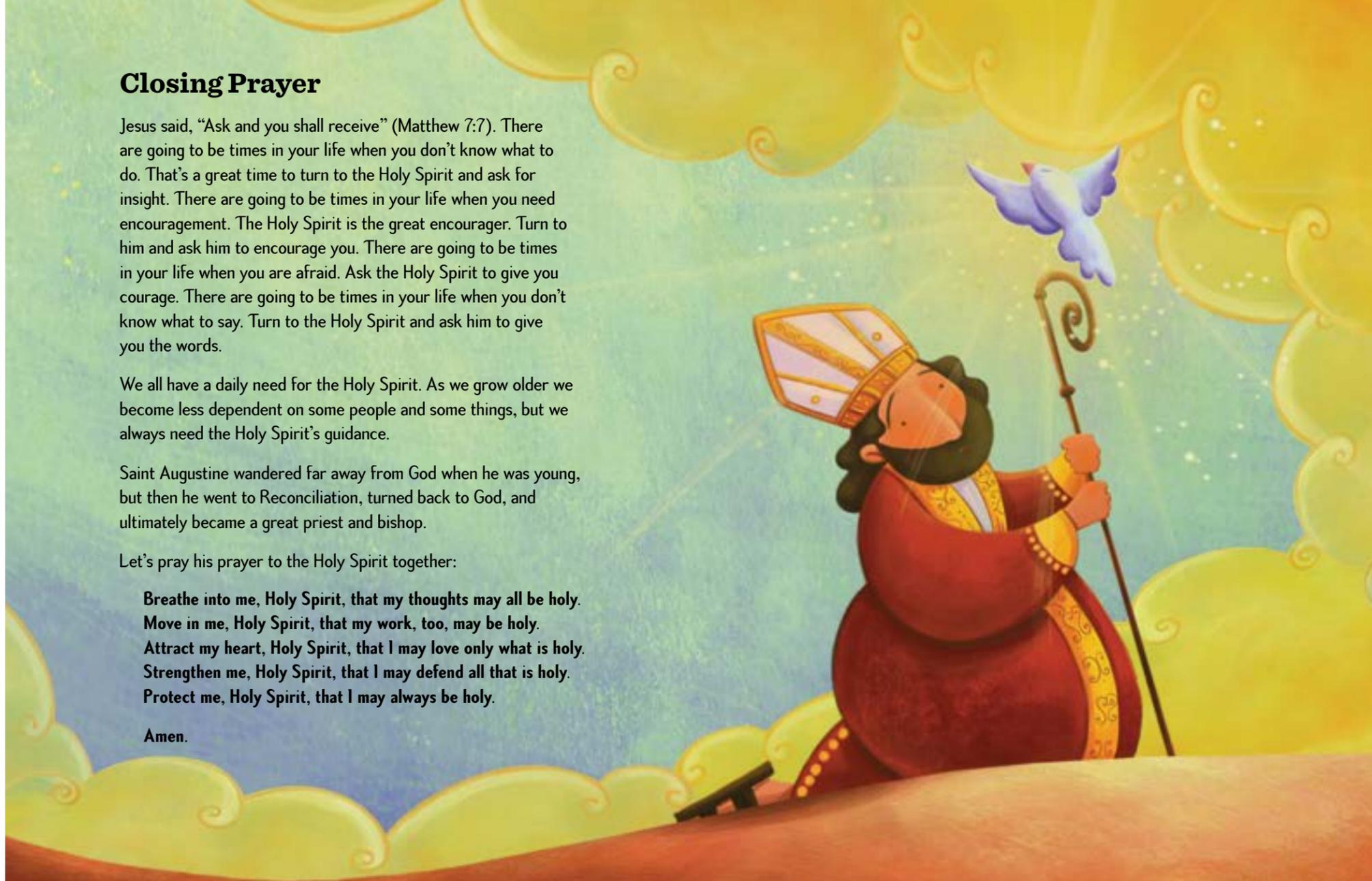
We all have a daily need for the Holy Spirit. As we grow older we become less dependent on some people and some things, but we always need the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Saint Augustine wandered far away from God when he was young, but then he went to Reconciliation, turned back to God, and ultimately became a great priest and bishop.

Let's pray his prayer to the Holy Spirit together:

**Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
 Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
 Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy.
 Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy.
 Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.**

Amen.



5 minutes

My Notes:

tip

Tell them something you learned from this session that you didn't know before.

By turning your eyes on God in meditation, your whole soul will be filled with God. Begin all your prayers in the presence of God.

St. Francis de Sales