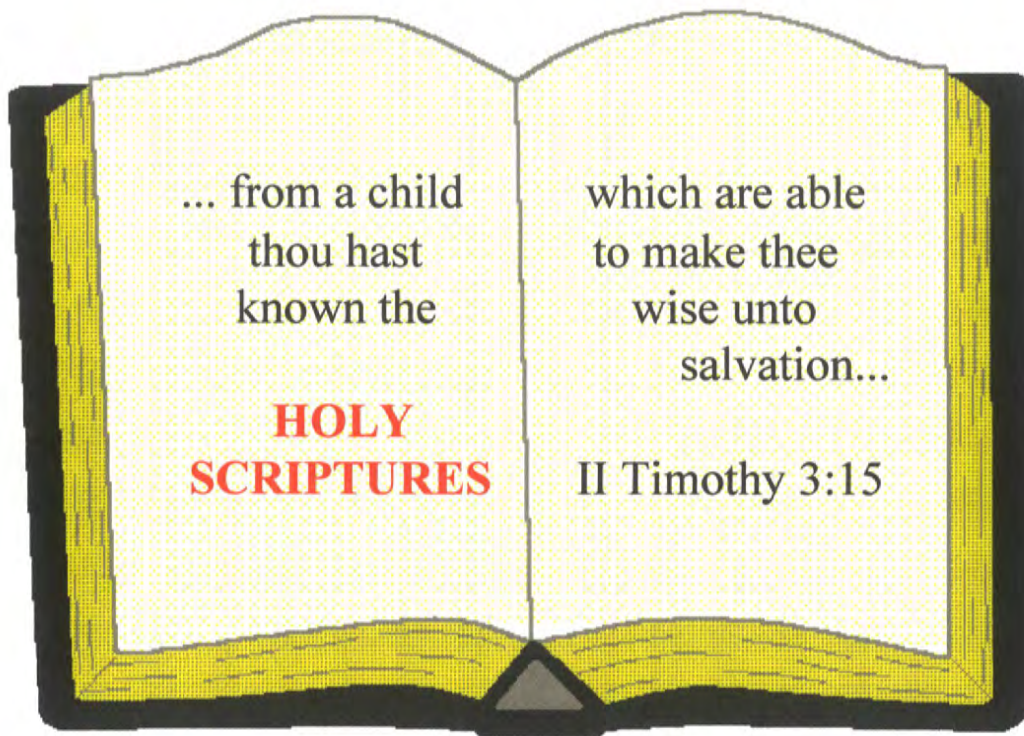


# TRAIN UP A CHILD



New Testament Volume II  
Preschool / Kindergarten  
**Early Life Of Jesus**

# EARLY LIFE OF JESUS

NEW  
TESTAMENT  
Volume II  
Preschool  
Kindergarten

# **TRAIN UP A CHILD**

**NEW TESTAMENT**

**VOLUME II**

**EARLY LIFE OF JESUS**

**Preschool / Kindergarten**

**AUTHOR: Betty Penn**

**ARTWORK / ILLUSTRATIONS: Cheryl Harris and Betty Penn**

**Pupil Worksheets are reproducible for classroom use.**

**April, 2001**

**LANDMARK**  
**LMEDIA**  
**PRODUCTIONS**  
**INC.**

*"Thy Word is a LAMP unto  
my feet..."*  
*Psalm 119:105*

4311 Peeler Bend Road ♦ Benton, AR 72019 ♦ (501)776-1939

## TO THE TEACHER:

***“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.” John 21:25***

The lessons in Volume II begin with the baptism of Jesus, which was the first event in His earthly ministry. In following lessons He proves to Satan that He intends to do what He came to earth to do, which was to die for the sins of the world. John the Baptist identifies Him as the man who is the Son of God. He begins selecting His disciples who later became apostles. He begins working miracles to prove He is who he says. The last lesson leaves Him in Capernaum where He established residence after He was thrown out of Nazareth.

It is impossible to follow the specific events in the life of Jesus as they happened. By studying and comparing all four gospels we learn the most important events of His life on earth. The following volume will deal with teachings and miracles performed in and around Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee.


Read the scriptures and the printed portion until you are familiar enough with the lesson to teach it to the children, and not read it to them. You maintain their interest longer by telling the story rather than reading it. Read the scriptures from the Bible to impress in their minds that the story is taken from the Bible, the Word of God.

The activity pages are reproducible for classroom use. The memory verse pattern pages are designed to be copied onto construction paper. You may need to cut these out before class time for the younger children so you will not rob them of time in the classroom that could be used for teaching.

I acknowledge Cheryl Harris for providing artwork and illustrations.

May God bless you as you prepare and present the lesson, and may God bless the children as they hear the truths of God's Word.

Prayerfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Penn".

Betty Penn

# Table of Contents

## Volume II Preschool / Kindergarten Early Life Of Jesus

Jesus Is Baptized .....	1
Jesus Is Tempted In the Wilderness .....	8
John Identifies Jesus As the Lamb Of God .....	14
Jesus' First Disciples .....	21
Philip and Nathanael Follow Jesus .....	26
The First Miracle .....	32
Jesus Goes To the Temple .....	37
Nicodemus Comes To See Jesus At Night .....	43
The Serpent In the Wilderness .....	48
The Light Of the World .....	58
Jesus' Disciples Began To Baptize .....	65
The Woman At the Well .....	69
Jesus Goes To Nazareth .....	76
Early Travels Of Jesus .....	81
Healing the Nobleman's Son .....	87
Jesus Goes To Capernaum .....	92

## **JESUS IS BAPTIZED**

**Matthew 3:1-8, 11, 13-17**

**Mark 1:1-11**

**Luke 3:2-6, 15-16, 21-23**

**John 1:19-20, 25-34; 3:23**

The Bible doesn't tell us very much about the childhood of Jesus. What he did as a little boy is not important. What is important is that he came to live on the earth as a human being so he could die for our sins. It is important that he is the Son of God, and does not have any sins of his own to pay for. The miracles he did are important because they prove that he had the power of God, and was God's Son. The things he taught are important because we are to obey him. John said in John 21:25 that if everything Jesus did was written down, the world could not hold all of the books that would be written. John said in John 20:30-31 that Jesus did many other great signs and wonders, many other miracles, that are not written down, but enough is written down for us to know all we need to know to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph took him to the temple when he was forty days old to offer the sacrifices as they were taught to do in the law. Then Jesus lived in Bethlehem for several months. When the wise men came looking for him, God told Mary and Joseph to take him and run away to Egypt to hide him from the king who would look for him so he could have him killed. Jesus lived in Egypt for several months, or a few years. We don't know what he did when he was in Egypt. The Bible only tells us that when Herod died God told Joseph that it was safe to go back to their homeland to live. Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Nazareth, where he grew up. Luke 2:40 tells us that Jesus grew in size, he became strong in spirit, he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

We can only assume all of the other things that Jesus did as a child. Mary and Joseph were devout Jewish people. They kept the laws, so we know that they raised Jesus according to the laws of God. We learn from Jewish custom about the home life and teaching of children. The boys went to school at the synagogues to learn to read and write, and get their education. The girls stayed home and learned from their mothers how to cook and sew and clean, and do all the things necessary to care for their homes and provide for their families. Jewish fathers taught their sons their trade. If a man was a tent maker, he taught his sons how to make tents so they could make a living when they were grown. Joseph was a carpenter, so we assume he taught Jesus how to build, and make things. We assume Jesus went to school with the other boys and was taught by the Jewish teachers at the synagogue. As a child he was not recognized as the Son of God, but as any other boy, and as the son of Joseph the carpenter. We assume Jesus played the games the other boys played in the streets when Mary took him to the market place. We do know that he always obeyed his parents. The Bible tells us he did. Jesus had younger brothers and sisters, the sons and daughters of Mary and Joseph. Jesus knew he was different. He knew he was the Son of God, but he obeyed Joseph as his earthly father. The only event in Jesus' childhood that the Bible records is that he went to the temple when he was twelve years old, and he grew up in Nazareth.

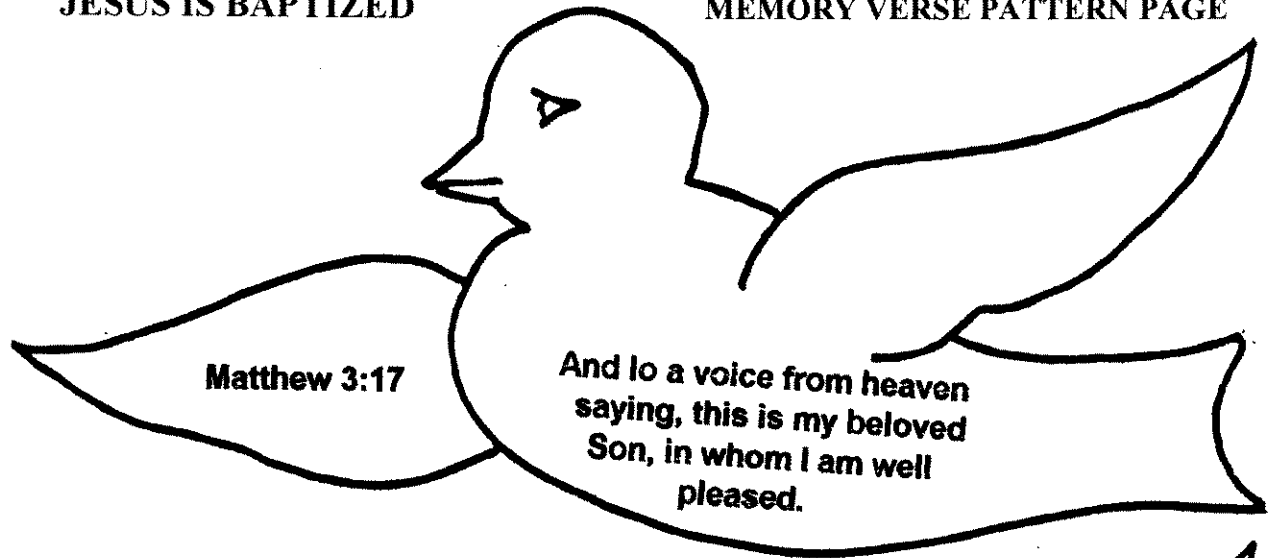
The Bible tells us that Jesus came back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph and “*was subject to his parents*” (he obeyed them), and “*he increased in wisdom*” (he continually learned and understood more), “*and in stature*” (his body grew larger and taller), “*and in favour with God and man*”. God was pleased with what Jesus did, and all of his friends and neighbors liked him. Jesus always did everything right; he never did anything that was wrong.

The Bible doesn’t tell us any more about Jesus until he was about thirty years old. When he became a man he was not recognized as the Son of God, but as Jesus, the carpenter’s son from Nazareth. When Jesus was about thirty years old it was time for him to begin preaching and teaching the people who he really was. God sent John the Baptist to preach to the people and tell them that God had sent His Son into the world, and to baptize those people who believed his message and repented of their sins. The Jewish people worshiped God by offering animal sacrifices on an altar. When the animal was killed, it showed that they believed that blood must be shed to pay for sin. The animal’s blood did not pay for their sins, but it showed their faith in God that He would send His Son into the world to die to pay the price for sin. The way they worshiped was going to change. No longer would they offer animal sacrifices, but they would accept Jesus as their sacrifice. When John baptized people, he took them out into the Jordan River and placed them completely under the water. This showed the burial of Jesus. Then he raised them up out of the water. This showed the resurrection of Jesus from the grave. When the people believed that Jesus would be the sacrifice for their sins, that he would die, be buried, and rise again from the grave, they were baptized to show his death, burial, and resurrection.

When the time came for Jesus to begin preaching and teaching, the first thing he did was be baptized. One day when John the Baptist was baptizing people in the Jordan River near Bethabara, Jesus came to him to be baptized. He walked many, many miles from his home in Nazareth. When John saw him coming, he said he was not worthy to baptize Jesus, that Jesus should baptize him. But Jesus said that John was sent from God to baptize, and that it was God’s will that he baptize Jesus. So John took Jesus out into the river, and placed him completely under the water. Then when he raised him up out of the water, a marvelous thing happened. As Jesus came up out of the water, the Spirit of God came down from heaven in the form of a dove and stayed upon Jesus. Then God spoke out from heaven and said, “*This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*” God announced to all those who were watching that this man, Jesus of Nazareth, was the one who was His Son, and He was pleased that Jesus had chosen to be baptized to show that he would die to pay the price for the sins of the world. Here God was manifest in all three forms: Jesus was God’s Son, the Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove, and the Father spoke from heaven. The angels announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem. John the Baptist came to prepare the people to receive Jesus and announced that he was the Son of God. Then God spoke from heaven when Jesus was baptized and identified him as His Son.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 3:17

“And lo a voice from heaven saying, this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”





## JESUS IS BAPTIZED



“- - - the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:”

## JESUS IS BAPTIZED



*(Draw a picture of the dove that came down when Jesus was baptized.)*

## JESUS IS BAPTIZED

Instructions for assembling two pages to make a picture of the baptism of Jesus:

Copy the figure of Jesus onto regular paper and cut it out.

Copy the picture of the river and cut along the dotted line in the water.

Take a piece of heavy paper this size (8 1/2 X 11) for a backing, and mark the place for the paper brad to attach the figure of Jesus.

Attach the figure of Jesus to the heavy paper using a small brad.

Place the picture of the river and John the Baptist over the backing, pushing the figure of Jesus up through the cut in the water.

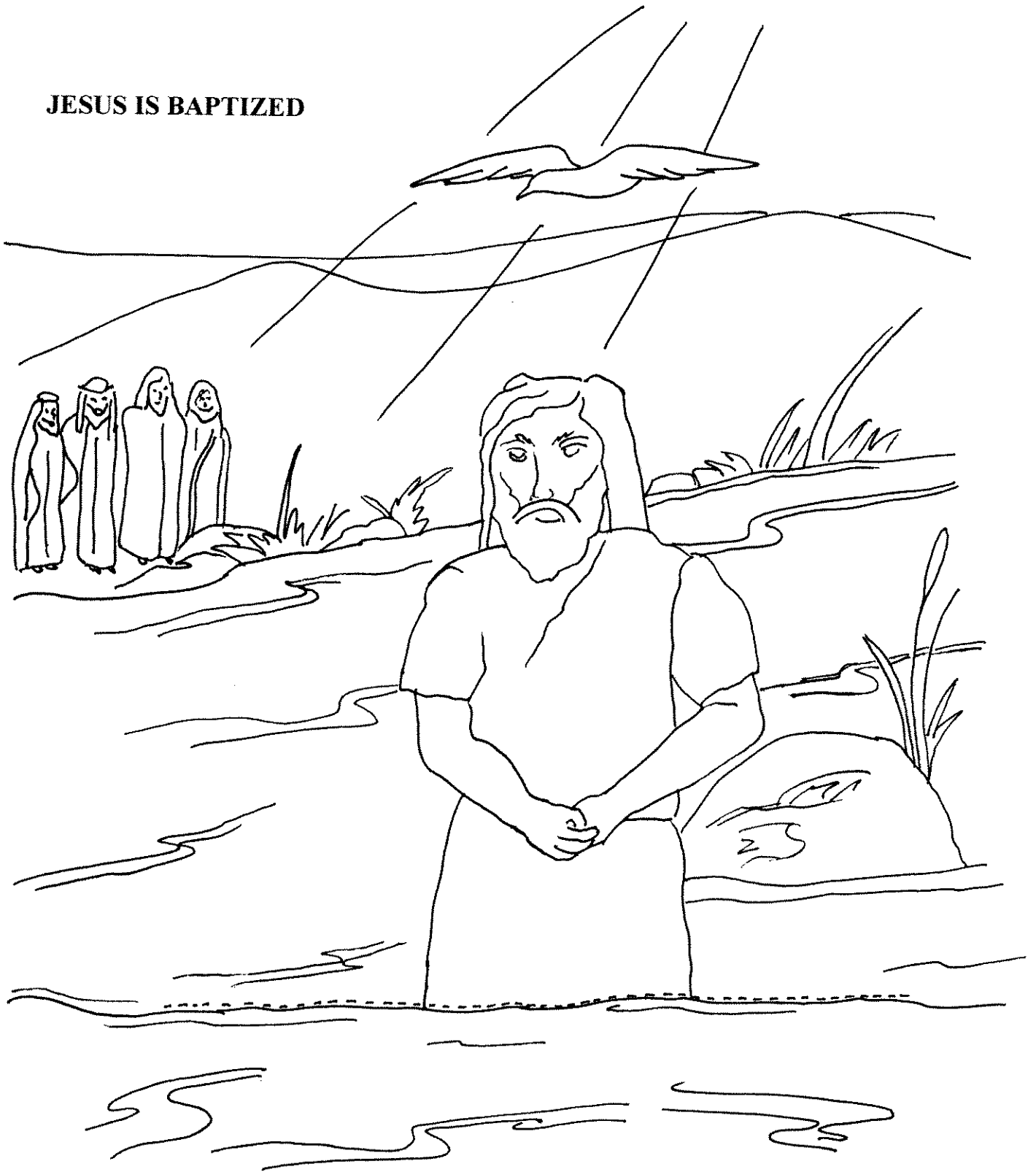
Paste the top portion and edges of the two pages together.

When the figure of Jesus is turned to the right it should go down beneath the surface of the water.

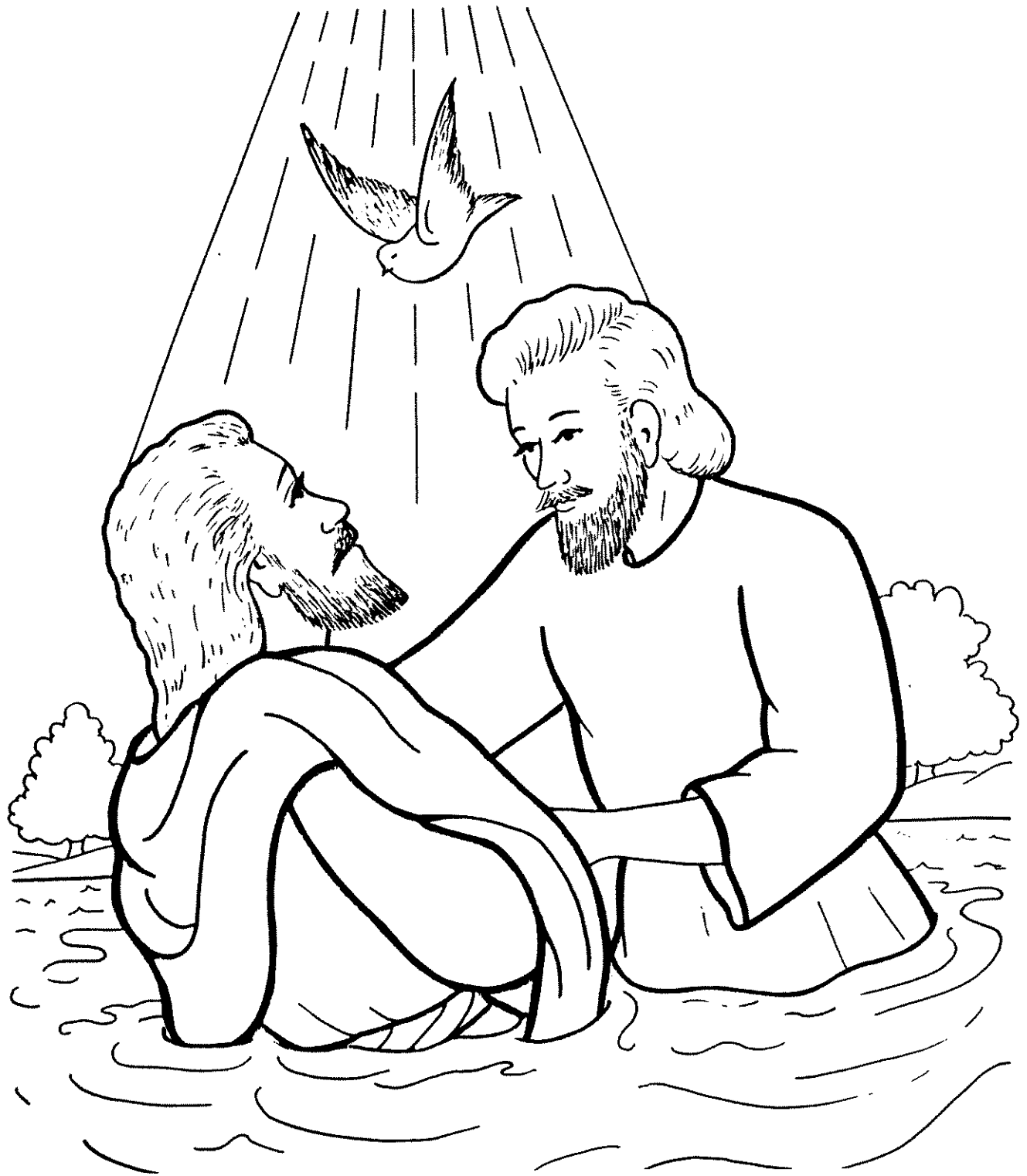
Attach figure here with brad. ↗ X



## JESUS IS BAPTIZED



John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.



**John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.**

## JESUS IS TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS



## JESUS IS TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**Mark 1:12-13**

**Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus came to live on the earth for one purpose. The purpose was to be our Savior. He came to live in a human body as a man so he could die to pay the price for sin. Jesus did not have any sins of his own. He was perfect, so he was the only one who could pay the price for sin. Every man that is born into the world is sinful and needs to be forgiven of his sins in order to become a child of God. Jesus came to make this possible for us.

When Jesus was about thirty years old, it was time for him to tell the world who he really was: the Son of God. It was time for him to start preaching and teaching the people about the kingdom of God. The first thing Jesus did before he began preaching was to be baptized. When he was baptized, he showed the world his death, burial, and resurrection. He showed the world that he was the Son of God who had been promised as the messiah, or our savior. When he was baptized, John the Baptist took him out into the river Jordan and placed him under the water as a sign of his burial. When he raised him up he showed his resurrection from the dead. When Jesus came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven in the form of a dove and stayed upon Jesus. God spoke out from heaven and said, *"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."* God announced to the world that this man was the one who was His Son. All of the people who stood by and saw Jesus baptized heard God say that this was His Son.

Satan also heard God announce to the world that Jesus was His Son. Satan did not want anyone in the world to believe in Jesus. This meant they would be saved from their sins, and Satan did not want anyone to be saved. Satan wants people to do things that are bad and sinful. As soon as Jesus was baptized the Spirit of God led him away into a wilderness area where he confronted Satan for forty days and forty nights. A wilderness area was a place where there were trees and rocks, and wild animals, but no people lived there. The people lived near the rivers or lakes, where they would have water and where they could grow food. They did not live in the rocky, mountain areas. Many times Jesus went into the mountains, or into the wilderness to be alone and talk to God. The Spirit brought him into the wilderness area to be alone with Satan, and prove to him that he was sinless, and would not obey the demands of Satan.

Satan knew who Jesus was long before God announced to the world that he was His Son. Satan had been in the beginning with Jesus, in heaven, before the world was ever created. God created Satan as a perfect angel, Lucifer. Lucifer was to rule over or take care of the earth that God had created. Lucifer was not happy serving God. He was jealous of Jesus as God's Son. He wanted to be like Jesus. He wanted to be part of God. He said, *"I will be greater than all the other angels. I will set up my throne in heaven and be as great as God."* When he did this he became sinful, and changed from the perfect angel into an evil spirit. Today we do not call him Lucifer, the bright and shining one, but we call him Satan, or the devil, the evil one. Satan is the reason there is sin in the world today.

God created the world perfect, and Satan made it sinful. God created man perfect, and Satan caused Adam and Eve to sin in the garden of Eden by disobeying God, so every person who had ever been born is sinful. Satan took man away from God when he caused him to sin. Satan knew that when Jesus died man would be bought back from sin because the price for sin would be paid. Satan tried to destroy Jesus when he was born, but God protected him. Now the only chance Satan has to keep Jesus from dying and paying the price of sin is to cause Jesus to sin. If Jesus became sinful, he could not pay the price for sin. No one else could pay it, so Satan could continue to claim man for all eternity. Jesus was human as well as God. Satan knew he could not defeat God, so he would have to get the human part of Jesus to sin.

Since Jesus had a human body, he became hungry and tired just as we do. During the forty days and nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness confronting Satan, the Bible tells us he fasted. That means that he did not eat anything. At the end of the forty days he was tired, and his body was weak from hunger. Satan saw this as a chance to get Jesus to obey him, and this would be sin. While Jesus was tired and hungry, Satan came to him and said, *"If you are really the Son of God, turn these stones into bread."* There were rocks, or stones, lying around all over the ground. Satan said, "If you are really the Son of God, you have the power of God to do anything, so there's no reason for you to be hungry. All you have to do is turn these stones into bread and you will have food to eat. You will no longer be hungry." During the forty days that Jesus confronted Satan, he received his strength from God. The stones were there. Jesus had the power of God. He could have turned them into bread, but he would not obey Satan. Jesus answered him, *"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* God had said Jesus must die in order for the price of sin to be paid. Jesus knew why he had come to the earth to live, and he knew this was more important than eating food.

Then the devil took Jesus up to the highest part of the temple at Jerusalem, and said, *"If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."* The devil said, "If you really are the Son of God, jump down from this high position and see if God cares enough about you to send the angels to catch you so you won't be hurt." Satan was saying, "Prove you are who you say you are by turning rocks into food to eat. Prove you are who you say you are by jumping off this high place and making God come to your rescue." Jesus could be a hero to all the people who watched as angels came and caught him before he fell to the ground. But Jesus did not have to prove anything to the people. He did not have to prove anything to Satan. Jesus did not question God's love or His power to protect him from harm. Jesus simply said, *"It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."* Jesus knew that the only way Satan could defeat him was in physical matters. Jesus knew that Satan was trying to get him to obey him so he would be in control. Jesus would not obey any command of Satan, no matter what it was.

Satan tempted Jesus one more time. He knew there was only one more way he might keep Jesus from dying on the cross. He took him up on a very high mountain and showed him



all the kingdoms of the world. Satan offered to give all this to Jesus if he would only bow down and worship him. Jesus came to be king of the Jews. Some day he would sit on the throne of the great King David in Jerusalem and rule as king. He also knew in order for anyone to be a child of God he must die to pay the price for sin. This must be done first, then someday he will come back and rule as king. Satan was saying, "God will make you die before you can be king, but I will not make you die. I will give all these kingdoms to you right now. All you have to do is worship me and you can be king right now, and not have to suffer and die." Jesus was human, and he knew his death would be painful, but he was not interested in just being our king. He wanted to be our Savior. He knew he would be king someday, and he would not let Satan cheat him.

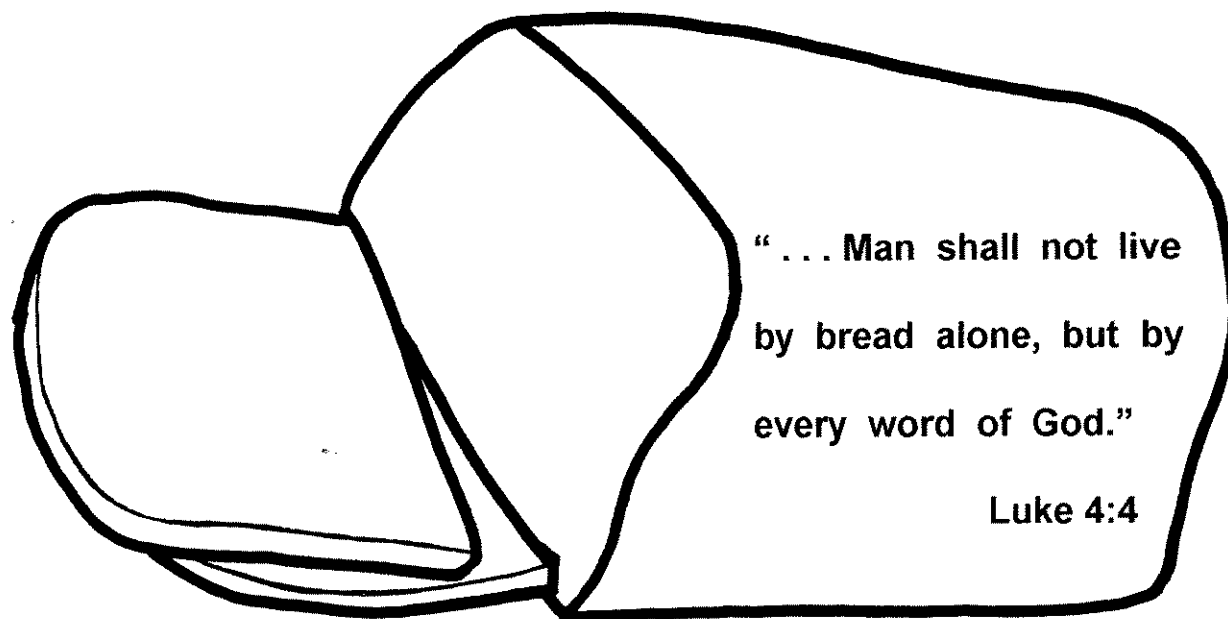
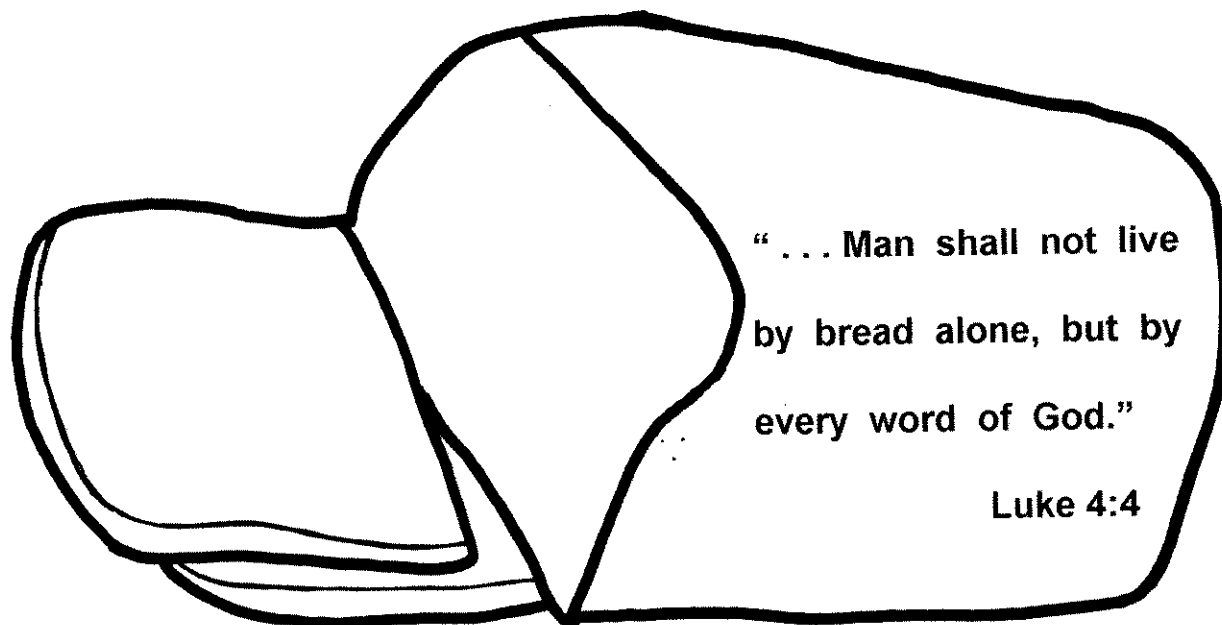
He could have had food immediately to eat. He could have jumped down from the temple and made God send angels to catch him. He could have been king without having to die first. All he had to do was bow down and worship Satan. But Jesus would not. Jesus said, "*Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*" Jesus commanded Satan to leave him alone, and the angels came and brought food and water to Jesus, and gave him rest and protection.

**MEMORY VERSE: Luke 4:4**

".... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

**JESUS IS TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS**

**MEMORY VERSE  
PATTERN PAGE**

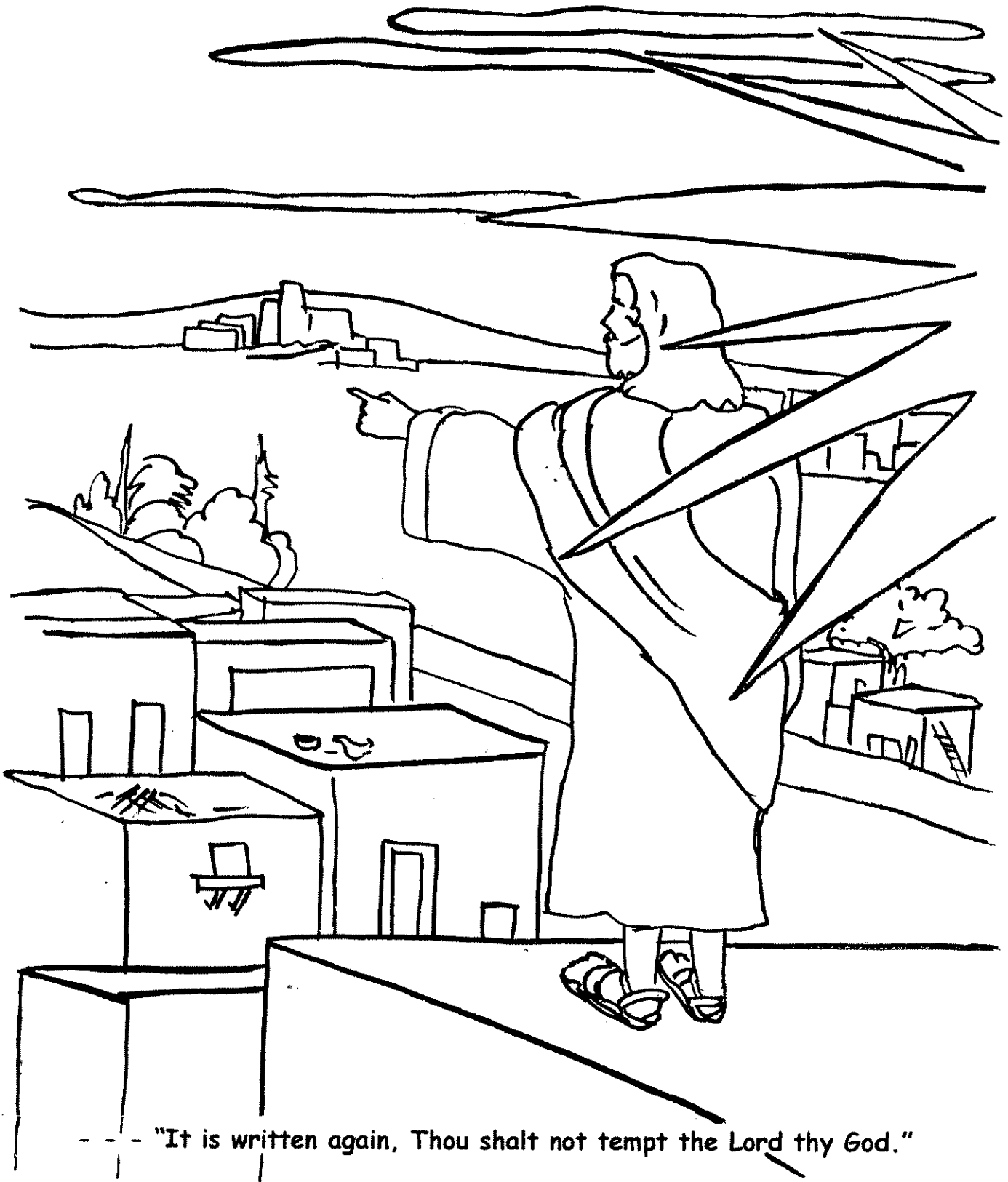


# JESUS IS TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS



- - - "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone," - - -

## JESUS IS TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS



## JOHN IDENTIFIES JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD

**John 1:6-51    Luke 4:14**

John the Baptist was chosen especially by God to bring a message to the world. God had promised many years before that He would send His Son into the world to be born as an infant and grow up to be a man so he could die for the sins of the world. John was to tell the world that Jesus had come. He was to identify the man who was the Son of God. John was to tell people that Jesus of Nazareth was really God's Son. Jesus looked just like any other Jewish man. John was to convince the people that God had kept His promise, and that Jesus was His Son.

John described Jesus as "the light of the world", the true light of God. He had come to bring the light of God to mankind. Just as you turn on a light in a dark room so you can see things clearly, Jesus came as the light of God to show the world the things of God more clearly. John taught the people that Jesus existed in heaven before the world, he created the world, and then he came to live in the world. The world did not recognize him. John 1:10, "*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*" There was nothing different about the way he looked. He looked like any other man, so someone had to tell them he was the Son of God. John said that as many people as did receive him, whether they were jews or gentiles, they would become sons of God. If they believed in Jesus as the Son of God, and repented of their sins, they became born again as sons of God. They were not born again in the flesh, but their spirits were born of God, and they became God's children.

Many people believed John was indeed sent from God to preach, and they thought he was a great man. He had many followers. But John said Jesus was greater. John 1:15, "*This is he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me; for he was before me.*" How could a man younger than John have been before him? Only because this man was the Son of God. John reminded the people how Moses, whom they considered a great man, had given them laws from God. The law showed them that they were sinful. Punishment for breaking the law was death; but Jesus came to bring life, spiritual life, to those who believed he was the Son of God.

The Sanhedrin was the high court in the land of Israel. It was made up of lawyers who were Pharisees. A Pharisee was a person who believed that keeping the law of Moses made him good in the sight of God. The lawyers in Israel were smart men. They studied the law. They knew the law. They obeyed the law. They believed that if they kept the law they would go to heaven when they died. They did not believe they did anything wrong, so they did not believe they needed to repent of their sins. John preached repentance and faith in Jesus. The rulers at the temple wanted to know why he was preaching this message that was different to what they believed. Who was he? Where did he get his authority to preach this message of repentance instead of law keeping? So they sent the priests and the Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "*Who are you?*"

John was at a place on the Jordan River called Bethabara. He was preaching for the people to repent of their sins. He preached that the Son of God had come, so now they would have to change their way of worship. They would no longer offer animal sacrifices, because Jesus had come to be their sacrifice. Instead of keeping the law and showing repentance by offering animal sacrifices, they must now repent of their sins and believe Jesus was the sacrifice that would pay the price of sin. This was a great change for the people and many were not ready to accept it. This is what John was sent from God to do. He was to prepare the hearts of the people to accept Jesus as the messiah, the one God had promised to redeem them from their sins.

When the Levites questioned John, he said, *"I am not the Christ."* They asked him, *"Are you Elijah?"*, and John said, *"I am not."* They asked, *"Are you that prophet?"*, and John said, *"No."* Then the Levites said, *"Then who are you? We have to give an answer to the Pharisees who sent us. What shall we tell them? What do you have to say for yourself?"* John reminded them of the prophesy of Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3), *"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord."* John said he was the voice that God had sent to preach and prepare the hearts of the Jews to accept Jesus as God's Son. Then the Levites asked him, *"Why do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or that prophet?"* John said, *"I only baptize with water. There is one standing among you that you do not know. He has not been identified yet as the Son of God. He is the one I was speaking of when I said he was born after me, but is preferred before me. He is the one that I am not even worthy to be his servant and unlatch his shoes."*

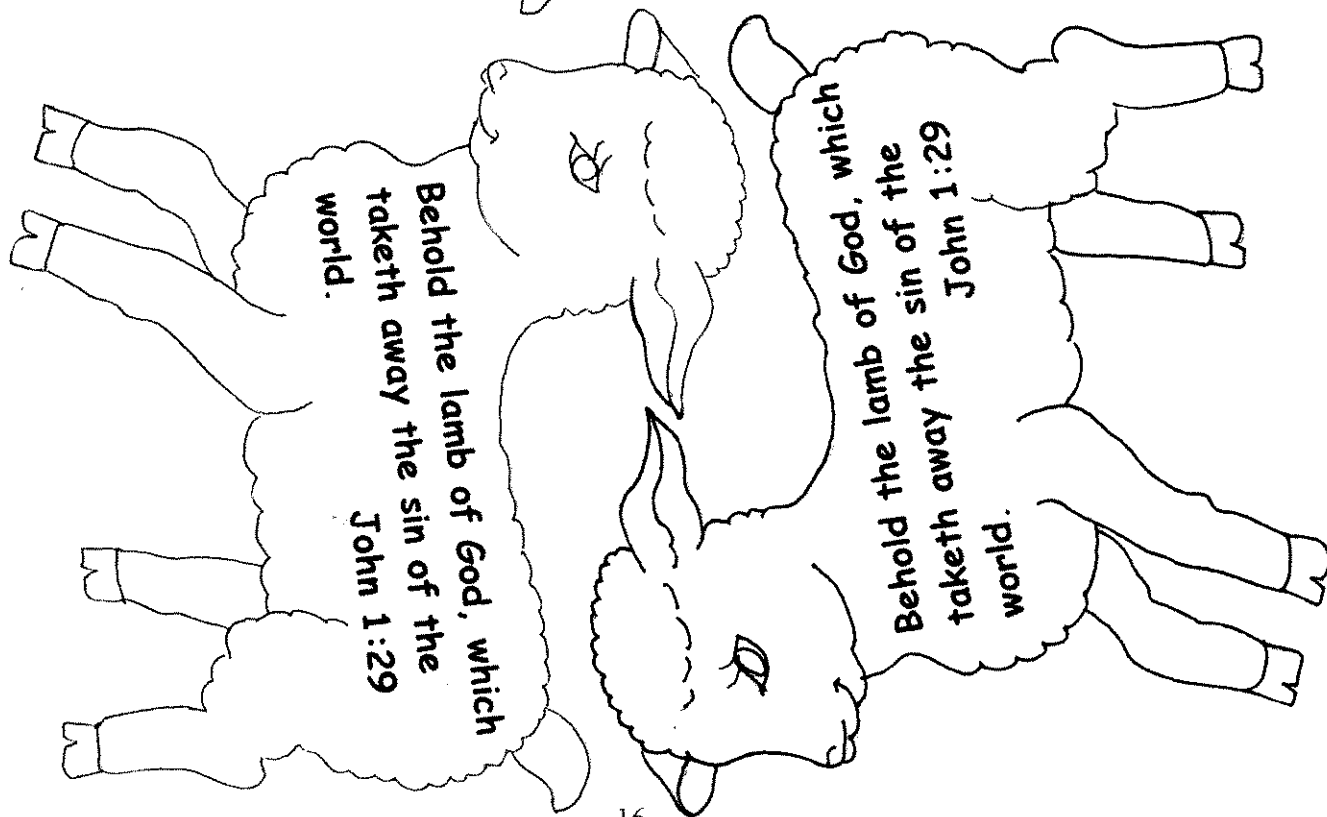
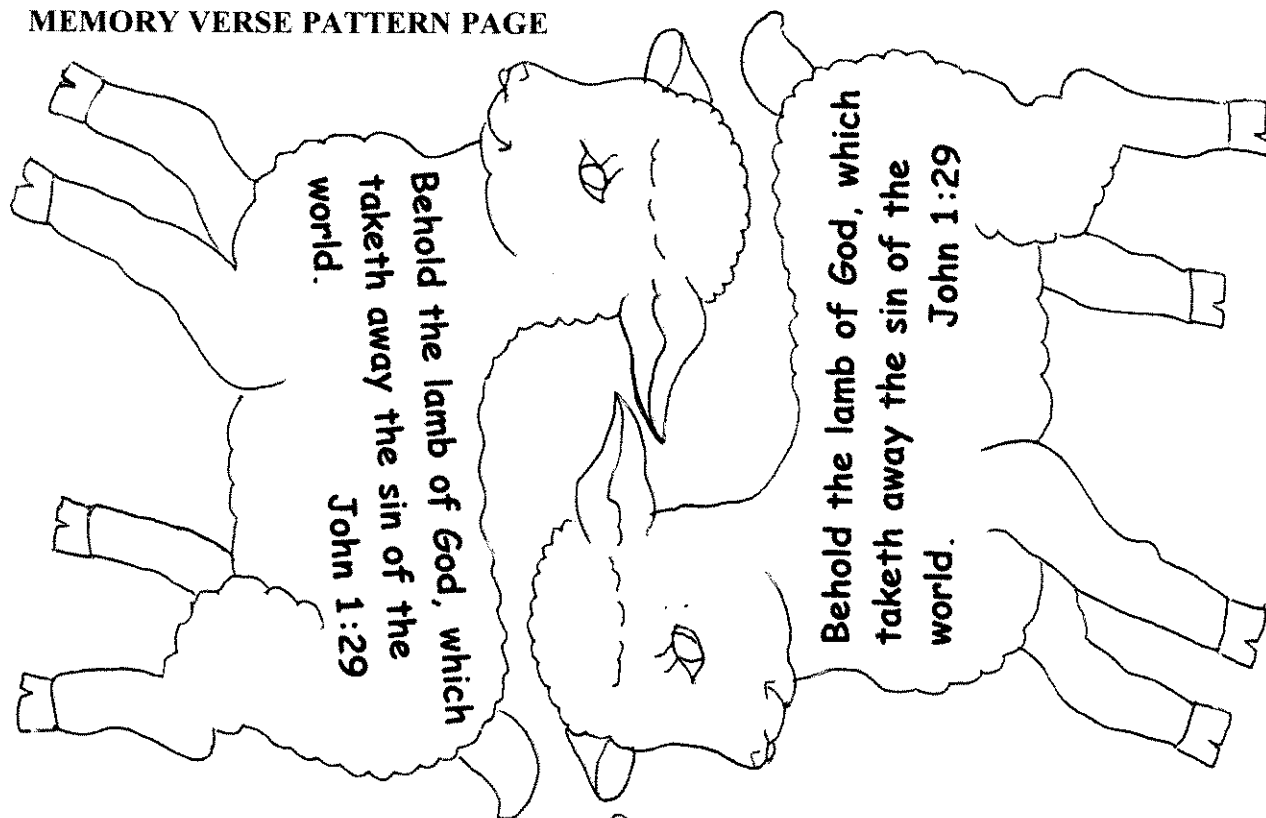
While John was preaching and baptizing at Bethabara Jesus came to him to be baptized. God told John that he would know who Jesus was when he baptized him because the spirit of God would come down in the form of a dove and stay upon him. When John baptized Jesus, the dove came down and stayed upon him, and the voice of God spoke out from heaven and said, *"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."* John knew that this man named Jesus who lived in Nazareth was the Son of God.

After Jesus was baptized he was led away into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for forty days. During this time John continued to preach and teach that Jesus was the Son of God who had come to take away the sin of the world. When Jesus came back from the wilderness, John saw him walk by, and told those standing with him, *"Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* The Jews used a lamb for their burnt offering. Jesus was the "lamb" God sent. When they killed a lamb and offered his blood on the altar, it pictured they trusted in the "lamb" that God would send to pay the price for sin. This "lamb" would be His Son. John pointed him out and identified him to the people present as God's Son when he said, *"Behold, the lamb of God."*

**MEMORY VERSE:** John 1:29 "...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

# JOHN IDENTIFIES JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD

## MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE



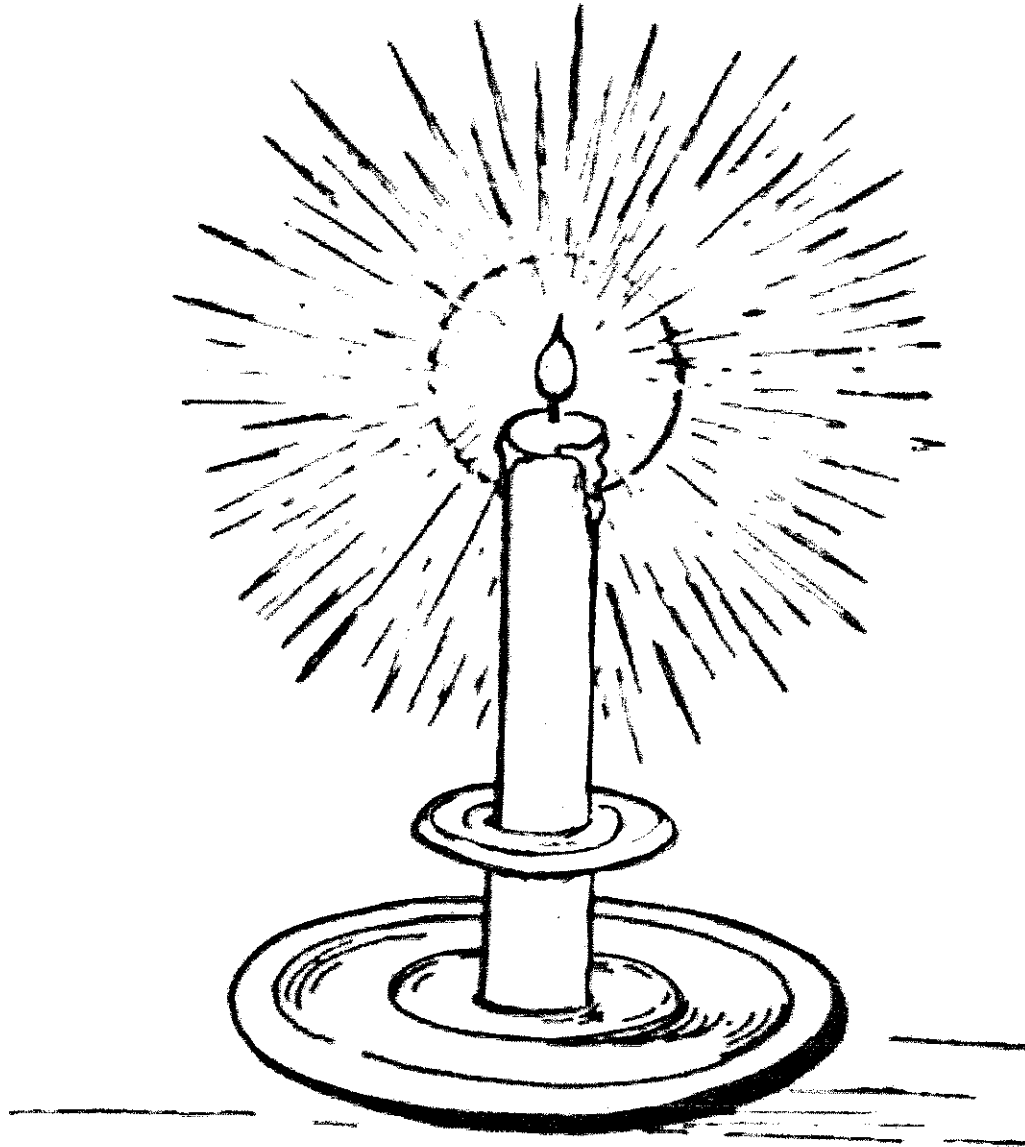
## JOHN IDENTIFIES JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD



“Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;  
And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!”



## JOHN IDENTIFIES JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD

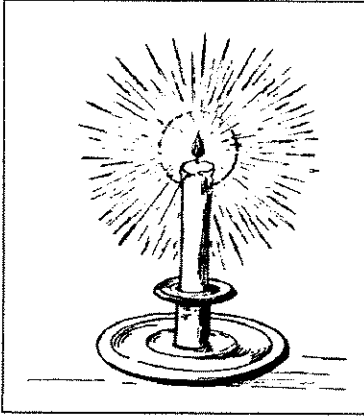


In John 1:7-9 John identified Jesus as the light of the world.

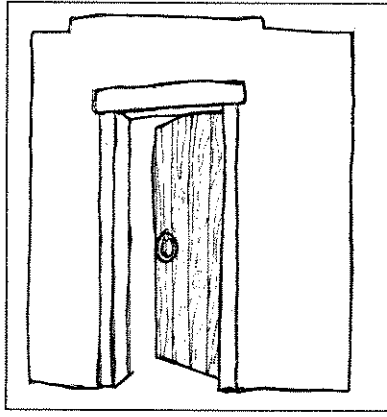
John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the  
**light** of the world:

## JOHN IDENTIFIES JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD

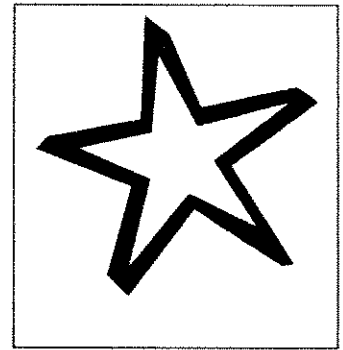
Color the pictures of objects Jesus is compared to in the New Testament.



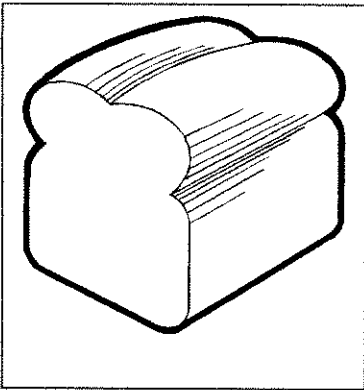
the light of the world



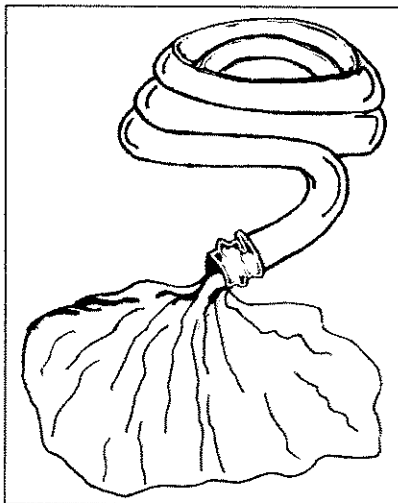
"I am the door....."



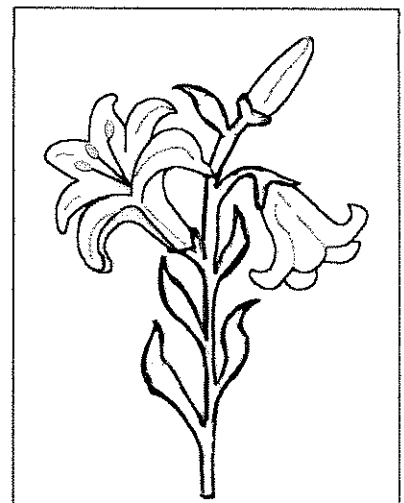
the bright and  
morning star



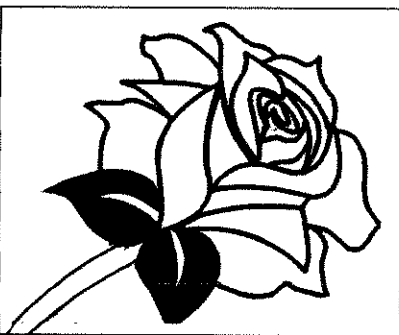
the bread of life



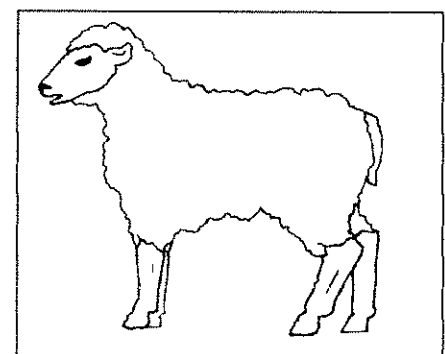
the water of life



the lily of the valley



the rose of Sharon



the Lamb of God

# JOHN IDENTIFIES JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD



## JESUS' FIRST DISCIPLES

### John 1:35-42

God promised the Israelites for many, many years that He would send His Son into the world to be their king. God send John the Baptist before Jesus to announce to the world that Jesus had come, and baptize those people who believed his message. John preached, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* Many people believed what John said and were baptized. Those who were baptized and continued to follow John and listen to his teachings were called disciples of John. A disciple was a follower. To be a disciple, or follower, one must be in the presence of John and learn from him the things of God, and the truths about Jesus, God's Son.

The first thing Jesus did when he began to preach was come to John the Baptist and be baptized. As soon as he was baptized, he went away into the wilderness and spent forty days and nights being tempted by Satan. Jesus did not give in to any of Satan's demands. The next day after Jesus had finished his time of temptation he returned to the area where John was teaching his disciples. When Jesus walked by, John pointed him out and told two of the disciples that Jesus was the man who was the Son of God. Jesus looked just like any other man, but John knew he was the Son of God because when he baptized him the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and God spoke out from heaven and said, *"This is my beloved Son"*. John told two of the disciples who were standing with him that this was the Son of God he had been telling them about. John 1:36, *"And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God."* Behold meant to see, to know, to understand. The people who knew Jesus knew him as the son of Mary, and the son of Joseph the carpenter from Nazareth. John wanted them to understand that Jesus was not Joseph's son, but was God's Son. John had taught them that the Messiah had come, and now he was identifying the man who was the Messiah.

Andrew and (another) John were the two disciples of John the Baptist who heard him say, "This man is the one who is the Son of God", and they began to follow Jesus and became his disciples. They had learned from John, but now they wanted to follow Jesus and learn from him. Jesus knew they were following him. He turned and asked them *"What seek ye?"* "What are you looking for?" "What do you want to know?" They called him "Rabbi" which means "master" or "teacher". Andrew and John believed John the Baptist and wanted to know more about Jesus. They asked him, *"Where dwellest thou?"* "Where do you live?" Jesus did not have an earthly house to live in. When he left the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, he did not have an earthly dwelling. He stayed in the homes of friends. He stayed with people who believed in him as the Son of God and opened their homes to him. Some people were glad to have Jesus stay in their homes and teach them. On one occasion, when a certain scribe came to Jesus and said, *"Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest"* Jesus said to him in Matthew 8:20, *"The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."*

When Andrew and John asked Jesus where he lived, he said, *"Come and see."* Jesus knew the hearts of these men and he knew they would be his followers. He invited them to come with him to the house where he was staying. They stayed and talked with Jesus the remainder of the day. The first thing Andrew wanted to do was tell his brother that he had found the Messiah. He wanted his brother, Simon, to come and see Jesus, too. John 1:41 tells us, *"He first findeth his own brother Simon, and sayeth unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ."* Andrew was so excited that God had finally kept His promise to the Jewish people, and sent the Messiah, that he wanted his brother to come and see for himself that God had kept His promise, and Jesus had come.

Andrew brought Simon to see Jesus. When Jesus saw them coming, he knew who he was. He said to him, *"Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone."* Jesus said, "Your name is now Simon, but you will be called Cephas." Jesus changed his name to Cephas, which means a 'stone'. The New Testament was written in the Greek language, and the Greek word for Cephas is Petro (Peter), which means 'a rock'. The Bible usually calls him Peter, or Simon Peter. Jesus knew the heart of Peter, and he knew that Peter would be his follower.

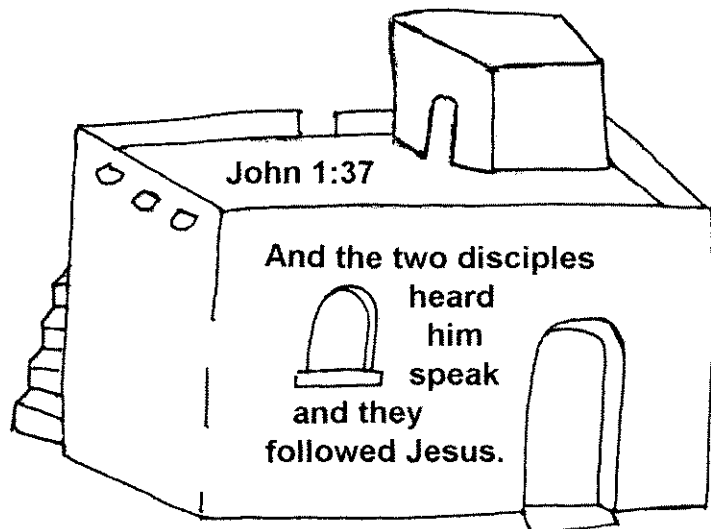
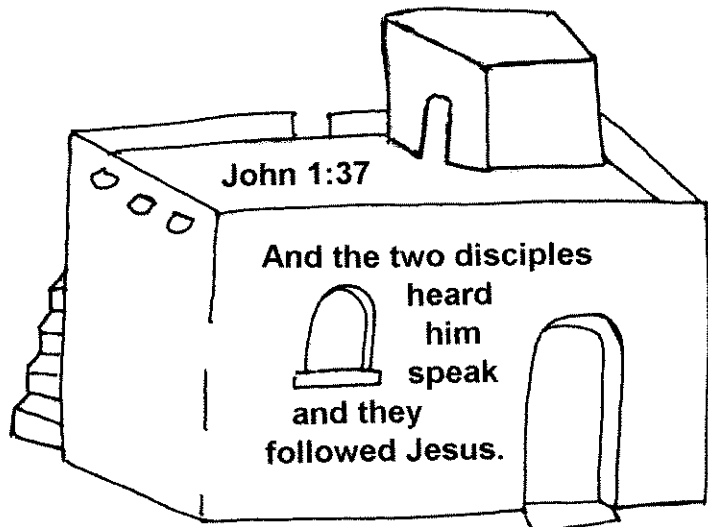
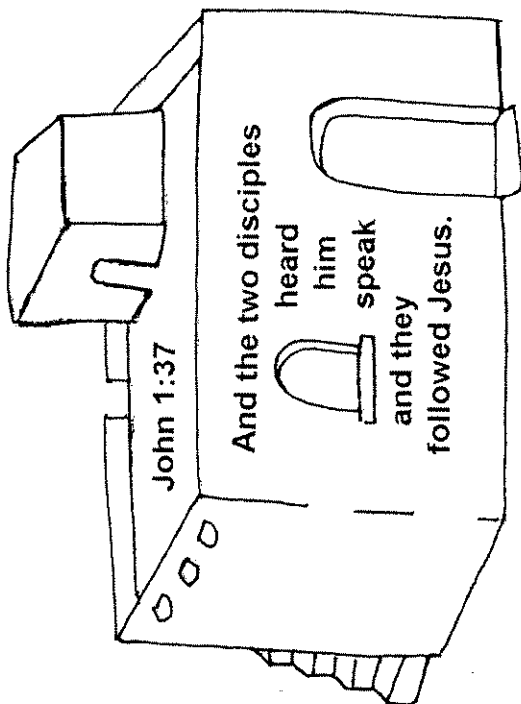
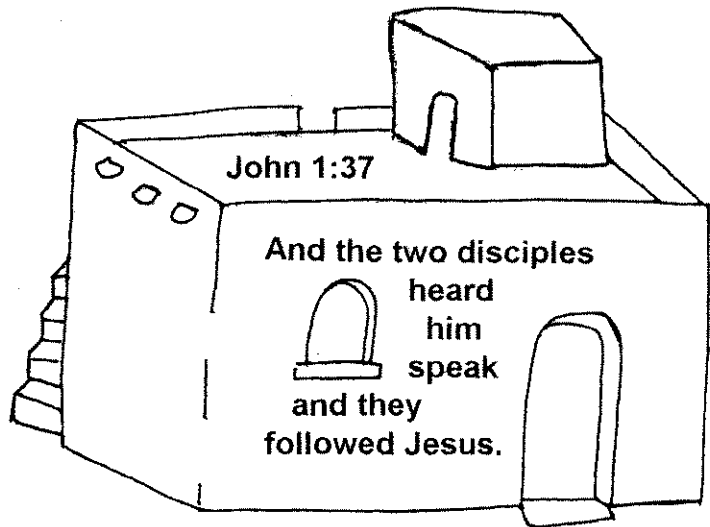
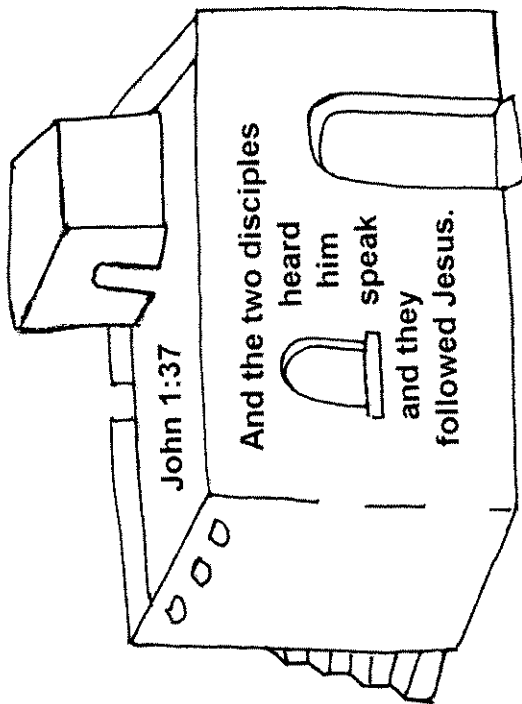
Peter, Andrew and John were all fishermen. They lived in the city of Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee. They spent their time fishing with their fathers in the Sea of Galilee. This was the way they earned their living. They caught fish and sold them to get money to buy the things they needed to live. Later Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee and saw them, and called out to them to leave their fishing and come with him, and be his disciples, or his followers.

#### **MEMORY VERSE: John 1: 37**

"And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

## JESUS' FIRST DISCIPLES

## MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE

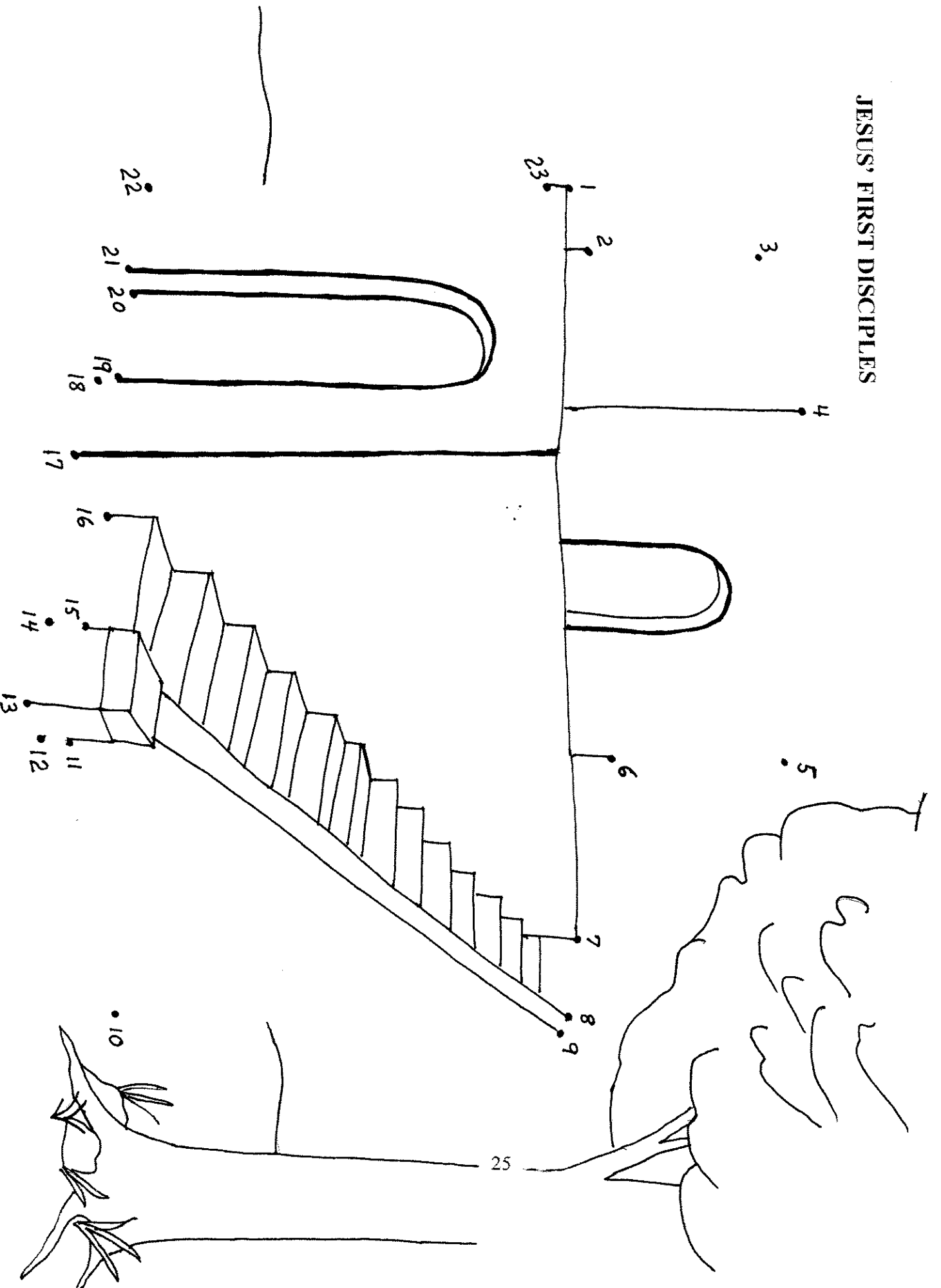


## JESUS' FIRST DISCIPLES



Andrew found his brother Simon, and said, "We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ."

# JESUS' FIRST DISCIPLES





## PHILIP AND NATHANAEL FOLLOW JESUS

**John 1:43-51; 12:21; 21:2;**

**Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:13-16**

John the Baptist was baptizing in Bethabara, on the Jordan River (not far from Jericho) when Jesus left Nazareth and came to him to be baptized. After Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days he returned to the area of Bethabara. John the Baptist identified Jesus as the Son of God. Andrew and John were standing with him as Jesus walked by, and he said, "*Behold, the Lamb of God*". He pointed Jesus out specifically, and said, "This man is the one who is the Son of God." Andrew and John wanted to know more about Jesus, and followed him to see where he lived. Jesus knew they were following him and invited them to the house where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day. The first thing Andrew did was bring his brother Simon to Jesus. He wanted Simon to also have the joy of being personally acquainted with Jesus. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, and we see him referred to as Peter or Simon Peter later in the scriptures. Peter, Andrew and John are the first three that we read of who accepted the man Jesus and the Son of God who had come in human flesh. They were also later chosen to be apostles.

The next day Jesus was going into the area of Galilee. He found a man named Philip. Philip was from Bethsaida in Galilee, the same city where Peter, Andrew, and John lived. When Jesus saw Philip, he said, "*Follow me.*" This is the first time we find where Jesus said specifically to a disciple, "Follow me." Later as he walked by the shore of the sea of Galilee he saw Peter and Andrew, and then James and John, and said to each of them, "Follow me." Philip knew the law of Moses. He had been taught the prophecies that said the messiah would come someday. The disciples that Jesus chose had all received baptism by John the Baptist, so we know that at some previous time Philip had heard John preach and believed the message that God had sent His Son into the world. When Jesus spoke to him, he had no doubt that Jesus was that messiah that had been promised. He immediately accepted him as the one who was the Son of God. Philip was now the fourth one of the apostles who had chosen to follow Jesus.

We do not know much about the life of Philip. He is listed in all four gospels with the other apostles. He evidently immediately began to follow Jesus, and stayed in his presence and learned from his teachings. The Bible mentions many times that Philip was with Jesus. He was with the other apostles when Jesus fed the five thousand (John 6). He was at the temple when they went to observe the feast of the Passover (John 12). He was recognized by others, even Greeks, as being a close follower of Jesus. He was among the other apostles when Jesus taught them privately (John 14). Philip must have stayed close by Jesus for the three and one half years that Jesus preached and taught before he was crucified.

Philip had a friend named Nathanael from the city of Cana in Galilee, just a few miles from Bethsaida. As Andrew wanted to bring his brother to meet Jesus, Philip wanted to bring his friend Nathanael to meet Jesus. He was so excited to find the messiah that he wanted his

friend Nathanael to know him, too. Philip made an effort to go find Nathanael and tell him the good news. Nathanael was an Israelite who looked for the coming of the Son of God. He evidently knew the scriptures well. He knew of the prophecies that God would send His Son to come and live in human flesh so he could be the sacrifice for sin.

When Philip went looking for Nathanael he found him resting under the shade of a fig tree. Philip was excited when he said, *"We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write"*. Philip said, "We have found the man that Moses wrote about in the law. We have found the man that the prophets wrote about. We have found the man for whom the Jews have waited for several hundred years. We have found the messiah." Philip had studied the Old Testament writings and believed that Jesus would come some day. Nathanael had studied the Old Testament writings and believed that Jesus would come some day. They just didn't know when. They heard John the Baptist preach that Jesus had come, and they believed that he had come, but they didn't know who he was. Now Philip had found him and he told Nathanael. He said, he is *"Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."*

Cana was about three or four miles from Nazareth. Joseph was well known in the area around Nazareth as a skilled carpenter. Jesus was known as the son of Joseph, the carpenter. Nathanael had grown up in Cana, so he was familiar with Nazareth. He knew it as a small, unimportant town. The temple wasn't at Nazareth. There had never been any prophets who came from Nazareth. It seemed that nothing important had ever happened there. Nathanael, like other Jews, had probably thought that when the Son of God came into the world to be king of the Jews, it would be at Jerusalem, not some small, unpopular town like Nazareth. When Philip said, "We have found the messiah; he is Jesus of Nazareth", Nathanael was confused. He asked, *"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"* *"Philip saith unto him, come and see."* Philip said, "Come with me and I will show you. Come with me and see for yourself."

*"Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!"* When Jesus saw Nathanael coming with Philip, he knew who he was. Jesus knows everything. Jesus knows everybody. He knew Nathanael and knew what kind of person he was. Nathanael was a good, honest man. The word guile means deceit or trickery. Nathanael was not a dishonest person. He did not deceive people. He did not lie or mislead. He did not trick people into doing things to benefit him. He simply wanted to do the right thing. Jesus knew he was a good man. Nathanael was once again confused. He had never met Jesus. How did Jesus know who he was? Nathanael asked Jesus, "How did you know me?" *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee."* Jesus said, "Before Philip went to get you, you were under a fig tree. I saw you there." Jesus knew where Nathanael was and what he was doing. Jesus knows who we are, too. He knows where we go and what we do. Jesus knows when we think good things, or when we think bad things. This convinced Nathanael that Jesus really was the messiah. He had to be the Son of God, or he would not know all things. Nathanael called him 'Rabbi', which means 'teacher', and said, *"You are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."* Jesus said, "If you believed just because I said I saw you under the fig tree, you will see greater things than that."

Nathanael did see Jesus do greater things than that. He became one of the apostles. He followed Jesus wherever Jesus went, and heard all the things that Jesus taught. He saw many great miracles that Jesus did. We believe that Nathanael was also Bartholomew. In referring to the apostles, Matthew, Mark, and Luke mention Philip and Bartholomew together, but do not name Nathanael. John mentions Philip and Nathanael, and does not name Bartholomew. Bartholomew (son of Tholmai) must have been his family identification, and Nathanael, his name. (Just as Simon was called Barjona, 'the son of Jona'.) He is mentioned many times with the other apostles. He probably witnessed the first miracle that Jesus did, because it was the next day in Cana, his home town. He was still among the seven apostles who went fishing and Jesus appeared to them on the sea shore after the resurrection.

Philip and Nathanael were two of the first to identify with Jesus. They were known to be his faithful followers to the very end, and witnessed the ascension of Jesus in Acts chapter one. They stayed in his presence during the time Jesus was on the earth, heard his teachings, and saw him taken up into heaven as he had told them. They remained at Jerusalem with the other apostles in the first church until it was scattered by persecution. Then they went into other parts of the world and preached until their death.

**MEMORY VERSE: John 1:43**

“The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.”

The day following Jesus would go forth  
into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and  
saith unto him, Follow me.

John 1:43

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John 1:43

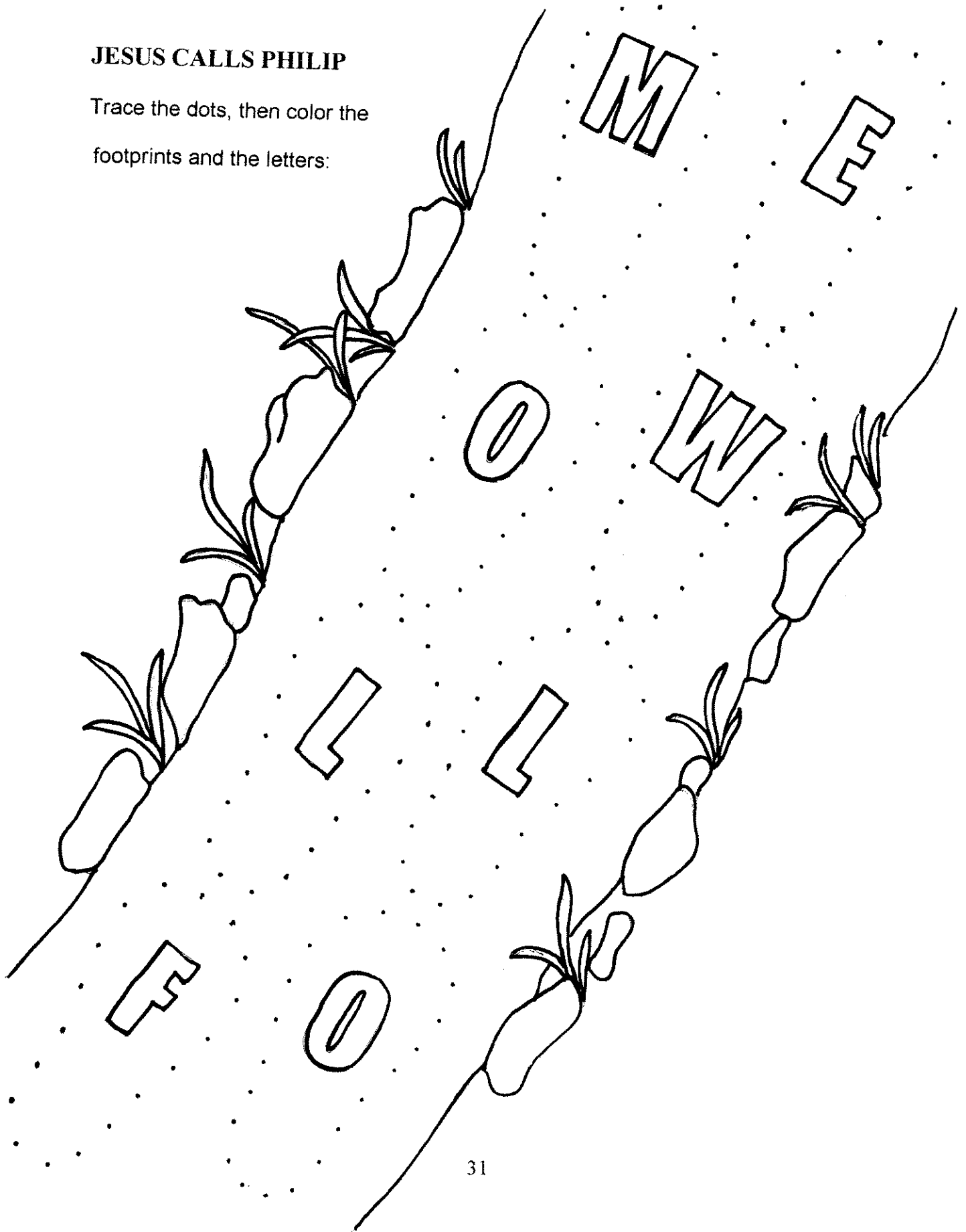
## JESUS CALLS PHILIP



**Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.**

## JESUS CALLS PHILIP

Trace the dots, then color the  
footprints and the letters:



## THE FIRST MIRACLE

**John 2:1-12; 20:30-31; 21:24-25**

After Jesus was baptized and went into the wilderness for forty days and nights, he returned to the area of Bethabara where John the Baptist was baptizing. John identified him as the Son of God, and he began selecting those who would be his disciples. When John the Baptist told Andrew and John that Jesus was the one who was the Son of God, they immediately began following him. Andrew brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus, and he also became his follower. The next day Jesus went into the area of Galilee and found Philip. He called him to “follow me” and Philip anxiously went to find his friend Nathanael and bring him to Jesus. These are the first five that the Bible names whom Jesus chose as his followers. Because Jesus knew all about Nathanael before he met him, Nathanael believed Jesus truly was the Son of God, but Jesus said he would see greater things than this.

The next day Nathanael did see greater things when Jesus did his first miracle in the city of Cana, in Galilee. This is the home town of Nathanael. It seems that Peter, Andrew, John, Phillip, and Nathanael were with Jesus. There was a wedding taking place in Cana, and the mother of Jesus was there, apparently helping with the serving at the wedding. (Cana was only three or four miles from Nazareth.) John 2:2 tells us that Jesus and also his disciples were invited to the wedding. A marriage was a time of special celebration. Many times a marriage feast would last for seven or eight days. The host of the wedding would serve food for the guests. He would serve wine for them to drink. They would serve the very best wine they had at the beginning of the wedding, and later they would bring out the wine that was not as good. There were many guests at this wedding, and after awhile they ran out of wine. Mary saw Jesus had come, and she went to him for help. She said, “*They have no wine.*” This was an embarrassing situation. If the people were there to celebrate, the host needed food and drink for them. It was very embarrassing to not have enough food or enough drink for the guests who had come.

The people who lived a long time ago did not have water faucets in their homes as we do. They had to go to a well and draw water, and carry it to their homes. They stored it in large clay pots until it was needed for drinking and cooking, as well as for washing their hands before and after meals, and cleaning their cooking vessels. When Mary told Jesus that they had run out of wine, he told the servants to go fill the waterpots with water. This was a little confusing to the servants. Surely they would not serve water to the guests at such an important occasion. There were six water pots at this home, and each one held twenty to twenty-five gallons of water. Mary told the servants to do as Jesus said. “*Jesus said to them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.*” After they had finished filling all six of the waterpots, Jesus worked a miracle. Jesus told them to dip some out into a cup and take it to the ruler of the feast, or the one responsible for serving the guests. When the servants dipped out the water, Jesus caused it to immediately turn into wine. Jesus wanted the ruler of the feast to taste the wine first, before it was served to the guests.

The servants filled the pots with water, but Jesus made it turn into wine. The usual process for making wine was to pick the grapes, squeeze the juice, and store it in containers. As the juice set for several weeks, or months, it did not spoil as some juice will do. It fermented. This meant it changed from fresh juice into wine. In this process it preserved itself. When it was fermented, or preserved, it would keep for months or years without spoiling. The people kept their juice this way so they would always have it to drink. They did not have refrigerators or freezers like we have, so they had to ferment their juice in order to keep it from spoiling. Some grapes made much better wine than others. Jesus bypassed the months of fermentation, and immediately made the water turn into wine. When the governor of the feast tasted it, he did not know where it came from. The Bible says the servants who drew the water knew. The governor called the bridegroom and asked why he had kept the best wine until the last. This wine was so much better than any they had already served. The governor said, *"Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now."* He was asking, "Why have you kept the best wine until now?"

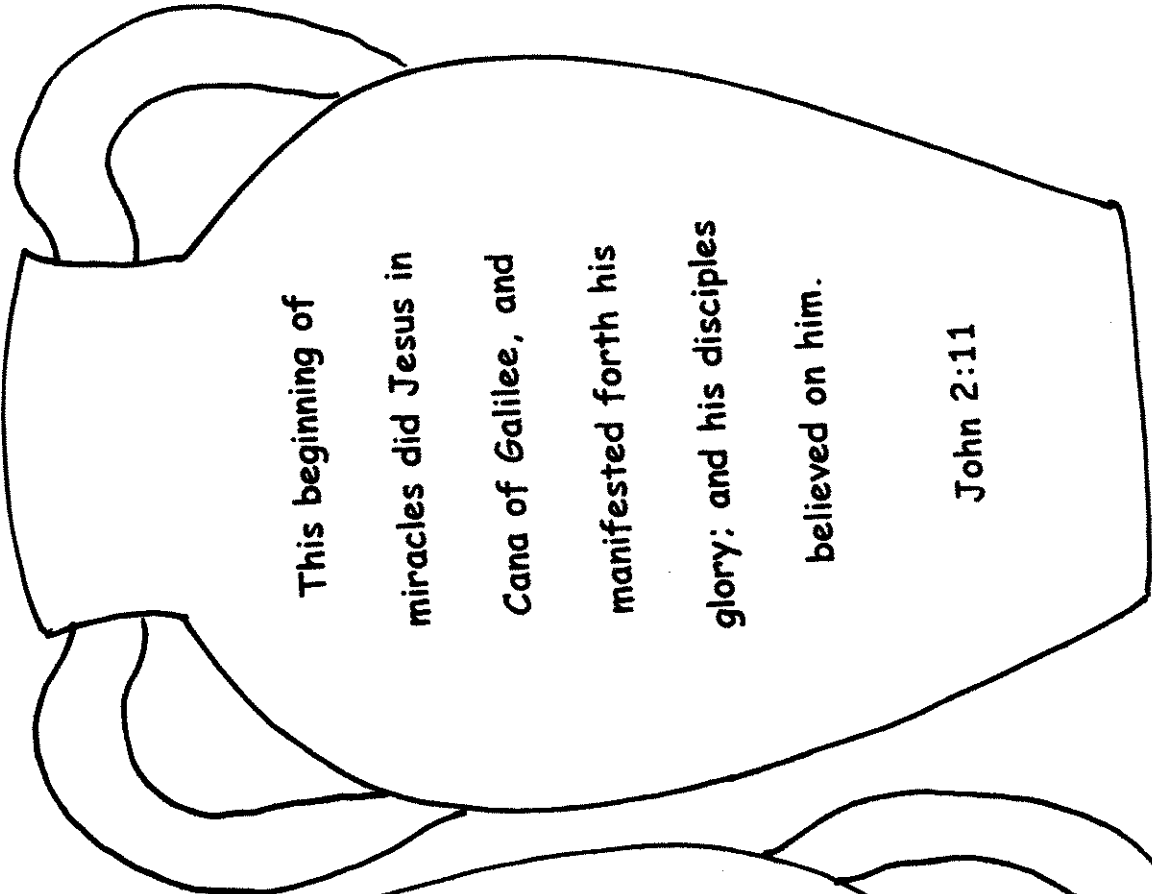
*"This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee."* Jesus did this miracle to manifest his glory, to prove his power. A miracle is something that does not happen in the usual way. This wine did not come about in the usual way (the process of fermentation). Jesus made it happen instantly. No ordinary man could do something like this. John 2:11 tell us that *"his disciples believed on him."* Jesus had told Nathanael that he would see greater things than Jesus knowing all about him. These five men believed that Jesus was the Son of God when they followed him. Now they were convinced that he was the Son of God. They believed that he had the power of God.

We have these things written in the Bible that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. All the things Jesus did were not written down in the Bible. The things of his childhood were not written. Many of the things during his ministry were not written. If everything had been written, there would be so many books the world could not hold them all. Jesus did the miracles to get the people to believe he was the Son of God. We have them written in the Bible so we will believe he was the Son of God.

**MEMORY VERSE: John 2:11**

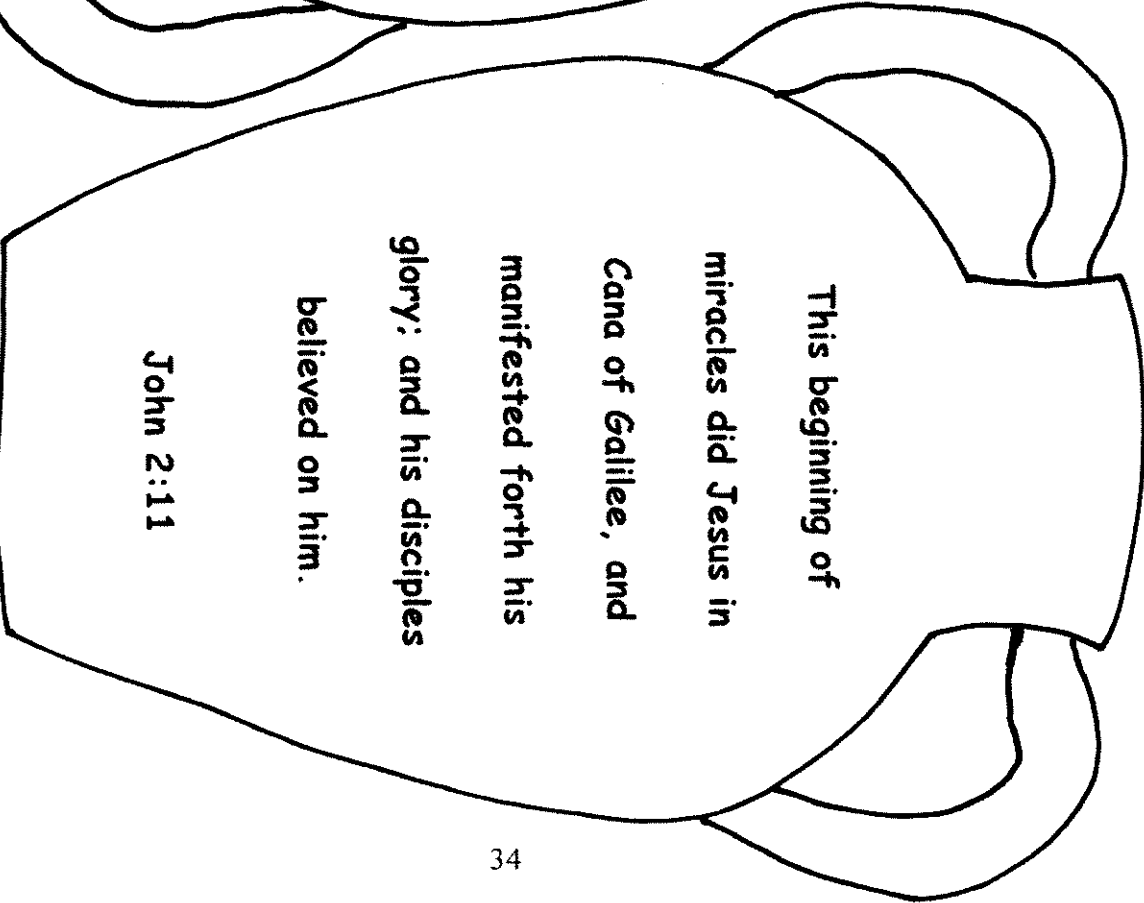
*"This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him."*





This beginning of  
miracles did Jesus in  
Cana of Galilee, and  
manifested forth his  
glory; and his disciples  
believed on him.

John 2:11



This beginning of  
miracles did Jesus in  
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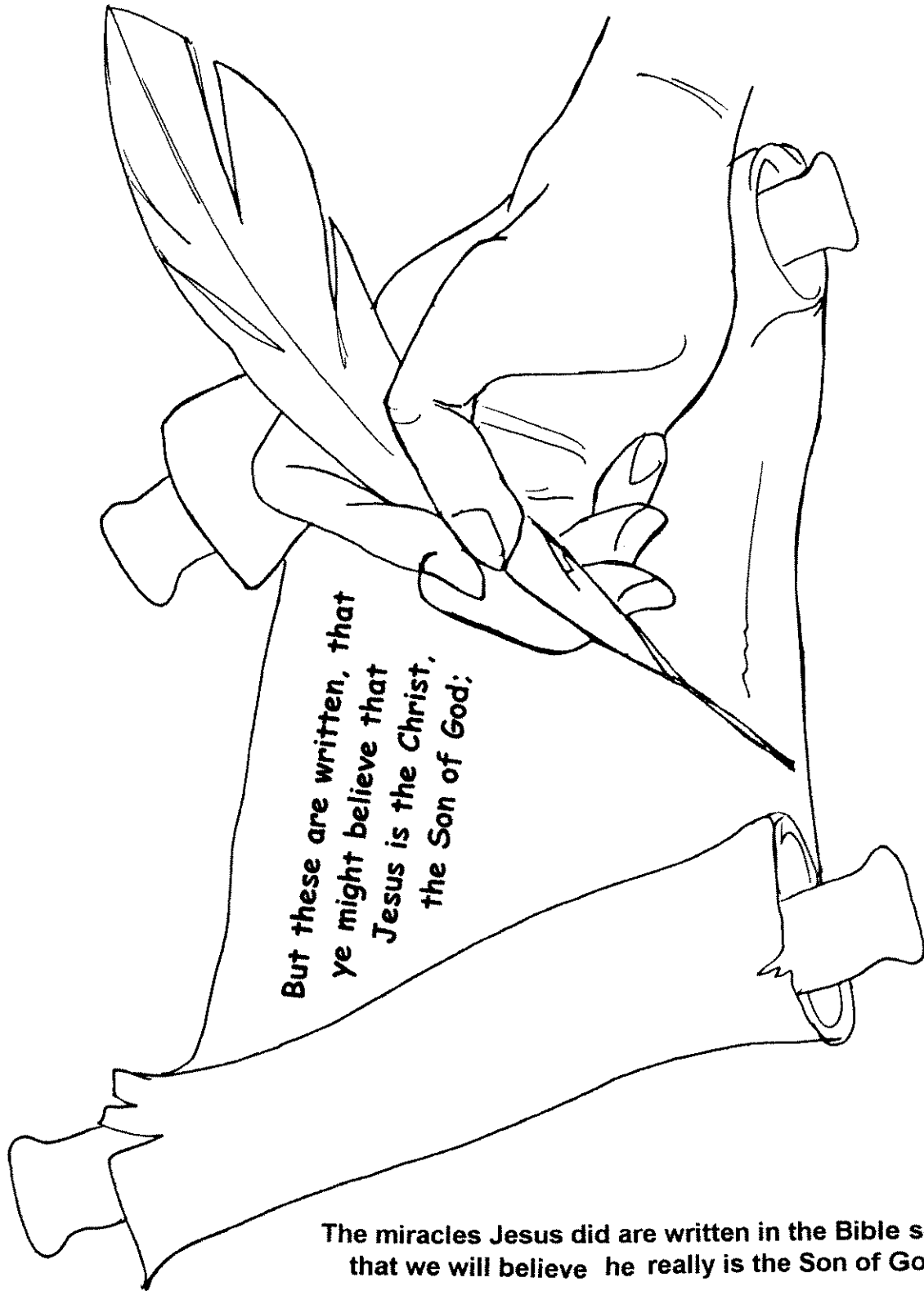
John 2:11

# THE FIRST MIRACLE



Jesus turned the water into wine.

## THE FIRST MIRACLE



**But these are written, that  
ye might believe that  
Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of God;**

**The miracles Jesus did are written in the Bible so  
that we will believe he really is the Son of God.**

## JESUS GOES TO THE TEMPLE

### John 2:11-24

When Jesus began his preaching and teaching ministry on earth, the first thing he did was be baptized. Then he confronted Satan in the wilderness for forty days and nights. He refused Satan's offer to make him king immediately if he would only bow down and worship him. Jesus proved to Satan that he would do what he came into the world to do, and that was to be crucified to pay the price of sin. Then he will return someday and be king. When Jesus went to the temple when he was twelve years old to observe the Passover, he stayed behind after the crowd had gone home and talked with the teachers at the temple. When Mary and Joseph came looking for him, he told them "he must be about his Father's business". Jesus knew why he had come into the world. He had come to die for our sins. When he was baptized, God spoke out from heaven and announced to the world that this was the man who was His Son, and he was pleased with what Jesus had chosen to do. When Jesus proved to Satan that he would do what he had come to do (be crucified) he went back into the area where John the Baptist was baptizing people and began to gather up his followers so he could teach them the things of God.

The first followers that we read about in the Bible were John, Peter, Andrew, Philip and Nathanael. These were probably the ones who went with him to the area of Galilee. Jesus told them they would see great things that would prove that he was the Son of God. John 2:1-11 tells about the first miracle Jesus did. They went with Jesus to the city of Cana and attended a wedding. While there he turned pots of water into wine. According to man, this was something impossible to do. When Jesus did it, he proved he had the power of God. The disciples saw this happen, and John 2:11 tells us "*his disciples believed on him.*" After the wedding feast was ended, Jesus, his mother, his brethren (his brothers or other members of his family), and his disciples went to the city of Capernaum on the coast of the Sea of Galilee, not far from Cana. (This was the hometown of Peter, Andrew, John, and Philip. Nathanael was from Cana.) They stayed there for a few days.

It was the time of year for the Feast of the Passover in Jerusalem. The Passover was observed each year in the month of Abib, the first month of the Jewish calendar. The people were commanded to do this in order to remember the time that God brought them out of bondage in Egypt and gave them their own land in which to live and worship God. The night they left Egypt, they killed a lamb and put the blood on the sides and above the door to their homes. This showed they had faith in God to save them from death by the death angel who passed over the land that night. When the death angel 'passed over' them, God spared their lives and brought them back to the land of Canaan. They were to remember this time by observing the 'Passover' Feast. It was held at the temple in Jerusalem. Every Jewish man was required to attend every year. This was the first one for Jesus to attend after he had been baptized and begun his earthly ministry. Jesus and those traveling with him went to Jerusalem to attend this feast.

When the people came to observe the feast, they brought sacrifices. If they could not bring a sacrifice with them, they would buy the animal or the doves after they got to the temple. When Jesus arrived at the temple he found that men had brought animals and doves to the temple to sell for the sacrifices. They could charge as much as they wanted to charge because the people needed the animals for their sacrifices. The temple was not just the building. There was a large compound around the temple itself. It had many courts. The courts closest to the temple were for the priests. Around this was the court for the Israelites. An area before you came into the Court of the Israelites was for the women. Around all this was an area called the Court of the Gentiles. Any person who was not a Jew was a Gentile. This outer court is probably where the animals were brought to be sold. With thousands of people coming to the temple for the feast, they made a lot of money at the expense of worship. Jesus was not pleased with this.

There were also men there who were 'changers of money', and tables were set for the money changers to do their business. The Jewish people were under the rule of the Roman Empire (the Roman government). They bought and sold things with Roman money. Each person over the age of twenty was required to bring tribute money to the temple. They must pay a tribute (like a tax) for the use of the temple. Under the Jewish law they must pay their tribute with a half shekel coin. This was a Jewish coin, not Roman money. When the people came to worship at the temple, they must bring a half shekel coin. Exodus 30:11-16 tells of their atonement money. They did not buy their salvation with this tribute money that they brought, but they were required to help pay the expenses of the temple. Every person over the age of twenty was responsible for helping to support the temple.

Each person had to pay his own way. The rich could not bring more, and the poor could not bring less. Each person had to bring a half shekel. In order to make it convenient for the people to have a Jewish coin to pay their tribute money, there were men who made an occupation of changing money. They set up tables at the temple where a person could bring his Roman money and exchange it for the Jewish half shekel. They charged a fee for this; and could charge as much as they wanted to. It had become a profitable business. The people had to pay the fee in order to get the necessary coin to pay their tribute. The money changers took advantage of the Jewish people who came to the temple to worship. Jesus was not pleased with this.

Jesus came to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, a time to worship God. He came to the temple and found that men had made the house of God into a marketplace. Men were charging high prices to exchange the money so the people could make their sacrifices. They were charging too much for the animals that they sold for an offering. Jesus saw greedy men making a profit from the worship of God. He became angry. Verse 15 tells us he took some cords and platted them together to make a whip, and drove the men and the animals from the temple. He poured out the money, and turned over the moneychangers' tables. He told the men who had the cages of doves to take them away. He said, "*Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.*" "Don't make my Father's house a house of selling

to make a profit.” Jesus had a great desire that the house of God, or the temple, be kept pure, and that God would be pleased when the people came to worship. Jesus wanted the people to go to the temple to worship and serve God. These men went for selfish reasons that they might make a lot of money for themselves from the worship that others offered to God.

When Jesus turned the animals loose and ran the men out of the temple, the Jews who were in charge of the temple became upset. They asked Jesus what right he had to do this. They assumed he was a prophet and was cleansing the house of God. The prophets of old did miracles to prove they were sent from God. The Jews asked what miracle he could do to prove that he had authority to do this. Jesus answered, *“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”* The temple that Solomon built had been destroyed many years before, and this temple at Jerusalem had been rebuilt, taking many years to complete. The Jews replied, “We have been building on this temple for forty-six years, how can you build it in three days?”

They did not understand that Jesus was speaking of his body. His body was the temple he was referring to. He was telling them that he would be crucified, and in three days he would make himself come back to life again. When a person dies they cannot do anything. They cannot move. They cannot speak. They do not have life. But when Jesus died he had the power to make himself live again. This was the greatest miracle that was ever done. The Jews did not understand what he meant. After he was crucified and arose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he said, *“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”* They realized then that he was talking about his body.

Many, many people had come to Jerusalem to observe the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread which lasted for eight days. Jesus did many miracles while he was in the city of Jerusalem. He did miracles at the passover on the feast day. For eight days Jesus taught the people and did miracles to prove he had the power of God. Many people believed in Jesus when they saw the miracles that he did. Verse 23 tells us *“many believed in his name when they saw the miracles that he did.”*

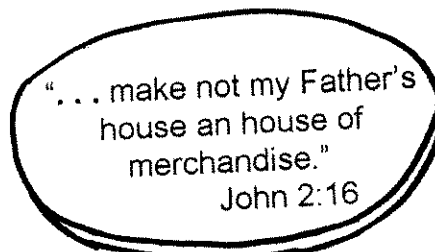
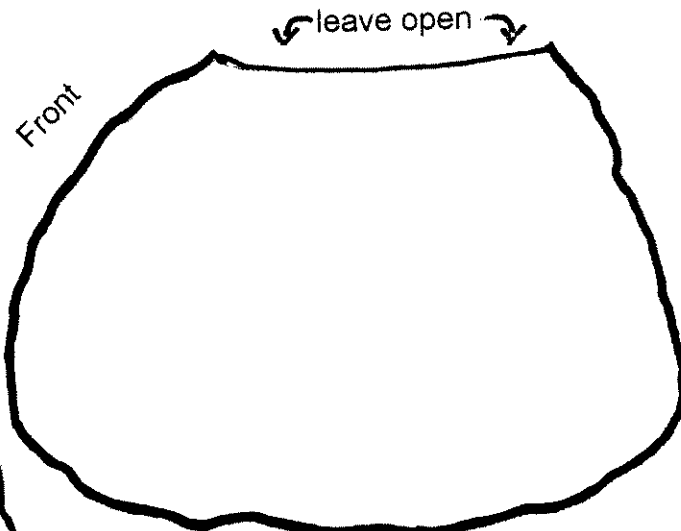
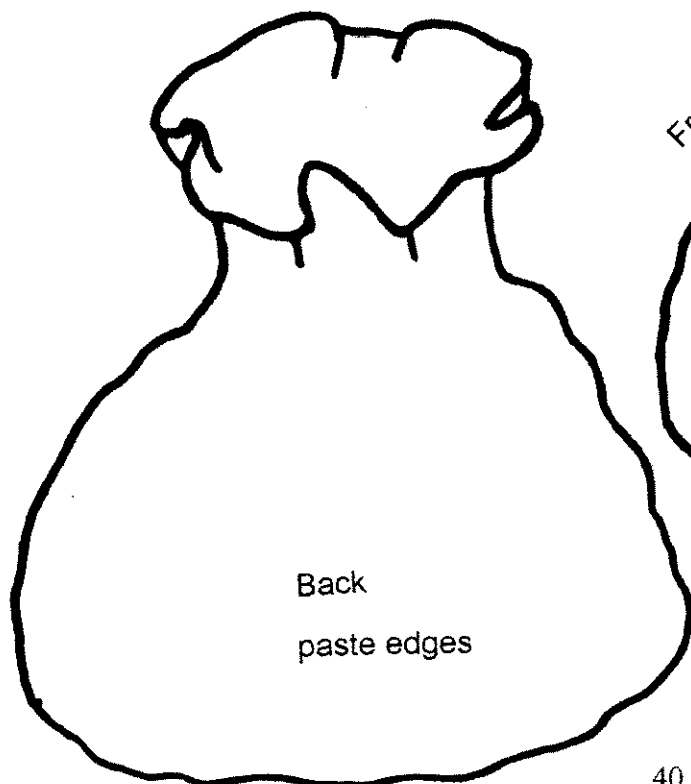
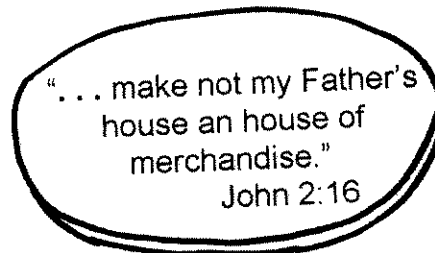
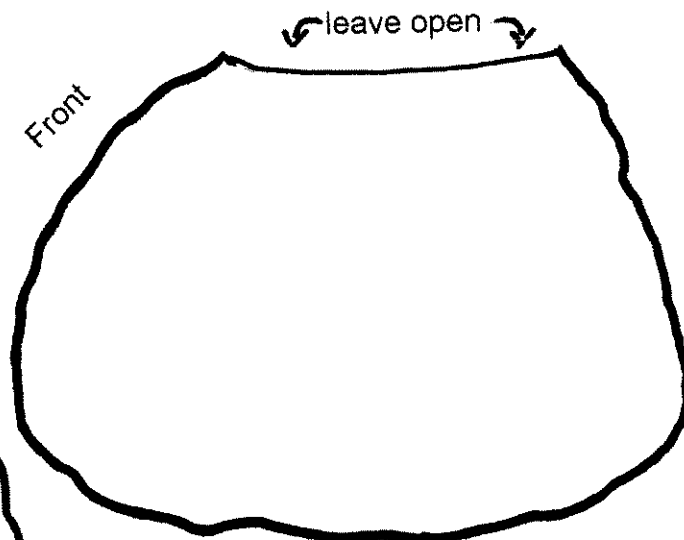
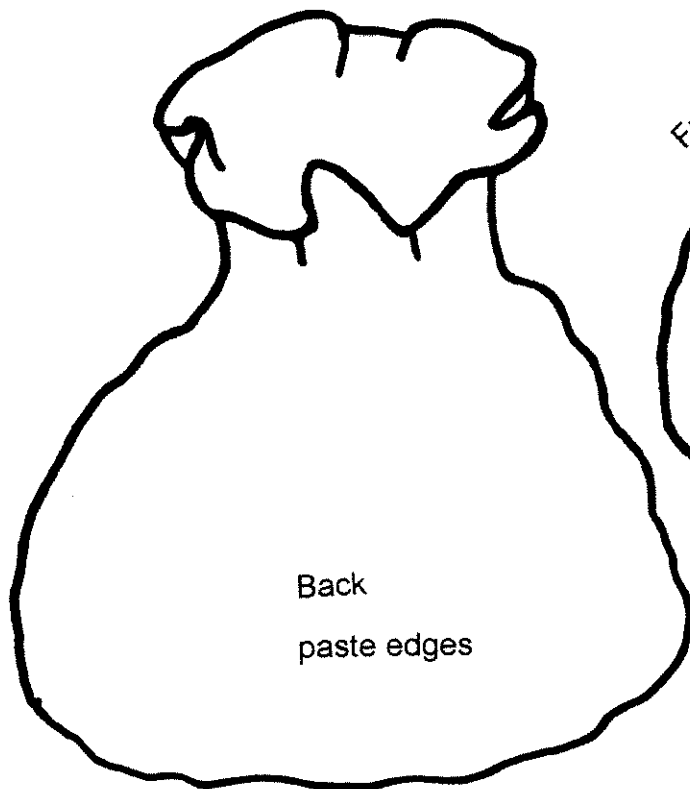
#### **MEMORY VERSE: John 2:16**

“... make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.”

# JESUS GOES TO THE TEMPLE

## MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE

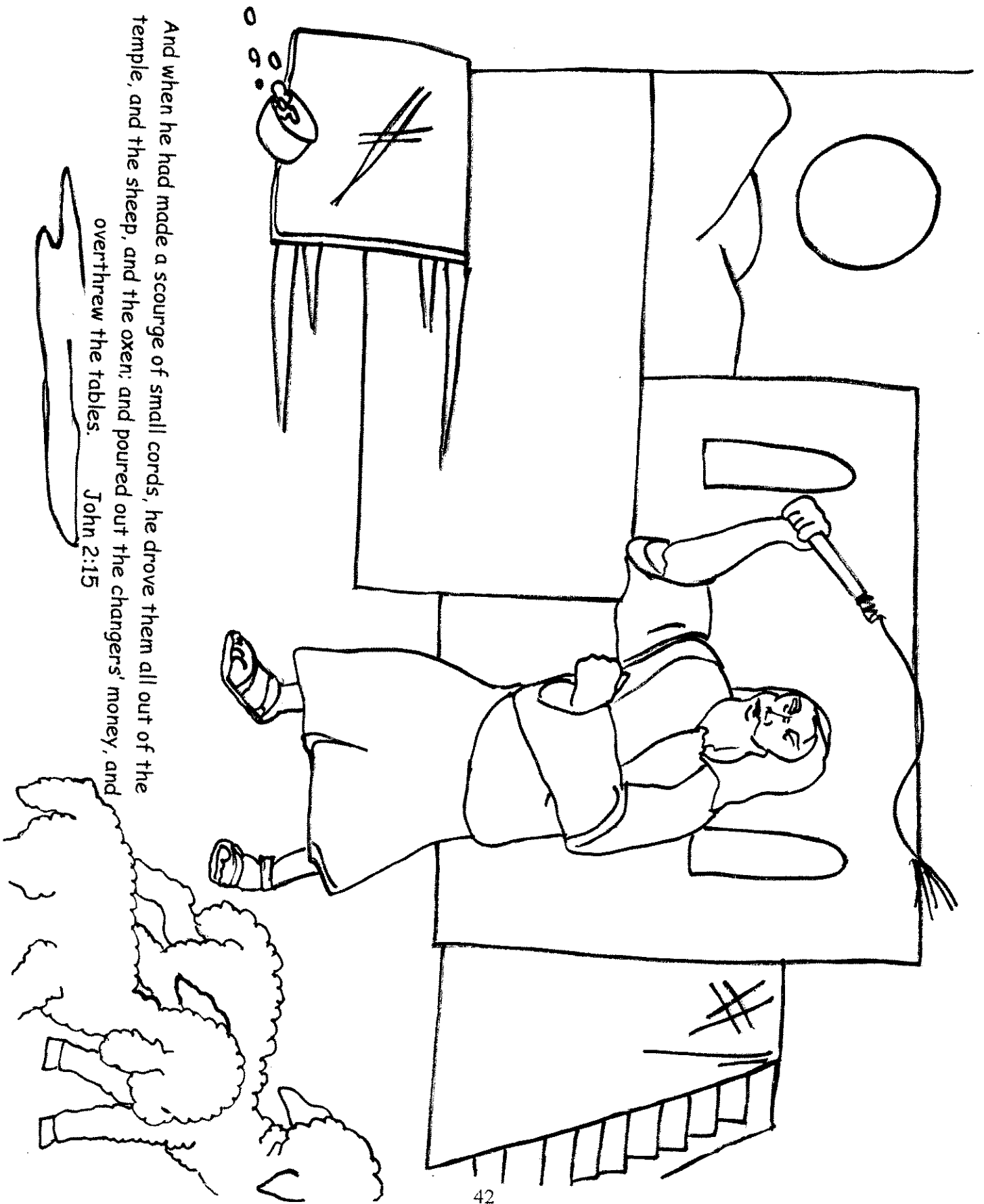
Copy on construction paper. Paste edges together leaving top open to insert coin.





Jesus drove the moneychangers from the temple.





And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables.

John 2:15

## NICODEMUS COMES TO SEE JESUS AT NIGHT

### John 3:1-9

The first miracle that Jesus did was in Cana of Galilee when he turned the water into wine at the wedding feast. From Cana he went to Capernaum for a few days and then to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. He did many miracles while in Jerusalem for the feast. The Bible doesn't tell us what kind of miracles or how many. John 2:23, *"Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did."* Many people had come to Jerusalem for the feast. Jesus took this opportunity to work miracles in their presence to let them know he had the power of God that no other man had. He revealed his power by doing miracles. Many people saw the miracles, and many who saw believed in him.

One of the men who saw the miracles that Jesus did was Nicodemus. He was a ruler of the Jewish people. He was a very important man. He was also a Pharisee. The Pharisees were a group of Jews who believed that the way to be saved was by keeping the law of Moses. They were self-righteous people. That means they were righteous, or good, in their own eyes. They believed that by being good they were accepted by God. If they kept the laws that God gave, it would make them good; and if they were good, they would go to heaven when they died. They did not believe in repentance. They did not believe they had to say they were sorry for their sins, and ask God's forgiveness. They believed God would love them because they kept His laws. They believed that God would send His Son to live on the earth, and when he came he would be the king of the Jewish people, and rule in Jerusalem from the throne of David. They were not looking for a Savior since they did not think they had anything to repent of; they were good in their own eyes by the things they did, and the things they did not do.

Nicodemus was surely a good man. He went to the temple for all of the feasts and special days. He offered the sacrifices that the law of God called for. He did not steal from his neighbors. He did not cheat people. He did not deliberately tell lies to get someone in trouble. He helped the poor by giving them money. He helped hungry people by giving them food. He did live a good life, but he did not understand that he still had sins in his life. He had to repent of his sins and be forgiven before he could be a child of God.

Nicodemus was at Jerusalem and he saw the miracles that Jesus did. He wanted to know more about this man. Surely he was a prophet. He had power to do things no other man had ever been able to do. He wanted to know the truth. He came to Jesus in the night time so the other rulers would not know he came. He was a lawyer and a member of the highest court in the land. He was a very important man and he did not want the other Jews to know he was going to ask Jesus questions. He would be put out of the high court, and out of the synagogue if he became a follower of Jesus. (John 9:22). The other rulers of the Jews did not like Jesus doing miracles in the name of God. Jesus taught they were sinful and needed to say they were sorry for doing wrong, ask God's forgiveness, and then they would be good in the eyes of God. The Jewish leaders did not like for Jesus to do miracles, because the people who saw him believed in him, and became his followers.

Nicodemus recognized Jesus as also a man of importance. He called him “Rabbi”, or teacher. This was the way the Jews referred their spiritual instructors. Nicodemus said, *“We know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”* Nicodemus said, “We know that you are a teacher who has been sent from God to teach us. No man can do miracles like these that you have done unless God is with him.” Nicodemus believed that Jesus was sent from God, but he didn’t understand it. Nicodemus wanted to know who Jesus was.

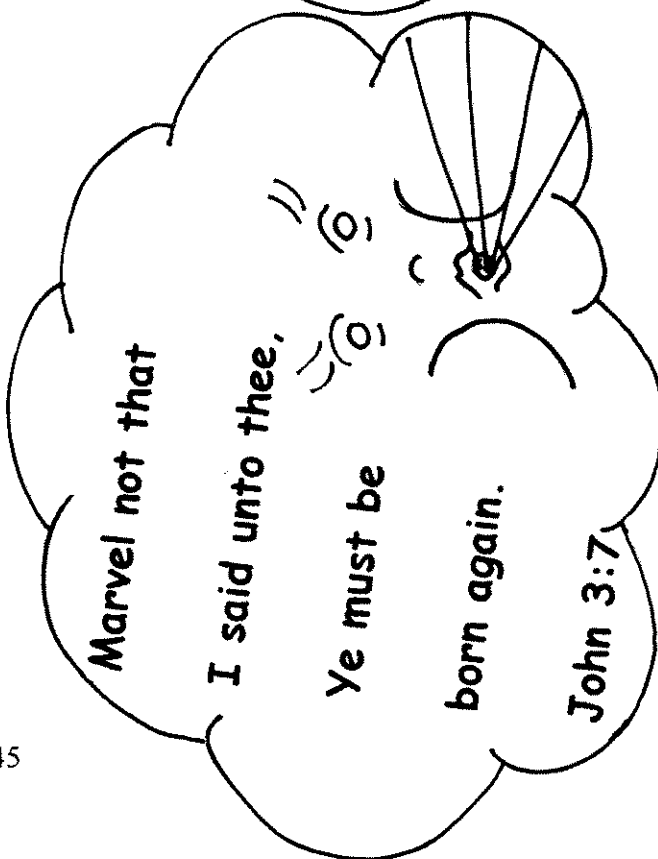
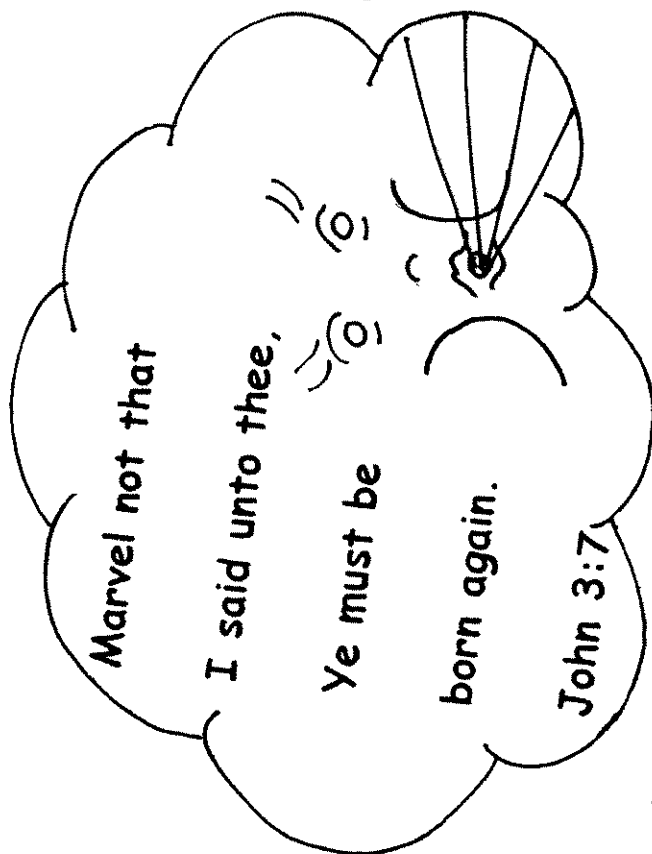
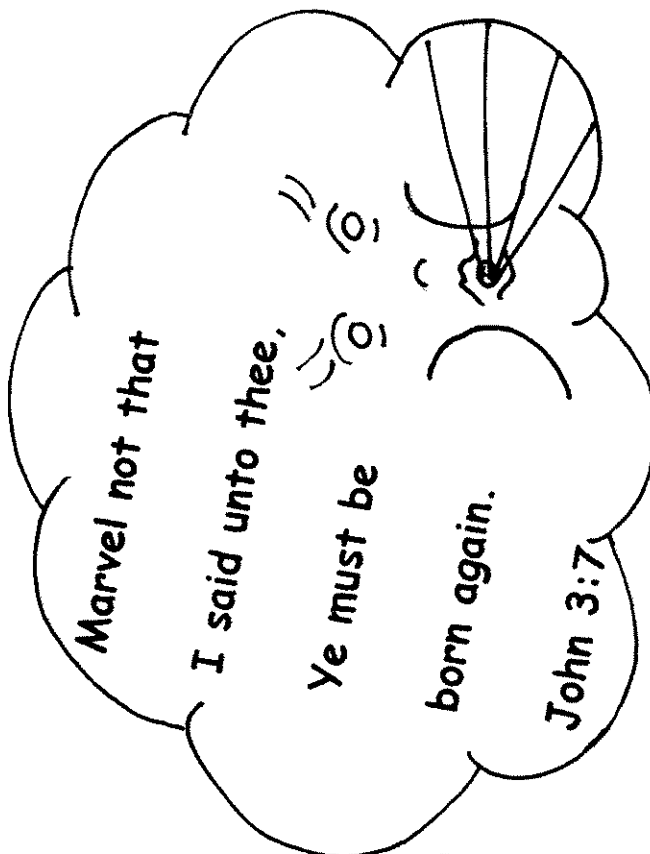
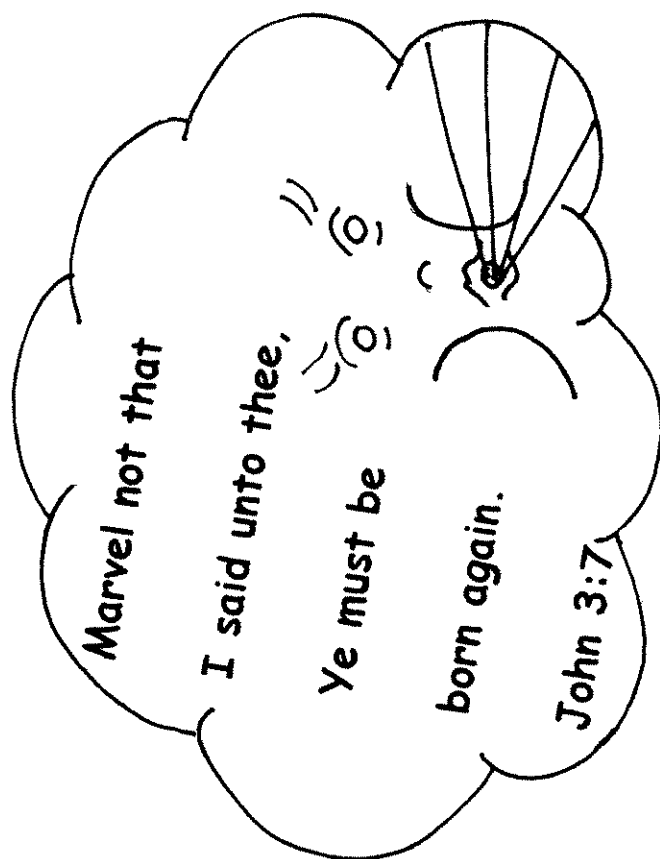
Jesus taught Nicodemus about being saved. He taught him about ‘the new birth’. Jesus said, *“Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* Nicodemus was even more confused. He asked how a man could be born as a tiny baby when he was already an old man. Jesus explained that a person must be born as a baby to have physical life, then he must be born again of the spirit to have spiritual life. We are born of the flesh, and have a fleshly body. Then we must choose to be born of the spirit to have a spiritual life. When we are born again, our body does not change, but our spirit does. Jesus told Nicodemus, “Don’t be amazed when I tell you that you must be born again.” Then he compared the new birth to the wind. He said, “The wind blows everywhere and you can hear it, but you can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with being born of the spirit.” We can’t see it with our eyes, but we know it happens. The wind blows. How do we know the wind blows? We can’t see it. We can’t hold the wind. We can’t touch the wind. So how do we know it blows? We can feel it. We can feel the air move as it blows against our skin. We can hear it. We can see the results of the wind blowing. We can see the things move that the wind blows against. We know it exists. That is what being born of the spirit is. God forgives our sins and makes our hearts clean. God makes us a new creature. We cannot see it or touch it, but we know it happens because it happens in our spirit. We feel it in our hearts, so we know it is real.

We know that Nicodemus believed what Jesus taught him, because we read about him later in the scriptures. In the seventh chapter of John the chief priests had sent officers to arrest Jesus, and they came back without him. When they were asked why they did not bring him, they said there had never been a man who spoke like Jesus. The chief priests became angry and asked, “Have you believed his lies? Have any other rulers or Pharisees believed him?” Nicodemus was still a member of the high court. He did not want them to arrest Jesus. He told the chief priests, “Even our own laws do not condemn a man before he has a chance to speak and we determine whether he tells the truth.” John 19:38-42 tells us that when Jesus was crucified Nicodemus was one of the men who came to take Jesus’ body down from the cross and bury him. A man named Joseph went to Pilate, the governor of Judea, and asked permission to take Jesus down from the cross and bury him. Nicodemus came and helped Joseph. He brought the oil and spices that they used to put on his body when they wrapped him in linen cloths and placed him in the tomb.

Nicodemus did believe Jesus when he said, *“Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

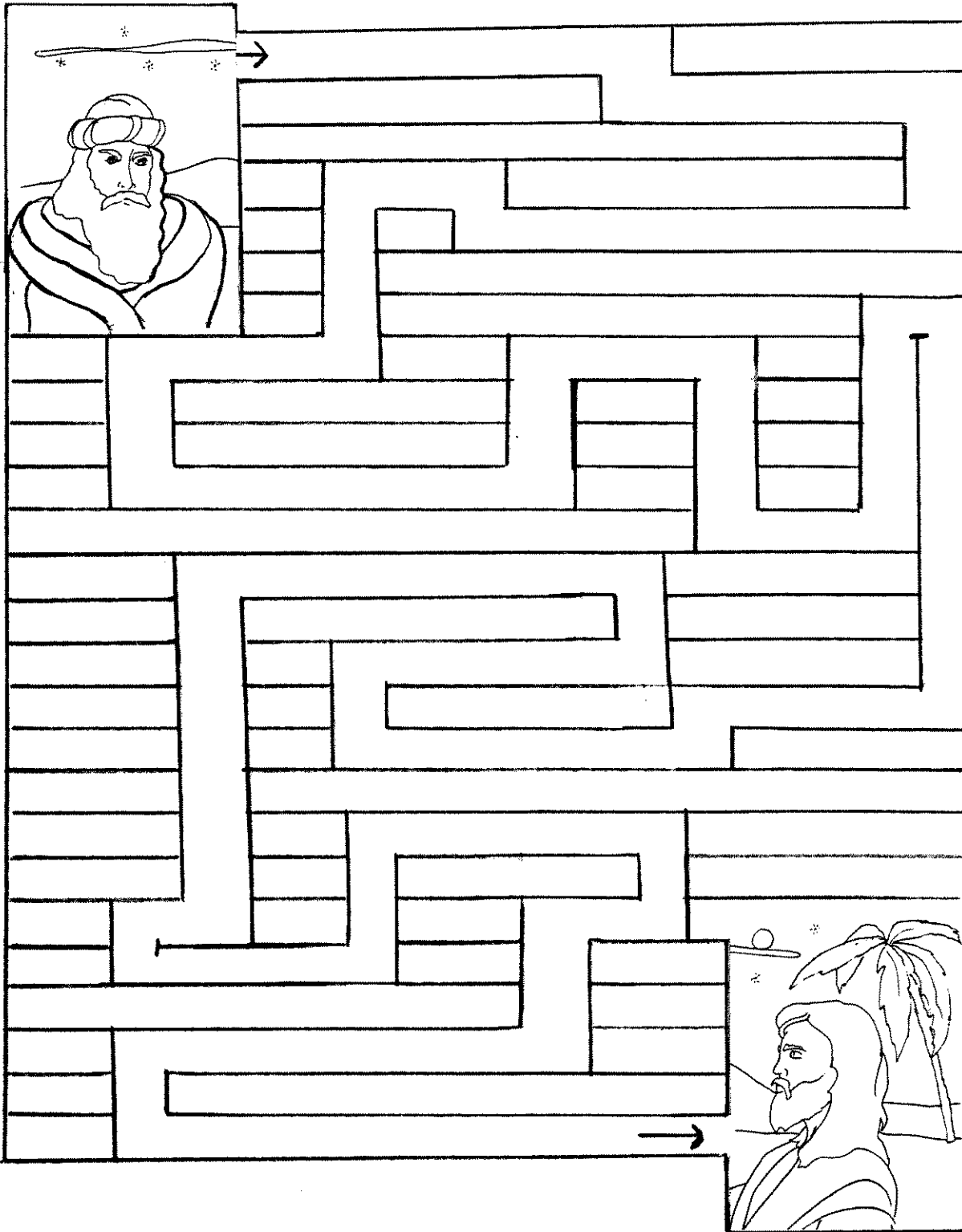
**MEMORY VERSE: John 3:7**

“Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again.”



## NICODEMUS COMES TO SEE JESUS AT NIGHT

Help Nicodemus find Jesus in the nighttime:





## THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS

**John 3:10-17**

**Numbers 21:4-9**

Nicodemus was a very important, well educated man in Israel. He was a lawyer, and sat on the highest court in the land. He saw the miracles that Jesus did while he was in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. He knew Jesus must be a man of God, or he could not do these miracles. No one had ever been able to do miracles except the prophets, and they did miracles to prove they had been sent from God to bring God's message to the people. John the Baptist had been preaching that Jesus was the Christ, the messiah that had come into the world. Nicodemus wanted to know who Jesus really was. He wanted to talk to Jesus, but if the rulers of the synagogue knew he was interested in Jesus, they would object. If he became a follower of Jesus openly, they would put him out of the synagogue, and he could no longer serve on the Sanhedrin.

Nicodemus came to see Jesus during the night so he would be hidden by the darkness. He called Jesus Rabbi, which means 'teacher'. He said, *"Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."* When Jesus taught him about being born again to become a child of God, Nicodemus did not understand. He asked Jesus in John 3:9, *"How can these things be?"* Nicodemus knew a lot about the law, but he did not understand what the law was supposed to teach the people. The law taught the Jews they could not be perfect. But the Jews thought that they could be good, and by being good, God would take them to heaven when they died. They could not keep the law, and the punishment for breaking the law was death. The animal sacrifices they made taught them that Jesus would come and give his life as a sacrifice for sin. Sin demanded a price. The Son of God would come and pay the price. The blood of the animals did not pay the price for sin, but the Son of God would come and his blood would pay the price for sin.

Jesus used an example from the Old Testament to teach Nicodemus about being saved. Nicodemus knew the history of Israel. He had read in the Old Testament scrolls how God brought the people out of slavery in Egypt, to took them back to the land of Canaan where their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had lived. God promised them if they would obey His commands and worship Him and no others gods, He would be their God and they would be His special people. He would bless them and take care of them forever. They did not always keep His commandments. Many times they worshiped the idol gods that the people living around them worshiped. Many times God had to punish them.

Jesus reminded Nicodemus of something that happened to the nation of Israel many, many years ago. In John 3:14-15, Jesus said, *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."* Nicodemus had read this in the scrolls. Numbers 21:4-9 tells us what happened to Israel. The people had been traveling for many months. It was a long way to the land of Canaan. They traveled through desert areas where there was no water to drink

and no food growing for them to eat. They had to depend on God. They traveled through places where other nations of people lived who did not want God's people passing through their land. They fought against them, and sometimes many of them died. When they trusted in God to take care of them, He did; but when they did not trust God they suffered bad things. God chose Moses to be their leader, and promised to lead and protect the people. All they had to do was obey Him and follow His commands. Every time something unpleasant happened, the people complained to Moses. They accused God and Moses of bringing them out into the wilderness to die of hunger, or thirst, or be killed by their enemies. When the water they brought with them ran out, they were thirsty. God told Moses to strike a rock, and water gushed out and supplied them with all the water they needed to drink. When the food they brought with them ran out they became hungry. God caused bread (called manna) to fall from heaven every morning. All they had to do was go out and gather up all they needed to eat for that day, and the next day God sent more. But they were not happy.

The king of the Canaanites heard that the Israelites had earlier sent spies into his land, so he fought against them and took some of the people prisoners. They asked God to help them. They promised that if God would deliver them from the Canaanites they would obey Him. God did, and they soon forgot. The people of Edom would not let them pass through their land, so they had to travel back toward the Red Sea and go around Edom. The people became discouraged because of the long journey, and once again complained against God and against Moses. They said, "Why have you brought us out here in the wilderness to die? We don't have any water. We don't have any food; and we are sick and tired of this light bread that God sends for us to eat every day."

God was so displeased with the people and their attitude of rebellion that he once again punished them. He allowed fiery snakes to come into their camp. The snakes were everywhere, and they bit the people. They could not run from them. They could not hide from them. When the snakes bit them the pain was like fire, and they became very sick. Many of them died from the snake bites. They knew they had done wrong, and they repented of their evil ways. They begged Moses to forgive them and help them. They said, "We have sinned. We have spoken against God and against you. Pray to God and ask him to take away the snakes." When Moses prayed for the people, God didn't just take away the snakes, but He provided a way for them to get well and live. God told Moses to make a large snake out of brass and put it on a tall pole in the middle of the camp where everyone could see it. God promised that when a person was bitten, if he looked to the brass serpent, he would get well. He would not die. All it took was for the person to have faith that if he looked to the brass serpent, God would heal him of his snake bite. Moses made the serpent of brass and place it on a pole in the middle of the camp. When a person was bitten, if he looked to the brass serpent, he immediately got well. If he refused to look, he died. It was that simple.

God wanted the people to learn that sin brings death just like the snake bites did, and when Jesus was lifted up on the cross, anyone who looked to him for salvation would be forgiven of their sins. It was not the brass serpent that healed them, but it was their faith in God



that He would heal them if they looked at the serpent. The people carried the serpent with them as they traveled. Never again was it used to heal them of snakebite. It was only lifted up on a pole one time. Many years later the people began to worship the brass serpent as if it had supernatural powers. II Kings 18:4 tells us how a man named Hezekiah became king of Israel and destroyed all of the idol gods that the people worshiped. He destroyed the brass serpent (broke it in pieces), and said, "It is nothing but a piece of brass."

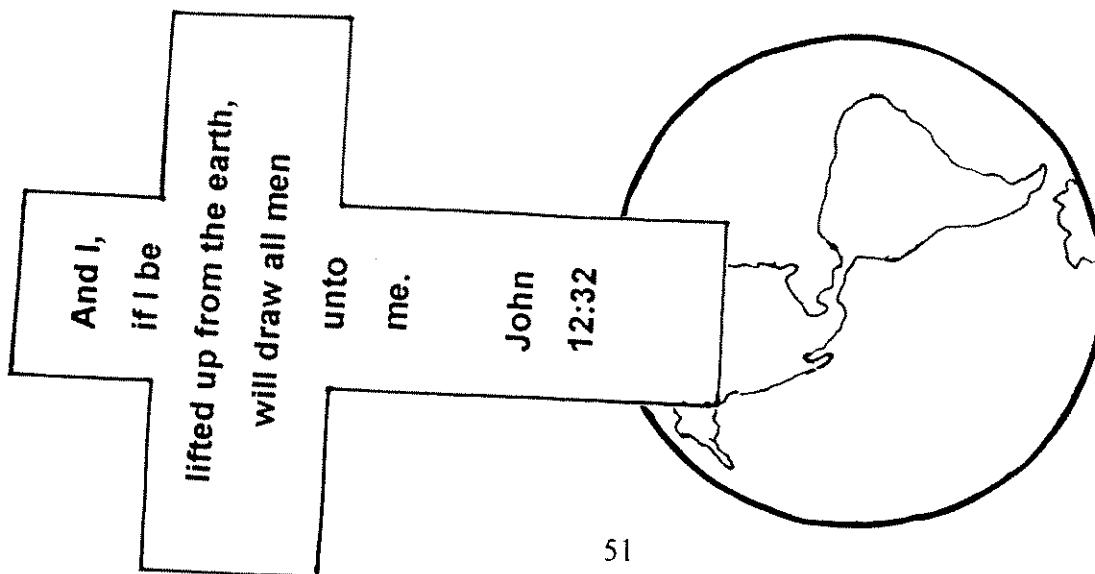
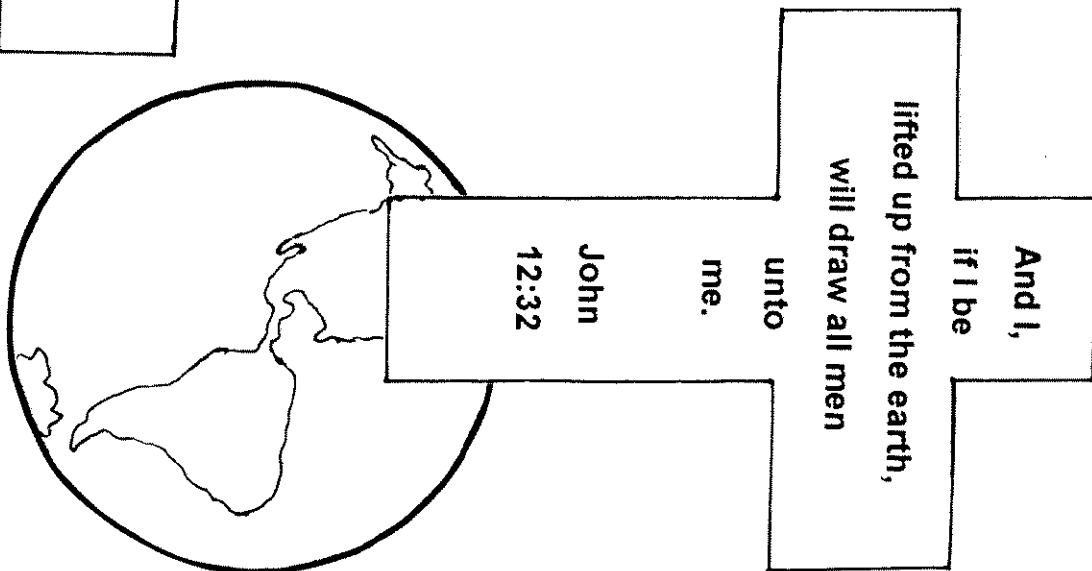
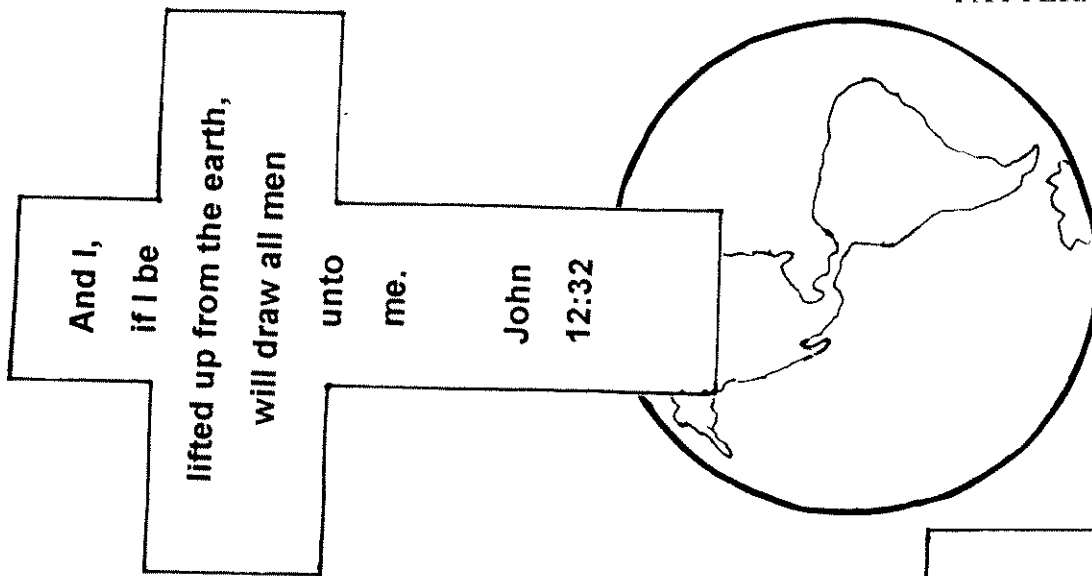
Jesus told Nicodemus that just as Moses had lifted up the serpent on a pole in the wilderness, Jesus would be lifted up on a cross. Everyone who looked to him in faith would not perish, or die spiritually, but would have eternal life. Jesus said this was the reason God sent him into the world. God loved the people of the world so much that He was willing to give His only Son to die on the cross so that every person who believed in him would have everlasting life. That is the only way to have everlasting life. Just as the only way for the people to be healed of their deadly snakebite was to look to the serpent on the pole, the only way to be forgiven of sin and escape spiritual death is to look to Jesus on the cross. His death paid the price for sin. If we accept it in faith, then we have life, spiritual life, forever. The cross does not save us. We should not worship the cross. It is Jesus who saves us by his death on the cross. Nicodemus understood that the Israelites were helpless against the snakes. He understood that God provided a way for them to live if they had faith that He would take away the poison from the snake bites. Jesus wanted Nicodemus to see it was his death on the cross that would take away the sin of the world. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness to give life to the people, Jesus told Nicodemus he would be lifted up on a cross to give spiritual life to all who believe.

**MEMORY VERSE: John 3:14-15**

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:"

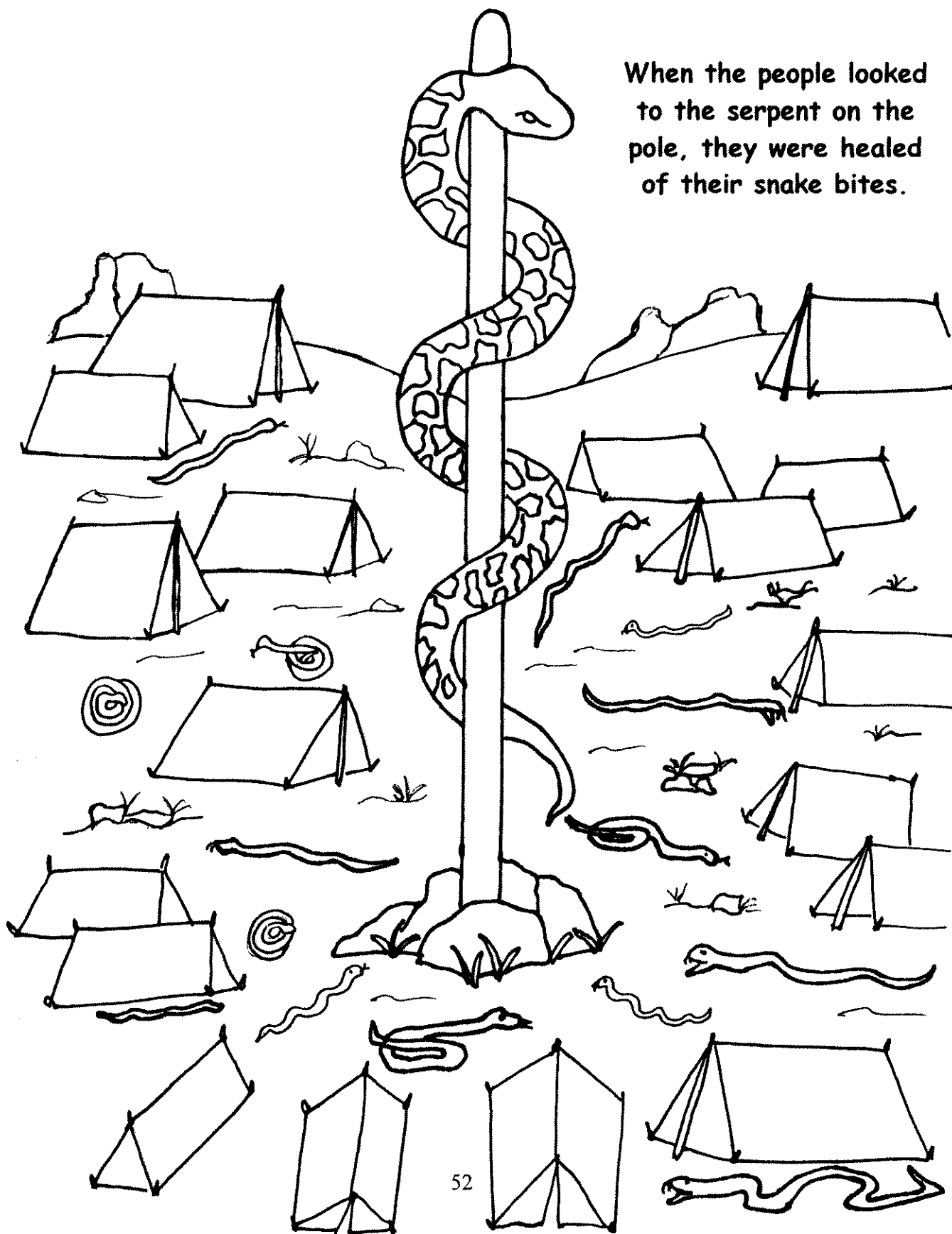
# THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS

## MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE



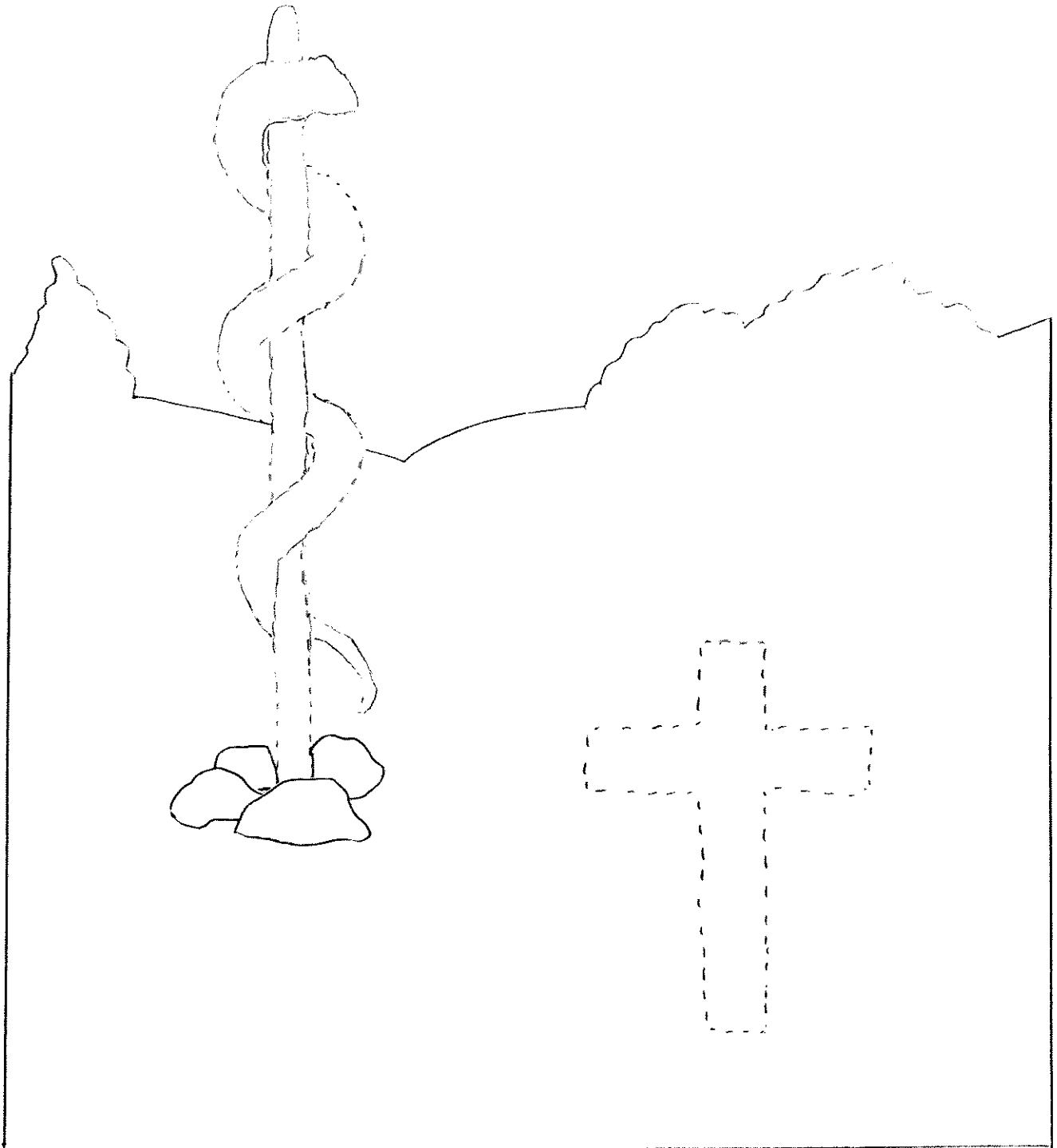
## THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS

When the people looked  
to the serpent on the  
pole, they were healed  
of their snake bites.



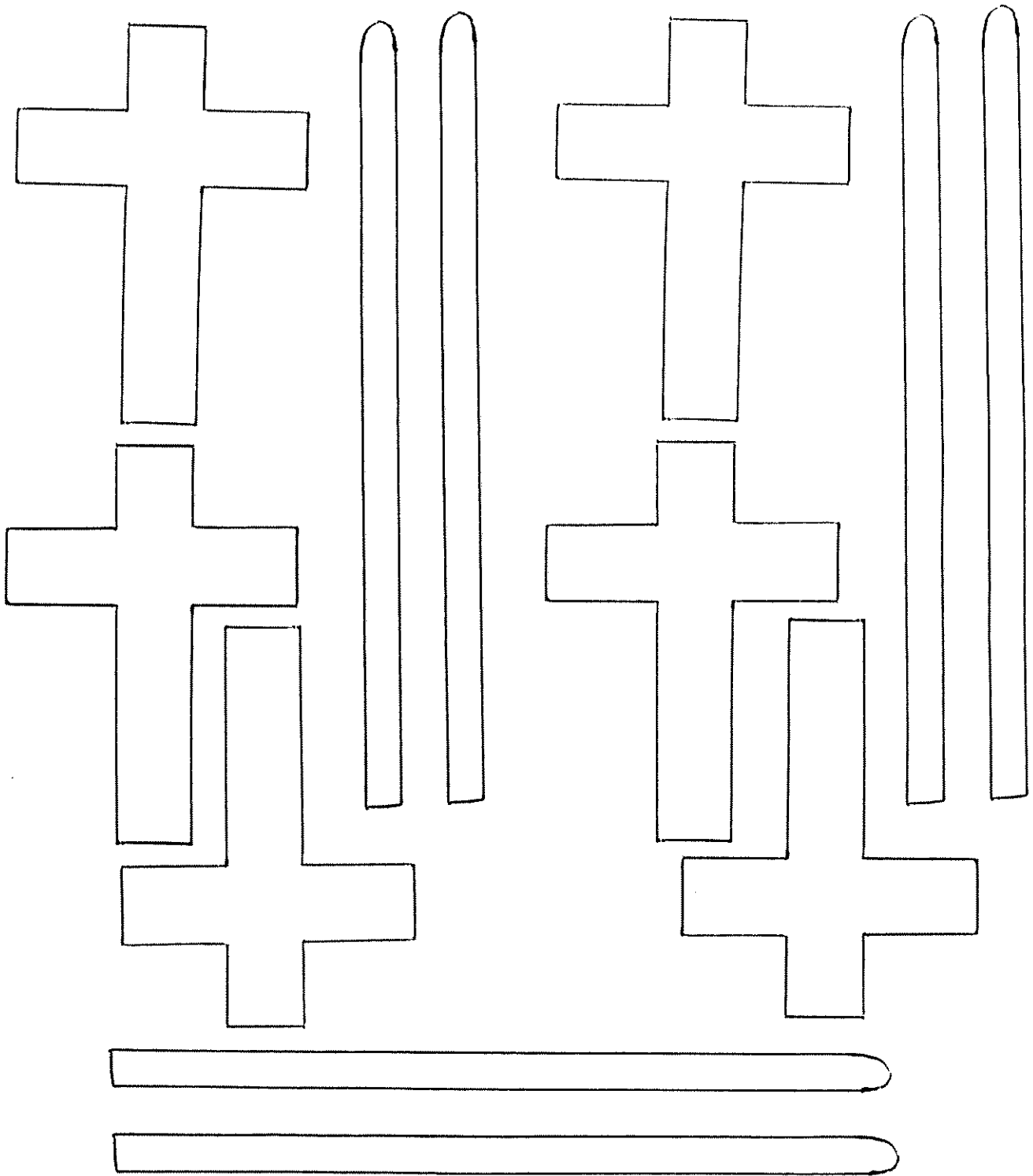
## THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS

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Assemble and paste on construction paper according to diagram.



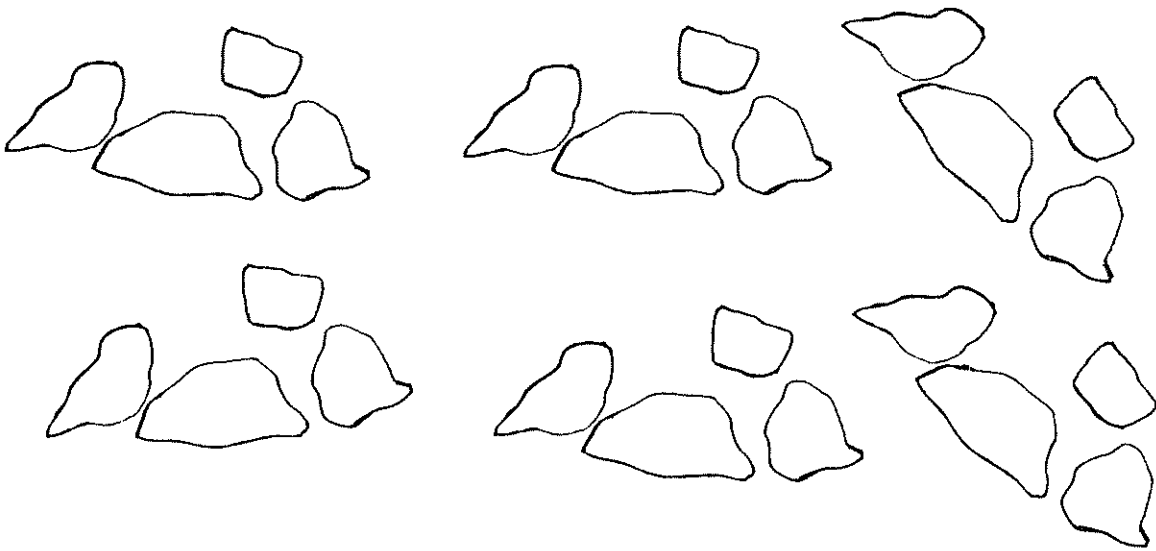
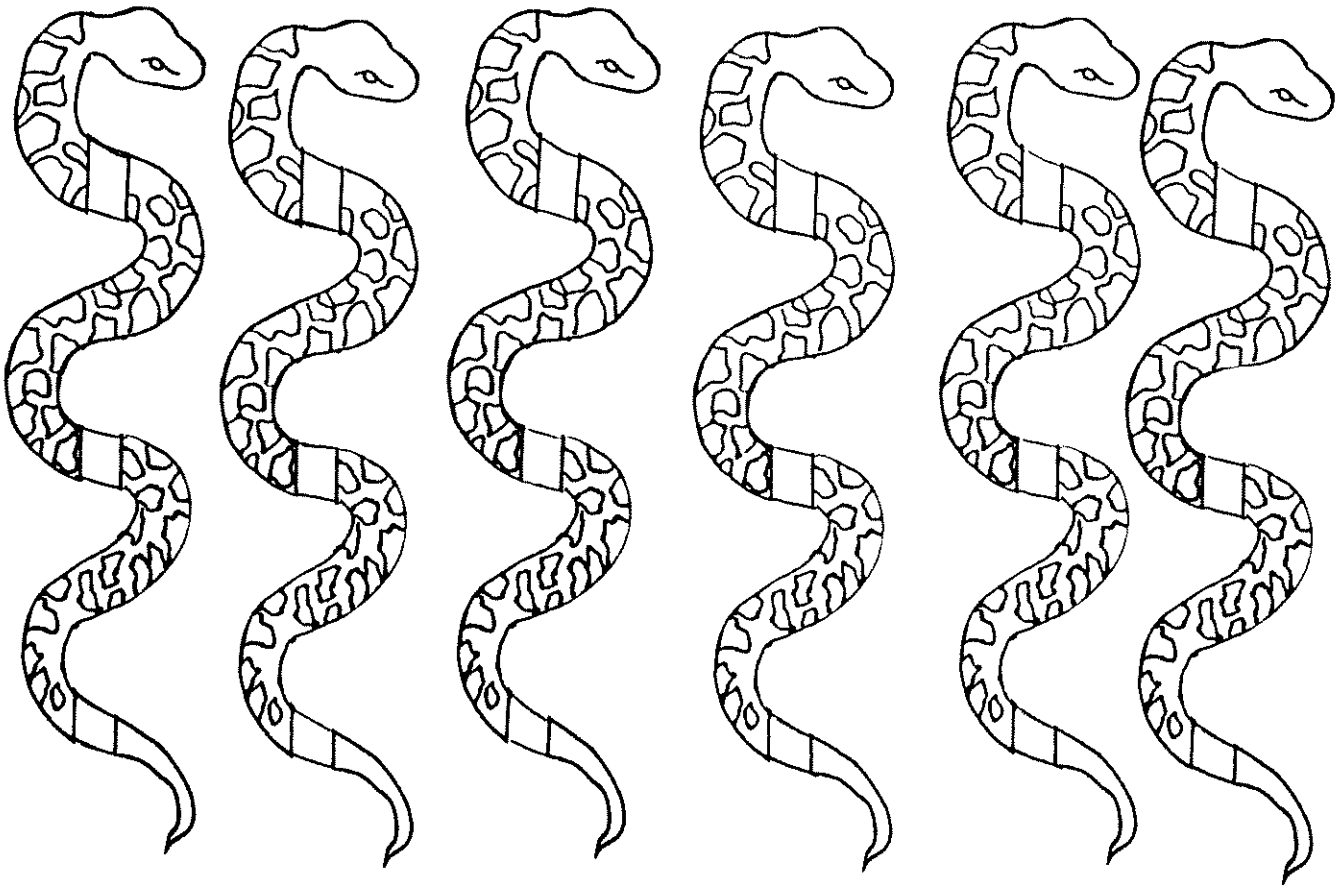
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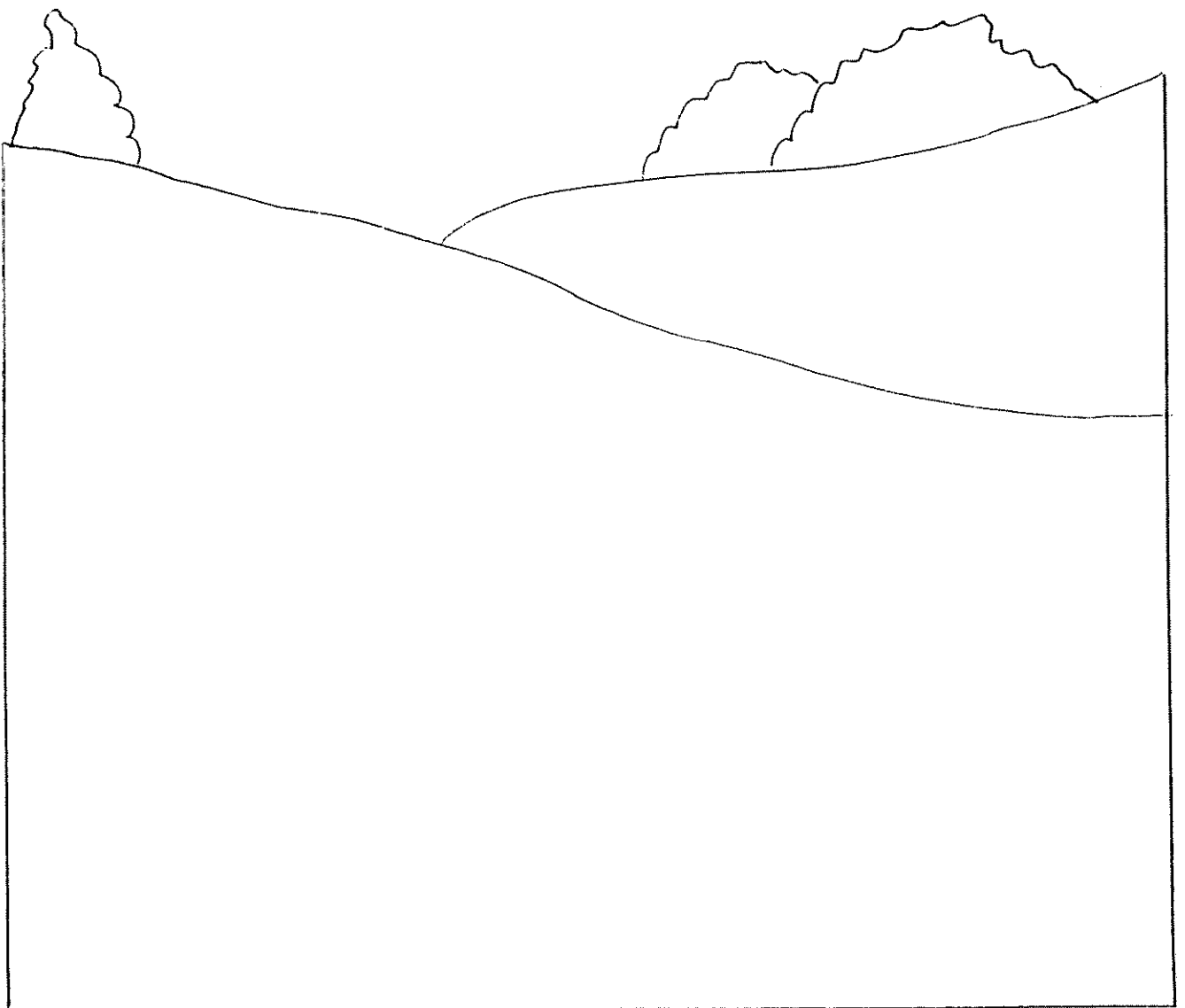
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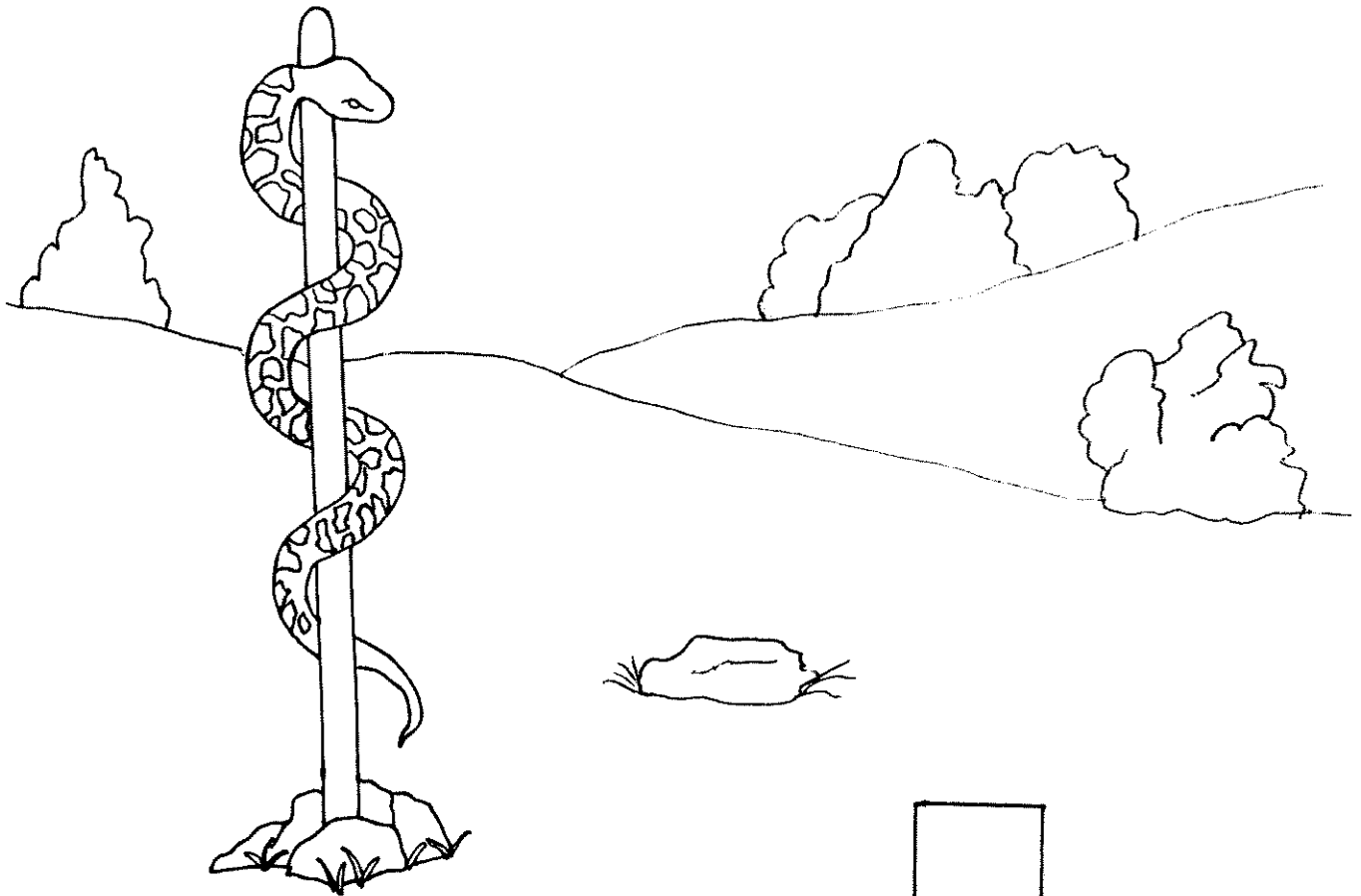
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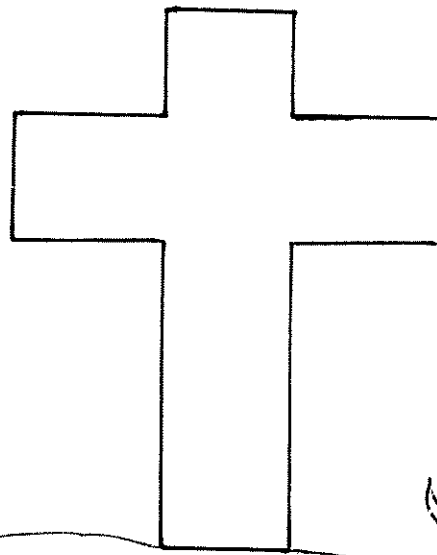


## THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS

## MEMORY VERSE



**“And as Moses lifted up the  
serpent in the wilderness,**



**even so must the Son of man  
be lifted up:”**



## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 1:1-12    3:18-21    8:12    9:5    12:32    Matthew 5:14-16    Mark 4:21  
Luke 8:16-17    Proverbs 4:18-19    I John 1:5-7

Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jewish people; a wealthy man, and well educated. He worshiped God. He knew the laws that God had given to Moses for the people of Israel. He offered sacrifices and kept the feast days. He saw the miracles that Jesus did when he went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. He knew Jesus must be sent from God, because he had power to do things no other man had ever done. Nicodemus wanted to know more about Jesus. He came to see him in the night time so that the other leaders of the Jews would not know he was interested in learning who Jesus really was. Jesus explained that salvation was a new birth. Nicodemus did not understand this, so Jesus said it was like the wind. We can not see the wind, but we know it is real. We cannot see our spirits, and when we are 'born again' we do not have a new body. We cannot see what happens, but we know it is real because it happens within our hearts.

When Nicodemus asked how this could be, Jesus taught him the real reason for the brass serpent in the wilderness. When the people of Israel were traveling through the wilderness, they rebelled against God and against Moses, so God allowed deadly snakes to invade their camp. When they were bitten, they became very sick and many died. They repented of their sinfulness and begged Moses to forgive them and to ask God to forgive them and take away the snakes. God told Moses to make a snake (serpent) out of brass and place it on a tall pole in the middle of the camp so everyone could easily see it. When they were bitten, God said if they would look to the brass serpent they would live. The snake did not heal them, but their faith did. If they believed God would heal them, and looked to the serpent in faith, they were healed of their snake bite, and lived. Jesus said just *"as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness"* he would be lifted up. In John 12:32 he said, *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."* Just as they looked to the serpent to be healed, we look to Jesus on the cross to be saved. Nicodemus understood this.

Jesus then taught Nicodemus that he was the 'light of the world' that John the Baptist had preached about. The first chapter of John tells us that Jesus was in heaven with God, and helped make the world. He helped create life. Then Jesus came to that world that he created, and the world did not recognize him. They did not know him as the Son of God. John's purpose in coming was *"to bear witness of that Light, that all men through him might believe."* John said he was not the Light, but came to prepare the hearts of the people to believe that Jesus was the Light.

What is light? Light is something that chases away the darkness. When it is dark, we cannot see. We cannot see things around us. We cannot find our way. If we walk in the dark, we stumble and run into things and get hurt. The darkness causes danger. The darkness makes us afraid. We are afraid because we cannot see. When we turn on a light, the darkness is gone, and we can see things around us. We can find our way. We can avoid running into things that will hurt us. John said Jesus brought light to a world that was dark in sin. Jesus shows us how to avoid the darkness. It is sin that causes the world to be in darkness, and Jesus takes away the sin.

Jesus taught Nicodemus that God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world. Jesus is the light of the world. Condemnation comes because light has come into the world. The reason people like darkness is because they are doing something wrong and do not want others to know about it. When a person does evil he hates the light, and will stay out of the light so he will not be seen doing wrong. A robber comes at night so the darkness will hide his actions.

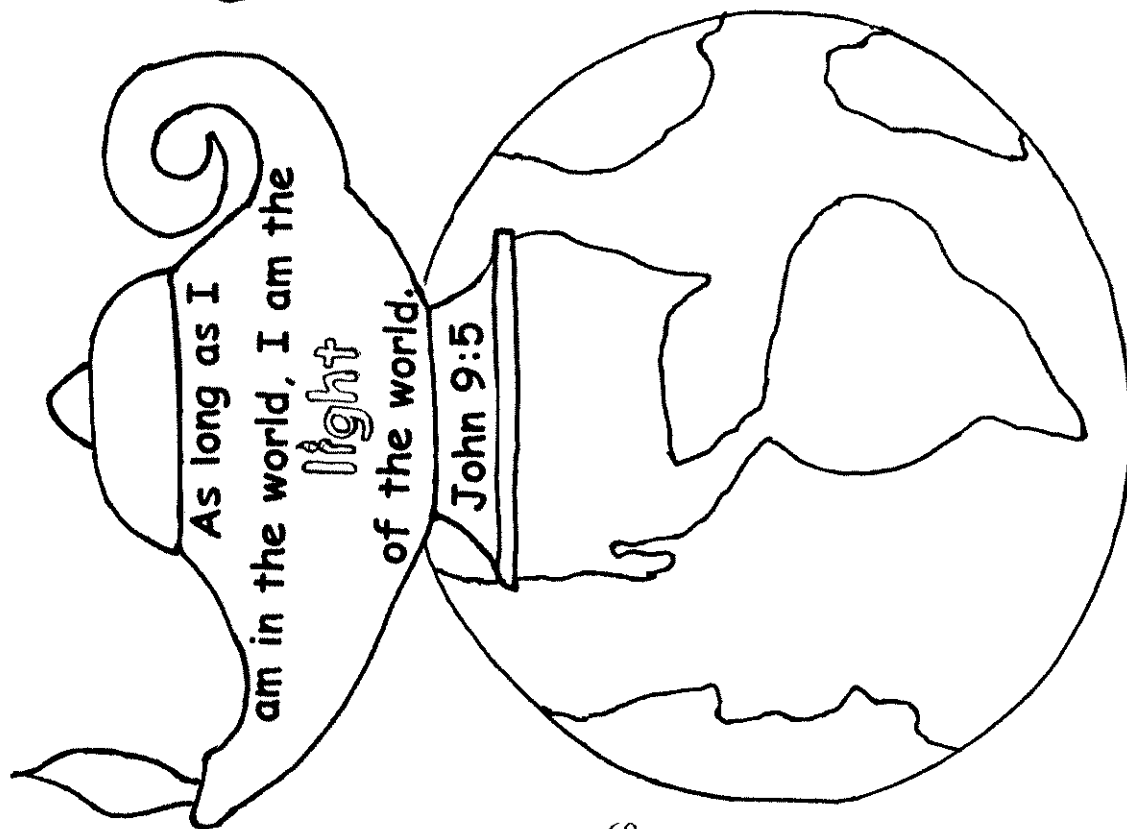
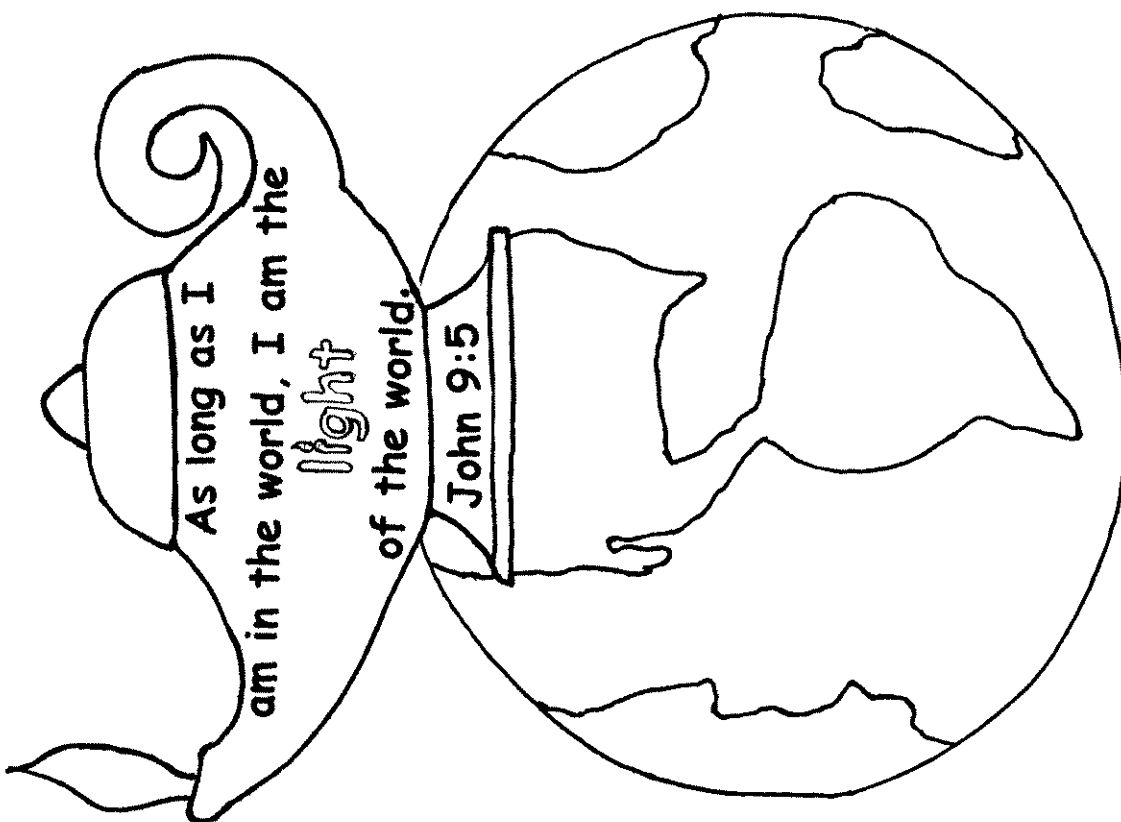
A person who does something good loves the light. He does not mind being in the light, because the light shows others that what he does is good, and pleases God. If Mother told you not to get a cookie, and you took it anyway, and went into your room in the darkness to eat it, would you want Mother to come and turn the light on in your room? Why not? Because the light would reveal that you had disobeyed, and done wrong. If you were doing something good, you would not mind the light being turned on. It would reveal your good deeds. Jesus is the light of the world. The light shines in darkness.

In John 8:12, Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."* When a light is turned on it shows what things really look like. It causes us to see things. When Jesus came into the world he caused sin to be seen. Jesus shows the world their evil deeds, that they are sinful. Jesus also shows the world how to be saved from their evil deeds. When we trust in Jesus to give us eternal life, he has promised that he will. He is the light that shows us what is truth, and the way of salvation from our sins.

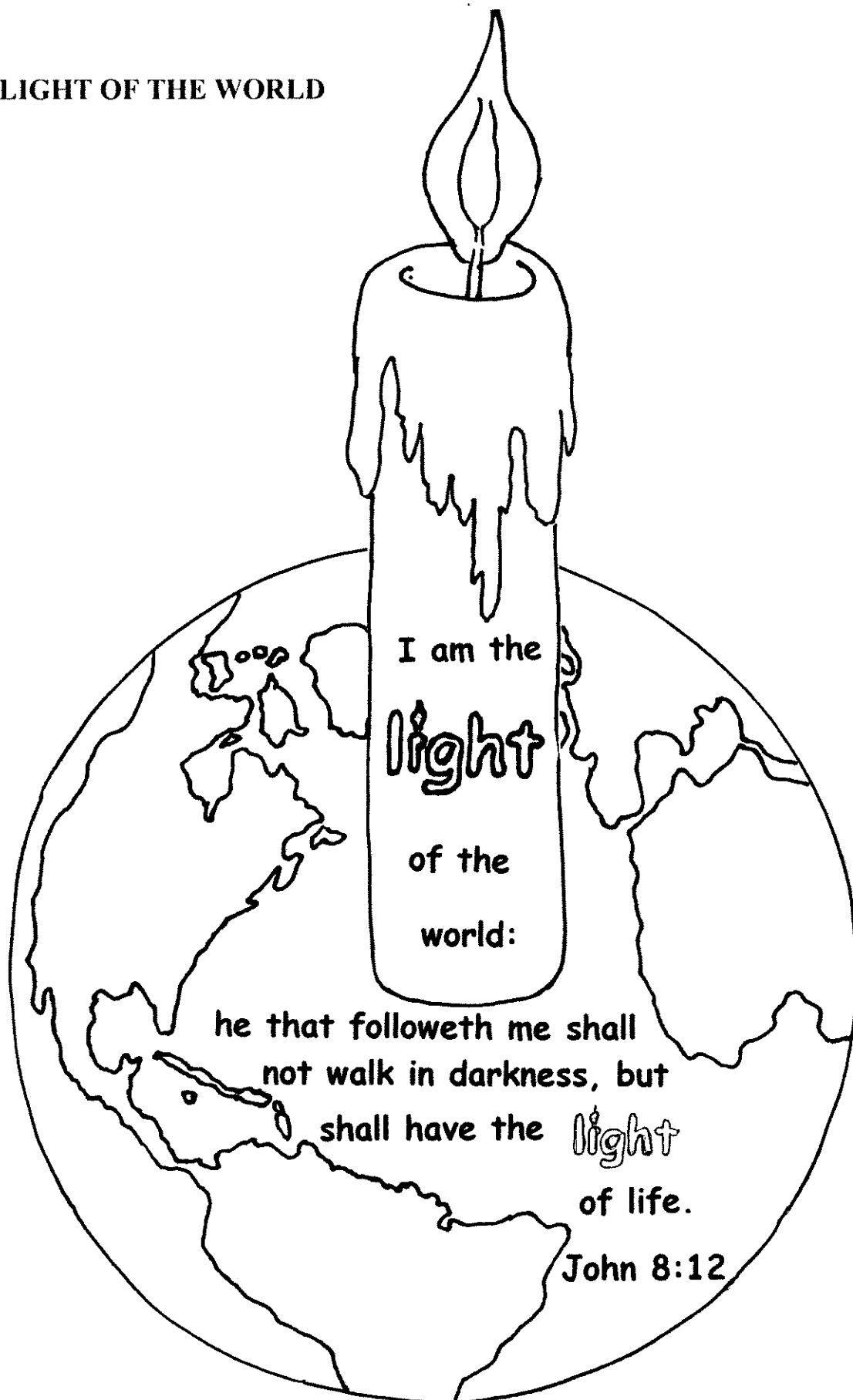
Proverbs 4:18-19 tells us that the path of the good person who does what is right is as the shining light, but the way of a wicked person is as darkness, and they do not know what they stumble over. Jesus went back to heaven to live and left the church as the light of the world today. He taught his disciples in the fifth chapter of Matthew, *"Ye are the light of the world."* Then he used the example of a city that is built on a hill. In the night time you can see the lights from the houses for a long, long way. The city cannot be hidden. When a light is turned on, you can see it from a long way off. You cannot see darkness in a room with the light on, but you can see the light in a dark room. The light makes the darkness go away. Jesus said you don't light a candle and then place it under something that will hide the light. You place it on a table or on a candlestick so it will light up the whole room. Then he commanded them, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* How do we let our lights shine? By the good things that we do. We should live our lives in such a way that the world can see Jesus in us. As a house that has lights turned on in the night cannot be hidden, our lives are not hidden. Other people see the things we do. They hear the things we say. They see by our lives whether we are good. If they see good in us it is because we have the love of God in our hearts that makes us want to do what is right. Our actions are guided by Jesus, the 'Light of the world'. Psalm 119:105 tells us, *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* We are to be guided by the Bible, the Word of God.

**MEMORY VERSE: John 9:5**

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

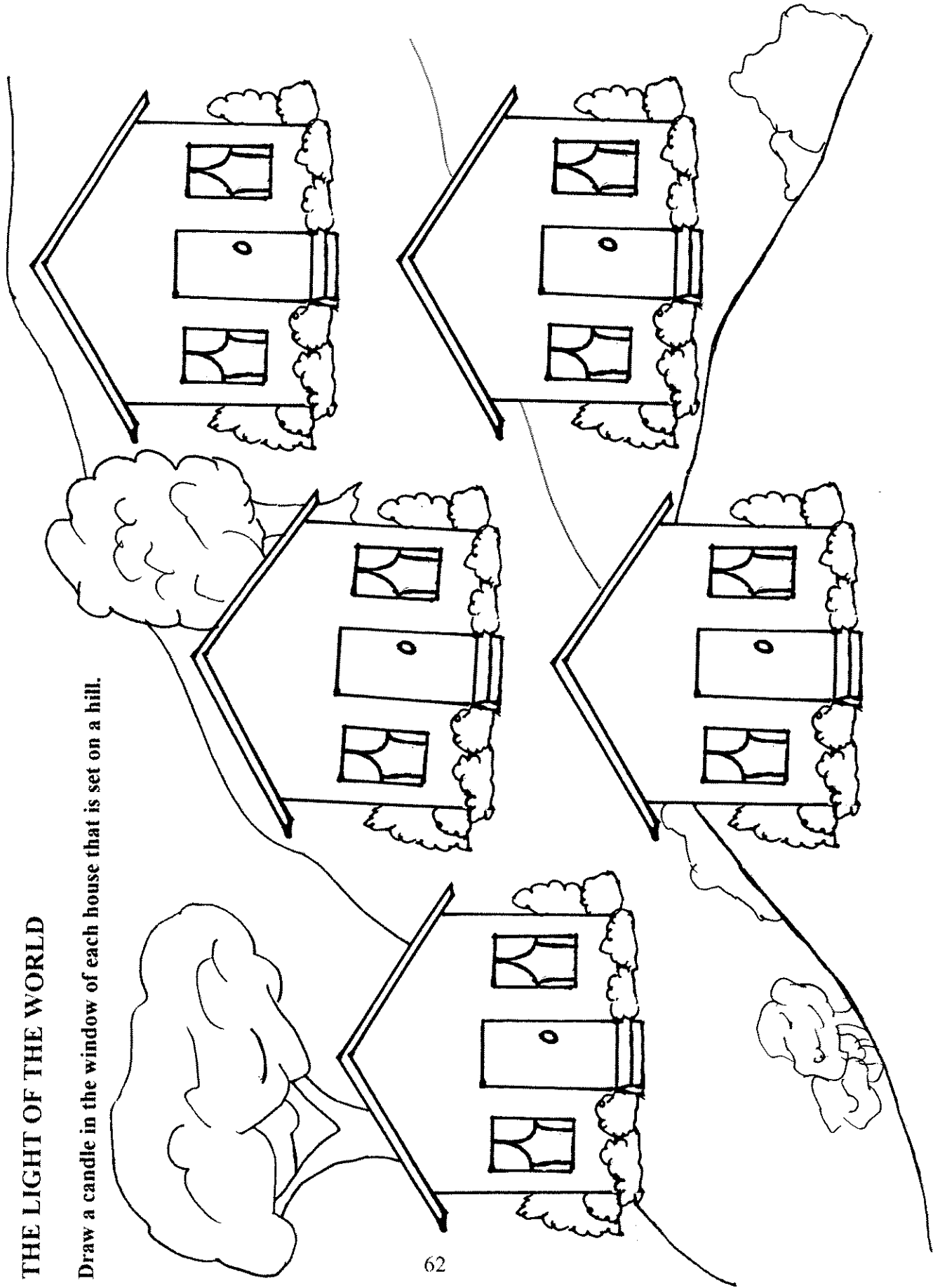


## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

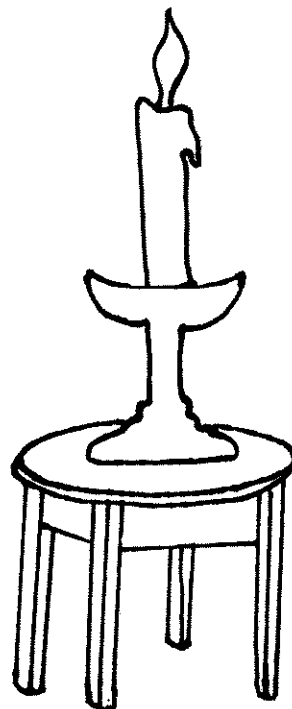
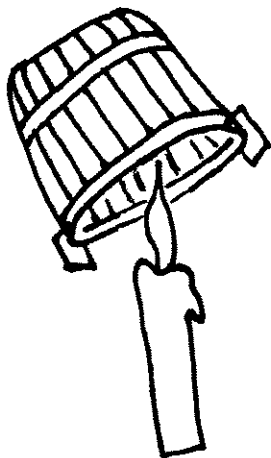
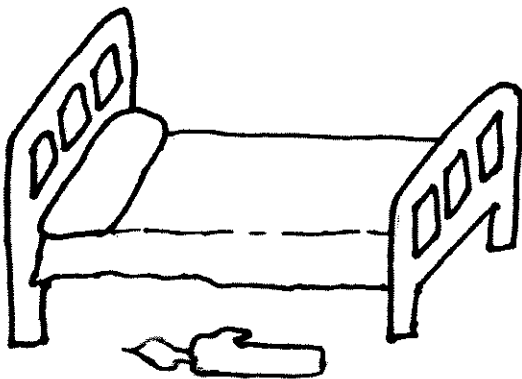
Draw a candle in the window of each house that is set on a hill.



## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Make an **X** where you do not place a candle.

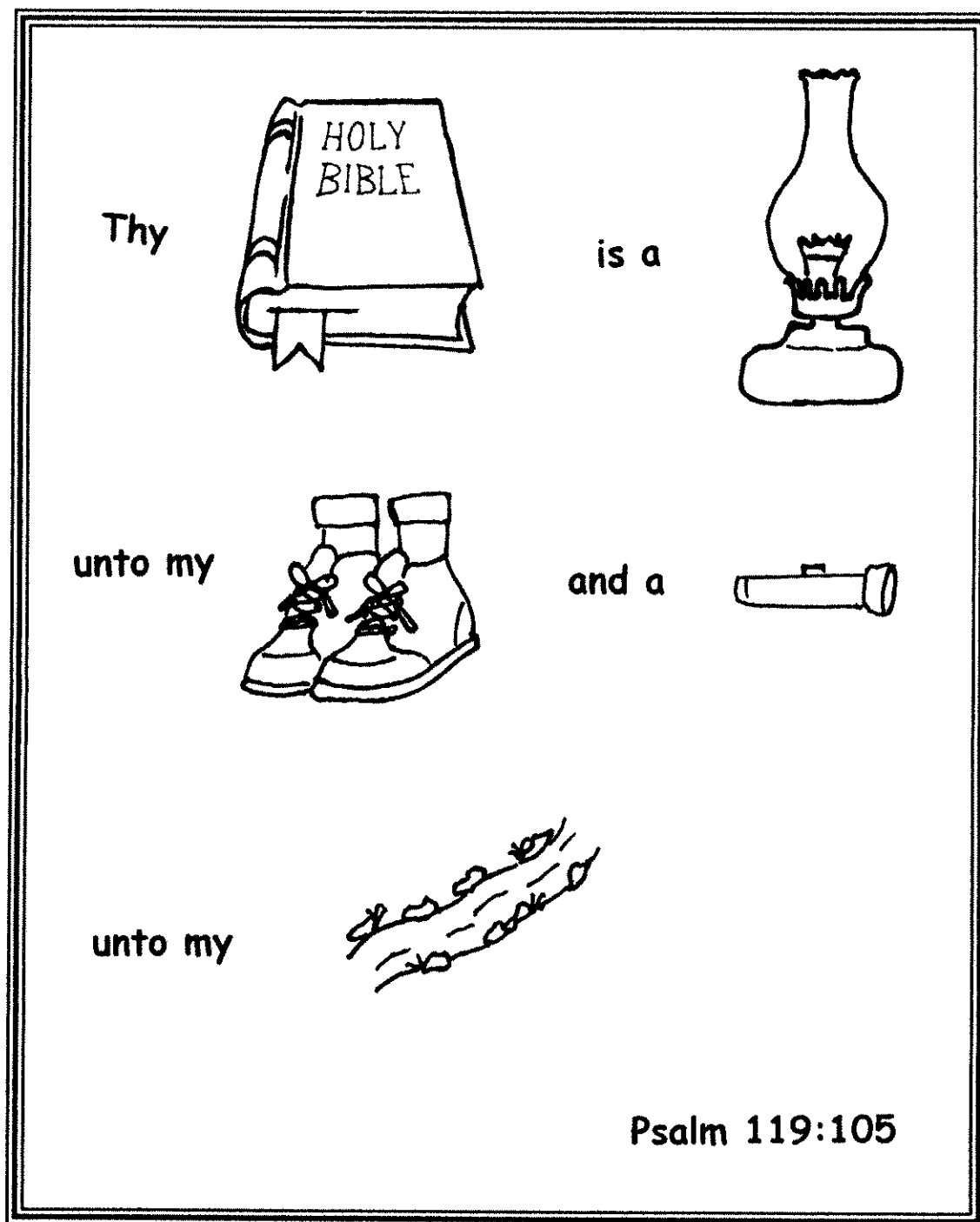
Draw a **circle** around where you do place a candle.



Is a candle brought to be put  
under a bushel, or under a bed:  
and not to be set on a  
candlestick?

Mark 4:21

## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



## JESUS' DISCIPLES BEGAN TO BAPTIZE

John 3:22-36      4:1-3

The first thing Jesus did when he began his earthly ministry was to be baptized. He came to Bethabara on the Jordan River where John the Baptist was baptizing people, and was baptized by him. John was sent from God for a special purpose. He was chosen and authorized by God to baptize people who repented of their sins and believed the message that he preached. John said, *"Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* The messiah they had looked for had come. They were baptized to show that they had repented of their sins, and were not trusting the law to save them. They believed the Son of God would die as the sacrifice for their sins. Men who were baptized by John became his followers, listening to his teachings about the kingdom of God.

After Jesus was baptized he went away into the wilderness for forty days, and then returned to the area where John was baptizing. John taught the people that when Jesus was crucified, they would not offer animal sacrifices anymore. Jesus would become the sacrifice. John taught them a new way of worship. He came to prepare their hearts to receive Jesus and change their way of worship. Jesus chose from among John's followers (those whom John had baptized) the ones who would make up his first church. The first men whom the Bible mentions that became disciples of Jesus were John, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael (also known as Bartholomew).

Not long after Jesus chose his first disciples, they went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. While he was there he did many miracles. His disciples saw the miracles he did and were convinced he really was the Son of God. We don't know what these miracles were. The Bible just tells us that many people believed on him when they saw the miracles that he did in Jerusalem. There was a man in Jerusalem who saw the miracles Jesus did whose name was Nicodemus. He was a very important man among the Jewish leaders. Nicodemus came to Jesus in the nighttime so that the other Pharisees would not know he was interested in who Jesus really was. Nicodemus believed in Jesus, though he did not express it openly for awhile, for he would have been put out of the synagogue if the other rulers of the Jews knew that he had accepted Jesus as the Messiah.

After Jesus talked with Nicodemus, he and his disciples left Jerusalem. They went into the land of Judea and began to baptize people. John the Baptist had been sent by God to baptize. John was the only one who had ever baptized. John was the only one with authority to baptize. Jesus took the people John baptized to form his church. Jesus chose his first followers. They went with him to Cana and saw the miracle he did there when he turned the water into wine at the wedding feast. Then they went with him to Jerusalem and saw the miracles that he did there. Then they went into Judea and began to baptize those who followed Jesus. Jesus did not baptize, but he gave the authority to baptize to his disciples. John was also still baptizing. He was not at Bethabara now, but had gone to Aenon, near Salim, because there



was much water there. If you remember when he baptized in the Jordan River at Bethabara, it was because there was much water there. Many people came to Aenon and were baptized by John. Many who were baptized by John became John's followers. This meant they accepted this new religion he preached, and became a follower of the new religion, and a follower of John more than a follower of Jesus.

When some of the Pharisees heard that Jesus and his disciples were baptizing, they began to argue with the followers of John about baptism. John's disciples thought that no one but John should baptize, so they came to John to 'tell on Jesus'. John baptized those who believed his message, and they followed him. Now that Jesus was preaching, people believed his message and followed him. So John had disciples, and Jesus had disciples. John told his followers he was not the Christ, but came to bear witness of the Christ. The followers of John came to him and told him that the man whom he said that he had come to bear witness of was now making his own disciples, and many were coming to him. John did not get upset. John knew God did not want him having disciples. God wanted the people to believe the message John preached, and follow Jesus. Jesus had the authority to baptize, because he was the Son of God. John said, *"You remember that I told you I am not the Christ, but am sent before him."* He was happy when he saw Jesus making disciples. It must not have been long until John was put in prison and then killed. John knew he had fulfilled his purpose. He had come and been faithful to do what God sent him to do. Now it was time for him to disappear and for Jesus to gain the followers. John told the Pharisees that God sent Jesus into the world; that God loved Jesus and gave him all authority. He said in Verse 36, *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

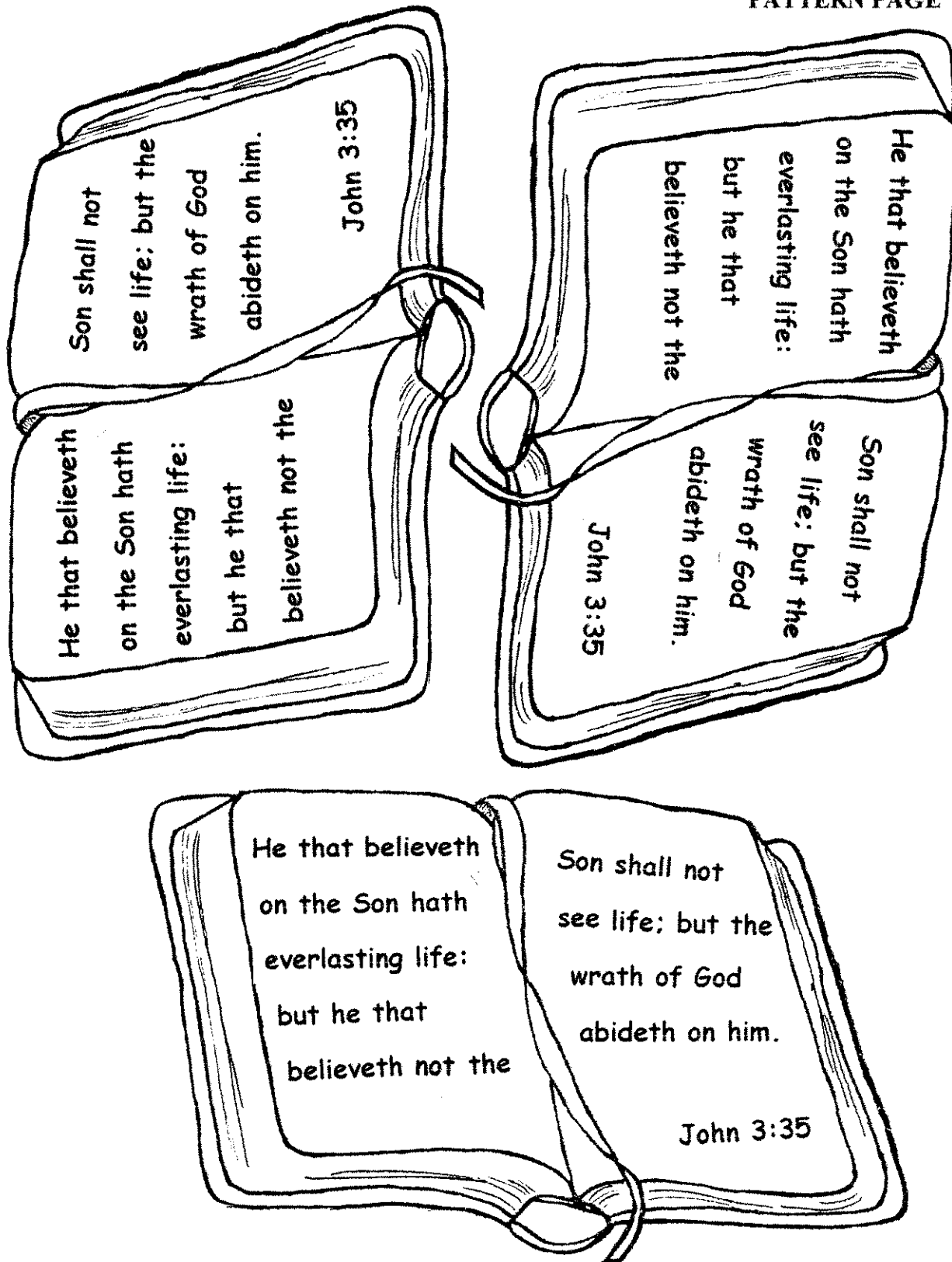
Jesus knew that the Pharisees heard how he made and baptized more disciples than John, so he left Judea and went back into Galilee. He spent most of his time in the early part of his ministry in the area of Galilee. He had many places to go, and many people to witness to. Jesus spent his time traveling up and down through the land of the Jewish people. He did many miracles, and he taught them many parables about the kingdom of God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** John 3:35

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: but he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

# JESUS' DISCIPLES BEGAN TO BAPTIZE

## MEMORY VERSE PATTERN PAGE



## **JESUS' DISCIPLES BEGAN TO BAPTIZE**



**Jesus gave authority to his disciples to baptize those who followed him.**

## THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

### John 4:1-43

Long before there was a nation of Israel, God called a man named Abraham to leave his home, and travel to a new land that God would show him, and begin a new nation of people. God led him to the land of Canaan, and told him this was the place that would be his land forever. Many years later his grandson, Jacob, lived there for a while. In order to have water for his family to drink, and for his animals, he dug a well. This was a famous well and a very important well. When God brought the people of Israel back from slavery in Egypt to live in this land, Jacob's well was still there. Many years later the nation of Israel was divided into two kingdoms, the ten northern tribes made up the Kingdom of Israel, and the Southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin made up the Kingdom of Judah. Several years and six kings later, King Omri purchased a hill on which to build his palace, and named the hill Samaria. Many kings of Israel ruled from Samaria, and the kings of Judah ruled from Jerusalem.

Samaria remained the ruling city of the Kingdom of Israel for about 200 years. Then they were captured by the king of Assyria in 722 B.C. carried away as captives to another land. Only a few Jews remained in Samaria. When the king of Assyria saw they were rebellious, he wanted to destroy them as a nation by bringing in people from other nations to live there. These people worshiped idol gods, or statues. Since the Jews knew something of the Jewish way of worship, their religion became a mixture of worshiping idols and worshiping God. The Samaritans were not full Jews. They were a mix of Jews and other nations. For awhile some of them went to the temple at Jerusalem to worship like God had told them to do. The Jews at Jerusalem did not like the Samaritans and did not want them worshiping with them, so the Samaritans built their own temple in their own area, on Mt. Gerizim. It was here that they worshiped God for many generations. About 129 B.C. enemies came in and destroyed their temple. The people continued to come to the mountain where the temple had stood to worship. This was the situation when Jesus was on the earth. The Samaritans believed many things the Jews taught. They believed the Messiah would come, that God would send His Son into the world someday to be their Savior.

When Jesus lived on the earth, the area of Samaria covered much more than the hill that Omri purchased for his kingdom city. It was a large area like Galilee and Judea. It covered many miles, and many cities were in Samaria. The Jews hated the Samaritans. They considered them unclean, low-classed people, no better than dogs. Samaria covered such a large area that when the people traveled from Judea to Galilee, they had to go through Samaria. Many of the Jews hated the Samaritans so badly that they would go a long way around to keep from coming in contact with the Samaritan people. Jesus did not hate the Samaritans. He loved the people of Samaria as he did all people in the world.

Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, then into Judea to preach and baptize. When he heard of the problem between the Jews and the disciples of John over Jesus'

disciples also baptizing, he left Judea to return to Galilee. In order to get there, he traveled through Samaria. Jesus and his disciples came to the city of Sychar, near the land where Jacob had dug the well hundreds of years before. It was still known as Jacob's Well. It was an important well for the people of Sychar. This is where they came every day to draw water to drink. It was the job of the women of the city to come to draw water for their families. Many times they came together in the evening. There was one woman of the city of Sychar who was not a very good person. She did not have a good reputation. She was a sinful woman. All of the town knew of her sins. She did not come in the evening with the other women. She came by herself in the middle of the day to draw water.

Jesus and his disciples came to the well, and Jesus sat down to rest while his disciples went on into the town of Sychar to buy food. It was about noon and they were hungry. While they were gone, and Jesus was resting, this woman came to the well to draw water. When the woman of Samaria let her waterpot down into the well and brought it up filled with cool, clean water, Jesus asked her for a drink. She was surprised. She knew that he was a Jew by the way he looked, and the Jews normally did not have anything to do with the Samaritans. She asked him, "Why have you asked me for a drink when you are a Jew and I am a Samaritan, and the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans?" Then Jesus taught her about 'living water'. He said, "If you only knew who I am, you would have asked me for a drink and I would have given you living water." The woman did not understand. The well was deep, and Jesus did not have anything to draw water with. She asked him, "How can you give me living water when the well is deep, and you have nothing to draw with? Are you greater than our father, Jacob, who gave us this well?" She considered herself a descendant of Jacob. To the Samaritans he was a great man because he gave them this well that provided them with the water they had to have in order to live. It was almost like a holy place to them.

Jesus told her that whoever drank of the water from the well would get thirsty again, but whoever drank of the water that he gave would never be thirsty. It would be a well of water, springing up into everlasting life. She wanted this water! How nice it would be to never have to come back to the well again to draw water. It was a big job to walk the long distance from her home to the well and carry back the heavy pot of water. She thought he was talking about some kind of water that would keep her from ever being thirsty again. The woman came to get water, physical water, to quench physical thirst. Jesus was talking about spiritual water that would quench spiritual thirst.

Jesus told her to go get her husband and come back. She said she did not have a husband. Jesus knew this already. He knew everything about her. He told her, "You are right. You don't have a husband. You have had five husbands, and you are not married to the man you are living with now." She did not understand how he knew all about her life. She thought he must be a prophet. If he was a prophet he would know all things. She had a very important question she wanted him to answer. She said, "You must be a prophet. Tell me where the right place is for us to worship. We have always worshiped in this mountain (Mt. Gerizim), but the Jews say that Jerusalem is the place to worship." Jesus said the time would come when they

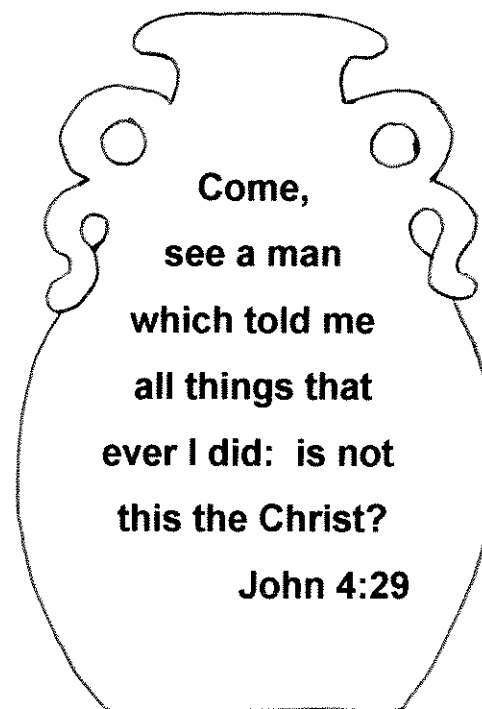
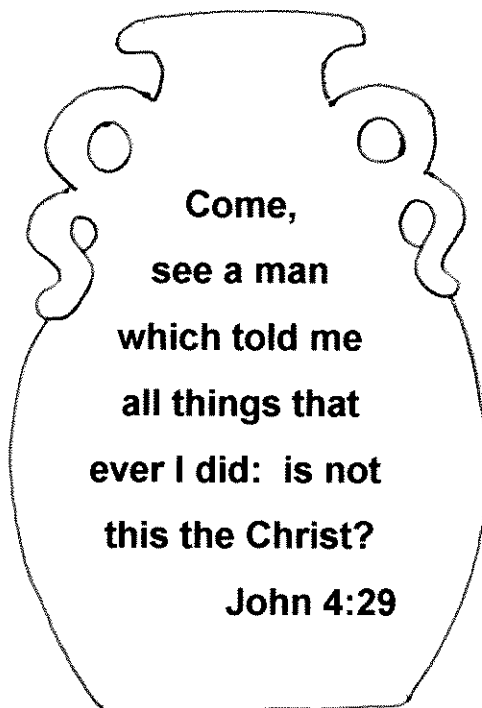
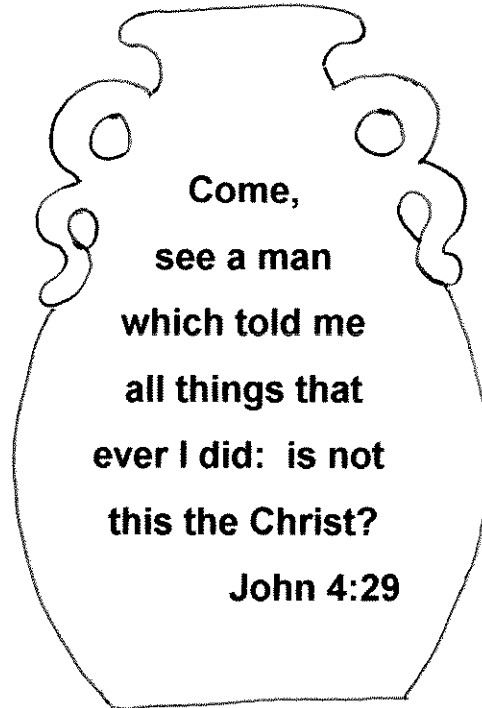
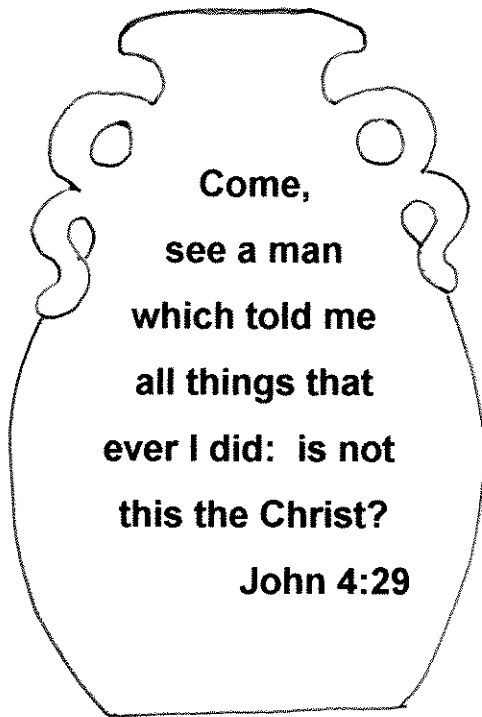
would not worship in this mountain or in Jerusalem. He said, "You do not know what you worship, but the Jews do, because salvation is of the Jews. The time will come when true worshipers will worship God in spirit and in truth." Jesus was telling her that the place was not important to true worship. We worship God in our hearts, so we can worship Him anywhere we are as long as we worship Him in spirit and in truth. The Jews were commanded to go to Jerusalem at certain times of the year for certain feasts and sacrifices, but that was not the only time they were to worship God. Jesus said, "*God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.*" The woman thought she understood, and she said, "*I know that the Messiah will come, which is called Christ, and when he comes he will tell us all things.*" Then Jesus told her that he was the Christ she was looking for. She became so excited she left her waterpot and ran back into the city. She wanted to tell everyone that she had seen the Messiah.

The disciples of Jesus returned with food for their noon meal, and was surprised that Jesus had been talking to someone from Samaria. They would not ask him why he was talking to her, but just offered him the food they brought. He replied, "*I have meat to eat that ye know not of.*" They wondered, "Had someone brought him food while they were away?" He explained, "*My meat is to do the will of him that sent me.*" If you remember when we studied about Jesus going to the temple when he was twelve years old, he stayed behind to talk to the scribes and the teachers. When Mary asked him why he had remained at the temple, he said he must be about his Father's business. Jesus went on to explain to the disciples that they looked for the harvest of their crops in four more months. He said, "*Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, they are white already unto harvest.*" He was speaking of a spiritual harvest. He saw the people of Samaria as a field ready to be harvested. He wanted the disciples to understand that it was more important to him to teach people about God than to eat physical food.

The woman wanted to tell everyone in Samaria that she had found the Messiah. She ran quickly into the city, and said, "*I have seen a man that told me everything I ever did. Is not this the Christ?*" Many of the Samaritans believed on him because of what the woman said, and came with her to the well. They begged Jesus to stay in Samaria and teach them more. He stayed for two days and many more people believed on him because they heard what he taught.

**MEMORY VERSE: John 4:29**

"Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"



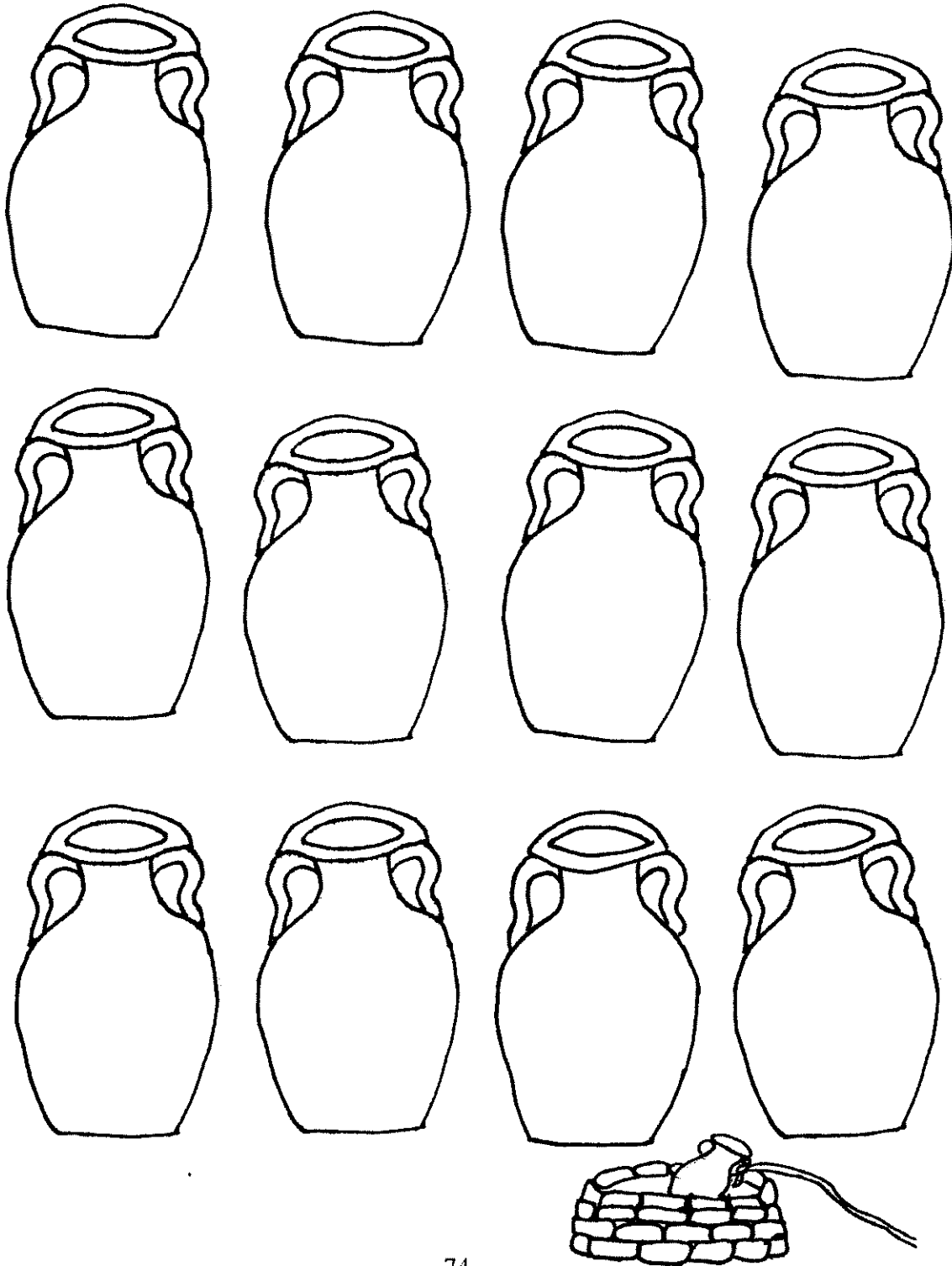
THE WOMAN AT THE WELL





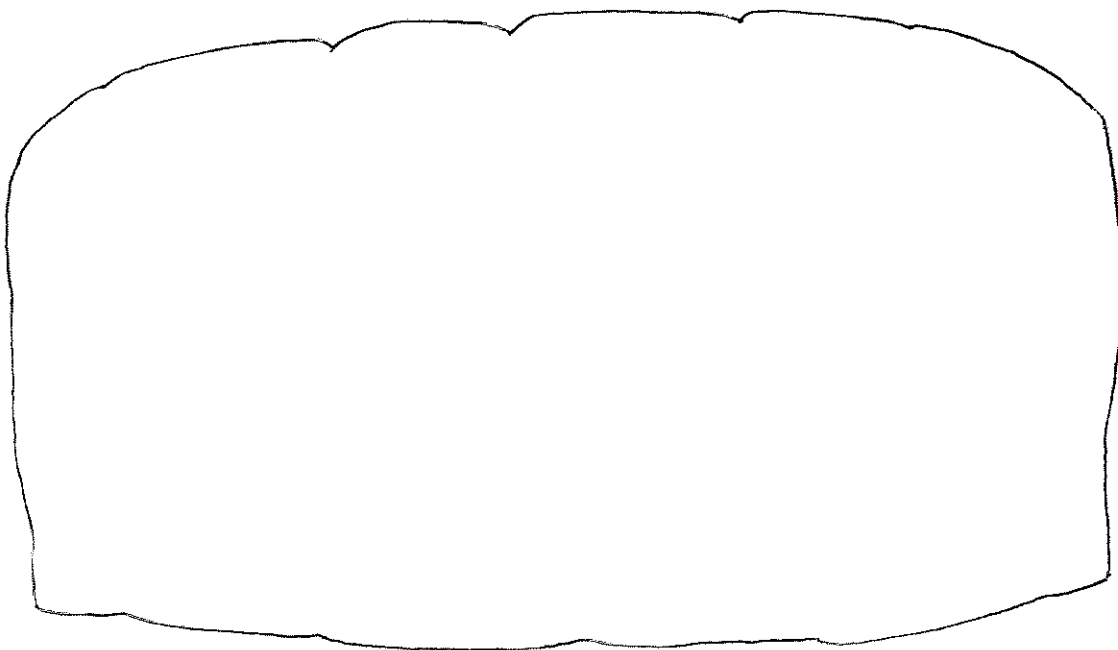
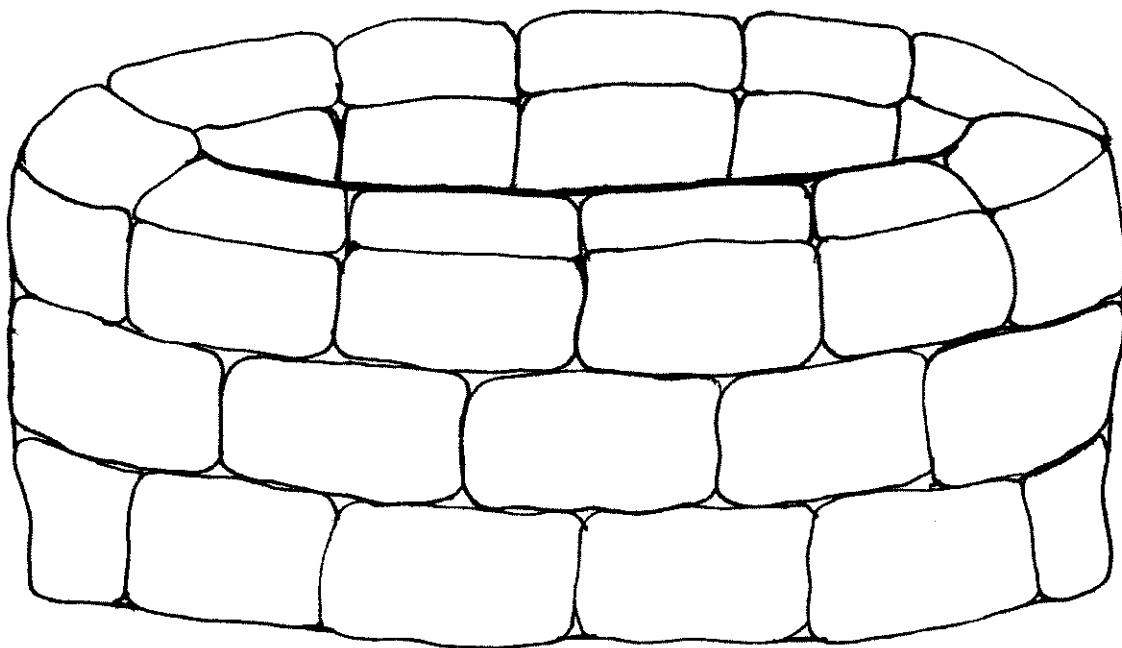
## THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

Copy on colored construction paper. Cut hole in one handle (hole punch will do). Tie 6 to 8 inch piece of yarn for rope.



## THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

Copy the well on brown or gray construction paper. Cut the opening and paste to back section around the edges so the pitcher can be slipped inside.



## **JESUS GOES TO NAZARETH**

**John 4:43-45    Luke 4:14-32    Matthew 13:53-58    Mark 6:1-6    Isaiah 61:1-2**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but he grew up in Nazareth. He was known as the son of Joseph the carpenter. Jesus attended the synagogue in Nazareth. As a young boy he probably went there with the other boys of the town to study. They learned to read by reading the scrolls which contained the law and the ancient writings of the prophets.

The synagogue was a place of ‘assembly’, a ‘gathering of people’. The seventh day of the week, the Sabbath, was their day of worship. They gathered at the synagogue for religious instruction. The use of a synagogue probably began when the Jews were in captivity and could not go to the temple for worship and sacrifice. There seemed to be at least one synagogue in every Jewish town. Larger towns may have had many synagogues. Our church services today seem to be patterned after the synagogue worship: the reading of God’s Word, the explanation, or preaching, singing and prayers.

A long time ago people did not have books printed like we have today. They read from scrolls. These were copied by hand. It took hours and hours to copy the writings of the Old Testament onto scrolls. The scribes were men who spent their lifetime copying the scrolls. Every synagogue had copies of some of the scrolls. The Jews studied these scrolls to know God’s word and God’s will. There was an area in the synagogue raised higher than the rest of the room so the people could see and hear the speaker. Here was a table where the scrolls were laid out to be read from. Each synagogue had a ruler, a person responsible for what happened at the synagogue. One person was responsible for keeping and caring for the scrolls. The ruler of the synagogue could select the one who read and the one who explained, or preached. Any of the men in the synagogue could lead in prayer.

Jesus was first identified as the Son of God when he came to John the Baptist at Bethabara on the Jordan River to be baptized. He began to gather his following. John and Andrew were the first to follow him. Andrew brought his brother, Simon Peter to Jesus. They traveled with him into Galilee where Jesus found Philip, who was from Capernaum. He called Philip to follow him. Philip went immediately to get his friend, Nathanael, who was from Cana. Nathanael also became Jesus’ follower. They went to Cana and attended a wedding celebration. Jesus’ mother and other family members were also there. They left Cana with him and went to Capernaum, where he stayed for several days before going to Jerusalem for the Passover

The first time Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem after he was baptized and began his public ministry on earth was for the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. This celebration lasted eight days. While Jesus was there he did many miracles. There were people who came from all over Israel. They saw the miracles that he did, and told of them when they went back home. People began to hear of these miracles and assumed he must be a prophet.

He began to draw a crowd everywhere he went. After he left Jerusalem and went throughout Judea preaching, many people followed him. He gave his disciples authority to baptize those who came accepting his teachings. This caused confusion among the leaders of the Jewish people. They asked the followers of John the Baptist why this man that John had baptized was now baptizing others. They came to John to 'tell on Jesus'. John explained to them that this was God's will. John said, "*He must increase, but I must decrease.*" John knew his mission had been fulfilled. Now those who had become Jesus' disciples had the authority from him to baptize. When Jesus heard of this confusion, he left Judea and went back to Galilee where he traveled from city to city preaching in their synagogues.

We don't know how long Jesus was in Galilee before he went to Nazareth, but it was probably several weeks, because Luke 4:14-15 tells us that word of his miracles spread throughout the region and "*he taught in their synagogues,*" (plural). He healed many in Capernaum and word spread around the area, even to Nazareth. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, but he did not spend much time there. He said a man had no honor in his own country. He knew the people in Nazareth would not respect him. He spent most of his time coming and going from Capernaum. He adopted Capernaum as his own city. Many times when the Bible says, "*He returned to his own city*" it means Capernaum (Matthew 9:1). Mark 2:1, there seems to have been a house where he often stayed.

Jesus always went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. He went to Nazareth and went into their synagogue, and stood up to read. They brought to him the scroll containing the book of the prophet Isaiah. He chose a passage we have numbered as Isaiah 61:1-2. He read, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*" Then he closed the scroll and gave it to the man responsible for putting it away and sat down. The people watched him to see what he would say. Jesus told them, "I am the man Isaiah spoke of. I am the man sent from God to preach and heal the sick." The people did not understand this at all. They said, "How can this man know so much? Isn't this Joseph's son? Isn't Mary his mother? We know his brothers and his sisters. How can he be the one sent from God to do miracles?" They became angry that Jesus claimed to be sent from God. Jesus knew their hearts. He told them that he knew they wanted him to do miracles like he did in Capernaum, but he refused. He only healed a few sick people while he was in Nazareth. He would not do the great miracles that others had seen him do, because he said, "*A prophet is not accepted in his own country.*" He did not do the miracles because the people did not believe in him, Matthew 13:58.

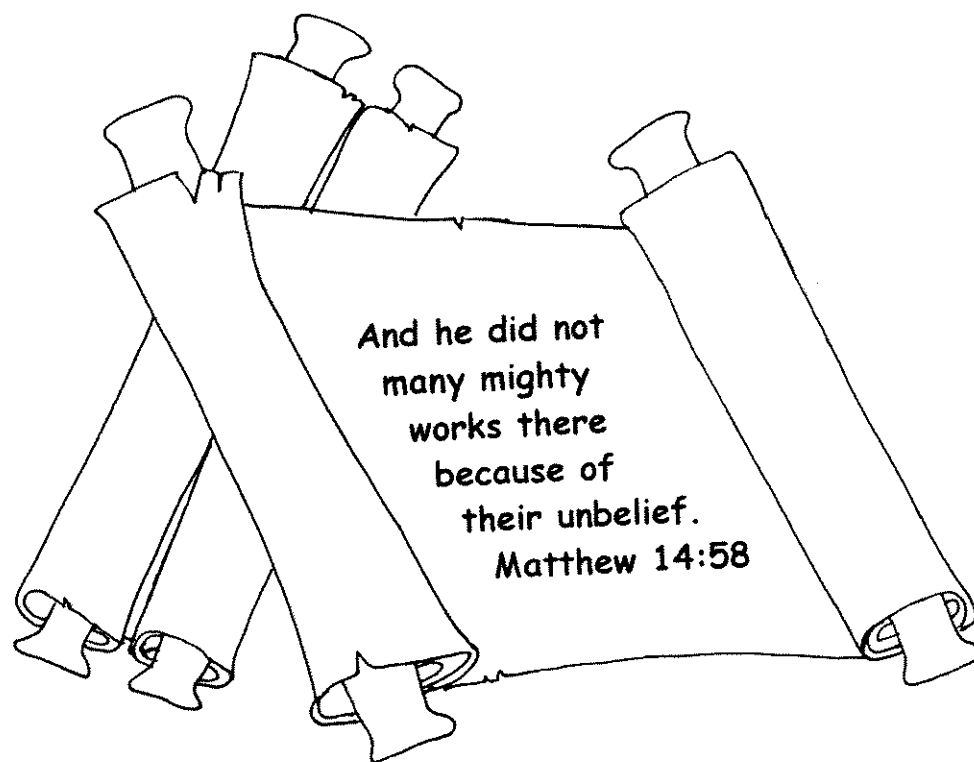
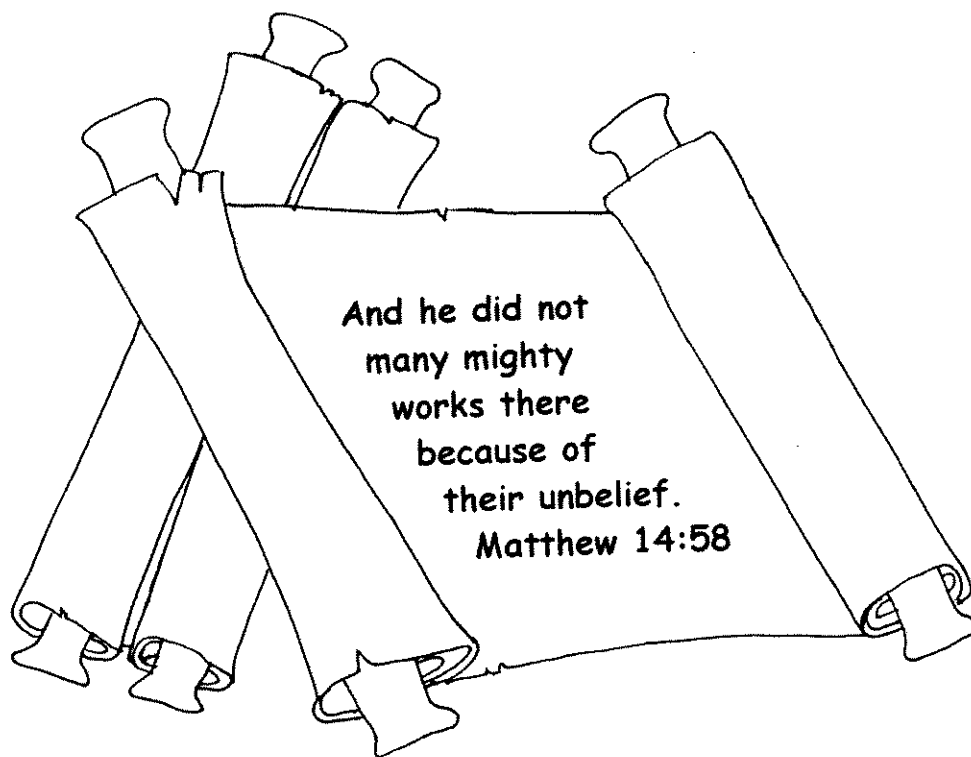
Jesus did not come to the earth to heal sick people, make crippled people able to walk, make blind people see, and deaf people hear. He came to bring salvation. He did not heal people just because he felt sorry for them. He only did the miracles to prove he was who he said he was. He did not heal everybody that was sick. He reminded them of the prophet Elijah when it did not rain in Israel for three and a half years. There were many widows in Israel who

were hungry during the famine, but God only sent Elijah to one in the city of Sarepta. Many others died from hunger, but Elijah did not do miracles for everyone who was hungry. Then Jesus told them many people had leprosy in the days of Elisha, but he only healed one, Naaman, who was not even an Israelite. He was a captain in the army of Syria, an enemy of Israel.

The people in Nazareth did not believe he was the Son of God. They did not want to worship him, they just wanted their sick people healed. Nazareth was built on a high hill. They became so angry when he refused to heal the sick, that they took him outside the city, to the edge of the hill. They intended to throw him off the cliff head first, and kill him, but he got away from them. Luke 4:30, *“But he passing through the midst of them went his way, and came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath days. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.”* He slipped away and went back to Capernaum where he taught for many weeks. The people there received him, and believed what he taught.

**MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 14:58**

“And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”



## JESUS GOES TO NAZARETH



"He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day,  
and stood up to read."

## EARLY TRAVELS OF JESUS

**John 20:30-31; 21:24-25    Matthew 2:23; 8:20; 12:22-24**

It is not possible for us to know exactly in order where Jesus went and what he did from day to day. All that Jesus did is not written in the Bible. Only those things that were considered the most important are recorded. John tells us in John 20:30-31 why the things in the Bible about the life of Jesus were written, *"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."* In chapter 21, verses 24-25, John tells us, *"This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written."*

The first four books of the New Testament, called the 'gospels', tell us about the life of Jesus. They were written by four different men. They all tell the truth about what happened, and they all agree with one another; but the events in the life of Jesus were not written down in the order in which they happened. The four writers do not tell exactly the same things. What one tells, another leaves out, and what one leaves out, another tells. When we read and study all of the writings of the first four books of the New Testament we can learn an over-all account of the life of Jesus.

Matthew, one of the apostles who traveled with Jesus for three years or more wrote the first book of the New Testament. He was a Hebrew who lived at Capernaum. He was a publican, or tax collector, until Jesus called him to leave his occupation and follow him. He did not write the book of Matthew as things happened, (keep a journal every day), but wrote down these things several years after Jesus was crucified. The fact of what happened was more important than the order in which it happened. Matthew seems to have written mostly to the Jews telling them how the prophecy of the Old Testament was fulfilled when Jesus came. Matthew was from the area of Galilee, and most of what he writes covers about a year and a half of the ministry of Jesus that was spent in Galilee.

The book of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, and deals only with the ministry of Jesus. Mark does not tell us anything of the birth or early life of Jesus. He is said to have lived at Jerusalem, and learned about Jesus being the Messiah by hearing Peter preach. He writes mostly about the time spent in Galilee. He tells us a lot about what happened during the last days of Jesus' life in and around Jerusalem. He emphasizes Jesus as the true and only Son of God. He wrote mostly about the miracles that Jesus did. He doesn't tell a lot of his teachings, or parables, but presents his supernatural powers as the Son of God to do miracles.

Luke wrote the third book in the New Testament. It is supposed that he was not a Hebrew, but was of Gentile descent, possibly a Syrian from Antioch, and saved under the



preaching of the apostle Paul. He traveled with Paul, who was the apostle to the Gentiles. Much of the gospel of Luke deals with Jesus as being human as well as the Son of God. Luke tells us much that the other writers leave out. He was a doctor, and he is the only one who tells of the birth of Jesus, and the angels announcing his birth to the shepherds. We learn from Luke about Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the temple when he was forty days old, and also about his going to Jerusalem when he was twelve years old. Luke tells about Jesus healing people who were sick and could not be made well by the doctors. He tells about physical problems (blindness, deafness, crippled) that could not be cured, and Jesus healed them by the power of God. Matthew seems to have written more about events pertaining to the Jews. Mark wrote more about miracles. Luke includes all of these, his birth and early life, his teachings, parables, miracles, and other events that happened. We can probably trace the activities of Jesus as they happened more from the book of Luke.

John wrote to the Gentiles. He began with the fact that Jesus was God and with God before the world was created. John wrote mostly about things that happened in Judea that the other writers do not tell us about. He does not tell us many of the parables that Jesus taught, and very few miracles that he did. The miracles that he mentions are mostly ones the other writers leave out.

So you can see we must read and study all four gospels to get the whole picture of the life of Jesus as he traveled all over the land where the Jews lived, and into some surrounding areas. He had no home on this earth. On one occasion a certain scribe told Jesus, "Master, I will follow you anywhere you go." Jesus wanted him to understand he didn't realize what he was saying. He told him, "*The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head.*" After Jesus left the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, was baptized, and began preaching, he did not have a home. He spent time in the homes of friends, and in the mountains or wilderness so he could commune with God.

Jesus did not stay in one place, because he wanted all men to know him. When he did miracles, if the people accepted him, he taught them. If they did not accept him, he went to another town. The disciples did not understand why many times he would walk off from a crowd. Jesus would tell them he needed to go to another city so they, too, could hear the truth about the kingdom of God. There were no telephones, radios, or television, so news spread person to person. News of Jesus spread fast. Everywhere he went, many people followed him. Most of them did not follow him to learn the truth, but followed him just to see what he would do, or to be healed of their sickness. Many of them just wanted to see something unusual. Many of them followed him because he gave them food to eat. There were a few who believed he was the Son of God and followed him because they loved him and wanted to be in his presence. Some came only to bring their friends or family who were sick or crippled to Jesus so he could make them well.

Jesus had compassion on people many times and healed them. He had compassion on people who had followed him all day and were hungry, so he fed them. But the next day he sent

the same people home because he said they only followed him for the free food. Jesus did not come into the world just to heal people because they were sick, or just to feed people because they were hungry. He came to seek and to save those who were lost. If Jesus had done his miracles simply because he felt sorry for people, he would have healed everyone. Pity was not the reason, but to show the power of God so they would accept him as the Messiah was the reason. He only did the miracles to prove he really was God's Son and really did have the power of God.

Not everyone who followed Jesus and saw his miracles did so because they believed he was the Son of God. Some accused him of having a devil, and doing his miracles by the powers of evil. On one occasion they brought to him a man who was blind and could not speak. Jesus healed him by the power of God. The people who saw it were amazed and said this was the power of God. The Pharisees were angered, and said it was the power of Beelzebub, the prince of the devils.

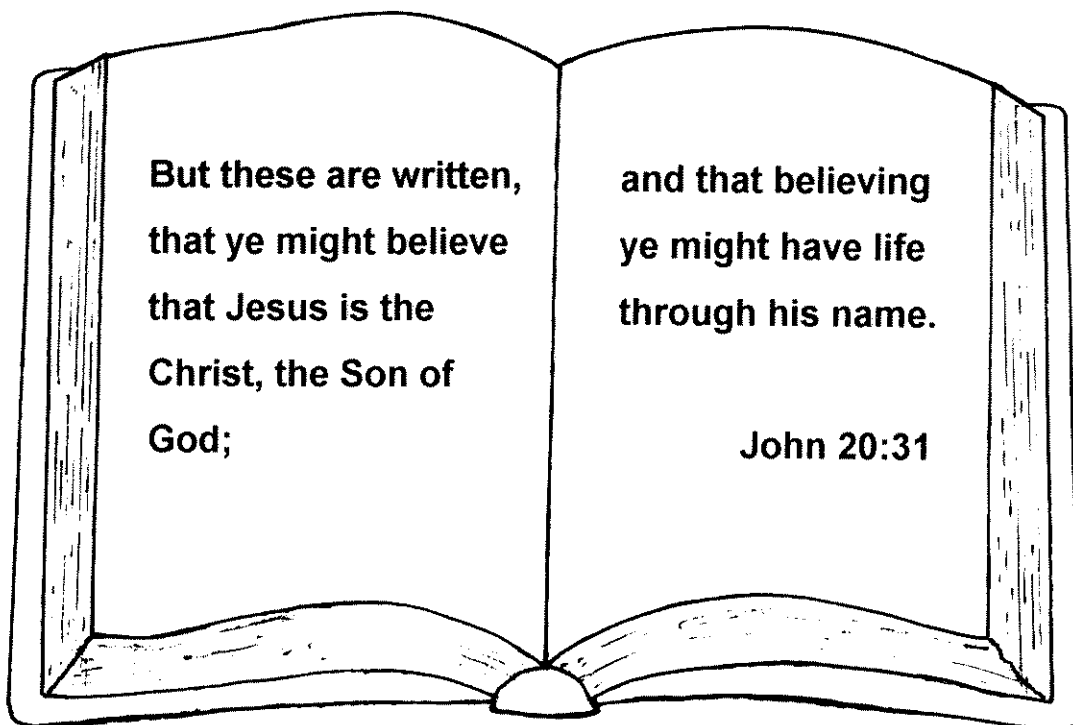
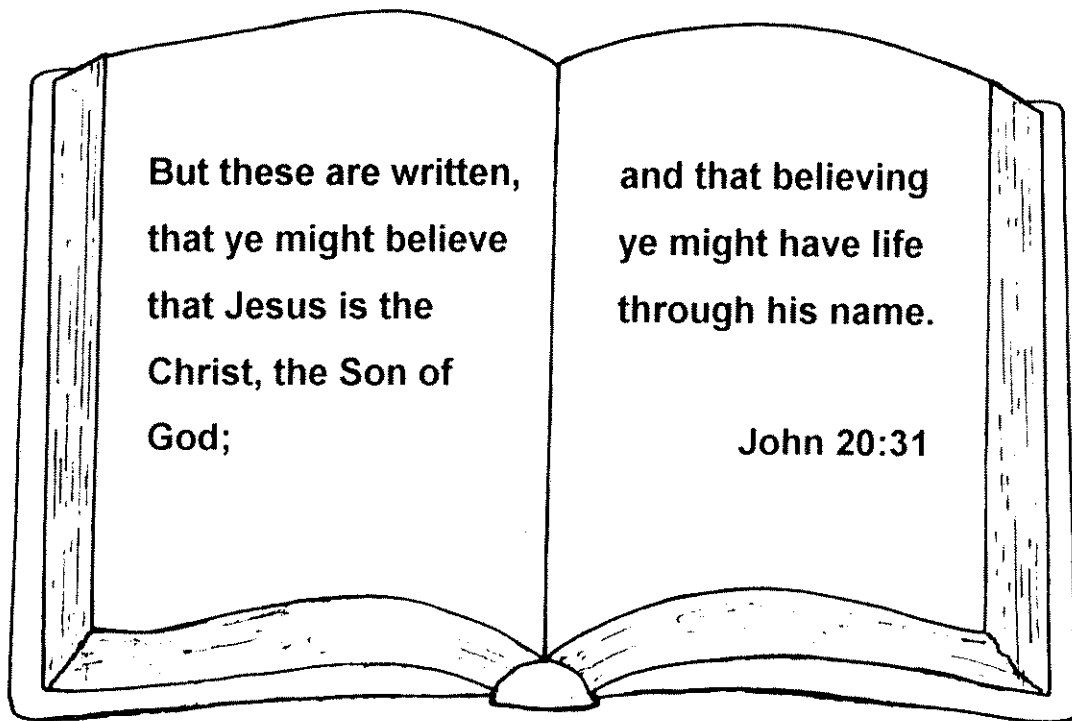
The Jews were looking for a king to come and sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem. They were under the rule of the Roman Empire, and did not like it. When Jesus came, those who accepted him as the Messiah thought he should be king right then. On one occasion Jesus slipped away from the crowd because he knew they wanted to take him by force and make him their king. He stayed away from Jerusalem many times because he knew the Pharisees wanted to put him to death, and he slipped away from crowds of people who only wanted to see more miracles. When the Samaritans, who were only half Jewish, accepted him, he stayed for two days and taught them.

All of his traveling was to teach people about God. Word spread fast when he was coming into a certain town, and a crowd would be waiting for him. People all the way up in Capernaum heard of the miracles he did at Jerusalem, and they were anxious for him to return. Sometimes people followed him across the Sea of Galilee. Sometimes they waited for his return when he went across the sea. Some followed him out of love. Some followed him out of curiosity. Some followed him out of selfishness. The Pharisees followed him to try to find something he did wrong so they could have him put to death.

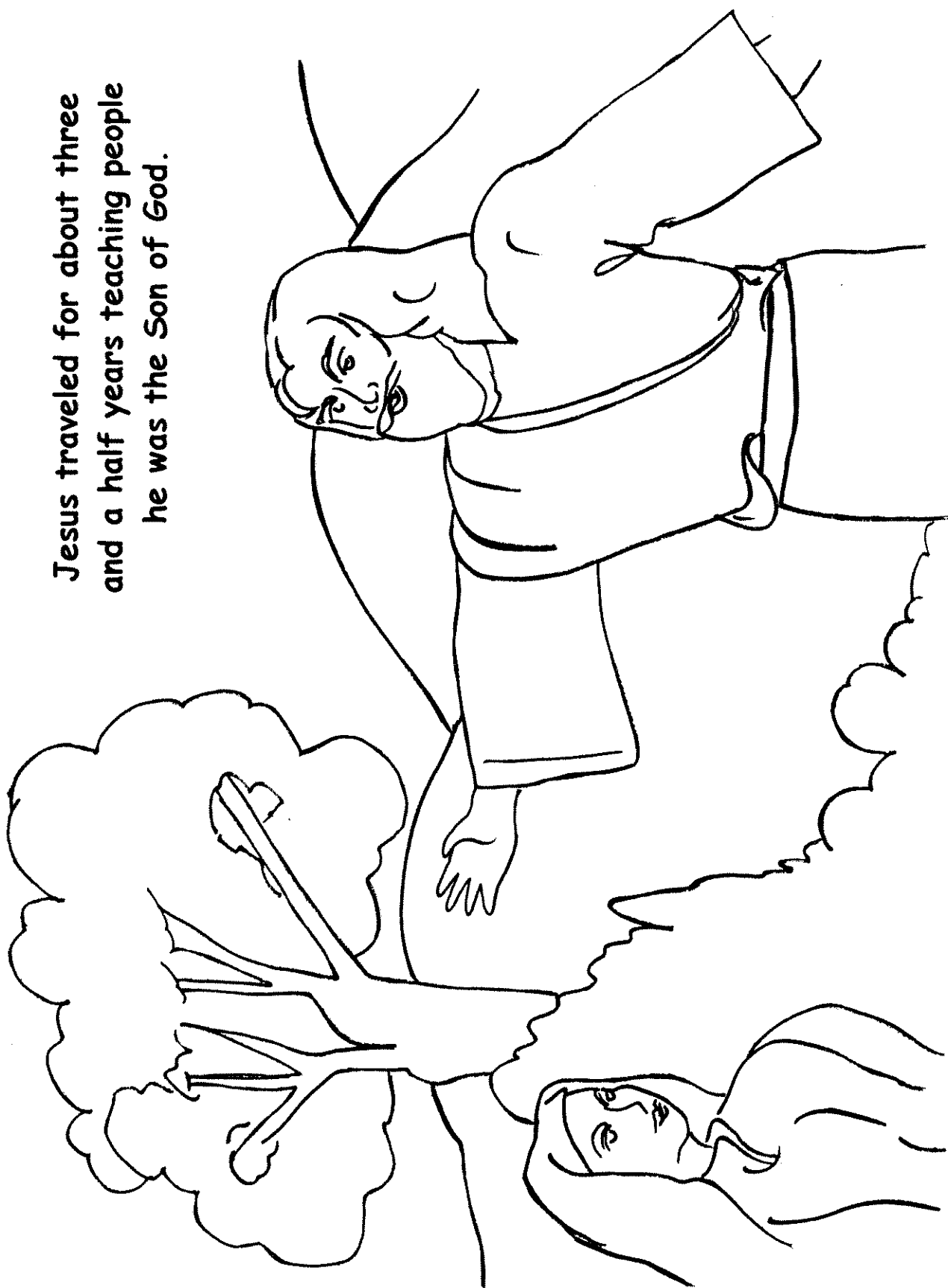
When we read and study all of these events in all four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we learn of all the things revealed to us about the life of Jesus. We do not need to know any more in order to accept him as the Son of God who came to be our Savior.

#### **MEMORY VERSE: John 20:31**

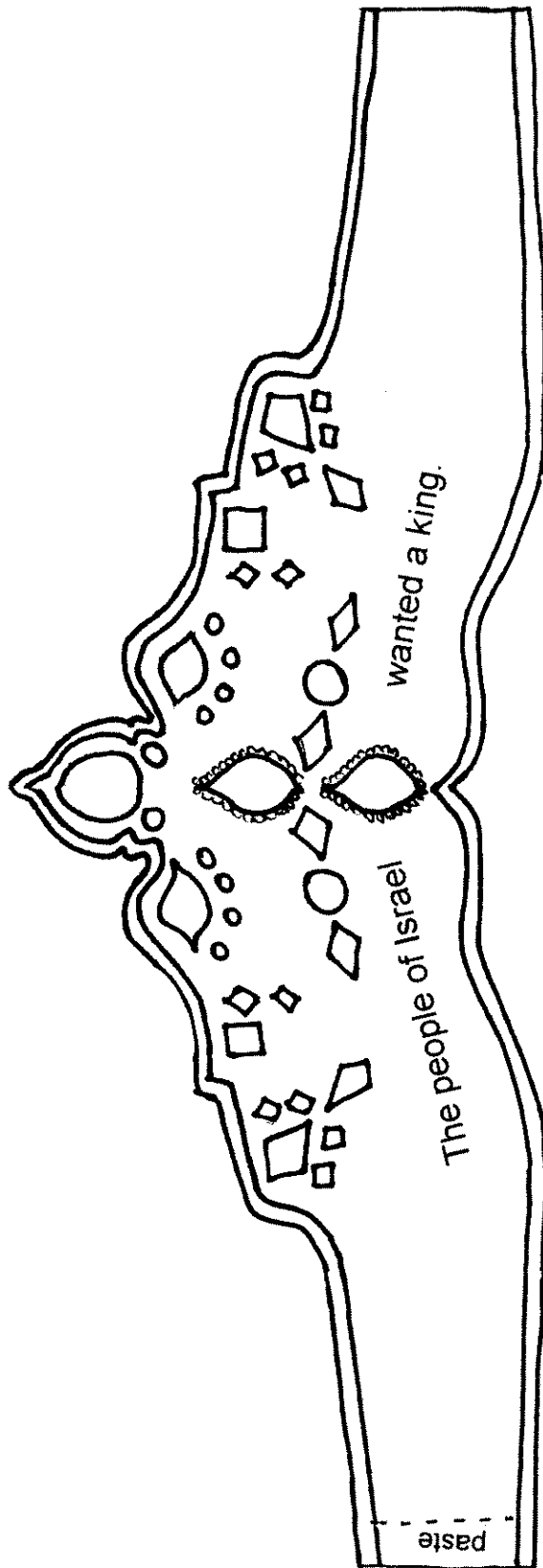
“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”



Jesus traveled for about three  
and a half years teaching people  
he was the Son of God.

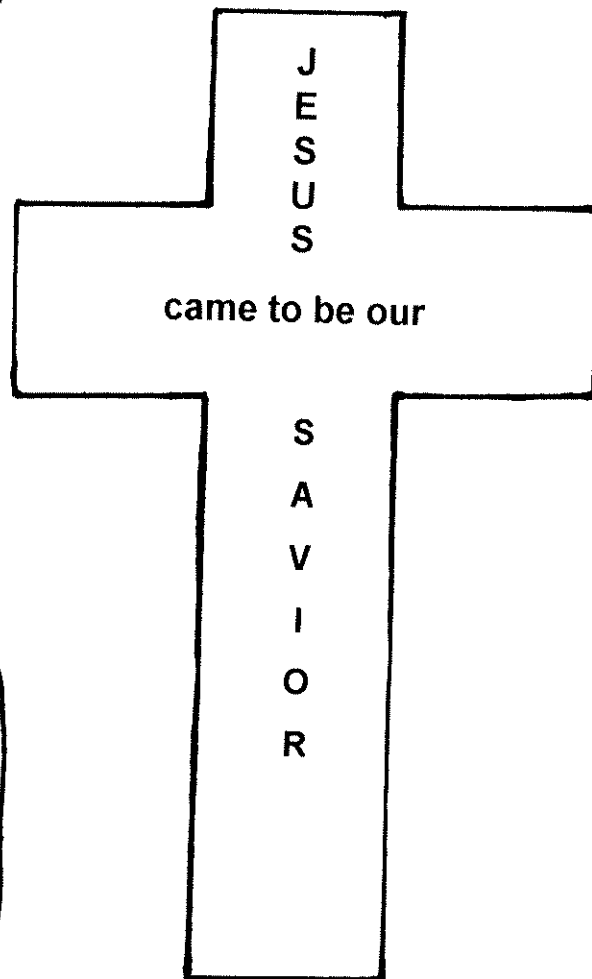


## EARLY TRAVELS OF JESUS



Copy crown on heavy paper.  
Color and cut out. Paste ends  
together to form a circle.

Copy cross on brown  
construction paper. Cut out.  
Attach to inside back of crown  
to make it stand.



## HEALING THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

**John 4:45-54**

Jesus grew up in Nazareth as any other Jewish boy. He was known to the people of Nazareth as the son of Mary and Joseph, the carpenter. When he was about thirty years old he left Nazareth and began his earthly ministry. The first time that Jesus went to Jerusalem after he was identified as the Son of God, he worked miracles there to prove that he was who he claimed to be. If he was not the Son of God, he could not do the things that took supernatural powers. The town was crowded, and the temple was crowded with people who came from all over the Jewish area to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When something unusual happened many people heard about it. When Jesus did miracles, this was unusual and many people saw them. Many others heard about it. Some of the people who saw the miracles that Jesus did were from Galilee. When they returned home they had news to tell.

When Jesus heard that there was some confusion about his disciples baptizing people who accepted him in Judea, he left there to go back into Galilee. Much of his ministry was spent in Galilee. On the way he met the woman of Samaria at the well, and revealed to her that he was the Christ that the Samaritan people believed would come some day. She told the men of the village of Sychar, and they begged Jesus to stay and teach them. He stayed for two days, and then went on into Galilee. When he came to Nazareth and spoke in the synagogue, the people did not like what he said. Threw him out of the city. But when he went to other cities in Galilee, people did believe what he said. They were anxious for him to come. They wanted to hear what he said when he preached in their synagogues. Many of them had been at Jerusalem and saw the miracles he did. Others had heard of these miracles from those who had been there. They wanted Jesus in their area. They did not get angry when he told them he was the Son of God, but believed him because of the miracles they saw him do.

The first miracle Jesus did was in the city of Cana, where he turned the water into wine at the wedding feast. He came again to Cana and did another miracle. (John is the only writer who tells us of the miracles done in Cana.) Word spread fast that Jesus was back in Galilee. There was a man who lived at Capernaum, who heard that Jesus had come back from Judea and was in Cana. He heard of the miracles that Jesus did throughout Galilee. We do not know the man's name. The Bible just calls him a nobleman. He was either a man of royalty or a man of great wealth to be called a nobleman. He was probably a ruler in the city of Capernaum. He had a fine home. He had lots of money. He had many servants. But he had a problem he could not find an answer to. He had a little boy whom He loved very much. His little boy was very, very sick. He was sad because his son was so sick. He had the best doctors, but none could make the child well. There was not any medicine he could take that would make him well.

When the nobleman heard that Jesus was back in Cana he thought, "Maybe he can make my son well." He did not wait for Jesus to come to his city. Instead he went looking for Jesus. Capernaum was possibly 15 or 20 miles from Cana. When the nobleman heard that Jesus

was in Cana he set out to find him, confident that he could help him. He had heard that he had made sick people well. He believed that if he could bring Jesus to his house, he could make his little boy well. Even though it was several miles away, he went as quickly as he could. The nobleman traveled all day, and it was the next day before he reached Cana. As soon as he found Jesus he begged him to come back to Capernaum with him and heal his son. If Jesus did not come, his son would die. Jesus did not get up and go with the man. Instead, he told him, "Unless you see me do miracles, you will not believe that I am sent from God." The man had not seen the miracles Jesus did, but he had heard about them, and he had faith Jesus could make his son well. He begged Jesus to please come quickly with him. He insisted that he come now or his son would die before they could get there. He did believe that Jesus was sent from God. He did believe that Jesus had the power to make his son well. When Jesus saw his faith, he said, "*Go thy way; thy son liveth.*" Jesus told him to "Go back home. Your son is alive. Your son will live." The man believed Jesus. He did not ask why Jesus would not come with him. He did not ask how his son could live if Jesus did not come. Verse 50 tells us, "*The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.*" When the man heard Jesus tell him to go home, his son would live, he believed him. It was that simple. He had faith that everything would be all right. He believed Jesus and he started home.

Something wonderful happened at his home in Capernaum that day. Suddenly the child's fever was gone, and he was well. The servants who stayed home to take care of the little boy while his father was gone said there was no need now for him to bring Jesus back with him, because the child did not die. The child was not sick any longer, so they set out to find his father and tell him the good news. The nobleman traveled all day on his way home. The next day as he got nearer to Capernaum, he met his servants on the road. They had good news for him. They said, "Don't worry. There is no need for Jesus to come now. Your son is alive and well." The nobleman remembered the words of Jesus, and he asked the servants, "Exactly at what time did the child begin to get better?" They said, "*Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.*" That was about one o'clock in the afternoon. The noble man remembered that was the time he was talking to Jesus. The father knew that it was exactly the same hour that Jesus said to him, "*Go home, your son lives.*"


The man and his servants hurried back to his home. He was anxious to see his son. He told all of his family and all of his servants what had happened. He told them it was Jesus who had made the child well. Not only did the nobleman believe, but also all of his household believed that this man named Jesus was indeed the Son of God. Jesus had worked a miracle without being there with the child. He knew who the child was, and he knew where the child was. He could heal him without waiting two more days to get back to Capernaum. He could just speak and the child was well. Then Jesus left Cana and went back to Capernaum. He had work to do there. He went there to choose other disciples.

#### **MEMORY VERSE: John 4:50**

"Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth."


HEALING THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

MEMORY VERSE  
PATTERN PAGE




And Jesus saith unto  
him, Go thy way;  
thy son liveth.

John 4:50



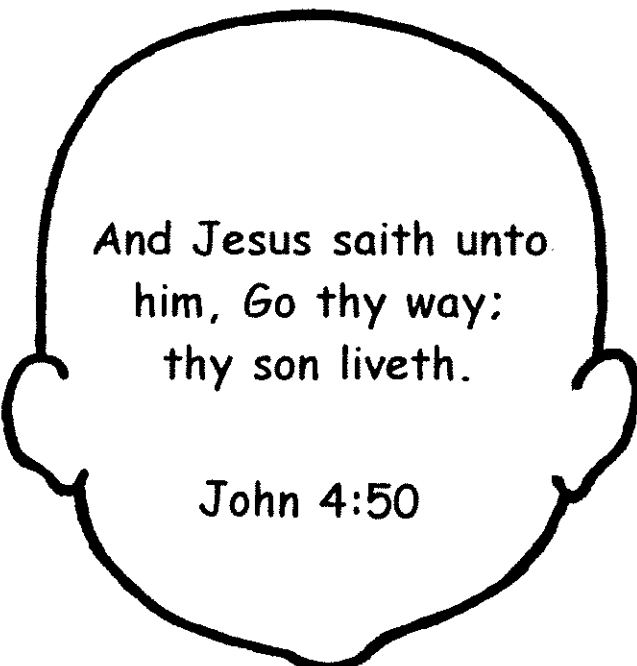
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John 4:50



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John 4:50



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John 4:50

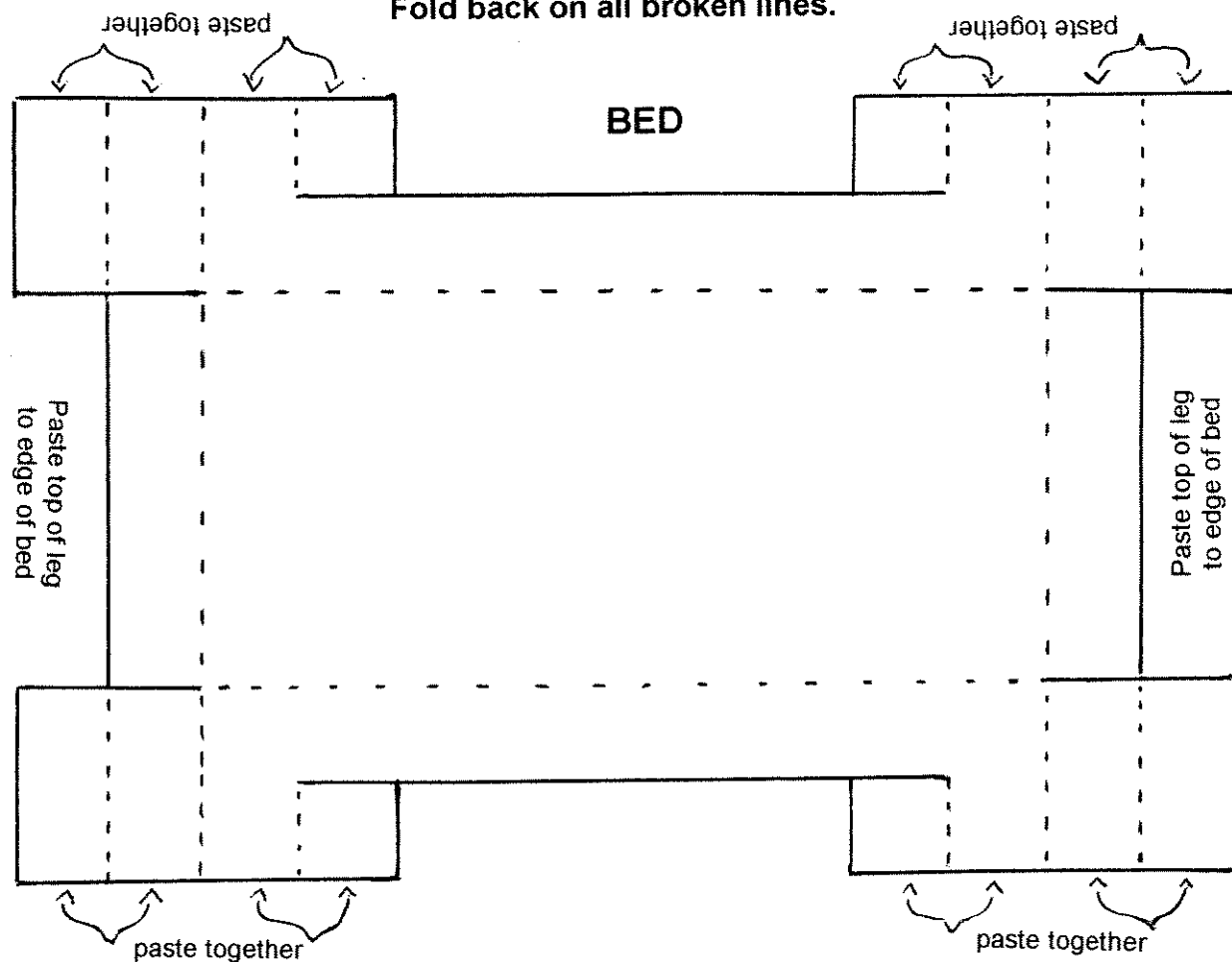


When the nobleman returned home  
he found his son alive and well.

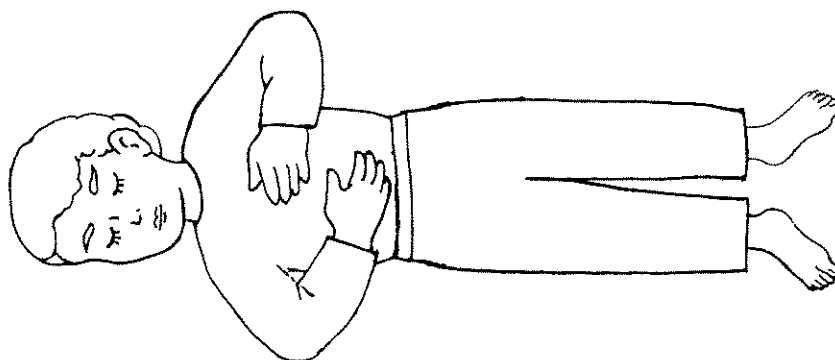


# HEALING THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

Cut on all solid lines.  
Fold back on all broken lines.



Cut 2" by 31/2 piece of flannel or felt for blanket.



## **JESUS GOES TO CAPERNAUM**

**Matthew 4:12-17**

**Mark 1:14-15**

**Luke 4:31-32**

Jesus grew up in Nazareth, but when he traveled around preaching on earth he came and went from Capernaum. He left Nazareth and the home of Mary and Joseph when he was about thirty years old. He went to where John the Baptist was baptizing those who accepted his message that the Messiah had come and the kingdom of heaven was near. Jesus was baptized by John and God announced to the world that he was the Son of God, sent to redeem the world from sin. He began to gather his followers. John, Andrew and Peter were the first to accept him as the Son of God. They came with him back to Bethsaida where he called Philip to follow him. Philip brought his friend Nathanael to Jesus and he also became a follower. They went with Jesus to Cana and saw him do the first miracle when he turned the water into wine at the wedding feast. Jesus' mother, Mary, and Jesus' brothers were also at Cana for the wedding. They went with Jesus and the disciples to Capernaum for a few days. They followed Jesus to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, where he told the chief priests that he would be crucified, but in three days he would rise again. He did miracles in Jerusalem to prove he was the Son of God.

When Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and preached throughout Judea, they began to baptize those who accepted his message. John the Baptist was still baptizing in and around the Jordan River area. Because he condemned King Herod for his sins by taking his brother's wife to be his wife, he was put in prison. John had baptized those that Jesus took to start his church. John said that Jesus "must increase and he must decrease." He knew that it was time for him to end his ministry. When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he left Judea and went back into Galilee where the people were anxious for him to come.

When he got into Galilee he stopped to rest at Jacob's well outside the city of Sychar, in Samaria. The people of Samaria begged him to stay with them and teach them the truths about God. He stayed two days and then went on into Galilee. Wherever Jesus went on the Sabbath, he preached in the synagogue. Some places where Jesus went, the people received him well, and some places they did not.

Jesus returned to his home town of Nazareth. He grew up in Nazareth. He knew the people in Nazareth, and the people knew him. They knew him as the son of Joseph, the well known carpenter. They knew him as a good person who never got into trouble, and always helped people. They knew him as an obedient son when he was growing up. They knew him as a human. They did not know him as the Son of God. Jesus went into the synagogue in Nazareth. It was probably the same one where he studied as a boy. He read the scriptures and told the people that he was the promised messiah. It made the people angry. These were the people he had known all of his life. They were the people he grew up around. They had heard about the miracles he had done in other places. They wanted him to do miracles for them. They wanted him to do miracles just so they could see something spectacular, not because they

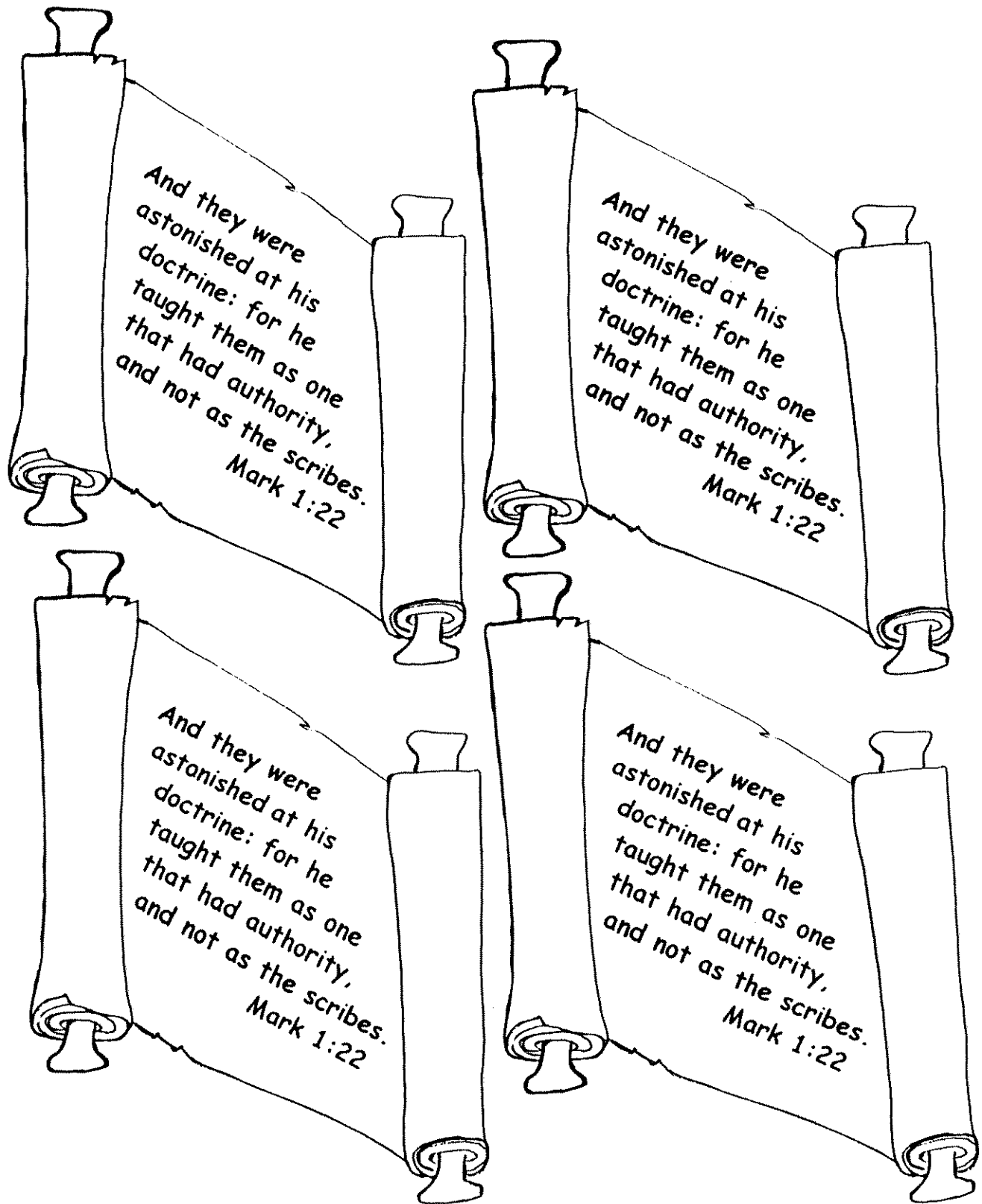
believed he was the Son of God. Because of their unbelief he refused to do miracles. When the people in the synagogue heard Jesus say he would not heal their sick and do other miracles for them, Luke 4:28-29 tells us they all were *“filled with wrath, and rose up, and thrust him out of the city.”* They took him to the edge of a cliff where they intended to throw him down headfirst on to the rocks below, killing him. God protected Jesus. He escaped from the crowd, and went to Capernaum. The people of Nazareth did not want him there, so he adopted Capernaum as his city.

Capernaum was on the western shores of the Sea of Galilee, near Bethsaida. It had a military post there where Roman soldiers were stationed. It was large enough to have its own synagogue where Jesus taught many times on the Sabbath. The synagogue was said to have been built by the centurion, the head of one hundred Roman soldiers who were stationed at Capernaum. Besides the Roman garrison, the city also had a customs station (Matthew 9:9). This was where the people paid taxes. It was a busy town. Along with Bethsaida, it seems to have been a fishing village, with many industries associated with the fishing trade. It, or Bethsaida, was the hometown of Peter and Andrew. (Mark 1:29 indicates Capernaum.)

The Sea of Galilee was about sixty miles from Jerusalem. A roadway surrounded it, connecting Capernaum and many other towns that were on the seacoast. It was about thirteen miles long and about seven and a half miles wide. The Jordan River flowed in and out of the sea. It was surrounded on all sides by mountains. The Sea of Galilee was very important to the people who lived around it. It was a busy commercial area. People went across the sea by boat to visit other towns. They used boats to carry food grown on one side of the sea to the other side to sell to the people there. Fishing was a main occupation.

Mark 2:1 indicates there was a house in Capernaum where Jesus and his disciples stayed. Jesus considered Capernaum his “own city”. This seems to be where Jesus did most of his teaching and performed most of his miracles. Many of the parables were taught by Jesus at Capernaum, and about one third of the miracles recorded were done there. Jesus was well known in Capernaum. The people welcomed him there. Mark 1:21-22 tells of Jesus going into the synagogue on the Sabbath and teaching the people. *“And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.”* The scribes were men who spent their time copying the scrolls. The scrolls contained the law of Moses and the prophets. The scribes copied the law. They knew what the law said. They copied the prophecies. They knew what had been prophesied about Jesus coming into the world. They were intelligent men. They were good teachers. But something was missing. They did not have the personal knowledge of Jesus as the Son of God. They could teach the laws and the commands regarding worship, but they did not fully understand them. They could teach what the prophets said, but they did not fully understand. Jesus knew and understood about God because he has God. He was the Son of God. He had authority to teach that no man had.

**MEMORY VERSE: Mark 1:22** “And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.”

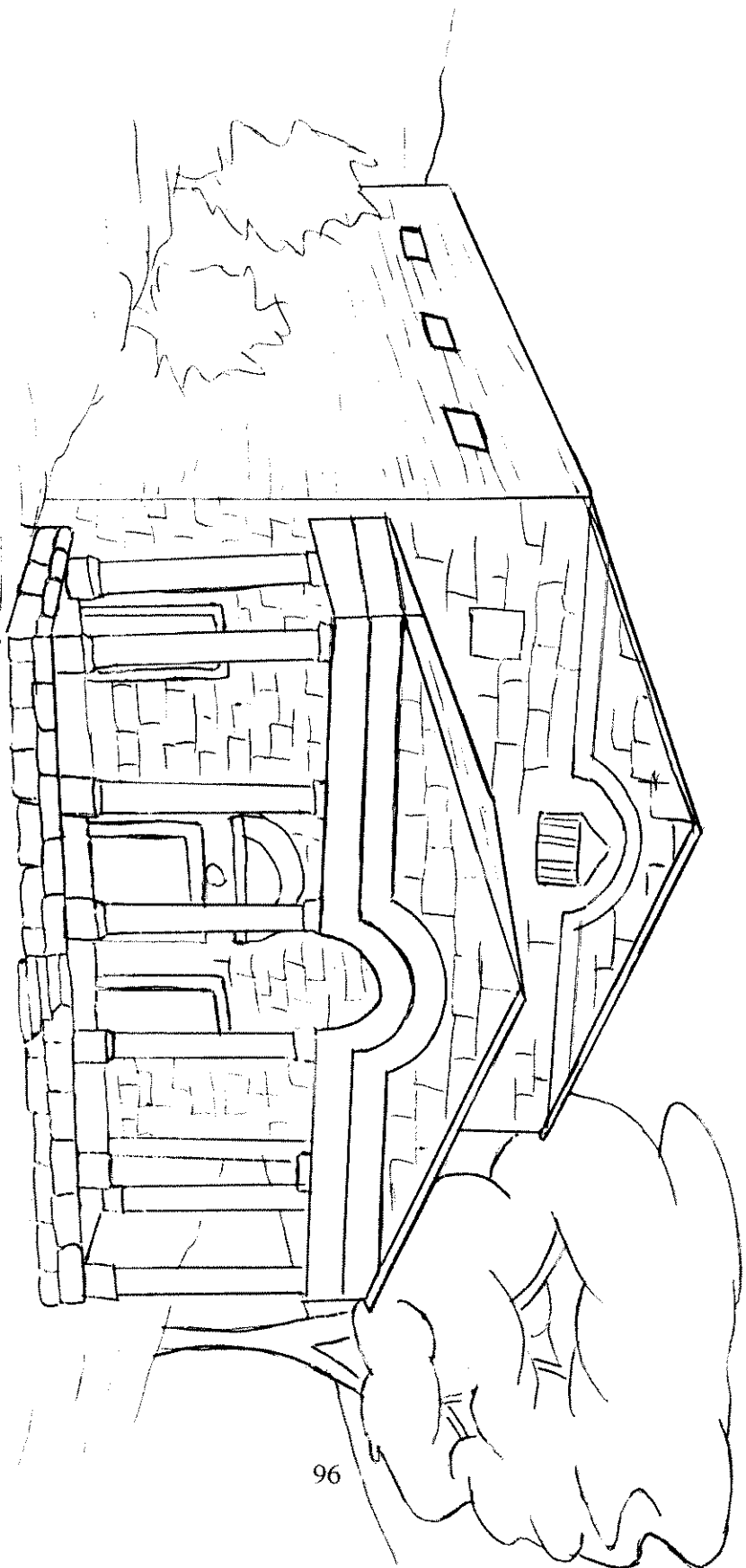


## JESUS GOES TO CAPERNAUM

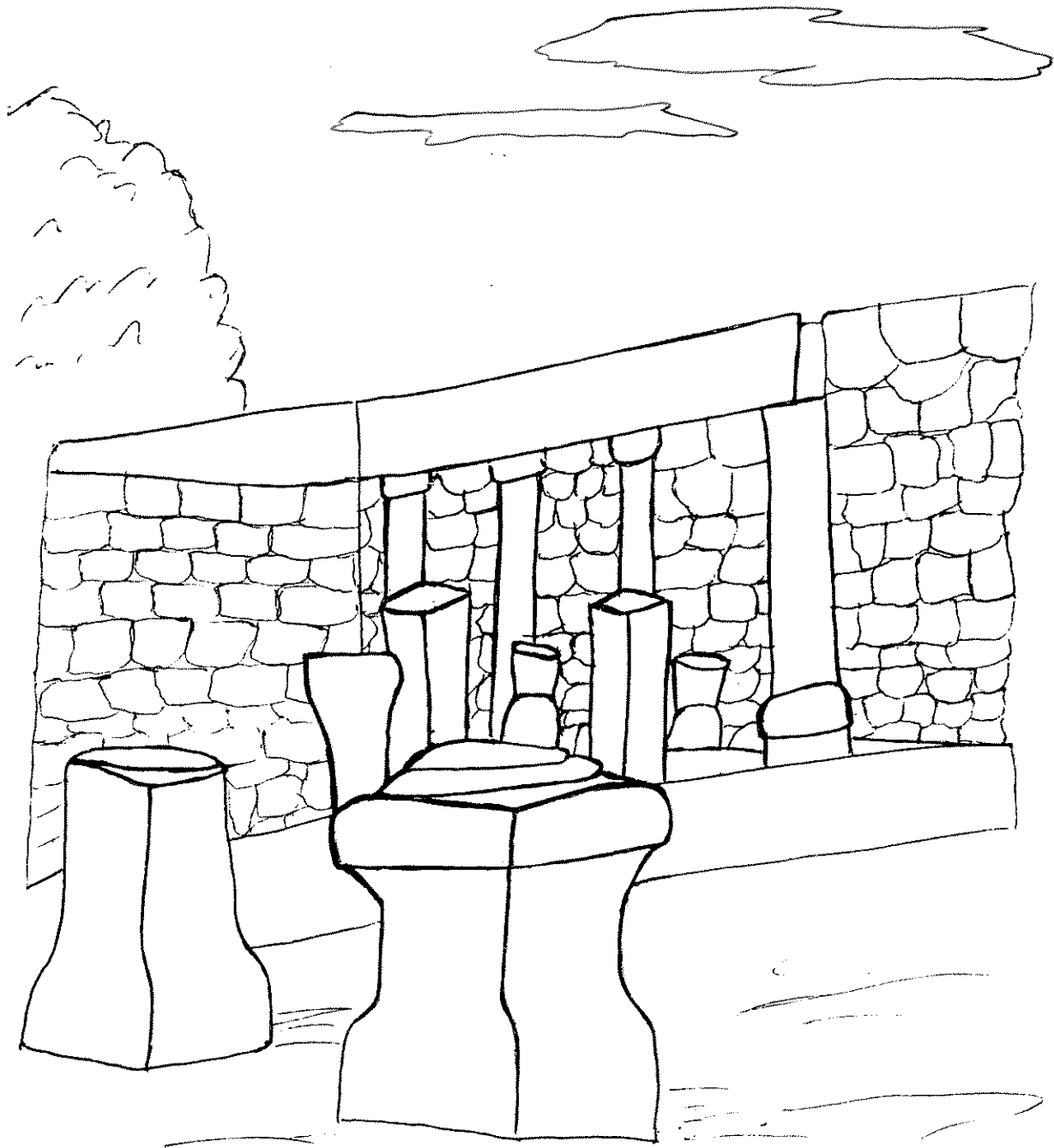


**When Jesus explained the scriptures, the people were astonished that he understood so much about God.**

## JESUS GOES TO CAPERNAUM



Restored synagogue at Capernaum



**Ruins of ancient Synagogue in Capernaum**