

BIG IDEA: God gives us families to care for us.

Week 1

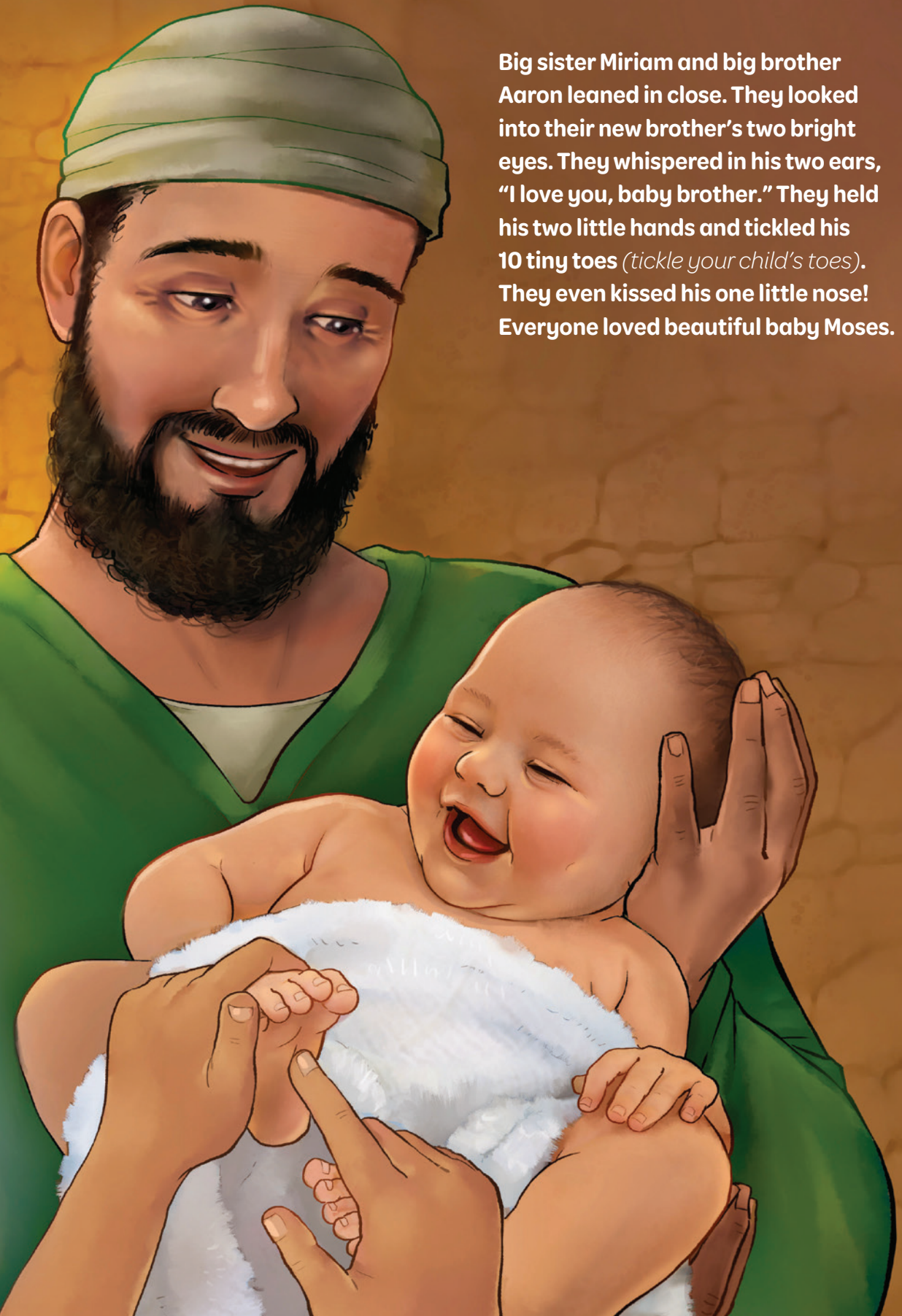
Baby Moses



This lesson is based on Exodus 2:2 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 242, 243.



The warm sun shone through the window. Mommy Jochebed and Daddy Amram cuddled little baby Moses (*cuddle up close to your child*). He was beautiful! (*Point to features.*) He had two little eyes . . . two little ears . . . two little hands . . . 10 little toes . . . and one little nose. Their eyes sparkled with happiness. They said “Thank You” to God for their brand-new baby boy!



Big sister Miriam and big brother Aaron leaned in close. They looked into their new brother's two bright eyes. They whispered in his two ears, "I love you, baby brother." They held his two little hands and tickled his 10 tiny toes (*tickle your child's toes*). They even kissed his one little nose! Everyone loved beautiful baby Moses.

Mommy Jochebed and Daddy Amram cared for Moses. They gave him smiles and cuddles. They made sure he was fed. And they helped him go to sleep in a soft little bed. Moses' family kept him safe and well.

The pharaoh king where baby Moses lived was not a kind man. He wanted to take all the baby boys away. No! Mommy Jochebed was not going to let anyone take Moses away! She prayed and asked God to look after her precious baby.





Mommy Jochebed hid baby Moses in the house for many days and nights. But it was hard to hide a baby! Babies cry when they are hungry. Shh! Babies cry when they are tired. Shh! Sometimes babies cry when they need a cuddle. Shh! It was very hard to hide baby Moses when he cried. So the whole family knelt down and prayed to God (*fold hands for prayer*). **Dear Jesus, please help us to keep baby Moses safe.**

God gave Mommy Jochebed a good idea. Mommy and Miriam collected lots of tall grass from the river. Together they used the grass to make a basket. They sang songs as they worked (*hum, hum, hum*). The basket would be a bed for baby Moses—a bed that could float on the water like a little boat. Moses would stay hidden and safe in his basket boat. God chose a special family to look after baby Moses.

(Say together) **Thank You, God, for giving me a family who loves me too.**





Create

Use play-dough/modeling clay to create a basket boat. Make a tiny baby Moses to place in the basket.

Explore

Go on a nature walk and collect leaves and grasses, or use indoor plants to feel textures and imagine making a basket boat made of plants. Hide a doll in your home and pretend it is crying, and you need to keep it quiet. Talk about the ways Jochebed, Amram, Miriam, and Aaron would have helped to care for baby Moses.

Connect

Together with your child, make a card/gift for a new baby or younger sibling to let them know that you love and care for them.

Make

Help your child make a special book that has drawings or photographs of family members. Write a simple message beside each picture. For example: *This is Mommy/Daddy. Mommy/Daddy loves Jesus. Mommy/Daddy loves me.* Cuddle up together and read the book often.

Pray

Pray for a family member each day. Invite your child to choose which family member to pray for. Thank God for giving us families who love and care for us.



THE **HEART** OF THE **MATTER**

For You, Parents

How amazing is the love that sweeps over you as you hold your new baby for the first time! You gaze into those sleepy eyes and wrap their tiny hand around your finger, and you wonder how life can be any sweeter! Time seems to stand still, and the worries of the world fade away.

What an incredible God we serve to create the love between a parent and a child. With the joy and rush of love comes a fierce desire to keep our children safe and cared for. How do we do this in an unpredictable world? It can be overwhelming knowing that there will be hard things ahead for our precious little ones. Like Jochebed, who turned her worries into prayers, we too can ask God to help us as we parent. We can trust Him to give us creative ways to instruct, guide, and protect our children.

Our Father loves to parent us as we parent our children. Just as Jochebed wrapped up her sweet baby in faith and placed him in a basket, so God wraps us up in His love and places us in the safest place we could be—in the palm of His hands.

As you read this story to your little one this week, be on the lookout for the many ways God is wrapping you up in His love. May you be inspired by the faith of Jochebed and Amram as they took their problems to the God of the universe. May you see glimpses of the Father's unending love in the way you love your own little one.

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1).

BIG IDEA: God watches over me.

Week 2

A Special Basket Boat



This lesson is based on Exodus 2:1-10 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 243, 244.



Mommy Jochebed and Miriam hurried down the path to the river. In their arms they held a basket. Inside the basket was something very special. *(Do you know what was inside?)* Baby Moses was safely tucked inside! Mommy stopped by the river and lifted the lid of the basket. She kissed baby Moses on his rosy cheeks *(kiss your child)*. She prayed that God would send His angels to watch over him. Then Mommy and Miriam gently hid the basket in the tall grasses.

Miriam stayed by the river to keep watch over her baby brother. A soft breeze blew (*whoosh, whoosh*). The water splashed at the edge (*splash, splash*). The birds sang in the trees (*tweet, tweet*). The little basket boat rocked gently on the water, this way, and that way (*rock side to side*). Baby Moses liked to be rocked. He fell fast asleep.



Miriam didn't sleep. She watched her baby brother carefully. Then she saw someone coming to the river! It was the princess!

Miriam looked from her hiding place as the princess walked right to the basket and opened the lid. The princess smiled. What a surprise—a beautiful baby boy! Baby Moses started crying. The princess picked him up and cuddled him close (*cuddle your child*).





Miriam ran to the princess. She asked the princess if she would like her to find someone to care for the baby. “The king’s daughter said, ‘Yes, please!’ ” (Exodus 2:8, ICB). Miriam knew the right person to look after her baby brother! She ran as fast as she could, all the way home to her mommy. Mommy Jochebed hurried back with Miriam to meet the princess. The princess was so happy to have a kind mommy to look after baby Moses. Mommy Jochebed was so happy that baby Moses was safe! God had answered her prayer.



Mommy and Miriam laughed and sang songs to God all the way home. They held hands and knelt with Daddy Amram and brother Aaron. Together they thanked God for sending His angels to watch over baby Moses. God protects you too! He sends His angels to watch over you.

Thank You, God, for keeping baby Moses safe. *(Say together)* Thank You for watching over me.



Create

Make an angel out of paper or cardboard. Decorate with colors and glitter. Place in your child's room where they can see it as they go to sleep. Say or sing the memory verse together each night.

Explore

Make a simple basket boat using foil, objects from nature, or a container. Place a tiny baby Moses in the basket and place in water (a puddle, pond, or the bath). Stop and listen to the sounds of nature—sounds that baby Moses might have heard from his basket boat. Talk about the angels who watched over baby Moses in his basket boat. Remind your child that God has an angel that watches over them too.

Sing

Find a lullaby, hymn, or other song about angels watching over us and sing it for worship each morning this week.

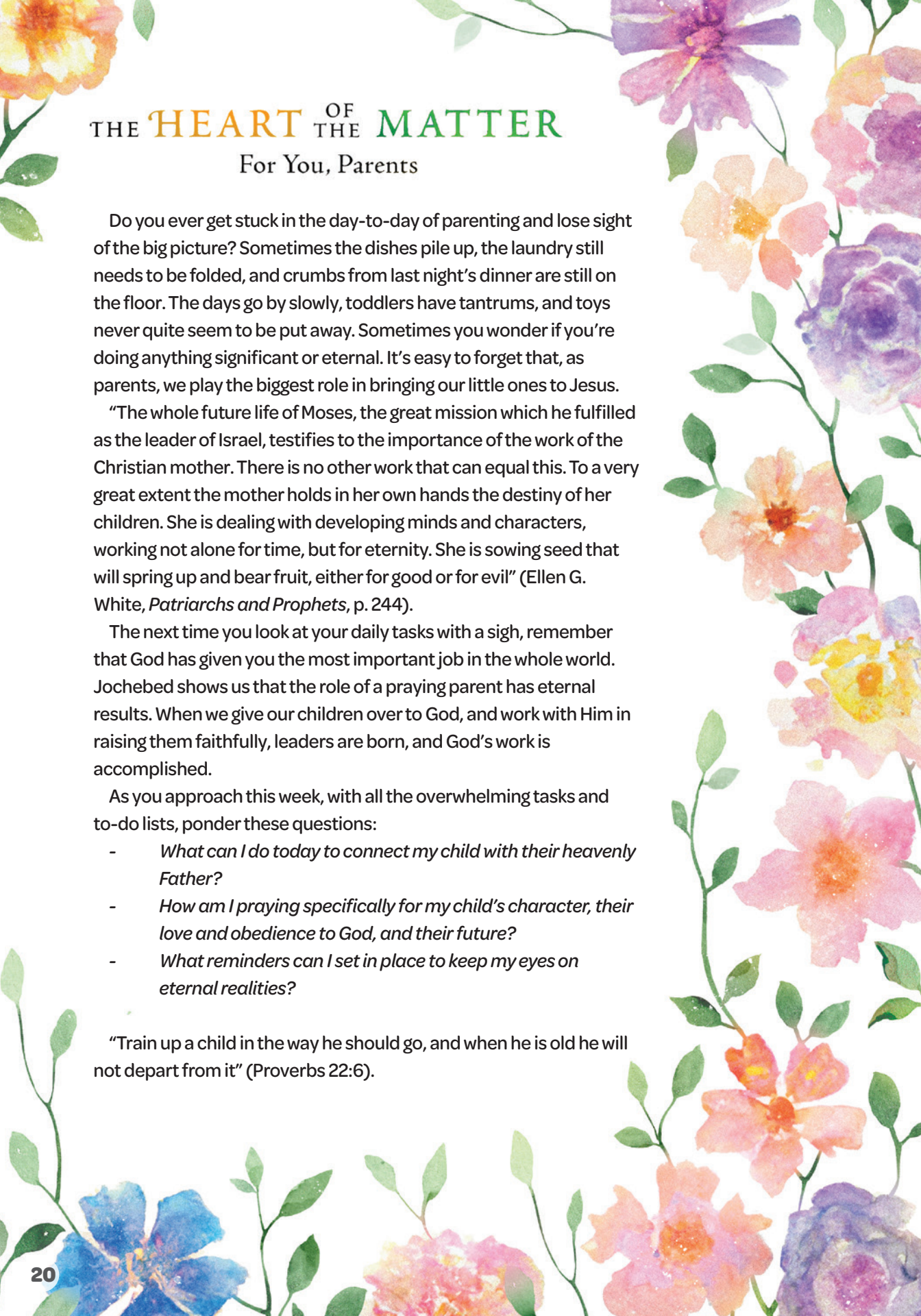


Discover

Re-create the scene of baby Moses in the basket boat on the river using everyday objects (e.g., use a blanket as the river). Act out the story using dolls and props from around the house. Talk about the ways God protected baby Moses on the river.

Pray

Thank God for sending His angels to watch over us. Pray that God will send angels to your home, and thank Him for His protection over your family.



THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

Do you ever get stuck in the day-to-day of parenting and lose sight of the big picture? Sometimes the dishes pile up, the laundry still needs to be folded, and crumbs from last night's dinner are still on the floor. The days go by slowly, toddlers have tantrums, and toys never quite seem to be put away. Sometimes you wonder if you're doing anything significant or eternal. It's easy to forget that, as parents, we play the biggest role in bringing our little ones to Jesus.

"The whole future life of Moses, the great mission which he fulfilled as the leader of Israel, testifies to the importance of the work of the Christian mother. There is no other work that can equal this. To a very great extent the mother holds in her own hands the destiny of her children. She is dealing with developing minds and characters, working not alone for time, but for eternity. She is sowing seed that will spring up and bear fruit, either for good or for evil" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 244).

The next time you look at your daily tasks with a sigh, remember that God has given you the most important job in the whole world. Jochebed shows us that the role of a praying parent has eternal results. When we give our children over to God, and work with Him in raising them faithfully, leaders are born, and God's work is accomplished.

As you approach this week, with all the overwhelming tasks and to-do lists, ponder these questions:

- *What can I do today to connect my child with their heavenly Father?*
- *How am I praying specifically for my child's character, their love and obedience to God, and their future?*
- *What reminders can I set in place to keep my eyes on eternal realities?*

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

BIG IDEA: I can obey God.

Week 3

The Fire in the Bush

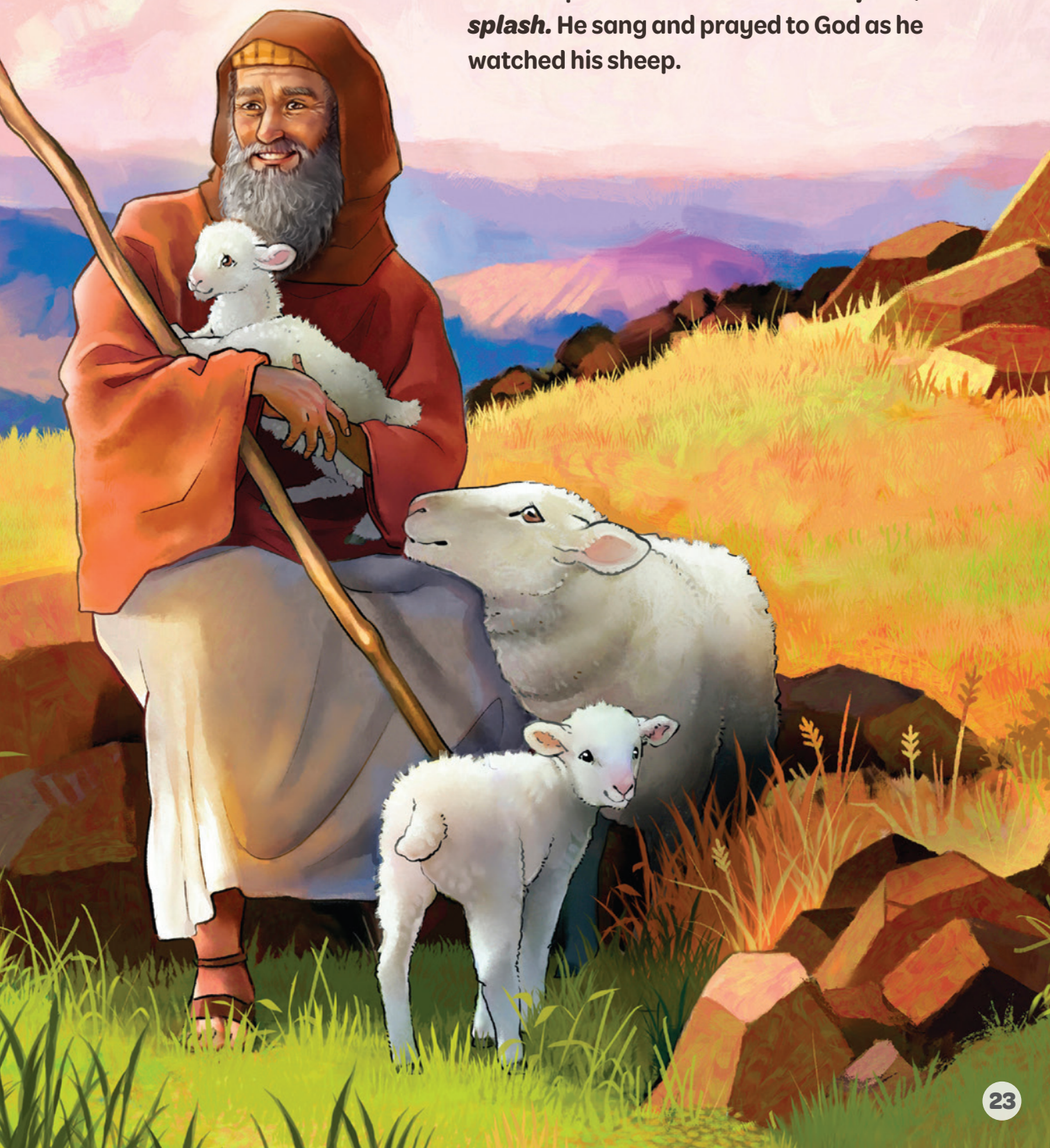


This lesson is based on Exodus 2:11-25; 3; 4:1-14; and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 244-256.



Moses called the sheep to his side. Come, sheep! The woolly sheep ran to him (*baa*). The little lambs ran quickly behind (*baa*). Moses smiled at them. He loved looking after the sheep. As a boy, he had lived as a prince in a palace in Egypt. But now he was a man and lived far, far away. Moses was a gentle shepherd.

The desert sun was hot, and the little lambs baaed and bleated. *(Can you make the sound of a sheep?)* They were thirsty, hot, and hungry. Moses led them to a stream. He was a kind shepherd. He loved spending time outside in God's nature. He listened as the stream splashed over little rocks. **Splish, splash.** He sang and prayed to God as he watched his sheep.



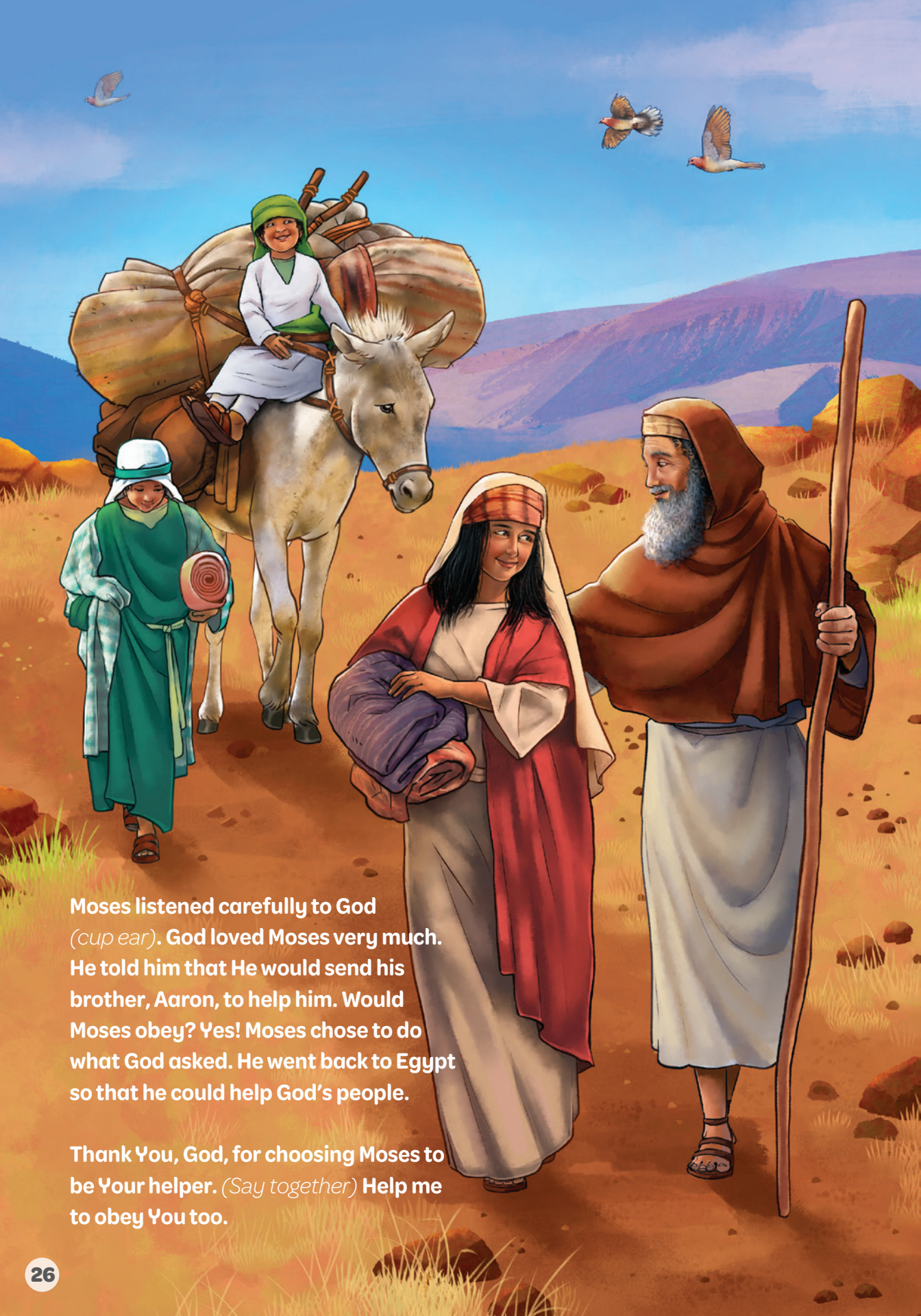
One day as Moses led his sheep to find water, he saw something that made him stop still. Up ahead a bush was on fire! **Flicker, flash.** The flames were big and hot. **Flicker, flash.** Moses looked closer. The bush was on fire, but the leaves and branches didn't burn up!

Suddenly Moses heard God call his name: "Moses, Moses! . . . Take off your sandals. You are standing on holy ground" (Exodus 3:4, 5, ICB). God was right there with Moses, inside the burning bush!





God told Moses that He had a special job for him. God's people in Egypt were sad (*make a sad face*). They had a mean king, called Pharaoh, who hurt them. God wanted Moses to lead the people away from Egypt. God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and say, "Let my people go!" Moses was scared. This was a big job! But God said, "I will be with you" (Exodus 3:12, ICB).



Moses listened carefully to God
(*cup ear*). God loved Moses very much.
He told him that He would send his
brother, Aaron, to help him. Would
Moses obey? Yes! Moses chose to do
what God asked. He went back to Egypt
so that he could help God's people.

Thank You, God, for choosing Moses to
be Your helper. (*Say together*) Help me
to obey You too.



Explore and Create

Go out into nature and talk about the things Moses would have seen as he looked after the sheep. Make little sheep out of natural objects and share how the sheep always followed Moses' voice. If indoors, print or draw a sheep and glue cotton balls to it.

Connect

Play a role-playing game with your child. Pretend to be the shepherd while your child is a sheep. Call your child to you. Pretend to drink from the stream and lie down to sleep. Pretend to look out for danger and protect your little "sheep." Thank God for watching over us like a shepherd watches their sheep.

Help

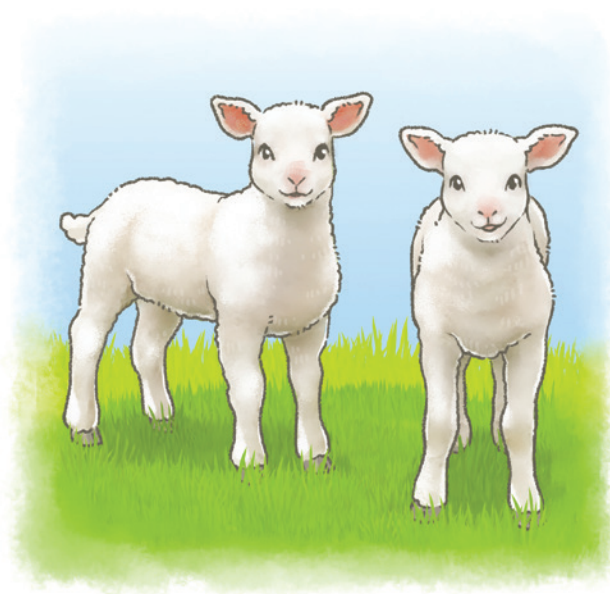
Discuss ways children can help around the house with simple jobs at their skill level. Share with them that sometimes there are jobs that are hard, and we may not want to do them. But we can still obey, just as Moses obeyed God. Encourage your child when they help or complete a hard job around the house.

Play

Make a game for obeying instructions. Ask your child to run around the room while you say stop and go. Your child will need to listen to your voice and obey. Change it up by whispering or speaking loudly, or going slow and fast. Talk about how important it is to listen to parents, grandparents, and caregivers.

Pray

Thank God for speaking to Moses. Thank Him for choosing us to be His helpers too. Ask God to help us listen to Him and obey.



THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

It happened in a desert, on a dusty, ordinary track that Moses walked on, in the middle of nowhere. There, in a scrawny desert bush, God showed up in a dazzling, mighty, out-of-the-ordinary way. God turned the cracked dirt into holy ground, and He spoke to Moses, calling him by name. God showed up in the midst of Moses' daily, common routine, and He captured Moses' attention.

Exodus 3:3 tells us, "Moses said, I will now turn aside and see this great sight . . ." Moses had to be willing to "turn aside"—to interrupt his daily routine and pay attention to God. If he had looked the other way, he would have missed the Exodus, the people of Israel, and his calling.

What about you? How might you pause to notice God in your busy day-to-day tasks today?

Imagine hearing God's voice in your living room, your car, or your workplace. Imagine your daily routine being interrupted by an attention-grabbing, beautiful, and holy encounter with God. He loves to meet us where we are. You may think you are in a dusty, ordinary season, but your home can be holy ground because the Almighty One is there with you. He says, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you" (Joshua 1:5).

God asks you to lead your family to Him. Like Moses, will you "turn aside" to spend time with God today? Open His Word; talk with Him, for the God of the universe wants to be close to you too.



BIG IDEA: God leads me.

Week 4

The *Red Sea*



This lesson is based on Exodus 14 and 15, and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 281-290.



Moses marched out of Egypt with a big smile. **March, march, march.** God had set all His people free! They didn't have to stay in Egypt with the mean king anymore. The people marched behind Moses. **March, march, march.** There were more people than you could count! Mooing cows and noisy sheep (*moo, baa*) walked with them. God went with them too! He led them by a cloud in the day that gave them shade from the hot sun. At night the cloud turned into fire that kept them warm. This was God's way of saying, "Follow Me! I will look after you" (*cuddle your child*).

March, march, march went the people (*march with fingers on the page*). They marched until they came to the Red Sea. It was big! It was wide! They couldn't swim through it. They couldn't jump over it. And they had no boats. Behind them they could see a cloud of dust in the distance. Oh, no! Pharaoh was coming to take them back to Egypt! The people were afraid. They forgot about God's cloud. They forgot God was leading them.

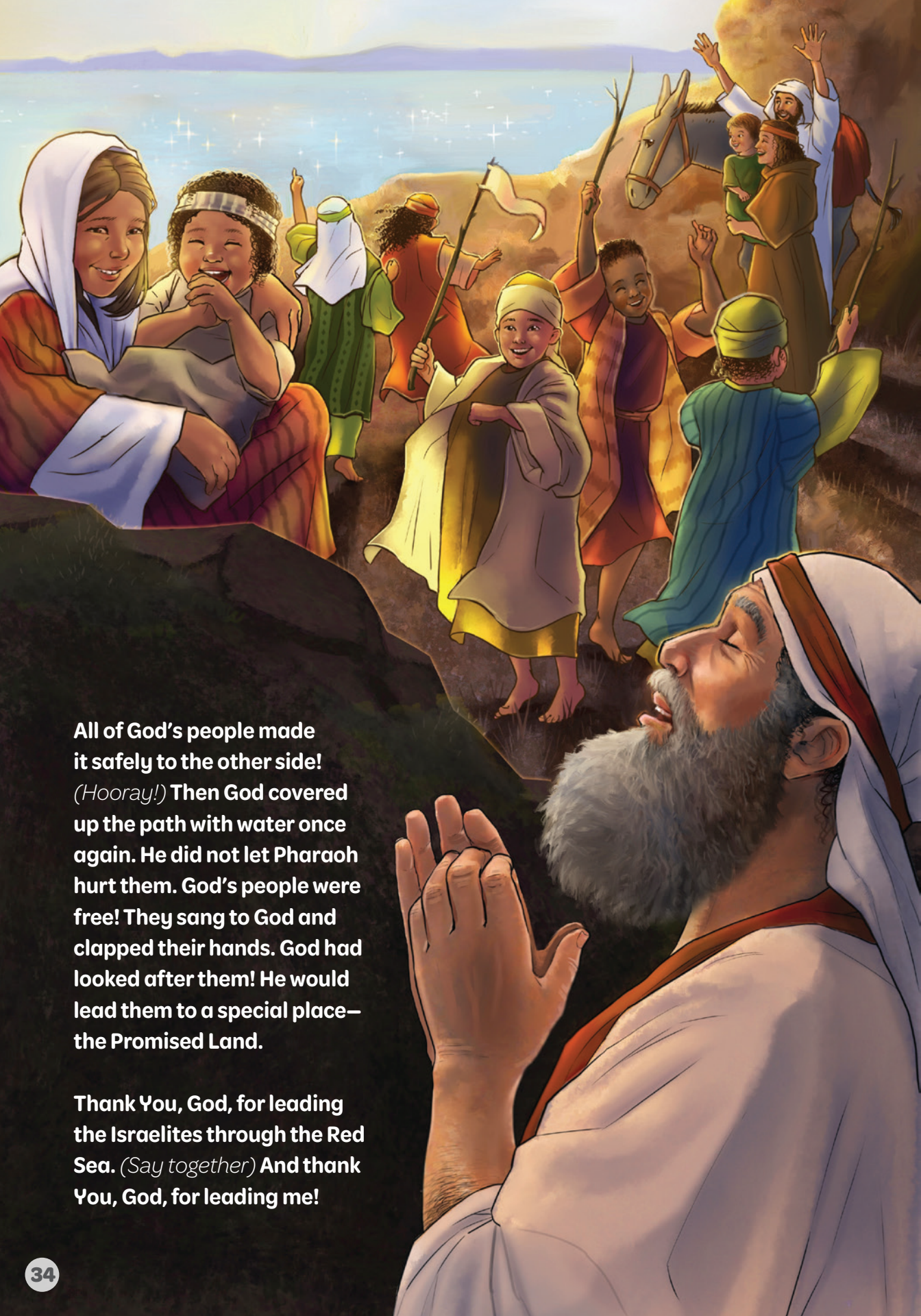




But Moses stayed calm. He trusted in God. He said, “Don’t be afraid! Stand still and see the Lord save you today” (Exodus 14:13, ICB). God told Moses to raise his walking stick over the water (*hold your arm up in the air*). Then something happened. God sent a great wind to blow (*whoosh, whoosh*). It piled up water on one side and then the other. God opened up a path in the middle of the sea!

God's people looked at each other with big eyes and open mouths! *(Can you make a surprised face?)* God was so good! All the people marched through the sea on dry ground. **March, march, march.** Little children sat on their daddy's shoulders and pointed at the walls of water—maybe they'd see a fish! Mommys held their babies close. Aunties, uncles, grandmas, and grandpas all walked quickly to the other side. The cows and sheep followed behind.





All of God's people made it safely to the other side! *(Hooray!)* Then God covered up the path with water once again. He did not let Pharaoh hurt them. God's people were free! They sang to God and clapped their hands. God had looked after them! He would lead them to a special place—the Promised Land.

Thank You, God, for leading the Israelites through the Red Sea. *(Say together)* And thank You, God, for leading me!



Create

Make an ocean together by setting blue jelly (gelatin) in the fridge. Use a spoon to create a path for the Israelites. Find or make little people to walk through the sea. Add plastic animals if you have them. If you don't have blue jelly, you could use sand or dirt.

Learn

Find an ocean book at home, borrow one, or look for a video online. Cuddle up with your child to look at the pictures. Talk about some of the fish and sea creatures that the Israelites may have seen as they walked through the Red Sea.

Explore

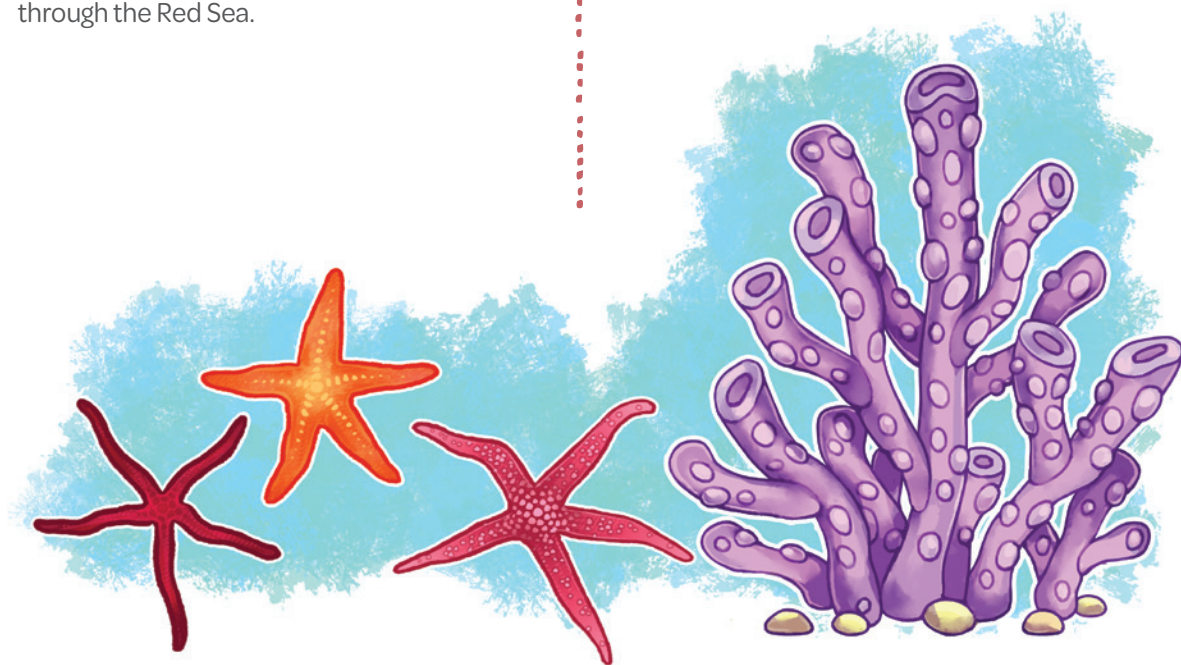
Find a body of water that's nearby—a creek, lake, swimming pool, or tub filled with water. If practical, let your child put their toes in to feel the water. Share how the water would have split in two and imagine what it would have been like to walk through the water on dry land.

Connect

Play follow the leader around your home. Take turns being the leader. Talk about how the Israelites followed their Leader (God) in the desert by following God's cloud in the daytime and God's fire at night.

Prayer

Thank God for leading the Israelites through the Red Sea. Talk about some of the ways God can lead us today. Ask Him to lead you in whatever you do that day.





THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

The Red Sea spread out in front of them as a great, impassable obstacle. Behind them, in a cloud of dust, came the known and dreaded army of Pharaoh. There they stood, 1 million scared people, facing two impossibilities: two potential disasters.

They had just seen God show His might and power in Egypt. He had delivered them from death, slavery, and pain. Now they faced their first hurdle as a free nation. How did they respond? They panicked. They whined to Moses. And Moses replied:

“Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. . . . The Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace” (Exodus 14:13, 14).

Impress these words from God on your heart, and think of them throughout your day and week ahead. Problems, both big and small, will come at you—sometimes in front and sometimes behind. The way forward may seem impossible. But not with God! Trust Him to lead you forward.

“The great lesson here taught is for all time. Often the Christian life is beset by dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagination pictures impending ruin before and bondage or death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, ‘Go forward.’ . . . Unbelief whispers, ‘Let us wait till the obstructions are removed, and we can see our way clearly;’ but faith courageously urges an advance, hoping all things, believing all things” (Ellen. G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 290).





BIG IDEA: God looks after me.

Week 5

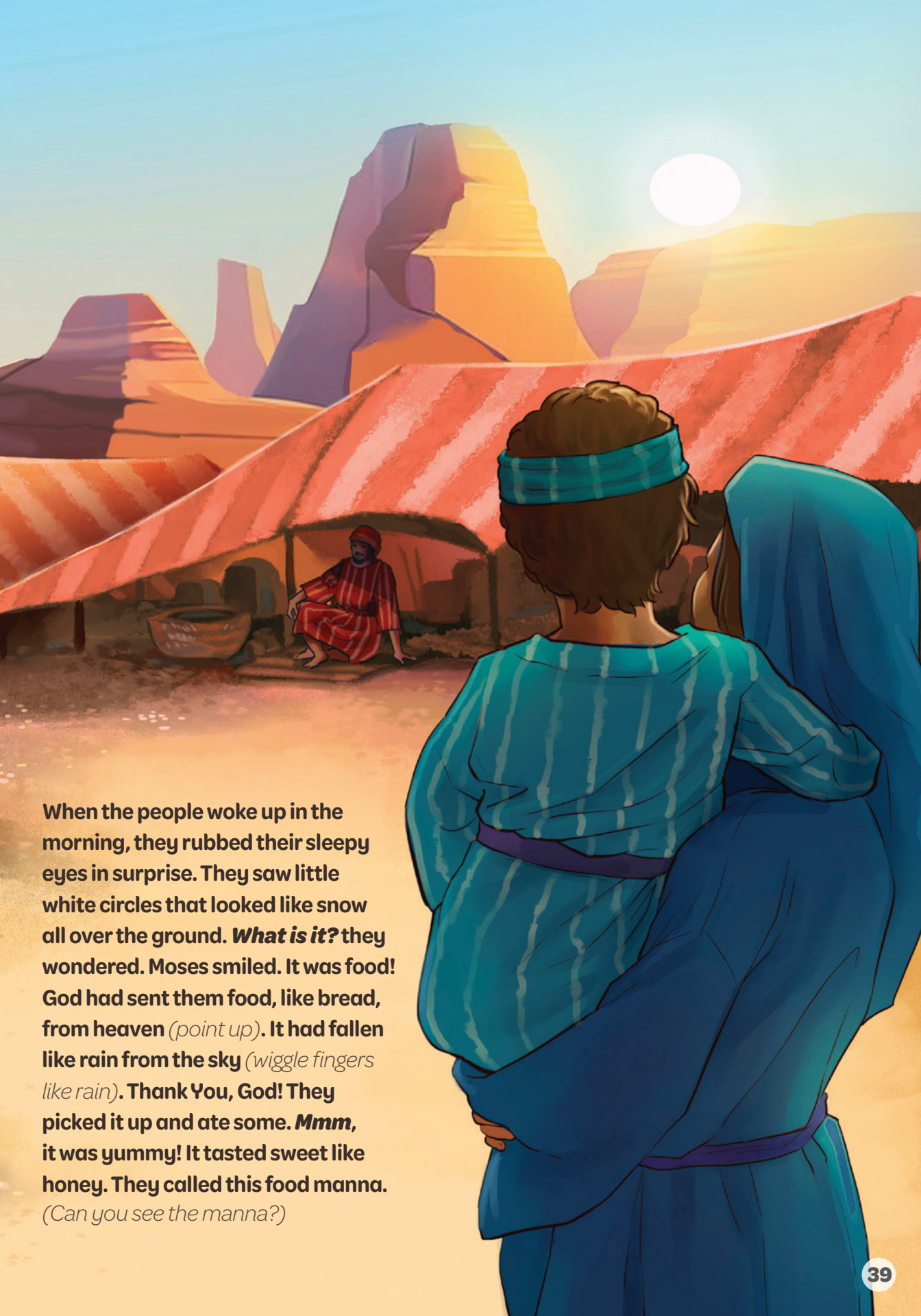
The Food and Water *Surprise*



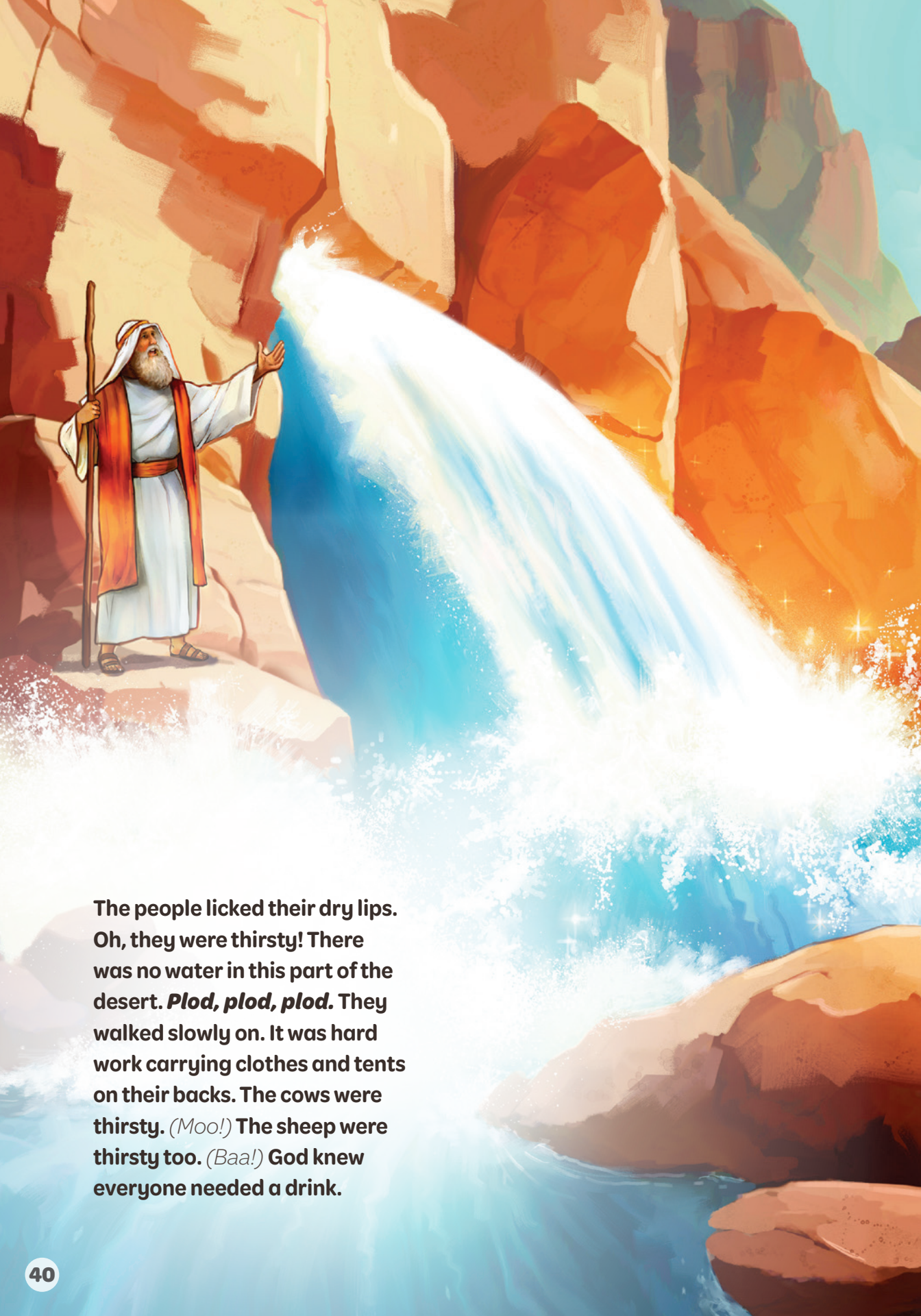
This lesson is based on Exodus 16 and 17 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 291-302.

God's people walked slowly through the hot, dusty desert. **Plod, plod, plod.** They weren't very happy (*frown*). They were hot! They were hungry! There were no gardens that grew food in the desert. There were no markets to buy food either. They stomped their feet. "We need food! We need water!" (Exodus 16:3, ICB). They grumbled to Moses (*grumble, grumble*). Then they grumbled some more (*grumble, grumble*). But the people didn't need to grumble—God would take care of them.





When the people woke up in the morning, they rubbed their sleepy eyes in surprise. They saw little white circles that looked like snow all over the ground. **What is it?** they wondered. Moses smiled. It was food! God had sent them food, like bread, from heaven (*point up*). It had fallen like rain from the sky (*wiggle fingers like rain*). Thank You, God! They picked it up and ate some. **Mmm**, it was yummy! It tasted sweet like honey. They called this food manna. (*Can you see the manna?*)



The people licked their dry lips. Oh, they were thirsty! There was no water in this part of the desert. **Plod, plod, plod.** They walked slowly on. It was hard work carrying clothes and tents on their backs. The cows were thirsty. (*Moo!*) The sheep were thirsty too. (*Baa!*) God knew everyone needed a drink.

When the people stopped at some rocks, God told Moses to hit the rock with his walking stick. Suddenly a fresh, cool stream of water poured out of the rock like a waterfall. ***Splish, splash, splosh!*** The people cheered! Now they didn't have to be thirsty anymore. God was so kind to give them water.



God loved His people like a new daddy or mommy loves their precious baby (*pretend to hold a baby in your arms*). **He wanted to care for them and give them what they needed. He sent them food and water. God knows what you need, and He loves to look after you.**

(*Say together*) **Thank You, God, for looking after me!**





Create

Choose to create a scene of either miracle manna falling or water coming from the rock and use it to talk about how God loves to give His children what they need.

For manna, you may like to set up a desert camp scene using blocks, toys, or stuffed animals on a clean surface. Choose a common white food for manna, such as rice, rice puffs, or crackers. Sprinkle everywhere, then have fun collecting (and perhaps eating) it.

For water from a rock, you may like to set up a scene in a sandbox or the dirt outside. Use natural objects to re-create the Israelites walking through the desert. Make little tents for the people using sticks and leaves. Find a rock that Moses could hit once with his stick for the water to come out. Use a cup or

watering can to pour water over the rock. Talk about the amazing miracle God did.

Explore

Go outside and do lots of running, jumping, and sprinting together. When your child is hot and ready for a drink of water, give them a cup of cool water. Talk about how the Israelites would have been so hot and thirsty—just as your child is right now! God gave them a drink because He loved them and looked after them. God looks after you too!

Connect

One day this week, prepare a snack of honey on bread or crackers that are cut into small pieces. Talk about what manna might have tasted like. Talk about how the Israelites would have reacted to seeing it for the first time.

Pray

Write a list together of all the ways God looks after us (e.g., food, water, shelter, loving family). Draw a picture beside each item. Display the list on the fridge and remember to thank God for these things in your family prayers this week.



THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

How easy it is to look back in disbelief on the Israelites' journey and wonder at how they could be so quick to forget God's leading. They could see Him in fire and cloud, and in the morning miracle of manna. But still they complained and doubted that He would provide.

Surely we would not be like that! And yet we too forget just who God is: love. We forget that the God who loved us yesterday will provide for us today, tomorrow, and always. We forget to fill our hearts with gratitude and praise, and let God turn that into trust.

When we forget to look to God, our focus falls instead on our problems, our to-do list, want list, pressures, and pain. And yes, we too complain! On this troubled soil doubt and distrust grow. "Why should we be ungrateful and distrustful? Jesus is our friend; all heaven is interested in our welfare; and our anxiety and fear grieve the Holy Spirit of God" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 294).

God is an ever-present Father, always faithful and kind. He does not forget us, and He provides the things we need. He forgives our complaining hearts, and lovingly guides us as we journey to the Promised Land. He says, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).



BIG IDEA: God is always with me.

Week 6

Cloud *and* Fire



This lesson is based on Exodus 19 and 20 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 303-314.

God's people kept marching through the hot, dusty desert. The sun shone brightly in the clear blue sky. But the people didn't feel the sun burning their skin. God covered them with His special cloud. God's cloud kept them cool in the hot desert. It gave them shade from the sun. Thank You, God!





When the big cloud moved slowly across the desert, God's people followed along behind it. **Follow, follow, follow** (*walk fingers on page*). God was using the cloud to lead them! When the cloud stopped moving, God's people stopped too. Quickly they set up their tents. When the cloud started to move again, they packed up everything and started walking. **Follow, follow, follow** (*walk fingers on page*). It was so special to see God leading them!



At night, God's cloud changed into a tower of fire. It glowed orange and red against the dark night sky. ***Flicker, flicker.*** It kept God's people warm on the cold desert nights (*cuddle up close*). The fire was like a beautiful night-light. It helped them to feel safe and loved. God was with them in the cool cloud during the day. He was with them in the warm fire at night.



God promised to be with His people always! He called Moses to come and meet Him on a mountain. **Up, up, up** the mountain climbed Moses, to meet with God. God talked with Moses. He gave him a very special gift for the people. It was a list of good things to do to love God and love others. It's called the Ten Commandments. It's in our Bible today. Moses was so happy! He knew God loved him, and God loved all the people.



God loves you too! We can read God's words to us in the Bible. We can learn how to love Him and others with all of our hearts. The Bible tells us that God is with us always. He is with you when you wake. He is with you when you play. He is with you all through the day! He's with you when you lay down your sleepy head. He is with you all through the night!

Thank You, God, for being with Your people in the cloud and fire. *(Say together)*
Thank You for being with me, always.



Create

Make a tower (tube) of fire. Have your child do a big scribble of fire on a blank piece of paper, using orange and red crayons or markers. Fill the page with color! Cut out the flames and glue them onto another piece of paper. Wrap the flames around a tube or broomstick. When the people saw the fire, they remembered that God was with them. God is with us too.

Connect

Plan a special Friday night this week to celebrate that God is always with us. Make special dinner and let your child help you



set the table nicely. Pick flowers or leaves outside to decorate the table and light candles, if you have them. Enjoy bringing in the Sabbath with singing songs and worshipping together.

Play

Pretend to be an Israelite following God's cloud. Talk about how the Israelites followed God, their leader, going behind the cloud and fire. Make a little tent together with a towel hung between two chairs. You may like to include the tower of fire you created. Pretend morning comes and God's cloud moves. Say, "God's cloud is moving; let's follow Him" and quickly pack up the tent. Then have your child follow you as you pretend to follow the cloud. When the cloud stops, quickly set up the tent again.

Pray

God shows us His love for us in the Bible. Read the memory verse from your Bible. Try to say it together. Thank God that He is always with us.





THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

God's fire and cloud illuminate the loving protectiveness of our God. But God wanted more. He wanted to be even closer to His people. He desired an intimate relationship with them. He wants to have this with you too. When the people arrived at Mount Sinai, they were to prepare to meet Him. Here was a chance to learn more about the God who had freed and saved them.

For days the Israelites prepared to meet with God. They cleaned their tents, their clothes, and their hearts. With a sense of excitement and awe they bowed before the Lord at the edge of the mountain.

He came with an amazing display of splendor and power. When the Israelites saw the mighty signs of His presence, "they trembled and stood afar off" (Exodus 20:18). Their view of God had been shaped by their harsh experience as slaves. His power terrified them! Rather than come closer to see the amazing God who saved them, they shrank back in fear and missed their chance to directly receive God's 10 laws of love close-up and personal.

God is always taking a step closer toward you. Still, God wants more. His aim is to dwell within you. When we accept Him as our Savior, He takes up the closest position possible. "Do you not know yourselves, that Christ is in you?" (2 Corinthians 13:5). The guidance, protection, warmth, safety, and care He shows His children in the desert is just a foretaste of what Jesus offers you when He is the leader of your heart.

Come closer to Him in prayer and Bible study today. He can't wait to come close to you! "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

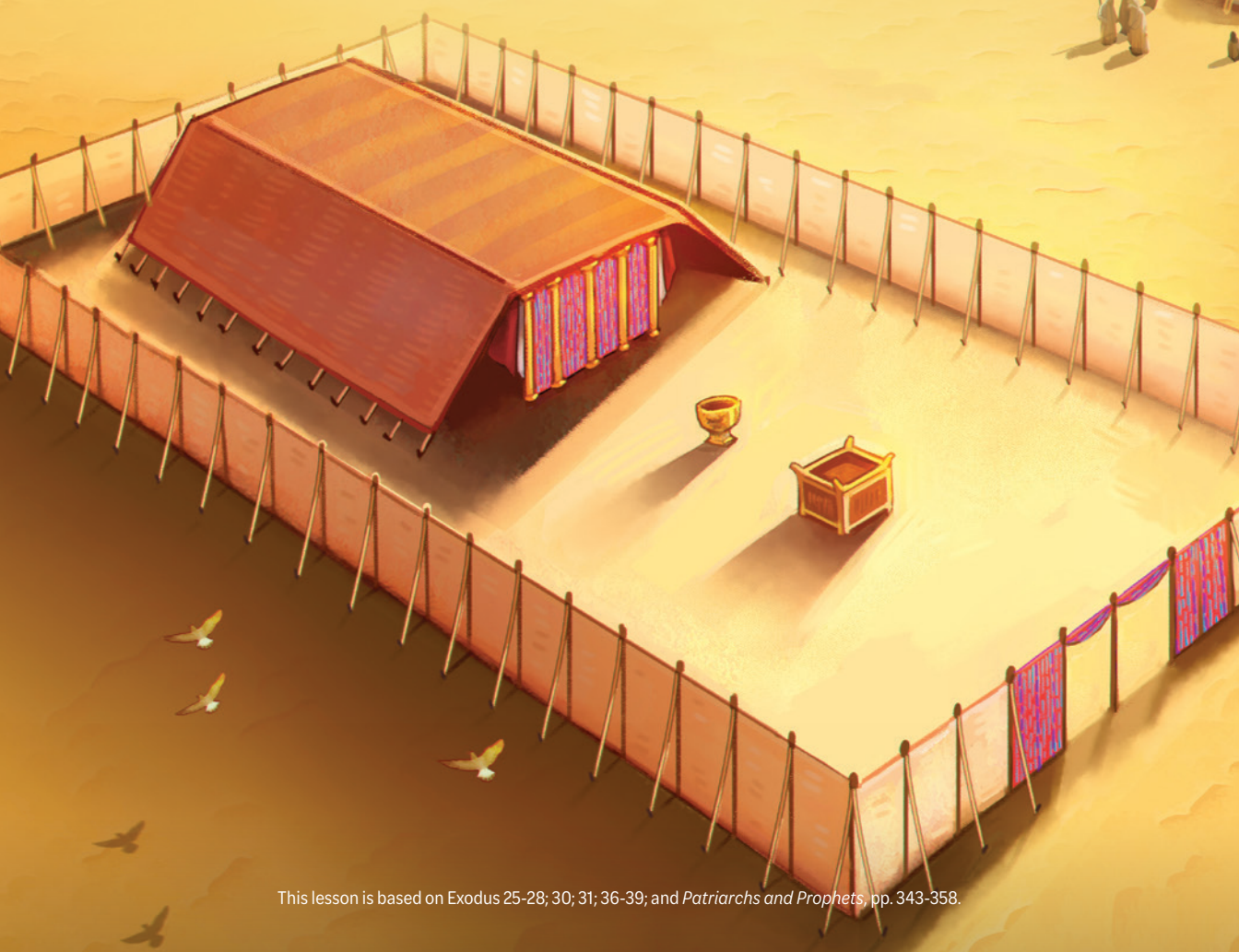




BIG IDEA: I can work with others to help God.

Week 7

God's Special Home



This lesson is based on Exodus 25-28; 30; 31; 36-39; and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 343-358.



Clink, clink went the silver coins into a basket. The little girl clapped her hands. She was so happy to give to God! Another child waited behind her, carrying a gold pot. It was for God too! Everyone in camp lined up to happily give their precious things to God. They had shiny gold rings, pots, and other things. They had cups and bowls in silver and bronze. They had jewels that sparkled in the golden sun. They gave these things to make God's new home.

God's new home would sparkle.
God's new home would shine. But
best of all, God's new home would
be right in the middle of camp!
God had told Moses to build Him
a home called a tabernacle. He
wanted to be with His people, right
there in the middle of them all.

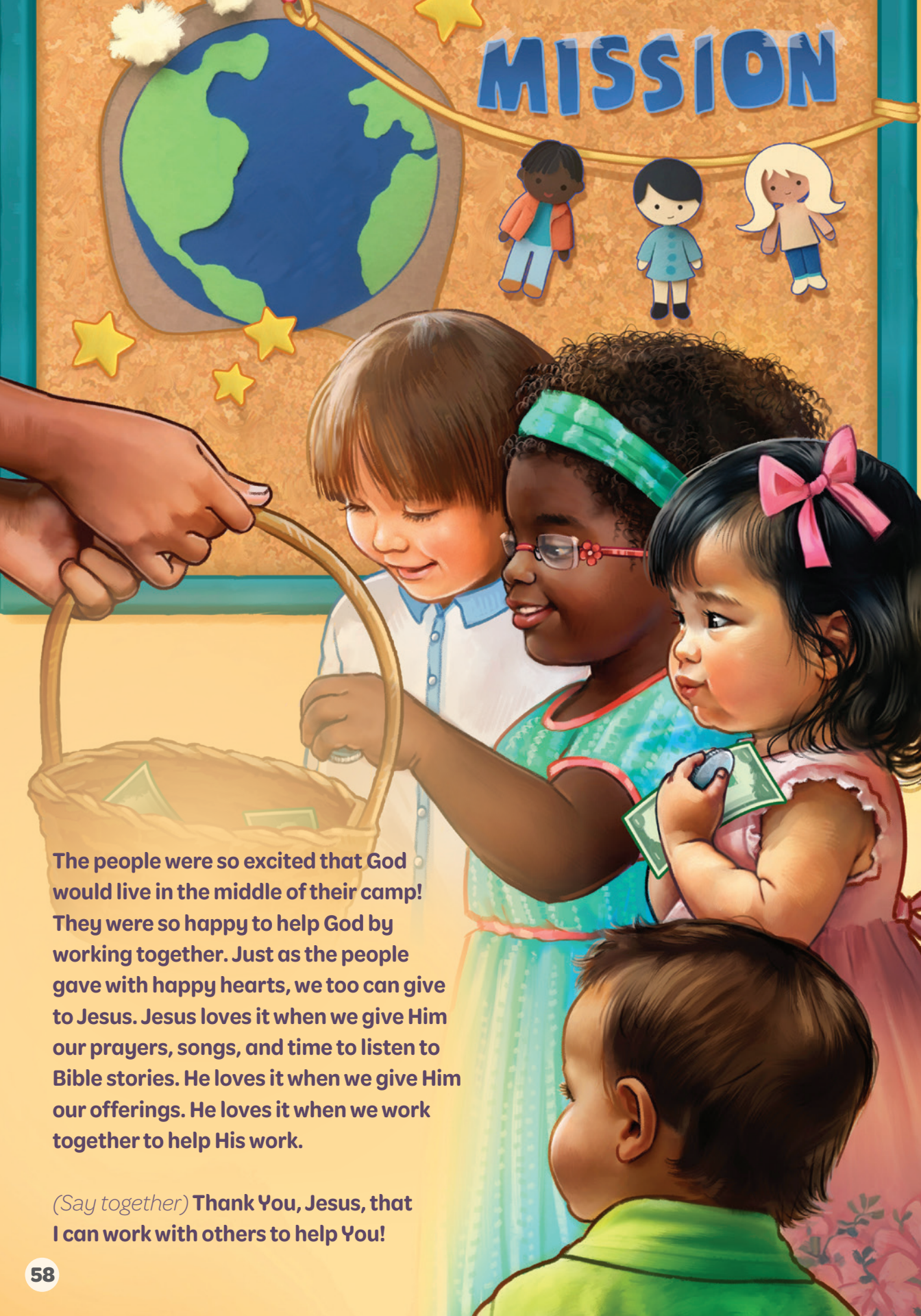


The baskets of coins filled up . . . up . . . up. ***Clink, clink.*** The people kept giving. The piles of pots grew higher . . . and higher . . . and higher. Until . . . stop! Moses held up his hands. He counted the baskets. There was more than enough! He was so happy. The people had worked together to give lots and lots of precious things to God. Now they could make God's beautiful home.





The people looked for ways to help. Some became builders (*point to builders*). **Hammer, hammer, hammer.** The builders used wood, gold, silver, and bronze to make beautiful things for God's home. Some people carried heavy things, and others showed them where to put them (*point to picture*). Some people became sewers (*point to sewers*). **Sew, sew, sew** went their little needles. They made beautiful purple, red, and blue curtains for God's home. Some people became helpers (*point to helper with food*). They brought food and water to the workers.

A colorful illustration of four children of diverse backgrounds. A hand from the left holds a wicker basket containing green paper offerings. A young boy with brown hair and a white shirt is placing a coin into the basket. A girl with dark skin, glasses, and a green headband is also giving. A girl with dark hair and a pink bow is holding a coin. A boy with dark hair in a green shirt is in the foreground, looking towards the basket. In the background, a large globe is on the wall, and three small figures hang from a string. The word 'MISSION' is written in large blue letters at the top right.

MISSION

The people were so excited that God would live in the middle of their camp! They were so happy to help God by working together. Just as the people gave with happy hearts, we too can give to Jesus. Jesus loves it when we give Him our prayers, songs, and time to listen to Bible stories. He loves it when we give Him our offerings. He loves it when we work together to help His work.

(Say together) **Thank You, Jesus, that I can work with others to help You!**



Create

Create a mini tabernacle using blocks or cardboard.

Explore

Talk about how the Israelites gave God their special things with happy hearts. Let your child help with some jobs this week to earn a few coins. Remind your child on Sabbath morning about the coins they earned and ask them if they would like to give them to Jesus. Put them in the offering at Sabbath School or church.

Practice

Practice teamwork throughout the week. Think of tasks your child can help with, such as folding clothes or tidying up. In all the little jobs this week, ask them to help as a team. Affirm their special qualities: cheerfulness, carefulness, eagerness, etc. God has made us all different so we can share our talents and work well together.

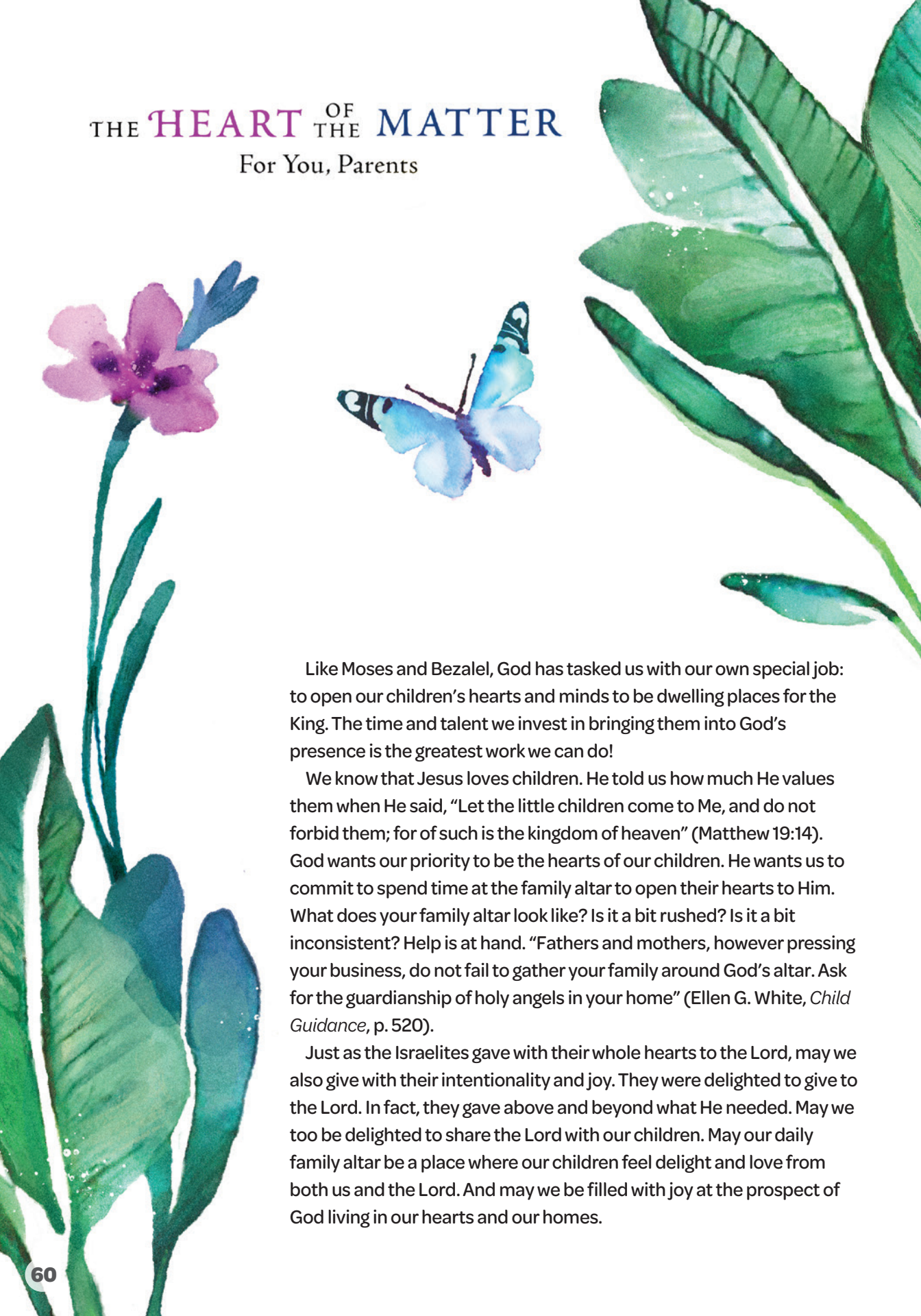
Connect

Think about an act of kindness you could do together this week to be like Jesus and love others. It could be making a card together for someone sick, making rice pudding or baking muffins for a neighbor, or helping Grandma in her garden. Thank God that we can work together with Him to help others.

Prayer

Thank God that He asks for our help, even though He is the king of the universe! Ask Him to show you how you can help Him this week. As a family, think about or write down names of people in need whom you think God is asking you to encourage and help.





THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

Like Moses and Bezalel, God has tasked us with our own special job: to open our children's hearts and minds to be dwelling places for the King. The time and talent we invest in bringing them into God's presence is the greatest work we can do!

We know that Jesus loves children. He told us how much He values them when He said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). God wants our priority to be the hearts of our children. He wants us to commit to spend time at the family altar to open their hearts to Him. What does your family altar look like? Is it a bit rushed? Is it a bit inconsistent? Help is at hand. "Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, do not fail to gather your family around God's altar. Ask for the guardianship of holy angels in your home" (Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*, p. 520).

Just as the Israelites gave with their whole hearts to the Lord, may we also give with their intentionality and joy. They were delighted to give to the Lord. In fact, they gave above and beyond what He needed. May we too be delighted to share the Lord with our children. May our daily family altar be a place where our children feel delight and love from both us and the Lord. And may we be filled with joy at the prospect of God living in our hearts and our homes.

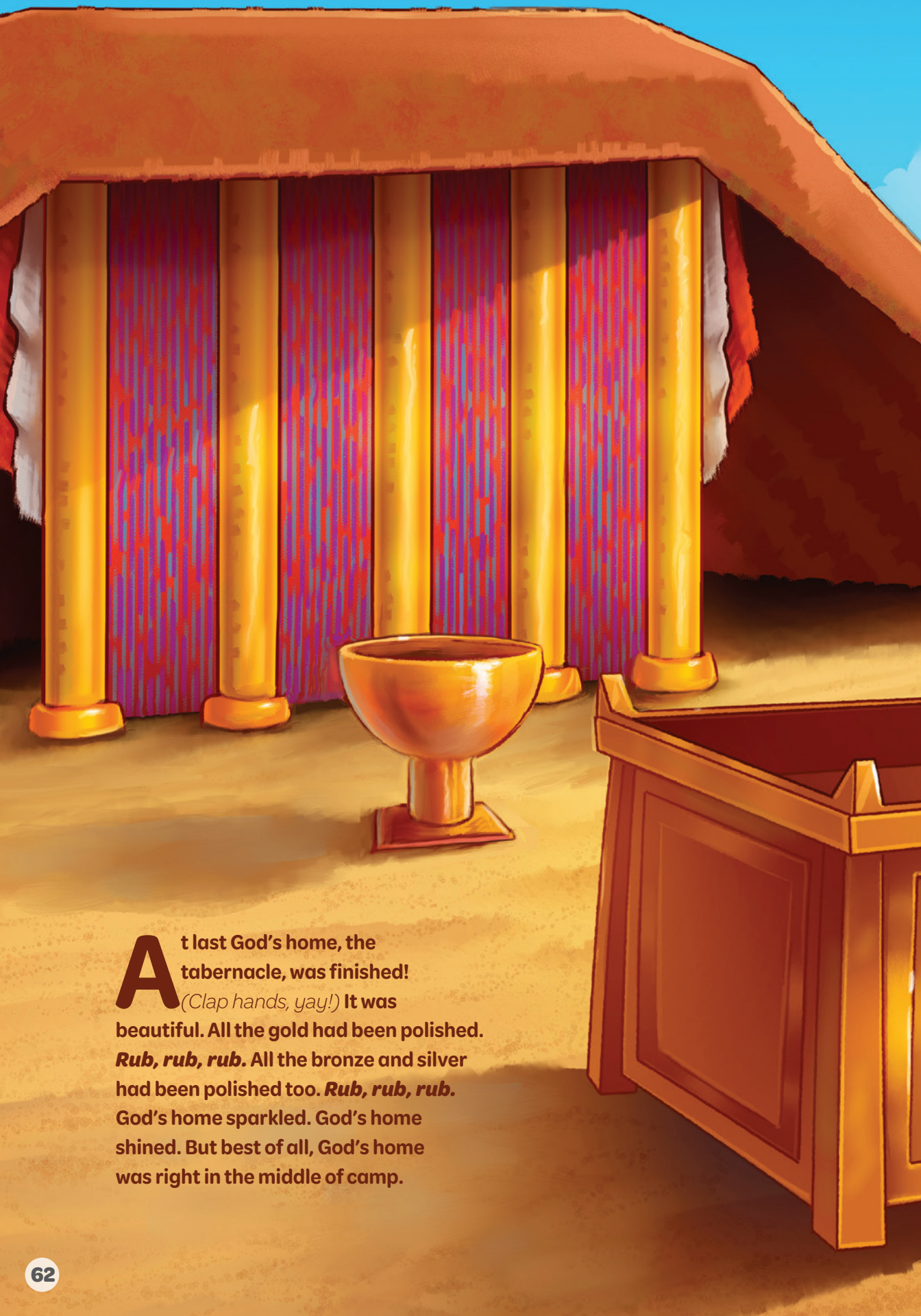
BIG IDEA: God wants to be close to me.

Week 8

God's Home **Is Finished**



This lesson is based on Exodus 40 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 343-358.



At last God's home, the
tabernacle, was finished!
(Clap hands, yay!) It was
beautiful. All the gold had been polished.
Rub, rub, rub. All the bronze and silver
had been polished too. **Rub, rub, rub.**
God's home sparkled. God's home
shined. But best of all, God's home
was right in the middle of camp.

Moses smiled. He looked at the pretty curtains gently blowing in the breeze. He checked the shiny altar (*point to altar*). He saw the beautiful golden lampstand. He looked at the beautiful golden ark with the two angels on top. He saw all of the furniture and smiled again. Everything was just right. It was all just as God had said. Moses thanked the people. They had hammered and sewed. They had carried and helped. He was proud of them for working together for God. Now it was time for God to move in!

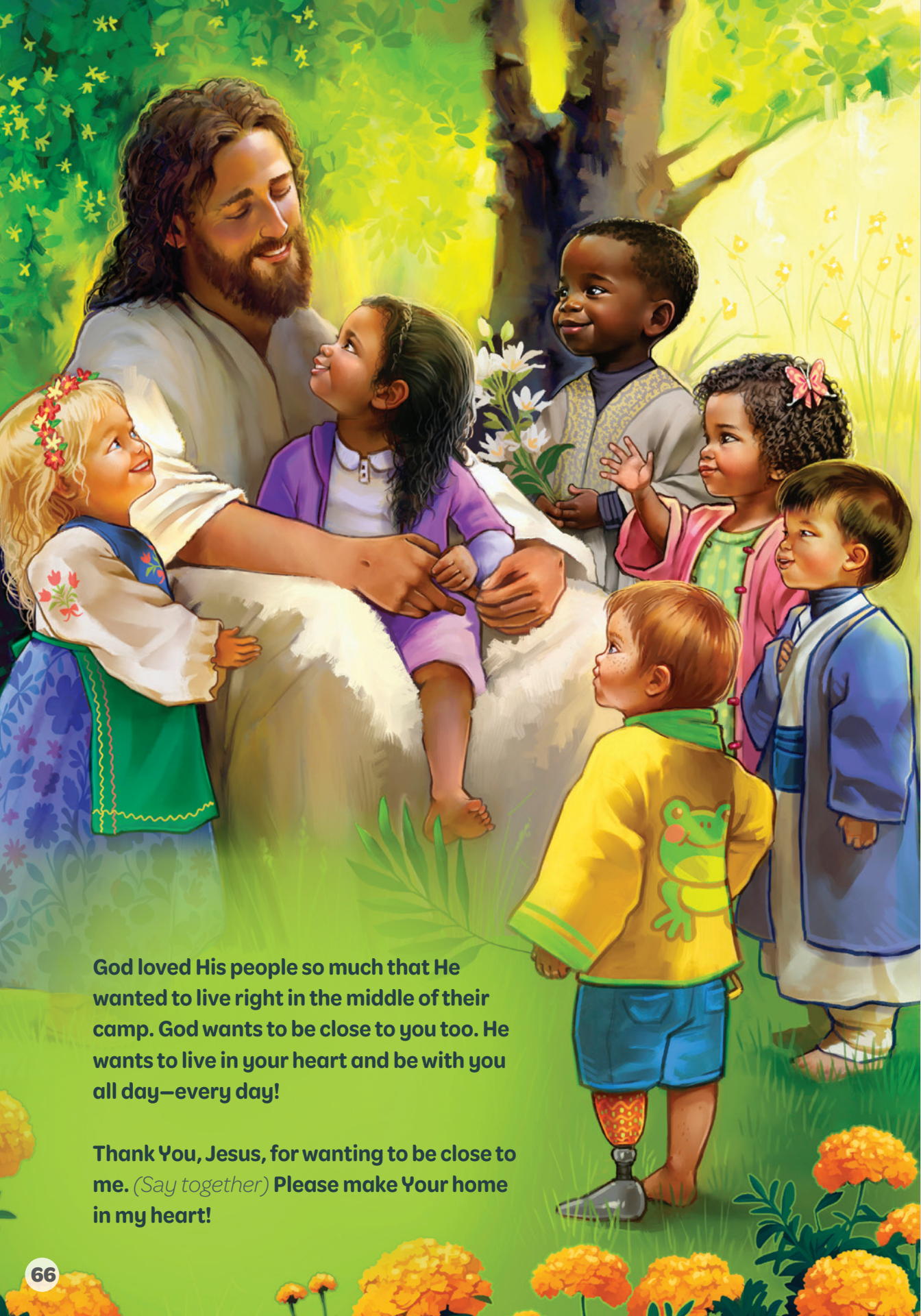


The people watched and waited. ***Shh! What would God do?*** God's special cloud began to move! It floated closer . . . closer . . . closer. Then the cloud moved right over and inside the tabernacle. God was in His new home! The people cried happy tears. Their hearts were so full of joy! They whispered prayers of thanks that God had decided to live so close to them.





When the cloud lifted from God's home, the people knew it was time to pack up and start walking. ***Follow, follow, follow.*** If the cloud was still, they stayed in their camp. The cloud floated above God's home during the day. At night a fire glowed inside the cloud so that all of God's people could see it. They never felt alone—they knew God was right there with them.



God loved His people so much that He wanted to live right in the middle of their camp. God wants to be close to you too. He wants to live in your heart and be with you all day—every day!

Thank You, Jesus, for wanting to be close to me. *(Say together)* Please make Your home in my heart!



Learn

Talk about how Jesus fills us up with love and kindness when He lives in our hearts. We then have lots of kindness to give to others. Think of ways God uses our senses to be kind to others. For example: eyes (*without asking, look out for a job that needs to be done*), ears (*listen for someone who needs help*), smell (*give flowers to a friend*), touch (*give a hug to someone who is sad*), and taste (*bake something healthy and yummy to give to someone else*).

Explore

If weather permits, go on a nature walk and find a nice grassy place to lie down and watch the clouds. Alternatively, look up “cloud watching” videos online. Look at the clouds; talk about what it would be like to follow God’s cloud and see the cloud right near your home. Thank Jesus for leading you and being close to you.

Connect

Ask your child to close their eyes tightly. Hold your child’s hand. Say, “Even though you can’t see me, you know I am here because you can feel my hand. God is like that too! We can’t see Him, but we can feel He is close to us.”

Sing

Share that when Jesus lives in our hearts, He helps us make good choices and helps us to be loving and kind. Ask your child if they want to invite God into their heart. Sing a song, such as “Into My Heart,” together.

Create and Pray

Draw and cut out a large heart shape. Have your child color it in. Then let them hold it as you pray together and ask Jesus to come into your hearts.



THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

God wants to be close to you. Let that sink in. He desires more than anything to be your closest friend, your encourager, and your leader. How blessed the Israelites were to have physical evidence of God's closeness and guidance in their lives.

When you look back over your life, I'm sure you can pinpoint moments you have felt closest to God. How amazing is it that God desires to be close to us *always*! He wants to have a continuous relationship with us, not one that stops and starts as our emotions or situations change. God promised to be with the Israelites *always*. Through all their travels, in the hills, and in the valleys. That promise is ours too. He is willing to show up every day, in every moment. May we open our eyes to see the many ways God's wonderful cloud of comfort and protection is surrounding us today.

When we choose to let God in and be close to Him, everything changes! We're able to speak softly and kindly to our children, even when they misbehave. Our burdens lighten, our joy is not dependent on circumstances, and we can love more freely. We are so blessed to be able to say that our hearts can be His sanctuary and that He can dwell in us.

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father . . . , that Christ may **dwell** in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:14-19).

As you walk through this week knowing that Christ is dwelling in your heart, may you begin to comprehend the many dimensions of God's love and may you be filled to overflowing with His never-ending joy and peace.

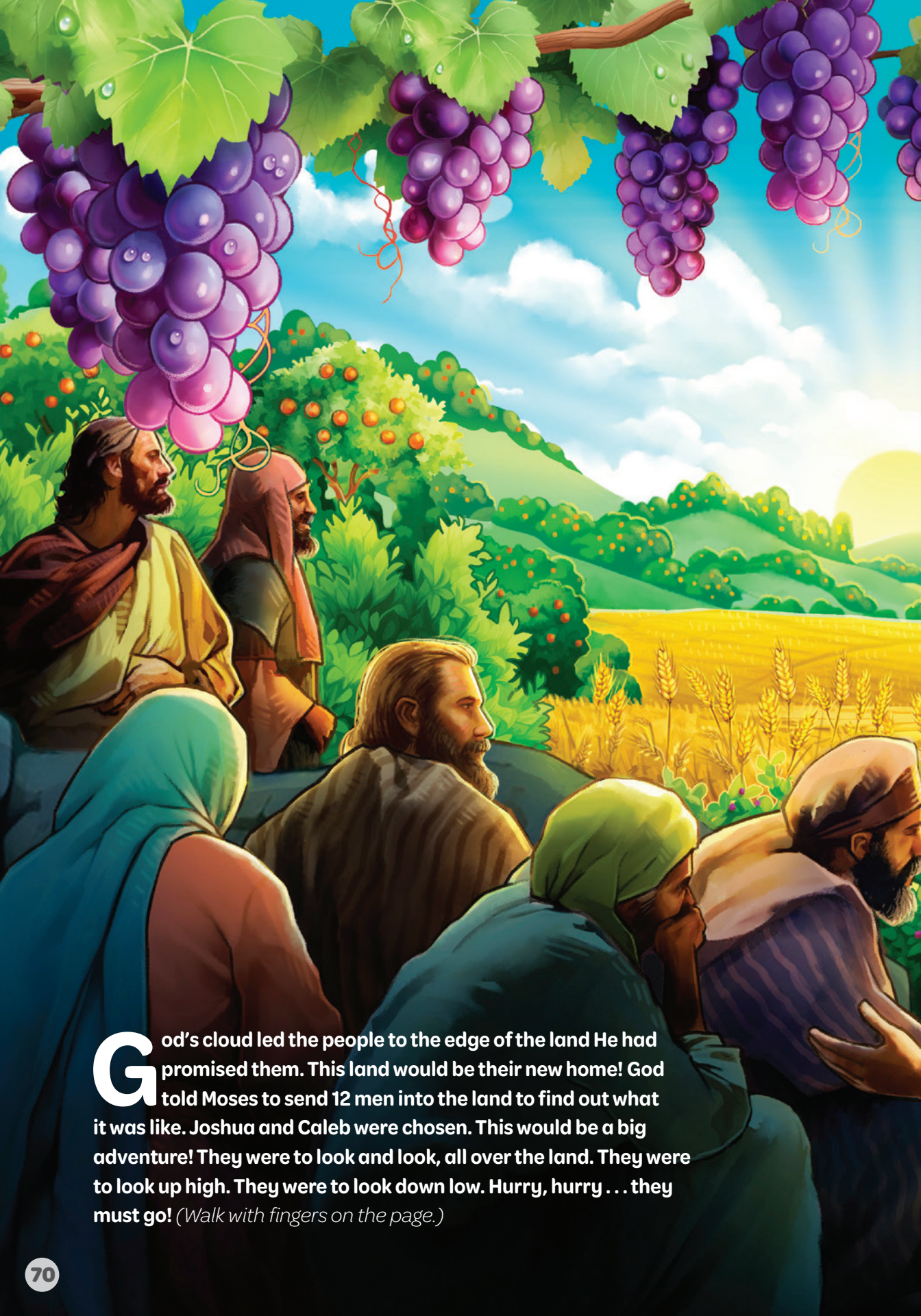
BIG IDEA: I can trust God's plan .

Week 9

Joshua and Caleb's Adventure



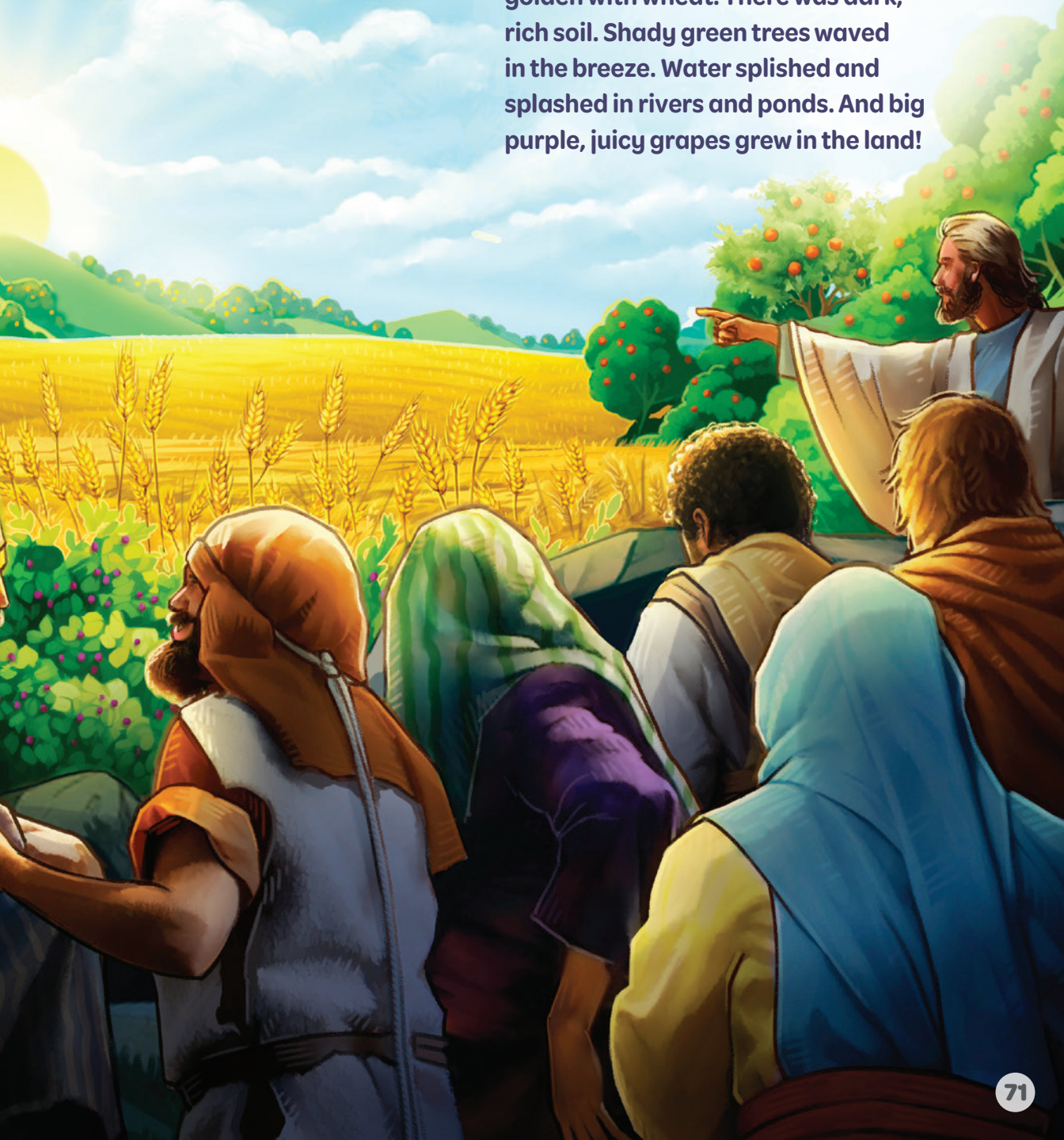
This lesson is based on Numbers 13 and 14 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 387-394.



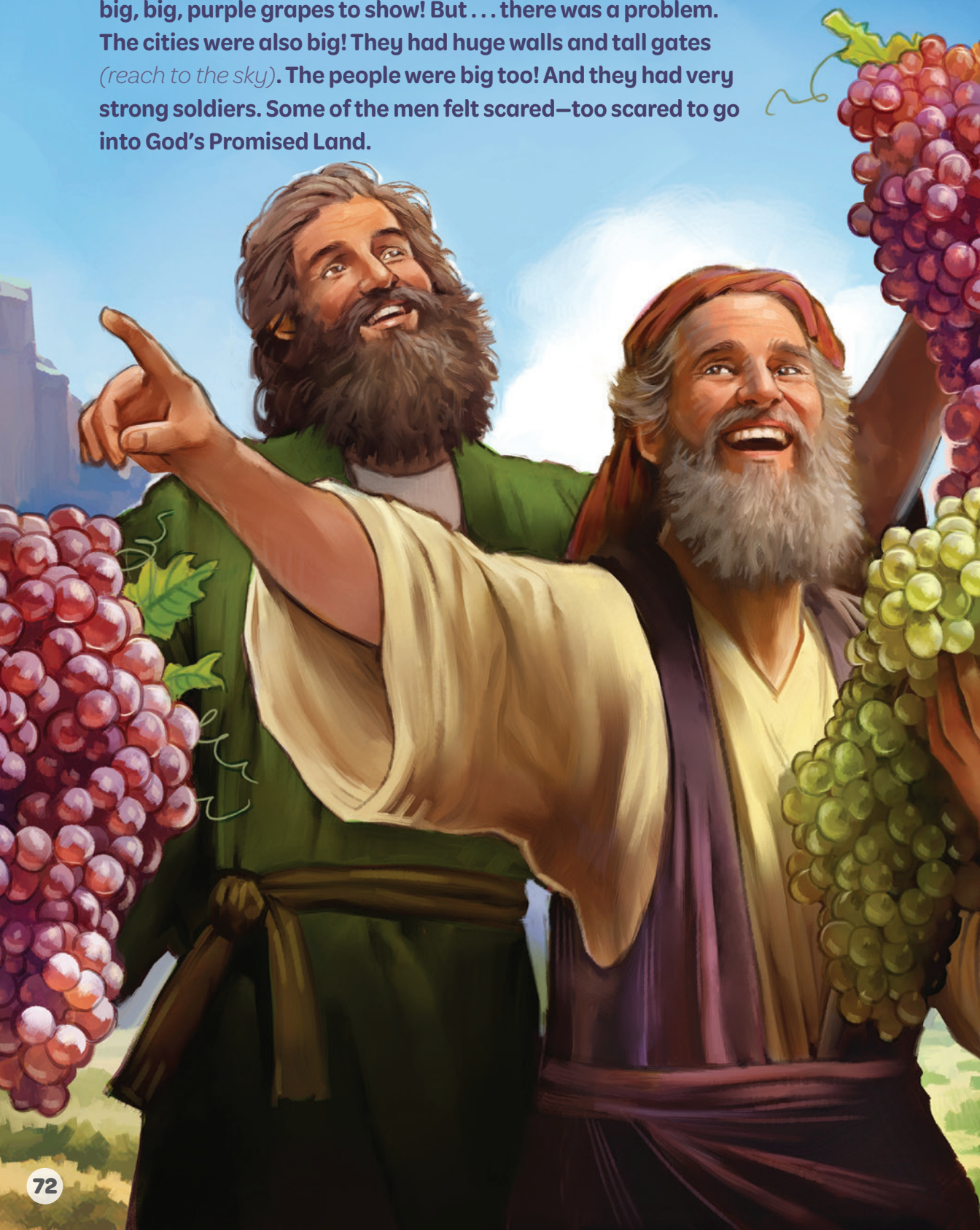
God's cloud led the people to the edge of the land He had promised them. This land would be their new home! God told Moses to send 12 men into the land to find out what it was like. Joshua and Caleb were chosen. This would be a big adventure! They were to look and look, all over the land. They were to look up high. They were to look down low. Hurry, hurry . . . they must go! *(Walk with fingers on the page.)*



The 12 men packed their bags and set off. ***Walking, walking, walking. Looking, looking, looking.*** Their eyes grew big. Their mouths opened in surprise (*look surprised*). **Everything** looked so beautiful! The grass was lush and green! The fields were golden with wheat. There was dark, rich soil. Shady green trees waved in the breeze. Water splished and splashed in rivers and ponds. And big purple, juicy grapes grew in the land!



The men rushed back to tell Moses everything. The land was beautiful up high. The land was beautiful down low. They had big, big, purple grapes to show! But . . . there was a problem. The cities were also big! They had huge walls and tall gates (*reach to the sky*). The people were big too! And they had very strong soldiers. Some of the men felt scared—too scared to go into God’s Promised Land.





But Joshua and Caleb weren't scared. God had promised that this would be their home. They trusted Him to keep them safe. They told the people, "He will give us that land where much food grows. . . Don't be afraid!" (Numbers 14:8, 9, ICB).

Who would the people listen to—the 10 scared men or brave Joshua and Caleb? Oh, no. The people chose to believe the scared men. They didn't trust God to help them. God turned His cloud back to the desert. The people would have to live there for a while. He would teach them to trust Him more.





God was so happy that Joshua and Caleb trusted Him, even when no one else did. God wants good things for you too! He wants you to trust Him with **everything**.

(Say together) **Thank You, God.**
I want to trust You always!

play

throughout the day

Create

Create a collage using natural objects of what you think the Promised Land would have looked like. Use grass to make fields and bark and leaves to make trees. God wanted to give His people good things. He wants to give us good things too. We can trust Him.

Discover

Give your child something plain, such as a cracker, plain bread, or rice, to eat. Then give your child some cut-up fruit if you can. Talk about how yummy it would have been for the Israelites to eat fruit. What a treat! Share how it took two men to carry one big, big bunch of grapes!

Explore

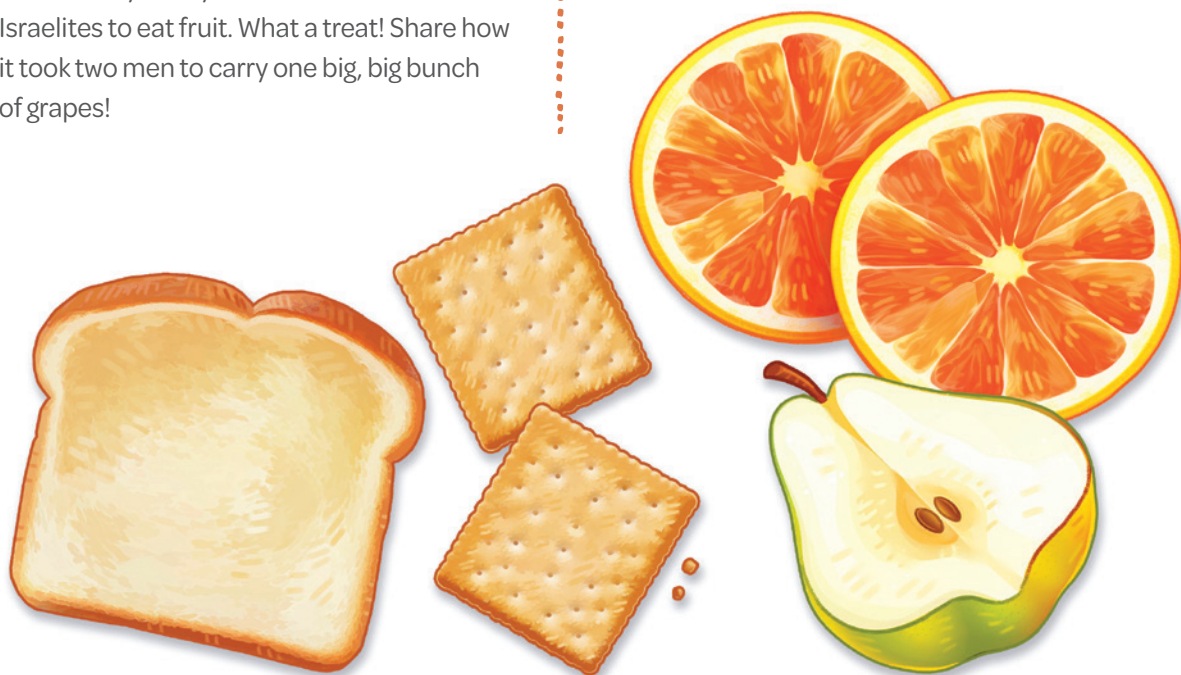
Walk around your home and find five things that God has given your family (e.g., food, water, clothes). Our God gives us good things! Thank God for these things in your family worships.

Connect

Play a game of hide-and-seek together. Share how the 12 men had to be quiet and careful when they went into the Promised Land! End the game with a surprise feast of fruit.

Prayer

Share how we want to be like Caleb and Joshua. We want to trust God. Ask God to help you trust Him today.



THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

Isn't it amazing that all 12 spies had exactly the same experience in scouting out the land and yet they had such different responses to what they saw? Two men were filled with hope and excitement for the adventure ahead. They chose to have faith that God would fulfill His promise. The other 10 were determined to focus on the impossible, and were full of doubt and negativity. "In their unbelief they limited the power of God and distrusted the hand that had hitherto safely guided them" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 388).

It is not always easy to be positive and believe the best. In fact, sometimes it is downright hard! We might face problems with our marriage, our children, our health, finances, or work, and these things can seem as huge as the giants the spies glimpsed from afar. But God still leads us; we are never alone. When we trust Him, He will continue to move us forward.

God has amazing things planned for us—things that are far beyond our comprehension! He doesn't want us to be sidetracked by the problems Satan puts in our path. He wants us to be empowered to trust His leading and hand over any "giant" problems to Him. Joshua and Caleb assured the people, "The Lord is with us. Do not fear them" (Numbers 14:9).

As you go about your week this week, build your faith by telling others (especially your children) about the good things God has done, and is doing, in your life. May we spread positive and faith-filled messages of hope, just as Joshua and Caleb did!



An illustration of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a blue and red patterned garment, looking out from a stone archway. The archway is part of a larger structure, possibly a city wall or a temple. The background shows a lush green valley with a winding river, palm trees, and a bright blue sky with a few birds flying. The overall style is that of a children's book illustration.

BIG IDEA: I can help others.

Week 10

Kind *Rahab*

This lesson is based on Joshua 1 and 2 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 482, 483.



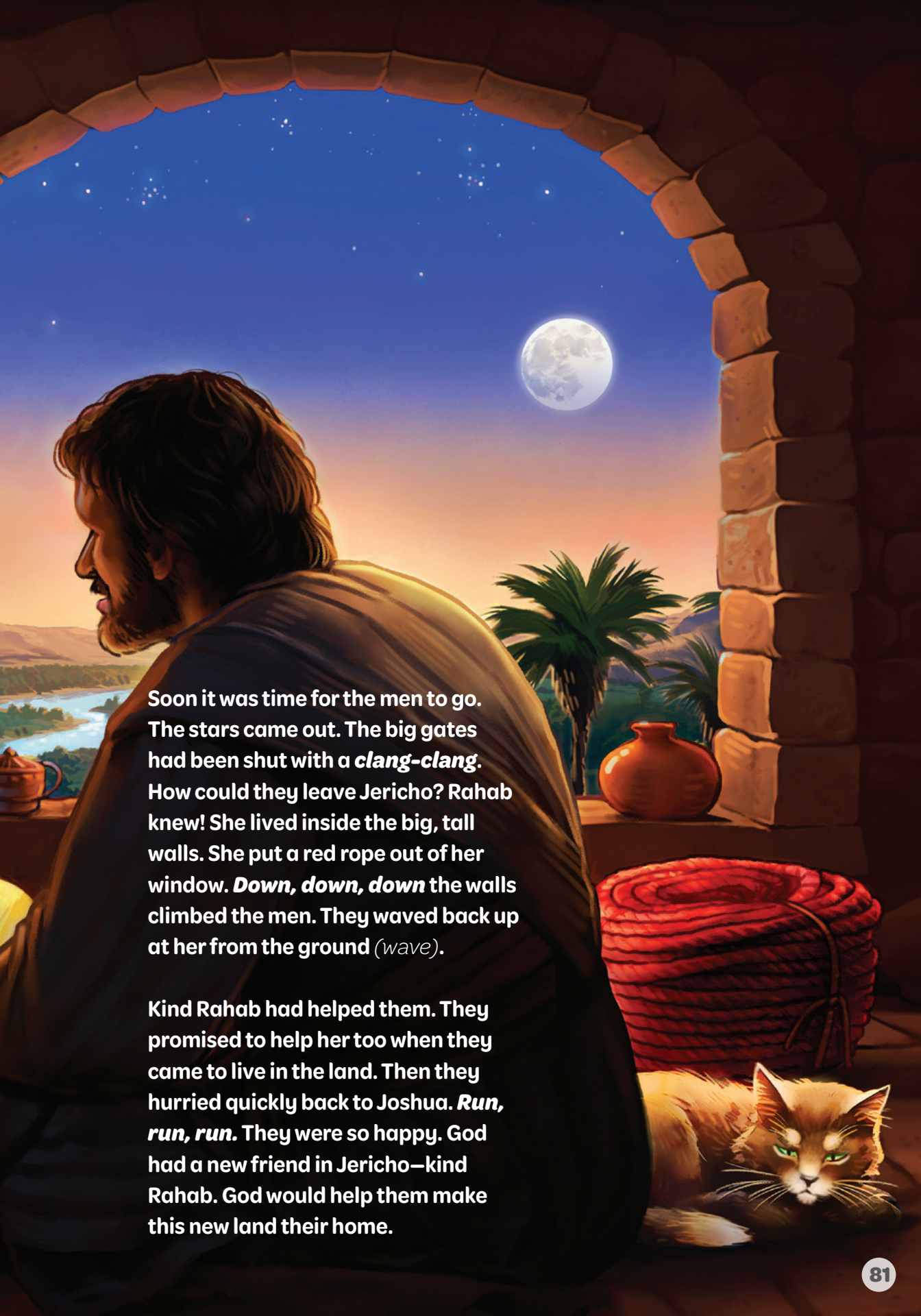
Joshua smiled at the two men. He had a very exciting job for them. They were to go into the Promised Land to find out what it was like. They would go on an adventure, just as Joshua had done many years earlier. They were to go **looking, looking, looking**. They were to look up high. They were to look down low. They were to look everywhere in the big city of Jericho. Hurry, hurry ... time to go!

The two men packed their bags and set off. The city of Jericho had big, tall walls all around it. It had big, strong gates that went **clang-clang** when they shut tight. The two men went quietly inside the city. **Shh!** They looked up high. They looked down low. But they needed a friend to tell them where to go. They met a kind woman named Rahab. She offered to help them!



Rahab took the two men to her house. She sat up on her roof and talked with them. She knew they were friends of God. God had helped His people walk right through the Red Sea. He had sent them yummy manna to eat. She wanted to know their loving God too. This made the men very happy *(smile)*. It made God happy too *(hug child)*. Rahab gave the men some food and water. She told them all about her city.





Soon it was time for the men to go. The stars came out. The big gates had been shut with a **clang-clang**. How could they leave Jericho? Rahab knew! She lived inside the big, tall walls. She put a red rope out of her window. **Down, down, down** the walls climbed the men. They waved back up at her from the ground (*wave*).

Kind Rahab had helped them. They promised to help her too when they came to live in the land. Then they hurried quickly back to Joshua. **Run, run, run**. They were so happy. God had a new friend in Jericho—kind Rahab. God would help them make this new land their home.

Just like Rahab, we can look for ways to help others. We can show people Jesus' love by being kind with our words and actions. Kind words say, "I love you" to your grandma, or "Thank you, Daddy, for my dinner." Kind hands help clean up messes and fold the washing. Kind hearts give a hug to someone who is hurting.

(Say together) **Dear Jesus, help me to look after others.**





Create

Find three pieces of red string or yarn and twirl them together to make a little rope like the rope Rahab used to help the two men leave Jericho.

Invite

With your child, think of someone new you can invite to Sabbath School or over for a play date. Talk about ways we can show God's love to that family. Pray that God will help us to show them kindness.

Connect

Make a list, using simple symbols, of practical things that your child can do this week to be kind (e.g., set the table, invite another child to play at the playground, share toys with a sibling, etc.). Check off the tasks or put stickers on them when they are completed. Celebrate your acts of kindness at the end of the week.

Explore

Go for a garden or park walk, if possible, to see how you could show kindness to God's little creatures. You could feed some birds or leave out some water in a birdbath. You might plant some flowers that attract birds or bees. You might like to pile up leaves and twigs to make a home for insects.

Pray

In family worship, reflect on times when others showed you kindness. How did we show kindness today? Invite your child to share examples. Thank God for the ways He shows kindness to us, and ask Him to help us show kindness to others.



THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents



Rahab was a woman of faith. She risked her life in taking the two spies into her home; she treated them with great kindness and quite literally saved their lives. She had heard about the God of the Israelites, and unlike everyone in her wicked city, she wanted to know more. She felt the beckoning of God in her life. Not only did He save her when the Israelites captured the city—He included her in the lineage of Jesus! (Matthew 1.) No one is beyond the reach of God’s family. His arms are open and waiting for all!

What a loving God we serve! He doesn’t have favorites. He sees us, loves us, and reaches out for us. Better still, He uses us to reach out to others on His behalf.

We are God’s ambassadors to the Rahabs in our community. All around us are people God wants to reach; minds that are searching for truth and meaning; hearts that are awakening to His love. “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? . . . As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!’ ” (Romans 10:14, 15).

God invites us to be part of the weaving of His great tapestry, His salvation plan. As you go about your week, look for the people God sends you, those He wants you to smile at and ask about their day, those who are lonely or lost, and those who need to know of His saving plan for them. Offer them a taste of God’s inclusive, overflowing love, just like the love Rahab was shown.

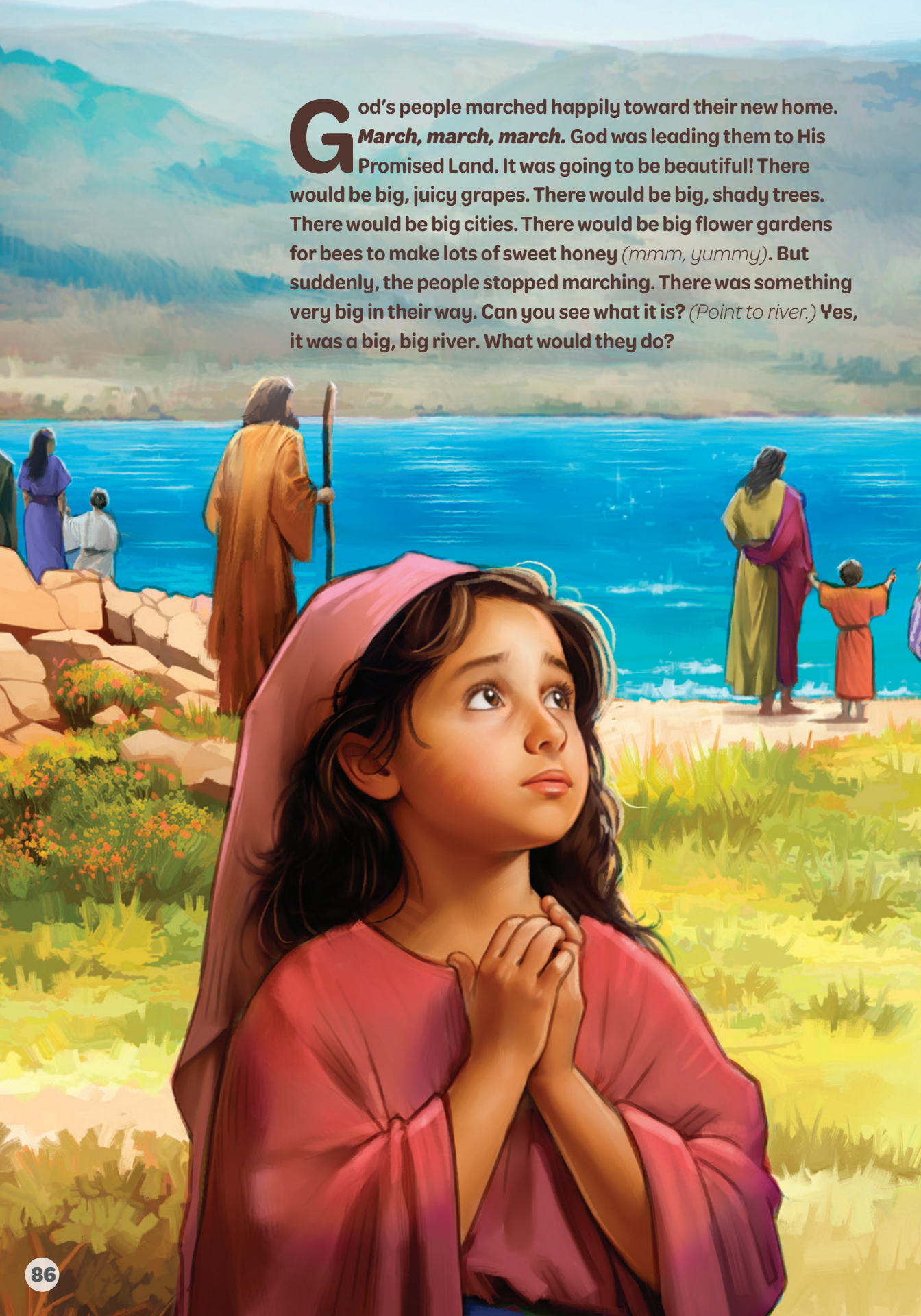
BIG IDEA: God is the best leader.

Week 11

The Big, *Big River*



This lesson is based on Joshua 3 and 4 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 481-486.

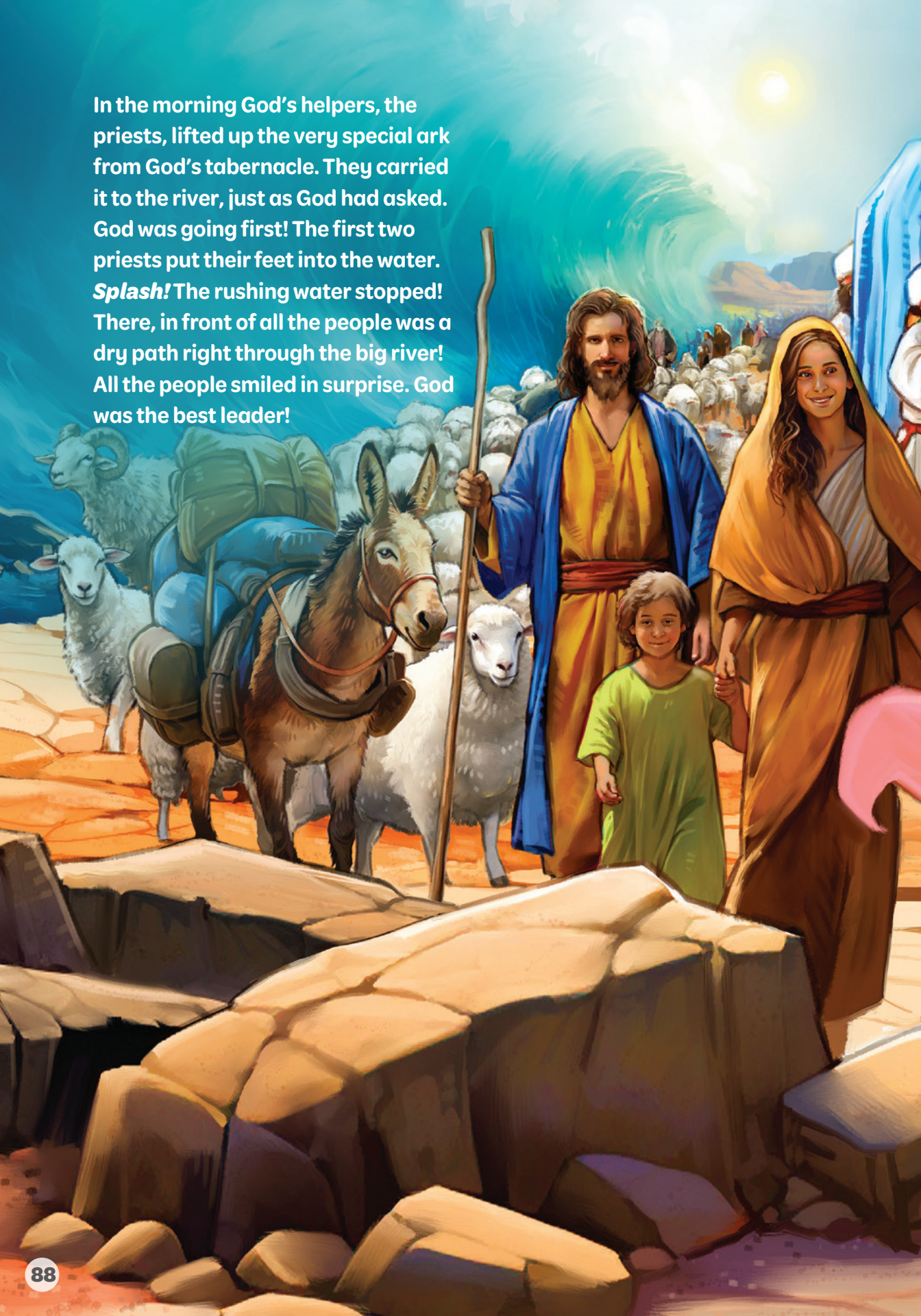


God's people marched happily toward their new home. **March, march, march.** God was leading them to His Promised Land. It was going to be beautiful! There would be big, juicy grapes. There would be big, shady trees. There would be big cities. There would be big flower gardens for bees to make lots of sweet honey (*mmm, yummy*). But suddenly, the people stopped marching. There was something very big in their way. Can you see what it is? (*Point to river.*) Yes, it was a big, big river. What would they do?



The people looked at the big River Jordan. They couldn't jump **over** it. It was too wide (*stretch out arms*). They couldn't walk **around** it. It was too long (*stretch out arms*). They couldn't walk **through** it. It was too deep (*stretch arms up and down*). They couldn't even float **on** the fast river. They had no boats. They shook their heads (*shake head*). They couldn't cross the big river. But God knew how to get the people to the other side! He told Joshua how, and Joshua smiled at God's words. He told the people that tomorrow God would do "amazing things" (Joshua 3:5, ICB).

In the morning God's helpers, the priests, lifted up the very special ark from God's tabernacle. They carried it to the river, just as God had asked. God was going first! The first two priests put their feet into the water. **Splash!** The rushing water stopped! There, in front of all the people was a dry path right through the big river! All the people smiled in surprise. God was the best leader!



The priests took the ark to the middle of the river and there they stopped. They waited while all the people crossed over to the other side. The girls and boys, mommies and daddies, aunties and uncles, all walked through the river on dry ground! God's tabernacle home didn't get wet. Their tents didn't get wet. Their animals didn't get wet. And all the people stayed nice and dry too. God had helped them cross the big river!



The priests crossed the river too, holding God's beautiful golden ark. Then, **swish, swosh. Splish, splash.** All the water came rushing down the river again. The river was wide (*stretch out arms*). The river was long (*stretch out arms*). The river was deep (*stretch arms up and down*). But the river had not been too big for God. He can do anything! He would keep helping His people, always. He is the best leader. They just needed to trust God and follow Him.

(Say together) Thank You, Jesus, for leading me! I want to follow You!





Explore

During bathtime, remind your child about the story of crossing the Jordan River. Using the water in the bath, try to make a dry space in the water. Can you do it? Can you stop the water in the middle? No! God did an amazing miracle to keep His people safe.

Learn

Trace around your feet and put 10 sheets of paper behind your drawing. Cut them out so that you have lots of feet. Place them on the floor around the house (within a child's step distance). Invite your child to follow your footsteps and jump to each footprint. Share how this was a fun way that you led them. God led His people too! He used His special cloud to guide them. He made a dry path in the middle of the river too. Thank God together.

Create

Share how the Israelites thanked God for helping them cross the big river. Make a little booklet by folding a piece of paper a few times. Draw pictures together of the things you are thankful for. Write "My Thanks Book" on the front. Each day, add something new, and thank God together.



Pray

In worship, take turns leading the family in a game of follow the leader. Give everyone in the family a turn at leading. Share how God is the best leader! Ask God to lead your family. Thank Him for His care.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

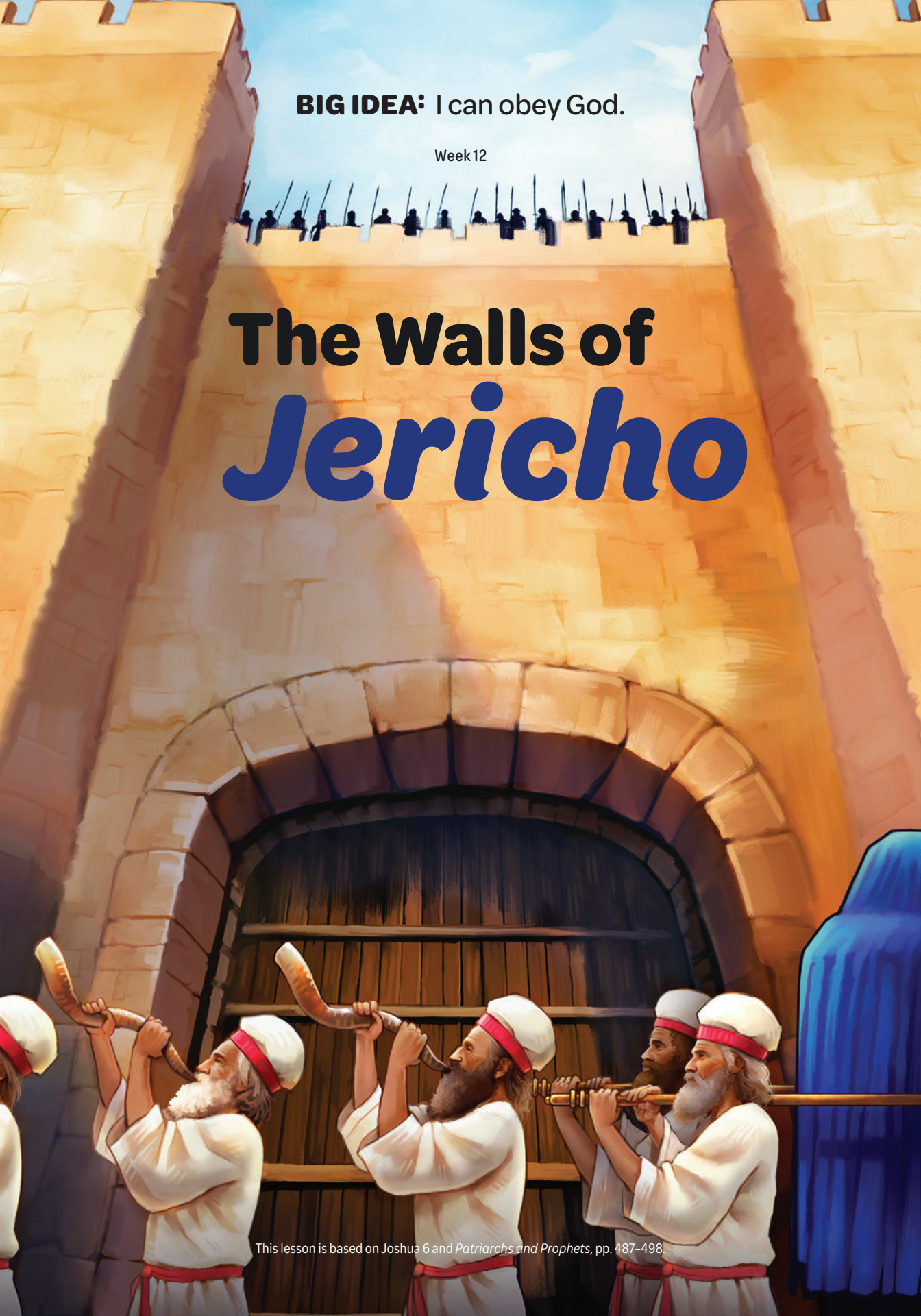


Imagine you are Joshua, the new leader of Israel. You know these people well—you’ve spent 40 years in the desert because of the disobedience of their parents. You have seen how they squabble and complain, like tired children on a long car trip. Moses needed great patience to lead them. Now it is your turn to lead. Imagine the huge weight and responsibility this role would bring.

God never leaves us to carry our burdens or responsibility alone. God encouraged Joshua by saying, “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. . . . Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:5, 9).

What a beautiful promise! And how reassuring it would have been as he stepped up to the Jordan River knowing he had God on his side.

This promise is not just for Joshua but for us too! As a parent you have been tasked with the huge responsibility of leading your family. You too bear the brunt of complaining and whining, little people’s emotions, and watching children choose to disobey. There may be days you doubt yourself and your abilities as a leader for God. Remember that God is saying to you, “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you.” Take heart, take comfort, and take joy in knowing that the God of the universe will help you as you guide the children He has given you.



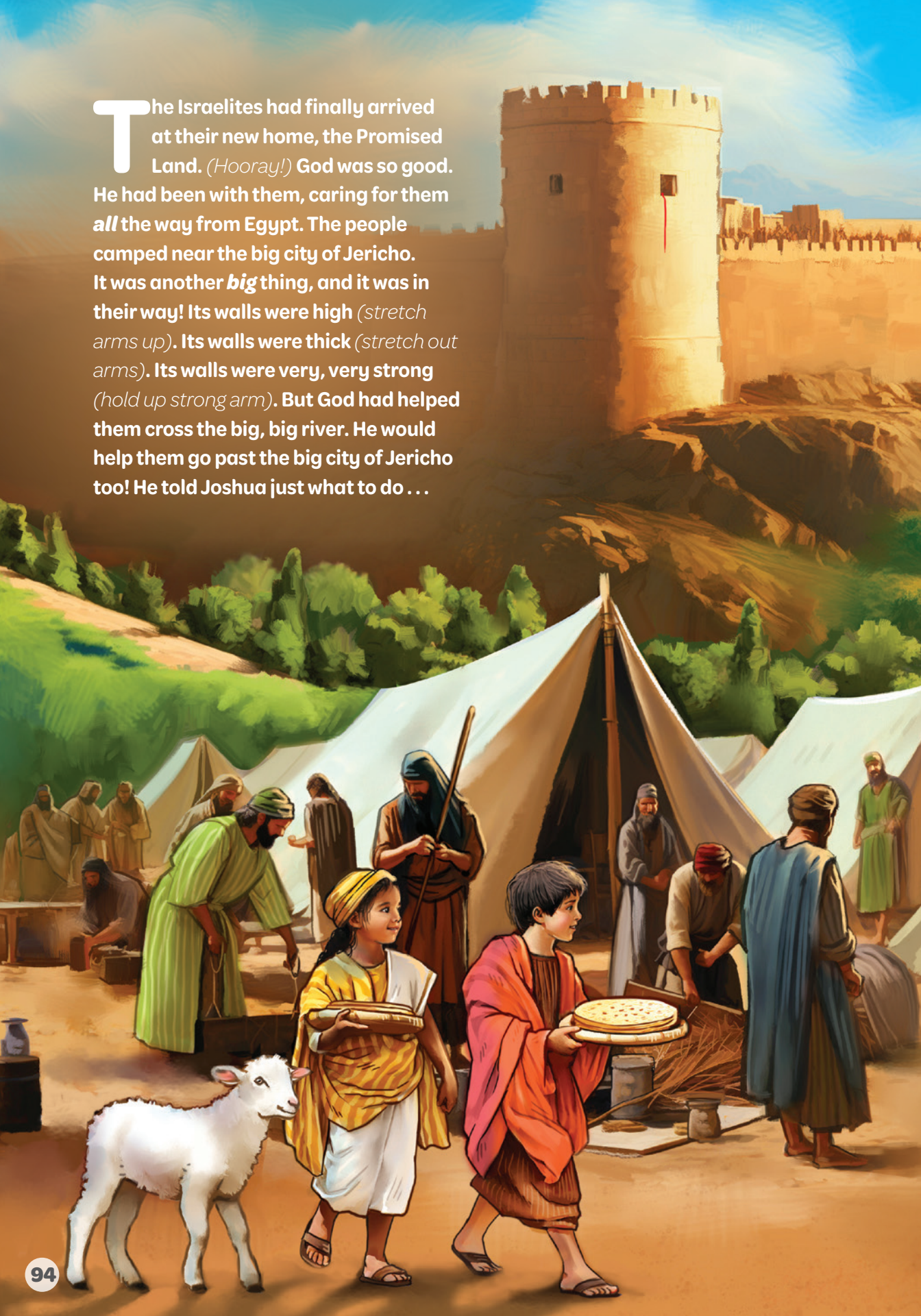
BIG IDEA: I can obey God.

Week 12

The Walls of *Jericho*

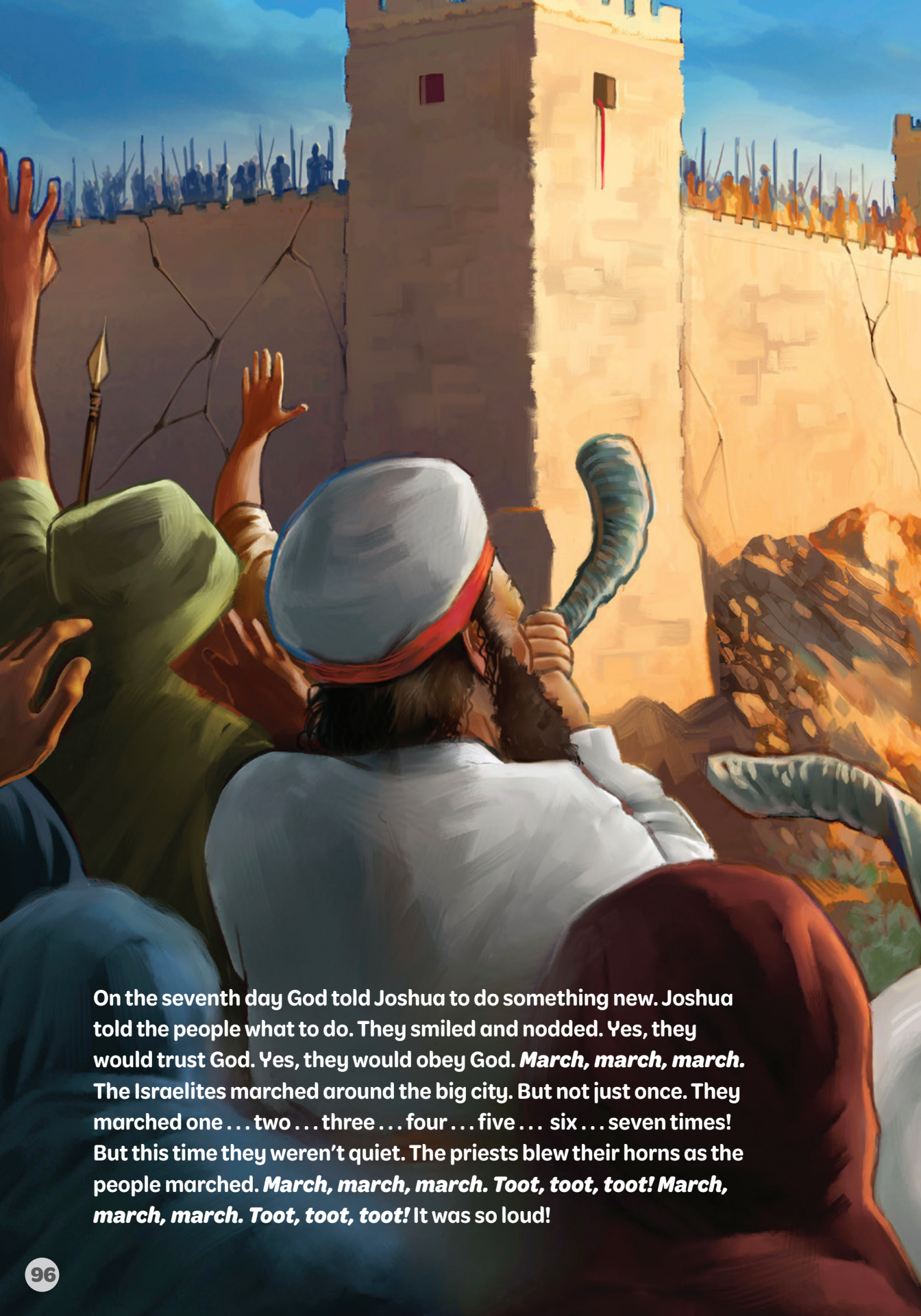
This lesson is based on Joshua 6 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 487–498.

The Israelites had finally arrived at their new home, the Promised Land. (*Hooray!*) God was so good. He had been with them, caring for them **all** the way from Egypt. The people camped near the big city of Jericho. It was another **big** thing, and it was in their way! Its walls were high (*stretch arms up*). Its walls were thick (*stretch out arms*). Its walls were very, very strong (*hold up strong arm*). But God had helped them cross the big, big river. He would help them go past the big city of Jericho too! He told Joshua just what to do . . .





The people woke up early. They left their tents, their sheep, and their warm bread behind. Quickly and quietly they marched around the big walls of Jericho. **March, march, march.** Shh! No one said a word. **March, march, march.** Then they came back to camp, patted their sheep, and ate their bread. The next day they did it again! They marched once around the city for one . . . two . . . three . . . four . . . five . . . six days! The people didn't know how this marching would help. But they obeyed God.



On the seventh day God told Joshua to do something new. Joshua told the people what to do. They smiled and nodded. Yes, they would trust God. Yes, they would obey God. ***March, march, march.*** The Israelites marched around the big city. But not just once. They marched one ... two ... three ... four ... five ... six ... seven times! But this time they weren't quiet. The priests blew their horns as the people marched. ***March, march, march. Toot, toot, toot! March, march, march. Toot, toot, toot!*** It was so loud!

An illustration depicting the biblical story of the fall of Jericho. In the foreground, two elderly men with long white beards and white robes with red sashes are blowing large, curved blue trumpets. They are wearing white hats with red bands. Behind them, a large crowd of people is visible, many holding spears and raising their hands in a shout. In the background, the massive, tan-colored stone walls of Jericho are shown crumbling and falling apart under a bright, hazy sky. The scene is filled with a sense of triumph and divine power.

After seven marches around the city, the priests gave one long blow on their trumpets. **T-o-o-t!** Then Joshua told all the people, **“Now shout!”** (Joshua 6:16, ICB). The people shouted! The trumpets blew! Then a different sound came. Rumble, rumble, **CRASH!** God brought the walls of Jericho tumbling down!



Nothing is too big or too hard for God! We can trust Him to be our leader. When God tells us in the Bible to be loving and kind to others, we can obey—even when it's hard. When God tells us in the Bible to help others, we can obey—even when we'd rather be playing. When God tells us in the Bible to tell others about His love, we can obey—even if we feel shy. God wants the very best for us. He will help us. He crashed down the big walls of Jericho. He can do anything!

Thank You, God. You are mighty! *(Say together)* **I want to trust and obey You!**

play

throughout the day

Create

Build a little city of Jericho using blocks, dominos, paper cups, or empty boxes. Pretend to be the Israelites and march around it. Count seven times and then bring the walls down with a great big CRASH!

Explore

Share how the Israelites had to trust God and obey Him, even though they didn't know what was going to happen. Blindfold your child and take their hand. Walk them around the room, going around obstacles, and talk about how they can trust you because you are leading them. Let go of their hand and give instructions. Ask your child to obey. Take the blindfold off. Share how we can trust God and know that when we obey Him, He'll always lead us in the best way.

Learn

Practice counting to seven. Go outside and count seven things that are alike (leaves, flowers, rocks), or find seven items inside that are alike (toys, cutlery, socks). This was the special number. God had asked His people to walk around the city seven times on the seventh day.

Make

Decorate a piece of paper with crayons, paint, or glitter. Roll the paper to make a trumpet and tape together. Let your child walk around the room pretending to blow on their trumpet.

Pray

Act out the story of the Israelites marching around the city of Jericho for worship. After the "walls come down," kneel together as a family and thank God for always being with us.



THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

The battle of Jericho was indeed a test of faith for the Israelites. The Commander of the Lord's army appeared to Joshua alone and told him the plan to take the city. It was up to the Israelites to fully trust and obey the commands given to Joshua by God Himself.

Imagine walking around the walls of the city of Jericho thinking, *How are we seriously going to take this city?* They had to fully put their trust in God. The miracle wasn't instant. It took a whole week! A whole week of walking, following, and obeying. A whole week of being ridiculed by the enemy. "But the very plan of continuing this ceremony through so long a time prior to the final overthrow of the walls afforded opportunity for the development of faith among the Israelites. It was to be impressed upon their minds that their strength was not in the wisdom of man, nor in his might, but only in the God of their salvation. They were thus to become accustomed to relying wholly upon their divine Leader" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 493).

God wants us to rely upon Him too. We can choose to put our trust in Him, and obey Him, even when it seems as if He isn't working, or it seems as if it's taking a long time for our prayers to be answered. We can trust that He is always at work, even when we can't see it! This is how our faith grows. "It was by faith that the walls of Jericho fell. They fell after the people had marched around the walls of Jericho for seven days" (Hebrews 11:30).

Will you place your confidence in God today? Will you follow His lead?



BIG IDEA: God will give me a home with Him.

Week 13

A New Home



This lesson is based on Joshua 24 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 521-524.

God's people had a new home. They looked out over the land God had led them to. There were grassy green fields with wildflowers for little lamb and old donkey. There were good places for Father and Uncle to build strong houses. There were sparkling streams and little water wells (*point to well*) for Mother. There were gardens with fresh, juicy fruit for Big Sister. And lots of space for Little Brother to run and play.





What a beautiful new home!
There would be no more
marching in the desert. No
more sandy toes. No more hot
tents. No more dusty beds.
Thank You, God!

Joshua told the people to
move to different places in the
Promised Land. Some moved
to the mountains. Others lived
on farms. Some made cities
together. God was with them
wherever they went. He is with
you too.

What does your home look like? Some people live in houses made of bricks, wood, mud, leaves, or straw. Some people live in apartment buildings that are very tall. Some live in huts, close to birds that sing. Some live in city hotels, where the elevators go “bing.” Some are still looking for a safe place to call home. They take their beds with them wherever they go.

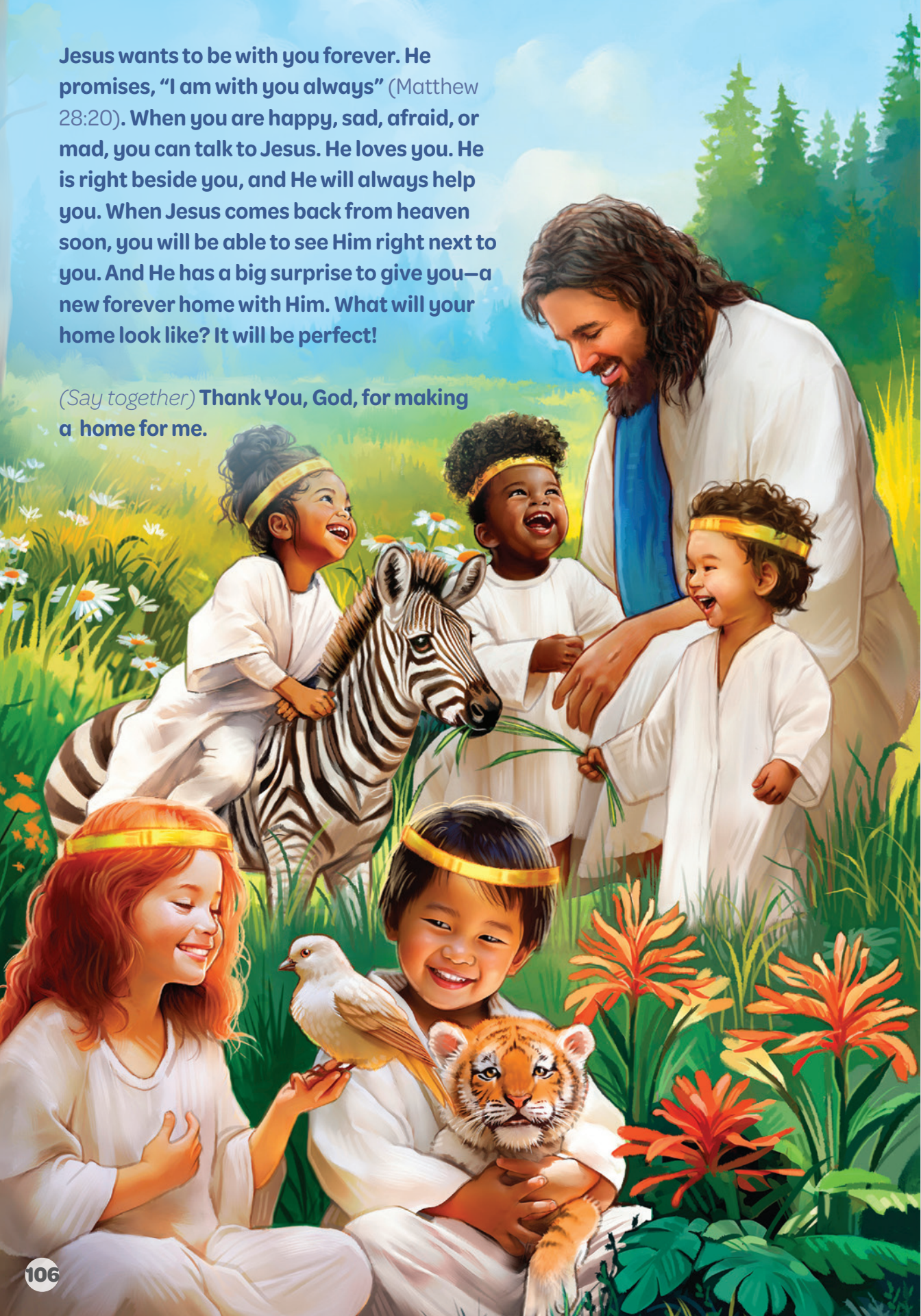




Some people live in homes on top of tall sticks, way up high. When it's rainy or muddy, their homes stay dry. Some live in caravans with wheels that move. Some live in homes made of ice, called igloos. A round tent or a floating boat can be a wonderful home too. Wherever you live, God is with you.

Jesus wants to be with you forever. He promises, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). When you are happy, sad, afraid, or mad, you can talk to Jesus. He loves you. He is right beside you, and He will always help you. When Jesus comes back from heaven soon, you will be able to see Him right next to you. And He has a big surprise to give you—a new forever home with Him. What will your home look like? It will be perfect!

(Say together) **Thank You, God, for making a home for me.**



play

throughout the day

Create

Make a collage picture together of the people's new home in the Promised Land. Make a horizon line on a piece of paper. Let your child color green below and blue above. Then collect things to lay over it and rearrange as they like (no need to glue). You could include leaves, grasses, flowers, herbs, sticks, colored papers, stickers, magazine or printed pictures, or other craft supplies.

Learn

Share how God has promised to come back and take us to heaven. He will then make our earth new again. He will give us a new home with Him forever! Share the ideas of Isaiah 11:6-11 with your child. Talk about what excites them most about this new forever home with Jesus.

Share

Share a yummy fruit snack together—something your child loves to eat but may not get often. Imagine all the yummy fruits that were in the people's new home, the Promised Land. Thank God for providing

good, healthy food for us. Talk about which foods you would like to eat with Jesus in our new forever home with Him.

Explore

Create a set of binoculars using two cardboard cylinders. Decorate them together. Share how the Israelites would have looked out over the land and been amazed at the special gifts God had given them—yummy food, water, big fields. Use your binoculars to search around the home and outside for special gifts God has given you! Thank God together for His love and care.

Pray

Thank God for being with us always. Thank Him for coming soon to give us a new home with Him where we can see His smile, hug Him, play with Him, and love Him forever.





THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

God keeps His promises. Do you believe it? Have you experienced this in your own life?

The Israelites had a front-row seat to the joy of a promise given and a promise kept. They certainly had an incredible adventure as they learned to trust God as the leader of their lives. As we come to the end of the Israelites' journey in the wilderness, may you be inspired to realize that the God who led His people in such magnificent ways is *your* God too. He loves you so much! And though Israel's journey looks different from yours, all our journeys take us to places of dependence on God. In our journey to the Land of Promise, God leaves special messages for us. His word is filled with love notes for you. Take a moment to dwell on them.

God Is Good.

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works" (Psalm 145:8, 9).

God Is Majestic and Powerful.

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours" (1 Chronicles 29:11).

God Keeps His Promises.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

God Will Never Leave You nor Forsake You.

"And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

What other promises do you find encouraging? Make time this week to discover them and read them anew. When we dwell on these Bible promises, we receive courage and peace on our journey. May you believe without a shadow of a doubt that God both leads us and keeps His promises.