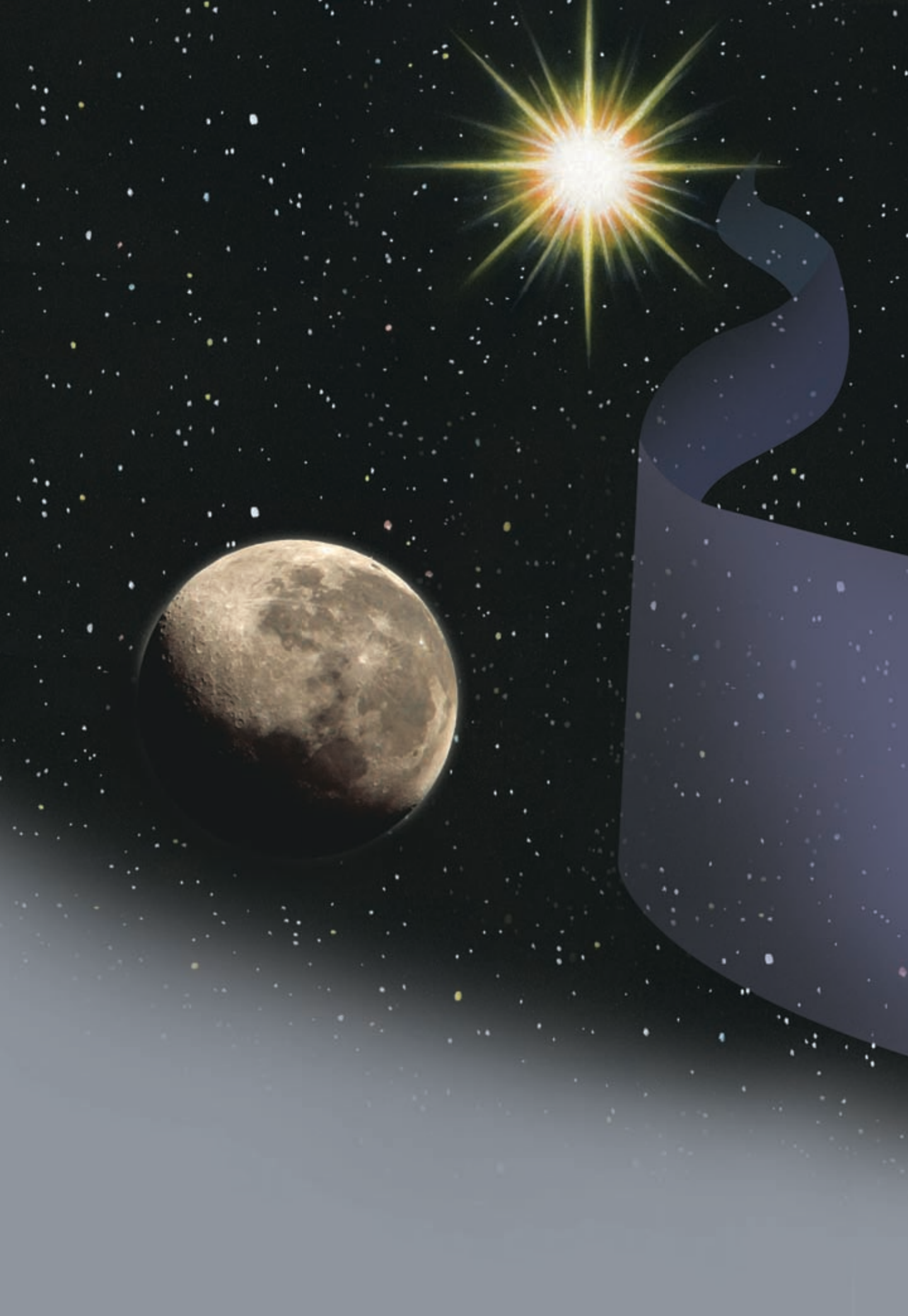
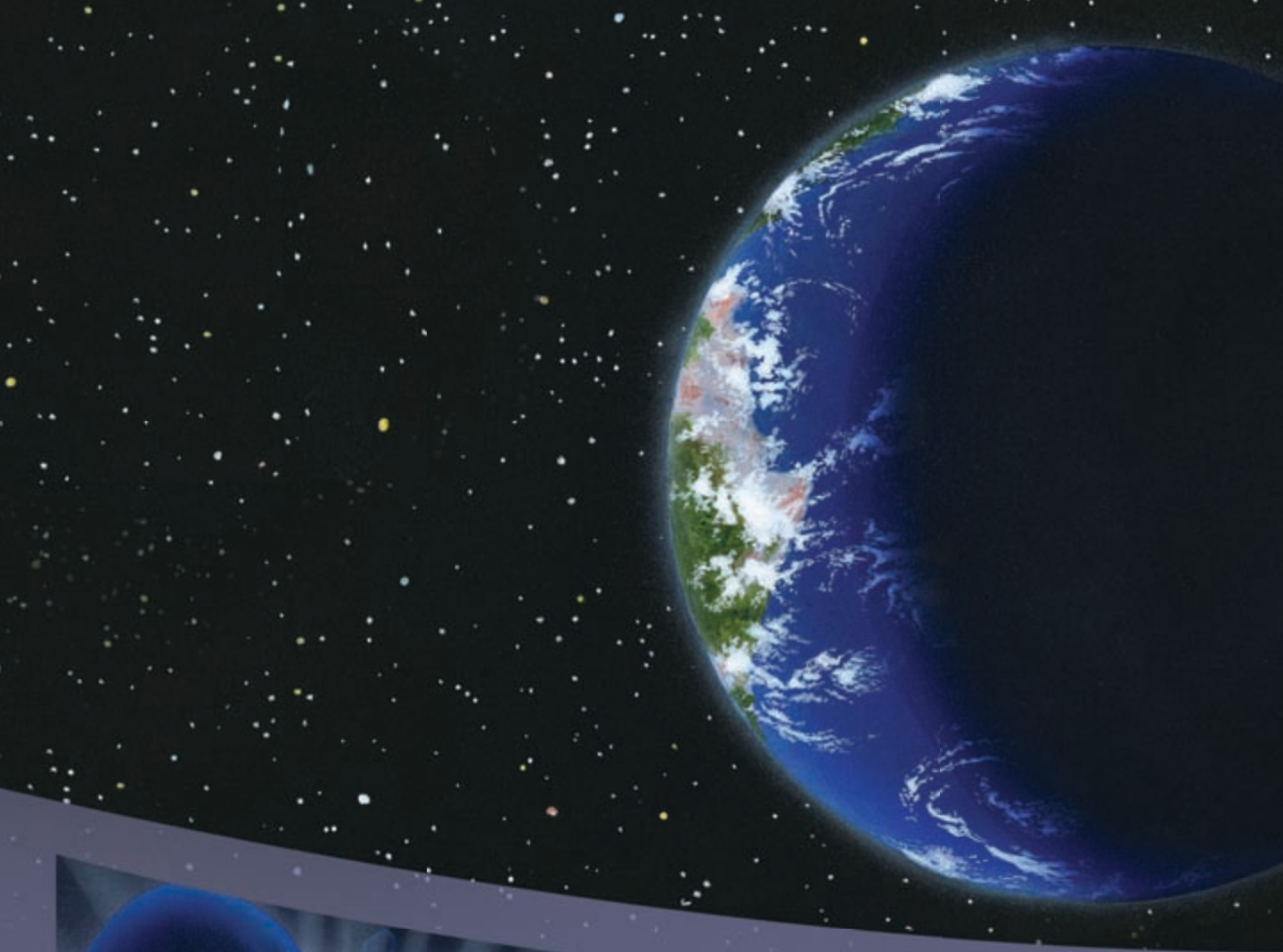


Book of Hope





In the beginning, God created the world.



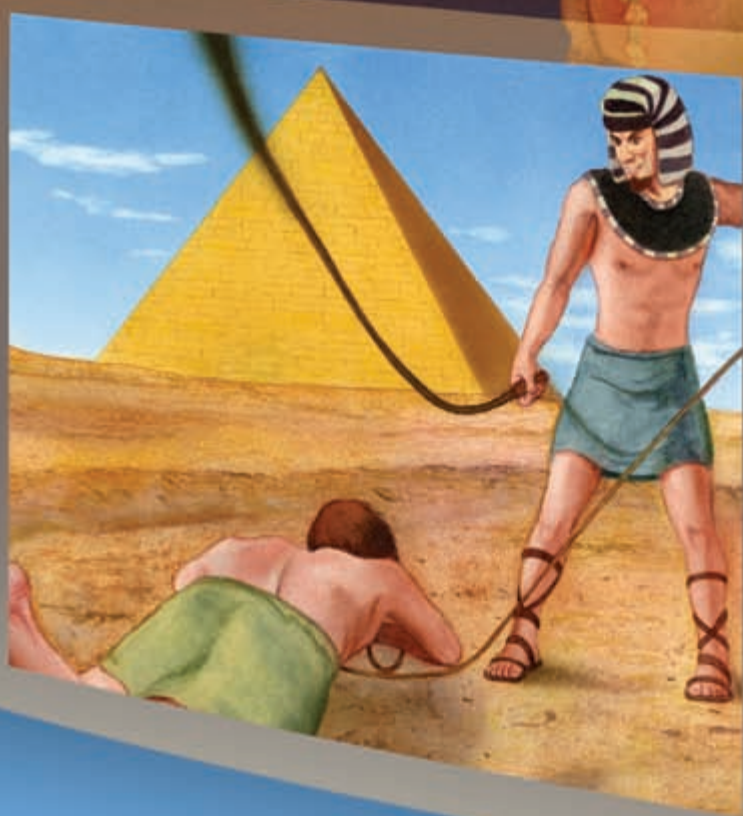
2 God created animals. He created people, too.



God and people were friends.



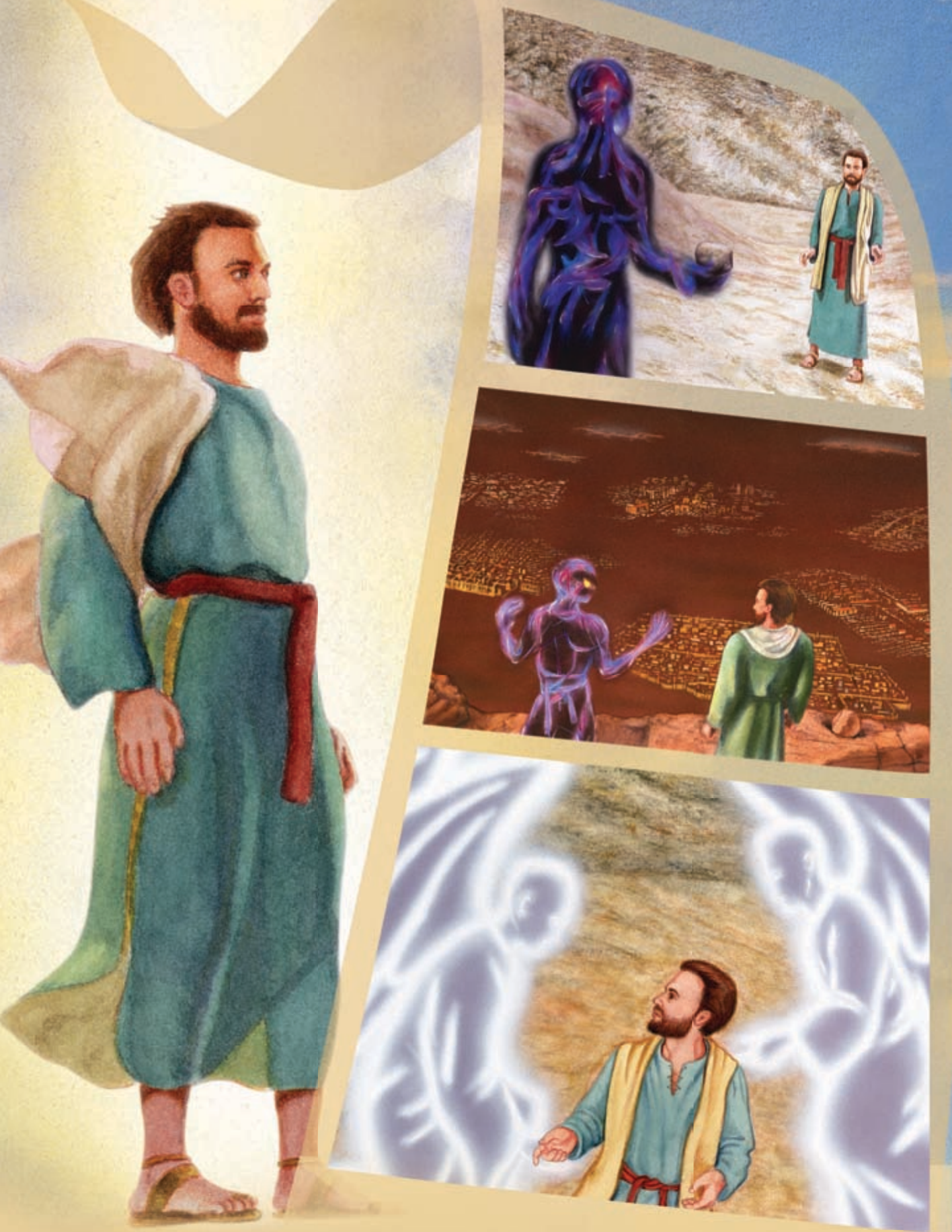
4 But people did not obey God.
They chose to do wrong things.



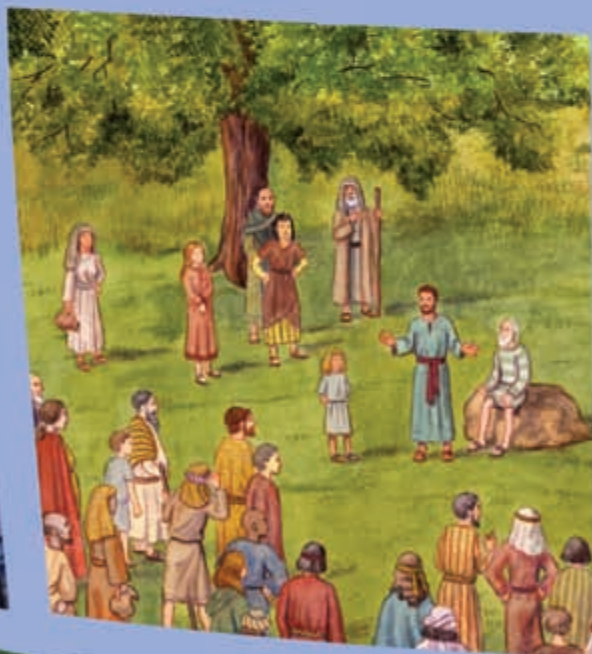
They did bad things to each other. They had forgotten about the God who made them.



So, God sent His Son Jesus to bring God and people together again.



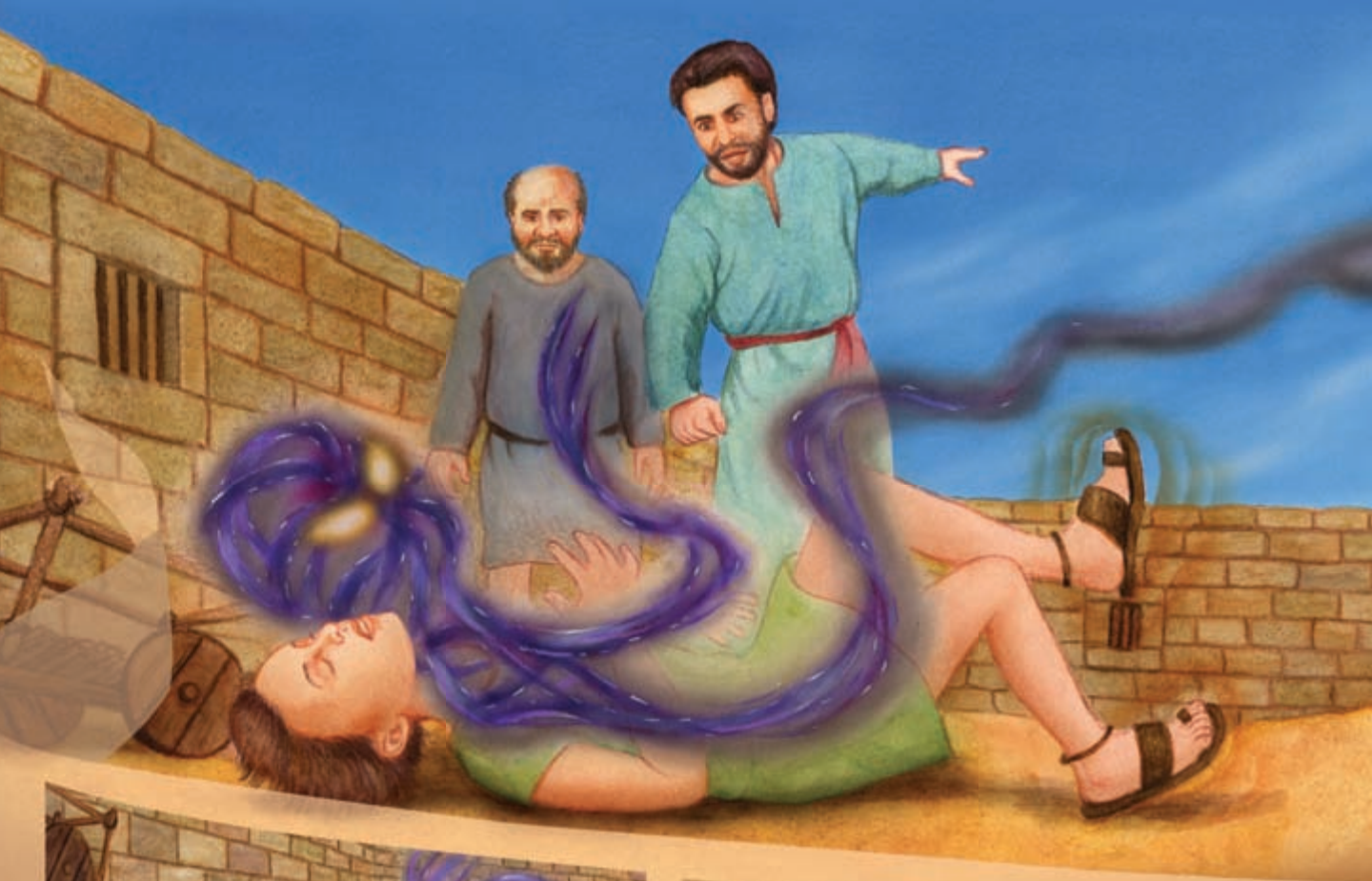
The devil, God's enemy, tempted Jesus to disobey God. But Jesus obeyed God.



Jesus told the people “God loves you”.



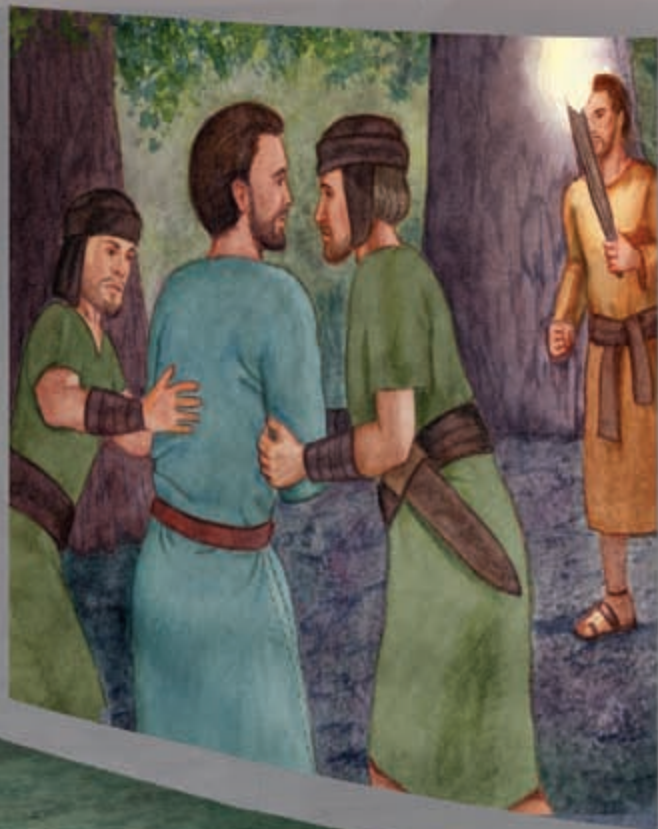
Jesus healed the sick.



Jesus also saved people
from demons.



But then some people wanted to kill Jesus.



Jesus did nothing wrong.
But Jesus was arrested.



They nailed Jesus to a cross.



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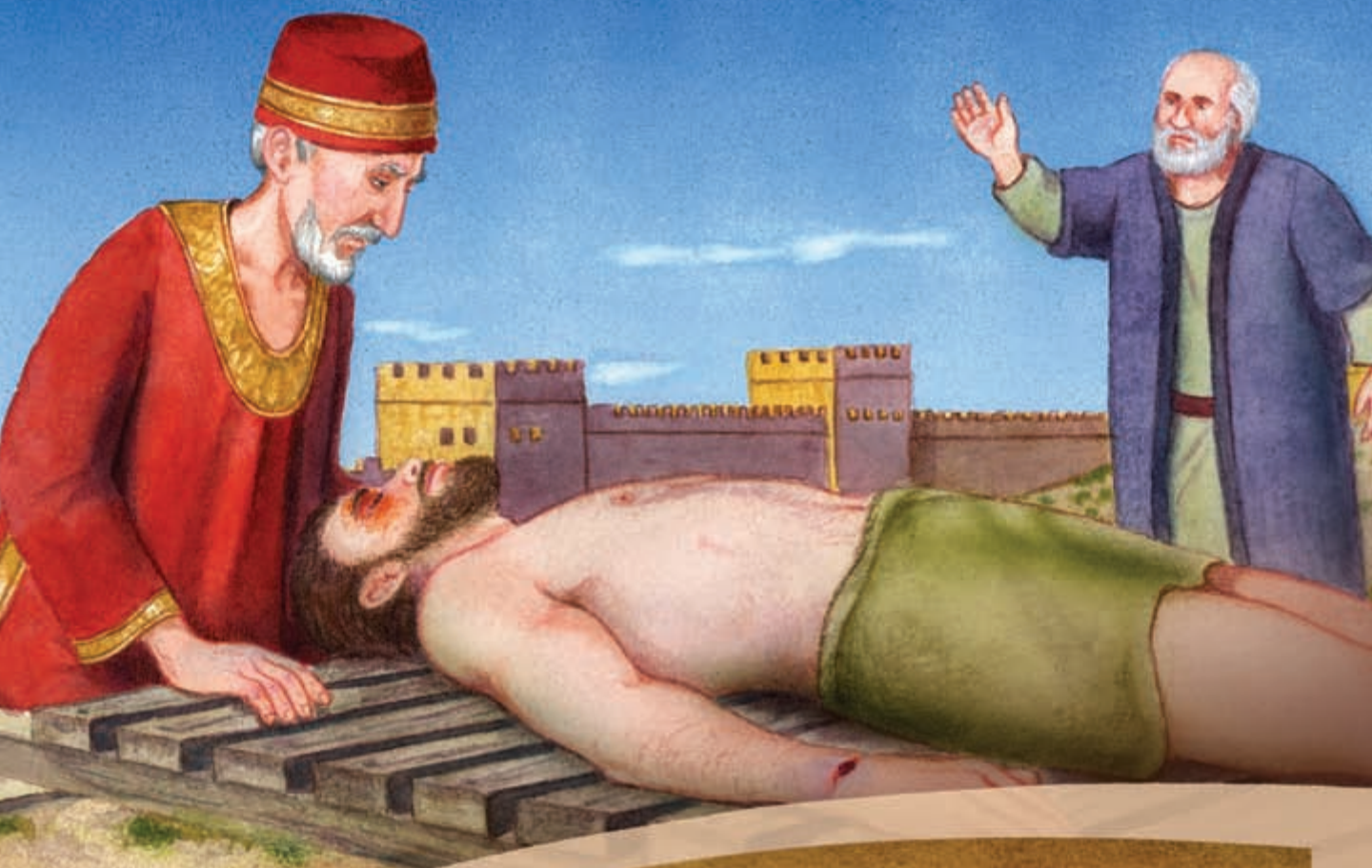


Jesus died to bring us
back to God. He took the
punishment for the wrong
things we have done.





The devil thought he had won when Jesus died. 15



Friends buried Jesus in a tomb.



Three days later, the tomb was empty!



Jesus is alive!
God brought Him back from the dead.



Jesus said, "Tell others about Me."



Then Jesus went back to his home in heaven.



The angel said that Jesus will
come back again someday.

The Next Step



God loves you very much. He created you to love Him too. Loving Him means to obey Him.



But sometimes you disobey God and do bad things. We all do. This is called sin.
The punishment for sin is death.

So, the one true God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for us. Jesus died in our place so we can be forgiven. It is only through Jesus that we can become children of God.

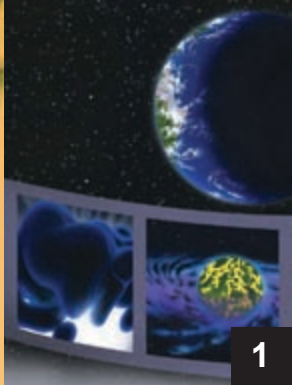


God brought Jesus back to life. You can ask Jesus to forgive you and to help you live right. He will be your best friend. And some day you will live with Him forever in His home in heaven.

Storyteller's Script

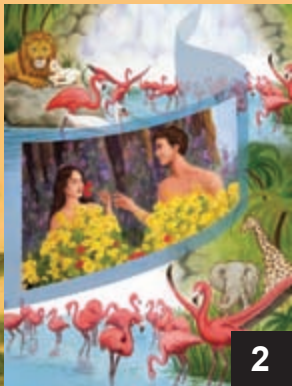
Instructions:

As you read the storyteller's script, ask the listeners to follow along on each page of their book. Use good expression and excitement when reading to them. Ask each "Think About It!" question at the end of the page and have listeners answer. Make sure that they understand the story before you continue.



1. In the beginning, God created the world.

Before there was anything, there was God. And God said, "Let there be light." And there was light! God made all the planets, all the stars and everything in the sky. And He saw that it was all good.



2. God created animals.

God created every kind of animal, from the biggest elephant to the smallest insect. God also made the plants and trees and bushes. And He saw that it was all good.

He created people, too.

When God created everything, He saved the best for last. He created us! We are different from anything else that God made. He made us in a way that he could talk to us and we could talk to him. He made us in a way that we could love and obey Him. So God made the first man and called him Adam. Then God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." So, He created the first woman and named her Eve. Adam and Eve lived in God's beautiful garden, called the Garden of Eden. God put them in charge of everything He had made.



3. God and people were friends.

Adam and Eve were close to God and everything that He had created. They were friends with God. They were very happy, and so was God. He walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden every day. They were always together. Everything was perfect.

Think About It!

What did God make?

Do you know that God made you, too?

Do you know that God wants to be friends with you?

4. But people did not obey God.

God told Adam and Eve they could eat everything in the garden except the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. He gave them this rule to keep them safe. He warned them that they would die if they disobeyed. The tree was called the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Then the devil, God's enemy, appeared to Adam and Eve and lied to them about the tree. Adam and Eve didn't listen to God. They chose to believe the devil and ate from the tree.

They chose to do wrong things.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin and evil entered the world. To sin means to do things that God says are wrong. This made God's heart very sad. Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they had to leave God's garden. Now they were separated from God.

5. They did bad things to each other. They had forgotten about the God who made them.

As time went on, more and more people were born. Like Adam and Eve, they also chose to do wrong things. People became selfish and violent. They forgot how to love each other. People still behave like this today, don't they?

6. So, God sent His Son Jesus to bring God and people together again.

Even though people were far away from God in their hearts, He still loved everyone. Our sins had to be punished, but all along God had a plan for bringing people back to Him. Because His love for us is so great and so strong, He planned to send His Son Jesus into the world. Jesus came to teach us how to love and obey God. But Jesus would do even more than that. He would take the punishment for all the wrong things we have done so we could be brought back to God once again.

Think About It!

Did the first people obey God?

Do you obey God all the time?

Whom did God send so we could be close to God once again?





7. The devil, God's enemy, tempted Jesus to disobey God. But Jesus obeyed God.

Now, of course, the devil wanted to stop Jesus from doing God's work. He tried everything he could to get Jesus to do wrong. But Jesus loved God, and He obeyed God. When the devil saw that he couldn't get Jesus to disobey God, he left Him alone for a little while.



8. Jesus told the people, "God loves you."

Jesus went throughout all the land, teaching people about God's ways. Jesus told them that God loved them, and that they were very special to Him. Jesus' words are still true today. God created you. You are also very special to Him. No matter what happens, He will always love you.



9. Jesus healed the sick.

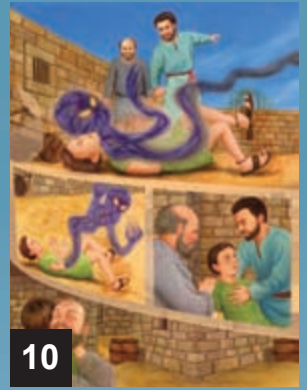
Wherever Jesus went, He healed people. He made the blind to see and the lame to walk. People even brought their friends who were sick to Jesus so that He could heal them. Jesus loved the people very much.

Think About It!

When Jesus was tempted to do wrong, what did He do?
When you are tempted to do wrong, what do you do?
How does it make you feel to know that God loves you so much?

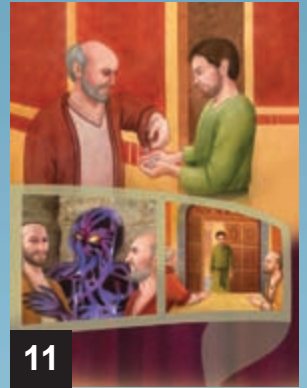
10. Jesus also saved people from demons.

People with evil spirits inside them also came to Jesus to be healed. He commanded the evil spirits to leave them with just His words, “Get out!” And the demons left. The crowds were amazed. They said, “Nothing like this has ever happened!”



11. But then some people wanted to kill Jesus.

Some evil men were jealous of Jesus. They wanted to get rid of Him for good. Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen. It was all part of God’s good plan. He told His followers, “I am going to be arrested, nailed to a cross, and killed. But on the third day, I will be raised back to life.” He also told them that He would be returning soon to His Father in heaven to prepare a place where all his followers would live with Him some day. His followers couldn’t believe that all of this would really happen. The devil entered one of Jesus’ followers, named Judas. After that, Judas asked the evil men, “How much will you give me if I hand Jesus over to you?” So they counted thirty silver coins for him. From then on, Judas watched for the right time to help the evil men arrest Jesus.



Think About It!

Why were the crowds amazed?

What did Jesus tell His followers was going to happen next?

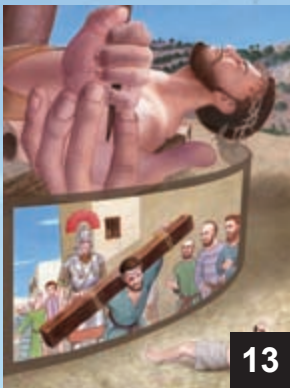
Where did Jesus tell His followers He was going?



12

12. Jesus did nothing wrong. But Jesus was arrested.

One night when Jesus was praying in a garden, soldiers came to arrest Him and take Him away. Jesus is all-powerful. He could have stopped the soldiers, but He did not. He knew this was another part of God's good plan.



13

13. They nailed Jesus to a cross.

After Jesus was arrested people told lies about Him. The leaders decided to kill Jesus by nailing Him to a cross. Even though he had never done anything wrong, they killed him just like a criminal. Before Jesus died He asked His Father to forgive the people for doing this to Him.



14

14. Jesus died to bring us back to God. He took the punishment for the wrong things we have done.

When Jesus died on the cross, the earth shook and the whole land was covered in darkness for three hours. Jesus had finished God's plan for His life here on earth. In the Garden of Eden, God had punished Adam and Eve for their own evil actions. But, on the cross, Jesus took the punishment for all of us. He died in our place so we could be forgiven of all the wrong things we have ever done. This is just how much He loves us.

Think About It!

Why did Jesus not stop the soldiers from arresting him?

What did Jesus ask His Father to do before He died?

Why did Jesus die on the cross?

15. The devil thought he had won when Jesus died.

At first when Jesus died, the devil thought he had won. But he didn't. God is all-wise and all-powerful. The devil could never win against God! He did not know that Jesus' death on the cross was all a part of God's good plan to forgive us for the wrong things we have done.

16. Friends buried Jesus in a tomb.

After Jesus died, His friends came to place His body in a burial place that had been carved out of the side of a hill. They found a huge stone and rolled it in front of the entrance. Then they went home very sad.

17. Three days later, the tomb was empty!

After three days, some of Jesus' friends and followers went to the tomb. The huge stone had been rolled away from the entrance. When they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of Jesus. He was gone! An angel told them that Jesus was no longer there because He had risen from the dead. "Do not be afraid," he said, "I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. He's not here! He has come back to life, just as He said He would!"

But where was Jesus?

Think About It!

Where was Jesus buried?

What happened three days later?

If God is powerful enough to bring Jesus back to life, do you think He can help you with your problems?





18

18. Jesus is alive! God brought Him back from the dead. Many of Jesus' friends and followers were together in one house and were talking about Him. Suddenly, Jesus was standing right there with them. At first they thought they were seeing a ghost. But it wasn't a ghost. God had brought Jesus back to life! Everyone felt so happy that Jesus was with them again. Jesus explained that He allowed Himself to be killed on the cross because He loves us very much and wants to bring us back to God.



19

19. Jesus said, "Tell others about Me". God wants everyone everywhere to hear the Good News of what Jesus did for us. Jesus commanded us to tell people everywhere about Him. He said to teach people to do everything that He taught us when He was here on earth. This is a job that's still going on, even today.



20

20. Then Jesus went back to his home in heaven. Before Jesus went to heaven, He promised His followers that He would send His Holy Spirit from heaven to be with them. The Holy Spirit would be with them every day, in every year, for always. Then He lifted His hands and blessed them. After He blessed them, He rose up in the sky until He was out of sight. As Jesus' friends and followers watched Him go, an angel appeared.

Think About It!

What did Jesus tell His followers to do?

Where did Jesus go?

Who did Jesus promise to send to always be with us?



21. The angel said that Jesus would come back again someday.

The angel promised that Jesus would come back from heaven one day in the exact same way that they had seen Him go. This made his followers very happy. Now because of what Jesus had done for them, they would never be separated from God again. They knew that He would always be with them by His Holy Spirit. And some day He would come again!

This is the Good News for you, too. If you believe with your whole heart that Jesus died for you, then you will become a follower of Jesus, too. He will always be with you by His Holy Spirit and you will never ever be separated from God again! Jesus loves you that much!



Think About It!

What did the angel tell Jesus' followers?

What is the Good News?

Do you want to be a follower of Jesus too?

The Next Step's Script

22. God loves you very much. He created you to love Him too. Loving Him means to obey Him.

There is nothing you have to do to make God love you more. He loves you with a perfect love that lasts forever.

He made you for a special purpose in this world.

God created you and He knows everything about you. He wants what is best for you. He has a special plan and purpose for your life.



But sometimes you disobey God and do bad things. We all do. This is called sin. The punishment for sin is death.

Sin keeps us away from the true God who created us. Because sin is disobeying God, it has to be punished. The punishment for sin is death.





23. So, the one true God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for us. Jesus died in our place so we can be forgiven. It is only through Jesus that we can become children of God.

God didn't want us to be separated from Him. And He didn't want us to face the punishment for our sins. So He sent His Son Jesus to take our punishment and bring us back together with God.

God brought Jesus back to life. You can ask Jesus to forgive you and to help you live right. Then He will be your best friend and some day you will live with Him forever in His home in heaven.

No matter what you have done, God still loves you. You can ask Him to forgive you of all the wrong things you have done and to help you live right. You can do this in a prayer. "Prayer" is just talking to God.

You can pray a prayer like this one:

Dear God,

I believe you are the one true God. You created me to love You and obey You. But I know I have done wrong things. Please forgive me. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to die on the cross to take the punishment for my sins.

Thank You for giving me Your Holy Spirit to help me know You better and do what is right. I know that someday I will live with You forever in Your home in heaven.

Amen.

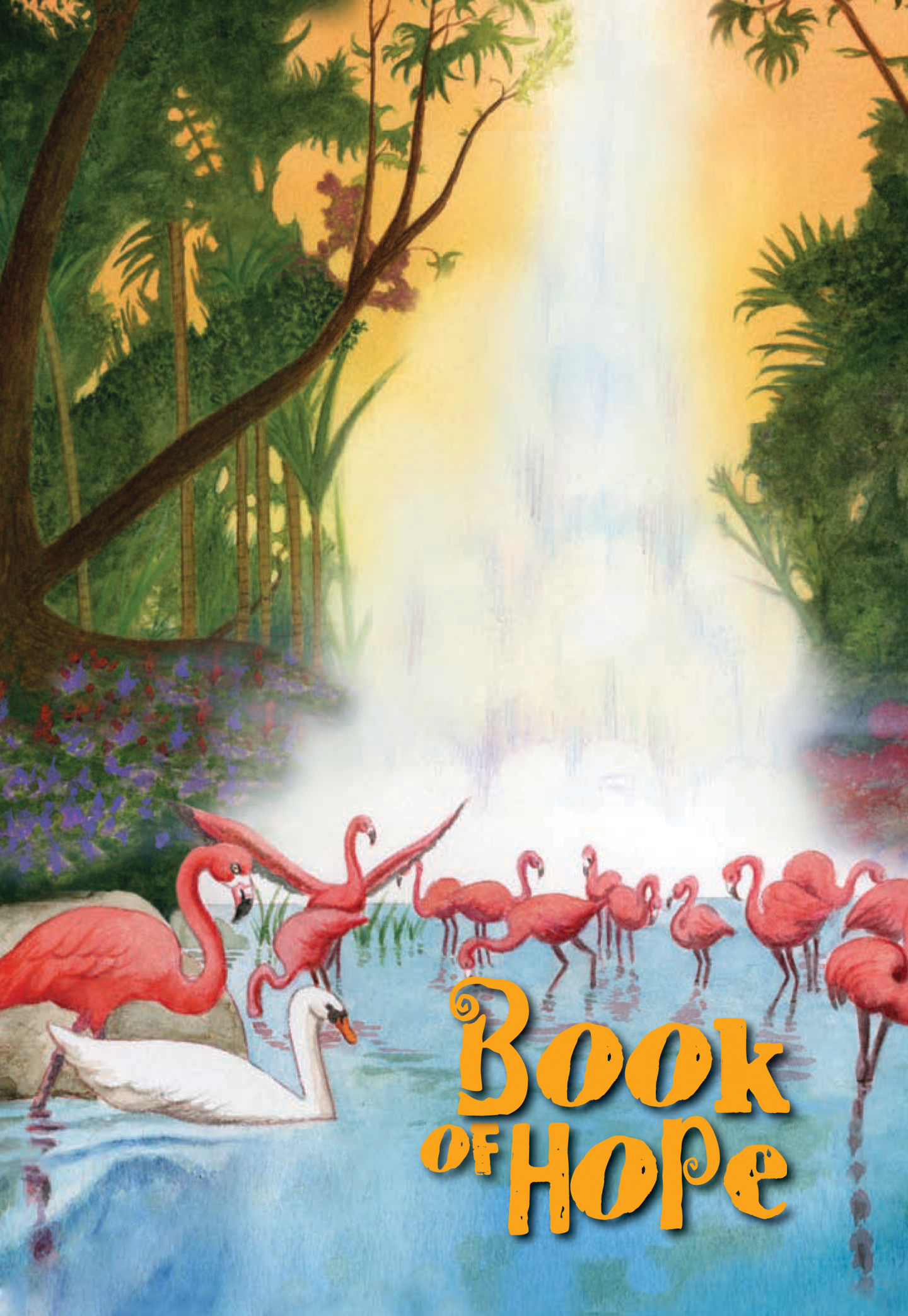
SO, WHAT IS THE BOOK OF HOPE?

This is your very own Book of Hope. It comes from another book called the Bible. God wants you to know that ***He loves you very much***, and ***He has a special purpose for your life***.

Read the story again, look closely at the pictures, and follow the true story of Jesus. Ask God to show you more about Himself and about your special purpose. Share this story with your friends and family so they too will know how much God loves them!

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Book of Hope