

Holy Week Readings for Families from God's Big Promises Bible Storybook



This free sample of the Holy Week stories from **God's Big Promises Bible Storybook** includes symbols on some pages that correlate to God making and keeping his promises. In the full Bible Storybook, **Promise Paths** make it easy for you to select stories based on particular promises God has made and kept.

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Written by
Carl Laferton

Illustrated by
Jennifer Davison



GOD'S BIG PROMISES

Bible Storybook



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Storybook



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Illustrations by Jennifer Davison | Design and Art Direction by André Parker

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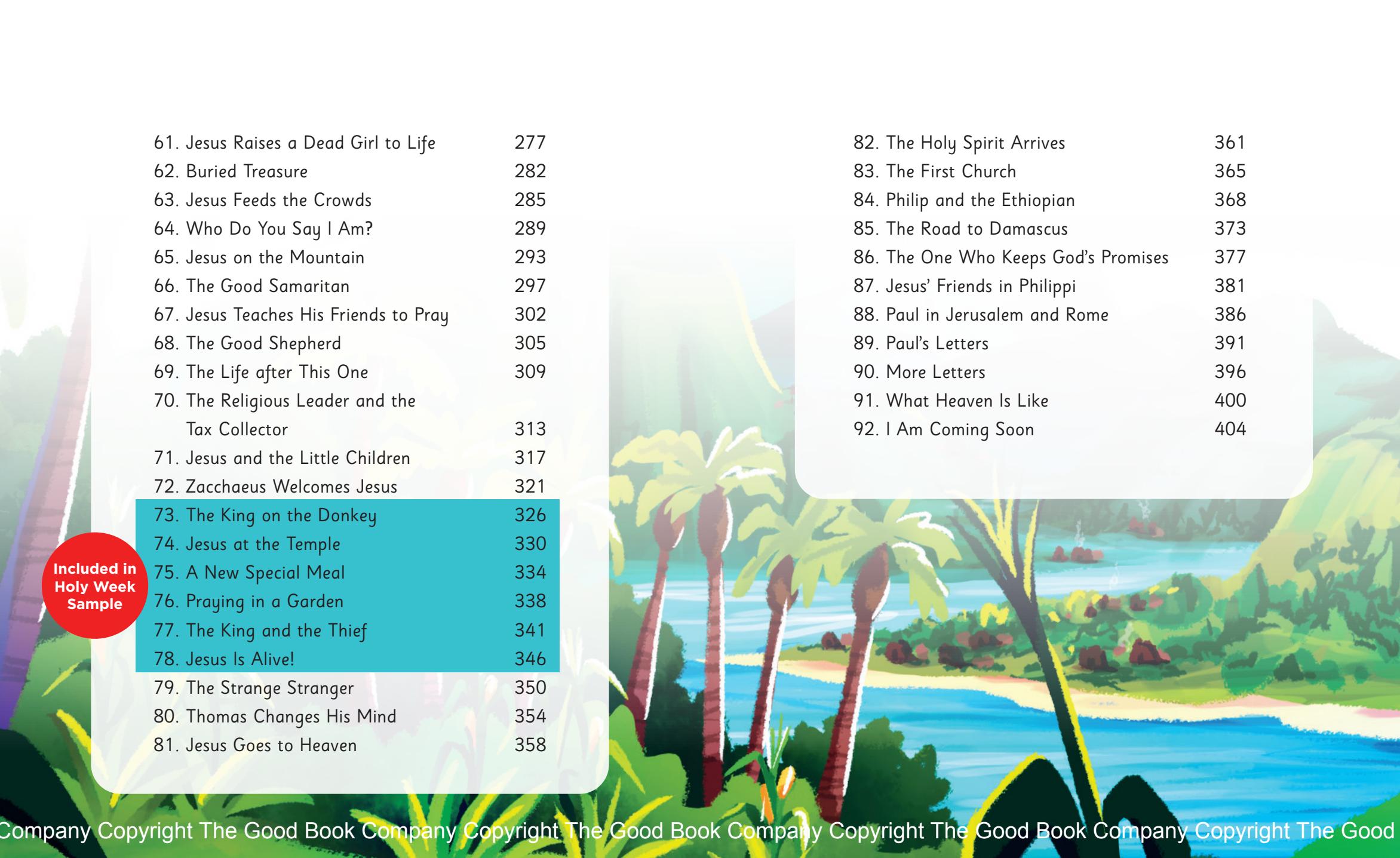
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Included in Holy Week Sample



BIG PROMISES

The Bible is a big book! There are lots and lots and **LOTS** of stories in it, and all of them are true! But the Bible is also **ONE BIG TRUE**

STORY. It is the story of how God made and kept **AMAZING** promises. Keep a look out for these clues on the pages and spot God making and keeping all his promises!



God
MAKES
a promise



To **RESUCE**



About his
PEOPLE



About a good
LAND to live in



That he will bring
JOY – happiness



About a
KING

God
KEEPS
a promise



PROMISE PATHS

If you'd like to enjoy how God made and kept one particular type of promise, follow the paths by turning to each numbered story listed in the promise paths below... keep an eye out for the clue in most (but not all) of the stories!



The RESCUE path

2-3-4-5-6-8-9-16-17-19-20-30-35-40-42-45-

47-49-58-64-68-75-77-78-79-84-87-91-92



The PEOPLE path

2-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-19-21-28-40-45-49-

55-58-75-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-87-88-89-91-92



The LAND path

2-8-9-11-12-13-14-15-17-19-21-24-25-26-28-

40-42-45-49-58-62-75-77-78-79-81-86-91-92



The JOY path

2-3-5-6-8-11-12-28-40-42-45-46-48-49-50-57-

58-64-71-75-77-78-79-80-81-82-85-86-91-92



The KING path

8-9-10-33-34-35-36-37-38-40-42-45-46-49-51-

58-62-64-65-73-75-77-78-79-81-82-84-87-91-92

The ONE BIG STORY IN 20 STORIES path

1-3-4-8-17-19-21-28-36-40-49-61-64-77-78-81-82-83-91-92

73. The King on the Donkey

Matthew 21:1-9; Luke 19:28-40



Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God's messenger Zechariah had said that when God's promise-keeping king came, he would ride into Jerusalem on a young donkey.

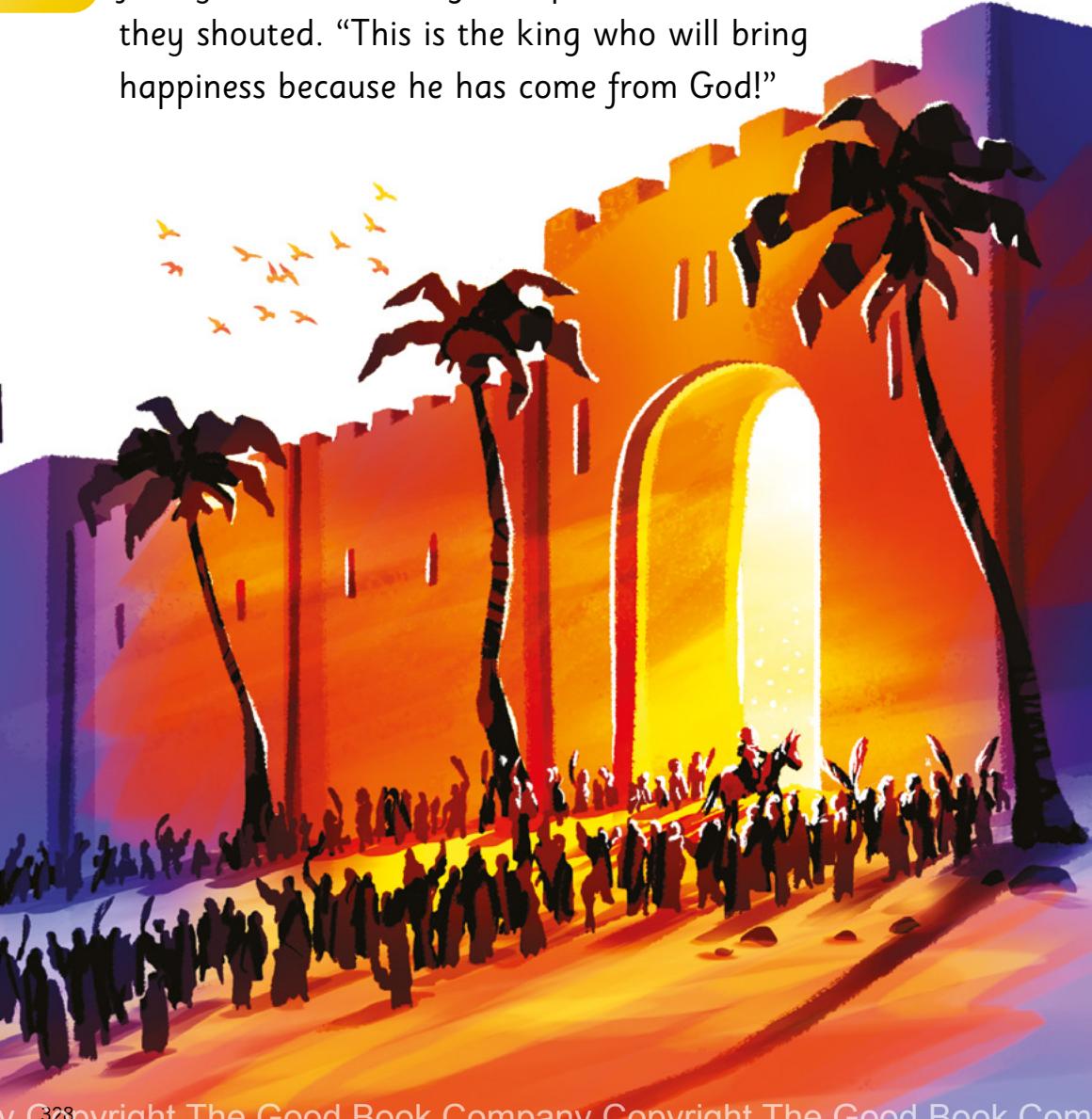
Jesus and his friends were near Jerusalem. So he sent two of his disciples to a village. "You will find a young donkey there," he told them. "Untie it and bring it to me."

The disciples found the donkey just as Jesus had said they would, and Jesus rode it into Jerusalem. Crowds of people spread their cloaks and tree branches across the road in front of him.





“Yay, this is the king from great King David’s family! This is the king God promised to send!” they shouted. “This is the king who will bring happiness because he has come from God!”



Some of the religious leaders were not happy, though. “Tell these people to stop saying these things about you,” they grumbled to Jesus.

Jesus said, “If these people have to keep quiet, I will get the stones on this road to shout about who I am.” And off he rode, on his donkey, into Jerusalem.

74. Jesus at the Temple

Matthew 21:12-16

Jesus went to the temple. He was very, very unhappy about what he saw there, because people were using it as a shop where they could make money instead of as a place where they could pray to God.

So Jesus tipped over the tables of the people who were selling things. “God has said this should be a place for people from all over the world to pray in,” he said. “But you are using it to steal from others.”



The religious leaders were angry. They wanted to get rid of Jesus. Then they heard some children shouting, "Jesus is the king from great King David's family. Yay!" Now they were even more angry.

"Do you hear those children, Jesus?" they complained. "They are saying you are God's promise-keeping king."

"Yes, they are," answered Jesus. "God loves to hear big truths coming out of little mouths."

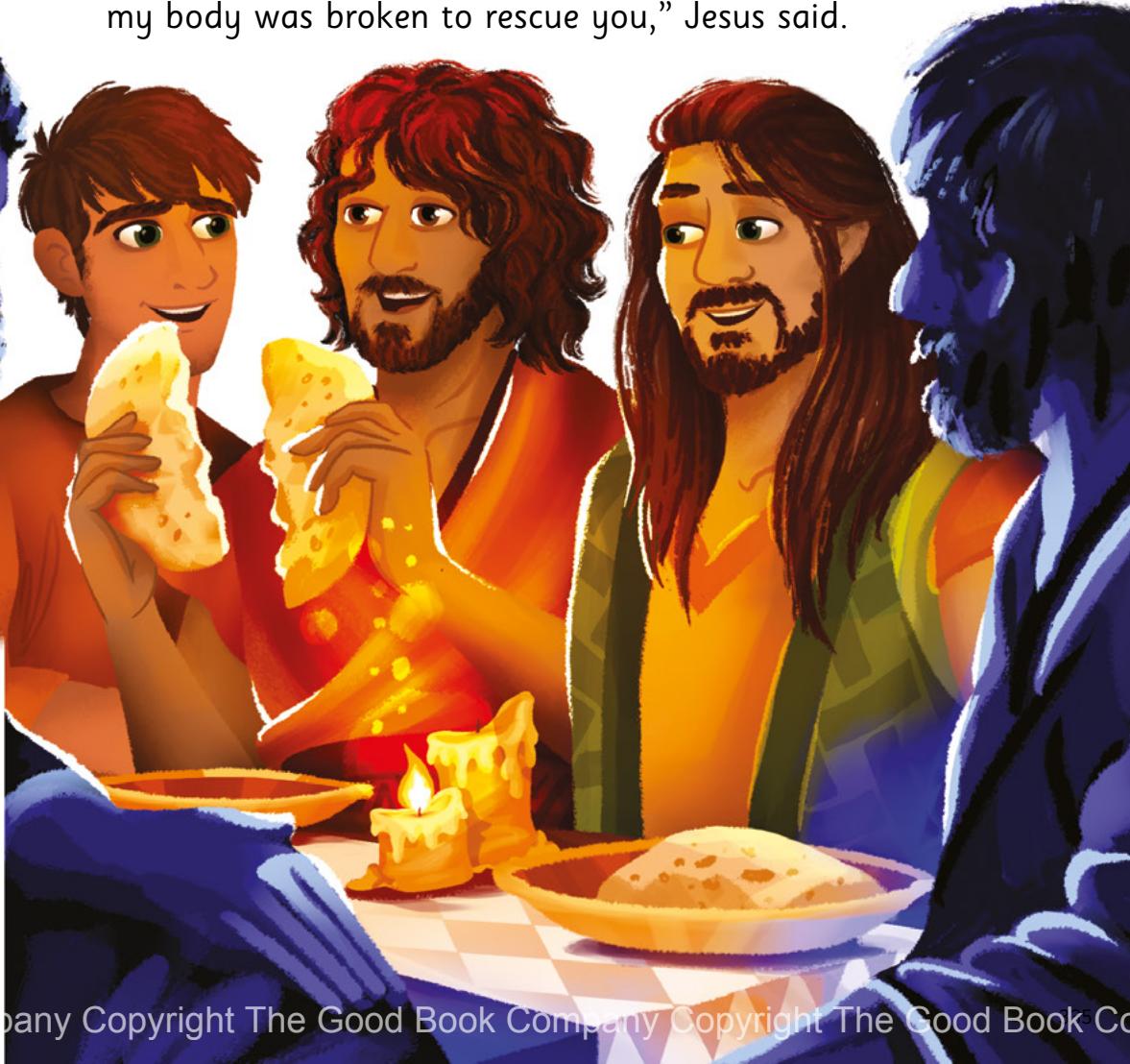
75. A New Special Meal

Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:37;
John 14:6



It was one of the most special days of the year – the day to remember how, long ago, God had rescued the Israelites from Egypt and made an unbreakable promise to love them as his people. Jesus and his friends shared the special remembering meal.

Jesus knew that soon he would die on a cross. He wanted his friends to understand why he would let that happen. So he took some bread and broke it into pieces. “Whenever you eat bread together, I would like you to remember that my body was broken to rescue you,” Jesus said.



Then Jesus took a cup of wine. "Whenever you drink wine together, remember that I bled on the cross so that you can be forgiven," he said. "I am making a new unbreakable promise to you. You will always be God's forgiven people.

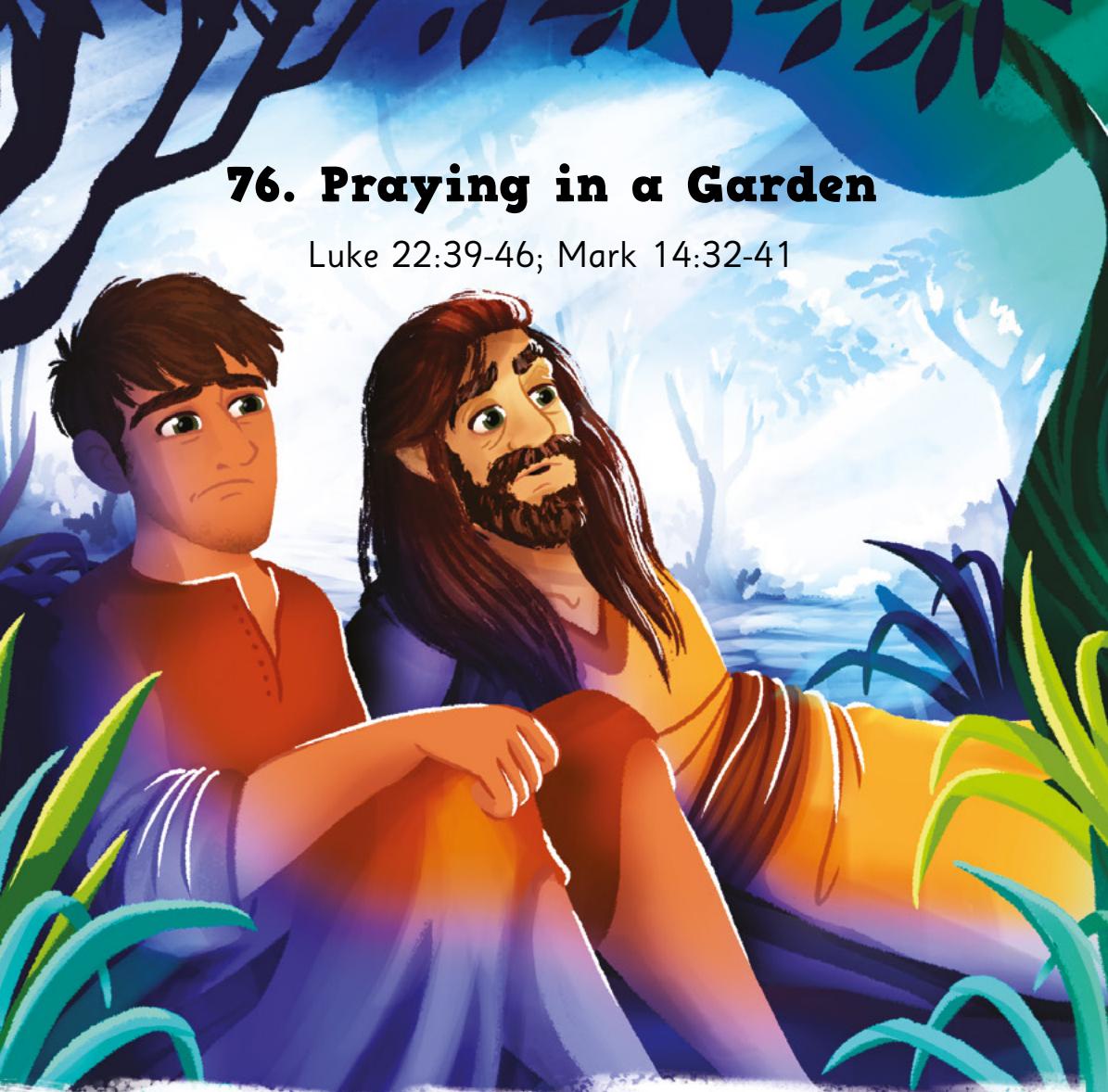


"It is time for me to keep all the promises God has made," Jesus told his disciples. "It is time for me to take the punishment you deserve for not loving and obeying God.

"I am the way to God's place.

"I tell the truth about God's place.

"I give people life in God's place."

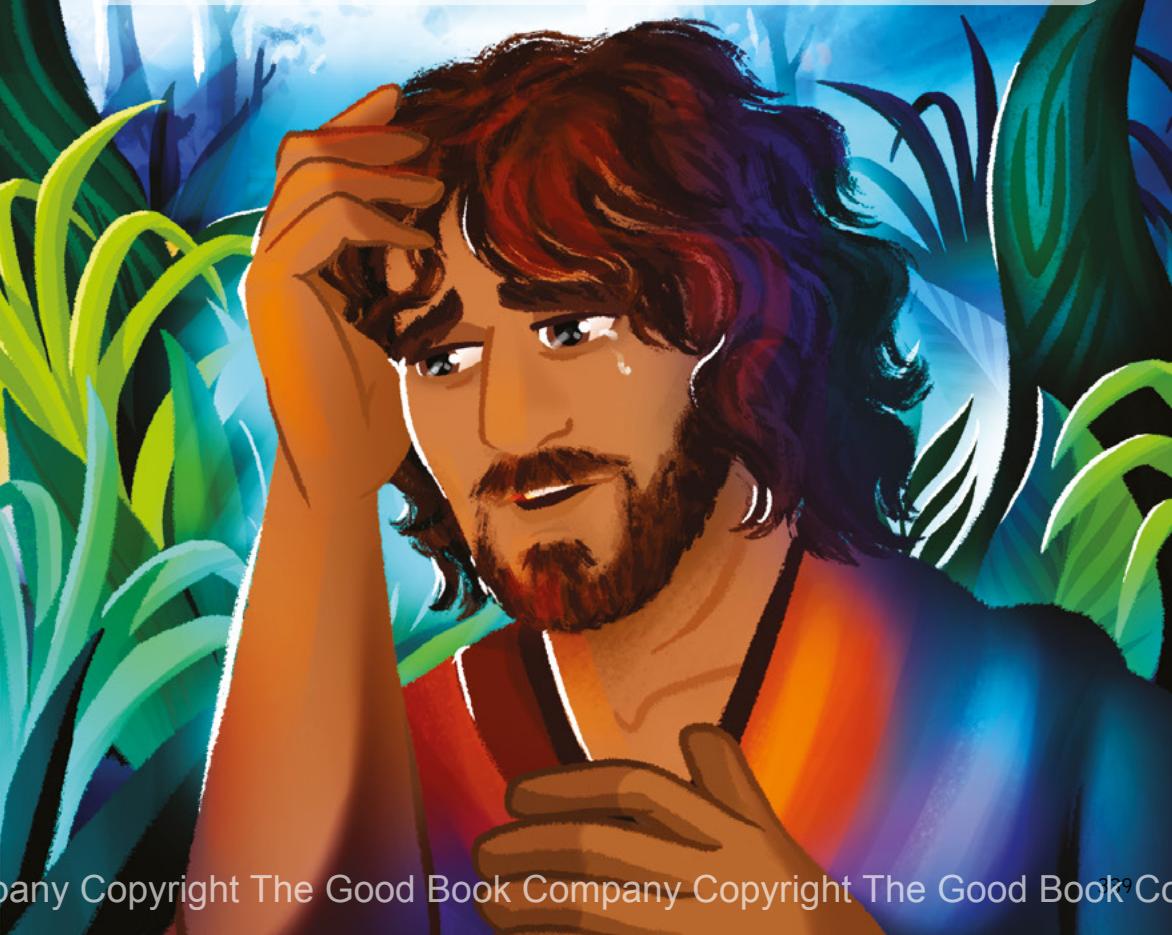


76. Praying in a Garden

Luke 22:39-46; Mark 14:32-41

Jesus was feeling very, very sad. He knew that soon it would be time for him to die, and he knew that that would be very, very hard. So he spoke to his Father:

“Dear Father, you can do anything. I would like you to take away the awful things that are going to happen to me. But most of all, I would like to do what you want me to do.”



Jesus and his friends went to a garden to pray. It was very late and everyone was really tired.

The disciples were so tired that instead of helping Jesus, they fell asleep while he prayed. But God sent an angel to help Jesus and give him strength.

Jesus woke his friends up. "It is time," he told them. "God's promises are coming true now."



77. The King and the Thief

Matthew 26:47-66;
Luke 23:35-43



Jesus was standing in the garden with his friends. The religious leaders came with soldiers to take him away.



"Tell us the truth," the leaders demanded. "Are you really God's chosen king? Are you really the Son of God?"

"Yes," answered Jesus. "And one day you will see me sitting on a throne and ruling over everything forever."

"We do not believe you!" said the religious leaders. "It is time to get rid of you!"

They took Jesus outside the city and put him on a cross. "You don't look like a rescuing king now!" they shouted.

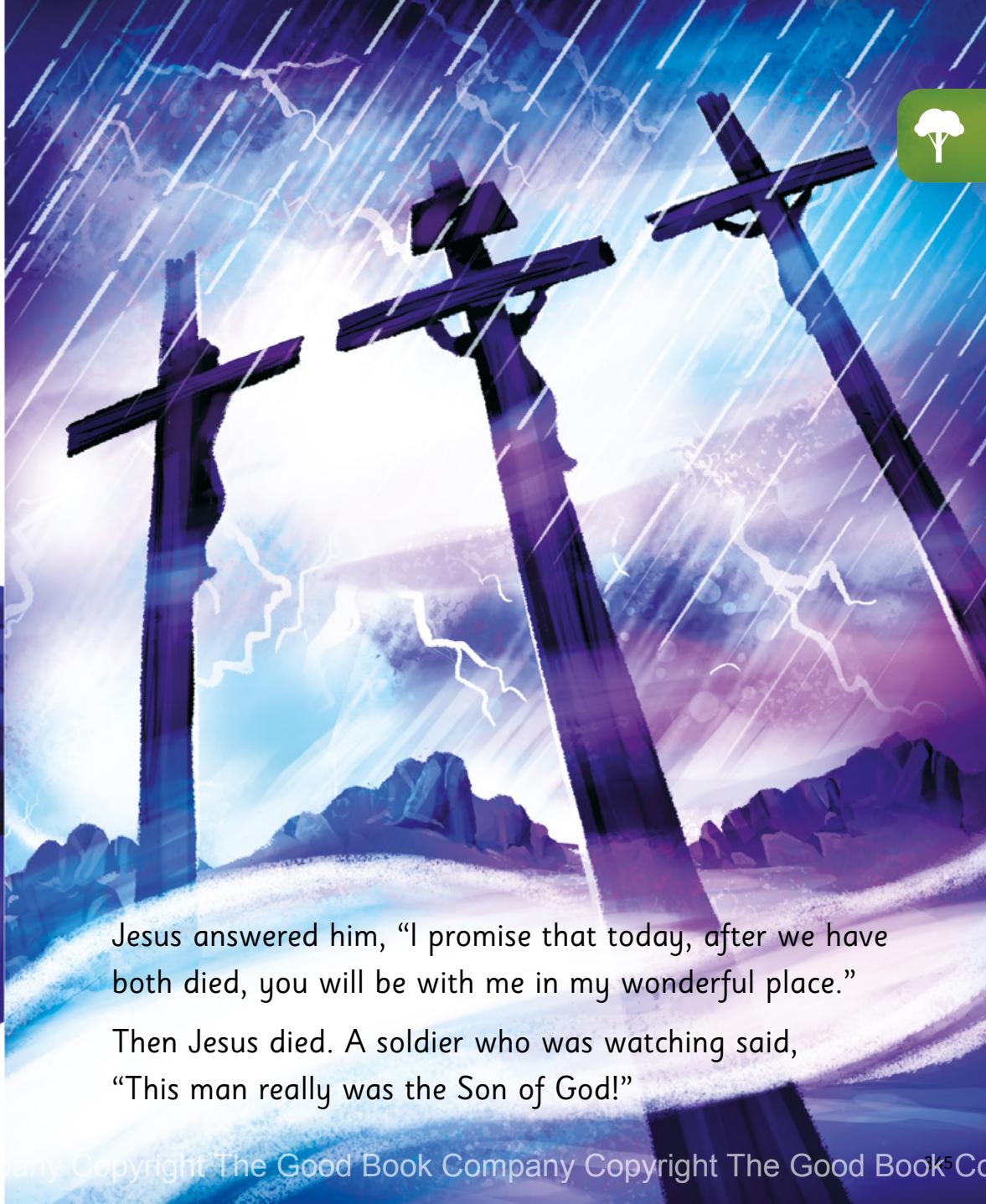


A thief was put on a cross next to Jesus. He said...

"Jesus, I know I deserve to be punished for what I have done wrong.

"Jesus, I know that you don't deserve to be punished, because you have never done anything wrong.

"Jesus, I know you are the king. Please could I have a place in your kingdom in the life after this one?"



Jesus answered him, "I promise that today, after we have both died, you will be with me in my wonderful place."

Then Jesus died. A soldier who was watching said, "This man really was the Son of God!"



78. Jesus Is Alive!

Matthew 27:60 – 28:10;
Luke 24:1-9

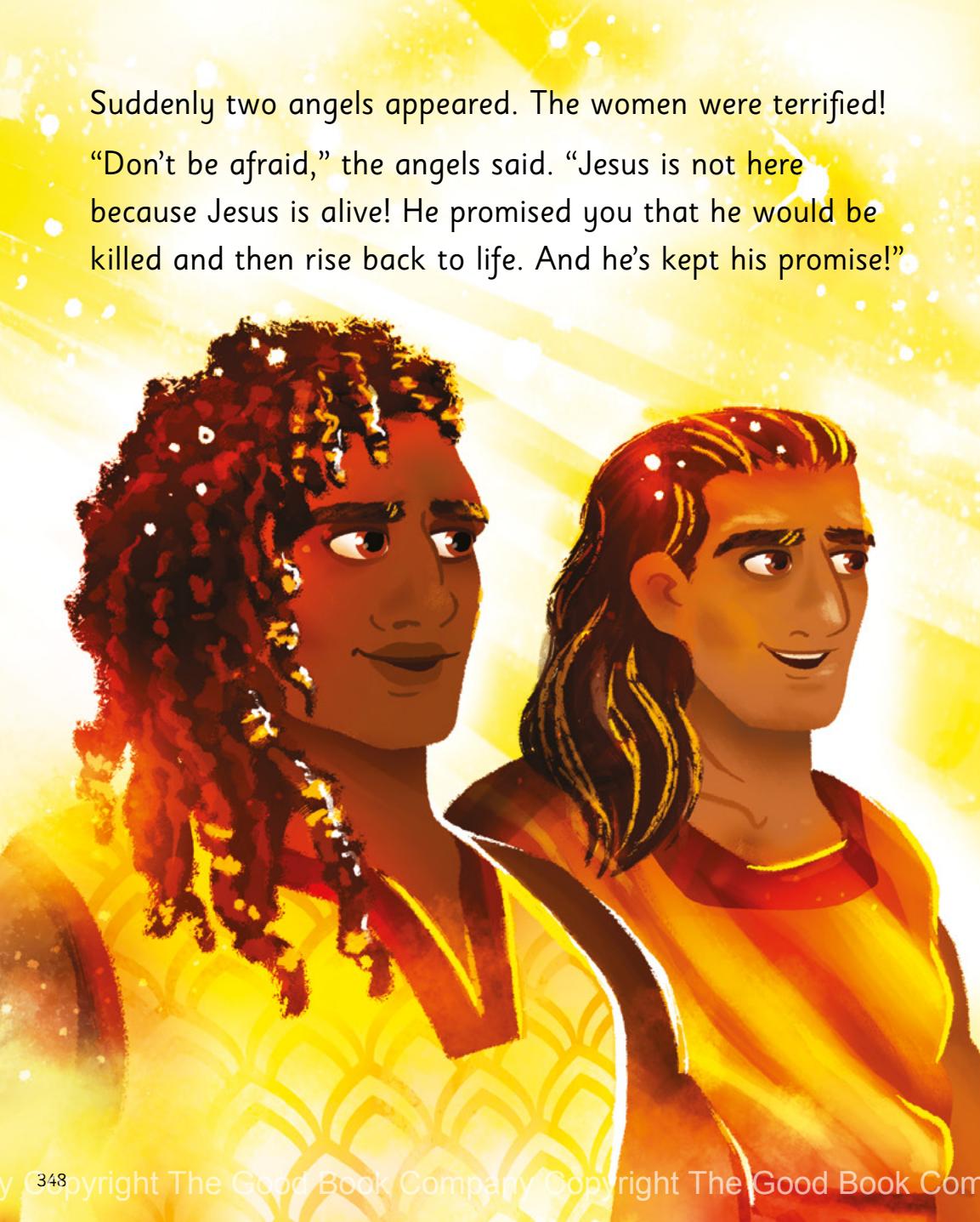


Jesus died on a Friday. His friends put him in a tomb, and a huge, heavy stone was rolled across its entrance. They felt very, very sad – sadder than they had ever felt before.

On the Saturday everyone rested. On the Sunday some of Jesus' friends, called Mary, Mary, and Salome, went to his tomb...

Jesus was not there.





Suddenly two angels appeared. The women were terrified!

“Don’t be afraid,” the angels said. “Jesus is not here because Jesus is alive! He promised you that he would be killed and then rise back to life. And he’s kept his promise!”



The women were still a bit frightened, but now they were mainly filled up with happiness. Then suddenly Jesus himself stood in front of them. “Hello!” he greeted the women. “Go and tell my friends that soon they will get to see me!”

WHAT NEXT?

The Bible is **ONE BIG TRUE STORY** – and you can be a part of that story too! Because God sent his Son Jesus to keep all his promises, anyone who becomes Jesus' friend can enjoy life with him forever in his perfect world in the life after this one.

When Jesus lived in this world, he told people, “Because I have arrived, people can be part of God’s kingdom. You need to love and obey me as your King and believe that I make all God’s promises come true” (Mark 1:15, my paraphrase).

You could talk to him now, if you like! You could say:

“Jesus, you are the King. You make all God’s promises come true. I love you. I want to obey you. Please give me a place in your kingdom in the life after this one.”

And do you know what Jesus replies to anyone who says this to him? He says the same as he said to the thief who was hanging on a cross next to him as he died:

“I promise that you will be with me in my wonderful place” (Luke 23:43, my paraphrase).

And, as we have seen, God always keeps his promises!



BIBLICAL | RELEVANT | ACCESSIBLE

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