

People welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44

What a happy day! Jesus and His friends were going to the Temple in Jerusalem. On the way, Jesus stopped. He said to His friends, "There is a little donkey in the town. Until it and bring it to Me."

Jesus climbed onto the donkey's back and began riding to the city. Many other people were walking along the road to Jerusalem. Some people were so happy to see Jesus that they spread their coats on the road. Other people cut branches from palm trees and laid them on the road for Jesus' donkey to walk on. They were treating Jesus like a king!

Some people ran ahead to tell others, "Jesus is coming!" And even more people came to see Jesus. They said, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" (That means "Save us.") It was a wonderful day in Jerusalem! The people praised Jesus!

Jesus washes His friends' feet.

John 13:1-17



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John 13:1-17

Jesus and His friends were getting ready to have a special dinner together. They spent the day talking and walking. The roads were hot and dusty.

When Jesus and His friends came to the house for a special dinner, their feet were dirty. They needed to be washed! But no one wanted to wash other people's feet. That was a job for a servant!

Jesus waited until the food was on the table. Then Jesus got up and wrapped a towel around His waist. Jesus poured water into a large bowl and began to wash His friends' feet.

Peter felt embarrassed. Peter knew that he should have offered to wash Jesus' feet. But Jesus told Peter that he needed Jesus to wash his feet for him.

"Follow my example," Jesus said. He wanted them to help each other.

Jesus eats a special meal with His friends.Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-38

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Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-38

Jesus and His friends were in Jerusalem to celebrate a holiday together. The holiday was called the Passover. Jewish people celebrate the Passover every year to remind them of the time God freed them from slavery.

As part of the holiday, Jesus and His friends ate a special meal. Jesus picked up some bread from the table. Jesus said thank-you to God for the bread. Then Jesus broke the bread into pieces and gave some bread to each of His friends.

"Take and eat. This is my body given for you," Jesus said. He compared the bread to His body.

Then Jesus took a cup and thanked God for it. "Drink from this cup. This is my blood shed for many people," Jesus said. Jesus gave the cup to each friend.

The bread and the cup were reminders of what was going to happen soon: Jesus' death on the cross. This special meal, called the Last Supper, reminds everyone who follows Jesus of His love and God's plan to forgive sins.



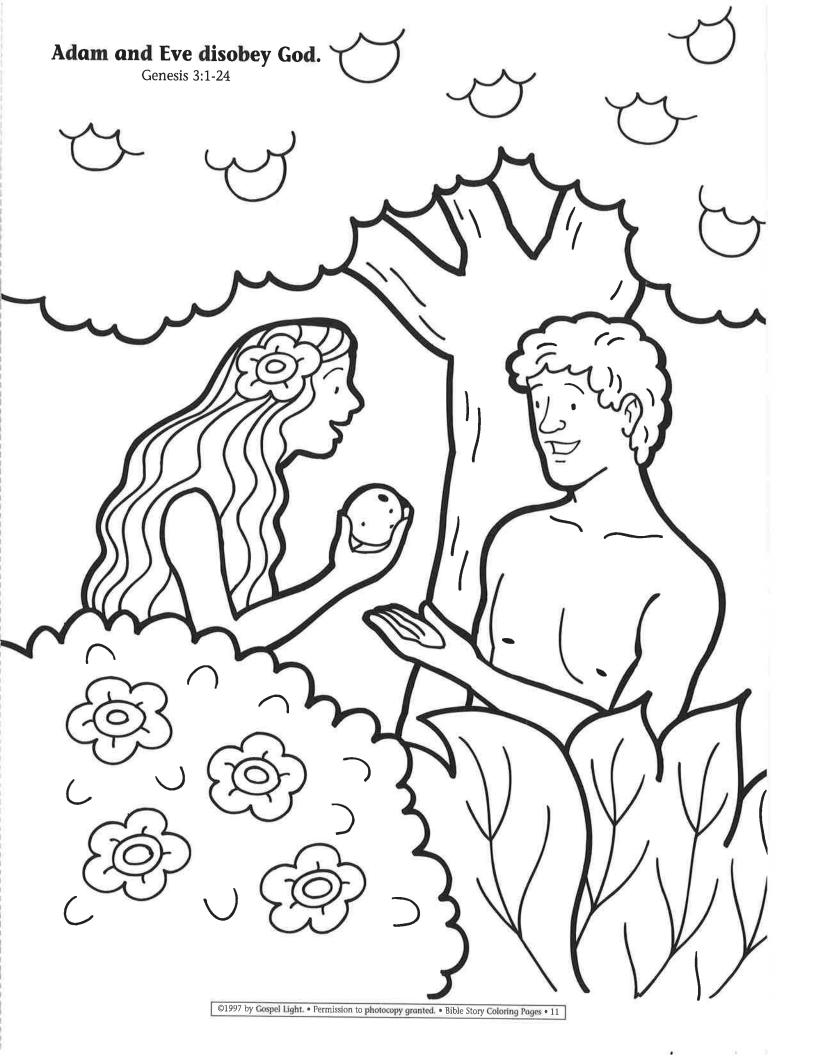
God creates the world.

Genesis 1:1—2:25

In the beginning, before anything was anything, God made the heavens and the earth. He just said, "Let there be light," and there was light! Then God made the sky and the land and the oceans. God made the plants and the sun, moon and stars. He liked what He made. It was very good!

Then God said, "Let the sky be filled with birds that fly." And it was. He said, "Let the waters be filled with all sorts of creatures." Then there were fish, dolphins, jellyfish, and many other creatures in the water. Next, God made every kind of animal. When God saw all the creatures that He made, He said that they were very good.

Then God did something even more special! He took some dirt and formed it into a man. Then God breathed into the man and he became alive. Next, God made a woman. They were the first people—people like you and me. They were named Adam and Eve. God loved Adam and Eve. Everything God made was very good.



Adam and Eve disobey God.

Genesis 3:1-24

Adam and Eve lived in a wonderful garden. There were trees and plants with good food like apples, bananas, grapes and watermelon. There were flowers and trees and plants that were beautiful to look at.

In the middle of the garden was a tree called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam and Eve they could eat anything in the whole garden except the fruit that was growing on that one tree.

One day, a serpent talked to Eve and told her to eat the forbidden fruit. "If you eat some of that fruit, you would know things you didn't know before," the snake said. "You would be like God."

Eve listened to the serpent. She ate some of the fruit from the tree that God said not to eat from. Adam ate some, too. God was very sad that they had disobeyed Him. Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful garden, but God still loved them very much.



God makes a path through the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:1-31

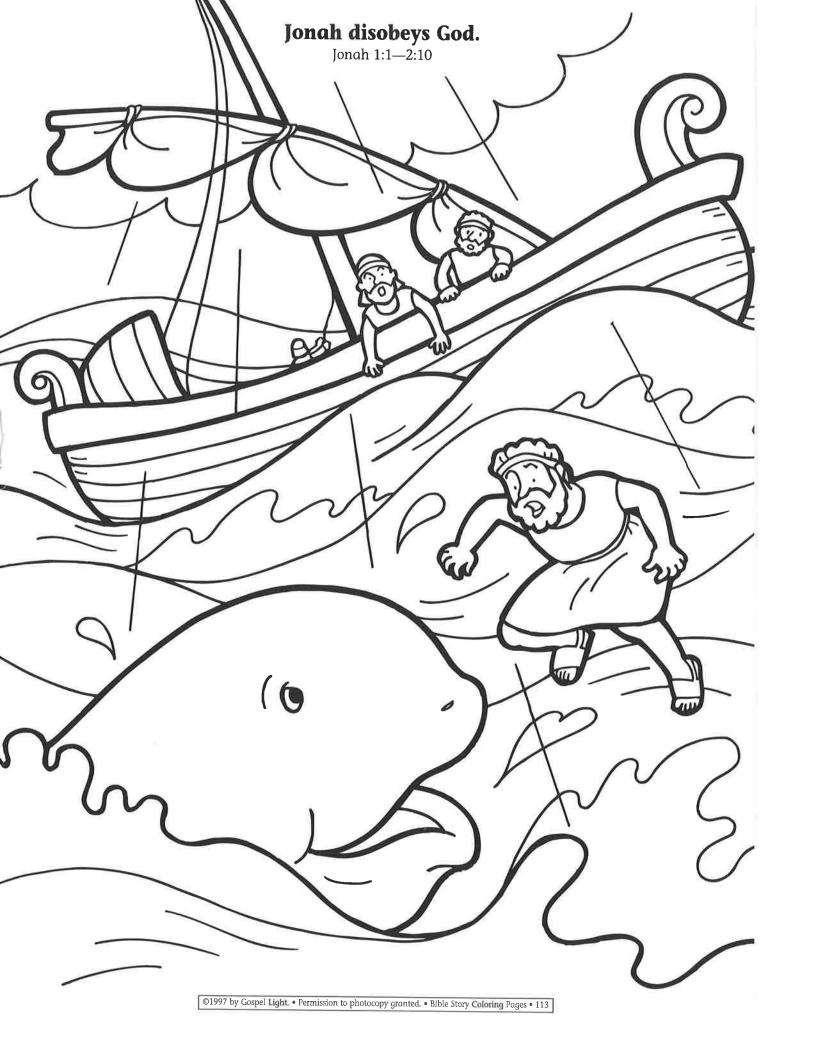
Pharaoh wanted the Israelites to come back to Egypt. He didn't have enough slaves left to do all the work the Israelites had done before they left.

So Pharaoh and his army chased after the Israelites. When the people saw the army coming, they were afraid. They couldn't run away because they were at the edge of the Red Sea.

But God took care of His people. God told Moses to hold his hand out over the Red Sea. God sent a strong wind that blew and blew and made a path of dry land through the Red Sea. The people walked through the sea on dry ground!

The Egyptian army tried to follow them. When all the Israelites were safe on the other side, God told Moses to stretch his hand out over the sea again. The water went back into its place. Whoosh! The Egyptian army was covered up by the water.

All the Israelites trusted God because of the way He saved them from the Egyptians.



Jonah disobeys God.

Jonah 1:1-2:10

God was not happy with the way the people in Nineveh acted.

God told Jonah to warn the people in Nineveh that God would punish them for all the bad things they kept doing. But Jonah didn't like the people in Nineveh and didn't want them to get a warning. So Jonah decided to disobey God. Jonah got on a boat that was going the other way.

God wanted Jonah to obey Him. God sent a storm that made the boat start to sink. The people on the boat were afraid. Jonah said, "God sent this storm because I ran away from Him. If you want this storm to stop, you must throw me overboard." The people on the boat threw Jonah into the water. Suddenly, the sea was still.

Jonah went down, down, down. Jonah wanted to breathe, but he couldn't. Jonah saw a giant fish swimming toward him! Jonah tried to swim away, but the giant fish opened its giant mouth and swallowed Jonah. Gulp!

Jonah was in the belly of the big fish. Now Jonah could breathe. It must have been very smelly! Jonah was sorry he had disobeyed God. He prayed and promised to obey God. Finally, God made the fish swim to the shore and spit Jonah up on the beach.



Jesus dies on the cross.

Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37

One day, Jesus told His friends, "In a few days, some people are going to take Me away. I'm going to be killed." Jesus' friends were sad. Jesus knew this was part of God's plan so people could be forgiven for wrong things they have done. And Jesus knew He wouldn't stay dead!

The people who wanted to kill Jesus did not like it that so many people loved Him. When these people came to get Jesus, Jesus let them take Him. And He let them kill Him on a cross.

Jesus' friends were sad. They took Jesus' body and put it into a tomb. A tomb was a little room cut out of the side of a hill. Some men put a huge rock in front of the doorway of the tomb. Jesus' friends were very sad. They didn't know that something wonderful was going to happen.



Jesus talks to Mary in the garden.

John 20:10-18

Mary felt very sad. She thought she would never see Jesus again. Mary went to the tomb where Jesus' body was. Mary wanted to put some spices on Jesus' body (as people did in Bible times when someone died).

When Mary got to the tomb, she saw that it was empty! Jesus' body wasn't there anymore. Mary cried and cried. She didn't know that Jesus was alive. Mary saw two angels. They asked, "Why are you crying?"

Mary said, "Someone has taken Jesus' body and I don't know where they have put it." Then Mary turned around and saw a man standing there.

"Woman," the man said, "why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Mary thought that He was a gardener.

Mary said, "Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him."

The man just said her name, "Mary." Right away Mary knew that He was Jesus and He was alive! Mary felt so happy! Jesus told Mary to go and tell His friends that He was alive.