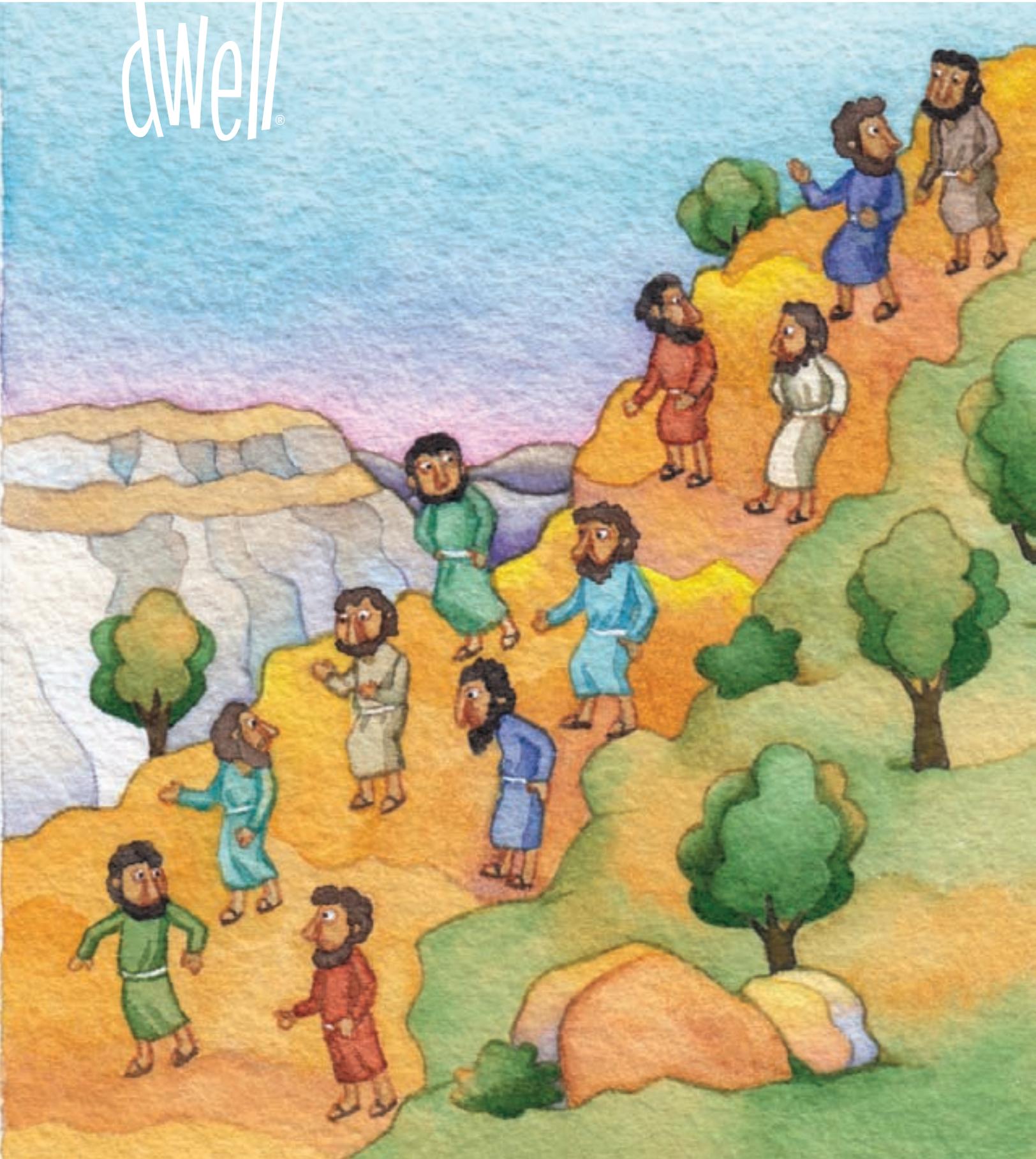


dwell[®]



Dear Family,

I've been enjoying exploring the stories of Jesus with our group. And I'm looking forward to the next six weeks when we'll walk through the amazing stories about Jesus' birth (right around Christmas), his return to heaven, and the power of the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in God's people.

Take time to marvel at these stories with your child, to wonder what they mean for your lives, to live into them together. Your set of God's Big Story cards will help you do that together.

Here is a glance at the upcoming sessions with suggested questions to ask your child each week:

Date: _____ *Christmas: A Promise Kept*

What kind of man was Joseph? How do we know?



Date: _____ *A Mountaintop Goodbye*

What do you imagine the disciples talked about as they walked back to Jerusalem after Jesus ascended?



Date: _____ *Peter at Pentecost*

Wonder together whether the Spirit still comes in signs and wonders today. What might that look like?



Date: _____ *In the Name of Jesus*

Talk together about whether healing miracles still happen today—and why God doesn't heal everyone.



Date: _____ *Before the Sanhedrin*

Wonder together about what gave Peter and John—uneducated fishermen—so much confidence.



Date: _____ *The Fellowship of Believers*

What might you change in your family life or church life to make your community look more like the early fellowship of believers?



Our Memory Challenge for this unit is Matthew 28:18-20. To listen to or purchase a great song version of the Memory Challenge, visit Dwellcurriculum.org and look for the song "Go." Or consider purchasing a copy of the *DwellSongs* CD, Year 1, at www.faihaliveresources.org.

I look forward to continuing this exciting faith journey with your child!

Sincerely,

Memory Challenge

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth as been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:18-20, NIV

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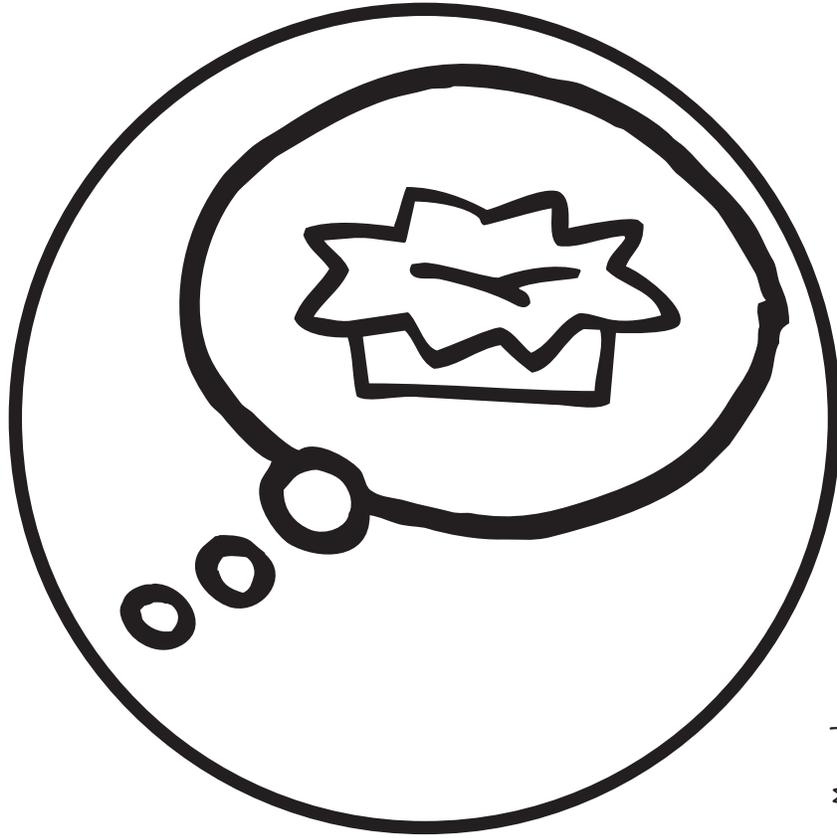
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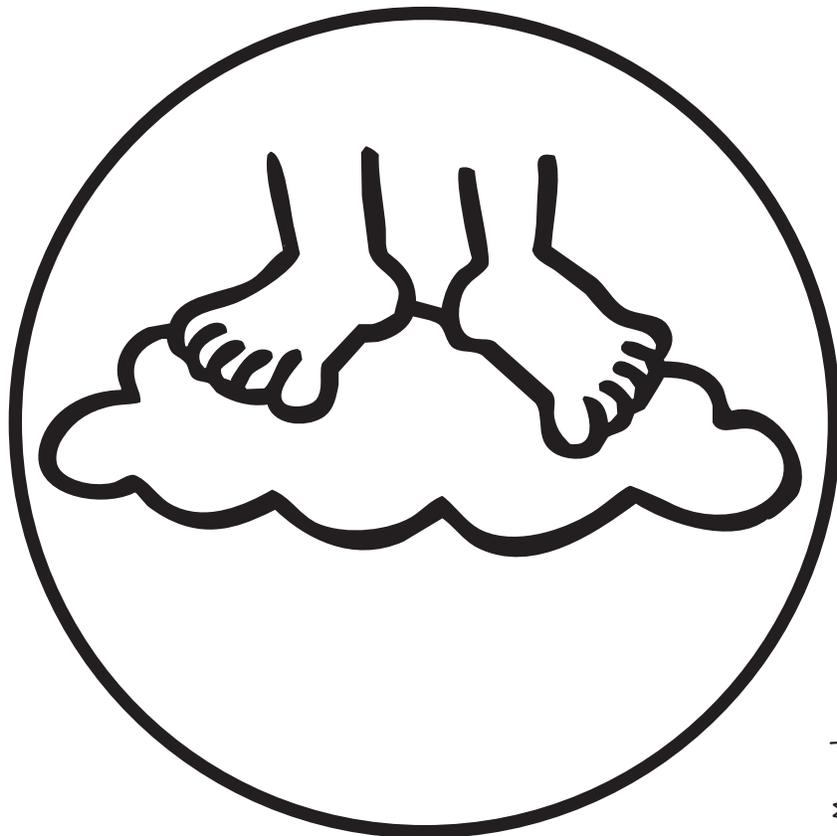
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Marvel
Year 1, Unit 3, Christmas



Marvel
Year 1, Unit 3, Session 1



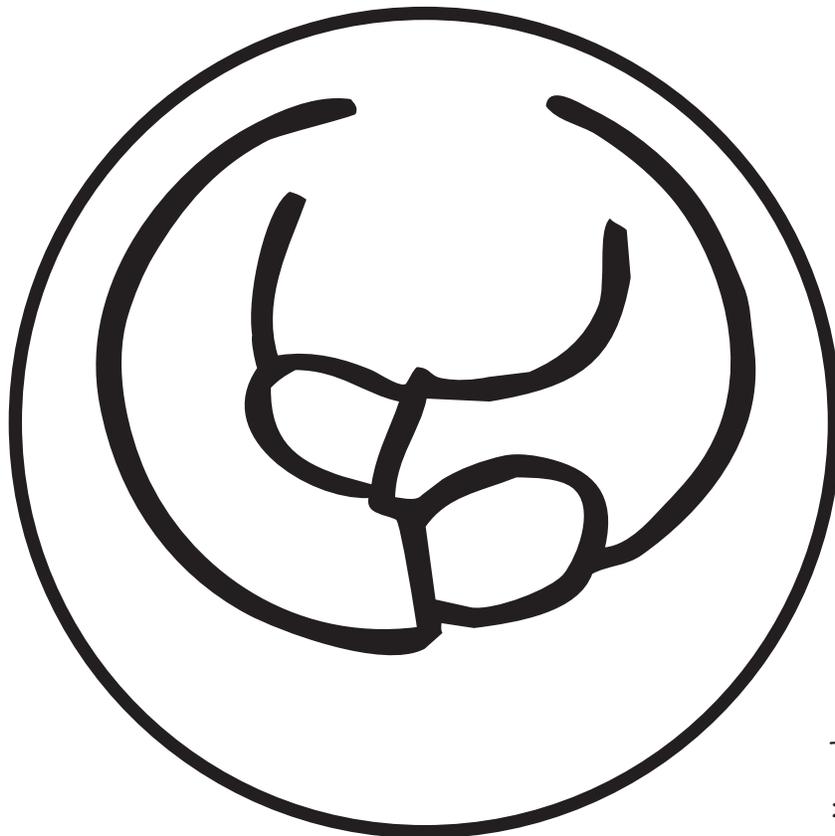
Marvel
Year 1, Unit 3, Session 2



Marvel
Year 1, Unit 3, Session 3



Marvel
Year 1, Unit 3, Session 4



Marvel
Year 1, Unit 3, Session 5

Joseph's Dream

Hello, everybody. My name is Joseph. You may not know who I am, but you've probably heard of my son, Jesus. You know—the guy who walked on water, healed the sick, and gave sight to the blind. Not to mention that he was God's only Son. Well, I'm his earthly father. I know what you're probably thinking . . . Jesus, the Messiah? Your son? Sometimes I can't believe it either!

Even though I'm nobody special at all, God chose my wife, Mary, and me to be the earthly parents of Jesus, the Savior of the world! I can't take credit for any of the amazing things Jesus did while he was living on earth. It seems like just yesterday he was a little toddler bouncing on my lap. I still remember the day the angel of God came to me in a dream to tell me the news. . . .

I was just a young man, and Mary and I were engaged to be married. I was crazy about her! She was beautiful, intelligent, and very sweet. I couldn't wait until our wedding day. But one day, shortly after we got engaged, Mary told me she was having a baby—and I knew I wasn't the father.

I was crushed. I thought Mary really loved me, and now this. Mary tried to explain that an angel told her she would have a baby through the Holy Spirit, and that the baby would grow up and save all people from their sins, but I couldn't hear her words. I could only feel the pain of knowing that we could no longer be together.

You see, in our country, if a young woman has a baby before she is married, it's a disgrace to her whole family. I knew I couldn't marry someone who was already having a baby—what would everyone think of her? What would everyone think of me? I could have made a big deal of it and publically shamed her—but I cared about her too much. So I decided to divorce her quietly so that no one would look down on her.

The night after I decided to do this, an angel appeared to me in a dream. The dream seemed so real that it felt like the angel was standing right next to me! He said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the Holy Spirit made her become pregnant. She will give birth to a son, and you will give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

The angel went on to explain that this would happen because of what the prophet Isaiah said years ago: A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel, which means "God with us."

When I woke up from the dream, I was stunned. I remembered hearing that verse from Isaiah when I went to the synagogue to worship God. And now what Isaiah said was finally coming true—through my fiancé, Mary. I could hardly believe what had just happened. I was going to be the earthly father of the Messiah!

After that, I was no longer afraid to take Mary as my wife. She gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, and we named him Jesus—the one who saves.

Joseph and the Angel

Use your imagination and Matthew 1:18-25 to retell the events of Joseph's dream.

Angel:

Joseph:

Angel:

Joseph:

Angel:

Joseph:

Will Happen

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14

Will Happen

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

—Micah 5:2

Will Happen

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom.

—Isaiah 9:6-7

Will Happen

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.”

—Hosea 11:1

Will Happen

This is what the Lord says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

—Jeremiah 31:15

Will Happen

Came True

	<p>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.</p> <p>—Luke 1:31-32</p>
	<p>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.</p> <p>—Luke 2: 4-7</p>
	<p>In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”</p> <p>But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.”</p> <p>—Luke 1: 26-28, 30-31</p>
	<p>When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.</p> <p>—Matthew 2:16</p>
	<p>When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”</p> <p>—Matthew 2:13</p>

Breaking News

1. You're some of Jesus' followers, aren't you? What are your names?
2. You followed him around for a few years. What did you see him do?
3. Were you there when he died? What was that day like?
4. Some people say you've been following a ghost for the past month. How do you know Jesus is really alive?
5. We heard that something amazing happened on the mountaintop outside of town today. Can you tell us about it?
6. What did you think when Jesus started rising into the air? What did you say to each other?
7. What about the two men or angels who talked to you after Jesus was gone? What did they look like? What did they say?
8. Someone said that Jesus gave you work to do, now that he's gone. Can you tell us about that?
9. Some people say Jesus was a magician—that he just did tricks and didn't really have power at all. What do you think?
10. What will you do now that your leader is gone?

An Interview with Peter

Two chairs are set up with a table in front of audience. One member of the group should hold up Applause card where indicated.

Talk Show Host: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and thanks for watching another episode of *Jerusalem Live!* I'm your host _____, and today I have a very interesting guest. He's a former fisherman who was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus—that's right, Jesus of Nazareth! Many of you heard the news of his brutal crucifixion, but there are rumors, folks. Some say that Jesus is alive and that recently he returned to heaven!

I'm sure some of you also have heard of the peculiar event that took place a few days ago during our Pentecost festival—something about rushing wind sounds and tongues of fire.

Our special guest today, Peter, should be able to give us the scoop on that.

[Hold up Applause card as Peter enters.]

Talk Show Host: Thanks for joining us today, Peter!

Peter: My pleasure.

Talk Show Host: We've all heard that Jesus actually rose from the dead—became alive again—and then mysteriously rose up in the sky and went to heaven. But it sounds pretty far-fetched. What can you tell us?

Peter: What you heard is absolutely true. My friends and I saw all these things happen with our own eyes!

Talk Show Host: Amazing! I also heard that Jesus told you something very important before he left earth that day—what did he say?

Peter: Before Jesus left, he told us not to leave Jerusalem until we had received the gift of the Holy Spirit. So we all went back to the house we were staying in. We spent lots of time praying. We spent lots of time wondering too. What would the Holy Spirit be like? How would we know when he arrived?

Talk Show Host: So what happened next?

Peter: We were all in the upstairs room of the house—me, the other disciples, women who followed Jesus, and many others. Suddenly something that sounded like the rushing of a fierce wind flooded the whole house—it was huge, like a cyclone or tornado. We were all terrified. And then we saw something truly amazing!

Talk Show Host: What was it?!

Peter: There were flames of fire on each of our heads—

Talk Show Host: Wow—didn't your hair burn?

Peter: No—it wasn't even hot! I couldn't believe my eyes. Suddenly I knew what it was. I knew just what was happening. The Holy Spirit had come—the Holy Spirit was with us—right in that room.

Talk Show Host: Sounds kind of scary.

Peter: But it wasn't! I was so excited, my hands were trembling. Probably my feet too! But I couldn't wait to tell others about what had just happened. My friends and I hurried out and started telling the crowds about what had happened in that room. And the amazing thing is—everyone who was there understood us!

[Hold up Applause card.]

Talk Show Host: Why is that so amazing?

Peter: Because most of the people who were there don't speak the same language my friends and I speak.

Talk Show Host: Why were so many people hanging around Jerusalem?

Peter: It was the feast of Pentecost, and Jews from all over the world came to celebrate together. There were people from places like Arabia, Rome, Asia, and parts of Africa. And they all understood us. That's what the Spirit's power can do. It's amazing!

Talk Show Host: I heard rumors that when some people in the crowd heard all the different languages, they thought you were drunk—and babbling nonsense.

Peter: [*laughing*] That's because they don't know the power of the Spirit! We weren't drunk—it was only nine o'clock in the morning! I stood up and talked to the crowd about what had happened to us. I told them Jesus' promise had come true—God had sent the Spirit to be with his people. Then things got a little tense. Because I also told all the Jews who were listening to me that they had killed the Messiah. They had crucified the Son of God.

Talk Show Host: Weren't they angry?

Peter: Most of them were sad. And very, very sorry. God's Spirit was working in that crowd too. Over three thousand people asked to be baptized that day.

Talk Show Host: So what you're saying is that all these wild stories we've heard about Jesus are true?

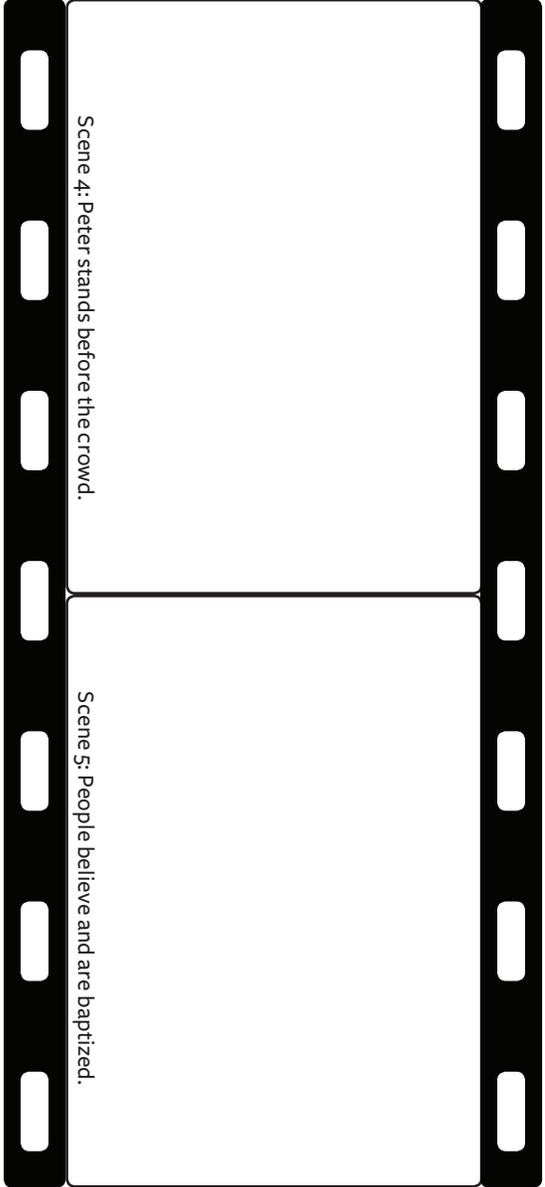
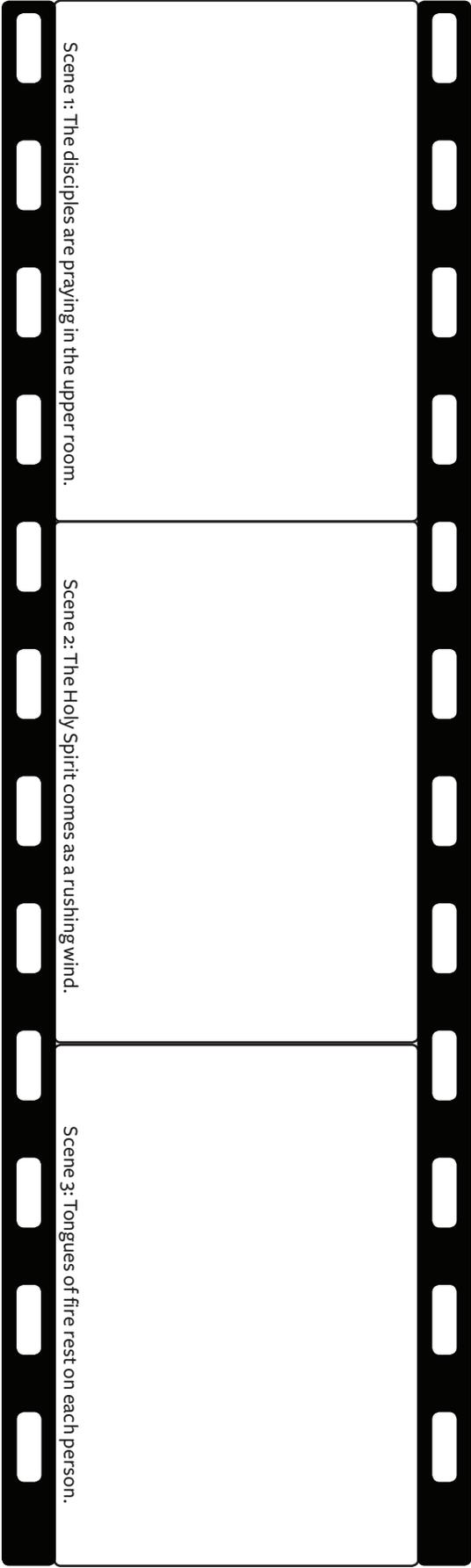
Peter: Absolutely! And the amazing things that happened in Jerusalem this week are just the beginning. Now that the Holy Spirit is in us, we have the power we need to share the good news with the whole world. And that's just what we plan on doing.

Talk Show Host: Thank you so much for joining us today, Peter. It's been fascinating.

Peter: Thanks for having me.

Talk Show Host: [*turns to audience*] Thanks for watching today's show, and remember to tell all your friends the amazing news we heard today. According to Peter and his friends, Jesus is the Messiah! You heard it here on Jerusalem Live.

[*Hold up Applause card.*]



Tongue Twisters

**Hole he
spare it.**

1.

**Rugs she
wins.**

2.

**Cheese us
eel sword.**

3.

**Eat earn
you'll wife.**

4.

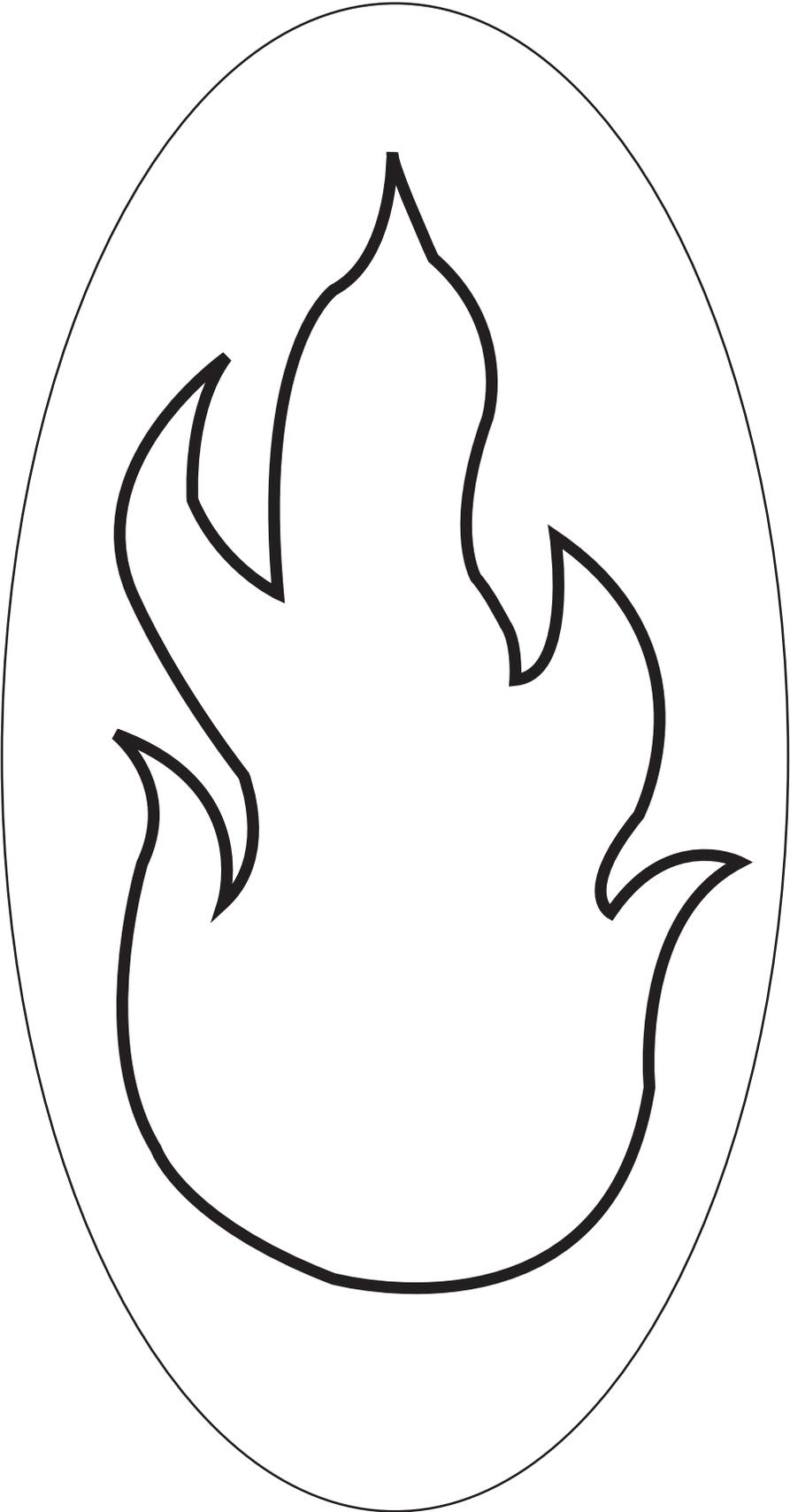
**Pie bull
store keys.**

5.

**Tons love
fryer.**

6.

Flames of Power



Story Scramble Cards

<p>When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they were filled with wonder and amazement.</p>	<p>Peter and John looked straight at him. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"</p>	<p>One day Peter and John went to the temple to pray.</p>
<p>Peter said, "I don't have any silver and gold, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."</p>	<p>So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.</p>	<p>A man who couldn't walk was carried to the temple gate called Beautiful; he came there each day to beg.</p>
<p>Taking him by the hand, Peter helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.</p>	<p>When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for money.</p>	<p>He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with Peter and John into the temple courts, walking and jumping and praising God.</p>

How Well Do You Know Your Feet?

See how many feet facts you know (or can guess)!

1. During a lifetime, the average person will walk

- a. 10,000 miles.
- b. 115,000 miles.
- c. 250,000 miles.

2. Toenails and fingernails grow fastest

- a. in cold weather.
- b. in hot weather.
- c. They always grow at the same rate.

3. Which is the best exercise for feet?

- a. walking
- b. running
- c. jumping jacks

4. How many bones does one foot include?

- a. 10
- b. 26
- c. 33

5. The largest foot (U.S. size) recorded in the world is

- a. 16.
- b. 22½.
- c. 28½.

6. It's best to shop for shoes

- a. in the morning.
- b. in the afternoon.

7. How much more often do foot problems occur in women than men?

- a. four times as often
- b. six times as often
- c. ten times as often

8. When you stand up, your foot

- a. gets one size larger.
- b. gets two sizes larger.
- c. stays the same.

9. How many sweat glands do the feet contain?

- a. 10
- b. 500
- c. 250,000

10. What is one of the largest contributors to foot problems in North Americans?

- a. eating at McDonalds
- b. lack of exercise
- c. high heeled shoes

Order in the Court

Narrator: While Peter and John were speaking to the crowd in the temple after healing the lame man, a group of priests, a temple guard, and religious leaders called Sadducees came up and grabbed them. The Sadducees were very angry that Peter and John were teaching in the courts—after all, they weren’t teachers of the law!

The Sadducees were also upset that Peter and John were saying Jesus had risen from the dead. They refused to believe such nonsense, and they didn’t want the crowd listening to it either. So they threw Peter and John in jail for the night. The next morning the rulers, elders, and teachers of the law gathered together for Peter and John’s trial. These powerful religious leaders were known as the Sanhedrin.

Courtroom Guard: All rise for entrance of the honorable Sanhedrin!

[The Sanhedrin enter and take seats at the table in front of the room. Peter and John enter and stand before them. Onlookers stand as the Sanhedrin enter.]

Religious Leader 1: Please be seated, everyone. [Peter and John remain standing] Peter and John, it has been brought to our attention that yesterday around three o’clock in the afternoon, you healed a beggar who wouldn’t walk and began teaching about Jesus in the temple courts.

John: What you say is true.

Religious Leader 2: *[sneers]* By what power did you do this? Who gave you the authority to do such a thing?

Peter: *[boldly and confidently]* With all due respect, your honors, if we’re being punished because we showed kindness to a man who couldn’t move his legs and you want to know how he was healed, then let me tell you—it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that this man stands before you healed.

Religious Leader 1: Nonsense!

Peter: The same Jesus you brutally killed on the cross and whom God raised from the dead has given us the power to boldly speak about these things. Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus, and there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved!

Religious Leader 3: *[angrily stands and points at Peter and John]* Ludicrous! Rubbish!

[The crowd stirs and the Sanhedrin begin to whisper amongst one another.]

Religious Leader 1: [*pounds gavel*] Order in the court! Peter and John, please excuse us as we discuss this matter in private.

John: Of course, your honor. Take all the time you need.

[*Courtroom guard escorts Peter and John off scene.*]

Religious Leader 3: Can you believe the nerve of these guys? They don't seem afraid at all—that makes me furious!

Religious Leader 2: How can uneducated fishermen speak so boldly and wisely? I don't get it!

Religious Leader 1: What are we going to do with them? We can't punish them for healing someone—everyone in Jerusalem has heard about the miracle! They won't want us punishing the guys who have the power to heal, that's for sure.

Religious Leader 3: We'll have to insist that they can't talk about Jesus anymore. We can't have the whole city of Jerusalem believing in this Jesus nonsense.

Religious Leader 2: Yes, we've got to stop them before things get out of hand. Guard, bring Peter and John back in!

[*Courtroom guard brings in Peter and John.*]

Religious Leader 1: Peter and John, you are free to go. But you must not—I repeat *not*—speak about Jesus anymore. Understood?

John: What do you think God wants us to do—listen to him or to you? You be the judges!

Peter: We can't stop talking about what we have seen and heard.

Religious Leader 2: We're warning you—you'll be in big trouble if you don't listen to us!

[*Peter and John exit. The Sanhedrin quietly talk among themselves.*]

Narrator: After the Sanhedrin threatened Peter and John not to speak the name of Jesus, they released them. Peter went right on telling others about Jesus. Many people who heard the words of Peter and John put their faith in Jesus and praised God.

Jordan and the Giant

Jordan boarded the bus with a smile—the first day of the fifth grade had finally arrived! He couldn't wait to see his friends. The bus was full of kids who were just as excited as he was. He waved to a few people he recognized from his old class, then slid into an empty seat.

The bus had one last stop to make before heading to Woodcreek Elementary. It stopped in front of some large houses a few blocks from Jordan's neighborhood and a few more kids climbed aboard. Jordan's eyes widened at the sight of the last person to enter the crowded bus. It was Greg "The Giant." Greg was the meanest bully at Woodcreek. He was a fifth grader the size of an eighth-grade football player. Last year Greg was kicked out of school so many times for starting fights that he had to repeat the fifth grade.

Greg glared at the children in their seats, scanning their timid faces in search of his next victim. Slowly he made his way down the aisle and stopped right beside Jordan's seat.

"I believe you're in my seat," Jordan boomed. "Scram!"

Jordan swallowed hard and slid over to the window.

"W-would you like to sit here?" he managed to whisper. It felt like someone had squeezed all the air out of his lungs. Greg yanked Jordan to his feet and roughly pushed him aside.

"I said you're in my seat, now beat it!"

Before the bus driver had a chance to notice what was going on, Jordan found another seat a few rows up and sat down. Greg smirked and sank comfortably into Jordan's seat. None of the other kids dared to say a word. Jordan hunched down in his new seat, wishing he could disappear.

What a great way to begin my first day of school! he thought.

During the next few days, Jordan did his best to avoid "The Giant." He saw Greg trip girls in the hallway. He saw him snatch a boy's lunch in the cafeteria and push younger kids around on the soccer field. At the dinner table one evening, his parents could tell something was bothering him.

"Son, what seems to be troubling you?" his dad asked.

"I don't know," he said gloomily. Slowly he pushed his peas across his plate with his fork. "Did something happen in school today that you want to talk about?" his mother asked.

Jordan finally decided to tell his parents.

"There's this guy at school who is mean to a lot of kids—he made me give up my seat on the bus a few days ago. I just wish he would leave everybody alone."

Jordan looked down at his plate of cold food. He wasn't hungry.

A look of deep concern filled his dad's face. "You let us know if he bothers you again, and I'll make sure to call the school," he said.

"I think it would be a good idea to begin praying for this boy," his mother chimed in. "Many people are mean because they feel alone and unloved. God can change anyone's hearts—no matter how mean."

Jordan felt better already. Starting that night, Jordan began praying for Greg.

Gradually Jordan's feelings about Greg began to change. He wasn't as scared of him as before. When they passed each other in the halls, Jordan would nod. He picked up Greg's hat and handed it to him when Greg dropped it on the bus. Once he offered to be Greg's partner in gym. And during the four-day grade 5 camp at the end of the year Jordan got a chance to connect with Greg in a life-changing way.

- How do you think the story ended?
- How might the story about Peter and John that we entered and talked about today have given Jordan courage?
- With another person in your group, role-play a conversation between Greg and Jordan.

Church Charade Cards

Broke bread / ate together	Prayed together	Shared everything they had
Sold property	Gave money to those in need	Met in temple courts
Praised God together	Talked to others about Jesus	Brought money to the apostles
Sold possessions / goods	Apostles performed signs and wonders	Sold houses



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Year 1

Unit 1 Marvel . . . at God's Love

Unit 2 Marvel . . . at God's Mercy

Unit 3 Marvel . . . at the Holy Spirit's Power

Unit 4 Marvel . . . at the Holy Spirit's Work

Unit 5 Marvel . . . at God's New Beginnings

Unit 6 Marvel . . . at God's Protection

Year 2

Unit 1 Marvel . . . at God's Faithfulness

Unit 2 Marvel . . . at God's Wisdom and Strength

Unit 3 Marvel . . . at God's Message

Unit 4 Marvel . . . at God's Staying Power

Unit 5 Marvel . . . at God's Persistence

Unit 6 Marvel . . . at God's Plan



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