



THE SUNDAY MORNING MIRACLE



He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen.

Matthew 28:6 NLT

Easter Family Guide



THE SUNDAY MORNING MIRACLE

Greetings Families!

We continue to pray Psalms 91 over you and your families! This Resurrection Sunday is quite different from any we've ever experienced, but the TRUTH of Jesus' resurrection is still the same.

We have prepared this special "Sunday Morning Miracle" packet just for you and your children. This outline provides ideas for a one-hour Resurrection Day or Easter time of worship based on the theme *The Sunday Morning Miracle* and is perfect for family time.

This guide includes a Bible story presentation, snack ideas, and activities. Choose the activities you wish to use, taking into account your children's ages and interests, their background knowledge and skill levels, and the time available to you.

May God bless you as you share the joy of Jesus' resurrection with your children!

Love,
Faith Chapel Kids' Staff & Vision Partners

Before you get started, here are some activities to peak your children's attention!

- Show the children a rock and ask them to describe it—hard, round, cold, bumpy, and the like. Ask: Would this rock be fun to have as a pet? Why not? (Accept responses.) **This rock wouldn't be a good pet because it can't play with you. You** can't take it for a walk. It's not very cuddly. It doesn't do anything. It just sits there. A rock wouldn't make a very good pet because it's not alive! At Easter, we celebrate that Jesus is alive! He died on Good Friday and his disciples thought he would stay dead, but on Easter morning, they discovered he was alive! Because Jesus is alive, he is with you always. He cares for you and is your very Best Friend. Happy Easter! Jesus is alive!
- Put a candy wrapper or other piece of trash inside a plastic Easter egg. In another egg, put a piece of candy. Give the egg with the trash to a child and ask him or her to open it. Say, Well? What do you think? Isn't this a great surprise? What's wrong? (Accept reasonable responses.) Would it be better if I took the trash and gave you something better? (Accept response. Then take the trash and give the child the egg with the candy or treat in it.) This is what Jesus did for us. When he died on the cross, he took our trash, our sins, the bad things we do, and he took them away. He gave us back something great! He gave us forgiveness and friendship and life with him in Heaven forever. What a gift!
- Show the children some seeds and ask them to describe the seeds—tiny, brown, round or oval, and the like. Ask, If I want these seeds to grow into **flowers**, what should I do?(Accept responses.) That's right. I have to dig a hole, put the seeds in the ground, cover them with dirt, and water them, right? If I want the seeds to live, I have to bury them **first**. That's what happened with Jesus. He died and was buried in the tomb. But just like these seeds won't stay buried, Jesus didn't stay buried either. He rose on Easter and is still alive and with us today! One day we will be with him in Heaven
- Fill three plastic Easter eggs in the following manner: put a paper cross in one, a small rock in the second, and nothing in the third. Write the numbers 1, 2, and 3 on each egg. Ask your child to open egg number 1 and describe what's inside. Say, That's right. The cross reminds us that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Ask your child to open egg number 2 and describe what's inside. That's right. It's a rock. The rock reminds us that Jesus was buried in a tomb and a huge rock was rolled in front of the tomb so no one could get in. Ask your child to open egg number 3 and describe what's inside. What? Nothing is inside?! Why do you think that is? (Let children answer.) That's exactly right! The tomb is empty just like this egg is empty. Jesus rose! He's not dead; He's alive and is with us always!



The Sunday Morning Miracle

Read the book *The Sunday Morning Miracle* with your children. Before you begin, tell the children that every time they hear the word *miracle* they should clap their hands. If you have time, you can read through the story twice.

When you finish the book, use the following questions to talk about the Easter story:

- Why were the people who loved Jesus sad? (Because he died)
- Who can make miracles happen? (Only God)
- What miracle did God do on the **first** Easter Sunday? (He raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is alive!)
- Who can we tell that Jesus is alive? (Everyone!)

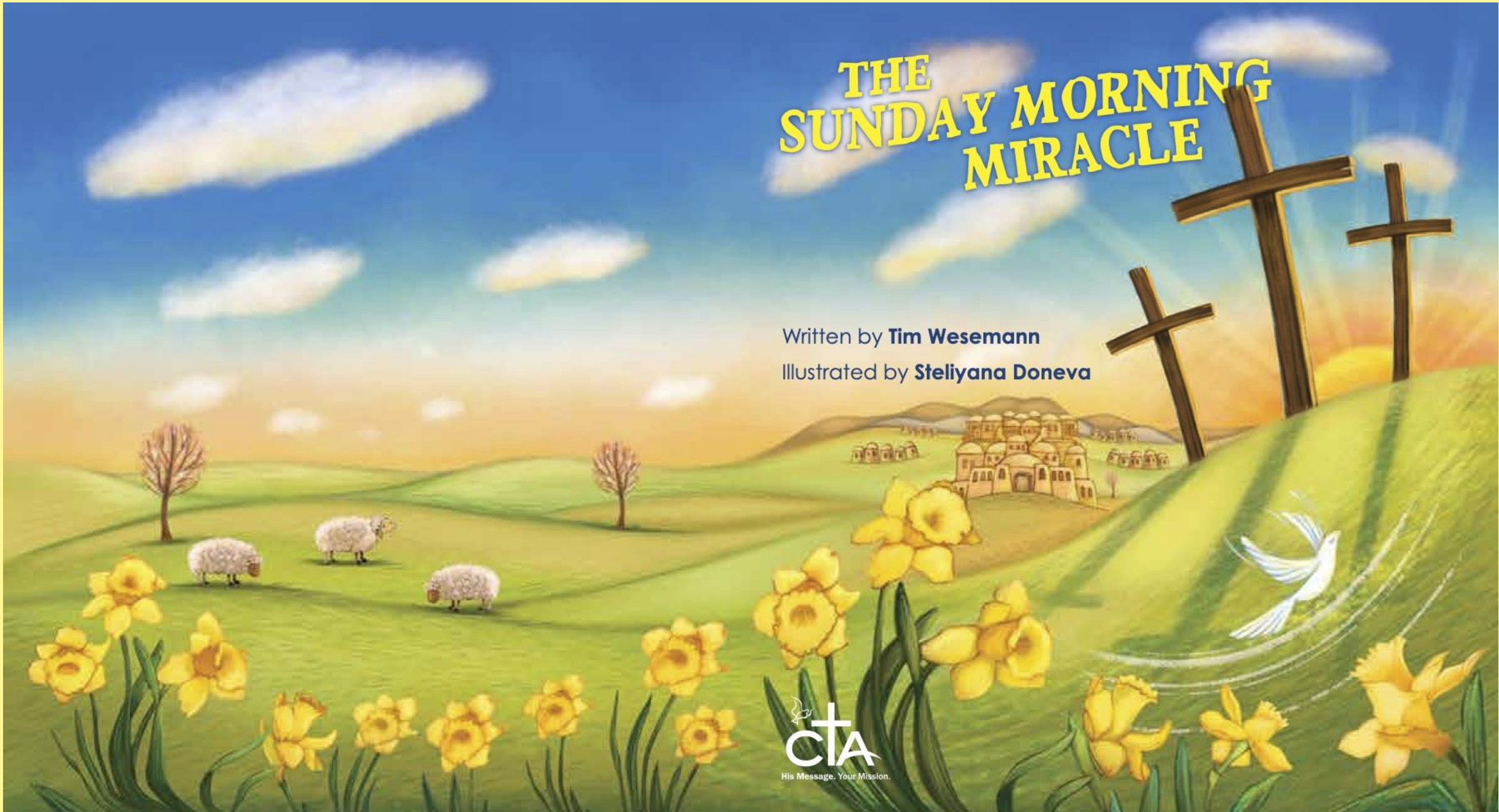
I'm so glad we could learn about the Sunday morning miracle that happened on the **first** Easter. Jesus died for our sins but he didn't stay dead; he's alive and you can tell everyone that Jesus lives and loves them!

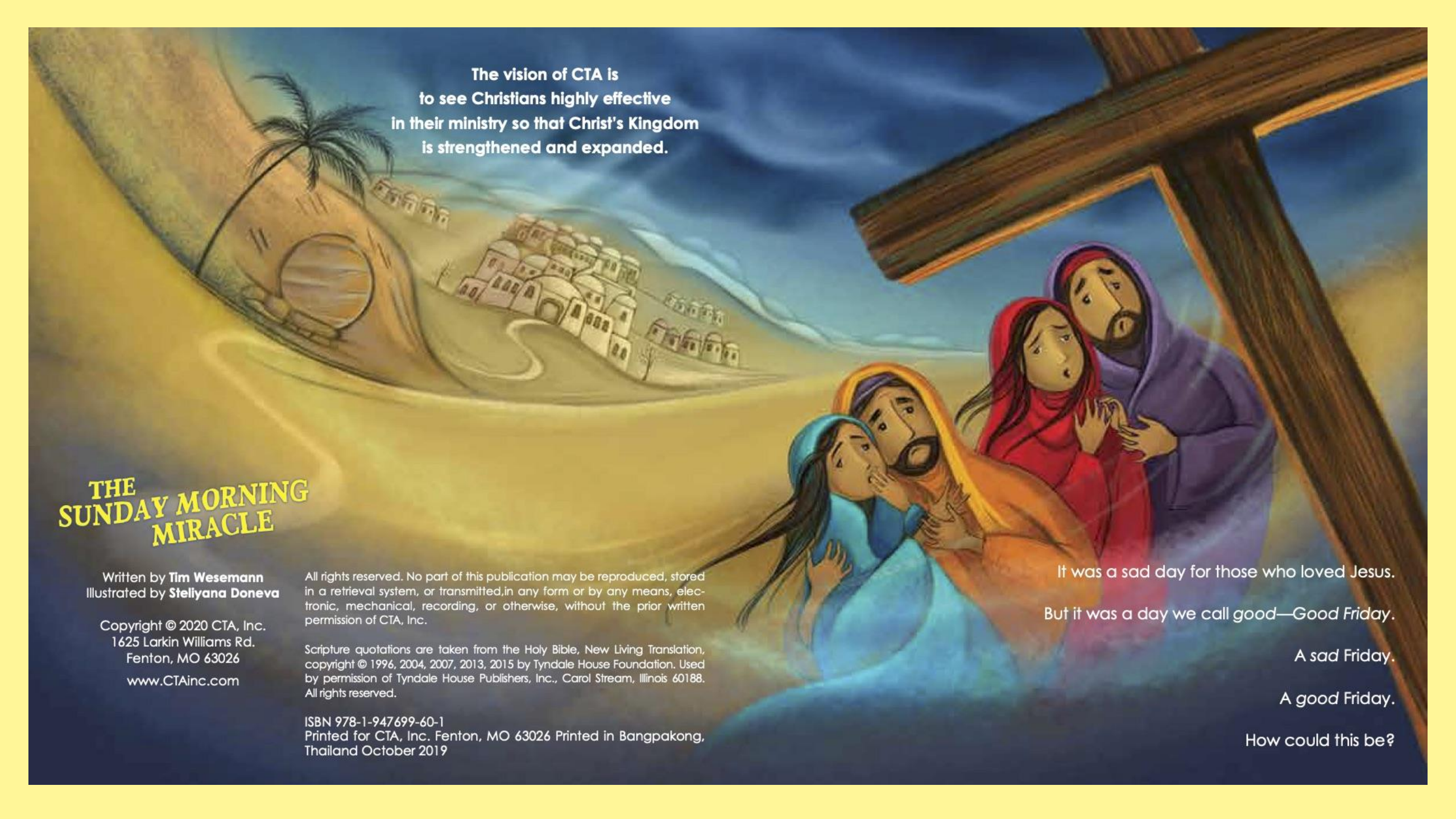


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Written by **Tim Wesemann**

Illustrated by **Steliyana Doneva**





The vision of CTA is
to see Christians highly effective
in their ministry so that Christ's Kingdom
is strengthened and expanded.

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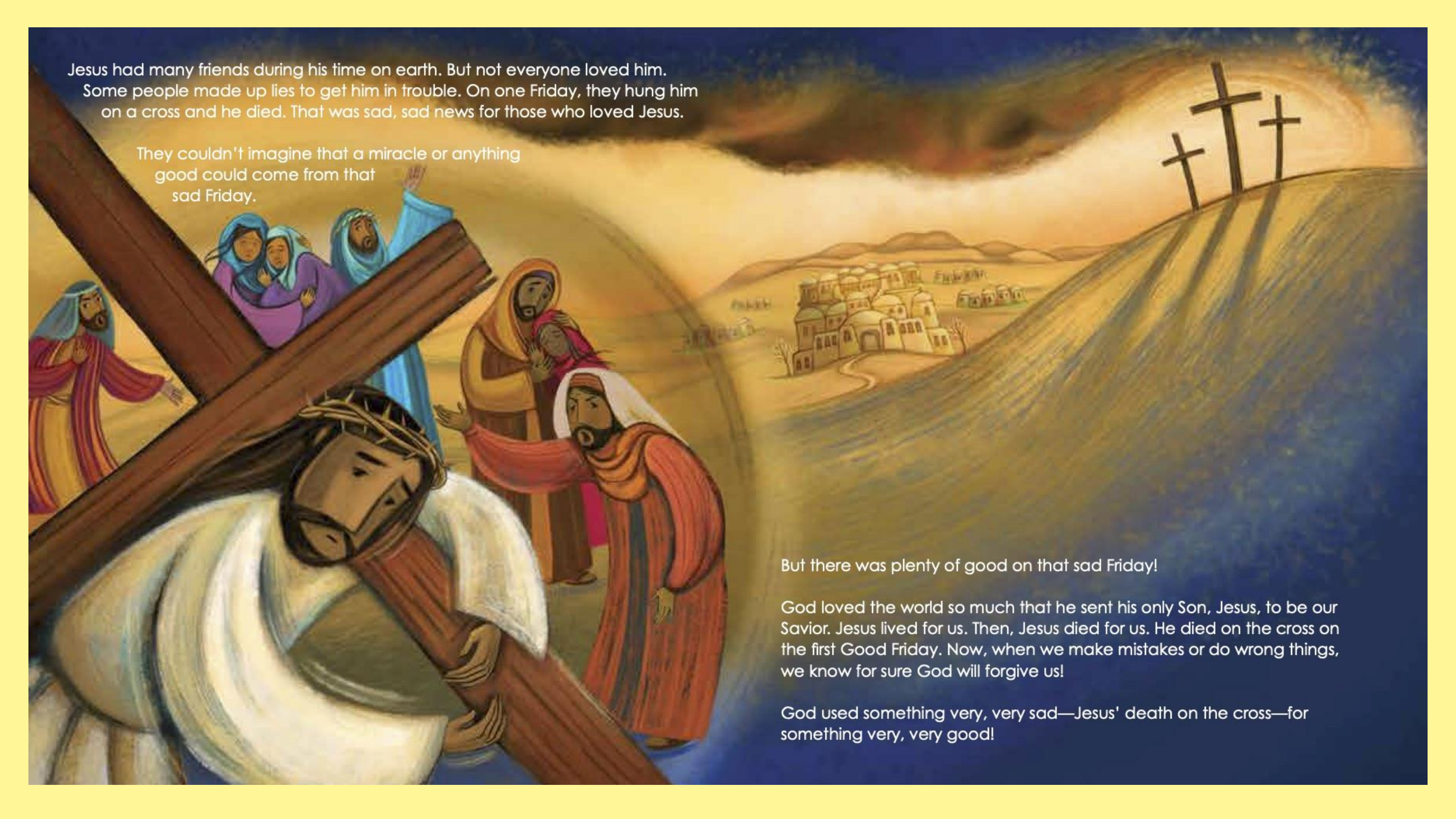
ISBN 978-1-947699-60-1
Printed for CTA, Inc. Fenton, MO 63026 Printed in Bangkok,
Thailand October 2019

It was a sad day for those who loved Jesus.
But it was a day we call good—*Good Friday*.

A sad Friday.

A good Friday.

How could this be?



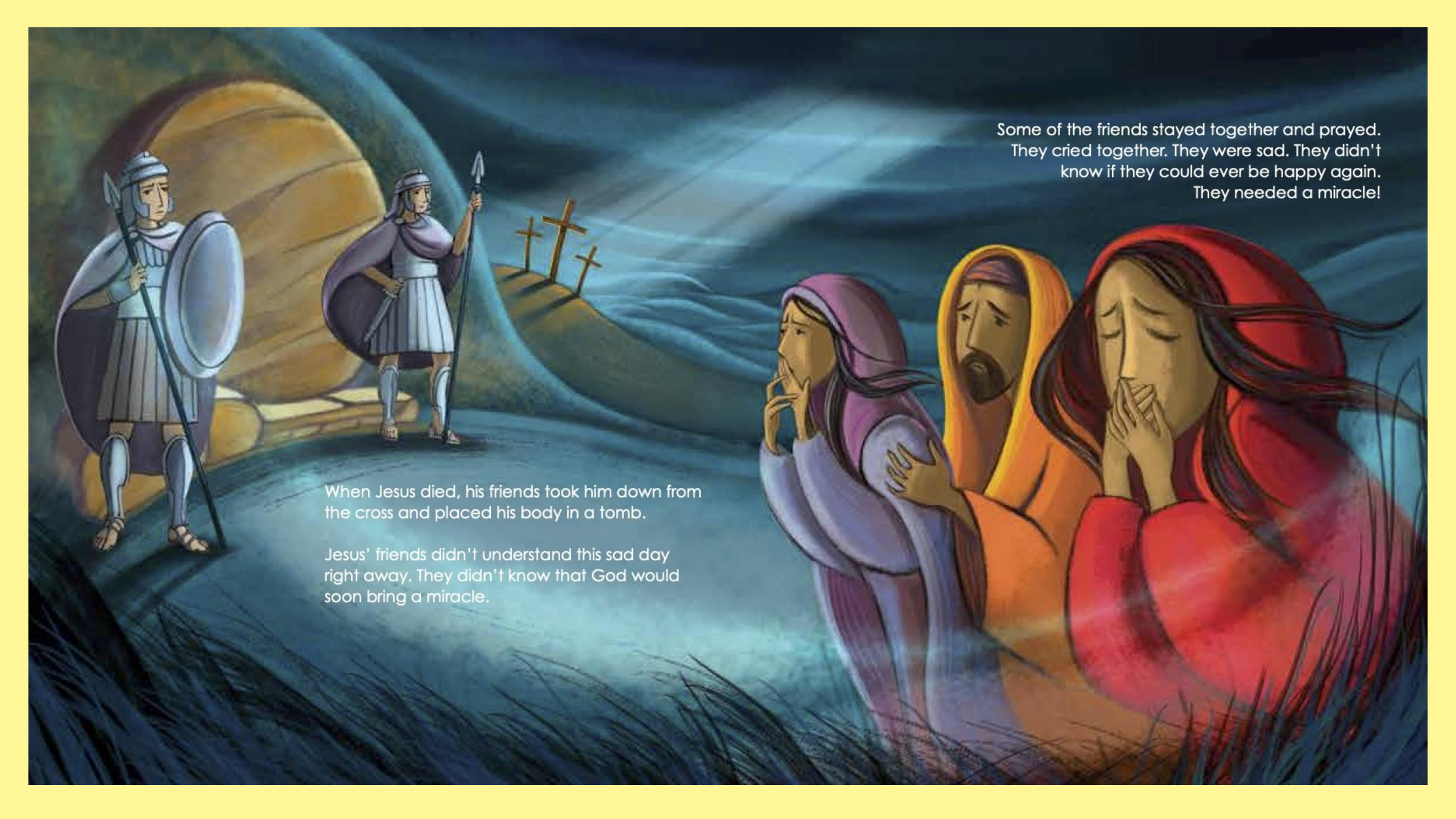
Jesus had many friends during his time on earth. But not everyone loved him. Some people made up lies to get him in trouble. On one Friday, they hung him on a cross and he died. That was sad, sad news for those who loved Jesus.

They couldn't imagine that a miracle or anything good could come from that sad Friday.

But there was plenty of good on that sad Friday!

God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived for us. Then, Jesus died for us. He died on the cross on the first Good Friday. Now, when we make mistakes or do wrong things, we know for sure God will forgive us!

God used something very, very sad—Jesus' death on the cross—for something very, very good!



When Jesus died, his friends took him down from the cross and placed his body in a tomb.

Jesus' friends didn't understand this sad day right away. They didn't know that God would soon bring a miracle.

Some of the friends stayed together and prayed. They cried together. They were sad. They didn't know if they could ever be happy again. They needed a miracle!

Yes! A miracle!

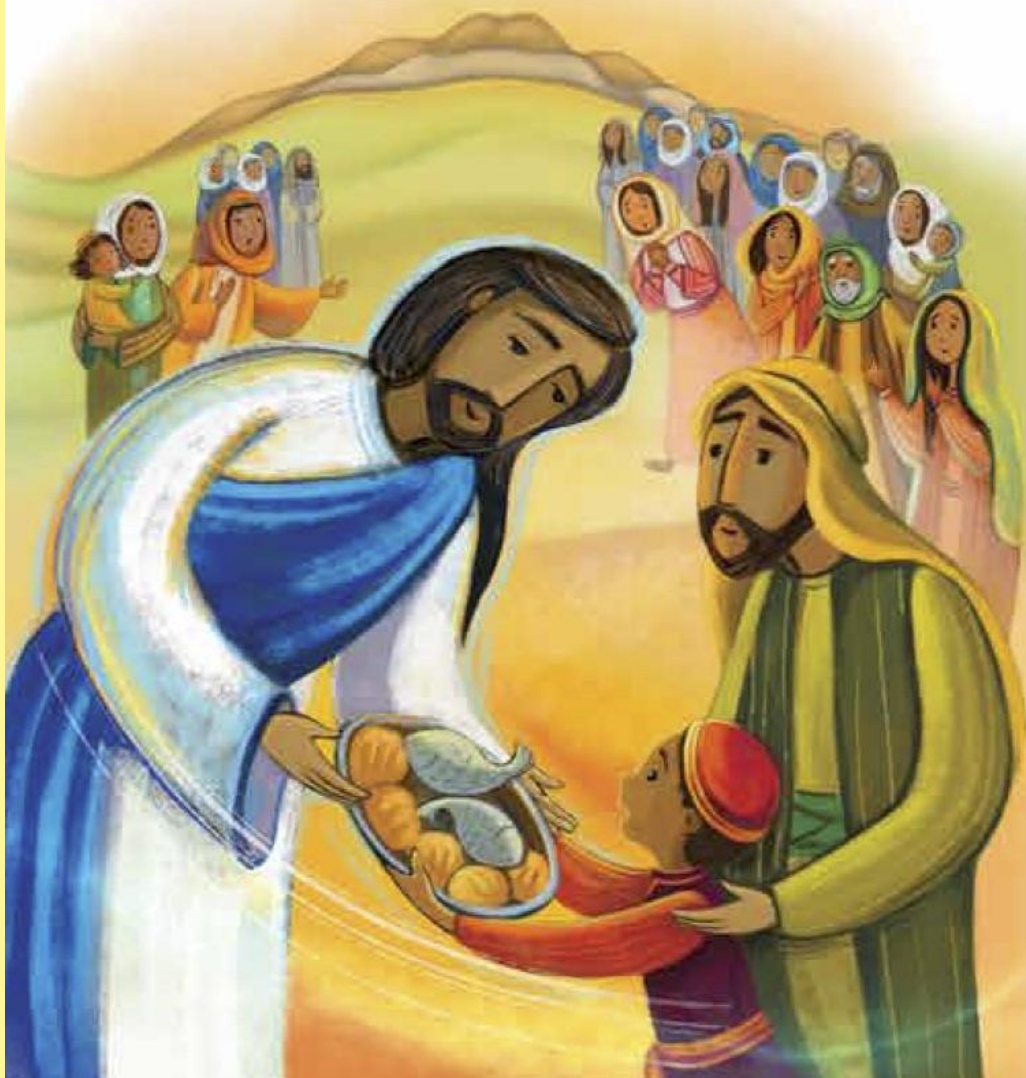
A miracle is something only God can do. Miracles show the great love God has for me and for you!

The people had seen Jesus do many miracles.

He fed more than 5,000 people with
only two fish and five loaves of bread!

He healed people who were sick or hurt!

He walked on water and calmed storms!





God didn't raise Jesus Friday night.

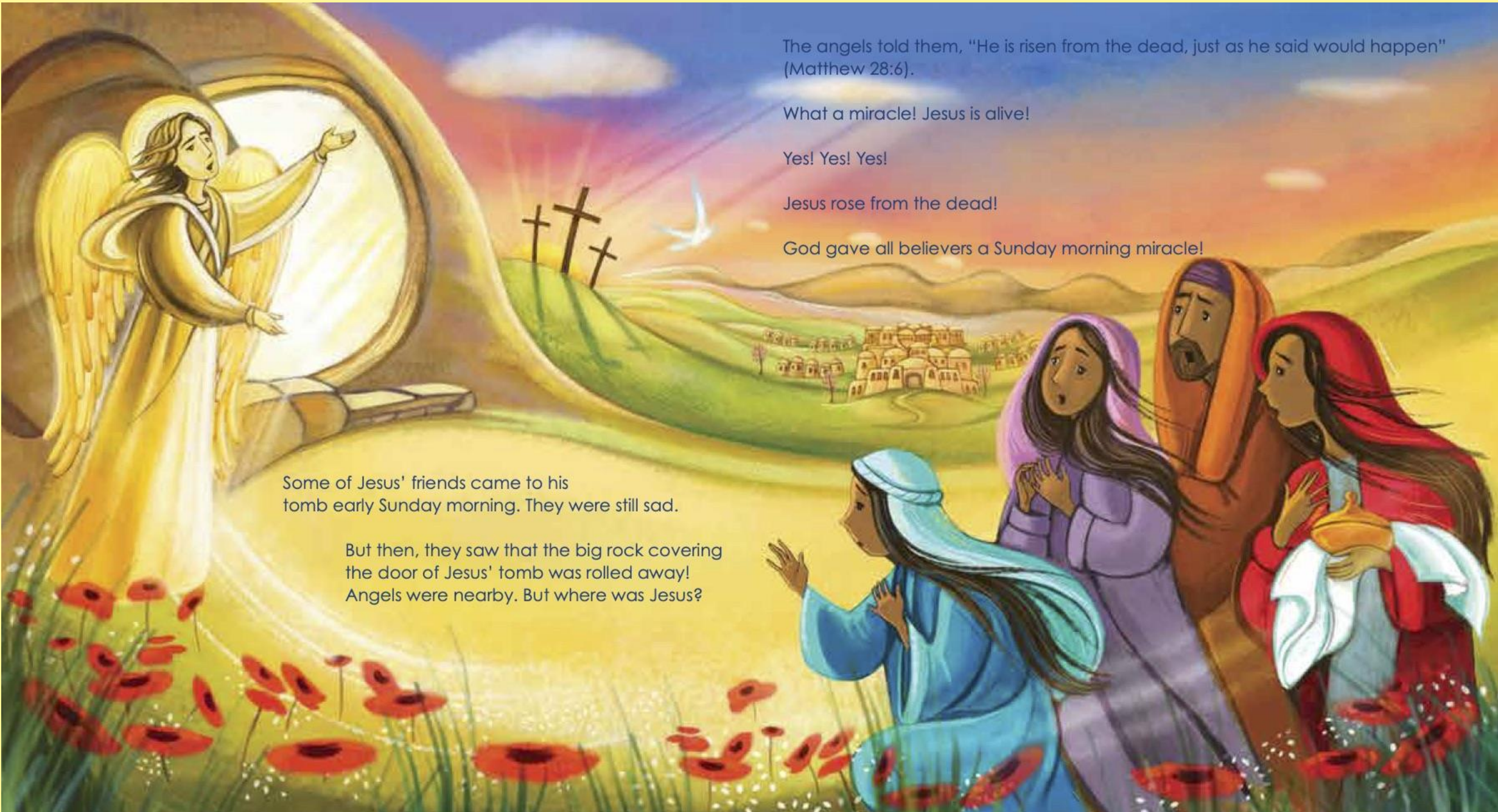
God didn't raise Jesus Saturday.

Maybe it wouldn't happen.

Or maybe . . .

On that first sad Good Friday, would Jesus' friends
see another miracle?

Would God raise his Son, Jesus, from the dead?



The angels told them, "He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen" (Matthew 28:6).

What a miracle! Jesus is alive!

Yes! Yes! Yes!

Jesus rose from the dead!

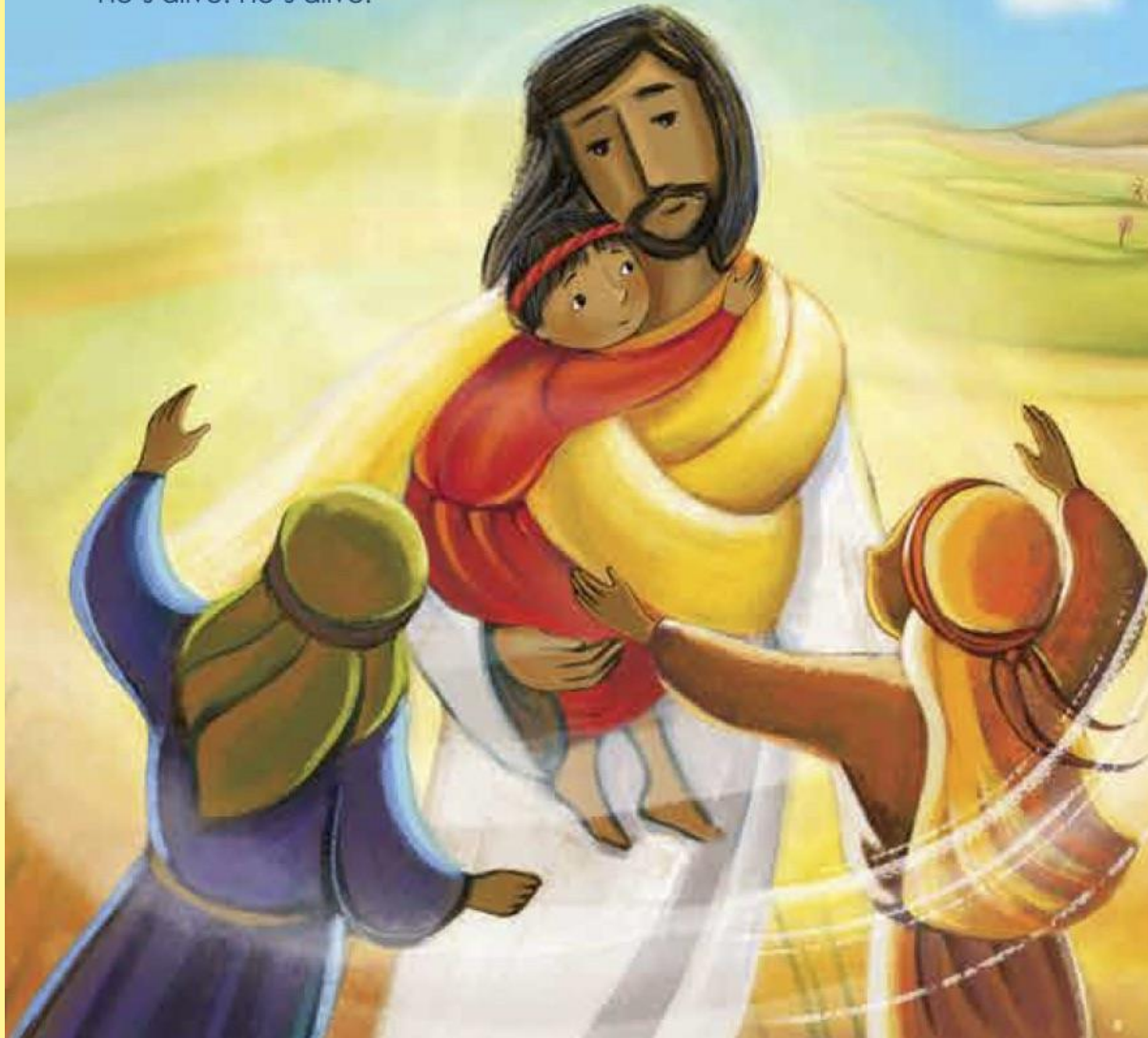
God gave all believers a Sunday morning miracle!

Some of Jesus' friends came to his tomb early Sunday morning. They were still sad.

But then, they saw that the big rock covering the door of Jesus' tomb was rolled away! Angels were nearby. But where was Jesus?

Jesus' friends ran to tell their friends about the Sunday morning miracle!

Jesus is alive, not dead!
He's alive! He's alive!



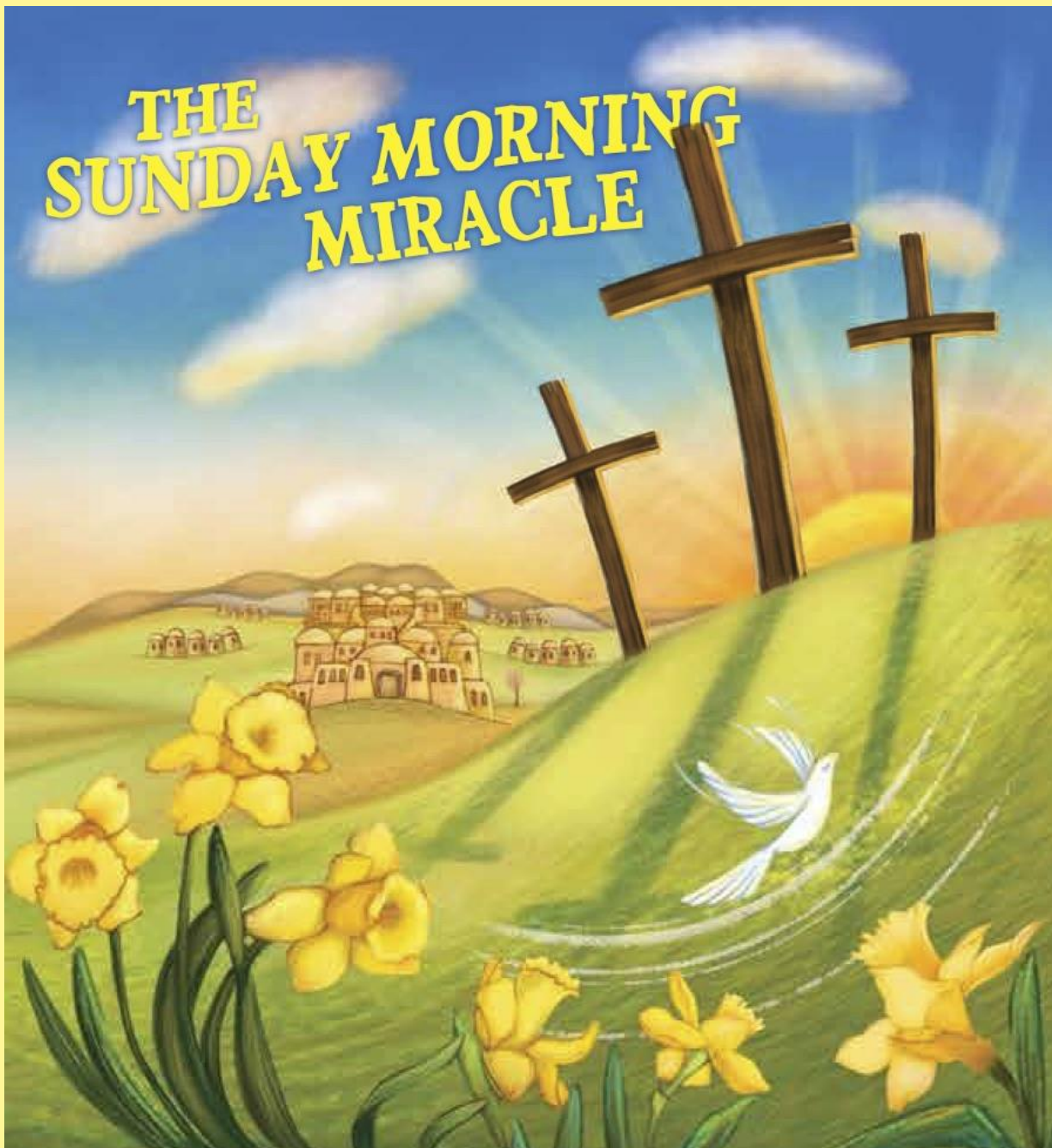
Every year, we can celebrate the sad Friday Jesus died as *Good Friday*. He died to take away our sins—what good news!

And we celebrate the Sunday morning miracle every Easter, too. We remember Jesus is alive—it's God's great miracle!

Now, you can go tell your friends, too!

Jesus is alive and he promises we'll live with him forever!





Snack Time

Plan to serve kid-friendly Easter snacks (~~When choosing snacks, remember to be conscious of your children's allergies.~~

Rolled Away Roll-Ups!

What you'll need:

- Sandwich bread, crusts removed
- Peanut or other nut butter
- Jelly
- Thinly sliced lunch meat
- Cheese slices
- Rolling pins
- Plastic knives

What you'll do:

You will be making pinwheels with your children. Allow them to choose to make either a peanut-butter-and-jelly roll-up or a meat-and-cheese roll-up.

To begin, give your child a slice of bread. Then, have them use the rolling pin to flatten the bread, and apply a thin layer of peanut butter followed by a thin layer of jelly, or do the same with a piece of lunch meat and cheese. Roll the bread like a jellyroll from one side to the other. Finally, help your child use plastic knives to slice their roll-ups into one-inch pieces.

What you'll say:

Today we're going to make a snack that reminds us what Jesus' disciples saw on that **first** Easter morning. Remember that on Friday, Jesus died on the cross and was put in a tomb.

To make sure nobody could get to Jesus' body, the Romans rolled a huge stone in front of the tomb. When the disciples got to the tomb on Easter Sunday morning, they found that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty! Jesus was alive!

Today we're going to make a roll-up snack to remind us that on Easter, the stone was rolled away and Jesus was alive!



Edible Easter Symbols

What you'll need:

- 2 8-ounce packages of flavored gelatin, any flavor
- 2 1/2 cups boiling water
- Two-inch cookie cutters (in the shape of a cross, a circle, a butterfly, and a flower) or you can shape the dough with your hands
- Whipped topping, thawed
- Food coloring
- The Sunday Morning Miracle plastic tumblers (or a cup from your home), one for each child
- Plastic knives or spoons

What you'll do:

Before the activity, you'll make a sheet pan of flavored gelatin according to the package instructions. This recipe makes 24 2-inch cut-outs so you'll want to adjust the amount of gelatin to accommodate how much you want to make.

To make the gelatin, combine the gelatin and boiling water in a large bowl. Stir for at least 3 minutes, until gelatin is completely dissolved. Pour into a 13x9-inch pan and refrigerate until firm, about 3 hours.

Once the gelatin is firm, put a small scoop of whipped topping in each tumbler (or cup) and add a few drops of food coloring. Mix to combine.

Help each child use a cookie cutter to cut a shape from the gelatin (OR help your child shape them). They can add it on top of their whipped topping and enjoy!

What you'll say:

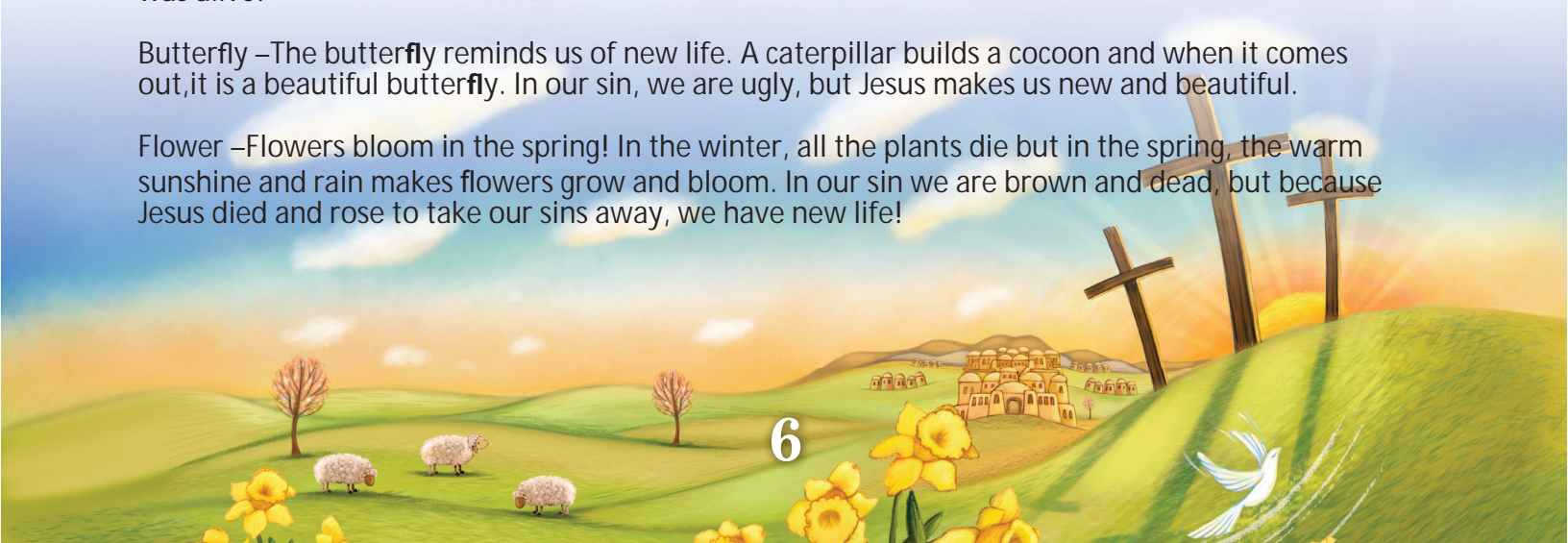
There are lots of shapes that remind us that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter. Show each cookie cutter one at a time and talk about what each one means.

Cross – The cross reminds us that Jesus died on the cross to take our sins away so we can live with him forever in heaven.

Circle – The circle reminds us of the stone that was rolled away when Jesus rose. The disciples came to the tomb expecting to find Jesus in it, but he wasn't! The stone was rolled away and Jesus was alive!

Butterfly – The butterfly reminds us of new life. A caterpillar builds a cocoon and when it comes out, it is a beautiful butterfly. In our sin, we are ugly, but Jesus makes us new and beautiful.

Flower – Flowers bloom in the spring! In the winter, all the plants die but in the spring, the warm sunshine and rain makes flowers grow and bloom. In our sin we are brown and dead, but because Jesus died and rose to take our sins away, we have new life!



Crafts

Here are two options. Choose the craft that best fits your situation and your children.

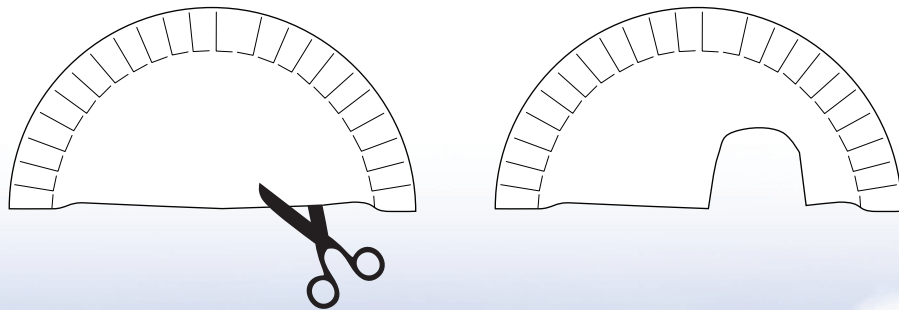
Empty Tomb Paper Plate Craft

What you'll need:

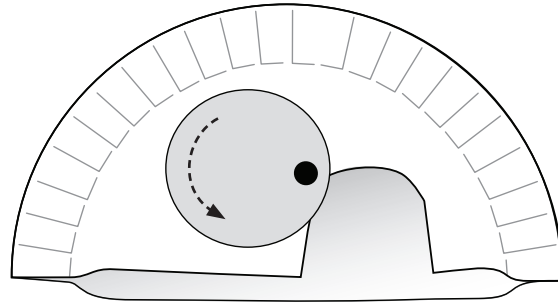
- Paper plates, one per child
- Brad fasteners, one for each child
- Gray or brown paint, markers, or crayons
- Gray or brown construction paper, cut into 2 1/2-inch circles
- Kid-safe scissors
- Stapler

What you'll do:

1. The children will cut the plate in half to create two semicircles.
2. From one of the halves, help the children cut out a doorway-shaped opening. The cut opening should be no larger than 2 inches wide or high.



3. With the inside of the paper plates facing one another, staple the two halves together.
4. Using the brad fastener, affix the paper circle so it rotates over the doorway.



5. Ask the children to decorate the empty tomb using paint, markers, and crayons.

Say, The tomb is empty because Jesus is alive! He loves us and promises us forgiveness, love, and eternal life!

Easter Smudge Cross

What you'll need:

- White cardstock, one piece for each child
- Painter's tape
- Scissors (for adult use only!)
- Oil pastels
- Watercolor paint and brushes
- Wipes or paper towels for easy cleanup

What you'll do:

1. Tear off two pieces of painter's tape and help each child apply them to the cardstock in a cross shape.
2. Tell the children to make small marks on the tape all the way around the cross using various colors of oil pastels.
3. Then, the children should use their fingers to smudge the oil pastel marks from the tape out toward the edge of the cardstock. This will produce a sunburst effect around the cross.



- Children should paint the rest of the cardstock with watercolors. They may want to paint green toward the bottom for grass and blue toward the top for sky. The tape and oil pastels will resist the watercolor.
- Carefully remove the painter's tape to reveal a white cross in the center of a colorful scene!

Say, Jesus died on the cross to bring us forgiveness for the bad things we do. His disciples were gloomy and sad because Jesus was dead. But Jesus didn't stay dead! Jesus rose on Easter and just like the happy colors you used in your art, we are happy that Jesus lives and loves us!

Games and Fun

Choose the game(s) below that will work best in your setting and are age appropriate for your children. Before each game, explain the rules. Also, share how each game reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Easter Egg Spoon Relay Race

Using tape, mark two lines 10 to 20 feet apart. Divide your family into two teams and arrange each team into a line behind one of the taped lines.

Give the first person in line a plastic spoon and a plastic egg weighted slightly with a few pennies or pieces of rock. Explain that the person has to carry the egg on the spoon down to the other taped line, turn around and carry it back, and give the spoon and egg to the next person in line. When the racer hands off the egg and spoon, he or she should tell the next person, "Jesus died and rose for you!" Repeat until everyone on the team has raced.

Say, It's hard to run and keep the egg on the spoon. It's also hard to keep all of God's laws and commandments. Sometimes we break God's rules and hurt others. But that's why God sent Jesus. Jesus came to keep God's Law perfectly and die in our place. Because Jesus died and rose again, our sins are forgiven and we are friends of God forever!

Balloon Tennis Challenge

Before the event, tape wide craft sticks to the back of paper plates to make a "racket." (or you can simply use your hands as a racket). You'll need one racket per person. Blow up a few balloons.

Get into a circle with your "racket". Explain that you'll toss a balloon into the circle and their job is to keep the balloon in the air as long as possible; don't let it touch the ground. Use a stopwatch to keep track. When the balloon hits the floor, restart the game.

Toward the end of the game say, It's fun to see how long we can keep the balloon in the air. It's exciting and fun when we keep it up for a long time. It was also frustrating when it hit the ground and we had to start over. Sometimes at home or at school we feel excited or happy. Other times we get frustrated or upset. The good news is that Jesus loves you all the time! Whether you're happy or sad, Jesus is your forever Friend and he will never let you down!



Je-sus, Loves You

This is a variation on the classic swimming pool game, Marco Polo. You'll need a blindfold and an open area for your family to spread out. One person is IT and is blindfolded. The rest of the family should spread out around the person who is IT.

The person who is IT will say, "Je-sus." And the rest of the family will respond, "loves you." The object of the game is for the blindfolded person to follow the voices and gently tag someone who then becomes IT.

As the activity comes to a close, say, Sometimes we have questions about life, or we feel lost, like we are blind and don't know where to turn. But Jesus is always there for us! He loves us and cares for us! We'll never be alone!

Family Egg Hunt

Have an indoor or outdoor egg hunt with your entire family!

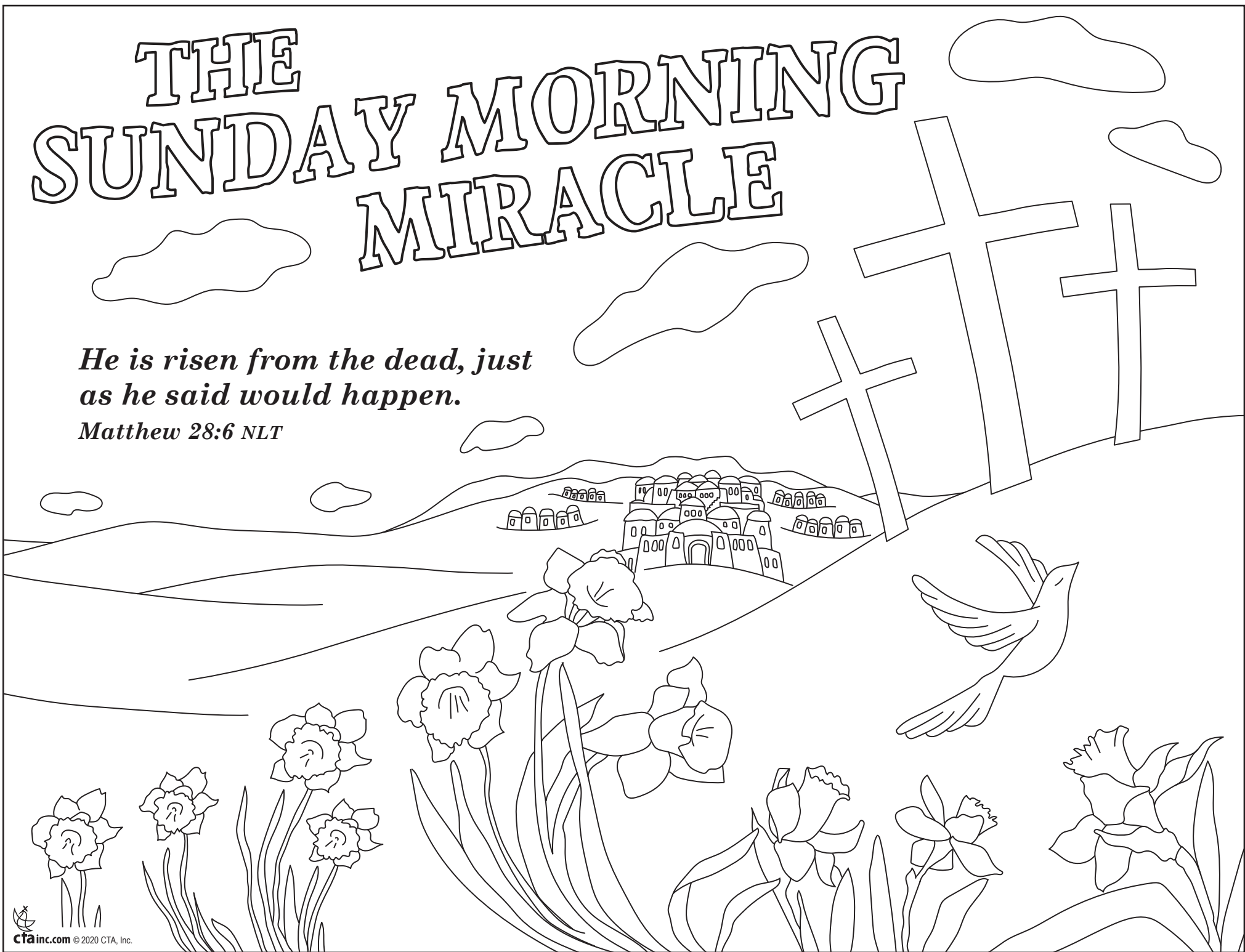
Once each egg is empty, remind your children that the empty egg reminds us that the tomb where Jesus was buried is empty and JESUS IS ALIVE!!!



THE SUNDAY MORNING MIRACLE

*He is risen from the dead, just
as he said would happen.*

Matthew 28:6 NLT



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Rhyming Miracles

Jesus died for your sins on the cross and then he came alive again on Easter! It was a Sunday morning miracle! Now he lives for you and cares for you every day. He's your forever Friend!

Find one of your friends and tell that person about the good news of Jesus! Then, work together to complete this rhyming activity.

Circle the words that rhyme with *cross*.
 Draw a cloud over words that rhyme with *sin*.
 Put an X over words that rhyme with *tomb*.
 Put a star over words that rhyme with *live*.
 Put a triangle around words that rhyme with *God*.

Cod Squad
 Boss Give
 Bin Sauce
 Grin Zoom
 Moss Win
 Bloom Nod

Searching for Miracles

The Sunday morning miracle of Easter was the best miracle ever, but God's miracles are all around us—every day! A baby being born, a sick person who is healed, a person who believes in Jesus, God answering our prayers. Wow! You don't really have to search for God's miracles. They are always right in front of you!

Here is a puzzle that does require searching. Find these words in the word search below.

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|---------|-------|
| Easter | Spring | Jesus | Tomb |
| Empty | Miracle | Love | Angel |
| Cross | Resurrection | Forgive | |

Z C G A W M I W C Z P R P W G
 A N G E L I T V S Y M I G G O
 S R E S U R R E C T I O N T W
 O P K B S A Y A B G I U Q R Q
 Q K M K Q C C S V C J E S U S
 I I C N Z L T T Q E H P N M Q
 O S F Q R E E E G B X O V H S
 I V F P Y V C R M S U X L Q Z
 V I E T O C B D V F X S F Z B
 Y Y P L N R S O A O N M V H K
 S M T R F O O P C R Y K M D B
 E A R G O S C T R G E Y A U M
 Q W M B Z S B O Z I A K J L E
 R C G K V L D M G V N J J F A
 F E T X R E X B N E Z G A U K