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INTERIOR sheet 1 of 6 FRONT pages 24 | 1

From the very beginning, the darkness has told one lie: that it has something to give. But the darkness has nothing. God's light has everything.

One day, God will make everything new.

There will be no more death, no more crying, and no more pain. There will be no night, and no need for the sun or the moon, because God Himself will be the light.

And everyone who follows Jesus will live with Him forever.

Jesus is the light of the new creation (Rev 21:23; 22:5).

For grown-ups

This book tells twenty true stories from the Bible, from the first light to the last. Some are scary: a murder, a flood, and kings who killed children. They were left in on purpose. Kids know the world has dark places, and the Bible doesn't pretend otherwise. In every story, the darkness is real but the light is stronger. Read it together, answer questions, and let them see they never have to face the dark alone.



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INTERIOR sheet 1 of 6 BACK pages 2 | 23

How to read this book

Each story has three boxes under the picture.

The dark: what darkness looks like in this story.

The light: where God's light shows up.

Jesus: how this story points to Him.

Some pages leave a box out, but the next page completes the story.

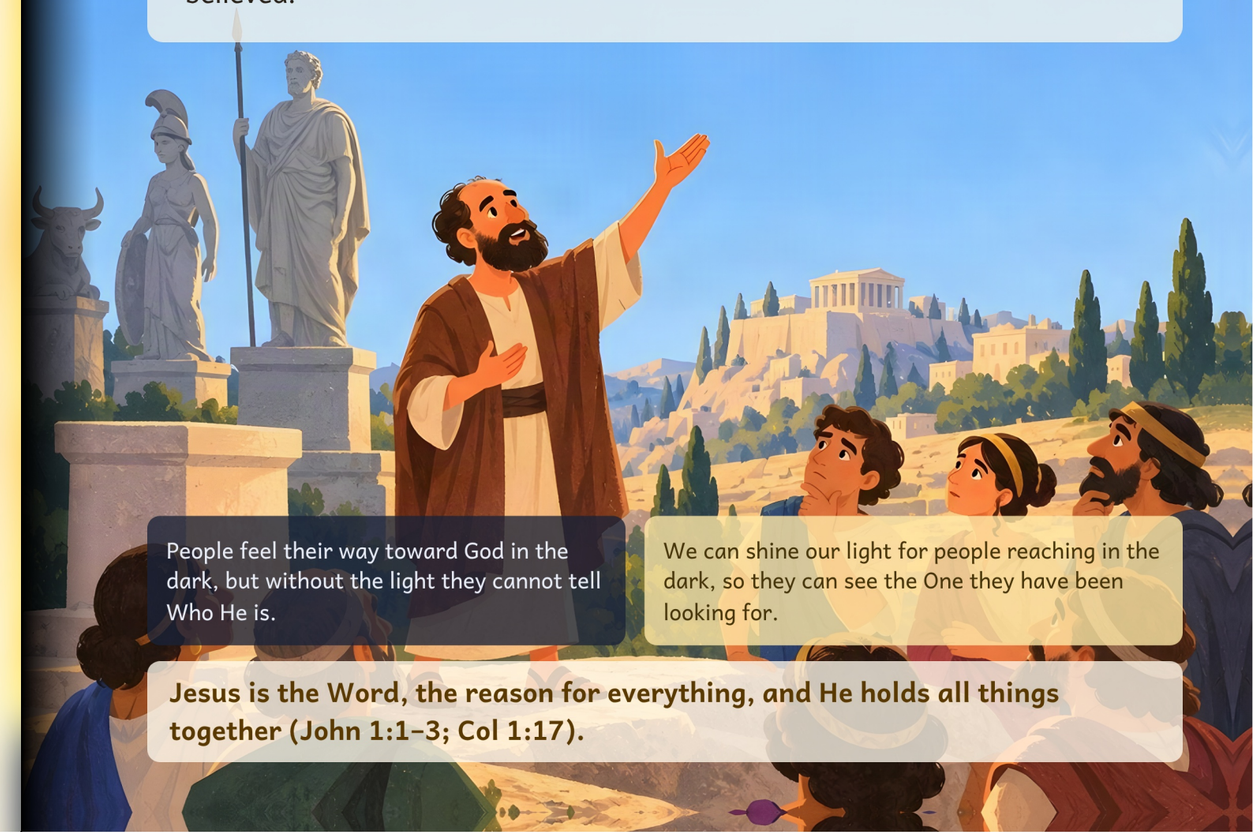
The references in parentheses tell you where to find it in the Bible.



Jesus' follower Paul came to Athens, a city full of idols. These people did not know the Scriptures, so he started with something they knew: an altar to the "unknown god."

He said this God made the world and everything in it and needs nothing from us. He made every person from one family, and He is not far from any of us.

God showed Who He is by raising Jesus from the dead, and He calls everyone to turn to Him. Some laughed, some wanted to hear more, and some believed.



People feel their way toward God in the dark, but without the light they cannot tell Who He is.

We can shine our light for people reaching in the dark, so they can see the One they have been looking for.

Jesus is the Word, the reason for everything, and He holds all things together (John 1:1–3; Col 1:17).

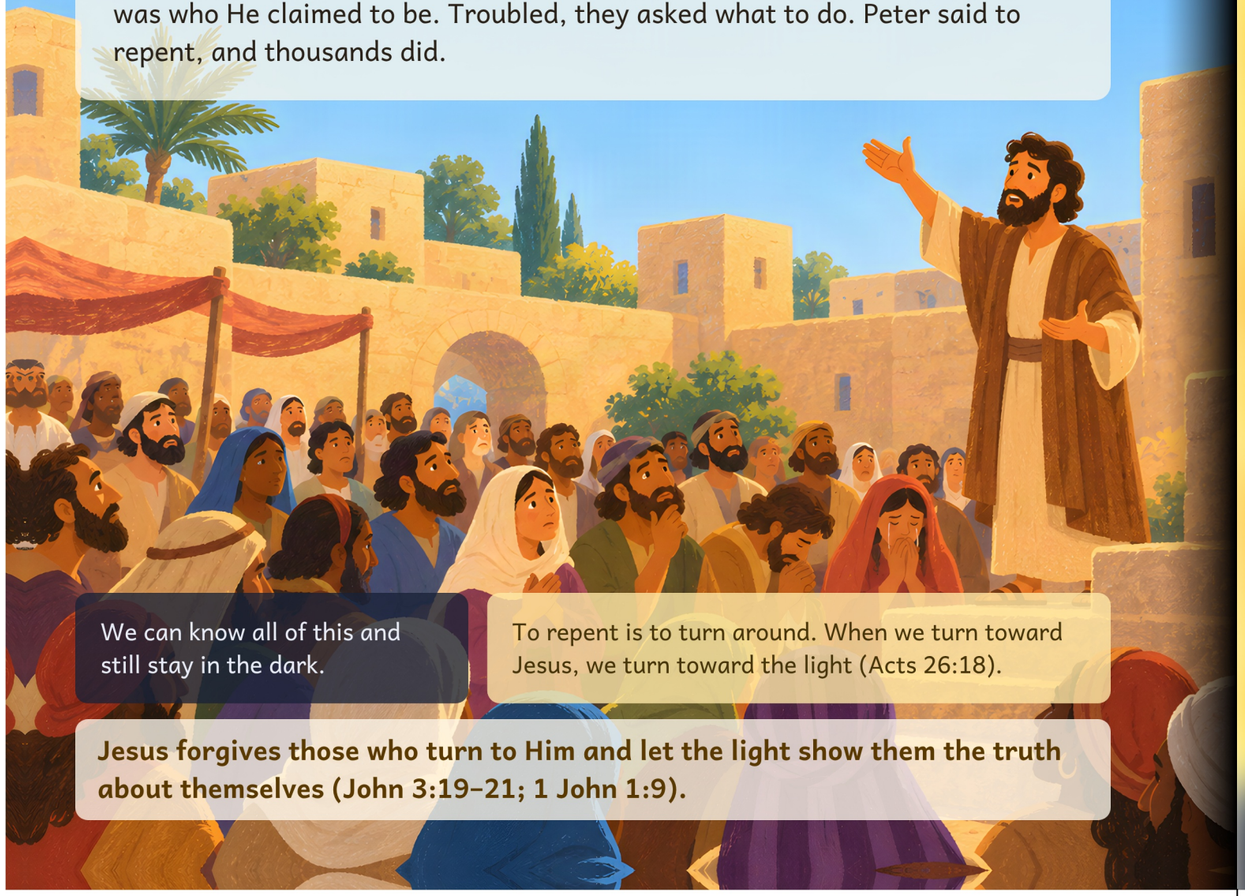
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Before returning to heaven, Jesus told His followers they would be His witnesses to the entire world.

In Jerusalem, crowds from many countries had gathered. As the Holy Spirit helped the followers speak, each heard them in their own language. Peter, one of the followers, said this was what the prophet Joel had promised.

He told them they had put Jesus to death, but God had raised Him, and He was who He claimed to be. Troubled, they asked what to do. Peter said to repent, and thousands did.



We can know all of this and still stay in the dark.

To repent is to turn around. When we turn toward Jesus, we turn toward the light (Acts 26:18).

Jesus forgives those who turn to Him and let the light show them the truth about themselves (John 3:19–21; 1 John 1:9).

In the beginning, God said “Let there be light.” He saw that the light was good and He separated the light from the dark.

He made the stars, the sun, and the moon to give light to the earth.

He made the plants, the animals, and people. Everything He made was good.

He put the first man and woman into a garden to care for it, and gave them one rule.

Jesus was in the beginning with God, and He made everything (John 1:1–3).

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That rule was to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Everything God had made was good. They didn't know what evil was.

But Satan did and wanted them to know too. He told Eve that if she broke God's rule, she would know good and evil, just like God. So she and Adam broke God's rule.

The next time God came to the garden they hid themselves. Now they knew what shame was.

Because of evil, God said there would now be death.

We hide in the dark when we're afraid our wrong will be seen (John 3:19–20).

God covered them and promised that one day someone would crush Satan and his evil.

The one God promised is Jesus (Heb 2:14).

Three days later, while it was still dark, some women who followed Jesus came to the tomb. They found it open, and two angels there.

The angels said they shouldn't look for Jesus with the dead. He was alive again, just like He said He would be.

Satan's power was crushed. The Good Shepherd had defeated the biggest enemy. Death and darkness had no victory over the Son of God.

Jesus is alive, and there is nothing for us to find in the dark.

Jesus had promised that because He lived, His followers would live forever too (John 14:19; 1 Cor 15:20).

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INTERIOR sheet 3 of 6 FRONT pages 20 | 5

The religious leaders did not want Jesus around. One of His followers, Judas, helped them arrest Him. They had people lie at His trial and convinced the governor, Pilate, to put Him to death.

On the cross, Jesus asked God to forgive them. A thief hanging beside Him said Jesus had done nothing wrong. At noon the sky went dark. Jesus said, "It is finished." His work was done, and He died.

His friends laid His body in a tomb and rolled a stone over the entrance.



The Light of the World was gone, and it looked like the darkness had finally won (Luke 22:53).

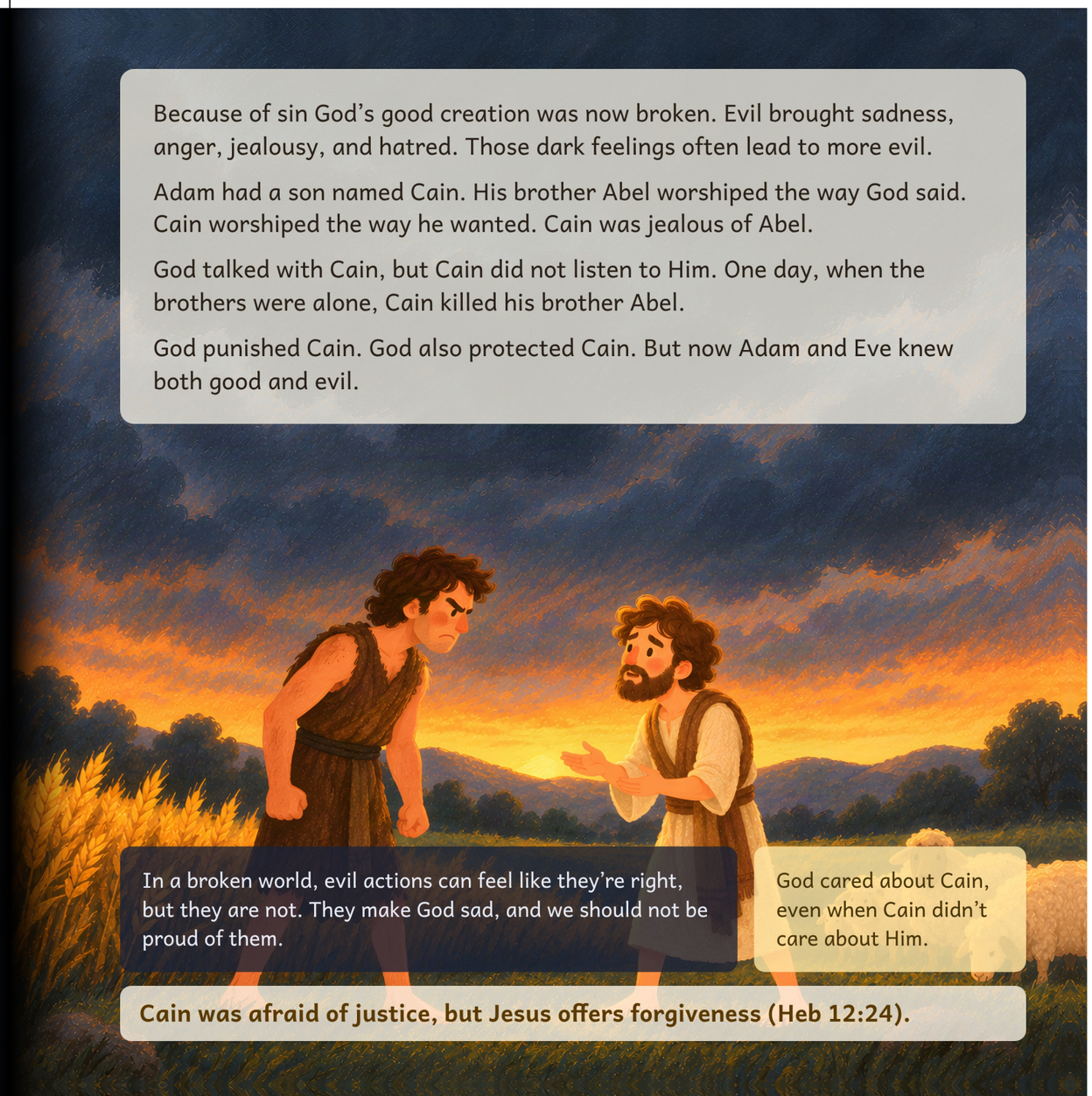
Jesus was perfect, and He died in our place so we could be saved (Isa 53:5, 9; Heb 4:15).

Because of sin God's good creation was now broken. Evil brought sadness, anger, jealousy, and hatred. Those dark feelings often lead to more evil.

Adam had a son named Cain. His brother Abel worshiped the way God said. Cain worshiped the way he wanted. Cain was jealous of Abel.

God talked with Cain, but Cain did not listen to Him. One day, when the brothers were alone, Cain killed his brother Abel.

God punished Cain. God also protected Cain. But now Adam and Eve knew both good and evil.



In a broken world, evil actions can feel like they're right, but they are not. They make God sad, and we should not be proud of them.

God cared about Cain, even when Cain didn't care about Him.

Cain was afraid of justice, but Jesus offers forgiveness (Heb 12:24).

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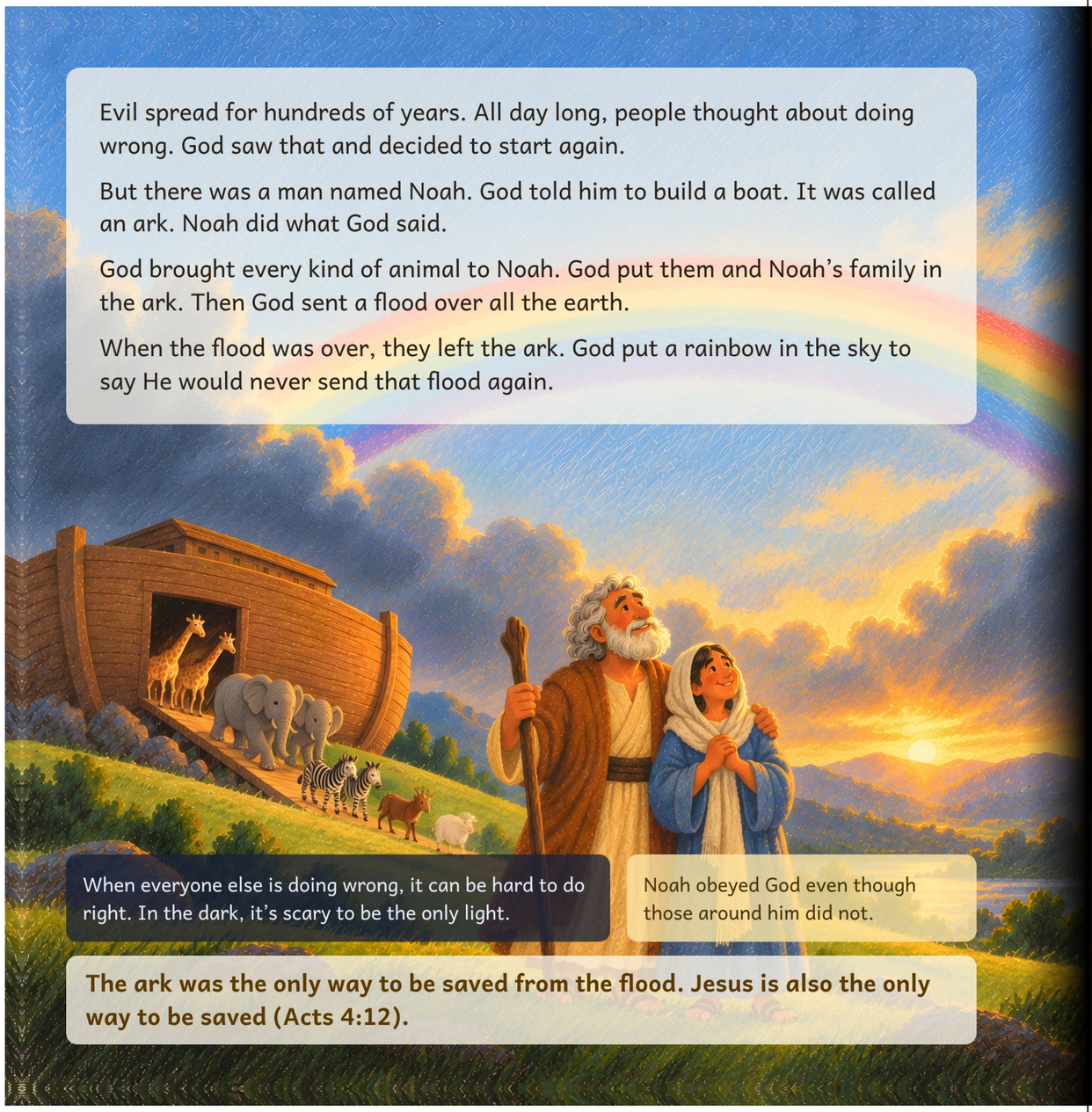
INTERIOR sheet 3 of 6 BACK pages 6 | 19

Evil spread for hundreds of years. All day long, people thought about doing wrong. God saw that and decided to start again.

But there was a man named Noah. God told him to build a boat. It was called an ark. Noah did what God said.

God brought every kind of animal to Noah. God put them and Noah's family in the ark. Then God sent a flood over all the earth.

When the flood was over, they left the ark. God put a rainbow in the sky to say He would never send that flood again.



When everyone else is doing wrong, it can be hard to do right. In the dark, it's scary to be the only light.

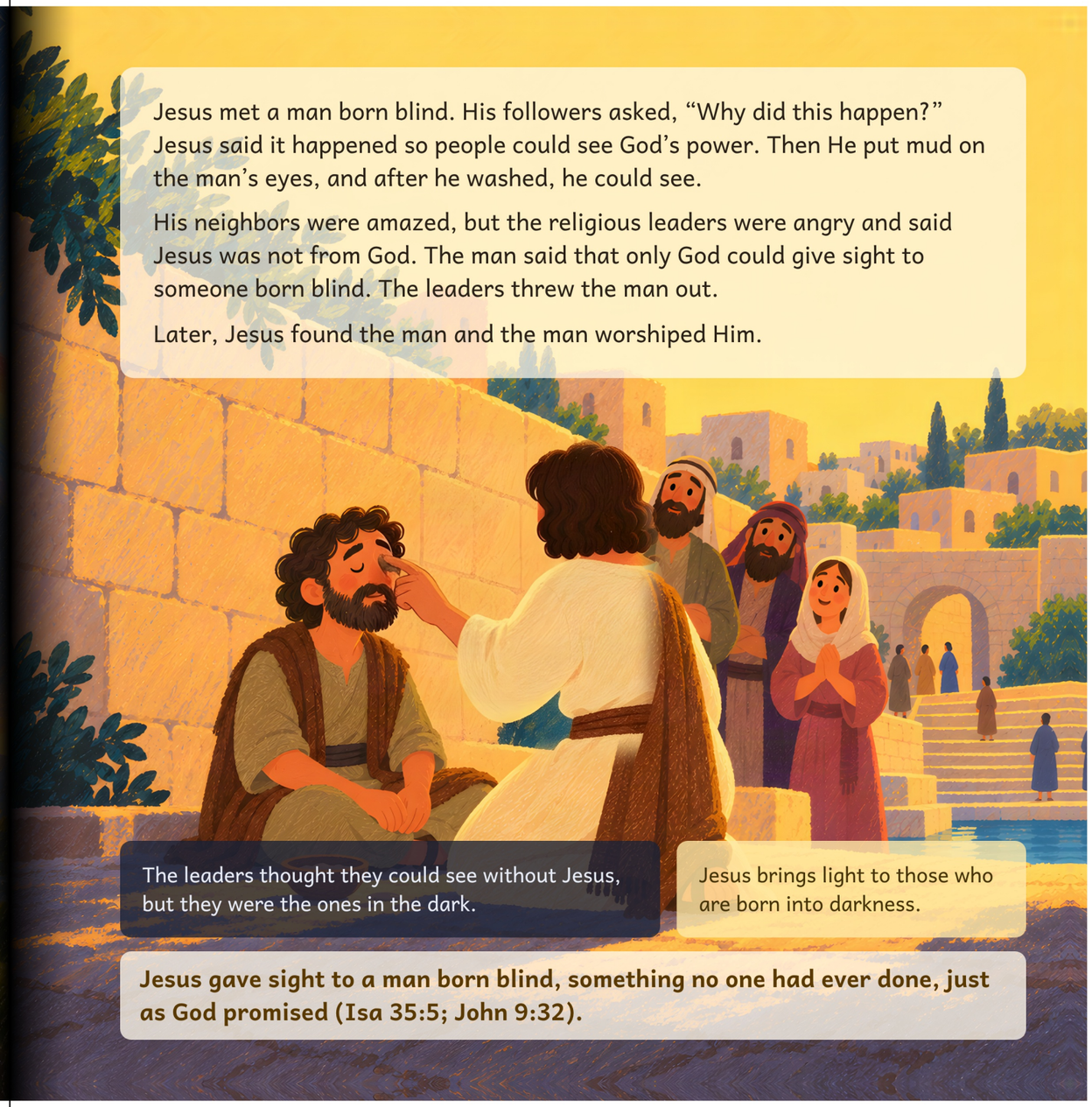
Noah obeyed God even though those around him did not.

The ark was the only way to be saved from the flood. Jesus is also the only way to be saved (Acts 4:12).

Jesus met a man born blind. His followers asked, "Why did this happen?" Jesus said it happened so people could see God's power. Then He put mud on the man's eyes, and after he washed, he could see.

His neighbors were amazed, but the religious leaders were angry and said Jesus was not from God. The man said that only God could give sight to someone born blind. The leaders threw the man out.

Later, Jesus found the man and the man worshiped Him.



The leaders thought they could see without Jesus, but they were the ones in the dark.

Jesus brings light to those who are born into darkness.

Jesus gave sight to a man born blind, something no one had ever done, just as God promised (Isa 35:5; John 9:32).

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INTERIOR sheet 4 of 6 FRONT pages 18 | 7

Jesus taught a sermon on a mountain. Everyone who wanted to learn gathered around Him.

He told His followers they were the light of the world and to let their light shine so that others could see and praise the God Who had made them. He taught them how to pray, to trust God instead of worrying, and to love even those who mistreat them.

He said those who heard His words and did them were like a house on a rock, standing through the storm.



Darkness is still in the world, and it wants us to hide our light.

We are the light the world can see. Jesus tells us to shine.

Jesus said that He is the Light of the World, and whoever follows Him will never walk in the dark (John 8:12).

Abraham and his family lived in a city that worshiped the moon instead of God. One day God told him to follow, and He would lead Abraham to a new place. Abraham left everything he knew, and he followed God.

Abraham traveled through many places. One night God told him to look into the sky and try to count the stars He had made. God said that like the stars, his family would be too many to count.

It took many years, but Abraham believed God.



Like Abraham's family, people may forget who God is, and worship the things God made.

Even when we can't see everything, we can believe God and follow His light.

God also told Abraham the whole world would be blessed by his family when Jesus was born (Gal 3:16).

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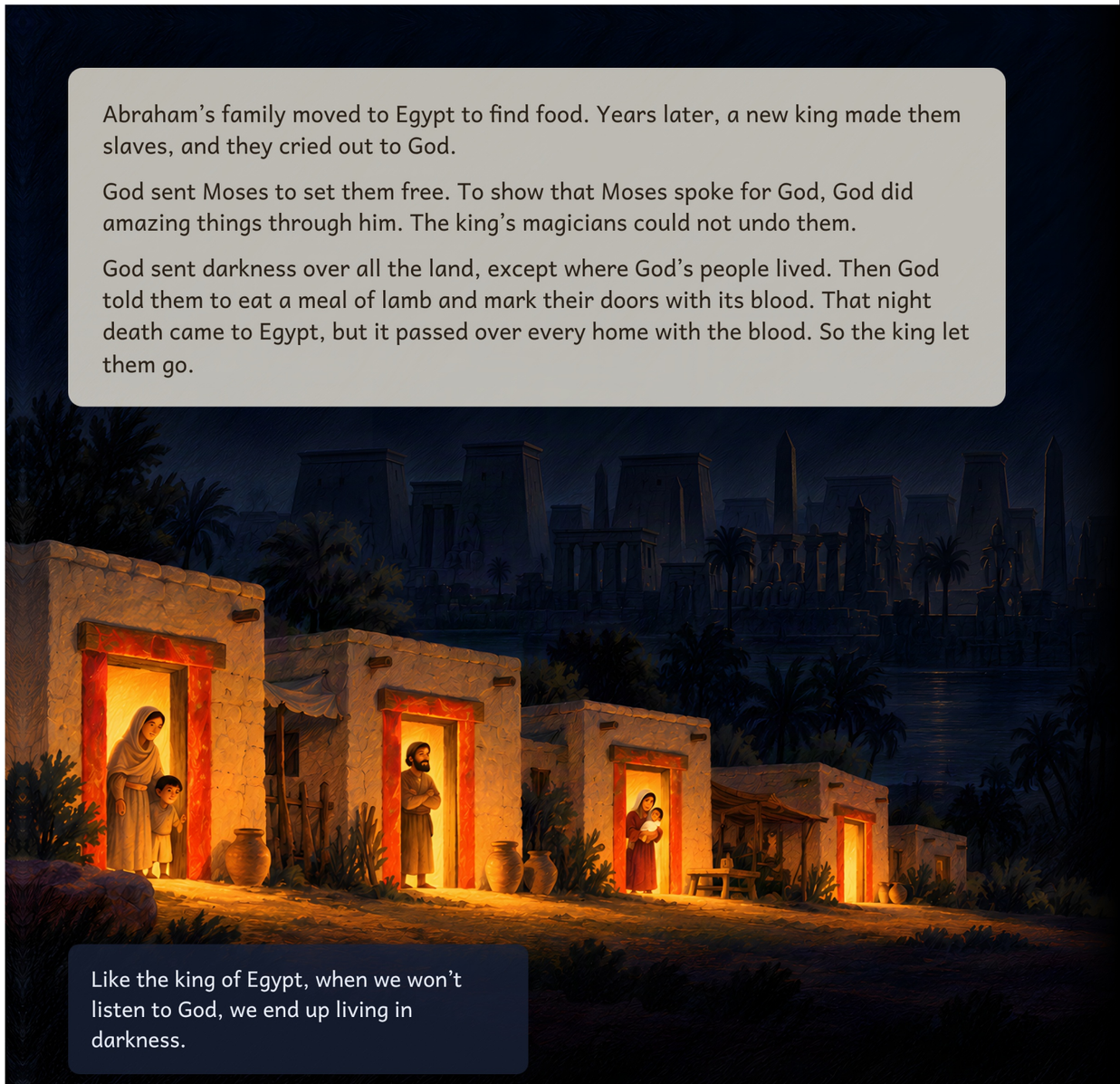
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INTERIOR sheet 4 of 6 BACK pages 8 | 17

Abraham's family moved to Egypt to find food. Years later, a new king made them slaves, and they cried out to God.

God sent Moses to set them free. To show that Moses spoke for God, God did amazing things through him. The king's magicians could not undo them.

God sent darkness over all the land, except where God's people lived. Then God told them to eat a meal of lamb and mark their doors with its blood. That night death came to Egypt, but it passed over every home with the blood. So the king let them go.

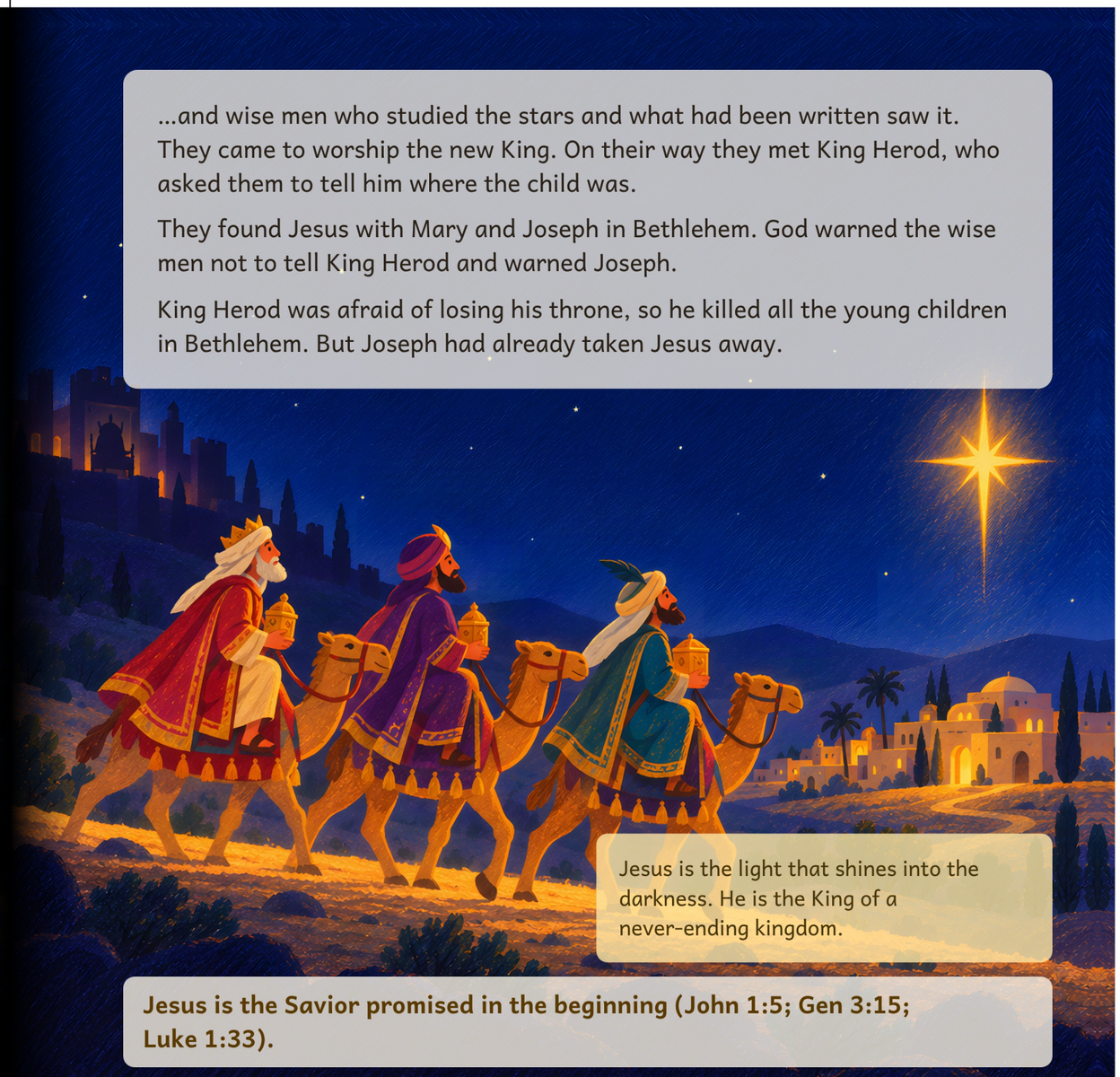


Like the king of Egypt, when we won't listen to God, we end up living in darkness.

...and wise men who studied the stars and what had been written saw it. They came to worship the new King. On their way they met King Herod, who asked them to tell him where the child was.

They found Jesus with Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. God warned the wise men not to tell King Herod and warned Joseph.

King Herod was afraid of losing his throne, so he killed all the young children in Bethlehem. But Joseph had already taken Jesus away.



Jesus is the light that shines into the darkness. He is the King of a never-ending kingdom.

Jesus is the Savior promised in the beginning (John 1:5; Gen 3:15; Luke 1:33).

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INTERIOR sheet 5 of 6 FRONT pages 16 | 9

For four hundred years, God was silent. Then one night, shepherds were watching their sheep when suddenly light and angels were all around them.

They were afraid, but the angel said not to fear: the Savior was born in Bethlehem! They ran to find the baby and told everyone.

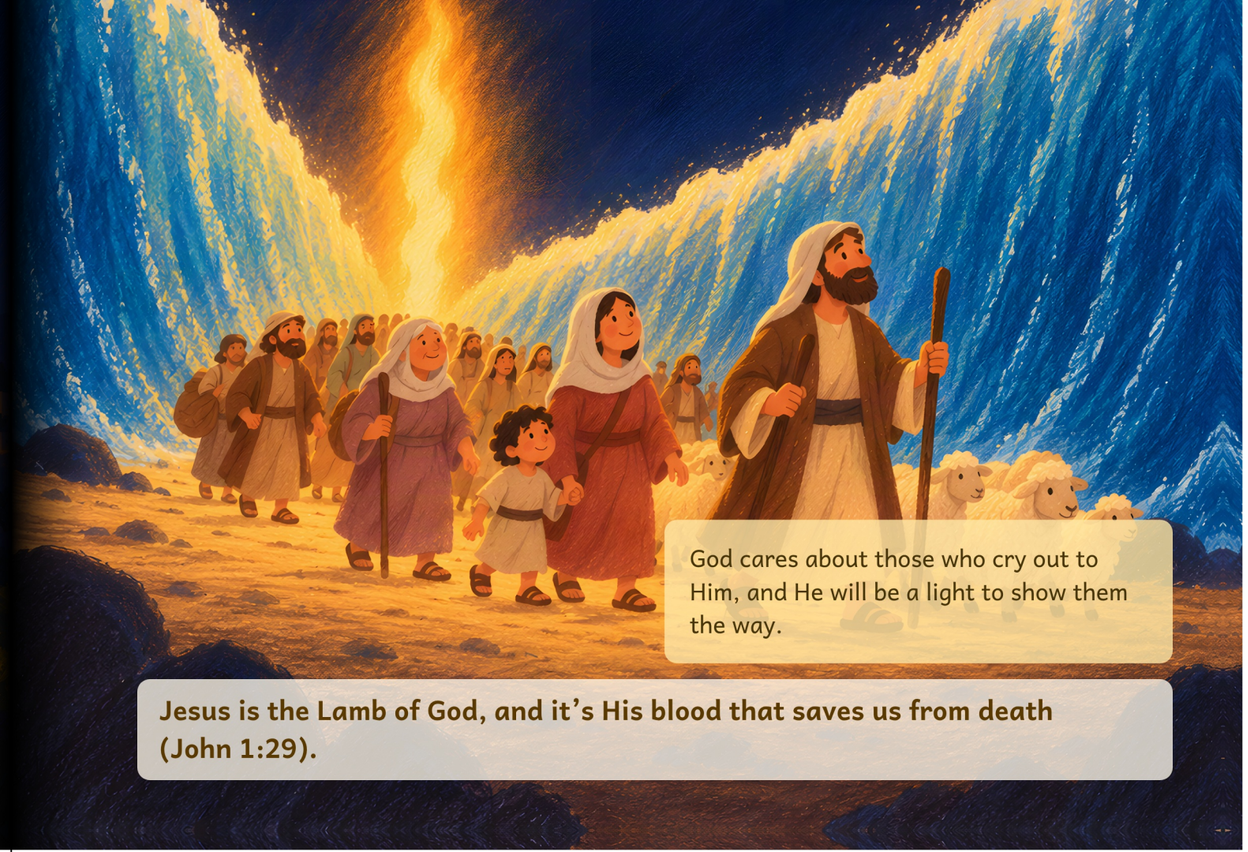
A little while later, a man named Simeon held baby Jesus in the temple and said He would be a light for every nation. Far away, a new star appeared in the sky...



No matter how big and scary the darkness seems, it cannot overcome or even understand the light.

After they left, the king and his army followed. They were trapped at the sea. But God put a pillar of fire between them and the army. It gave light to God's people and darkness to the army.

God told Moses to raise his staff, and the sea split in two. The people walked across. When the army followed, the water crashed down on them. God's people were free.



God cares about those who cry out to Him, and He will be a light to show them the way.

Jesus is the Lamb of God, and it's His blood that saves us from death (John 1:29).

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INTERIOR sheet 5 of 6 BACK pages 10 | 15

God led them to the land He promised Abraham. But they didn't trust Him to give it to them, so they wandered for forty years. They grumbled, and even made a golden calf to worship.

But God still led them with a pillar of fire. He gave them bread from heaven. He gave them water from a rock.

He also warned them. In the promised land, they should not worship like the people there did. No idols. No sorcerers. No talking to the dead.



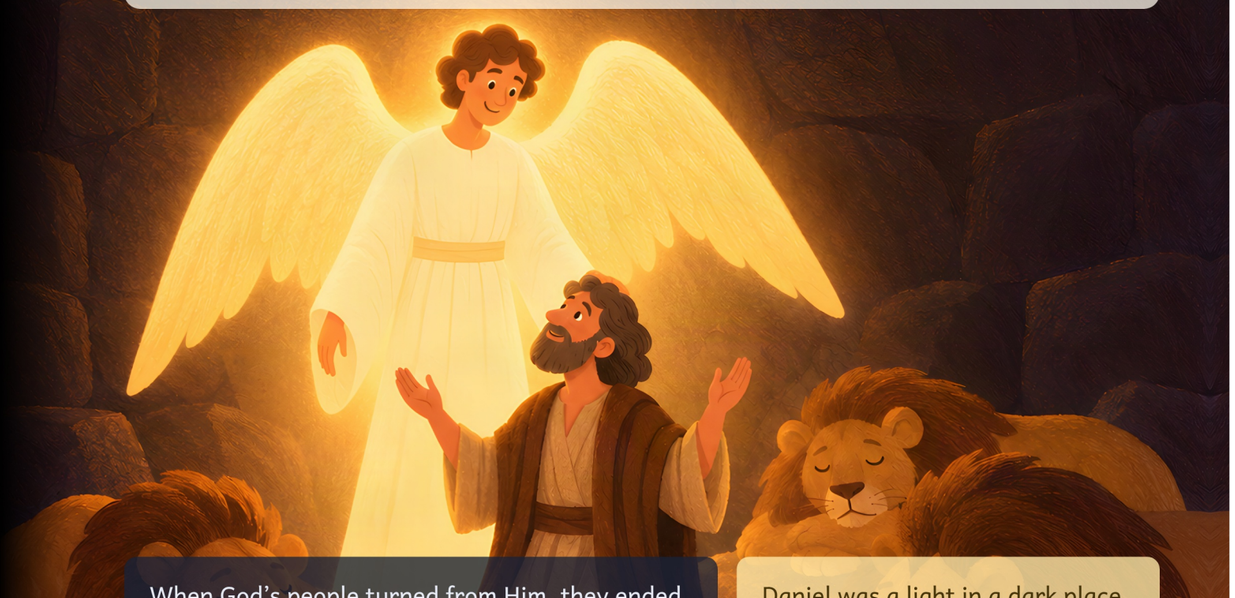
Not trusting God leads to wandering. Turning from God leads into the dark.

Even when we wander, God's light is still there to follow (Neh 9:19).

Jesus is the bread from heaven and the rock that gives living water (John 6:35; 7:37; 1 Cor 10:4).

Just as Isaiah warned, Daniel was taken far away to Babylon. There he stayed faithful to God, even when the king's rules said otherwise. The king's wise men, who used magic and the stars, couldn't tell the king his dream. But God told Daniel, and Daniel told the king.

Years later, a law said to pray only to the king. Daniel kept praying to God, so he was thrown into a lions' den. But God's angel shut the lions' mouths.



When God's people turned from Him, they ended up far from home, in a dark land that did not know Him.

Daniel was a light in a dark place and changed the lives of great kings (Dan 4:37; 5:11–12).

The king's dream showed a kingdom God would set up that would never end. That King is Jesus (Dan 2:44).

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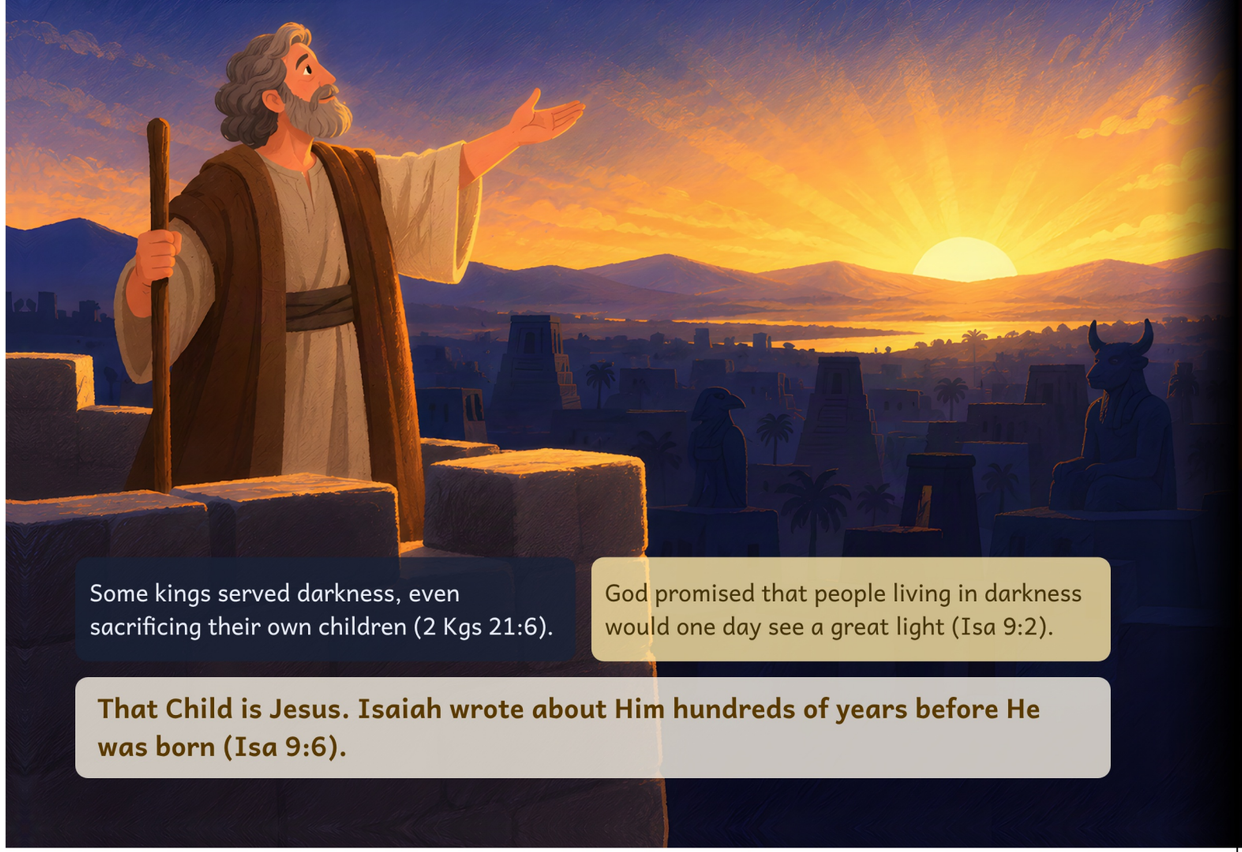
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INTERIOR sheet 6 of 6 FRONT pages 14 | 11

After David came many kings. Some tore down idols. Some built them. Dark kings like Manasseh filled the land with sorcery and star worship. Kings like Josiah found the light of God's Word and followed it.

God's messenger Isaiah warned that their cities would be destroyed and the people taken to a far-off land. But he also gave a promise: a Child would be born, Who would bring light.



Some kings served darkness, even sacrificing their own children (2 Kgs 21:6).

God promised that people living in darkness would one day see a great light (Isa 9:2).

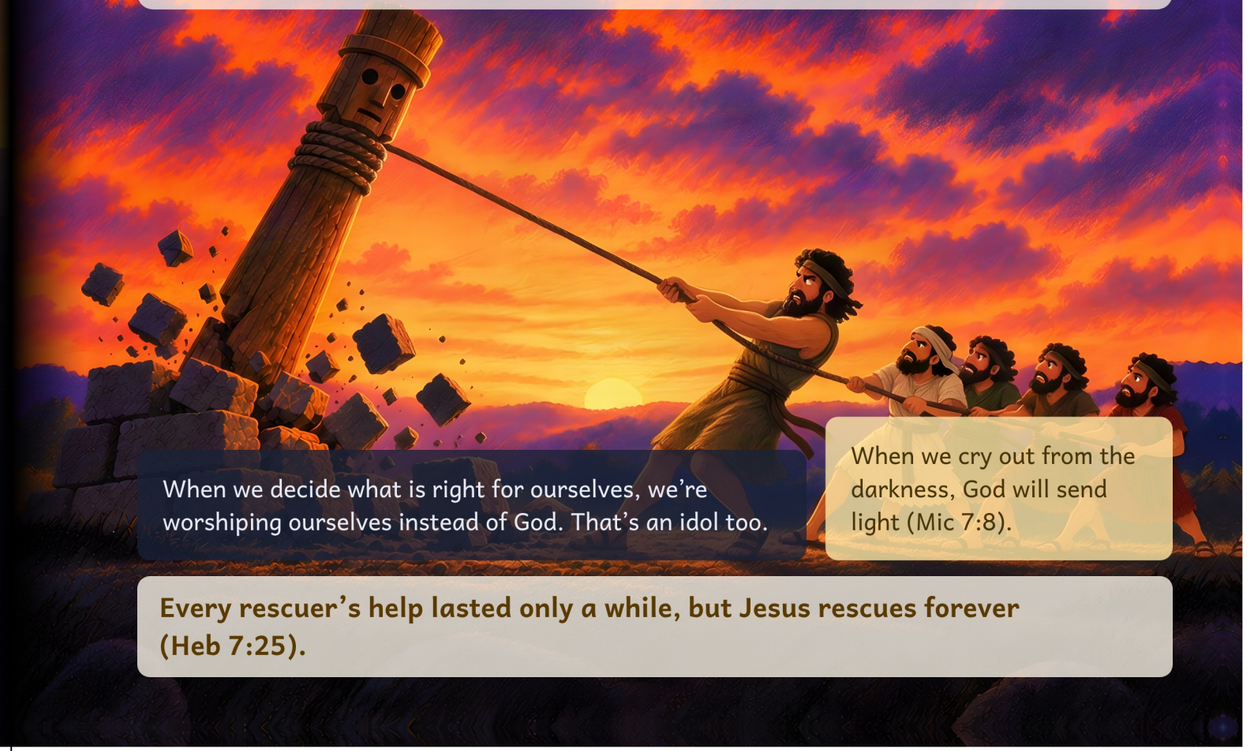
That Child is Jesus. Isaiah wrote about Him hundreds of years before He was born (Isa 9:6).

Finally they were in the promised land. But they ignored God's warnings. They worshiped idols of stone, wood, and metal.

Their enemies made them slaves again. They cried to God and He sent leaders to rescue them. Leaders like Gideon tore down idols, and God used him to chase the enemy away.

But soon they turned from Him. Again and again, they cried out. God rescued them. They turned away.

Everyone decided for themselves what was right. And trouble was everywhere.



When we decide what is right for ourselves, we're worshiping ourselves instead of God. That's an idol too.

When we cry out from the darkness, God will send light (Mic 7:8).

Every rescuer's help lasted only a while, but Jesus rescues forever (Heb 7:25).

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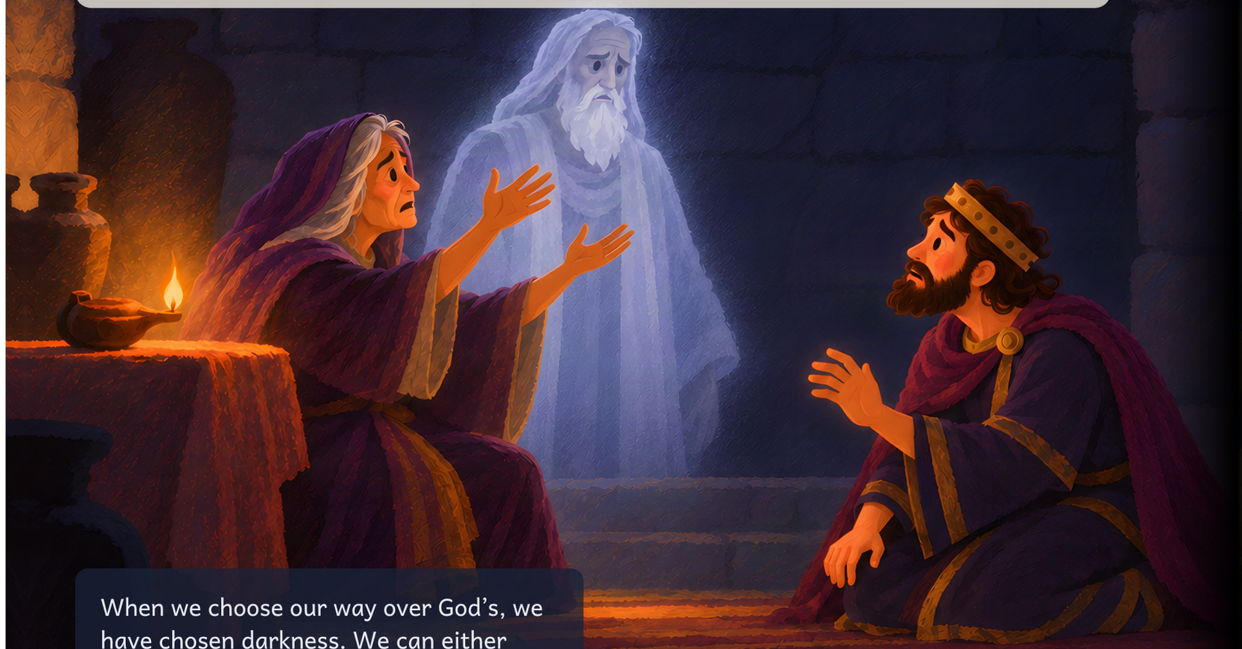
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INTERIOR sheet 6 of 6 BACK pages 12 | 13

Tired of the cycle, the people demanded a king like everyone around them. God had His messenger Samuel crown Saul. Saul looked like a king. He protected the people, and God was with him.

But Saul refused to obey God. Samuel told him God had chosen someone else. After that, God stopped answering him, and an evil spirit troubled him.

Years later, the night before his last battle, Saul was terrified. So he broke God's rule and asked a witch to call up Samuel from the dead. The answer was the same: it's too late.



When we choose our way over God's, we have chosen darkness. We can either turn back to God or go deeper into the dark.

When Saul was still king, God sent Samuel to crown another king: David, a shepherd and the youngest of his brothers. David trusted God, and God had helped him save his sheep from a lion and a bear.

One day, the enemy sent out a giant named Goliath. Saul and his whole army were afraid. David wasn't. He picked up five stones and went out to meet him.

Goliath laughed. David said, "The battle is the Lord's," swung his sling, and the giant fell.



But David wasn't perfect. When he did wrong, he ran to God, not to the dark. He said, "The Lord is my light and my salvation" (Ps 27:1; Ps 51).

David the shepherd beat a giant. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who beats our biggest enemy (John 10:11; Heb 2:14).

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