

On the Way Home

Look for these Christmas items as you ride home. Each time you see one, put an **X** in that box.

When you are almost home, look at what you found. Share the results with your family.

1. Which item did you see the most?
2. Which item did you see the least?
3. Which item shows the true meaning of Christmas?
4. Talk about why some people celebrate Jesus and others do not.



One Starry Night

Based on Matthew 2:1-12

After you read the story, go back and read it again. Stop after each set of verses and draw the **underlined** object inside the empty shape.

Up in the sky one starry night,
a new star shone—especially bright!
The magi knew God put it there
for them to follow if they dared.

“We dare, we do!” the magi said
to the star that twinkled overhead.
“For God has sent you to lead the way—
We’ll bring fine **gifts** we’ll leave today!”

With no more fuss they said goodbye,
they started the journey, their eyes on the sky.
What an adventure—they knew it was right!
God would go with them by day and by night.

They followed the **star** a long, long way,
day and night, night and day—
until they reached Jerusalem,
where mean King Herod greeted them.

“You search for a king? How can it be?
I am the king—there’s no **one** but me!”
Herod was angry, he **wore** a great crown.
He wasn’t about to give up his **crown**.

He sent his men to check in their books,

and on they hurried with worried looks.
Soon they were back to announce a strange thing—
it would happen ~~in Bethlehem~~. ~~Yes, a new King!~~

R So the magi set off on their journey again—
and the star brought them straight to Bethlehem.

Above a home it shone its light.
Their journey was over—O happy night!

Down from their camels they climbed with a shout,
“So this is what it’s all about!”

Mary opened the **door** and in they went
to find the king that ~~God had sent~~

E They brought their gifts, they brought ~~their~~ love,
for they knew this King ~~came~~ from above.

The magi’s **hearts** were filled ~~with~~ joy
as they worshiped ~~God’s~~ Son, the little boy.

Then they said, “~~Goodbye~~, it’s time to go.
This child is our King—~~God told us so.~~”

Their adventure ~~was over~~, but they weren’t sad—
the new King Jesus made their hearts glad!

The magi went home a different way.

Not to King Herod—~~not today!~~
God’s **angels** protected the new baby king.
Nothing would harm him, ~~not one~~ single thing!

The magi told people ~~just~~ what they had done
and the wonderful news of ~~God’s own~~ Son.
Aren’t you glad he’s our King? ~~We can~~ follow him too,
King Jesus who came ~~for~~ me and for you.

Los Tres Reyes

For people in Puerto Rico and many Latin American countries, January 6 is a festive day to remember the wise men who came to give their gifts to Jesus. Although the Bible does not tell us how many there were, or even if they were kings, tradition says there were three wise men called Melchior, Balthasar, and Gaspar. That's why this special holy day is called "Los Tres Reyes" or "The Three Kings."

On the night of January 5, children might put bowls of water and boxes filled with straw by their beds for the wise men's camels or horses. Or they might put their shoes just outside their doors for the wise men to fill. The next morning, they get up early to find the boxes or shoes filled with surprises! Then the whole family prepares a special meal that might include a roasted pig, rice dishes, and special banana treats.

By saving the excitement of opening toys and other fun presents for Los Tres Reyes, children have more time to think about the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. So for many Christians, Los Tres Reyes is a day that helps them remember the true meaning of Christmas.

PREVIEW



Dear Family:

Today we learned how the wise men found and worshiped the new King. Continue the celebration as you read the story poem. Then read "Los Tres Reyes" and share with your child the exciting realization that Christians all over the world are celebrating Christ's birth! **For more fun ideas, find today's story symbol in your God's Big Story cards.**



Wonder, Year 1, Unit 3, Christmas
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Psalm 23:1-3

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20 Questions



1. What is one thing that makes you nervous?
2. What is your favorite Bible story?
3. What is the biggest boat you have ever ridden in?
4. What is the best part about church for you?
5. What is your favorite thing to do with the family?
6. What is your Grandma's first name?
7. Have you ever been scared in a boat? If so, tell about it.
8. Who do you call or text the most?
9. What kinds of power does Jesus have?
10. What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you?
11. What is your favorite food?
12. What is your favorite song about Jesus?
13. What is your favorite book?
14. If someone asked "Who is Jesus?" what would you say?
15. What is your favorite Knock-Knock joke?
16. What is your favorite piece of clothing?
17. If you could have any pet you wanted, what would it be?
18. If you could change your first name, what name would you choose?
19. What is your favorite Bible verse? Say it or tell about it.
20. How do you praise Jesus?



On the Way Home

Play Twenty Questions with your family. Take turns answering questions, beginning with the oldest person. If a question is too hard for the youngest person, make one up that he or she can answer.

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Whoops! If you didn't get to all the questions on the way home, finish them on the way you get there!

Let's Make a Book! Fold the top half of this page back along the dotted line. Then fold the paper in the middle along the original fold line. Save this book. Next time you'll get a special folder to hold this book and four others. Collect the whole set!

Another busy day was ending. So many people came to see Jesus. Some wanted to hear Jesus teach. Others wanted to be healed. And some were just eager to see him. That's why Jesus and his disciples were tired. Jesus asked the disciples to row the boat across the lake. They all needed some quiet time and rest. The water was calm. The sky was clear. Jesus lay down in the back of the boat and fell sound asleep.

1

Mark 4: 35-41

PREVIEW

The disciples were busy chatting about the day when a terrible storm began. The sky grew dark. A raging wind swept over the water. Waves crashed and pounded against the little boat. It tipped from side to side.

Waves splashed in! The boat began to fill with water. No matter how hard the disciples rowed, they could not control the boat. So they stopped rowing. They grabbed the sides of the boat and held on. They feared for their lives!

2

Jesus stood up. He stretched his arms over the waves. "Quiet! Be still!" he called out. Instantly the waves quieted. The wind disappeared. The lake was calm. The wind and waves obeyed Jesus!

But the disciples' hearts were still pounding. Jesus asked, "Why are you so afraid? Don't you believe that I have the power to save you? Where is your faith?"

The disciples looked at each other. They looked at the peaceful water. They whispered to each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey him!"

PREVIEW

Everyone, that is except Jesus. He was still sound asleep. The disciples were so scared that they woke him up. They cried out, "Jesus, don't you even care if we drown?" Jesus woke up. He saw the storm. He saw how afraid the disciples were. He heard the fear in their voices. He saw their bodies shaking.

Dear Family:

After you've finished playing **Twenty Questions** and your child completes the maze, encourage him or her to fold the Show and Share paper into a storybook. Keep it in a safe place—over the next four sessions each paper will become another storybook about Jesus' power. Next week your child will receive a special folder in which to keep their set of books. Don't forget to look for today's story symbol in your God's Big Story cards and do one of the activities suggested on the back of the card together!

A Watery Maze

Steer the boat through the storm to reach the other side safely. Careful now! Don't crash!



Memory

Challenge:

Psalm 23:1-3





PREVIEW



On the Way Home

Yay! Jesus, the Son of God, has power over death. Double yay! God promised that if we love Jesus we can live forever in heaven after we die. What do you think heaven will be like? Draw a picture of it here.

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Let's Make a Book! Open this paper to the middle. Fold the top half of the page back along the dotted line. Then fold the paper in the middle along the original fold line.



1

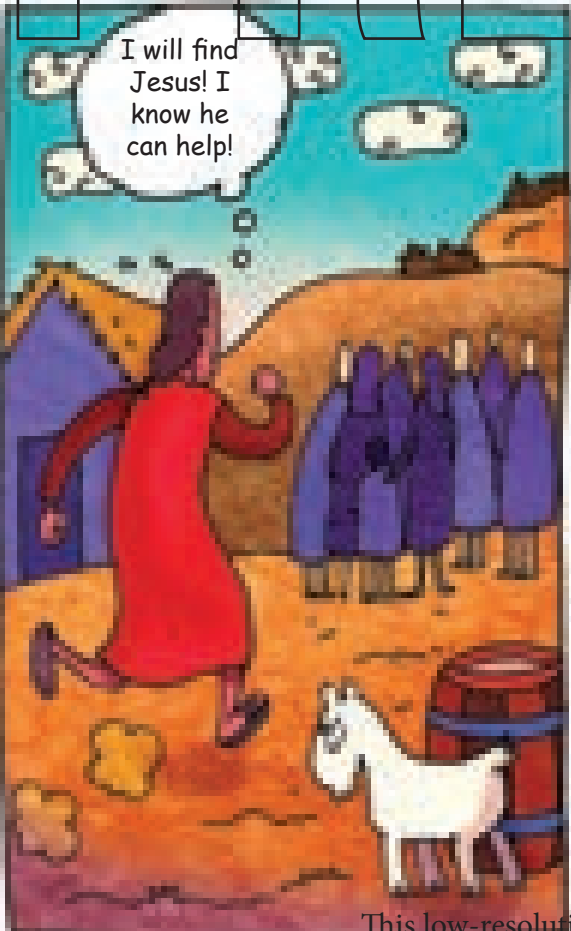
What can I do?
The doctors
haven't been able
to help. Will my
little girl die? We
need help!

I am
so sick!
I feel
awful!

Based on Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

Jesus Heals Jairus's Little Girl

P R E V I E W



I will find
Jesus! I
know he
can help!

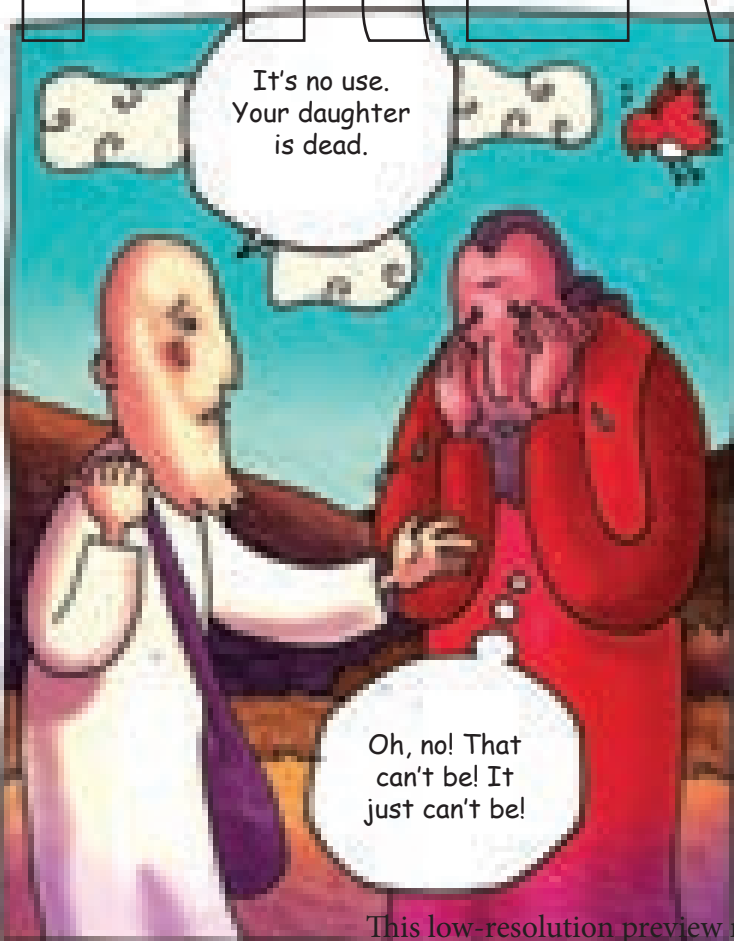


Jesus! Jesus!
My little girl
is dying. Please
come! Now!
Hurry!

2



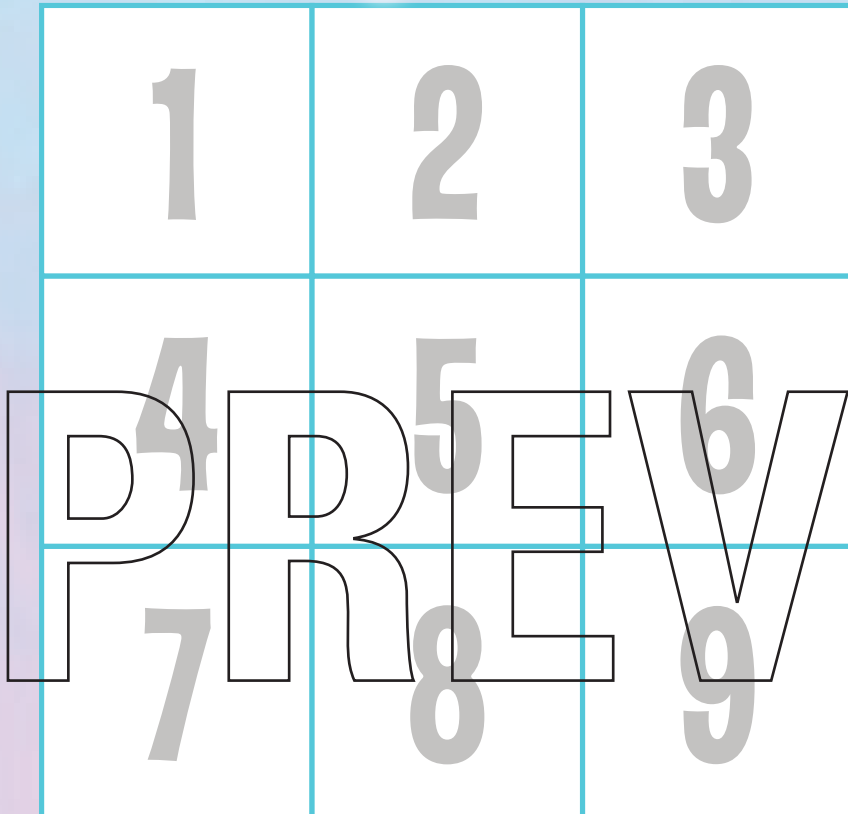
P R E V I E W



Dear Family:

Today we continued to celebrate Jesus' power—this time, his power over death! Because Jesus is God's Son, we can look forward to a wonderful life in heaven with him one day! Read the story together here, then find the symbol in your God's Big Story cards and do one of the activities. Tic-Tac-Toe is also a fun family game to play, two at a time.

Let's Play Tic-Tac-Toe!



Here's what you need:

Several coins (one person uses heads and the other tails) or buttons in two different colors.

Here's what you do:

When you play "Name That Person" the oldest player begins.

When you play "Wondering" the youngest player begins.

The first person chooses a square, and answers the question that goes with the number on the square. If correct, the player lays down the coin. If wrong, the player misses a turn. Then the second player takes a turn. The game is over when one person gets three coins in a row.

Name That Person

Who would have said or thought these sentences? Name the person from the story.

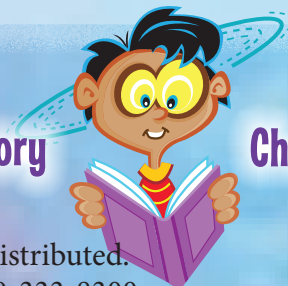
1. I don't feel well.
2. My little girl is very sick.
3. I will go find Jesus.
4. Jesus, please come and touch my little girl.
5. It's no use—your little girl is dead.
6. Don't be afraid. Just believe!
7. The little girl is not dead. She's sleeping.
8. Little girl, get up!
9. Give the little girl something to eat.

Wondering

Answer the following questions. Each one starts with "I wonder . . ."

1. what the little girl thought when she was so sick.
2. what Jairus thought and felt as he watched his little girl get worse.
3. what thoughts raced through Jairus's mind as he ran to find Jesus.
4. what people in the crowd thought when Jairus pushed past them and fell on his knees in front of Jesus.
5. what the messenger was thinking and feeling as he went to tell Jairus the sad news.
6. what Jairus thought when Jesus told him not to worry about his girl being dead.
7. what the girl thought and felt as life flooded back into her body.
8. what the girl's mom and dad thought and felt when they watched Jesus bring her back to life.
9. what the people thought when the girl came out of the house—alive!

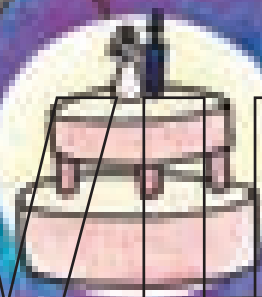
Memory



Challenge:

Psalms 23:1-3

Story Strings



PREVIEW



On the Way Home

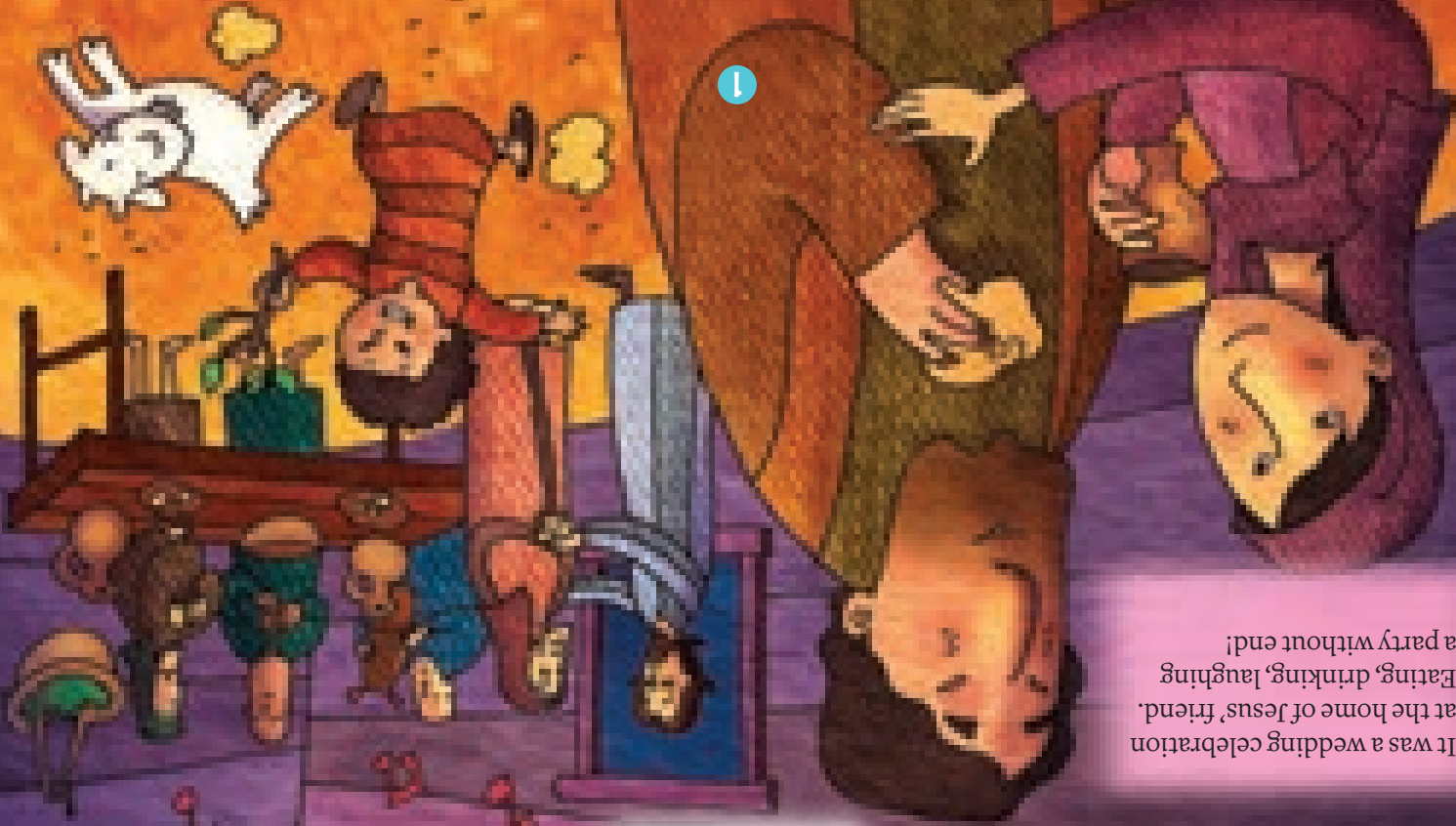
Challenge 1: One end of each string has a picture of someone or something that is in the part of God's story we heard today. The other ends of the strings have empty circles. Trace each string to find the other end. Then draw a picture of that same person or object in the empty circle.

Challenge 2: Try to use any four of the objects or persons in one sentence about the story.

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Let's Make a Book!

Open this paper to the middle. Fold the top half of the page back along the dotted line. Then fold the paper in the middle along the original fold line.



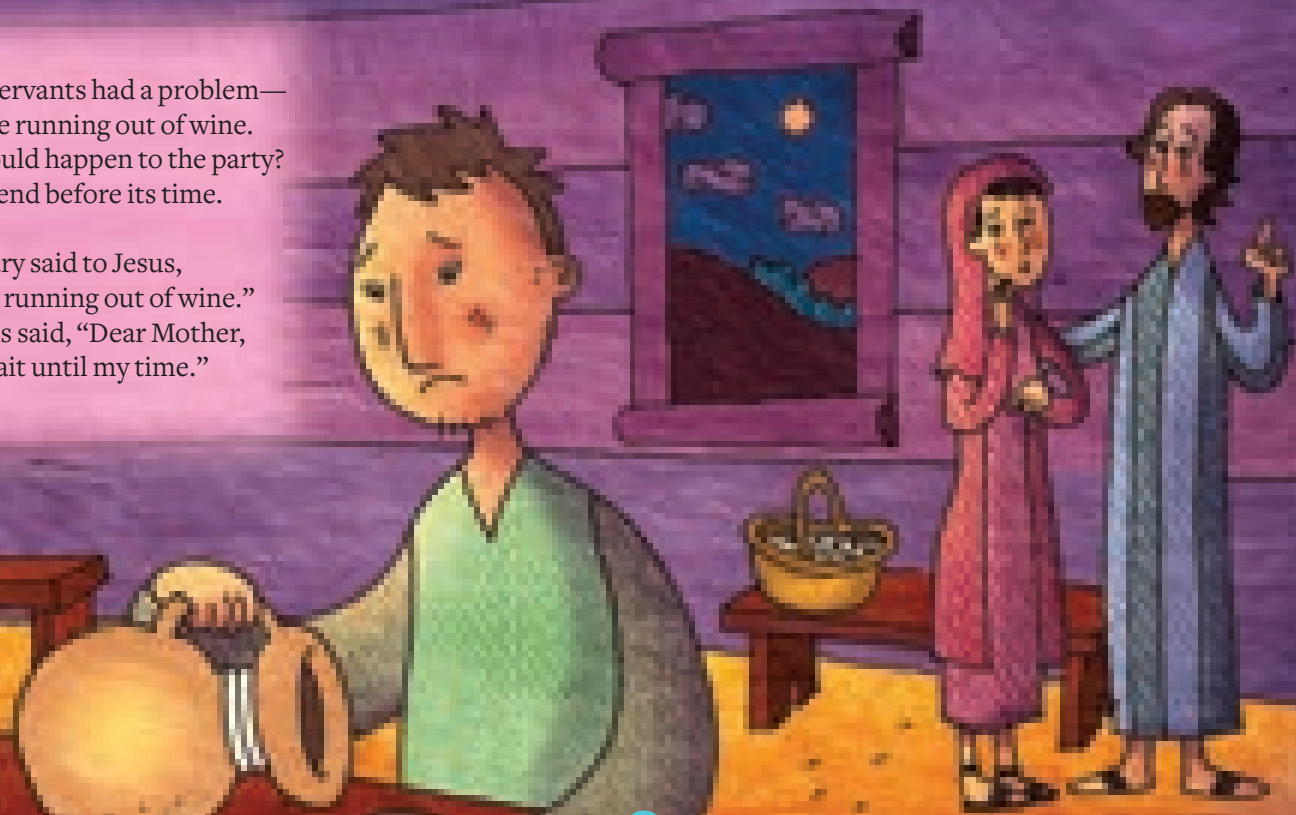
It was a wedding celebration at the home of Jesus' friend. Eating, drinking, laughing a party without end!

Based on John 2:1-11

Jesus Turns Water into Wine

But the servants had a problem—they were running out of wine. What would happen to the party? It might end before its time.

Then Mary said to Jesus, "They're running out of wine." And Jesus said, "Dear Mother, please wait until my time."



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The party kept on
going
hour after hour...
Jesus' friends believed
in him—
and wondered at his
power!

4

PREVIEW

“Take six large jars for water
and fill them to the lid!”
said Jesus to the servants.
So that’s just what they did.

“Now have the master drink some—
don’t let a drop be wasted.”
And when the master took a sip,
'twas the best he’d ever tasted!

Dear Family:

Today your child learned more about Jesus' great power and love. Help your child complete the prayer puzzle (say the prayer together afterward!) and the word game. Then invite your child to fold this paper into a storybook and read you the story. Look for the story symbol in your God's Big Story cards, and celebrate the ways Jesus' power and love are revealed in the ordinary events of your lives together this week.

The Puzzler

F	L	V	M	N	D	A	J	E	R	S	O	Y	U	W	I	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

It's easy! Look at the code at the bottom.

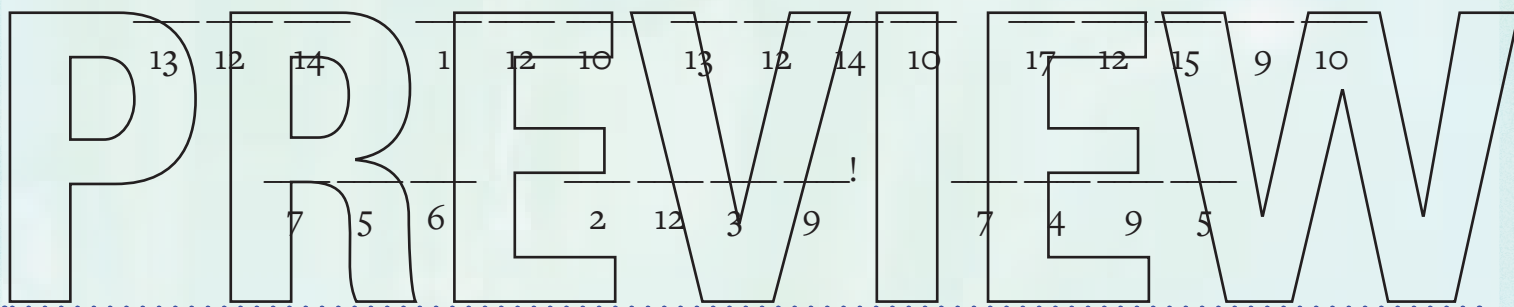
Write the letters on the lines that go with the numbers under each.

6 9 7 10

8 9 11 14 11

15 9

17 10 7 16 11 9



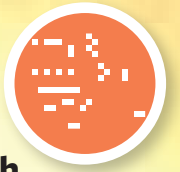
Words That Were Heard

Look at the two words in each list. Make a sentence out of the words. Here's the catch. The sentence has to be one that someone in the story might have said. Have your family guess who might have said those words.

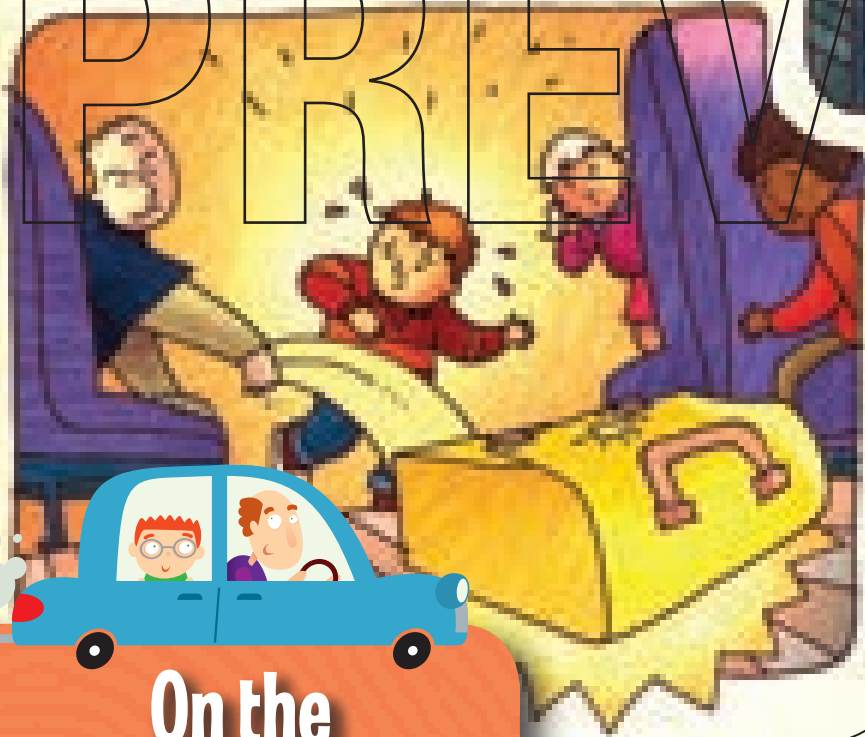
wine	gone
fill	water jugs
master	sip
wow!	delicious
believe	power



Psalm 23:1-3



**Jesus has compassion,
He knows us through and through.
Our needs and hurts are real to him;
He cares for me—and you!**



On the Way Home

The pictures tell Kevin's story. Share them with someone. Talk about Kevin's story. Who needs compassion? Who did not show compassion? Use the last space to draw or write about someone showing Kevin compassion.

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Let's Make a Book! First, open this paper to the middle. Next, fold it back along the center fold line. Finally, fold the top half back along the dotted line.



REVIEW



lifted up the  and the  and thanked God for it.

Then he broke the food apart and gave it to his disciples. The disciples

gave the loaves of  and the fish to the  Every hungry  and all the hungry 

ate enough to feel full. Then the disciples put the  and  that was left over into baskets. And this is what they found!



4

People, people, and more  ! Families came from everywhere



Everyone gathered around



around a good



, like

1



who couldn't walk came to Jesus—and Jesus healed

their



who couldn't see came to Jesus—and



who couldn't hear came to

Jesus—and Jesus healed their



2

NEW

After three days,



called to his disciples and said, "I have

compassion for these



. They are hungry. They need

to eat." The disciples said, "Where can we find loaves of



for so many people?" When they looked around, all they



could find were seven loaves of



and a few small



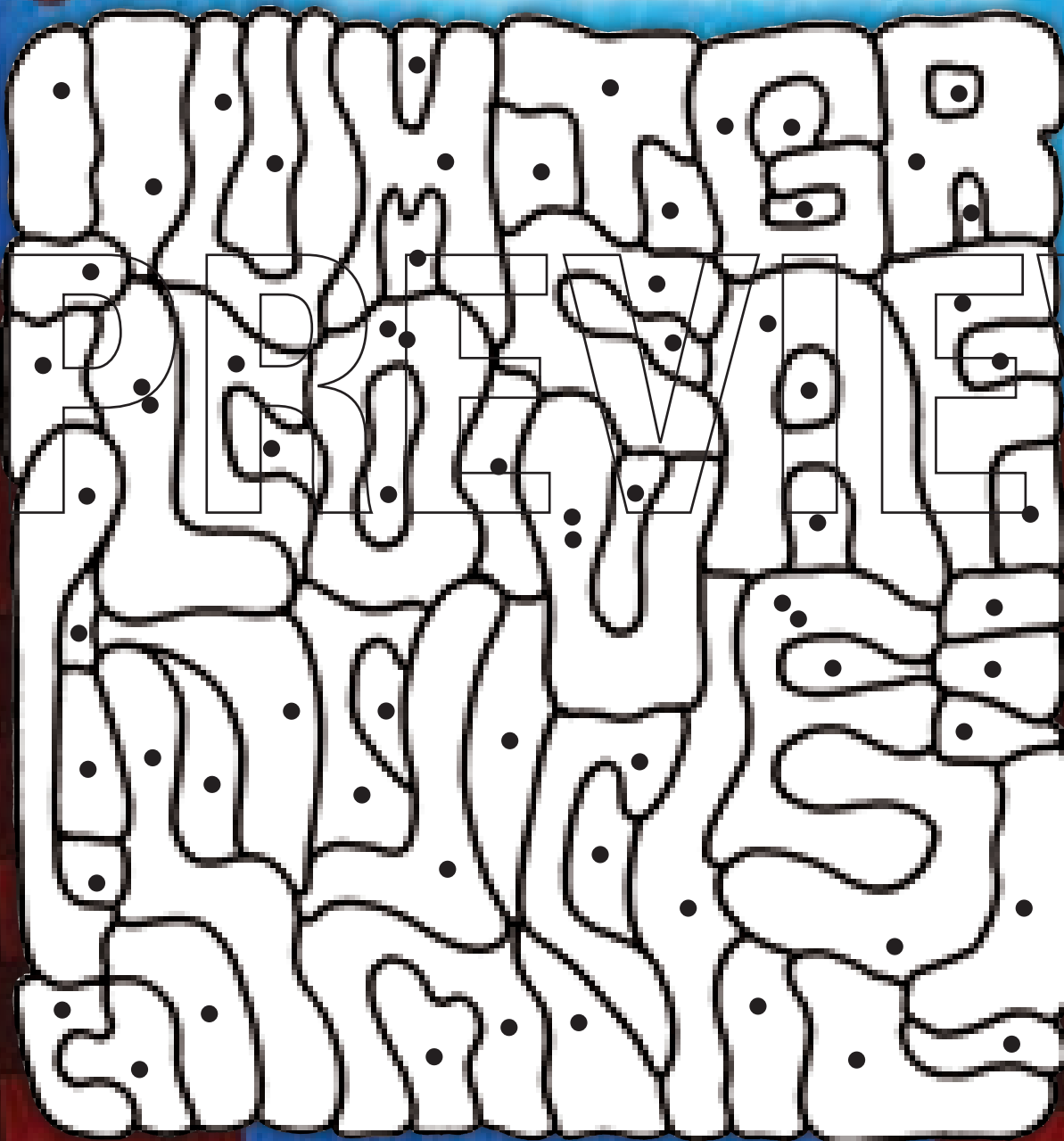
3

Dear Family

Today we learned about compassion. It is an important quality of our Lord—and an important one for us to learn. Use the story inside this paper as you use today's symbol card in your God's Big Story cards. Talk with your child this week about ways your family can reach out to others who have needs or are hurting. Remember to thank Jesus together for the compassion he shows in his care for us.

Find the Mystery Word!

(It's something like compassion—you'll always want to have it.)



Directions:

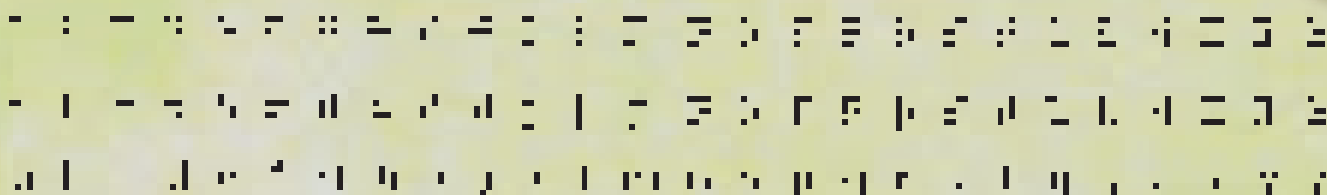
You'll need two different colored crayons or markers. Use one color to color every shape with one dot in it. Use the other color to color all the shapes with two dots.

Memory

Challenge:



Psalm 23:1-3



Your first name:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Your last name:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

PREVIEW

Reading with Fingertips

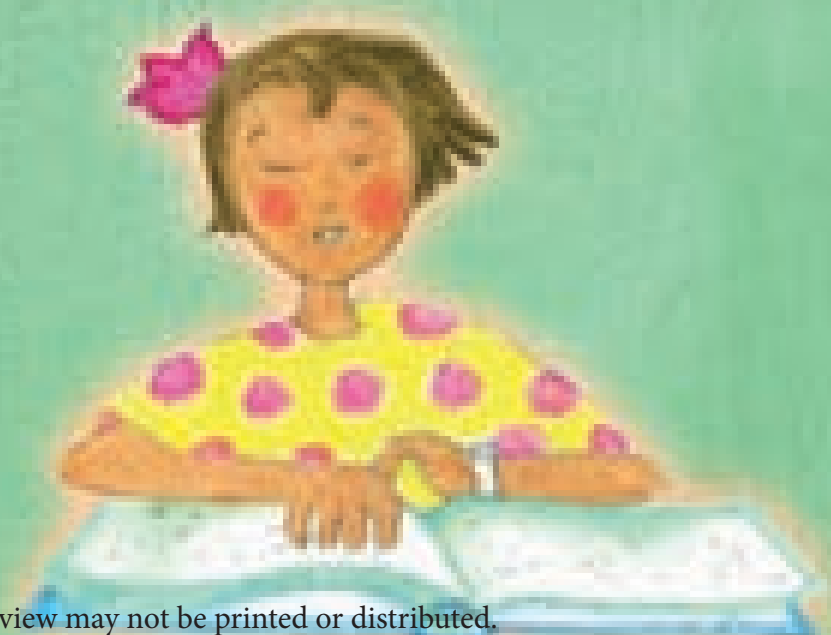
In 1824 a fifteen-year-old French boy named Louis Braille developed a way for people who are blind to read. Braille uses a pattern of raised dots for each letter of the alphabet. People who are blind use their fingertips to “read” the dots—just as you use your eyes to read the letters that spell words.

Louis became blind in an accident when he was only three years old. He became a very good student at a school for people who are blind in Paris. When he grew up, he taught at the same school. He also became a church organist.



On the Way Home

Look at the Braille alphabet on this page. Then write your first and last name using the dots. Place one letter in each space. Add spaces if your name is really long!



Begin here:

Hey, kids! Walk with the man who was blind and his friends as they go to see Jesus. Watch carefully. Several roads are closed. Don't get lost!

Based on Mark 8: 22-26

Jesus Heals a Man Who Can't See

It was going to be an exciting day, they had a plan! A special friend with them. But on this day, they often took their see. They often took their to pick up a friend who couldn't see. Some friends stopped by day. Some friends stopped by

Do not enter this road! Food Festival in progress.



As they walked, the friends told the man who was blind that they were taking him to see Jesus—the man who does miracles. They were filled with hope!

PREVIEW

The man who couldn't see knew they were coming close to a crowd because he could hear people talking. Maybe they were close to the place where Jesus was.

Suddenly the man felt his friends yanking on his arm. They whispered in his ear. "We're here. We see Jesus! He's here. He's right here!"

Beware! Road is flooded.

Do not enter! Accident ahead.

Stop! New gravel is being laid today.

Then the man who was blind heard his friends' excited voices. "Jesus, please touch our friend so that he will be able to see. Touch him, please. Please Jesus! Please!"

Let's Make a Book! Fold the top half of this page back along the dotted line. Then fold in half along the original fold line. Now your set is complete!

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Jesus told the man to go home. The friends walked with him, but they didn't have to lead him anymore!

The man looked at Jesus. He looked at his friends. He looked at the grass and the trees and the children. He could see!

How excited they were. Their friend could finally see!

PREVIEW



Jesus took the man by the hand. He led him away from the crowd. Jesus touched his eyes and asked, "Do you see anything?"



Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes again. When he did, the man's eyes were opened. He could see everything perfectly!



The man said, "I see people. They look like trees that are walking!"



