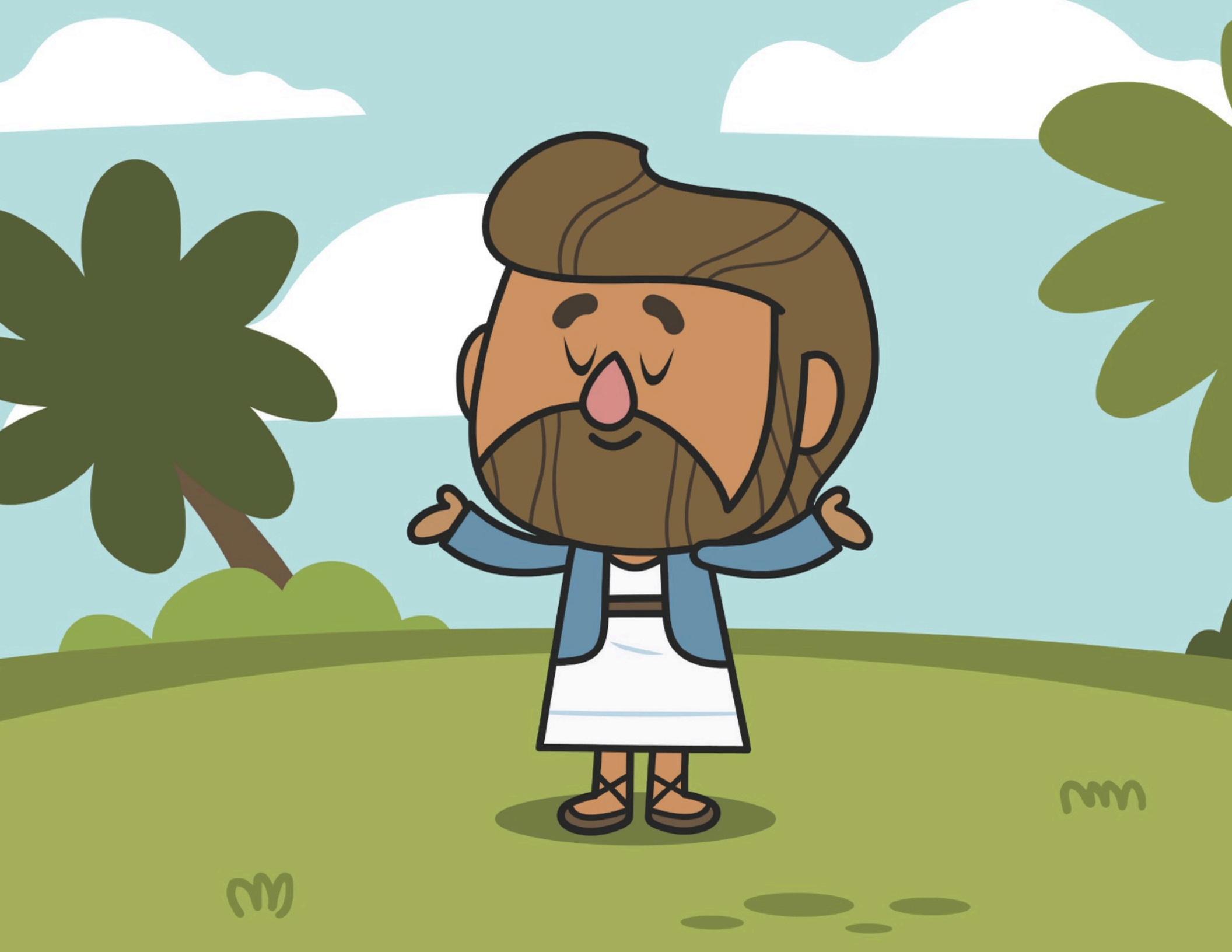




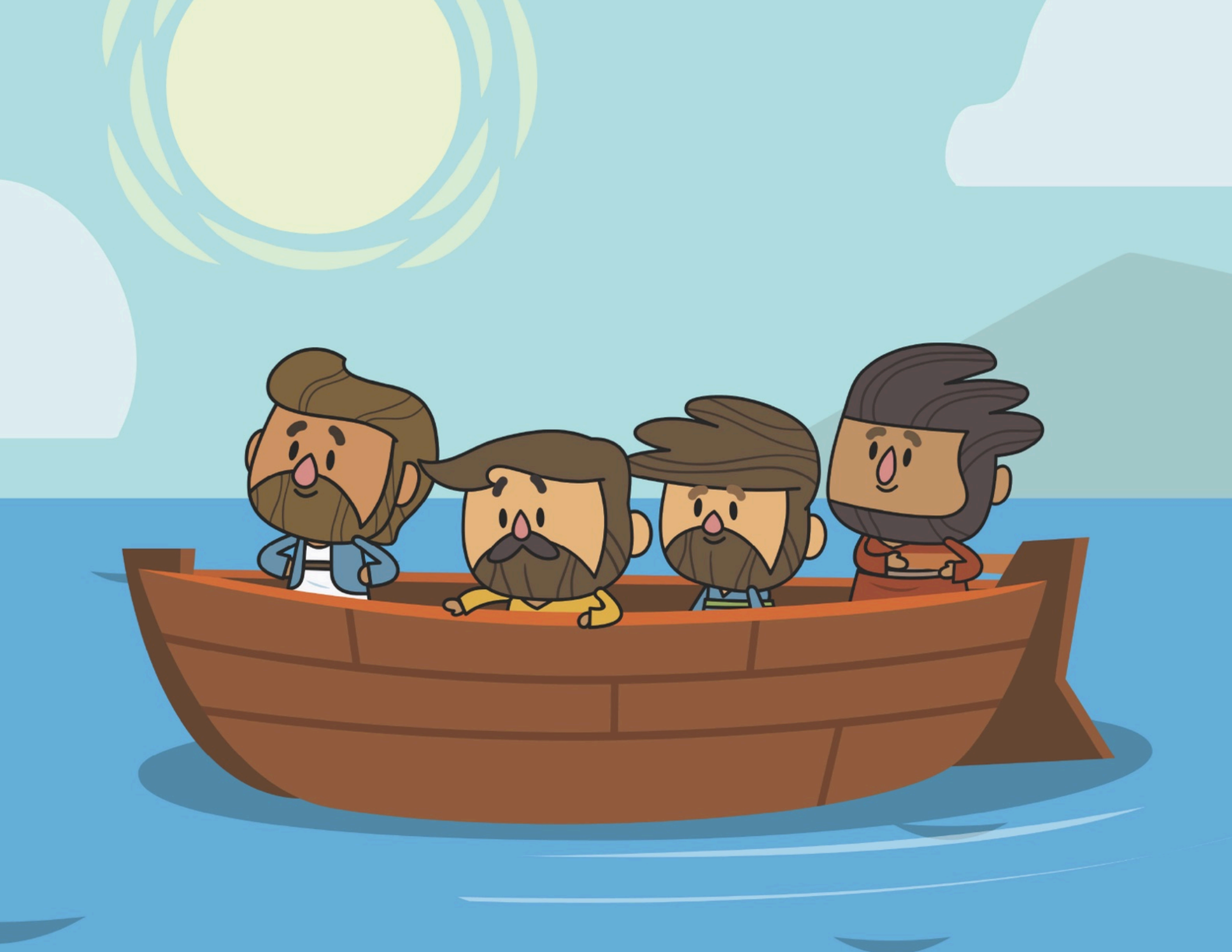
Week 1
Villages, Towns,
Countryside
Mark 6:53-56



“Hello, friends! I’m [your name], and I can’t wait to tell you a true story from the Bible. Today’s true story from the Bible is from the book of Mark, and it begins with Jesus, God’s Son.”



“Everywhere Jesus went, He did amazing things to help people—because Jesus loves and cares about everyone!”



“One day, Jesus and His friends, the disciples, rowed across a lake in a boat. Let’s pretend to row a boat. Pick up your pretend oars! (*Pretend to hold an oar and row.*) And row ... row ... row! Other side! (*Pretend to hold an oar on the other side, and continue to row.*) “Now row ... row ... row! Great job! When the people who lived on the other side of the lake saw that Jesus had come, they ran to tell everyone! (*Turn to your left side, and cup hands around mouth.*) ‘Jesus is here!’ (*Turn to your right side, and cup hands around mouth.*) ‘Jesus is here!’ Can you do that with me? (*Turn to your left side, and cup hands around mouth.*)

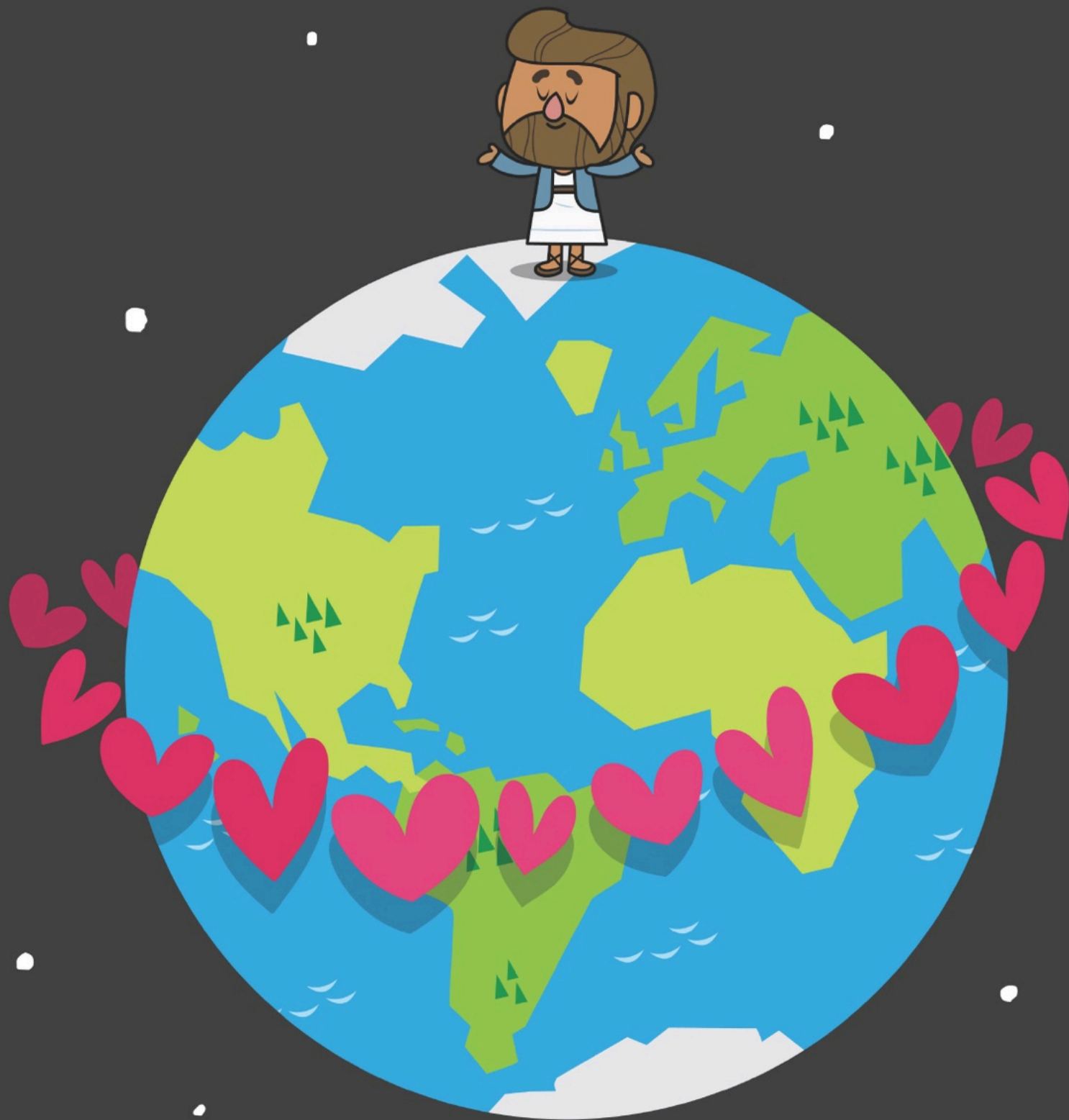
CHILDREN and LEADER: “Jesus is here! (*Turn to your right side, and cup hands around mouth.*) “Jesus is here!”



“Jesus went to (*pretend to hold something small*) small towns, (*hold your arms out wide*) big towns, and (*push arms out in front of you*) way out into the countryside! And everywhere Jesus went, so many people wanted to see Him—especially the people who were sick. There were no ambulances then, so people had to carry their sick friends to Jesus. They knew that Jesus cared about them, and they knew Jesus could help them. Jesus is so powerful that sometimes a sick person could (*touch the hem of your shirt or sleeve*) touch Jesus’ clothes, and then they would be all better. They wouldn’t be sick anymore!”



“But Jesus didn’t only go where people loved Him. One time, people ran Him out of town! They didn’t want Him there, but Jesus still cared about them too. Jesus kept going because He cared for the people, whether they liked Him or not.”



"It's like our memory verse! "How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*hold arms up and down*) and high (*jump high*) and deep (*crouch low*) is the love of Christ (*cross arms over chest*). Ephesians 3:18 (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Cross arms over chest.*) "Jesus' love is (*hold arms out wide*) wide enough for people who live in big towns and little villages. It's (*hold arms up and down*) long enough for people who are sick and hurting. Jesus' love is (*jump/reach high*) high enough for those who love Him. And it's (*crouch/reach low*) deep enough even for those who don't love Him back. Jesus cares about everyone. Tell me: Who does Jesus care about?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Jesus cares about everyone."

"Yes, Jesus cares about everyone. Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

Prayer Time

Journal Prompt: "Yay! (Clap.) I'm so glad that Jesus loves and cares about everyone everywhere! Let's sit down so we can name different people who Jesus cares about. As you name someone I'll write those names in our prayer journal. (*Open journal. Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*) In our Bible Story, Jesus cared for everyone, everywhere He went. We could keep adding more and more people that Jesus cares about because Jesus cares about everyone!"

Quiet Time Leader Prayer: (*Play instrumental worship music here if wanted. Try to work up to 2 minutes by starting with 30 seconds the first few weeks.*)

Holy Spirit what are you saying to us, we are listening. Speak to us.

Leader Prayer: "Dear God, thank you so much for Jesus. Jesus loves and cares about everyone. Help us to care for everyone too. Thank You for all the people You care about. We named so many people today. What a great reminder that You care about everyone! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen."

**WHO DOES JESUS CARE
ABOUT?**

Journal Free Space

JESUS CARES ABOUT EVERYONE



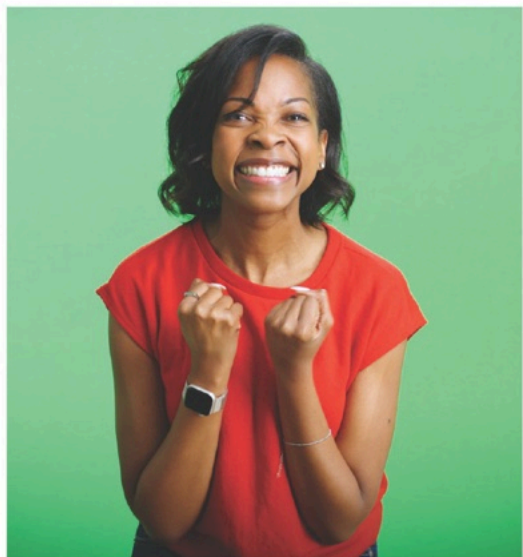
How wide



and long



and high



and deep



is the love of Christ.



Ephesians 3:18



Week 2

Jesus Heals a Woman on the Sabbath

Luke 13:10-17



“Hello, friends! I’m [your name], and I can’t wait to tell you a true story from the Bible. Today’s true story from the Bible is from the book of Luke, and it begins on a very special day called the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a special day at the end of each week. It was a day that God told His people to rest from their work. I have a little song we can sing to help us remember what God’s people were supposed to do on the Sabbath. When we sing about working, I want you to follow me and march around in a circle. But when we sing about resting, I want you to lie down and sing quietly. Stand up and get ready! Follow me!

(Sing to the tune of “Baby Shark” as you lead children to march in a circle.)

“We will work, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo.

We will work, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo.

We will work, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo. We will work.

(Sing quietly as you lead children to lay down.)

“Then we’ll rest, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo.

We will rest, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo.

We will rest, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo. We will rest.

(Repeat the two verses with the motions if time and interest allow.)

“Great job! God’s people worked all week long, and then on the Sabbath, what did they do? *(Listen.)* Yes, they rested on the Sabbath. They didn’t do any work because God wanted His people to spend time with Him.”



“One Sabbath day, Jesus was teaching people when He saw a woman who had been sick for 18 years. That’s a really long time! (*Bend over as if you cannot stand up straight.*) She was so sick that she was bent over and could not stand up straight at all.”



“But when Jesus saw her, He called her over and said: ‘You are all better now!’ Then Jesus placed His hands on the woman. And you know what happened? The woman stood up straight, for the first time in 18 years! The woman was so excited and so thankful that she started to praise and thank God. “Everybody, say: *(ASL for ‘thank you’)* ‘Thank you, God!’” *(Note: Make the ASL sign for ‘thank you’ by moving a flat hand forward from your chin.)*

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Thank you, God!”

“The woman was so happy that she was all better. But not everyone was happy!”



“But there were religious leaders who were mad. One said that making someone better was doing work, and Jesus should have waited until another day. What?! Do you think Jesus should have waited to make the woman well? (*Listen.*) Everybody, say: ‘No way!’”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “No way!”

“Jesus knew that the religious leader took care of his animals on the Sabbath, because God wants us to show His love every day! And Jesus said that since it was important to care for animals on the Sabbath, it was way more important to help people, like this woman.”



“Jesus made the sick woman all better on the special Sabbath day, because Jesus cares about everyone every day! And Jesus loves and cares about us every day too! Who does Jesus care about?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Jesus cares about everyone.”

“Yes, Jesus cares about everyone. Our story time is over, but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!”

Prayer Time

Journal Prompt: I'm so glad that Jesus loves and cares about everyone everywhere! Sit down with me and let's see who's on these pictures. Ask children to name what helper it is. Do you know a [community helper]? *(Pause for responses.)* Wonderful, I'll write their name in our journal. How can we pray for [community helper]? That's fantastic! Let's keep going. *(Remember to print, as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

Quiet Time Leader Prayer: *(Play instrumental worship music here if wanted. Try to work up to 2 minutes by starting with 30 seconds the first few weeks.)*

Holy Spirit what are you saying to us, we are listening. Speak to us.

Leader Prayer: "Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus. Jesus is so powerful that He made the sick woman all better. Thank you for caring about us every day. Help us to care for others too. In our Bible Story, Jesus cared for everyone, every single day, everywhere He went. Thank You for all the people You care about every day, everywhere. Thank You that Jesus cares about *(say the names written in the journal)*, and Jesus cares about you, and you, everyone! What a great reminder that You care about everyone, every day! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen."



COMMUNITY HELPERS

Journal Free Space

JESUS CARES ABOUT EVERYONE



How wide



and long



and high



and deep



is the love of Christ.



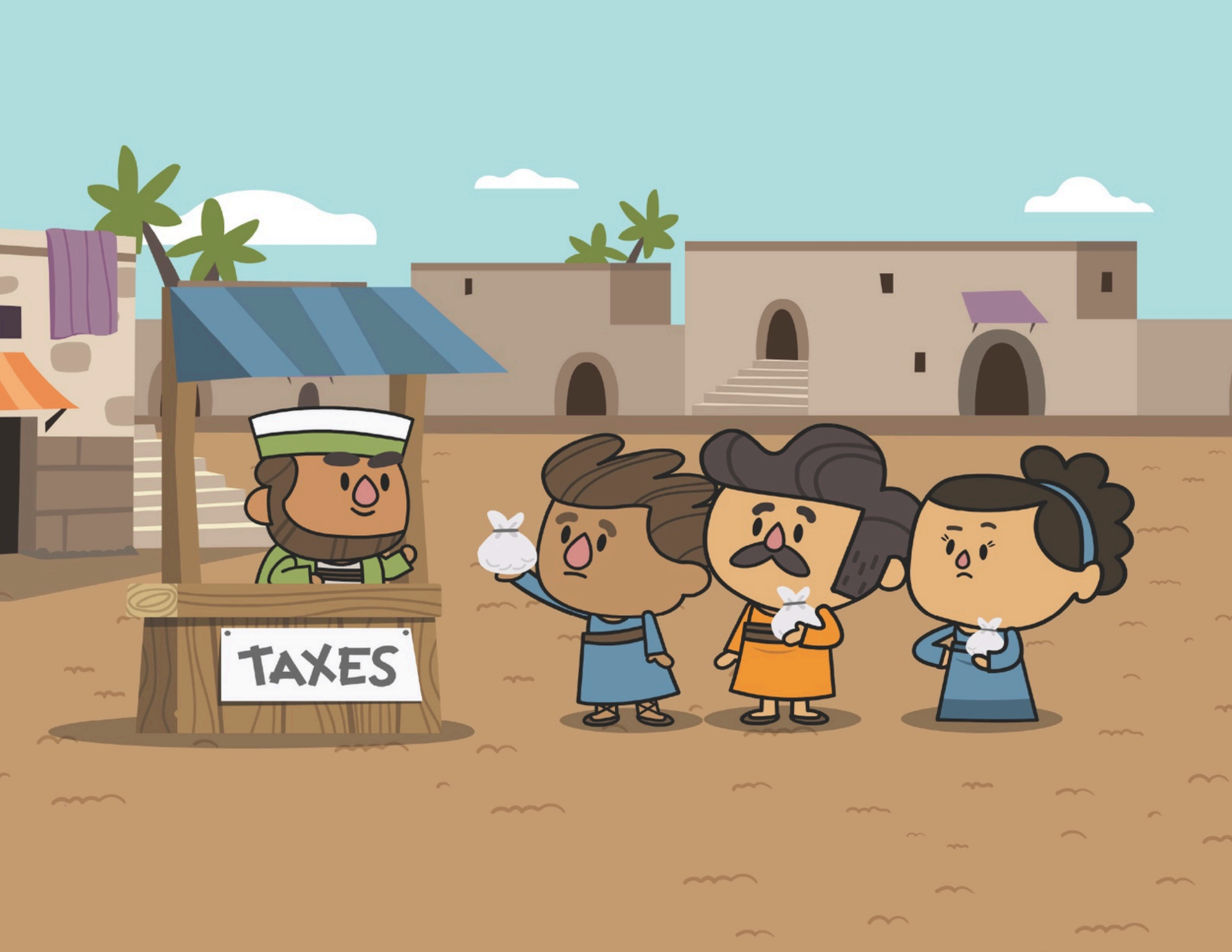
Ephesians 3:18



Week 3
Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10



“Hello, friends! I’m [your name], and I can’t wait to tell you a true story from the Bible. Today’s true story from the Bible is from the book of Luke, and it begins with a man named Zacchaeus.”



TAXES

“Zacchaeus was a tax collector, and no one liked tax collectors! They took money from people to give to the rulers who were in charge. Let’s pretend I’m our tax collector. Pretend to give me your money. (*Pretend to take money from children.*) But they also took more money to pay themselves. So, give me some more of your money! (*Pretend to take more money from children.*) That’s a lot of money! A lot of times tax collectors took so much money that it was unfair! Everyone, say: ‘Oh, no!’”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Oh, no!”

“And Zacchaeus had taken so much money that he was rich!”



“But one day, Zacchaeus heard Jesus was coming to his town, and Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus loves everyone. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus for himself, but a big crowd of people blocked his way. They were all trying to see Jesus too! Zacchaeus was short, and he could not see Jesus through the crowd. So, Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed up a fig tree! Can you pretend to climb a tree with me? *(Pretend to climb a tree, hand over hand.)* Climb, climb, climb, climb! Phew, great job!”



“From his place in the tree, Zacchaeus could see Jesus coming closer and closer. And when Jesus reached the fig tree, He stopped and looked right up at Zacchaeus and said: “Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today” Wow, Jesus knew Zacchaeus’ name! Now Jesus knew that Zacchaeus had taken too much money from people, but Jesus still loved him. Zacchaeus was amazed and excited. He scrambled out of the tree and invited Jesus to come to his home right away.”



“Other people saw this. They didn’t think Jesus should go to Zacchaeus’ house because Zacchaeus had done wrong things. But Jesus loves and cares about everyone—no matter what! Zacchaeus stood up and said: ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took’. Zacchaeus promised to give back way more money than he had taken from people. That’s amazing! Zacchaeus had changed! Everyone, say: ‘Yay for Zacchaeus!’”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Yay for Zacchaeus!”



“Jesus told Zacchaeus that He came to help people who are lost and hurting and to rescue them. Jesus did not just come to help people who do the right things all the time. Jesus came to help people who are sick and hurting and do wrong things, like Zacchaeus. Jesus cares about everyone, no matter what! Who does Jesus care about?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Jesus cares about everyone.”

“Yes, Jesus cares about everyone. Our story time is over, but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!”

Prayer Time

Journal Prompt: “Yay! I’m so glad that Jesus loves and cares about everyone everywhere! Let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) It’s a good thing Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong, because everyone has done something wrong. We all need Jesus to forgive us, right? Let’s make a list of things we know are wrong. Then we can use our list when we pray. (*Suggestions: Not obeying parents, not sharing, arguing with a sibling/friend, taking something that does not belong to us, etc.*) I’ll go first. (*Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)”

Quiet Time Leader Prayer: (*Play instrumental worship music here if wanted. Try to work up to 2 minutes by starting with 30 seconds the first few weeks.*)

Holy Spirit what are you saying to us, we are listening. Speak to us.

Leader Prayer: “We’ve all done something wrong, just like Zacchaeus. That’s what makes Jesus so special. Jesus cares about everyone, and He will always forgive us. Let’s pray and talk to God about what we wrote in our prayer journal. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Thank You for sending Jesus to love us no matter what. Please forgive us when we do things like (*read the list*). And help us forgive others too. You’re the best, God. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

**THINGS WE DO THAT
ARE WRONG...**

Journal Free Space

JESUS CARES ABOUT EVERYONE



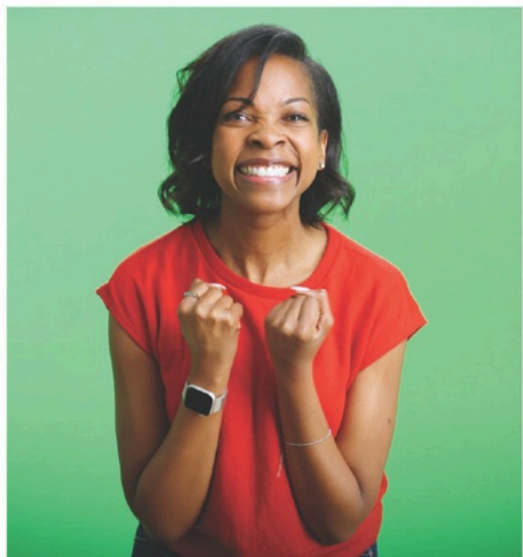
How wide



and long



and high



and deep



is the love of Christ.



Ephesians 3:18



Week 4
Woman at the Well
John 4:1-26, 39-42



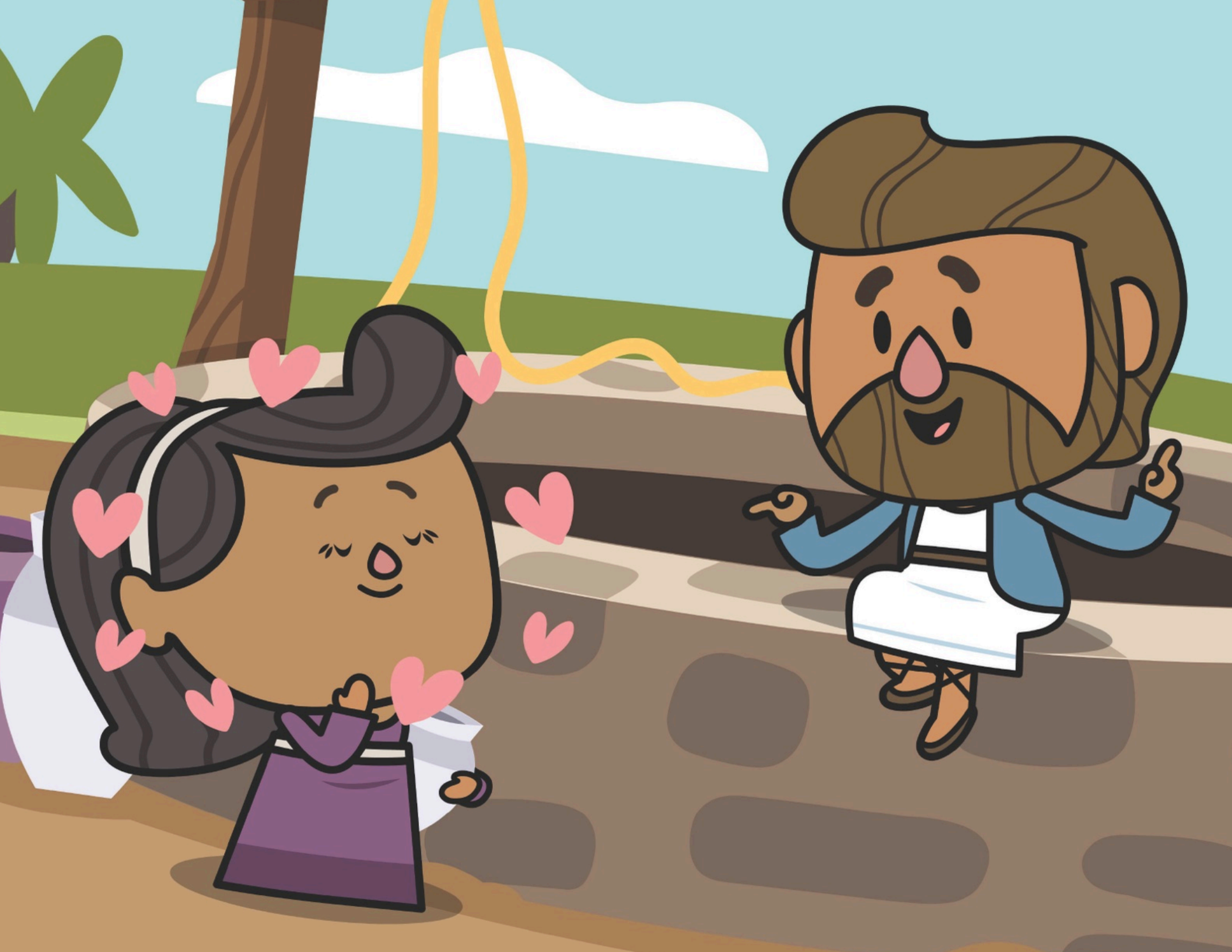
“Hello, friends! I’m [your name], and I can’t wait to tell you a true story from the Bible. Today’s true story from the Bible is from the book of John, and it begins with Jesus and His friends, the disciples.



“One day, Jesus and His friends, the disciples, started to walk through a place called Samaria. The disciples went into a town in Samaria to buy food, but Jesus sat down by a well near the town to rest. This was a long time ago, and no one could turn on a faucet and get water in their house. They had to walk to a well. A well was a big hole in the ground that had lots of water in it. People lower down a jar or bucket into the well to fill it up with water. Then they had to walk all the way home again carrying a heavy jar or bucket filled with water! Stand up and let’s pretend to get water from a well. Hold up your pretend jar! (*Stand up and pretend to hold up a jar.*) Now let’s lower our jar and scoop up some water. (*Pretend to lower your jar and scoop up some water.*) Okay, now we’ve got to pull up the heavy jar of water. Pull!”



“While Jesus was sitting by the well, a Samaritan woman came to get water. The woman was carrying a jar, so Jesus asked her: “Will you give me a drink?”. “This was a really big deal because the woman did not think that Jesus would want to talk to someone from her town. But Jesus did! Jesus loves everyone, everywhere! Then Jesus told the woman something surprising. Jesus said that she should ask Him for a drink of living water. But Jesus didn’t mean the kind of water you drink! See, when our bodies are hot and tired, we need water, but it only satisfies us for a little while. Jesus gives us something better—Himself! Jesus’ love is like living water for our hearts.”



“Can you make the sign for love? (*Make the ASL sign for ‘love’ by crossing your arms over your chest.*) Regular water from a well can run out. But Jesus’ love for us will never, ever end! The woman was still confused. But she knew that someday God would send a very special person who would rescue everyone. Then Jesus said ... “I am he”. Jesus was saying, ‘It’s Me! I’m the special Person who will rescue everyone. I’m God’s Son!’”



“The woman was so excited that she ran back into the town and told everyone about Jesus. The woman told people that Jesus is God’s Son, and the people in the town believed in Jesus too and invited Him to stay with them. Jesus loved and cared about the Samaritan woman and the people in her town, even though they were from a different place because Jesus cares about everyone, no matter where they live! Who does Jesus care about?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Jesus cares about everyone.”

“Yes, Jesus cares about everyone. Our story time is over, but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!”

Prayer Time

Journal Prompt: “Yay! I’m so glad that Jesus loves and cares about everyone everywhere! Let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today we travelled in lots of different ways to our Small Group spot. Some of us pretended to ride in an airplane. Some of us pretended to ride a train, some of us were on a bus or in a car! Let’s think about some people you know who live in different places. Maybe you rode in a plane or on a train to go see them. I’ll go first. My sister lives in Asheville. That’s in the mountains of North Carolina. I drive there in my car. What about you? (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*) Those are some amazing people living in amazing places!”

Quiet Time Leader Prayer: (*Play instrumental worship music here if wanted. Try to work up to 2 minutes by starting with 30 seconds the first few weeks.*)

Holy Spirit what are you saying to us, we are listening. Speak to us.

Leader Prayer:“Wow! Look at this list! (*Hold up journal.*) There are people in all kinds of places, all over the world. And Jesus cares about ALL of them. The woman at the well ran to tell her whole town about Jesus because she knew His love would never run out. Let’s thank Jesus for loving and caring about everyone, everywhere. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us no matter where we live! Please be with our friends and family who live all over, like (*read the list*). And help us love and care for them too. You’re the best, God. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name.
Amen.”

**PEOPLE WHO LIVE
OTHER PLACES...**

Journal Free Space

JESUS CARES ABOUT EVERYONE



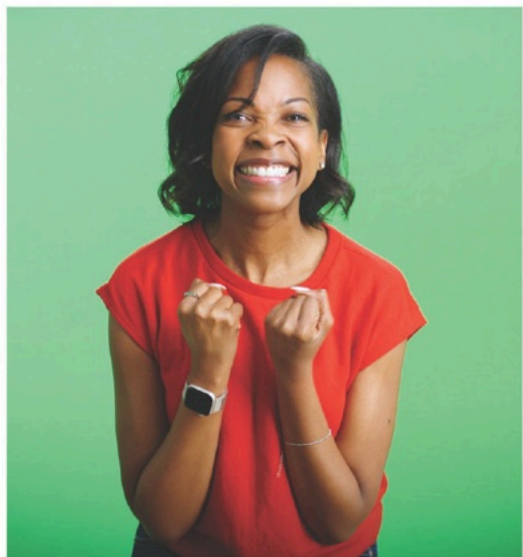
How wide



and long



and high



and deep



is the love of Christ.



Ephesians 3:18



Week 5
Matthew's Dinner
Mark 2:13-17;
Luke 5:27-32



“Hello, friends! I’m [your name], and I can’t wait to tell you a true story from the Bible. Today’s true story from the Bible is found in the book of Mark, and it begins with a man named Matthew.”



“Matthew was a tax collector, and no one liked tax collectors! They took money from people for the rulers who were in charge. And they also took extra money to pay themselves. Some tax collectors took too much money, and it was unfair! “Everyone, say: ‘That’s unfair!’” **CHILDREN and LEADER:** “That’s unfair!”

“It was unfair so most people (*hold palms up as if keeping someone away*) stayed away from tax collectors. But not Jesus! Jesus (*cross arms over chest*) loves and cares about everyone. So Jesus went right up to Matthew and said: (*Wave hands toward yourself as if inviting someone to join you.*)

“Follow me,”. “Everyone, say: ‘Follow me!’”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Follow me!”

“Wow! Jesus was kind to Matthew, and Jesus asked Matthew to come with Him and be a close friend! “Let’s do the sign for ‘friend.’ (*Make the ASL sign for ‘friend’ by hooking your index fingers twice, alternating which finger is on top.*) It’s like your fingers are hugging each other because they are best friends. And now switch so the other finger is on top. (*Alternate which index finger is on top.*) That’s how you make the sign for ‘friend.’ (*Make the ASL sign for ‘friend.’*)



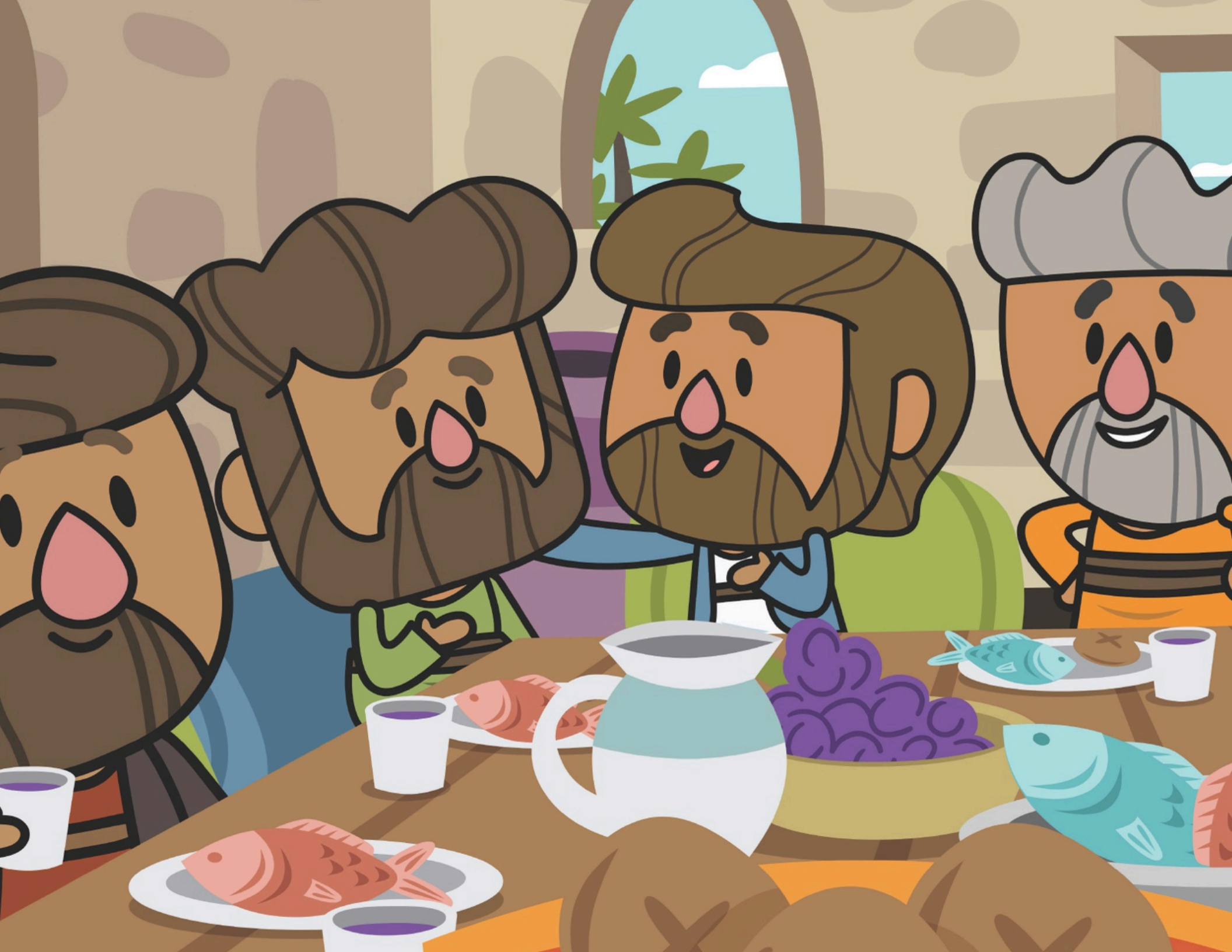
“Jesus asked Matthew to follow Him because Jesus wanted to be
(make the ASL sign for ‘friends’) friends forever with Matthew. Do you
think Matthew went with Jesus? Yes! Matthew got up right away
and left everything behind!”



“Matthew went home and prepared a big meal for Jesus. Matthew was so excited that he even invited other tax collectors and friends, so they could meet Jesus too! It was a big party, and all of Matthew’s friends got to spend time with Jesus.”



“But some of the religious leaders did not think that Jesus should spend time with people who had done wrong things. The leaders asked Jesus’ friends why Jesus was eating with tax collectors and people who don’t do what God wants them to do. Jesus heard what the leaders were saying, and He told them that He wants everyone to follow Him!”



“Jesus loved Matthew and his friends, even though they had done wrong things. Jesus loves us too, no matter what. He will never stop caring for us! “Tell me: Who does Jesus care about?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Jesus cares about everyone.”

“Yes, Jesus cares about everyone. Our story time is over, but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!”

Prayer Time

Journal Prompt: “Now, let’s sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we’re going to make a list of people we’d like to have dinner with. When I say your name, tell me one person you’d like to have dinner with and I will write it by your name.” (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

Quiet Time Leader Prayer: (*Play instrumental worship music here if wanted. Try to work up to 2 minutes by starting with 30 seconds the first few weeks.*)

Holy Spirit what are you saying to us, we are listening. Speak to us.

Leader Prayer: “This is a great list of people! (*Hold up journal.*) Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us that we can love and care for everyone! Jesus had dinner with Matthew and his tax collector friends because Jesus wants everyone to follow Him! Jesus loved Matthew and his friends, even though they had done wrong things. Jesus loves us too, no matter what. Thank you for (*say each child’s name*) and (*read the list the children made*) that they’d like to have dinner with. Help us to love and care for all people just like Jesus does. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

**WHO DO YOU WANT
TO HAVE DINNER WITH?**

Journal Free Space

JESUS CARES ABOUT EVERYONE



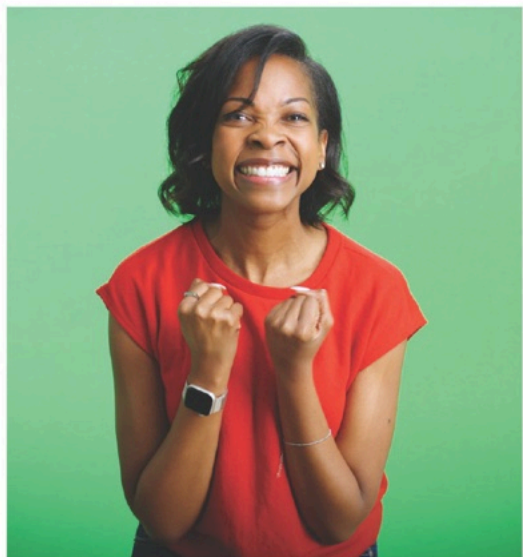
How wide



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is the love of Christ.



Ephesians 3:18