

# THANKFULNESSES

This month we will focus on being thankful. God fills our lives with blessings, and we should be thankful for everything he has given us. The Bible tells us to be grateful at all times because we know God is always with us. We should praise and worship him to express our thankfulness and our love for him.



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Psalm 107 reminds us of some of the many ways God has blessed his children, and it tells us to praise him for his goodness and love.

NirV The Illustrated Holy Bible for Kids

PSALMS 106 – 107

Many times the LORD saved them.  
But they refused to obey him.  
So he destroyed them because of  
their sins.

Yet he heard them when they cried out.  
He paid special attention to their  
suffering.

Because they were his people, he  
remembered his covenant.  
Because of his great love, he felt  
sorry for them.

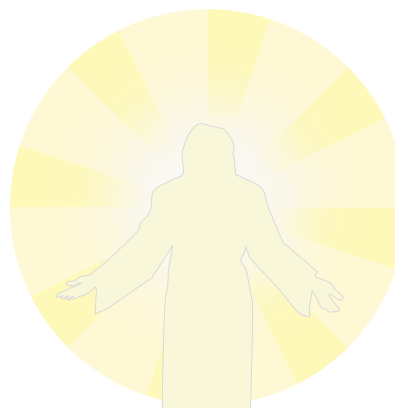
He made all those who held them as  
prisoners  
have mercy on them.

LORD our God, save us.  
Bring us back from among the  
nations.

Then we will give thanks to you,  
because your name is holy.  
We will celebrate by praising you.

Give praise to the LORD, the God of Israel,  
for ever and ever.  
Let all the people say, "Amen!"

Praise the LORD.



Their Evil Ways Made the LORD Angry

## BOOK V

### Psalms 107–150

#### Psalm 107

Give thanks to the LORD,  
because he is good.  
His faithful love continues  
forever.

Let those who have been set  
free by the LORD tell  
their story.

He set them free from the  
power of the enemy.  
He brought them back from  
other lands.

He brought them back from  
east and west, from  
north and south.

Some of them wandered in  
deserts that were dry  
and empty.

They couldn't find a city where they could make their homes.  
They were hungry and thirsty.

Their lives were slipping away.  
Then they cried out to the LORD because of their problems.  
And he saved them from their troubles.



Give Thanks to the LORD

Start  
Reading  
Here

## PSALM 107

## NIRV The Illustrated Holy Bible for Kids

He led them straight  
to a city where they could make their homes.  
Let them give thanks to the LORD for his faithful love.  
Let them give thanks for the wonderful things he does for people.  
He gives those who are thirsty all the water they want.  
He gives those who are hungry all the good food they can eat.

Others lived in the deepest darkness.  
They suffered as prisoners in iron chains.  
That's because they hadn't obeyed the commands of God.  
They had refused to follow the plans of the Most High God.  
So he made them do work that was hard and bitter.  
They tripped and fell, and there was no one to help them.  
Then they cried out to the LORD because of their problems.  
And he saved them from their troubles.  
He brought them out of the deepest darkness.  
He broke their chains off.  
Let them give thanks to the LORD for his faithful love.  
Let them give thanks for the wonderful things he does for people.  
He breaks down gates that are made of bronze.  
He cuts through bars that are made of iron.

Others were foolish. They suffered because of their sins.  
They suffered because they wouldn't obey the LORD.  
They refused to eat anything.  
They came close to passing through the gates of death.  
Then they cried out to the LORD because of their problems.  
And he saved them from their troubles.  
He gave his command and healed them.  
He saved them from the grave.  
Let them give thanks to the LORD for his faithful love.  
Let them give thanks for the wonderful things he does for people.  
Let them sacrifice thank offerings.  
Let them talk about what he has done as they sing with joy.

Some people sailed out on the ocean in ships.  
They traded goods on the mighty waters.  
They saw the works of the LORD.  
They saw the wonderful deeds he did on the ocean.  
He spoke and stirred up a storm.  
It lifted the waves high.  
They rose up to the heavens. Then they went down deep into the ocean.  
In that kind of danger the people's boldness melted away.  
They were unsteady like people who have become drunk.  
They didn't know what to do.  
Then they cried out to the LORD because of their problems.  
And he brought them out of their troubles.  
He made the storm as quiet as a whisper.  
The waves of the ocean calmed down.  
The people were glad when the ocean became calm.  
Then he guided them to the harbor they were looking for.  
Let them give thanks to the LORD for his faithful love.  
Let them give thanks for the wonderful things he does for people.  
Let them honor him among his people who gather for worship.  
Let them praise him in the meeting of the elders.

He turned rivers into a desert.  
He turned flowing springs into thirsty ground.  
He turned land that produced crops into a salty land where nothing  
could grow.  
He did it because the people who lived there were evil.

End  
Reading  
Here

He turned the desert into pools of water.  
 He turned the dry and cracked ground into flowing springs.  
 He brought hungry people there to live.  
 They built a city where they could make their homes.  
 They planted fields and vineyards  
 that produced large crops.  
 He blessed the people, and they greatly increased their numbers.  
 He kept their herds from getting smaller.  
 Then the number of God's people got smaller.  
 They were made humble by trouble, suffering and sorrow.  
 The God who looks down on proud nobles  
 made them wander in a desert where no one lives.  
 But he lifted needy people out of their suffering.  
 He made their families increase like flocks of sheep.  
 Honest people see it and are filled with joy.  
 But no one who is evil has anything to say.  
 Let those who are wise pay attention to these things.  
 Let them think about the loving deeds of the LORD.

## Psalm 108

*A song. A psalm of David.*

God, my heart feels secure.  
 I will sing and make music to you with all my heart.  
 Harp and lyre, wake up!  
 I want to sing and make music before the sun rises.  
 LORD, I will praise you among the nations.  
 I will sing about you among the people of the earth.  
 Great is your love. It is higher than the heavens.  
 Your truth reaches to the skies.  
 God, may you be honored above the heavens.  
 Let your glory be over the whole earth.  
 Save us. Help us with your powerful right hand,  
 so that those you love may be saved.  
 God has spoken from his temple.  
 He has said, "I will win the battle.  
 Then I will divide up the land around Shechem.  
 I will divide up the Valley of Sukkoth.  
 Gilead belongs to me, and so does the land of Manasseh.  
 Ephraim is the strongest tribe. It is like a helmet for my head.  
 Judah is the royal tribe. It is like a ruler's scepter.  
 Moab serves me like one who washes my feet.  
 I toss my sandal on Edom to show that I own it.  
 I shout to Philistia that I have won the battle."  
 Who will bring me to the city that has high walls around it?  
 Who will lead me to the land of Edom?  
 God, isn't it you, even though you have now turned away from us?  
 Isn't it you, even though you don't lead our armies into battle  
 anymore?  
 Help us against our enemies.  
 The help people give doesn't amount to anything.  
 With your help we will win the battle.  
 You will walk all over our enemies.

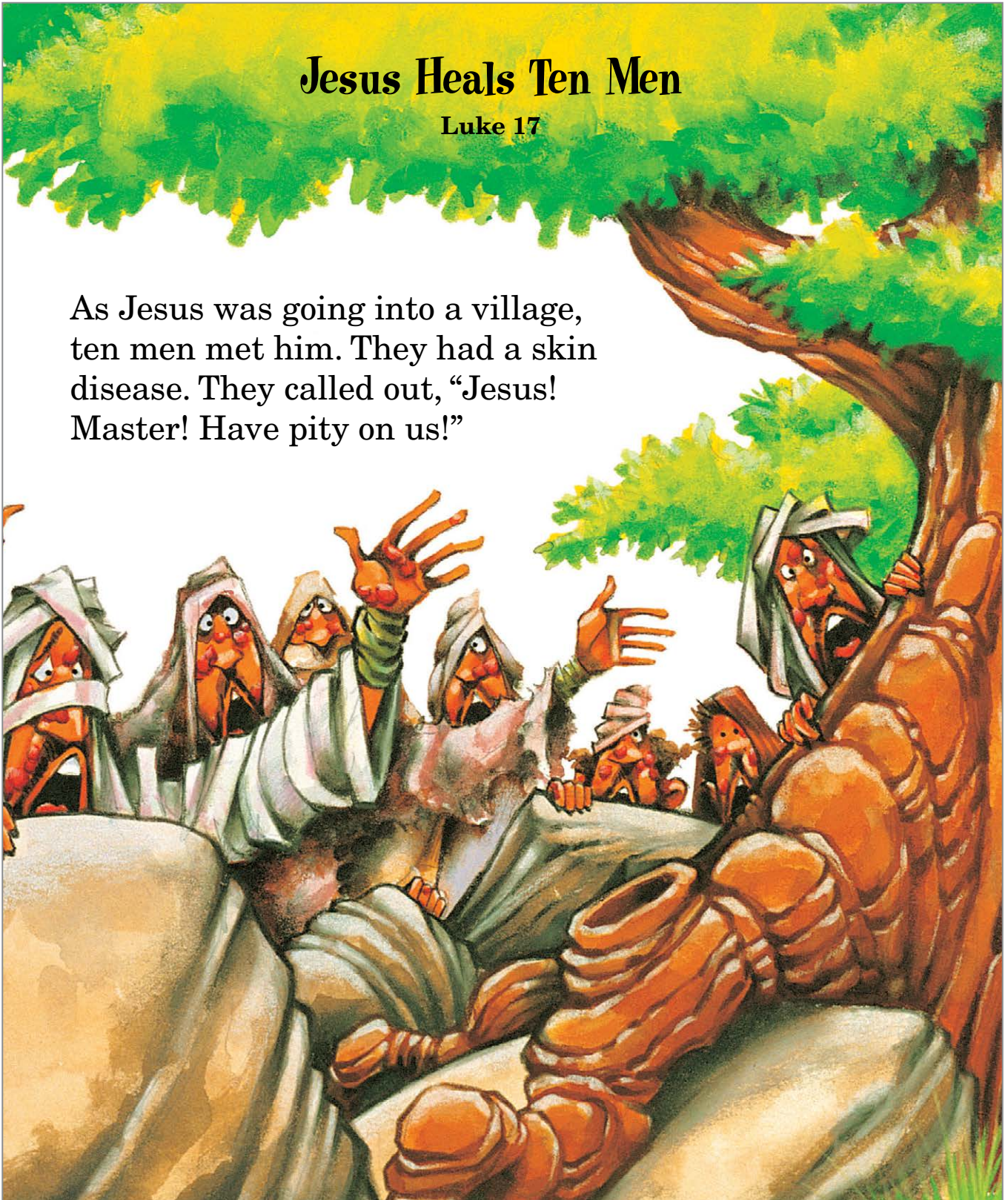


Jesus performed many miracles while he was on earth, and he healed many people. In this story, he heals ten men with a skin disease, but only one comes back to thank him.

## Jesus Heals Ten Men

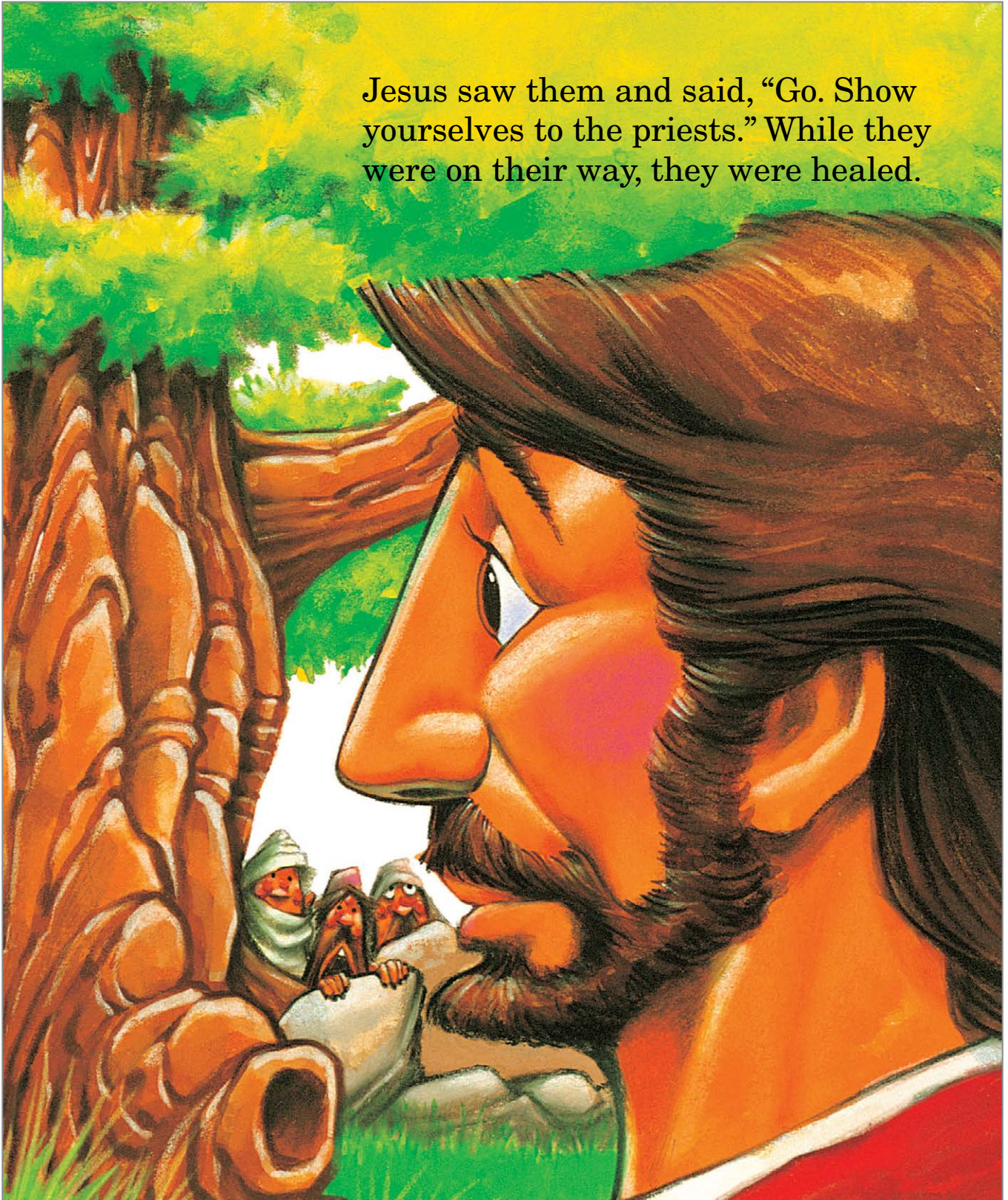
Luke 17

As Jesus was going into a village, ten men met him. They had a skin disease. They called out, “Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!”





Jesus saw them and said, “Go. Show yourselves to the priests.” While they were on their way, they were healed.







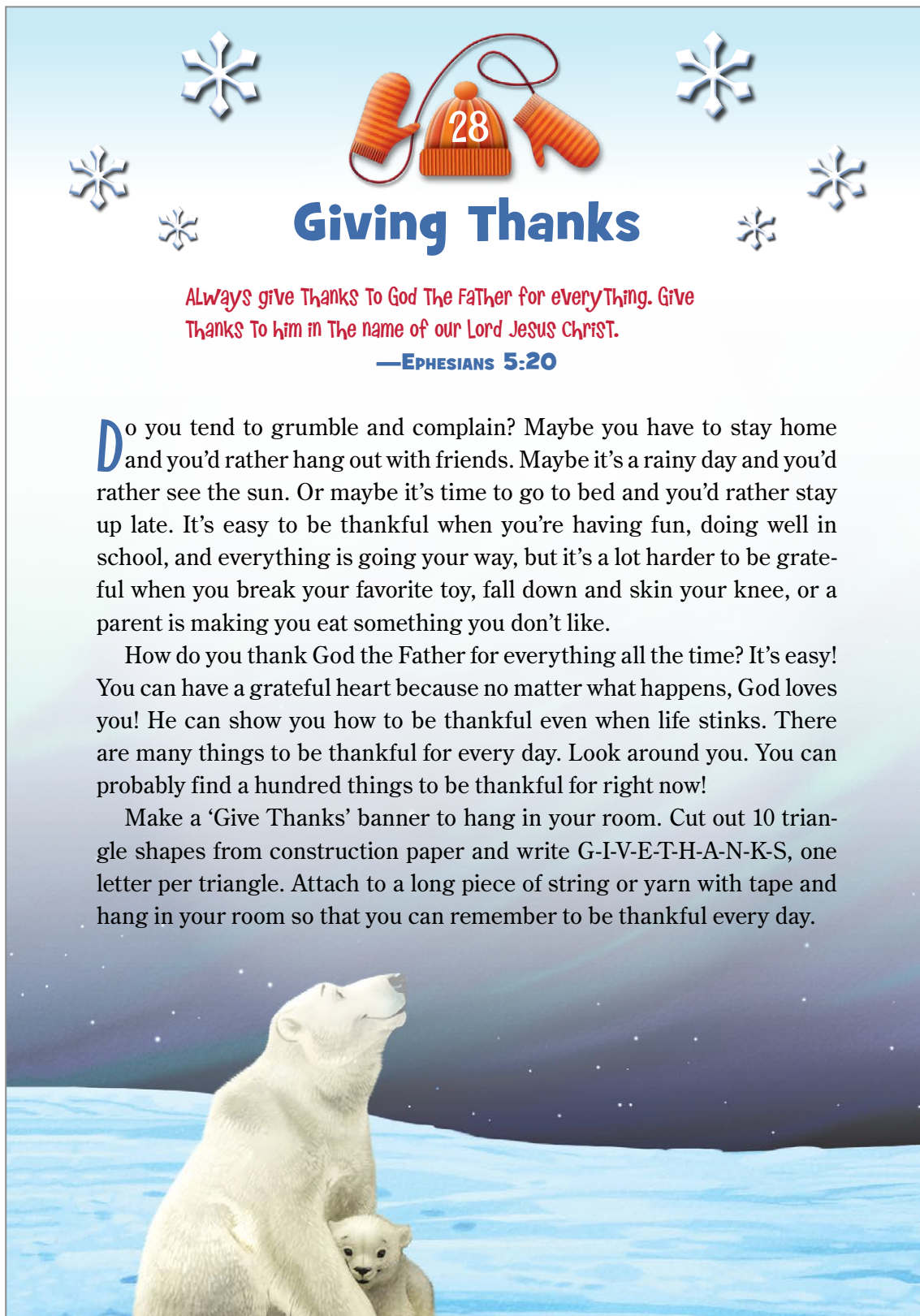
When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back. He praised God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him.

Jesus asked, “Weren’t all ten healed? Where are the other nine?” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go. Your faith has healed you.”



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This devotional reminds us that we should not grumble and complain. Instead, we should be thankful at all times. Try making the “Give Thanks” banner and stick-up notes below it with all the things you are thankful for. You can even add to it over time.



*Always give Thanks To God The Father for everyThing. Give Thanks To him in The name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**—EPHESIANS 5:20**

**D**o you tend to grumble and complain? Maybe you have to stay home and you'd rather hang out with friends. Maybe it's a rainy day and you'd rather see the sun. Or maybe it's time to go to bed and you'd rather stay up late. It's easy to be thankful when you're having fun, doing well in school, and everything is going your way, but it's a lot harder to be grateful when you break your favorite toy, fall down and skin your knee, or a parent is making you eat something you don't like.

How do you thank God the Father for everything all the time? It's easy! You can have a grateful heart because no matter what happens, God loves you! He can show you how to be thankful even when life stinks. There are many things to be thankful for every day. Look around you. You can probably find a hundred things to be thankful for right now!

Make a 'Give Thanks' banner to hang in your room. Cut out 10 triangle shapes from construction paper and write G-I-V-E-T-H-A-N-K-S, one letter per triangle. Attach to a long piece of string or yarn with tape and hang in your room so that you can remember to be thankful every day.

This devotional helps us understand what it looks like to be thankful. Take time to read the three stories that are mentioned in this devotional using your Bible.

1 Thessalonians 5

1373

**Final Teachings**

<sup>12</sup>Brothers and sisters, we ask you to accept the godly leaders who work hard among you. They care for you in the Lord. They correct you. <sup>13</sup>Have a lot of respect for them. Love them because of what they do. Live in peace with one another. <sup>14</sup>Brothers and sisters, we are asking you to warn certain people. These people don't want to

work. Instead, they make trouble. We are also asking you to encourage those who have lost hope. Help those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup>Make sure that no one pays back one wrong act with another. Instead, always try to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

<sup>16</sup>Always be joyful. <sup>17</sup>Never stop praying. <sup>18</sup>Give thanks no matter what happens. God

# THANKFUL

**Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.**

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:18**

**W**hat does thankful look like? Do you have any ideas? Does it involve smiling? Or maybe sometimes a tear? What sorts of words go with being thankful? Can you think of any? How about “appreciate,” or “please,” or “grateful”? What does a thankful person’s face look like? What sorts of actions go with being thankful? So many questions, huh? Let’s look at how thankful appears in the Bible.

After the Israelites walked through the Red Sea on dry ground, and the waters came crashing back in and drowned the Egyptian soldiers, watch Miriam (see Exodus 15:20-21). Her legs flew in a dance of thanksgiving. God had saved them from the Egyptians! Then picture Jonah, dirty and smelly after a big fish vomited him out on the beach (see Jonah 1:17-2:10). It’s a different picture from Miriam, but it’s still a thankful one. (You’d be thankful, too, wouldn’t you, to find yourself on dry land after three days in a fish’s stomach?) Then turn to Acts 16:22-34 to see how thankful looked when the jailer discovered his prisoners were still there after an earthquake. All of these people were thankful, but each one showed it in a different way.

**Be Thankful**

What are you thankful for? Don’t just think about them in your head, get out a piece of paper and a pencil and make a list. It’s a great way to remember all that you have that makes life good. You’ll be surprised at how long the list will get! Then run to the mirror. How does thankful look on your face?

Go to page 1382 for the next Super Hero Trait.





Paul and Silas were unfairly thrown in prison, but they continued to thank and praise God while they were in chains. Because of their worship, other people believed in Jesus.

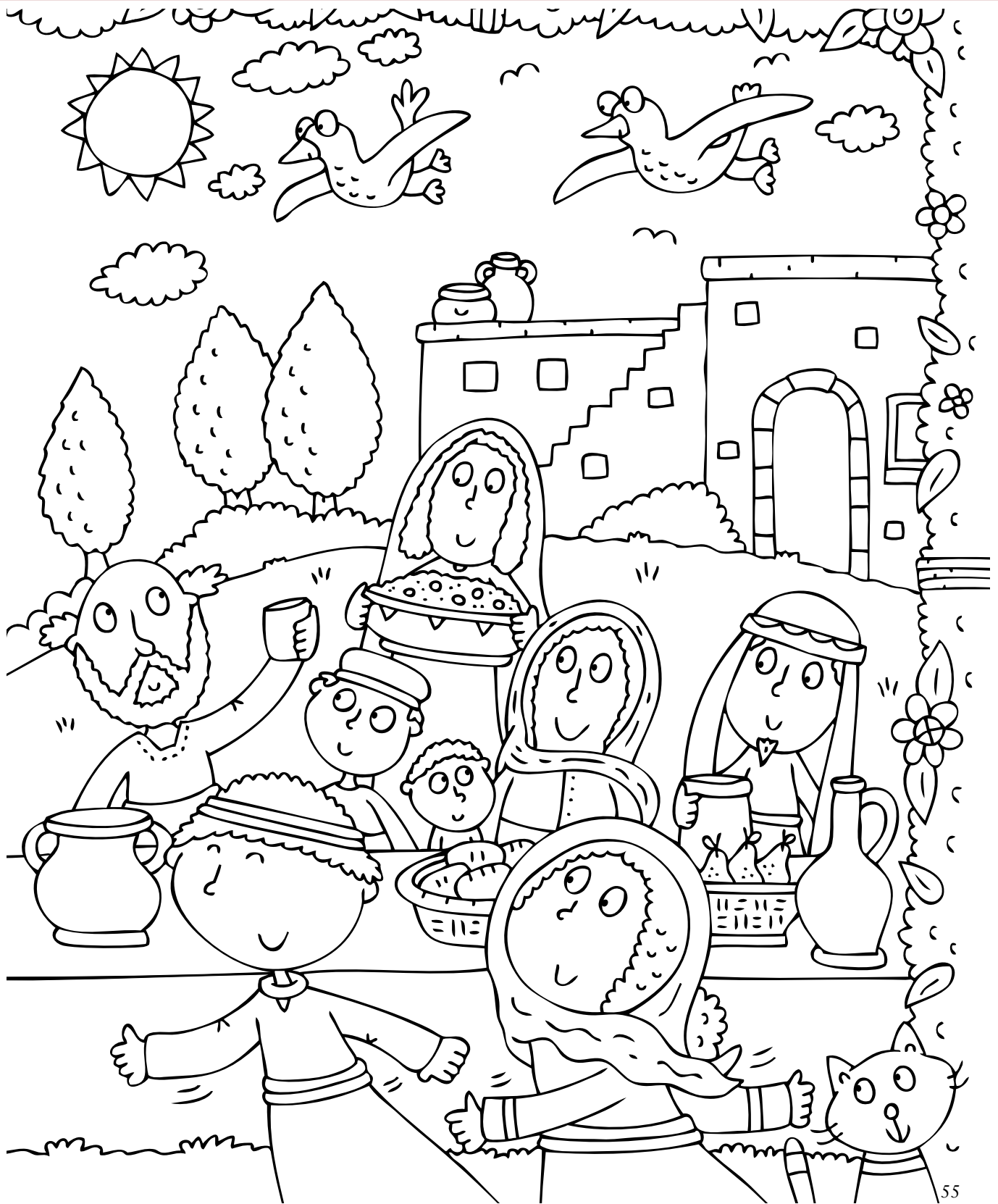


**Paul and Silas Worship God in Prison: Act 16:16–35**

Key Verse: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD.

Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us. —Psalm 95:1

We have so many things to be thankful for! One way to celebrate God's blessings is by having a large feast with family and friends, but we should also thank God every day for what he has done for us.



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Part of being thankful is feeling joyful no matter what is happening in your life. This joy comes from knowing God and trusting that he is at work. These activities include a fun puzzle and some images to color so to help you remember always to be thankful and joyful.

Week 46, Day 1

## Read About It

**God gives us joy no matter how bad things get.**



**PHILIPPIANS**

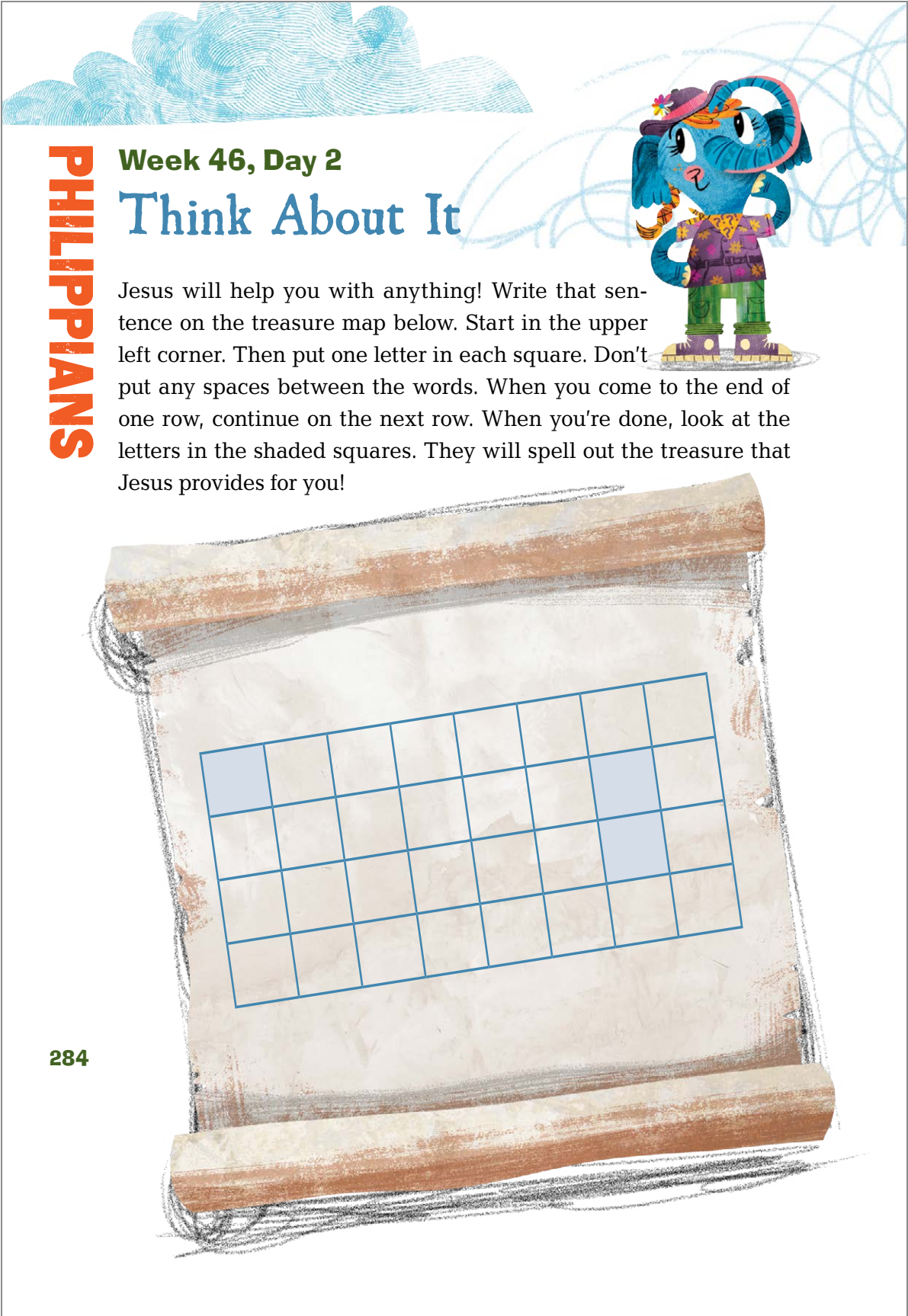
When the school year is almost over, don't you look forward to summer vacation? Maybe you and your family will travel somewhere. Maybe you'll be able to go to the beach or to the pool. You'll be able to hang out with your friends. You know it's going to be great! But until the school year is over you still have homework to finish. And you still have to go to school. All of that can be hard work! But even while you're working hard in school, you know that summer vacation is still coming! That makes the work not so hard.

That's like what the apostle Paul is telling the believers in this letter to the Philippians. He tells them that they might have to do things that are hard. People might be mean to them just because they believe in Jesus. They might even be put in prison just like Paul was. But Paul tells the believers that they can still have joy. They can have joy even while all of those hard things are happening to them! That's because God's promises to them are true. They are his children no matter how bad things get. And you are God's child too when you believe in Jesus. He has wonderful things in store for you in the future! Remembering that can help you during hard times.

**What kind of work feels hard to you? What kind of work gives you joy?**

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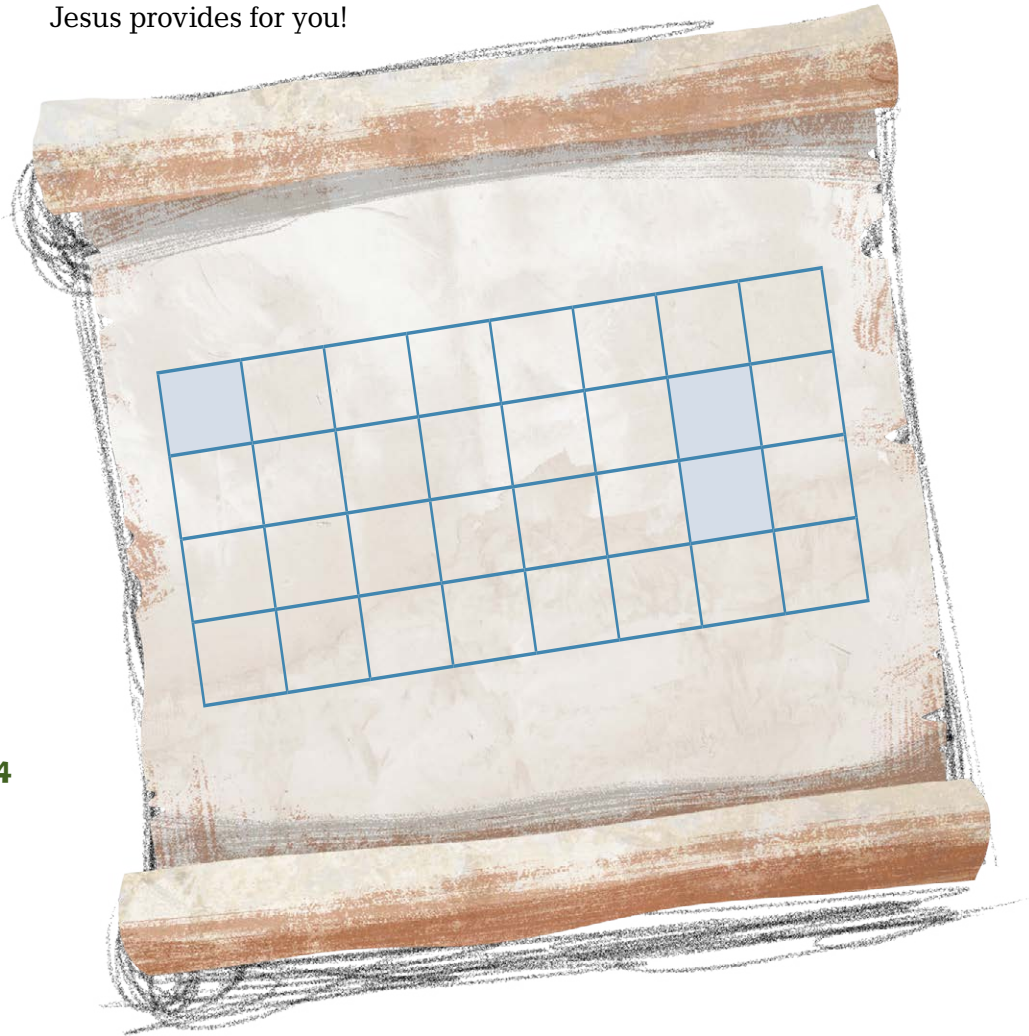


**PHILIPPIANS**

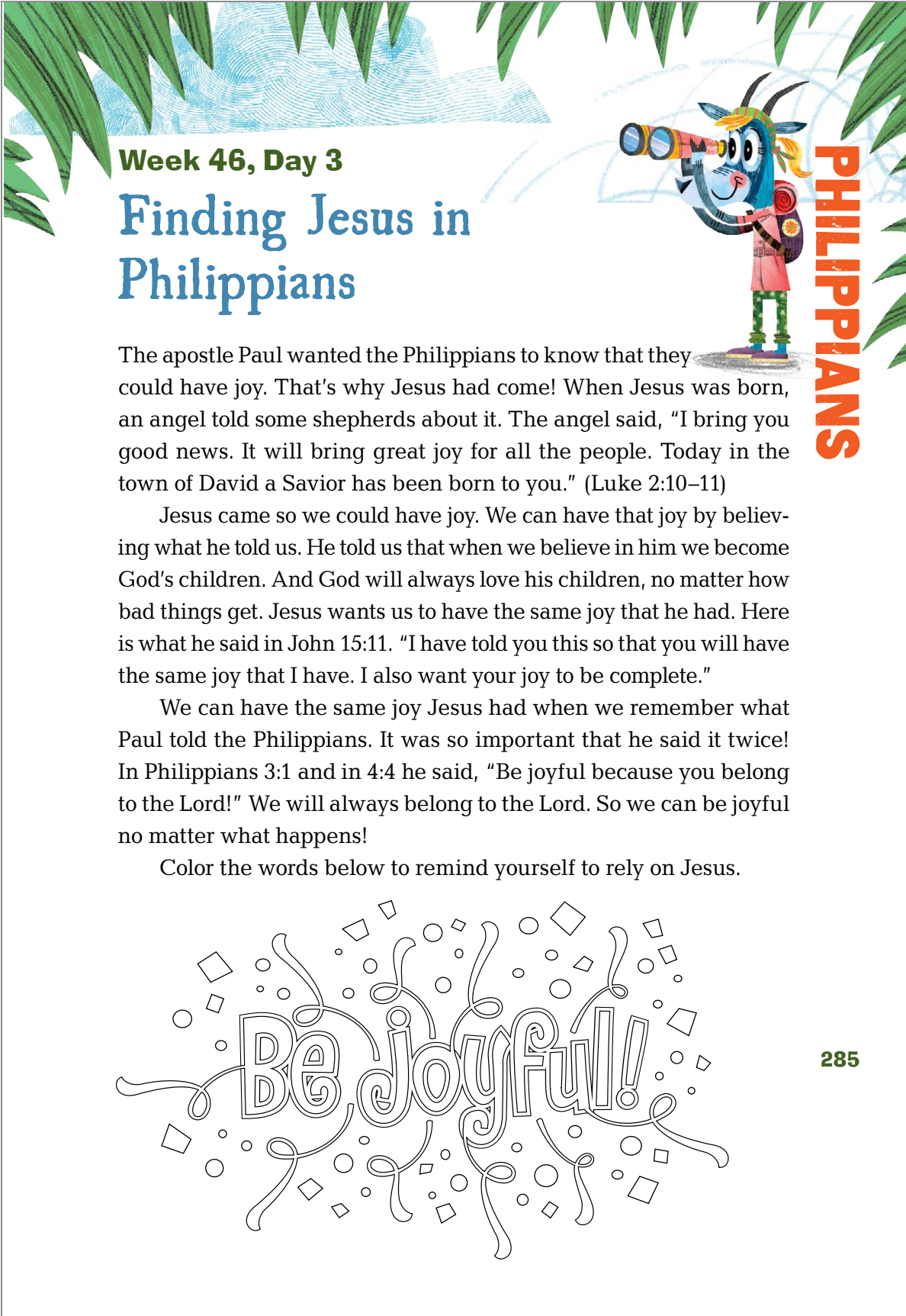
**Week 46, Day 2**

# Think About It

Jesus will help you with anything! Write that sentence on the treasure map below. Start in the upper left corner. Then put one letter in each square. Don't put any spaces between the words. When you come to the end of one row, continue on the next row. When you're done, look at the letters in the shaded squares. They will spell out the treasure that Jesus provides for you!



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**Week 46, Day 3**

# Finding Jesus in Philippians

The apostle Paul wanted the Philippians to know that they could have joy. That's why Jesus had come! When Jesus was born, an angel told some shepherds about it. The angel said, "I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." (Luke 2:10–11)

Jesus came so we could have joy. We can have that joy by believing what he told us. He told us that when we believe in him we become God's children. And God will always love his children, no matter how bad things get. Jesus wants us to have the same joy that he had. Here is what he said in John 15:11. "I have told you this so that you will have the same joy that I have. I also want your joy to be complete."

We can have the same joy Jesus had when we remember what Paul told the Philippians. It was so important that he said it twice! In Philippians 3:1 and in 4:4 he said, "Be joyful because you belong to the Lord!" We will always belong to the Lord. So we can be joyful no matter what happens!

Color the words below to remind yourself to rely on Jesus.



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**PHILIPPIANS**

**Week 46, Day 4**

# Write About It

Because you believe in Jesus, nothing can take away God's blessings from you. You are his child. He will always be with you. You have a special relationship with him that will last forever. Write how this makes you feel.

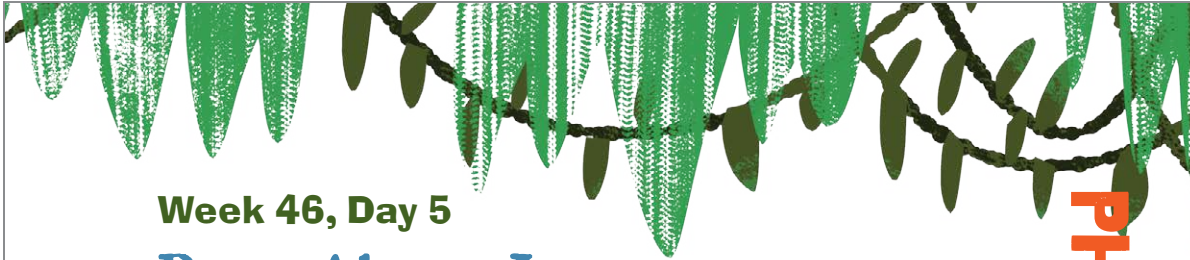
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Maybe you think other things will bring you joy. Why is it better to find joy in your relationship with God? Write your thoughts below.

.....  
.....  
.....  
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.....



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Week 46, Day 5

# Pray About It

PHILIPPIANS

Dear God,

Thank you that you made me your child when I believed in Jesus. You will always be with me and will always love me. Knowing that helps me have joy even during hard times. I admit that sometimes I look for joy in other things. I'm sorry for that. I know those other things don't last. You are the only one who lasts forever. So, your love for me will last forever too! Please help me to remember that. Then my joy will last forever too! I ask you for these things because I believe in Jesus. Amen.

Color the verse below so you can remember to be joyful.



Always be joyful  
because you BELONG  
TO THE LORD. I will say  
it again. BE joyful!  
—Philippians 4:4

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**PHILIPPIANS**

**Week 46, Day 6**

# Do Something About It

In the letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul talks about a joy that nothing can take away.

Get a blank piece of white paper. Fold it in half like a greeting card. On the front of the card write the word "JOY." Make sure you press down hard. It might help to use a ball point pen.

Now open up the card. Using the side of a pencil, lightly shade in the middle of the right hand blank page. As you do, the shading should make the word "joy" appear! That's exactly how it is with the joy God gives you when you believe in Jesus. All sorts of bad things may happen to you. They're like the black shading on your paper. But those bad things can't keep your joy from being seen! Your joy comes from knowing that you are God's child.

Decorate your card and write the verse from Philippians 4:4 on it. Give it to someone who needs JOY.

joy

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Paul traveled to many places to teach people about Jesus, but he faced many trials and dangers on his journey. Even though he was often punished and imprisoned for sharing the Gospel, Paul said that he was content in all circumstances, and he tells us to be thankful in everything we face. Enjoy doing this word search to find words associated with Paul's journeys.

**PAUL'S JOURNEYS**

Can you find all the words in this word search?

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

- |              |            |            |           |
|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| angel        | earthquake | Luke       | Rome      |
| Athens       | Ephesus    | Lydia      | shipwreck |
| Barnabas     | Gentiles   | missionary | snakebite |
| book of Acts | gospel     | prison     | storm     |
| Corinth      | Jews       | riot       | Timothy   |

**PAUL'S JOURNEYS** *Answer key*

Can you find all the words in this word search?

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

- |              |            |            |           |
|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| angel        | earthquake | Luke       | Rome      |
| Athens       | Ephesus    | Lydia      | shipwreck |
| Barnabas     | Gentiles   | missionary | snakebite |
| book of Acts | gospel     | prison     | storm     |
| Corinth      | Jews       | riot       | Timothy   |



Being thankful is a part of our worship. In this activity you will create an acrostic poem using the word *thankful*.

## THANKFUL POEM

### STUFF YOU NEED:

- Thankful Poem sheet (one per child)
- Pencils
- Crayons or markers
- A few blank paper or whiteboard

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Give a copy of the poem sheet to each child.
- Share that there are many ways to worship God. The writer of Psalm 95 used poetry to sing about God as King and Creator. Today you'll write a type of poem called an "acrostic" to worship God by thanking him for what he has done for you. An acrostic begins each line with the first letter of a certain word.
- On a blank piece of paper or whiteboard do the following to explain what an acrostic is:
  - > Choose a child's name and put each letter in the name on a separate line. Brainstorm together ideas that describe this person. For example, to describe a boy named Bob, you might write an acrostic like this:
    - o **B**oy who wears red shoes.
    - o **O**n Sundays, he plays soccer with his dad.
    - o **B**est friends with Jack.
- Explain that there is an acrostic in Psalms that uses every letter of the alphabet. Your acrostic will use the letters in the word *thankful*.
- Tell the child that their poem does not have to rhyme, and each line can be as long or as short as they like.
- Brainstorm on another blank piece of paper or whiteboard some of the ideas that the child learned today about being thankful.
- Give the child time to complete their poems.

NOTE: If you have more than one child for this activity, you may choose to have them complete this activity as a group instead of individually.

Thankful  
Poem

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Write a poem to God. Use the letters T-H-A-N-K-F-U-L to begin each line.

T \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

U \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_