

Amazing Grace

*This is a true story, as told by
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*



The Story of Jesus



A long time ago there was a girl named Mary who lived in Nazareth in a small town called Galilee. Mary was a virgin and was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. One day an angel appeared to Mary and said, “The Lord has given you special favor. He is with you.” This scared

Mary. He also told her she was to become pregnant and give birth to a Son, whom she was to call Jesus. The angel said, “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.” Mary answered, “I will serve the Lord, let it happen just as you said.” (see *Luke 1:26-38*) Mary obeyed God and wanted to do what he asked of her.

This is one of the many prophecies that was fulfilled about the coming of the Messiah, whom we call Jesus, in the Old Testament. “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign...The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God with us’).” *Isaiah 7:14*

Jesus is Born

Caesar Augustus was the emperor of Rome at that time. He made a law that everyone had to go to their family hometown to put their name on a list. Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to a town called Bethlehem to enroll on the emperor's list. Mary was



ready to give birth, but they couldn't find anywhere to stay. So they found a stable, and Mary gave birth to her first son and named him Jesus. (see *Luke 2:1-7*)

Another prophecy from the Old Testament, *Micah 5:2*, predicted that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Jesus Goes to the Temple

Jesus went with his parents to the temple when he was twelve years old. He was separated from his parents, and they were looking for him. They finally found him back at the temple talking with the wise men. Everyone was amazed by how much he understood at such a young age. He was clearly different from any of the other children. (see *Luke 2:41-47*)

This was predicted, too. "The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord." *Isaiah 11:2* In this verse, Isaiah was speaking of Jesus. This was 700 years before Jesus was born!

Jesus is Baptized

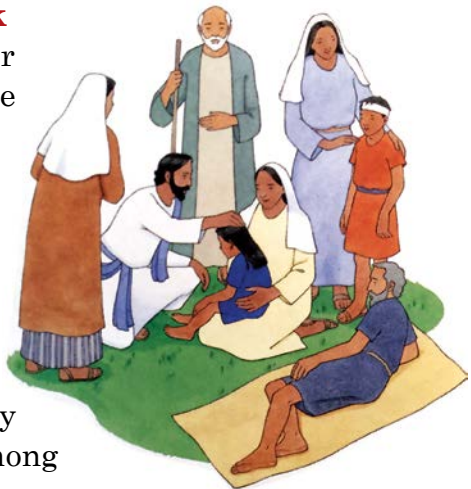
When Jesus was thirty years old, he began teaching the people about the good news of God. A man called John the Baptist told them about another man who was coming to save everyone from their sins. He was speaking about Jesus. When all the people were being baptized, John baptized Jesus, too. As he was praying, the Holy Spirit came from heaven, and the people heard a voice from heaven saying, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy!” (see *Luke 3:21-22*)



The Old Testament predicted that John the Baptist would come as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. He cried, “Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness.” (see *Isaiah 40:3*)

Jesus Heals the Sick

Jesus traveled all over Galilee telling the people about God and healing the sick. He healed people who were blind so they could see again. People who could not walk were able to walk, just as the Scriptures foretold. He healed every disease and sickness among



the people. The power of Jesus was so strong that even when people touched his clothing they were healed. (see *Mark 5:27-34*)

“And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!” *Isaiah 35:5-6*

Miracles of Jesus: Feeding a Crowd of 5,000



Jesus was in a small fishing village near Galilee. When the crowds heard that he was there, they came to see him. They wanted to hear his message about God’s

kingdom. He performed more miracles by healing those who were suffering. Jesus’ closest followers were called his disciples. The crowds following Jesus grew so large that the disciples told Jesus to send them back to the villages to get something to eat because they were hungry and it was getting late. Jesus said to the disciples, “You give them something to eat.” They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish – unless we go buy food for all of this crowd.” *Luke 9:13* Scripture says there were 5,000 men, not including all the women and children following Jesus that day!

Jesus told his disciples, “Have everyone sit down in groups of fifty each.” The disciples did as Jesus asked and everyone sat down. Jesus held the basket with the five loaves of bread and two fish up toward heaven and gave thanks and broke the bread. He gave the fish and bread to the people and they all ate until they were full. There were twelve baskets left full of bread and fish. This is one of Jesus’ most famous miracles. This was also a lesson for the disciples because Jesus was teaching them to trust and believe in God. “For nothing is impossible with God.” *Luke 1:37*

God tries to teach us lessons, but if we don’t believe in him or trust him, we will miss his plan for our lives. His plan sometimes includes miracles. God loves us and wants to have a relationship with us. When we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and we ask him into our hearts, the Bible tells us we will live forever in heaven with him. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” *John 3:16*

Jesus Loves Children

Some people brought little children to Jesus. They wanted him to pray for their children. But the disciples said he was too busy, and they tried to send the children away. Then Jesus said, “Let the



children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." *Matthew 19:13-15*

Jesus loved how the children trusted him. You do not need anything (money, power, or material things) to trust Jesus. All you need is faith in Jesus.

Jesus Tells a Story



Jesus told a story about a man who had 100 sheep and lost one of them. "Don't you think he would leave the 99 and go look for the one that is lost until he finds it?" Jesus asked. Jesus told this story as an example so that people could understand. A person who doesn't know Jesus is like a lost sheep. There will be great joy in heaven when one

who is lost turns away from sin and trusts in Jesus. (see *Luke 15:4-7*)

If you have wandered away like a sheep and are lost, Jesus will always be there waiting for you to come back to him. He loves every one of us. But sometimes we stray. We need him in our

lives to protect us and lead us on the path that he has planned for us. Life is a journey, and it is comforting to know that he is always there for us if we believe in him. Nothing brings God greater joy than when one of his lost children (like sheep who have strayed) returns to him.

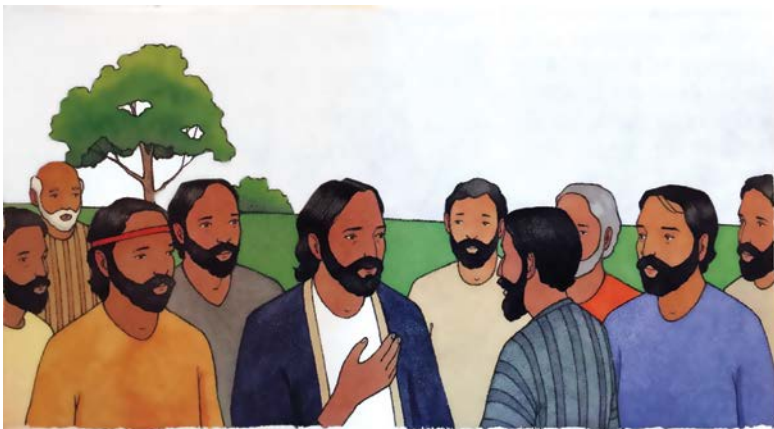
Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the Son of God. One day when he was alone with his disciples he asked, “Who do the people say I am?” The disciples replied that the people thought he might be John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the Old Testament prophets. Jesus asked the disciples, “Who do YOU say that I am?” Peter answered, “Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” (see *Luke 9:18-20*)

Jesus said, “I am the way and the the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” *John 14:6*

The people began saying among themselves that Jesus was their Messiah, as told in the Old Testament. Messiah is a word that means savior or king.

So who do you think Jesus is? (See page 20.)



Jesus Teaches the People

Love Your Enemies

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.”

Luke 6:27-28

God asks us to be nice to everyone. Sometimes it is hard to be nice to people who are mean, but God tells us to love them, too.

Forgive

Jesus said, “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.”

Matthew 6:14

“Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” *Luke 6:37*

“But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.” *Mark 11:25*

No one is perfect; Jesus was the only perfect man. We all need forgiveness—all we need to do is ask God.

Ask, Search, Knock

Jesus said, “...Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” (see *Luke 11:5-10*) If you believe in Jesus, he says to ask and it will be given to you. If you look for him, you will find him. If you ask Jesus into your life, he will come in. He is there for everyone who asks.

Do you want to ask Jesus into your heart? (See page 22.)

Jesus is Arrested

Jesus had many followers and many people were trusting in him. The chief priests were jealous of Jesus. They wanted to have him killed because they wanted people to follow them instead of Jesus. One of Jesus' disciples named Judas went to the chief priest and temple guard and offered to hand Jesus over if they would give him money. Then he watched for the right time to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was around him. The chief priests paid Judas thirty pieces of silver. The soldiers of the high priest, named Caiaphas, arrested Jesus and took him to the Governor named Pontius Pilate. (see *Luke 22:1-6*)

The Old Testament predicted that the Messiah would be handed over for money. "They paid me thirty pieces of silver." *Zechariah 11:12*



Jesus Goes Before the Governor, Pontius Pilate

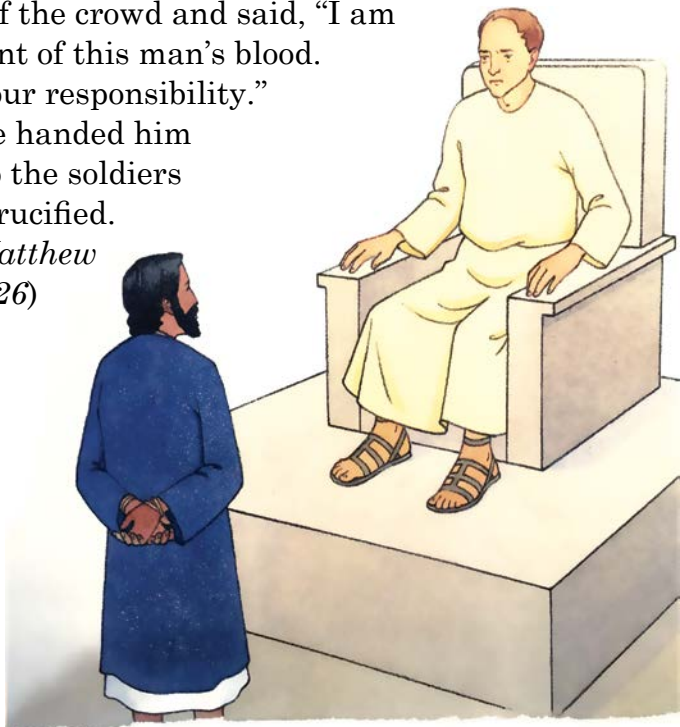
The soldiers brought Jesus to stand in front of the Governor. The Governor asked Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Yes. It is just as you say.” *Matthew 27:11*

Every year at the Passover Feast, the Governor let one prisoner go free. The Governor asked the people in the crowd, “Who do you want me to set free? Barabbas? Or Jesus?” The people shouted, “Barabbas!” Governor Pilate then asked what he should do with Jesus. They shouted, “Crucify him!”

But the Governor did not want to be responsible for killing Jesus. He had found no evidence that Jesus was guilty of any crime. So, the Governor washed his hands in a bowl of water in front of the crowd and said, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. It is your responsibility.”

And he handed him over to the soldiers to be crucified.

(see *Matthew 27:24-26*)



Jesus is Crucified and Dies for all of our Sins

The soldiers made fun of Jesus and beat him and made him carry his own cross to the place where he would be crucified. They threw dice to divide up his clothing. Then they nailed his hands and feet to the cross. (see *Matthew 27:35; John 19:16-20*).

These details about Jesus' death were predicted in the Old Testament. "They pierce my hands and feet... They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing." (see *Psalms 22:16-19*)

King David wrote this Psalm hundreds of years before Jesus was even born—long before anyone had ever been crucified. There was no way for David to have known Jesus' hands and feet would be nailed to a cross! This was another prophecy



from the Old Testament that was fulfilled.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins. It was God's plan from the beginning for Jesus to die on the cross for all of our sins, for all of time. God has a plan for each of us, but this was his plan for Jesus. He died for our sins, so that we can have eternal life with him if we believe in Jesus. (see *1 Peter 1:19-21*)

Amazing Grace

Grace is when you receive something for free that you didn't work for. It's a gift. Jesus' sacrifice for us shows God's grace, because he loves us.

The Temple Curtain Tears

The day the soldiers crucified Jesus, the whole land was covered in darkness from noon until three



o'clock in the afternoon. Right before he took his last breath, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commit my very life." And then he died. (see *Luke 23:44-46*)

In those days the temple had a sacred place where only the chief priests could enter that was enclosed with a large, thick curtain. It was sixty feet high and four inches thick. The priests only entered once a year to make a sacrifice for the sins of all of the people of Israel. When Jesus died, the curtain was torn from top to bottom without any human hands touching it. The people believed that this was a miraculous symbol of the end of the old system of sacrifice. Today we do not sacrifice animals anymore because Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He took our sin upon himself, and he was the ultimate sacrifice. You no longer need a priest to ask God to forgive you. You can ask God directly for forgiveness. (see *1 Peter 1:18-20*)

Jesus is Buried

A man named Joseph went to Pilate and asked if he could take Jesus' body to be buried. He buried it in a new tomb that had never been used. (see *John 19:38-42*)

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb where Jesus was buried. Early in the morning on Sunday, the women returned to the tomb, but Jesus' body was not there. Suddenly two angels appeared to the women and said, "He is not here; he is risen!" Then they remembered what Jesus had told them. (see *Luke 24:1-8*)

Jesus is Alive!

The women went back to the disciples and told them about Jesus' body. Then suddenly, Jesus appeared in the house with them. He appeared to them many times over the next forty days and proved to them that he was alive. Even though Jesus had told them he would die and come to life again, they were still astonished to touch him and see that he was alive. Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit was coming. (see *Acts 1:1-8*)

Jesus arose from the dead to prove that he had victory over death. He promised to save us and give us eternal life if we believe that he is the Son of God and that he died for our sins.

Jesus Returns to Heaven

After he rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to many people before he went back to heaven. Even though he returned to heaven with God, Jesus gave his Holy Spirit to be with his followers so that He could always be with them.

He said to his disciples, "You will receive power



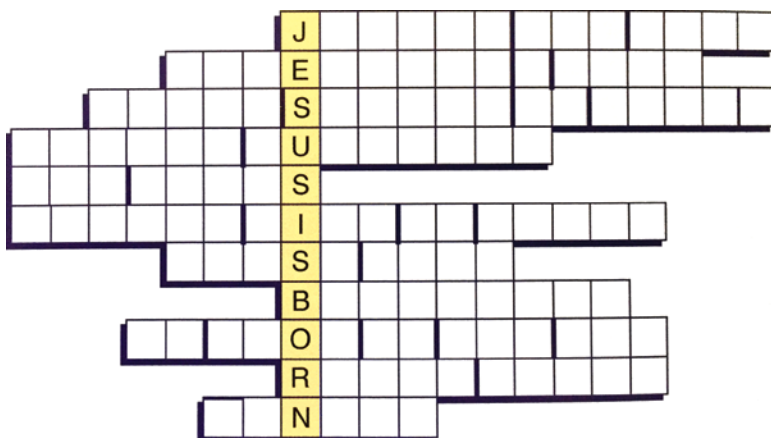


when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will be my witnesses...telling people about me everywhere. After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.” *Acts 1:8-9*

My Thoughts About Jesus

Jesus is Born

Important elements of the story of Jesus' birth are listed below. (You can find this story on page 2.) Unscramble the words to fill in the boxes that go from left to right.



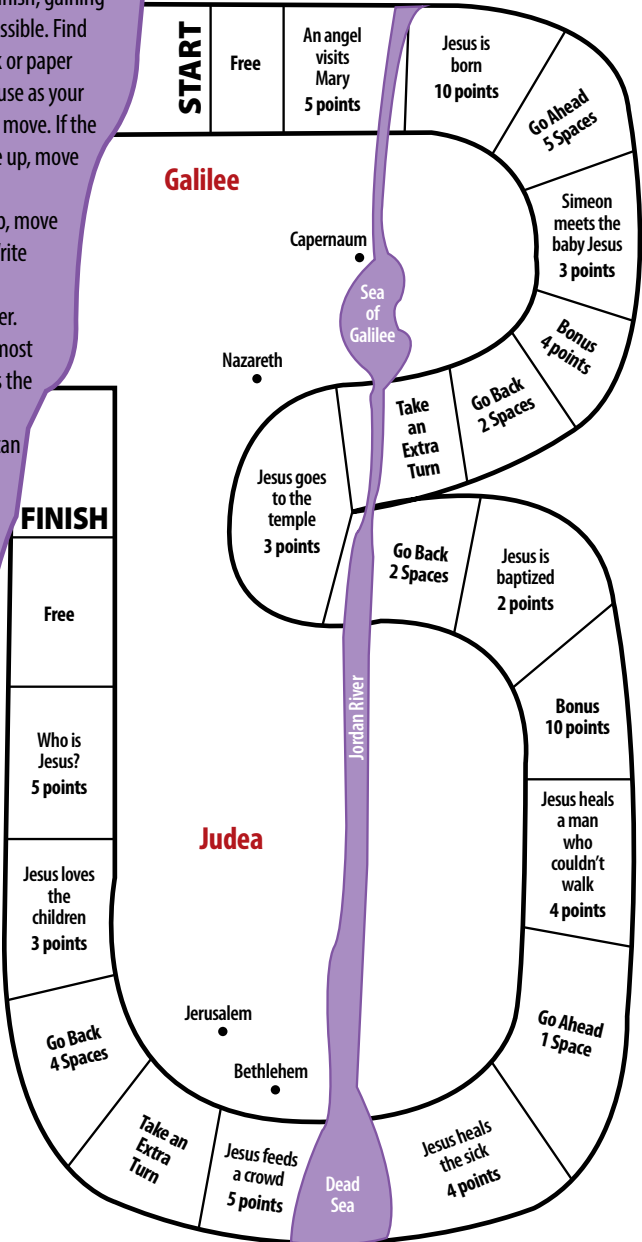
1. OEHPSJ DAN YARM
2. GEXNTICEP A BBYA
3. LGAER SSPRIT FO LTHOC
4. RCAAES SUUUSGAT
5. NWO STNWO
6. YFLIAM NELI FO DDVIA
7. TSIRF BBYA
8. BMEHTELHE
9. ON MOOR NI EHT NNI
10. NMAOR DLRWO
11. MRAEGN



Travel with Jesus

This game shows some of the events in the story of Jesus. The goal is to move from Start to Finish, gaining as many points as possible. Find a small object (a rock or paper clip, for example) to use as your marker. Flip a coin to move. If the coin lands heads side up, move ahead three spaces. If it lands tails side up, move ahead two spaces. Write down your points on another piece of paper. The player with the most points at the Finish is the winner. You can play with friends, or you can play by yourself and try to beat your own score.

Mediterranean Sea



Who is He?

The words of Luke 9:18-20 are mixed up in this dot-to-dot game. Connect the groups of words by drawing a line from one start to another in the correct order. If you need help, check the verse on page 8. Fill in the blanks at the bottom of the page by using the bold letters at the start of the verse.

One day Jesus was praying alone. Only his disciples were with him. He asked them,

Others say Elijah."



They **r**eplied,



Start "Who do **t**he crowds say I am?"



Finish

"But what about you?" he asked, "Who **d**o you say I am?"



"Still others say that **o**ne **o**f the prophets of long **a**go has come back to life."



"**S**ome say John the Baptist."

"Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered,

" _____
_____ "



Jesus is Alive!

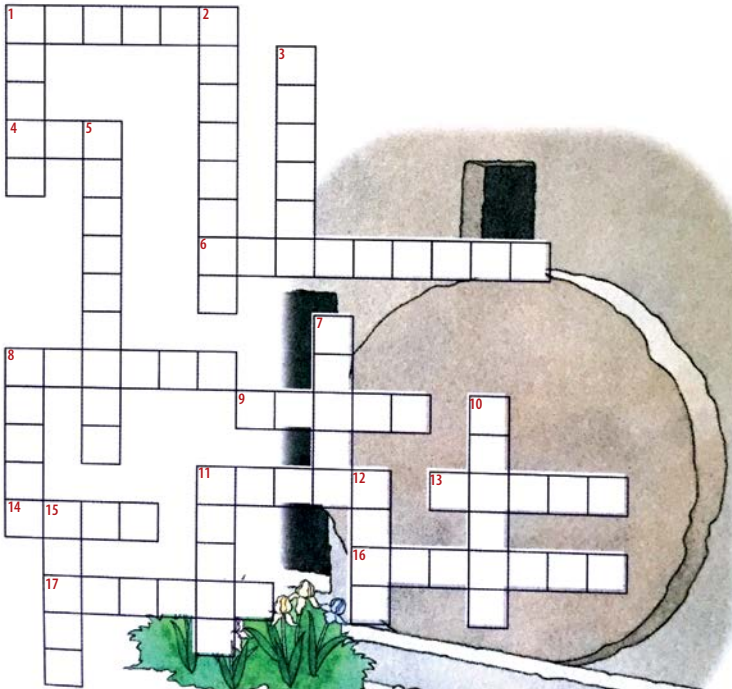
See how well you know the story of Jesus rising from the dead from Luke 24:1-16b. Write the missing words in the puzzle spaces shown in parentheses. If you need help, you can read the story on page 15. The answers are given upside-down at the bottom of the page.

It was very (15 down) in the (16 across) on the (11 across) day of the week. The (13 across) took the (1 across) they had prepared. Then they went to the (12 down).

They found the (1 down) (17 across) away from it. When they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord (7 down). They were wondering about this.

(2 down) two in clothes as (8 across) as (6 across) stood beside them. The women were (5 down). They (8 down) down with their (11 down) to the (10 down).

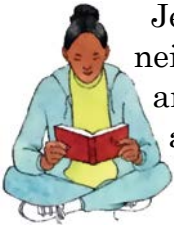
Then the men said to them, "Why do you look for the (3 down) among the (14 across)? Jesus is (4 across) here! He has (9 across)!"



early morning first women spices tomb stone rolled Jesus suddenly bright light ringing terrified bowed faces
ground living head not risen

God's Amazing Grace for You

Ask Jesus to give you a desire to know him more. Pray that he will open your heart, ears, and mind to see how he is at work in your life. He loves you and wants to have a close relationship with you. To have a close relationship with Jesus, read the Bible, join a Bible study at a church and hang out with friends who believe in Jesus.



Jesus taught about love, loving your neighbor, loving your family and friends, and even praying for your enemies. God is a God of love, peace and kindness—not hate or revenge.

If something is confusing, be careful.

Chaos and confusion come from the evil one (the devil). God is not the author of chaos, but of order and peace. (see *1 Corinthians 14:33*)

Jesus did not exclude anyone from his ministry. He accepts everyone. He leaves it up to you to make the choice to follow him and ask him into your life. Whisper a prayer, and ask God to work in your heart.



Dear Jesus,

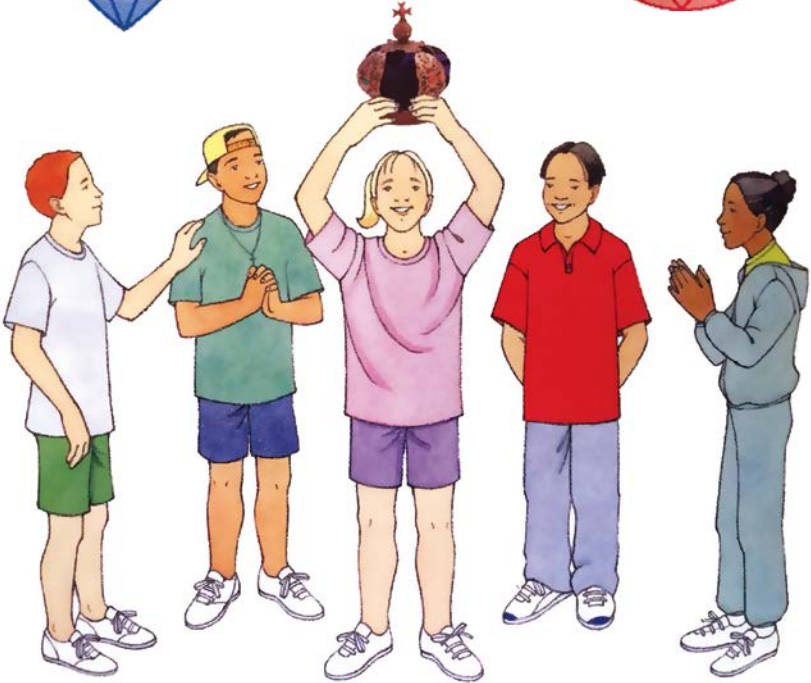
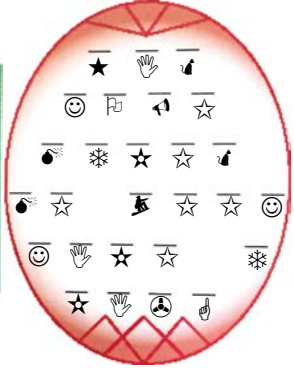
Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for all the things I have done that I know were wrong. Now I know the truth about what you did for me. You came to earth, died on the cross for the things I have done wrong and rose again. I want you to come into my heart, give me the desire to follow you and be the person you created me to be.

Thank you Jesus that you care about me at all times. I am not alone when you are with me. Even though I can't see you, I know that you are there. I love you Jesus. You are my friend. Amen.

Gems

Use the code to read the gems from Psalm 103:3–4.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
❄️	✚	👉	▲	☆	👉	👉	★	👉	☹️	☆	😊	👉	👉	📖	👉	✈️	⚙️	👉	⊙	✚	👉	👉	♿	🎬	👉



He forgives all my sins. He saves my life. His love makes me feel like a king.

**For more information about
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