

ZM

## WEEK 53

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*"You are my friends."* John 15:14

### PAUL'S CHURCH FRIENDS

Paul wanted to tell people about Jesus. He left his home in Athens. He went to the town of Corinth. Paul began to talk to the people. He told them that God loved them. Some of the people listened to him.

He met a man and a woman. They listened to the words Paul spoke. They liked Paul. The man's name was Aquila. His wife's name was Priscilla. They loved Jesus. They wanted to please God. They were glad Paul had come to their town.

Paul did not have a house in Corinth. He was looking for a place to stay. He went to visit his new friends. They talked about many things. Aquila said, "Paul, will you come and live with us? We have a room and we would like to have you live with us."

Paul smiled at his new friends. He was very happy. He said, "You are kind to me. I will be very happy to live in your home."

Paul moved into their house. He watched Aquila and Priscilla as they worked. They made tents to sell. They worked very hard. Carefully they cut the cloth with sharp scissors. Then, they sewed the tent.

"May I help you?" Paul asked. "I know how to make tents. My father was also a tentmaker."

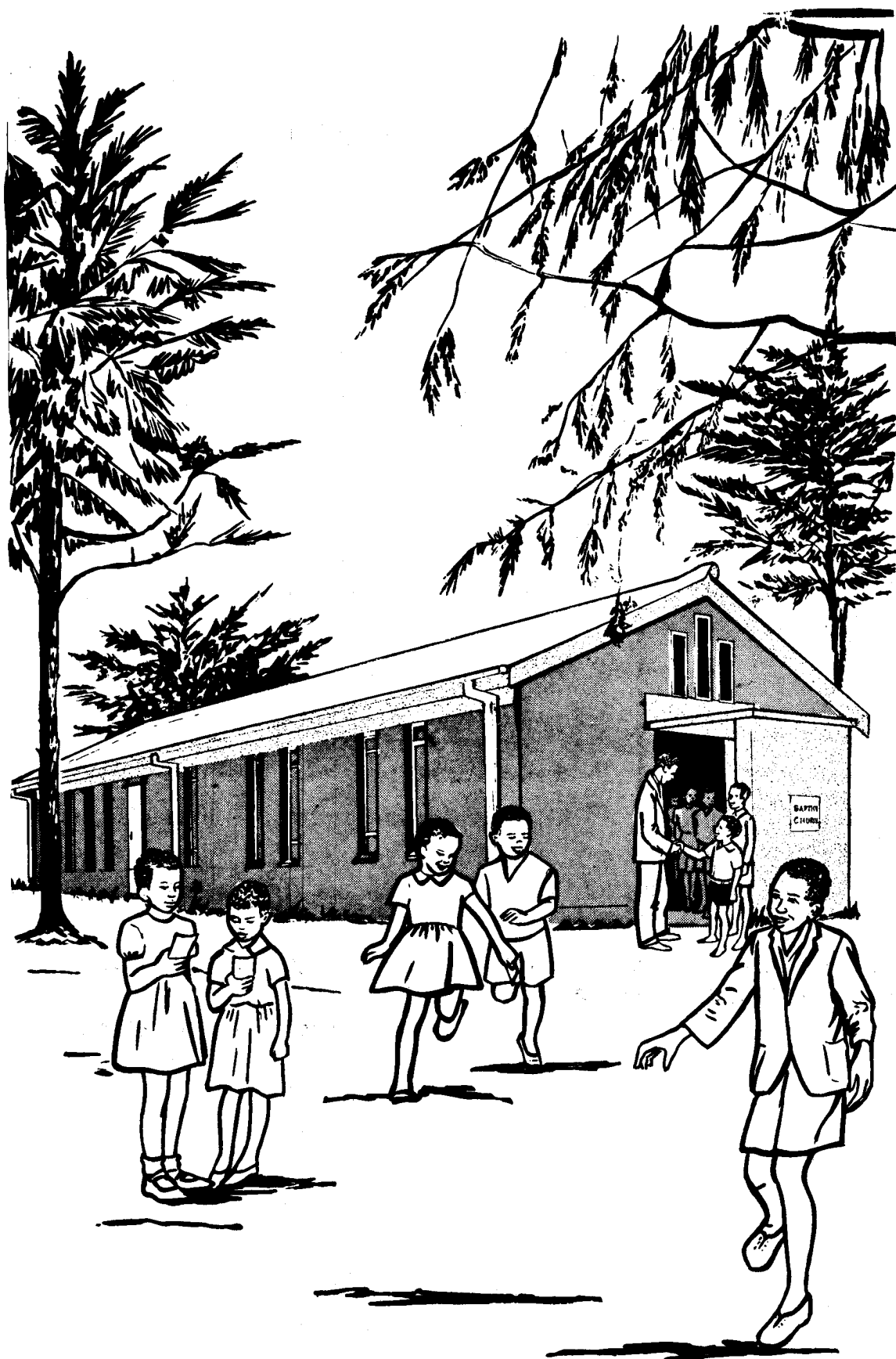
Aquila and Priscilla were glad to have a helper. Paul was a good tentmaker. They made more tents to sell when Paul was helping.

Paul stayed in Corinth for a while. He told many people about Jesus. He was thankful for his friends.

Paul went to the church and told people about Jesus. Aquila and Priscilla went to the church. They always talked to people about Jesus.

Paul went to another city to tell others about Jesus. Aquila and Priscilla went with him. They helped Paul in many ways.

Acts 18:1-3 and Romans 16:3-4



## **WEEK 54**

*"Love the Lord your God."* Mark 12:30

### **SAMUEL AND ELI**

**Samuel liked to go to church. He liked Preacher Eli.**

**Eli was growing old. He needed someone to be his helper. Samuel went to stay with Eli and be his helper. Every night Samuel would close the doors of the church. Every morning he would open the doors. Then the people could come to pray.**

**Samuel also took care of the lamps. He kept a light burning in them. Perhaps he swept the floor and dusted the benches.**

**Samuel did what Eli asked him to do. When Eli read from the Bible scroll, Samuel listened. He listened when Eli told him about God.**

**One night Samuel was ready for bed. He heard someone call, "Samuel, Samuel."**

**Samuel went quickly to Eli's room. "Here I am," he said to Eli.**

**Eli said, "I did not call you, Samuel. You may go back to bed."**

**Samuel lay down again. He heard someone say, "Samuel, Samuel."**

**Samuel went to see what Eli wanted. Eli said, "I did not call you Samuel. Go back to bed."**

**Once more Samuel went back to bed. Once more he heard the voice. Samuel hurried to Eli's room.**

**Eli now knew it was God calling Samuel. He said, "Lie down, Samuel. When you hear the voice again say, 'Speak, God, I am listening.'"**

**Samuel did what Eli told him to do. When he heard the voice again, he said, "Speak, God, I am listening."**

**God told Samuel that he had a special job for him to do. God wanted Samuel to be a preacher. He wanted him to teach others as Eli had done.**

**Every day Samuel worked hard in the church. Every day he learned from his teacher, Eli.**

**Samuel 1:24-28; 2:11,18; 3:1-10,19**



## **WEEK 55**

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*"Work with your hands." 1 Thessalonians 4:11*

### **BUILDING THE TENT CHURCH**

**God's people had walked a long, long way. They were going to a new country. They would be able to build their houses. God had taken care of them as they travelled. He had given them food when they were hungry. He had given them water when they were thirsty.**

**Every day the people would walk a long way. At night they would put up their houses. They would go to sleep. The next morning they would take down their tents. Then they would start their journey again.**

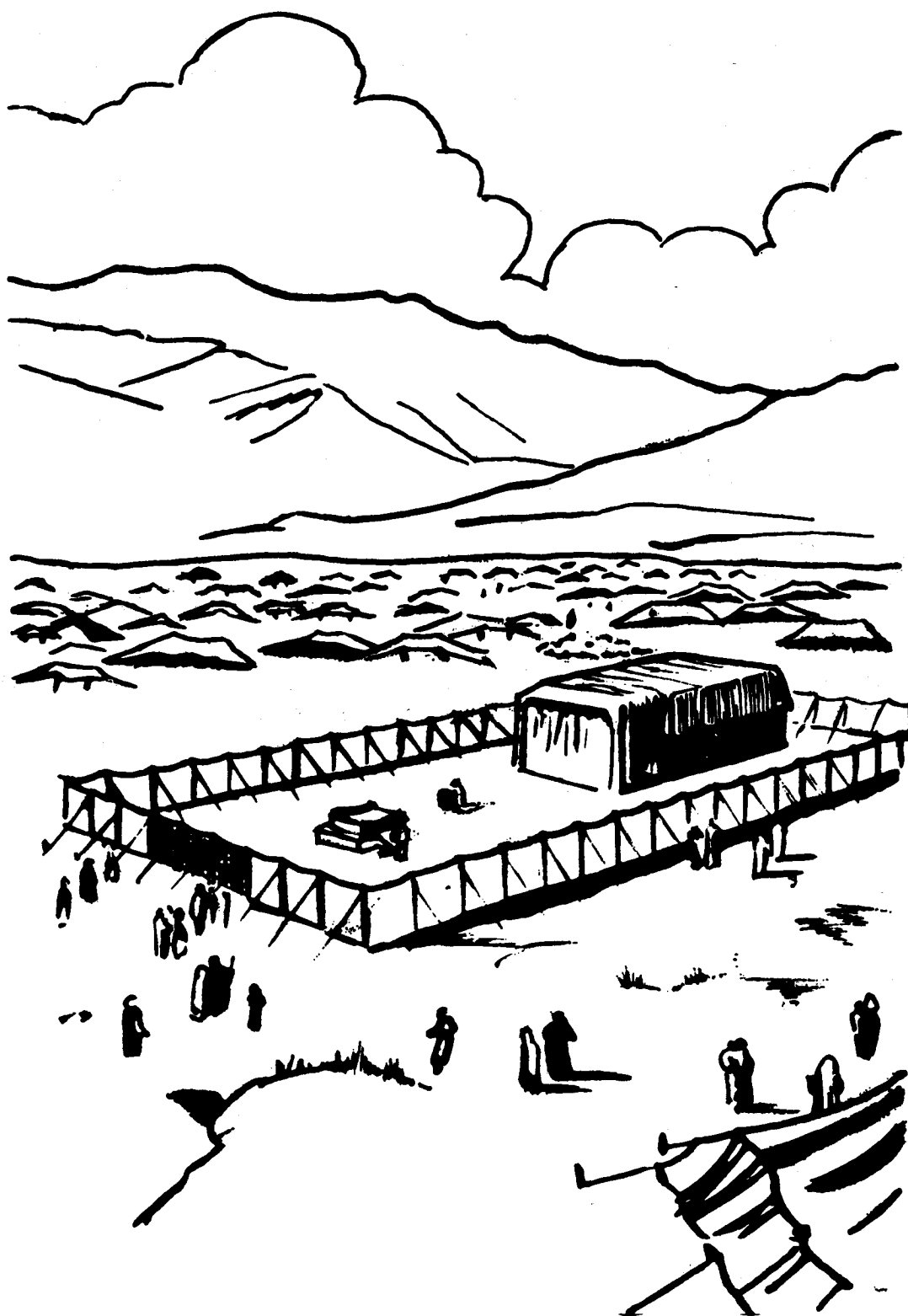
**Often the people were tired. One day God spoke to their leader, Moses. God said, "Tell my people to make me a house. It is to be a tent. I will live with my people." God wanted the people to know that he was near. They would be able to see God's house.**

**God wanted each person to give something for his house. He spoke to Moses, "Have all the people who are willing bring an offering. Let all who have a generous heart, give an offering."**

**God's people were very happy. They wanted to make a house for God. They were glad to bring their gifts for God's house. Some brought gifts of gold and silver. Some women made curtains. They brought these to the tent church. They all worked together to make the church.**

**Soon the tent church was finished. They made it just like God wanted it. When the people looked at God's house, they knew he was with them.**

**Exodus 35,36**



## **WEEK 56**

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*"Learn to do good." Isaiah 1:17*

### **AN OFFERING FOR FRIENDS**

**Paul and Barnabas came to visit the people at Antioch church. They taught them about Jesus. They told them how Jesus helped others.**

**The people who lived in Jerusalem did not have enough food. There was a famine in the country.**

**"Here at Antioch we have food. We are not hungry," one of the Christians said.**

**"We have learned that Jesus helped others. We can help our friends," a man said.**

**Soon everyone wanted to help. They began to plan what to do.**

**"We can each give something for our friends," someone said.**

**"Some can give money. Others can bring food. We can all share," another answered.**

**Each person gave what he could. These who had much, gave much. Those who had only a little, gave a little. When they put it all together, they had much to share.**

**They asked Paul and Barnabas to help them. They asked them to take the things to their friends. It made the people feel happy to be able to share. They were happy they could help their friends.**

**Acts 11:27-30**



## **WEEK 57**

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*"God is love." 1 John 4:8*

### **PHILIP TELLS OF GOD'S LOVE**

**Philip was a friend of Jesus. He was walking down the road from Jerusalem. He heard the rumble, rumble of a chariot. He looked and saw a horse pulling a chariot.**

**There was a man riding in the chariot. He had been to the church in Jerusalem. He was going back to Ethiopia. He was reading a Bible scroll.**

**Philip did not know the man. He was a stranger to him. When Philip heard the man reading the Bible, he went to talk to him.**

**"Do you understand the verses you are reading?" Philip asked.**

**"No," he answered. "I do not understand. I need someone to help me. Can you help me?"**

**Philip got in the chariot. He read the verses. He began to explain them to the man.**

**"These words tell about Jesus. Jesus is God's Son. God sent his Son to be your friend. God wants to be a friend to everyone. God loves all people."**

**The man listened. Philip told him more about Jesus.**

**"I love Jesus," the man said. "I want Jesus to be my friend. Thank you for telling me about him."**

**The man stopped the horse. Philip got out of the chariot. He said good-bye to the man.**

**When the man returned to his home in Ethiopia, he shared the words of Philip. He told many people about God's love. Perhaps he said, "I am glad that God loves everyone. I am glad that Philip told me about God's love. I am thankful for my Bible scroll."**

**Acts 8:26-40**



## **WEEK 58**

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*"Thou art near, O Lord." Psalm 119:151*

### **JACOB'S DREAM**

**"Jacob, Jacob," Isaac called to his son. "I want you to go on a long journey. I want you to visit your uncle."**

**Jacob made preparations for his trip. He packed some clothes and some food. He would be walking to his uncle's house. It would take him several days.**

**Soon Jacob began his trip. He walked and walked. The sun was setting. Darkness was coming over the land. Jacob saw one star and then another and another. Night had come.**

**"I will stop here," thought Jacob. He found a smooth stone to use as a pillow. He lay down and went to sleep.**

**While he slept, he dreamed. In the dream, he saw a ladder going up into heaven. God spoke to Jacob, "I am here with you. I will always be near you. I will take care of you wherever you go."**

**Jacob woke up. He did not see anyone. He did not hear anyone speaking. But he knew he had heard God.**

**"God is with me now in this place," he said. "He will be near me wherever I go. I do not need to be afraid. God will take care of me."**

**Genesis 28**



## **WEEK 59**

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*"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17*

### **DAVID AND JONATHAN**

**One day some messengers came to see David. He was tending his father's sheep. "We have come from King Saul," they said. "He wants to see you. Please come with us."**

**David was very happy. The king wanted to see him. He hurried to his house.**

**King Saul said, "David, you are a brave young man. You have helped your people. I want you to come and live in my house."**

**The king's son, Jonathan, was standing beside his father. He and David liked each other. Jonathan was happy that David was going to live with them.**

**Jonathan gave David his coat and his sword. He said, "These gifts are from me because I love you. I want to be your friend."**

**David and Jonathan liked to talk together. They also liked to walk and hunt together. They sometimes played games together.**

**Jonathan spoke to David, "Let us promise that we will always be friends."**

**David agreed. He loved Jonathan. As they grew older, they remained good friends. They never forgot their promise.**

**Many years later David became king. Jonathan was killed in battle. David was very sad. He even wrote a psalm about Jonathan and their friendship.**

**Jonathan had a son who was crippled. David asked him to live in the king's house with him. David said, "Your grandfather Saul asked me to live with him. Your father was my best friend. Now I want you to live with me."**

**1 Samuel 18:1-4**



## **WEEK 60**

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*"He cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7*

### **DORCAS, A KIND HELPER**

**Dorcas had many friends. She was a woman who loved Jesus. She liked to help her friends. Dorcas was not selfish.**

**She saw children who did not have enough clothes. She wanted to share with them. Dorcas decided to make clothes for them.**

**She took some cloth and cut it into pieces. She took her needle and thread and began to sew. Dorcas worked quickly. She made a dress and a shirt. Then she made a pair of trousers and another shirt. When she finished, she gave them to the children. Everyone loved Dorcas because she helped so many people.**

**One day Dorcas became very sick, and she died. Her friends were very sad. They knew that the preacher, Peter, was in a nearby village. They sent someone to bring him to her house.**

**Peter went with the two men to Dorcas' house. Her friends were there crying. They said, "Please help her, Peter."**

**They showed him the many clothes she had made. They said, "She has always been kind to us. She made clothes to help her friends and neighbours. She made them because she loved Jesus."**

**Peter asked the people to leave the room. He knelt down by the bed and prayed to God. After Peter prayed, he stood up and said, "Dorcas, get up."**

**Dorcas opened her eyes and sat up. Peter took her hand and helped her stand up. Then she went with Peter to see her friends.**

**All the people were happy to see Dorcas again. They knew that God had made her alive. They all thanked God.**

**Acts 9:36-42**



## **WEEK 61**

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*"God is with us." Isaiah 8:10*

### **BABY MOSES' FAMILY**

**Baby Moses was a healthy baby. He laughed many times. He had a brother and a sister.**

**His family loved him. But they had to be very careful. They had to hide the baby to keep him safe. The king had commanded that all baby boys be killed.**

**Miriam, his sister, helped to care for the baby. One day Mother told Miriam, "Baby Moses is growing. He cries and laughs loudly now. We must find another way to hide him."**

**Mother began to make a basket. She made it very tight. She put tar inside so water would not leak in.**

**"Miriam, wrap the baby in a blanket. Bring him to me," Mother said.**

**They put Moses inside the basket and took him to the river. They put the basket in the river. The basket floated on the water. Moses was dry and safe.**

**"You must stay here and watch carefully," Mother told Miriam.**

**Soon Miriam heard someone coming. She saw that it was the daughter of the king. She had come to the river to bathe.**

**When she saw the basket, the woman said, "Bring it to me."**

**She opened the basket and saw the baby. "This is an Israelite baby, but I want him, I want to raise him as my son," said the king's daughter.**

**Miriam ran to her and asked, "Shall I get a nurse for the baby?"**

**Miriam ran quickly and called her mother. The woman gave the baby to his mother. "Take this child and nurse him. When he is weaned, bring him back to me."**

**How happy Miriam and her family were. God had helped them keep their baby safe.**

**Exodus 2:1-9**



## **WEEK 62**

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*"God...loved us and sent his son." 1 John 4:10*

### **THE WOMAN AT THE WELL**

**It was hot in the country of Samaria. The woman picked up her water jar. She put it on her head. She walked quickly to the well.**

**When she came to the well, a man was there. He was resting. She did not recognize him. He was not a Samaritan. He was a Jew.**

**Quickly she started to draw her water.**

**"May I have a drink of water?" asked the man. The man was Jesus.**

**The woman was surprised that he would ask her for water. "You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan. Why do you ask me for a drink?" she said.**

**Jesus talked with the woman a long time. He told her many things about God.**

**"God loves you," he said.**

**"I know that someday God will send his Son," the woman said.**

**"God has already sent his Son," Jesus told her. "I am God's Son, Jesus."**

**"Are you really God's Son?" the woman asked. "I must tell my friends about you. I want everyone to know God's Son."**

**The woman ran back to the village. She called everyone to go with her to the well.**

**"Come to the well. God's Son is there. Come and see," she said.**

**The woman's friends gathered around Jesus. They listened as he talked. They asked him many questions.**

**Jesus and his disciples went to their village. They stayed two days telling people about God's love.**

**John 4:1-42**



## **WEEK 63**

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*"Everyone helps his neighbour." Isaiah 41:6*

### **THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

**One day a man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho. Suddenly some robbers stopped him. They took his things. They beat the man. They left him lying beside the road.**

**The hurt man could not move. He heard someone walking nearby. But no one stopped to help him. He could hear the footsteps pass quickly.**

**Again the hurt man heard footsteps. Someone else was coming. He thought, "This man will help me." But the man only looked at the injured man and hurried past.**

**The hurt man was very sick. He needed someone to help him. After some time, he heard footsteps again. It was not a man walking. It was a donkey coming down the road. The hurt man heard someone tell the donkey to stop. He looked up and saw a man getting off the donkey. The man was from Samaria.**

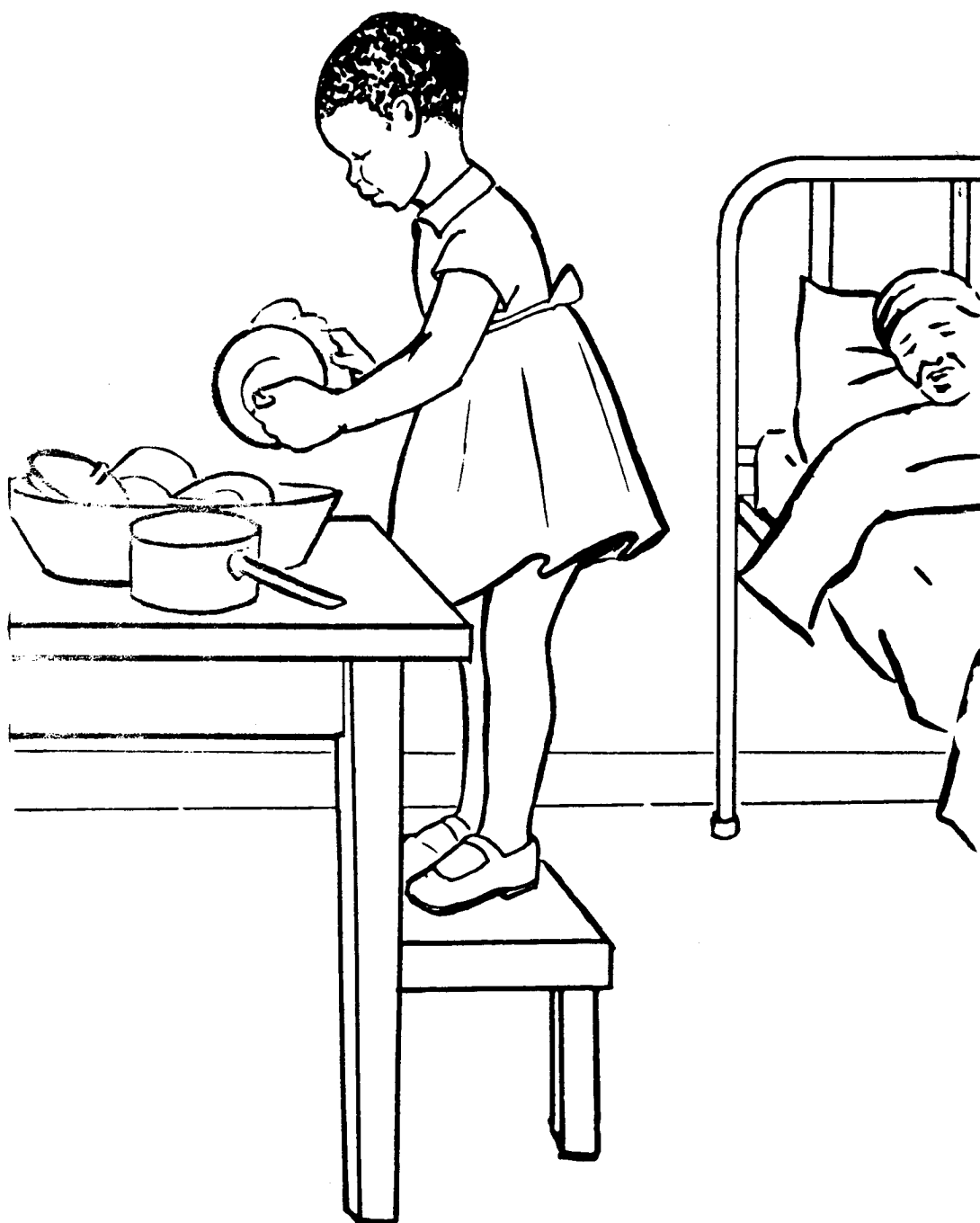
**The kind man went to the hurt man. "I am going to help you," he said.**

**He put some medicine on the hurt man. He put bandages on the cuts. Then he put the man on his donkey. They started down the road. When they came to an inn, the kind man stopped. He helped the hurt man into the inn. He gave him food to eat and a bed where he could rest.**

**The hurt man was feeling better. He had a new friend.**

**The next morning the kind man had to go on his trip. He left money so that the hurt man would have food and care. He is called the good Samaritan because he was so kind.**

**Luke 10:30-37**



## WEEK 64

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*"Be kind to one another."* Ephesians 4:32

### ISAAC AND THE WELLS

Isaac had many sheep and cattle. They needed water to drink. They needed green grass to eat. Isaac took his herds to a valley with green grass. This was the same valley where Isaac's father had lived. Isaac found the wells his father had dug.

Dirt had fallen into the wells. He could not get water for the animals. Isaac told his workers, "Clean out the dirt. Dig the wells again. Our animals need water to drink."

The workers cleaned out the wells. The sheep and cattle had clean water.

Some other men came to the workers. They said, "This water is ours. You cannot stay here." When the workers told Isaac what had happened, he said, "We will move away. We do not want to quarrel."

Isaac took his family, his workers and his animals to another place. Again the workers dug a well for water. Again other men came to Isaac's workers and said, "This is our water. You must leave it alone."

Isaac heard what had happened. "We will move. We do not want to quarrel," he said.

Isaac again moved his family, his workers and his herds. He asked God to help him.

That night Isaac had a dream. God talked to him. "You have done the right thing. I will take care of you," God told him.

Then Isaac's workers dug another well. They hurried to tell Isaac, "We have found water."

Isaac said, "This is a good day. I am glad that we have pleased God."

Genesis 26:17-33



## **WEEK 65**

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*"Love one another."* John 15:17

### **A WOMAN SHARES HER FOOD**

**A mother and her son lived in their little house. Often the little boy would watch his mother baking bread. His mother took meal and a little oil. She mixed these together. She patted the dough until it was round and flat.**

**Then the mother would cook the bread on hot stones. The little boy liked the little flat bread.**

**But this year there had been no rain. No crops grew in the fields. People were hungry. The boy and his mother did not have enough food.**

**The mother had only a little meal and oil left. She would be able to make bread one more time. The mother did not know where she would get more. When this was gone, they would be hungry, too.**

**The mother went to get wood for a fire. She would cook the last bread. On her way, she met Elijah, the preacher. He had been walking for a long time. He was tired and thirsty.**

**"May I have a drink of water? I have travelled a long way. I am very thirsty," he said.**

**The mother gave him some water. He asked, "Please give me some bread, too?"**

**"Oh, I am sorry," she told him. "I have only a little meal and oil. I want to make bread for my son."**

**"Do not worry," Elijah said, "Make a little bread for me first. Then make some for you and your son. God has promised that there will be enough for us."**

**She baked the bread on the fire. She gave it to Elijah. She had some meal left. It was enough for bread for her son and her.**

**Every day after that she baked bread. The basket of meal always had just enough in it. The jar of oil had enough. God gave them food because they had shared.**

**1 Kings 17:8-16**

