

WEEK 92

"Jesus went about doing good." Acts 10:38

JESUS' FIRST HELPERS

Jesus liked to go near the lake where the fishermen were working. One day when he was there many, many people came to listen to him. Jesus looked for a place to teach. He saw an empty boat. The fishermen were washing and mending their nets nearby.

"May I use your boat?" Jesus asked.

Simon, one of the fishermen, agreed and pushed the boat into the water for him. Jesus sat in the boat and taught the people.

When Jesus finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Let us go fishing."

Simon said, "Last night we fished the whole night and we did not catch one fish. But I'll go again if you want me to."

This time their fishing nets were full! Their friends, James and John, came to help them. Simon knew that Jesus had helped them catch the fish.

Jesus said to Simon, "Come with me; help me in my work. Instead of catching fish, we will tell men about God."

Simon loved Jesus. James and John loved him, too. They wanted to help Jesus in his work. They left their boats and went with Jesus. They helped him every day.

Luke 5:1-11 and Matthew 4:18-23



WEEK 93

"Everyone helps his neighbour." Isaiah 41:6

A BOY'S LUNCH

Everywhere Jesus went, he helped people. He made sick people well; he made blind people to see. Many people came to see Jesus.

One day Jesus climbed a hill to rest. But many people followed him. Men, women, boys and girls came to listen to Jesus teach.

They stayed all day. Jesus knew they were tired and hungry. He asked Philip, one of his helpers, "Where can we buy food for all of these people?"

Philip was amazed at Jesus' question. "We do not have enough money to buy so much food," he said.

Andrew, another helper, said, "There is a little boy with five small loaves of bread and two fish. But this is only a little food."

The little boy gladly gave Jesus his food. He wanted to help Jesus. Jesus wanted to help the people.

Jesus told his helpers. "Tell everyone to sit down." There were more than 5,000 people sitting on the hillside. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish and thanked God for them. Then his helpers passed the food to the people. Every person had enough to eat! There was even food remaining! People were amazed.

The helpers of Jesus saw how he loved the people. The little boy was happy because he had shared with Jesus.

Matthew 14:13-21 and John 6:1-13



WEEK 94

"Love one another." John 15:17

FOUR FRIENDS WHO HELPED

"Jesus has returned. Jesus has come back." This news spread quickly through the town. Many people began coming to the house where Jesus was staying. The house was soon filled with people. There was no more room inside. Some people were standing outside. They all wanted to hear Jesus' words. Many sick people had come to Jesus to be healed.

There was a man who wanted to see Jesus, but he could not walk. He had some friends who wanted to help.

"Let's take our friend to Jesus," one of them said. The four men picked up the mat on which the man lay. They walked toward the house where Jesus was. Each man carried one corner of the mat.

When they saw the crowd of people, they said, "What shall we do? We cannot get to Jesus."

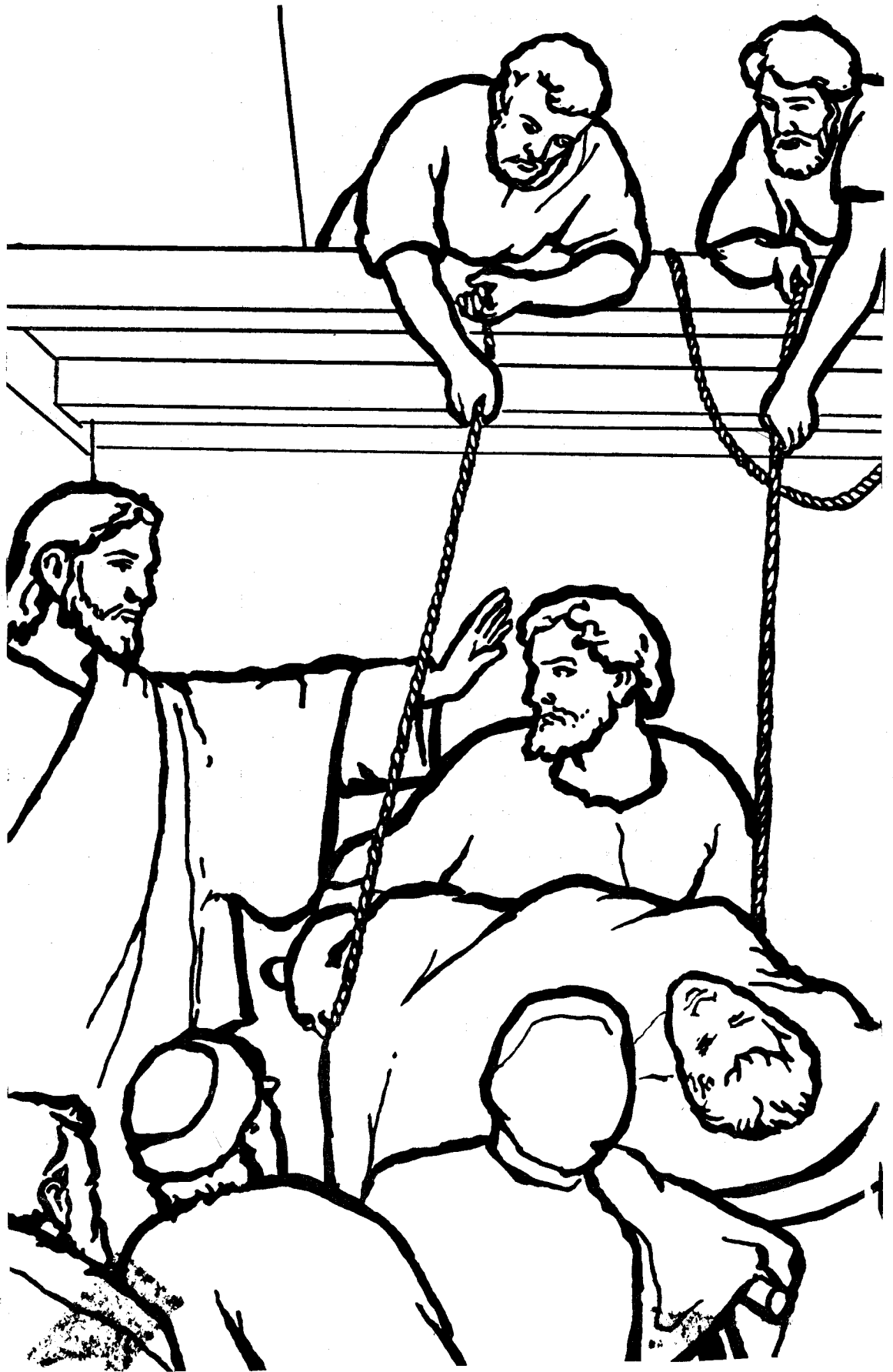
Then they thought of a new plan. They walked up some steps to the roof of the house. Because the roof was flat, they could walk easily. They removed some of the tiles until they made a big hole in the roof. Then the four men lowered their sick friend into the room near Jesus.

Jesus was happy to see the friends helping. He said to the sick man, "Your sins are forgiven."

These words made some of the people angry. To show them that he was God's Son, Jesus said to the man, "Pick up your bed and go home, for you are well."

The man jumped up, picked up his bed and walked. People began to praise God. The sick man praised God. His friends also praised God. They were glad they had helped a friend.

Mark 2:1-12



WEEK 95

"The Lord is my helper." Hebrews 13:6

JESUS MAKES A SICK BOY WELL

Jesus had walked for many miles. The roads were dusty. Crowds of people were following Jesus. He probably was very tired.

He arrived in the town of Cana. While he was there, a government official came to see him.

"Please come with me to my house, Jesus. My son is very sick. He is about to die. Please come to see him and make him well," the man said.

Jesus listened to the man's story. He wanted to help him. The official begged Jesus, "Please, come quickly with me before my son dies."

Jesus knew the man had much faith. He said to him, "You can go home. Do not be afraid. Your son is completely well."

The man believed Jesus. He began the journey to his home. When he was near, some of his servants came to meet him.

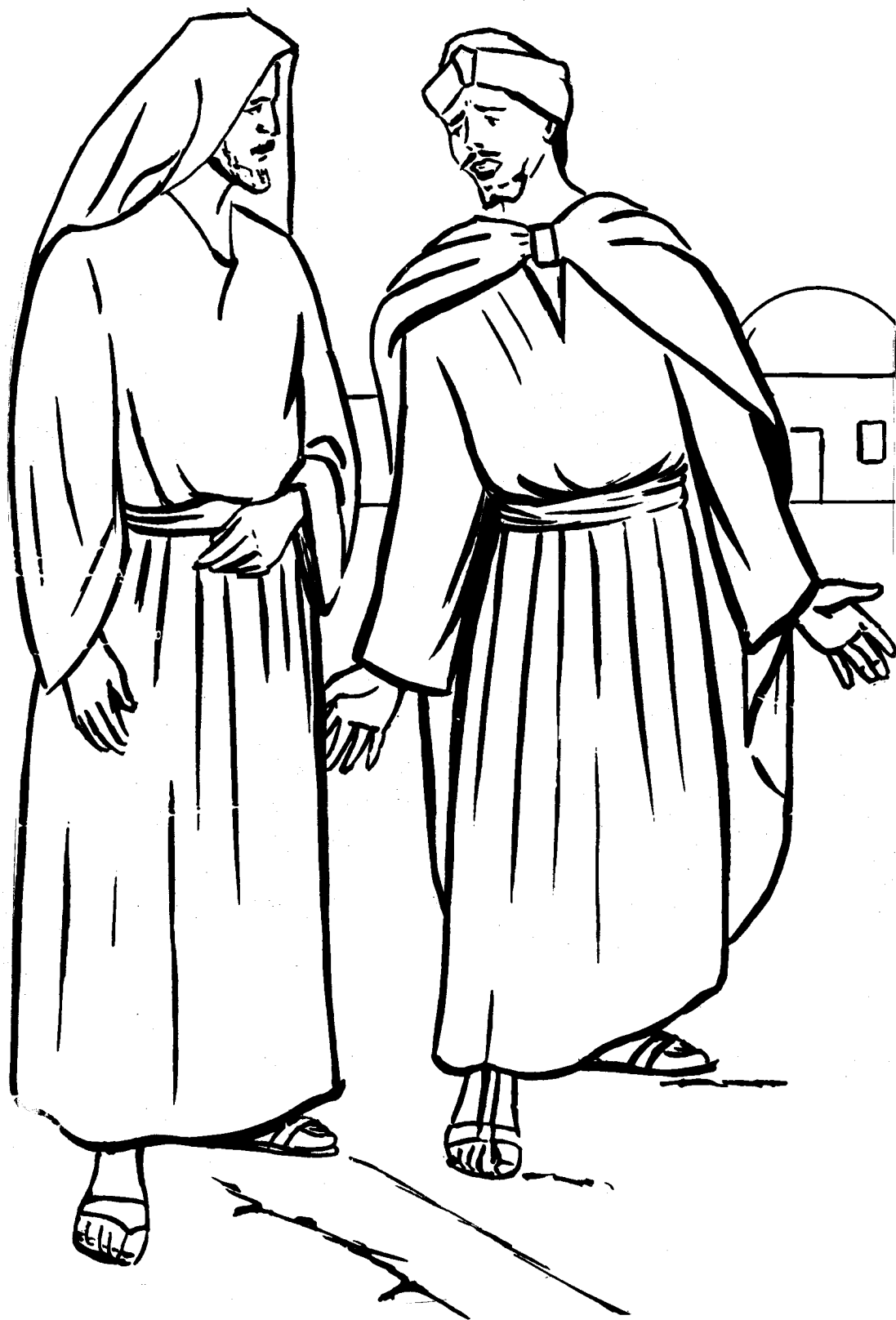
"Sir, your son is well. Your son is well," they said.

The official asked them when the boy had begun to feel better. They told him, "It was about one o'clock yesterday afternoon that his fever left."

The father explained, "At one o'clock yesterday, Jesus told me that my son was well. He told me to go home."

Everyone who heard about this man's son was amazed. Many of them believed that Jesus was truly the Son of God! The father and his son were happy that Jesus had helped them.

John 4:46-53



WEEK 96

"'God made the world and everything in it.'" Acts 17:24

GOD MADE THE WORLD

Once there was nothing in this world. There was only God. God has always been. He decided to make our world. God began creating the heavens and the earth. First he made light and darkness. He called the light day. The darkness was called night. In the day we can work and play. At night we can rest and sleep.

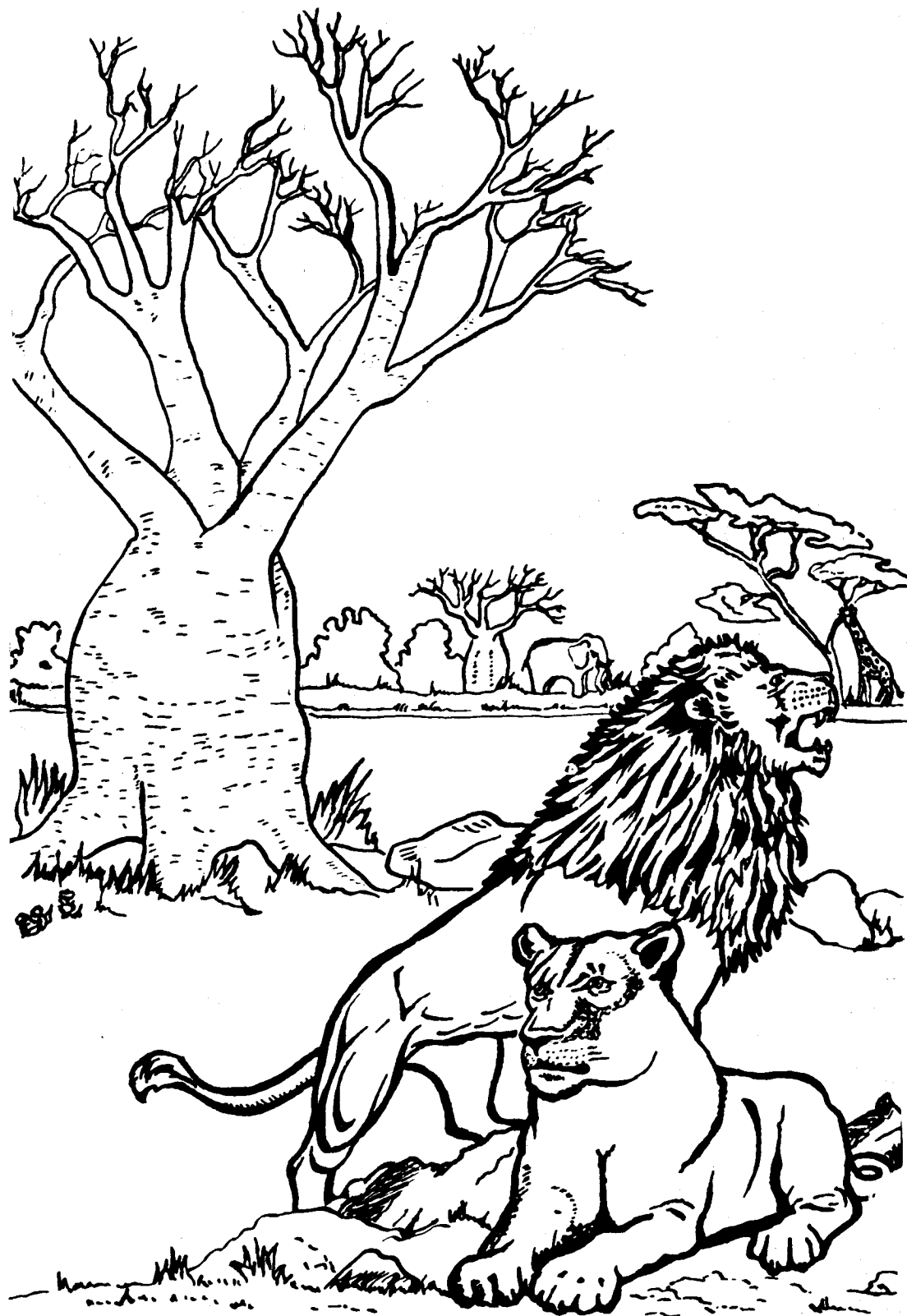
Then God made the earth, the ocean and the sky above. He planted every kind of grass and seed-bearing plants. He planted trees. He planted fruit trees like mango, papaya and orange. He planned for the seeds of these trees to produce more trees and fruit.

God made the sun to keep us warm and to give light during the day. He made the moon and stars to give light at night.

Then God filled the oceans and lakes with fish. He made birds and bees and insects. He made many animals. He made wild animals like the lion, elephant and buffalo. He also made animals like cows, horses and goats.

Then God made man like himself. The first man was called Adam; the first woman was called Eve. God gave them everything which he had created. When God looked at his creation he said, "This is very good!"

Genesis 1-2



WEEK 97

"God saw everything he had made and it was good." Genesis 1:31

GOD'S PLAN FOR PLANTS

God created a beautiful world. He made it for us. He made the flowers and grass for us to enjoy. He made plants. He planned that some of the plants be used for food. God made many kinds of trees. He planned for us to have wood for building and for firewood.

God made every plant and every tree with its own seed. We plant seeds in the soil. The seeds produce the same kind of plant or tree. When we plant maize, we get more maize. If we plant beans, we will get beans.

Sometimes the seeds are small like the seeds of passion fruit. Sometimes they are big like mango seed.

God made the sun and the rain to help the plants to grow.

When we eat the food from the plants, we grow. That was God's plan for us. God made everything for us to use.

Genesis 1:9-19



WEEK 98

"'God made the beasts of the earth.'" Genesis 1:25

GOD'S PLAN FOR ANIMALS

When God created the world, he made every kind of animal. He made cattle, reptiles and wild animals. He made man to be the master of all the animals. He made grass and water so that the animals would have food.

God sends the rain to fill up the rivers and streams. The rain causes the grass to grow so that cows and other animals have food to eat.

Trees grow beside the rivers. Birds come there to make their nests. God planned for the birds and animals to have houses.

God planned that animals should help us. They sometimes carry heavy loads. They help us to cultivate the fields. They provide food for us. We get eggs, milk, meat and butter from animals. These foods help us to have strong bodies.

Some animals are like friends to us. Dogs, cats, goats and chickens live close to us. God wants us to be kind to these animals. We should never beat or abuse them.

God made the animals for us to use and enjoy. He made some large and some small. He made their colours so they could hide from their enemies. Thank you, God, for making these beautiful animals and birds.

Genesis 1:26-30



WEEK 99

"God...cares about you." 1 Peter 5:6,7

GOD CARES FOR PEOPLE

After God created the world, he made a man to live in it. God gave Adam eyes to see the beautiful things in the garden. Adam could see the trees, the flowers, the birds and the animals.

God gave Adam ears to hear the many sounds around him. He could hear the songs of the birds. He could hear the thunder and the roar of the lions.

God and Adam were friends. They talked to each other.

God gave Adam some work to do. God said, "You are to take care of the trees and plants growing in your garden. You are to plant seeds and cultivate the land and harvest the crops."

God gave Adam someone to help him. He made Eve, to be Adam's wife. God took care of Adam and Eve.

Jesus reminded the people that God cares for the birds. And Jesus said, "God loves you much more than birds! Trust in God, he will take care of you."

God is good. God loves us. God cares for us.

Genesis 1:26-30



WEEK 100

"We always thank God." Colossians 1:3

A THANK YOU SONG

The clouds in the sky remind us that God is near. The stars at night make the sky very beautiful. The moon gives us light at night. Everywhere we look we are reminded of God's greatness. God made all these things for us.

Children say: "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live."

Water is a necessary part of our lives. Without it we cannot live. God knew our need for water. He planned for springs, streams, rivers and lakes. He sends rain to fill the streams and to water our crops.

Children say: "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live."

Everyday we must have food to eat. God planned for the soil to produce our food. The soil also produces food for the cows and goats. From seed and nuts and grain we get oil and medicine. God planned for everything.

Children say: "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live."

God made the day and the night. He created the light and the darkness so that we can work and rest. There is a time to plant seeds and a time for harvest. We are happy that we can have rain and sunshine. God made many different kinds of plants and animals. God made us. We belong to him.

Children say: "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live."

Psalms 19; 29; 147:7-11



WEEK 101

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

GOD LOVED US

Many years ago God had a special message for his people. He told that message to his prophets. The prophets told all the people. The message from God was, "I will show all the people that I love them. I will send my only Son to the world. Everyone who believes in him will have eternal life."

This message came from God many years before Jesus came. God told us that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. He told the people that Jesus would be a good friend. His name would have many meanings such as Prince of Peace and Mighty God.

The Hebrew people looked for the birth of the Messiah, Jesus, every year.

Finally God knew that it was the right time for Jesus to come to the world. God's message was true! Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He was a friend to all people; he healed many people. He taught people; he went about doing good. He loved all people.

We know that Jesus loves us. We know that God loves us because he sent his only Son, Jesus.

The Bible tells us that God is love. Those who love others and are kind to show that they are God's children. Let us love one another.

1 John 4:1-12



WEEK 102

"You shall call his name Jesus." Matthew 1:21

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Many years ago in the little town of Nazareth, there lived a young woman named Mary. She loved God very much. One day an angel spoke to her and said, "Mary, you have been chosen to be the mother of God's Son. You will call him Jesus."

At first Mary was afraid. The angel told her not to fear. Mary was happy that God had chosen her.

Later the angel spoke to a young man named Joseph. He was a carpenter and was to marry Mary. Joseph was glad about God's plan for Mary. He was pleased that God had chosen her to be the mother of Jesus.

One day an important announcement was made by the government. It read, "All people are to go to the city of their families to be counted." Mary and Joseph had to go to the city of Bethlehem. They travelled for three days. Mary rode the donkey and Joseph walked beside her. It was a long journey.

When they arrived in the city, there was no room in the hotel for them. The kind innkeeper gave them permission to sleep in the stable where the cows and donkeys were kept. It was in that stable that Jesus was born. God's promise had come true.

God announced the birth of Jesus by sending a choir of angels. Some shepherds were taking care of their flocks of sheep. They saw and heard the message of the angels. Then they said, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

The shepherds came to the city and found Mary, Joseph and the baby, Jesus. They were very happy. They told everyone about the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1-20



WEEK 103

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced." Matthew 2:10

GIFTS FOR JESUS

When Jesus was born, God made two special announcements. He sent angels to tell the shepherds the good news. He also put a new star in the sky which shone down on Bethlehem.

Some wise men who lived in a country far from Bethlehem saw the star.

"Look," they said. "That new star means that a new king has been born."

They began the long journey to see the new king. They took gifts to give to him. When they reached Jerusalem, they asked people, "Where is the new king? We have seen his star and we have come to worship him."

No one knew of a child who had been born as a king. The wise men went to see King Herod. He called his advisors and asked them about a king that was to be born in Bethlehem. Then Herod told the wise men to go to the town of Bethlehem and look for the child.

The wise men followed the star until they came to the place where Jesus lived. They quickly entered the house. They took their gifts with them. When the wise men saw Jesus, they fell down and worshipped him. They gave him the gifts they had brought. The gifts were for a king: gold, spices and perfume.

Soon the wise men left and went on their long journey home. They were thankful that God had led them to where Jesus was.

Matthew 2:1-11



WEEK 104

"Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.'" Matthew 19:14

JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

Crowds of people followed Jesus everywhere he went. They crowded close to him. They wanted to be near him so they could hear his words.

Jesus was always glad to talk to people. He often healed people who were sick. He helped the blind to see and the deaf to hear. Jesus told everyone, "God loves you."

One day Jesus was talking to the people. His helpers saw some mother and fathers and children walking toward Jesus. Happily they walked up the path. They were going to see Jesus!

Some of Jesus' helpers hurried to meet them.

"Do not bring children here," they said. "Jesus is busy; he is teaching the adults. The children will disturb him."

The mothers and fathers were sad. Their children were disappointed. They turned to leave.

But Jesus saw the fathers and the mothers with their children. He did not want them sent away.

"Let the children come to me," he said. "Do not send them away. God's kingdom is made up of people like these children."

Jesus' helpers felt ashamed of what they had said to the parents. Quickly they made room for the children near Jesus.

Jesus smiled and the children ran to him. He reached out his arms and embraced them. He asked God to bless them. The little children liked being close to Jesus. They looked into his face and knew that Jesus loved them.

Jesus loves all people: big people, very old people, sick people, rich people and poor people. Jesus loves little children, too.

Matthew 9:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17



— When I find —