

I SEE JESUS

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When I stand in the sun and look down, I can see my shadow.
It looks a lot like me, but it isn't me.

The Old Testament is full of shadows. And when we look at
these shadows, we can see something that looks a lot like Jesus.

Just like we can't see
everything about ourselves
in our own shadow, we
don't see everything about
Jesus in his shadows, but
we do see some things
about who he will be,
what he will do, and
how he will save.

"These are a shadow of
the things to come, but
the substance belongs to
Christ." COLOSSIANS 2:17 ESV



Adam faced temptation about the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden. If he obeyed God about the tree, he would live. But Adam did not obey.

In the shadow of Adam I see Jesus, the **Second Adam**. Jesus faced temptation about a tree—the cross—in the Garden of Gethsemane. If Jesus obeyed God about the tree, he would die. And Jesus obeyed!

“Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.” ROMANS 5:19

Noah built the ark for his family to hide in, so they would be safe in the storm of God's punishment for sin.

In the shadow of the ark I see Jesus, the Ark of Safety.
All who hide in Jesus are safe from God's punishment for sin.

"For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God." COLOSSIANS 3:3



In the shadow of the stars I see Jesus, the bright
Morning Star. Jesus is the son of Abraham through
whom all the families on the earth are blessed.

“I, Jesus ... am the bright morning star.” REVELATION 22:16

God told Abraham to look up into the night sky and count the stars. God promised that he would have more children than there are stars in the sky.



God told Abraham to offer Isaac, the son that he loved, as a sacrifice for sin. Isaac carried the wood on which he would be sacrificed. But God provided a ram to be sacrificed in Isaac's place so that Isaac could live.

In the shadow of Isaac I see Jesus, the Beloved Son of the Father. Jesus carried the wood on which he would be sacrificed. God provided Jesus to be a sacrifice in our place, so that we can live.

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." JOHN 3:16






Jacob blessed Judah and said that one day someone from Judah's tribe would rule over all nations like a powerful lion.

In the shadow of Judah I see Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Jesus will one day return to earth to rule the nations.

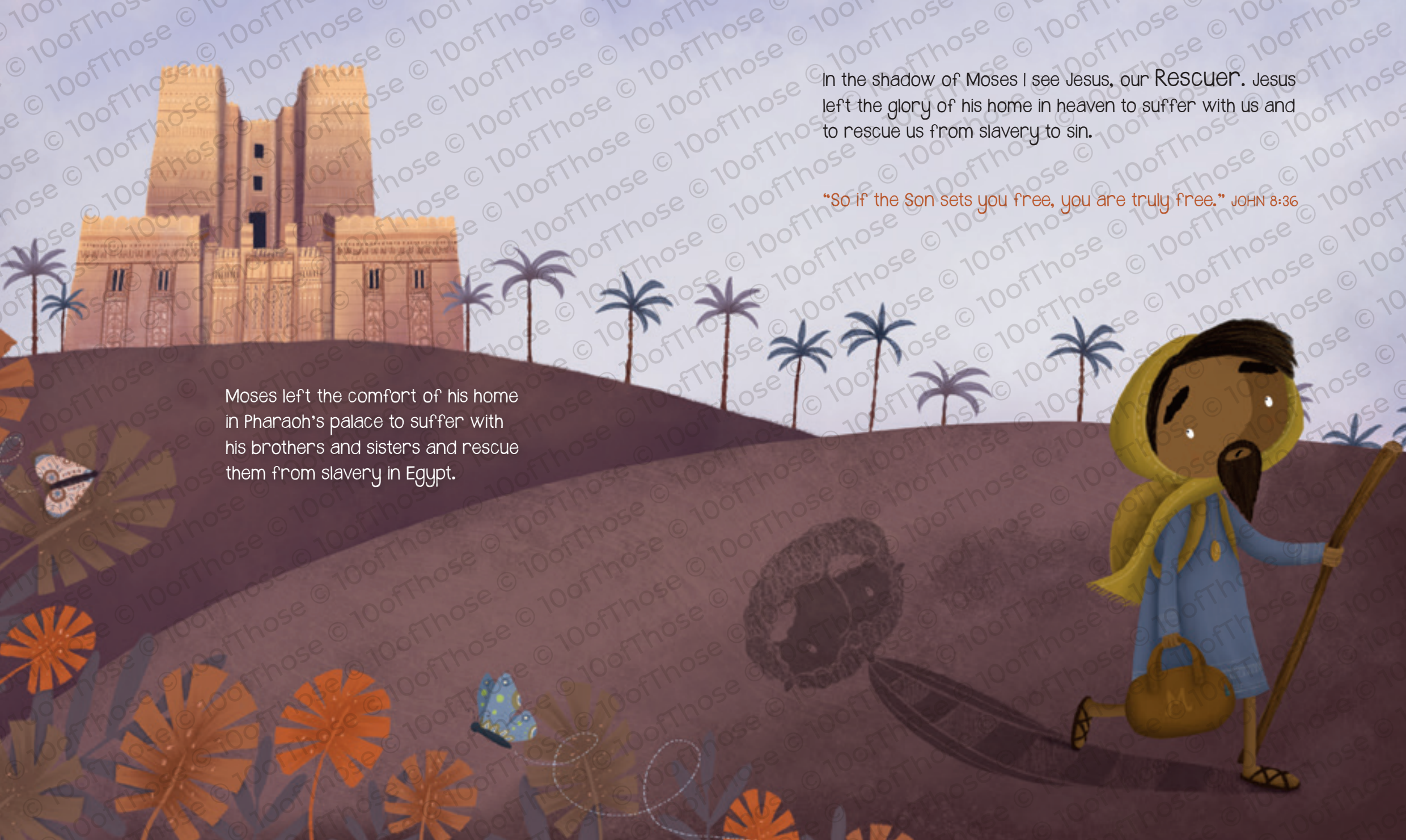
"To the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice.'" HEBREWS 1:8

A colorful illustration of a desert landscape. In the center is a large, grey, circular stone pit with a dark interior. A man with brown hair and a beard, wearing a green tunic, is inside the pit with his hands raised. The ground is light brown with small brown pebbles. There are green and yellow leaves and branches scattered around. A green lizard is on the ground near the pit, and a blue lizard is on the left. A colorful patterned cloth is in the top left corner.

Joseph was stripped of his colorful robe
and thrown into a pit. But later he was
raised to sit at the right hand of Pharaoh.
Everyone in the world who wanted to be
saved in the famine had to go to Joseph.

In the shadow of Joseph I see Jesus, the
Savior of the World. Jesus was
stripped of his robe, he was killed, and
buried in a tomb. But he was raised from
the dead and now sits at the right hand
of God in heaven. Everyone in the world
who wants to be saved must go to Jesus.

“There is salvation in no one else! God
has given no other name under heaven
by which we must be saved.” ACTS 4:12



In the shadow of Moses I see Jesus, our **RESCUER**. Jesus left the glory of his home in heaven to suffer with us and to rescue us from slavery to sin.

“So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.” JOHN 8:36

Moses left the comfort of his home in Pharaoh’s palace to suffer with his brothers and sisters and rescue them from slavery in Egypt.



God told the Israelites to mark their homes with the blood of a lamb. When he came down to punish the Egyptians, he passed over the homes marked with blood and the firstborn sons were protected from death.

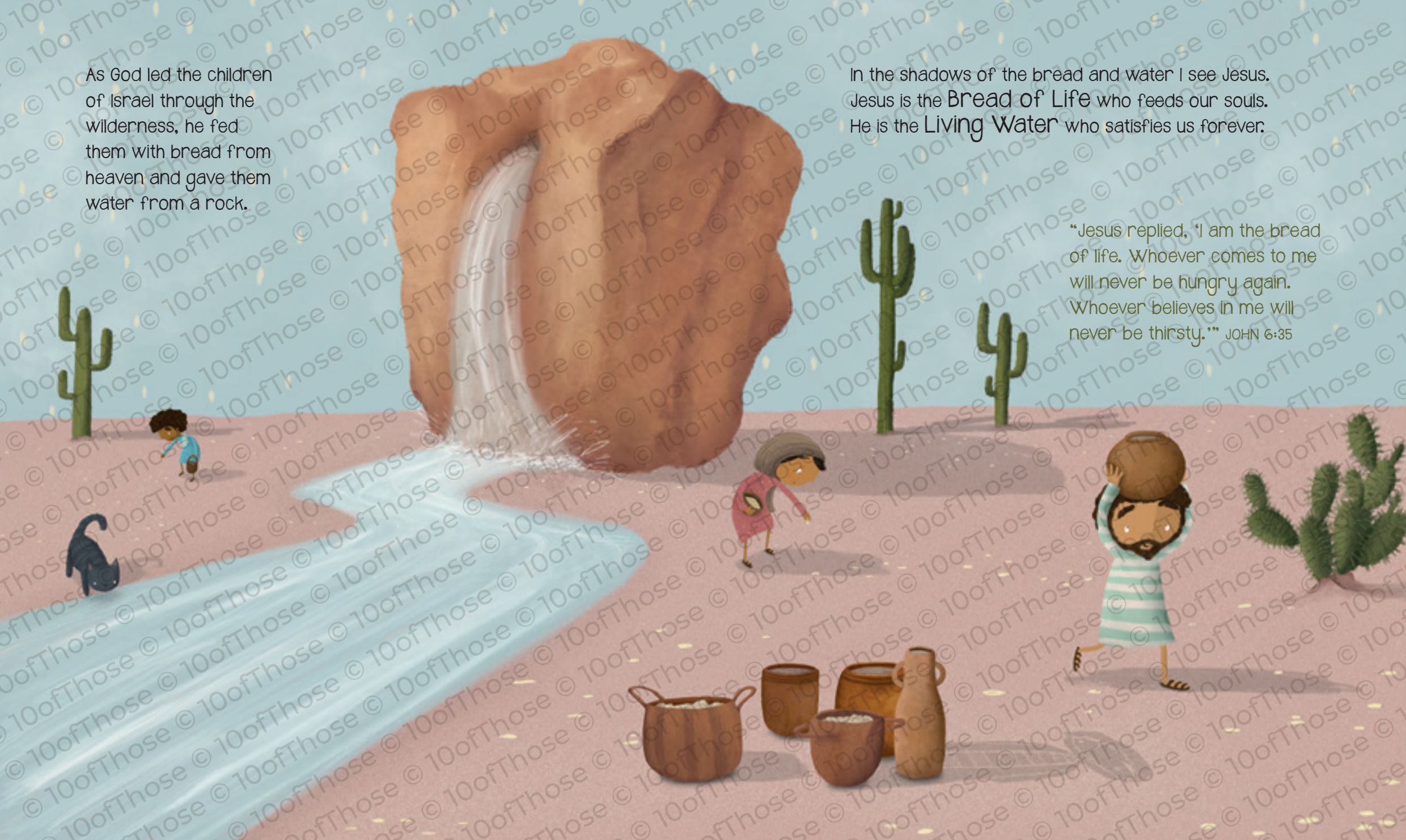
In the shadow of the lambs in Egypt, I see Jesus, our **Passover Lamb**. When our lives are marked by the blood of Jesus, we are protected from eternal death.

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” JOHN 1:29

As God led the children of Israel through the wilderness, he fed them with bread from heaven and gave them water from a rock.

In the shadows of the bread and water I see Jesus.
Jesus is the Bread of Life who feeds our souls.
He is the Living Water who satisfies us forever.

"Jesus replied, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" JOHN 6:35





Because God has always wanted to live among his people, he came down to live in the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle. In the shadow of the tabernacle I see Jesus, the **True Tabernacle**. Jesus became human and came down to live with us. He now lives in us through the Holy Spirit.

“So the Word became human and made his home among us.” JOHN 1:14

In the shadows of these goats I see Jesus. Jesus is the **Once-for-All Sacrifice**, whose blood washes away our sin. Jesus is the **Scapegoat**, who has carried our sin far away.

"He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us" EPHESIANS 5:2

Once a year the priest sprinkled the blood of a goat on the mercy seat to wash away the people's sins. Another goat, called a scapegoat, was sent out of the camp carrying away the sins of the people.



“And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.” JOHN 3:14-15

When the people in the wilderness were being bitten by poisonous snakes, God told Moses to make a bronze snake and lift it up on a pole. Anyone who looked at the snake on the pole would live.

In the shadow of the snake on the pole I see Jesus, the **Son of Man**. Jesus, who never sinned, became sin for us. He was nailed to a cross and lifted up. Anyone who looks to him will live.




With the blast of a trumpet, Joshua led God's people to make their home in the land that God had promised to them.

In the shadow of Joshua I see Jesus, our **Greater Joshua**. One day, with the blast of a trumpet, Jesus will return to lead us to make our home in the land God has promised to us.

"They were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."

HEBREWS 11:16





In kindness, Boaz provided for Ruth,
and promised to be a redeemer to
her. Boaz went to the city gates to
pay the price to make her his bride.

In the shadow of Boaz I see Jesus,
our Redeemer. In kindness,
Jesus provides for us. Jesus went
outside the city gates to pay the
price to make us his bride.

"I promised you as a pure bride
to one husband—Christ."

2 CORINTHIANS 11:2

David went out to fight Goliath and defeated him by crushing his head with a stone. Because of David's victory, God's people did not become slaves to the Philistines.

In the shadow of David I see Jesus, our **Champion**. In his death and resurrection Jesus crushed the head of Satan. Because of his victory, we are no longer slaves to sin and death.

"For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:56-57



God promised David that he would be the first of a long line of kings. One of David's sons would rule over a kingdom of justice and goodness that will last forever.

In the shadow of David I see Jesus, the **Son of David**. One day Jesus will return to this earth as King. His kingdom of justice and goodness will last forever.

"He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" LUKE 1:32-33

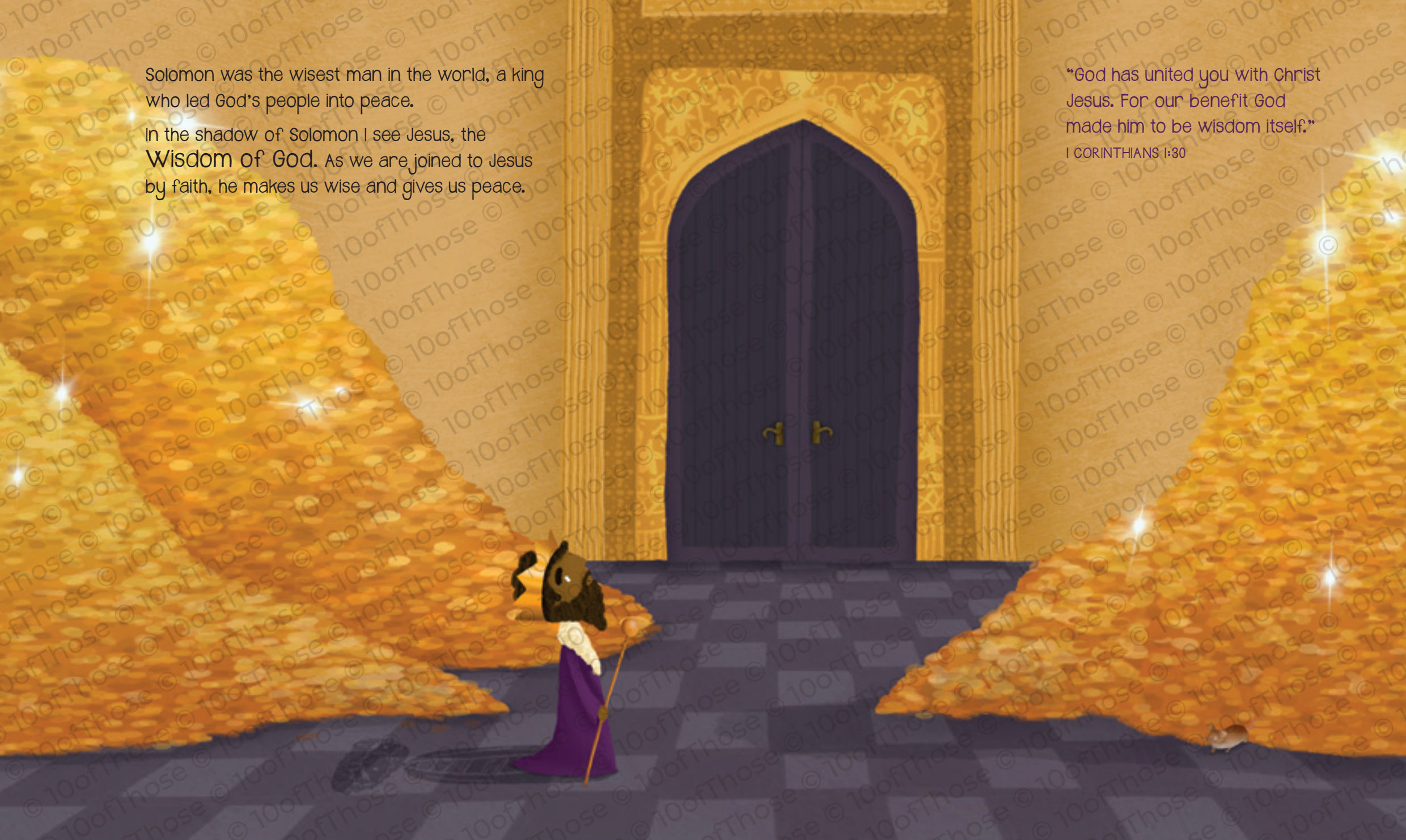


Solomon was the wisest man in the world, a king who led God's people into peace.

In the shadow of Solomon I see Jesus, the **Wisdom of God**. As we are joined to Jesus by faith, he makes us wise and gives us peace.

"God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself."

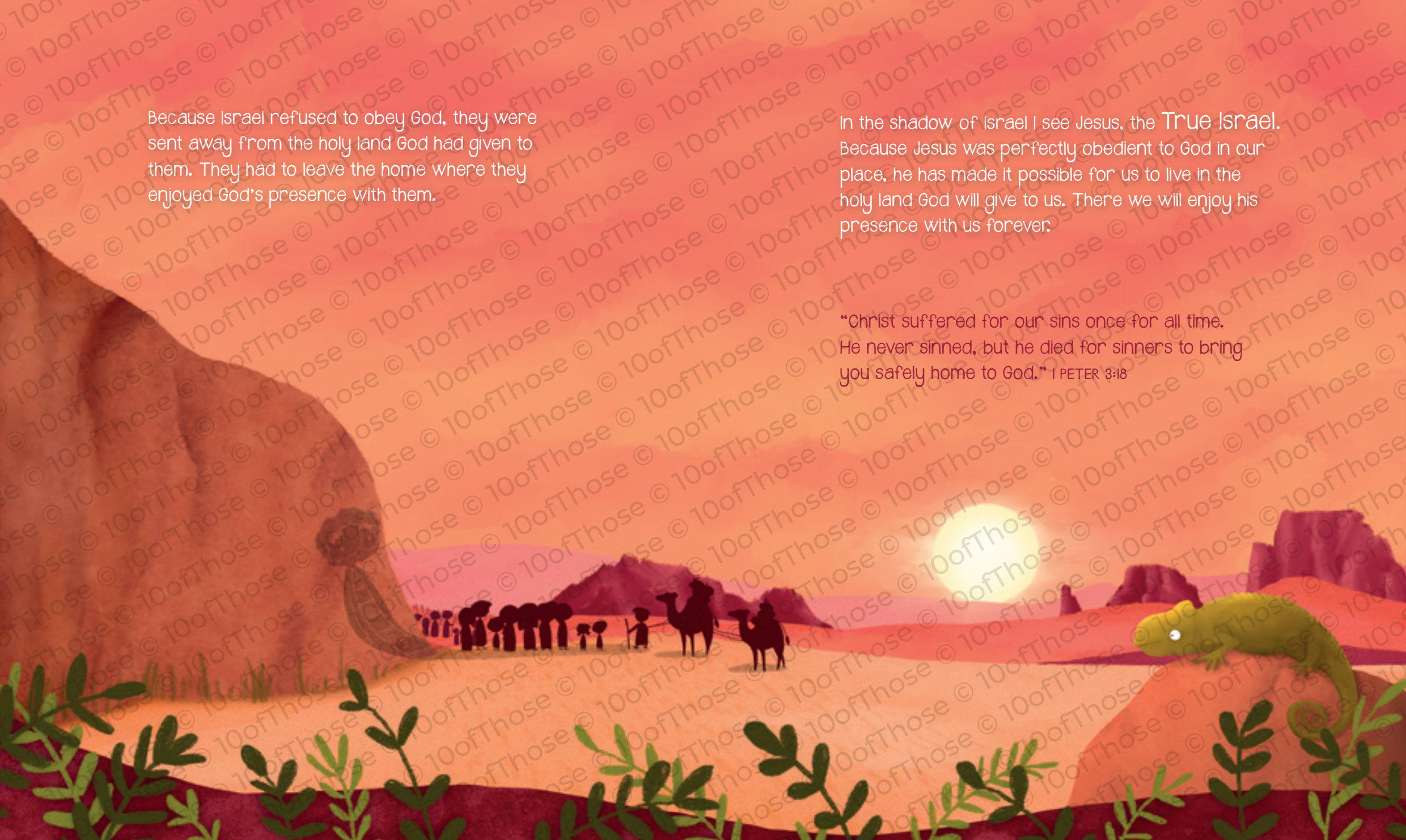
1 CORINTHIANS 1:30



Because Israel refused to obey God, they were sent away from the holy land God had given to them. They had to leave the home where they enjoyed God's presence with them.

In the shadow of Israel I see Jesus, the True Israel. Because Jesus was perfectly obedient to God in our place, he has made it possible for us to live in the holy land God will give to us. There we will enjoy his presence with us forever.

"Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God." 1 PETER 3:18

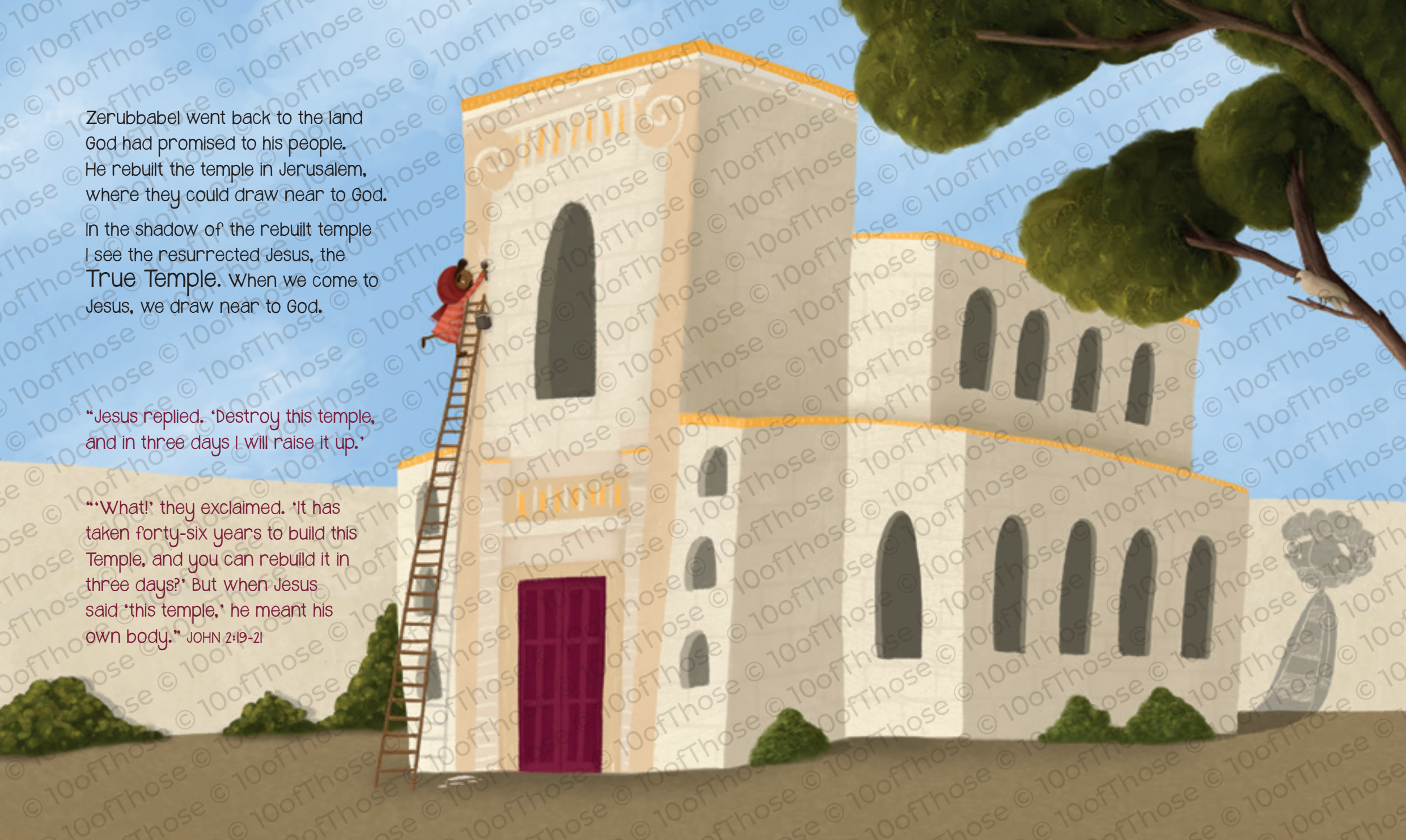


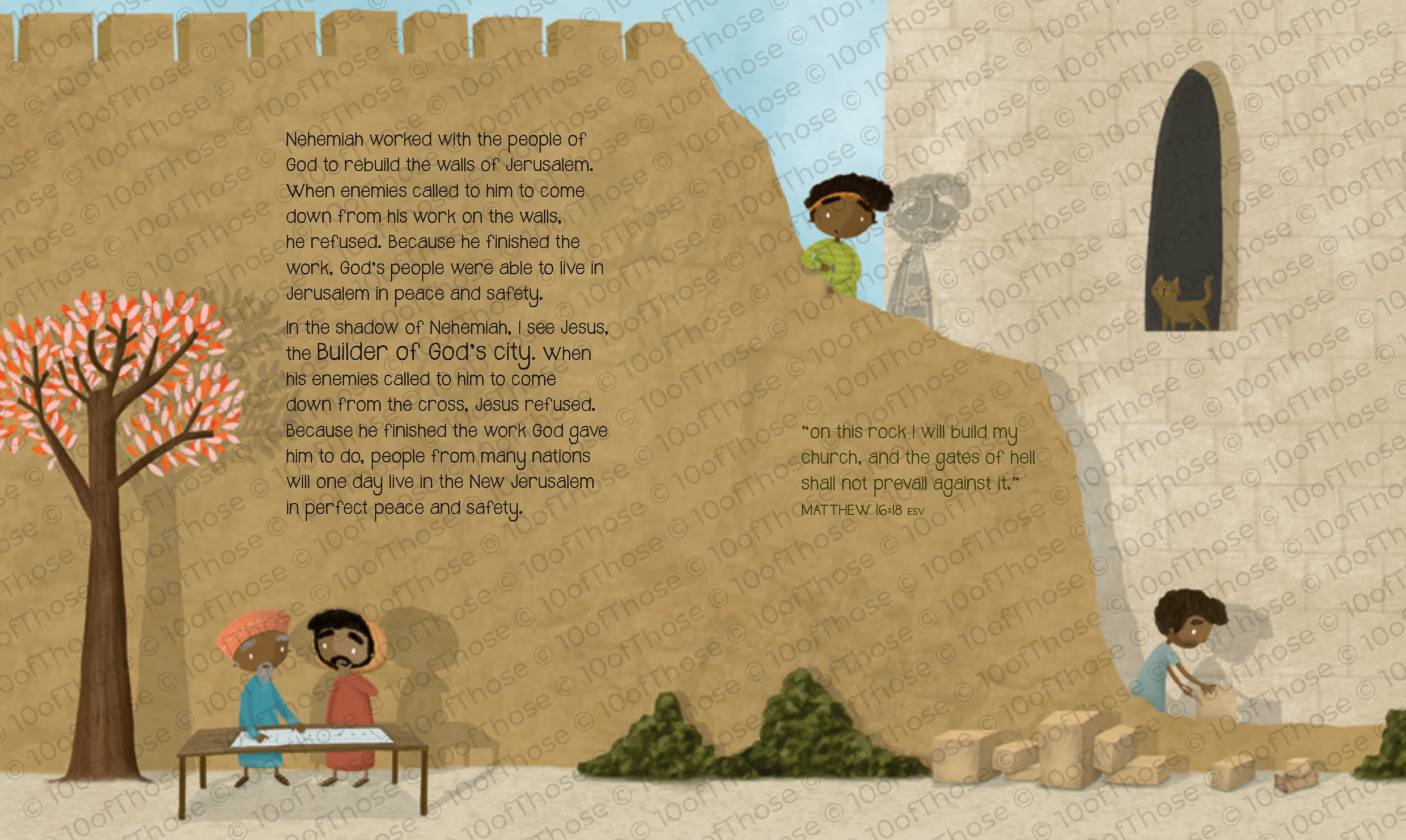
Zerubbabel went back to the land God had promised to his people. He rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem, where they could draw near to God.

In the shadow of the rebuilt temple I see the resurrected Jesus, the **True Temple**. When we come to Jesus, we draw near to God.

“Jesus replied, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’”

“‘What!’ they exclaimed. ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?’ But when Jesus said ‘this temple,’ he meant his own body.” JOHN 2:19-21



An illustration depicting the biblical story of Nehemiah rebuilding Jerusalem's walls. The scene is set against a backdrop of a large, tan-colored wall with a crenelated top. On the left, a tree with orange and red leaves stands. In the foreground, two men in traditional robes (one blue, one red) stand at a table, looking at a blueprint. On the right, a man in a green shirt and a woman in a grey dress are working on the wall. A small dog is visible in a dark arched doorway. The sky is blue, and the ground is light brown.

Nehemiah worked with the people of God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. When enemies called to him to come down from his work on the walls, he refused. Because he finished the work, God's people were able to live in Jerusalem in peace and safety.

In the shadow of Nehemiah, I see Jesus, the **Builder of God's city**. When his enemies called to him to come down from the cross, Jesus refused. Because he finished the work God gave him to do, people from many nations will one day live in the New Jerusalem in perfect peace and safety.

"on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

MATTHEW 16:18 ESV

In all of God's
people who
waited for Jesus
to come the first
time, I see my
own shadow.
I am waiting for
Jesus to come a
second time.

"Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a
mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All
that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know
everything completely, just as God now knows me completely."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12

When he comes, I won't
see him in shadows
anymore. I will see him
clearly, face to face.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nancy Guthrie teaches the Bible at her home church, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Tennessee, as well as at conferences around the country and internationally. She is the host of the Help Me Teach the Bible podcast from The Gospel Coalition and the author of numerous books, including One Year of Dinner Table Devotions and What Every Child Should Know About Prayer.

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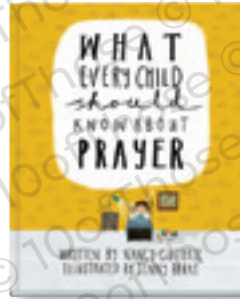
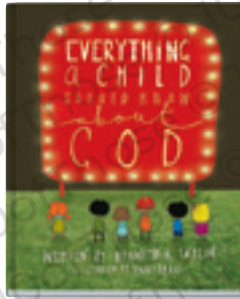
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