

# *The* **Easter** STORYBOOK

*Coloring Pages*

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# Jesus and the Children

Matthew 18–19; Mark 10; Luke 18

*How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.*

PSALM 36:7

As they were traveling in Galilee, Jesus' friends asked Him a question: "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matthew 18:1).

The kingdom of heaven is wherever God is King and everything is good. Jesus' friends thought that maybe people with a lot of money would be the most important people in the kingdom. Or maybe those who prayed or fasted the most would be the greatest.

Jesus called over a child. Now in that time no one asked children for their thoughts. No one gave children special treatment. But Jesus said, "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (v. 4).

Children don't have a lot of money. They don't have power. They don't pray or fast to be the best. They just love Jesus.

In God's kingdom, the people who realize their need for Jesus will be great. People who are like little children—who seem unimportant to everyone else—are very special to Jesus.

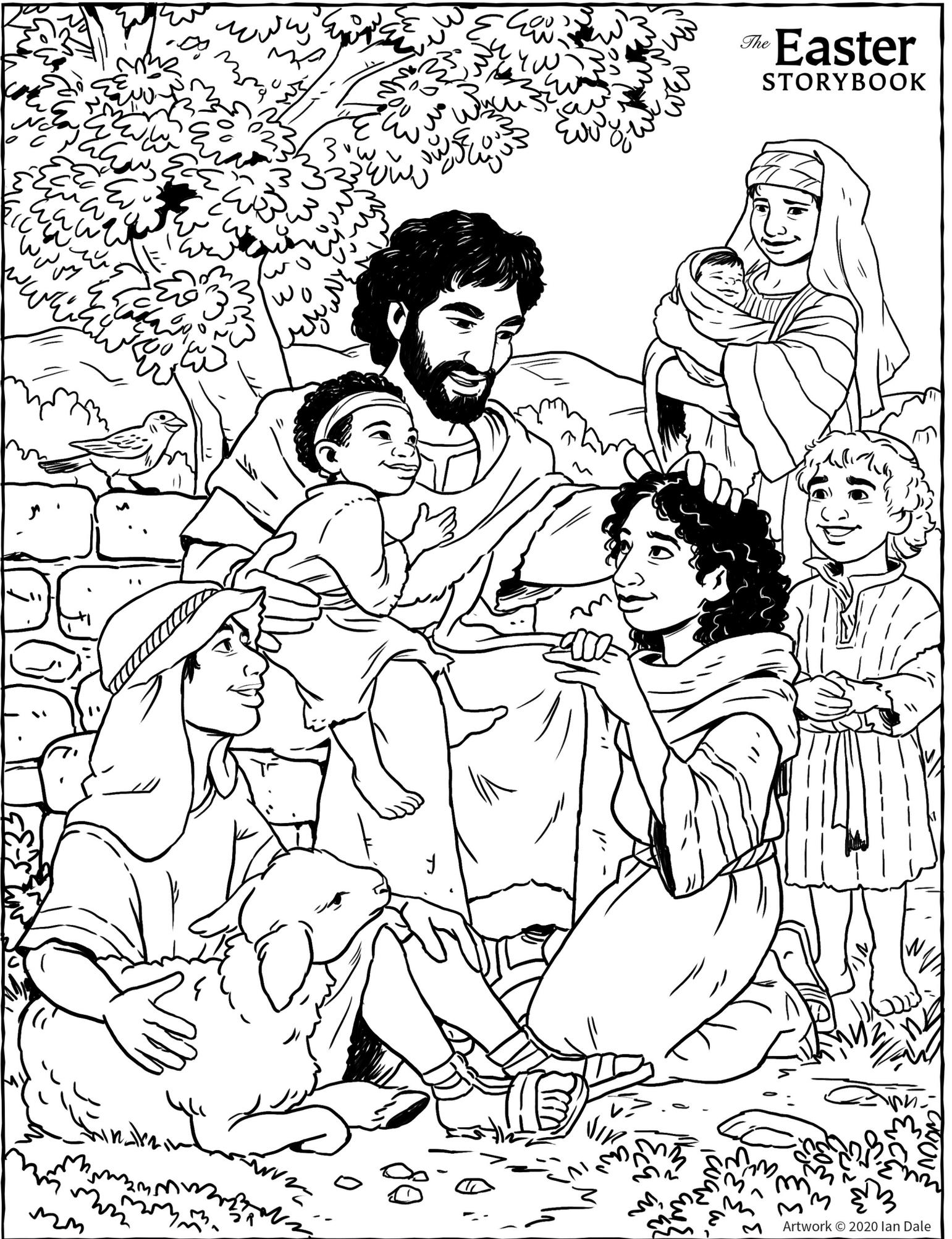
At another time, parents were bringing their children, even tiny babies, to Jesus. Jewish mothers and fathers usually brought their children to the Temple to receive blessings from the priest. But these parents wanted *Jesus* to bless their children.

The disciples held back the parents. Perhaps they thought Jesus was too busy to see the children. So many people wanted to hear Jesus and be healed by Him!

But Jesus showed the disciples again that they did not understand. "Let the little children come! Don't stop them! The kingdom of God belongs to those who have the faith of children." And Jesus took the little ones in His arms. He blessed all the children and prayed for them, and then sent them back to their happy parents.

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***Why is it good to be like a child?***

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# Jesus Gives Life

Matthew 9; Mark 5; Luke 8

*“For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.”*

JOHN 5:21

One day, an important Jewish leader named Jairus came up to Jesus and fell at His feet. The man’s heart was breaking, because his only daughter was about to die. He knew that Jesus was her only hope. He begged Jesus to come heal her. Jesus agreed and began walking with him, and a great crowd of people followed.

Suddenly, Jesus stopped and said, “Who touched me?”

Peter reminded Jesus that a *lot* of people were touching Him—the crowd was all around. But Jesus said, “Someone touched me because power has gone out from me.”

And then a trembling woman came forward. She had been bleeding for twelve years, and no one had been able to heal her. Because of her illness, she was considered “unclean” by the Jewish leaders. She couldn’t touch anyone or be touched, because she would make them “unclean” too. But when the suffering woman saw Jesus, she knew that just touching the edge of His robe would heal her. The woman believed in Jesus’ power!

And she was right. The moment she touched Jesus’ clothing, her bleeding stopped! Jesus said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace” (Luke 8:48).

Right then, someone came to Jairus and said, “Your daughter is dead” (v. 49). Oh, no! They were too late!

Jesus said, “Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well” (v. 50). When they arrived at the house, everyone was crying and mourning for her. “Don’t cry,” Jesus said, “she is just sleeping.” Everyone laughed at this. They didn’t believe Jesus.

As soon as Jesus took the twelve-year-old girl’s hand, she got up—alive again! Jesus healed her! Jairus and his wife were amazed at Jesus’ goodness and power.

Jesus gave new life to the bleeding woman and life to the dead little girl. Jesus came to give all of us new life too!

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***How is the healing Jesus does different from what a doctor can do?***

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# Jesus Enters as King

Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey.*

ZECHARIAH 9:9

It was time. Jesus was entering Jerusalem, and He knew what was about to happen. He knew it was time to fulfill the promise that God made long ago to rescue His people. Jesus tried to tell His disciples what was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem, but they didn't understand. They still thought Jesus would start His kingdom the way other kings did, by fighting His enemies.

Jesus told His friends to go into the next village. There, they would find a mother donkey and her baby. Jesus told them to untie the donkeys and bring them to Him. If someone asked why they were taking the donkeys, Jesus' friends should say, "The Lord needs them" (Matthew 21:3).

So Jesus' friends went and did exactly what He said to do. They brought the donkeys to Jesus and put their cloaks on them. Then Jesus sat on the young donkey and rode into Jerusalem. He didn't ride on a strong horse like a warrior king. No, not Jesus. Instead, He rode on a small donkey like the true, humble King promised long ago by the prophets.

People saw Jesus coming into Jerusalem and remembered all the good things He had done. They remembered the words of the prophets. They knew that He was the Messiah, the King sent by God to rescue them. They spread their cloaks on the road and put tree branches down to honor Jesus. They shouted out praises, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38).

These people believed. But the Pharisees were angry and told Jesus to make the people stop. Jesus said to them, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out" (v. 40).

***How do you praise and honor Jesus as King?***

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# Jesus Is Alive!

Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20

*“After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”*

HOSEA 6:2–3

Early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, a friend of Jesus, went with some other women to Jesus’ tomb. They wanted to honor Jesus by putting more spices and ointments on His body. As they walked, they wondered how they would move the heavy stone in front of the tomb.

But when they arrived, the stone had already been rolled away! They went into the tomb, but Jesus’ body was gone. Suddenly two men as white as lightning appeared, and the women were terrified. The angels said, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen” (Luke 24:5–6).

The women rushed back to tell the other disciples, but the men didn’t believe them. Peter and John ran to see for themselves. It was true! Jesus’ body really was gone!

They left, but Mary Magdalene stood crying outside the empty tomb. A man came and asked her why she was crying. Mary thought He was the gardener at first. But then He said her name.

Mary turned quickly. She knew that voice!

“Rabboni!” she exclaimed. Her Teacher and Rescuer was alive!

Mary went and told everyone that Jesus really was alive and was making all things new! That evening, Jesus’ friends were together in a locked room when Jesus came and stood among them.

“Peace be with you,” Jesus said (John 20:21). Then He breathed on them so they could receive God’s Spirit. Long ago, God had breathed life into Adam, and he had walked with God. Now, Jesus breathed life into His disciples, and they would walk with God and help others do the same. Jesus had brought His friends close to God again! Because of His death, people could come close to God and each other, knowing God as their good Father.

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***How did Jesus bring people close to God and to each other again?***





# I Am with You Always

Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; Acts 1

*“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.... I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you.”*

JOHN 17:18, 20–21

It was time for Jesus, the Promised Son, to return to His Father. He had done just what He came to do. He had died as a sacrifice—in our place—to bring people close to God and to each other again. Then He had come back to life, showing that He was stronger than anything, even death! One day, He would end evil and death forever. He would wipe away our tears and make all things new.

Jesus was leaving. But His work wasn’t finished yet!

Jesus told His friends to stay in Jerusalem until God’s Spirit came to be with them. Jesus wasn’t leaving His friends alone. Because of Jesus, God Himself would live among His people again! Soon, they would walk with God and know Him. God’s Spirit would remind them of everything Jesus had taught, and He would help them love!

Jesus told them, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Jesus was sending His friends out to do the same good things He had done! They would make things new not only for their own people in Judea, but also for their enemies in Samaria. And they wouldn’t stop there! Jesus was sending them out to *the end of the earth*, because He wanted to rescue all people everywhere!

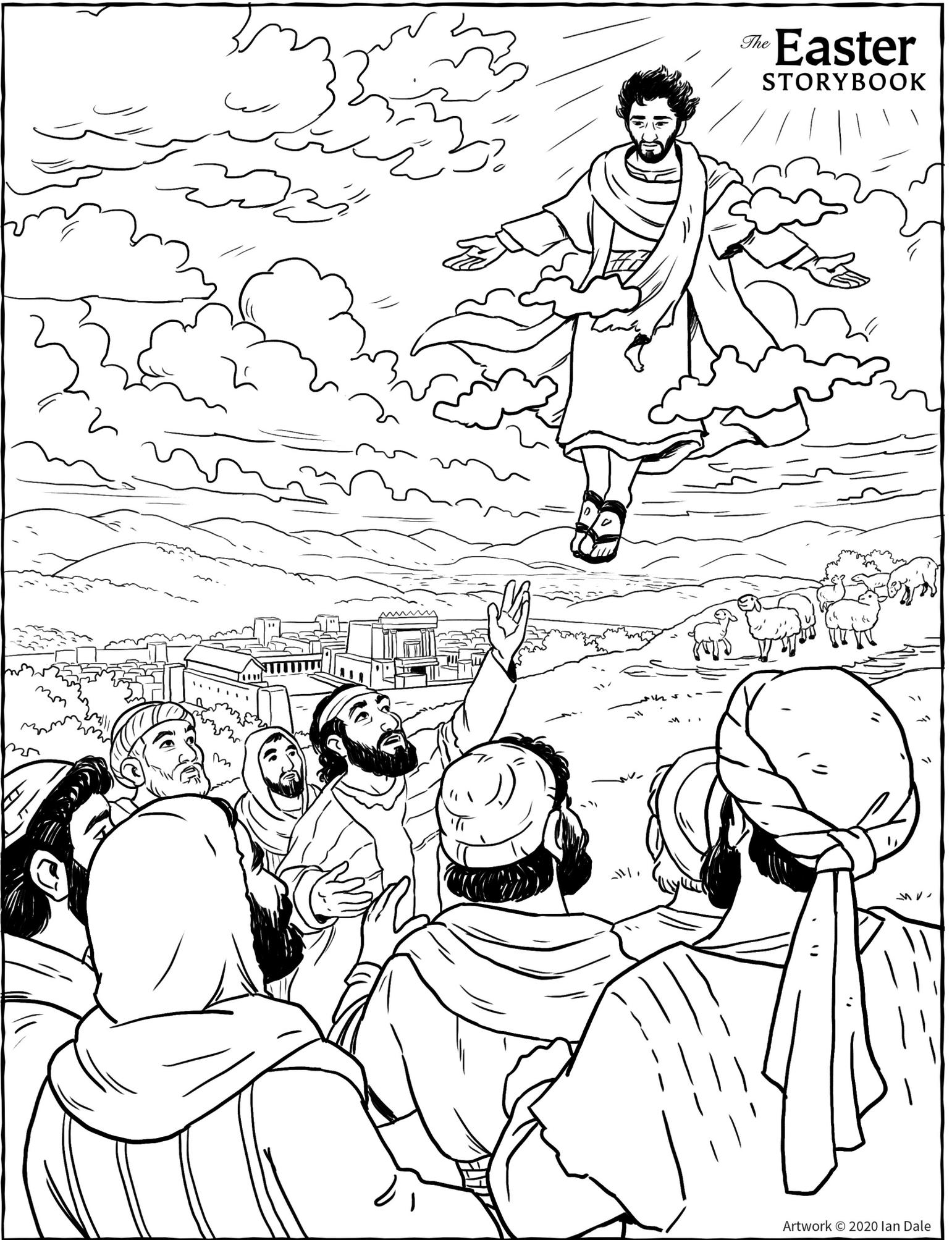
Jesus promised they wouldn’t do this good work alone. “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). God’s Spirit would come to help!

After Jesus said these things, He was carried up into the sky in a cloud. Then two angels came and told Jesus’ friends that one day Jesus would return.

Until then, they knew what to do!

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***What would God’s Spirit help Jesus’ friends do all over the world? What can God’s Spirit help you do?***

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