

A RETURNING TRUTH

Christ Returns
Revelation 21:1–22:5

Early Childhood
Lesson 14

Storytelling Directions

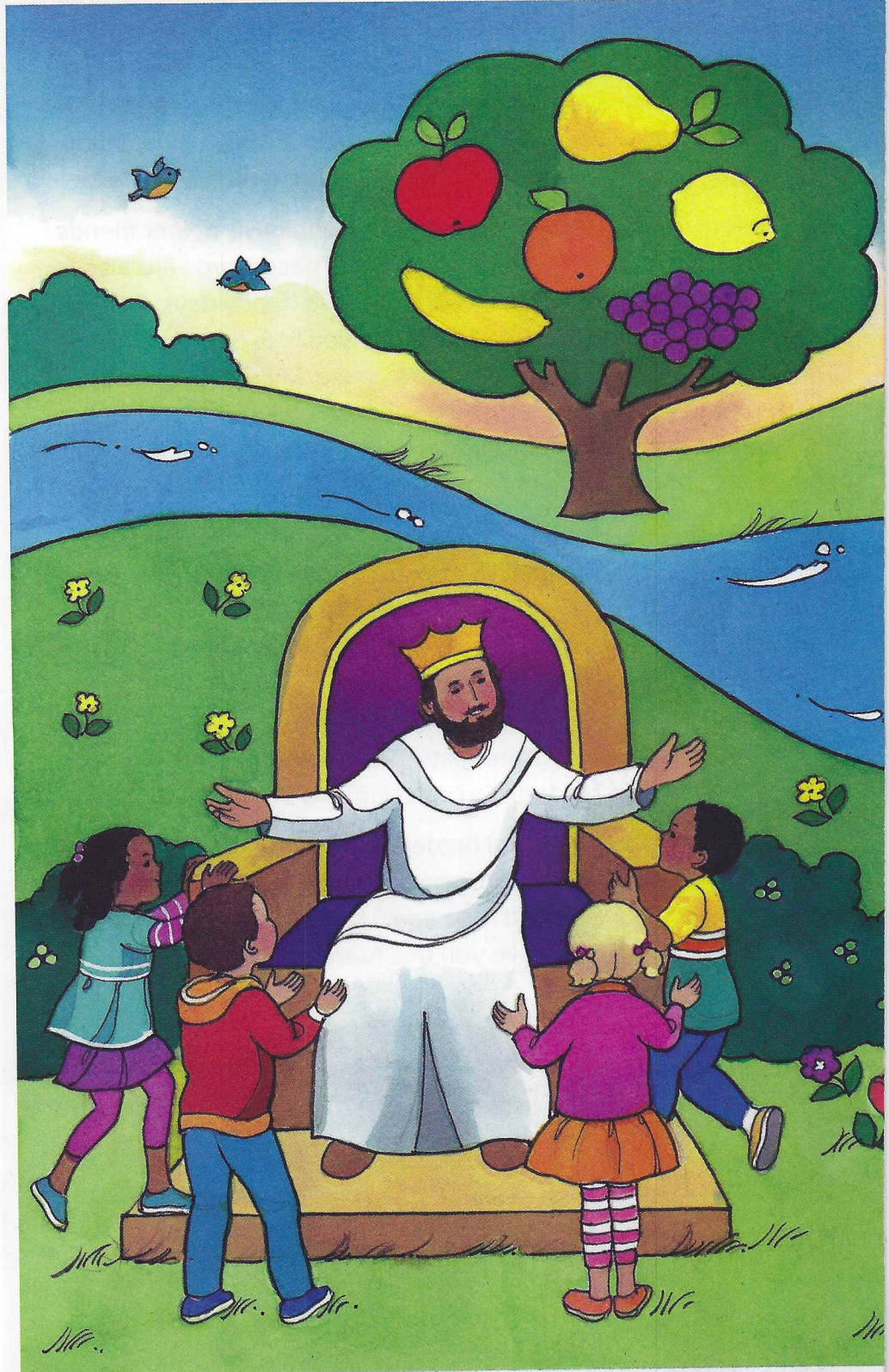
After you tell the story, ask child(ren) to draw a picture of the forever home Jesus is getting ready for those who believe in Him. Build on child(ren)'s happiness and security now, so that through it child(ren) will begin to understand Jesus' promise of an eternal home and find comfort in knowing we will live with Him forever.

One of Jesus' helpers was named John. God loved John. God wanted John and those who believed in Jesus to know that even though they had troubles in this life, He was with them. He was making a forever home for them.

So God sent an angel to John in a special way. The angel showed John what the new heaven and earth would be like.

I wonder . . . what do you think they will be like?

Let's find out. *Turn the page.*



John saw Jesus sitting on a throne. There was bright light around Him. John saw that everything bad had ended. There was a new heaven and a new earth. No one was sick. No one was sad or crying. No one died. Then John saw a beautiful city with a high wall and gates. He saw some of God's angels. He saw a flowing river and the tree of life with many kinds of fruit. People were happy and praising God. John wrote down what he saw. It is written in the last book of the Bible, called the Book of Revelation. No one knows what the new heaven and earth will look like for sure. But we know it will be a beautiful, happy place because that's what God's angel showed John.

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His helper friends about the new heaven and earth too. These words are also for us. He says, "I know you have had some happy days. But I'm getting a place ready for you where you'll be happier than ever before! That place is My Father's house. My Father's house is prettier than anything you've ever seen. It has lots of room and it's very beautiful! The streets are gold and the gates have jewels. You will love the special place I have ready for you.

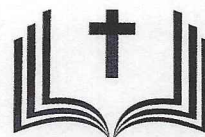
"In My house, everyone is happy all the time! No one will ever get sick. No one will get hurt or cut or bruised. No one will ever make you cry or tease you. No one will say or do anything wrong. And best of all, you'll get to see Me! We'll talk with one another. You'll get to see the angels and God's friends that you've been learning about—Paul, Philip, Stephen, David, Moses, and all the rest! You'll see the people you love who believe in Me too! You can sing and be happy together.

"I'm getting this beautiful home ready for you because I love you so much! You are special to Me. I died on the cross to pay for your sins and rose again so you can live with Me always. I promise to give you this forever home someday."



Parent Talk

Has your child experienced the death of a loved one? Reassure your child of the happy home in the new heaven and earth that Jesus gets ready for us. Notice things that are being made new around you—caterpillars becoming butterflies, seeds growing into plants and flowers, a home getting a fresh coat of paint, new babies in families. Thank God with your child for His wonderful world and the new forever home that He is getting ready for us.



Bible Verse: Revelation 7:17

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for loving me so much that You died on the cross and rose again for me. Thank You for making a beautiful place where I can live with You forever. Amen.

A RETURNING TRUTH

Christ Returns
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Today I learned . . .

Heaven is a happy and wonderful place where someday I will live with Jesus.

No one knows what the new heaven and earth will look like for sure. But we know we will see Jesus and God's angels. There will be no more crying or hurts. Everyone will be happy. People will praise and thank God and do other happy things.

Let's Talk about It

- What did the angel show John?
- How will people feel in the new heaven and earth? Will there be tears or sadness there?
- Who will be with them there?



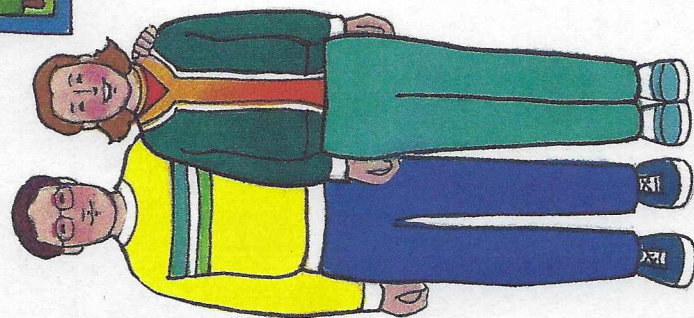
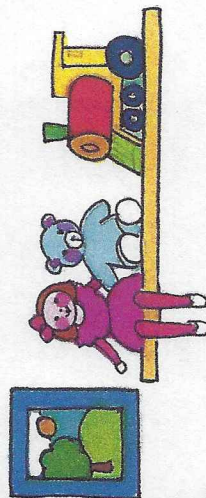
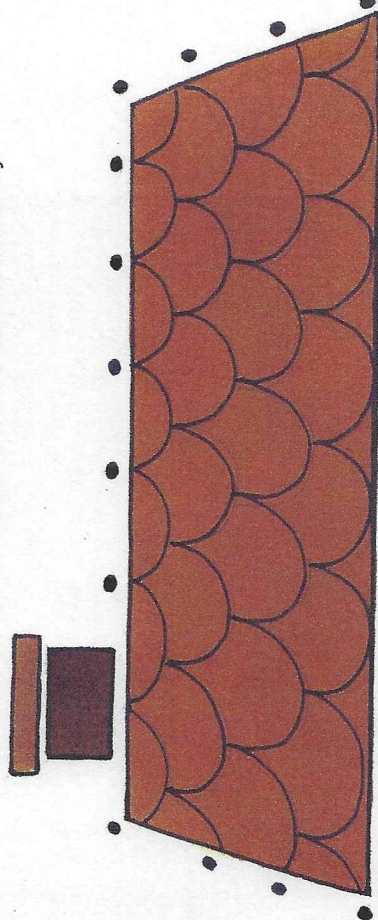
Color the river and the fruit on the tree of life.
Who will be with you in the new heaven and earth?

Jesus Gives Us a Forever Home

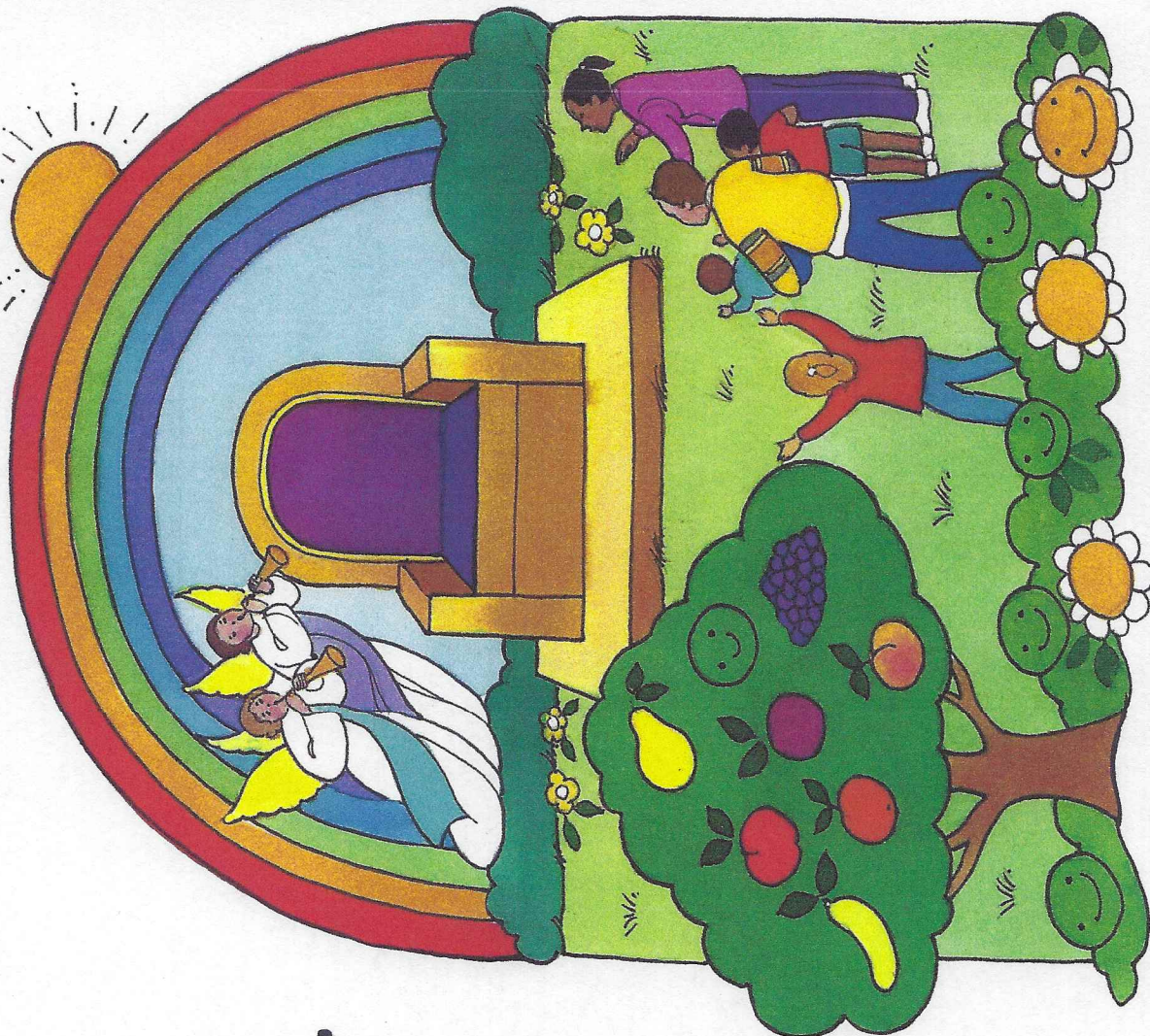
Connect the dots. What did you make?

Draw yourself inside.

Jesus gives you a home and family.

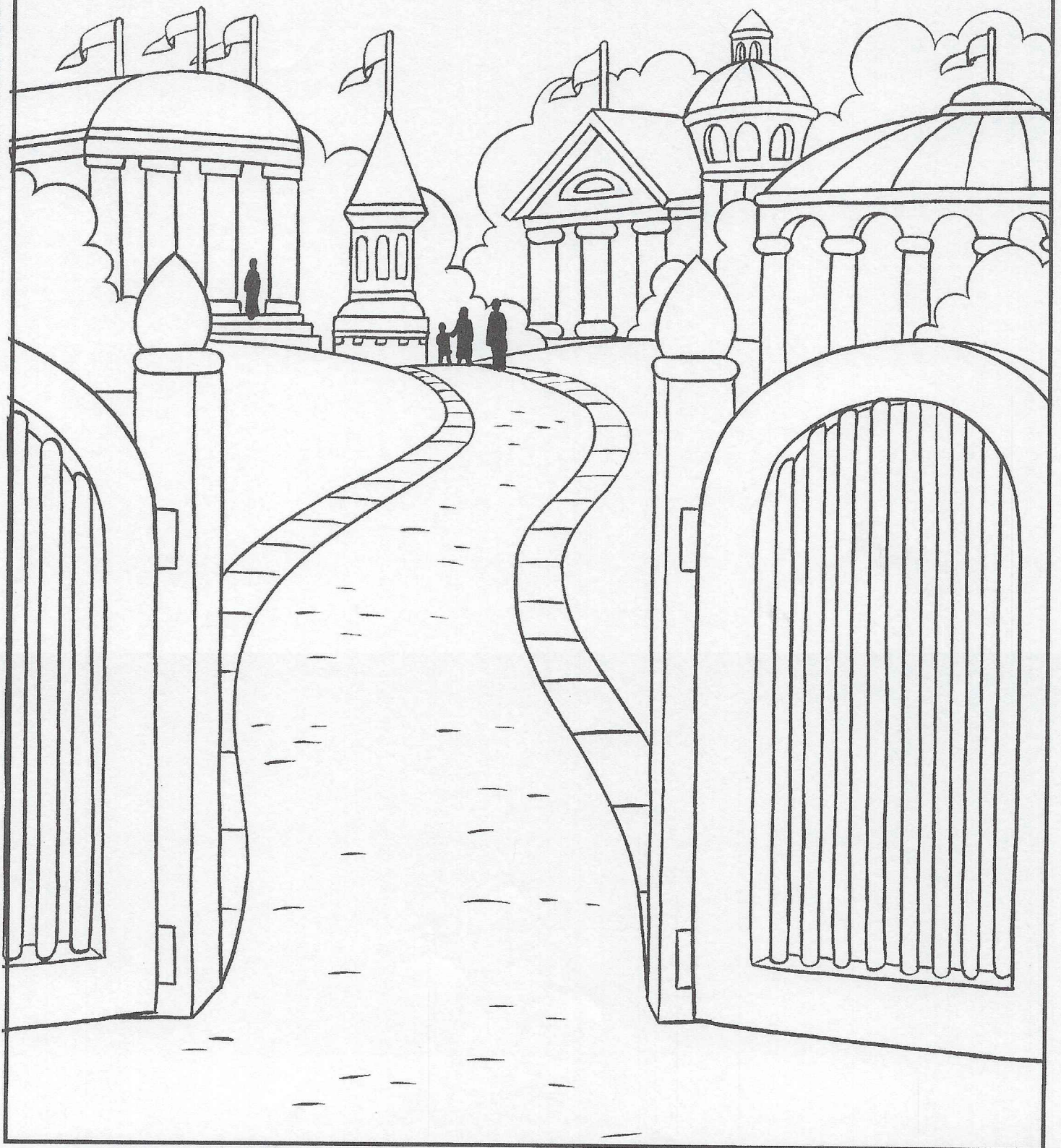


Jesus promises to give you a forever home too.
Add stickers to show who will be there. Look for the happy faces.
What happy things will you do there?



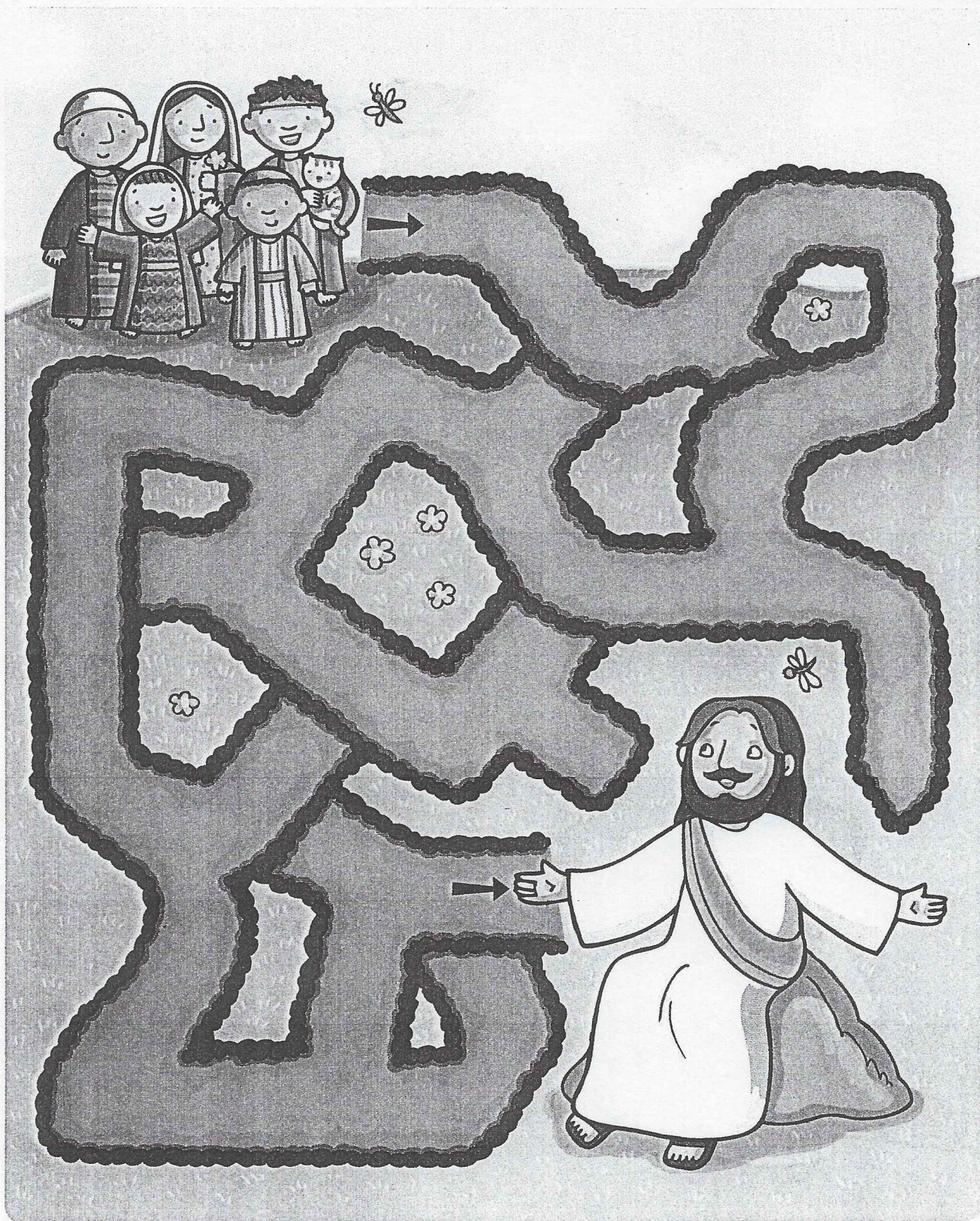
A New Heaven and Earth

John saw a new heaven and a new earth.
Color the new heaven and new earth.



Help the Children Get to Jesus

Follow the path to help the children get to
Jesus as they did in Luke 18:16.

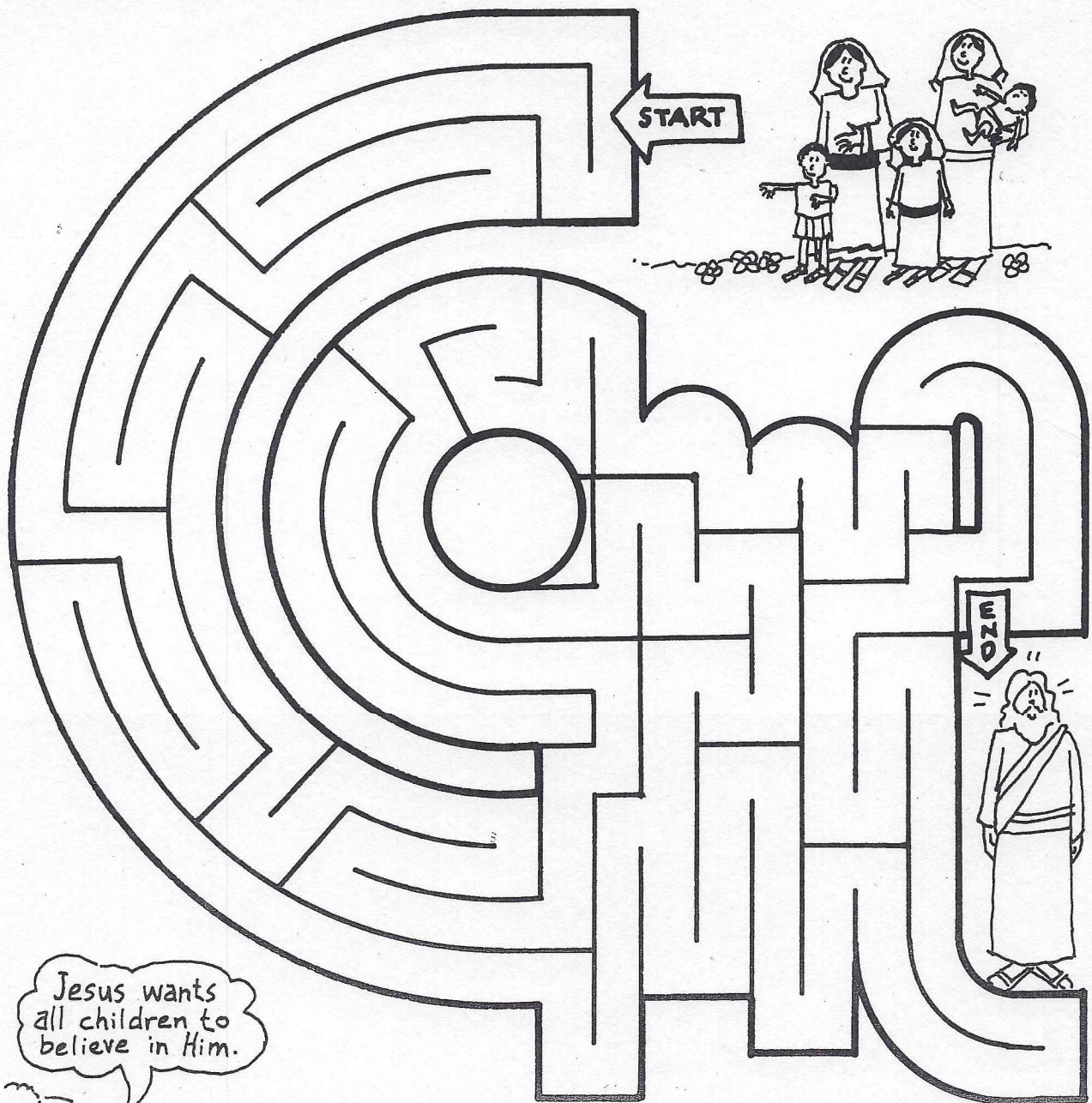


You are an important part of God's kingdom!

Jesus Blesses the Children

"Go away!" the disciples said to some children and their mothers who had come to see Jesus. "No," Jesus said. "Let the children come to Me." Then Jesus picked the children up and blessed them.

Help the children and their mothers get to Jesus.






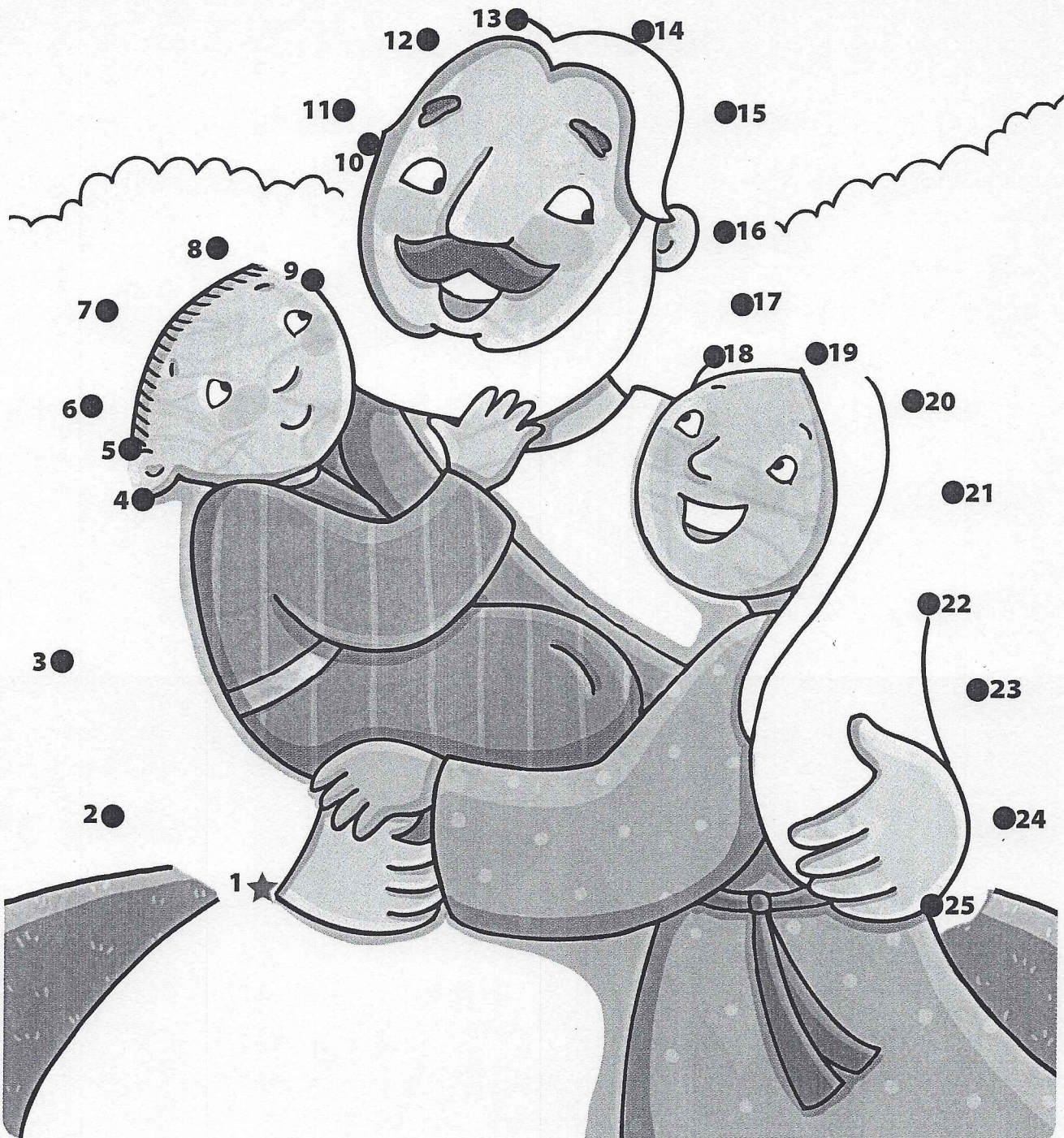
I want to live with him forever!

"I will live in the house of the Lord forever." *Psalm 23:6*

Let Them Come

Who did Jesus call to him in Luke 18:16 because the kingdom of God belongs to them?

Connect the dots • 1–25. Color  the picture.



Jesus loves all the children of the world!