

Welcome to The Spark Story Bible!

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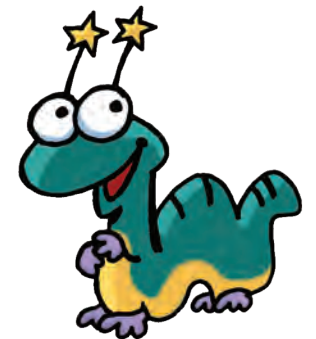
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Imagine what it was like when the world was being created. Count the stars in the sky with Abram and Sarai as they learn about God's astonishing promise. Be amazed with the shepherds and angels when Jesus is born. Wonder about what it was like to look into the empty tomb with the women on Easter morning.

Exploring *The Spark Story Bible* is the perfect way for children and adults to get to know the Bible together from beginning to end. Experience something new each time you read a story, either through the words of the story, the creative art, or the suggested activities and discussion questions.

Be sure to watch for Squiggles, the expressive caterpillar whose response to each story will help spark children's engagement with the story.

Grow in faith together as you explore and talk about God's Word.





Stories from the Old Testament

Creation	6
Adam and Eve	12
The First Sin	18
Noah's Ark	24
Abram's Call	30
God's Promises to Abram	34
Abraham and Sarah's Visitors	38
Rebekah and Isaac	42
Isaac's Blessing	46
Joseph and His Brothers	50
Pharaoh's Dreams	56
Joseph Helps His Family	62
Baby Moses	68
The Burning Bush	74
Free from Slavery	78
The Plagues	80
The Red Sea	86
Manna, Quail, and Water	92
The Ten Commandments	96
The Battle of Jericho	102
Deborah	107
Naomi and Ruth	110
Ruth and Boaz	114
Hannah Prays for a Child	118



God Calls Samuel	122
David Is Chosen	126
David and Goliath	130
Solomon Builds the Temple	136
Elijah and the Widow	140
Elisha Feeds 100	144
Naaman Is Healed	148
Queen Esther	153
The Lord Is My Shepherd	158
A Child Called Immanuel	162
God's Peaceful World	166
Fiery Furnace	170
Daniel and the Lions	174
Jonah and the Big Fish	180
A Ruler from Bethlehem	184



Stories from the New Testament

Angels Visit	186
Mary Visits Elizabeth	192
Jesus Is Born	198
Wise Men	204
Simeon and Anna	210
The Boy at the Temple	214
John the Baptist	218
Jesus' Baptism	224
Jesus Goes to Nazareth	228

Jesus Heals	230
The Disciples	232
The Beatitudes	238
Love Your Enemies	242
Do Not Worry	244
The Lord's Prayer	246
House on the Rock	250
A Storm	254
The Centurion's Servant	258
The Sower	260
Walking on Water	262
The Vineyard Workers	266
The Greatest Commandment	268
Jesus Blesses the Children	272
A Rich Man's Questions	278
Bartimaeus Sees	280
The Widow's Offering	284
Four Friends	288
Banquet with Simon	294
The Transfiguration	298
The Good Samaritan	300
Mary and Martha	306
The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin	312
The Prodigal Son	316
Ten Men Healed	322
Zacchaeus	326



Wedding at Cana	332
Woman at the Well	338
Jesus Feeds 5,000	344
The Good Shepherd	350
Lazarus	354
Palm Sunday	358
The Last Supper	364
Jesus Is Betrayed	370
The Day Jesus Died	376
The Empty Tomb	382
The Road to Emmaus	388
Doubting Thomas	393
The Great Commission	396
The Ascension	398
The Holy Spirit	400
Early Believers	402
Peter Heals	404
Saul to Paul	408
An Angel Frees Peter	414
Lydia	418
Paul and Silas	422
Paul's Letters	426
Many Members, One Body	428
Love Is . . .	432
Fruit of the Spirit	436
Paul and the Philippians	440



Ten Men Healed

Jesus was walking toward Jerusalem.

As he neared the village, two scared faces popped up from behind the branches of a nearby tree.

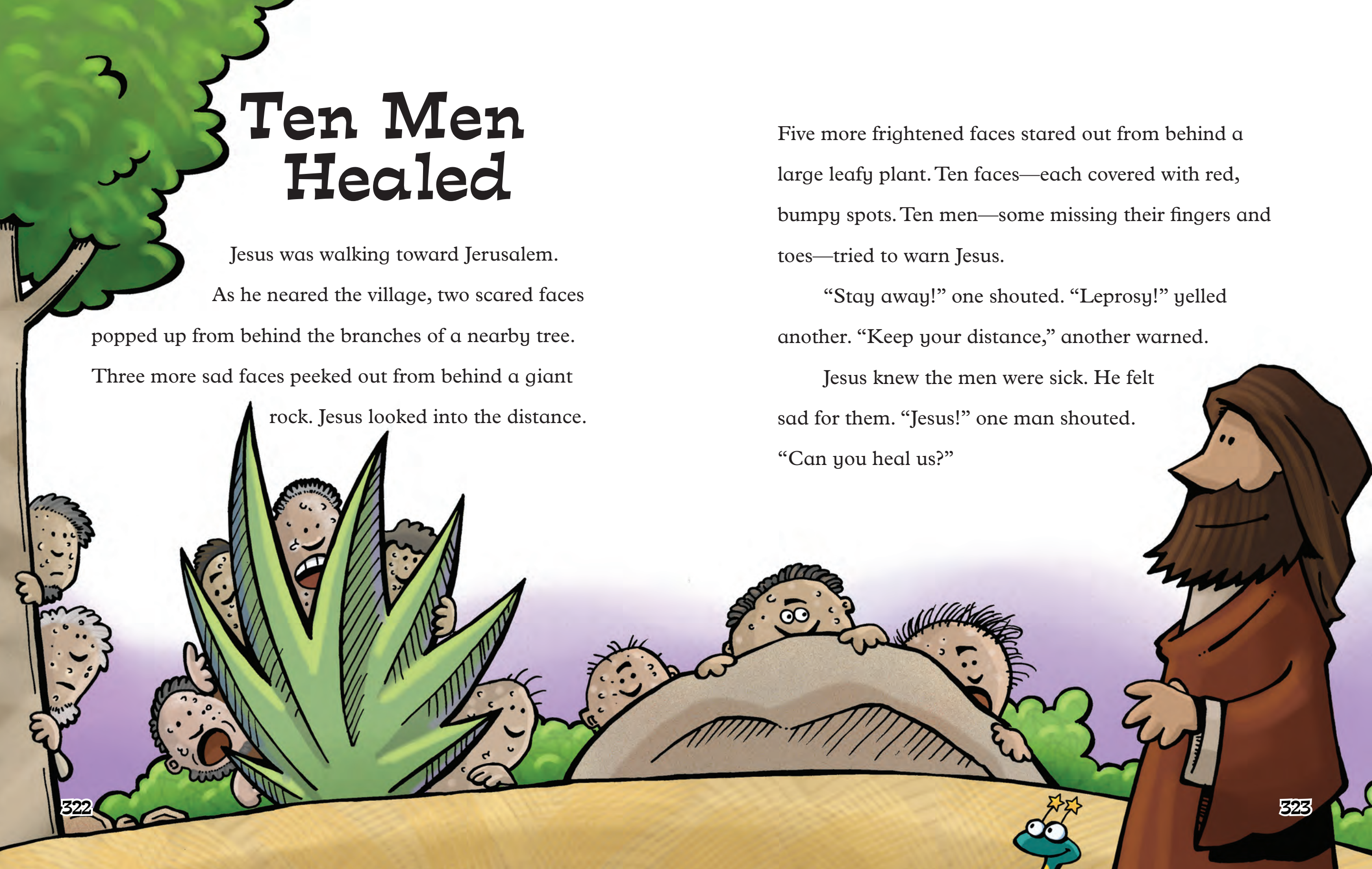
Three more sad faces peeked out from behind a giant rock. Jesus looked into the distance.

Five more frightened faces stared out from behind a large leafy plant. Ten faces—each covered with red, bumpy spots. Ten men—some missing their fingers and toes—tried to warn Jesus.

“Stay away!” one shouted. “Leprosy!” yelled another. “Keep your distance,” another warned.

Jesus knew the men were sick. He felt sad for them. “Jesus!” one man shouted.

“Can you heal us?”



“Go! Show yourselves to the priest,” Jesus said.
The men stood up and started walking into town.
Suddenly, they stopped.

“Look! Our spots are gone!” one shouted. “Look!
Look!” another exclaimed. “My fingers are growing!
And my toes are back!”

Soon all the men were jumping up and down
with joy. The men ran toward Jerusalem. They would
show themselves to the priest. They were healed!

One man turned back to look at Jesus. He threw
himself face down on the dusty road. “Thank you, Jesus!
Praise God! Thank you!” he said so loudly that the birds
flew up in all directions. Jesus laughed to see the man
so happy.

But where are the others? Weren't there ten of
you?” Jesus asked. “Where are the other nine? Don't
they want to praise God too?”

The man did not hear Jesus. He was too busy
counting his toes and fingers. Yes, ten of
each, just where they should be!
Jesus said, “Go, you are well!”
The man jumped up and scurried
after his friends. His voice filled the
morning. “Pra-a-a-ise God!” he
shouted as he ran as fast as his ten
toes could carry him.

★ One man stopped to thank Jesus.
What are you thankful for? Stop
right now and thank God for that gift.



Zacchaeus

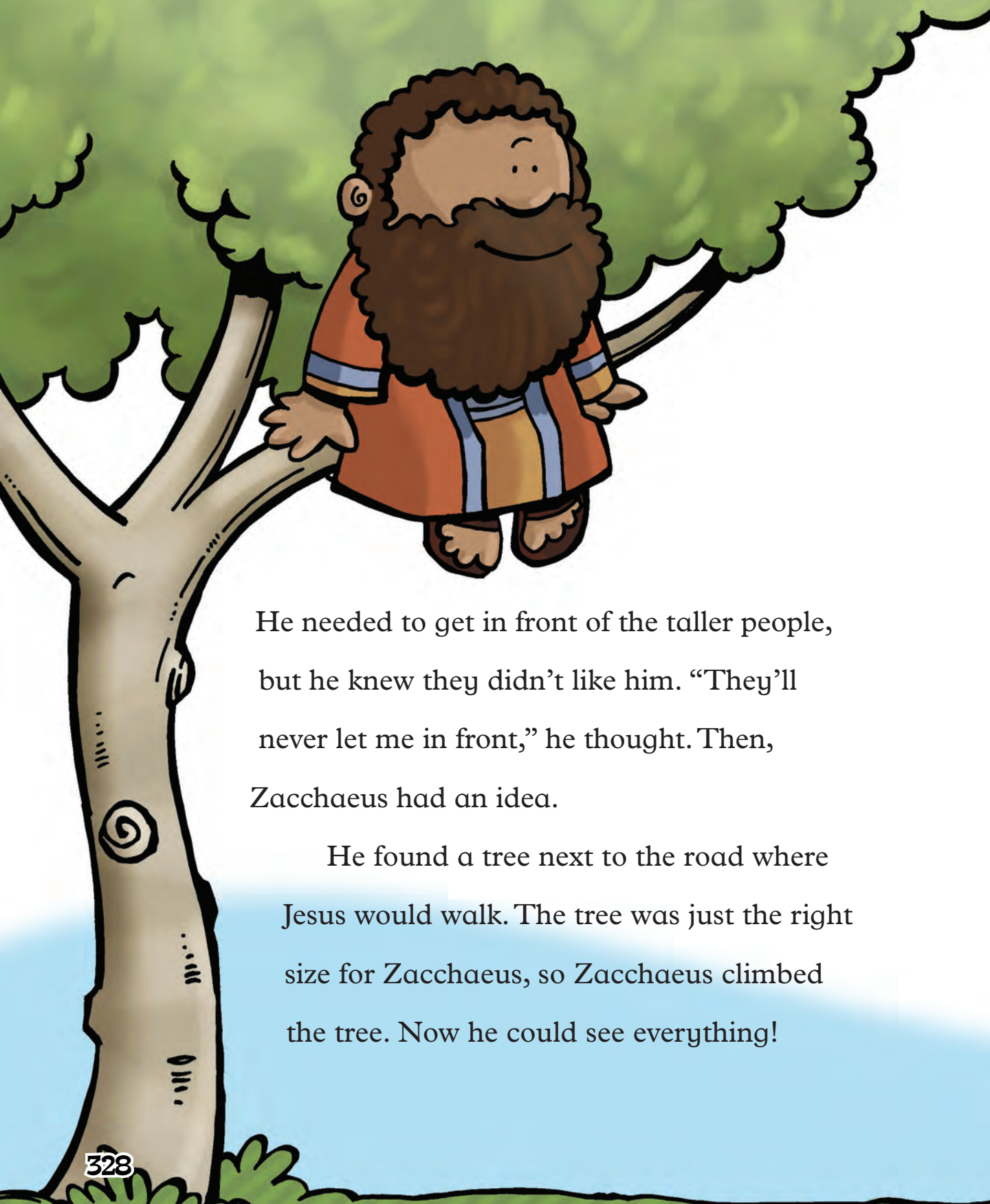
Many people lived in a town called Jericho. One of them was a rich man named Zacchaeus. He had a big house, a big yard, and lots of money! Zacchaeus was rich because of his job. He collected taxes from the people for the Roman leaders. However, Zacchaeus always took *extra* money from the people and kept it for himself! The people did not like Zacchaeus!

Zacchaeus saw a crowd of people gathering along the side of the road and heard someone say, “Jesus is coming!”

“Jesus?” thought Zacchaeus. “Who is Jesus? He must be important. I want to see him too!”

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he had a problem. Zacchaeus was short, too short to see Jesus from the back of the crowd.





He needed to get in front of the taller people, but he knew they didn't like him. "They'll never let me in front," he thought. Then, Zacchaeus had an idea.

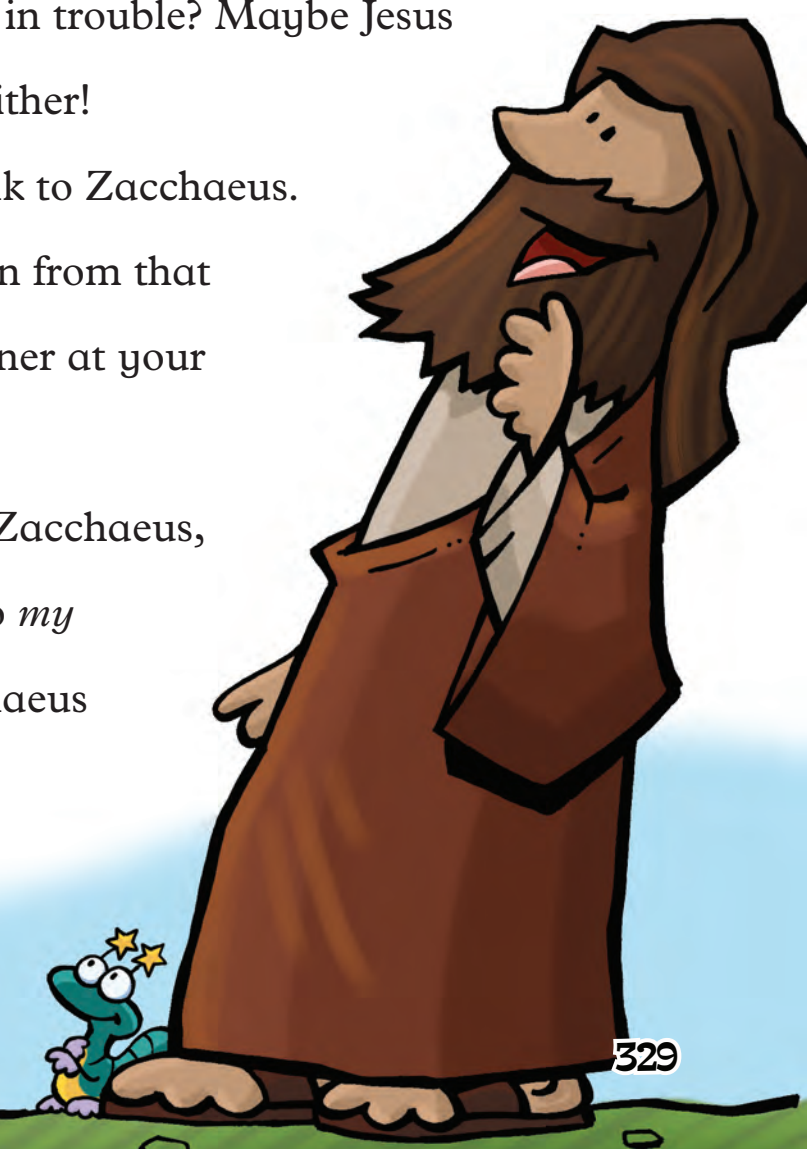
He found a tree next to the road where Jesus would walk. The tree was just the right size for Zacchaeus, so Zacchaeus climbed the tree. Now he could see everything!

He could see the road, he could see the crowd, and he could even see Jesus! Zacchaeus got excited. Step, step, step. Jesus came closer and closer until he was right under Zacchaeus's tree. Suddenly, Jesus stopped! He looked up and saw Zacchaeus sitting in the tree. Uh-oh. Was Zacchaeus in trouble? Maybe Jesus didn't like Zacchaeus either!

Jesus started to talk to Zacchaeus.

"Zacchaeus, come down from that tree. I want to have dinner at your house today!"

"What?" thought Zacchaeus, "Jesus wants to come to *my* house?" Quickly, Zacchaeus climbed down the tree.



“This way, Jesus,” said Zacchaeus. “This is the way to my house.”

The crowd grumbled. They were upset! Someone yelled, “How could Jesus go to Zacchaeus’s house?”

“Zacchaeus is a bad man!” yelled another.

But Jesus didn’t hate Zacchaeus. He went to Zacchaeus’s house. While they were eating dinner, Jesus told Zacchaeus, “God wants everyone to be part of God’s family and to care for others.”

Zacchaeus listened closely. Jesus cared for Zacchaeus! Zacchaeus could care for others! He knew just what to do.

Zacchaeus told Jesus, “I will give back all of the extra money I took from the people. I’ll even give back more than I took!”

Zacchaeus met Jesus and changed forever. He cared about others!

★ Think of someone you don’t always like. Say a prayer. Ask Jesus to help both of you be more caring.

