

# BELIEVE

## STORYBOOK



Think, Act, Be Like Jesus

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God

THINK



## The Key Question: Who is God?

*Wow! What a big question! When you close your eyes, what picture of God do you see? Who do you think God is?*

*Do you think God is a big, strong daddy who takes care of you? He is!*

*Do you think God is Jesus, who loves you more than anything in the whole world? He is!*

*Or do you think God is invisible, like the wind, whispering into your heart? He is!*

*He's a daddy (that's the Father).*

*He's Jesus (that's the Son).*

*And he's an invisible wind (that's the Holy Spirit).*

*There's no one like our great God. Let's find out more about God as we start at the very beginning ...*



## Old Testament

### God's Wonderful Creation

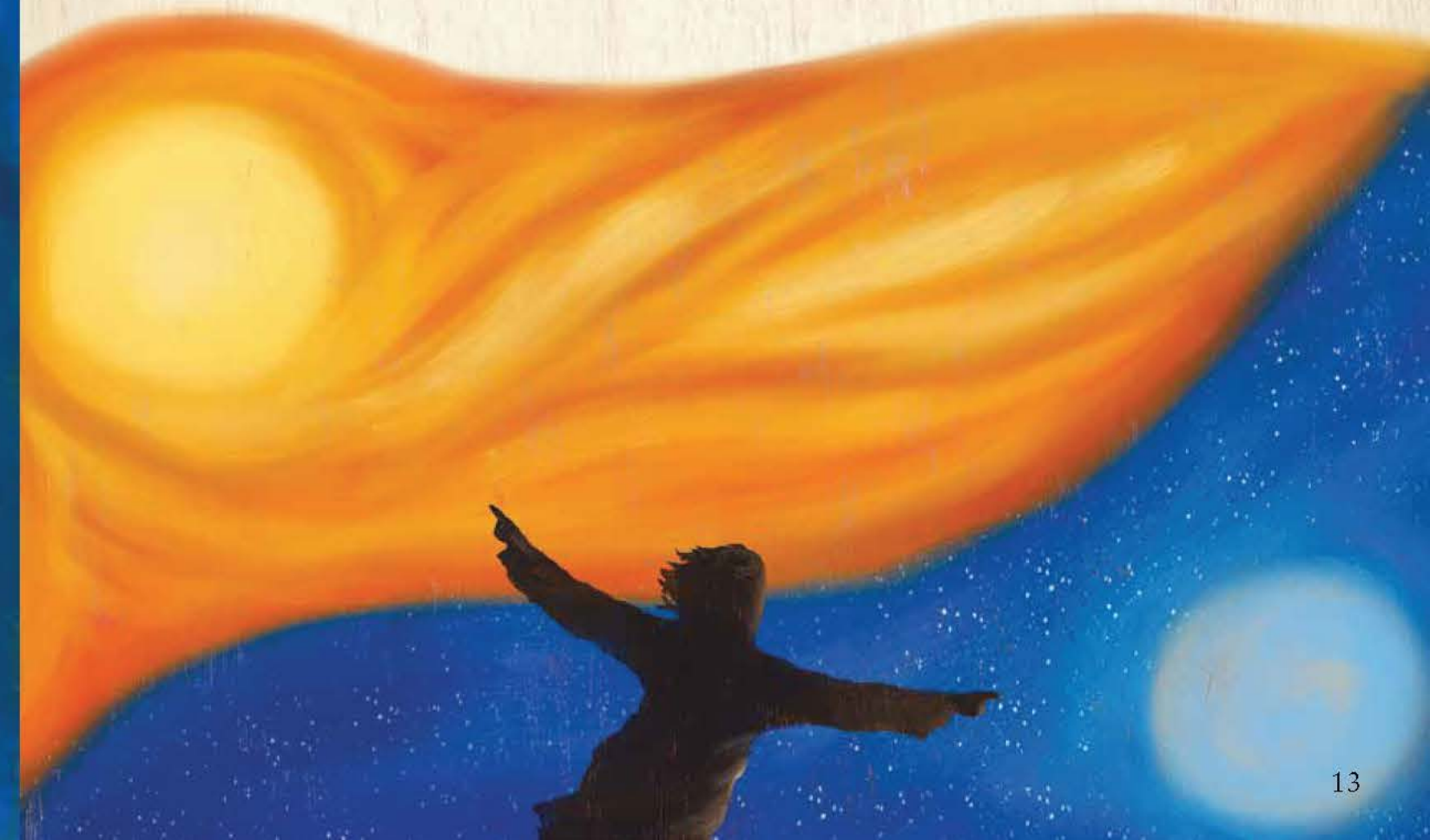
Genesis 1-2

In the very beginning of time, God decided to create the world. On the first day of creation, God separated light from darkness. "The light will be called 'day' and the darkness 'night,'" God said.

On the second day, God said, "The waters need to divide." So he separated the sky above from the world below.

On the third day, God saw the earth covered with water. "This earth needs dry land," he said. Then he rolled back the waters so dry ground appeared. God said, "Let plants and towering trees grow." And beautiful gardens grew and filled the world with color.

"We need a source of light for the day and night," God said. So he rolled up a ball of warm colors and formed a sun. God painted the night sky with sparkling stars and a bright moon. This was a beautiful fourth day.



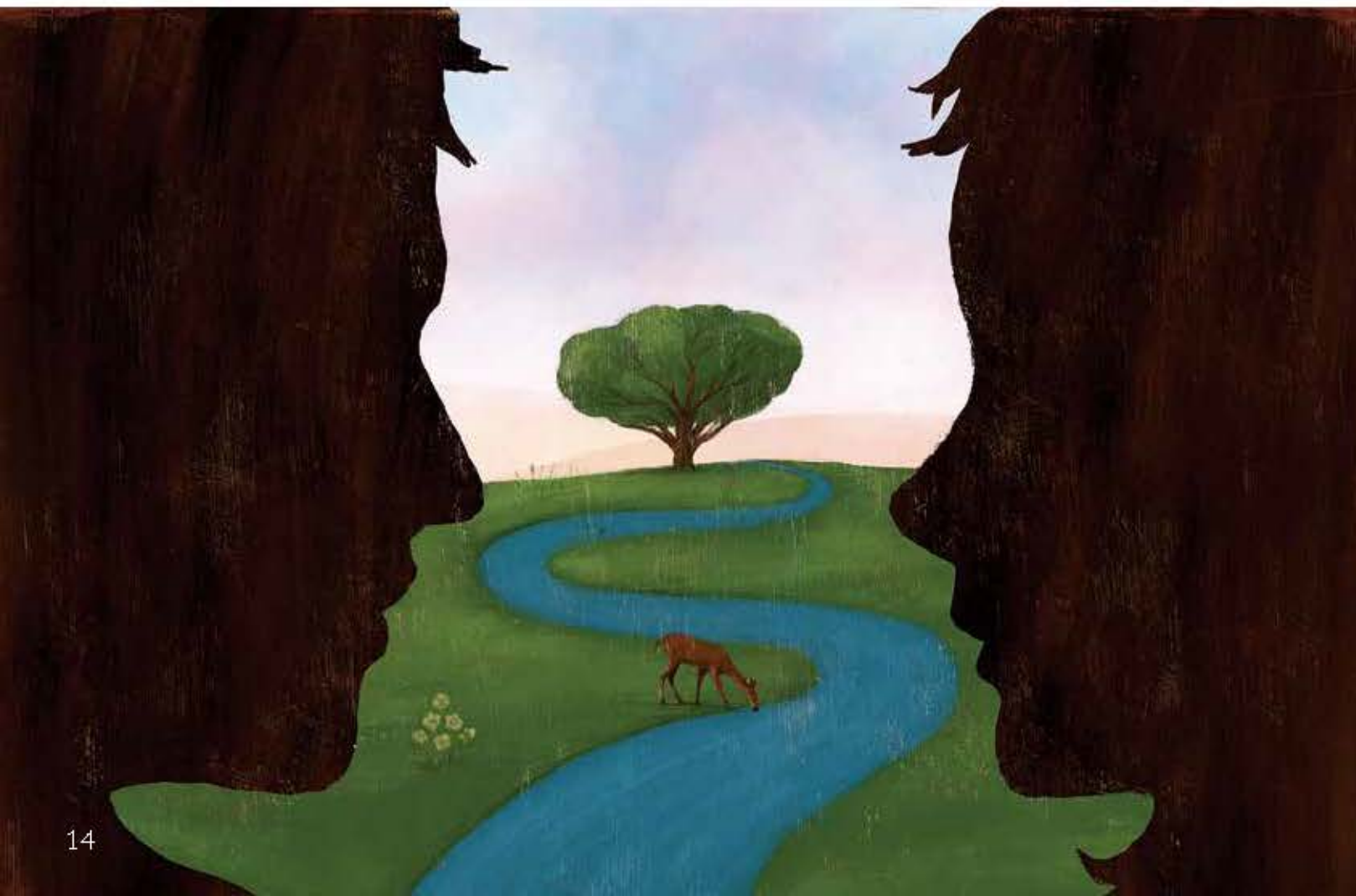


On day five, God sprinkled the seas with colorful, swimming fish. The gentle breeze sang the songs of birds in flight. God loved his creation.

On day six, God said, "Let all sorts of animals fill the earth." So he created lions, giraffes, elephants, and frogs. Bunnies hopped, kitties meowed, and dogs barked *bow-wow!*

"Something is still missing," God said. From the earth, he made a man and then a woman. "I give you all that you see," he told them. "Take care of my creation. Be good to each other. Fill your home with children and happiness." God watched the sun set on the sixth day.

When the sun rose on the seventh day, God declared, "Today is a day of rest!" And he smiled at all he had created.



## The Jump to Jesus

*Everything begins with God. He created all things—from the biggest to the smallest, from the anthill to the mountain, from the bee to the buffalo, from parents to little people, like you! Now wouldn't you think that the whole world would want to trust and obey such a wonderful God? But the Bible tells us that God's people did not do that! They forgot about God. They disobeyed him. And so God sent Jesus—his precious, only Son so that he could remind people to choose God again. And when Jesus came, he helped to answer the question about who God really is. As you read this story about when Jesus was baptized, see if you can spot the three persons of God ... the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*



## New Testament

### The Baptism of Jesus

Luke 3

Jesus had a cousin named John who lived in the desert. John wore animal skins. When he was hungry, he ate bugs and honey. God had a special job for John. God said, "You will be my messenger. Tell the people to get ready for God to come to earth."

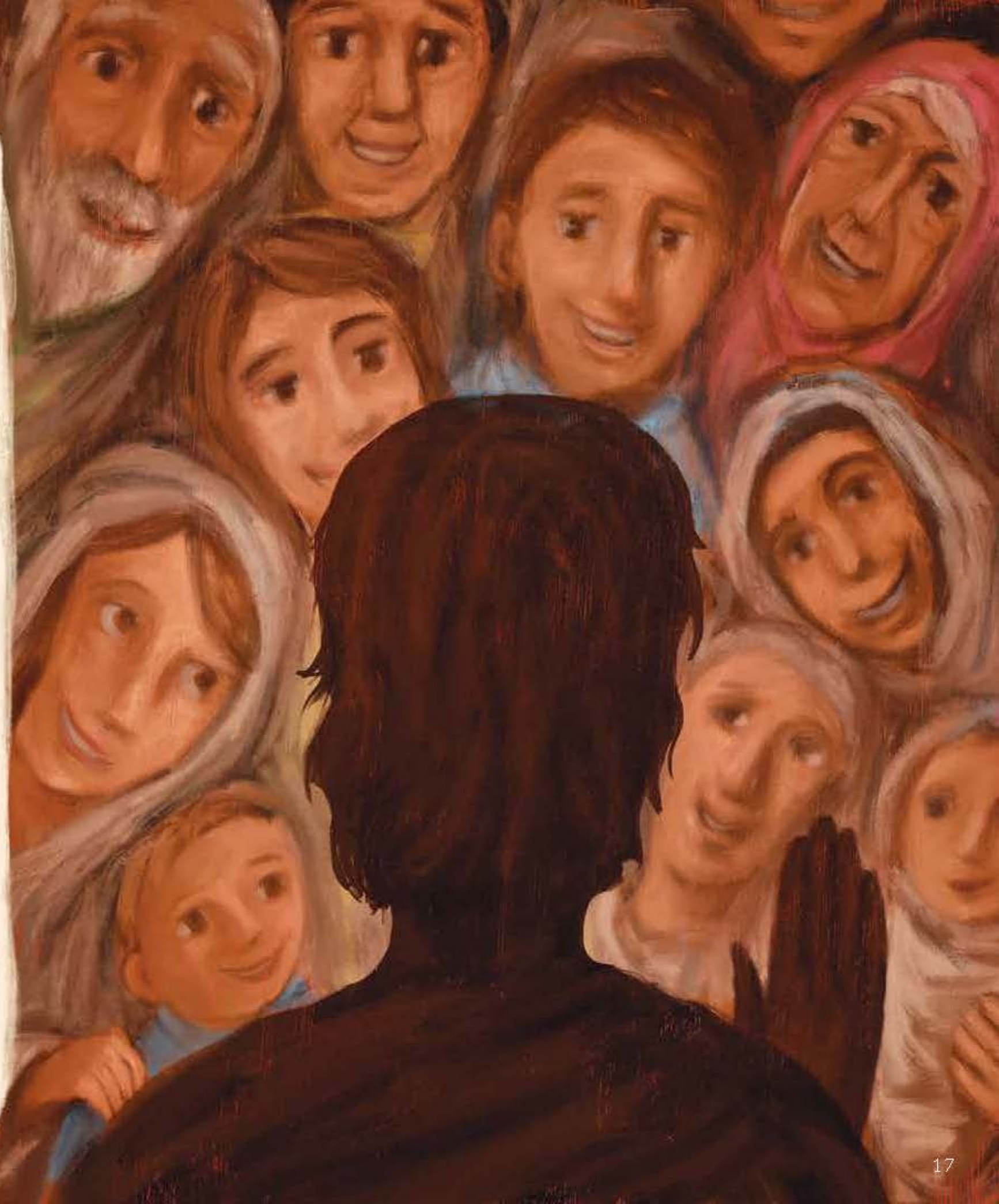
So John preached loudly to the people. He said, "You need to be sorry for your sins! Start obeying God's laws!"

Many people came from the cities and villages to hear John speak about the Messiah, the Savior who was coming. The people knew John spoke the truth. They said, "We are sorry for our sins."

Then John baptized the people in the Jordan River. He said, "I have baptized you with water. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The people celebrated being washed clean of their sins. They were now members of God's family.

One day, Jesus came to John at the Jordan River. John did not feel worthy to baptize Jesus. "I need to be baptized by *you*. Why are you coming to *me*?" John said this because Jesus had never sinned.





Jesus explained, “This is what God wants us to do.”

Like the other people, Jesus went into the water, and John baptized him. Then a great light shone from the sky. The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove. A voice from heaven said, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased.”



## THE JESUS ANSWER

*Did you spot the three different persons of God in that story? God the Father spoke from heaven, Jesus the Son was baptized, and the Holy Spirit came down like a dove.*

*Just like the three persons of God were there when Jesus was baptized, they are with us every day too. The Holy Spirit helps us see who God really is. God the Father is our creator, the one true, powerful God, who wants us to choose him above everything else. And Jesus came to show us how to do just that.*

*Do you believe in the one true God? If you believe this, you will be choosing the most wonderful life of all—because you will belong to him.*

### Believe!



KEY IDEA:

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

KEY VERSE:

*May the love that God has given us be with you.*

—2 Corinthians 13:14