

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

> The earth was formless and empty...

And darkness covered the surface of the deep...

The spirit of God hovered over the surface of the waters.

> And God said:

DUUUNN



Evening came and then morning - the First Day.

On the Fourth

Day, Sun,

Moon, and stars.

The Second Day, God separated the water from the heavens,

darkness

he called

"night".

LET

THERE BE LIGHT!

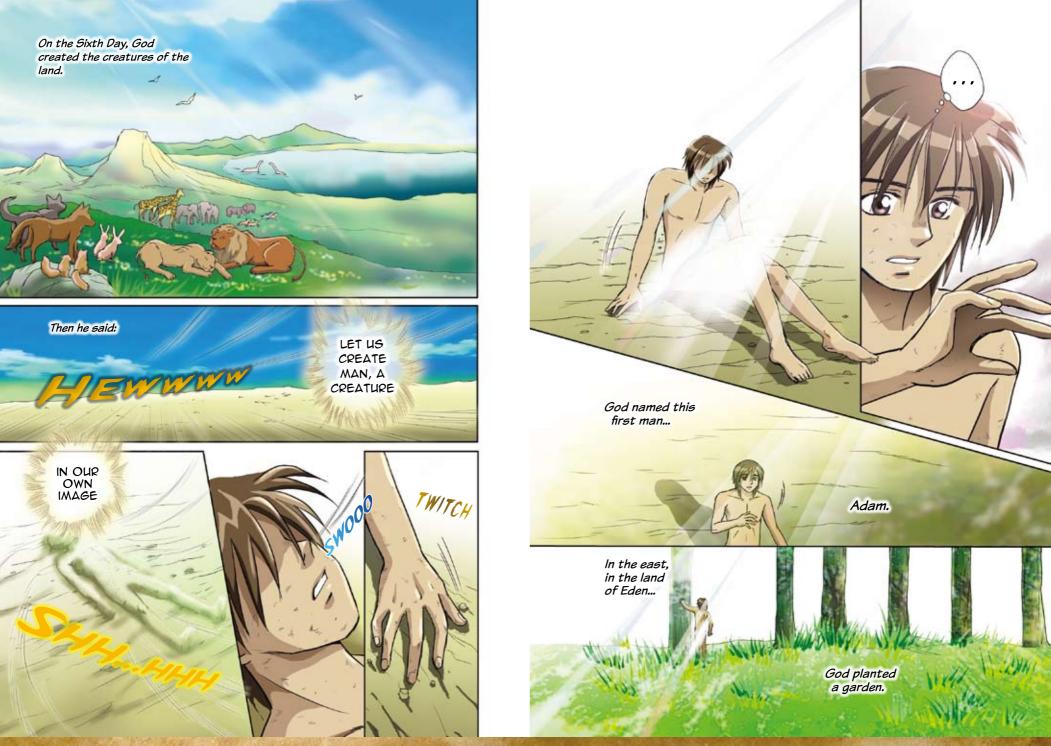
> and he called this expance "sky".

On the Third Day, he separated the water from the soil and covered them with vegetation.

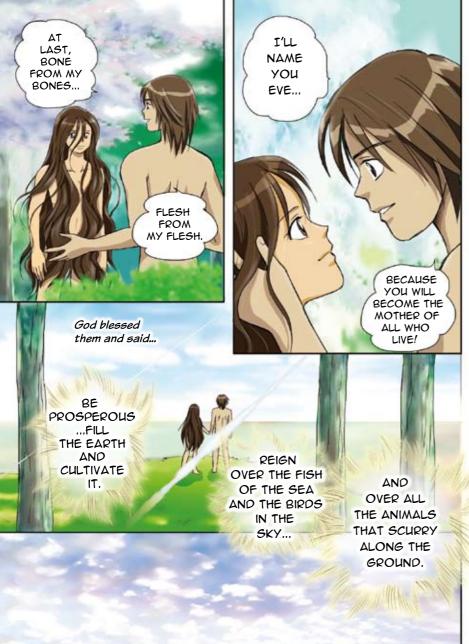
On the Fifth Day, birds and sea creatures.

-

5







YOU MUST NOT DID EAT ANY OF THE FRUIT GOD REALLY IN THE GARDEN? SAY... EXCEPT FROM GOD THE TREE IN THE MIDDLE WE CAN EAT IT... SAID WE MUST NOT OF THE GARDEN EAT IT OR EVEN TOUCH IT OR WE WILL DIE. The serpent was the shrewdest of any animals God had made.

Banished

NA HA HA HA)

God looked at everything he had made and saw that it was very good. Then, on the seventh day, he rested from all his work. IT SEEMS

LIKE

SOMEONE JUST CALLED ME.

WHAT'S

WRONG

EVE?

1EH2

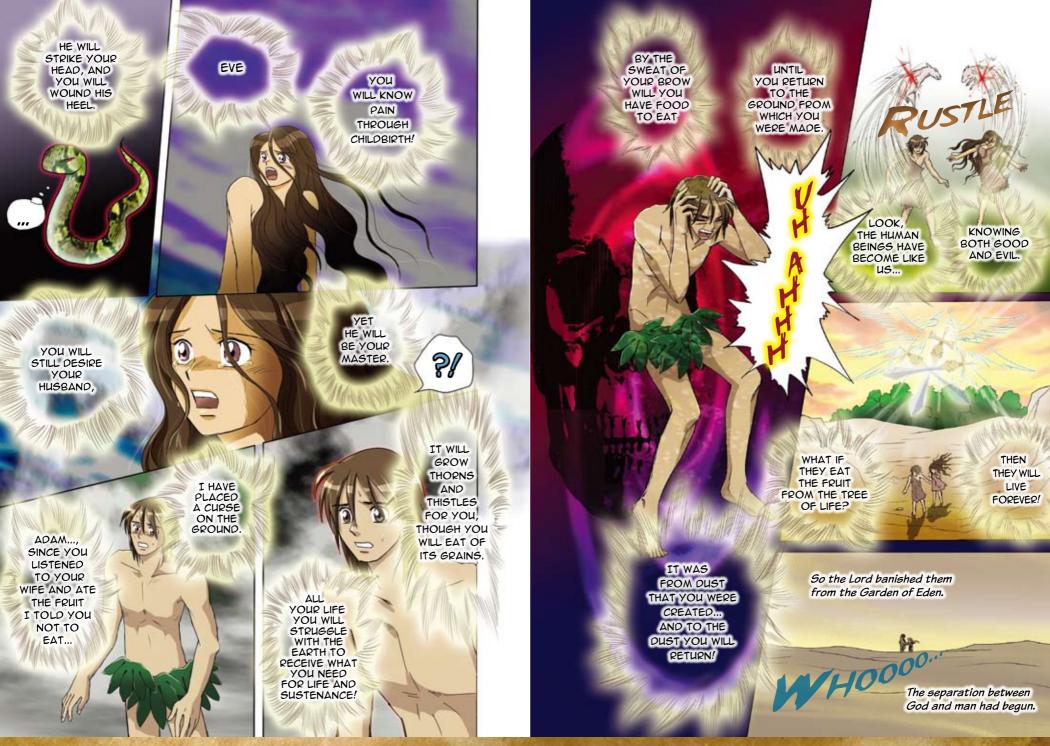












SEXUALITY



Isaiah 9:6-7

A PARTNER SUITABLE FOR UNA. THE FIRST WEDDING WAS A GARDEN WEDDING

HERE HAS NEVER BEEN a more beautiful spot on

earth than the garden God prepared before forming Adam out of dust. God then breathed his own breath into the man and gave him life. He placed Adam in the most perfect environment where all of his needs were met - all but one need, that is.

God created Adam with a need for intimacy and companionship. Even though Adam enjoyed a perfect relationship with his Creator, God still looked at Adam and called him: "alone":

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper* who is just right for him."

So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep... the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

"At last!" the man exclaimed, "this one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh!"

This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame. Genesis 2:18, 21-25

Male and female. Naked and unashamed - in the physical sense, but in every other way, too. They



reated ther

ADAM & EVE

had nothing to hide. No dark secrets from one another. No cover-ups.

When God performed that first marriage he was creating the strongest bond of all human relationships. God uniquely created the man and the woman to compliment and complete, not compete with one another. Theirs was to be a life-long commitment of a husband and wife joined by God himself.

Today, with broken families everywhere, such commitment might seem like just a fairy tale. But it can become a dream come true!



IT CALLS FOR A LOVE-TRIANGLE

"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12

When the desire of both the husband and the wife is to love God more than they love themselves, God becomes like that third cord that binds them together. God's love is unconditional and eternal. Only he can provide couples the strength to love one another and stay true even in tough times!

* These verses from Genesis were originally written in Hebrew. The Hebrew word for "helper" is ezer. The word ezer is a description of honor in the Bible that refers to the strength one receives from another, like a comrade or ally who compliments or completes.

FREE TO PURSUE GOD'S BIG DREAMS FOR YOU, OR JUST A "CULTURE ZOMBIE"?

JE'S EVER A

ULTURE — shared beliefs and values that shape behavior

OMBIE — entranced, hooked and controlled by outside forces

C ULTURE

don't just follow the crowd, they wear a mask - trying to be someone they're not in order to fit in.

Drawback: Culture zombies live with the fear that their disguise will be discovered - that they won't be able to keep up with the speed of fads and find themselves on the outside looking in.

Culture zombies aren't a new thing. People have always worried about fitting in. Listen to what Jesus (Yeshuah) had to say to fashion zombies:

"Why worry about your clothes? Look at the lilies and how they grow ... King Solomon^{*2} in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he surely care for you?"

Matthew 6:28-30 (NLT)

When our self worth depends on

keeping up and fitting in, happiness is short-lived. True worth can only be measured by seeing ourselves through God's eyes.

God's Thoughts About You: "Good!"

WITHOUT MY HAND AHONE

I know the plans I have for you," say the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you

> a future and a hope... when you pray, I will listen." Jeremiah 29:11&12 (NLT)

Like Miryam and Yosef in the story, get to know the One who made you! Make God's dream your dream! Outsmart the culture and become the one he created you to be!

"You knit me together in my mother's womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was planned out before a single day had passed.

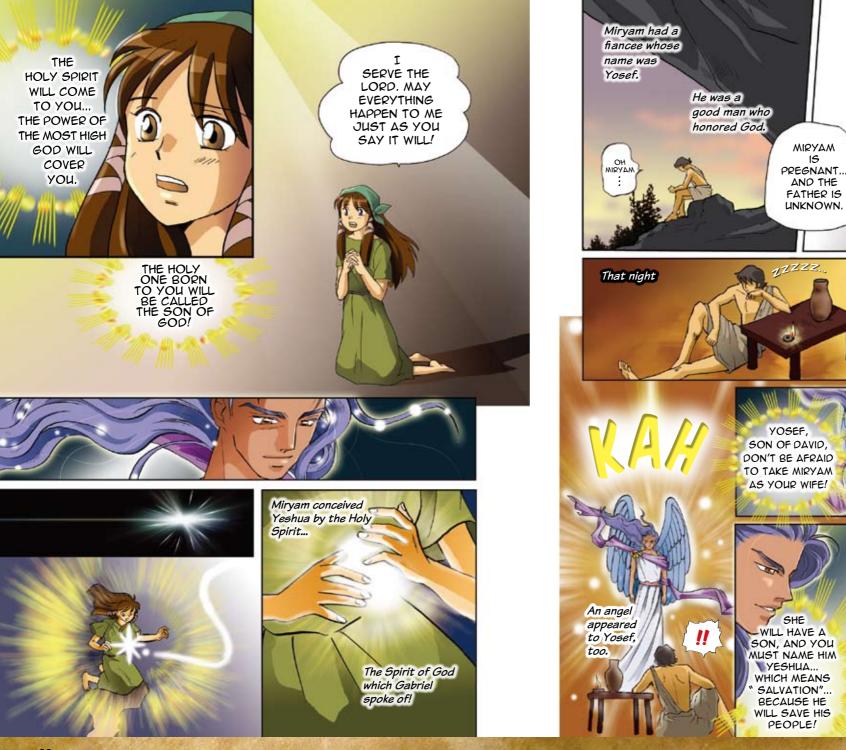
"Search" me, O God, and know my heart; lead me along the path of everlasting LIFE."

Psalm 139:13, 16, 23-24 (NLT)



GREETINGS, FAVORED WOMAN! THE LORD IS WITH YOU! WHO ARE YOU?

YOU MUST NAME HIM YESHUA!



BUT I MUST ACCEPT IT ... AND BREAK OFF THE ENGAGEMENT QUIETLY, SO I DON'T DISGRACE HER! PREGNANT ... THE CHILD INSIDE HER IS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT! IT IS THE SON OF GOD IN MIRYAM'S WOMB -" IMMANUEL" JUST AS THE PROPHECY So Yosef took Miryam SAID! as his wife.

IT... IT'S

UNBELIEVABLE!







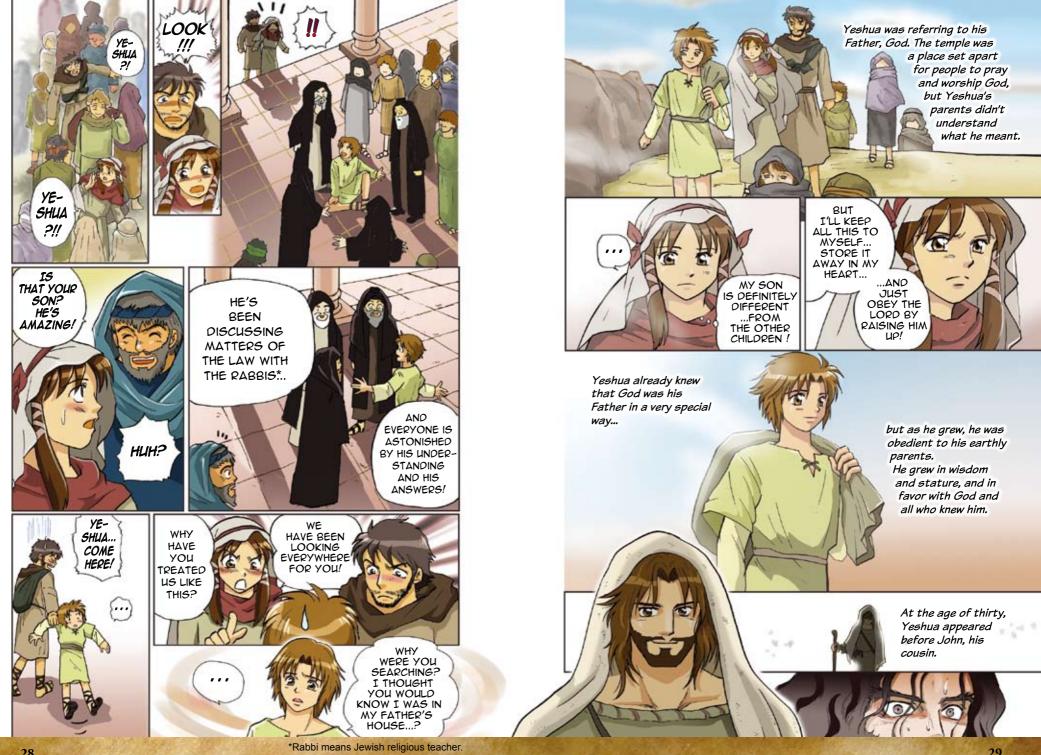
I THOUGHT

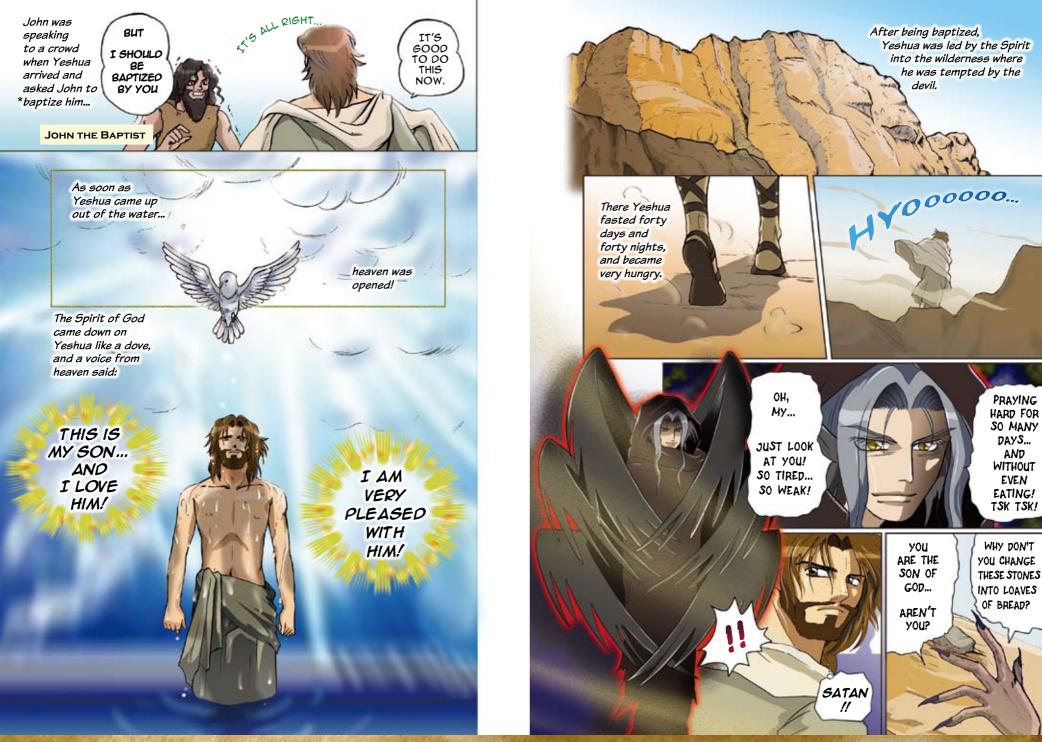
HE WAS

SOMEWHERE

WITH THE OTHER FAMILY

MEMBERS.





*Baptism is a public act showing his commitment to fully love and obey his father God.

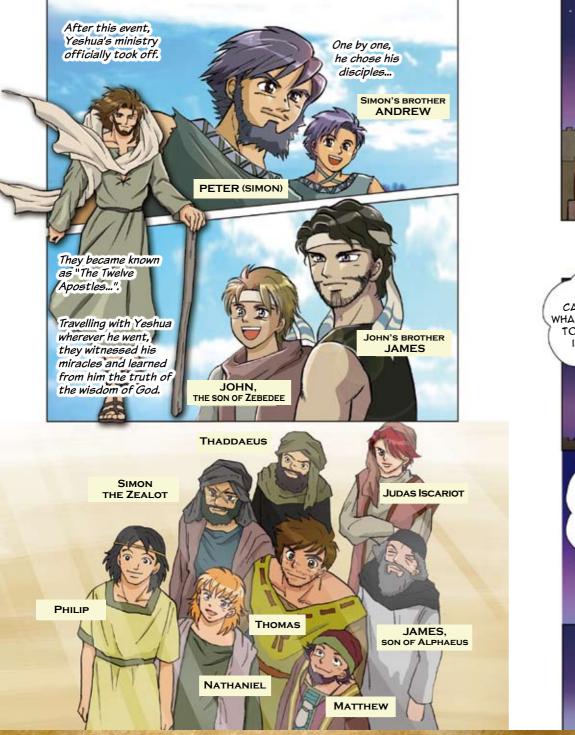
SUCCESS

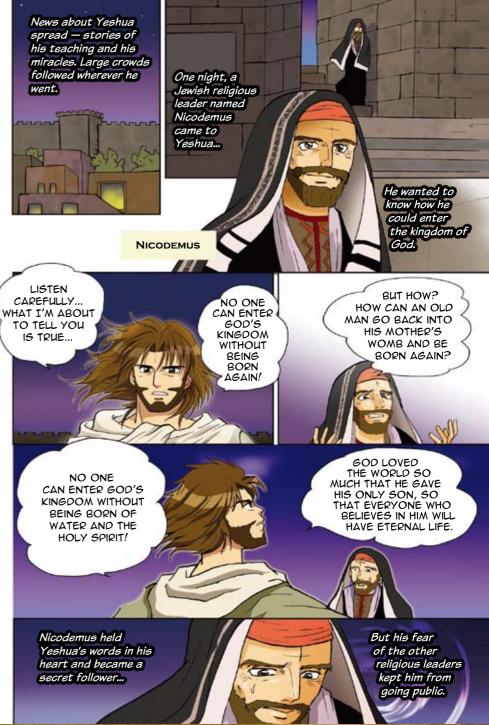


OF COURSE TO SUCCEED! HOW DO YOU MEASURE SUCCESS? Education is important; we should go for all that ET'S SAY you had MONEY we can. And there's L lots of money. Anynothing wrong thing you wanted, with a good job you could buy. For and wealth. sure, with all that But in realmoney, most ity, it's how people would we treat call you a others huge sucand cess. what we do with TAT IS SUCCESS But what our about that educaother list? tion The list and of things resourcmoney can't es that buy... Things people will like a longing to remember be loved unconlong after ditionally, like just HERE MORE T we're gone. wanting your family to get along, or to be True success can accepted just as you are. only be measured at the end of our lives by The standards for success are how we used what we had to often set by the level of education we serve society and honor the God who attain, the amount of money we have in put us here in the first place. This is the the bank, the size of our house, or how only kind of success that can never be much stuff we own. taken from us! DID YOU KNOW? GOD IS ALL ABOUT SUCCESS. INCLUDING YOURS! Jesus said that his purpose in coming to earth was to give us "life in all its fullness"! And all it takes is a simple 2-step plan! Right Priorities. Jesus (Yeshua) put it this way: "Your Heavenly Father (God) already knows all your needs, and he will give you all live you need if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern." Matthew 6:32-33 Solid Foundation. And again, from Jesus:

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the winds beat obev against the house, it won't collapse, because it is built on rock." Matthew 7:24-25

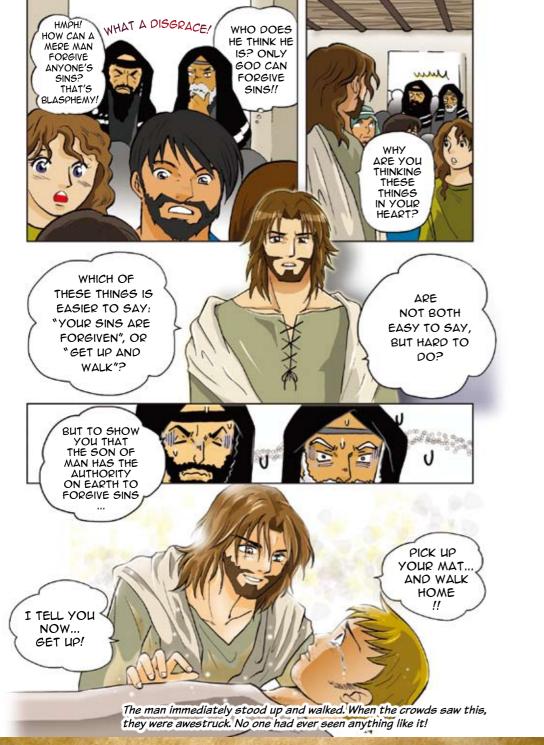
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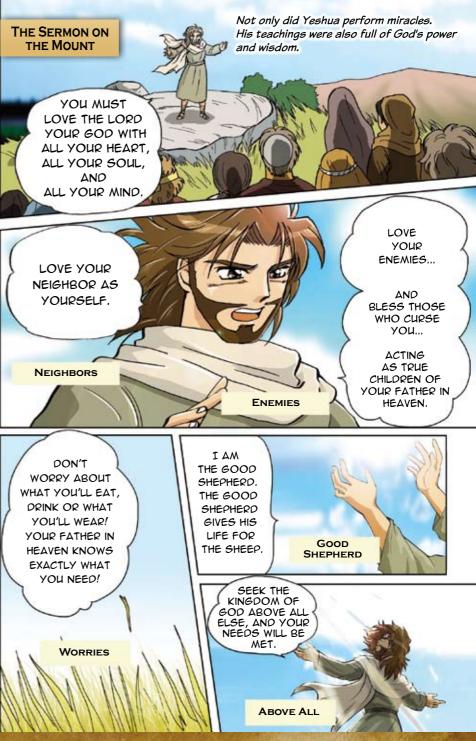












ADDICTIONS

RELATIONSHIPS

Love is an action.

not just a feeling.

Love means

commitment.

Love requires

willingness to

surrender vour own

way for the sake of

Love is not sexual in

nature.

the other person.



"A friend spent 10 hours playing a game without stopping to eat or use the toilet."-Dennis Losing your job and thinking: "At

"A cigarette is the only consumer product that when used as directed kills its consumers." Dr G.H. Brundtland, Director - General Emeritus, WHO

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus said he would do anything for his sheep, even if it cost him his life. That's some pretty extreme commitment, wouldn't you say?

But why? Because Jesus wasn't just looking out for himself. He was looking out for you! He didn't come to save his own life. He came to give real life to you - one full of freedom, fulfillment, purpose and joy! Life to the extreme!

But there are plenty of thieves out there wearing some cool disguises that have other plans for your life. Pornography. Nicotine. Alcohol. Drugs. Gambling. Jesus exposed their intentions as: steal, kill, and destroy!

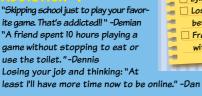
Some activities can start off rather harmless - like shopping and gaming. They're fun and provide a quick sense of gratification. But then you go for more, and then some more. Before long, it's out of control and you know it. If that describes you (or someone you know), you don't have an addiction - it has you.

Take an honest look at your life. Is there anything you are consuming that is actually consuming you? What is robbing you of relationships, your potential, your future, your present?

FIND OUT MORE ON PAGE 63

Real freedom comes through a relationship with Jesus - the only one who is able to give the fullest life possible! Why not take him up on his promise to you?

"I am the Good Shepherd. The thief's purpose is to kill, steal, and destroy the sheep. My purpose is to give them a full and satisfying life." John 10:10-11



ABCs FOR BREAKING FREE Admit it. first of all to yourself. This first step DMIT is super important and vou're the only one who can do it! Believe that Jesus has the power to help you. Remember: nothing is too hard for him! ON Nothing! 5 FIDE Confide in a friend (especially a Jesus follower) and ask them to keep you accountable for acting on your decision to

break free.

WARNING SIGNS OF ADDICTION Withdrawing from close friends and family

Lying or other cover ups

before, like sports or music

with problems or other life issues

Easily irritated when you can't get what you crave

Loss of interest in activities you always enjoyed

Frequent use of an activity to escape dealing



You may be becoming an expert in "it's-all-aboutme-love," which is not really love at all. True love is otherfocused and unconditional. It never gives to get. On our own, this kind of love isn't even possible! It calls for a power source outside of ourselves. Want to know True Love? It starts with a relationship with Jesus, the source and full expression of love. Learn more at the end of the book.

Focus on love as an action – a choice of your will. Love is more than a feeling; it is not easily threatened by the whims of emotion. In fact, real love is more about giving than getting. Jesus described true love like this: laying down your life for the one you love. Keep reading to find out

more on this kind of love.

You have a good understanding about love. You see it as a commitment, not just feelings that easily rise and fall. True love has to be lived out to be real, so turn your thoughts into actions. Remember, most people aren't used to receiving this kind of unconditional love. But even the most skeptical are often won over in time. so don't give up!

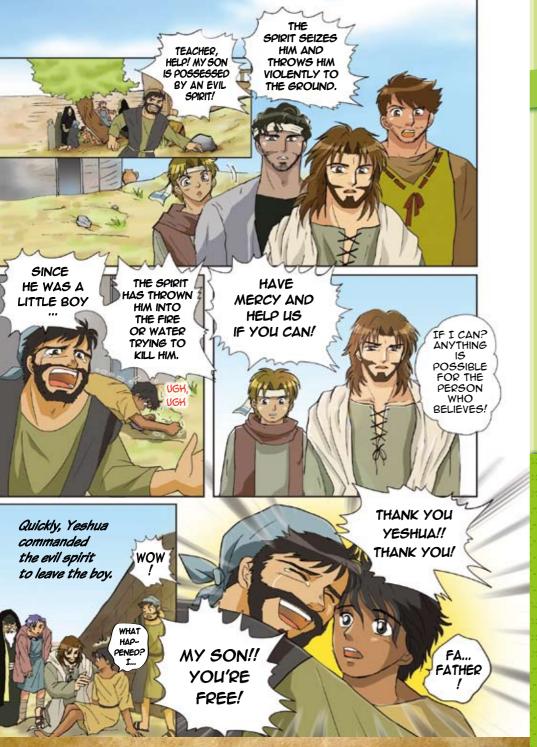












CRISIS IN THE FAMILY

HAT'S your picture of the perfect family? The truth is, there's no such thing, because families are made up of people - and people aren't perfect.

Take the man who brought his troubled son to Jesus. This family had a big problem. Things were totally out of control. But the father refused to give in. There had to be help!

Then just at the right time Jesus came to town and the father knew exactly what he must do. He was beyond caring about what others thought. He humbled himself and cried out for help.

That's all it took - a cry for help and faith that Jesus could do something about it. What about your family? Is there something no one seems able to fix?

FAMILY

Jesus can! It begins by coming to him in faith and admitting your need. From there - anything is possible!



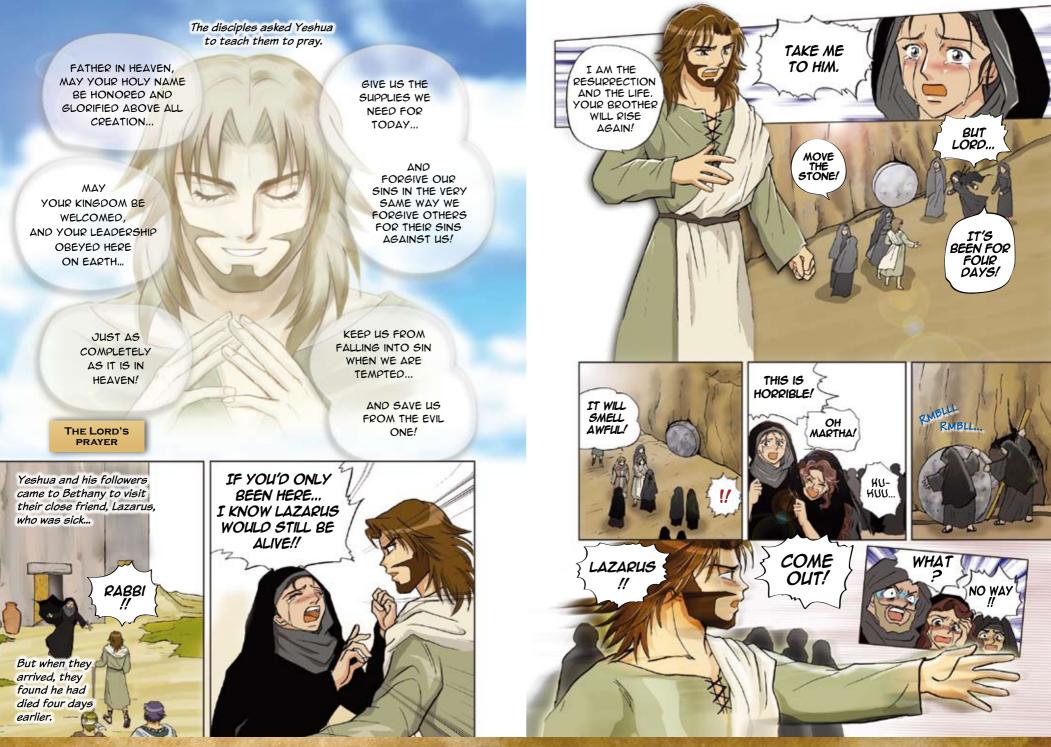
	A A A		$x \to x \to x$
an Aweso	me Member of	Your Family!	Ask ber bes
Ask a family member about their day. What	INF		bein find moi tho
was the best part? Did anything go wrong for them?		GET SMART	
		<u> </u>	
Do a chore around the house without	GET	GET	
being asked. Do	DIRTY	BOLD	The
this more than once a week			do s an o
and you will			(we time
be more than awesome!			for f

k an adult family memwhat they liked the st and the least about ing your age. You may id that you both have ore in common than you ought!

> Need to make a tough decision? Share it with a family member you respect and ask how they would handle the situation if it was theirs.

next time you say or something that causes offense in your family all do from time to e) – admit it and ask for forgiveness.

47







FRIENDSHIP

TRUE FRIEND OR NOT?



- When something good happens to a friend, I am truly happy for them without being jealous.
- I can be trusted. I don't put friends down behind their backs.
- I am willing to forgive a friend who has hurt me. just like I want others to be willing to forgive me.
- When my friends are in trouble, they know they can depend on me to care and help.
- My choices encourage my friends away from activities and habits that will bring them down.
- I don't choose my friends by their looks or social status.

6~9 POINTS YOU NEED

to treat you.

SOME WORK, FRIEND! Your ideas about friendship may need revising. You might want to start by taking Jesus' advice to treat others the same way you want them

10~14 POINTS

AN AVERAGE FRIEND!

You seem to have mixed ideas about friendship. Maybe for you friendship is just for fun, nothing too serious. But real friends look out for each other and help each other become better people. Begin to practice the six points in the quiz and look for friends who do the same!



Jesus also wants to be

that kind of friend to you?

Take him up on his offer!

3 POINTS

TOTALLY ME

THAT'S

POINTS

SOMETIMES

I'M LIKE THAT

CHECK OUT THE PAGE 63 TO ENCOUNTER THE BEST FRIEND OF ALL!

POINTS

ALL

NOPE. THAT'S

NOT LIKE ME AT

FRIEND FOR SALE



When Judas first signed up to join Jesus' team, things were looking good. Jesus was a great communicator and becoming quite popular. Hanging with Jesus was good for his image!

But now things weren't going so well. Jesus wasn't as popular as before and there were rumors that the religious leaders were out to get him, even kill him if they could. When it began looking like the other team was going to win, Judas switched sides and sold out his friend for a little pile of money.

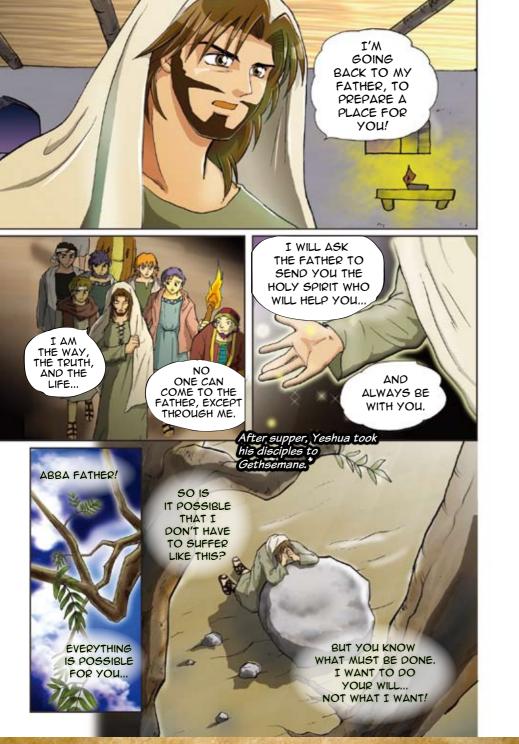
How about you? Have you ever sold out a friend? Maybe their popularity isn't what it used to be so you decided to drop them before it affected your image. Or maybe you sold their reputation by uncovering their flaws to others.

In the end, Judas did something even worse: he never made things right. He stayed focused on himself and his shame rather than working to restore the relationship.

Had he gone to Jesus, admitting what he had done and asking for forgiveness, the friendship could have been restored.

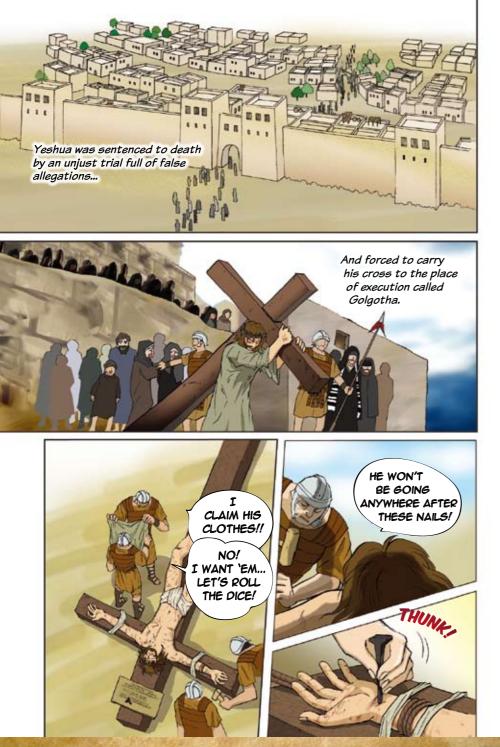
Maybe you have some restoring to do too. Do you have what it takes to try to make things right?







*Gethsemane was a grove of olive trees.

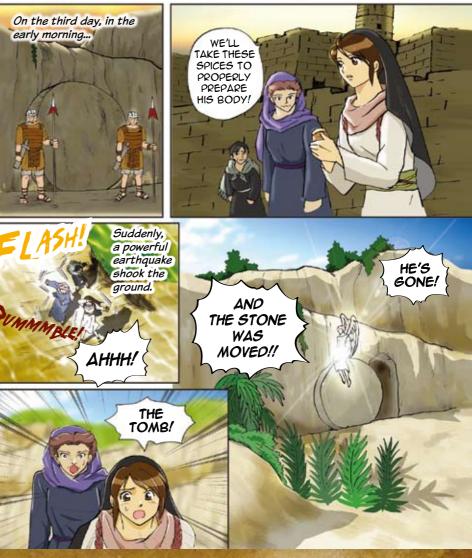


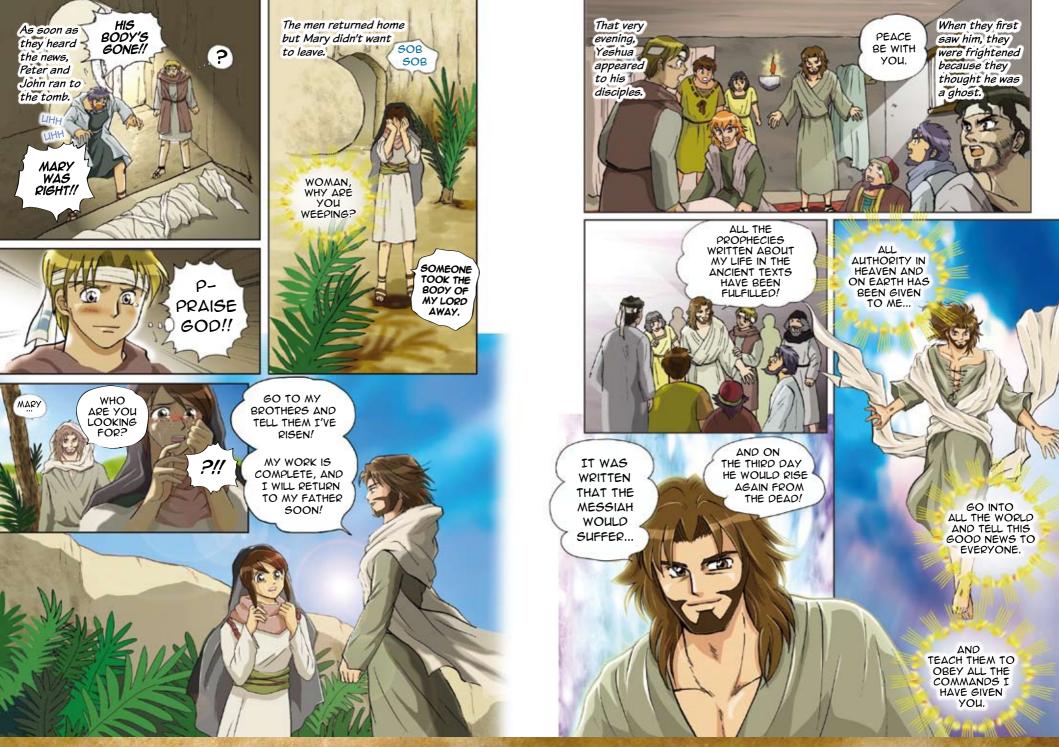




Yeshua's body was wrapped in a clean cloth of linen...

> and laid in a tomb cut from solid rock...





WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU...

I

EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE!

For forty days after his resurrection, Yeshua appeared to many people.

> He spoke to the disciples about the Kingdom of God, and then was taken up to heaven before their very eyes.

> > WHAT BELL

Two white-robed men suddenly appeared: Why are you standing here staring up at the sky? Yeshua has been taken up to Heaven. And one day, just as you saw him go, he will return!

AN OFFER AND A CHOICE

THERE IS A LONGING INSIDE EACH OF US.

It is a longing that no one and nothing in this world can fill. It is a need that God created in us from the beginning-the need to know his love and to love him in return. So how can it be filled?

IT BEGINS WITH A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

Jesus, the GodMan, came to earth to show us the Father's love and to became our Savior. A savior is someone who rescues you when you can not save yourself.

WE ALL NEED RESCUING.

We need rescuing from the wrong things we have done and the evil that lurks in our hearts. We all fall short of the standard set by God. We can try to achieve it by being good, but that is like trying to reach for the impossible. On our own, we can never be good enough. We cannot save ourselves from the sin that separates us from God.

GOD SENT JESUS TO EARTH TO SAVE US.

Only Jesus lived a perfect life without sin. Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins so that we can be forgiven. He died in our place and he came back to life in three days, proving he has all authority, even over death.

EACH OF US MUST CHOOSE WHAT WE WILL DO WITH JESUS.

To accept his death as the payment for your sins is to admit that you need a Savior-someone who can restore you to a right relationship with God, your Creator. Everyone who believes in Jesus and follows his teachings will live with him forever one day in heaven, just as Jesus promised.

GOD HAS SENT HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and opens our hearts to his forgiveness and love. Jesus wants to be your Savior. He wants to fill the longing in your heart with his love. Why not talk with him now?

Jesus, I believe you came to earth to show me the Father's love and to die in my place on the cross. Thank you for laying down your life for me; I know I do not deserve such love. I am sorry for my sin that has separated me from you and kept me from following your plan for my life. Thank you for forgiving me and filling the longing in my heart with your love. Guide me by your Holy Spirit to understand and follow you each day until I see you face to face.





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