

Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

NEW TESTAMENT BOOK 7

COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE EARLY CHURCH

by
Chris Thorpe
& people from Coromandel Baptist Church

Illustrated by Kay Kammermann

Website: www.corobaptist.org.au

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GOD'S WONDERFUL PROMISE

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ACTS 2:1–13

Acts 1:3–14

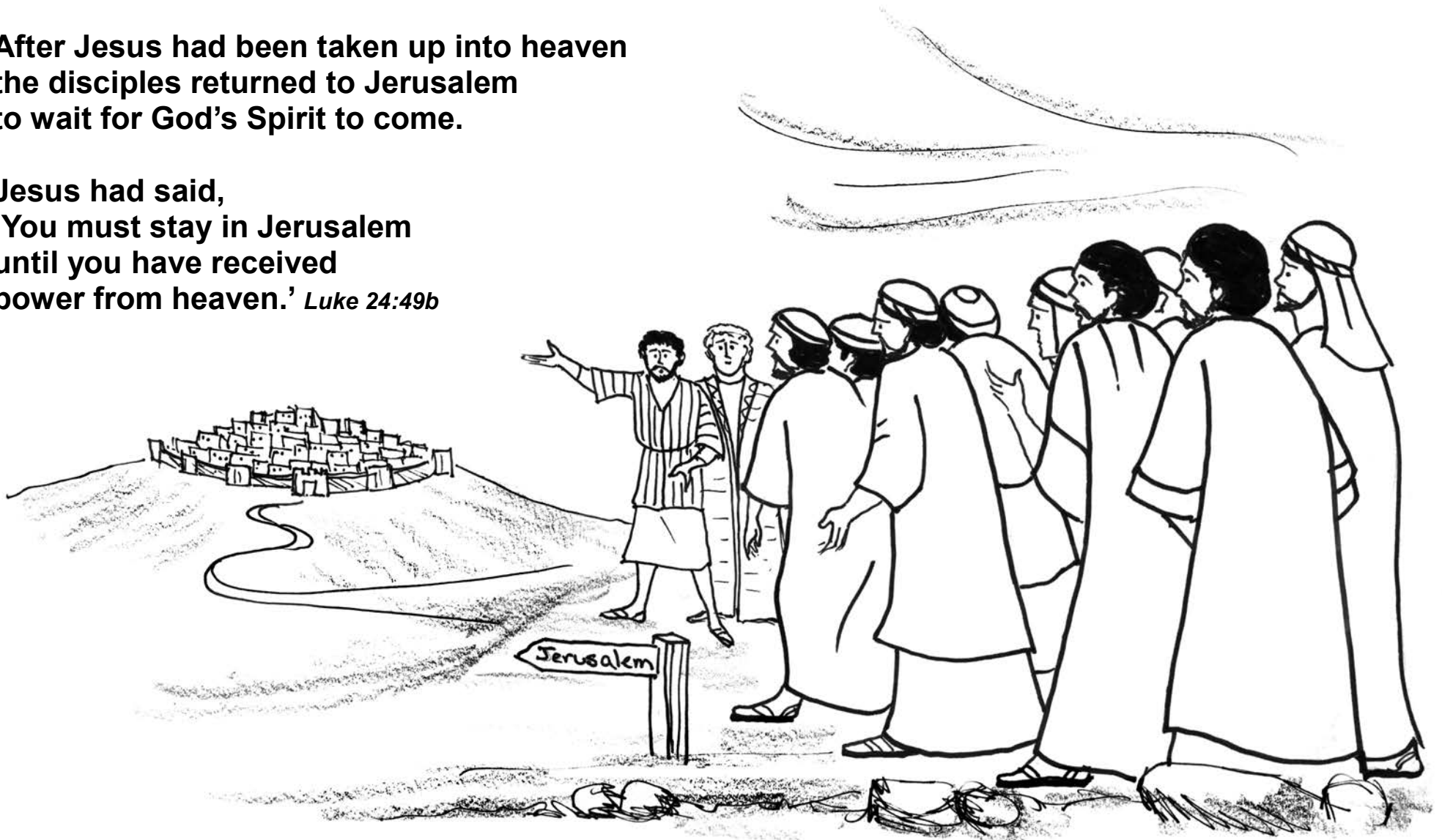
GOD'S WONDERFUL PROMISE

(His Holy Spirit)

File no. 167

**After Jesus had been taken up into heaven
the disciples returned to Jerusalem
to wait for God's Spirit to come.**

**Jesus had said,
'You must stay in Jerusalem
until you have received
power from heaven.'** *Luke 24:49b*



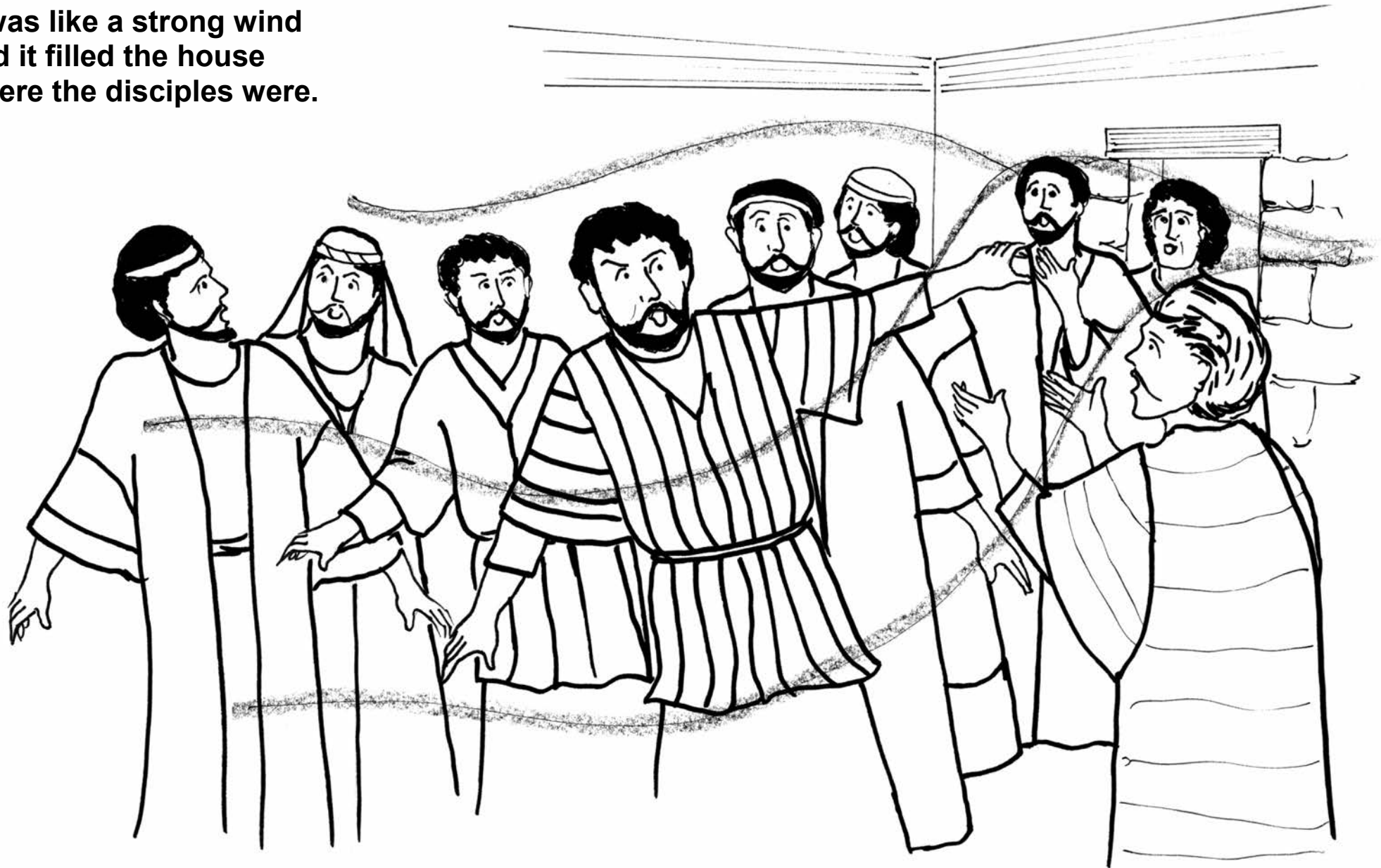
**The disciples waited fifty days,
then it was time for the
Harvest Festival or Pentecost.**

**Many Jews, from other countries,
had come to Jerusalem
for Pentecost.**



**On the morning of Pentecost
everyone heard a big noise from heaven.**

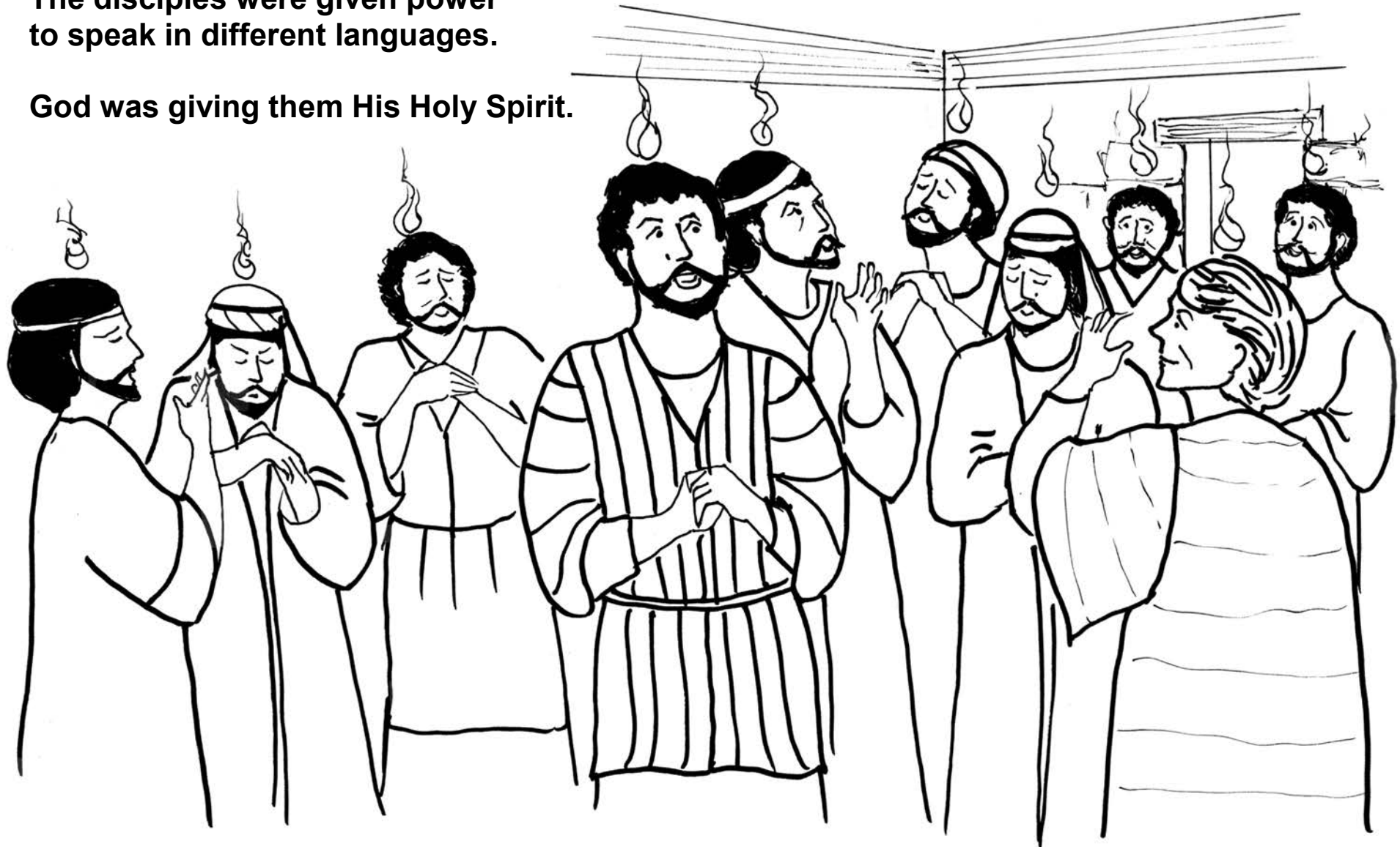
**It was like a strong wind
and it filled the house
where the disciples were.**



**At the same time,
something like flames of fire
stood over everyone.**

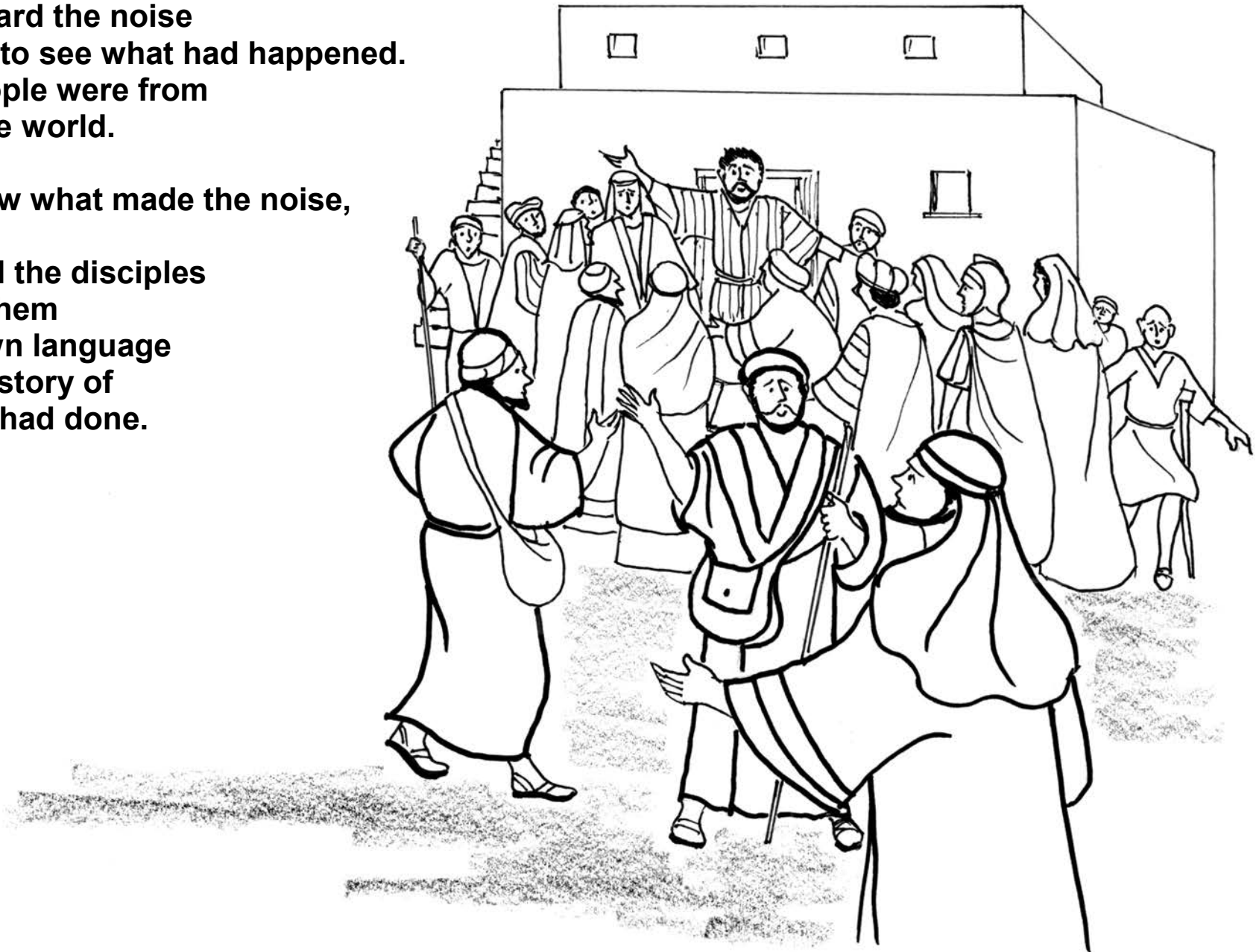
**The disciples were given power
to speak in different languages.**

God was giving them His Holy Spirit.



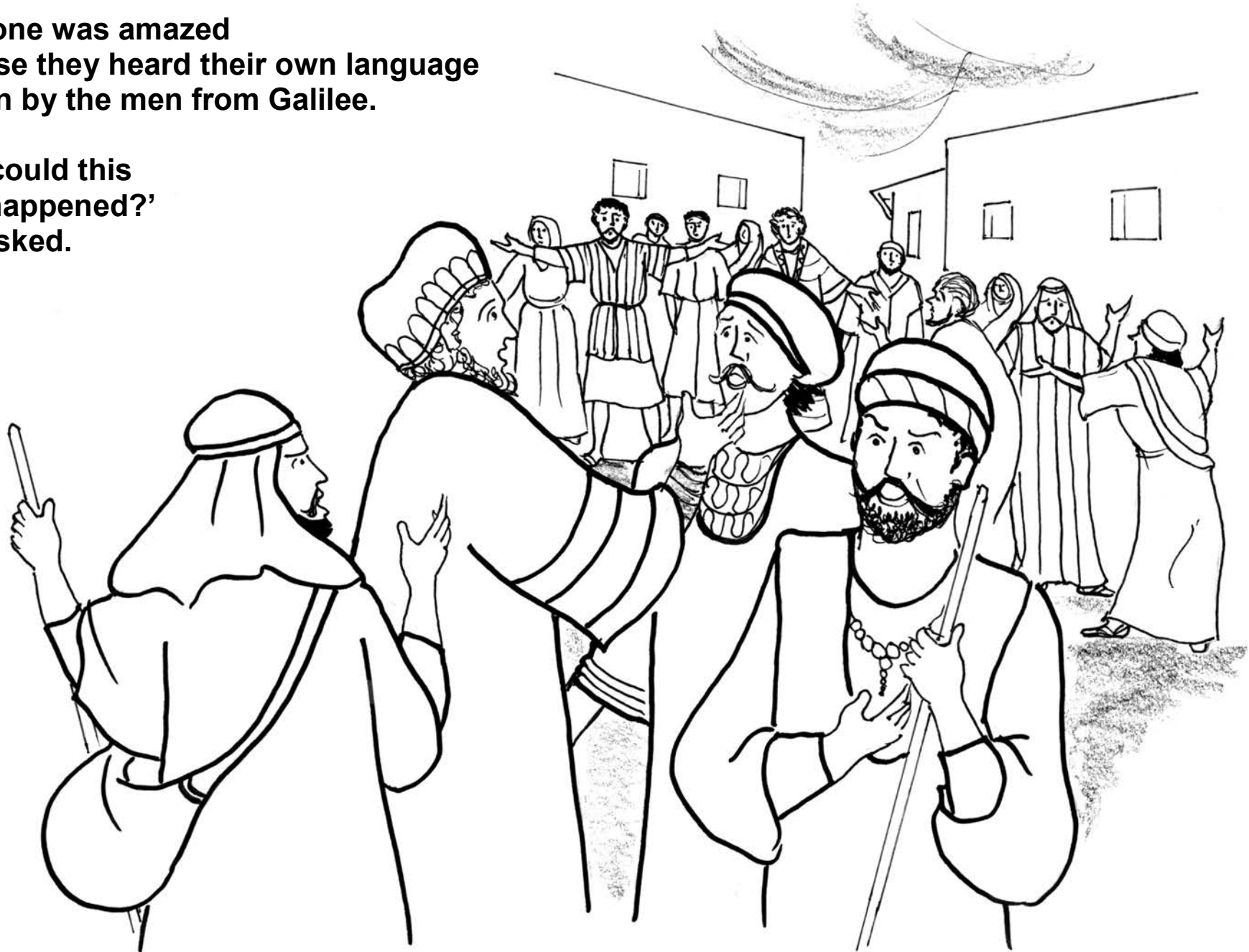
**People heard the noise
and came to see what had happened.
These people were from
all over the world.**

**No one saw what made the noise,
but then,
they heard the disciples
speak to them
in their own language
about the story of
what God had done.**



**Everyone was amazed
because they heard their own language
spoken by the men from Galilee.**

**‘How could this
have happened?’
they asked.**



***God had given His Holy Spirit
to those who were obeying Christ,
giving them the power to tell
the wonderful word of God
to people from over the world.***

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PETER, A WITNESS FOR CHRIST / THE FIRST CHURCH

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ACTS 2:14–47

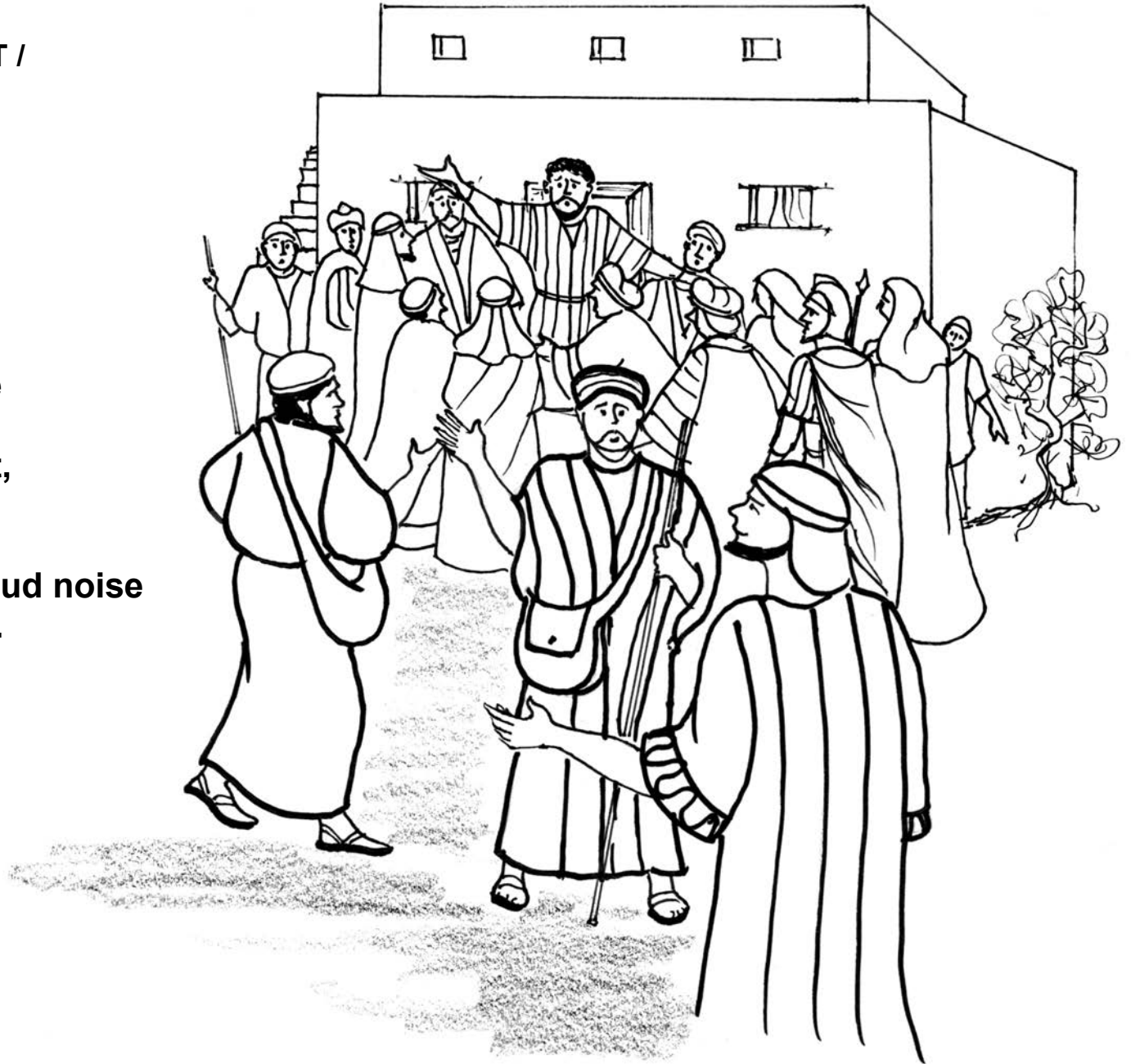
Acts 2:1–13; Joel 2:28–29

**PETER, A WITNESS FOR CHRIST /
THE FIRST CHURCH**

File no. 168

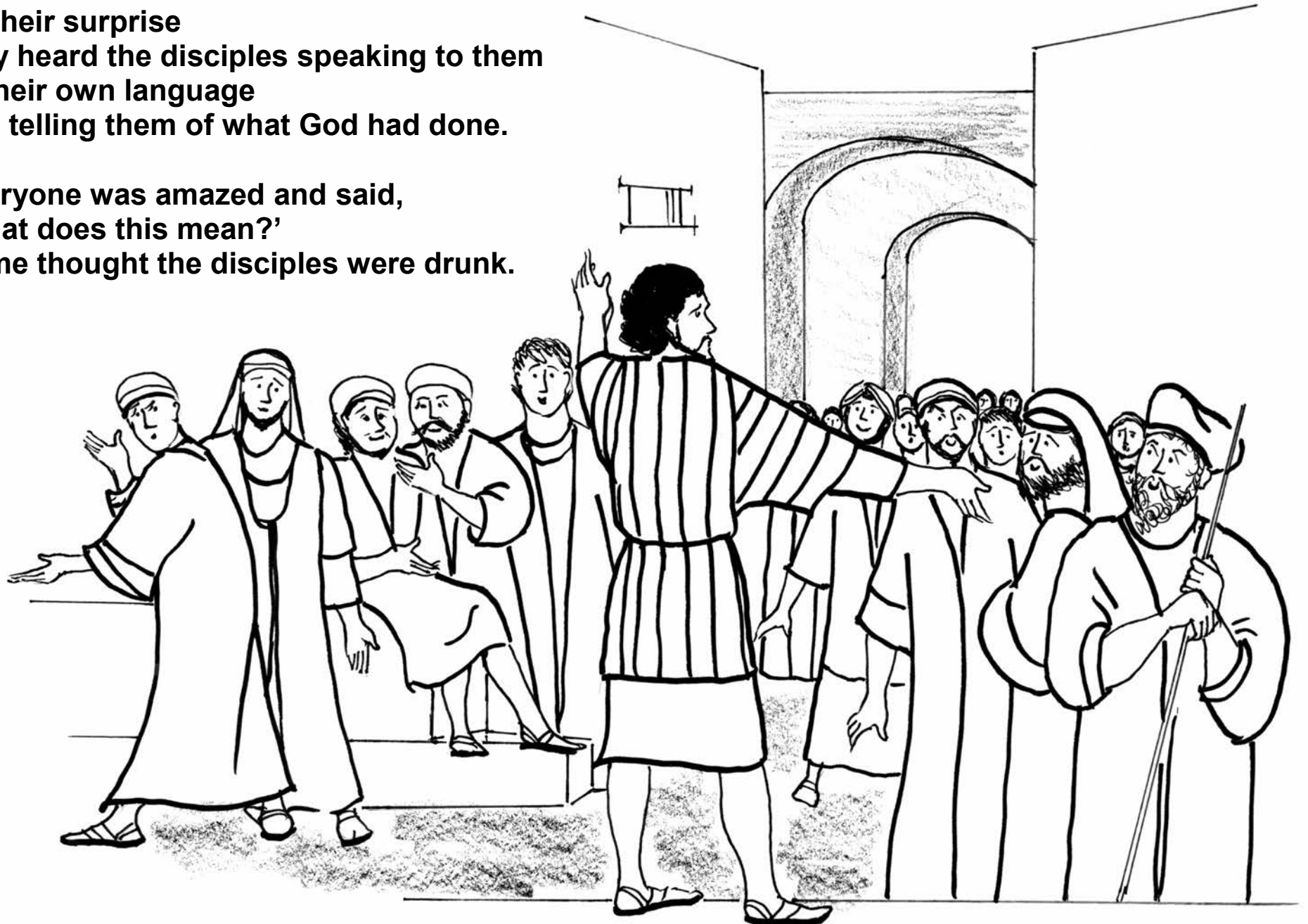
**Jerusalem was full of people
from different lands,
who had come for Pentecost,
the harvest festival.**

**One morning they heard a loud noise
and came to see what it was.**



**To their surprise
they heard the disciples speaking to them
in their own language
and telling them of what God had done.**

**Everyone was amazed and said,
'What does this mean?'
Some thought the disciples were drunk.**

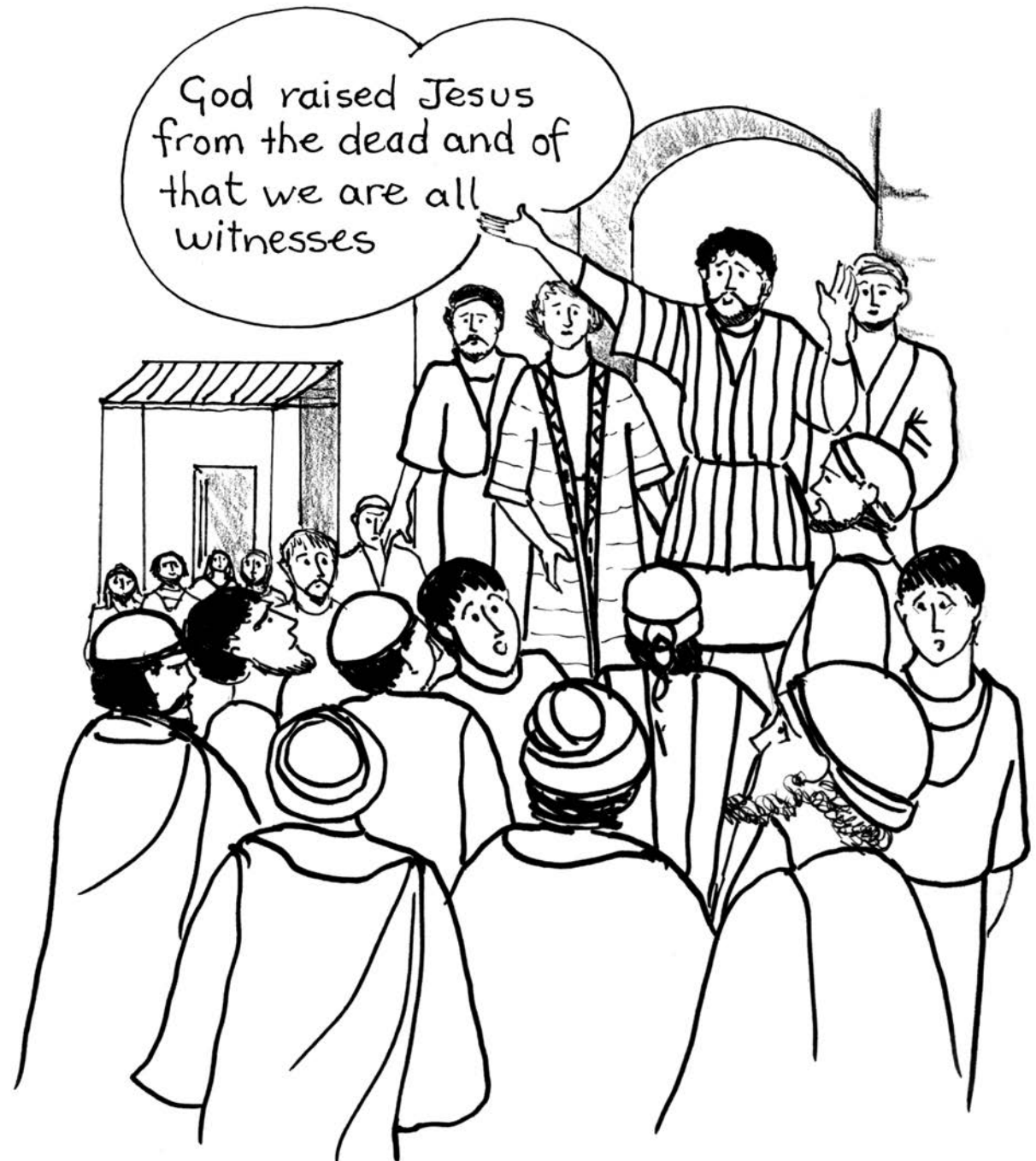


**Peter stood up and said,
'These men are not drunk.
It is too early in the morning.
Do you remember
what Joel, the prophet, said?**

**"God is going to send
His Spirit to all people."**

'This is what He has done today.

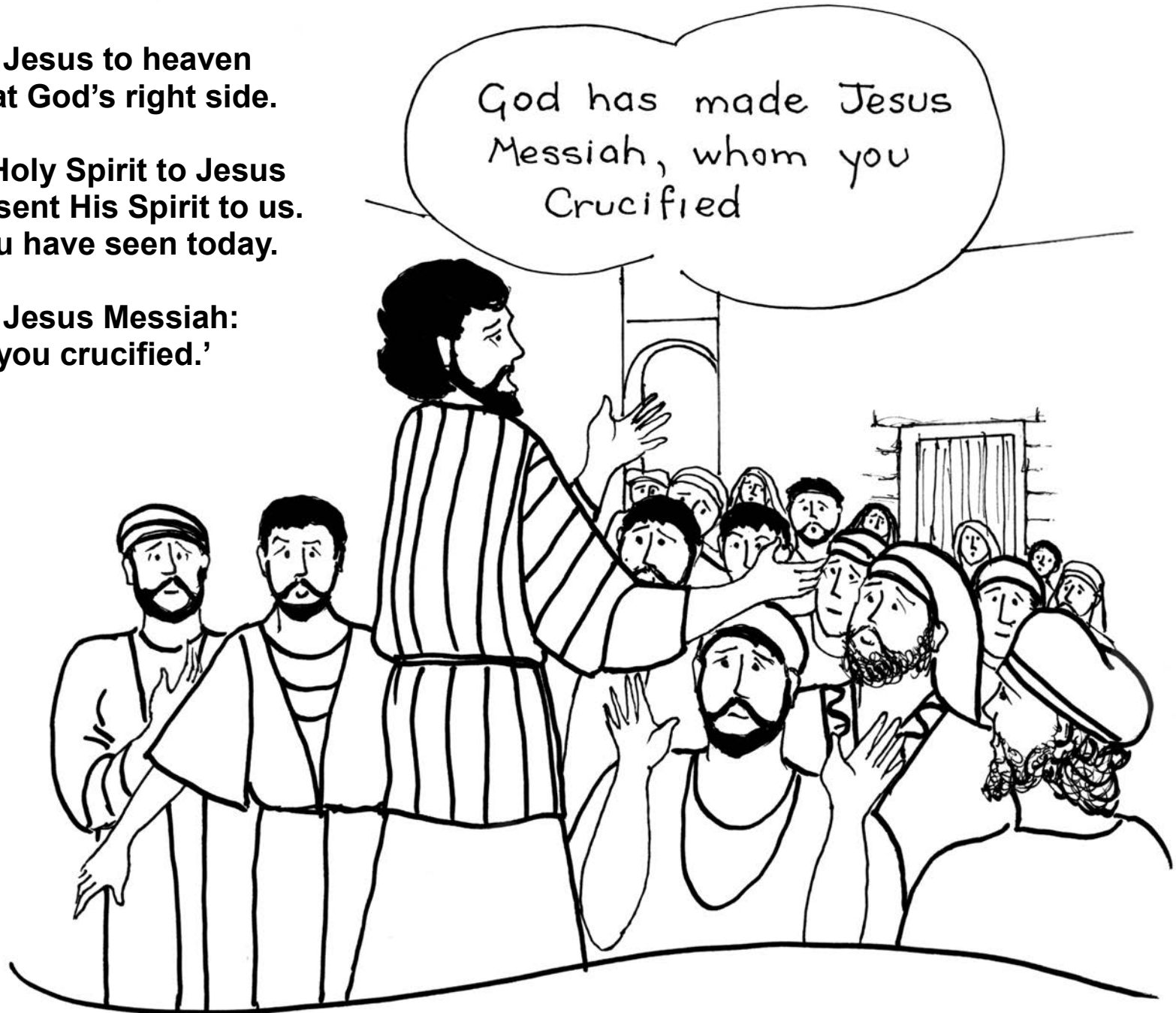
**'You all know that
Jesus has been among us
and know of the miracles
God did through Him.
God gave Him to you
and you killed Him
on the cross.
God knew
this was going to happen
and He raised Jesus
from the dead.**



**‘God has taken Jesus to heaven
and He is now at God’s right side.**

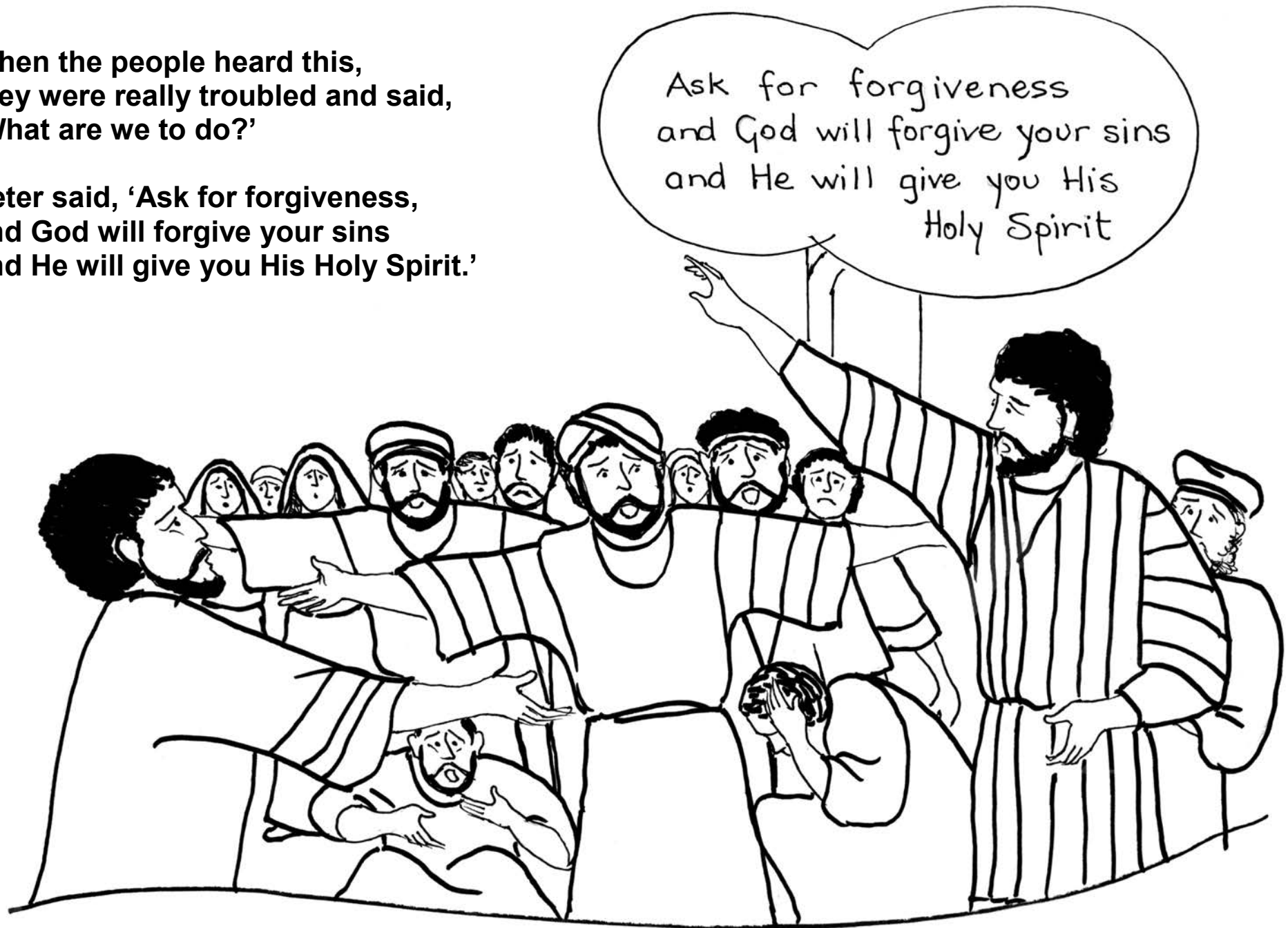
**‘God gave His Holy Spirit to Jesus
and Jesus has sent His Spirit to us.
This is what you have seen today.**

**‘God has made Jesus Messiah:
the One whom you crucified.’**

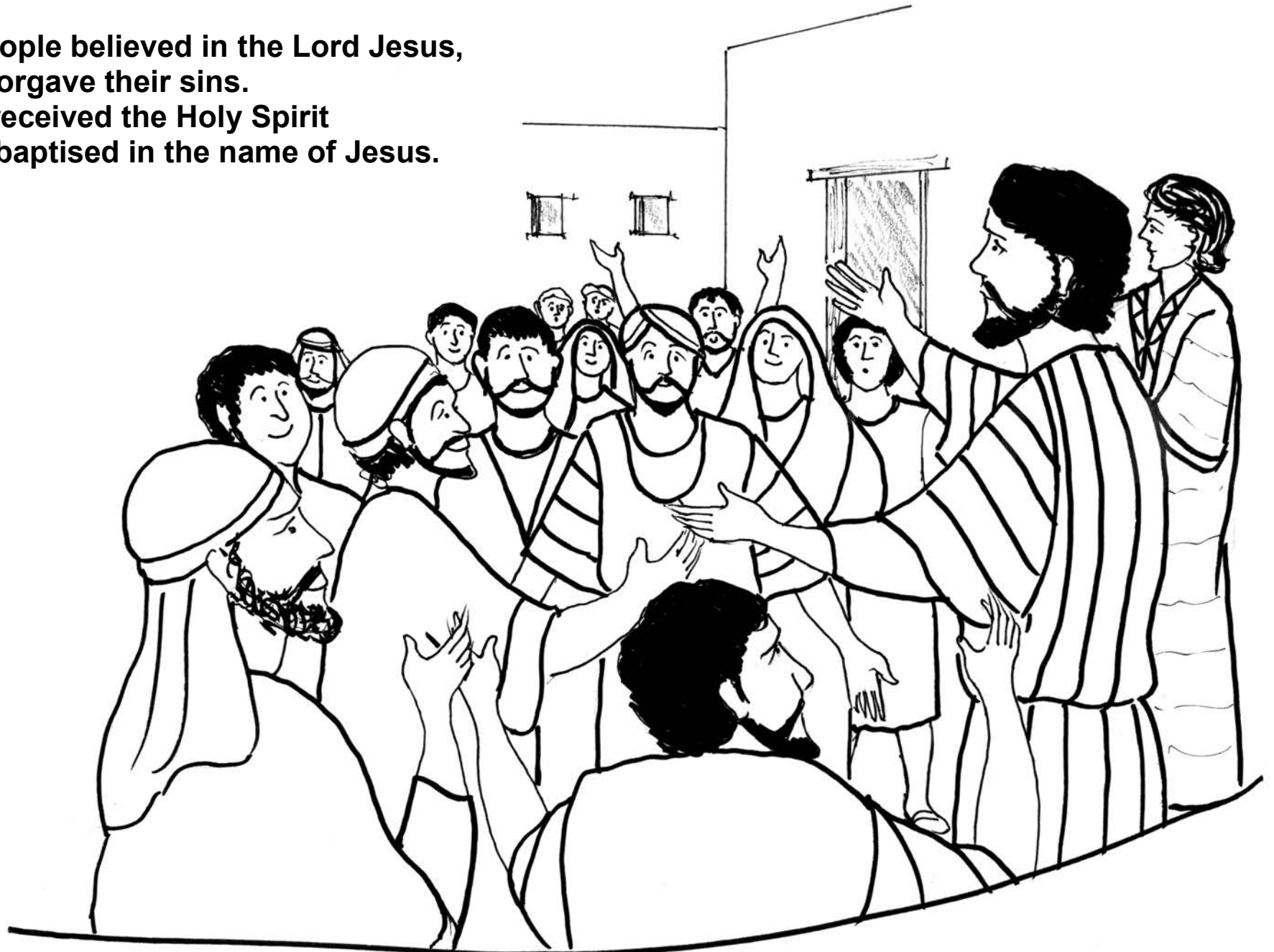


**When the people heard this,
they were really troubled and said,
'What are we to do?'**

**Peter said, 'Ask for forgiveness,
and God will forgive your sins
and He will give you His Holy Spirit.'**



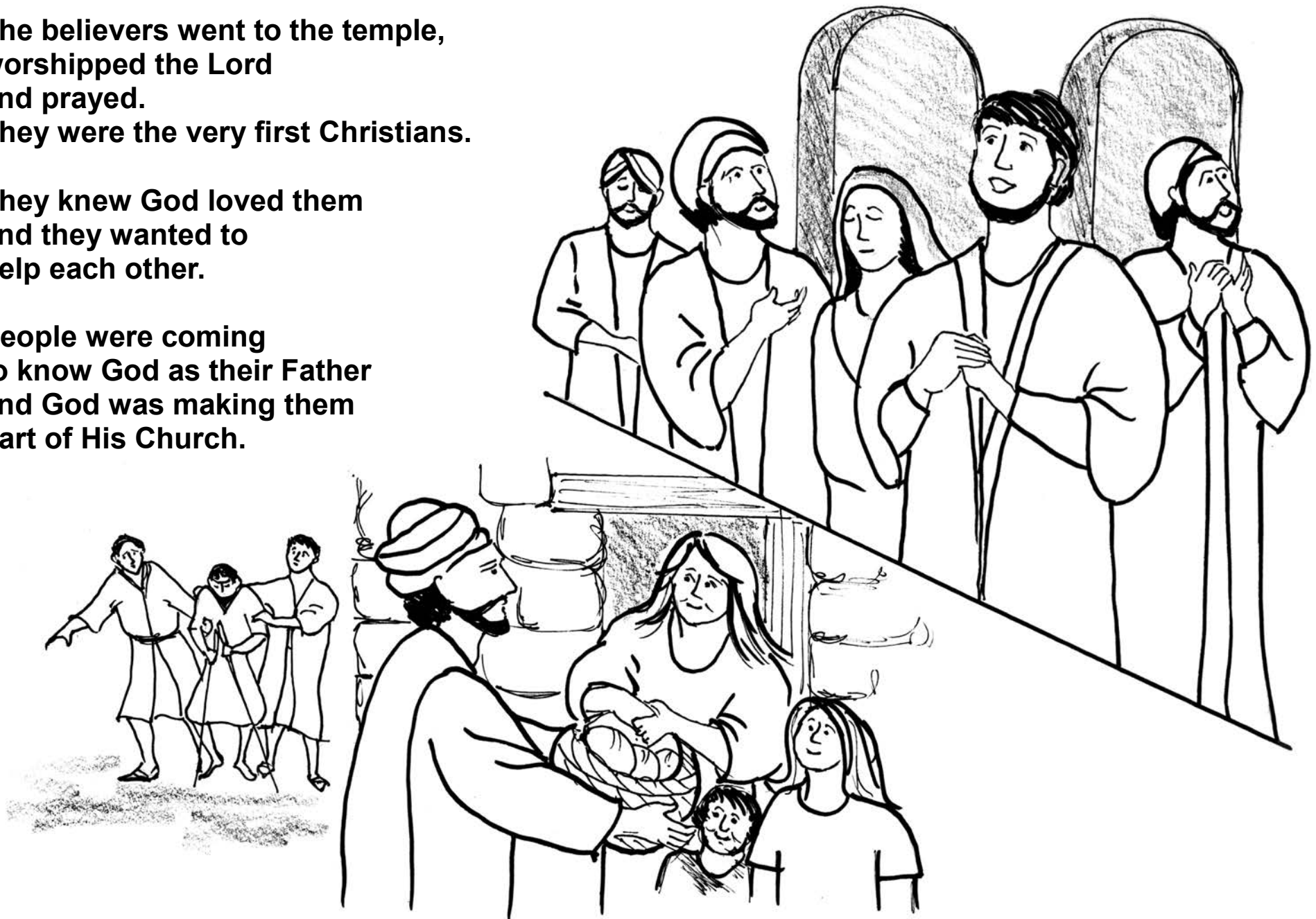
**Lots of people believed in the Lord Jesus,
and God forgave their sins.
They too received the Holy Spirit
and were baptised in the name of Jesus.**



**The believers went to the temple,
worshipped the Lord
and prayed.
They were the very first Christians.**

**They knew God loved them
and they wanted to
help each other.**

**People were coming
to know God as their Father
and God was making them
part of His Church.**



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***THE LAME MAN /
PETER AND JOHN IN TROUBLE***

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ACTS 3:1 – 4:31

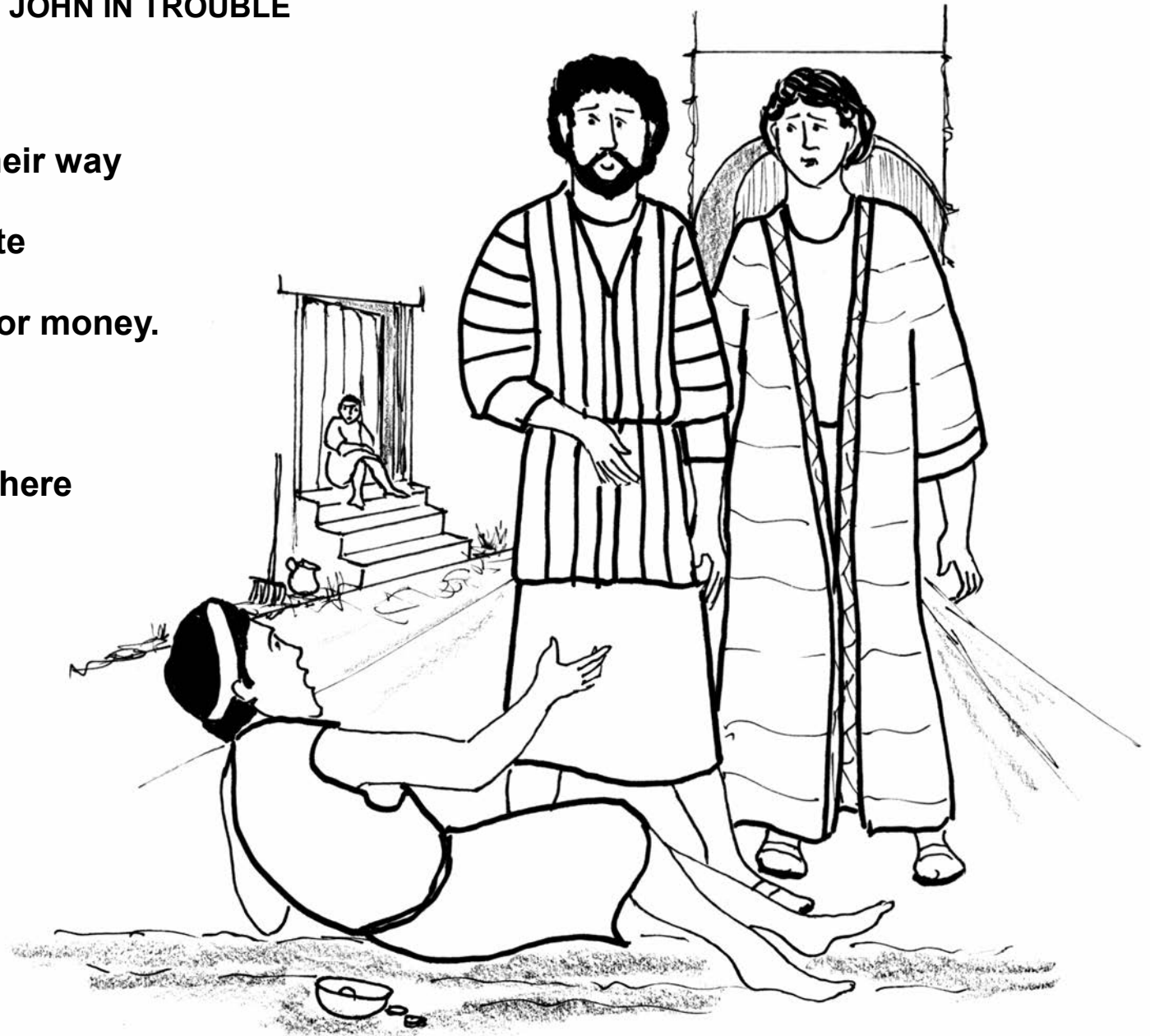
Psalm 118:22–23

THE LAME MAN / PETER AND JOHN IN TROUBLE

File no. 169

**Peter and John were on their way
to the temple to pray.
As they got near to the gate
called 'Beautiful',
they heard a man asking for money.**

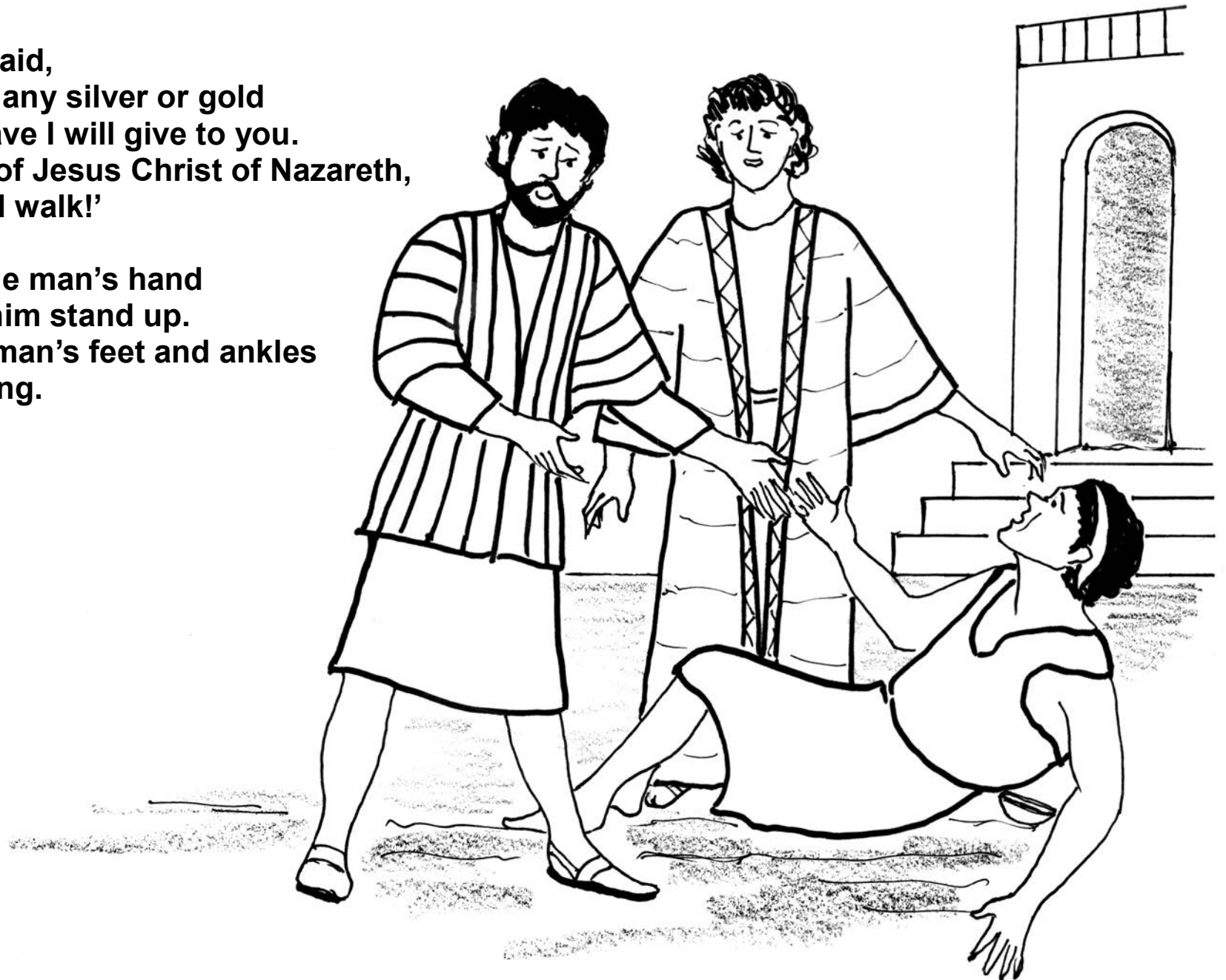
**This man was crippled
and could not walk.
Friends had brought him there
to beg for money.**



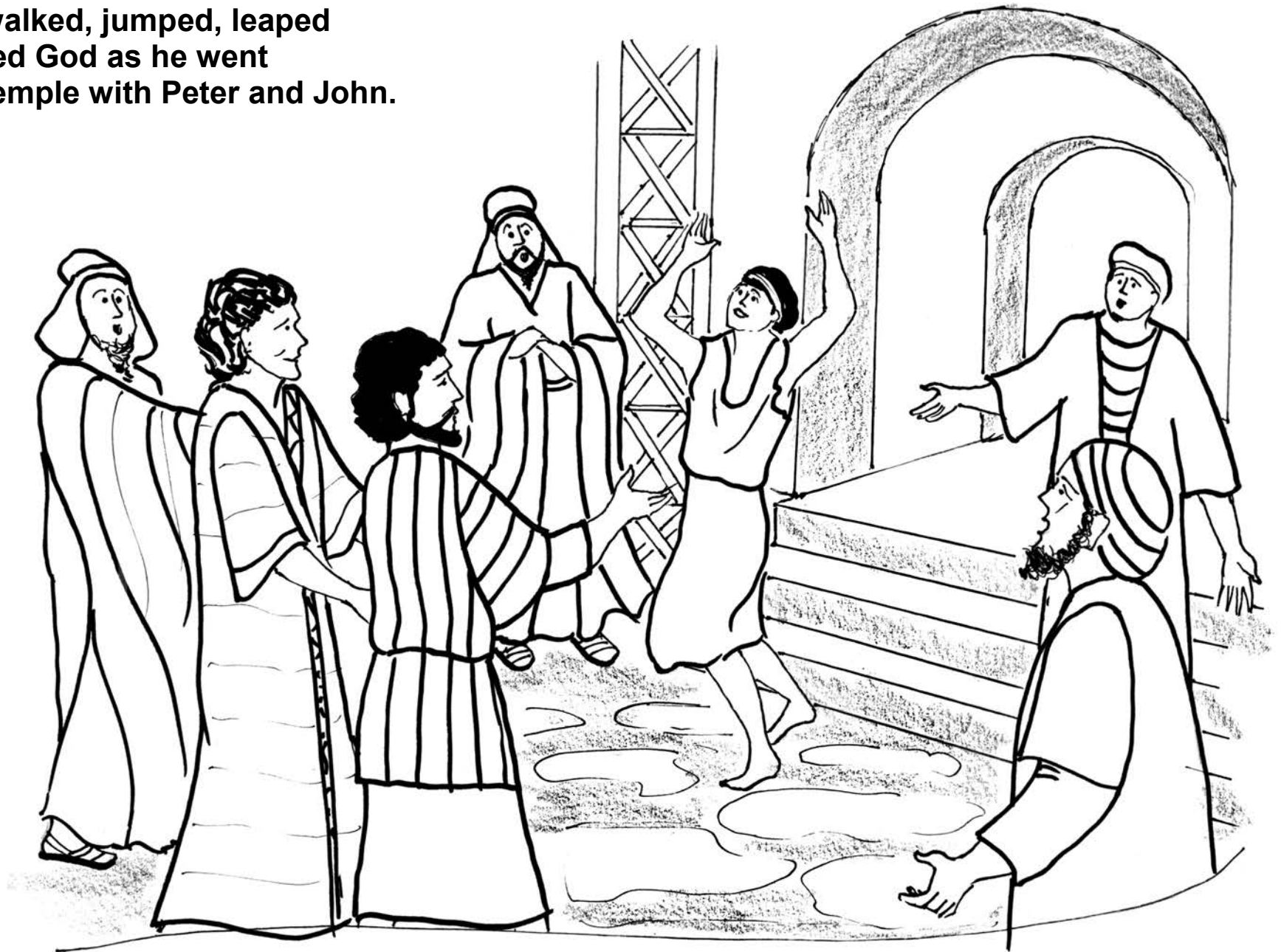
**Peter and John said to the man,
'Look at us!'**

**Then Peter said,
'I don't have any silver or gold
but what I have I will give to you.
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
stand up and walk!'**

**Peter took the man's hand
and helped him stand up.
At once the man's feet and ankles
became strong.**



**Then he walked, jumped, leaped
and praised God as he went
into the Temple with Peter and John.**



**Everyone was amazed.
A crowd began to gather.**

**‘Why are you surprised?’
asked Peter.**

**‘Do you think we
made this man well?’**

It was not us.

**It was the God of Abraham,
Isaac and Jacob;
the God of our fathers.**

God sent Jesus to us.

This Jesus you did not want.

You crucified Him,

but God raised Him to life.

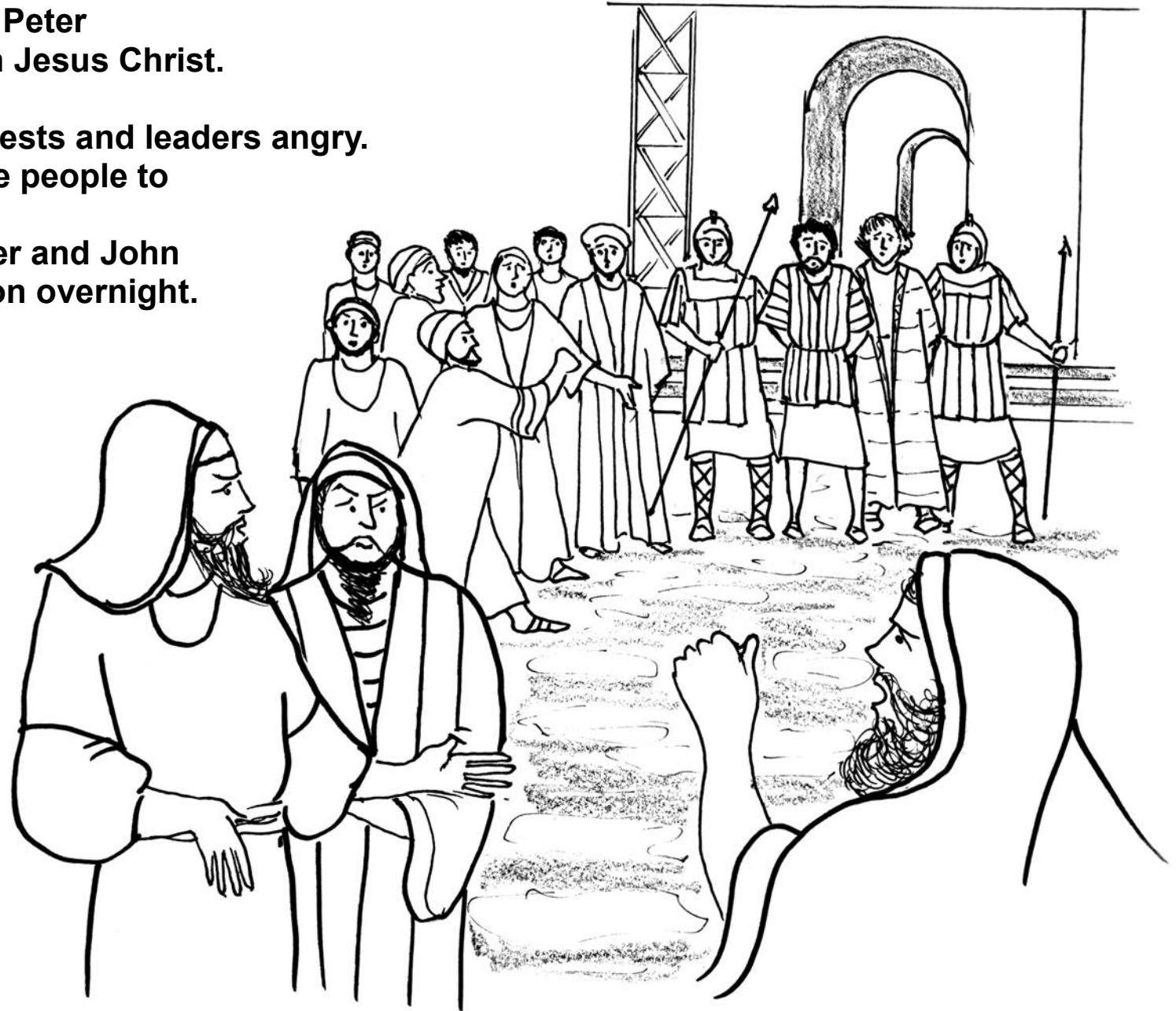
**It was faith in Jesus’ name
that made this man well.**

**‘God has been telling us
through the prophets
that Jesus would come to bless us
and turn us from our wicked ways.
He has called us to repent
from our sins and be forgiven.’**



**Everyone listened to Peter
and many believed in Jesus Christ.**

**But this made the priests and leaders angry.
They did not want the people to
believe in Jesus.
So they arrested Peter and John
and put them in prison overnight.**



**The next morning,
the High Priest and the leaders
asked Peter and John,
'Who has given you the power
to heal this man?'**

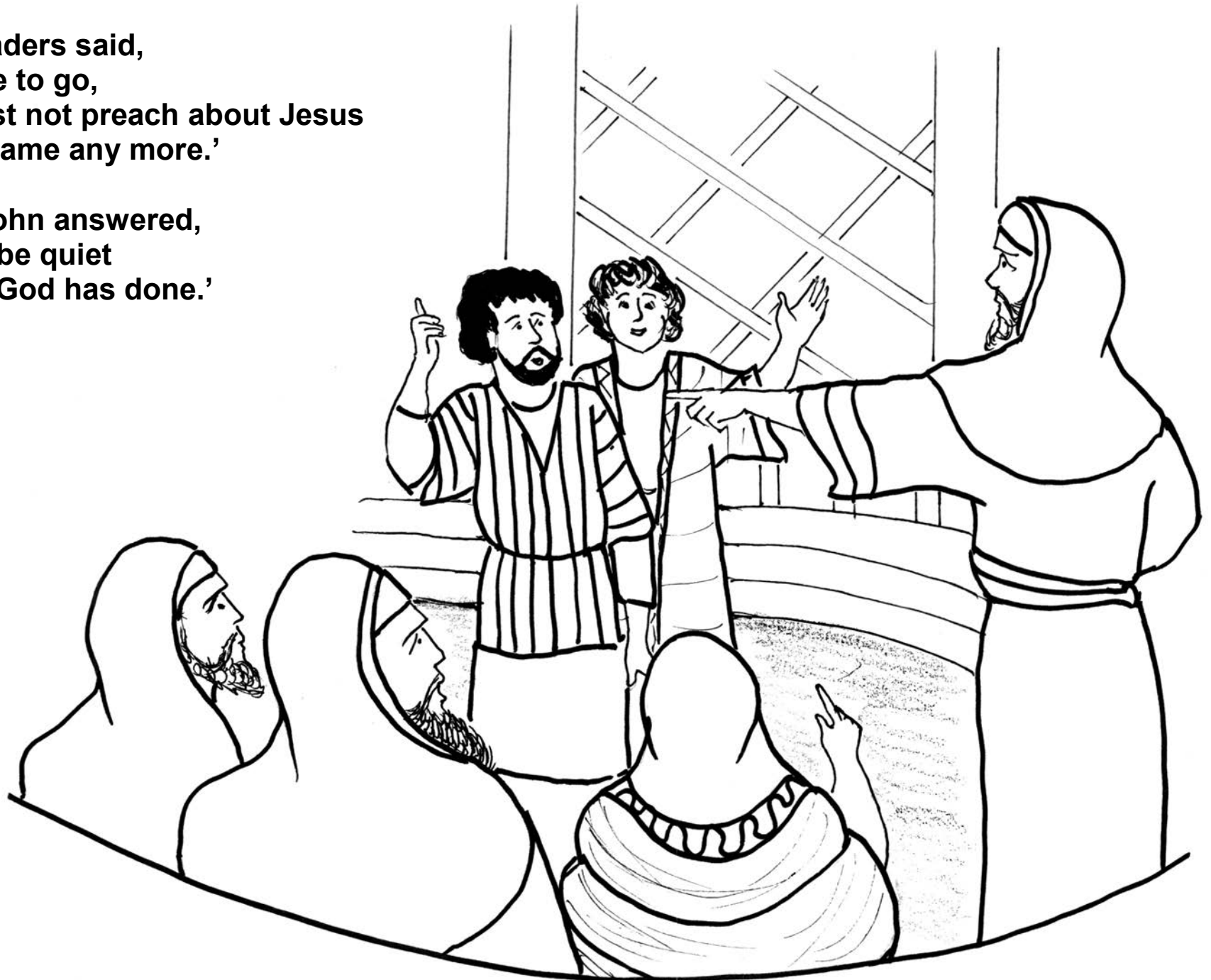
**Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit
answered,
'You want to know who
made this man well?
It was by the
power of Jesus Christ,
whom you crucified
and whom God raised to life.
The only way we can be saved
is through Jesus.'**

**The Priests and the leaders
were surprised to see
Peter and John
speaking without fear.
They looked at the man
who was healed
and could not say
anything against them.**



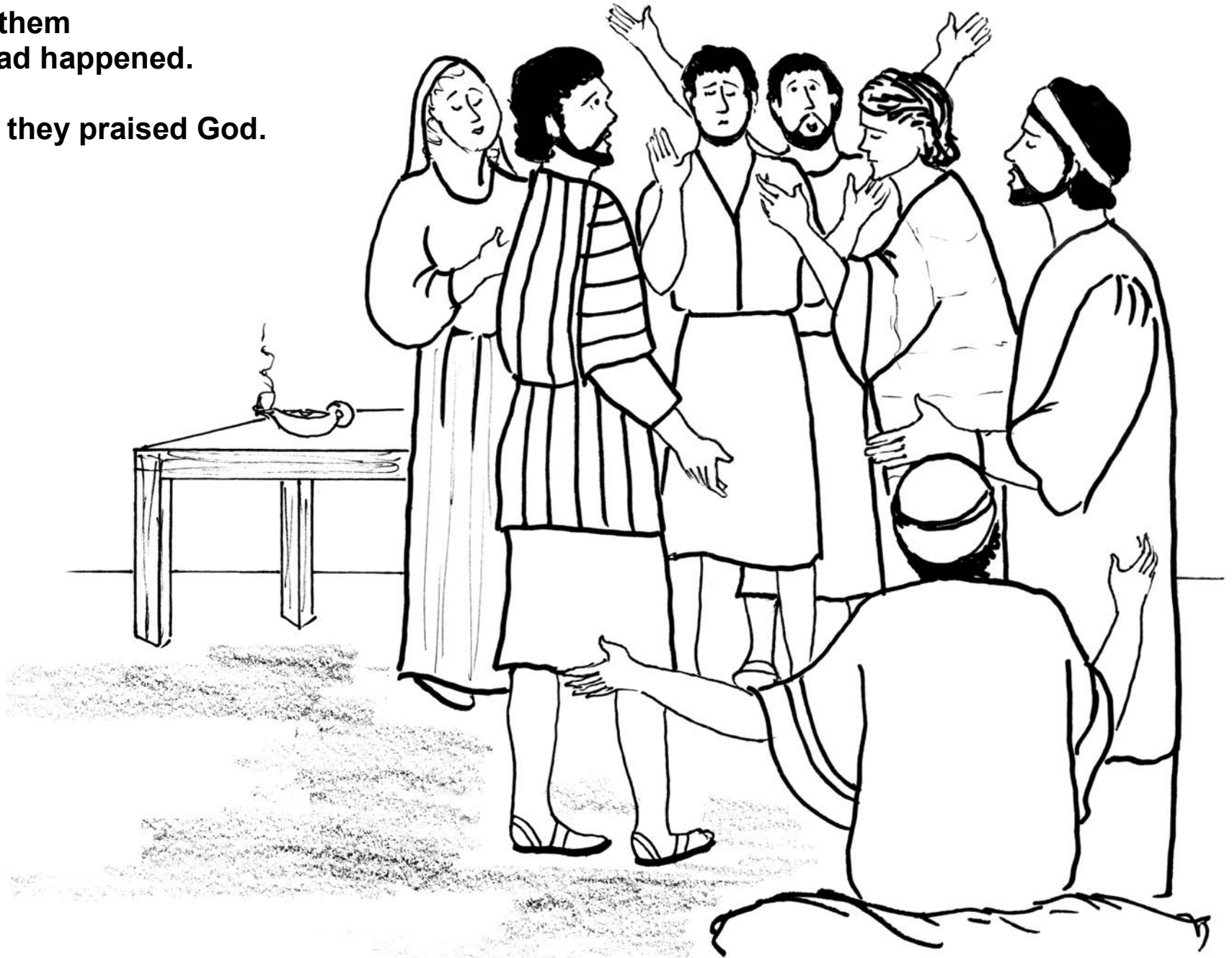
**Then the leaders said,
'You are free to go,
but you must not preach about Jesus
or use His name any more.'**

**Peter and John answered,
'We cannot be quiet
about what God has done.'**



**Peter and John found their friends
and told them
all that had happened.**

Together they praised God.



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ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

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ACTS 4:32 – 5:16
ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA
File no. 170

**The apostles were telling everyone
that Jesus had been raised from the dead
and that through Him, we could be saved.**

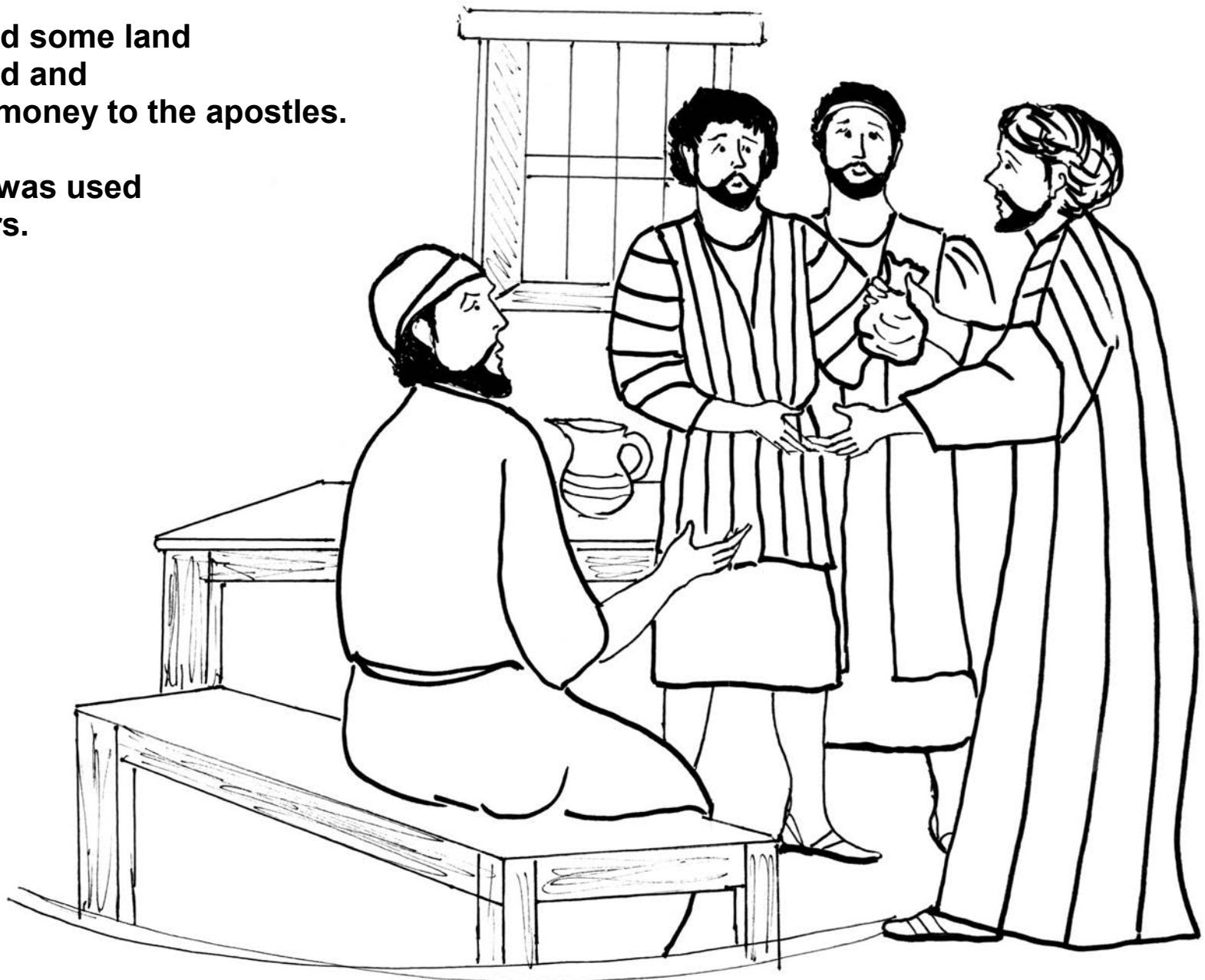
**Many people believed,
and the love of God
came into their hearts.
They loved God and each other
and wanted to share their possessions.**



**Some people sold a house or land
and gave the money to the apostles.**

**Barnabas had some land
which he sold and
he gave the money to the apostles.**

**This money was used
to help others.**



A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira wanted to help as well. They sold a piece of land, but secretly put some of the money away for themselves.

Ananias took the rest of the money and gave it to the apostles saying, 'Here is all the money from the land we sold. It is for God.'



**God showed Peter
that Ananias was telling a lie.**

**‘Ananias!’ said Peter,
‘Why did you let Satan
put this thing into your heart?
You have lied to the Holy Spirit.
The land was yours
and when you sold it
the money was yours.
You could do
what you wanted with it.
Instead you told us a lie,
and the lie was to God.’**

**When Ananias
heard Peter say this,
he fell down dead.
The young men came
and carried him out
and buried him.**



**About three hours later Sapphira,
his wife, came to the apostles.
She did not know
what had happened to her husband.**

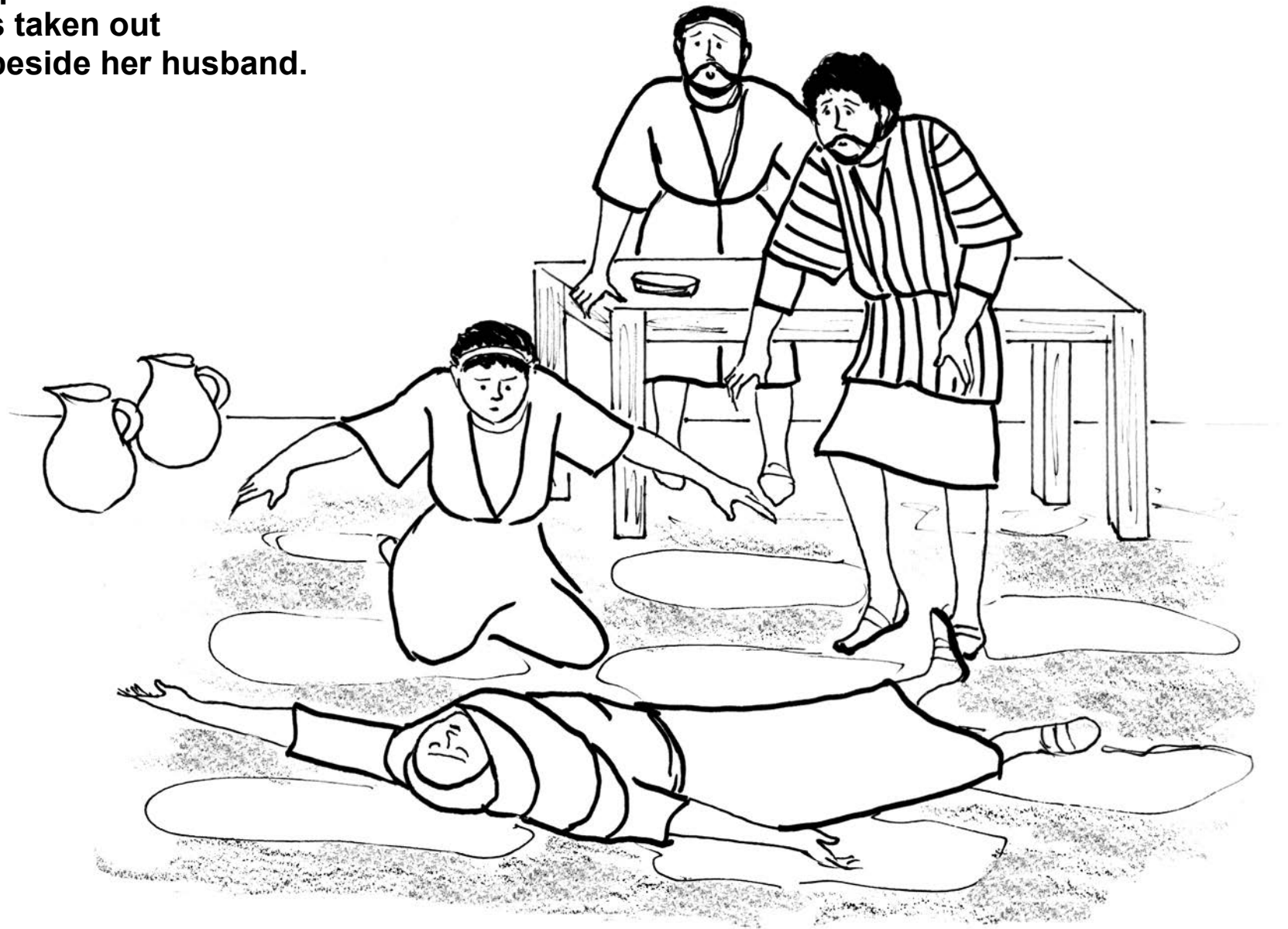
**Peter asked her,
'Did you sell your land
for this much money?'**

**'Yes. That's right,'
Sapphira answered.**

**Peter asked,
'Why did you and Ananias
plan to test the Holy Spirit of God?
The men who buried your husband
will also carry you out.'**

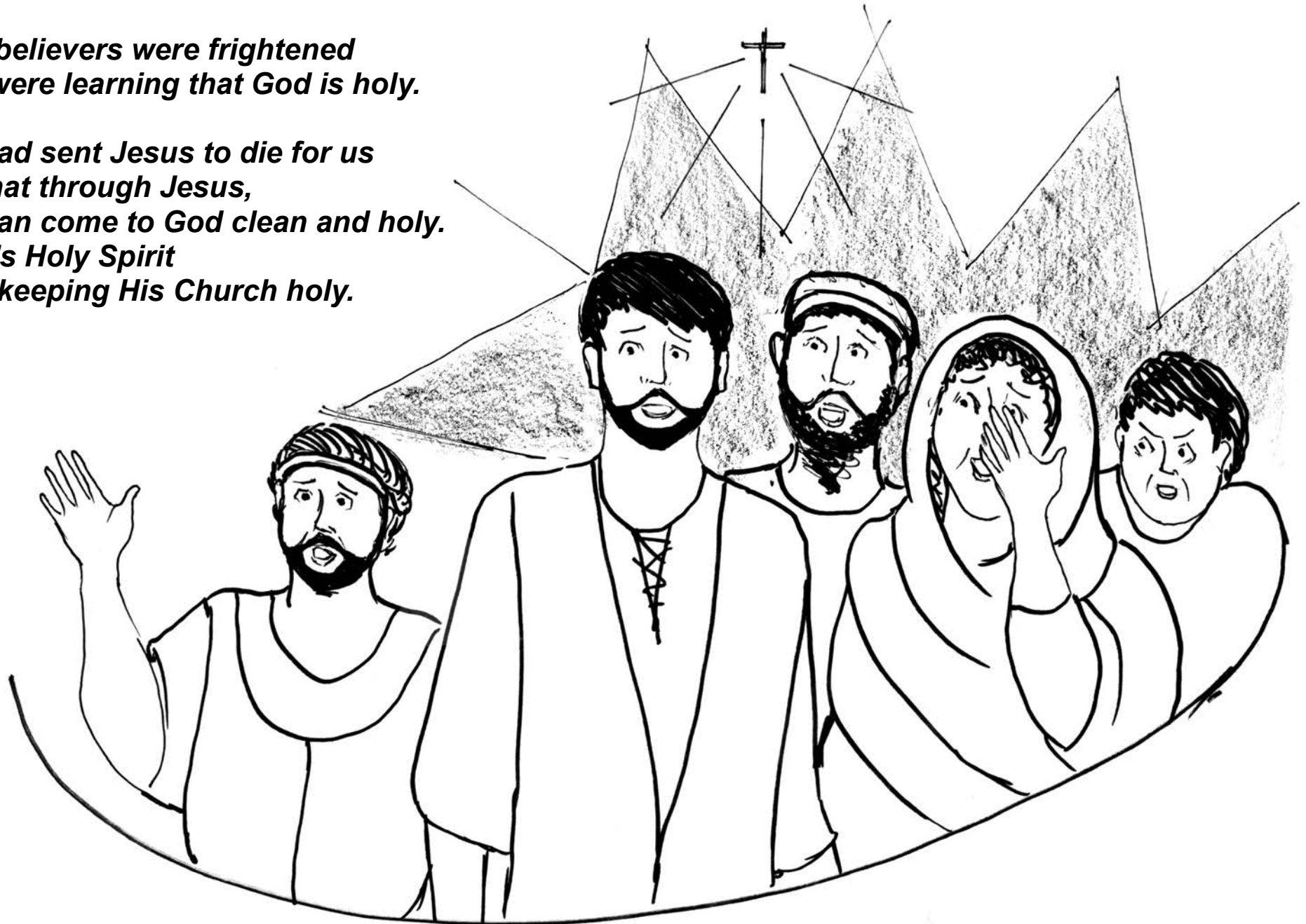


**At once Sapphira fell down dead
and she was taken out
and buried beside her husband.**



***The believers were frightened
but were learning that God is holy.***

***He had sent Jesus to die for us
so that through Jesus,
we can come to God clean and holy.
God's Holy Spirit
was keeping His Church holy.***

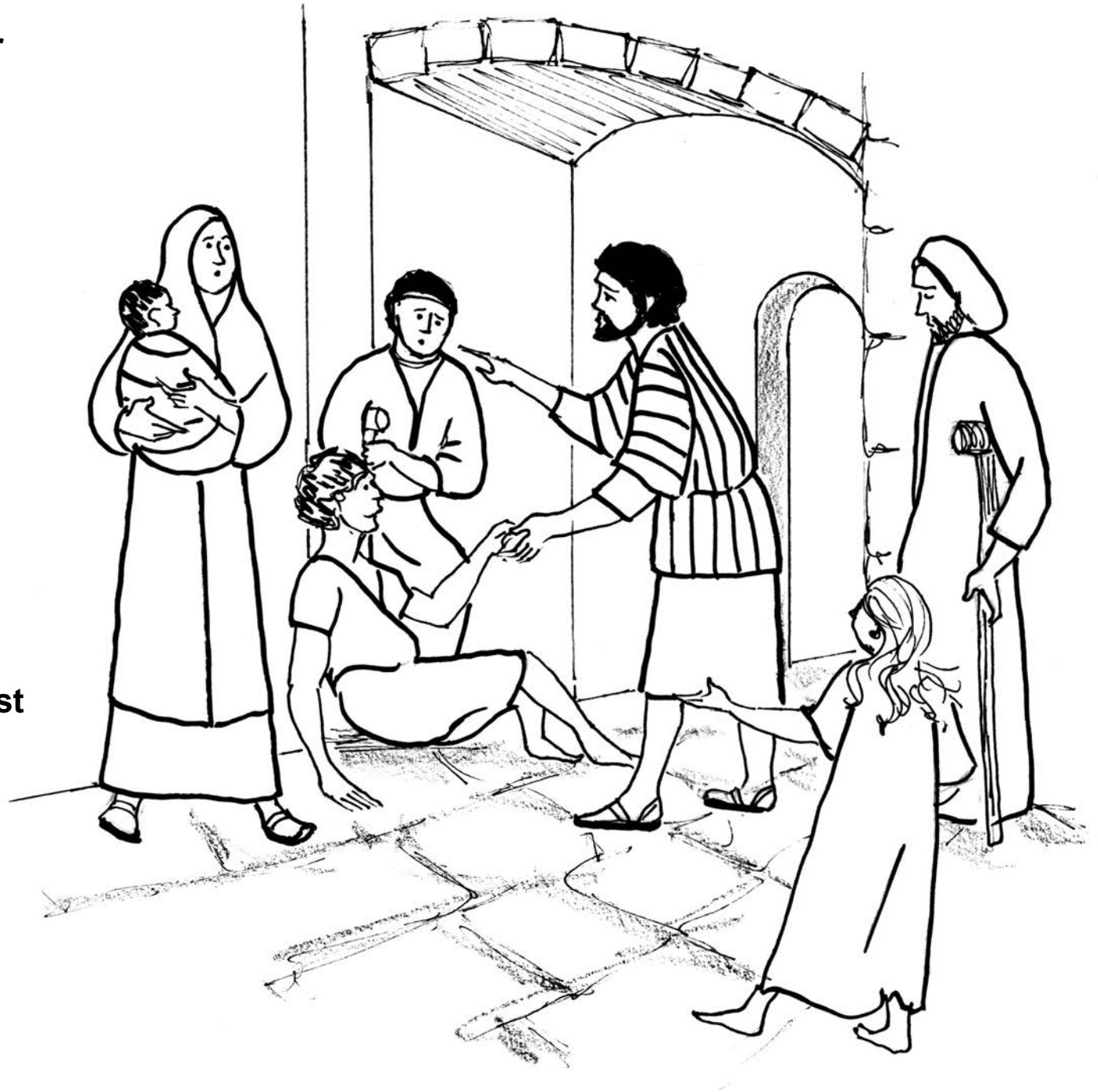


**The new Church met together
to worship the Lord.**

**The apostles
did many miracles
and those who believed
became part of the
Lord's Church.**

**News of the miracles
spread to other places.
People brought their
sick friends to the streets.
As Peter walked by
all of them were healed.**

**The Church was the place
where the truth of Jesus Christ
was being made known.**



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AN ANGEL OPENS PRISON DOORS

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ACTS 5:12-42

AN ANGEL OPENS PRISON DOORS

File no. 171

**The apostles went about
telling everyone
of God's wonderful kingdom.**

**The Holy Spirit
had given them
the power to do this
and also to heal.**

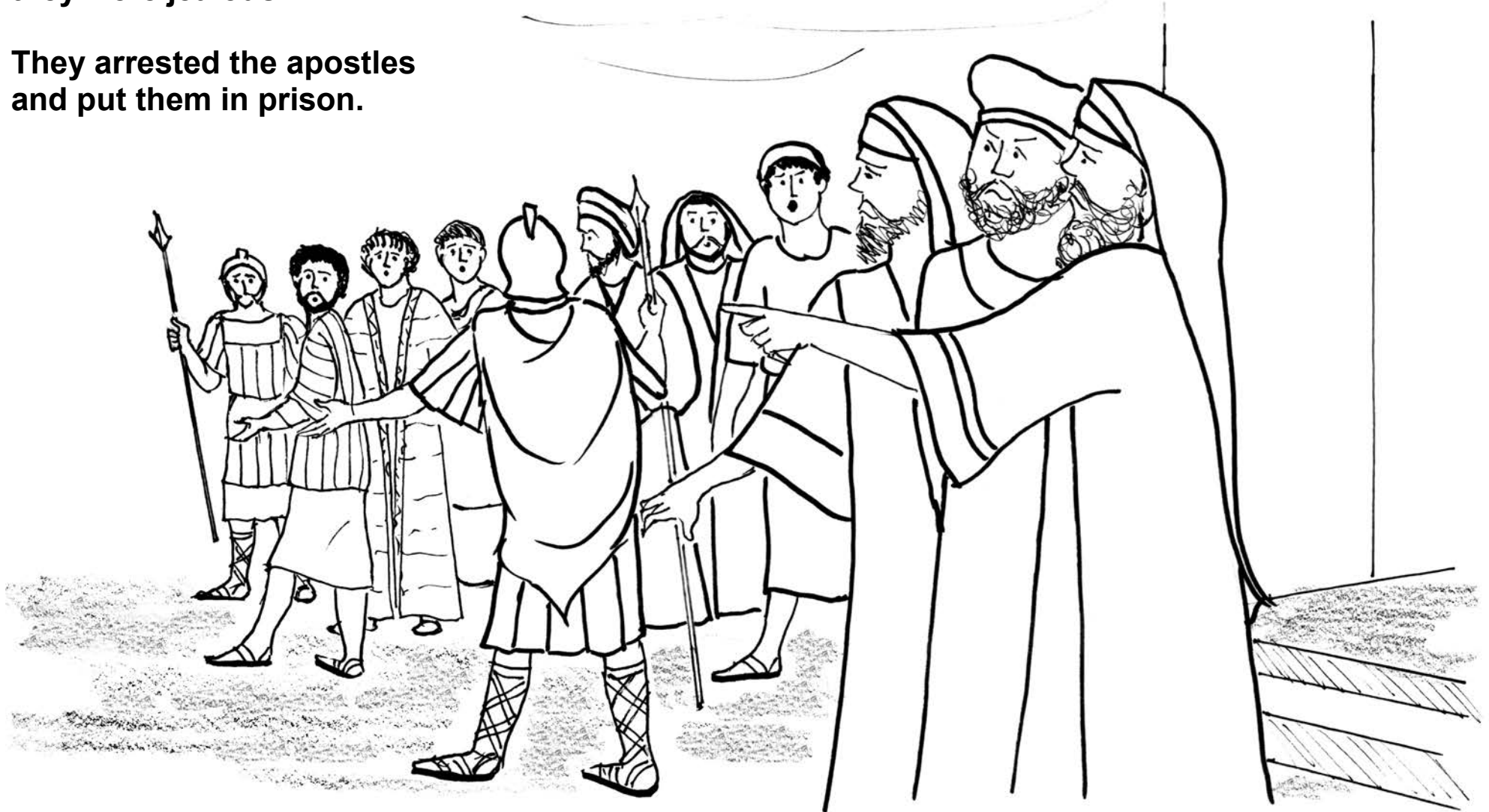
**People from other towns
heard that the sick were being
healed and they also came.**

**The church was living
in God's presence.**



**When the High Priest and his friends
saw that many people were believing
in the Lord Jesus Christ
they were jealous.**

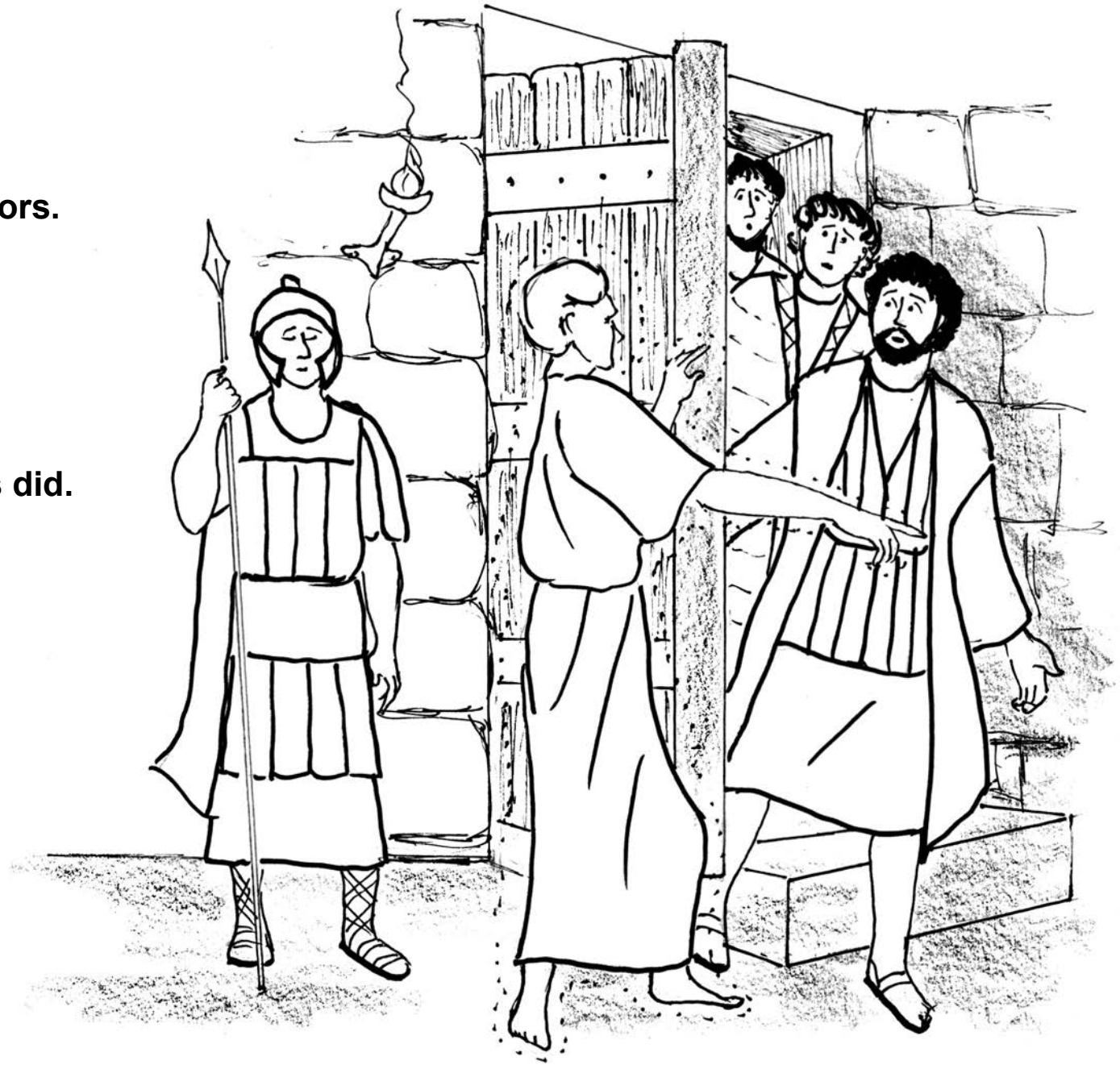
**They arrested the apostles
and put them in prison.**



**That night,
God sent an angel to
the apostles in prison.**

**He opened the prison doors.
He took the apostles out
and said to them,
'Go back to the temple
and tell the people
about this new life.'**

That is what the apostles did.



**In the morning,
the High Priest
called for a meeting
and wanted the prisoners
to be brought in.**

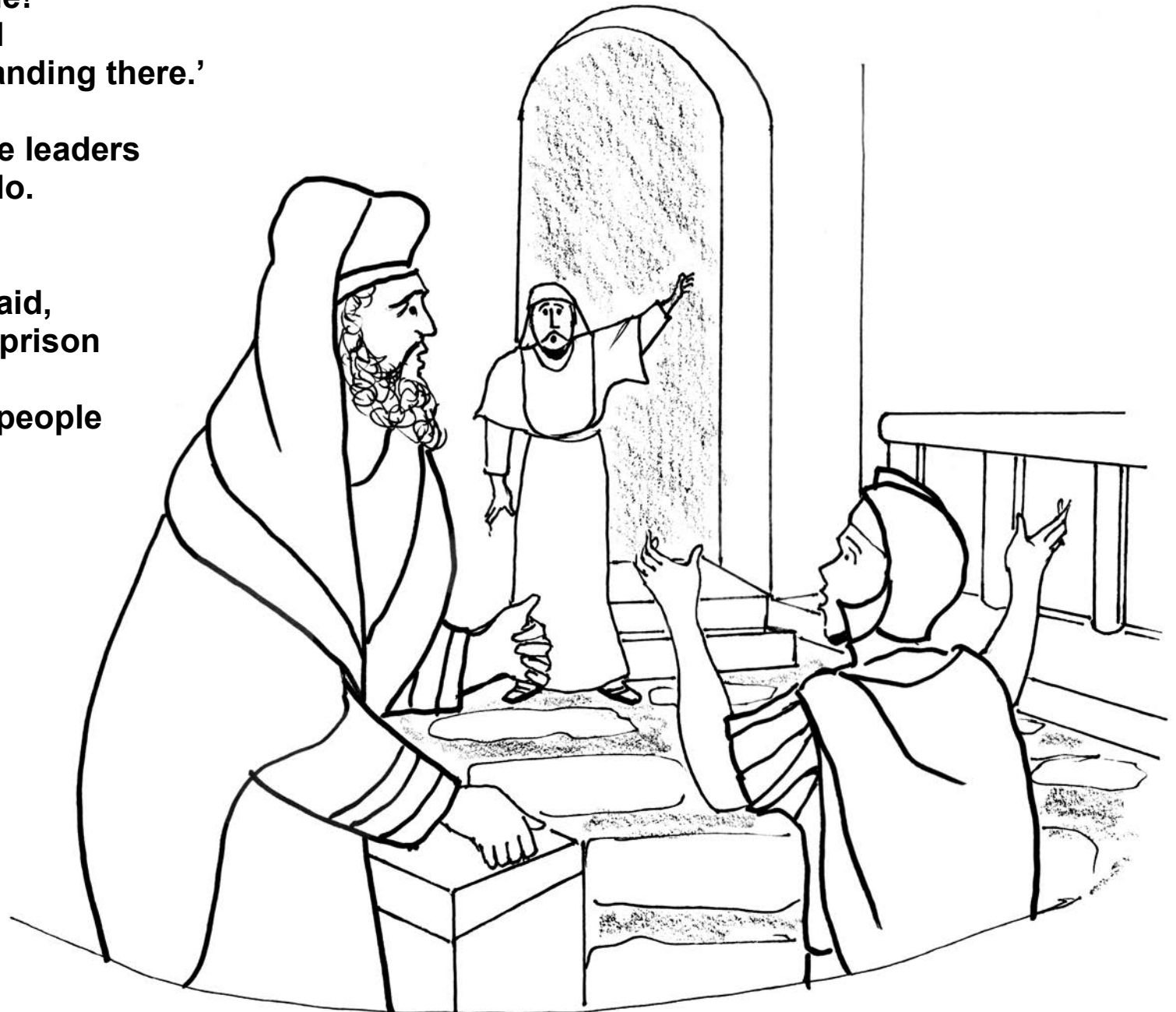
**However,
when the temple police
got to the prison,
they found that the
apostles had gone.**



**They hurried back to the High Priest and said,
'The prisoners are gone!
The doors were locked
and the guards still standing there.'**

**The High Priest and the leaders
did not know what to do.**

**Then someone
came rushing in and said,
'The men you put into prison
are in the temple.
They are teaching the people
about Jesus!'**

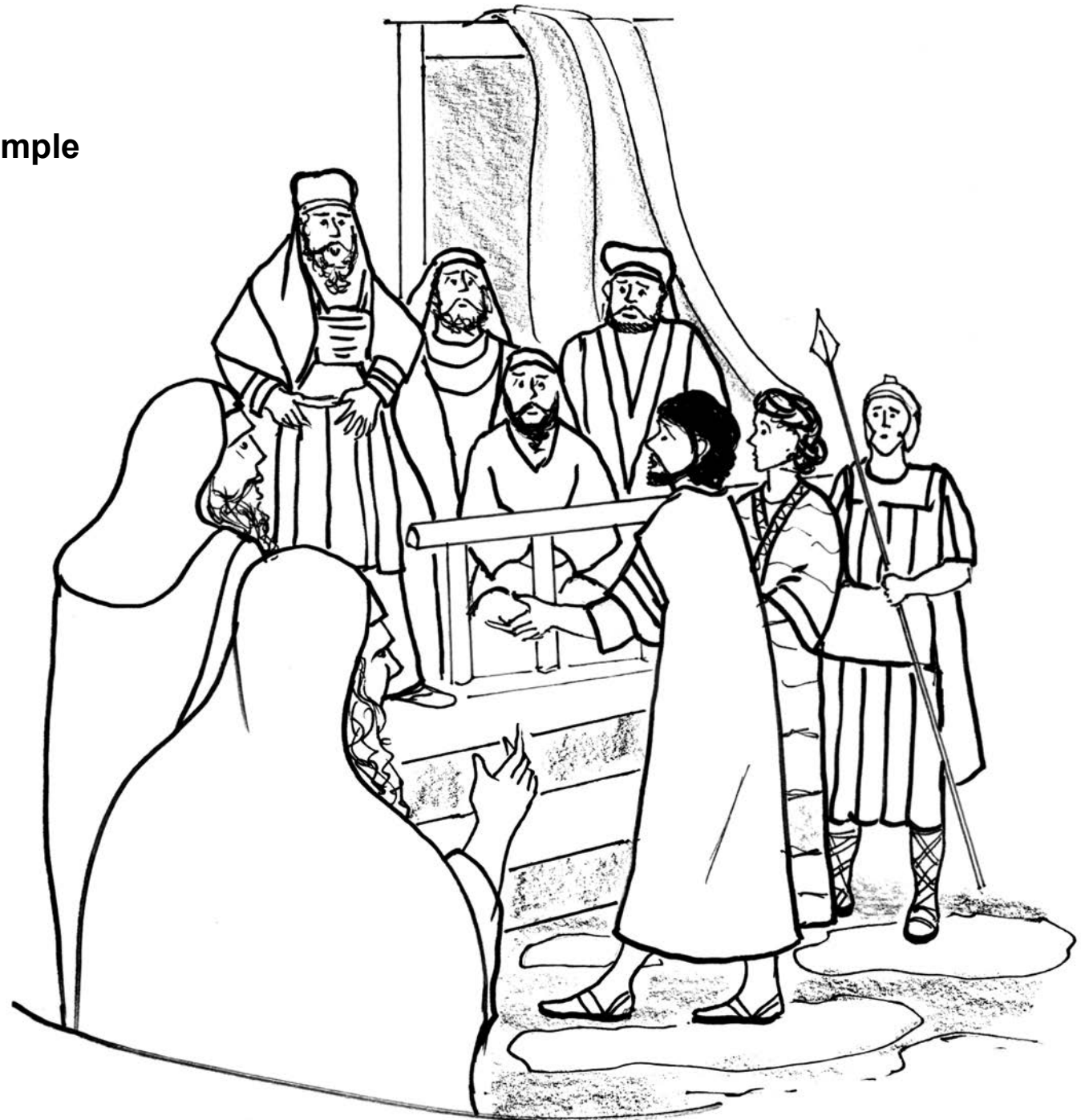


The Captain and his men brought the apostles from the temple and made them stand before the Jewish leaders.

**The High Priest said to them,
‘We told you not to teach about Jesus.
You are turning the people against us.’**

**Peter answered,
‘We must obey God.
God raised Jesus from death!
This is the One,
that you killed on the cross.
He is now sitting with God
in Heaven so that all
can have their sins forgiven.**

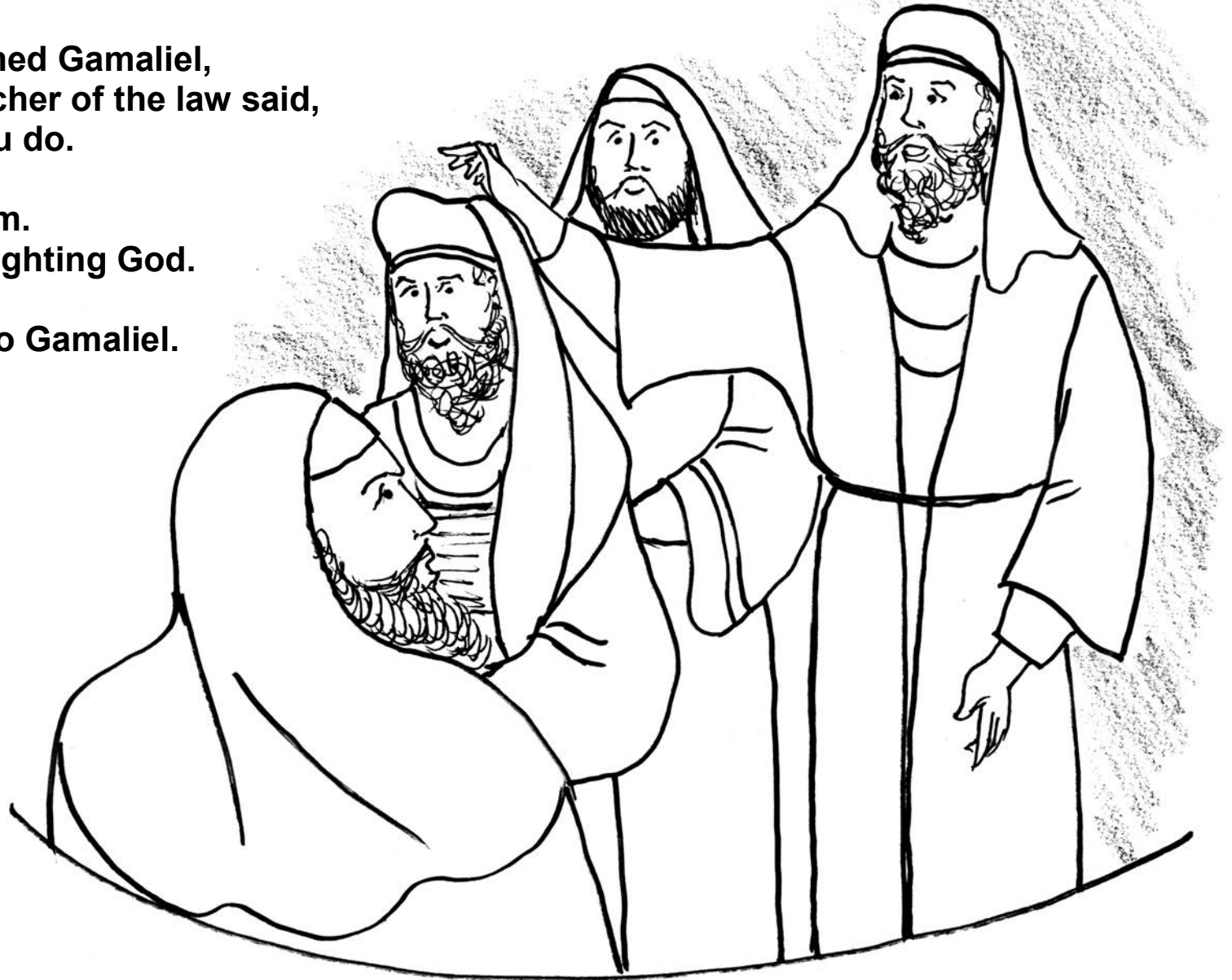
**‘The Holy Spirit has shown us
that these things are true.
Also, to all who obey Jesus,
God has given His Spirit.’**



**When the Jewish leaders heard this
they were so angry
that they wanted to kill the apostles.**

**But a Pharisee, named Gamaliel,
who also was a teacher of the law said,
'Be careful what you do.
If this is from God
we cannot stop them.
We might even be fighting God.'**

Everyone listened to Gamaliel.



**They beat the apostles
and let them go saying,
'Do not speak in the
name of Jesus again.'**

**The apostles were full of joy
because they knew
they belonged to the Lord.
And they were not afraid
to tell everyone that
Jesus is the Christ.**



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***CHOOSING HELPERS IN THE CHURCH /
THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR***

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ACTS 6:1 — 7:2, 51–60

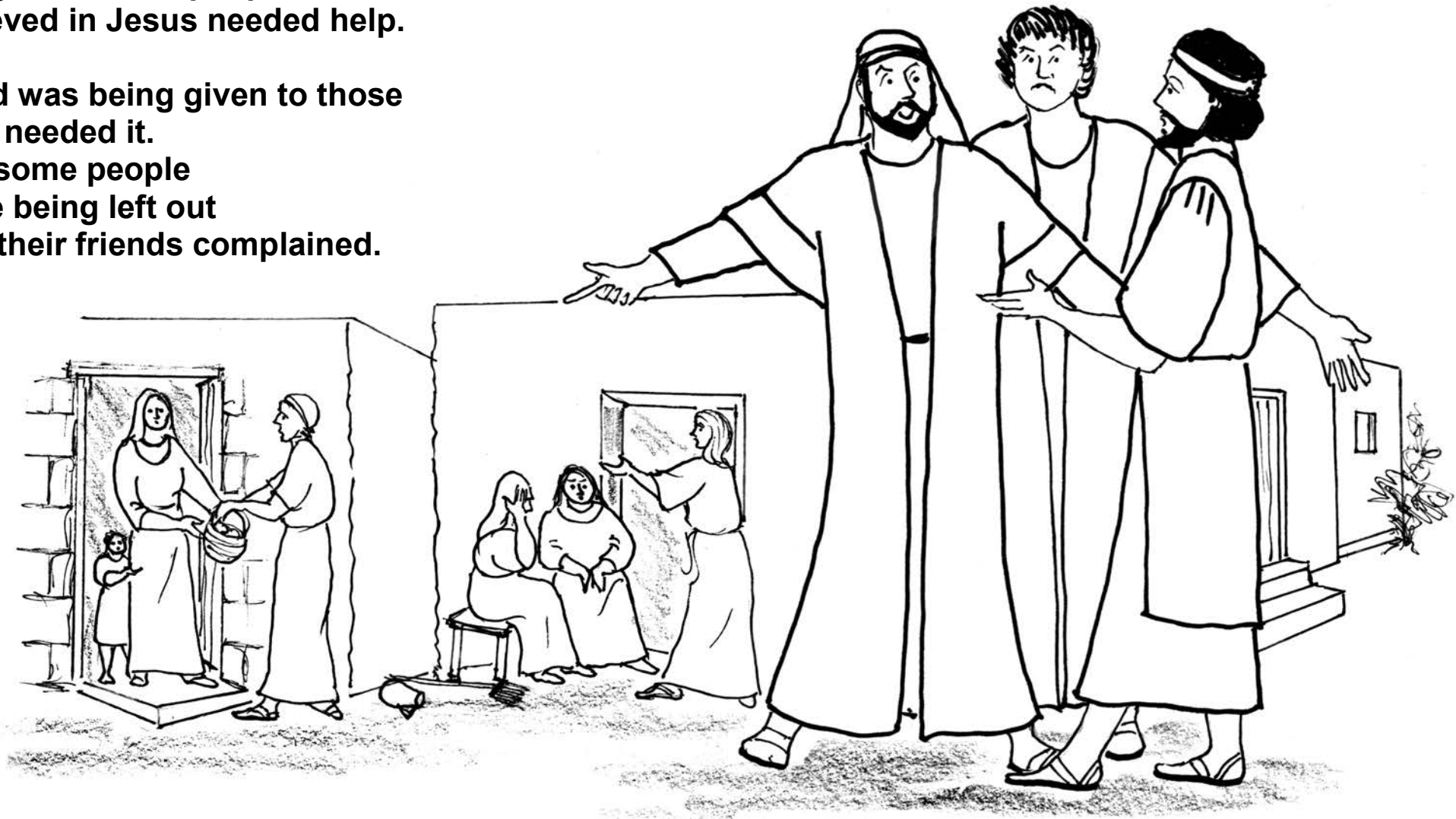
Acts 7:3–50

**CHOOSING HELPERS IN THE CHURCH /
THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR**

File no. 172

**Many of the first people who
believed in Jesus needed help.**

**Food was being given to those
who needed it.
But some people
were being left out
and their friends complained.**



So the apostles called everyone together and said, 'There are a lot of people who have become believers in Jesus and are part of our community. We cannot do all the work that is needed to be done.

'Choose seven men you trust, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will give them the job of sharing the food to those who need it.

'It is important that we spend time in prayer and teaching God's word.'

Everyone was happy with this plan and they chose Stephen, Philip and five others.

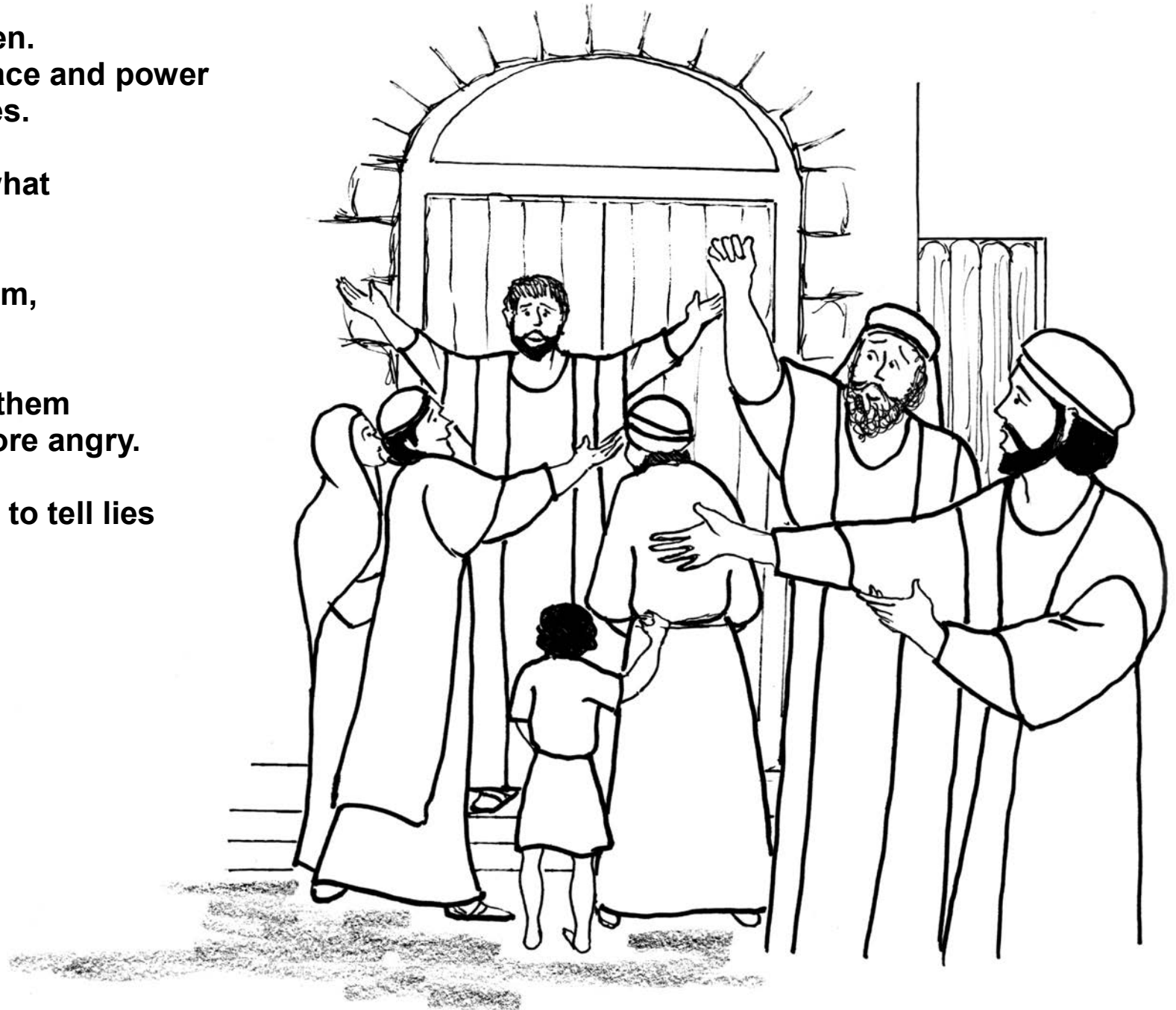


**God blessed Stephen.
He gave him His grace and power
to do lots of miracles.**

**Some Jews hated what
Stephen was doing.**

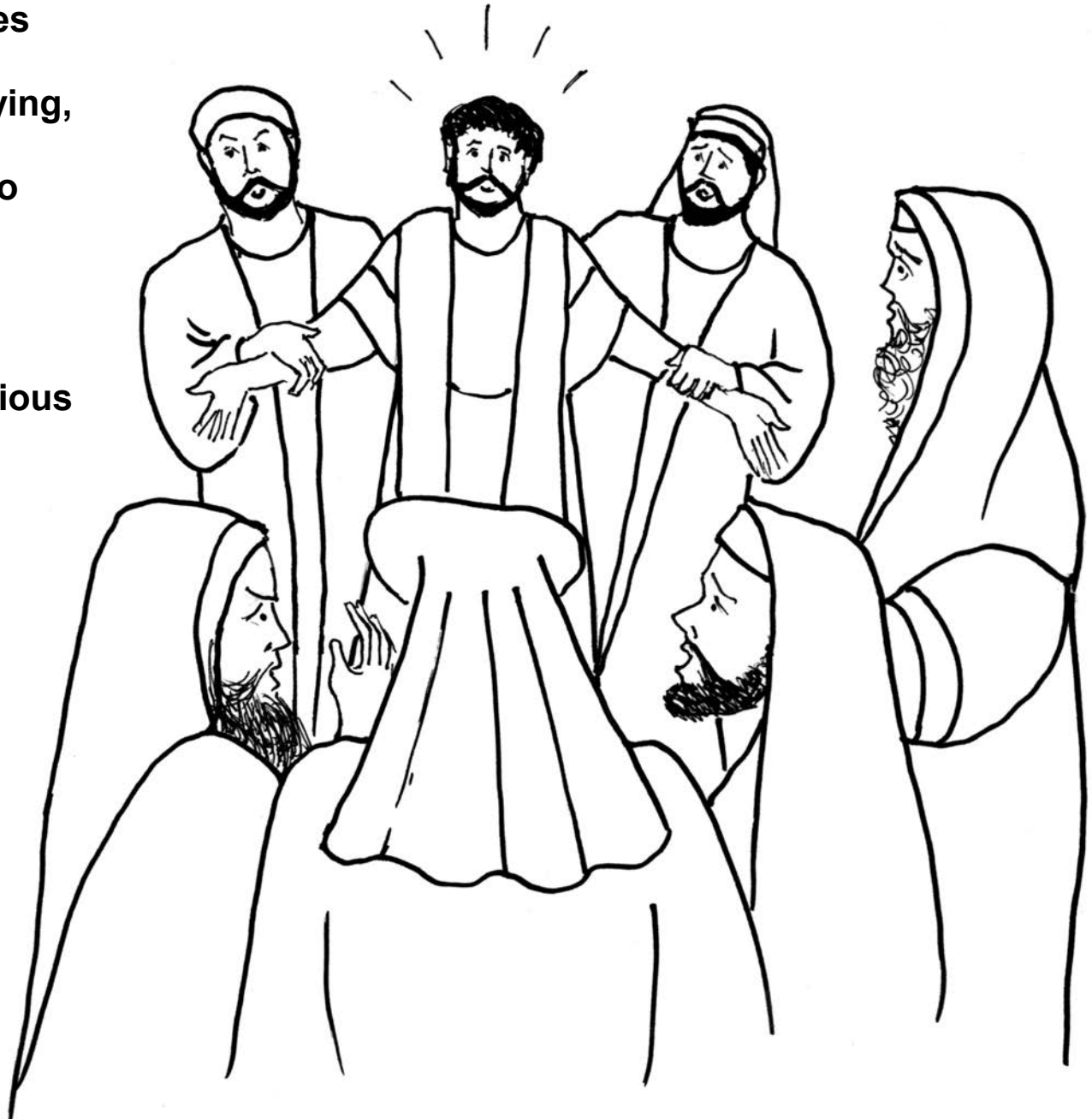
**They argued with him,
but God's Spirit
was with Stephen.
He spoke wisely to them
but they became more angry.**

**Then they paid men to tell lies
about him.**



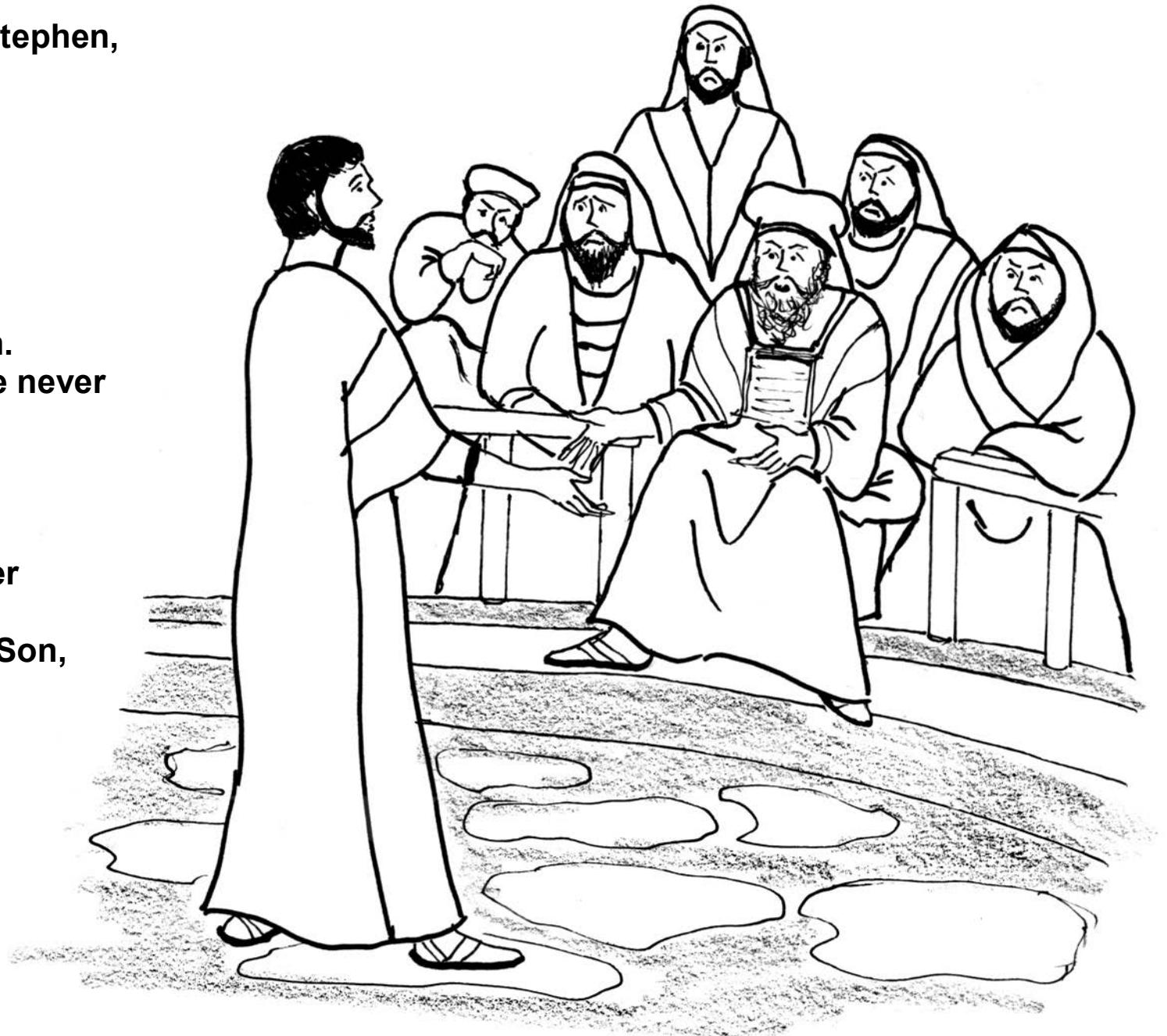
Some people believed the lies and dragged Stephen off to the Jewish leaders saying, 'We heard Stephen say that Jesus of Nazareth is going to destroy the Temple and change the laws which Moses gave us.'

The Jewish leaders were furious but Stephen was not afraid. When they looked at him, his face was like the face of an angel.



**The High Priest asked Stephen,
'Are these things true?'**

**Stephen answered,
'God spoke to
Abraham and to Moses.
Then through David
He gave Israel a place
in which to worship Him.
But our forefathers have never
really heard what God
was saying to them.
They wanted something
they could see instead.
They and you have never
really listened to God.
Then when He sent His Son,
you killed Him.'**



**This really made the
Jewish leaders angry.**

**But Stephen,
filled with the Holy Spirit,
looked towards heaven
and saw the glory of the Lord.**

**He said, 'Look!
I see the heavens opened.
I see Jesus,
standing at God's right hand.'**

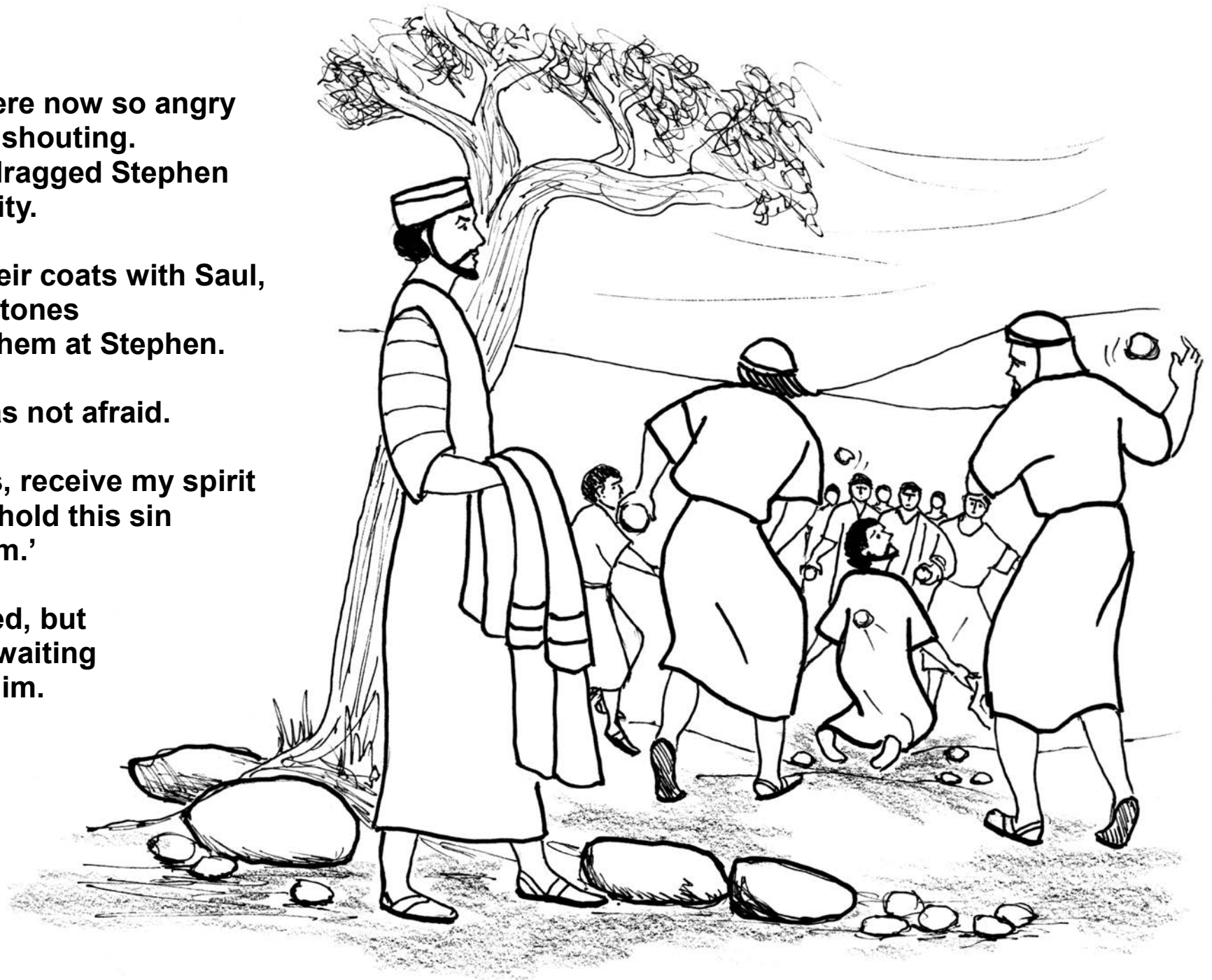


The men were now so angry they began shouting. Then they dragged Stephen out of the city.

They left their coats with Saul, picked up stones and threw them at Stephen.

Stephen was not afraid. He prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit and do not hold this sin against them.'

Stephen died, but Jesus was waiting to receive him.



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PHILIP AND AN EVIL MAGICIAN

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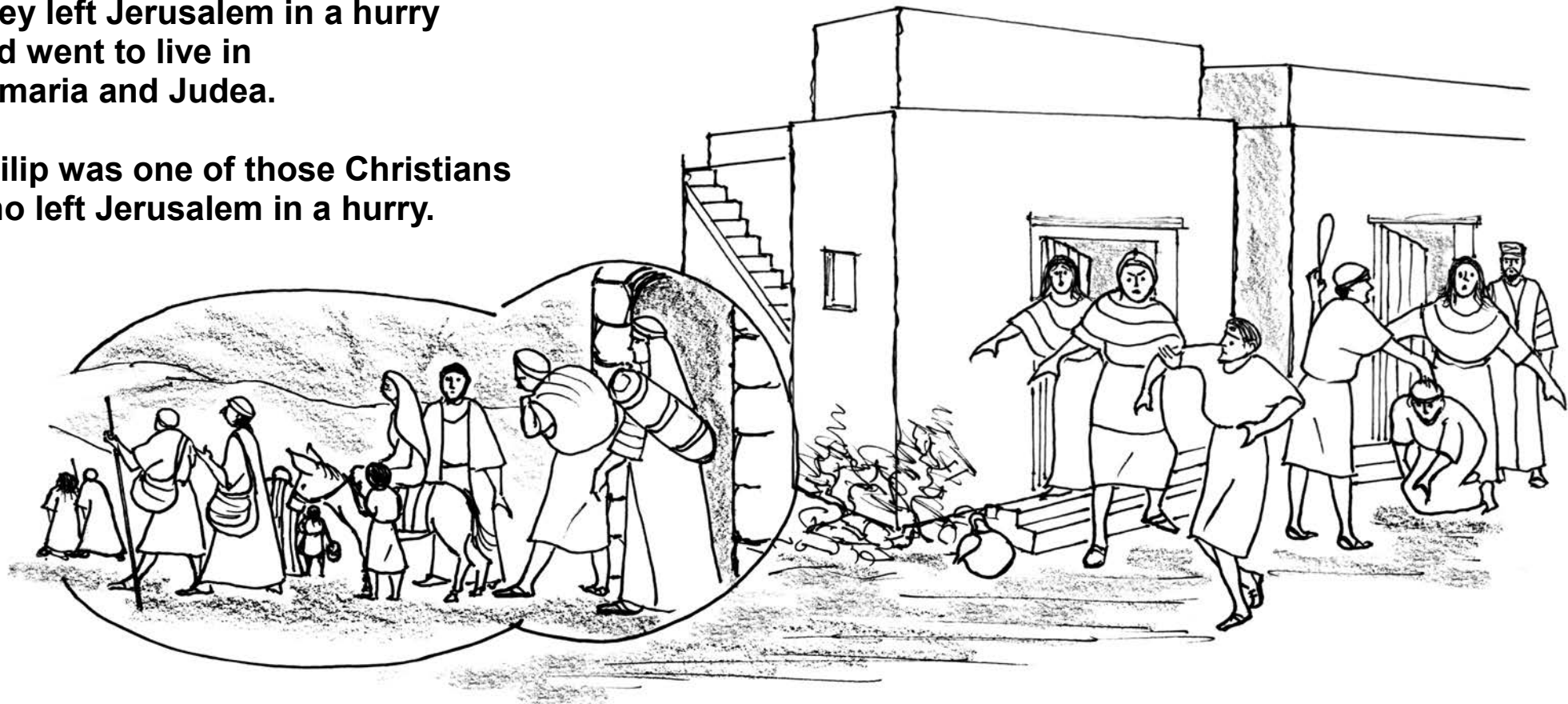
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ACTS 8:1-25
PHILIP AND AN EVIL MAGICIAN
File no. 173

**Saul was going into homes,
getting the Christians
and putting them into prison.**

**The Christians became afraid of Saul.
They left Jerusalem in a hurry
and went to live in
Samaria and Judea.**

**Philip was one of those Christians
who left Jerusalem in a hurry.**

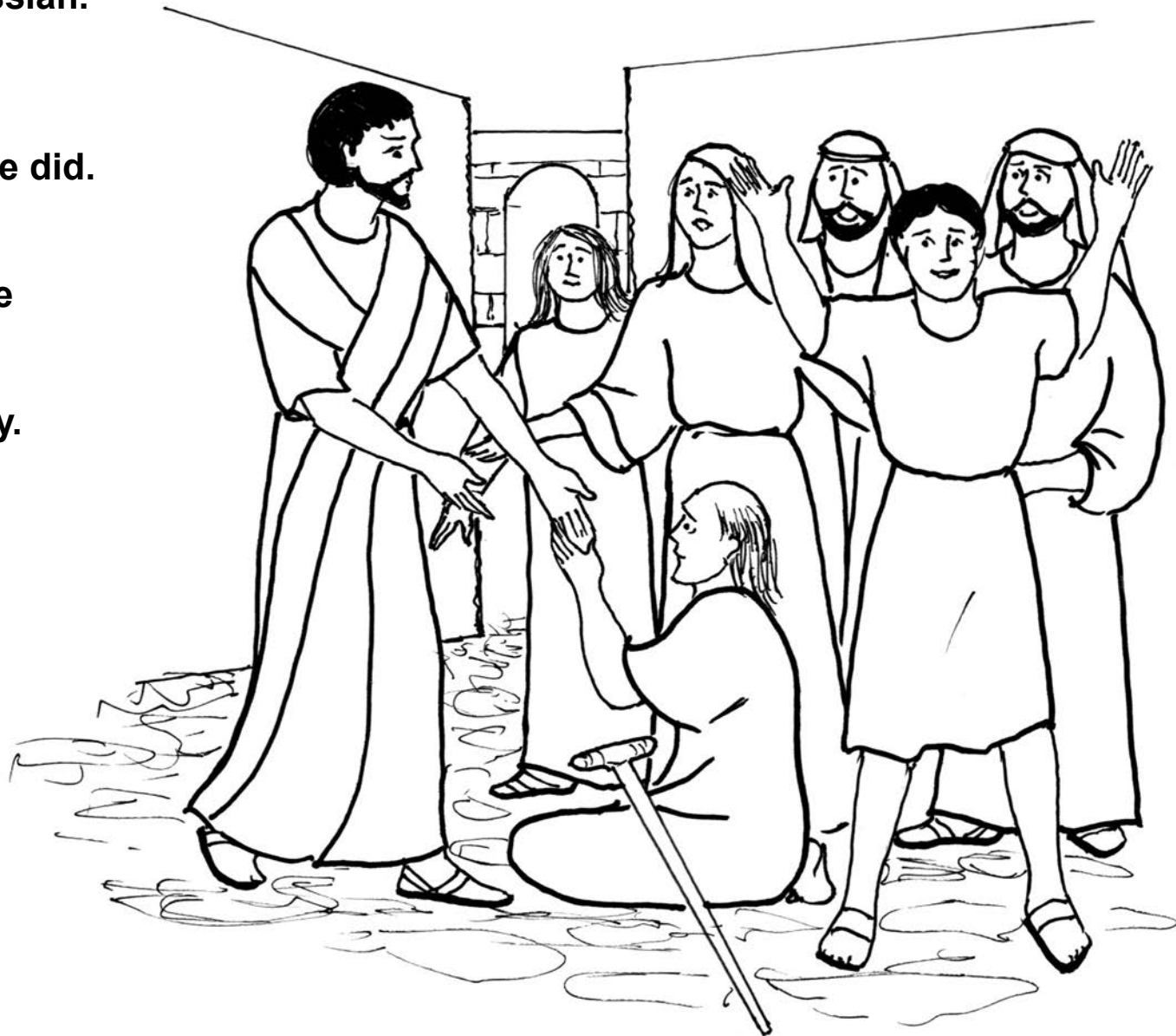


**Philip, now living in Samaria,
went on telling everyone
that Jesus was the Messiah.**

**People listened
to what he had to say
and saw the miracles he did.**

**The lame were healed
and the evil spirits were
commanded to leave.**

Everyone was full of joy.



**One of those people
who listened to Philip was Simon.
He used to do magic.
Everyone used to listen to him
and they thought he had
the power of God.**

**But now everyone was
listening to Philip
tell about the good news
of God's kingdom
and of Jesus Christ.**

**Lots of people
were believing in Jesus
and were baptised.
Simon also believed
and he was baptised.**

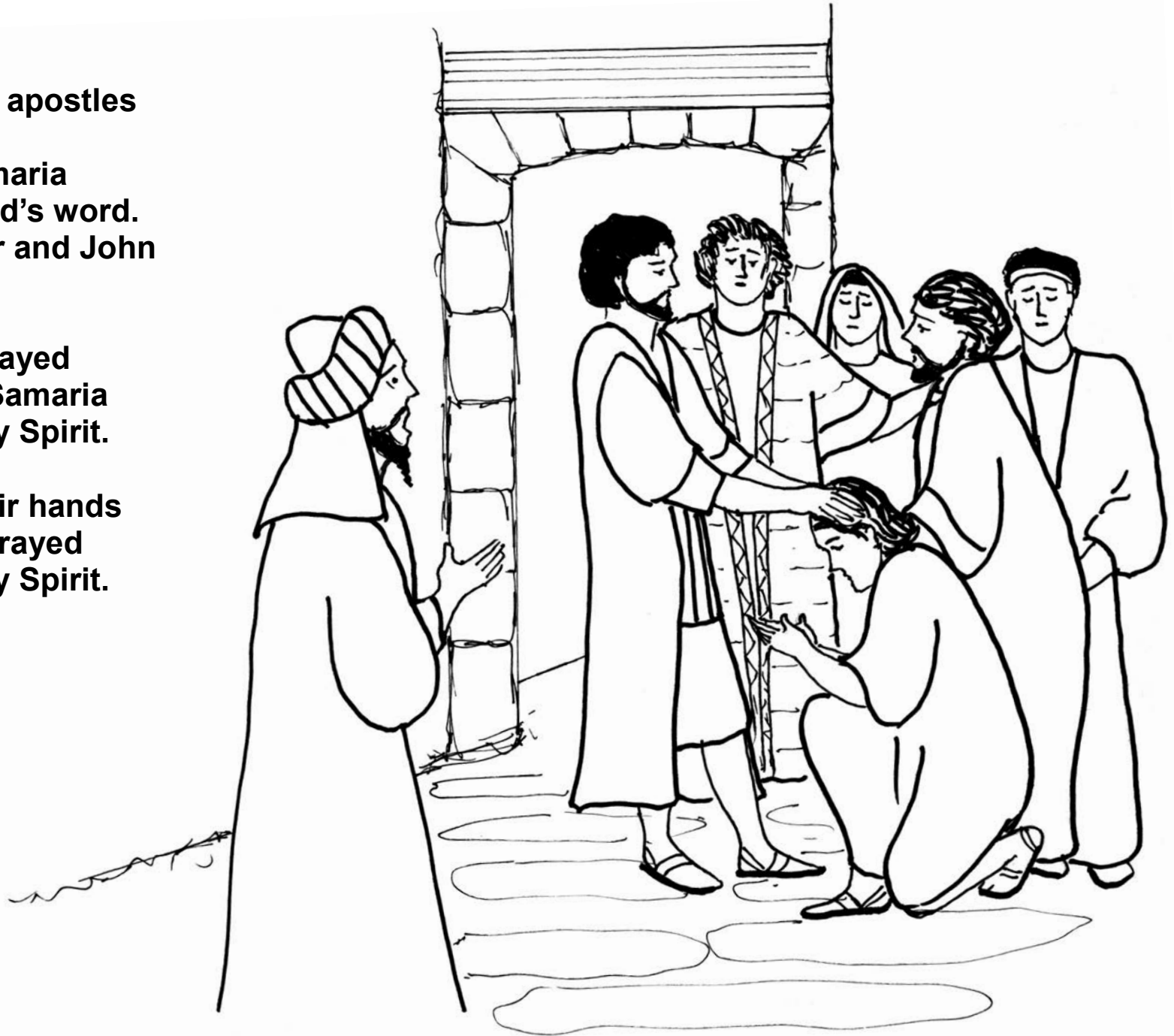
**He stayed close to Philip
and watched him
do the miracles.**



**News reached the apostles
in Jerusalem
that people in Samaria
were believing God's word.
So they sent Peter and John
to them.**

**Peter and John prayed
for the people in Samaria
to receive the Holy Spirit.**

**Then they laid their hands
on them as they prayed
to receive the Holy Spirit.**



**Simon was watching.
He was amazed.
He wanted this power.**

**He said to Peter and John,
'Here is some money.
Give me this power.
Then I can also lay my hands
on people and give them
the Holy Spirit.'**

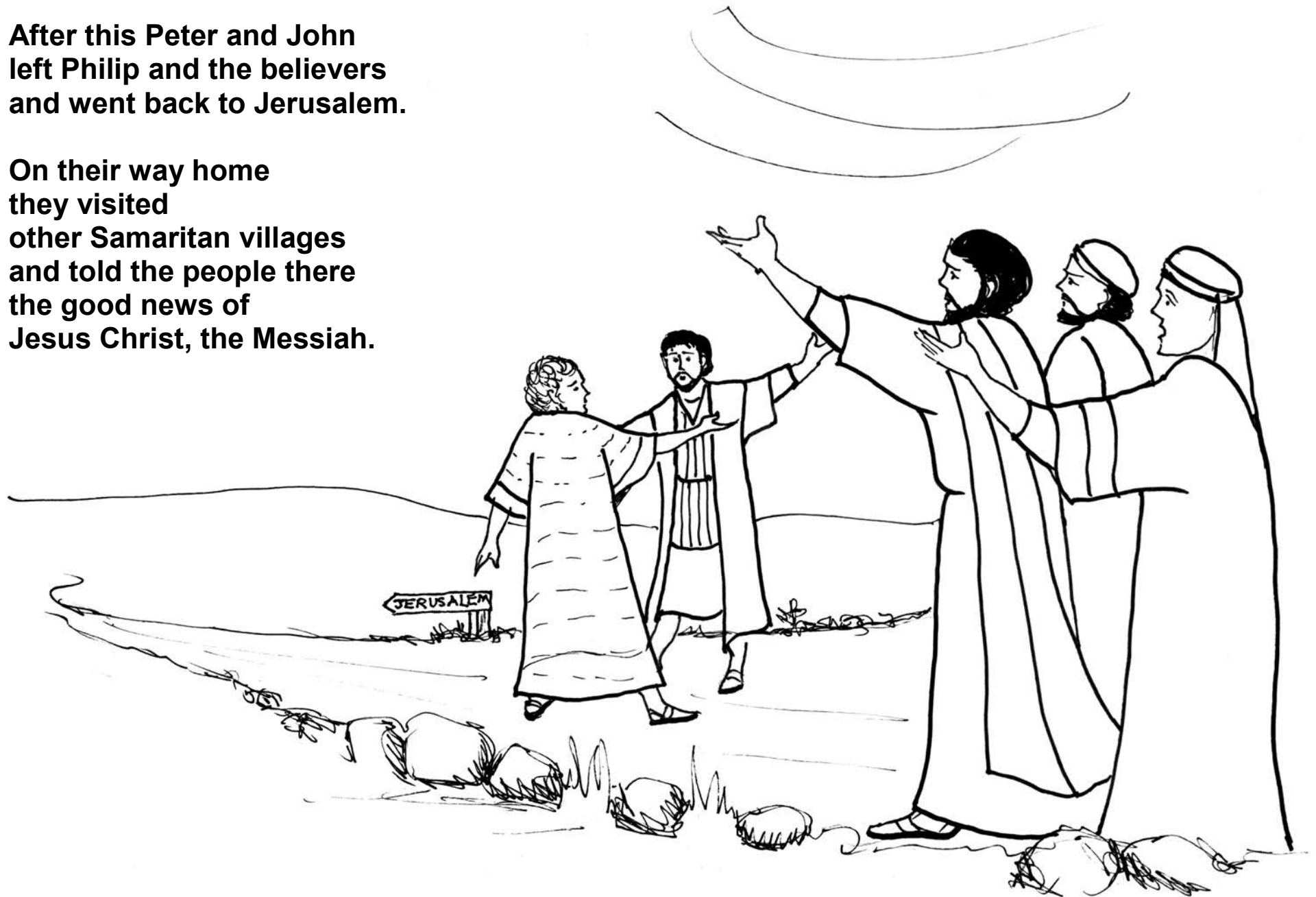
**Peter looked at him
and said,
'Let your money die with you.
You thought you could buy
God's gift?
You cannot be a part
of this work.
Your heart is not right
before God.
Ask God to forgive you.
Pray to the Lord.'**

**Simon answered,
'Pray for me to the Lord.
Pray that what you have said
will not happen to me.'**



**After this Peter and John
left Philip and the believers
and went back to Jerusalem.**

**On their way home
they visited
other Samaritan villages
and told the people there
the good news of
Jesus Christ, the Messiah.**



Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

by

Chris Thorpe

& people from Coromandel Baptist Church

Illustrated by Kay Kammermann

Website: www.corobaptist.org.au

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ACTS 8:26–40

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

File no. 174

**An angel of the Lord
came to Philip and said,
'Go to the
lonely desert road
between
Jerusalem and Gaza.'**

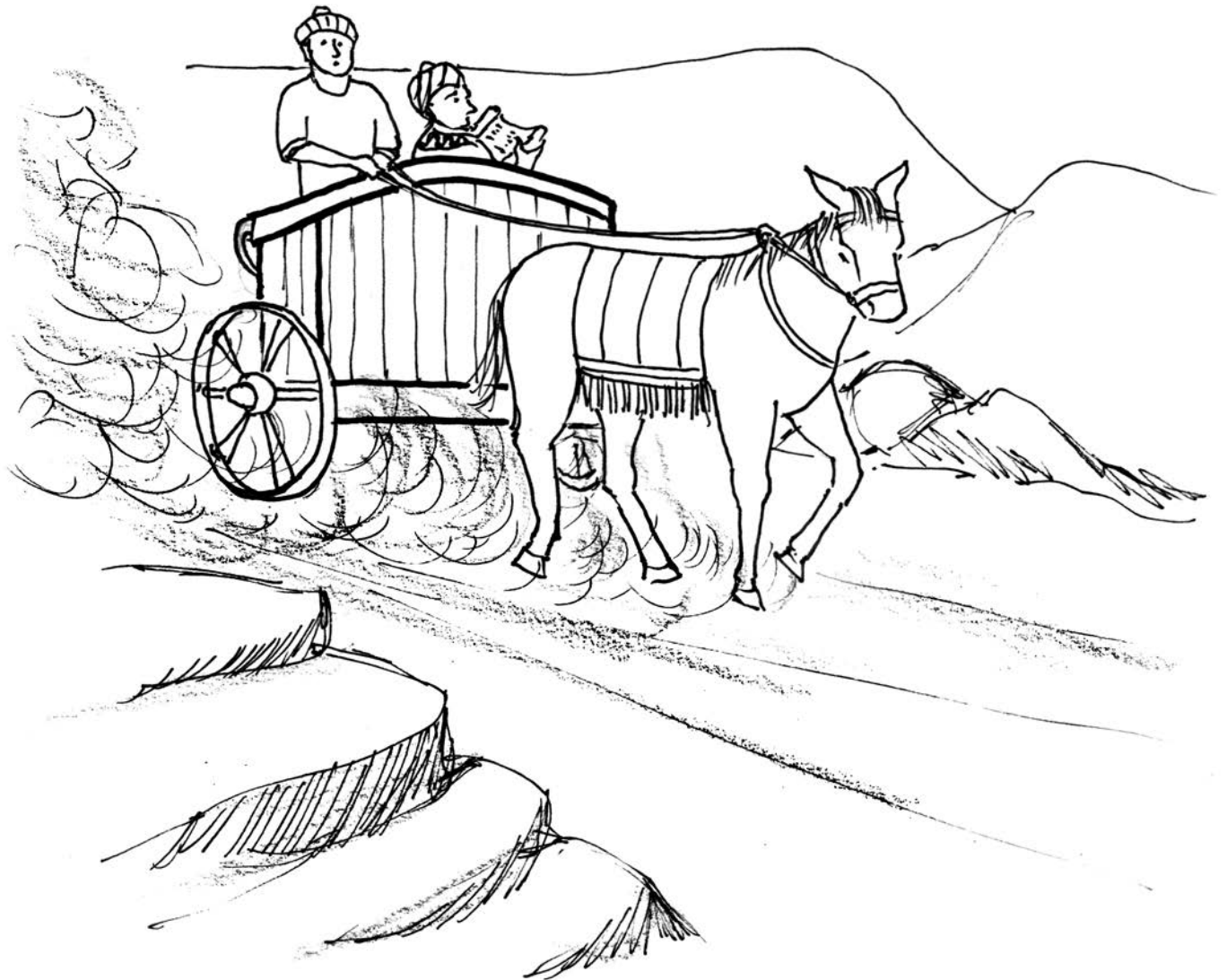


**Philip went straight away
to the lonely desert road.**

**At the same time
a man from Ethiopia
was travelling in his chariot.
He was on his way home.**

**He worked for the Queen,
and looked after her money
and property.
He had been to Jerusalem
to worship God.**

**As he rode in his chariot,
he was reading out aloud
from the book of Isaiah.**

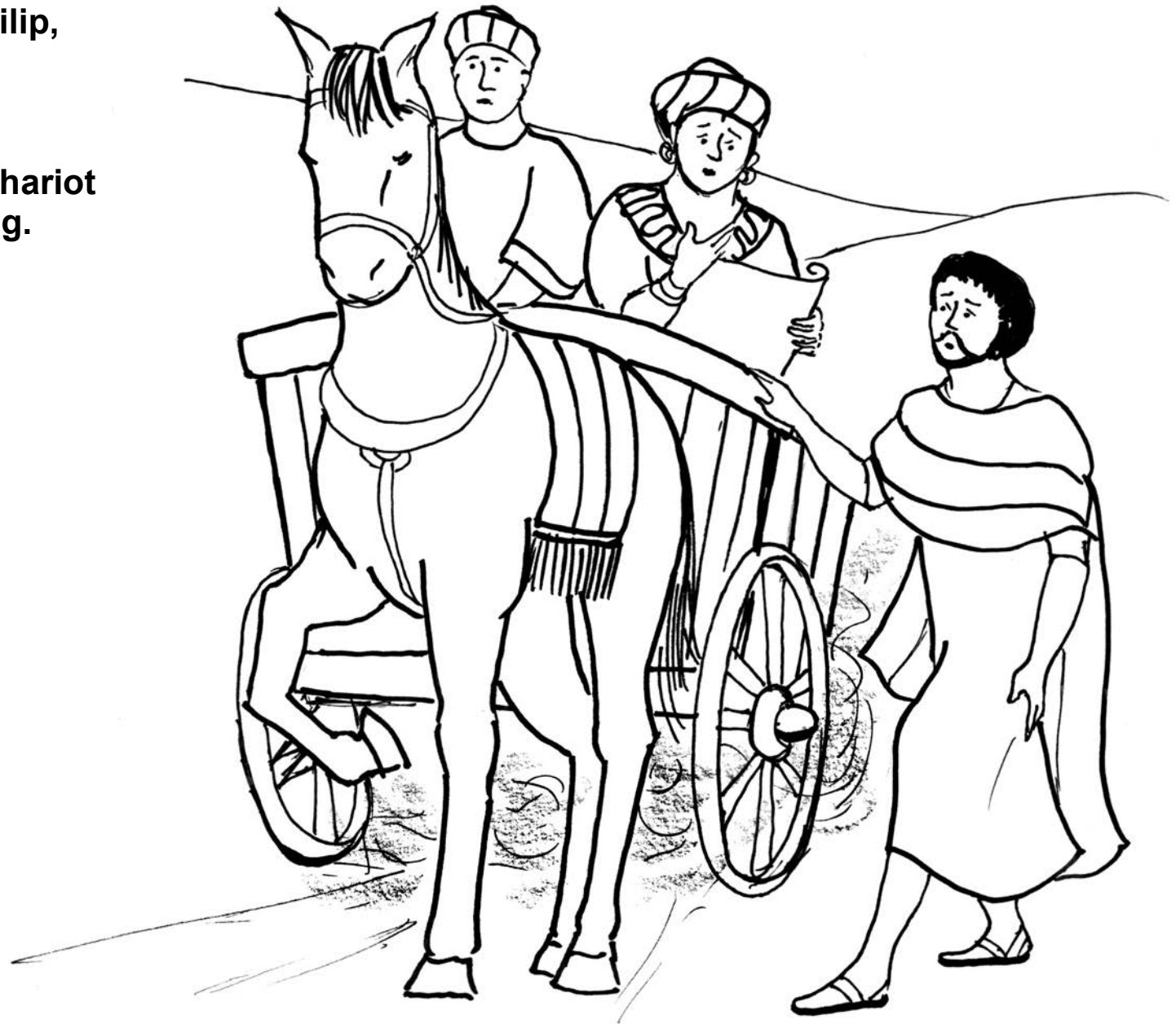


**The Holy Spirit said to Philip,
'Go and keep close
to that chariot.'**

**Philip ran alongside the chariot
and heard the man reading.**

**He asked him,
'Do you understand
what you're reading?'**

**'How can I unless
someone explains it
to me?'**
answered the man.
**'Come and join me
in my chariot.'**



The man from Ethiopia was reading:

**'They led Him like a sheep
that was going to be killed.
He was quiet like a lamb
when its wool
was being cut off.
He was treated unfairly.
Who will be left
to tell His story?
His life on earth
has been ended.'**

**'Who is Isaiah talking about?'
asked the man.
'Is it himself,
or someone else?'**

**Explaining this passage
Philip told the Ethiopian
about Jesus
and how men crucified Him,
and that God raised Him
from death.
He is now at
God's right hand.**



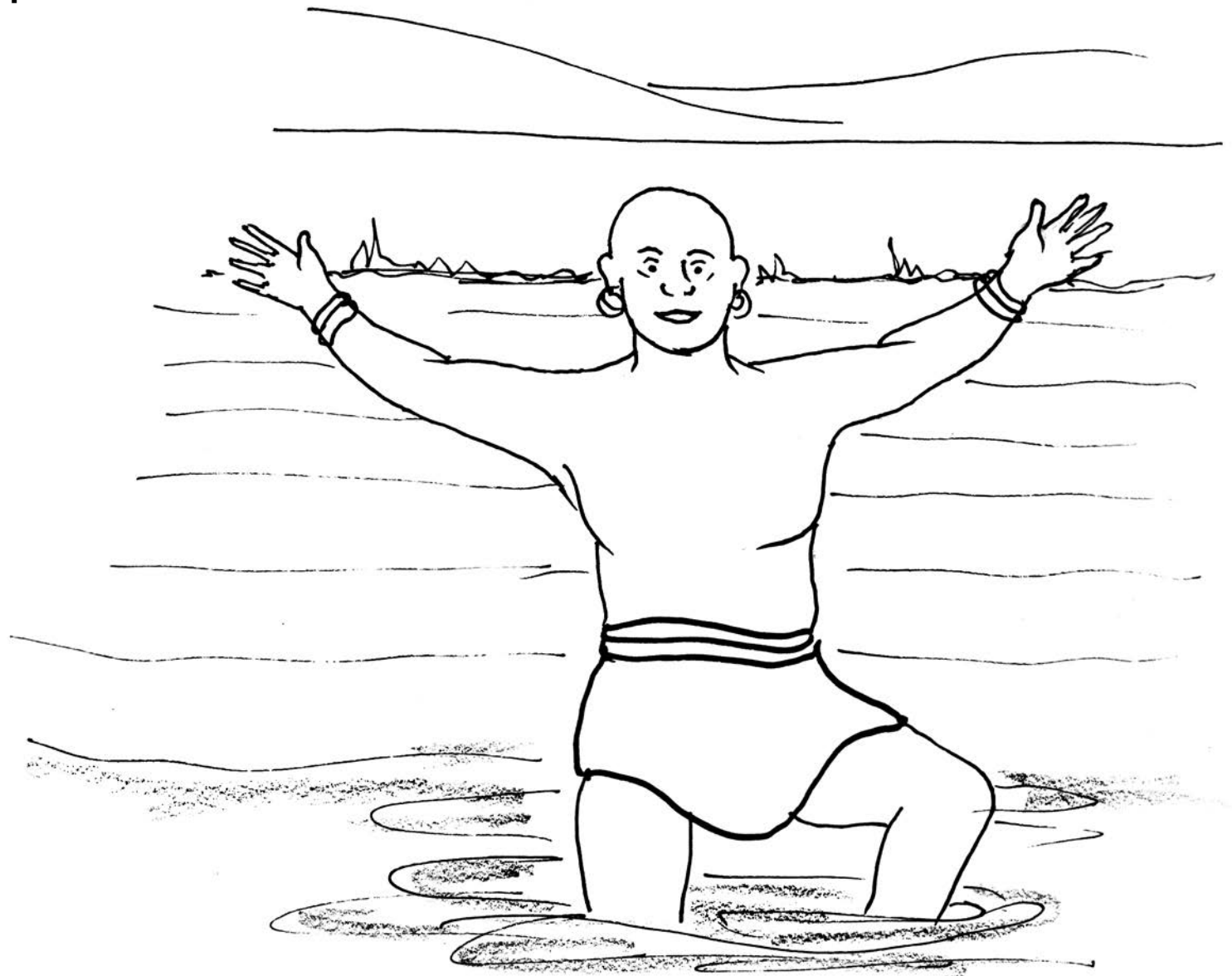
**The man from Ethiopia believed
and when he saw water ahead
he said,
'Here is water.
What prevents me from
being baptised?'**

**He stopped the chariot.
He and Philip got out
and went into the water,
where Philip baptised him.**



**As soon as they came up
out of the water
the Holy Spirit
took Philip away.**

**The man never
saw Philip again
but his heart was
full of joy as he went
on his way home.**



**Philip found himself in another place.
He went on telling people
the good news of Jesus Christ.**



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SAUL BECOMES A BELIEVER

by

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ACTS 9:1–20

Acts 26:15–18

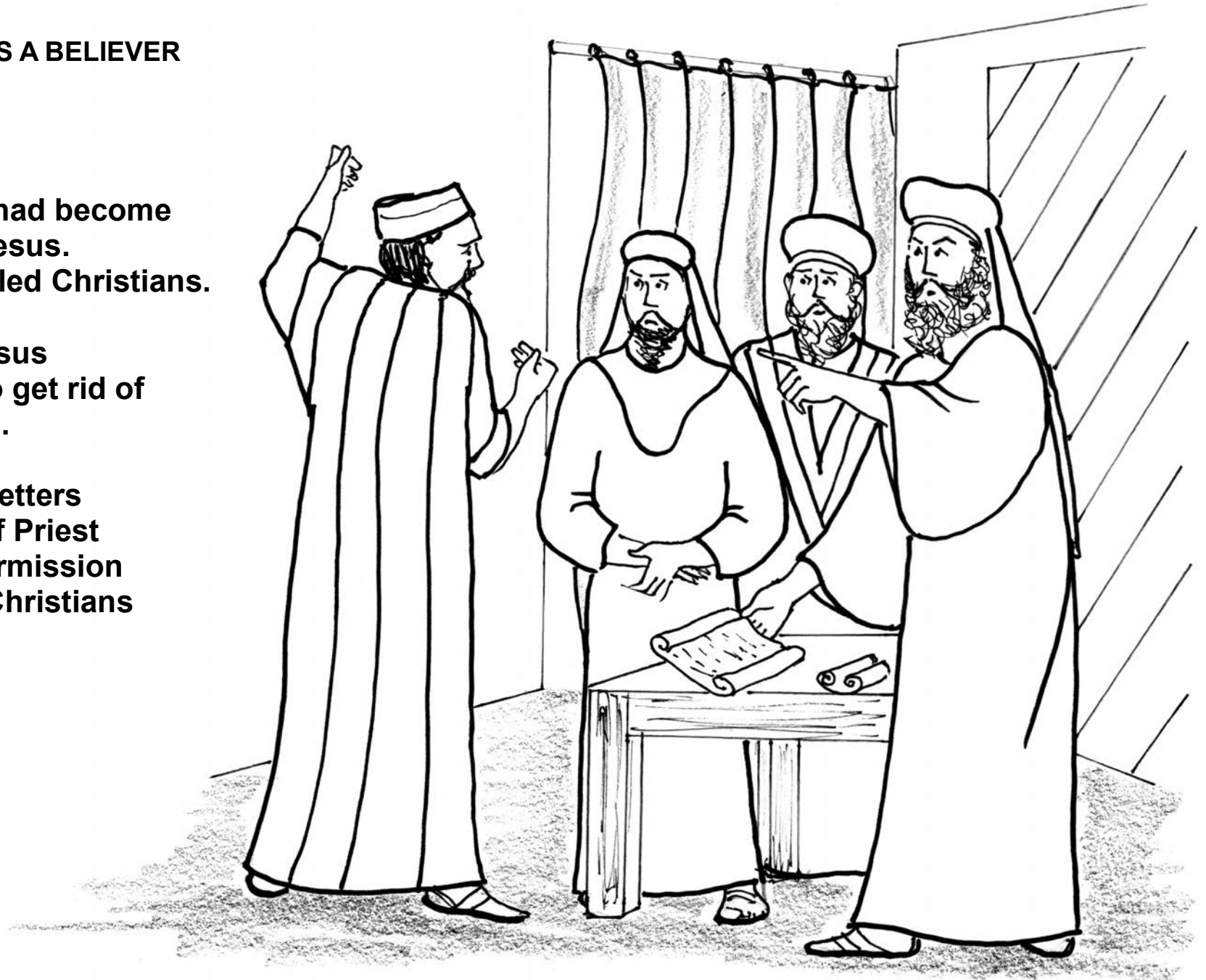
SAUL BECOMES A BELIEVER

File no. 175

**Many people had become believers in Jesus.
They were called Christians.**

**Saul hated Jesus
and wanted to get rid of
the Christians.**

**He got some letters
from the Chief Priest
giving him permission
to arrest the Christians
in Damascus.**

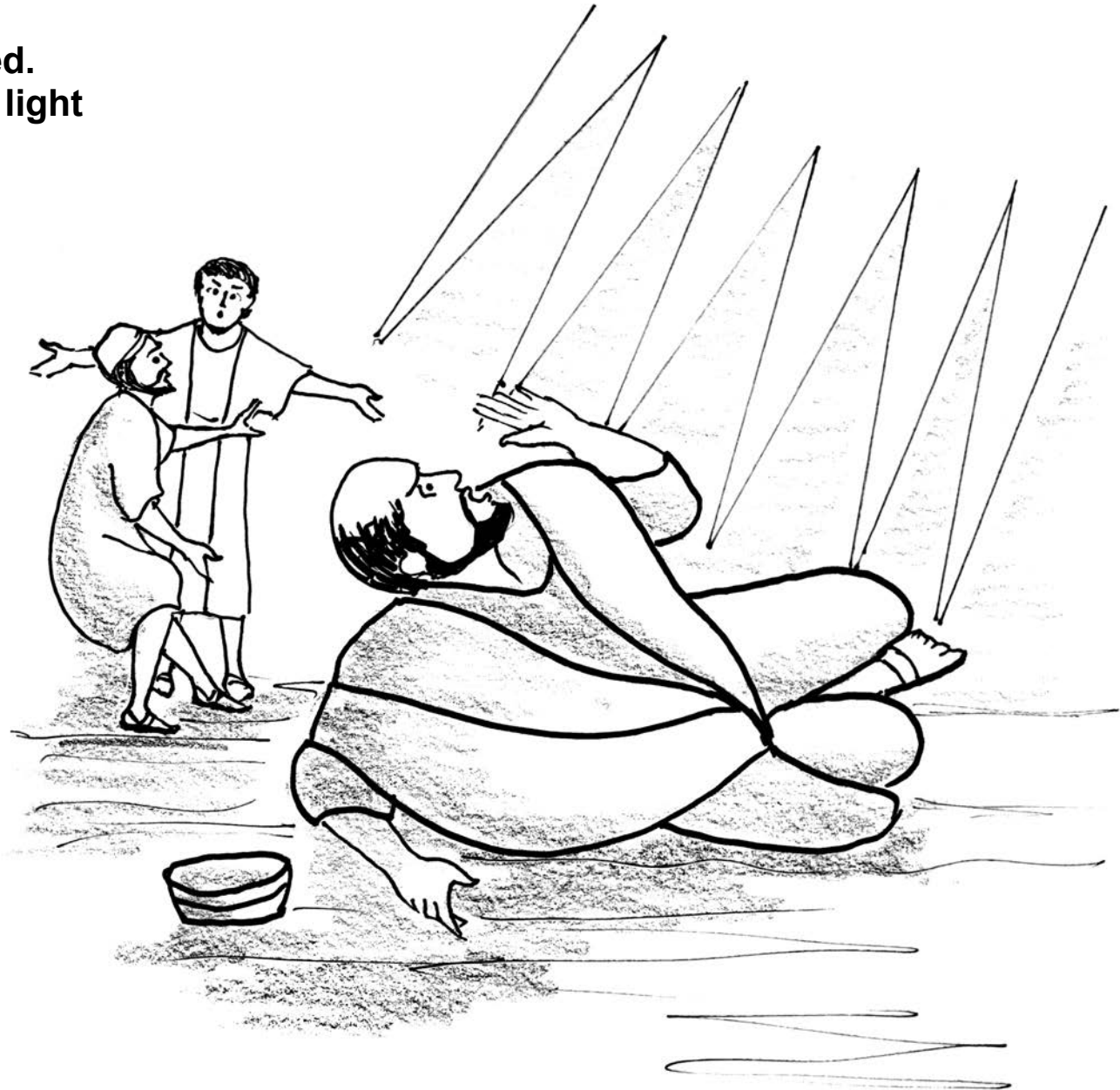


**On his way to Damascus
Saul was suddenly stopped.
There was a great flash of light
that made him fall
to the ground.**

**A Voice said,
'Saul, Saul, why are you
persecuting Me?'**

**Saul asked,
'Who are you, Lord?'**

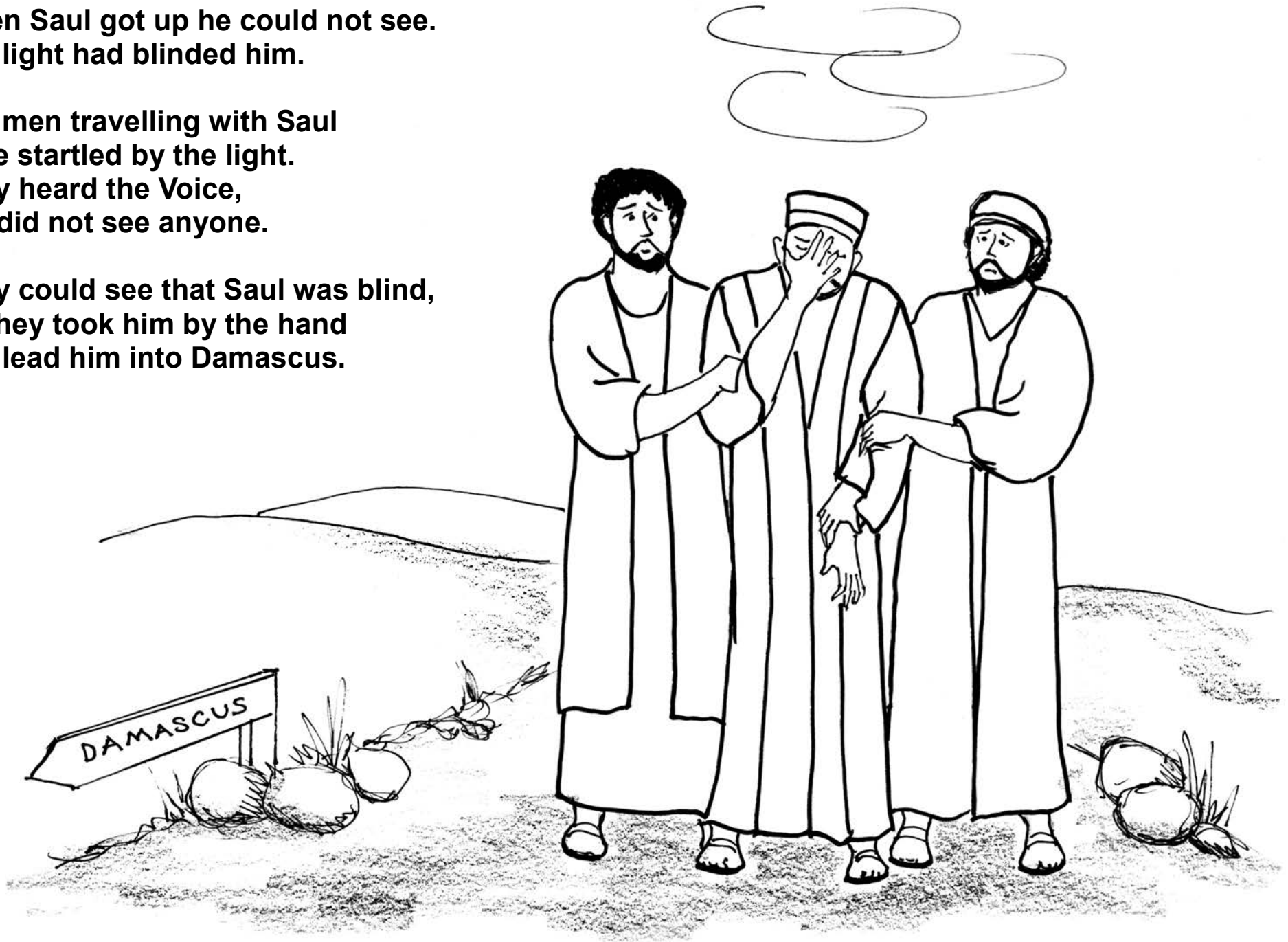
**The Voice said,
'I am Jesus,
the One you are
persecuting.
Get up and
go into Damascus
and you will be told
what to do.'**



**When Saul got up he could not see.
The light had blinded him.**

**The men travelling with Saul
were startled by the light.
They heard the Voice,
but did not see anyone.**

**They could see that Saul was blind,
so they took him by the hand
and lead him into Damascus.**



**For three days Saul waited.
He was unable to see.
He did not eat or drink.
He was waiting
for the person to come
who would tell him
what to do.**



**During this time
the Lord came to Ananias
in a vision and said, 'Ananias.'**

**Ananias answered,
'Here I am, Lord.'**

**The Lord said,
'There is a man staying
in Straight Street.
He is praying.
I want you to go to him.
He has seen you in a vision.
Go and lay your hands on him
and he will see again.
This man is Saul of Tarsus.'**

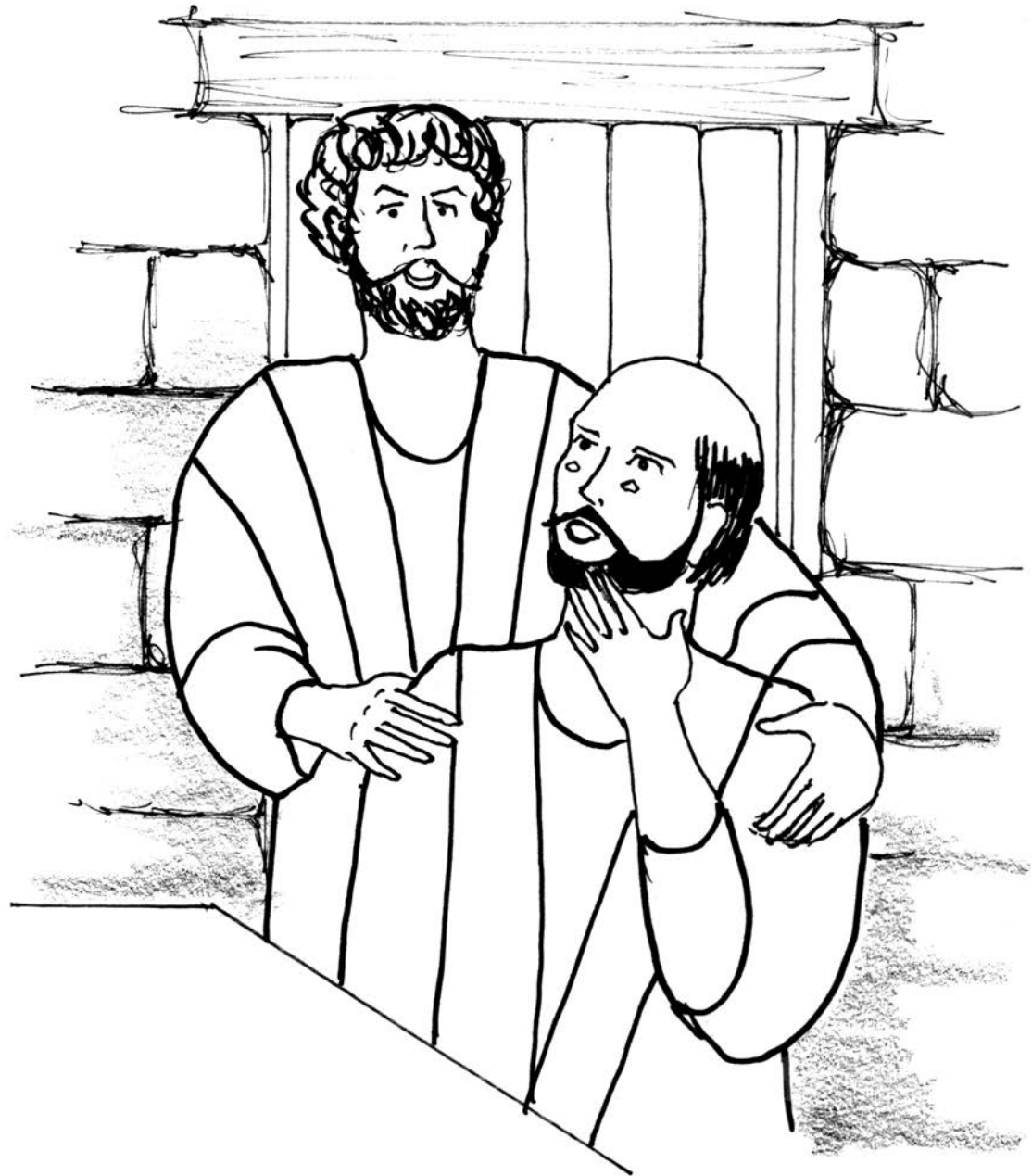
**Ananias answered,
'Lord, this man has arrested
Christians in Jerusalem.
He has come to Damascus
to arrest the Christians here.'**

**But the Lord said, 'Go to him.
I have chosen him to go
to the Gentiles, kings and Jews,
to tell them about Me.'**



**Ananias went to Saul,
laid his hands on him and said,
'Brother Saul,
the Lord Jesus has sent me to you.
He is the One you saw and heard
on your way here.
You will see again
and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'**

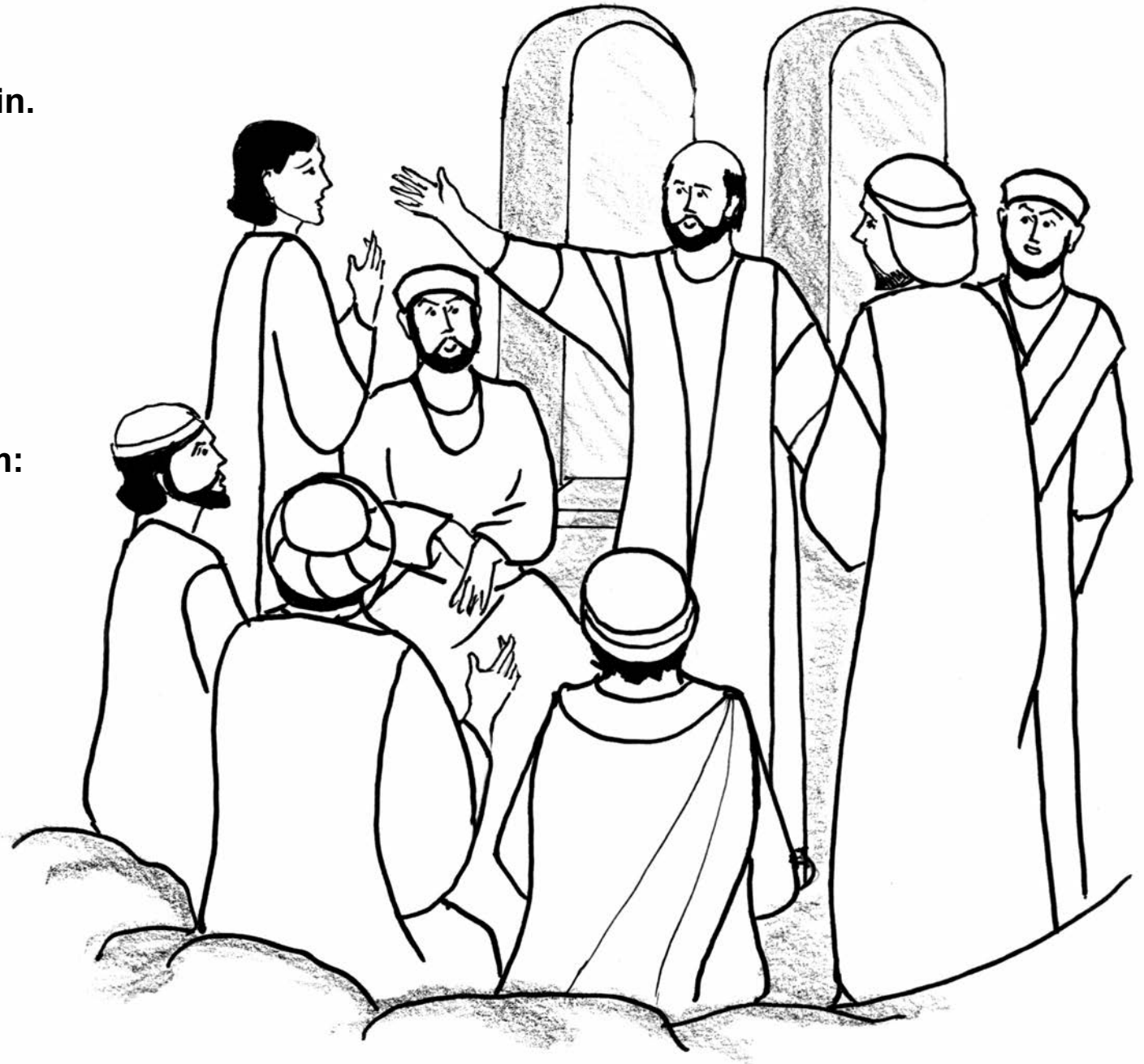
**Immediately,
something like fish scales
fell from his eyes
and he could see again.**



**Saul was baptised.
He had something to eat
and soon felt strong again.**

**He stayed for a while
with the disciples
in Damascus.**

**Then he went
to the synagogues
to tell everyone
what God had shown him:
Jesus is the Son of God.**



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ESCAPE FROM DAMASCUS

by

Chris Thorpe

& people from Coromandel Baptist Church

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ACTS 9:19–31

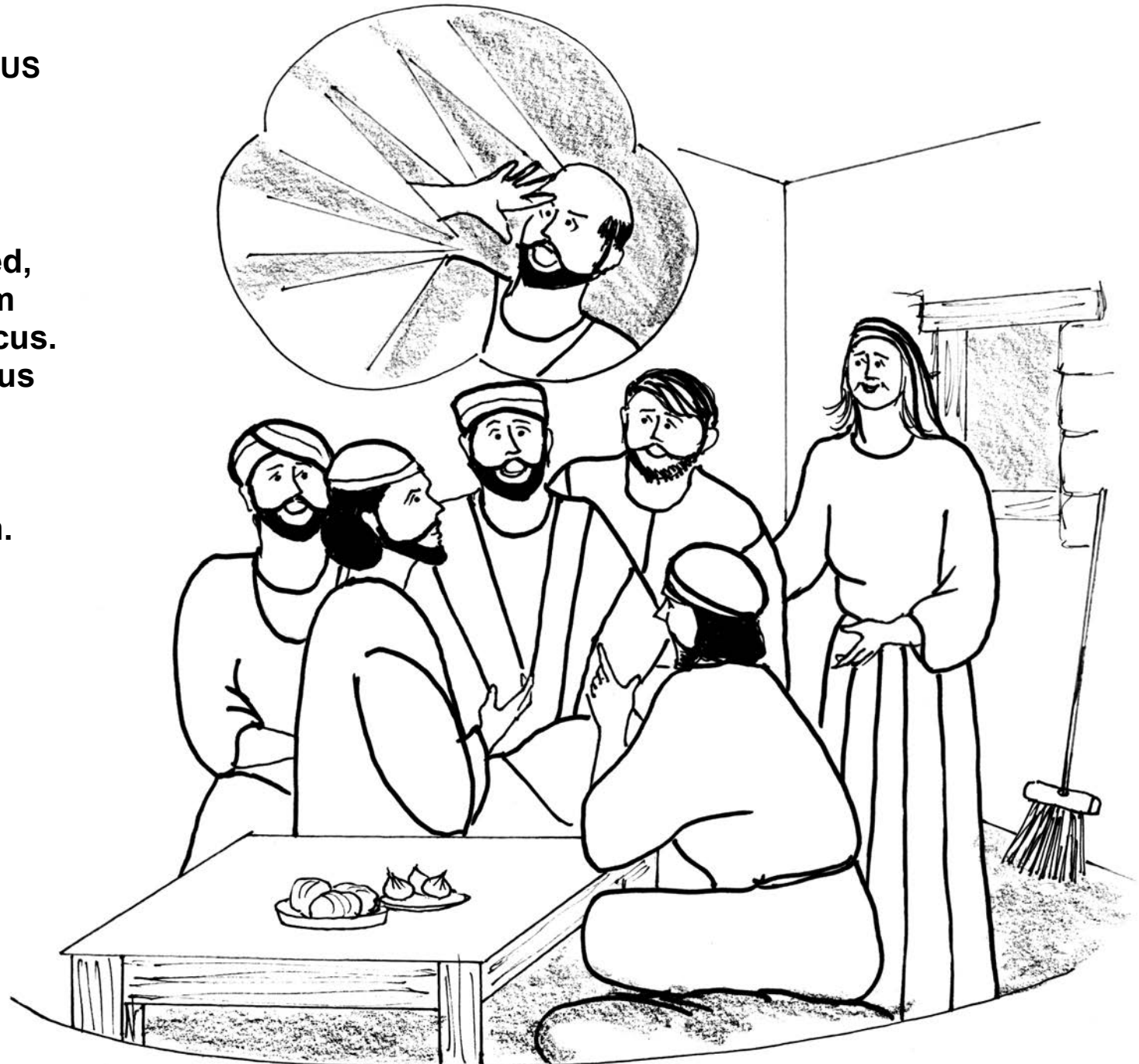
Galatians 1:15–18

ESCAPE FROM DAMASCUS

File no. 176

**Saul's life was changed,
when the Lord met him
on the road to Damascus.
He now knew that Jesus
was the Son of God.**

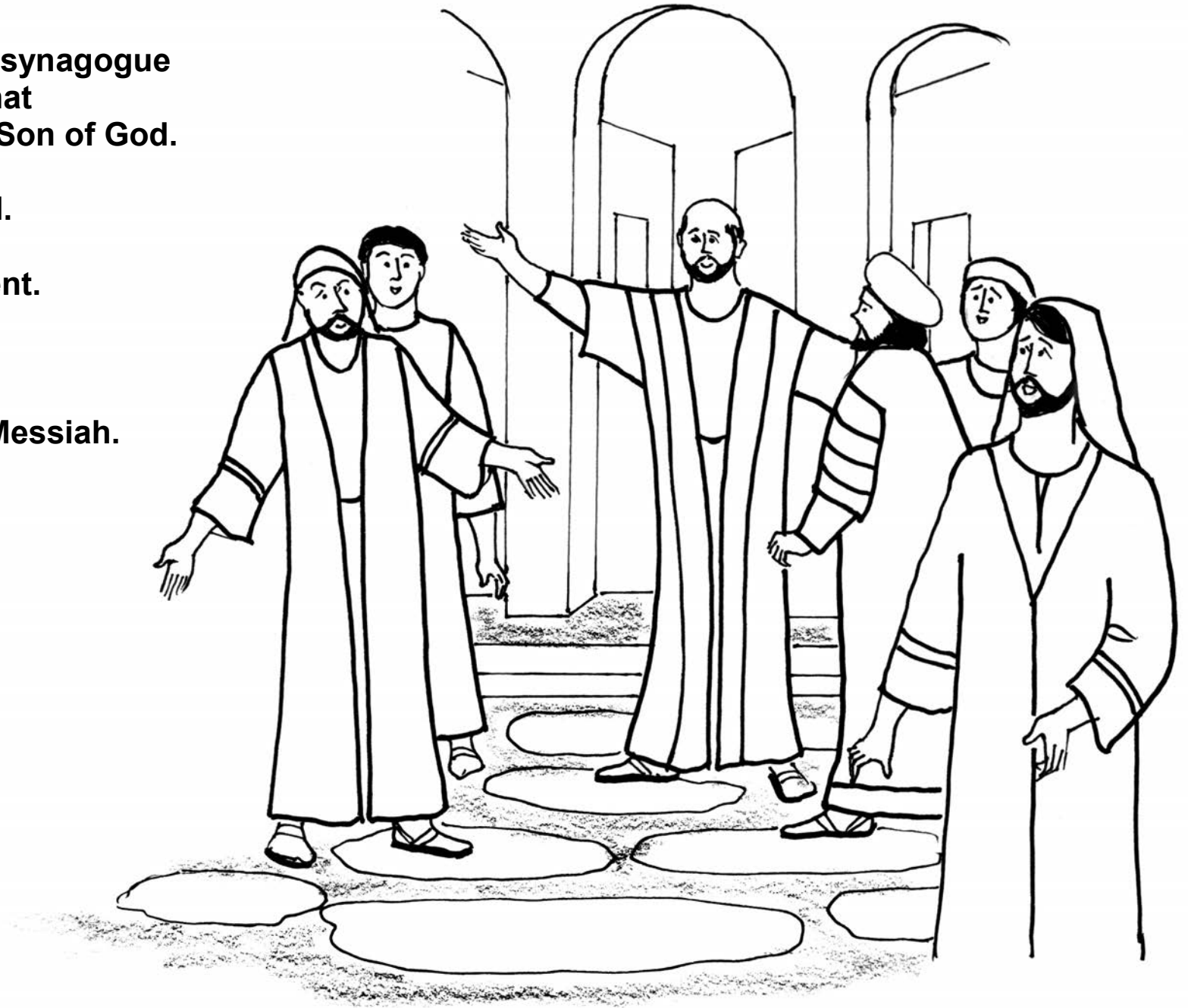
**Saul stopped putting
the believers in prison.
Instead he stayed
with them
for several days.**



**Then he went to the synagogue
and told everyone that
Jesus truly was the Son of God.**

**People were amazed.
Then they realised
that Saul was different.**

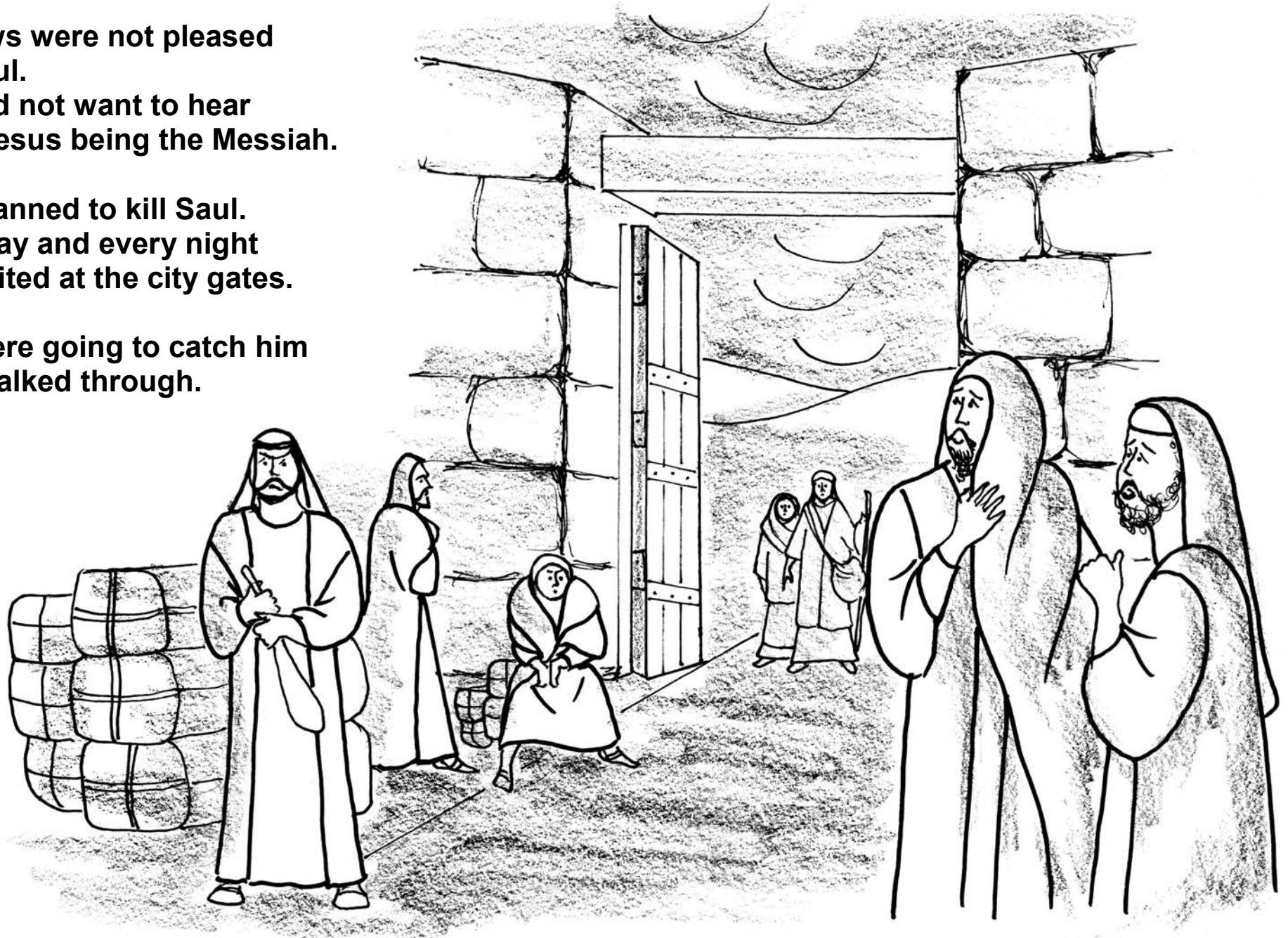
**From the scriptures
he showed the Jews
that Jesus was the Messiah.**



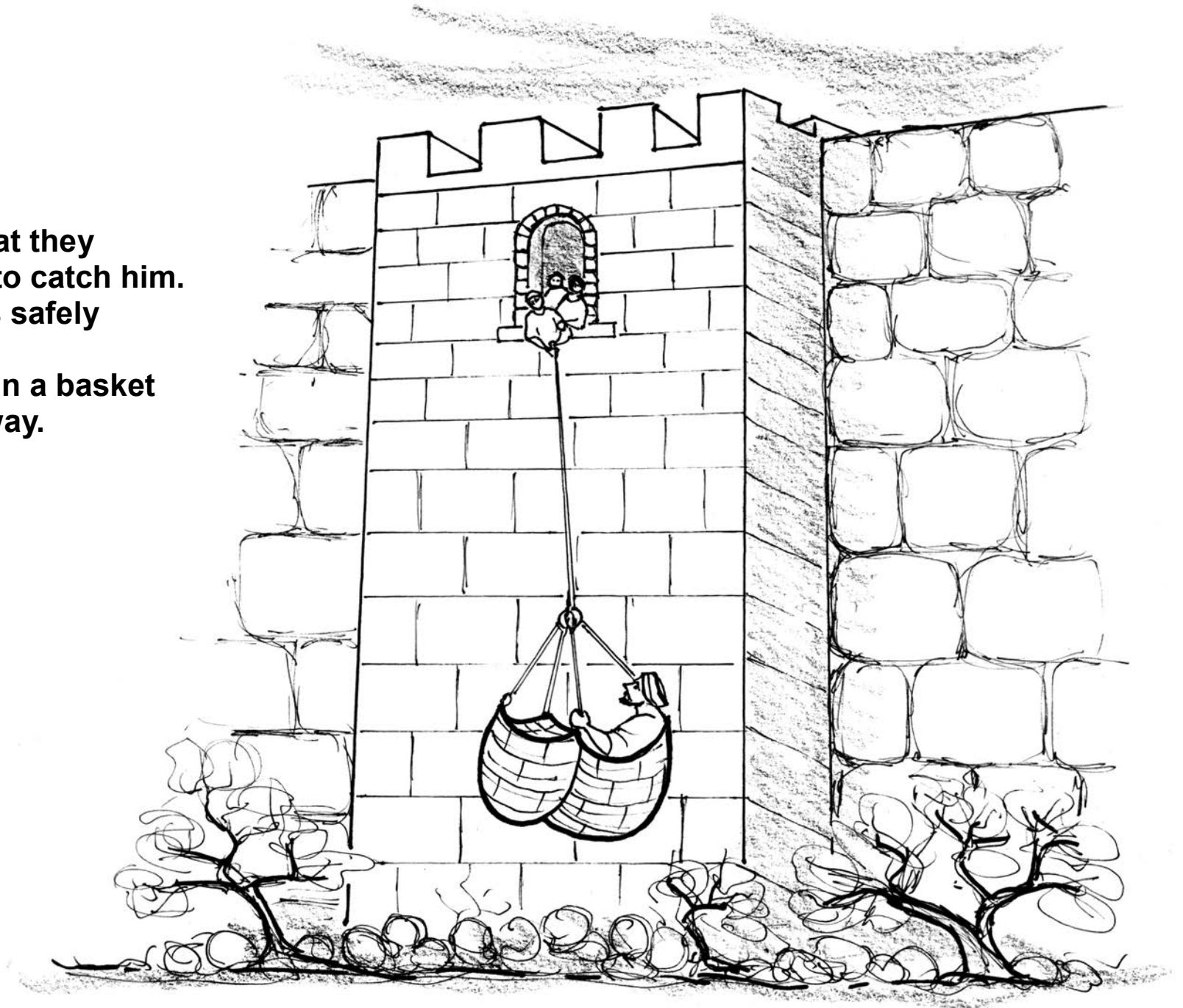
**The Jews were not pleased with Saul.
They did not want to hear about Jesus being the Messiah.**

**They planned to kill Saul.
Every day and every night they waited at the city gates.**

They were going to catch him as he walked through.



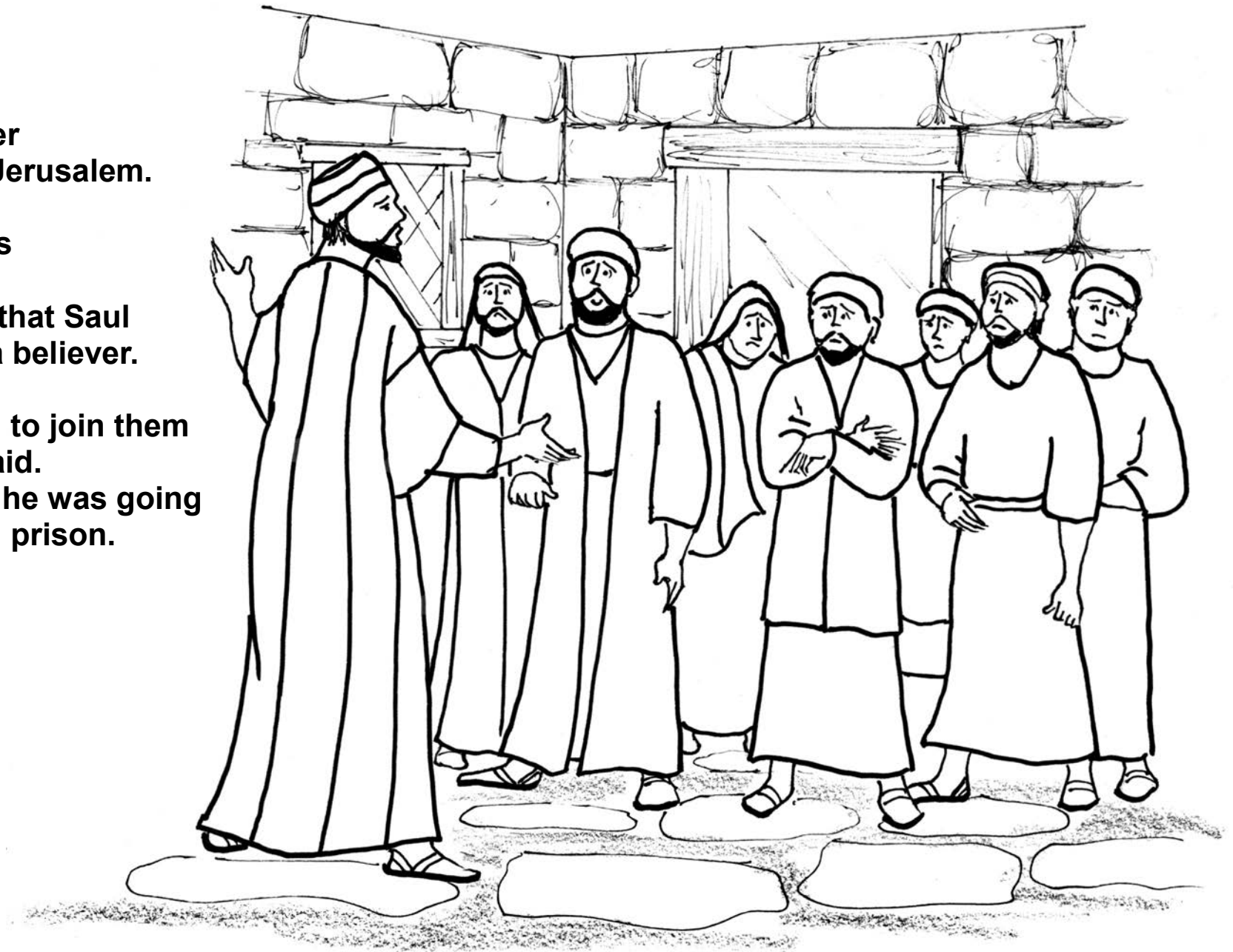
**Saul heard that they
were waiting to catch him.
So his friends safely
let him down,
over the wall in a basket
and he got away.**



**Sometime later
Saul went to Jerusalem.**

**The Christians
in Jerusalem
did not know that Saul
had become a believer.**

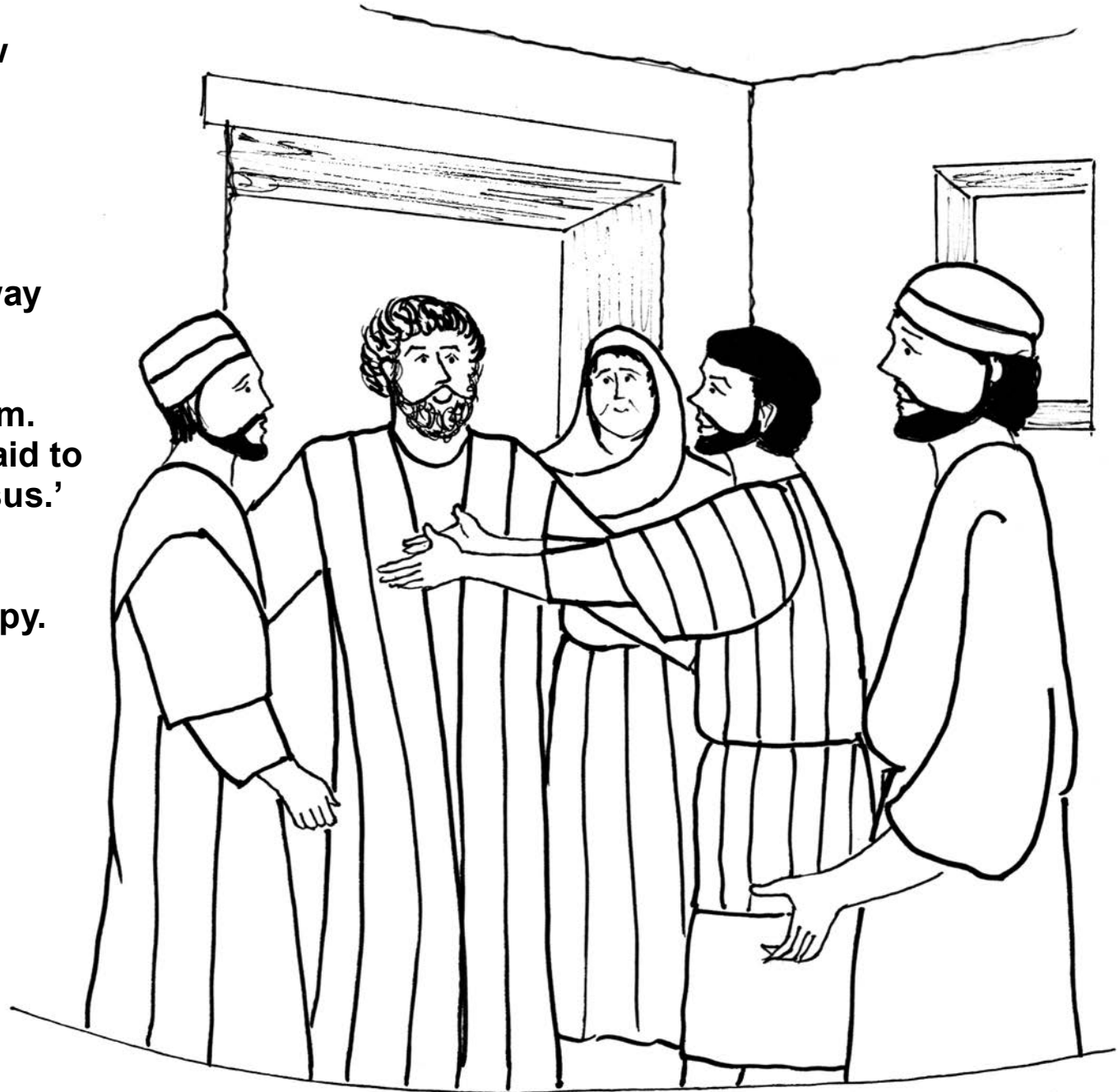
**When he tried to join them
they were afraid.
They thought he was going
to put them in prison.**



**However, Barnabas knew
that the Lord
had changed Saul's life.**

**So he took Saul
to the apostles and said,
'When Saul was on his way
to Damascus
he saw the Lord
and the Lord spoke to him.
After that he was not afraid to
speak in the name of Jesus.'**

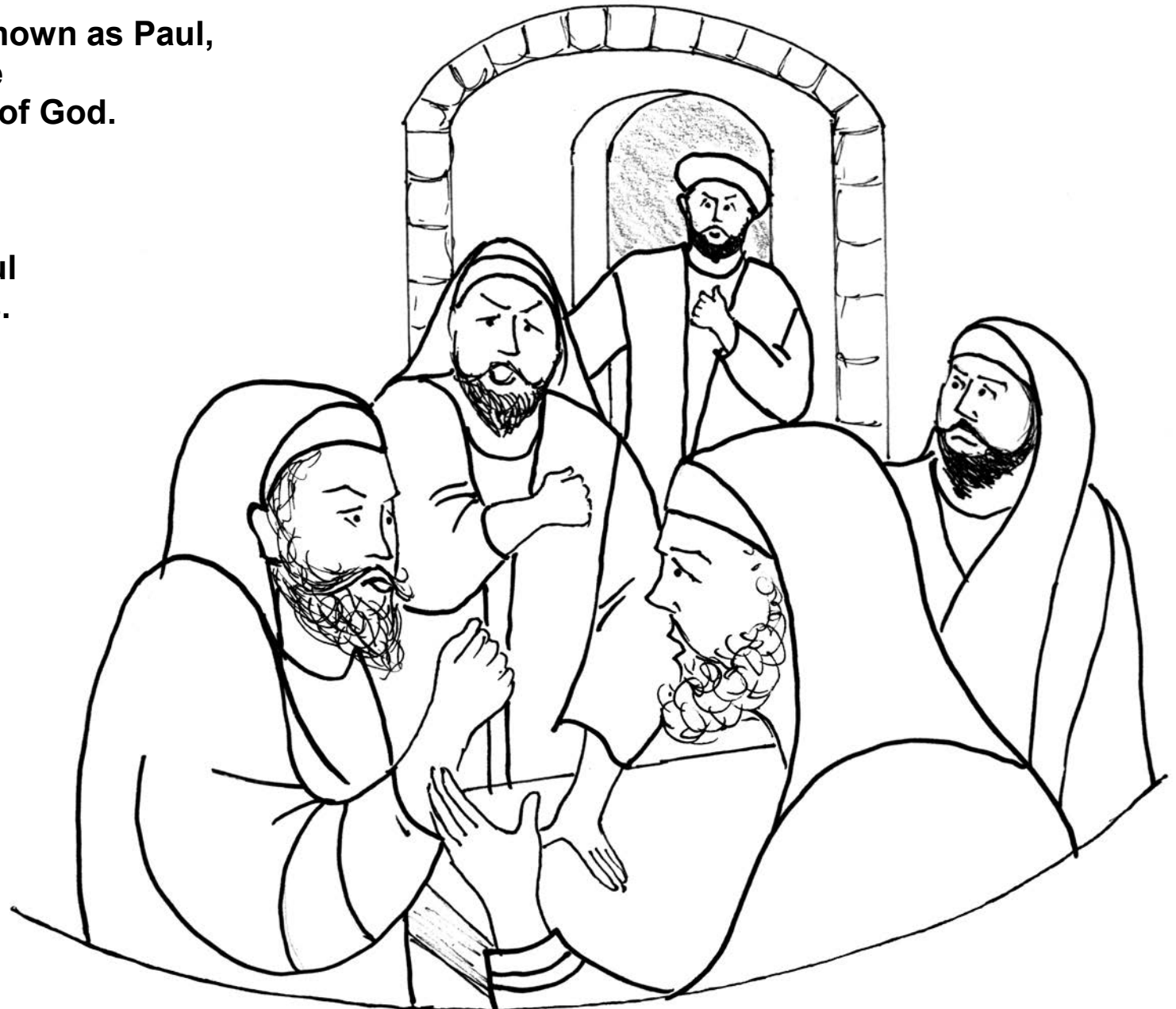
**When the Christians
heard this they were happy.**



**Saul, who was later known as Paul,
went on telling people
about Jesus, the Son of God.**

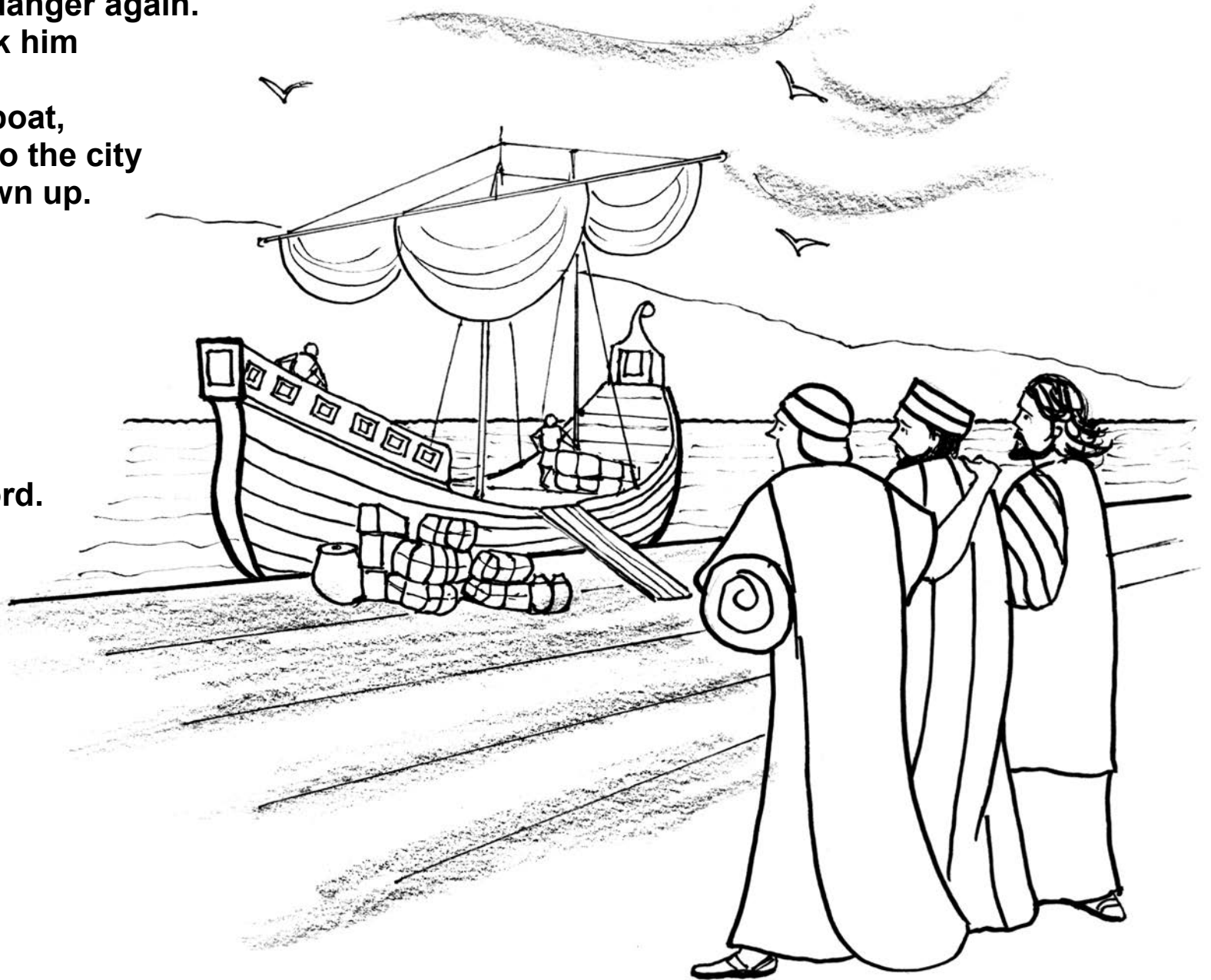
**This made the Jews,
in Jerusalem, angry.
They did not want Saul
speaking about Jesus.**

**They also planned
to get rid of him.**



**Saul's life was in danger again.
So his friends took him
to Caesarea
and put him on a boat,
which was going to the city
where he had grown up.**

**This was a time
when the church
grew in numbers,
and with the help
of the Holy Spirit,
grew in strength
and trust in the Lord.**



Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

MORE ABOUT PETER

by
Chris Thorpe
& people from Coromandel Baptist Church

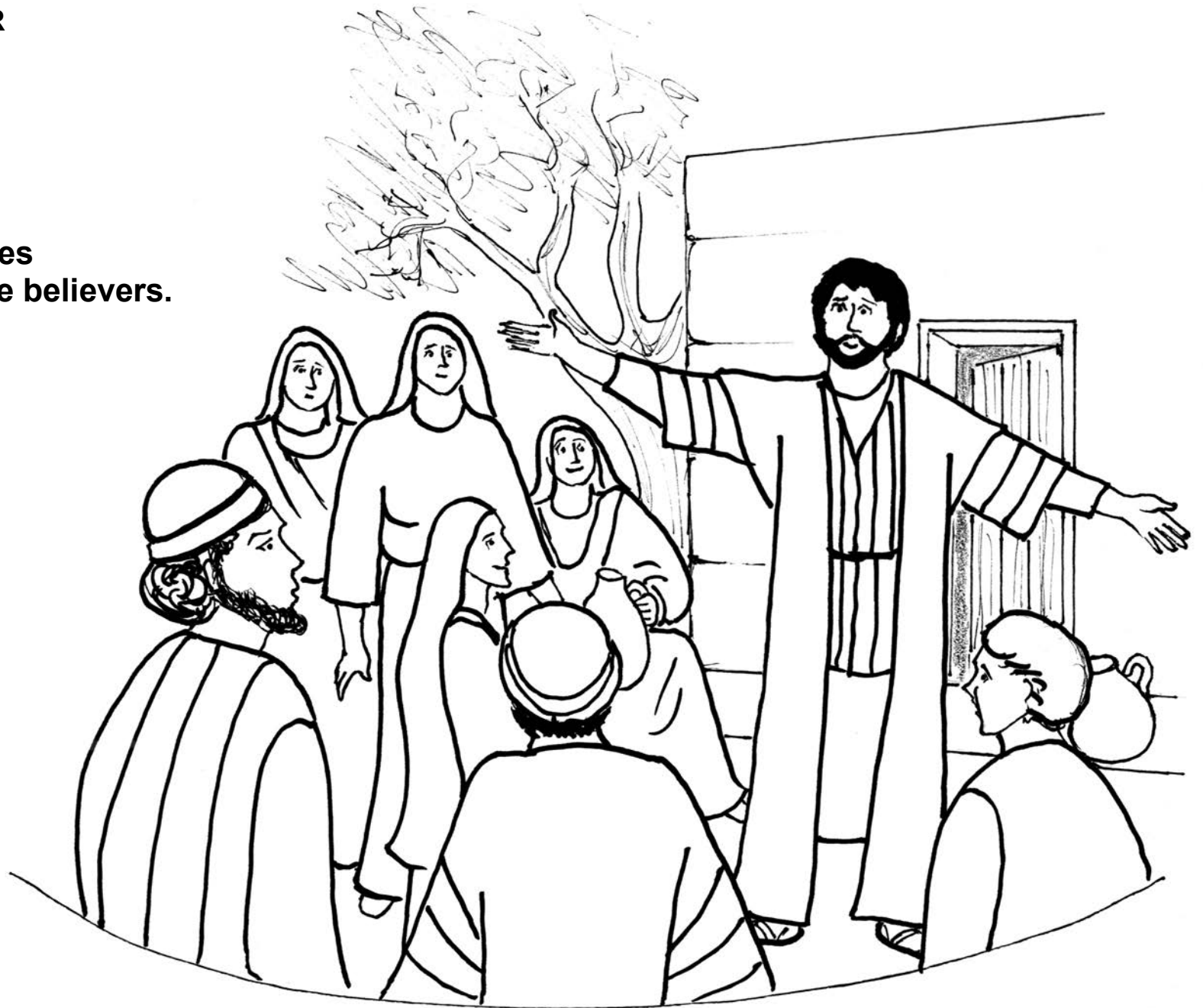
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ACTS 9:32–43
MORE ABOUT PETER
(Dorcas)
File no. 177

**Peter had been
visiting the churches
and speaking to the believers.**

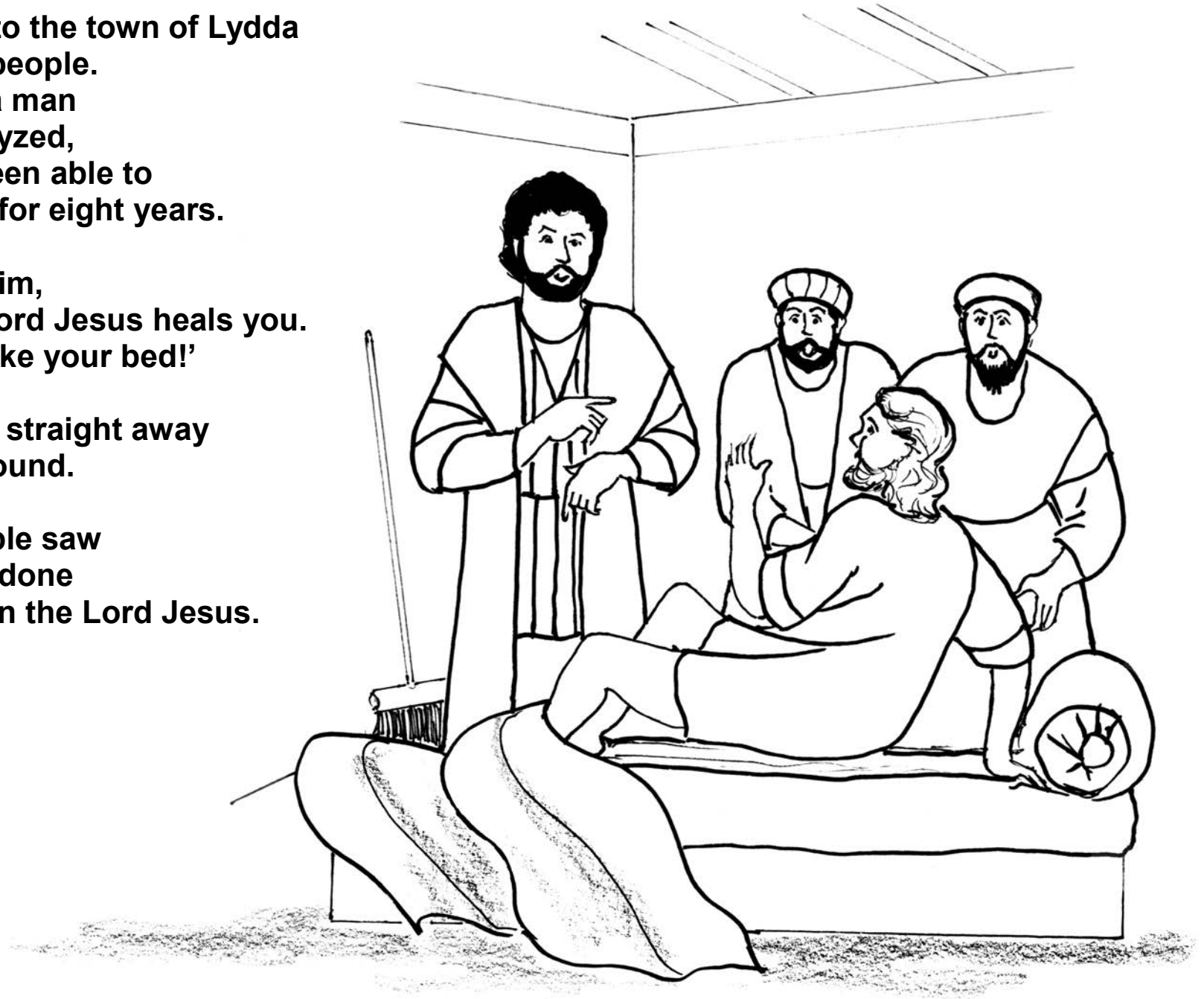


**Then he went to the town of Lydda
to visit God's people.
There he met a man
who was paralyzed,
and had not been able to
get out of bed for eight years.**

**Peter said to him,
'Aeneas, the Lord Jesus heals you.
Get up and make your bed!'**

**Aeneas got up straight away
and walked around.**

**When the people saw
what God had done
they believed in the Lord Jesus.**



**In the town of Joppa,
which was not far away from Lydda,
lived a lady who loved the Lord.
Some people called her Tabitha
Others called her Dorcas.
She was very kind
and helped many people.**

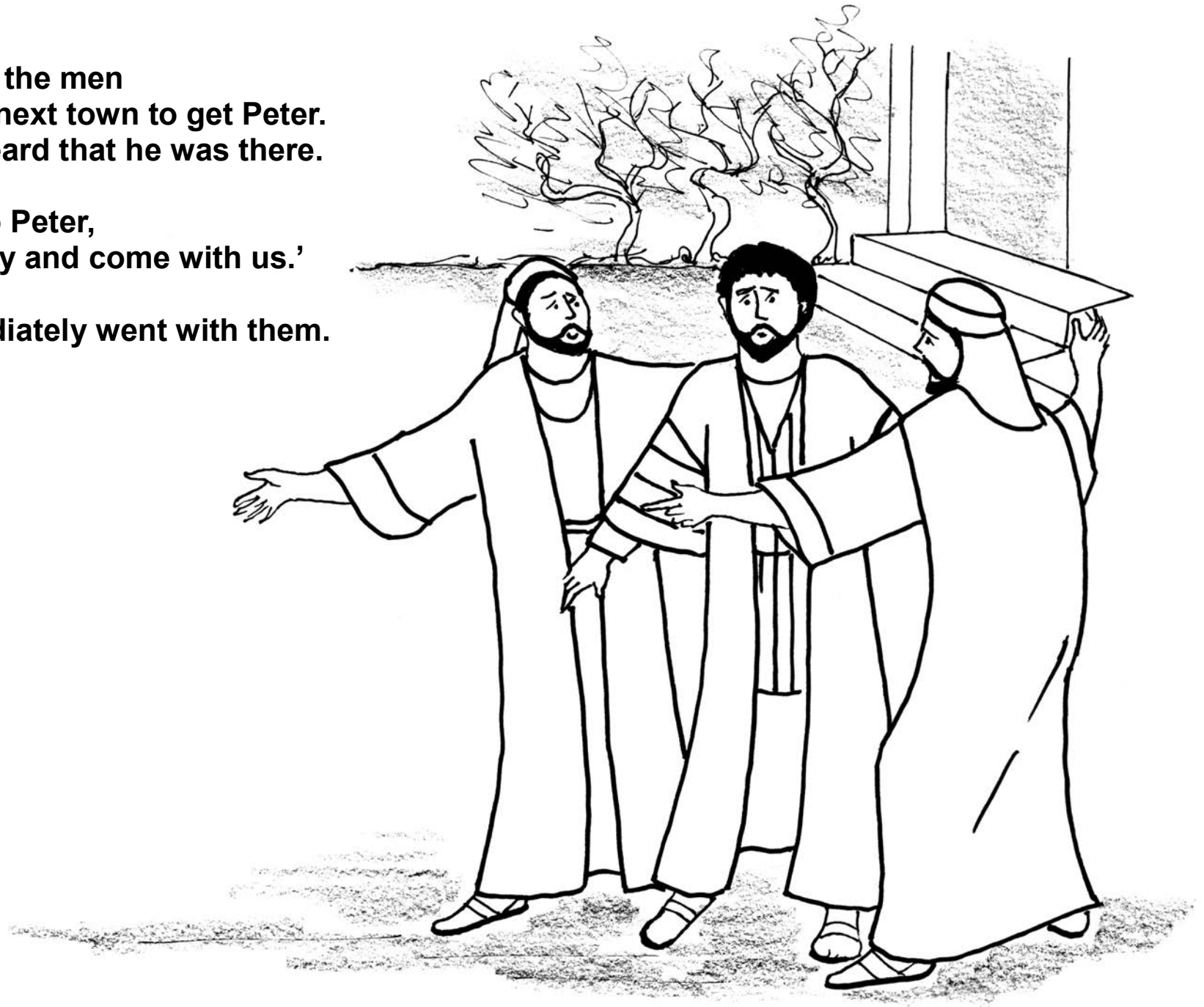
**Dorcas became very sick and died.
Her friends got her ready for burial
and put her body
in the room upstairs.**



**Then two of the men
went to the next town to get Peter.
They had heard that he was there.**

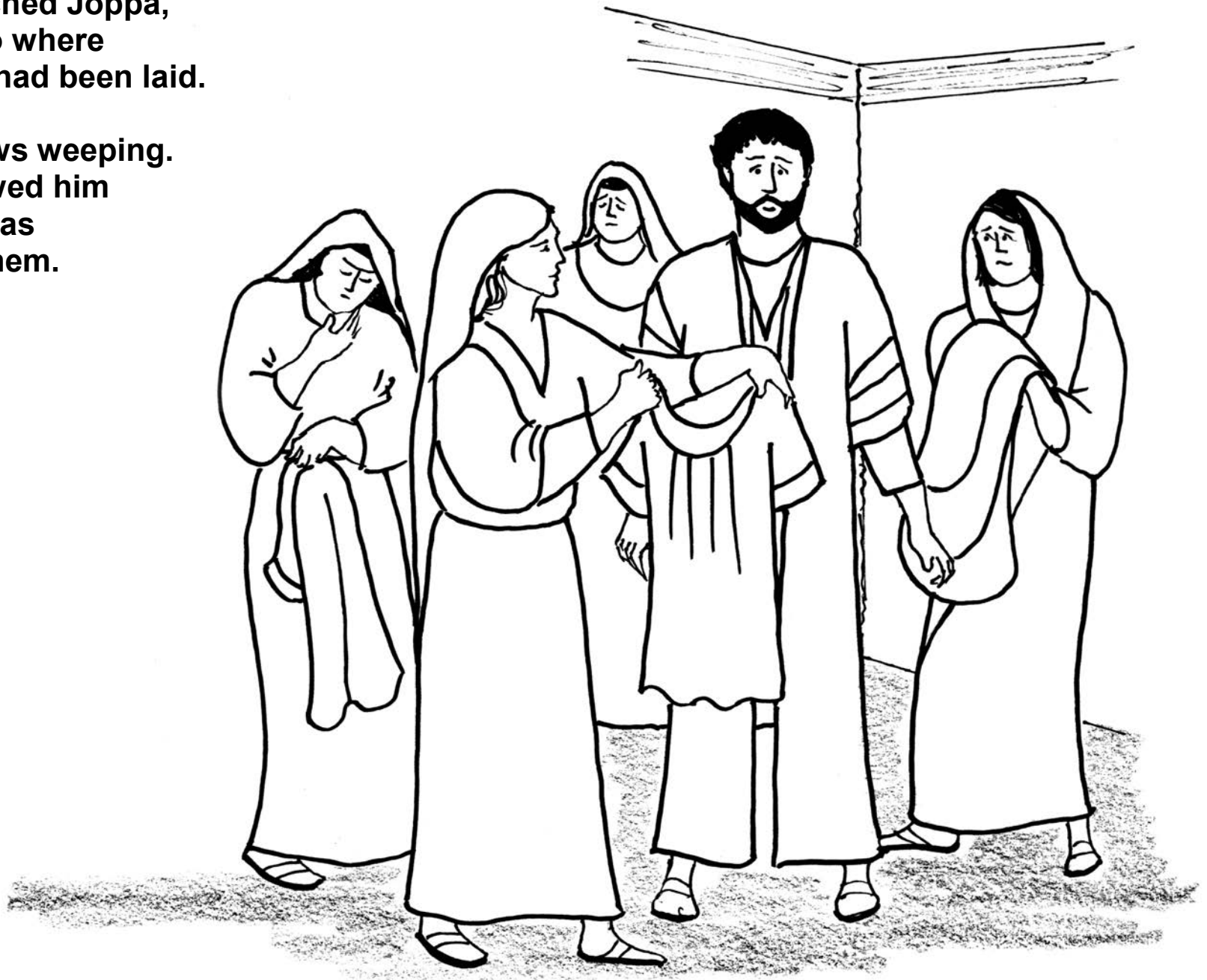
**They said to Peter,
'Please hurry and come with us.'**

Peter immediately went with them.



**When they reached Joppa,
he was taken to where
Dorcas's body had been laid.**

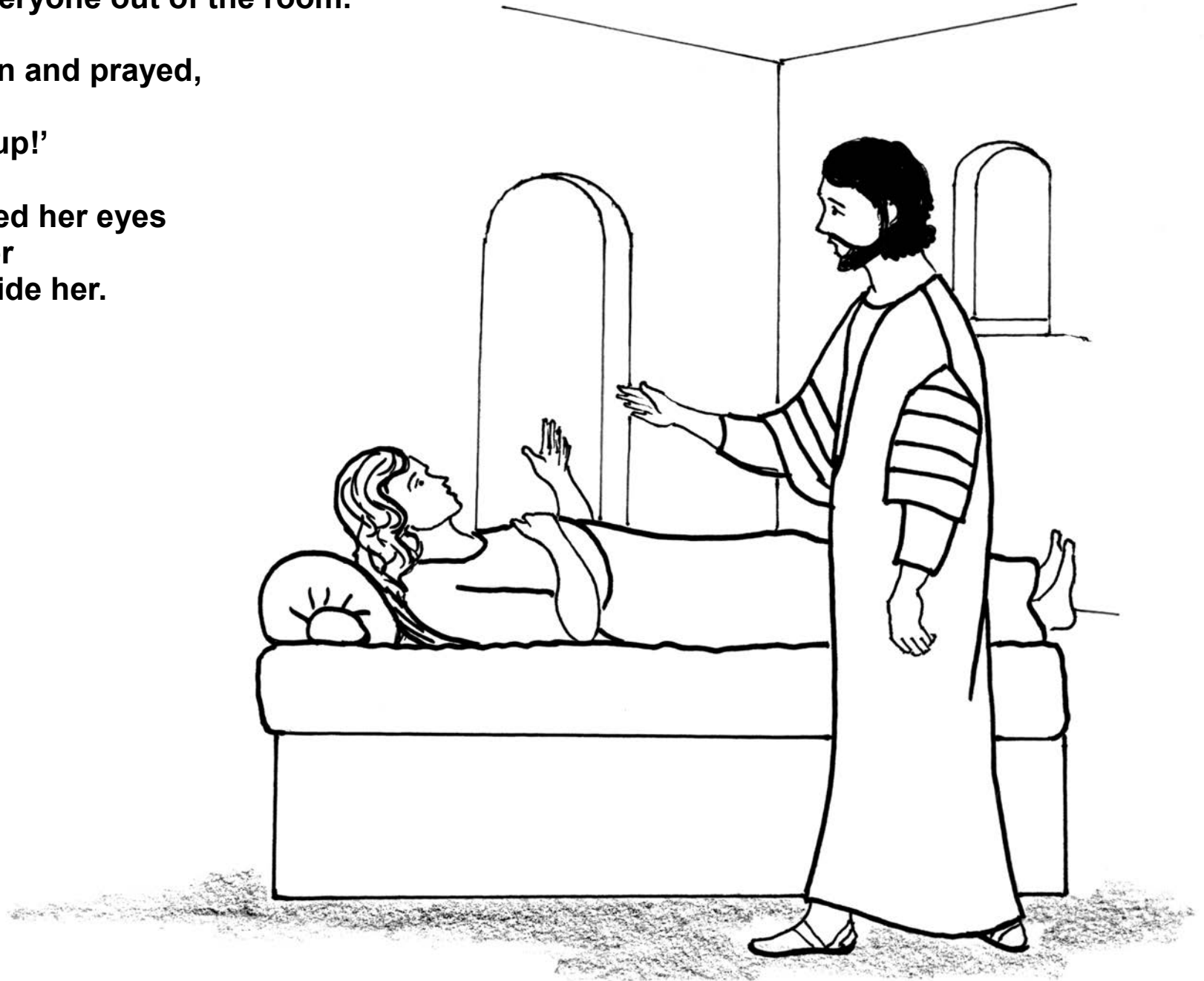
**He found widows weeping.
Then they showed him
the things Dorcas
had made for them.**



Peter sent everyone out of the room.

**He knelt down and prayed,
then said,
'Dorcas, get up!'**

**Dorcas opened her eyes
and saw Peter
standing beside her.**

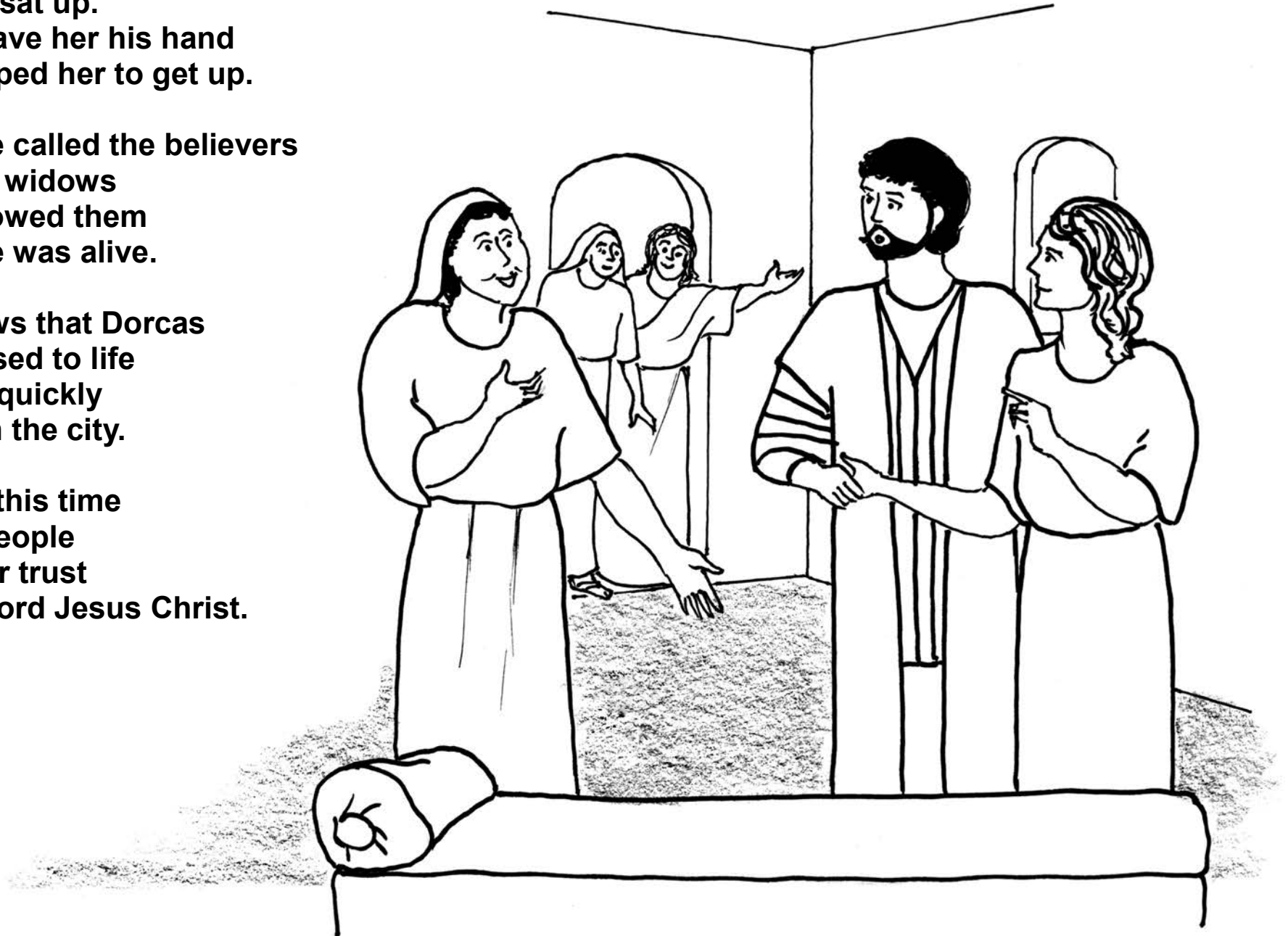


**Dorcas sat up.
Peter gave her his hand
and helped her to get up.**

**Then he called the believers
and the widows
and showed them
that she was alive.**

**The news that Dorcas
was raised to life
spread quickly
through the city.**

**During this time
many people
put their trust
in the Lord Jesus Christ.**



Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

PETER AND CORNELIUS

by

Chris Thorpe

& people from Coromandel Baptist Church

Illustrated by Kay Kammermann

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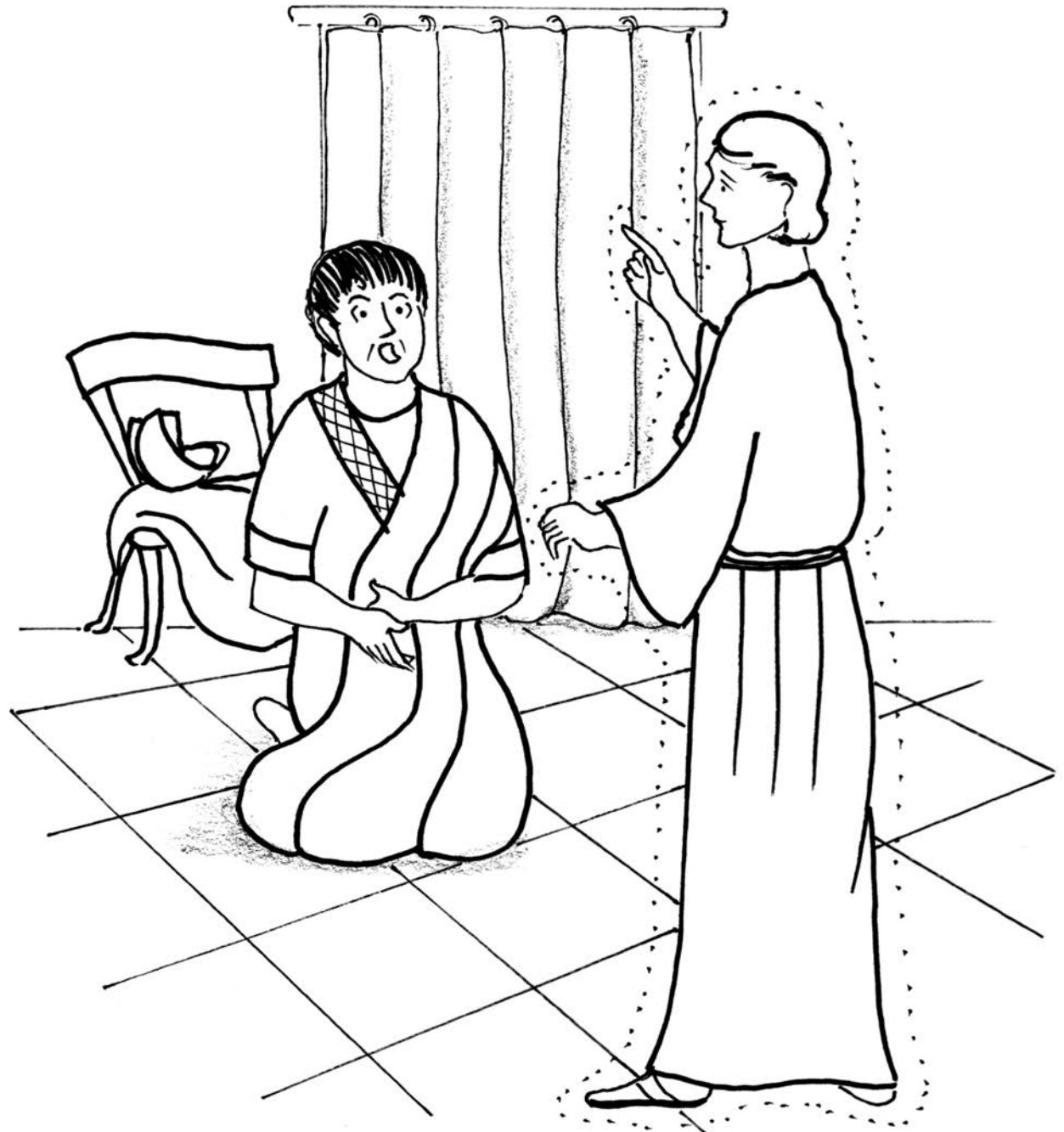
**Cornelius, a Roman officer,
loved God and prayed to Him.
He also gave money to the poor.
He was not of the Jewish people.
He was a Gentile.**

**One afternoon
while Cornelius was praying,
he saw a vision
and heard an angel say,
'Cornelius.'**

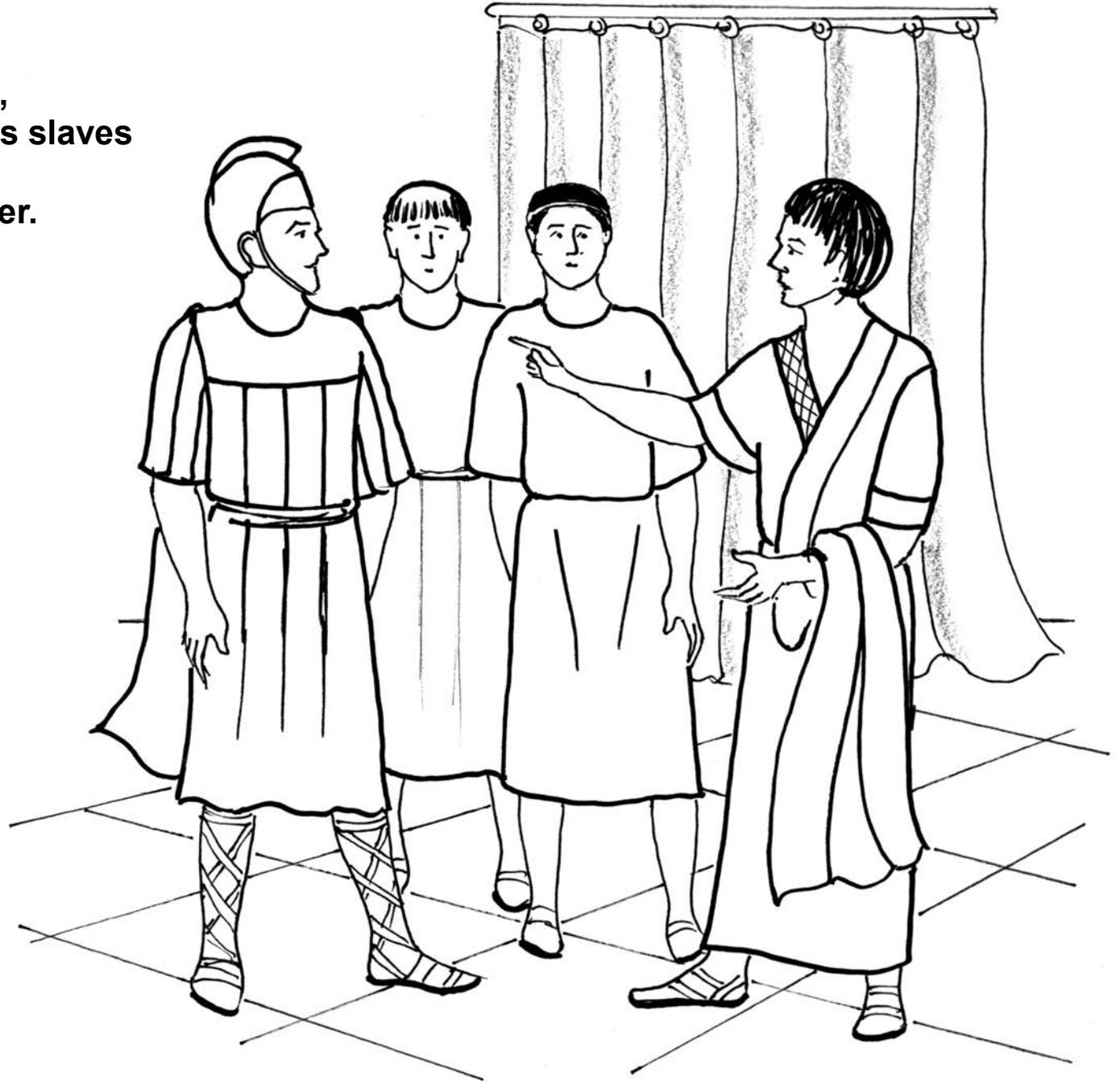
**Cornelius was afraid and said,
'What do you want, Lord?'**

**The angel said,
'God has heard your prayers
and seen that you
care for the poor.'**

**'Send some men to Joppa
to ask Peter to come to you.
He is staying with
Simon the tanner,
who lives by the sea.'**



**When the angel had gone,
Cornelius asked two of his slaves
and one of his soldiers
to go to Joppa to find Peter.**



**At the same time,
Peter went up onto the roof of the house
to pray, and there he saw a vision.**

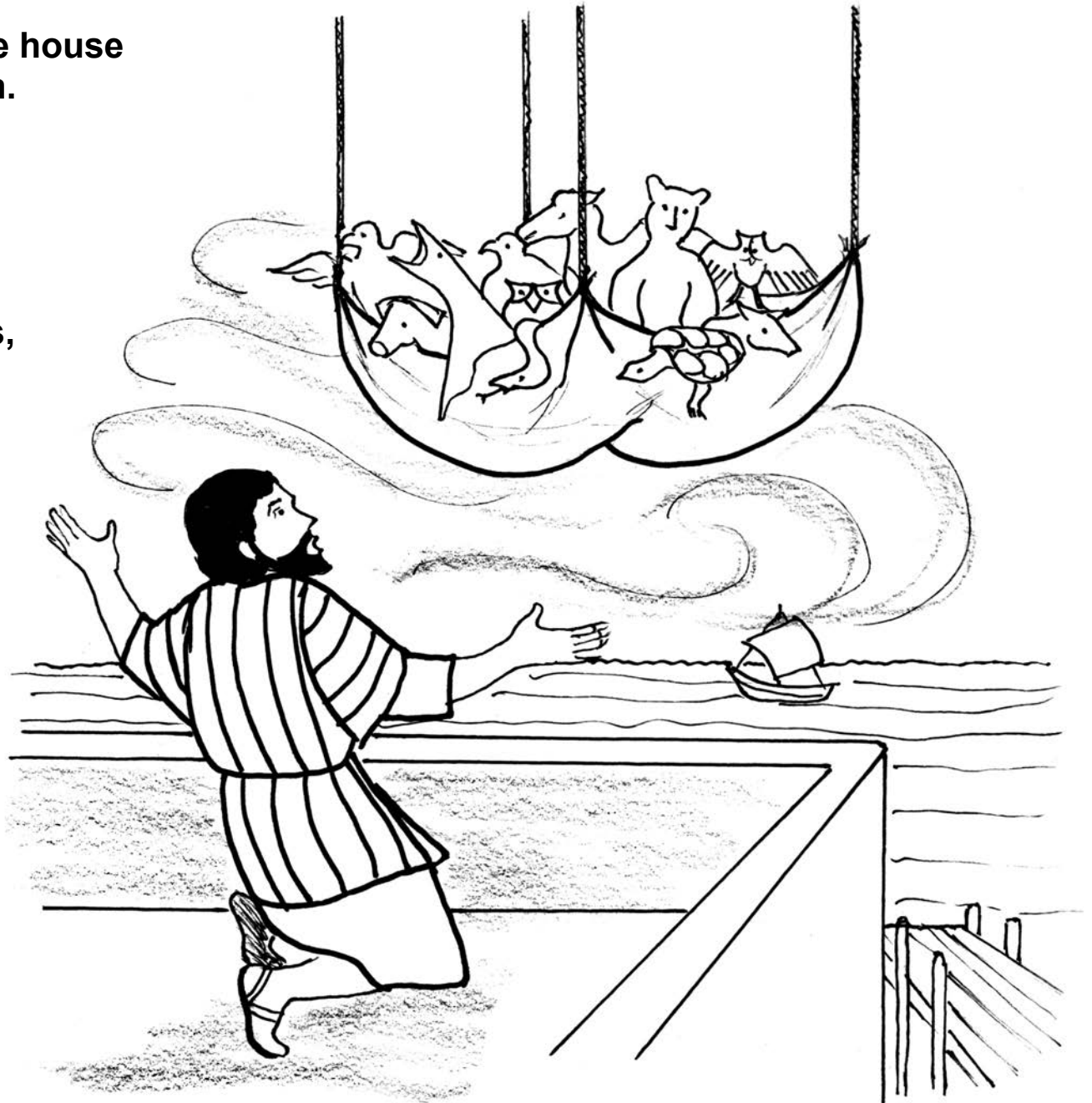
**In the vision he saw
a big sheet
coming down from heaven.
It was held at the corners
and in it were animals of all kinds,
reptiles and birds.**

**Peter heard a voice say,
'Get up, kill and eat.'**

**Peter said,
'No Lord!
I have never eaten food that is
unholy and unclean like this.'**

**Then Peter heard the voice
a second time saying,
'What God has made clean,
is clean!'**

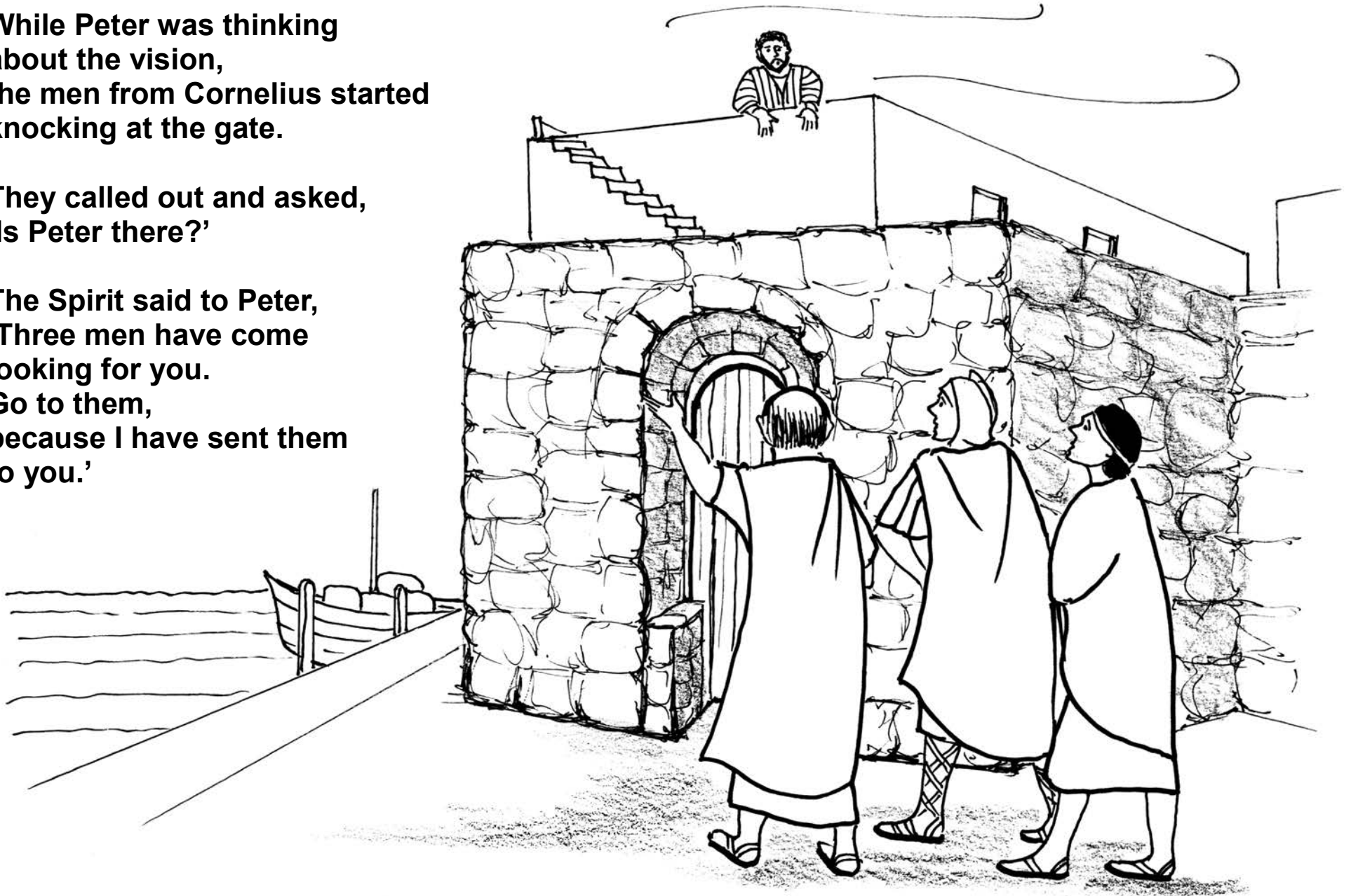
**Three times this happened.
Then the sheet
was taken back to heaven.**



**While Peter was thinking
about the vision,
the men from Cornelius started
knocking at the gate.**

**They called out and asked,
'Is Peter there?'**

**The Spirit said to Peter,
'Three men have come
looking for you.
Go to them,
because I have sent them
to you.'**



**Peter went to the men and said,
'I am the man
you are looking for.
What do you want?'**

**The men answered,
'Cornelius, a Roman officer,
sent us to find you.
He was told by an angel
to ask you to come
to his house.'**

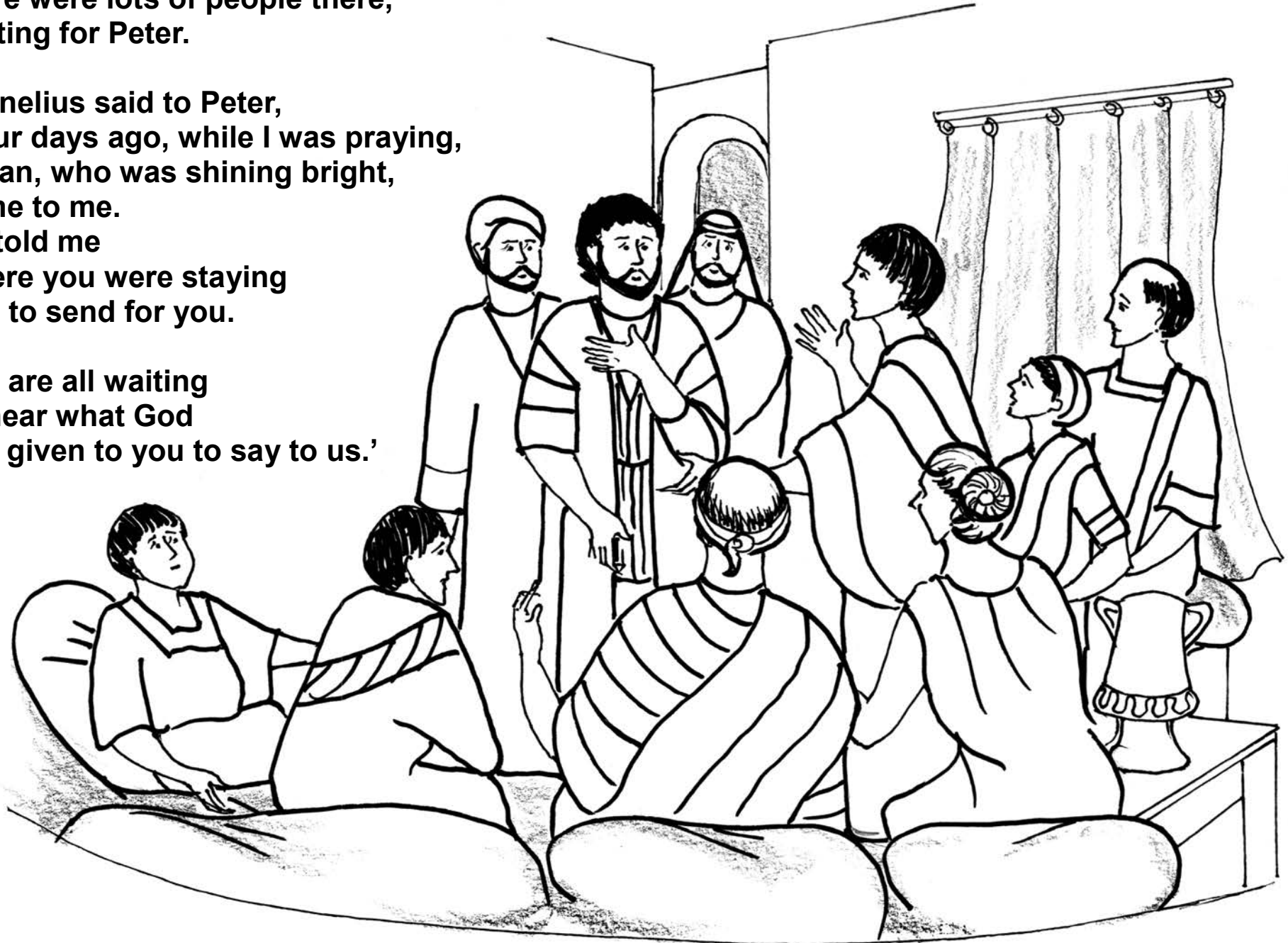
**The next day
Peter and his friends
went with the three men
to Cornelius's house.**



**When they arrived at Cornelius's house,
there were lots of people there,
waiting for Peter.**

**Cornelius said to Peter,
'Four days ago, while I was praying,
a man, who was shining bright,
came to me.
He told me
where you were staying
and to send for you.'**

**'We are all waiting
to hear what God
has given to you to say to us.'**



**Peter said, 'I now know
that anyone who worships God
and does what is right
is accepted by God,
whether they are Jew or Gentile.**

**'You know about Jesus.
You also know
that He healed people.
He was killed on a cross
and three days later
God raised Him to life.
God let His disciples see Him.
He told us to tell everyone
that whoever believes in Jesus
will be forgiven.'**

**While Peter was still speaking
the Holy Spirit came down on
all those who were listening.**

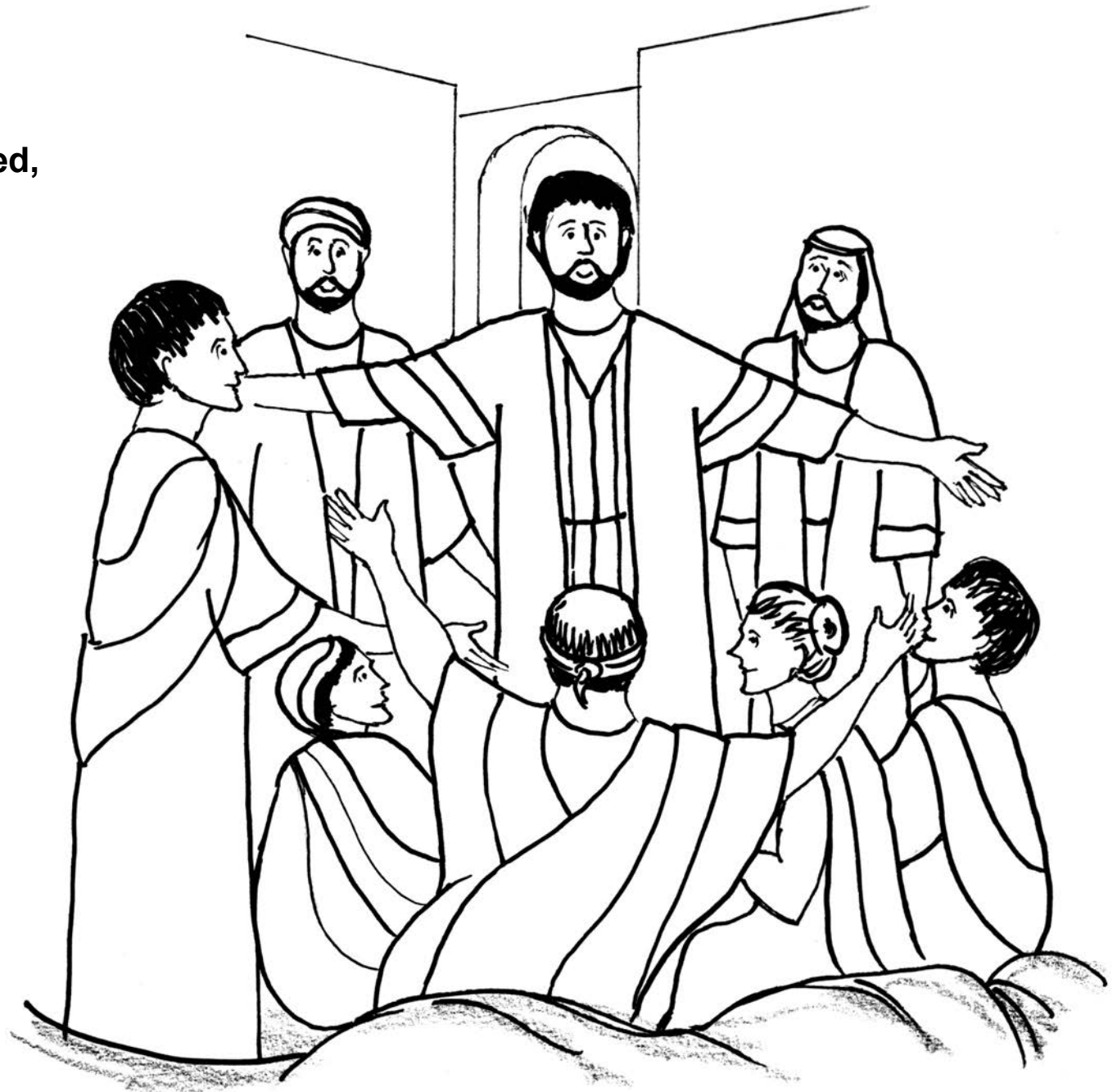


**They praised God
for His gift of salvation.**

**Peter's friends were amazed,
because God had
given His Spirit
to these Gentiles
in the same way
He had given the Spirit
to them.**

**Peter said,
'We must baptise
these people
who have received
God's Spirit.'**

**Peter stayed with them
for a few more days
and taught them
about God's kingdom.**



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AN ANGEL TAKES PETER OUT OF PRISON

by
Chris Thorpe
& people from Coromandel Baptist Church

Illustrated by Kay Kammermann

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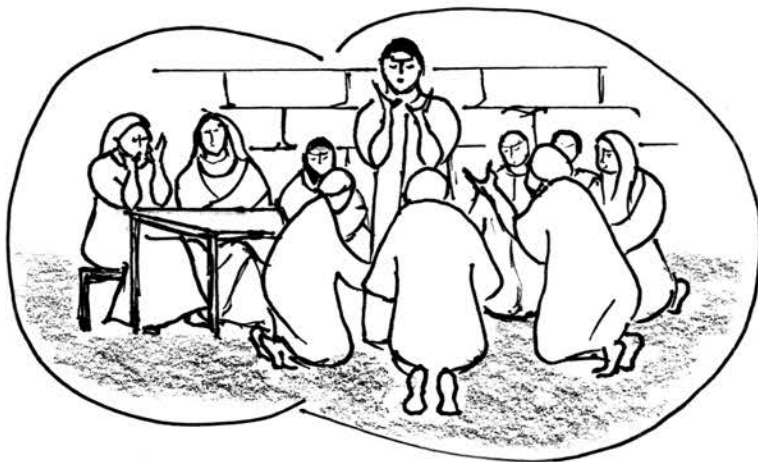
ACTS 12:1-19
AN ANGEL TAKES PETER
OUT OF PRISON

File no. 179

King Herod was doing terrible things to those who belonged to the church. Then, he killed James, John's brother, one of the apostles.

When he saw that this pleased the Jews he arrested Peter and put him in prison. He was going to get rid of him after the Passover festival.

The Christians met together to pray for Peter.



**As a prisoner,
Peter had chains on his wrists,
soldiers at his side
and guards at the doors.**

**There was only one more day
until Herod was going
to get rid of him.**

**But that night,
while Peter was sleeping,
an angel of the Lord
came to him,
and a light shone
in the prison.**

**The angel touched Peter
on his side and said,
'Quickly, get up.'**

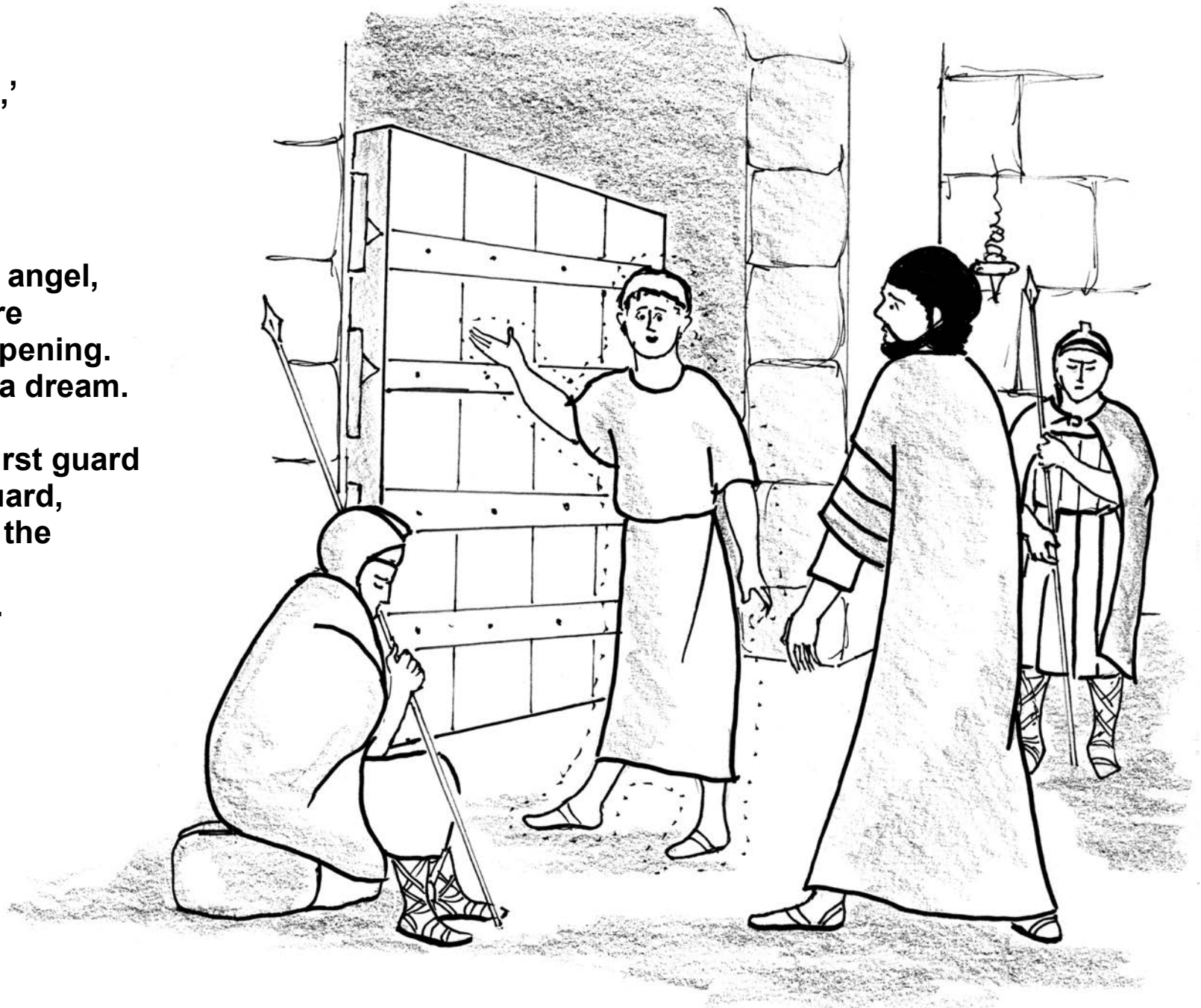


Peter's chains fell off his wrists.

**'Get dressed and
put on your shoes,'
said the angel.
'Put on your coat
and follow me.'**

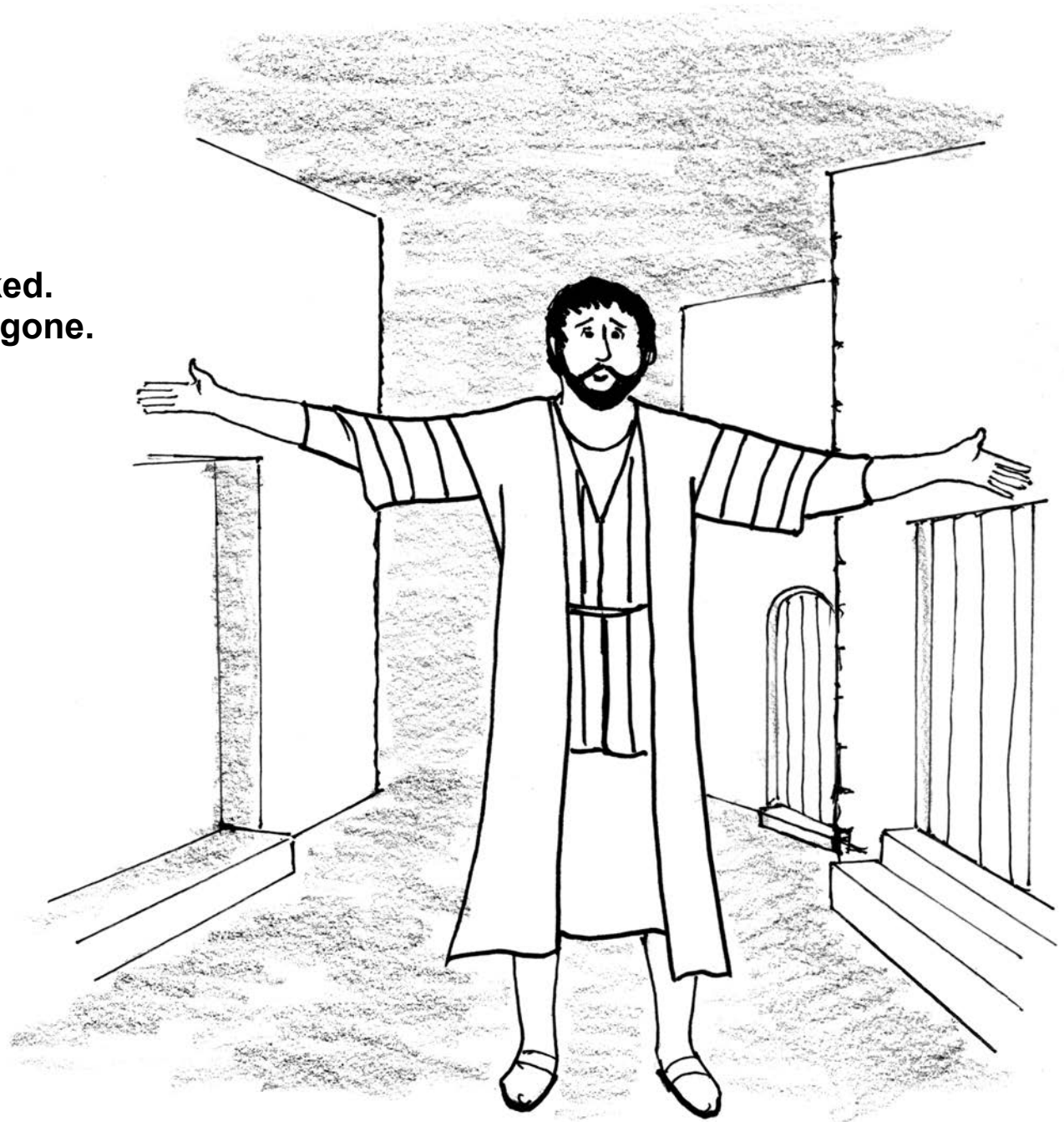
**Peter followed the angel,
but he was not sure
if it was really happening.
He thought it was a dream.**

**They passed the first guard
and the second guard,
then they came to the
big iron gate.
It opened by itself.**



**Through the gate
and down the street they walked.
Then suddenly the angel was gone.
Peter realised that
what had happened was real.**

**He said,
'The Lord has sent an angel
to rescue me from Herod
and the Jewish people.'**



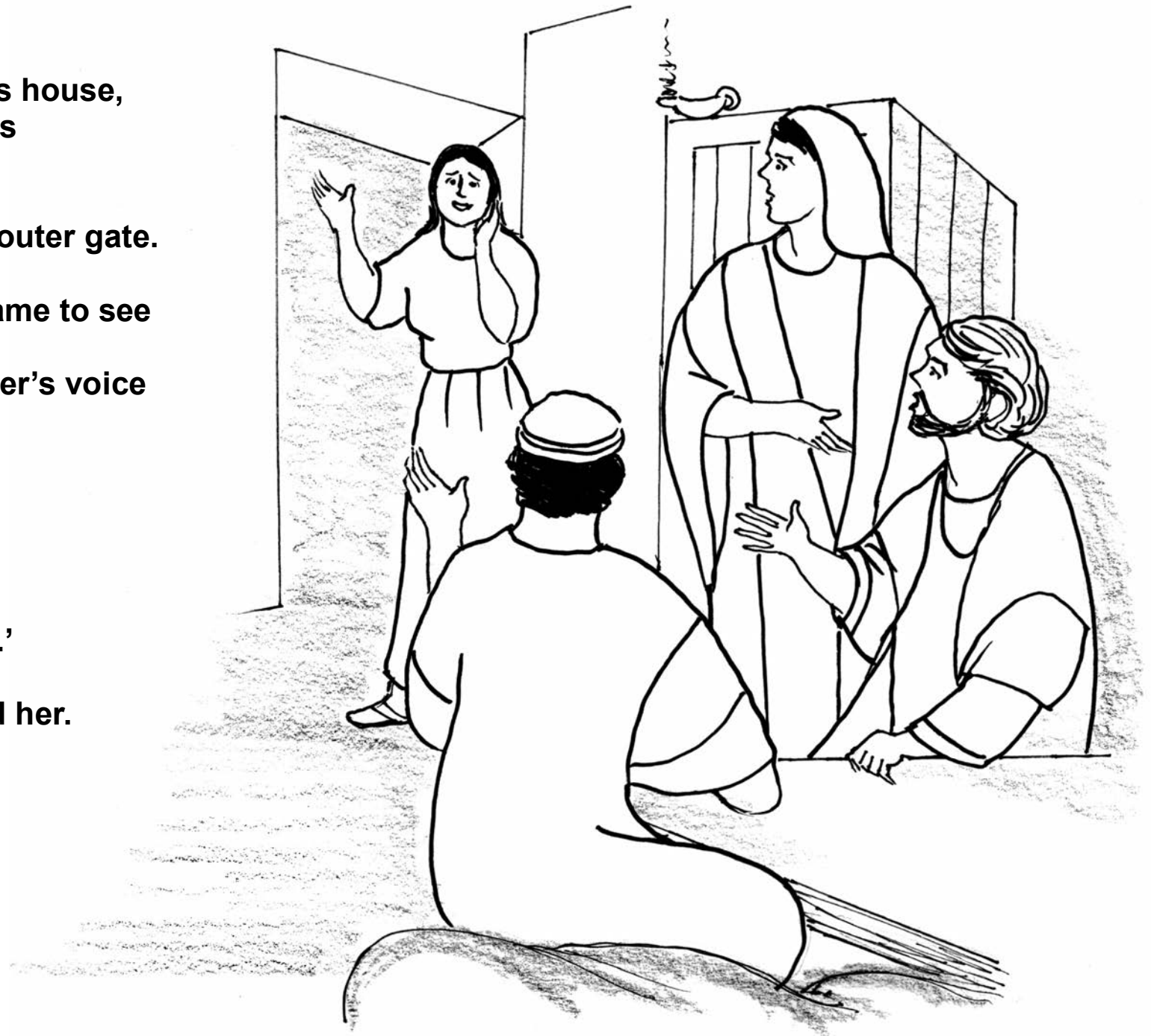
**Straight away
Peter went to Mary's house,
where the Christians
were praying.**

He knocked on the outer gate.

**Rhoda, the maid, came to see
who was knocking.
She recognised Peter's voice
and was so happy
that she ran inside
not thinking
to open the gate.**

**She said,
'Peter is at the gate.'**

But no one believed her.



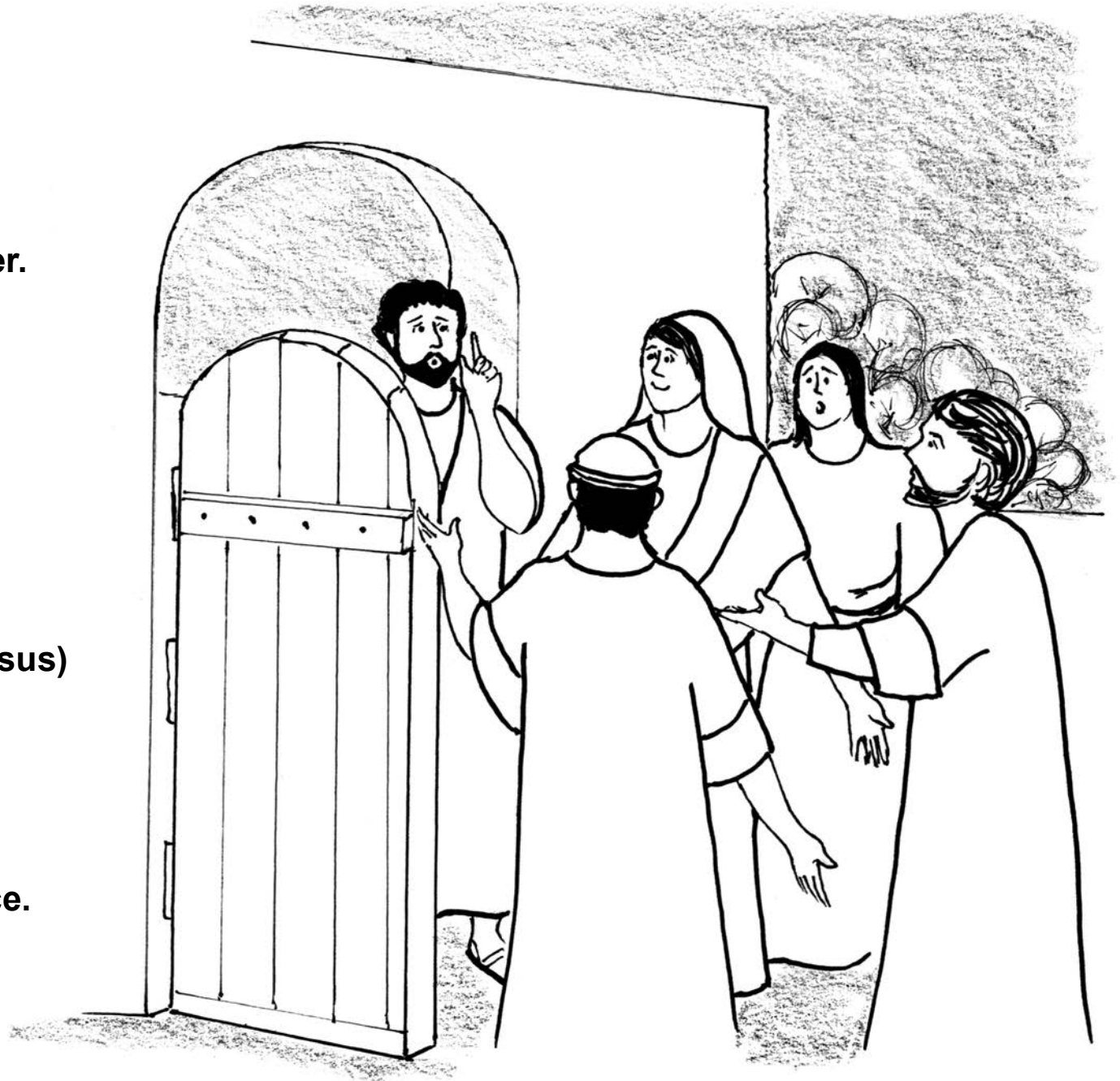
**Peter kept knocking.
They all came
and opened the gate.
They were amazed
when they saw him.**

‘Shh! Be quiet,’ said Peter.

**Then he told them
how the Lord
had brought him past
the guards,
through the gates
and out of the prison.**

**He asked them to tell
James (the brother of Jesus)
and the believers
that the Lord had
saved him.**

**Peter left his friends
and went to another place.**



**In the morning, at the prison,
there was confusion.
The soldiers wondered
what had happened to Peter.
They did not know.**

**Herod searched for him
and questioned the guards,
but they could not find him.
He did not know
that God had saved Peter.**

**God was looking after
Peter and His church.**

