

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

■ Introduction by Fr. Alfred McBride, O.Praem. ....	10
■ Welcome .....	14
■ The Bible: The Story of God's Love for Us .....	15
<b>I. IN THE TIME BEFORE JESUS .....</b>	<b>17</b>
■ God Creates the World .....	18
■ Eden: The Beautiful Garden .....	21
Sin and God's Mercy .....	23
■ Noah and the Giant Flood .....	24
■ God Tests Abraham .....	27
■ Joseph's Coat of Many Colors .....	30
■ Moses and the Great Escape .....	36
■ Bread from Heaven .....	43
■ The Ten Commandments .....	44
■ Baalam's Donkey .....	46
■ Israel Wants a King .....	50
■ David, the King Who Sang .....	53
The 23rd Psalm .....	58
Psalm 100 .....	60
■ A Wise King .....	61
■ Words to Live By .....	64
■ A Wonderful Journey .....	68
■ Judith Saves Her People .....	73
■ Alexander the Great .....	76

■ A Brave and Good Family .....	77
■ Judas Prays for the Dead .....	79
■ The Fiery Furnace .....	81
■ Daniel in the Lions' Den.....	84

## II. WHEN JESUS WAS ON EARTH .....89

■ The Annunciation:	
An Angel Brings Good News .....	90
The Hail Mary .....	93
■ St. Joseph's Big Job .....	94
■ The Visitation: Mary and Elizabeth .....	97
■ The Birth of Jesus: A King Is Born ....	101
■ Three Kings:	
The Gifts of the Magi.....	107
■ The Presentation in the Temple.....	111
■ Jesus' Home at Nazareth .....	114
■ Jesus Is Found in the Temple .....	119
■ John Baptizes Jesus .....	127
■ Jesus Calls the Apostles .....	130
■ The Wedding at Cana .....	133
■ Jesus Teaches and Heals.....	135
The Beatitudes .....	137
■ The Lord's Prayer.....	139
■ A Special Visit.....	140
■ Loaves and Fishes .....	142
■ Jesus Loves Children .....	146
■ The Stories of Jesus .....	149
The Parable of a Lamp .....	150
The Parable of the Seeds.....	151

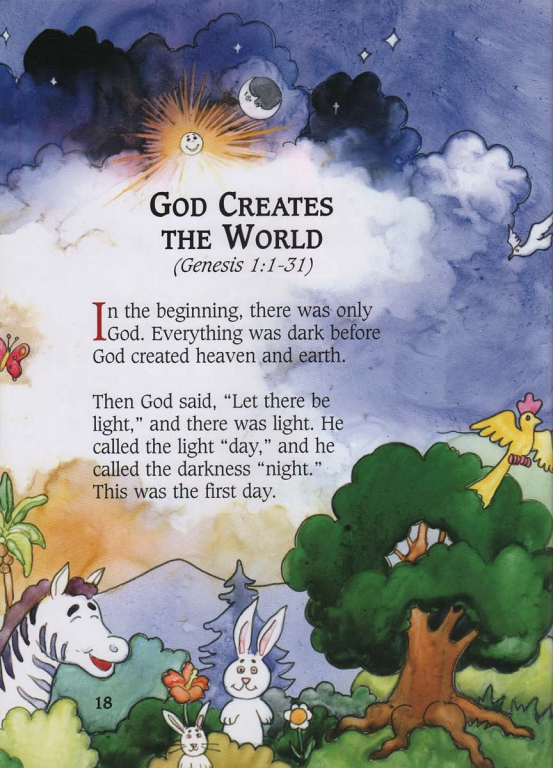
	The Parable of the Mustard Seed.....	153
	The Unforgiving Servant .....	154
	The Good Shepherd .....	156
	The Greatest Commandment.....	158
■	The Ten Lepers .....	160
■	The Last Supper:	
	Jesus Says Goodbye .....	162
■	Jesus' Great Promise .....	165
■	Jesus Dies on the Cross .....	168
■	Jesus Is Alive! .....	174
■	Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Comes ..	178
■	John's Beautiful Dream .....	181

### III. THE PEOPLE OF JESUS .....185

■	Signs and Wonders .....	186
■	Stephen, the First Martyr .....	189
■	Peter, the First Pope .....	192
■	Saul Becomes Paul .....	194
■	Paul Tells Everyone .....	198
■	Apostles and Disciples Spread the Good News .....	199

### IV. THE REST OF THE STORY .....201

■	The Bible and Sacred Tradition ...	202
■	Christians in Danger: The Early Church and Persecution .....	204
■	The Story Continues .....	206
■	A Prayer to Prepare .....	208



# GOD CREATES THE WORLD

*(Genesis 1:1-31)*

**I**n the beginning, there was only God. Everything was dark before God created heaven and earth.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. He called the light "day," and he called the darkness "night." This was the first day.



Second, God made the beautiful sky, and he separated it from the world below.

Third, God created water and land. He made many plants and trees, too, and they grew wonderful fruit.

Next, God made the sun, the moon, and the stars, and put them in the sky. God looked at what He had done and saw how great it was.





## MOSES AND THE GREAT ESCAPE

*(Exodus 1-14)*

**A**fter the death of the kind pharaoh who became Joseph's friend, an evil man took his place as leader of Egypt. This pharaoh was very jealous of Joseph's descendants, the Israelites. He made them slaves of the Egyptians and told his soldiers to kill all their baby boys.

One mother hid her baby boy from the soldiers. She put him in a basket at the edge of the river, where he would be safe. Soon, the pharaoh's daughter came to the river and found the baby boy. She decided to take him home and named him Moses, which means "pulled out of the water."

Moses grew up in the pharaoh's palace, strong, healthy, and good. Because he had a loving heart, Moses grew angry when he saw one of the pharaoh's soldiers hurting an Israelite slave. He told the soldier to stop hurting the man, but the soldier didn't listen. To save the slave, Moses killed the soldier. Moses knew the pharaoh would punish him for this, so he ran away to a different land and became a shepherd.

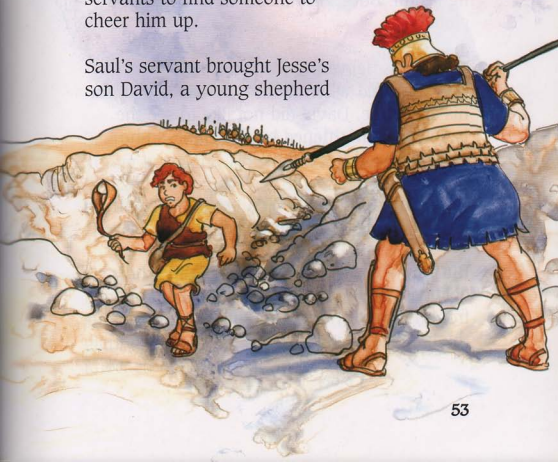
Moses was out in the field caring for his sheep one day when he saw a burning bush and went to investigate. To his surprise, even though the bush burned, the leaves stayed green! Then he realized that God was speaking to him.

# DAVID, THE KING WHO SANG

*(1 Samuel 16:14-1 Samuel 31;  
2 Samuel 1-2 Samuel 5:1-5)*

**K**ing Saul was very sad. He had not been a good king for the Israelites, and he had disobeyed God. Saul asked his servants to find someone to cheer him up.

Saul's servant brought Jesse's son David, a young shepherd



boy who often sang to his sheep to keep them quiet. David sang and played music for Saul, which made him very happy.

At this time the Israelites were fighting another group called the Philistines. The Philistines had a very strong, very large soldier named Goliath. Goliath thought he could beat anyone, so he told the Israelites to send a man to fight him. But the Israelites were afraid of the giant.

David was delivering food to his brothers on the battlefield when he heard Goliath roar out his challenge. David did not like to see the Israelites so frightened by the giant, so he said he would fight him.

"No," said King Saul. "You are but a youth, and he has been a man of war."

But David was not afraid. "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion, and from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."



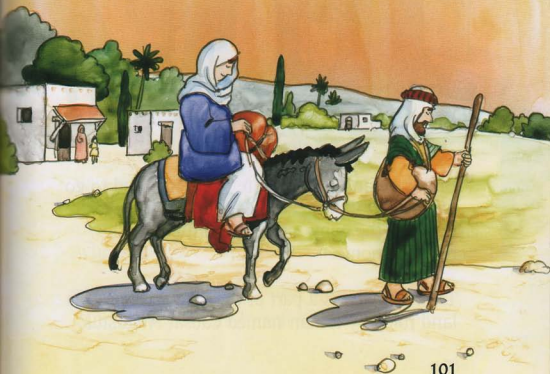
Sadly, King Saul agreed to let the brave young boy fight. He gave him a sword and the clothes of a soldier. But David did not like the soldier's clothes and the sword. Instead he chose a slingshot and five smooth stones.

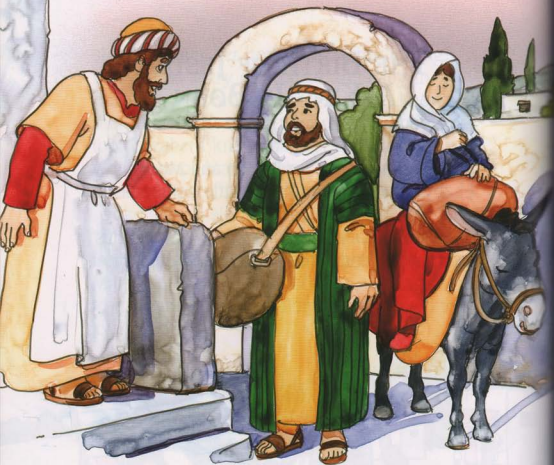
As the giant raced toward David with his mighty sword, David used his slingshot to shoot a stone at Goliath. The rock hit the giant smack in the middle of the forehead and knocked him down at once.

# THE BIRTH OF JESUS: A KING IS BORN

*(Luke 2:1-20)*

**I**t was almost time for Joseph and Mary's baby to be born, and their little home was ready. Joseph had made a cradle for the baby to sleep in. Mary had made some little clothes for the baby and some blankets to wrap him in.





But Mary and Joseph were sad. They had to go on a very long trip soon, and they were worried that the baby might be born before they returned home.

Their home was a part of the Roman Empire, a land ruled by a man named Caesar Augustus.

"Be not afraid; I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."





## LOAVES AND FISHES

*(Matthew 14:15-21, John 6:1-14)*

**C**rowds of people had been listening to Jesus teach all day near the Sea of Galilee. It was almost time for dinner, and everyone was growing very hungry. Jesus pointed this out to his friends, the apostles.



"How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" Jesus asked Philip. Philip replied that they didn't have the money to buy enough for everyone to have even a little. But Jesus had a plan.



Andrew told Jesus there was a boy in the crowd who had five barley loaves and two fish. "But what are they among so many?" Andrew asked. He didn't think that little bit would make any difference.

Jesus smiled and told his apostles to ask everyone to have a seat. Then Jesus took the two fish and the five loaves of bread and looked up to heaven. He blessed the food and told the apostles to begin feeding the people.

Because they believed in him, the apostles did as Jesus asked. They were surprised to see




## JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

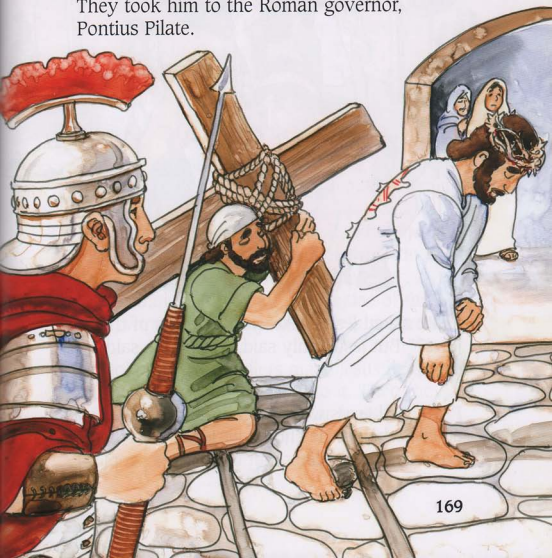
*(Matthew 27, Mark 15,  
Luke 22-23, John 18-19)*

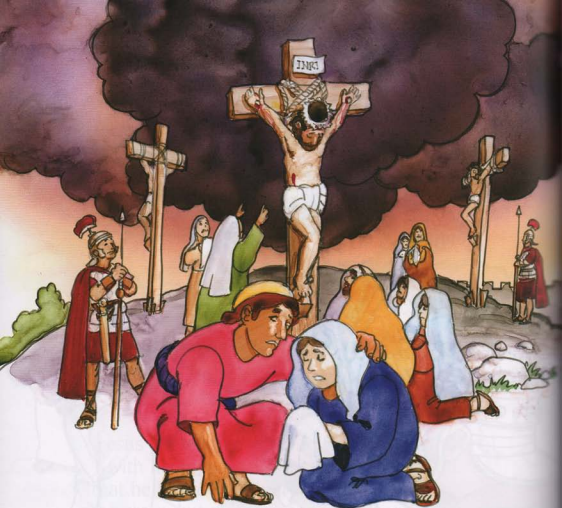
**J**esus prayed in a garden after his last supper with his friends, the apostles. He told God that he hoped he might not have to die on the cross, but that he would do whatever God wanted.

Soon, the Roman soldiers came to the garden and took Jesus prisoner. They took him to the chief priest, who asked Jesus if he thought he was the Son of God. Jesus said, "You say that I am." Others who had heard



Jesus preaching said that Jesus called God his Father. This was against the law. The chief priest said Jesus was guilty and would have to die. The people spit on him and hit him. They took him to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.





Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" But Jesus only said, "You have said so."

Pilate said Jesus was not guilty. He asked the people whether he should let Jesus go, or let Barabbas, a murderer, out of jail. The people