



JOIN IN
THE
AMAZING
STORY
OF EASTER

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

We are going to go on a journey to the cross!
We want to invite you to join in the story of Easter.

Draw yourselves
joining the adventure!



ARE YOU READY FOR THIS ADVENTURE?

(EVERY GOOD ADVENTURE NEEDS A PLAN
SO HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!)

To help you on this journey you have received this special book, a calendar with 40 stickers plus a few other special items to help you countdown to Easter!

We know life gets busy, so each week there is just **ONE** family session that you can do together to think about God's big story and how we fit into it.

Apart from the first 2 days there is no set day to do these sessions so that you can do these together when it works best for you and your family!



SO LET THE COUNTDOWN
BEGIN!

DAY 0 - BIT OF BACKGROUND!

Lent is a special time; in the 6 weeks leading up to Easter, Christians fast and pray so that they can remember Jesus came to earth to die for them.

Fasting means not eating something so that when you feel hungry or want that food you remember to pray and spend time with God!

Traditionally people used to fast flour, milk, sugar and eggs so on Shrove Tuesday (the day

Pancake Recipe

Put 100g plain flour, 2 large eggs, 300ml milk, 1 tbsp OF oil and a pinch of salt into a bowl then whisk to a smooth batter.

Then heat the pan and get flipping those pancakes!

P.S Don't forget your favourite toppings

before Lent begins) they would use this up so they would not to spoil the 40 day fast they were about to begin. So...LET'S EAT PANCAKES!

Join us in person at
ST.FRANCIS MACKWORTH
PRINCE CHARLES AVE, DE22 4FN
Tuesday 1st March 5-6PM

DON'T FORGET TO GRAB YOUR CALENDAR AND ADD YOUR FIRST STICKER!



OUR FAMILY PROMISES FOR LENT

As already mentioned lent is a time when Christians usually give up food. BUT you could give up anything, as the point is to use the time thinking about Easter and spending more time with God.

When we fast and give something up it's a like making a promise to God.

Telling him that he is more important than the thing we are giving up. So what promise will you make to God this lent?

**THIS IS PANCAKE DAY
THE COUNTDOWN TO EASTER BEGINS!**

DAY 1 - ASH WEDNESDAY!

Lent begins with a day called Ash Wednesday.
On this day, Christians remember that we all do things wrong
that get between us and our relationship with God.
It's God's amazing kindness which means we can still enjoy a
friendship with him.

DID YOU KNOW!?

People used to dress in sackcloth (like scratchy hessian) and cover their faces with ashes as a symbol of their regret on Ash Wednesday

Some churches mark Ash Wednesday with a service when everyone has their foreheads marked with ash in the sign of a cross. As this happens, the pastor or minister will often say the following words based on Genesis 3:19:

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST,
AND TO DUST YOU WILL RETURN.
TURN AWAY FROM SIN AND BE
FAITHFUL TO CHRIST.

WE START LENT IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY... BEING FORGIVEN!

You might want to make some ash and put that sign on your foreheads as a symbol of forgiveness. OR use the charcoal stick in your pack to create a picture to help you remember God's forgiveness.

SPEND
SOME TIME
TELLING
GOD YOU
ARE SORRY.

Use masking tape on some paper to create shapes (you may wish to make just a cross) then cover the rest of the page with charcoal. As you peel the tape off you'll see your picture appear! Thank God for his forgiveness and display your picture to remind you of what Ash Wednesday is all about.

Next 3 days of stickers are
things linked to lent.
Can you work what
they are and how
they link
to lent?

THIS IS ASH WEDNESDAY
THE COUNTDOWN CONTNUES...

DAY 4 - CREATION!

On the first day there was nothing so God said LET THERE BE LIGHT and there was! He then created night a day.



On the second day God separated the waters.

He created the SKY and the SEA.



On the third day God created land and all kinds of amazing plants and trees.



IT IS GOOD!

On the fourth day God made the moon and the stars. He created the beautiful night sky

On the fifth day God made all the creatures that swim in the sea and fly through the air.



On the sixth day God made the creatures that live on the land. Then God made human beings in their own image.



Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

God loves what he created. So much so that he kept on calling it GOOD! Then he rested knowing that what he made was awesome! What do you think is great about the world?

FILL THIS PAGE WITH THINGS YOU LOVE ABOUT NATURE AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE ANIMAL?

WHY NOT STICK IN FLOWERS OR LEAVES YOU FIND?

The stickers are this week days of creation. Each day on the calendar remind yourself what God made that day!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE PLACE YOU LIKE TO VISIT?

THIS IS HOW THE STORY BEGINS

THE COUNTDOWN CONTNUES...

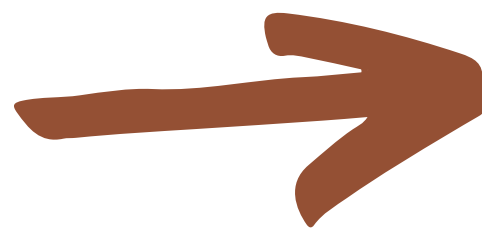
DAY 10 - THE FALL!

Adam and Eve had the best place to live in, the most amazing garden full of beautiful things and they were able to walk and talk with God anytime as he was in the garden too. But they made the wrong choice and everything fell apart which is why we call it **THE FALL.**

So how did things go so wrong?



There was **ONE** tree in the garden that God told Adam and Eve they couldn't eat from. Everything else in the garden they could have but not the fruit from that tree. **HOWEVER** there was a snake that tempted Eve to have just a little taste.



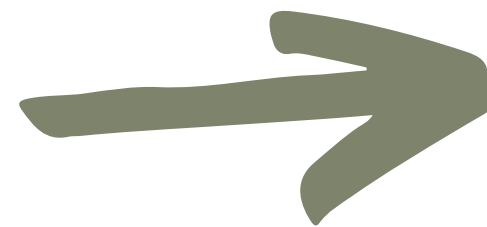
The snake told Eve that she wouldn't get hurt if she ate it but that it would give her special knowledge. Eve was really tempted. She really wanted to eat it!



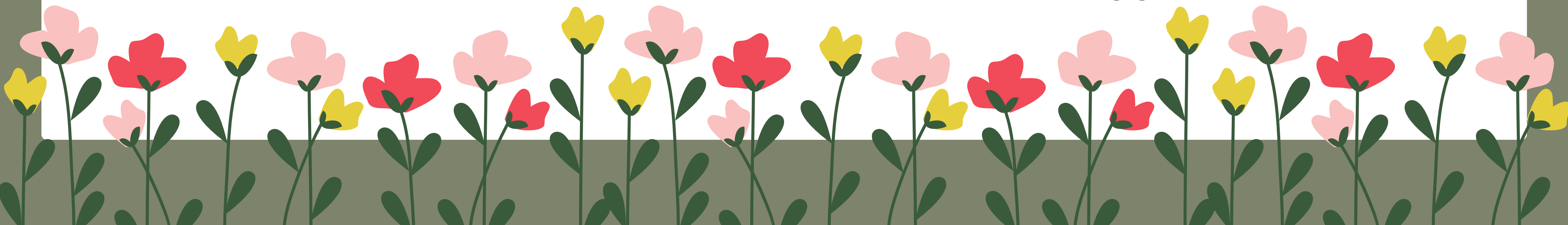
Eve took the fruit and ate it. She knew she shouldn't but it looked so good and the snake had made it sound so good.



THEN Adam took the fruit from Eve and ate it too! Actually, the Bible says that Adam was with Eve when she took the fruit, so he could have stopped her but he didn't!



Because Adam and Eve messed up so bad and did not obey God's rules they had to leave God's amazing garden.



The consequence for sin (when we mess up and get things wrong) is separation from God and that is why Adam and Eve had to leave the garden. But God didn't stop loving them. God wanted the best for them and was sad that they had messed things up. God never stopped loving them. In fact he formed a plan to make things right forever but that comes a little later...

WE ALL MESS UP AND GET THINGS WRONG!

As high as the sky is above the earth so great is his love for those who respect him. He has taken our sins away from us as far as the east is from west.

Psalms
103v11+12

No doubt there's something recently that you need to say sorry for. Let's ask for forgiveness. Grab the sugar cubes from your pack and think for a moment about the bad things you've done that you need to say sorry for. Then place these into the bowl of warm water. Stir the water round until the sugar cubes have dissolved.

Can you get your sugar cube back?

That's what God does with our sin. When you say sorry, God deals with it and takes it away so we no longer have to live with the consequences of what we have done wrong.

It's forgiven! This bible verse explains it perfectly!

THIS IS HOW THINGS WENT WRONG

THE COUNTDOWN CONTNUES...

See if you can work out how the stickers can work out this week link to the story.

DAY 16 - GOD'S FAMILY!

God has always loved his people. He chose a special group of people to build a closer relationship with and gave them promises and rules to help them keep a good relationship with him.

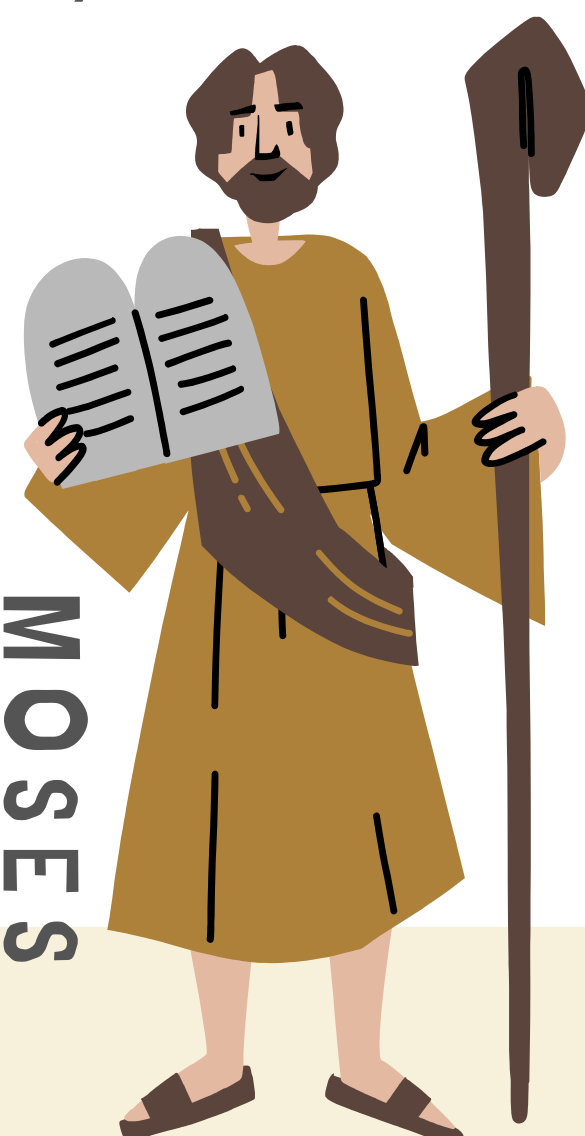
Here are a few of them that you may or may not know!

Abraham was one of the first people God made a promise to! Even though he was really REALLY old God promised his family would be as big as the amount of stars in the sky. Abraham had to wait a few years but God kept his promise!



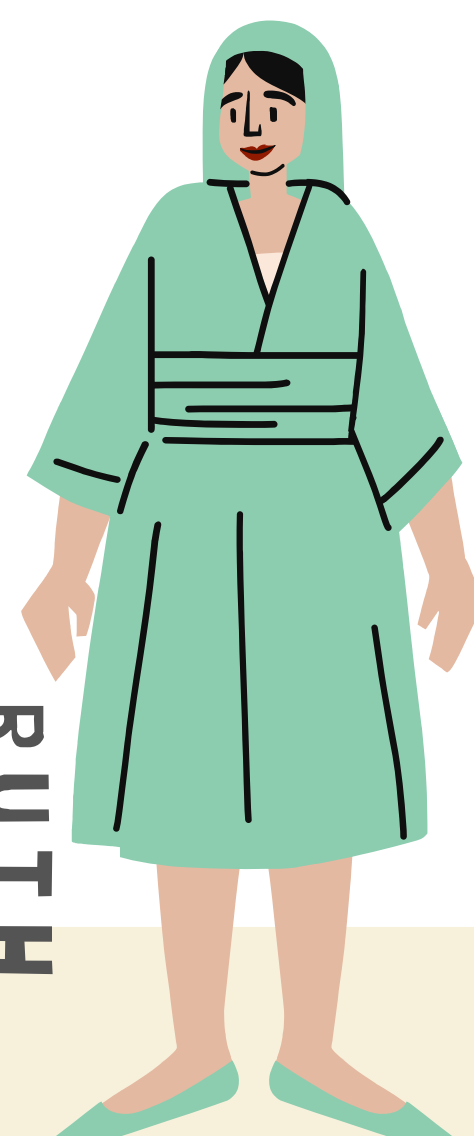
ABRAHAM

Moses trusted God and this meant he saw amazing things! He was given the important job of writing down the 10 Commandments. These rules helped people live well and help stop his people from messing up. Rules help us and other stay safe and happy.



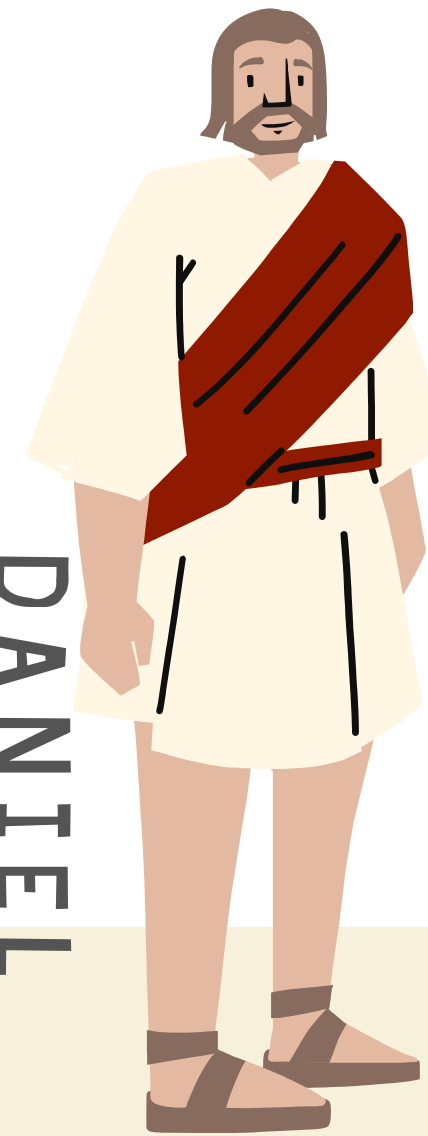
MOSES

Ruth wasn't part of God's family but she promised that she wouldn't leave her husband's mother, Naomi even after he died. Because of her amazing loyalty, God made her part of his special family when she married Boaz.



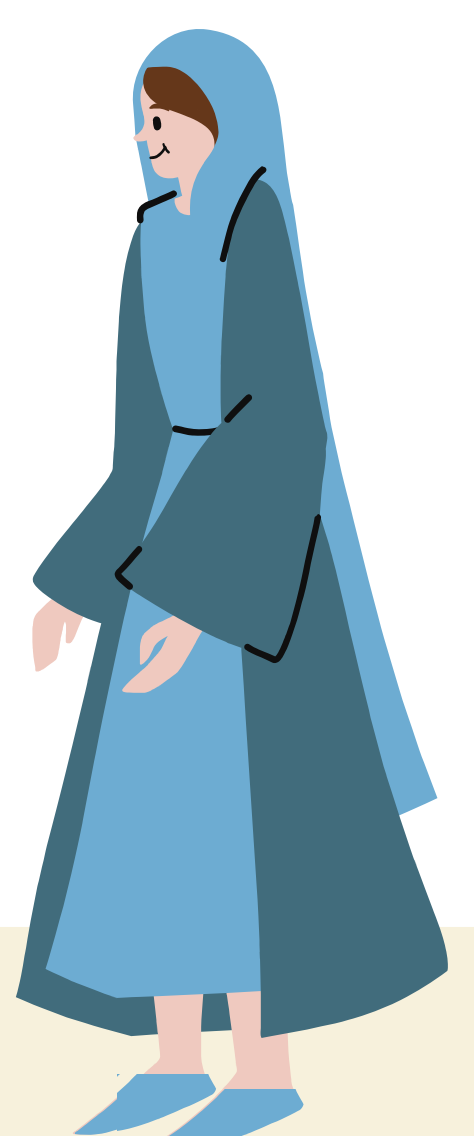
RUTH

Daniel loved God so much that even when the king told him not to pray or he would be put in a lions' den Daniel didn't stop. Daniel was put in with the lions but was untouched! This proved how amazing God was and so the King told everyone to pray to Daniel's God instead!



DANIEL

Mary was chosen by God for the ultimate special mission: to carry his son. What an amazing thing to do. At times Mary was scared but she always trusted God and followed him and God looked after her just as promised.



MARY

See if you remember the heroes who are on your stickers this week!

Take a look at a hero of faith in more detail. Below are some more names of God's amazing people! Why not make a poster about one of them or see if you can find out 5 interesting facts about them!?

JOSEPH
GIDEON

PAUL

JONAH

ESTHER

DAVID

ELIJAH

SAMSON

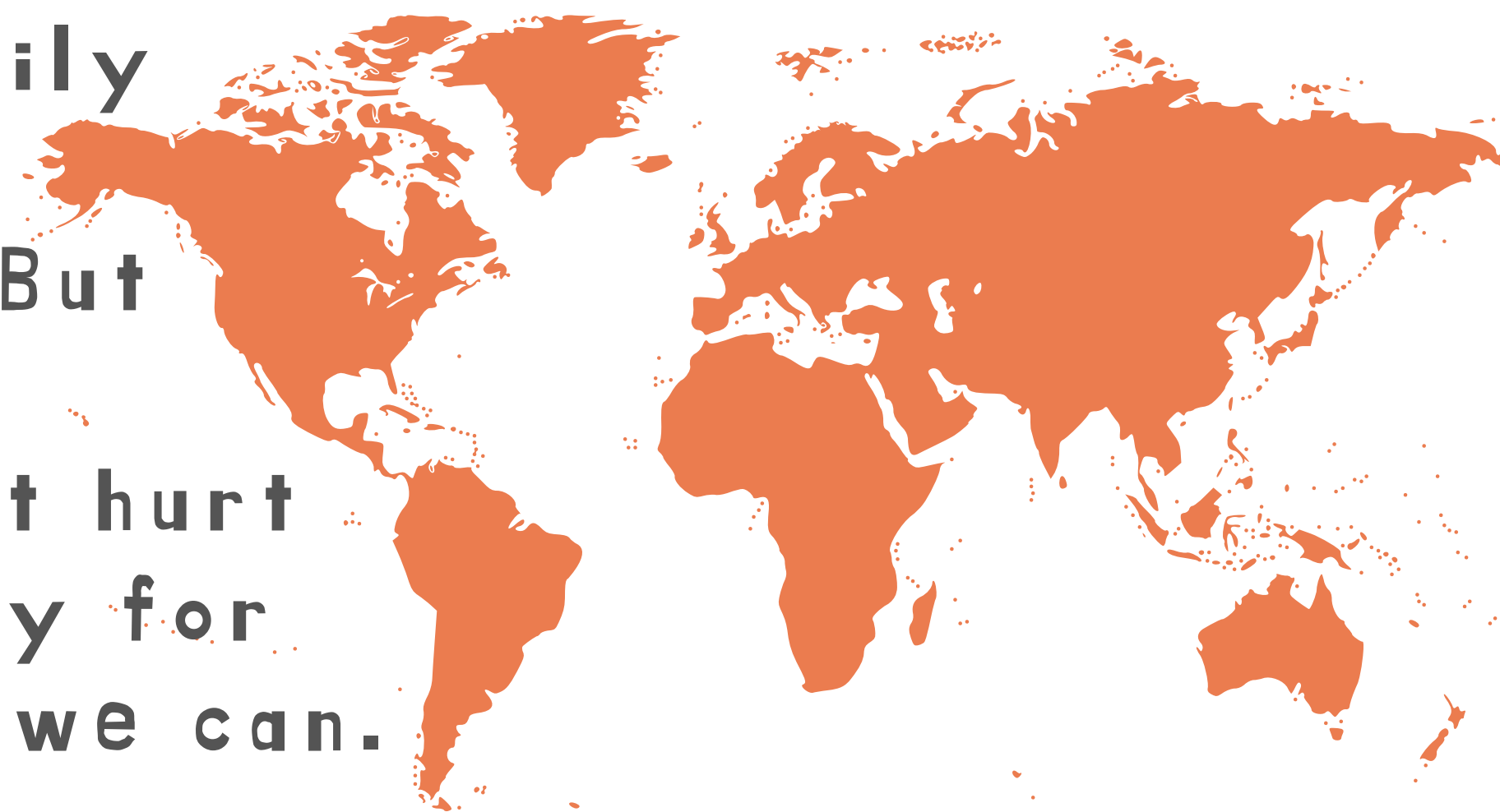
NOAH

DEBORAH

PETER

If you believe in God then you too are part of his family! If you trust in him he will make you a hero of faith too!

What is also amazing is that God's family is worldwide! There are people from all different countries that love God. But sometimes being a Christian in their country is super hard. Some people get hurt for loving God or are made fun of. Pray for people who can't openly love God like we can.

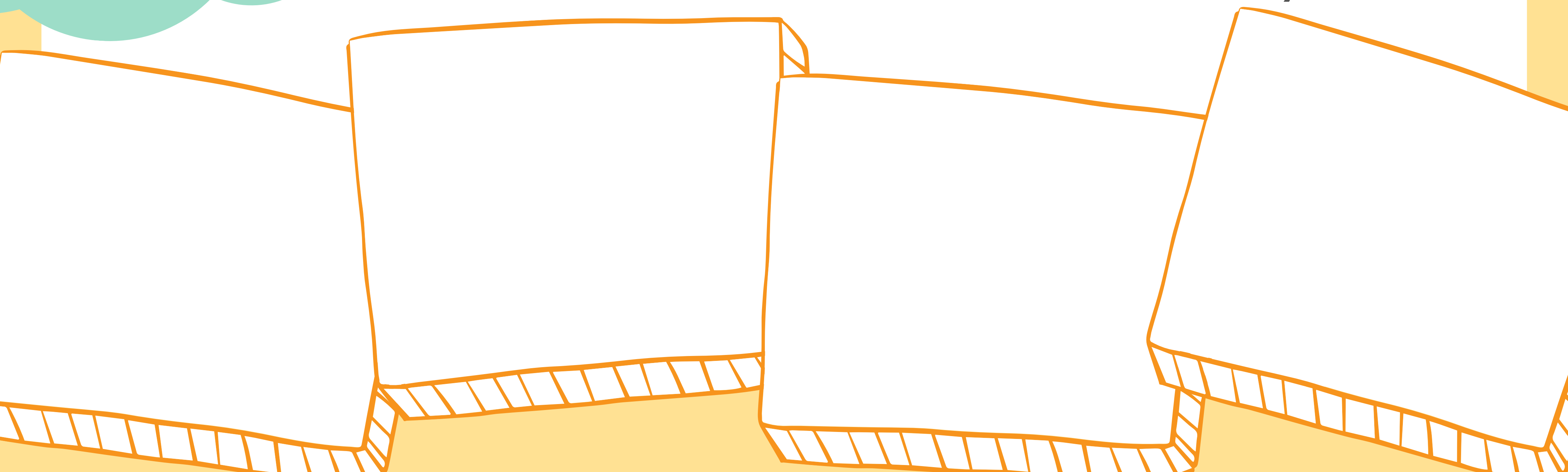


THIS IS GOD'S FAMILY
THE COUNTDOWN CONTNUES...

DAY 22 - GOD'S BIG PLAN!

God had an amazing plan to ensure that everyone could be friends with him again, forever.

It all began with a young girl called Mary who became pregnant! An angel told her she was carrying God's son who would save the world! Although this baby was the king he wasn't born in a palace but in a stable surrounded by loads of smelly animals! Use the story boards below to draw out what you remember about the Christmas story. If you need help remembering what happens use the QR code to watch the story.



We all know the Christmas story pretty well. So with every sticker you add to your calendar see if you can act out that part of the story!

Jesus was God's gift to the world. It was the best news ever that God sent his son to save us. That's why he's also called the Messiah because it means someone who saves.

From the Shepherds to the Kings those who met Jesus and saw him couldn't help but share the good news about him!

What is the best news you've ever heard and who did you tell?

Get excited again about the good news of Jesus...Celebrate Christmas again!

Be generous: make a gift for someone using the little box in your pack. As you give it away remember that Jesus is the best gift we've ever been given!

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus was also called EMMANUEL which means God with us!

This is THE BEST thing about Christmas.

That God is not far away but close and wants to be with us!



THIS IS WHEN JESUS WAS BORN

THE COUNTDOWN CONTNUES...

DAY 28 - PREPARE THE WAY!

To many JOHN THE BAPTIST was a strange man.

John's clothes were made of camel's hair (which sounds a little itchy), he had a leather belt around his waist and he ate locusts with wild honey so you can understand why!

But he was also Jesus' cousin! John loved God and wanted people to get right with him so he taught people about God and baptised those who wanted to follow him. He said he was not important and instead pointed to Jesus saying that he was the one who was and that they should follow him!

John recognised who Jesus was, and pointed that out to the crowds.

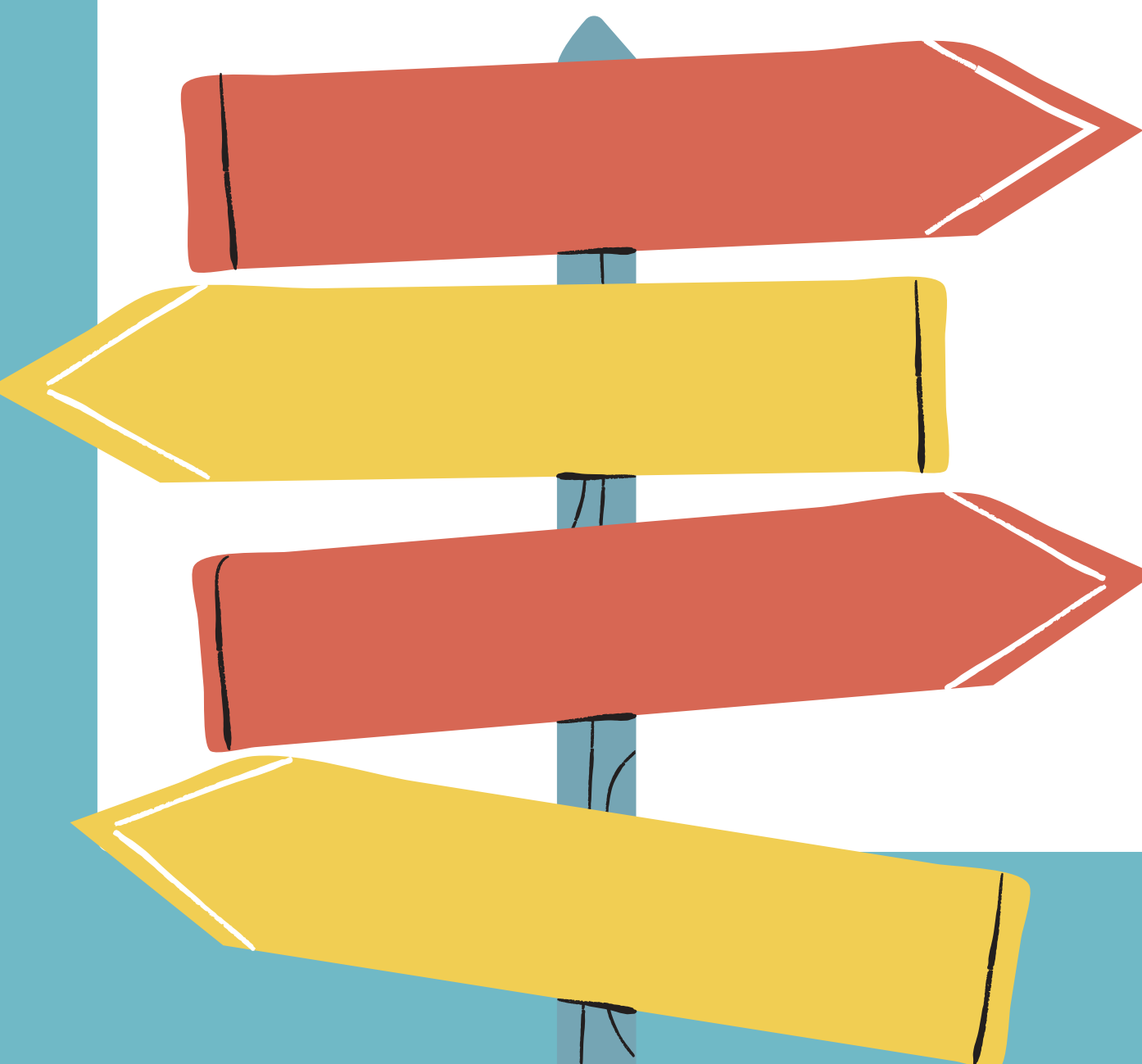
John was there to 'prepare the way' for Jesus; telling people to get ready, that God's kingdom was near.



In your own bible see if you can find the story when Jesus is baptised by John. Then see if you

can answer these 3 questions! The passage is Matthew 3v13-17

- 1 What is the name of the River Jesus is baptised in?
- 2 The spirit of God is described as resting on Jesus like what kind of animal?
- 3 What does Father God say about Jesus when he comes out of the water after being baptised?



Make a sign pointing to Jesus using the sticks in your pack. John the Baptist kept on pointing to Jesus and we should do the same! If you can maybe even write on it the bible verse:

**Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him**

Isaiah 40v3 also found in Matthew 3v3

THIS IS JOHN THE BAPTIST

THE COUNTDOWN CONTNUES...

Match up your stickers with what John the Baptist has learnt about Jesus

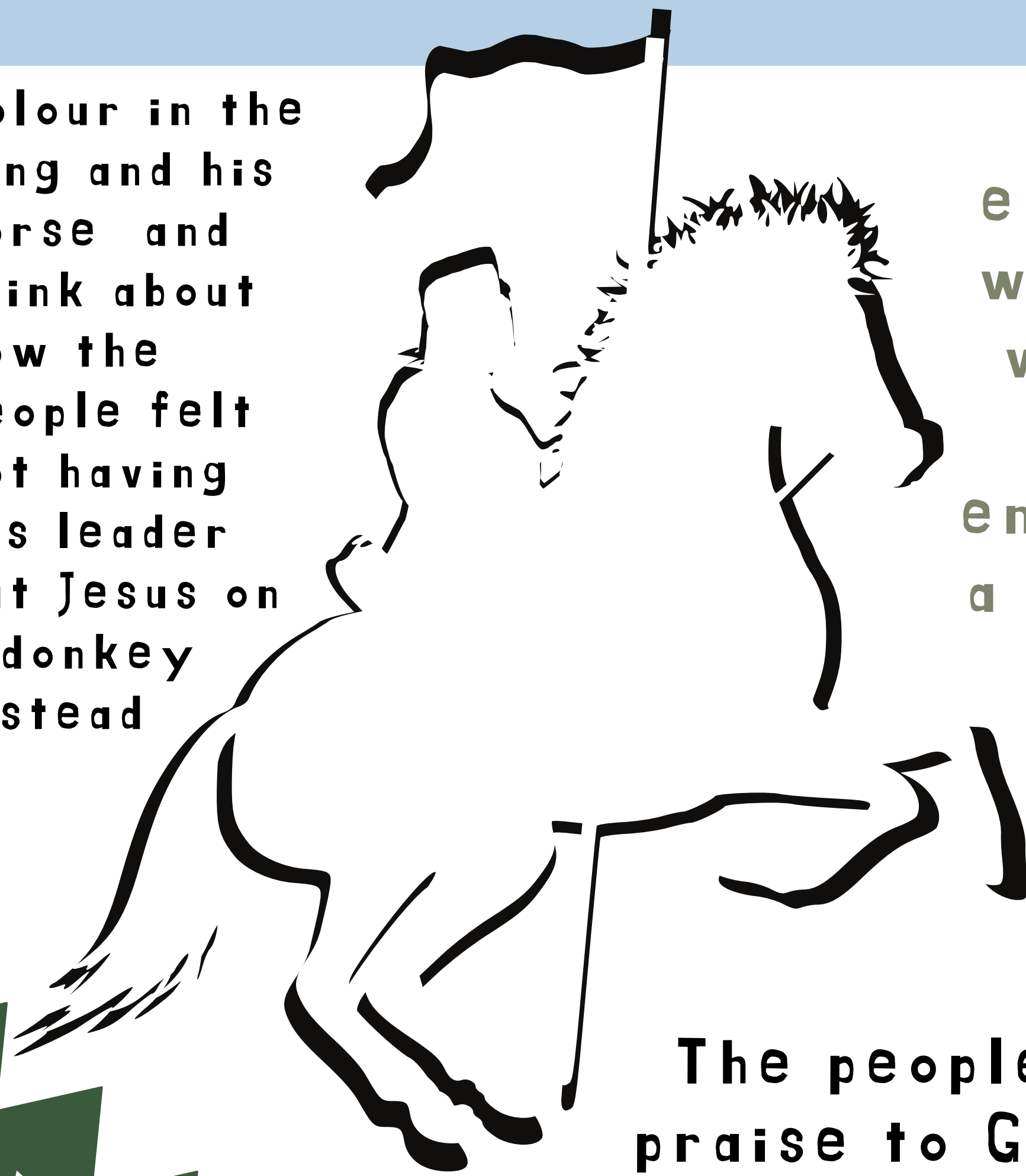
DAY 34 - PALM SUNDAY!

When Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem there was a huge crowd there to meet him. They were waving palm leaves shouting: 'HERE COMES THE KING!' 'HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST' which means 'PRAISE GOD'

People began to lay down palm leaves and even put their coats on the floor for Jesus and the donkey to walk on like a red carpet! The crowd got bigger and louder cheering him. Everyone was excited to see him!

Well, not everyone...the religious leaders were very annoyed and told Jesus to make his disciples shut up because they did not like him being praised. But Jesus told them that even if the disciples stopped cheering the stones would begin to sing his praises!!

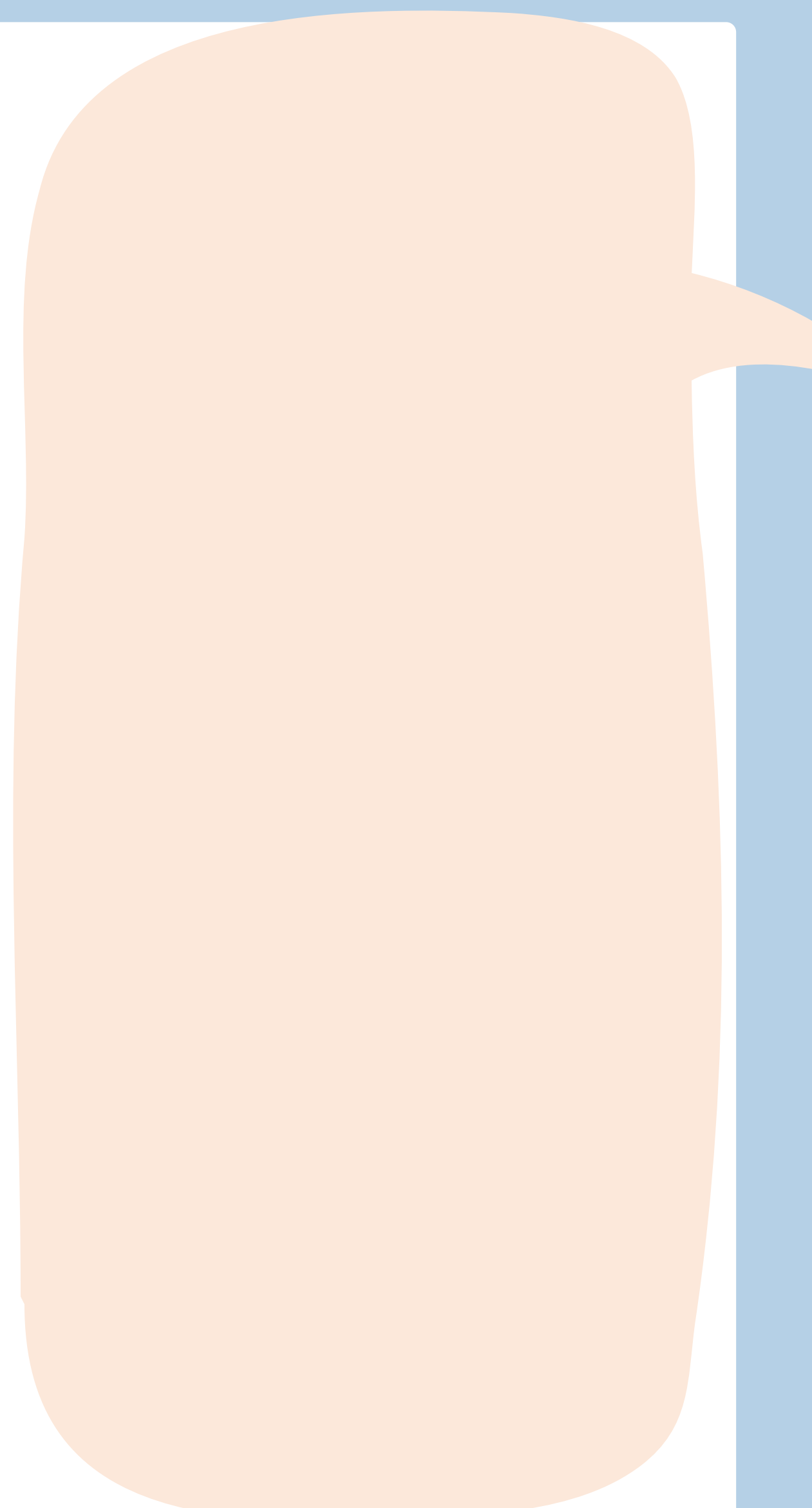
Colour in the king and his horse and think about how the people felt not having the leader but Jesus on a donkey instead



God's people were expecting a King who was a strong warrior who would come and defeat all of their enemies and ride in on a huge horse in power BUT Jesus comes on a donkey.

He will save them but not in the way they think!

The people were shouting out praise to God and were telling Jesus who they believed him to be. Use the speech bubble to write or draw who you think Jesus is.



Can you work out this week how each sticker links to the links story?

THIS IS PALM SUNDAY
THE COUNTDOWN CONTNUES...

DAY 38 - THE LAST SUPPER!

This is the night before Jesus' worst day.

Jesus and his disciples met together in an upper room to share the Passover meal together. The Passover was a special celebration, remembering when God set his people free from Egypt.


During the meal Jesus looked up and said, "One of you is going to betray me."

How do you think the Disciples felt when Jesus said that?

As the meal ended Jesus stood up and picked up a piece of bread. He broke it and shared it out between the disciples. "This is my body," he said. "Eat it to remember me." Then he picked up a cup of wine. "This wine is my blood, which is going to be spilled for the sins of the world. I won't drink wine again until I do so in the Kingdom of God."

The disciples then all drank some of the wine together.

Draw your favourite meal



Who would you want to share this meal with?

What Jesus said sounds like a weird thing to say to your friends if you know it's going to be your last meal with them. But Jesus was pointing towards what was going to happen tomorrow. He was telling them that they would need to remember what happened because it was going to be the most important day EVER!

What is pretty cool is that this meal is remembered by churches all across the world...AND not just at Easter!

Have you ever heard of the word COMMUNION?

Communion is when we take bread and wine (or juice) together often during a church service. It's all about remembering this last supper and what happened on Good Friday.

The disciples didn't know what was ahead and the crazy story that would unfold so might have been a bit confused by what Jesus was doing and saying. But they all knew that one of them was about to betray Jesus and this would change everything!


THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END

THE COUNTDOWN CONTNUES...

DAY 39 - GOOD FRIDAY!

This is probably
THE MOST IMPORTANT FRIDAY
there has ever been and will ever
be in the history of the world!

So much happens on this one
day that it just wouldn't fit in
this little booklet so we'd love
to invite you to come along to
church and do the stations of
the cross.



Follow
Jesus'
footsteps
on the Friday that
changed everything in
an interactive activity
trail through the church as
we explore what happened
the day that Jesus died.

**CONTINUE THE JOURNEY AT WERBS!
CHURCH IS OPEN 12-3PM ON 15TH
APRIL TO EXPLORE THE TRAIL!**

**THIS IS WHEN JESUS DIED
THE COUNTDOWN CONTNUES...**

DAY 40 - EASTER WEEKEND

GOOD FRIDAY may be the saddest day in history but also good because Jesus died so we could be friends with God again...but what is incredible is that this Friday was **NOT** the end of the story!

**JOIN US FOR A WALK ON
EASTER SATURDAY**

More info can be found on
the **STWDERBY INSTAGRAM**
or on our website
STWDERBY.ORG/EASTER

**COME ALONG FOR OUR
EASTER SUNDAY AT WERBS
ON SUNDAY AT 10:30.**

This is when you find out how
the story really ends...you
are not going to want to miss
out on this celebration!

You may have noticed you have **2 stickers** for this weekend!
Cover 40 with your Saturday sticker remembering Jesus' disciples being sad **BUT**
then to celebrate on Sunday, cover it with **EASTER SUNDAY** and the empty tomb!

**THIS IS THE MOMENT WHEN
EVERYTHING CHANGED...**

ALL CONTENT CREATED BY AMY-JANE FARRAR
FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT SOURCES
INCLUDING ENERGIZE.NET



JOIN IN
THE
AMAZING
STORY
OF EASTER