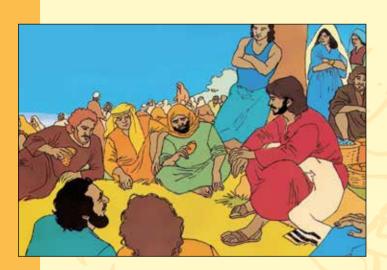
Willem de Vink

JESUS MESSIAH

The man who changes the world



Who is Jesus Messiah?

Jesus lived about 2,000 years ago in Israel. We call Him 'Jesus Messiah' or 'Jesus Christ'. It means that He is King. Yet, He is not just a King. Jesus is called 'the Son of God' and also 'the Son of Man'. This means that He belongs to God and to human beings. The history of Jesus' life is described in the Bible. It is the greatest story of all time.

Jesus' time

Our era begins with the birth of Jesus.
People travelled on foot or on a donkey,
camel, or on horseback. Major parts of
Europe, the Middle East, and Northern
Africa were occupied by the Roman Empire.
Most people could not read or write, yet the
Jews in Israel could. They were called 'the
people of the Book'.

God speaks in the Book, the Bible. He is the Creator of all existing things and He wants to be friends with all people. Jesus showed that very clearly!

Jesus' birth

Jesus' mother, Mary, was not yet married when Jesus was conceived. She was still a virgin until after He was born. Yet God arranged it that Jesus could be born. This miracle had been announced in the books written long before Jesus' time. Jesus was not born as a hero or something special. He was born in a stable as there was no other room available.













What is...

Angel: An invisible messenger of God (p.5).

Bible: In the Bible you can read about how God looks at people and how He deals with them.

Blessing: All the good things which God wants to give to people who are doing what He wants.

Communion: Followers of Jesus remember His death and resurrection with bread and wine (p. 41).

Cross: Instrument of torture on which Jesus died of His own free will. It has become the sign for all of Jesus' followers (p.25, 50).

Disciple: Follower of Jesus (p.18).

Easter: The feast at which Jesus' resurrection is celebrated. The Jews celebrate Passover on the same days (p.38-54).

Eternal life: Life with Jesus as God intended it. It overcomes death and has no end (p.23, 29-30 and 59).

Faith: You trust God to do what He promised to do (p.58).

Forgiveness: God forgives, although nobody deserves it. God forgives if you are really sorry for sinning and are willing to change. Forgiveness is possible because Jesus bore the punishment which we deserved (p.58).

God's Kingdom: God's Kingdom is present where people obey Him.

Holy Spirit: God's Spirit by which He wants to live in people who are following Jesus (p.58).

Jesus: The name of God's Son, meaning, 'God saves'.

Messiah: 'Anointed King'. Messiah (a Hebrew word) is translated in Greek as Christ (p.52, 55).

Prayer: You talk to God, quietly or aloud and you listen to Him (p.18, 19, 42).

Resurrection: Jesus rose from the dead.
One day everyone will rise from the dead.
Then God will judge each human being (p.53-57).

Return: Everything will be made new when Jesus returns to earth. Heaven and earth will be renewed by God (p.57).

Satan: The invisible enemy of God and men (also referred to as the Devil).

Sin: The things we do which are against God's will and which prevent us from reaching the goal which God has for us (p.4).

Son of God: Name of Jesus. He was God Who came to earth as a human being, as the Son of God.

Israel in Jesus' time

Capital: Jerusalem.

Provinces: Galilee, Samaria, Judea.

Size: Approximately 28,000 km2 (10,810 sq. miles).

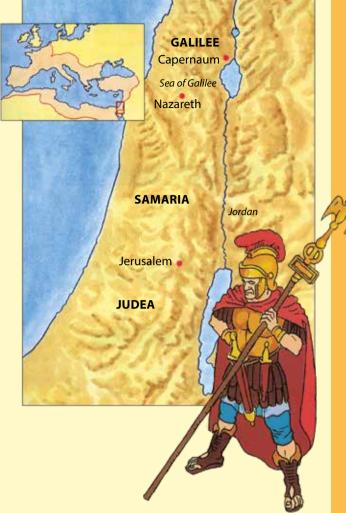
Climate: Subtropical.

Politics: Since 63 BC (before Christ) the Romans have been in control in Israel.

Government: Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, rules in Israel. Tiberius, the Roman Emperor, rules over him.

Religion: Judaism. The Jews have a temple in Jerusalem. There are priests doing all kinds of work for the religion and there are teaches (such as the Pharisees) who must instruct the people from the Bible.

Languages: Hebrew (the language of the Jews), Greek (the internationally spoken language), Latin (the language of the Romans).





The Bible

The story of Jesus is recorded in the Bible. No other book has been read, and is read, more often than the Bible. It is a book full of books. It took 1500 years to write all these books. The Bible was completed about 1900 years ago. It contains all kind of stories about how God is involved in people's lives. The story of Jesus shows most clearly Who God is.

The history of Jesus

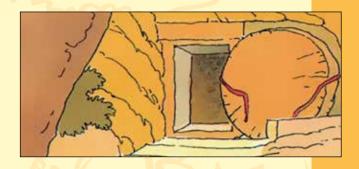
The Bible contains 4 books that describe the life of Jesus. They are named after the authors. The authors all lived in the time of Jesus.

- **1. Matthew** a disciple of Jesus. He used to work as a tax collector. He describes especially how Jesus dealt with the people of Israel (the Jews).
- **2. Mark** was still a teenager when Jesus did His work He writes quite a bit about the miracles which Jesus performed.
- **3. Luke** was a medical doctor. He did not personally know Jesus. Luke describes how Jesus dealt with people.
- **4. John** was also a follower of Jesus. He mainly shows Who Jesus is. Jesus is God, Who became man to free people from their sins.



Jesus performed many miracles. The Bible mentions more than 40 healings. By means of these miracles, Jesus showed God's power and love and that He wants to help people and make them happy.





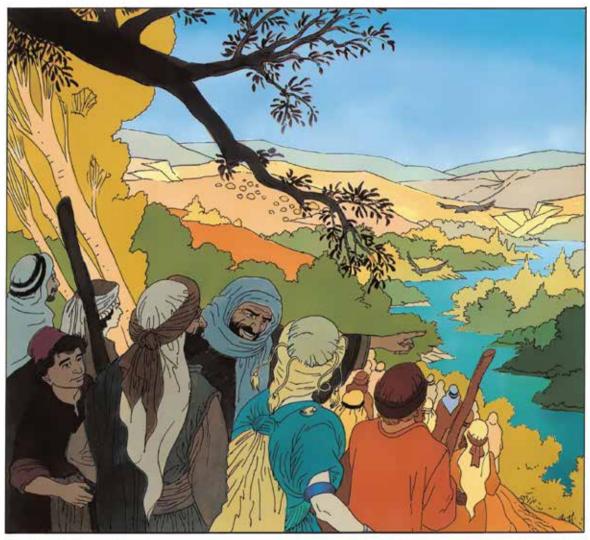
Jesus' death and resurraction

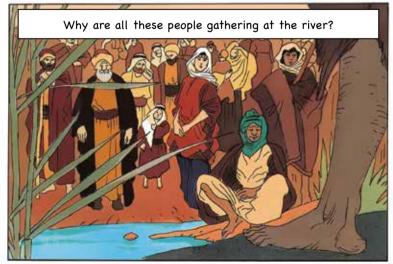
Why did Jesus die?
The explanation is given in the Bible.

All people do wrong things sometimes. Things which God does not approve of and which make Him angry or sad. They are called sin. All those sins may prevent people from beings friends with God. That is why Jesus came. Of His own free will Jesus took upon Himself the punishment for our sins. That punishment was death. Since Jesus died for us, we can become friends again with God. But we do need to be sorry about what we have done wrong.

Jesus rose from the dead. God made Him live again. By this God showed that He is more powerful than death.

Jesus now lives with God. And because He lives, He can always be our friend. He wants to help us live in a way that brings joy to God.



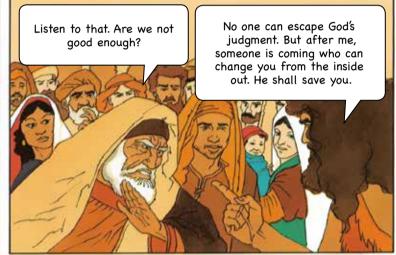


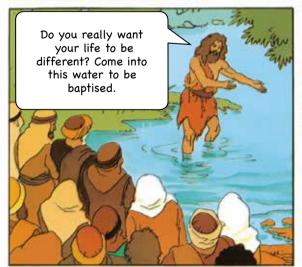


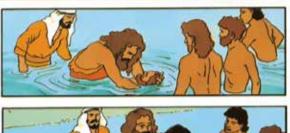


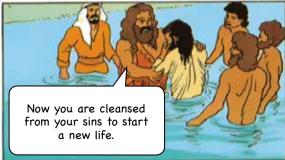


Every tree which does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.







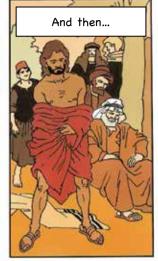


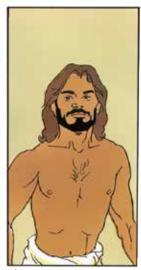
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Everyone calls the preacher at the river John the Baptist...

It's not about me.
I'm preparing you
for someone else. He
will show us what
God wants. He will
baptize you in the
fire of God's Spirit.
That will completely
change you.







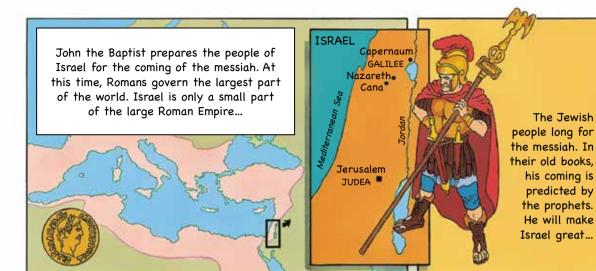
I should be baptized by you!

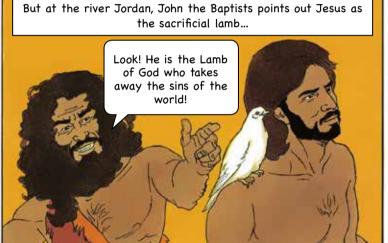


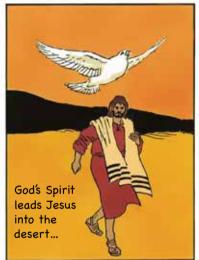




Suddenly, a voice from heaven says... Yes! You are my beloved Son! You are the man after my heart!







The Jewish

people long for

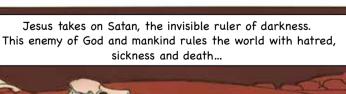
the messiah. In

his coming is

predicted by the prophets. He will make Israel great...



Jesus has to carry out God's plan. God wants people freed of their fear of condemnation and death...



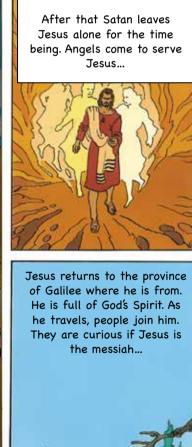


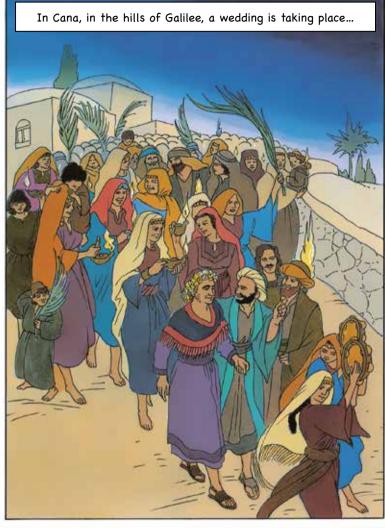


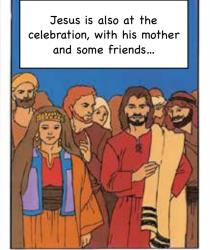
Look! I will give you all

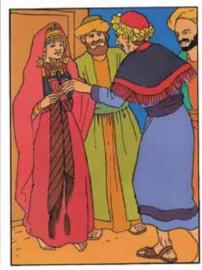






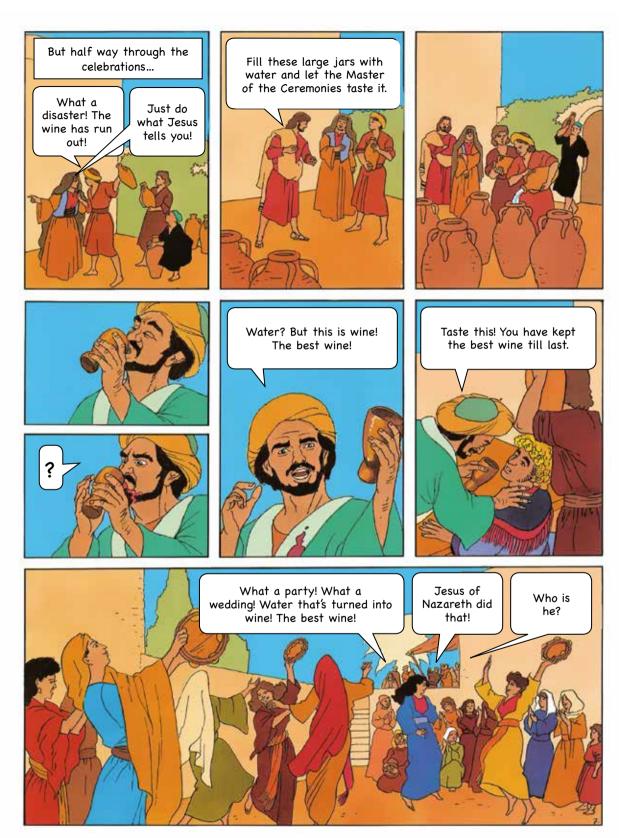


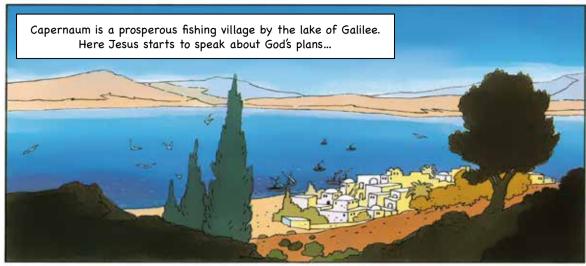






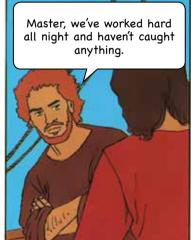






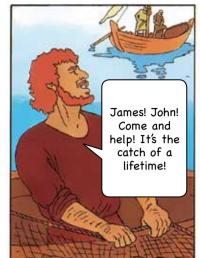








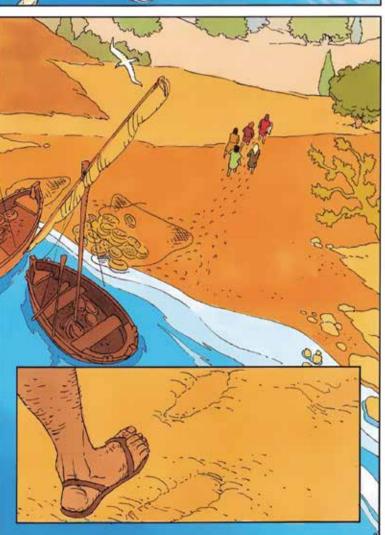




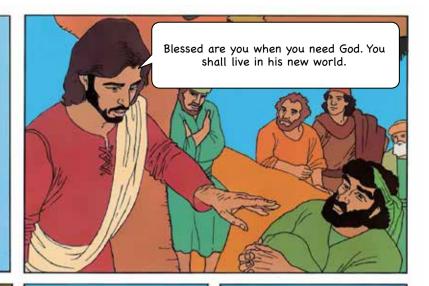


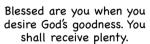


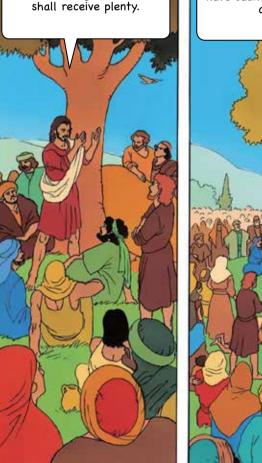




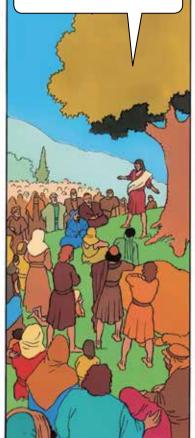
Jesus travels with his disciples through the north of Israel. He is telling everybody that God's kingdom is coming. His words are full of power and full of grace. He heals the sick and frees people of demonic powers. Many people follow him. They even come from other provinces and from Jerusalem, the capital of Israel...





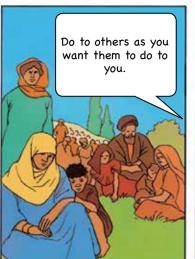


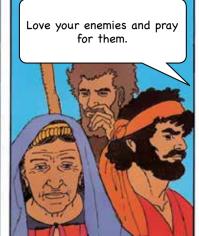
Blessed are you when you have sadness. You shall find comfort.



Blessed are you when you do good to others. God shall be good to you. And when you make peace, you shall be called a child of God.



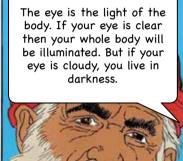


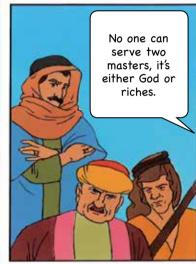




Who looks at a woman longing to have her, has already committed adultery in his heart.







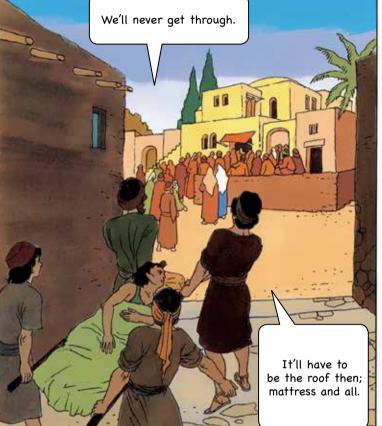
Don't worry about tomorrow. Seek God first and what he wants, the rest will follow.



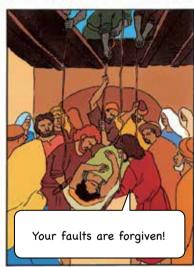




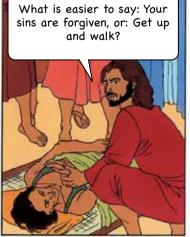
One day people are crowding in and around the house of Jesus in Capernaum...

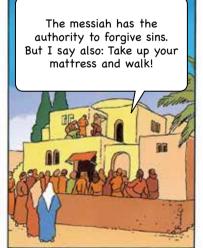






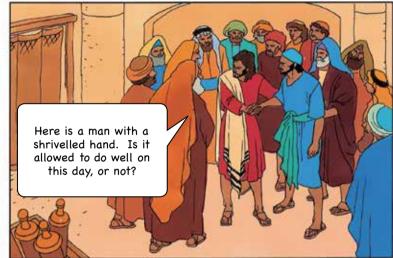


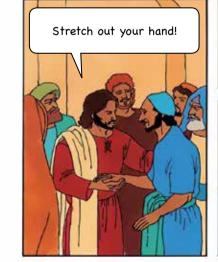






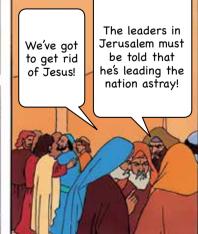
Jesus does many good things. And he speaks with wisdom and authority. He radiates nothing but mercy and grace. But not everyone is happy with him. The leaders want to uphold the law. They look to see if Jesus is keeping the rules. Like on the Sabbath. On this first day of the week it is strongly forbidden to do any kind of work...

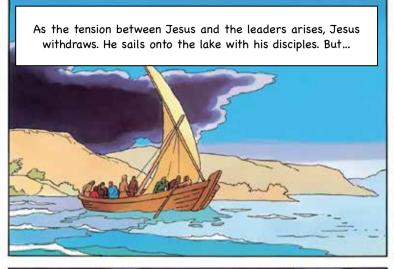




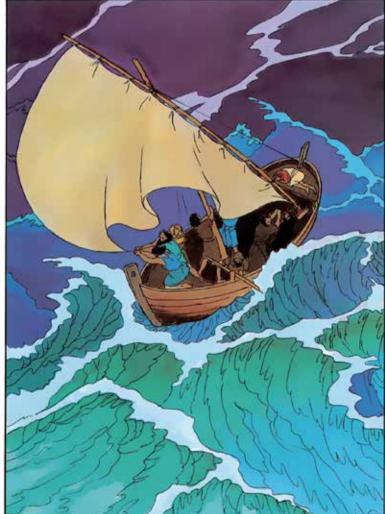






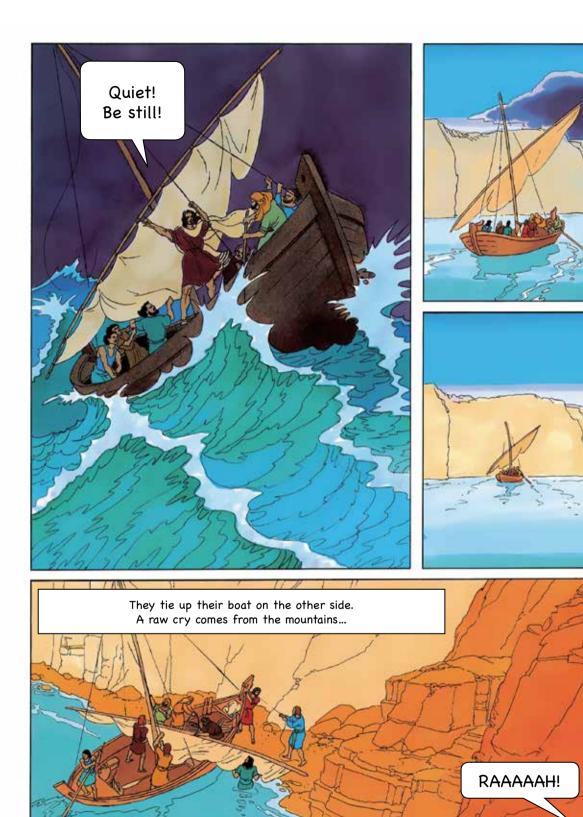


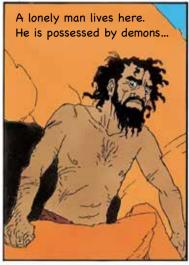




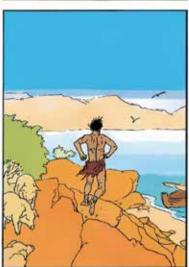




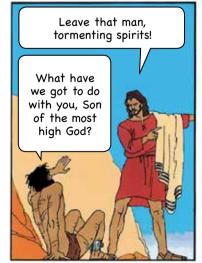






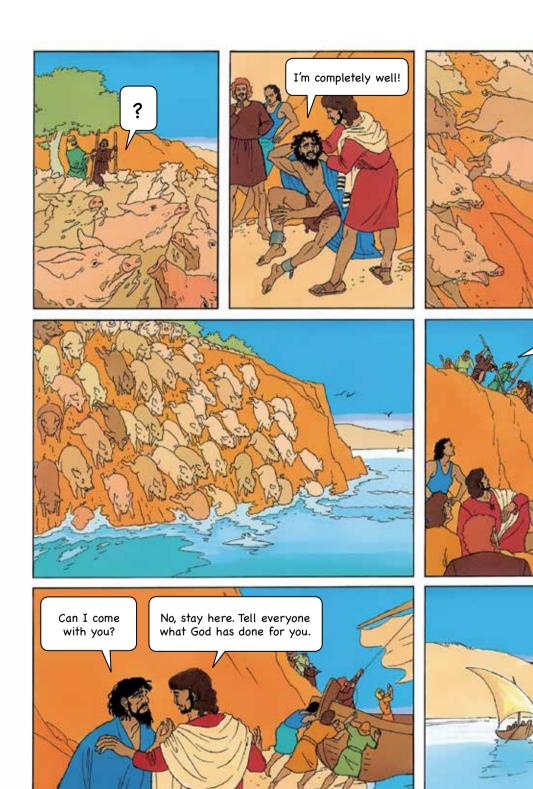






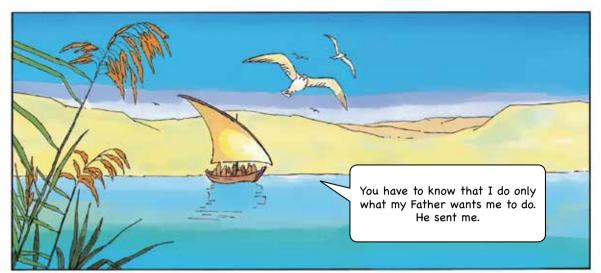


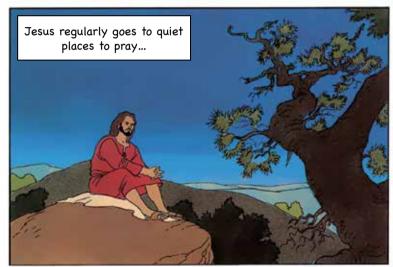


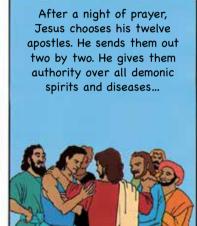


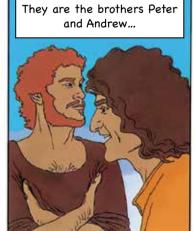
Go!

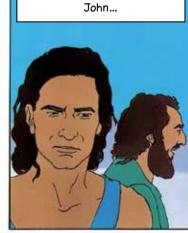
Leave us!



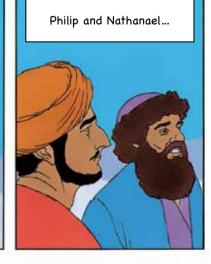








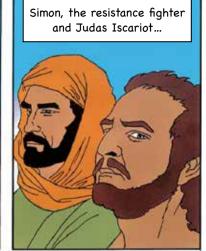
The brothers James and

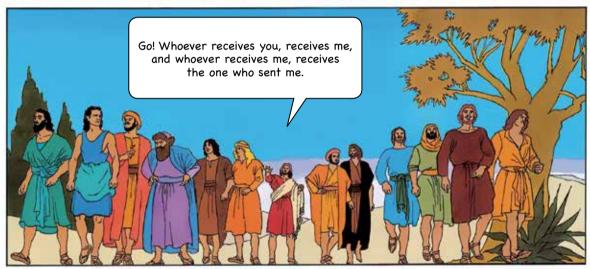


Thomas and Matthew (who previously collected taxes for the Roman occupiers)...

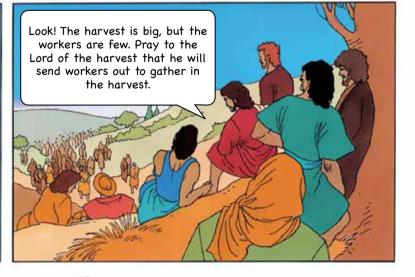


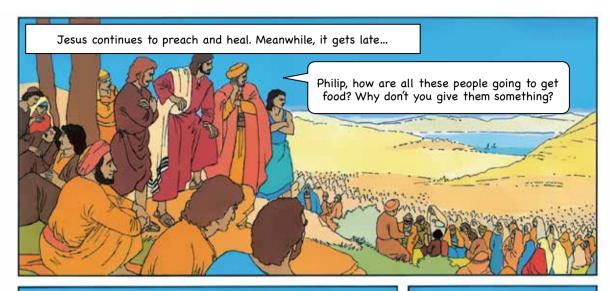
Thaddeus and the other

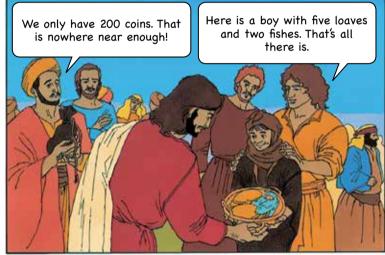


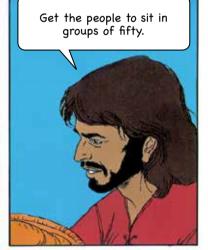


The twelve apostles return excited from their mission. They have done all that Jesus said. After this Jesus wants to go into the quiet with them. But the crowd does not let them be...



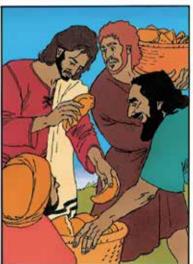


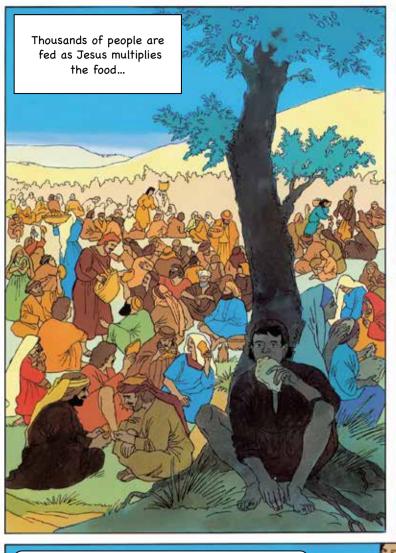


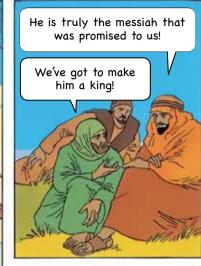




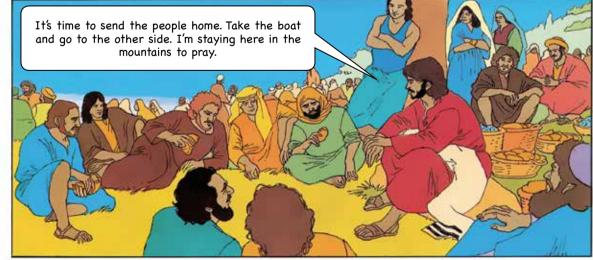




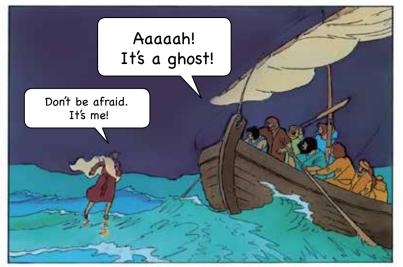


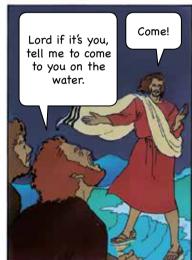










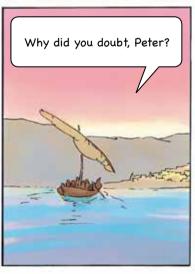




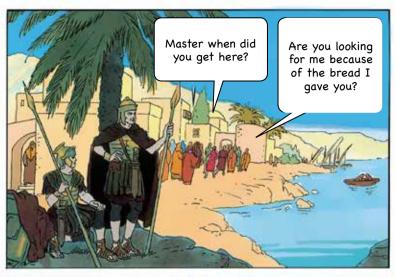


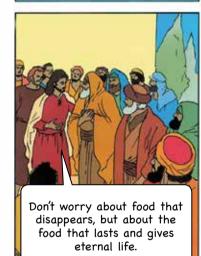


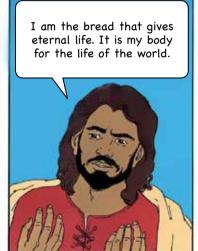


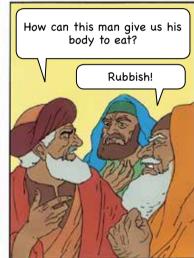


Some want to make Jesus king. They hope that he will drive out the the Roman occupiers. Jesus' opponents are on the increase. Even though he helps people, the religious leaders think he violates the law. They want to set the people against him and get rid of him...

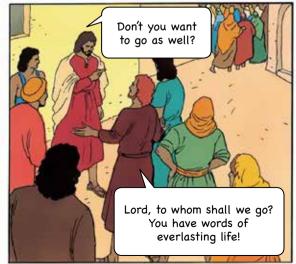


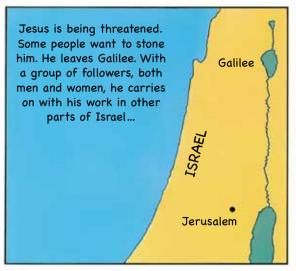


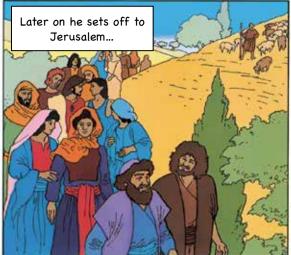


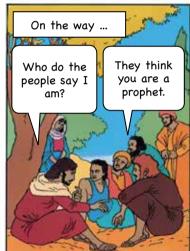




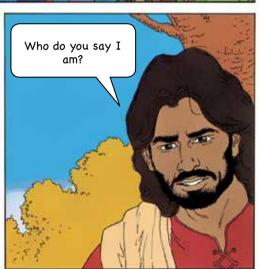


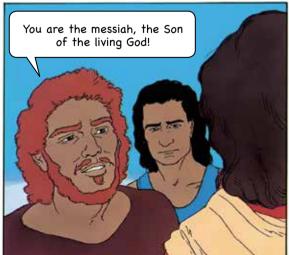


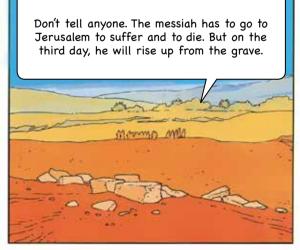


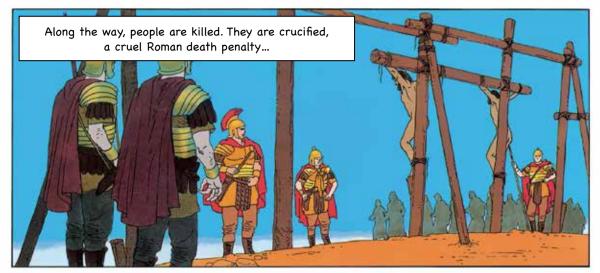


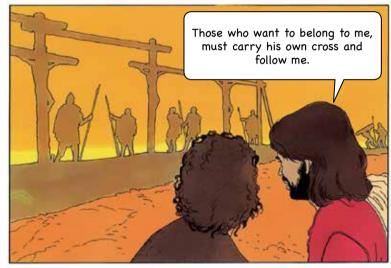










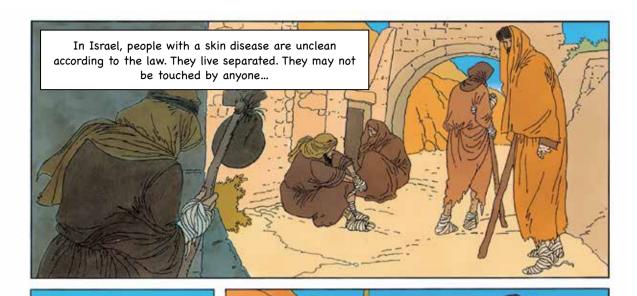


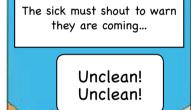
Whoever holds onto his own life will lose it. But whoever lets go off his life for me will find it.



The important thing is that you love God with everything that is in you, and the other as much as yourself.





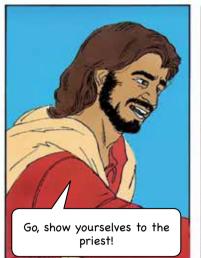










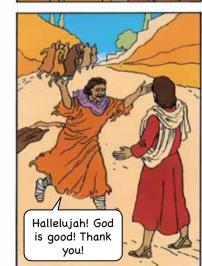


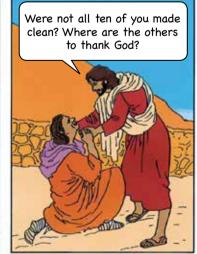


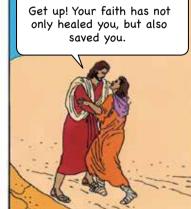




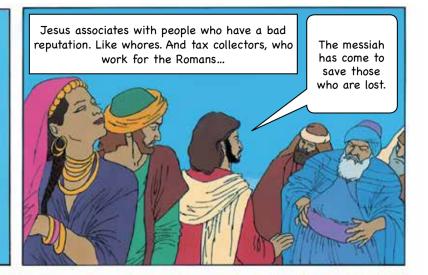






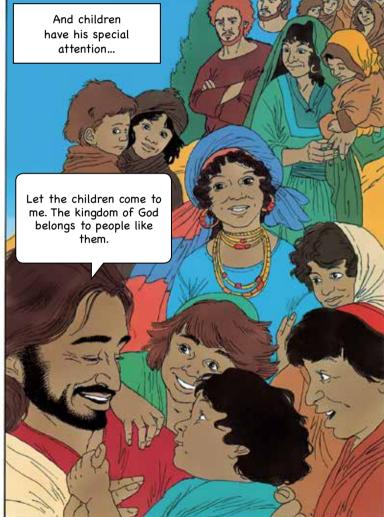


The religious leaders in Jerusalem send men to Jesus to hear him out. It can't be that he is only good. They want to catch him on something so they can accuse him...



Jesus heals the sick on the sabbath when actually no one is allowed to work...





Jesus is called to Bethany, a village near Jerusalem. Lazarus is ill. He and his his sisters, Martha and Mary, are friends of Jesus. When Jesus arrives in the village, he hears that Lazarus was buried four days ago...



If you had been here, my brother would not have died!



Your brother shall rise again, Martha.



Yes, I know. He will live again at the resurrection on the last day.



I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live. Do you believe that Martha?

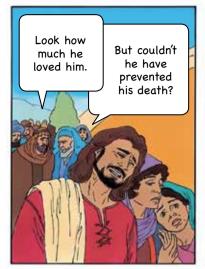


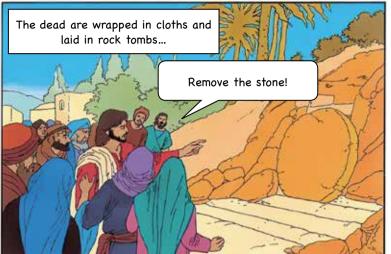
Yes Lord! I believe that you are the promised messiah who was to come. The Son



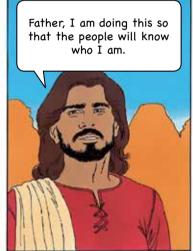
Where have you buried him?

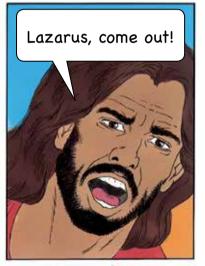




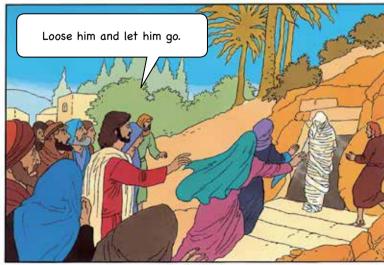


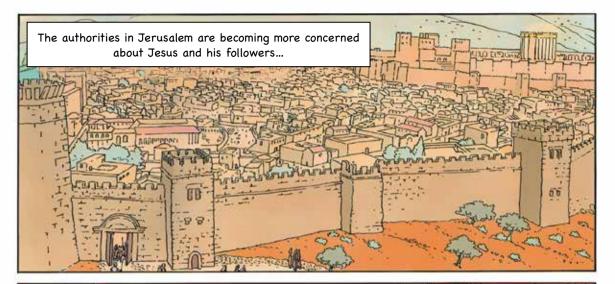




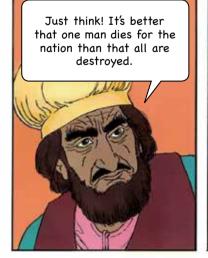


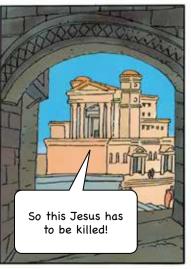






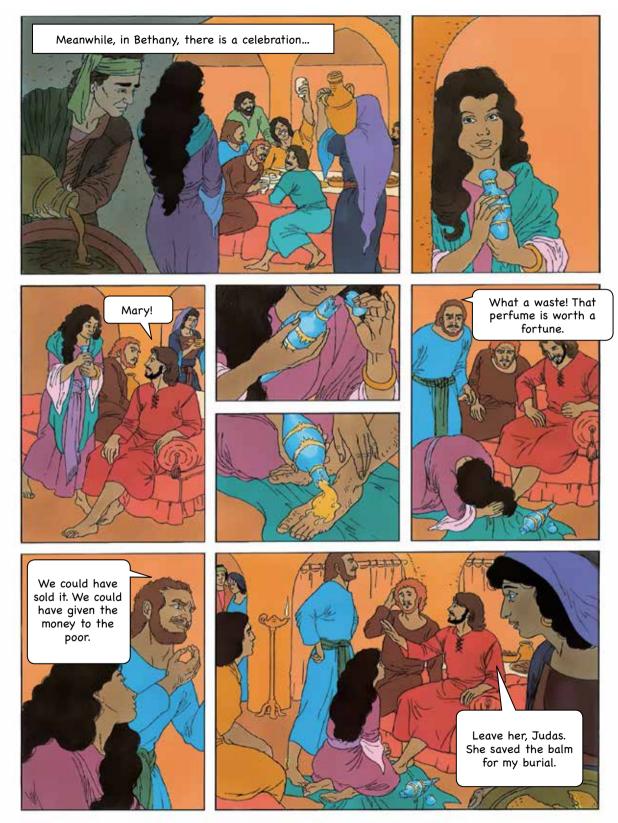


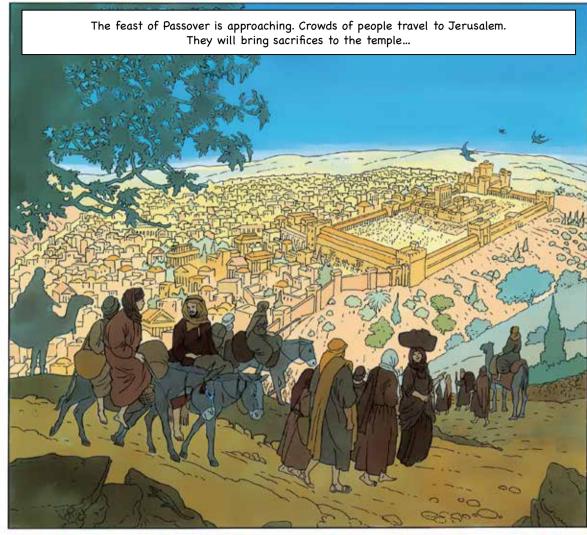


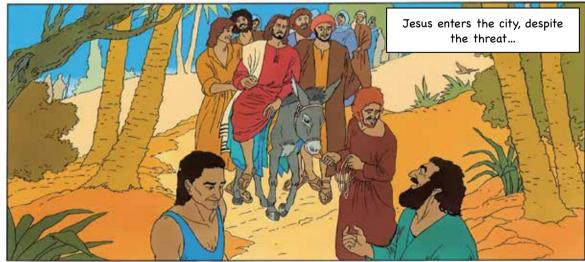


One man has to die for all men! That is why the religious leaders look for an opportunity to catch Jesus.

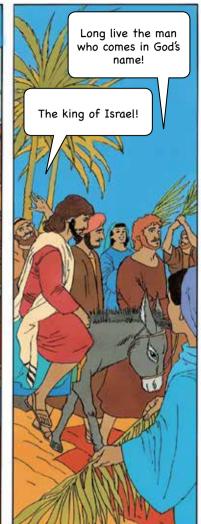
He is on his way to Jerusalem. That is convenient. They want the Romans to sentence him to death...











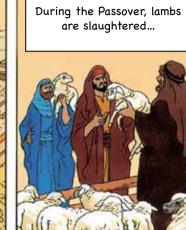


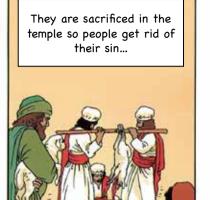


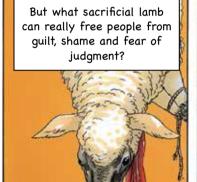


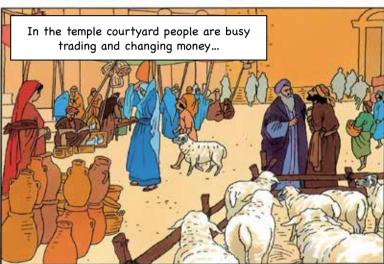


The temple in the capital is the centre of the Jewish religion...





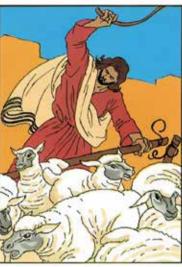






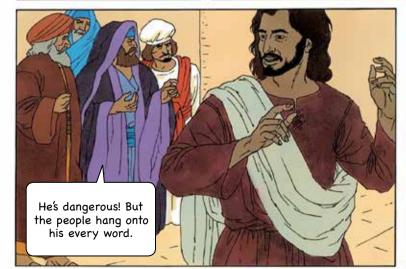


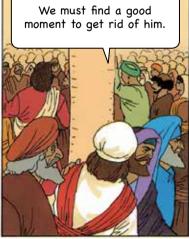


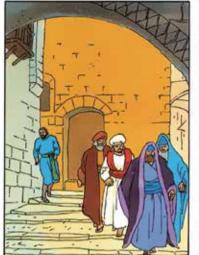


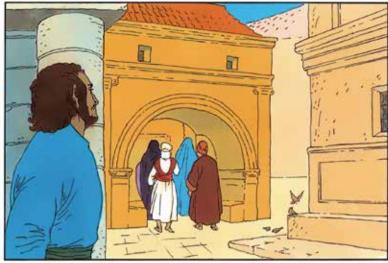


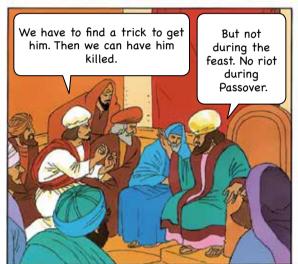


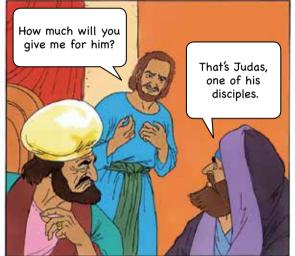


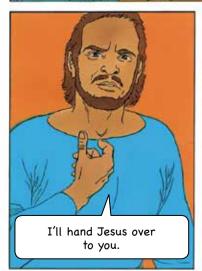










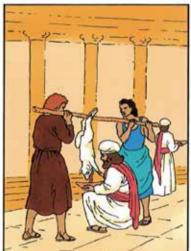




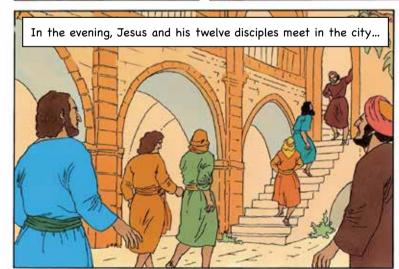


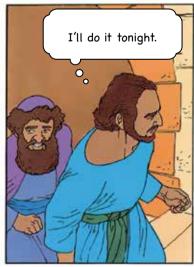
In the days before Passover
Jesus speaks to the people
in the temple. He predicts
that Jerusalem will fall.
Everyone will have to flee.
But he will keep on loving
the people. Then he asks
Peter and John to prepare
the Passover meal...



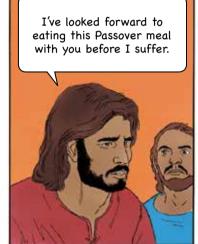


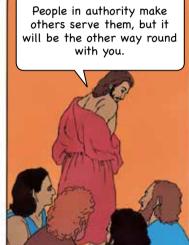


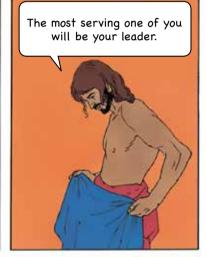


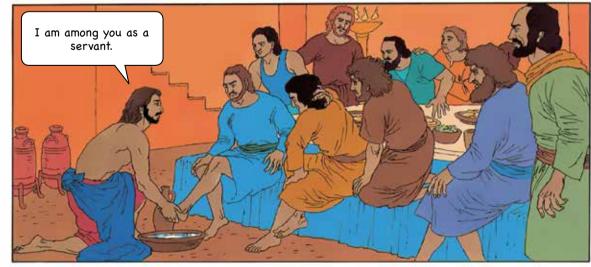




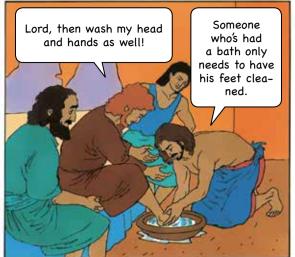


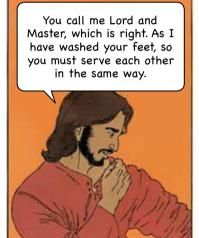




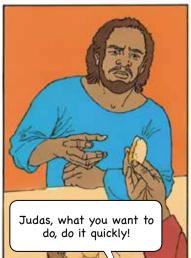


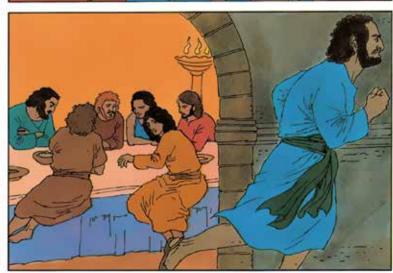


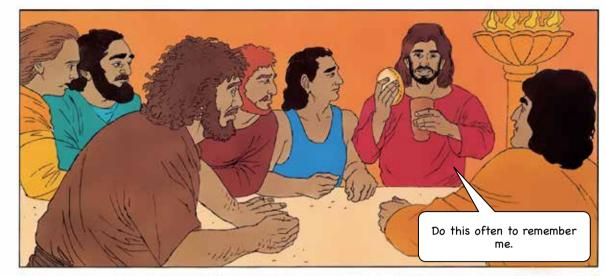


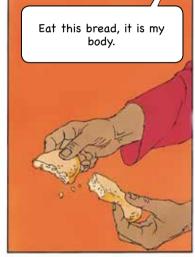


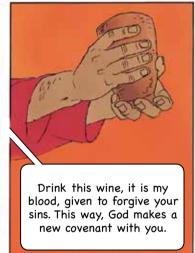


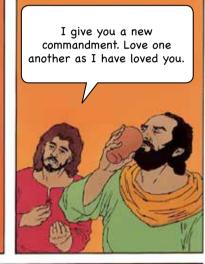


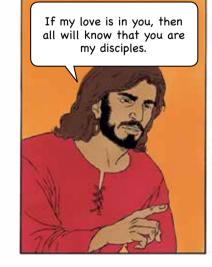


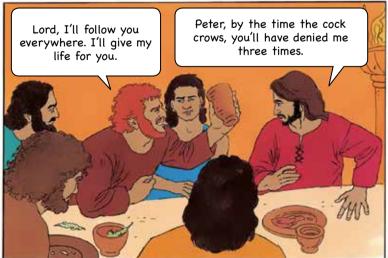




























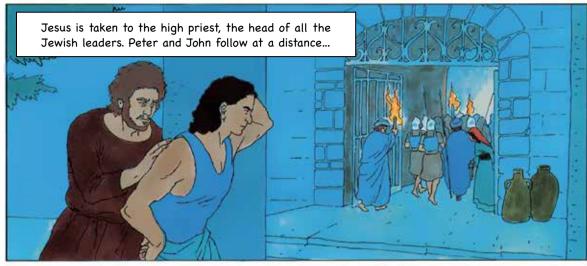












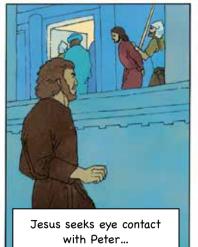








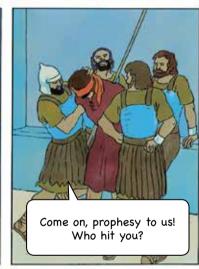


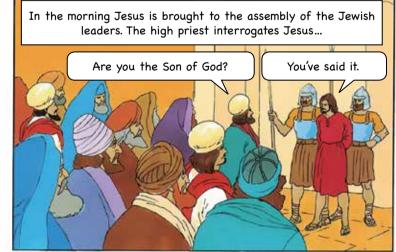


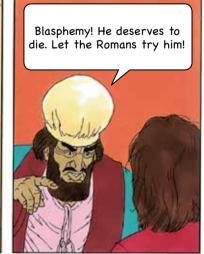


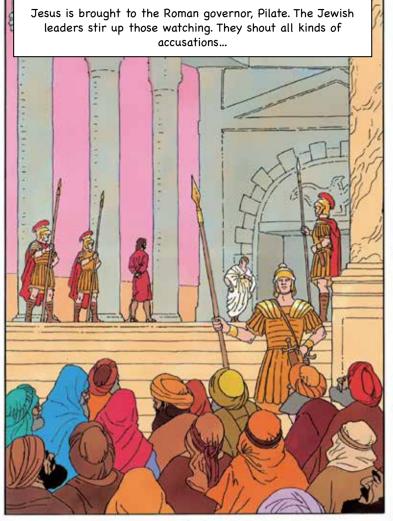




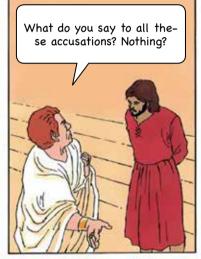




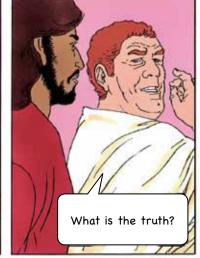


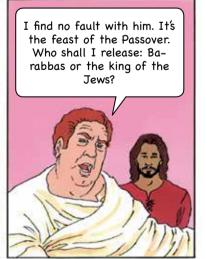


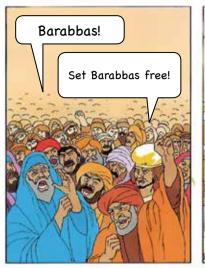


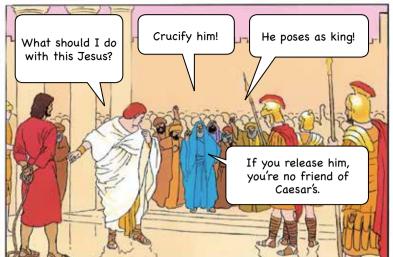


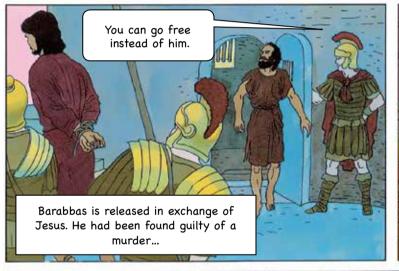


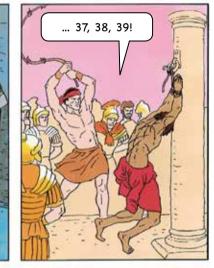




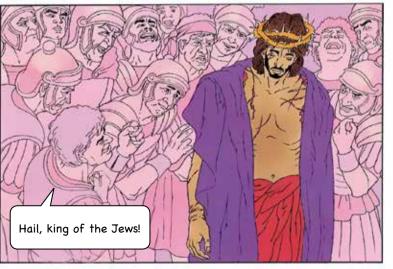


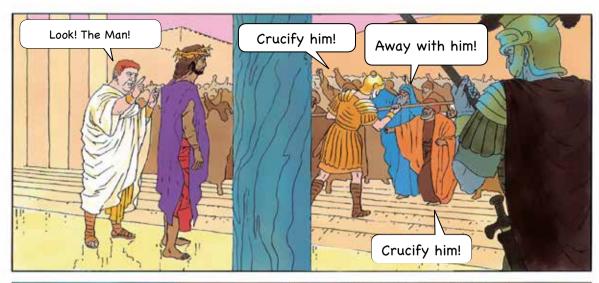




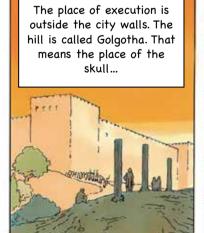








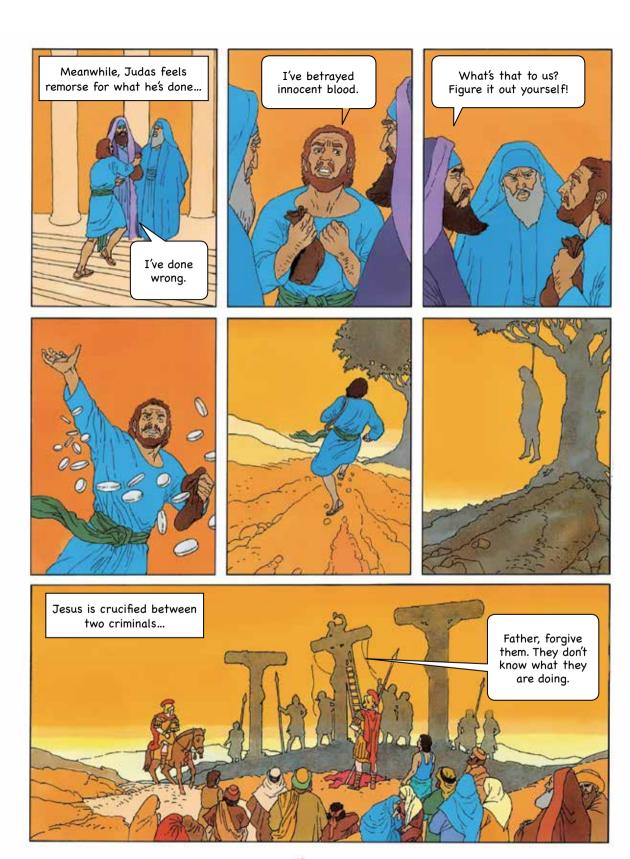


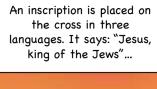
















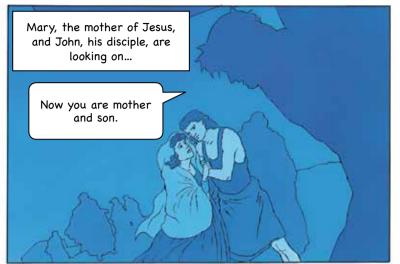










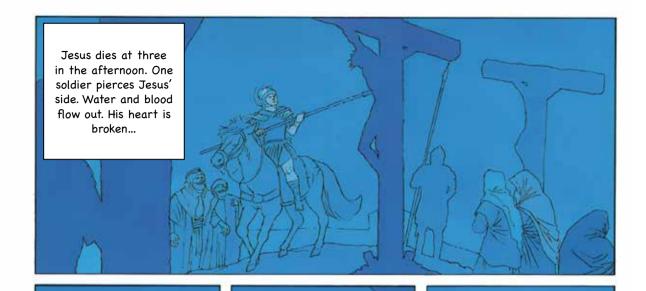










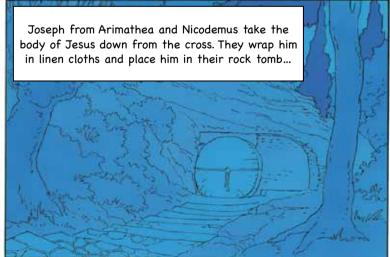


In the Books it says: "He was led like a lamb to the slaughter".













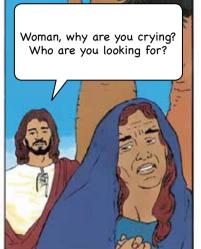




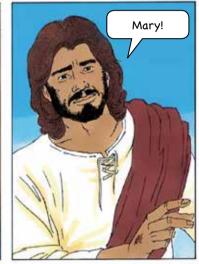






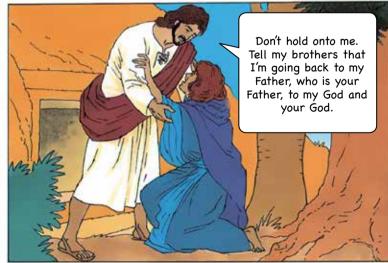


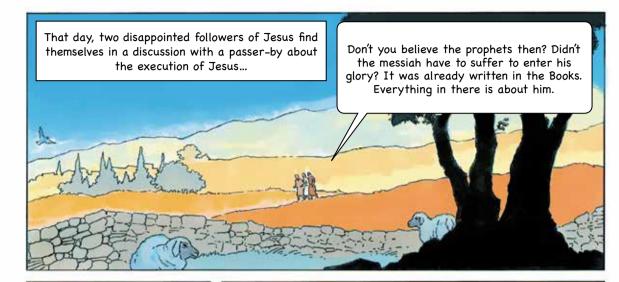






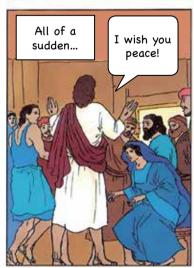


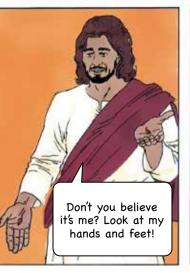














Jesus appears to his followers over a period of forty days. He even meets five hundred people at once.
His disciples return to Galilee. One day when they are fishing again...

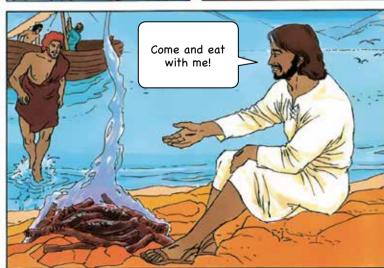


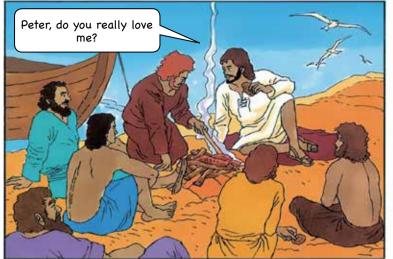


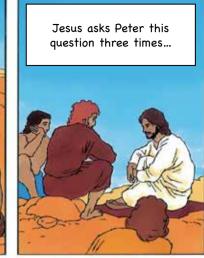


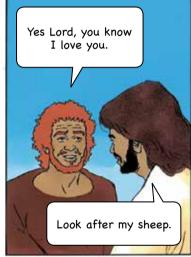


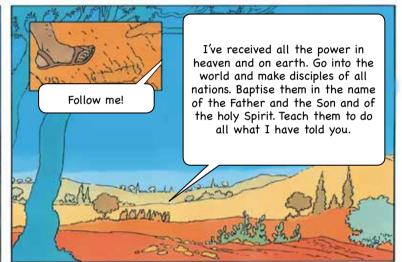


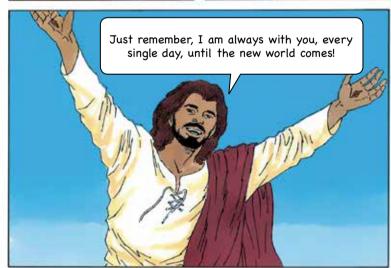






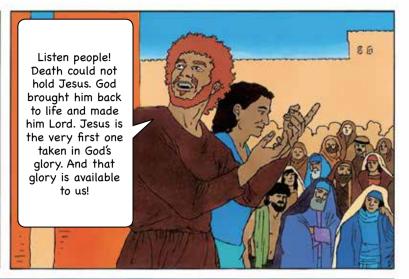


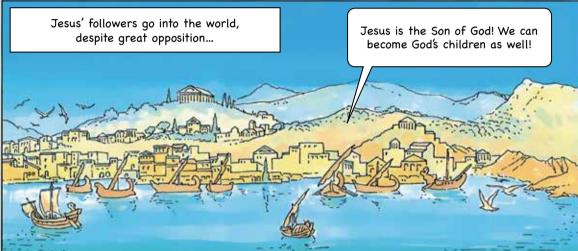


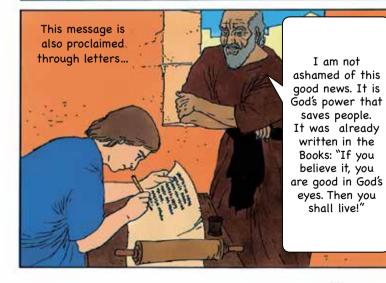


After these words Jesus leaves the earth. He is taken up into heaven. But he has said that he will come back again...

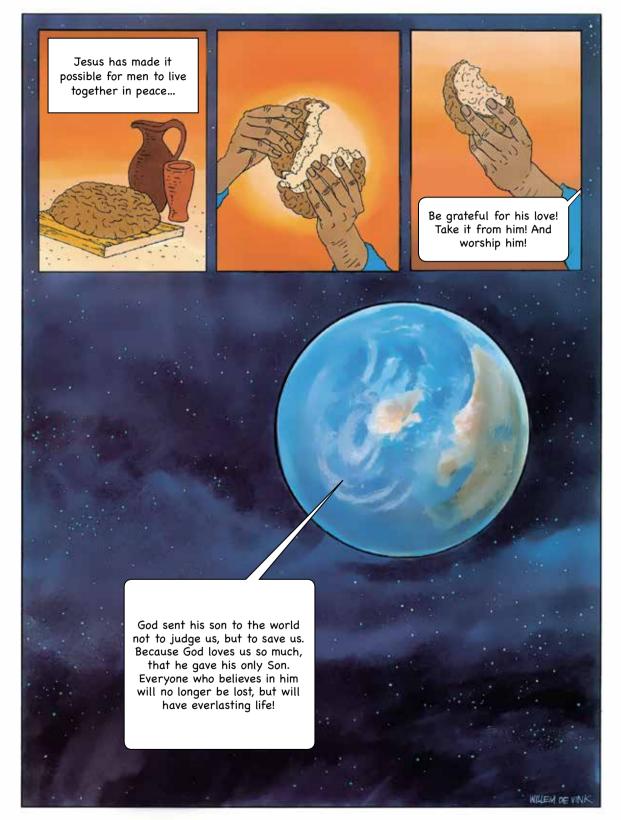
Jesus' followers stay behind to pray. After fifty days, on the day of the Pentecost, the holy Spirit comes upon them. The same Spirit who was in Jesus now also lives in them and those who will believe in him. His followers are his powerful witnesses. More and more people hear about Jesus...







Now more and more people all over the world meet to pray together and read the Bible. They live in God's grace. They experience his favour. They love each other and help those in need. They even love their enimies. They break bread and pass the wine around to remind them that their sins are forgiven. And that they have received a new and powerful life, full of God's Spirit...



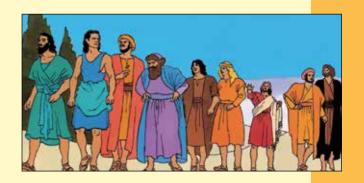
Jesus and you

The story of Jesus has an open end. Jesus became the Friend of a great many people, then and now. The world has changed. Many people do not travel on donkeys or on horseback but travel by car and aeroplane. But this makes no difference to Jesus. He can be just as near to us as when He walked about in Israel.

He may be invisible, but He is just as real. He wants to be a Friend for you today. You may listen to Him and you may love Him.

Do you want to know more about Jesus and about life with Him? Then you may do the following:

- **1. Start to read the Bible for yourself** (start for example by reading the part written by Luke).
- **2. Start to pray** (speaking with God and listening to Him you don't need to use special words).
- 3. Talk to other people about Jesus and the Bible. Jesus wants His followers to meet together and encourage each other as they learn more about Him.



Prayer

If you are sorry for the wrong things you have done and if you want to be friends with God, you could pray a prayer like this:

"Dear God, You love me.

You gave Jesus, Your only Son. He died on a cross for all the wrong which I have done.
Please forgive me for what I have done wrong. I am sorry.

Thank you, that Jesus is on my side.
I always want to belong to you.
Will You please help me live the way You want
me to live? Will You always stay close to me?
Thank You for answering my prayer.
You do what You promised!"

Text and illustrations: Willem de Vink.

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