



S u B o x a n d G r a h a m R o u n d

# 42 BIBLE STORIES FOR LITTLE ONES

From Creation to Pentecost



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# The flood and a rainbow



**I**t was going to rain. Noah and his family and all the animals were safely inside the big boat, so God shut the door.

*Drip! Drip!* It began to rain.

*Pitter-patter!* The rain grew harder.

*Splish! Splash! Splosh!* The rain poured down, filling the streams and rivers. The rivers burst their banks, and the seas flooded the land.

Soon the boat was afloat! It rained and it rained for days and days. At last, everything on earth was covered by the flood. There was nothing to see but water everywhere.

But the boat was still afloat. And Noah and his family and all the animals were safe and dry inside.



Many days passed. Then God sent a wind, and the waters began to go down.

Noah found a raven from inside the boat and set it free. But the bird could not find any dry land.

Noah waited a few days. He found a dove from inside the boat and set it free. But the bird came back. There was still no dry land.

Noah waited a little longer. Then he sent out the dove again. This time it came back with an olive leaf in its beak. It had found dry land!

A few days later God told Noah to leave the boat. The animals slithered and crawled and hopped and leaped on to the dry land. They were happy to be free again.

“Thank you, God, for keeping us safe!” said Noah.

“I will never destroy the earth with a flood again,” said God. “This is a sign of my promise.”

Noah looked up – and saw a brightly colored rainbow glowing in the sky.



## A very sad day



Jesus had many friends, but he had enemies, too. Some people didn't like what he said about God. Some people didn't like it when he healed people. Some people wanted to stop all the crowds of people following him. "Surely he can't be the Son of God," they said.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, his enemies thought of a way to get him into trouble. They told lies about him and had him arrested. For a whole night they asked him questions. Jesus' enemies did not believe he was God's promised king, and they wanted to kill him.



Then Jesus was taken to the Roman ruler of Jerusalem. He did not think Jesus had done anything wrong, but he was afraid of Jesus' enemies. So the Roman ruler said that Jesus must die.

The Roman soldiers took Jesus and dressed him up like a king. They made him a crown from thorny twigs. It hurt Jesus when the soldiers put it on his head. Then the soldiers made fun of Jesus. "Your majesty!" they laughed.

They made Jesus walk to a hill outside the city. All the way, people shouted cruel things at him. Then the soldiers nailed Jesus to a wooden cross.

Jesus' mother, Mary, and his friends watched and waited. They were very, very sad.

Jesus did not hate his enemies. "Father, forgive them," he said.

The sky grew dark, and after some time the earth suddenly shook. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father God, I give you my life!"

And then he died.

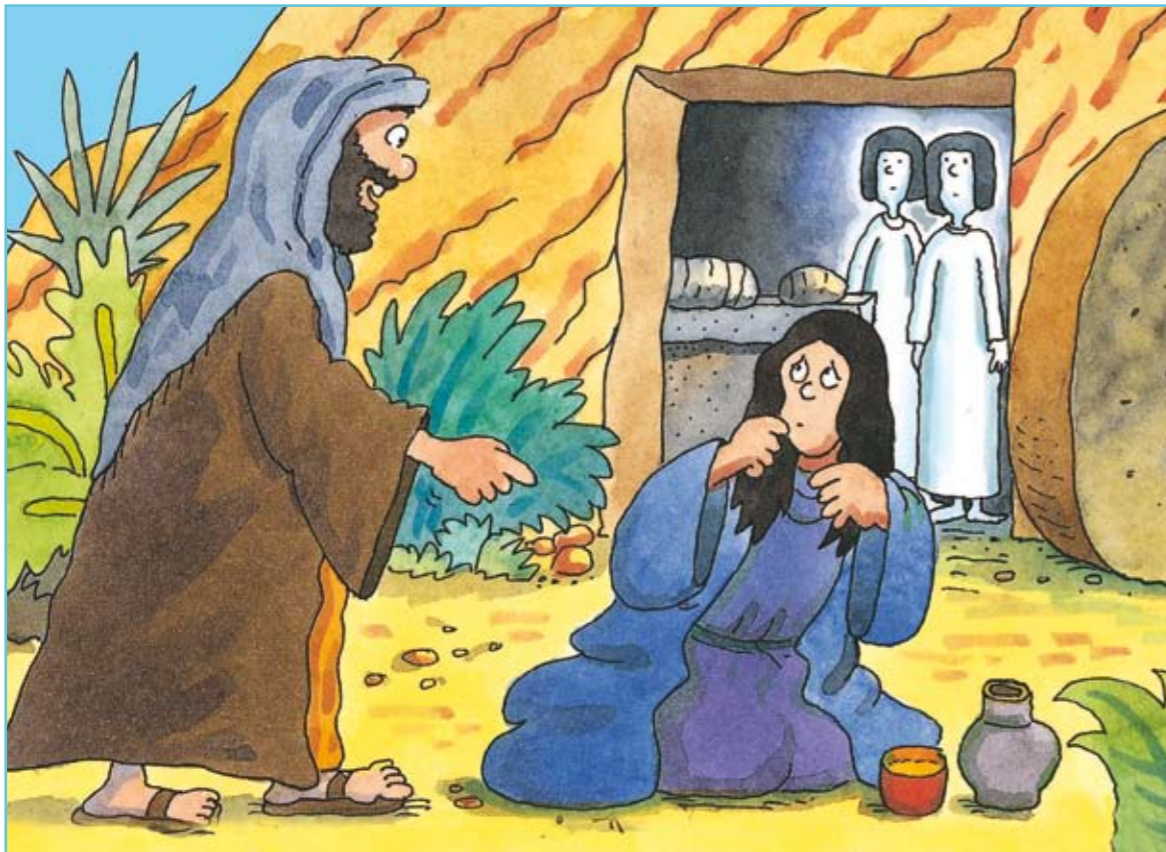
"This Jesus really was God's Son," said a Roman soldier who had watched Jesus die.

Later that day, his friends took the body of Jesus and put it in a special grave – a tomb – in a garden. They rolled a very big stone across the entrance. Then, feeling very, very sad, they went home.

# A very happy day



Early on Sunday morning, the third day after Jesus had died, one of Jesus' friends came to the tomb. She was called Mary Magdalene. She was very sad.



When Mary got there, she saw that the huge stone had been rolled away from the entrance. Who had moved it? She looked inside the tomb. It was empty! Jesus was not there.

Mary began to cry. What had happened to Jesus? Someone must have stolen his body! She looked inside the tomb again.

Then she saw two angels.

"Why are you crying?" they asked.

"Because someone has taken Jesus away," she sobbed.

"Why are you crying?" asked a voice.

Mary turned around. A man was standing behind her. She thought it was the gardener. "Someone has taken Jesus away. I don't know where to find him," she cried. "If you have taken him, please tell me. I will go and get him."

"Mary!" said the man.

Mary heard the voice. She knew who it was! It wasn't the gardener. It was Jesus! He was alive!

"Go and tell my friends that I am alive," said Jesus.

Mary knew that the disciples were in hiding together. They were sad and scared. This news would make them happy.

Full of joy, Mary ran to tell Jesus' friends, "He is alive! I have seen him with my own eyes!"