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God Sends His Only Son

A Day for Good News

Last Tuesday Mr. Diaz picked up Victor and Rosa after school. They ran to the car. They could not wait to share their great news.

Victor told his dad, "Our principal announced the prize winners of the school read-a-thon. Guess what! Mrs. Fielding announced my name as the second prize winner. I was so surprised!"

Mr. Diaz said, "I'm so proud of you, Victor. What is your prize?"

Victor answered,

“ _____

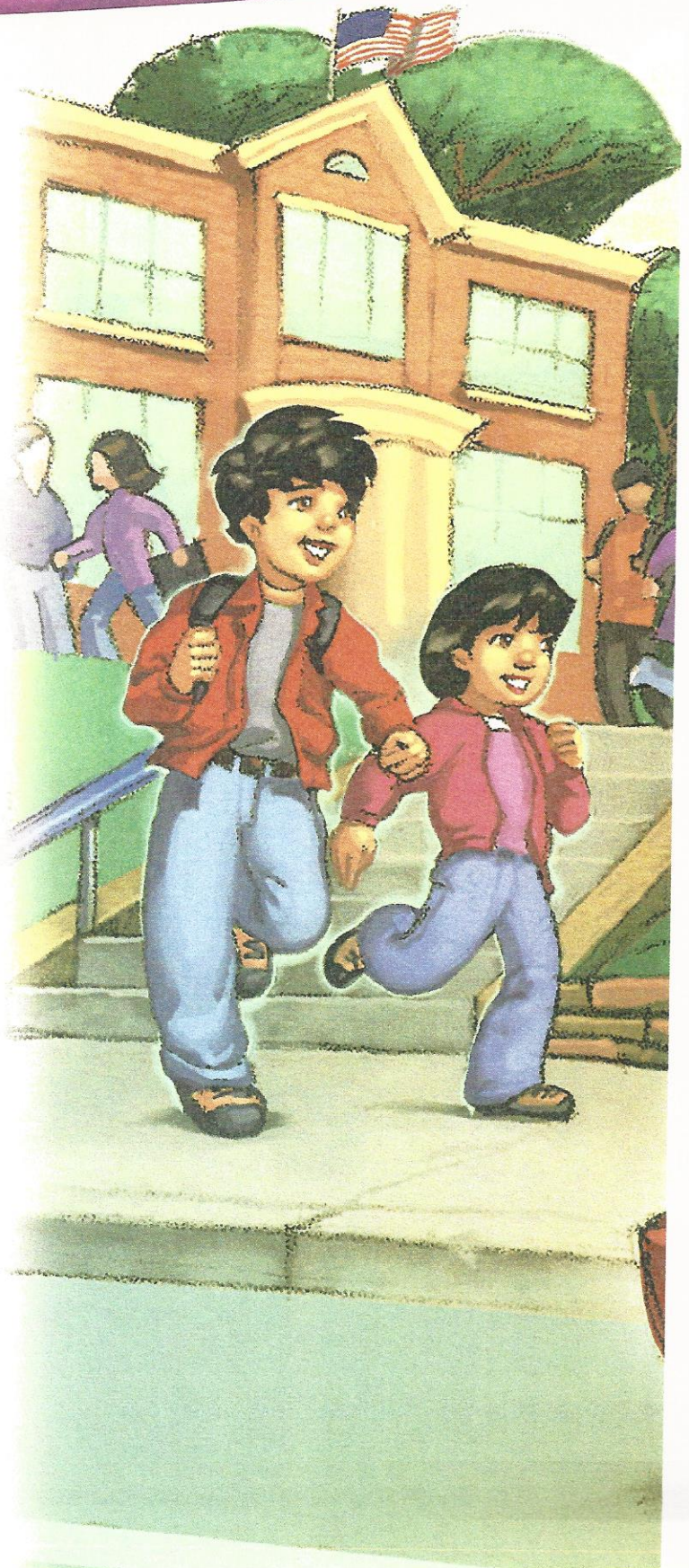
_____.”

(fill in your answer)

Then Rosa said, "I have good news, too. My friend Emily's cat had kittens last Sunday. Emily brought in some pictures. The kittens are so cute! Emily's mom said that I could have one of the kittens. I told Emily that I would have to talk to you and Mom first. If you say yes, I'm going to name the kitten

_____.”

(fill in your answer)



Mr. Diaz said, "Now I have good news to tell you. Grandpa sent me a text message today. He and Grandma are coming to visit. They are going to drive from their new home in South Carolina. They'll be here in time for the family picnic next Saturday."

Victor and Rosa cheered. Then Victor said, "We have a lot to tell Mom when she comes home tonight."

Mr. Diaz said, "You're right, Victor. I think we should celebrate."

He continued, "Let's go out for dinner. On the way to the restaurant we can take turns telling Mom our good news."

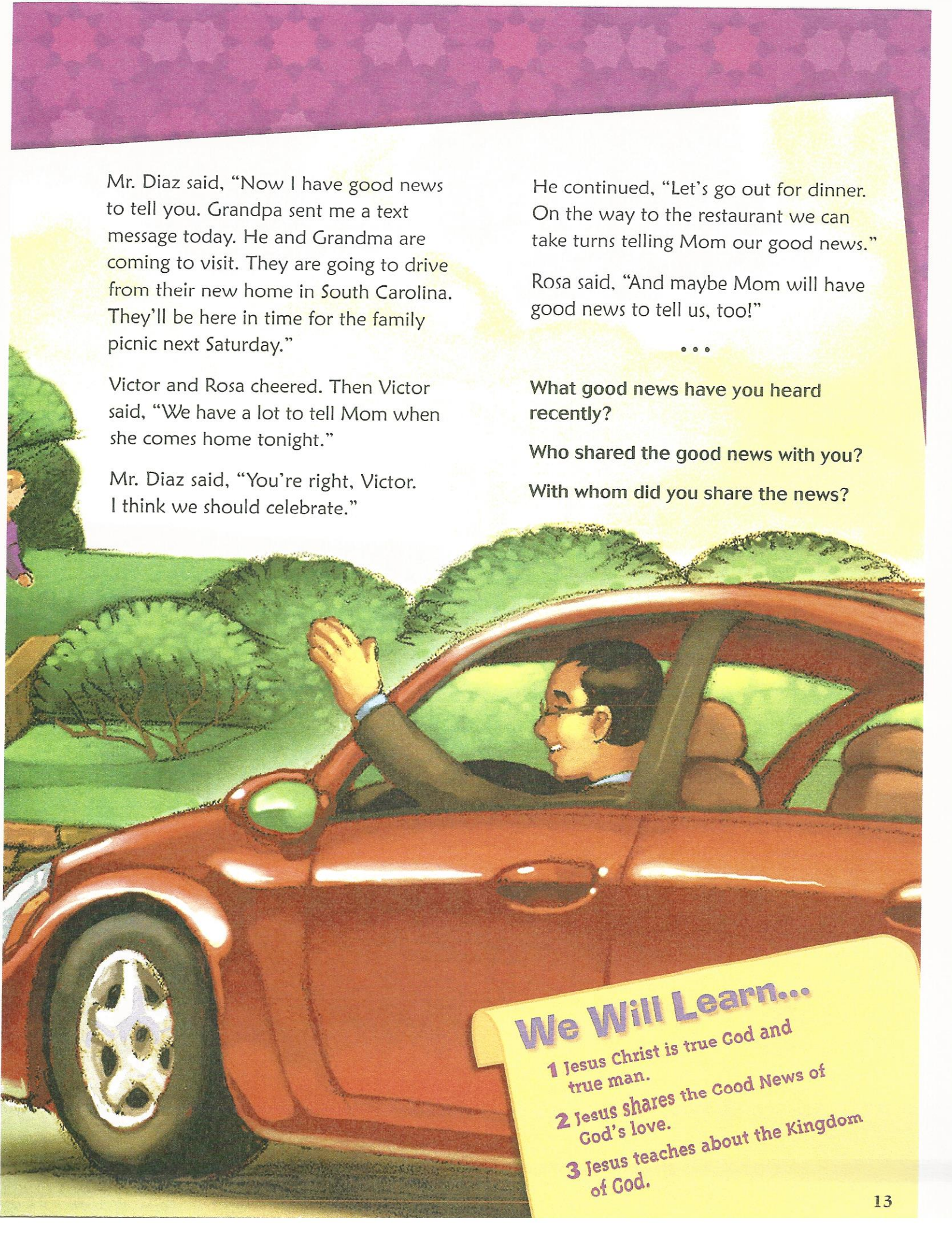
Rosa said, "And maybe Mom will have good news to tell us, too!"

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What good news have you heard recently?

Who shared the good news with you?

With whom did you share the news?



We Will Learn...

1 Jesus Christ is true God and true man.

2 Jesus shares the Good News of God's love.

3 Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of God.

1 Jesus Christ is true God and true man.

The truth that God the Son, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, became man is called the **Incarnation**. We learn about this mystery of our faith in the Bible.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read that one day the angel Gabriel gave a message to a young Jewish woman named Mary. Gabriel told Mary that God wanted her to be the mother of his Son. The angel also told Mary that she was to name the child *Jesus*, which means “God saves.”

Do You Know?

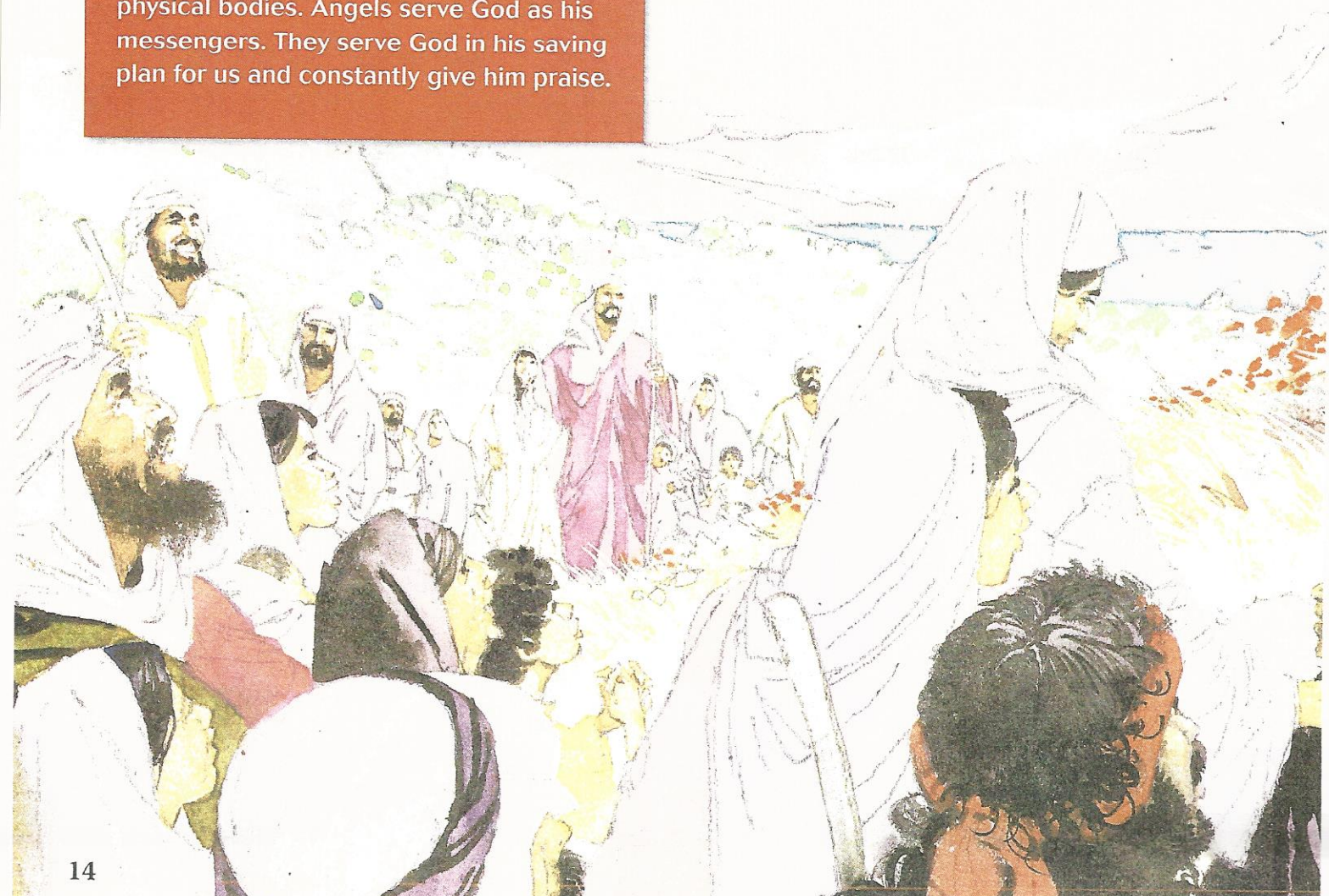
Angels are creatures created by God as pure spirits. They do not have physical bodies. Angels serve God as his messengers. They serve God in his saving plan for us and constantly give him praise.

Mary told the angel that she did not fully understand how this would happen. The angel answered, “The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).

Mary agreed to be the Mother of God’s Son. She gave birth to a son and called him Jesus. Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God and Mary’s Son. Jesus Christ is both divine and human. **Divine** is a word we use to describe God.

Jesus Christ is divine; he is Lord. He did things only God can do. He is also human; he is like us in all things, except he is without sin.

What do we mean by the Incarnation?



2 Jesus shares the Good News of God's love.

When Jesus was about thirty years old, he began his work among the people. Jesus was to share the love of God with all people and to save all people from sin. So Jesus' mission was to spread the Good News of God's love.

And all of Jesus' words and actions—from his miracles and prayers to his Crucifixion and Resurrection—were carried out through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' whole life was a continual teaching.

Through his words and actions Jesus taught people to know and love God. He

- fed the hungry
- cured the sick
- forgave sinners
- was a friend to those who were sick or in need
- showed people how to love God
- taught people to love others as God loves them.

Jesus told the people that God loves, forgives, and cares for all of us. No one is left out. He called people to follow him and share his mission. Many people accepted Jesus' invitation. Those who followed him were his **disciples**.

Jesus chose twelve of his disciples to lead the community of his followers. These twelve men whom Jesus chose to share in his mission in a special way are the **Apostles**.

This week how can you show that you want to follow Jesus as his disciple?



3 Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of God.

Crowds of people followed Jesus everywhere he went. They wanted to hear him teach. Jesus often spoke about the Kingdom of God. He told them, "The kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15).

The Kingdom of God is not a place you can find on a map. The **Kingdom of God** is the power of God's love active in our lives and in our world. The Kingdom of God was made present through Jesus' words and actions.

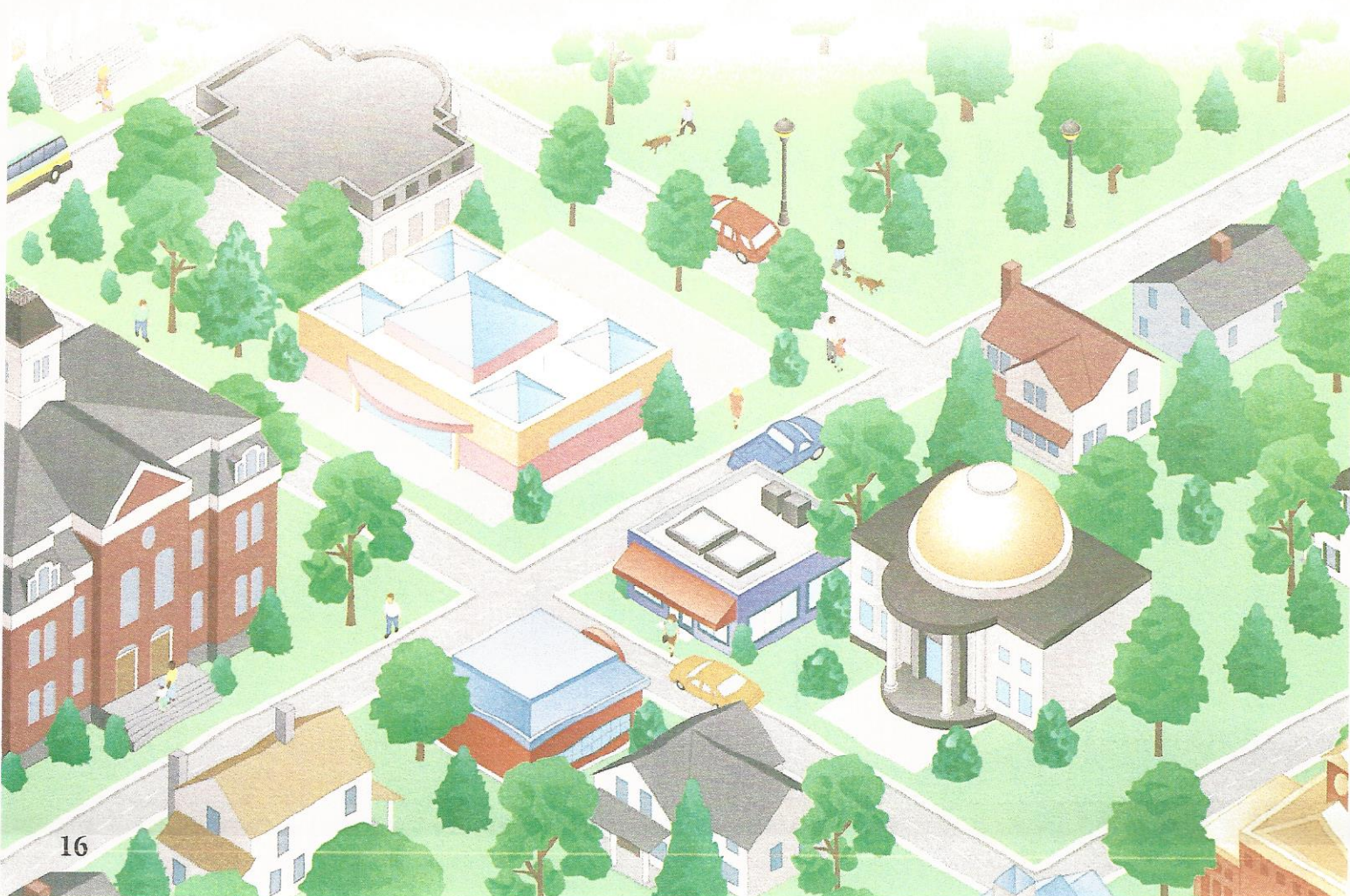
Jesus taught us about God's Kingdom in special stories called parables. In one parable Jesus said that the Kingdom of God was like a great treasure that people would want above all things. (See Matthew 13:44.)

In another parable Jesus said that the Kingdom of God was like a mustard seed, a tiny seed that grows into a very large plant. (See Matthew 13:31–32.)

Jesus taught that the way to live for God's Kingdom is by turning away from sin and doing what God asks us to do. All people are invited to become a part of the Kingdom and to spread God's love in the world. All people are invited to become faithful followers of Jesus.

The Kingdom of God will not be complete until Jesus returns in glory at the end of time. So each day we work and live for God's Kingdom as we look forward to being with God forever in Heaven.

How do we live for the Kingdom of God?



Review

Write the letter of the answer that best defines each term.

1. ___ Apostles a. those who followed Jesus
2. ___ parable b. a word used to describe God
3. ___ divine c. a special story Jesus told
4. ___ disciples d. the twelve men whom Jesus chose to share in his mission in a special way

Discuss the following.

5. What is the Incarnation?
6. What is the Kingdom of God?

Faith Words

Incarnation (page 14)

divine (page 14)

disciples (page 15)

Apostles (page 15)

Kingdom of God (page 16)

With My Family

Sharing Our Faith

- 1** Jesus Christ is true God and true man.
- 2** Jesus shares the Good News of God's love.
- 3** Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of God.

PRAYING TOGETHER



In the Lord's Prayer we pray for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Living Our Faith

This week with your family, read and discuss one or two of Jesus' parables about the Kingdom of God. (See Matthew 13.) Decide which parable is most meaningful for you. Then write about or draw a picture of one or two ways you can help spread the Kingdom of God.