

LifeWay®
Kids



.....

EASTER DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

.....

DAY 1:

MARCH 24, 2024

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING: JESUS

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem. As He came to the Mount of Olives outside of a town called Bethany, He gave a very special task to two of His disciples. Jesus told them to go into the village and find a young donkey that had never been ridden. The disciples were to untie the donkey and bring it back to Jesus. He told the men that if anyone asked what they are doing, they should say that the Lord needs it.

The disciples did what Jesus told them and found the donkey. While they were untying the donkey, the donkey's owners asked what they were doing. The disciples answered as Jesus had told them and said that the Lord needed it.

Then the disciples laid their robes on the donkey for Jesus to sit on. As Jesus rode along the road, many people spread out their robes on the road in front of Him. Other people spread leafy branches cut from trees. They were honoring Jesus the same way they would honor a king. They joyfully praised God. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd were upset by what was happening. They told Jesus to tell His followers to stop shouting. Jesus replied, "Even if they stopped shouting, the stones would cry out!" — **Based on Luke 19:28-40; Mark 11:1-10**

THE POINT: PEOPLE CAN PRAISE JESUS.

HOSANNA!

Have you ever been to a parade? Parades can be very exciting. Along with the marching bands, floats, horses, funny clowns, and loud sirens from police cars and fire trucks, there's usually someone very important in the parade called the grand marshal. This person is the honored guest, and everyone waves at them.

Jesus was the honored guest one day as He came into town. The people praised and honored Him by placing their robes and cut branches on the ground. They shouted, "Hosanna!" and were very excited about Jesus coming to their town.

Today we can be excited about Jesus, too. He may not physically be in your town, but we can praise Him for all that He has done and for all that He has given us. Plan a parade. Get excited. Shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR SENDING JESUS. HELP US TODAY TO BE EXCITED ABOUT WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US. HELP US TO FOCUS THIS WEEK ON JESUS AND THE STORY OF HIS LOVE FOR US. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

DAY 2:
MARCH 25, 2024

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL
LEARNING: JESUS

JESUS WASHED THE DISCIPLES' FEET

It was just before the Passover meal. Jesus knew that it was almost time for Him to leave this world and be reunited with God, His Father. Jesus loved His disciples and wanted to show them how much He loved them. Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot was going to betray Him. He got up from the table and tied a towel around His waist. He poured water into a bowl and began to wash His disciples' feet and then dry them with the towel wrapped around His waist.

Simon Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet.

Jesus said that if He didn't wash his feet, Peter would have to part with Him. Peter asked that his hands and head also be washed!

Jesus told Peter that someone who has bathed doesn't need to wash anything except his feet.

Jesus knew who would betray Him and told Peter that he was clean, but not all of the disciples were clean.

When He finished, He asked the disciples if they knew what He had done for them. He told them that they should follow His example. — **Based on John 13:1-17**

THE POINT: JESUS WANTS PEOPLE TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE.

STINKY FEET

When you and your friends play together, do you ever wash each other's feet? No! Probably not. That's exactly what Jesus did with His disciples on the last night they were together. Jesus quietly tied a towel around His waist and served His friends by washing their feet.

You can still follow Jesus' example today. You don't have to wash your friends' feet, but Jesus does want you to serve them. You can help the people around you just like Jesus did. List the number of ways you can think of to serve Jesus today!

JESUS, THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR ME TO FOLLOW. YOU LOVE ME AND I CAN LOVE THOSE AROUND ME. THANK YOU FOR BEING THE SAVIOR. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

DAY 3:

MARCH 26, 2024

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING: SALVATION

THE LAST SUPPER

In those days, the Jewish people gathered for feasts such as the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Passover. People gathered together to remember how God had rescued His people out of Egypt.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Jesus told the disciples to go into the city and tell a certain man that Jesus wanted to celebrate Passover at His place with the disciples.

When evening came, Jesus was sitting at the table with the disciples. Jesus said that one of the disciples would betray Him. He was talking about Judas Iscariot.

While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it. He gave it to His disciples and said, "Take this and eat it; this is My body."

In the same way, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to His disciples. Then He said, "Drink from it, all of you." He told the disciples that His blood would be shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus would be arrested and sentenced to be crucified. Jesus had done nothing wrong, but He died so that the Old Testament Scripture might be fulfilled. — **Based on Matthew 26:17-30**

THE POINT: JESUS CAME TO BE THE SAVIOR.

THE ULTIMATE SAVIOR

Have you ever looked at comic books or seen movies about superheroes? You might hear or read statements like "Superman saves Metropolis" or "Captain America saves the planet from doom!" Many people like superheroes because they can do extraordinary things. They have great powers or talents. The only problem is that they aren't real. No human can scale giant buildings in a single leap, no human is faster than a speeding bullet, and no human can block huge asteroids from destroying the earth.

In all of human history, only one Savior has ever lived. His name was Jesus, and His whole life's goal was to save the world from sin. He was fueled by the power of God. He could have done anything, but He chose to become human, to die on the cross, and to save anyone who calls on His name from their sins.

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR SENDING JESUS TO BE OUR SAVIOR. THANK YOU THAT JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE CRUCIFIED SO MY SINS COULD BE FORGIVEN. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

DAY 4:

MARCH 27, 2024

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL
LEARNING: JESUS

JESUS PRAYED IN THE GARDEN

Jesus and His disciples celebrated the special feast called the Passover.

After the Passover feast, the disciples went out to a garden with Jesus. Jesus said that each of them would leave Him. Peter promised that he would never leave, but Jesus said, “Before you hear the rooster crow, you will deny Me three times!”

Jesus prayed in the garden, but His disciples kept falling asleep. Soon, Judas arrived with soldiers who arrested Jesus! Jesus was taken to unfair trials. He was beaten and mocked. — **Based on Matthew 26:34-51**

THE POINT: PEOPLE CAN TALK TO GOD.

GOD WILL LISTEN

Have you ever written a letter to the President of the United States? The President is one of the most powerful men in the world. He makes big decisions and attends important meetings. You probably haven't had the opportunity to speak to him in person, but even sending mail to such a powerful man can be exciting.

Someone even more powerful than the President wants to talk with you. He's waiting for you now. Guess who? It's God!

God wants you to communicate with him often, just like Jesus talked to Him in the garden. Although secret service agents may turn you away from speaking with the President, God will never turn you away. He loves you and is available 24 hours a day. You can even talk to God right now. Focus on God as you read the words below.

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME WHEN I PRAY. HELP ME TO REMEMBER TO TALK TO YOU EVERY DAY. THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME AND WANTING A RELATIONSHIP WITH ME. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

DAY 5:
MARCH 28, 2024

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL
LEARNING: JESUS

PETER DENIED JESUS...

Two disciples followed Jesus as the soldiers took Him to the high priest. One disciple knew the high priest and went inside. He spoke to a servant who allowed Peter inside the courtyard. The servant girl asked if Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. Peter lied. He said, "No, I'm not."

Peter joined the other people standing around a fire. They asked him, "Aren't you one of this man's disciples?" and Peter lied again, saying, "I am not!"

One man who had seen Peter in the garden when Jesus was arrested asked, "Didn't I see you in the garden with Jesus?" As soon as Peter again denied knowing Jesus, the rooster crowed.

Later, after Jesus had been crucified and raised from the dead, Jesus met with Peter. Jesus showed Peter that He still loved him. — **Based on John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-17**

THE POINT: JESUS LOVES PEOPLE EVEN WHEN THEY MAKE MISTAKES.

LIAR, LIAR...

"It wasn't me!" It seems like an innocent phrase when you've been caught. I admit, I might have used it a time or two. Why do people tell lies sometimes? Not very long ago I asked a group of kids that question, and the first answer I received was, "I don't want to get into trouble."

Lying is never the answer. Take Peter for example. Peter not only lied to supposedly keep himself out of trouble, but he ended up with that sinking, painful, pit-in-the-stomach feeling. He knew not only had he lied, but he also denied knowing his friend and teacher, Jesus Christ. Later, Jesus' response to Peter is the same as it is to us. Jesus assured Peter, and us, that even when we make mistakes, Jesus still loves us. Jesus will always love us.

GOD, THANK YOU FOR SENDING JESUS TO LOVE US NO MATTER WHAT MISTAKES WE MAKE. HELP US TO ALWAYS BE TRUTHFUL IN EVERY SITUATION. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

GOOD FRIDAY

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING: SALVATION

JESUS' TRIAL AND DEATH

While Jesus and the disciples were praying in the garden, Judas arrived with an armed crowd, who arrested Jesus. They took Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest and to Pilate, the Roman governor. The crowd wanted Jesus to be crucified.

Pilate's soldiers mocked Jesus by putting a robe on Him, a crown made of thorns on His head, and a reed in His hand. They spit on Him, beat Him, and led Him to Golgotha, where they crucified Him.

It became dark as night in the middle of the day. Jesus cried out to God, "Why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus cried out again; then He died. — **Based on Matthew 26:47-50; 27:1-50**

THE POINT: JESUS KNEW HE WOULD SUFFER IN ORDER TO BE OUR SAVIOR.

GOOD FROM BAD

Do you like getting shots at the doctor? Probably not! Shots can hurt a little sometimes. So why do we get shots if we know they might hurt? We do this because something good comes from them. Shots keep us healthy and prevent us from getting illnesses that would hurt a lot more.

When Jesus came to earth, He knew that people would reject Him. He knew He would be hurt and even die. But Jesus was willing for all that to happen because He knew God would bring something good from His suffering: God's glory and our salvation!

FATHER, THANK YOU FOR SHOWING HOW MUCH YOU LOVE US BY SENDING YOUR SON, JESUS, TO SUFFER, DIE, AND RISE AGAIN SO WE CAN BE FORGIVEN. THANK YOU THAT YOU BROUGHT GOOD FROM THE BAD THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO JESUS AND YOU CAN DO THAT IN OUR LIVES, TOO. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

DAY 7:

MARCH 30, 2024

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL
LEARNING: JESUS

JESUS' BURIAL

Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph took the body and placed it in a new tomb. He rolled a large rock in front. The chief priests asked Pilate to put guards at the tomb.— **Based on Matthew 27:57-66**

THE POINT: NO MATTER HOW HARD THINGS MAY BE, GOD WILL NEVER FAIL YOU.

THE TOMB WAS NOT THE END

We like books and movies with happy endings, don't we? However, not all endings are happy. Jesus' friends were sad after He died on the cross.

While Jesus was still alive, He told his closest friends that He would die and rise from the dead. Nonetheless, Jesus' disciples, friends, and family thought that Jesus' death was the end. Sounds like an unhappy ending, doesn't it? But, Jesus' burial in the tomb was not the end.

Jesus' burial was necessary in order for God to show His power over sin and death when He raised Jesus from the dead. Through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, God demonstrated that He loves us and will never fail us.

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR SENDING YOUR SON, JESUS, TO DIE ON THE CROSS FOR US. THANK YOU THAT JESUS WAS BURIED, AND THANK YOU FOR RAISING JESUS FROM THE DEAD. THANK YOU THAT THE STORY OF JESUS HAS A HAPPY ENDING, BECAUSE JESUS IS ALIVE! IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

EASTER SUNDAY

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING: SALVATION

JESUS IS ALIVE!

After the Sabbath, early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to view the tomb where Jesus had been buried.

Suddenly, a strong earthquake shook because an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled back the heavy stone from the entrance of the tomb. The angel, who looked like lightning and was wearing a robe of purest white, sat on the stone. The guards standing at the tomb were so afraid they were like dead men and could not even move!

The angel told the women not to be afraid. He knew they were looking for Jesus. The angel told them the best news ever. He said that Jesus was alive just as He had promised. The angel told the women to go quickly to the disciples to tell them the good news. "Tell them Jesus has been raised from the dead!"

The women left quickly and joyfully. They ran to tell the disciples the good news that Jesus was alive.

Suddenly, Jesus met the women and said, "Good morning!" The women ran to Him, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him!

Then Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there!" — **Based on Matthew 28:1-10**

THE POINT: JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH AND HE IS THE SAVIOR!

SURPRISE! JESUS IS ALIVE!

Do you like surprises? I do! Maybe someone has surprised you with a special gift, party, or with an unexpected stop at the ice cream shop. Yum! When you are sad, a happy surprise can turn a terrible day into a great day.

When Jesus' friends went to His tomb they were very sad. They knew Jesus had died. They did not expect to have any happy surprises that day. When they got there, they were surprised to find an empty grave! They were surprised to meet an angel. They were surprised to learn that Jesus was not dead anymore. He was alive! They learned that Jesus was stronger than death. Even though His friends were happily surprised, Jesus was not surprised. He knew that He would rise again. That was His plan all along. He rose from the dead to be our Savior, and He has forgiven our sins so we can live with Him forever in heaven. That's not a surprise. That's a promise!

THANK YOU, LORD JESUS, THAT YOU ARE STRONGER THAN EVERYTHING AND MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING, INCLUDING DEATH. THANK YOU THAT YOU DIED AND ROSE AGAIN TO BE OUR SAVIOR, AND THAT WE CAN BE EXCITED ABOUT THE PROMISE OF LIVING WITH YOU FOREVER BECAUSE YOU HAVE FORGIVEN OUR SINS. YOU ARE AWESOME! IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.



What are the levels of biblical learning? Levels of Biblical Learning® covers 10 biblical concept areas that children can learn as they study God's Word. The concept areas are presented through six different age ranges, from infancy through the preteen years, and reflect levels of understanding that follow how God designed children to learn.

How do I read this document for my child? Go to the life stage your child is in to see what concepts are appropriate for his age. You will want to check the statement before and after to see what is most appropriate for your child according to his level of learning, maturity, and Bible knowledge. God created every child to know Him, but how kids learn will differ from child to child.

Why are there no specific ages listed? Levels of Biblical Learning® does not specify specific ages because God designed each child to develop differently. Your child will progress through concepts at a pace and understanding unique for how God created your child and her growing relationship with Jesus.

What is the goal of presenting these concepts? This document will give you a standard for what your child will know by the time he is a preteen. It can be helpful to start at the concept presented in the preteen age range to view the more developed theological statement for each age group.

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING : JESUS

YOUNGER PRESCHOOLERS	MIDDLE PRESCHOOLERS	OLDER PRESCHOOLERS	YOUNGER KIDS	MIDDLE KIDS	PRETEENS
Jesus was born.	God sent Jesus to earth.	God sent Jesus to earth as a real person.	God sent Jesus to earth in human form.	Jesus was born of a virgin.	Jesus was born of a virgin.
God chose a family for Jesus.	Angels told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be born.	People in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be born.	Prophets in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be the Savior. Jesus is the Messiah who fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.	God planned for Jesus to be the Savior from the beginning of time.	God planned for Jesus to be the Savior from the beginning of time and sent Jesus to earth at the perfect time.
Jesus grew like me.	Jesus grew like me and had a family.	Jesus grew, learned, and had friends.	Jesus understands what it is like to be human.	Jesus is fully God and fully man.	Jesus is God in human form.
Jesus learned about God.	Jesus learned about God by reading the Scriptures.	Jesus prayed to God.	Jesus worshiped God.	Jesus taught that worship is focused on God.	Jesus taught that worship is for God's glory.
Jesus told people about God.	Jesus taught people what God is like.	Jesus taught people what God is like.	Jesus taught through His life what God is like.	Jesus taught about faith, trust, and obedience to God.	Jesus taught that He is the only way to God.
Jesus helped people because He loved them.	Jesus healed sick people.	Jesus performed miracles.	Jesus restored life.	Jesus performed miracles through the power of God.	Jesus performed miracles because He is God's Son.
Jesus loves me.	Jesus loves people.	People who love Jesus want to obey Him.	People who love Jesus want to obey Him.	People can obey Jesus as a response to His love.	Jesus transformed people through His love.
Jesus loves me.	Jesus loves people.	Jesus died on the cross and is alive.	Jesus died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead.	Jesus died to pay the penalty for sin.	Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection were a necessary part of God's plan for the forgiveness of sin.
	Jesus is God's Son.	Jesus is God's one and only Son.	Jesus was sent to be my Savior.	Jesus is the Messiah and Savior.	God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise of redemption.
Jesus did everything God told Him to do.	Jesus always obeyed God.	Jesus was tempted to sin but did not.	Jesus was human and resisted temptation.	Jesus was human and resisted temptation.	Jesus is holy and perfect.
Jesus is alive.	Jesus is with God.	Jesus is in heaven with God.	Jesus ascended to heaven but promised He would return one day.	Jesus ascended to heaven but promised He would return one day.	Jesus sits at God's right hand and intercedes for us as our advocate, mediator, and high priest. When Jesus returns, all things will be made new.
			Jesus was with God at creation.	Jesus is eternal.	Jesus has always existed and will always be with God.

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING : SALVATION

YOUNGER PRESCHOOLERS	MIDDLE PRESCHOOLERS	OLDER PRESCHOOLERS	YOUNGER KIDS	MIDDLE KIDS	PRETEENS
God loves us.	God sent Jesus because He loves us.	God sent Jesus to help people because He loves them.	God provided a way for people to become Christians because He loves them.	God provided a plan for salvation because He loves me.	God had a plan for salvation before the beginning of time.
God cares about us.	God sent Jesus because He cares about us.	God sent His only Son, Jesus, because He cares about us.	God sent His only Son, Jesus, to be the one and only Savior of the world.	Salvation is the gift of eternal life in heaven with God. Through salvation, God adopts us as His children.	Jesus willingly died to provide salvation. Jesus' death and resurrection make salvation possible.
	People sometimes make wrong choices.	People sometimes choose to disobey God.	Sin is choosing my way instead of God's way.	The punishment for sin is separation from God.	The punishment for sin is eternal death and hell.
			Jesus took the punishment for people's sins.	Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins.	People cannot save themselves. Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins, redeeming and rescuing me from sin and death.
			God will forgive me if I ask Him.	God's salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive.	God's salvation is eternal. Nothing can separate Christians from God's love.
			People who trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord are Christians.	When the Holy Spirit convicts me of my sin, I can trust Jesus as my personal Savior.	A growing relationship with Jesus is important and necessary. A Christian experiences joy when he recognizes God is at work in his life and in the lives of others.



THE TRANSFIGURATION

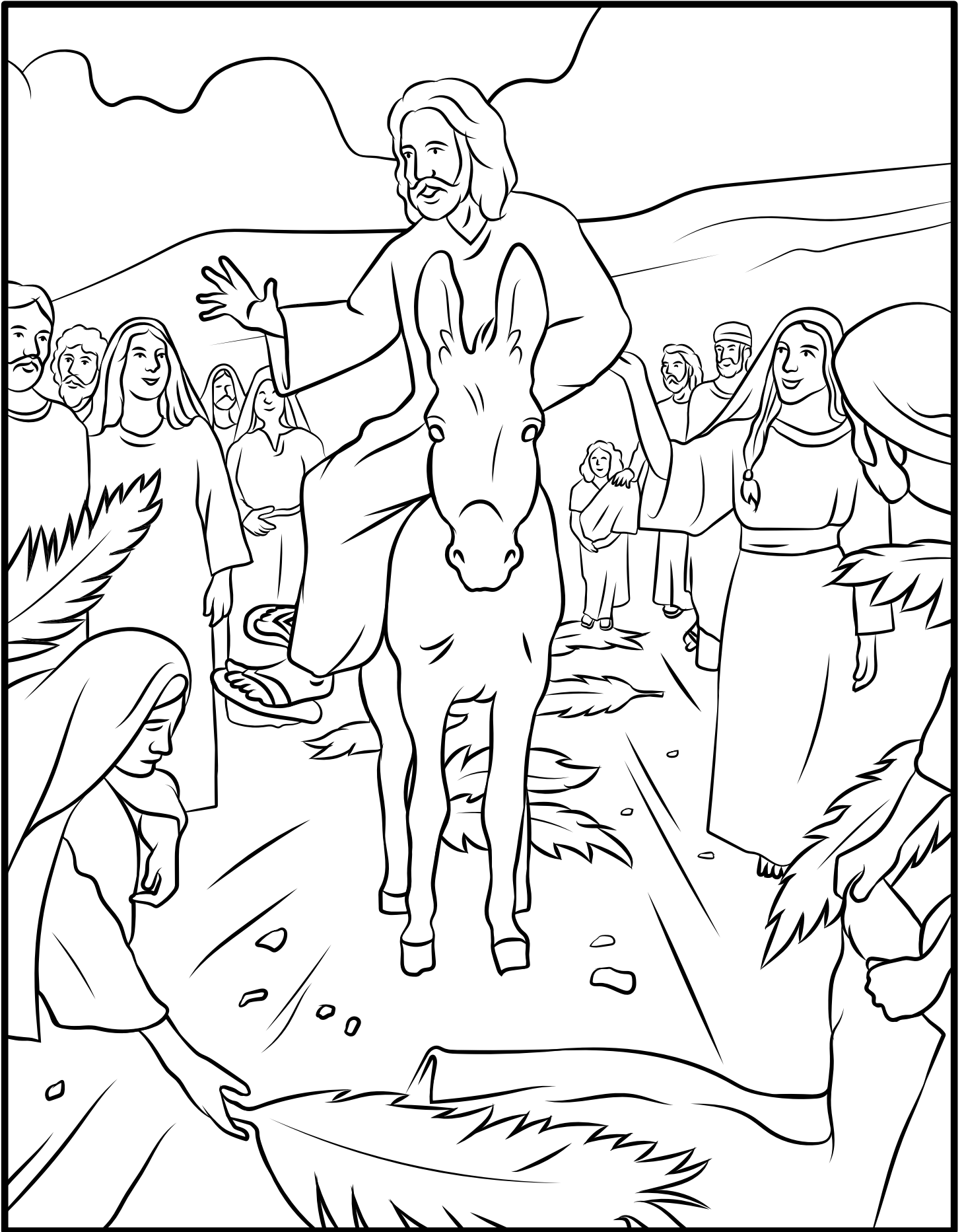
MATTHEW 17:1-9

© 2015 LifeWay



JESUS RAISED LAZARUS

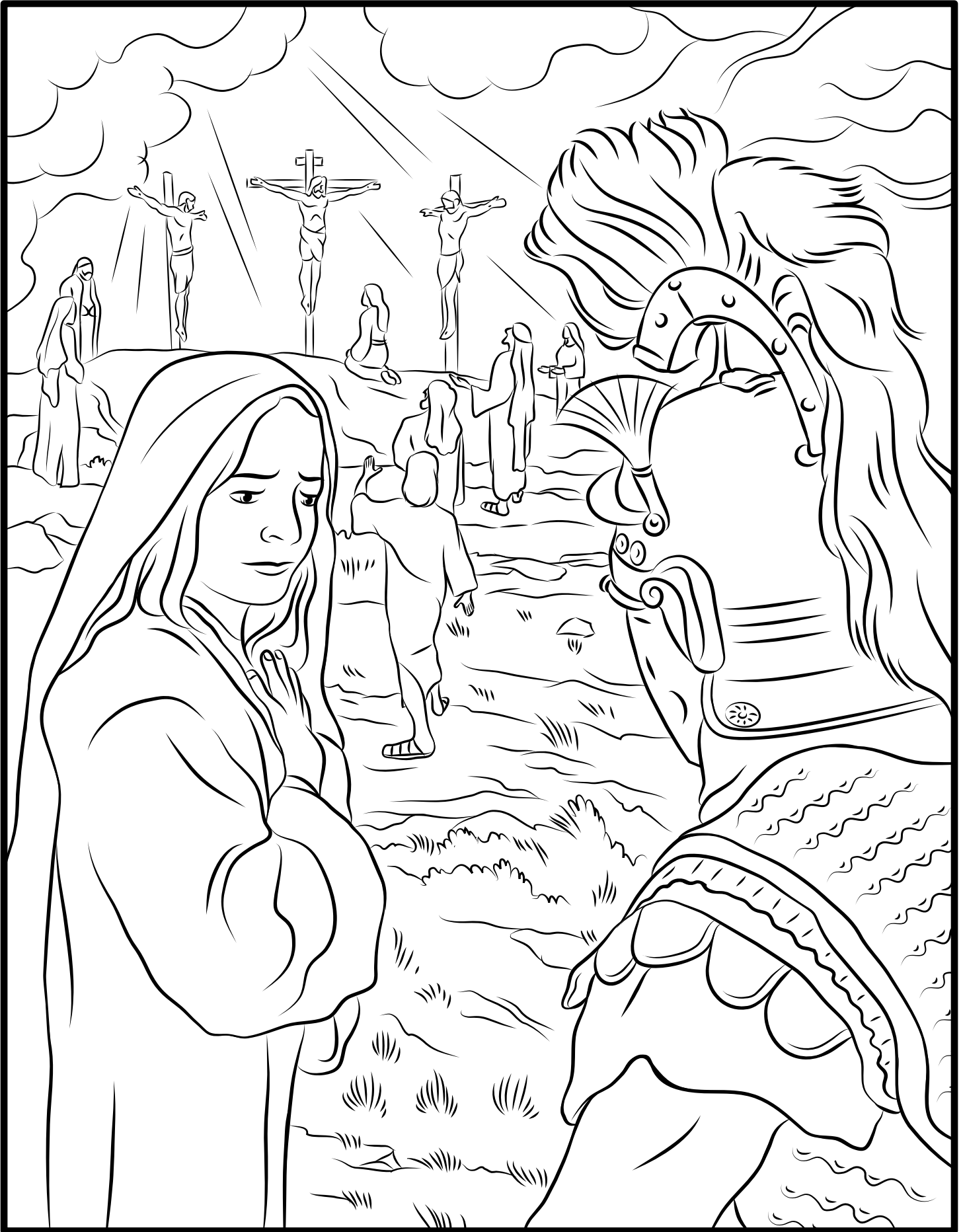
JOHN 11:1-44
© 2015 LifeWay



THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

MATTHEW 21:1-11

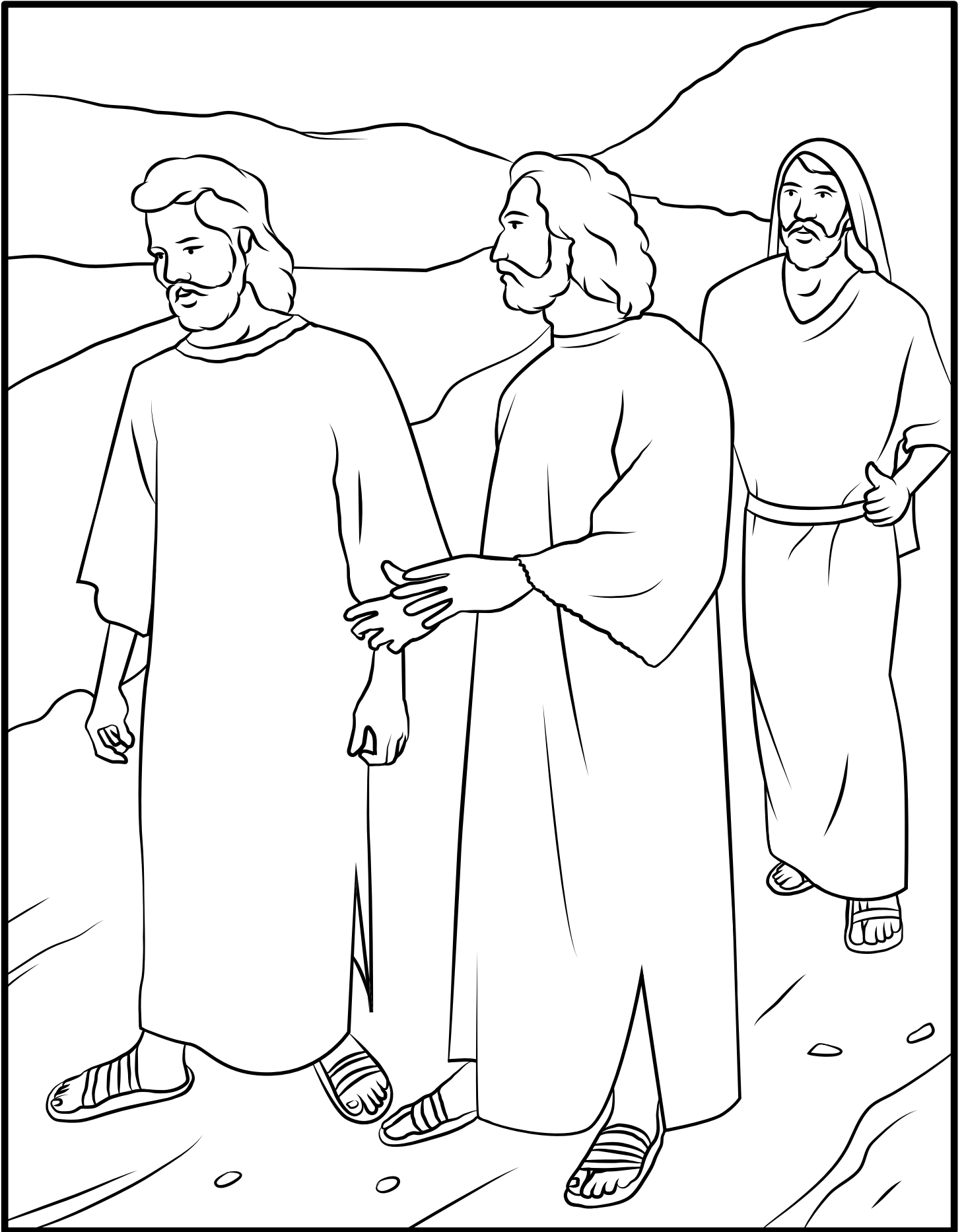
© 2015 LifeWay



JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

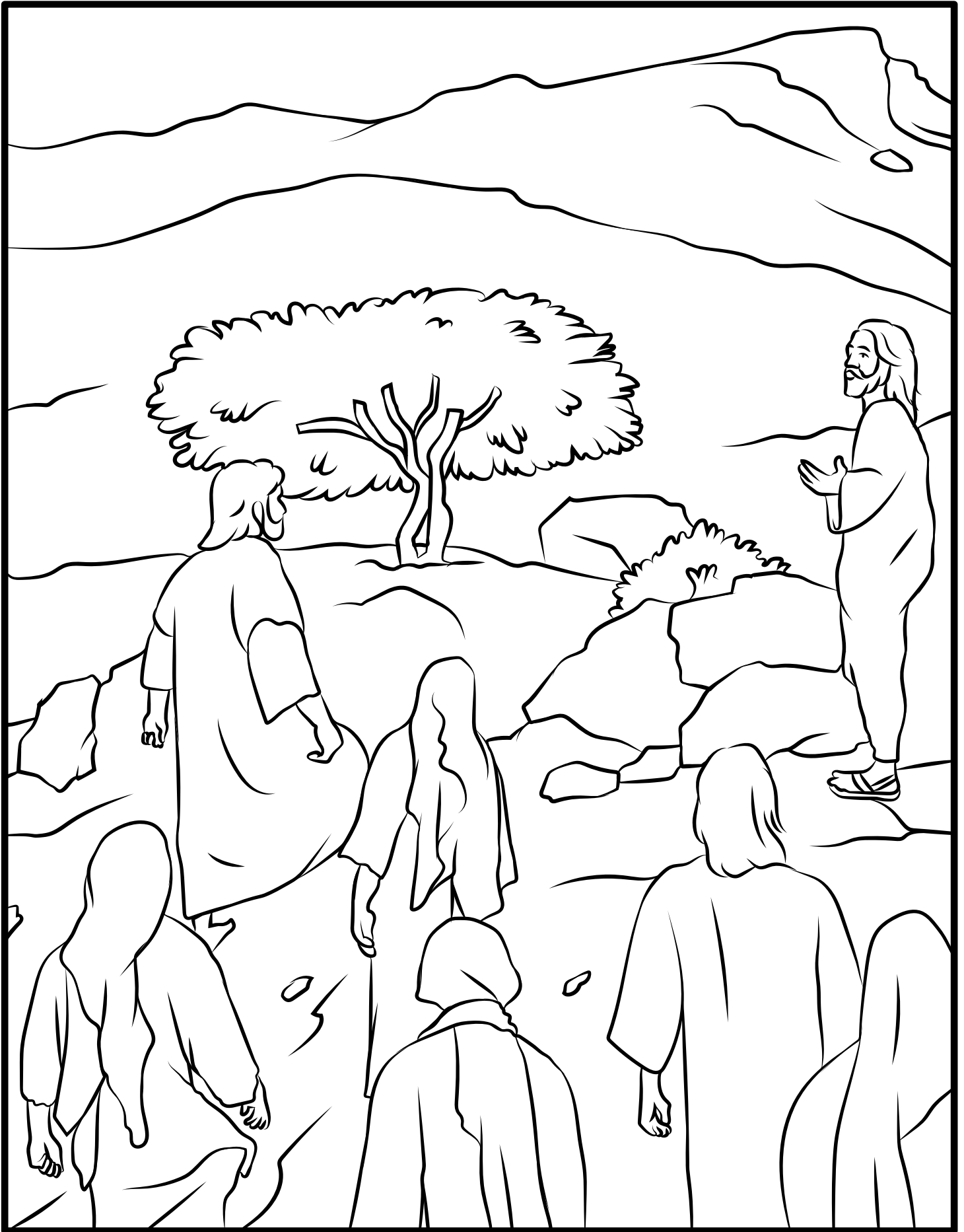
MATTHEW 26:26-28:10

© 2015 LifeWay



JESUS MET TWO DISCIPLES

LUKE 24:13-35
© 2015 LifeWay



THE ASCENSION

ACTS 1:4-11
© 2015 LifeWay