

THE GREATEST MIRACLE OF ALL

It was dark. Dark before dawn. And dark in the hearts of the women who crept to the tomb. Their friend Jesus was dead and **SADNESS**

surrounded them like a shadow. But **MARY MAGDALENE, JOANNA,** and

another **MARY**, the mother of James, had a job to do. They had to **cover**



Jesus's body with **SPICES**, according to the custom

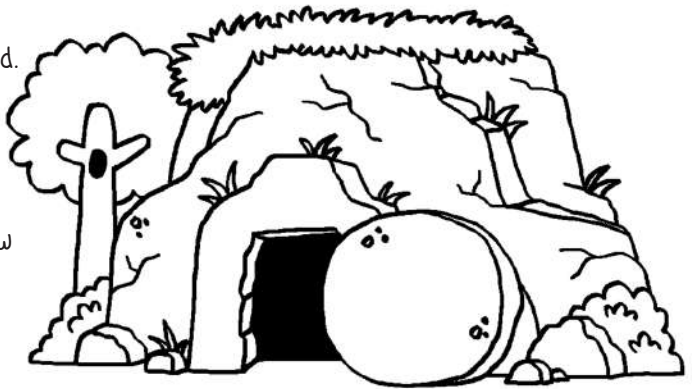
of that time. It wouldn't be easy to look again at the wounds he had

SUFFERED as he died. But they were determined to do this one last act of kindness for their friend.

Silently they went and,

as dawn broke, they saw

the **TOMB**. And each



one gasped, surprised. The stone that sealed the tomb had been

ROLLED away! They went inside. There was no body. And their

surprise turned to confusion. Where was he? Who had taken him?

That's when **2** angels appeared, **WHITE** and **BRIGHT** and frightening.



And the women fell facedown
on the ground, confusion
replaced by fear. "Why are
you looking for your friend
here?" the angels asked. "This is
a place for **DEAD** people. But

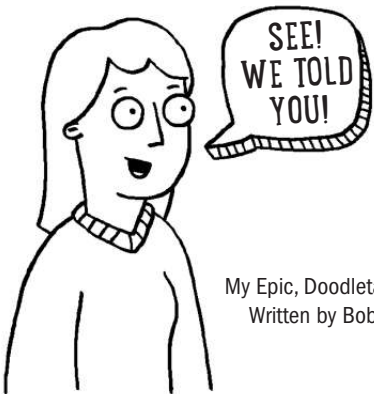
your friend Jesus is **ALIVE!** He has risen!

Back when you were with him in Galilee, he
told you what would happen. **REMEMBER?**

He said that the Messiah would be handed over
to evil men and crucified. And would then rise



again in **3** days' time." Of course they
remembered! And as they hurried to tell the
rest of Jesus's disciples their **GOOD** news,



it all came flooding back. But when they got there and described what they

had seen, no one **believed** them! The other disciples thought they were

making the **WHOLE** thing up. So off Peter went to see

for himself. When he entered the tomb, he found nothing

but the **LINEN** cloths in which

Jesus's body had been wrapped.

And, like the women, he went back to the

others, **AMAZED**. It got them all talking.

Where was Jesus now? Why hadn't they

expected this? Why had they **FORGOTTEN** what

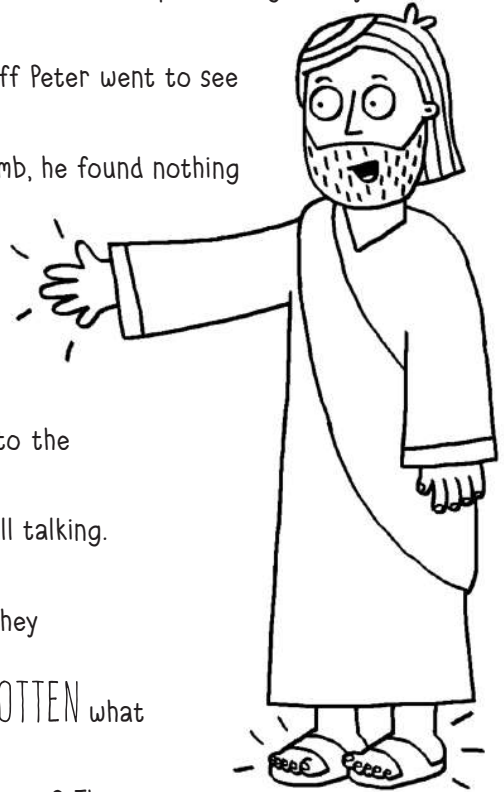
he'd told them? What would happen next? They

talked about it all day. And then, that evening, **2** of the disciples, who

had gone back to their home in **EMMAUS**, came rushing back with the

news that they had **SEEN** Jesus and talked with him on the

road. That's when Jesus appeared to the rest. Just like that, in the




room, out of **NOWHERE!** The disciples were terrified. They thought he was a ghost.

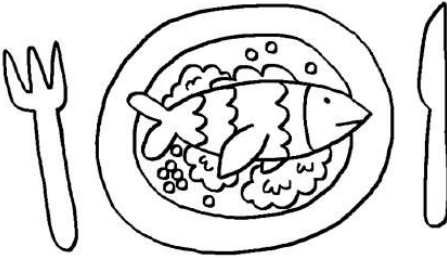
BOO!

But Jesus put their minds to rest.

"Ghosts don't have bones," he said. "Touch my **HANDS** and **FEET** and

you'll see.  It's me! And, come to think of it, I'm feeling a little hungry."

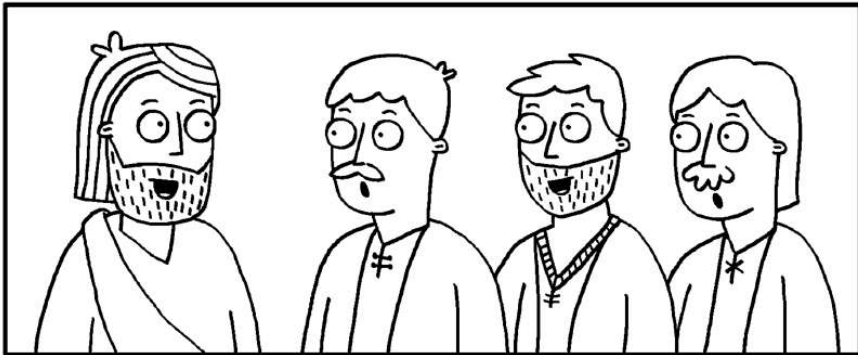
So they made him a meal. And through a mouthful of fish he added, "Ghosts



don't need to eat, either!"

FINALLY, he talked them

through all the things that



MOSES, the prophets, and the psalms had said would happen to the Messiah.

He helped them to **UNDERSTAND** that God's special promised one was

always supposed to die and be resurrected, and that he had come to

turn people's **HEARTS** back to God and forgive them for all the wrong



things they had done. "You are my witnesses," he told

them. "You **WATCHED**  everything I did, **HEARD**

everything I taught. And now you see me here, **alive** ! So go and tell

the world, starting right here in Jerusalem. But don't go just yet, for

I have **1**  **GIFT** to leave with you. The promise of my

Father that will give you the power you need to do what I've asked." Then,

as quickly as he had come, Jesus left.



