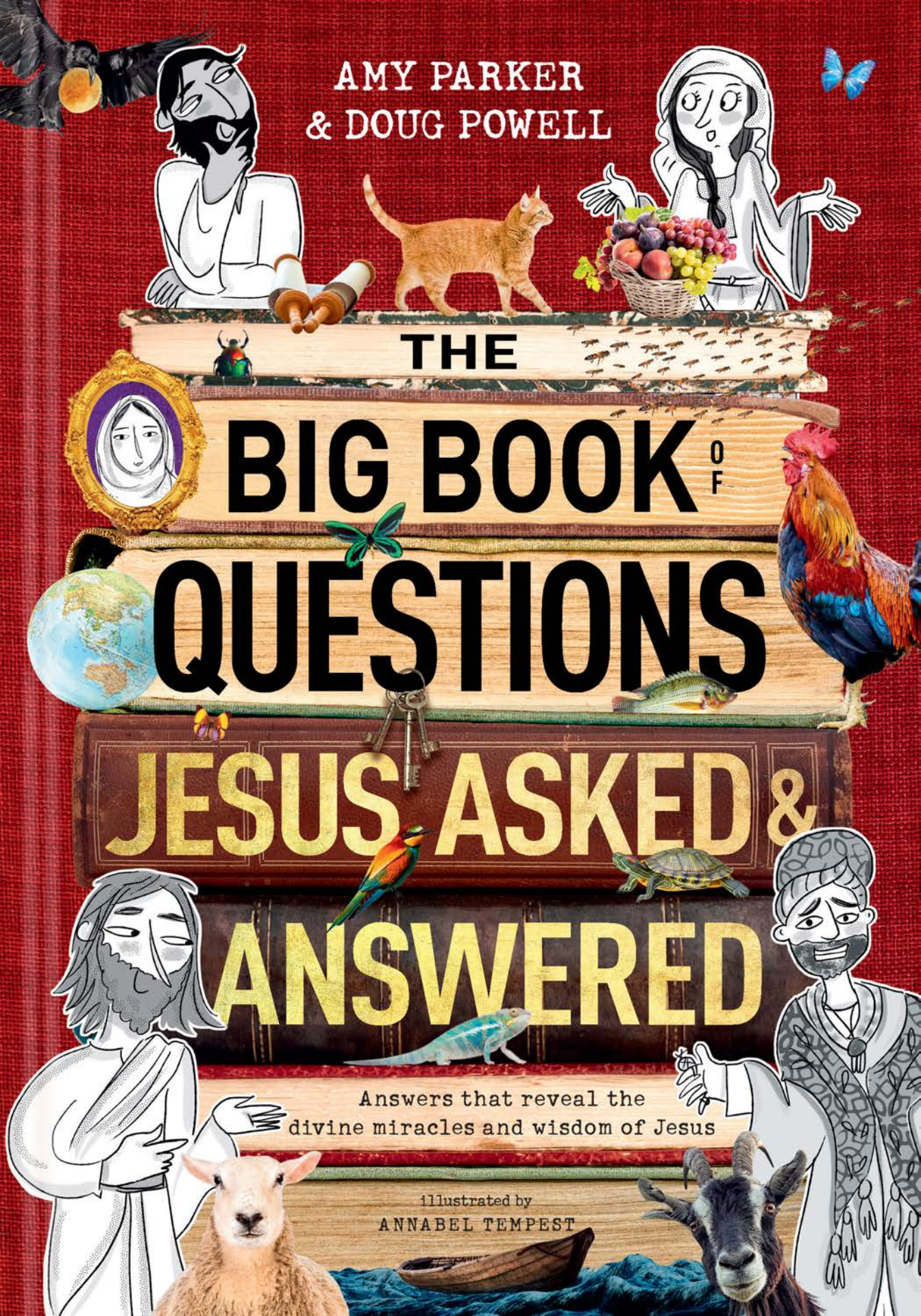
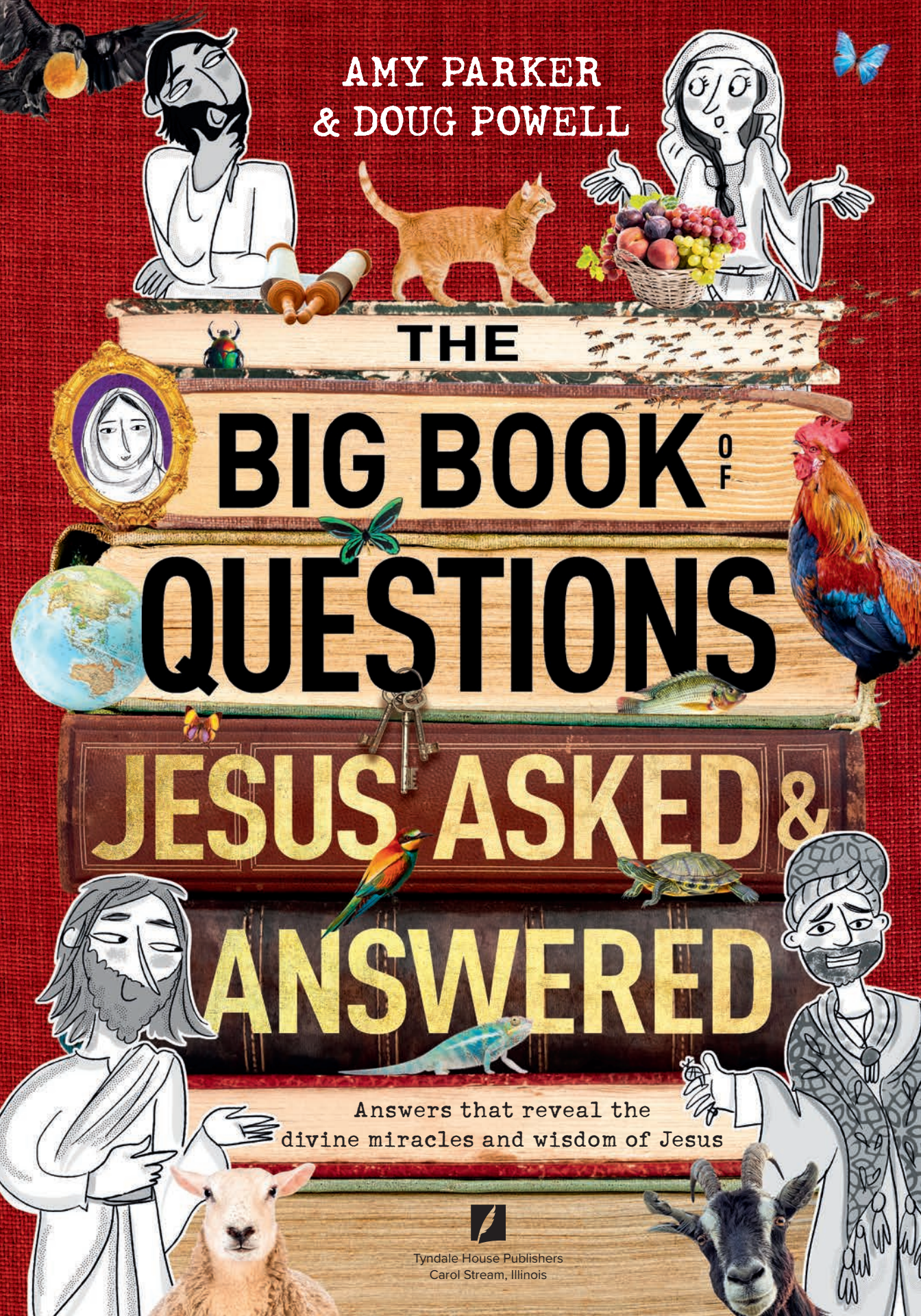

AMY PARKER
& DOUG POWELL
THE
BIG BOOK OF
QUESTIONS
JESUS ASKED &
ANSWERED
Answers that reveal the
divine miracles and wisdom of Jesus
illustrated by
ANNABEL TEMPEST

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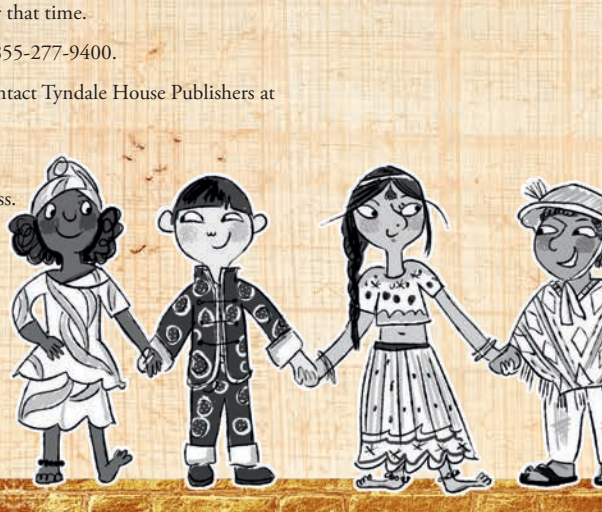
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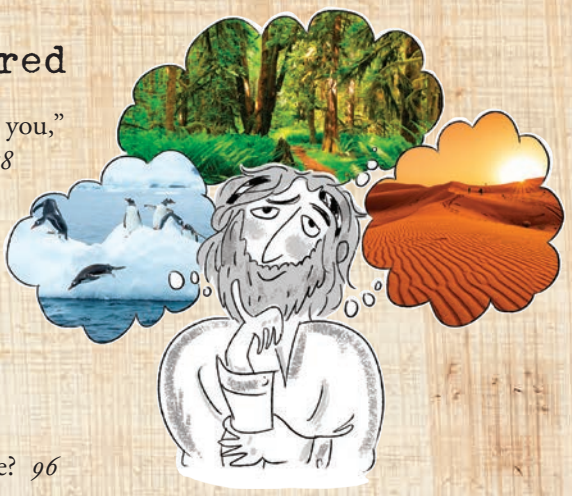


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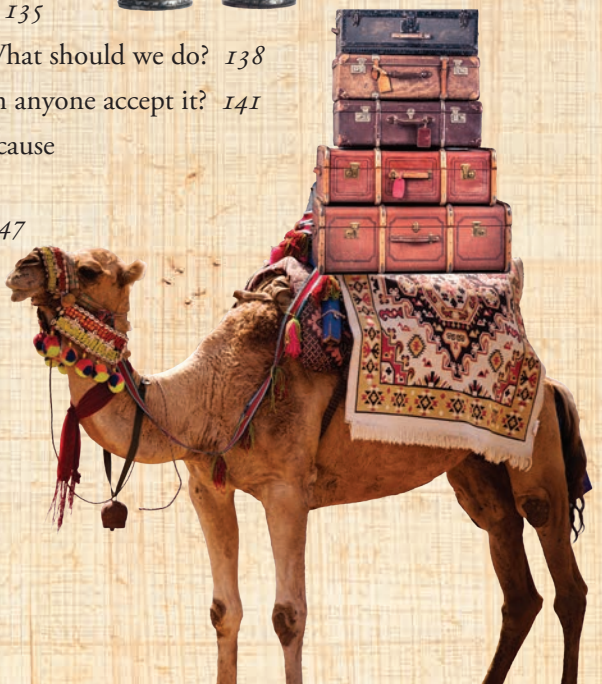
















Dear readers,

We are so happy that you're holding this book—not because we wrote it, but because we know the life-changing impact that Jesus' words can have. Inside, you'll find some of the most important questions straight from the Gospels that Jesus asked—and answered. In these questions and answers, there is Godly advice on how to care for ourselves and each other, how to create a deeper relationship with Jesus, how to share the joy of his messages, and how to walk in this world with God-given purpose.

For each question, there's a retelling of the Bible story in which he asked or answered it. Plus, we've added historical facts and descriptions that help to paint a more vibrant picture of what life was like when Jesus and his disciples lived.

We believe that there are no words more powerful than those in our Bible. And by focusing on those questions that Jesus took the time to ask and answer during his time on earth, we believe that we are focusing on words that will change us from the inside out.

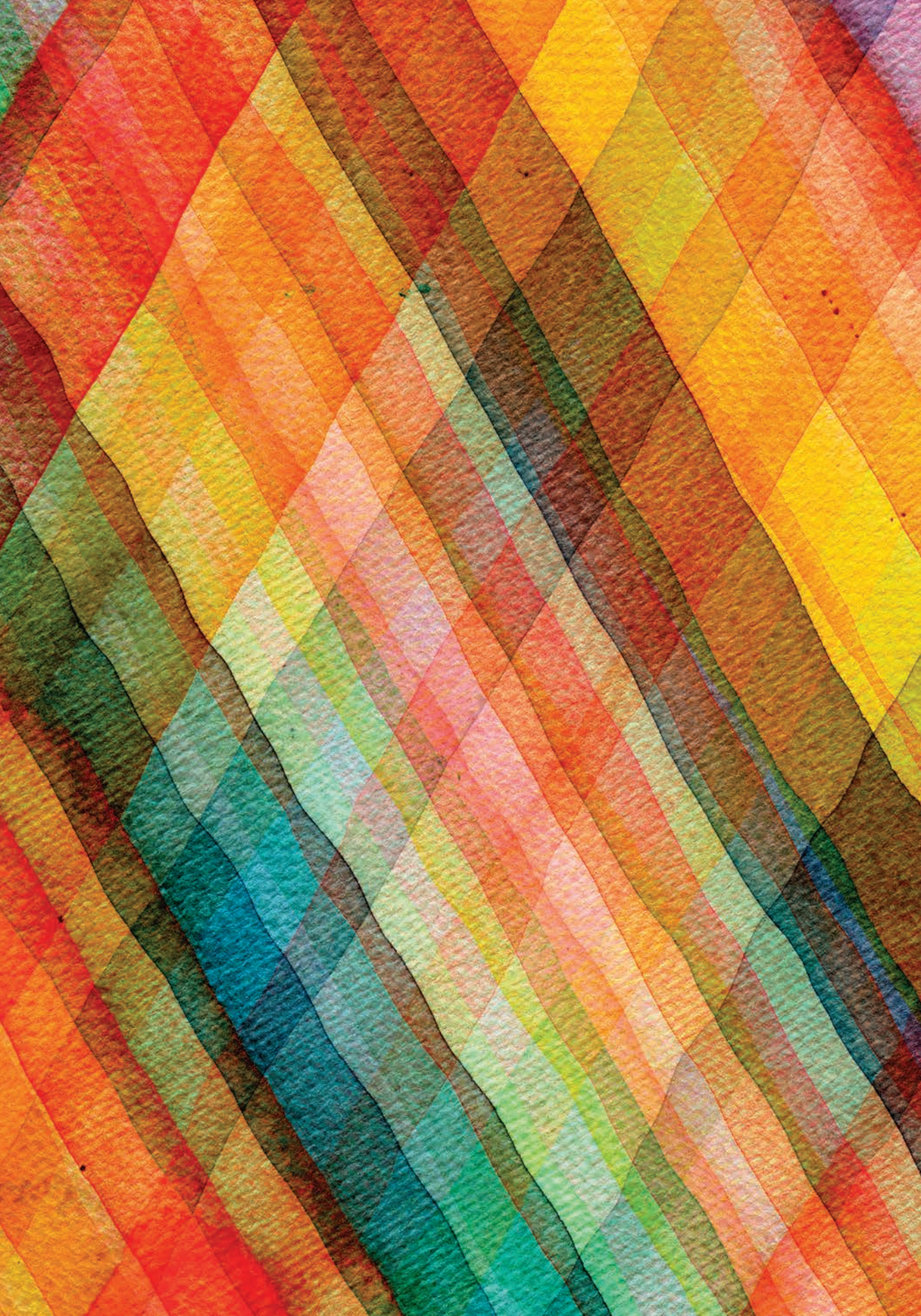
We pray that these questions and answers not only help you to learn more about Jesus, but more than anything, that they spark a deeper, more confident relationship with him that continues throughout your lifetime and beyond.



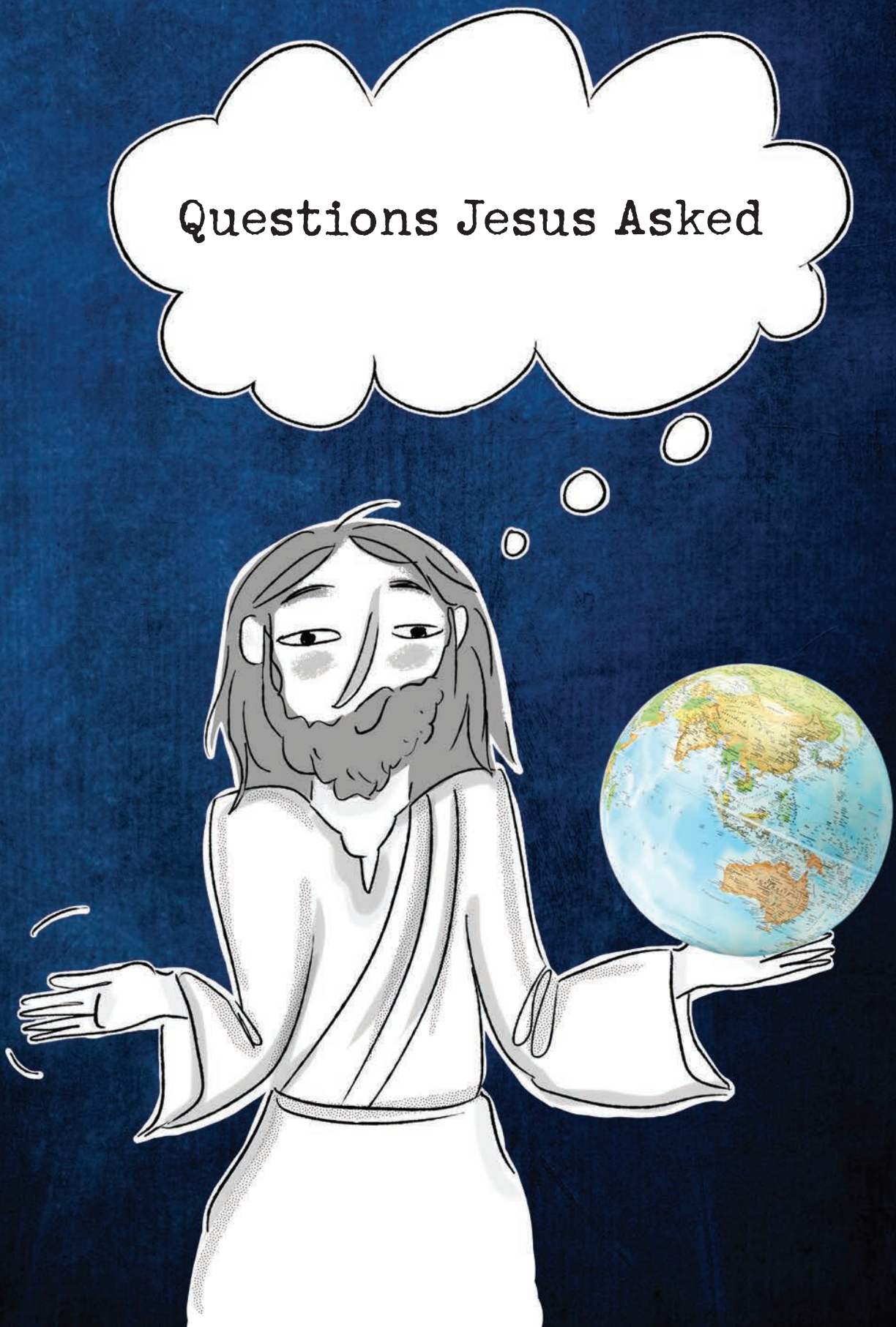
We are praying for you as you learn from his words. We pray that you will always go to him with your questions and seek the wisdom of his answers. By doing so, you can make a difference in this world that only his followers can.

For Jesus,

Amy & Doug



Questions Jesus Asked



Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?

—Luke 2:49



If your parents couldn't find you, where is the first place they'd look? At your best friend's house? A ball field? Or curled up in a corner with a book? When Jesus went missing, his parents looked everywhere! Where they found him revealed a lot about who Jesus was and what was most important to him.

Every year, Jesus would journey with his family to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. Families came from all over for Passover, the celebration of a time when God had saved the Israelites. The Israelites, who were the Jewish people, had celebrated it every year for hundreds of years since then.

When Jesus was twelve years old, his family packed up for the journey as they usually did and headed for Jerusalem. After a week of food and friendship and rejoicing in God's grace, Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, began the journey back home. Jesus was older now and more independent, so his parents thought he was walking with some of his friends in their large group leaving Jerusalem together.

But that evening, when Mary and Joseph still hadn't seen Jesus, they started looking for him. They asked around their group, but no one knew where he was. Now, they were starting to worry. Quicker and quicker, Mary and Joseph made their way back to Jerusalem, looking for and asking about Jesus all along the way.

After three days of searching, they found him. He was right there, in the Temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions.

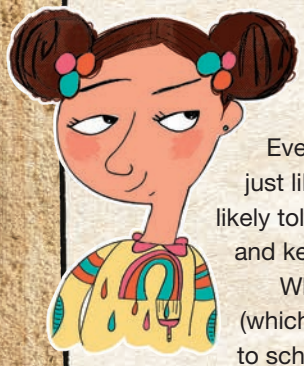
His parents couldn't believe it. His mother went up to Jesus and said, "Why did you do that?! We've been worried sick, looking everywhere for you!"



Jesus answered, "But why did you even need to search? I was right here in my Father's house." Then they all went back to Nazareth together.

Jesus' answer confused his parents at the time, but today we see the big picture. Jesus, the Son of God, was spending time with his heavenly Father, in his house, the Temple. Even at twelve years old, Jesus was learning and preparing for the plan God had for him. God is our heavenly Father, too, and we, too, can prepare for the life he has for us by spending time with him, reading his Word, and listening for his will.

Just tell Mom and Dad where you're going first, okay?



FAITH FACT: Jesus' School

Even though Jesus is God, while he was growing up, he had to learn things just like you do. His first teacher would have been his father, Joseph. Joseph likely told Jesus about the history of the Jews and how important it was to know and keep God's Word.

When Jesus was five or six, he probably went to school at the synagogue (which is like a church) with the other boys in Nazareth. The reason for going to school was to learn to read Hebrew so that they could read the Bible and obey its teaching. They would memorize important parts of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and some of Psalms. As they grew older, they studied the rest of the Bible. Many of them also learned to write. They practiced reading aloud because one day they would have to be ready to read the Scriptures during the services.



Lastly, most boys read the thoughts of early leaders and learned about teachings that had not been written down. The teacher would talk about these ideas with the students in a question and answer time (like Jesus was doing in the Temple in Luke 2:41-50). By the time Jesus was twelve or thirteen, he would have finished school and started to work.



If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else?

¬Matthew 5:47



What do you do when someone makes you mad? How about when someone is mean to you? Are you mean right back? Yeah, that might feel like the natural thing—even the right thing—to do at the time. But Jesus taught a whole new way to treat our enemies.

Jesus had been traveling with his disciples, teaching and healing the people he met along the way. The word had begun to spread through the area about this man, Jesus, and the miracles he did, and wherever he went, crowds gathered.

One day, he saw the crowds starting to follow him, so he went up on a hillside with his disciples. They found a spot to sit down, and Jesus began talking to them.

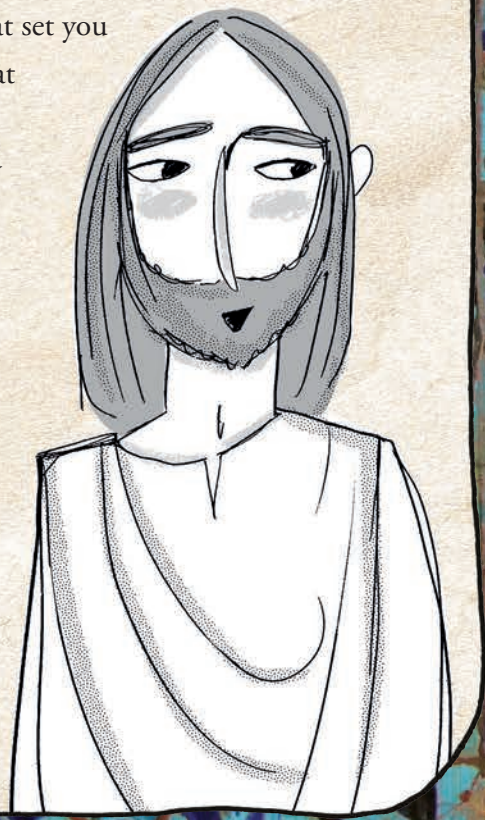
He taught many important things that day, and he spoke in a way the disciples likely hadn't heard before.

"You've been told to love your neighbor and hate your enemy," Jesus said. "But I'm here to tell you to love your enemies too! Pray for them. Then you'll be acting like children of God."

"God doesn't only send sunshine to good people and thunderstorms to bad people," Jesus explained. "Everyone gets the sun, and everyone gets the rain."

"Why would you be rewarded for only loving people who love you?" he asked. "Even crooked, greedy people do that. If you're only nice to your friends, to people who love you, how does that set you apart? People who don't believe in God do that too."

The disciples listened in amazement. They knew their teacher, their beloved friend, was going to challenge them in ways they'd never thought of before. But still, they were ready and willing to learn and follow him.



Do you accept that challenge? Do you want to be just like everyone else? Or do you want to be known by your actions as a child of God? You know what to do. Love. Your. Enemies. Pray for them. Show them the difference it makes to be a follower of Jesus, a child of God.



FAITH FACT: Jesus' Enemies

It's hard to believe, but some people were upset about the things Jesus taught and did, and they quickly became his enemies. One group who didn't like Jesus was called the Pharisees. They were religious leaders who were experts in God's law. But they were more focused on putting on a show and earning their salvation than they were on loving God in their hearts. They thought Jesus was a lawbreaker who was teaching people all the wrong things.

Another group who tried to stop Jesus was called the Sadducees. They were also religious leaders, and they controlled the Sanhedrin, which was the Jewish government. Even though they were religious leaders, they only believed in the first five books in the Bible (the ones written by Moses). And they did not believe that people would be resurrected at the last judgment. They loved power more than anything else. They thought Jesus was a threat to their authority and power.

The Sanhedrin (which was made of Sadducees and Pharisees) paid one of Jesus' own disciples, Judas, to betray him so they could arrest him. Why did Judas betray Jesus? It's hard to know for sure, but for some reason he was also an enemy of Jesus. The Sanhedrin had a trial and decided that Jesus should be killed for claiming to be God. But the Roman Empire didn't allow the Jews to have the death penalty, so the Sanhedrin turned Jesus over to the Romans. They told the Roman governor that Jesus claimed to be the king of the Jews. Because the Romans didn't want a king challenging the emperor, Jesus was sentenced to death.



Jesus' enemies only hated him because of selfishness or pride or the love of power. They loved the world more than they loved God, and that made them enemies of Jesus. Yet, even when Jesus faced a punishment of death on a cross because of their actions, he did exactly what he had taught his disciples to do: He prayed for his enemies, asking God to forgive them (see Luke 23:34).

Why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?

—Matthew 7:3



When someone does something wrong, do you choose to be harsh and hateful? Or do you choose to respond with gentleness and grace? Jesus gave us clear guidance on how to respond to the faults of others—well, guidance that becomes *clear if you remove the log from your eye!*

As Jesus was teaching on the hillside, he reminded his followers not to judge other people. "You will be treated the way you treat others," he told them. "And how you judge others will be the same way others will judge you."

Jesus asked, "Why are you so concerned about the speck in your friend's eye when you have an entire log sticking out of your own eye? You can't help the friend get the speck out of his eye because you can't even see through the log in your own."

"First," Jesus explained, "get the log out of your own eye. Only then can you help your friend get the speck out of his."

Of course, Jesus wasn't really talking about specks and logs. He was trying to make it clear to those listening that we must deal with our own faults before we begin to help others with theirs. And we certainly shouldn't be judging the faults of others until we've dealt with our own.

Even though Jesus taught this lesson over two thousand years ago, it's funny how much we still need it today. We can get so focused on rules, especially religious rules, and fixated on who's breaking them that we ignore our own faults, our own need for mercy and grace. Jesus reminds us that when we choose to judge harshly, that same standard will be used to judge us. But fortunately, the same goes for gentleness and grace. Let's focus first on the person in the mirror—and look on everyone with gentleness and grace.





FAITH FACT: Jesus' Job

Before Jesus began his ministry, he worked as a carpenter (see Mark 6:3). He probably learned how to be a carpenter from his father, Joseph, who was also a carpenter (see Matthew 13:55). Carpenters made lots of different things from wood. Sometimes they helped with construction and made beams to hold up roofs, doors, and frames for windows. Other times they made furniture such as stools, chests, and tables (which were only about eighteen inches at the tallest!). They also made the plows and yokes for farmers, and boats for fishermen.

Carpenters in Jesus' day used many of the same tools that carpenters still use today. They had hammers, saws, axes, planes, compasses, and even drills. Many carpenters were able to use these tools to carve the wood with beautiful decorations. The Temple in Jerusalem was covered in wooden panels that had elaborate designs carved into them.

Because so many people needed things built, Jesus would have done work for many people around Nazareth. He saw how they lived and got to know them. When he began his ministry, he often taught people using parables, which were stories he told to share his message. These stories used situations everyone could understand, like working in a field, cooking, or tending a flock. Maybe some of his parables were based on things he saw while working as a carpenter—like a speck of sawdust and a log!

