

A Message for Mary

(based on Luke 1:26-38)



Once there was a child of God named Mary. Like all of God's children, she was waiting for the day when God would send Jesus to earth. That would be a wonderful day!

One day Mary was alone in her house when she heard a noise behind her. She stopped what she was doing and listened.

Looking around, she saw an angel. The angel smiled so Mary would not be scared. He said, "Be filled with joy, Mary! God is with you."

Why would God send an angel to talk to me? Mary wondered.

"Do not be afraid, Mary," said the angel. "God is pleased with you—God loves you very much. You are going to have a baby boy and you will name him Jesus. He will be God's own Son. Jesus is the Savior God's people have been waiting for."

What an amazing and surprising message! Mary said, "How can I have a baby? I am not married yet. Who will be the baby's father?"

The angel reminded Mary that Jesus would be a very special baby—the Son of God. God's Son would come as a baby so that people everywhere would know about God's love.

Mary was surprised by the angel's words, but she believed his message came from God. So she said, "Yes, I will be the mother of Jesus."

The angel smiled. God would be happy with Mary's answer! Then the angel left.

Mary was so excited about the angel's news that she sang a song about how good God is!





PREVIEW

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Dear Family:

You'll find today's story on the front page—ask your child to tell it to you using the story scene inside this paper and the story figures we made today. Help your child focus on the true meaning of Christmas by incorporating this scene into your Christmas decorations around the house!

**Follow the dots,
one-two-three!**

**There's someone there
—who can it be?**

PREVIEW



Imagine, Year 1, Unit 3, Session 1
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Memory

Challenge:

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 This low-resolution preview may not be printed or distributed. **John 3:16**

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Jesus Is Born!

(based on Luke 2:1-20)



“We must go to Bethlehem,”
said Joseph to Mary one day.
So they packed their things and began to walk
to that city far away.

The trip was long—Mary grew tired—
her baby was on the way.
But when they got to Bethlehem,
they found no place to stay.

The innkeeper looked at Joseph
and slowly shook his head.
He stopped and looked outside—
then he pointed to a shed.

“There’s a place that’s warm and dry
you could stay there instead.”
So the tired pair settled there
and spread out some hay for a bed.

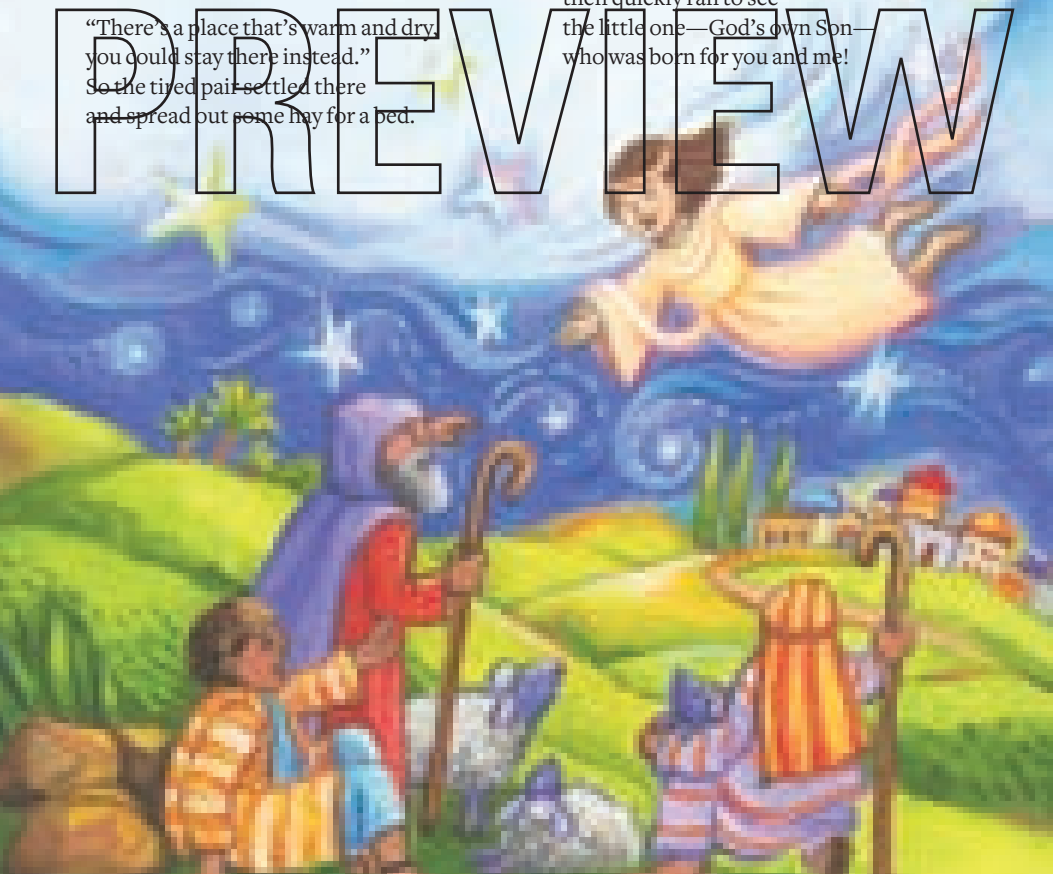
Mary’s little one—God’s own Son—
was born in the shed that night!
She wrapped her child in clean, warm cloth
and held him very tight,

while Joseph filled the manger bed
with hay so dry and light.
The thankful pair bowed their heads in prayer
to God for this special night.

And out in the fields near Bethlehem
bright angels came to earth
to sing to sleepy shepherds
the news of Jesus’ birth.

The shepherds listened closely,
then quickly ran to see
the little one—God’s own Son—
who was born for you and me!

PREVIEW





PREVIEW

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PREVIEW

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Dear Family:

Today your child learned the Christmas story. Encourage your child to tell you the story using the stable background inside this paper and the story figures he or she brought home today. Read the story together this week from Luke 1:1-20 and also the story poem on the front of this paper. Be sure to look for the story symbol in your God's Big Story cards too!

Help the shepherds find their way to baby Jesus!



PREVIEW



Memory



Challenge:

John 3:16

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God's Promise Comes True

(Based on Luke 2:31-38)



Waiting, waiting, waiting. Old Simeon had been waiting his whole life for God's promise of a Savior to come true. But he wasn't worried; he knew that God always keeps promises. And Simeon knew God would send the Savior soon because God had promised something else—that Simeon would not die until the Savior had come.

Waiting, waiting, waiting. Anna had been waiting a very long time for God's promise too. Anna was old, like Simeon. Sometimes it was hard for Anna to wait so long. But when Anna thought about how wonderful it would be to see the promised Savior, it became easier to wait. She was so excited for when that day would finally come!

One day, Simeon went to the temple to worship God. It was a busy day in God's house, and there were people everywhere. Simeon saw Anna in her usual place praying to God just as she did every day.

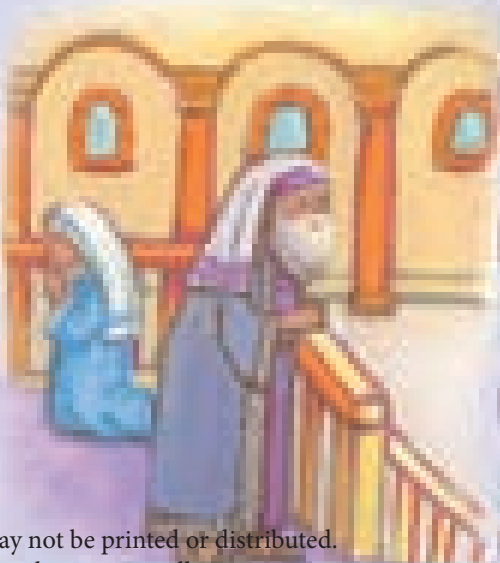
Simeon also saw moms and dads bringing their children to God's temple. Simeon had seen many babies in his life, but something deep inside made him want to see a particular baby whose parents were coming through the temple gate. Simeon went closer. When he looked at Mary's face and peeked at baby Jesus, Simeon knew his waiting was over at last. It was Jesus, God's promised Savior!

Simeon was so happy. He asked Mary if he could hold her baby. Mary said yes. Very gently, Simeon took baby Jesus in his arms and held him close. Then Simeon prayed:

"Dear Lord, you kept your promise to let me see your special child with my own eyes. Here he is, the child you've sent to help us and save us. Thank you for sending Jesus, like a light that sends the darkness away and shows everyone how much you love us."

Just then, Anna came up to see what was happening. When Anna saw baby Jesus she also knew that God's promise had come true! She said:

"He's a child like us, But he is God too. Jesus, our Savior— God's promise come true!"



Color the picture of Simeon, Anna, and baby Jesus.
Cut it into puzzle pieces. Every time you put the puzzle
together, remember that God always keeps promises!





PREVIEW

Dear Family:

Today your child heard the heartwarming story of Simeon and Anna and their long wait for God's promised Savior. Ask your child to tell you about it! Help your child make a puzzle from the picture of Anna and Simeon and remember together that God always keeps promises.

Can you imagine Jesus as a baby?
Draw a picture of how you think baby Jesus looked.

PREVIEW

Memory



Challenge:

John 3:16

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The Magi Meet Jesus

(Based on Matthew 2:1-12)



Up in the sky one starry night
a new star shone—so very bright!
The Magi knew God put it there
for them to follow if they dared.

They followed the star a long, long way.
Day and night, night and day—
until they reached Jerusalem
where mean King Herod greeted them.

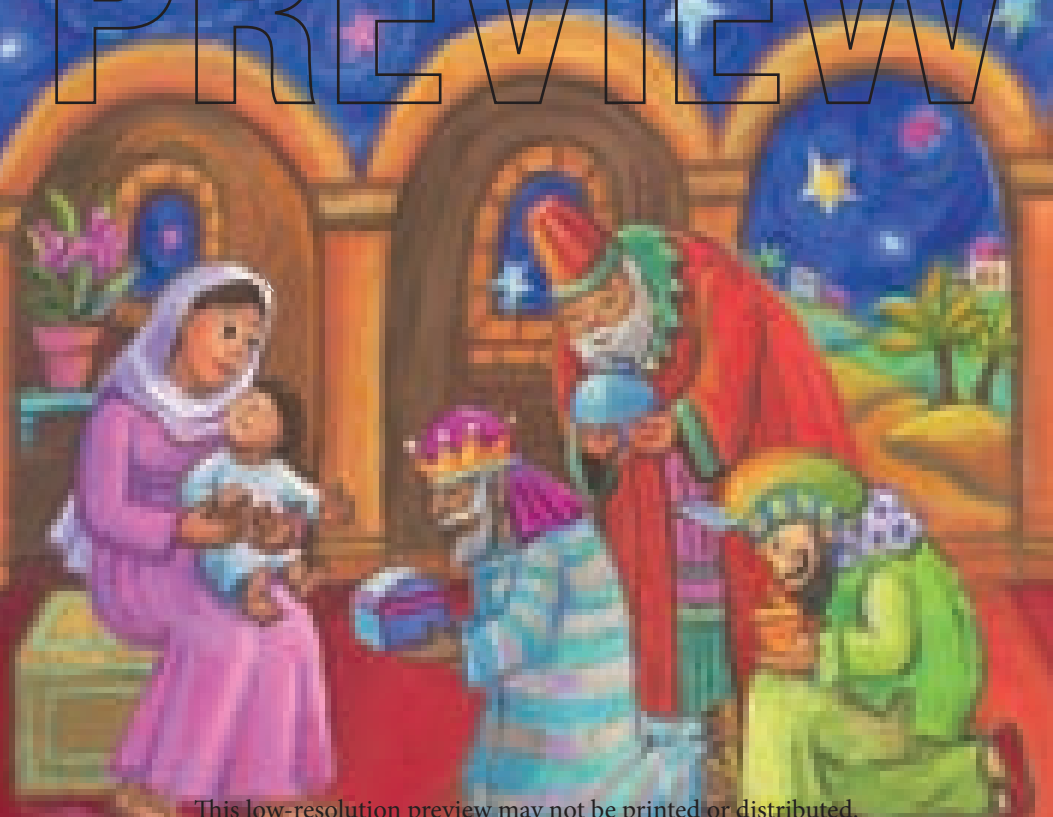
He sent them on their way again—
the star brought them to Bethlehem.

They saw a house and in they went
to find the King that God had sent.

The Magi all were filled with love;
the friendly star shone bright above.
The Magi gave their gifts with joy
and worshiped God's Son—
the little boy.

Then home they went, a different way—
not to King Herod—not today!
They told many people what they
had done
and the wonderful news of God's
own Son!

PREVIEW



The Magi went on a long trip to find Jesus. What did they bring with them? Draw a line from the camel to each thing the Magi might have packed on their camels.



PREVIEW





PREVIEW

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Dear Family:

Today your child heard the story of the Magi's search for the new King, and their gift of worship once they found Jesus. As you enjoy the story again at home, invite your child to tell you how he or she worshiped Jesus today too.

**Connect the dots
and see the star!**

PREVIEW



Memory



Challenge:

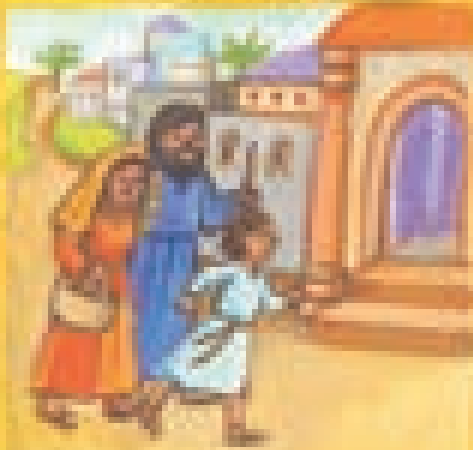
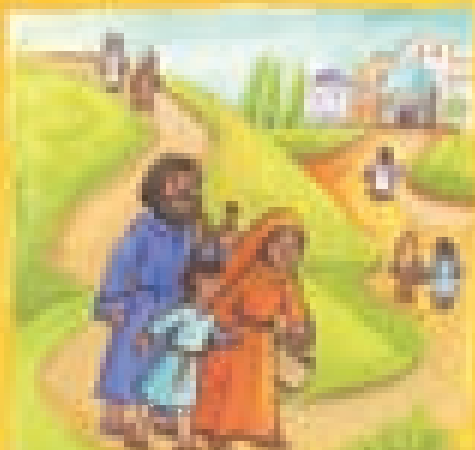
John 3:16

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Jesus in the Temple

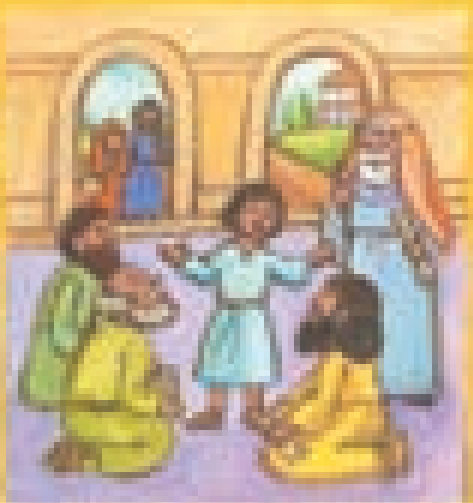
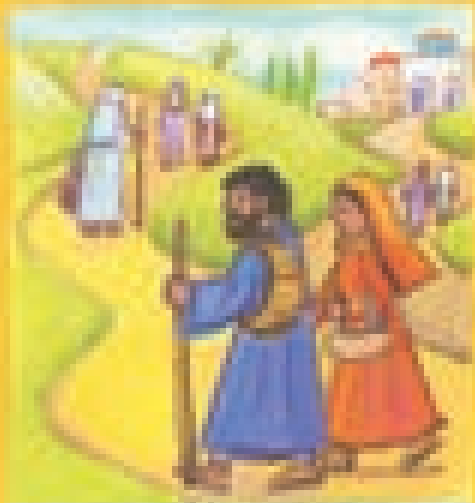
(Based on Luke 2:41-52)



PREVIEW

A trip to Jerusalem! Jesus was old enough to go with Mary and Joseph to the special celebration.

Jesus was so excited to see the temple—God's house.



But when Mary and Joseph left for home, someone was missing. . . .

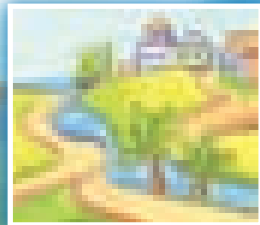
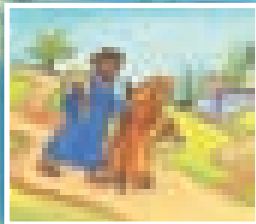
Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple. "I'm in my Father's house," he said.

Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus!

1. Get a button or coin for each player.
2. Number three paper slips—1, 2, 3. Put them in a hat.
3. Taking turns, pull a number from the hat and move that many spaces. Follow the instructions on the space where you land.
4. Try to be the first person to reach the temple.

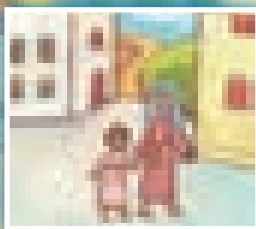
Start

Name a game you would like to play with Jesus.



PREVIEW

Why were Mary, Joseph, and Jesus going to Jerusalem? Move forward 2 spaces.



Mary and Joseph are worried. Move back 2 spaces.

Why did Jesus say he stayed in the temple? Move forward 1 space.

Mary and Joseph could not find Jesus. Move back 2 spaces.

Sing or say the Memory Challenge from John 3:16. Move forward 2 spaces.

Tell about a time you lost something that you loved. Move back 1 space.

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PREVIEW

Jesus taught the temple leaders. Move forward 1 space.

What snack would you serve Jesus if he were visiting? Move forward 1 space.

Finish

Dear Family:

Today your child learned that Jesus was once a child too. But the theme of these sessions—Jesus is God’s Son—is the key truth in this part of God’s big story. Talk about the story while you play the game inside this paper.

I wonder what Jesus liked to do when he was a kid. . . .

PREVIEW



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Memory



Challenge:

John 3:16

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Dear Family:

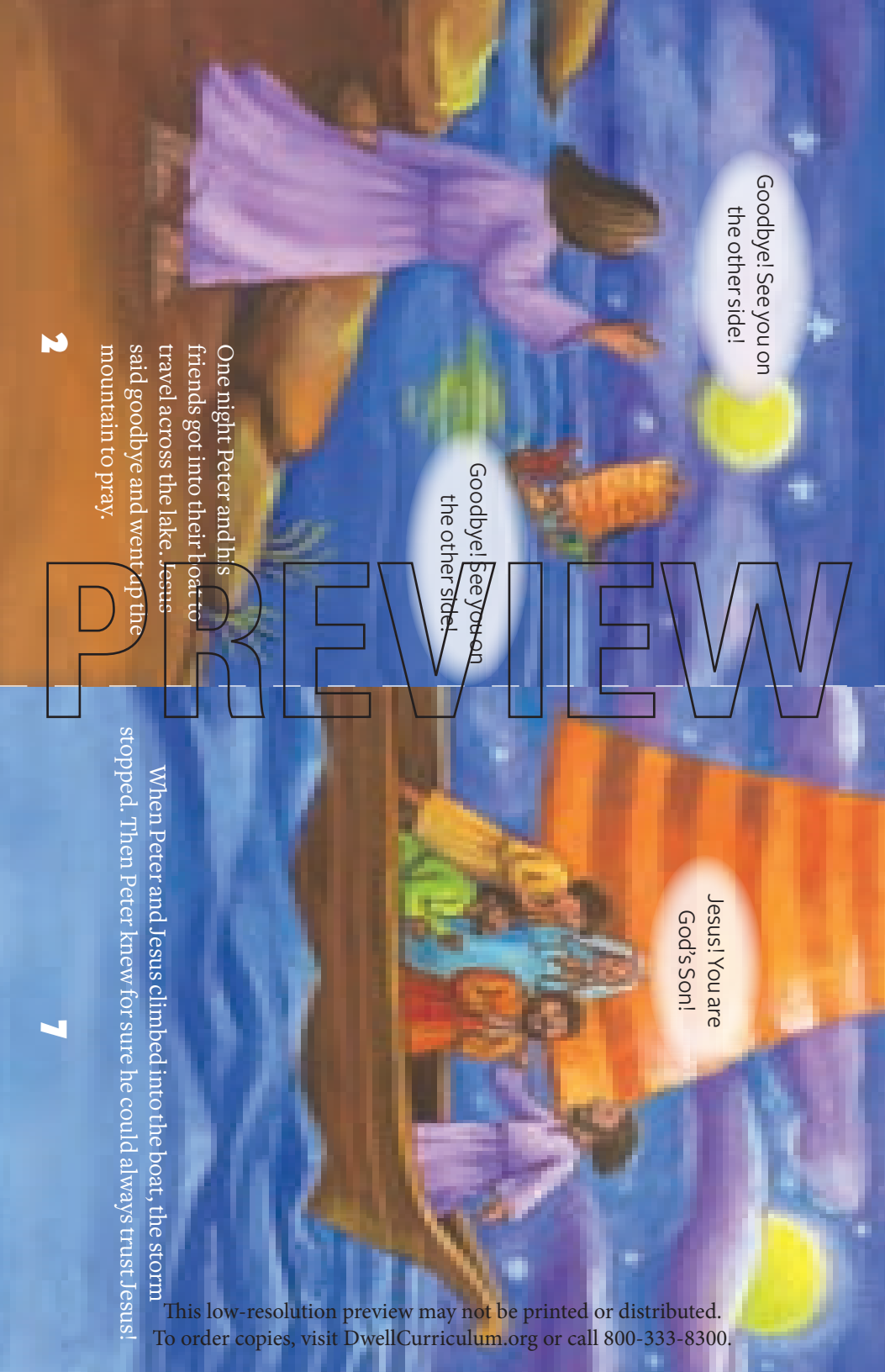
Today your child learned what it means to trust Jesus when he or she is afraid. Help your child turn this page into a book by cutting along the fold line, then folding the halves along the dotted lines, tucking one into the other and stapling together. After you read the storybook, look for the symbol in your God's Big Story cards and choose an activity to do.



Memory

Challenge:

John 3:16



Goodbye! See you on
the other side!

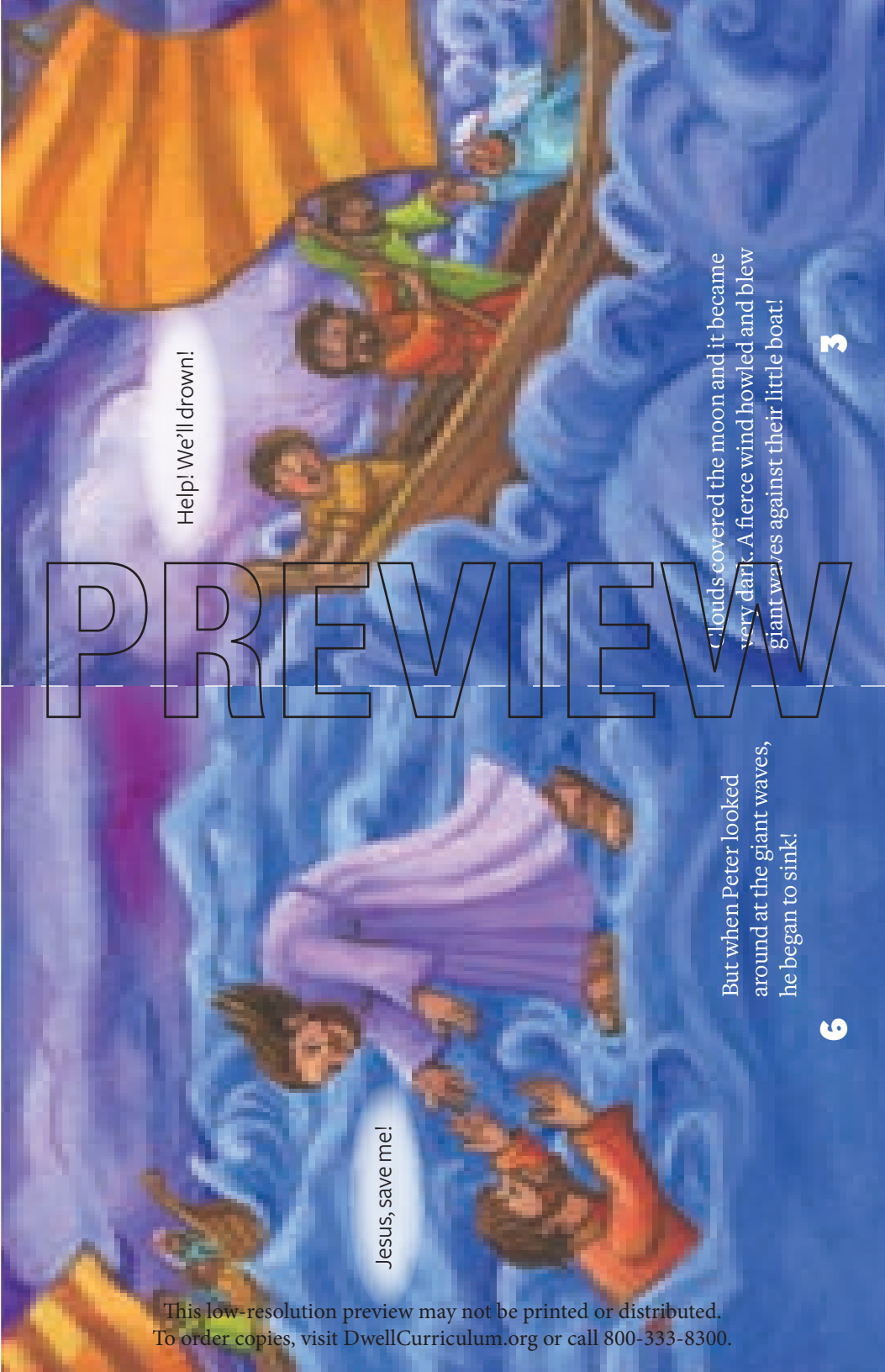
Goodbye! See you on
the other side!

Jesus! You are
God's Son!

One night Peter and his
friends got into their boat to
travel across the lake. Jesus
said goodbye and went up the
mountain to pray.

When Peter and Jesus climbed into the boat, the storm
stopped. Then Peter knew for sure he could always trust Jesus!

PREVIEW



Help! We'll drown!

Jesus, save me!

But when Peter looked around at the giant waves, he began to sink!

Clouds covered the moon and it became very dark. A fierce wind howled and blew giant waves against their little boat!

PREVIEW



Don't be afraid!

Let me come to
you, Lord.

Come!

REVIEW

Then Peter and his friends saw
an amazing sight. It was Jesus!

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