

Online Bible for Children
presents

THE FIRST EASTER



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Adapted by Lyn Doerksen

The Bible text in this story is from:

The New King James Version

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Publishers

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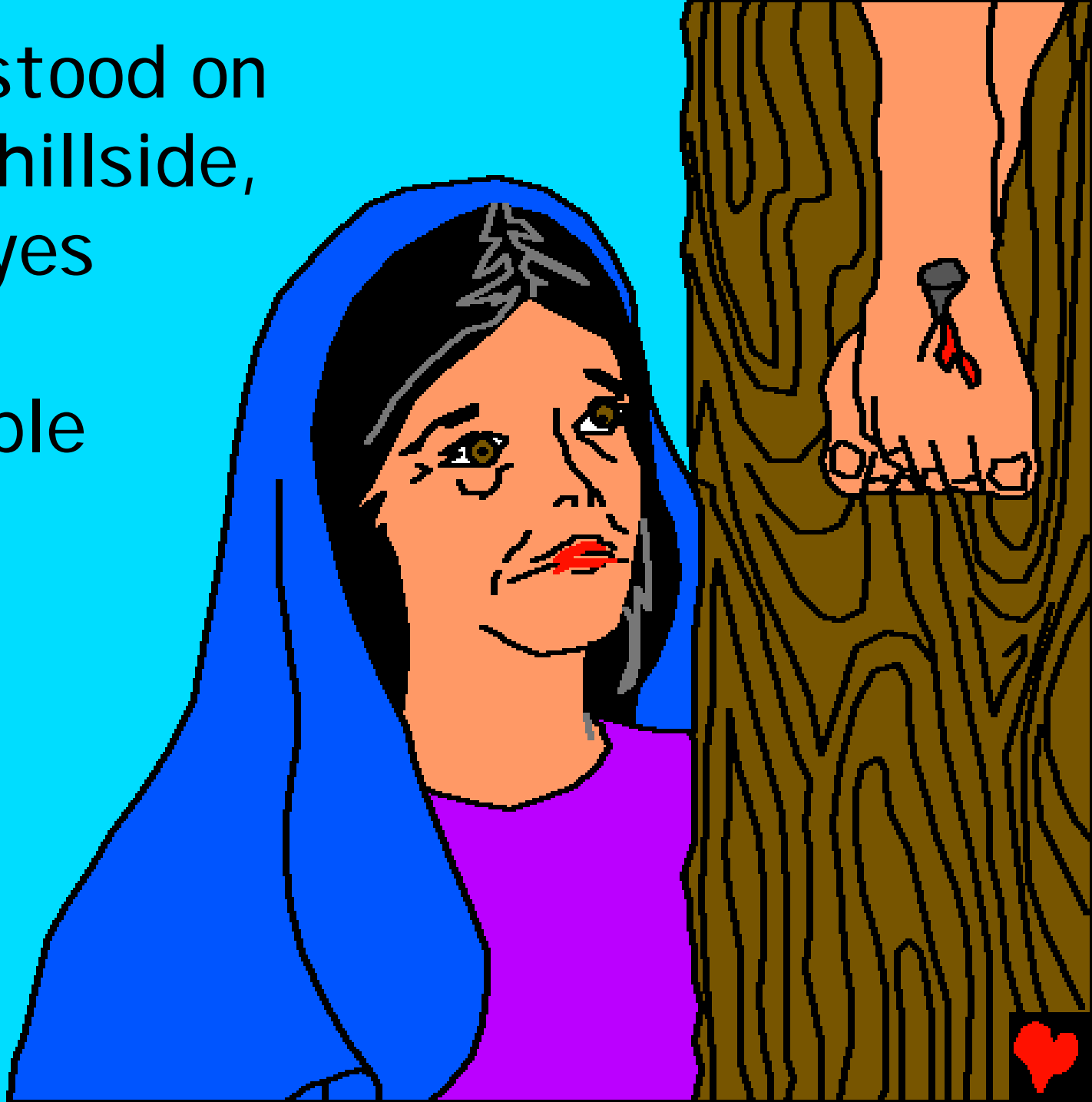
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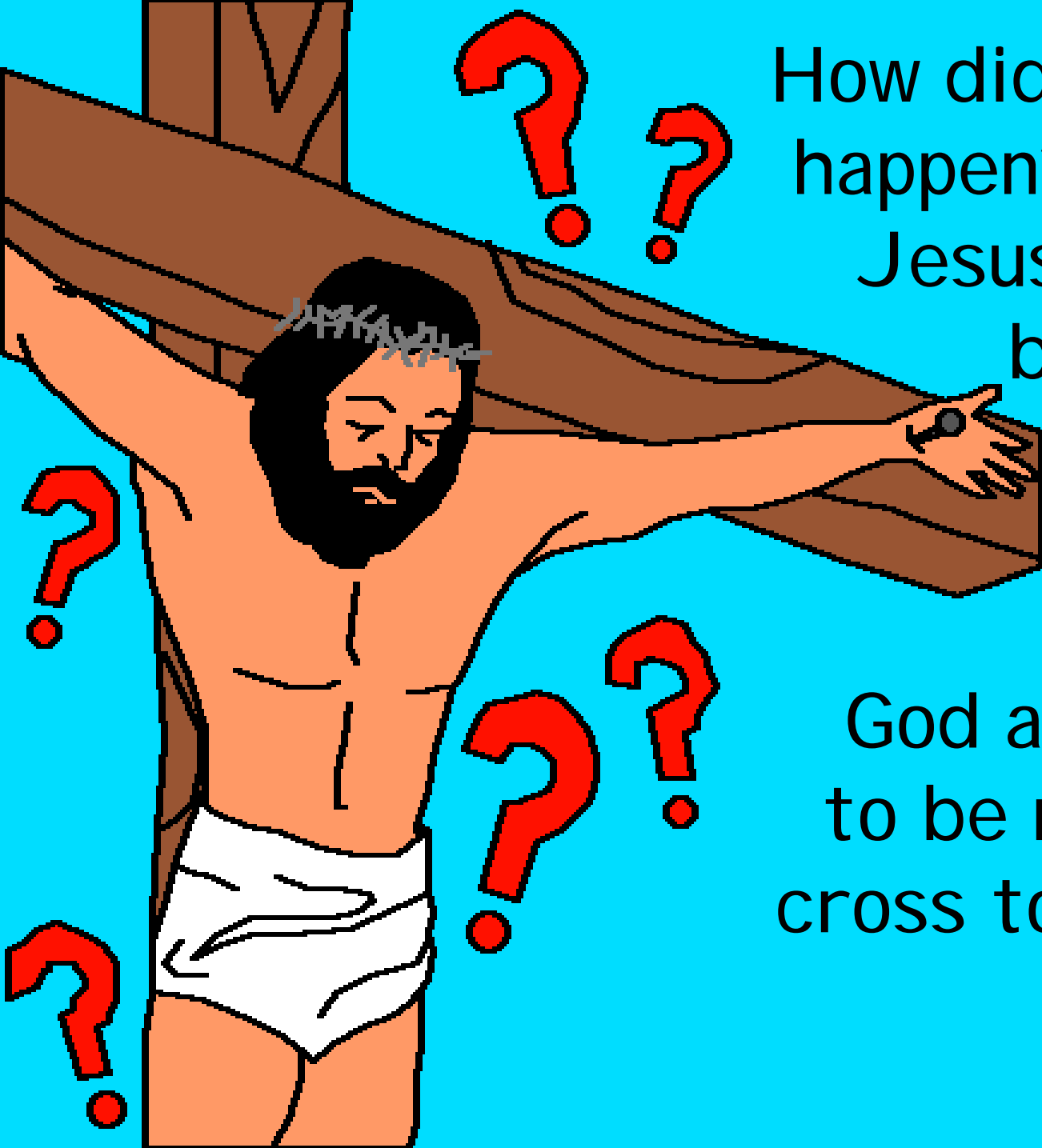


The lady stood on
the noisy hillside,
her sad eyes
looking up
to a terrible
scene.
Her Son
was dying.



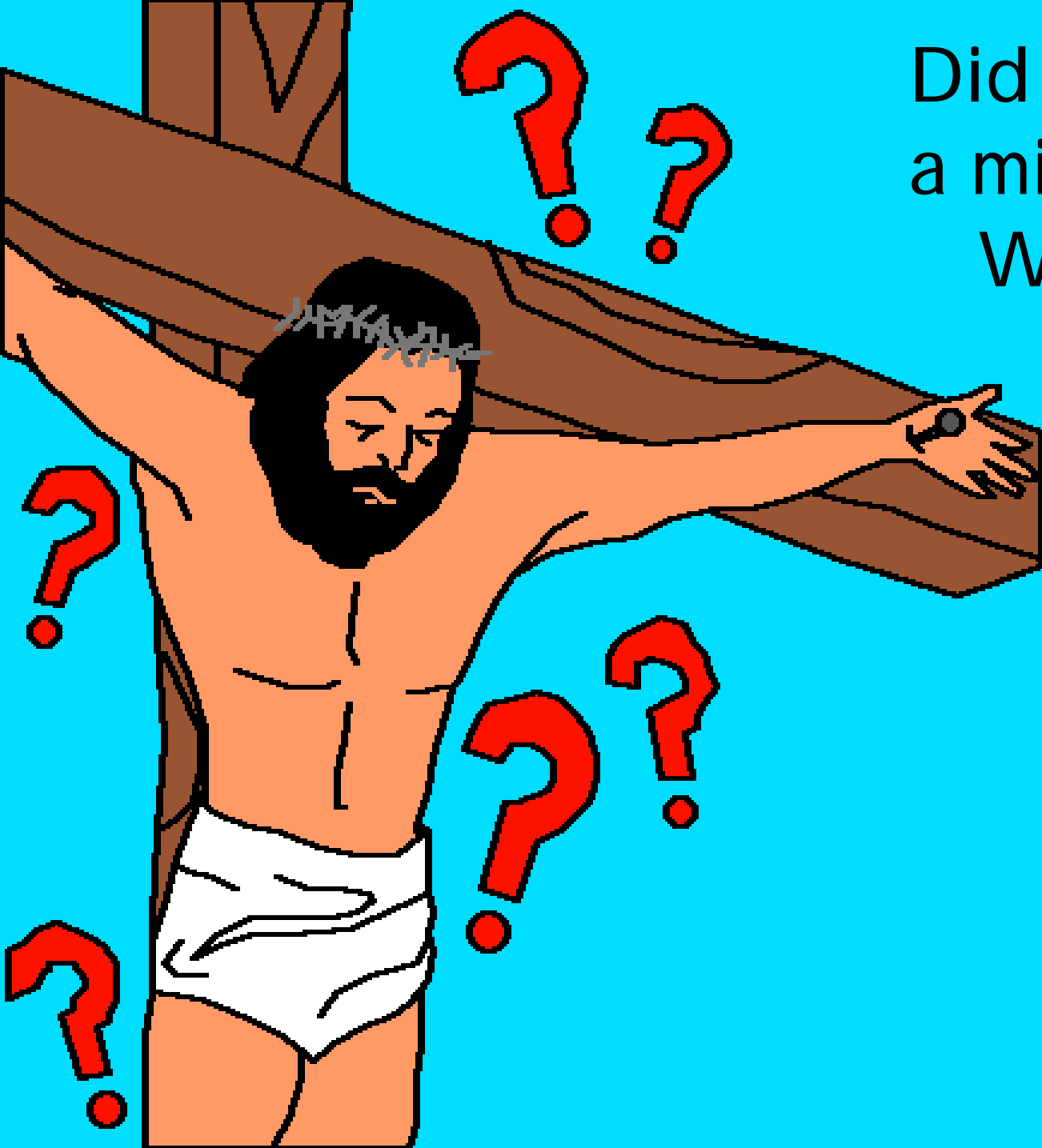
The mother was Mary, and she stood near the place where Jesus was nailed to a cross.





How did all this happen? How could Jesus end such a beautiful life in such an awful way? How could God allow His Son to be nailed to a cross to die there?





Did Jesus make
a mistake about
Who He was?
Did God
fail?



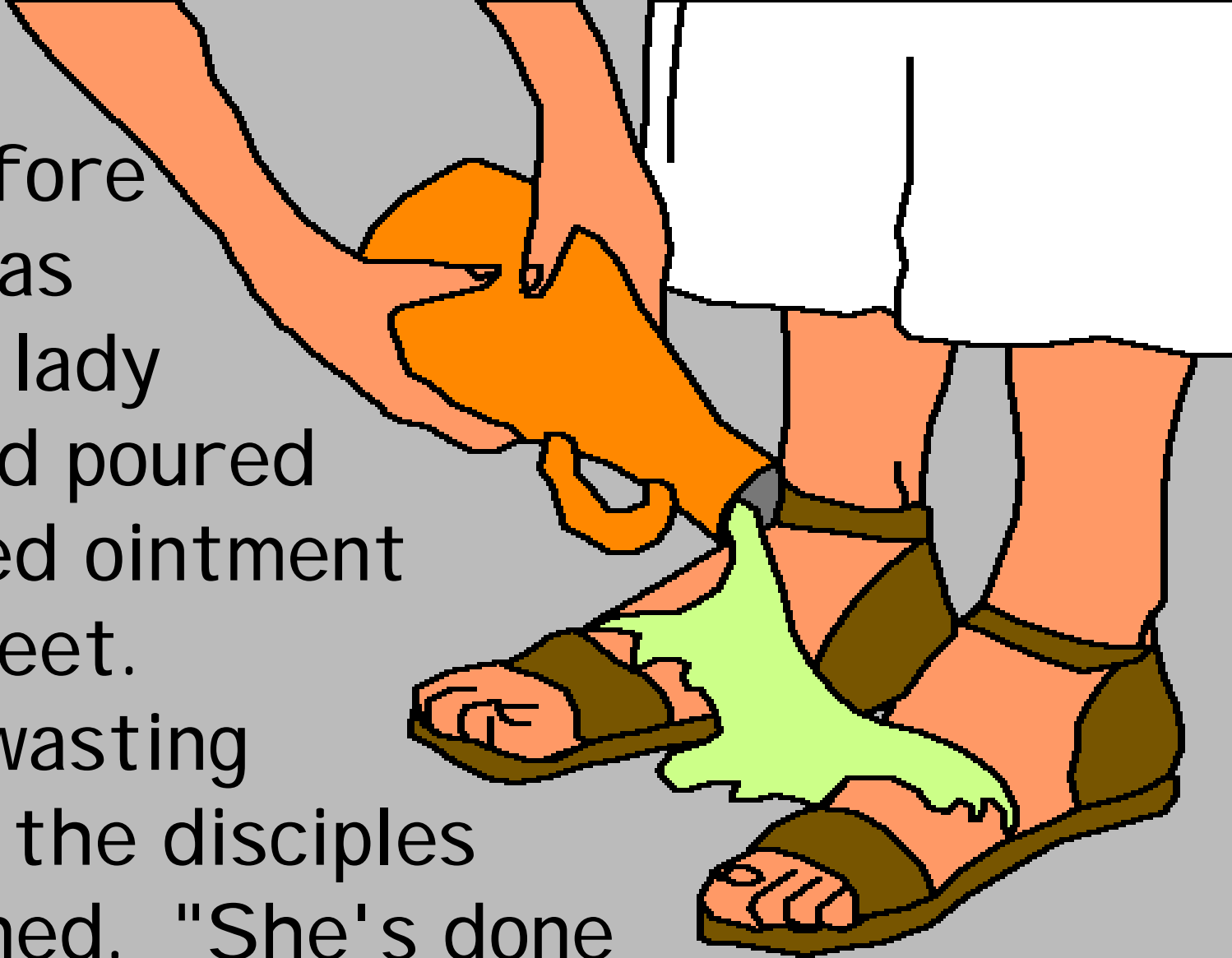


No! God didn't fail. Jesus hadn't made any mistake. Jesus always knew He would be put to death by wicked men. Even when Jesus was a baby, an old man named Simeon had told Mary that sadness lay ahead.

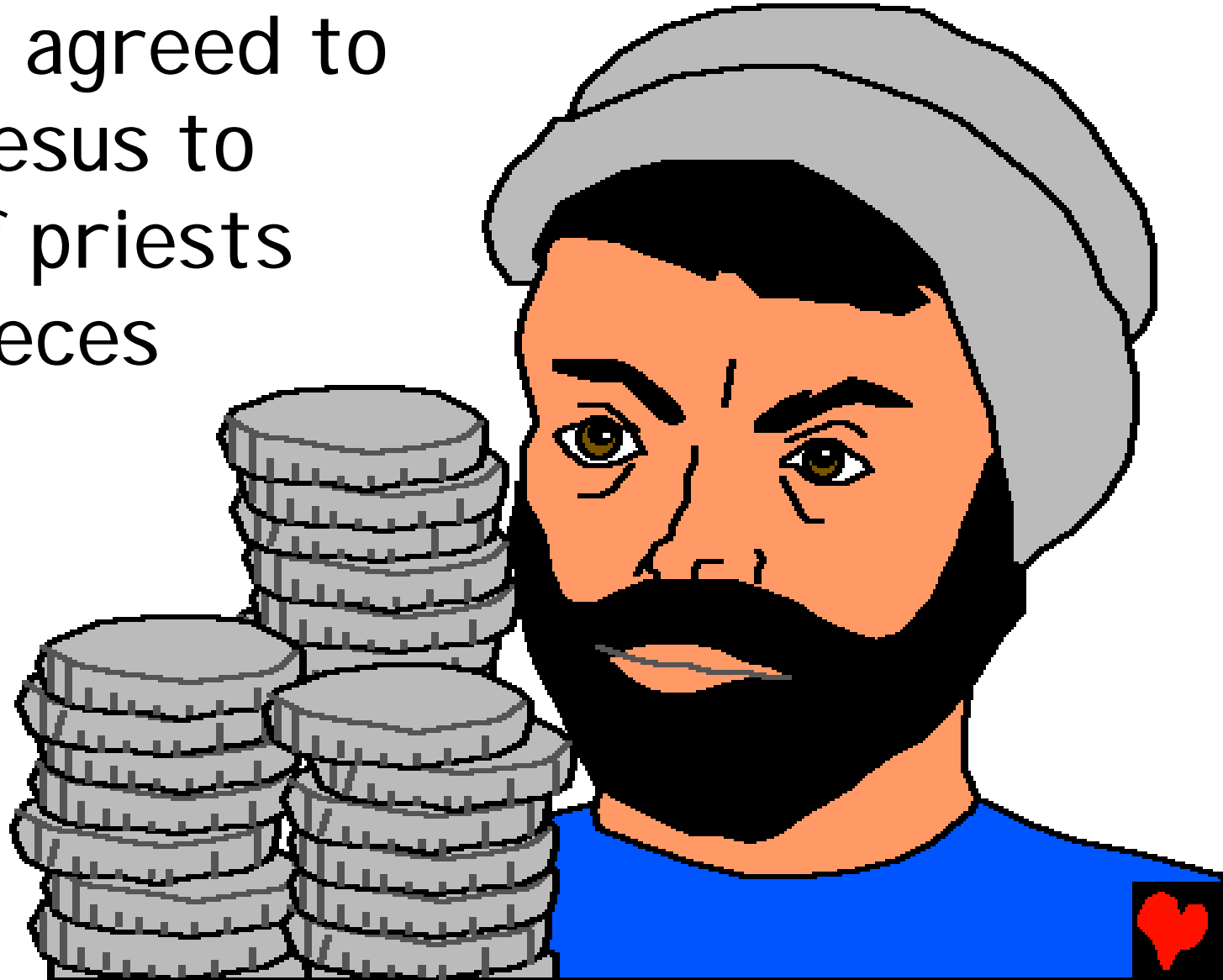


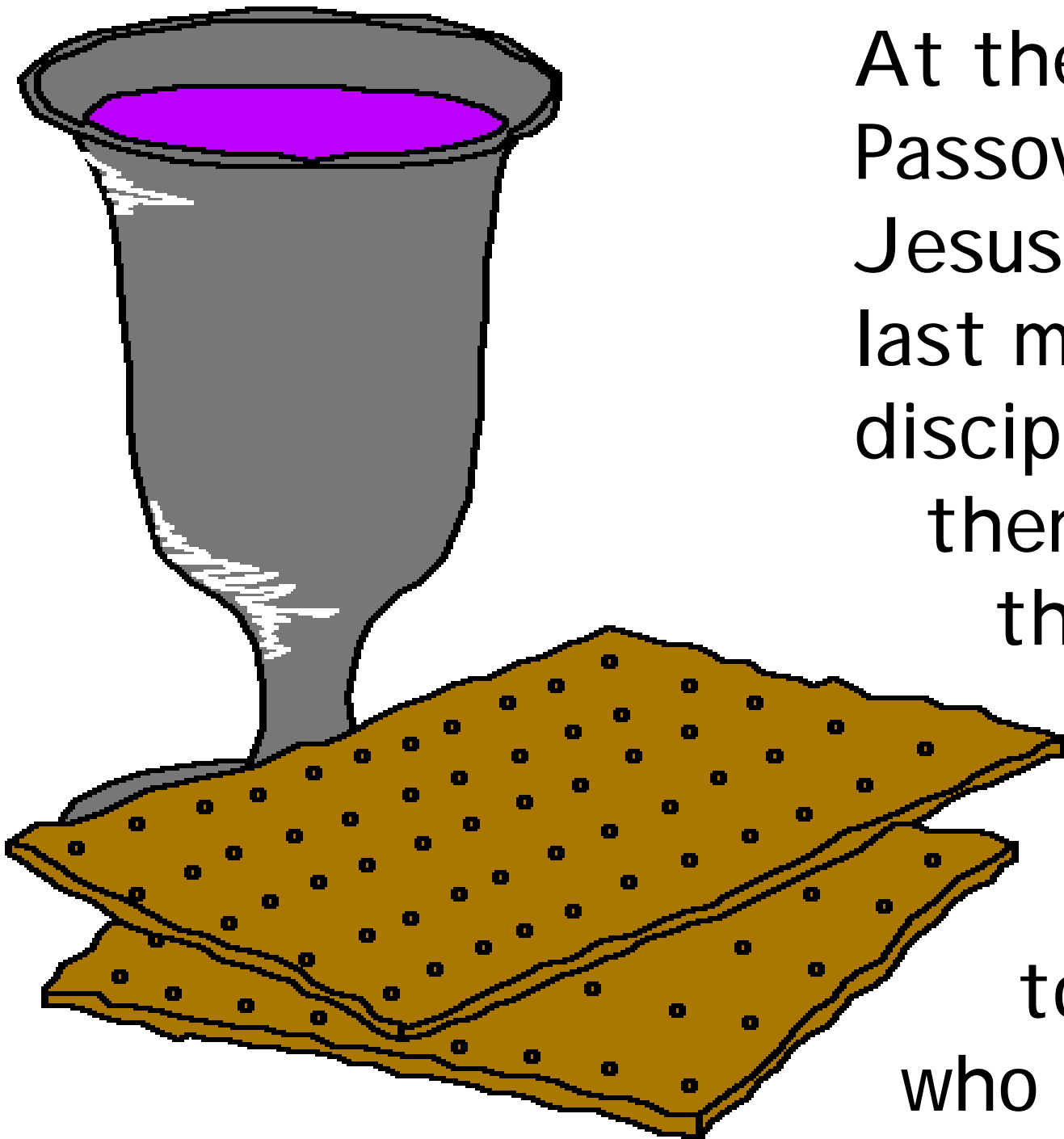
A few days before Jesus was killed, a lady came and poured perfumed ointment on His feet.

"She's wasting money," the disciples complained. "She's done a good work," Jesus said. "She did it for my burial." What strange words!



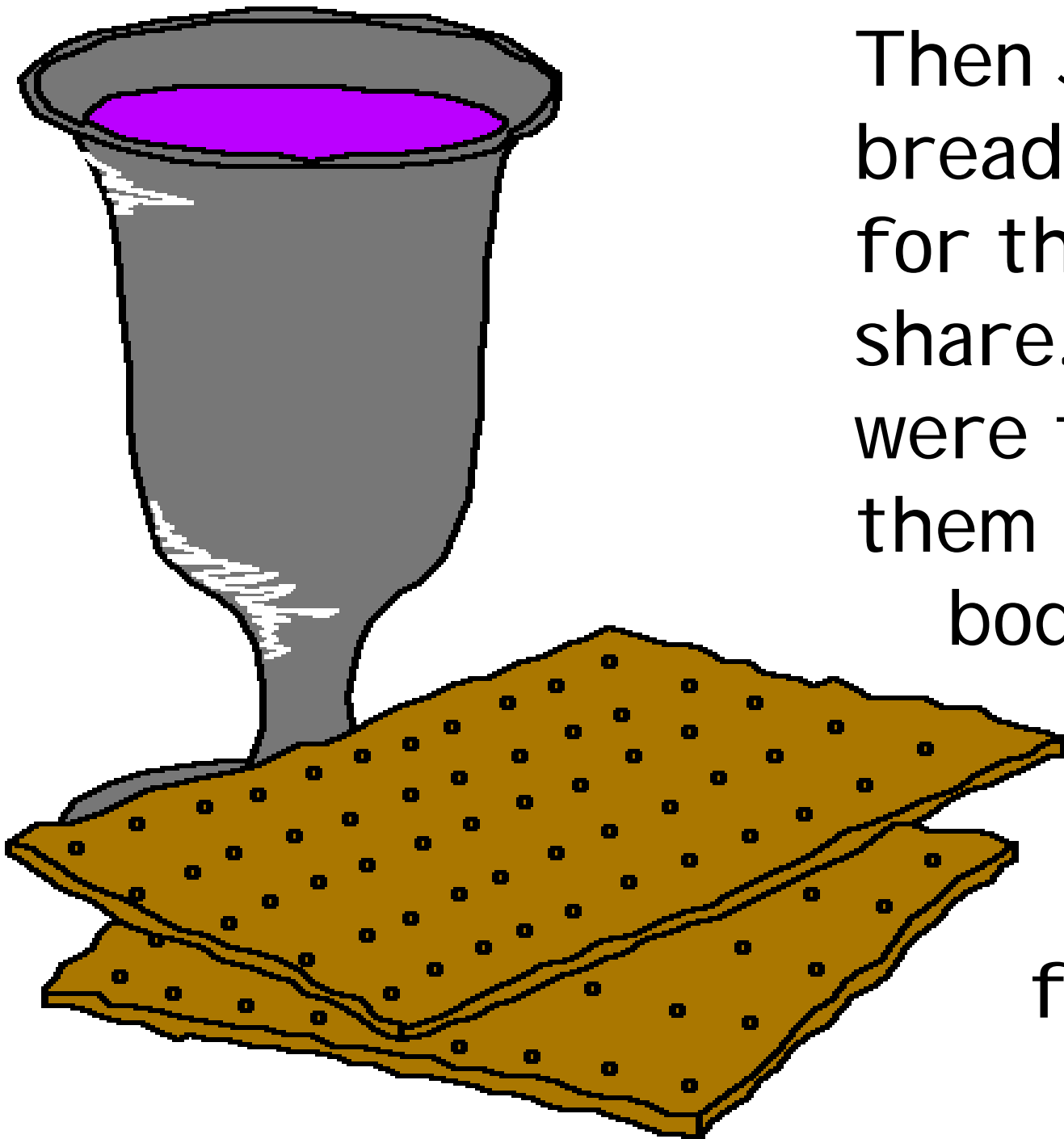
After this, Judas,
one of Jesus' twelve
disciples, agreed to
betray Jesus to
the chief priests
for 30 pieces
of silver.





At the Jewish
Passover feast,
Jesus had His
last meal with His
disciples. He told
them wonderful
things about
God
and His
promises
to those
who love Him.

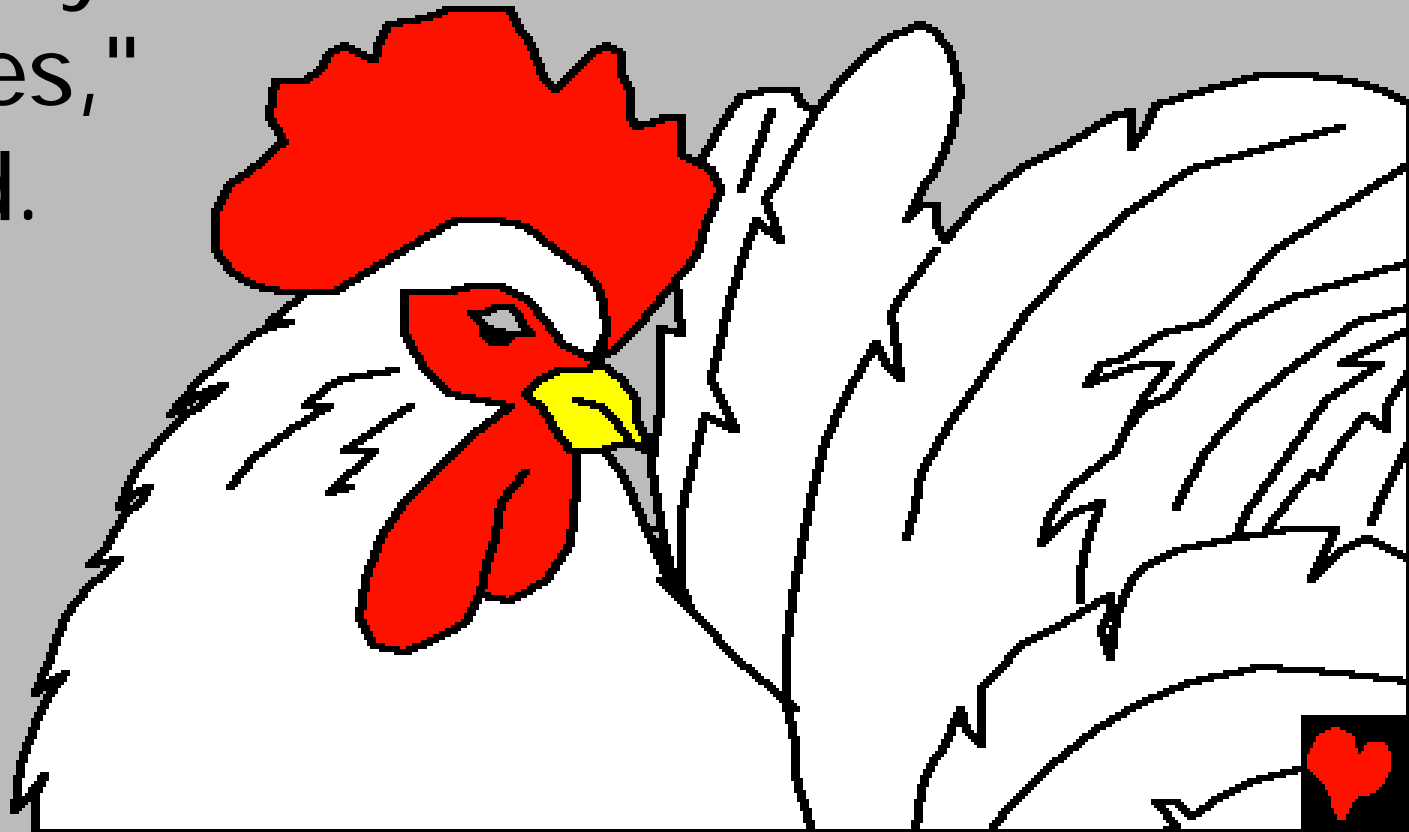




Then Jesus gave bread and a cup for them to share. These were to remind them that Jesus' body and blood were given to bring forgiveness for sins.



Then Jesus told His friends that He would be betrayed, and they would run away. "I won't run away," Peter insisted. "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times," Jesus said.





Later that night, Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. The disciples who were with Him fell asleep. "O My Father," Jesus prayed, "... Let this cup pass from Me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."



Suddenly a mob marched into the garden, led by Judas.

Jesus did not resist, but Peter cut off a man's ear.

Quietly, Jesus touched the man's ear and healed him.

Jesus knew His arrest was part of God's will.



The mob took Jesus to the high priest's house. There, the Jewish leaders said

Jesus should die. Nearby, Peter stood beside the servants' fire and watched.



Three times people stared at Peter and said, "You were with Jesus!" Three

times Peter denied it, just as Jesus said he would. Peter even cursed and swore.

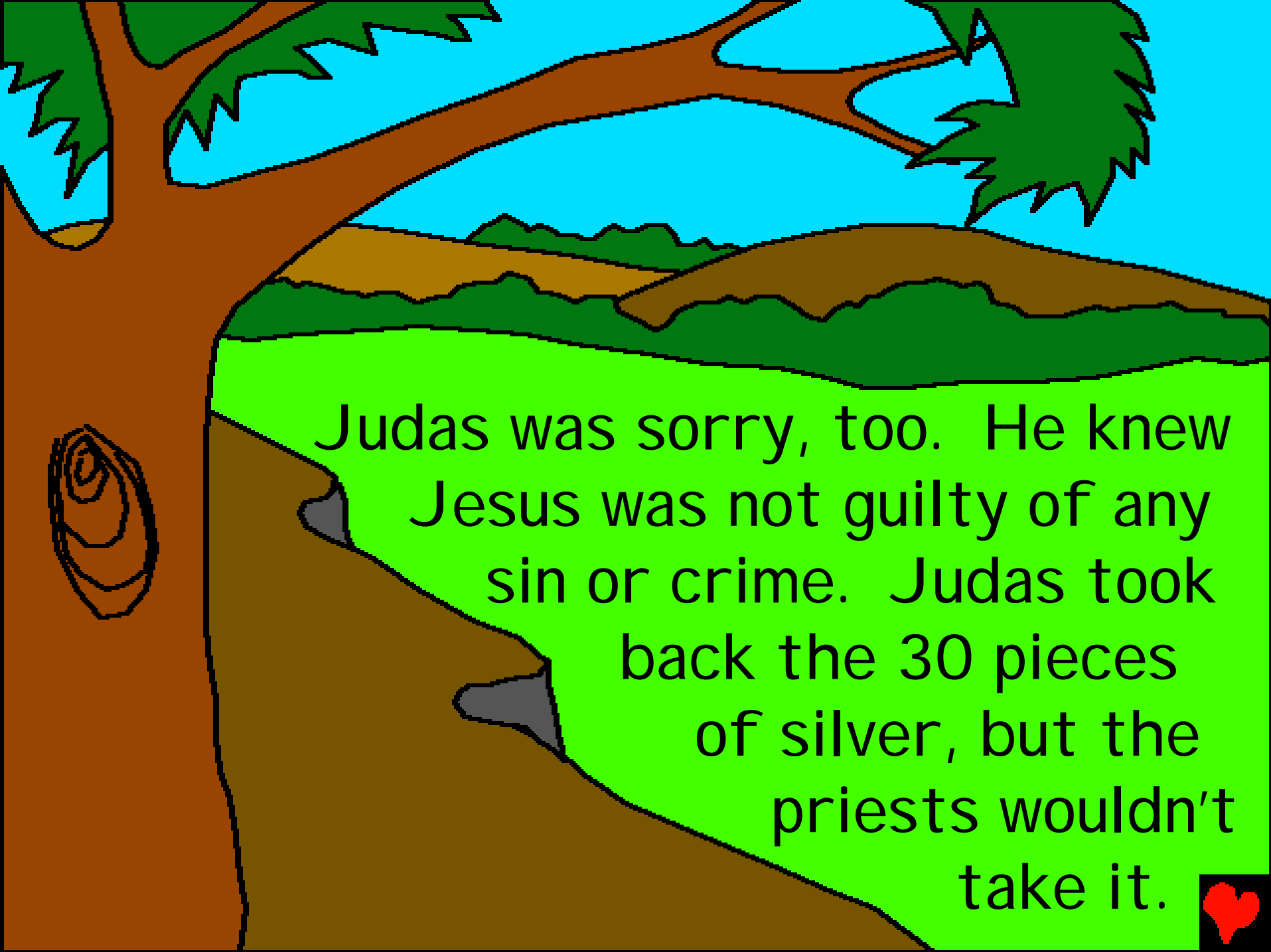


COCK-A-
DOODLE-
DOO



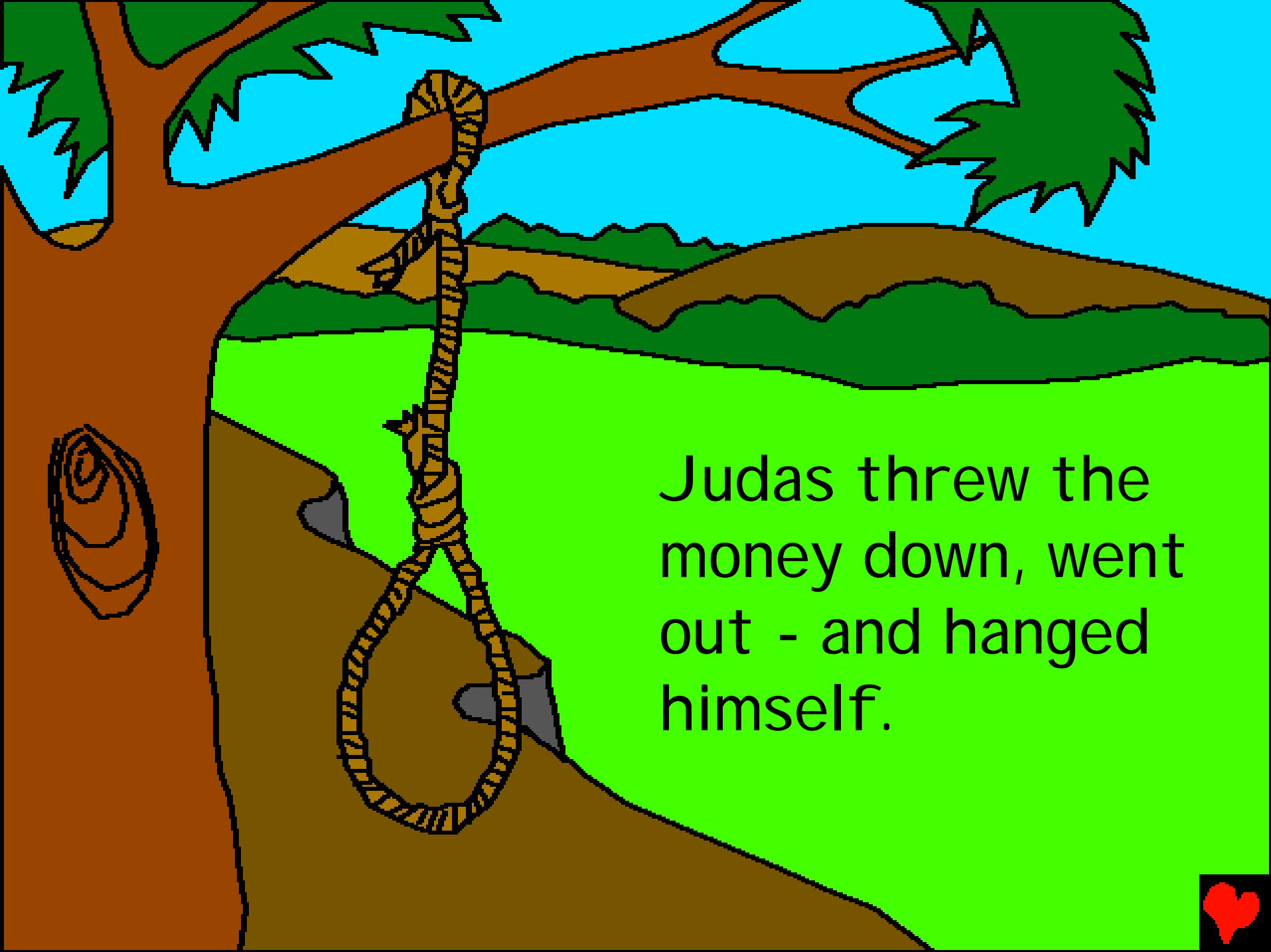
Just then, a rooster crowed. It was like God's voice to Peter. Remembering Jesus' words, Peter wept bitterly.





Judas was sorry, too. He knew Jesus was not guilty of any sin or crime. Judas took back the 30 pieces of silver, but the priests wouldn't take it.





Judas threw the money down, went out - and hanged himself.





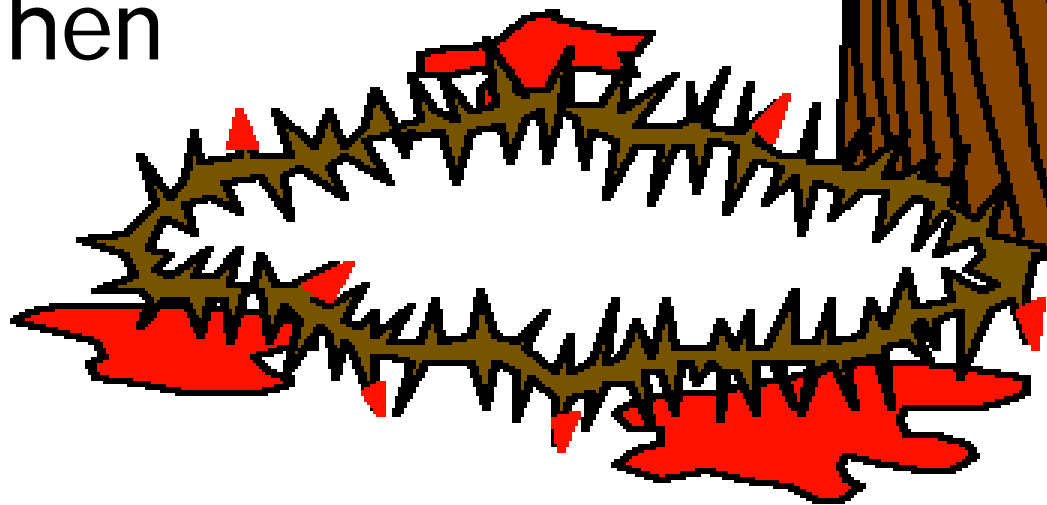
The priests brought Jesus before Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate said, "I have found no fault in this Man." But the mob kept crying,

"Crucify Him!

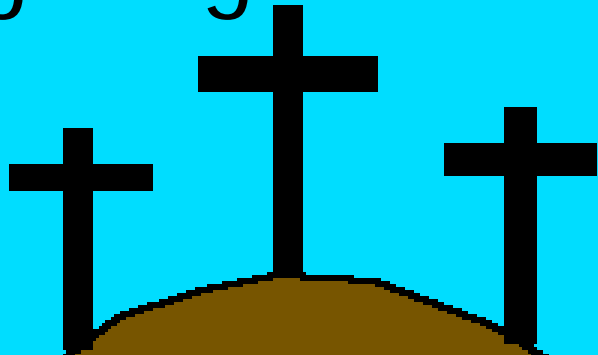
Crucify Him!"



Finally Pilate gave in, and sentenced Jesus to die on a cross. The soldiers punched Jesus, spit in His face, and whipped Him. They made a cruel crown of long sharp thorns and pressed it onto His head. Then they nailed Him to a wooden cross to die.



Jesus always knew He would die that way. He also knew that His death would bring forgiveness for sinners who put



their trust in Him.

Two criminals were crucified beside

Jesus. One believed

on Jesus - and

went to Paradise.

The other

didn't.



After hours of suffering, Jesus said, "It is finished," and died. His work was completed.

Friends buried Him in a private tomb.

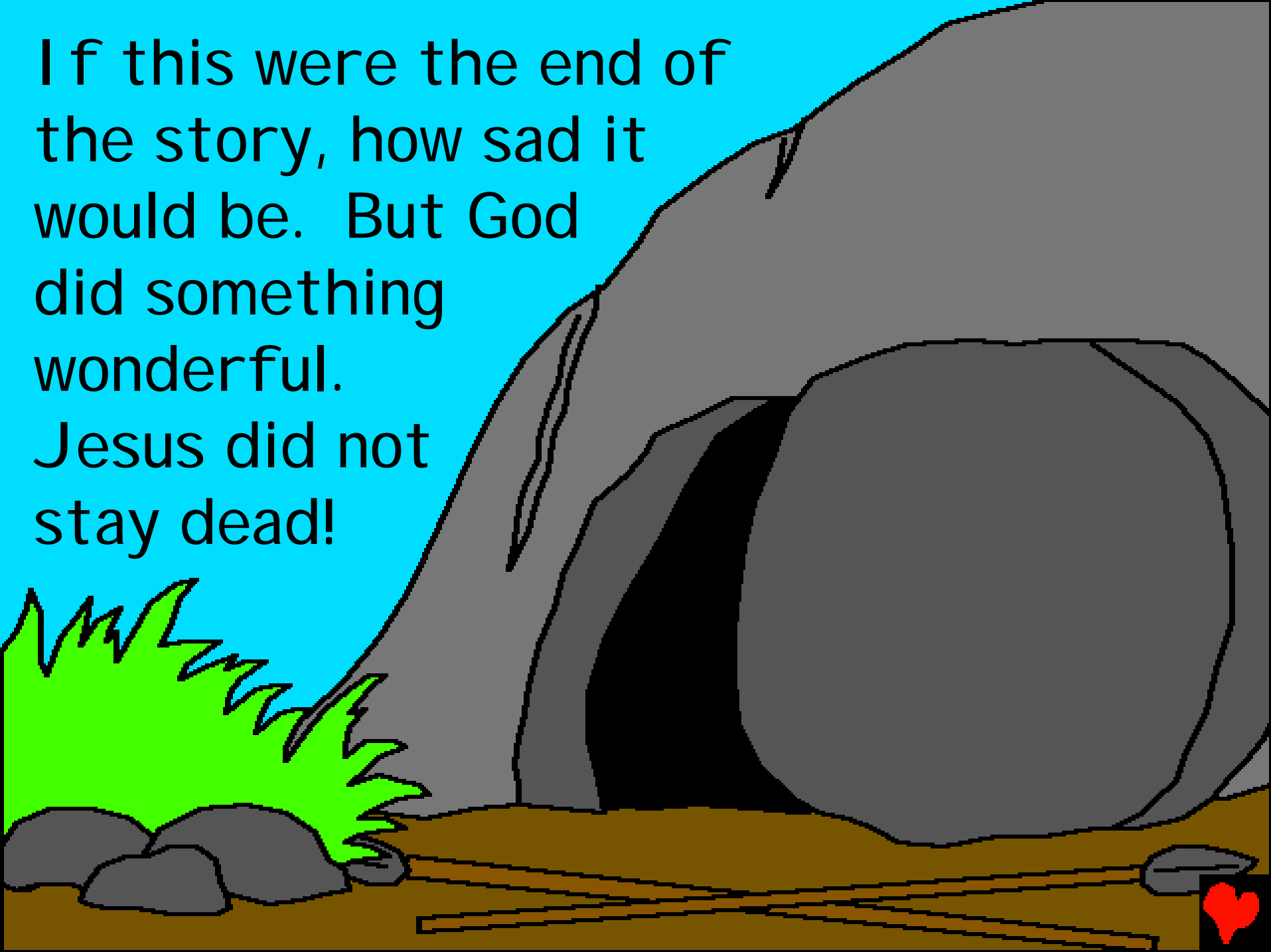


Then Roman soldiers sealed and guarded the tomb. Now nobody could get in - or out.

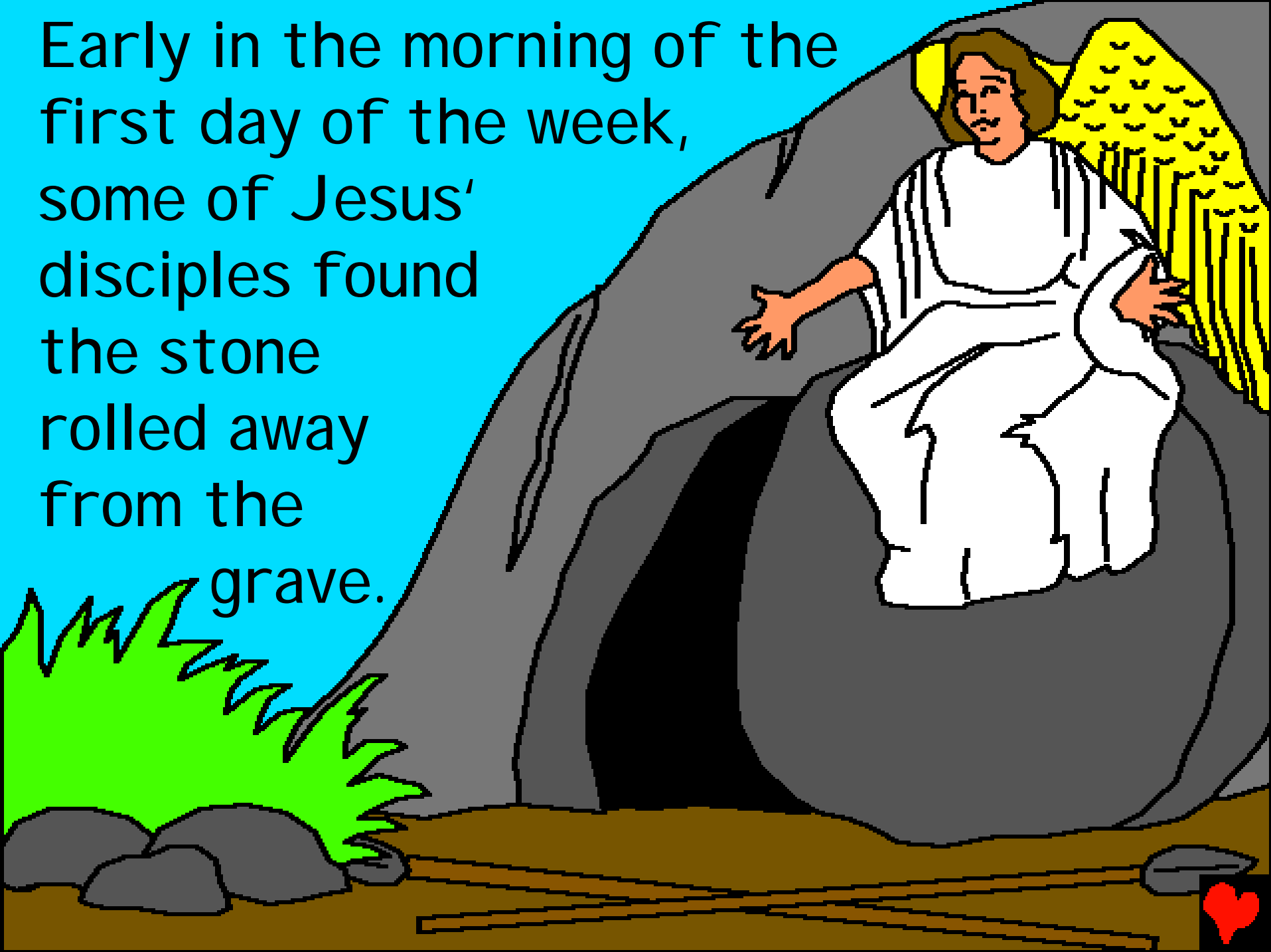


If this were the end of the story, how sad it would be. But God did something wonderful.

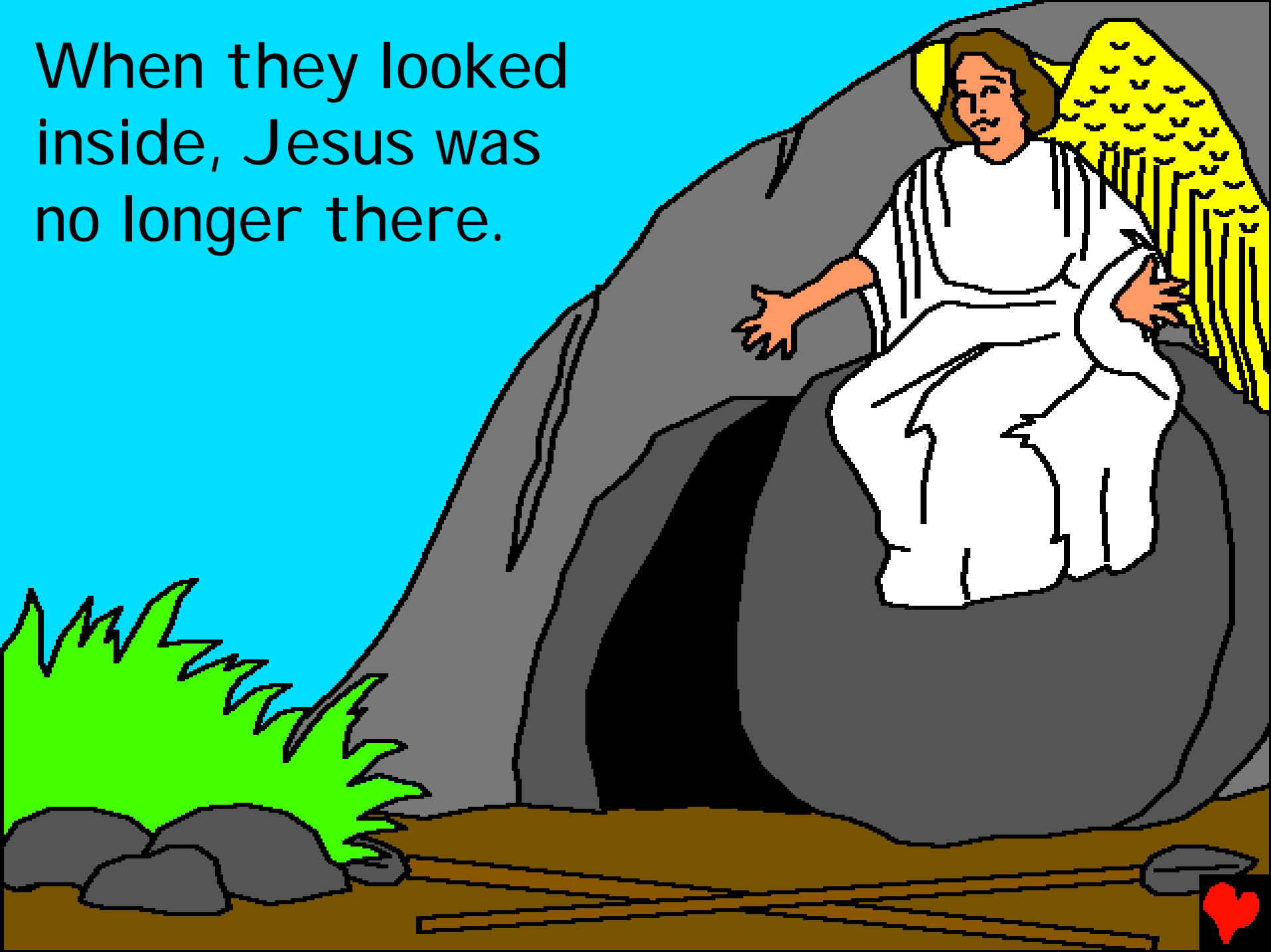
Jesus did not stay dead!



Early in the morning of the first day of the week, some of Jesus' disciples found the stone rolled away from the grave.



When they looked inside, Jesus was no longer there.

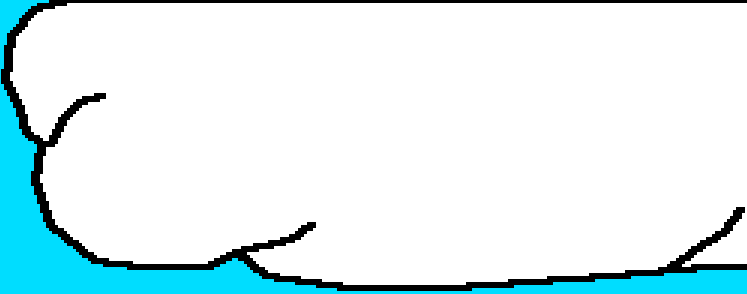


One woman stayed, weeping by the tomb. Jesus appeared to her! She rushed back joyfully to tell the other disciples.



"JESUS IS ALIVE!
JESUS HAS COME
BACK FROM
THE DEAD!"





Soon Jesus came to the disciples, and showed them His nail-scarred hands. It was true. **JESUS WAS ALIVE AGAIN!** He forgave Peter for denying Him, and told His disciples to tell everybody about Him. Then He went back to heaven where He had come from that first Christmas.



The First Easter

A story from God's Word, the Bible,
is found in

Matthew 26-28, Luke 22-24, John 13-21

"The entrance of Your Word gives light."
Psalm 119:130



The End

