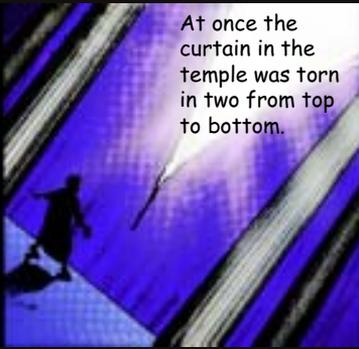


Once again
Jesus
shouted,



and then
he died.

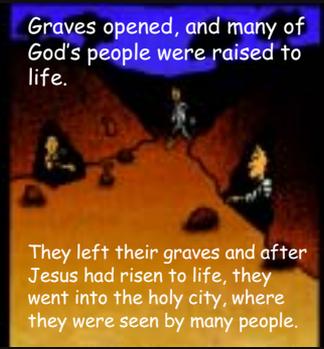
At once the
curtain in the
temple was torn
in two from top
to bottom.



The earth shook,
and rocks split
apart.



Graves opened, and many of
God's people were raised to
life.



They left their graves and after
Jesus had risen to life, they
went into the holy city, where
they were seen by many people.

The officer and the soldiers guarding
Jesus felt the earthquake and saw
everything else that happened.



They were frightened and said,

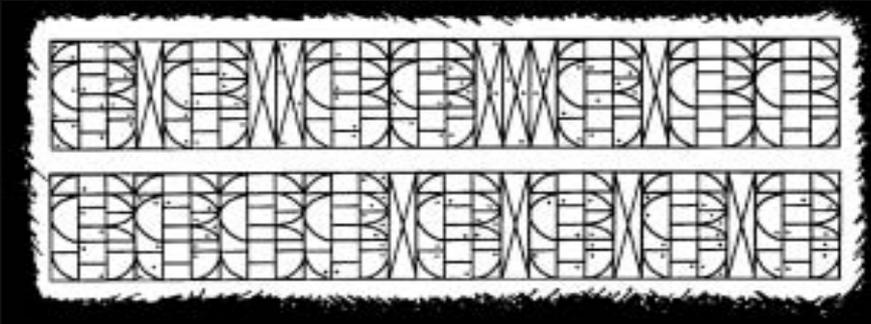
"This man really
was God's son!"

Too late . . . Jesus was God's son, but he was dead . . . it was all over.
OR WAS IT?!

3 days after Jesus died, God raised him back to life to show that everything that
Jesus said was true!

God really does want us to be a part of his family and live for ever with him.

Colour in the dots on this picture to find out how you can live for ever.



This story is taken from the Contemporary English version of the Bible
(John 11:47b-48; Luke 23:9-11, 13-18a, 20-21; Matthew 27:45-54). If you don't have
a Bible, you can get one from your local Canadian Bible Society bookstore.

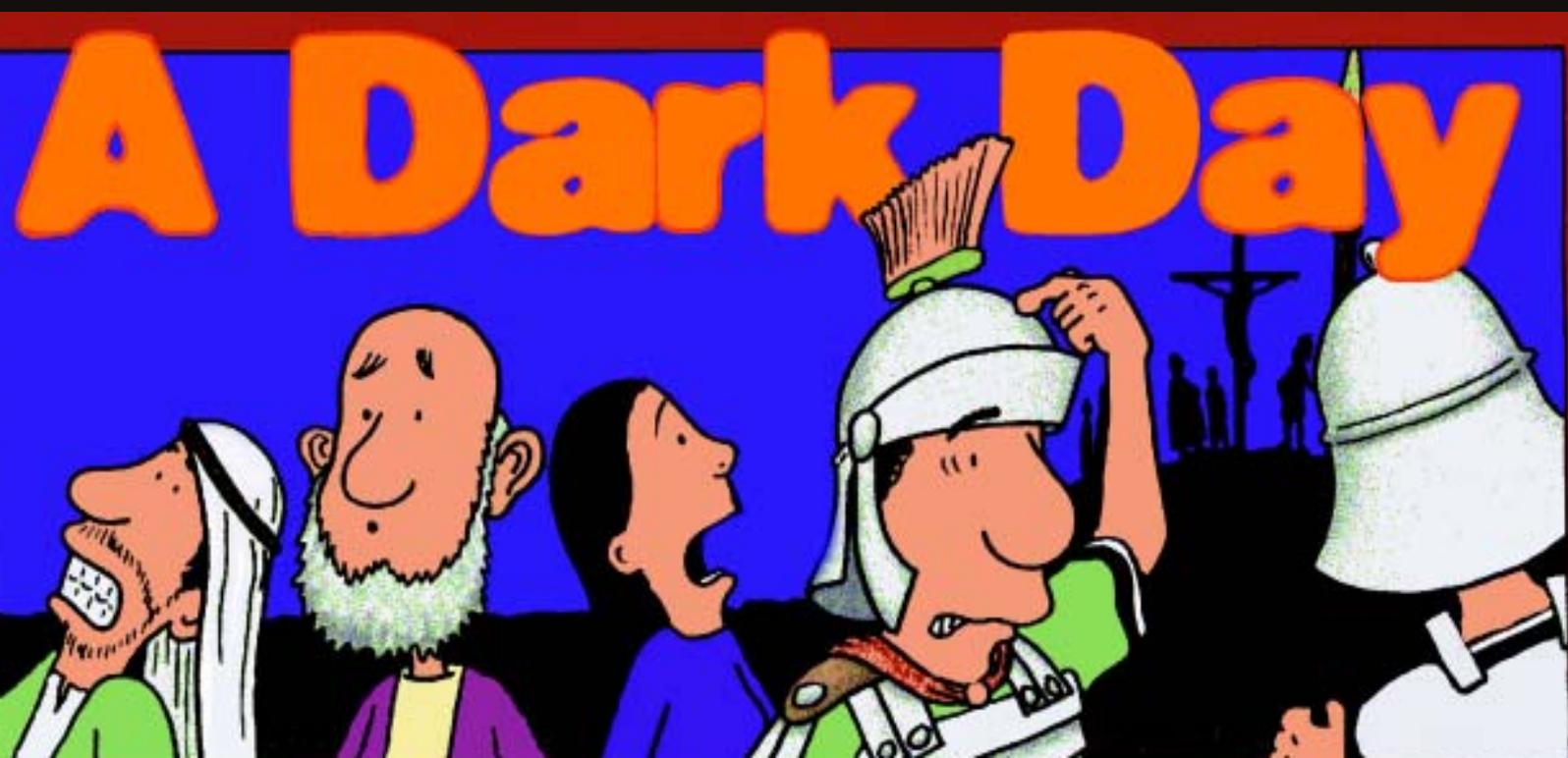
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10 Carnforth Road, Toronto, ON M4A 2S4
401001208

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'A Dark Day' is about what happened to Jesus. We don't know what he looked like, but history tells us he was a real person who lived about 2000 years ago.



He was a normal kid, but God had said that he would be a very special person. When Jesus grew up, he healed people who were sick. He walked on water. He said that God wanted all people to be a part of his family. He even brought dead people back to life! All this showed that God was with Jesus, giving him the power to do all the things he did.

Jesus talked so much about God, and so many people followed him and believed what he said, that the religious rulers of the time got worried. They were scared because so many people were following Jesus, so they called a meeting and said,

"WHAT SHOULD WE DO? THIS MAN IS WORKING A LOT OF MIRACLES. IF WE DON'T STOP HIM NOW, EVERYONE WILL PUT THEIR FAITH IN HIM. THEN THE ROMANS WILL COME AND DESTROY OUR TEMPLE AND OUR NATION."



They had him arrested, and put on trial for his life. They sent him to the Roman Governor, Pilate, who couldn't see anything wrong with Jesus. Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people. He told them,

"YOU BROUGHT JESUS TO ME AND SAID HE WAS A TROUBLEMAKER. BUT I'VE QUESTIONED HIM HERE IN FRONT OF YOU, AND I HAVEN'T FOUND HIM GUILTY OF ANYTHING THAT YOU SAY HE HAS DONE. HEROD DIDN'T FIND HIM GUILTY EITHER AND SENT HIM BACK. THIS MAN DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE PUT TO DEATH! I'LL JUST HAVE HIM BEATEN WITH A WHIP AND SET FREE."



But the whole crowd shouted,

"KILL JESUS!"

... Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, so he spoke again to the crowds. But they kept shouting,

"NAIL HIM TO A CROSS! NAIL HIM TO A CROSS!"



Finally Pilate gave in to the crowd, and handed Jesus over to be nailed to a cross.

At noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until three o'clock.

Then about that time Jesus shouted,

"Eli, Eli, lema sabachtani?"

*which means, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

Some of the people standing there heard Jesus and said,

"He's calling for Elijah#."

One of them at once ran and grabbed a sponge. He soaked it in wine, then put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus.

Others said,

"Wait! Let's see if Elijah# will come and save him."

#Elijah was a man who spoke for God 800 years before Jesus was born.

