

Palm Sunday

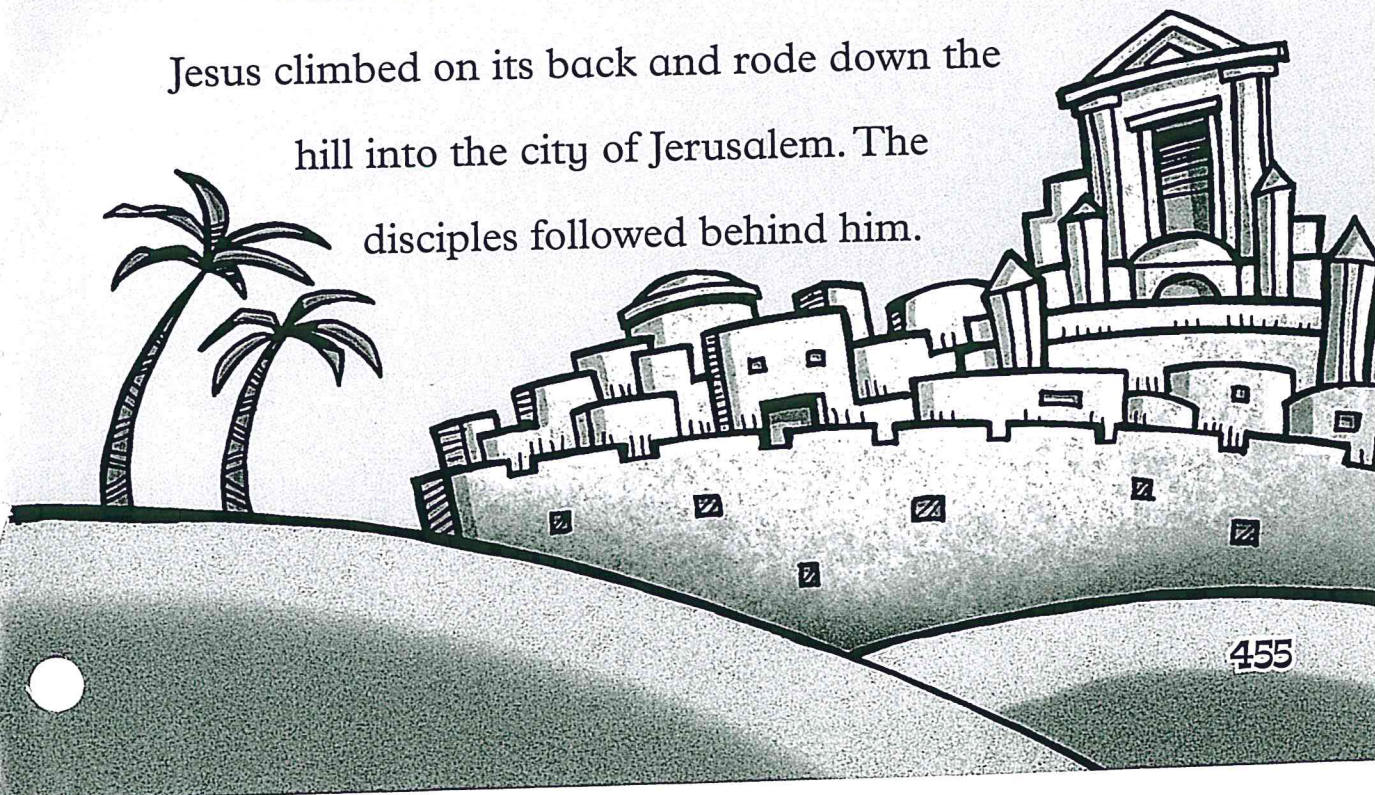
“Friends!” Jesus said to his disciples. “I need to go to Jerusalem. I’ve got some important things to do and I want to celebrate Passover with you there. Will you come with me?”



“Sure!” said the disciples. “Passover is a great holiday! Such good food! And what a wonderful story Passover celebrates—the exodus of God’s people, the Israelites, from Egypt! It’s good to be with friends and family at Passover.” So Jesus and his friends started to go to Jerusalem.

When they got close to the city, Jesus said, “I’d like two of you to go borrow a donkey in the next village over. Please tell the owner I need it. He’ll understand.”

When the two friends came back with a donkey, Jesus climbed on its back and rode down the hill into the city of Jerusalem. The disciples followed behind him.



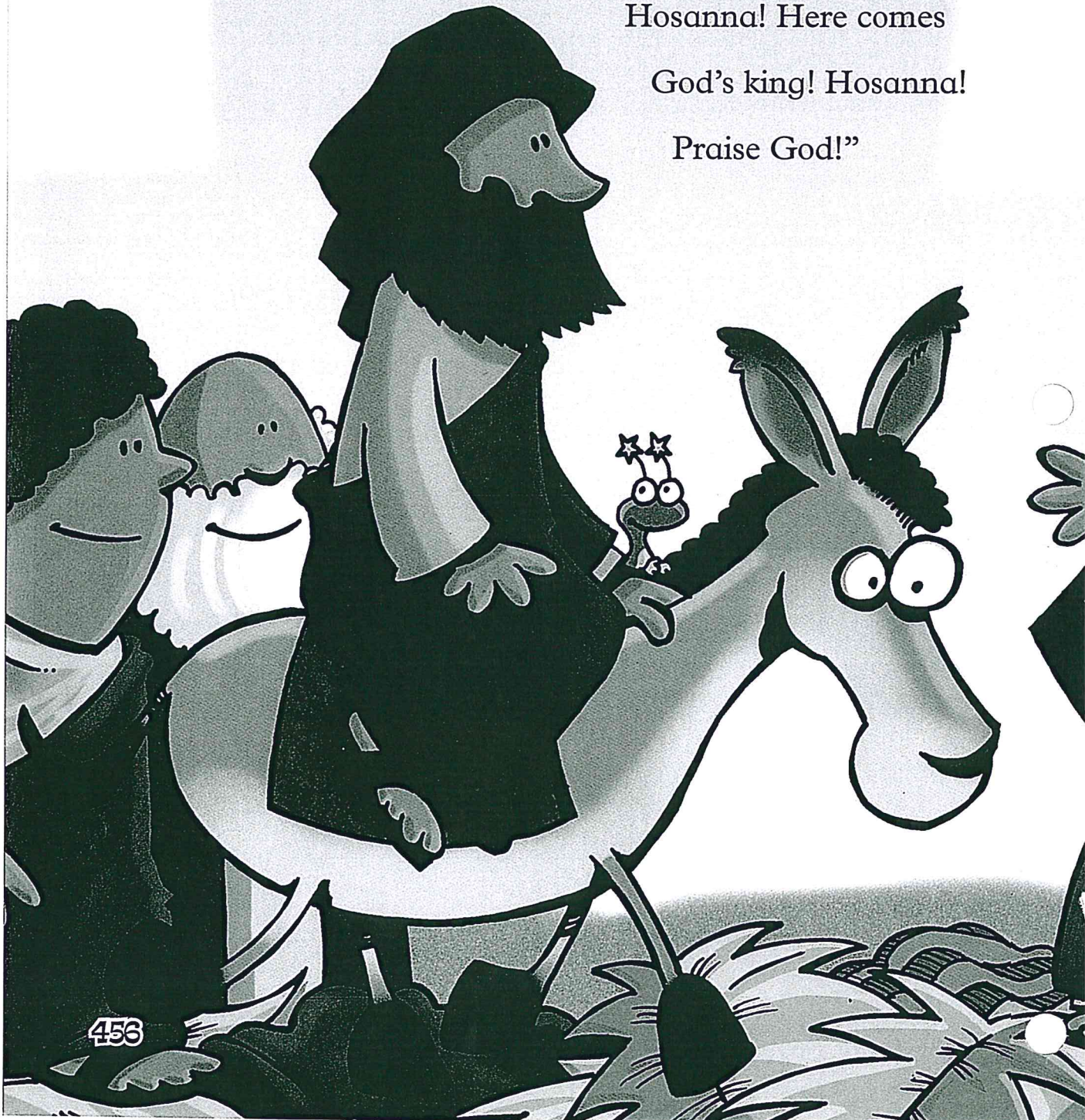
Suddenly, they found themselves in a parade!

People were singing and shouting, "Hosanna!

Hosanna! Here comes

God's king! Hosanna!

Praise God!"



People all over heard the shouting and singing and they joined the parade too. Hundreds of people! Thousands of people! They started taking off their coats and laying them on the ground for Jesus and the donkey to walk on. They pulled palm branches down from the trees and waved them as they sang. Then they threw their palms on the ground to make a path for Jesus.



The crowds gave Jesus a royal welcome as he rode into the city, just like a king. But Jesus was a very different king—he was a king of peace. Not everyone understood that. Jesus was not at all what they were expecting.

They thought the crowd was too loud and the parade was getting too big. “Who is that man?” someone asked. “What’s going on here?” asked another. The crowd answered, “This is Jesus! God’s King! He has come to save us!” Some of the religious leaders



murmured, “Hush! Jesus, tell your friends to be quiet—
it’s way too loud here!”

But Jesus said, “We can try to make these people
be quiet, but that wouldn’t make a difference because
today the whole earth is celebrating!”

★ *Make your own palm out of
green paper and pretend you
are in the parade. Shout,
“Hosanna! Praise God!”*

