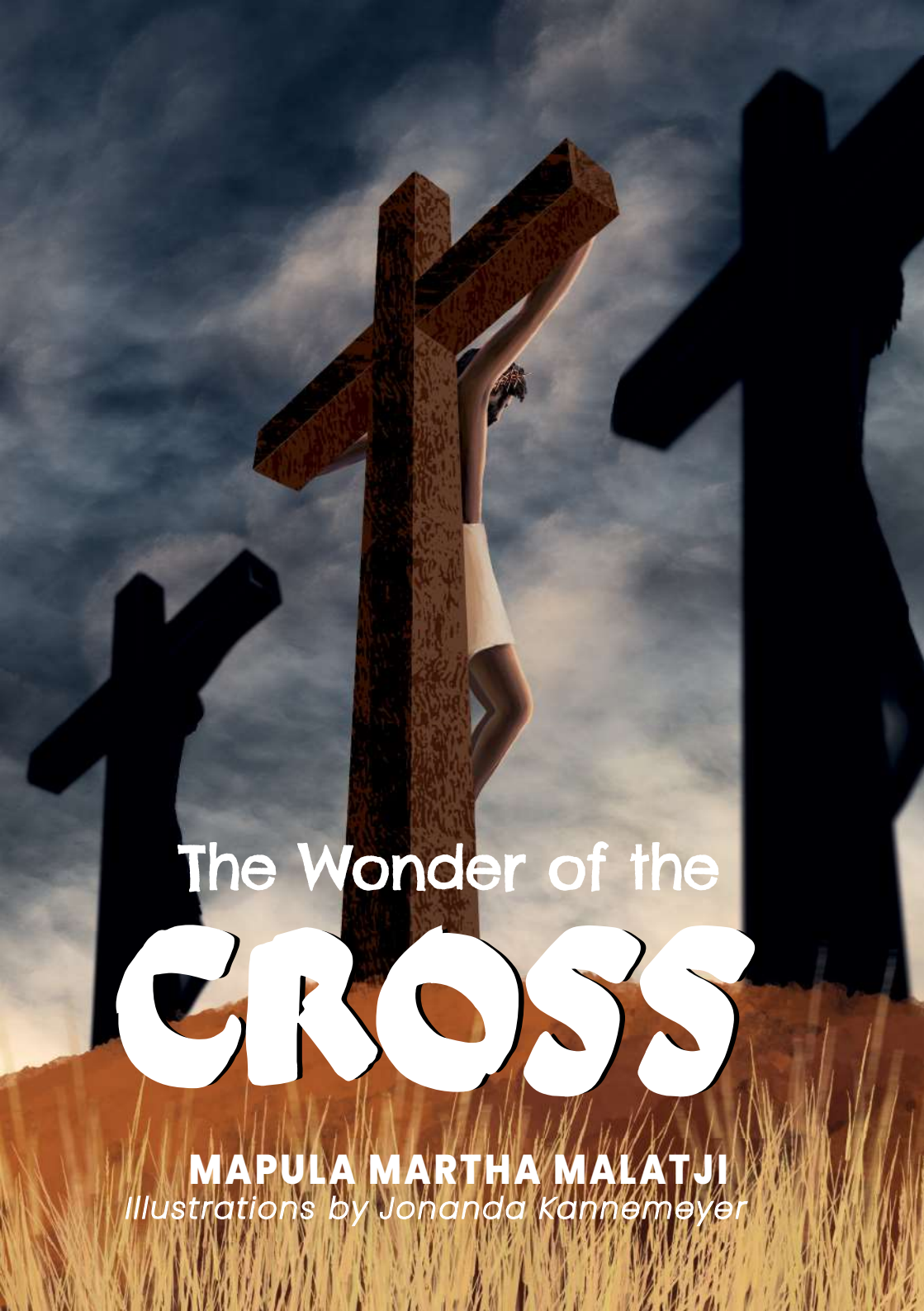


The Wonder of the CROSS

MAPULA MARTHA MALATJI
Illustrations by Jonanda Kannemeyer

THE WONDER OF THE CROSS

© 2023 One Heart
First Edition 2023
Printed in South Africa
ISBN: 9781776475742

This book is open-source and should not be sold for profit. This book is downloadable on www.oneheartforkids.co.za

This book may be shared electronically or in printed format with permission in writing from the publisher. This book may not be altered or changed in any manner. All rights are reserved. For permission requests or other inquiries, please contact the publisher.

One Heart
17 Pelikaan Street
Stellenbosch, 7600
South Africa
www.oneheartforkids.co.za

Author: Dr. Mapula Martha Malatji
Illustrator: Jonanda Kannemeyer
Editor and Proofreader: Lisa Thompson-Smeddle
Typesetter and Layout: Imprint Publishing

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE STORY

MATTHEW 26-28,
LUKE 22 and JOHN 20

The Wonder of the CROSS

The traditional celebration of Passover was near, and Jesus asked Peter and John to prepare the big upper room to celebrate their last supper together.

Jesus took bread and broke it. He said, “This is My body broken for you. Do this to remember Me,” and He shared the bread with His followers.

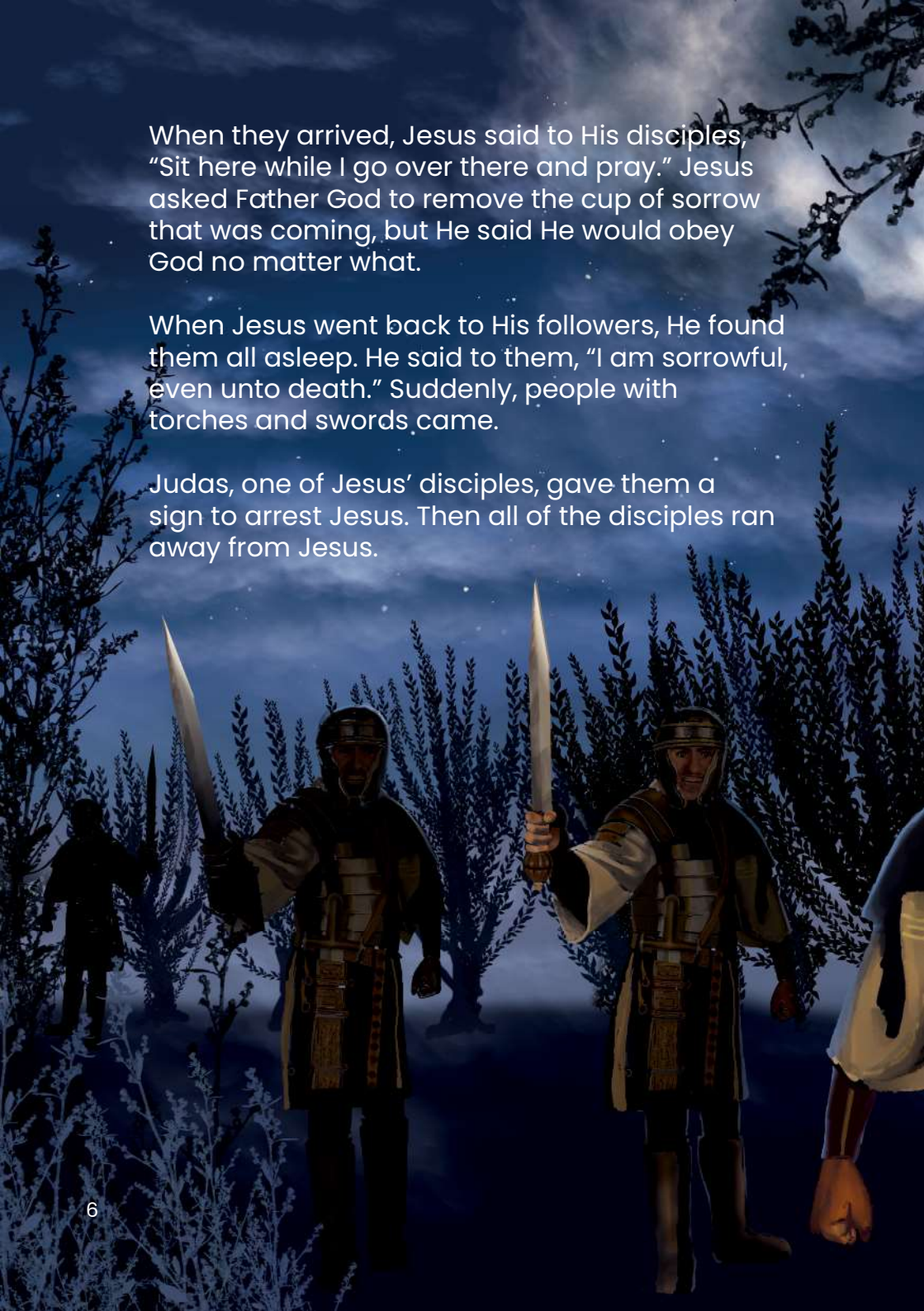
Then He shared wine with them and told them it was His blood, which would be shed to forgive everyone from sin.

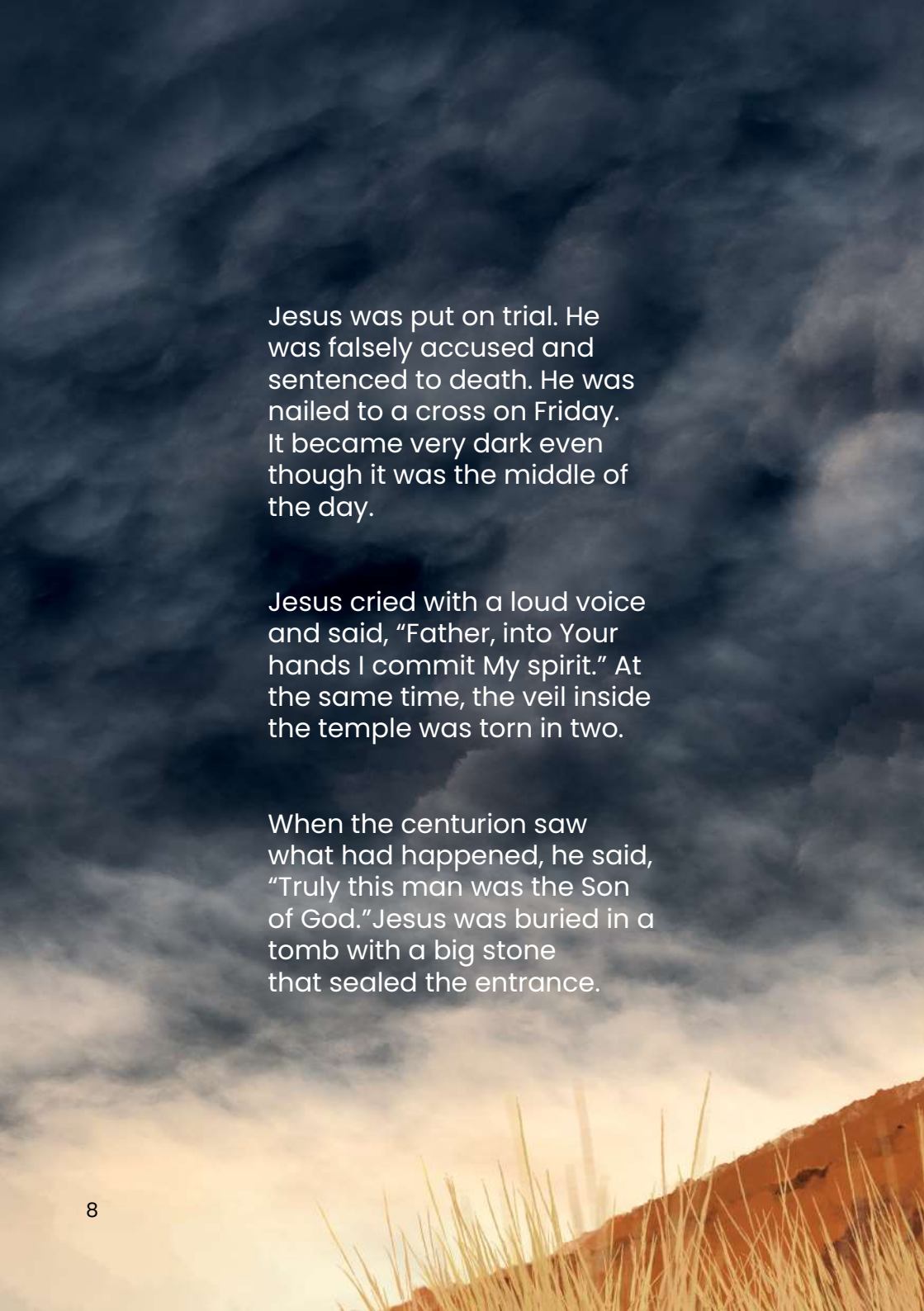
After supper Jesus and His followers went to a place called Gethsemane, on the Mount of Olives.

When they arrived, Jesus said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." Jesus asked Father God to remove the cup of sorrow that was coming, but He said He would obey God no matter what.

When Jesus went back to His followers, He found them all asleep. He said to them, "I am sorrowful, even unto death." Suddenly, people with torches and swords came.

Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, gave them a sign to arrest Jesus. Then all of the disciples ran away from Jesus.





Jesus was put on trial. He was falsely accused and sentenced to death. He was nailed to a cross on Friday. It became very dark even though it was the middle of the day.

Jesus cried with a loud voice and said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” At the same time, the veil inside the temple was torn in two.

When the centurion saw what had happened, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God.”Jesus was buried in a tomb with a big stone that sealed the entrance.

On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. When she arrived, she found the stone had been rolled away. Jesus' body was gone and she began to cry.

When she looked into the tomb she also saw two angels in white. One was seated at the head and the other was seated at the foot of the place where Jesus' body had been. Mary asked them where they had put Jesus.

When she turned around, she saw Jesus standing there. He was alive! So she ran and told Jesus' followers everything she had seen.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for including us in Your plan to forgive all mankind from sin. Thank You Lord that if we believe in Jesus, and believe in our hearts that He was raised from the dead, we will be saved.

Questions

1. What happened when Jesus asked His followers to pray with Him in the garden of Gethsemane?
2. Why did Jesus' followers run away from Him?
3. Why was Jesus killed on a cross?
4. What happened after Jesus was buried in the tomb?
5. Do you believe that Jesus is the Saviour? Explain your answer.

The Maponto Family

The Maponto family was a well known family in the Makhuduša village in South Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Maponto had no children.

However, they loved all of the children in the village and they were very kind to others.

When children were hungry and didn't have food at home, Mrs. Maponto would give them food to eat. The Mapontos also helped young people who didn't have money for their studies, to make sure they could continue to study and learn.

Even when parents needed to borrow a car to take their children to the clinic, they knew Mr. Maponto would help them.

The Mapontos loved God and served Him always.

Sadly, one day their car was involved in a serious accident. They were hit by a truck, and both Mr. and Mrs. Maponto died.

On the day of the funeral the pastor said, “Mr. and Mrs. Maponto were good people and loved Jesus. We know that if you believe in Jesus, when you die you will go to heaven to be with Him. Today we celebrate that the Mapontos are with Jesus in paradise.

The question is where do you and I stand? Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?

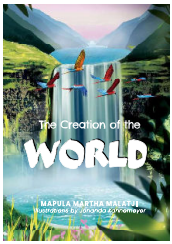
Prayer

Father God, thank You that we do not have to fear death. Thank You that if we believe that Jesus died on the cross to forgive us our sins we will go to heaven.

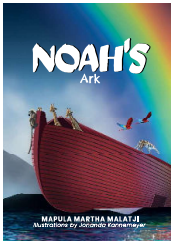
Questions

1. What were Mr. and Mrs. Maponto like?
2. How many children did the Mapontos have?
3. How did Mr. and Mrs. Maponto help people?
4. The accident was between the car and what?
5. What was the pastor's sermon about?
6. What do these stories teach us? Explain your answer.

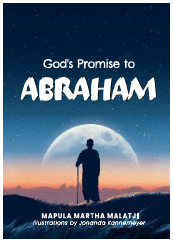
The Wonder of the Cross *is one of 20 books featuring 10 Old Testament (OT) and 10 New Testament (NT) stories, each with a practical reflection story based on the Bible story.*



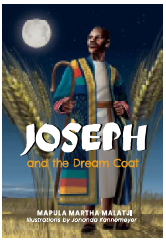
OT Book_1



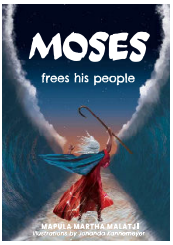
OT Book_2



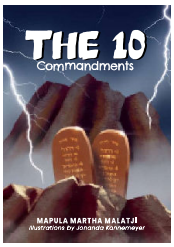
OT Book_3



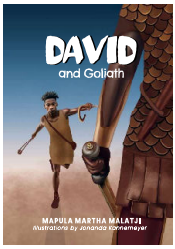
OT Book_4



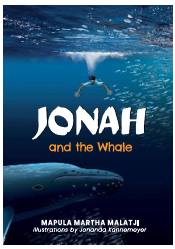
OT Book_5



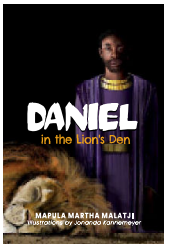
OT Book_6



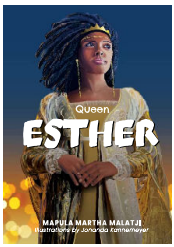
OT Book_7



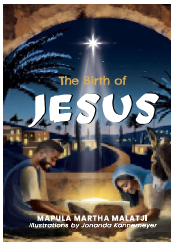
OT Book_8



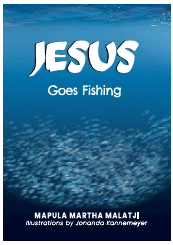
OT Book_9



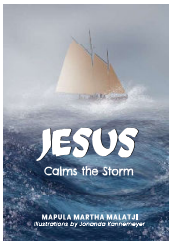
OT Book_10



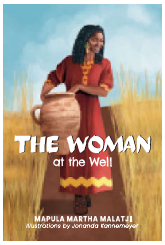
NT Book_1



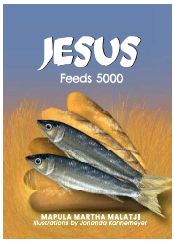
NT Book_2



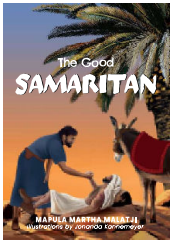
NT Book_3



NT Book_4



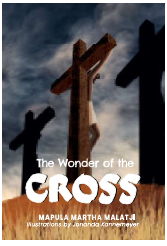
NT Book_5



NT Book_6

NT Book_7

NT Book_8



NT Book_9

NT Book_10

The Wonder of the Cross

In this story we will learn about Jesus' last supper with His friends, how He was arrested, falsely accused and sent to His death. We will also learn about how He rose from the dead to save you and me.

The Maponto Family

In this story we will learn about Mr. and Mrs. Maponto. A man and woman who loved Jesus, helped their community and went home to be with Christ.

9781776475742
English