

Echo Echo Memory Verse Game

You will say a word or phrase of the memory verse below while doing some sort of action—sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch your toes, etc. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. The students will “echo” what you say and do as you recite the verse. Repeat several times. Switch around and let older students take turns leading.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.” (ESV)

Pass the Basket

Materials

- ☐ Basket filled with chocolate eggs or other small, wrapped candies
- ☐ Optional: seasonal or praise music

Instructions

Have students sit in a circle or at tables and pass the basket around until you say “Stop” or pause the music. The student holding the basket shares a favorite thing about Easter (or a memory or tradition) then takes one treat from the basket. Say “Go” and restart the music to have students continue passing. Continue until all students have had a chance to share and take a treat. Watch closely to stop the music at the right time to avoid repeats.

Easter Picture Hunt

Materials

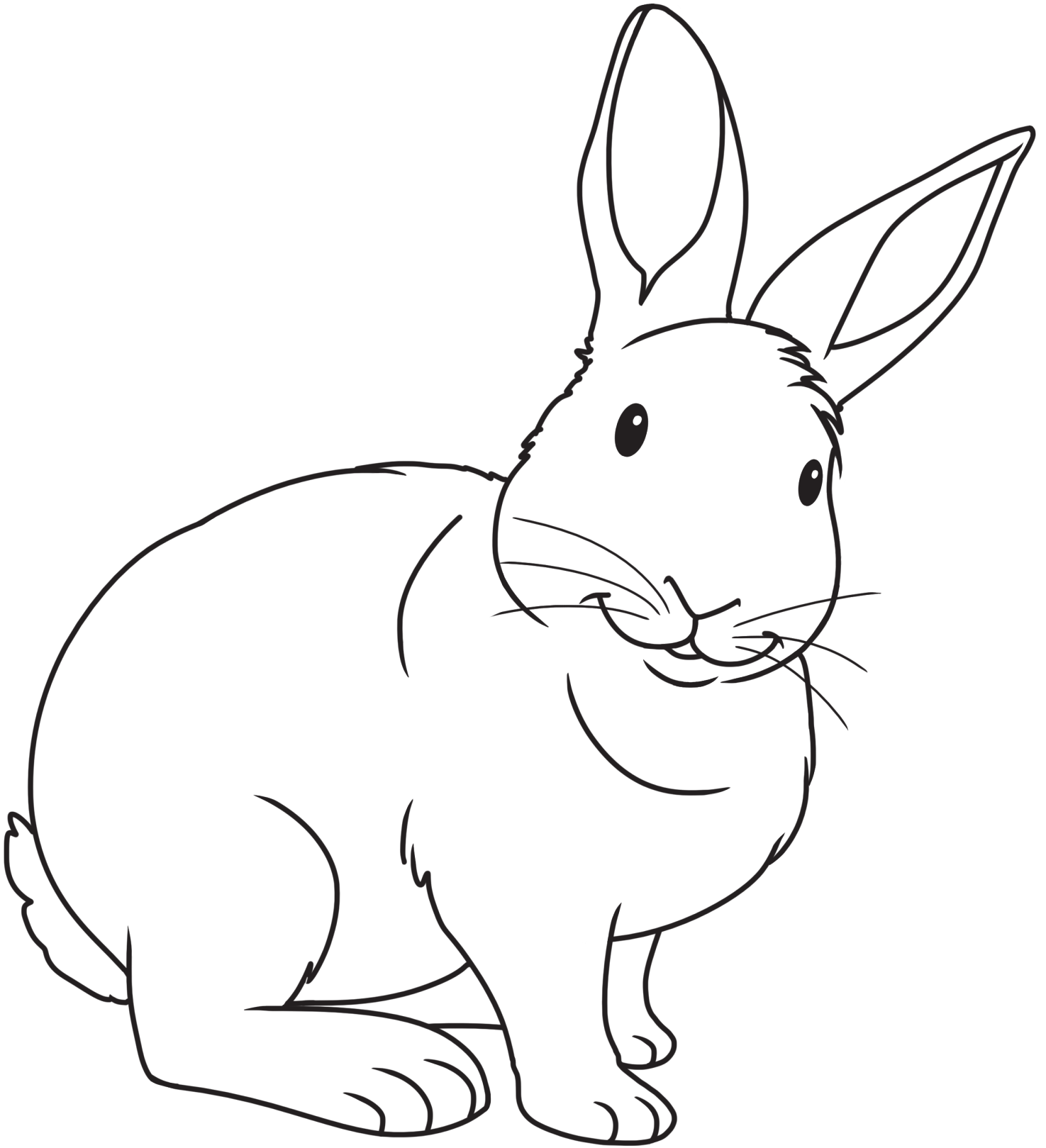
- ☐ Easter Pictures (following pages)
- ☐ Tape or poster putty
- ☐ Five envelopes
- ☐ Easter basket
- ☐ Bible

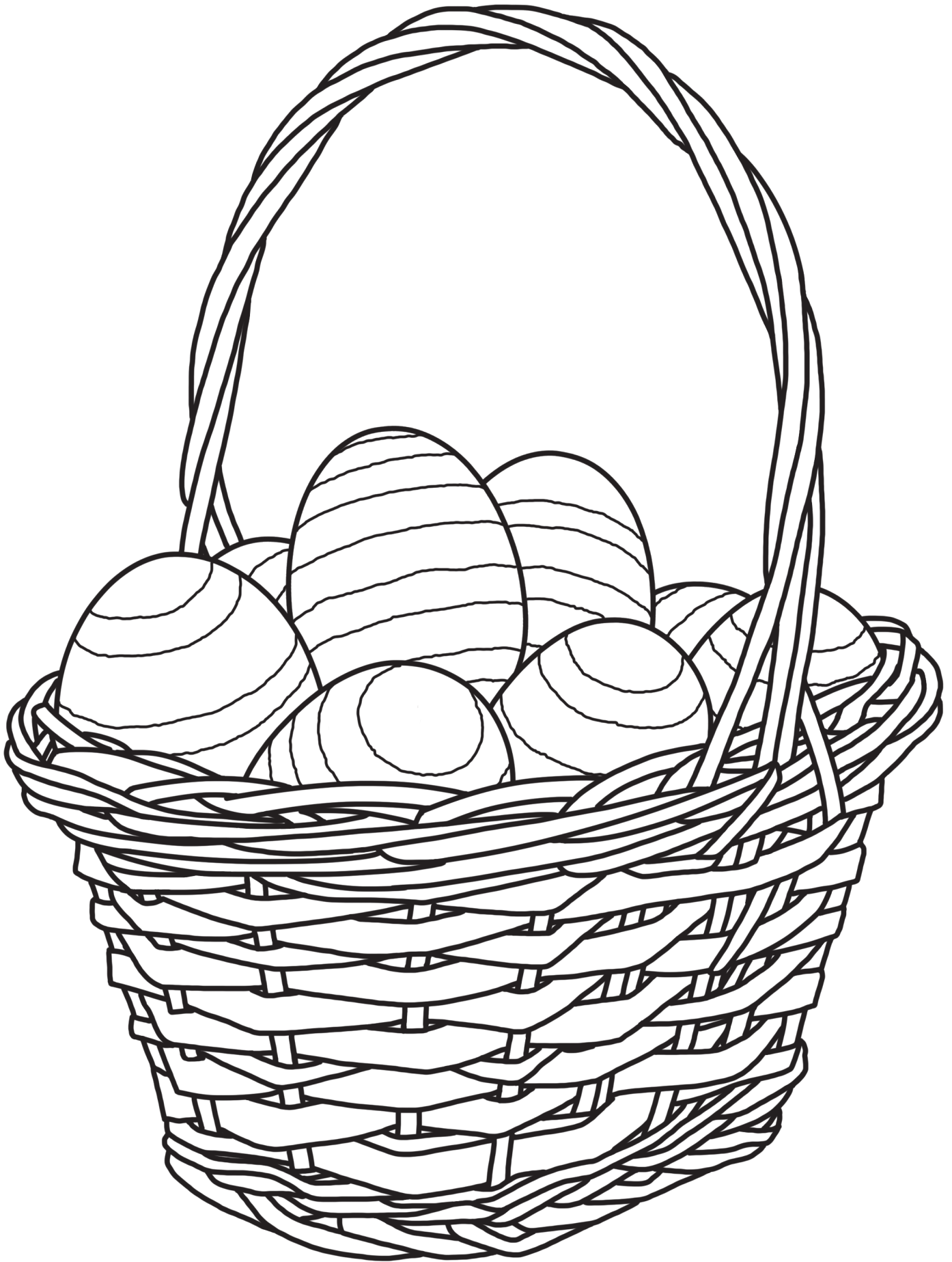
Instructions

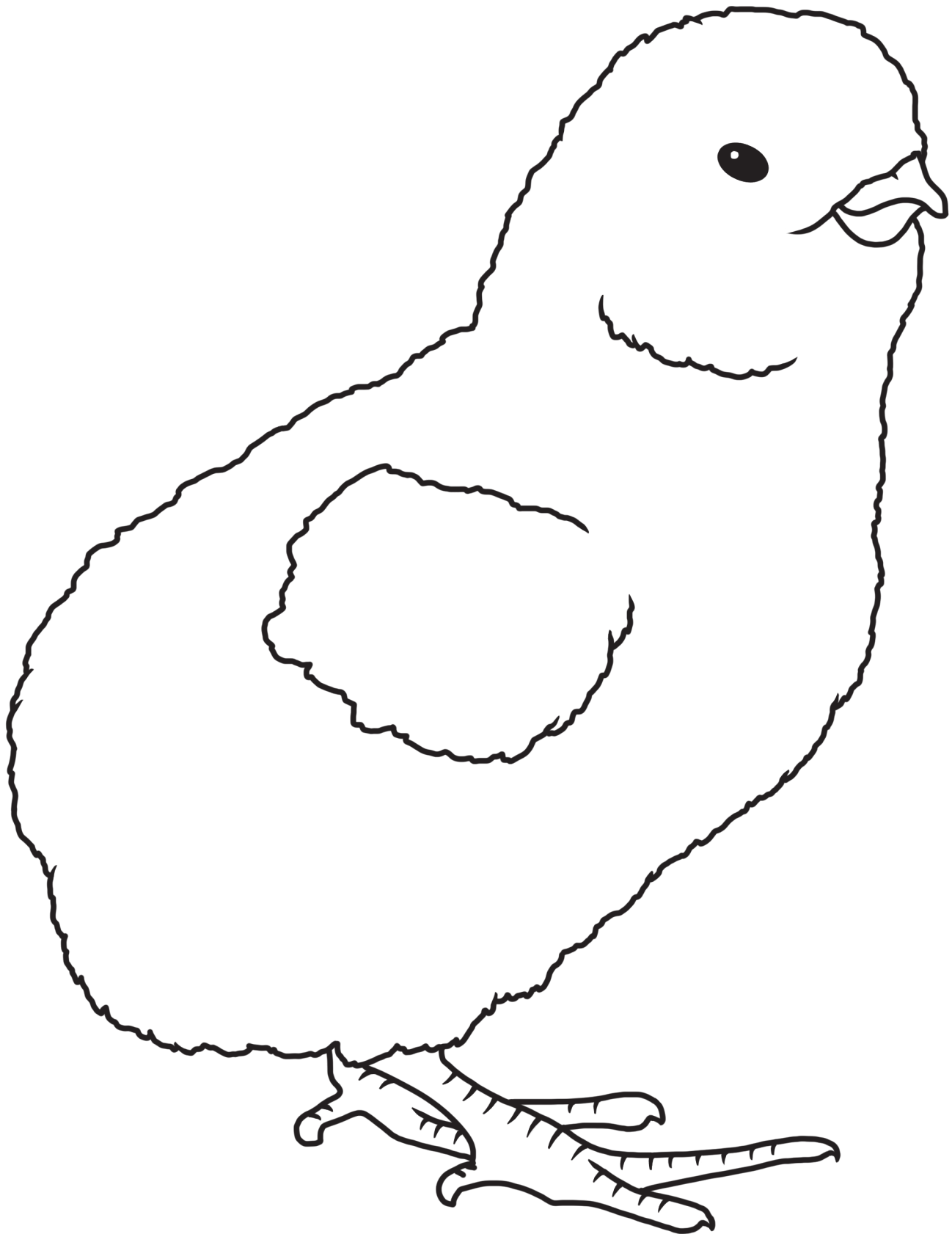
Before class: Print and color the five Easter Pictures. Fold them and put them each into an envelope. Label the envelopes so you know what is in each one. Hide the envelopes around the room.

During the Introduction: Have students search for the envelopes and put them into the basket. Call on students to open each envelope and attach the picture to the wall or board using tape or poster putty. Save the cross and empty tomb for last. Discuss what each picture is and if it is something special the Bible talks about. For example, when you show the bunny picture, flip through the Bible pages then say, "The Bible doesn't tell us anything special about bunnies." For the cross and tomb pictures, show excitement as you flip through the Bible pages and say something like, "Wow! The Bible says a lot about the cross. This must be an important thing to celebrate!"

Continue with the lesson after you have "searched" the Bible for all five pictures.





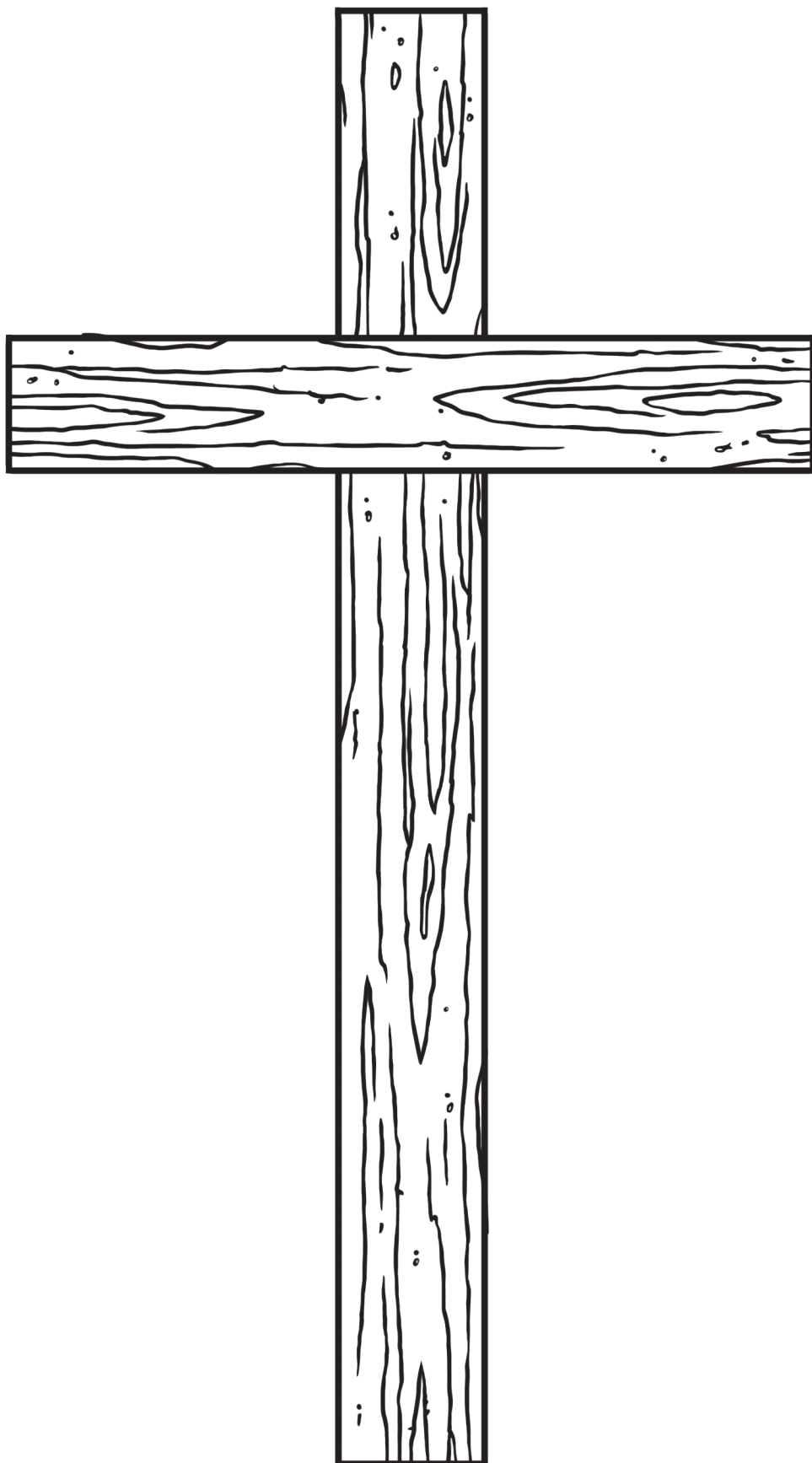


Print and color one of each picture.

Easter-1A Easter Picture Hunt • Pre-K–Grade 1

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1. What are the most important things to remember about Easter: chocolate bunnies and eggs, or how Jesus died and rose again? *How Jesus died and rose again.*

2. What did Jesus ride on when he went into the city of Jerusalem? *A young donkey (colt).*

3. As Jesus rode by, what word did the people shout, which means “save now”? Was it “Hallelujah,” “Hosanna,” or “Hello”? *Hosanna.*

4. How did the Jewish leaders feel about Jesus? *They were jealous. They hated him. They wanted to kill him.*

5. Which disciple betrayed Jesus and helped the leaders capture him? *Judas.*

6. Why wasn’t Jesus ever surprised by the things that happened to him? *Because he is God. He knows everything.*

7. What did many Jewish people *think* Jesus would save them from: the Romans or their sins? *The Romans.*

8. What is the big problem that all people are born with? *We are all sinners. We deserve punishment. We are separated from God.*

9. What did Jesus come to do? *To die for sinners. To save sinners.*

10. Because Jesus paid the punishment for our sins, what can we now do? *Ask God to forgive our sins. Have eternal life after death if we believe in Jesus.*

Print and cut out one of each card to use in the Review Game.

Borrowed Games & Crinkled Jeans

“Oh, wow! I love this game. Can we play it?” Justin asked his neighbor, Matt.

“Sure!” Matt replied as he turned on the video game. “This is my brand-new game, so you have to build your character first then you can explore and find neat stuff.”

“This is great,” said Justin excitedly. “I’ve only played a little bit with Jessie, but I had to use her princess character—yuck!” Justin made a goofy face.

“Well, I’ll let you make a good character just the way you like. Or maybe I should make you use a princess, too,” Matt teased.

Matt showed Justin which buttons to push so his character could walk around on the screen and collect energy balls and jewels. Not long after he got started, Matt’s mom came into the room. “Justin, your mom wants you to go home now.”

“Aww. I just got going.” Justin hung his head sadly. Then he jumped up excitedly and asked, “Can I take your game home with me? I can work on collecting stuff so I won’t be so far behind you next time we play.”

“Umm.” Matt thought for a minute. “I guess so. But you have to bring it back on Saturday so we can play it some more—and you can’t go past level 3.”

“I won’t. Thanks, Matt!” Justin grabbed the game disc and ran home.

All week long, Justin raced to his room after school and did his homework as fast as possible so he could play the video game. He wanted to be on the same level as Matt by Saturday.

“Today, I’ve gotta find that gigantic jewel,” Justin said to his mom, who was folding laundry.

Justin turned on the game player and stared at the screen, waiting for something to happen. But the screen was blank. Justin poked the eject button to make the disc come out, but the machine was empty. “Huh? Where did the game go? Mom! Have you seen Matt’s game disc?”

“No, not lately. Where did you put it last?” Mom asked. “Did you put it up high where Ellie can’t reach it?”

“Oh no!” Justin said with a look of panic on his face. “I don’t know; I can’t remember.”

Just then, Ellie wandered into the room dragging her baby doll by its feet. “Ellie,” Mom said, “did you take the game disc that was in here?” She pointed to the player.

Ellie looked at Justin, who was waiting nervously for her answer. “No.” Ellie shook her head.

“Ellie, are you sure?” Justin asked. “Did you see the disc I was using?”

“Da round disc wif a hole?” Ellie perked up.

“Yes! That one! What did you do with it?”

“I dint do nuffing. You put it in yo pocket,” Ellie replied.

Justin gasped. “Oh yeah, I remember.” Justin quickly checked his pockets, but there was no disc.

“You had it yesterday,” said Mom as she continued folding the clean clothes. “What pants were you wearing then?”

“My brown—uh oh,” Justin gulped as he watched his mom lift out a pair of brown jeans from the laundry basket. “Those,” he said.

“These?” she asked as she held up the crinkled jeans.

Justin grabbed the jeans and shoved his hands into the pockets. Sure enough, the game disc was there. Justin pulled it out and looked at the scratched-up disc. “It’s ruined! Matt’s gonna be so mad.”

“I’m sorry, Justin,” Mom said. “But you know that you need to check your pockets before you put your clothes into the laundry hamper.”

“I know. I guess I’ll have to buy a new game for Matt,” Justin moaned. “That’ll take forever!” Justin plodded through the kitchen and out the back door. He sat down on the porch steps, staring sadly at the ruined disc.

“Hi, Justin!” said Jessie as she came through the gate and sat by him on the porch. “What’s wrong?”

Justin showed her the ruined disc and explained how he’d have to buy a new one for Matt but didn’t have enough money.

Jessie listened then asked, “What game is it? I can’t read the label.”

When Justin told her the name of the game, Jessie got a strange look on her face and suddenly jumped up. “I’ve gotta go, Justin. See ya later.” And she ran home.

Saturday finally came, but Justin wasn’t happy about it. He woke up worrying about how he was going to break the news to Matt that his favorite new game had been ruined.

Justin did his best to eat some breakfast, but his stomach felt like a rock. He knew he would have to apologize, but he didn’t know how he would ever be able to buy a new game for Matt. He knew it cost a lot of money—more than he could earn even with months of extra chores.

Justin trudged over to Matt’s house. He stared at his shoes while he waited for the door to open. He was surprised when Jessie opened the door. “Hey, Justin! Come on in,” she said cheerfully.

Justin walked into Matt’s family room. He took a deep breath and told Matt what happened to the game he borrowed. “I’m really sorry; it was all my fault it got ruined.”

Matt and Jessie looked at each other, then they both grinned. “Justin,” Matt explained, “Jessie told me what happened to my game disc. At first, I was super mad. But then she gave me this.” Matt held out a game disc that looked exactly like the one Justin had borrowed.

“Huh? Jessie bought you a new one?” Justin was confused.

“No, Justin,” said Jessie. “It’s the one I had. You remember, I made you play it as a princess.” She giggled. “I knew you couldn’t pay for a new one, and I didn’t want you to be sad anymore or have Matt be mad at you. So, I gave him my game.”

“Yeah, so you don’t have to buy me a new one,” Matt chimed in. “Jessie already took care of it.”

“I figured I could just play the game here with you guys,” Jessie smiled.

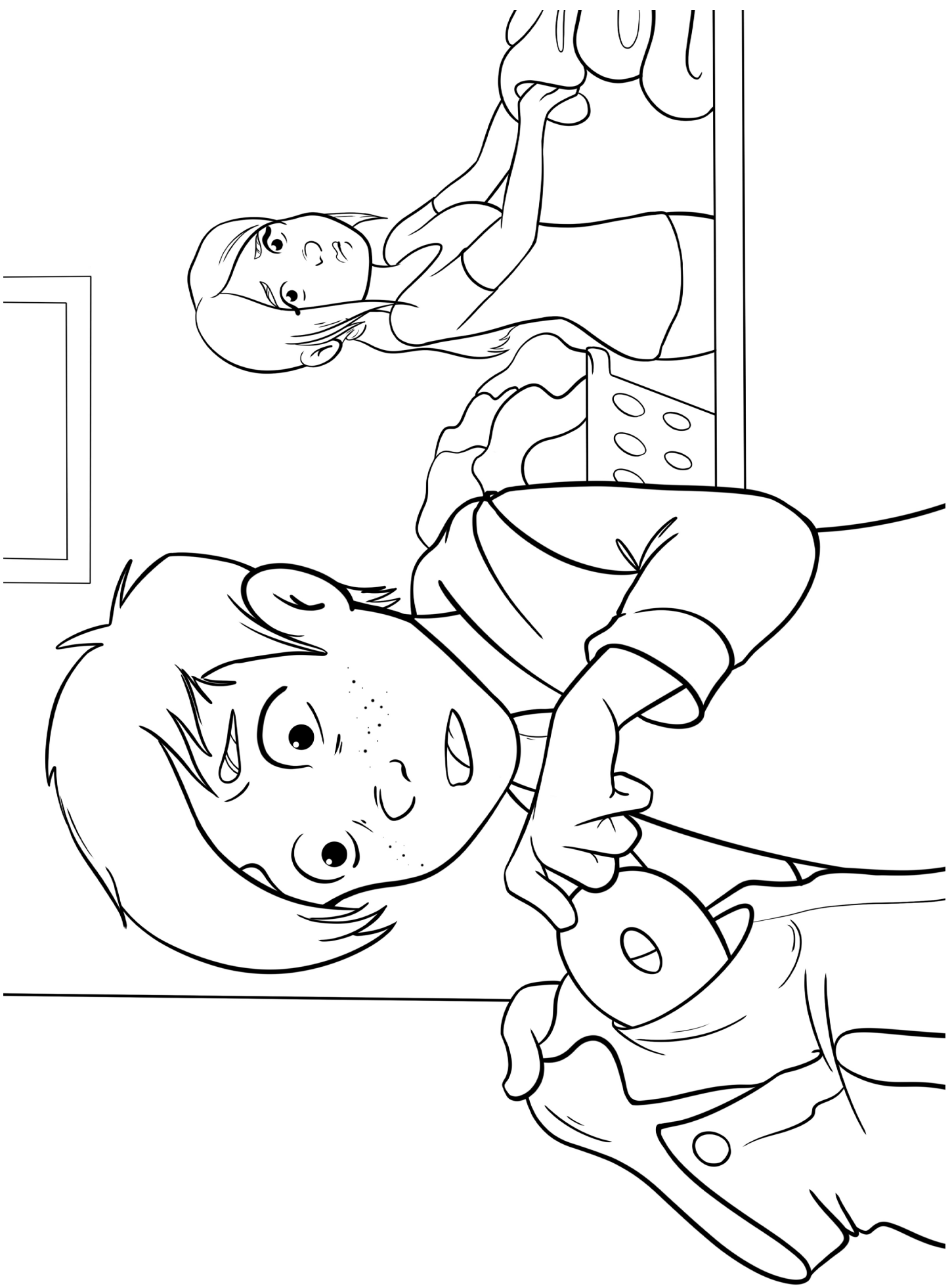
Justin looked at Jessie in shock. “Wow! Thank you, Jessie. You’re the best friend ever!”

“Let’s play!” Matt shouted as he put the disc into the player.

“I’m the princess!” Jessie exclaimed.

“I’m the red guy with the hat,” Matt said.

“And I’m so happy, I don’t care what character I am,” laughed Justin.



Pom-Pom Paint Craft

Materials

- ☐ Foam sheets in various colors
- ☐ Washable paints (not watercolor) in various colors
- ☐ Pom-poms (1½-inch) several for each paint color
- ☐ Clothespins for each pom-pom
- ☐ Foam plates
- ☐ Painter's tape (1-inch wide)
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Narrow ribbon or yarn
- ☐ Optional: glue and glitter

Instructions

Before class: Apply one strip of painter's tape across the top edge of each craft foam sheet about two inches from the top edge, leaving a small space at right and left sides. This will be the crossbeam of the finished cross. Apply a longer strip vertically, crossing over the first piece of tape to create a cross. Rub the tape down so it is secure around the edges.

During class: Pour several colors of paint onto foam plates and set on tables for students to share. Pinch each pom-pom with a clothespin to use in place of paintbrushes.

Pass out one foam sheet with a taped cross to each student. Direct students to hold a pom-pom with the clothespin and dab the top of it into the paint. Make large dots on the foam sheet by pushing straight down on the pom-pom. Encourage the students to create their own design all around the cross. It's okay to get paint on the tape; it will be peeled off later.

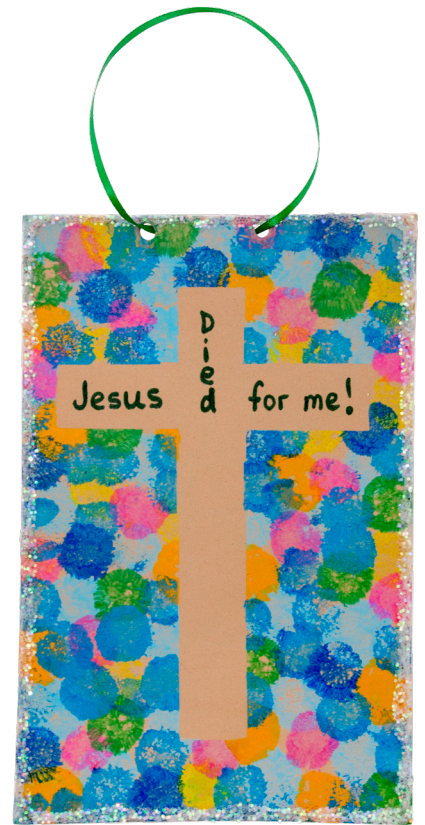
Allow paint to dry then gently peel the tape from the foam, leaving a cross in the middle of the design. Help students write, "Jesus died for me!" on their cross. Punch two holes at the top and tie ribbon or yarn through to make a hanger.

Optional: have students add a small amount of glue around the edge, around the cross, or on several dots and add glitter. Send home on a foam plate to allow glue to dry.

NOTE: You may want to wash out the pom-poms and let them dry to be used again.

Suggested Discussion

The cross is more than just a decoration. It shows how much Jesus loves us! He was willing to be crucified on a cross when he didn't deserve to die. He was perfect, but he chose to give his life to pay the punishment we deserve for our sins. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can come to God and ask forgiveness for our sins. When we are truly sorry and trust in Jesus to save us, God forgives us and makes us his child.



Jerusalem Road Race

Materials

- ☐ Paper towels or paper plates, at least one per student plus several extra
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Optional: stopwatch

Instructions

Use tape to mark a finish line at one end of the room or hallway. Have students line up on the opposite wall. Explain that just as the people laid down their cloaks and branches so Jesus' donkey would walk on them, each student will be making their way to the finish line using the paper towels/paper plates to step on so they do not touch the floor.

Demonstrate how to set your towel/plate down in front of you, step, then bring the other one you were standing on forward. Give each student two towels/plates. Have them stand on one and hold the other. When you say "Go!" each student will lay his towel/plate down in front of him then move to stand on it. Then he will move the plate behind him to the front and keep stepping from plate to plate all the way to the finish line.

The first student to reach the finish line without touching the floor is the winner. If there is time, have the students line up at the finish line and race back to the other end.

Option: Use a stopwatch and time the whole class to see how fast they can all make it to the finish line.

Suggested Discussion

When Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem, people took off their cloaks and laid them on the road before he came by. They also cut tree branches and laid them on the road. This covered the dirt and made a special path for Jesus to ride on into the city. This was how people welcomed kings! Even though people welcomed Jesus when he first came, he knew that he would be put to death. But he came anyway because he loved us so much.