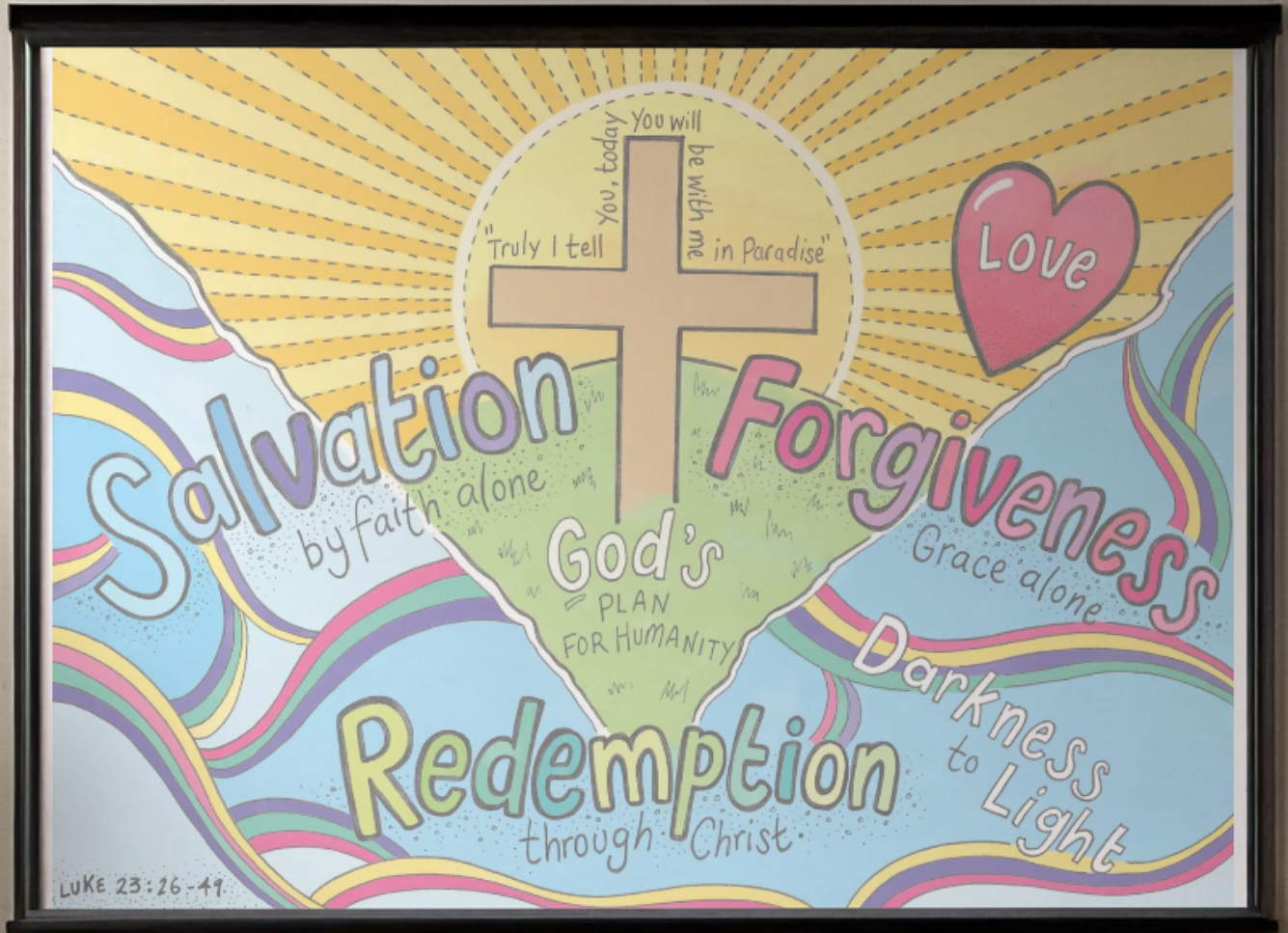




DRAWING CLOSER

Exploring Scripture through art

USING DRAWING CLOSER

This volume of *Drawing Closer* explores the journey through Lent towards Easter Sunday. Salvationist writers and artists have reflected on these passages and created their own original responses.

For those who are artistically gifted, these reflections alone may be enough to inspire visual responses. However, as *Drawing Closer* is

designed as an accessible resource, additional resources are provided for those who need a little more inspiration:

- ⑥ Colouring sheets
- ⑥ Sheets with the relevant Scripture verse
- ⑥ A sheet of doodles which can be traced, stuck on, or used as inspiration

Participants can use the sheets, bring their own sketch books or even draw straight onto the pages of their Bible.



THE SESSION

1. Read the selected passage and thought aloud together.
2. Give participants time to create, using the included resources or their own imagination.
3. While creating, encourage conversation and gently discuss what the statement means to participants.
4. At the end of the session, ask participants if they want to show their work to the group, or explain what their thoughts were when creating.
5. Finish with the prayer provided.

Helpful Questions

What image jumps out at you from these verses?

Are there any words/ideas that you don't understand from this passage?

Does anyone have a translation of the passage that is different?

How do you think participants in this event felt?

STANDING FIRM IN TEMPTATION

Art: Adrian Gotobed Thought: Rachel Gotobed

Matthew 4:1–10, Mark 1:12–13, Luke 4:1–13

Oscar Wilde once said, 'I can resist anything but temptation!' so I wonder what things tempt you? Something yummy to eat? A new pair of trainers/shoes? Scrolling the internet when there is something else needing to be done? Watching just one more episode? Sometimes we speak of temptation quite flippantly, and while all of these may at times be unwise, of themselves are they sinful?

The temptation of Jesus is recorded in all four Gospels, and through these accounts we see how the devil seeks to manipulate him at a time of vulnerability, having been in the wilderness for 40 days. The father of lies whispers untruths by promising what is not his to give, and knowing this, Jesus is able to rebuff him by using Scripture, which is God's truth.

The subtlety of the evil one should never be regarded flippantly, as he doesn't tempt us with the trivial but rather speaks to our insecurities, and

lies about the outcome in the hope that when we realise our failure, we will doubt God's love and forgiveness for us. But when Jesus died on the cross, the ultimate price was paid for our freedom, and **Romans 8:38–39** reassures us that even if we are tempted and fall into sin, nothing can 'separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord'.

1 Corinthians 10:13 also encourages us that even when we face the trickiest of temptations we are not alone, but that 'God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.' (NLT)

As you draw, colour or write, reflect on the story of Jesus' temptation. Think about what things tempt you and thank God for his presence and his promises that are available to help you stand firm in temptation and assure you of his love and forgiveness.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, in moments when temptation feels strong and my resolve feels weak, please remind me of your truth and your promises. Just as Jesus stood firm in the wilderness, help me to stand on your word when the enemy whispers lies.

Guard my heart from doubt and fear and never let me forget that your grace is greater than my failures. Teach me to lean on your strength, to trust in your faithfulness, and to rejoice in the freedom won through the cross.

Thank you for the assurance that you always provide a way out and that I am never alone in the struggle.

May your Spirit guide me today and every day, keeping me close to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

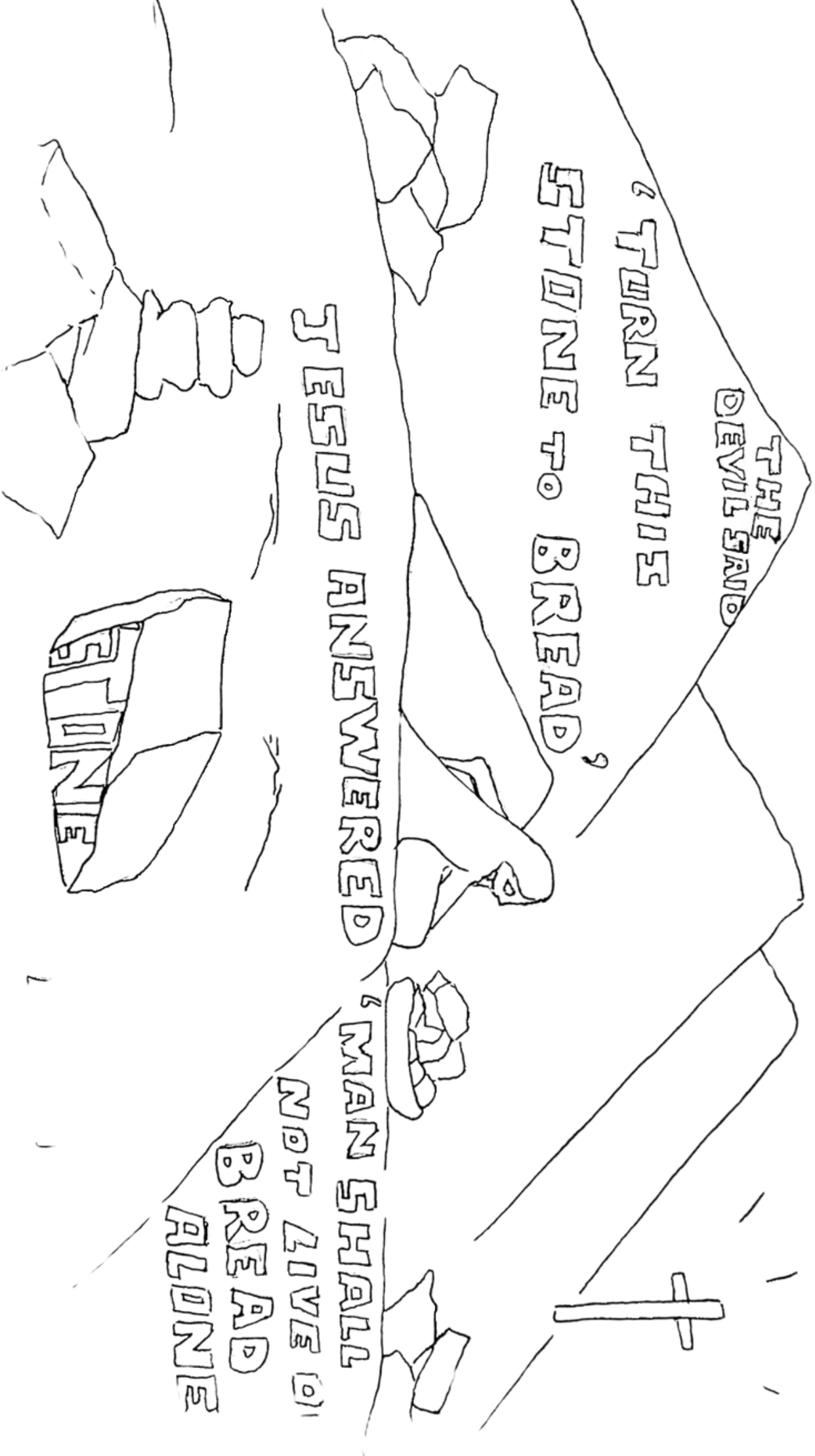
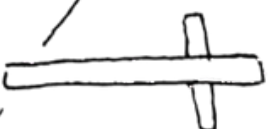
THE
DEVIL SAID

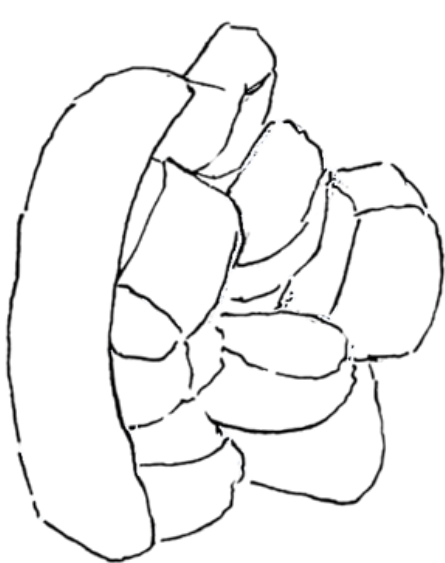
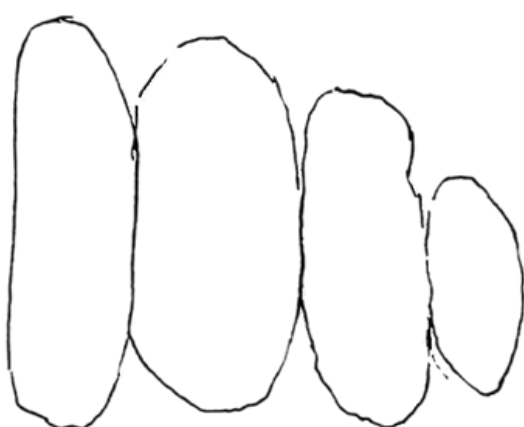
'TURN THIS
STONE TO BREAD'

JESUS ANSWERED

'MAN SHALL
NOT LIVE BY
BREAD
ALONE

STONE





THE
DEVIL SAID

'TURN THIS

STONE TO BREAD'

JESUS ANSWERED

'MAN SHALL
NOT LIVE ON
BREAD,
ALONE.'

LUKE 4. 3/4



THE DEVIL SAID TO HIM
“IF YOU ARE THE
SON OF GOD
TELL THE STONE
TO BECOME BREAD”

JESUS ANSWERED,
“IT IS WRITTEN:
MAN SHALL NOT LIVE
ON BREAD ALONE.”

MATTHEW 4:3-4

PALM SUNDAY

Art & Thought: Catherine Wyles

“They Praised God for all the miracles they had seen.” Luke 19:37

The story of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels, and over the years cinematic reproductions of this event have sought to bring to life how spectacular this occurrence was.

The Scriptures tell us that the people waved palm branches. Imagine how these branches looked, waved in the air, different shades of green casting their shadows all around. Imagine how it sounded as the air whistled through the leaves and as people laid their cloaks on the ground crying out their praises to God.

The story features Jesus riding a donkey. Did it ‘hee-haw’ all the way to the city? Did it move serenely through the crowds or join in the praise of the one it carried?

Take a moment to imagine what it might have been like to be there that day – the sights, sounds and smells. As you reflect, you could paint or colour palm leaves – very loosely to give the impression of movement.

PRAYER

For our prayer we use these words of Fanny Crosby’s hymn:

Pass me not, O loving Saviour,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Let me at thy throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition,
Help my unbelief.

Luke tells us that the whole crowd praised God for all the miracles they had seen (19:37). Think of some of Jesus’ miracles; here are some that Luke records:

He had made the blind to see (Luke 18:42)

He healed ten men with leprosy (Luke 17:14)

He healed a boy (Luke 9:37)

He feeds five thousand (Luke 9:16)

Perhaps you could write words representing some of the miracles you know from the Bible or have seen in your own life among the palm branches as you paint or colour.

We know how in less than a week this picture changed. How could people who had seen so much then call ‘Crucify’? Is seeing believing?

Hebrews 11:1 tells us, ‘Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.’ Although we may still see miracles, real faith is believing even when we don’t.

Saviour! Saviour!
Hear my humble cry;
While on others thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.





THE CRUCIFIXION

Art & Thought: Nat Hanchett

Luke 23:26–49

Do you ever feel that you're not worthy or good enough to receive God's love and forgiveness? Do you think that it is good deeds and actions that will lead to your heavenly reward?

In Luke 23:26–49 we read about two criminals who were being crucified alongside Jesus on the cross. One hurled insults at Jesus, but the other recognised Jesus. He declares Jesus' innocence and addresses him personally by name. Owning his sin, he simply says to Jesus, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

In what was a moment of sheer humiliation as they hung on crosses in front of a large jeering crowd, Jesus embodies the ultimate act of love and forgiveness, responding to the criminal with 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.' In the criminal's darkest hour came his moment of salvation. The criminal's sincere and simple request to Jesus is rewarded with an amazing promise of forgiveness and immediate salvation.

This is a wonderful example of faith, reminding us how ultimate salvation works. It is not about achievements; it's about a relationship with Jesus, a recognition of Jesus as King.

The final moments of Jesus' earthly life and his interactions with the repentant criminal demonstrate to us God's ultimate grace as Jesus willingly suffered for sinners. Salvation is made possible through faith alone. No one is too far gone, no moment of life is beyond redemption. We are simply required to recognise Jesus as our Saviour and acknowledge our need for grace, making a simple, sincere request to Jesus.

In the final moments of Jesus' earthly life and his response to the criminal who recognised Jesus as King, the temple veil is torn, the separation between God and humanity is restored giving direct access to God through Jesus. What an astonishing, amazing act of divine love, a divine love that is available to each and every one of us!

PRAYER

I come before you, Lord, in awe of the divine love displayed at the cross. For the times when I don't feel worthy or good enough for you, may I be reminded of your ultimate sacrifice by which you made it possible for us to receive your grace and immediate salvation – simply by us turning to you and declaring you as our Lord and Saviour. Thank you for your promise of eternal life with you. Amen.

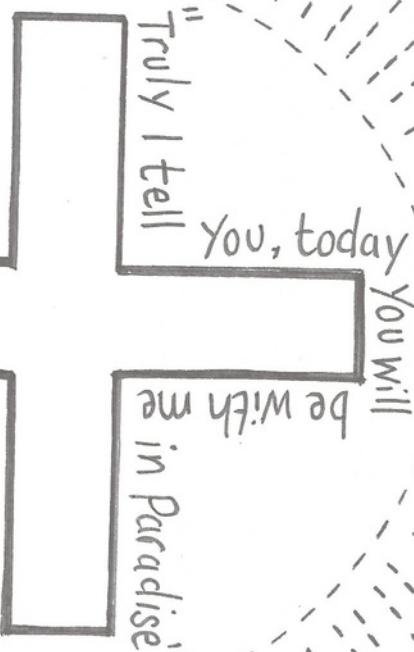
Salvation
by faith alone

God's
PLAN
FOR HUMANITY

Forgiveness
Grace alone

Redemption
through Christ

Darkness
to Light



JESUS ANSWERED HIM,
"Truly / tell you, today
you will be with
me in
paradise."

SALVATION
Divine
love

RIGHTEOUSNESS
LOVE
GRACE
FORGIVENESS
REDEMPTION
SALVATION

DARKNESS TO
LIGHT

Salvation

by faith alone

God's

PLAN FOR HUMANITY

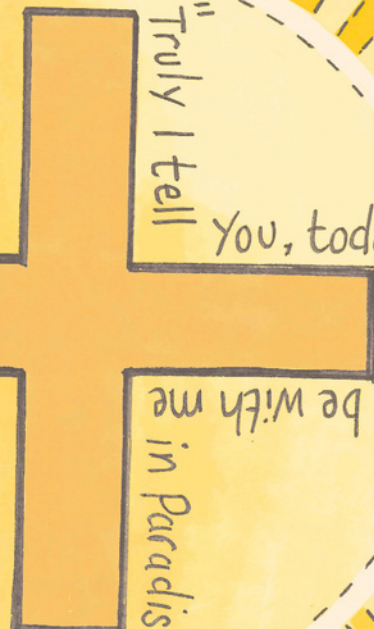
Forgiveness

Grace alone

Redemption

through Christ

Darkness to Light



"Truly I tell

you, today

you will

be with me in Paradise"



Love

“TRULY I TELL YOU,
TODAY
YOU WILL BE
WITH ME
IN PARADISE”
LUKE 23:43

HE IS RISEN

Art: Elliott Chappell, Thought: Richard Prescott

**The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”
(Matthew 28:5-6)**

The resurrection of Jesus is not just the cornerstone of Christian faith, but by far the greatest declaration of hope that the world has ever known.

On that first Easter morning the women approached the tomb expecting death, but instead they encountered life. They were miraculously transformed by what they saw and heard. The angel's words still echo today: ‘He is not here; he has risen, just as he said’ (Matthew 28:6). And it is this truth that changed everything.

The Resurrection means that death has been defeated. It assures us that Jesus' death was not the end, but the beginning of a new story – a story of redemption, grace and eternal life. For those of us who follow Jesus, this is not just a promise for the future; it is a present reality in our lives right now. We live in the power of the risen Christ, who brings light into our darkness, forgiveness for our sin and hope for our despair.

Jesus fulfilled his promise to his followers: ‘I have come that they may

have life, and have it to the full.’ (John 10:10)

It is because Jesus lives that we face the future with confidence. Our past failures do not define us and our fears do not control us. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us, renewing our hearts and calling us to live as people of resurrection – people marked by joy and courage, people who love God and love others.

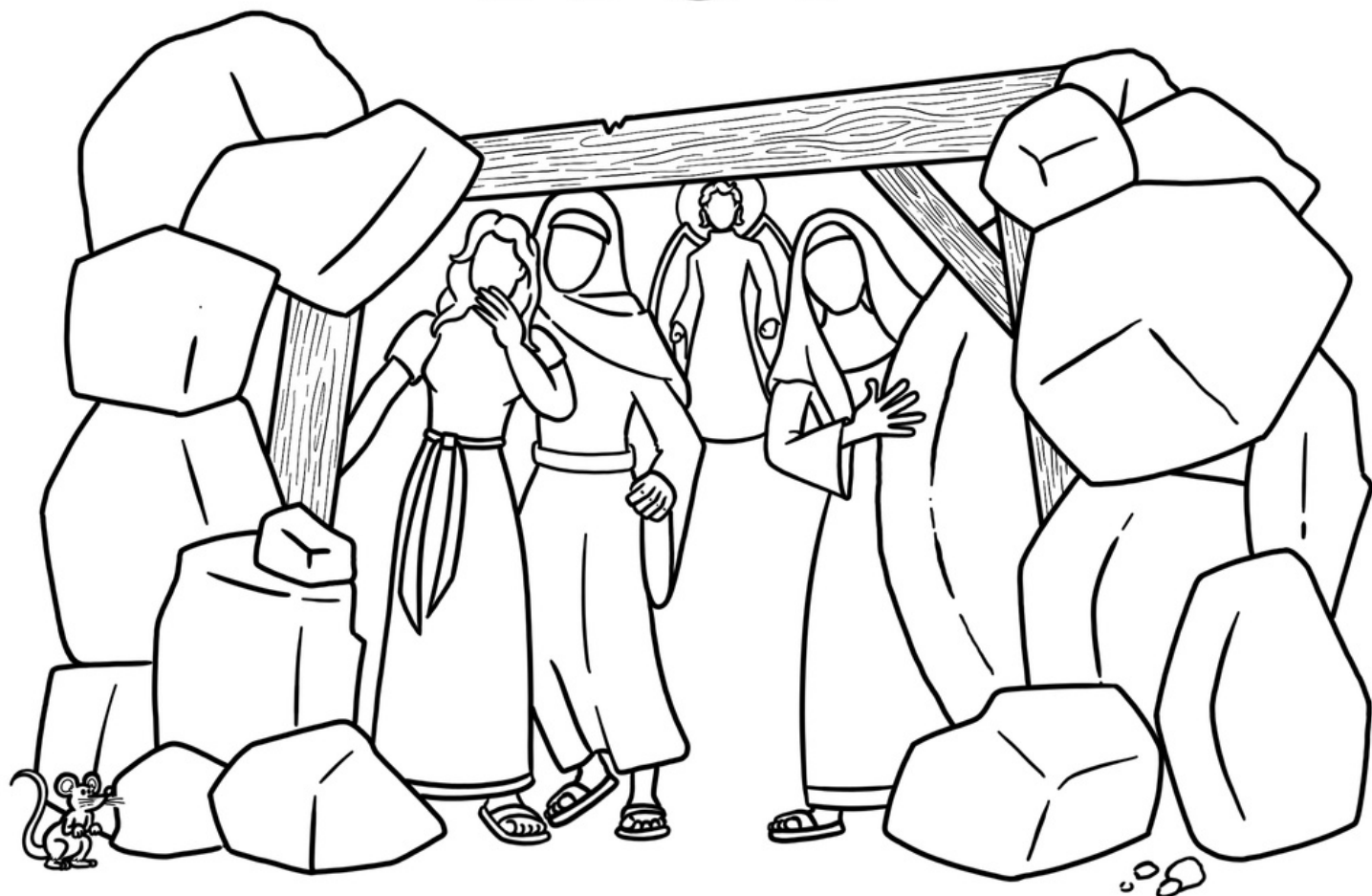
The empty tomb is more than a sign of victory; it is an invitation to trust, to believe and to share this good news of ‘life in all its fullness’ with the whole world.

That's what happened when the women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning – and even today we are still shaped by these remarkable events. Spend a moment reflecting on the phrase which perfectly sums up the resurrection: the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us (see Ephesians 1:19-20). What does this mean for God's people? What does this mean for you?

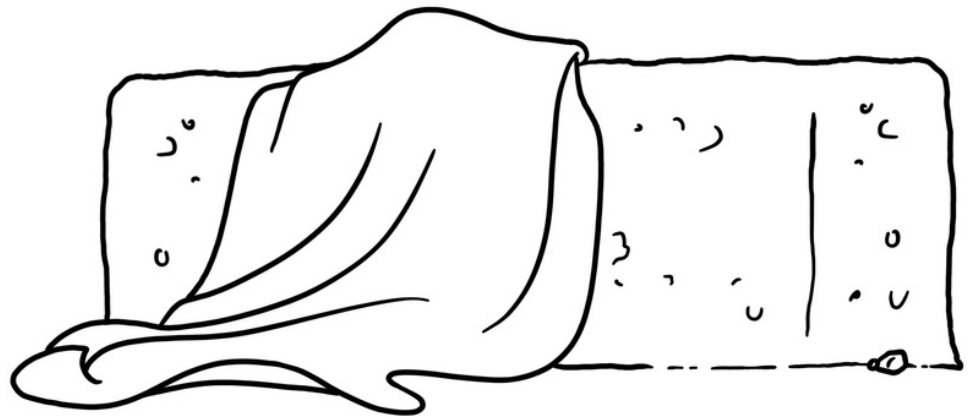
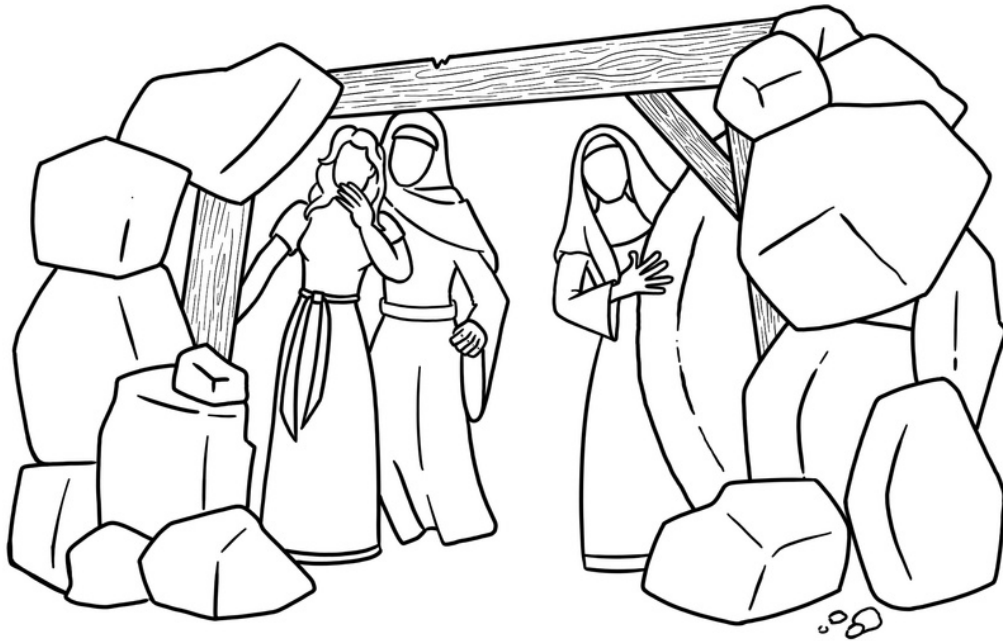
PRAYER

Lord God, fill our hearts with the joy and hope of your resurrection. Help us to live as people who have experienced life in all its fullness, reflecting your love and your grace in all that we do. Help us to share this life-transforming hope with others, so that they too may know the power of the risen Christ. Amen.

HE IS *NOT* HERE



HE IS RISEN!



HE IS NOT HERE



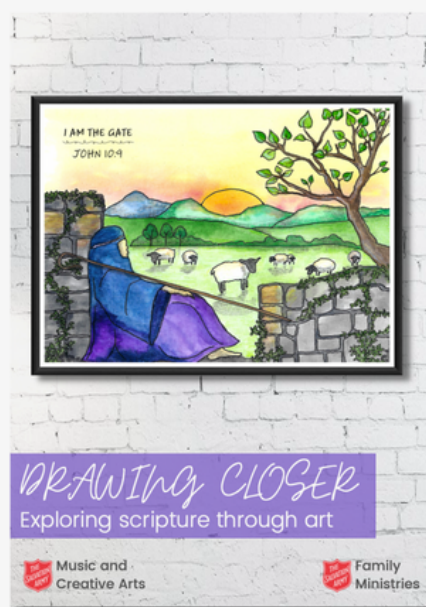
HE IS RISEN!

HE IS
NOT HERE

HE IS
RISEN!



If you've found Drawing Closer a useful ministry tool then try our other volumes....



...available now on salvationist.org.uk

SHARE YOUR WORK

We hope you've enjoyed using Drawing Closer throughout Lent, and that in doing so, God has blessed you. We would love to see the artwork produced by groups around the territory. Why not take a photo of the work your group has created to share on social media.

Use the hashtag #DrawingCloser and include the relevant Scripture verse in your favourite translation. You'll find The Salvation Army on all major social media platforms.



This volume of Drawing Closer was produced by The Salvation Army Music and Creative Arts team in collaboration with Family Ministries Department in the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory, 2026.

The Salvation Army is a church and registered charity in England (214779), Wales (214779), Scotland (SC009359) and the Republic of Ireland (CHY6599). Territorial Commander for the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory: Commissioner Paul Main