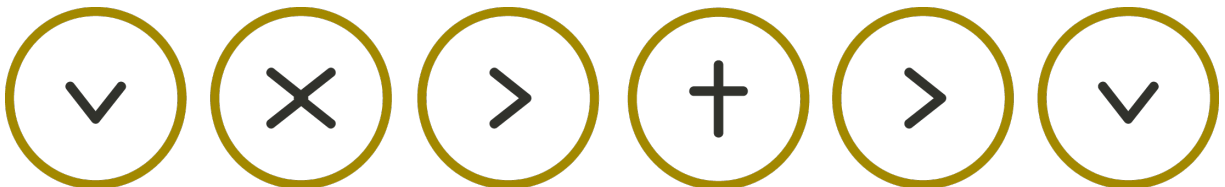


The True Story

a storybook from creation to restoration



In the beginning, before there was anything, God created everything. He made it all to be good, right, and beautiful. Out of love, He formed people to partner with Him and help care for His creation. People had the job of bringing out the hidden potential of God's creation and enjoyed a life of peace with God, one another, and the world.

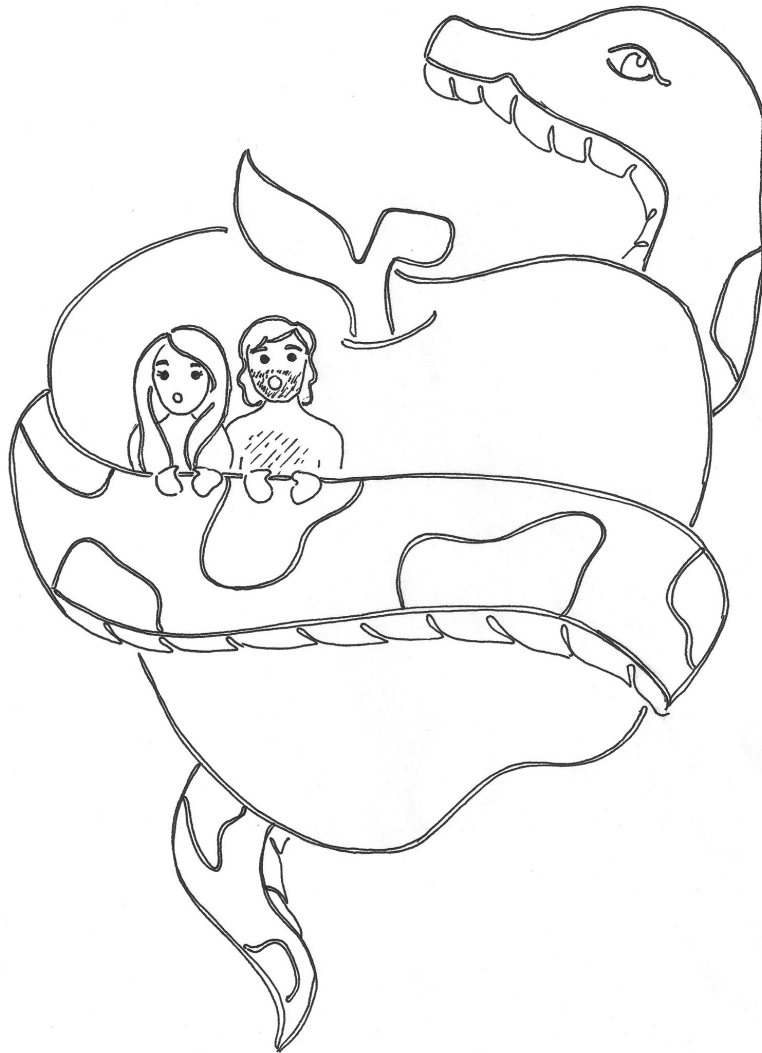


✓ CREATION



× REBELLION

But, the first people rebelled against God. They believed a lie from one of the creatures that God was holding back good things from them and they wanted to decide for themselves what was right and wrong. God warned if they didn't trust Him they would die, but they didn't listen.



This is called sin, and it brought a curse over all of God's good creation - the creation humans were supposed to care for. Everything in creation began to die.

But God did not leave His people without hope, even though they rebelled. He promised to send rescue for His creation and He continued to pursue humans with His love. Many years after the first humans rebelled, God chose a man named Abram to make a new people out of.



His family would grow into a nation, called Israel, and God would bless all the other nations through them. But just like the first people, they rebelled too.

PROMISE

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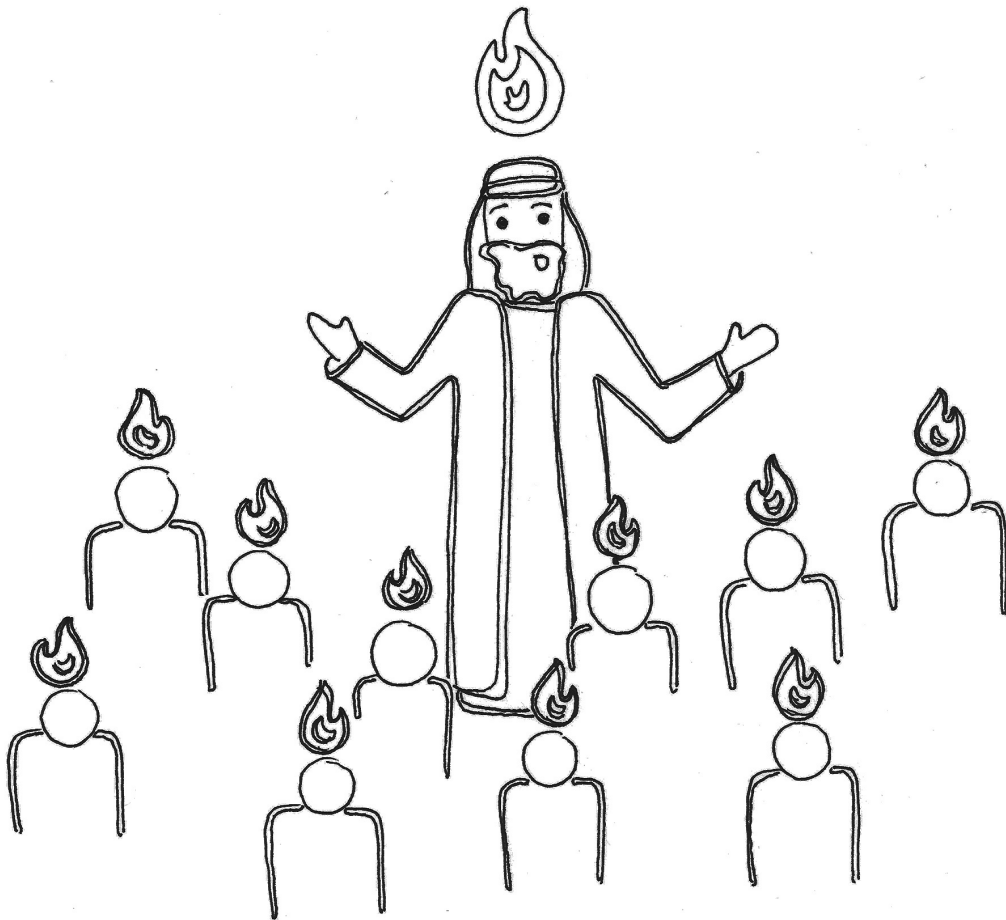
REDEMPTION

When all seemed lost, God was faithful to His promise. The Rescuer finally came in Jesus, who was born to a family of Israel, keeping God's promise to bless all through that nation. But He was also born of the Spirit of God. In fact, He was God's own Son, and He was the only human to perfectly obey His Father. He began reversing the effects of the curse by healing, feeding, teaching, and even bringing the dead to life! This is what God always had in mind - God and humans partnering to bless all creation.



But the people rebelled again and murdered Jesus on a cross. When he died, Jesus took on the full curse of creation and the consequence of people's sin. Then, just as He had been able to bring others to life with God's power, He rose from the dead himself! His resurrection defeated the curse of sin once and for all. Restoration had begun, new creation was here, and Jesus was the true and risen King of all creation!

The risen Jesus went to prepare a home for God to live with humans forever, but before He left, He gave His own Spirit to empower people to follow Him and tell the good news that God is restoring the world! People are now invited to give up their rebellion and partner with God, living according to His Story. Forgiveness, hope, and salvation are possible because of Jesus. This is the Church, the part of the story we find ourselves in today. And we are all invited to be part of it.

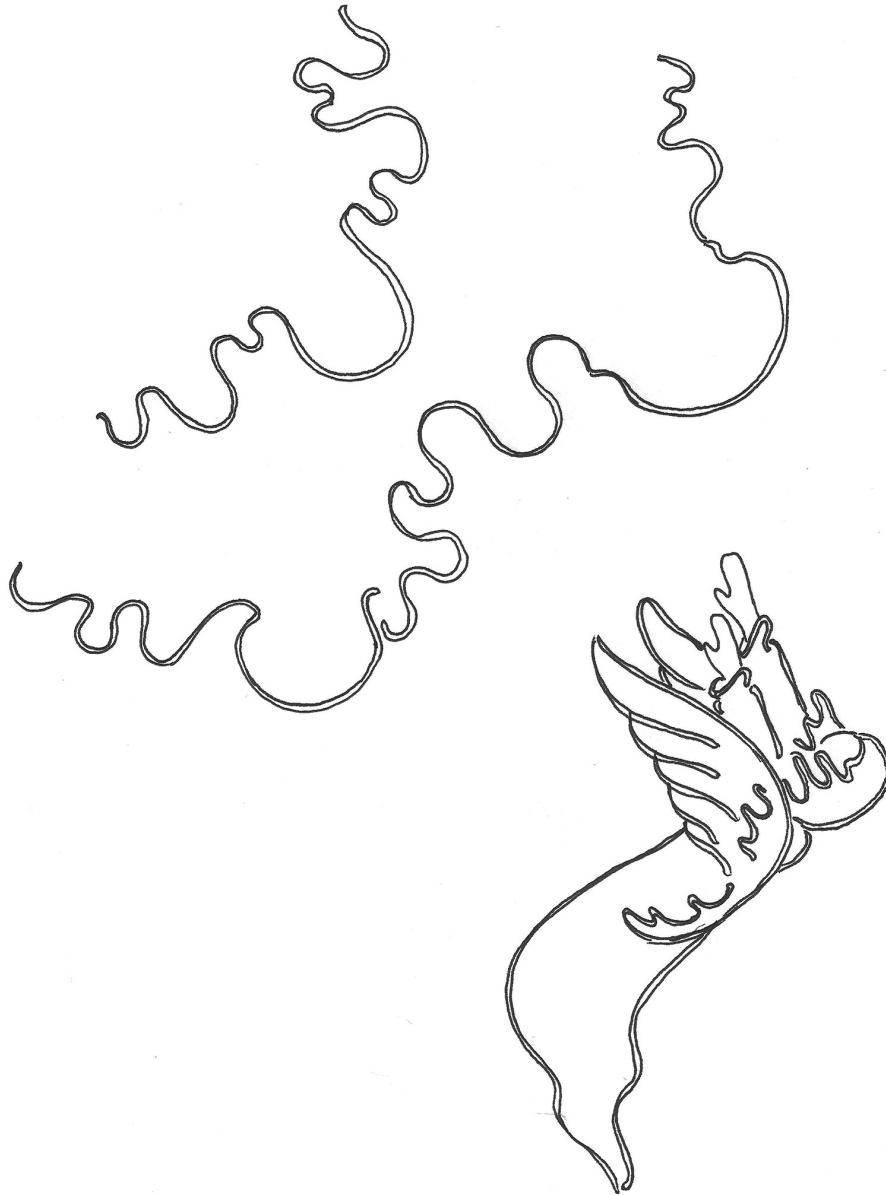


> CHURCH



RESTORATION

One day, King Jesus will return to finally and fully make the world the way it is supposed to be. He will bring justice, healing, and wholeness. There will be no more tears, pain, sickness, brokenness, or death.



Those who have followed Jesus as King and trusted Him by faith to be rescued will forever enjoy His presence, but those who chose to rely on themselves and false saviors will be forever separated from His goodness. We pray for Jesus to come back quickly, and for many to trust in Him!

