



## A New Beginning

Q68V1W1  
01.01.18.

### Lesson Text: Genesis 6-8; 9:12-17

A new year is exciting because it's like a new coloring page, just waiting for you to add words and colors!

Noah had an exciting New Year's Day. He and his family lived on the ark for over a year, because water covered the earth. On the first day of the new year, he removed the ark's covering and saw the ground for the first time in a long time!

Noah and his family obeyed God when everyone around them disobeyed God. Noah built the ark because God told him to. He cared more about following God's word than the sinful people who laughed at him.

Genesis 6 tells us there were many wicked people who did not follow God, and always thought about bad things. God gave the people the chance to be saved, and 2 Peter 2:5 says Noah was a preacher, but Noah's family were the only ones to enter the ark of safety.

The flood arrived, and it rained for 40 days. The water from the rain stayed on the earth for 150 days! God remembered Noah and his family, and sent a strong wind. The waters

decreased continually, and in the tenth month the tops of the mountains were visible.

Finally, "in the first month, the first day of the month, Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry."

Later, God put a rainbow in the sky and told Noah that rainbows were reminders of His promise to never destroy the Earth with a flood again.

Think about how happy Noah felt! He and his family knew that God destroyed the world, but He saved them and kept them safe in the ark all those days. Noah started a new year praising God and trusting in Him.

Peace, be still. And the wind  
ceased, and there was a great  
calm. Mark 4:39

### Violet Learns a Lesson

Violet jumps out of bed. It is New Year's Day! Every new year, Violet adds a drawing to her little black box. Last year, she drew a picture of rain clouds and lightning. Momma helped her write, "Don't be afraid."

Now during storms, she prays to Jesus.

Kathryn, Violet's mother, gently knocks on her door. "Are you awake, sweetie?"

"Yes, Momma!" Violet answers. "Come look at my box!"

Kathryn scoops Violet into her lap and kisses her head, which makes Violet giggle.

"What are you going to draw this year?" Kathryn asks.

"I don't know yet. Maybe I'll know after dinner," Violet responds.

That evening, the Mackey household prepares for dinner. Anderson, Violet's father, brings in chopped wood to heat the home. They live in a small house on the mountainside.

Kathryn finishes cooking dinner and calls for Violet to set the table. Violet knows her Momma called her, but she wants to finish her book! By the time she gets into the kitchen, the table is set and Kathryn is very quiet. Violet is ashamed, and slides into her chair.

Anderson says a prayer. While they eat, Father asks Violet about her drawings. "Have you learned to be brave when you are afraid of the storms?"

"Yes," she answers quietly.

"You know, Vi, there's a Bible story about a big flood and a man who trusted God. Do you know which one I'm talking about?"

"Noah," Violet says.

"Yes. Let's read the account for devotions tonight."

Violet listens to the story of Noah's obedience to God. God told Noah to build the ark, and Noah didn't waste time doing other things before he obeyed. Violet bursts into tears and runs to her mother.

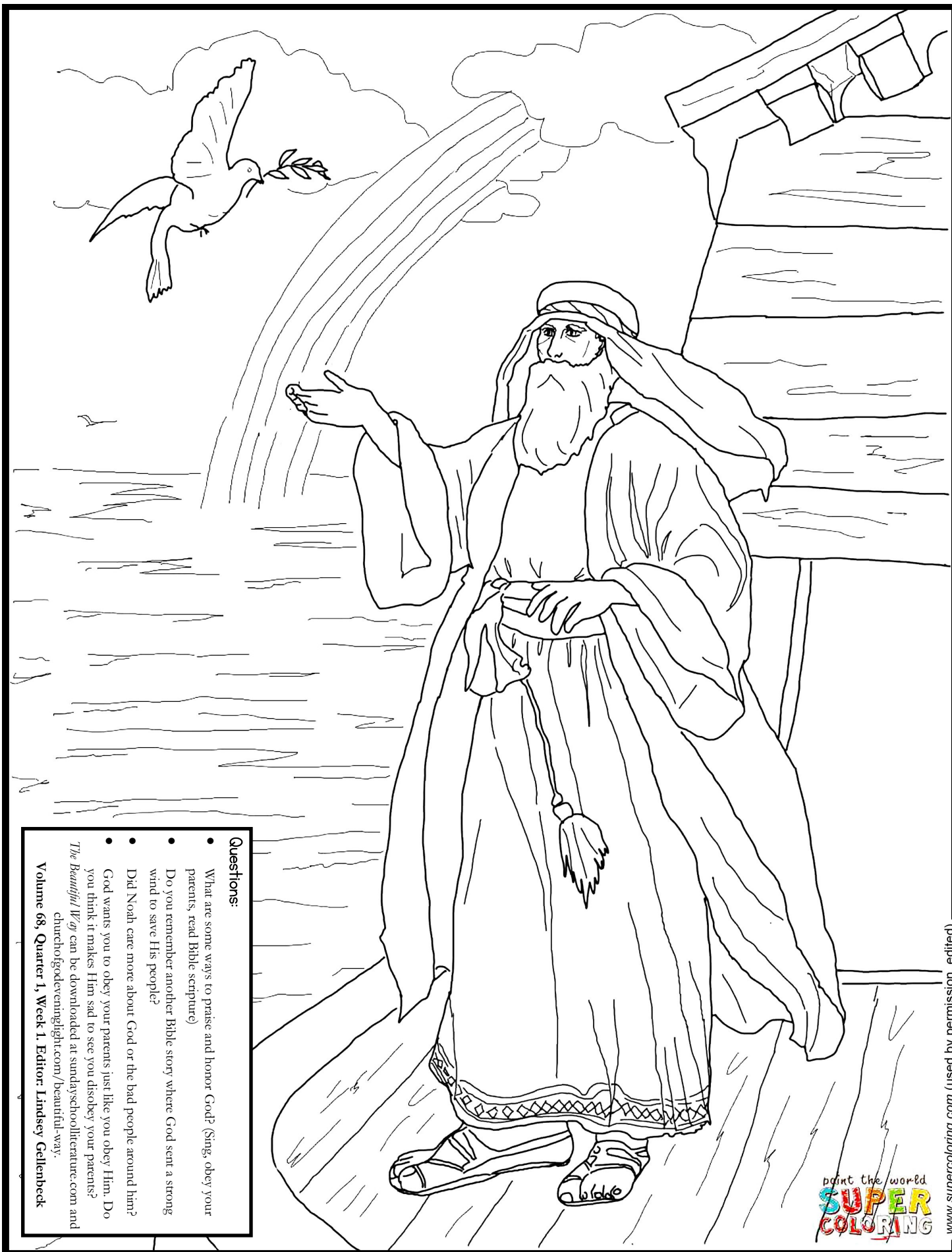
"I'm sorry for disobeying you, Momma! I want God to be happy with me, too." Kathryn gently hugs Violet.

The Mackey family bow on their knees and pray. Violet rises with a smile.

When Anderson and Kathryn come to tuck Violet in, she is already asleep. Near her bed is a drawing of Violet setting the table with the word, "obey."

They knew she learned an important lesson that New Year's Day.

Karissa Carver



**Questions:**

- What are some ways to praise and honor God? (Sing, obey your parents, read Bible scripture)
- Do you remember another Bible story where God sent a strong wind to save His people?
- Did Noah care more about God or the bad people around him?
- God wants you to obey your parents just like you obey Him. Do you think it makes Him sad to see you disobey your parents?

*The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschoolliterature.com](http://sundayschoolliterature.com) and [churchofgodseveringlight.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgodseveringlight.com/beautiful-way).

Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 1. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



## What's In A Name?

Q68V1W2  
01.14.18.

**Lesson Text:** 1 Kings 17:1-3; Luke 4:25

Elijah was a prophet of God, but the Bible doesn't say a lot about his background. He was a Tishbite, which meant he came from a city called Tishbeh in a country called Gilead.

God used him in a very special way, even though he did not grow up with everyone knowing who he was as a child.

1 Kings 17:1 and Luke 4:25 say Elijah told the king of Israel, Ahab, that the Lord God told him to say that there would not be dew or rain for three-and-a-half years.

Ahab was a bad man who decided to worship idols made from stone instead of the one true God. The Bible says that Ahab was so disobedient to God that he made God more angry than all the previous kings.

This was why Elijah was sent to tell Ahab there would be no rain.

God told Elijah to go and hide by the brook Cherith after Elijah told Ahab the news. Next week you will read how

God sent ravens to take care of Elijah!

Elijah is an example of how God can use anyone in the world for good, no matter where they come from. People didn't know Elijah's family, and where you come from is often viewed as very important to humans here on earth. But to God, all that matters is that you have a willing heart to please Him.

Every person who says they are sorry for their sins and asks Jesus to live in their heart are part of God's family. It is important to kindly accept new people you meet. You may not know very much about them, but God does. Just like God knew everything about Elijah, and used him as a mighty prophet.

A new commandment I give unto  
you, That ye love one another; as  
I have loved you, that ye also love  
one another. John 13:34

## A New Face

The chilly January air creeps in the mountain home. Kathryn knows her husband Anderson will soon return from his morning chores and Violet will soon dash into the kitchen. They will both have hungry stomachs and bright eyes.

Violet dresses herself in the outfit she and Kathryn picked the night before. How glad she is for her warm tights and boots! She runs to the kitchen. She sure is hungry, and the buttered bread sure smells good! The door swings open and Anderson steps inside.

The Mackeys sit around the table and eat their breakfast of warm buttered bread, fresh eggs, and sausage.

"I heard a new family, the Aldana's, moved to town," Anderson says between bites.

"Well, we must say hello," Kathryn responds. "I remember when we moved here. Moving is quite a change, and a friendly smile is always welcome."

Violet thinks about the new family all the way to church.

She spots him instantly. Miss Charlotte quiets the children in the class. She places her hand on the young boy's shoulder and asks him if he would like to introduce himself.

Alex looks at the class with his frank, brown eyes. He wants to get away from all the faces peering at him, but he knows with time they will be familiar and not so strange. He takes a deep breath.

"I'm Alex Aldana, and I just moved to Timber Springs with my family. We used to live in Minneapolis, Minnesota. My parents heard good things about Oregon, and my dad knows Mr. Waters from their days in the war. He sent dad a letter asking him to take over the mechanic shop, so we moved."

Violet is intrigued with Alex. He is dressed nicer than any other child in the room. The children aren't used to seeing such crisp clothes and shiny shoes.

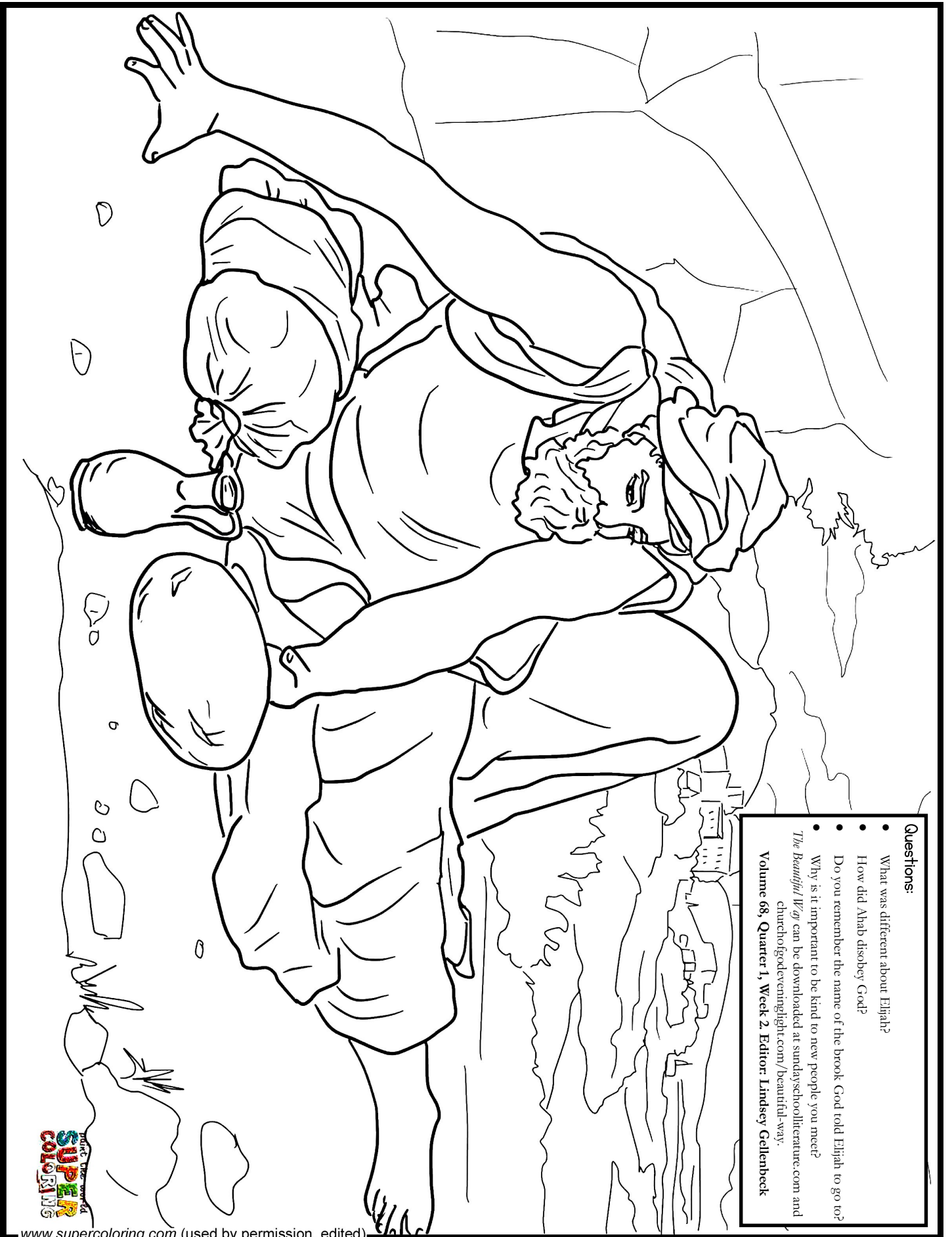
A boy near Violet snickers and loudly whispers "city boy," as if he thinks it's somehow a mean jab.

Miss Charlotte is not impressed. "Corey Jones, please read today's Bible verse."

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," Corey mumbles. He ducks his head and turns a nice shade of red.

Violet feels sorry for Alex. She hopes the boys will play with him after church and not let intimidation or pride affect their attitude just because he looks different and has not grown up with them.

Karissa Carver



**Questions:**

- What was different about Elijah?
  - How did Ahab disobey God?
  - Do you remember the name of the brook God told Elijah to go to?
  - Why is it important to be kind to new people you meet?
- The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschool literature.com](http://sundayschool literature.com) and [churchofgod eveninglight.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgod eveninglight.com/beautiful-way).  
Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 2. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck





## Trust God

Q68V1W3  
01.21.18.

### Lesson Text: 1 Kings 17:4-16

Elijah told wicked King Ahab that God said it would not rain for over three years, and then he hid by the brook Cherith as God instructed.

God told Elijah that he would drink his water from the brook and that He had commanded ravens to feed Elijah there at the brook!

Elijah obeyed God's command. He went and lived by the brook, away from Ahab. The ravens brought him bread and meat two times a day: in the morning and in the evening. Elijah drank water from the brook just as God told him.

After a while, the drought caused the brook to dry up. God told Elijah, "Arise, go to the town of Zarephath, and live there. I have commanded a widow woman there to take care of you."

Elijah obeyed, and traveled to Zarephath. When he arrived in the town, he saw the widow woman gathering sticks. He called to her and asked if she would bring him a drink of water.

She went to get some water, and he called to her and asked for some bread, too.

She said, "As God lives, I don't have a loaf of bread left. All I have is a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little bit of oil. I am gathering sticks now to make a small loaf of bread for me and my son. We will eat it, and then die."

Elijah told her not to be afraid, but to go and make the loaf of bread, bring it to him, and then go back and make a second one for her child and herself. He said that God told him her meal and oil to make the bread would not be used up until God sent rain to the earth.

The widow woman trusted God, and they always had enough each day to make a small loaf of bread, just as God had said.

Be strong, and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Deuteronomy 30:3

## Good News

Violet sighs as she sets the table. It is Saturday afternoon, and Mrs. Aldana and her children will arrive soon for lunch. Mr. Aldana is already with Anderson, helping him chop up an old Oregon pine that fell and blocked an exit to the Mackey's back acreage.

Any other day, Violet would bounce around the house before company arrived. But she had lost something precious, and she hardly felt like smiling. After church last week, Violet realized her bookmark was missing from her Bible.

It is a special bookmark. Emilia Hiebert, Violet's grandmother and Kathryn's mother, crocheted the delicate, double-leaf pattern bookmark as a Christmas gift for Violet. Emilia moved back to Ukraine to be with her aged mother after that Christmas, and the bookmark helps Violet feel close to her dear grandmother.

She stares forlornly out the window at the tall trees and gray sky until the sound of a vehicle pulls into the drive. Violet bravely tries to smile as the happy Aldana family enters the home.

Sofia Aldana keeps a close eye on her youngest, two-year-old Juan. Zoe and Ana politely ask Kathryn if they can help in the kitchen. Alex stares shyly at Violet and his mother says, "Now

Alex, show Violet what you found."

Alex holds something out to Violet. "I think this dropped from your Bible last Sunday. I found it on the ground."

Violet can't believe her eyes. Was that her bookmark? Her eyes shine, and she steps forward to retrieve her cherished belonging. "Oh, thank you!" she breathes.

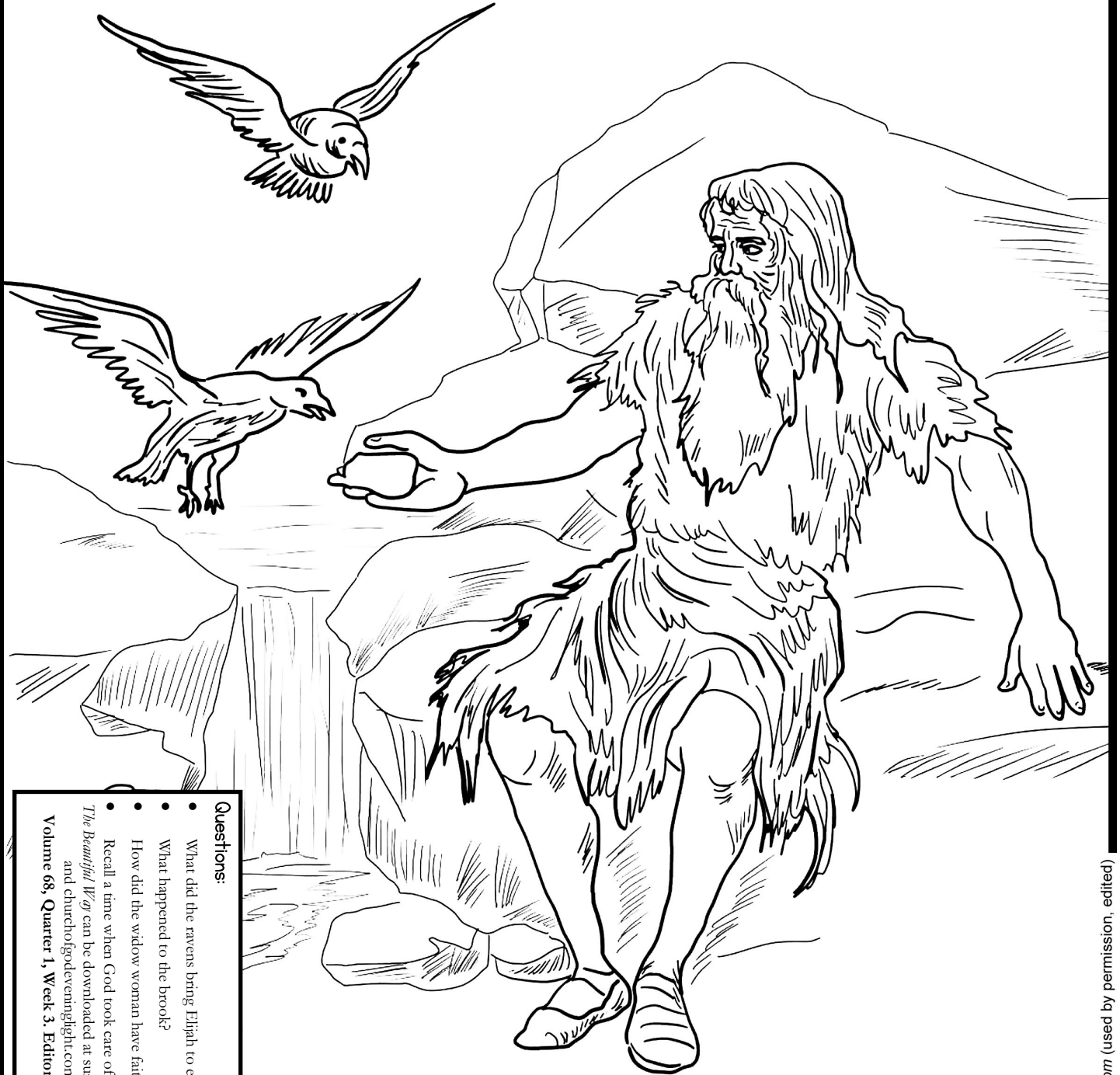
Kathryn says the blessing over the meal, and thanks God for His tender care. Soon after she says "Amen," a sharp crack of thunder shakes the house and the lights flicker off.

Violet clutches her bookmark. She still doesn't like storms, but she is learning to trust Jesus even when she is afraid. The two mothers find candles for the table and they finish their meal as Anderson and Matthew Aldana arrive.

The men tell the group that they saw the storm coming, loaded up the chopped firewood under a tarp and headed for the house. The families gather around the fireplace. Kathryn puts a kettle of water on the wood stove for hot chocolate.

The storm passes an hour later. Before the Aldana's head home Anderson thanks God for protecting them and for meeting all their needs.

Karissa Carver



**Questions:**

- What did the ravens bring Elijah to eat?
- What happened to the brook?
- How did the widow woman have faith in God?
- Recall a time when God took care of you.

*The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschoolliterature.com](http://sundayschoolliterature.com) and [churchofgodsevernight.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgodsevernight.com/beautiful-way).

Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 3. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



## The Lord, Our Healer

Q68V1W4  
01.28.18.

### Lesson Text: 1 Kings 17:17-24

The son of the widow in Zarephath fell sick. He was gravely ill, and died.

His mother said to Elijah, "What have I done to you, Oh man of God? Did you come to me to call my sins to remembrance, and to kill my son?"

"Give me your son," Elijah answered. He took the child, and carried him into the loft where he was living. Elijah laid the boy on the bed.

He cried to God, saying, "Oh Lord my God, have you brought evil upon the widow who has taken care of me by taking her son?"

Elijah stretched himself over the child three times, most likely to try and warm his little body. Elijah cried again to God, "Oh Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come to him again."

The Lord heard Elijah, and the soul of the child returned, and the boy breathed again. Elijah brought the boy down from the loft and into the house. He gave the widow her little boy and said, "See, your son lives."

The woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the words that you speak about the Lord are true."

The widow wondered if her son died because of either past sins in her life or a current secret sin. God does not punish you for sins you have asked forgiveness from. Psalm 103:12 says, "as far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our sins from us."

Micah 7:19 says, "God will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

However, if you have a secret sin right now, you need to hurry and ask Jesus for forgiveness. You will be happy and free as a bird when you are clear before God.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. | John 1:19

### New Life

The moon shines brightly this cold January night. Anderson slips outside and heads for the barn, shrugging into his wool jacket.

"Would you look at that," Anderson chuckles. A little red Highland calf nestles in the straw. Annie, their cow, licks her baby's body. Calves try to stand and walk soon after delivery. But the calf wouldn't move. Anderson frowns.

He walks back to the house, wakes Kathryn, then heads to Violet's room. Kathryn sets the kettle on the stove to heat, for hot tea is always appropriate.

Anderson carries Violet and her blanket to the barn in his strong arms.

"Vi, there's still a little time to let this calf find his feet. But if he's not trying to walk in thirty minutes I'll have to call the vet."

Kathryn brings a mug of hot tea, cups and an extra blanket. The family sits on bales of hay, watching their precious Annie and her little bull calf. Anderson leads the family in prayer.

"Lord, we thank you for Annie and her baby. You see that this

baby doesn't want to stand, and how important it is for the calf to feed soon. You know why he isn't trying to stand, and we put him in Your hands. Let us accept Your will in the matter. Amen."

Anderson pulls Violet close. "Violet, I want you to know that whatever happens tonight, God's ways are above ours. If this calf is sick or doesn't make it, that doesn't mean that God is upset at us or that He doesn't want us to be happy. It simply means He sees another way, and His way is perfect."

Violet nods solemnly and keeps her eyes trained on the stall.

"Father, look!" she exclaims several minutes later.

The little bull moves, struggling to find his legs and feet to stand. Annie bellows and licks him so hard he falls on his side. Anderson smiles. This is normal.

After a few tries, he stands on four wobbly legs.

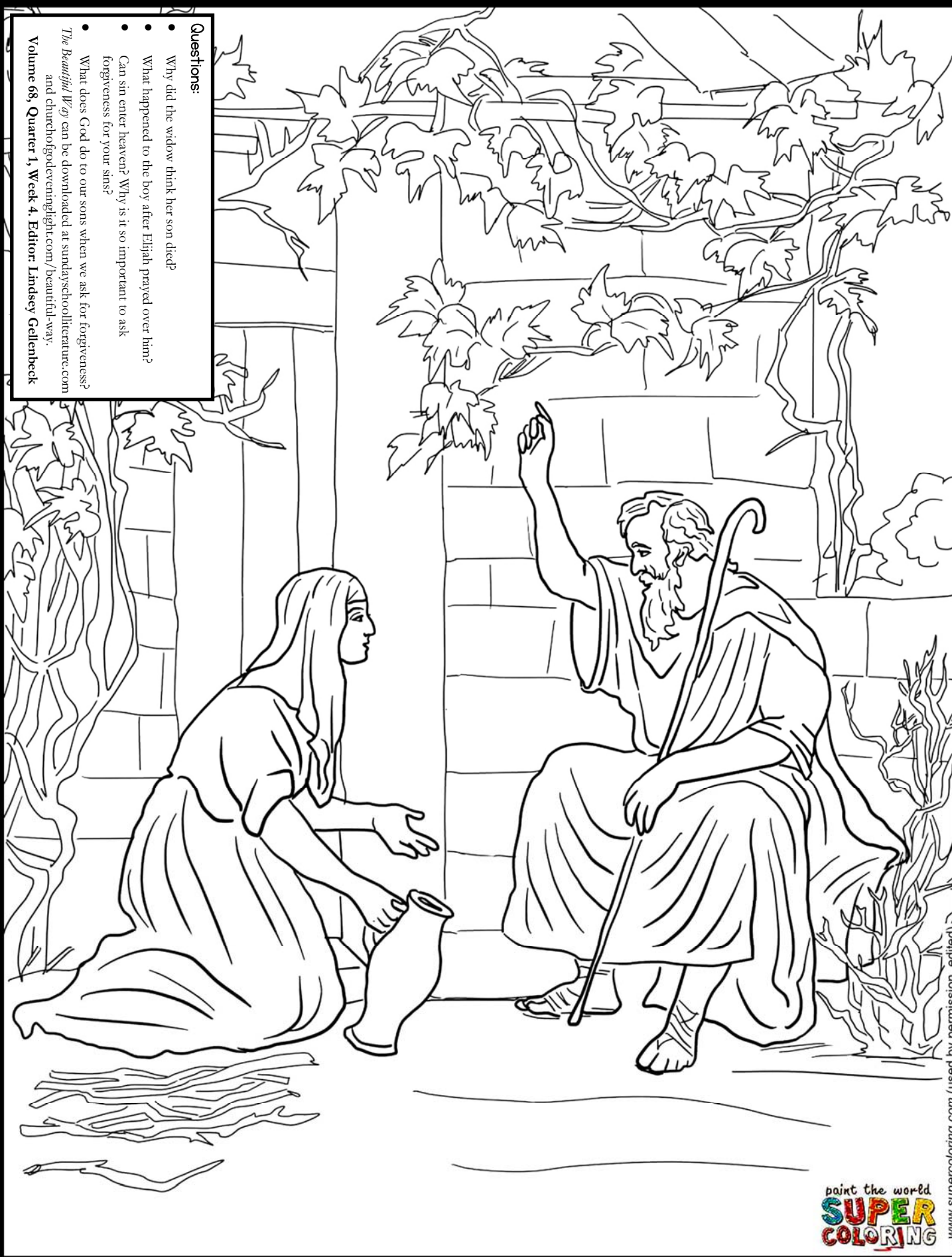
Soon after, the baby finds his mother's milk and fills his hungry belly. The Mackey family praise and thank God. Violet falls back asleep dreaming of her sweet Annie and the fluffy Highland bull.

Karissa Carver

**Questions:**

- Why did the widow think her son died?
- What happened to the boy after Elijah prayed over him?
- Can sin enter heaven? Why is it so important to ask forgiveness for your sins?
- What does God do to our sons when we ask for forgiveness?

*The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschool literature.com](http://sundayschool literature.com) and [churchofgod eveninglight.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgod eveninglight.com/beautiful-way).  
Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 4. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck







## “What a Mighty God”

Q68V1W5  
02.04.18.

### Lesson Text: 1 Kings 18:1-18

The Lord spoke to Elijah in the third year of the drought, saying, “Go, show yourself to King Ahab. I will send rain to the land.”

Elijah traveled to find King Ahab in Samaria, which was in a severe famine.

Meanwhile, King Ahab told Obadiah, the governor of the palace, to go into the land and find any place that might still have water, and look for grass for the horses and mules. Ahab didn’t want to lose all the livestock to hunger.

Obadiah feared the Lord greatly, which means he respected and followed God. One time, King Ahab’s wife Queen Jezebel wanted to harm God’s prophets so Obadiah took one hundred prophets and hid them in a cave. He secretly fed them bread and water so they wouldn’t die. Obadiah was a good man!

Obadiah obeyed King Ahab and went in search of food for the animals. While he was searching, he met Elijah.

Elijah told him to go tell King Ahab that he had returned to Samaria. Obadiah said, “If I tell him you are here, he will

look for you, and the Lord will carry you to a safe place. It will look like I lied. Then King Ahab will be very unhappy with me!”

“As the Lord of hosts live, I will show myself to King Ahab today. Do not worry for your life,” Elijah said.

Obadiah went to meet King Ahab, and told him the news. King Ahab found Elijah, and asked, “Are you the man who troubles Israel?”

Elijah said, “I am not the one who has troubled Israel. You and your father’s house have forsaken God’s commandments by following idols.”

The Lord protected Obadiah and Elijah from wicked King Ahab. He cared for Elijah during the drought, and He watched over Obadiah and the prophets and protected them from Queen Jezebel. What a mighty God we serve!

God is our refuge and strength, a  
very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

### Salmon River

Anderson whistles as he drives his 1977 Chevy Silverado. Violet smiles.

They’re heading to their special fishing spot on Salmon River. The fish don’t bite much this time of year, but sometimes it’s nice to visit anyway.

At their spot, they set up camp. Violet opens the folding chairs and Anderson unpacks lunch. They munch on crackers with smoked salmon and cream cheese.

“Violet, this here land has got to be some of the prettiest,” Anderson states as he folds his hands behind his head and gazes at the towering evergreens.

Violet listens to the sound of rushing water for several minutes, then decides to try skipping rocks.

As she stands on the bank, a slight movement catches her eye. She peers across the stream. A boy looks at her from the other side.

Violet never sees people in this part of the mountain, and takes a step forward to have a better look. She forgets that the water is near her feet, and falls in.

“Father, help!” Violet screams. The water is ice cold, and what

little swimming knowledge she has fails her thoughts. The water isn’t deep, but she feels the cruel current nipping at her feet.

Anderson jumps to his feet and runs for Violet, praying all the way.

“Grab that log, Violet,” he shouts.

She does. He wades in and rescues his tiny, shivering daughter. “We need to hurry home and get you warm, Vi. What happened?”

Violet tells her father about the boy. Anderson is quiet. “*What would a young boy be doing in these parts, alone, and at such a cold time of year?*” he thinks.

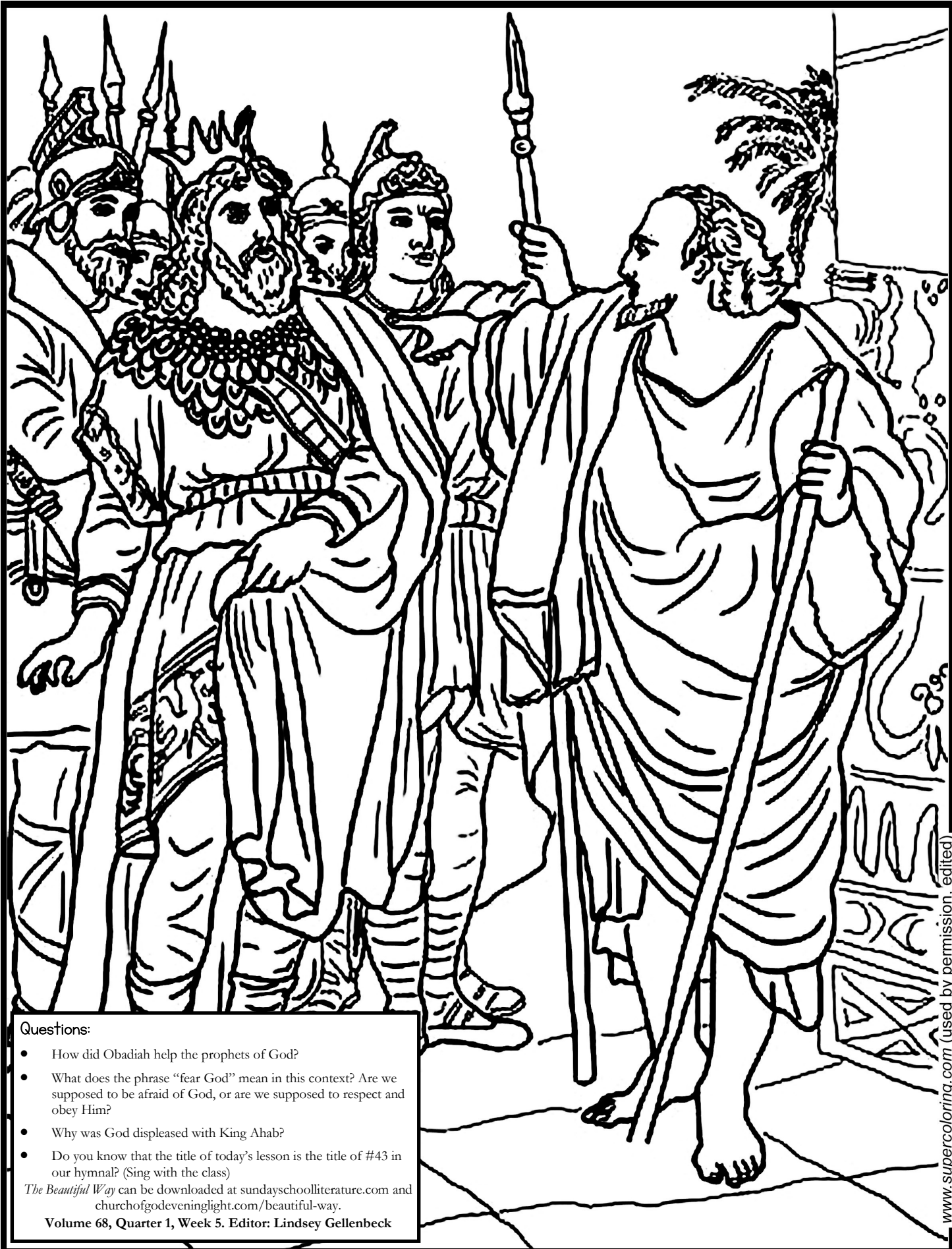
The next day Anderson stops at Mrs. Knelson’s general store in town. He hears that a young boy turned up that morning asking for work in exchange for food and lodging.

Mr. Waters, who seems to know everything, tells Anderson, “The authorities were contacted. They found that this boy is in the foster system and ran from his last home. Says he don’t want to go back. Mrs. Knelson took a shine to the boy and somehow convinced the police and his social worker to let him stay with her, at least until something is decided.”

Anderson and Kathryn stay up late into the night, talking and praying.

Karissa Carver





**Questions:**

- How did Obadiah help the prophets of God?
- What does the phrase “fear God” mean in this context? Are we supposed to be afraid of God, or are we supposed to respect and obey Him?
- Why was God displeased with King Ahab?
- Do you know that the title of today’s lesson is the title of #43 in our hymnal? (Sing with the class)

*The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschoolliterature.com](http://sundayschoolliterature.com) and [churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way).

Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 5. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



## Fire From Heaven

Q68V1W6  
02.11.18.

### Lesson Text: 1 Kings 18:19-39

Elijah the prophet met the wicked king of Israel, Ahab, after three years of no rain.

He told Ahab to gather the people of Israel and the false prophets to Mount Carmel. Ahab gathered the people and brought them to Mount Carmel.

Elijah met all the people on the mount and said, "How long will you halt between two choices? If the Lord is God, follow Him. But if Baal is your god, follow him instead."

The people didn't know what to say, so Elijah said to them, "I am the only prophet of the Lord who is here, but there are 450 prophets of Baal here today. Let them provide two steers, and choose one to sacrifice. Let them lay their sacrifice on the wood, but without any fire. I will prepare the other sacrifice, and also lay it on the wood with no fire. Call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God that answers by fire, let him be God."

All the people agreed. Baal was called the god of fire, so the people believed he would answer by sending fire.

The prophets of Baal went first. They called on Baal from the morning until the afternoon, saying, "Oh Baal, hear us." There was no answer, so they started to jump around the altar to try and get the stone god's attention!

At noon, Elijah told them to cry louder because Baal was probably busy talking or traveling or maybe he was asleep and needed to wake up.

The prophets took Elijah seriously, because they had put their belief in a false, stone god. They made more noise until the evening, but nothing happened.

Elijah told the people, "Come near me."

All the people gathered around him, and he fixed the broken altar of the Lord. He took twelve stones, which symbolized

the number of the Israelite tribes. Elijah built an altar with the stones, and dug a trench around the altar.

He placed the sacrifice on the wood, and then asked for four barrels of water to be poured on the sacrifice and over the wood. He said to pour four barrels of water on the sacrifice three times. There was so much water that it filled the trench Elijah dug.

Elijah stood by his sacrifice and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and of Israel, let it be known this day that You are God of Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all of this at Your word. Hear me, Oh Lord, hear me, that the people may know that You are God, and turn their heart back to You."

The fire of the Lord fell from the sky and burned the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

The people fell on their faces, and said, "The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God."

Have you ever seen fire completely burn water-drenched wood or stone? Have you ever seen fire consume water? No, water usually puts out fire, and fire has a hard time burning wet wood.

This was an amazing miracle that God used to shine His glory and to declare He is the one true God.

I am God, and there is none else; I  
am God, and there is none like me.

Isaiah 46:9

### Above All Else

Violet's Sunday School teacher reads the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel. Violet's eyes are big and round as she listens. Her family always uses water to make the fire go away, not the other way around! And Father taught her how good firewood must be stacked and dried for a long time before it will burn well.

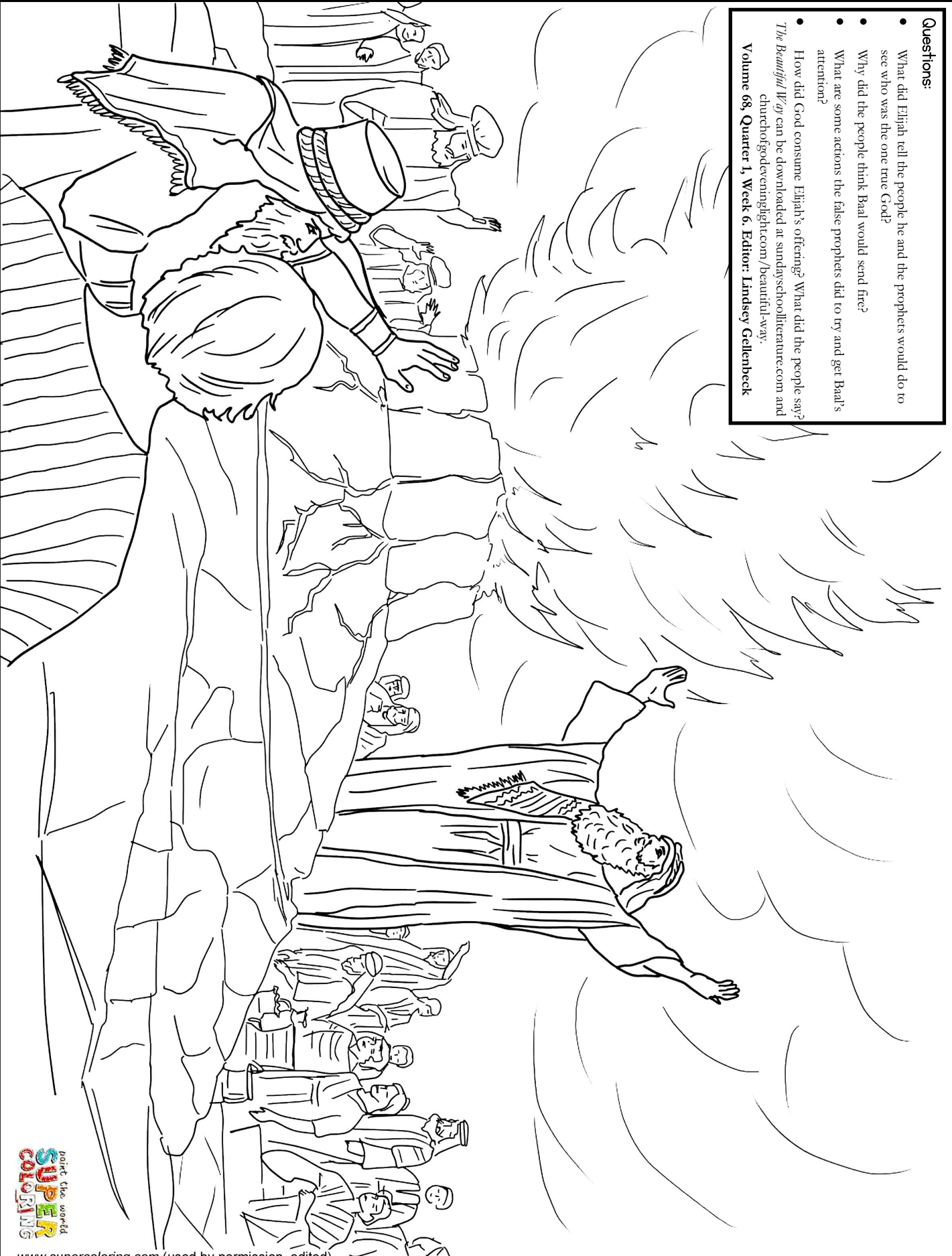
"I want to always serve the one true God," she announces after Miss Charlotte finishes the Bible story.

"Yes," Miss Charlotte says. "We may not worship stone images anymore, but we can give too much attention to other things like important people, our toys, or wanting our own way. We must always place God above everything else in our life."

Karissa Carver

#### Questions:

- What did Elijah tell the people he and the prophets would do to see who was the one true God?
  - Why did the people think Baal would send fire?
  - What are some actions the false prophets did to try and get Baal's attention?
  - How did God consume Elijah's offering? What did the people say?
- The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschool literature.com](http://sundayschool literature.com) and [churchofgod eveninghigh.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgod eveninghigh.com/beautiful-way).  
Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 6. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck





## Running on Faith

Q68V1W7  
02.18.18.

### Lesson Text: 1 Kings 18:39-46

The prophets of Baal tried to get their idol of stone to burn up their sacrifice for almost an entire day.

Elijah let them try until the evening, and then he prayed over his sacrifice and the Lord consumed it with fire. The people of Israel were gathered on the mount and witnessed this great miracle. They fell on their faces and worshiped God.

Elijah told them, "Take the prophets of Baal and make sure none of them escape."

Then he told King Ahab, "Get up, eat and drink, because the rain is on the way."

Ahab found something to eat and drink, and Elijah headed to the top of Mount Carmel. He kneeled on the ground, and then bent his face between his knees until his forehead touched the earth.

He told his servant, "Go look at the sea and tell me if you see anything."

The servant looked, but said, "There is nothing."

Elijah told him to do this seven different times. He was

praying with God to send the rain, and Elijah didn't care if he had to pray many times. He was willing to take the time to talk with the Lord.

The seventh time the servant looked at the sea, he said, "Behold, a little cloud is coming out of the sea and it looks like a man's hand!"

Elijah told the servant, "Go to King Ahab, and tell him to prepare his chariot and get away before the rain stops him from traveling anywhere."

The sky turned black from the clouds and the wind and the rain fell heavily. Ahab rode on his chariot to Jezreel, to meet Queen Jezebel back at their palace, but God gave Elijah strength and Elijah ran so fast to Jezreel he got there before King Ahab! With God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).

Ye shall call upon me, and ye shall  
go and pray unto me, and I will  
hearken unto you. Jeremiah 29:12

## Answered Prayer

The Mackey's feel God speaking to their hearts about adoption and Jack. Anderson and Kathryn pray together every morning and night. Sometimes they take day trips to Portland.

One day, they call Violet to the living room. "Vi, Father and I have something we'd like to tell you," Kathryn says.

"You know Mrs. Knelson is watching Jack, and that he is helping her around the store. However, Jack needs his own home. He is only twelve. That might sound old to you, but twelve-year-olds need lots of love and attention and care. We feel God asking us to open our hearts and home to Jack. We want to adopt him, if he'll have us. But the adoption process can take a very long time. Will you pray with us, Violet?"

Violet's eyes widen. A big brother? "Yes, I'll pray. But I hardly know him!"

"We've invited Jack for lunch tomorrow," Kathryn says.

The next afternoon, Anderson brings Jack to the house. He shows Jack their home, the barn, the animals and the land.

Jack knows the Mackey's want to adopt him. Anderson meets him every Monday evening and they have man-to-man

conversations. Jack wants a home and a family, but after five years in the foster system either the families don't want him permanently, or they mistreat him. His young heart hurts in many places, but he is still hungry for love and a stable life.

He gazes at the mountain home in wonder. He can't stop staring at the pretty Highland cows, and he imagines all he could do: drive the old truck, mend fences, and one day work beside Anderson chopping trees.

Anderson watches Jack's face and notices how his eyes light up when Jack thinks no one is watching. He can tell Jack likes them and their mountain home.

Violet can't stop chattering at the table. Jack grins. He's never heard a girl talk so much, but he likes Violet. He thinks Kathryn is the most beautiful, kind woman he's ever met.

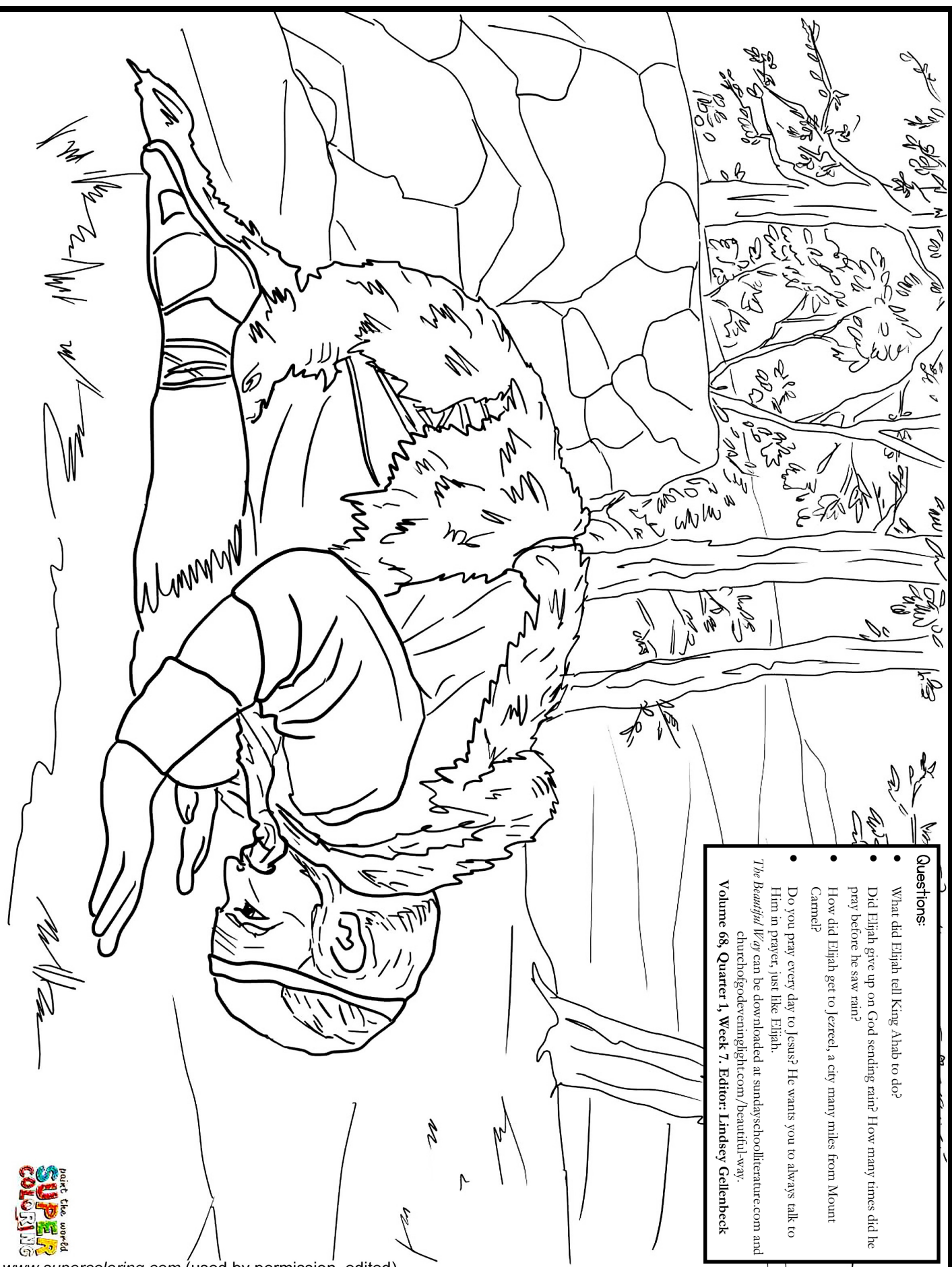
Anderson drives Jack back to Mrs. Knelson's. Jack turns to Anderson, sticks out his hand and gravely says, "I'd like to live with you and be your son."

Anderson's eyes mist with tears as he firmly shakes Jack's small hand.

Karissa Carver



- Questions:**
- What did Elijah tell King Ahab to do?
  - Did Elijah give up on God sending rain? How many times did he pray before he saw rain?
  - How did Elijah get to Jezreel, a city many miles from Mount Carmel?
  - Do you pray every day to Jesus? He wants you to always talk to Him in prayer, just like Elijah.
- The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschool literature.com](http://sundayschool literature.com) and [churchofgod eveninglight.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgod eveninglight.com/beautiful-way).
- Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 7. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck







## A Still, Small Voice

Q68V1W8  
02.25.18.

### Lesson Text: 1 Kings 19:1-18

Queen Jezebel heard what happened on Mount Carmel, and it made her very angry. She sent a message to Elijah and told him that she planned to take his life.

Elijah left Jezreel and traveled to Beersheba to stay away from the wicked queen. From the city, he traveled for a day into the wilderness.

He found a juniper tree and sat in its shade to shield himself from the hot sun. Elijah was sad, and thought he was the only one left serving God. He fell asleep under the tree.

An angel approached and touched him, and told him to get up and eat. Elijah saw a cake and bottle of water nearby. He ate and drank, and laid down again.

But the angel told him a second time, "Get up and eat. Your journey is long and you need strength."

Elijah obeyed, then started walking across the wilderness to Mt. Horeb. He traveled forty days and forty nights on the food that the angel provided.

Elijah found a cave on the mountain for shelter. The Lord asked Elijah, "What are you doing here?"

Elijah said, "The children of Israel have disobeyed you. I am

Your only prophet left, and they want to kill me."

"Go stand on the mountain," said God.

Elijah obeyed. God passed by, and a strong wind broke the rocks on the mountains. But the Lord was not in the wind. Then God sent an earthquake, but He wasn't in the earthquake, either.

After the earthquake, God sent fire. But God wasn't in the fire. After the fire, Elijah heard a still, small voice. He hid his face in his cloak, because He knew it was God.

God told Elijah He still had 7000 people in Israel who had not bowed to Baal, but still believed in the one true God.

Yea, though I walk through the  
valley of the shadow of death, I  
will fear no evil: for thou art with  
me; thy rod and thy staff they  
comfort me. Psalm 23:4

### God's Voice

The days and weeks slide by. Kathryn tells Violet that the adoption process is happening quickly, but Violet feels like it is taking forever!

Jack spends almost every evening with the Mackey's, and Violet can't get enough of her future big brother. He is nice, even though sometimes he tugs on her pigtails and grins.

"Momma, I'm tired of waiting!" Violet wails one day. "What's taking so long? We have Jack's room ready and everything!"

"Violet, do not whine. We pray every day for Jack and the adoption. God sees what we do not," Kathryn reprimands Violet.

Violet mopes around the kitchen. Kathryn finishes drying a platter, then tells Violet to bring her the Bible story book. Kathryn sits in Anderson's leather chair and Violet climbs into her lap. They snuggle under a thick blanket as Kathryn turns the pages to find a certain story.

"I'm going to read you the story of Elijah on the mountain and how he heard God's voice," Kathryn says.

Violet listens as her momma reads about Elijah standing on the mountain waiting to hear God's voice. God passes by Elijah, and

a strong wind breaks the rocks on the mountain. Elijah doesn't hear God's voice. God sends an earthquake, but Elijah doesn't hear God. Then God sends fire, but God's voice isn't in the fire, either.

And then, Elijah hears a still, small voice and knows it is God.

"You see, Vi, God's voice is still, or calm. He speaks to us quietly, and one way we can hear His voice is to study His word, pray, and have times of quietness with Him. That's why Father and I aren't complaining about not getting to bring Jack home immediately. God has confirmed His plans in our hearts, and we must only wait."

"It would be easier if God just boomed His voice out of the sky to me," Violet says. "Then I'd know for sure."

Kathryn smiles and says, "You will know for sure when He speaks to your heart. He doesn't have to speak loudly for you to hear."

That night, Violet takes some time to study her memory verse for Sunday School.

"Jesus, I want to listen for your voice at all times. Help me to think about you all throughout the day. I love you. Amen."

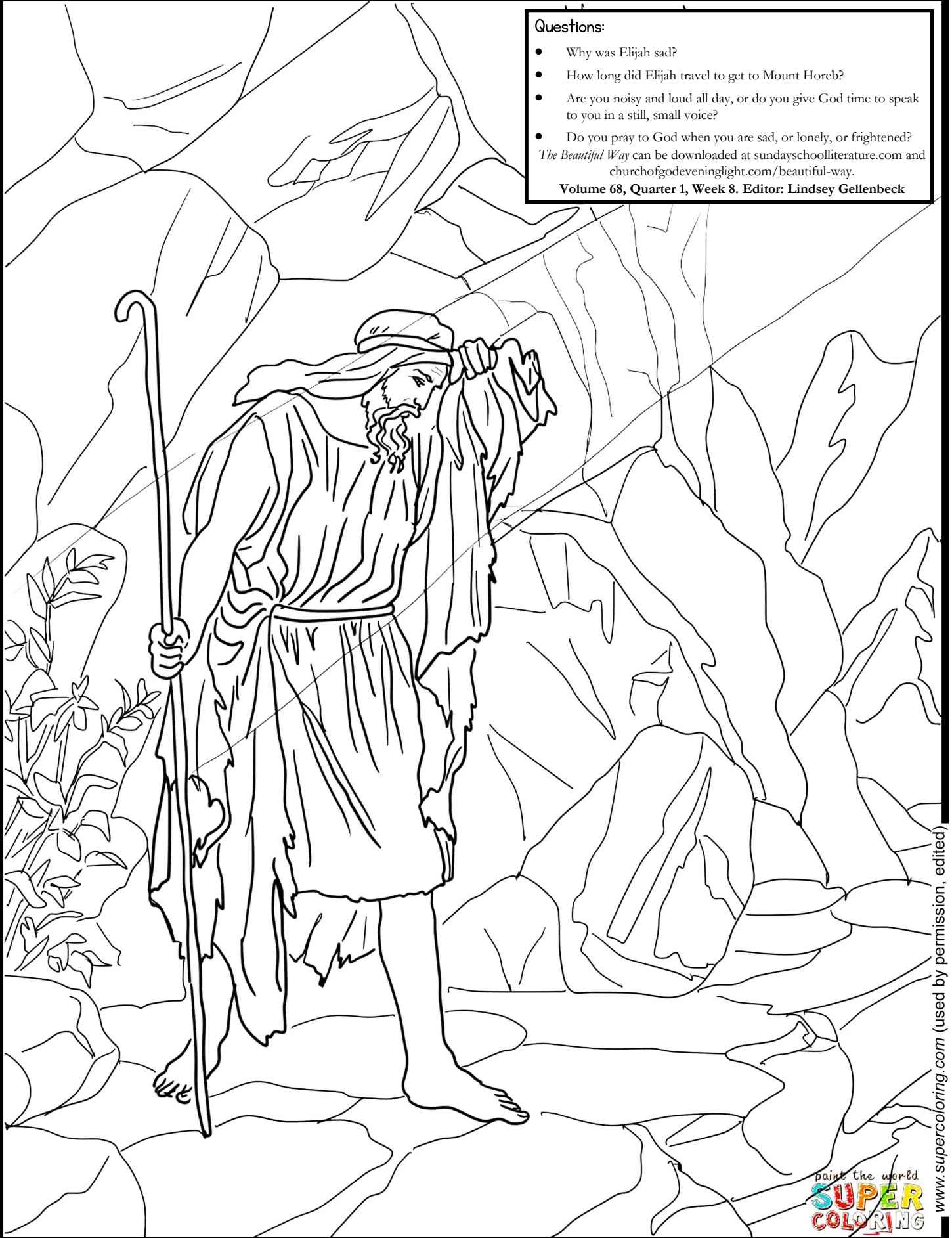
Karissa Carver

**Questions:**

- Why was Elijah sad?
- How long did Elijah travel to get to Mount Horeb?
- Are you noisy and loud all day, or do you give God time to speak to you in a still, small voice?
- Do you pray to God when you are sad, or lonely, or frightened?

*The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschoolliterature.com](http://sundayschoolliterature.com) and [churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way).

**Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck**





## Mercy For a Wicked Man

Q68V1W9  
03.04.18.

### Lesson Text: 1 Kings 21

A man named Naboth had a vineyard in Jezreel, near the palace. King Ahab liked Naboth's vineyard, and said, "Give me your vineyard. I will give you another vineyard, or pay you for this one."

"The Lord forbids me to give my inheritance to you," Naboth said. In the Old Testament, God said that no one could leave or sell their inheritance. An inheritance could be land, money, a dwelling - anything that parents or family members left for their children.

Ahab went back to the palace, laid on his bed and pouted. He turned his face to the wall and refused to eat. King Ahab owned much land and was very wealthy, but he coveted, or wanted, the vineyard, and didn't like hearing the word, "no."

He told Queen Jezebel what happened, and she told him to be happy, because she would get him that vineyard. She told two men to lie about Naboth and tell all the people that he had said bad things about God.

They did, and the people killed Naboth.

Jezebel told Ahab, "Arise, go take your vineyard."

Naboth is dead now, and the vineyard is all your own."

God told Elijah what happened, and told him to meet Ahab. When Elijah found Ahab, Ahab said, "My enemy has found me."

Elijah told Ahab, "I have found you because you decided to turn against God and behave wickedly. God will bring evil upon your family because of your evil deeds. You have sold yourself to Satan, and he controls your actions. You worship idols, which is a disobedience to God."

When Ahab heard these words, he was convicted of his sins and repented. God saw his repentant heart, and told Elijah, "Because he humbled himself before me, I will have mercy on him."

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart. Psalm 52:17

### The Red Bicycle

Violet and a group of girls gather around Amy Carter after church. Amy is a spoiled girl. The Carter's place great importance on their large home, fancy car, and possessions.

The next evening, Violet brings her coloring book to the kitchen table.

"I wish I had another coloring book," Violet grumbles.

Kathryn raises her eyebrows. "Violet, you have two more books that you haven't even started! Why would you want another one?"

"Well, Amy Carter has gobs of toys and she showed them to us at church last night and I just wish I had something that she has!" Violet whines.

"Let me tell you a story, Vi." Anderson says slowly.

"When I was a child, I spotted a shiny red bicycle in the store window one day. Oh, I wanted it! I had a bike, but it was old and rusty. Sometimes, when I would ride down the hill leading to town, a wheel would fly off if I went too fast."

Violet giggles at this mental picture.

"Your grandpa and grandma knew I wanted that bike, but they didn't have much money. Several months later, on my birthday, I woke up to find the shiny red bicycle leaning by our fireplace! I couldn't wait to show the other children my new prize!

I rode my bike to the top of the hill, and then let 'er fly! At the bottom, I noticed Joe eyeing my bike. His family was poorer than ours, and we knew it. Joe didn't even have a bicycle.

I asked him if he wanted to take the bike for a ride down the hill, and I'd never seen one boy grin so wide. He got down to the bottom, handed me the bike and said he better be getting home now.

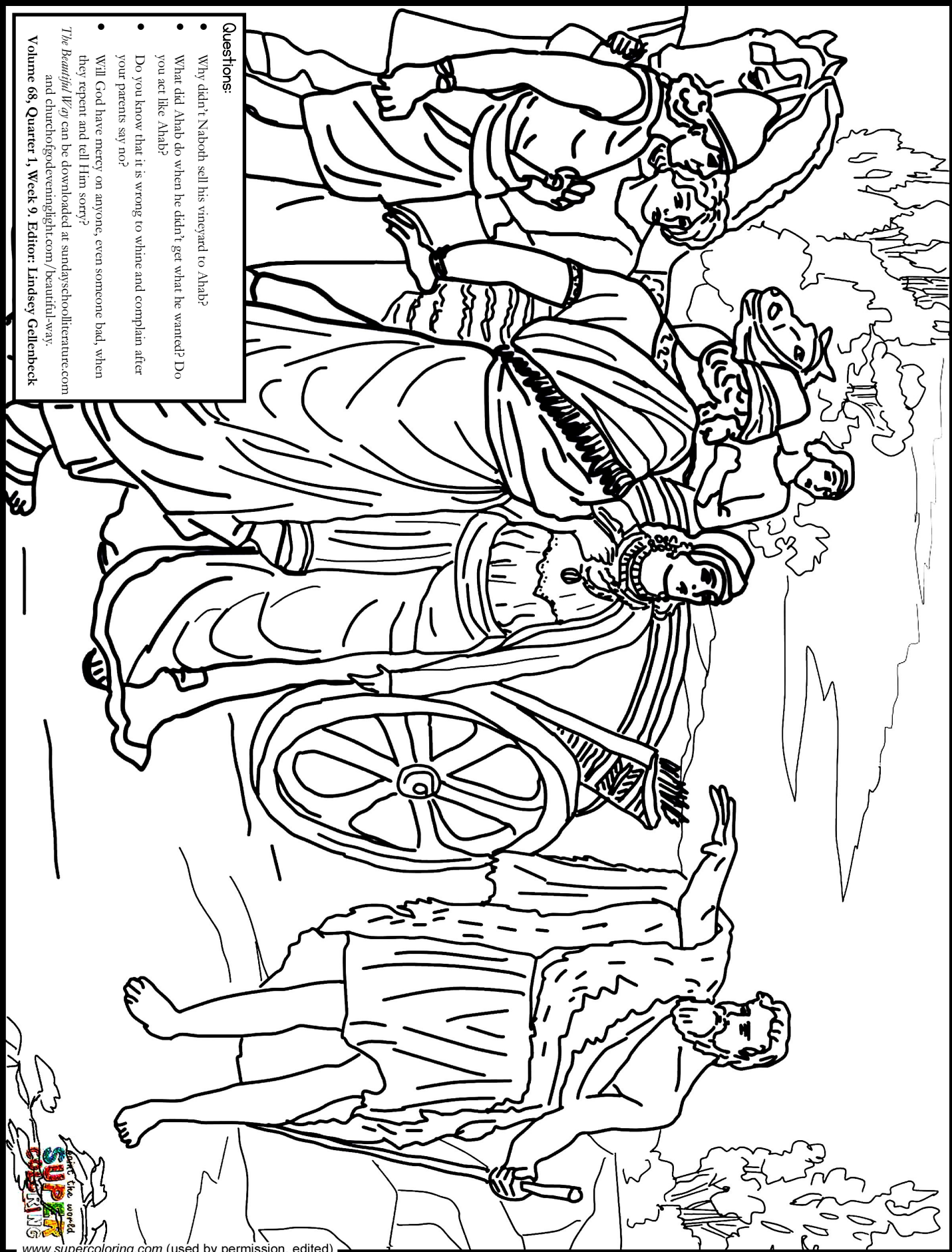
All of a sudden, I remembered my parents telling me that it is wrong to covet. Joe didn't even have a bike, but he was happy just to borrow mine and then give it back. I took a deep breath and asked him if he'd like to trade weeks with me for the bicycle.

His eyes lit up. "Oh boy, oh boy!" he shouted happily.

I rode my wobbly bike the next day, and the loose wheel didn't bother me at all. It felt good to know I could be happy even without my shiny red bicycle."

Karissa Carver





**Questions:**

- Why didn't Naboth sell his vineyard to Ahab?
- What did Ahab do when he didn't get what he wanted? Do you act like Ahab?
- Do you know that it is wrong to whine and complain after your parents say no?
- Will God have mercy on anyone, even someone bad, when they repent and tell Him sorry?

*The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschoolliterature.com](http://sundayschoolliterature.com) and [churchofgodseveninght.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgodseveninght.com/beautiful-way).

Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 9, Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck





## Heaven Bound

Q68V1W10  
03.11.18.

### Lesson Text: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Elijah chose Elisha to become a prophet, because Elijah knew God planned to take him to Heaven soon.

Elijah traveled with Elisha from Gilgal. This was the city that Joshua and the Israelites camped at before marching around Jericho. Elijah told Elisha to stay in Gilgal, because the Lord was sending Elijah on to Bethel. Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, I will not leave you."

The men traveled to Bethel, which means "House of God." Jacob renamed this city Bethel after he had a dream about heaven. Elijah asked Elisha to stay in Bethel, because the Lord was calling him to Jericho. But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, I will not leave you."

In Bethel, students of the prophets asked Elisha, "Don't you know that God is going to take away Elijah, your master?"

"Yes, I know. Hold your peace - please, be quiet," Elisha said.

Elijah and Elisha traveled to Jericho. The students in Jericho also asked Elisha if he knew what was about to happen, and he said, "yes."

Elijah told Elisha, "Please stay here in Jericho. Now the Lord is calling me to Jordan."

As before, Elisha refused to leave Elijah's side. The two men traveled to the Jordan River. This was the same river that God parted when Joshua and the Israelites crossed from the wilderness into Canaan.

Fifty students stood afar off, watching to see what would happen. Elijah took his mantle, wrapped it up, and hit the waters of the river with his cloak. The water divided on both sides, and the two men walked across on dry ground.

They walked and talked together, but then a chariot of fire with horses of fire appeared, and Elisha saw God take Elijah up to Heaven in a whirlwind.

Now the God of hope fill you with  
all joy and peace. Romans 15:13

### New Life

The Mackey's and Jack enjoy a tasty chicken pot pie with a mixed greens salad for lunch.

The adoption process is going smoothly, and Jack should be officially adopted within the next few months.

Violet starts to tell Jack about the night her cow Annie gave birth to Arthur when someone knocks on the door.

Anderson speaks a few words to a man at the door before he sits back down at the table.

"That was Dylan stopping by to let us know that Mrs. Rose passed this morning. The funeral will be day after tomorrow.

Jack, Dylan is our neighbor and Mrs. Rose was my old Sunday School teacher when I was a child. She lived a long, sweet life."

Violet quietly munches on her salad. "So Mrs. Rose is in heaven now?" she asks.

"Yes, sweetie. Her earthly body gets to rest now, but her spirit gets a new body and will live in Heaven forever. Death is just the way our spirits leave this earth for their home with Jesus. It's a journey," Kathryn explains to Violet.

"Everyone who loves Jesus and follows him will go to Heaven

when their body rests on Earth. However, a few people back in the Old Testament were transfigured, or elevated from their earthly body to their celestial body, without dying."

"Who?" Jack and Violet ask at the same time.

"Enoch, Noah's grandfather. The Bible says he walked with God and he pleased God. When it came time for his soul to leave earth for paradise, God took his earthly body and soul at once. The second person is Elijah. God sent a fiery chariot and horses to take Elijah home," Kathryn explains.

"There's a third group of people who will not die before they go to Heaven. Jesus is returning one day, and every Christian living on this day will rise to meet Jesus in the sky," Anderson adds.

"So I shouldn't be sad about Sister Rose dying?" Violet slowly says.

"Sweetie, it's normal to be sad when someone we know dies, because we miss them. But if they are Christians, we can be happy knowing that they made their journey from earth to Heaven, and that we will be with them again one day," Kathryn says.

Karissa Carver

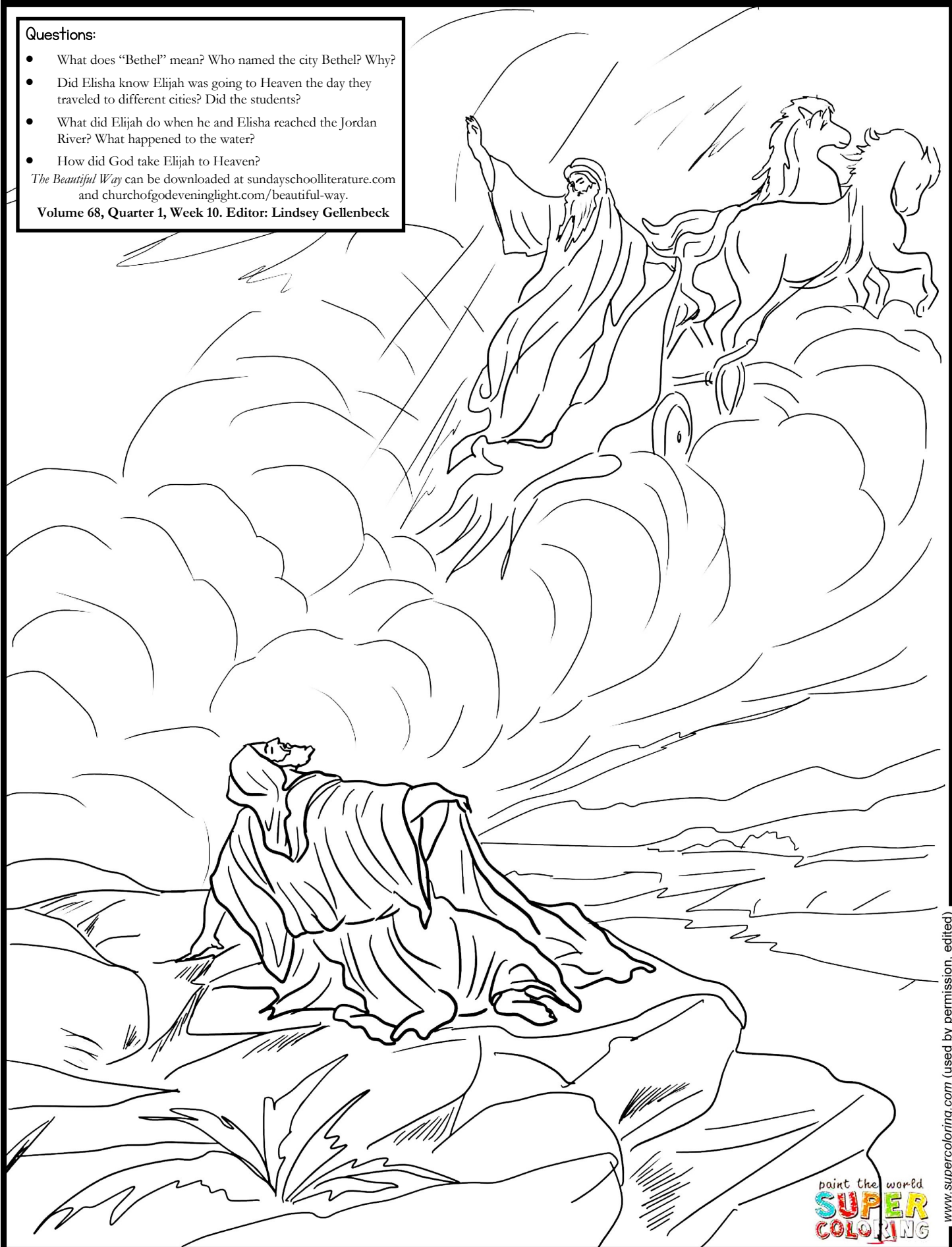


**Questions:**

- What does "Bethel" mean? Who named the city Bethel? Why?
- Did Elisha know Elijah was going to Heaven the day they traveled to different cities? Did the students?
- What did Elijah do when he and Elisha reached the Jordan River? What happened to the water?
- How did God take Elijah to Heaven?

*The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschoolliterature.com](http://sundayschoolliterature.com)  
and [churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way).

**Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 10. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck**





## The Passover

Q68V1W11  
03.18.18.

**Lesson Text:** Exodus 12, 13:1-6; Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:1-14

The Passover began in Egypt. God told the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb, eat the meat, and dip the blood on their doorposts as a protection against the final plague.

God commanded them to eat unleavened bread with the Passover meal, and then for seven more days. Unleavened bread is flat because it's made without yeast, which makes the bread rise.

The Jews descended from the Israelites, and celebrate this feast every year to remember how God protected and freed them from bondage in Egypt.

The day Jesus was taken to be crucified, he observed the Passover with his disciples. He would eventually be killed as the lamb sacrifice for all of our sins.

Jesus told Peter and John, "Find a man in the city carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him into his house, and then say that I want to eat the passover with my disciples in the guest room. The owner of the home will show you a large upper room that is available."

Peter and John obeyed, and prepared for the feast.

Another disciple, Judas Iscariot, was also busy.

He met with the church priests and agreed to lead them to Jesus so they could take him and kill him. The priests were glad, and paid Judas.

At evening, Jesus and the twelve men sat down to eat. This was the same time that the Israelites were commanded to start the Passover in Egypt (Exodus 12:6).

Jesus took the unleavened bread, blessed it, broke it into pieces, and gave it to his disciples. He told them, "Take, eat, this is my body."

Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them. He said, "Drink. This is my blood which is shed for many people for all of their sins. However, I will not drink it until the day that I am with you in my Father's kingdom (Matthew 26:29)."

The men sang a hymn together and then went to the mount of Olives.

In whom we have redemption through  
his blood, the forgiveness of sins,  
according to the riches of his grace.

Ephesians 1:7

## Violet Bakes Bread

"Momma, could we make unleavened bread?" Violet asks as the Mackeys leave church. "We talked about it in Sunday School."

"That's a wonderful idea!" Kathryn says.

Once home, Kathryn and Violet find a recipe for unleavened bread.

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- Scant 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- Scant 1/3 cup water
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

Kathryn heats the oven to 425 degrees F then says, "Violet, God gave one instruction to the Israelites regarding this bread. He didn't list ingredients to use, but He is very clear on what to exclude: yeast, or leaven.

The bread is symbolic of God delivering the people from bondage. We find Moses telling the Israelites in Exodus 13:3 to 'Remember this day when you came out of Egypt, for by the Lord's strength He brought you out from this place: no leavened bread shall be eaten on this day.'"

"Why did God not want yeast in the bread?" Violet asks.

"Well, yeast is fermented and causes bread to change shape. God

wants us to remember He has the strength to remove us from bondage. He takes us and changes us, and removes the power of sin from our heart."

Violet widens her eyes. "But Momma, you usually use yeast to bake your bread!"

Kathryn smiles. "Yes dear, God does not say to never bake with yeast. But we are to bake without it when we have the Lord's Supper. It's symbolic."

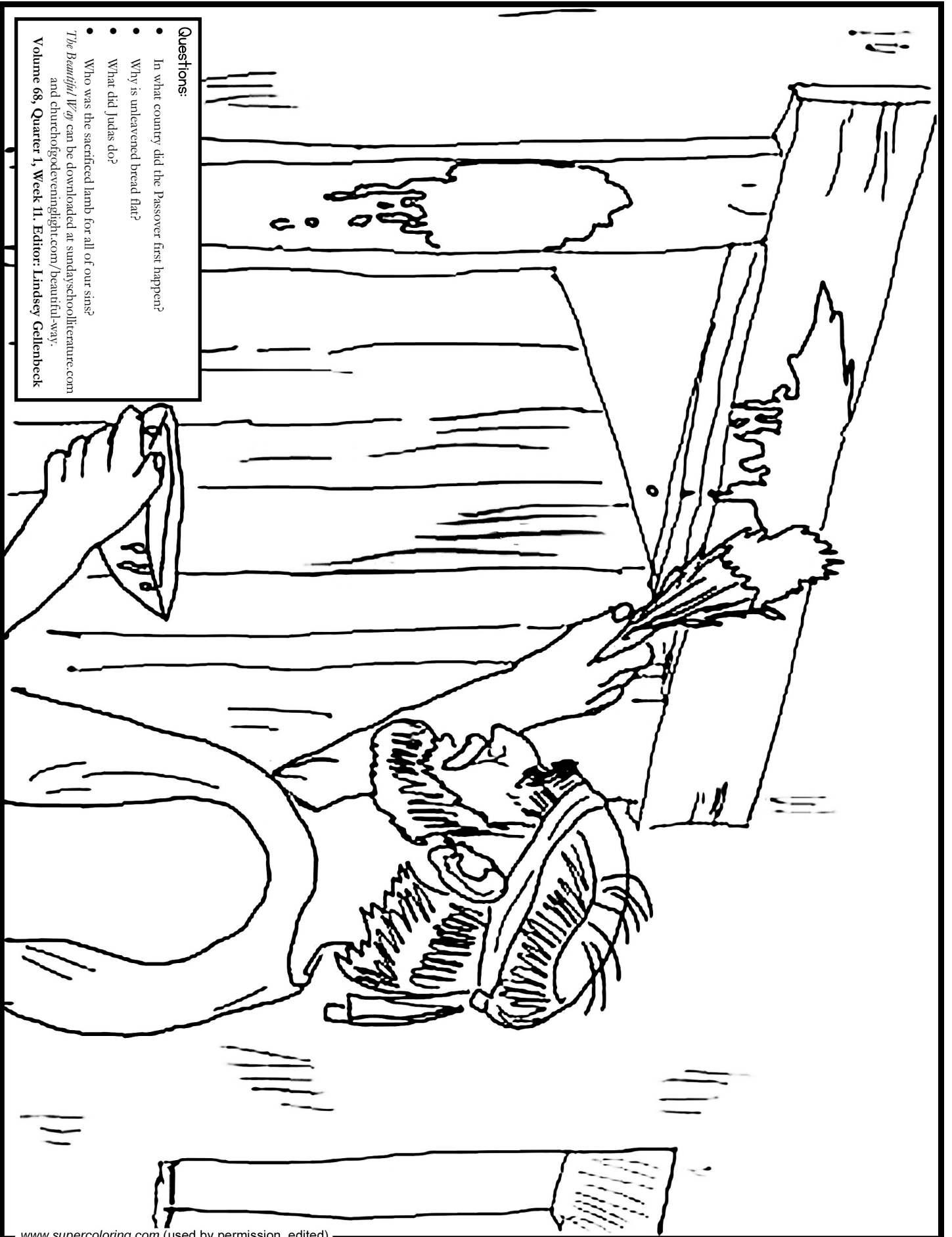
"What does symbolic mean?" Violet asks.

"A stop sign that you see on the road is a symbol. It's symbolic to stop your vehicle and wait. The sign doesn't actually make you stop, but you obey the meaning of the sign. We obey God's word on this special day and eat unleavened bread while we remember God's saving power."

Mother and daughter find the ingredients, measuring utensils, a mixing bowl and a baking sheet. They mix the flour, oil, and salt in the bowl, then add water and mix until the dough is soft. Violet shapes the dough into balls then presses them to the baking sheet.

The dough cooks for ten minutes. Violet is excited to taste unleavened bread. Before she takes a bite, she closes her eyes and says, "Dear Jesus, thank you for saving me. I love you."

Karissa Carver



**Questions:**

- In what country did the Passover first happen?
- Why is unleavened bread flat?
- What did Judas do?
- Who was the sacrificed lamb for all of our sins?

*The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschoolillustration.com](http://sundayschoolillustration.com)  
and [churchofgodsevenday.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgodsevenday.com/beautiful-way).  
Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 11. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



## Good Friday

Q68V1W12  
03.25.18.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 26:36-68, 27:1-51; Luke 23:29-43

Jesus and the disciples walked to a garden called Gethsemane, where olives were pressed into oil.

Jesus knew he needed to die for our sin. He prayed to God, "Not my will but Thine be done."

All of a sudden, Judas led the priests and elders to Jesus. They took Jesus to the high priest of the church. Many people told the high priest lies about Jesus. They didn't want to believe Jesus came to save them, because they were used to doing things their own way.

Judas saw what was happening and told the priests and elders, "I have sinned and betrayed an innocent man."

But the church elders did not care that Jesus was innocent, because they were full of selfishness and sin.

Soldiers placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head and made fun of him. Jesus was quiet and kind the entire time. Then they led him to a hill called Golgotha and crucified him on a wooden cross.

Two men, thieves, were also crucified. One mocked Jesus and said, "If you are Christ, save yourself and us!"

But the other man said, "Do you not respect God? This man

has done no wrong!" He turned to Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when you are in Heaven."

Jesus knew that this was why he was being crucified: to save humanity from sin. He told the man, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

Around noon, the sky became dark. Three hours later, Jesus cried out to God and died. This was the time of day that the Jews usually sacrificed the lamb for Passover. The curtain in the church temple that separated God from the people ripped from the top to the bottom. There was a strong earthquake. Jesus had conquered sin!

He died so He could live in your heart all the days of your life. And when you get to Heaven, you will live with God and Jesus and the angels and a host of people, because your sins are forgiven through the blood of Jesus.

He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted,  
to preach deliverance to the captives, and  
recovering of sigh to the blind, to set at  
liberty them that are bruised. Luke 4:18

## The Faded Ribbon

Violet hops in place as Kathryn tries to brush her hair.

Miss Jane is a first-grade teacher, and she sent letters to all the parents with five-and-six-year-olds requesting their child's presence for a day of play, education and socialization.

Violet starts first grade in the fall, and she is very excited. Today she gets to meet the other children!

"Momma, may you please tie my ponytail with the blue ribbon?"

Kathryn smiles, and finds the faded light-blue ribbon that she used to wear as a child.

"Ready?" Anderson calls from the door.

When they arrive at the little schoolhouse, Violet clutches her parent's hands. Eyes shining, she gives them a kiss and says, "I'll see you soon!"

She walks to the desk with her nametag and waits for Miss Jane to speak.

That morning, the children color, play with blocks, sing songs and memorize a verse.

Violet notices a few girls she has never seen before. She walks up to them, says hello and picks up a purple crayon.

One of the girls looks at Violet's ribbon and asks, "Where'd you get that ribbon?"

Violet proudly tells them that it was her momma's ribbon when she was their age.

"Well, it's old and faded. I have a nice, new shiny one!" the haughty little girl sniffed.

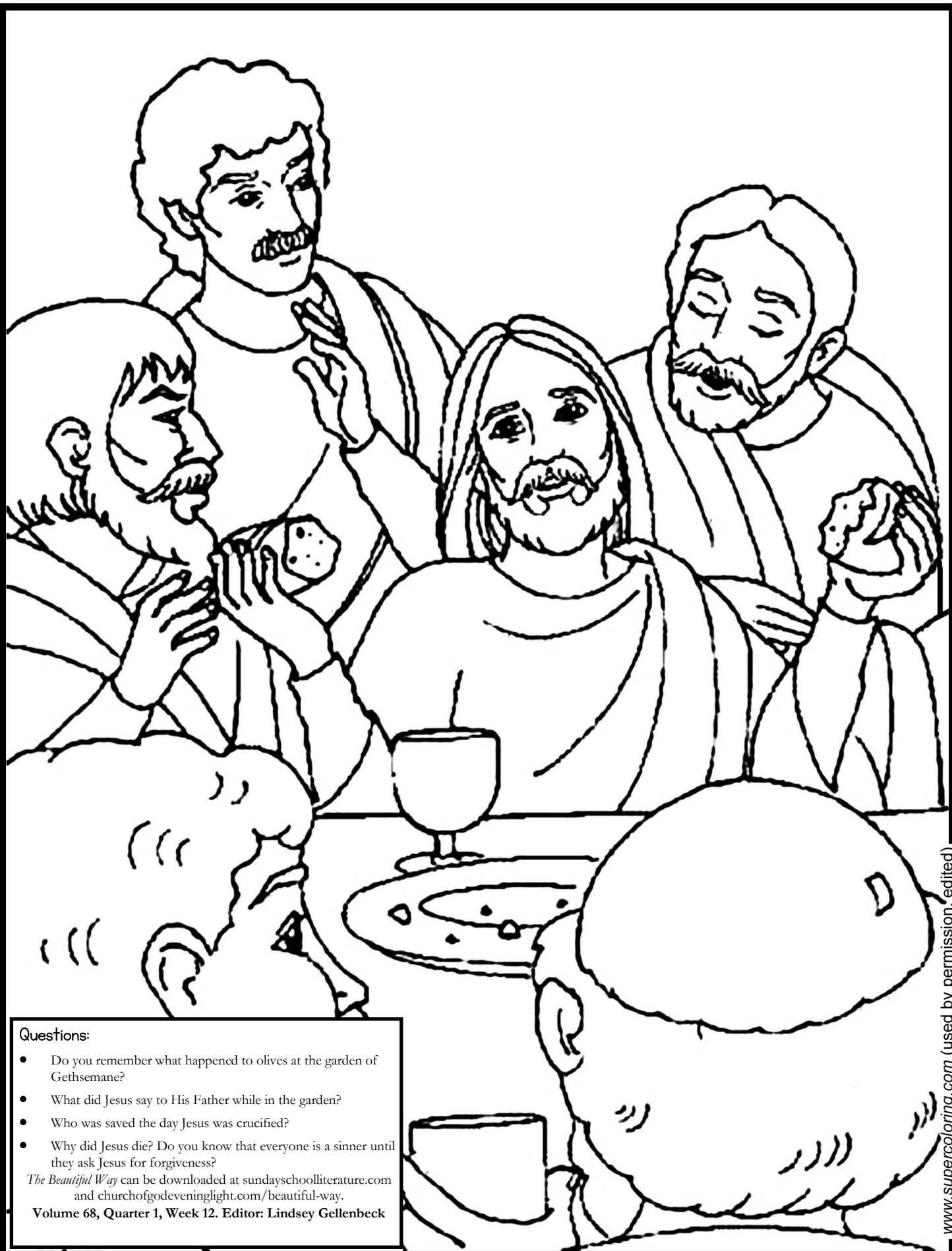
Violet's cheeks flush and her throat feels tight. She wants to say something to make the mean girl feel bad. Then she remembers the story her Sunday School teacher read last Sunday. Jesus was quiet and kind to the people who said mean things to him. He loved them so much he was willing to die for them.

She slowly turns back to her desk and fights the tears welling in her eyes.

That afternoon, Anderson and Kathryn return to take Violet home. She tells them what happened. Kathryn pulls Violet close for a long hug. "Jesus gave you a lot of courage today, Vi," she whispers.

Violet is quiet for a long time. Then, "I liked playing and singing songs with the other children. Jesus will help me when I start first grade. I know it."

Karissa Carver



**Questions:**

- Do you remember what happened to olives at the garden of Gethsemane?
- What did Jesus say to His Father while in the garden?
- Who was saved the day Jesus was crucified?
- Why did Jesus die? Do you know that everyone is a sinner until they ask Jesus for forgiveness?

*The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschoolliterature.com](http://sundayschoolliterature.com)  
and [churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way).

Volume 68, Quarter 1, Week 12. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck