The Best Story About ILSUS





Nathanael, a shepherd boy, lived in Bethlehem a long, long time ago. And Nathanael liked being a shepherd boy because at night he could listen to stories around the campfire.



The old shepherd storyteller told exciting and wonderful stories. But he often had to remind Nathanael that the story wasn't over until he heard the word "Amen."



One evening the storyteller said, "I have a new story to tell you. It is a very special story about Jesus."



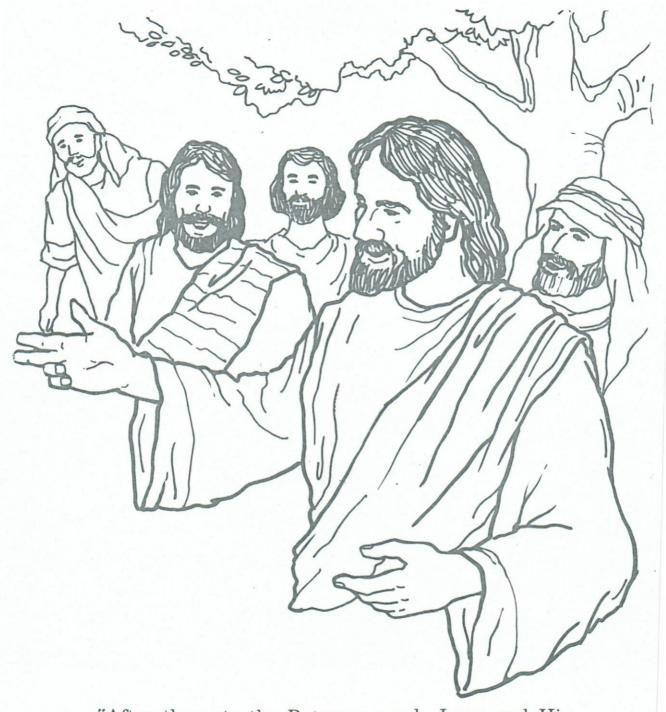
"The story starts as Jesus was riding into the city of Jerusalem. The people were so happy to see Jesus that they greeted Him like a king."



Nathanael said, "I like this story about Jesus!" But the storyteller reminded him, "The story's not over yet. I haven't said, 'Amen."



The old shepherd continued, "The people had gathered in Jerusalem to eat the feast of Passover. Jesus and His disciples wanted to celebrate Passover too."



"After they ate the Passover meal, Jesus and His disciples went to a beautiful garden because Jesus wanted to pray."



"All of a sudden some soldiers burst into the garden and arrested Jesus."

Nathanael cried, "Oh! Why would anyone arrest Jesus? He didn't do anything bad!"



Nathanael cried, "No! No! Jesus didn't die! He lived!" But the storyteller replied, "The story's not over yet, Nathanael. I haven't said, 'Amen'"



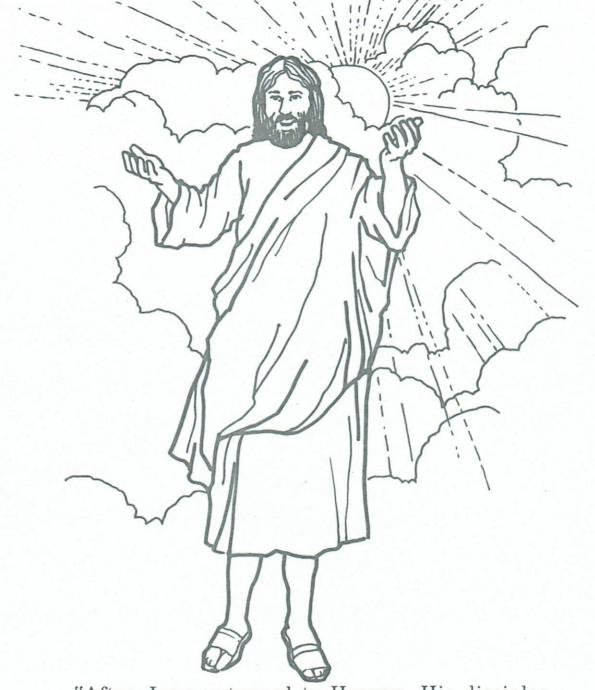
The old shepherd continued the story. "After an unfair trial, the soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. He prayed to God, and then He died."



But the storyteller reminded him, "The story's not over yet, Nathanael, I haven't said, 'Amen'"



The storyteller continued, "Three women went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. Suddenly an angel appeared to the women and said, 'Jesus is not here! He is alive!'"



"After Jesus returned to Heaven, His disciples preached throughout the world telling everyone the greatest story of all—that Jesus lived, Jesus died, AND Jesus arose!"



And then the storyteller said, "Amen! Amen! and AMEN!"

When Nathanael heard the "Amens," he cried, "And that's the end of the story!"



But the storyteller said, "Actually, Nathanael, that was just the beginning!"