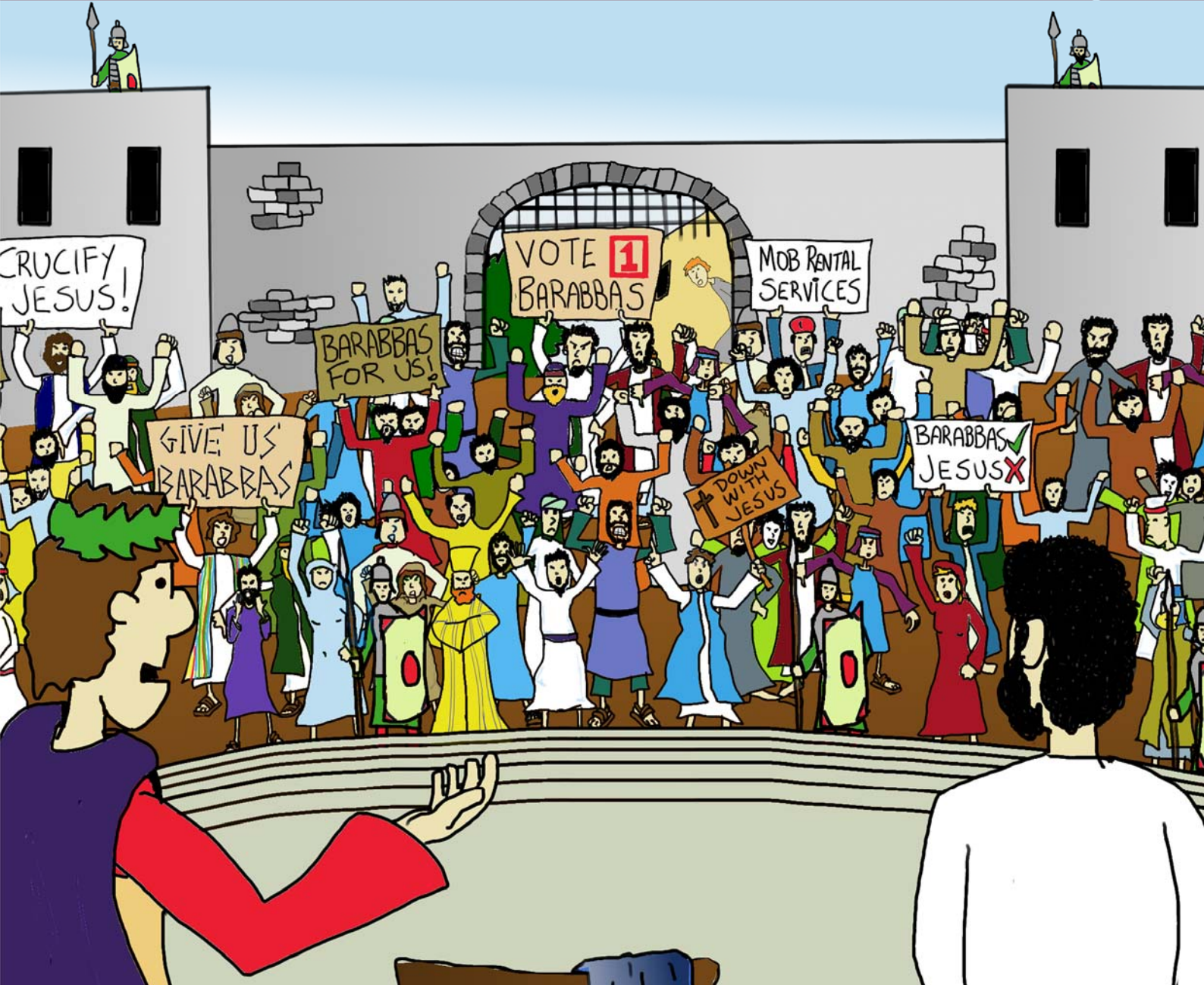




The Easter Story



Jason and Sonya Staben



The Easter Story



Illustrations by Jason and Sonya Staben © 2014

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On the Sunday before Passover Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on a colt. Crowds of people came and laid palm branches out before Jesus. They shouted, "Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!"

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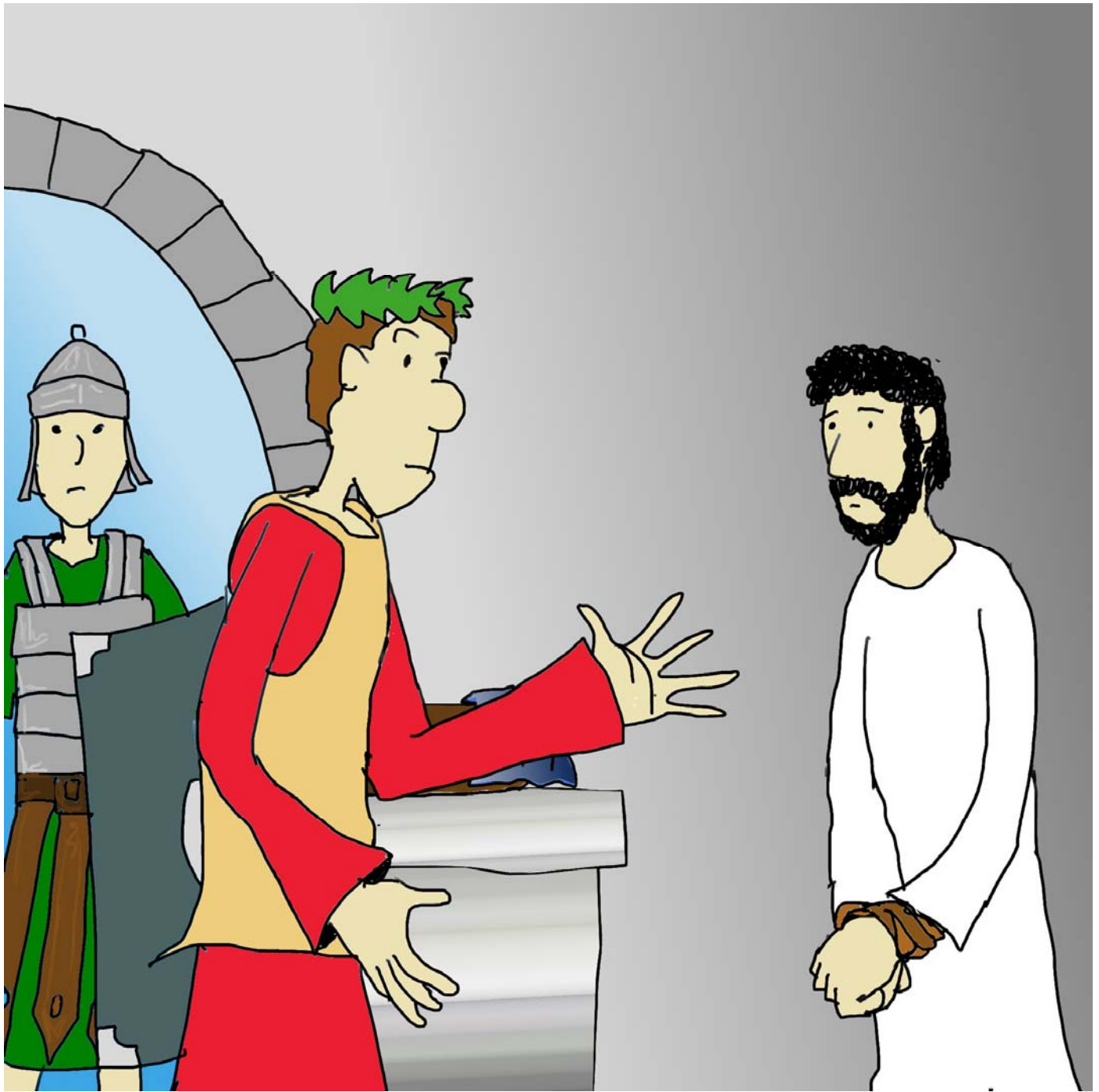


When the day for Passover came, Jesus and the disciples reclined at the table. Here Jesus shared what was about to happen, that he would die, but would rise again.

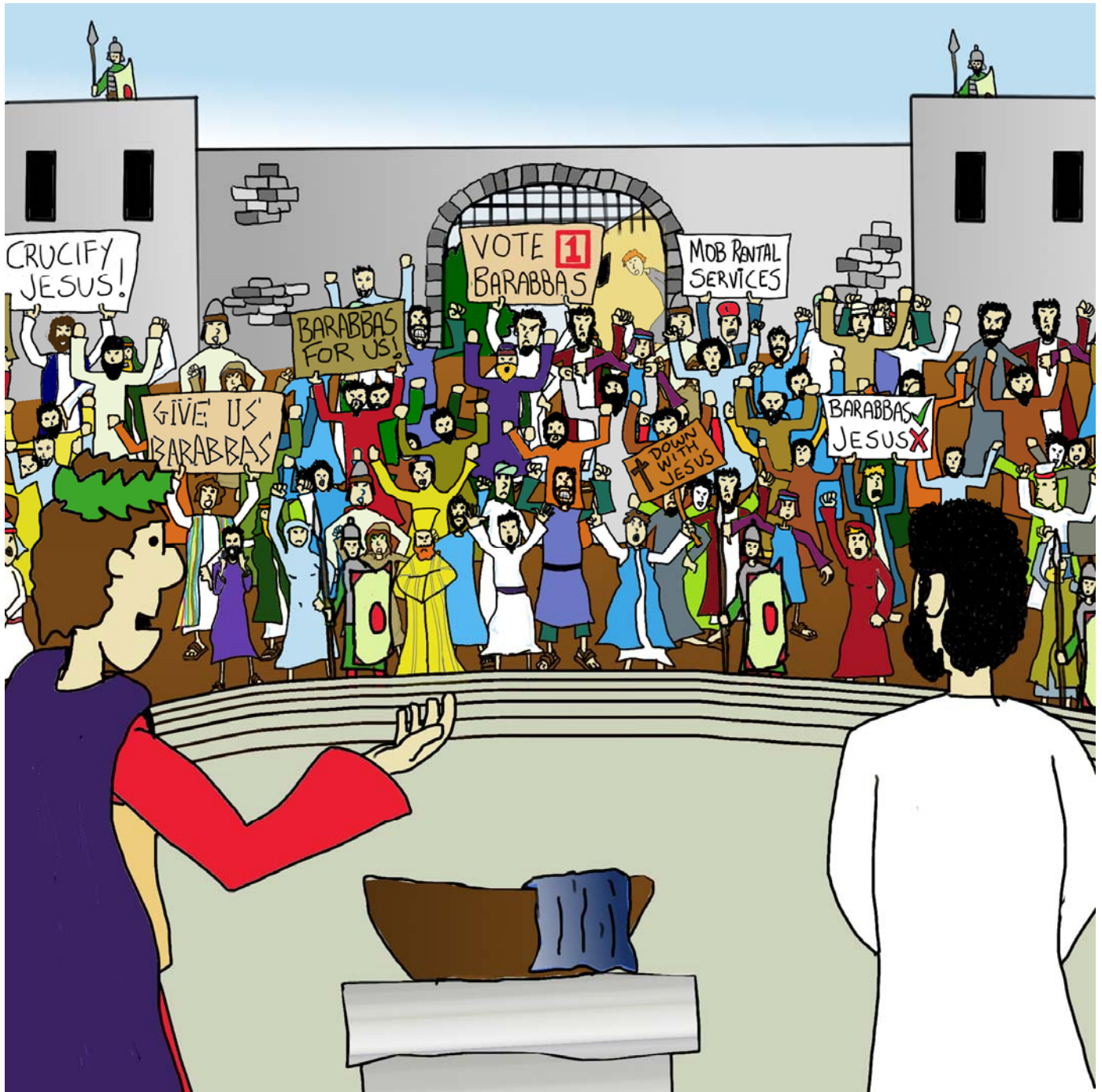


After the Passover, Jesus and the disciples went to the Mount of Olives. There Jesus prayed. The disciples, however, were exhausted, and fell asleep. Just as Jesus awoke, the disciples, the chief priests, and elders came with temple guards and arrested Jesus.





They brought Jesus before Governor Pilate, accusing him of causing rebellion.



Pilate was perplexed and could not find Jesus guilty of any of the crimes they accused him of. However, the crowds that had gathered were stirred up and shouted louder and louder that Jesus be put to death.

Pilate eventually gave in to the crowd and handed Jesus over to be crucified.



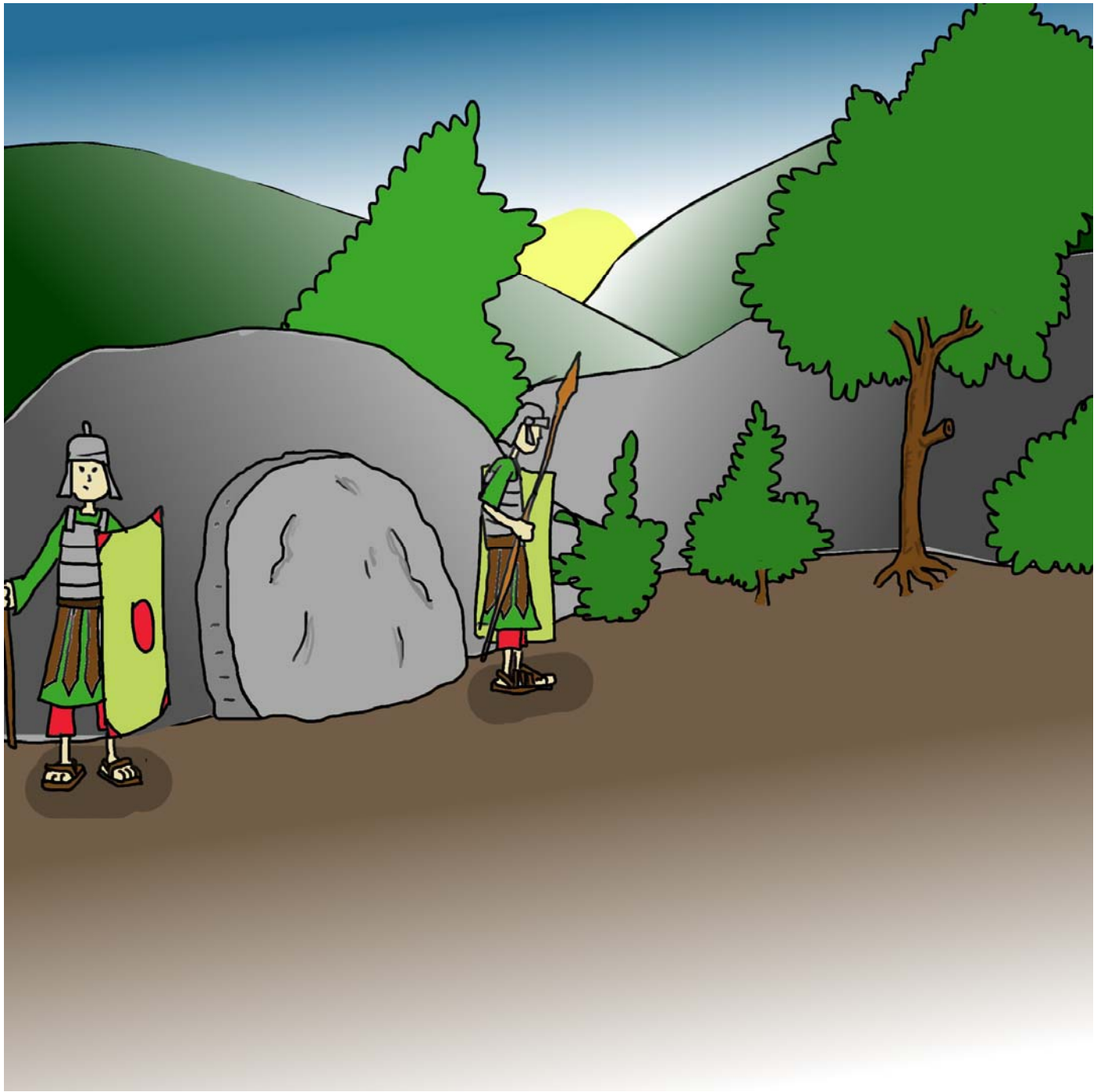


Jesus was forced to carry a cross to a place outside of Jerusalem called 'The Skull'. There he was nailed to the cross along with criminals on either side.

After some time, Jesus spoke out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I give myself", and died.



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A good and righteous man, Joseph of Arimathea, asked to have Jesus' body for burial. He had it wrapped in a linen sheet and place in an unused tomb cut out of a solid rock.

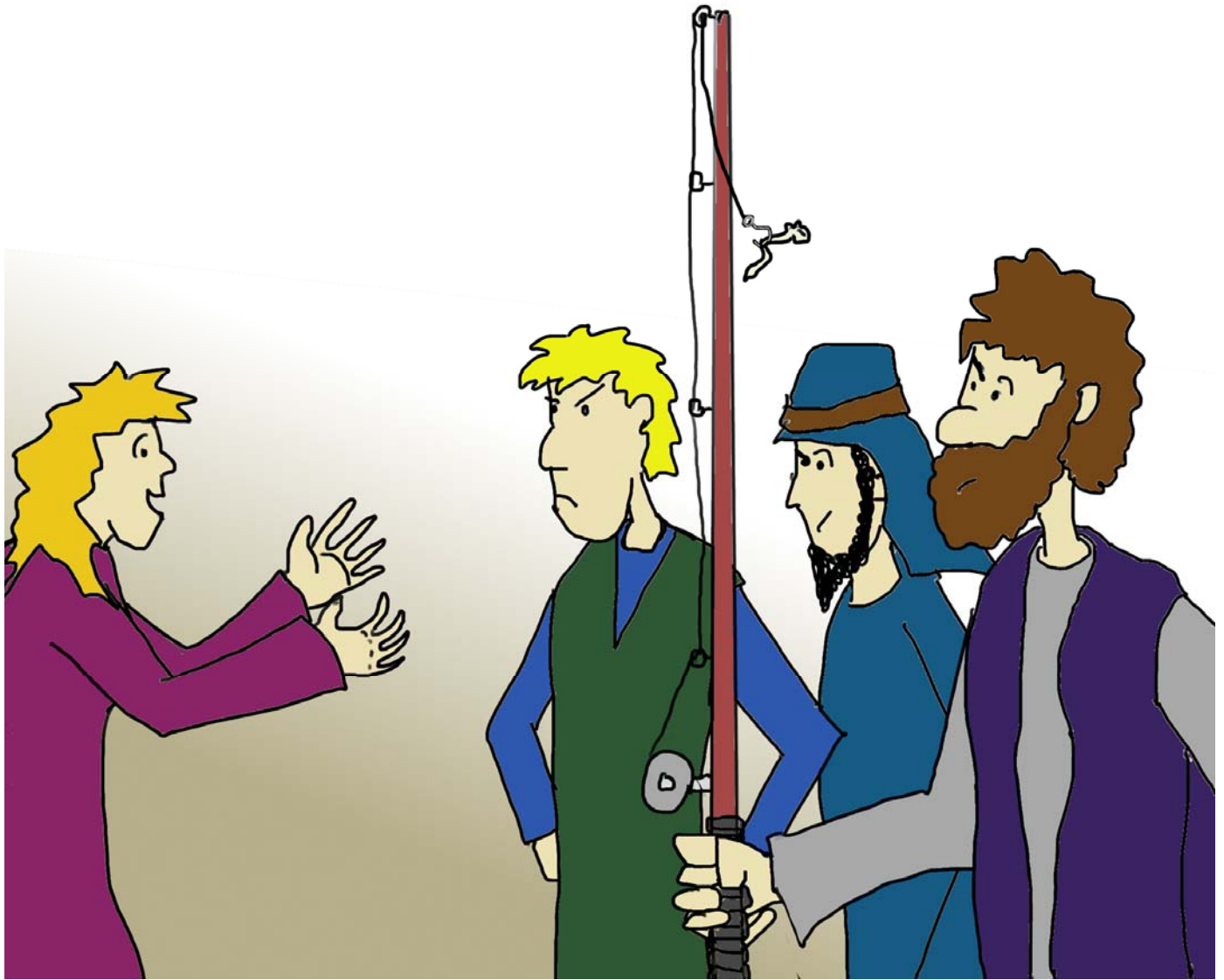
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Early on Sunday morning, some women went to the tomb with some spices they had prepared for the body. They found the tomb stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty.



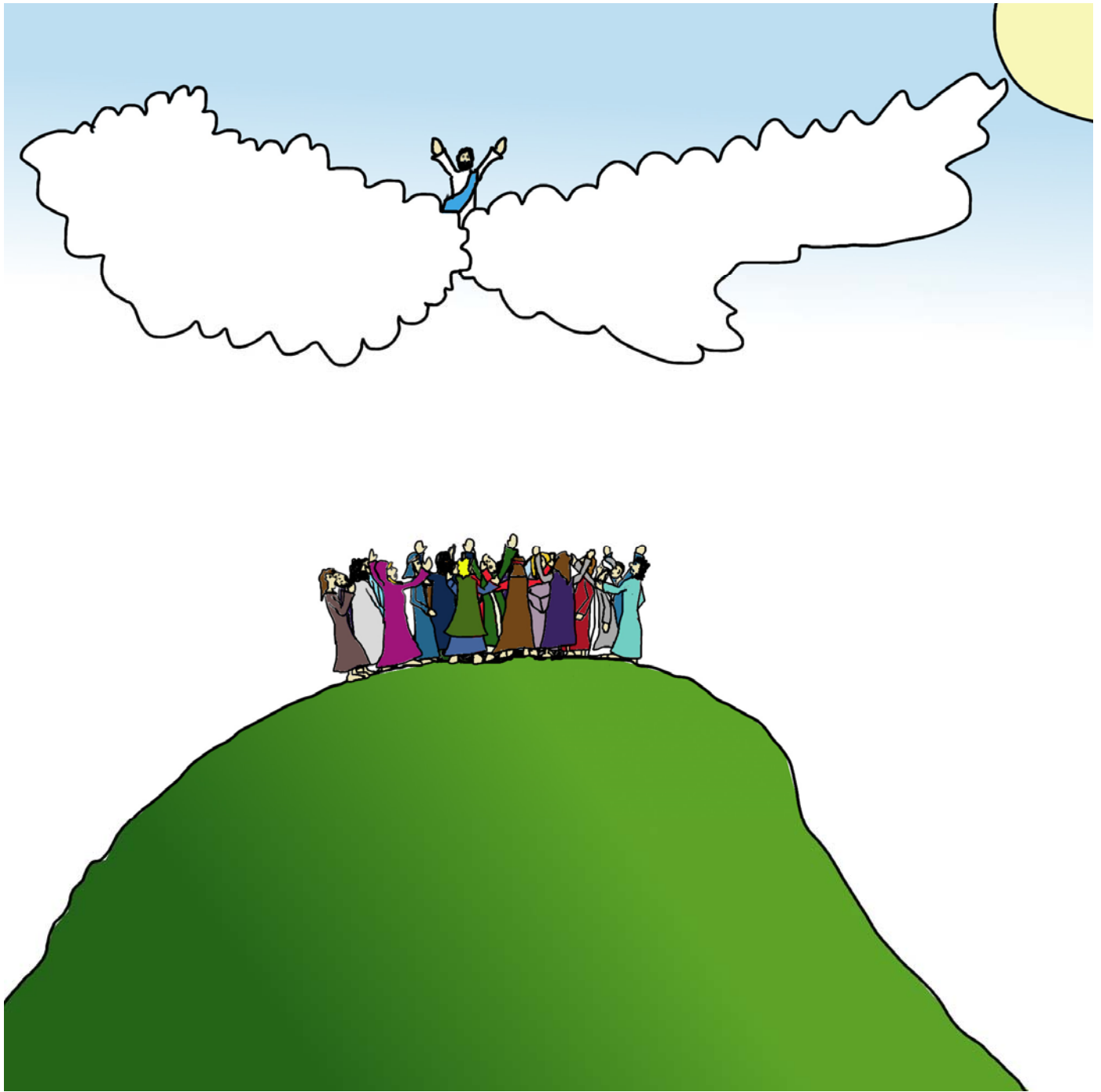
Suddenly two angels, shining brightly, appeared to them. The angels said, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”



The women quickly ran back to tell the disciples. The disciples did not believe them. Peter, however, ran immediately to the empty tomb and marvelled at what had happened.



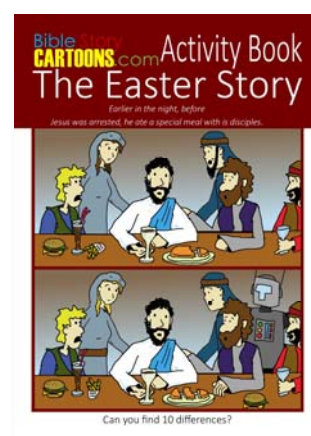
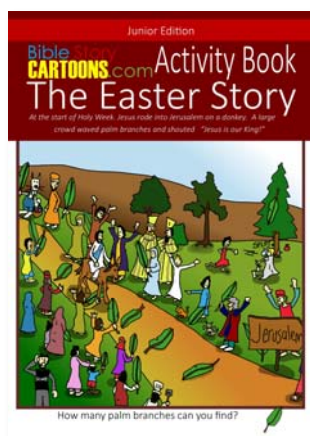
Sometime later, Jesus did appear to the disciples and they were terrified. "Peace be with you," Jesus said, "I am not a ghost! Look at my hands and feet." And he ate a meal in front of them.



Many days later, Jesus took his disciples out to Bethany where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he did this, he was taken up into heaven. The disciples worshipped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem, rejoicing.

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