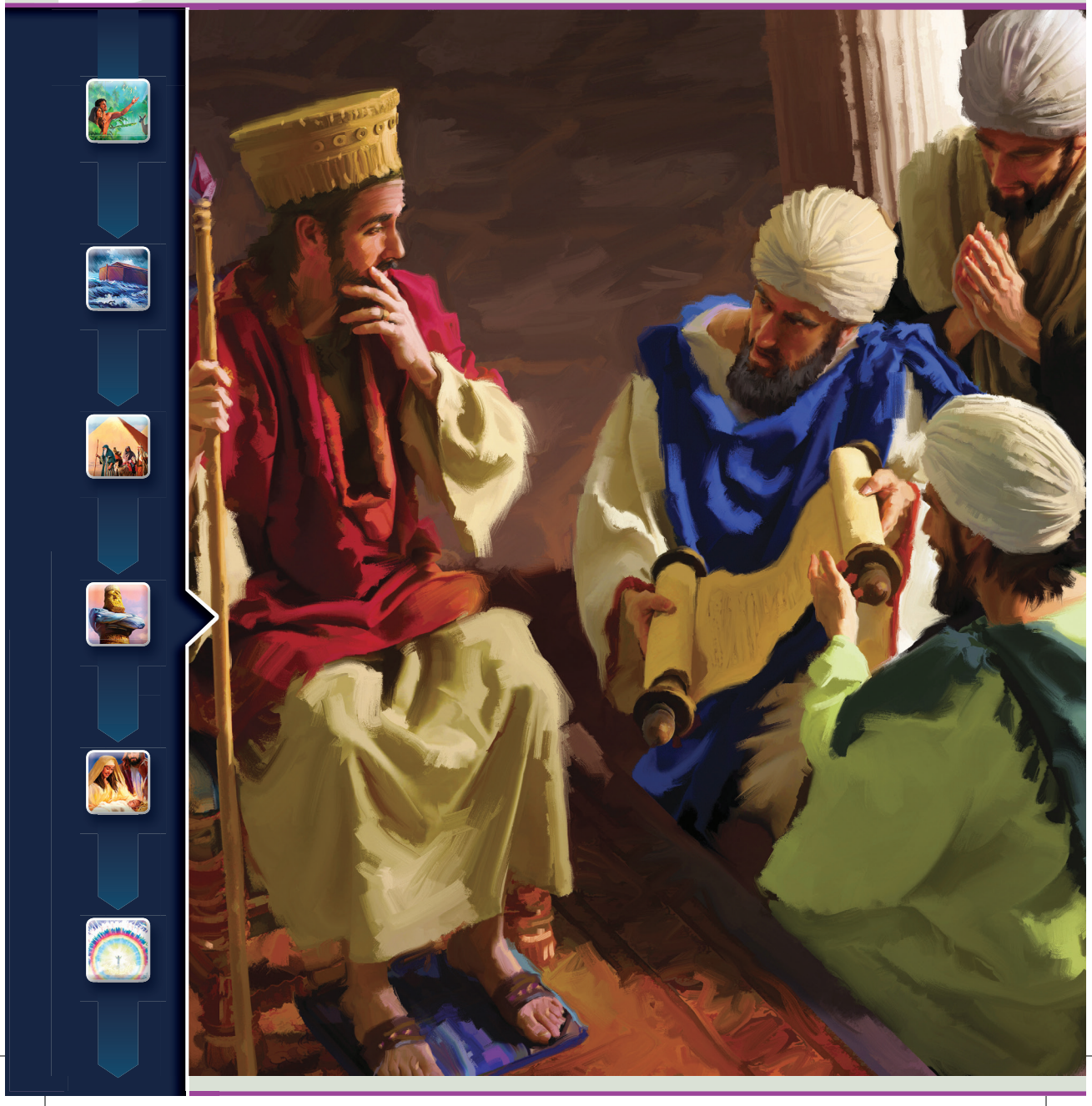
9

Lion Lunch

Key References: Daniel 6; *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 44, pp. 539-548; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 55-59; Our Beliefs nos. 8, 3, 22



powertext

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 56:3, 4).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 74.

powerpoint

We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.

Have you ever been tricked? How did you feel? Foolish, angry? In our story today a king was tricked into hurting his best friend, Daniel. Daniel was not worried. He trusted in God, and God did not let him down.

Daniel was an old man. Many things had happened since he'd left his home in Jerusalem as a teenager. From the beginning he had promised to trust in God, and God had never let him down. God had protected him and his three friends. But now things had changed again.

King Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, did not fear God. During his reign, Babylon was conquered by the Medes and Persians. Now Darius was king. Darius had put Daniel in charge of the government. They had become friends, and from time to time King Darius and Daniel would talk about God.

Not everyone was pleased with this arrangement. Some of the other rulers felt that they should have been given the top job. They watched Daniel closely for a reason to turn the king against him. But the only thing they could find against him was his loyalty to his God.

They talked about it, schemed and planned, and finally came up with the perfect idea. They went to the king.

"King Darius, we know that you are a great king. Because you are so great we feel that it is only right that all your subjects worship you and you alone for a month."

The king listened to the plan without suspecting any evil plot.

"What could possibly be a better way to prove their respect and allegiance than bowing down to you and you alone for a month? And if they don't, we think they should be thrown to the lions," the officials replied.

The king began to beam. This was a flattering proposal. He signed his name with an extra flourish. The officials stumbled over one another as they hurried from the throne room, barely containing their joy.

Daniel read the decree and sighed. He knew that it was a trap, but he did not hesitate. He went to his house, opened his window, looked out toward Jerusalem, and knelt down to pray. He had always prayed at this window three times a day. He was not going to stop now. He prayed for courage and wisdom, and thanked God for His protection.

9

Sunday

READ Read Daniel 6:1-5 and this week's story, "Lion Lunch."

WRITE Write out and tape the power text to the fridge.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Recognize God's protection and praise Him.

Monday

READ Read Daniel 6:6-9.

THINK Whom or what do you trust for protection?

RESEARCH Find out how laws are made in your country.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray to God today by an open window.

Tuesday

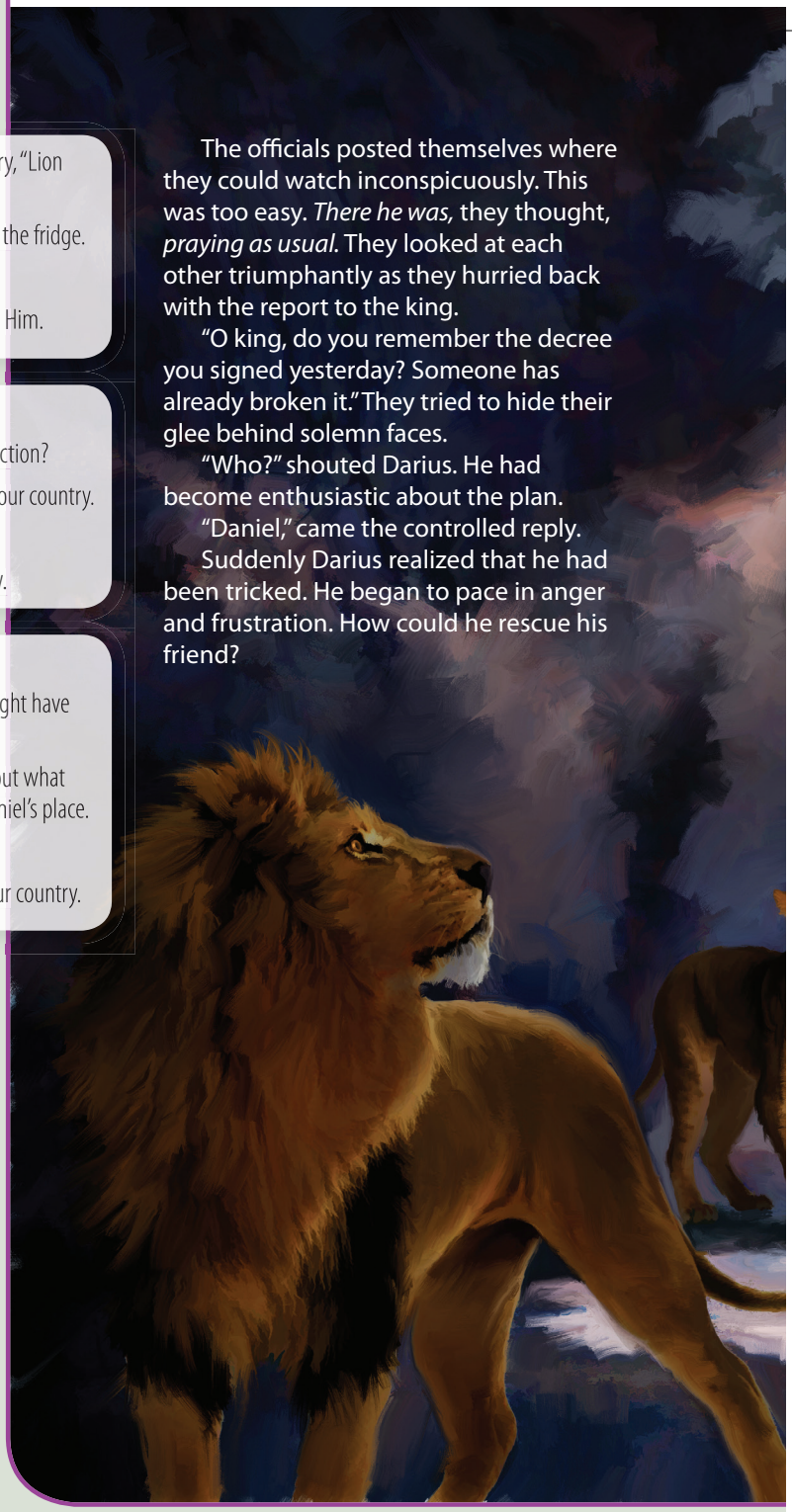
READ Read Daniel 6:10-15.

THINK Think about the prayer that Daniel might have prayed after reading the decree.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about what you would have prayed if you had been in Daniel's place.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to bless the lawmakers in your country.



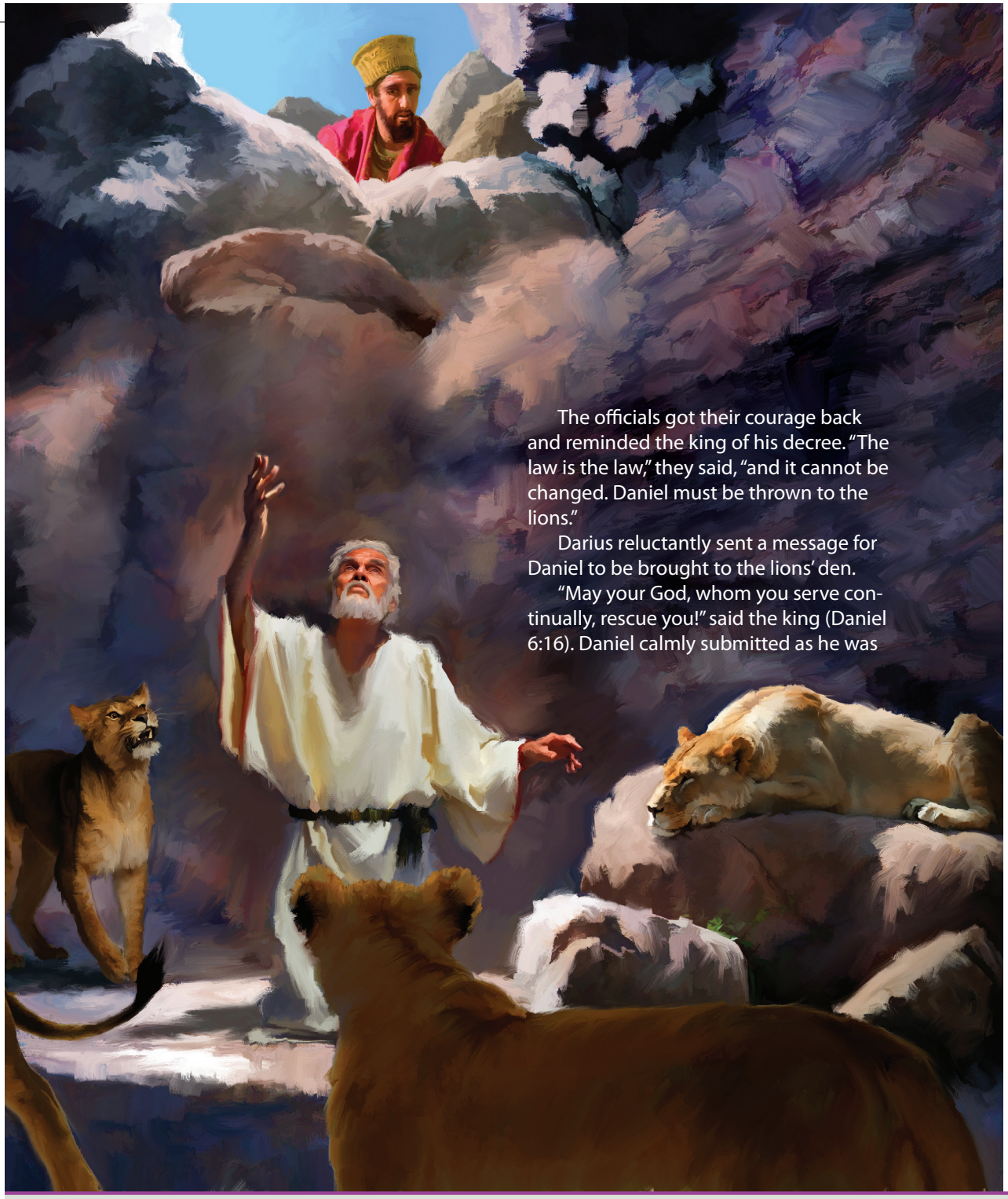
The officials posted themselves where they could watch inconspicuously. This was too easy. *There he was,* they thought, *praying as usual.* They looked at each other triumphantly as they hurried back with the report to the king.

"O king, do you remember the decree you signed yesterday? Someone has already broken it." They tried to hide their glee behind solemn faces.

"Who?" shouted Darius. He had become enthusiastic about the plan.

"Daniel," came the controlled reply.

Suddenly Darius realized that he had been tricked. He began to pace in anger and frustration. How could he rescue his friend?



The officials got their courage back and reminded the king of his decree. "The law is the law," they said, "and it cannot be changed. Daniel must be thrown to the lions."

Darius reluctantly sent a message for Daniel to be brought to the lions' den.

"May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" said the king (Daniel 6:16). Daniel calmly submitted as he was

Wednesday

READ Read Daniel 6:16-18.

DISCOVER Read about some things you didn't know about lions. What interesting facts did you discover?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you the courage to always trust His care for you.

Thursday

READ Read Daniel 6:19-24.

SURVEY Ask friends or family members about a time they experienced God's protection.

SHARE Share how you experienced God's protection.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His protection.

Friday

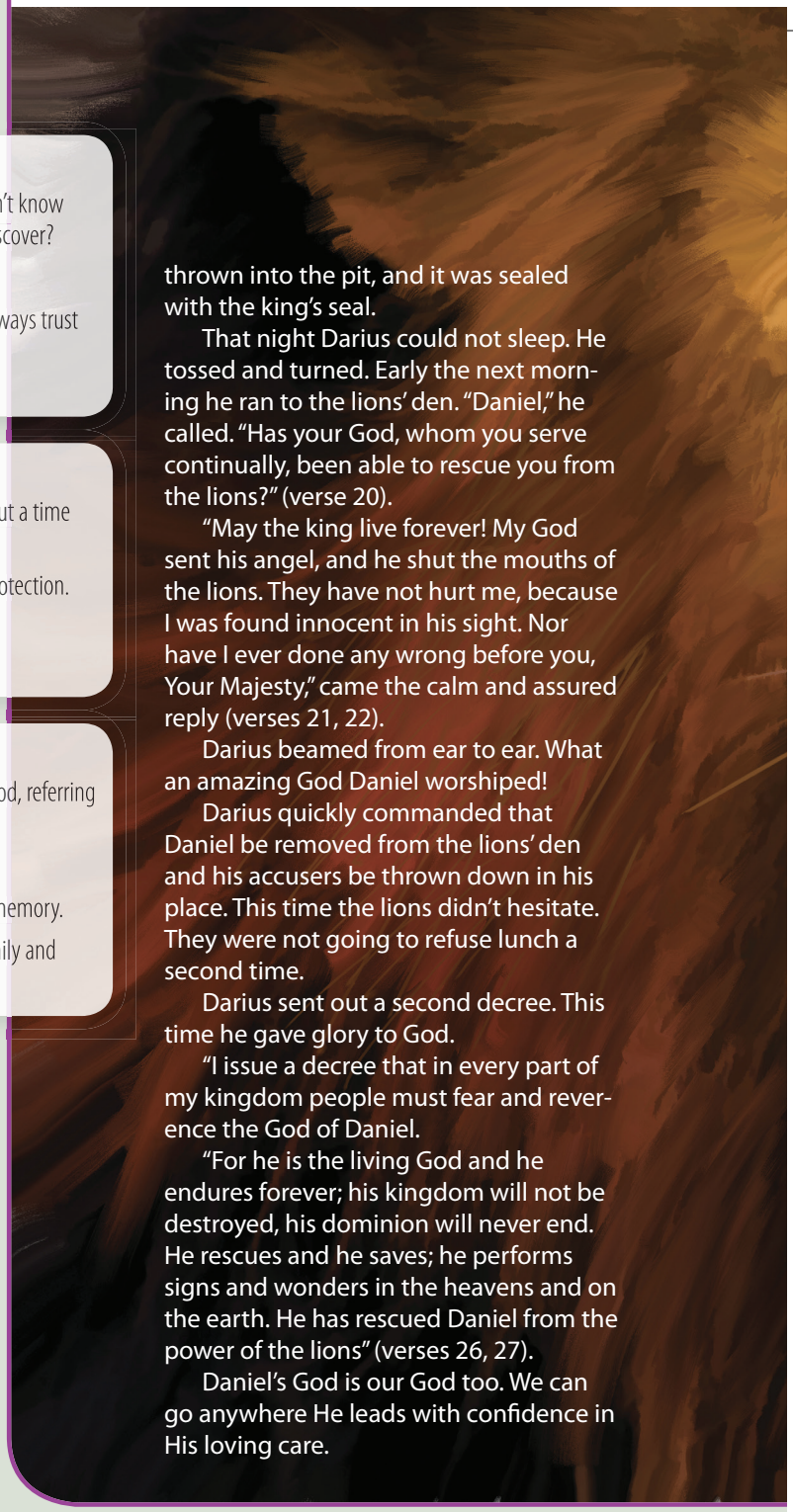
READ Read Daniel 6:25-28.

PRAISE Share things for which you praise God, referring to things that are specific to your family.

SING Sing praises together at worship.

REPEAT Repeat the power text aloud from memory.

PRAY Ask God to bless and protect your family and then praise Him for answering your prayers.



thrown into the pit, and it was sealed with the king's seal.

That night Darius could not sleep. He tossed and turned. Early the next morning he ran to the lions' den. "Daniel," he called. "Has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" (verse 20).

"May the king live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty," came the calm and assured reply (verses 21, 22).

Darius beamed from ear to ear. What an amazing God Daniel worshiped!

Darius quickly commanded that Daniel be removed from the lions' den and his accusers be thrown down in his place. This time the lions didn't hesitate. They were not going to refuse lunch a second time.

Darius sent out a second decree. This time he gave glory to God.

"I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

"For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions" (verses 26, 27).

Daniel's God is our God too. We can go anywhere He leads with confidence in His loving care.



PUZZLE

9

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Instructions: The vowels have been taken out of the following Bible verses. Can you replace them so that you can read the verses?

The letter a occurs 23 times
The letter e occurs 41 times
The letter i occurs 29 times
The letter o occurs 24 times
The letter u occurs 9 times

"Pr__ __s__ b__ t__ th__ G__d __nd F__th__r __f __ __r L__rd J__s__s Chr__st! __n h__s gr__ __t m__rcy h__ h__s g__v__n __s n__w b__rth __nt__ __ l__v__ng h__p__ thr__ __gh th__ r__s__rr__ct__ __n __f J__s__s Chr__st fr__m th__ d__ __d, __nd __nt__ __n __nh__r__t__nc__ th__t c__n n__v__r p__r__sh, sp__ __l __r f__d__. Th__s __nh__r__t__nc__ __s k__pt __n h__ __v__n f__r y__ __, wh__ thr__ __gh f__ __th __r__ sh__ __ld__d by G__d's p__w__r __nt__l th__ c__m__ng __f th__ s__lv__t__ __n th__t __s r__ __dy t__ b__ r__v__ __l__d __n th__ l__st t__m__."