BIG IDEA: God will give me a home with Him.

Week 13

A New Home



This lesson is based on Joshua 24 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 521-524.

God's people had a new home. They looked out over the land God had led them to. There were grassy green fields with wildflowers for little lamb and old donkey. There were good places for Father and Uncle to build strong houses. There were sparkling streams and little water wells *(point to well)* for Mother. There were gardens with fresh, juicy fruit for Big Sister. And lots of space for Little Brother to run and play.

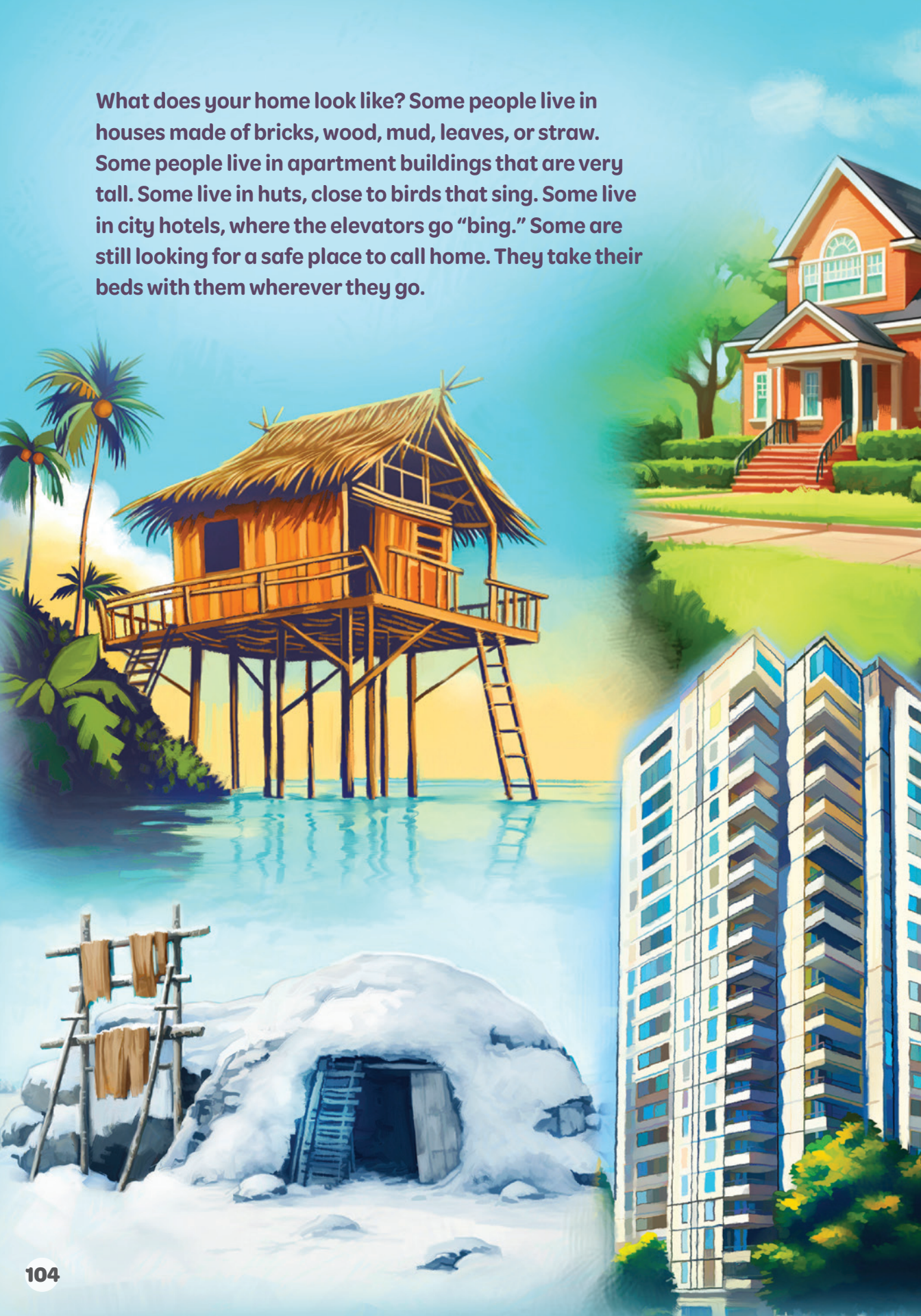




What a beautiful new home! There would be no more marching in the desert. No more sandy toes. No more hot tents. No more dusty beds. Thank You, God!

Joshua told the people to move to different places in the Promised Land. Some moved to the mountains. Others lived on farms. Some made cities together. God was with them wherever they went. He is with you too.

What does your home look like? Some people live in houses made of bricks, wood, mud, leaves, or straw. Some people live in apartment buildings that are very tall. Some live in huts, close to birds that sing. Some live in city hotels, where the elevators go "bing." Some are still looking for a safe place to call home. They take their beds with them wherever they go.

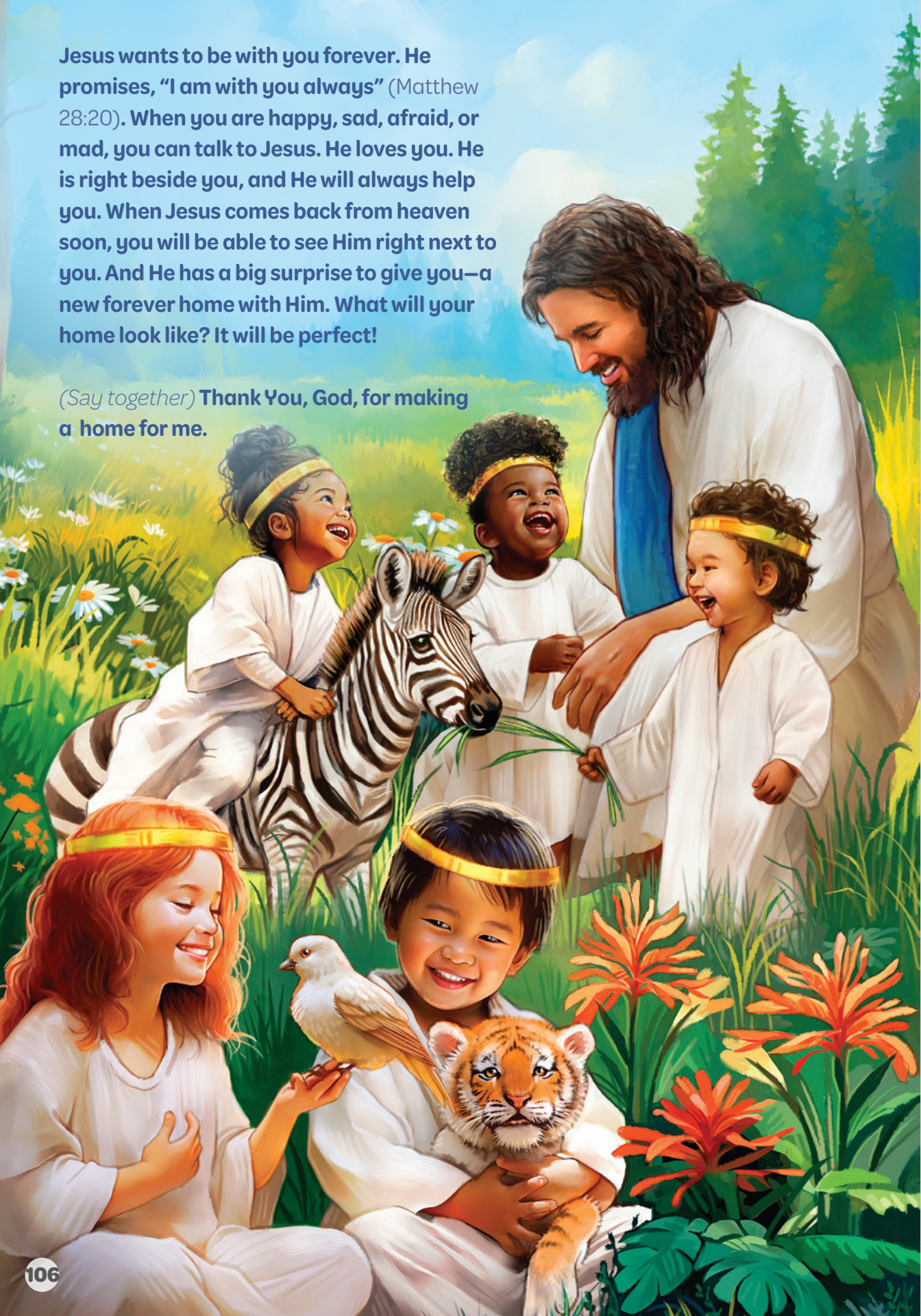




Some people live in homes on top of tall sticks, way up high. When it's rainy or muddy, their homes stay dry. Some live in caravans with wheels that move. Some live in homes made of ice, called igloos. A round tent or a floating boat can be a wonderful home too. Wherever you live, God is with you.

Jesus wants to be with you forever. He promises, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20)**. When you are happy, sad, afraid, or mad, you can talk to Jesus. He loves you. He is right beside you, and He will always help you. When Jesus comes back from heaven soon, you will be able to see Him right next to you. And He has a big surprise to give you—a new forever home with Him. What will your home look like? It will be perfect!**

(Say together) **Thank You, God, for making a home for me.**



play throughout the day

Create

Make a collage picture together of the people's new home in the Promised Land. Make a horizon line on a piece of paper. Let your child color green below and blue above. Then collect things to lay over it and rearrange as they like (no need to glue). You could include leaves, grasses, flowers, herbs, sticks, colored papers, stickers, magazine or printed pictures, or other craft supplies.

Learn

Share how God has promised to come back and take us to heaven. He will then make our earth new again. He will give us a new home with Him forever! Share the ideas of Isaiah 11:6-11 with your child. Talk about what excites them most about this new forever home with Jesus.

Share

Share a yummy fruit snack together—something your child loves to eat but may not get often. Imagine all the yummy fruits that were in the people's new home, the Promised Land. Thank God for providing good, healthy food for us. Talk about which foods you would like to eat with Jesus in our new forever home with Him.

Explore

Create a set of binoculars using two cardboard cylinders. Decorate them together. Share how the Israelites would have looked out over the land and been amazed at the special gifts God had given them—yummy food, water, big fields. Use your binoculars to search around the home and outside for special gifts God has given you! Thank God together for His love and care.

Pray

Thank God for being with us always. Thank Him for coming soon to give us a new home with Him where we can see His smile, hug Him, play with Him, and love Him forever.



Extension weekly memory verse: "He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).

God keeps His promises. Do you believe it? Have you experienced this in your own life?

The Israelites had a front-row seat to the joy of a promise given and a promise kept. They certainly had an incredible adventure as they learned to trust God as the leader of their lives. As we come to the end of the Israelites' journey in the wilderness, may you be inspired to realize that the God who led His people in such magnificent ways is *your* God too. He loves you so much! And though Israel's journey looks different from yours, all our journeys take us to places of dependence on God. In our journey to the Land of Promise, God leaves special messages for us. His word is filled with love notes for you. Take a moment to dwell on them.

God Is Good.

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works" (Psalm 145:8, 9).

God Is Majestic and Powerful.

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours" (1 Chronicles 29:11).

God Keeps His Promises.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

God Will Never Leave You nor Forsake You.

"And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

What other promises do you find encouraging? Make time this week to discover them and read them anew. When we dwell on these Bible promises, we receive courage and peace on our journey. May you believe without a shadow of a doubt that God both leads us and keeps His promises.