



Daddy loved Josh very much. He wanted him to be obedient, to always tell the truth, and to be kind and helpful to those around him. Because Josh was the only boy, Daddy often gave him outside chores to do.

One Thursday morning, Daddy told Josh, "Before I get home from work, please pick up all the sticks in the yard and put them in your wagon."

Josh did not feel like obeying his dad. "It's not a Saturday, Daddy."

"I know—we usually clean the yard on Saturdays, but your grandma and grandpa are coming, and we won't want to clean it then," Daddy explained.

Josh thought to himself, *I have to do more work than Anna. All she does is help Mother. She doesn't have to do anything hard. I'll pick up the sticks later.*

That afternoon, Josh was busy playing with his friend, Nathan. As Nathan chased Josh around the corner of his house, Josh stepped on a stick—*crack!* Josh thought, *I'd better hurry and pick up the sticks.* But he was having too

much fun. He and Nathan started playing with Josh's toy construction trucks, and Josh forgot about the sticks again. When it was time for Nathan to leave, Josh saw his red wagon by the garage, and he remembered what he was to do.

"Nathan," Josh called. "Help me pick up all these sticks!"

"I can't," said Nathan. "I have to go home."

Josh hurried and picked up a couple of sticks and threw them into his wagon. Just then he saw Daddy's car pull into the driveway. He ran into the house and up to his room.

When Daddy got out of the car, he noticed that Josh's red wagon was not full. He went to Josh's room and said, "Josh, where did you put all the sticks you picked up?"

Josh hung his head and looked at the floor. He was ashamed of himself for not obeying.

He started to cry. "I didn't want to do the job; I'm sorry, Daddy. Will you forgive me?"

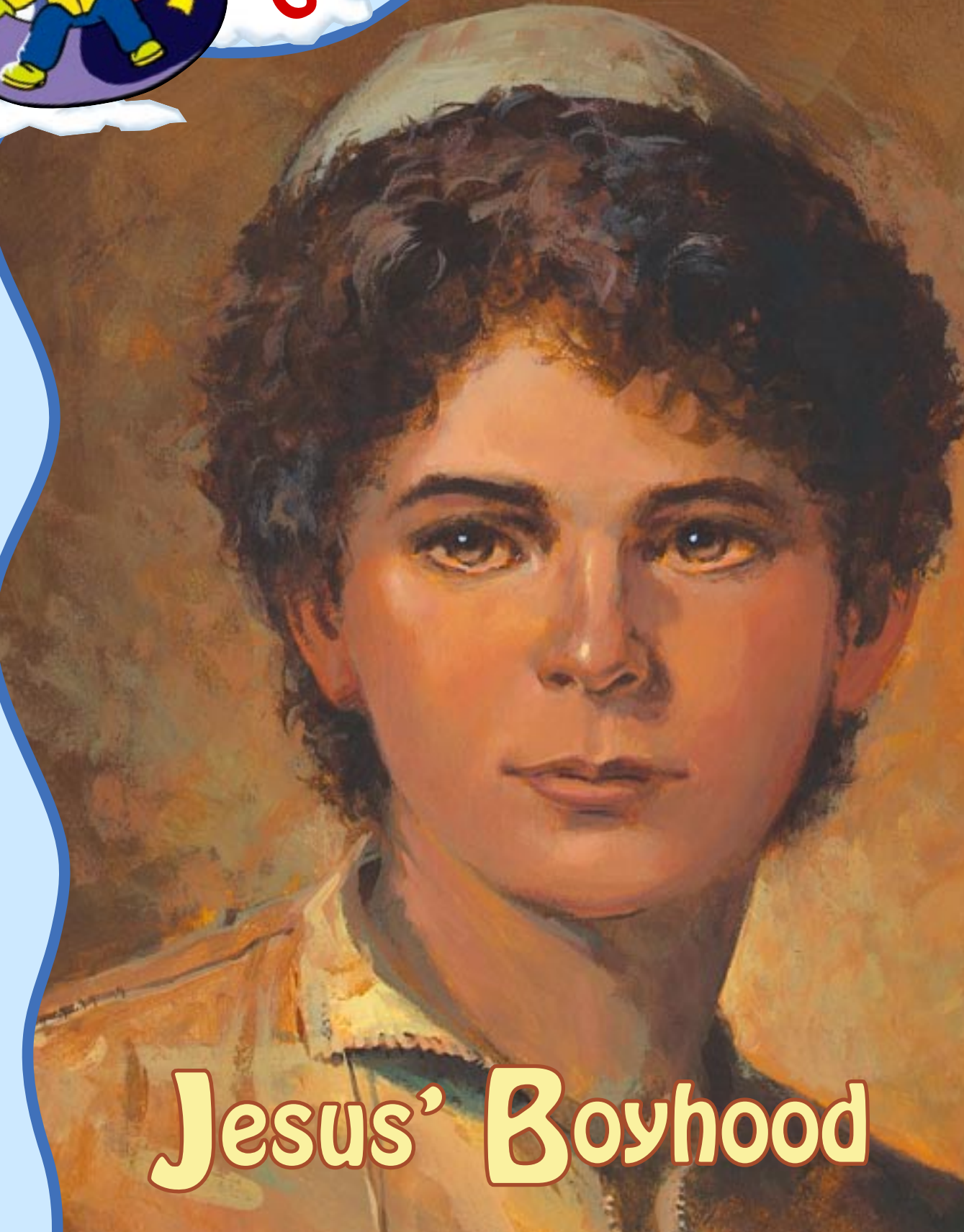
Daddy put his arm around Josh. "I forgive you, Josh, but you will still have to pick up the sticks."

"I will, Daddy," said Josh. "I wish I could obey all the time like Jesus did when He was a boy like me."

"Remember, Josh, Jesus is God. That is why He never did wrong," Daddy said. "But you can ask Him every day to help you obey, and He will help you. Every morning, ask Jesus to help you choose to do right."



God's Word and Me



Jesus' Boyhood



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Read Me a Story

Luke 2:40–52



Jesus' Boyhood

What do you think Jesus was like when He was a little boy? He probably looked like the other boys who lived in Nazareth. He wanted to learn things and help others, and He grew taller and stronger just like the other children. But Jesus was more than just a boy. He was also God—God the Son. And because He is also God, He never did anything wrong.

All boys and girls do bad things—but not Jesus! He never did one thing wrong. He never sinned. He never took anything that wasn't His. He never lied. He was never unkind or mean. He always did that which pleased His Father in Heaven.

Joseph helped take care of Jesus until He was grown. Joseph was like a foster father or stepfather. Jesus obeyed him at all times because He knew that obedience pleases God.

Joseph was a carpenter, a man who makes things with wood, such as tables and chairs and boats. When Jesus was big enough, He helped Joseph in the carpenter shop. He would sweep the floor and carry out the wood shavings. He learned to fix things that were broken and as He got older, Joseph taught Him how to make things out of wood, too.

Whatever job Jesus had, He always did His best. He never complained or pouted. He wanted to please Joseph and His Father in Heaven.

Mary and Joseph taught their family about the things of God. Jesus and His family would go to God's house to worship every week. There they learned the promises of God.

At home and at play with the other children, Jesus was always kind and unselfish—thinking of others, not Himself. He was a good example to the children around Him. He showed them how to be kind, loving, humble, truthful, and obedient. Jesus was a wonderful help and comfort to Mary and Joseph.



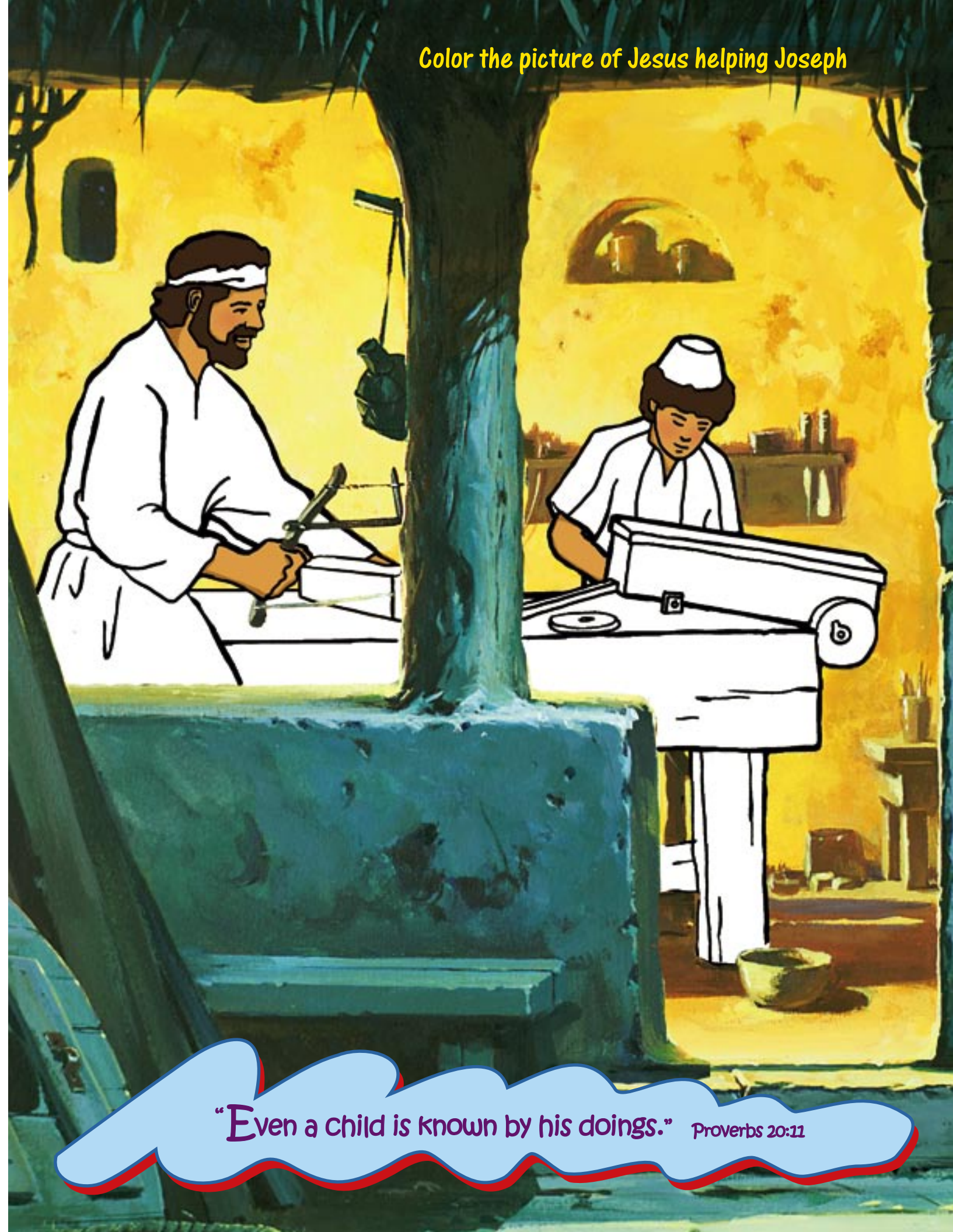
As parents we would like our children to always obey and do right, but we know it is not possible. Today the boys and girls learned about Jesus when He was a boy. They learned that He never did anything wrong. I'm sure this lesson must have made their little minds think. As parents, we have the responsibility to teach and train our children to do right. We need to remind them that the Lord Jesus is always with them. If they will ask Him, He will help them do what is right.



Let's Talk about It

- Did Jesus do wrong things like other boys and girls?
No, Jesus never did anything wrong.
- What job did Joseph have?
Joseph was a carpenter.

Color the picture of Jesus helping Joseph



“Even a child is known by his doings.” Proverbs 20:11