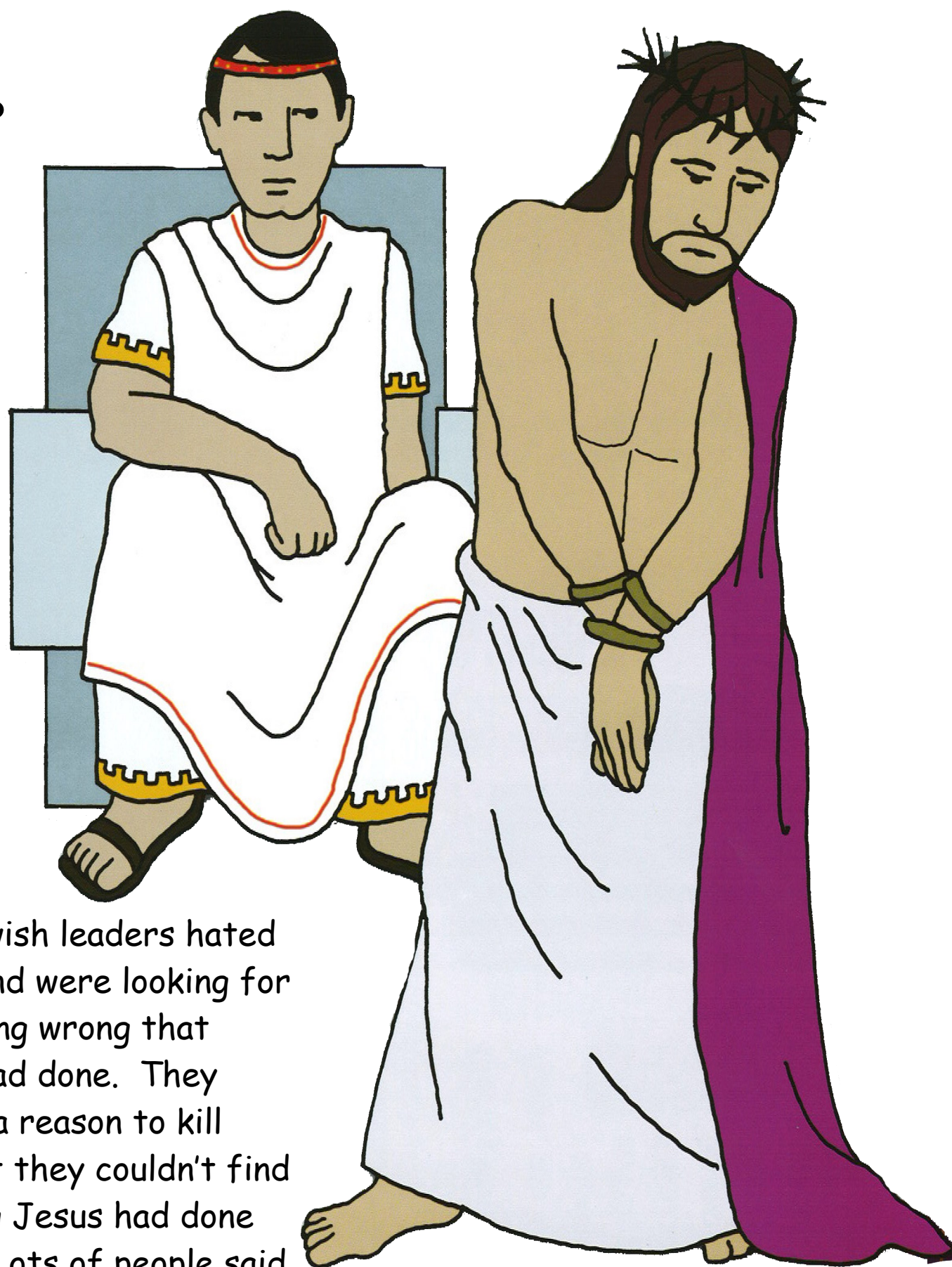


The Stations of the Cross

On Good Friday we remember the day that Jesus Christ died on the cross. When Jesus lived on the earth, He taught people about God, He healed sick people, He raised people from the dead, but the reason He came to earth was to die on the cross to pay for the sins of the world.

Station Jesus is condemned to die

1



The Jewish leaders hated Jesus and were looking for something wrong that Jesus had done. They wanted a reason to kill Him, but they couldn't find anything Jesus had done wrong. Lots of people said He had done wrong, but they were lying.

The Jewish leaders took Jesus to Pilate. Pilate questioned Jesus and told the Jewish leaders, "I see no reason to blame this man for anything." Pilate had Jesus taken to King Herod but Herod didn't find that He'd done anything wrong either. Pilate decided to have his guards beat Jesus and he was then going to set Him free. The crowd did not want Jesus to go free. The angry people told Pilate to kill Jesus. The crowd kept shouting, "Kill him! Kill him!" Pilate gave them what they wanted. He gave Jesus to them so they could have Him killed.

Station

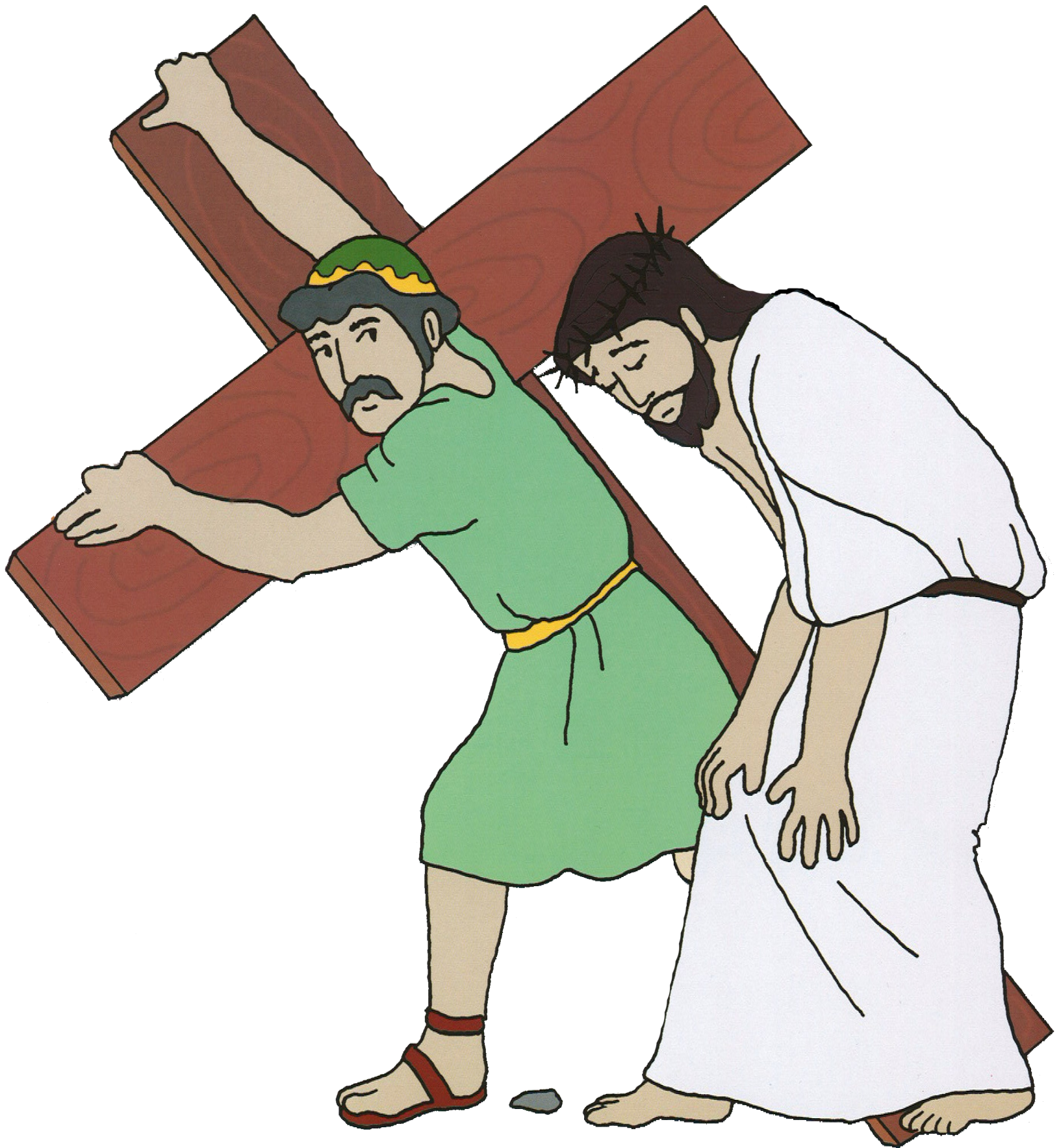
2

Jesus carries his cross



The guards made fun of Jesus. They put a purple robe on Him and put a crown made of thorns on His head. They spit on Him. The guards hit Him again and again with a stick. Then they put His own clothes back on Him. They took Him out to kill Him on a cross. And they made Him carry His own cross.

Station 3 Simon carries Jesus' cross



A man named Simon was walking along the road. He was on his way to Jerusalem from the country. The guards stopped Simon. They made him carry the cross for Jesus.

Station 4

Jesus speaks to some women



They took Jesus to a hill. It was called Skull Hill. Lots of people followed Jesus there. Some women were there, crying for Him. Jesus turned to them. "Don't cry for me," He said.

Station 5

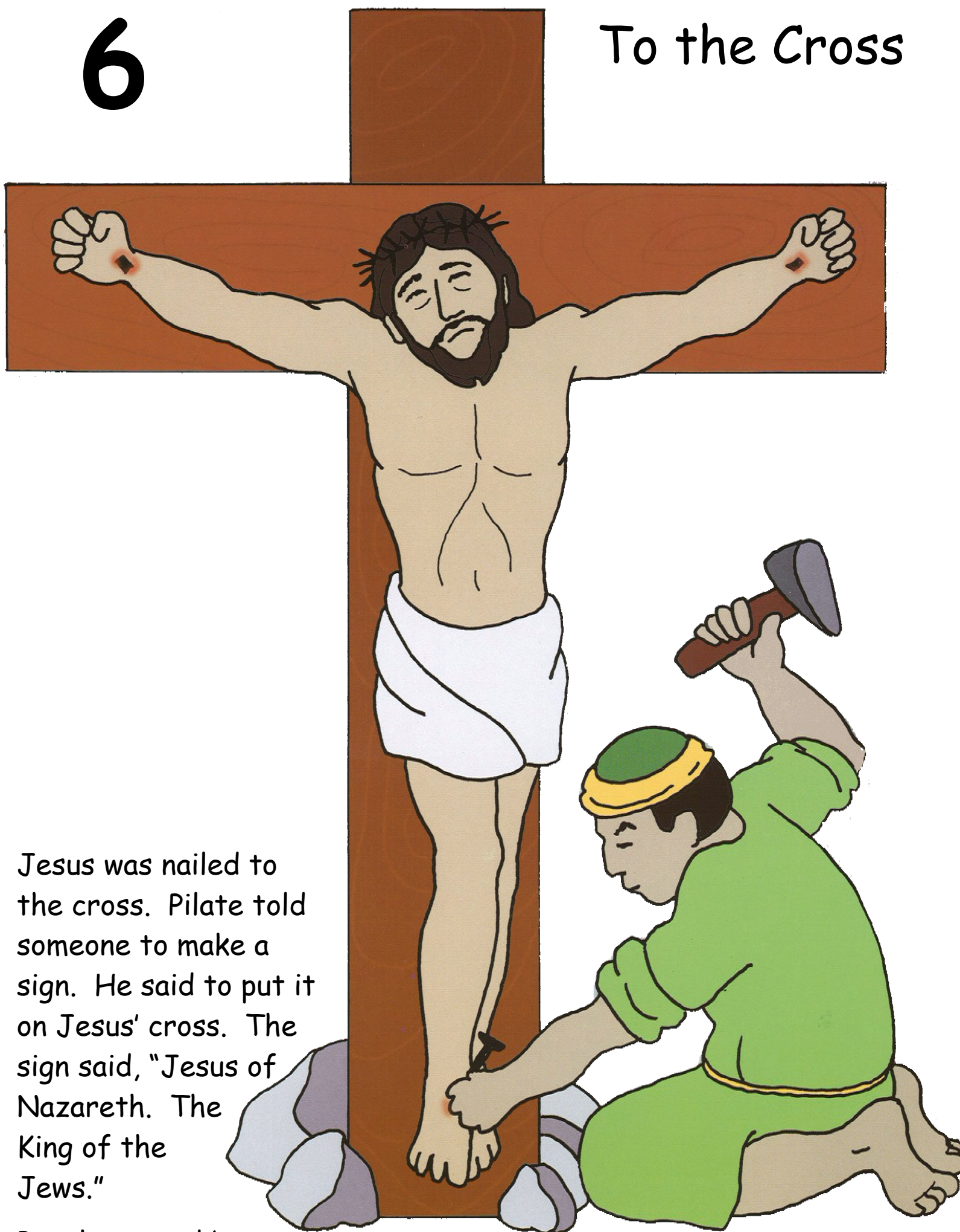
Soldiers gamble for His garments



Four soldiers assigned to kill Jesus took His clothes. Each guard got one thing. But His long shirt was left. It was all one piece of cloth, top to bottom. There was no line on the cloth because nothing had been sewn together. So the guards said, "Don't tear the shirt. Let's roll dice for it. Let's see who wins the shirt."

Station 6

Jesus Nailed To the Cross



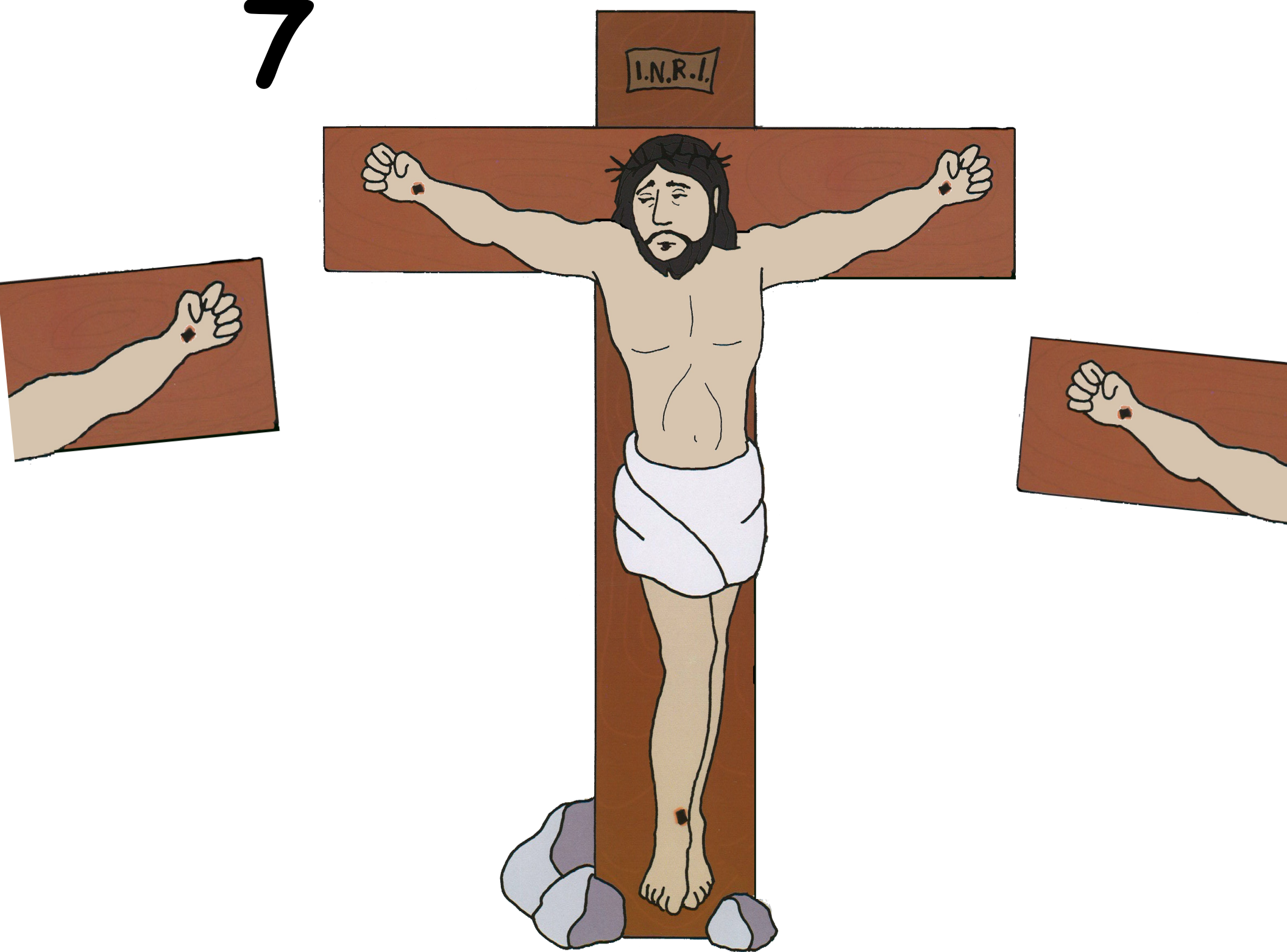
Jesus was nailed to the cross. Pilate told someone to make a sign. He said to put it on Jesus' cross. The sign said, "Jesus of Nazareth. The King of the Jews."

People passed by the cross. They yelled bad words at Jesus. Some of them shook their heads. The leaders of God's people made fun of Jesus. The guards made fun of Jesus too.

Jesus asked His Father to forgive them. He said, "Father, forgive the people who are doing this. They don't know what they're doing."

Station Jesus speaks to the thief

7



Two other men were going to be killed that day. They had done many wrong things. The guards took them to be killed with Jesus. One man was on Jesus' right side. The other man was on His left side.

One of the men being killed made fun of Jesus. "Aren't you the Promised One?" he asked. "Then save yourself. Save us, too!"

The other man being killed got mad at the first man. He said, "This is happening to us because we've done wrong. We're getting what was coming to us. But Jesus didn't do anything wrong," he said. "He shouldn't be killed." Then the man said, "Jesus! Remember me when you get to your kingdom."

"You'll get to be with Me in heaven today," said Jesus.

Station 8 Jesus speaks to His mother and John

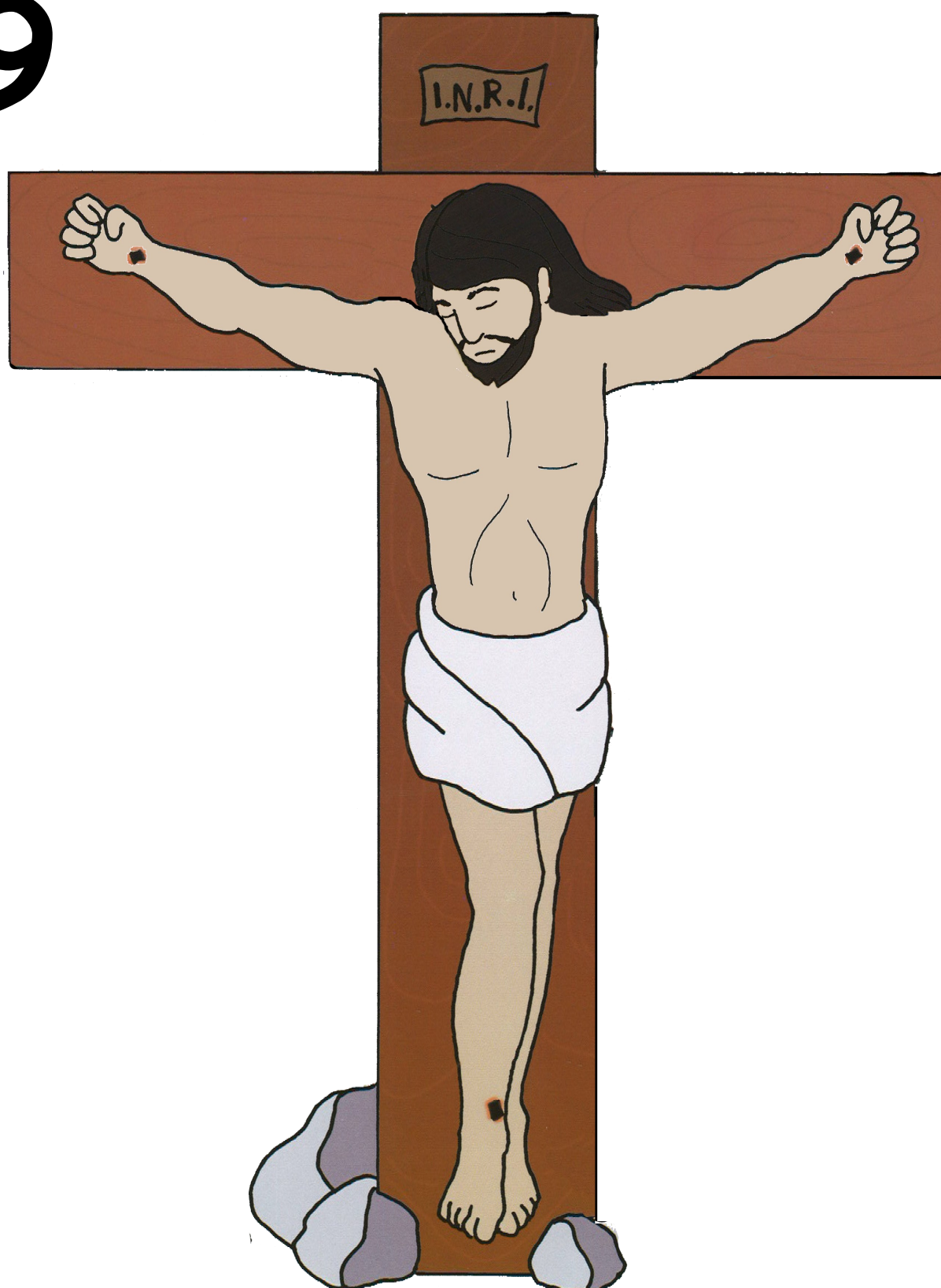


Jesus' mother stood close to the cross. His aunt was there too. Another Mary and Mary Magdalene were also there. Jesus looked out. He saw His mother. He saw His friend John there too. "Dear woman!" Jesus said to His mother. "John will be like your son now." "Take care of her," He told John. "Care for her like you'd care for your own mother." After that, John let Jesus' mother stay at his house. He took care of her.

Station

Jesus dies

9

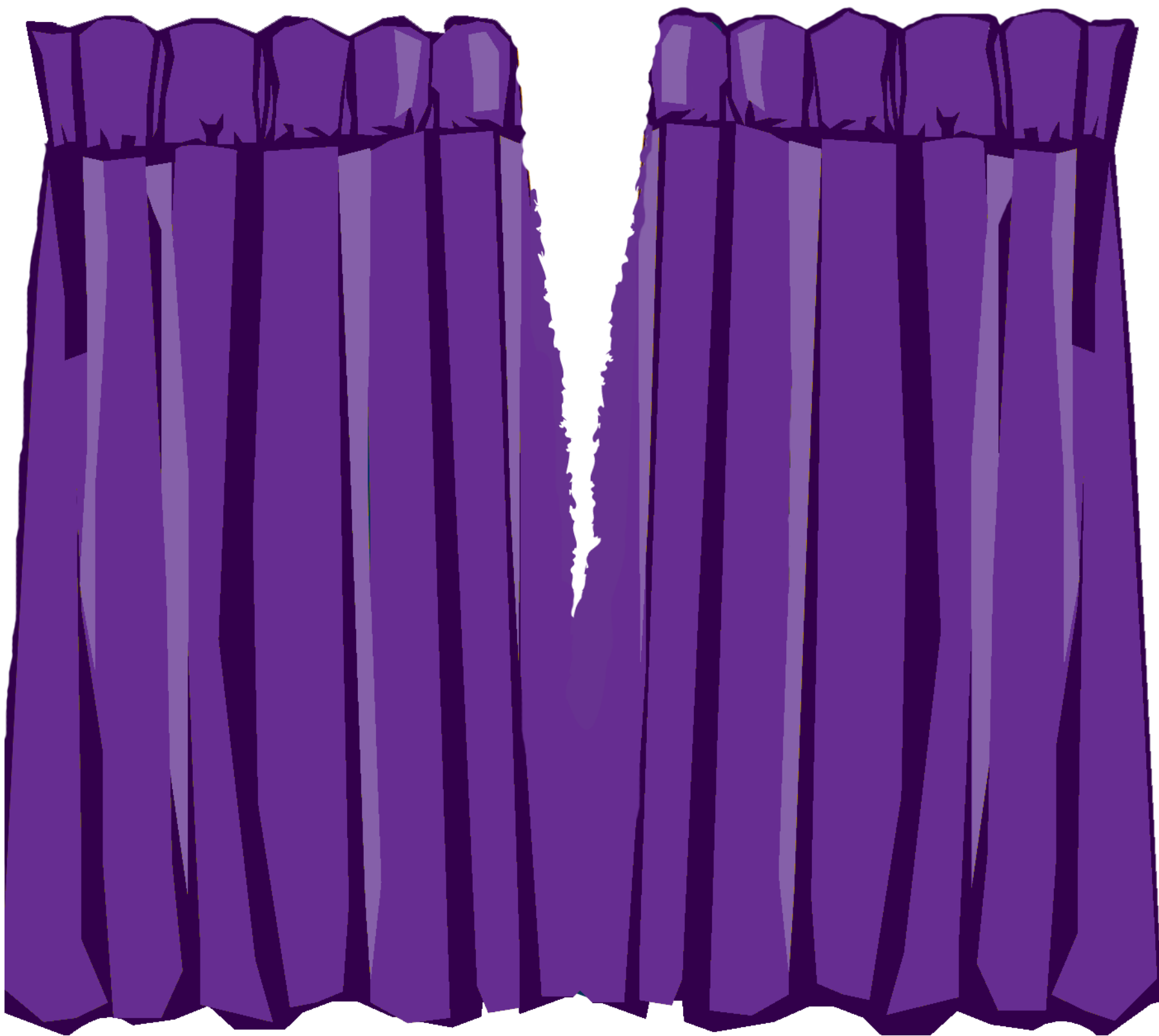


Jesus knew His time on earth was finished. "I'm thirsty," He said. Right away, somebody ran to get a cloth. He got it wet with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick. He held it up to Jesus so He could drink it.

Then Jesus said, "It's finished!" He cried out in a loud voice. He said, "Father, I give My spirit to You." Then He bowed His head. And He died.

Station 10

Darkness falls and
the veil is torn



Inside the worship house there hung a big, long cloth. It hung in front of the Most Holy Place. It kept people out of that room. But at the moment Jesus died, it tore in half. The tear started at the top. It ripped all the way down to the bottom.

Station
11

Jesus is taken down from
the cross



They took Jesus' body down from the cross. A man named Joseph went to see Pilate. He was very brave. He asked Pilate if he could have Jesus' body. Pilate said Joseph could take Jesus' body.

Station 12

Jesus is laid in the tomb



They covered Jesus' body with spices. Then they put clean cloth all around the body. This was the Jewish way to get a body ready. Then they put it in a grave. Joseph put Jesus' body in his own new grave. He had cut it out of rock in a garden. So that's where they put Jesus' body. They rolled a big stone in front of the opening. Then they left.