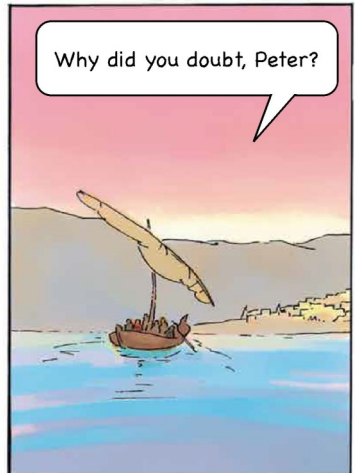
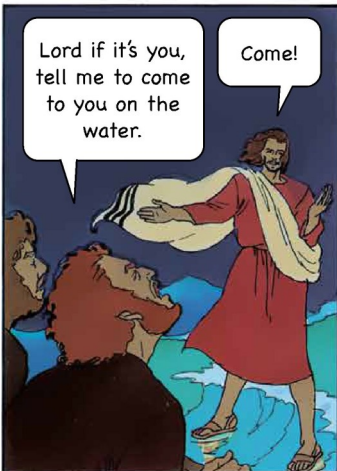
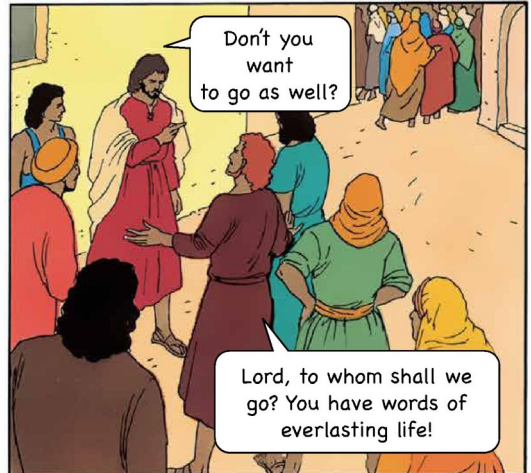
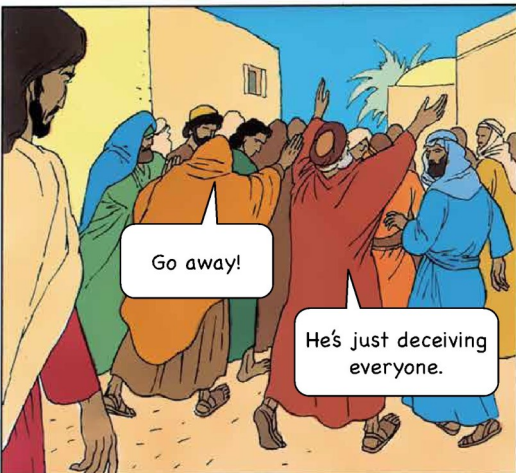
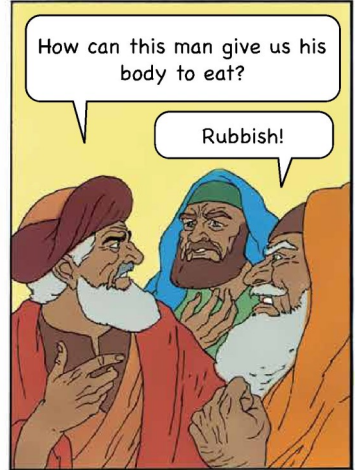
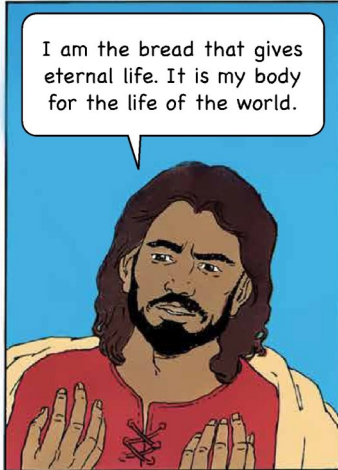
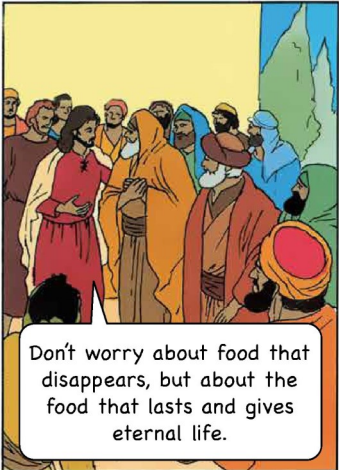


TO BELIEVE IS TO TRUST JESUS

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 14:22-33, John 6:22-40, 60-69



Some want to make Jesus king. They hope that he will drive out the the Roman occupiers. Jesus' opponents are on the increase. Even though he helps people, the religious leaders think he violates the law. They want to set the people against him and get rid of him...





TO BELIEVE IS TO TRUST JESUS

Peter really wants to believe in the Lord Jesus. He just steps right out of his old, familiar boat. But when he starts walking on the water, he sees the waves around Him, he loses his courage completely. He calls to Jesus, so that he will save him. He has begun to doubt. Fortunately the Saviour is right there.

“To believe or not to believe”, that's the question if you want to keep walking with the Lord Jesus. Just think back to the previous story. The Lord Jesus gave food to a large crowd. To do that, He only needed five loaves and two fishes. Everyone ate from that, because that is what Jesus wanted. But a different kind of bread is needed to receive eternal life: The body of Jesus, which He will give as a means of salvation from death. He forgives your sins, so that you do not have to be judged. That is how Jesus wants it. You need to believe in order to receive that salvation. Whoever does not believe, will not take of that strange bread.

The Jewish leaders think the word of Jesus about the bread that gives everlasting life is just nonsense (rubbish). They could have believed Jesus, but they didn't want to. Jesus also wants to be their saviour, but they do not want to be saved by Him. They do not want to stay near to Jesus. They leave. Other followers of Jesus leave Him, because they cannot believe Him. Others continue with Him. Like Peter. Even though he sometimes doubts, he keeps on believing in the Son of God.

MEMORY VERSE

*"Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."
(Romans 10:11)*

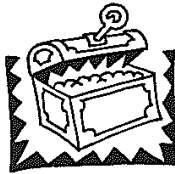
WHO IS JESUS?

Saviour

"She will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus; because He will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Mary is a young woman from Nazareth. She is told that she will bring a special child into the world, without a man being involved. The Holy Spirit will make it happen. The angel gives her and her fiancé Joseph the instructions to name Him Jesus. That means 'God saves'. Because even the name of this child must be a sign of God's purpose.

"Then the whole human race will know that I am the Lord, the one who saves you and sets you free. They will know that I am Israel's powerful God." (Isaiah 49:26)



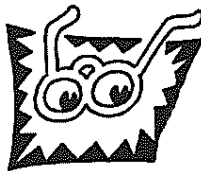
OLD TREASURES

The Lord God often had to scold the people of Israel for having so little faith in Him. The conflict between belief and unbelief is an old story that comes up through the whole of history. Even when the Messiah comes unbelief will still exist. Isaiah already said that.

*"Who would have believed what we now report?
Who could have seen the Lord's hand in this?"
(Isaiah 53:1)*

Job was in the middle of great difficulties. But he learned not to trust in Himself anymore, but in God.

"But I know there is someone in heaven who will come at last to my defence." (Job 19:25)



EXTRA INFORMATION

Seven times 'I am ...'

"He is the one!" say the prophets. "I am the one!" says the Lord Jesus. No one has ever made such powerful statements about Himself as He. In the Gospel of John we hear Him say in seven different ways how He calls Himself.

1. "I am the bread." (John 6:35)
2. "I am the light." (John 8:12)
3. "I am the gate." (John 10:7-9)
4. "I am the good shepherd." (John 10:11)
5. "I am the life." (John 11:25)
6. "I am the way." (John 14:6)
7. "I am the vine." (John 15:5)

KEEP ON LISTENING TO JESUS!

Unbelief will take you away from Jesus. Belief will bring you closer. Everyone has the choice of following Jesus, or of walking away from Him. Will you go on with Jesus?
Do you trust Him?
Then keep on listening to Him. His word is the very best food for you.

Even if sometimes you do not see how you can keep following Him, you can come back to Him again. He will not let you go, because He is your Saviour!

TIP

The names of Jesus help you to worship Him. Make a nice poster of the names of the Lord Jesus and hang it up. Look at it often. Whenever you do, worship Him by saying: "Lord Jesus, you are ..." filling in a name each time. As you honour the Lord Jesus with His names, you will experience His joy!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What does the name Jesus mean?

2. When does a person get saved by Jesus (Romans 10:9)?

3. When did Peter begin to sink (Matthew 14:30)?

4. Can you see from the picture story what Jesus immediately did when it looked like Peter would sink (Matthew 14:31)?

5. Which bread remains and gives eternal life:

- a) The bread that Jesus multiplies.
- b) Jesus Himself.
- c) The bread in the time of Moses that God gave to Israel in the wilderness.

6. Which word does not belong with the others?

Bread - Light - Door - Fisherman - Shepherd - Life - Way - Vine

7. What do the disciples call Jesus after the miracle on the water (Matthew 14:33)?

And what does Peter call Jesus when he decides to continue following Him (John 6:69)?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Matthew 14:22-33
Mon	John 6:22-40
Tue	John 6:60-69
Wed	Matthew 1:18-24
Thu	Isaiah 49:1-7, 26
Fri	Romans 10:9-17
Sat	Psalm 25:1-15



ACTION POINT!

Jesus is called by many names in the Bible. In this lesson 8 names have been mentioned.

Write them down.

Add to those names the ones that you learned about in the previous lesson.

Now you have 18 names. Try to remember these names. And when you pray, you are welcome to sometimes address Jesus with some of these different names.

They help you to get to know Him even better!