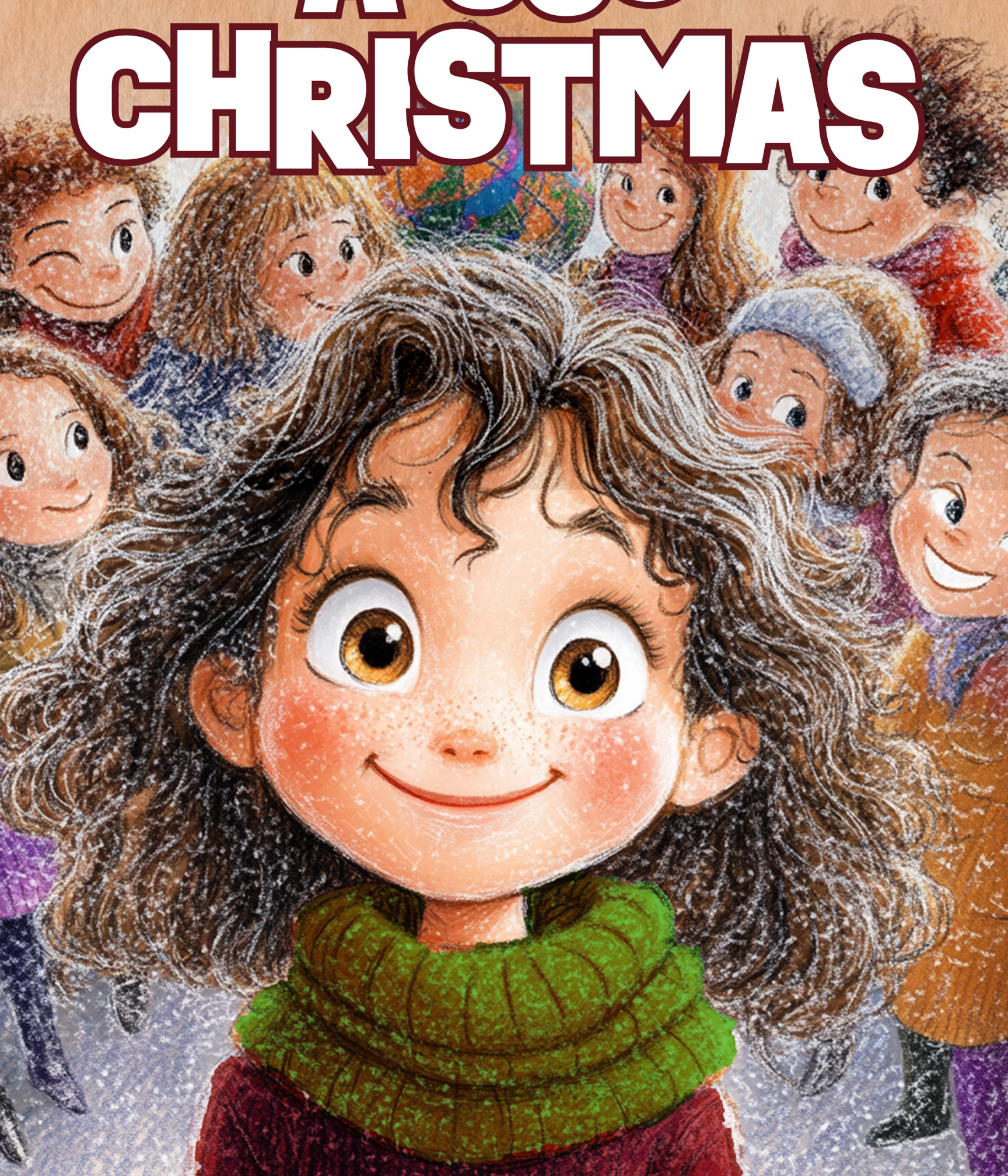


A 365 CHRISTMAS





In the small town of Smyrna, Jazmyn and her parents were driving home from church. Jazmyn's mom turned to her and asked, "What did you learn at church today, Jazmyn?"

Jazmyn's eyes lit up, and she said excitedly, "We learned that Jesus' birthday was on Christmas!"

Mommy, can you tell the story of how He was born?"

Her mother smiled and said, “Well, one day, an angel named Gabriel came to Mary.

He said, ‘Mary, you are special to God. You will have a baby, and you will name Him Jesus.’

Mary was surprised and asked the angel, ‘How will this happen?’ Gabriel said, ‘God will make this happen through the work of the Holy Spirit.’”



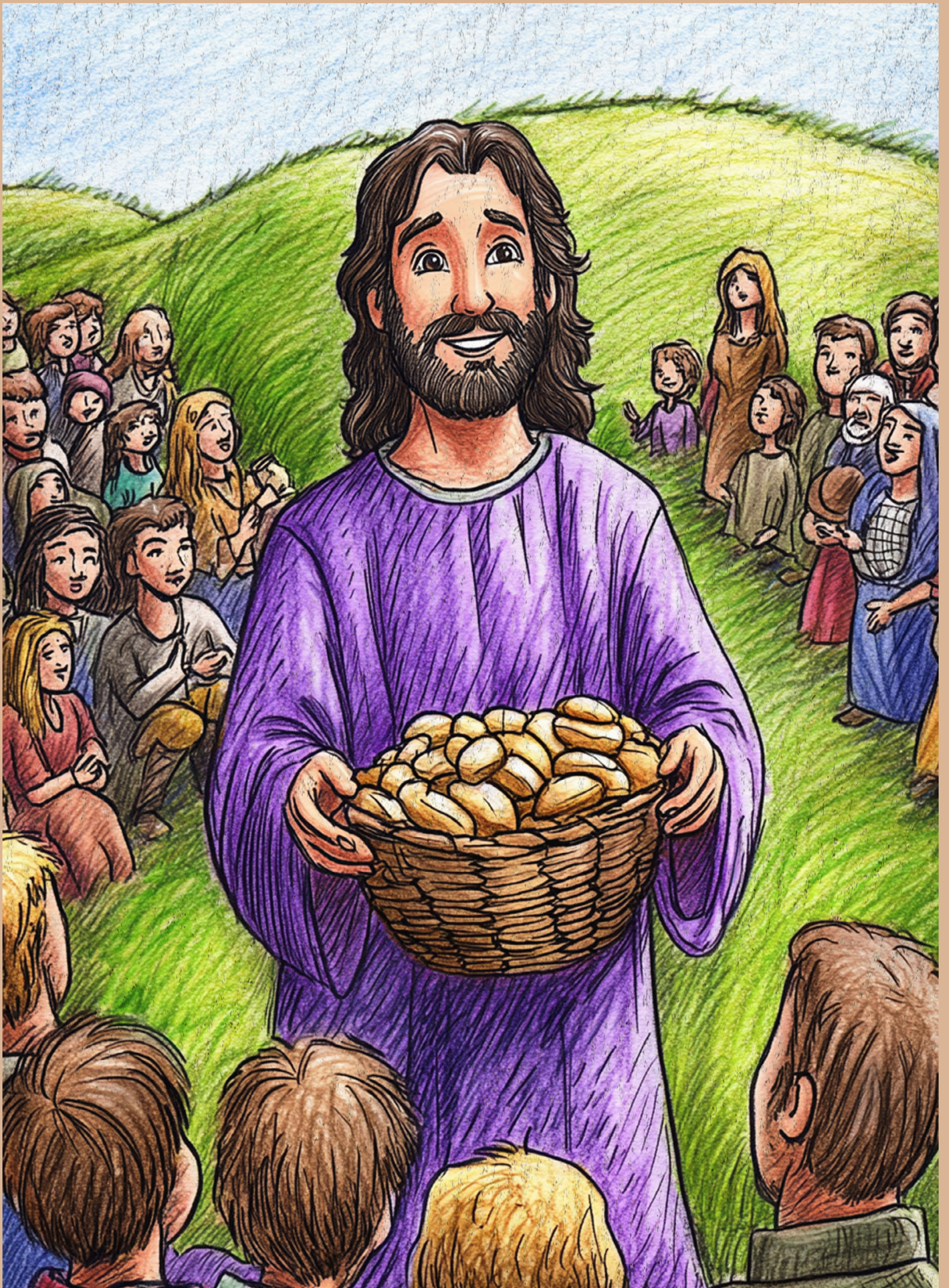


“And so, Mary had baby Jesus, not in a warm house like where we live, but in a barn. She put Him in a manger, which is like a box where animals eat. And that is how Jesus was born.”

A**S** the family arrived home, Jazmyn looked up at her mom and asked, “Tell me more, Mommy! I want to know everything about Jesus!”

Her mother nodded and began sharing different Bible stories with Jazmyn. She told Jazmyn about all the wonderful things Jesus did.

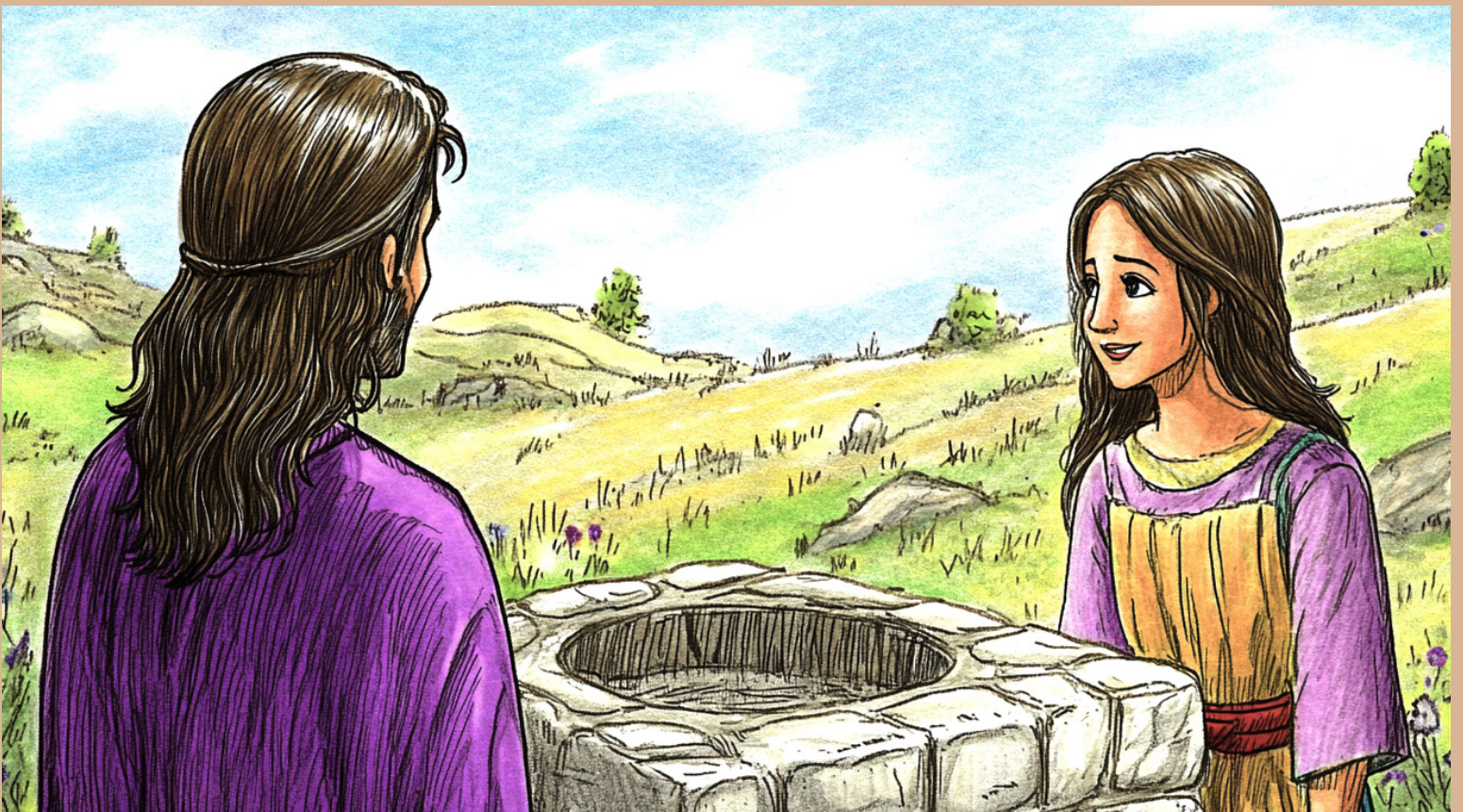




“Jesus helped blind people see. He fed 5,000 people with just a few pieces of bread and fish!

He healed people physically and brought peace to so many. And just like His birth, God breathed life into His lungs.

“He breathed life, Mommy?”

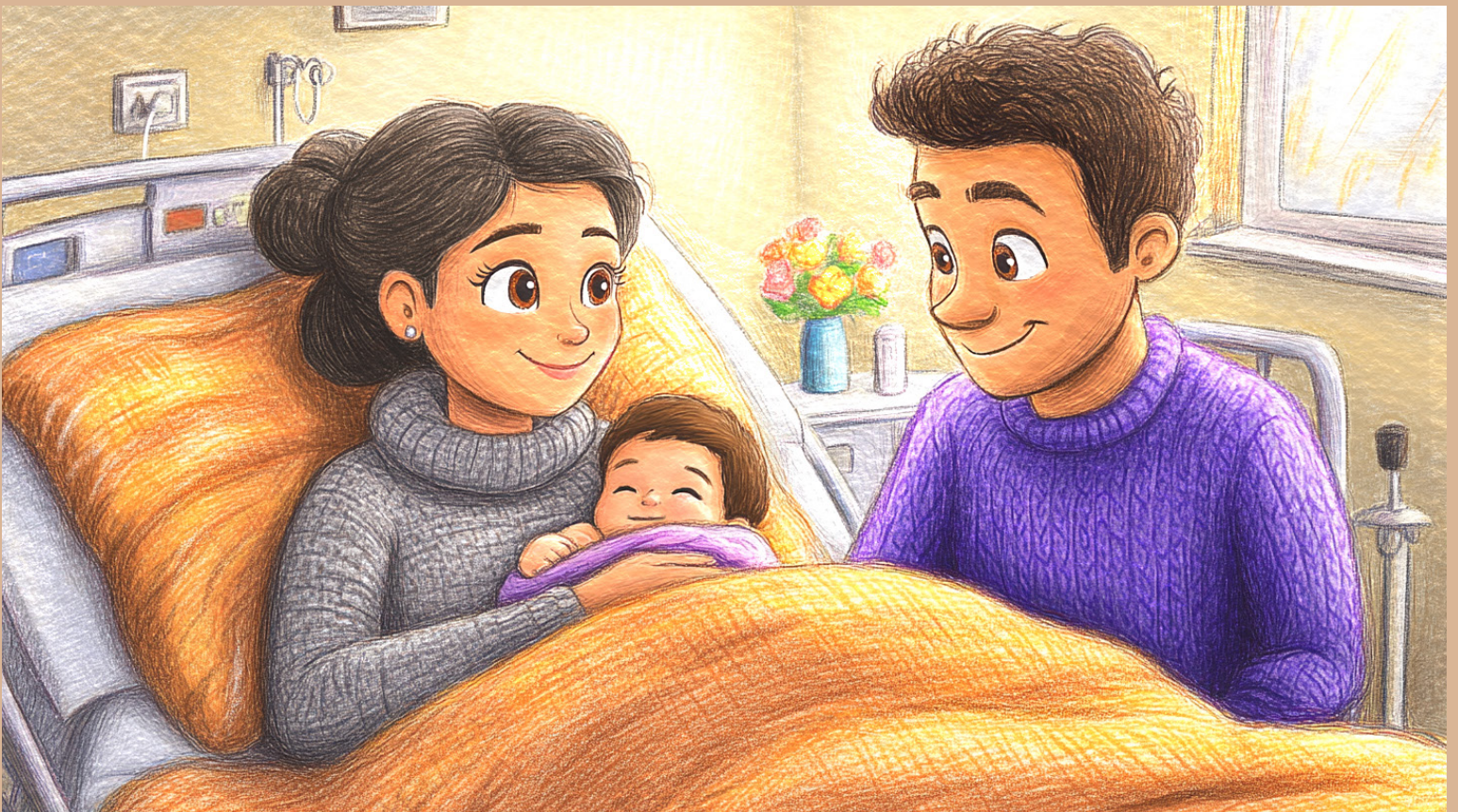


“Just like He did for you when you were born.

Jesus can take things that are empty and fill them with His love and peace.”

Jazmyn thought for a moment and asked, “But Mommy, why do I still feel sad sometimes?”

She answered, “Well, you might still feel sad, but when Jesus talks about breathing life, He means that He can fill our hearts with love and give us eternal Life! That’s why you hear Dad and me talk about Jesus breathing life into the world.”







Jazmyn's eyes grew wide. "Really, Mommy? Jesus breathed life into the World?"

"Yes," said her mom, "people are the same today as they were when Jesus lived on earth. Everyone has struggles and hard times. But the great thing is, we get to join the journey in bringing life and joy and peace to the world just like Jesus and His followers did."

Jazmyn smiled. "That's so nice!"



Her mom added, “And did you know that helping others makes them like your brothers and sisters?”

Jazmyn was confused. “I don’t have any brothers or sisters.”

Her mom explained, “When we believe in Jesus, He makes us part of His big family. So all the people who love Jesus are like brothers and sisters to you.” She spread her arms wide. “Everyone who believes in Jesus is your family!”





Jazmyn's eyes grew big.
"Wow! Jesus is so cool!"

Then Jazmyn had an idea. "Mommy, instead of getting me presents for Christmas, is there something we can do to breathe life into our world?"

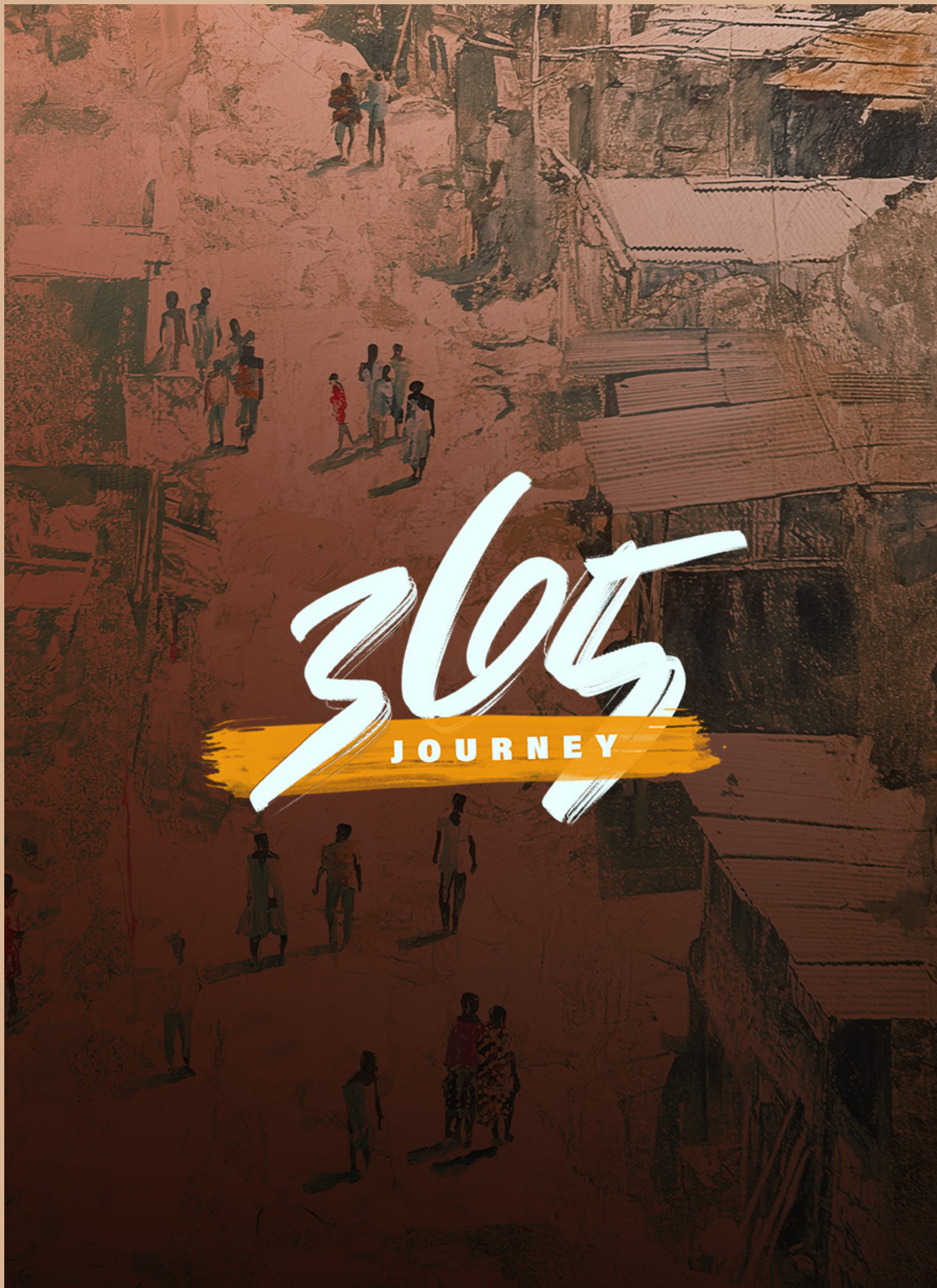
Her mother smiled and hugged Jazmyn.
"That's a wonderful idea! Jesus says when you help others, you're helping Him too."

Jazmyn smiled back. “So
when we help others,
we’re helping Jesus!”

“Yes, that’s right!” said her mom.

“Then let’s help Jesus breathe life,
Mommy!”





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JOURNEY

This story of Jazmyn learning to love and serve like Jesus reminds us of how our effort to reach the Last, the Least, and the Lost of Humanity stretches from young to old and to everyone in between. Would you consider joining our 365 Journey as we continue to Breathe Life to all around the world?



As this story came across my desk, I was deeply moved by its message of unity, compassion, and hope. I hope it inspires each of you in the World Missions Community, just as it has inspired me, to continue our Journey to Breathe Life, Bring Hope, and Build Community for the Last, the Least, and the Lost. LaQuita and I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

-Dr. M. Thomas Propes