





REBEKAH:

Hello there! I'm Rebekah. I've always liked HELPING people, but I'll never forget the time when a simple offer of water changed my life forever. One evening, I went out to the well to get water to cook dinner. When I was there with other young women of our town, I saw a stranger looking tired and thirsty, resting beside his camels. They all looked so hot. I asked if I could bring water to him and the camels. You should've seen how big the stranger's eyes got. I found out later that he'd asked God to HELP him find a young woman to be his master's wife—the right one would be the girl who offered to give water to him and his camels. God wants us to serve those around us, and possibly change a life by showing God's love.

You're part of this story too. God wants you to HELP the people around you.

ACTION VERSE:

Psalm 118:7a

What was God's action? How do you HELP others? How do you see your family serving others? What's one way you can HELP a family member?



For the beginning of Rebekah's story in *The Action Bible*, go to "A WIFE FOR ISAAC."







DAVID:

Hi! I'm David. I've been called a shepherd, warrior, hero, harp player, fugitive, CONQUERER, and king. But the name I like best is "a man after God's own heart." I've always loved the God of Israel with all my heart. Which is probably why, when I heard Goliath mocking God, I said I would fight that giant and beat him. I was just a teenager then, and if I'd really been thinking, I probably would've kept my mouth shut. I just couldn't stay still when he insulted God! So I got my sling— which I had used to protect my father's sheep from wolves, bears, and lions—plucked a few perfect rocks from the stream, and went out to meet the giant. I also prayed. A lot. I never doubted that I would win, because I knew God would help me CONQUER in His name. My first rock struck Goliath's forehead, and down he went. My God is the ultimate CONQUEROR!

You're part of this story too. God wants you to CONQUER and follow Him with your whole heart.

ACTION VERSE:

Romans 8:31

What was God's action? What has God asked you to do that at first seemed too hard? Name some "giants" your family has faced. What's a problem you've prayed for God to CONQUER?



For the beginning of David's story in *The Action Bible*, go to *GOD'S* NEW KING."





BOY JESUS:

Hello, friend! My name is Jesus and I'm 12 years old. How old are you? Not long ago, our whole family traveled to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem, as we do every year. When it was time to return home to Nazareth, I didn't get in the caravan with them. I was a little distracted talking with the priests in the temple. It might sound strange to you, but I felt at home there because it's really my heavenly Father's house. I had some questions, and the priests were good about answering them, but to be honest I had a few things to TEACH them too, as it turned out. It was a great couple of days of discussing and learning with them. Unfortunately, my parents didn't know where I was, and they were very worried about me. When they finally found me in the temple, I knew it was time to go home with them. It's kind of ... different being the Son of God and also the son of regular parents. When I get older, I'm going to serve my heavenly Father in big ways, but right now I obey my parents. My mom knows that one day I will have to leave her to obey the plans of my heavenly Father. I will TEACH with my whole life.

You're part of this story too. God wants to TEACH you—and maybe TEACH others through you.

ACTION VERSE:

Psalm 25:4

What was God's action? What's your favorite subject to learn? What does your family do well? Who has God used to TEACH you?



For a story of Jesus as a boy in *The Action Bible*, go to "A BOY IN THE TEMPLE."





ZACCHAEUS

ZACCHAEUS:

Hello. My name is Zacchaeus. I used to be known in town as the short guy who cheated everyone. I worked so hard to be the biggest boss of all the tax collectors in Jerusalem. I was better than almost everyone—richer, anyway. People said I collected extra taxes and kept them for myself. That's true; I CONFESS. One day, I heard that Jesus had come to my city. I was too short to see through the crowd, so I climbed a tree to see Him. Everyone grumbled at me. When Jesus passed right under the tree, He called my name! He said He wanted to stay at my house. With me! Was He telling me that God could actually love a cheater like me? I jumped down from the tree and led Him to my house. It had been so long since anyone had been kind to me. I felt like a new person. I told Jesus all the terrible things I had done and, to everyone listening, that I would go to all the people I'd cheated and pay them back even more than what I'd taken. It felt so good to CONFESS. Because of Jesus, even someone as wrong as me who CONFESSES their sin can be forgiven and know a new life!

You're part of this story too. God wants *you* to CONFESS your sin and have a new life following Jesus.

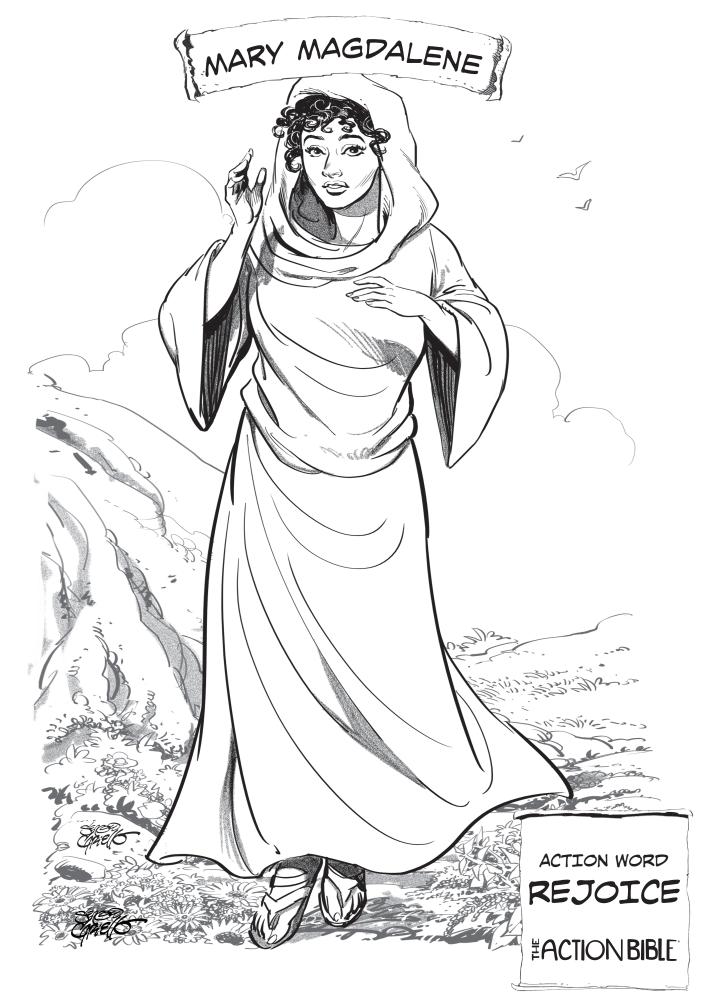
ACTION VERSE:

1 John 1:9

What was God's action? Why is it hard to CONFESS? How does your family make things right with one another? Who is someone, maybe even a difficult person, who God might want you to show His love?



For the beginning of Zacchaeus' story in *The Action Bible*, go to "MAN IN A TREE."





MARY MAGDALENE

MARY MAGDALENE:

Hello. I'm Mary from Magdala. You may know me better as Mary Magdalene. I used to have evil spirits that tormented me, but Jesus healed me! I REJOICED to be free and able to live a normal life. I left my home to become a follower of Jesus and care for His needs. My family had money, so wherever He went to teach I followed and prepared food for Him and His disciples. Honestly, I was so thankful and full of joy that I wanted to worship Him in this way. That's what you do for one who sets you free! But they didn't understand, and they killed Jesus on the cross and we buried Him in a tomb! Everything felt so hopeless. On the morning of the third day after His death, some women and I arrived to care for His body and found His tomb empty. I just lay on the ground and cried. I heard and saw someone beside me, and then I heard a voice I knew ... gently calling my name. It was Jesus! He had risen from the dead, and I was the first to see Him alive! I grabbed onto His legs and wouldn't let go. I REJOICED again and then ran to tell the others. Jesus is alive!

You're part of this story too. God wants *you* to REJOICE in the good news that Jesus is alive and has come to save.

ACTION VERSE:

Psalm 35:9

What was God's action? When was the happiest moment of your life? What has your entire family REJOICED about? What are some of your favorite ways to express your joy to God?



For the beginning of Mary Magdalene's story in *The Action Bible*, go to "THE SEALED TOMB."