

THE JOURNEY– Book Three



Look to Jesus!

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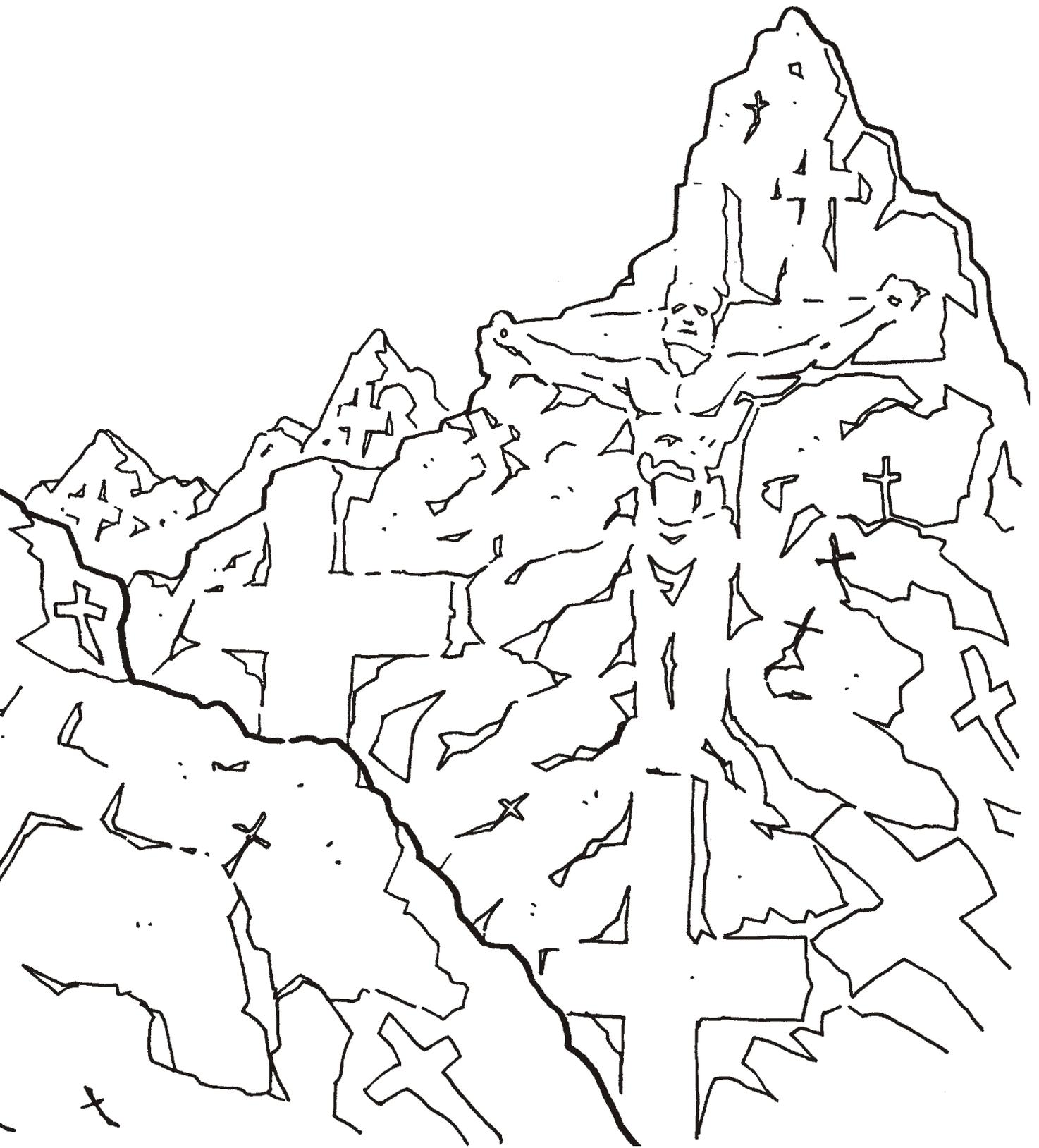
Chris Soldier is journeying on to rescue his friend Mr. O'nary. He is travelling light and hearing the cheers of others who have run the race before him.

But as he looks ahead the trail becomes very steep and difficult. He is feeling so weak and tired from the journey. His legs are sore and his feet are blistered. He wonders, *"Is it worth all this suffering just to help one person? Maybe I should turn back from this long journey."*



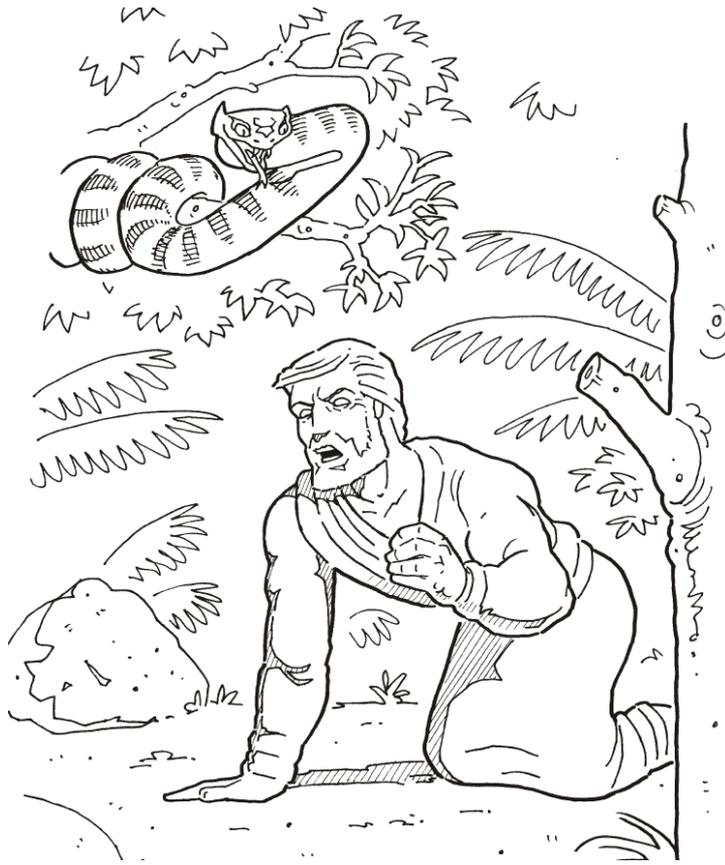
Once again Chris turns to God's Word for wisdom and encouragement. In Hebrews 12:2 he reads

“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat



Chris thinks about the words “fixing our eyes on Jesus”. He remembers the suffering Jesus Christ endured to die for our sins.

The path ahead of Chris begins to take on a different shape. Instead of the long steep trail, the rocks, the obstacles and the difficulty, Chris sees his suffering Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ. He looks to Him for strength.



Chris recalls the story of Christ's suffering on His journey to the cross.

In the Garden of Gethsemane The Lord Jesus Christ called out to God the Father for help. He needed God's strength to run His race well.

He was betrayed by Judas and sold into the hands of those who wanted to kill Him. The perfect Son of God was arrested and treated like a lowly criminal.

Even his friends deserted Him.

Strong soldiers with heavy hands beat Him in the face.

They slapped Him and spat on Him with scorn and contempt.

The Lord Jesus Christ did not cry out because of His suffering.





With great joy
they whipped Him
over and over
and over again.

His back became
bloody and torn.

Yet, He did not cry
out because of
His suffering.

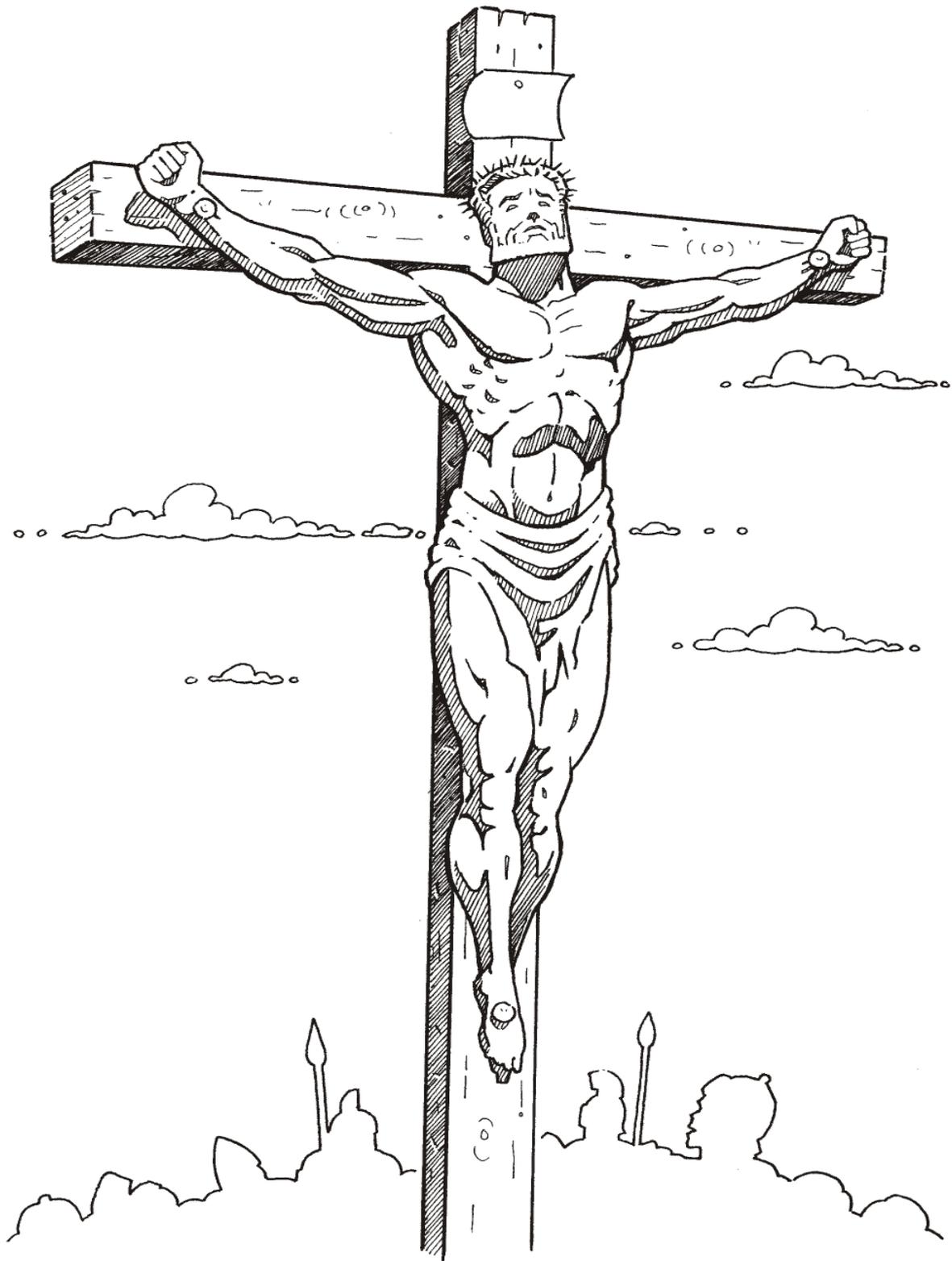
The soldiers laughed
at His suffering.

They mocked and
shamed The Lord
Jesus Christ.

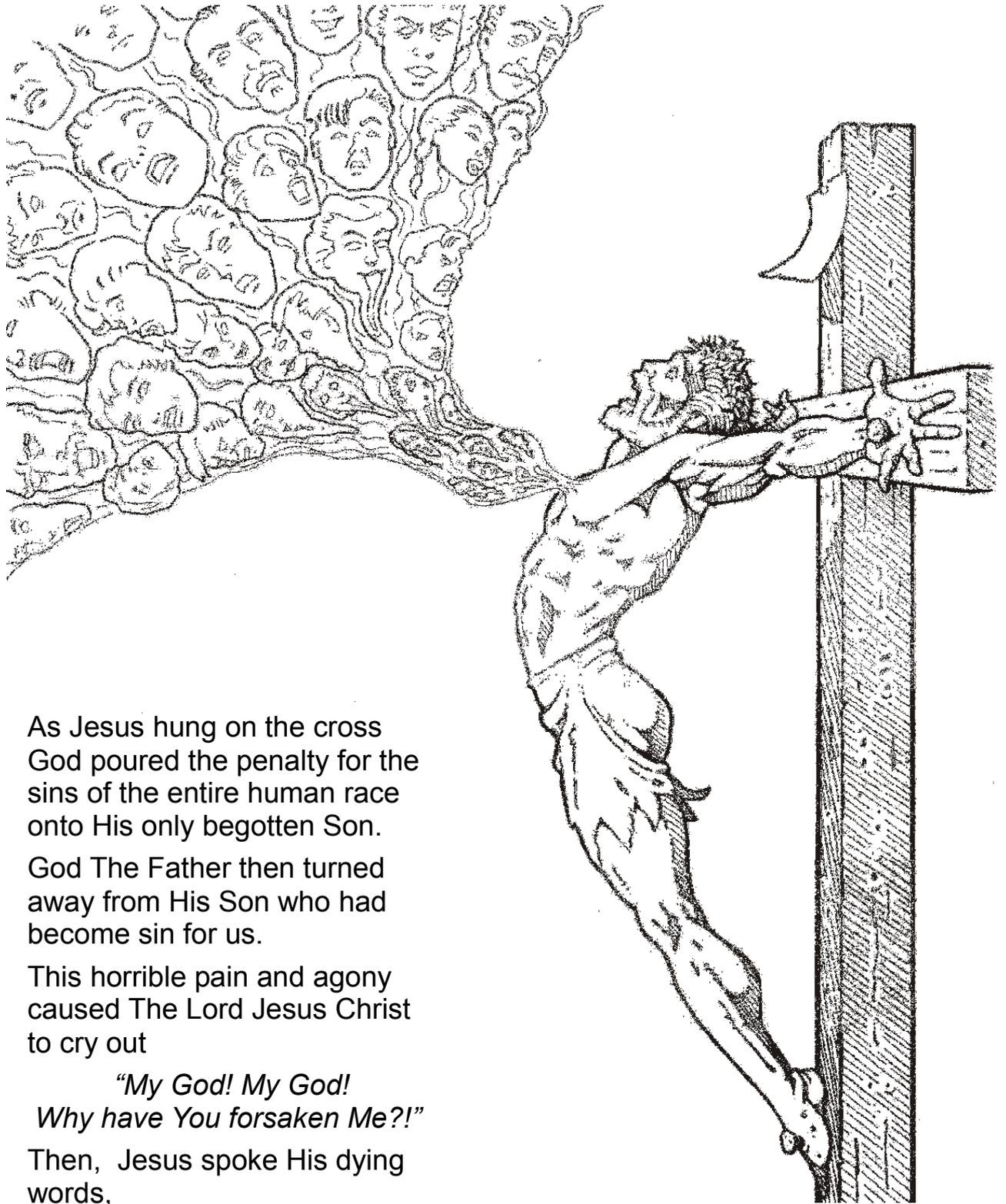
They wove a crown of
thorns and shoved it
down upon His brow.
They struck his head
with their sticks.

Jesus did not cry out.





They made The Lord Jesus Christ carry a heavy cross to Golgotha to be crucified like a criminal. Many people looked on as they drove sharp nails into his hands and feet to hang Him from the cross in shame. Through all of this The Lord Jesus Christ did not cry out.



As Jesus hung on the cross
God poured the penalty for the
sins of the entire human race
onto His only begotten Son.

God The Father then turned
away from His Son who had
become sin for us.

This horrible pain and agony
caused The Lord Jesus Christ
to cry out

*“My God! My God!
Why have You forsaken Me?!”*

Then, Jesus spoke His dying
words,

“It is finished!”

His suffering was over because the penalty for our sins was fully paid.
Jesus had died in our place.

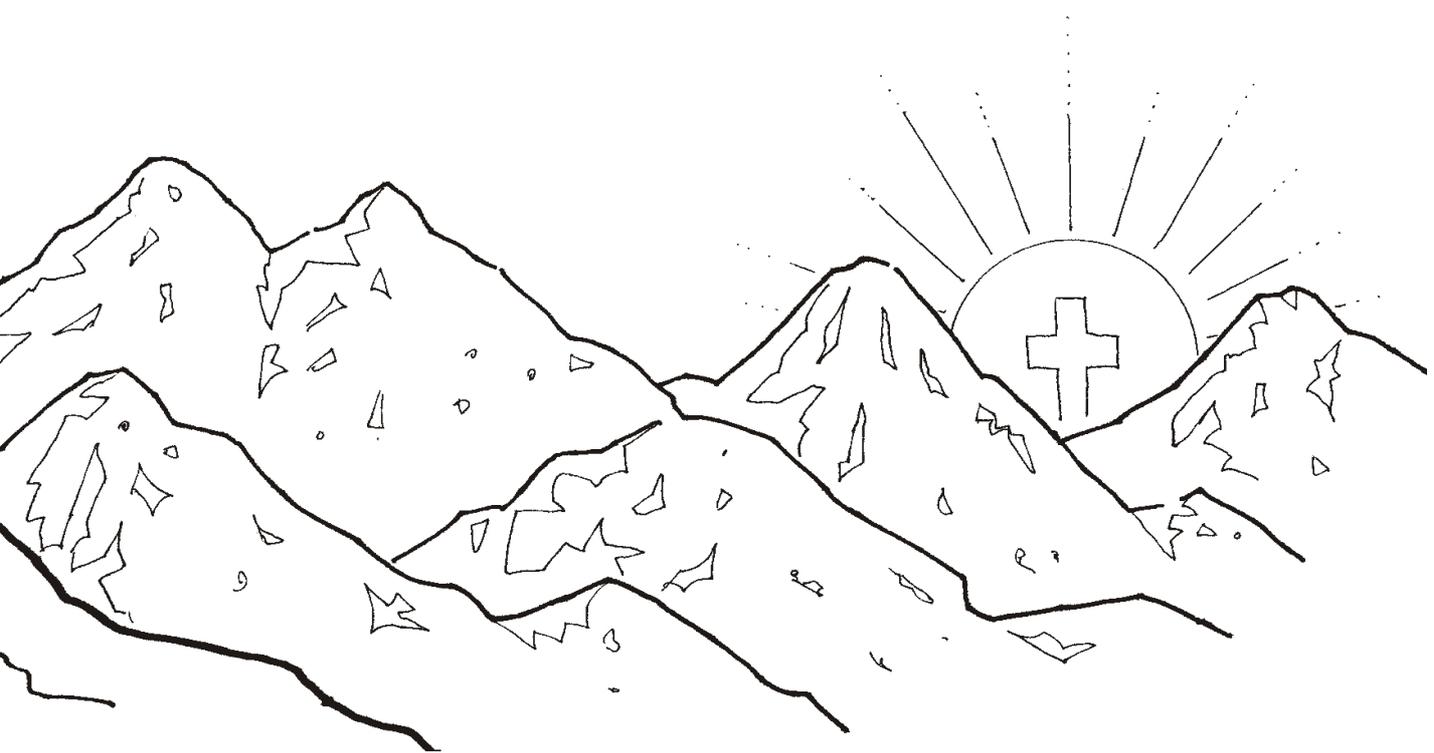
By believing in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross our sins are
forgiven and we have the gift of eternal life.

In spite of great suffering, Jesus ran His race well, faithful to the end!



Chris remembers the words in Hebrews 12:2 “who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame...”

“I am His joy!”, thought Chris. *“Jesus Christ suffered and died for the joy of saving me!”*



Chris journeyed on with renewed strength! He no longer felt so weak and tired. His legs weren't so sore after all, and the blisters on his feet were really quite small. The path ahead looked to Chris like a path of joy.

"Poor Mr. O'nary", thought Chris. "My suffering is so small compared to the joy of helping him. I will keep my eyes on Jesus! I will run my race well, faithful to the end!"

Hebrews 12:1-3

“ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God For consider him who has endured such hostility of sinners against himself, that

