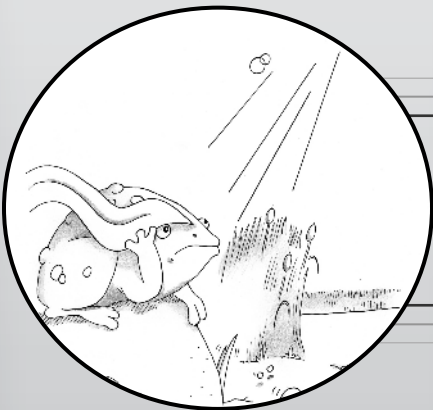




PK-K

Spirit & Truth

*Teaching Kids
the Heart of Worship*



Picture Book

Mysterious God

Lesson #C11:

Holy Trinity Sunday

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Illustrated by: Nicholas McDougal*

THUD! Chloe Jackrabbit landed on her two hind feet in the classroom doorway, her arms crossed over her chest. Josh Grayfox, Ethan Raccoon, and Olivia Porcupine stared at the jackrabbit's frown.

"Uh-oh," whispered Ethan to Josh. "Somebody looks mad."

"I just don't get it," said Chloe, stomping into the classroom.

"What don't you get?" asked Mrs. Heron, fluttering in quietly behind Chloe.

"My mom and dad! They let my big sister do whatever she wants, but they never let me do anything."



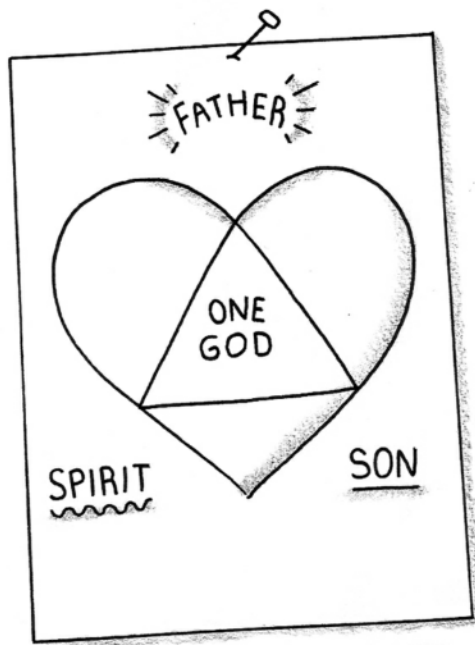
Josh shrugged. "I don't understand my mom and dad either."

Mrs. Heron nodded. "Kids have a hard time understanding parents."

"So, do you understand my mom and dad?" asked Chloe, still crossing her arms and frowning.

"Yes, as a parent I think I could understand them pretty well," said Mrs. Heron.





Chloe stared at the cross on the wall. “What about God?” she asked. “Is God hard to understand like my parents?”

Mrs. Heron looked at the jackrabbit and then the cross. She nodded. “Oh yes. God is a mystery to us. That’s what we’re going to talk about today in class, the mystery of the Holy Trinity.”

“What’s a mystery?” asked Chloe.

“Well, a mystery is something that is just so big and wonderful that we can’t understand it.”

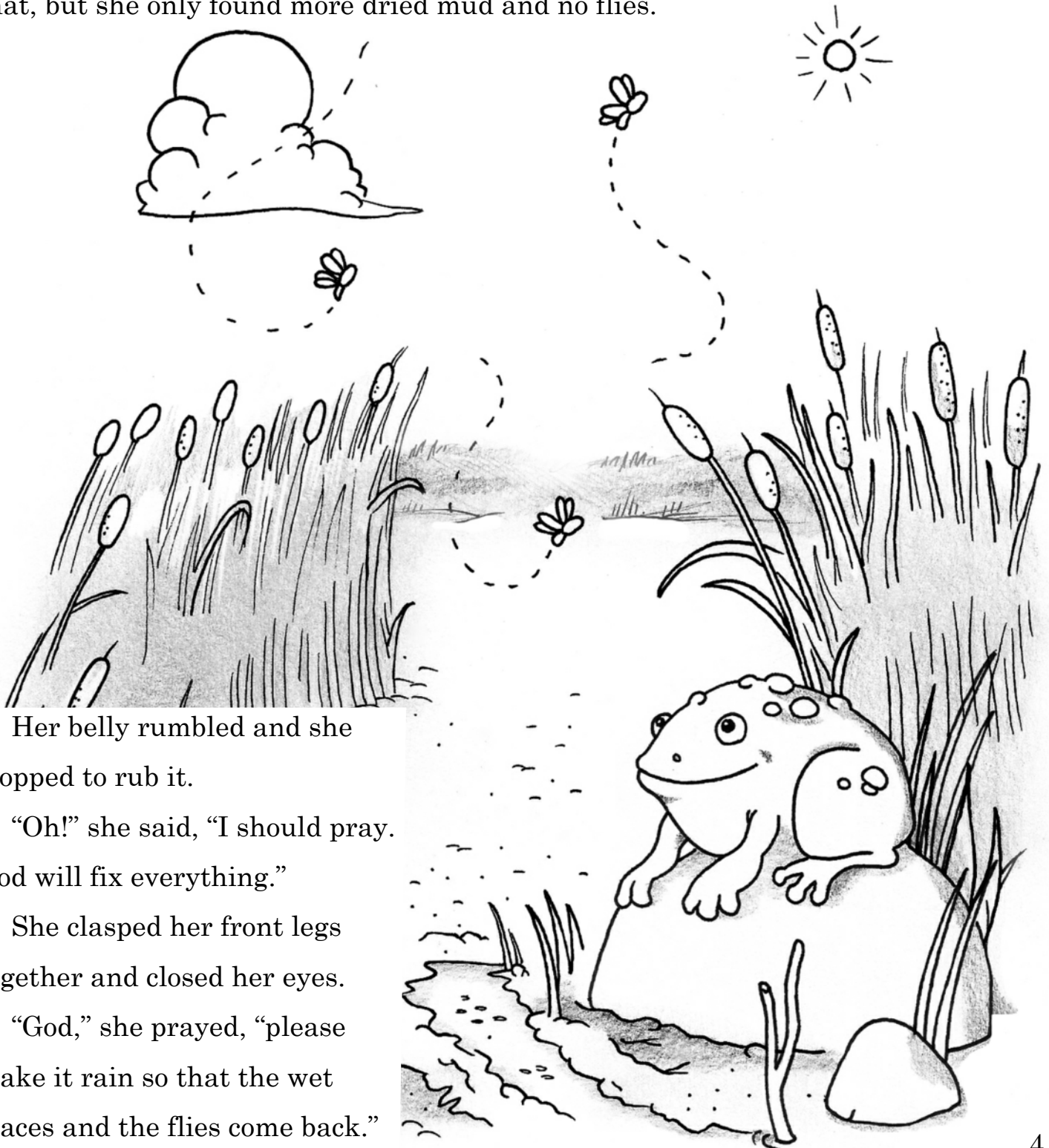
“What’s so mysterious about God?” asked Ethan.

“How about we start with a story?” asked Mrs. Heron, fluttering to her stool. 3

Once upon a time there was a toad. Tina was generally a very happy toad. She had all of the flies she wanted to eat and nice wet places to sit in.

But, one day the hot sun dried up the wet places as hard as a rock and the flies all flew away.

“Croak!” Tina crossed her front legs and frowned. She hopped this way and that, but she only found more dried mud and no flies.



Her belly rumbled and she stopped to rub it.

“Oh!” she said, “I should pray. God will fix everything.”

She clasped her front legs together and closed her eyes.

“God,” she prayed, “please make it rain so that the wet places and the flies come back.”

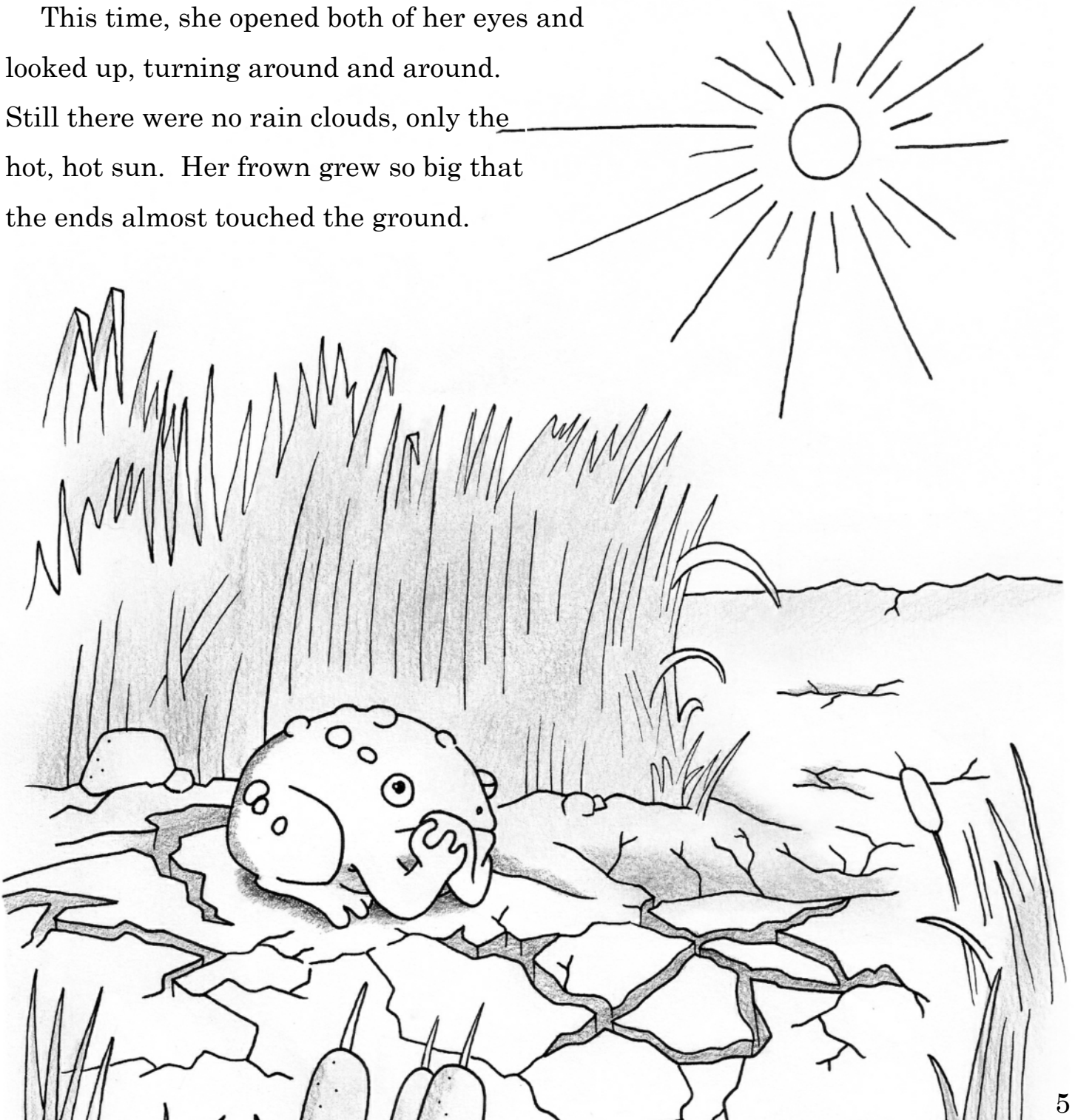
She opened one eye and looked up. The hot sun still blazed down out of the cloudless blue sky.

She closed her eyes again. "God," she prayed, as sweetly as she could, "could you please send rain?"

She opened the other eye and looked up. No clouds, only the sun.

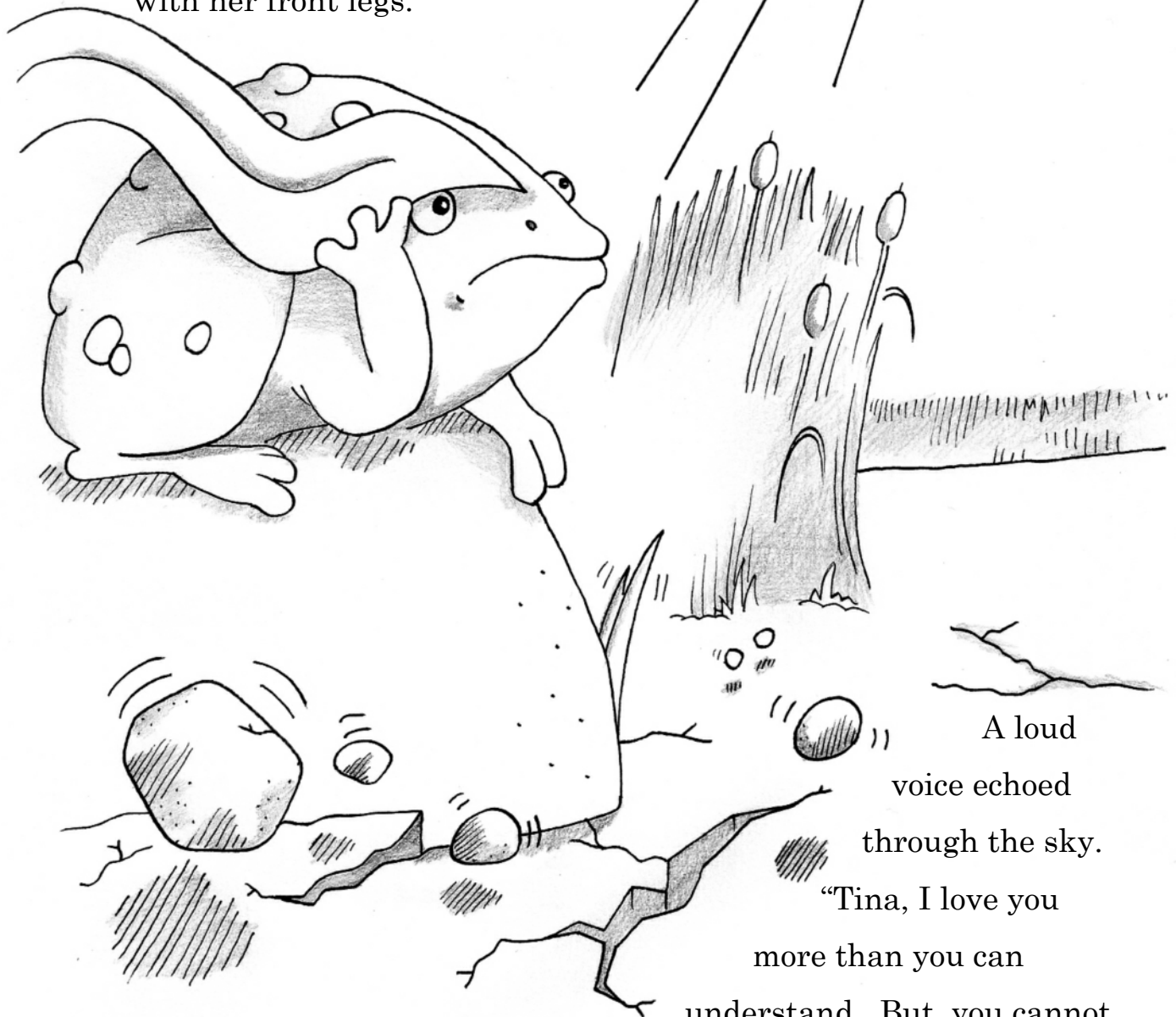
"Uh, God," she prayed a third time, "where are the rain clouds?"

This time, she opened both of her eyes and looked up, turning around and around. Still there were no rain clouds, only the hot, hot sun. Her frown grew so big that the ends almost touched the ground.



“God!” Tina shouted, “I prayed to you three times for rain and no clouds have come and no drops have fallen. Don’t you care about me?”

Suddenly, a loud rumble shook the big blue sky and the rock-hard earth. Tina tried to hide under a too-small leaf and covered her eyes with her front legs.



A loud voice echoed through the sky.

“Tina, I love you more than you can understand. But, you cannot

understand the things I do. Go. I will send rain soon, but know that I love you whether the ground is wet or dry.”

Tina managed a small smile. “Thank you, God,” she said, “for loving me even if I don’t understand you.”

Olivia sat up straight. "So, one mysterious thing about God is that we don't understand why he does stuff?"

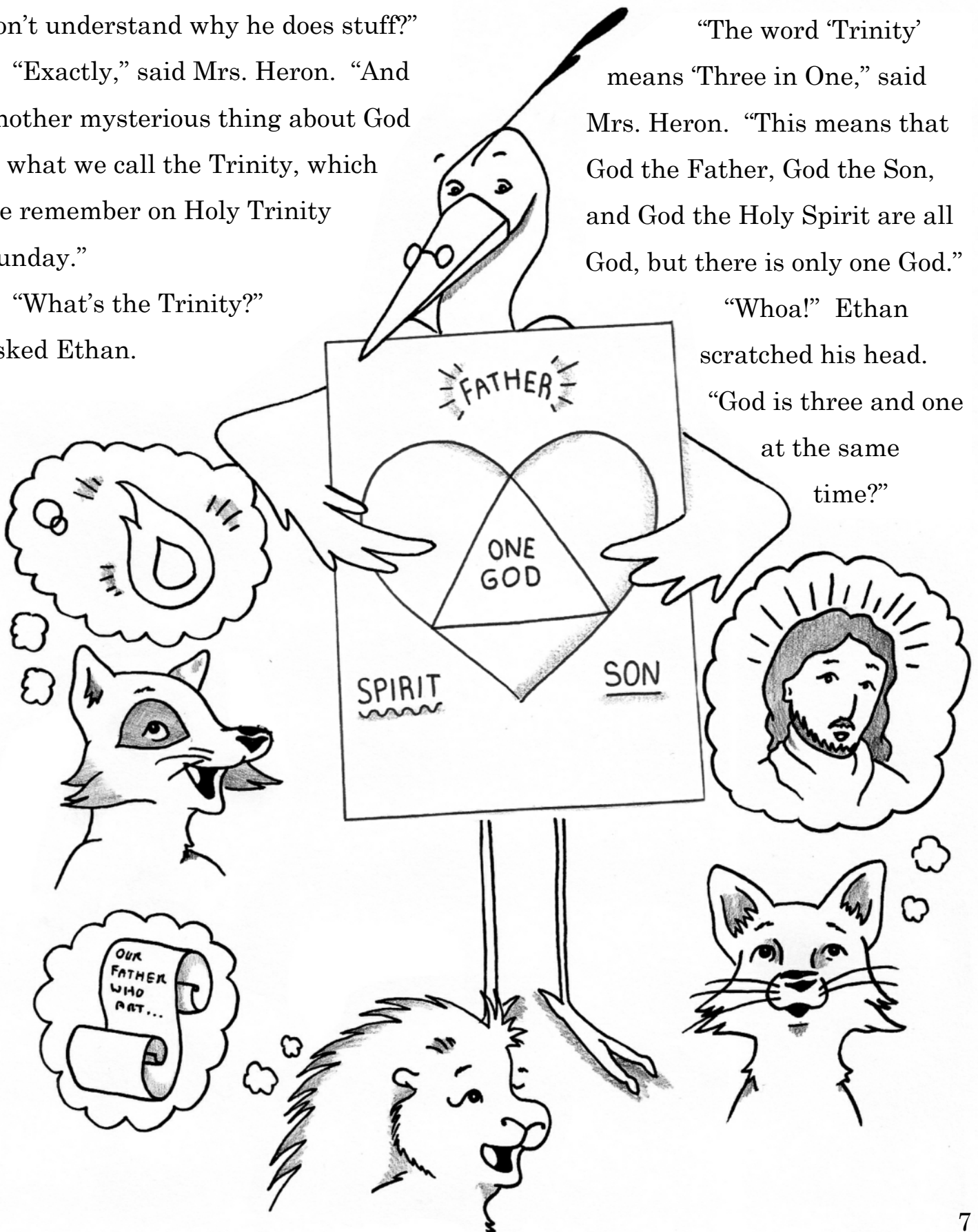
"Exactly," said Mrs. Heron. "And another mysterious thing about God is what we call the Trinity, which we remember on Holy Trinity Sunday."

"What's the Trinity?" asked Ethan.

"The word 'Trinity' means 'Three in One,'" said Mrs. Heron. "This means that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all God, but there is only one God."

"Whoa!" Ethan scratched his head.

"God is three and one at the same time?"

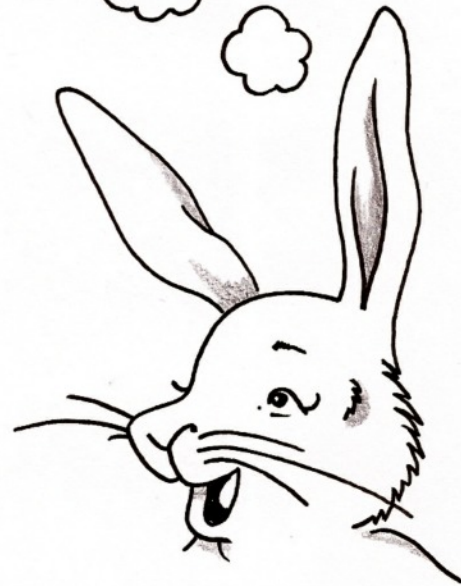
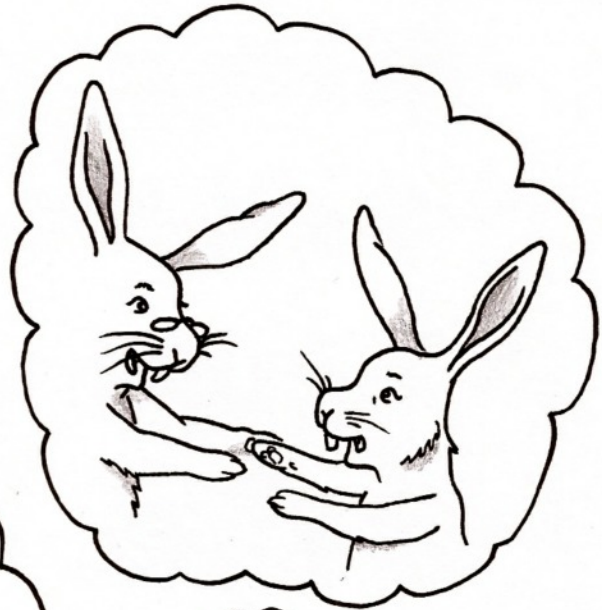


“Yes,” said Mrs. Heron.

“Huh?” asked Chloe. “And I thought my parents were confusing.”

“But, do we have to understand that?” asked Olivia. “Can’t we just know that God loves us, like he told Tina in the story?”

Mrs. Heron nodded slowly. “The Trinity is a beautiful, special mystery about God. But, you’re right.



“The most important thing to understand is that God loves you every moment of every day. And, God’s love is the most real thing in the whole world.”

“So, we don’t understand God or our parents, but we do know that they all love us a lot,” said Josh.

“Yeah,” said Chloe, smiling. “I guess that’s pretty easy to understand.”

For the Teacher:

Use these questions to reinforce the important story elements and help the students learn about the Holy Trinity.

- 1. Chloe came into class today mad and confused about things her parents did. When have you been confused about something your parents did?** *[Answers will vary.]*
- 2. Mrs. Heron said that God was sometimes mysterious to us. When have you been confused about God or the things we do in church?** *[Answers will vary.]*
- 3. In Mrs. Heron’s story, Tina the toad prayed to God three times. What did she pray about?** *[She prayed that God would send rain to make the nice wet places and the flies come back.]*
- 4. Tina got mad when God didn’t answer her right away. What did God say when he did answer her?** *[God told Tina that she didn’t understand the way he does things, but that he loves her very much.]*
- 5. God is the Trinity, which means that God is one and God is also three. What are the three persons of the Trinity?** *[God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.]*
- 6. There might be lots of things you don’t understand about God, but what is the most important thing to remember?** *[That God loves you!]*

This story about Tina the toad was inspired by on the Bible story of Job and the words of the prophet Isaiah, found in Job 38 and Isaiah 55:8-9.