

# the big story

As found in 'Impress' by Ainsley Freeman

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Everything in the world was good. And then God made humankind in his image. Male and female. And when he saw them, he said it was very good.

Then Adam and Eve made a bad choice and when sin entered God's good world it messed everything up. This meant they could no longer be near God in the garden.

But God had a great rescue plan to put things right! And God's plan involved a family. He chose Abraham and promised that his family would grow and would bless the whole world!

Eventually, this family ended up in slavery in Egypt but God hadn't forgotten them. He still had an amazing rescue plan. He still wanted to put things right. God chose Moses to lead his people out of Egypt. Moses asked Pharaoh if he could take God's people out of Egypt, but Pharaoh said 'No!'

So then God sent 10 plagues to Egypt – he turned the river to blood and sent flies and frogs but Pharaoh still said, 'No!' The last thing that God was going to do was to send an angel of death throughout Egypt, but he would pass over the homes that had blood painted on their doorframes and not hurt them.

After that horrible night, Pharaoh let God's people go and Moses led them out. God parted the sea for them, provided them with miraculous food every day, led them by a cloud during the day and fire at night. They learnt again to trust God and follow him.

Eventually God's people landed in their Promised Land, but they struggled to trust God and follow what he said. Even with judges and kings, the people found it hard to live God's way.

What was God's ultimate rescue plan?

He was going to come to earth himself. He was going to come to rescue and put things right. But he didn't come as a king or a superhero – he came as a baby. A baby born to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem.

He came to show people how to live with God and each other. He died on the cross and rose again to make things right and fix what was broken.

And then Jesus sent us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help and guide us.

When we drink this special juice and eat the bread, we are reminded of God's rescue. We are reminded that God passed over the homes in Egypt and that God saved his people from slavery. We are reminded of the cross – where Jesus' body was broken and his blood flowed as his ultimate act of love. We are reminded that God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that things could be made right.