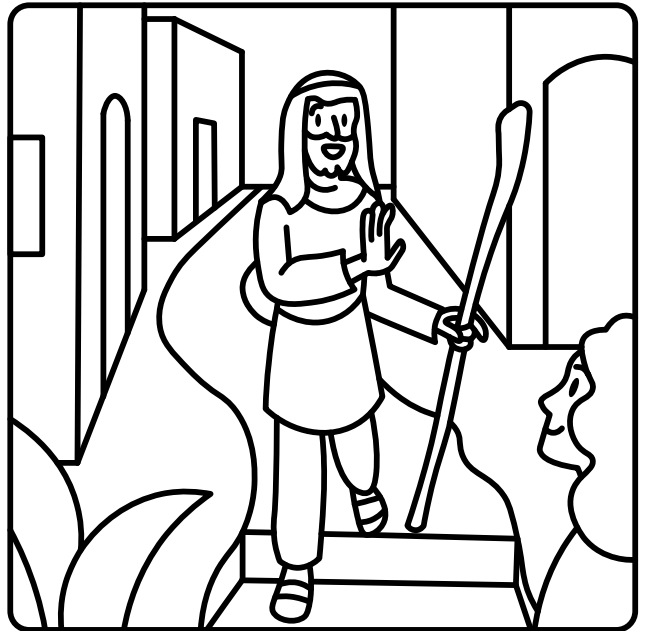
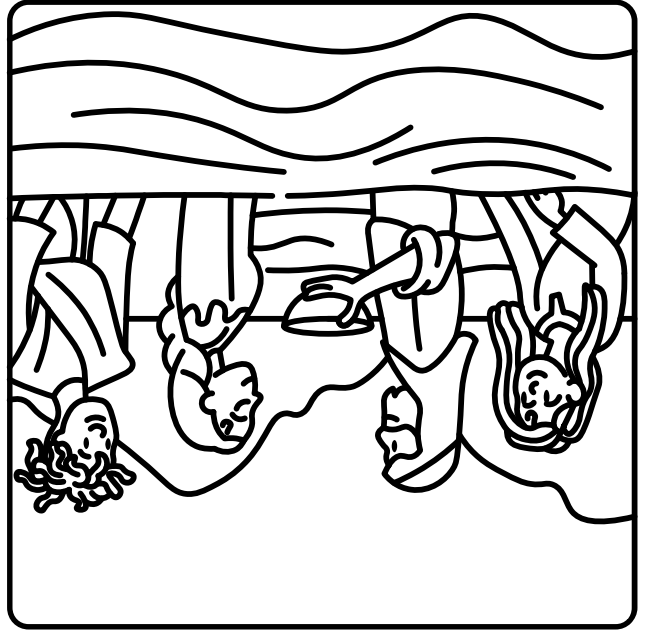
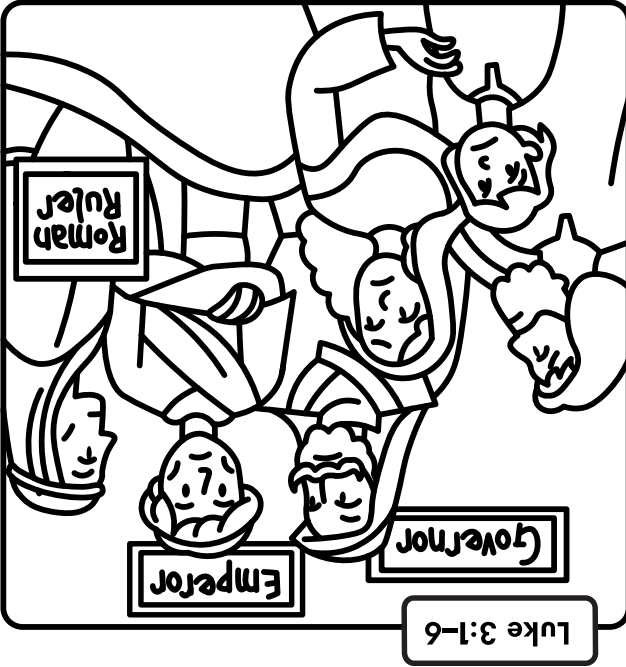


4. "Not everyone believed John, but those who did followed him to the river to be baptized. Feeling the cool water on their skin was a way for their bodies to experience the fresh start happening inside their hearts, minds, and souls."



3. So, John went to work. He journeyed into towns around the Jordan River, crying out, "Repent! Turn around from the path you're on and get everything ready for the Lord—the Messiah is on his way to save us!"

1. A long time ago, the Jewish people had many Roman leaders and rule-makers: the Emperor was Roman; the governor was Roman; the rulers all around them were Roman; the Roman Empire influenced even the high priests in Jerusalem.



2. During this time, God called on a prophet, John, living in the wilderness. God gave John a very important job: the Messiah was on the move, and he needed to get the people of Israel ready.