

# Visitors seek Jesus during Passover

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

Jews and non-Jews alike from every country had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, including a group of travelers from Greece. They had been asking for information since their arrival in the busy city, until someone introduced them to Philip, who was one of the disciples of Jesus. Philip did not live in Jerusalem, either. He was from Bethsaida, which was in Galilee.

One of the Greeks nodded politely and asked Philip, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." The word of the teaching and miracles of Jesus had spread throughout the world, and the Greeks were eager to see this remarkable man for themselves.

Philip told the men he would try to help them find Jesus, but he did not know where he was at the moment. The streets of Jerusalem were filled with people shopping, visiting friends and relatives, and walking to the Temple to pray. Somewhere in the crowd, Philip thought, someone would know where Jesus was. The men followed him as he made his way toward the home of another disciple, Andrew.

Andrew said he thought he knew where Jesus was, so he led Philip and the Greeks to a open field just outside of the city gates. A large crowd was listening to Jesus. When Andrew explained why he was there with the visitors, Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it re-



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

mains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

The Greek travelers looked at Jesus and at Andrew and Philip. They were not sure what Jesus was trying to tell them. Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he continued talking.

"Whoever serves me must follow me." Jesus bowed his head and sighed. Then he looked toward the sky and said, "Father, glorify your

name."

As soon as Jesus had spoken, a loud voice could be heard coming down from heaven. "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." Some of the people in the crowd thought they had heard thunder. Others thought an angel had spoken to Jesus. Jesus stood up to give the people an answer.

"The voice did not come for my sake, but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world. When I am lifted up from the earth I will draw everyone to myself." Jesus was referring to the way he would die.

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## Puzzle

Using the hints provided, unscramble the following books of the Bible. The circled (X) letters can be unscrambled for a bonus book. Answers on page 21.

1. First book of the Old Testament.      S E E (S) I N G
2. A counting book.      B E R N S U M
3. Songs and poems.      S L (A) M P S
4. A big fish story.      H A (J) O N
5. One of the Gospels.      W E T T H A (M)
6. A vision.      (E) V E R A T L I O N

Bonus: Follows Hebrews

## Q&A

1. What did the Greek men want to do?
2. What did the voice from heaven say?

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