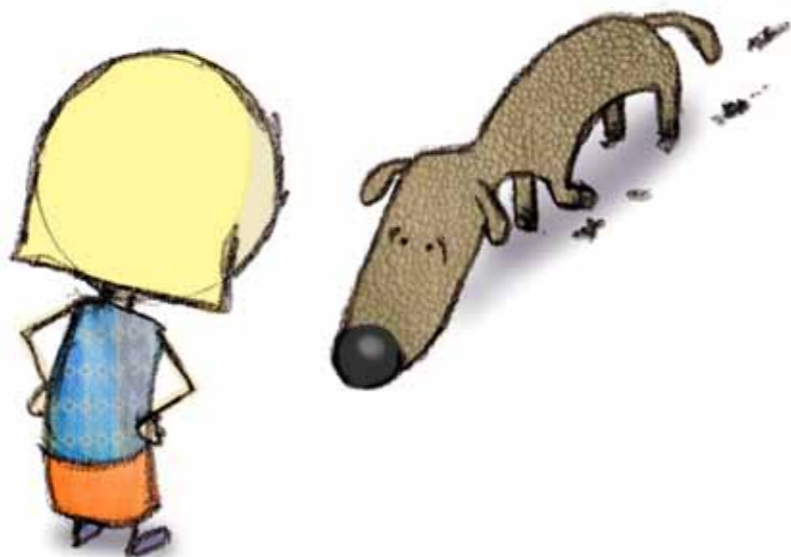
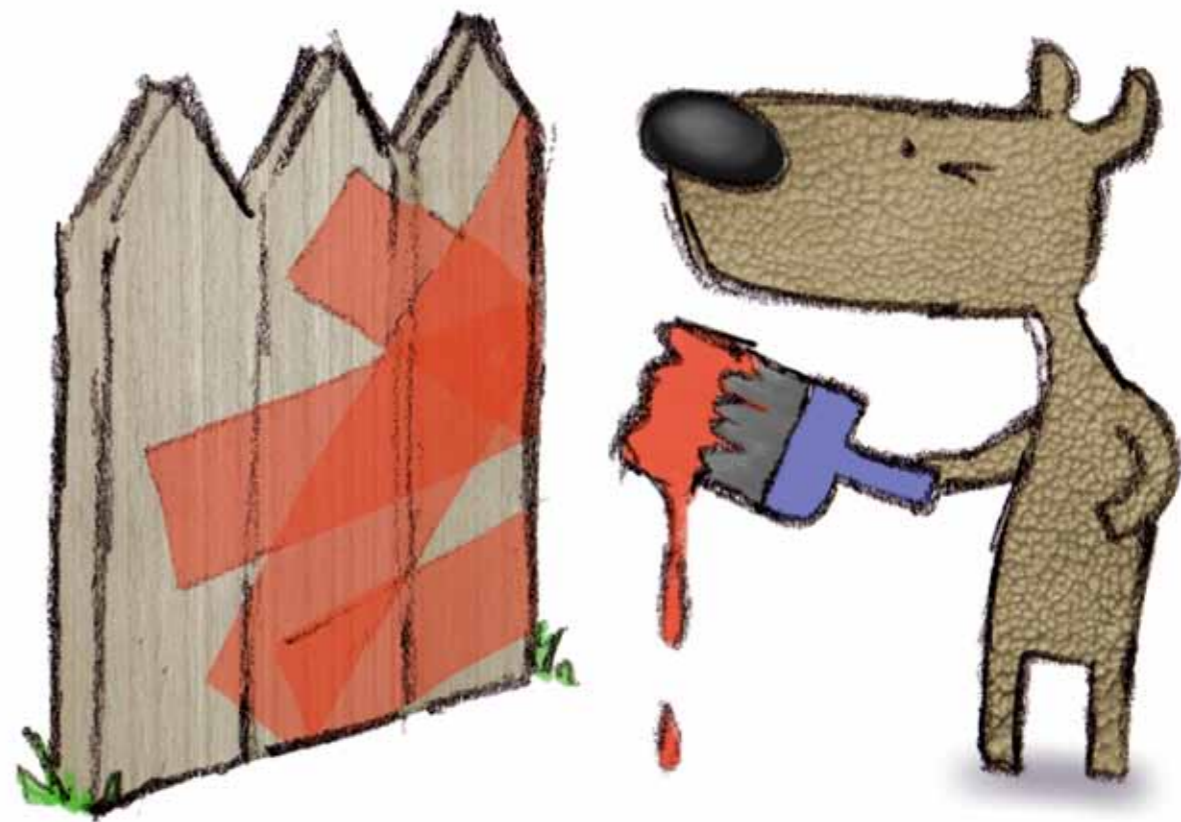


Then sometimes he's a bad dog.

He leaves muddy foot prints on the carpet.



He begs for chocolate with big, sad eyes.



He's a good dog when he helps paint the fence.



But then he's a bad dog when
he doesn't clean his basket
like he's told to.

And he's very bad when
he drives too fast!



All of us sometimes do good things and sometimes bad things. But there was a man who never did anything wrong.

Many years ago, a man called John spent his time telling people to 'repent', which means to turn away from all the bad things we do and instead turn to God and follow him, because he loves us. John would baptise people who repented. They would be dipped into water as a picture to show that God had washed away the bad things.

One day a man called Jesus came to John to be baptised. John was surprised because he knew Jesus was special and did not need to be baptised. So when John baptised Jesus, something wonderful happened.

God's Spirit appeared in the sky like a dove. God spoke from the sky and said to Jesus, "You are my Son whom I love. I am very pleased with you."

Now, when God says he is very pleased with someone it means a lot! The Bible says that Jesus never did anything wrong, unlike the rest of us. Jesus always did exactly what God wanted.

When Jesus was growing up he did what his Mum and Dad said. He always told the truth. He always cared for other people. He read God's book, the Bible. We cannot be this good, but Jesus was very special because he was God's Son. There was never a single thing about Jesus that was bad. Jesus always pleased God perfectly in every way. So that is why Mark wrote his marvellous book: to tell us about Jesus and how God sent him to put people right, so that one day we can be as good as Jesus and live with God for ever, if we trust him.

Mark called his book a 'gospel' which means 'good news', and that is exactly what it is!

