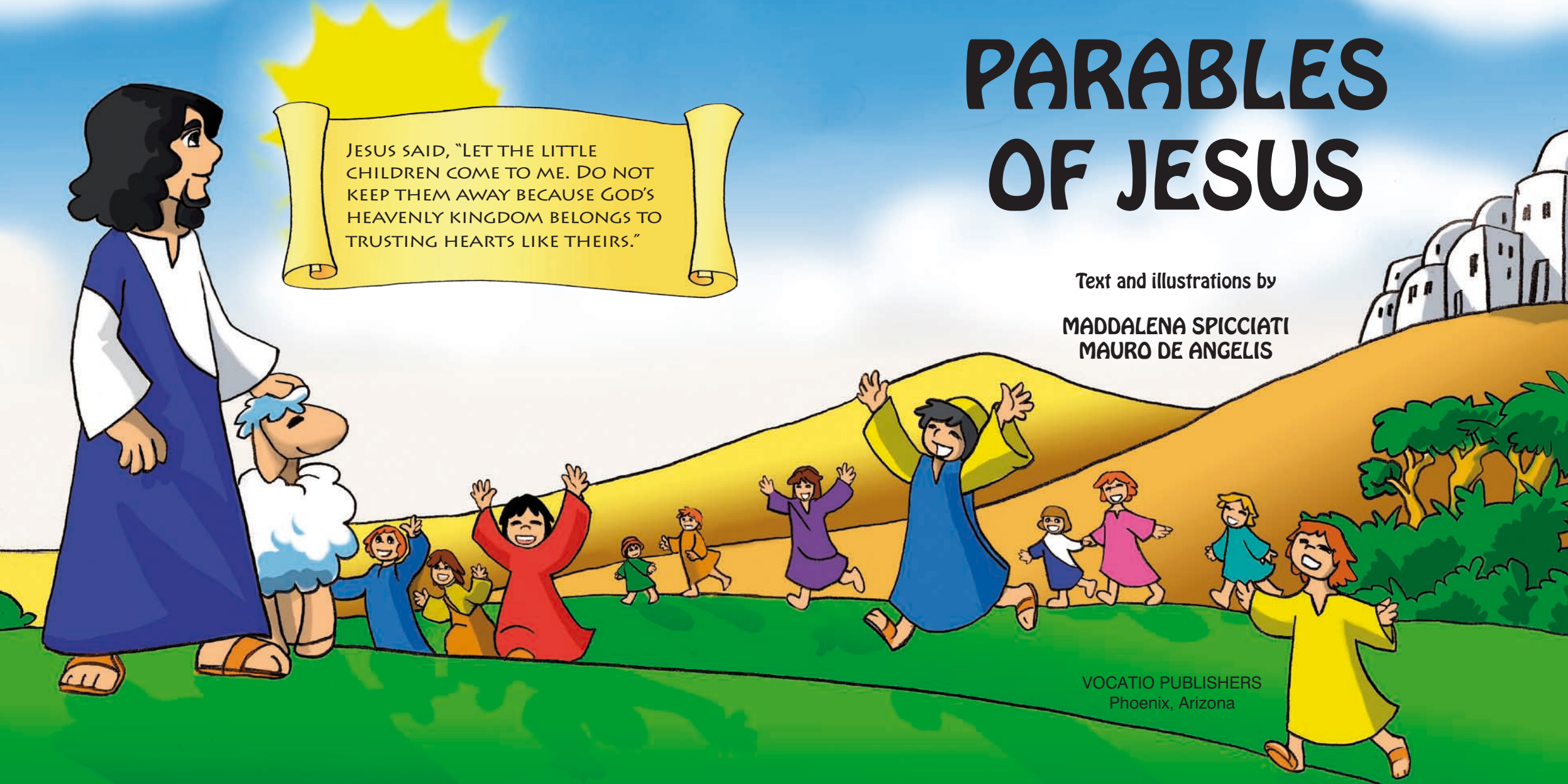


PARABLES OF JESUS



PARABLES OF JESUS

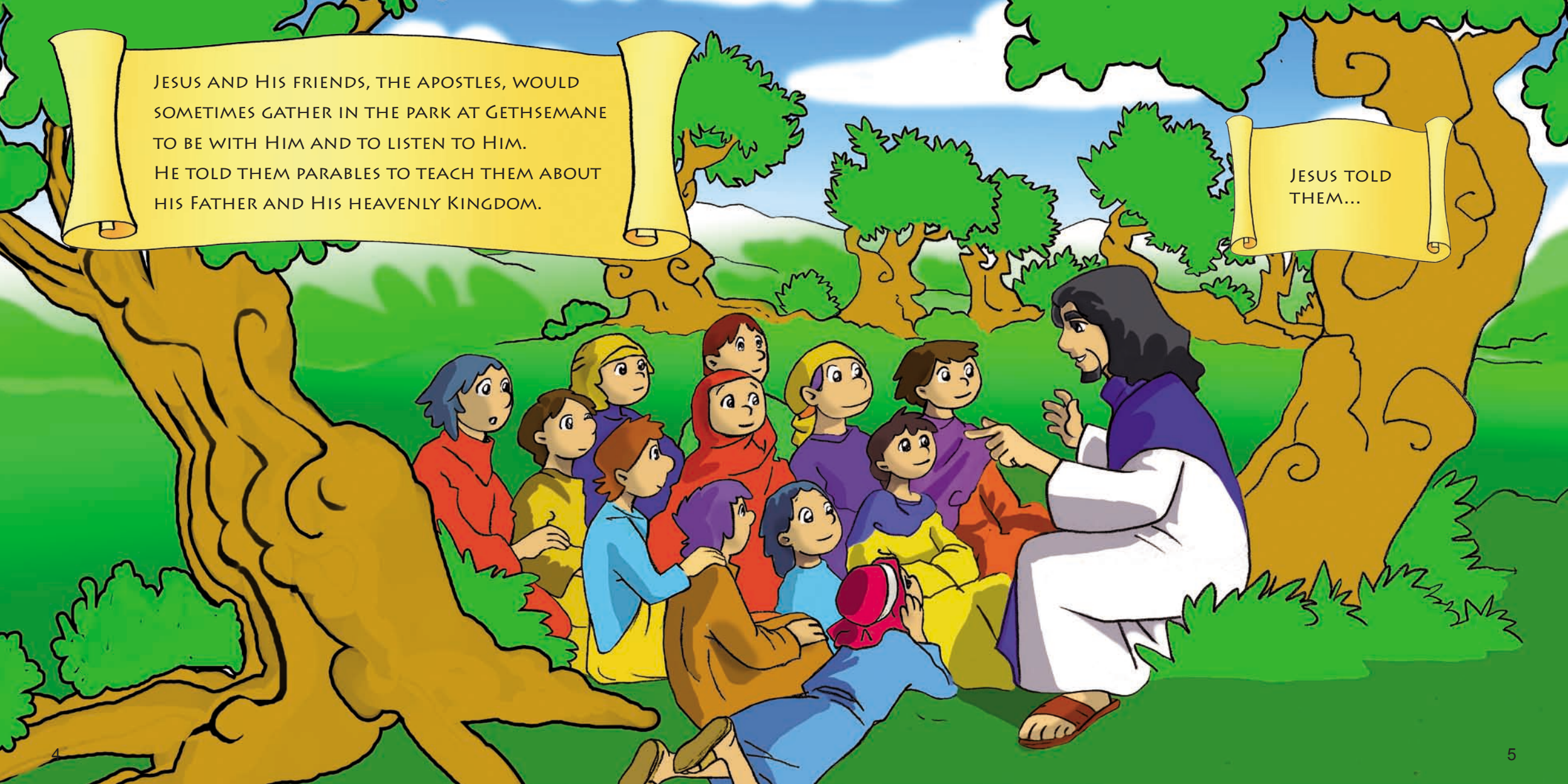


JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME. DO NOT KEEP THEM AWAY BECAUSE GOD'S HEAVENLY KINGDOM BELONGS TO TRUSTING HEARTS LIKE THEIRS."

Text and illustrations by

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JESUS AND HIS FRIENDS, THE APOSTLES, WOULD SOMETIMES GATHER IN THE PARK AT GETHSEMANE TO BE WITH HIM AND TO LISTEN TO HIM. HE TOLD THEM PARABLES TO TEACH THEM ABOUT HIS FATHER AND HIS HEAVENLY KINGDOM.

JESUS TOLD THEM...



THE GOOD SAMARITAN

JERICHO


JERUSALEM

WE SHOULD LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART AND WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL OUR MIND. WE SHOULD ALSO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELF. THIS STORY SHOWS HOW WE SHOULD SHOW NEIGHBORLY LOVE.

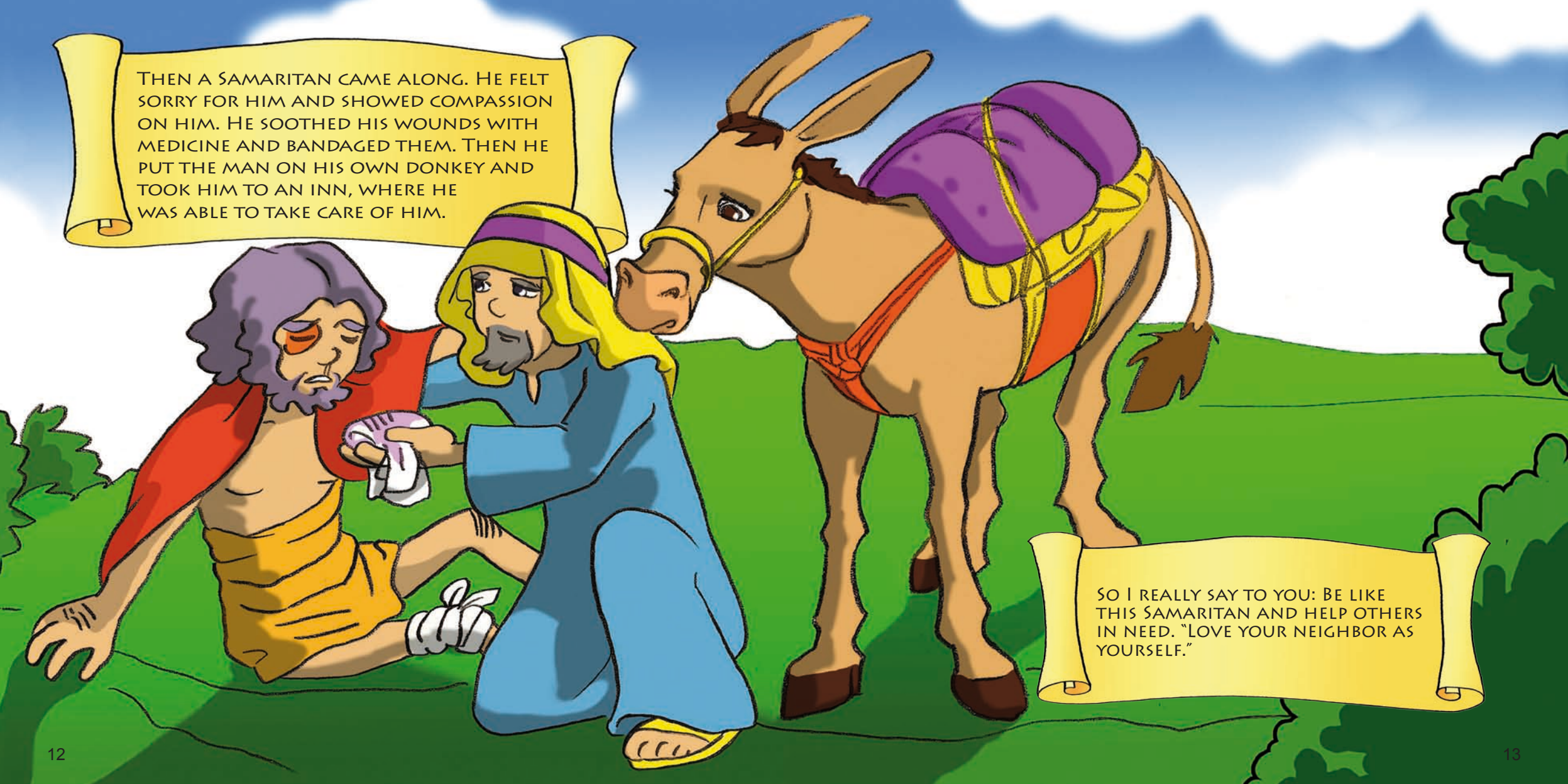
A JEWISH MAN WAS TRAVELING ON A TRIP FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICHO.

HE WAS ATTACKED
BY ROBBERS. THEY
STRIPPED HIM OF HIS
CLOTHES, BEAT HIM UP,
AND LEFT HIM HALF
DEAD ON THE SIDE OF
THE ROAD.





A PRIEST CAME ALONG.
WHEN HE SAW THE MAN
LYING THERE, HE CROSSED
TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF
THE ROAD TO AVOID HIM.
A TEMPLE ASSISTANT ALSO
WALKED BY AND LOOKED AT
HIM LYING ON THE GROUND.
HE ALSO PASSED HIM BY.



THEN A SAMARITAN CAME ALONG. HE FELT SORRY FOR HIM AND SHOWED COMPASSION ON HIM. HE SOOTHED HIS WOUNDS WITH MEDICINE AND BANDAGED THEM. THEN HE PUT THE MAN ON HIS OWN DONKEY AND TOOK HIM TO AN INN, WHERE HE WAS ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.

SO I REALLY SAY TO YOU: BE LIKE THIS SAMARITAN AND HELP OTHERS IN NEED. "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."



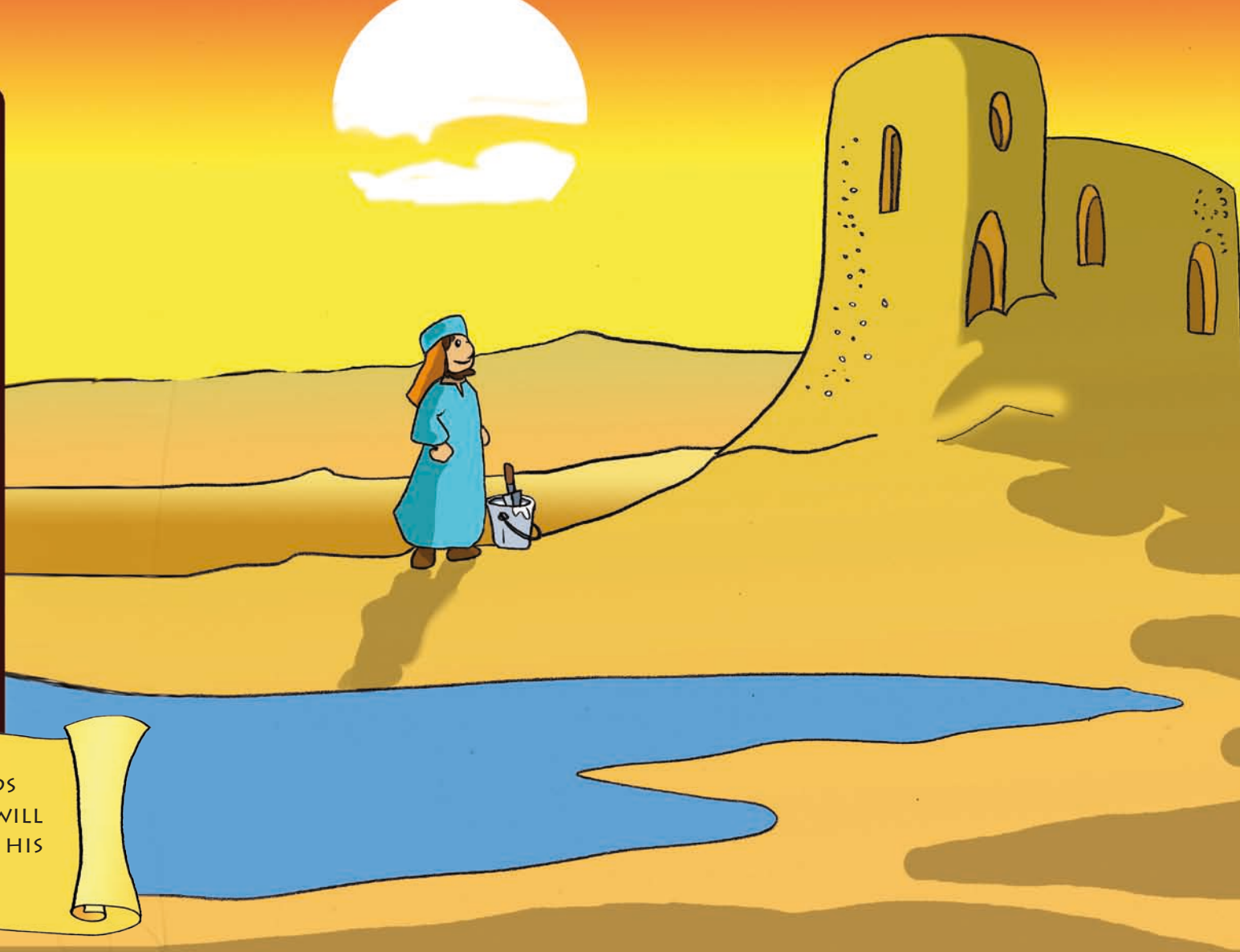
THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH BUILDER

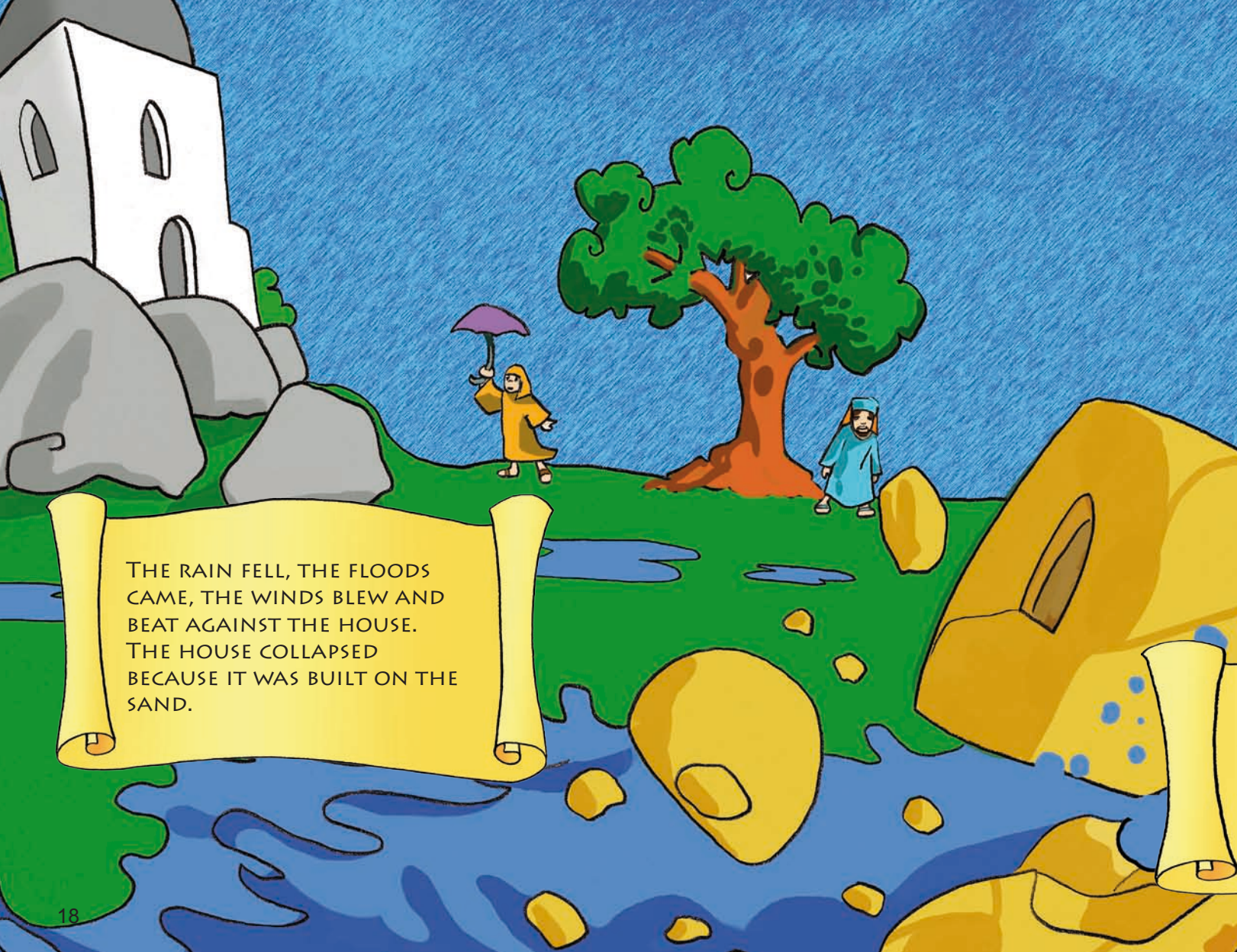
MY FATHER WILL BLESS THOSE WHO HEAR MY VOICE AND OBEY.

EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND DOES THEM WILL BE LIKE A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON FIRM GROUND. THE RAIN FELL, THE FLOODS CAME, THE WINDS BLEW AND BEAT AGAINST THE HOUSE. THE HOUSE SURVIVED BECAUSE IT WAS BUILT ON FIRM GROUND.



EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE WORDS
OF MINE AND DOES NOT DO THEM WILL
BE LIKE A FOOLISH MAN WHO BUILT HIS
HOUSE ON THE SAND.






THE RAIN FELL, THE FLOODS
CAME, THE WINDS BLEW AND
BEAT AGAINST THE HOUSE.
THE HOUSE COLLAPSED
BECAUSE IT WAS BUILT ON THE
SAND.

MY HEAVENLY FATHER HELPS THE WISE
SURVIVE THE STORMS BECAUSE THEY LISTEN
TO HIS WORDS AND OBEY HIM.
THOSE WHO IGNORE MY FATHER'S WORDS ARE
FOOLISH AND CANNOT HANDLE A STORM.


THE EMPLOYEES OF THE VINEYARD



THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A
LANDOWNER WHO WENT OUT EARLY IN
THE MORNING TO HIRE EMPLOYEES FOR
HIS VINEYARD.

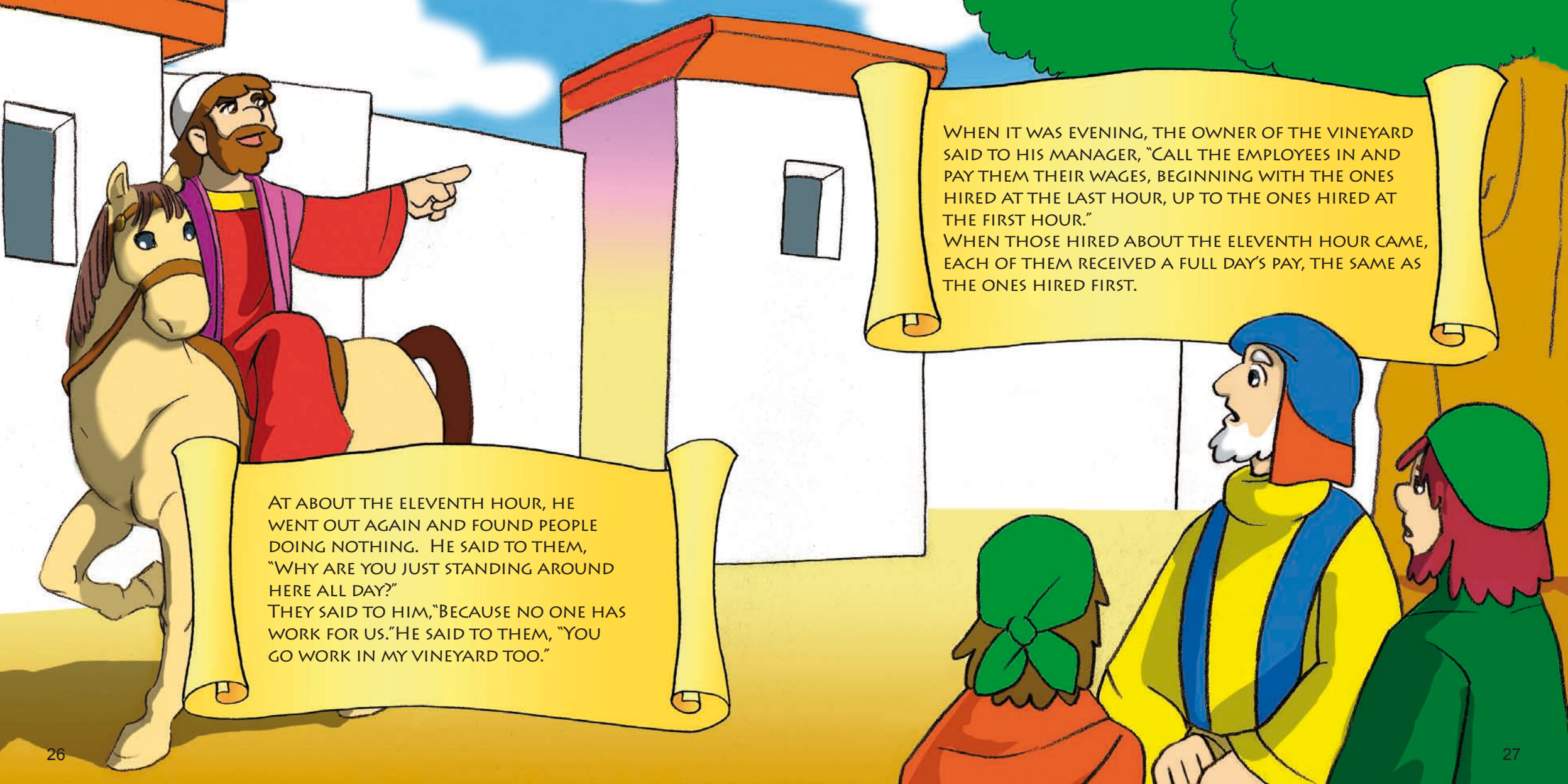


AFTER THE EMPLOYEES AGREED TO BE PAID NORMAL PAY FOR THE FULL DAY, HE SENT THEM TO WORK IN HIS VINEYARD. ABOUT THREE HOURS LATER HE WENT OUT AND SAW OTHERS JUST STANDING AROUND IN THE MARKET PLACE.



HE SAID TO THEM, "YOU CAN WORK IN MY VINEYARD TOO AND I WILL PAY YOU WHATEVER IS RIGHT." SO THEY WENT TO WORK IN HIS VINEYARD.


ABOUT SIX HOURS LATER THE LANDOWNER WENT OUT AGAIN. HE HIRED MORE WORKERS. HE ALSO WENT OUT AFTER NINE HOURS AND DID THE SAME.



AT ABOUT THE ELEVENTH HOUR, HE WENT OUT AGAIN AND FOUND PEOPLE DOING NOTHING. HE SAID TO THEM, "WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING AROUND HERE ALL DAY?" THEY SAID TO HIM, "BECAUSE NO ONE HAS WORK FOR US." HE SAID TO THEM, "YOU GO WORK IN MY VINEYARD TOO."

WHEN IT WAS EVENING, THE OWNER OF THE VINEYARD SAID TO HIS MANAGER, "CALL THE EMPLOYEES IN AND PAY THEM THEIR WAGES, BEGINNING WITH THE ONES HIRED AT THE LAST HOUR, UP TO THE ONES HIRED AT THE FIRST HOUR."


WHEN THOSE HIRED ABOUT THE ELEVENTH HOUR CAME, EACH OF THEM RECEIVED A FULL DAY'S PAY, THE SAME AS THE ONES HIRED FIRST.



WHEN THOSE WHO WORKED THE FULL DAY CAME, THEY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD RECEIVE MORE. SO THEY GRUMBLED TO THE LANDOWNER SAYING, "THESE EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED FOR ONLY ONE HOUR RECEIVED THE SAME PAY AS THOSE OF US WHO WORKED ALL DAY IN THE SCORCHING HEAT."


HE REPLIED TO ONE OF THEM, "FRIEND, DIDN'T YOU AGREE TO WORK A FULL DAY FOR NORMAL PAY? TAKE WHAT BELONGS TO YOU AND GO. DON'T I HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO WHAT I CHOOSE WITH WHAT I OWN? OR ARE YOU JEALOUS OF MY GENEROSITY?"

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER WILL GRANT THOSE WHO ARE LAST TO BE FIRST AND THOSE WHO ARE FIRST TO BE LAST.



THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
IS LIKE A FARMER WHO
PLANTED GOOD SEED IN
HIS FIELD.




WHILE THE FARMER
SLEPT, HIS ENEMY CAME
AND SPREAD BAD SEED
AMONG HIS GOOD SEED
AND WENT HIS WAY.



WHEN THE GOOD SEED STARTED SPROUTING AND BEARING FRUIT, WEEDS FROM THE BAD SEED STARTED APPEARING. THE SERVANTS WENT TO THE LANDOWNER AND ASKED HIM, "SIR, DIDN'T YOU PLANT GOOD SEED IN THE FIELD? WHERE DID THE WEEDS COME FROM?"





THE FARMER SAID TO THEM,
"AN ENEMY HAS DONE THIS."
THE SERVANTS ASKED HIM,
"DO YOU WANT US TO PULL UP
THE WEEDS?"

THE FARMER SAID, "NO. IF WE PULL UP THE WEEDS,
WE WILL ALSO PULL THE ROOT OF THE GOOD SEED
WITH THEM. LET THEM BOTH GROW. AT THE TIME OF
THE HARVEST I WILL SAY TO THE REAPERS, 'FIRST GATHER
TOGETHER THE WEEDS AND BIND THEM IN BUNDLES
TO BURN. THEN GATHER THE GOOD FRUIT AND STORE
IT IN MY BARN.'"

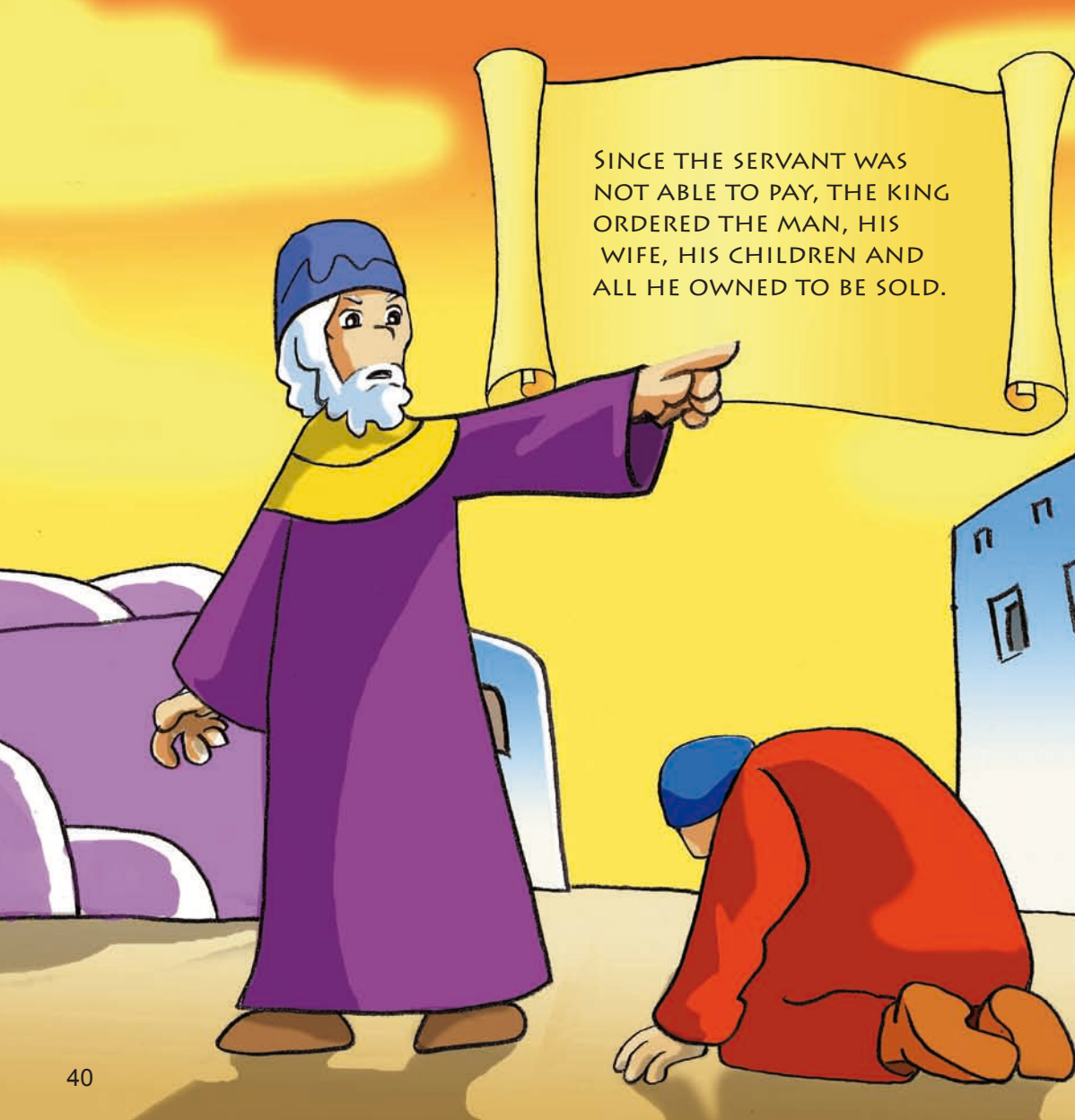
MY HEAVENLY FATHER WILL KNOW THE GOOD FROM
THE BAD. THE GOOD WILL BE GATHERED AND PRESERVED.
THE BAD WILL BE DESTROYED.



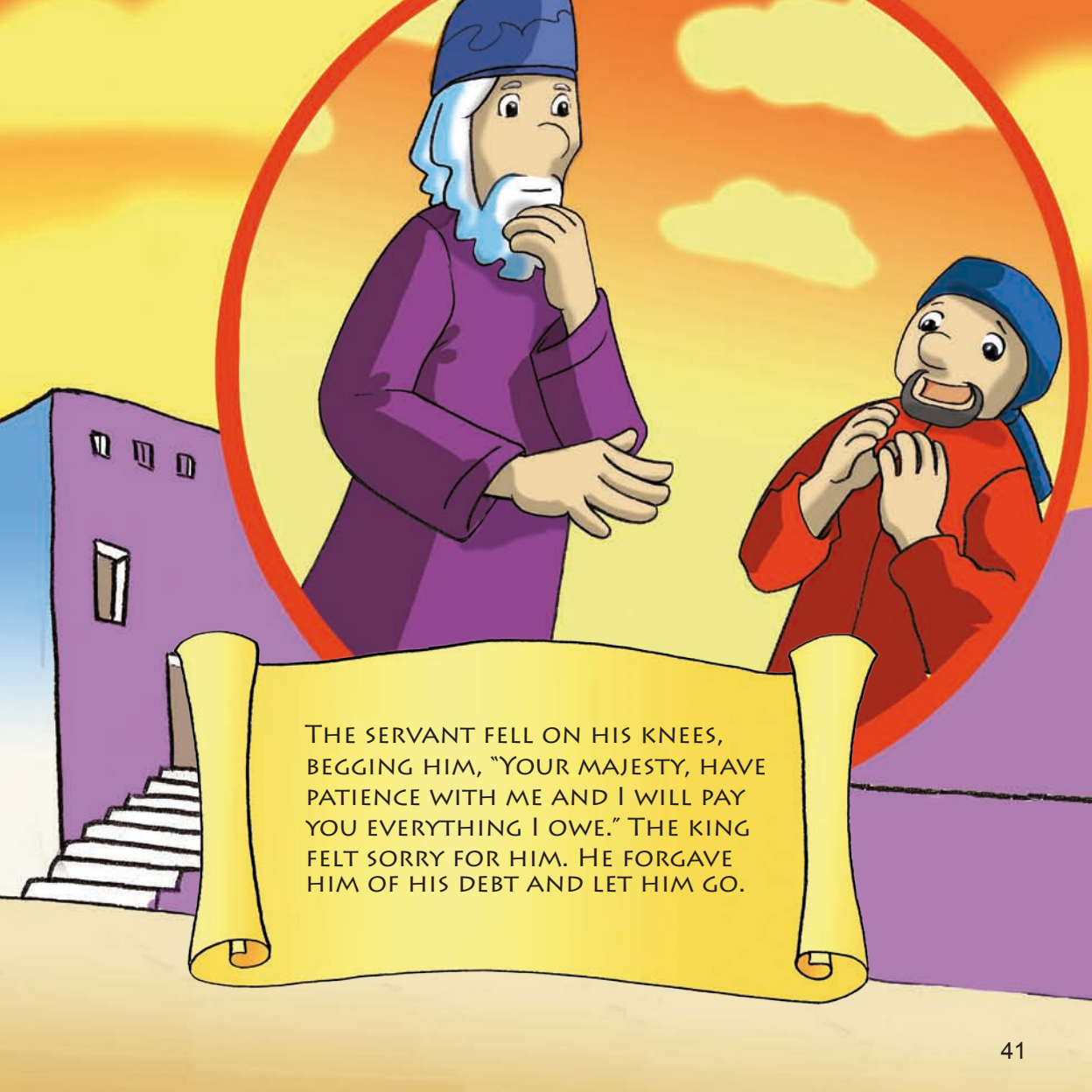
THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE
A KING WHO WANTED TO SETTLE
HIS ACCOUNTS.

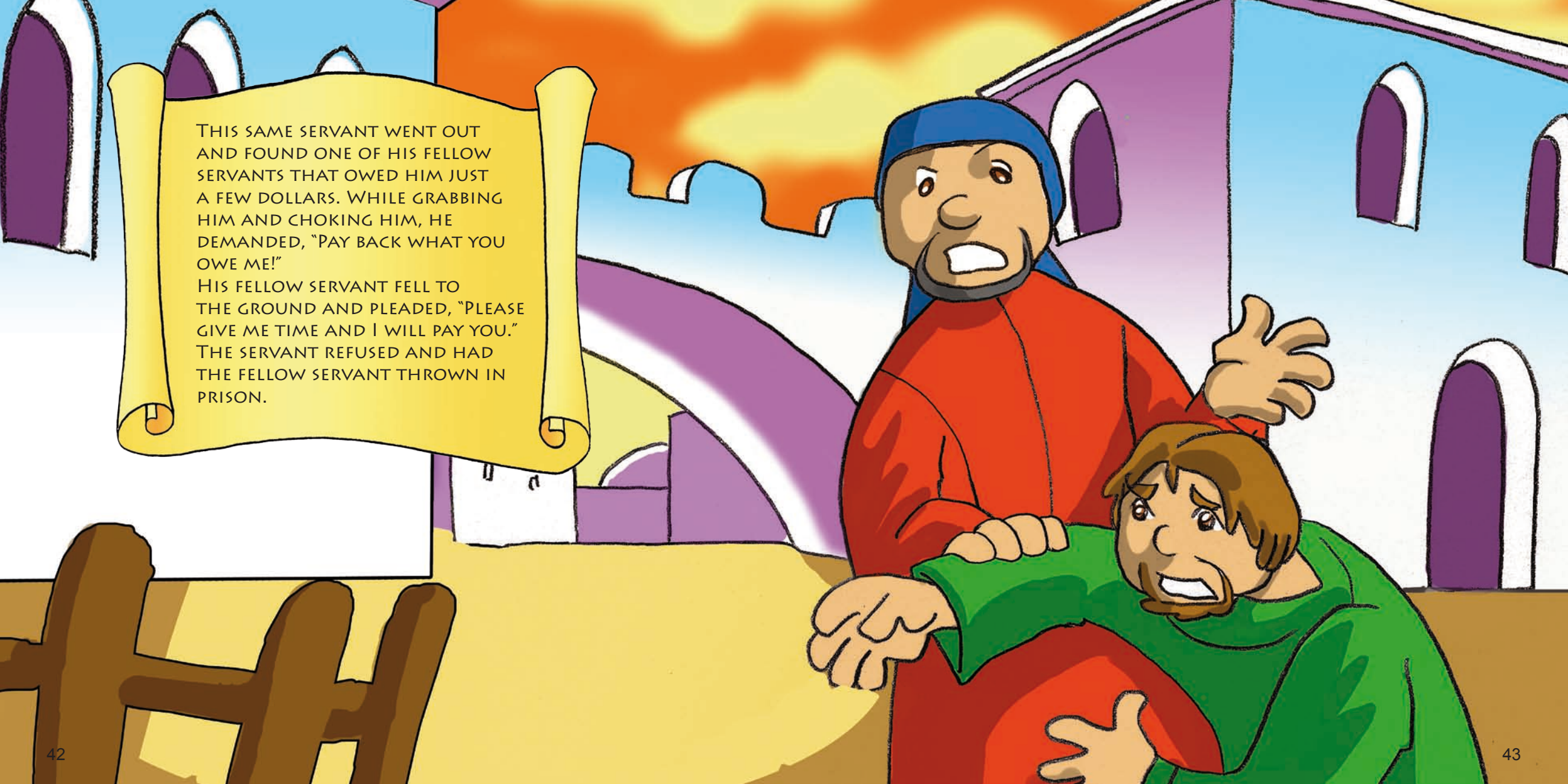
WHEN HE BEGAN TO BALANCE HIS
ACCOUNTS, A SERVANT THAT OWED
HIM A MILLION DOLLARS WAS
BROUGHT TO HIM.



SINCE THE SERVANT WAS NOT ABLE TO PAY, THE KING ORDERED THE MAN, HIS WIFE, HIS CHILDREN AND ALL HE OWNED TO BE SOLD.

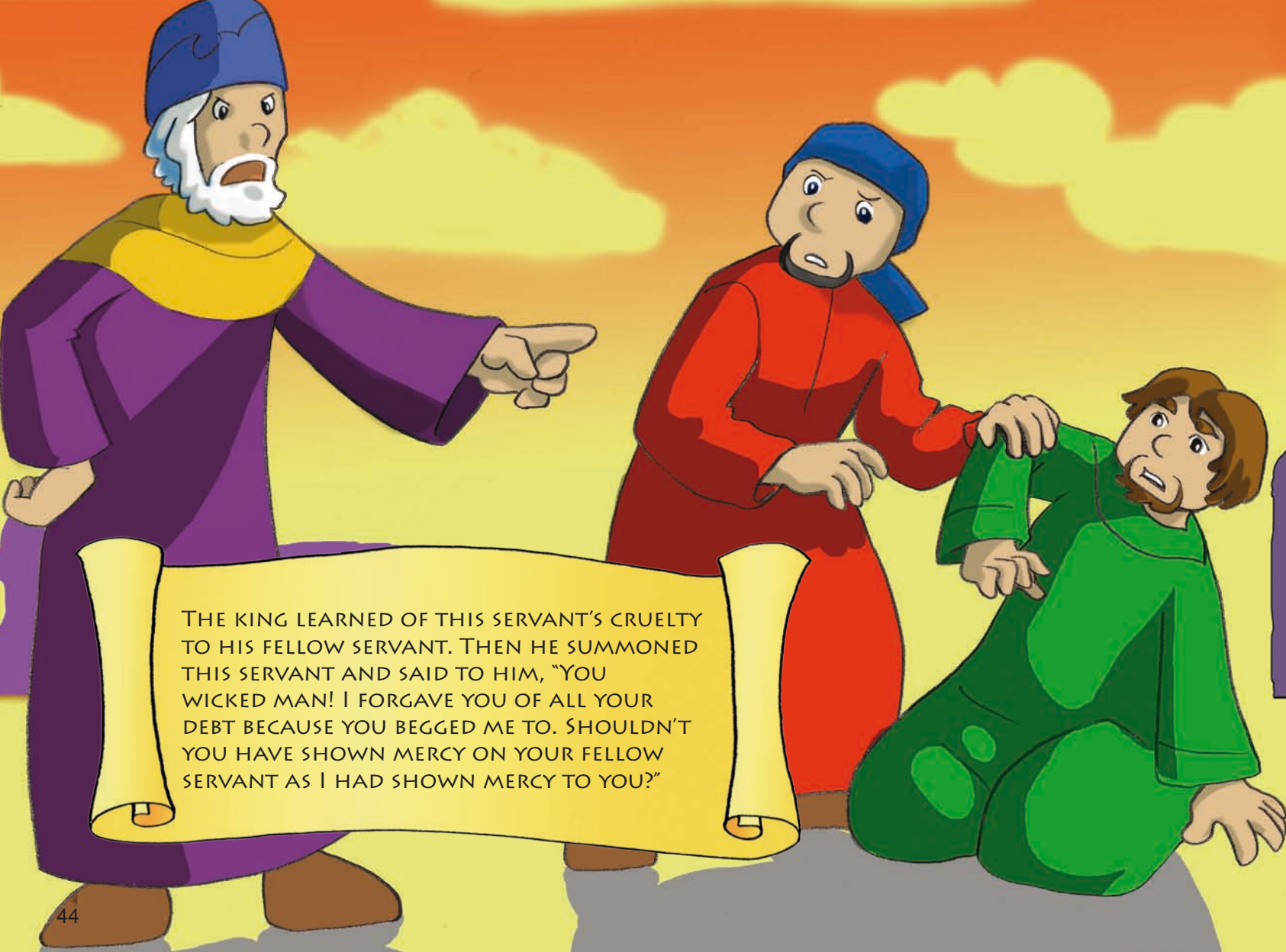


THE SERVANT FELL ON HIS KNEES, BEGGING HIM, "YOUR MAJESTY, HAVE PATIENCE WITH ME AND I WILL PAY YOU EVERYTHING I OWE." THE KING FELT SORRY FOR HIM. HE FORGAVE HIM OF HIS DEBT AND LET HIM GO.



THIS SAME SERVANT WENT OUT AND FOUND ONE OF HIS FELLOW SERVANTS THAT OWED HIM JUST A FEW DOLLARS. WHILE GRABBING HIM AND CHOKING HIM, HE DEMANDED, "PAY BACK WHAT YOU OWE ME!"

HIS FELLOW SERVANT FELL TO THE GROUND AND PLEADED, "PLEASE GIVE ME TIME AND I WILL PAY YOU." THE SERVANT REFUSED AND HAD THE FELLOW SERVANT THROWN IN PRISON.



THE KING LEARNED OF THIS SERVANT'S CRUELTY TO HIS FELLOW SERVANT. THEN HE SUMMONED THIS SERVANT AND SAID TO HIM, "YOU WICKED MAN! I FORGAVE YOU OF ALL YOUR DEBT BECAUSE YOU BEGGED ME TO. SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE SHOWN MERCY ON YOUR FELLOW SERVANT AS I HAD SHOWN MERCY TO YOU?"

IN ANGER THE KING DELIVERED HIM TO THE JAILERS. HE STAYED IN JAIL UNTIL HE PAID ALL HIS DEBTS.

SO MY HEAVENLY FATHER WILL ALSO DO TO EVERY ONE OF YOU, IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE YOUR BROTHER FROM YOUR HEART.



JESUS SAID TO PETER,
"WHAT DO YOU THINK?..."




THE LOST SHEEP

MY HEAVENLY FATHER IS LIKE
A MAN WHO HAS A HUNDRED
SHEEP AND ONE OF THEM
WANDERS OFF.



DOES HE NOT LEAVE THE
NINETY-NINE TO GO INTO
THE MOUNTAINS TO SEARCH
FOR THE ONE THAT IS LOST?



IF HE FINDS IT, HE REJOICES
MORE FOR THIS LOST SHEEP
THAN THE NINETY-NINE
THAT DID NOT WANDER OFF.

IN THE SAME WAY THERE WILL BE
GREAT JOY IN HEAVEN FOR EACH
ONE OF YOU WHO RETURNS
TO MY FATHER.



THE TEN VIRGINS



THE FOOLISH ONES TOOK THEIR LAMPS BUT DID NOT TAKE ANY EXTRA OIL WITH THEM. THE WISE, HOWEVER, TOOK EXTRA OIL IN JARS ALONG WITH THEIR LAMPS.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE TEN VIRGINS WHO TOOK THEIR LAMPS AND WENT OUT TO MEET THEIR BRIDEGROOM. FIVE OF THEM WERE FOOLISH AND FIVE WERE WISE.

THEIR BRIDEGROOM TOOK A LONG TIME TO COME. ALL THE VIRGINS BECAME TIRED AND FELL ASLEEP. DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SOMEONE SHOUTED, "THE BRIDEGROOM IS HERE! COME TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM!"

ALL THE VIRGINS GOT UP TO GET THEIR LAMPS READY. THE FOOLISH ONES RAN OUT OF OIL AND PLEADED WITH THE WISE ONES TO SHARE THEIR OIL. THE WISE ONES EXPLAINED THAT THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH OIL FOR THEM AND TOLD THE FOOLISH ONES TO GO OUT AND BUY SOME OIL FOR THEMSELVES.

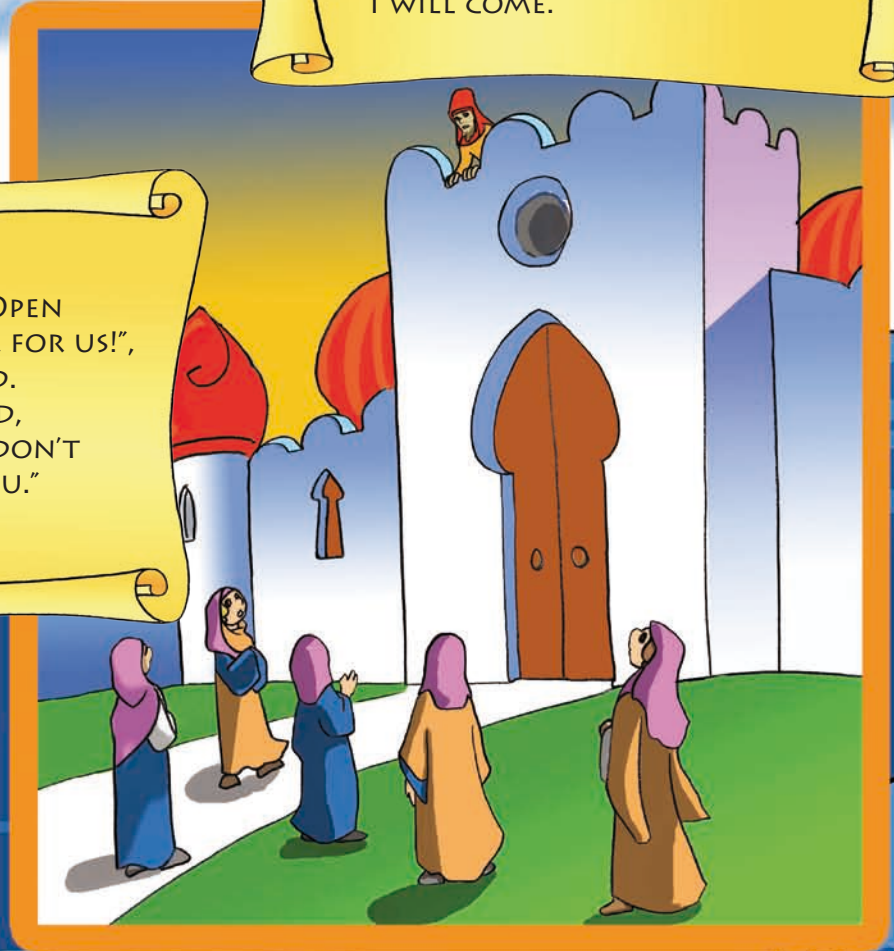


WHILE THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO BUY OIL, THE BRIDEGROOM ARRIVED. THE WISE VIRGINS WHO WERE READY WENT WITH HIM TO THE WEDDING BANQUET. THE DOOR WAS SHUT.



"SIR! SIR! OPEN THE DOOR FOR US!", THEY SAID. HE REPLIED, "I REALLY DON'T KNOW YOU."

YOU MUST ALWAYS BE READY. YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN I WILL COME.





JESUS TOLD THEM
THE PARABLE OF
THE PRODIGAL SON



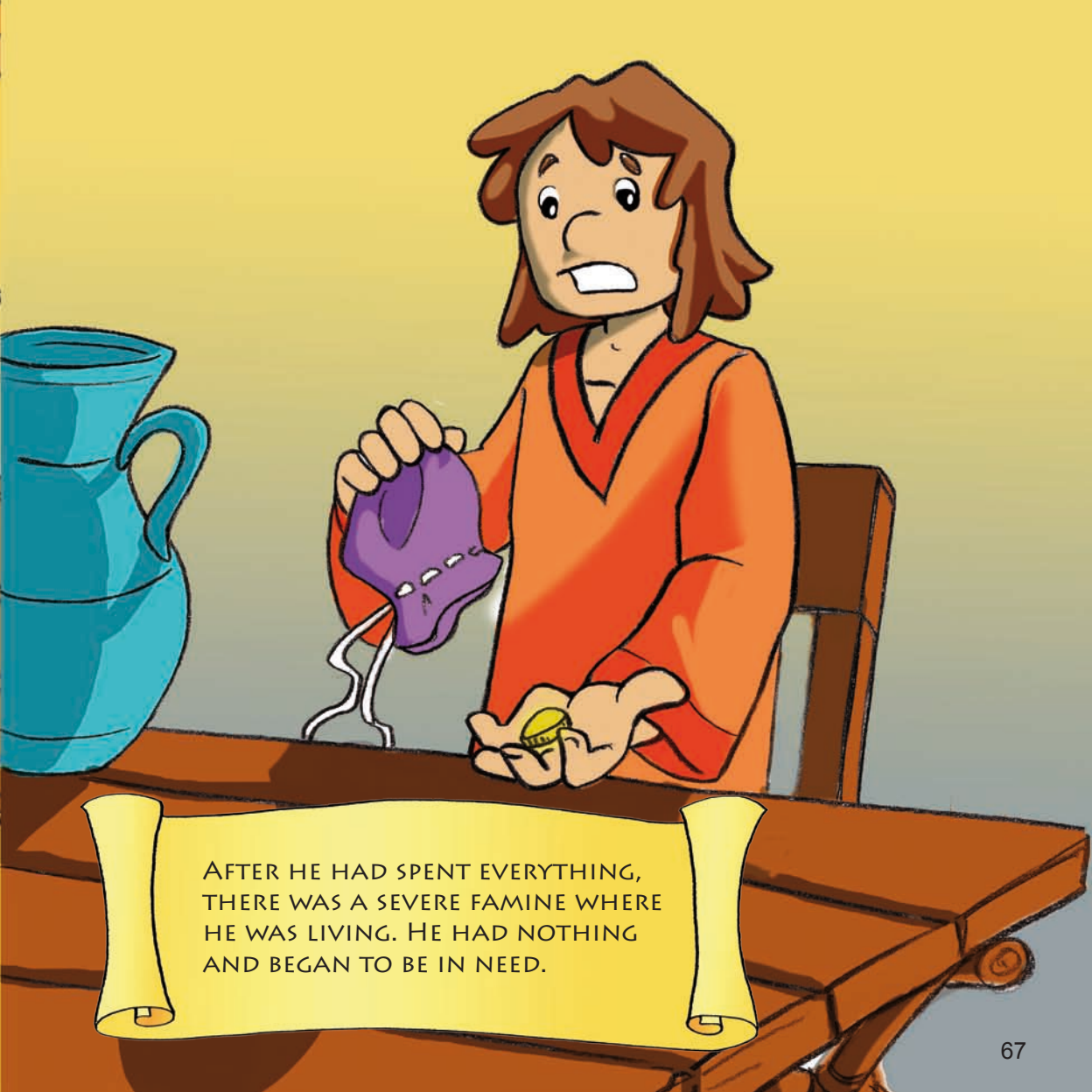
THE PRODIGAL SON

MY HEAVENLY FATHER IS LIKE THIS MAN WHO HAD TWO SONS. THE YOUNGER ONE DEMANDED FROM HIS FATHER, "FATHER GIVE ME MY SHARE OF THE PROPERTY."

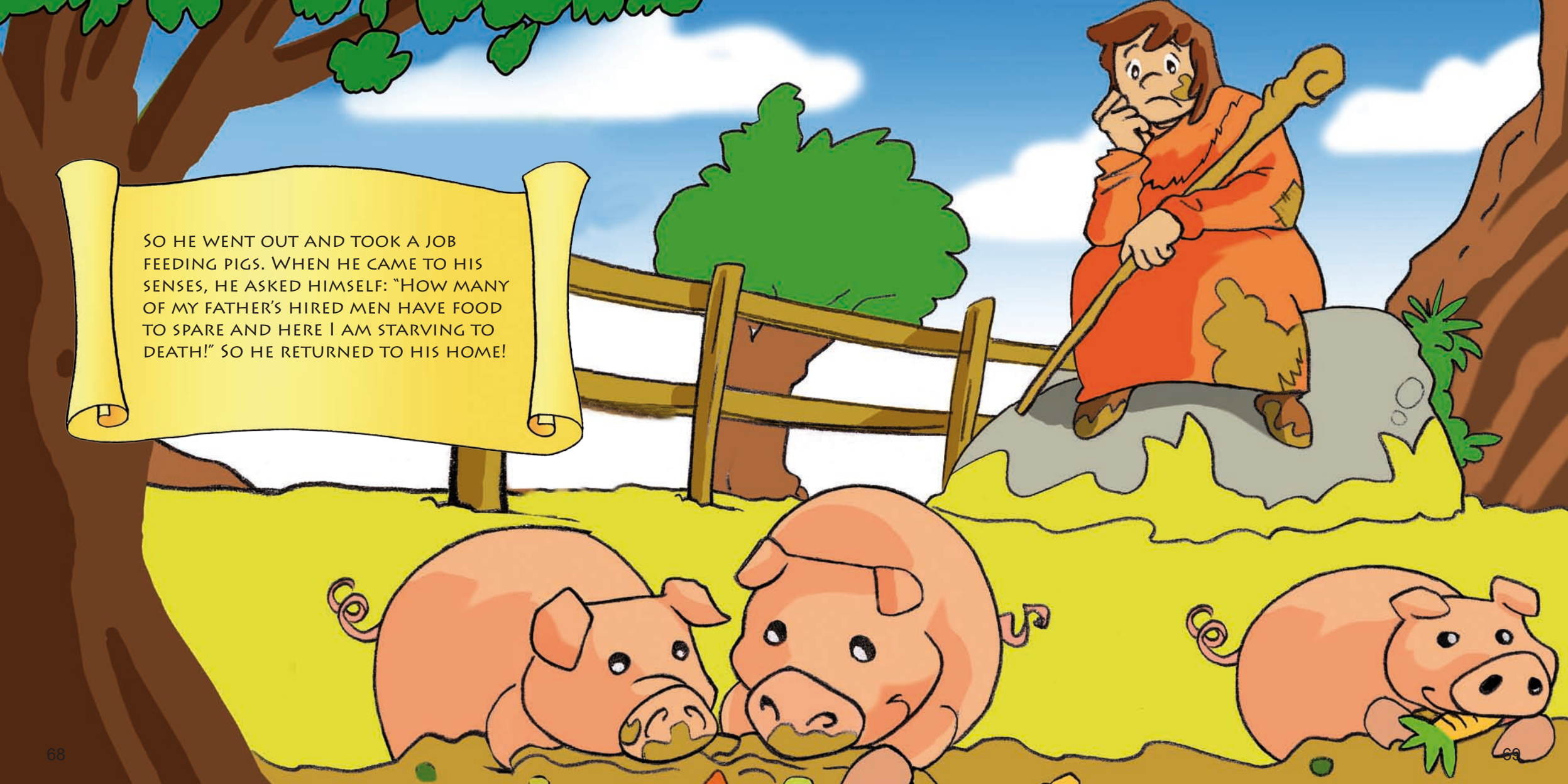
SO THE FATHER DIVIDED HIS PROPERTY BETWEEN HIS TWO SONS. THE YOUNGER SON TOOK HIS PORTION AND SET OFF ON HIS OWN AWAY FROM HIS HOME.



WHILE HE WAS
AWAY HE WASTED
HIS WEALTH
LIVING FOOLISHLY.



AFTER HE HAD SPENT EVERYTHING,
THERE WAS A SEVERE FAMINE WHERE
HE WAS LIVING. HE HAD NOTHING
AND BEGAN TO BE IN NEED.



SO HE WENT OUT AND TOOK A JOB FEEDING PIGS. WHEN HE CAME TO HIS SENSES, HE ASKED HIMSELF: "HOW MANY OF MY FATHER'S HIRED MEN HAVE FOOD TO SPARE AND HERE I AM STARVING TO DEATH!" SO HE RETURNED TO HIS HOME!



THE FATHER ORDERED HIS SERVANTS, "QUICK! BRING THE BEST ROBE. PUT A RING ON HIS FINGER AND SANDALS ON HIS FEET. FOR THIS SON OF MINE WAS DEAD AND IS ALIVE AGAIN. HE WAS LOST AND IS FOUND." SO THEY CELEBRATED.

WHEN HIS FATHER FIRST SAW HIM FAR AWAY HE WAS FILLED WITH COMPASSION. HE RAN TO HIS SON, HUGGED AND KISSED HIM. THE SON CONFESSED TO HIM, "FATHER, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST HEAVEN AND AGAINST YOU. I AM NO LONGER WORTHY TO BE CALLED YOUR SON."

MY HEAVENLY FATHER'S LOVE IS ALWAYS CONSTANT, PATIENT AND WELCOMING.

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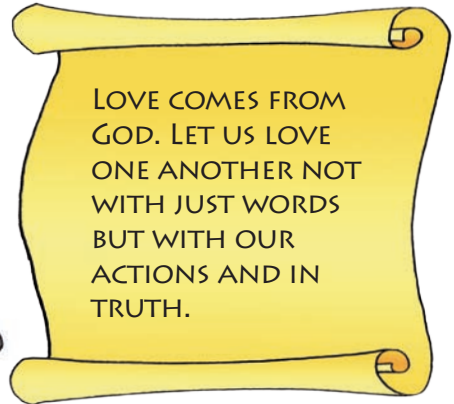
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LOVE COMES FROM
GOD. LET US LOVE
ONE ANOTHER NOT
WITH JUST WORDS
BUT WITH OUR
ACTIONS AND IN
TRUTH.

