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THE RAINBOW



BIBLE STORYBOOK



Vocatio Publishers
Phoenix, Arizona

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Vocatio Publishers
3841 E. Chandler Blvd, Suite # 106-106
Phoenix, AZ 85048, USA
www.vocatio.us

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Preface

Why The Kid's Rainbow Bible Storybook? Because the rainbow is a sign of God's covenant with all the people, and with everyone individually. It was mentioned for the first time in the Bible right after the story about the flood. God made a covenant with Noah, his family, and

"every living creature" (Genesis 9:12), and placed "a bow in the clouds" as a sign of the eternal covenant. This covenant, which was later renewed and enlarged with Abraham, Moses and Israel as God's chosen nation, is an expression of God's amazing love. It was His love that led to the creation of the world, and when people had sinned, it began God's work of salvation. Because of this love, all the covenants were fulfilled in one, and the most important of them all- the covenant established through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Both parts of the Bible, the Old and the New Testament, gradually reveal God's plan of salvation. An example of God's love can be seen there: the greater the evil and immorality of people, the more abundant and active God's grace is, resulting in mercy and forgiveness. God can, and wants to, turn every situ-

ation into something good. It is so clear in the lives of the Bible's heroes of faith, presented on the pages of **The Kid's Rainbow Bible Storybook**. Of course, this is not an exhaustive presentation of all biblical characters and events, but rather a selection that reveals adequately the intentions of the loving and merciful God.

A reflection of the biblical story of salvation strengthens and illustrates four fundamental laws of spiritual life: 1. God loves you, and offers a wonderful plan for your life. 2. Man is sinful, and separated from God, therefore he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life. 3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for absolving man's sin. Through Him, you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life. 4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. These spiritual laws can be seen in the lives of all the Old and the New Testament characters, confirming that the Bible is an eternally open and living book. God speaks to us in various ways, but He always has a single purpose: to win our love as a response to the gift of His love that He shares with us so generously. The rainbow still is the meaningful symbol of this wonderful spiritual covenant.

Rev. Waldemar Chrostowski



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The New Testament

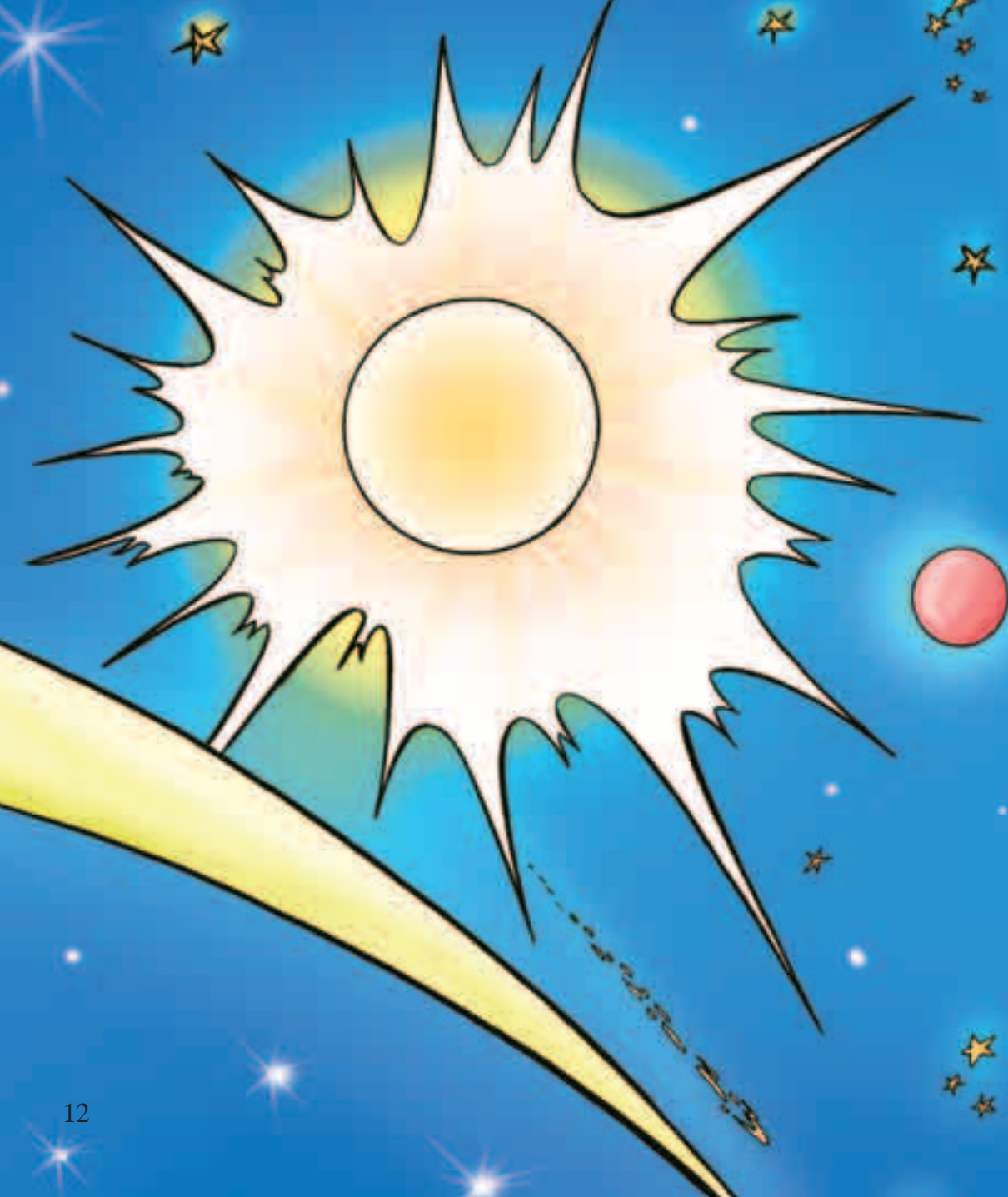


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THE OLD TESTAMENT





God Makes the World

Genesis 1

There is only one God. He created the world and everything in it. God made light, and separated it from darkness. The light He called day, and the darkness He called night.





Everything Was Good

Genesis 2

God separated the waters, so there was sky, dry land and seas. God then made all the plants and trees, each one with its own seeds. He created the sun to light the day. He created the moon and stars to light the sky at night. God made all the animals on the ground, the birds in the air, the fish in the sea, and blessed them, so they would fill the world. Everything was good. God was pleased with His work. The work of creation lasted six days, and on the seventh day, God rested. This is our example to take a day of rest each week.

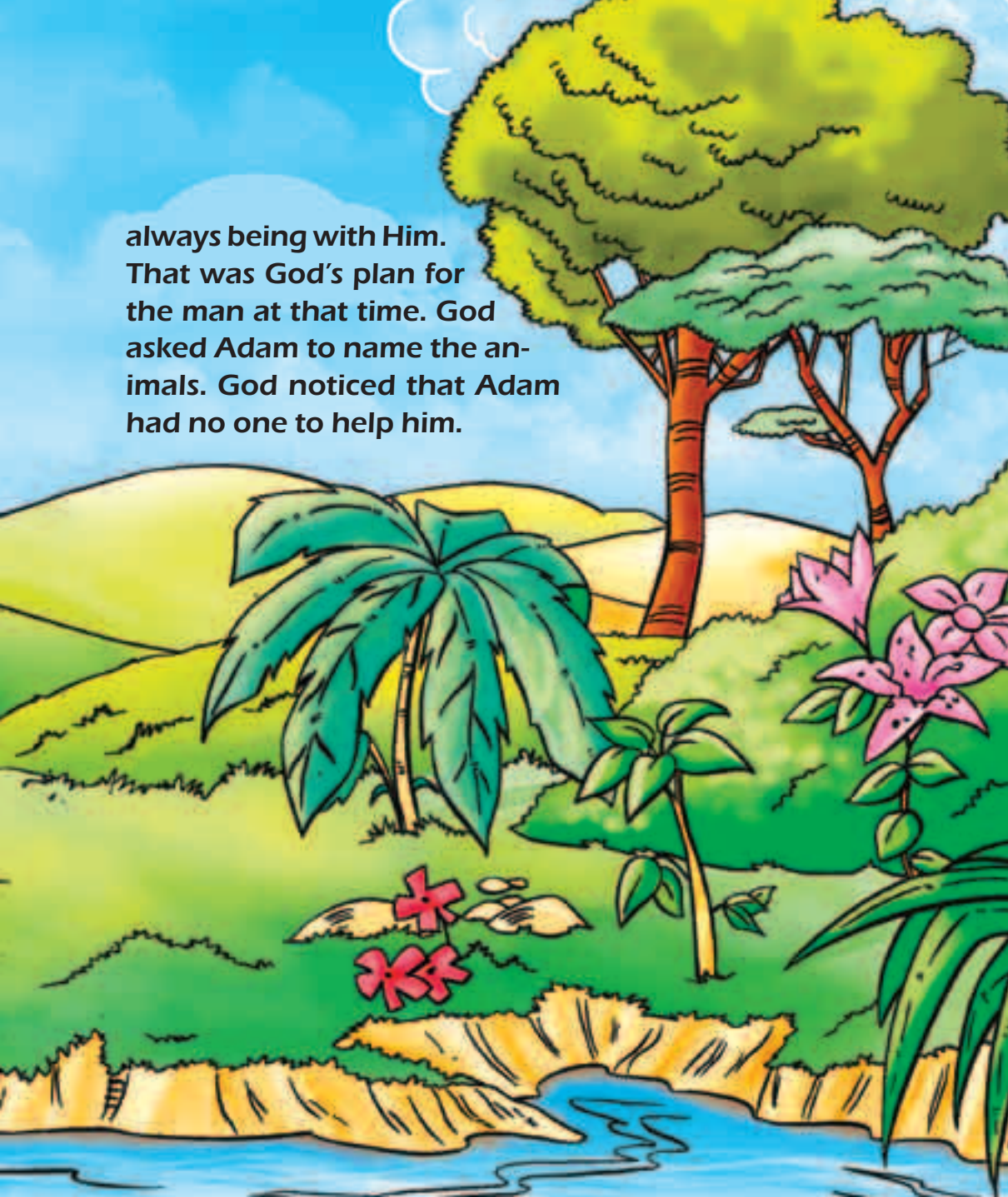


The Garden of Eden

Genesis 3

God made man, and called him Adam. He gave him a beautiful garden in which to live. Adam was to tend to this garden, enjoying the love of his Creator, and

always being with Him. That was God's plan for the man at that time. God asked Adam to name the animals. God noticed that Adam had no one to help him.

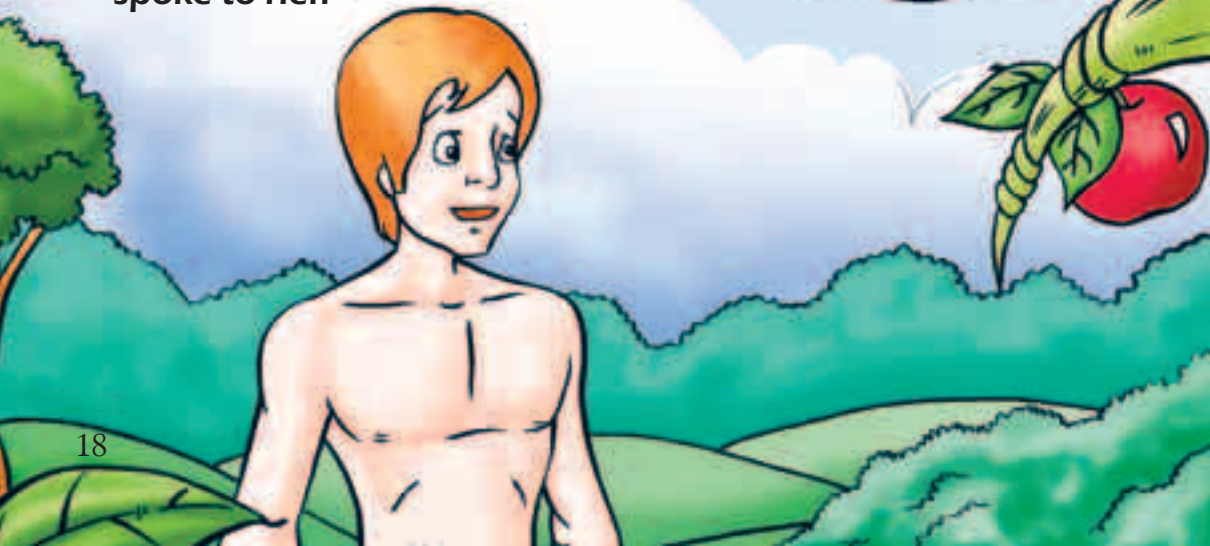


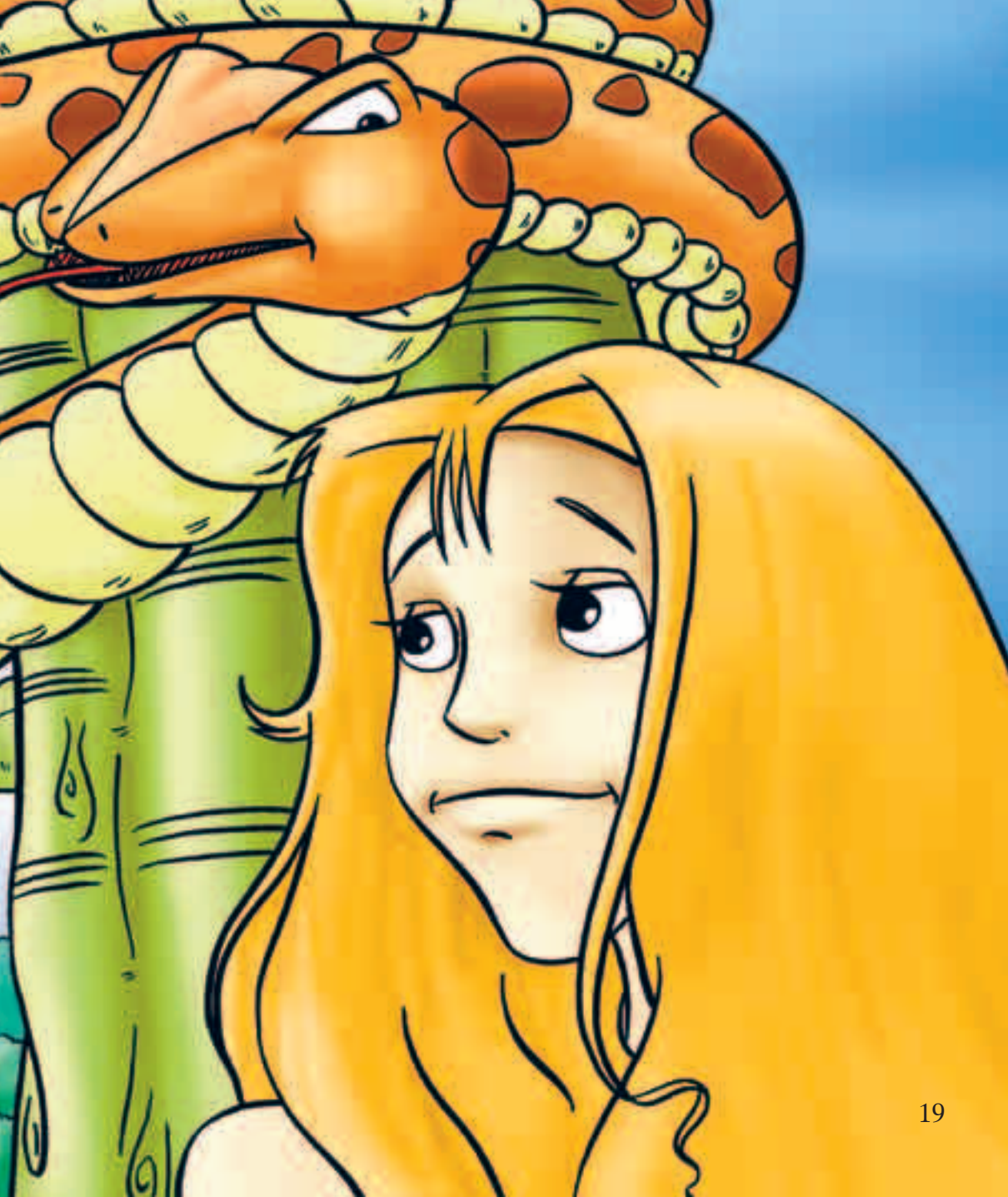
God Makes the Woman

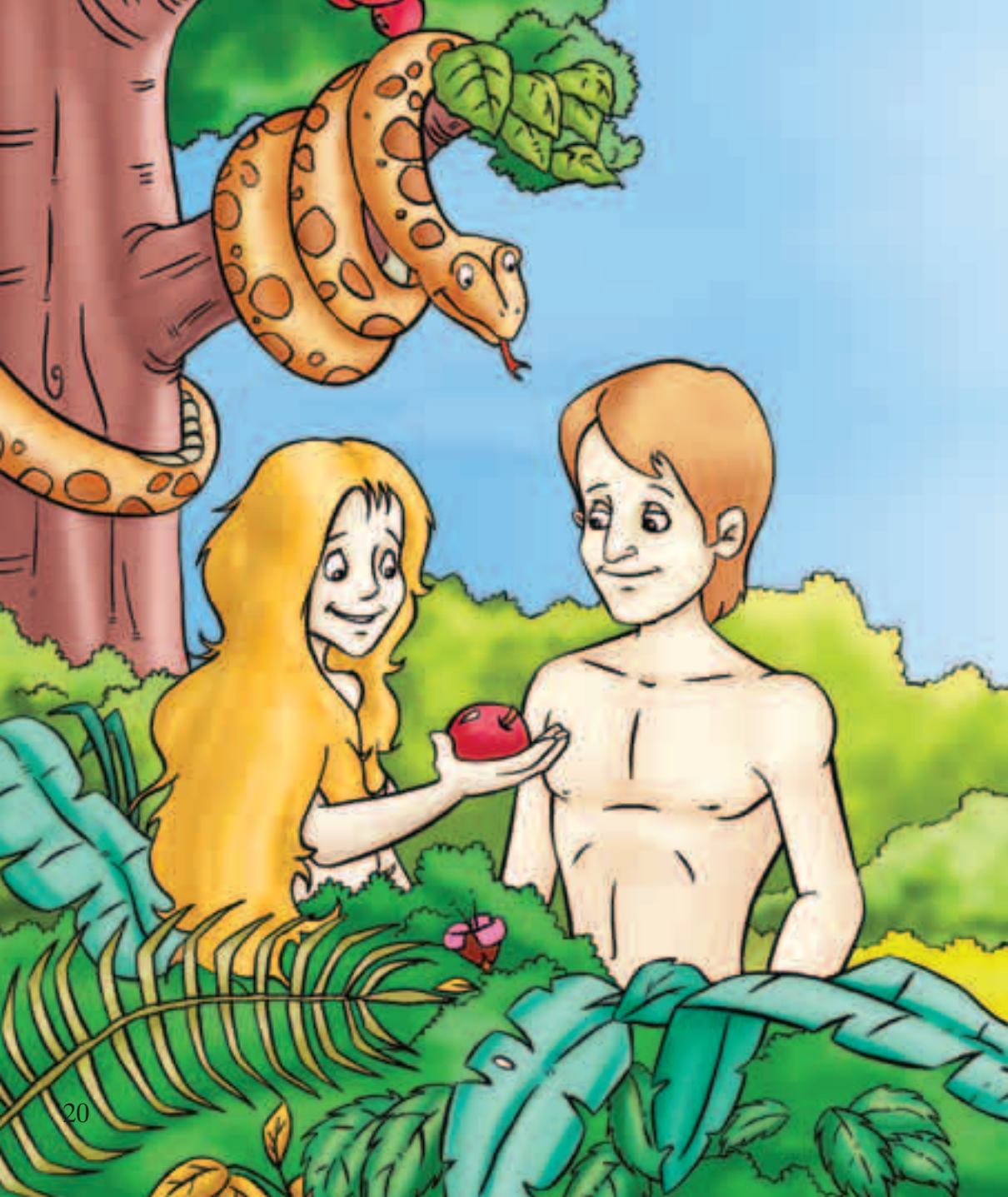
Genesis 3

God saw that no creature was the helper Adam needed. God gave him a woman who could love him, share his responsibilities, joys and sorrows, and with whom he could praise the Lord. He told them they were not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

They lived happily in the Garden of Eden, talking with God every evening. One day, when the woman was in the garden, a serpent spoke to her.







The First Sin

Genesis 3

Actually, it was Satan that spoke through the serpent. He convinced Eve to rebel against God by eating the fruit from the forbidden tree. The fruit looked good, and Satan said they would be like God if they would eat it. The woman took the fruit, tasted it, and gave it to her husband. When they ate, they understood that Satan had tricked them, but it was too late. Adam and Eve saw that they were naked, and they were ashamed. They hid from God's presence, for they knew they had done wrong. This sinful act brought sin into the world, and the friendship Adam had with God was broken.



The Exile from Eden

Genesis 3

The disobedience of the first people God created made God very sad, but He did not stop loving Adam and Eve. Although the sin had to be punished, God still cared for them. He also wanted them to know that everybody must accept the consequences of sin. Adam and his wife broke God's commandment, and chose to behave differently than God had intended for them. So, they had to leave Eden, and their lives became difficult, and filled with pain. From then on, they had to work hard just to have food. The woman was named Eve, which means "The Mother of the Living," because she was the mother of future generations. Their sin separated people from God – they would never be as close to Him as before. The people would never be as happy as they had been in God's presence, but, the Lord promised them He would send a Savior who would redeem us from sin.

Cain and Abel

Genesis 4

Eve gave Adam two sons – Cain and Abel. When they grew up, they worked with their father. Cain was a farmer, and Abel was a shepherd.

Cain's Crime

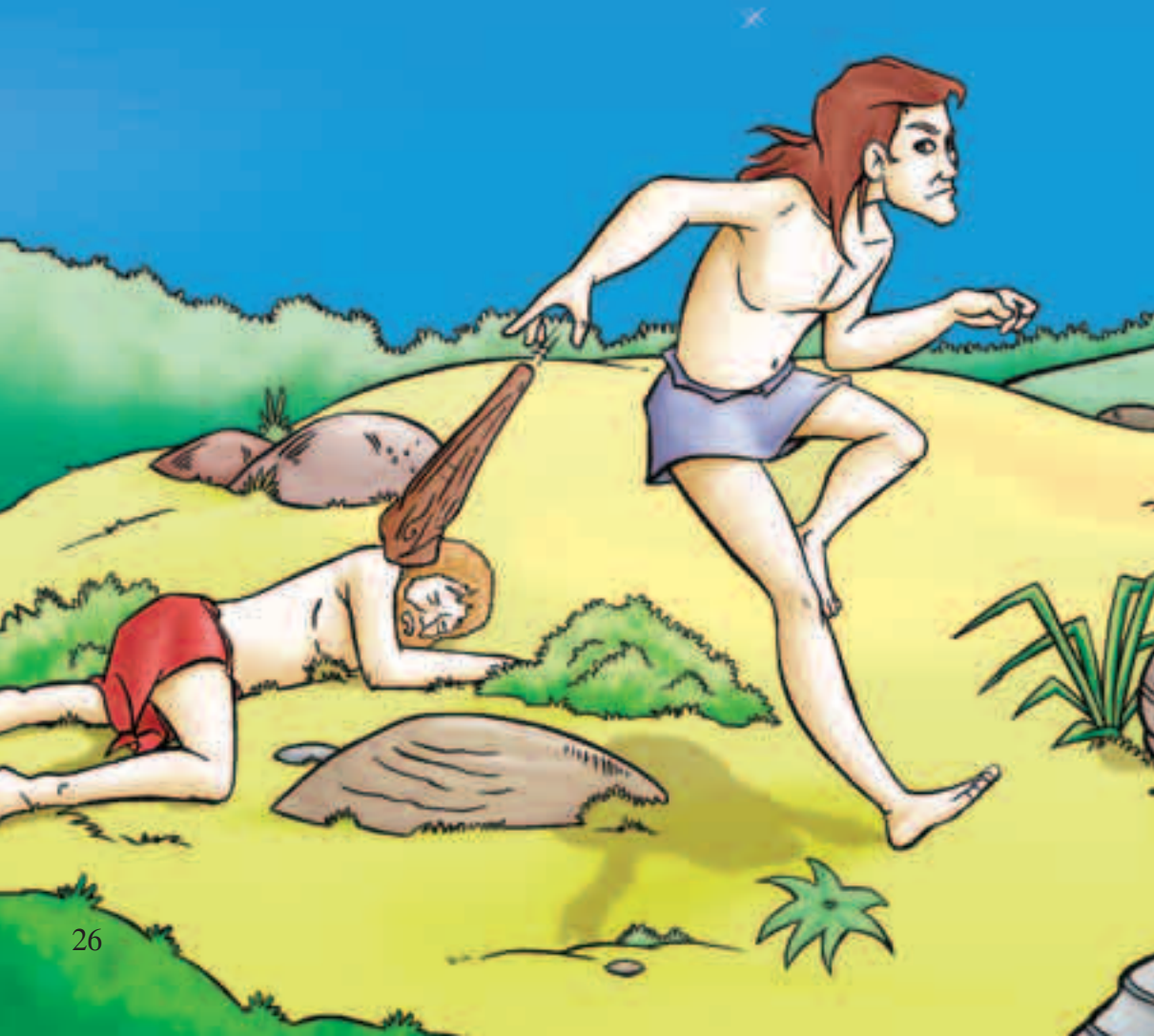
Genesis 4

Abel loved God, trusted Him and wanted to please Him. When he made offerings to God, God listened to him. Cain rebelled in his heart against the Creator. His offerings were not sincere, and he did not find favor with the Most High God. Cain was jealous of his brother's friendship with God, but he did not want to obey God's commands, or change his ways for the better.

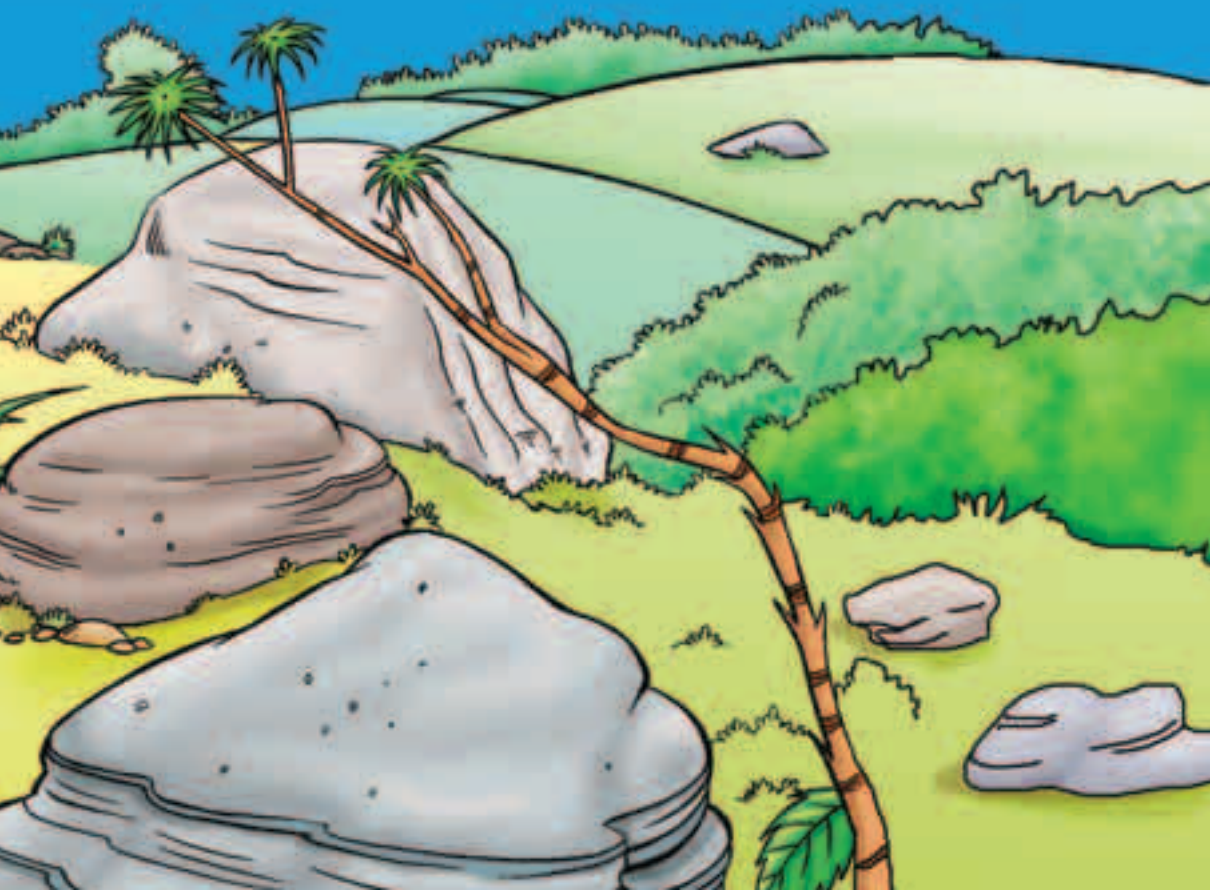




One day, the brothers went together to a field. Cain killed Abel out of jealousy. He committed a terrible sin. When God asked him about his brother, he did not confess his sin, or show any remorse. But God knew very well what



had happened. He sentenced Cain to lifelong wandering, but did not forsake him. Despite Cain's terrible crime, God did not stop loving him. God wanted Cain, and every sinner, to be saved.





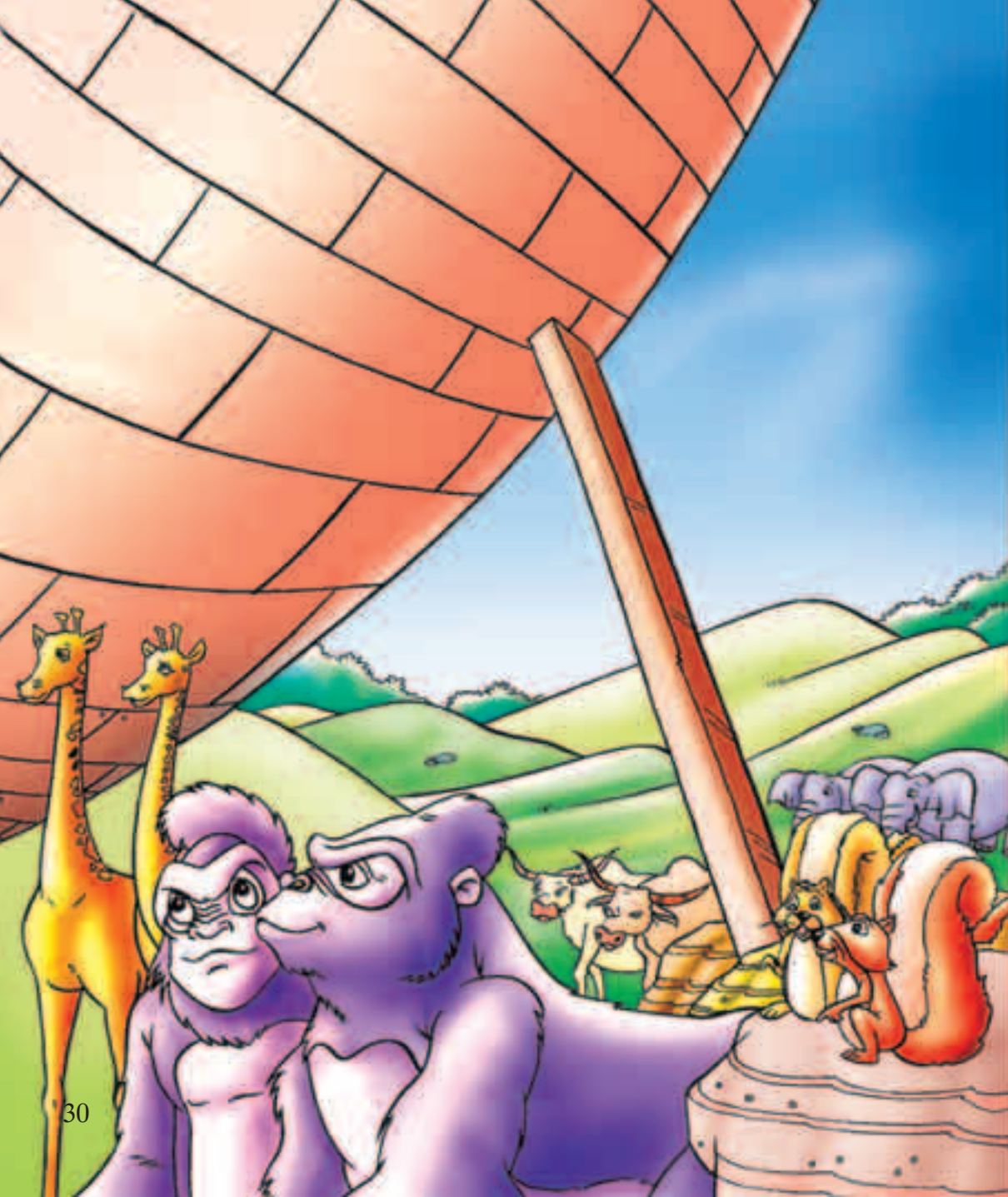
Noah Builds the Ark

Genesis 6

A lot of time passed after Cain's crime, and people continued to do evil things. They were indifferent to God, and cruel to each other. Their sin separated them from God. God began to regret that He had created life on earth, so God decided to send a flood that would destroy it.

There was a righteous man called Noah. He loved God, prayed to Him, and obeyed God in everything. His goodness and uprightness made him stand out among other people. God was pleased with him. God decided to save Noah and his family, so life could start over with a clean slate. One day, God told Noah what to do. He was told to build an ark – a huge wooden boat. There would be room on it for his family, and a pair of animals from every species that lived on earth. Noah and his sons began to carry out God's plan joyfully, although their neighbors were laughing at them: What a crazy idea to build a boat in a desert! Noah trusted God. He did everything God told him to do.





God Sends the Flood

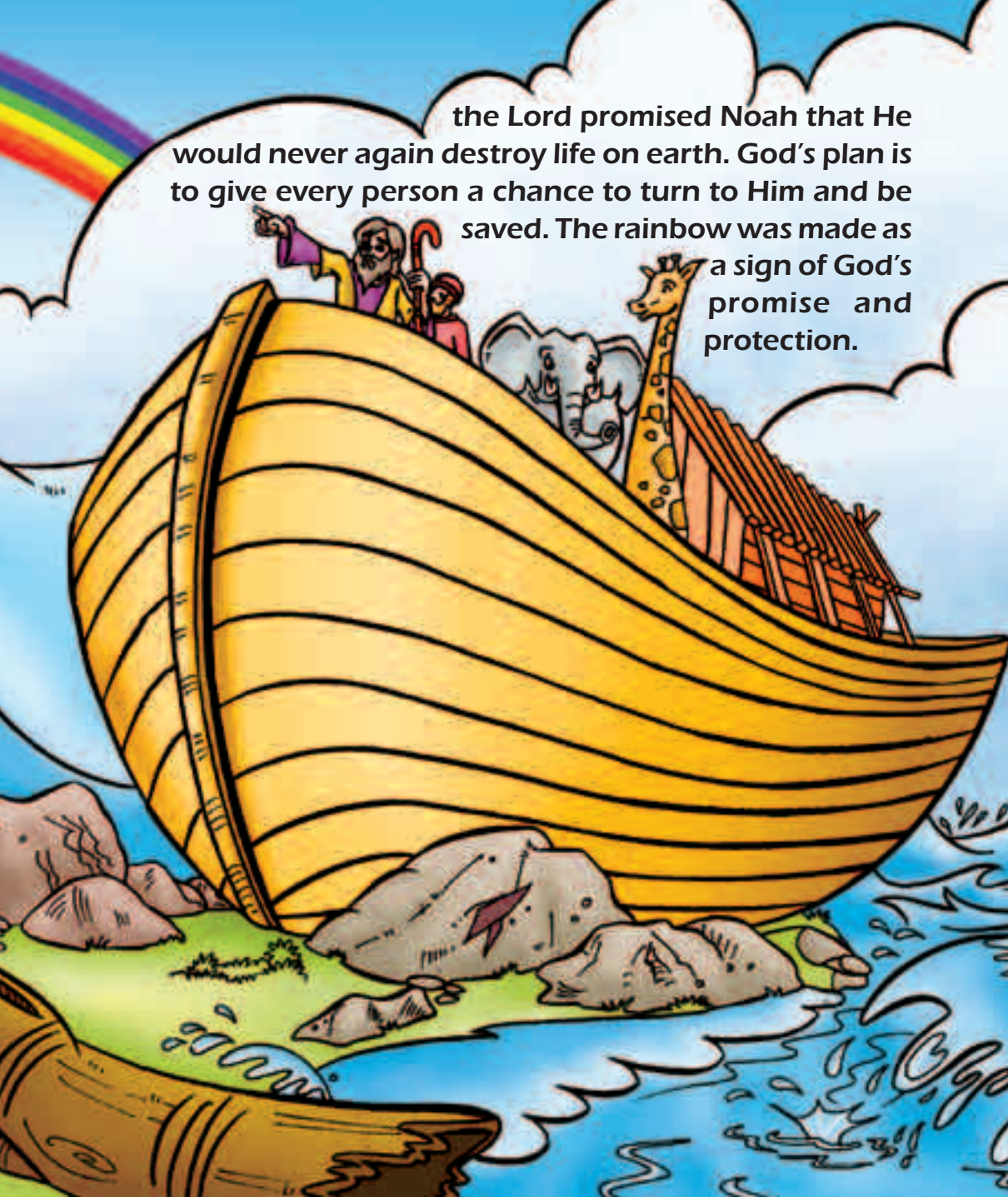
Genesis 7

When Noah, his family, and the animals were inside the ark, dark clouds gathered above the earth. It had never rained before, but now there was a great downpour. It rained for forty days and forty nights! The whole earth was covered with water. Noah and his loved ones spent many days in the ark, tossed around by the waves, but they were safe. Noah's trust in God saved them! Finally, the sun appeared behind the clouds, and the waters began to recede. Noah wanted to see if the land was dry. Three times he sent a bird to bring him back a sign. On the third time, a dove brought a leaf from an olive tree. Then, Noah and his family left the ark, and





the Lord promised Noah that He would never again destroy life on earth. God's plan is to give every person a chance to turn to Him and be saved. The rainbow was made as a sign of God's promise and protection.

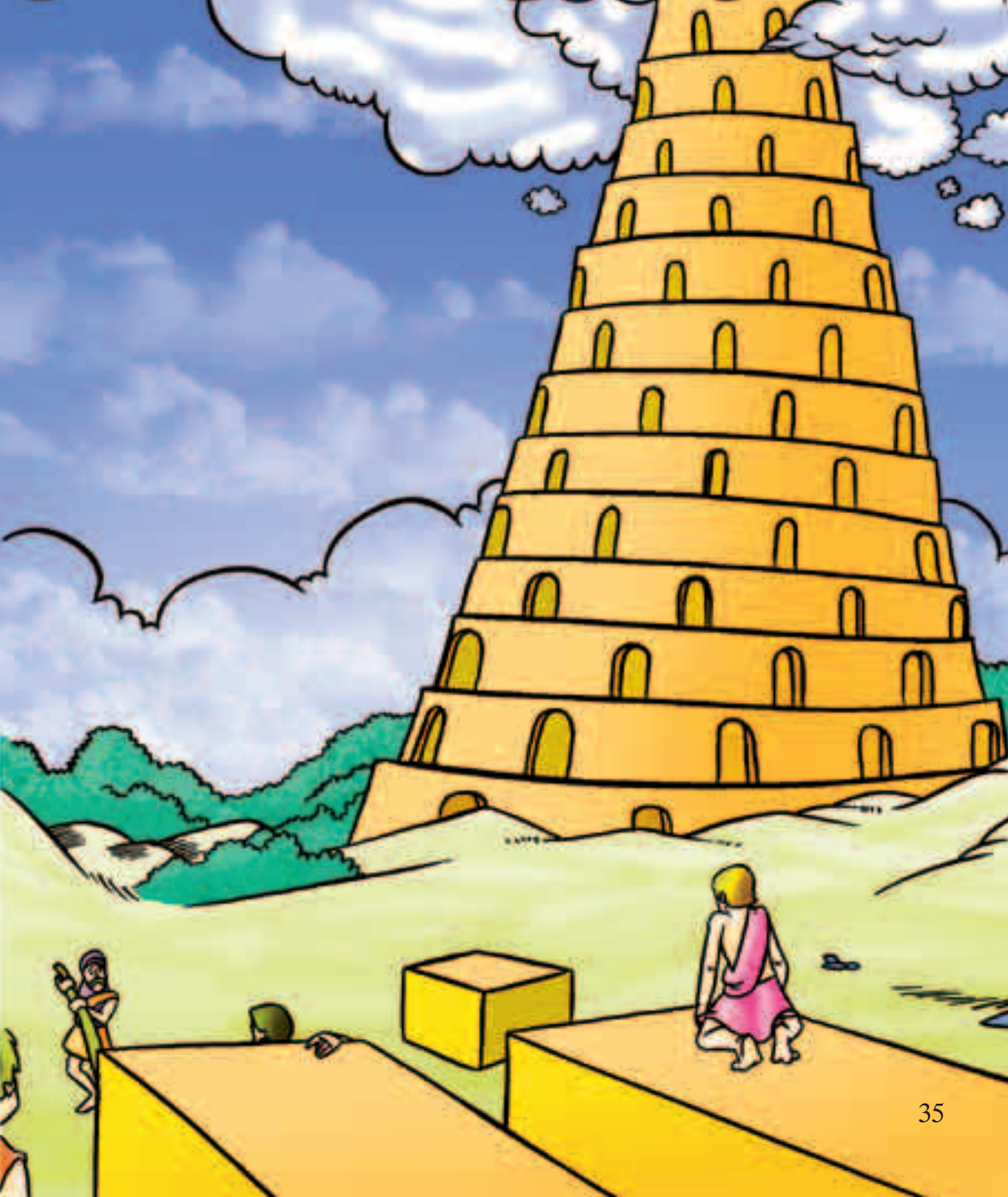


The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11



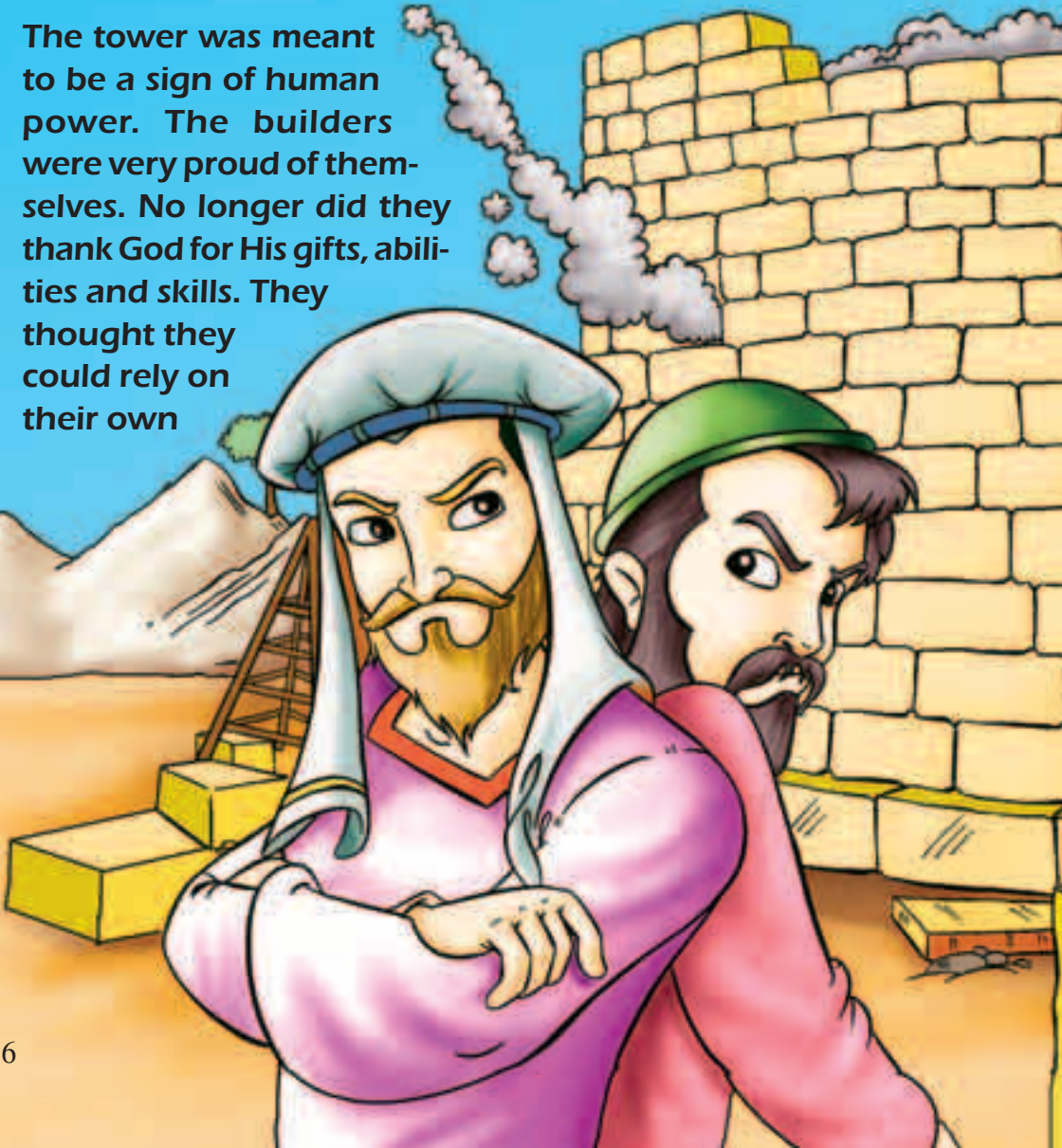
Noah had three sons. After the flood, their descendants filled the earth. They spoke one language, but lived further and further apart. They forgot God, and decided to build a wonderful tower, visible for everyone, so great that it would equal the works of the Creator Himself. The people thought they could live without God, and meet all their needs by themselves. God was displeased with human pride, because it moved their hearts away from Him. That was not the plan God had for them. Pride blinded the people, and they went their own way.



Confusion of Languages

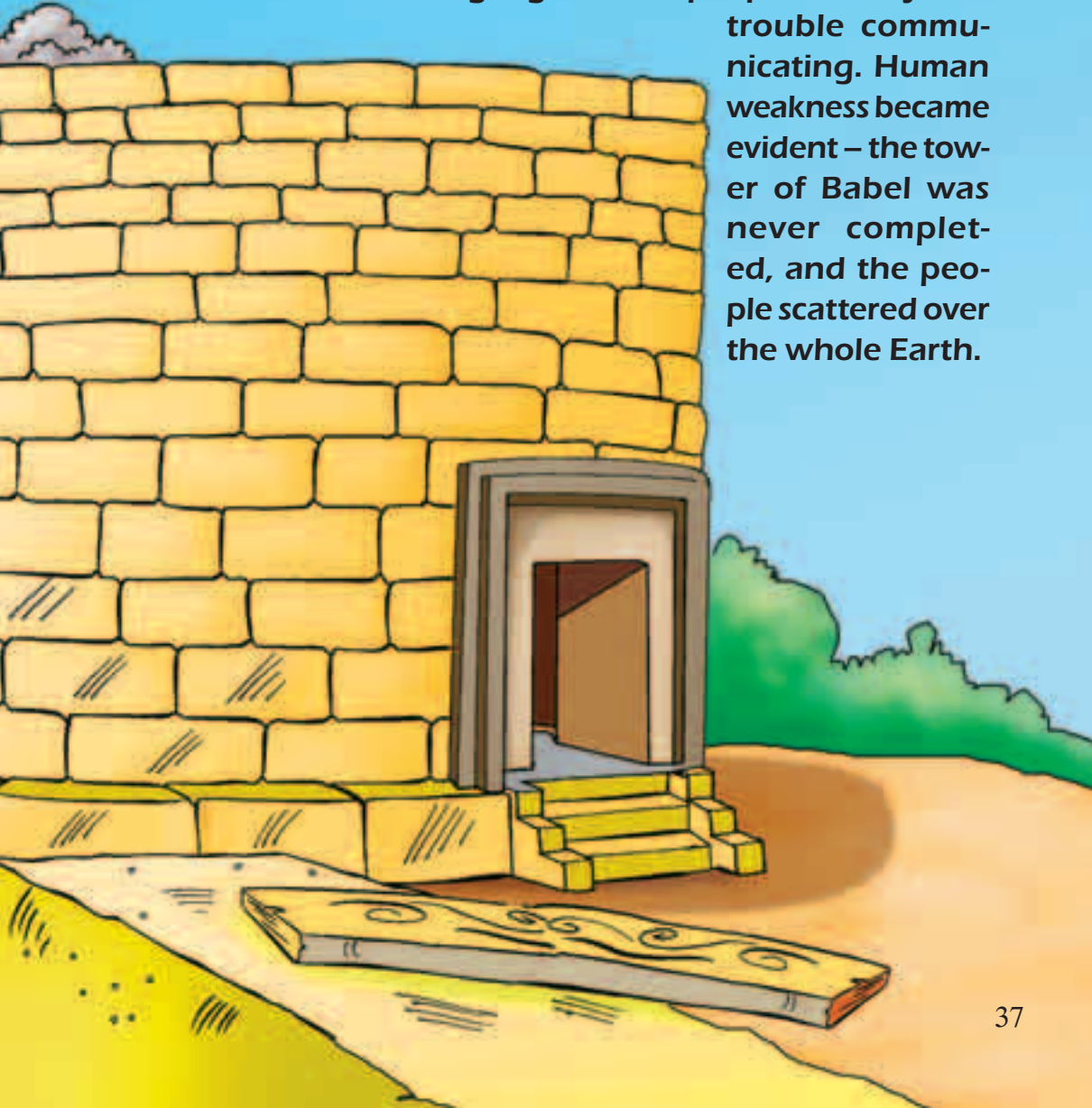
Genesis 11

The tower was meant to be a sign of human power. The builders were very proud of themselves. No longer did they thank God for His gifts, abilities and skills. They thought they could rely on their own



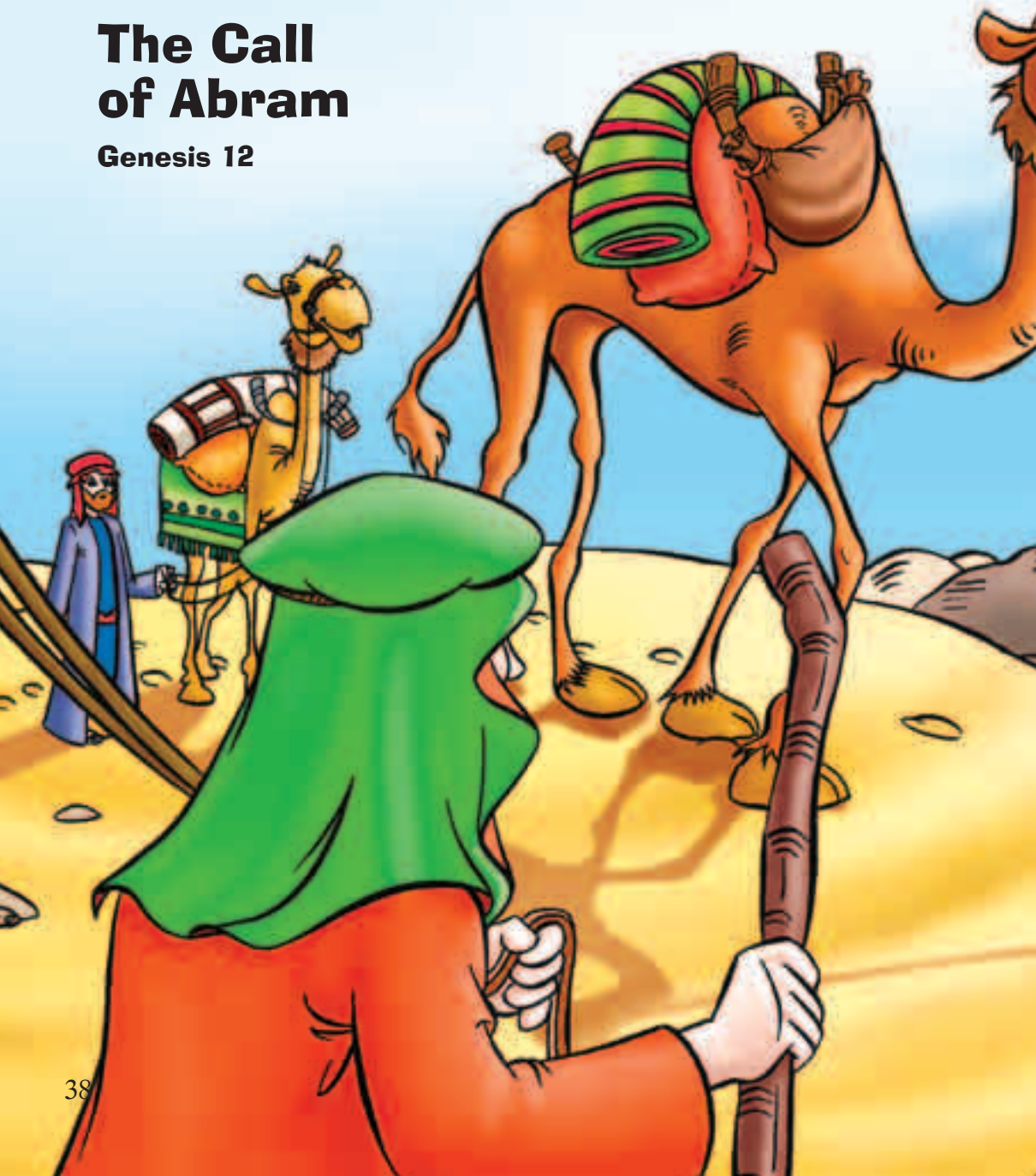
strength, but God knew it would be to man's disadvantage. To show people how little there was to be proud of, God confused the languages of the people, so they had

trouble communicating. Human weakness became evident – the tower of Babel was never completed, and the people scattered over the whole Earth.

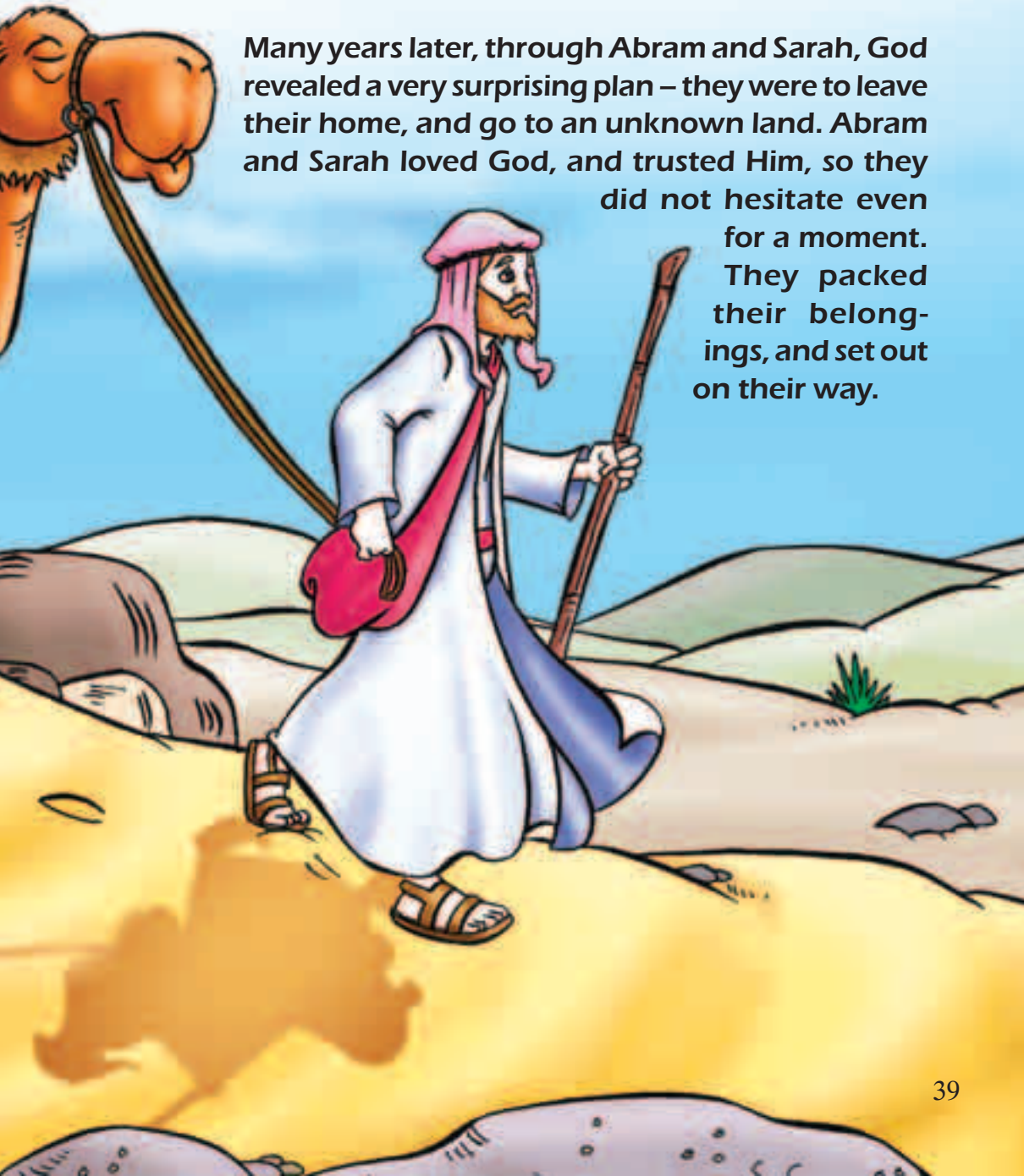


The Call of Abram

Genesis 12



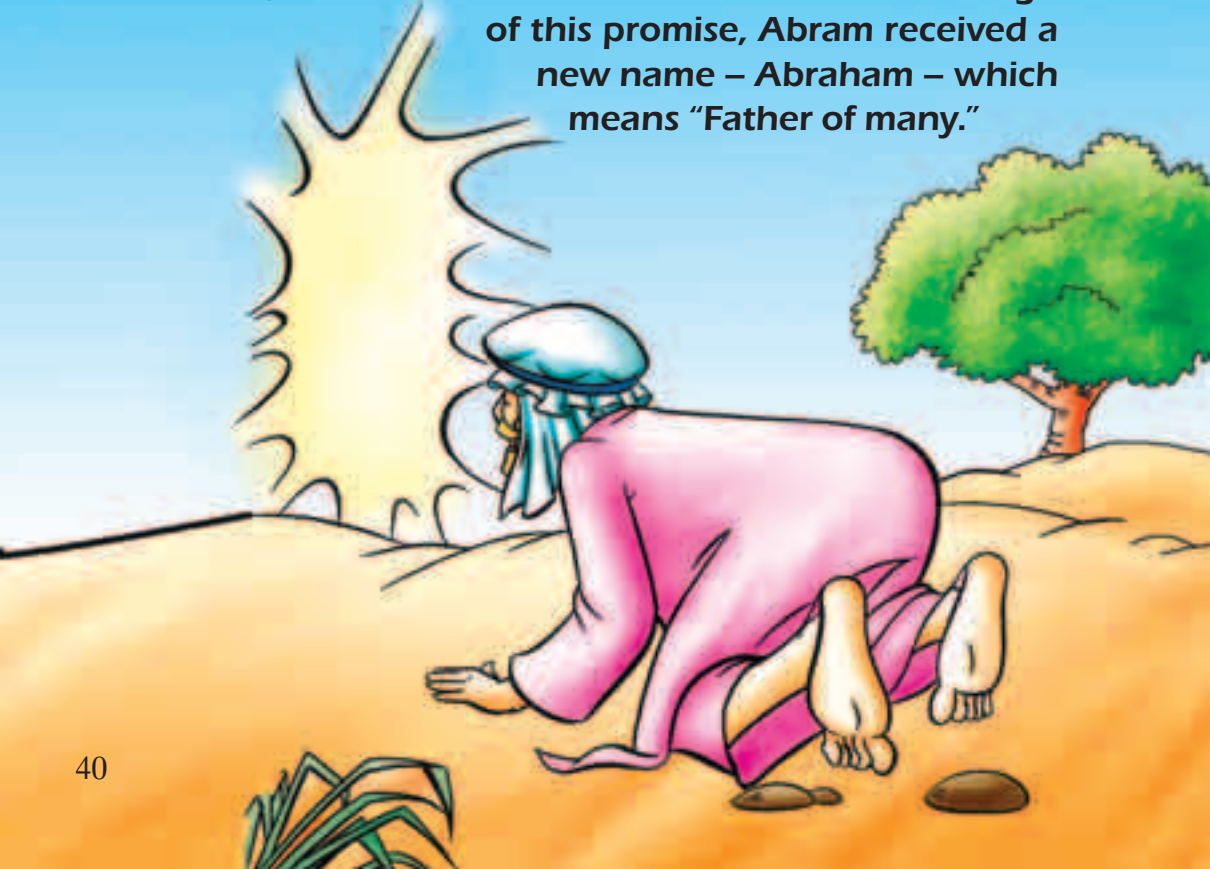
Many years later, through Abram and Sarah, God revealed a very surprising plan – they were to leave their home, and go to an unknown land. Abram and Sarah loved God, and trusted Him, so they did not hesitate even for a moment. They packed their belongings, and set out on their way.



God Makes the Covenant with Abram

Genesis 17

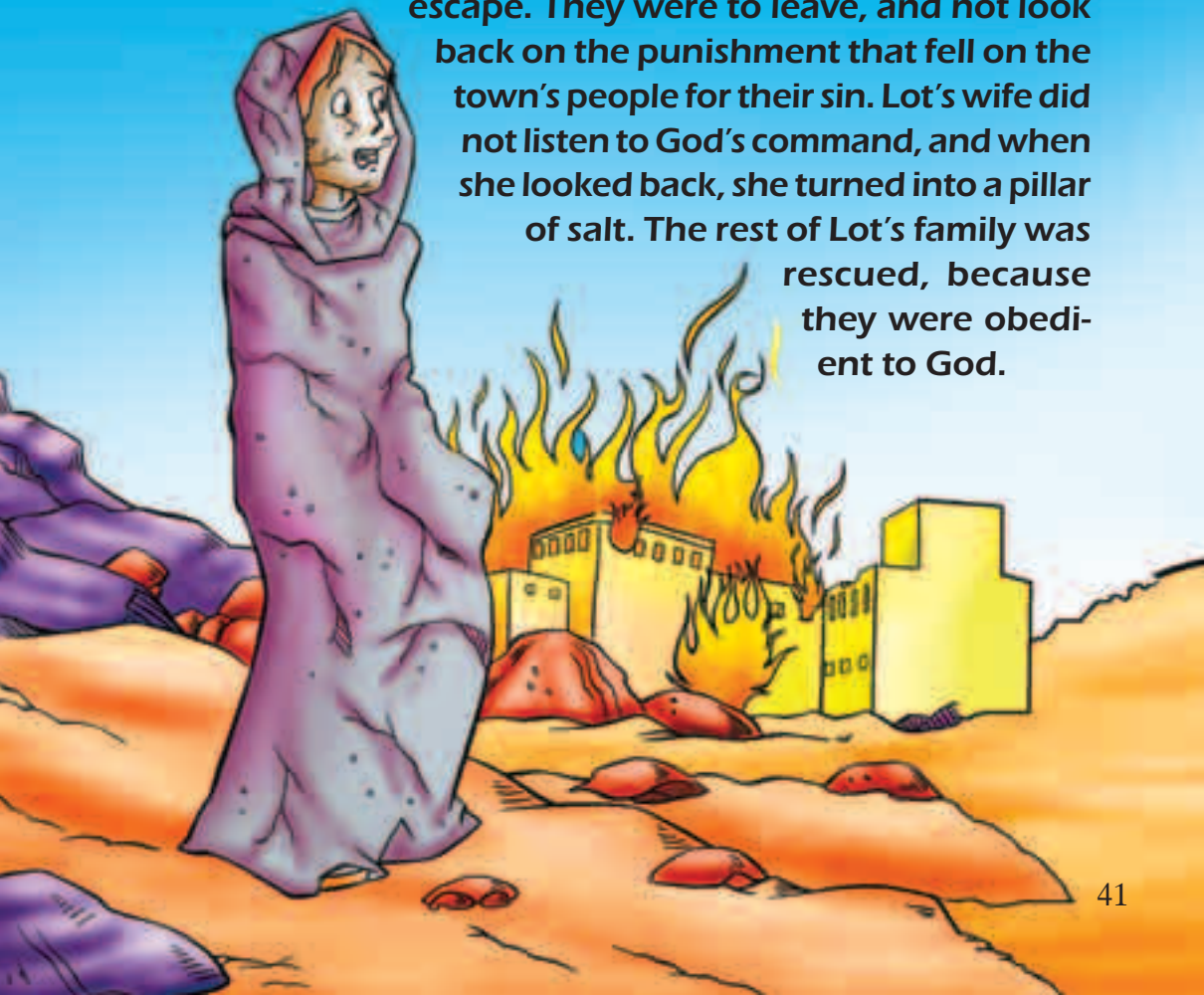
God was pleased with Abram's obedience, so he promised to give him many descendants, and make him a great nation. But, he and his wife were very old, and had some doubts. "How can we have children now?" he asked God. God promised that Sarah would have a son, they would call him Isaac, and their covenant would last forever. As a sign of this promise, Abram received a new name – Abraham – which means "Father of many."



Lot's Rescue

Genesis 19

Abraham's nephew, Lot, lived in a very evil town called Sodom. God decided to destroy this town, because He cannot accept sin. He decided to save Lot, who was faithful to Him. God sent angels to Sodom to help Lot and his family escape. They were to leave, and not look back on the punishment that fell on the town's people for their sin. Lot's wife did not listen to God's command, and when she looked back, she turned into a pillar of salt. The rest of Lot's family was rescued, because they were obedient to God.



The Birth of Isaac

Genesis 21



Sarah and Abraham grew older, but they still had no children. They were sad, but continued to trust the Lord. God blessed them because of that. After many years of waiting, Sarah gave Abraham a son, and they called him Isaac. Both parents loved him very much. They were also glad that God’s plan was being fulfilled, and they had a part in it.



True Obedience

Genesis 22

When Isaac grew up, God tested Abraham's faith. God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, whom he loved so much. Abraham did not understand the request, but he trusted God anyway. Abraham knew that God was good, and he and Sarah should always trust Him. Although he had great plans for his son, he put them aside, and was obedient, remembering the promises God had given him. Abraham took Isaac and went to land of Moriah. There they climbed a hill, and Abraham built an altar, and prepared to make a sacrifice. Just before he killed Isaac with a knife, an angel appeared, and stopped Abraham's hand. God saw that Abraham trusted Him, and was obedient to Him unconditionally. God again promised to reward Abraham for his faithfulness – his descendants would be as numerous as stars in the sky!

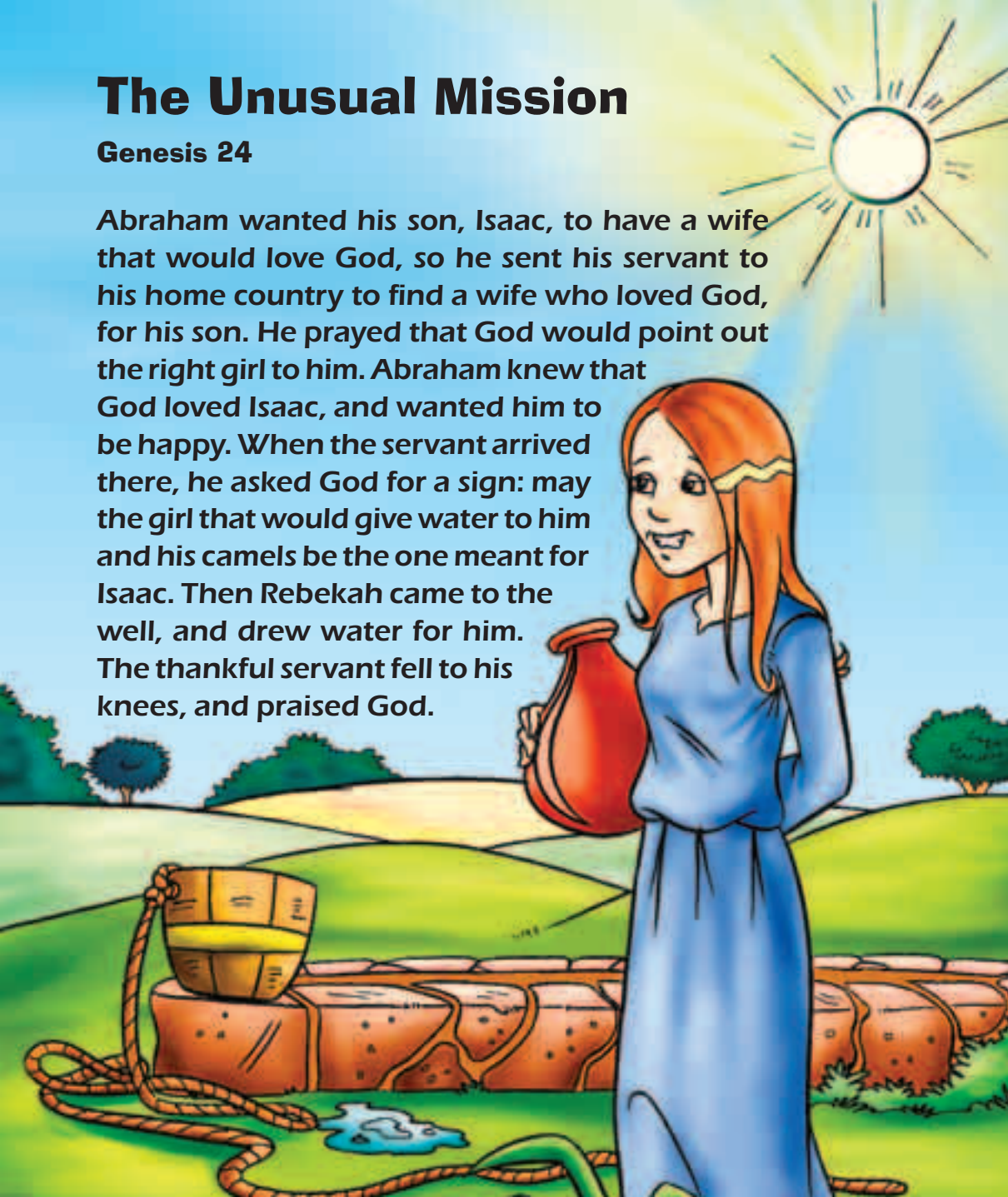




The Unusual Mission

Genesis 24

Abraham wanted his son, Isaac, to have a wife that would love God, so he sent his servant to his home country to find a wife who loved God, for his son. He prayed that God would point out the right girl to him. Abraham knew that God loved Isaac, and wanted him to be happy. When the servant arrived there, he asked God for a sign: may the girl that would give water to him and his camels be the one meant for Isaac. Then Rebekah came to the well, and drew water for him. The thankful servant fell to his knees, and praised God.



Rebekah Becomes Isaac's Wife

Genesis 24

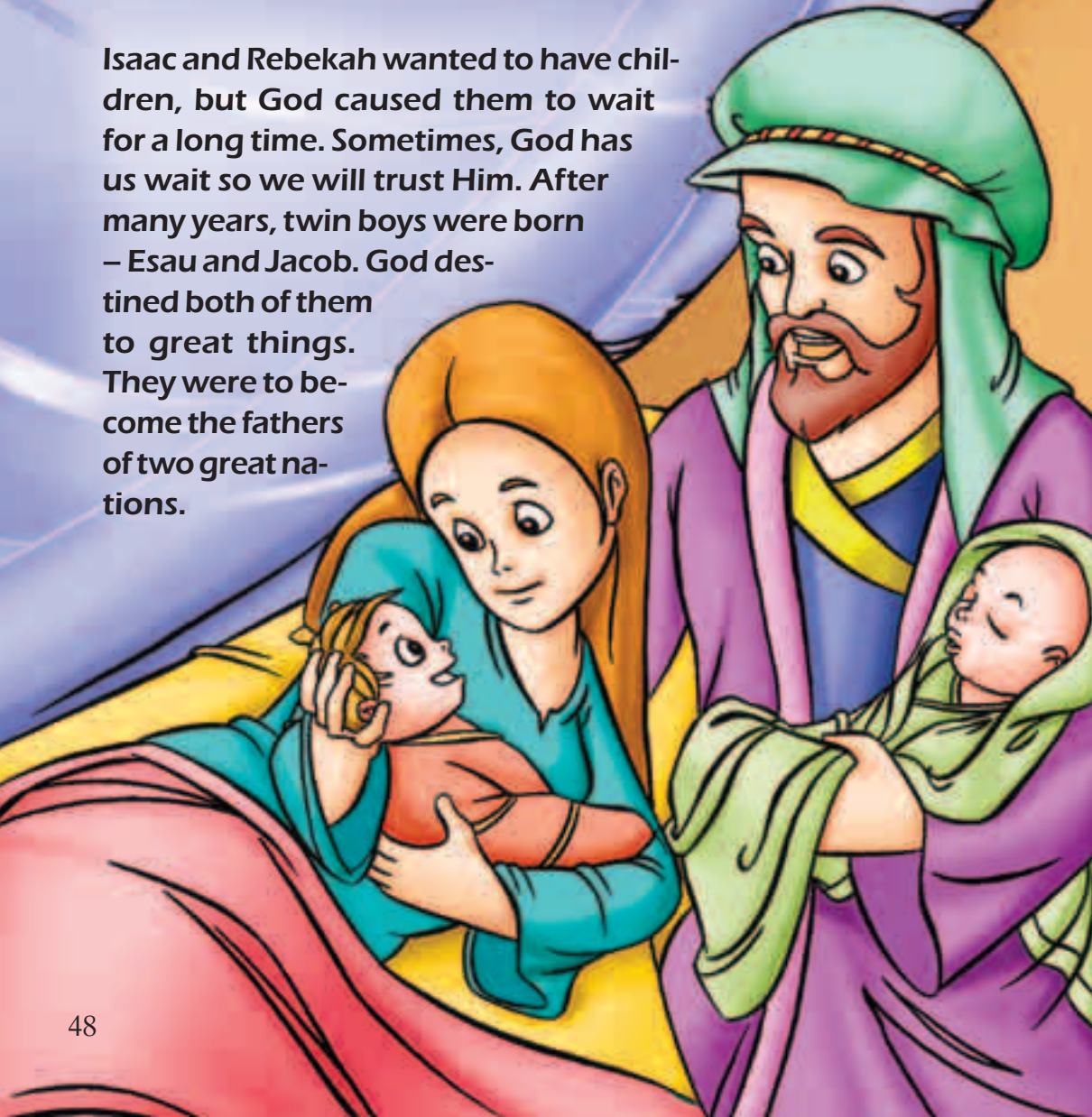
The girl's father agreed to the proposed marriage, although he did not know Isaac since they lived far away. When the servant brought Rebekah back, Isaac loved the woman that God had chosen for him – he trusted God to do what was best for him. He married Rebekah, and she became his joy and helper.



The Birth of Esau and Jacob

Genesis 22

Isaac and Rebekah wanted to have children, but God caused them to wait for a long time. Sometimes, God has us wait so we will trust Him. After many years, twin boys were born – Esau and Jacob. God destined both of them to great things. They were to become the fathers of two great nations.

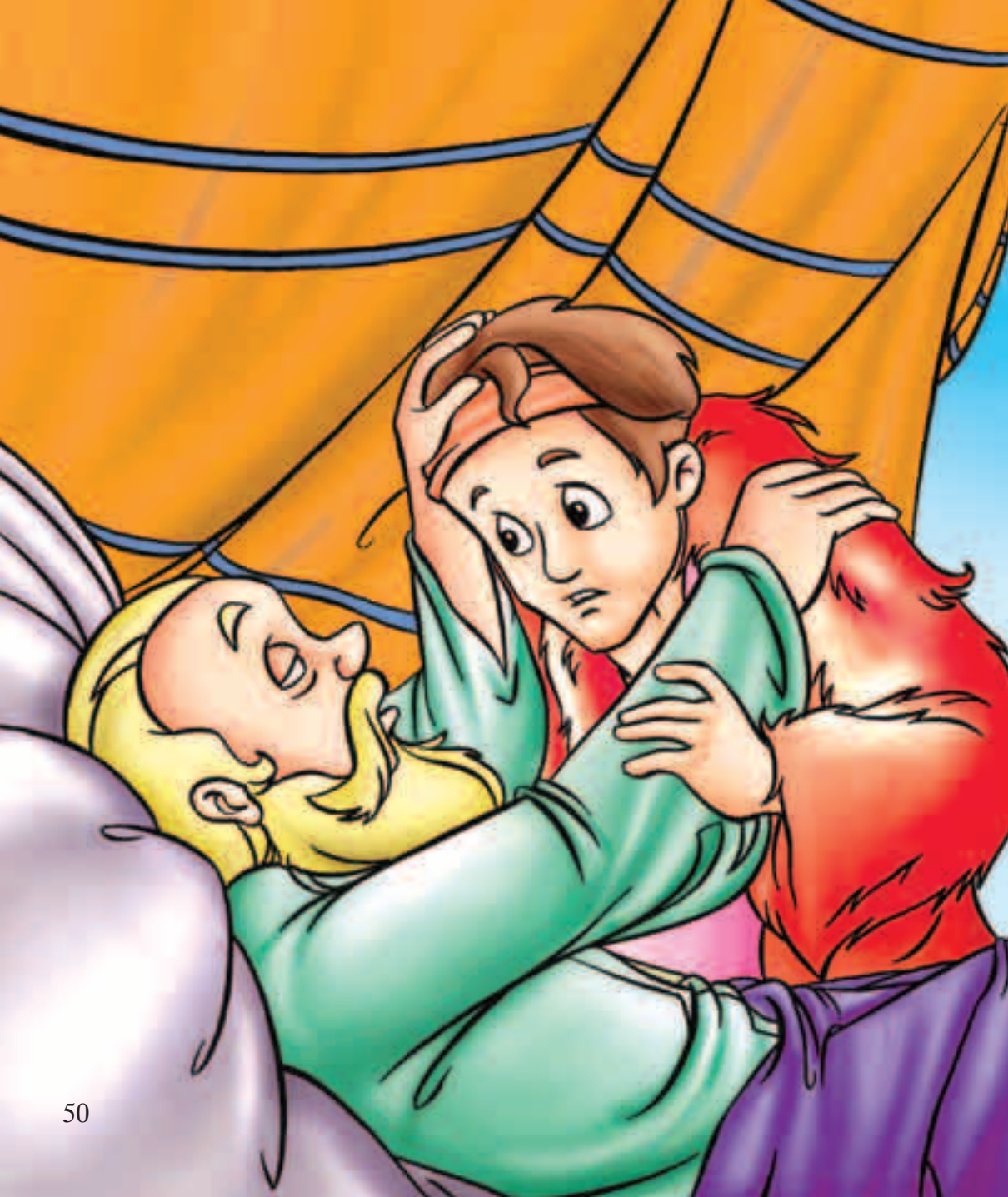


Jacob's Deception

Genesis 25 & 27

Esau was a great farmer and hunter. He was born just a moment earlier than Jacob, so one day he would become the head of the family. When Isaac grew weak and could





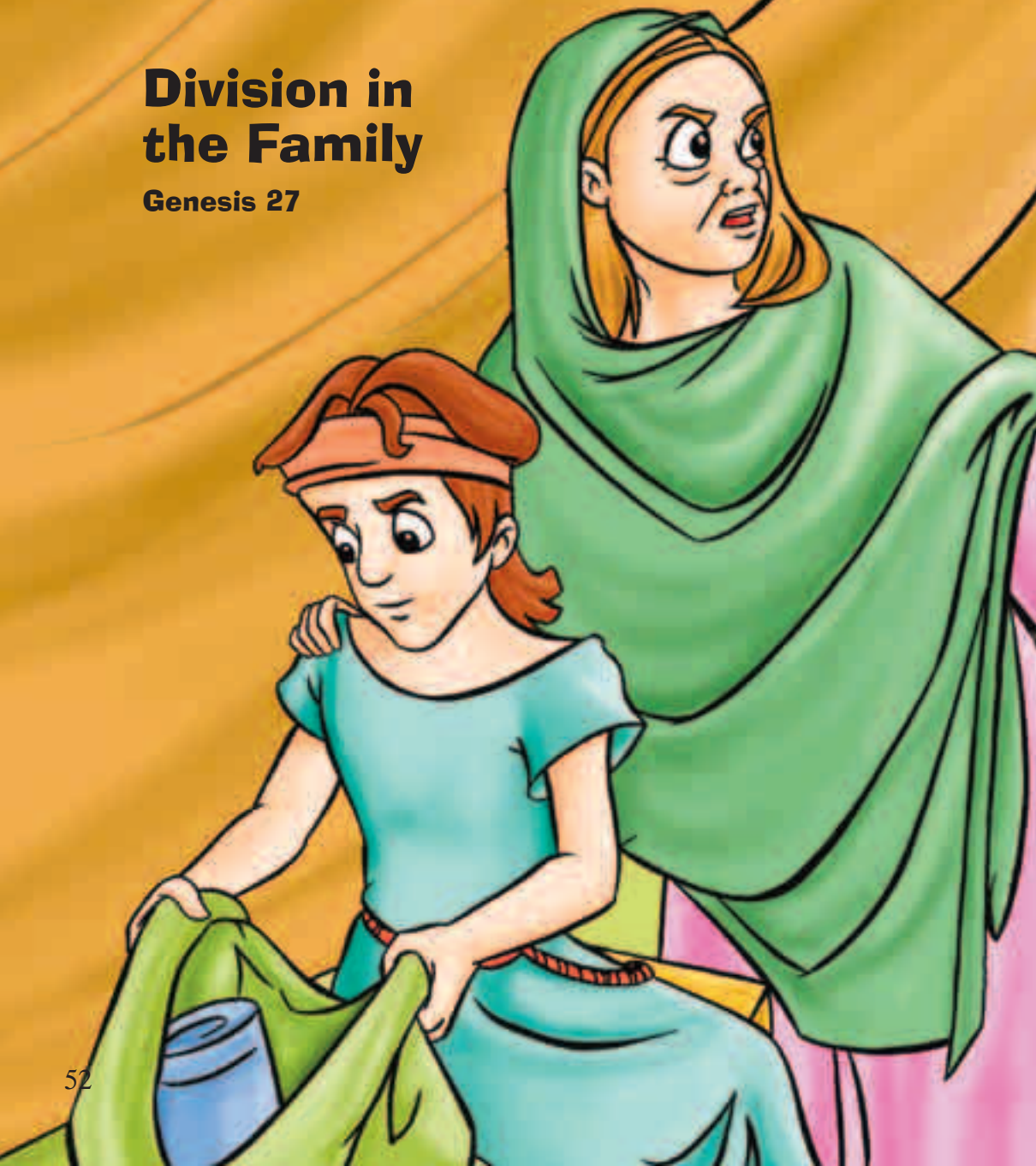
not see well, he decided to give the traditional father's blessing meant only for the firstborn son. When Esau went to hunt and prepare a meal for his father, Rebekah took matters into her own hands. She sent their younger son to Isaac instead. Jacob pretended to be his brother,

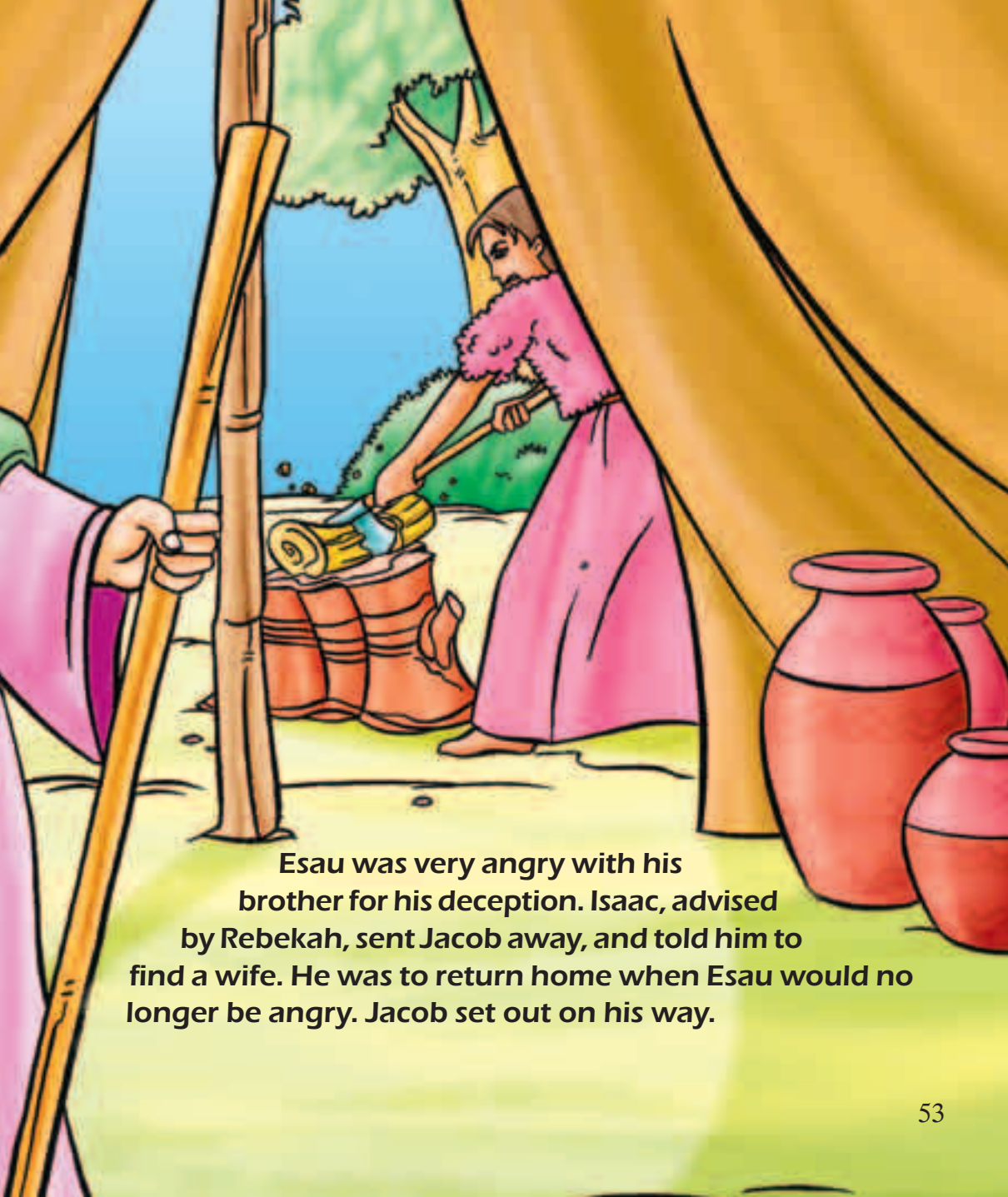


and received the blessing meant for Esau. Isaac asked the Lord to give his son many riches, and that many people would serve him, including his own brother. It meant God's special protection in the future. Jacob stole the blessing from his brother. God allowed that, because He decided that Jacob would become the father of the chosen nation. When Jacob's deception was discovered, Esau also asked for a blessing, and Isaac gave him one, because God wants what is good for the people.

Division in the Family

Genesis 27



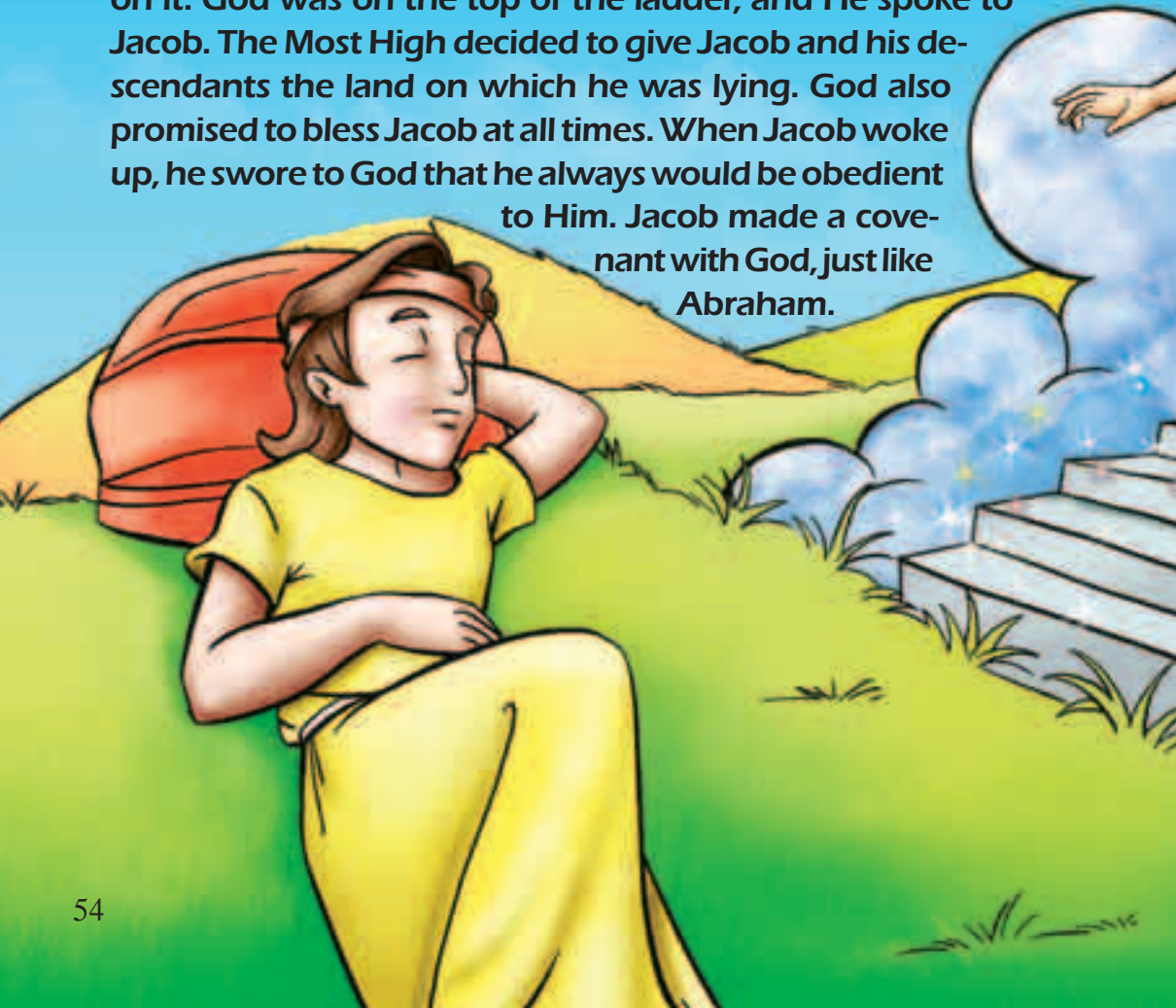


Esau was very angry with his brother for his deception. Isaac, advised by Rebekah, sent Jacob away, and told him to find a wife. He was to return home when Esau would no longer be angry. Jacob set out on his way.

Jacob's Dream

Genesis 28

During his journey, Jacob slept under an open sky. One night, he put a stone under his head. In Jacob's dream, he saw a ladder stretching up to heaven, and angels going down and up on it. God was on the top of the ladder, and He spoke to Jacob. The Most High decided to give Jacob and his descendants the land on which he was lying. God also promised to bless Jacob at all times. When Jacob woke up, he swore to God that he always would be obedient to Him. Jacob made a covenant with God, just like Abraham.



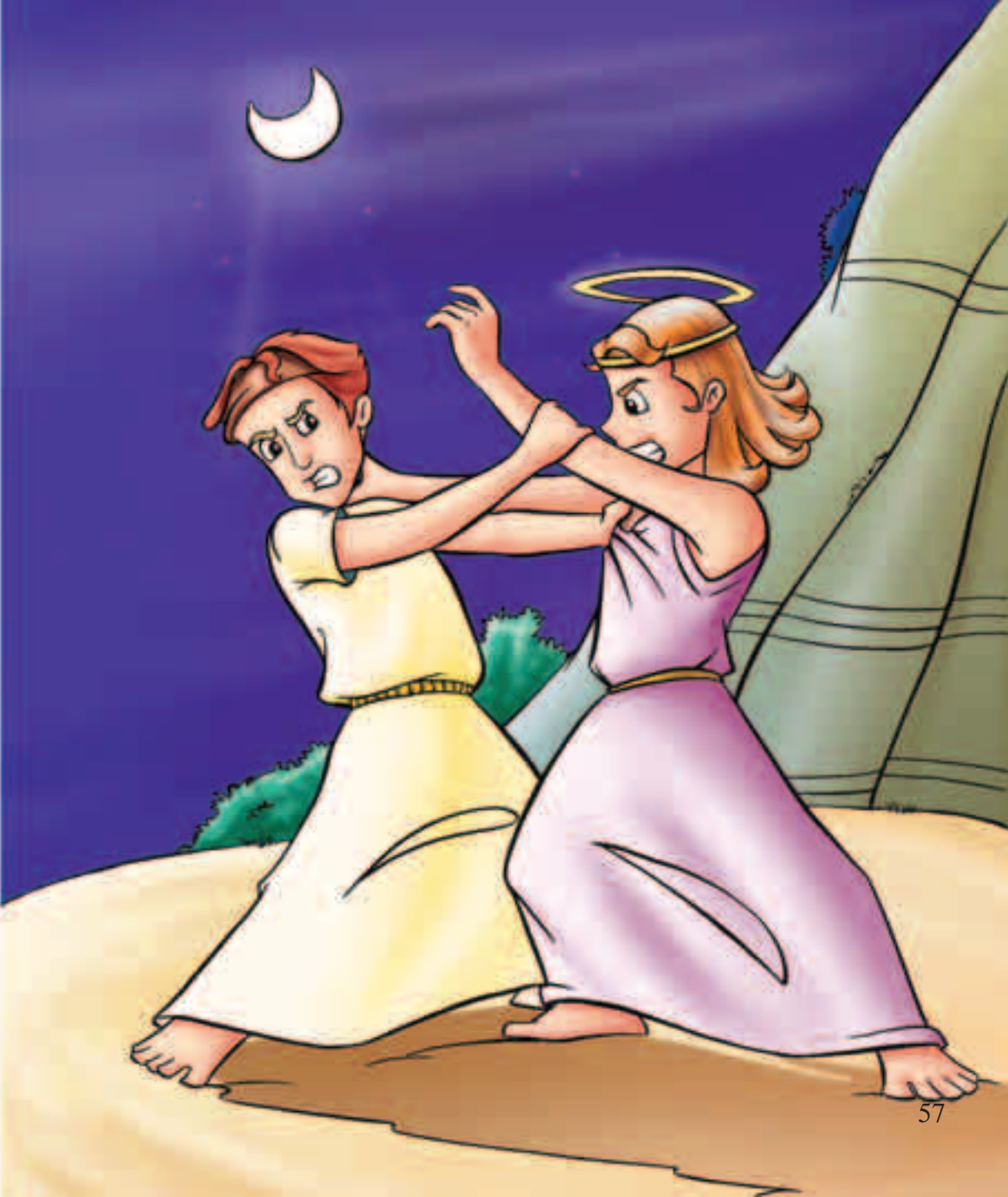


Jacob's Night Struggles

Genesis 32

Jacob lived away from home for many years – he got married, and gained some wealth. One day, God told him to take all his possessions, and go back to his father's land. Jacob was still afraid of his older brother's anger, yet, he believed that God would always be with him, so he went. He sent some messengers ahead to meet Esau, and to give him gifts. Deep down, Jacob was afraid to meet him. He wondered if his brother was still angry with him.

The night before their meeting, Jacob prayed fervently. Then, a mysterious person came to him from the desert, and they began to wrestle. Jacob could not recognize who it was. In fact, it was God Himself in the form of an angel, struggling with Jacob. He wanted to make Jacob strong, and take his fear away. Jacob and God wrestled the whole night, and at the sunrise the Almighty stepped back. It was a great victory for Jacob's character. He fought, and forever freed himself from fear that was a part of his life. It was a great blessing from the Almighty. In remembrance of those struggles, Jacob got a new name – Israel – which means, "God struggles."



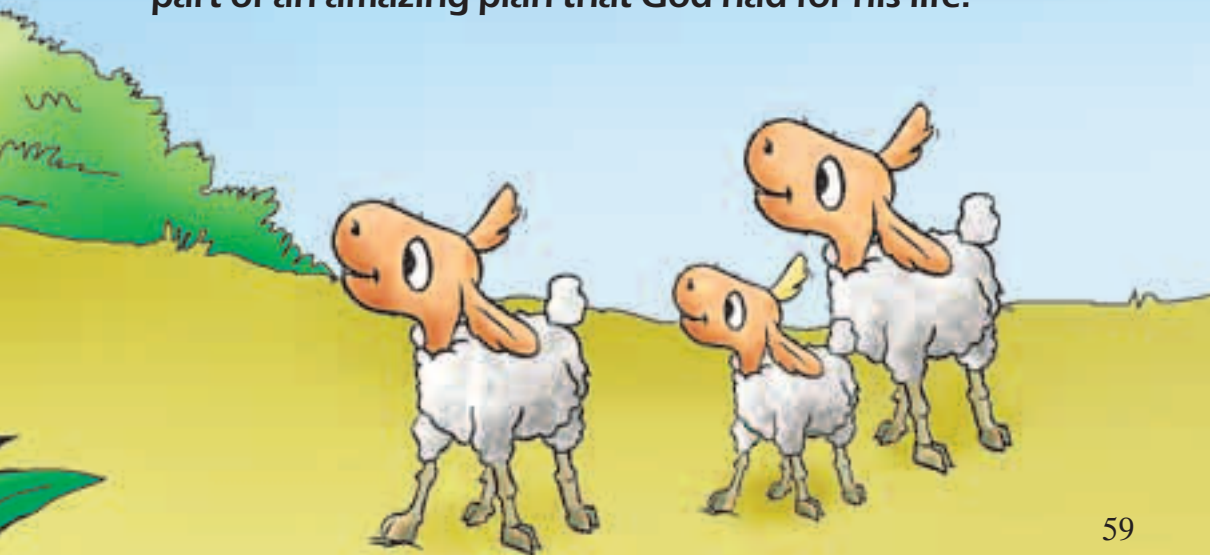


Joseph and His Brothers

Genesis 37

Jacob, who was called Israel now, came back to his father's house, and became the head of the family. Esau forgave him, and left to live his own life.

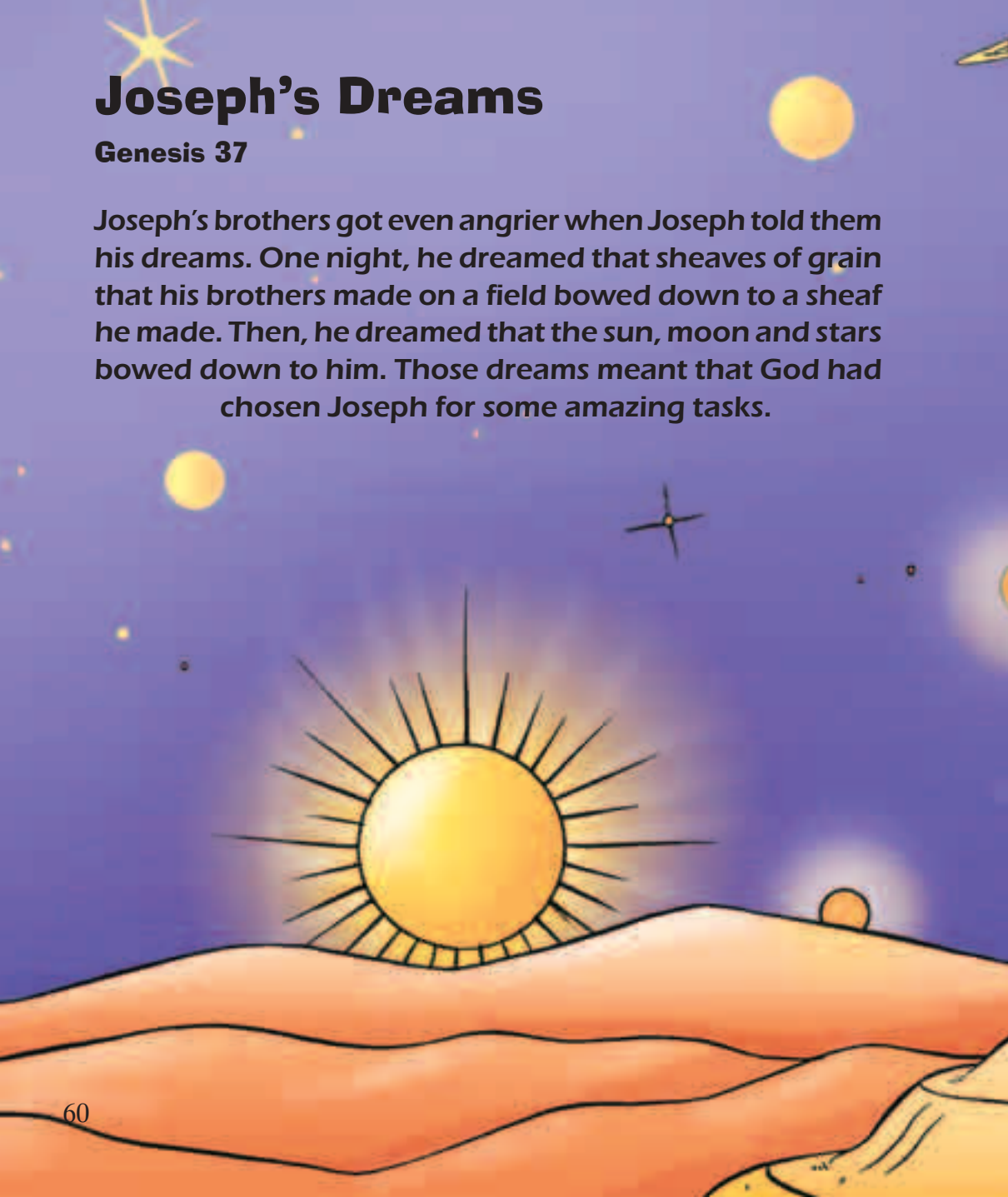
Jacob had twelve sons, but he loved Joseph the most. One day, he gave him a beautiful robe. Nobody else in the family had such a robe! Joseph's brothers were jealous of this beautiful clothing, but they were even more jealous of the special love that Joseph received from their father. The brothers were angry that Joseph was their father's favorite. Because of their jealousy, they did not love Joseph. They could not even talk to him in a friendly way. Joseph was sad, and felt rejected. He did not know that it was a part of an amazing plan that God had for his life.



Joseph's Dreams

Genesis 37

Joseph's brothers got even angrier when Joseph told them his dreams. One night, he dreamed that sheaves of grain that his brothers made on a field bowed down to a sheaf he made. Then, he dreamed that the sun, moon and stars bowed down to him. Those dreams meant that God had chosen Joseph for some amazing tasks.

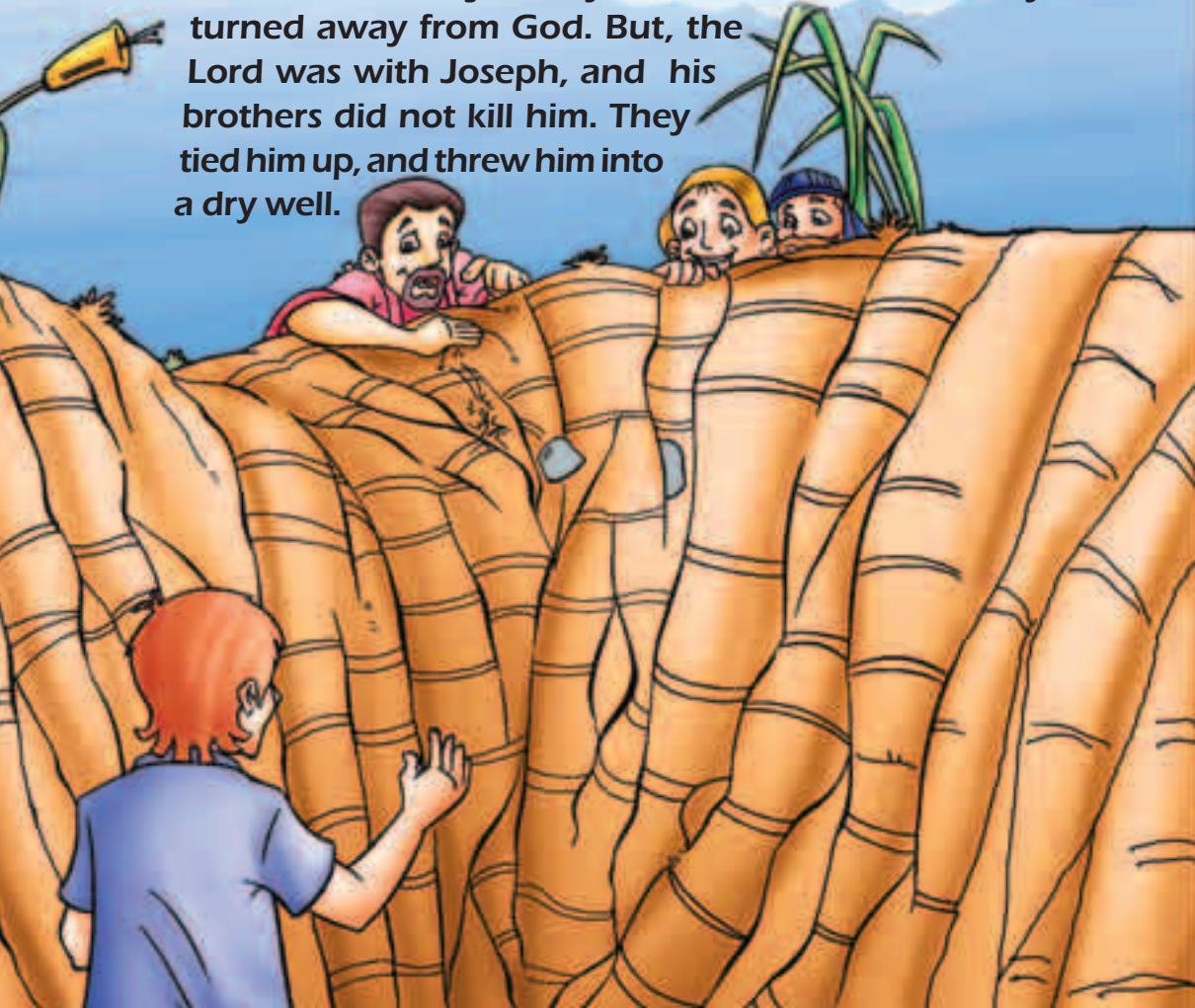




Brothers' Revenge

Genesis 37

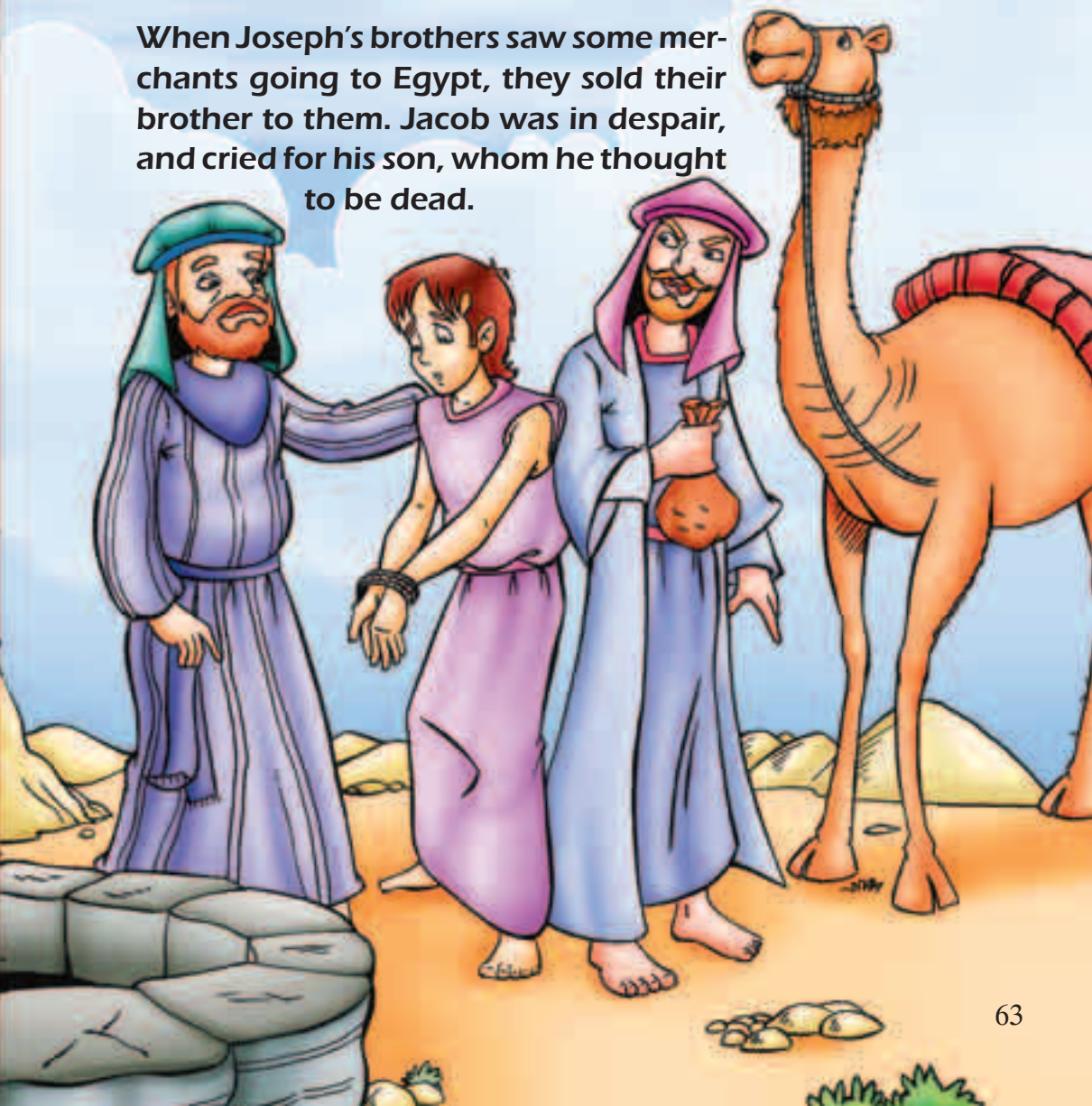
Jacob's sons grazed their sheep far from home. One day, their father sent Joseph to them. His brothers decided to kill Joseph, and tell their father that some wild animals had eaten him. Their jealousy blinded their hearts. They turned away from God. But, the Lord was with Joseph, and his brothers did not kill him. They tied him up, and threw him into a dry well.



Sold Into the Slavery

Genesis 37

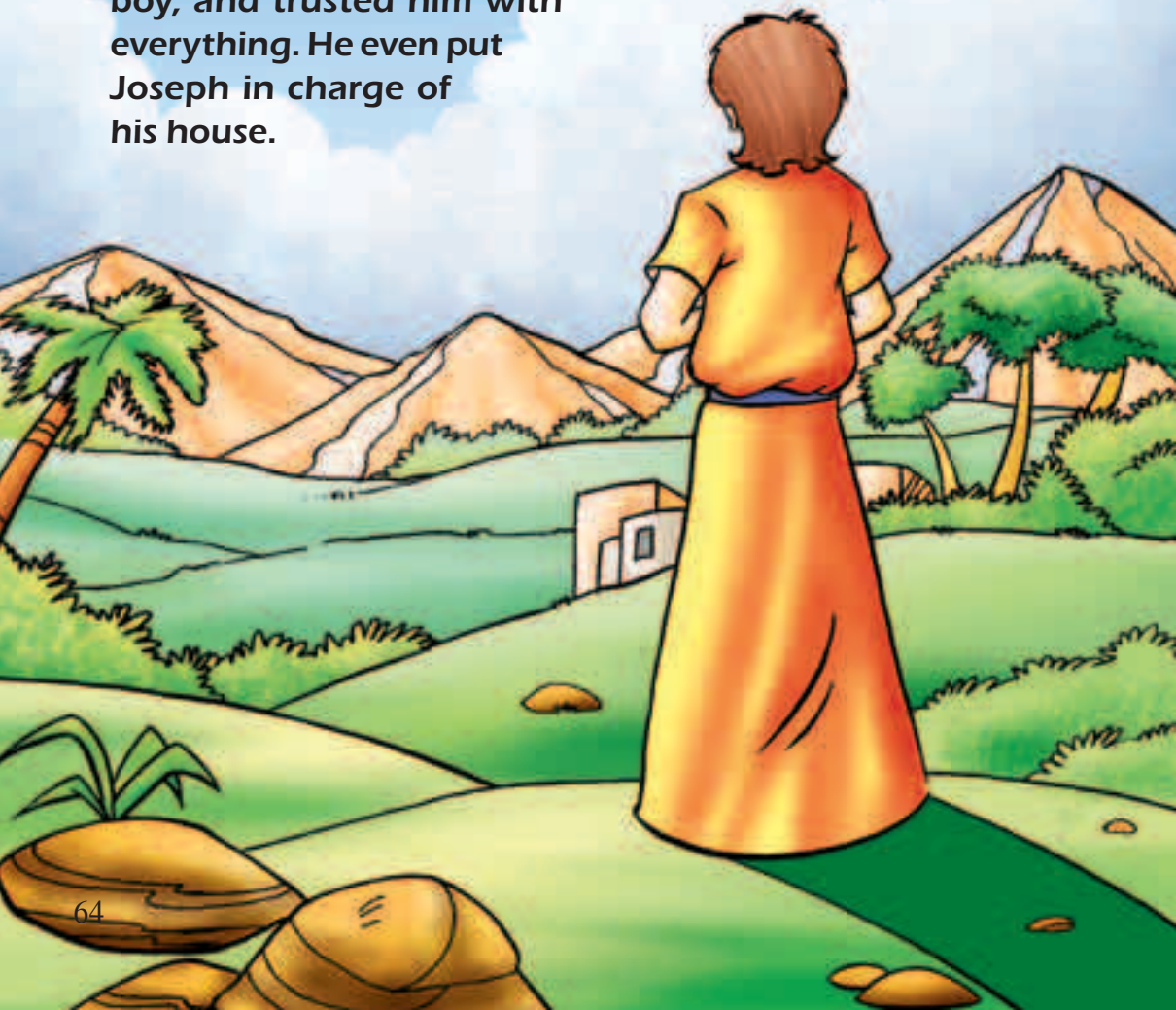
When Joseph's brothers saw some merchants going to Egypt, they sold their brother to them. Jacob was in despair, and cried for his son, whom he thought to be dead.



Joseph in Egypt

Genesis 39

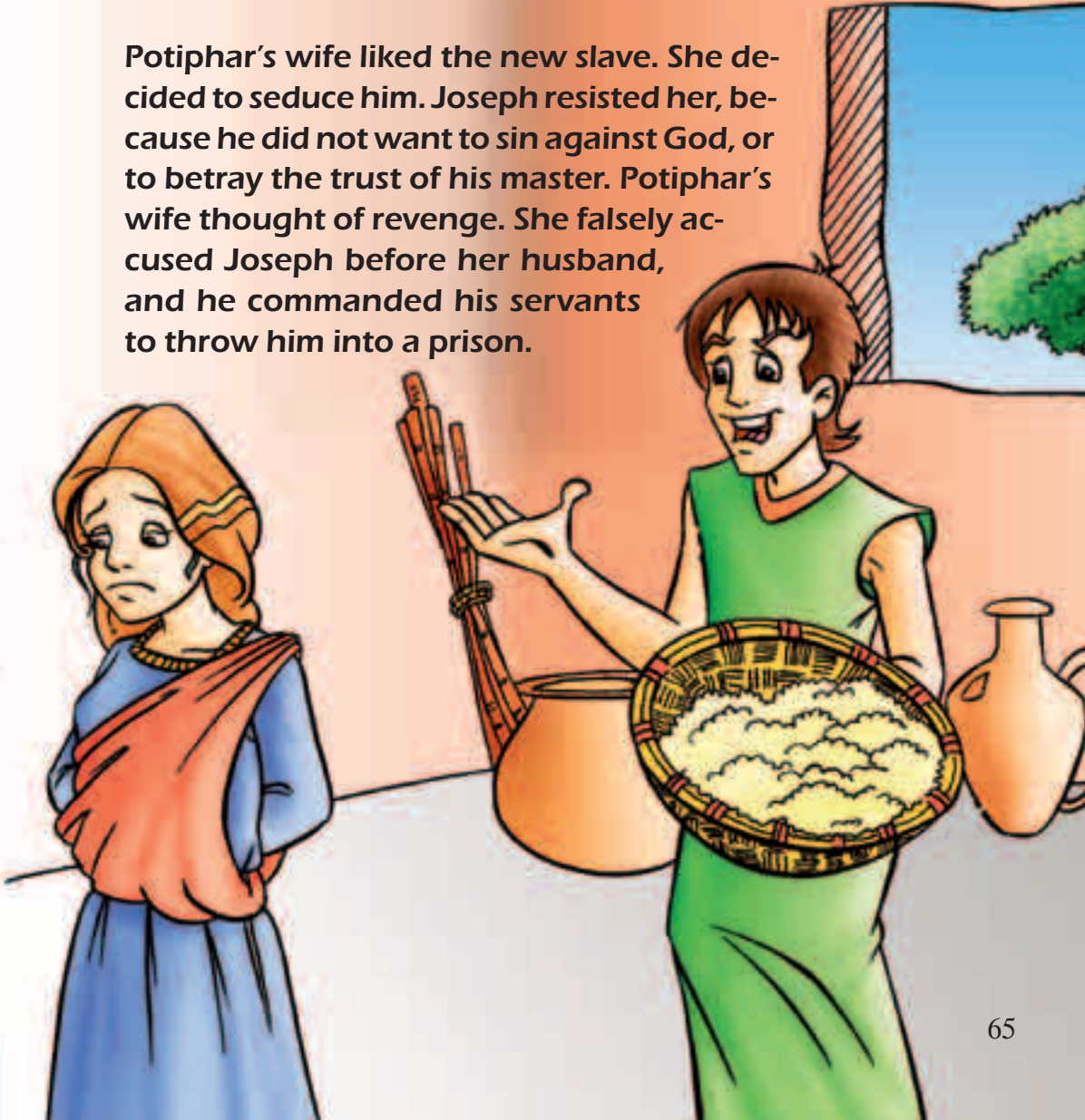
Joseph was bought by a certain Egyptian, a captain of the Pharaoh's guards. God was with Joseph, and blessed him. His owner, Potiphar, liked the boy, and trusted him with everything. He even put Joseph in charge of his house.



Potiphar's Wife

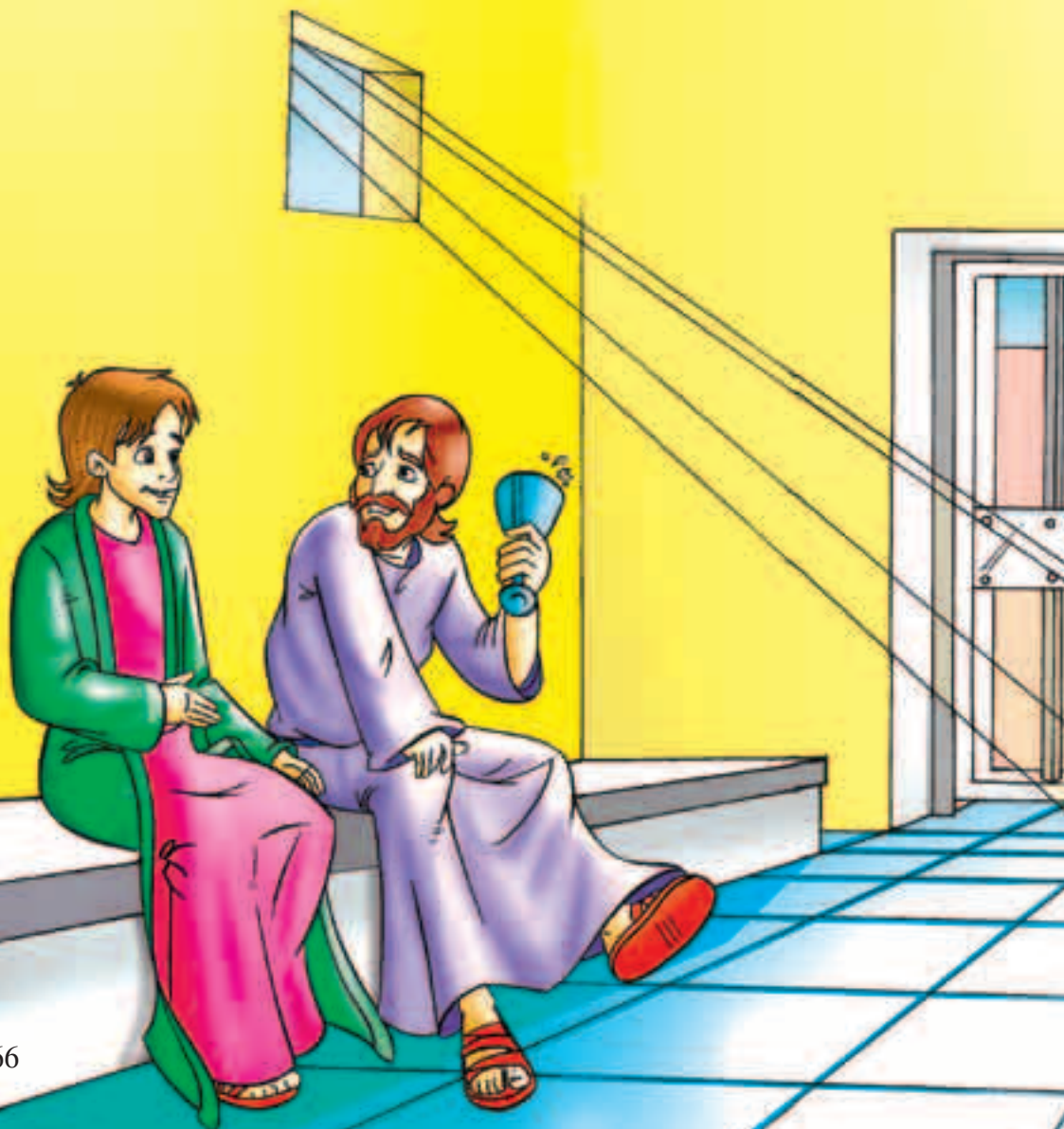
Genesis 39

Potiphar's wife liked the new slave. She decided to seduce him. Joseph resisted her, because he did not want to sin against God, or to betray the trust of his master. Potiphar's wife thought of revenge. She falsely accused Joseph before her husband, and he commanded his servants to throw him into a prison.



Joseph in Prison

Genesis 40

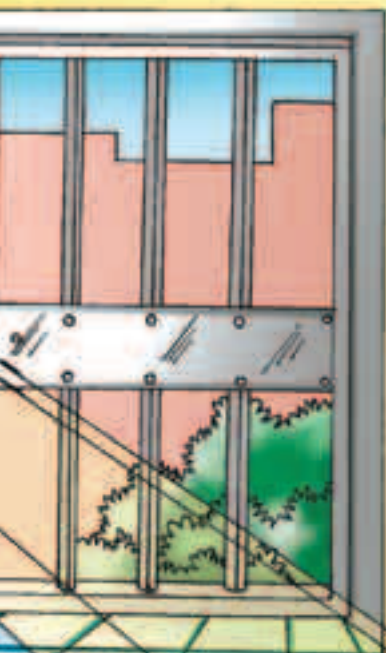


God did not leave Joseph alone. Soon, he earned favor with the guards and other prisoners. His companions in prison were Pharaoh's baker and cupbearer. One night, they both had strange dreams. Joseph explained their meanings to them, and everything he said happened. The cupbearer was freed from prison, as Joseph predicted, and returned to Pharaoh's court. But, he quickly forgot about Joseph.

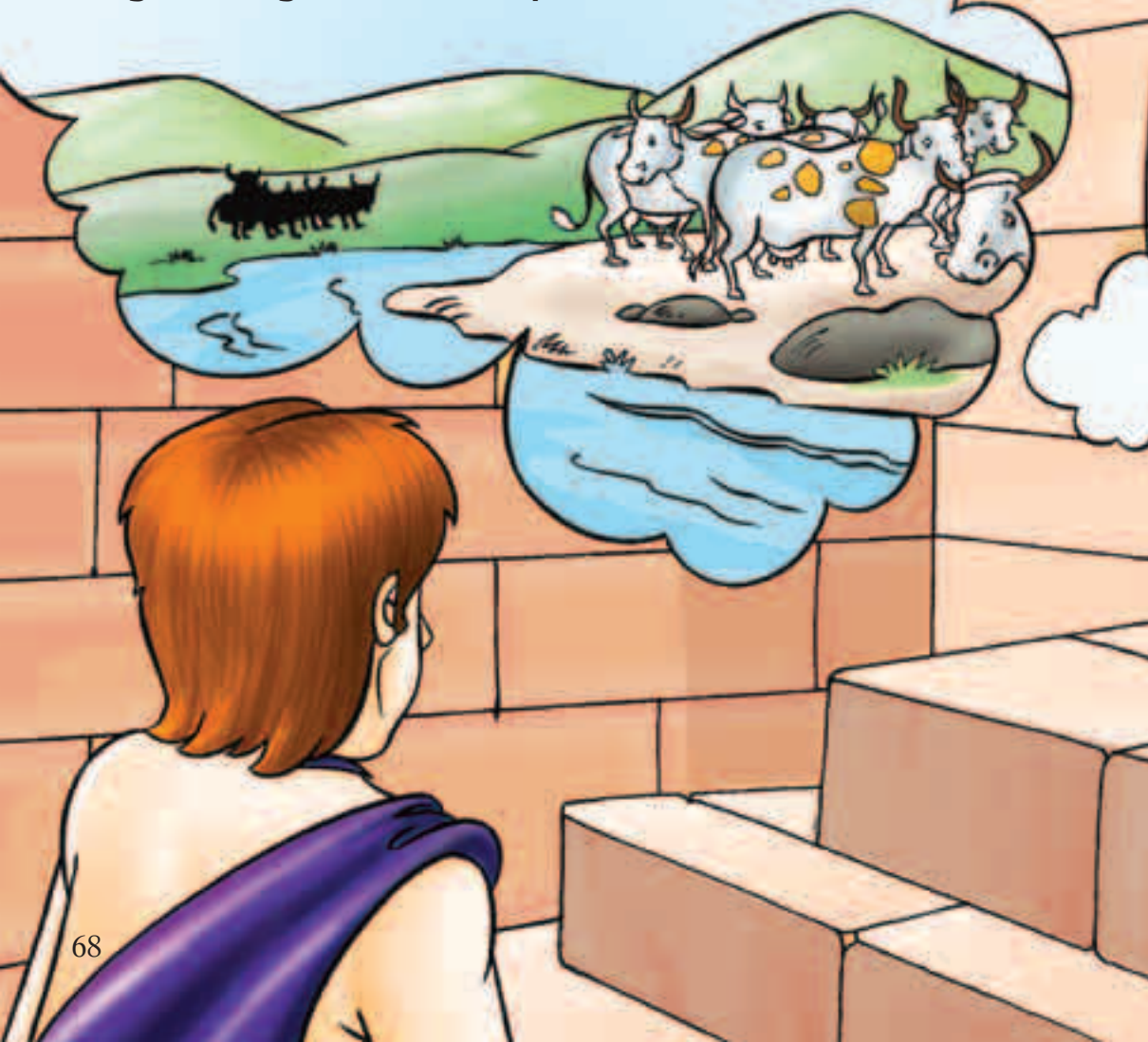
Pharaoh's Dream

Genesis 41

Two years later, God sent dreams to Pharaoh, and nobody could explain their meaning. Then the cupbearer remembered the prisoner who explained his dream. Pharaoh called for Joseph, and told him about his dreams. He saw seven well-fed cows coming out of the Nile River. Behind them came seven starving cows, and they ate all the fat cows.



In a second dream, Pharaoh saw seven good heads of grain, but they withered. In their place, another seven heads of grain grew, but they were empty and dry. God again was gracious to Joseph, and he ex-





plained Pharaoh's dreams. They were a prediction of what the Lord intended to do. First, there would be in Egypt seven years of wealth and prosperity. All the Egyptians would have enough food. But then there would be seven years of famine that would destroy the land. The people would be hungry.

Joseph Rules in Egypt

Genesis 41

Joseph advised Pharaoh to begin gathering food for the years of famine. Pharaoh saw that God blessed and helped Joseph. He turned this slave into a governor over Egypt to save the country from the coming famine. During the seven years of prosperity, the Egyptians stored food to prepare for the difficult times.





Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt

Genesis 42

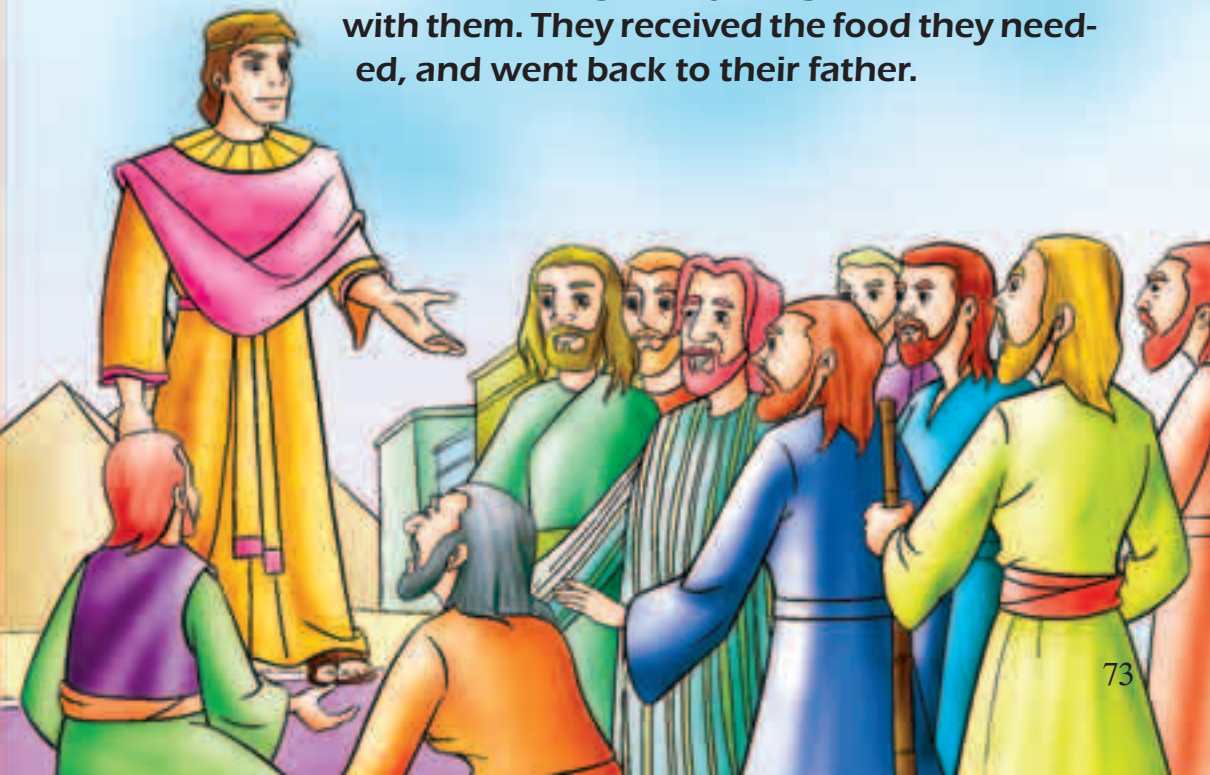
The famine began as Joseph predicted. Joseph ordered the storehouses to be opened. There was no food in the entire region. The Egyptians were the only ones who were not hungry. The famine also affected Jacob, and his family in Canaan, but God did not leave them alone. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy food. Only the youngest – Benjamin – stayed with him. He had become Jacob's favorite son after Joseph had been lost.



Joseph's Brothers Don't Recognize Him

Genesis 42

When his brothers came to Egypt, servants brought them to Joseph. They bowed down before Joseph, just like in his dream, but did not recognize him. Joseph knew who they were, but he did not show it. He decided to put his brothers to a test. He accused them of being spies. The more they denied it, the more he accused them. Finally, he demanded that one of them stay in Egypt until the others could bring their youngest brother back with them. They received the food they needed, and went back to their father.



The Brothers' Meeting

Genesis 42, 43

Jacob's sons told him everything that the governor of Egypt had said to them. Jacob was sad, and afraid to lose another son. He decided not to send Benjamin to Egypt, but, when the food ran out, the hunger forced him to change his mind. Jacob's sons promised to take care of their brother. They went back to Egypt to buy more food, and Joseph welcomed them in his house. He still did not reveal himself to his brothers, but thanked God that they had come.



The Stolen Cup

Genesis 44

When they wanted to go home, Joseph set a trap. He told his servants to put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack when the food was being packed. When the brothers left the city, Joseph sent guards after them. His brothers swore they would become slaves if Joseph's cup was found among their things. When the silver cup was discovered, Joseph demanded that Benjamin stay in Egypt.

In desperation, Judah offered to take his place. "Our father cannot lose another son he loves," they pleaded.



Reconciliation of the Brothers

Genesis 45



Joseph was deeply moved – his brothers had changed so much! They had turned back to God. They were sincerely sorry for the wrong they had done to Joseph and Jacob. When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, they were

terrified. They were afraid that the brother, whom they had mistreated so badly, would want revenge, but, Joseph had a good heart. He forgave them all. He saw God’s plan for his life. “It is not you who sent me here, but God Himself,” he said. “This is the Almighty Who, through all these events, brought me to the position of the second man in this nation, right after Pharaoh, so I could save my family from starvation!” Joseph was very happy, and he thanked God for everything. He gave his brothers many gifts, and sent them to their father to take the good news to him. When Jacob heard that his son, whom he loved so much, was alive, he packed all his possessions, and quickly went to Egypt.



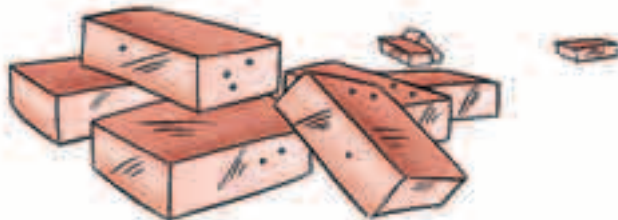


The Persecution of Israelites

Exodus 1

Joseph gave his family a land to settle in. His sons and grandsons lived well there for many years. During that time, just like God promised Abraham, the family grew into a large nation. Since they were descendants of Jacob, also called Israel, they were called Israelites.

Many years later, a new Pharaoh began to rule in Egypt, and he did not remember Joseph's accomplishments. He noticed, however, that the Israelites were growing numerous and powerful. Pharaoh was afraid that the Israelites might rebel against him, so, he ordered that the Israelites be put to the hardest work there was. Pharaoh hoped they would have no strength left to think about rebellion. Finally, he turned the Israelites into slaves. He disliked the Israelites so much, that he decided to destroy them. He ordered the midwives to throw, into a river all the baby boys born to Israelite women.



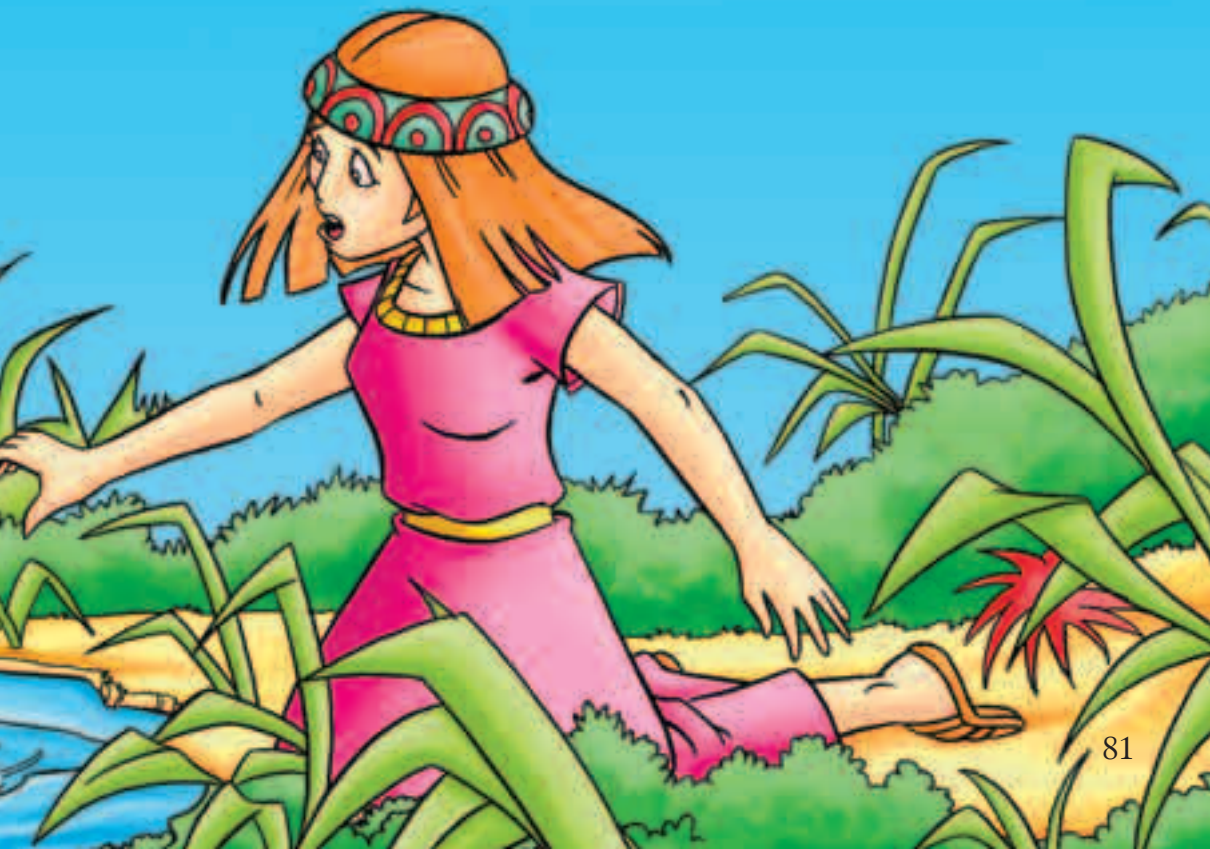
The Salvation of Moses

Exodus 2

There was an Israelite woman who decided to save her newborn son. She hid him for three months, and then she made a basket, put the baby in it, and left it among the reeds at the riverside. She prayed God would save her baby.



The boy's sister was watching to see what would happen. God wanted to save the baby, because he had a special place in His plans. Pharaoh's daughter found the baby, and decided to raise the little boy. Then the boy's sister brought their mother to her. Pharaoh's daughter told her to take care of the boy until he grew older. She also gave him a name – Moses – and treated him as her own son. When he grew up, he moved to Pharaoh's palace. Moses learned that he was not an Egyptian, but an Israelite. Traveling around the country, he saw the difficult



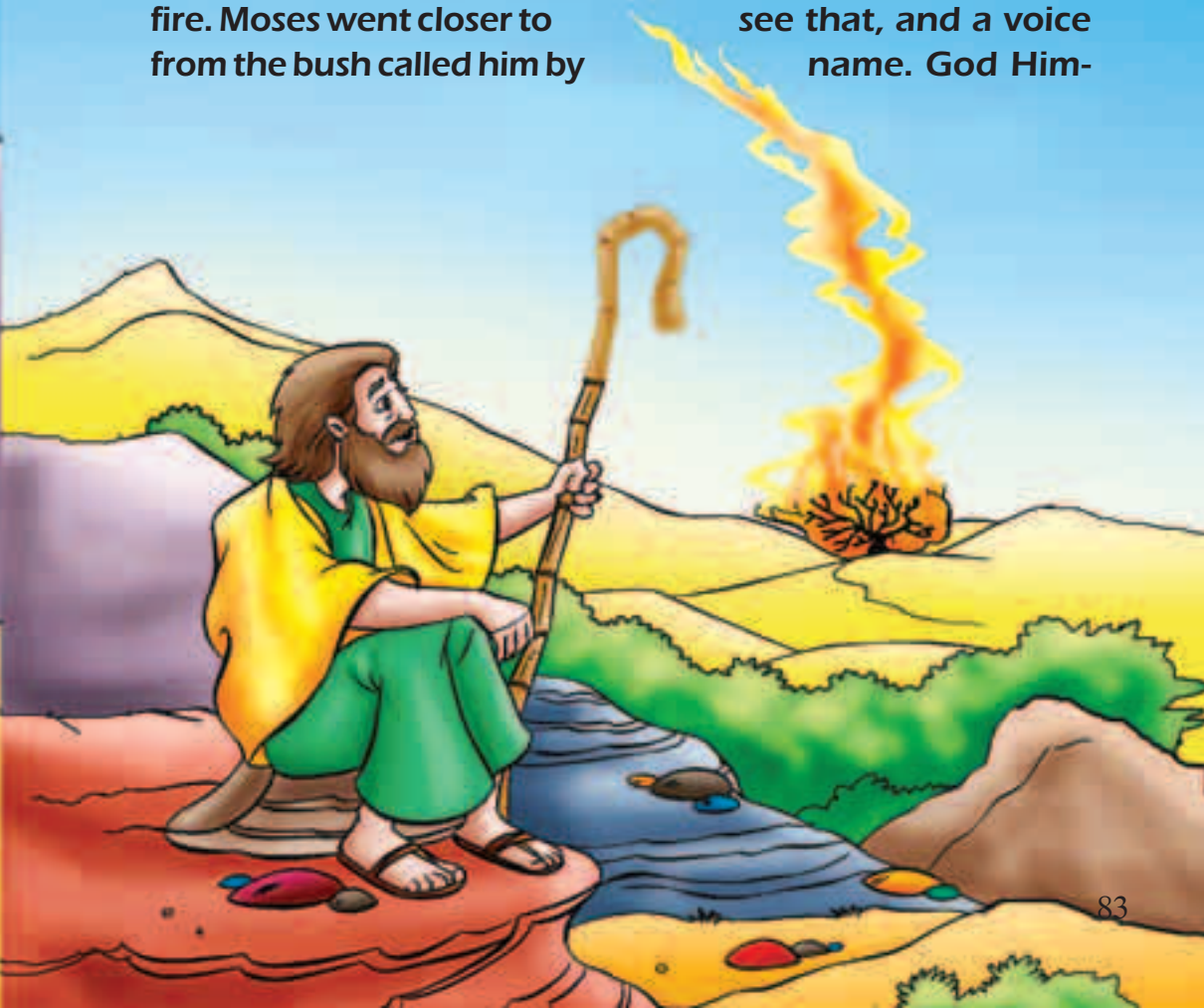
life his people lived. This injustice troubled Moses greatly. One day, he saw an Egyptian hitting an Israelite. Moses got angry, and hit the Egyptian so hard that he killed him. He hid his body, but others discovered what Moses had done, and he had to flee from Egypt. He lived in the Sinai desert. The foster child of Pharaoh's daughter became a simple shepherd. Moses was sure he failed in his life, but he did not know that the Lord had great plans for him!



The Call of Moses

Exodus 2

God did not forget His people – Israel. He decided to save them from persecution. God chose Moses to do it. One day, when Moses was grazing his sheep, he saw an amazing bush. It burned, but was not consumed by fire. Moses went closer to see that, and a voice from the bush called him by name. God Him-



self spoke to Moses to tell him about His love for Moses, and his people. He told Moses to go back to Egypt, and bring the Israelites out. God said He would lead them to the land He promised to Abraham and Isaac. It was a beautiful land, filled with milk and honey, but, Moses would have to stand before Pharaoh, and convince him to let the Israelites go. When Moses hesitated, God promised He would never leave him.

Moses' Fears

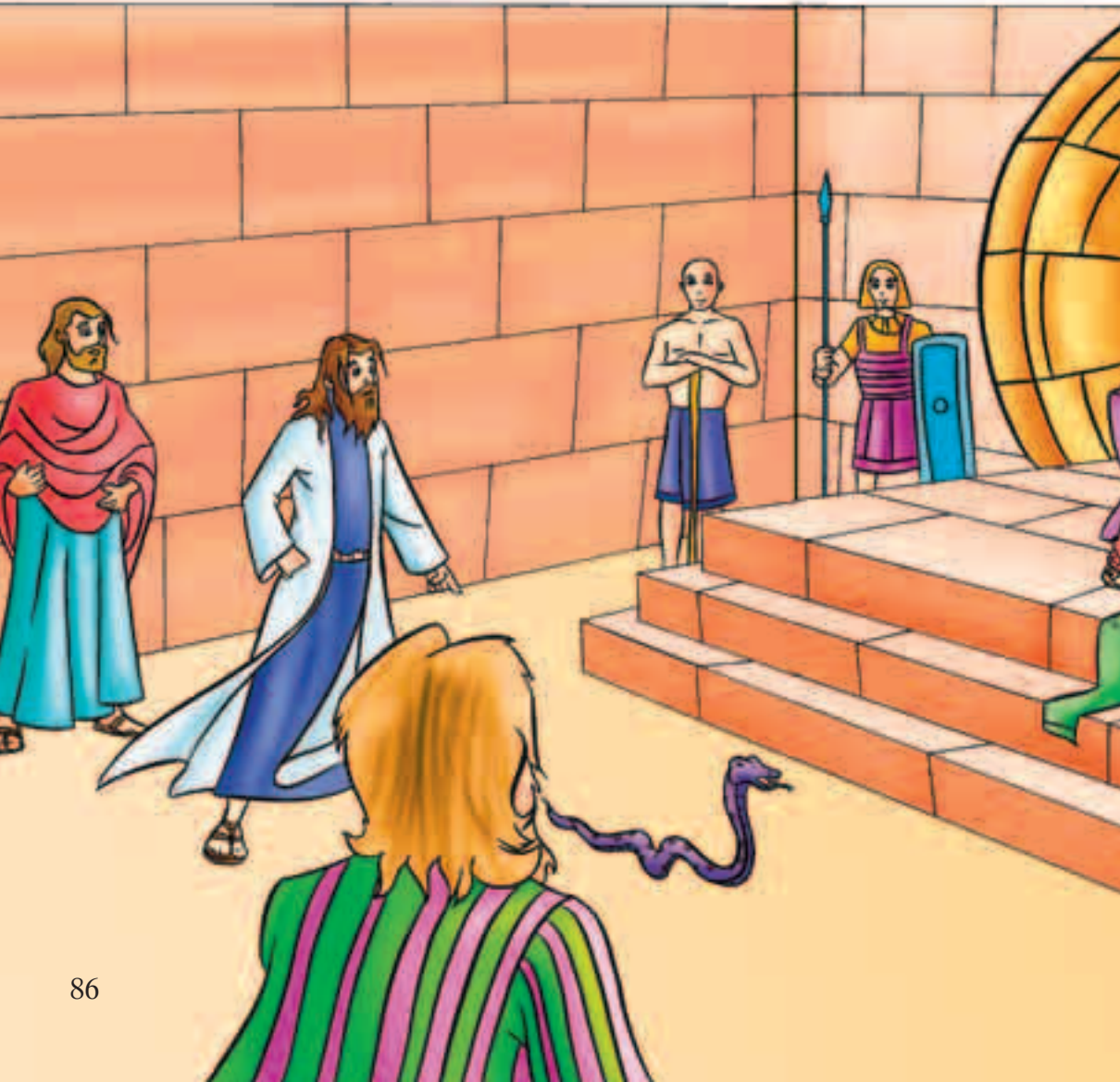
Exodus 3

Moses still had some doubts. Fear came into his heart. He did not know how his people would receive him. Moses was afraid he would not be able to convince the ruler of Egypt. He thought he could not talk well. In other words, he wanted to get out of God's call, so, the Most High revealed to Moses His Name to give to the Israelites if they asked who sent him. God also gave him power to do miracles, and a brother, Aaron, to help him. Then, Moses submitted to God. Finally, he went to Egypt to fulfill God's plans.



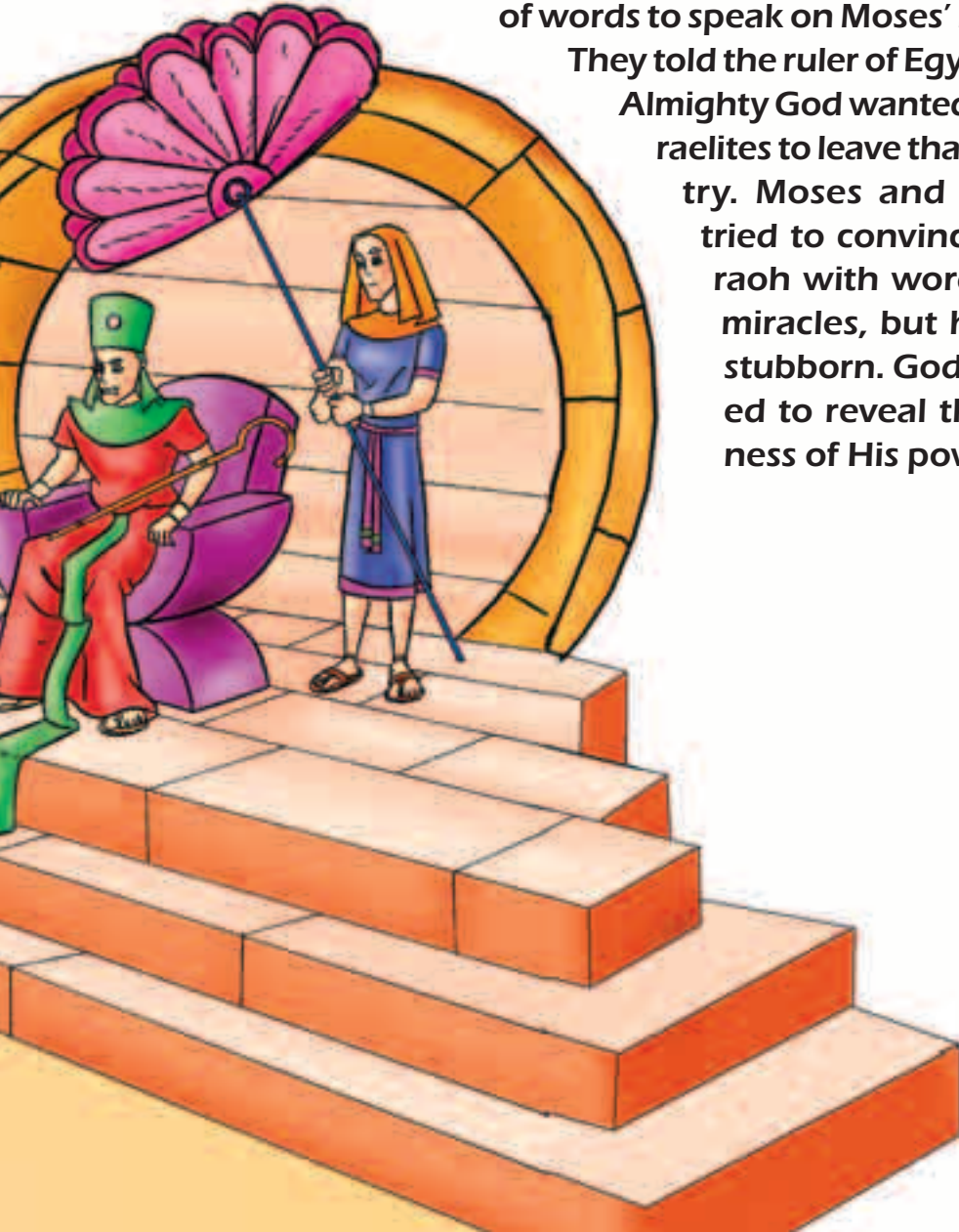
Pharaoh's Stubbornness

Exodus 5



Moses and his brother, Aaron, went to Pharaoh. God gave Aaron a gift of words to speak on Moses' behalf.

They told the ruler of Egypt that Almighty God wanted the Israelites to leave that country. Moses and Aaron tried to convince Pharaoh with words and miracles, but he was stubborn. God decided to reveal the fullness of His power.





The Plagues in Egypt

Exodus 7 – 10

Because Pharaoh did not obey Moses, Egypt was ruined. God, Who has power over whole world and all people, allowed the harvest to be destroyed, and all the cattle in Egypt to die. Only the fields and animals of the Israelites were spared. God showed them His love and grace, but Pharaoh remained stubborn. He still did not allow the Israelites to leave his kingdom. He wanted them to be slaves.