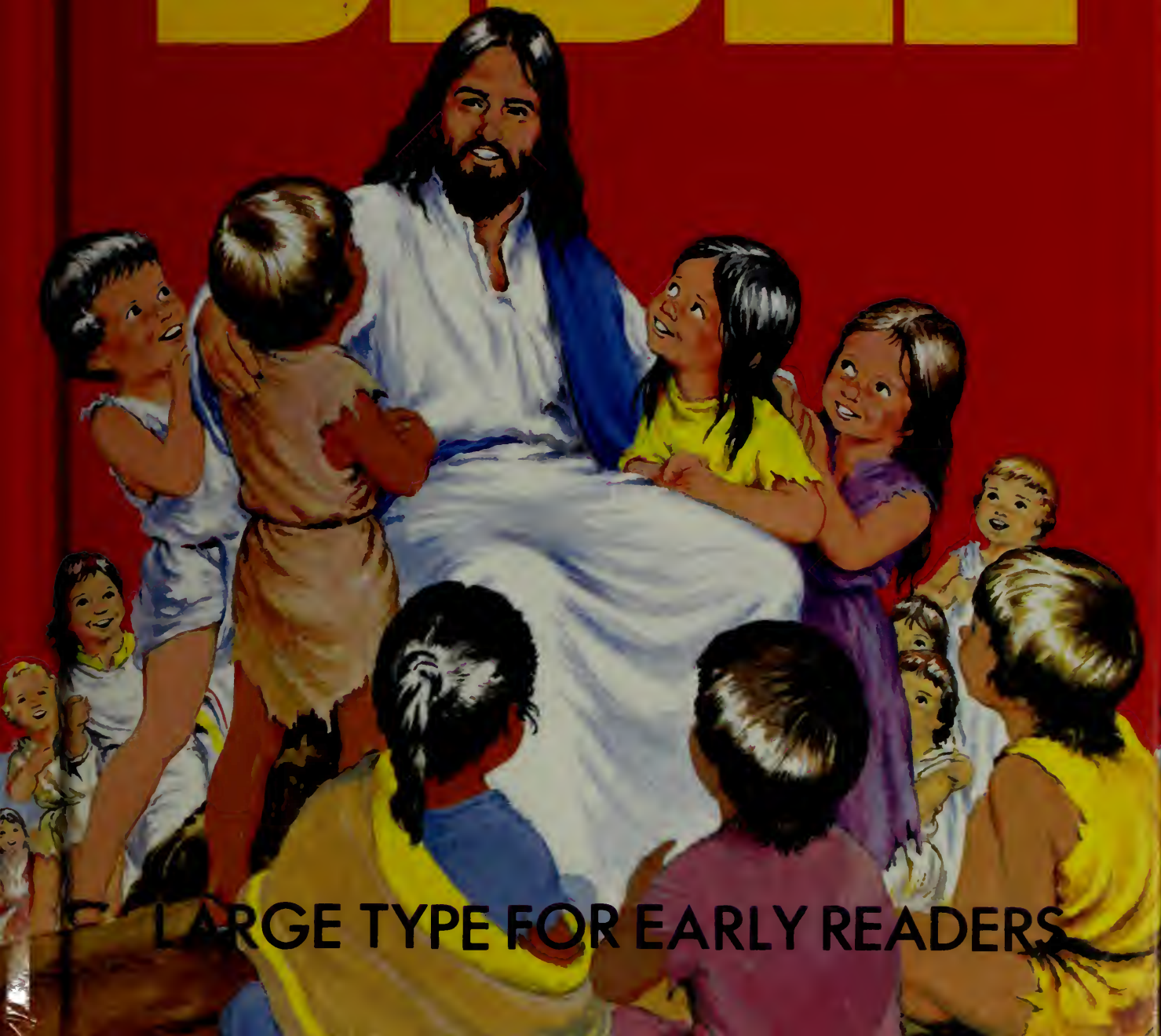


NOW YOU CAN READ

# STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

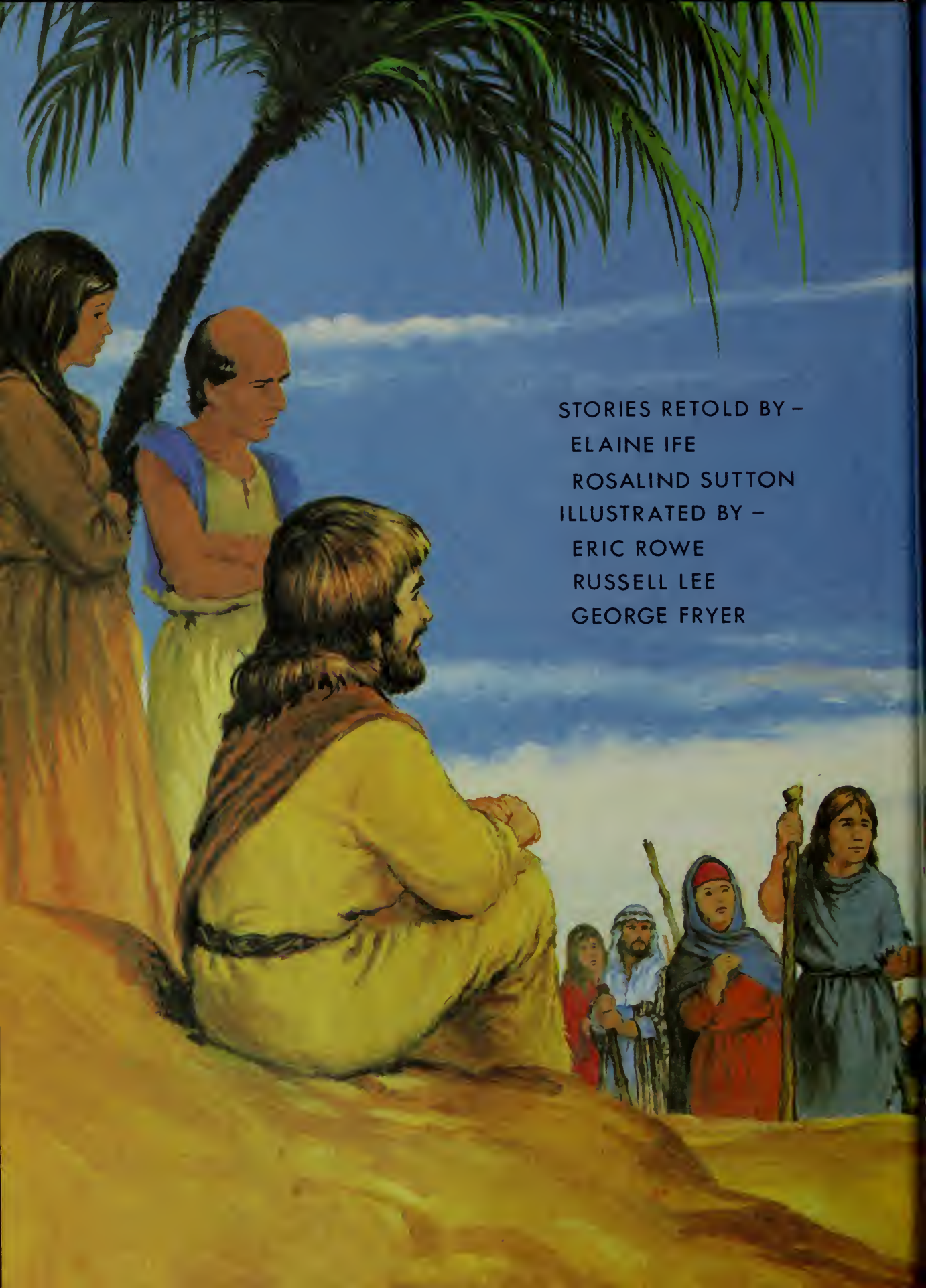


LARGE TYPE FOR EARLY READERS









STORIES RETOLD BY -  
ELAINE IFE  
ROSALIND SUTTON  
ILLUSTRATED BY -  
ERIC ROWE  
RUSSELL LEE  
GEORGE FRYER

NOW YOU CAN READ...

# STORIES FROM THE BIBLE



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# Noah and the Ark





Once, long long ago, an old man, with a long beard and snowy-white hair, was cutting tree trunks into planks. Many people stood round him watching to see what he was making. The man's name was Noah. Noah was a good man who loved God.



Noah's wife and his three sons watched him work. At last, they saw what he was making. It was a very large, strong ship.



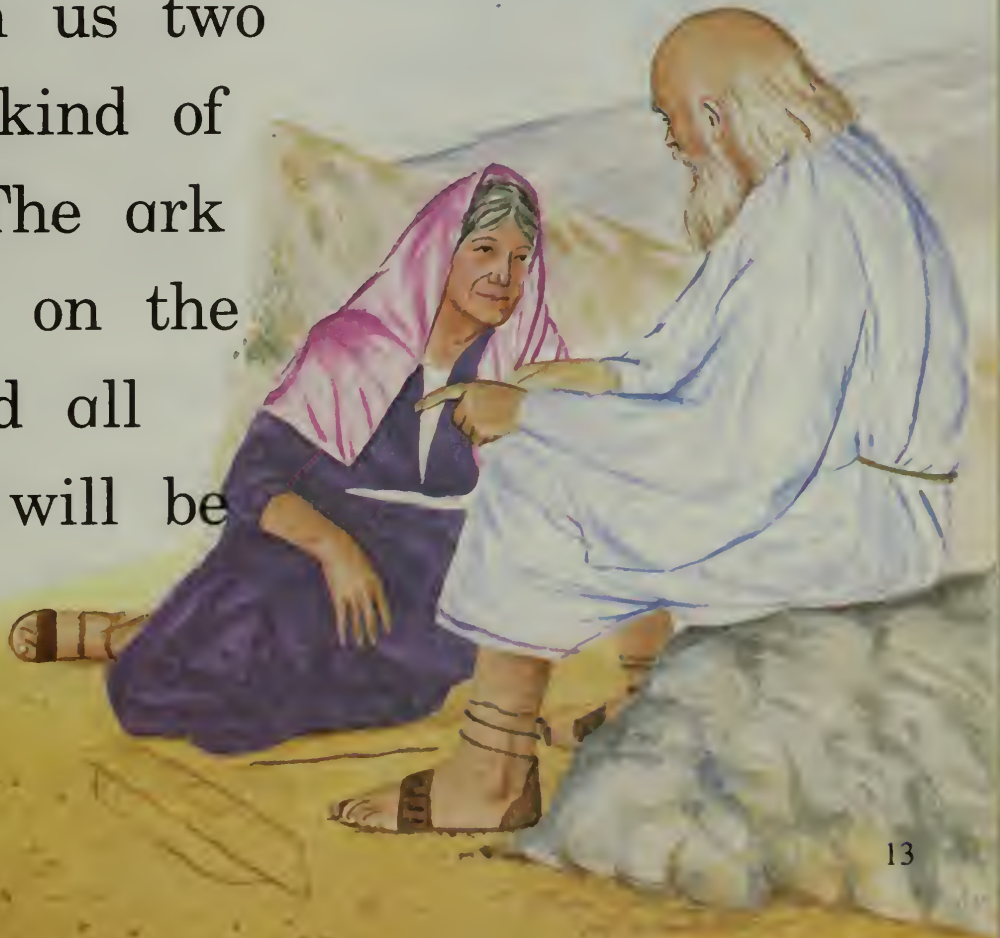


"How can it float?" said Noah's wife. "There is no water nearby." Noah said, "This is a new kind of ship called an ark. It will have a door in the side and a roof. It will have a window and three decks."

"What is it for, husband? Why are you making the ark?" said Noah's wife.



"God has told me to make the ark," said Noah. "He will send rain which will cover the land. Every living thing will die because His people have been wicked. We must go inside the ark with our sons and their wives. We must take with us two of every kind of animal. The ark will float on the water and all inside it will be safe."







“We will need food for everyone and food for the animals,” said Noah’s wife. So, Noah and his wife and three sons began to make plans for their stay in the ark.





Sacks of grain and bags of salt were put on the deck of the ark. Barrels of fresh water for drinking were filled. Hay and straw for the animals were laid inside the ark.



They found the animals and took them onto the ark. There was every kind of animal there, elephants, lions and camels.





There were dogs, cats, birds,  
snakes and even mice and worms.





Noah told everyone to hurry, for he sensed that the rain was coming soon. He pushed two donkeys from behind. "Come along, you slow donkeys, get on board if you do not want to get your feet wet!"

When everyone and everything was inside, the Lord closed the door. Soon, great black clouds filled the sky and rain began to fall.



Day after day it rained, until all the land was covered with water. The rain fell for forty days and forty nights. The ark was lifted. It floated high in the water.



The water covered the land for many, many days. Inside the ark, everyone was becoming tired, for it was noisy and there was little food left.

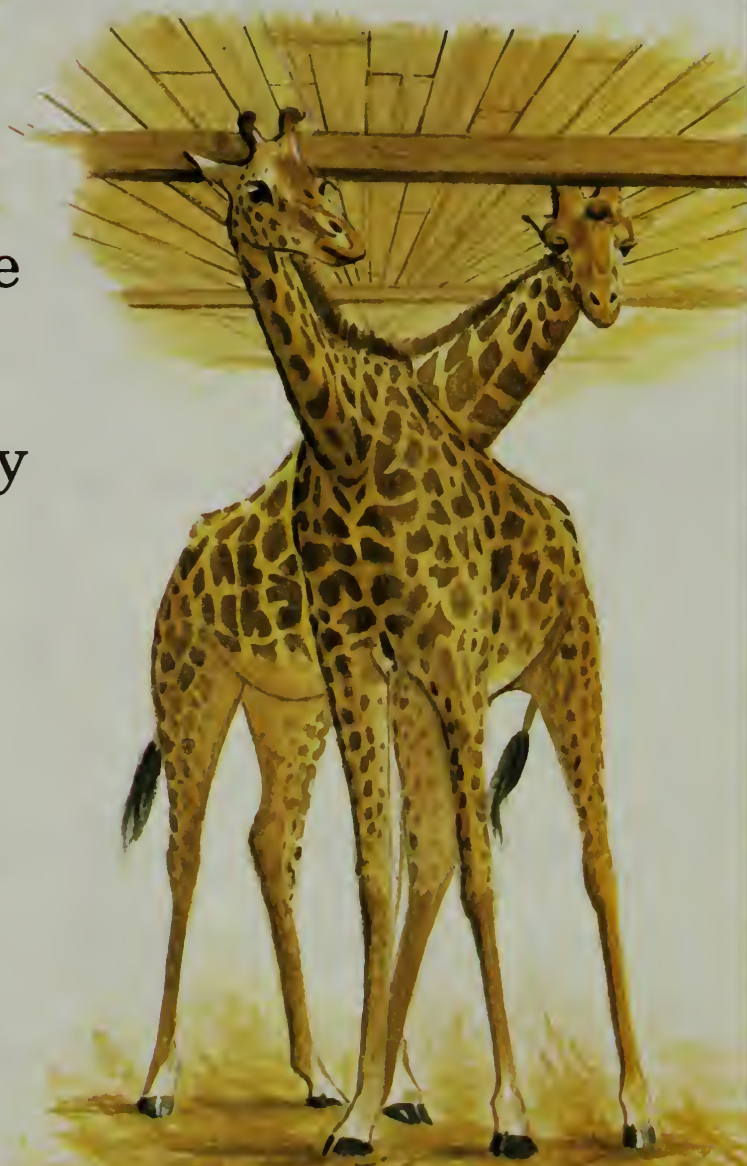






A dog growled,  
as if to say, "My  
straw is not soft.  
I cannot sleep."

On the other side  
of the ark, the  
giraffes were very  
unhappy. The  
roof was so low  
that they had to  
bend their heads.  
They had very  
stiff necks.





At last, the rain stopped, and the waters went down. The ark came to rest upon a mountain. Noah looked out to see how he could tell when it would be safe to leave the ark.



He went to where the birds rested  
and spoke to the big, black raven.


“Go out, raven  
and fly over the  
land. If you can  
find a tree in  
which to rest,  
then stay there.  
If you cannot find  
a tree, then fly  
back to the ark.”

The raven was away  
all day. It did  
not come back.


“I will wait a  
little longer,”  
said Noah.








A week later, Noah  
sent out a dove.



The little dove  
came back to the  
ark, for she knew  
there was food  
there.



"I will wait a  
little longer,"  
said Noah. "I  
think things will  
be better soon."

He waited seven days and let the dove out again.

When night came, Noah saw the dove coming back. It held in its beak a green olive leaf.



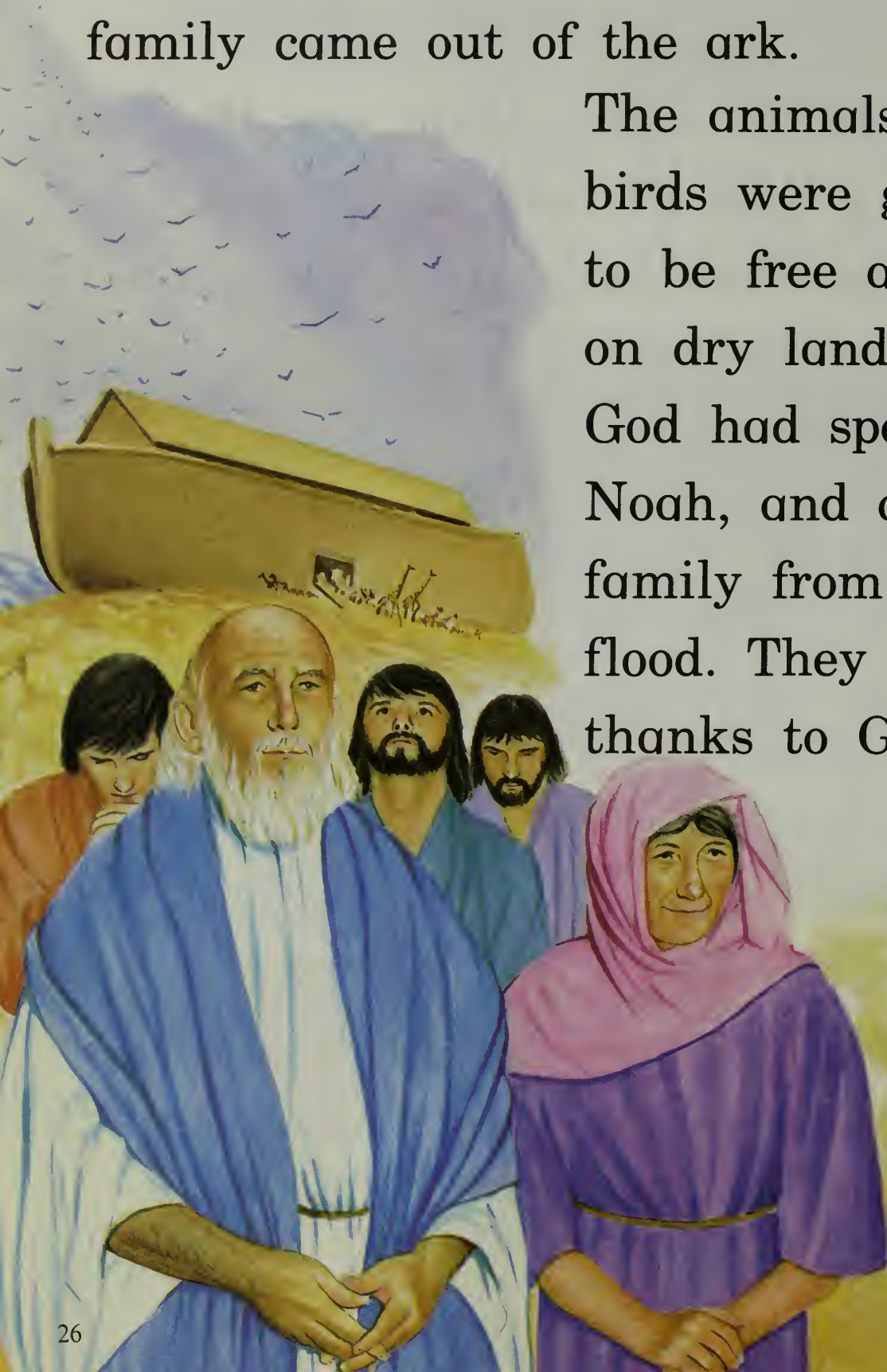
"The leaves have grown again on the trees," cried Noah. "Now we can leave the ark."



The door was opened. Noah and his family came out of the ark.

The animals and birds were glad to be free again on dry land.

God had spared Noah, and all his family from the flood. They gave thanks to God.







“Look! Look up there in the sky,” cried Noah’s wife. Right across the sky was a lovely rainbow. This was God’s promise that He would never again flood the world.

Sometimes, when it has been raining, if you look up into the sky, you too, can see a rainbow.

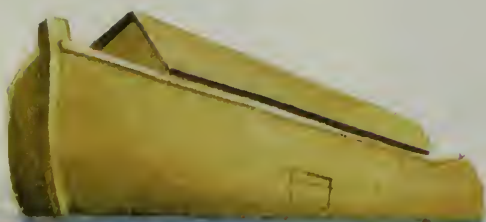
All these appear in the pages of the story. Can you find them?

Noah



Noah's wife

ark



two donkeys

rainbow



dove



mountain



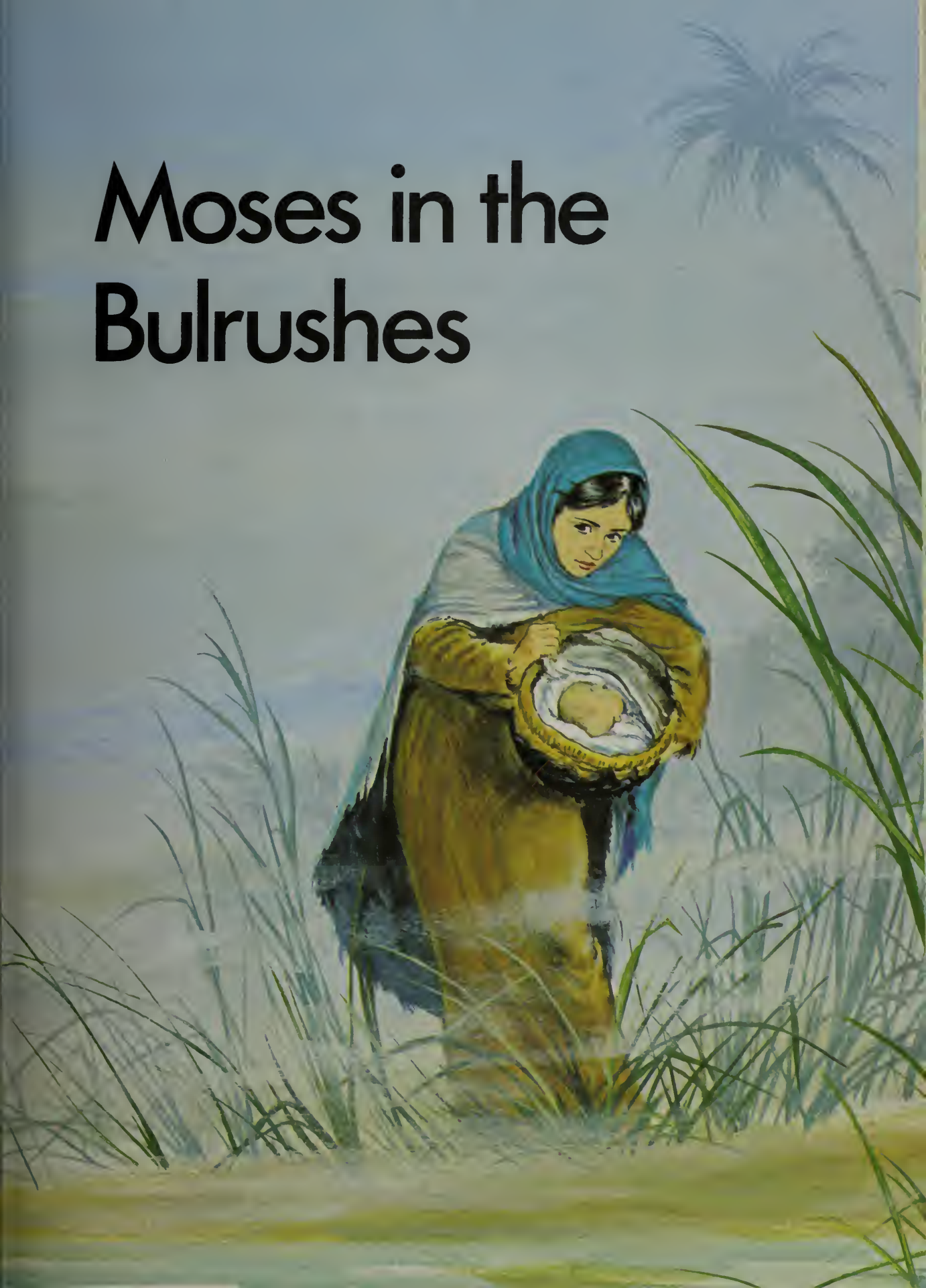
rain

Now tell the story in your own words.





# Moses in the Bulrushes





Long ago, in a country called Egypt, there lived a girl named Miriam. She was twelve years old. Her hair was long and dark, and her face was gentle. She had a brother called Aaron. He was a good boy and helped his father with the work. Their mother had another child, a little boy. He was a happy baby. He laughed and smiled at them from his cradle.





They all lived in a small, dark house, near a great river called the Nile. It was warm during the day but cold at night, in that little house.





Not far away stood a great white palace. It was where the king lived. He was the ruler of Egypt and he was a proud and cruel man. He wanted to be king of Egypt for as long as he lived. He did not want anyone else to take his place.

Miriam's people had come from a land called Israel, and they were God's chosen people, but the king did not like them. He made them work very hard, and he said that all their baby boys had to be killed.





Outside the big white palace marched the soldiers who guarded the king. They were hard and cruel like the king.



When they heard what the king wanted, they said they would help him. They would go to the houses and take away every baby boy. They would throw them into the river.

Miriam said, "What shall we do, mother? I do not want the soldiers to find my little brother and take him away."

"Do not be afraid, Miriam," said her mother. "I have a plan, wait and see."





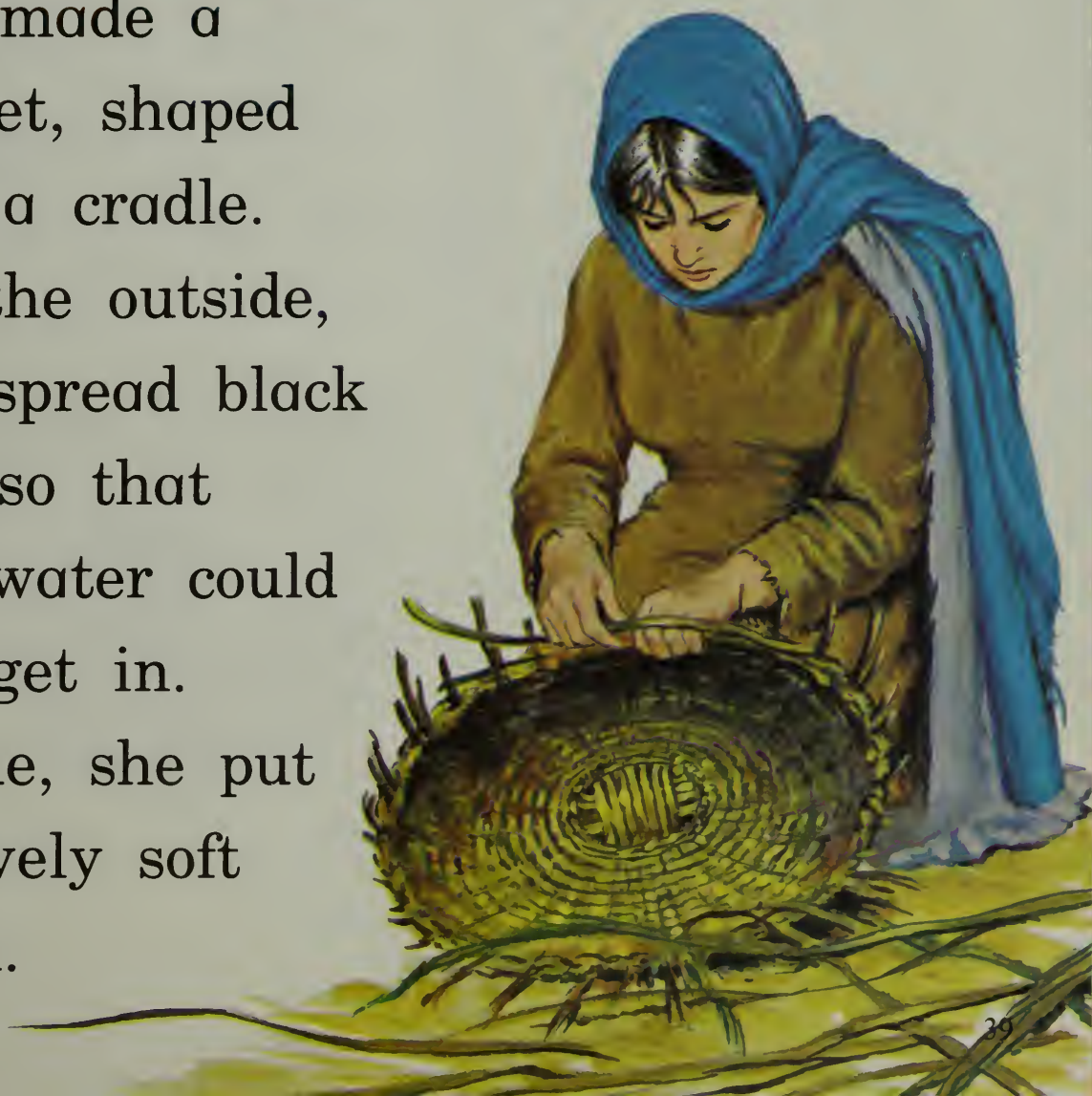
When the baby was three months old, he was a strong child and his crying was very loud. His mother was worried that one of the king's cruel soldiers would hear him.





She picked some  
bulrushes from  
behind the  
house.

She made a  
basket, shaped  
like a cradle.  
On the outside,  
she spread black  
tar, so that  
the water could  
not get in.  
Inside, she put  
a lovely soft  
cloth.







Then, very gently,  
she put the baby  
into the basket  
and called to  
Miriam.

“Come with me  
and be very  
quiet. I want  
you to help me  
and do what I  
say.”



They crept down to the side of the river and looked for a good place to put the basket. It could not go where the water ran or it would float away.



They hid the basket in a clump of bulrushes and Miriam sat down behind it.





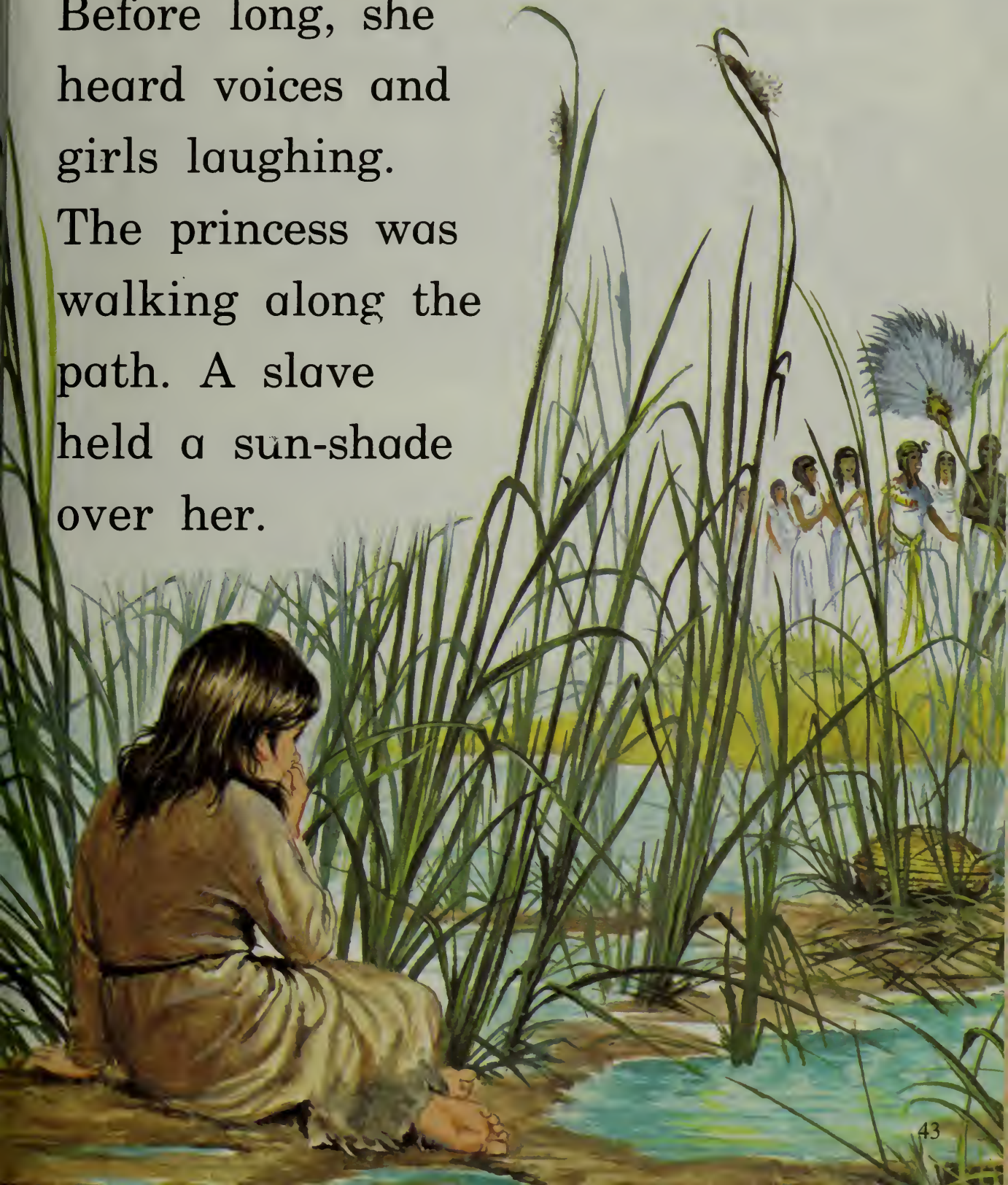
"You must stay here, Miriam," said her mother. "Watch the basket. This is just the place where the king's daughter comes to swim. She will find your little brother here. She will take him to the palace. If she does, then he will be safe."



Miriam sat very still behind the bulrushes. She was afraid.

Before long, she heard voices and girls laughing.

The princess was walking along the path. A slave held a sun-shade over her.





Miriam held her breath. Her little brother had begun to cry, for he was hungry by that time.



“What’s that?” called the princess.  
“A basket is hidden there. Go and bring it to me.”



One of the  
servant girls  
paddled out  
into the  
water.

She lifted up  
the basket and  
took it back to  
the princess.  
She lifted the  
lid. There was  
the poor baby,  
crying and  
kicking his  
legs.





The princess didn't know much about babies, but she picked him up and cuddled him. Soon he was quiet.



"What a lovely child!" she cried.  
"I would like to keep him."

Miriam stood up  
and walked  
forward.

“Do you need a  
nurse for your  
baby? I know  
someone who  
would be pleased  
to help you,” she  
said.

“Yes,” said the  
princess. “I do  
need a nurse.  
Will you bring  
her to me?”





Miriam ran home and told her mother what had happened. They hurried back to where the princess was waiting.



"You may take him away and look after him," said the princess to Miriam's mother. "I shall see that you are paid. When he is older you must bring him back to me."

So Miriam, the  
baby and their  
mother went back  
to the dark,  
little house.  
They lived  
there safely.  
When the baby  
was older, his  
mother took  
him to the  
palace. The  
princess loved  
the little boy  
and she called  
him Moses.





All these appear in the pages of the story. Can you find them?



Miriam



mother



baby

king





soldiers



basket



bulrushes



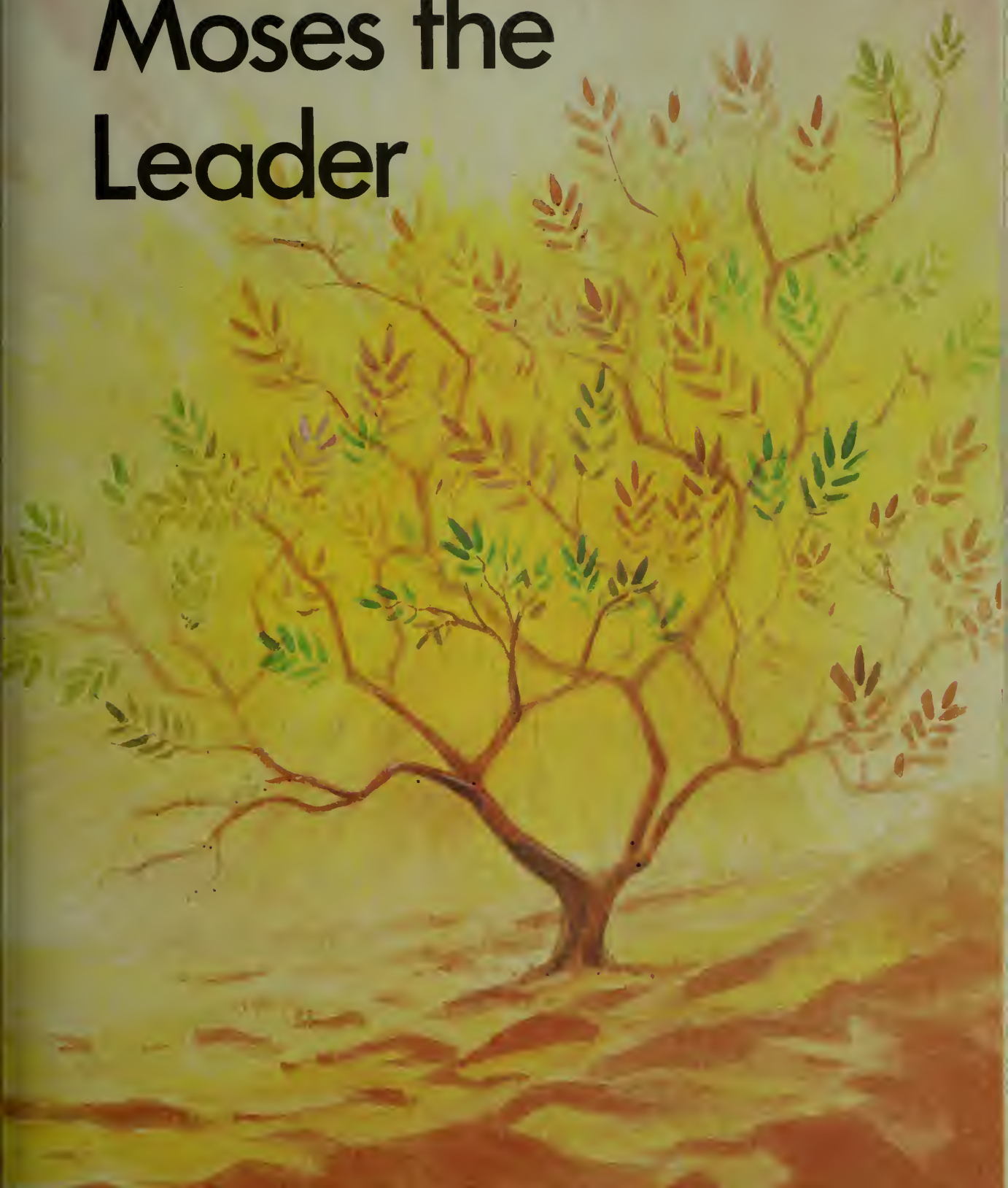
princess

Now tell the story in your own words.





# Moses the Leader

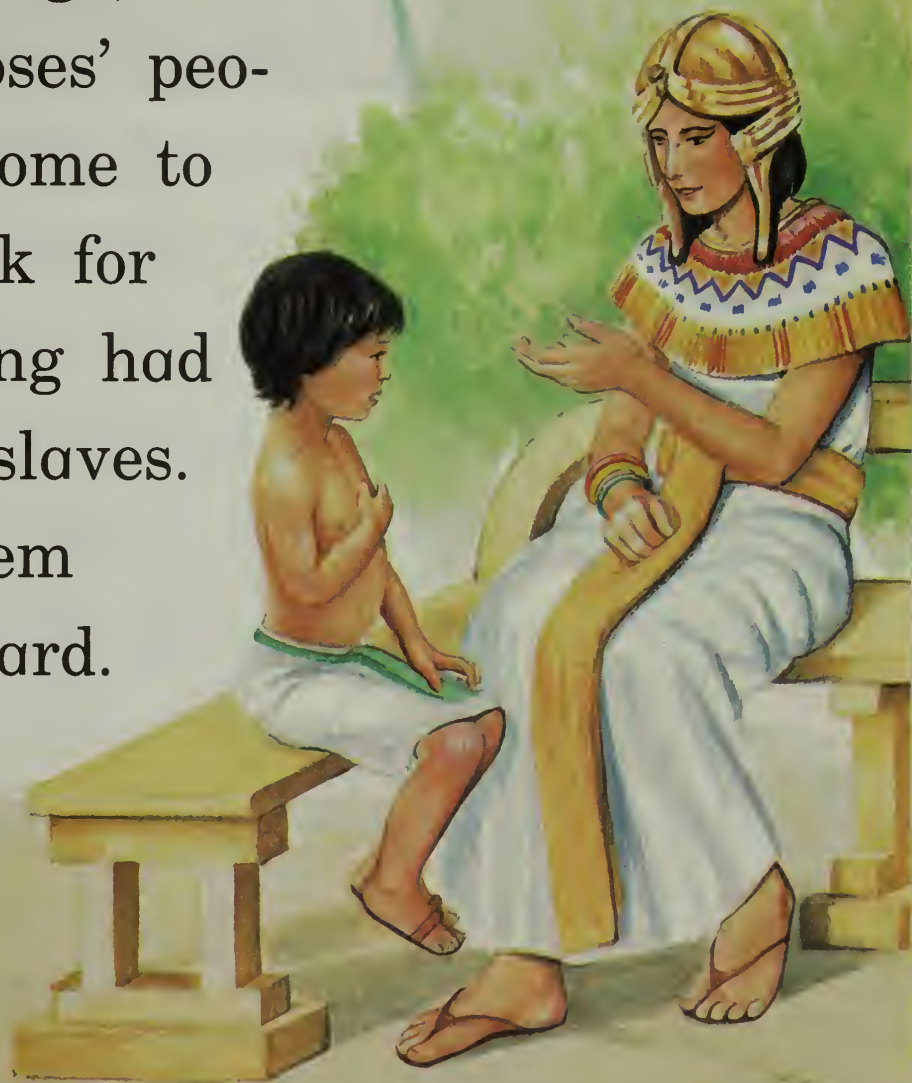






A boy called Moses lived in a great palace. It was the home of the king of Egypt. The king's daughter had looked after Moses since he was a baby. She had found Moses lying in a cradle. It was hidden in the bulrushes near the river. His mother had hidden him there. She was afraid of the cruel king. The king's name was Pharaoh.

As she sat by a pool, the princess talked to Moses about his people. Many years ago, she said, Moses' people had to come to Egypt to look for food. The king had made them slaves. He made them work very hard.







When Moses became older, he went out to watch the slaves. They made bricks with clay and straw and water. The wet bricks dried in the hot sun. Pharaoh made the slaves build great cities. If they stopped to rest, his cruel soldiers hit them with whips. Moses was sad because his people were not free. One day he killed a soldier who was hitting one of his people. Pharaoh was very angry.

Moses left the palace. He went across the desert into another land. Many years passed. Moses became a shepherd. One day, as he was looking after his sheep on the hillside, God sent him a sign. Moses saw a bush in front of him. It burst into flames but the flames did not burn the bush.





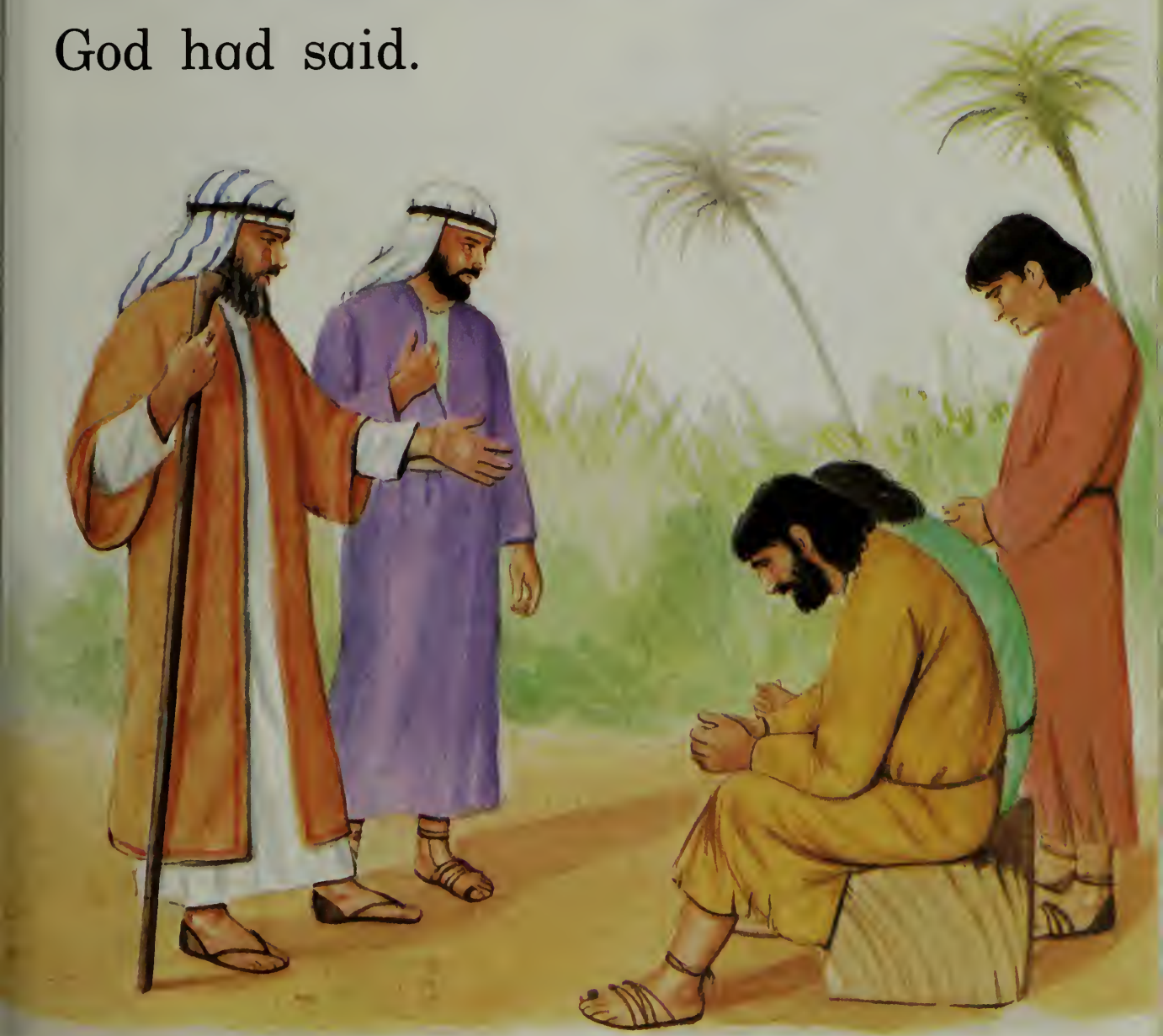
A voice called to Moses. It came from the middle of the bush.

“Moses, take off your shoes and come near. This is holy ground.” It was the voice of God.

Moses knelt before the burning bush. God told him to lead his people out of Egypt to a new land. They would be free. He told Moses to go back to Egypt and ask Pharaoh to let the people go.



Moses went back to Egypt. He found his brother Aaron. They called the slaves together to tell them what God had said.



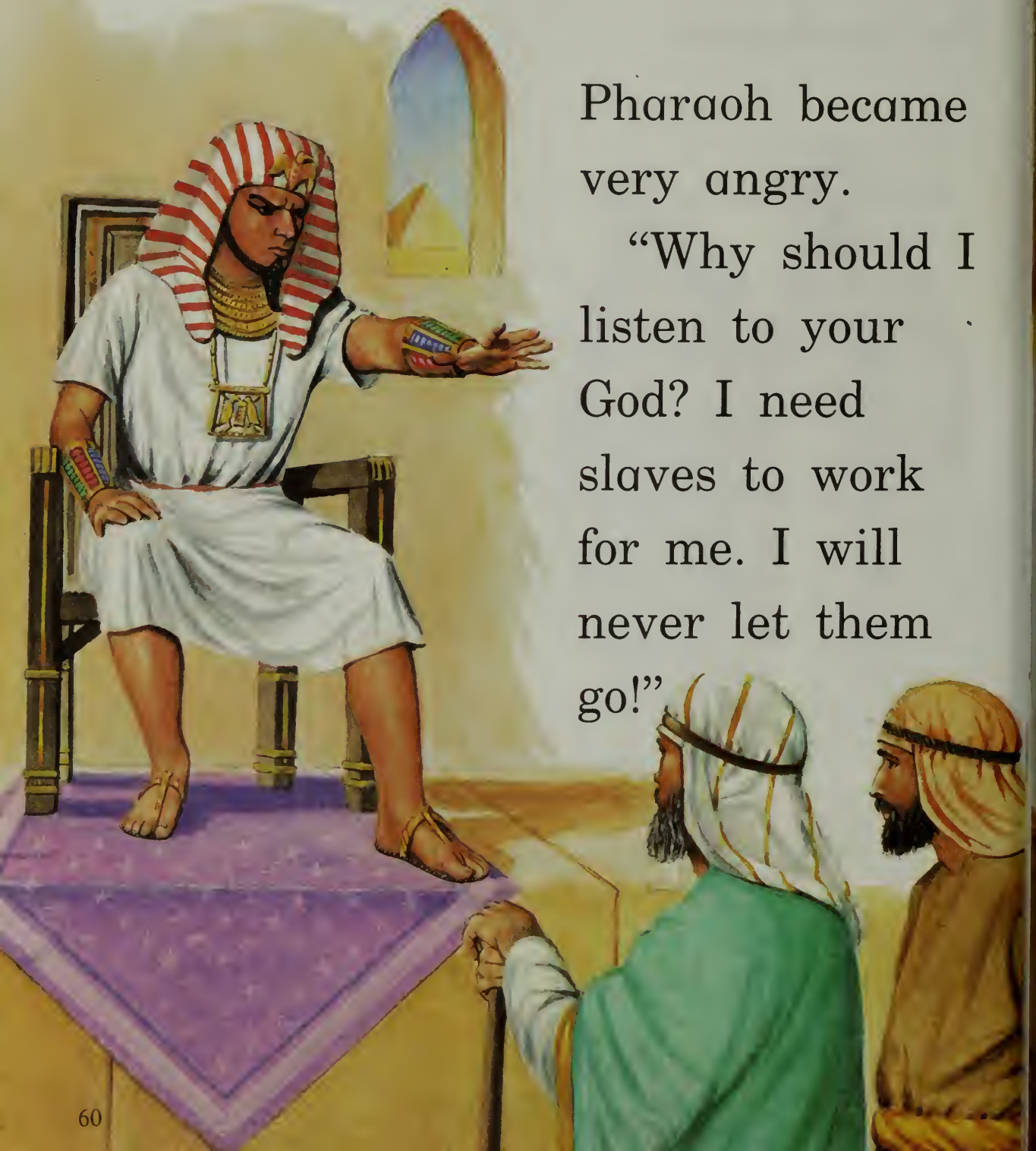
The people bowed their heads and gave thanks to God.



Moses and Aaron went to the palace.  
They came before the king to tell  
him of God's words.

Pharaoh became  
very angry.

“Why should I  
listen to your  
God? I need  
slaves to work  
for me. I will  
never let them  
go!”





Pharaoh had his soldiers beat the slaves so they would work harder. God punished Pharaoh. He made Pharaoh's people and their animals sick. The king's people became afraid. They begged Pharaoh to let the slaves go.

"Go," Pharaoh said to Moses. "Take your children and your animals. Go from this land."



Moses helped his people make ready to leave. They tied things in bundles. Cattle and sheep were herded together. Their cooking pots and water jars were slung across oxen. They then made their way on foot, out of the land of Egypt. They had been slaves for more than four hundred years.



Moses led his people across the desert. There was little water or food. The children cried. They were hot and tired. The people were afraid.

“Do not be afraid,” said Moses.  
“God will show us the way.”





God did not forget them. By day, He sent a pillar of cloud in front of them. It showed them the way to go.



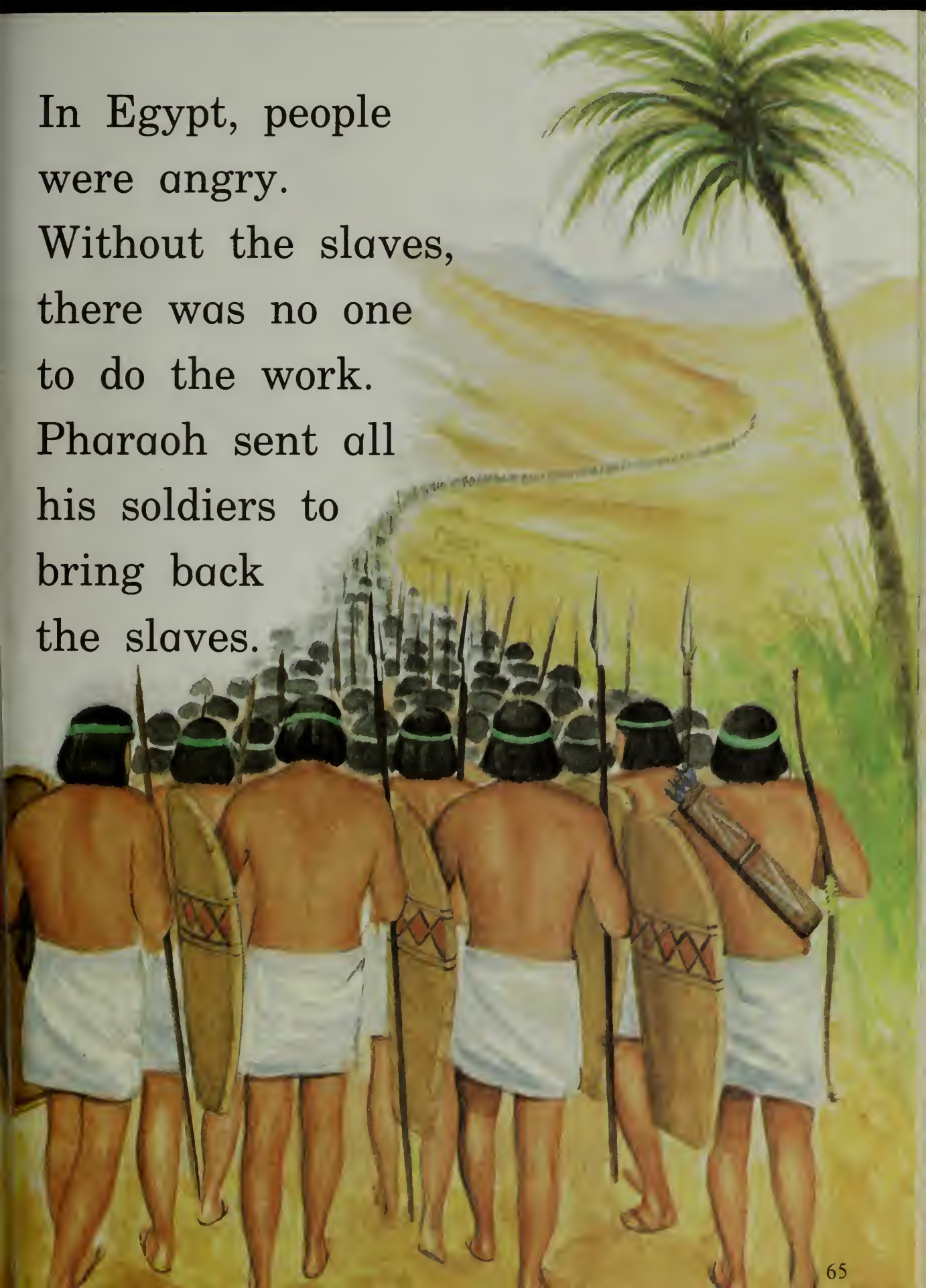
At night, a pillar of fire glowed in the dark, so that they could see.



In Egypt, people  
were angry.

Without the slaves,  
there was no one  
to do the work.

Pharaoh sent all  
his soldiers to  
bring back  
the slaves.







Moses and his people came to the Red Sea. They could not cross the sea. They said to Moses, “Why have you led us here to die?”



“God will help us,” said Moses.  
God put a pillar of cloud between  
them and Pharaoh’s army. The  
soldiers could not see them.



Then God said to Moses, "Lift your staff over the sea. The sea will part and leave a path in the middle. Your people can cross to the other side."

Moses did as he was told. There came a mighty wind. The sea rolled back.





Moses and his people crossed to the other side. They saw Pharaoh's men follow. What could they do? They were lost.



God told Moses to stretch his hand over the sea. When he did so, the waves crashed like thunder. The waters of the sea came together. The sea covered the wicked soldiers. Not one was left.





Moses and his people fell onto their knees to thank God. God had saved them. They were free. At last they were going to the land God had given them.



All these appear in the pages of the story. Can you find them?



Princess



Moses



Pharaoh



slaves



bush



soldiers



pillar of cloud



waves

Now tell the story in your own words.





# Samuel







One day, in a place called Shiloh,  
the people took their children to  
pray in God's house. It was called  
the Temple.

The Temple was a holy place. Inside was an altar of wood and a shining lamp. Behind the altar, a tent hid the Ark of God. Inside the Ark, lay the holy laws God had given to the people.



When the people came out of the Temple, they had a great feast.





The children sang and had a happy time.



One woman, whose name was Hannah, sat alone. She had no children. She wished that she could have just one child. Year after year she waited. No child was born. Hannah was very sad.

She left the feast and walked back to the Temple. At the door, sat the old priest Eli. Hannah walked past him and knelt down.



She prayed to God. She asked Him to send her a baby. "If I have a son," she said, "I will give him back to You. He will do Your work."







Eli went up to her and said,  
"What is the matter?"

She told him and he said,  
"Go in peace. May God give you  
what you want."

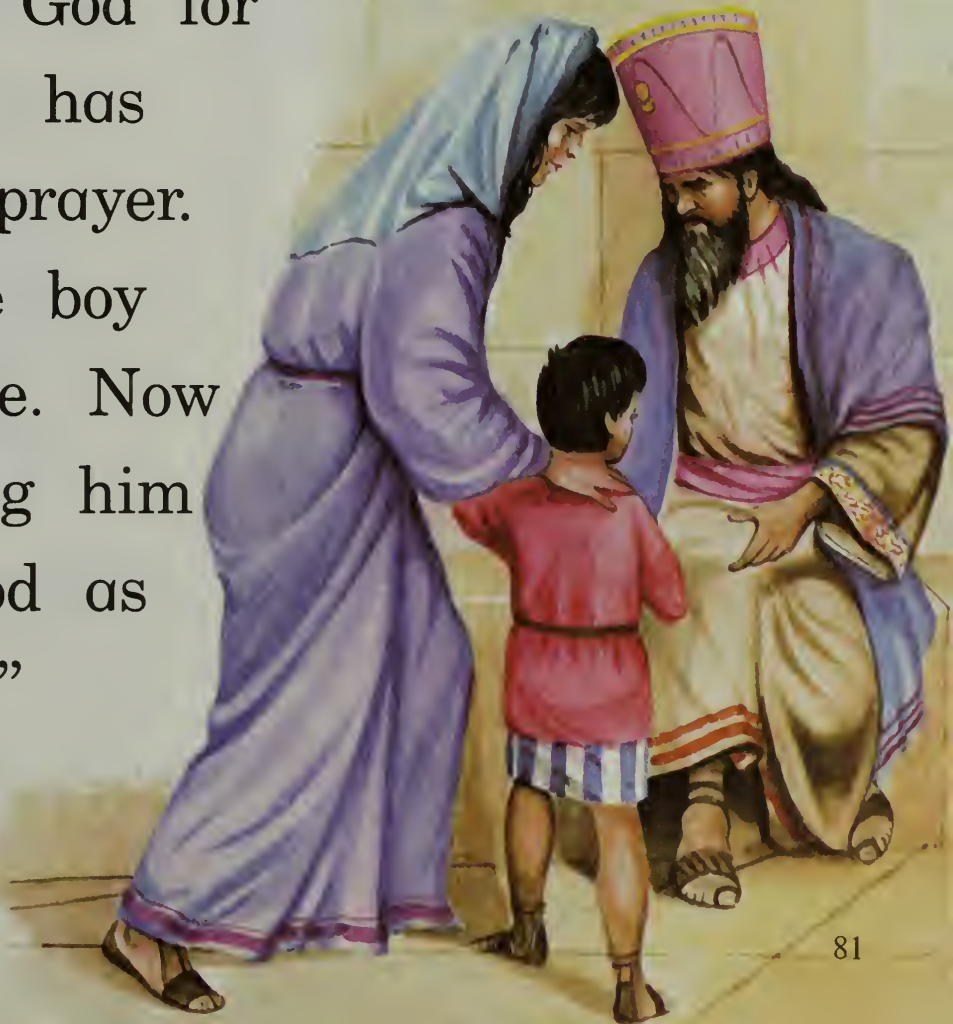
Hannah felt happy as she went back  
to the feast.

Very soon, God gave Hannah a little  
son. She called him Samuel.

She did not forget her promise to God. While Samuel was still very young, she made him a little coat. She took him with her to the Temple.

She went to Eli and said,

"I am the woman who asked God for a son. God has heard my prayer. This is the boy He sent me. Now I am giving him back to God as I promised."





Samuel was a good boy. Eli looked after him as if he were his own.

Every year, his mother went to see him. She took him a new coat.



Samuel helped Eli each day in the Temple.

Eli had two sons.  
They did not help  
him. They made  
fun of holy things  
and spent their  
time in Shiloh.  
Eli knew that his  
sons did wicked  
things, but he  
said nothing.



Eli was very old  
and nearly blind.  
Samuel led Eli  
everywhere.





Samuel slept in a corner of the Temple, near the lamp of gold. He had to see that the lamp was always kept burning. Samuel kept the oil ready.



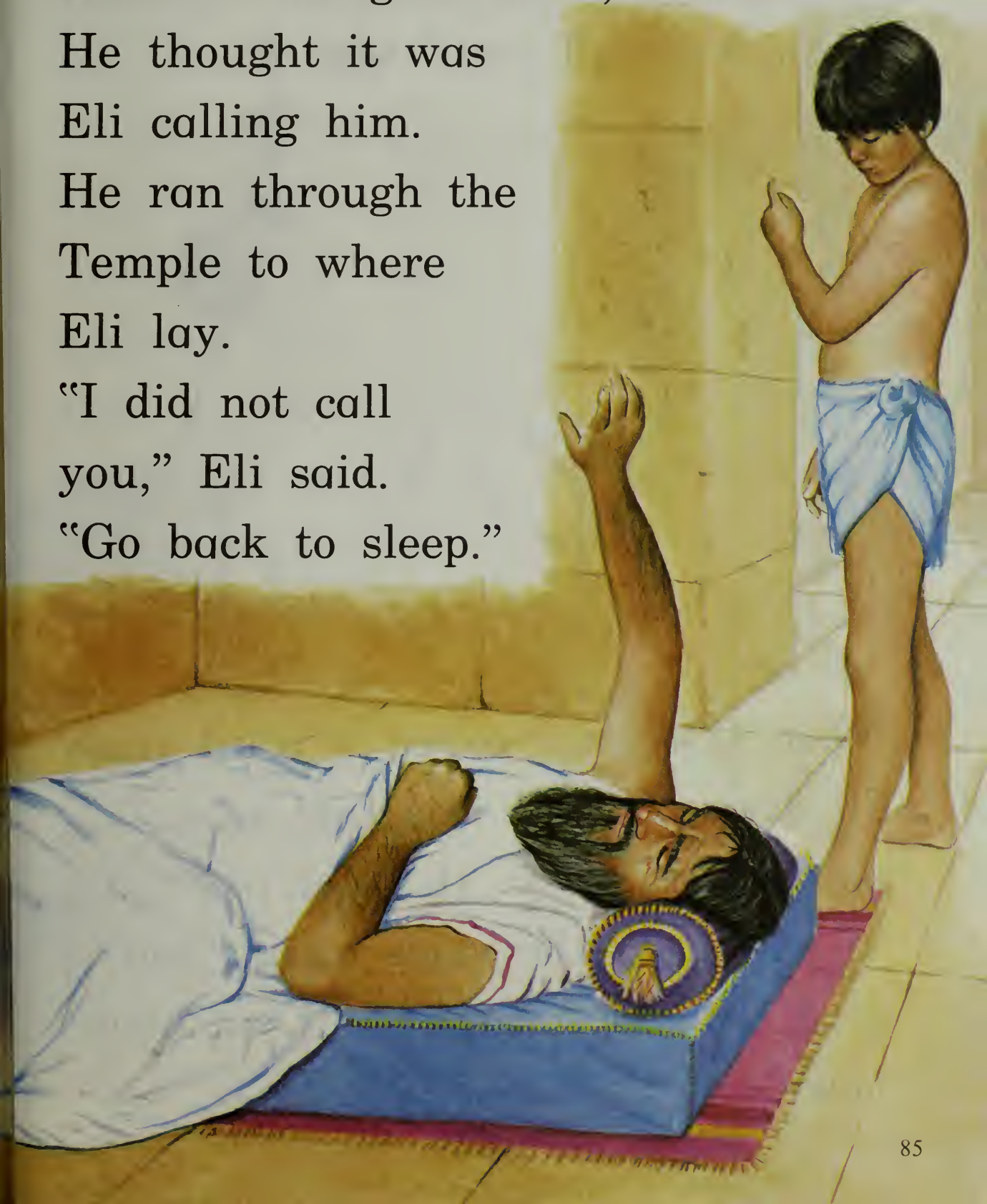
One night, he woke up. He heard  
a voice calling "Samuel, Samuel."

He thought it was  
Eli calling him.

He ran through the  
Temple to where  
Eli lay.

"I did not call  
you," Eli said.

"Go back to sleep."





Again the voice called and once again, Samuel ran to Eli.

"I did not call you," said Eli.



When the voice called a third time, Eli knew that it was God who spoke to the boy. He said, "If you hear the voice again, you must say, 'Speak, Lord, I can hear You'."

Samuel did as Eli told him. He was not afraid. He waited. All was still in the Temple. The lamp glowed softly. God spoke to Samuel and said, "The sons of Eli are very wicked. Eli knows this. I shall punish Eli and his sons. You must tell Eli what I have said."





Samuel was sad. He loved Eli. He did not want to tell him what God had said. So Samuel lay down until morning.





Then, as Eli sat under a great tree outside the Temple, Samuel told him God's words. Eli put his hands over his face.

"God will do what is right," he said at last.



At night in the Temple, God spoke many times to Samuel. People came from far away to hear Samuel. He told the people what God wanted them to do.

The years went by and war broke out. The people sent a message to the Temple. They wanted the Ark. They thought that God would help them if they carried it. Eli's wicked sons took the Ark from the Temple.



The Ark was carried into battle.



The Ark was taken by the enemy.  
Eli's sons were killed in the  
battle.

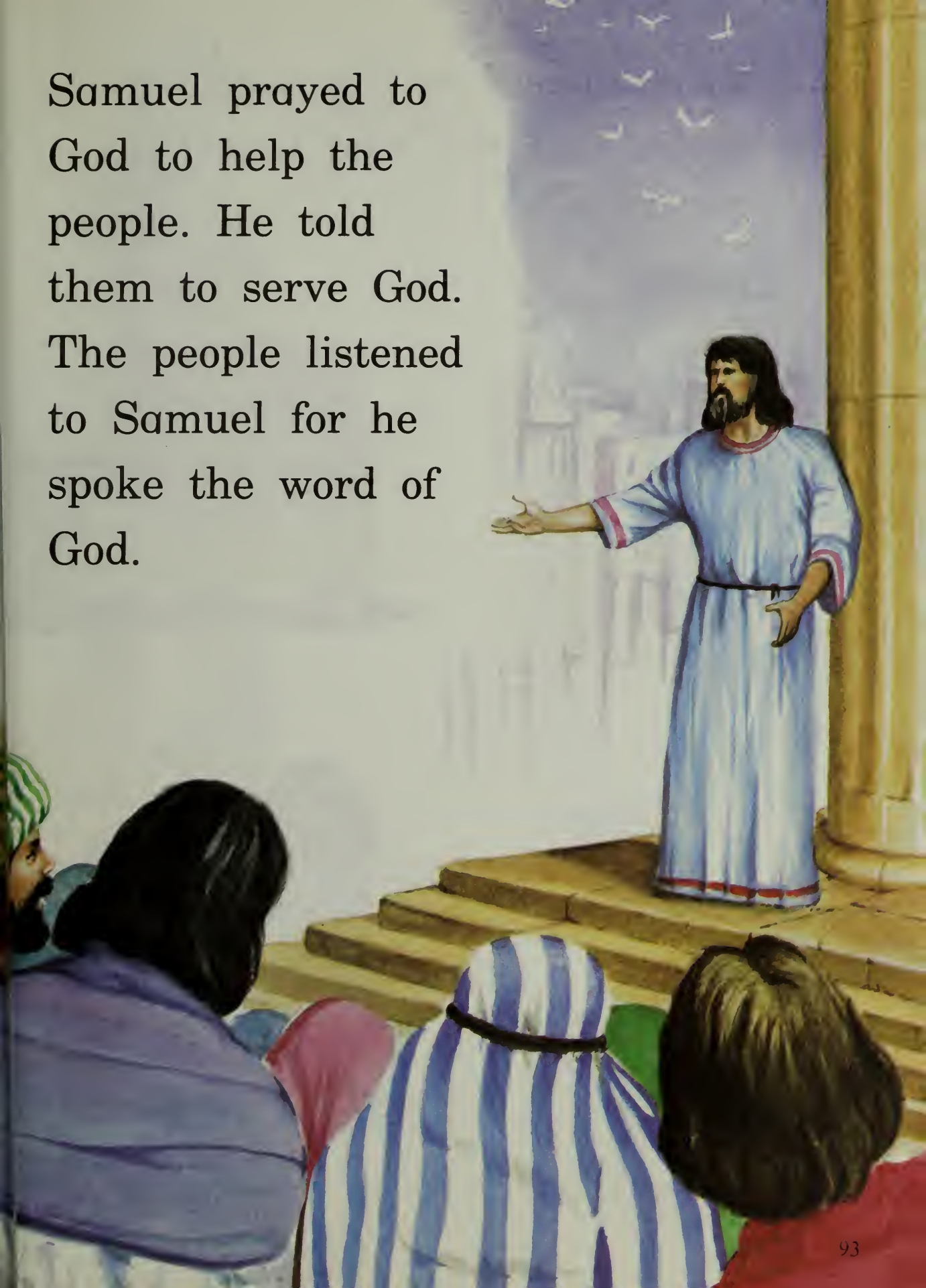


A man who had been in the fighting came to tell Eli about the battle. He found Eli sitting beside the road.



When Eli heard that the Ark of God had been taken, he died. The old man's heart was broken.

Samuel prayed to  
God to help the  
people. He told  
them to serve God.  
The people listened  
to Samuel for he  
spoke the word of  
God.





All these appear in the pages of  
the story. Can you find them?

Temple



Ark



lamp



children

Hannah



Eli



sons



Samuel

Now tell the story in your own words.





# David and Goliath

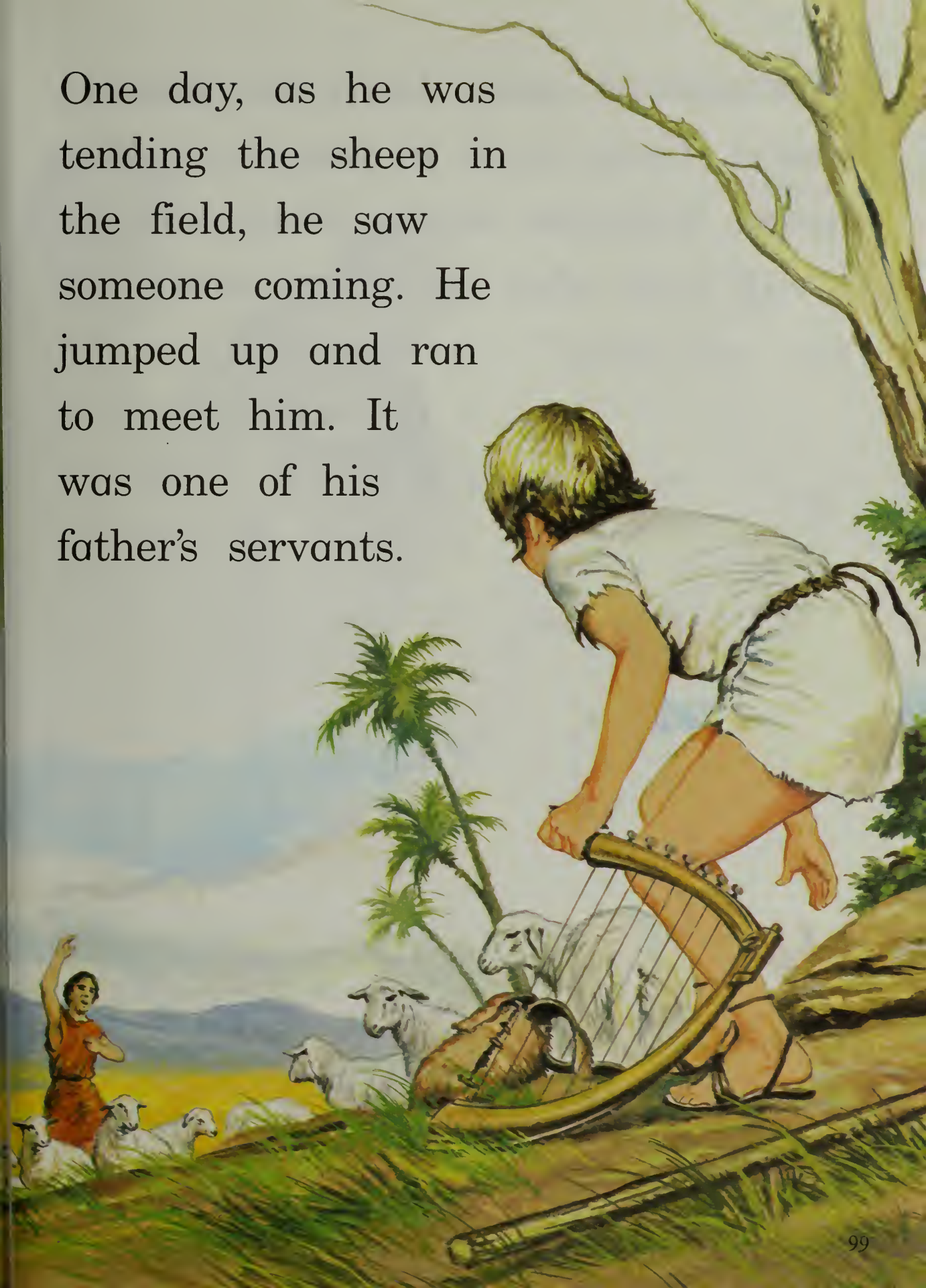






David was a shepherd boy. He looked after his father's sheep. He had to see that no one came to steal the sheep. If a wild animal came close, he had to chase it away. David had seven brothers. He was the youngest in the family.

One day, as he was tending the sheep in the field, he saw someone coming. He jumped up and ran to meet him. It was one of his father's servants.





The servant said, "Leave the sheep, David. Come back to your father's house. Someone wants to see you. I will look after the sheep while you are gone."



David ran quickly to the house.

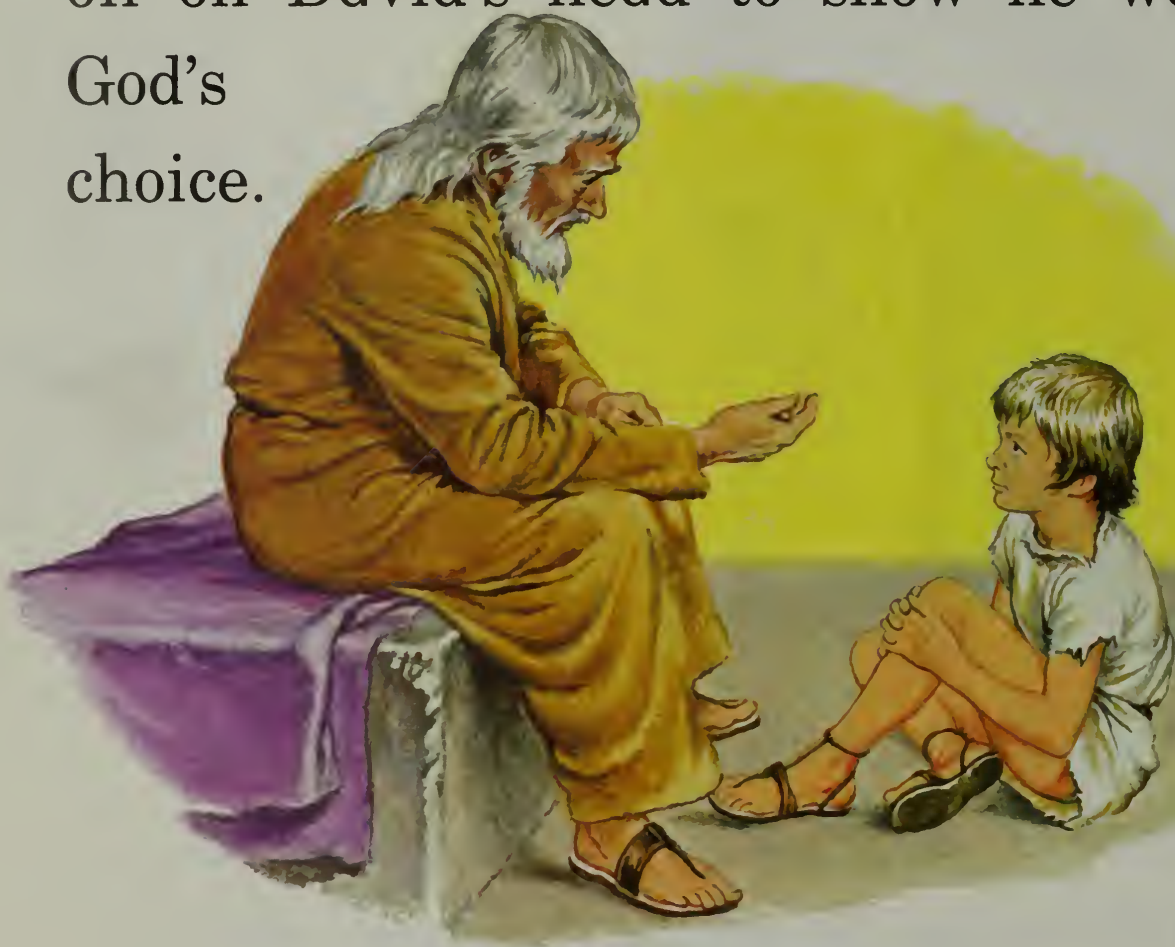
His face was red as he ran inside.



His father was standing next to another man, and said to David, "This man is called Samuel. He wants to meet you. He has a special job for you to do."



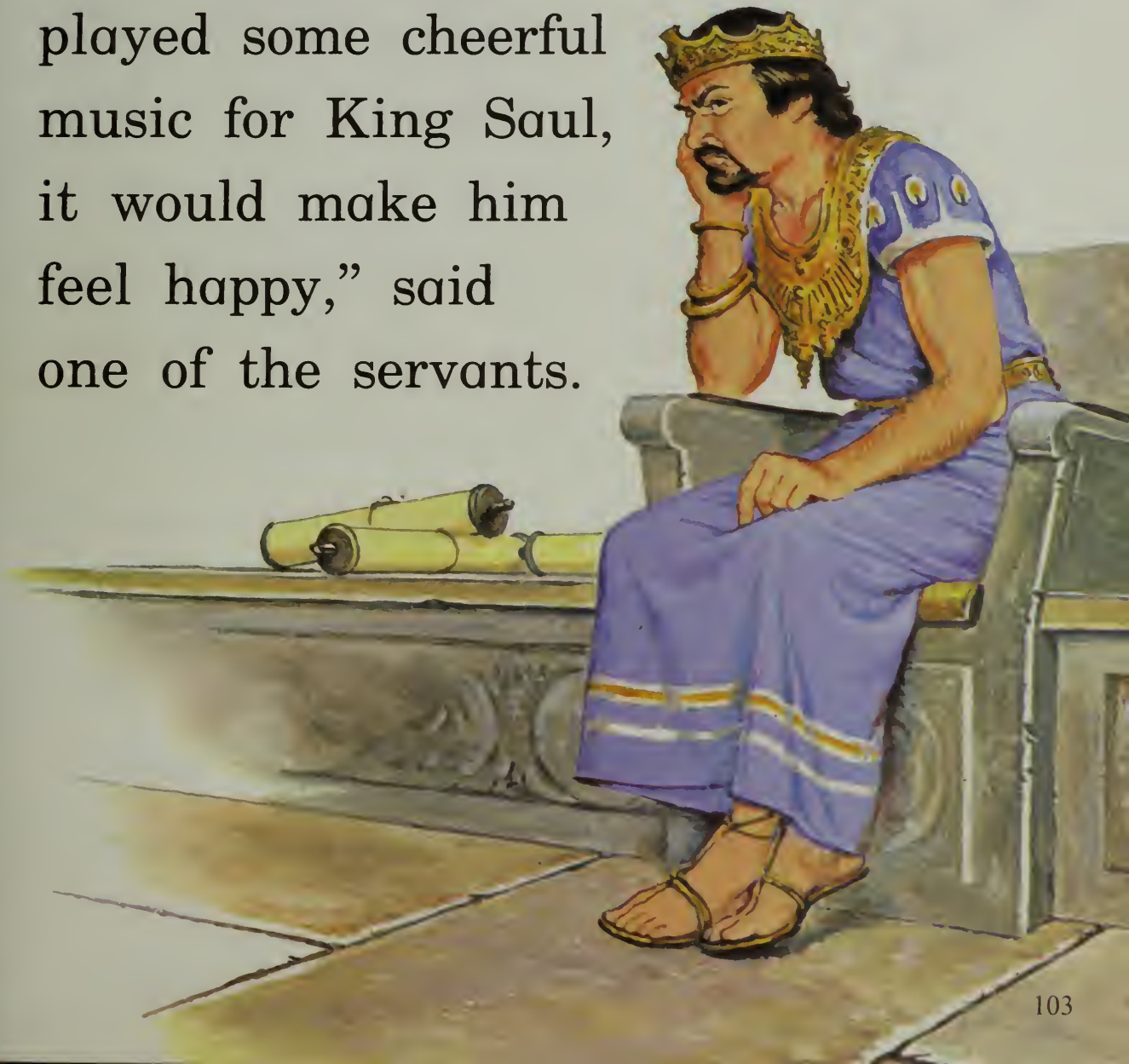
Samuel knew that when David grew up, he would be the king of the country. He was still a boy, but God had told Samuel that David was His choice for the next king. Samuel put oil on David's head to show he was God's choice.



Samuel talked to David and then he went away.

At that time, the king of the country was a man called Saul. He was not a very good king. Sometimes he felt unhappy and would not speak to anyone.

“Perhaps if someone played some cheerful music for King Saul, it would make him feel happy,” said one of the servants.







David could play lovely music on the harp. He was asked to go to the palace and play for King Saul. He played some happy music and sang songs and soon the King was more cheerful.

"I want you to stay here at the palace," said King Saul. "Send a message to your father to tell him where you are."

David liked being at the palace. He talked to the King about his home and the lambs in the fields. Soon after David had gone to the palace, war broke out. King Saul had to get his army ready.





Three of David's brothers were in the army, so he had to go back to his father.



One day, David took some new bread to his brothers. He liked to go and see the soldiers.

David was talking to his brothers when a great shout was heard. A huge man, a giant, was walking towards them.

“Who will fight with me?” he roared.

“If he wins, then you have won this battle, but if I win, then you will all be in our power.”







“Who is going to fight him?” asked David.

“No one dares to fight Goliath,” said one of the soldiers. “No one could stand up to a man like that.” David knew at once what he should do. He went to King Saul.

"I will fight Goliath," he said.

"You!" cried King Saul. "You are only a youth. Goliath is a real fighter. You cannot fight him."

"I may be small," said David, "but with God's help I have killed bears and lions when they came to steal my father's sheep. Please, let me try."



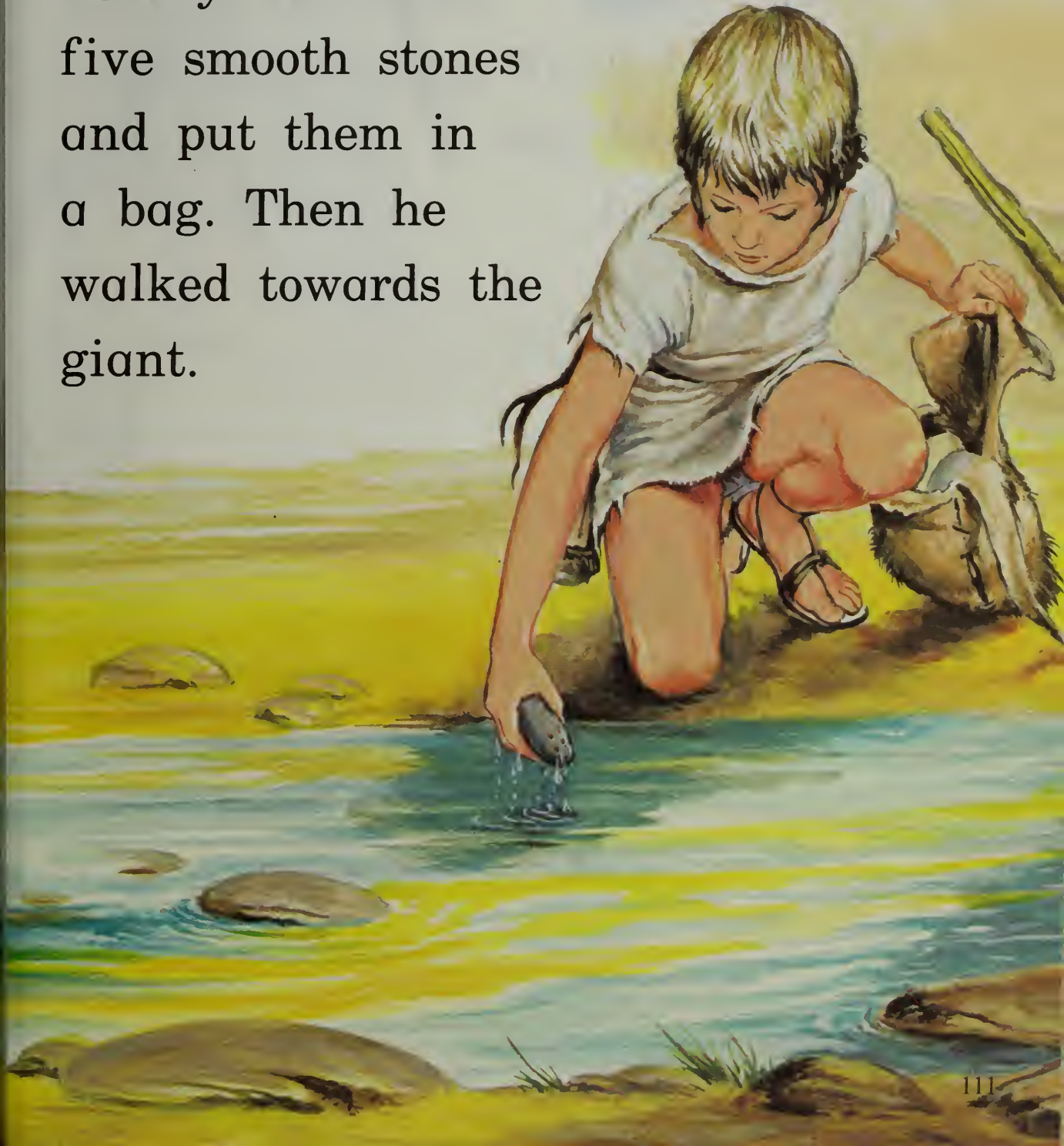


King Saul took off the suit of armour which he was wearing and put it on David. It was much too big. He tripped over it.



"I cannot wear this," said David. "It is too heavy and too big. Please take it off." The armour was taken off and David felt much better.

He took his sling  
and went to a  
little stream  
nearby. He chose  
five smooth stones  
and put them in  
a bag. Then he  
walked towards the  
giant.





Goliath could not believe his eyes. A little boy was coming to fight him! He put down his great head and charged. David took one of the stones out of his bag and put it in his sling.



He spun the sling  
around his head,  
faster and faster  
and let it go.



The stone flew through the air and  
hit Goliath right in the middle of  
his forehead. He crashed to the  
ground like a fallen tree.



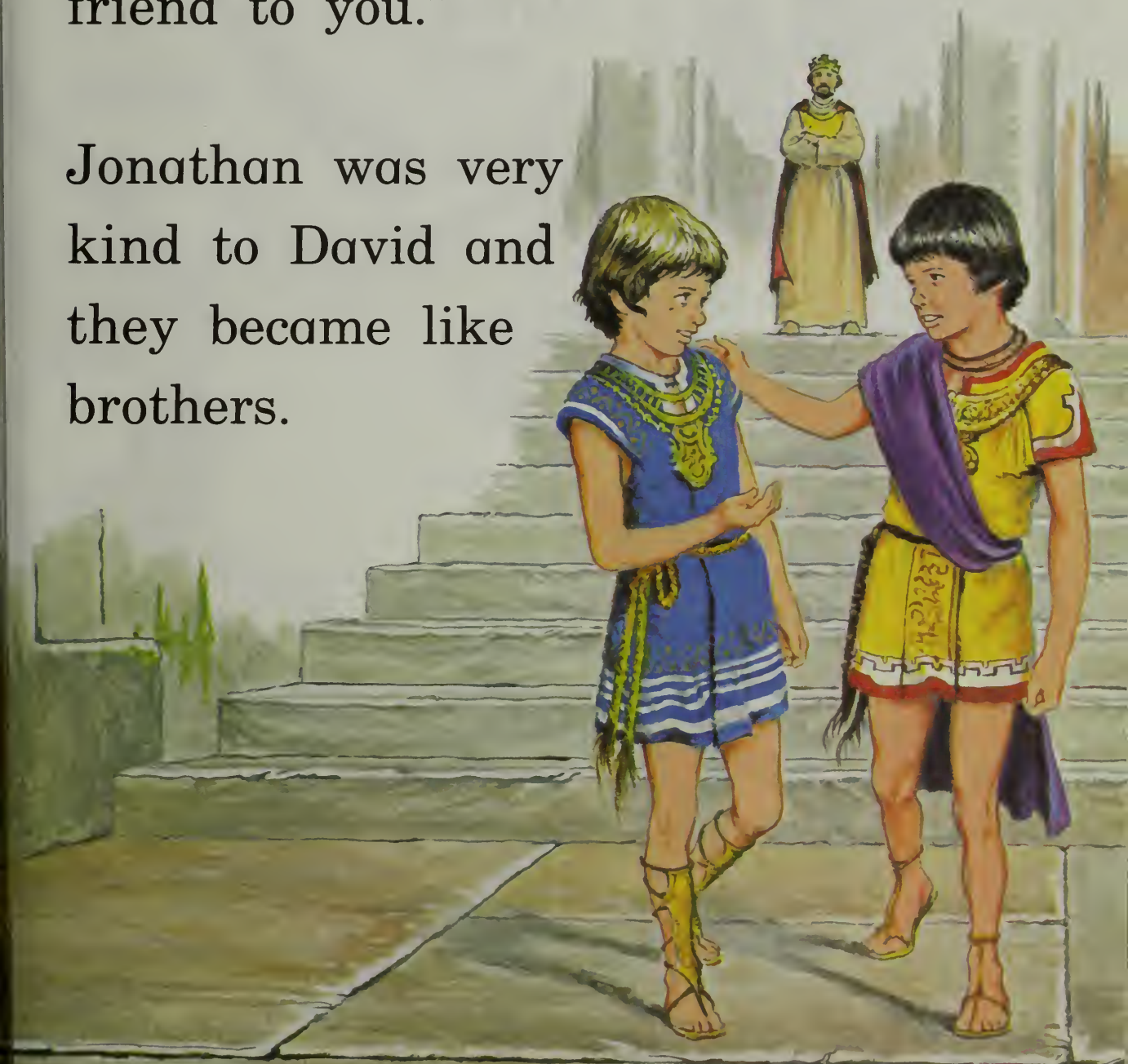


David ran up to him and took the sword from Goliath's side. With one blow, he cut off Goliath's head. All the soldiers cheered and shouted. The enemy turned and ran away.



King Saul spoke to David. "You shall stay with us now. You will not return to your father's house. My son, Jonathan, will be a good friend to you."

Jonathan was very kind to David and they became like brothers.





All these appear in the pages of the story. Can you find them?



David

sheep



King Saul

Samuel



Now tell the story in your own words.





# David and Jonathan







David was a young shepherd boy. His father had eight sons and he was the youngest. The older boys became soldiers in the king's army. David was left at home to look after the sheep.

One day, a stranger named Samuel came to David's home. He told David that God had chosen David to be a king when he was older. David was surprised, but he did not say anything.







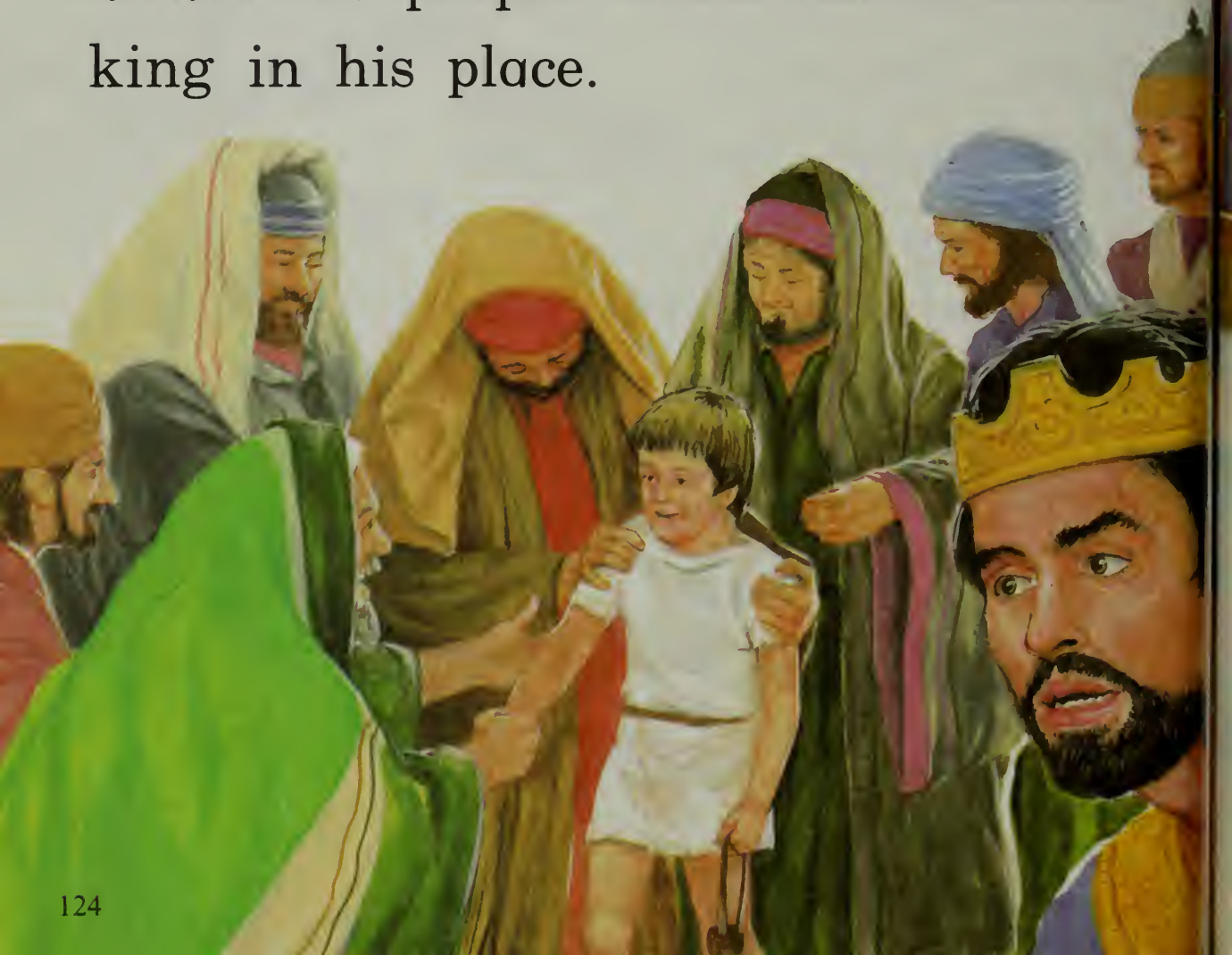
Some time later, David was taken to see the king of the country who was King Saul. David was very good at playing the harp. King Saul liked to listen to him play. He asked David to stay at the palace with him.

David was a gentle boy and a brave one too. Once, a great giant named Goliath, came with his army against King Saul. No one dared to face the giant, but with God's help, David stood up to him. He killed Goliath with a stone thrown from his sling. King Saul made David a leader in his army.





When the army came home after the battle, people came out of their houses. They danced and sang in the streets. Everyone was happy. The people loved David. Everyone said how brave he had been. King Saul was very angry. He was afraid the people would make David king in his place.



From that time, whenever King Saul saw David, he became angry.



One day, the King threw a spear at David to pin him to the wall. David ran from the room. David became very unhappy living at the palace. He became afraid of King Saul.





Jonathan, the King's son, was kind. He was a good friend to David. They made a promise to each other that, whatever happened, they would always be friends.

David wanted to leave the palace. He was afraid King Saul would kill him. But Jonathan did not want him to go. "My father will not hurt you," he said. "He always tells me what he wants to do."

But David was still afraid. He knew that he was in real danger.



King Saul came to hate David. He told Jonathan to kill him. But Jonathan loved David and so he made a plan.



"In a field not far from here, there is a great stone," said Jonathan. "Go and hide behind it. In three days, I will come with my servant and shoot three arrows by its side. If I say to my servant, 'Go and find the arrows, they are beside the great stone,' then you will know that all is well. But, if I say, 'Find the arrows, they are ahead of you,' then you will know that there is great danger. You must go away."





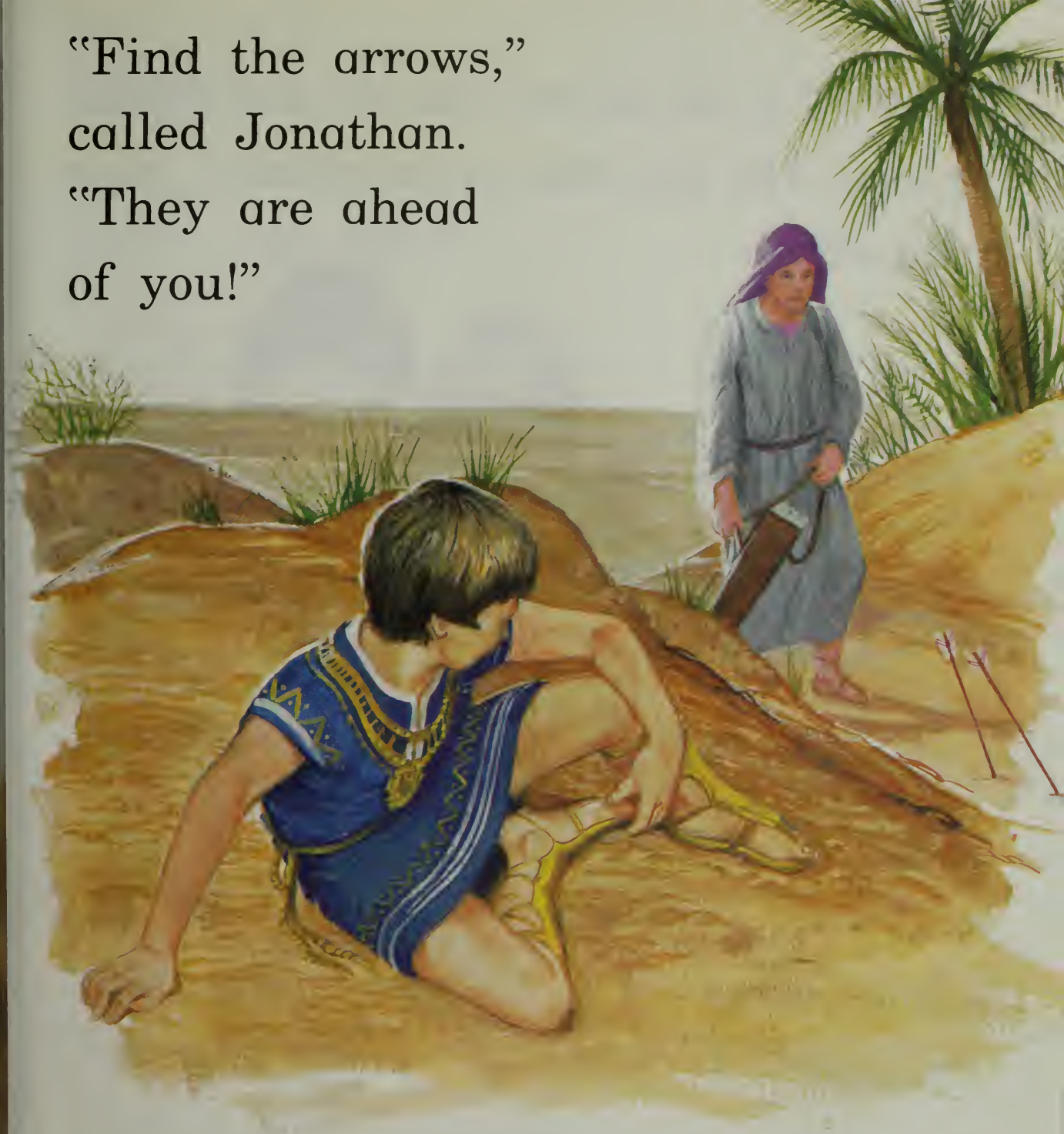
So David hid behind the great stone. Jonathan went to King Saul. He begged him not to kill David. King Saul did not listen. He became very angry. He threw his sword at Jonathan, but it missed him.



Jonathan ran from the palace,  
calling his servant. He went to  
the field near the great stone.  
Soon his arrows flew through  
the air.



“Find the arrows,”  
called Jonathan.  
“They are ahead  
of you!”



David heard and he was very sad.  
The servant found the arrows.  
Jonathan sent him home.



Then David came out of his hiding place. He put his arms round Jonathan.



“My father is so angry. I am sure he plans to kill you. You must go away,” said Jonathan. “Hide far away from here. You must remember our promise. We shall always be friends.”

David ran away. He found a cave near the desert, where he lived for a long time.

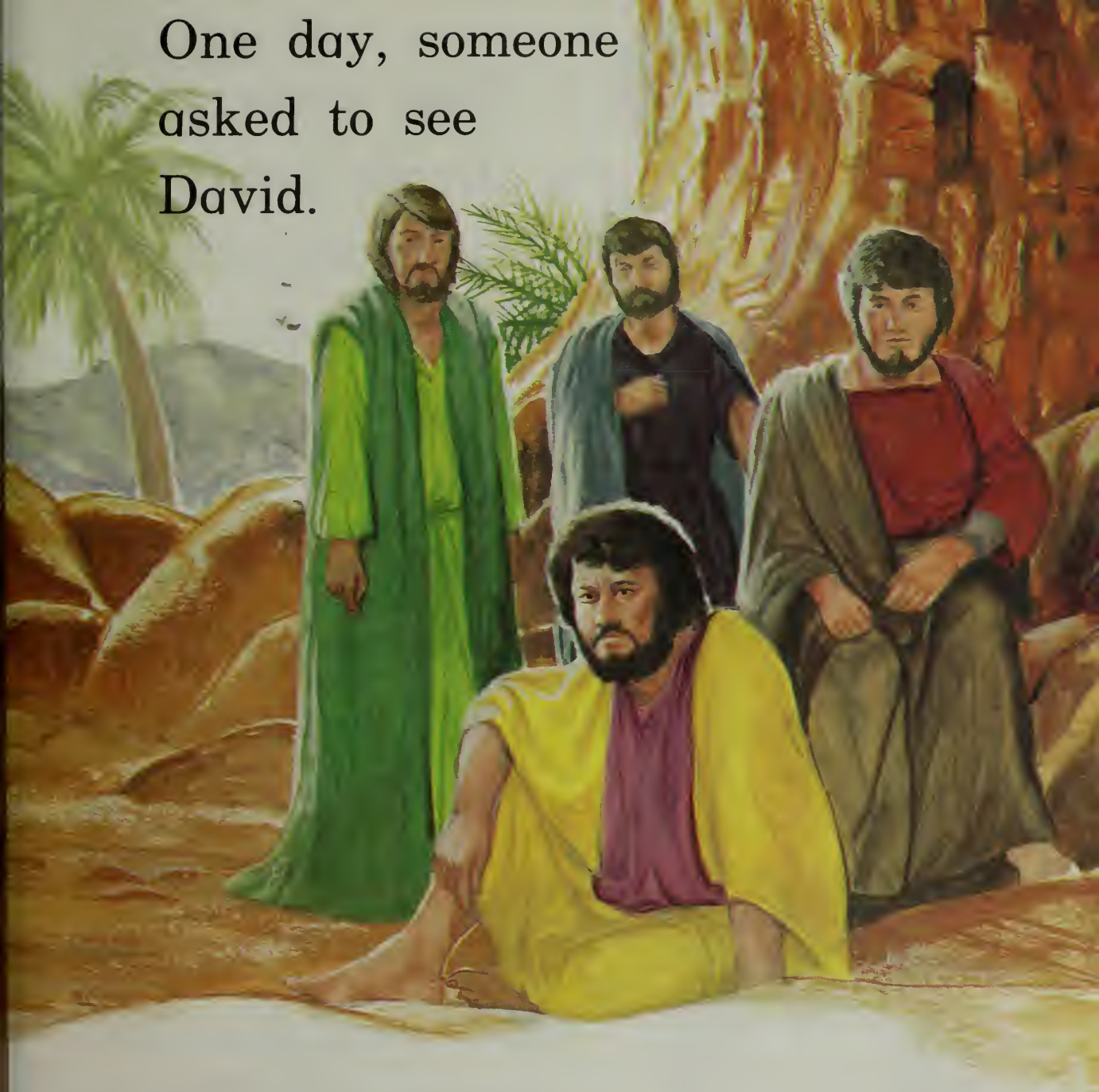




Other men who were afraid of King Saul joined David. He became their leader.



One day, someone  
asked to see  
David.



It was Jonathan. A long time had  
passed. They were happy to meet  
again. They threw their arms round  
each other.





“You need not be afraid,” said Jonathan. “My father will never find you. One day, you will be king and I shall serve you. Until then, we must part.”

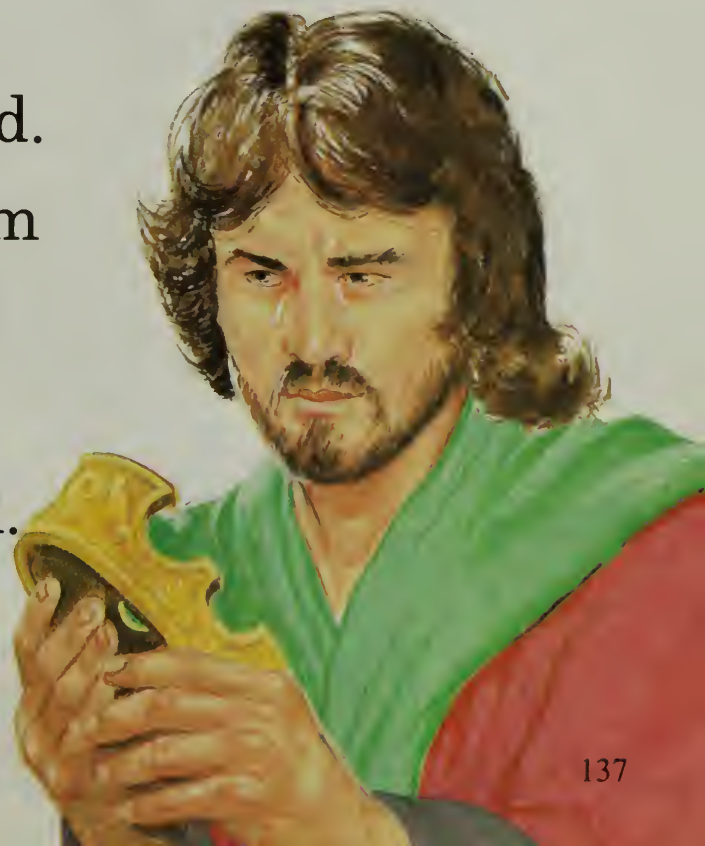
Jonathan went back to join his father’s army.



Some years later, David heard that there had been a great battle.

One day, a soldier from King Saul's camp came to David. His clothes were torn. David could see that he had been in the fighting. He told David that King Saul and Jonathan were dead. He brought the King's crown with him. He gave it to David.

David wept. He was very, very sad. God had made him a king, but David had lost his best and dearest friend.





All these appear in the pages of  
the story. Can you find them?

Goliath



Jonathan



David



King Saul



the great stone



arrows



crown

cave



Now tell the story in your own words.





# The Birth of Jesus







Long ago, in a small town called Nazareth, there lived a girl named Mary. At that time, many men had forgotten about God. He decided to send His own Son to be born and grow up among the people. God's Son would teach them about His heavenly Father.

God knew that Mary loved Him, so He chose her to be the mother of His Son. He sent an angel called Gabriel to tell Mary about the baby. Mary was alone in her house when she saw the angel standing beside her. She was afraid and hid her eyes.







The angel looked kindly at Mary and said, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God has sent me to tell you good news. Soon you will have a baby. It will be a boy and His name will be Jesus. He will be a holy child, for He is the Son of God."



In the same town, a carpenter called Joseph lived. Joseph took Mary to be his wife. He wanted to take care of Mary and the baby, because he loved her.



The king of the land wanted all the people to be counted, so Mary and Joseph had to go back to the place where they were born.



It was a long way to go, so they had a little donkey for Mary to ride while Joseph walked by her side. At last, they came to an inn.

They were very tired and needed a rest. Joseph knocked at the door. The door opened and the inn-keeper said, "What do you want?"

"Have you a bed for the night, please?" asked Joseph. "My wife is very tired, for we have come a long way."







"I am very sorry,"  
said the inn-keeper,  
shaking his head.

"There is no room  
for you here. If  
you would like to  
stay in the stable  
with the animals,  
you are welcome to  
rest there. It is  
warm and dry."

"Thank you," said  
Joseph. "That will  
do very well."



They followed the inn-keeper to the stable, and there in the night, the baby Jesus was born.



There was nothing for the baby to wear. Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth. There was nowhere for the baby to sleep. Joseph made Him a little bed in the place where food for the cows and donkeys was kept. It was called a manger. He put warm, dry straw in it and Mary laid the baby there to sleep.

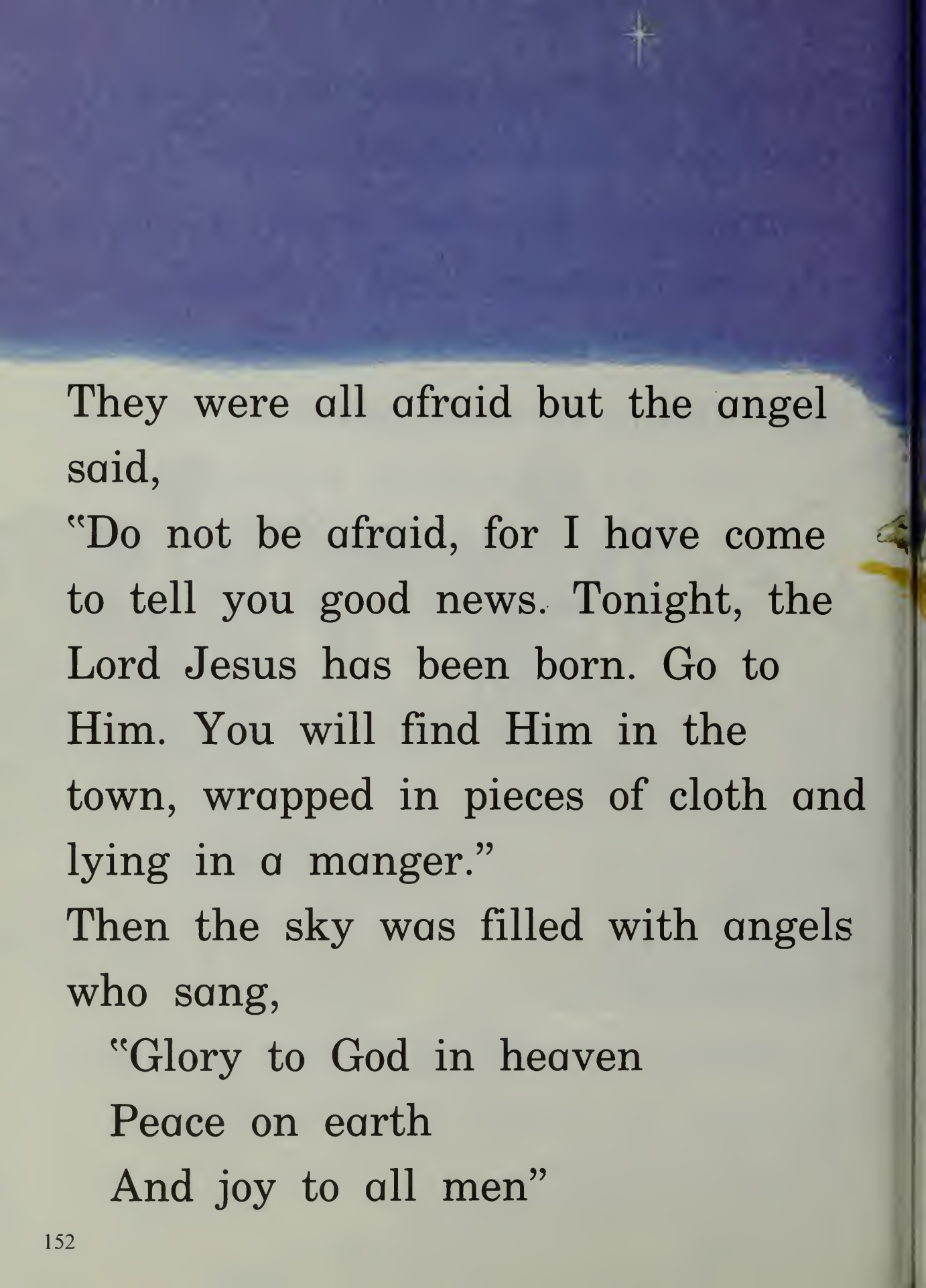


Outside, the night was dark and cold. In the fields close to the town, some shepherds were looking after their sheep. They sat close to the fire, warming their hands and talking to each other.



Suddenly, a great light shone in the sky and an angel stood in front of them.





They were all afraid but the angel  
said,

“Do not be afraid, for I have come  
to tell you good news. Tonight, the  
Lord Jesus has been born. Go to  
Him. You will find Him in the  
town, wrapped in pieces of cloth and  
lying in a manger.”

Then the sky was filled with angels  
who sang,

“Glory to God in heaven  
Peace on earth  
And joy to all men”



At once the shepherds set off for the town. They went to the place where the angel had told them they would find the baby Jesus. They took their sheep with them in case a wolf should attack them.



The shepherds knocked  
at the stable door  
and Joseph let them  
in.



They knelt down  
beside the baby  
because they knew  
He was very special.

Mary was glad to have the shepherds come to see her baby, the newborn king.

Then the shepherds left the stable and went into the town to let everyone know about Jesus.





Three wise men from the East had been keeping watch on the stars in the sky. They knew that a great King was to be born. They were waiting for a sign to show where to find Him.



At last, a bright star showed them the way.



They rode across many lands following the star. They thought they would find Him in a palace, but the star led them to a poor stable. They left their camels outside and going in, found Jesus lying in a manger.



At once they knew that He was the one they had been seeking.



Each wise man had brought a present for Jesus which was laid down beside Him.

When they had gone, Mary thought again for a long time. Why had the shepherds and the wise men come so far to see her baby?

Then she picked up Jesus and held Him close to her, thinking about what the angel had said.





All these appear in the pages of the story. Can you find them?



Mary



angel



Joseph



donkey



inn-keeper



Jesus



manger



star



shepherds



wise men

Now tell the story in your own words.





# The Childhood of Jesus







On a cold, dark night, many years ago, a little baby boy was born. His mother called Him Jesus. The baby's mother was called Mary and her husband was Joseph. Shepherds from nearby and wise men from far lands went to see Jesus because He was a special baby.

The king of the country, which was called Judea, was King Herod. He did not go to see the baby. He was angry when he heard that Jesus was born. It was said that Jesus was to be king over His people. King Herod did not want this king in his country. He had a very cruel plan. All the little children under two years old would be killed. In that way, he could be sure that Jesus would not live.

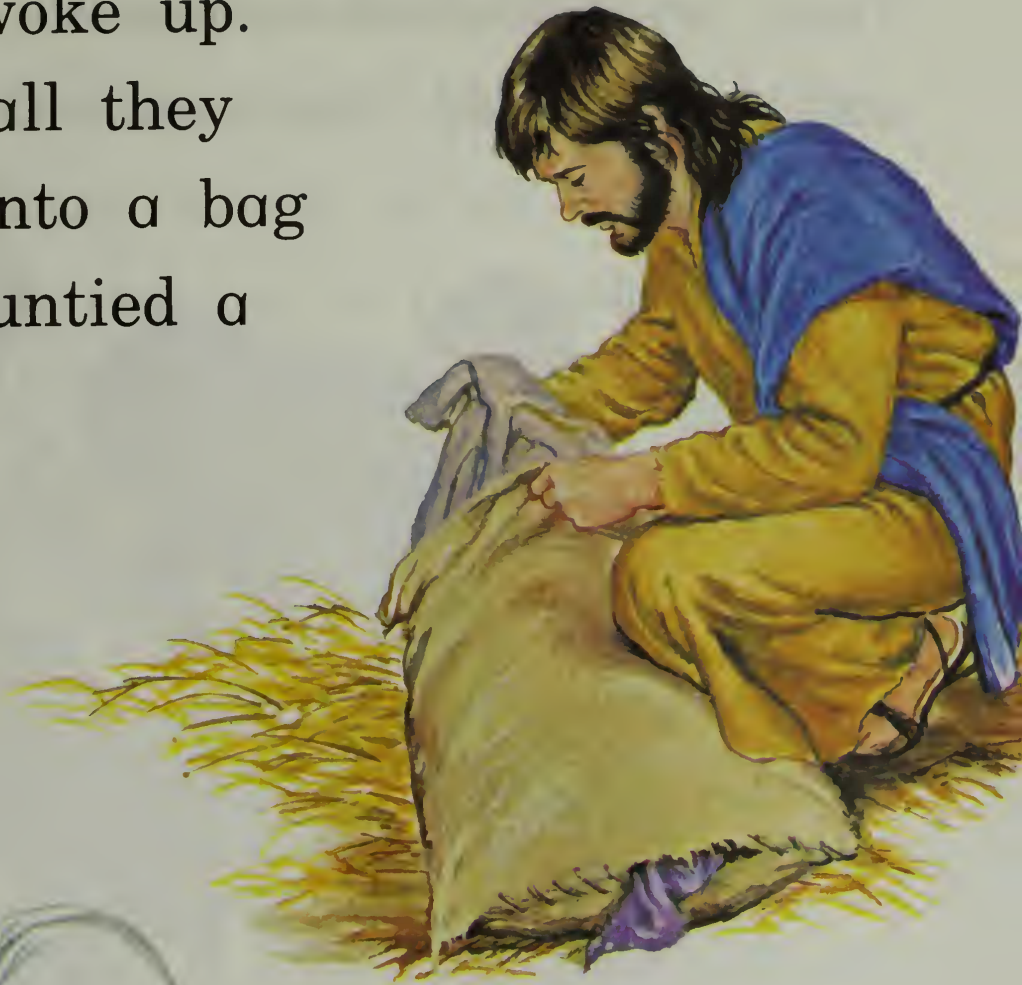




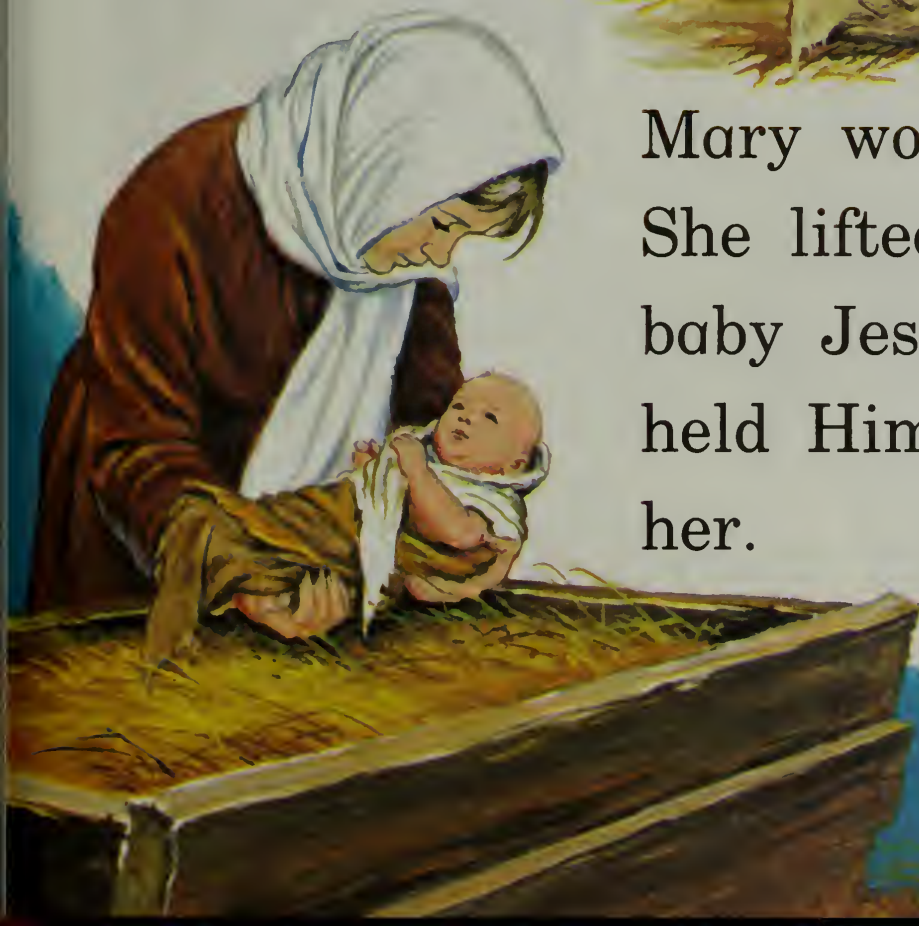


One night, Joseph had a dream. In the dream he saw King Herod and heard his plan. Joseph knew that the baby Jesus was in great danger. He heard a kind voice say to him, "Take Mary and the child away from this place. Go to Egypt and stay there until it is safe."

Joseph woke up.  
He put all they  
needed into a bag  
and he untied a  
donkey.



Mary woke up too.  
She lifted the  
baby Jesus and  
held Him close to  
her.



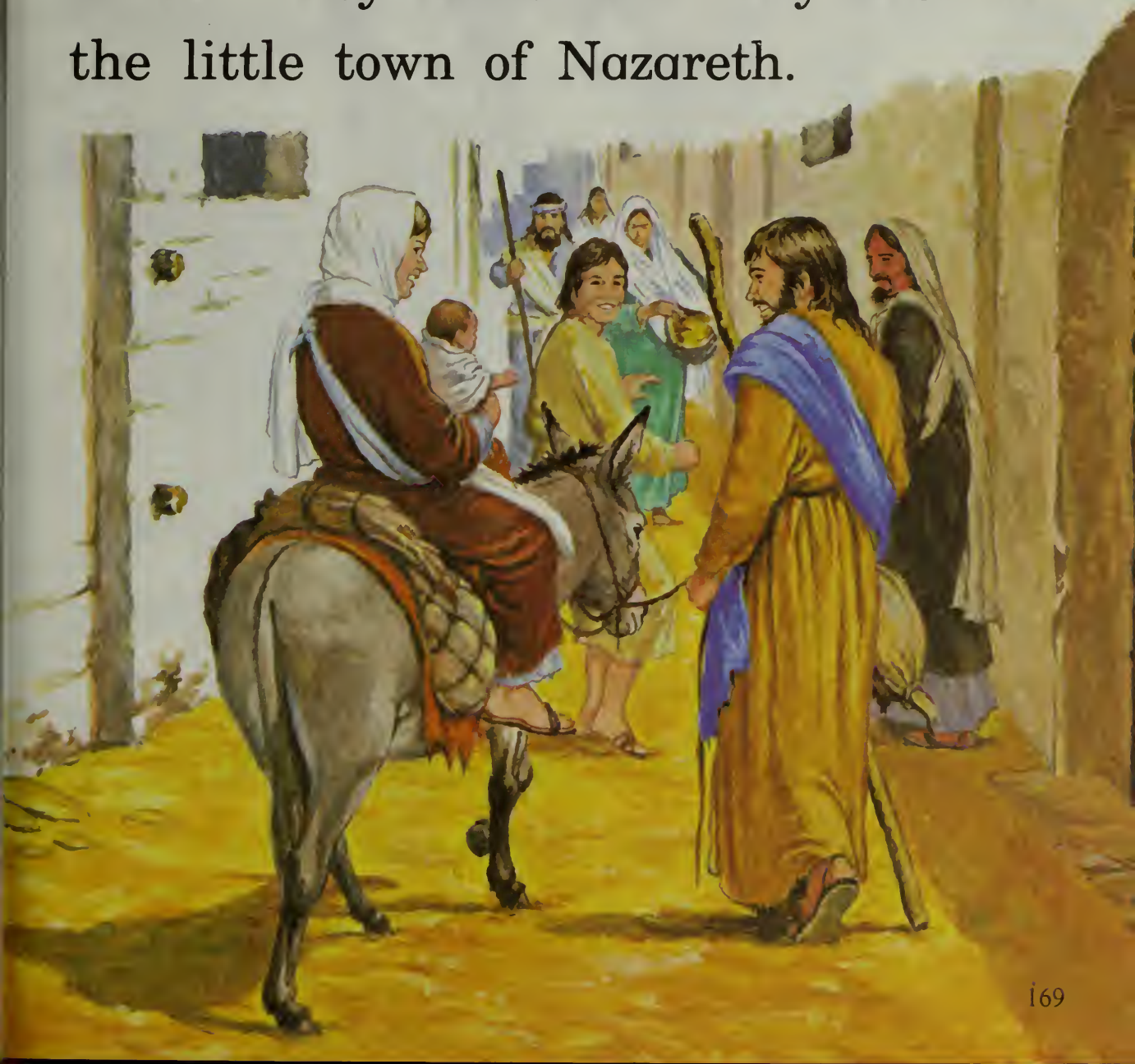


Then she climbed on to the donkey and Joseph led them out of the town.



They walked many miles until they reached Egypt. There they lived for a short time.

One day, Joseph heard that King Herod had died. His son had become king in his place. Joseph decided to return to his own land, but to keep away from the big towns. They made their way back to the little town of Nazareth.





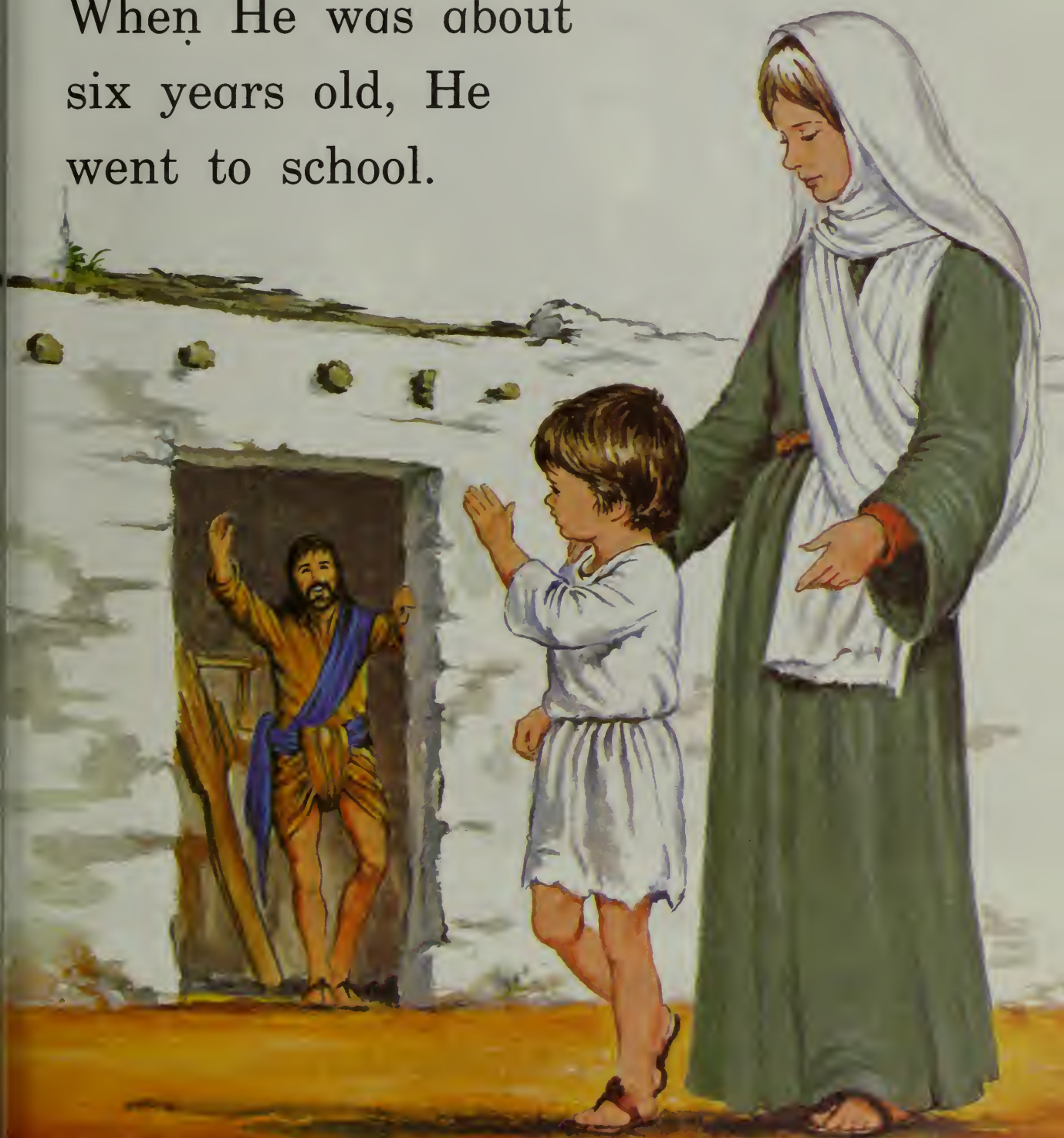
There, they unpacked and tried to make their home comfortable. Rugs were laid on the floor.



Mary washed the cooking pots and ground some corn to make bread. Joseph was a carpenter. He began to make wooden tables and yokes for oxen so that he could earn a living.

In this poor, little home, Jesus  
grew from a baby to a boy.

When He was about  
six years old, He  
went to school.





He learned to read and He was told stories about Moses and David. He helped Joseph to put away the tools at the end of the day.



He asked Mary and Joseph many questions. Sometimes, Mary and Joseph were surprised that Jesus knew so much.

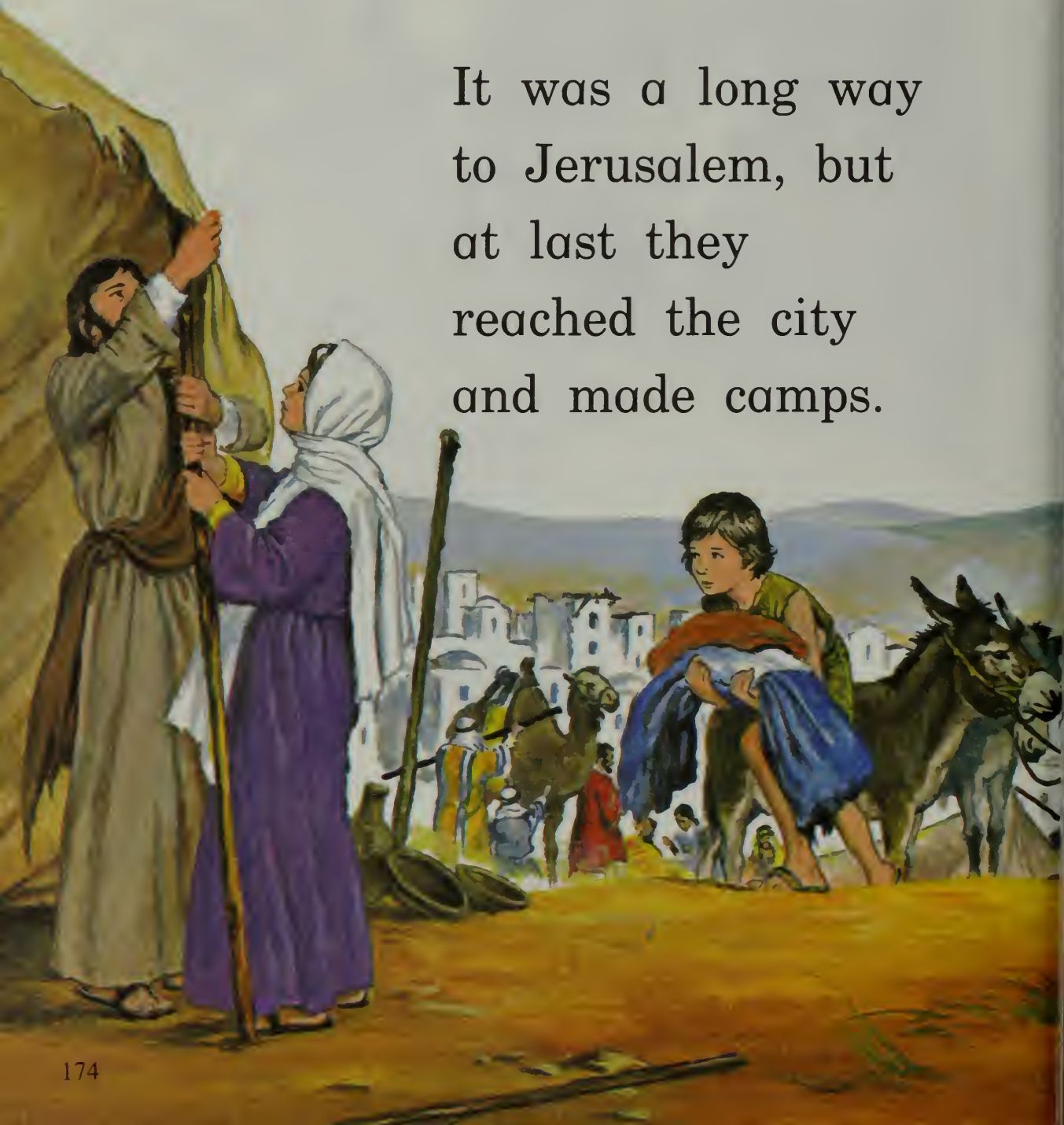


Every year, Mary and Joseph went with the other village people to the big city of Jerusalem. They joined together in a special meal. They sang songs and said prayers to God.



When the boys were twelve years old, they could go with their parents. Jesus was glad when He could go, too.

It was a long way to Jerusalem, but at last they reached the city and made camps.





In Jerusalem, there was a large building called the Temple. Inside the Temple sat many clever teachers who read books to the people about God.





Jesus listened and talked to the teachers for a long time. They were surprised at what He knew.

Jesus decided to  
stay in the  
Temple. He slept  
curled up in a  
corner near the  
walls of the  
Temple and early  
the next morning,  
He went inside  
again.





The other people were packing up  
and starting back home.



All day long they walked, stopping  
at night to eat and rest.

Mary saw that Jesus was not with them. She ran looking for Jesus, but she could not find Him. She was very worried in case He had been hurt.



Joseph and Mary walked all the way back to Jerusalem looking for Jesus.





“Let us go and look in the Temple,” said Joseph. “That was the last place where He was seen.”



They found Jesus with the teachers, talking and listening.

“We have been so worried about You,” said Mary. “Why did You stay behind when we left yesterday?” Jesus said, “I thought you would know that I was in My Father’s house and that I have His work to do.”



Mary and Joseph were happy they had found Jesus, and they often thought about His words.



All these appear in the pages of the story. Can you find them?

Jesus



Mary



King Herod



Joseph



Jerusalem



dream



Temple



teachers

Now tell the story in your own words.





# Stories Jesus Told

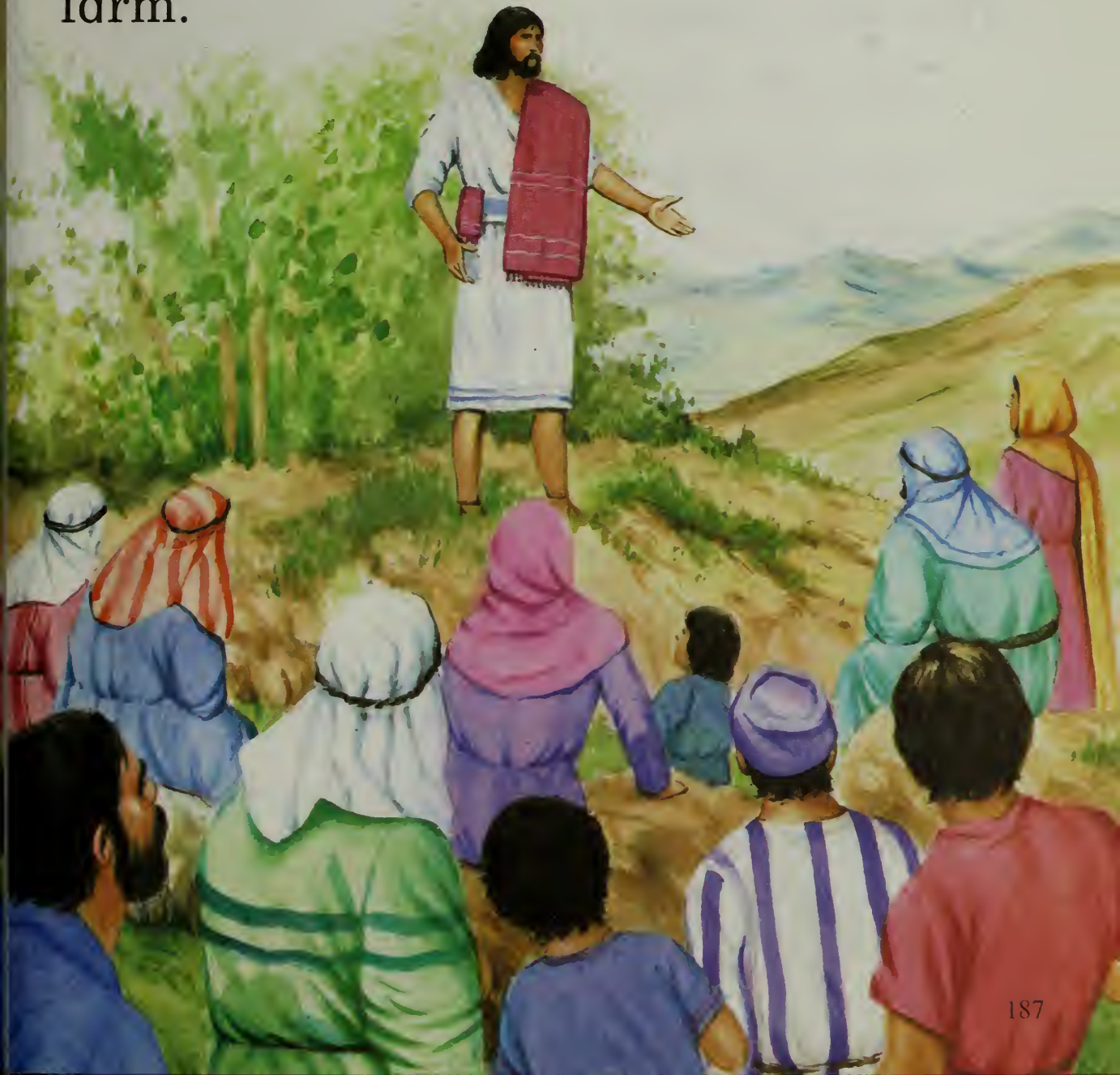






Jesus lived with His family in a village called Nazareth. Mary, His mother, looked after the house. Joseph was a carpenter. He made things out of wood. Jesus helped Joseph each day. When Jesus began teaching, people came from far and near to hear Him speak about God. He told them stories to show them the way God wanted them to live.

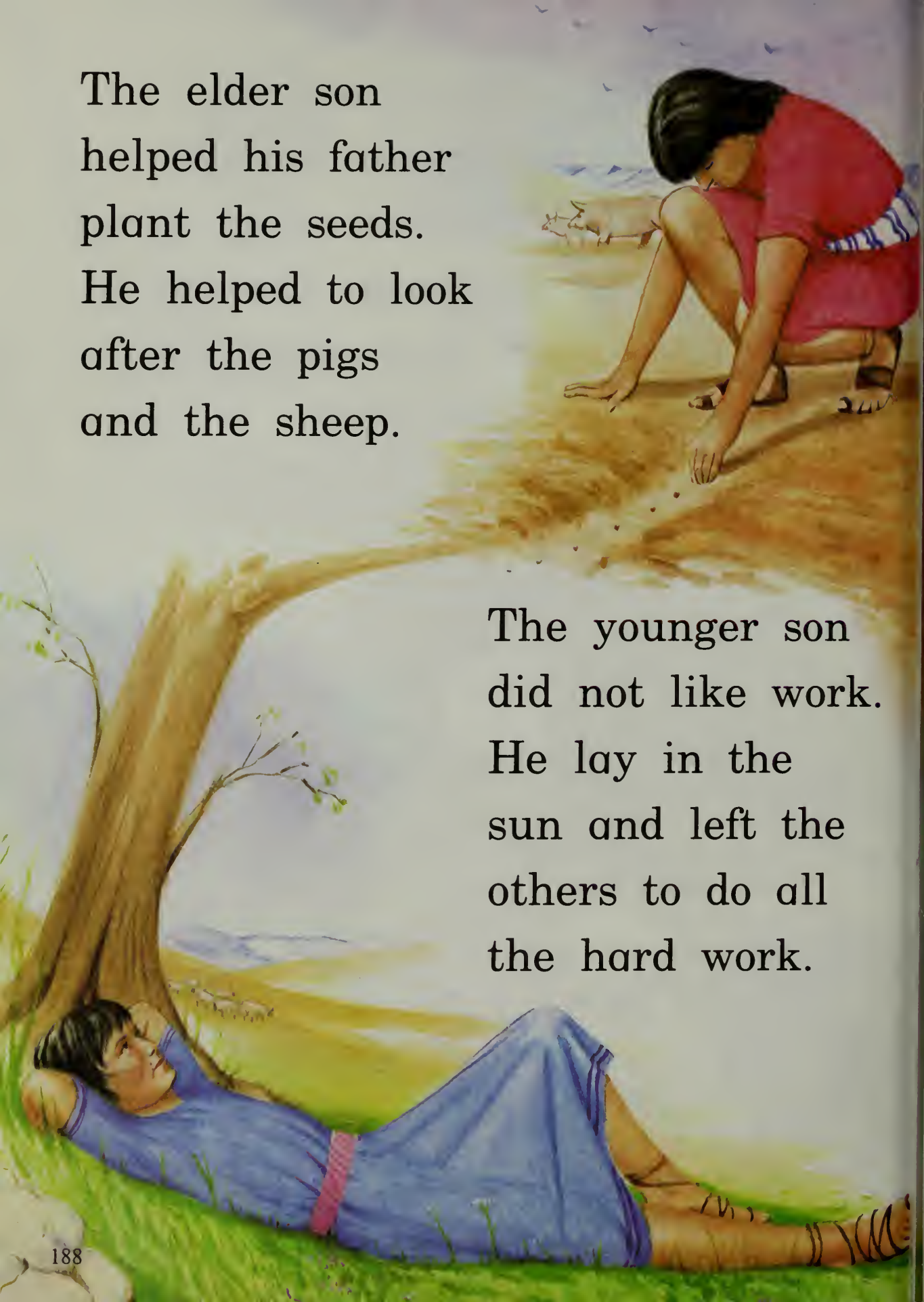
One day, Jesus stood on the hillside. The people sat around Him. He spoke to them about a rich man who had two sons. The two boys worked with their father on a farm.





The elder son  
helped his father  
plant the seeds.  
He helped to look  
after the pigs  
and the sheep.

The younger son  
did not like work.  
He lay in the  
sun and left the  
others to do all  
the hard work.



One day, the younger son said to his father, "I do not want to stay here. I want to be with my friends. Give me my share of the farm. I do not want to wait until I am old."

His father was very sad. He did not want to see his son go away. At last he gave him some money. He waved to his son as he went away across the fields. He did not know if he would ever see him again.







At first, the boy was very happy. He bought himself fine clothes. He went out with his friends, eating and drinking.

Soon, he had spent all his money. His friends went away and left him. He was very lonely.



He went to many places looking for work. He was very hungry. A farmer gave him the job of looking after his pigs.



He was so hungry that he even wanted the food that was given to the pigs.





One day, as he sat on the hot dusty ground, watching the pigs, he said, "I will go home to my father. I am very sorry for what I have done. My father looks after his servants better than this. Maybe he will let me be his servant."

Now his father  
was a very kind  
man. Every day  
he went to the  
top of the hill  
to see if his  
son was coming  
home.

One day, very  
far away he  
saw someone  
coming. He  
was sure it  
was his son.







He ran to the servants, saying  
“Make a feast for everyone. At  
last my son has come home. Bring  
out my best cloak for him to  
wear.”

The elder son had been hard at work. He heard his father's words. He was very upset. It did not seem fair. He had stayed at home to help on the farm. He had worked very hard. His brother had wasted his time and his money. Now his father was pleased to see his brother. He was making a feast for his lazy son!





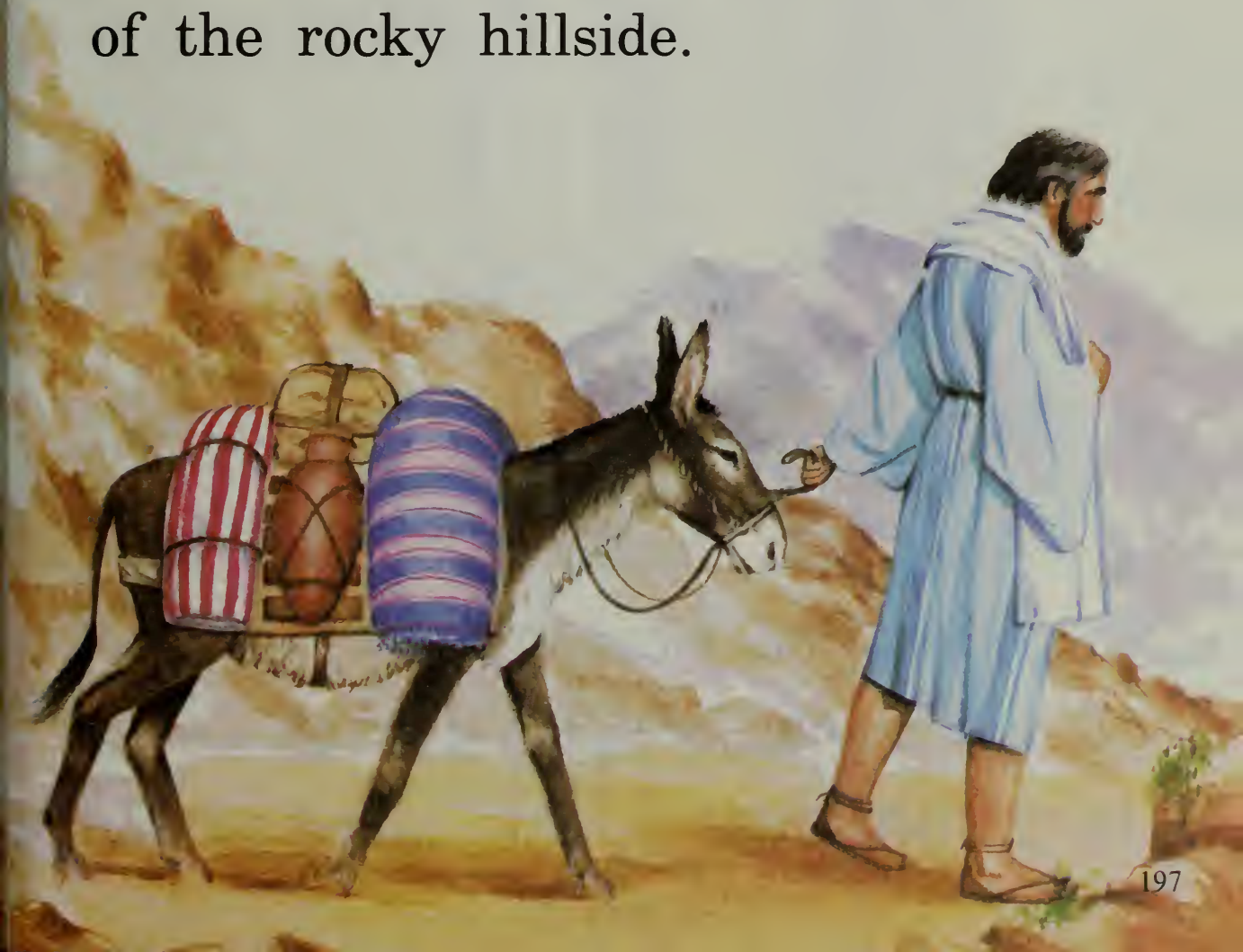


The father saw that his son was angry. He put his arms around him. He said to him, "Come, let us all be happy together. I thought your brother had gone for good. He was lost and now he is found."

Jesus wanted to teach the people that God loves everyone – no matter what she or he may have done.

Another story Jesus told is called  
The Good Samaritan.

One day, a trader was on his way  
from one town to another. It was  
a long, hard journey. Many people  
had been attacked by robbers. The  
robbers hid in the caves dug out  
of the rocky hillside.



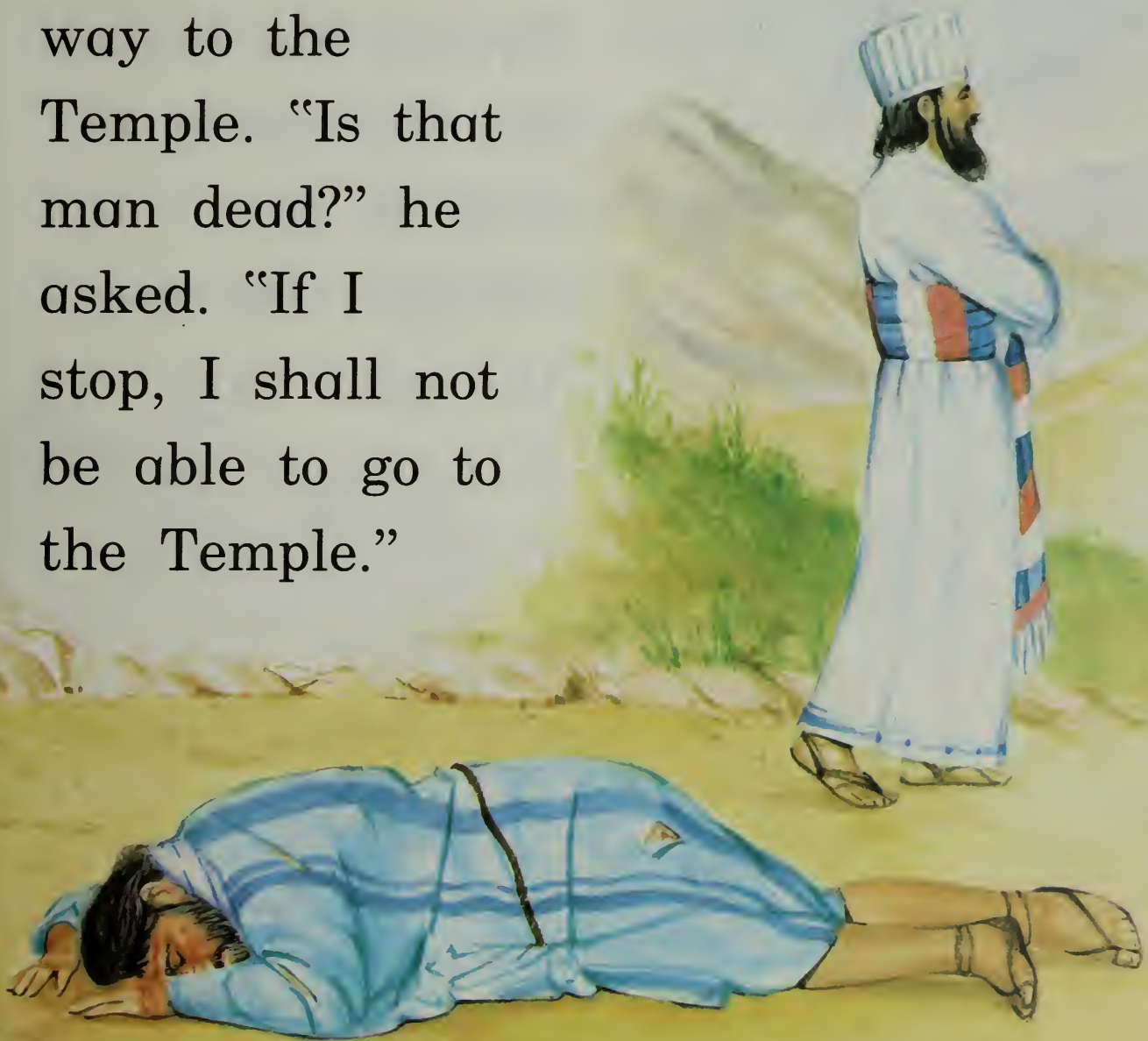


As the man went on his way,  
robbers came from behind some rocks.  
They hit him with their sticks.



The man fell to the ground. He  
was hurt and bleeding. They took  
all his money and his donkey.  
They ran away.

Soon a priest  
came by, on his  
way to the  
Temple. "Is that  
man dead?" he  
asked. "If I  
stop, I shall not  
be able to go to  
the Temple."



So he did not stop. He went by  
on the other side of the road.



After a while,  
another man came  
by, on his donkey.  
He was going to  
sing in the  
Temple. He saw  
the poor man  
lying there in  
the hot sun. He  
too passed by.  
He looked the  
other way.



A little later, a man from the  
land called Samaria came by.

He stopped when he saw the man lying on the ground. He saw that the man was badly hurt.

The Samaritan washed the man's cuts and put a clean cloth over them.

He helped the man on to his donkey.



Slowly they went on their way until they came to an inn.



The Samaritan spoke to the innkeeper. He said, "Please look after this man. He has been beaten. All his goods have been stolen. Here is some money to pay you. I will come this way again. If you need more money, I will give it to you then."



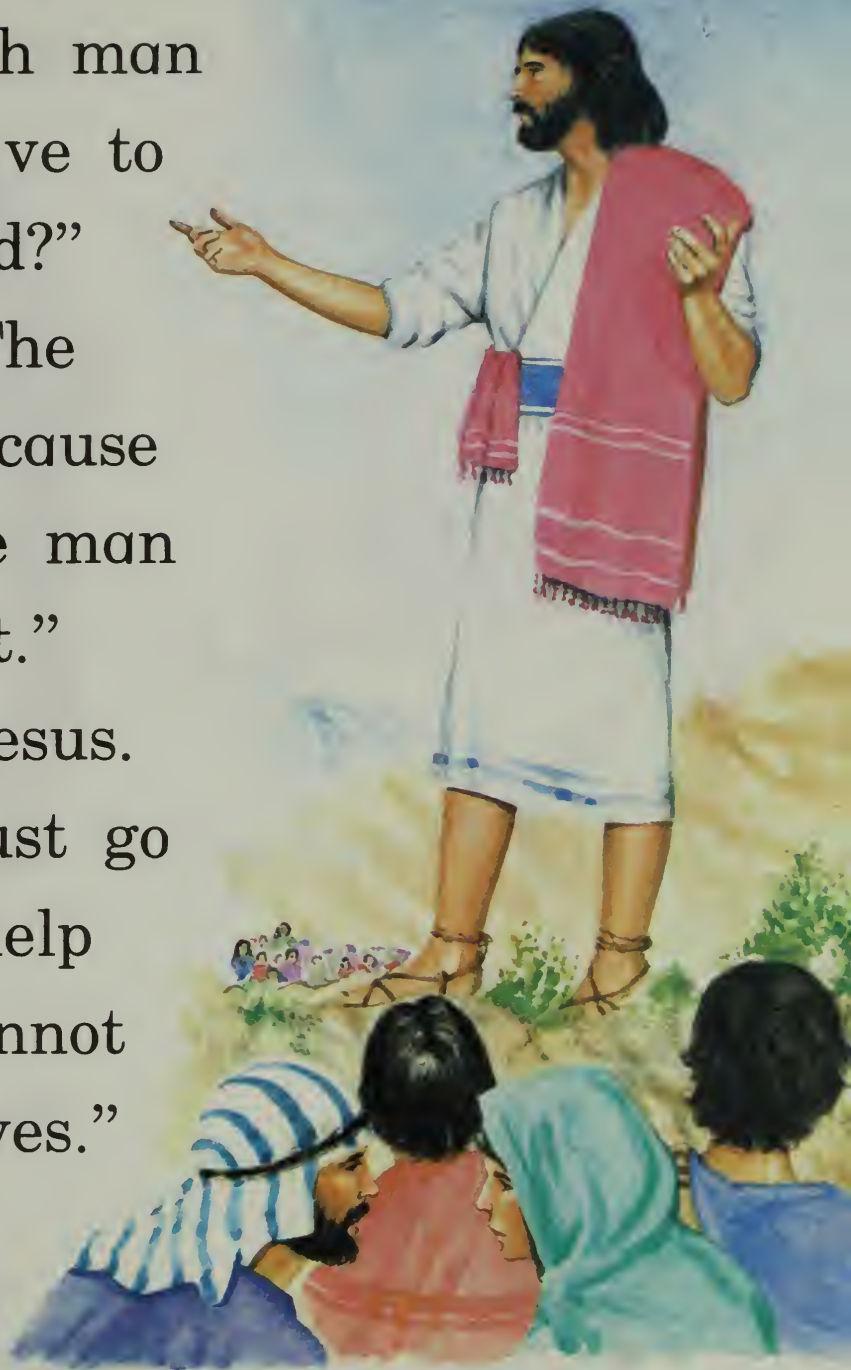
The Samaritan went on his way.

Jesus said to the people, "Which man would you have to be your friend?"

They said, "The Samaritan because he helped the man who was hurt."

"Yes," said Jesus.

"Now you must go and always help those who cannot help themselves."



Jesus told many more stories. The stories Jesus told are called parables.



All these appear in the pages of  
the story. Can you find them?

hillside



sons



feast



father





trader



robbers



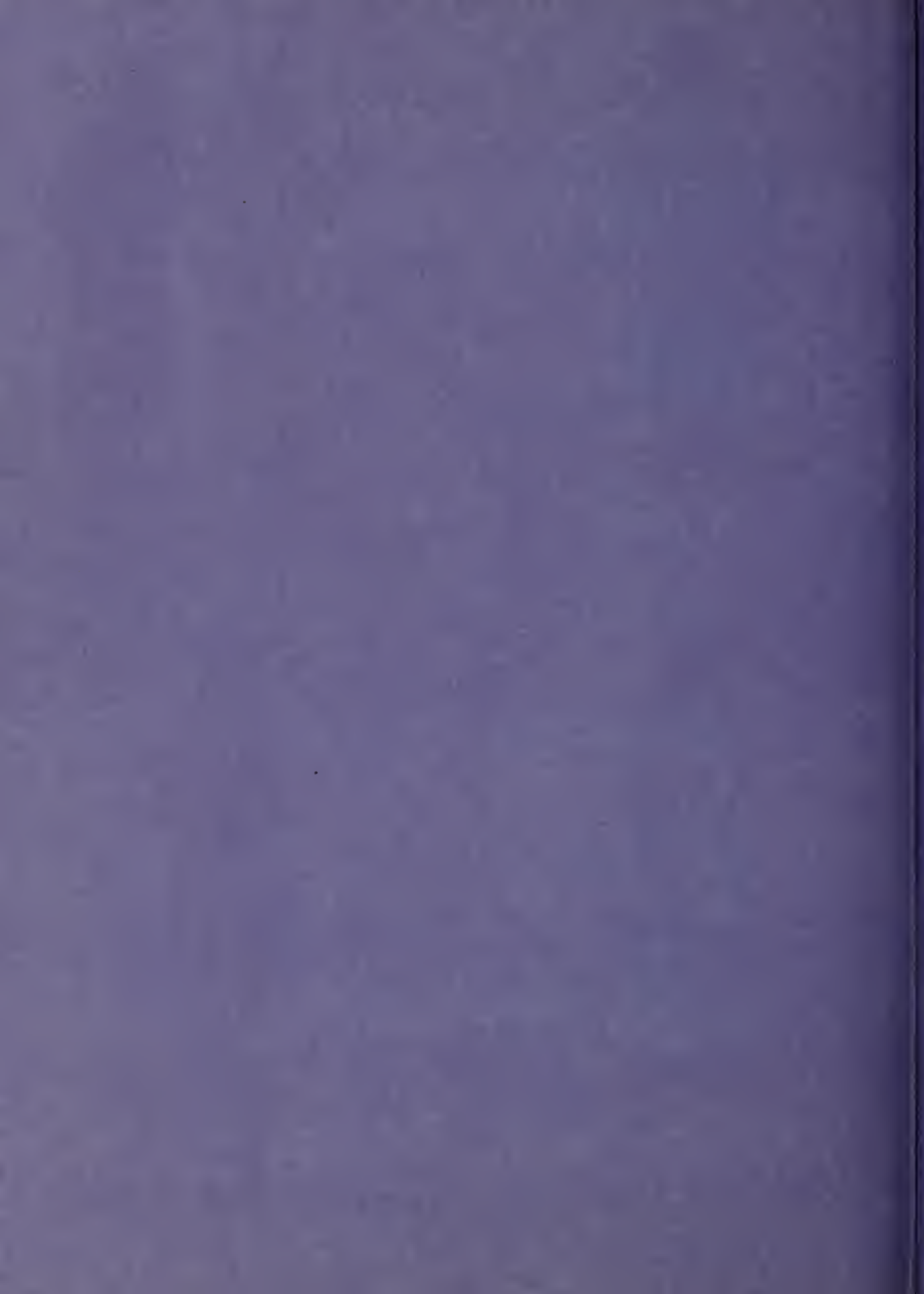
priest

Samaritan



Now tell the story in your own words.









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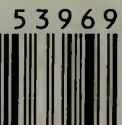
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