

Online Bible for
Children
presents



FROM
PERSECUTOR
TO
PREACHER



Written by Edward Hughes

Illustrated by Janie Forest and Lazarus

Adapted by Lyn Doerksen

The Bible text in this story is from:

The New King James Version

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Publishers

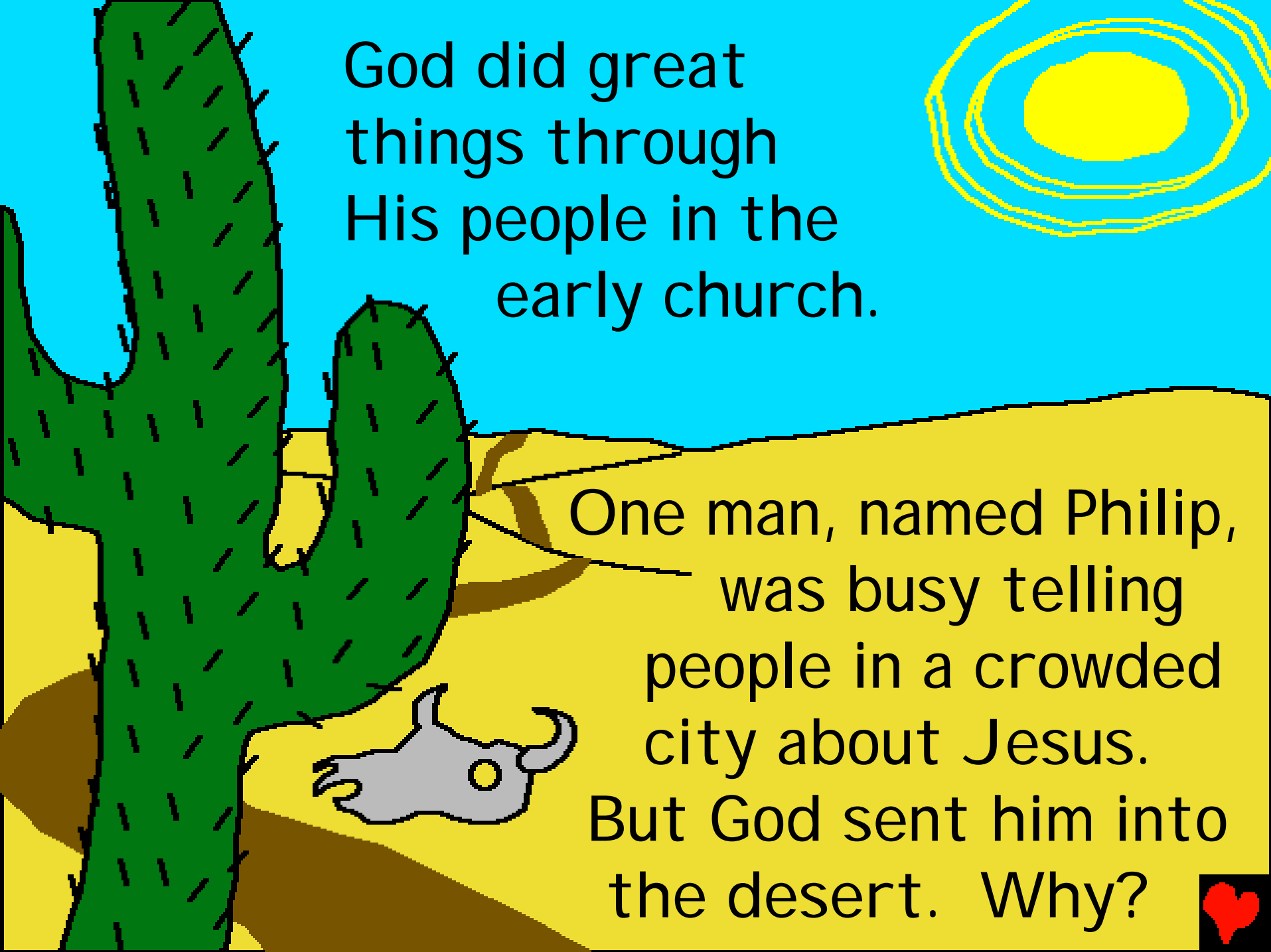
Produced by Genesis Research Corporation

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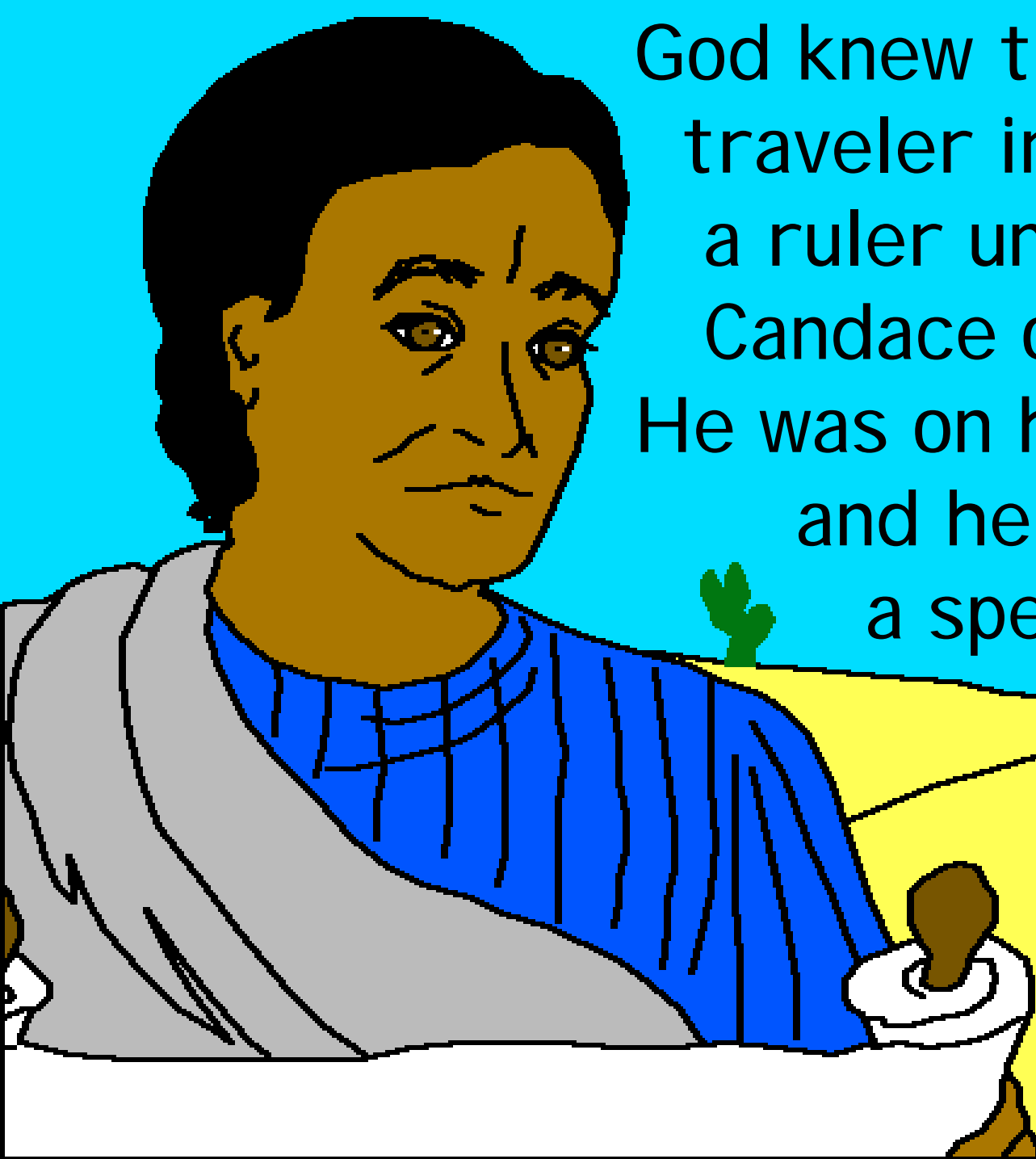




God did great
things through
His people in the
early church.

One man, named Philip,
was busy telling
people in a crowded
city about Jesus.
But God sent him into
the desert. Why?





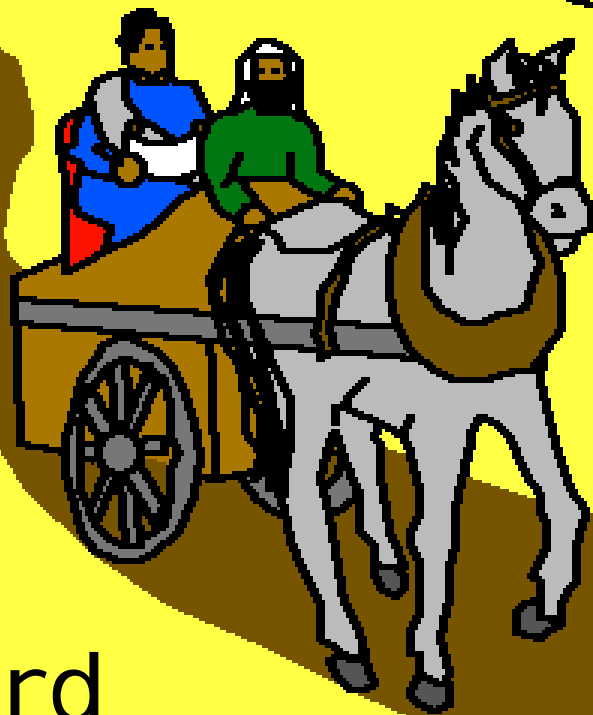
God knew there was a traveler in the desert, a ruler under Queen Candace of Ethiopia. He was on his way home and he was reading a special Book.

Can you guess what the book was?

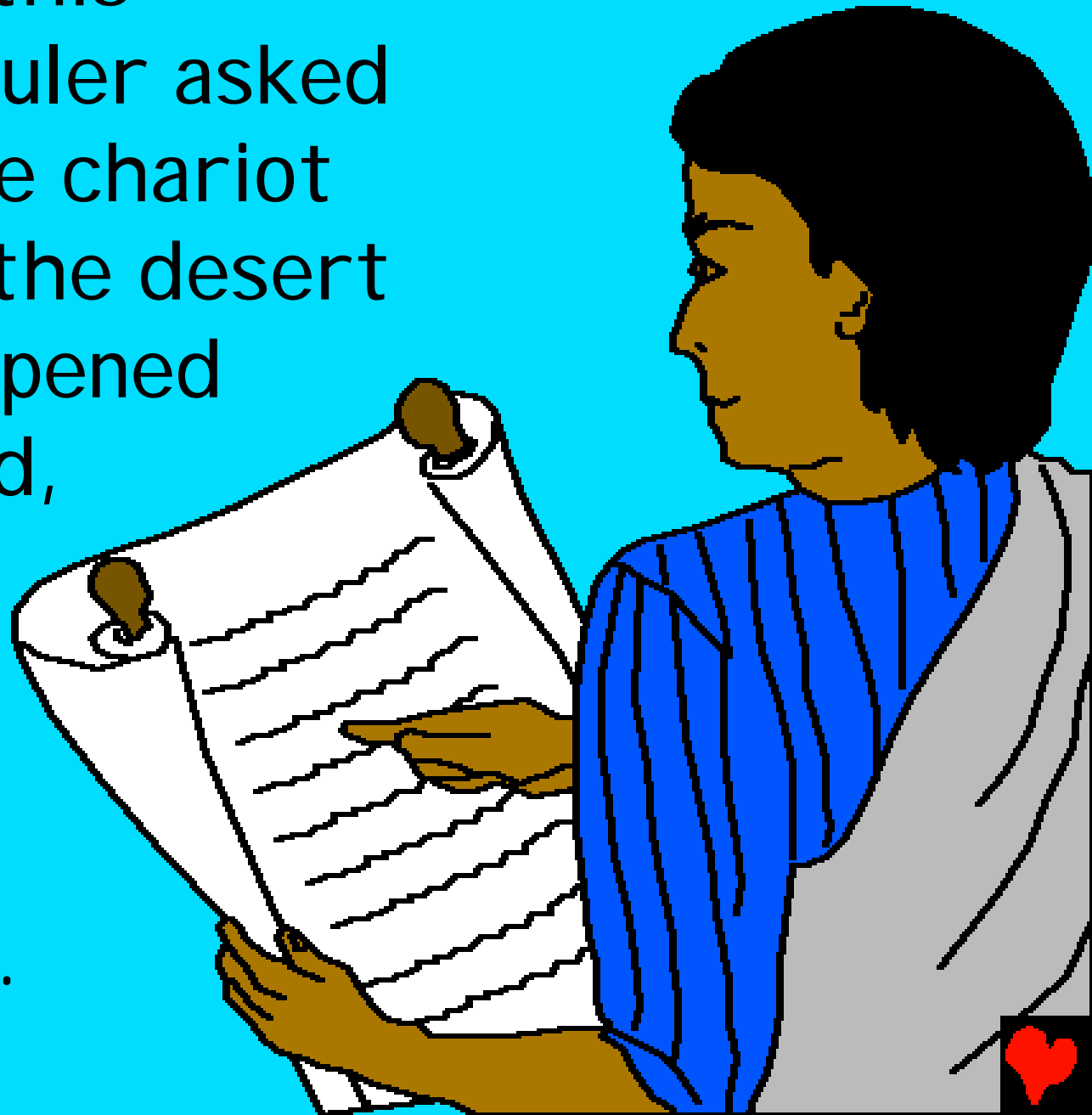


When Philip obeyed God, God led him

straight
to the
ruler
who was
reading
God's Word
without understanding
it. He invited Philip to
join him.



"What does this mean?" the ruler asked Philip. As the chariot jolted along the desert road, Philip opened his mouth and, beginning at that Scripture, preached Jesus to him.





The
African
ruler soon
believed

the message
of the Bible,
that Jesus Christ
is the Son of God. Seeing
some water, he said, "What
hinders me from being baptized?"



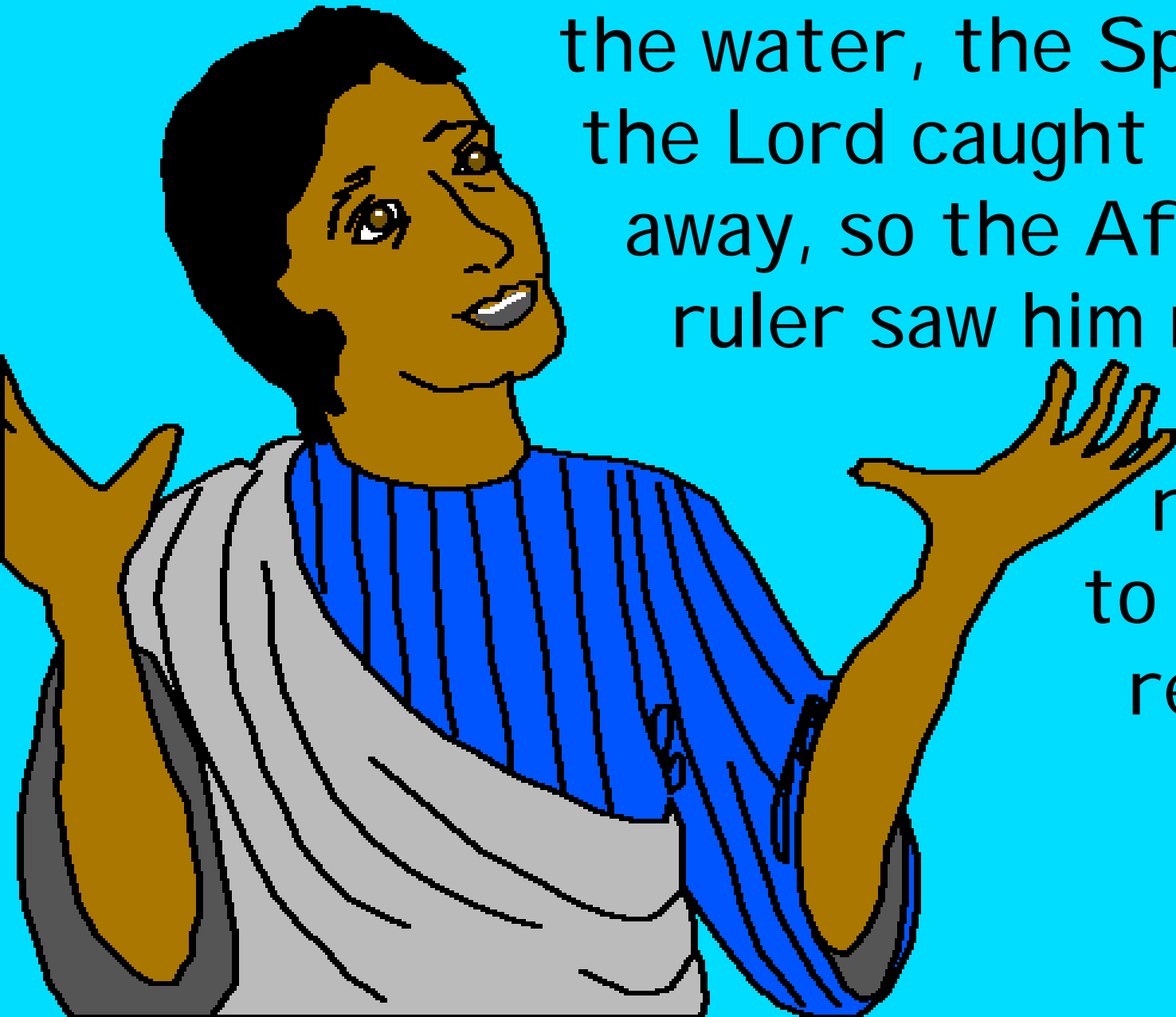
Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." When the ruler answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God," Philip took him

to the water
and baptized
him.

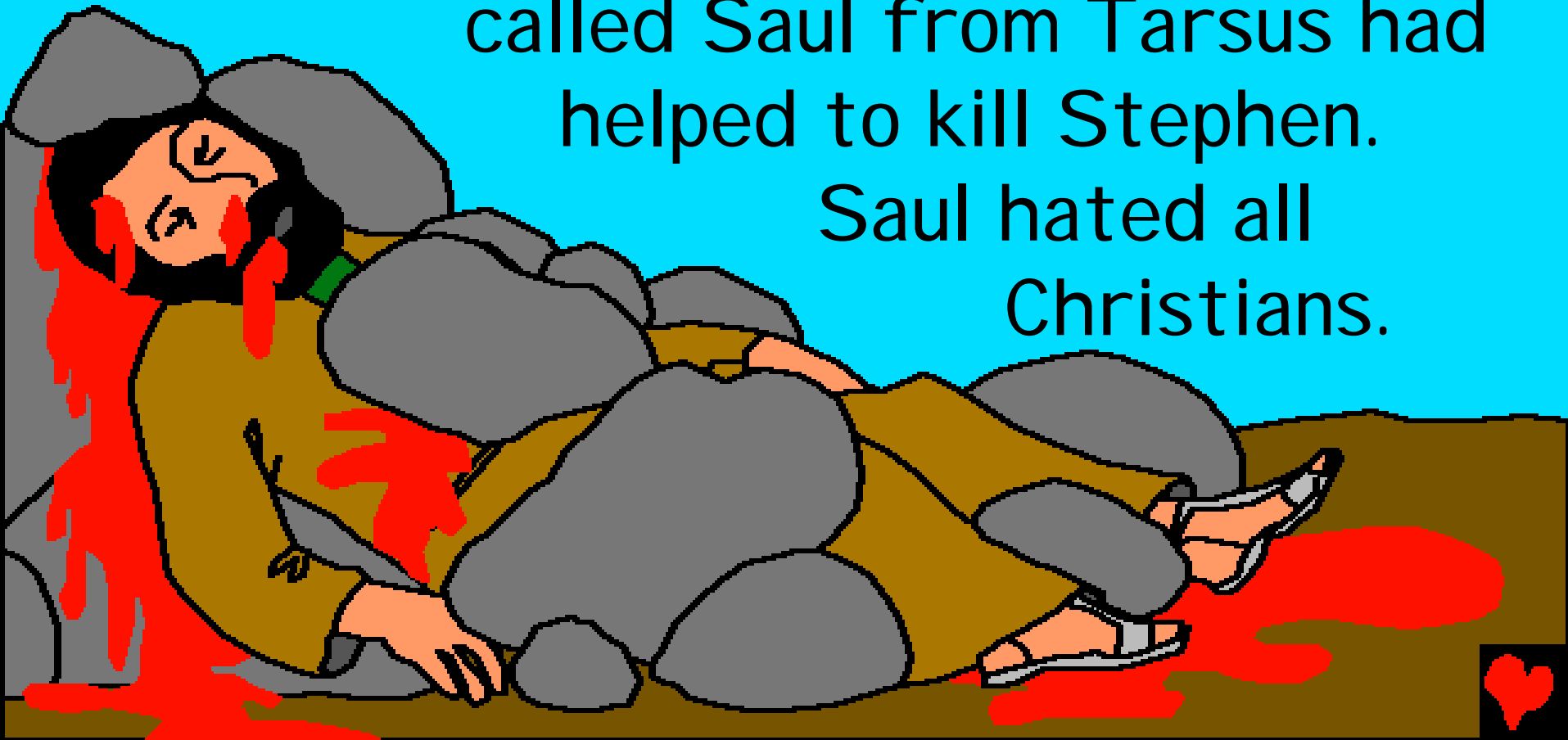


Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so the African ruler saw him no more.

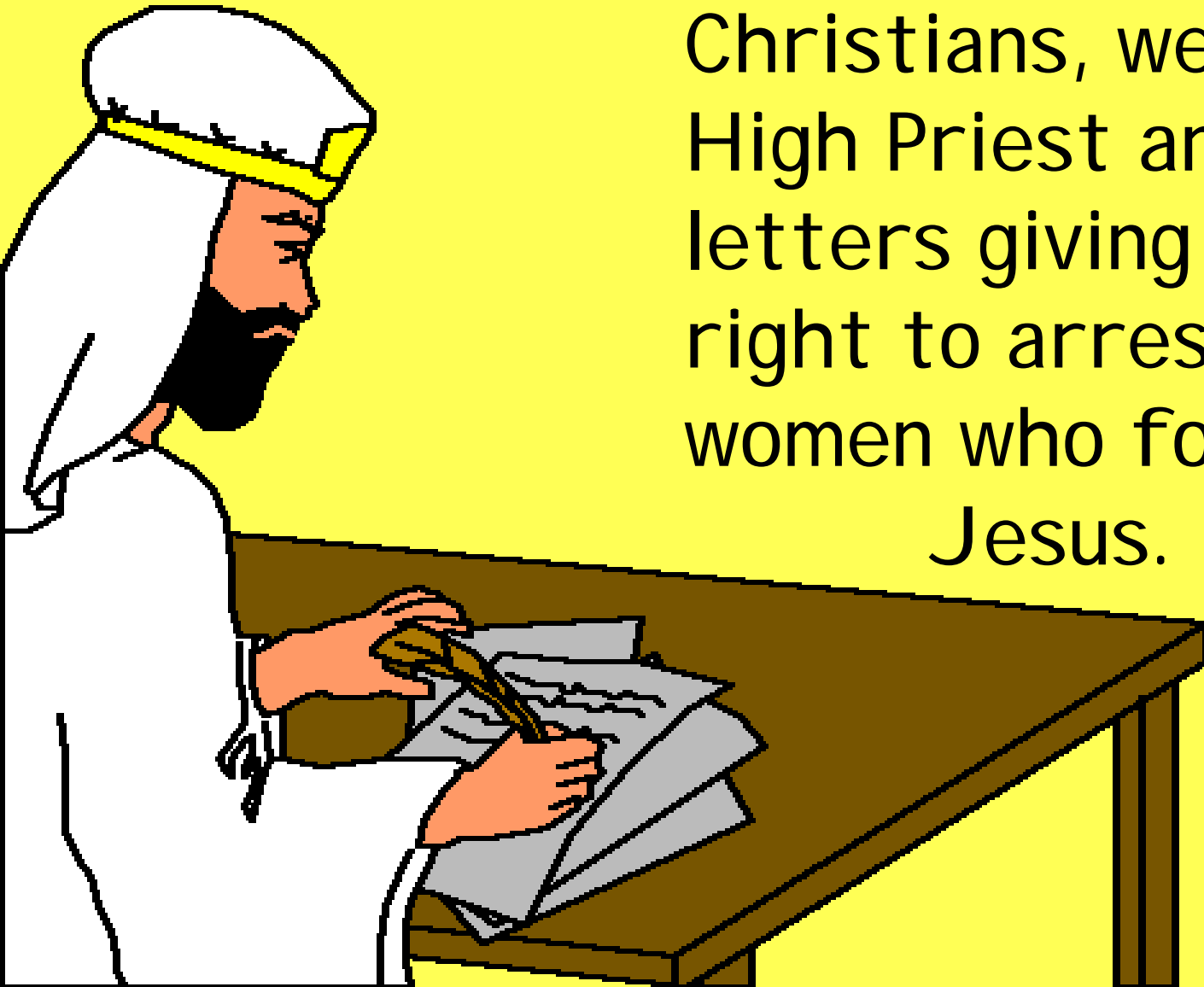
He returned to Ethiopia rejoicing!



But some people hated the Christians. Stephen, one of Philip's friends, had been killed by angry people who did not want him to talk about Jesus. A man called Saul from Tarsus had helped to kill Stephen. Saul hated all Christians.



Saul, breathing threats and murder against the Christians, went to the High Priest and got letters giving him the right to arrest men or women who followed Jesus.



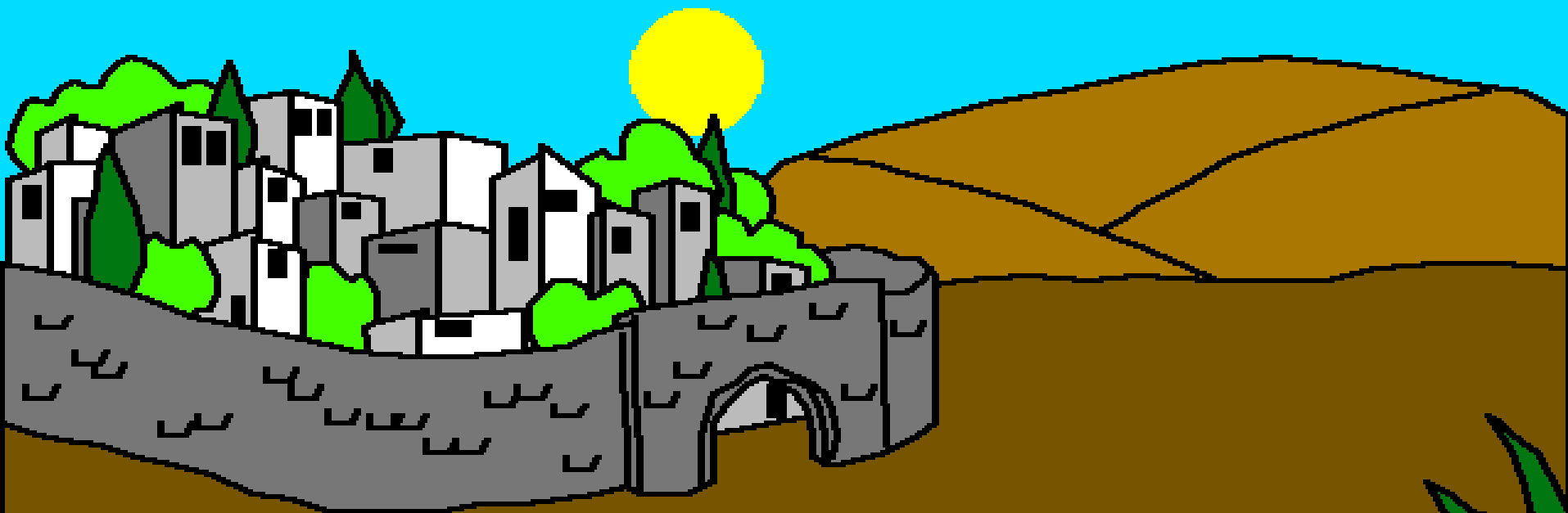


Poor Saul of Tarsus! He didn't know that when he hurt God's people, he was actually hurting the Lord Jesus Himself. God had to stop Saul. But how?



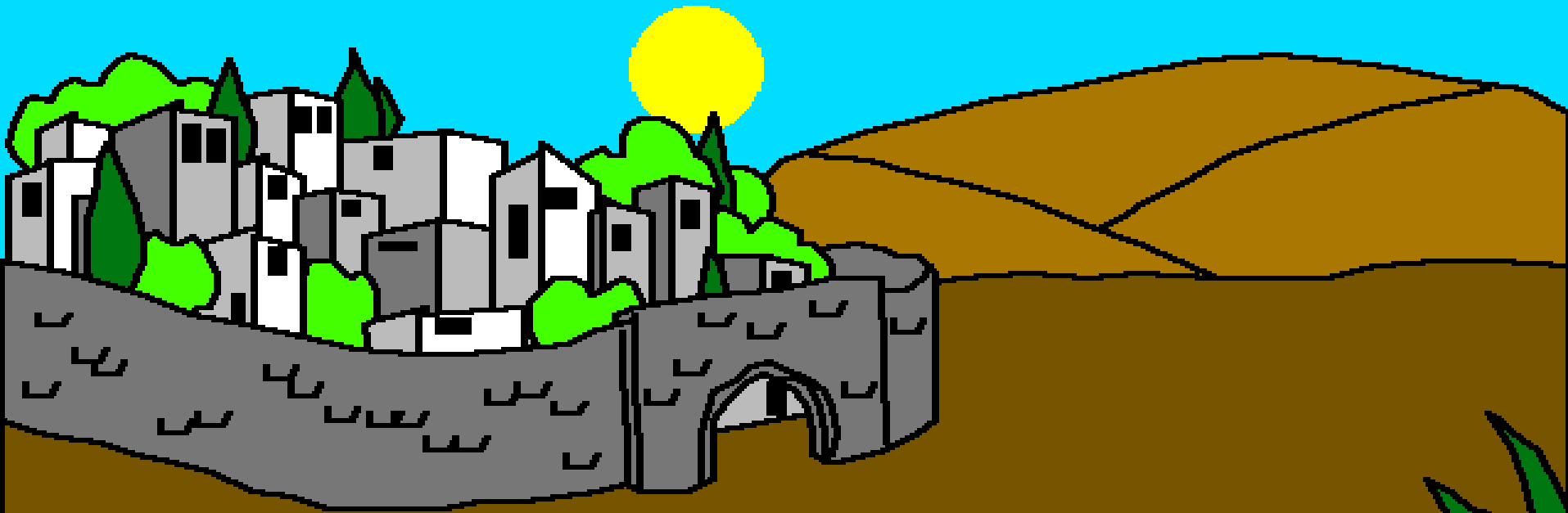
God "arrested" Saul!
While Saul was on the
road to the city of
Damascus, God shone
a great light from
Heaven. Saul fell
to the ground.
Then he heard
a Voice.





"Who are you, Lord?" Saul cried out. "I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting." Trembling and astonished, Saul asked, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"





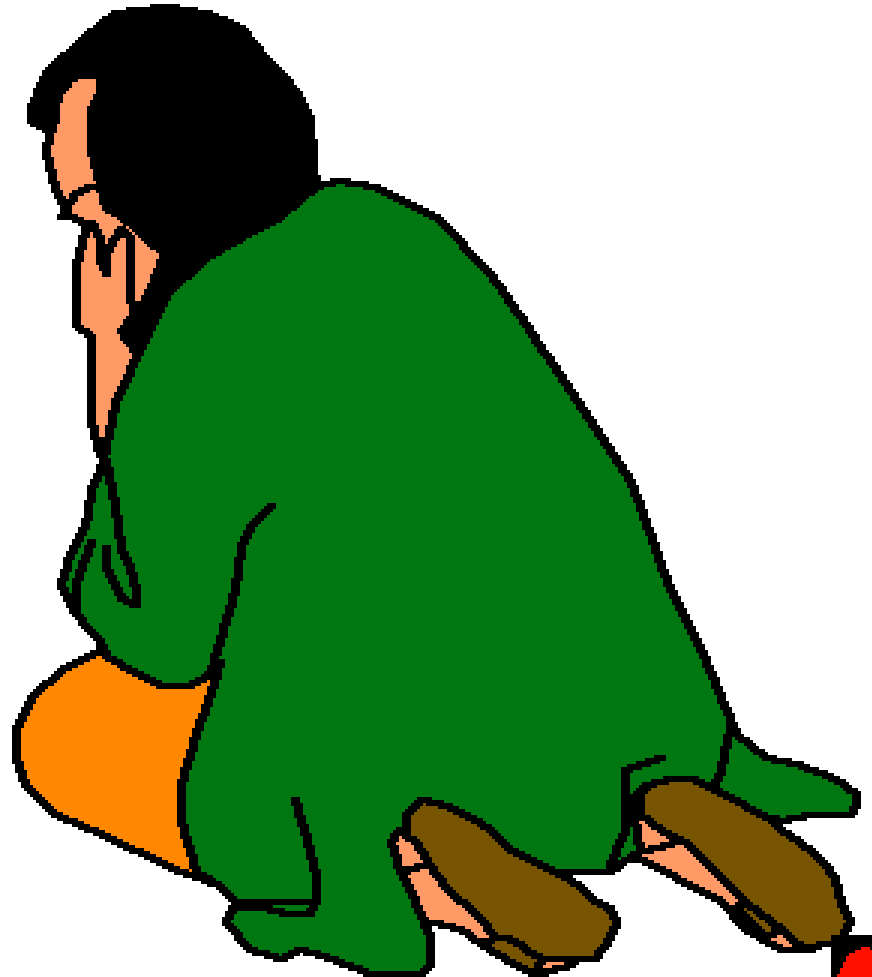
And the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."



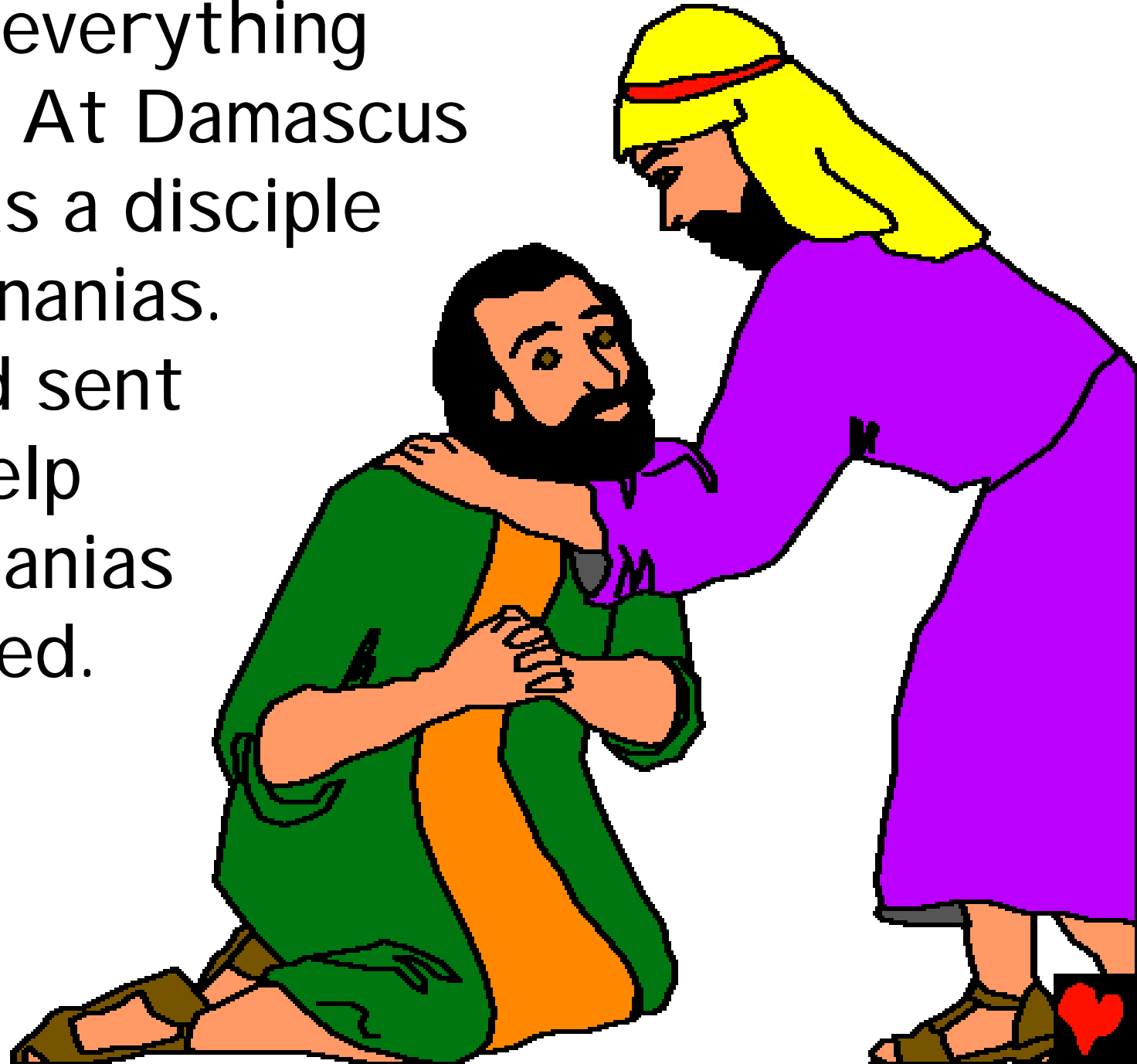
The men with
Saul also heard
the Voice, but
saw no one.
Saul got up
from the
ground -
and found
he was blind!
They led
him into
Damascus.



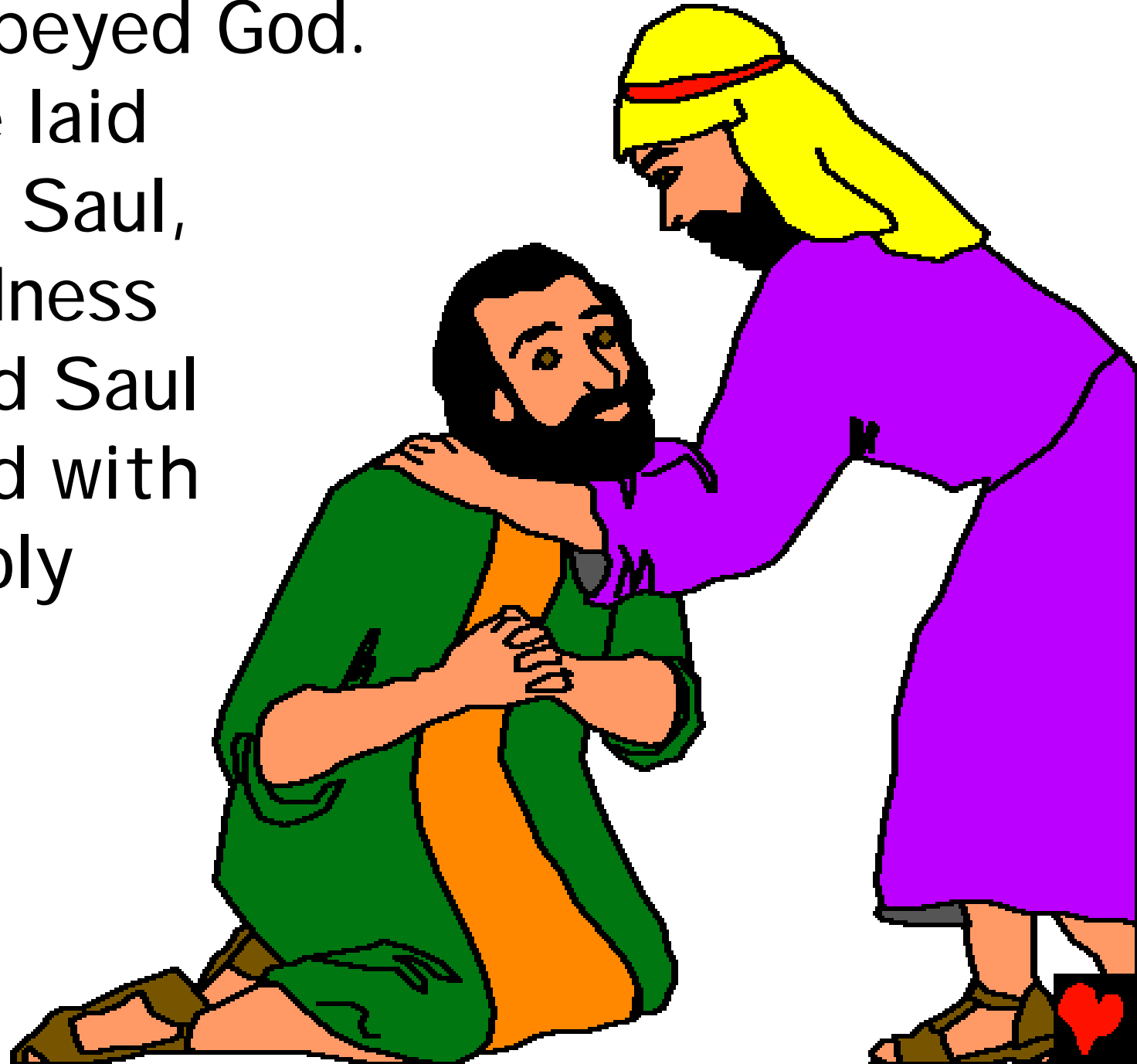
In the city, Saul was three days without sight and neither ate nor drank. Perhaps he spent the time praying to the Lord Jesus Who had met him on the Damascus road.



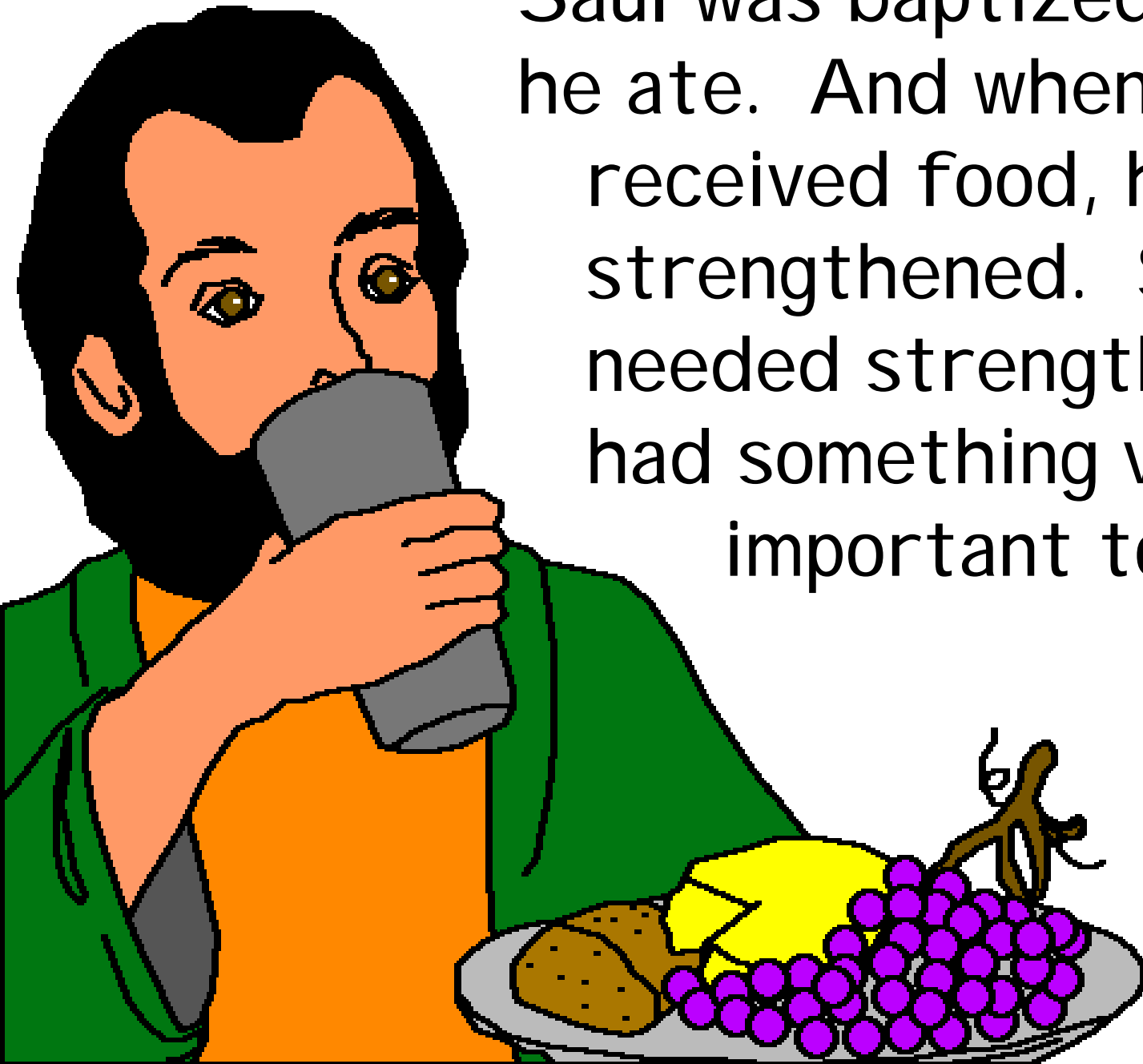
God had everything planned. At Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord sent him to help Saul. Ananias was scared.



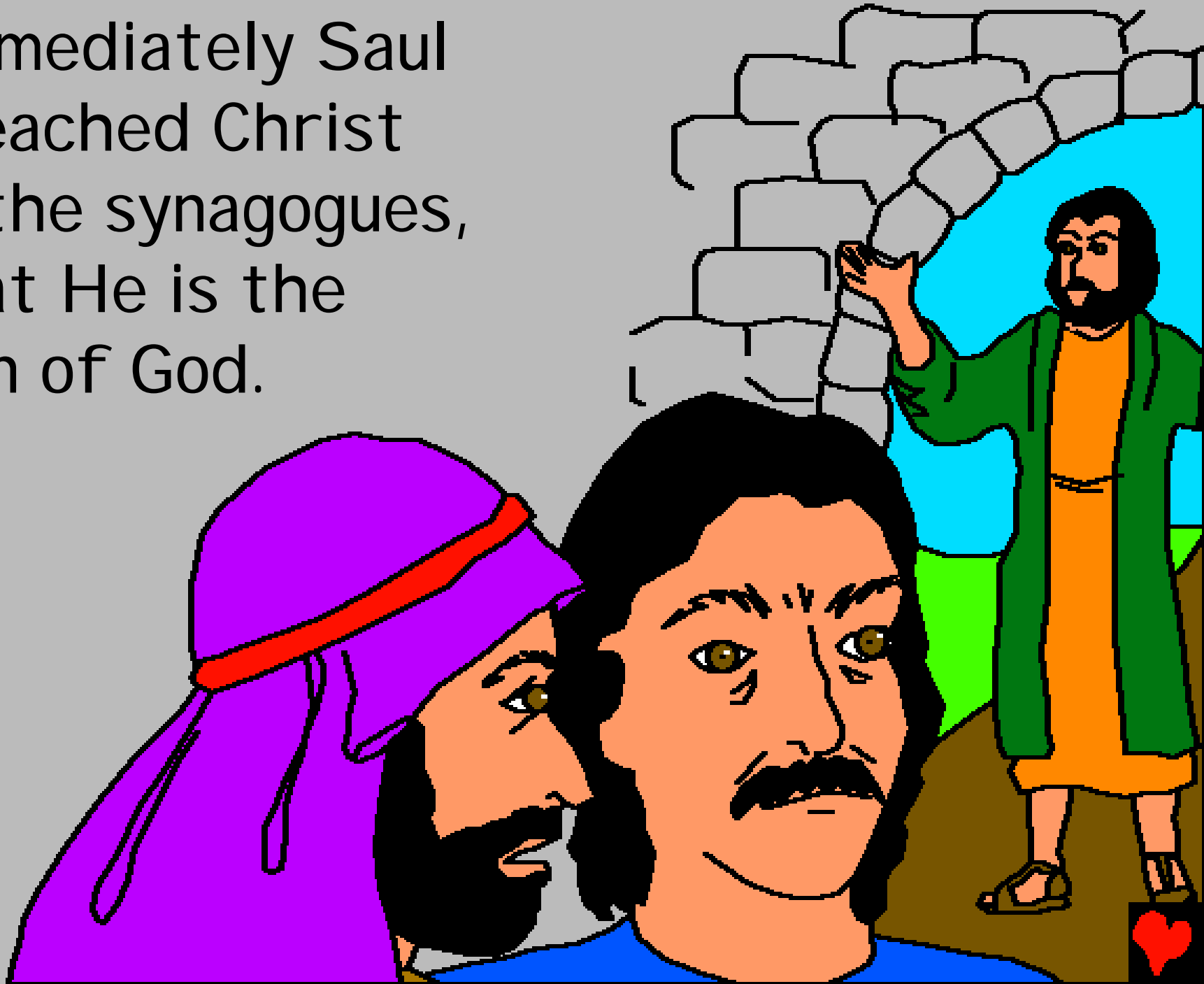
But he obeyed God.
When he laid
hands on Saul,
the blindness
left - and Saul
was filled with
God's Holy
Spirit.



Saul was baptized. Then he ate. And when he had received food, he was strengthened. Saul needed strength. He had something very important to do.

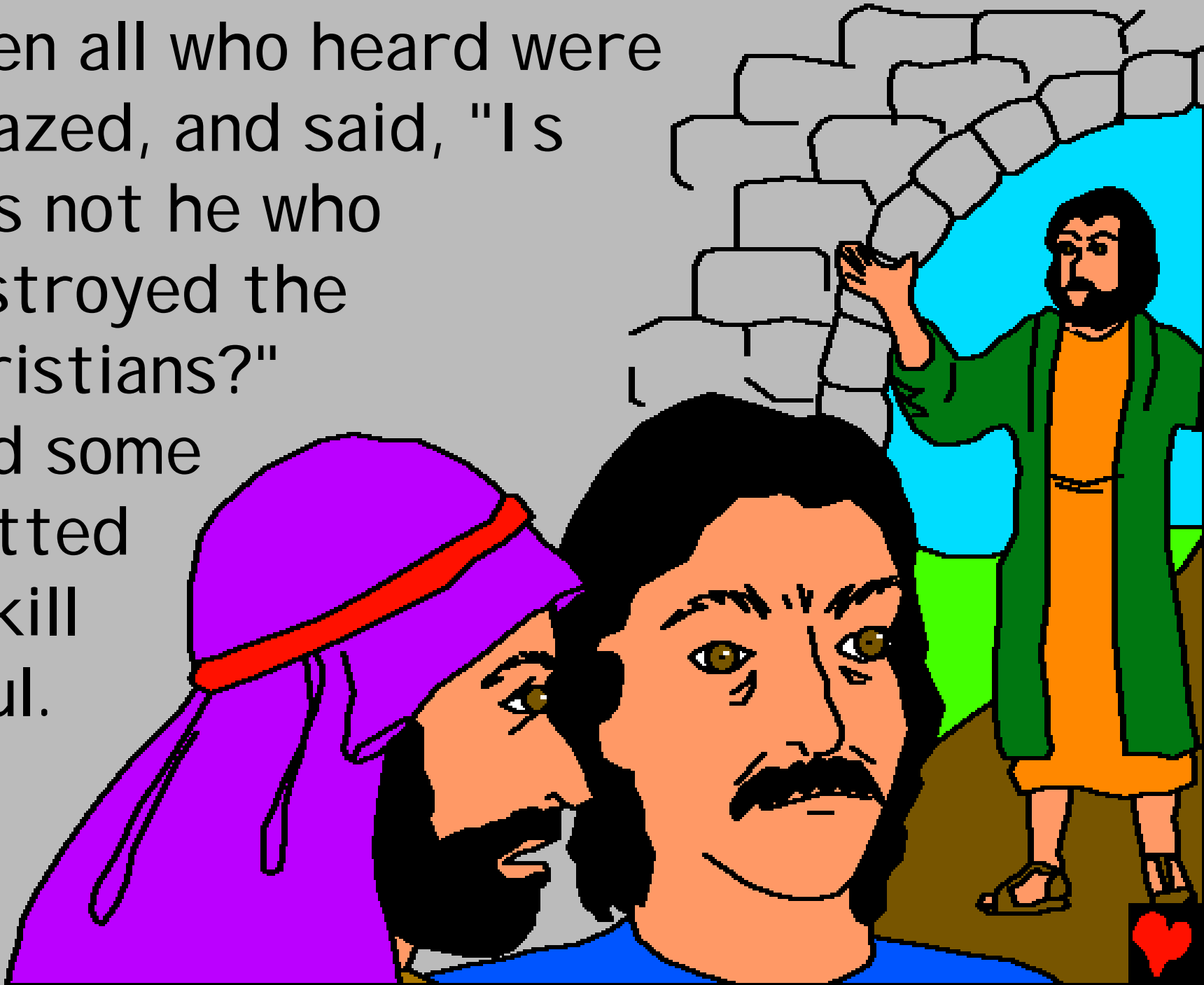


Immediately Saul
preached Christ
in the synagogues,
that He is the
Son of God.



Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed the Christians?"

And some plotted to kill Saul.





Saul's new enemies watched the city gates to kill Saul if he tried to leave the city. But his new friends, the Christians, took him by night and let him down over the wall in a large basket.





And from then on, Saul the persecutor of Christians lived as a faithful follower of his new Master, the Lord Jesus Christ.



From Persecutor to Preacher

A story from God's Word,
the Bible,
is found in
Acts 8 and 9

"The entrance of Your Word gives light."
Psalm 119:130



The End

