

Online Bible for Children
presents



THE CHURCH MEETS TROUBLE



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The Bible text in this story is from:

The New King James Version

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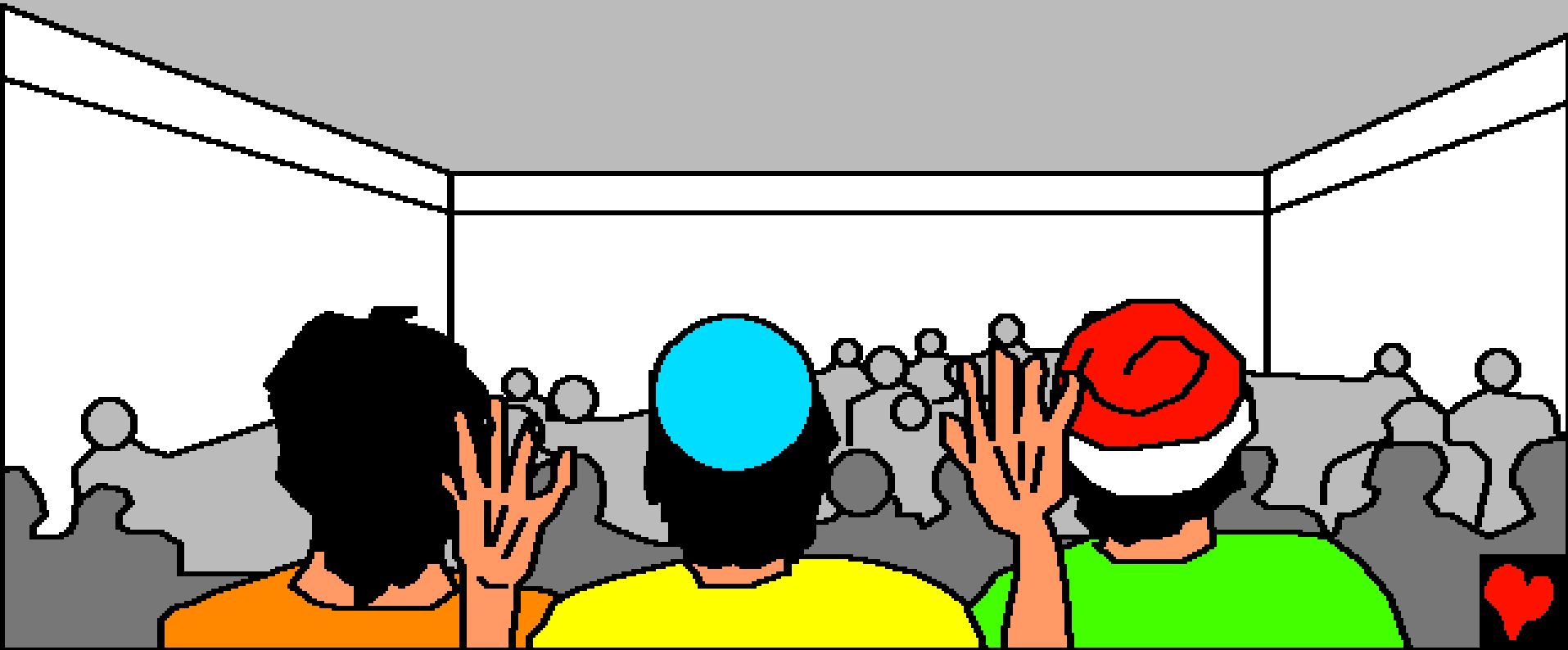
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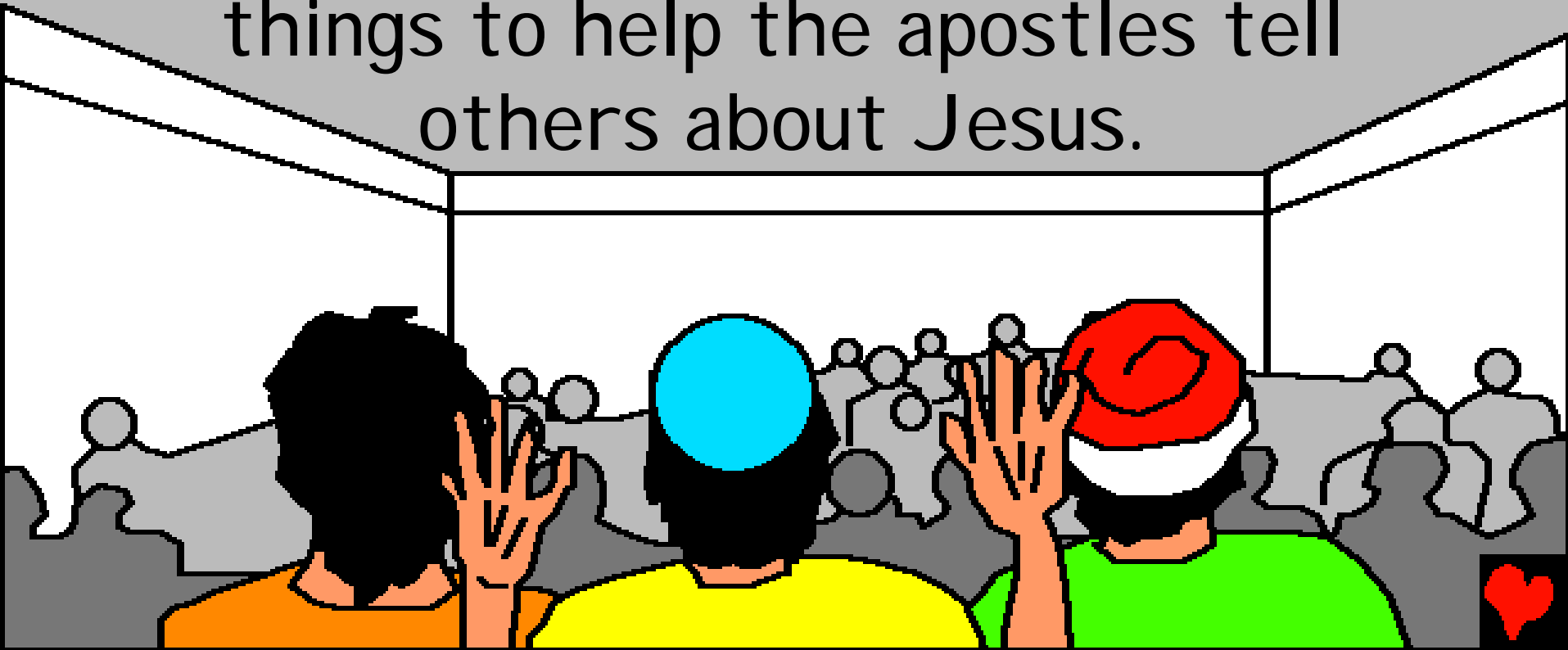
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Fifty days after God's Son Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came to live within His followers.



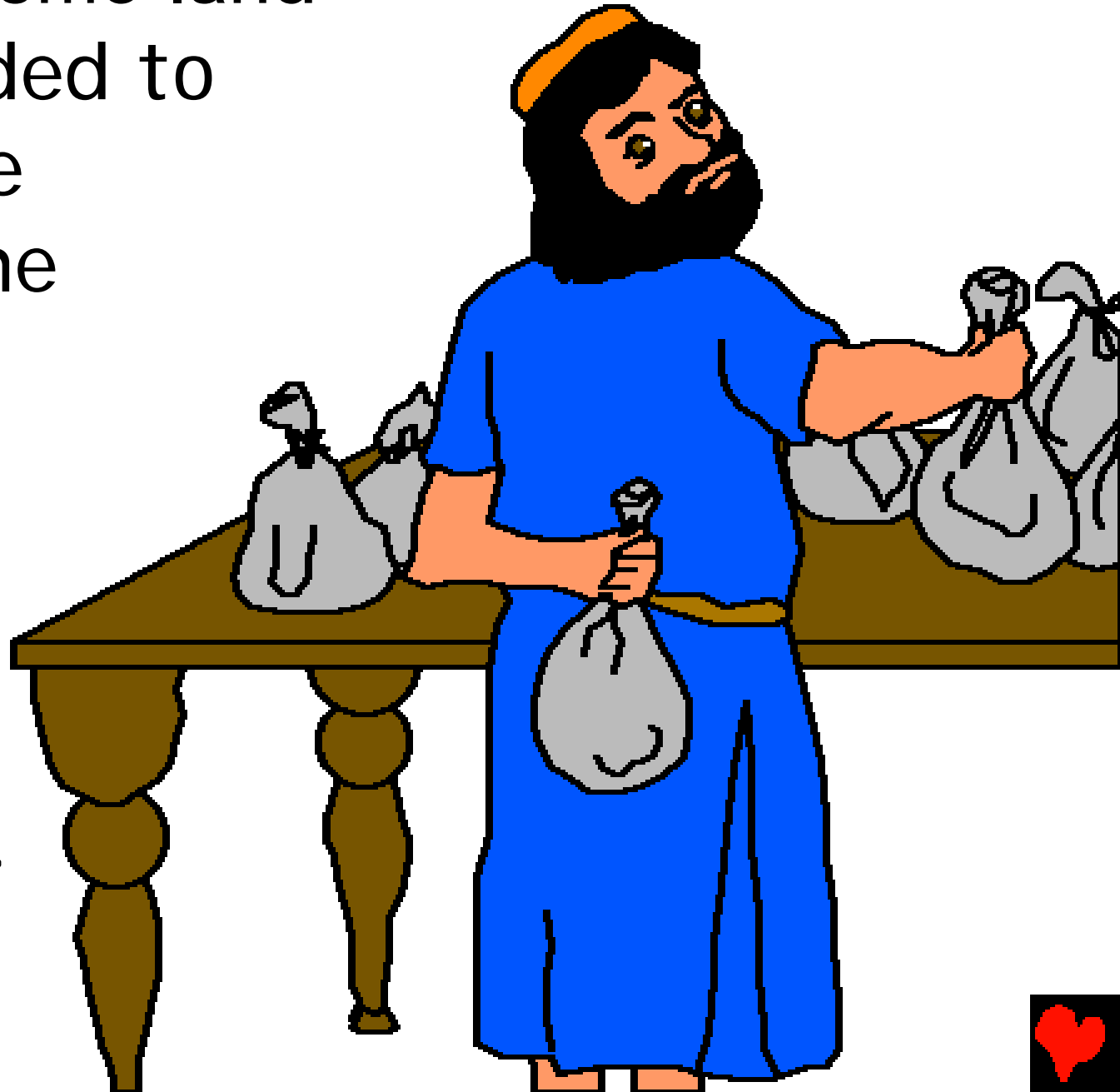
Although the disciples didn't understand how God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit could all be one God, they were happy to have God with them. God did wonderful things to help the apostles tell others about Jesus.



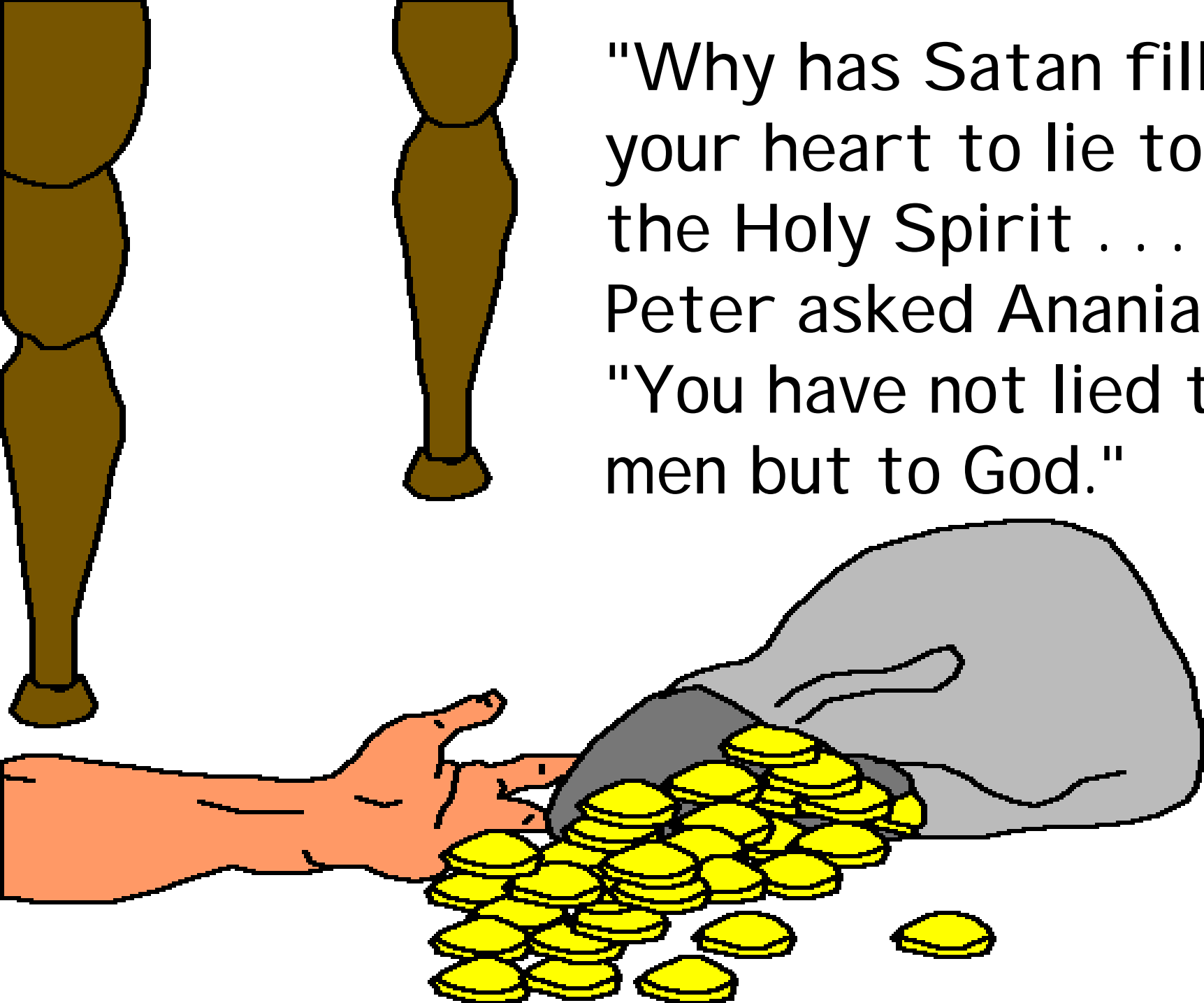
People who believed on Jesus shared everything they had so that the poor were cared for. But one couple named Ananias and Sapphira were dishonest.



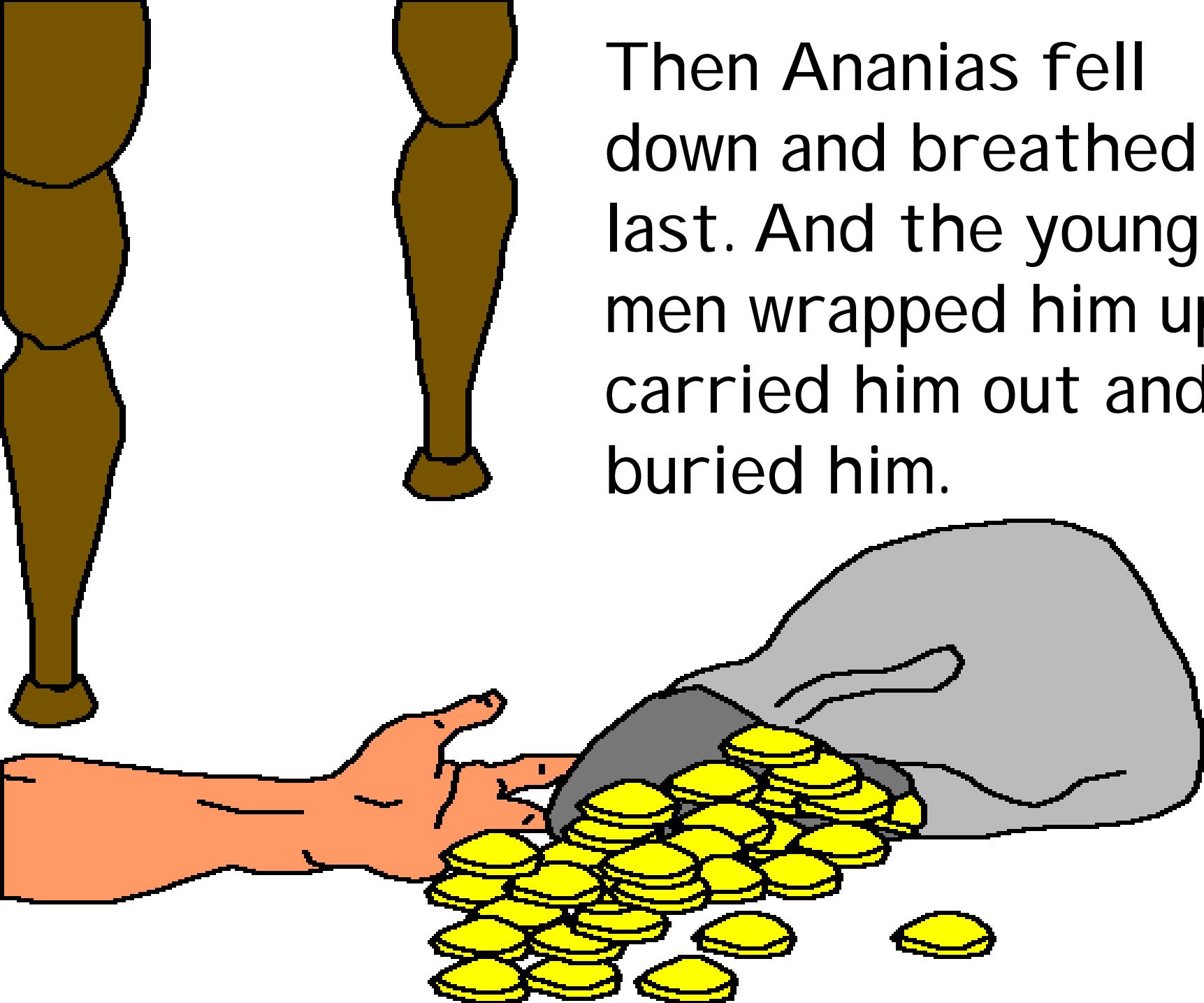
They sold some land
and pretended to
bring all the
money to the
apostles.
Secretly,
they kept
some back
for
themselves.



"Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit . . . ?" Peter asked Ananias. "You have not lied to men but to God."

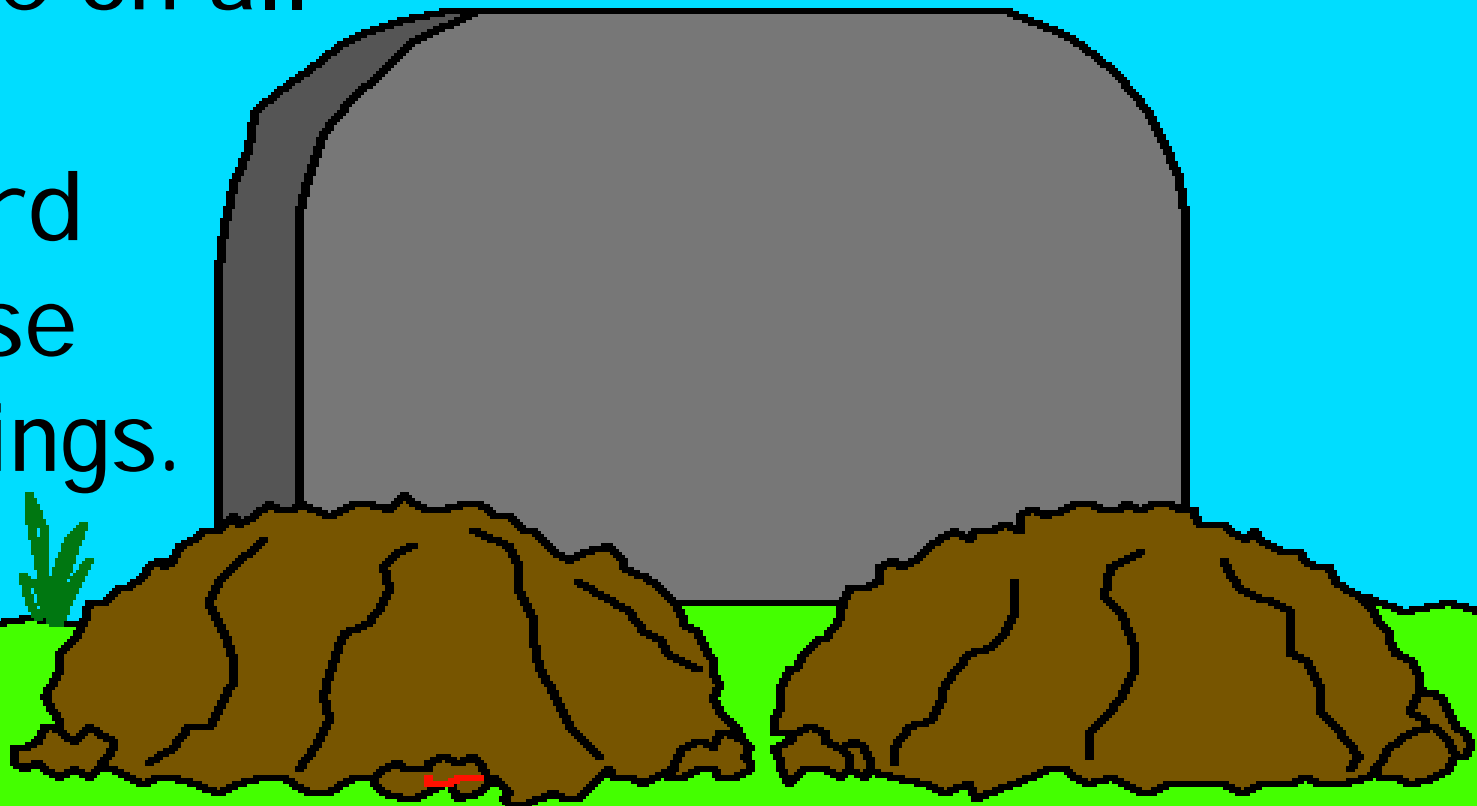


Then Ananias fell down and breathed his last. And the young men wrapped him up, carried him out and buried him.



A short time later, Sapphira came in,
not knowing that her husband had died.
She also lied about the money - and the
same thing happened to her. Great fear
came on all

who
heard
these
things.



God the Holy Spirit did many signs and wonders through the apostles.



For example,
sick people
were
healed when
Peter's shadow
fell on them.



It was a time
of great
miracles,
showing God's
presence. More
and more people
believed on Jesus.



This made the High Priest very angry. He had the apostles put in jail!





But at night
an angel of
the Lord
opened the
prison doors
and brought
them out,
and said,

"Go, stand in the temple and speak to
the people all the words of this life."





The apostles went out and began to preach about Jesus. In the morning, the High Priest's men found the jail empty.



When he finally found them, the High Priest scolded the apostles. "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this Name?" "We ought to obey God rather than men,"

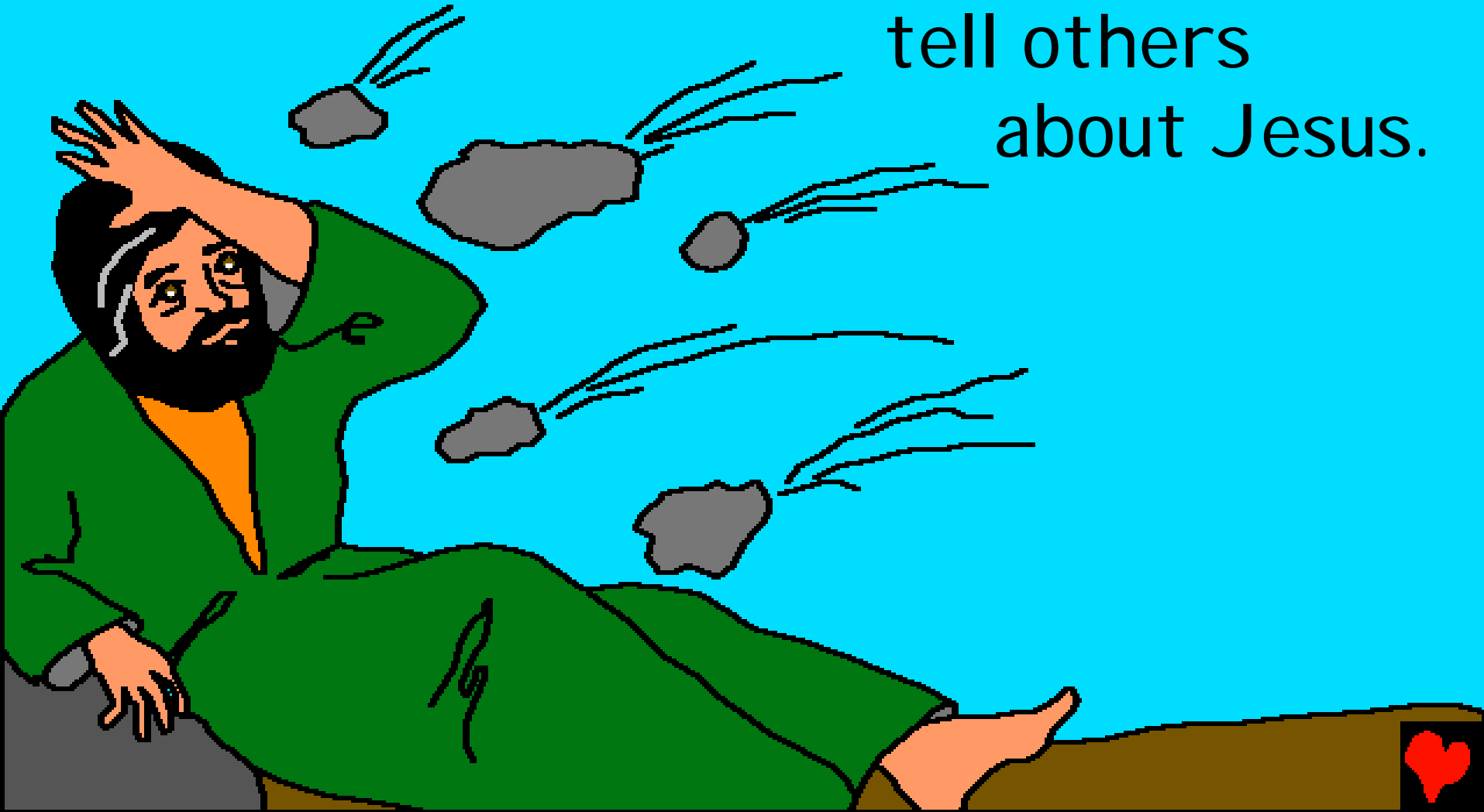
Peter and the other apostles answered.



The High Priest was so furious, he wanted to kill the apostles. Instead, he ordered them to be beaten and released. In spite of their pain, the apostles obeyed God and carried on preaching about Jesus.

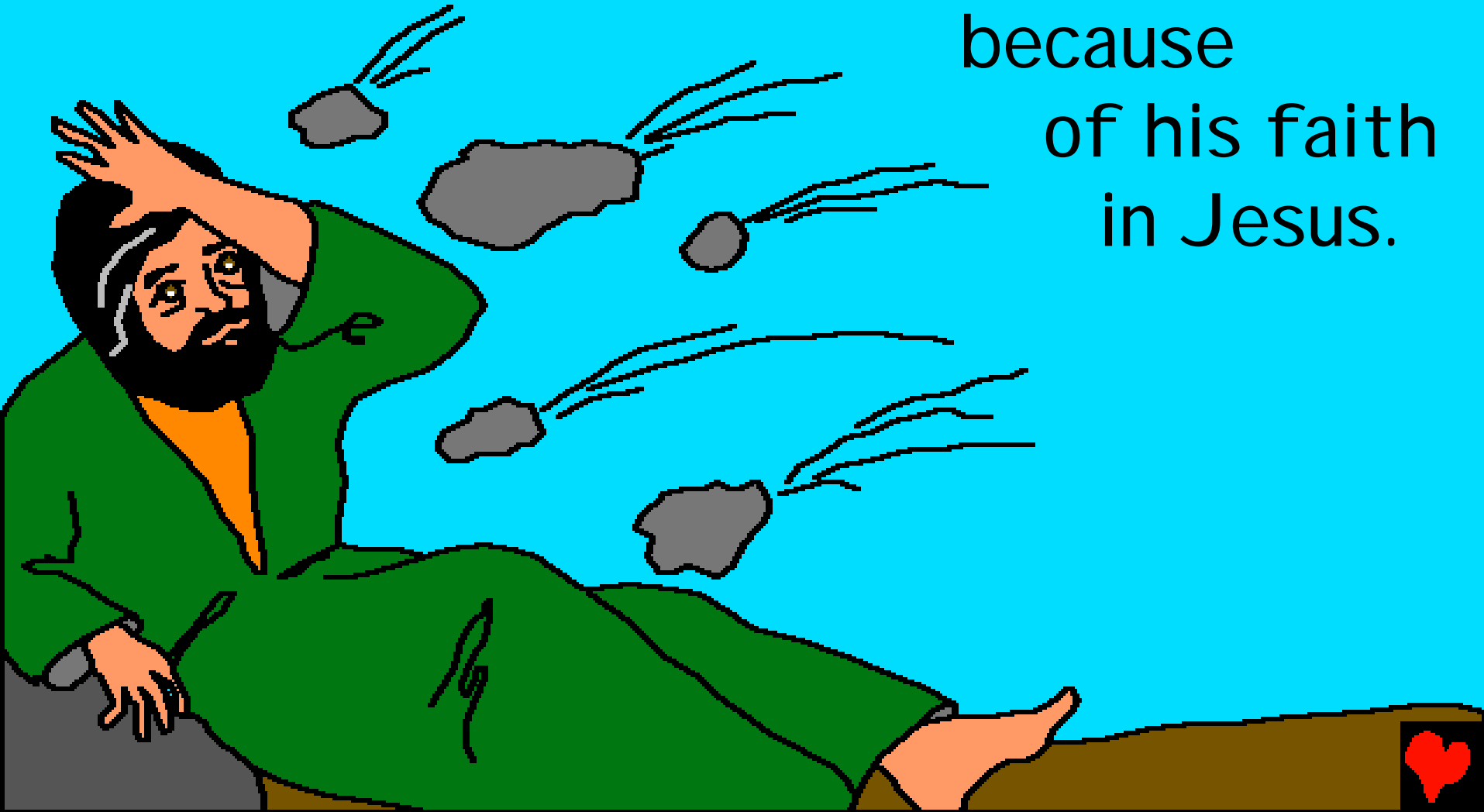


One day a man called Stephen was arrested. Stephen loved the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit was using him to tell others about Jesus.



Some men lied, saying that Stephen was speaking against God. After a mock trial, Stephen was stoned to death

because
of his faith
in Jesus.



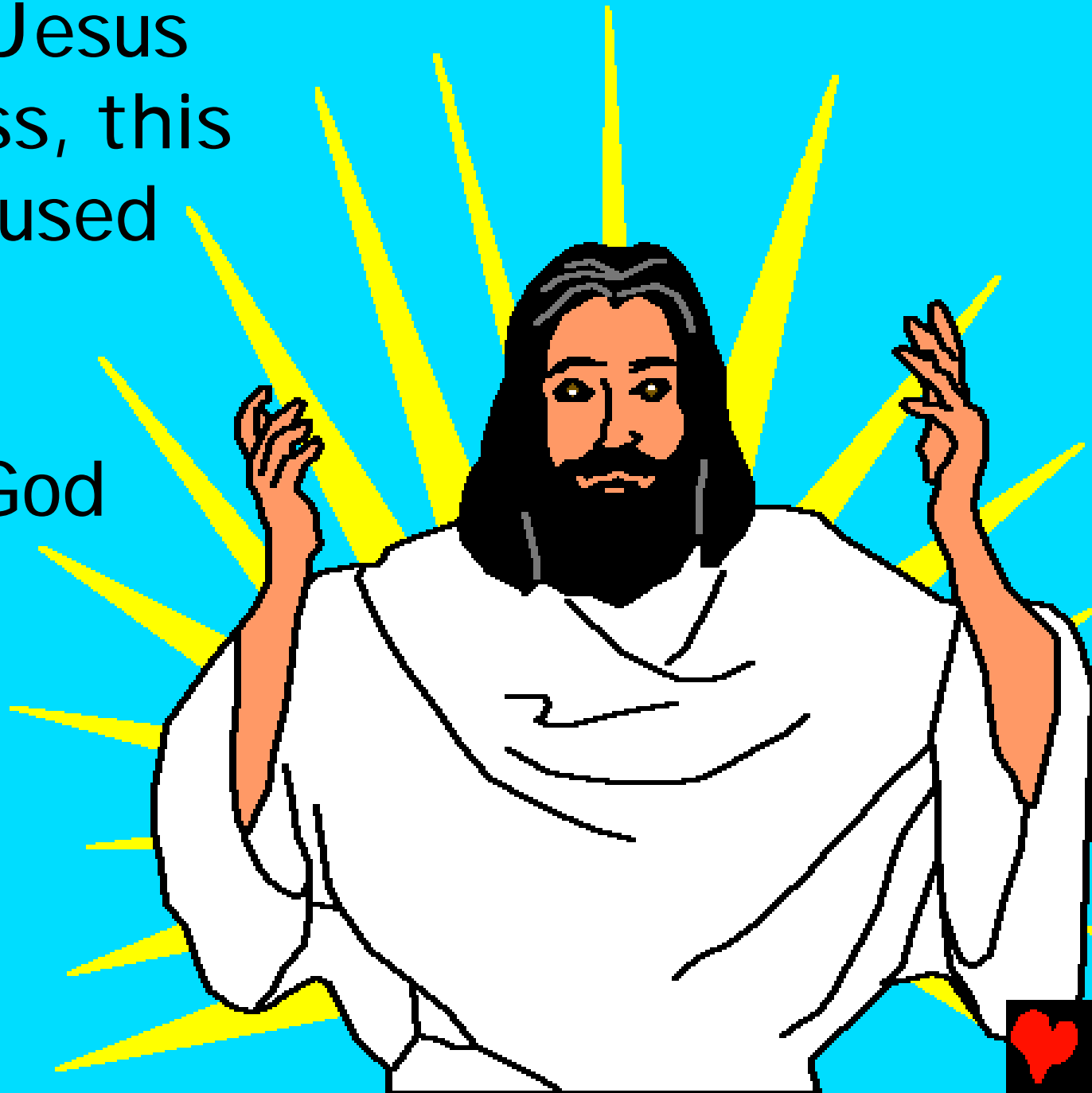
Before he died,
Stephen, full of
the Holy Spirit,
gazed into
heaven and
saw the
glory of
God and
Jesus
standing at
the right
hand of God.



The crowd
stoned
Stephen
as he was
calling on
God and
saying,
"Lord
Jesus,
receive
my spirit."



Then, like Jesus
on the cross, this
brave man used
his dying
breath to
pray that God
would
forgive his
murderers.



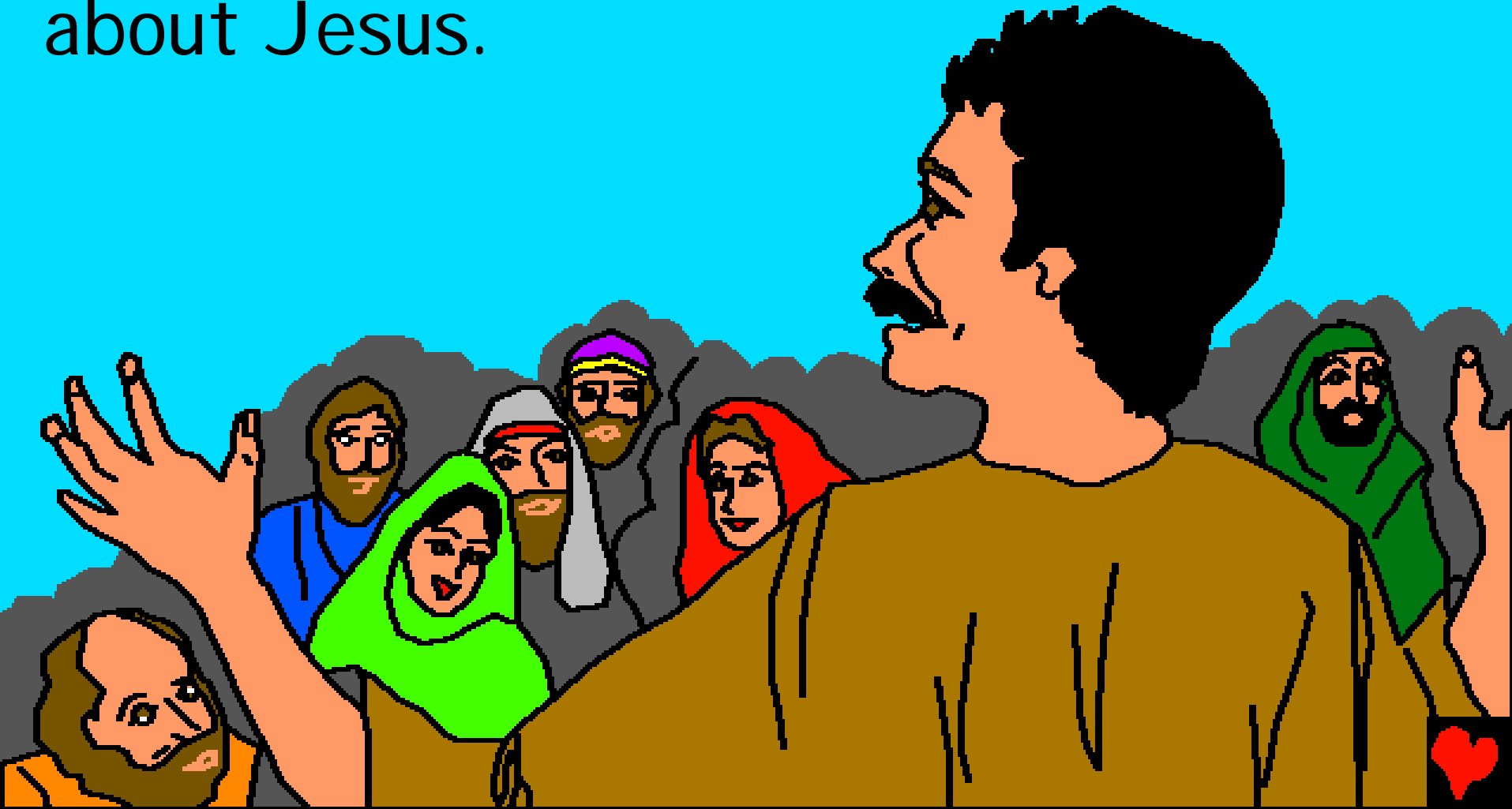
Stephen's death started a new wave of persecution. A young man named Saul, who had helped Stephen's murderers, arrested every Christian he could find.



Many of them fled from their homes and were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Only the apostles stayed in Jerusalem.



Although their enemies tried to kill them, those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the good news about Jesus.



Nothing could stop the followers of Jesus - because God's Holy Spirit lived in them and worked through them.



The Church Meets Trouble

A story from God's Word, the Bible,
is found in
Acts 4-9

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



The End

