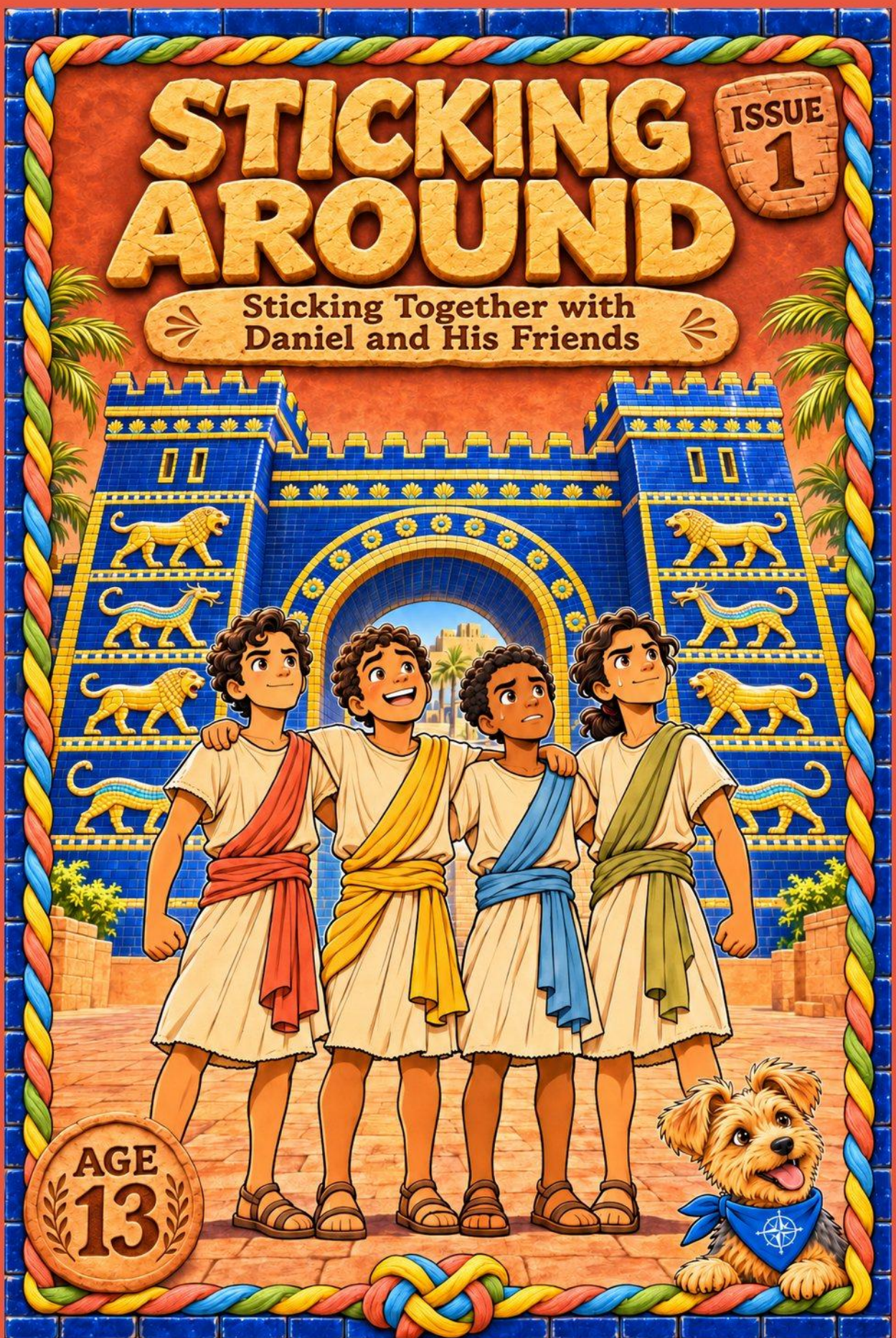
COMIC BOOK ISSUE 1 OF 8 · AGES 6–11 by Rick Melick

STICKING AROUND

ISSUE 1

Sticking Together with Daniel and His Friends



AGE 13

MEET YOUR TOUR GUIDE

Before the story starts



Hi! I'm Baxter. I'm 13 pounds of scruffy, and the compass on my bandana is special. When a kid has a problem, it takes us into a Bible story where someone faced the same thing!

MY FRIENDS (THEY LIVE ON MY STREET)

MAYA age 10
Always has her notebook

ELI age 11
The jokester

SAM age 9
Quiet, and new in town

SOFIA age 11
The artist

IN BABYLON, WATCH THE SASH COLORS

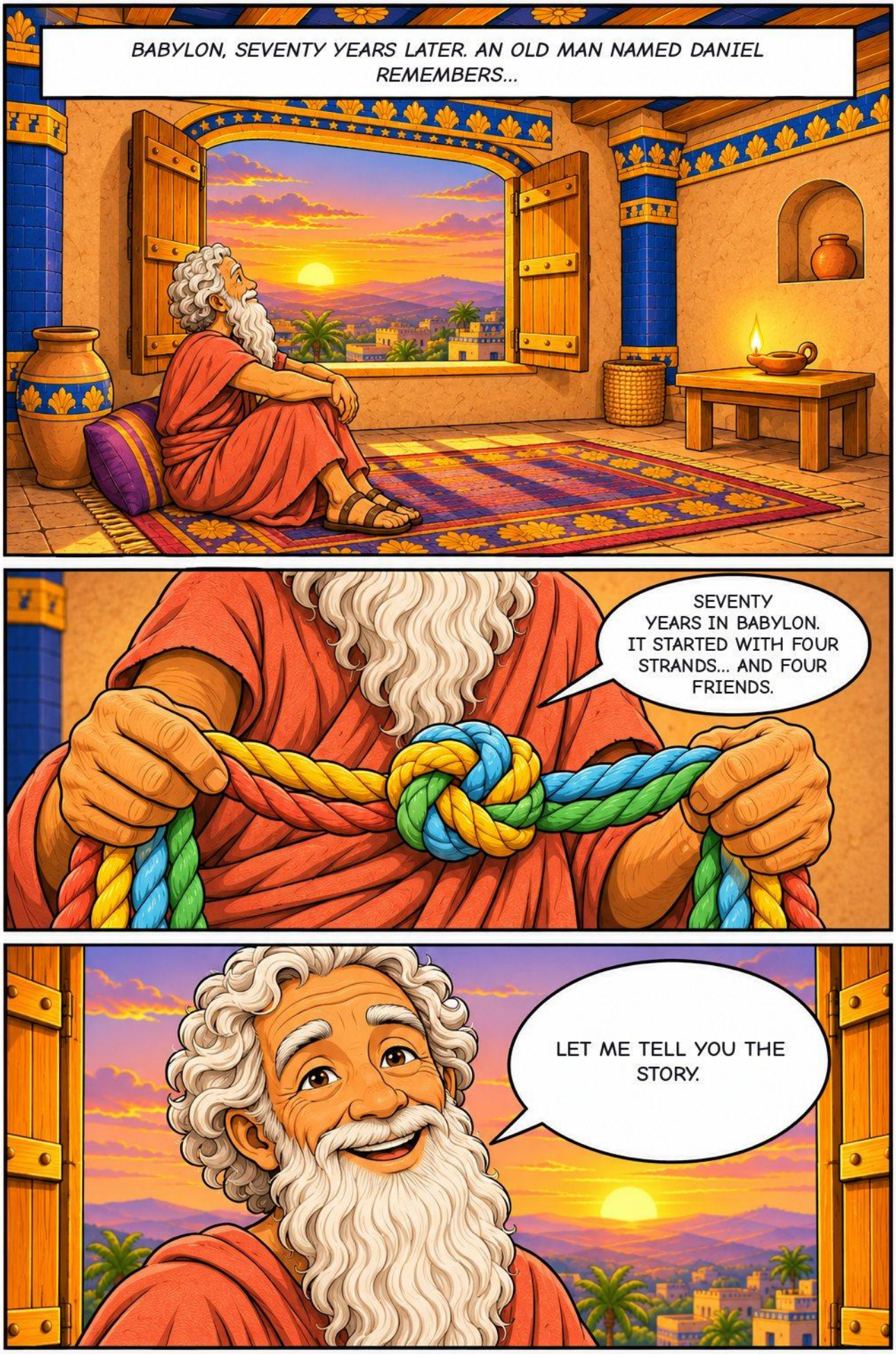
DANIEL DAN-yul

SHADRACH SHAD-rak

MESHACH MEE-shak

ABEDNEGO uh-BED-nee-go

Grab my bandana, and we're off. In this series we visit Daniel and his three friends, who were taken far from home to Babylon. They held on to God, and to each other. Watch for their cord: four strands, one for each friend.


BABYLON, SEVENTY YEARS LATER. AN OLD MAN NAMED DANIEL REMEMBERS...
SEVENTY YEARS IN BABYLON. IT STARTED WITH FOUR STRANDS... AND FOUR FRIENDS.
LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY.


A HAILSTORM HIT THIS MORNING. NOW BAXTER WON'T GO OUT!
MAYA, ELI, SAM AND SOFIA LIVE ON BAXTER'S STREET.

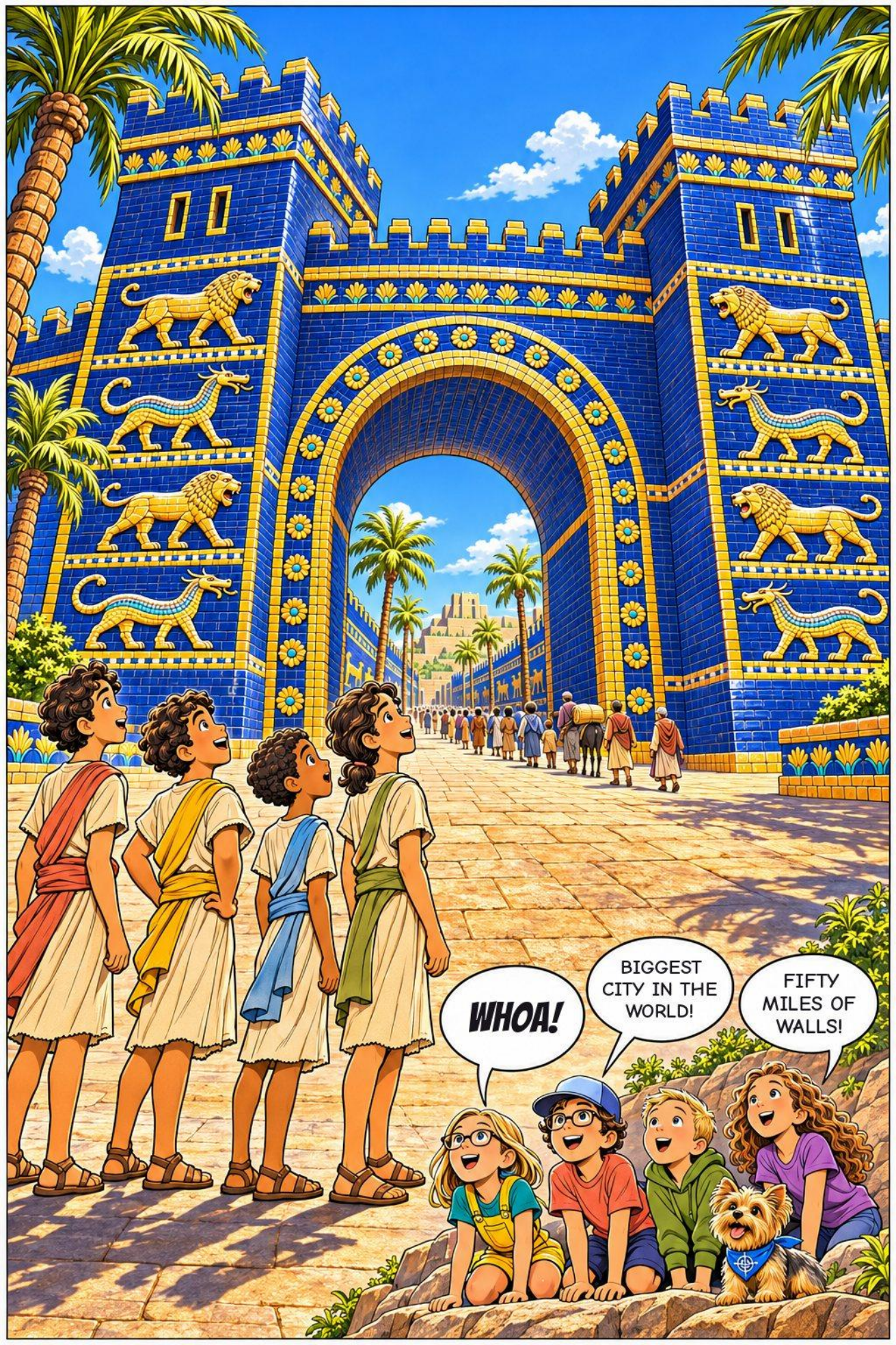

I'VE NEVER SEEN HAIL! IT FELT LIKE GOD WAS THROWING ROCKS AT ME!
NOPE. I'M NOT GOING OUTSIDE AGAIN... UNLESS IT'S FOR A BIBLE STORY!


SAM? YOU LOOK WORRIED. WHAT'S WRONG?


MONDAY'S MY FIRST DAY AT MY NEW SCHOOL.
AND THEY *ALREADY* GOT MY NAME WRONG!
WELCOME, STAN!
STAN IS A PRETTY COOL NAME— OW.
NOT HELPING, ELI.
WHAT IF I FORGET WHO I AM?
SAM, WANT TO MEET FOUR BOYS WITH NEW NAMES TOO?
GRAB MY BANDANA! MY COMPASS TAKES US INTO THE BIBLE STORY!
NOPE. THIS POODLE DOESN'T TIME-TRAVEL.

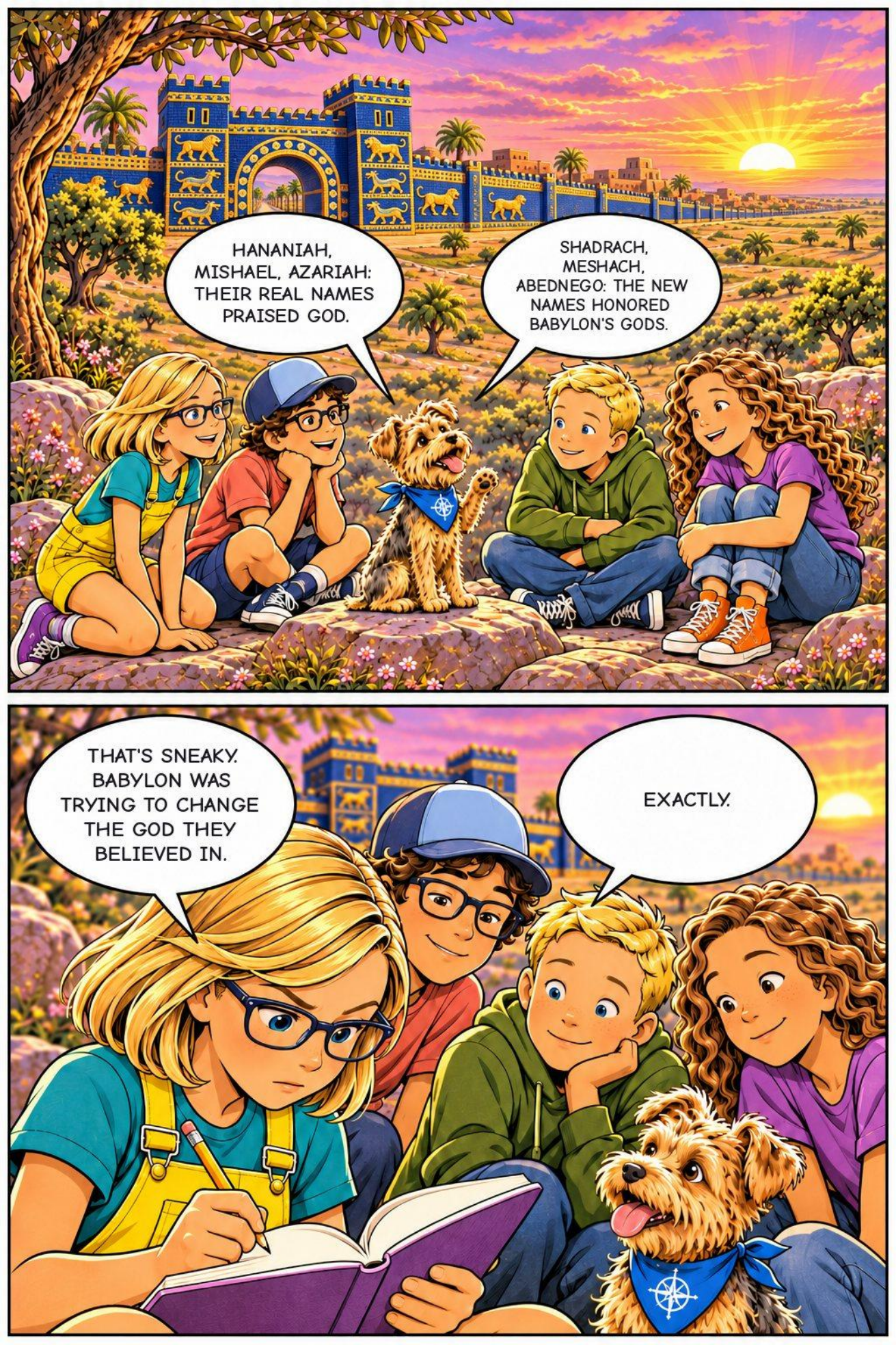

JERUSALEM, ABOUT 600 YEARS BEFORE JESUS WAS BORN.
THEY'RE OUR AGE!
THAT'S DANIEL AND HIS BEST FRIENDS. BABYLON'S KING TOOK THEM FROM HOME.
ARE THEY EVER COMING BACK?
MOST OF THEM NEVER GOT TO GO HOME AGAIN.


LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE. LONG WALK. GREAT VIEWS. NO HOMEWORK.
I MISS MY MOM.
I MISS MY BED.
WE STILL HAVE GOD. AND WE STILL HAVE EACH OTHER.
BABYLON COULDN'T MAKE HIM FORGET WHAT HIS FAMILY TAUGHT HIM ABOUT GOD.

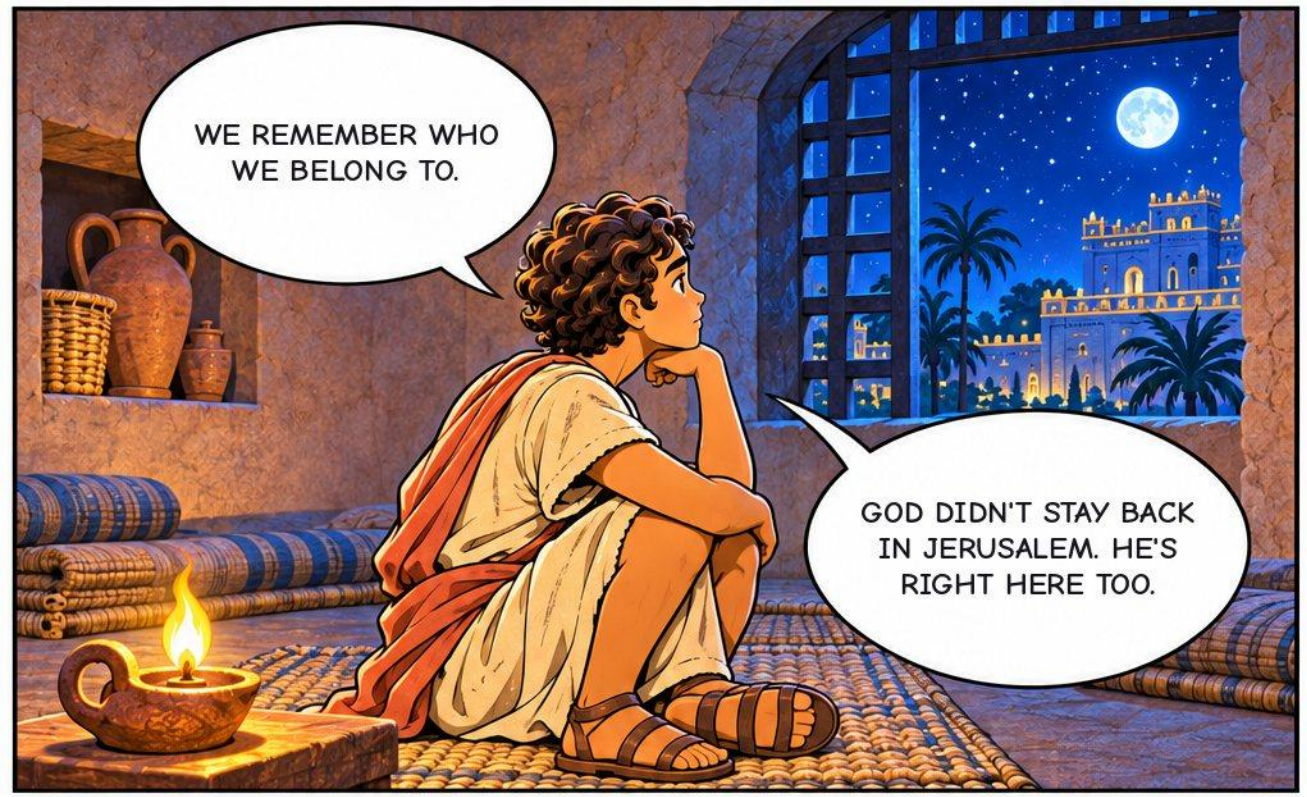

WHOA!
BIGGEST CITY IN THE WORLD!
FIFTY MILES OF WALLS!


THE KING ONLY WANTS THE BEST PEOPLE!
WELL, THAT'S DEFINITELY ME.
SHH!
THREE YEARS OF BABYLON'S SCHOOL.
THEN YOU SERVE THE KING!


YOU. YOUR NAME IS NOW BELTESHAZZAR.
NOT ANYMORE.
BUT MY NAME IS DANIEL. IT MEANS "GOD IS MY JUDGE."
YOU'RE SHADRACH. YOU'RE MESHACH. YOU'RE ABEDNEGO.
SHADRACH? I CAN'T EVEN SAY IT.
IT'S LIKE "STAN"!
YEAH. EXCEPT WAY WORSE.


HANANIAH, MISHAEL, AZARIAH: THEIR REAL NAMES PRAISED GOD.
SHADRACH, MESHACH, ABEDNEGO: THE NEW NAMES HONORED BABYLON'S GODS.
THAT'S SNEAKY. BABYLON WAS TRYING TO CHANGE THE GOD THEY BELIEVED IN.
EXACTLY.


THEY CAN CHANGE OUR NAMES. OUR CLOTHES. OUR SCHOOL.
CAN THEY CHANGE *US?*
ONLY IF WE LET THEM.
SO WHAT DO WE DO, BELTE... BELTESHAZ... DANIEL?



EVEN IN BABYLON, GOD WAS IN CONTROL. HE WAS WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES THE WHOLE TIME. (DANIEL 1:2, 9, 17)

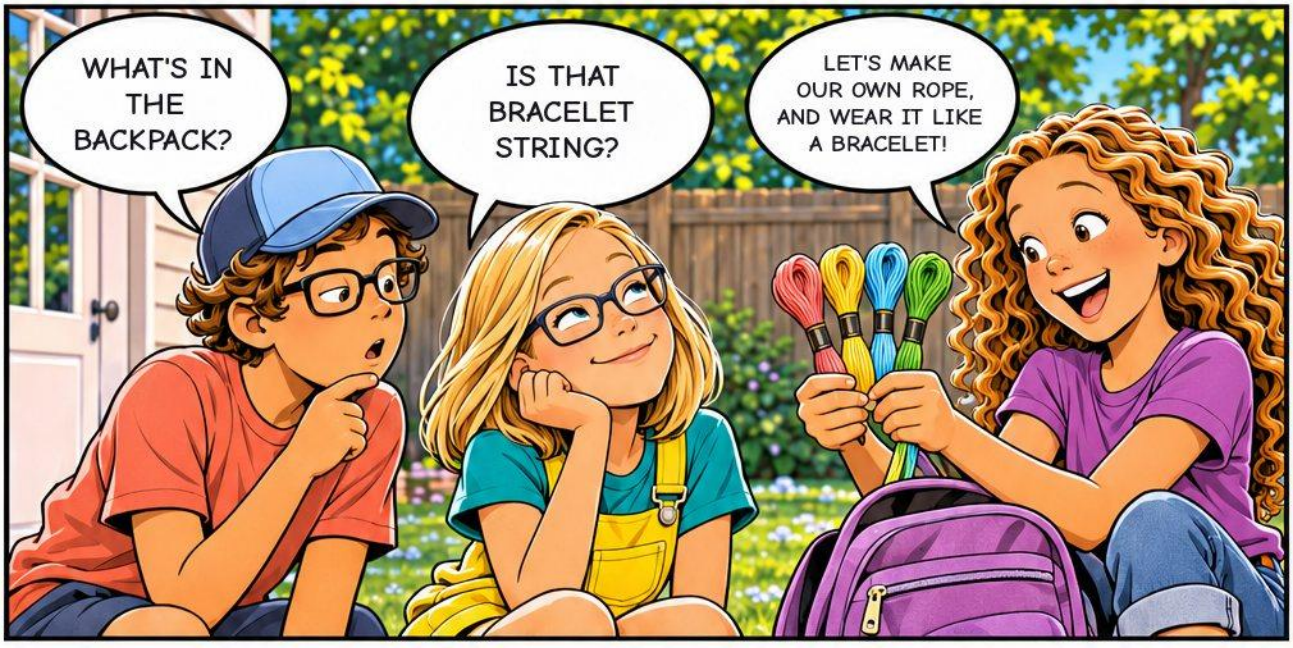



WAIT. WHAT'S THE ROPE FOR?
FOUR TOGETHER? NOT A CHANCE.
EACH STRAND IS A TRUTH ABOUT GOD WE LEARNED AS KIDS. WOVEN TOGETHER, THEY'RE STRONG!
NEW PLACE. NEW NAMES. SAME GOD. AND FOUR FRIENDS WHO DECIDED TO STICK TOGETHER.


THEY DIDN'T FORGET WHO THEY WERE...
...BECAUSE THEY HAD EACH OTHER.
AND THEY REMEMBERED WHO THEY BELONG TO.
READY TO GO HOME?


YOU'RE BACK! HOW WAS BABYLON?


THEY MIGHT GET MY NAME WRONG.
BUT I KNOW WHOSE I AM.


WHAT'S IN THE BACKPACK?
IS THAT BRACELET STRING?
LET'S MAKE OUR OWN ROPE, AND WEAR IT LIKE A BRACELET!




WELCOME! YOU MUST BE... STAN?


IT'S SAM. BUT CLOSE!


PRAYING FOR YOU!
NEW SCHOOL, SAME GOD!
SAVE ME A FUNNY STORY!


STILL *NOT* GOING OUTSIDE, THOUGH.

REMEMBER IT!

ISSUE 1

NEW PLACE, NEW NAME, SAME GOD.

HAND MOTION

Point to a new spot (new place), tap your chest (new name), point up (same God).

MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight."
Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIrV)



BAXTER'S BARK: HAILSTORMS COME AND GO. GOD STAYS.

WHO'S WHO · SAY IT LIKE THIS

DANIEL *DAN-yul*
red sash · Babylon called him Belteshazzar

SHADRACH *SHAD-rak*
gold sash · Hebrew name: Hananiah

MESHACH *MEE-shak*
blue sash · Hebrew name: Mishael

ABEDNEGO *uh-BED-nee-go*
green sash · Hebrew name: Azariah

The king: Nebuchadnezzar *(neb-uh-kad-NEZ-er)*

THE ROPE · KNOT 1 OF 8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Four strands, coral, gold, blue and green, twisted together for the first time.

TALK IT OVER

1. Have you ever been somewhere brand new? What was the hardest part?
2. Babylon gave the boys new names to change who they belonged to. What helps you remember that you belong to God?
3. Who are the friends who help you stick close to God?

TRY IT THIS WEEK

Make a four-strand bracelet with a friend or someone in your family. Every time you see it, pray for each other. If something is hard right now, tell a grown-up you trust.

THE END OF ISSUE 1

Sticking Around · a comic by Rick Melick

UP NEXT: ISSUE 2

The Lunch Table

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