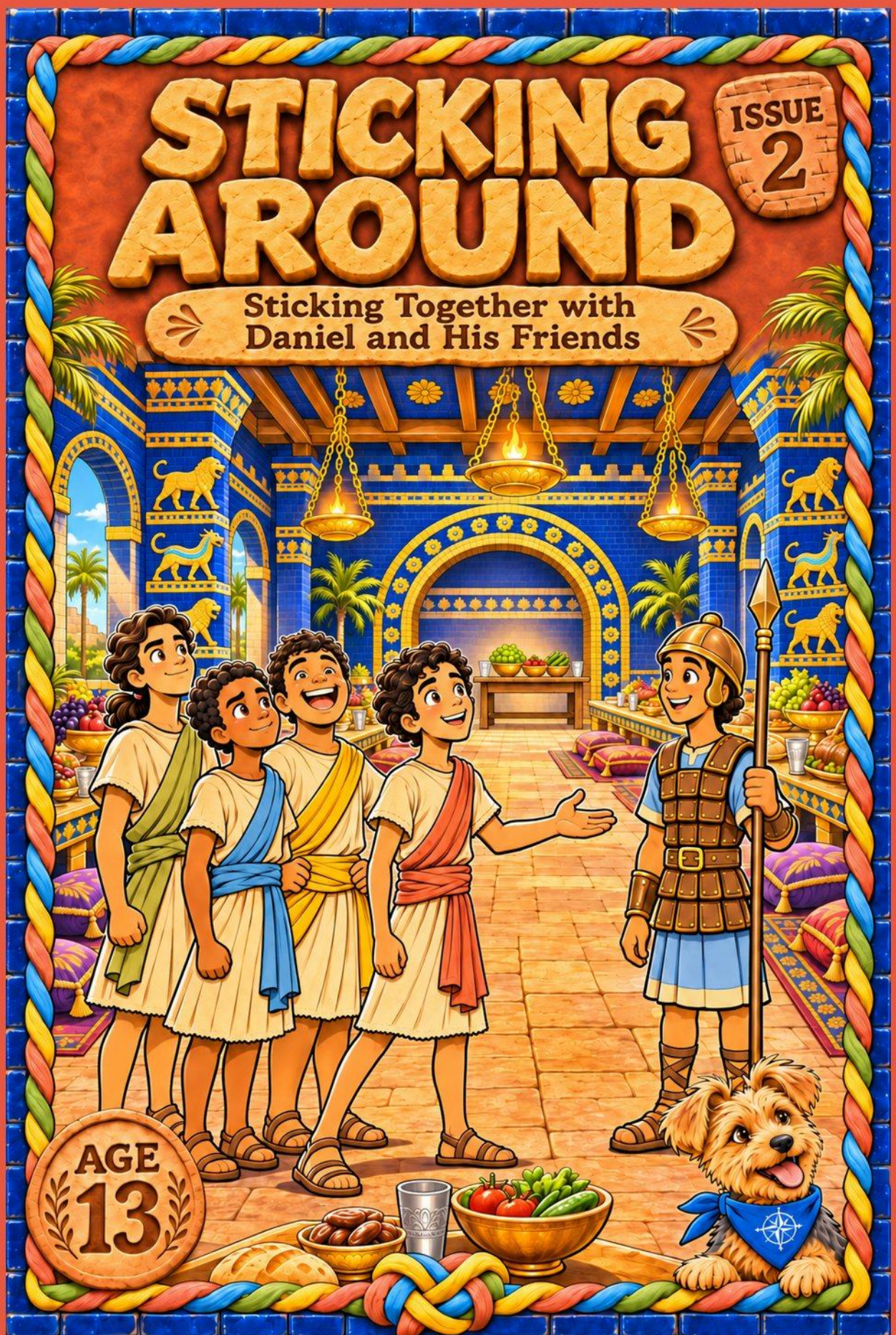
COMIC BOOK ISSUE 2 OF 8 · AGES 6–11 by Rick Melick



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

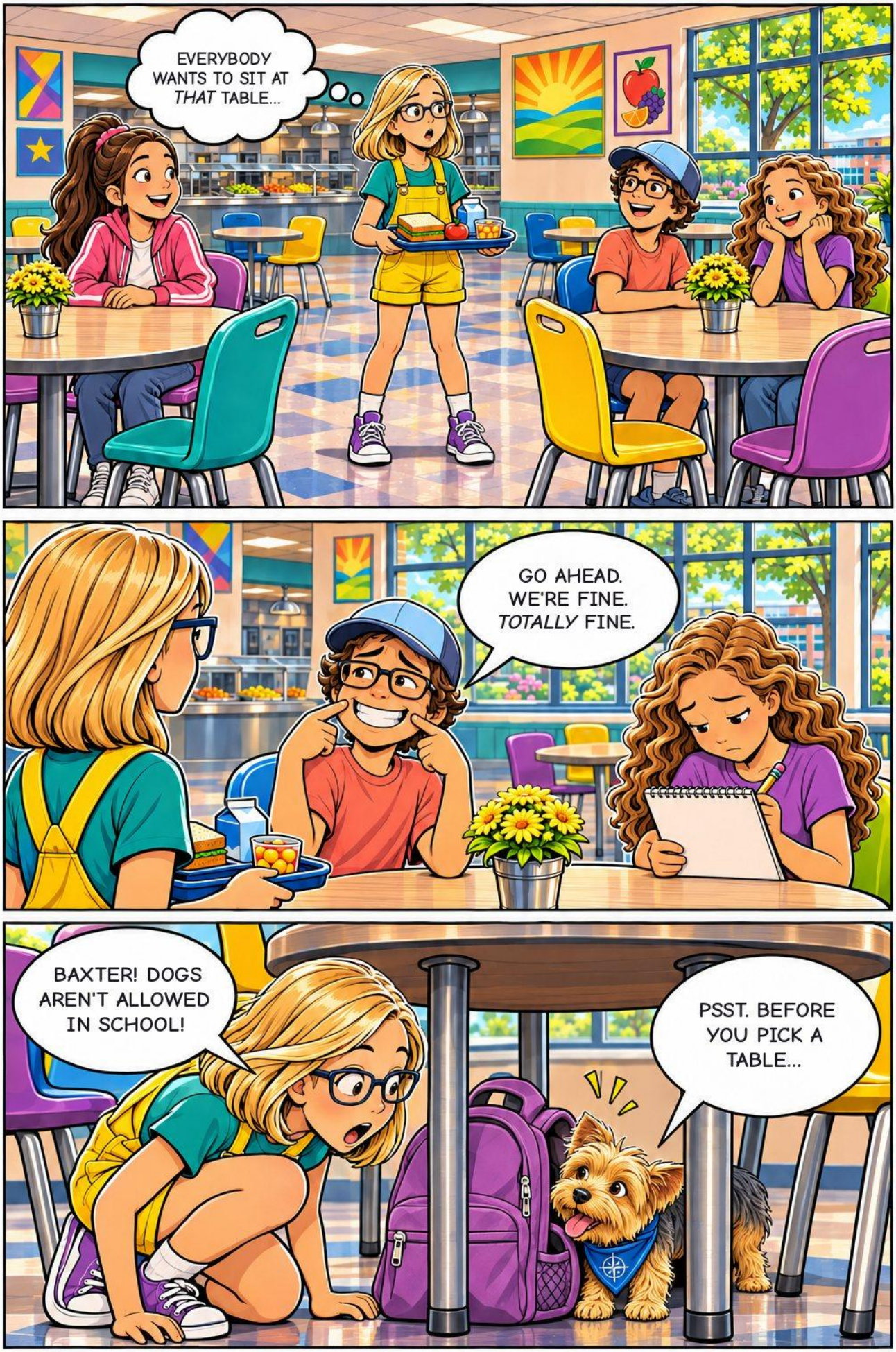
SHADRACH SHAD-rak

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.

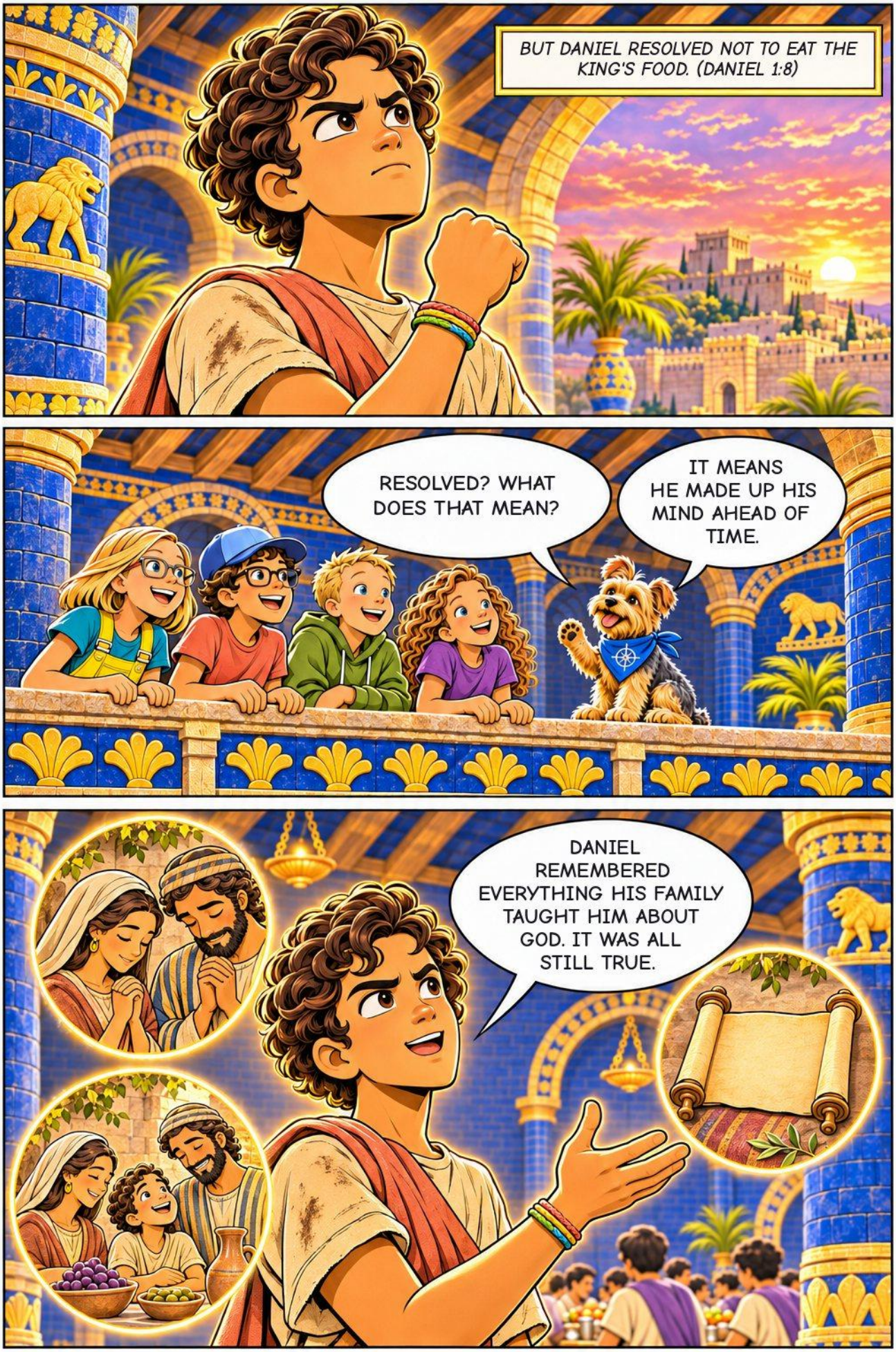

MAYA'S SCHOOL. TUESDAY.
MAYA! SIT WITH US TODAY. YOU'RE *FUN*.
JUST YOU, THOUGH. NOT THEM.


EVERYBODY WANTS TO SIT AT *THAT* TABLE...
GO AHEAD. WE'RE FINE. *TOTALLY* FINE.
BAXTER! DOGS AREN'T ALLOWED IN SCHOOL!
PSST. BEFORE YOU PICK A TABLE...


THEN LET'S NOT BE IN SCHOOL. WANT TO SEE WHAT DANIEL DID ABOUT A LUNCH TABLE?
WAIT, I'M AT *MY* SCHOOL— WHOA!


THE KING'S PALACE. THE BEST FOOD IN THE WORLD, EVERY DAY.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT STEAK *ALL* MORNING.
THAT LOOKS AMAZING. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?


THE KING'S FOOD WAS OFFERED TO BABYLON'S GODS FIRST.
EATING IT MEANT SAYING, "I BELIEVE IN THEM NOW."
ALMOST EVERYBODY ATE IT. IT WAS EASY.
WHAT EVERYBODY DOES ISN'T ALWAYS RIGHT.


BUT DANIEL RESOLVED NOT TO EAT THE KING'S FOOD. (DANIEL 1:8)
RESOLVED? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT MEANS HE MADE UP HIS MIND AHEAD OF TIME.
DANIEL REMEMBERED EVERYTHING HIS FAMILY TAUGHT HIM ABOUT GOD. IT WAS ALL STILL TRUE.


I'M NOT EATING THE KING'S FOOD. WHO'S WITH ME?
I'M, UM... STILL PRAYING ABOUT IT.
I'M NOT SURE.
CAN I WRITE MY MOM A LETTER FIRST? AND ASK HER?
NO. WE'RE DOING THIS. *TOGETHER.*


GOD CAUSED THE OFFICIAL TO BE KIND TO DANIEL. (DANIEL 1:9)
SIR, MAY WE PLEASE SKIP THE KING'S FOOD? WE WANT TO HONOR OUR GOD.
IF YOU BOYS LOOK SKINNY AND SICK, THE KING WILL BE FURIOUS WITH *ME!*
HE DIDN'T YELL. HE JUST *ASKED.*
RESPECT OPENS DOORS THAT SHOUTING NEVER WILL.


PLEASE TEST US FOR TEN DAYS. GIVE US ONLY VEGETABLES AND WATER.
THEN COMPARE US WITH THE OTHERS. YOU DECIDE WHAT'S FAIR.
TEN DAYS. DEAL.
TEN DAYS. OF *THIS*. PRAY FOR ME.


OKAY, CUCUMBER. IT'S YOU OR ME.
THANK YOU, GOD, FOR... MORE VEGETABLES.
ENJOY YOUR LEAVES!

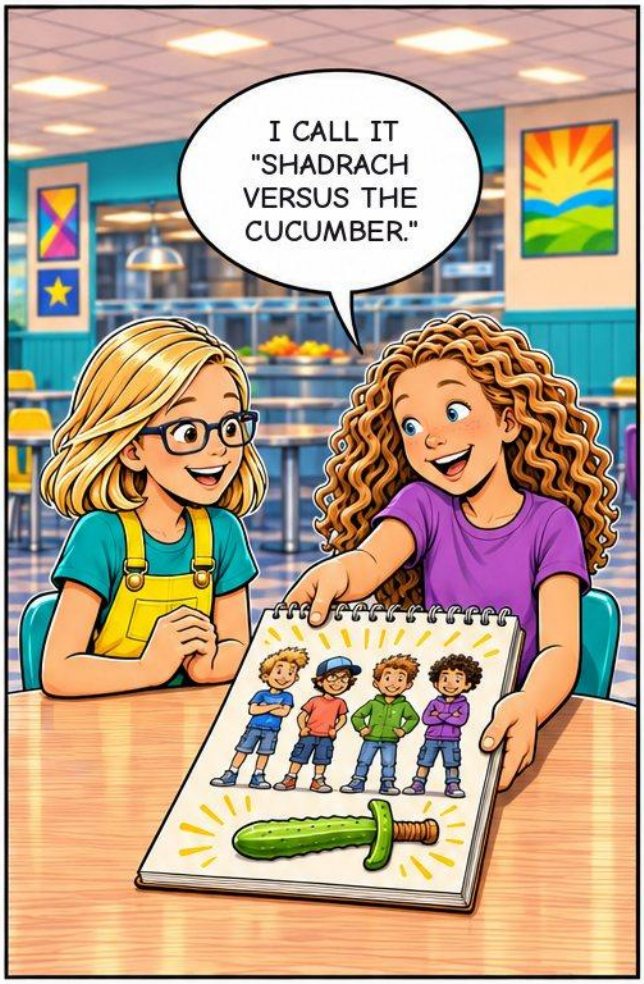

DAY 10.
HUH. YOU FOUR LOOK HEALTHIER THAN *ALL* OF THE OTHERS.
FROM THEN ON: VEGETABLES FOR EVERYONE! (DANIEL 1:16)
I'M STILL GOING TO MISS THAT STEAK.


DANIEL DID TWO THINGS.
HE DIDN'T DO WHAT THE CROWD WANTED...
...AND HE STOOD UP FOR HIS FRIENDS.
A GOOD FRIEND CAN HELP YOU STAND FOR WHAT GOD WANTS.


MY FATHER TAUGHT ME TO PRAY.
MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME THE PSALMS.
MY GRANDPA TOLD ME ABOUT MOSES.
MY UNCLE TAUGHT ME JOKES. THAT COUNTS, RIGHT?
EVERY BIBLE STORY THEY TOLD ME, I REMEMBER. AND I'M STRONGER TODAY.
LUNCH IS ALMOST OVER BACK HOME. READY?


SO? YOU COMING?
THANKS FOR ASKING, BROOKE. REALLY. BUT I'M SITTING WITH MY FRIENDS.
YOU COULD SIT WITH US, THOUGH. SOFIA'S DRAWING A COMIC.
...MAYBE TOMORROW.


YOU PICKED US? OVER *THAT* TABLE?
SCOOT OVER!


I CALL IT "SHADRACH VERSUS THE CUCUMBER."


SAT WITH A KID NAMED LEO TODAY.
TOLD HIM ABOUT THE VEGETABLES.
HE THINKS I'M WEIRD. HA!
SAM


I SUPPORT DANIEL. BUT I AM *NOT* DOING TEN DAYS OF THIS.

REMEMBER IT!

ISSUE 2

STEP OUT OF THE CROWD. STEP IN FOR YOUR FRIENDS.

HAND MOTION

Take one step to the side (out of the crowd), then step forward and hold out your arm like you're standing up for someone (in for your friends).

MEMORY VERSE

"Walk with wise people and become wise. A companion of foolish people suffers harm."
Proverbs 13:20 (NIrV)



BAXTER'S BARK: SAYING NO TO A TREAT IS HARD. I WOULD KNOW. I'VE NEVER DONE IT.

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 2 OF 8

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8

The four strands get thicker, with the strands their families gave them woven in.

TALK IT OVER

1. When has a crowd tried to pull you away from your friends, or away from God?
2. Daniel asked politely instead of demanding. Why do you think that worked?
3. Who could you step in for this week?

TRY IT THIS WEEK

At lunch, at recess or online, step in for one friend: sit with them, stand up for them, or invite them in.

THE END OF ISSUE 2

Sticking Around · a comic by Rick Melick

UP NEXT: ISSUE 3

Your Closest Friends

MISSED ONE? ISSUE 1

New Place, New Names

READ ALL 8 ISSUES

Online, or download the whole set in one file

PLAY THE GAMES

Every Sticking Around game, on any phone or tablet

KIDS' CORNER

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