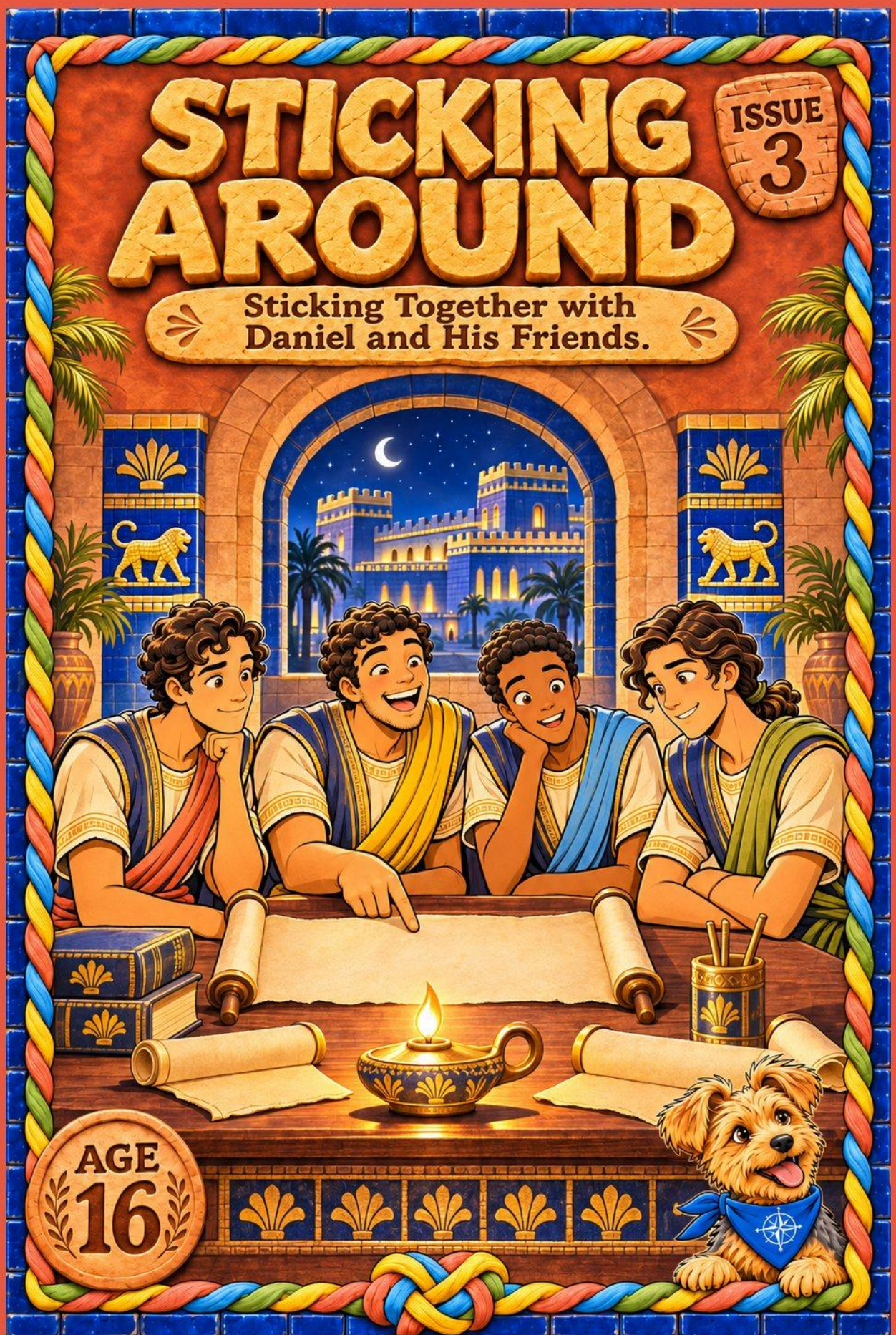
COMIC BOOK ISSUE 3 OF 8 · AGES 6–11 by Rick Melick

STICKING AROUND

ISSUE 3

Sticking Together with Daniel and His Friends.



AGE 16

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

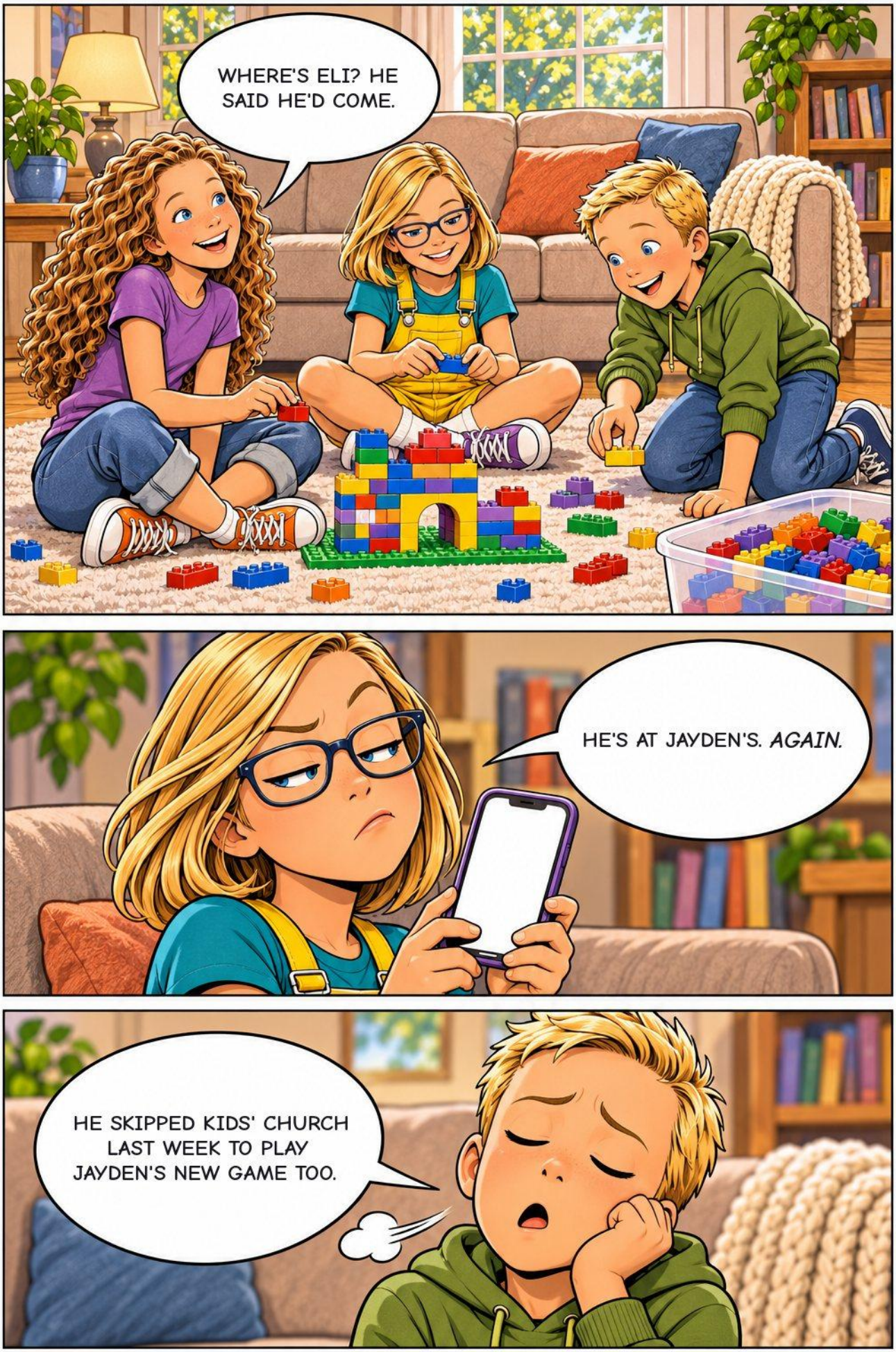
DANIEL DAN-yul

SHADRACH SHAD-rak

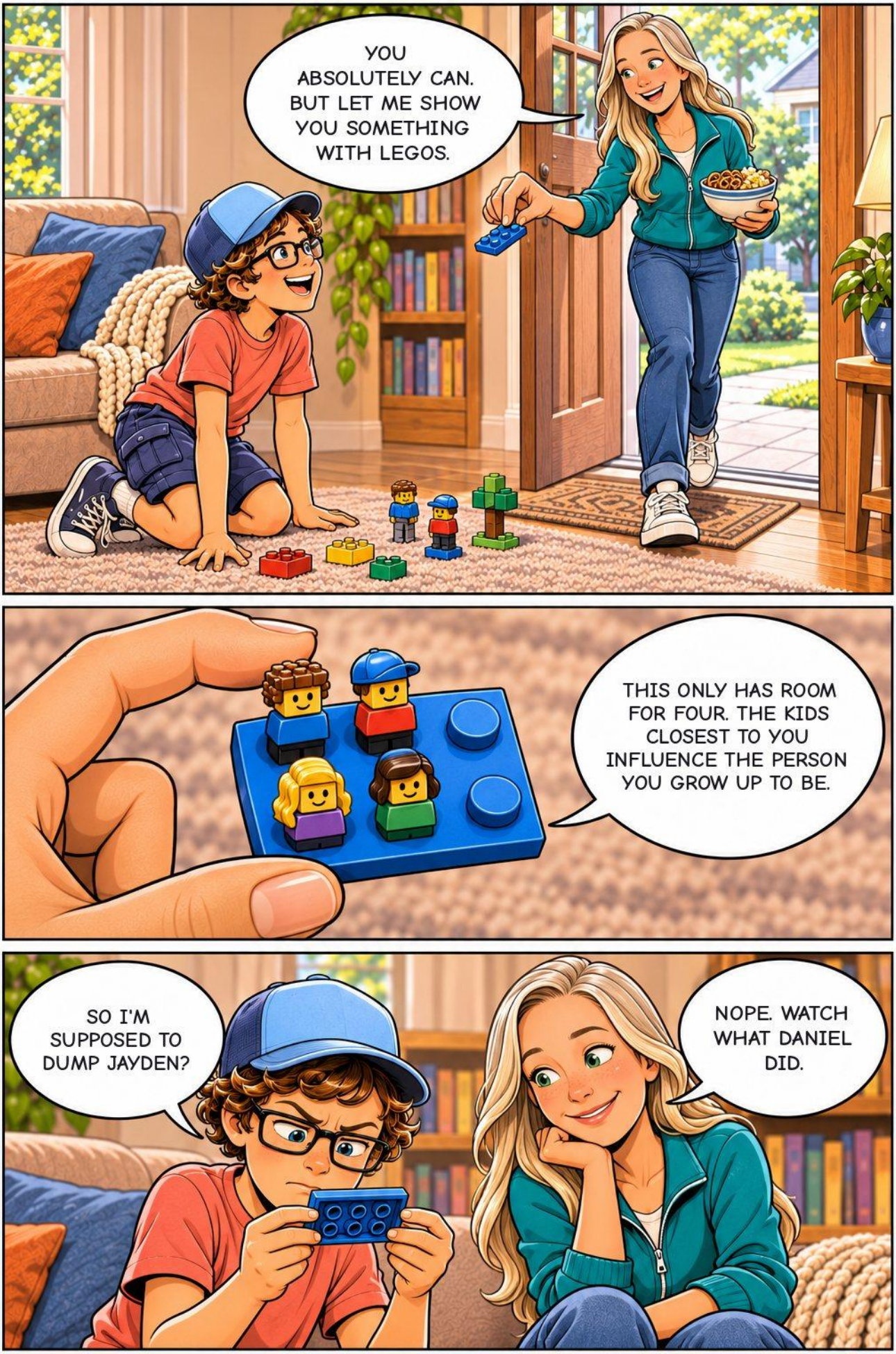
MESHACH MEE-shak

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.


WHERE'S ELI? HE SAID HE'D COME.
HE'S AT JAYDEN'S. *AGAIN.*
HE SKIPPED KIDS' CHURCH LAST WEEK TO PLAY JAYDEN'S NEW GAME TOO.

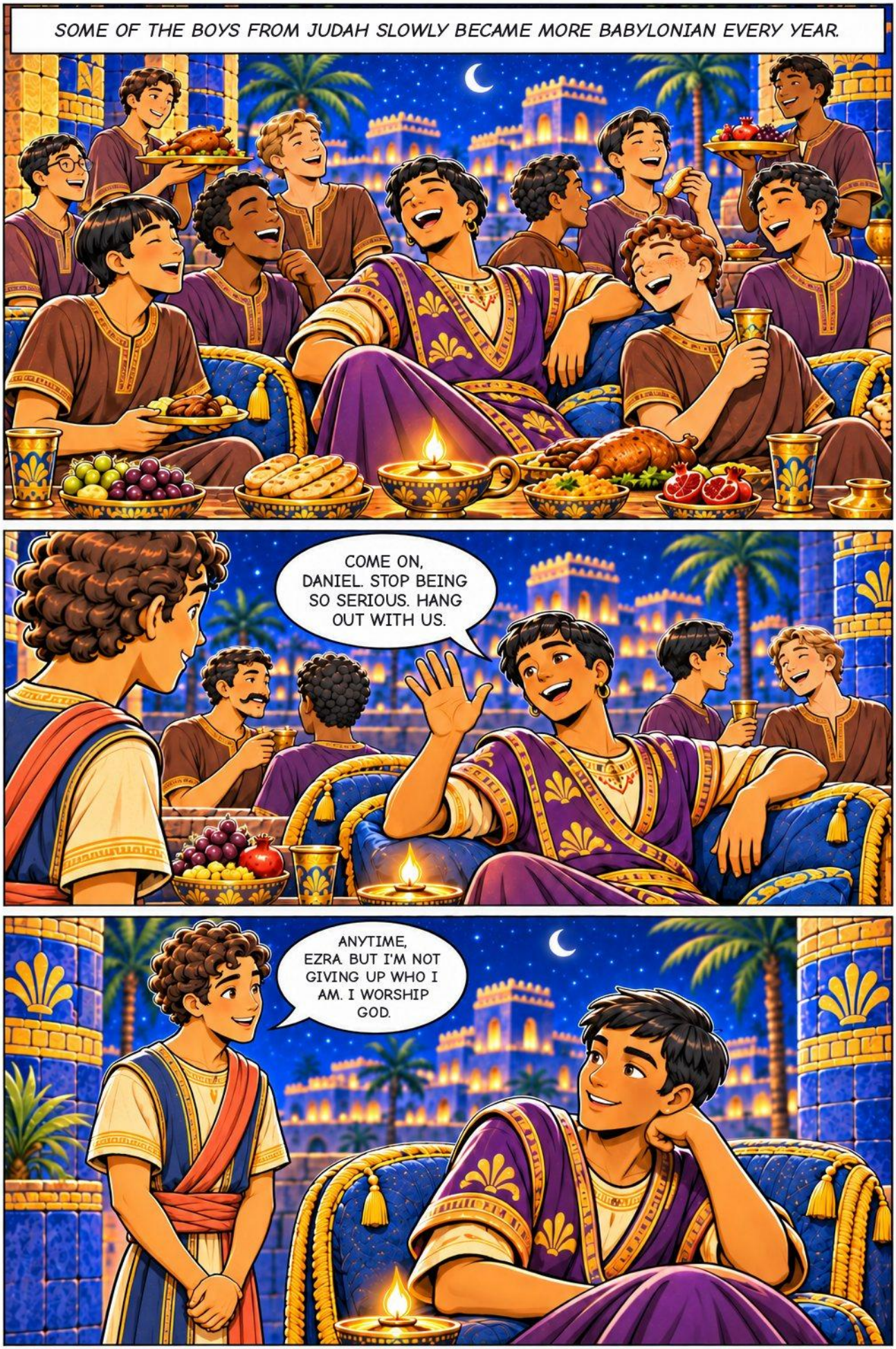

SORRY, SORRY! JAYDEN'S GAME IS *SO* GOOD. YOU GUYS SHOULD PLAY.
YOU'VE BEEN AT JAYDEN'S EVERY DAY.
SO? I CAN HAVE MORE THAN ONE FRIEND.


YOU ABSOLUTELY CAN. BUT LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING WITH LEGOS.
THIS ONLY HAS ROOM FOR FOUR. THE KIDS CLOSEST TO YOU INFLUENCE THE PERSON YOU GROW UP TO BE.
SO I'M SUPPOSED TO DUMP JAYDEN?
NOPE. WATCH WHAT DANIEL DID.


DID SOMEBODY SAY DANIEL?
HERE WE GO AGAIN!

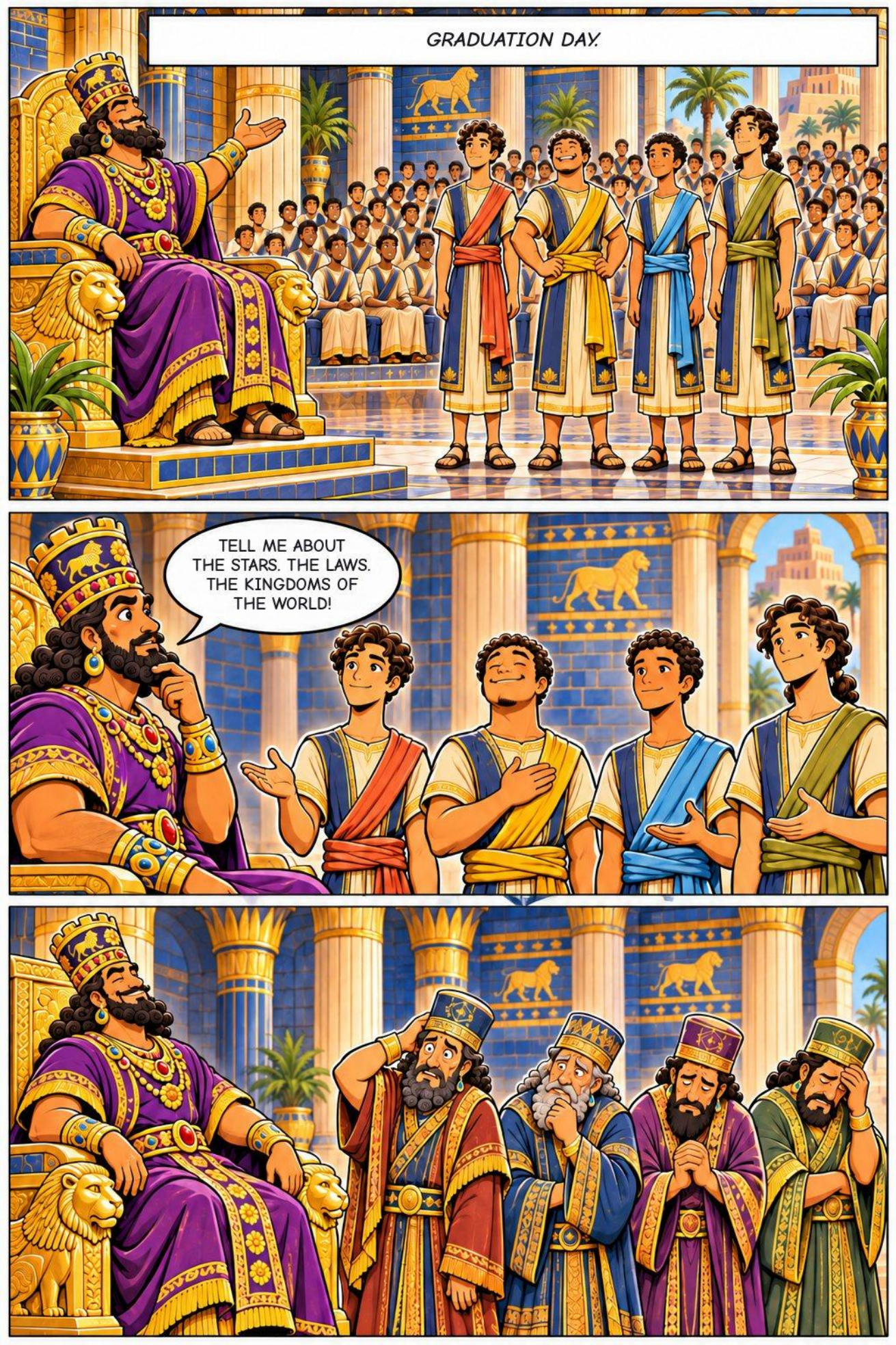

BABYLON. THREE YEARS OF THE KING'S SCHOOL.
THE STARS TELL YOUR FUTURE!
PSST. THE STARS DON'T. *GOD* DOES.
LEARN IT. JUST DON'T BELIEVE ALL OF IT.


OKAY. BABYLONIAN WORD FOR "VEGETABLE."
HA, HA.
THEY KEPT EACH OTHER GOING.
THEY'RE LIKE A TEAM.
BETTER. THEY'RE A TEAM THAT *PRAYS*.


SOME OF THE BOYS FROM JUDAH SLOWLY BECAME MORE BABYLONIAN EVERY YEAR.
COME ON, DANIEL. STOP BEING SO SERIOUS. HANG OUT WITH US.
ANYTIME, EZRA. BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP WHO I AM. I WORSHIP GOD.


DANIEL HAD TWO KINDS OF FRIENDS.
FRIENDS WHO DIDN'T KNOW GOD YET. HE WAS KIND TO THEM AND PRAYED FOR THEM.
AND FRIENDS WHO FOLLOWED GOD WITH HIM. THOSE FRIENDS BECAME HIS BFFS: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER.
SO DANIEL DIDN'T DITCH ANYBODY...
...BUT HE WAS CAREFUL WHO HE LET BE THE LEADER.

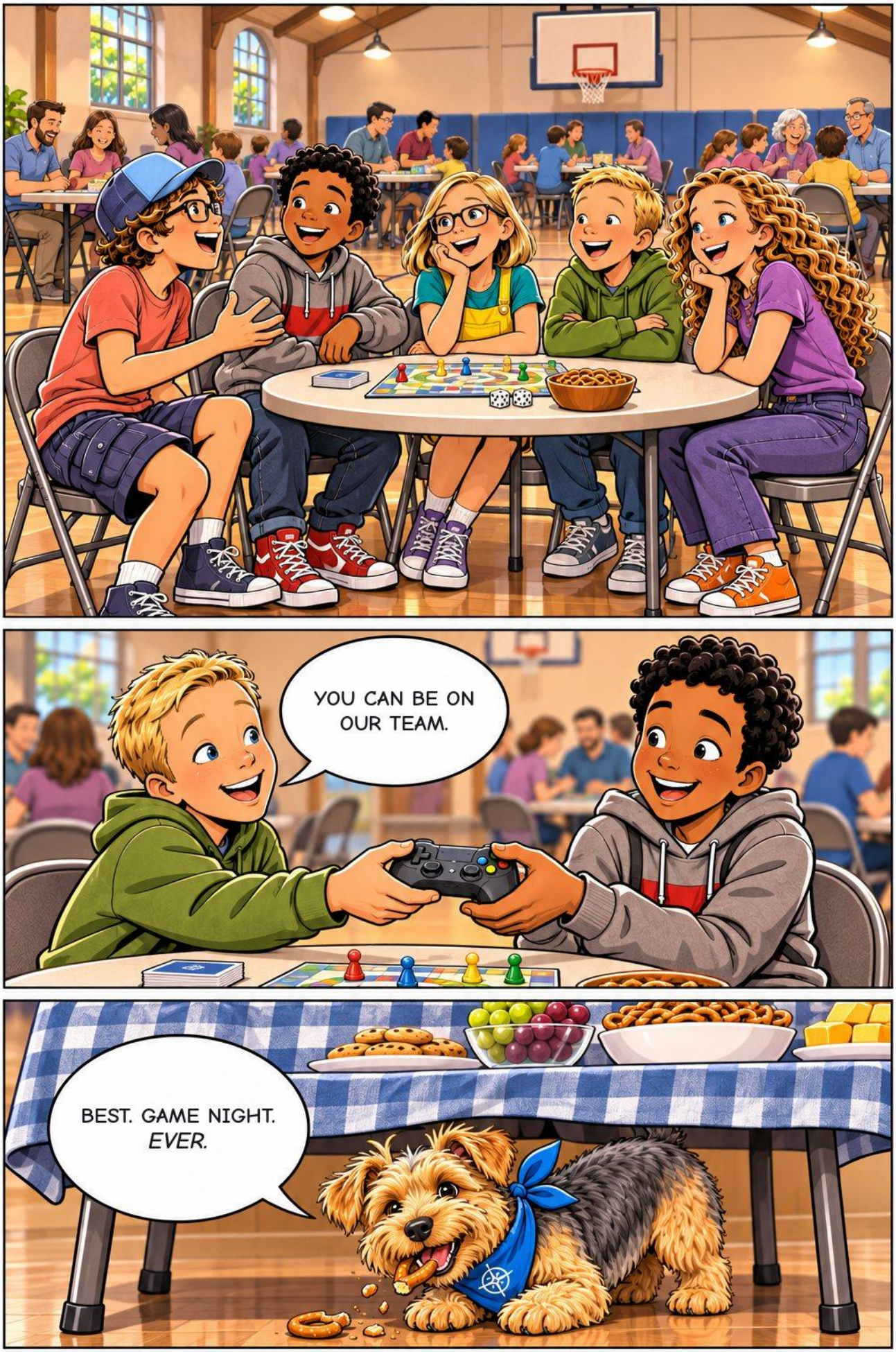

GOD GAVE THESE FOUR YOUNG MEN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. (DANIEL 1:17)
AND GOD HELPED DANIEL UNDERSTAND DREAMS.
GOD *GAVE* IT. THEY DIDN'T FIGURE IT OUT FOR THEMSELVES.


GRADUATION DAY.
TELL ME ABOUT THE STARS. THE LAWS. THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD!


NO ONE ELSE IN THE KING'S SCHOOL COMPARED WITH THEM. (DANIEL 1:19)
TEN TIMES BETTER THAN MY MAGICIANS!
WAS IT THE VEGETABLES? I THINK IT WAS THE VEGETABLES.
SO THE FOUR FRIENDS WENT TO WORK FOR THE KING.


I DON'T WANT TO DITCH JAYDEN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
BUT I WANT YOU GUYS TO BE MY BEST FRIENDS.
THAT'S THE NICEST THING YOU'VE SAID ALL WEEK.


"WANT TO COME TO GAME NIGHT AT MY CHURCH FRIDAY? MY FRIENDS ARE HILARIOUS."
JAYDEN
LOL SURE
BEING KIND TO JAYDEN AND KEEPING MY BEST FRIENDS CLOSE. LIKE DANIEL!


YOU CAN BE ON OUR TEAM.
BEST. GAME NIGHT. *EVER.*


EVERY YEAR, WITH EVERY SMALL CHOICE, THEIR ROPE GREW LONGER AND STRONGER.
LONGER ROPE.
STRONGER FRIENDS.

REMEMBER IT!

ISSUE 3

SHOW ME YOUR FRIENDS, AND I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR FUTURE.

HAND MOTION

Hold up both hands like you're showing something (show me your friends), then point far ahead (your future).

MEMORY VERSE

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."
Proverbs 27:17 (NIrV)



BAXTER'S BARK: GOOD FRIENDS ARE LIKE GOOD REFLEXES. THEY HELP YOU SWERVE.

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 3 OF 8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

The four-color cord gets longer. Every year of small choices adds to it.

TALK IT OVER

1. Who fills the closest spots in your life right now?
2. How can you be kind to a friend who doesn't know Jesus, without letting them steer you away from him?
3. Which friends help you follow God? How can you thank them this week?

TRY IT THIS WEEK

Invite a friend who doesn't go to church to something fun with your church friends.

THE END OF ISSUE 3

Sticking Around · a comic by Rick Melick

UP NEXT: ISSUE 4

Tie the Knot

MISSED ONE? ISSUE 2

The Lunch Table

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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