COMIC BOOK ISSUE 7 OF 8 · AGES 6–11 by Rick Melick

STICKING AROUND

ISSUE 7

Sticking Together with Daniel and His Friends.





AGE 30s

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

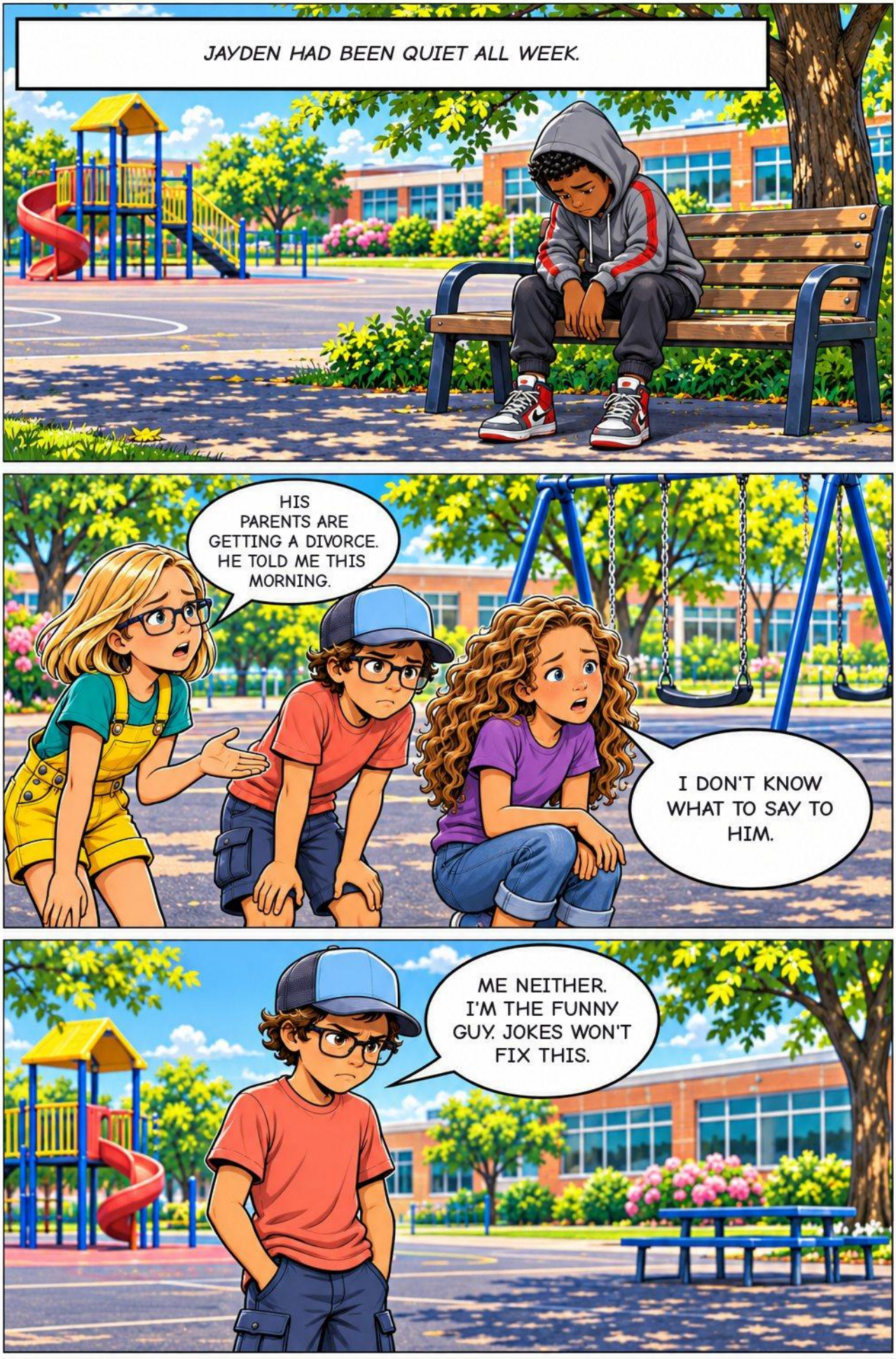
DANIEL DAN-yul

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.


JAYDEN HAD BEEN QUIET ALL WEEK.
HIS PARENTS ARE GETTING A DIVORCE. HE TOLD ME THIS MORNING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HIM.
ME NEITHER. I'M THE FUNNY GUY. JOKES WON'T FIX THIS.


WHAT IF I SAY THE WRONG THING?
PSST. BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING, YOU NEED TO SEE HOW THIS ENDS.
BAXTER! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AT SCHOOL!
DETAILS... LET'S TRAVEL BACK IN TIME!


BABYLON. RIGHT WHERE WE LEFT OFF.
SEVEN TIMES HOTTER. HE WASN'T KIDDING.
THE KING'S STRONGEST SOLDIERS TIED THEM UP.


IT WAS SO HOT THAT EVEN THE SOLDIERS COULDN'T GET CLOSE.
NO!


DIDN'T WE THROW THREE MEN INTO THE FIRE?
YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
WHY DO I SEE FOUR MEN WALKING AROUND? THE FOURTH LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE FROM HEAVEN!


WHO IS THAT?
THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY HIS NAME. BUT A LOT OF CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IT WAS JESUS, NOT AN ANGEL. IT WAS A MIRACLE!
GOD GOT IN THE FIRE WITH THEM. HE NEVER LEFT THEM ALONE.

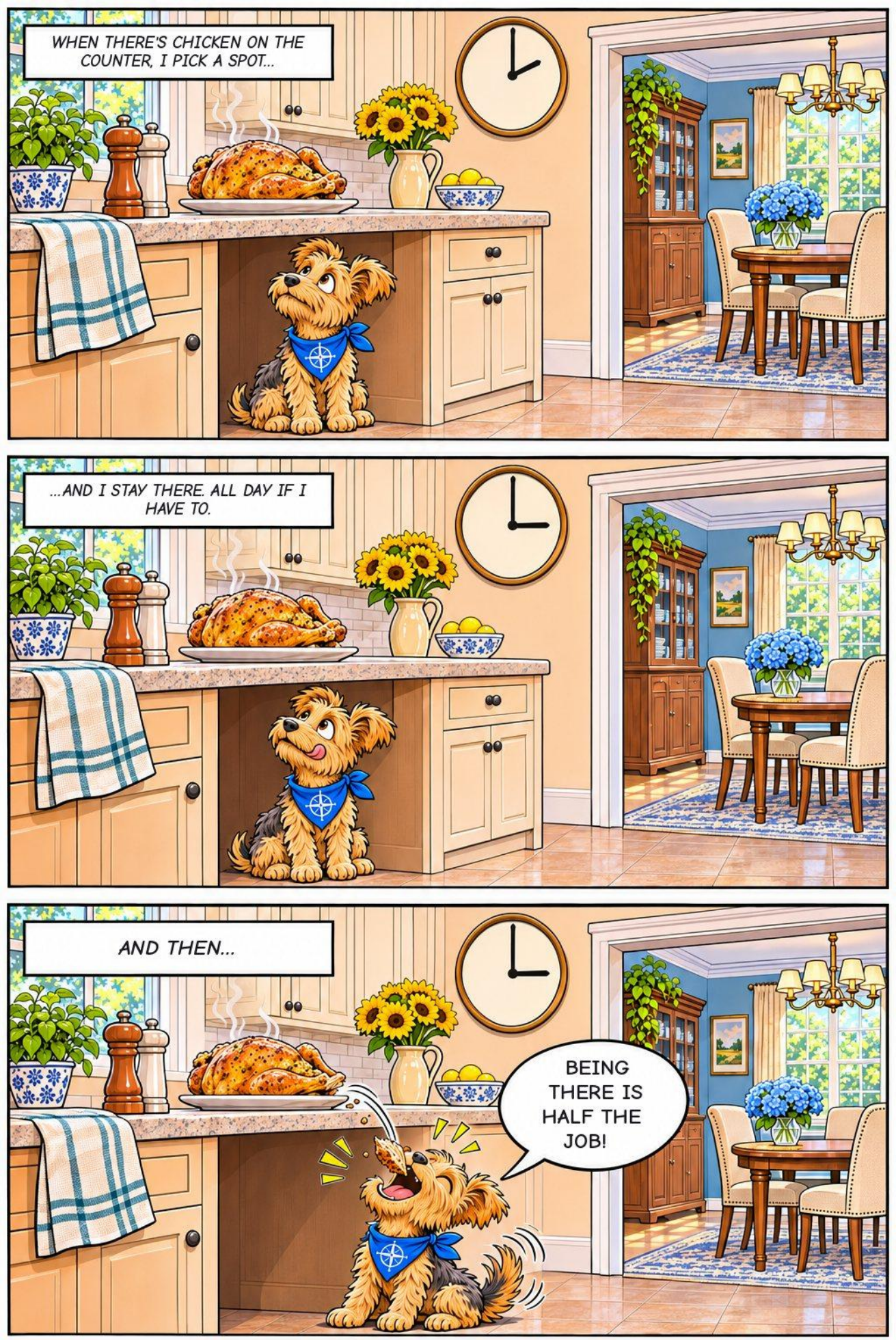

SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO! SERVANTS OF THE ONE REAL GOD! COME OUT!


NOT ONE HAIR WAS BURNED.
THEIR CLOTHES WEREN'T SCORCHED.
SNIIIFF. THEY DON'T EVEN SMELL LIKE SMOKE!
YOUR MAJESTY, THAT'S A LITTLE PERSONAL.


THE ONLY THING THE FIRE BURNED WAS THE ROPES THAT TIED THEM.
LOOK AT THEIR WRISTS! IT WAS STILL THERE!
SOME THINGS THE FIRE CAN'T TOUCH.

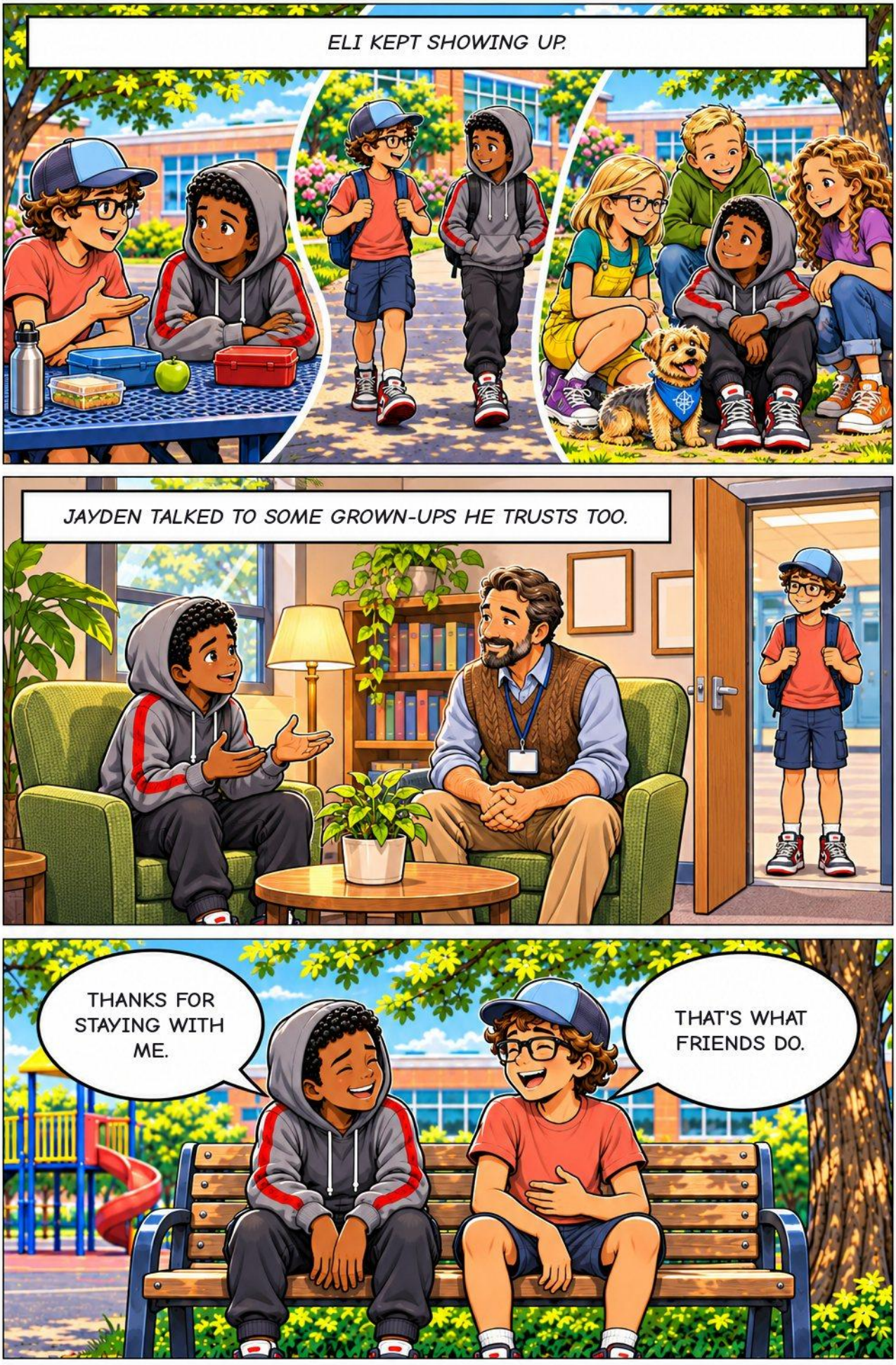

PRAISE THE GOD OF SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO! HE DID A MIRACLE AND SAVED HIS SERVANTS!
NO OTHER GOD CAN SAVE LIKE THIS.
THEN THE KING GAVE THEM EVEN MORE IMPORTANT JOBS.
WE'D BETTER WRITE TO DANIEL AND TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED.
HE'S GOING TO SAY "I TOLD YOU SO."


THEY DIDN'T JUST GET RESCUED FROM THE FIRE.
SOMEBODY GOT IN IT WITH THEM.
I DON'T HAVE TO FIX JAYDEN'S PROBLEM. I JUST HAVE TO BE HIS FRIEND AND BE WITH HIM IN IT.
NOW YOU'RE TALKING. I KNOW ALL ABOUT STAYING. EVER SEEN ME WAIT FOR MY MOM TO GIVE ME SOME CHICKEN?
...WHAT?


WHEN THERE'S CHICKEN ON THE COUNTER, I PICK A SPOT...
...AND I STAY THERE. ALL DAY IF I HAVE TO.
AND THEN...
BEING THERE IS HALF THE JOB!


YOU DON'T HAVE TO SIT HERE.
I KNOW. I WANT TO SIT WITH YOU.


EVERYBODY'S ACTING WEIRD AROUND ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. BUT I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
WANT SOME? IT'S NOT CHICKEN, BUT...
WHAT?
LONG STORY.


ELI KEPT SHOWING UP.
JAYDEN TALKED TO SOME GROWN-UPS HE TRUSTS TOO.
THANKS FOR STAYING WITH ME.
THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS DO.

REMEMBER IT!

ISSUE 7

IN THE FIRE, I'M NOT ALONE.

HAND MOTION

Wiggle your fingers upward like flames, then hook your two pinkies together (not alone).

MEMORY VERSE

"You will walk through fire. But you will not be burned. The flames will not harm you."
Isaiah 43:2 (NIrV)



BAXTER'S BARK: WHEN THERE'S ROTISSERIE CHICKEN AROUND, PICK A SPOT AND STAY THERE. WORKS FOR FRIENDS TOO.

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 7 OF 8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

The ropes that tied them burned. The four-color cord came out of the fire whole.

TALK IT OVER

1. Why do you think God got in the fire with them instead of keeping them out of it?
2. When a friend is going through something hard, what can you do even if you don't know what to say?
3. When have you felt like you were in a "fire"? Who stayed with you?

TRY IT THIS WEEK

Think of someone who's having a hard time. Sit with them, text them, or just say "I'm here." If a friend tells you something that worries you, tell a grown-up you trust.

THE END OF ISSUE 7

Sticking Around · a comic by Rick Melick

UP NEXT: ISSUE 8

Just As He Had Done Before

MISSED ONE? ISSUE 6

Stand Together

READ ALL 8 ISSUES

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Every Sticking Around game, on any phone or tablet

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