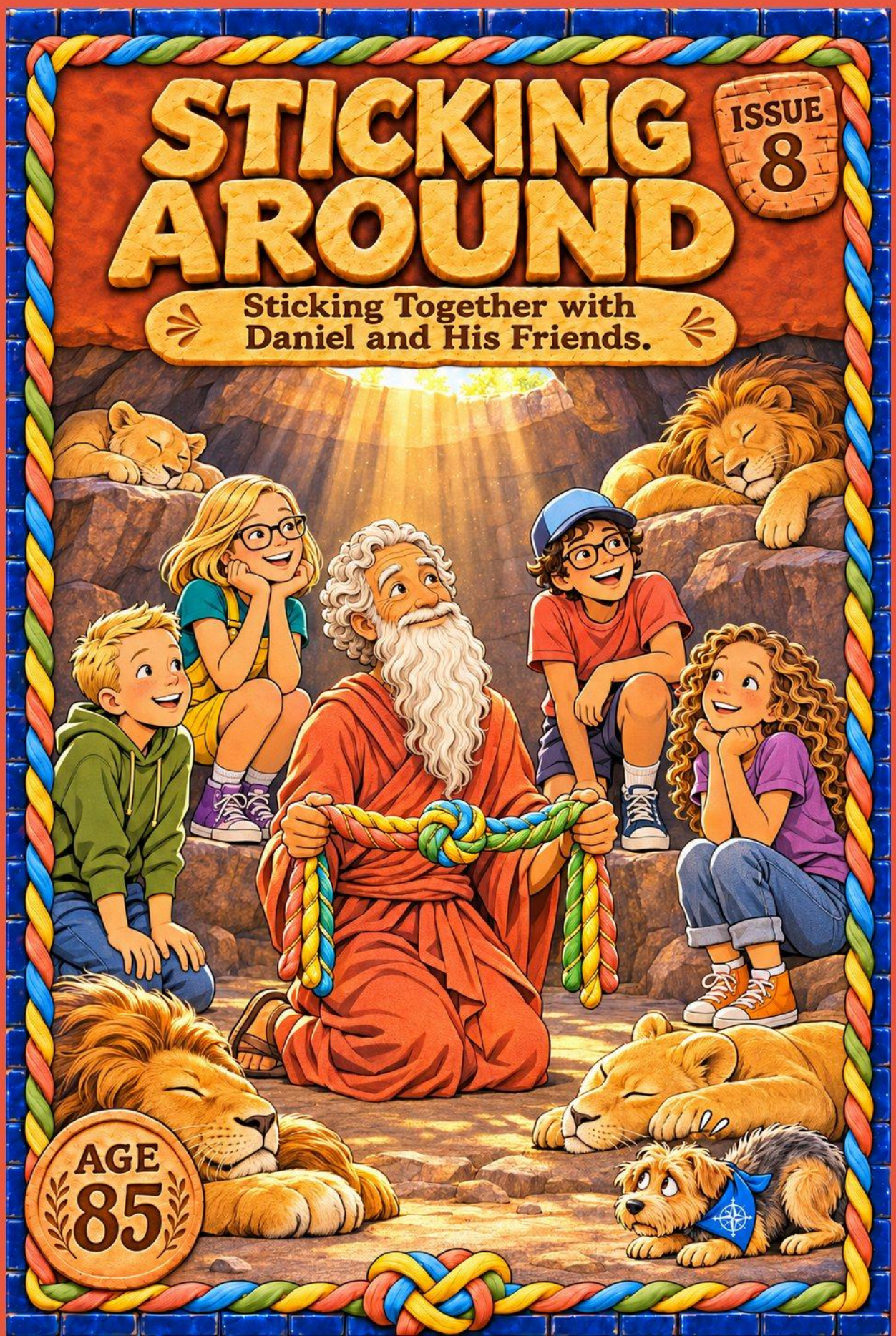
COMIC BOOK ISSUE 8 OF 8 · AGES 6–11 by Rick Melick



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

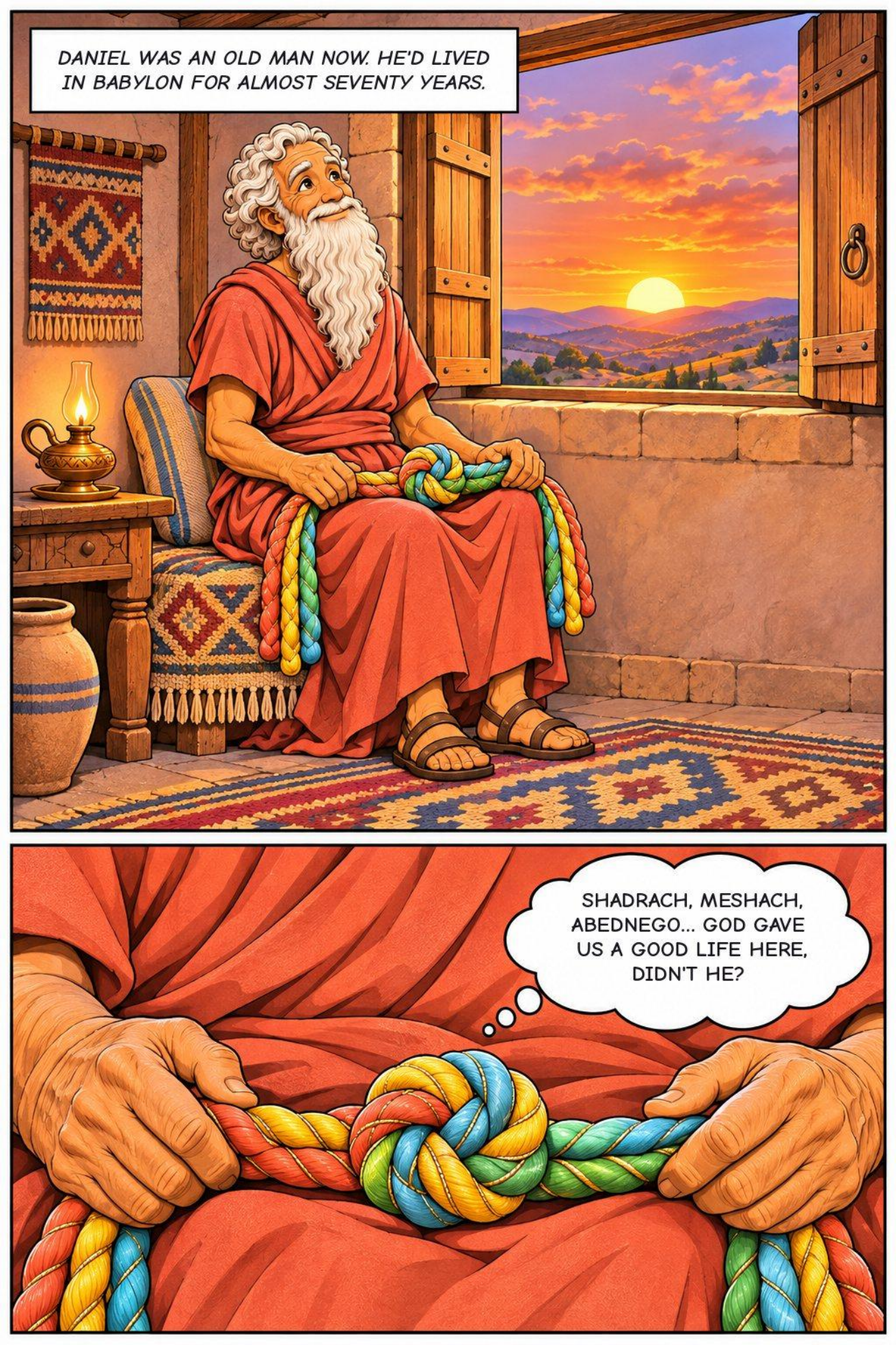
DANIEL DAN-yul

SHADRACH SHAD-rak

MESHACH MEE-shak

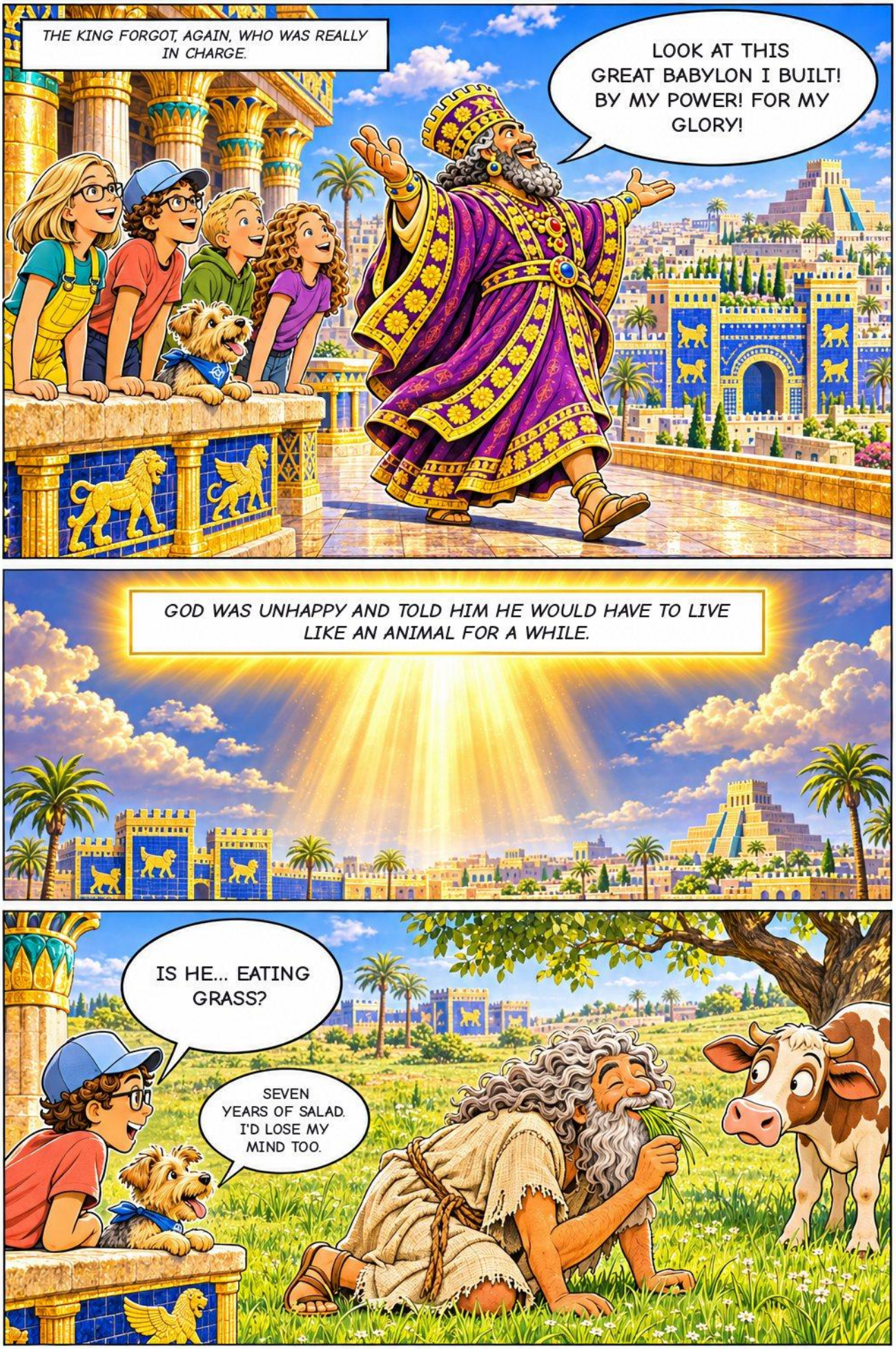
ABEDNEGO uh-BED-nee-go

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.


DANIEL WAS AN OLD MAN NOW. HE'D LIVED IN BABYLON FOR ALMOST SEVENTY YEARS.
SHADRACH, MESHACH, ABEDNEGO... GOD GAVE US A GOOD LIFE HERE, DIDN'T HE?


THEY'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING? WHY ARE YOU GUYS SO... NICE TO EACH OTHER?

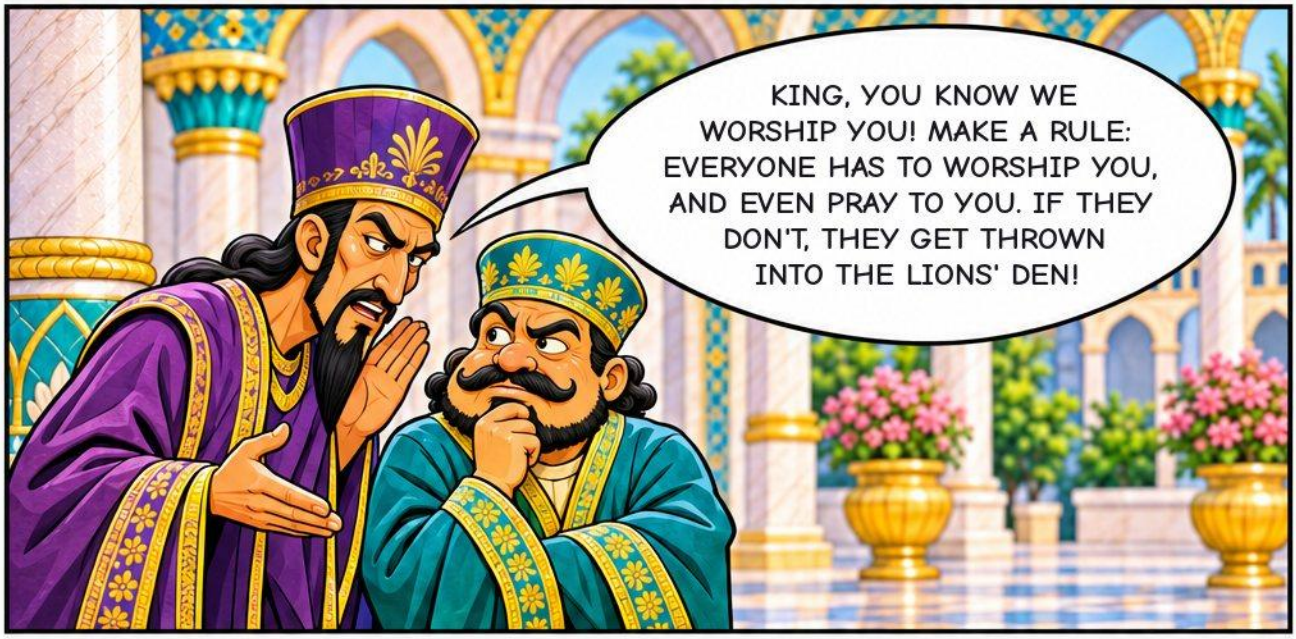

UM... THAT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY.
IS THAT A DOG?
LAST TRIP! LET'S TRAVEL!

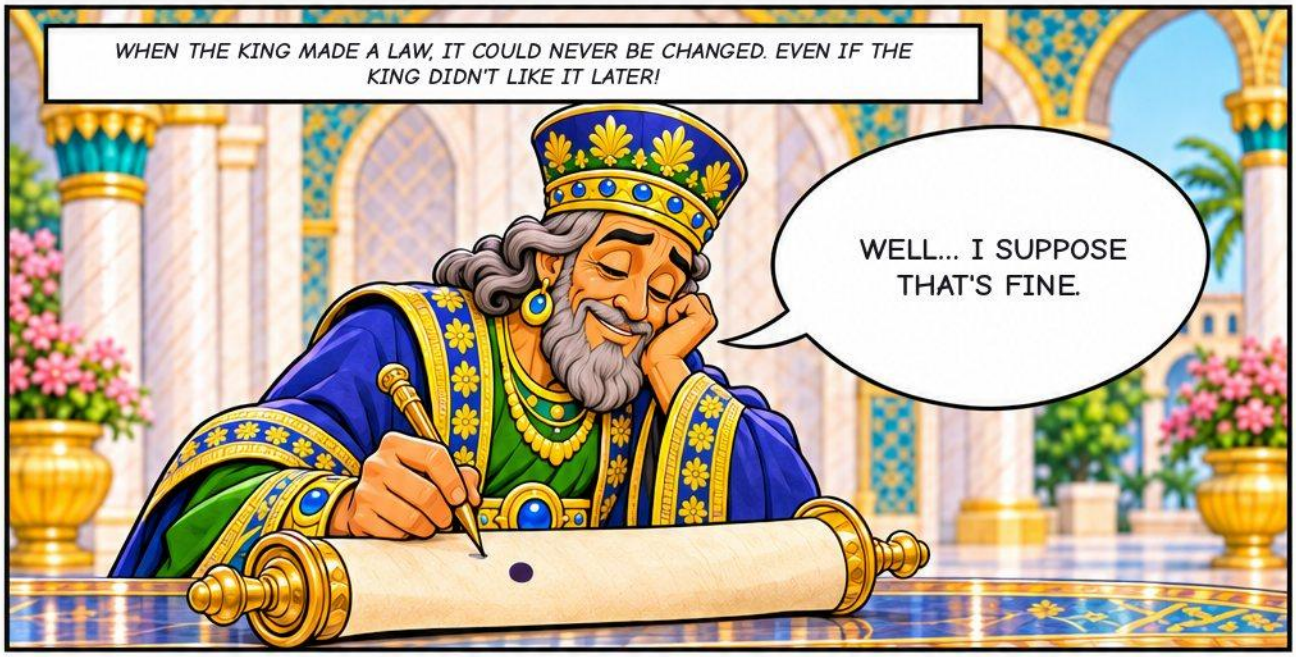

THE KING FORGOT, AGAIN, WHO WAS REALLY IN CHARGE.
LOOK AT THIS GREAT BABYLON I BUILT! BY MY POWER! FOR MY GLORY!
GOD WAS UNHAPPY AND TOLD HIM HE WOULD HAVE TO LIVE LIKE AN ANIMAL FOR A WHILE.
IS HE... EATING GRASS?
SEVEN YEARS OF SALAD. I'D LOSE MY MIND TOO.

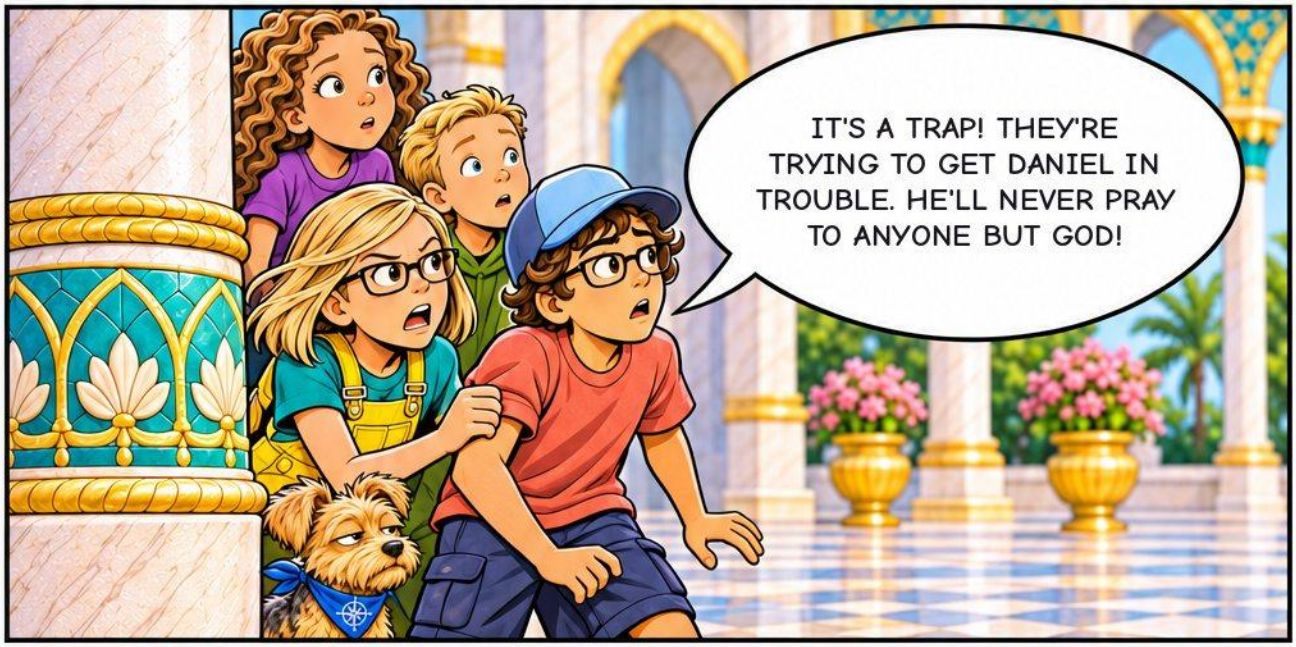

THEN THE KING LOOKED UP TO HEAVEN. HE FINALLY DECIDED TO WORSHIP THE REAL GOD.
NOW I PRAISE THE KING OF HEAVEN. EVERYTHING HE DOES IS RIGHT.
HE FINALLY GOT IT.

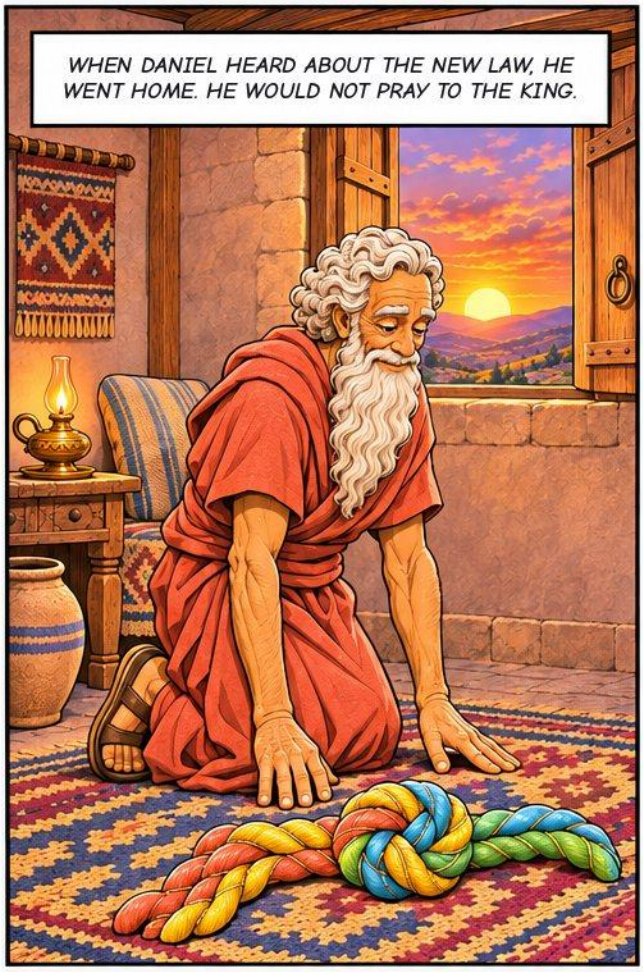

YEARS LATER, A NEW KING THREW A WILD PARTY, USING CUPS STOLEN FROM GOD'S TEMPLE.
OKAY, THAT ONE'S A LITTLE SPOOKY.
YOU FAILED GOD'S TEST. YOUR KINGDOM IS OVER.
THIS KING LEARNED THE HARD WAY TOO. THAT NIGHT, BABYLON WAS ATTACKED AND BEATEN.

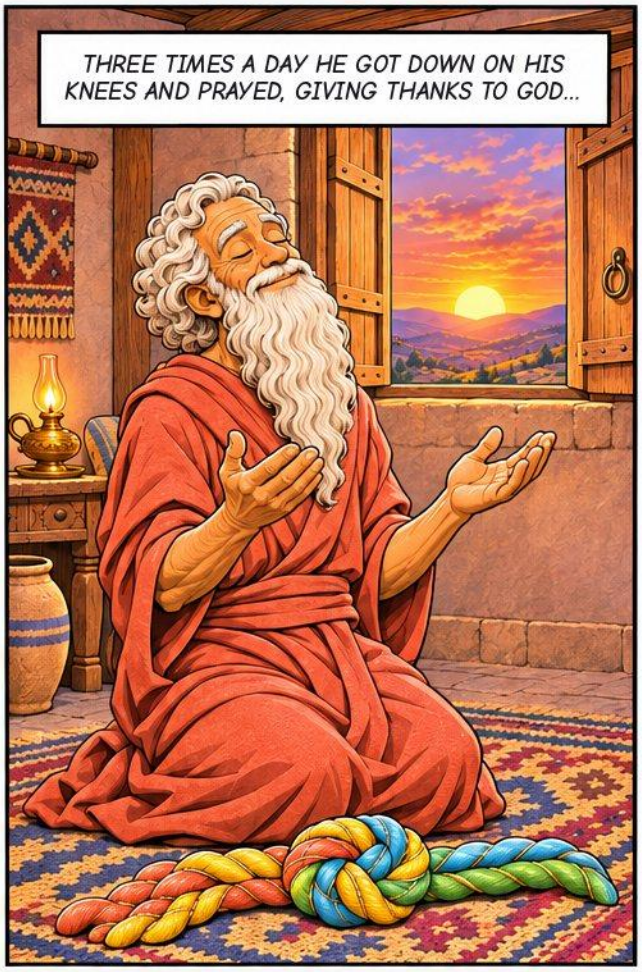

DANIEL GOT THE JOB WE WANTED! WE HAVE TO FIND SOMETHING HE'S DOING WRONG.
WE'VE LOOKED FOR MONTHS! DANIEL DOESN'T LIE, HE DOESN'T CHEAT, HE'S NEVER LATE...
THEY'RE LIKE THIS FLY, BUZZING AROUND DANIEL LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO FIND!

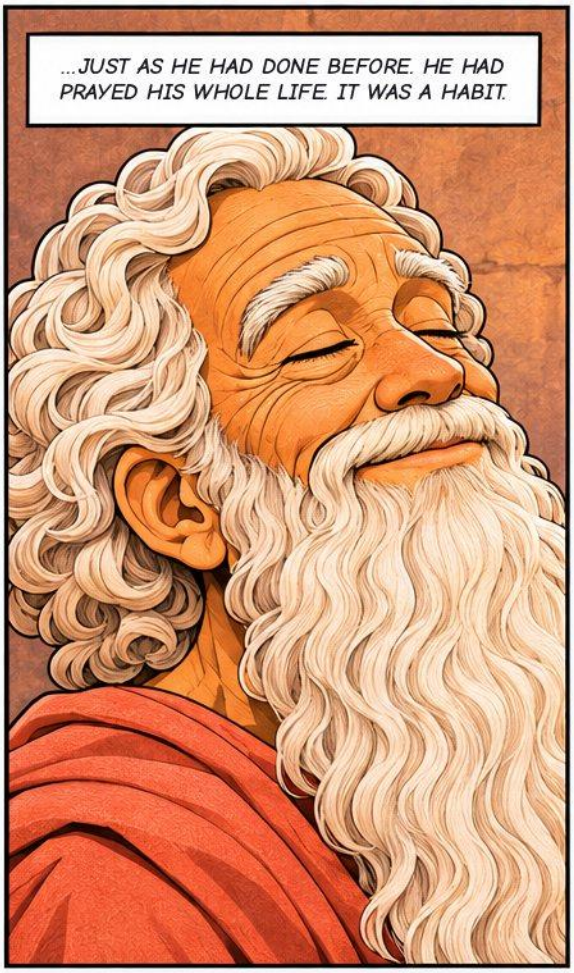

KING, YOU KNOW WE WORSHIP YOU! MAKE A RULE: EVERYONE HAS TO WORSHIP YOU, AND EVEN PRAY TO YOU. IF THEY DON'T, THEY GET THROWN INTO THE LIONS' DEN!

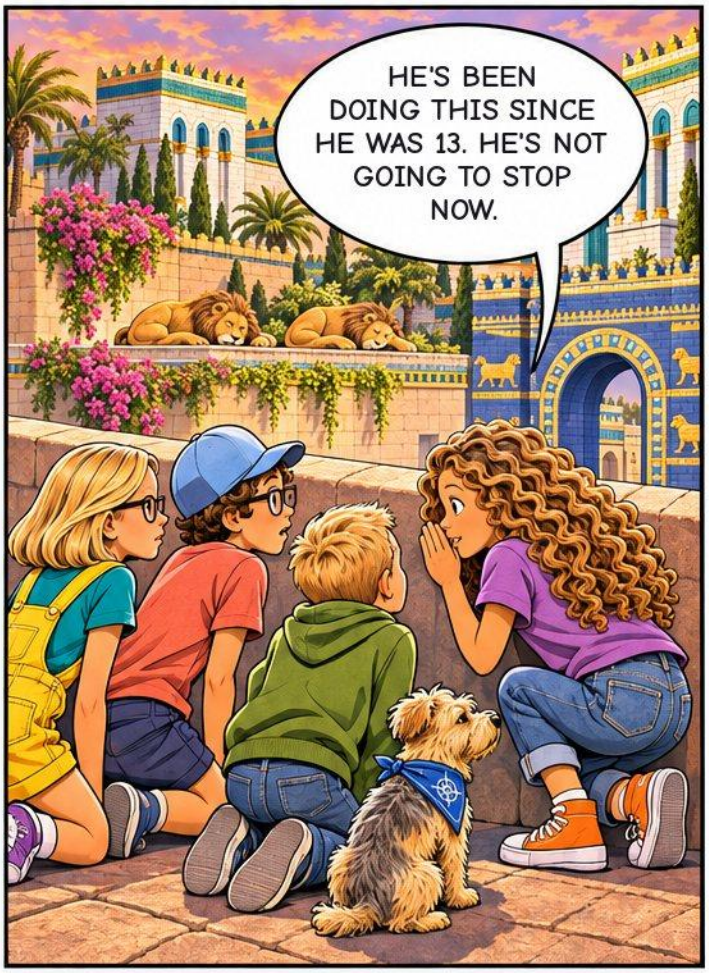

WHEN THE KING MADE A LAW, IT COULD NEVER BE CHANGED. EVEN IF THE KING DIDN'T LIKE IT LATER!
WELL... I SUPPOSE THAT'S FINE.

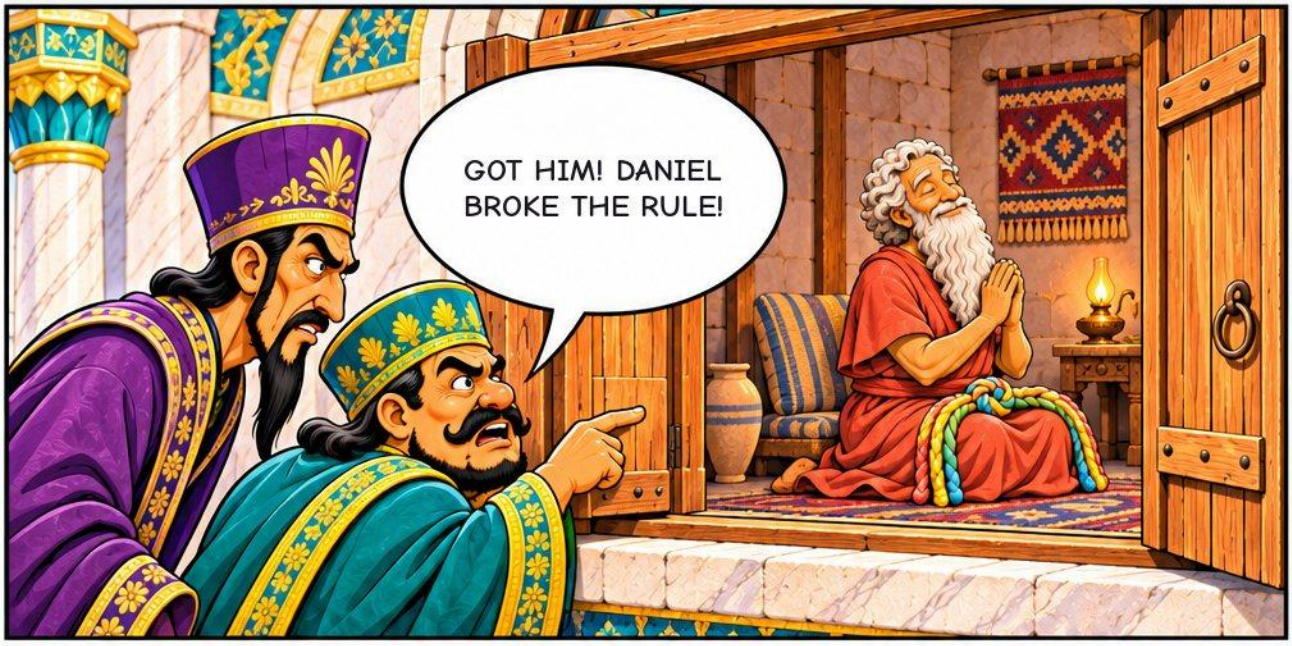

IT'S A TRAP! THEY'RE TRYING TO GET DANIEL IN TROUBLE. HE'LL NEVER PRAY TO ANYONE BUT GOD!


WHEN DANIEL HEARD ABOUT THE NEW LAW, HE WENT HOME. HE WOULD NOT PRAY TO THE KING.


THREE TIMES A DAY HE GOT DOWN ON HIS KNEES AND PRAYED, GIVING THANKS TO GOD...

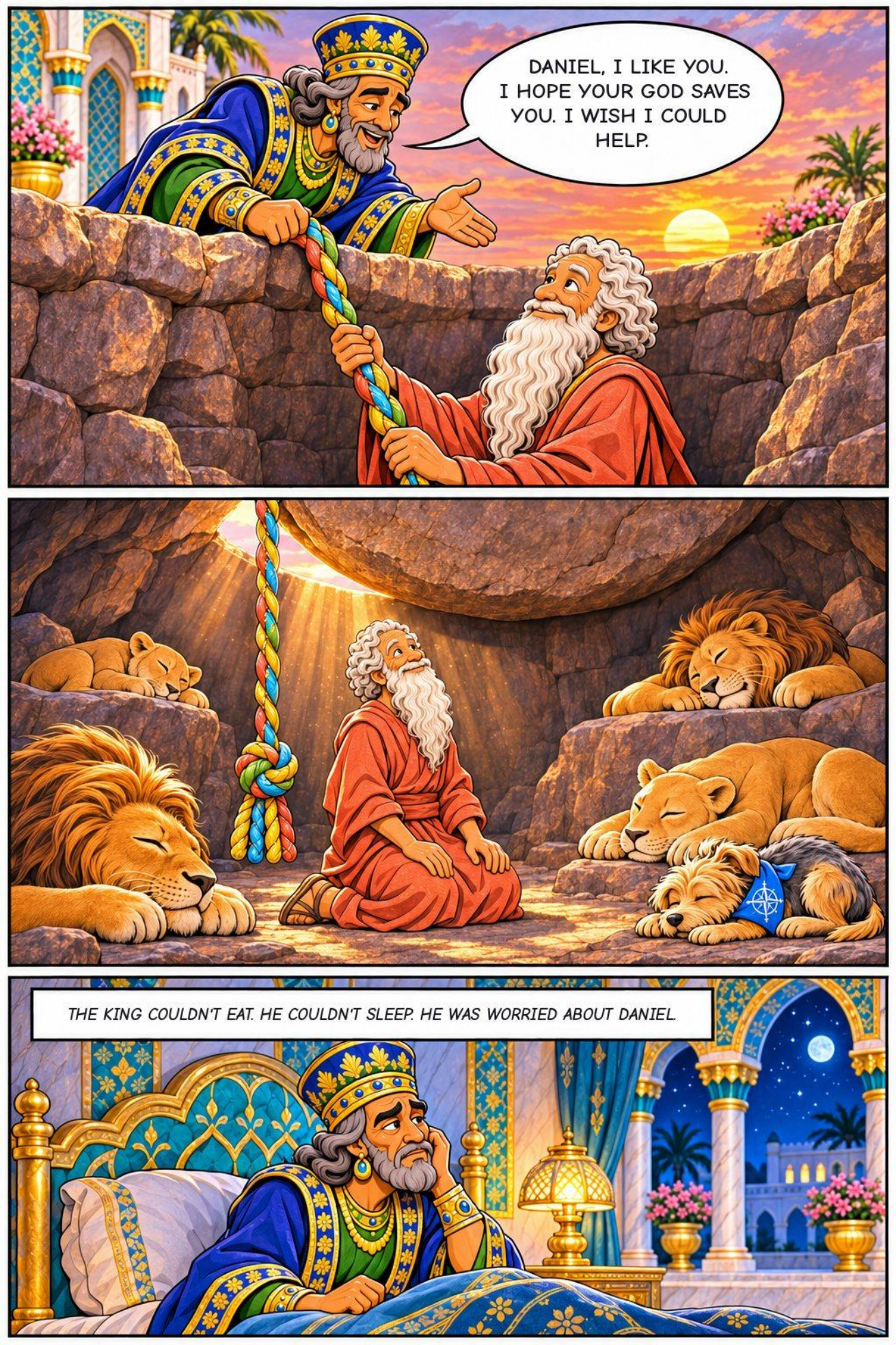

...JUST AS HE HAD DONE BEFORE. HE HAD PRAYED HIS WHOLE LIFE. IT WAS A HABIT.


HE'S BEEN DOING THIS SINCE HE WAS 13. HE'S NOT GOING TO STOP NOW.


GOT HIM! DANIEL BROKE THE RULE!

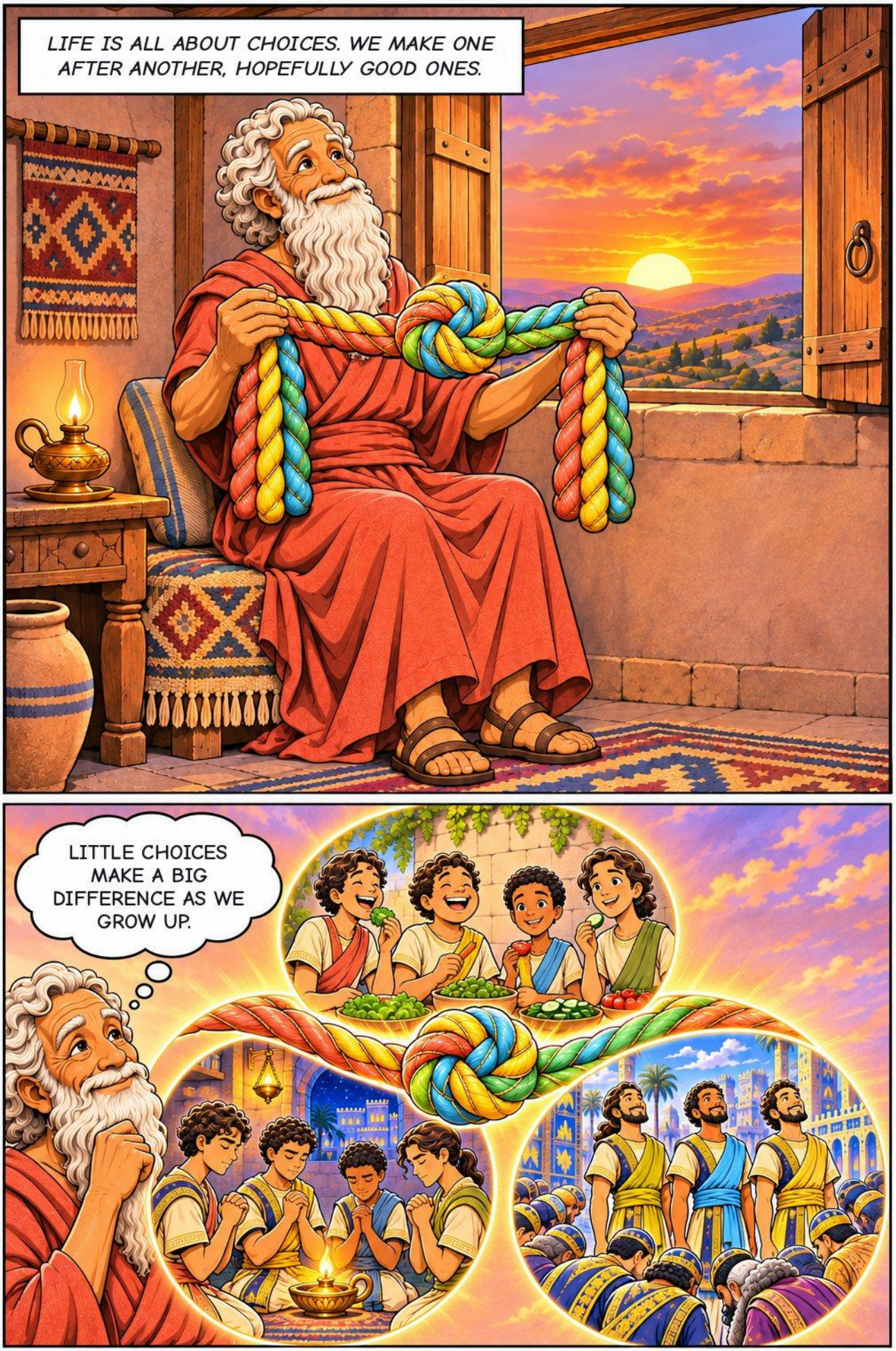

THE KING WAS VERY UPSET. HE TRIED ALL DAY TO FIND A WAY TO SAVE DANIEL.

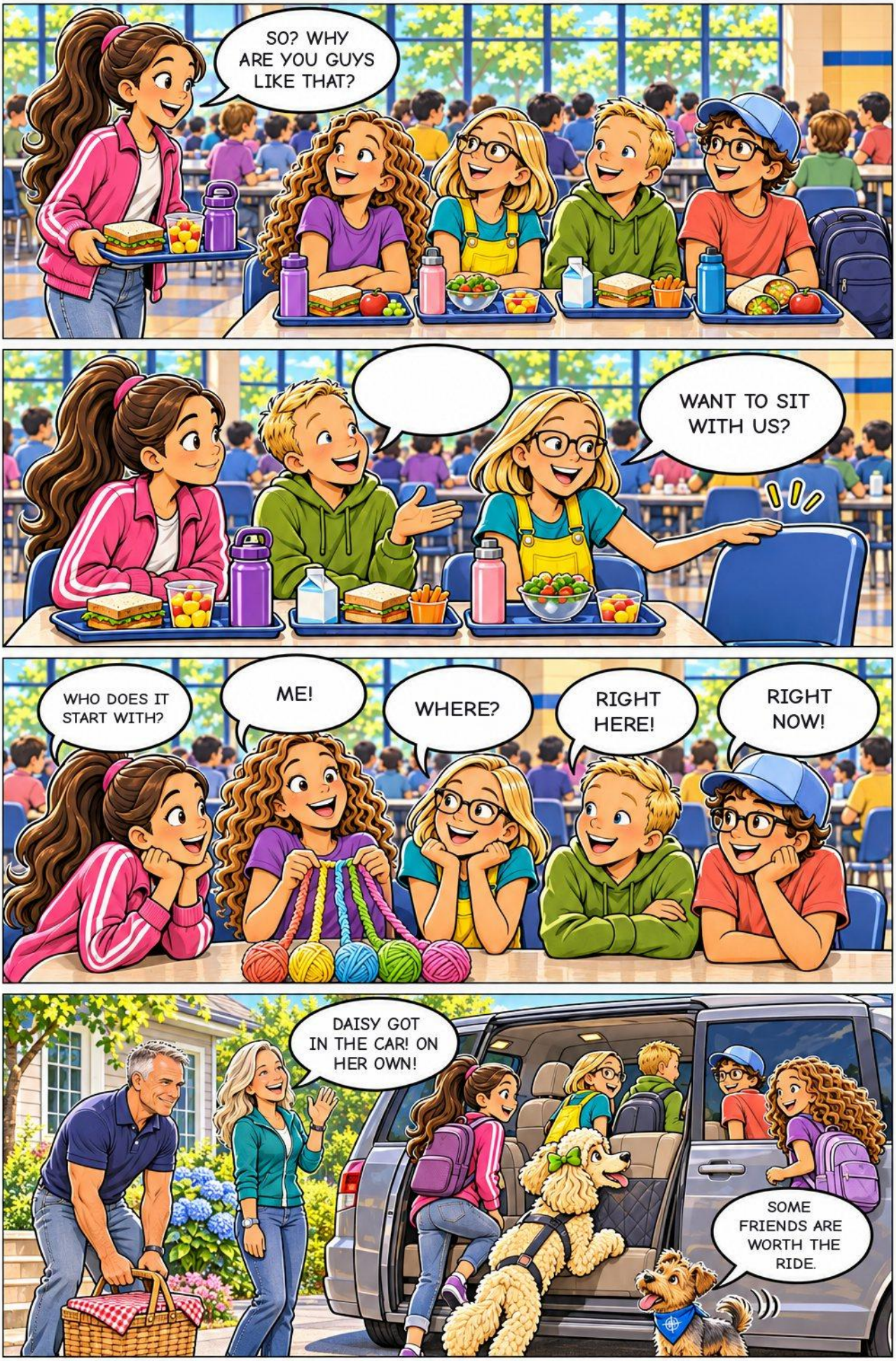

THERE MUST BE A WAY! THERE MUST BE! BUT NOT EVEN I CAN CHANGE MY OWN LAW...


DANIEL, I LIKE YOU. I HOPE YOUR GOD SAVES YOU. I WISH I COULD HELP.
THE KING COULDN'T EAT. HE COULDN'T SLEEP. HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT DANIEL.


DANIEL! HAS YOUR GOD BEEN ABLE TO SAVE YOU FROM THE LIONS?
MY GOD SENT HIS ANGEL, AND HE SHUT THE LIONS' MOUTHS. THEY HAVEN'T HURT ME.
BAD KITTY. GOOD KITTY? I'M GOING WITH GOOD KITTY.


EVERYONE IN MY KINGDOM MUST RESPECT THE GOD OF DANIEL. I LEARNED MY LESSON!
HIS FRIENDS WEREN'T THERE THAT NIGHT.
NO. BUT THEY WERE STILL FRIENDS, AND THEIR LOVE FOR GOD HELD THEM TOGETHER.


LIFE IS ALL ABOUT CHOICES. WE MAKE ONE AFTER ANOTHER, HOPEFULLY GOOD ONES.
LITTLE CHOICES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE AS WE GROW UP.


SO? WHY ARE YOU GUYS LIKE THAT?
WANT TO SIT WITH US?
WHO DOES IT START WITH?
ME!
WHERE?
RIGHT HERE!
RIGHT NOW!
DAISY GOT IN THE CAR! ON HER OWN!
SOME FRIENDS ARE WORTH THE RIDE.

REMEMBER IT!

ISSUE 8

LITTLE THINGS BECOME BIG THINGS.

HAND MOTION

Pinch your fingers close together (little things), then spread your arms wide (big things).

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17 (NIrV)



BAXTER'S BARK: YOUNG FLIES BUZZ ALL OVER THE PLACE. OLD FLIES JUST SIT THERE, STEADY. BE AN OLD FLY. (BUT PLEASE STAY OFF MY FOOD.)

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 8 OF 8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Daniel's rope is finished: a whole life of little choices with friends. The kids' rope gets a new strand: Brooke.

TALK IT OVER

1. Daniel prayed "just as he had done before." What little things could you do every day with God?
2. Brooke noticed how the friends treated each other. What do people notice about how you treat your friends?
3. Who could you invite to sit with you, play with you, or come to church with you?

TRY IT THIS WEEK

Pick one little thing to do every day, like praying before school or texting a friend something kind. Then invite someone new to join you.

THE END OF ISSUE 8

Sticking Around · a comic by Rick Melick

YOU FINISHED ALL 8!

Start again or share them with a friend

MISSED ONE? ISSUE 7

The Fourth Man in the Fire

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

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