

Bible for Children  
presents



FROM  
PERSECUTOR  
TO  
PREACHER



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Illustrated by: Janie Forest

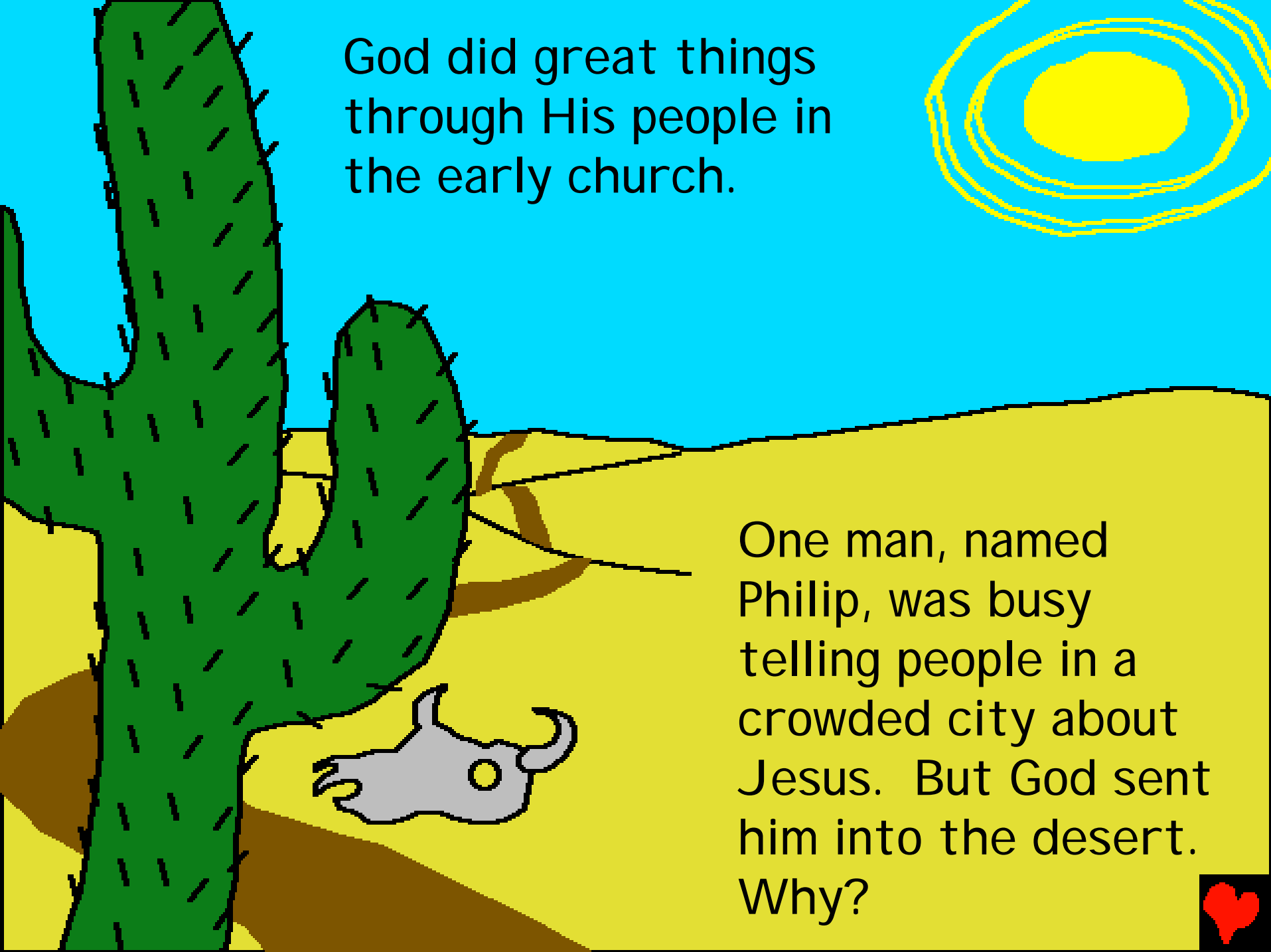
Adapted by: Ruth Klassen

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God did great things  
through His people in  
the early church.

One man, named  
Philip, was busy  
telling people in a  
crowded city about  
Jesus. But God sent  
him into the desert.  
Why?





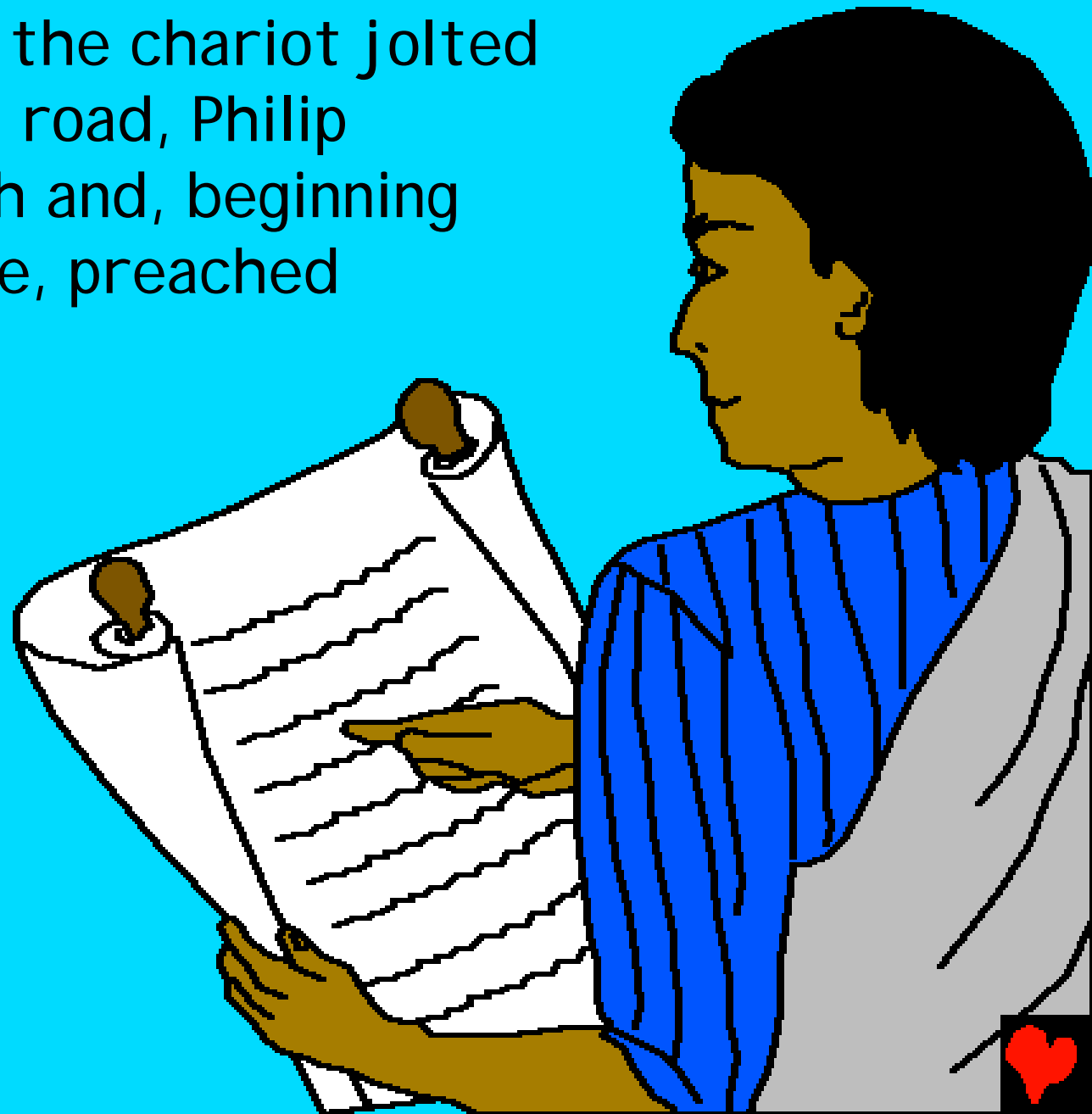
God knew there was a traveler in the desert, a ruler under Queen Candace of Ethiopia. He was on his way home and he was reading a special Book. Can you guess what the book was?

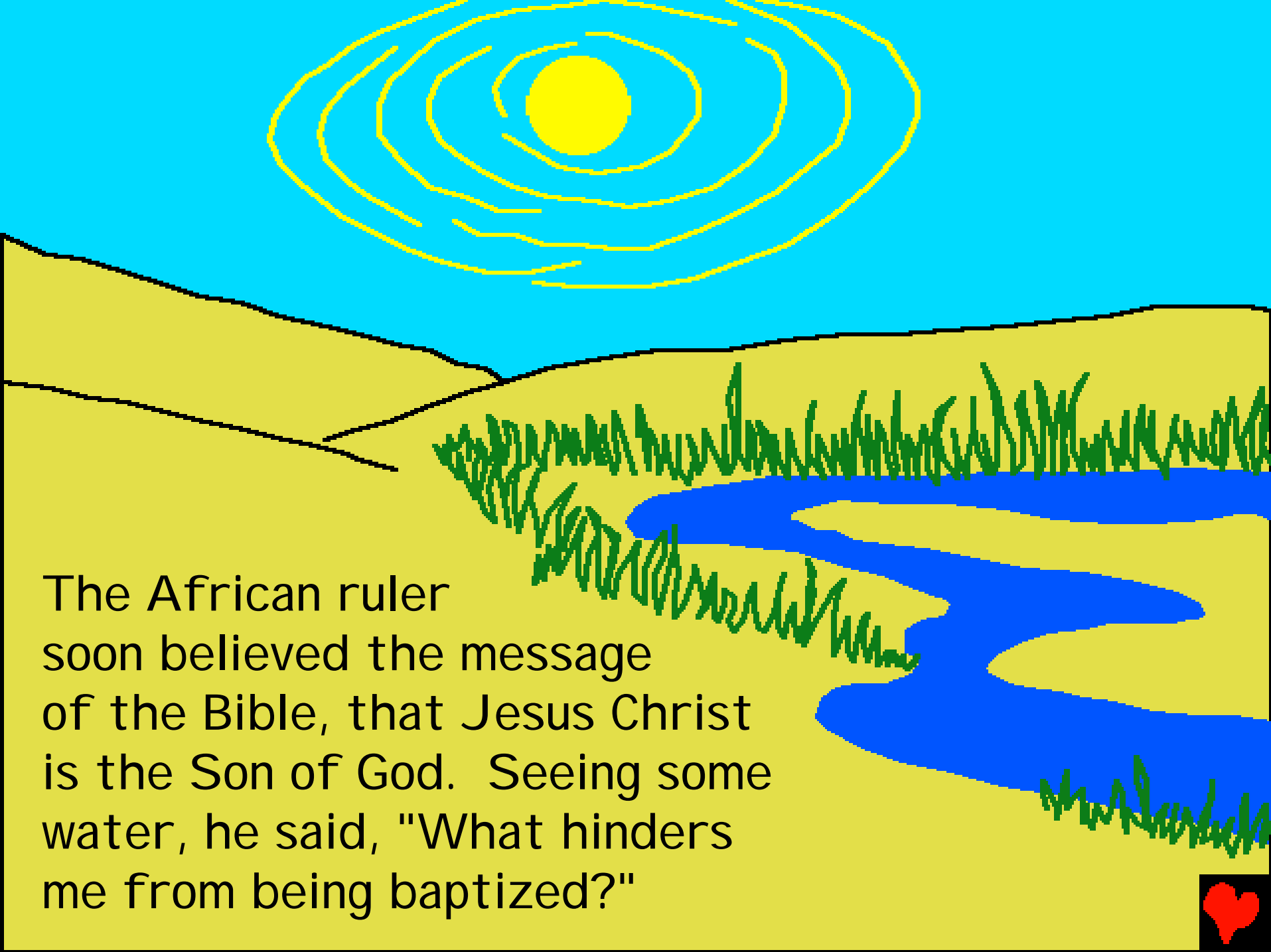


When Philip obeyed God, God led him straight to the ruler who was reading God's Word without understanding it. He invited Philip to join him.



"What does this mean?" the ruler asked Philip. As the chariot jolted along the desert road, Philip opened his mouth and, beginning at that Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

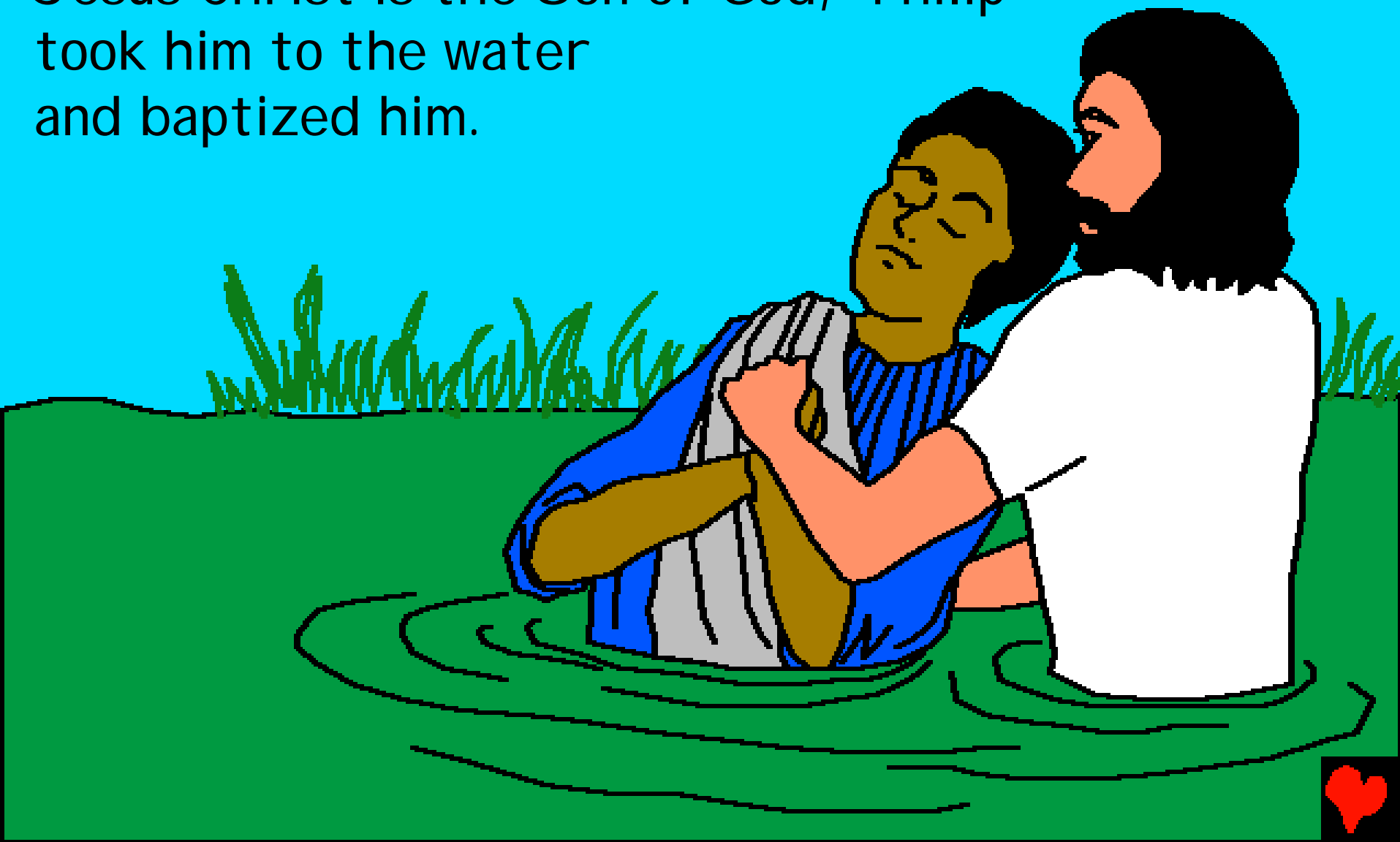




The African ruler soon believed the message of the Bible, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Seeing some water, he said, "What hinders me from being baptized?"

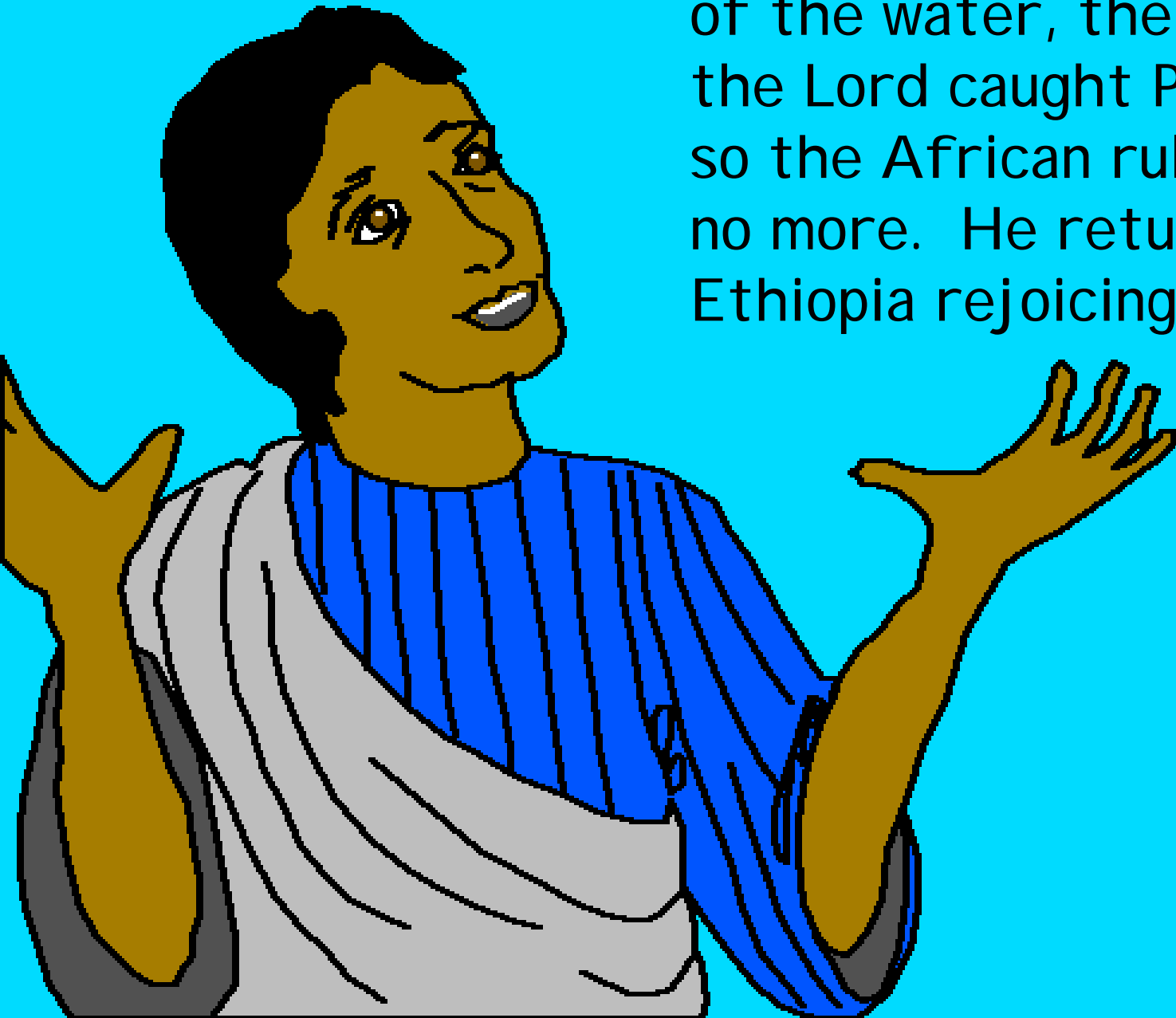


Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." When the ruler answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God," Philip took him to the water and baptized him.

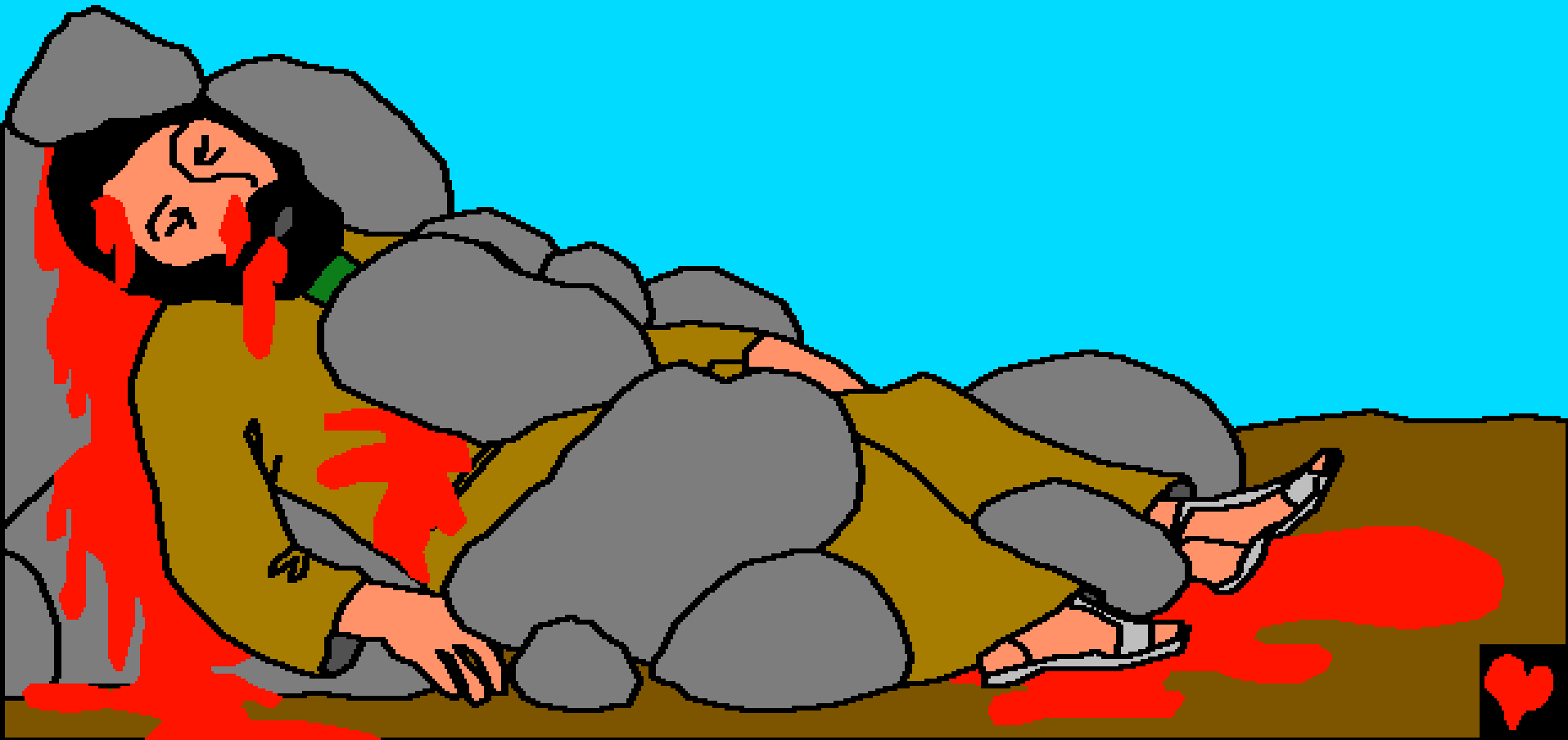




Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so the African ruler saw him no more. He returned to Ethiopia rejoicing!



But some people hated the Christians. Stephen, one of Philip's friends, had been killed by angry people who did not want him to talk about Jesus. A man called Saul from Tarsus had helped to kill Stephen. Saul hated all Christians.



Saul, breathing threats and murder against the Christians, went to the High Priest and got letters giving him the right to arrest men or women who followed Jesus.





Poor Saul of Tarsus! He didn't know that when he hurt God's people, he was actually hurting the Lord Jesus Himself. God had to stop Saul. But how?



God "arrested"  
Saul! While Saul  
was on the road  
to the city of  
Damascus, God  
shone a great light  
from Heaven. Saul  
fell to the ground.  
Then he heard a  
Voice.





"Who are you, Lord?" Saul cried out.  
"I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting."  
Trembling and astonished, Saul asked,  
"Lord, what do you want me to do?"  
And the Lord said to him, "Arise and  
go into the city, and you will be told  
what you must do."



The men with Saul also heard the Voice, but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground - and found he was blind! They led him into Damascus.

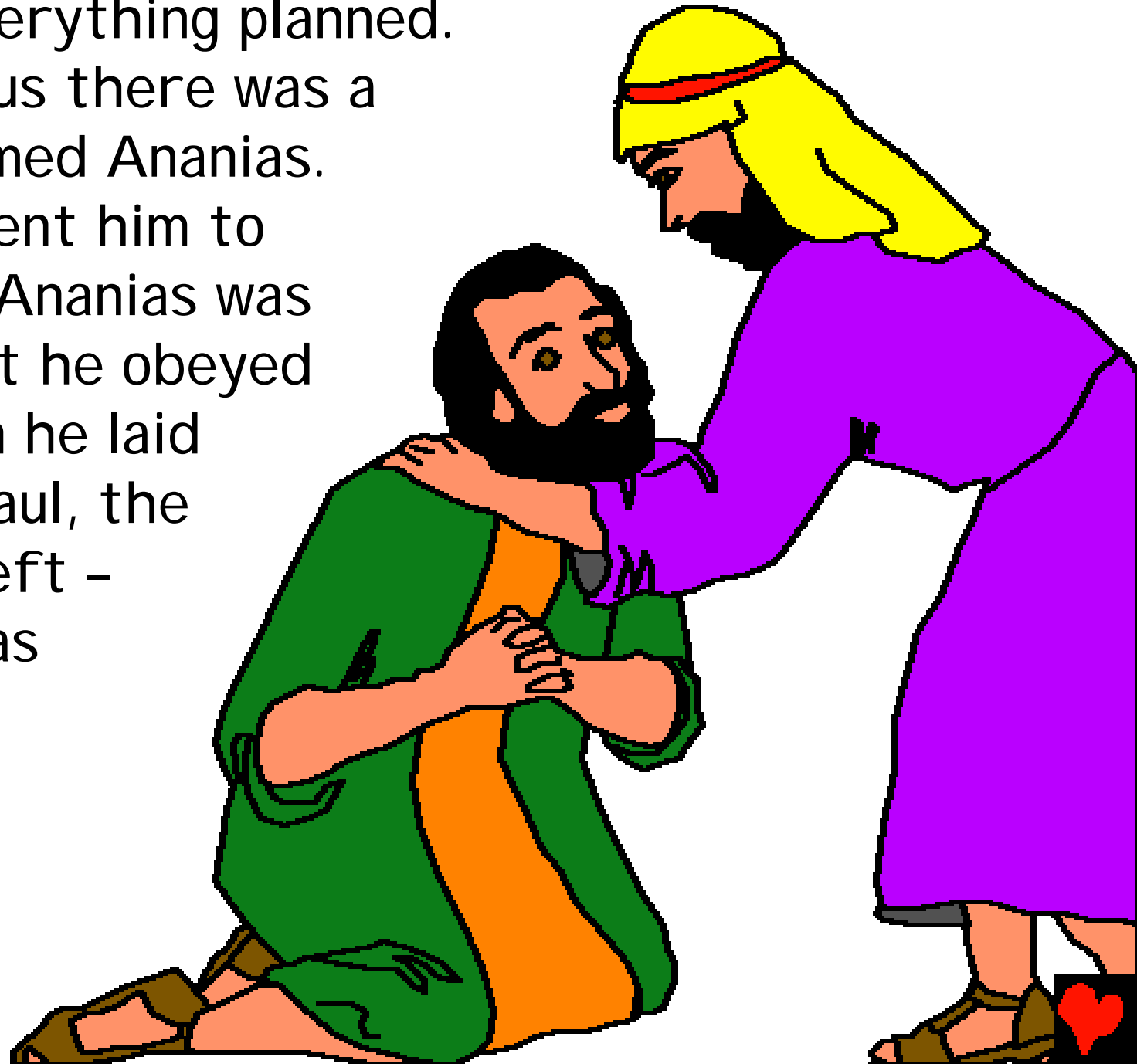


In the city, Saul was three days without sight and neither ate nor drank. Perhaps he spent the time praying to the Lord Jesus Who had met him on the Damascus road.

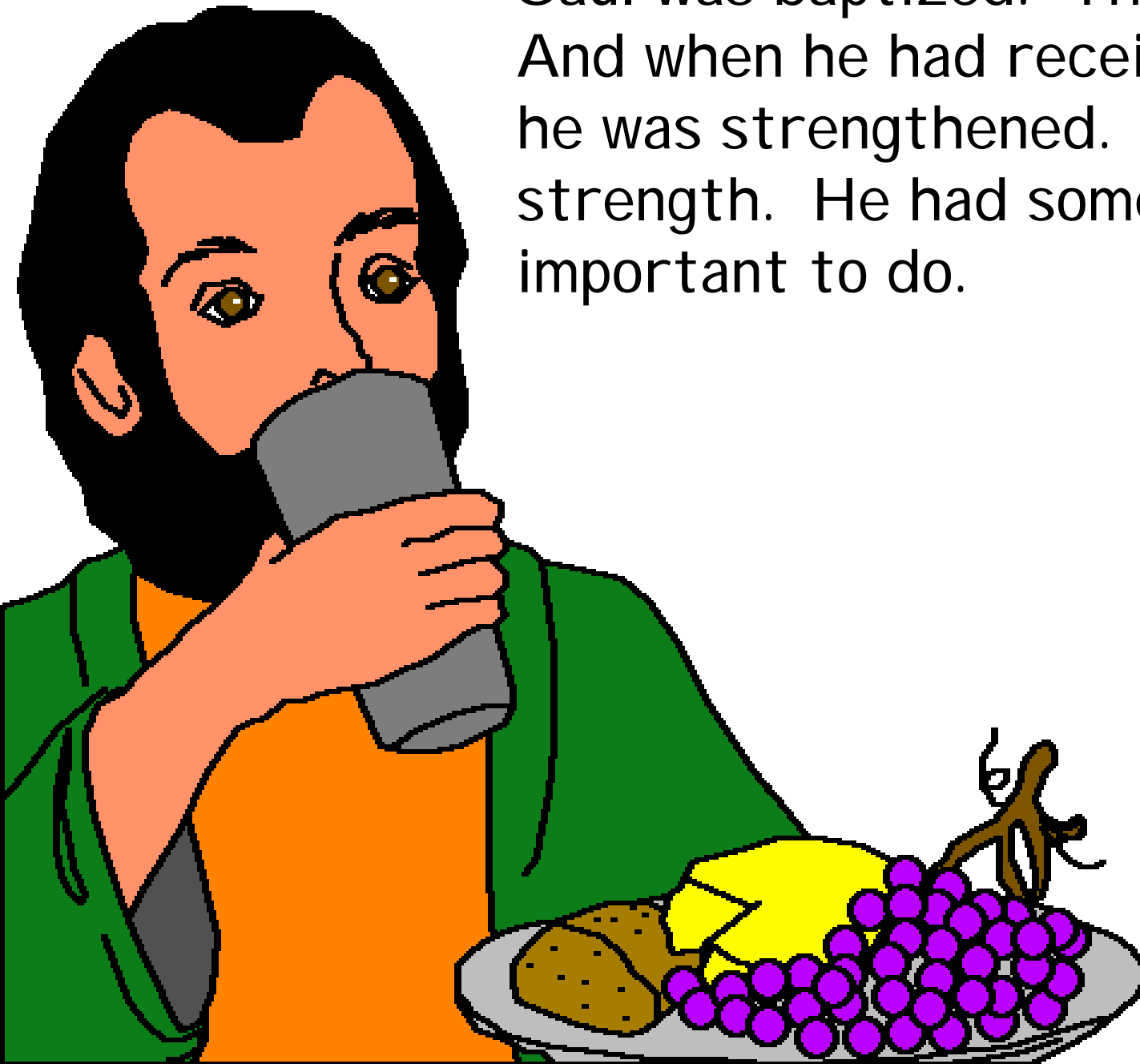




God had everything planned. At Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord sent him to help Saul. Ananias was scared. But he obeyed God. When he laid hands on Saul, the blindness left – and Saul was filled with God's Holy Spirit.

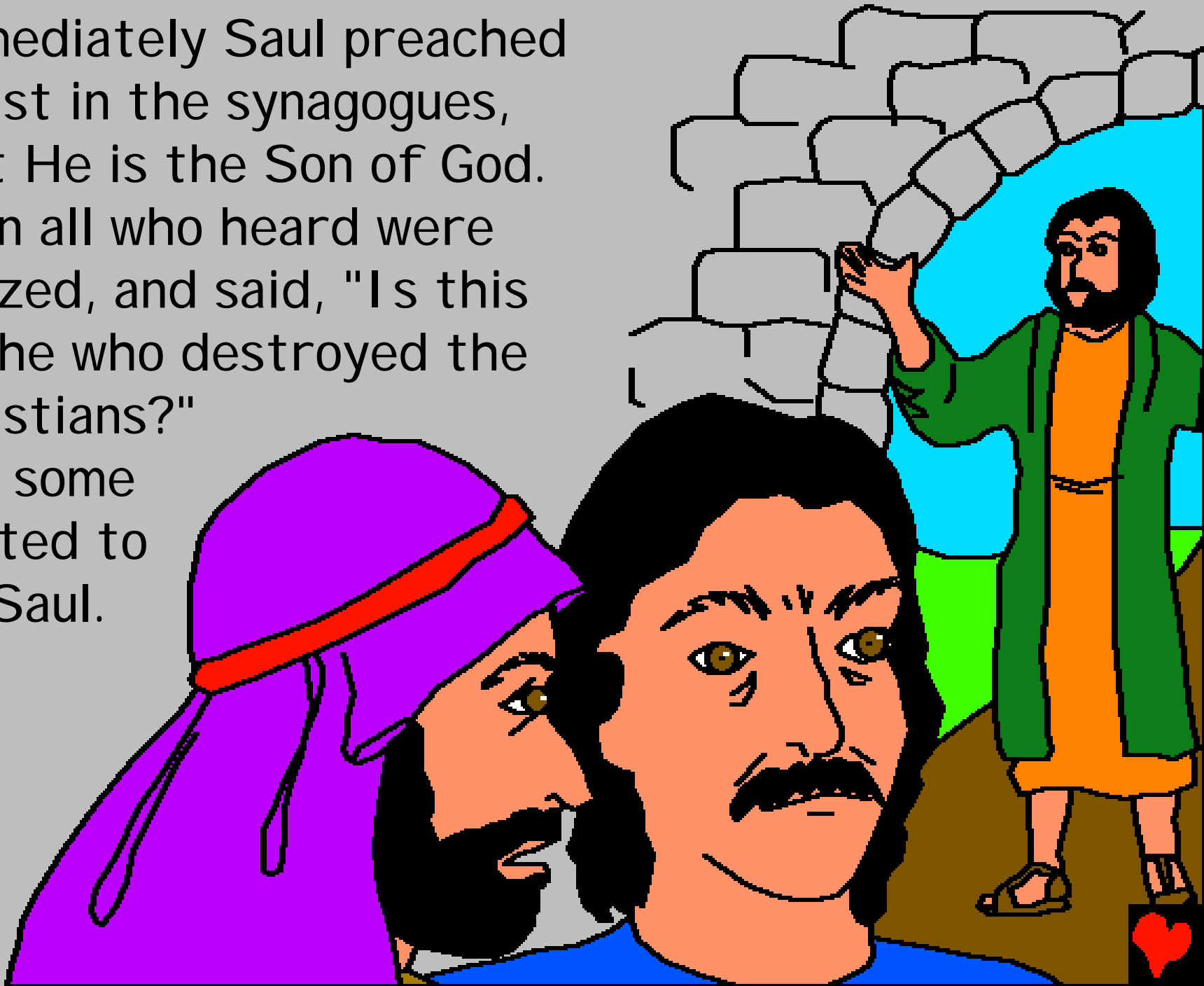


Saul was baptized. Then he ate.  
And when he had received food,  
he was strengthened. Saul needed  
strength. He had something very  
important to do.



Immediately Saul preached Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed the Christians?"

And some plotted to kill Saul.





Saul's new enemies watched the city gates to kill Saul if he tried to leave the city. But his new friends, the Christians, took him by night and let him down over the wall in a large basket.





And from then on, Saul the persecutor of Christians lived as a faithful follower of his new Master, the Lord Jesus Christ.



# From Persecutor to Preacher

A story from God's Word, the Bible,

is found in

Acts 8 and 9

"The entrance of Your Word gives light."

Psalm 119:130



The End



This Bible story tells us about our wonderful God who made us and who wants us to know Him.

God knows we have done bad things, which He calls sin.

The punishment for sin is death, but God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and be punished for our sins. Then Jesus came back to life and went home to Heaven! If you believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive your sins, He will do it! He will come and live in you now, and you will live with Him forever.

If you want to turn from your sins, say this to God:

Dear God, I believe that Jesus died for me and now lives again. Please come into my life and forgive my sins, so that I can have new life now, and one day go to be with You forever. Help me to live for You as Your child. Amen.

Read the Bible and talk with God every day! John 3:16

