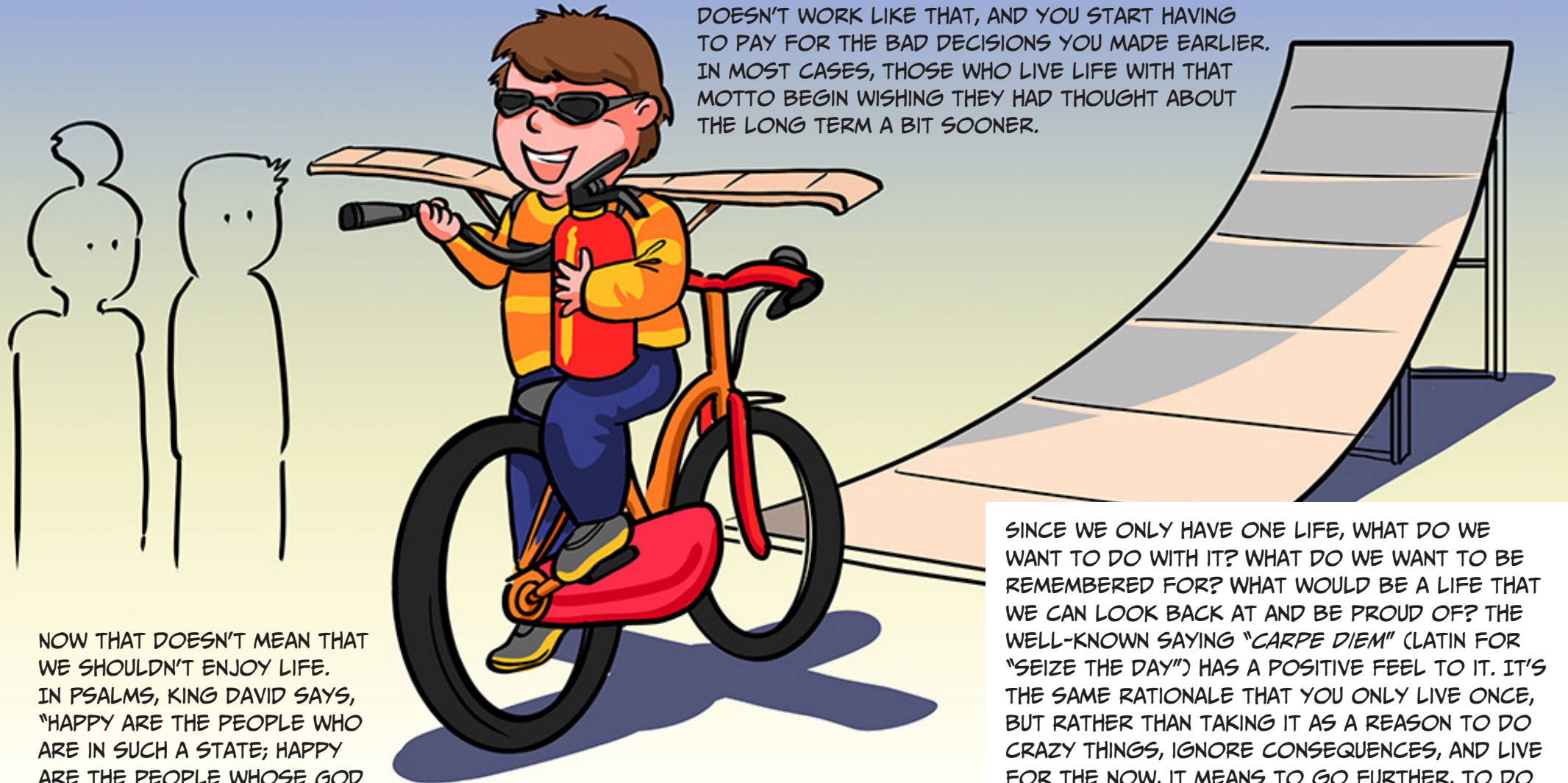


YOLO or *Carpe Diem*?

THE ACRONYM "YOLO" HAS BEEN THROWN AROUND FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. IT STANDS FOR "YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE." IT'S AN ATTRACTIVE THOUGHT. WHY WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE? WHY CAN'T WE ONLY BE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT MAKES US HAPPY RIGHT NOW?

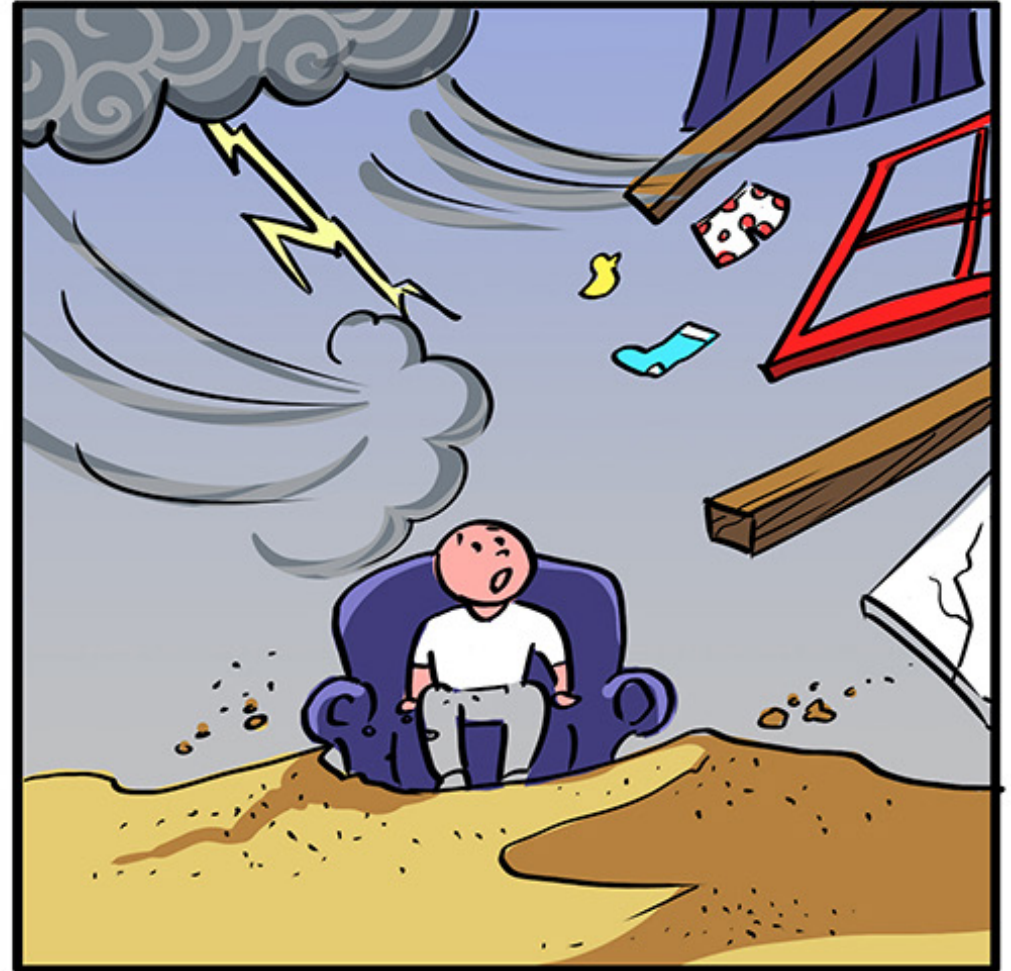
WELL, WHEN YOU GET OLDER, YOU REALIZE THAT LIFE DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT, AND YOU START HAVING TO PAY FOR THE BAD DECISIONS YOU MADE EARLIER. IN MOST CASES, THOSE WHO LIVE LIFE WITH THAT MOTTO BEGIN WISHING THEY HAD THOUGHT ABOUT THE LONG TERM A BIT SOONER.



NOW THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE SHOULDN'T ENJOY LIFE. IN PSALMS, KING DAVID SAYS, "HAPPY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN SUCH A STATE; HAPPY ARE THE PEOPLE WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD!"¹

SINCE WE ONLY HAVE ONE LIFE, WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO WITH IT? WHAT DO WE WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR? WHAT WOULD BE A LIFE THAT WE CAN LOOK BACK AT AND BE PROUD OF? THE WELL-KNOWN SAYING "CARPE DIEM" (LATIN FOR "SEIZE THE DAY") HAS A POSITIVE FEEL TO IT. IT'S THE SAME RATIONALE THAT YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE, BUT RATHER THAN TAKING IT AS A REASON TO DO CRAZY THINGS, IGNORE CONSEQUENCES, AND LIVE FOR THE NOW, IT MEANS TO GO FURTHER, TO DO MORE, AND TO NOT WASTE THE DAY.

AN EXAMPLE THAT COMES TO MIND IS THE PARABLE JESUS TOLD ABOUT THE TWO MEN WHO BUILT HOUSES; ONE BUILT ON THE SAND AND THE OTHER BUILT ON THE ROCK.² NOW, I'M NO BUILDER, BUT I CAN IMAGINE THAT BUILDING ON THE SAND WOULD BE MUCH FASTER. IT'S SOFT AND EASY TO DIG IN. YOU COULD PROBABLY GET YOUR HOUSE UP MUCH FASTER THAN THE GUY HAVING TO BUILD ON MORE SOLID MATERIAL, LIKE ROCK. MAYBE THE SAND GUY HAD COOL PLACES TO BE AND MORE FUN THINGS TO DO, SO HE WANTED TO GET IT DONE AND OUT OF THE WAY. "YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE," I CAN IMAGINE HIM SAYING, "SO I DON'T WANT TO WASTE TOO MUCH TIME WORKING."



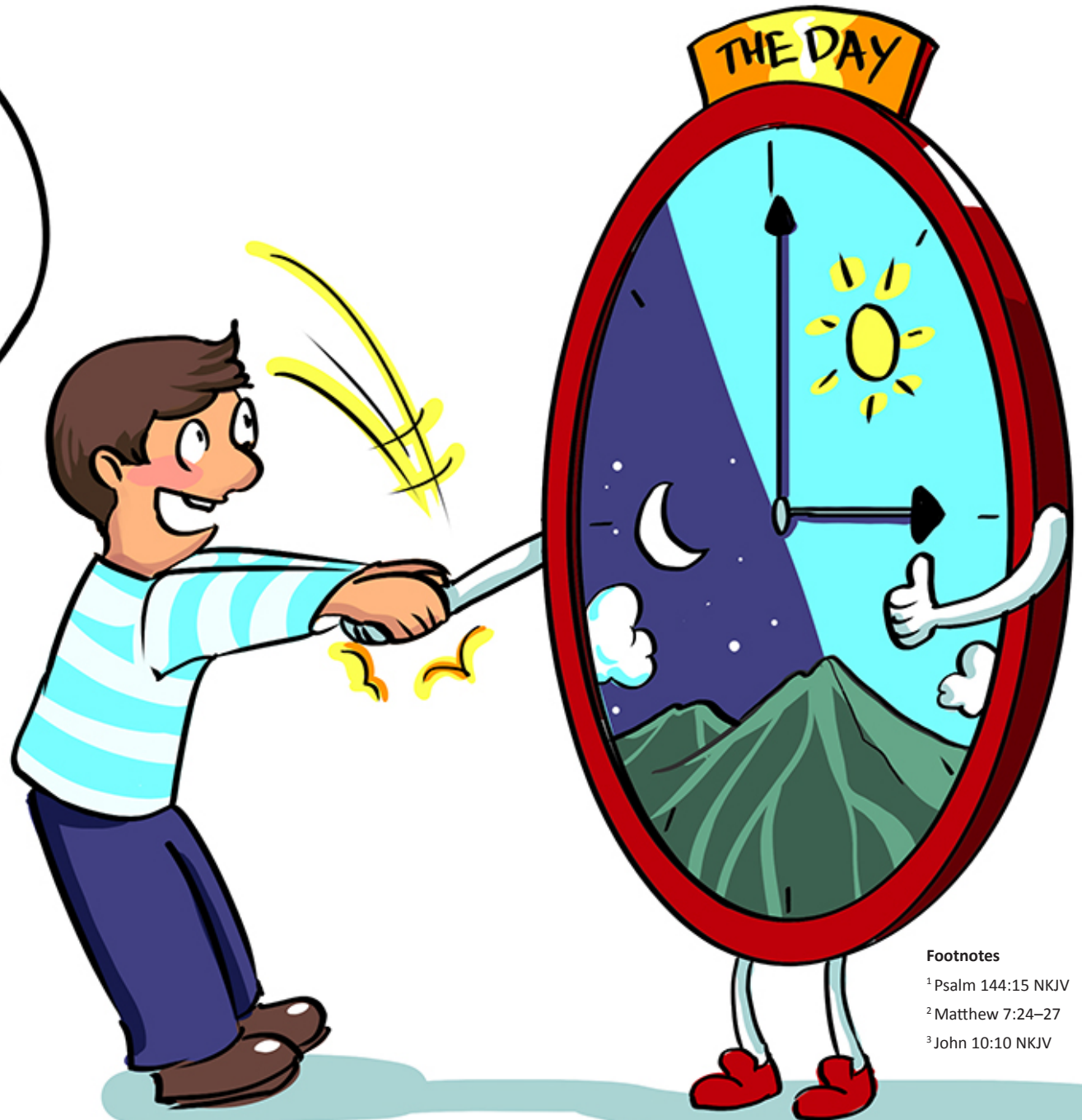
THE OTHER GUY KNEW IF HE DID IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, IT WOULD LAST LONGER. HE MADE SURE THAT HE BUILT HIS STRUCTURE TO ENDURE.

SURE ENOUGH, AS THE STORY GOES, WHEN THE RAINS CAME AND THE WIND BLEW, THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED. MR. SAND BUILDER HAD TO START ALL OVER AGAIN, WHILE MR. ROCK BUILDER COULD SIT IN HIS NICE WARM HOUSE PROTECTED FROM THE STORM.

Let's DO something!
I want to learn rock
climbing, gardening,
party planning, and
cat training!

SEIZING THE DAY BECAUSE WE ONLY HAVE THIS LIFE MEANS MAKING CHOICES SO THAT WHENEVER YOUR TIME COMES, YOU CAN BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE. NOT ONLY IN PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT IN THE FRIENDS YOU'VE MADE, THE KINDNESS YOU'VE SHOWED OTHERS, THE LIVES YOU'VE TOUCHED IN SOME WAY, AND THE MEMORIES YOU'VE CREATED. THIS WILL BE HOW OTHERS WILL REMEMBER YOU.

JESUS SAID, "I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MAY HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY."³ HE WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND THE MANY BLESSINGS THAT HE GIVES US EVERY DAY. HE INTENDS FOR US TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE WITH THE LIFE HE HAS GIVEN.



Footnotes

¹ Psalm 144:15 NKJV

² Matthew 7:24–27

³ John 10:10 NKJV

S&S link: Character Building: Personal Responsibility: Choice and Decision-making-2b
Authored by NK, adapted.

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