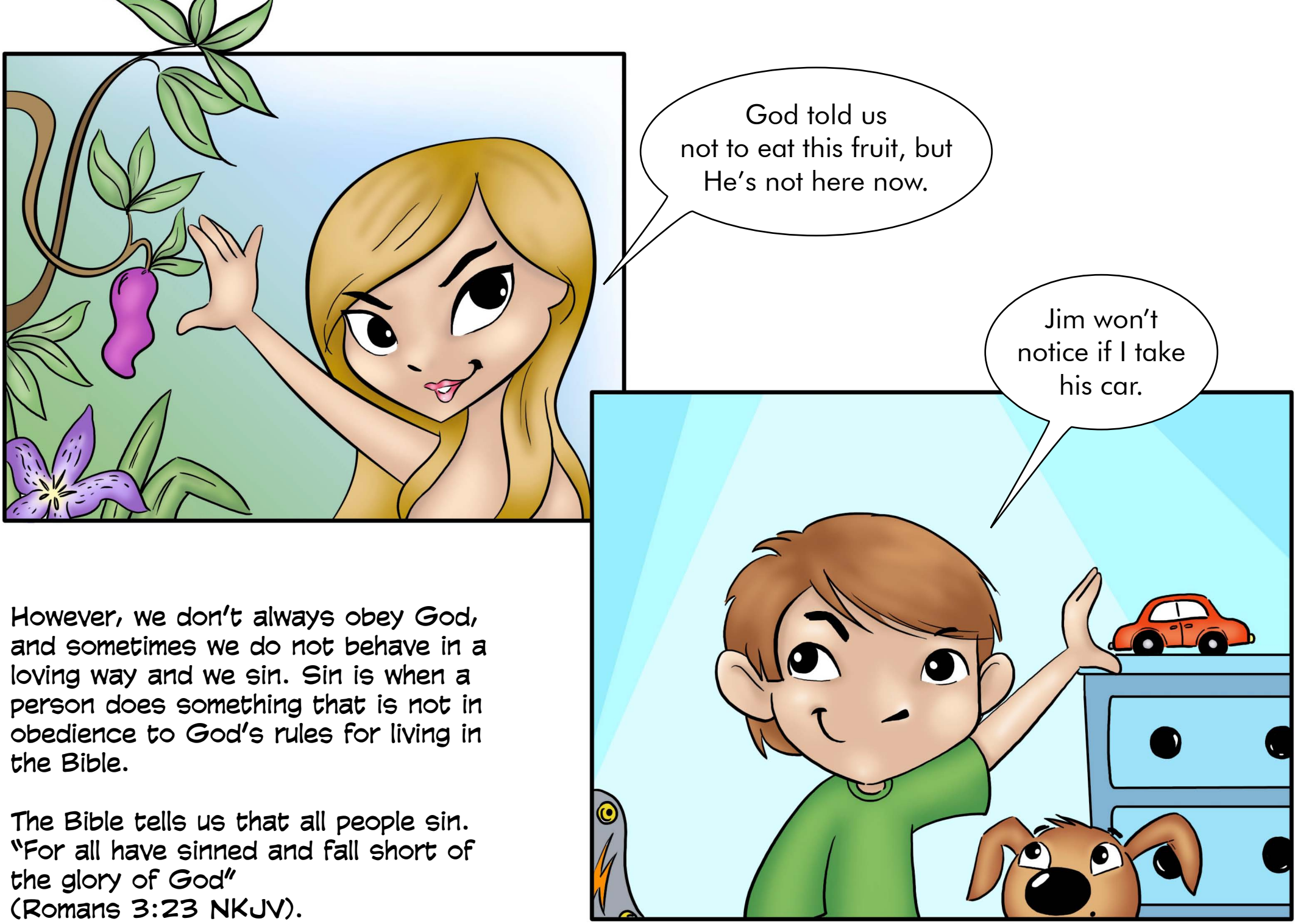
God's Great Love for Us

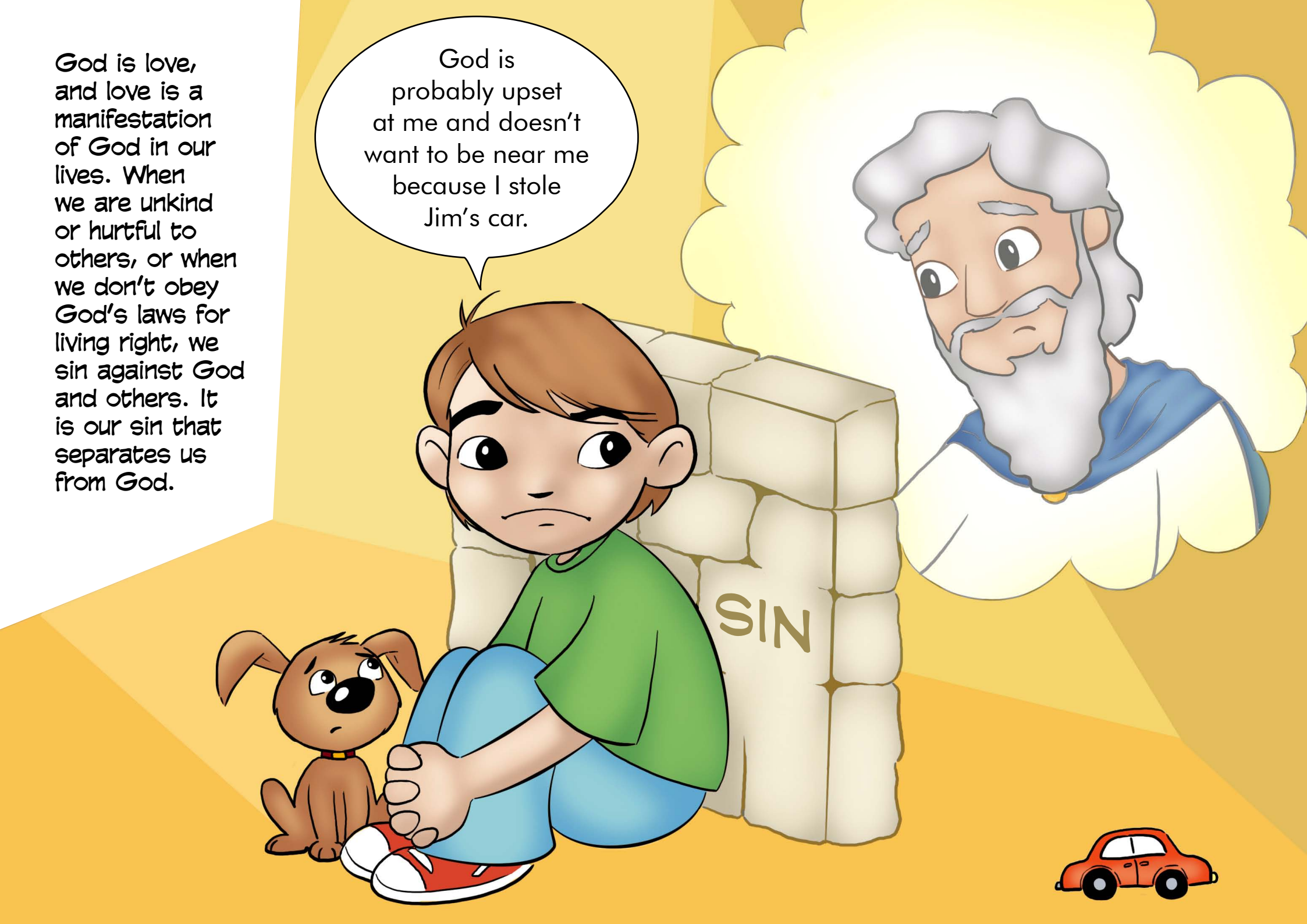
God created the world to be a wonderful place for us to live—in love and happiness and in close companionship with Him. God wants us to be close to Him because He loves us. He enjoys the company of the men, women, and children whom He created.



However, we don't always obey God, and sometimes we do not behave in a loving way and we sin. Sin is when a person does something that is not in obedience to God's rules for living in the Bible.

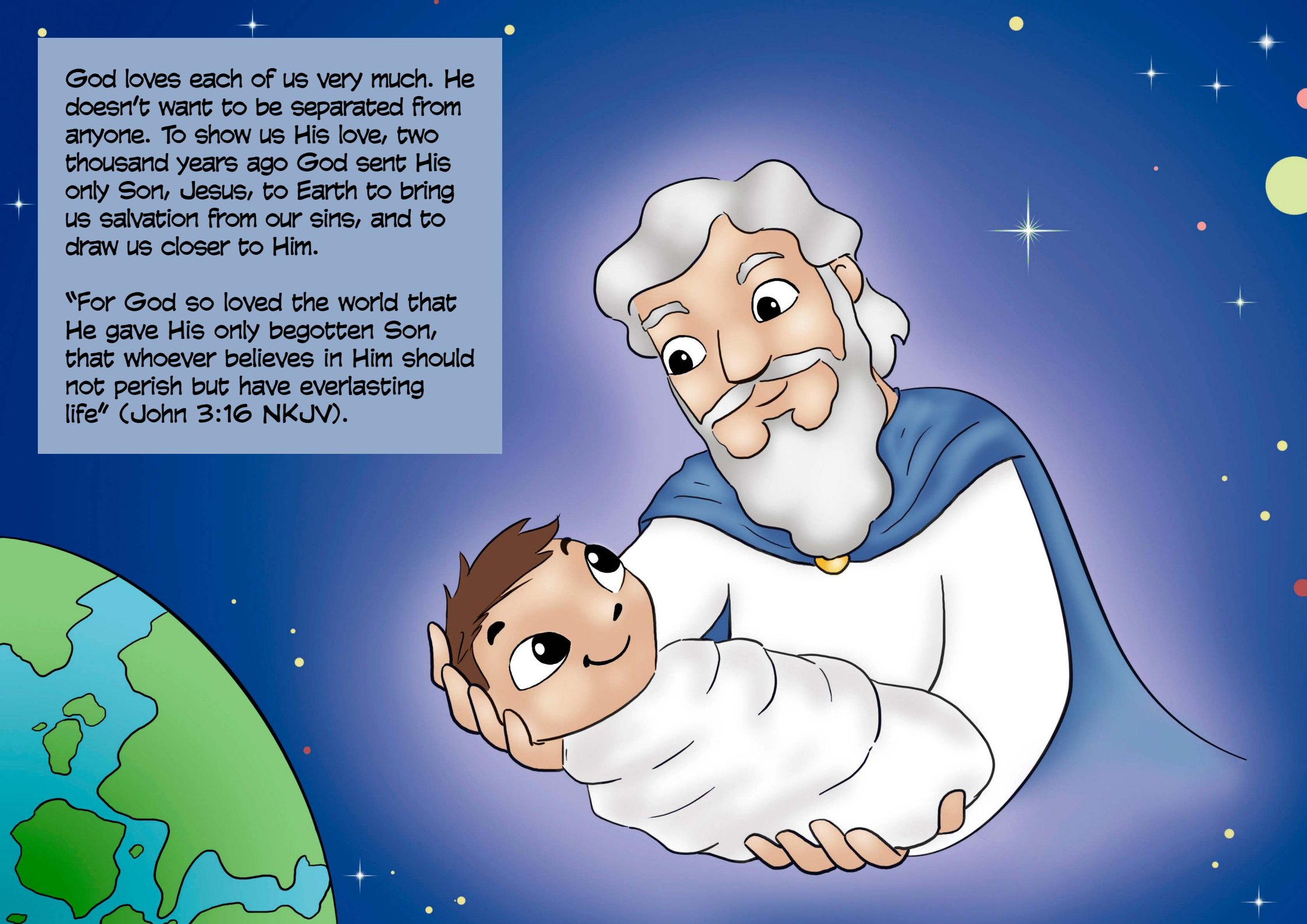
The Bible tells us that all people sin. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 NKJV).

God is love, and love is a manifestation of God in our lives. When we are unkind or hurtful to others, or when we don't obey God's laws for living right, we sin against God and others. It is our sin that separates us from God.

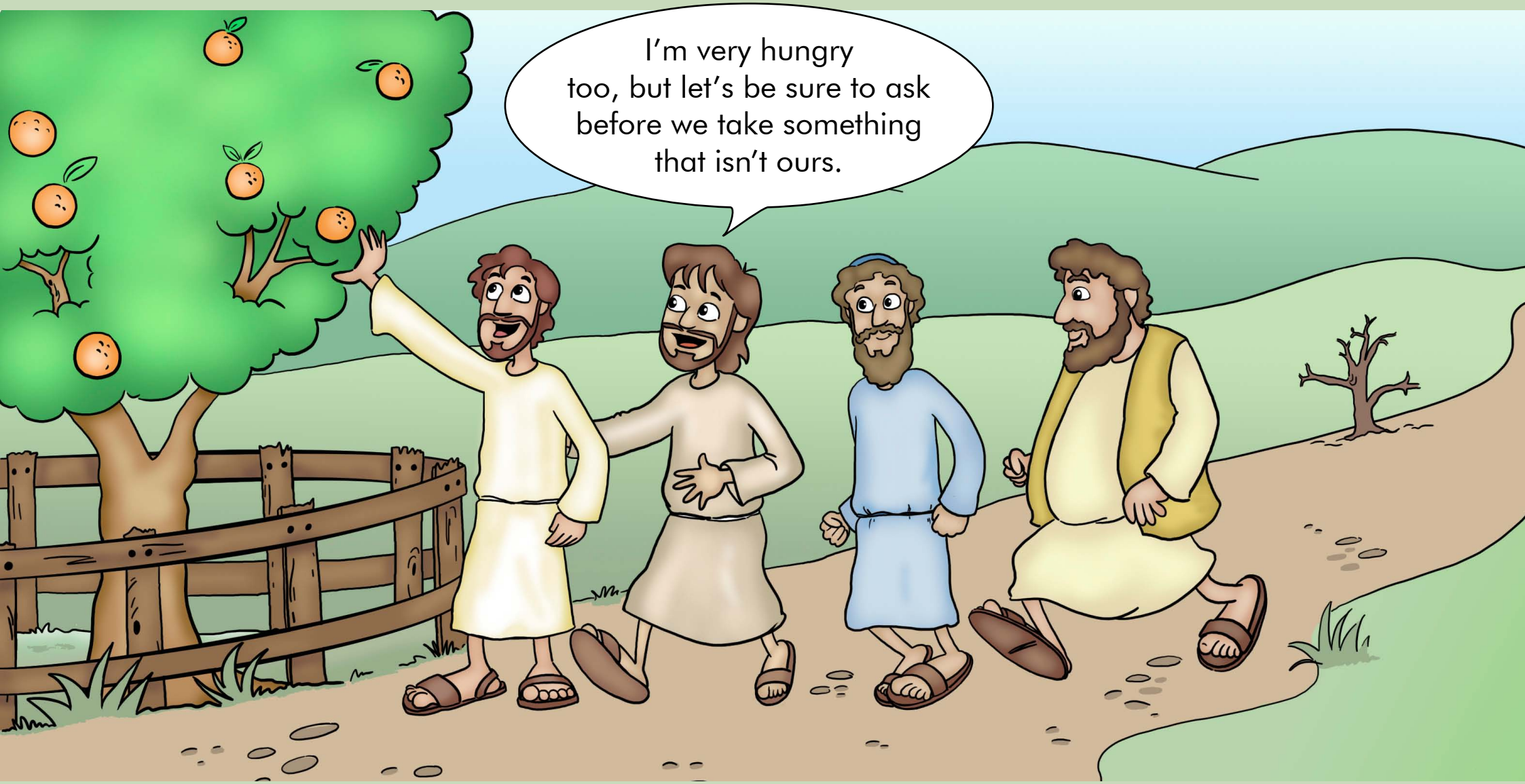


God loves each of us very much. He doesn't want to be separated from anyone. To show us His love, two thousand years ago God sent His only Son, Jesus, to Earth to bring us salvation from our sins, and to draw us closer to Him.

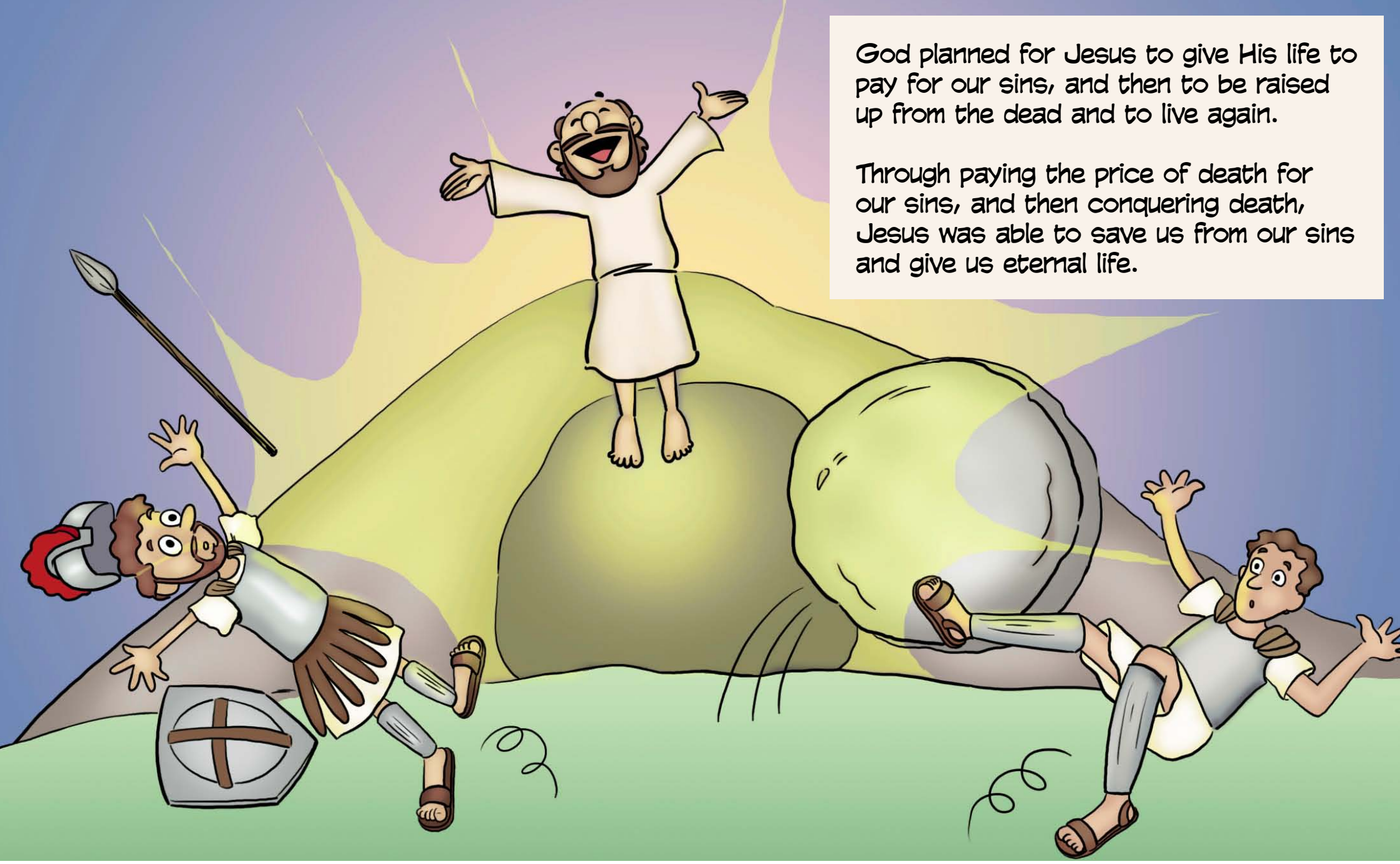
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 NKJV).



Jesus always obeyed God, and did everything with love. Throughout His life on Earth, Jesus showed us an example of the loving ways God wants people to live. Though Jesus was human like you and me, the Bible tells us in Hebrews 4:15 that as God's Son there was one important difference—Jesus never sinned.



The Bible tells us, "[Jesus] understands our weaknesses since he had the same temptations we do, though he never once gave way to them and sinned" (Hebrews 4:15 TLB).



You can read in the Gospels about how Jesus gave His life for our sins, and then was raised to life again.

(See Matthew 26–28; Mark 14:43–16:20; Luke 22:39–24:53; and John 18–20.)

Even though we sometimes sin, by thanking Jesus for giving His life and dying for our sins, we can now be close to God. When we have sinned we can seek forgiveness for our wrongdoings and strive to do better.

Because Jesus gave His life for us, one day we will live forever, after this earthly life, in a heavenly life with Jesus and our loved ones forever.

No matter who you are or where you are in the world, if you have Jesus in your heart, you can experience His love and salvation. Jesus has an outstanding amount of love for each one of us!

S&S: Christian Life and Faith: Biblical and Christian Foundation: Salvation-1a
Authored by Christi S. Lynch. Illustrations by Leila Shae. Design by Stefan Merour. Copyright © 2010 by The Family International