

WITH GOD'S HELP

Have you ever been faced with a challenge that seemed too difficult for you? Maybe when that happened, one of your parents suggested you ask Jesus for help. But you may wonder, *Can Jesus really help me learn this particular skill? Or, How can Jesus help me make friends at my new school?*

In Genesis¹, the first book of the Bible, it talks about how Noah was asked by God to do something that was very difficult for him. How did he manage?

¹Read the full story of Noah and the ark in Genesis chapter 6, verse 5, through chapter 8, verse 22.

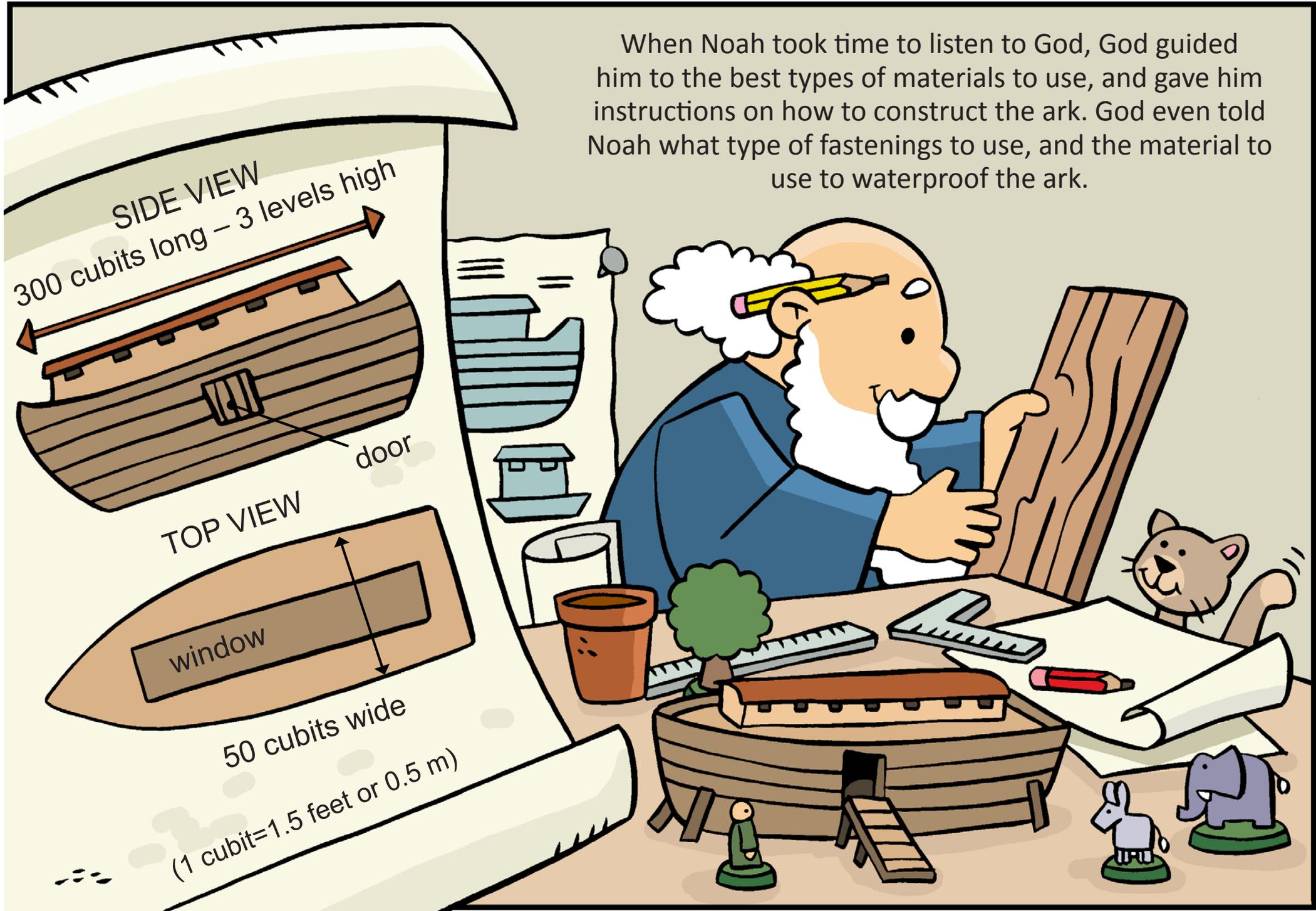


God had told Noah that He was going to bring a great flood upon the world. Because Noah wanted to obey God and save his family, he knew it was important to follow God's instructions closely.



Noah had never seen a large ship before, and the design of an ark that was to be large enough to save his family and the animals God wanted him to take on board was complex. It was of utmost importance for Noah to take plenty of time to listen to God and receive His instructions.

When Noah took time to listen to God, God guided him to the best types of materials to use, and gave him instructions on how to construct the ark. God even told Noah what type of fastenings to use, and the material to use to waterproof the ark.



SIDE VIEW

300 cubits long - 3 levels high

door

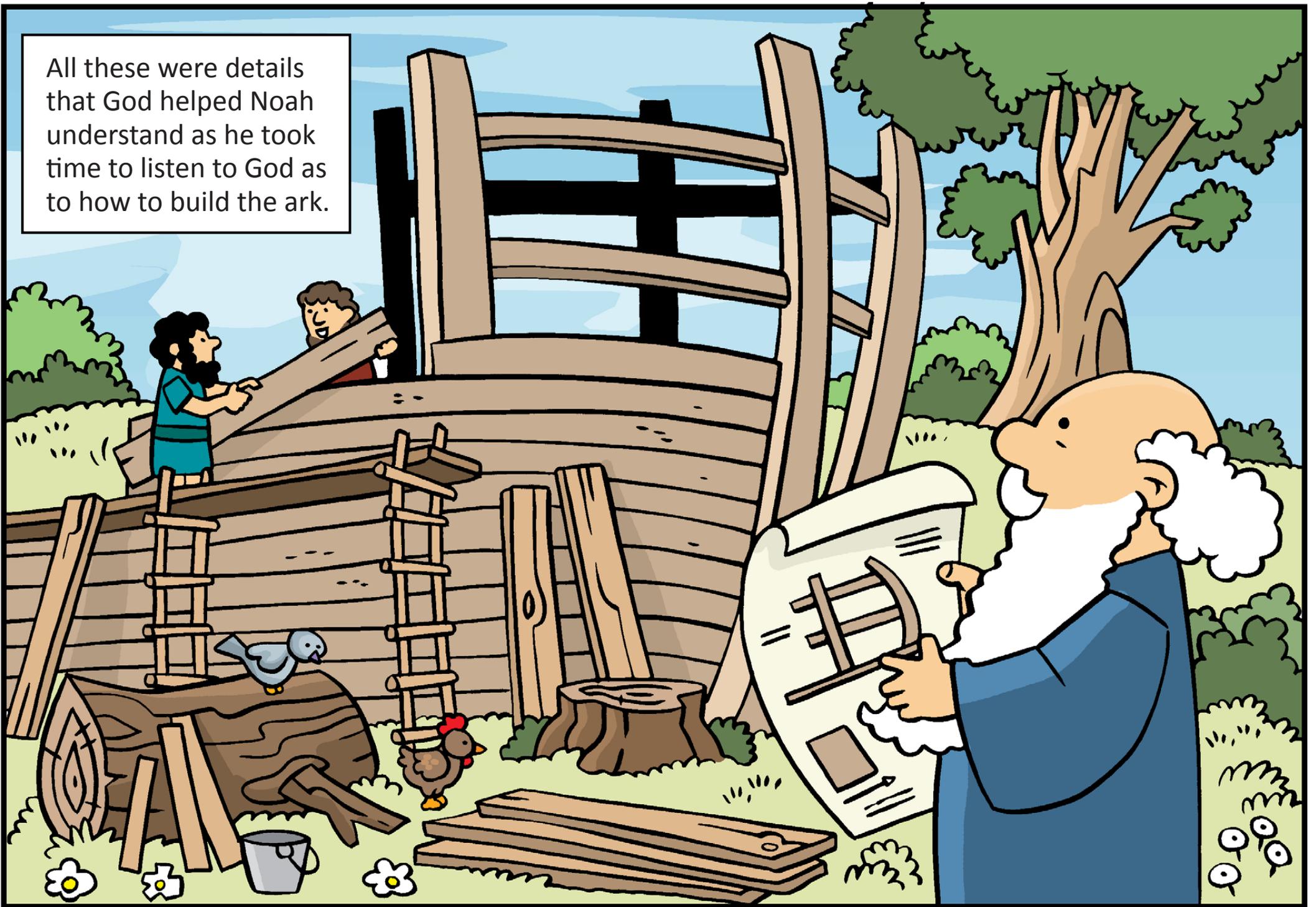
TOP VIEW

window

50 cubits wide

(1 cubit=1.5 feet or 0.5 m)

All these were details that God helped Noah understand as he took time to listen to God as to how to build the ark.



What if Noah had gotten discouraged and hadn't believed God could help him?

Oh no, a catastrophic flood! Hurry!

Quick! Let's finish, NOW!



The structure he would have built might not have been strong enough to weather the huge waves that resulted from the Flood, or maybe it wouldn't have been waterproof.

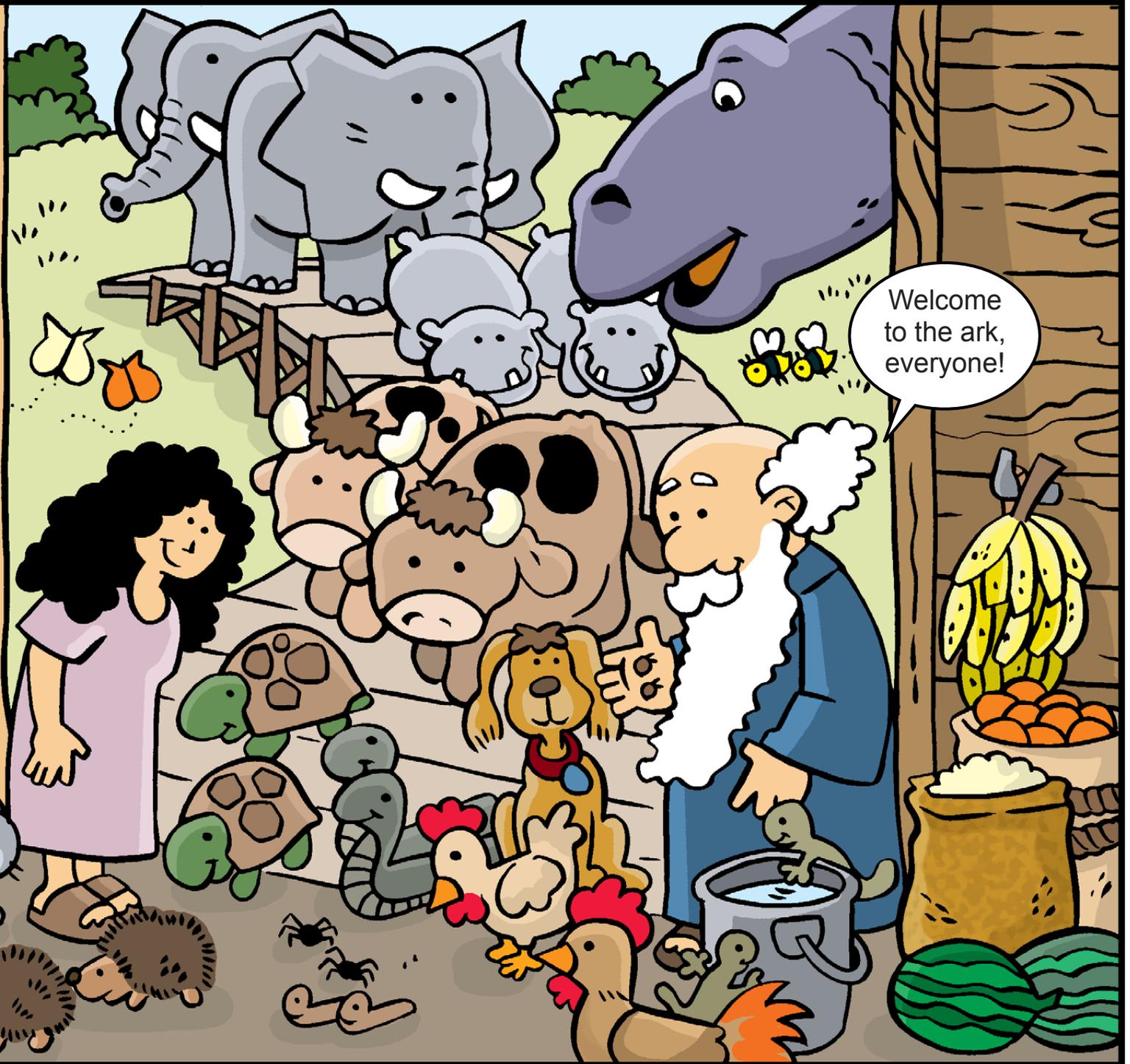
Or if Noah had become so worried about the Flood that he got in a big hurry and tried to build the ark without checking with God for His specific guidance? If Noah had done that, it's doubtful that things would have worked out well.



It's likely that the ark wouldn't have been able to house all of the creatures that God wanted Noah to take on board if Noah hadn't taken time to hear God's specific instructions for how to prepare the different rooms to be specially built to meet their needs.



Doing it right took time and prayer. It took time listening to God and carefully recording His instructions. But it was because Noah followed God's direction that his family and the animals were saved.



Welcome to the ark, everyone!

RUMBLE!



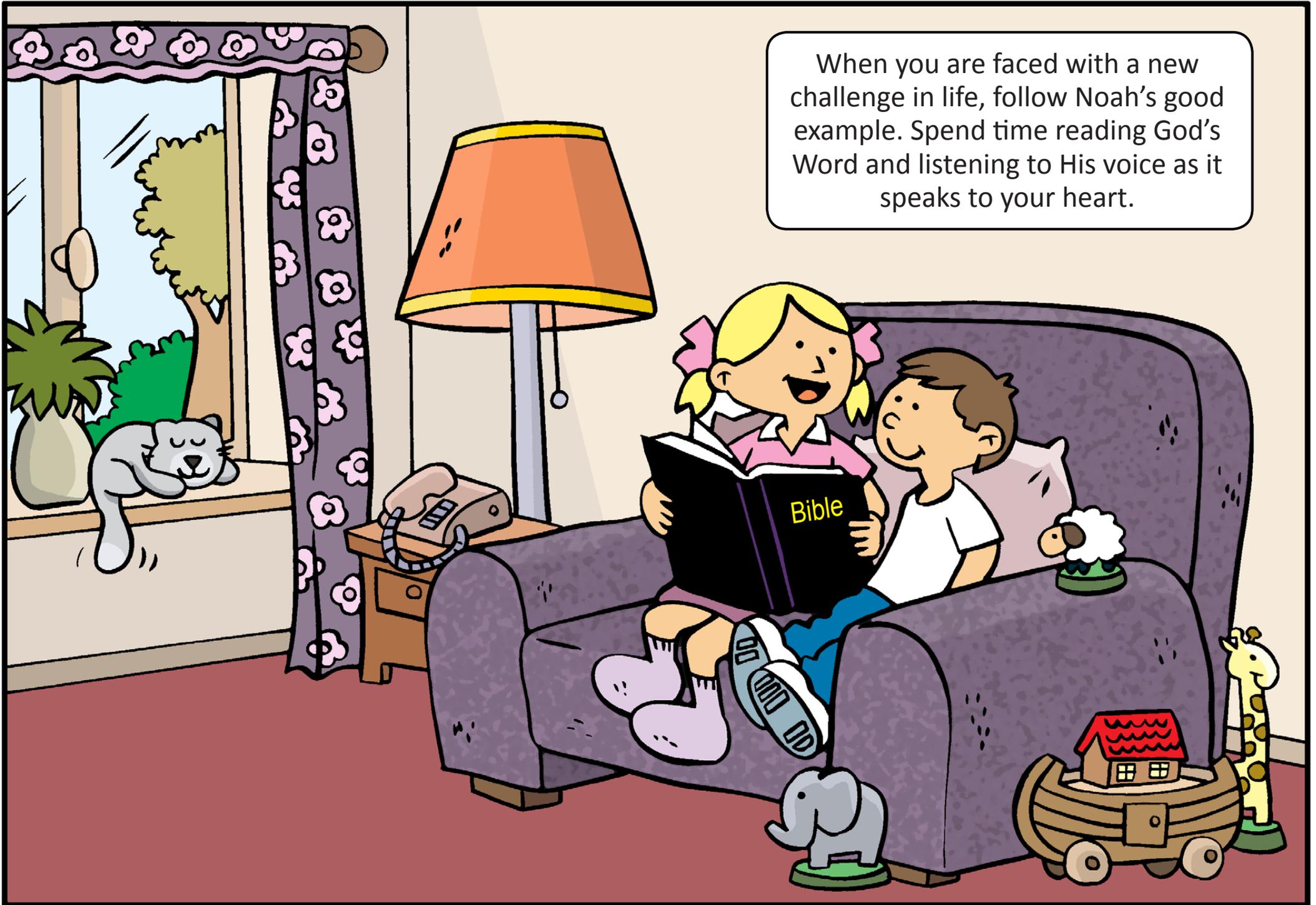
My gold! My precious gold!



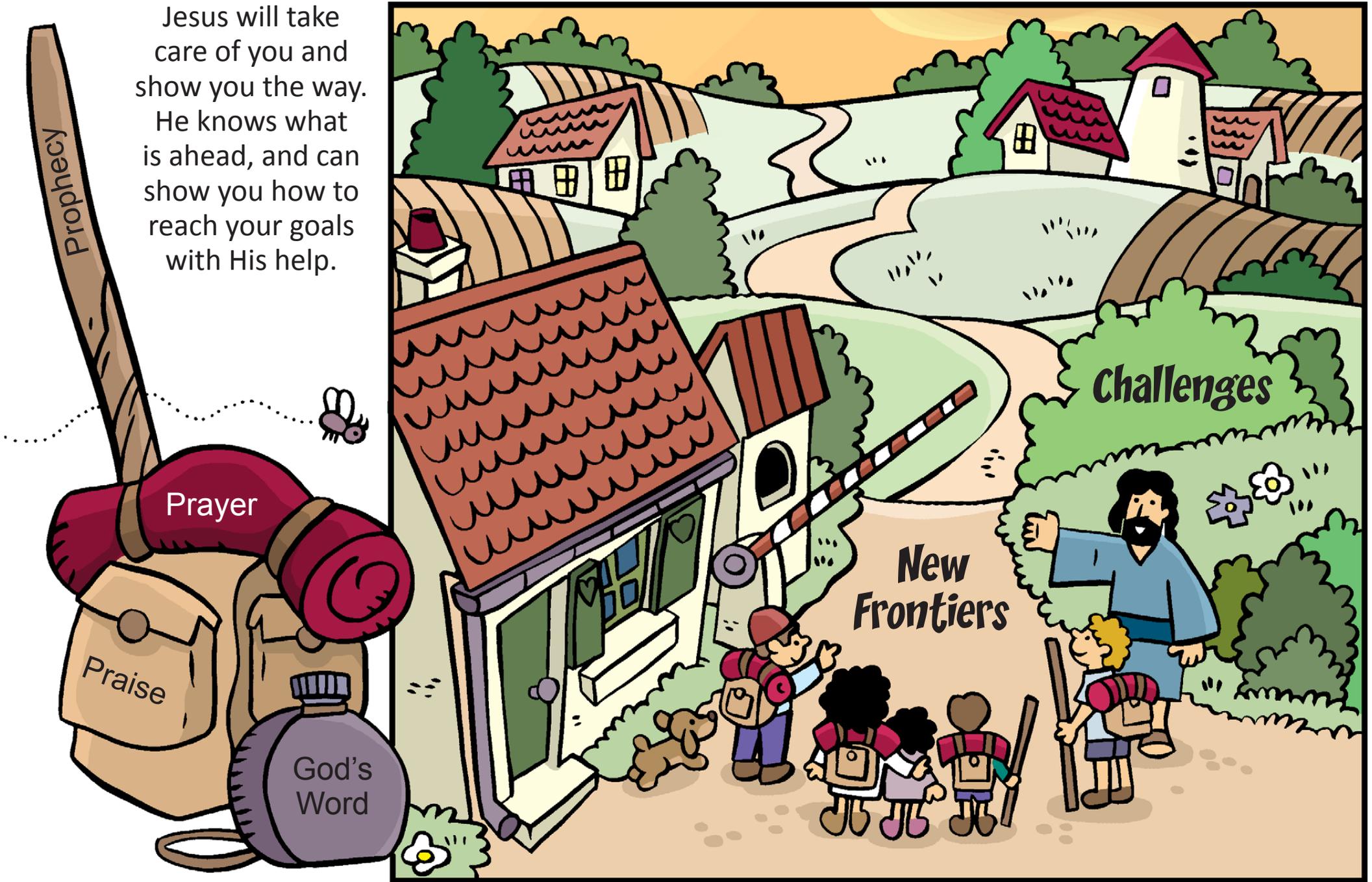
It's happening, just as God told Noah it would!



When you are faced with a new challenge in life, follow Noah's good example. Spend time reading God's Word and listening to His voice as it speaks to your heart.



Jesus will take care of you and show you the way. He knows what is ahead, and can show you how to reach your goals with His help.



S&S link: Character Building: Values and Virtues: Courage-1b

Authored by Christi S. Lynch, based on writings by Maria Fontaine. Illustrations by Didier Martin. Design by Christia Copeland.

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