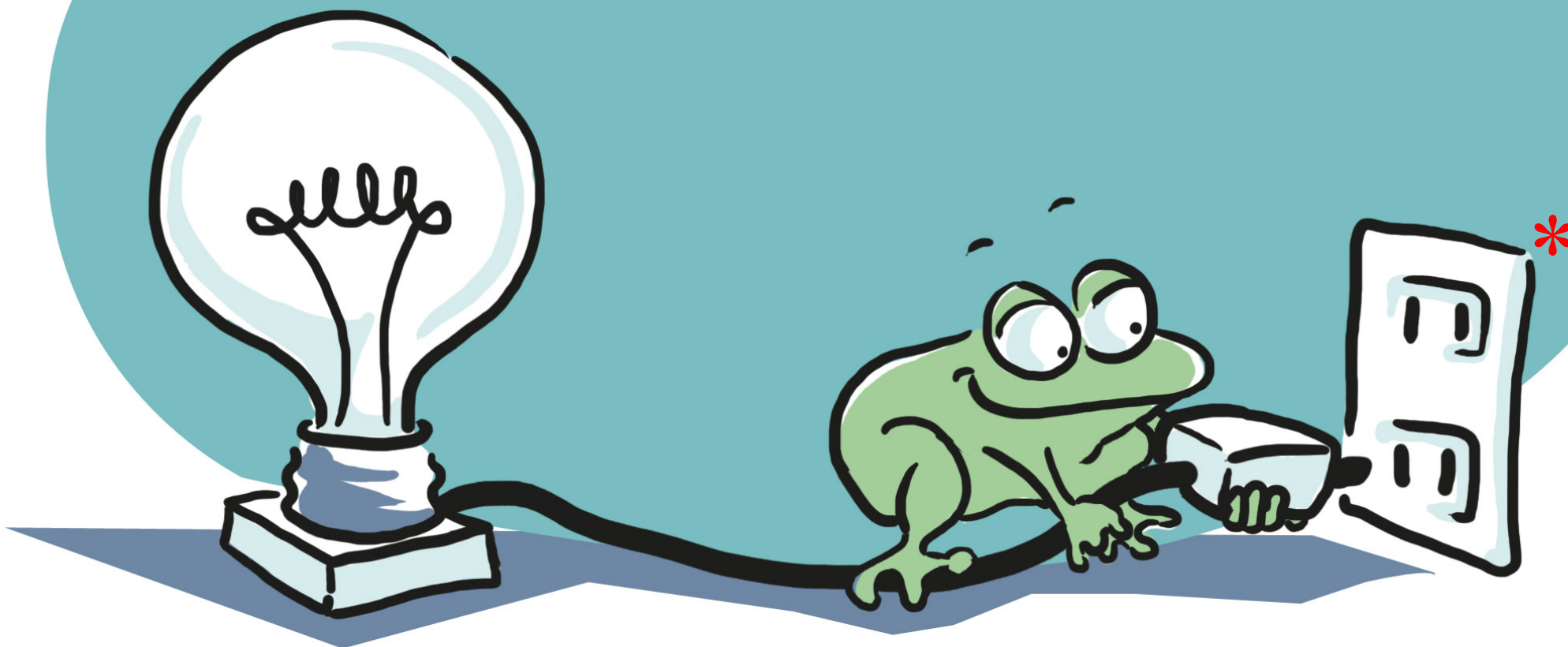
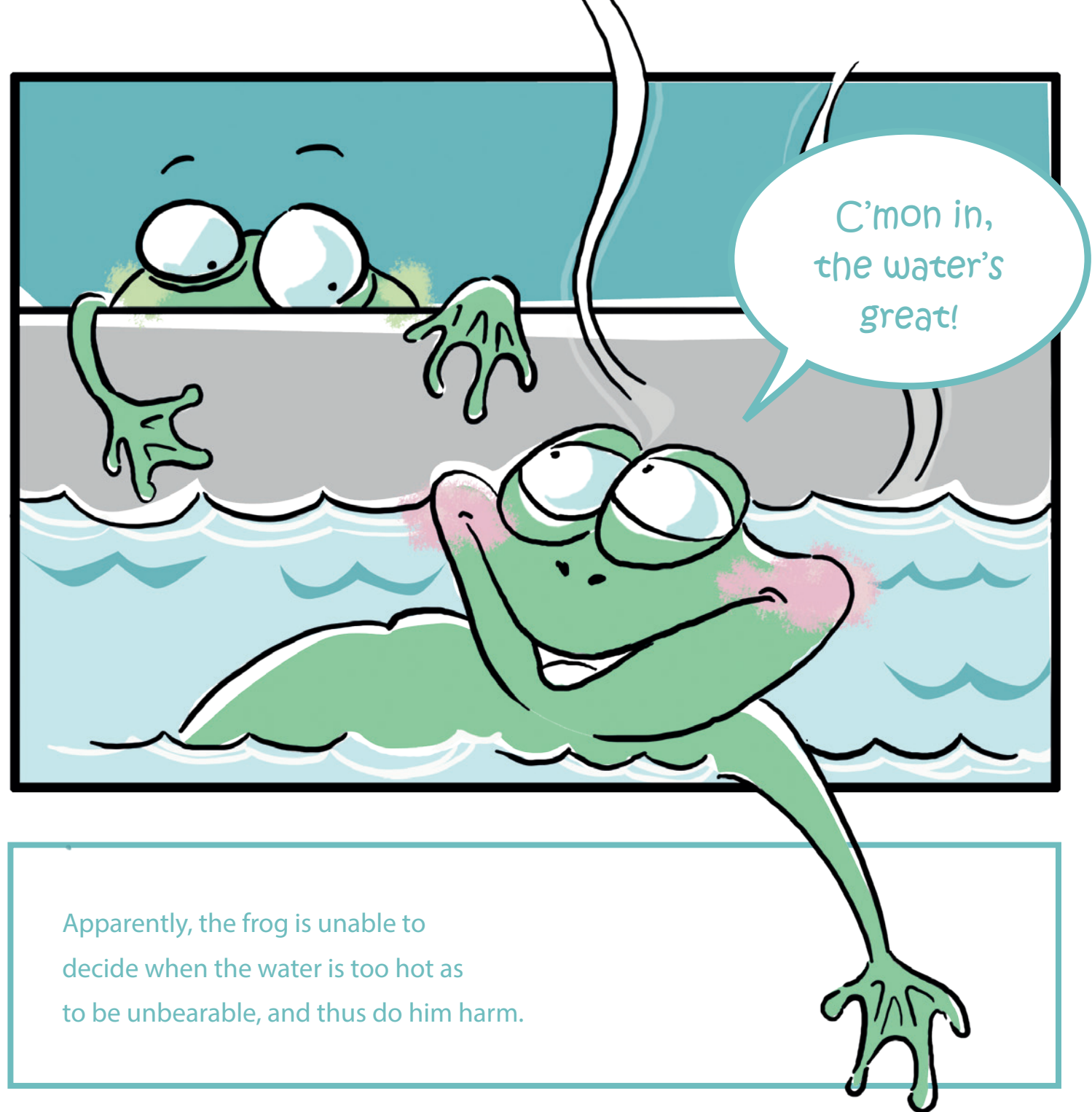


# Stay Connected



\*Artists' note: If you have a pet frog, do not let it use your electrical appliances without supervision... or, actually, **EVER**.

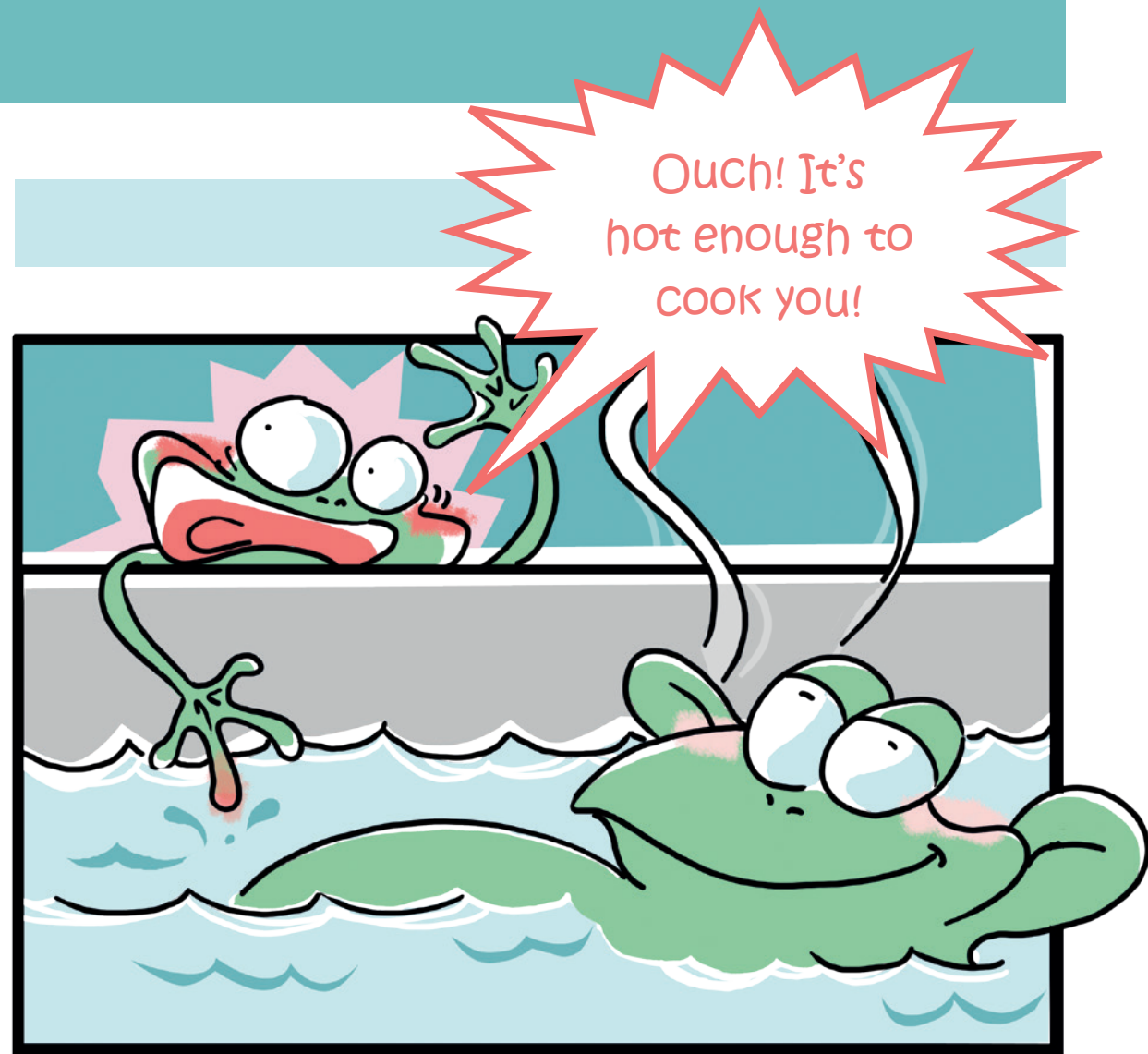
It has been said that if you put a frog into hot water he will jump out. But if you put him in water and then gradually heat the water, the frog will, without realizing it, allow himself to be cooked.

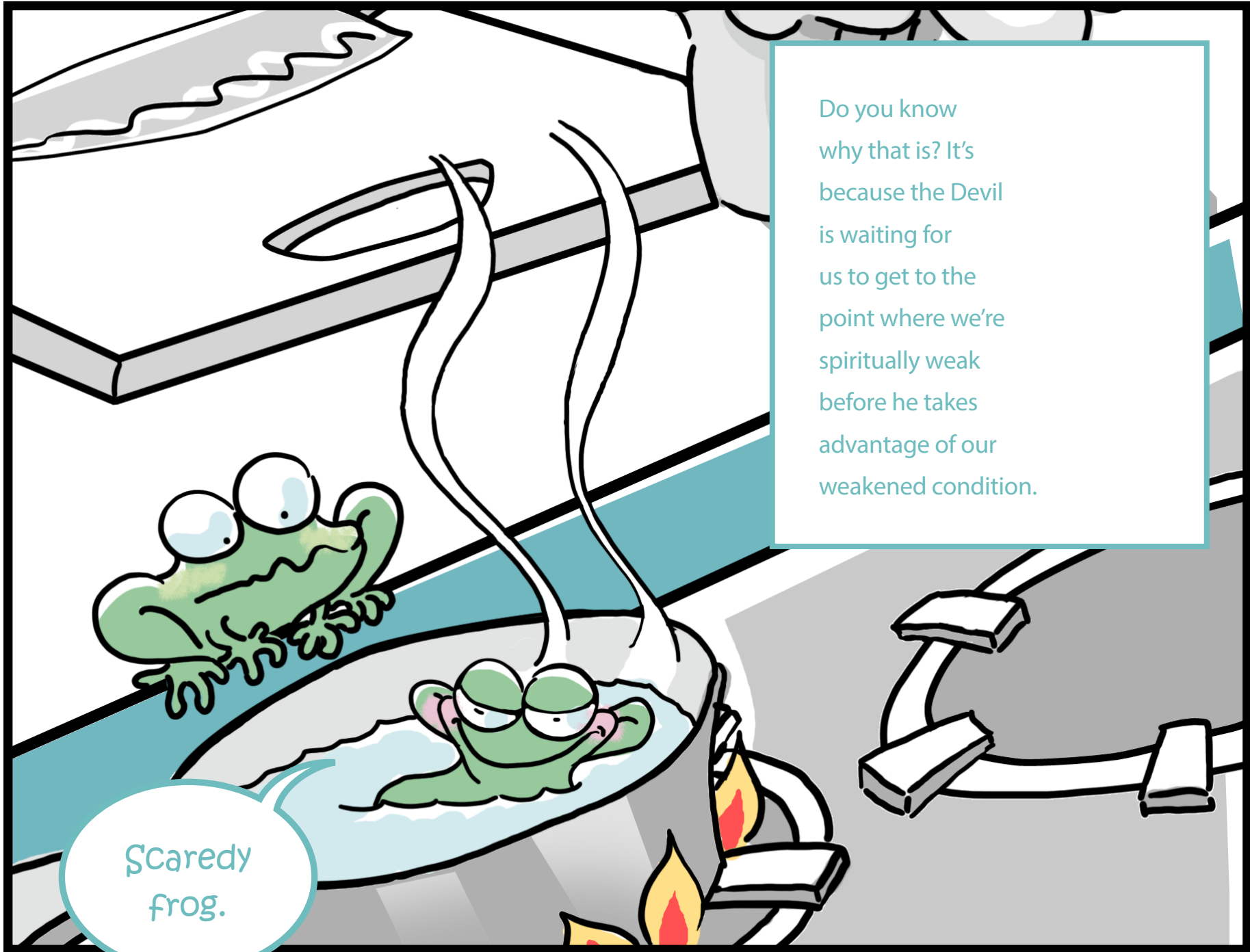


Apparently, the frog is unable to decide when the water is too hot as to be unbearable, and thus do him harm.

The same is true of the Christian life, when temptations rear their ugly heads most people withdraw rather than realize the potential threat. However, it is usually the little temptations that we allow into our lives that eat away at our resolve, and can cause us to drift away from God and cause our spiritual lives the most harm.

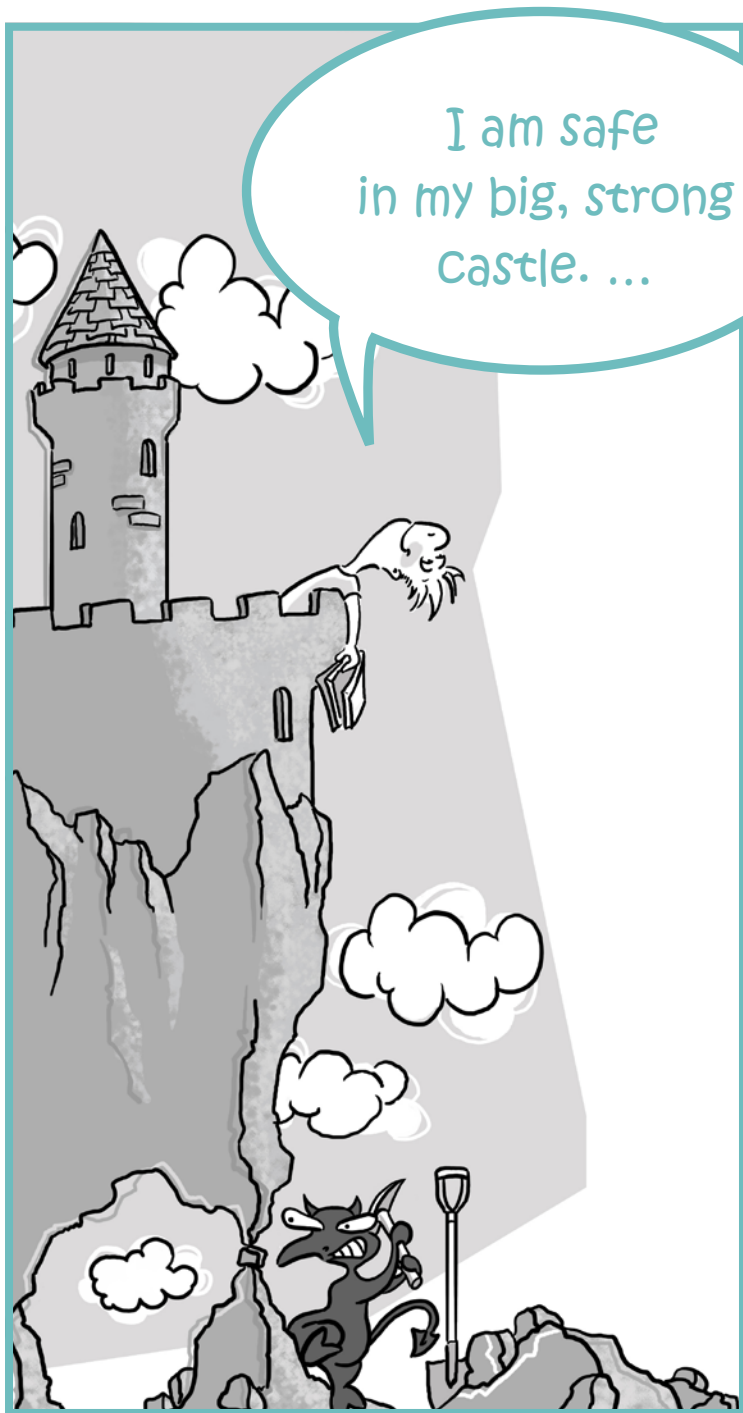
When we read God's Word there are times when temptations or distractions draw our attention away from getting quality spiritual feeding. But despite this lack of connection with God and His Word, it doesn't seem to make much difference in our day or lives. Everything seems to go okay, and we can start to think that maybe it's not that important to take time to connect with Jesus and study His Word.





Do you know why that is? It's because the Devil is waiting for us to get to the point where we're spiritually weak before he takes advantage of our weakened condition.

Scaredy frog.



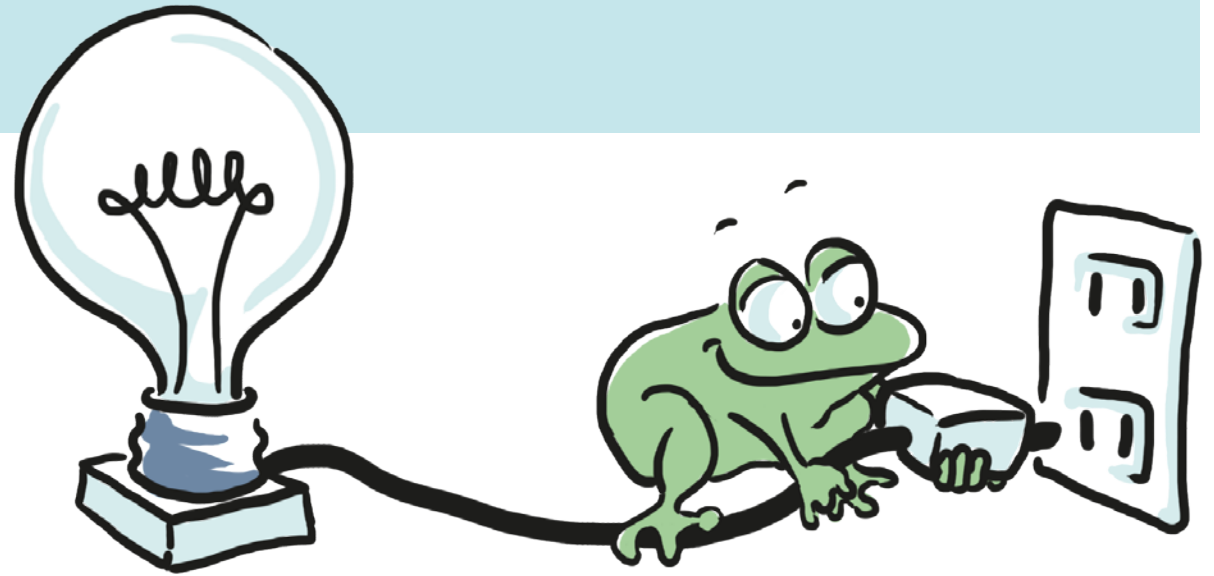
The apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:8 that we should be sober and vigilant in spirit, because our adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. The Devil won't necessarily cause us problems right away. He may wait until we start thinking that it's not so bad to miss time studying God's Word, or that it's not so important because we're not seeing any bad results. He may wait until we're very weakened spiritually, and that's when he attacks us with problems such as fear and despair, among other things.

As followers of Jesus we cannot go too long without setting aside time to study God's Word, even if it doesn't seem to be negatively affecting us at first. God's Word gives life to our spirits, it increases our faith, we gain understanding of the many wonderful truths God has revealed to us, and it helps us know His plan for us as His followers. Time spent studying God's Word is worth making a priority, even when it's difficult, because it's what keeps us strong in spirit.

Your word I have hidden  
in my heart, that I might  
not sin against You!  
(Psalms 119:11 NKJV)

So then faith comes by  
hearing, and hearing by  
the word of God.  
(Romans 10:17 NKJV)

It is the Spirit who gives  
life; the flesh profits  
nothing. The words  
that I speak to you are  
spirit, and they are life.  
(John 6:63 NKJV)



S&S link: [Christian Life and Faith: God's Word-2f](#)

Contributed by R. A. Watterson, adapted by MWS staff, based on writings published by TFI.

Illustrations by Yoko Matsuoka. design by Stefan Merour.

Copyright © 2010 by The Family International