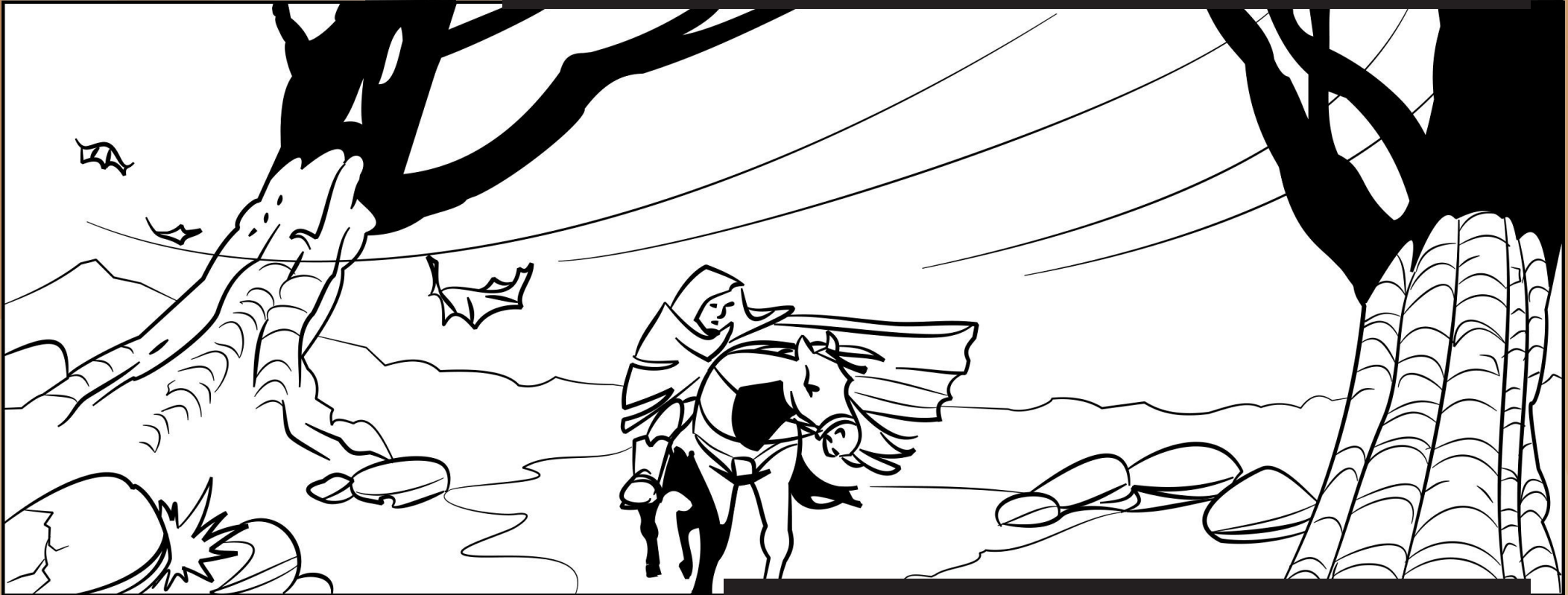


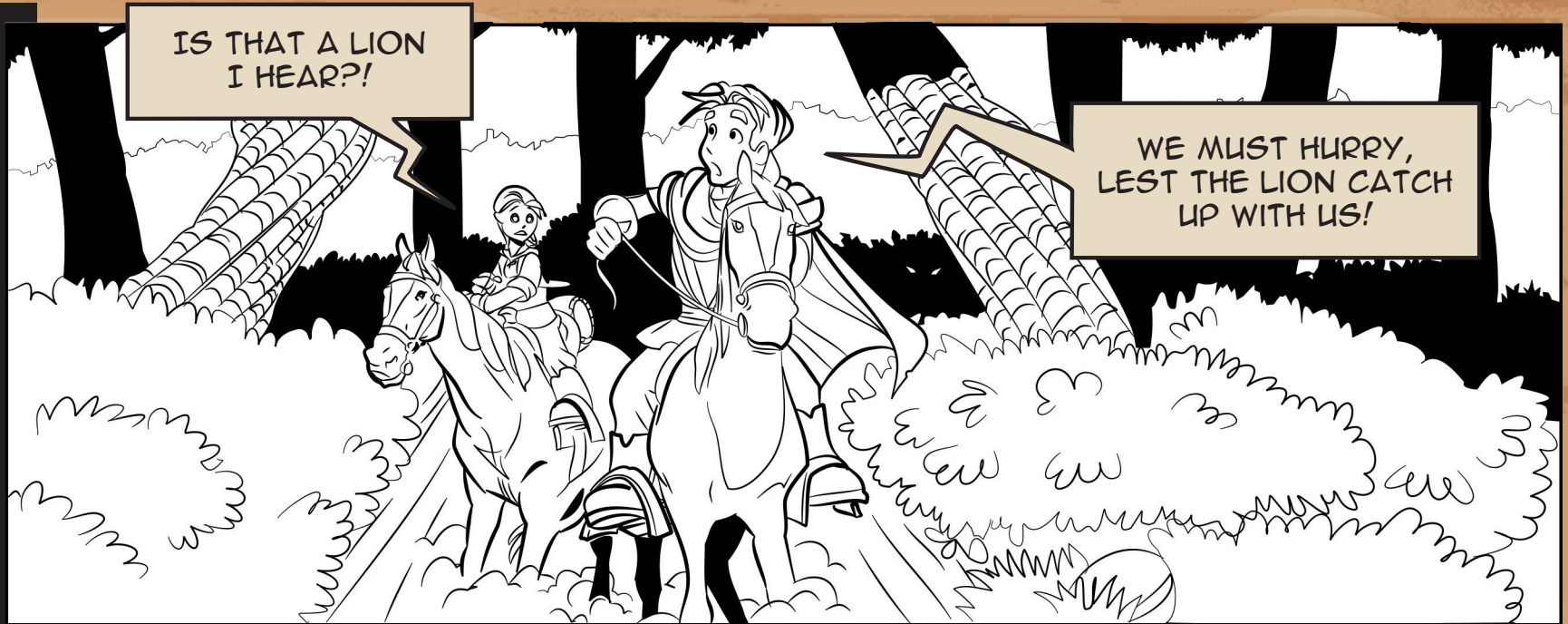
FACING THE LION

A story is told of a young boy who is making his way on horseback to a land of promise, but the boy's entire journey seems beset with encounters with lions.



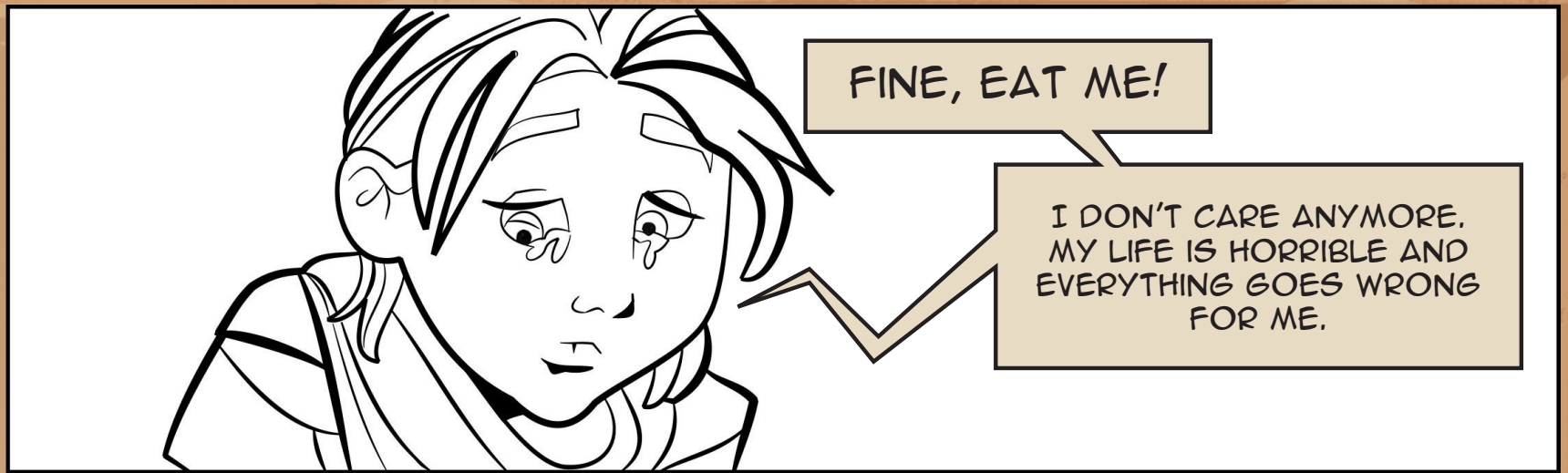
During the beginning of his journey, when lions pursue him and another nearby traveler, they end up journeying together for added safety.

At another time, just as they are trying to reach the safety of a city in advance of some evildoers, and think they may not make it, another lion pursues them. This causes them to expend even more energy and strength to reach the gates of their desired haven.



Further into his journey, the boy, exhausted from his travels, is trying to find a place of shelter where he can sleep for the night.





FINE, EAT ME!

I DON'T CARE ANYMORE.
MY LIFE IS HORRIBLE AND
EVERYTHING GOES WRONG
FOR ME.

WHY DO YOU
FEEL YOUR LIFE IS
HORRIBLE?





The boy goes on to explain of all the difficulties he encountered on his journey, making mention of every encounter with lions.

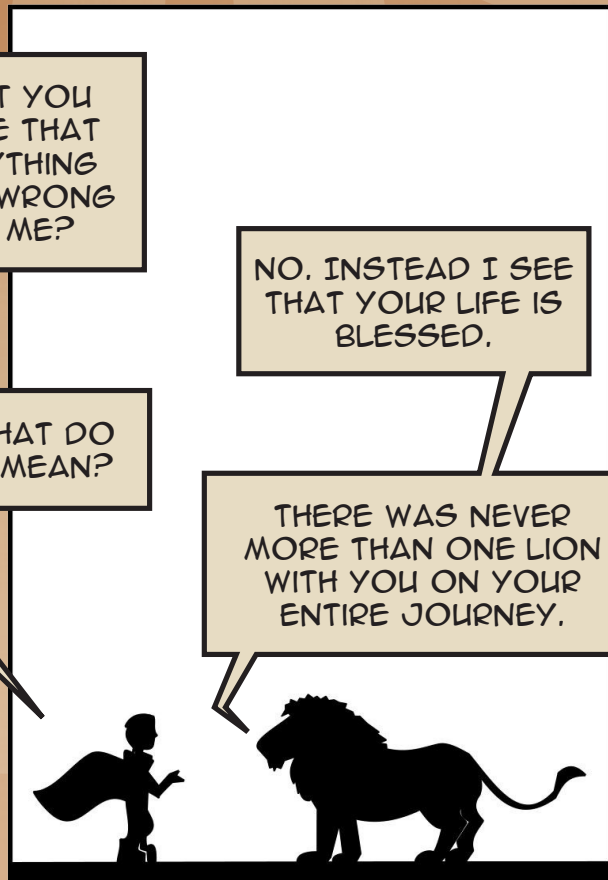
DON'T YOU AGREE THAT EVERYTHING GOES WRONG FOR ME?

NO. INSTEAD I SEE THAT YOUR LIFE IS BLESSED.

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THERE WAS NEVER MORE THAN ONE LION WITH YOU ON YOUR ENTIRE JOURNEY.

AND I WAS THAT LION.




I WAS THE ONE WHO CHASED YOU AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR JOURNEY SO THAT YOU WOULD TRAVEL WITH A COMPANION.




I WAS THE ONE WHO SCARED AWAY HUNGRY ANIMALS AT NIGHT, EVEN THOUGH MY GROWLS ALSO SCARED YOU.



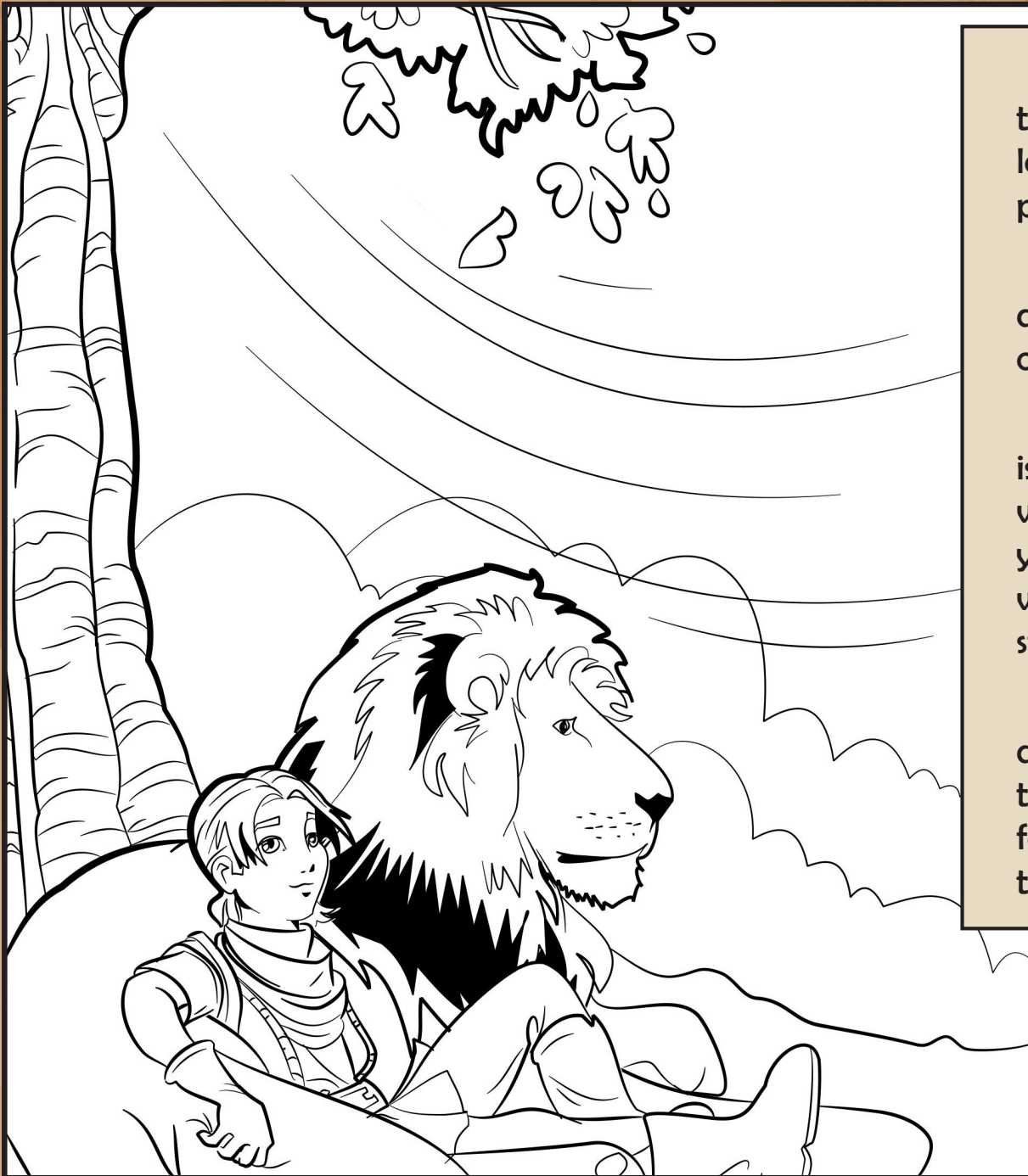


AND WHEN YOU WERE RUNNING
FOR SAFETY TOWARD THE CITY, I
WAS THE ONE WHO CHASED YOU
JUST WHEN YOU FELT LIKE YOU
HAD NO MORE STRENGTH LEFT.



THROUGH CHASING YOU I GAVE
YOU THE STRENGTH TO RUN
HARDER THAN BEFORE SO THAT
YOUR PURSUERS WOULDN'T CATCH
UP WITH YOU.

AND NOW,
WHEN YOU ARE
LOST AND FEEL
AT THE END OF
YOUR ROPE, I AM
HERE WITH YOU
TO SHOW YOU
THE WAY HOME.



And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (ROMANS 8:28 NLT)

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (2 CORINTHIANS 4:17 NIV)

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 NIV)

Think about it: There are times when the difficulties in our lives are from God's hand to encourage us along a better path and to foster strength of character and a greater trust in how God works in our lives.

S&S link: Christian Life and Faith: Biblical and Christian Foundation: Overcoming Obstacles-2a
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