

Put on

# THE ARMOR of GOD

that you  
may stand firm  
against the schemes  
of the devil...  
...and  
extinguish  
all the flaming  
darts of the  
evil one.

Based on Eph. 6:10-17

Written and Illustrated by Sharman Slye  
A READ-IT-TOGETHER BOOK FOR SAVED KIDS AND  
THEIR FOLKS with special [PARENT TO PARENT]  
NOTES within the READ-ALoud text

And  
'PARENTS ONLY' Spiritual Warfare Appendix





## PARENT TO PARENT

My first purpose in writing this book is to make sure kids don't get the idea that the Devil is big and powerful, *just like God*, only bad.

The second purpose in writing this book is to lay a *foundation* in Born Again children that they may grow strong for the battle of each day; that God may wallpaper their minds with the truth of who they are in Christ so they will recognize and reject the lies of the world, the flesh, and the Devil. It is to help our kids have a proper perspective on our DEFEATED enemy and to help them see that Christians operate 'from a position of VICTORY'. It is done in cartoon format in order to lighten a serious topic to a child's level.

**That being said – this is not a typical 'children's book' and it's not for "little-kids"!** It is a parent's teaching tool and should be read aloud over a period of time with a loving parent there to explain, encourage, and strengthen the child. Let's show each child that Satan is a worm compared to our ever living, ever loving, all-powerful God. A worm/snake is how he is depicted in this book and the pictures on pages 9, 10, & 11 may be too stimulating for some sensitive children under the ages of 9 or 10. You may need to read the text but skip those few pictures until you get to page 12, the armor of God. (Caution also on pictures 19 & 20: sword cutting the devil's lies) You know your child. Be wise.

There is an appendix at the end of the children's section that is **strictly for adults**.

Put your finger on the beginning of the line. Run your finger to the end and back. This line has a starting place.

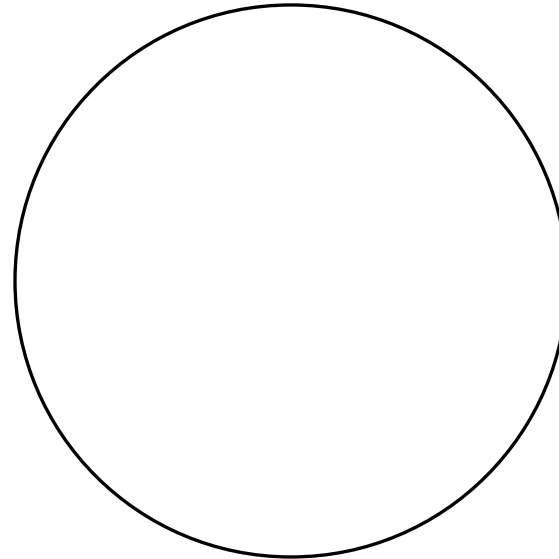
Just like this line, you and I had a starting place. You were born. I was born. That was our starting place.

But God, our Heavenly Father, Son and Holy Spirit, didn't have a starting place. He has always been alive. This is hard to understand.

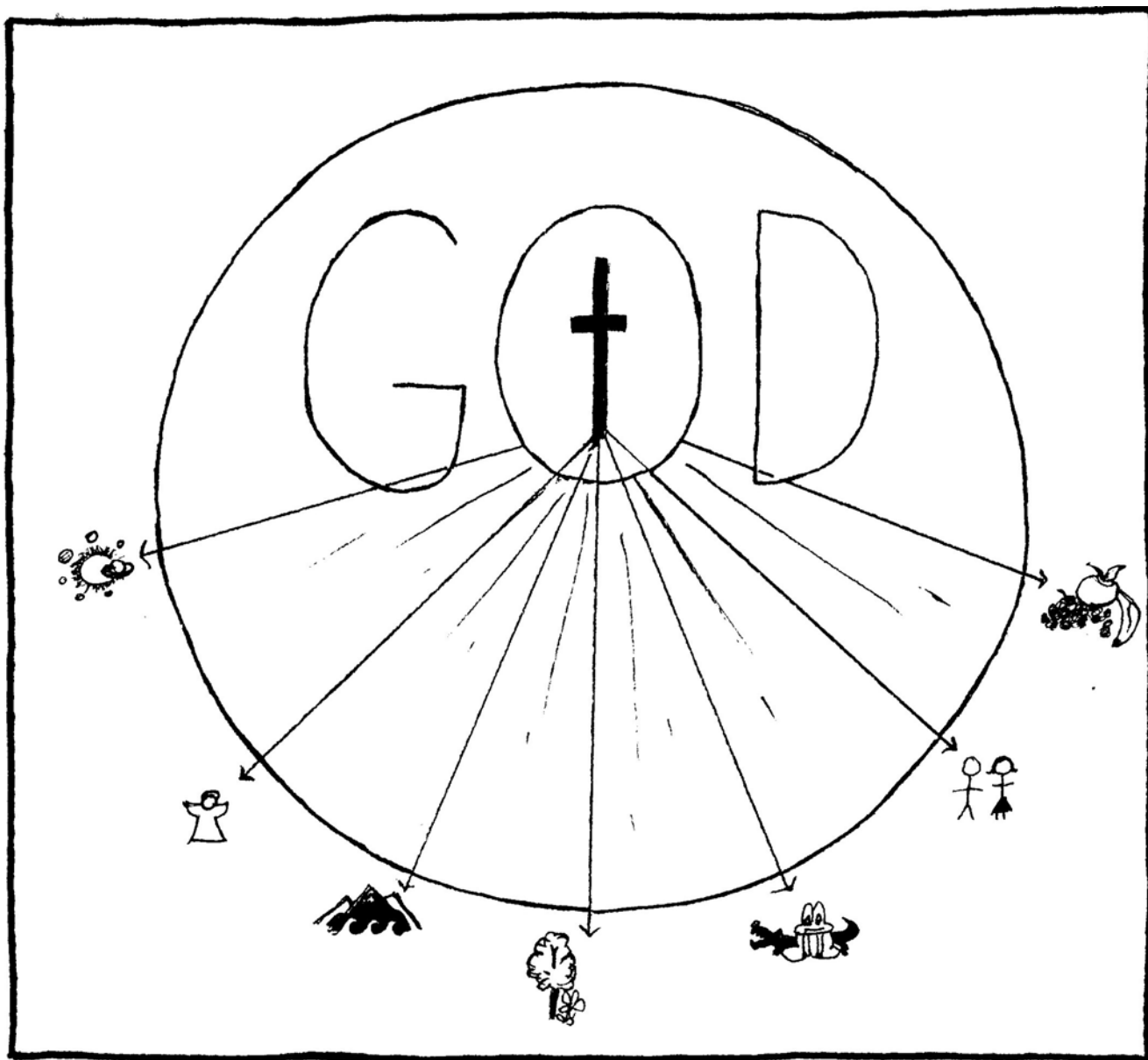
Go back to the line and trace over it again. Point to the stopping place. Someday my body will stop living and someday your body will stop living, but God will never stop living. He will go on forever.

Find the black circle with your finger. Put your finger anywhere on the circle and trace around it again and again. See how it keeps on going with no stopping place? God is NOT A CIRCLE, but He goes on forever with no stopping place, just like that circle.

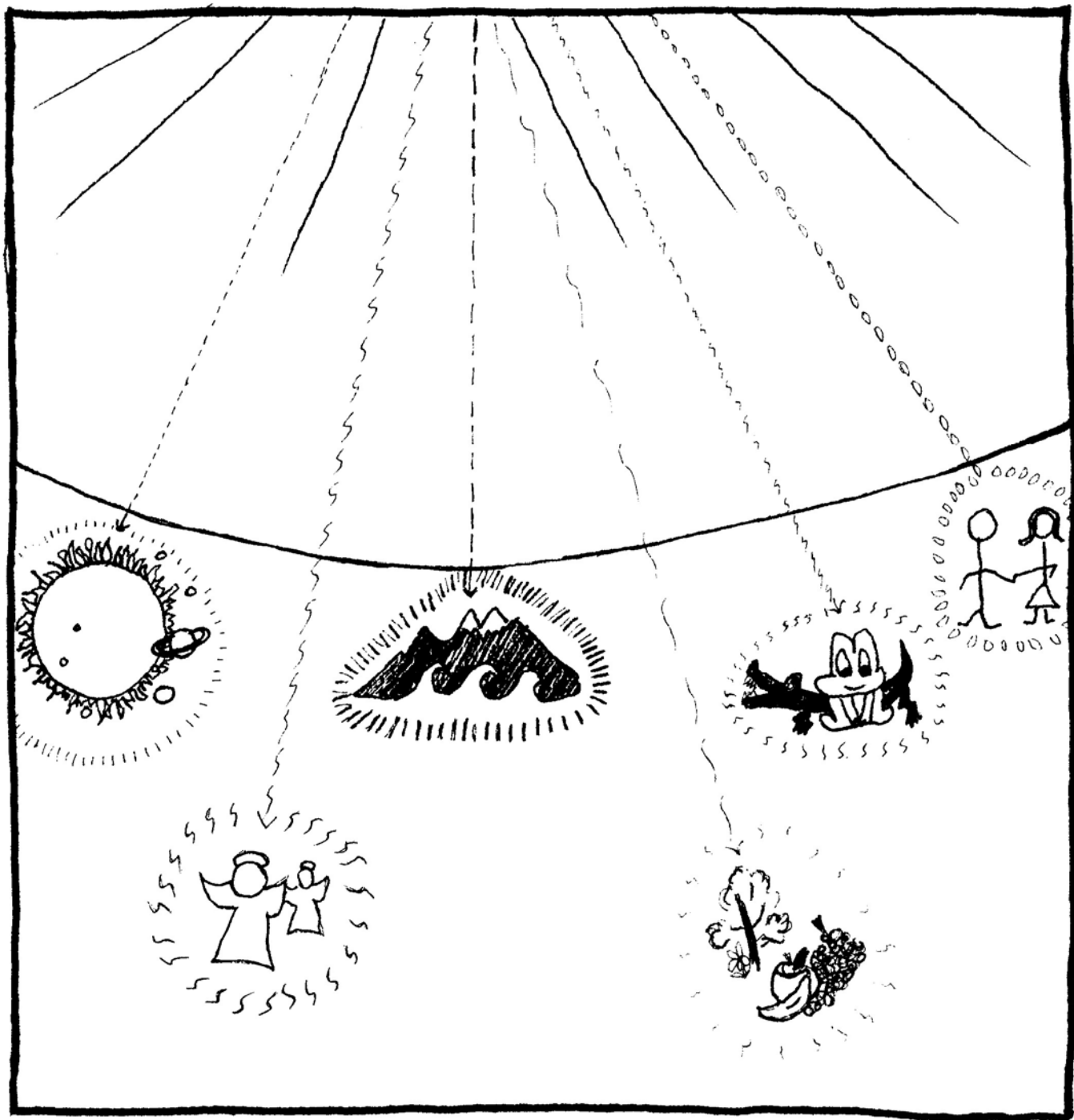
Only God is like that. People's bodies do not go on forever. Animal's bodies do not go on forever. Only God goes on forever.



Our Heavenly Father, the Creator, made everything there is thru Jesus his Son. Jesus holds everything together and keeps it working. ( Col. 1:15-17) He made the sun to warm us and the ocean to feed us



He made the trees that grow tasty apples and oranges and peaches and walnuts. He made birds that fly and sing so beautifully. He made funny frogs that we can touch and scary alligators that we can't touch. We can make worms and snakes and things out of play dough, but God made everything out of nothing. He just spoke 'WORMS' and worms were here. The Lord Jesus gave each creature a job to do on the earth and a certain number of days to do it. He made everything we can see. (Genesis 1 & 2)

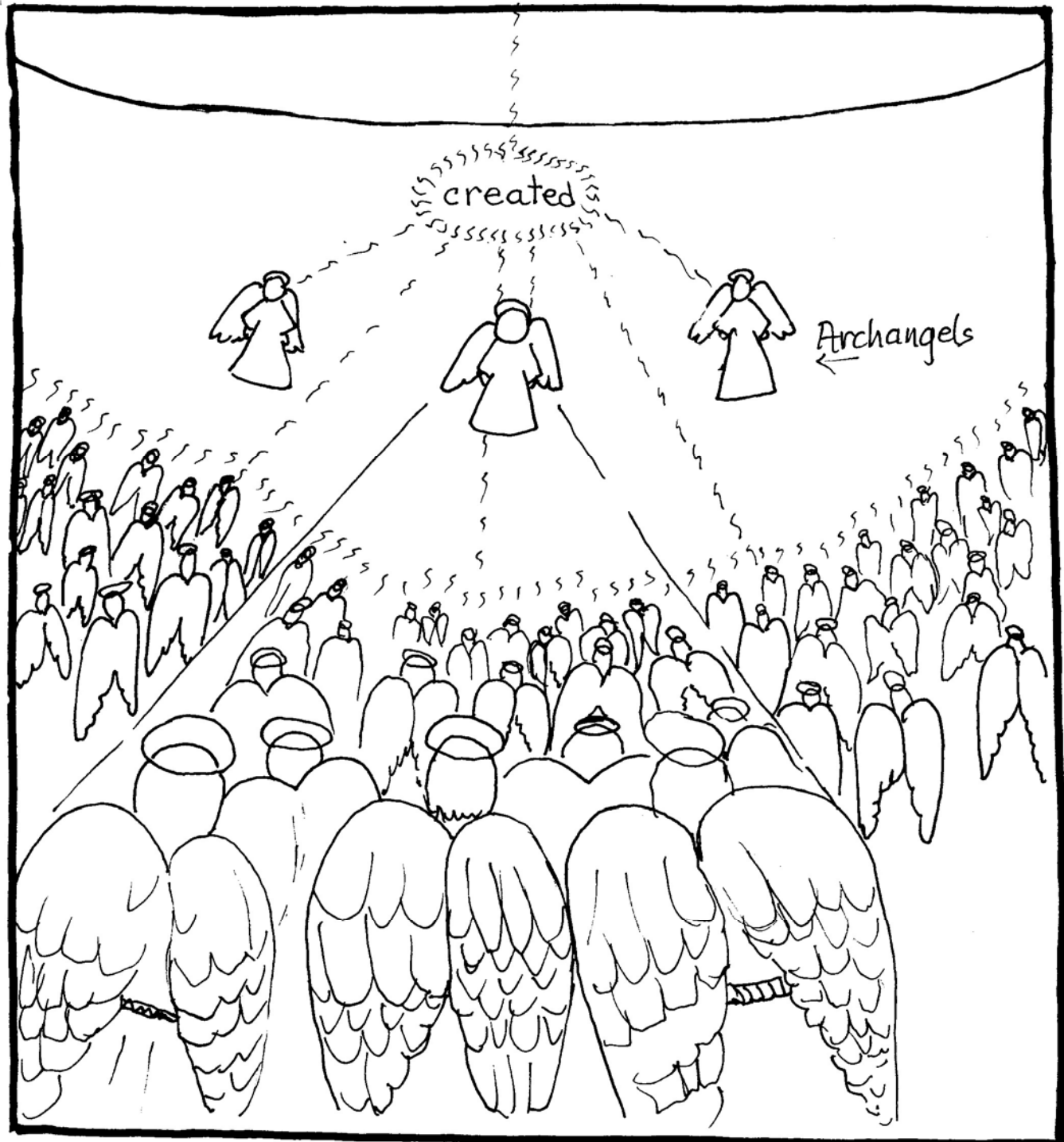


He also made some beautiful things called angels that only He can see. He let them live in heaven with him and He gave them jobs too. Some sing to Him all day long. Some watch over children on earth. Some, like Gabriel, are Archangels and carried important messages to God's people. The word 'angel' means 'messenger'.

Archangel means leader angel in charge of others, like a general in an army. (1Thes 6:2) Angels don't have bodies like ours that wear out, but angels are not like God. They cannot make beautiful things like birds and flowers and people. They can only follow God's instructions and help people when God tells them to. (Luke 1:19)

All angels were **created (made, formed, built) by God** our Heavenly Father through Jesus our Lord, the same way He created birds and fish and people. All angels are strong and he sends them to do important jobs. They are stronger than we are so they can help us, but they are not powerful like God. God is stronger than anything else.

The Archangel Gabriel always stands in the presence of God (Lk 1:19) and God used him to carry important messages to Mary and Joseph and when Jesus left heaven and was about to be born to earth as a baby.



The Archangel Michael is the leader of God's angelic army. He leads God's armies to fight God's enemies. (Rev.12:7-9)

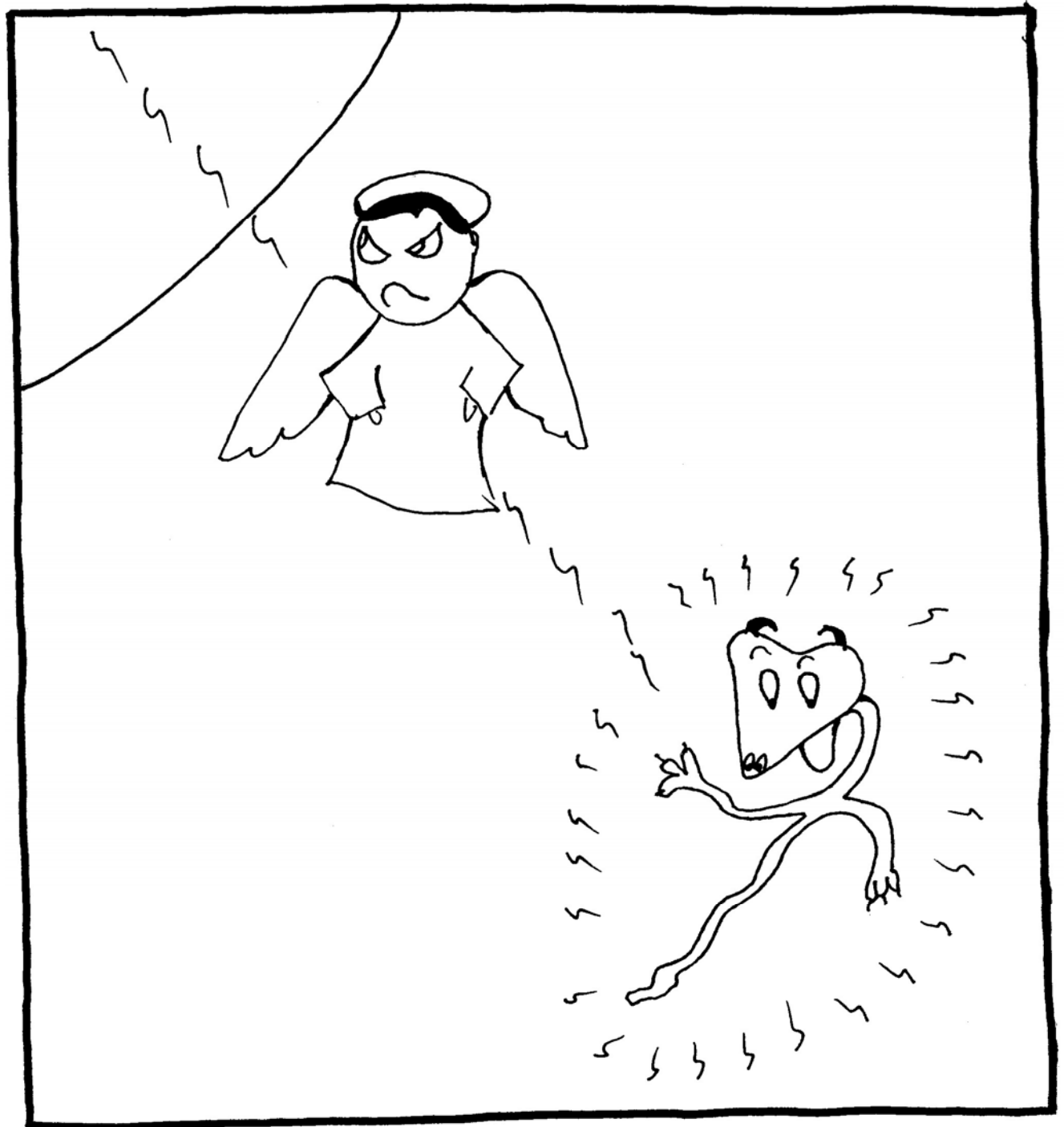
There was another archangel who was very beautiful. His name was Lucifer. But because God had made him so talented in music and so beautiful he became proud. Do you know what proud means? It means he thought he was prettier and smarter and better and more important than all the other angels. In fact, he started thinking he was more important than our God who made him. (Isn't that silly!) He wanted to be in charge and be the boss of everything instead of God. ( Maybe you know some kids like that.)

So he talked some other angels into following him to fight against God. That's like a fly or mosquito trying to fight with you. You could squash it easily. But instead of just squashing these rebellious angels, God sent Michael the Archangel and the rest of God's angelic army to fight. The angels who were faithful to God defeated the rebellious angels easily.



Afterwards, the Lord God made Lucifer and the other rebellious angels leave heaven. Because they rebelled against God they became 'fallen angels' or 'demons'. Since then all Lucifer has done is get meaner and meaner. He hangs around here on earth trying to get people like you and me to hate God and do bad things. You might have heard him called Satan, or the Devil. He's very bad and he's very tricky, **but he is JUST a fallen angel.** He's stronger than us, but he's not strong like God is strong. When Jesus lives in our hearts we don't have to be afraid of the Devil because we belong to God. And God protects us. But we do have to be on guard so that he doesn't trick us - because he will try. (1 Pet 5:8- 9)

We don't know what he really looks like in his natural form but we know he can sometimes look like an 'angel of light'. (2 Cor. 11:14) He took the form of a snake in the Garden of Eden to trick Eve so that's the picture we'll use in this book.





God KNOWS EVERYTHING because He made everything. Angels only know what God has shown them and what they see people do.

**GOD IS EVERYWHERE ALL THE TIME.** God can be here with us and over at Grandma's house all at the same time. And even though angels can travel faster than an airplane they can only be in once place at a time - just like you and me.

God our Father can DO everything. He can pick up a mountain and move it to a different place, stop the ocean from having waves, or let Jesus die on the cross and then raise Him back alive again on the third day. Satan and his angels can't do anything like that.





So let's say that again and this time look at some pictures.

GOD knows everything about this world He made. He knows everything you're thinking all the time, but Satan and his helpers only know what they have seen people do.

GOD has ALL POWER TO DO ANYTHING (*Parent to Parent! Anything that is consistent with His nature. He cannot lie because that would not be Holy and he is a HOLY GOD. He cannot create a god greater than himself, or create a mountain that he cannot lift, or other silly test questions people come up with.*) Say it with me. God has ALL POWER TO DO ANYTHING. Satan can only do a few tricks to fool people into thinking he's as strong as God. But he's not. He's a liar.

GOD is EVERYWHERE watching over EVERYTHING all at the same time! He's really big and WONDERFUL! Satan and his helpers can only be in one place at one time - just like people.



You see, the Devil is just an Archangel whose heart went bad and who tries to make people love him instead of loving God. If he can't do that he tries to trick people into thinking there is no God, or God doesn't love them anymore, or that God is as small as he is.

But those things are not true. Satan is very smart and very tricky and he tells BEAUTIFUL SOUNDING LIES like: 'sin is not bad, it's fun, AND IT WILL NEVER HURT YOU.' OR 'You don't have to obey Mom and Dad, they're not as smart as you are' OR 'having lots of money to buy things will make you happier than loving God will.' Those are all lies too! That's why Jesus called Satan 'a liar and the Father of Lies'. (John 8:44)

So you and I, we have to watch out so Satan doesn't trick us. The Bible says his lies and tricks are like arrows on fire, flaming darts that he shoots at us. They are not real fire that can burn our skin, but lies that can trick us into disobeying God. That hurts us. The Devil is strong but you don't have to be afraid of him because you belong to Jesus. The Bible says **'Resist [oppose, fight, stand firm against] the devil and he will flee [run away rapidly] from you. Draw near to God and He [God] will draw near to you.'** (James 4:7b-8a and Webster's Dict.)



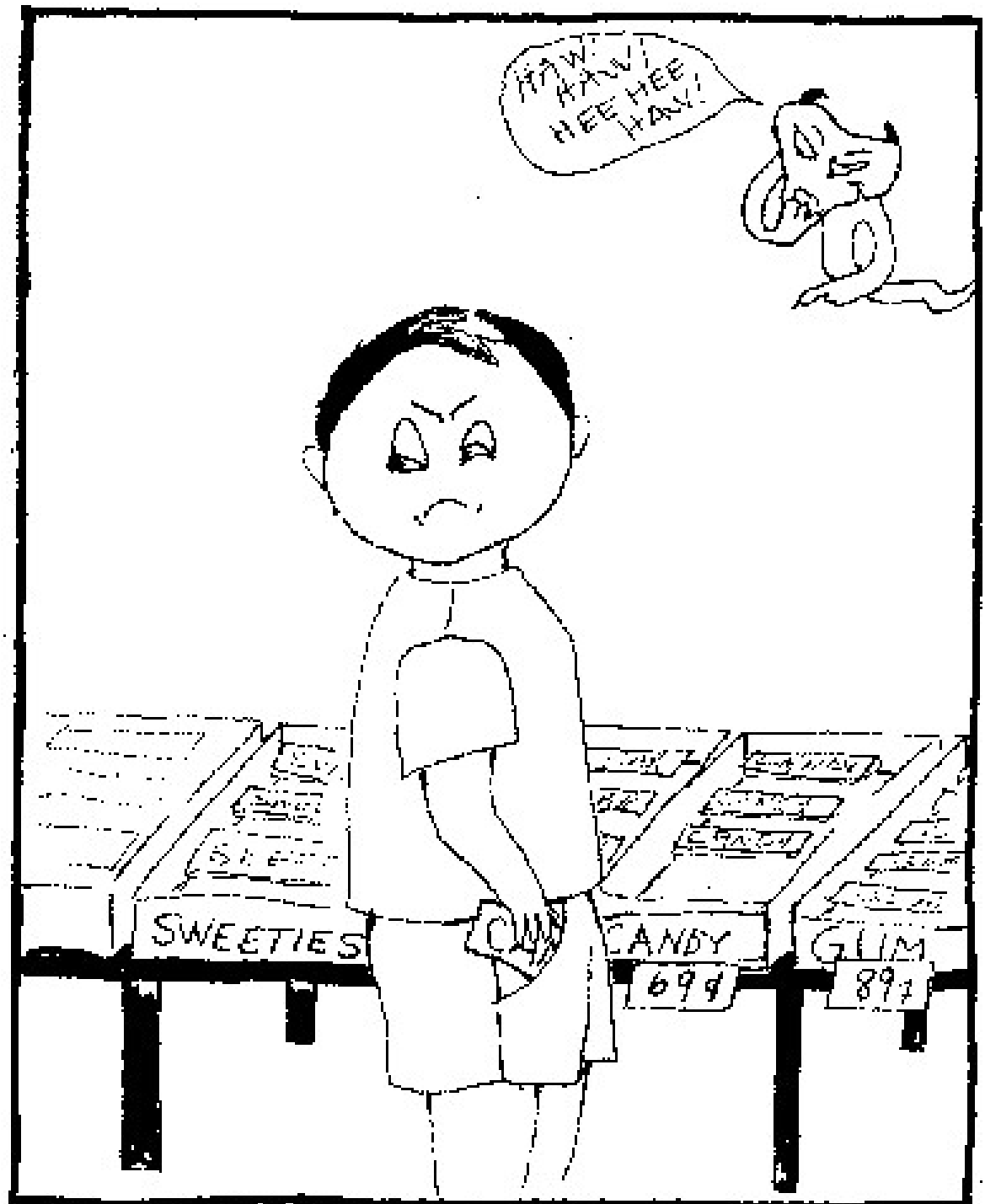
Fiery darts aren't arrows that can burn our skin, but we can think of them like that because they start us thinking of sin, and sin will hurt us worse than fire.

**What kind of darts does the Devil shoot at kids?**

Here are some examples of flaming darts Satan might shoot at you to trick you into choosing to do things your own way, instead of God's way.

Have you been in the store and wanted a candy bar but didn't have enough money? Satan tries to tempt us to do things we know are wrong. You and all your friends know stealing is wrong, but Satan tries to get you to do it anyway. He shoots a dart at you that makes you think about how good one of those candy bars would taste and how no one is looking right now and you could slip one into your pocket. Wow, he's tricky!

Here are some grown up words for you to remember. Choosing to go your own way instead of God's way is called going the 'way of the flesh'. Is stealing candy going God's way? Uh-uh. It would be sin. Will you use your 'chooser' to go God's way?



Stealing is a dart that is easy to recognize. But what about being unkind to someone at school by not letting them play with you and your friends? Could that be a dart? SURE!

The Word of God says 'Be Ye Kind' so it is our job to let everyone play, unless they're hurting us. But a fiery dart might make you think of last week when they wouldn't let you play in their game. A fiery dart might tell you its fair for you to 'get even' and make them feel as bad as you felt. So you don't have to let them play. Yet God's way is: Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. (Rom 12:17)

Which way will your 'chooser' have you go?





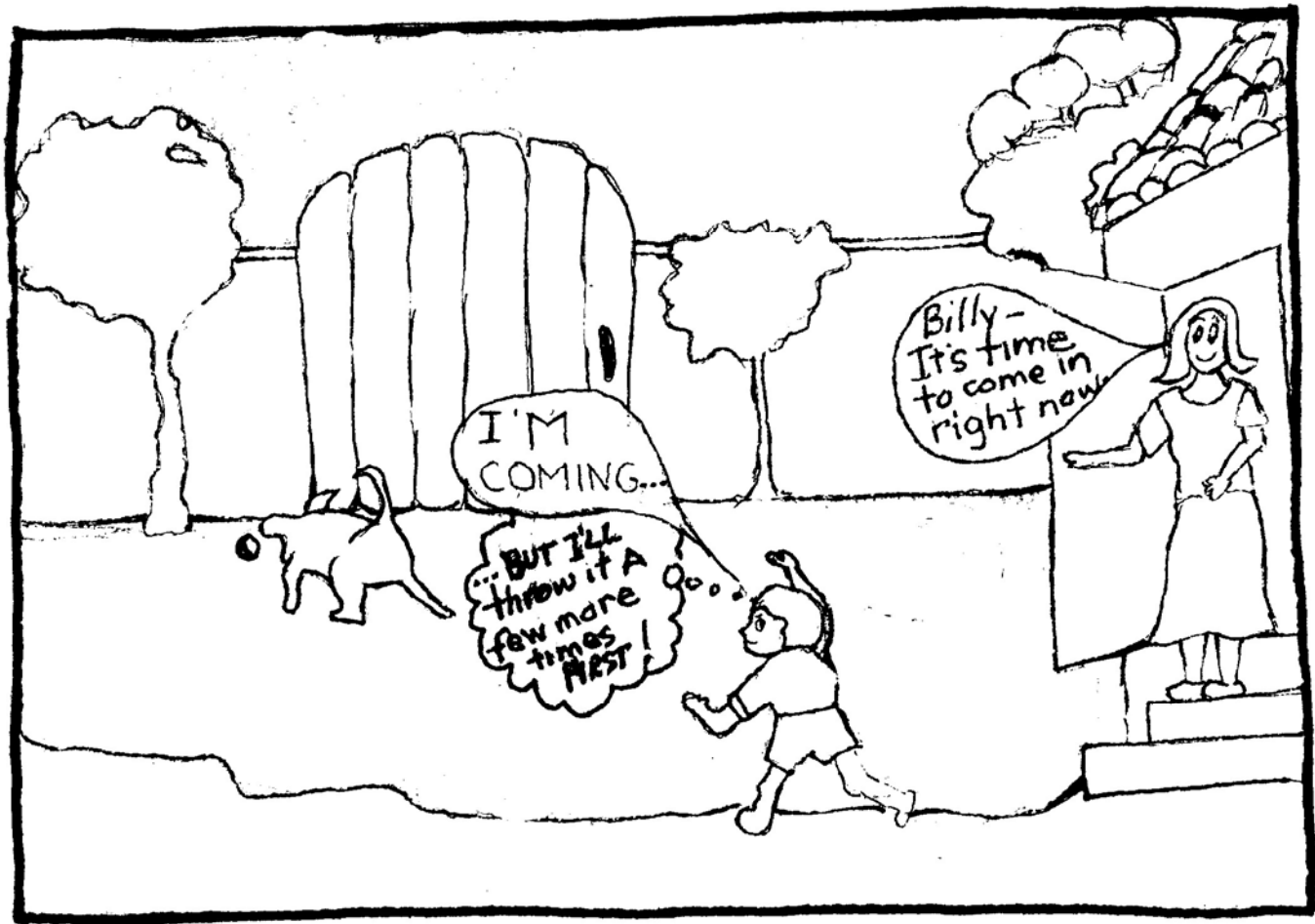
What about this one - is this a fiery dart or your own fleshy self?

**[Parent to Parent: Resist the temptation to comment on your own child's sin in this particular area until a later time - or when it occurs.]**

God's word says "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Eph.6:1) But when Mom calls you to stop playing and come to dinner you think "I don't want to go in yet. I'll just keep playing for awhile and wait until she calls me again. Then I'll go."

When we think about disobeying our parents we have to use our 'chooser' to say 'NO' to our own fleshy self; to say 'I choose God's way, not my own way.' And then go quickly when you're called.

**[Parent to Parent: The attached appendix is for YOU ONLY. In your quiet time with God ask Him to come along side you as you read it and sort thru the amazing things He says in His word. In what areas are you feeling darts?]**



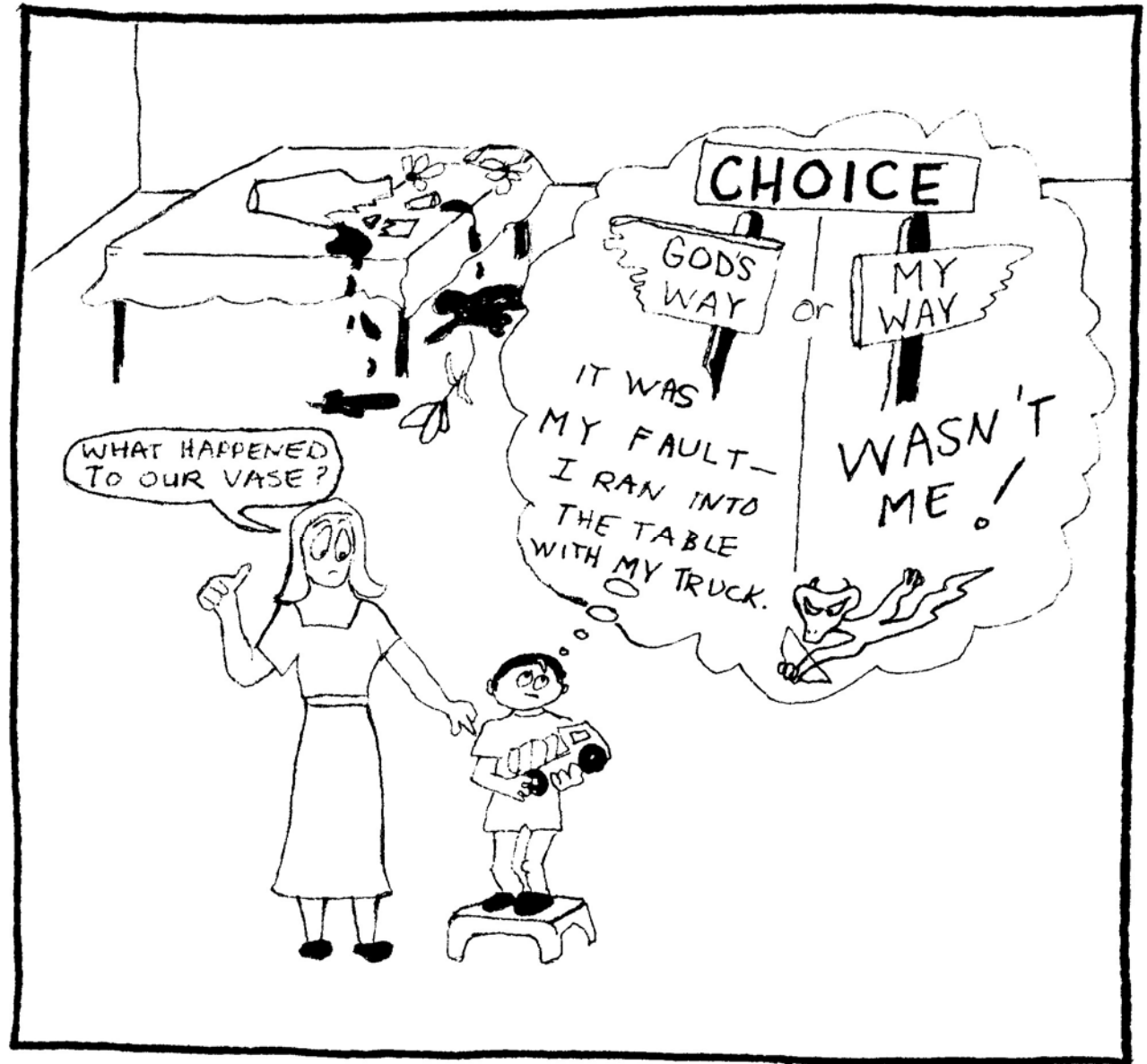
## MORE KID DARTS

What about admitting it you've done something wrong.

This is a **BIG DART** and grown-ups have trouble with this one too.

How many times have you been tempted to lie? Especially when telling the truth might get you into trouble?

**Admitting** when you've done something wrong, made a mistake, broken something, or hurt someone's feelings **IS HARD** and Satan and our own fleshy self want us to **LIE**. But God's Way is to always tell the truth.



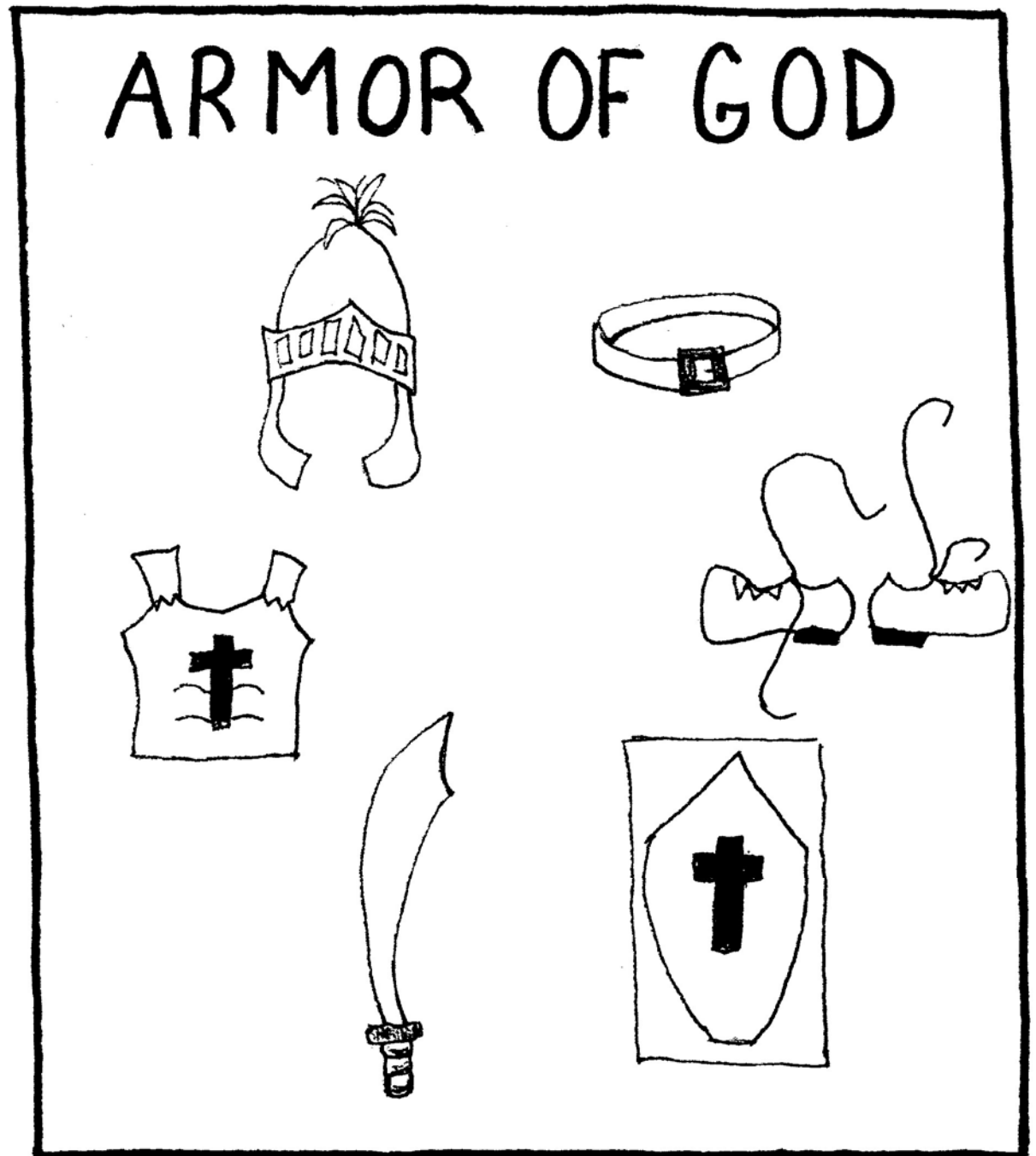
So what can I *DO ABOUT DARTS*????

God's word says: "Resist the Devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7) That means when you have Jesus living in your heart you can say **NO** to the devil in Jesus' strength and Satan will run from you.

When we have Jesus living in our hearts then we have the **ARMOR OF GOD** to help us resist those fiery spiritual darts. God gives us this armor as tools and special protection because we belong to Him. The belt, shoes, sword and shield are tools He gives us to use against the Devil. God gives each one a special name.

Ephesians 6:1-12 says to **PUT ON** the armor of God and tells us what the pieces of the armor are like. It describes a helmet, a belt, a breastplate, shoes, a shield and a sword. Each one is much more special than a mediaeval knight would wear but we can think of them like that because that is the way God describes them to us in the Bible.

Each piece of God's armor has a special name that tells of a special way we are protected. We **PUT ON** the armor by *reminding ourselves (aloud)* of who God is, who we are when we belong to God, and what we must do to whack away the fiery darts from Satan. That's how we **PUT ON** the whole armor of God each morning before we get out of bed.

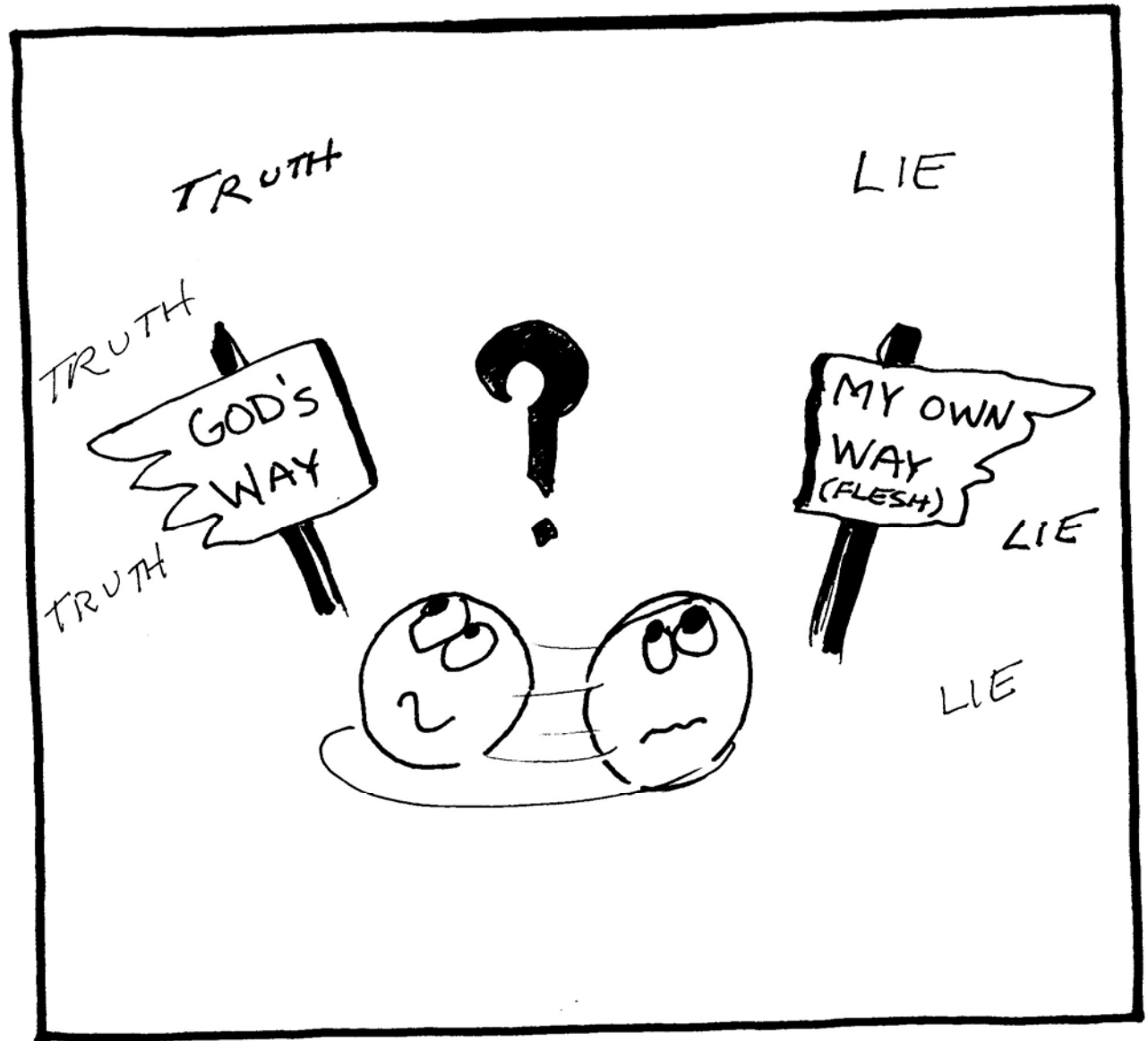


## HELMET OF SALVATION

When I believed Jesus died and rose again to take away my sins, I asked Him to come live in my heart and be my Savior. That's called being 'saved' or Born Again, or receiving Salvation. Immediately I became protected from Satan in a special way. The Bible calls it being transferred [out of the kingdom of darkness and] into the kingdom of light. As part of God's armor He gives us the 'HELMET OF SALVATION'.

A helmet protects our brain. Everyday you use your brain to think and make choices. You choose to do things God's way or your own way (the way of the flesh). Here's an example:  
To lie is to choose to say something that is not true even though you know it is false. God's Way is to always tell the truth. If I lie then I have used my chooser to go my own way (way of the flesh) instead of God's way.

When I PUT ON the Helmet of Salvation I pull my hands down over my head as though I'm putting on a Knight's Helmet and say: Lord, Thank you so much that I am your child forever, that I belong to you alone. No one can snatch me out of your hand and no one can force me to sin. Please make me strong to choose your way instead of my own way.



[Parent to Parent - make sure to do the motions with your child for each piece of armor. Helpful for kids & you.]

### THE BELT OF TRUTH

Next we put on the belt of truth.

God's Word is the Bible. Every word of the Bible is true and we want to learn what it says and then DO IT. The Bible says we belong to God because we asked Jesus to be our Savior. So when we 'PUT ON' the belt of truth we could move our hands around our waist and say something like: "I put on the belt of truth. Lord Jesus, you are the Way and the Truth and the Life. I am saved and you love me SO MUCH! Please 'wrap me up' in your words of truth this day that I may remember I am your child."

The belt is the first piece of armor the soldier straps on. The Belt of Truth is the anchor and holds the Breastplate and the Sword in place. Without the truth of God's word wrapped tightly around your heart daily Satan might convince you that God's doesn't love you or even that God is not real? Without the Belt of Truth you won't have the strength to choose to go God's way when Satan tempts you to sin.





## BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

When I asked Jesus to forgive my sin and live in my heart He washed all my 'BADTHINGS' away and He wrapped me up in His robe of right-ness to wear. (Is 61:10)

Now when my Heavenly Father looks at me he sees Jesus' 'good-ness' instead of the 'BADTHINGS' I have done. Now the rightness of Christ covers me like piece of knight's armor.

You could cross your arms over your chest and say: "I put on the Breastplate of Righteousness, not my righteousness Jesus, but yours. You never did any 'BADTHINGS'. Thank you for washing my sins away. Thank you for the robe of white that covers me."

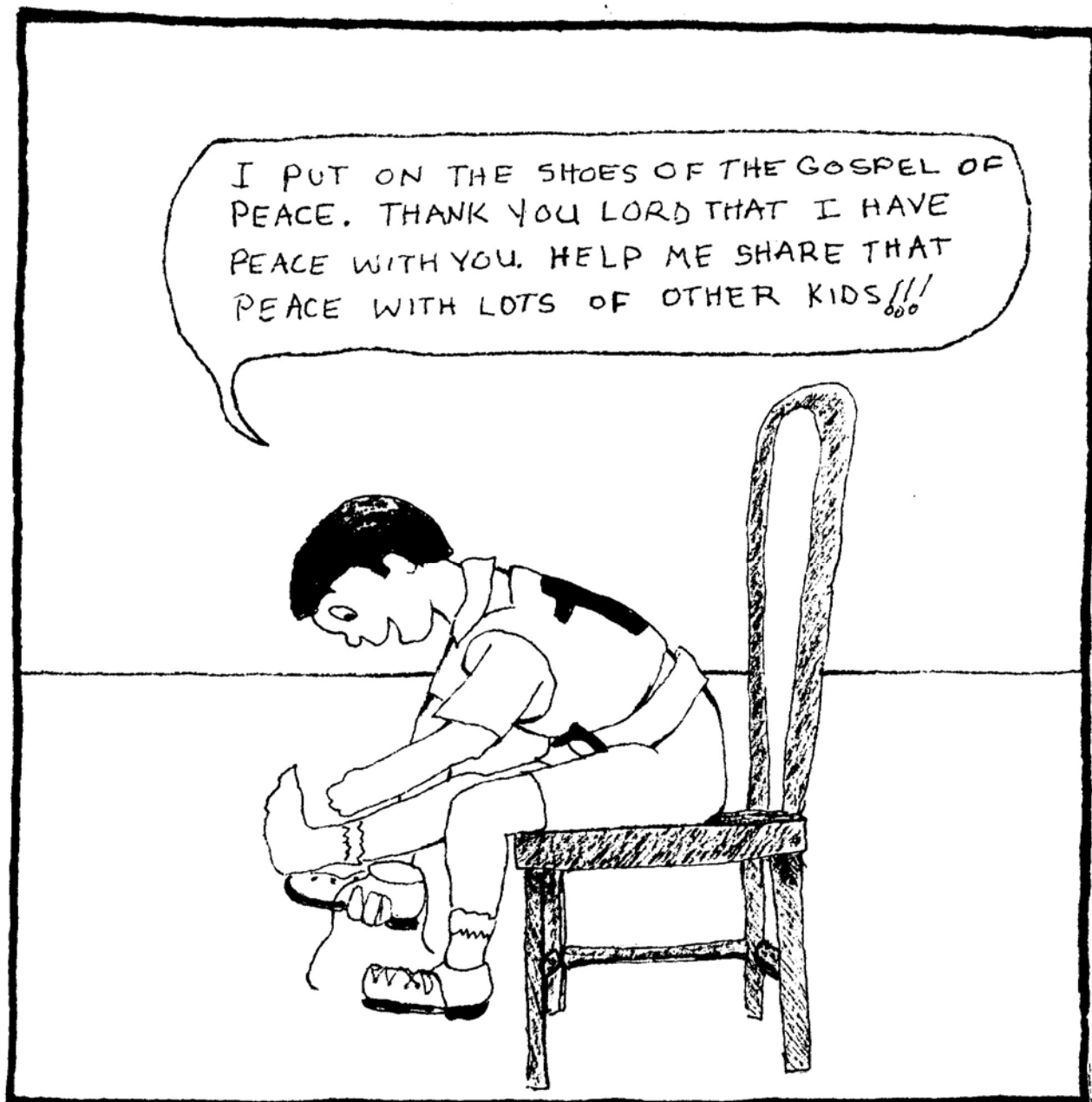


## The SHOES OF THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

The truth is we are saved and we wear the breastplate/ robe of righteousness all the time. Because of that, we are AT PEACE WITH GOD and God will bring us to heaven when it is our turn. Hooray! We don't have to try to be extra good so He'll let us in.

Yet Jesus warned us that Satan is a liar. Satan might try to tell you that you have to work or earn your way to heaven by being good all the time. That's *silly*, even Moms and Dads aren't good **all** the time. We all sin. We only get to go to heaven because Jesus died for us. Our Heavenly Father wants us to obey Him *just because we love and honor Him*.

Jesus also said Satan is a thief. He will try to steal our trust in God. What does trust mean? It means you **know and remember** the Lord is **big enough**, strong enough, to take care of all your sins and problems each day and He will keep His promises. He is big enough to carry your troubles. So you tell Jesus your sad things and you put them in HIS BACKPACK. Then you let Him carry it and you don't try to unzip it to take them back. Sometimes it seems God is slow at fixing things. 'Trust' is waiting without worrying. God doesn't always make things happen the way we want, but we wait peacefully knowing that **whatever happens, the Lord does only what is good for us**. Even if we don't like it at that moment. He's got reasons we don't understand - so we have to wait. That brings us to the next piece of God's armor.

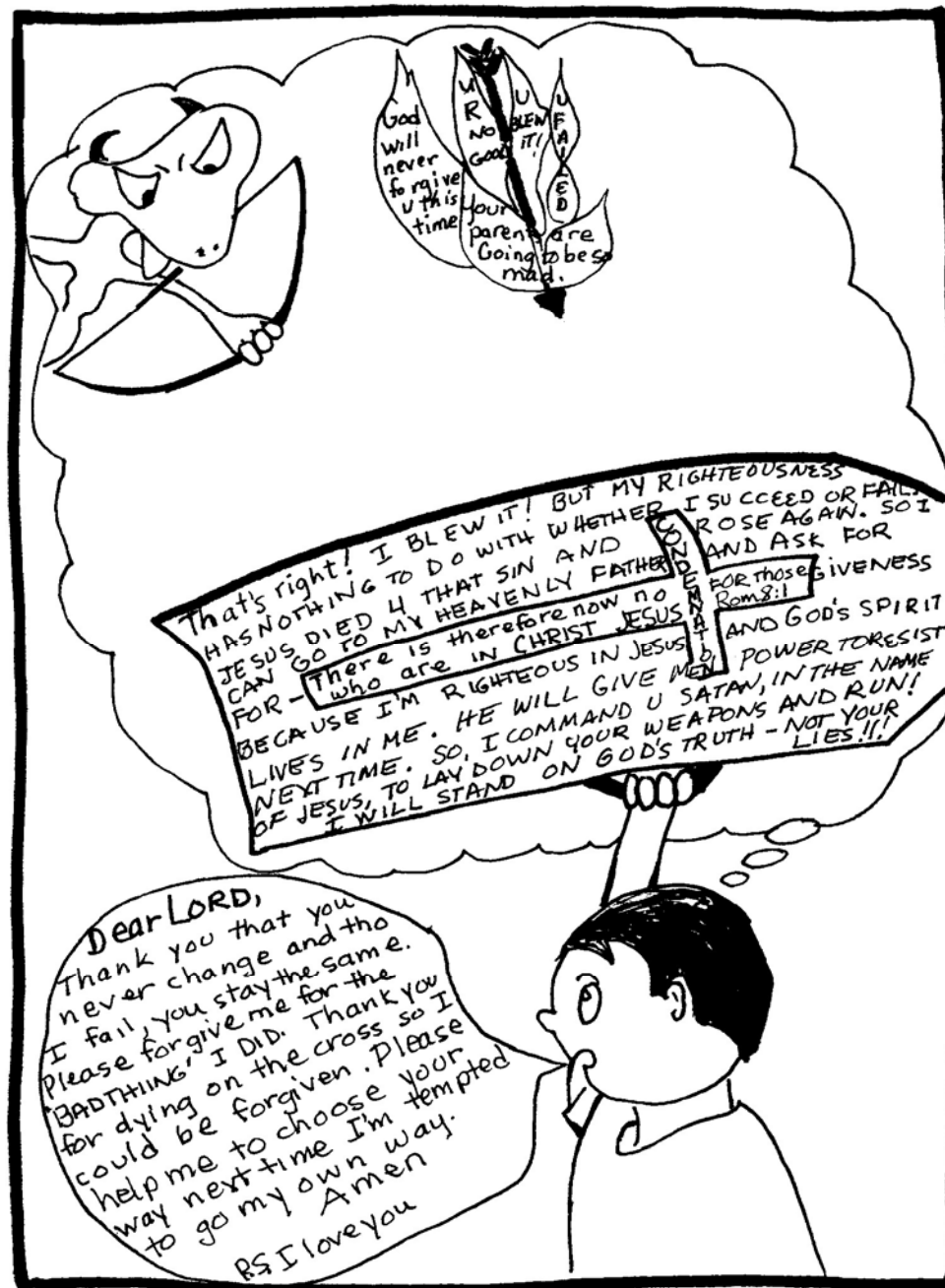


The SHIELD OF FAITH. "In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish (put out) all the flaming missiles (fiery darts) of the evil one." Eph 6:16

Roman soldiers had two shields. One was small and used in hand-to-hand combat. The other was a large wooden rectangle covered with metal. It was so big that the soldier could squat behind it and be completely covered. The metal covering kept flaming arrows from sticking in and burning the wood. They'd bounce off and be put out. Roman soldiers would squat together in a tight bunch and raise their shields. The ones in the middle would put their shields up over their heads. That way they were safe from fiery arrows all the way around.

King David said: 'You, O LORD, are a shield about (around) me.' That's like our shield of faith. It is all around our hearts completely protecting us. *Faith is remembering what God said and believing it is the truth.* Faith and trust in Jesus shields us from the fiery darts of Satan. When he shoots them at us they will bounce off. (Our faith isn't in faith, it's in Jesus)

When we pick up the shield we hold our hand up like it holds a shield & we might say: I pick up the shield of faith. Build my faith LORD, that I will remember that YOU never fail and YOU are never late. YOU always keep your promises.



## SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” The Bible is the WORD OF GOD and this is your SWORD.

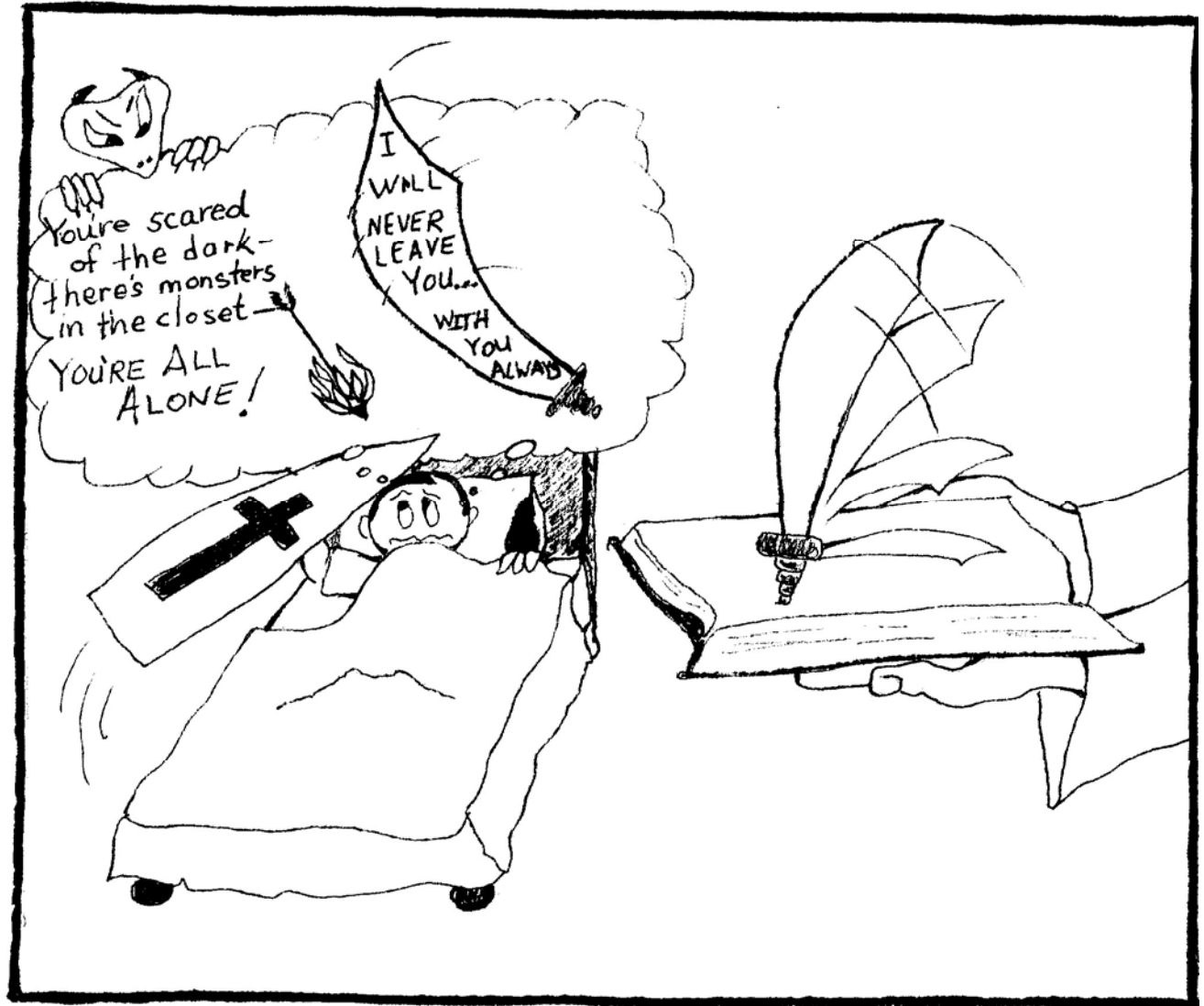
Does that mean you hit Satan with a big book? No! It means that the words in the Bible are like a sword you pick up and use to cut Satan's lies to pieces.

How do I pick up the Sword, I can't see it! YES, YOU CAN! As soon as you can read a little bit you can read the Bible yourself. Until then there are three things you can do.

1) Ask your family to read the Bible to you - especially Matthew, John and the Old Testament heroes and prophets like David, Gideon, and Joshua. **[Parent to Parent: Children will absorb, remember, and live out much more than you think they're ready for so read them ALL of Matthew and John from YOUR Bible, while they look at the usual pictures in books for kids. Kids books leave out lots of 'portant stuff!]**

2) Listen carefully when you're in Sunday School and ask lots of questions if there is something you don't understand. Your Pastor will be glad to answer your questions and help you understand God's Word.

3) Ask your Mom or Dad to help you



learn some short verses by memory so the Devil can't trick you with his lies.

This is how you sharpen your sword! The Bible says 'I will hide Thy word in my heart so that I will not sin against Thee'. Once you hide the verses in your heart, the Holy Spirit will help you remember so when you hear Satan's lies you can cut them to pieces with the sword of God's truth.

**[Parent to Parent: See verses at end of appendix. Do them together aloud in the car. Use cheat sheets on 3x5 cards in baggies taped to the tub, or sidewalk chalk, or on your palm in ink. And these words which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up...and you shall write them on the doorpost of your house and on your gates. (Deut. 6:6-9)]**

Hold your hands like you're picking up a soldier's sword and then you might say: I pick up the Sword of the Spirit, which is your word, Oh God, so that I can whack away the darts of the enemy and cut Satan's lies to pieces.

**[Parent to Parent: there is a poem/song our kids learned in school that puts it all in perspective: I COMMAND YOU SATAN, IN THE NAME OF JESUS, lay down your weapons and flee! For the Lord has given me authority to walk all over you. See p. 24/25]**





## PUTTING ON THE ARMOR!

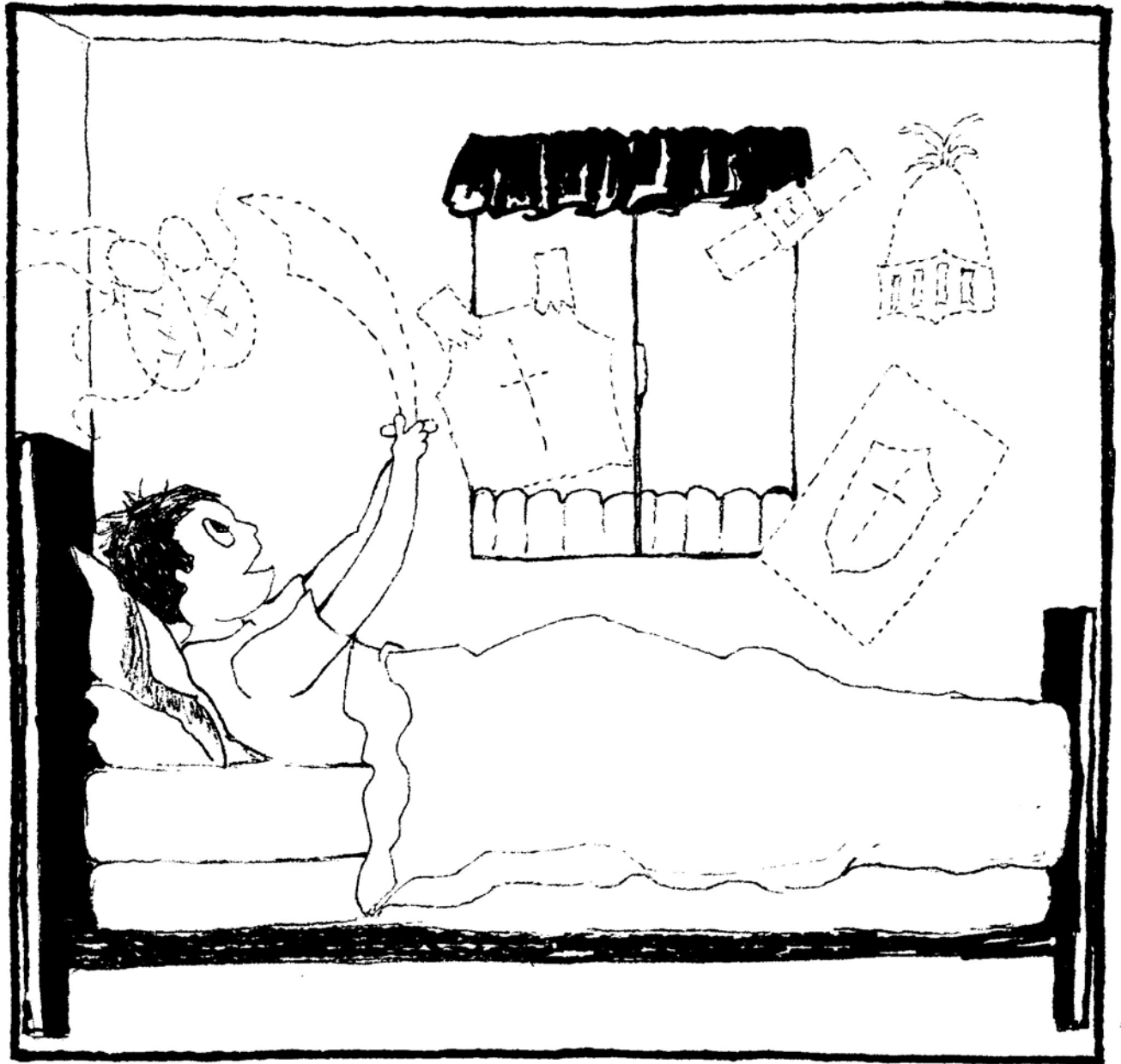
Spend daily time in the Bible with family  
or alone to make your armor fit.  
Loose armor makes the battle harder

When you get up each morning, before you  
even get out of bed say 'Good morning' to  
the Lord and pick up the weapons God has  
given you to fight in the spiritual battles of  
that day. Then whether it's a fiery dart  
from Satan or just your fleshy self being  
tempted to choose your own way instead of  
God's way, you can fight it off.

I put on the **HELMET** of SALVATION  
Lord, thank you so much that I am your  
child forever, that I belong to you alone.  
No one can snatch me out of your hand and  
no one can force me to sin. Please make  
me strong to choose your way instead of  
my own way.

I put on the **BELT** OF TRUTH  
Jesus, you are the way and the truth and  
the life. I am saved and you love me.  
Please 'wrap me up' in your words of  
truth this day that I may remember I am  
your child and choose to go only your  
way.

I put on the **BREASTPLATE** OF  
**RIGHTEOUSNESS** not my righteousness  
Jesus, but yours. Thank you for the robe of  
white that covers me.



I put on the SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE. Thank you Lord that I have peace with you. Help me share that peace with others.

I pick up the SHIELD OF FAITH. Build my faith LORD, that I may remember that YOU never fail and YOU are never late. YOU always keep your promises and you love me SO MUCH.

I pick up the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, which is your word, Oh God, so that I can whack away the darts of the enemy and cut Satan's lies to pieces.

Then get up and go say 'good morning' to your family - AND REMIND THEM TO PUT THEIR ARMOR ON!





## [Parent to Parent]

From the age of about 20 MONTHS we put the "Children's Bible" into our kid's hands (Golden Press - ISBN 0-307-16520-5). It is one of the places where they learned colors and counting as they learned the truth of God's Word. This made the WORD OF GOD, the Bible, truly their own.

This early familiarity with realistic pictures of God's people's triumphs and failures, and God's faithfulness throughout, is the foundation that must come before Salvation. Salvation must come well before 'spiritual warfare'. *Learning about and 'putting on' the Armor of God is the step between Salvation and Active Warfare.*

The song "I command you Satan, taught after they are Born Again, prepares the way for later teaching and helps them have the correct attitude towards their Enemy.

Warfare set to music! **WARNING:** only for kids you are certain have asked Jesus into their hearts (& are bearing fruit as proof.)

I com-mand you Sa-tan, in the name of JESUS

"Lay down your wea-pons and flee!"

For the LORD has giv-en me au-thor-i-ty

To walk all o-o-ver you.

This song was taught to my kids in Kindergarten or VBS(?) and though I've looked on the internet and asked many "music friends" I can't find who wrote it. If you know, email me so I can give them credit!  
randyslye@hotmail.com