

Bible for Children  
presents



THE  
CHURCH  
MEETS  
TROUBLE



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Produced by: Bible for Children  
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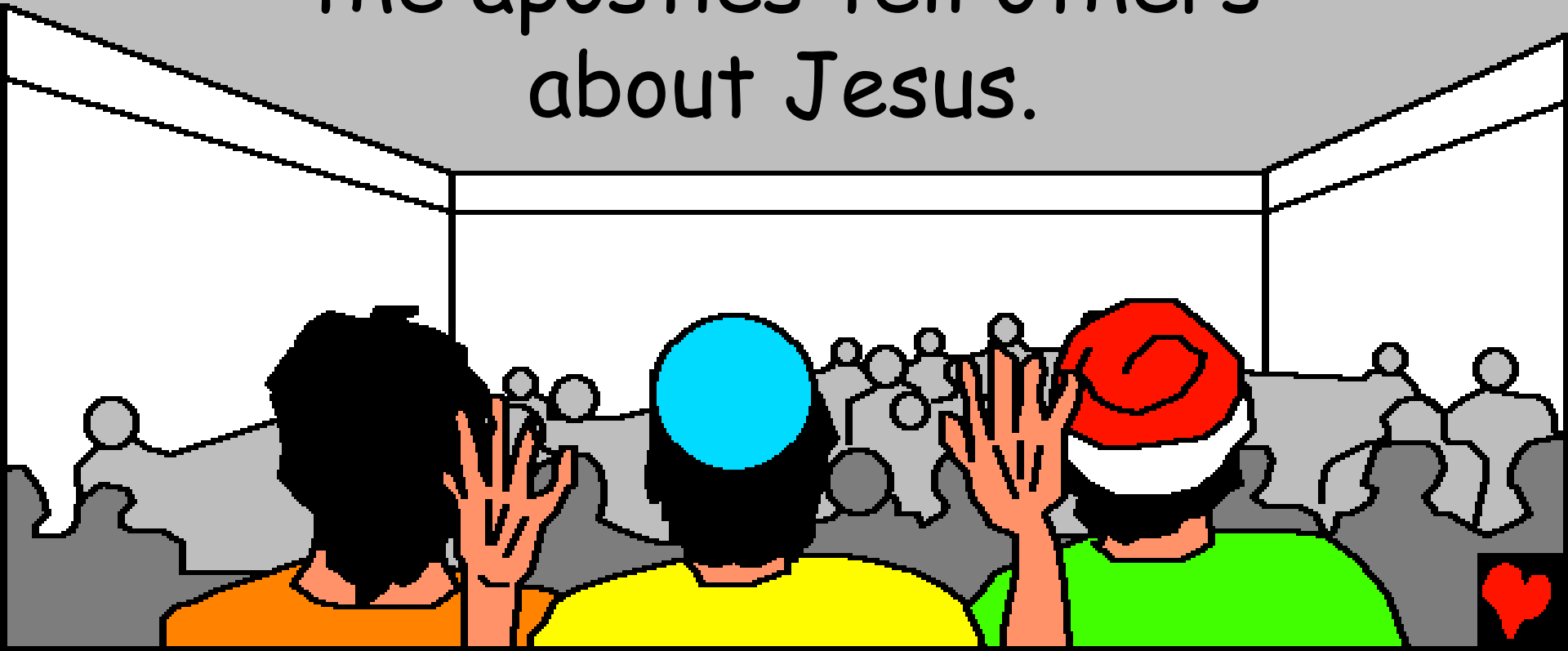
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Fifty days after God's Son Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came to live within His followers. Although the disciples didn't understand how God the Father, ...



... God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit could all be one God, they were happy to have God with them. God did wonderful things to help the apostles tell others about Jesus.



People who believed  
on Jesus shared  
everything they  
had so that  
the poor  
were  
cared  
for.




But one couple  
named Ananias and  
Sapphira were  
dishonest.



They sold some land  
and pretended to  
bring all the money  
to the apostles.

Secretly,  
they kept  
some  
back for  
themselves.



An illustration showing a hand in an orange sleeve pouring a large pile of gold coins from a grey sack. The coins are scattered on the surface. In the background, there are two brown, vertical, textured objects that look like stylized trees or pillars.

"Why has Satan filled  
your heart to lie to  
the Holy Spirit . . . ?"

Peter asked Ananias.

"You have not lied to  
men

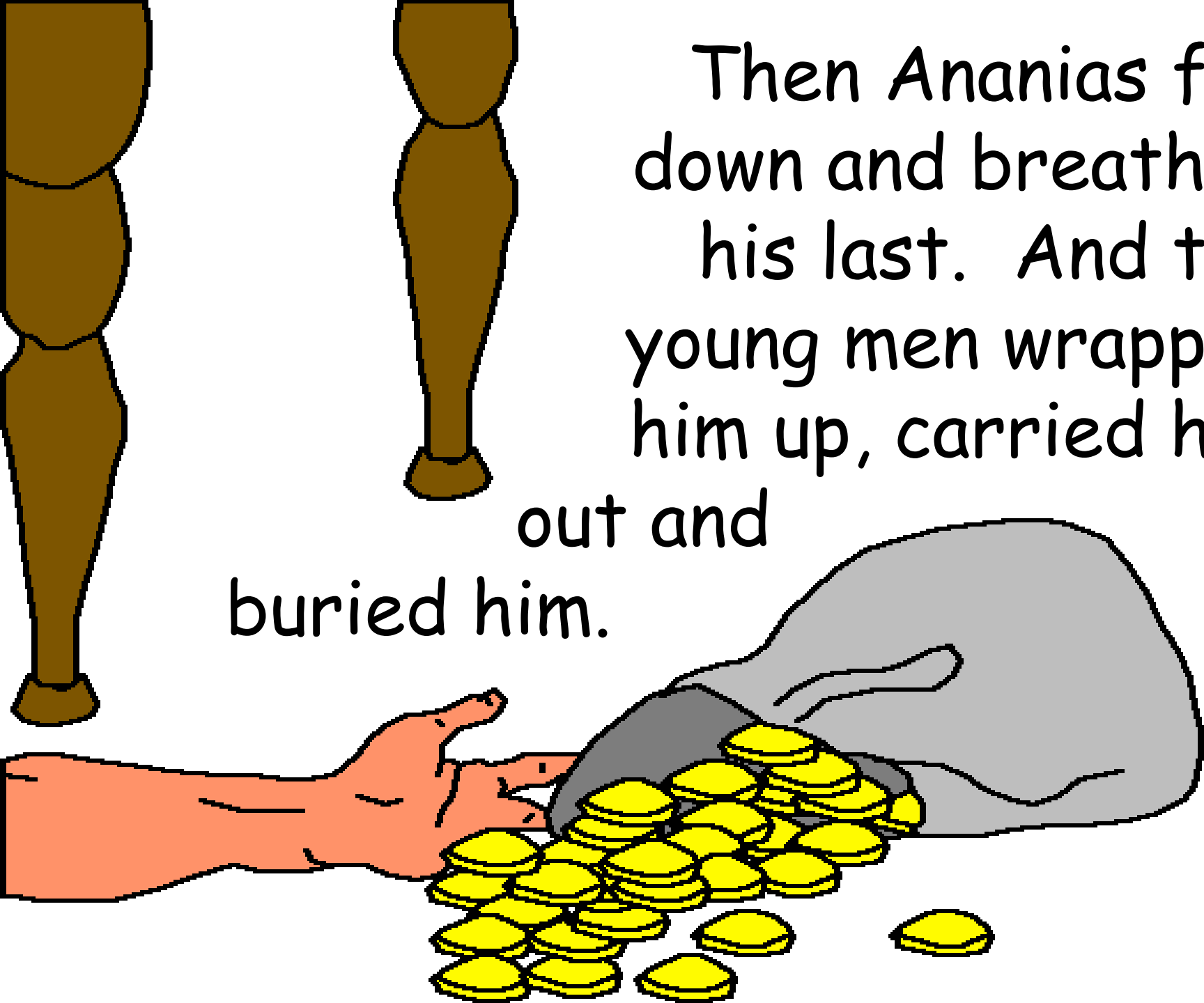
but to God."



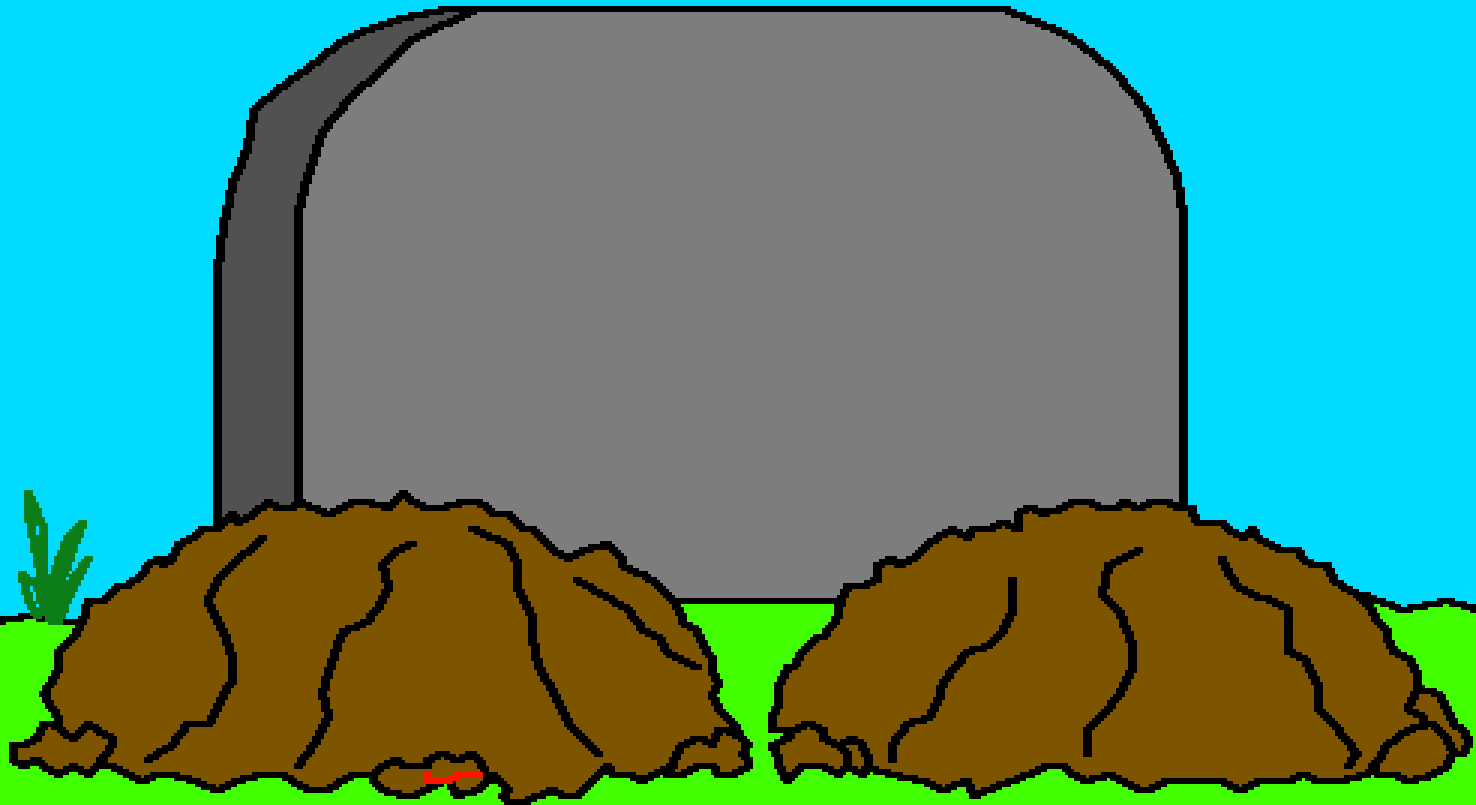


Then Ananias fell  
down and breathed  
his last. And the  
young men wrapped  
him up, carried him

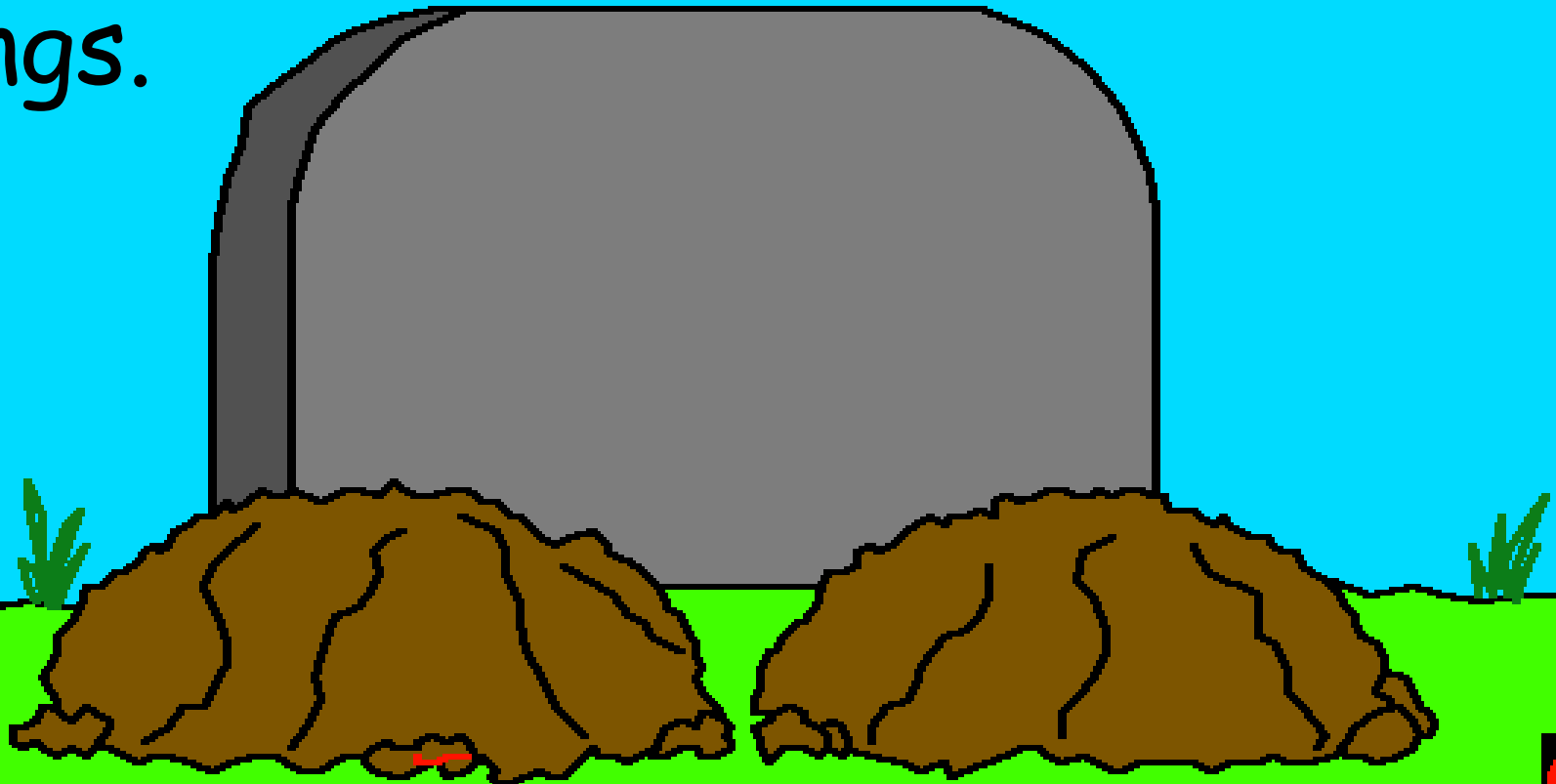
out and  
buried him.



A short time later, Sapphira came in, not knowing that her husband had died.



She also lied about the money - and the same thing happened to her. Great fear came on all who heard these things.



God the Holy Spirit did many signs and wonders through the apostles.



For example,  
sick people  
were  
healed  
when Peter's  
shadow

fell on them.



It was a time  
of great  
miracles,  
showing  
God's  
presence.

More and more  
people believed  
on Jesus.



This made  
the High  
Priest  
very angry.  
He had the  
apostles put

in jail!





But at night  
an angel of  
the Lord  
opened the  
prison doors  
and brought  
them out,  
and said,

"Go, stand in the temple and  
speak to the people all  
the words of this life."







The  
apostles  
went out  
and began  
to preach  
about Jesus.

In the morning, the High Priest's  
men found the jail empty.



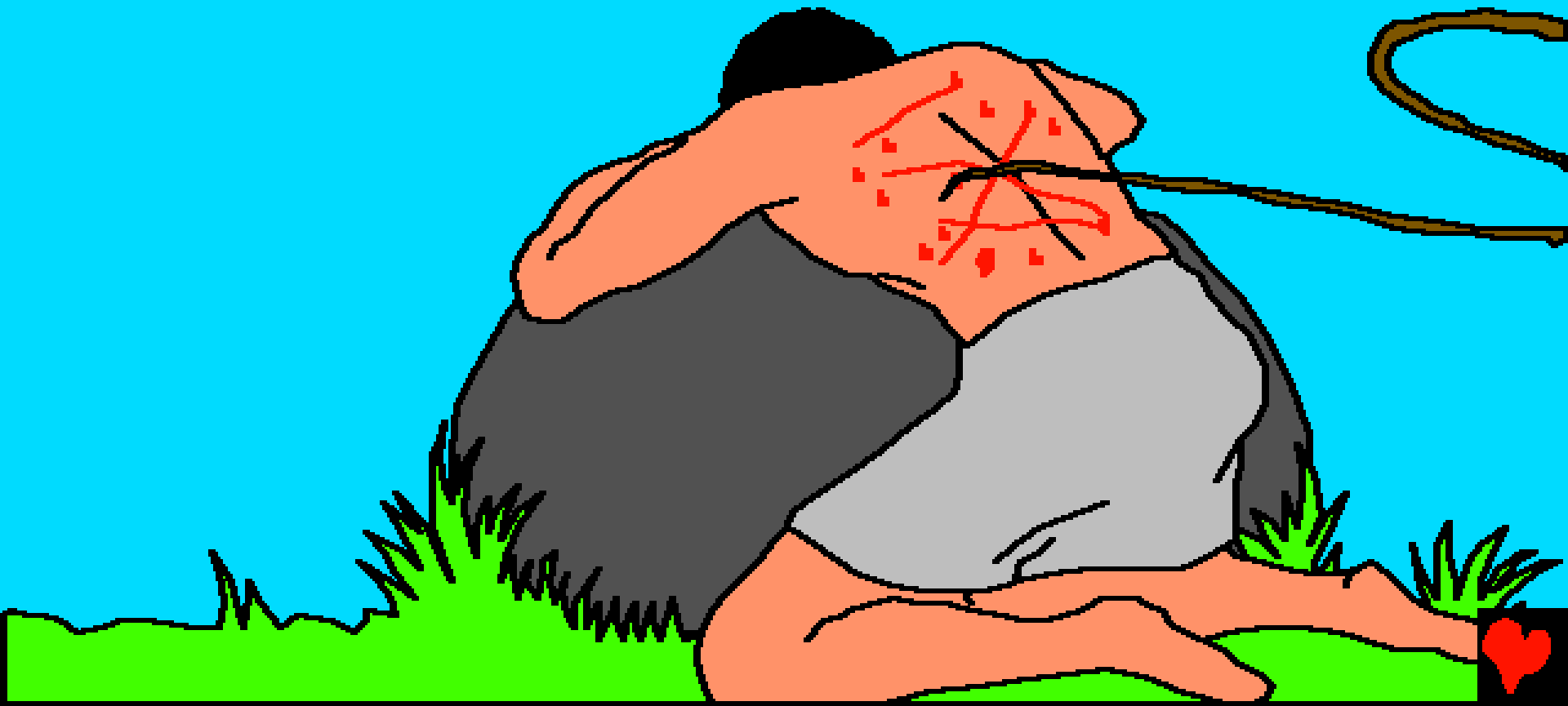
When he finally found them, the High Priest scolded the apostles. "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this Name?"



"We ought to obey God rather than men," Peter and the other apostles answered.



The High Priest was so furious, he wanted to kill the apostles. Instead, he ordered them to be beaten and released.



In spite of their pain, the apostles obeyed God and carried on preaching about Jesus.



One day a man called Stephen was arrested. Stephen loved the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit was using him to tell others about Jesus.



Some men lied, saying that Stephen was speaking against God. After a mock trial, Stephen was

stoned to death

because

of his

faith in  
Jesus.

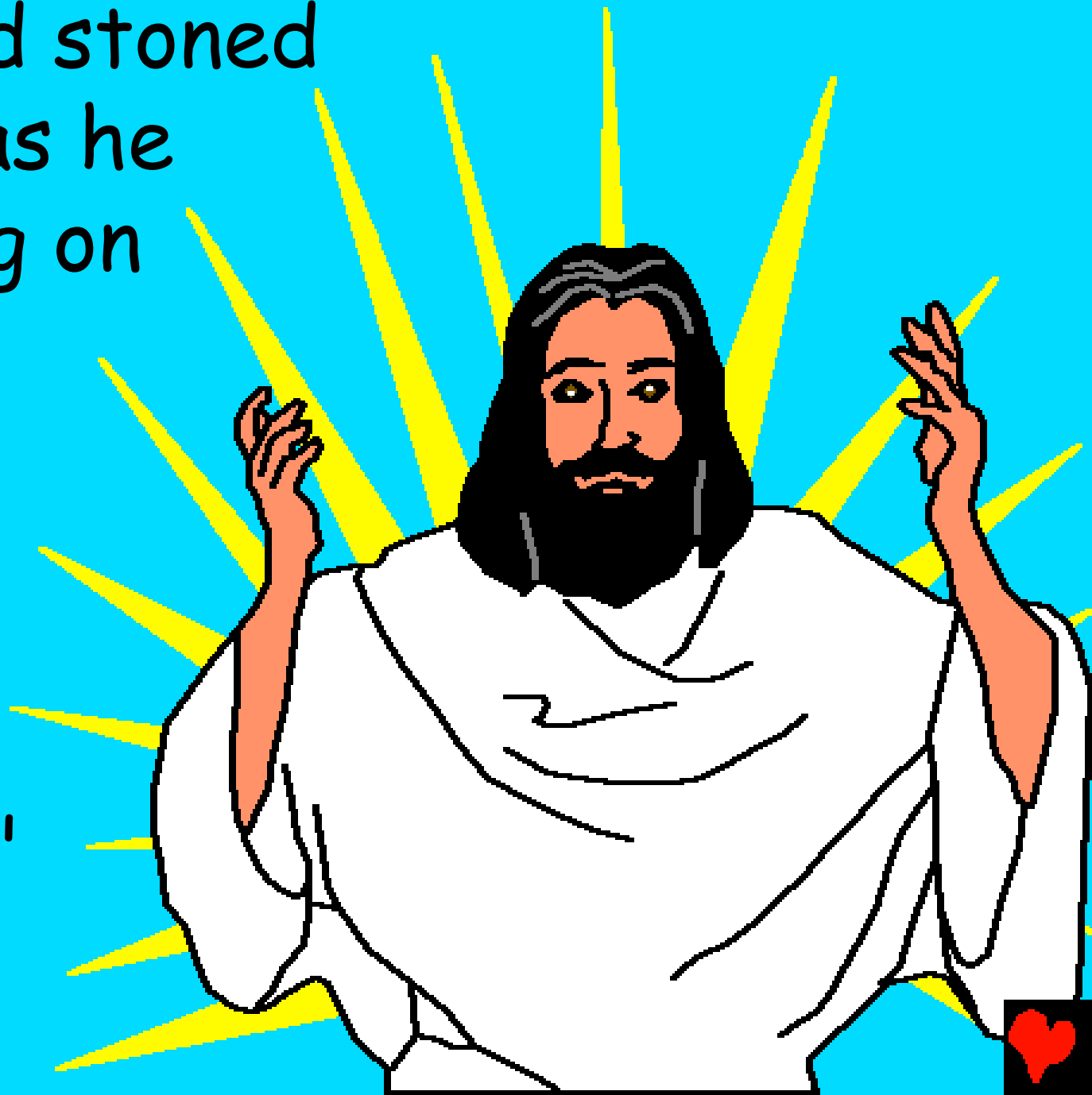


Before he died, Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.





The crowd stoned  
Stephen as he  
was calling on  
God and  
saying,  
"Lord  
Jesus,  
receive  
my spirit."



Then, like Jesus on the cross, this brave man used his dying breath to pray that God would forgive his murderers.



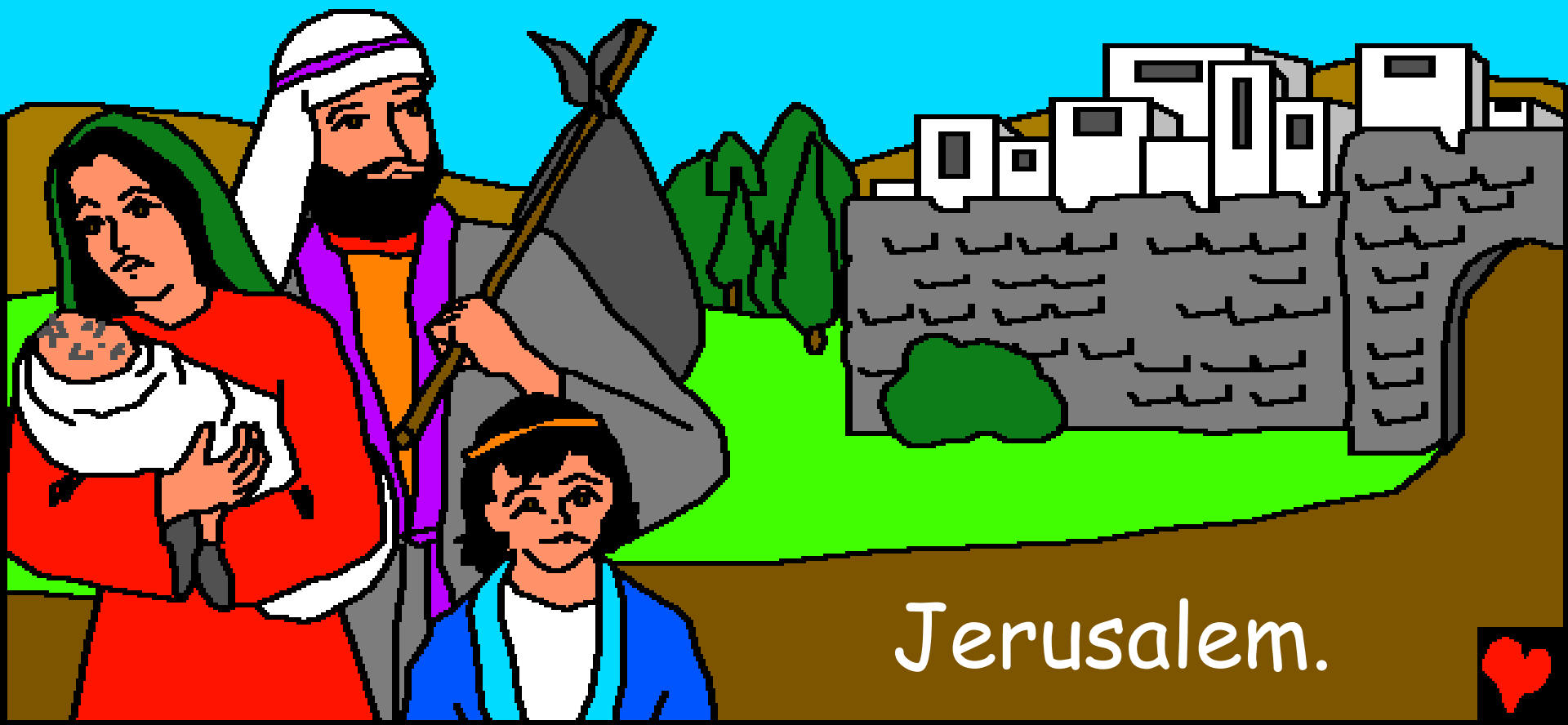
Stephen's death started a new wave of persecution. A young man named Saul, who had helped Stephen's murderers, arrested every Christian



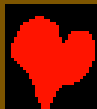
he could find.



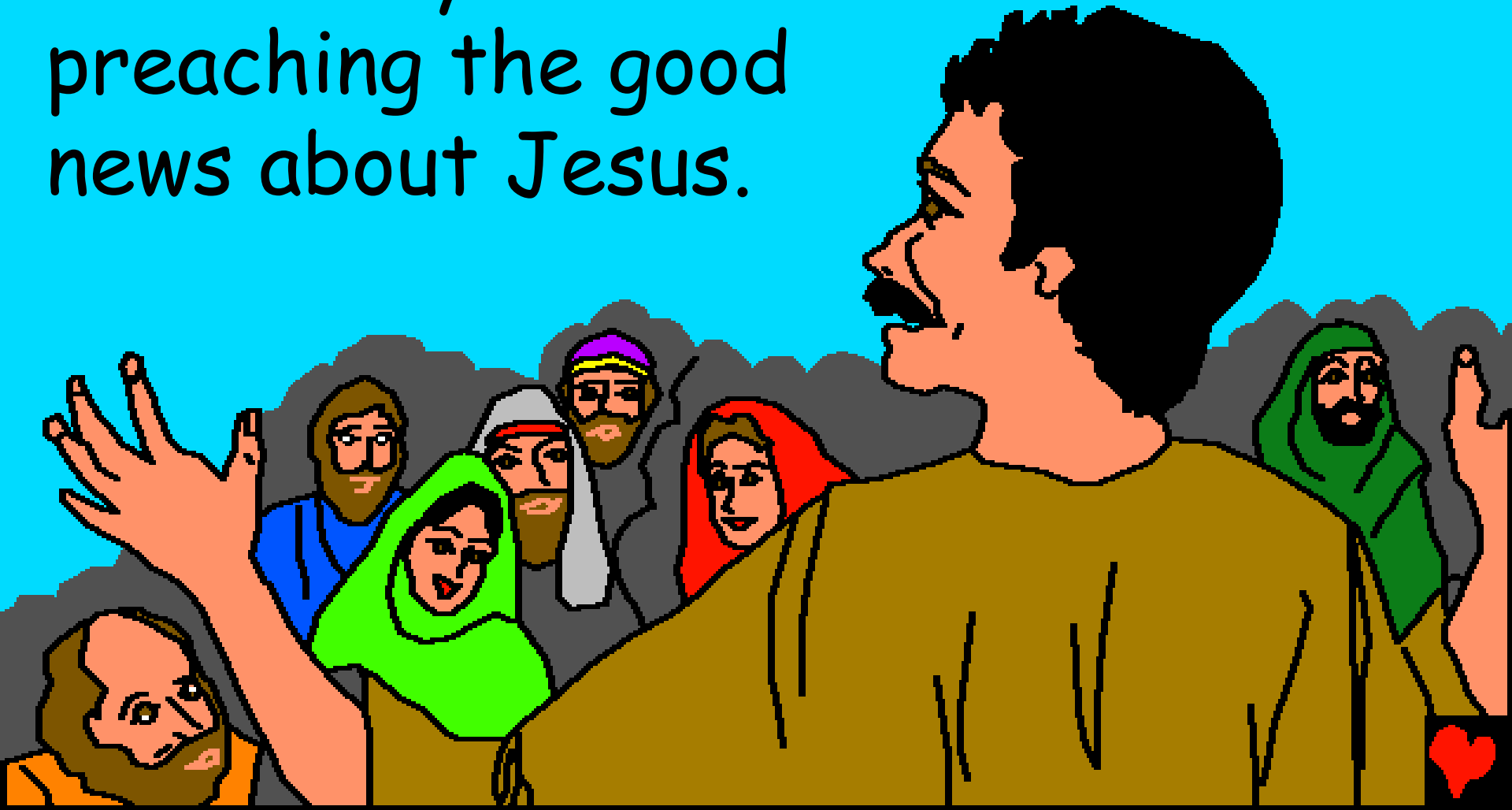
Many of them fled from their homes and were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Only the apostles stayed in



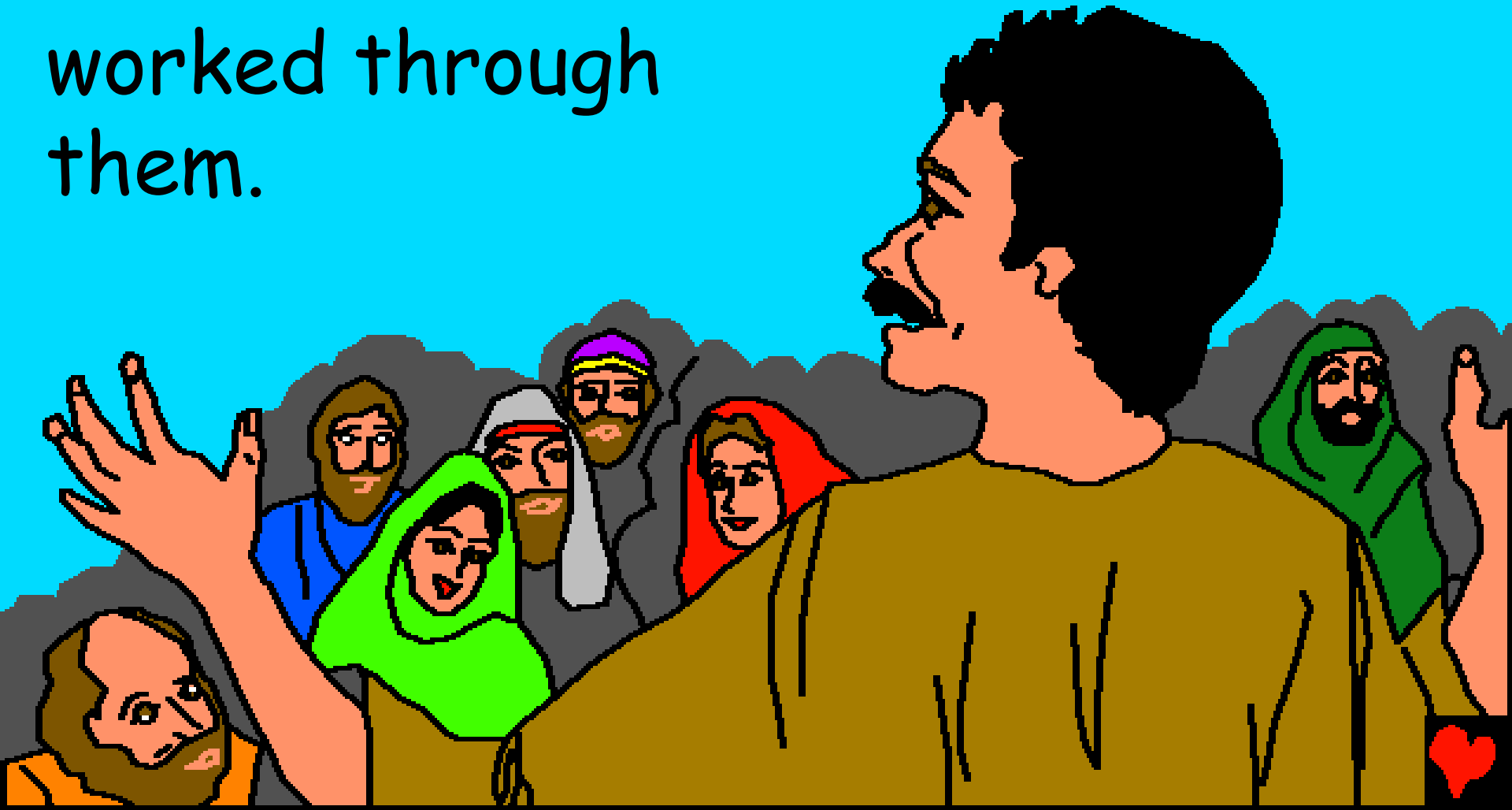
Jerusalem.



Although their enemies tried to kill them, those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the good news about Jesus.



Nothing could stop the followers of Jesus - because God's Holy Spirit lived in them and worked through them.



# The Church Meets Trouble

A story from God's Word, the Bible,

is found in

Acts 5-7

"The entrance of Your Words gives light."

Psalm 119:130



The End





This Bible story tells us about our wonderful God who made us and who wants us to know Him.

God knows we have done bad things, which He calls sin. The punishment for sin is death, but God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and be punished for our sins. Then Jesus came back to life and went home to Heaven! If you believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive your sins, He will do it! He will come and live in you now, and you will live with Him forever.



If you want to turn from your sins,  
say this to God:

Dear God, I believe that Jesus died for me  
and now lives again. Please come into my  
life and forgive my sins, so that I can have  
new life now, and one day go to be with You  
forever. Help me to live for You as Your  
child. Amen.

Read the Bible and talk with God every  
day! John 3:16

