

Journey to Patmos

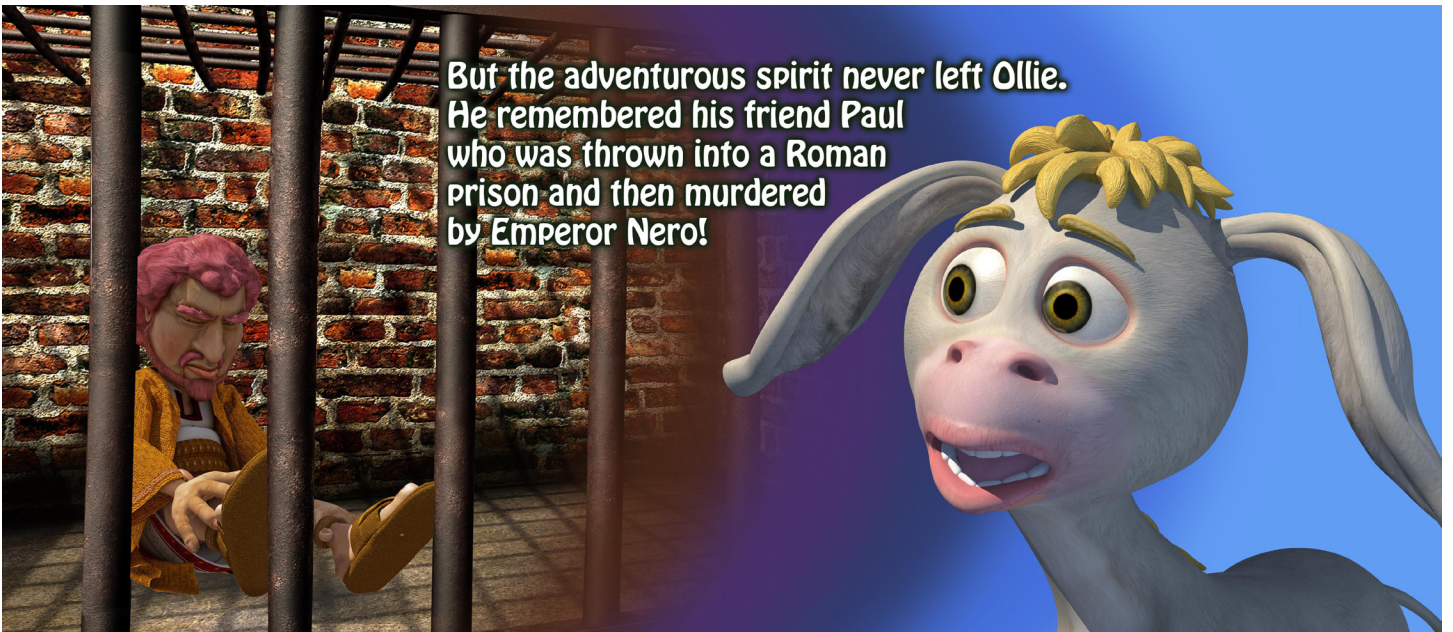
"After Ollie returned from Africa," said the Narrator, "he settled in with his wife Ruthie to raise a nice family of young colts."



They kept Ollie quite busy as he coached them how to work the farm and to help people everywhere!

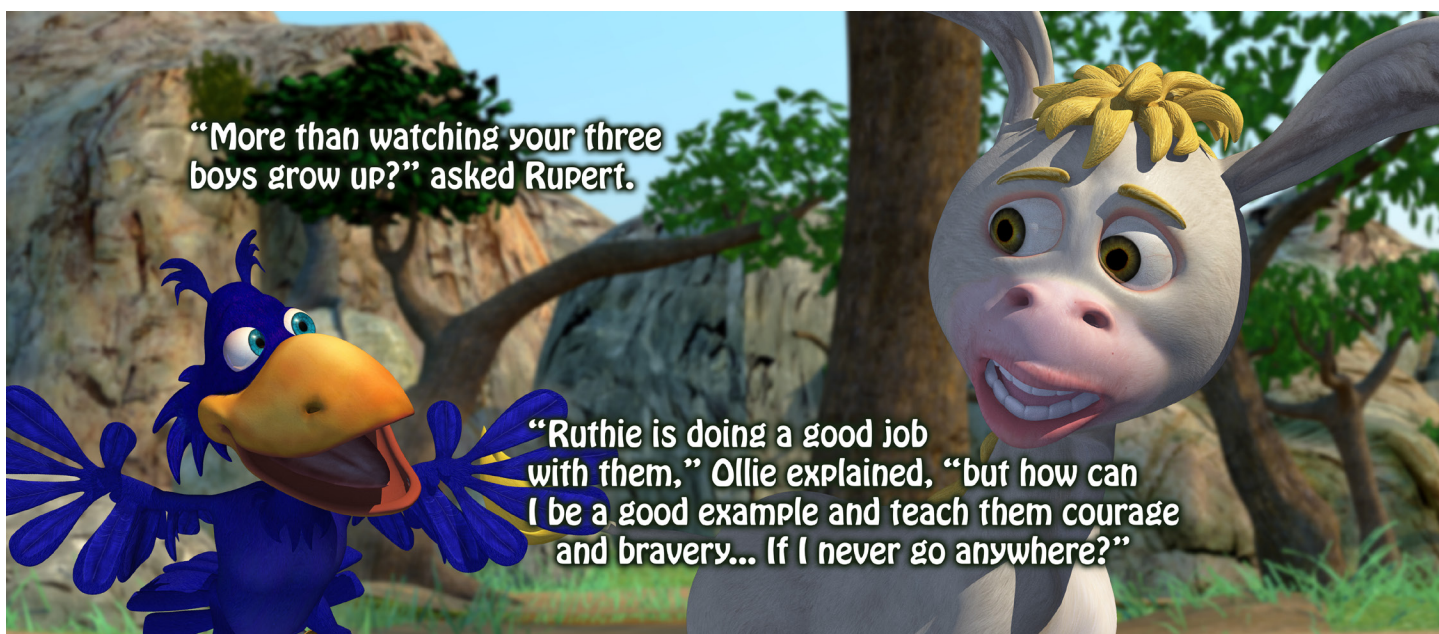
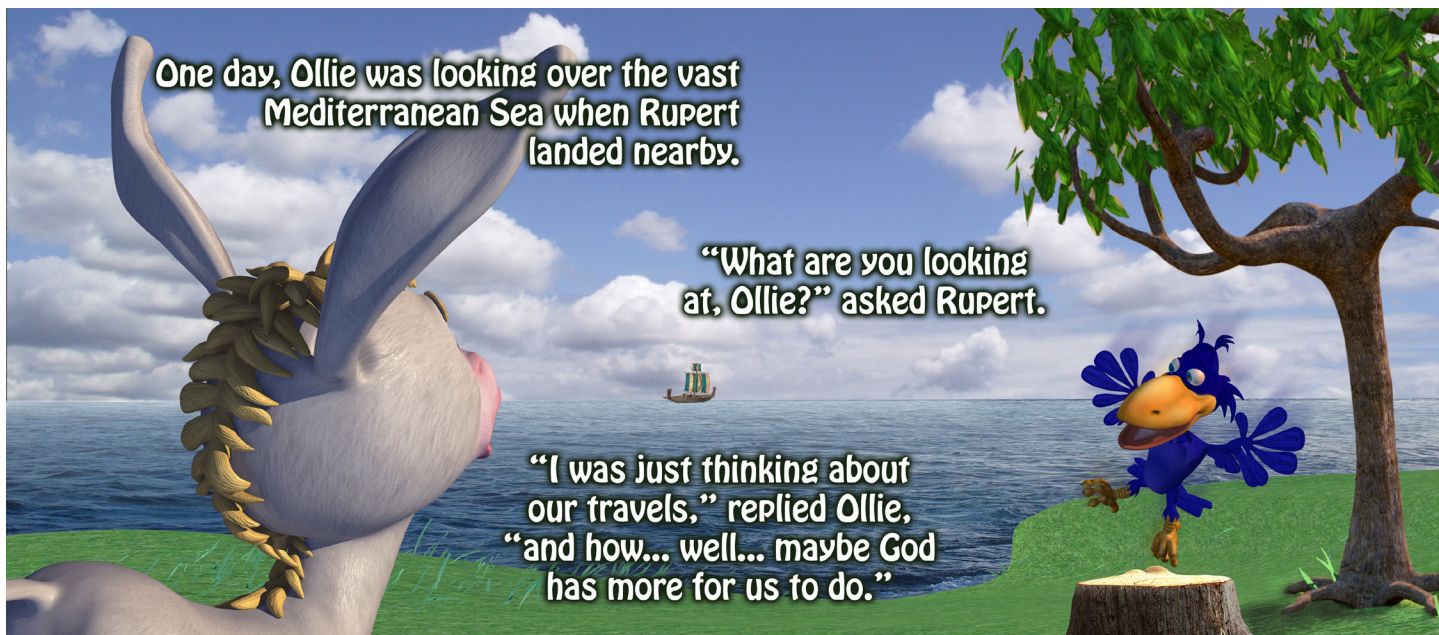


But the adventurous spirit never left Ollie. He remembered his friend Paul who was thrown into a Roman prison and then murdered by Emperor Nero!



He wondered about Jehu and Alondra, who had gone to Egypt as missionaries.







*Oh, what will be my fate
if I sit around and wait?
And never take a chance
because it's over?*



*Should I run away
from life's battles,
Because I haven't any
wars to fight?*

*Should I look for someone
that's in need,
And try to just do right?*

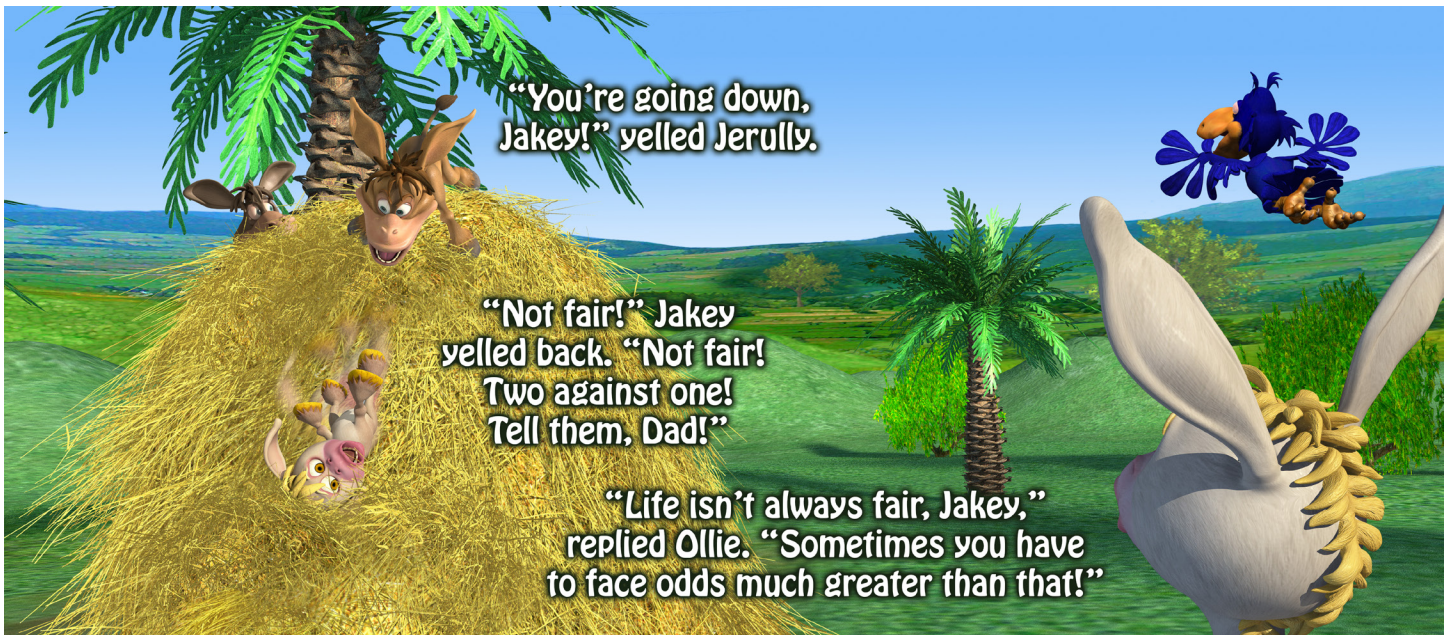


*What's a heart to do,
Being faithful, being true?
Is a legacy to leave,
But is it really enough?*

*When the going's
not too tough...*

The tough get going!









Ollie sang!

*As for my house and me,
We will serve the Lord!
If no one will go with us,
Too bad, they'll be ignored!*



*As for my house and me,
We will never shirk!*

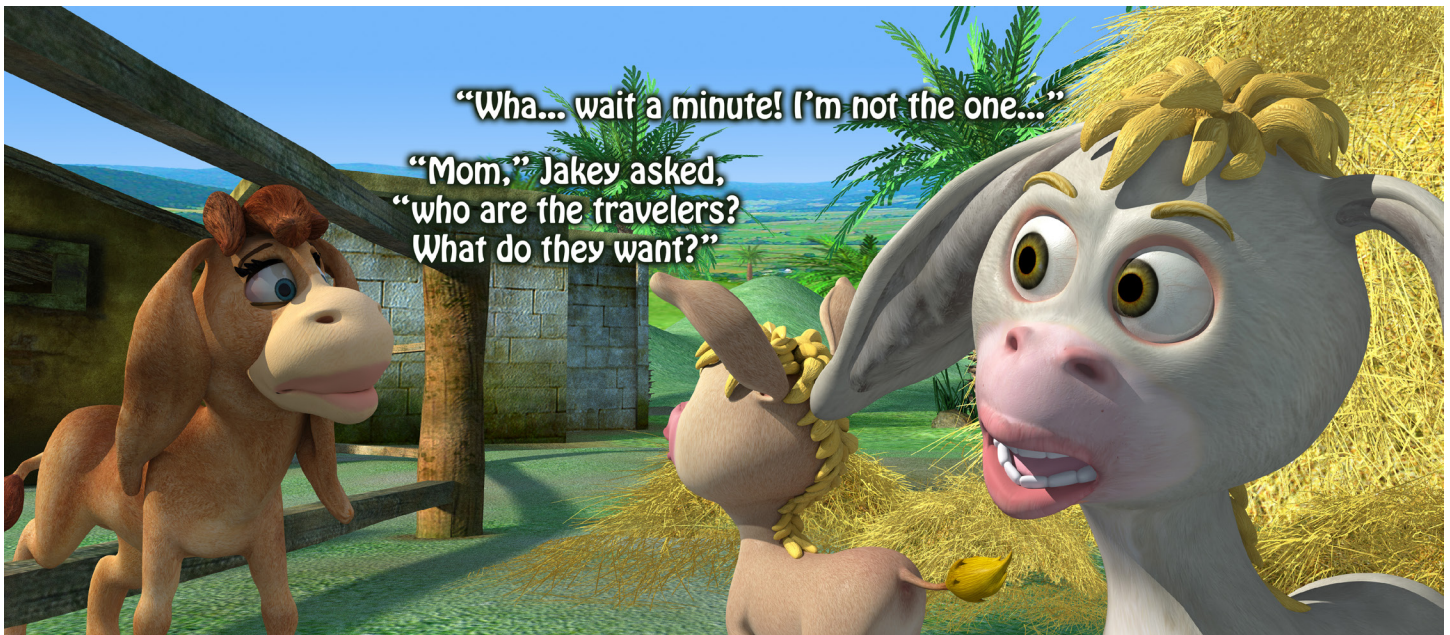
*We will go just where he leads us.
Even if it hurts!"*



"Okay, who made this mess?!"
Ruthie bellowed.

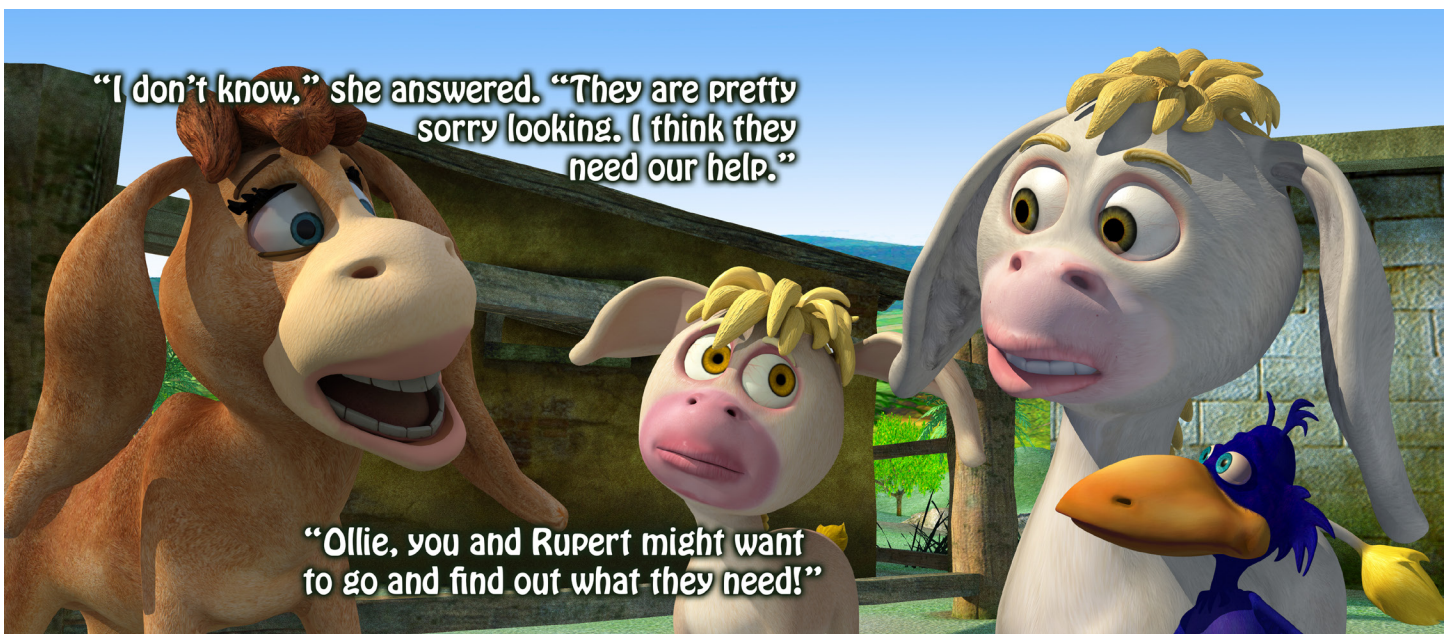
Then she saw Ollie.

"Ollie, what kind of example
are you setting for the kids?"



"Wha... wait a minute! I'm not the one..."

"Mom," Jakey asked,
"who are the travelers?
What do they want?"



"I don't know," she answered. "They are pretty
sorry looking. I think they
need our help."

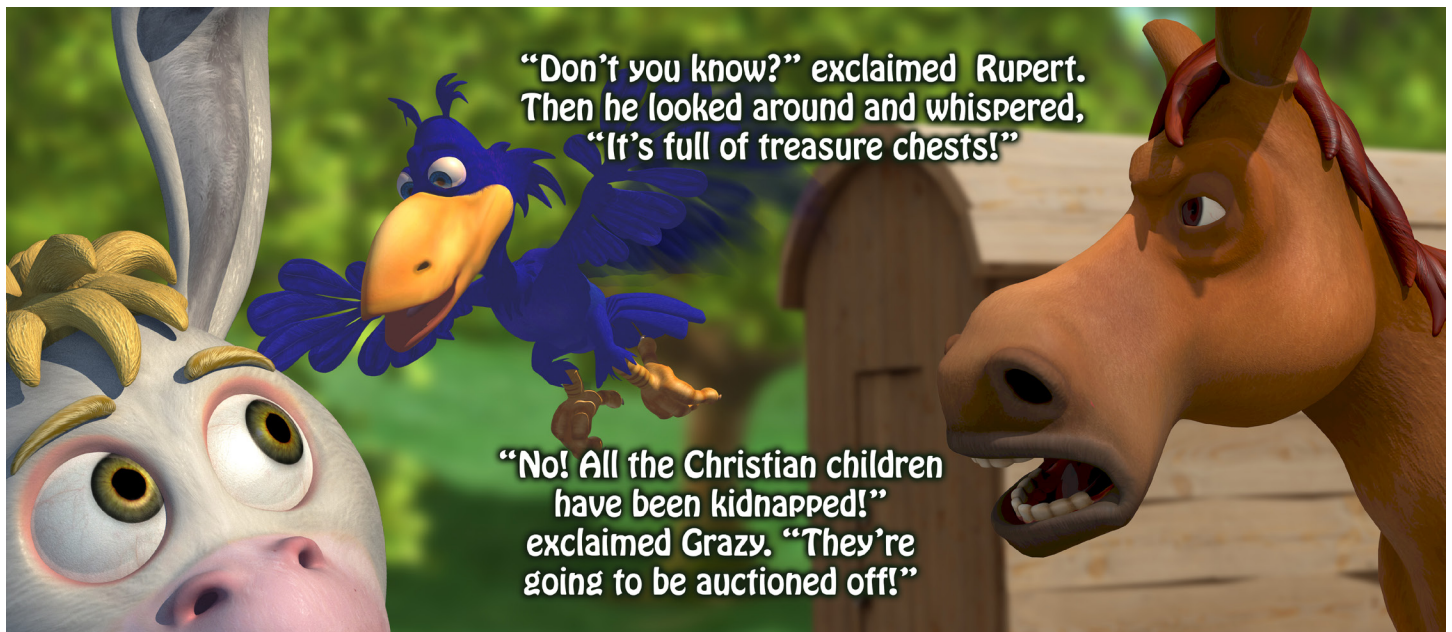
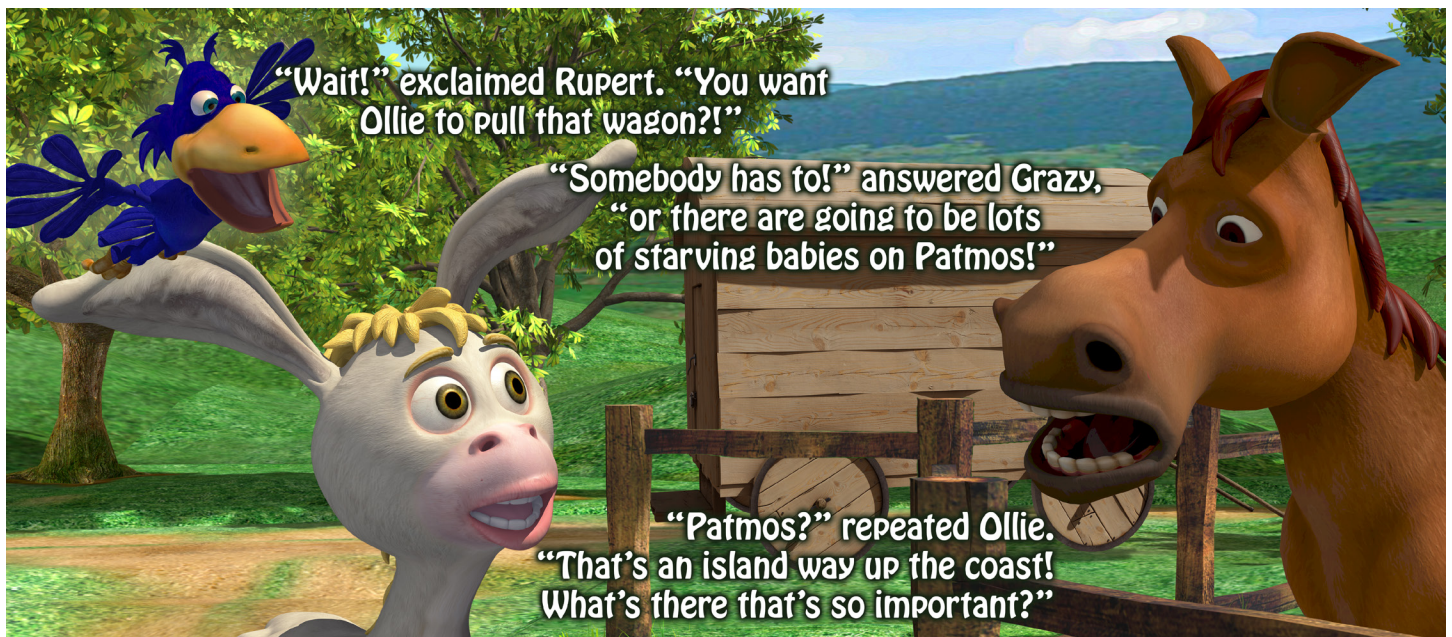
"Ollie, you and Rupert might want
to go and find out what they need!"



As Rupert and Ollie approached Abner's farm,
they saw an old traveling wagon pulled
off to one side.

"You must be Ollie!"
said a worn out horse.
"I'm Grazy. You going
to be taking over
for us?"

"Yeah!" added Hooper.
"We can't pull that
thing another inch!"





Hooper sang!

*"Who ever heard of a donkey
falling off a cliff?
Why, you are so sure-footed
You barely need an inch!"*



Both horses sang together.

*The way ahead is mountainous,
The paths are really high!*

*They are also really narrow,
I'm just afraid we all will die!!*



"So," said Rupert,
"you are asking us...
to go and..."

"I've heard of this Silas!"
stated Ollie. "Isn't he a
friend of Paul?"



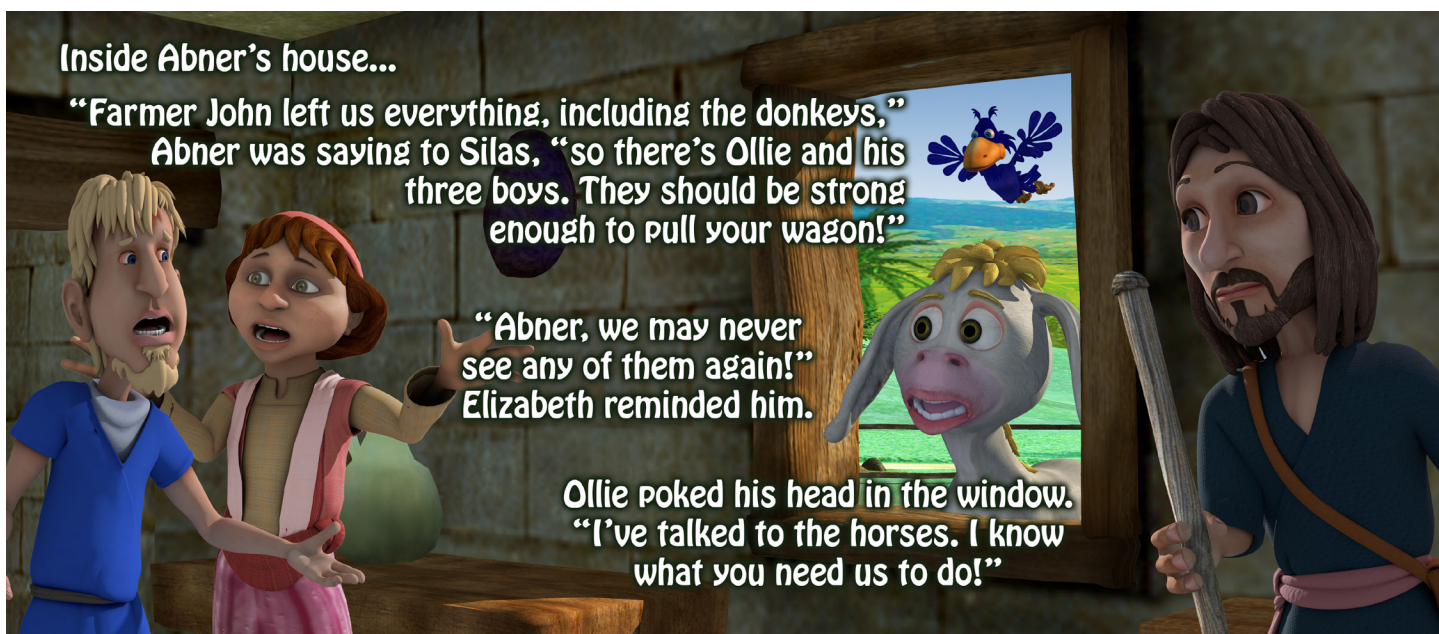
"Let's head up to the house and find out for ourselves," Rupert said. "Meanwhile, you guys better do some serious eating! I can see your ribs!"

Inside Abner's house...

"Farmer John left us everything, including the donkeys," Abner was saying to Silas. "so there's Ollie and his three boys. They should be strong enough to pull your wagon!"

"Abner, we may never see any of them again!" Elizabeth reminded him.

Ollie poked his head in the window. "I've talked to the horses. I know what you need us to do!"

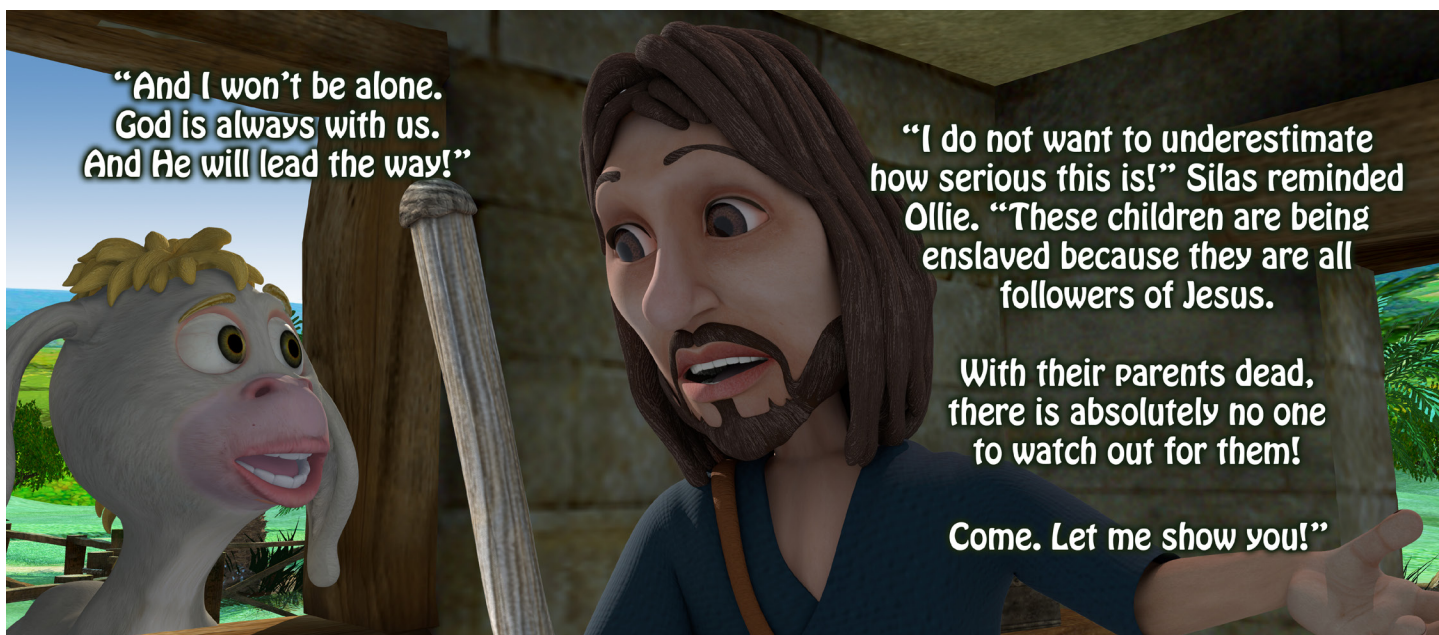


"And I won't be alone. God is always with us. And He will lead the way!"

"I do not want to underestimate how serious this is!" Silas reminded Ollie. "These children are being enslaved because they are all followers of Jesus.

With their parents dead, there is absolutely no one to watch out for them!

Come. Let me show you!"





At the back
of the wagon...

"Look!" Silas exclaimed.
"Treasure chests full of gold!
This is what it will take to
buy those children back from
the evil slave traders!"

"We will get it there!"
vowed Ollie. "Me and
the boys and Ruthie.
We can do it!"



Ollie began to sing!

*We are a family!
When we go, we will go together!
We will serve the Lord.
No one will be any better!*

We will serve the Lord!"



Rupert added...

*Hey! I know I'm not a donkey,
But I've got a good pair of eyes!
When I'm flying high in the air,
There's not much that can sneak by!*





As the small company of rescuers set off...

... they had no idea they were being tracked!



Ever since Silas crossed the Sinai,
a band of cutthroat Nilites were
following his wagon wheel tracks!

The Nilites knew there was something heavy
in that wagon, and they were bound and
determined to find out what it was!

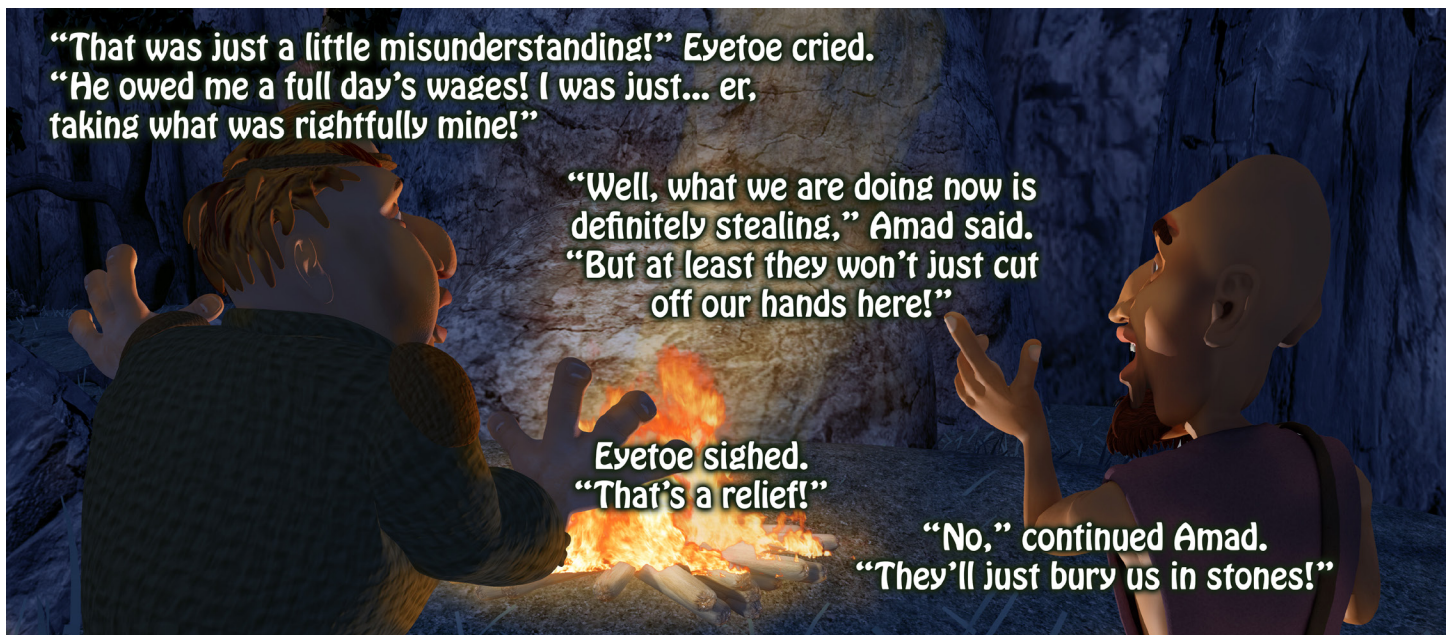


Later that night...

"Don't worry!"
Amad, the
head thief, said.
"We have spies
everywhere!
They won't
stay out of
our reach
forever!"

"You really think we can
surprise them?" asked
Eyeto. "I... I've never
been too good with
surprises!"

"True!" teased Suri.
"If we hadn't rescued
you from Alexandria,
you wouldn't have your
right hand anymore!"

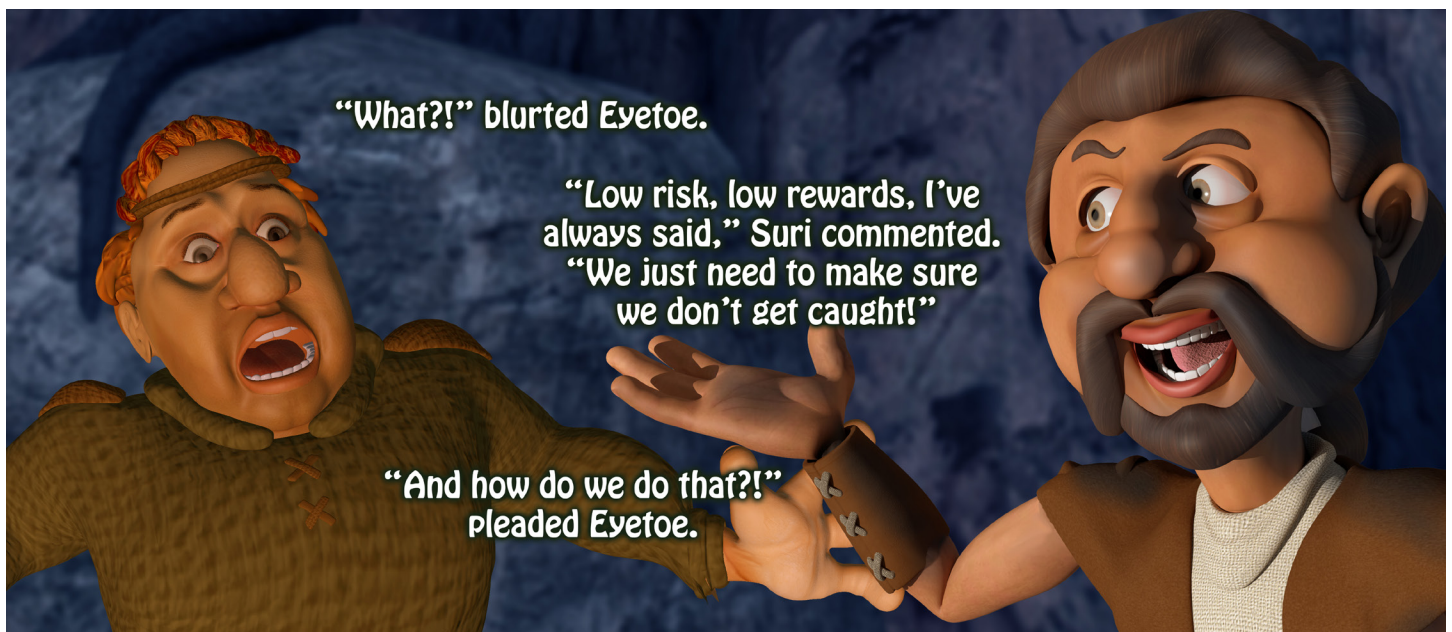


"That was just a little misunderstanding!" Eyetoe cried.
"He owed me a full day's wages! I was just... er,
taking what was rightfully mine!"

"Well, what we are doing now is
definitely stealing," Amad said.
"But at least they won't just cut
off our hands here!"

Eyetoe sighed.
"That's a relief!"

"No," continued Amad.
"They'll just bury us in stones!"



"What?!" blurted Eyetoe.

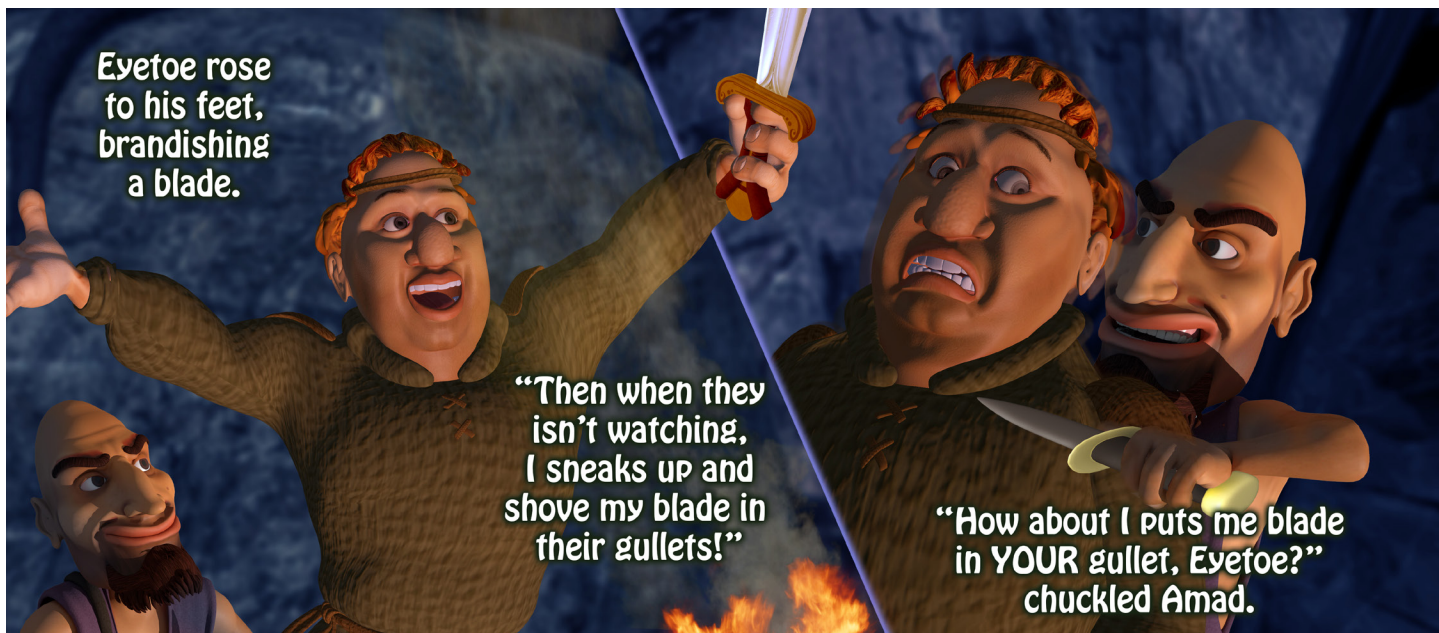
"Low risk, low rewards, I've
always said," Suri commented.
"We just need to make sure
we don't get caught!"

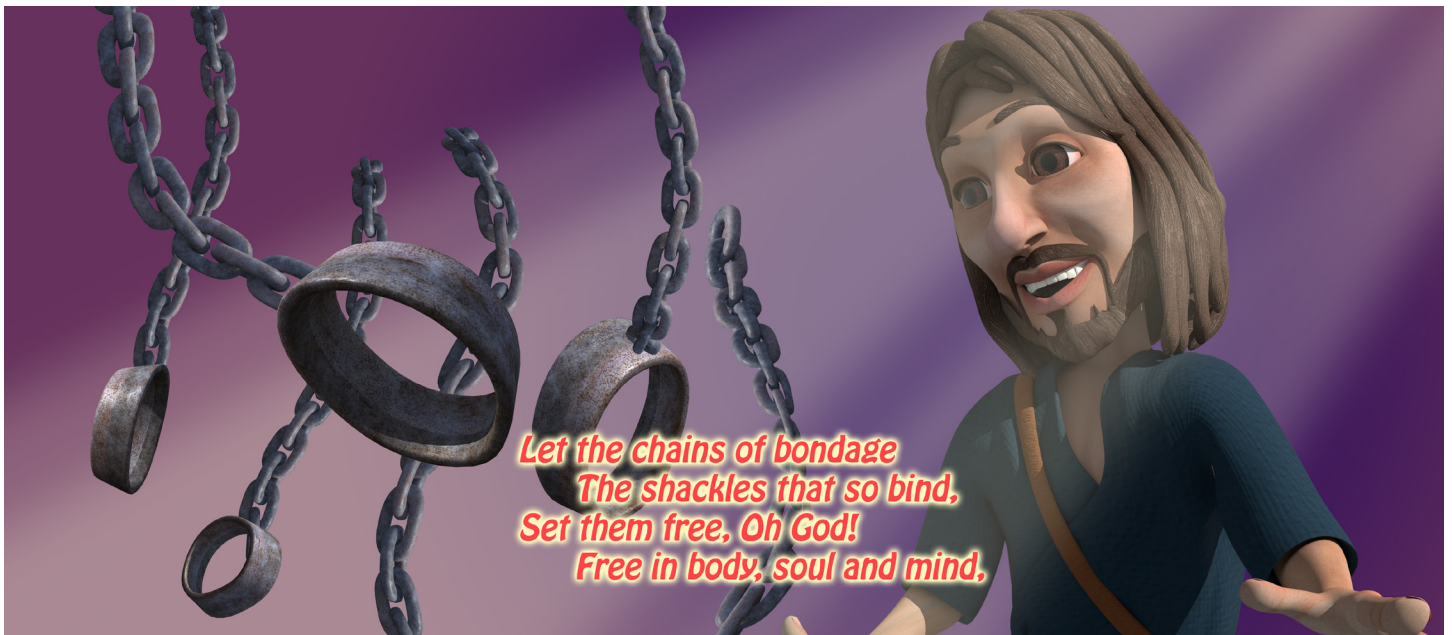
"And how do we do that?!"
pleaded Eyetoe.



"Simple!" Suri continued.

"We just approach
their camp and
ask them if they
knows who this
lamb belongs to.
We wants to make
sure it gets back
to it's mamma!"



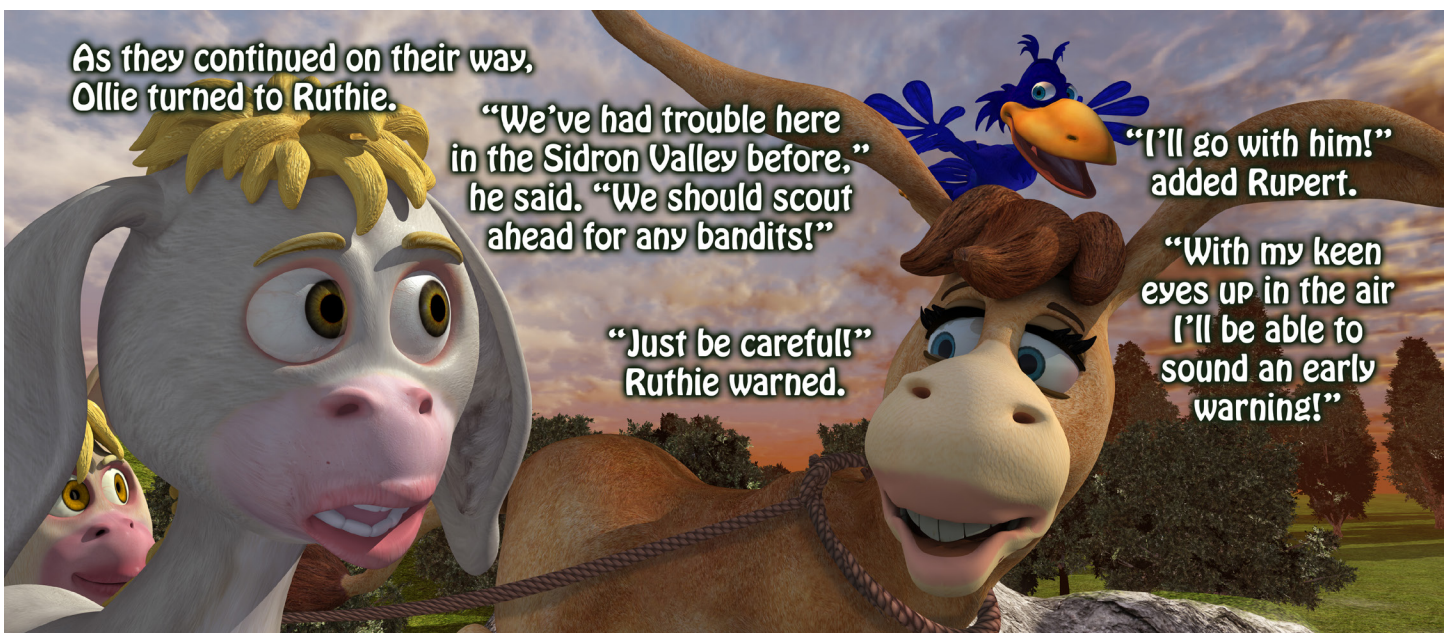


*Let the chains of bondage
The shackles that so bind,
Set them free, Oh God!
Free in body, soul and mind.*



Rupert joined in!

*Set them free, God!
Oh Lord... Set them free!*



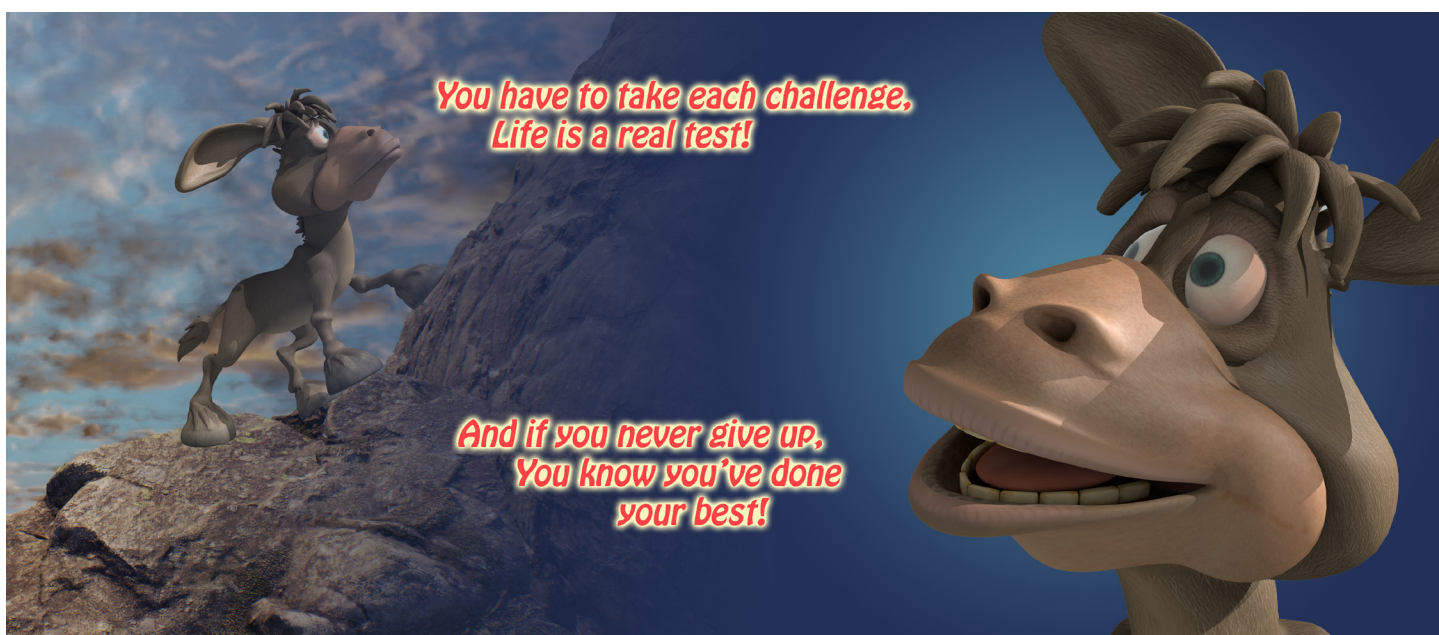
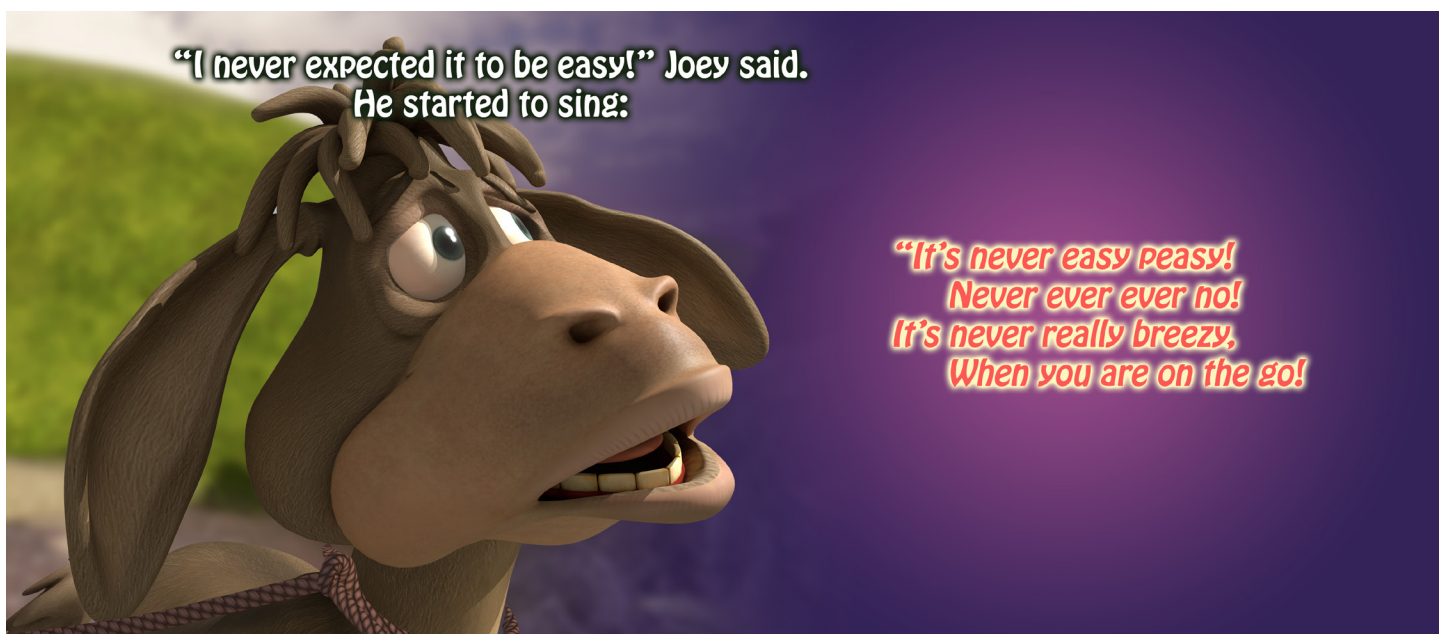
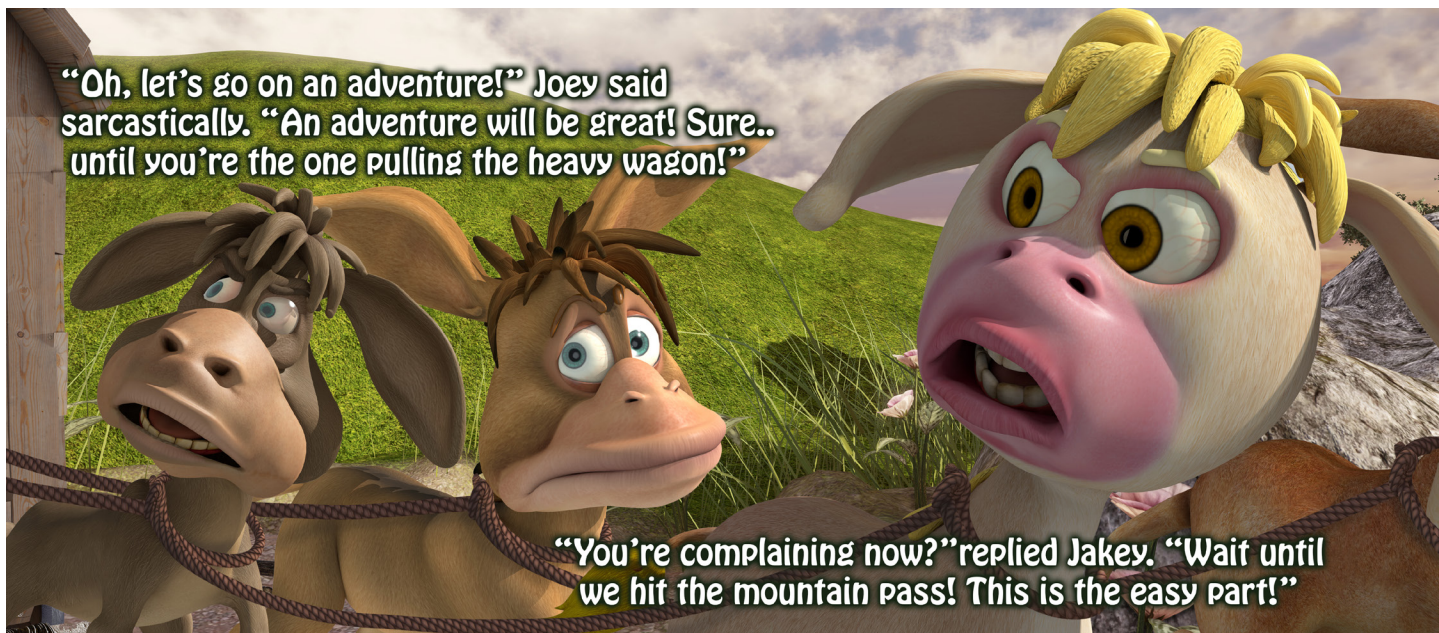
**As they continued on their way,
Ollie turned to Ruthie.**

**"We've had trouble here
in the Sidron Valley before,"
he said. "We should scout
ahead for any bandits!"**

**"Just be careful!"
Ruthie warned.**

**"I'll go with him!"
added Rupert.**

**"With my keen
eyes up in the air
I'll be able to
sound an early
warning!"**





Jakey joined in singing!

*"Yes, it never easy peasy,
Even if it seems
The weather's really breezy,
And you're with your friends."*



*"It's never quite as simple
As walking through a park,
But if you give your all,
God will bless your heart!"*



"So stop your complaining!" he yelled.

"Okay! Okay!" pleaded Joey.
"I'll stop complaining. I am not
going to complain any more.
I'm done complaining!"

"Good!"

"Mom," he asked, "when do we stop to eat?
These ropes hurt, and this heavy load is
making me hungry!"

JOEY!!

everyone yelled back in unison!

That evening, in the mountain pass...

"That's good!" Amad said.
"Cover all those rocks with
branches. They'll never
see this trap until
it's too late!"

Meller the crow flew up.
"They've got a raven
as a scout!"

"Did they see you?"
questioned Amad.

"I don't think so," answered
Meller. "If you just stay hidden
when you spring the trap, the
treasure will be ours!"

"I like that plan!" said Eyetoe.
"But what about the human? Will
he give us much trouble?"

"I don't fight
humans,"
replied Meller.
"That's your
job!"

"I only pick their bones when
they're dead! Just stay low
in case that pesky raven
comes snooping around!"

That night, while everyone in the camp was sleeping...

"Ollie!" came a voice to his sleeping ear.

"Uh... Yeah?" he replied dreamily.

"Ollie, you have to turn around!"

The angel touched Ollie.
"Turn around... NOW!"

"What?!" cried Ollie.

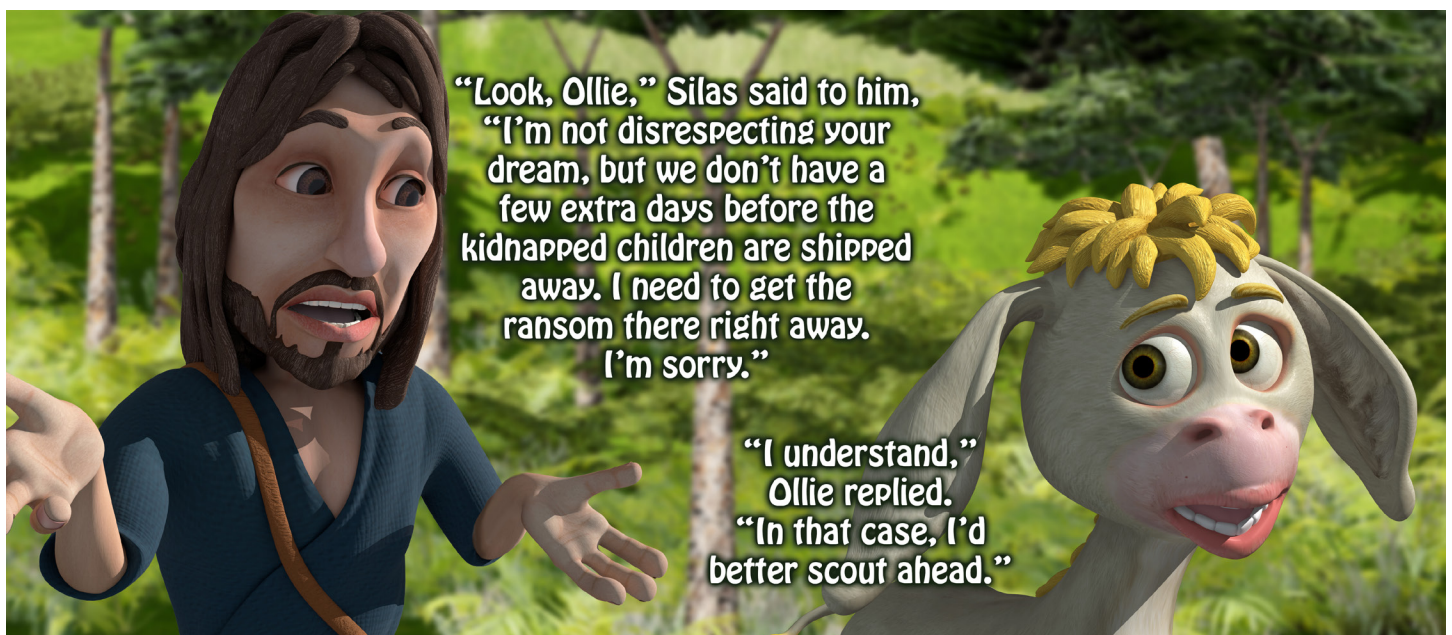
"What?!" cried Ruthie, waking up abruptly.

The angel disappeared in a flash!

"Ollie!" Ruthie yelled.
"You woke me up! What's going on?"

"I... I guess I was having a bad dream," Ollie said, yawning.
"An angel was telling me to turn around..."

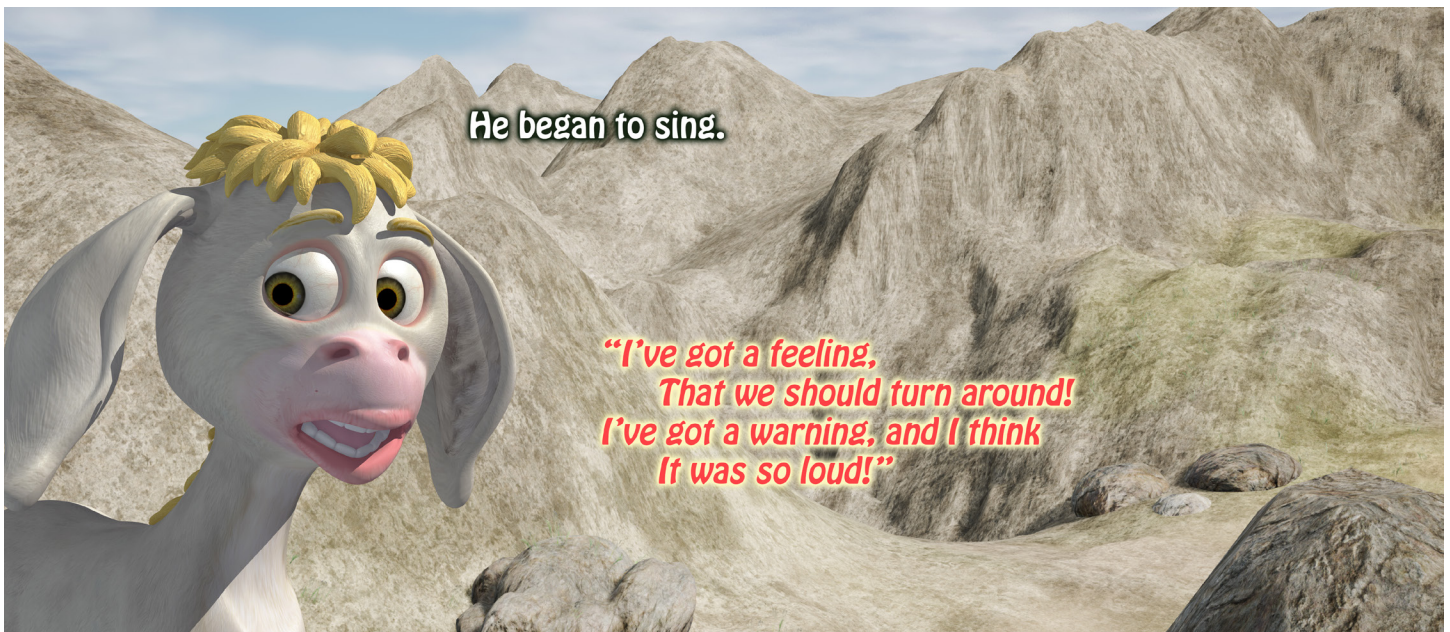






Ollie started up the narrow mountain pass alone.

"I still have a feeling we should turn around," Ollie said to himself.



He began to sing.

*"I've got a feeling,
That we should turn around!
I've got a warning, and I think
It was so loud!"*



*Sometimes we need to listen
To the voices, to the dreams.*

*Sometimes we need to just believe
Things are not as simple as they seem!*





He picked himself up off the ground.
“So, what are you doing around here
all by yourself? Aren’t you afraid of
the wolves?”

“I’d be stupid not to
have a healthy respect
for their killing prowess,”
Ollie stated. “But no, I am not
afraid of them. I can generally
sense them miles away.”



“There’s that old dead mountain
goat back there,” warned Meller.
“After they killed it they didn’t
leave much for
the pickings!”

“You just scavenge
for dead things?”
asked Ollie.



Meller sang.

*Why not eat the dead?
They’re not moving anyway!
Why not eat the dead?
They just get in the way!*



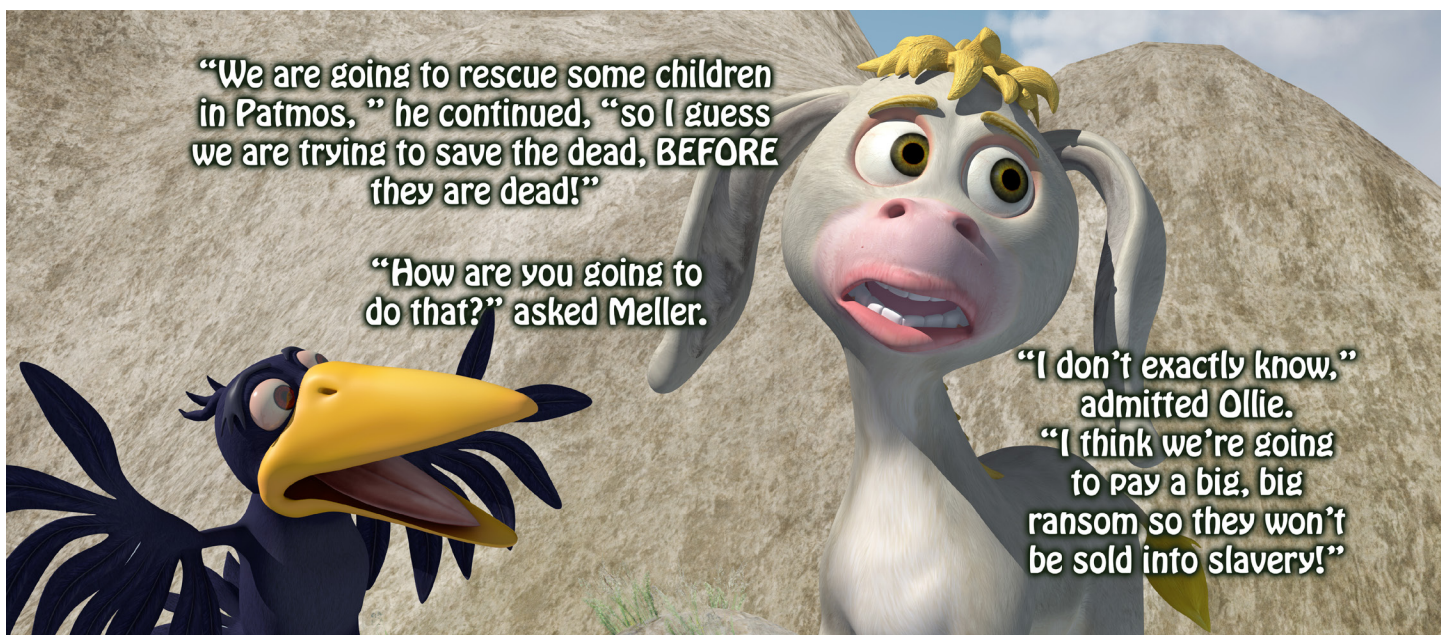
*I'm not saying I'm insensitive,
I'm not saying I don't care!
Why not eat the dead,
When they're just lying there!*



*Why not eat the dead,
If you can stand the smell?*

*Why not eat the dead?
Who will be around to tell?*

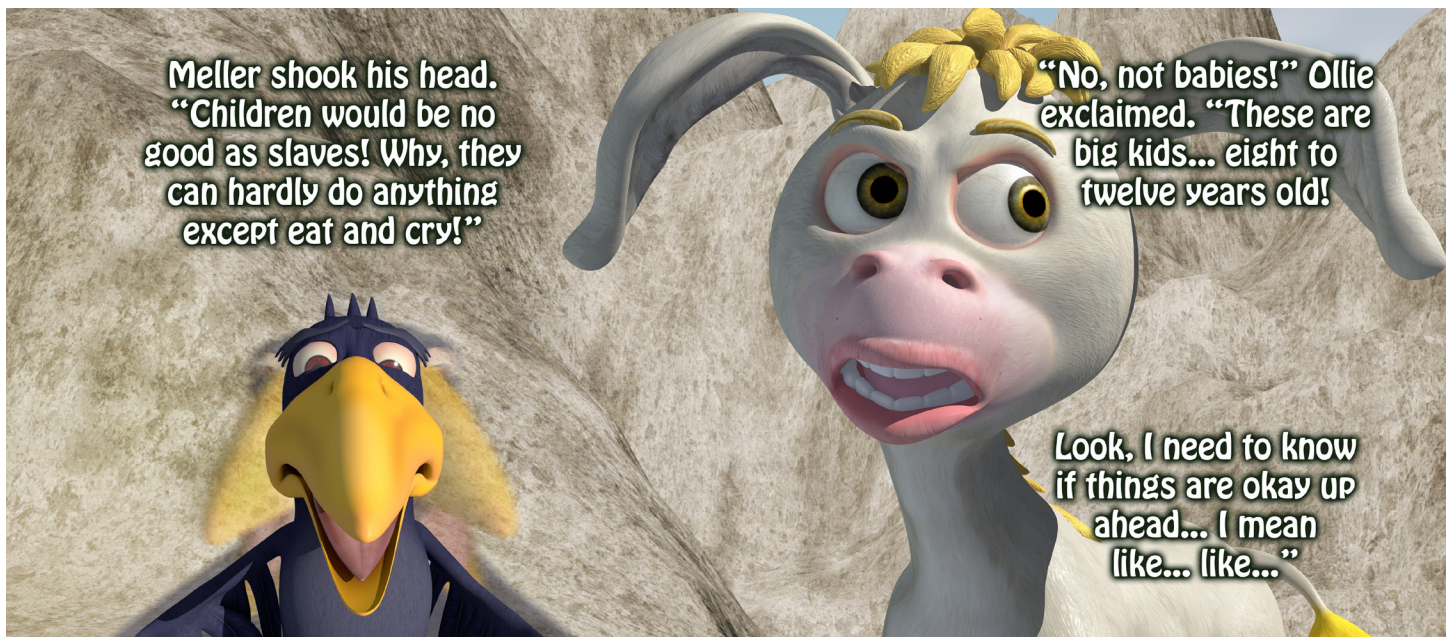
Ollie scowled. "Jesus said, 'let the dead bury the dead'. He said nothing about eating them!"



"We are going to rescue some children in Patmos," he continued, "so I guess we are trying to save the dead, BEFORE they are dead!"

"How are you going to do that?" asked Meller.

"I don't exactly know," admitted Ollie. "I think we're going to pay a big, big ransom so they won't be sold into slavery!"



"You're from the Nile delta, right?" observed Rupert. "What are you doing all the way up here?"

"Maybe I just got tired of sleeping with one eye open, waiting to be eaten by a crocodile!" replied Meller.

Rupert wasn't sure about this Meller. He turned to Ollie. "Come on Ollie," he urged. "Let's get going!"

"Ow!" Ollie replied.

Meller watched both of them go back down the path.

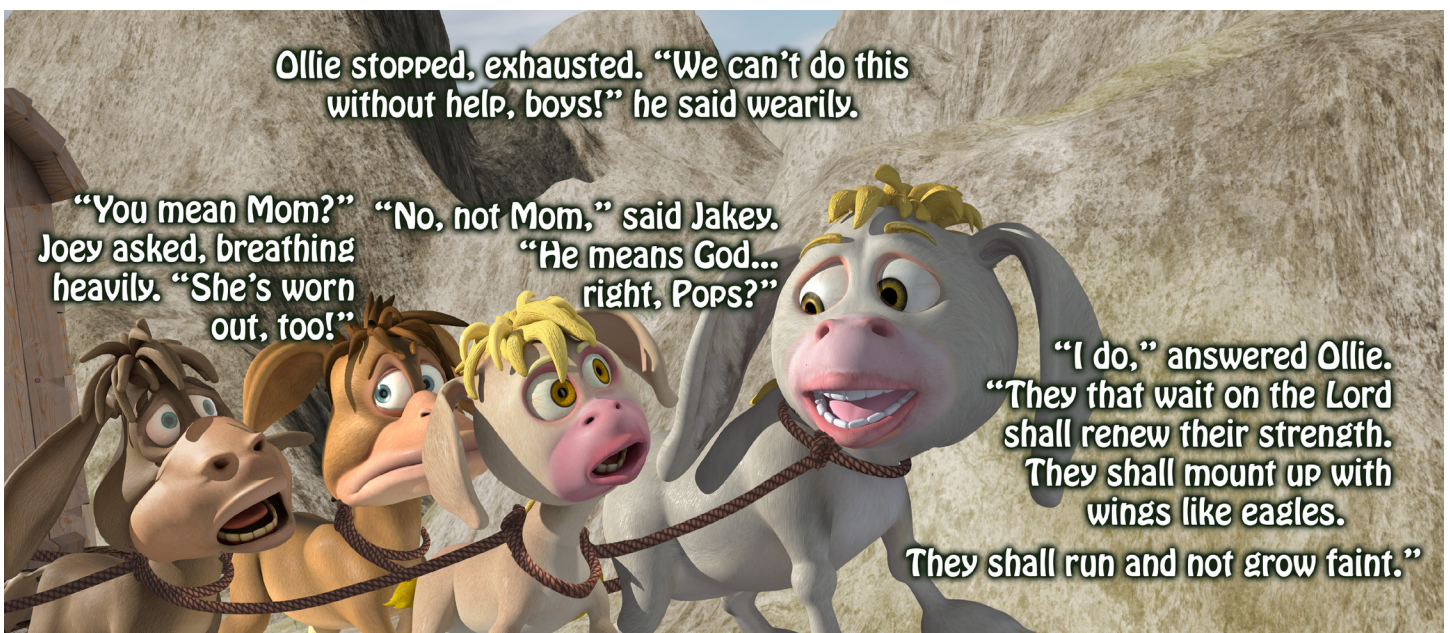
Then he took off... in the other direction, to the bandits' camp.

"... then I sent them on their way before they saw the trap!" Meller explained.

"Lucky for you I'm good at my job!"

"Good!" said Amad. "Glad you did! We'll let you pick through their dead bones when we're done with them!"









Up above, Meller saw the wagon nearing the position.

*When we're weary,
when we're worn out,
When we feel
we've nothing left,*

*Come upon us with your glory!
Let us enter in your rest!*

He signaled to the thieves.



Eyetoe pulled the cord!

The rocks began to tumble down!

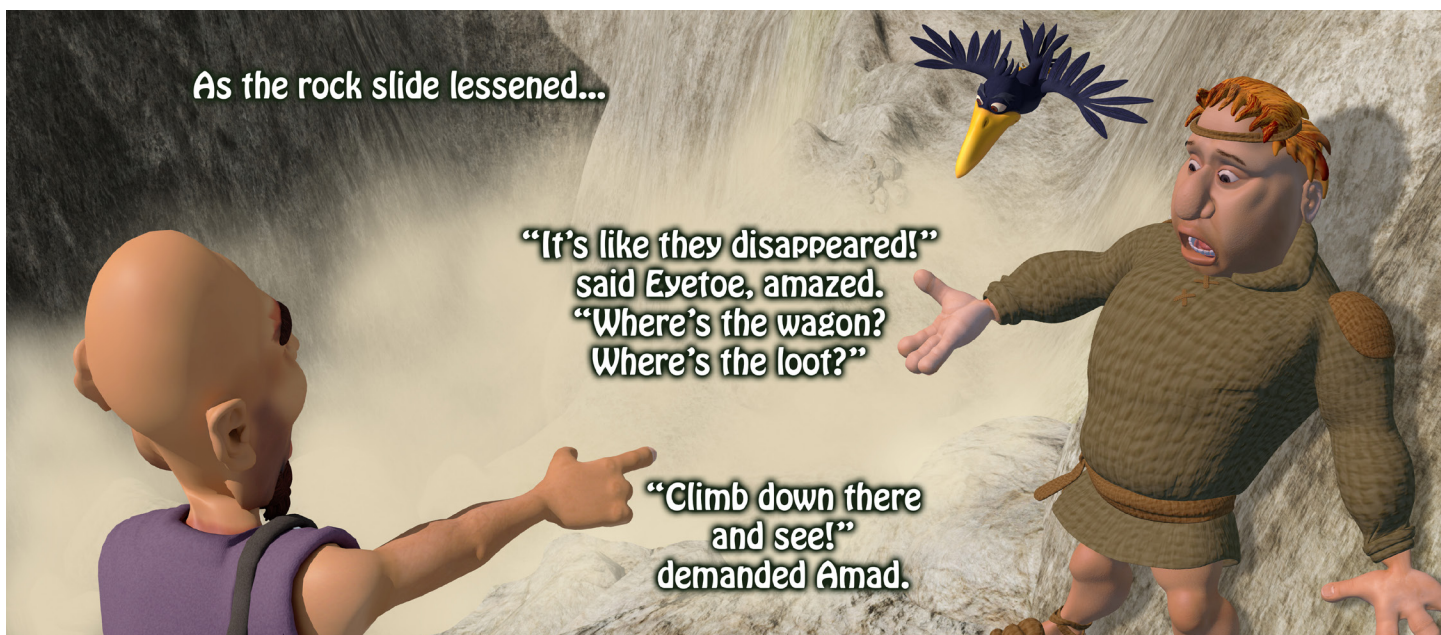


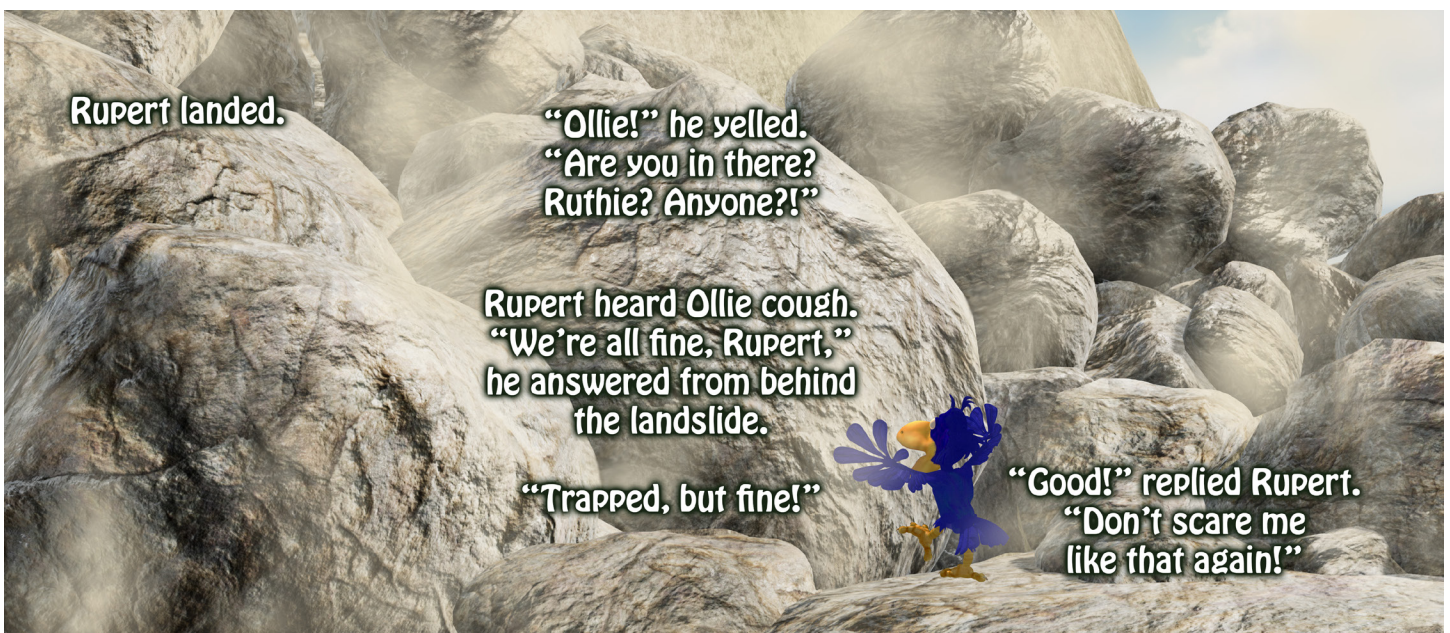
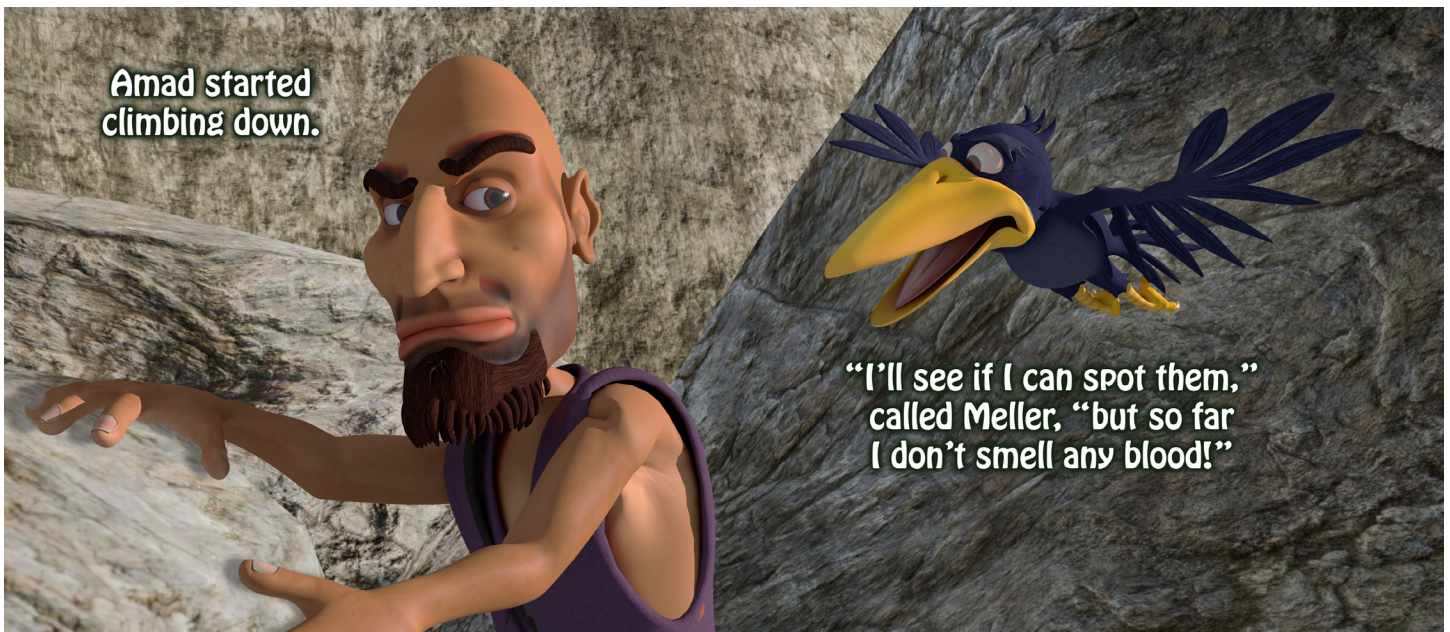
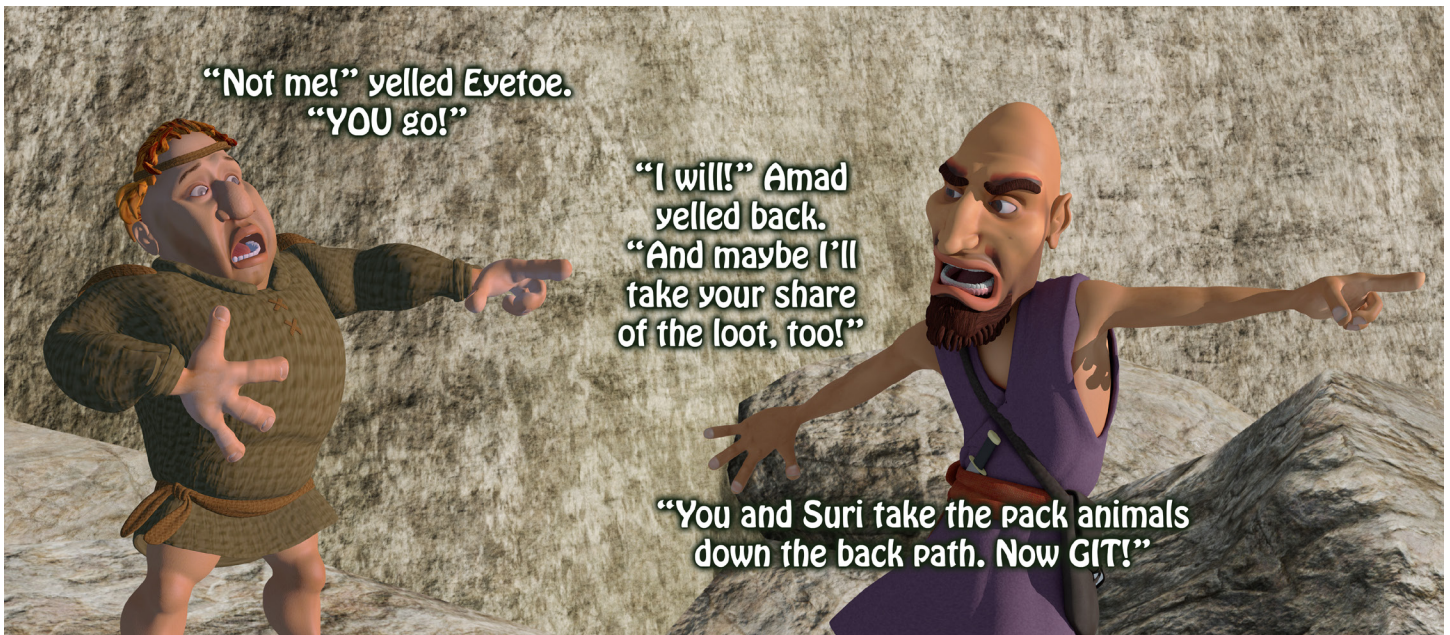
Rupert heard something.
He looked up.

"Landslide!" he bellowed.
"Everyone take cover!"



Then there was nothing!







A rock tumbled off the pile and Silas's head popped out!

"Wow!" said Silas. "That rock outcropping sure saved us! Who knows what would have happened if Ollie hadn't seen it in time!"

"Can you get free?" asked Rupert.

"I think so," answered Silas.




"Hmm. Looks like something unfortunate has befallen your friends!" Meller commented.

Then he peered at Meller.

"Wait a minute! Seems to me like you knew what was coming!" he accused.

"Could have been worse," Rupert replied.

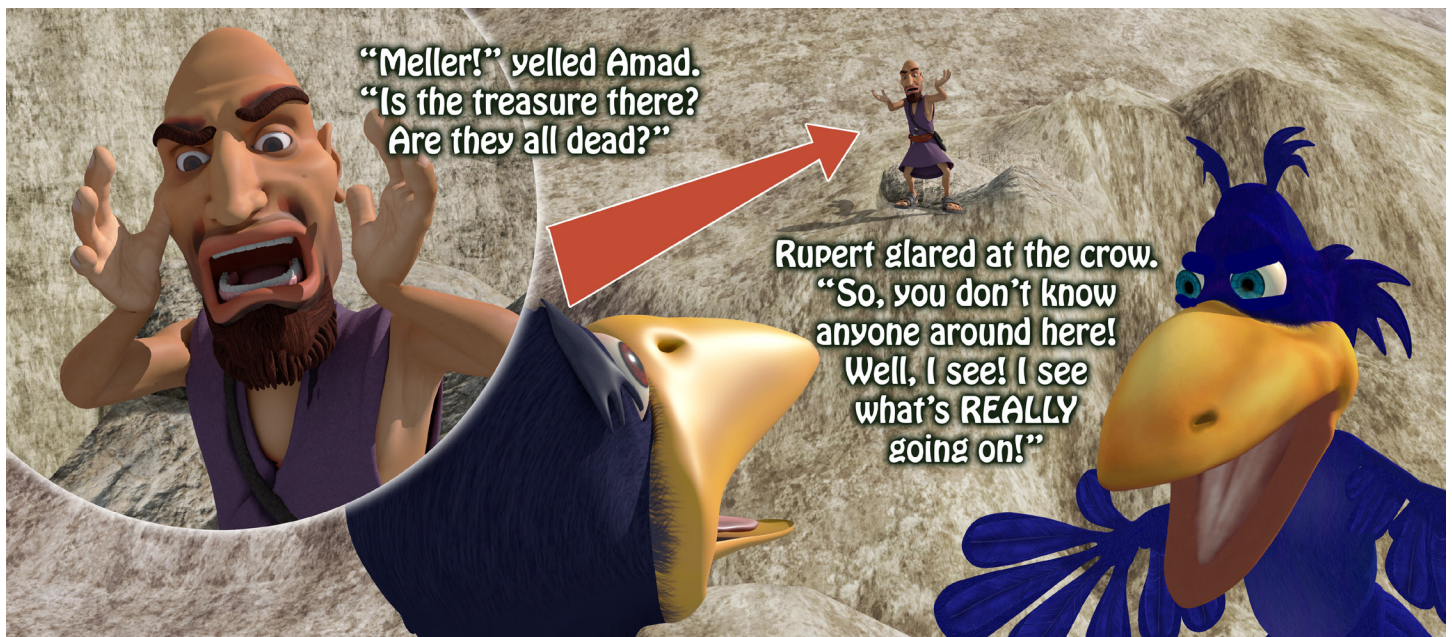


"I am not going to dignify that with a response!" Meller snapped back!

"Who is THAT?!" Rupert exclaimed.

"Don't know anyone around here!" Meller lied.

"Meller!" came a loud yell.



"Meller!" yelled Amad.
"Is the treasure there?
Are they all dead?"

Rupert glared at the crow.
"So, you don't know
anyone around here!
Well, I see! I see
what's REALLY
going on!"



Rupert began to sing.

*Not everyone is as he seems,
We can lose hope, we can lose dreams!*

*It seems we have just been attacked!
Why don't you just, just move back!*

They fought!



Meller broke away, and
picked up the song!

*First I get the eyeballs!
Then they cannot see!*

*Then I pick apart their hair,
Till there is misery!*

He dove at Silas!



He dove again!

*Eventually they give up,
growing very weak!*

*Then I finish them off!
A crow has got to eat!*

Silas threw a rock at Meller,
but the crow dodged it!



Amad got
closer!

"Watch out, Silas!"
warned Rupert.

"It's a heist!!"



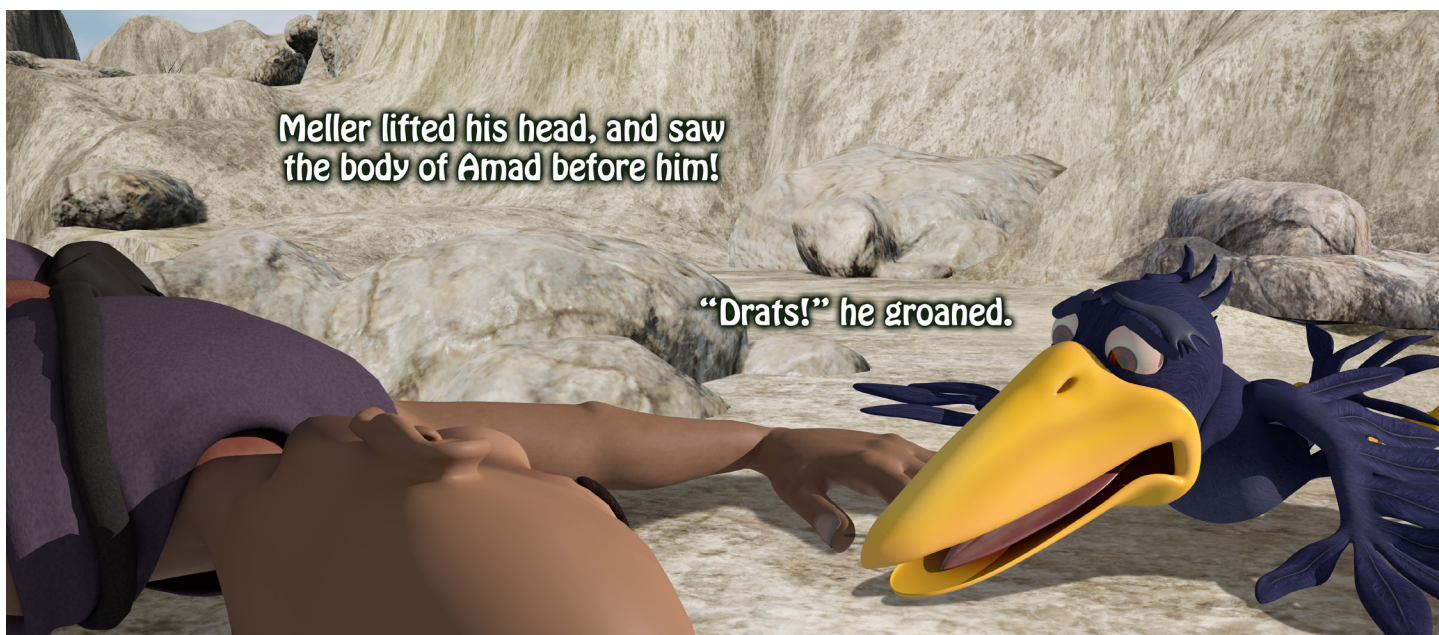
Rupert dove down...

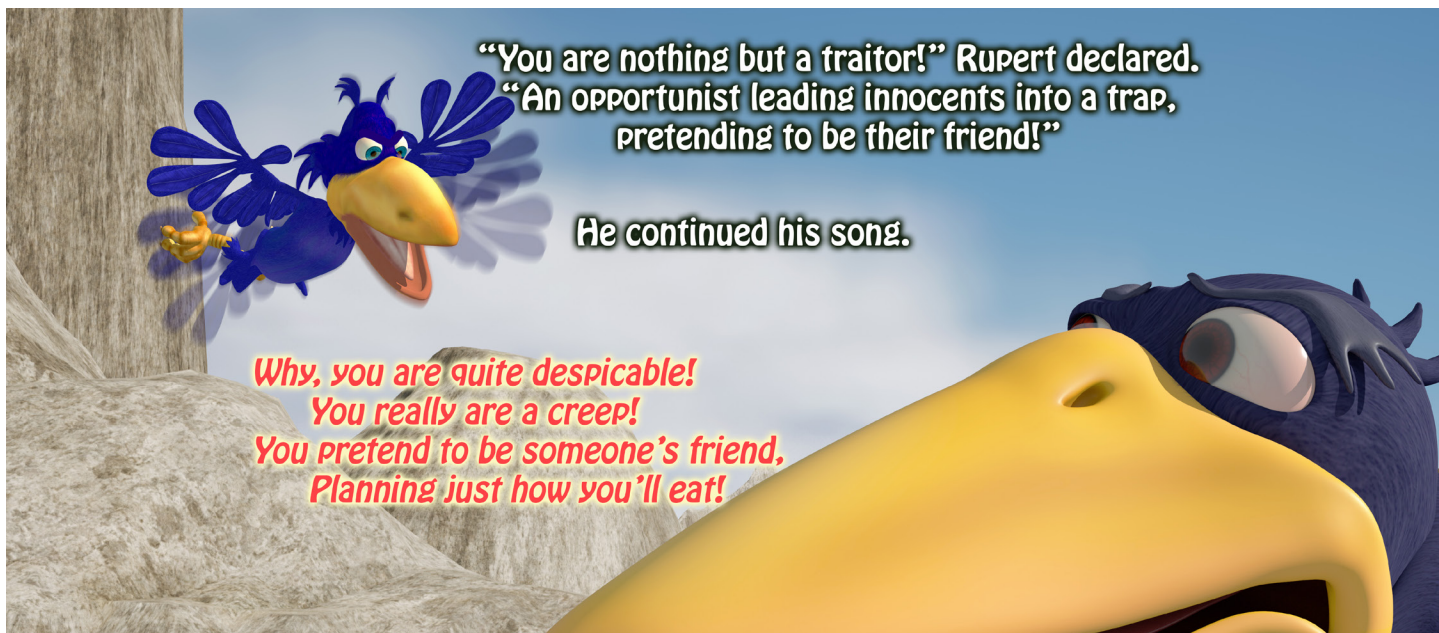
"Get away, you stupid bird!"
Amad growled, drawing
his sword.

...and pecked at
Amad's hand!

"Oh, you picked
the wrong group
to rob, mister!"
Rupert shouted back.







*You can take just what you want,
You can pretend to be alright,
But power is always on
The side of those who do right!*



*So tuck your feathers between your feet,
Go on in your deceit,*



*Your judgement time is coming up,
And Meller, you're a creep!*

Silas had moved enough rocks so Ruthie and the boys could struggle out.

Ollie poked his head out at last.

"We'll need to carry the ransom and the supplies," he said.
"This wagon is destroyed!"





Ruthie looked up.

"That rock ledge saved us all! And Ollie led us there!"

Ollie and Silas brought out some of the treasure.

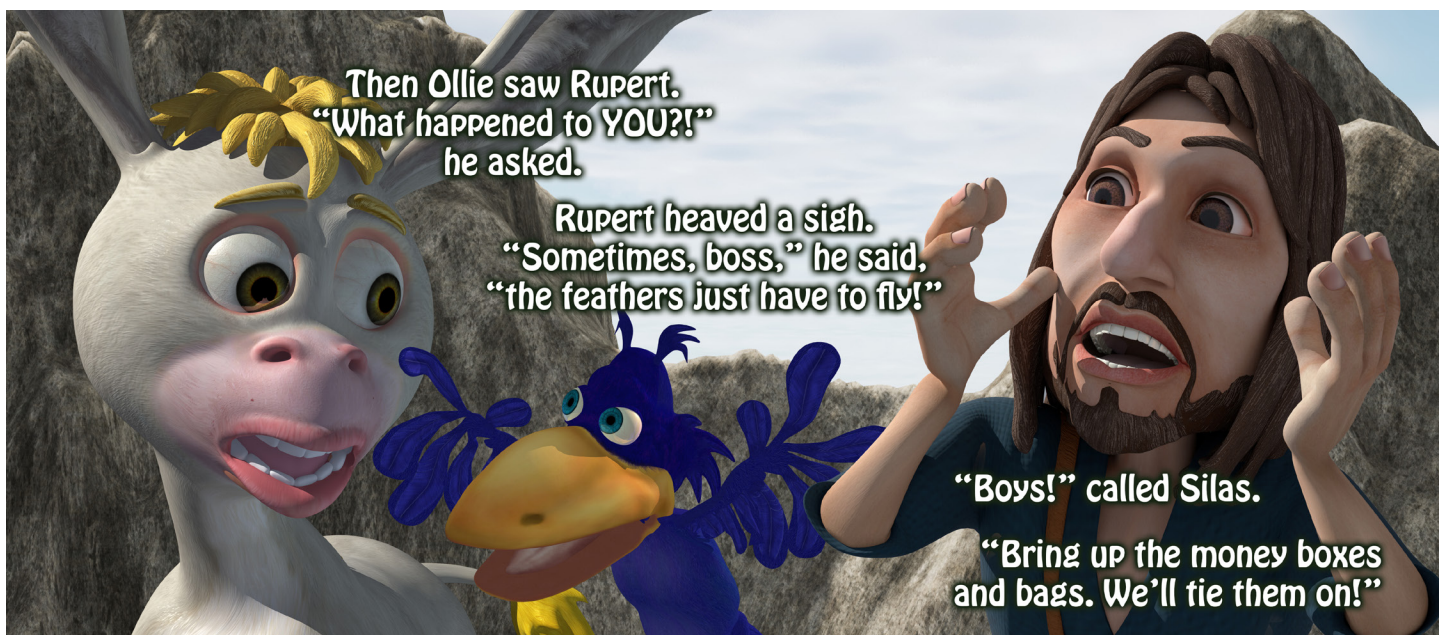
"I didn't know about the ledge," Ollie said.
"God led me to it."



"That was a bonafide miracle!" Joey exclaimed.
"The first I've ever seen! Any one of these rocks could have killed us, but not one of them touched us!"

"Wow...!" Jakey murmured.

"Can someone help me with all these money satchels?" Ollie asked.

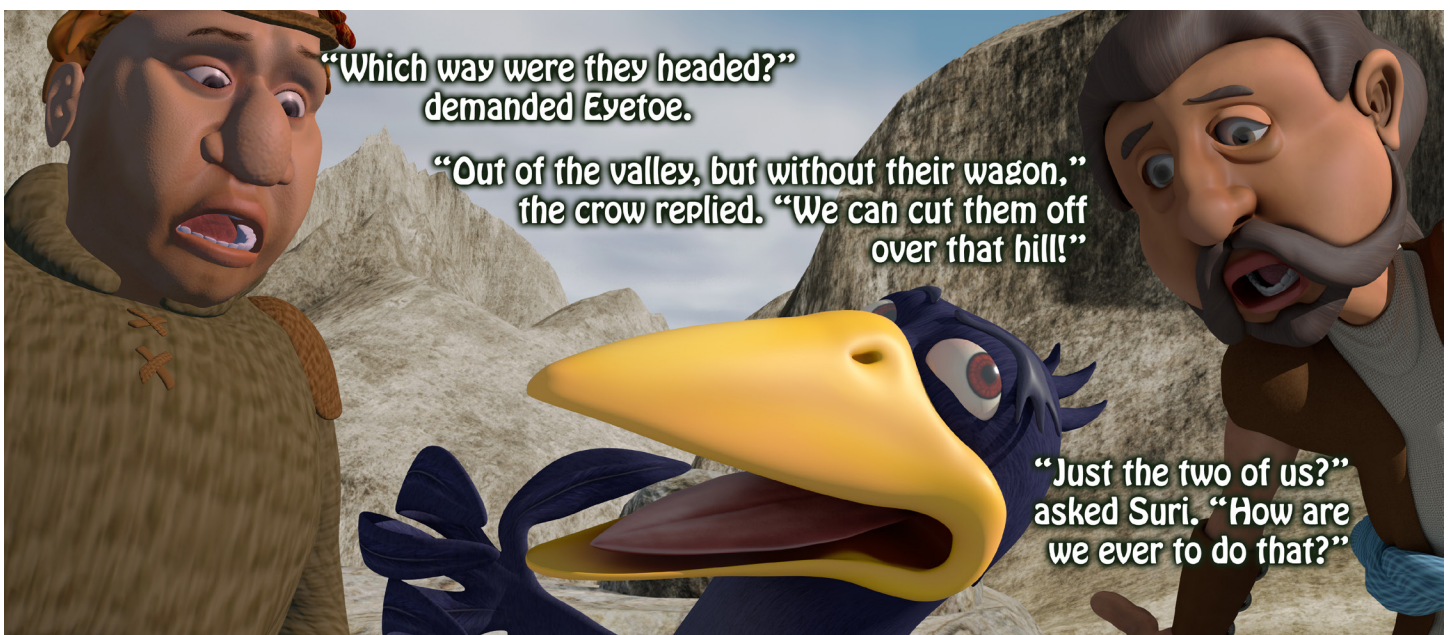
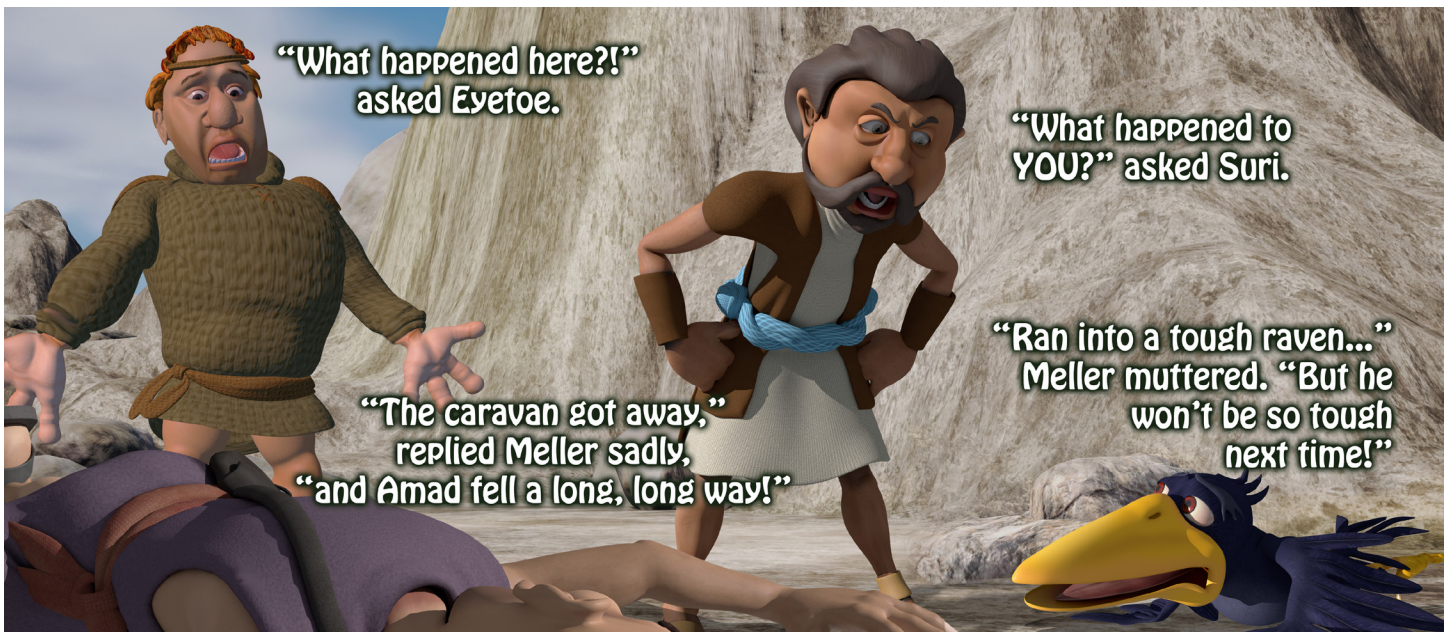
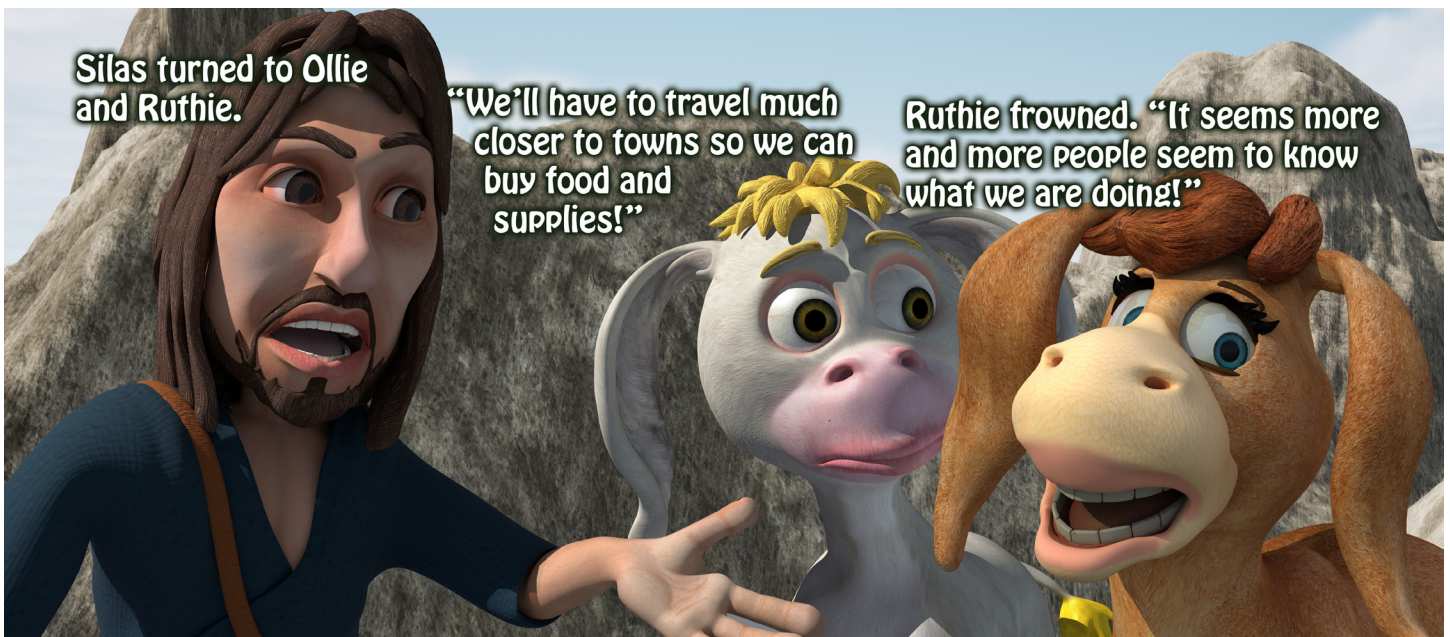


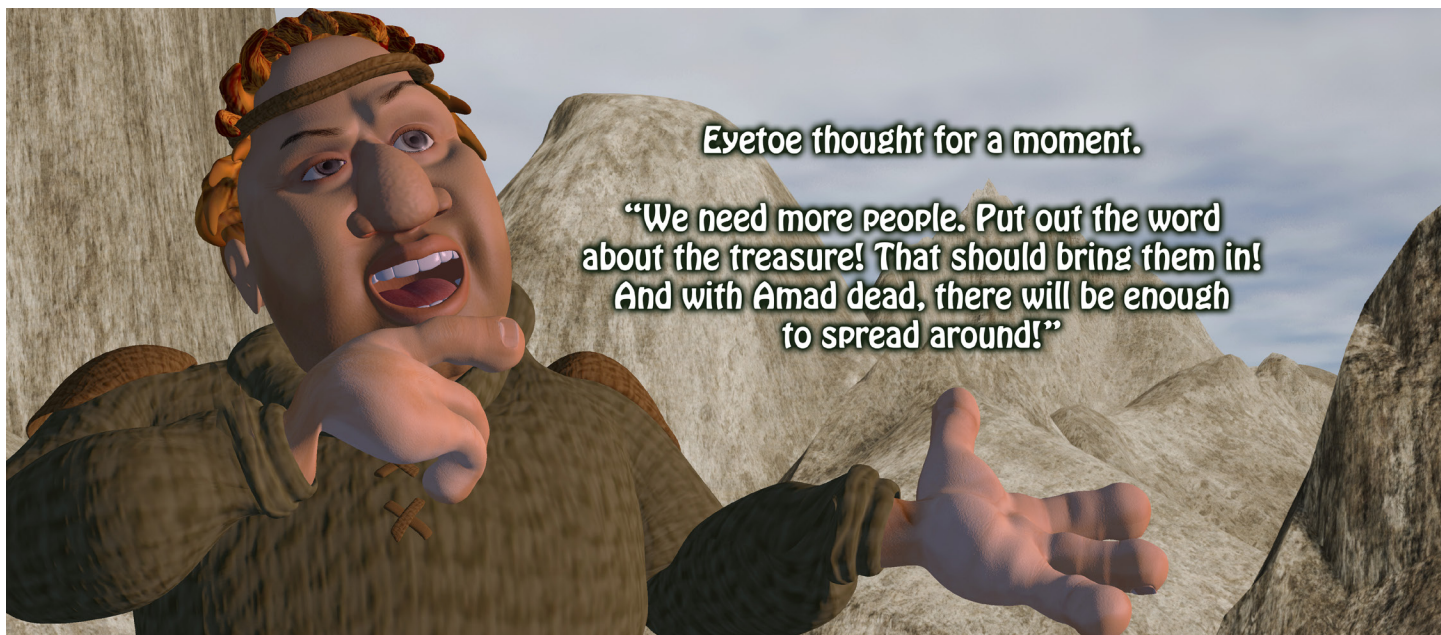
Then Ollie saw Rupert.
"What happened to YOU?!" he asked.

Rupert heaved a sigh.
"Sometimes, boss," he said,
"the feathers just have to fly!"

"Boys!" called Silas.

"Bring up the money boxes and bags. We'll tie them on!"





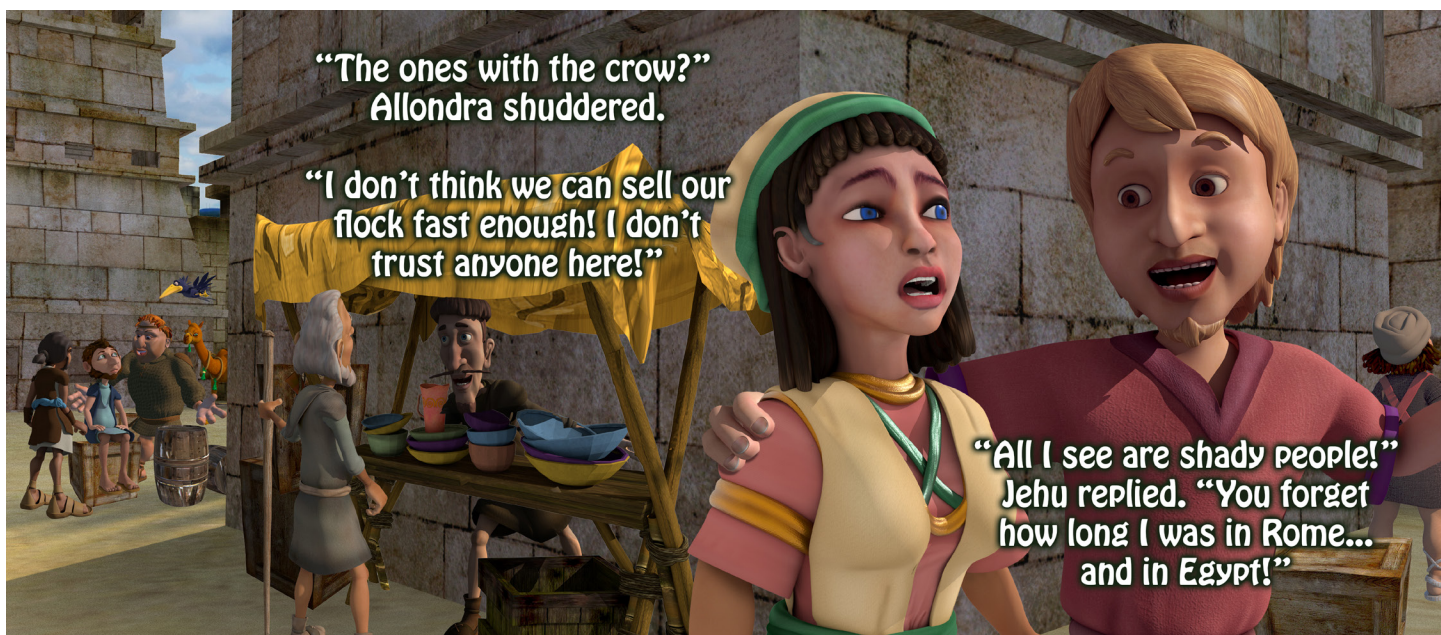
Eyetoe thought for a moment.

"We need more people. Put out the word about the treasure! That should bring them in! And with Amad dead, there will be enough to spread around!"



The next village was Bethlehem.

"Did you see those two shady-looking characters back there?" Allondra asked Jehu.

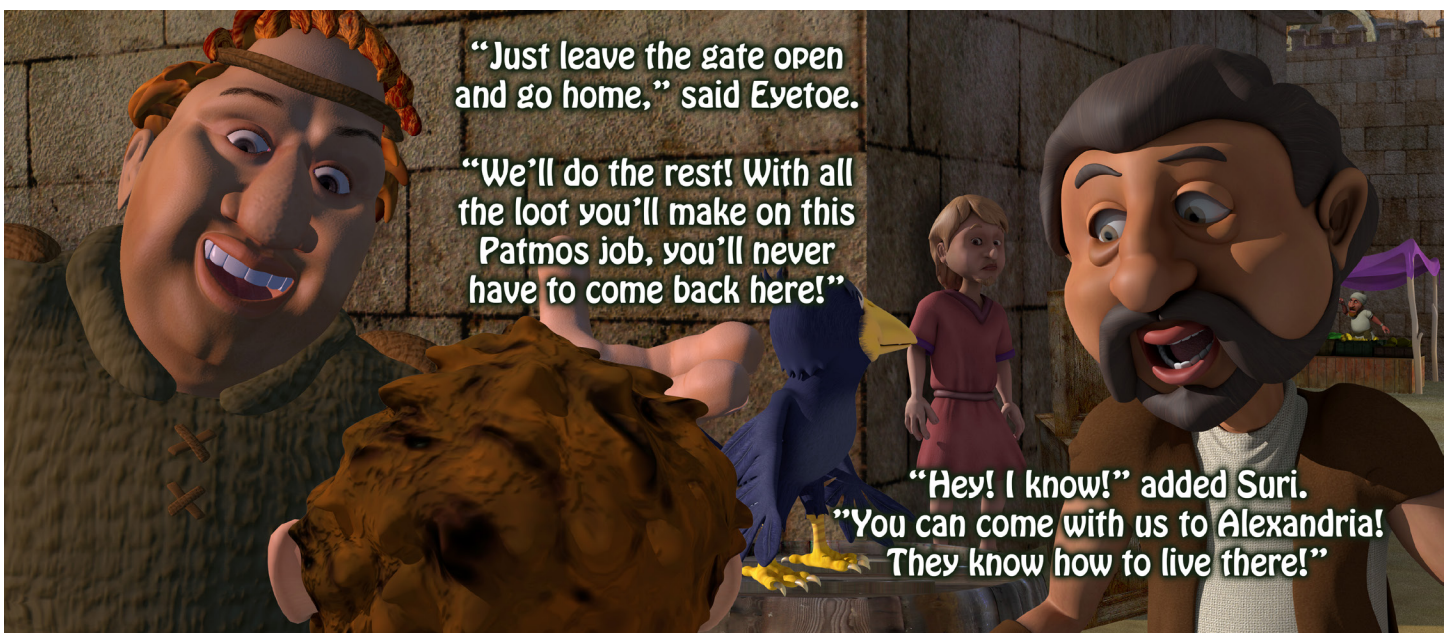


"The ones with the crow?" Allondra shuddered.

"I don't think we can sell our flock fast enough! I don't trust anyone here!"

"All I see are shady people!" Jehu replied. "You forget how long I was in Rome... and in Egypt!"



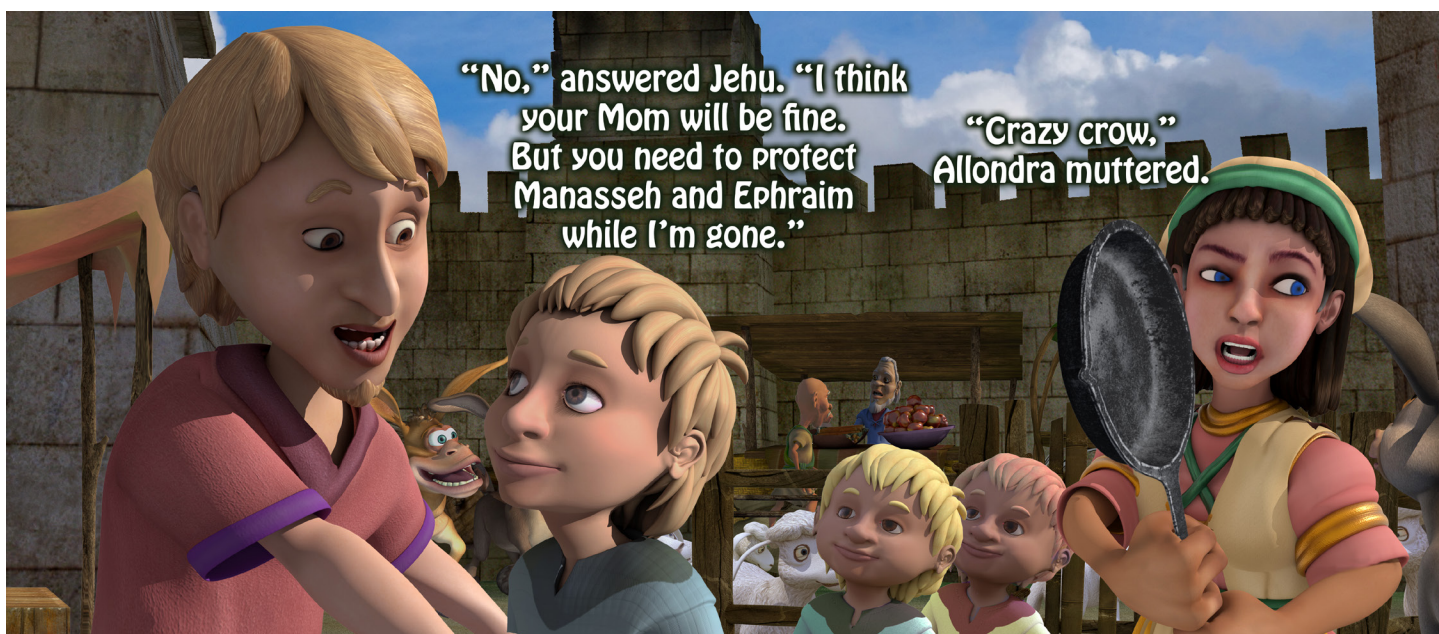






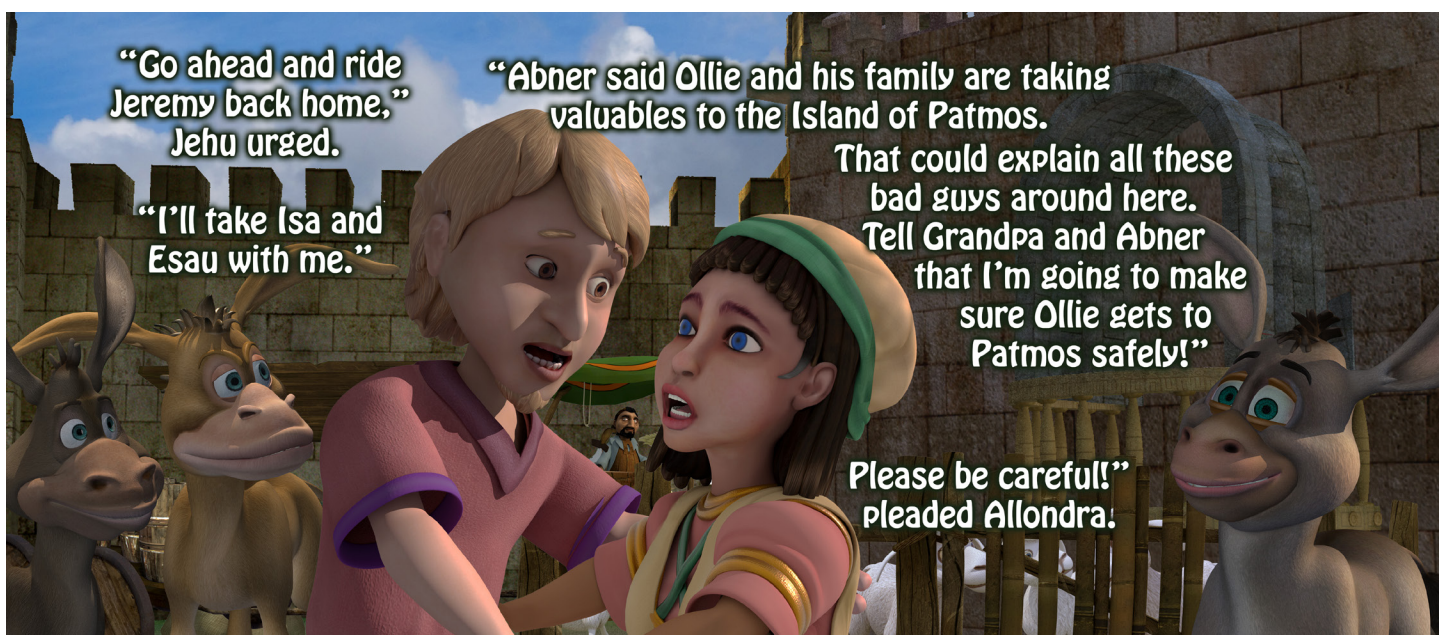
Meller was furious!
He flew right at Izzy!

But Allondra got
there first!



"No," answered Jehu. "I think
your Mom will be fine.
But you need to protect
Manasseh and Ephraim
while I'm gone."

"Crazy crow,"
Allondra muttered.



"Go ahead and ride
Jeremy back home,"
Jehu urged.

"I'll take Isa and
Esau with me."

"Abner said Ollie and his family are taking
valuables to the Island of Patmos.

That could explain all these
bad guys around here.
Tell Grandpa and Abner
that I'm going to make
sure Ollie gets to
Patmos safely!"

Please be careful!"
pleaded Allondra.



Jehu watched the thieves as they left the city.

And an angry crow watched him...



Meanwhile, at the prison camp on the island of Patmos...

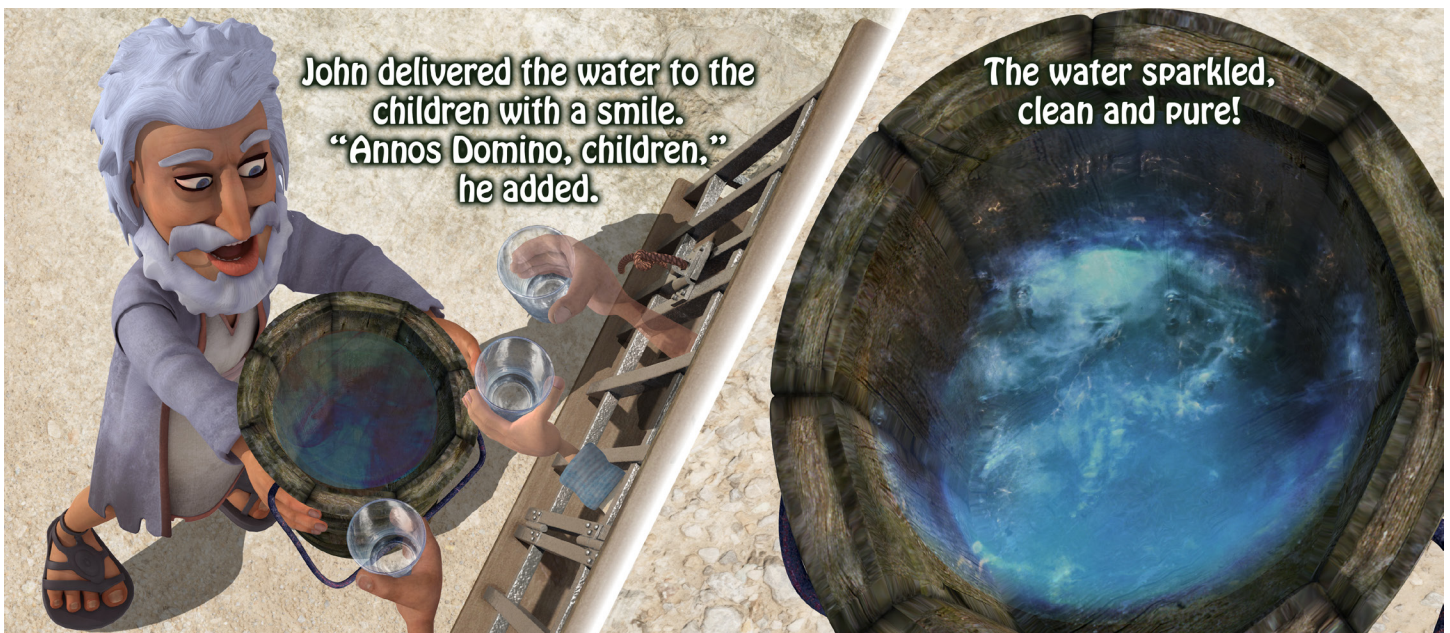
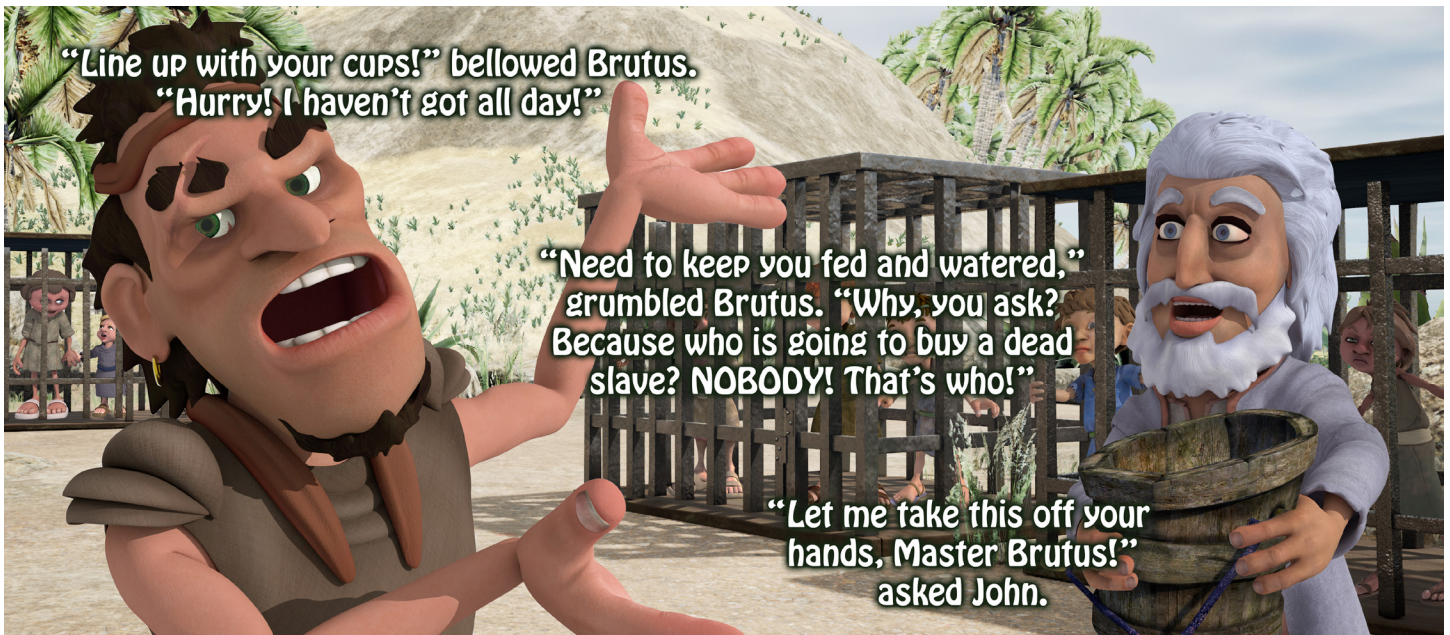
"Stick ye hands out and gets ye grub!" yelled Brutus the guard.



Some children got food. Others seemed to get no food at all!

"Here Erick," offered Cleo. "Take the porridge off my thumb."

"Thank you!" replied Erick.

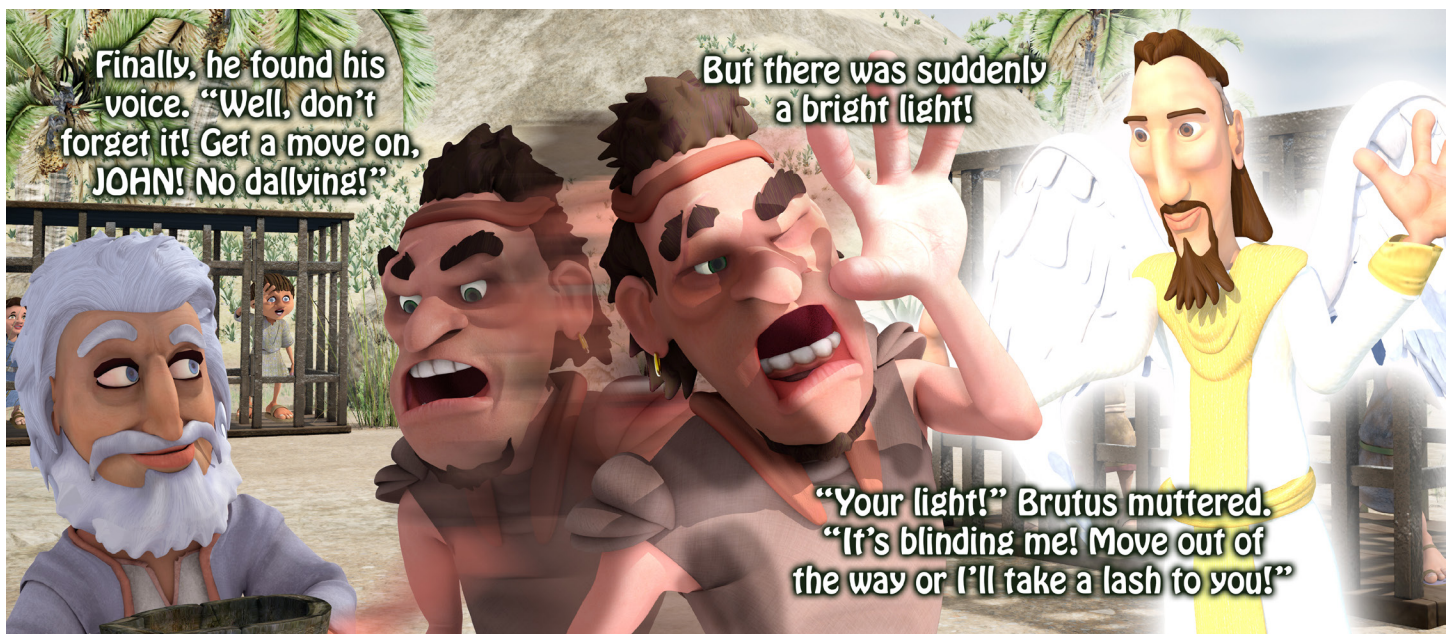




"Thank you, brother John!" Erick said between gulps. "This water is delicious! Thank you, Master Brutus! We are grateful for your excellent care!"

Brutus stared at the water, confused.

He didn't see the empty cups refilling themselves!



Finally, he found his voice. "Well, don't forget it! Get a move on, JOHN! No dallying!"

But there was suddenly a bright light!

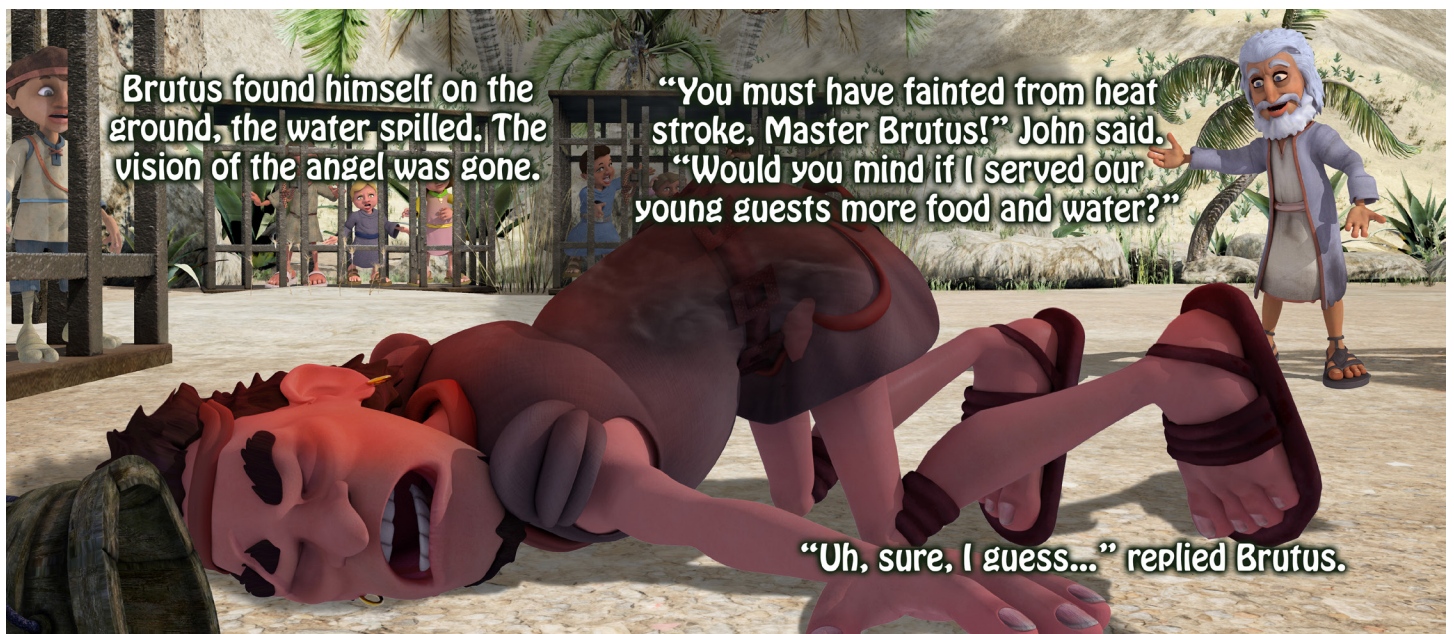
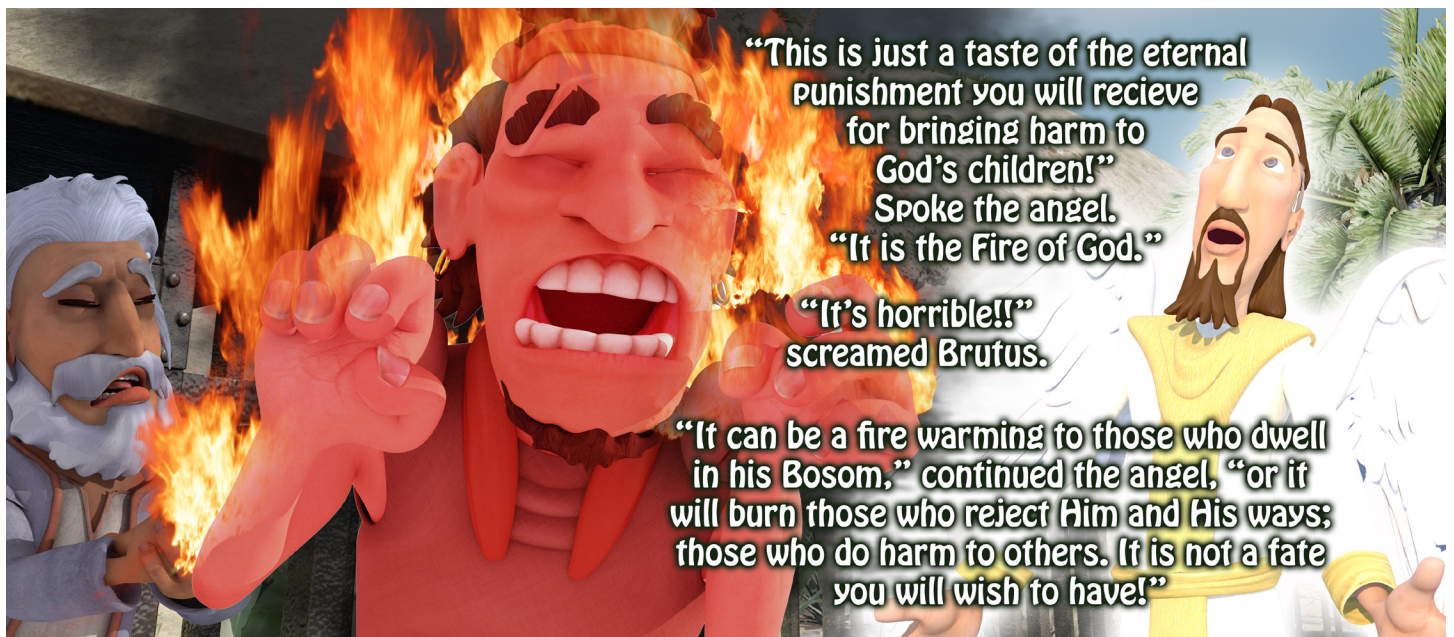
"Your light!" Brutus muttered. "It's blinding me! Move out of the way or I'll take a lash to you!"

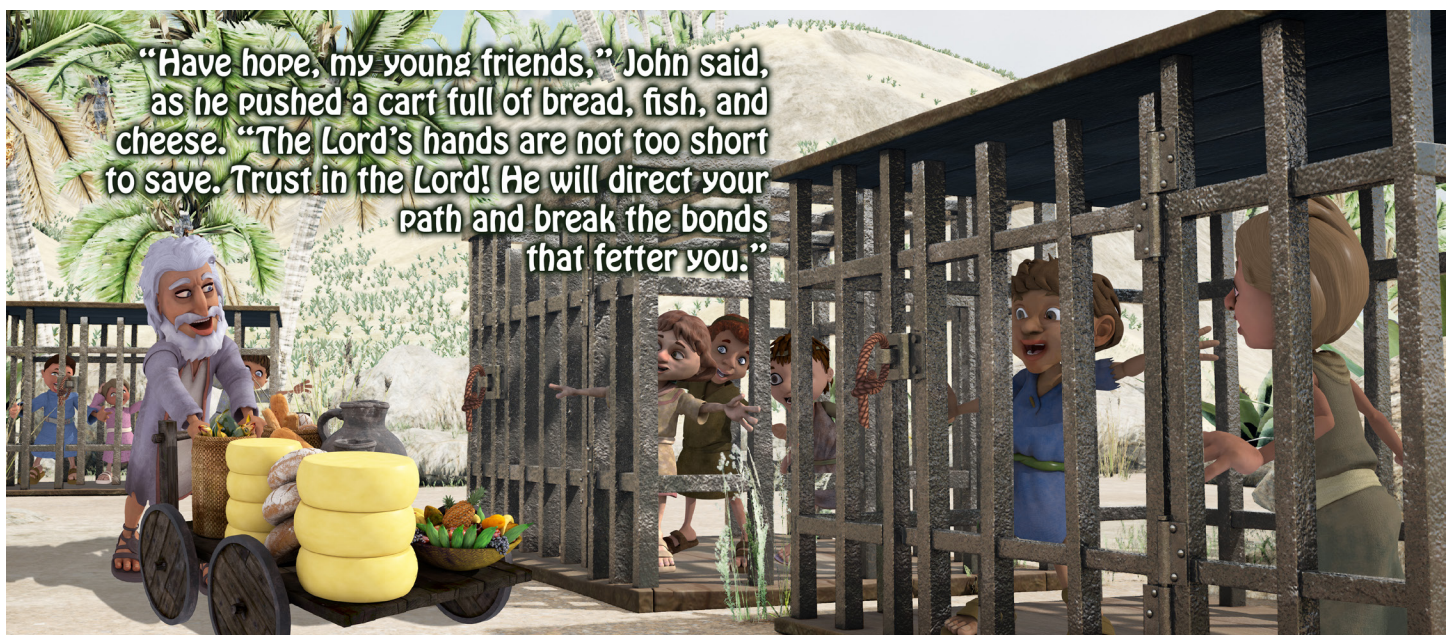
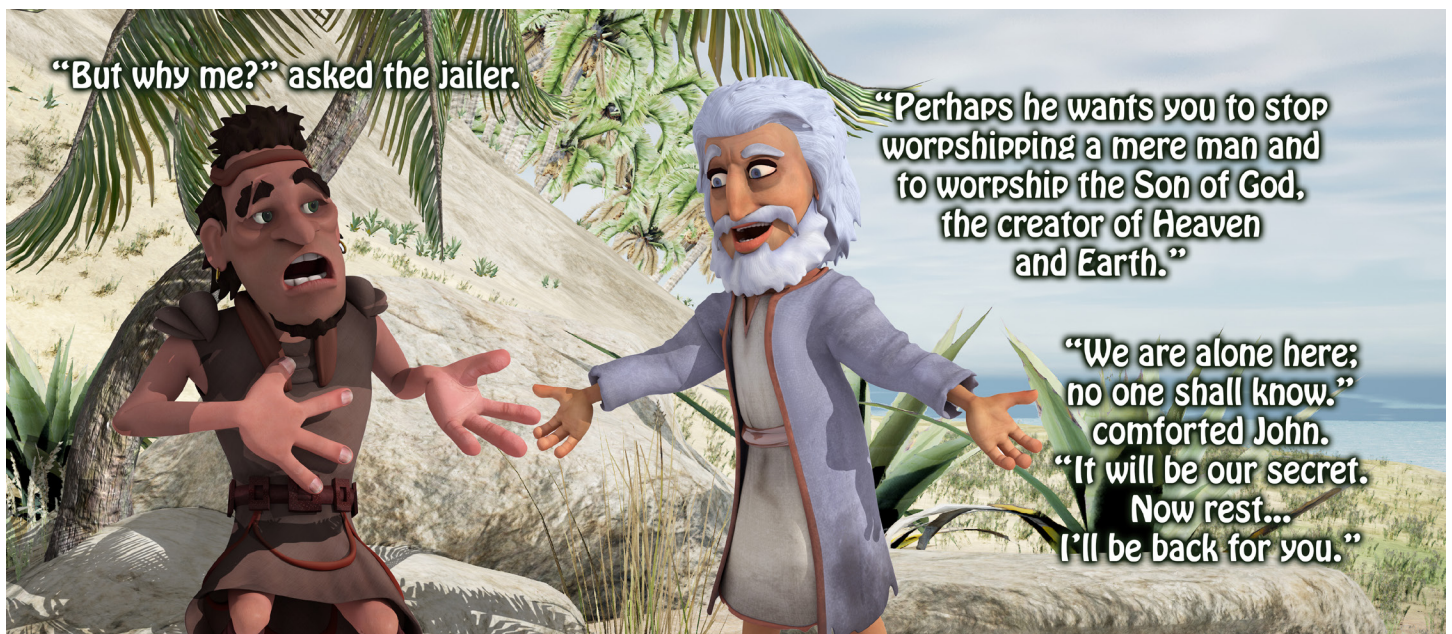


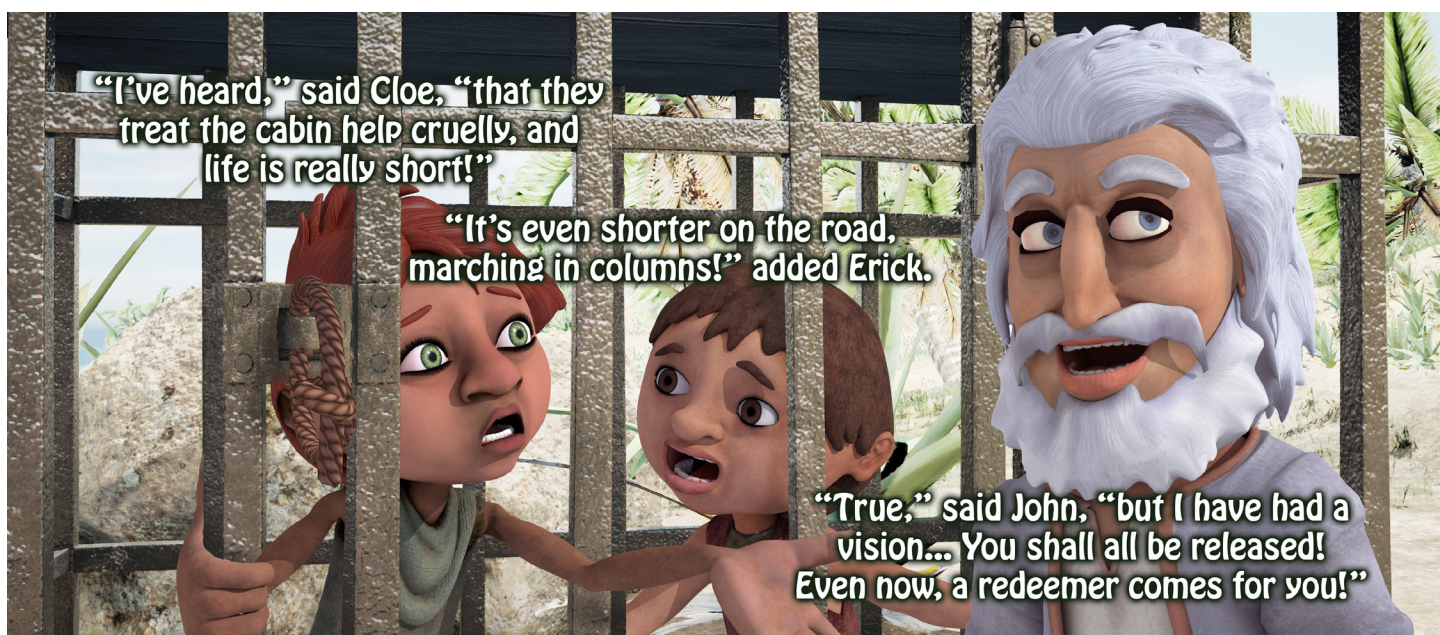
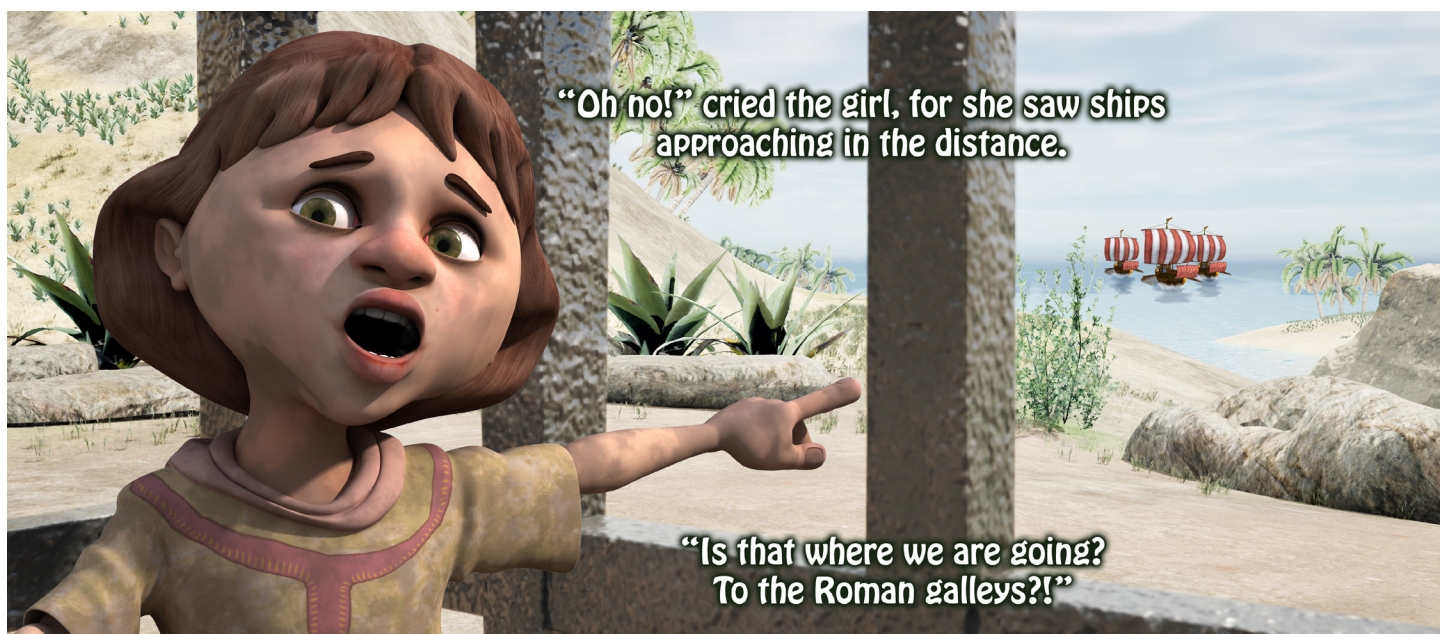
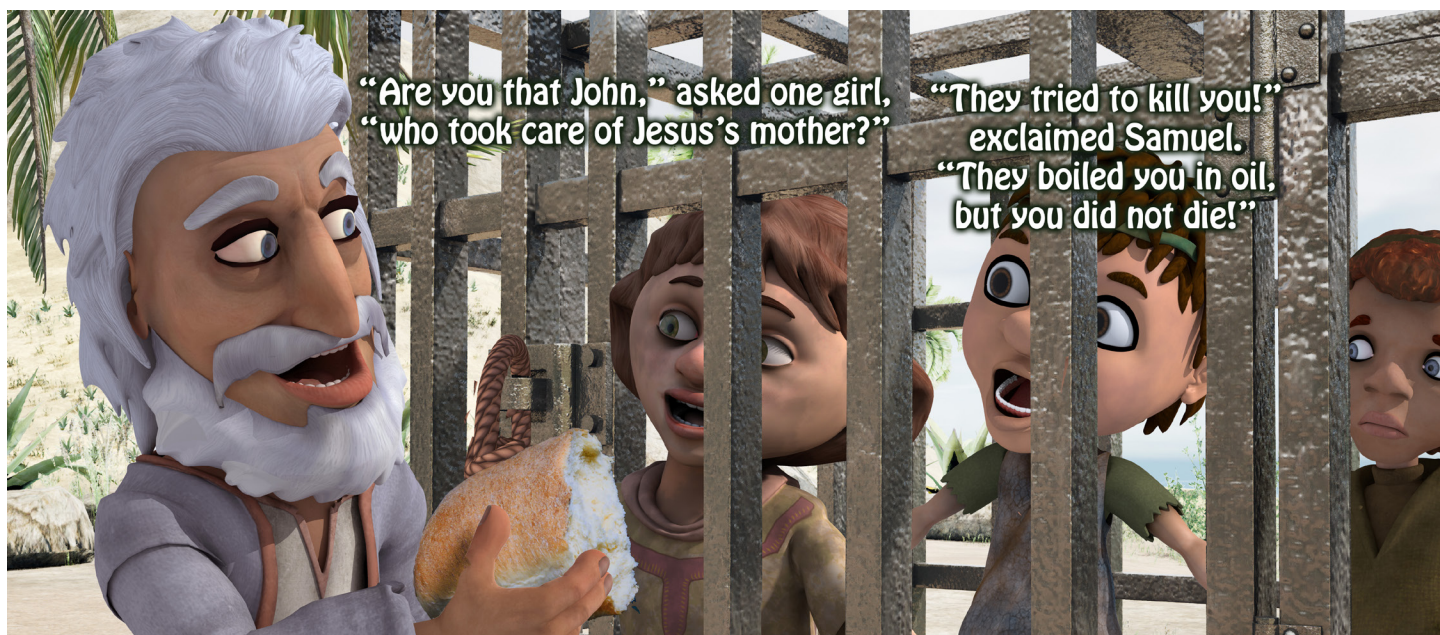
Brutus reached for his lash, but...

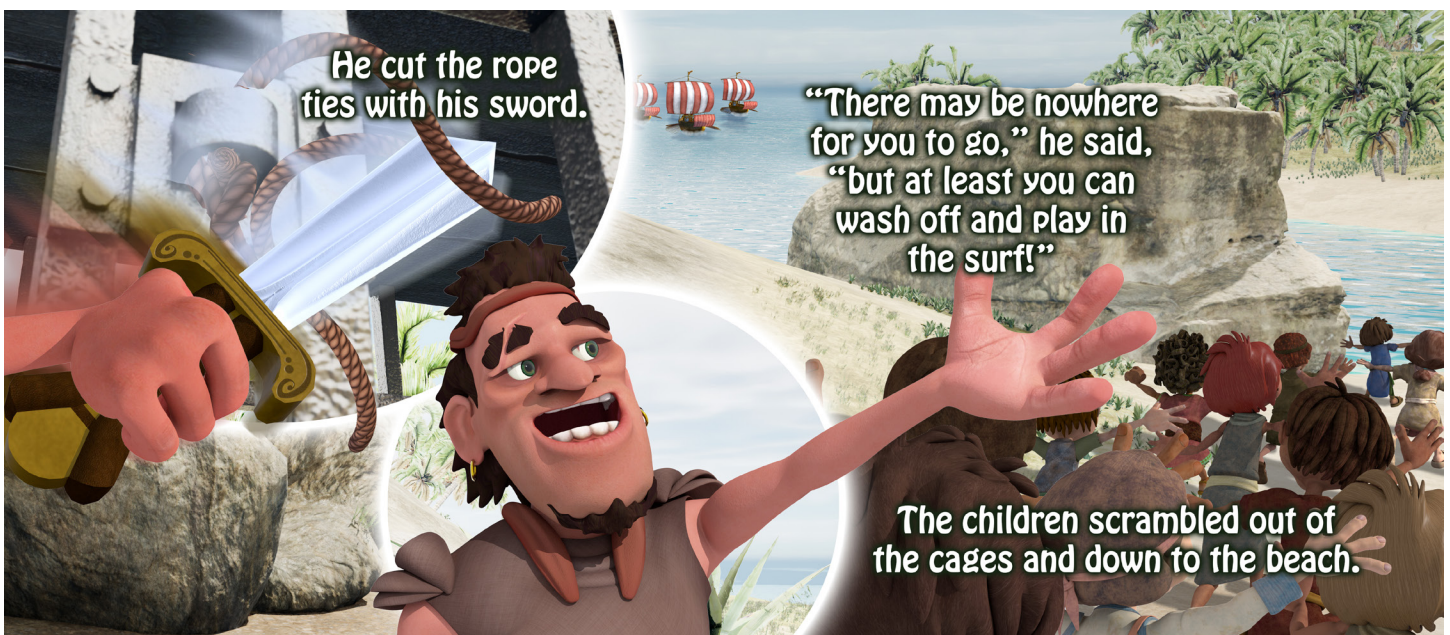
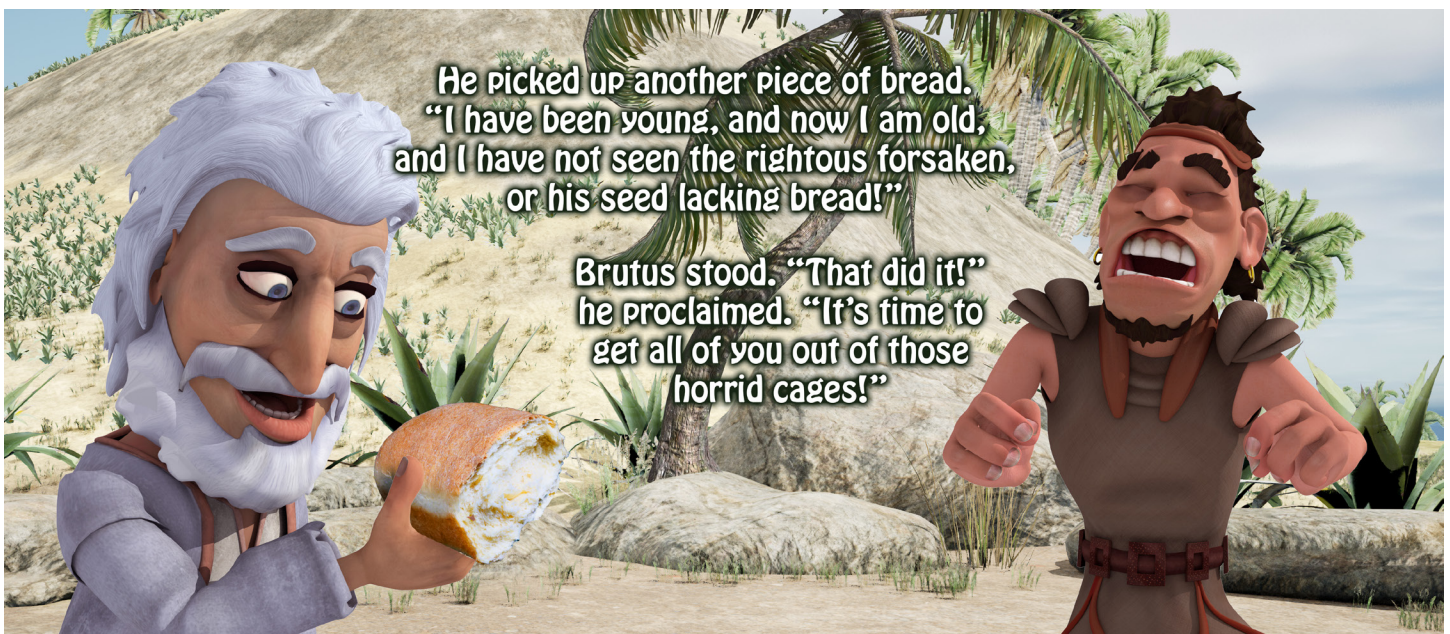
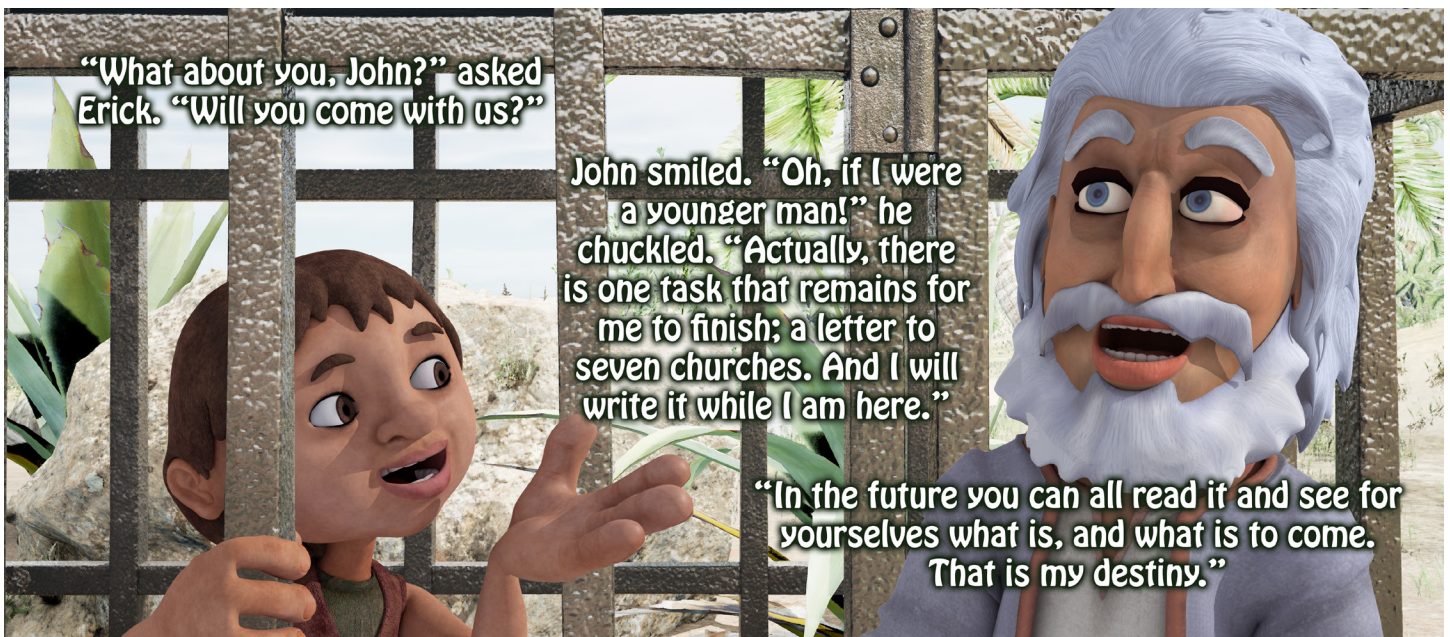
...the lash burned his hand! He dropped it!

Then HE started to burn!





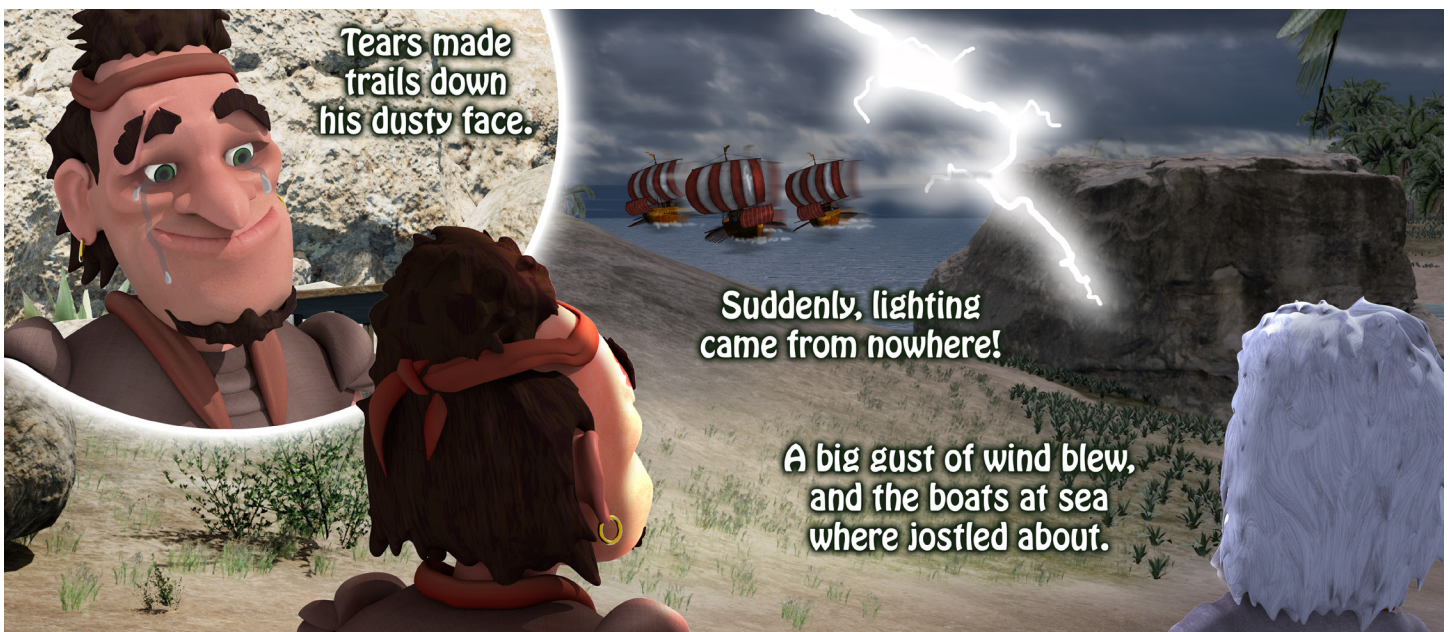






"Where did all this food come from?" Brutus wondered. "I only had two loaves and a few fish..."

"Don't you know, Brutus?" asked John. "It's because of you! And for you! And I don't think we will ever run out!"



Tears made trails down his dusty face.

Suddenly, lighting came from nowhere!

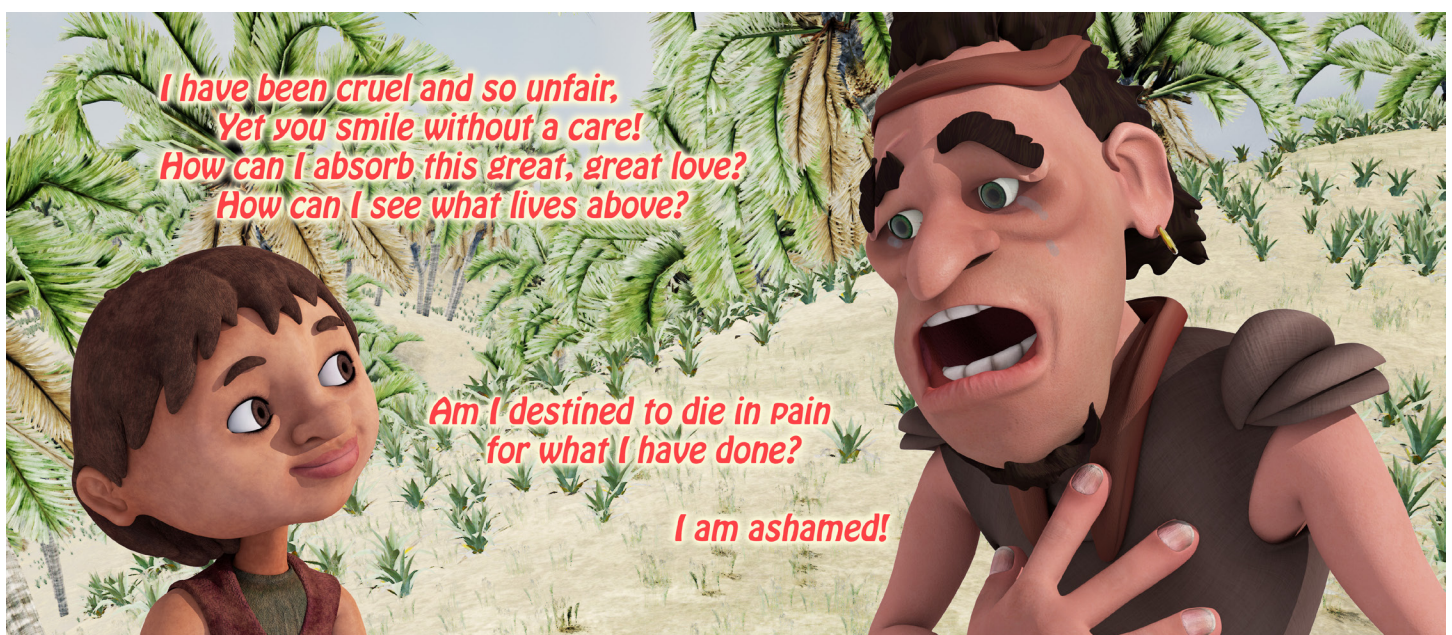
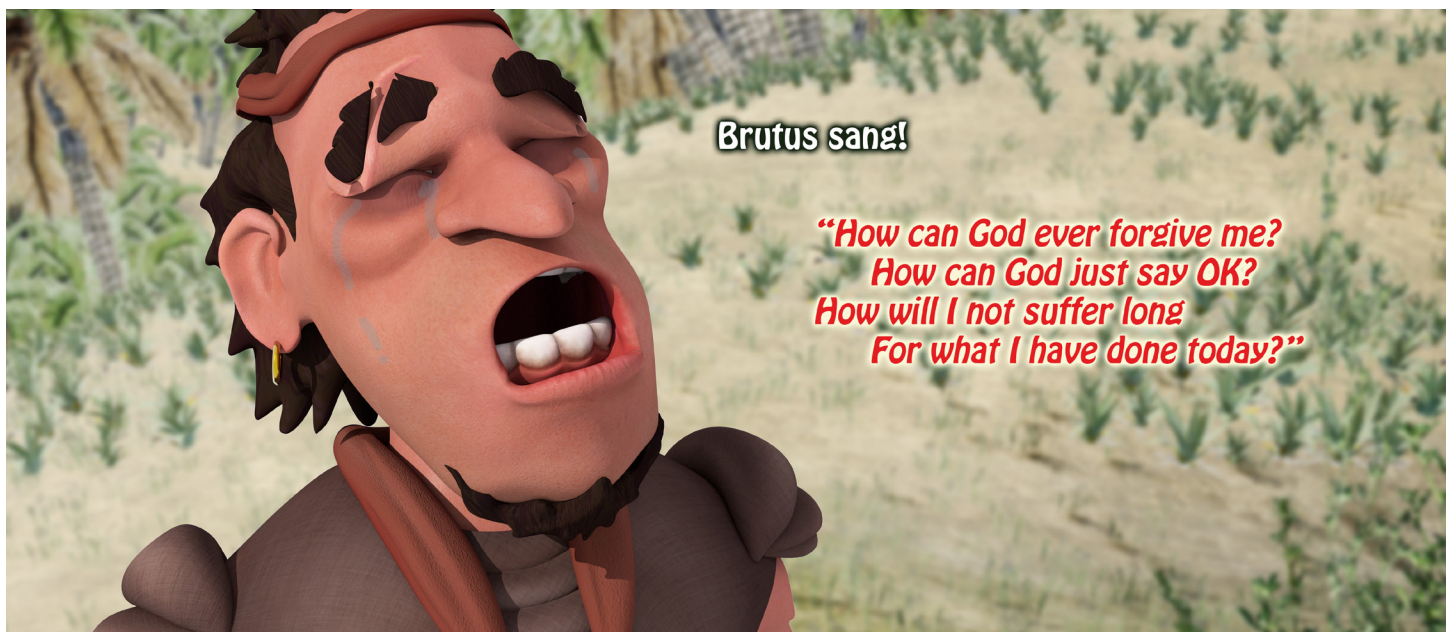
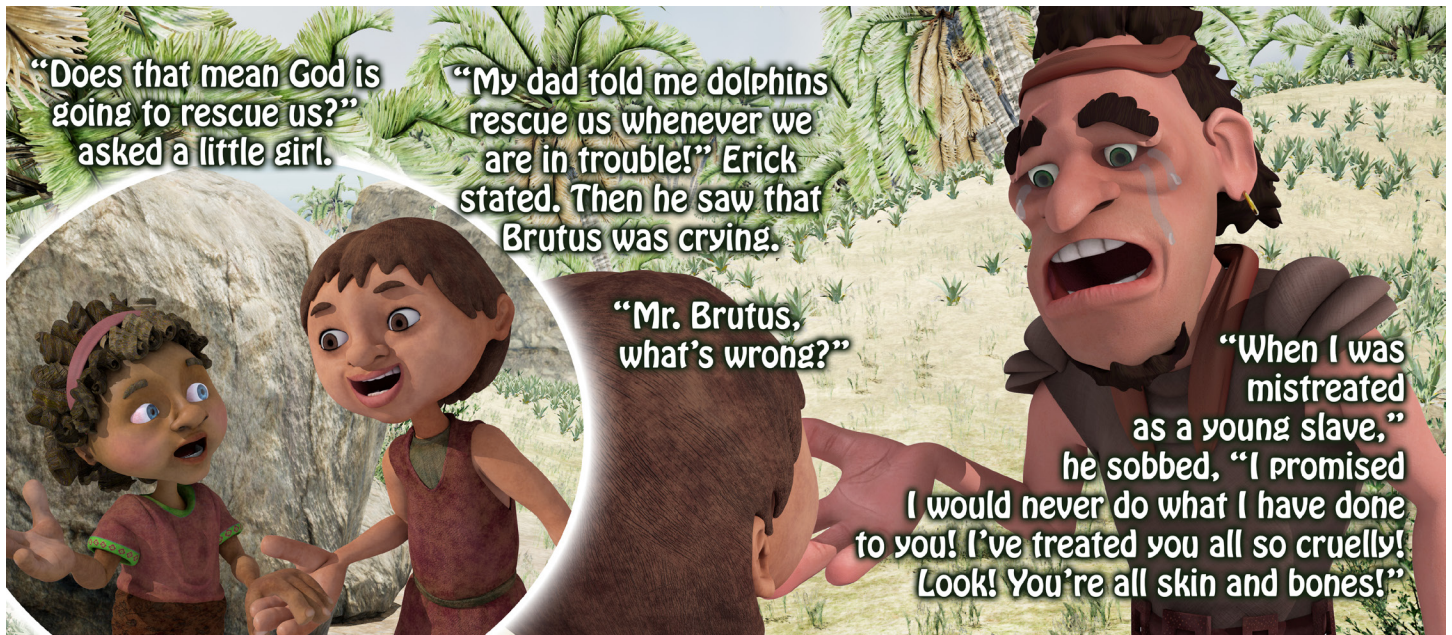
A big gust of wind blew, and the boats at sea where jostled about.

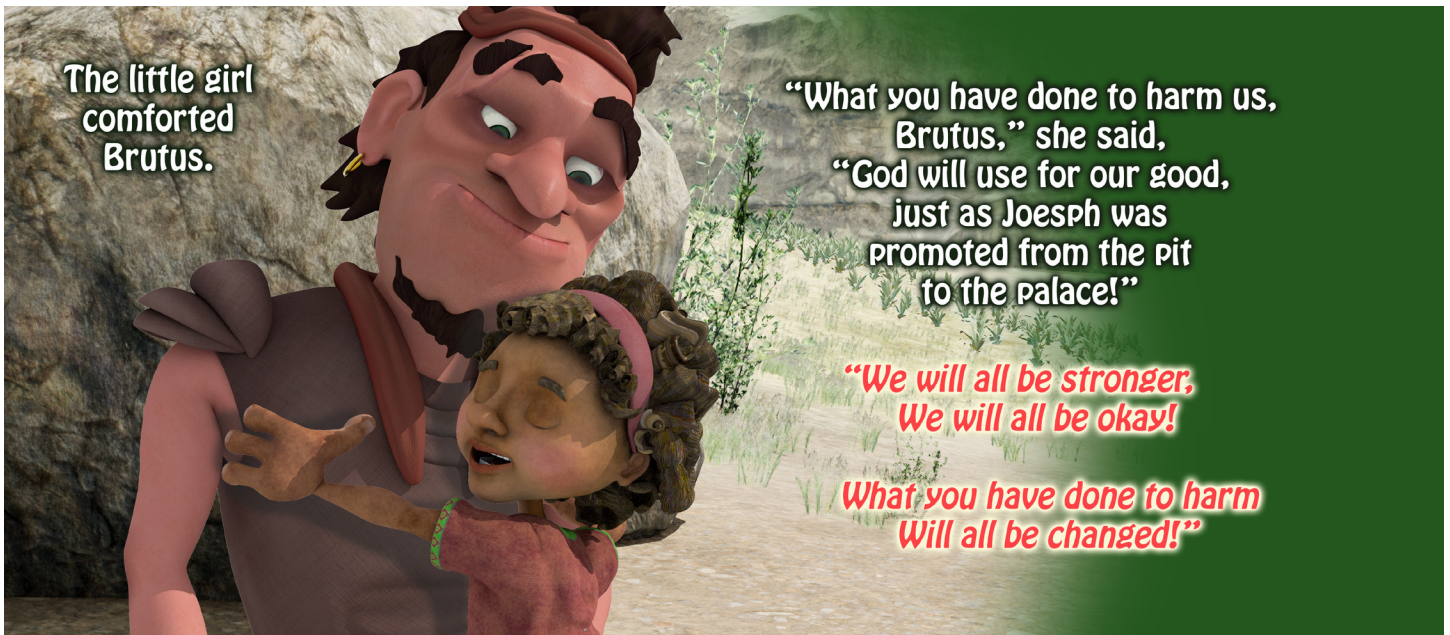


"Someone is coming for these young ones, Brutus," John said. "I was a follower of a friend of God while he walked this earth. He is nothing like your Roman Gods. Just as God cares for these children, He cares for you!"

"We saw dolphins!" Erick exclaimed, running up from the sea.

"Lots and lots of dolphins!"





The little girl
comforted
Brutus.

"What you have done to harm us,
Brutus," she said,
"God will use for our good,
just as Joesph was
promoted from the pit
to the palace!"

*"We will all be stronger,
We will all be okay!"*

*What you have done to harm
Will all be changed!"*



*"When we suffer harm,
We learn to love,
To persevere and to forgive!"*

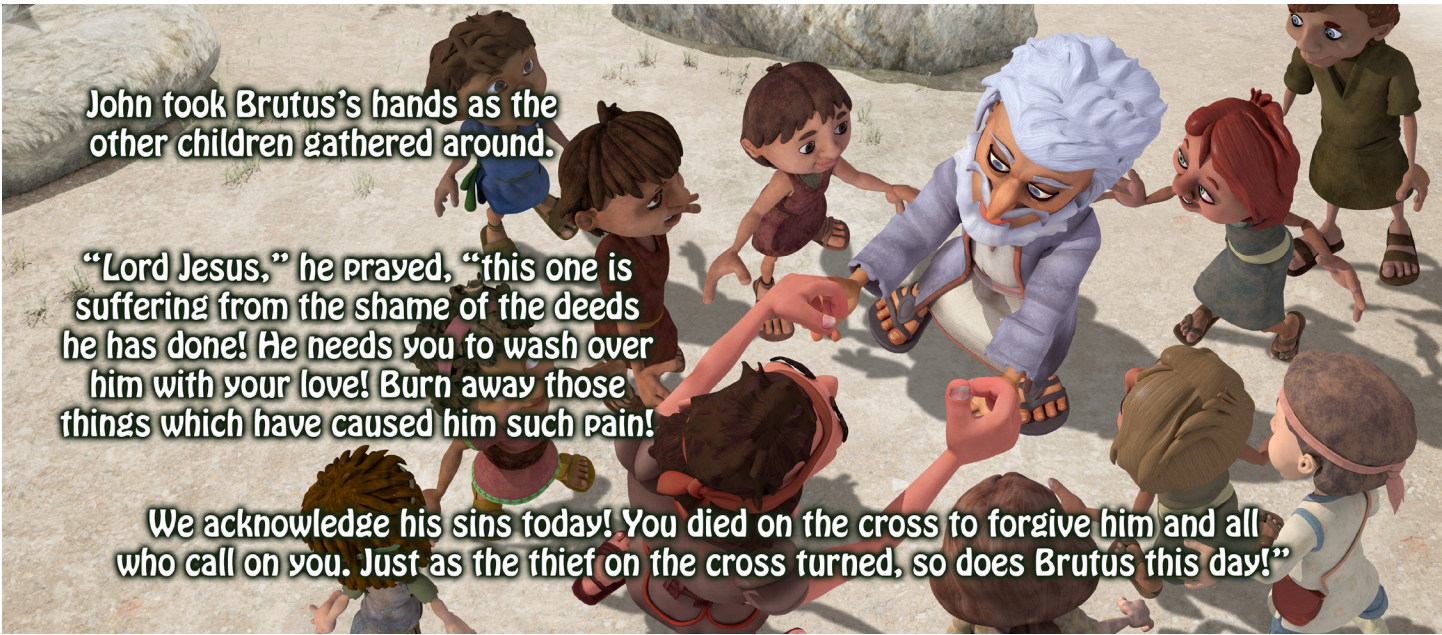
*It will transform every heart
It is treasure and a gift!"*



Erick chimed in.

*"Just as Jesus on the Cross
Said 'Father I forgive
Those who have trespassed against me'.
Don't hold it to their guilt!"*

*Love and Forgiveness
Are the keys to eternal life.
Brutus, we forgive you,
As we were forgiven by Christ."*



John took Brutus's hands as the other children gathered around.

"Lord Jesus," he prayed, "this one is suffering from the shame of the deeds he has done! He needs you to wash over him with your love! Burn away those things which have caused him such pain!"


We acknowledge his sins today! You died on the cross to forgive him and all who call on you. Just as the thief on the cross turned, so does Brutus this day!"



Brutus began to glow!

"The chains!" he cried with joy.
"Around my heart!
They are breaking!"

"And my eyes!
I can see Christ
in all of you!
It's beautiful!"

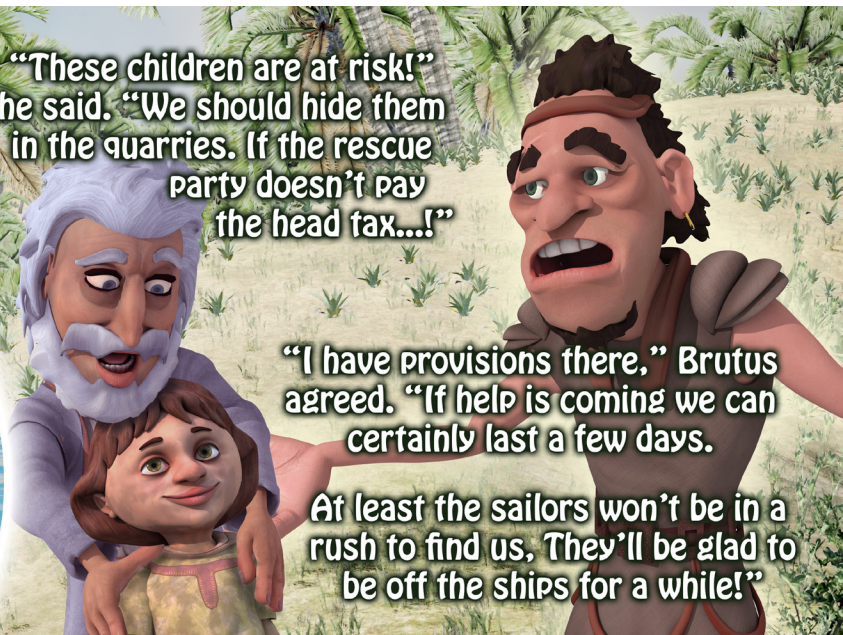


"Look!" cried one of the children.



Soldiers from the Roman ships were nearing the beach! John looked worried.

"These children are at risk!" he said. "We should hide them in the quarries. If the rescue party doesn't pay the head tax...!"



"I have provisions there," Brutus agreed. "If help is coming we can certainly last a few days.

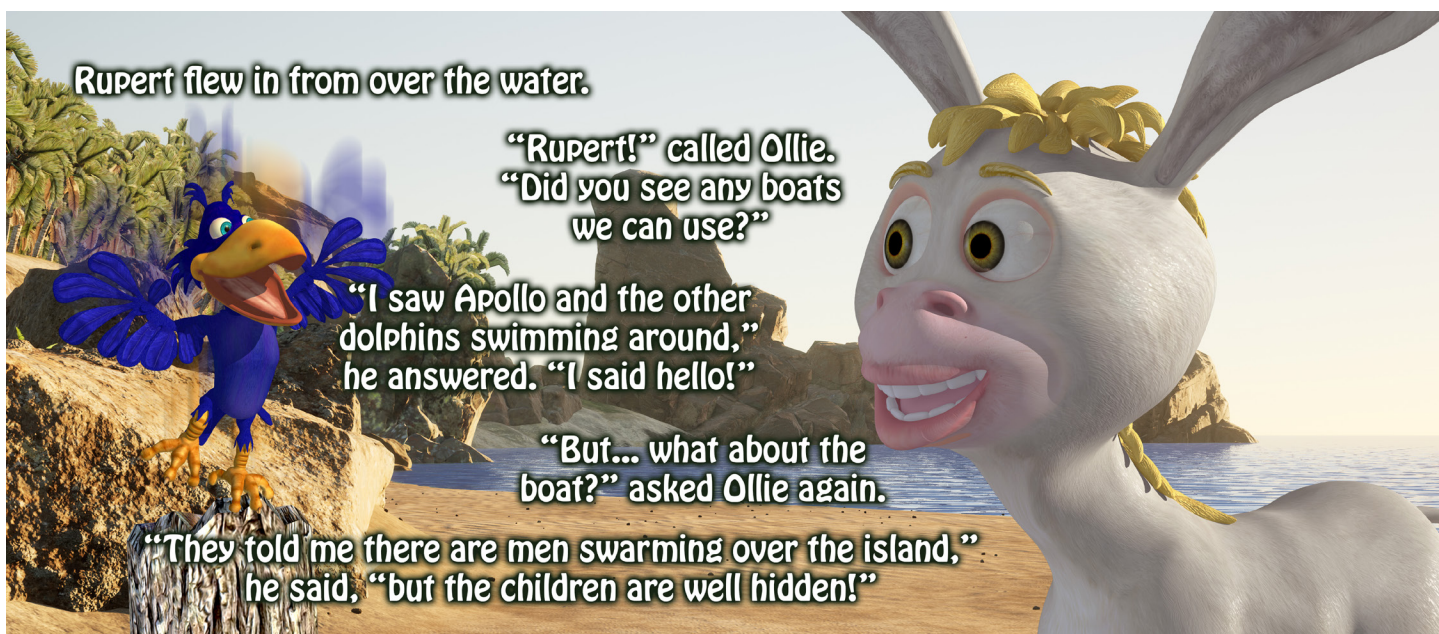
At least the sailors won't be in a rush to find us. They'll be glad to be off the ships for a while!"



On the other side
of the sea...

"Patmos is across there!"
Silas said, pointing.

"Oh, I love the smell
of the salt air!"



Rupert flew in from over the water.

"Rupert!" called Ollie.
"Did you see any boats
we can use?"

"I saw Apollo and the other
dolphins swimming around,"
he answered. "I said hello!"

"But... what about the
boat?" asked Ollie again.

"They told me there are men swarming over the island,"
he said, "but the children are well hidden!"



"Rupert, get to the point!"
Ruthie reminded him.

"And there is an old raft
way up the beach, a couple
days away!"

I was getting
to that!"

"God is providing!" said Ollie.
"Let's get to the raft! Maybe
Apollo and the others can tow
us to Patmos!"

We could land
right on the
beach and
not be seen!"



But Ruthie spied the thieves!

Melvin, Eyetoe and Suri
were ready to launch
an attack of rocks!



"Watch out, boys!" she yelled.

Ruthie threw herself in front
of the hurled stones,
protecting her kids!

A rock hit her leg...

... and down she went!



"That DID it!"
cried Rupert.

He dive-bombed them!





Rupert grabbed Meller
by the wing!

He spun him around...



... and let go!

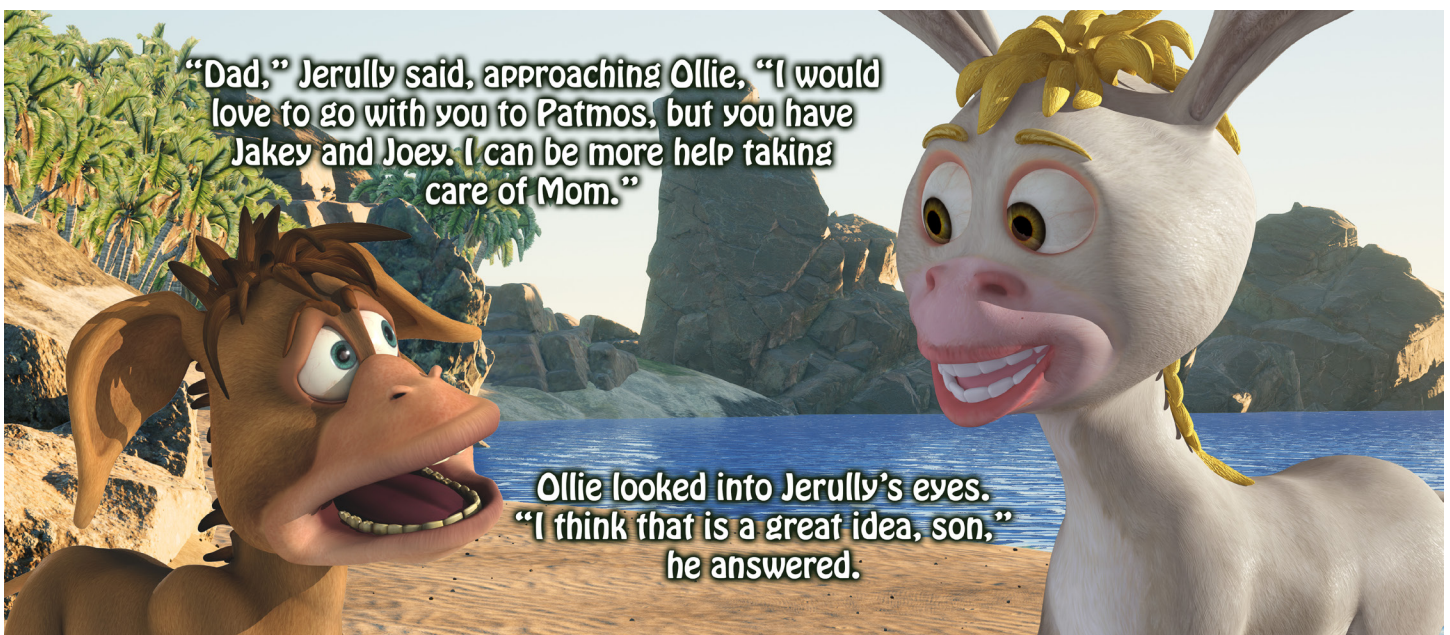
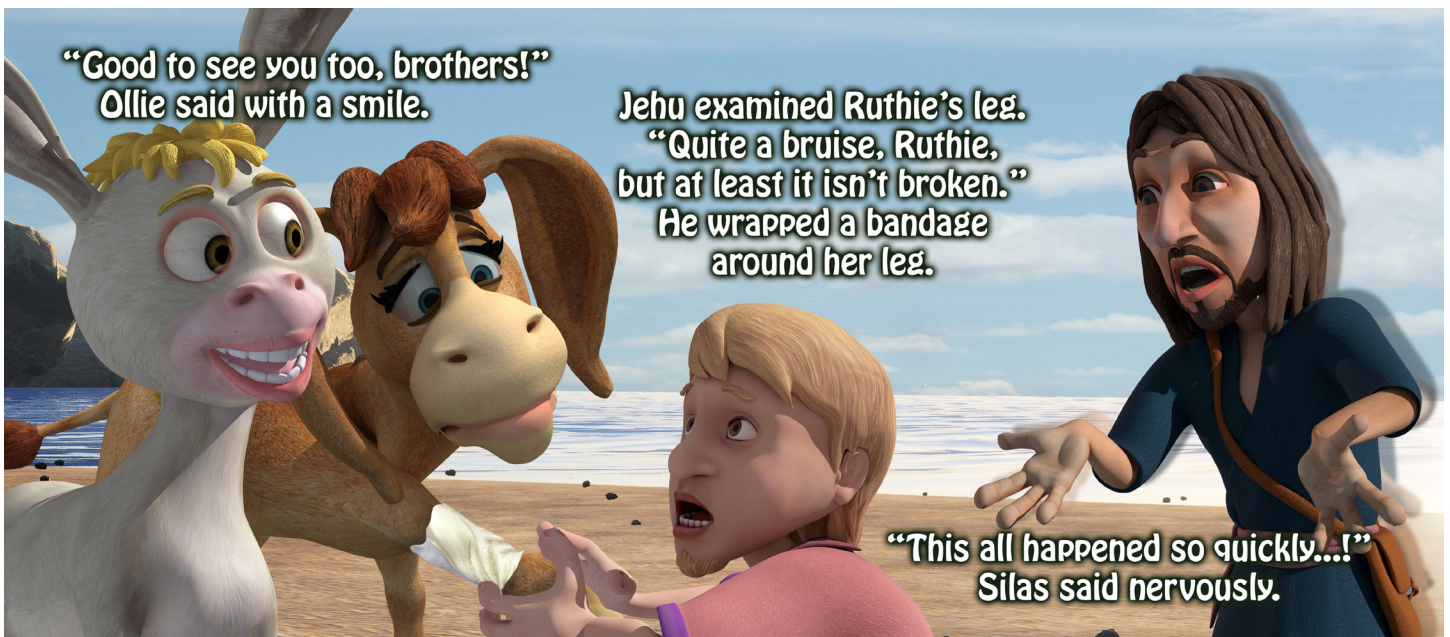
Meller smashed into
a dead tree!



Later, in camp...

"Ruthie can't go any further!"
Ollie said, sadly.







Joey chimed in.

*"I am not big,
but I can pray!
Hear this little
donkey bray!"*

Jakey joined in, too!

*"I am not fast,
nor am I strong,
But I can sing
a prayer in a song!"*

*Set them free, Jesus!
Set the little children free!
Set them free, Jesus!
Set them free, indeed!*

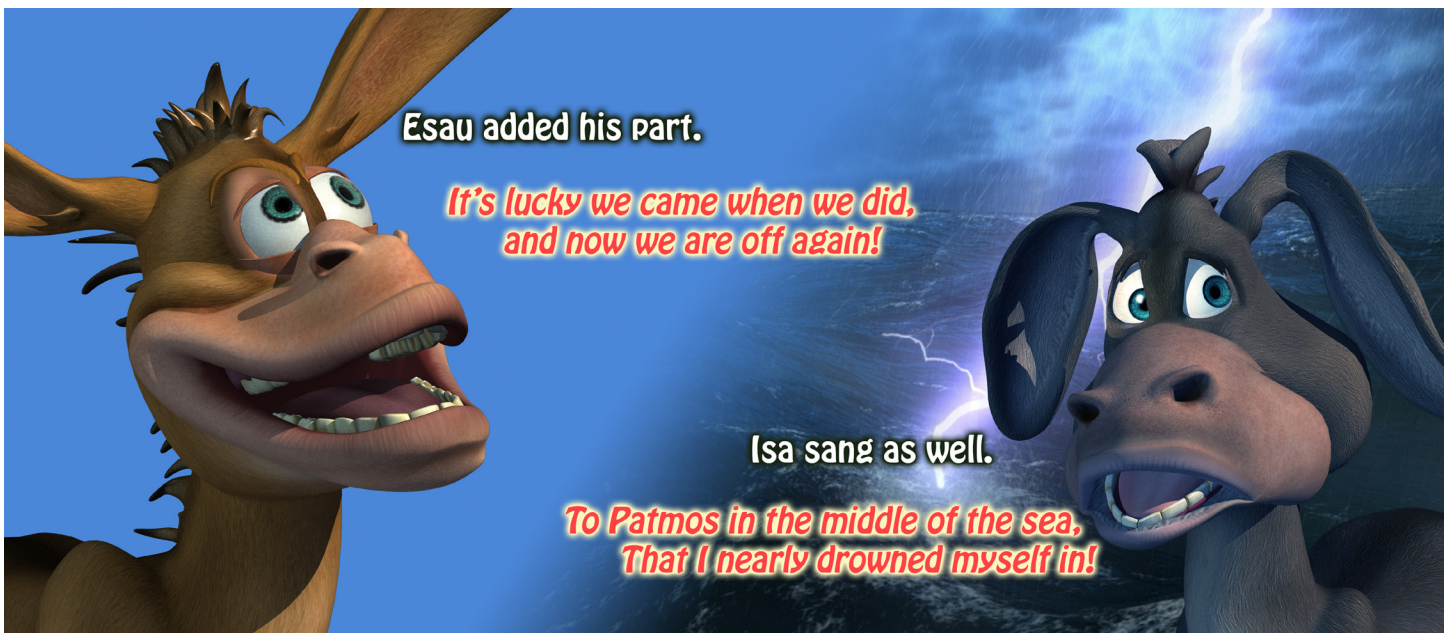


Esau added his part.

*It's lucky we came when we did,
and now we are off again!*

Isa sang as well.

*To Patmos in the middle of the sea,
That I nearly drowned myself in!*



Ollie wrapped up the song.

*Yes, we are lucky to have both of you!
Bear this extra heavy load!*

*Coins for the heads of all the kids,
Ransom to save their souls!*



"I say we double-time it," Jehu said, "We'll follow the coastline and if we don't sleep long we can get there in two days, tops!"

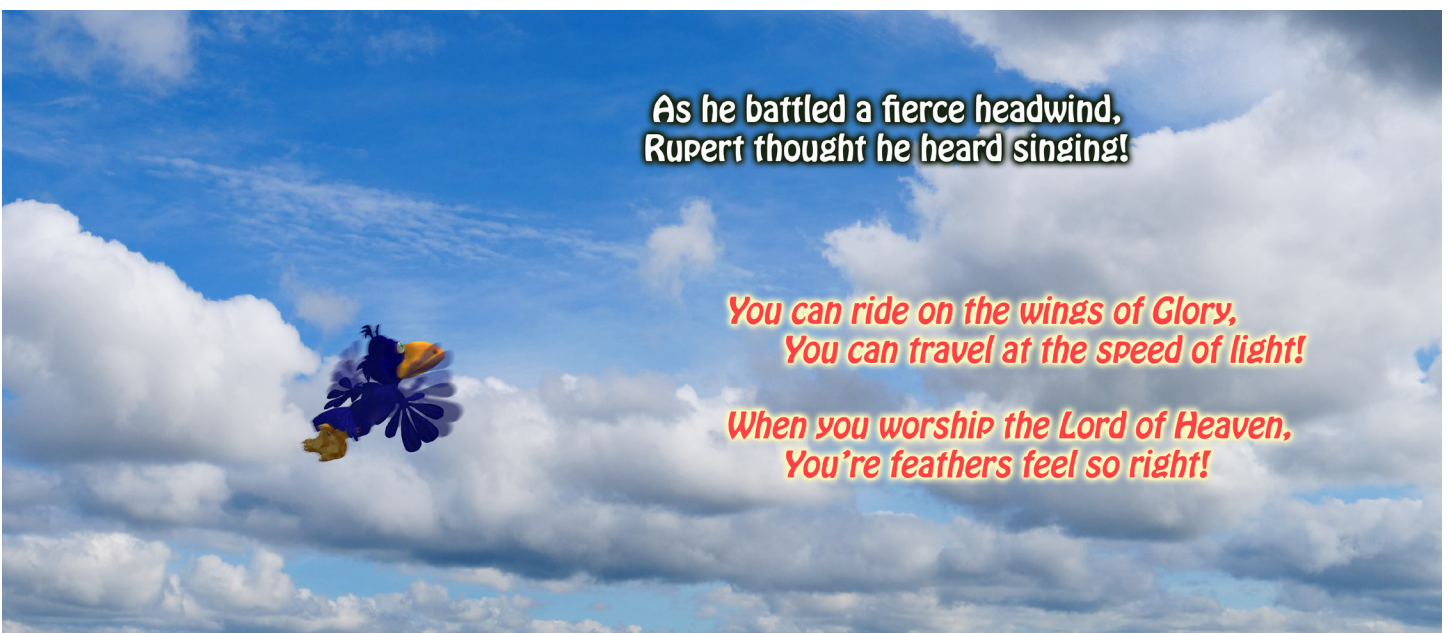
"And I'll make sure no one takes our raft!" stated Rupert as he flew ahead.



As he battled a fierce headwind,
Rupert thought he heard singing!

*You can ride on the wings of Glory,
You can travel at the speed of light!*

*When you worship the Lord of Heaven,
You're feathers feel so right!*

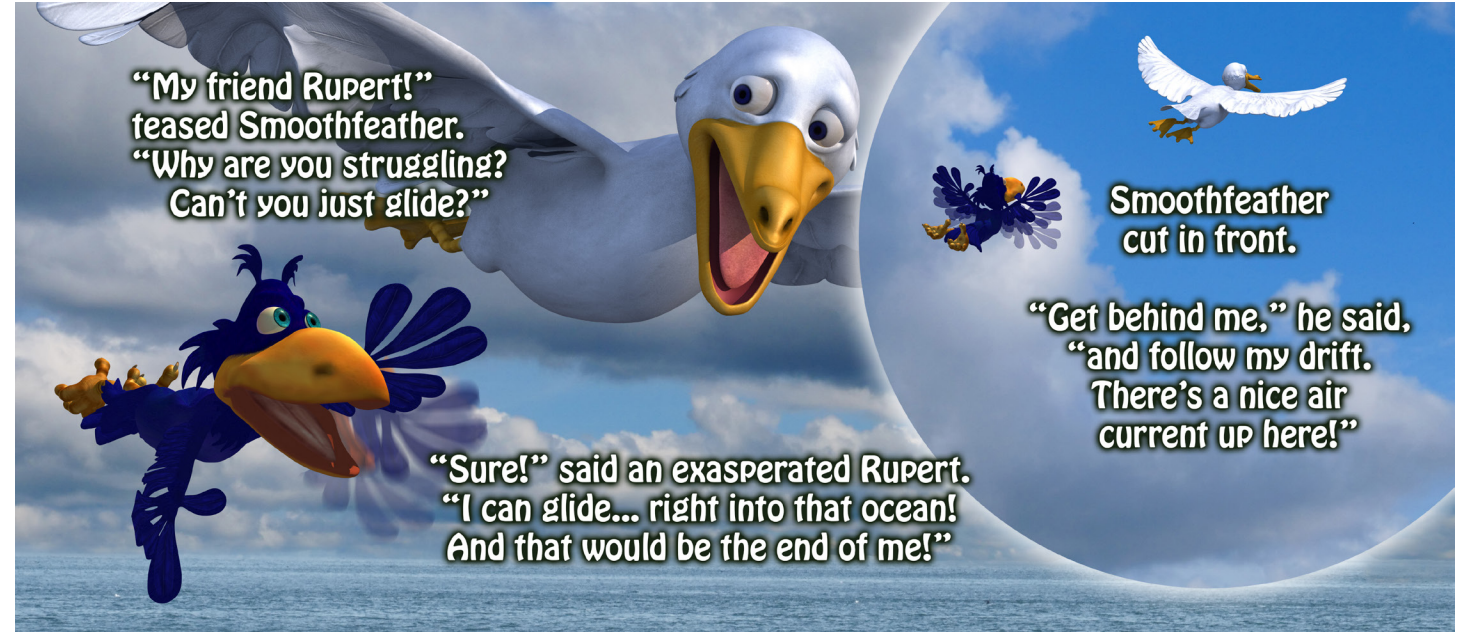


A blue bird with a yellow beak and a white duck with a yellow beak are flying in a blue sky with white clouds. The blue bird is on the left, looking up at the white duck on the right.

Rupert looked up and saw his good friend, Smoothfeather!

*You can glide the Wings of Glory,
Flow on the Clouds of Hope!
You can ride on the Wings of Glory,
Effortlessly travel forth!*

“Smoothfeather!” Rupert exclaimed.

A large white duck with a yellow beak is flying over a blue ocean. A smaller blue bird with a yellow beak is flying behind it. The white duck is looking back at the blue bird.

“My friend Rupert!” teased Smoothfeather.
“Why are you struggling?
Can’t you just glide?”

A small white duck with a yellow beak is flying in a blue sky with white clouds.

Smoothfeather cut in front.

“Get behind me,” he said,
“and follow my drift.
There’s a nice air current up here!”


“Sure!” said an exasperated Rupert.
“I can glide... right into that ocean!
And that would be the end of me!”

They both drifted higher.

“Now glide!” Smoothfeather added.
“Don’t try so hard! Let the Wings of God steer you!”

Smoothfeather sang.

*You can let go, and you can let God,
Or you can struggle against the wind!
He’ll help you if you ask him,
He’ll give you the strength within!*

A blue bird with a yellow beak is floating in the air. A large white duck with a yellow beak is flying behind it. The blue bird is looking back at the white duck.

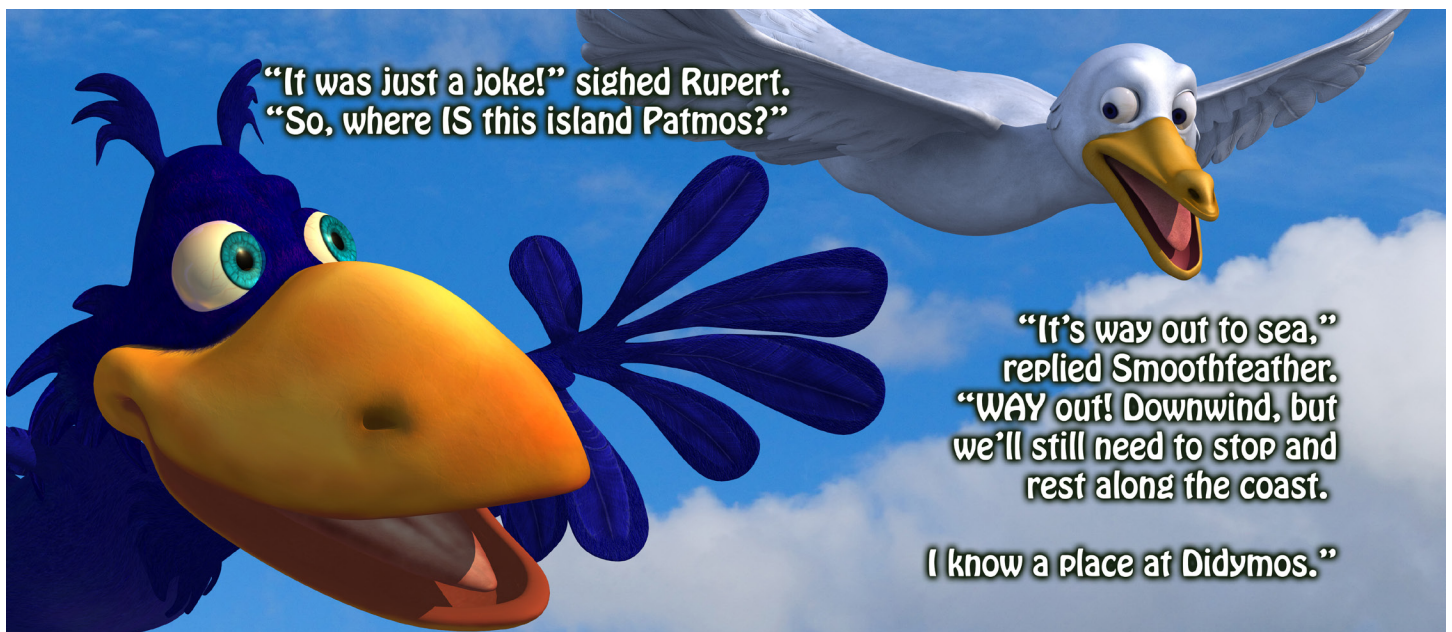
Rupert stopped flapping his wings, and floated on the wind.



Rupert soared gracefully, and sang!

*Hey, wow! I'm gliding farther
up than I've even been!
I'm going to make it to Patmos,
Without a drop of sweat on my chin!"*

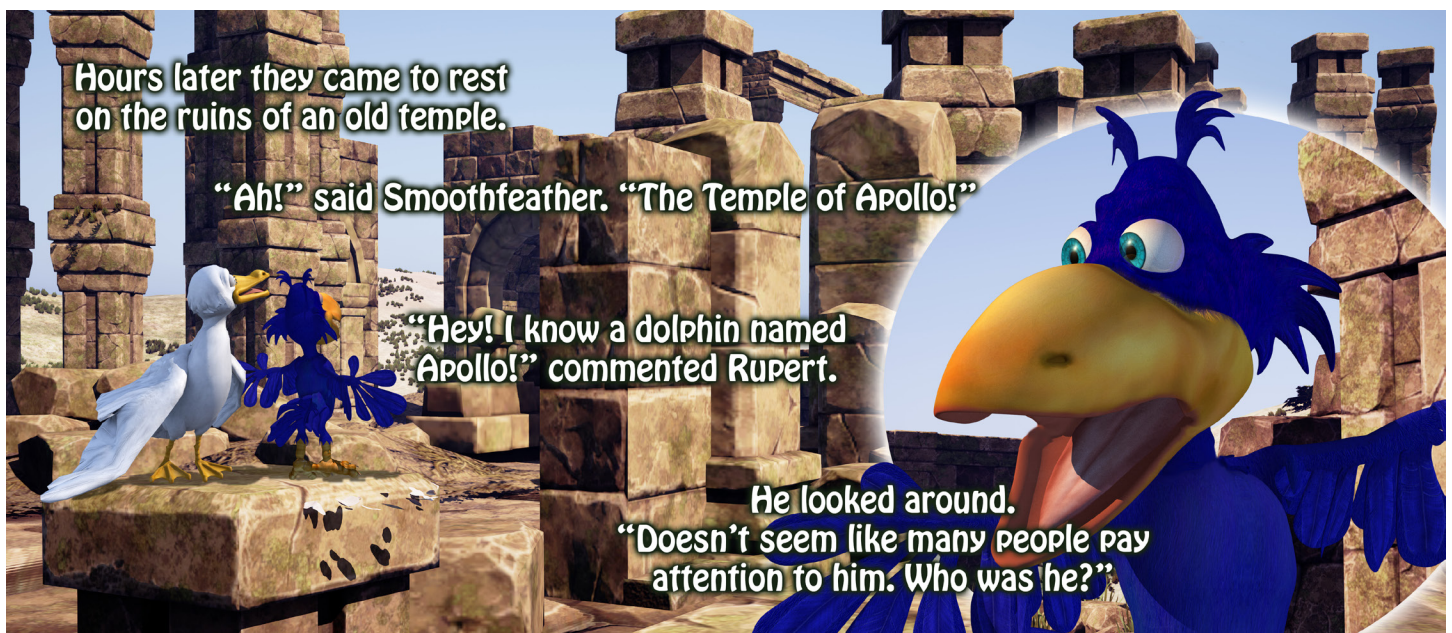
"But we don't have any chins!"
Smoothfeather reminded him.
"Just beaks!"



"It was just a joke!" sighed Rupert.
"So, where IS this island Patmos?"

"It's way out to sea,"
replied Smoothfeather.
"WAY out! Downwind, but
we'll still need to stop and
rest along the coast.

I know a place at Didymos."



Hours later they came to rest
on the ruins of an old temple.

"Ah!" said Smoothfeather. "The Temple of Apollo!"

"Hey! I know a dolphin named
Apollo!" commented Rupert.

He looked around.
"Doesn't seem like many people pay
attention to him. Who was he?"

"Once," began Smoothfeather, "there were two hundred angels who rebelled against God!"

"They taught Mankind about war, astrology, deception, how to make weapons from various metals and alloys... lots of things!"

"They also took earthly women as wives. Their children were often 13 feet tall!"



"People feared them because they were different from the Sons of Adam. They were giants!"

"When King David slew Goliath and his four brothers, that was the end of the race of giants!"

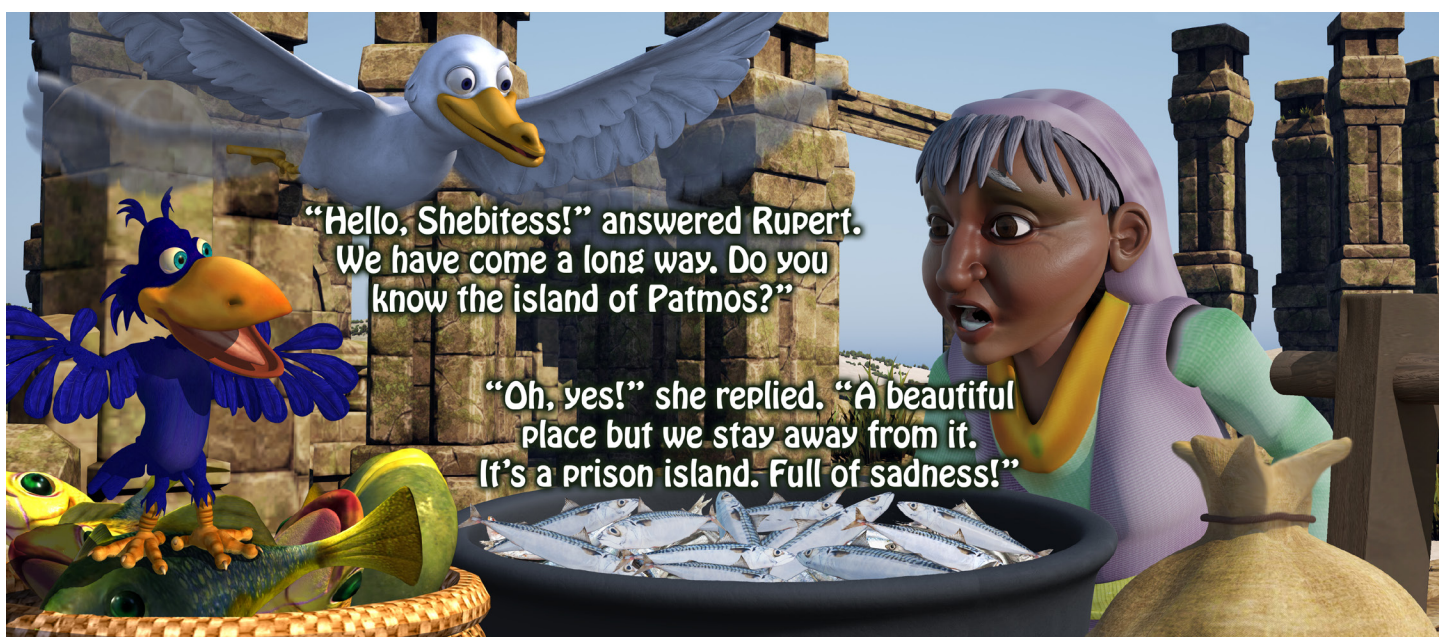
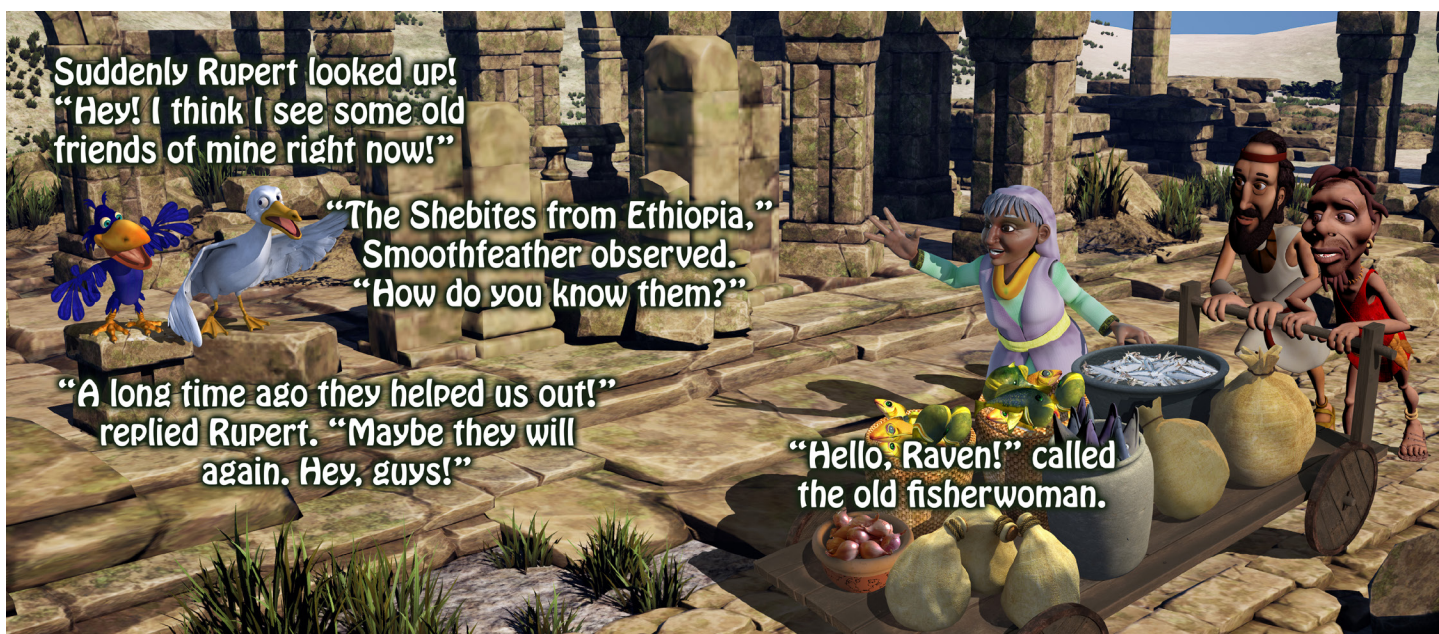
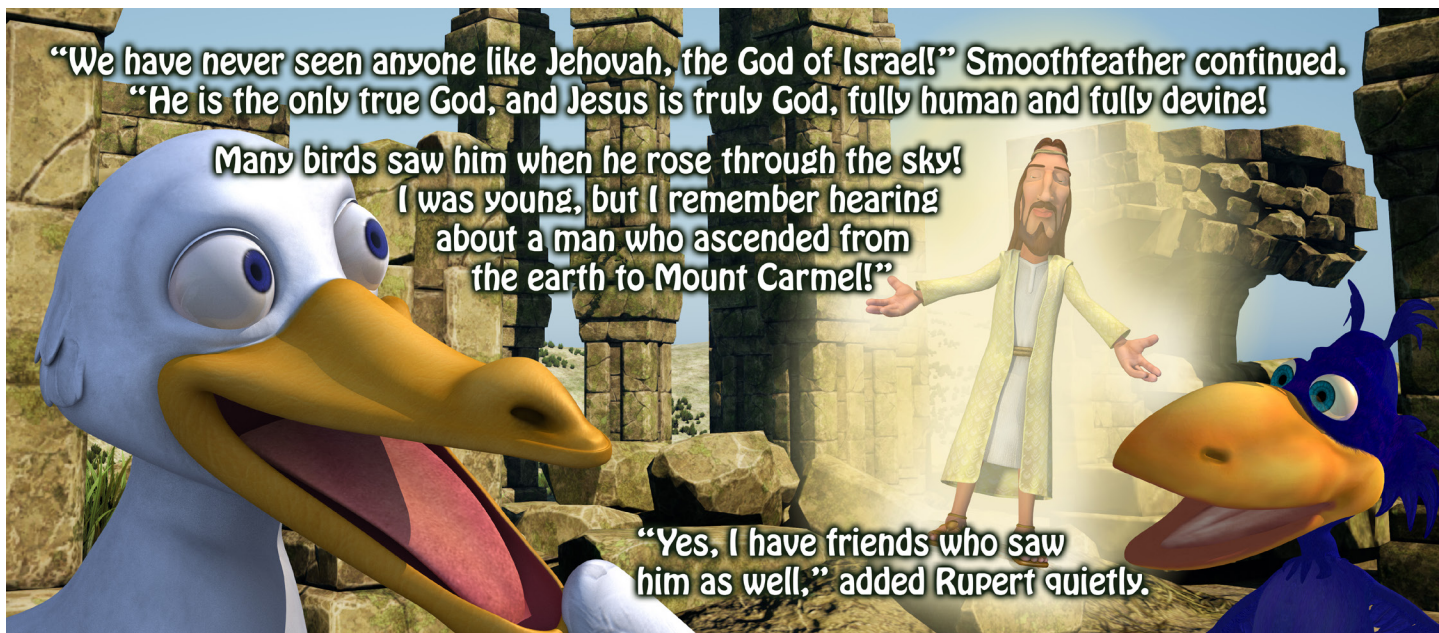


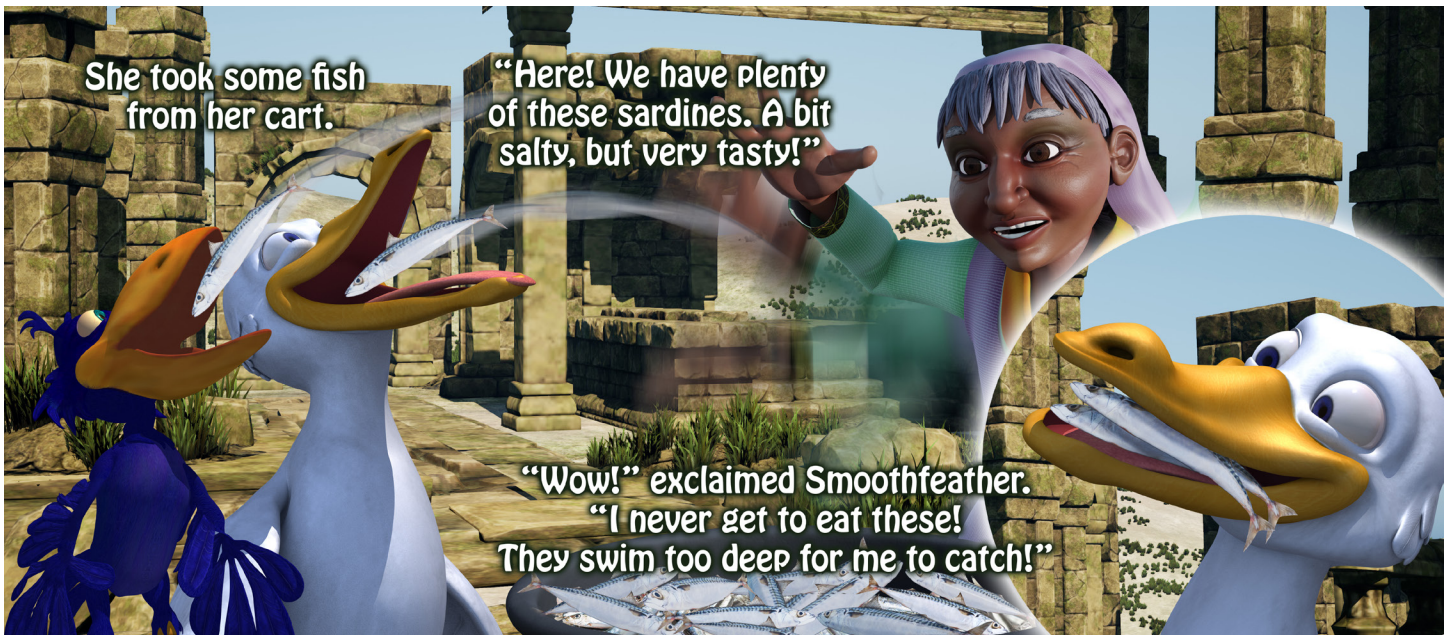
Smoothfeather gestured to the temple. "Apollo was one of them. They loved to set themselves up to be worshipped. All over the world you see temples built to these half-human, half-god creatures.

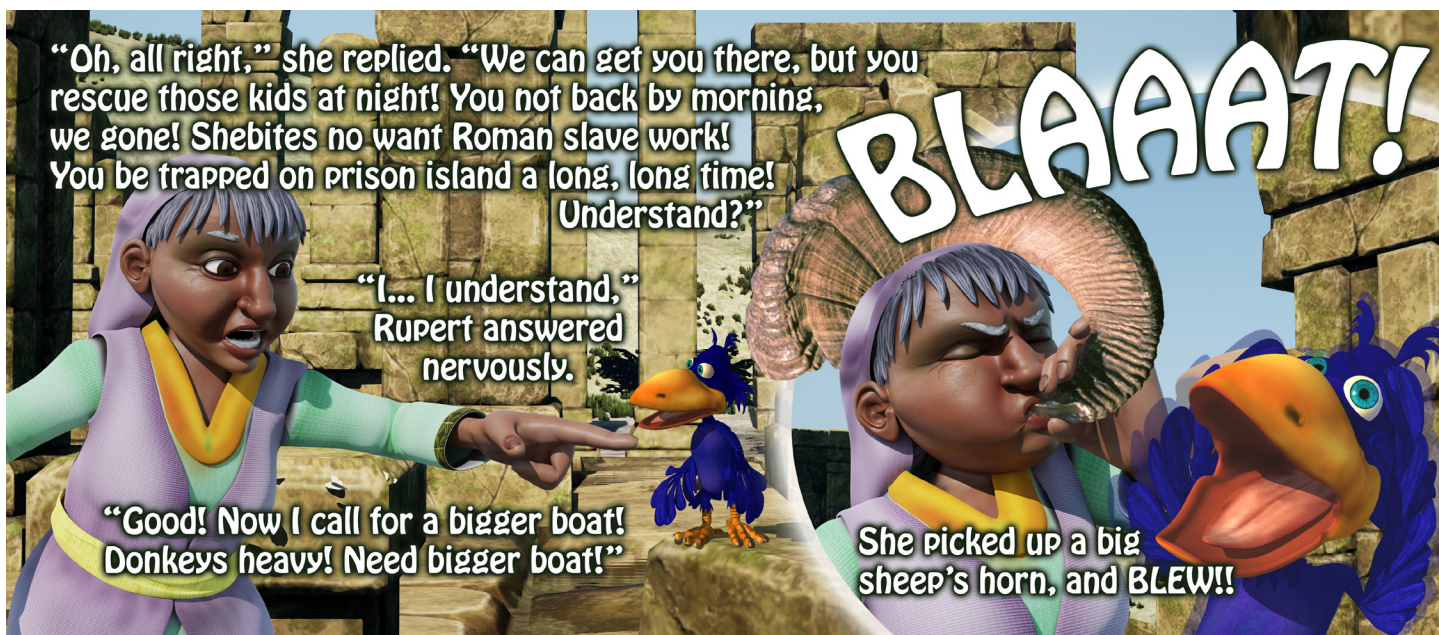
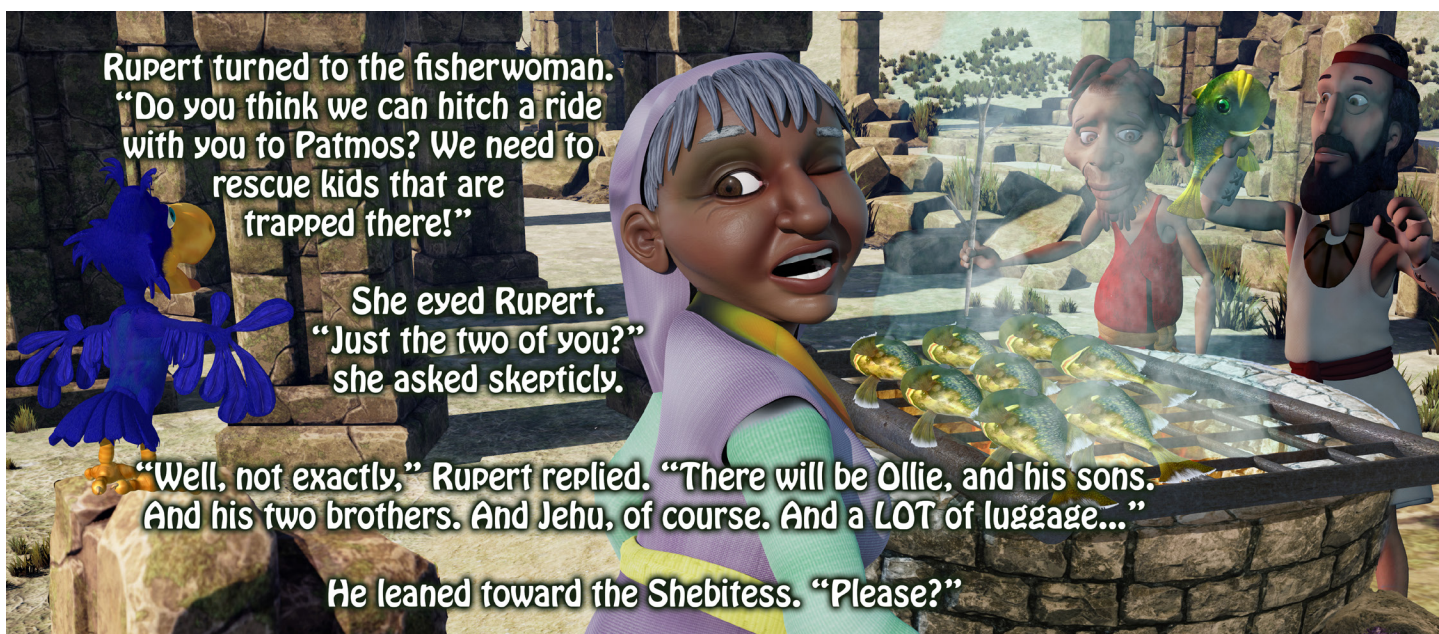
But Apollo is no more. Zeus is dead. Aphrodite is unknown. Poseidon is buried at sea. They all claimed to be gods but none of them were!"

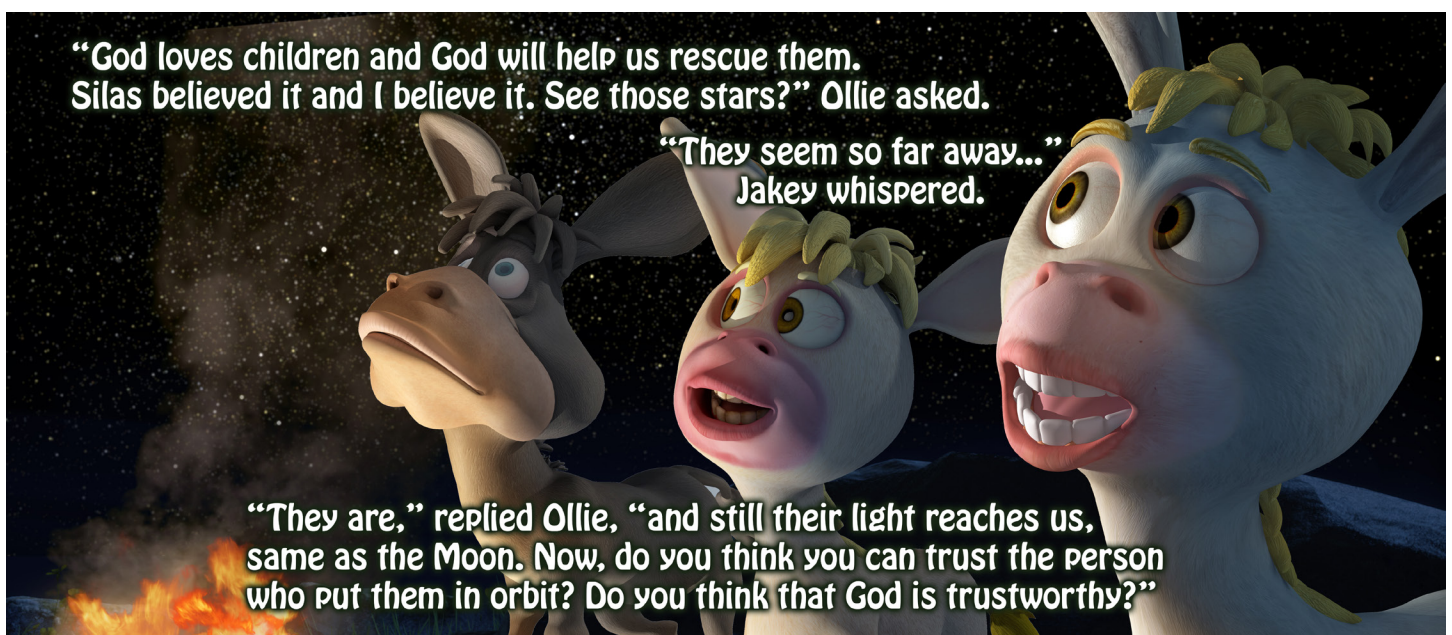
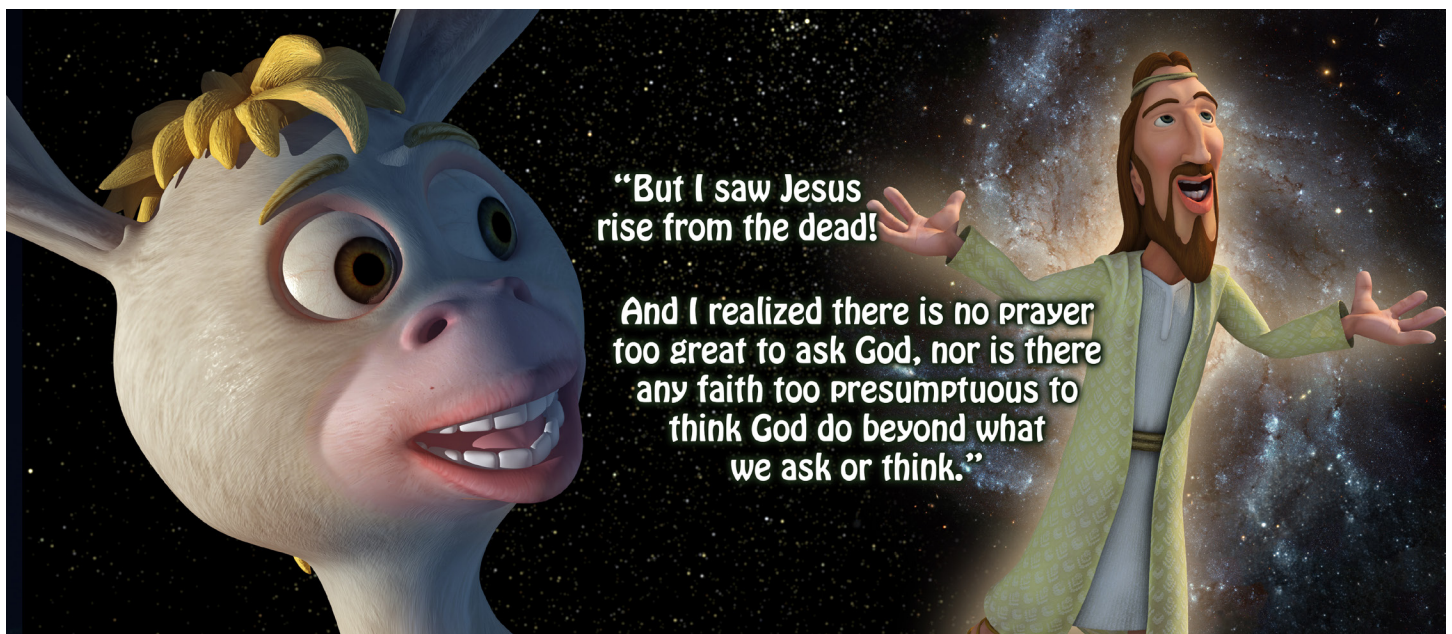
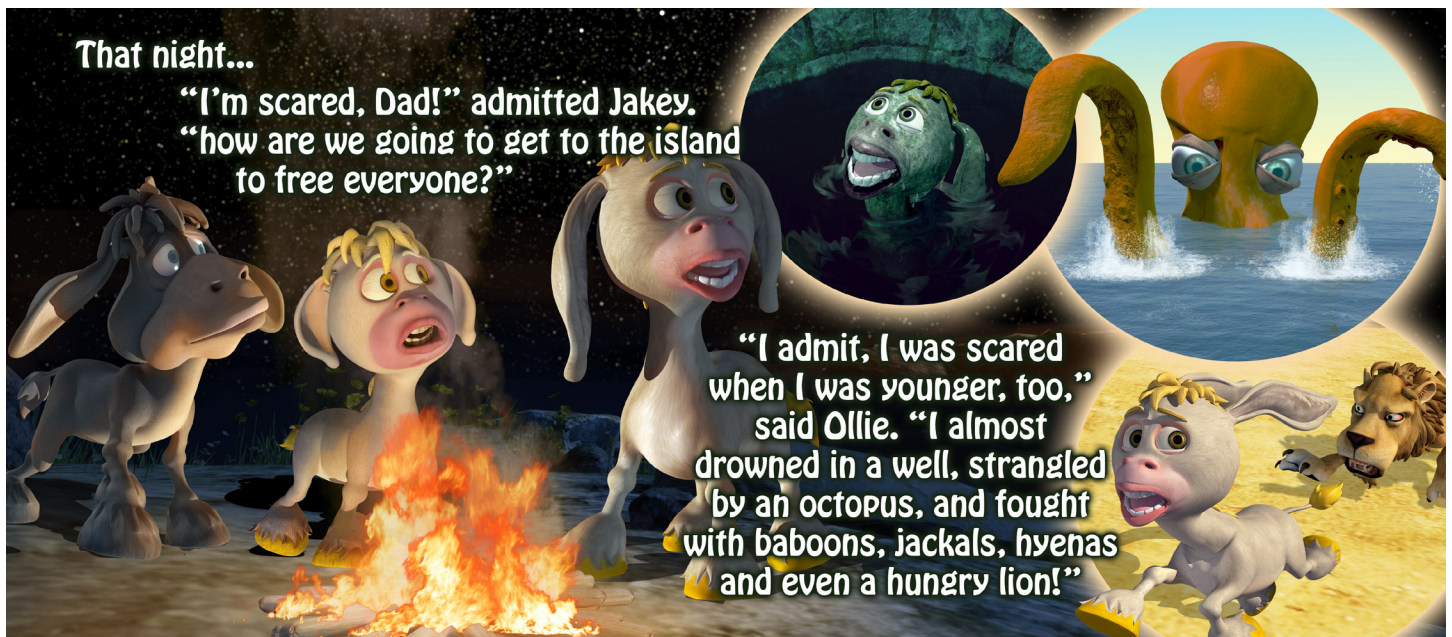
"That's what happens to false gods," said Rupert. "They just decay!"



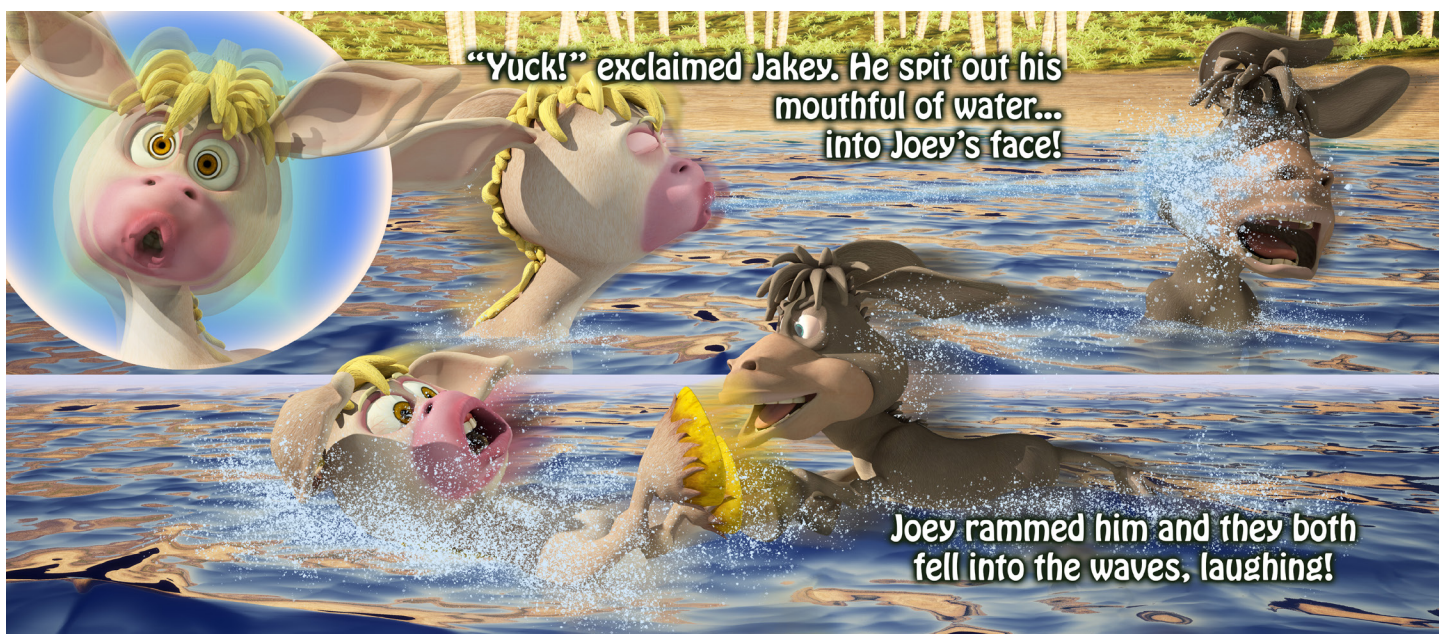
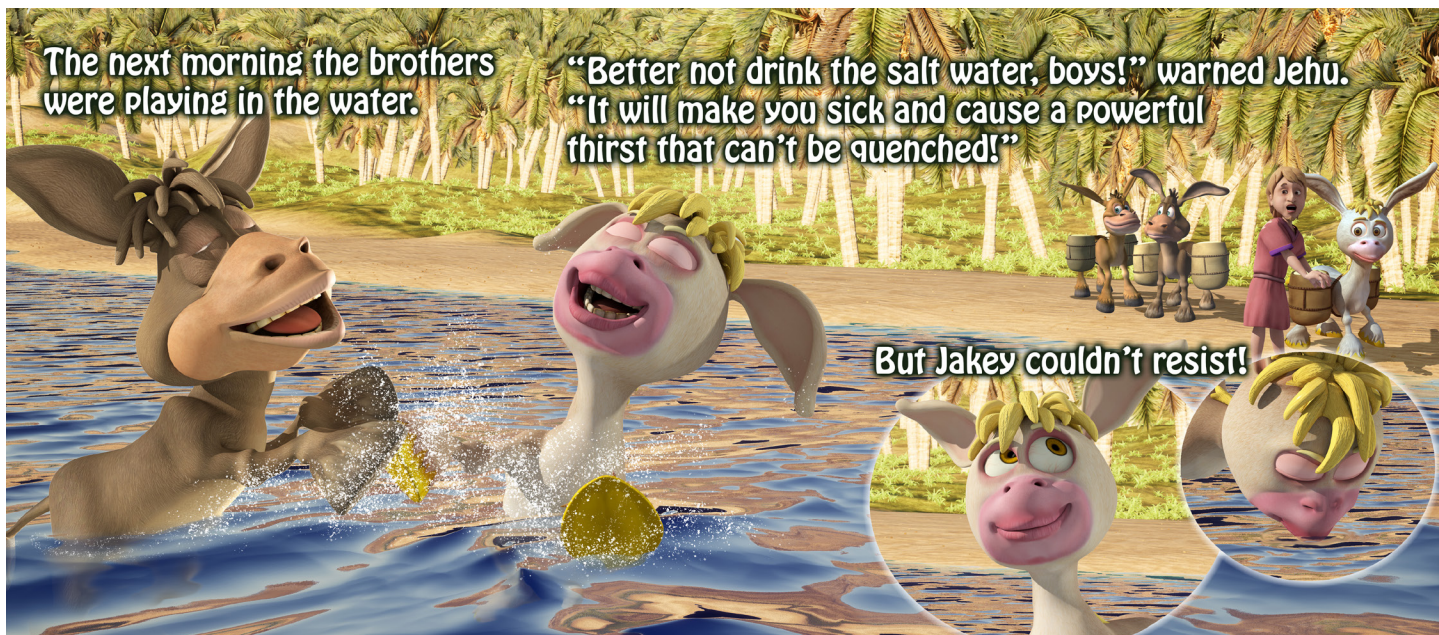


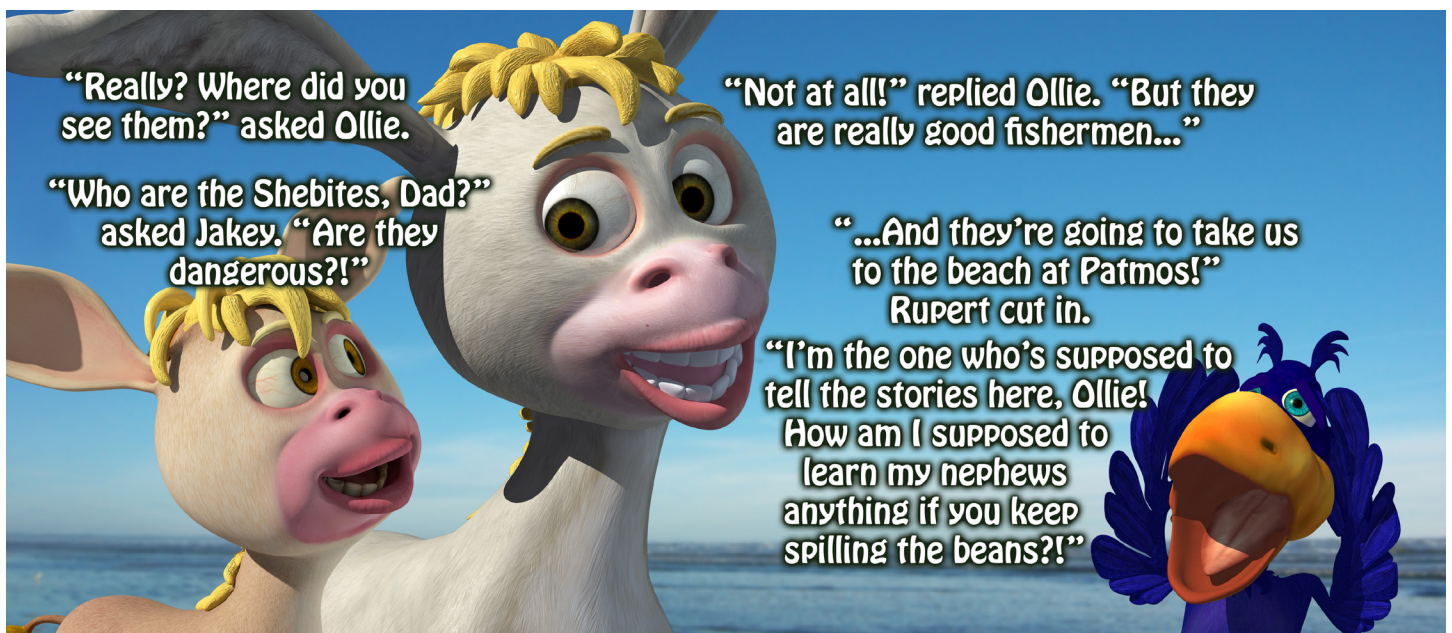


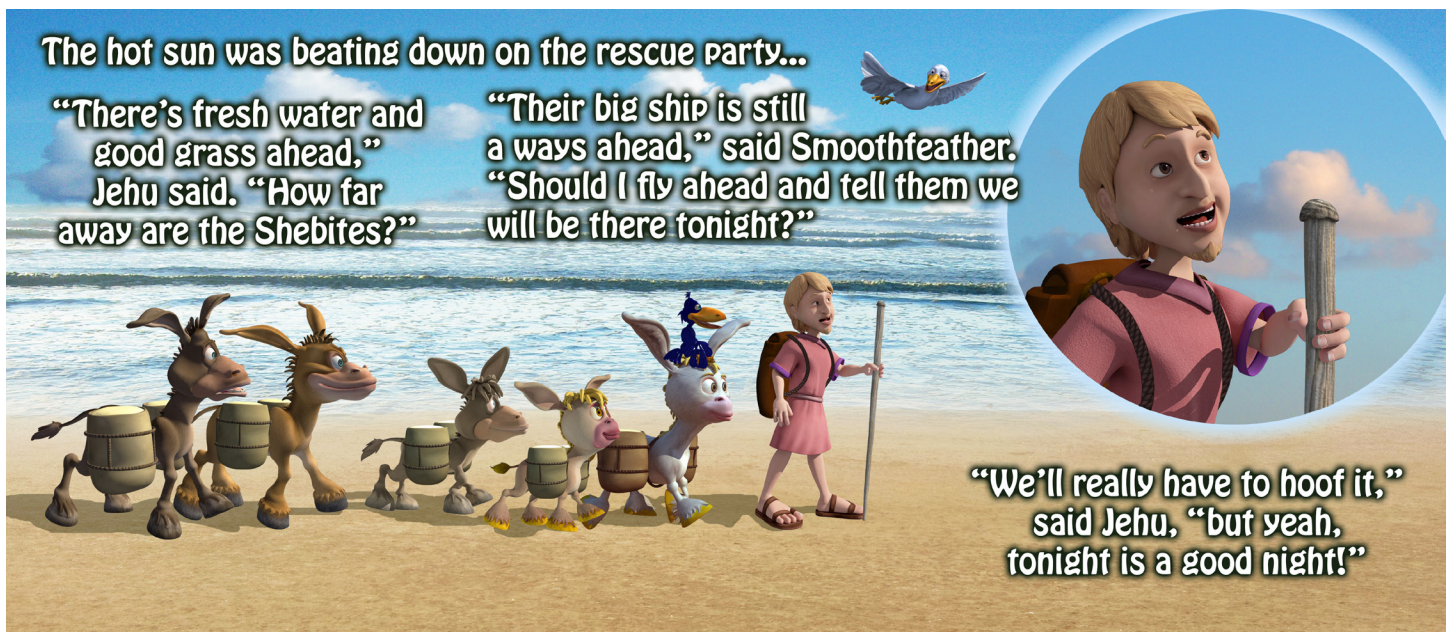




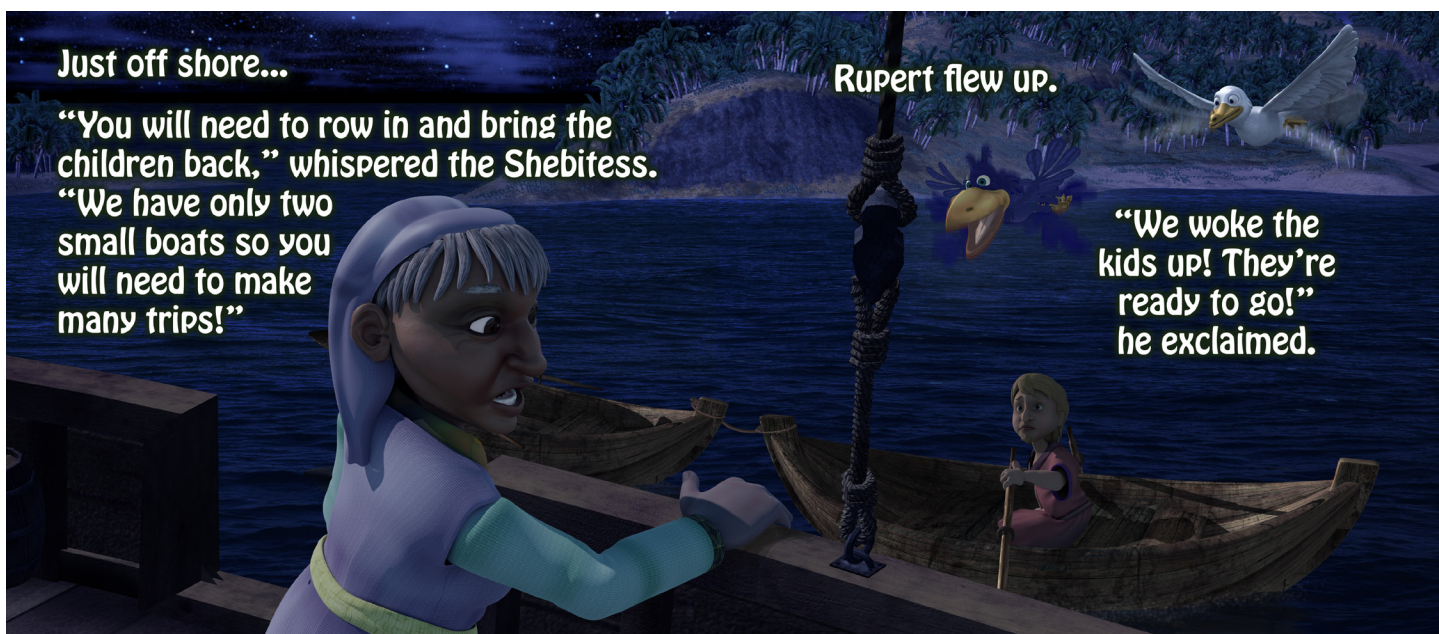


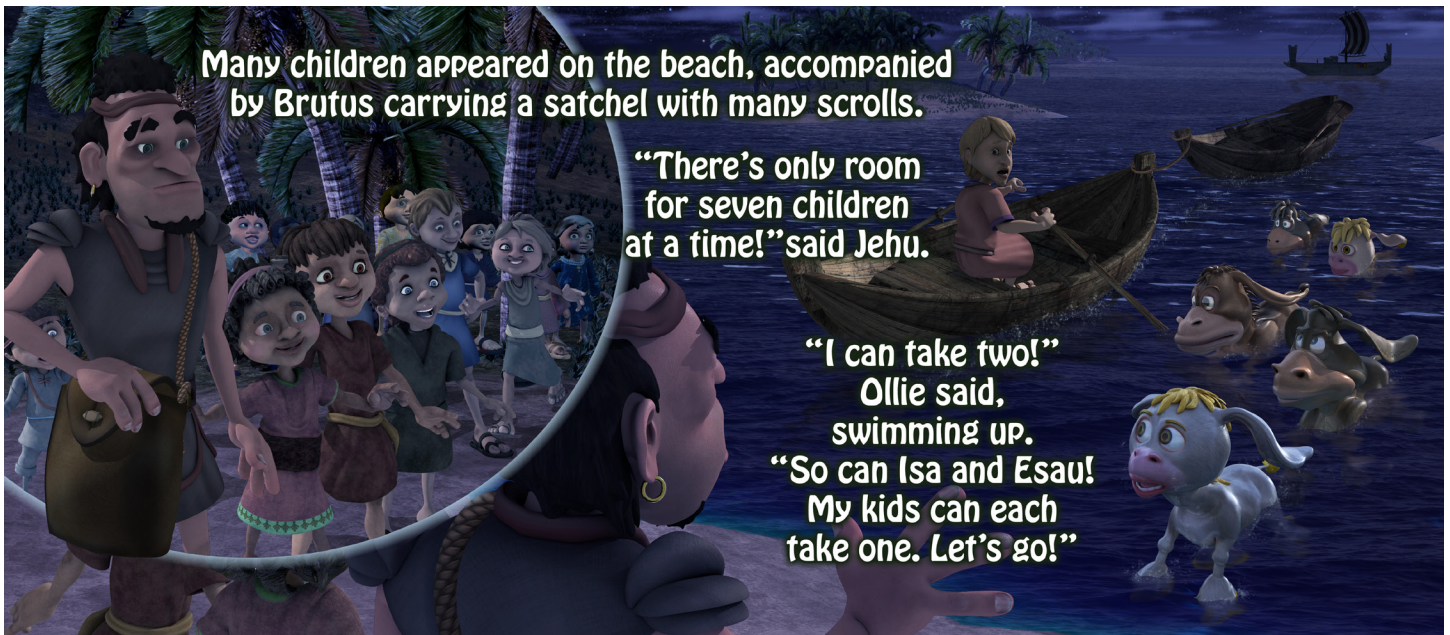












Many children appeared on the beach, accompanied by Brutus carrying a satchel with many scrolls.

"There's only room for seven children at a time!" said Jehu.

"I can take two!" Ollie said, swimming up.
"So can Isa and Esau! My kids can each take one. Let's go!"



"Where is John?" asked Jehu, looking up the beach.

"He's not coming," answered the guard. "He's staying behind to pray."

Jehu looked at the guard. "What's your name?" he asked.

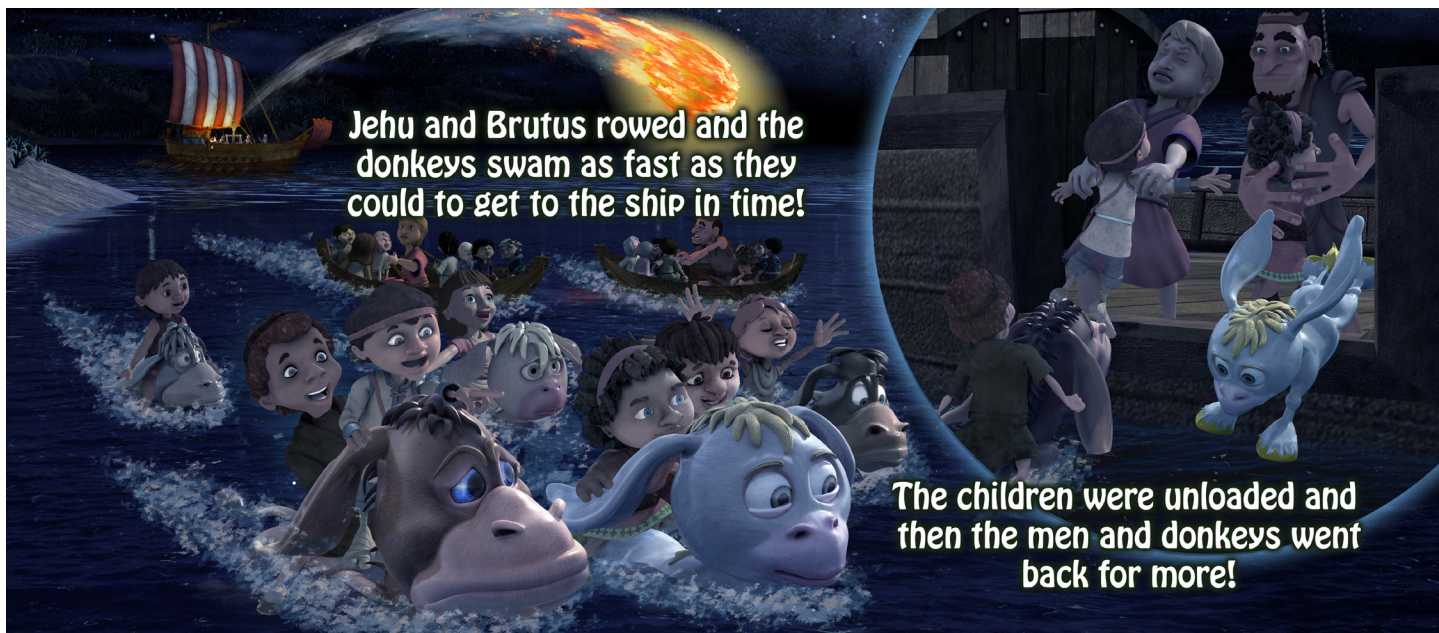
"Brutus," he replied. "Here, take his letters. Come on, kids!" he yelled. "Into the boats!"



A Roman ship came into view!

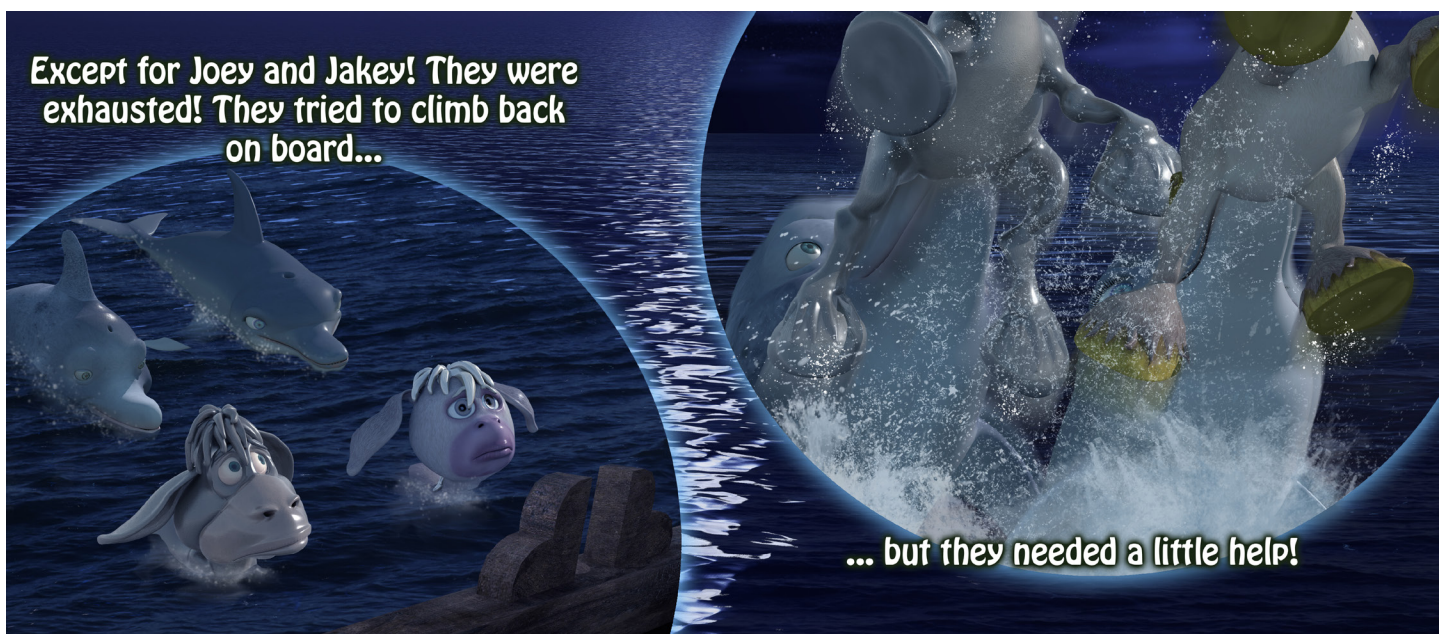
It catapultated a shot of fire!

"Move it!" the Shebitess yelled. "They're going to figure out our range and try to burn our sails!"



Jehu and Brutus rowed and the donkeys swam as fast as they could to get to the ship in time!

The children were unloaded and then the men and donkeys went back for more!



Except for Joey and Jakey! They were exhausted! They tried to climb back on board...

... but they needed a little help!



They both landed solidly on the deck!

"Hi, Apollo!" yelled Ollie.

"Hi, Ollie!" replied Apollo.
"I see your family is growing!"

"So is yours!" Ollie answered.

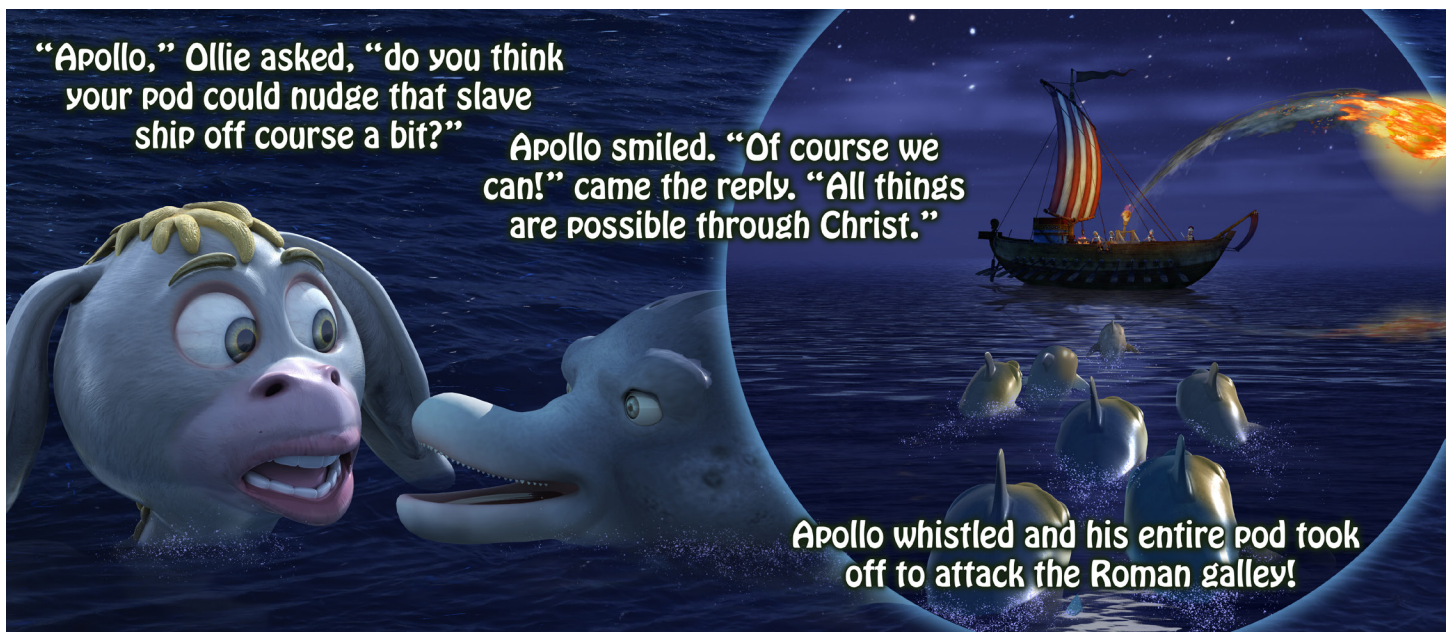


Ollie and Apollo were startled as another fireball streaked past!

"Too close!" yelled the Shebitess. "That was too close! We gotta go!"

"Just a moment!" Ollie yelled back.

"They've gotta get the rest of the kids!" pleaded Rupert.



"Apollo," Ollie asked, "do you think your pod could nudge that slave ship off course a bit?"

Apollo smiled. "Of course we can!" came the reply. "All things are possible through Christ."

Apollo whistled and his entire pod took off to attack the Roman galley!

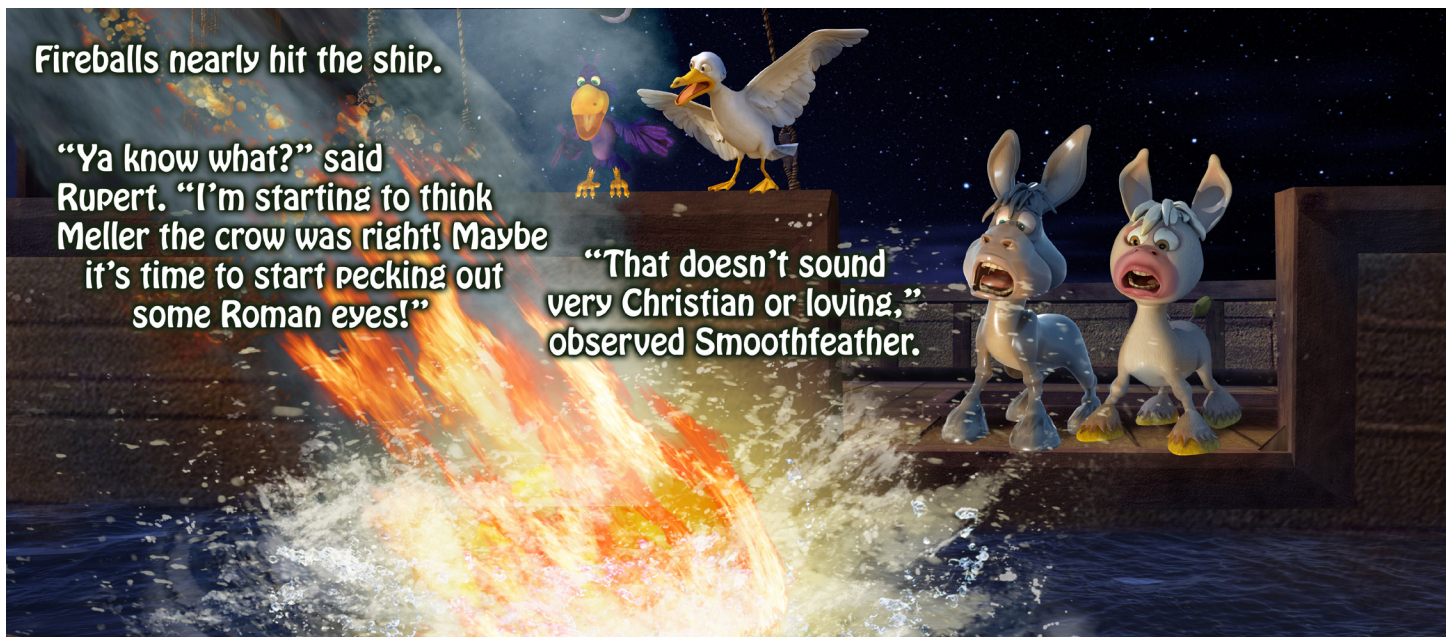


"Was... that Dad's friend Apollo?" asked Joey.

"I think it was, Joey!" answered Jakey.

"Did you see Apollo launch me onto the deck? For a moment I was flying!"

"Me, too!" replied Jakey. "I was an acrobat!"



Fireballs nearly hit the ship.

"Ya know what?" said Rupert. "I'm starting to think Meller the crow was right! Maybe it's time to start pecking out some Roman eyes!"

"That doesn't sound very Christian or loving," observed Smoothfeather.



"Maybe not," replied Rupert, "but these guys are slavers, and they're making me MAD!"

"We'll all die if they keep shooting those fireballs at us," said Jakey. "I say... go get 'em, boys!"



They both stared at Jakey for a moment.

"Well," ventured Rupert, "he LOOKS like Ollie!"

"Good enough for me!" Smoothfeather declared. "Let's roll!"

They took off!

On the Roman ship...

"Ready to fire, men?"
yelled Captain Roma.

But suddenly, the
entire ship shook!

Dolphins were slamming
themselves into
the side of the ship!

"Get them!" cried the captain.

But that's when Rupert and
Smoothfeather attacked!

Smoothfeather attacked the ropes
holding up the sail.

It came crashing down...

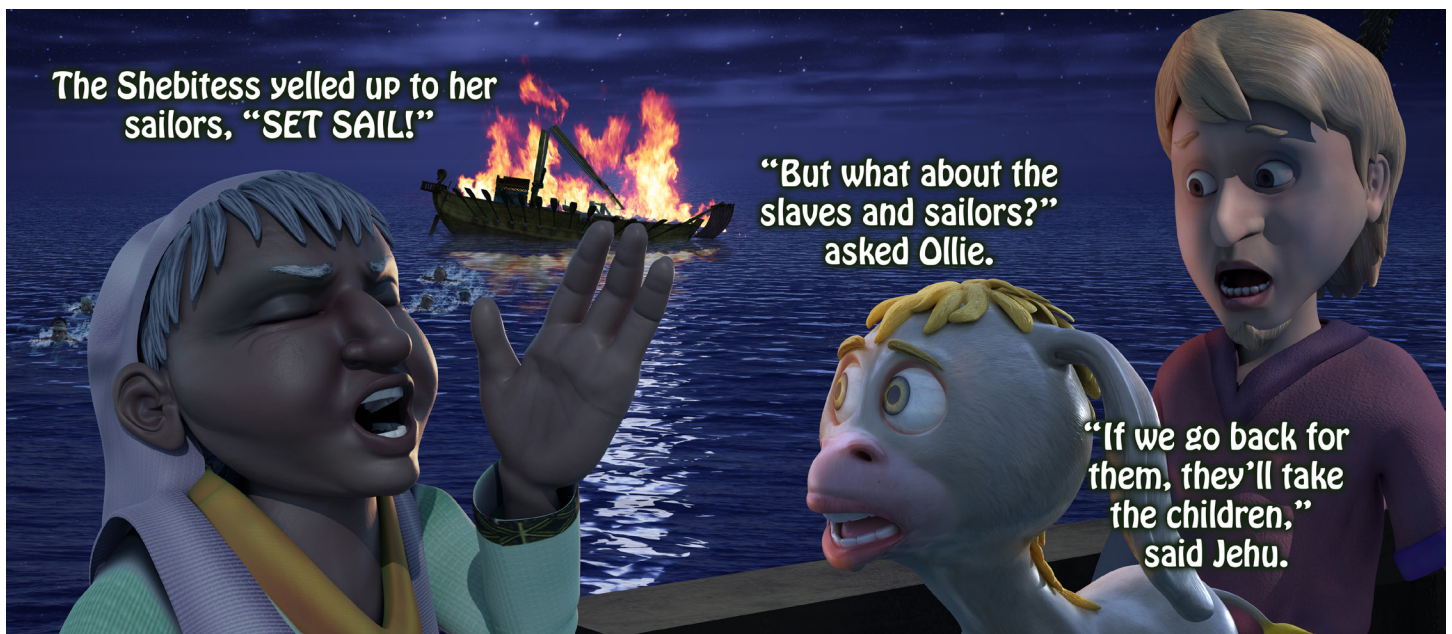
...and caught fire!



Rupert freed the slaves below deck
and helped them escape!

The entire ship
was in flames!

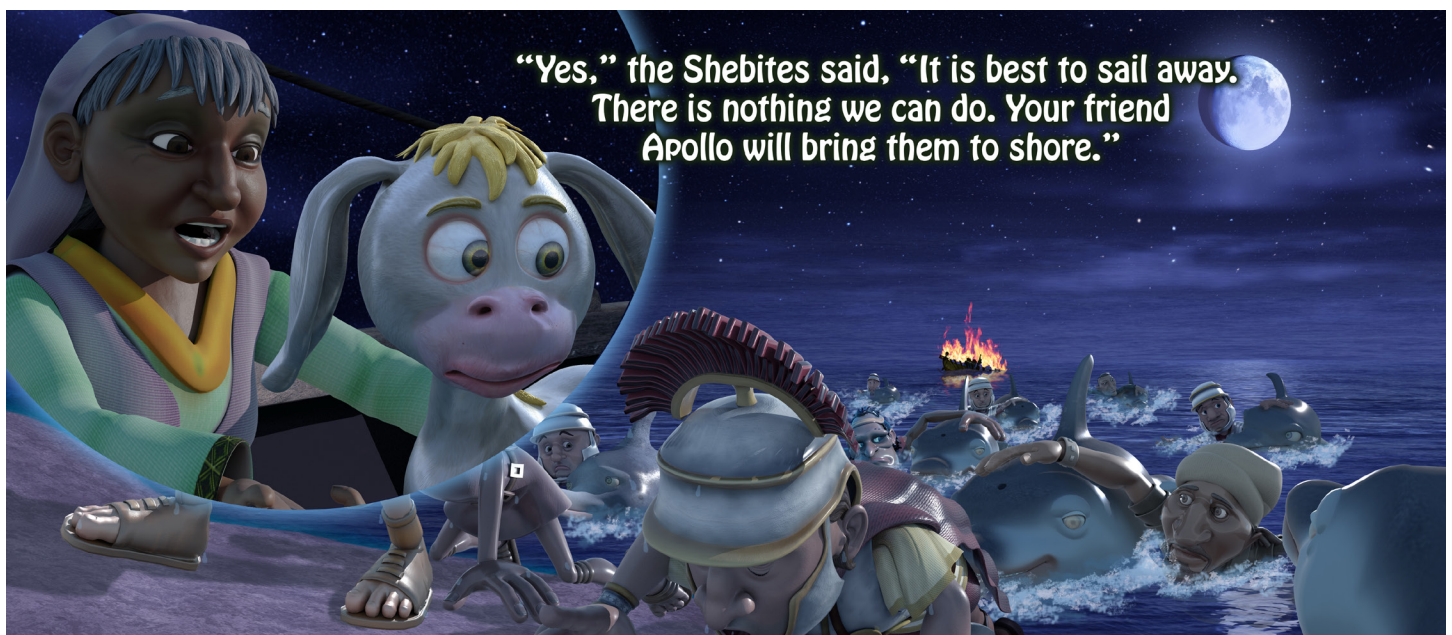
Soldiers and slaves
alike swam for
the beach.



The Shebitess yelled up to her
sailors, "SET SAIL!"

"But what about the
slaves and sailors?"
asked Ollie.

"If we go back for
them, they'll take
the children,"
said Jehu.



"Yes," the Shebitess said, "It is best to sail away.
There is nothing we can do. Your friend
Apollo will bring them to shore."



John tried to cover the waterlogged sailors and slaves with blankets while Brutus fixed hot drinks.

"Don't worry, John," said Brutus.
"The children all got away."

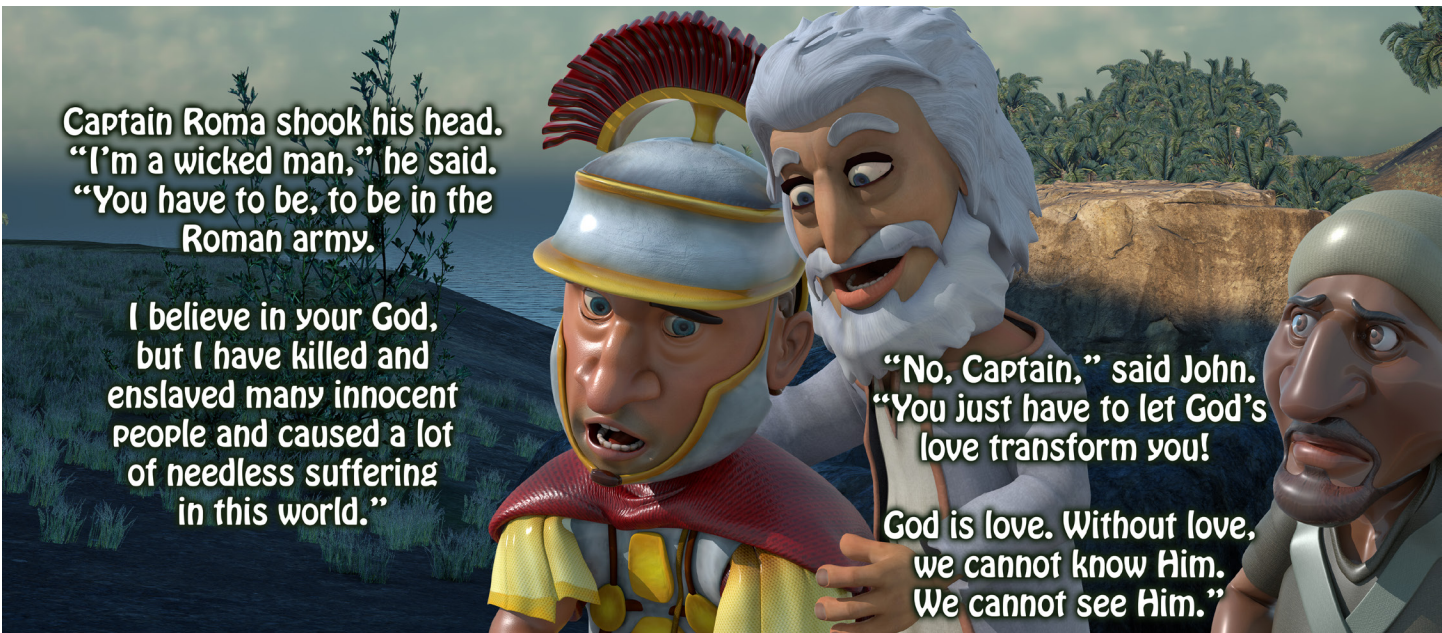
The ship's captain raised his head. "Are you the John that cannot die?" he asked.



"Well, I am the John they tried to kill," he answered with a smile.
"But it just wasn't my time!"

"My sister Vestal was there when they put you in the heated oil," the captain recalled.
"She said nothing happened!
Now she follows your God."

"But not you?" asked John.
"You see I'm alive. Surely you know now that God can do what no man can do!"

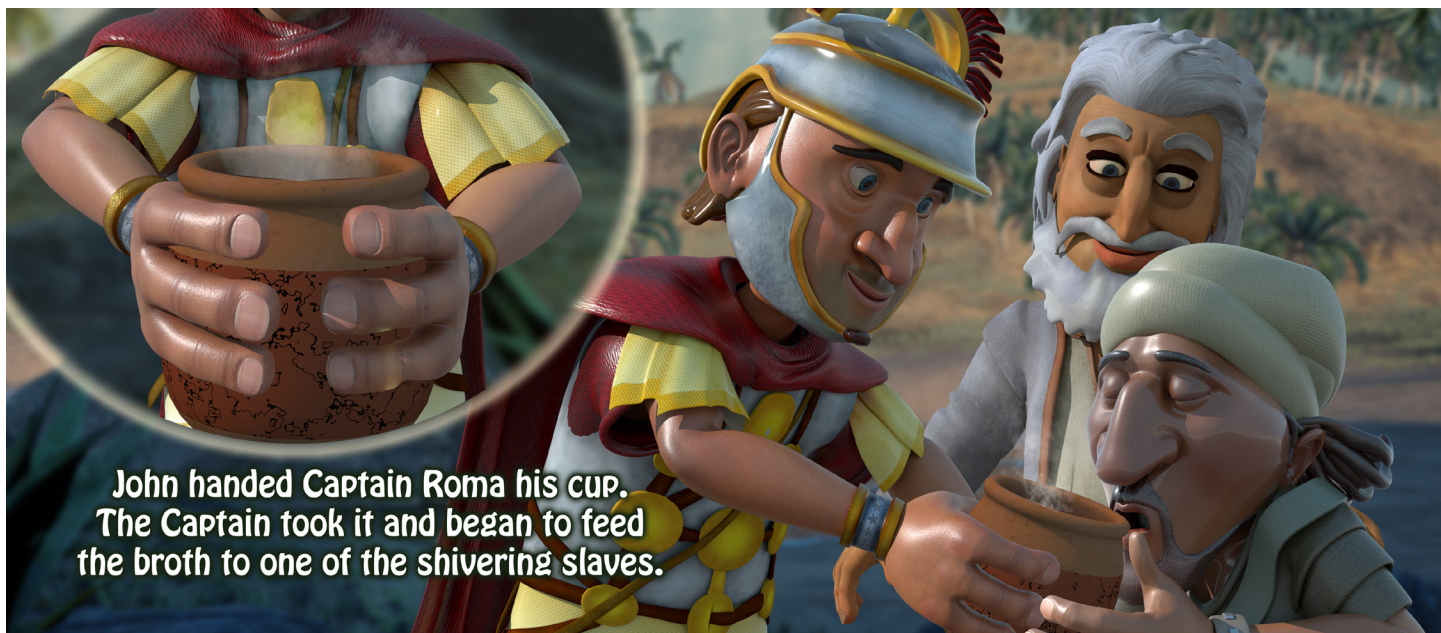


Captain Roma shook his head.
"I'm a wicked man," he said.
"You have to be, to be in the Roman army."

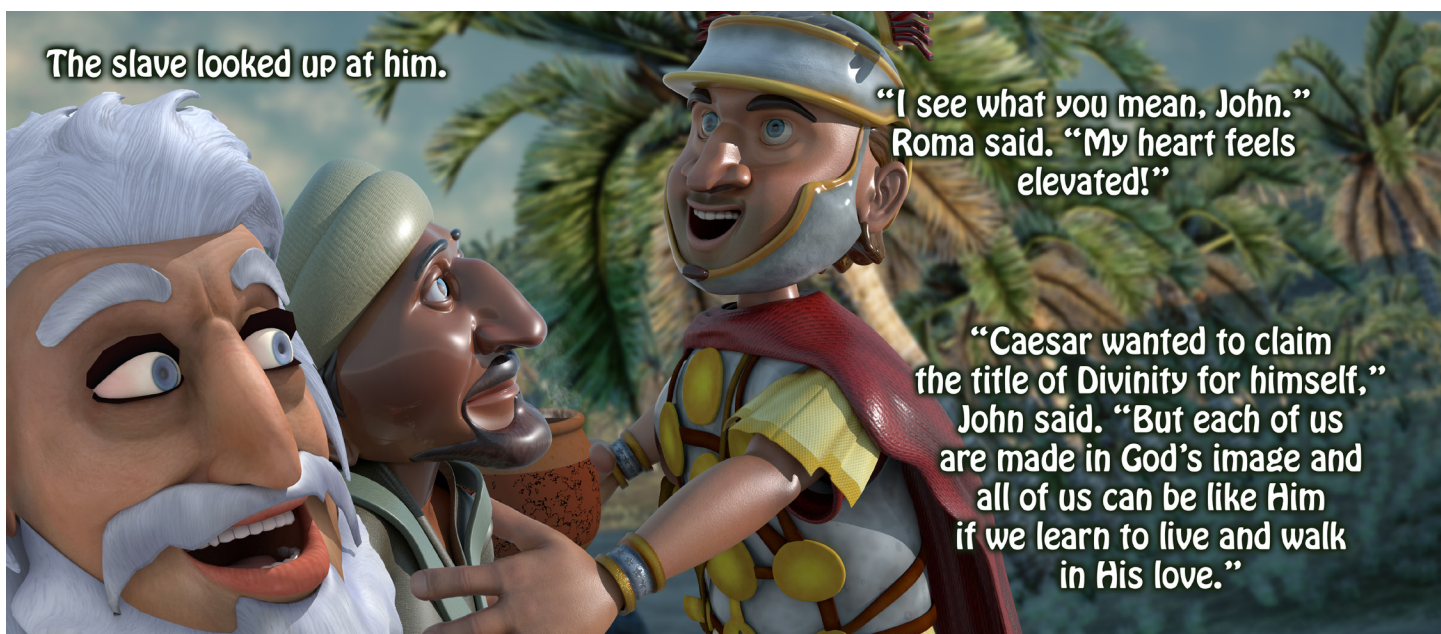
I believe in your God,
but I have killed and enslaved many innocent people and caused a lot of needless suffering in this world."

"No, Captain," said John.
"You just have to let God's love transform you!"

God is love. Without love,
we cannot know Him.
We cannot see Him."



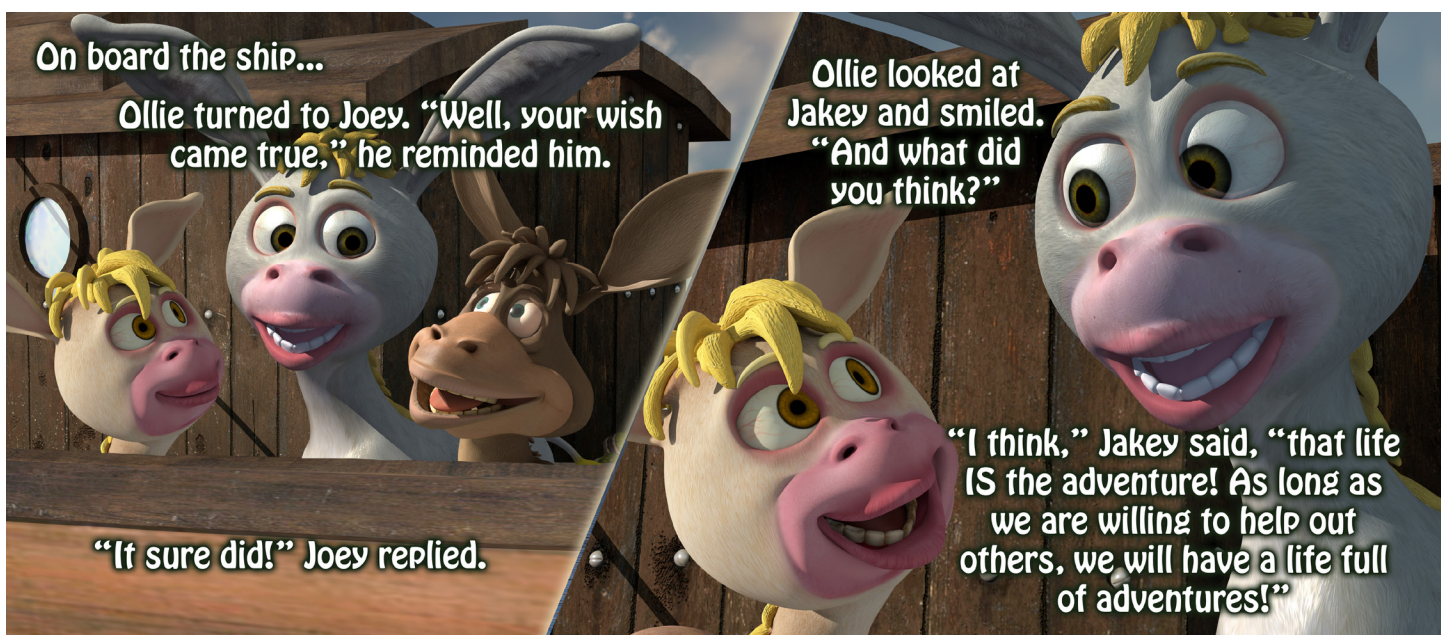
John handed Captain Roma his cup.
The Captain took it and began to feed
the broth to one of the shivering slaves.



The slave looked up at him.

"I see what you mean, John."
Roma said. "My heart feels
elevated!"

"Caesar wanted to claim
the title of Divinity for himself,"
John said. "But each of us
are made in God's image and
all of us can be like Him
if we learn to live and walk
in His love."



On board the ship...

Ollie turned to Joey. "Well, your wish
came true," he reminded him.

Ollie looked at
Jakey and smiled.
"And what did
you think?"

"It sure did!" Joey replied.

"I think," Jakey said, "that life
IS the adventure! As long as
we are willing to help out
others, we will have a life full
of adventures!"

Rupert landed next to the donkeys, a bit out of breath.

"That was," he said, "a lot of flapping to get back here! By the way, I saw John on the beach helping sailors and the slaves. Brutus is back with him!"

"Rupert is being modest," Smoothfeather added. "He picked the lock that was holding the slaves on the sinking ship!"

"There are letters here to churches in Pergamum, Sardis, Philadelphia... seven in all! Does God want me to deliver them?" asked Jehu.

"I bet God set up the rescue so you could get the scrolls!" Ollie replied. "There is no way the Romans would let John off Patmos with original Christian letters. They HATE Christianity!"

"Some of the kids we rescued told me being a Christian on the island was a death sentence!" added Joey. "Less food, less water, and sometimes, if you were working deep in the salt mine, they just forgot about you!"

"So we do it! We deliver these letters as best we can!" Jehu declared. "And we return the children to their families. But how do we do that without getting caught?"

Everyone was quiet for a moment.

Then Jakey spoke up.

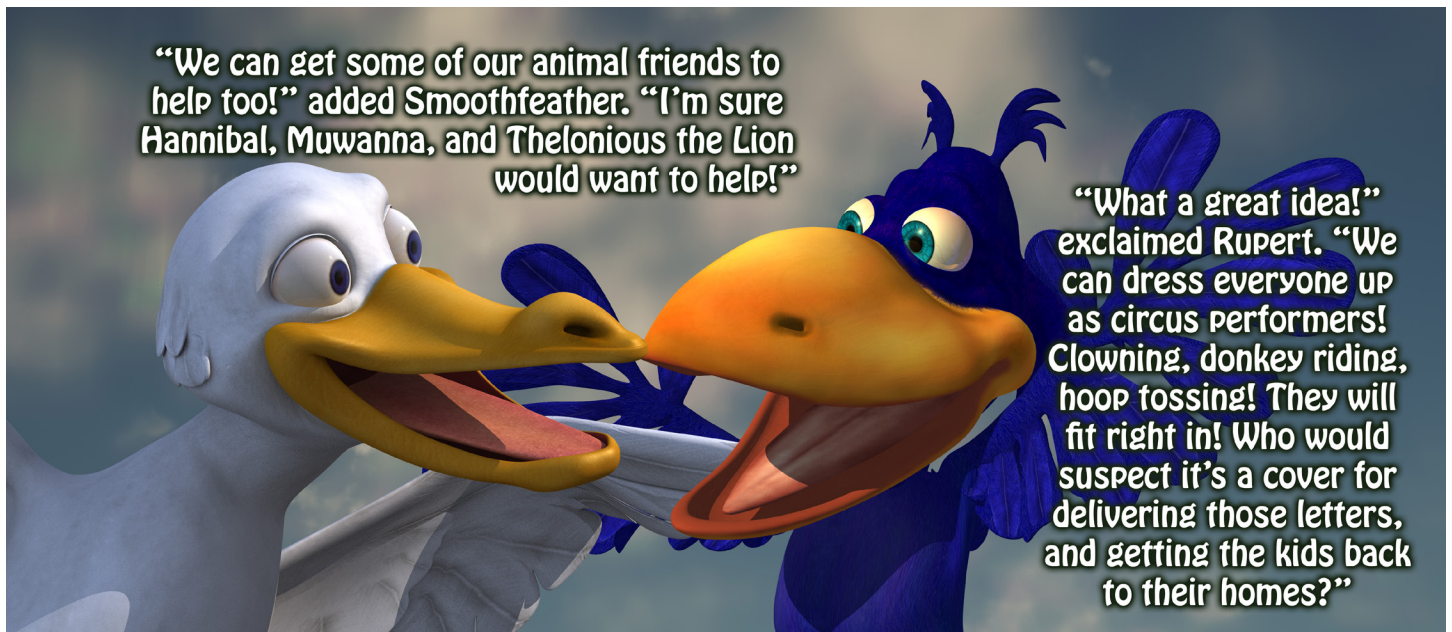
"A circus," he said.



Jehu turned to look at him.
“What did you say?”
he asked.

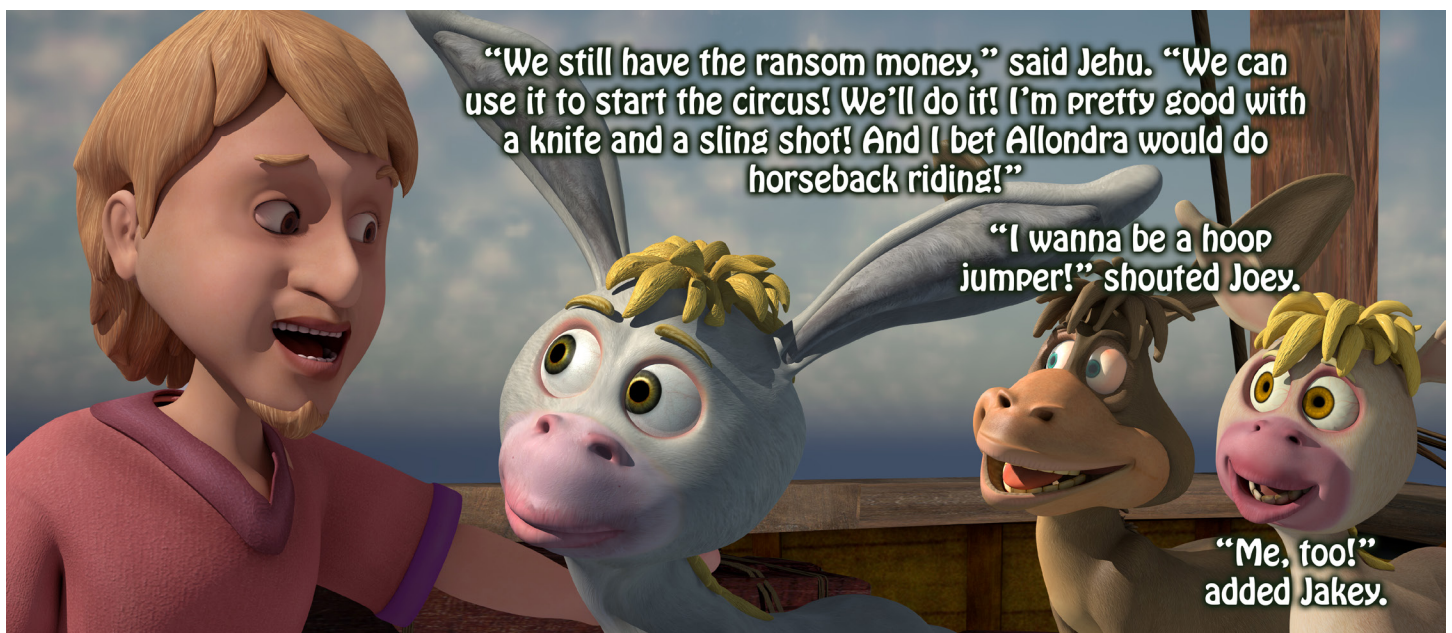
“A circus!” Jakey repeated. “Why
don’t we start our own circus? Me
and Joey know how to do flips now!”

“I do some pretty
good juggling!” said
one of the sailors.



“We can get some of our animal friends to
help too!” added Smoothfeather. “I’m sure
Hannibal, Muwanna, and Thelonious the Lion
would want to help!”

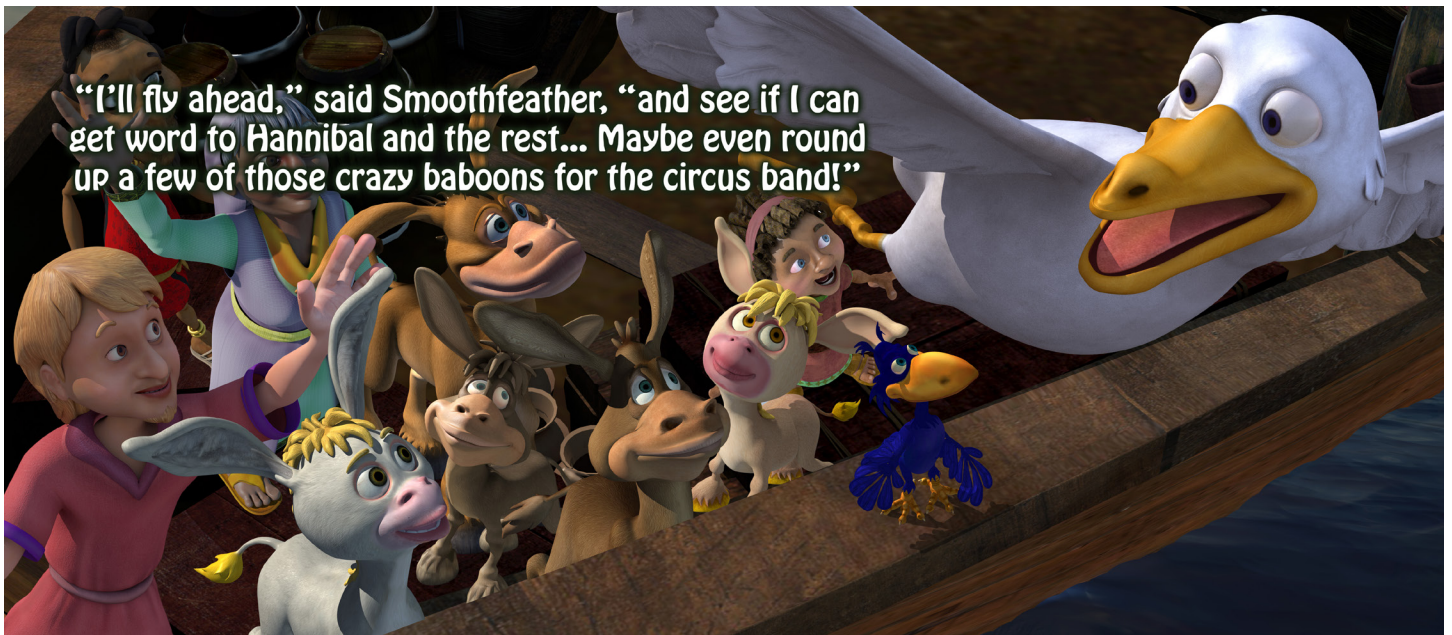
“What a great idea!”
exclaimed Rupert. “We
can dress everyone up
as circus performers!
Clowning, donkey riding,
hoop tossing! They will
fit right in! Who would
suspect it’s a cover for
delivering those letters,
and getting the kids back
to their homes?”



“We still have the ransom money,” said Jehu. “We can
use it to start the circus! We’ll do it! I’m pretty good with
a knife and a sling shot! And I bet Allondra would do
horseback riding!”

“I wanna be a hoop
jumper!” shouted Joey.

“Me, too!”
added Jakey.



"I'll fly ahead," said Smoothfeather, "and see if I can get word to Hannibal and the rest... Maybe even round up a few of those crazy baboons for the circus band!"



"Hey boys," said Ollie, "it looks like we have ourselves a new adventure!"

And so, another chapter closed, and a new chapter opened for Doneky Ollie and his ever growing family and friends.

*Everyday
is a brand new day!*

Every hour is a gift from God!



*Just to be true,
To what you know,
And you will find,
You are living on a cloud!*



QUIZ TIME!

Can you answer
these questions?

(the answers are at the bottom
of the page, upside down)

1) Who kidnapped the children?

- a) Jehu
- b) the Romans
- c) Apostle John
- d) a scurry of squirrels

4) Which of these is Donkey Ollie's son?

- a) Benji
- b) Rupert
- c) Jakey
- d) Bob the clown

2) Who was Meller?

- a) an evil thief of a crow
- b) Rupert's best friend
- c) The Oracle of Delphi
- d) does not appear in this book

5) Where were the children being held?

- a) Rome
- b) Temple of Apollo
- c) Patmos Island
- d) New Jersey

6) Who was the Shebite leader?

- a) an old friend of Smoothfeather
- b) an old friend of Apostle John
- c) an old friend of the Emperor
- d) an old friend of Rupert the Raven

7) What happened to question number 3?

- a) We just forgot all about it
- b) It was too afraid to show up
- c) captured by the Romans
- d) all of the above

Answers: 1 - b; 2 - c; 3 - a; 4 - a; 5 - c; 6 - d; 7 - a

