



SPARK STORY BIBLE

SAMPLER

www.augsburgforfress.org



Spark Story Bible

Sample pages for use during Spark Preview Week

Contributors:

Patti Thisted Arthur	Mary C. Lindberg
Kari Bahe	Tera Michelson
Carolyn Banks	Debbie Trafton O'Neal
Becky Weaver Carlson	Cynthia Fairman Paulson
Erin Davis	Diana Running
Barbara DeGrote	Cheryl Stearns
Eileen Z. Engebretson	Sue Tornai
Debra Thorpe Hetherington	Kathy Donlan Tunseth
Melanie Heuiser Hill	Joe Vaughan
Diane Jacobson	Mary Ingram Zentner
Kimberly Leetch	

Illustrators:

Peter Grosshauser Ed Temple

Contents

Creation	Genesis 1:1—2:4a	2
Adam and Eve	Genesis 2:4-25	8
Baby Moses	Exodus 2:1-10	14
The Good Shepherd	John 10:11-18	20
Philip and the Ethiopian	Acts 8:26-40	24



SPARK STORY BIBLE SAMPLER

These pages are excerpted from the Spark™ Story Bible, copyright © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Spark™ Story Bible is a trademark of Augsburg Fortress. No part of this booklet may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission from the publisher. Visit <http://www.augsburgfortress.org/copyrights/contact.asp> or write to Permissions, Augsburg Fortress, Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440.

To purchase copies of the Spark™ Story Bible, go to www.augsburgfortress.org, ISBN 9780806670492.

Manufactured in the U.S.A.

Creation

Before God created the world, there was nothing at all—except God.

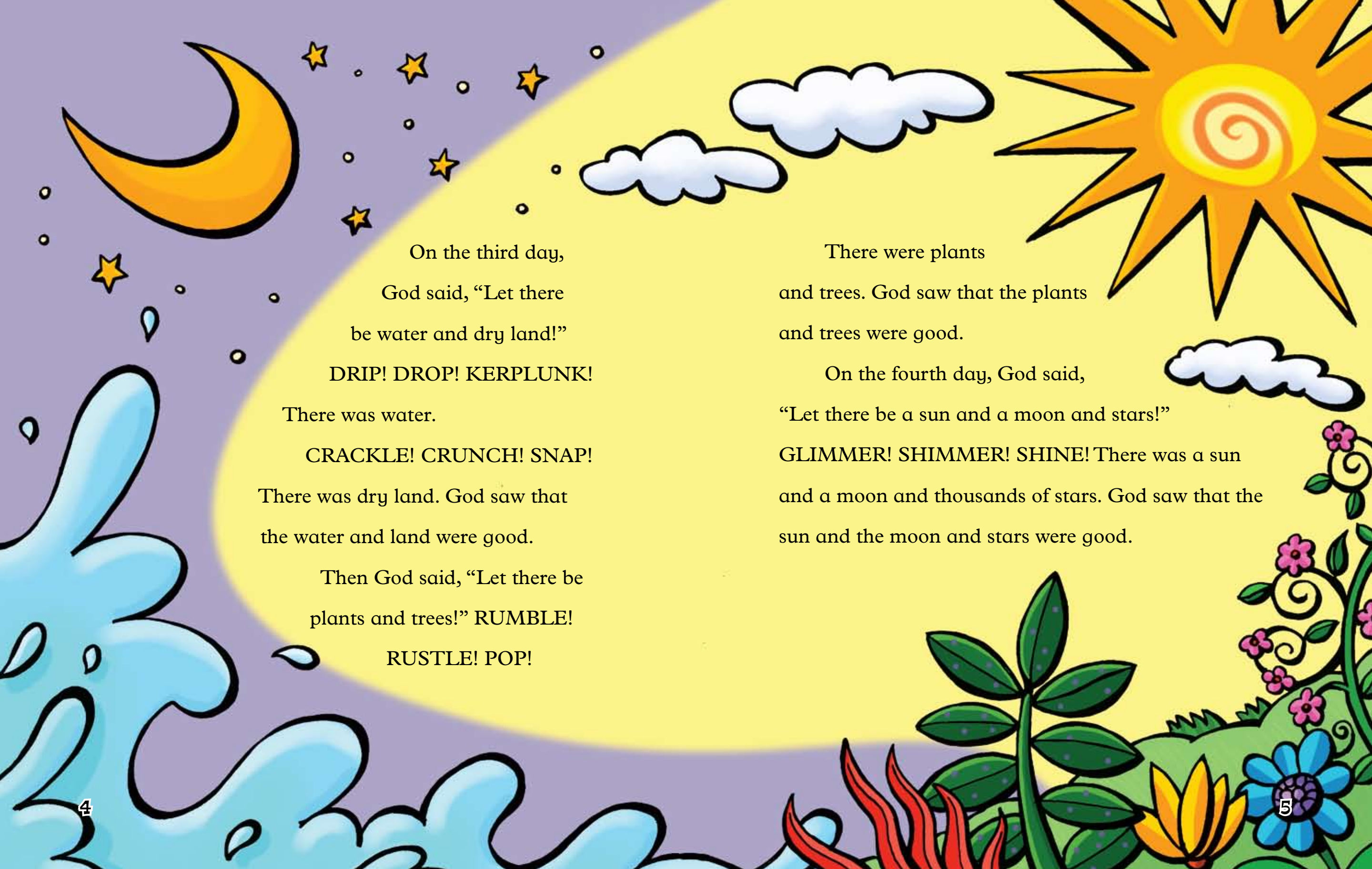
On the first day of creation, the wind of God blew. WHISH!

WOOSH! SWOOSH! God said,

“Let there be light!” CRACKLE! BOOM! BANG!

There was light. God saw that the light was good. Then, SPLLLLLLITTTT! God divided the light and the darkness into day and night.

On the second day, God said, “Let there be a sky!” PILLOW! BILLOW! PUFF! There was a sky. God saw that the sky was good.



On the third day,
God said, "Let there
be water and dry land!"
DRIP! DROP! KERPLUNK!

There was water.

CRACKLE! CRUNCH! SNAP!


There was dry land. God saw that
the water and land were good.

Then God said, "Let there be
plants and trees!" **RUMBLE!**

RUSTLE! POP!

There were plants
and trees. God saw that the plants
and trees were good.

On the fourth day, God said,
"Let there be a sun and a moon and stars!"
GLIMMER! SHIMMER! SHINE! There was a sun
and a moon and thousands of stars. God saw that the
sun and the moon and stars were good.



On the fifth day, God said, “Let there be sea animals that swim and birds that fly!” WIGGLE! SPLISH!

SPLASH! There were sea animals. FLUTTER! PUTTER! TWEET!

There were birds. God saw that the sea animals and birds were good.


On the sixth day, God said, “Let there be animals of every kind on the earth!”

GROWL! PROWL! SNORT! There

were animals with

fur. SKITTER!

SKATTER!



CREEP! There were bugs. SLITHER, SLINK, HOP! There were reptiles.

God saw that the animals and bugs and reptiles were good. Then God said, “Let there be people on the earth!” BLINK! WINK! HICCUP! There were people on the earth. God saw that the people were very good.

On the seventh day, God said, “It is time to rest!” WHEW! PSHEW! AH HH!

God and all of creation rested.

★ Go outside into God’s creation. Look around—God made it all! Say a prayer, thanking God for all of creation.

Adam and Eve

After creating the whole world, God looked around and was very happy. It was an incredible world filled with wonderful animals, plants, and included two very special people—a man and a woman.

God made a beautiful place for the man and woman to live, an amazing garden. God named the man Adam and the woman Eve.

God said to Adam and Eve, “I need someone to help me take care of this amazing world! Will you help me?”

Adam and Eve said, “Sure! We’d love to help you, God!”

Adam and Eve were happy to care for God’s beautiful world. All around them was incredible creation. Together, they walked around the garden, amazed with what they saw. There were tall trees and short trees, fat trees and skinny trees! “Wow, Eve,” Adam said, “look at this! There are flowers of every size and color!” “Amazing,” Eve said to Adam. “It’s all so beautiful.” There were still, quiet blue pools and a rustling breeze that blew throughout the garden. Everywhere they looked, they saw an amazing world.

When she looked at all of the animals God placed in the garden—the ones that fluttered through the sky, the ones that wiggled and squirmed across the ground, and the ones that frolicked and played across the land—Eve said, “It’s going to be hard to keep track of them all!”

“Don’t worry, Eve,” Adam said, “God asked me to give all the animals names to help us keep track and take care of them all—this is toucan and chickadee and monkey and squirrel.”



“This tall, tall creature is called giraffe! The silly one with a long nose—she will be an elephant! And this one who wags his tail will be dog,” Adam said. “Look how he follows me wherever I go!”

God watched over Adam and Eve as Adam shared all the names of the animals while they played with them in the garden. God was happy to see that Adam and Eve were taking such good care of everything in creation.

★ What are some of **YOUR** favorite things that God created? Ask your family members what their favorite things are. How many are the same as yours?

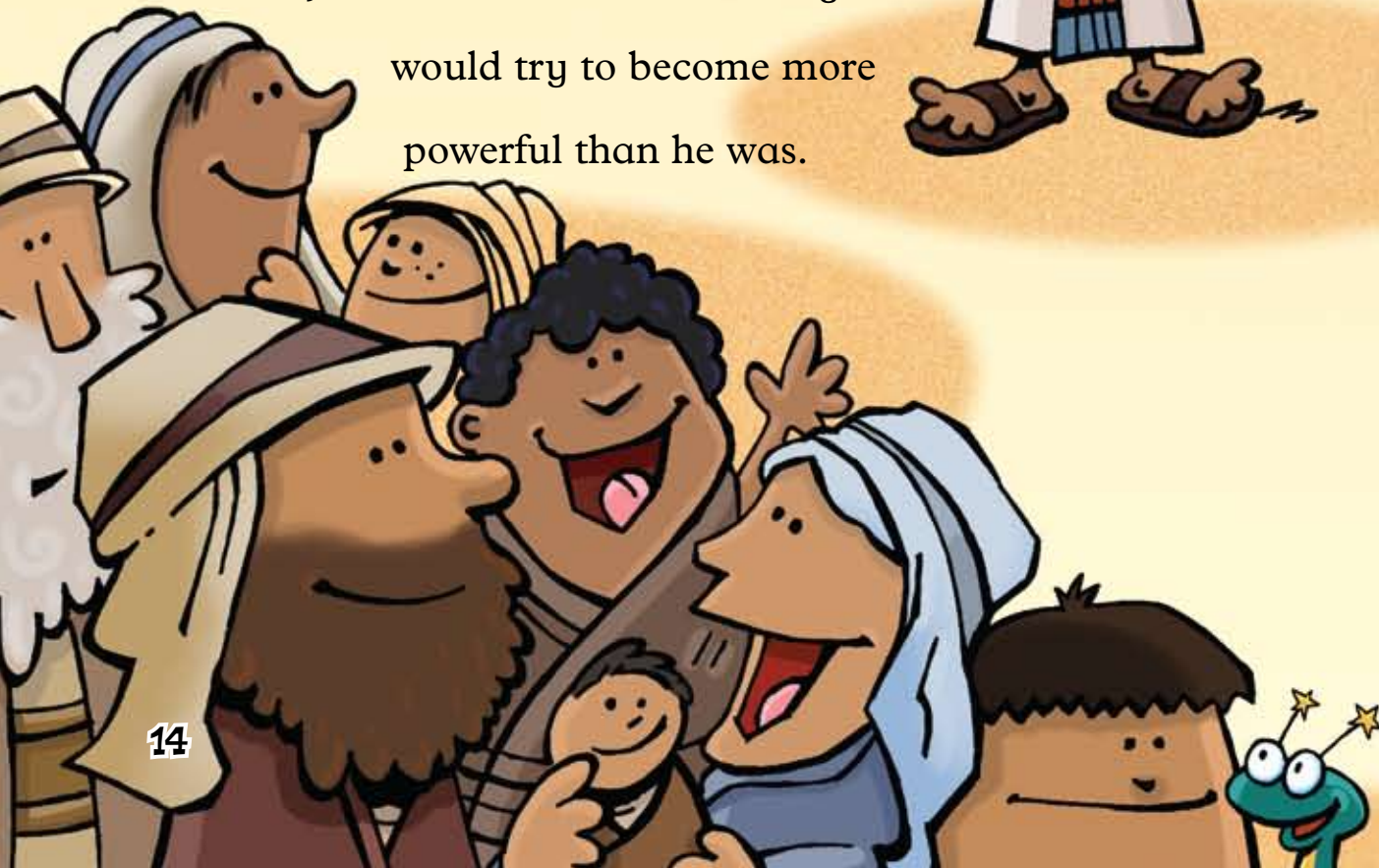


Baby Moses

Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, was afraid. He was rich and powerful . . . and scared! What could he be scared of? Well, strangely enough, Pharaoh was scared of God's people, the Hebrews. He thought there were too many of them, and he was afraid that they would try to become more powerful than he was.



To make sure the Hebrews had no power, Pharaoh made them his slaves and ordered them to work very hard. Even worse, he demanded that all of the Hebrew baby boys should be drowned in the Nile River! Because of this, God's people were terribly afraid, too. Everyone in Egypt was afraid!



During this fearful time, a baby boy was born to a Hebrew mother. She loved her baby boy, and of course she wanted him to live. The baby's mother kept him safe by making a floating basket for him. She put her baby in the basket and then hid it in the water and plants at the edge of the Nile River. The baby's big sister, Miriam, hid near the shore and watched over the basket. What happened next was really amazing!

Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to take a bath. She saw the basket among the water and plants and asked her servant to go and get it. When she opened the basket, she was surprised to see a baby boy crying.



“Hmmm . . . This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” said Pharaoh’s daughter. “He’s awfully cute! Wouldn’t it be fun to keep him?”

“A-ha!” thought Miriam. “I can help her!” Miriam bravely stepped out of her hiding place. “I could probably find someone to help take care of the baby for you until he’s a little older,” she said. “That would be perfect!” said Pharaoh’s daughter. Miriam was excited to tell her mother the news. The baby’s mother took good care of him.



When he was old enough, he went to live with Pharaoh’s daughter. Miriam and her mother prayed he would be safe with her.

“I think I will name him Moses,” said Pharaoh’s daughter, “because I took him out of the water.”

Moses lived in Pharaoh’s palace until he grew up to be a man. During that time, life became worse and worse for the Hebrews. Eventually, however, Moses helped free God’s people so they could leave Egypt. Now there was something besides fear for God’s people—there was HOPE!

★ Do an experiment:
See what kinds
of things float in
water! What would
you build a floating
basket out of?



The Good Shepherd

Jesus wanted people to know that he would always love them and take care of them. He called himself the “good shepherd” and told people that they were like sheep. Some people didn’t understand, so Jesus told them this story.

The little lamb was lost. “Ba-a-a!” said the little lamb. “Ba-a-a-a!” The sun slowly slid out of sight.



The little lamb shivered in the cold night air. “Ba-a-a!” He smelled danger. Nearby, a hungry wolf hid behind a thorny bush. “Ba-a-a!” cried the little lamb. “Ba-a-a-a!”

Down in the valley, a shepherd guarded his flock of sheep, watching and listening. The animals slept peacefully in the cool, green grass. A small stream delicately danced in the evening breeze. A gust of wind swept across the valley. The shepherd paused.

“Ba-a-a,” he heard in the distance. “Ba-a-a-a!” He knew the voice of his little lamb. Even though it was dark, the shepherd started up the rocky path that led toward the lost lamb.



“Don’t be afraid,” the shepherd called out. “I will find you. I will keep you safe!”

The little lamb heard the shepherd’s voice. Slowly, he stumbled down the path. A branch scraped his leg.

“Ba-a-a!” he cried. The little lamb was scared. He waited for the shepherd to find him. “Ba-a-a!” he said.

“Ba-a-a-a!”

When the shepherd reached the lamb, he gently picked him up and held him close. “There you are,” said the shepherd. “I have found you. I will carry you home.”



After he told this story Jesus said, “See, I am a shepherd, too. Just like a good shepherd cares for each and every sheep in the flock, I care for each and every one of you.”

★ Hide a stuffed animal and ask a “shepherd” to find it. Say “Ba-a-a” when the “shepherd” gets close to it.



Philip and the Ethiopian

Philip loved Jesus. He tried to act like Jesus would.

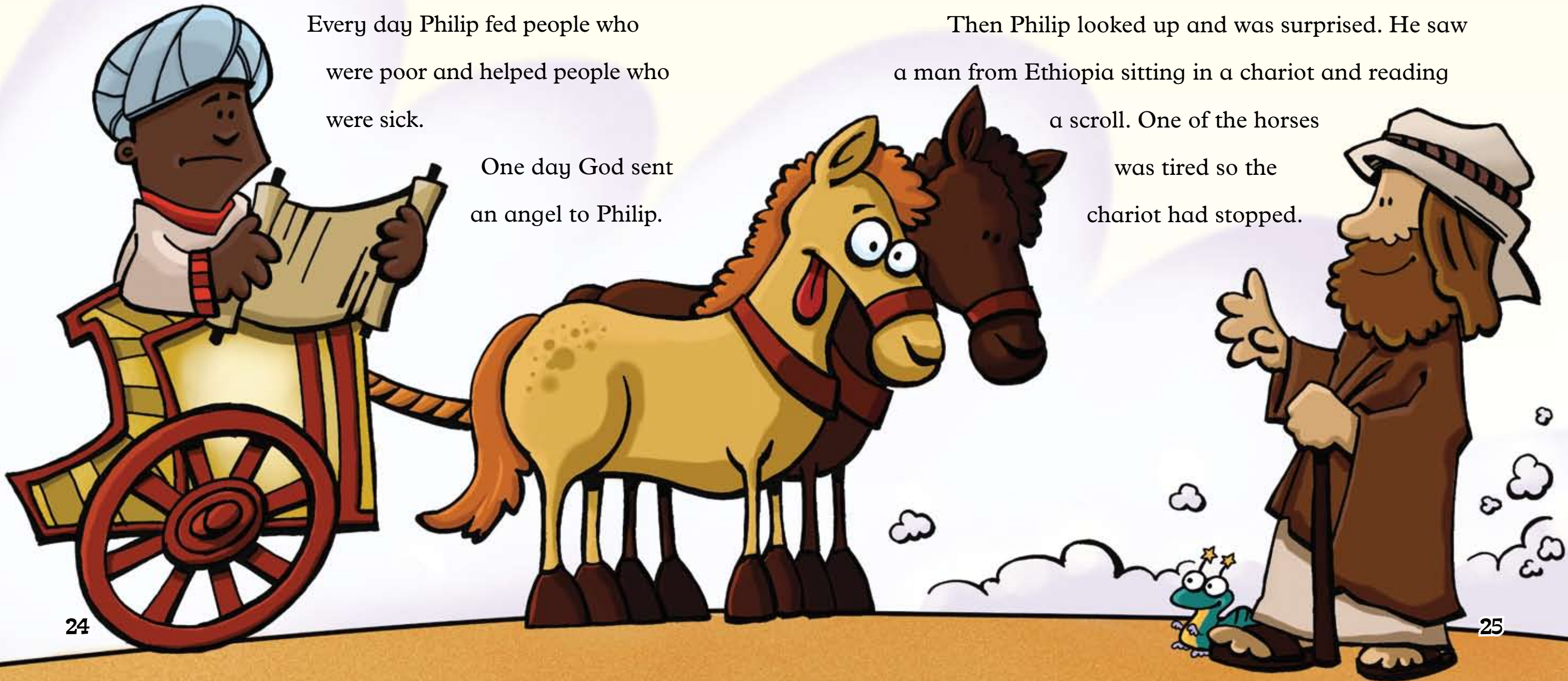
Every day Philip fed people who were poor and helped people who were sick.

One day God sent an angel to Philip.

The angel told Philip to travel on a hot, dry road and share God's love along the way. So Philip set out along the road.

"It sure is hot and dry out," thought Philip.

Then Philip looked up and was surprised. He saw a man from Ethiopia sitting in a chariot and reading a scroll. One of the horses was tired so the chariot had stopped.



Philip knew he had a chance to do the job God had given him. He ran up to the chariot and said hello. The man invited him to sit next to him.

“I see you’re reading a scroll,” Philip said.

“Yes, it’s a scroll with words of the prophet Isaiah, but I don’t really understand it,” the Ethiopian man said.

They took turns reading the scroll out loud. Philip talked about Jesus and explained what the scroll said.

Soon the horse felt rested and ready to trot. Philip stayed in the chariot. It was a bouncy ride. The man from Ethiopia bumped into Philip as he said, “Tell me more about Jesus.”

Philip told him, “Jesus was the Son of God. He came to earth and saved us.”

The Ethiopian man was so amazed that he wanted to be baptized. But where could they find some water for baptism on that hot, dry road?

The surprises just kept on coming that day! Philip and the man found a pool of water. Philip baptized the man, and God’s love filled the man’s heart. The man told Philip that he would share the good news about Jesus with everyone. Philip was happy to serve God.

★ What would you say if someone asked you the question that the Ethiopian man asked, “Who was Jesus?”

