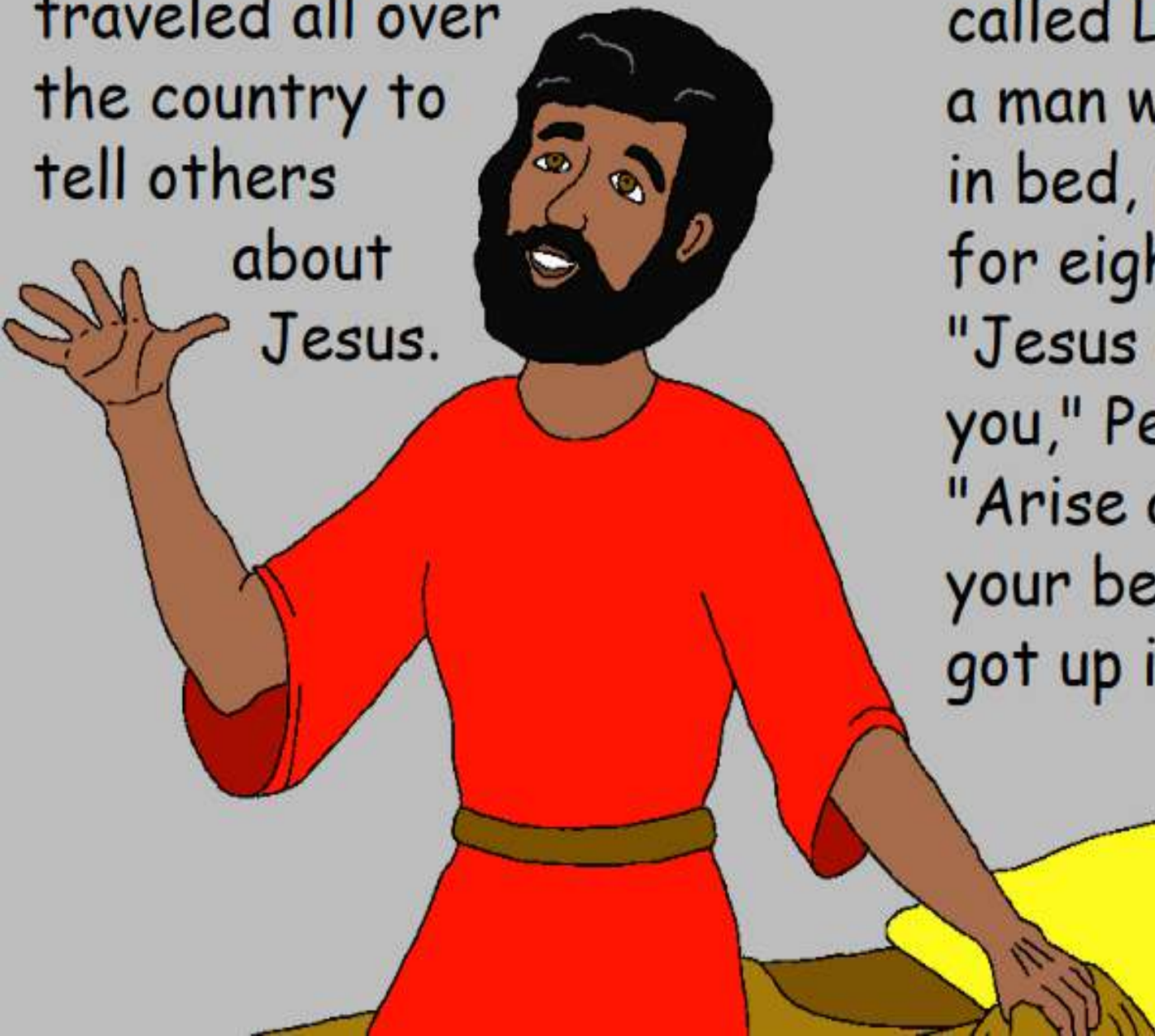


PETER AND THE POWER OF PRAYER




The apostle Peter traveled all over the country to tell others about Jesus.



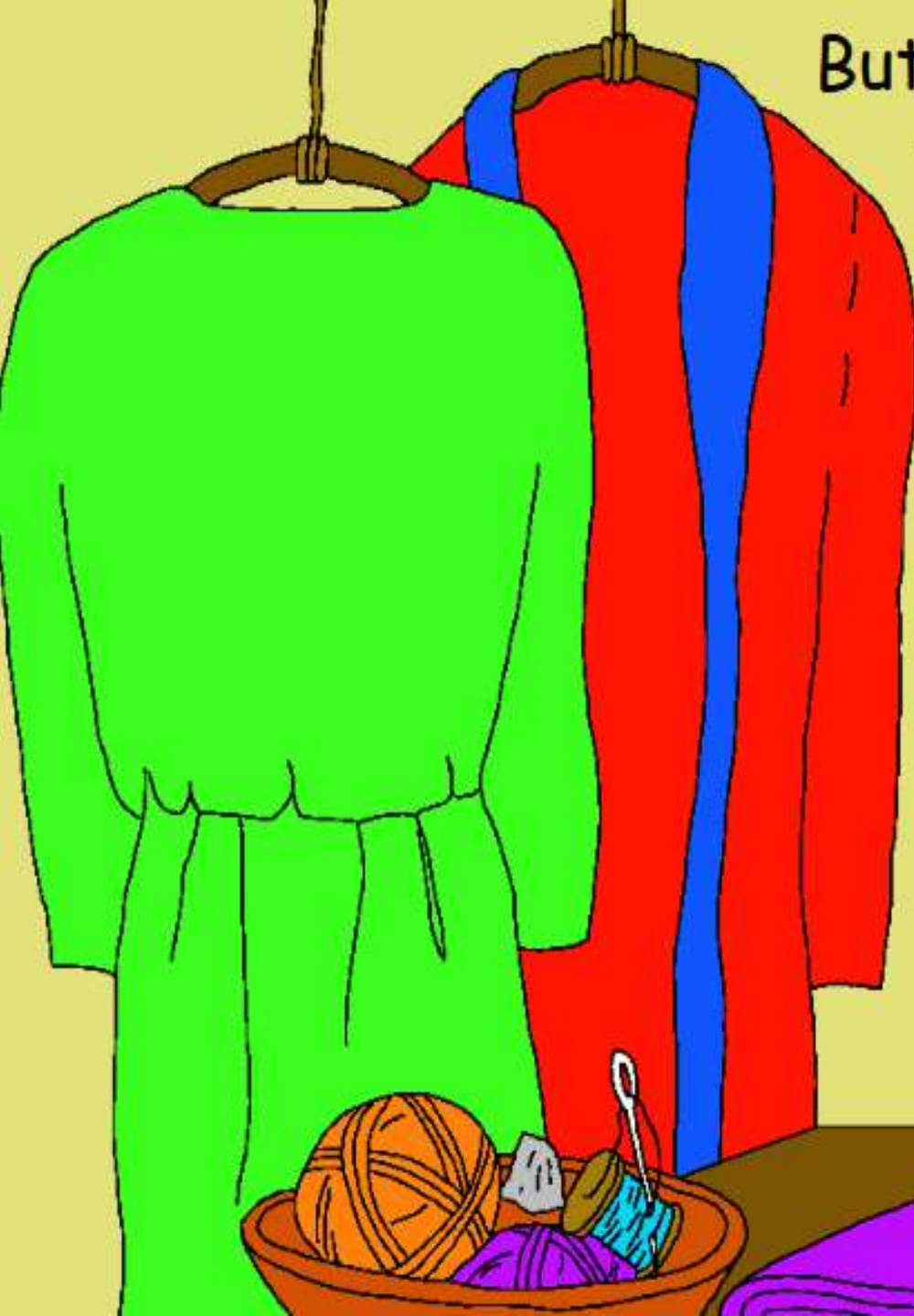
One day, in a town called Lydda, he met a man who had been in bed, paralyzed, for eight years. "Jesus Christ heals you," Peter said. "Arise and make your bed." The man got up immediately.

People who saw this
turned to the Lord.



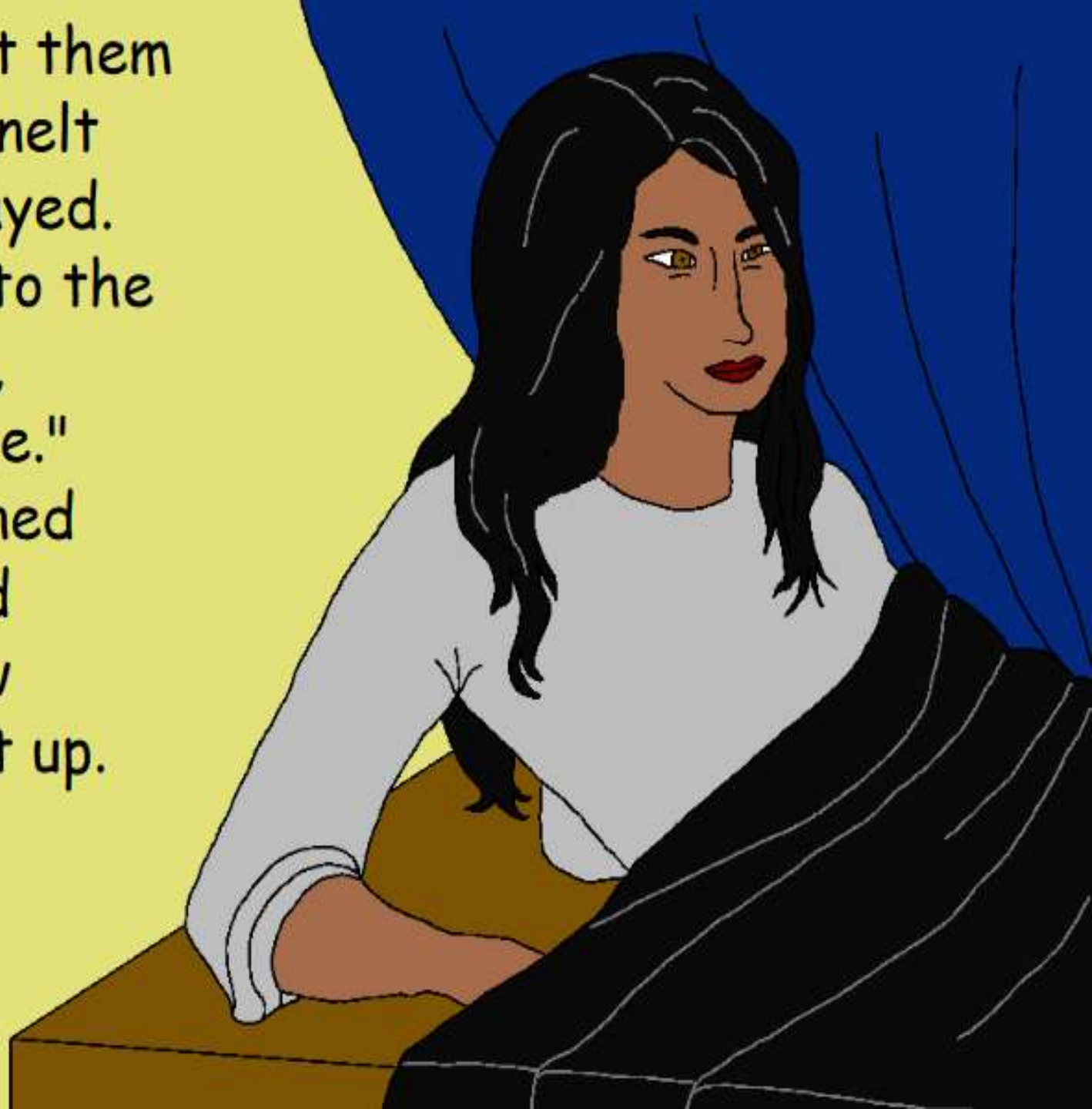


At the nearby town of Joppa people were sad. A Christian lady called Dorcas had just died. Sadly her friends prepared her body for burial, then placed her in an upper room where they mourned together.



But Dorcas' friends heard that Peter was in the area. They called for Peter to come to Joppa right away. When he came to that upper room, the widows showed him the tunics and garments Dorcas had made for them. Everyone was crying.

But Peter put them
all out, and knelt
down and prayed.
And turning to the
body he said,
"Dorcas, arise."
And she opened
her eyes, and
when she saw
Peter she sat up.





Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints (Christians) and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

Peter stayed a long time in Joppa, in a house by the sea. One day Peter went up on the house-top to pray.



If he had looked over the city walls, he may have seen three travelers coming to find him.

These men were servants of a Roman soldier named Cornelius who worshiped God.

Cornelius sent his servants

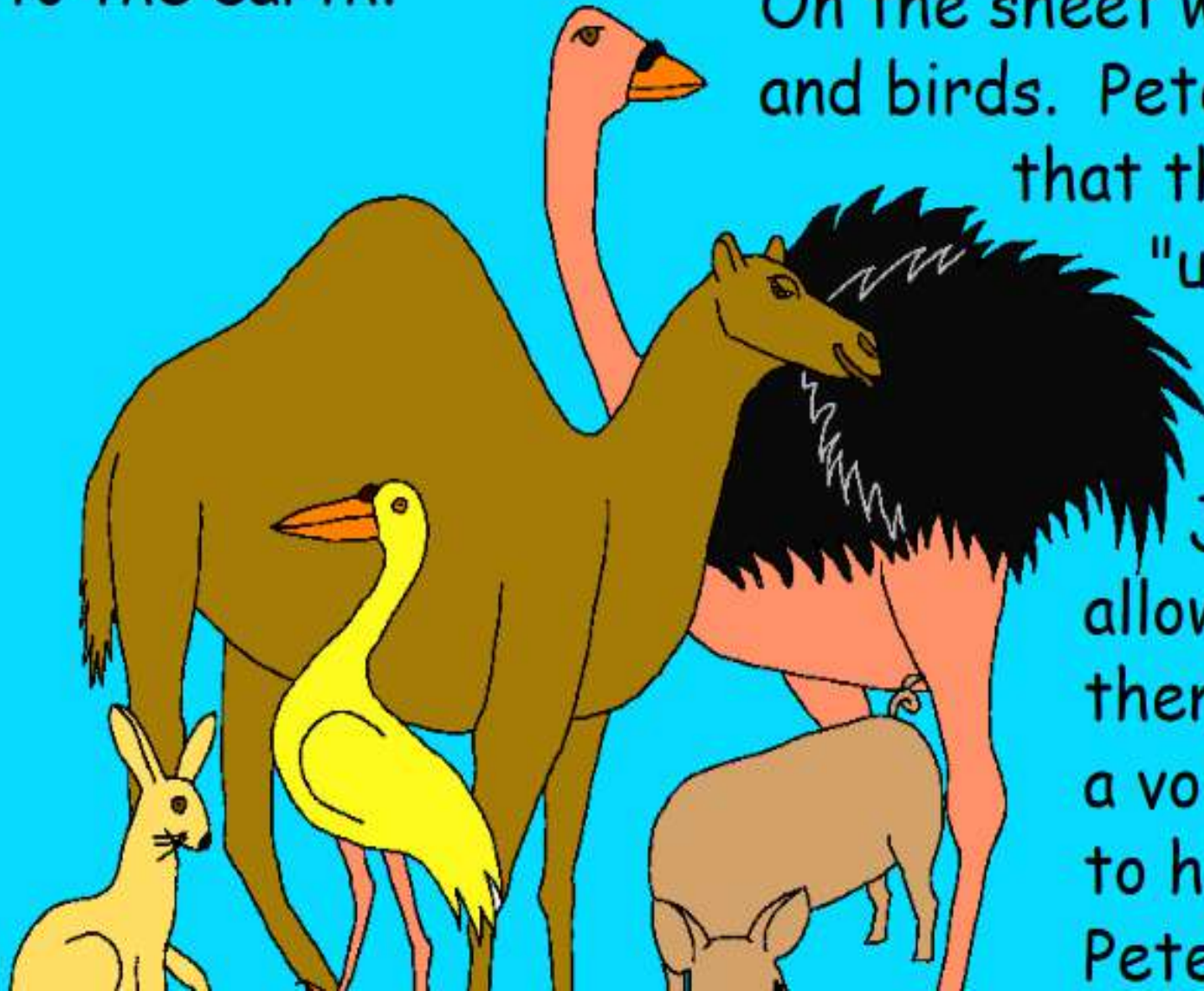
to find Peter because an angel told him in a vision, "Send for Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner whose house is by the sea. He will tell



While Peter prayed on the house-top, God sent him a vision. It looked like a great sheet being lowered to the earth.

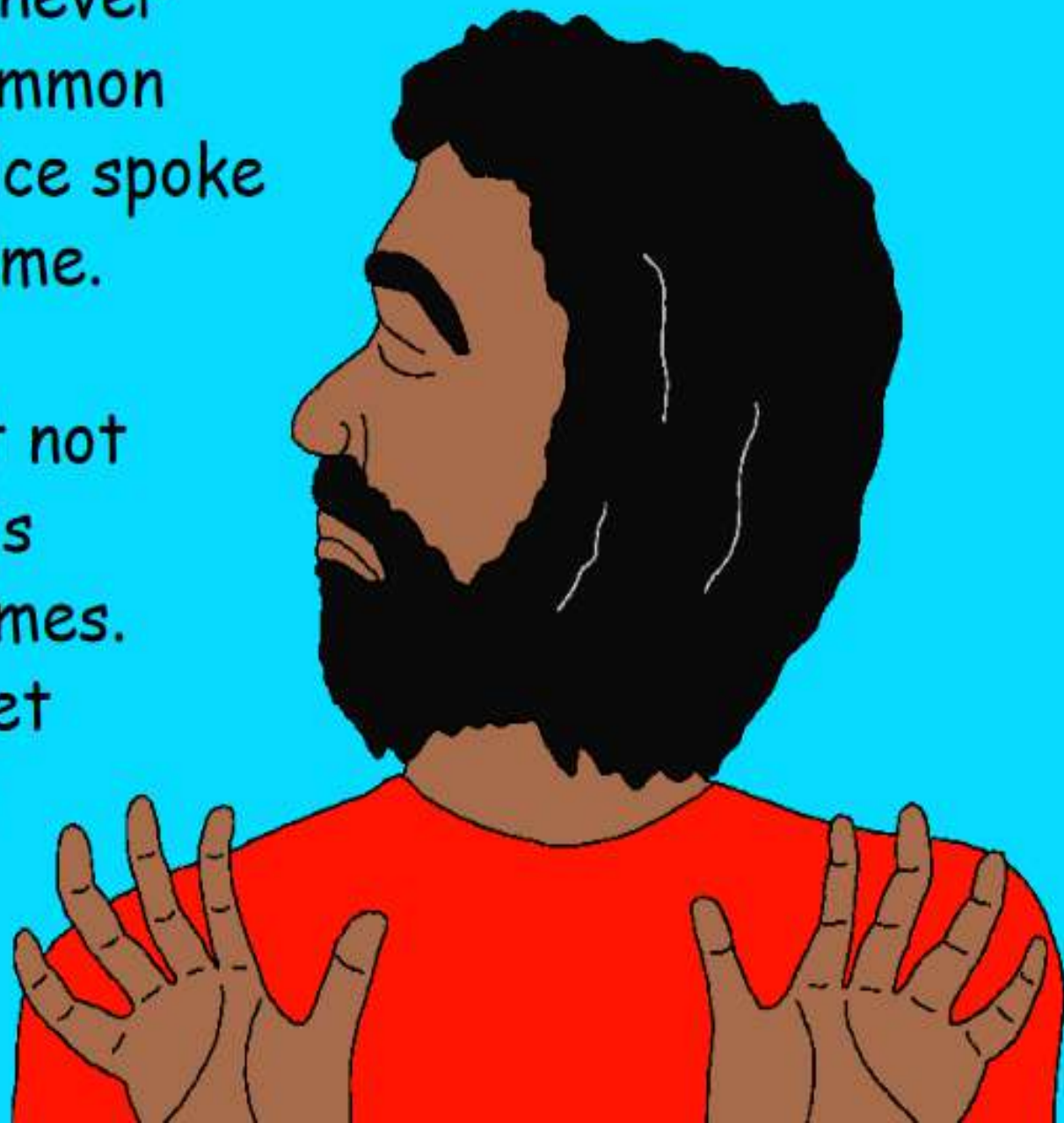
On the sheet were animals and birds. Peter could tell that these were "unclean".

That meant religious Jews were not allowed to eat them. Suddenly, a voice came to him. "Rise, Peter, kill and

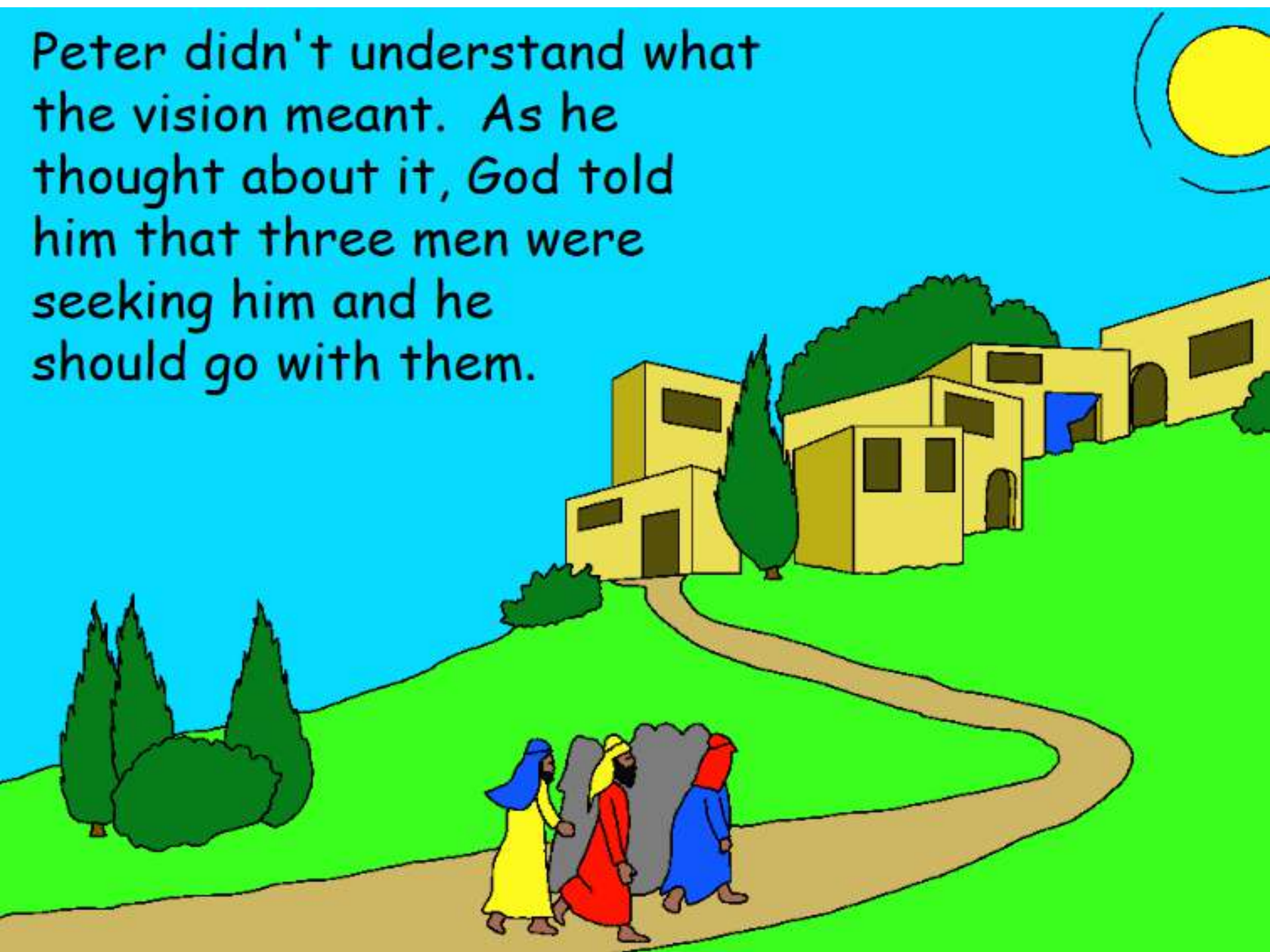


"Not so, Lord!" Peter told God. "For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." A voice spoke to him a second time.

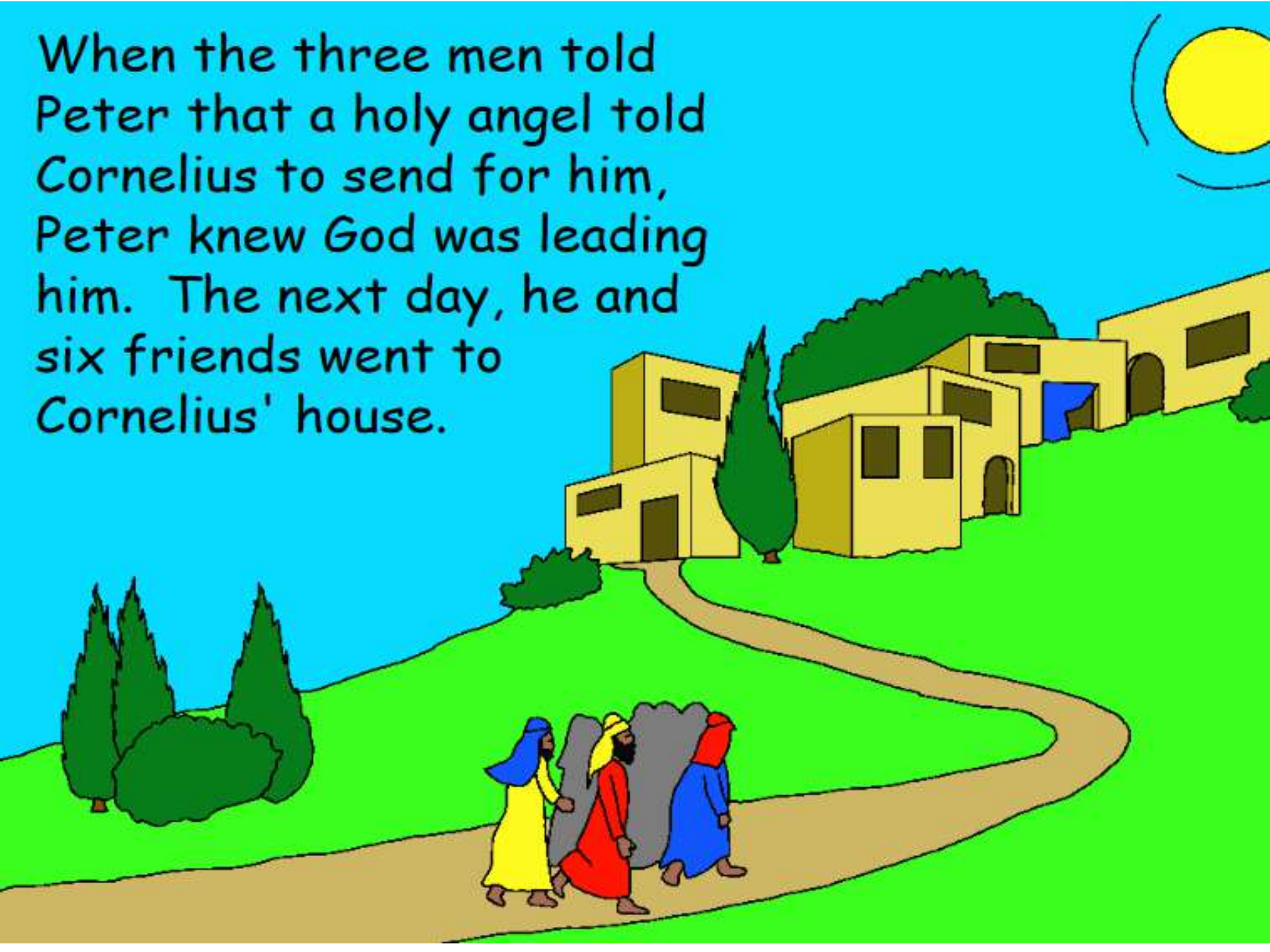
"What God has cleansed you must not call common." This was done three times. And then the sheet was taken up into heaven again.

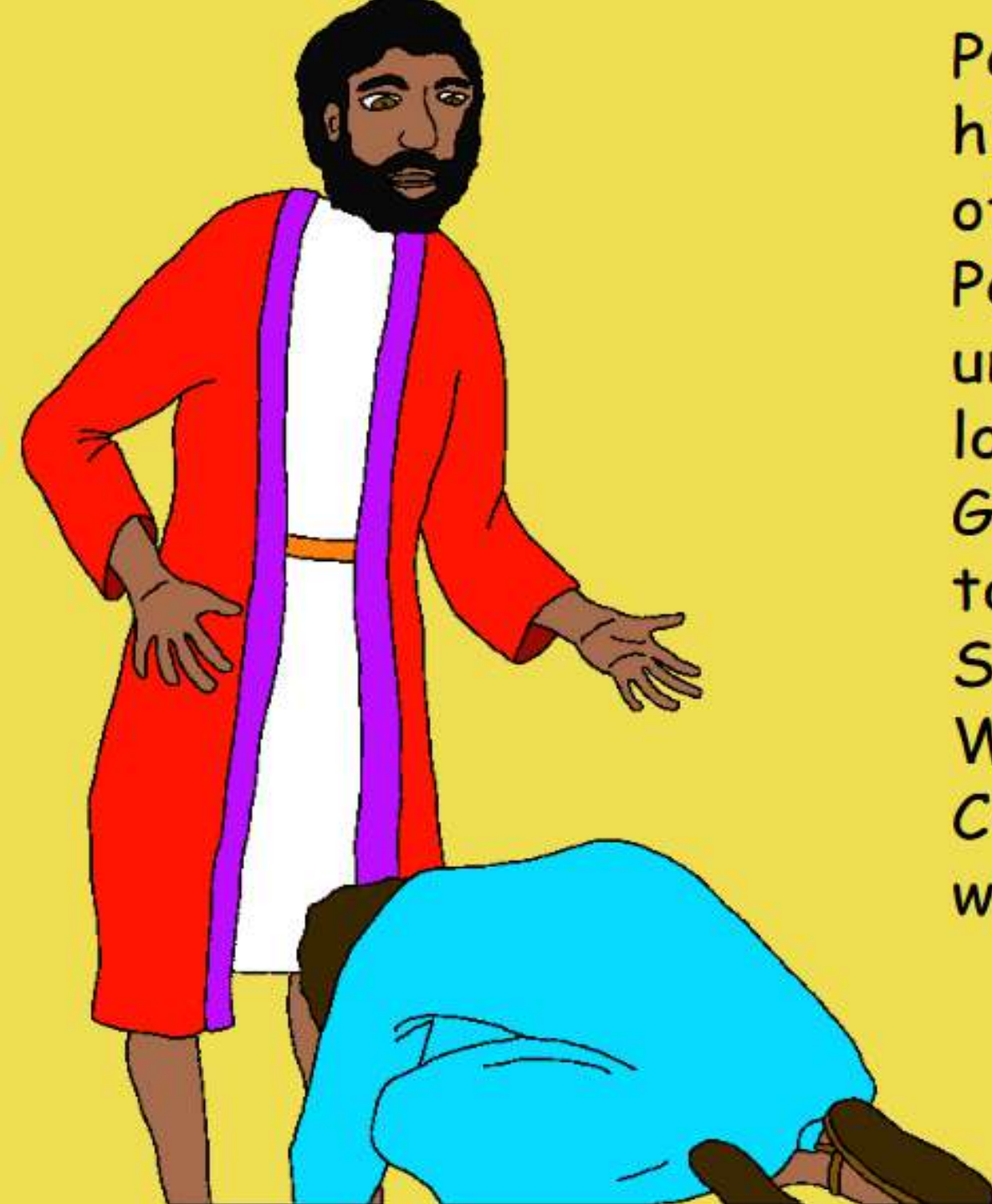


Peter didn't understand what the vision meant. As he thought about it, God told him that three men were seeking him and he should go with them.



When the three men told Peter that a holy angel told Cornelius to send for him, Peter knew God was leading him. The next day, he and six friends went to Cornelius' house.





Perhaps, as he made his way to the house of a non-Jewish man, Peter began to understand that God loves all people - that God wants all nations to know Jesus is the Savior of the world. When Peter arrived, Cornelius fell down in worship before him.

"Stand up. I myself am also a man," Peter told Cornelius. Then he said to all the people in the house, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep

company with or go to one of another nation."



"But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean."



Peter told these Gentiles (non-Jews) that Jesus is the son of God Who died on the cross and rose again to be Savior of the world. Then the Holy Spirit fell upon them all and they began to praise God. Peter's six Jewish friends were astonished. It was like Pentecost. The gift of the Holy Spirit was being poured out on the Gentiles also. Then Peter baptized the new believers in Jesus.



In Jerusalem, the Christians scolded Peter for visiting Gentiles. So Peter told them about the visions he and Cornelius had received in prayer. When they heard these things, the Jerusalem Christians became silent. And they glorified God, Who had, through prayer, shown the Christian church that God's love is for everybody.

