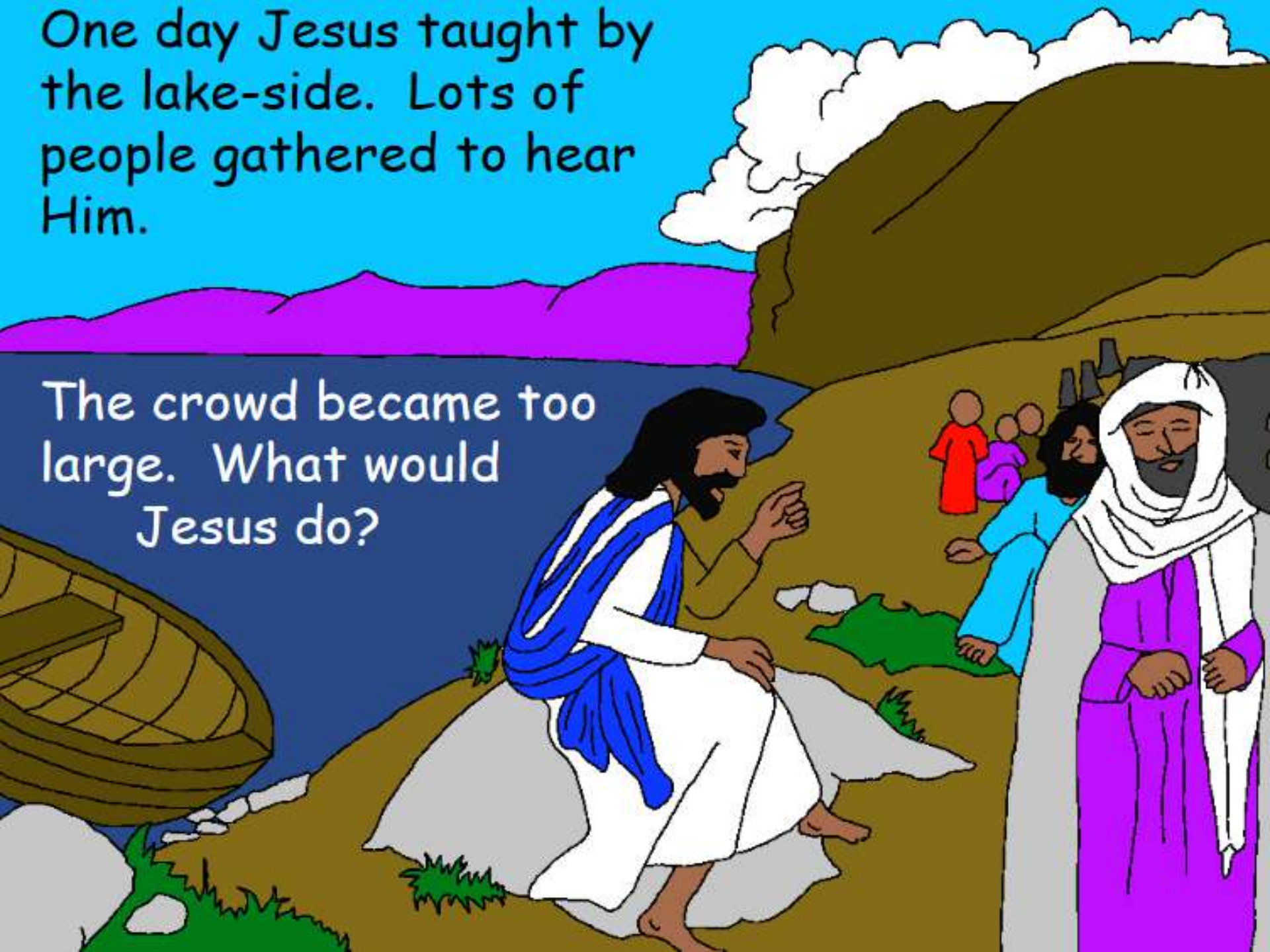


THE
FARMER
AND THE
SEED

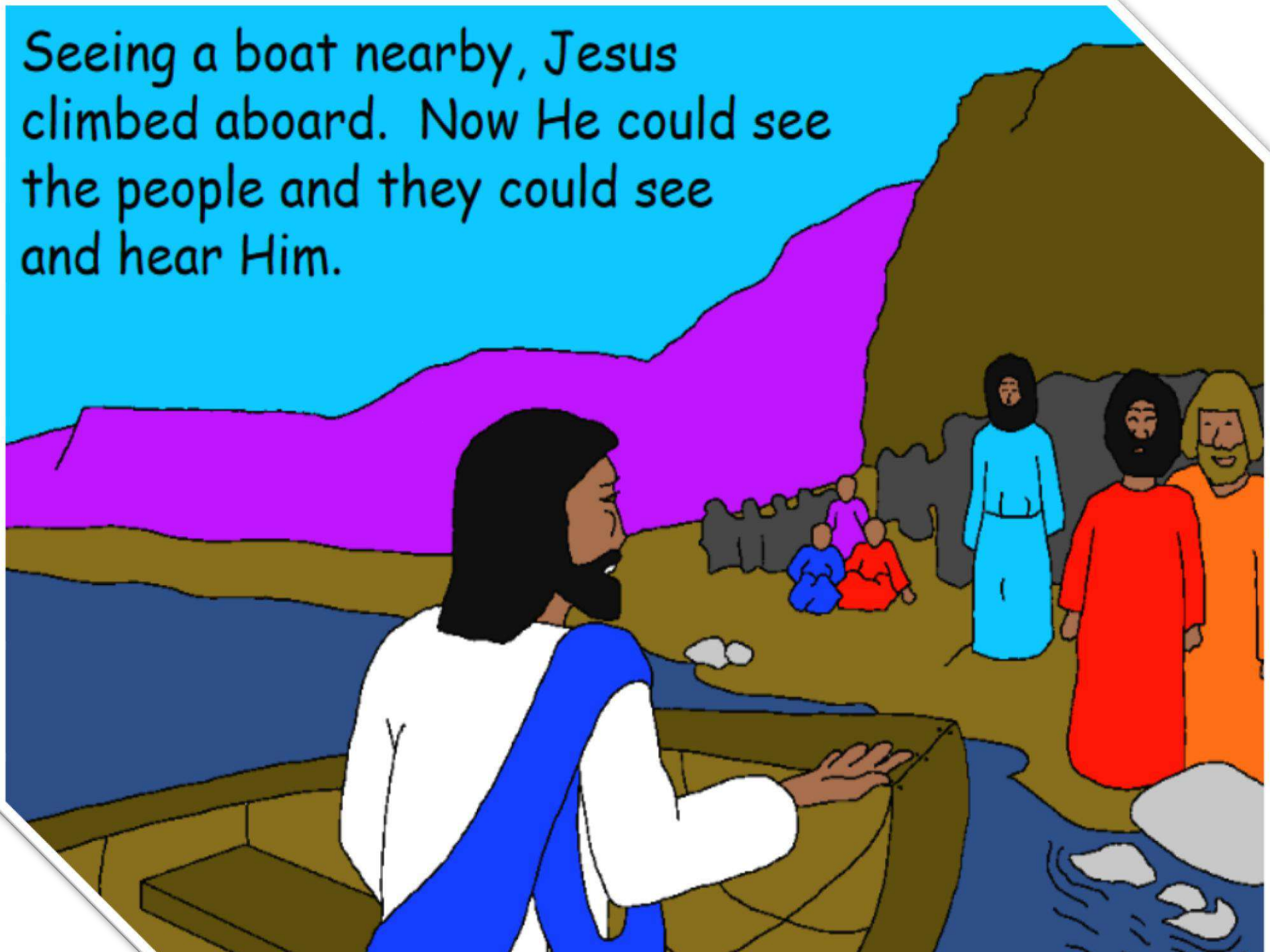


One day Jesus taught by the lake-side. Lots of people gathered to hear Him.

The crowd became too large. What would Jesus do?



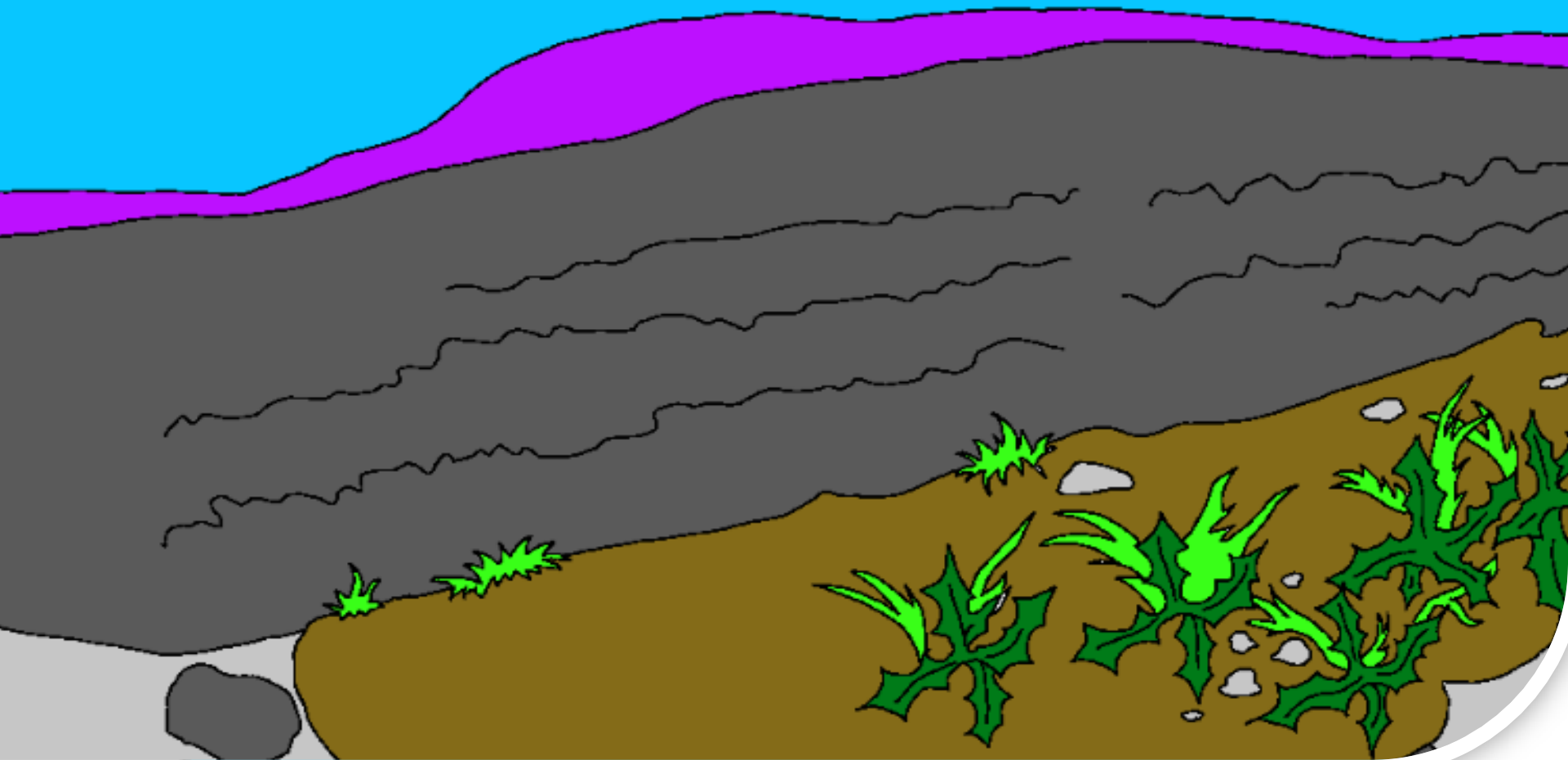
Seeing a boat nearby, Jesus climbed aboard. Now He could see the people and they could see and hear Him.



Jesus began to tell parables - stories about ordinary things, that taught people about God.



"A farmer scattered seed on his field."
Jesus' story was like a picture with
words instead of drawings.



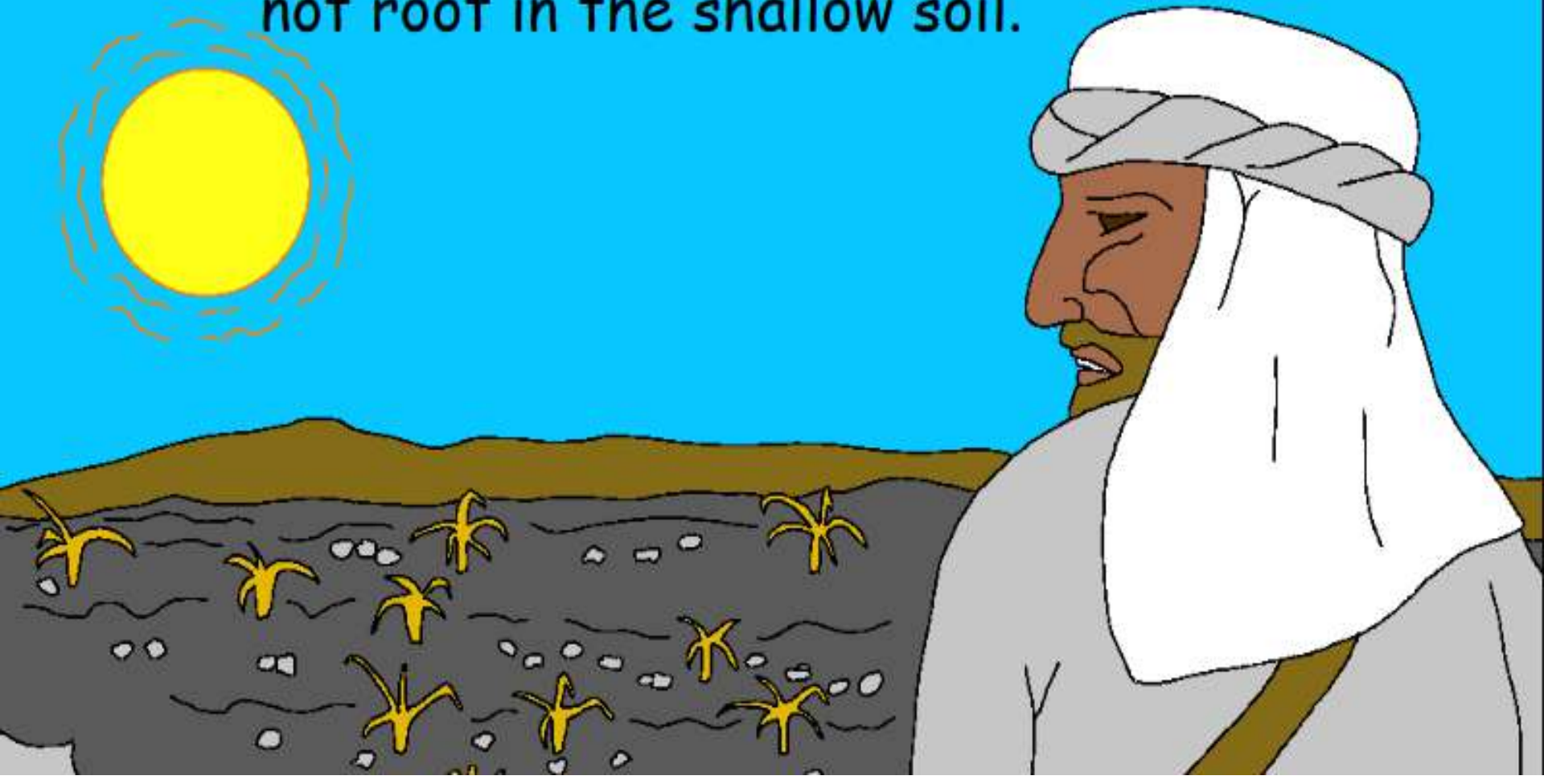
*People could picture the farmer working
- they had seen it many times.*



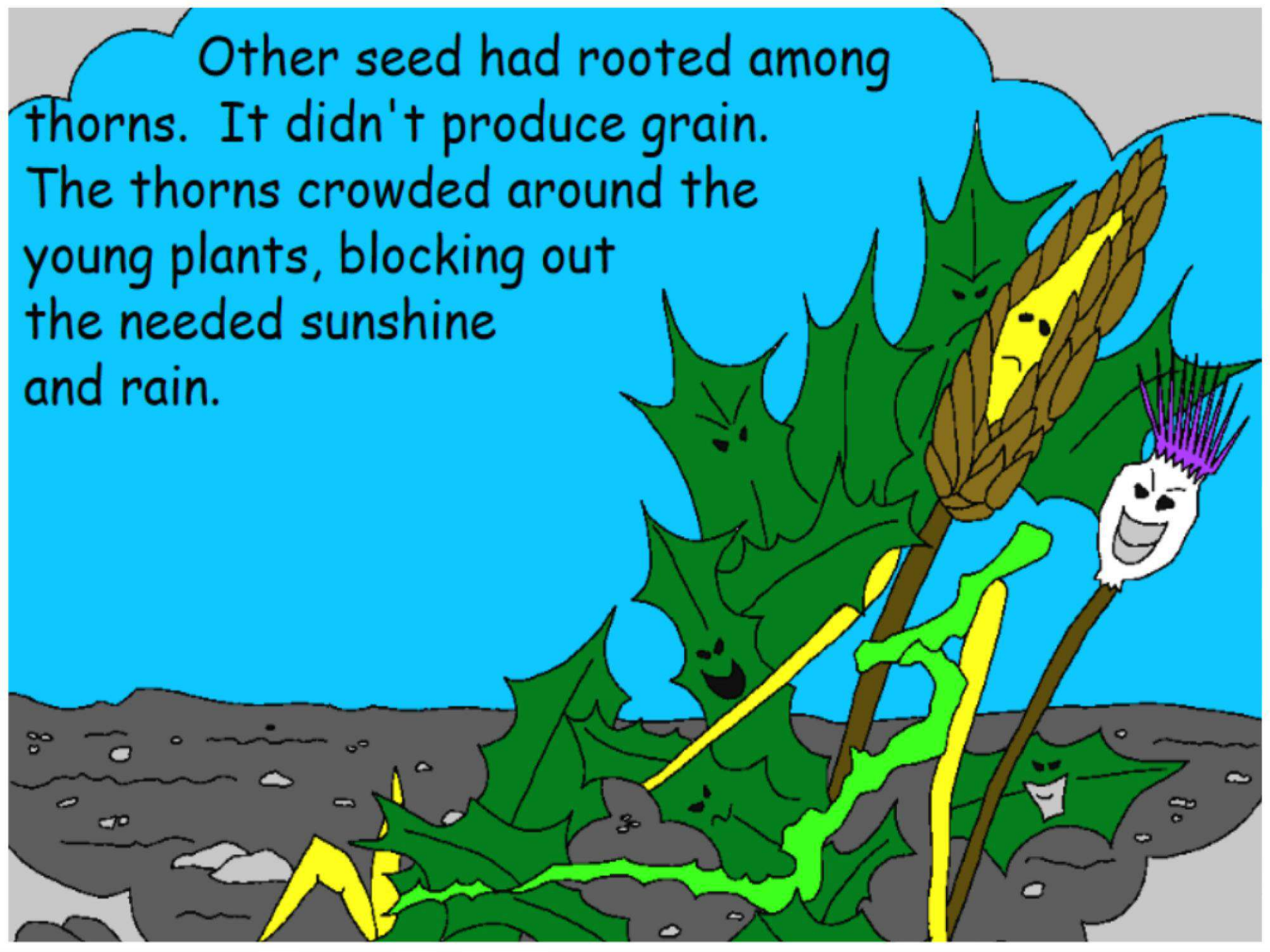
Some of the scattered
seed lay on a footpath.
Swoosh! Birds quickly swooped
down to gobble it up.



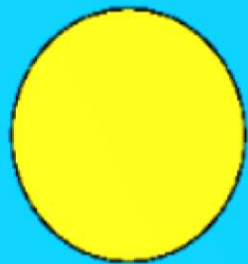
Some seed landed on stony parts of the field. They quickly grew into spindly puny plants. The hot sun soon shriveled them up because they could not root in the shallow soil.



Other seed had rooted among thorns. It didn't produce grain. The thorns crowded around the young plants, blocking out the needed sunshine and rain.



The rest of the seed fell on good ground. As time passed, the shoots became healthy plants bearing plenty of new grain. The farmer must have been very happy.



At the end of the story, the disciples came to Jesus. "Why do you teach in parables?" they asked.



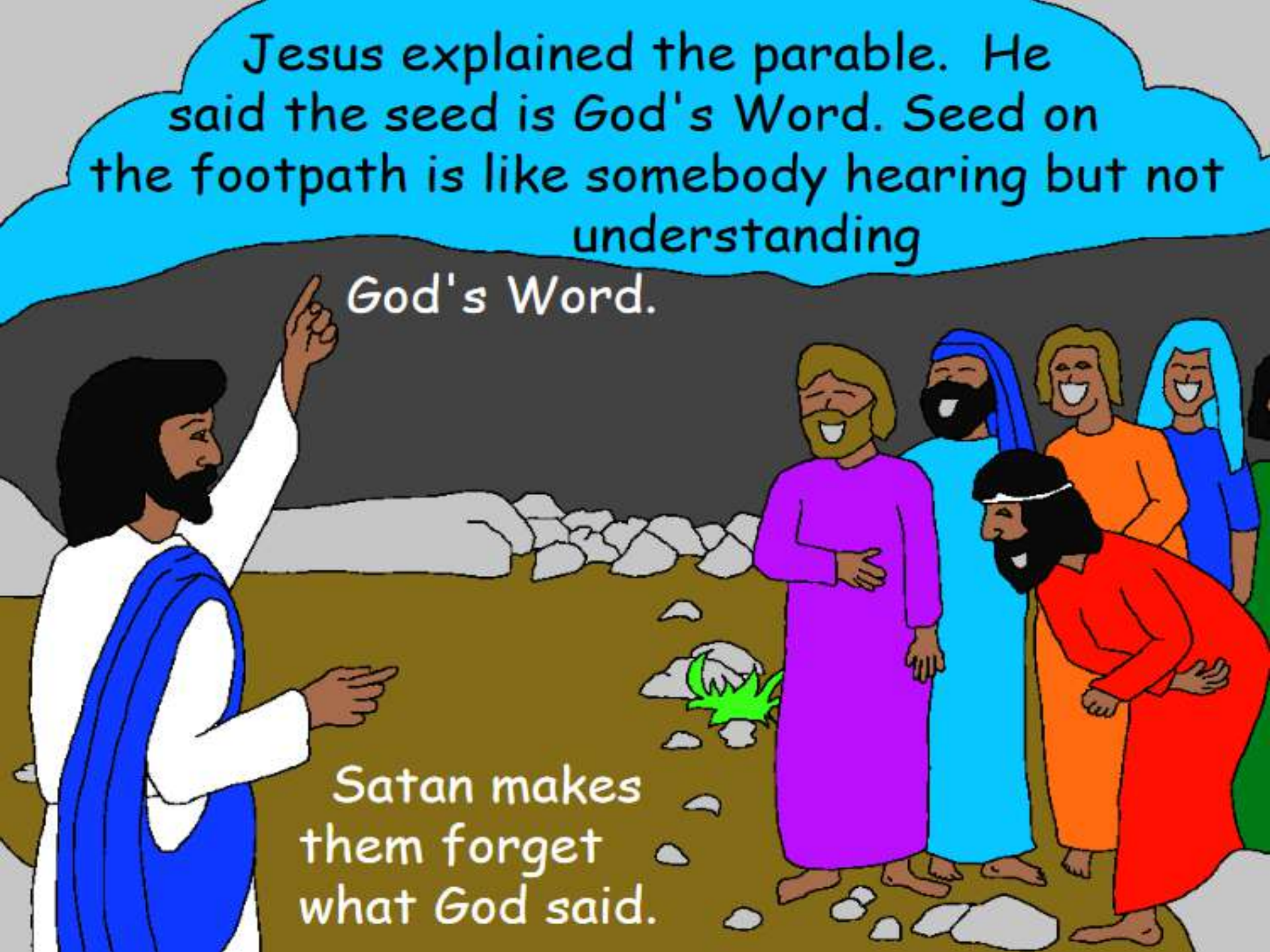
Jesus said parables help people understand about God if they really love Him. People who don't love God cannot understand parables.



Jesus explained the parable. He said the seed is God's Word. Seed on the footpath is like somebody hearing but not understanding

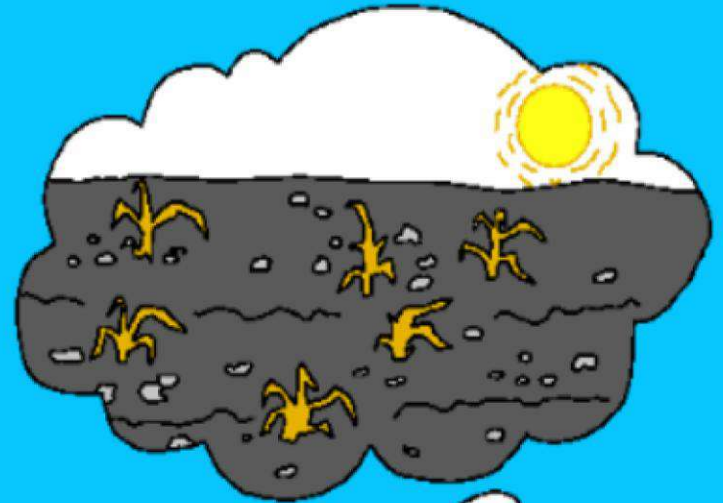
God's Word.

Satan makes them forget what God said.

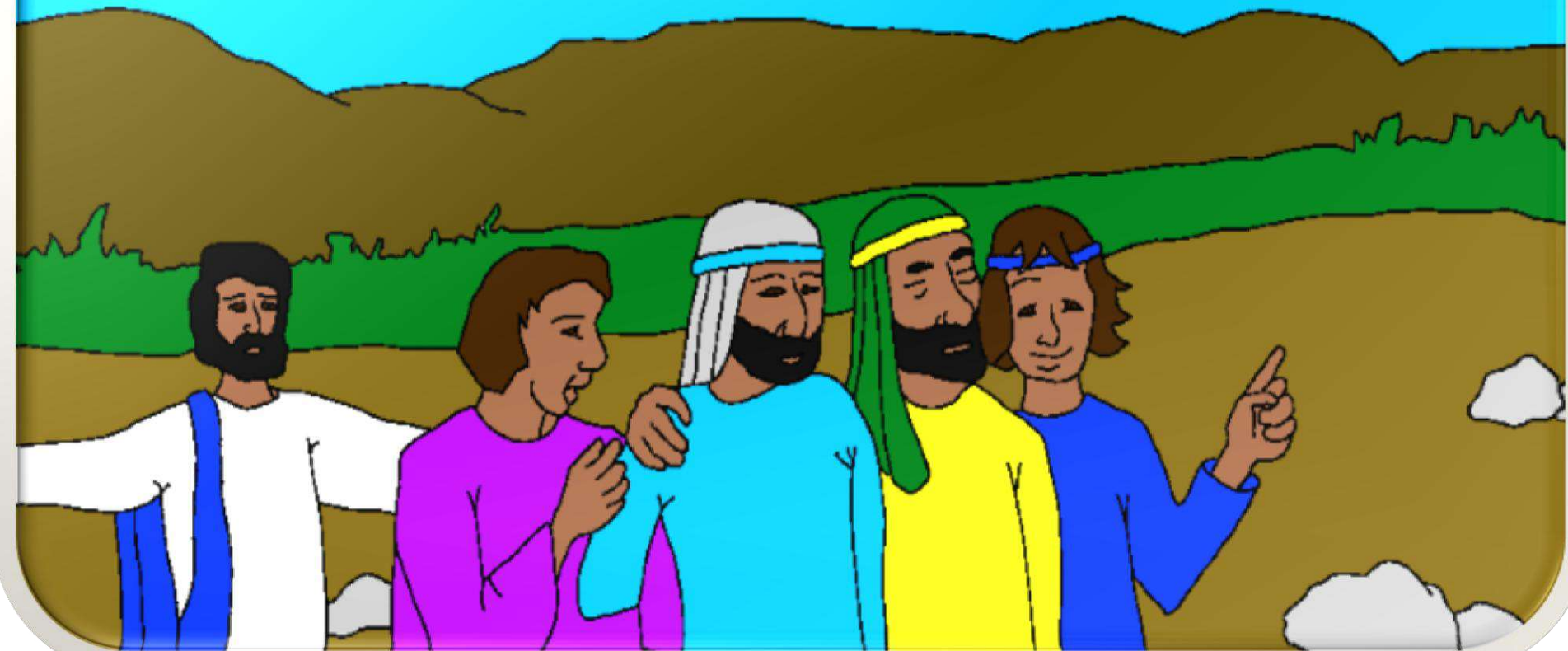
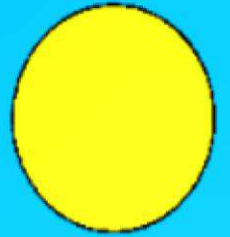


Some people quickly receive God's Word.

They are like the seed on stony soil. But as soon as somebody mocks them or makes things difficult because they love God, a sad thing happens.



These same people who joyfully started to follow Jesus turn away and stop obeying God's Word. They don't want to pay the price of following God. How sad that they should want to please friends rather than God!



The thorns
in the parable
are like worldly
worries and the love
for money that fill
some people's lives.
They are so busy
trying to get more
money and other
things that they
leave God out of
their lives.



But the seed that fell on good soil and gave a good harvest is like the Word of God entering hearts and changing people's lives. These people serve and honor God.



The crowds did not want to leave. Many wanted to follow God and please Him. Jesus' parables helped them to understand how to obey God.

