

Story Time Doctrine

A Gospel-Centered Discipling Help



Volume 1



Story Time Doctrine

by
Ernie Lail Jr.

To my sweet Aubrey, I pray you see
King Jesus as beautiful, glorious and true.

Special Thanks To...

My wonderful wife, Lindsey Lail for your love, grace and encouragement throughout the writing of this book and our marriage.
Our marriage has been the biggest reminder of the Gospel and I'm truly grateful for your friendship.

Jeremy & Theresa Eastburn, Stuart Thompson, Glenn Head and Isaiah Hill. You guys were a great help and encouragement to me.
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To the Readers

I'm grateful for people like you. You desire for your children to know the Triune God of the Bible and one way we can do our part as disciples is to make sure they know about God through teaching them doctrine. Through the truth of the Word of God, we hope that these truths that have been held by the Church throughout the ages will sink deep into their hearts and minds.

Why the Book

Primarily, I've written this for parents. I don't want you to assume the Gospel for your children. Often we can want our children to know Christ so badly that we assume their conversion. And, many find themselves relying solely on church staff to teach their children about the Gospel. My hope is this little book would be a help to you as you "Raise up your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

Secondarily, I hope this will be a help to church leaders to lead children into deeper conversations about doctrine. The Bible always places the emphasis on the parents to disciple their children, but that doesn't mean they won't need your help. We all fall short and we need the Church to shore up our shortcomings.

A Different Approach

This book mixes the system of teaching, known as "Catechizing" with the way Jesus often taught... in parables. For those who don't know what Catechisms are, they are meant to impart doctrinal truths using basic questions and answers. And, Jesus used parables to use relational stories to teach greater truths.

Far too often we tend to miss making a point of reference for children when teaching children doctrine and they fail to grasp it with any depth. Sure, they can respond with the right answer to a catechism question, but if it doesn't resonate in their hearts and connect with their little worlds, have we really helped them understand?

How to Use the Book

- Use the Discussion Questions to help kids connect with the story and the associated doctrines.
- Link the parables in this book to Biblical Truths using the provided Application & Scripture References.
- Keep their attention by pointing to the pictures and asking what they think about the characters in the parable and what is happening in the story in general. This will draw your child into the story and set the stage for you to teach them theological truths.

Pray

This book won't save your kids, but informing the intellect of Gospel truths may act as kindling as you ask God to ignite faith and worship in the hearts of your kids. Don't rely on any book or on your efforts alone, only God can call your children to Himself and cause them to grow in grace. Cry out to Him!

Tips For Use:

Discussion Questions*

Throughout the book you will find green boxes that contain sample discussion questions that help draw the children into the story, communicate things on their level or helps with transitioning to additional discussion. I would like to encourage you to use these as much as possible and even think up your own. When you engage a child in dialog you have their attention and that is a win!

How might this book be used?

Hopefully by discussing theological truths!

Catechism Questions*

Catechism Questions are the questions that should always have right and wrong answers. We want to help them understand these topics with clarity, so the first time they hear them you will most likely need to tell them the answer. The more they hear the Catechism questions and answers, the more their memory will begin to retain the information.

C

What is a catechism question?

This is!

*You may want to wait until the 2nd or 3rd time reading the story to incorporate these questions to leverage the child's familiarity with the story. This will bring extra clarity to the context of the discussion and doctrine in question.

Application Sections

These sections are great to review prior to reading the story to understand what doctrinal truth the story is seeking to bring to light. This will enable you to be better equipped during the discussions. It's also a great idea to use the application section to draw out the parallels from the story to ensure the child understands.

Application:


You will notice sections like this at the end of each story!

As you read, you can also draw the child's attention to the characters in the story to help the child identify with them. This will help drive home the story's application.

The King & His Kingdom

Core Verses

Colossians 1:12-14 • Ephesians 2:1-9 • Romans 1:18-21



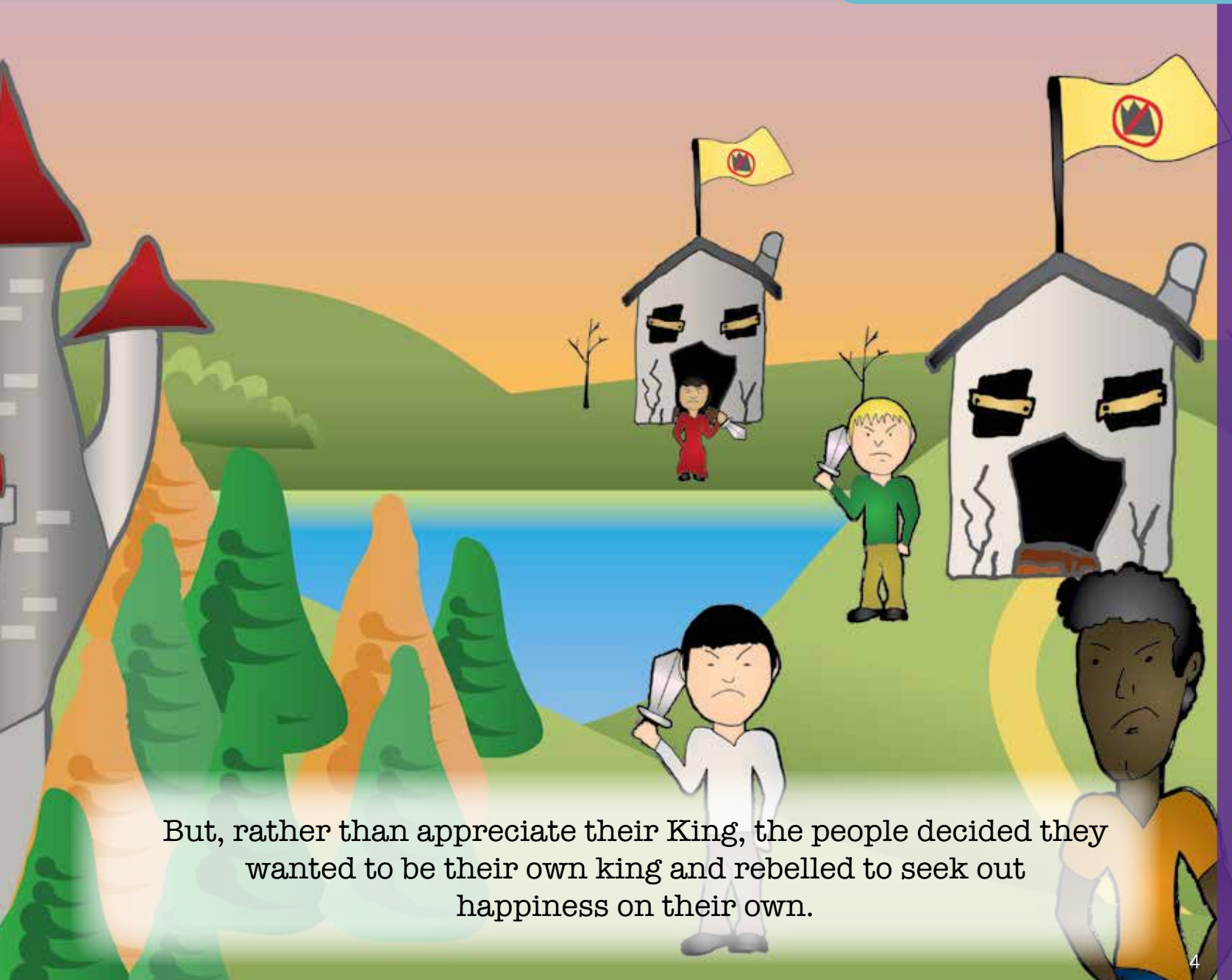
There was once a good and wise King who built a great kingdom. He was kind, just and loving. He would issue commands and laws only that helped his people live a life filled with joy.

Why do people tend to dislike even good commands?

They (we) don't like not being in charge.

What are some ways we are tempted to rebel?

(Like the people in this story)



But, rather than appreciate their King, the people decided they wanted to be their own king and rebelled to seek out happiness on their own.

Yet, the King knew they would never be happy without him.
And even though they had rebelled, he would gladly receive any
who would come to him at the tree of peace.



What is Repentance?

To turn from sin (or rebellion)
and turn to God.



What does “Gospel” mean?

“Glad tidings” or “good news.”

What is the Christian Gospel?

Mankind is sinful and separated from God. By their nature they are rebels and deserving of punishment. Jesus lived a perfect life and was punished in our place, so that God could be just in forgiving His people. By trusting in Jesus for forgiveness, we can be counted as if we had never rebelled and become sons & daughters of God.

By trusting that they could find their joy in bowing their knee to him, he would give the returning rebel a reward! And not just any reward... a full royal inheritance! He adopted them and made them princes and princesses!

Application:

The Gospel is not primarily about making bad people good. Like the kingdom in the story, it's about moving us from being rebels against God to His children—From moving those consigned to death to a Kingdom of life and joy. We all seek to be the king of our own lives (Romans 1:18-21) and we all need to submit our lives to our rightful King—King Jesus. You see the reality is we aren't the King, even if we would like to be, and a day is coming when the King (God) will call all the rebels to account. By repenting (turning away) from our rebellion and placing our faith in His work on the Cross, we too can receive a full royal inheritance as sons & daughters of God.

Charlie & The Moon

Core Verses

Psalm 16:11 • Revelation 4:11 • Isaiah 43:6-7

There was once a boy named Charlie...
Charlie loved the moon!



**What are some things
you like a lot?**

Think about things we tend to
talk about or are interested in.

What does it mean to enjoy something?

To find pleasure, or experience joy / happiness in it.

He read lots of books about the moon.
He would look at it through His telescope,
inspecting every crater with great joy.



He imagined how amazing it must be to visit the moon...

Comets whizzing by, bouncing around in low gravity,
taking in the view and looking back at earth.

Everything sure would seem so small up there!



What does it mean to glorify God?

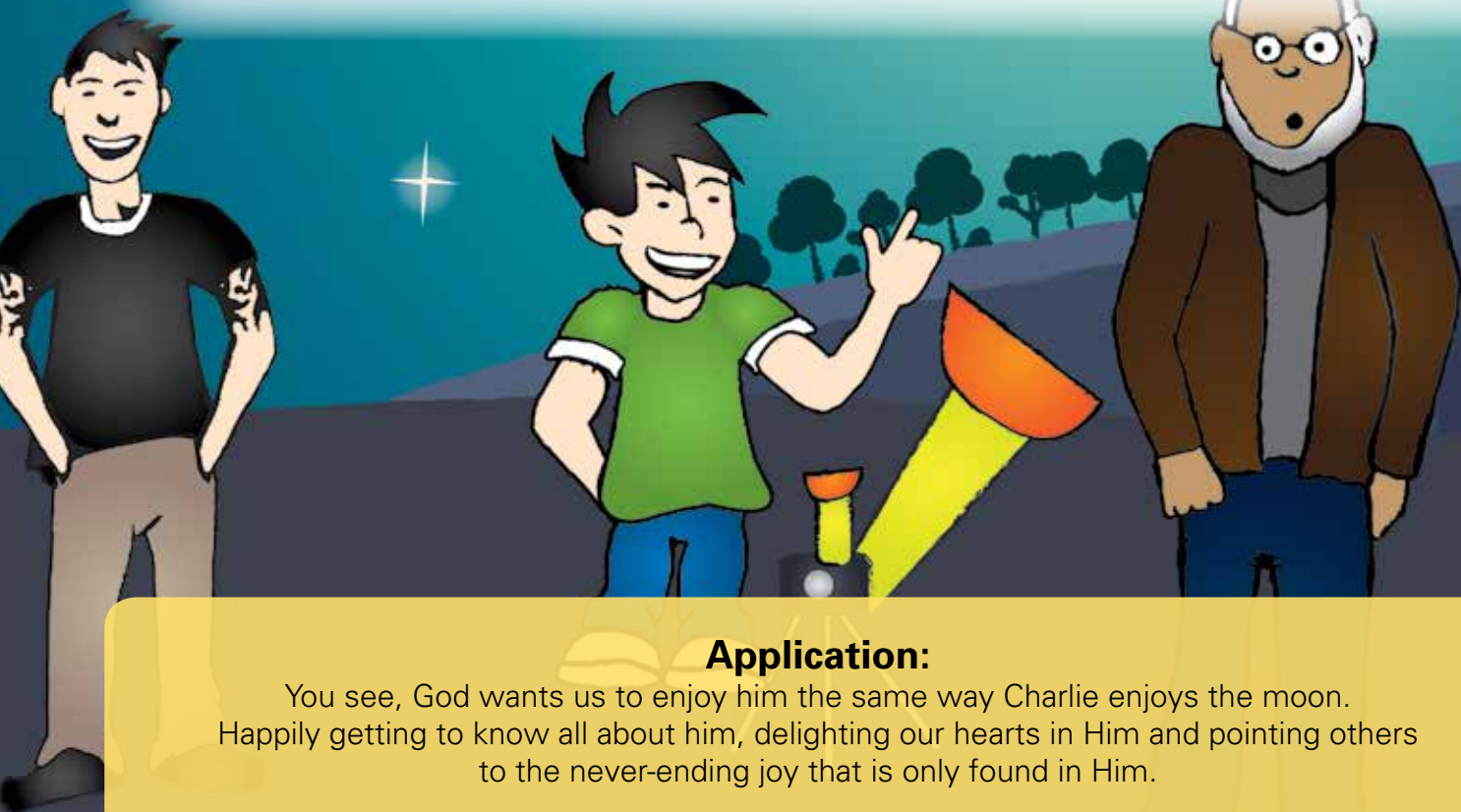
Like a telescope, to glorify God is
to recognize or make known
all that God is.

What is man's purpose?

To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.



But, Charlie's love for the moon didn't stop there...
He wanted other people to enjoy it as much as He did!
So he invited friends over to talk about the moon,
and he even shared his amazement with his next-door neighbor
because sometimes grown ups can be so busy they forget to look up.



Application:

You see, God wants us to enjoy him the same way Charlie enjoys the moon.
Happily getting to know all about him, delighting our hearts in Him and pointing others
to the never-ending joy that is only found in Him.

God wants us to look past the surface level of just admiring a creation like the moon
and glorify the God who made it.

Ruby & The Messy Room

Core Verses

Romans 1:21 • Psalm 51:5 • Romans 3:23 • Ecclesiastes 7:20

There was once a little girl named, Ruby
who had a VERY messy room.



Does your room get
messy? Why is that?

Why do we tend to think people who give us rules are mean?

We don't like to follow the rules because we think we know better.

Ruby thought her parents were being so mean because they would tell her to clean her room.

So she said to her daddy, "I wish you would just let me keep MY room how I want!"



So her daddy said, "Very well, I will let you keep your room as you like, so you can see why mommy & daddy have asked you to keep it clean."

Why do you think God gives us commands?

God gives us rules to follow for
our protection & joy.

After several days, Ruby's room became so cluttered she couldn't find her favorite teddy bear!

That made Ruby very sad.

A few weeks later, the mess got piled so high that she couldn't reach her door!



She was trapped and she cried for her daddy to come save her!

As soon as she called, he burst into the room and hugged Ruby and kissed her. She was so glad to see her daddy and understood why he had always asked her to keep her room clean.

What is sin?

Sin is essentially rebellion against God. It's disobedience or a desire to disobey God's good desires for our lives.



Application:

Ruby's parents didn't want her to keep her room so messy because when it was such a wreck she couldn't find her favorite toys and it wasn't very safe either!

In the same way, God gives us commands for our protection and happiness. From birth we all fail to keep God's commands and become separated from Him by our bent toward disobedience and tend to find ourselves trapped in our mess (like Ruby). We all need to be rescued!

Bobby & The Campfire

Core Verses

Isaiah 6:1-5 • Romans 1:18 • Hebrews 12:28-29 • 2 Corinthians 5:21

Bobby loves camping and his favorite thing about camping trips are camp fires!



Do you like campfires?
Why or Why not?



What would it be like camping in the woods without a fire?

Scary! It would also be cold, dark and wouldn't be very fun.

(Read Hebrews 12:28-29)

What ways are God and fire similar?

The fire keeps you warm and keeps the darkness away.

Plus the best part is the joy of roasting marshmallows over the fire!

Bobby was taught that the fire is nothing to play with.
Even though it's beautiful, you have to keep your distance.



Can people naturally be near God?

No, people are naturally separated
from God. He's holy and we're not.

What is justification?

The act of God's grace where he pardons our sin and accepts us as righteous. He does this by covering us with His righteousness by faith.



Marshmallows can't even stay near the fire for long without catching on fire... just by being close to it!

In fact nothing can get close to it! Even firefighters have to wear special suits to get close to it!



Application:

Like the fire, sinful people can't be close to God (and we are all sinners) because He is Holy (completely good, just and right in all He is and does). Like fire fighters, we need special clothing, so to speak, to draw near to God. We need to be covered in righteousness.

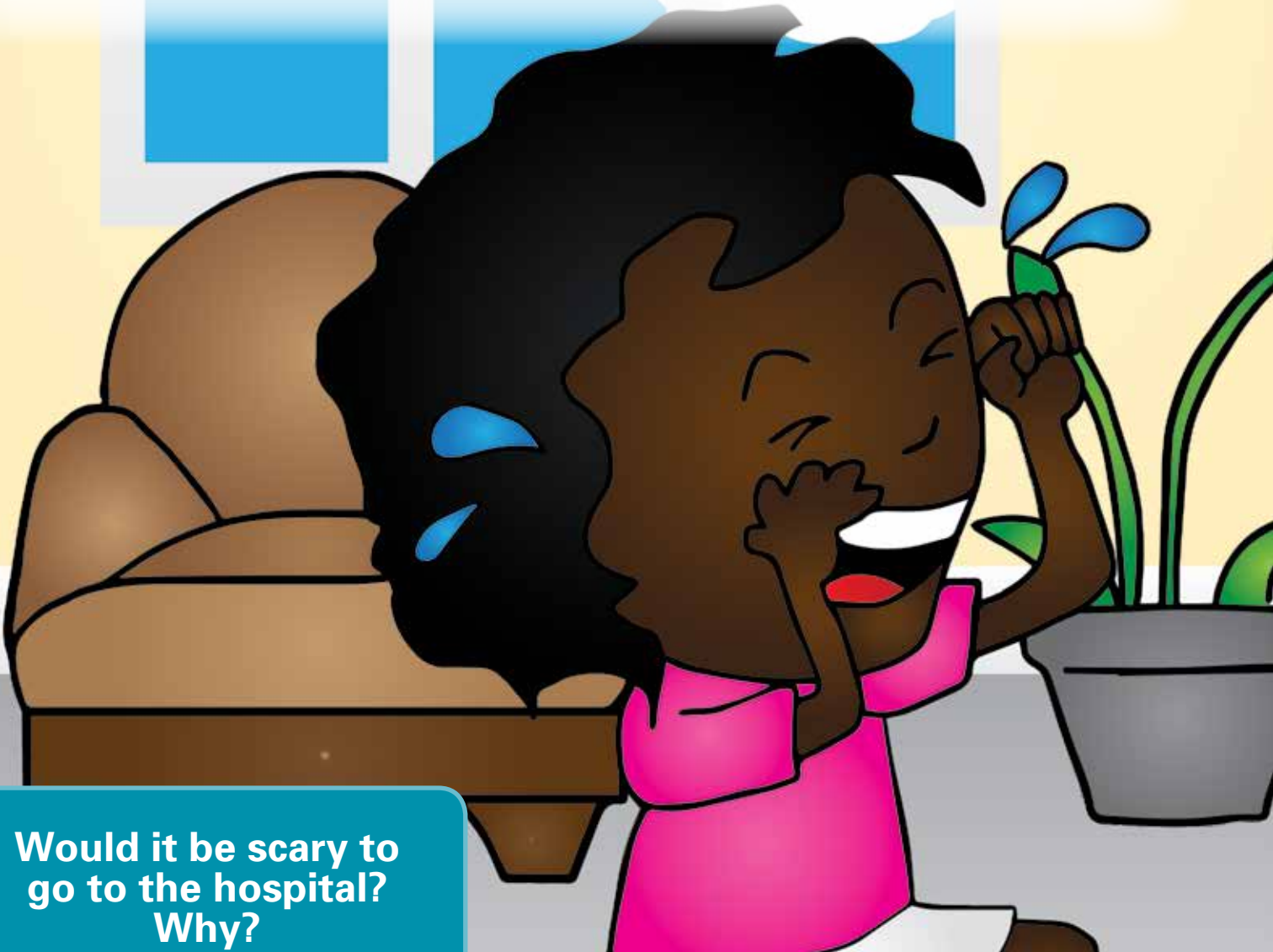
Jesus lived a perfectly righteous life and laid down His life in our place, that we might gain that righteous covering by placing our faith in Him. He took on our sin, and gave His people His righteousness that they might draw near to their God.

Naomi & The Invisible World

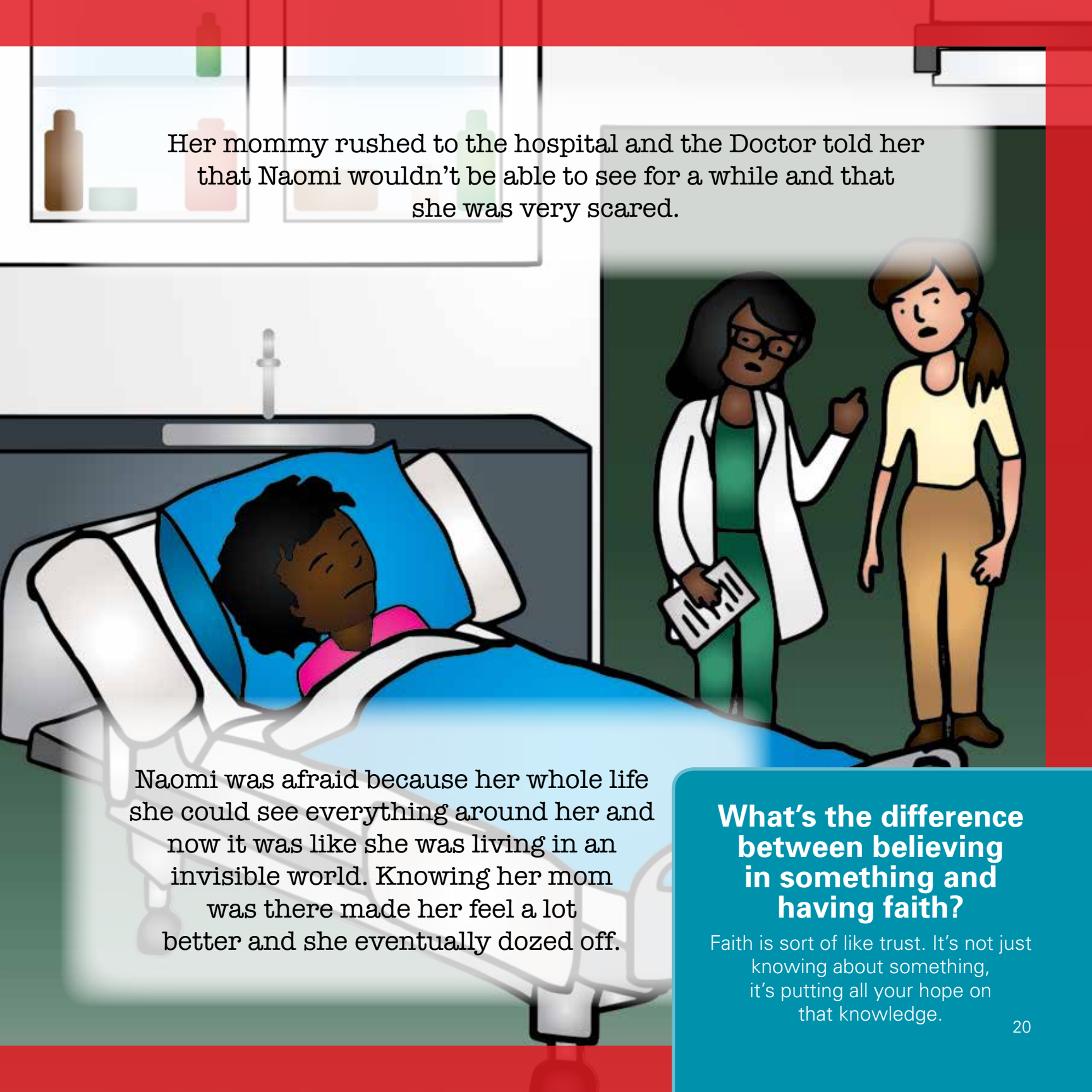
Core Verses

Hebrews 11:1 • Ephesians 2:8-9 • 1 John 5:15 • Hebrews 10:22-23

Naomi got some yucky stuff in her eyes one day
and was taken to the hospital.



Would it be scary to
go to the hospital?
Why?



Her mommy rushed to the hospital and the Doctor told her that Naomi wouldn't be able to see for a while and that she was very scared.

Naomi was afraid because her whole life she could see everything around her and now it was like she was living in an invisible world. Knowing her mom was there made her feel a lot better and she eventually dozed off.

What's the difference between believing in something and having faith?


Faith is sort of like trust. It's not just knowing about something, it's putting all your hope on that knowledge.

Do Christians have perfect faith in Jesus?

No, though we all trust in Him continually to some measure, we are sinful and our faith is imperfect. When we get to heaven our faith will be made perfect.



Every so often she would wake up, open her eyes and she couldn't see anything! She couldn't be sure her mom hadn't left because she couldn't see. So she would panic and start crying. Each time, her Mom reassured her that she was there and wouldn't leave her side.



Naomi began to trust that her Mom was there more and more. In time, the doctor said Naomi eyes should be healed and when he removed her bandages, it was the greatest gift she had ever received!

It was like she was seeing for the first time!

What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Faith in Jesus Christ is a gift we receive from God. It is trusting in Him alone for salvation.



Application:

Jesus wants us to trust Him like Naomi trusts her mommy. Having faith that He's there and that His sacrifice on the cross is sufficient to save. We are a lot like Naomi, we can't see these realities with our eyes, but they are as sure as the book in front of you. We need only to trust in Jesus alone and one day the invisible will be made visible.

Scotty & The Stolen Cookie

Core Verses

Romans 5:8 • Romans 3:25-26 • 1 Peter 3:18 • Hebrews 9:26-28

One summer day Scotty & his big brother Ethan went to the bakery and he saw the cookie of his dreams...

Scotty didn't have enough money for it,
but he just had to have it!



What's something
that you have
wanted a lot?

So when he thought no one
was looking he took it,
and ran toward his home,
eating the cookie along the way.

Why are we punished when we do things that are wrong?

Justice must be served in order
to make things right.



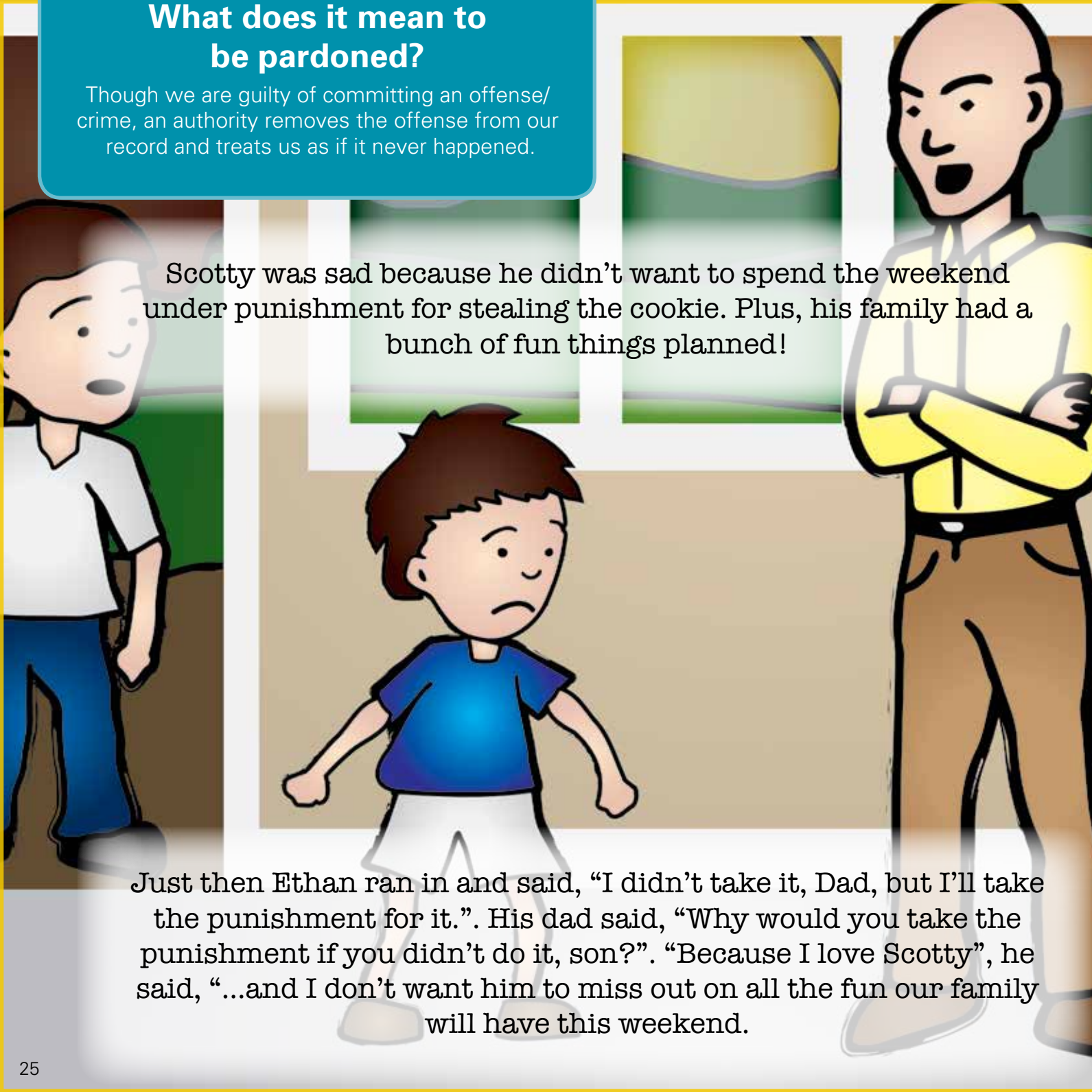
His dad met him at the door.
“The baker called and said you
stole a cookie.
You will spend the weekend
sweeping the floors at the
bakery as your punishment.”

Does this seem unfair sometimes? Why? Is justice done if a crime goes unpunished?

No, it's not just if a crime goes unpunished.
If someone hurts us, we would want them
punished. We just tend to look at it the other way
when we are the ones who do the wrong.


What does it mean to be pardoned?

Though we are guilty of committing an offense/ crime, an authority removes the offense from our record and treats us as if it never happened.



Scotty was sad because he didn't want to spend the weekend under punishment for stealing the cookie. Plus, his family had a bunch of fun things planned!

Just then Ethan ran in and said, "I didn't take it, Dad, but I'll take the punishment for it.". His dad said, "Why would you take the punishment if you didn't do it, son?". "Because I love Scotty", he said, "...and I don't want him to miss out on all the fun our family will have this weekend.



Scotty was so sorry he took the cookie and caused his brother to be punished, but he was very grateful that his brother has such a love for him that he was willing to bear his punishment for him.




Why did Christ submit himself to crucifixion?

To take our place and bear the punishment we deserve, so that God would be just even in pardoning those who have wronged Him. By taking our punishment, Christ secured the future enjoyment of Him, for His people, forever.



Application:

Just as Scotty's family had wonderful things planned for the weekend, God had wonderful things in place for mankind from the beginning of time. We all have broken God's law and deserve to be punished by enduring the wrath of God & miss out on those wonderful things He has for His people (primarily the enjoyment of Him). Out of love, Jesus took our punishment on the cross so that those who place their faith in Him wouldn't have to face the just wrath of God and miss out on enjoying Him forever.



Let us Know What You Think
And Check For Additional Resources...
www.storytimedoctrine.com

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Volume 1

What is Story Time Doctrine?

Story Time Doctrine is a children's book series that seeks to teach children orthodox Christian doctrine through a combination of story, discussion and catechism.

What is doctrine?

The core theological truths communicated to us through the Bible.

How is Story Time Doctrine different than a typical story book?

It's much more than fun stories or pretty illustrations. Every story parallels Christian doctrines, so that as children connect with the stories in this book, the doctrines will be communicated on a level they can understand.

What age group is best served by this book?

Volume 1 is intended for early elementary school students (Pre-K - 3), but may be enjoyed throughout all of a child's elementary school years.



Written, Illustrated and Designed by Ernie Lail Jr.

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