



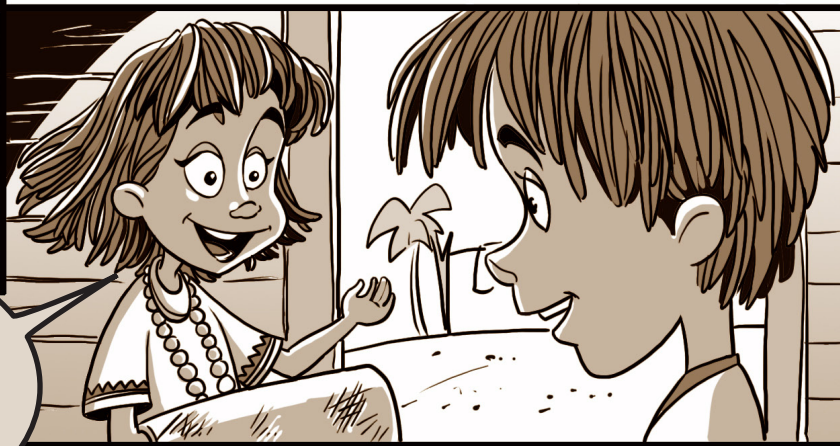
Amal and the Mats

Once upon a time, in an orphanage in India run by Christian missionaries, there was a boy named Amal....



Amal, it's Tuesday, the day to air out our mats.

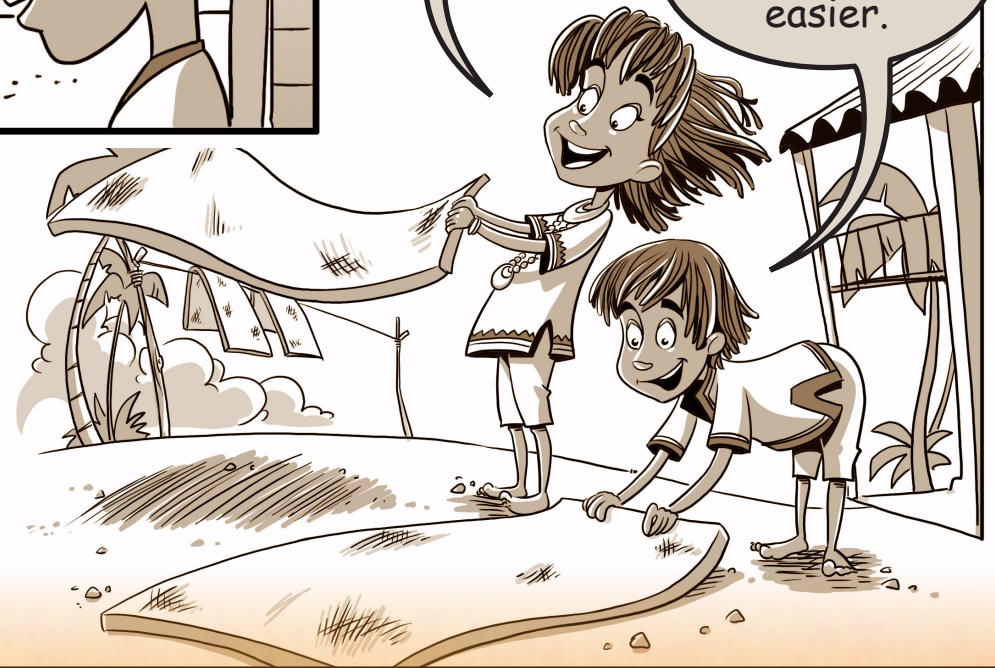
In our orphanage we slept on simple mats that we covered with sheets. One of our duties for cleaning our home was to remove the sheets to be washed every week, and then take the mats outside to hang over poles so they could air out in the sun.



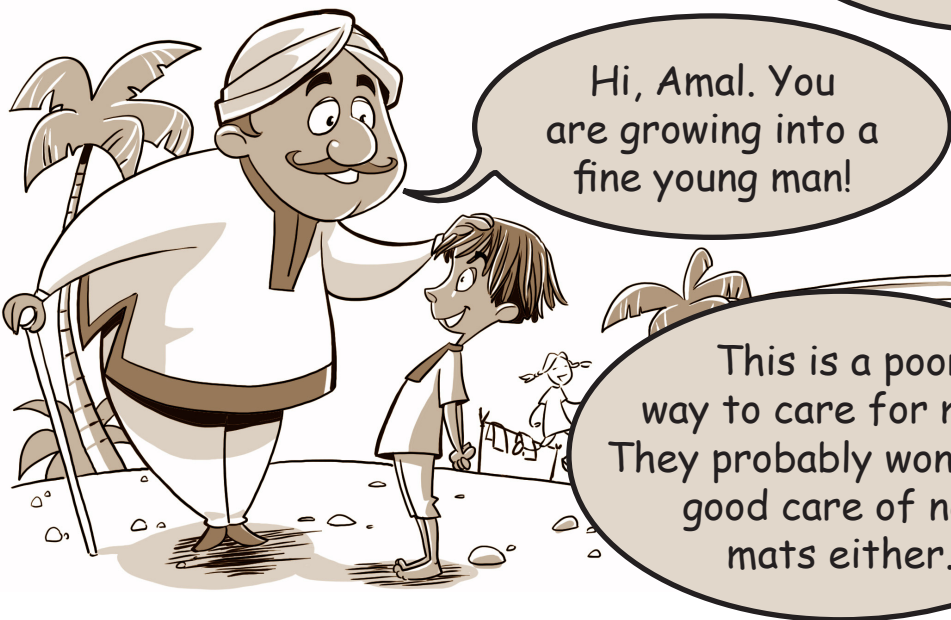
Let's just lay them on the ground.

Yes, that'll be easier.

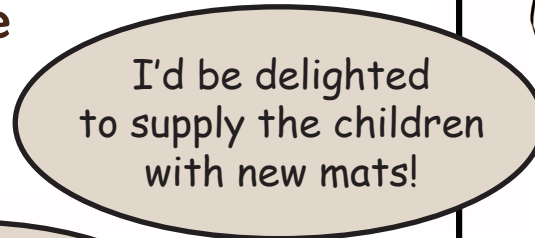
One time a few of us didn't want to lift our mats up to hang them over the poles, so we lazily threw the mats outside on the dirty ground.



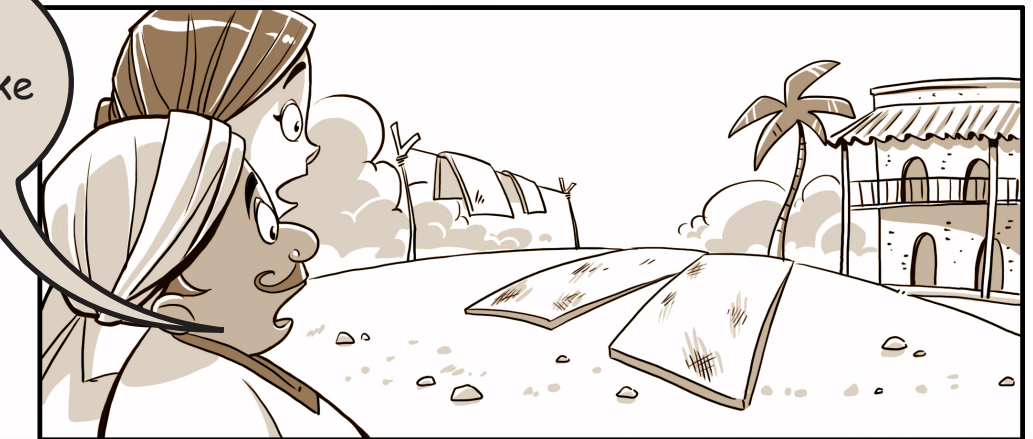
One of the sponsors of the orphanage, Mr. Diwan, came to visit. He asked Miss Amy, one of the Christian missionaries who cared for us, if there was anything we needed, and she mentioned that our mats were old and needed to be replaced.

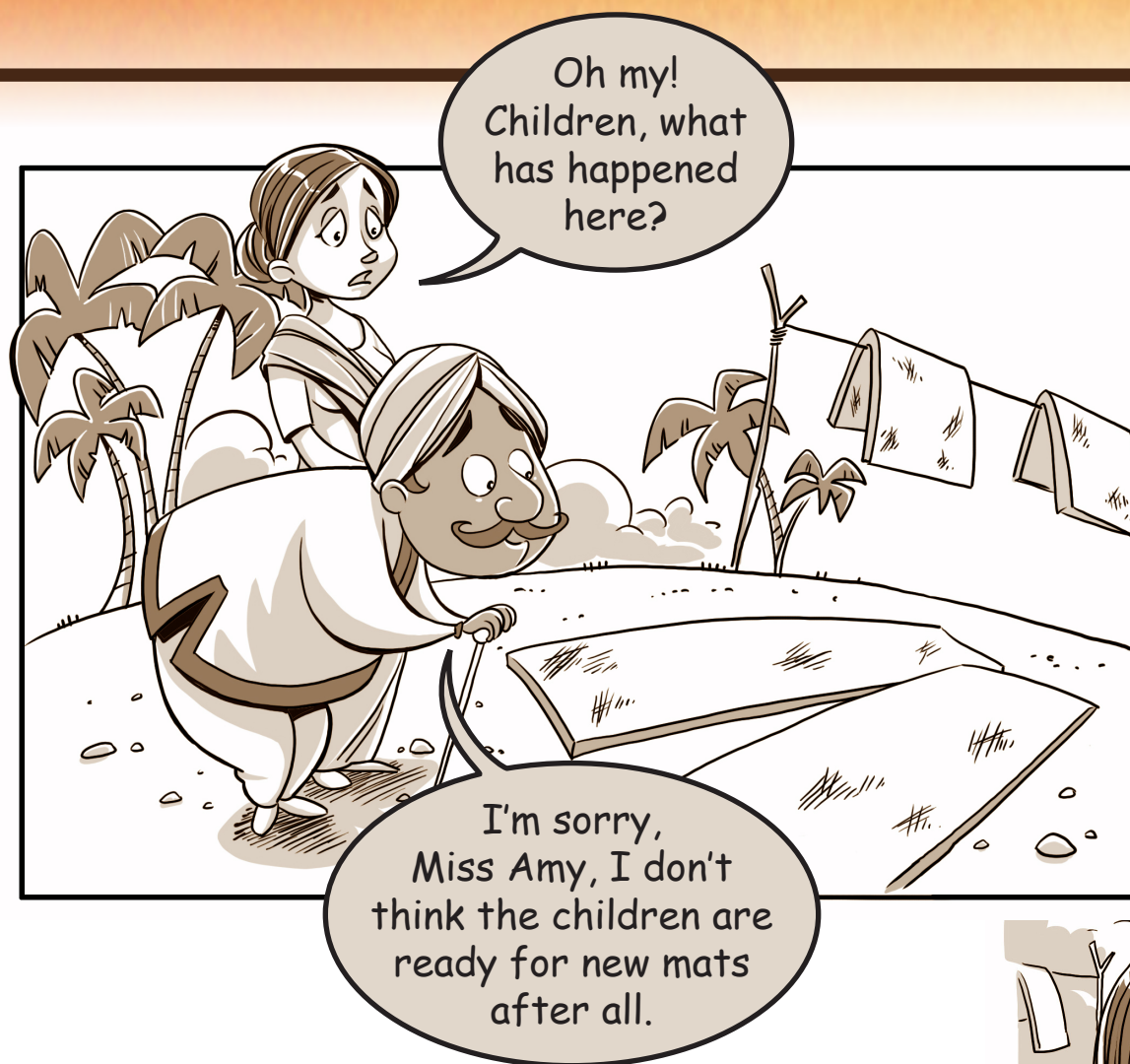


Sadly, this was the day some of the mats had been thrown out on the ground, and Mr. Diwan noticed them as he made his rounds.

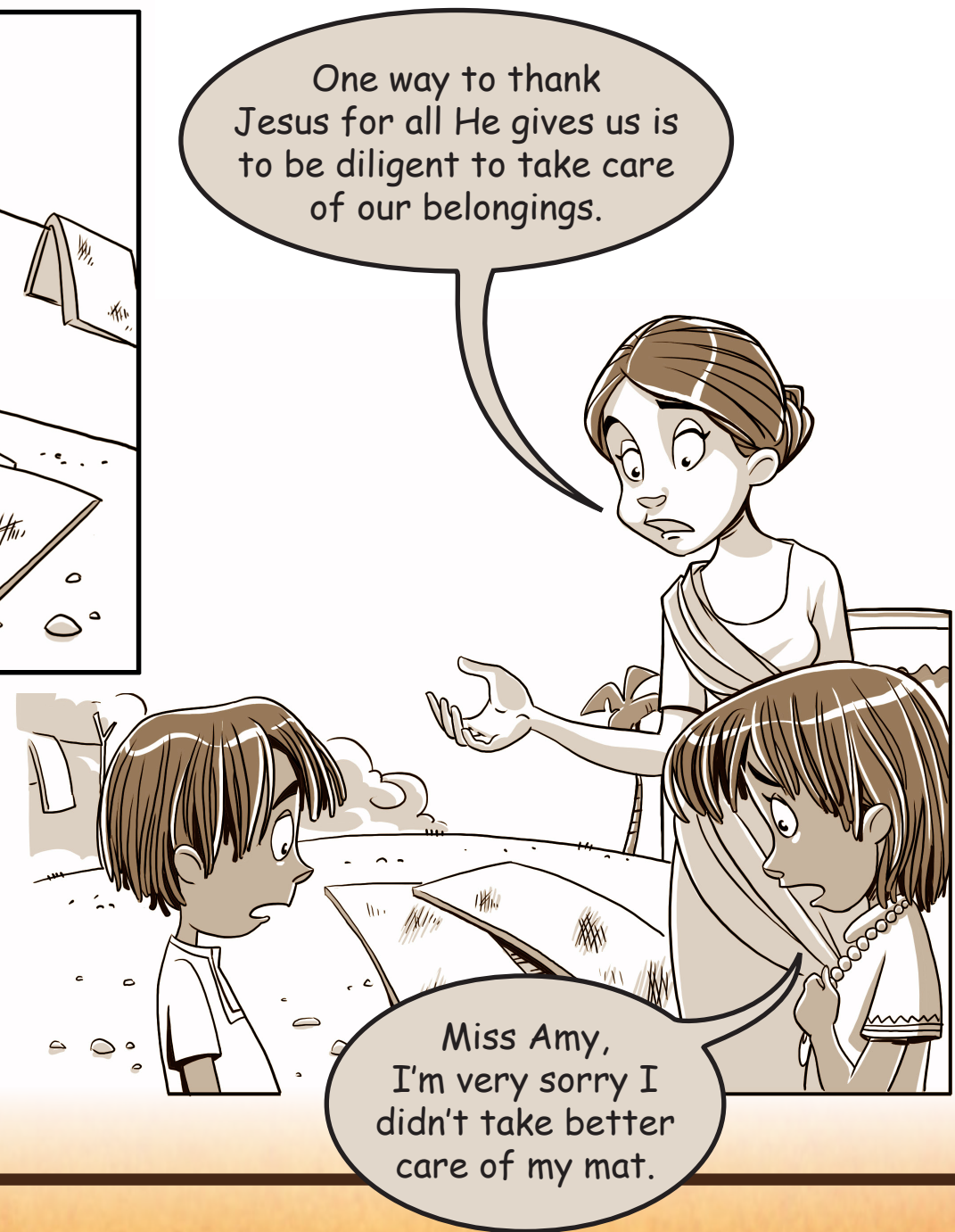


Whenever Mr. Diwan came to the orphanage, he always walked around the grounds to greet us.

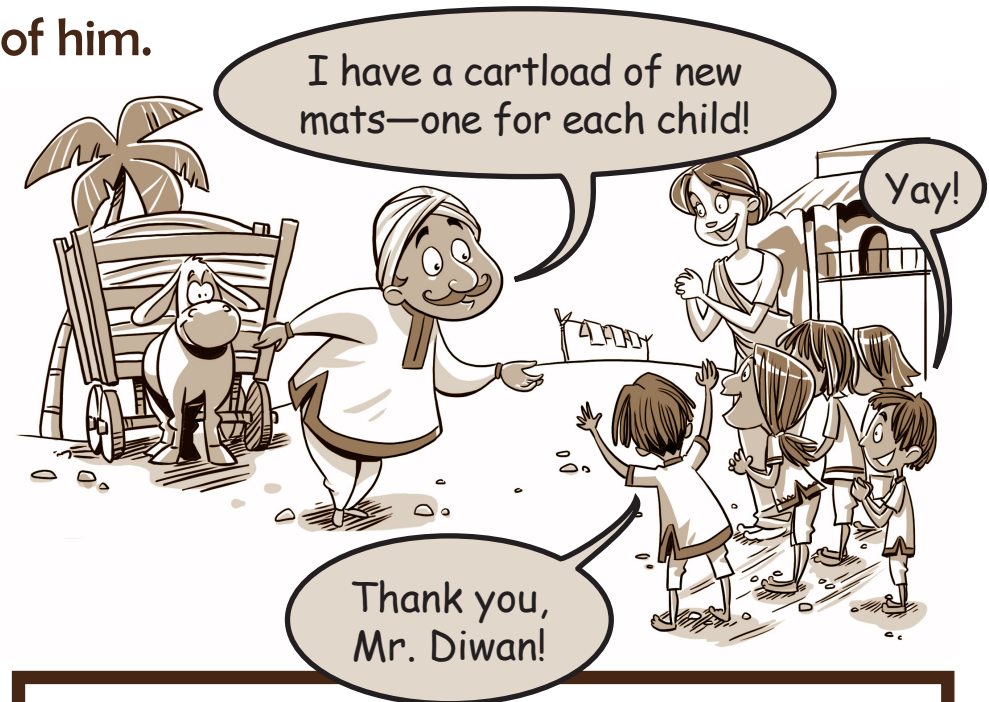
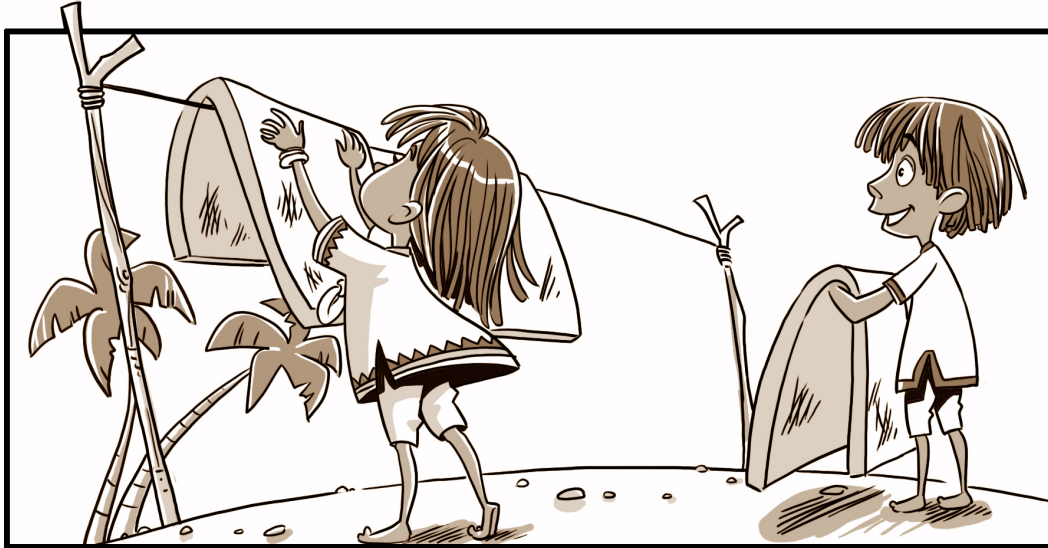




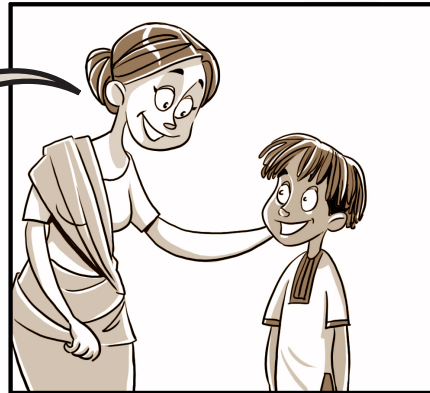
We were all very sad, as we had wanted new mats. We each learned about the importance of being diligent with the things Jesus had given us.



From that time on, we all were very careful to air out our mats by hanging them over the poles. And the happy ending is that a few months later, Mr. Diwan returned and gave each of us a new, comfortable mat. That was very nice of him.



Thanks, Amal,
for telling us this
story of what you
learned about being
a good steward¹ of
the blessings God
has for you.



¹ A “steward” refers to someone who takes care of something specific. For example, you are a steward of the toys you have.

Can you think of other things you are a steward of?