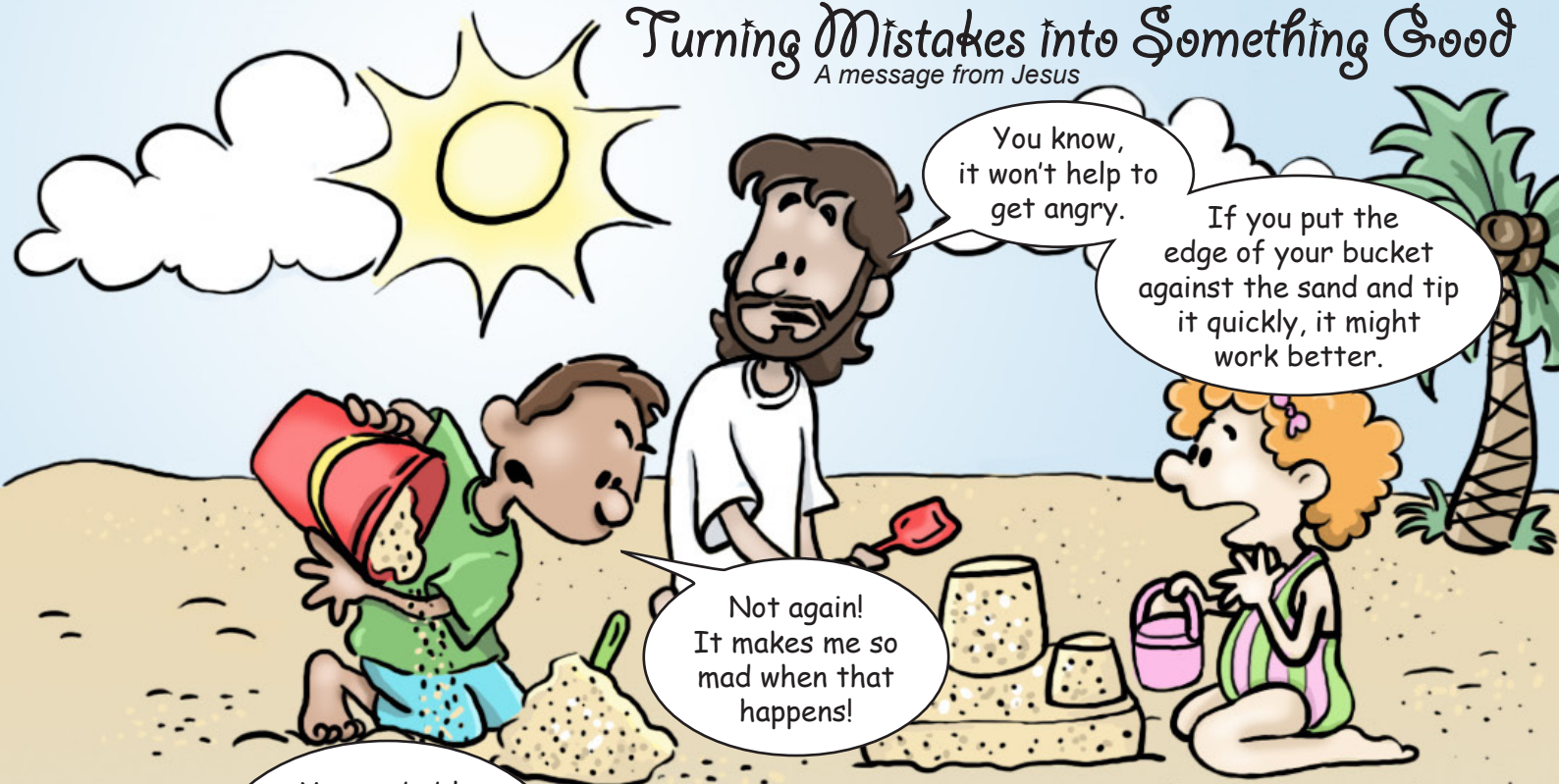


Turning Mistakes into Something Good

A message from Jesus



You know, it won't help to get angry.

If you put the edge of your bucket against the sand and tip it quickly, it might work better.

Not again! It makes me so mad when that happens!

You probably don't like it when something doesn't turn out the way you want it to.

Uh-huh.

I don't like it either. But what I like even less is being corrected, even if I've done something I shouldn't have.



Receiving correction is not easy. But...

It's good for us?

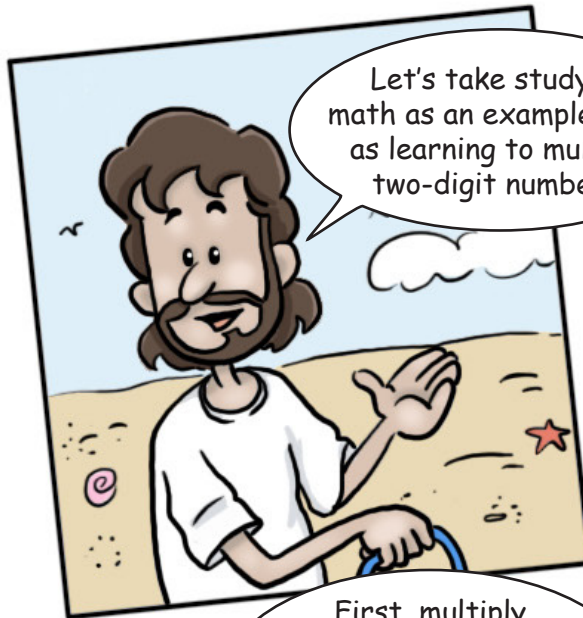
I guess it's good, but it's not fun.



Did you know that I can bring good out of your mistakes? If you let Me, I can use your mistakes to help you learn something.

I can even use your mistakes to help you become a better, happier person.

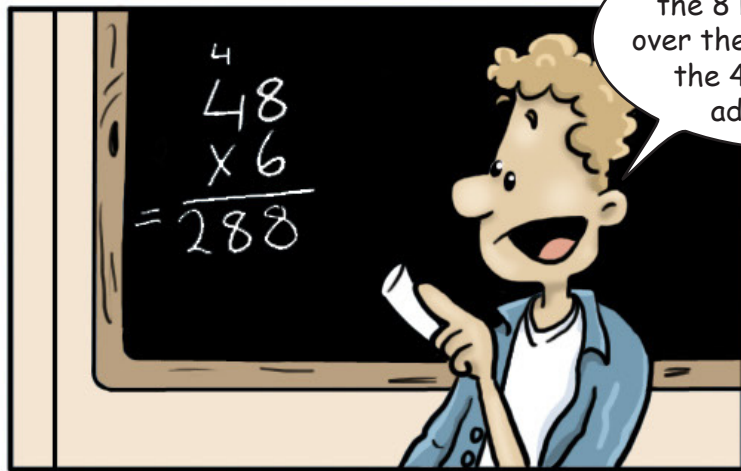
How?



Let's take studying math as an example, such as learning to multiply two-digit numbers.

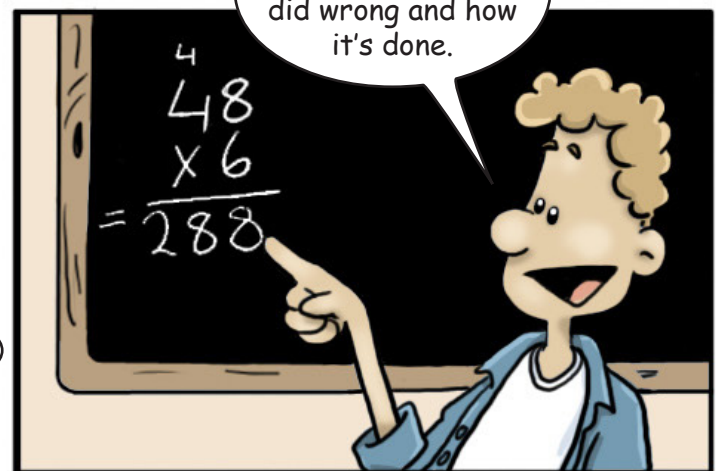


Your teacher explains how to do these sums, and then you try it yourself.



First, multiply the 8 by the 6, carry over the 4, then multiply the 4 by the 6 and add on the 4.

The first time you try, you may do it wrong—you make mistakes. Your teacher again shows you the correct way to do it.



Here, let me show you what you did wrong and how it's done.

You try again, and do it right the next time.



I think I've got it now!

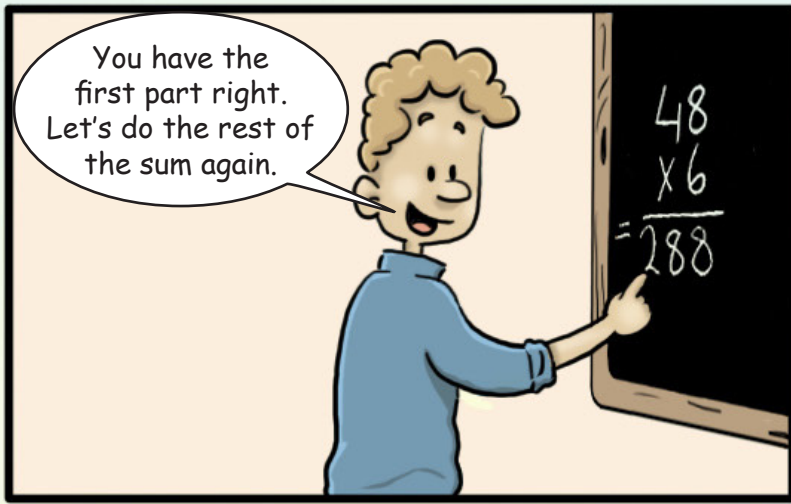
Yes, you have!



Don't worry! With practice you'll get it.

This is too hard!

But then it may be a few days before you do that type of math exercise again, and the next time you are multiplying with two-digit numbers you have forgotten how, and again, you get the wrong answers. You might feel bad about this.



Your teacher doesn't get upset at you. He patiently shows you what you did wrong and the correct way to multiply with two-digit numbers.

And he gives you time to practice this new skill each day until you remember it well.

Your mistakes in multiplying with two-digit numbers result in good, because due to your mistakes, your teacher explained things more thoroughly to you. You got extra time to practice your new skill.



This happens in your personal life, too. I allow people to make mistakes so that they can learn from their mistakes. And I give them opportunities to also practice the right ways to live.




For example, if you make a mistake of not being considerate of another person's feelings, you then learn how your actions affect others.

If you have made someone sad through something you did or said, you can learn from the sad experience how to communicate nicely so you're an encouragement instead.




Because of your mistake, your parent or teacher can help you learn ways to apply My Word on how to show kindness and consideration to others.

And through the mistake you made and the counsel and help you received, you not only learned how to avoid discouraging the other person, but you also learned ways to make that person happier.




"Do to others as you would like them to do to you" (Luke 6:31 NLT).

If you tried a new hairstyle, you would probably feel sensitive if someone told you it looked bad.




But what if it *does* look bad? Wouldn't you tell me so?

I'd probably find a way to encourage you for your effort in fixing your hair all by yourself, and help you find a better way to fix your hair.



It's fun trying new hairstyles! How about doing this with your hair?

I like that! Thanks for the help.



You see, in that case your mistake turned into something good!

As long as you stay open to learning from your mistakes, then each mistake will turn out for good.