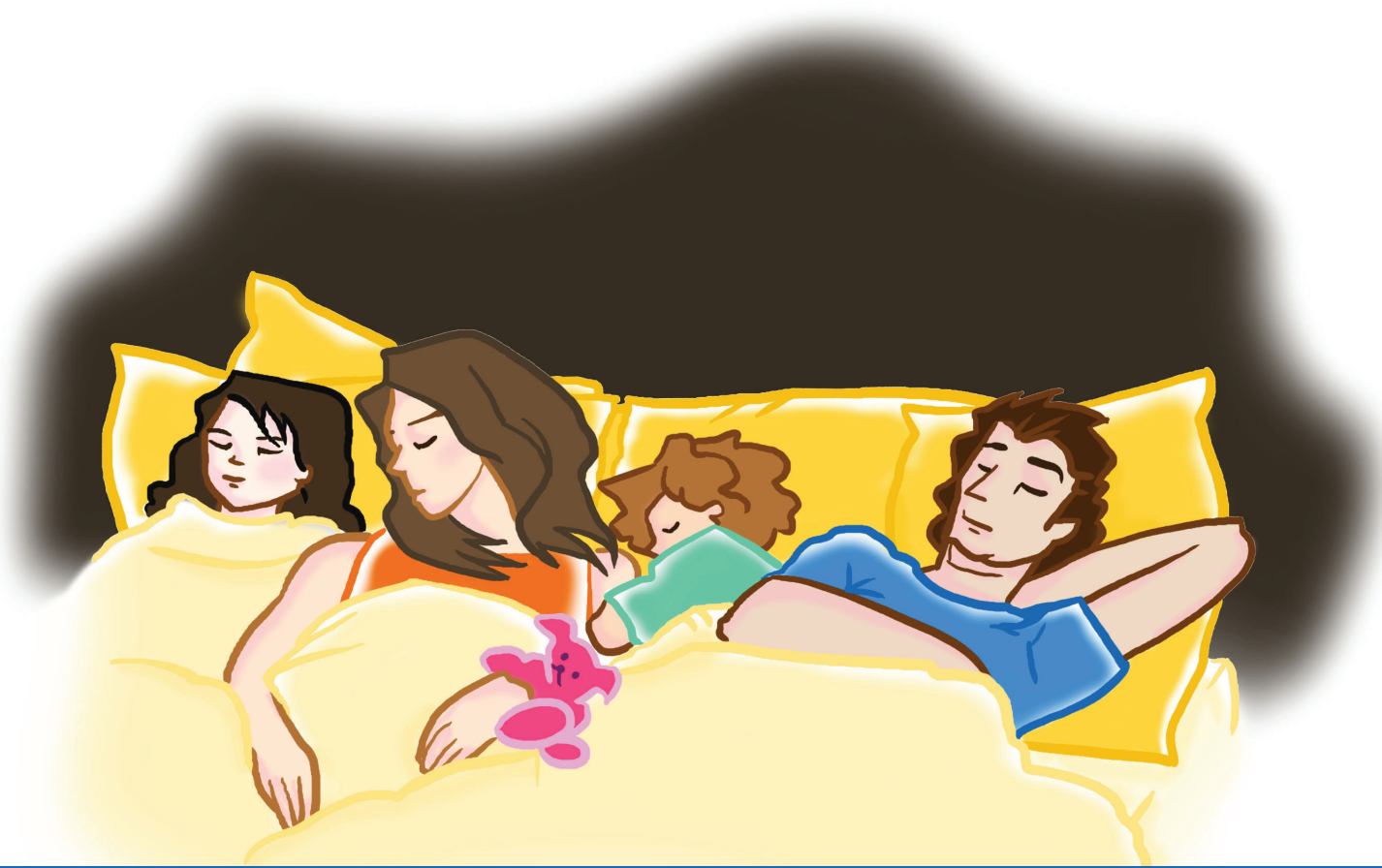


THE MIDNIGHT CALLER

A RETELLING OF LUKE 11:5-10; A LESSON ON PRAYER.

AT FIRST JOTHAM THOUGHT HE WAS DREAMING WHEN THE STILLNESS OF THE NIGHT WAS BROKEN BY A LOUD KNOCKING. BUT WHEN HE HEARD HIS NEIGHBOR, SILAS, CALLING HIS NAME, HE KNEW IT WASN'T A DREAM.



"IS THAT YOU, SILAS?" JOTHAM CALLED OUT. WHAT COULD THE NEIGHBOR FROM ACROSS THE STREET WANT AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT? HE THOUGHT AS HE SAT UP IN BED.



OUTSIDE, SHIVERING IN THE FROSTY AIR, SILAS PUT HIS FACE AS CLOSE TO THE WINDOW AS POSSIBLE SO HE COULD SPEAK WITHOUT WAKING THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND WHISPERED, "I KNOW IT'S LATE, JOTHAM, AND I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT A FRIEND OF MINE JUST ARRIVED FROM A LONG JOURNEY AND IS HUNGRY. I DON'T HAVE A THING TO SERVE HIM. WOULD YOU HAVE SOME BREAD?"

YAWNING, AND TRYING NOT TO WAKE HIS SLEEPING CHILDREN, JOTHAM MUTTERED, "OF COURSE, SILAS. EVEN AT THIS HOUR I AM HAPPY TO HELP YOU..."

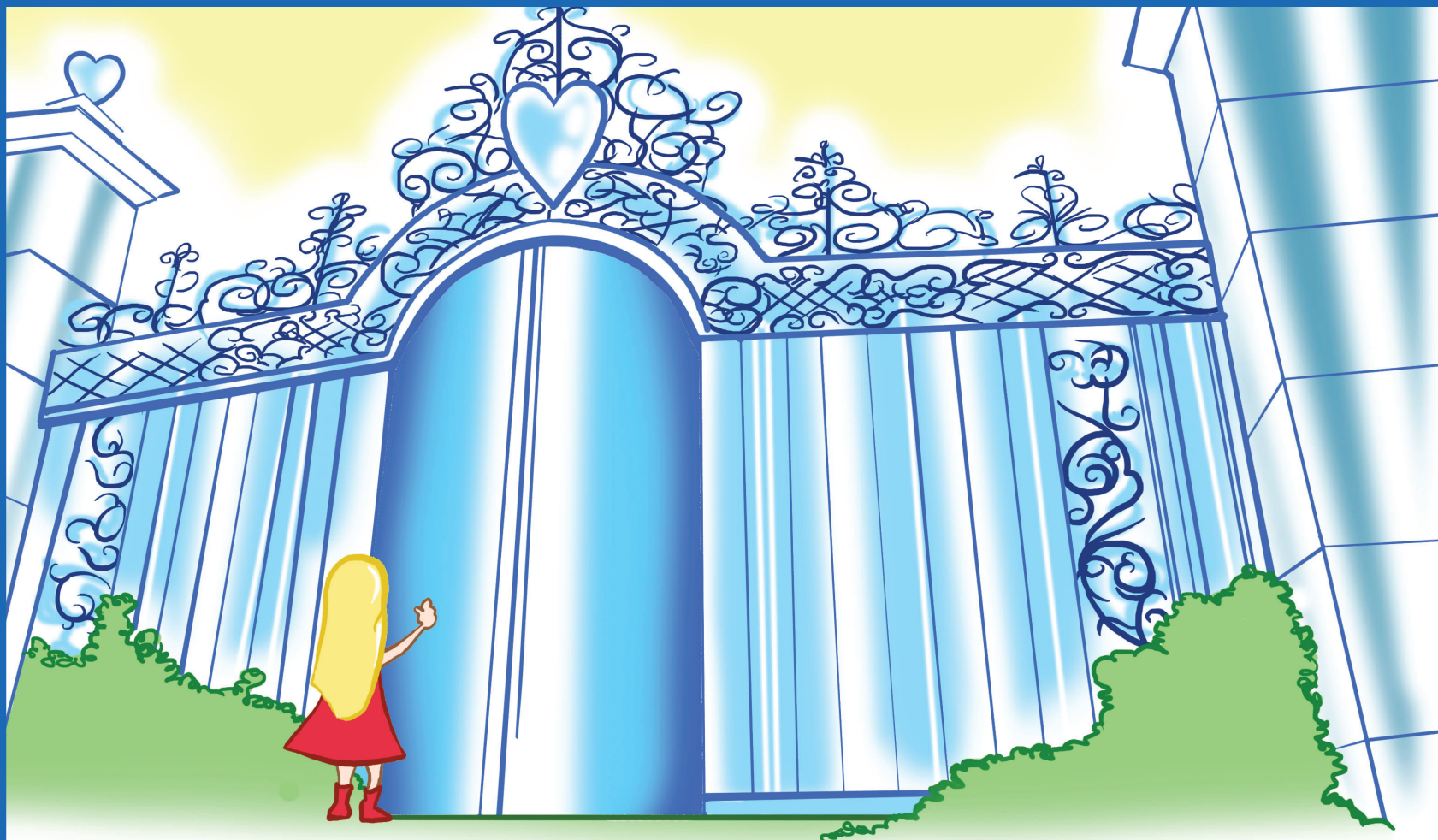
"I APPRECIATE IT, JOTHAM! YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T BOTHER YOU UNLESS I DESPERATELY NEEDED THIS HELP."



JESUS WAS SHOWING HIS DISCIPLES A COMPARISON. IF A MAN WHO IS SLEEPING ALONG WITH HIS FAMILY IS WILLING TO ANSWER THE REQUEST OF A NEIGHBOR EVEN WHEN IT'S SO INCONVENIENT TO DO SO, THEN HOW MUCH MORE WILL GOD ANSWER OUR PRAYERS WHEN WE BRING OUR REQUESTS TO HIM?



THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY THAT WHAT WE'RE ASKING IS TOO DIFFICULT FOR GOD TO ANSWER, OR THAT HE IS TOO BUSY DOING SOMETHING ELSE AND DOESN'T WANT US TO BOTHER HIM. GOD IS OUR LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER, AND HE IS EAGER TO ANSWER OUR PRAYERS.



JESUS ENDS THIS PARABLE BY TELLING US TO "ASK, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK, AND YOU WILL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT WILL BE OPENED TO YOU. FOR EVERYONE WHO ASKS RECEIVES, AND THE ONE WHO SEEKS FINDS, AND TO THE ONE WHO KNOCKS IT WILL BE OPENED" (LUKE 11:9-10 ESV).

DO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS HAVE A REQUEST? PRAY BOLDLY, BRINGING YOUR REQUEST TO GOD, AND HE WILL ANSWER IN THE WAY HE KNOWS IS BEST.

S&S link: Christian Life and Faith: Biblical and Christian Foundation: Jesus, God's Son-1e; Christian Life and Faith: A Personal Connection with Jesus: Prayer-1a
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