

Hiding God's Word

Thomas was in trouble. He had seen a fancy blue spade and bucket sitting on the edge of the sandbox. It didn't seem like anyone was playing with the toys, so he had decided to use them.

Just for a short while, thought Thomas. Maybe no one will notice.

"That's *my* spade and bucket!" shouted Melissa, another child who was also playing in the sandbox. "You stole them!"



“I thought you weren’t playing with them,” said Thomas.

“Still,” insisted Melissa, grabbing the toys from Thomas, “taking without asking is *stealing*.” And Melissa stormed off with her spade and bucket tucked under her arm.

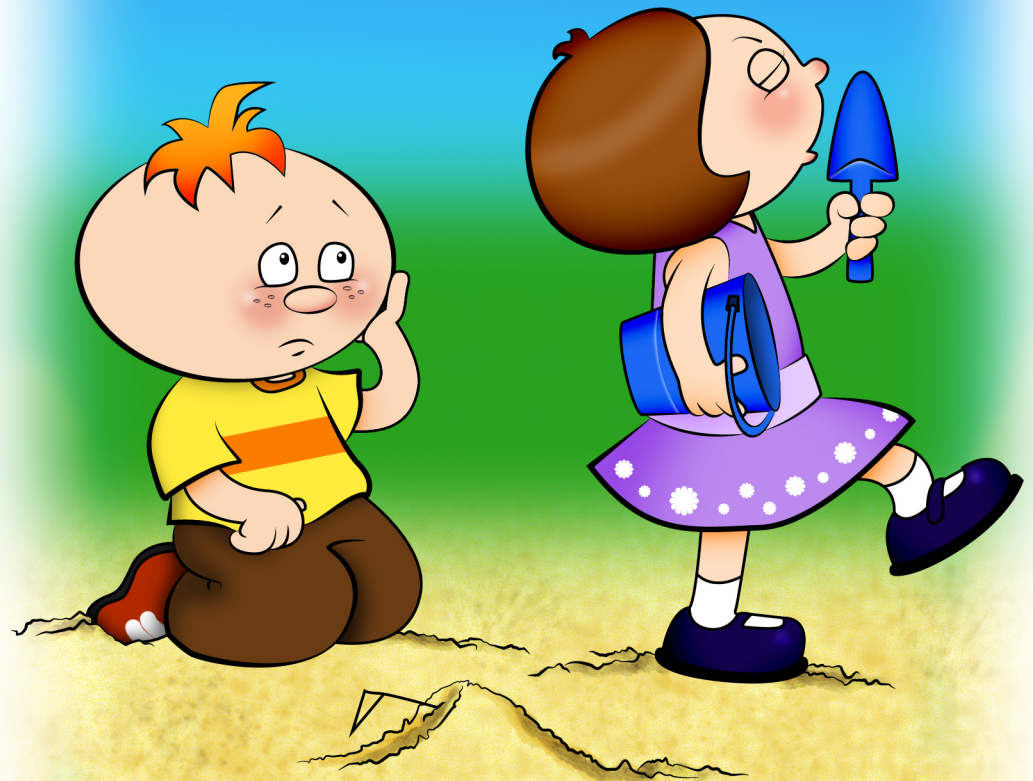
Thomas didn’t feel like playing anymore. He walked over to where Mother and older sister, Kate, sat on the swings.

“Why so droopy?” asked Mother.

“I took Melissa’s playthings. I thought she wasn’t playing with them....”

“You know you shouldn’t pick up other kids’ toys when we’re here at the park,” said Kate, shaking her head.

“I know,” grumbled Thomas, “but I always forget.”



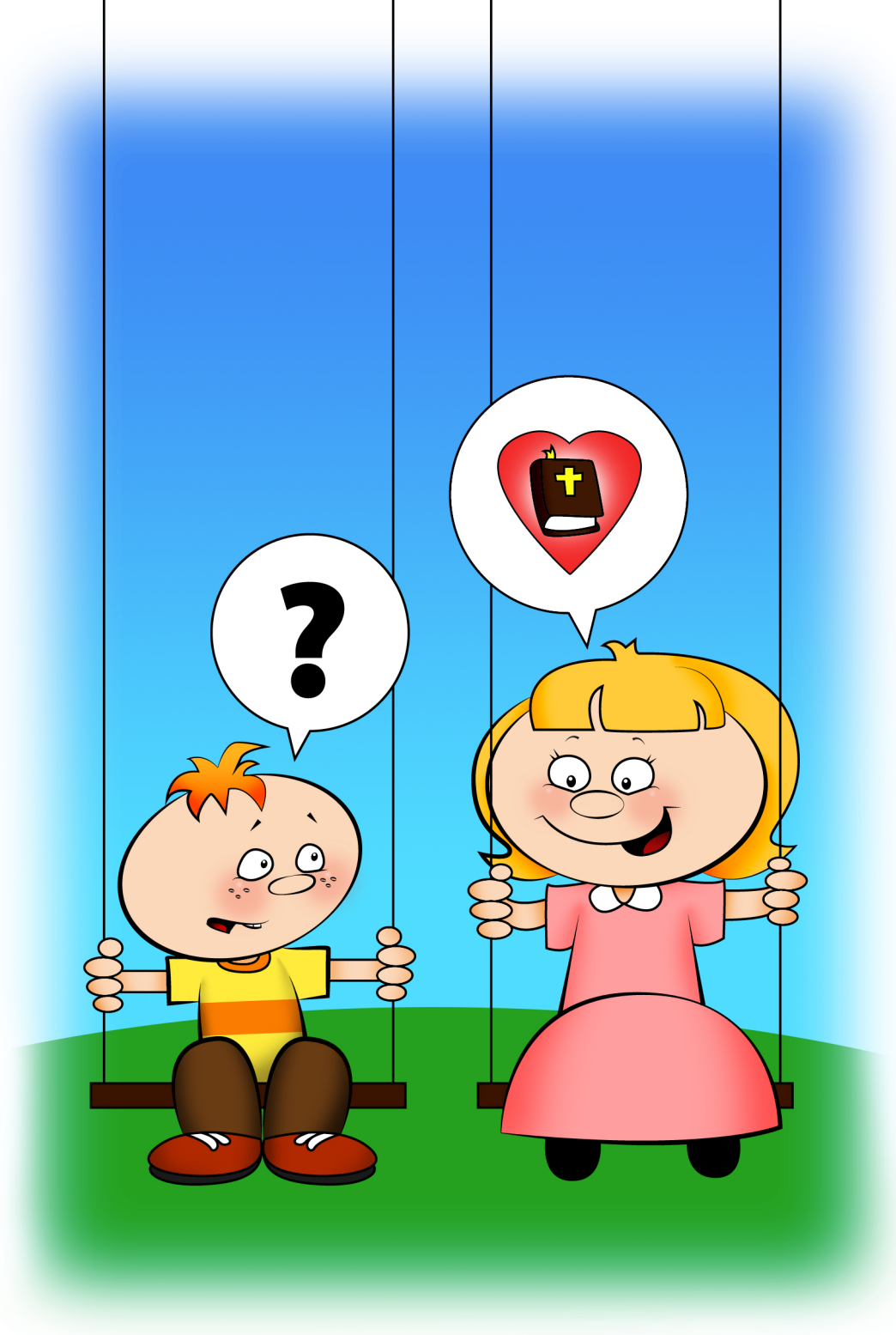
“I used to find it difficult to do what was right, too,” said Mother.

Thomas looked at Mother. “Really?”

“Yes, I did, and sometimes still do. When I was your age, it was especially difficult. But one day, my father told me of a wise man in the Bible who also found it difficult to remember to do what was right” —Kate and Thomas leaned closer to Mother—“but he learned a trick to remembering. In the book of Psalms, King David tells God, ‘I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.’¹”

“What does that mean, Mother?” asked Thomas.

¹Psalms 119:11 NIV

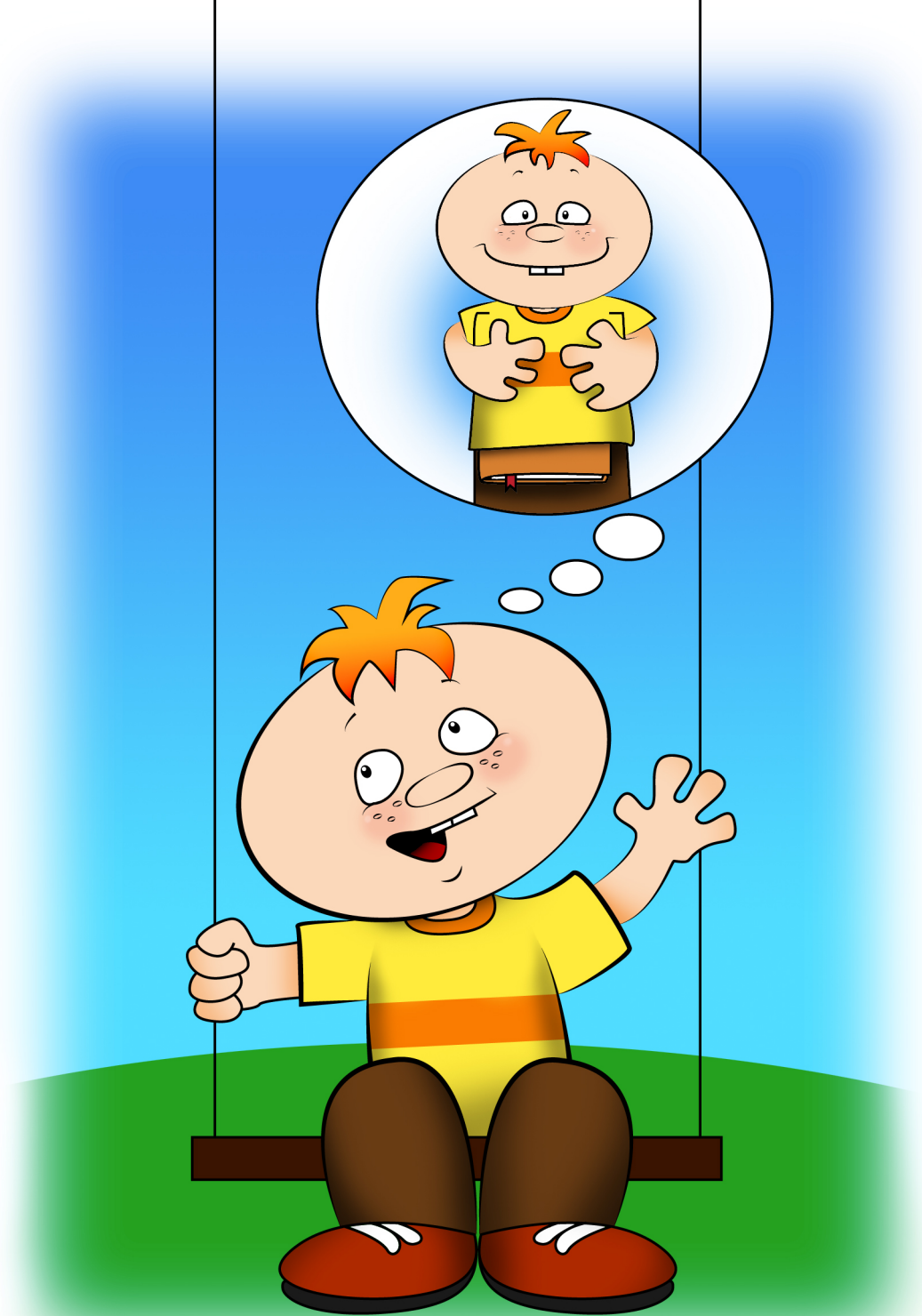


“It means that when we fill our hearts with God’s Word we are learning about the right ways to act toward others. This can then guide us to do our best to avoid doing those things that could hurt others. Knowing God’s Word can help us to make the right choices.”

“But how do you hide God’s Word in your heart?” asked Kate.

“Is it like hiding a Bible under your shirt?” asked Thomas with a grin.

Mother smiled. “We hide God’s Word in our hearts by studying and memorizing it. Then, when we need to know what is the right thing to do, the things we have learned from God’s Word will come to mind. We’ll remember them. It’s like hide and seek with God’s Word!”



“Oh,” said Kate, “that sounds like fun. Can we hide something in our hearts now?”

“I know a good verse to hide away today. It goes like this, ‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.’²”

“This verse teaches us that when we trust in God, acknowledge Him in the things we do,” Mother explained, “and do our best to follow God’s way rather than our own, then He can guide us to do the right things.”

Thomas and Kate repeated the verse with Mother a few times, then Thomas had an idea.

²Proverbs 3:5, 6 NIV



“Mommy, I’d like to say sorry to Melissa for taking her things without asking. I had forgotten to apologize before.”

“I think that’s a lovely idea,” said Mother. “We can all go together.”

“Yes,” agreed Kate.

“I’m glad I know what the right thing to do is,” said Thomas.

“I’m glad too,” said Mother.

The End

Verse: I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11 NIV)

*Authored by Aaliyah Smith. Illustrations by Alvi.
Design by Christia Copeland.
Published by My Wonder Studio.
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