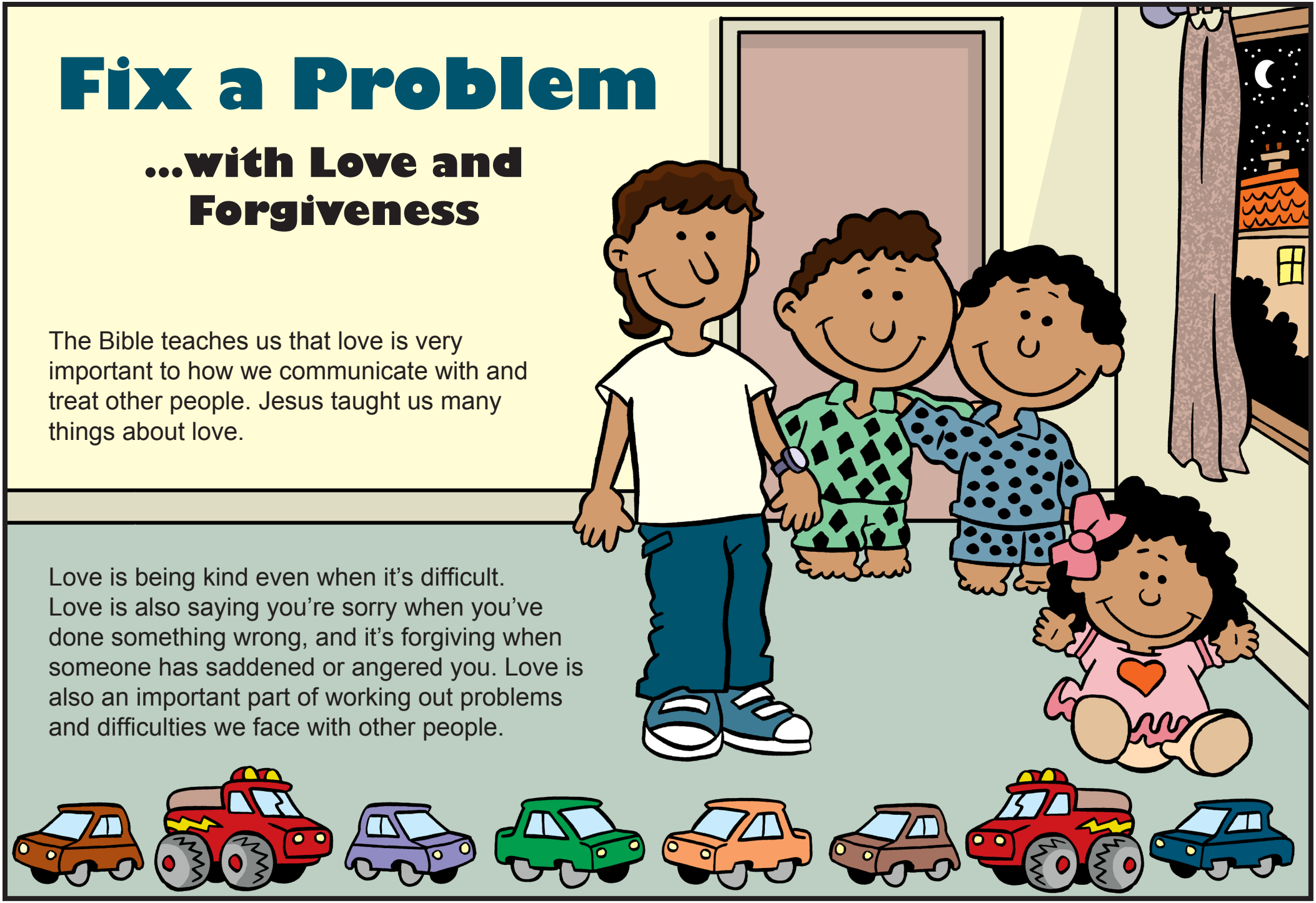
Fix a Problem

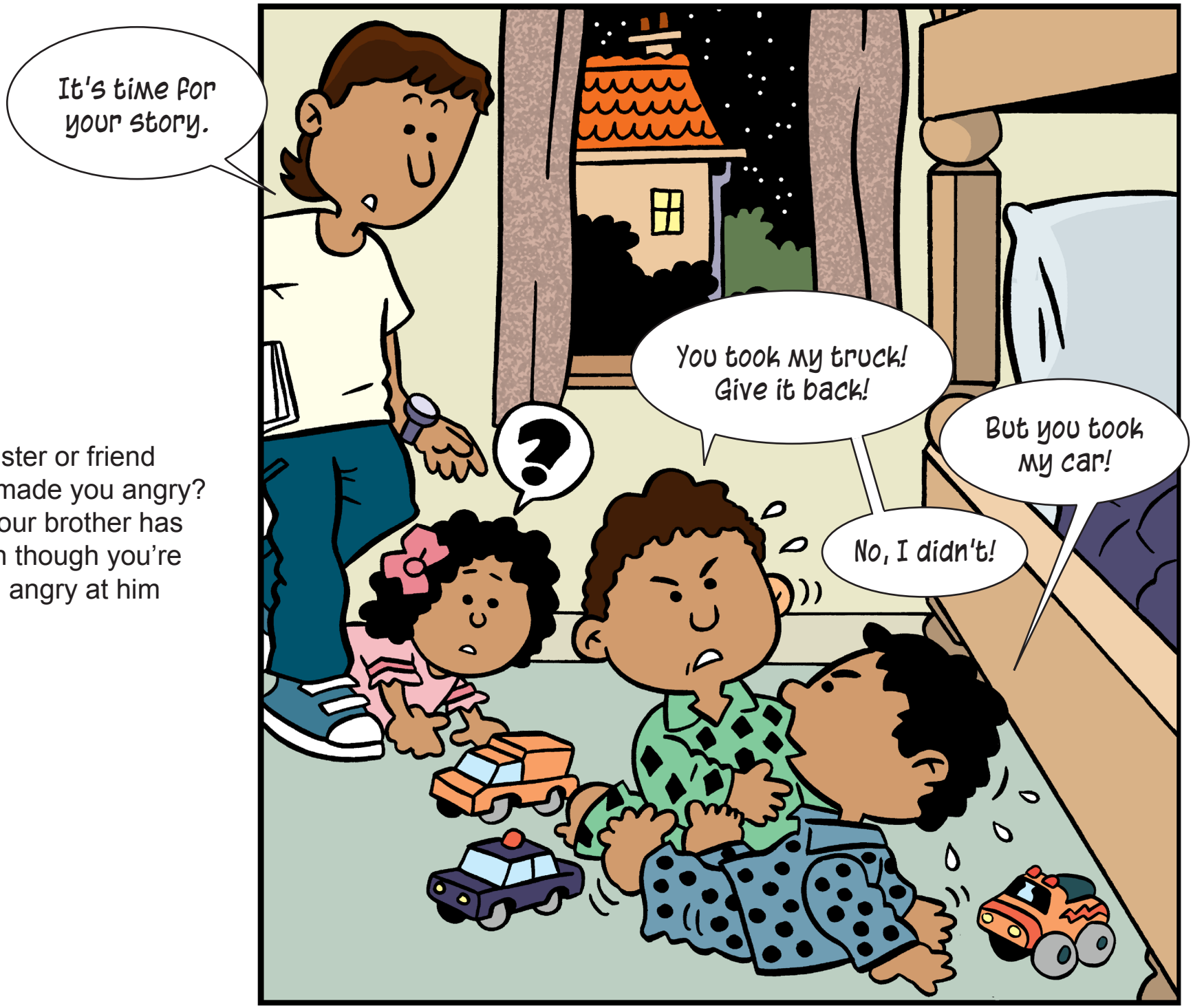
...with Love and Forgiveness

The Bible teaches us that love is very important to how we communicate with and treat other people. Jesus taught us many things about love.

Love is being kind even when it's difficult. Love is also saying you're sorry when you've done something wrong, and it's forgiving when someone has saddened or angered you. Love is also an important part of working out problems and difficulties we face with other people.



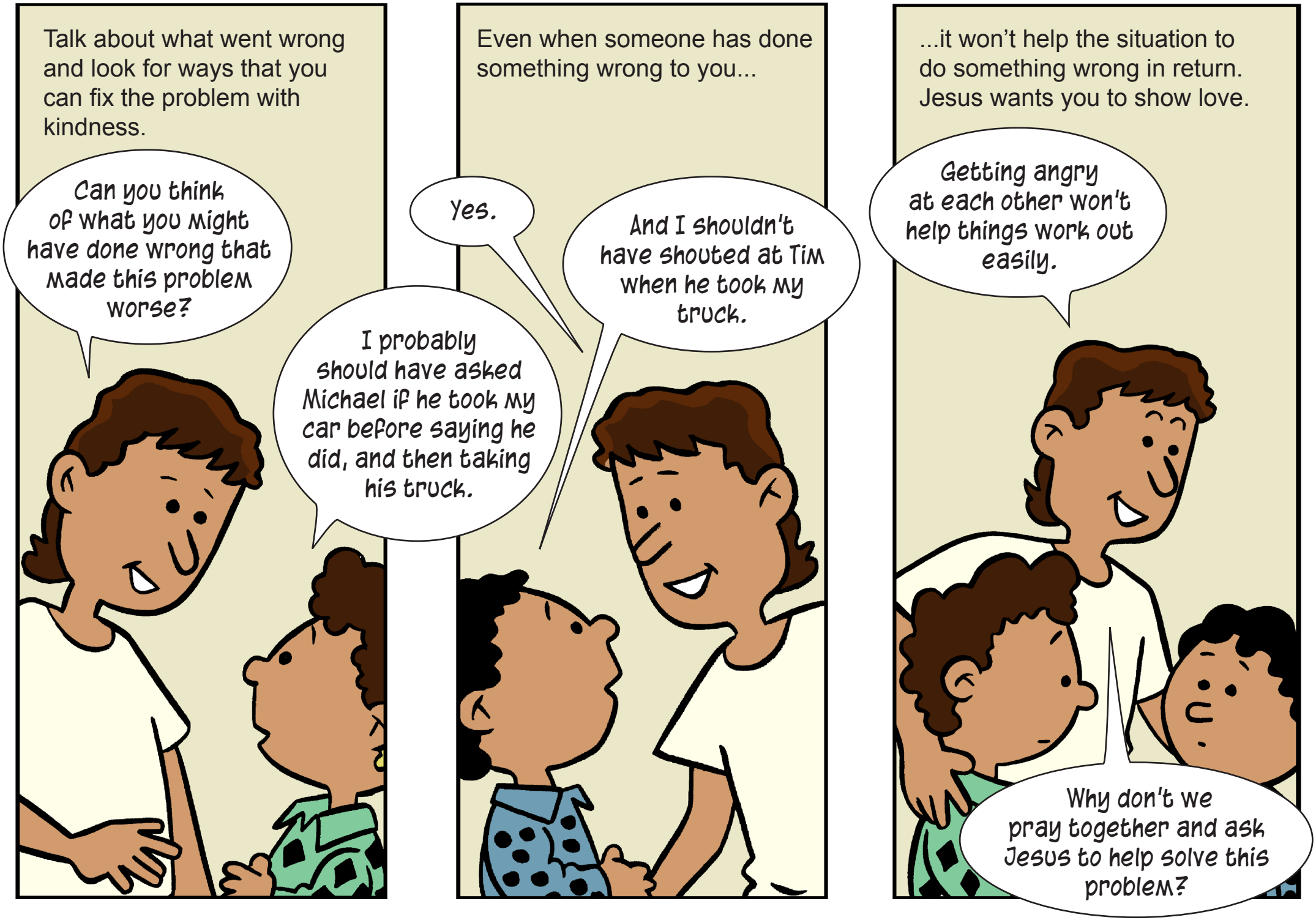
Has your brother or sister or friend done something that made you angry? Or maybe you *think* your brother has done something, even though you're not sure, and you feel angry at him because of that?



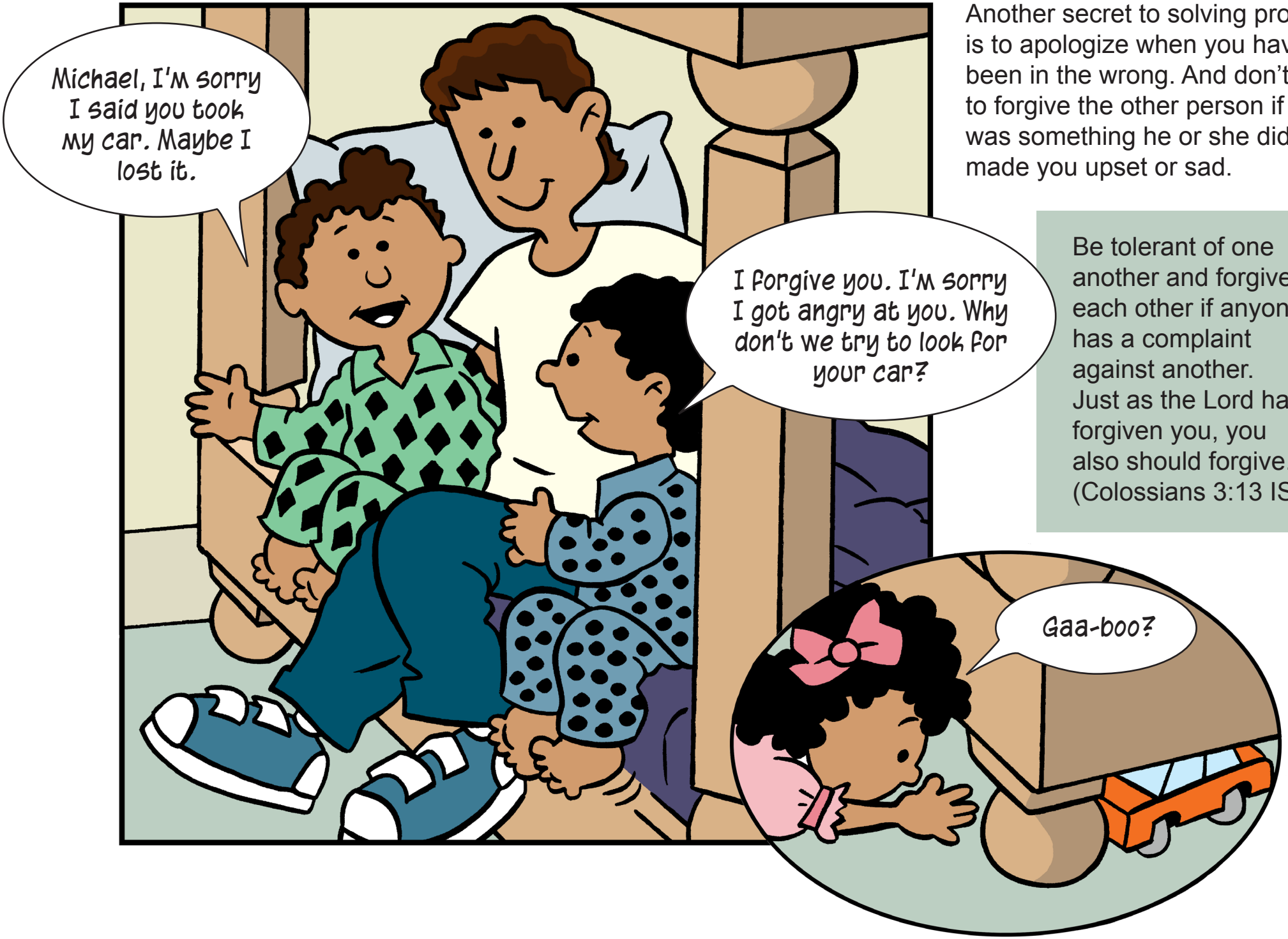
Getting angry doesn't usually solve the problem; in fact, it often makes it worse. It's better to work things out calmly. Talk with the person and see if you can work it out nicely. Or ask someone to help you work out your differences.

A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare. (Proverbs 15:1 NLT)

Working conflicts out in love is the only way to solve problems. If you try to place the blame on the other person, it will only make that person angry too.


Talk about what went wrong and look for ways that you can fix the problem with kindness.
Can you think of what you might have done wrong that made this problem worse?
I probably should have asked Michael if he took my car before saying he did, and then taking his truck.
Even when someone has done something wrong to you...
Yes.
And I shouldn't have shouted at Tim when he took my truck.
...it won't help the situation to do something wrong in return. Jesus wants you to show love.
Getting angry at each other won't help things work out easily.
Why don't we pray together and ask Jesus to help solve this problem?

If a problem is difficult for you to figure out, take some time to pray and listen to Jesus' voice in your heart. Jesus can help you find an answer.

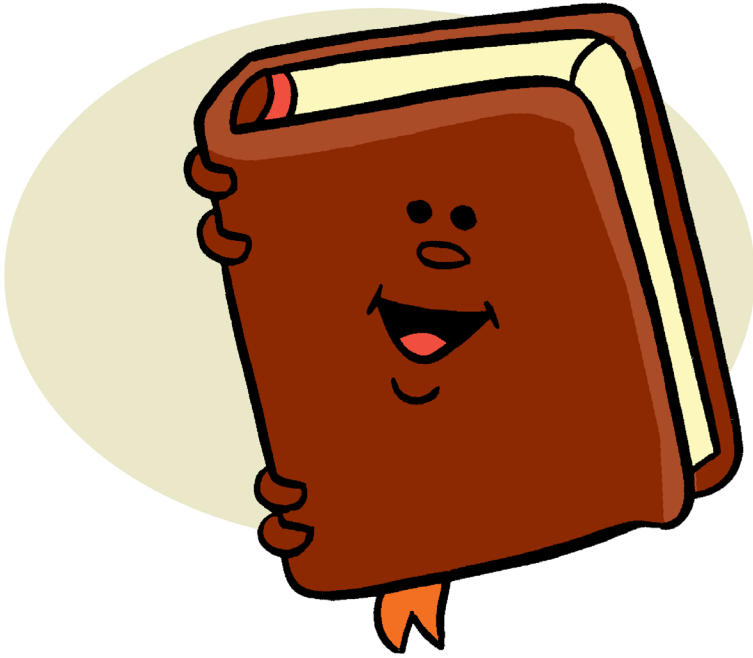


Another secret to solving problems is to apologize when you have been in the wrong. And don't forget to forgive the other person if there was something he or she did that made you upset or sad.

Be tolerant of one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, you also should forgive. (Colossians 3:13 ISV)

The Bible says to "be kind and compassionate to one another, and forgive each other."[1] God's love can help you show kindness even when it is difficult, and that will help you to be calm and forgiving even when things are difficult.

Love and forgiveness always make problems easier to work out.



[1] Ephesians 4:32, *paraphrased*

Authored by Devon T. Sommers; comic storyline by Christi S. Lynch. Illustrations by Didier Martin. Design by Christia Copeland.
Published by My Wonder Studio. Copyright © 2012 by The Family International