



# The Simple Gospel



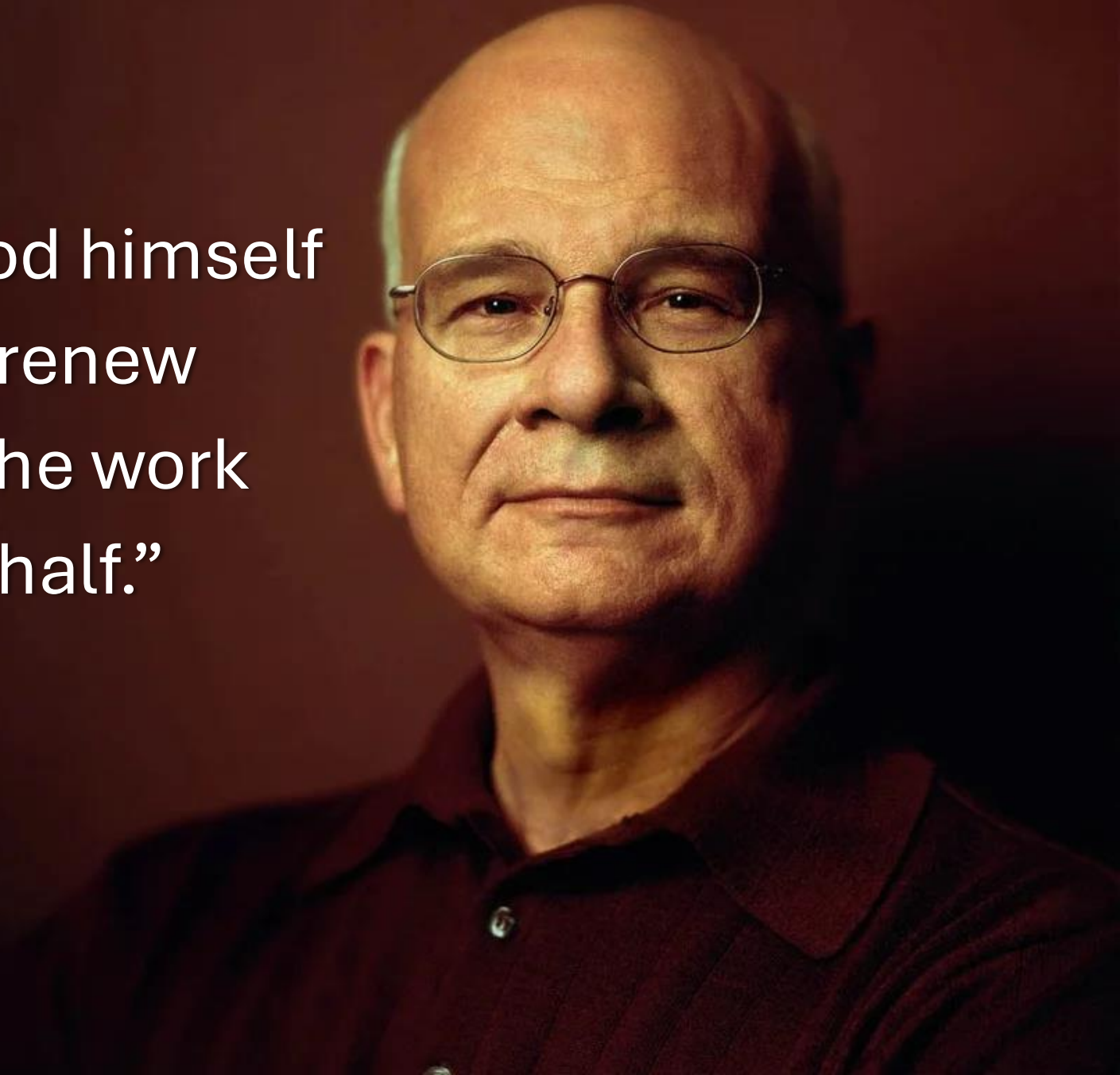


CHILD LIKE

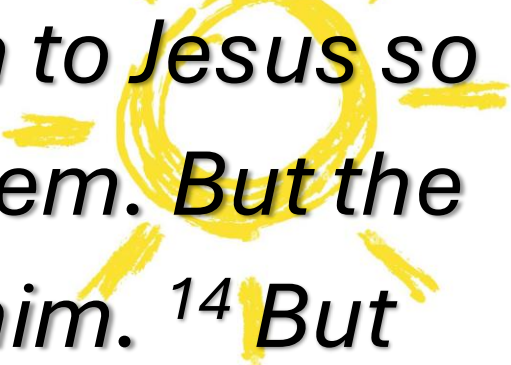


“The [good news] that God himself  
has come to rescue and renew  
creation in and through the work  
of Jesus Christ on our behalf.”

- *Timothy Keller*







*<sup>13</sup> One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. <sup>14</sup> But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.” <sup>15</sup> And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left. (Matthew 19:13-15 NLT)*





# The Friend of little children

*Jesus and the children, from Matthew 18, 19, Mark 10, Luke 18*

JESUS' FRIENDS WERE ARGUING. Who was the most important helper in God's kingdom? They wanted to know.

"I am!" James said.

"No, you're not!" said Peter. "I am!"

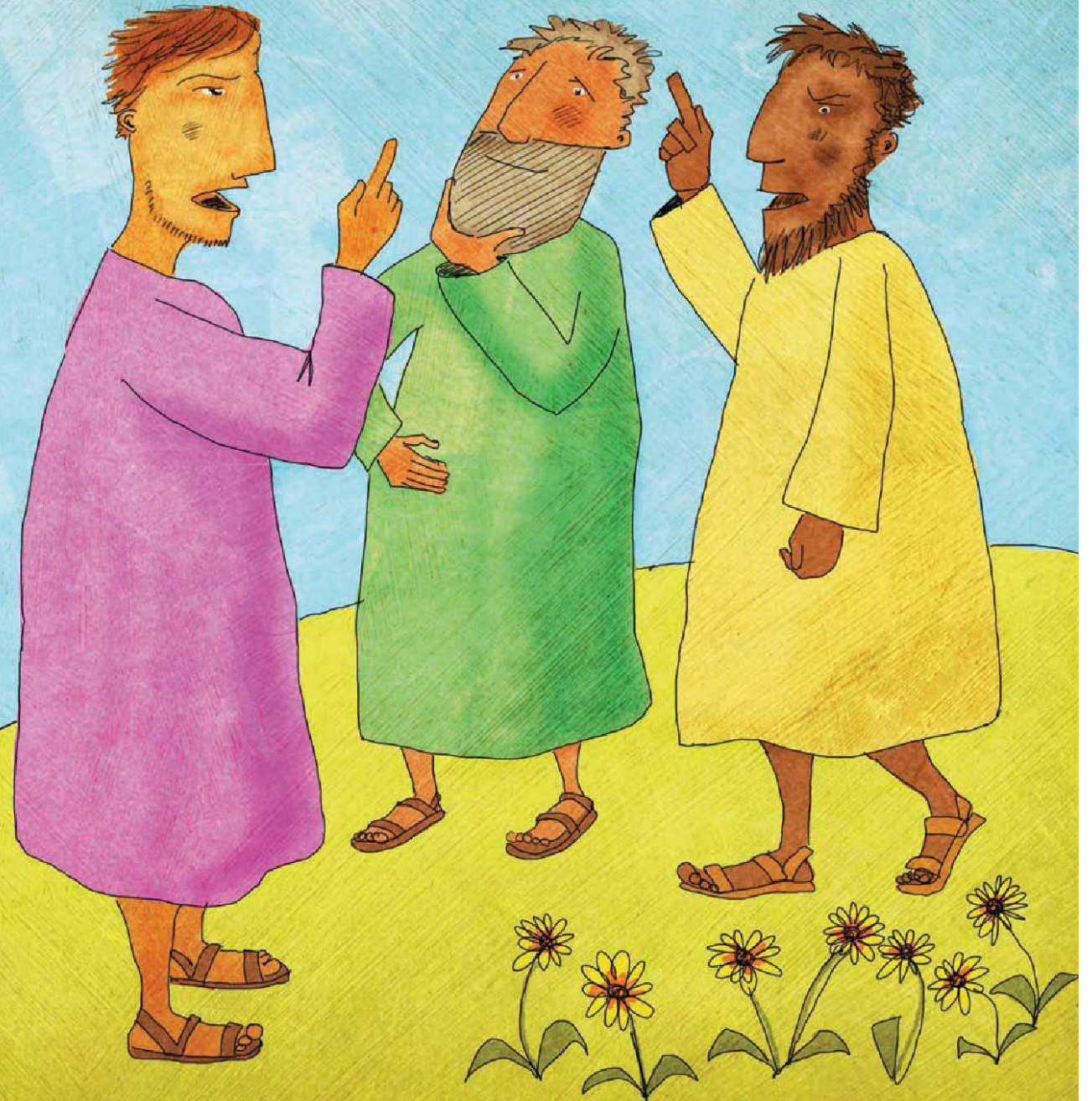
"Nonsense," Matthew said. "I'm the cleverest!"

"No, you're not!"

"Yes, I am!"

"Yes!" "No!" "Am, too!"

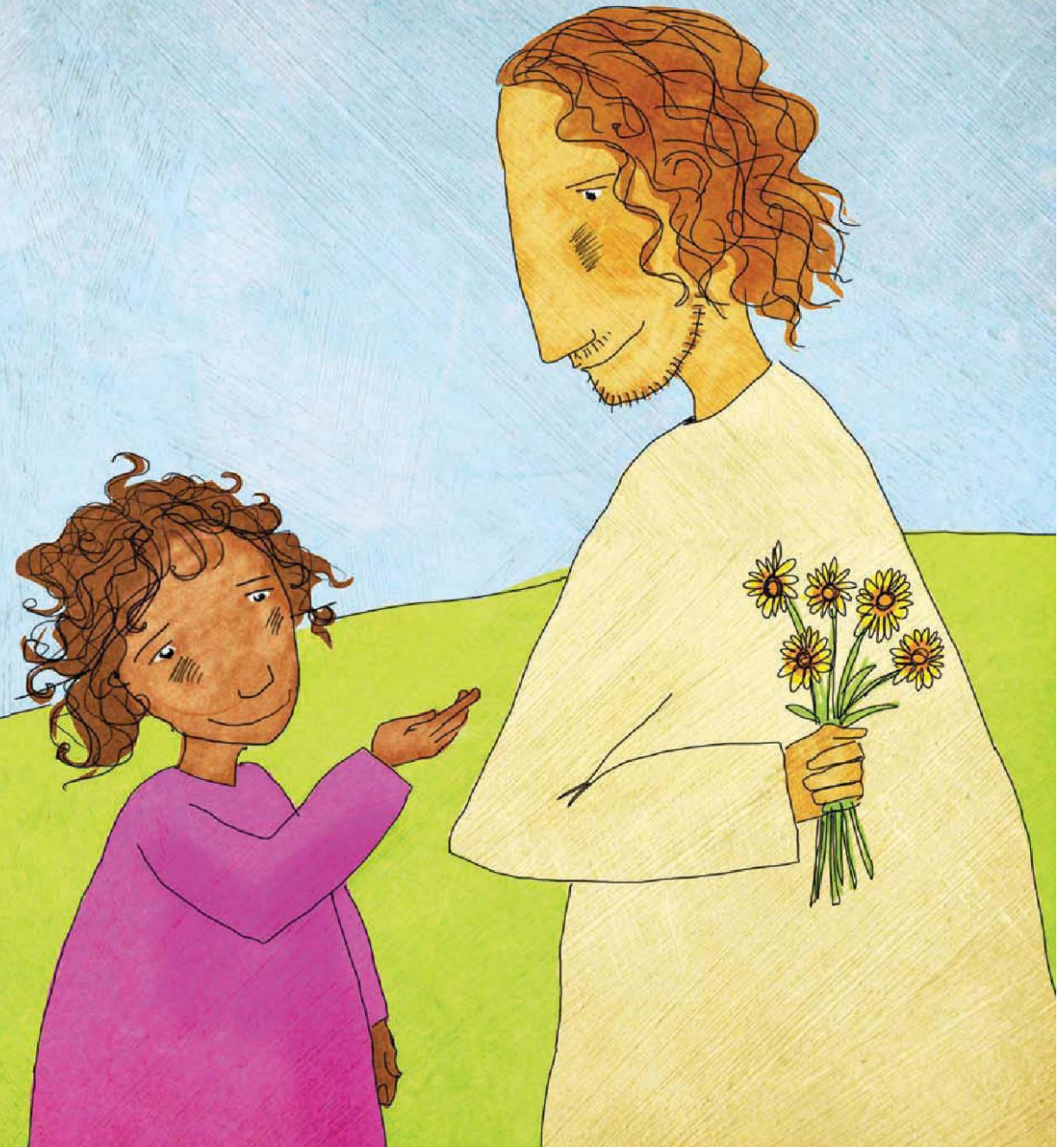
This silliness went on and on like that for some time. You see, Jesus' friends had started thinking they had to do something to make themselves special to Jesus — that if they were the cleverest or the nicest or something, Jesus would like them best.





But they had forgotten something. Something God had been teaching his people all through the years: that no matter how clever you are, or how good you are, or how rich you are, or how nice you are, or how important you are — none of it makes any difference. Because God's love is a gift and, as anyone will tell you, the whole thing about a gift is, it's free. All you have to do is reach out your hands and take it.

So while Jesus' friends were arguing, some people who knew all about getting gifts — in fact, you might say they were gift-experts — had come to see Jesus. Who were they? They were little children.



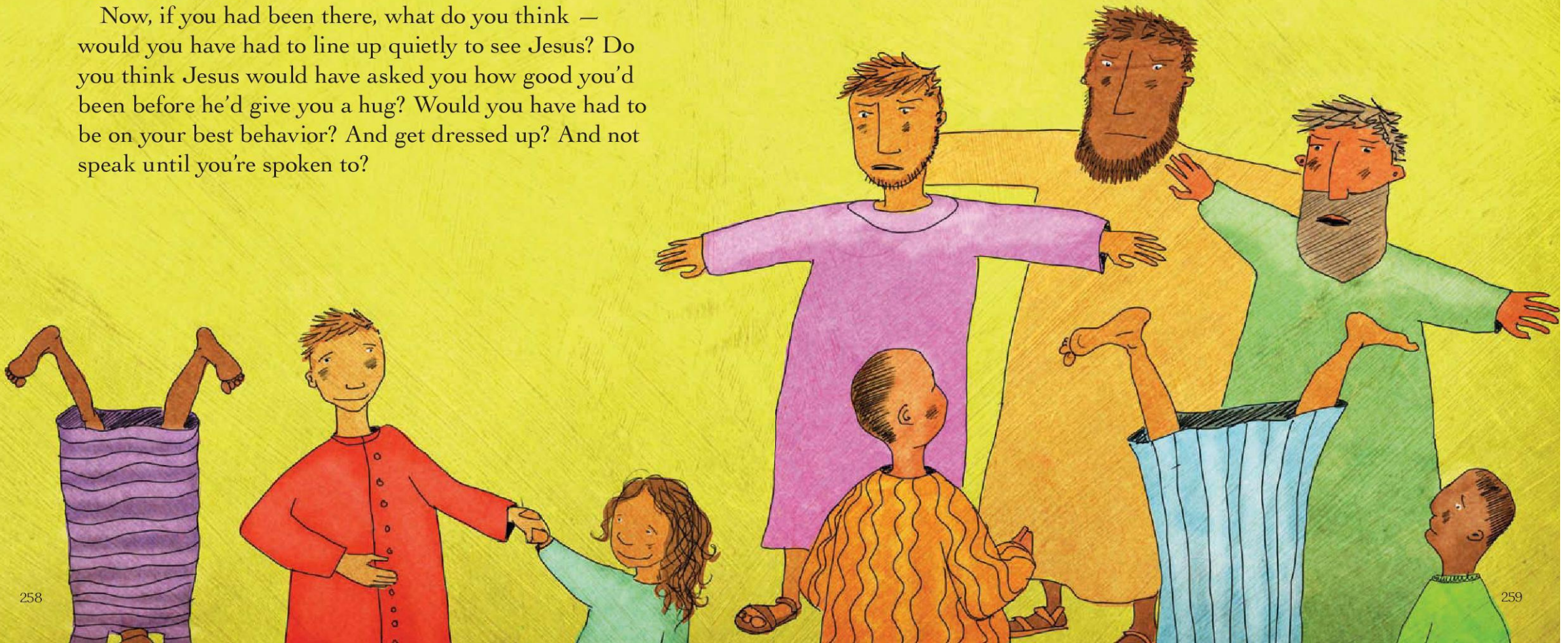


Jesus' helpers tried to send them away. "Jesus doesn't have time for you!" they said. "He's too tired."

But they were wrong. Jesus always had time for children.

"Don't ever send them away!" Jesus said. "Bring the little ones to me."

Now, if you had been there, what do you think — would you have had to line up quietly to see Jesus? Do you think Jesus would have asked you how good you'd been before he'd give you a hug? Would you have had to be on your best behavior? And get dressed up? And not speak until you're spoken to?





Or ... would you have done just what these children did — run straight up to Jesus and let him pick you up in his arms and swing you and kiss you and hug you and then sit you on his lap and listen to your stories and your chats?

You see, children loved Jesus, and they knew they didn't need to do anything special for Jesus to love them. All they needed to do was to run into his arms. And so that's just what they did.

Well, after all the laughing and games, Jesus turned to his helpers and said, "No matter how big you grow, never grow up so much that you lose your child's heart: full of trust in God. Be like these children. They are the most important in my kingdom."








*<sup>1</sup>So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. (Heb 6:1 NLT)*







*<sup>1</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, <sup>3</sup> for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. (1 Cor 3:1-3a NLT)*







*<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. (1 Cor 13:11 NLT)*





## Childish Faith

Self-Centered & Self-Serving

Undeveloped & Untested

Lacks Wisdom

Doesn't Produce Good Fruit

## Childlike Faith

Jesus-Centered

Takes Jesus at His Word

Believe Jesus Can Do Big Things

Prioritizes Being Over Doing





*The problem at the heart of every problem is what the Bible calls sin. Sin is the word for how we fail to and can't love God and others the way we He made us to. Our sin separates us from God and hurts others, sometime very badly. The Bible tells us that God cares about justice so much, and our sin is so bad, that the right penalty for our sin is death and forever punishment.*





*Some people think that if we try very hard to be very good and live very good lives, we could earn God's forgiveness. However, the Bible says the good things we do will never be good enough; in other words, we can't escape our punishment on good behavior. Our only hope is for God to forgive us even though we don't deserve it.*





*This is exactly why Jesus came. Because Jesus is God, he was able to live a life without sin that we could never live. Because he's also human, like us, Jesus was able to be punished in our place instead of us, when he died on the cross. We know that what Jesus did was enough, we know it work, because three days later he rose from the grave and is alive today.*

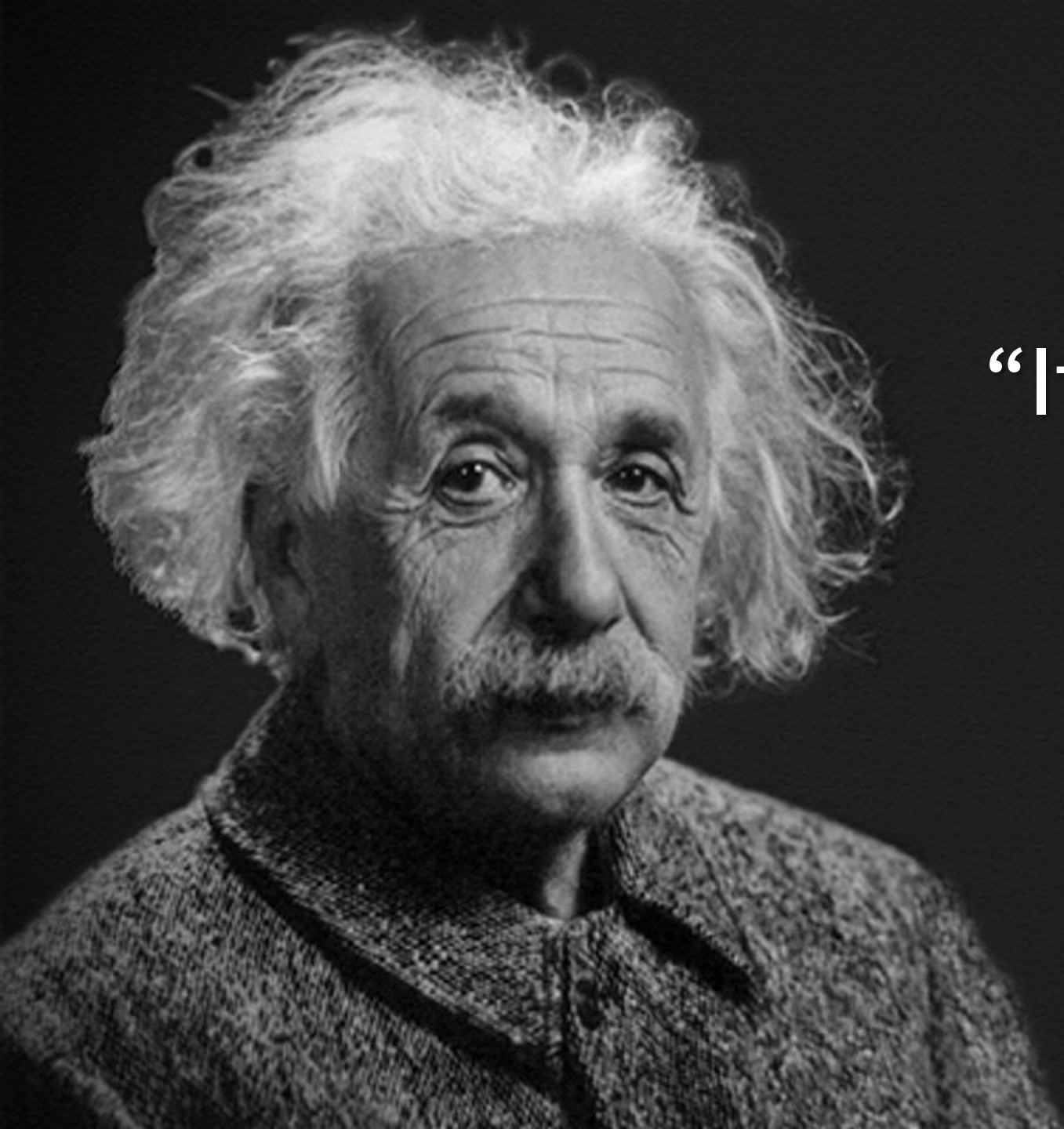




*All we have to do to be forgiven is leave our sin behind and run to God by believing and declaring that Jesus is our Rescuer and King. When we do this instead of death, God gives us life; instead of forever punishment, God promises we can look forward to forever paradise with Him.*







“If you can’t explain it  
simply, you don’t  
understand it well  
enough.”



**Step 1: Pray**

**Step 2: Write**

**Step 3: Share**

**Step 4: Write Again**

**Step 5: Share Again**

**Step 6: Use It**

