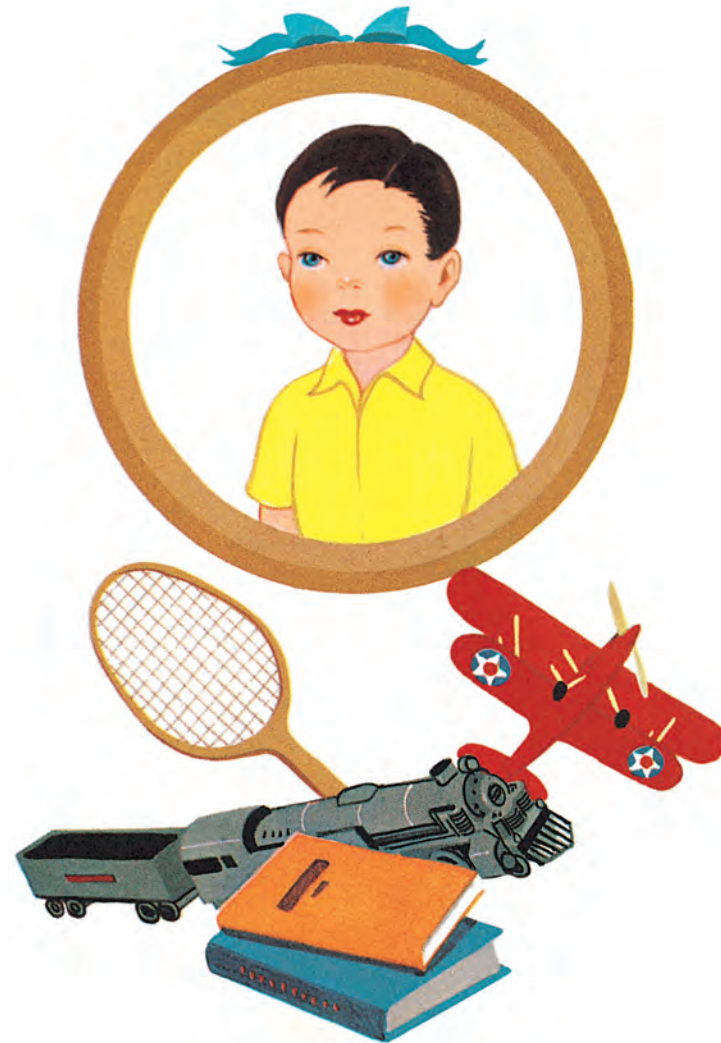


# JOHN AND HIS FRIENDS





HIS IS a story about a boy named John. He lives in the middle of the block. He has a mother and a father and three brothers and two sisters, and a dog and a cat and two rabbits.







JOHN GIVES right-away obedience.  
When Mother calls he says, "All right,  
Mother." John loves Mary, the Blessed Mother  
of Jesus. He wants to be like her.

Can a boy be like Our Blessed Mother?  
Of course he can.







JOHN PAYS attention in school. He studies his lessons. He is doing what God wants. He said something to God before he started to study. Guess what it was.

He said, "I will do what God wants."









JOHN plays fair with his brothers and sisters and his friends. He waits his turn, and he shares his toys, and he does not fight or quarrel.







HIS GIRL and this boy live next door to John. They are John's friends. I don't know their names. Are they doing what God wants?





## MORE ABOUT JOHN AND HIS FRIENDS



Do you know John and his friends? John wanted to be like Mary, God's Mother. What story does the picture tell?

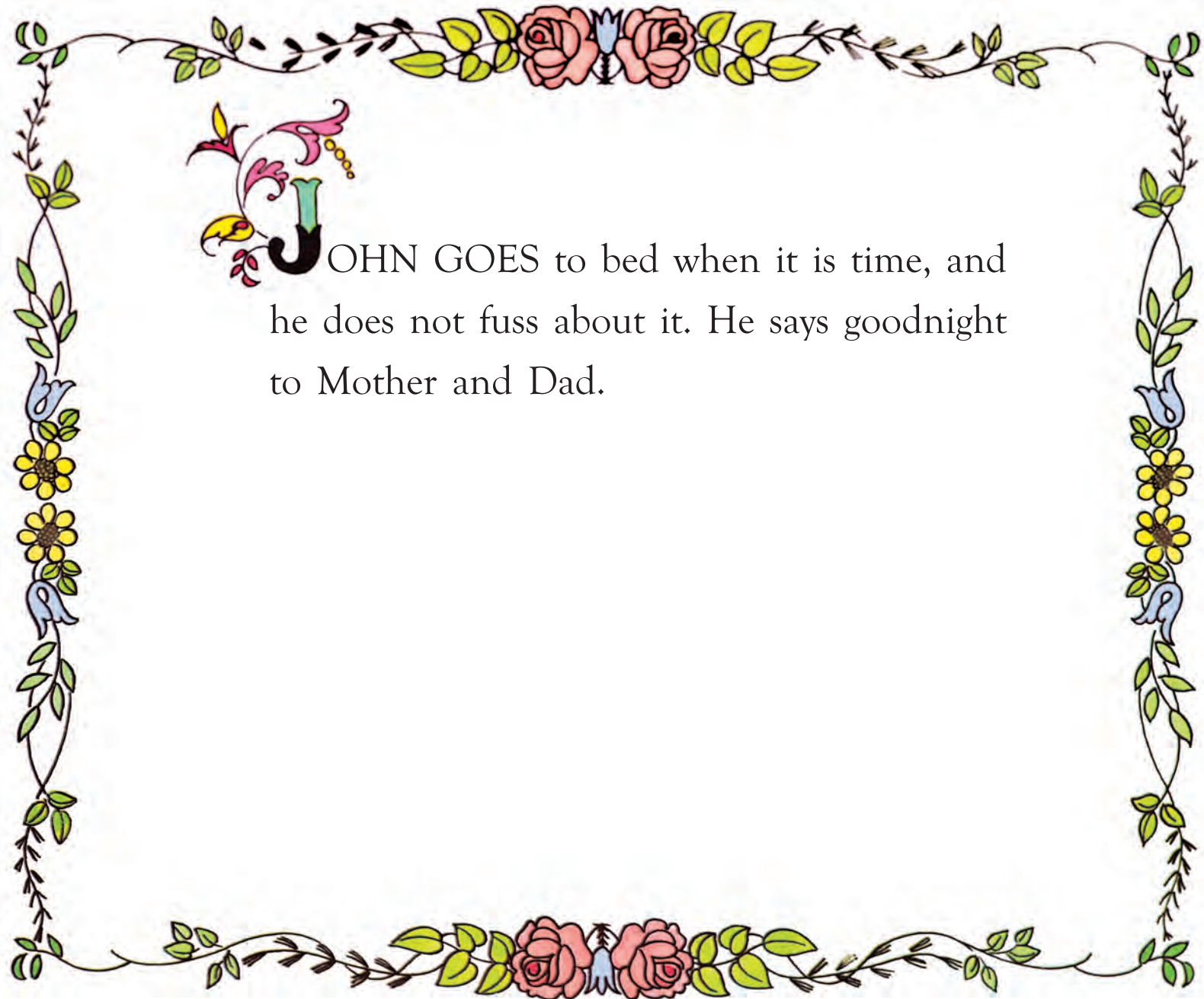




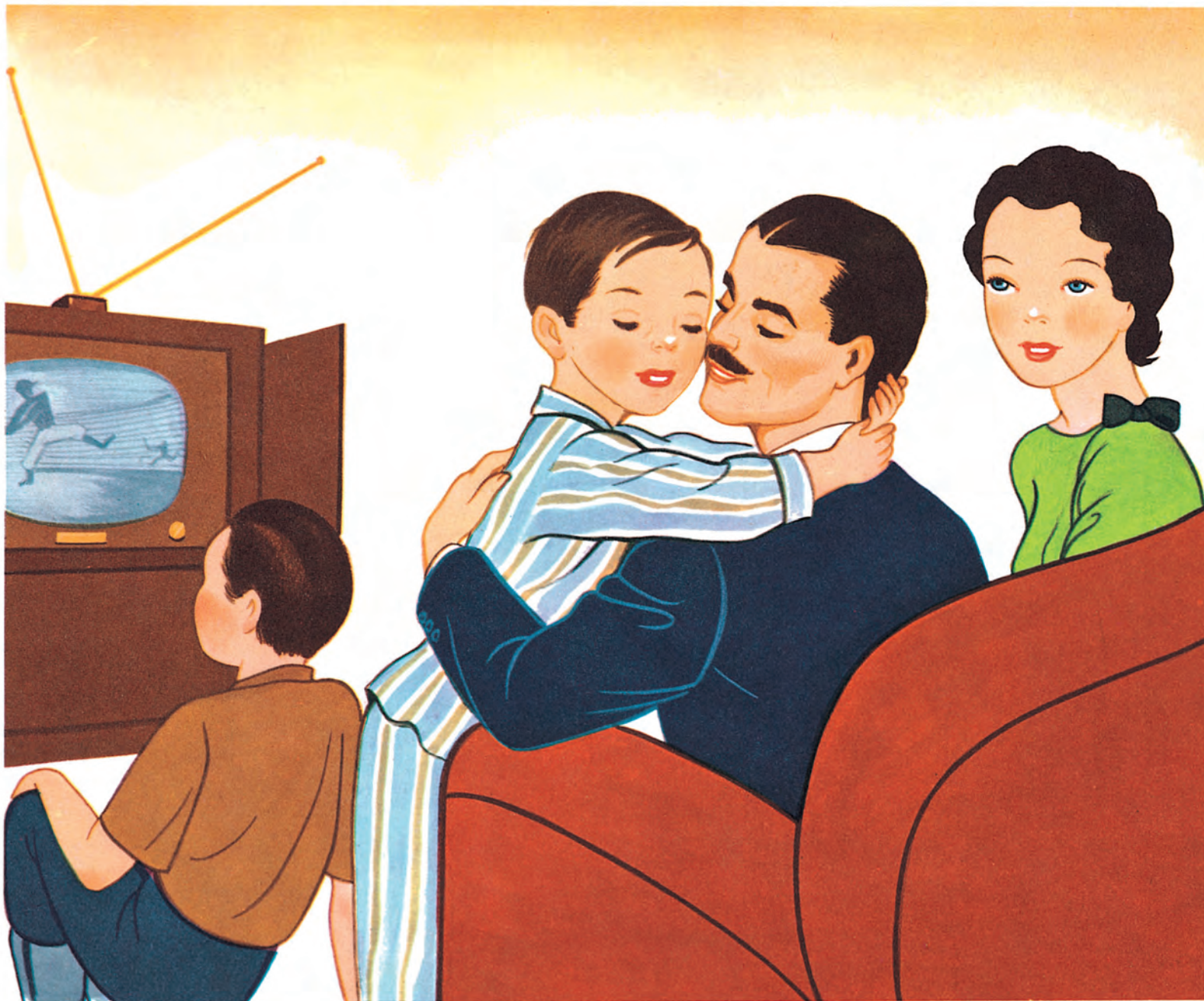
JOHN GETS right up when Mother calls. No dilly-dallying! He says his morning prayers and goes right in to breakfast. He eats all his breakfast, too, and does not have to be coaxed.















JOHN WASHES up. He has hung up  
his clothes. What did he do with his books  
and toys?







JOHN SAYS good night to God and our Blessed Mother. He says: "Jesus, I love You. I tried to do what You want, all day long. I tried to be like you, Blessed Mother Mary. I love you so much. Please help me to keep on trying."







JOHN IS happy inside. Mother and Dad are pleased, and God is pleased. John has been giving the right answer to God all day long.

That other little boy next door, John's friend, who was bad, is not happy inside. He could not get to sleep. He tossed and turned half the night.





## THE FIRST CHRISTMAS PRESENTS





WHEN YOU were born, you were a little baby. I was a little baby once. Everybody was. When Jesus was born, He was a little baby, too. But He was not a common ordinary baby. He came down from Heaven to live with us in our world. His Father was God.







ESUS HAD a very good Mother who loved Him very much. Her name was Mary. Her husband was Good Saint Joseph. Jesus was not born at home, in the house of Mary and Joseph. He was born when they were on a trip, in a little town that was called Bethlehem.









ESUS WAS born on Christmas. That is His birthday. There was no room in the hotel, so Mary and Joseph had to stay in a cave that was used as a stable for horses and cows. There was nothing but a manger for the Baby to lie in. (A manger is a big feeding box for the animals.) Blessed Mother wrapped her Baby up to keep Him warm. Saint Joseph put some nice clean straw in the manger for Him to lie on. Then they both kissed Him.







URING the night when Jesus was born, and everything was very quiet, there were some shepherds in a field outside of Bethlehem. They were watching their sheep, to keep away wolves and thieves. All of a sudden, many Angels came from Heaven. They told the shepherds, “Go over to Bethlehem and see God’s Son. He was born tonight. You will find Him all wrapped up, lying in a manger.” Then the Angels flew back to Heaven, singing lovely songs.









THE SHEPHERDS ran up to Bethlehem to see the Baby Jesus. Of course, they brought Him birthday presents. One shepherd brought a little white lamb. He knelt down and said, “Holy Child, I have brought You a present.” One shepherd brought a little coal-black kid goat with long silky ears. He knelt down and said, “Holy Child, I have brought You a present.” Other shepherds brought milk and woolly sheepskins to keep the Baby warm.





## JESUS ESCAPES FROM THE WICKED KING







ON THE first Christmas day, when the Baby Jesus was born, there was a very bad king named Herod living in a big palace nearby. God had put a bright new star in the sky when His Son Jesus was born. But the bad King Herod could not see it, even when he looked out the window. His heart was too wicked. God did not show His star to the bad King.







HE BAD King Herod heard some people talking. "God's Son has been born," the people said. "When He grows up He will be our king."

King Herod was so bad, he did not want God's Son around near him. He did not want Jesus to grow up and be king. "I'm the only king around here," he said.

Herod tried to find out where Jesus was, so he could kill the little Baby. What a wicked, mean old king Herod was!





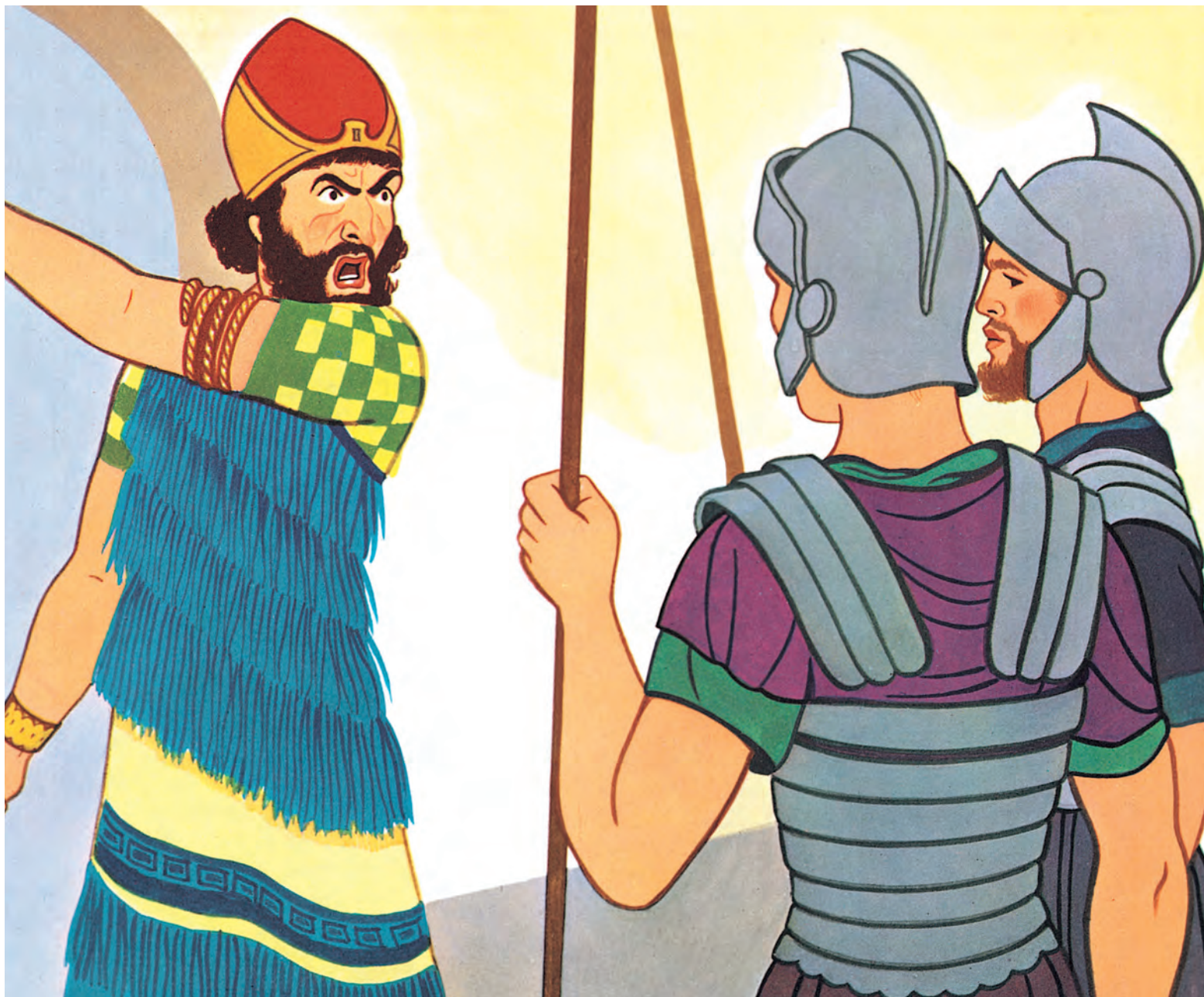


HERE IS that little King?" asked King Herod.

"We don't know exactly, but He's somewhere in Bethlehem," they told him.

Herod got so mad, he jumped up and down and yelled.

"All you soldiers, take your spears and swords. Go out and kill all the boy babies in Bethlehem. Kill *every one* of them. I'll have no little kings growing up around me!"

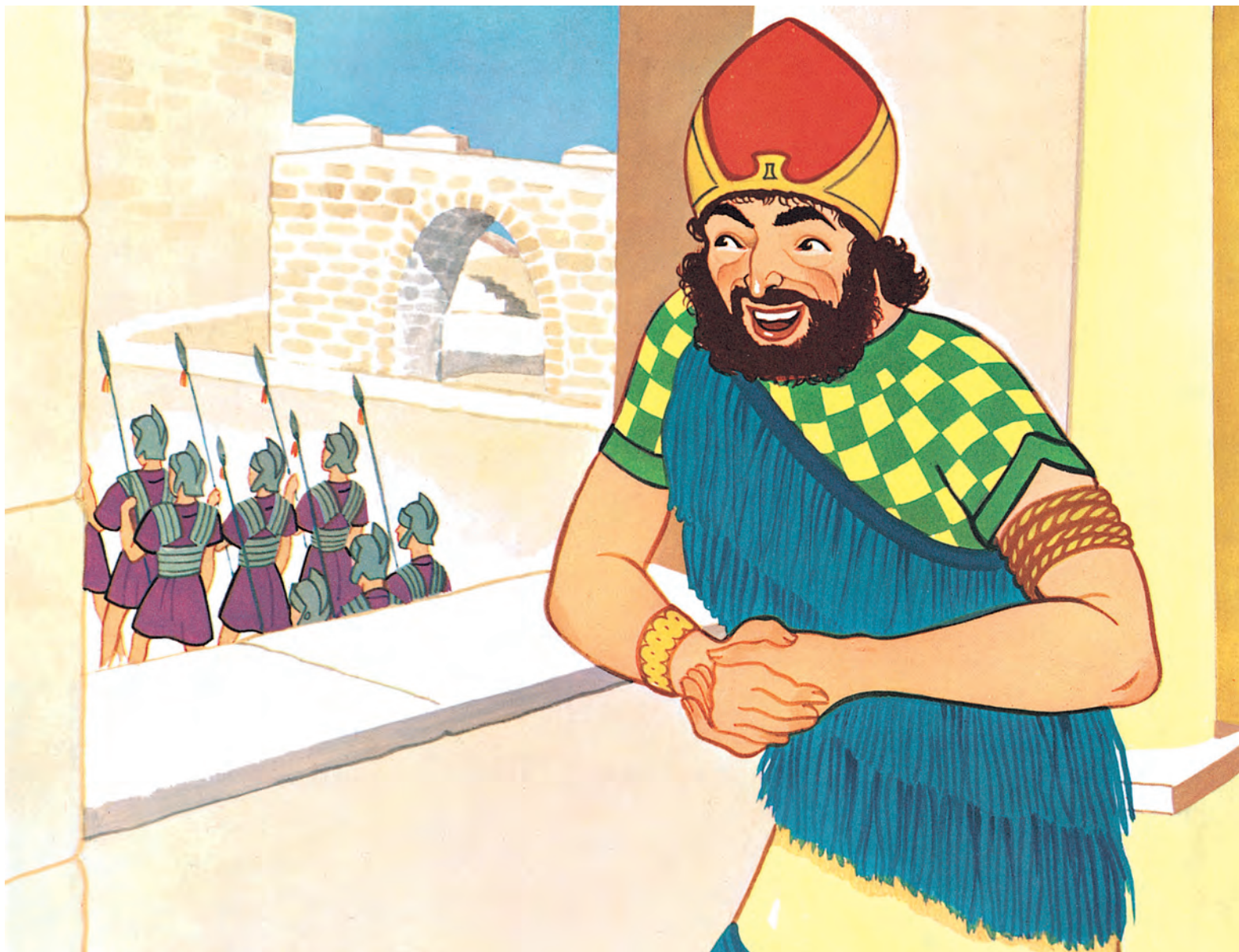






THE SOLDIERS started off in a big hurry, to do what Herod said. The King smiled to himself and rubbed his hands together. “Ah ha!” he said. “Baby Jesus will be killed this very day!”

But Herod was wrong. Something was happening in the dark night, and he knew nothing about it.







THE WICKED King Herod was sitting up late. He could not sleep because he was still so mad about the Child Jesus being born. Right outside his window an Angel was passing by, but he did not know it. The Angel was going to Bethlehem. The Angel woke Saint Joseph and whispered in his ear: "Hurry! Get up! Take the Child and His Mother and go to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back."





## JESUS ESCAPES FROM THE WICKED KING



The Holy Family were on their way to  
Egypt, leaving the wicked king far behind.



SAINT JOSEPH saddled the donkey, and Mary packed the things, and they started out in the middle of the night. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph got very tired on that long trip to Egypt. Two whole weeks they walked, all day long, in the hot sun and the wind and the dust. They did not grumble one bit. They were happy because they were doing just what God wanted.









IN EGYPT, Saint Joseph had to find a house. He had a hard time, and when he finally found one, it was a very poor place.









IT WAS hard for Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph to fix up such a poor old house and make it clean and homey. Mary missed her friendly neighbors, too. But she did the best she could, and was happy.









SAINT JOSEPH did not know the people in Egypt and had trouble finding a job. He was a carpenter, you know. Here he is, delivering a table he made. Saint Joseph was honest and good to people. He did the best he could even on little jobs, and he smiled at everyone. That is how he got more jobs to do. He made money enough to buy food and clothes for Jesus and Blessed Mother.







ESUS SMILED at all the neighbor  
children, and soon they came to play. He  
was good to everybody—the ragged children  
and the rich children.





## AT HOME IN NAZARETH







ON A lovely green hill where the flowers grow, there is a town of white houses. It is called Nazareth. It was the home of the Holy Family, but they had been away for a long time. Now they were coming home again. They walked down the long road and climbed the hill. They went up the street to the house where Mary and Joseph used to live. What do you suppose they found?







ANOTHER family was living in Saint Joseph's house. The Holy Family had to go down the street and look for another house to live in. Was Saint Joseph cross? Certainly not. Jesus and Mary were tired from the long trip. Did they grumble when they had to go and find another house? No! Of course not. God wanted them to live in another house. They wanted to do only what God wanted.







MARY AND JOSEPH made their new home clean and pretty. The Holy Family's little house at Nazareth was a happy home. Nobody was ever grumpy or mad. Nobody was selfish. Everybody helped. They had *such* nice times together.







ESUS always did what Mary and Joseph told Him. He was obedient, because He wanted to please God, His Father. God says to all of us, “Honor your father and your mother.” That means obey them and be good to them.







ESUS went to school in Nazareth. There He learned to read and to write. Now remember, Jesus is God's Son. He knows everything, just like God His Father. Why did He go to school and learn with the other children in Nazareth? I think He wanted to show us He was a *real* boy.





## THE BLESSED TRINITY



This is a story about God, the Blessed Trinity. We say a special prayer and make a special sign to tell God we love Him.



JOHN AND MARY are saying the special prayer and making the special sign—the Sign of the Cross. They are saying, “In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” We have a special name for God. The name is the Blessed Trinity. There is only one God. But there are three Persons in God. There is God the Father, and there is God the Son, and there is God the Holy Spirit.







E'LL CALL this picture God the Father.  
God the Father is the first Person of the Blessed Trinity. But of course God the Father is really a spirit, and we cannot see a spirit. We draw God the Father as a man to help us think about Him. God the Father made this wonderful world and everyone and everything in it because He loves us so much.







OD THE SON is sitting next to God the Father. God the Son is the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Ever since the first Christmas, we call God the Son *Jesus*. Sometimes we call God the Son *the Sacred Heart*. That is why the Heart of Jesus shows in this picture. Jesus, God the Son, came to earth and died on the Cross for love of us. He opened the gates of Heaven, and He leads us to God the Father in Heaven.







THE THIRD PERSON of the Blessed Trinity is called God the Holy Spirit. Once, long ago, when Jesus was still on earth, God the Holy Spirit showed Himself right over the head of Jesus. He looked like a bird, a dove. You cannot draw a picture of a spirit, but God thought a dove was a good way to picture the Holy Spirit. So we draw a picture of a dove to help us think about God the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit fills us with grace and love and teaches us how to be Saints.







SO THERE are three different Persons in the Blessed Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. But there is only one God. The Blessed Trinity is *one* God. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit love one another very, very much. The three Persons in God are very, very happy.





## GOD MADE THE ANGELS



This story is about lots and lots of Angels. God made them, bright and beautiful, out of nothing at all!





NOW LET'S think way, way back, before the world was made. There was no one but God, the Blessed Trinity. God was very, very happy. God said, "I am so happy, so I want to make someone else happy. I want to be good to someone else." So God thought and said, "Let's make some Angels." God made many, many Angels. God made them a little like Himself. Angels are spirits and have no bodies. But we draw pictures of them with bodies to help us think about them.







HEN MRS. FINLEY makes an apple pie, she needs apples and flour and sugar and butter and milk and cinnamon and nutmeg. Sometimes she uses a pie mix or buys the pie at the bakery, but then the *baker* had to use all of these things. *Nobody* can make a pie out of nothing at all!







HEN DAD helped Ned make his wagon, they needed wheels and rods and wood and nails and a hammer and paint. *Nobody* can make a wagon out of nothing at all. No matter what we make, we always need something to make it out of. But with God it is different. God makes things out of nothing at all.







OD SIMPLY SAID, “Let’s make some Angels,” and there they were, lots and lots of Angels. They were all beautiful and smart. God had made them out of nothing at all. In the beginning, the Angels could not see God. Before they could see God they had to pass a test. They lined up for the test with their leaders, Michael and Lucifer. These were two specially bright and beautiful Angels, called Archangels. God said, “Will you do what I want?” That was the test.







Michael the Archangel bowed low before God. “O Lord God Almighty, I will do anything You want!” he said. Lots and lots of Angels followed Michael. They gave a great shout: “We will do anything You want, Lord God Almighty!”

But where was Lucifer? What was he saying?





## GOD MADE THE WORLD



This is a story about God making a beautiful world with everything in it. He made it for you and He made it for me!



HIS STORY begins so long, long ago, that only God and the Angels can remember when it happened. God the Father said to God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, “Let’s make some people. They can take the place of the bad angels, and be happy with Us forever in Heaven.” So God, the Blessed Trinity, set out to make some people. But first, the people would need a world to live in. So God made the world.

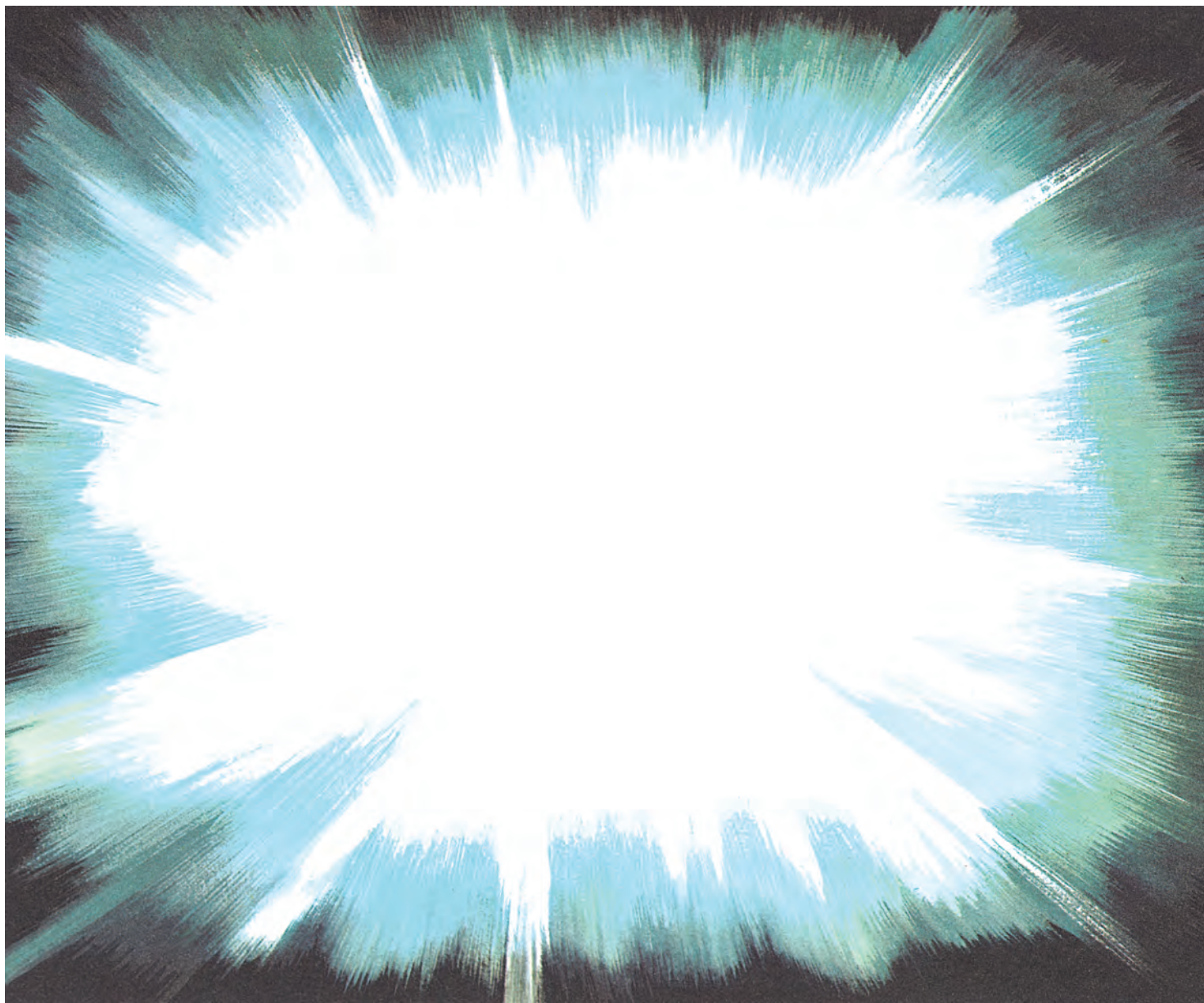






AT FIRST everything was all dark and empty. God said, “Let there be light!” And all at once there was light. God called the light “day.” The darkness He called “night.” That was the first day in the world—Number 1 on the calendar!







ON THE SECOND DAY, God said, “Let there be sky,” and there it was. God made it out of nothing at all.







ON THE THIRD DAY, God said, “Let the water come together in one place, and let the dry land come out.” So that is what happened. What do you think God called the dry land? He called it “earth.” And the place where the water was all together, running and splashing, He called “seas.”







HEN GOD MADE plants grow on the earth. He made grass and trees and all kinds of flowers. When this was finished, God looked it all over and saw that it was good. Everything was green and fresh and beautiful. But something else was needed.





## GOD MADE EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD



This is another story about God making our wonderful world. He made all kinds of interesting and beautiful living things and put them on earth.





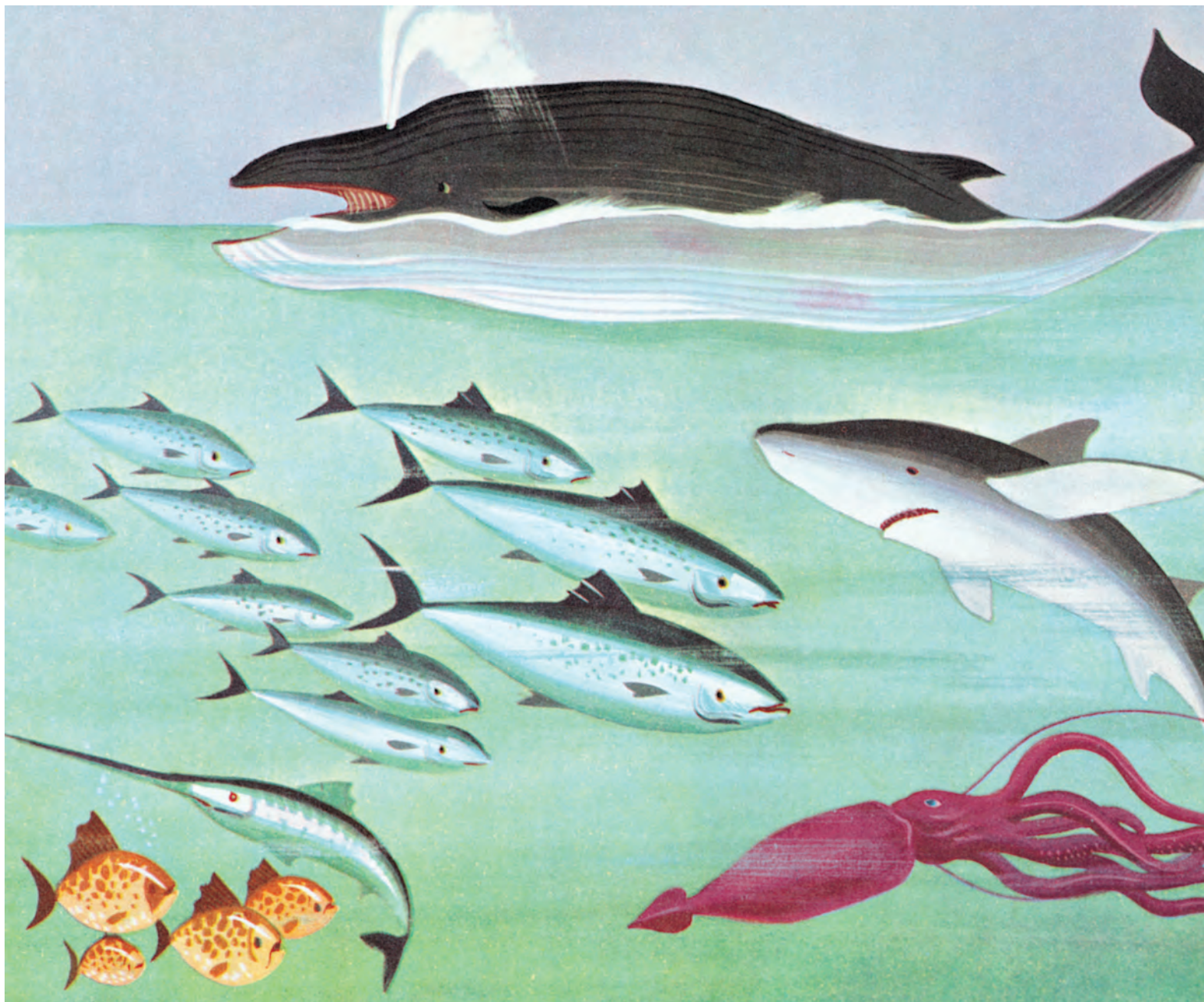
OD LOOKED at His beautiful new green earth, and sparkling rivers and lakes and seas, and God said, "That's good!" This was the fifth day and God said, "I'm going to put something in the waters. I will fill the waters with all kinds of fish." So He did.







HERE ARE little tiny fish, and middle-sized fish, and great big fish. Some fish are bigger than an automobile. God saw all His fish, and thought they were very nice indeed. He liked them so much He said, "Raise families of fish. I want more and more of you."







EXT GOD made birds of every kind and color.

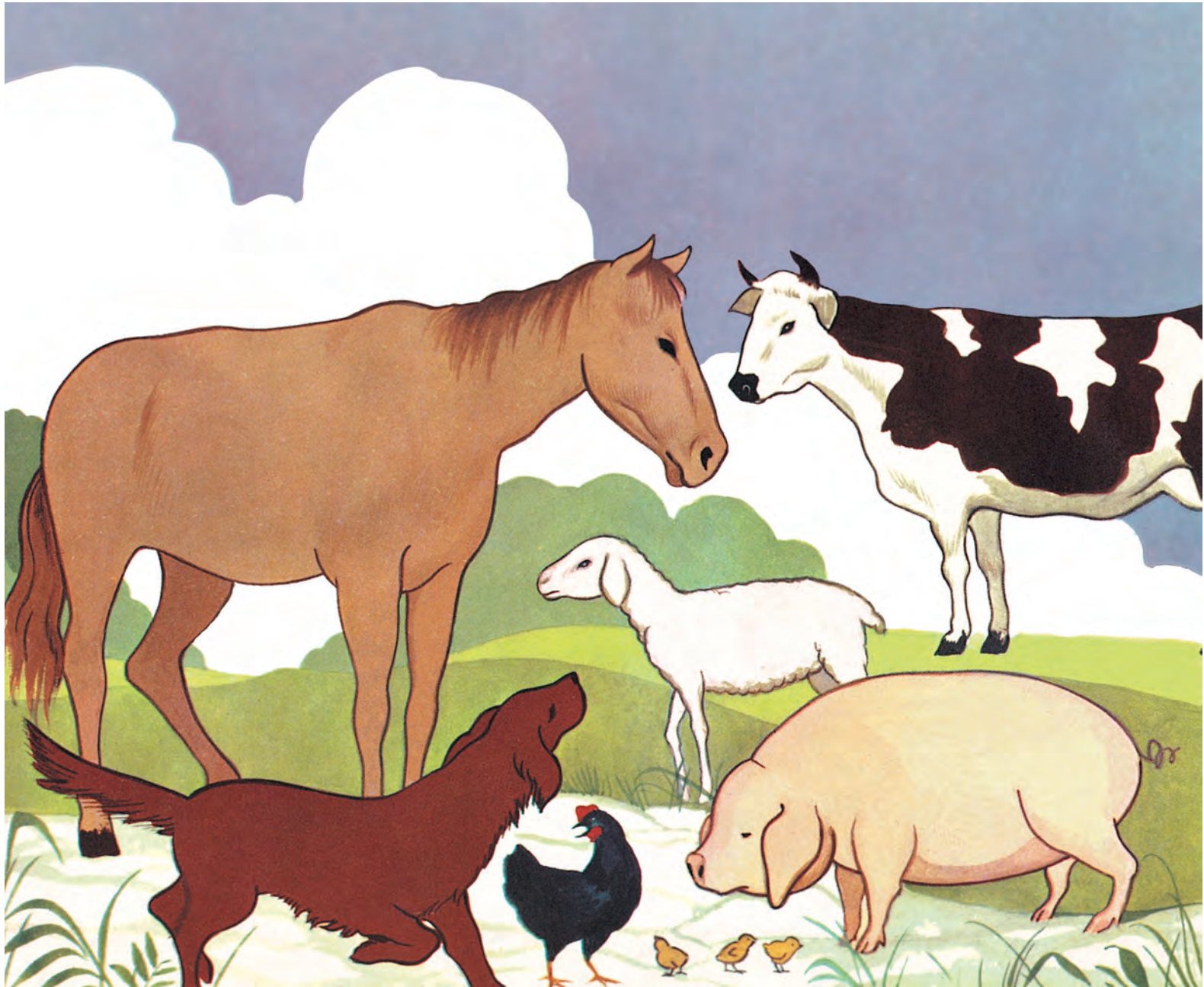
They sang and flew about and were very happy with the happiness God shared with them. God looked at the birds He had made and blessed them. “I want more and more of you to fill my world with song. You are so pretty!”








OW IT was the sixth day, and God had already made many things. But he kept right on working. Next God made all kinds of animals: dogs and horses and cows and pigs and sheep. . . .







**A**ND ELEPHANTS and giraffes and  
kangaroos. . . . .

