

Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

FAMINE IN SAMARIA / 'A DAY OF GOOD NEWS'

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2 KINGS 6:24 – 7:20

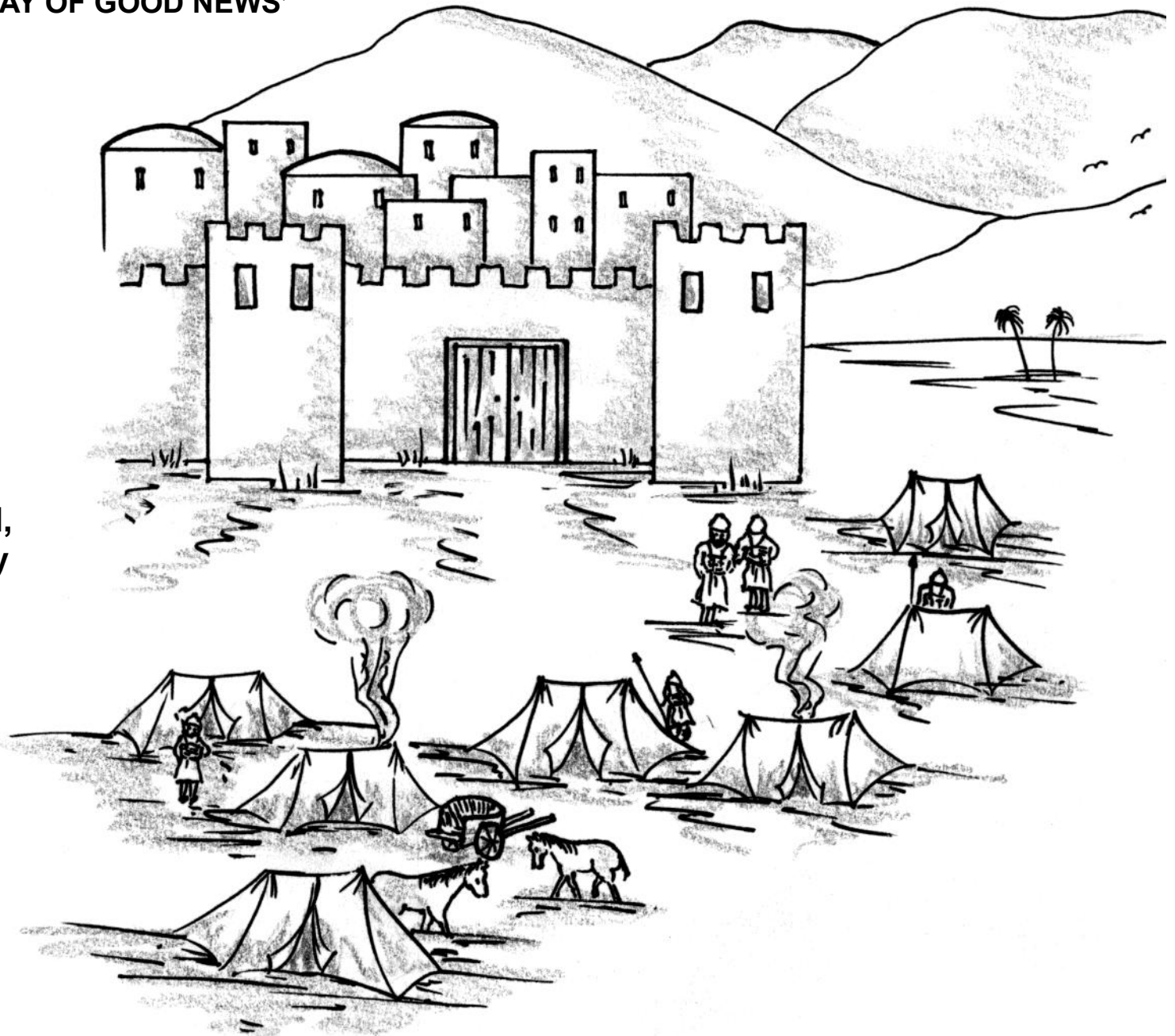
FAMINE IN SAMARIA / 'A DAY OF GOOD NEWS'

File no. 81

The king of Aram
got his soldiers
to set up camp
around Samaria.
They stopped everyone
from coming out and
going into the city.

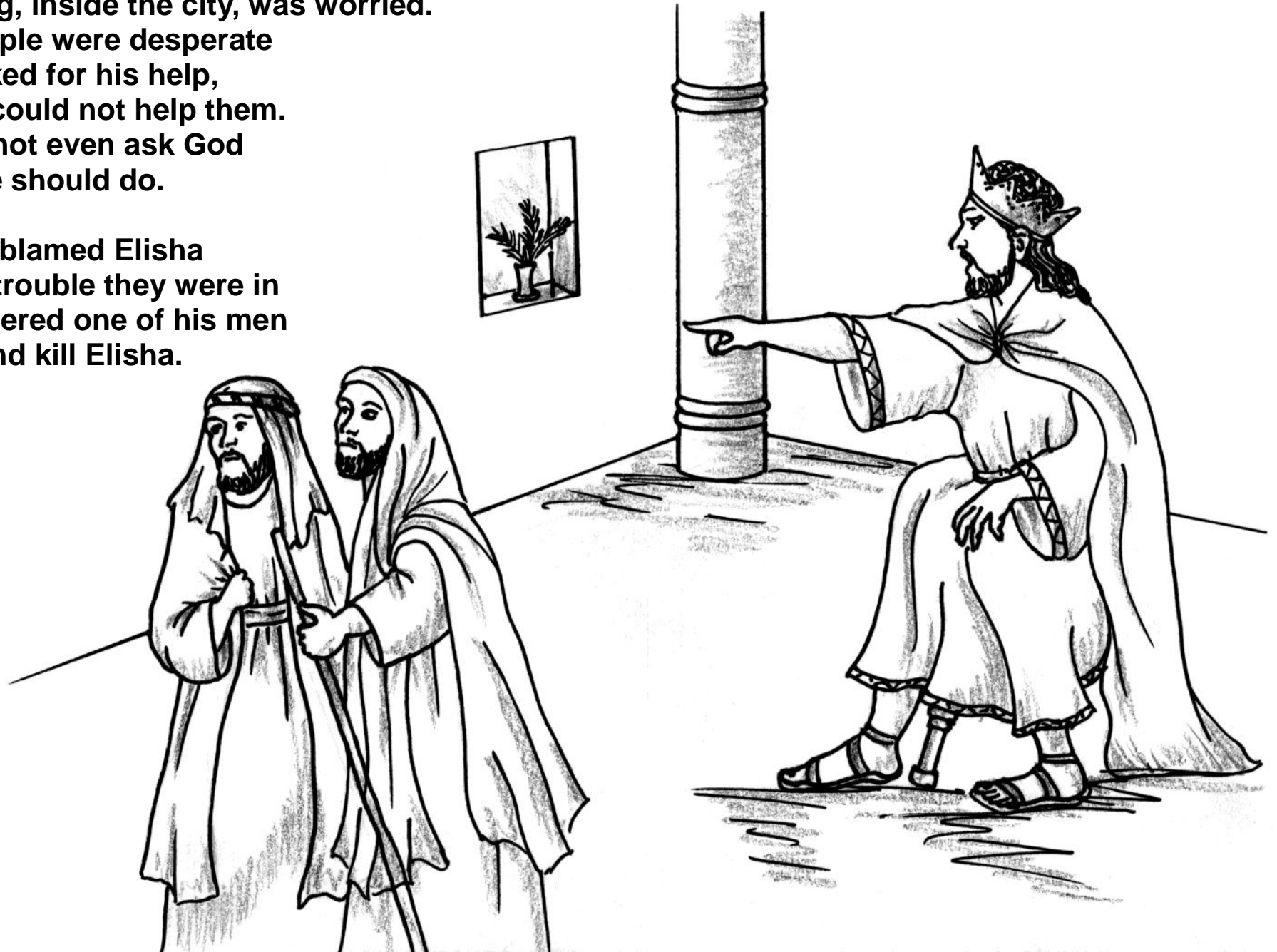
They stayed there
for a long time.
They had plenty of food,
but those inside the city
soon had none.

God's people
inside the city
became very hungry.



The king, inside the city, was worried.
His people were desperate
and asked for his help,
but he could not help them.
He did not even ask God
what he should do.

He just blamed Elisha
for the trouble they were in
and ordered one of his men
to go and kill Elisha.



**Elisha was sitting at home
with the leaders of the city.**

**He said,
'The King wants to kill me
and has sent someone to do it.
Do not let him in!'**

The leaders locked the door.

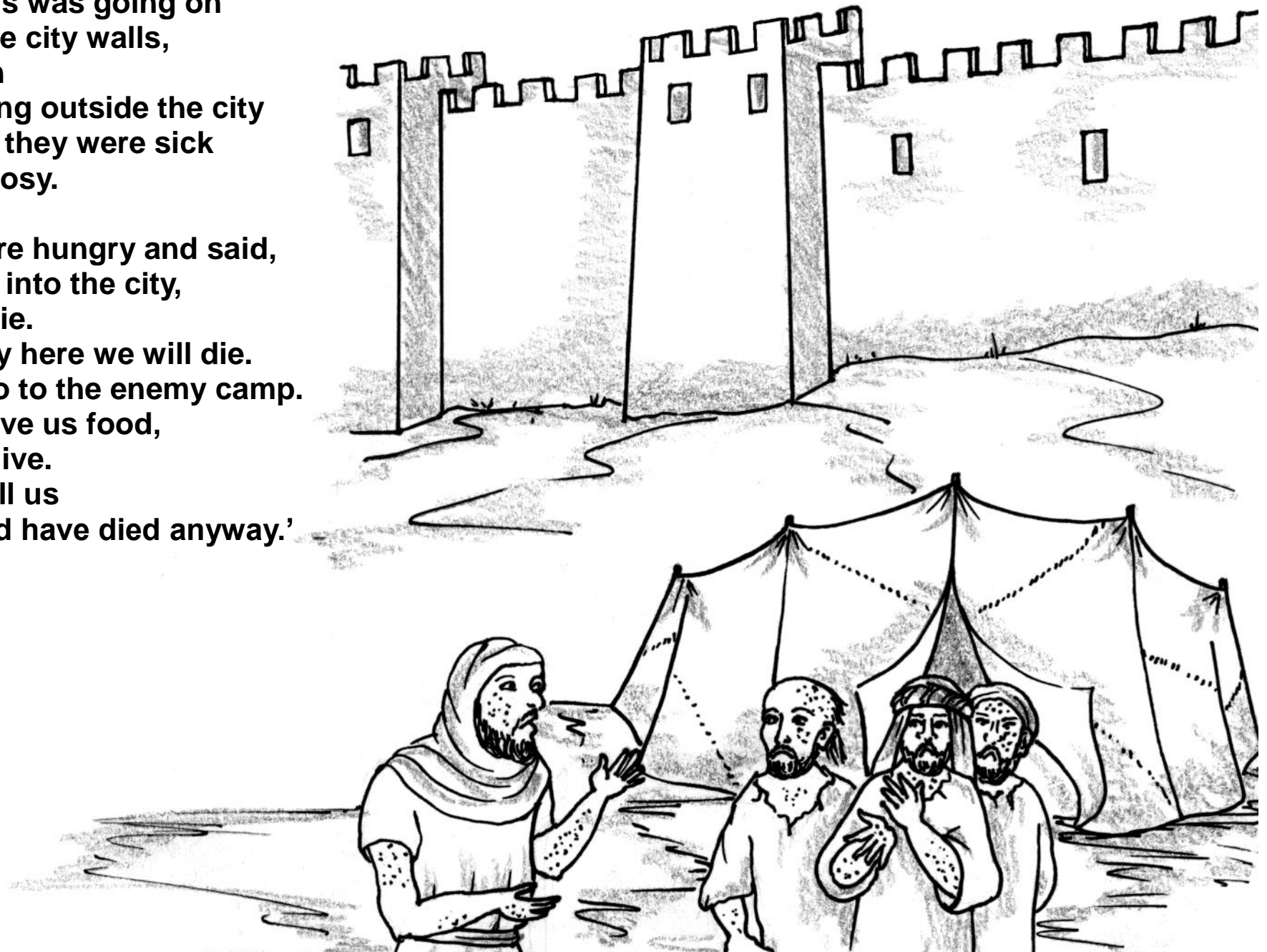
**The king came as well
and shouted,
'This trouble comes from God.
Why should I trust Him.'**

**'Listen,' said Elisha.
'Listen to God's word.
Tomorrow there will be
plenty of food.
It will not cost very much
like it does today.
It will be very cheap.'**



While this was going on
inside the city walls,
four men
were living outside the city
because they were sick
with leprosy.

They were hungry and said,
'If we go into the city,
we will die.
If we stay here we will die.
Let us go to the enemy camp.
If they give us food,
we may live.
If they kill us
we would have died anyway.'



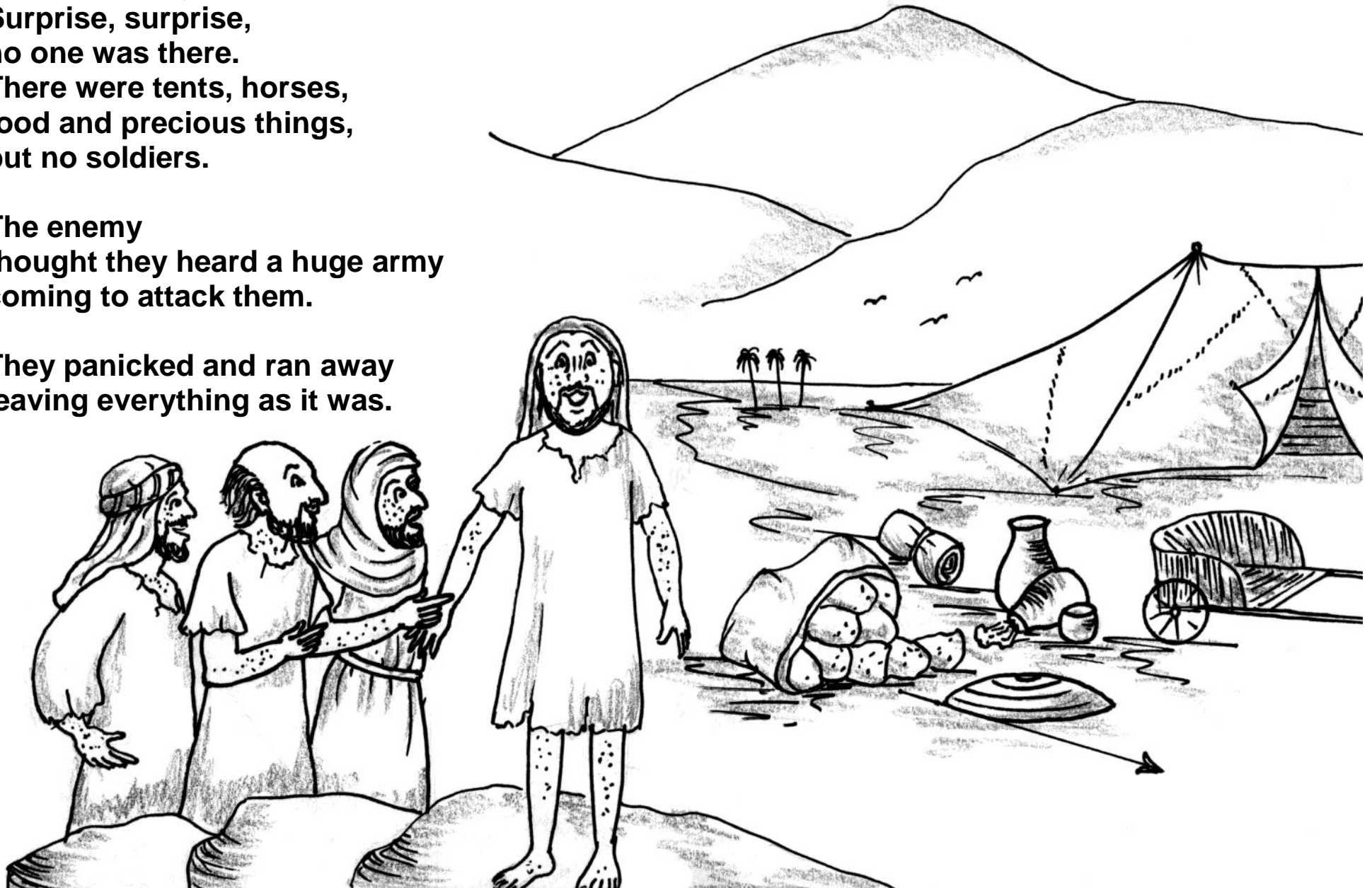
After the sun went down the lepers walked into the enemy camp.

Surprise, surprise, no one was there.

There were tents, horses, food and precious things, but no soldiers.

The enemy thought they heard a huge army coming to attack them.

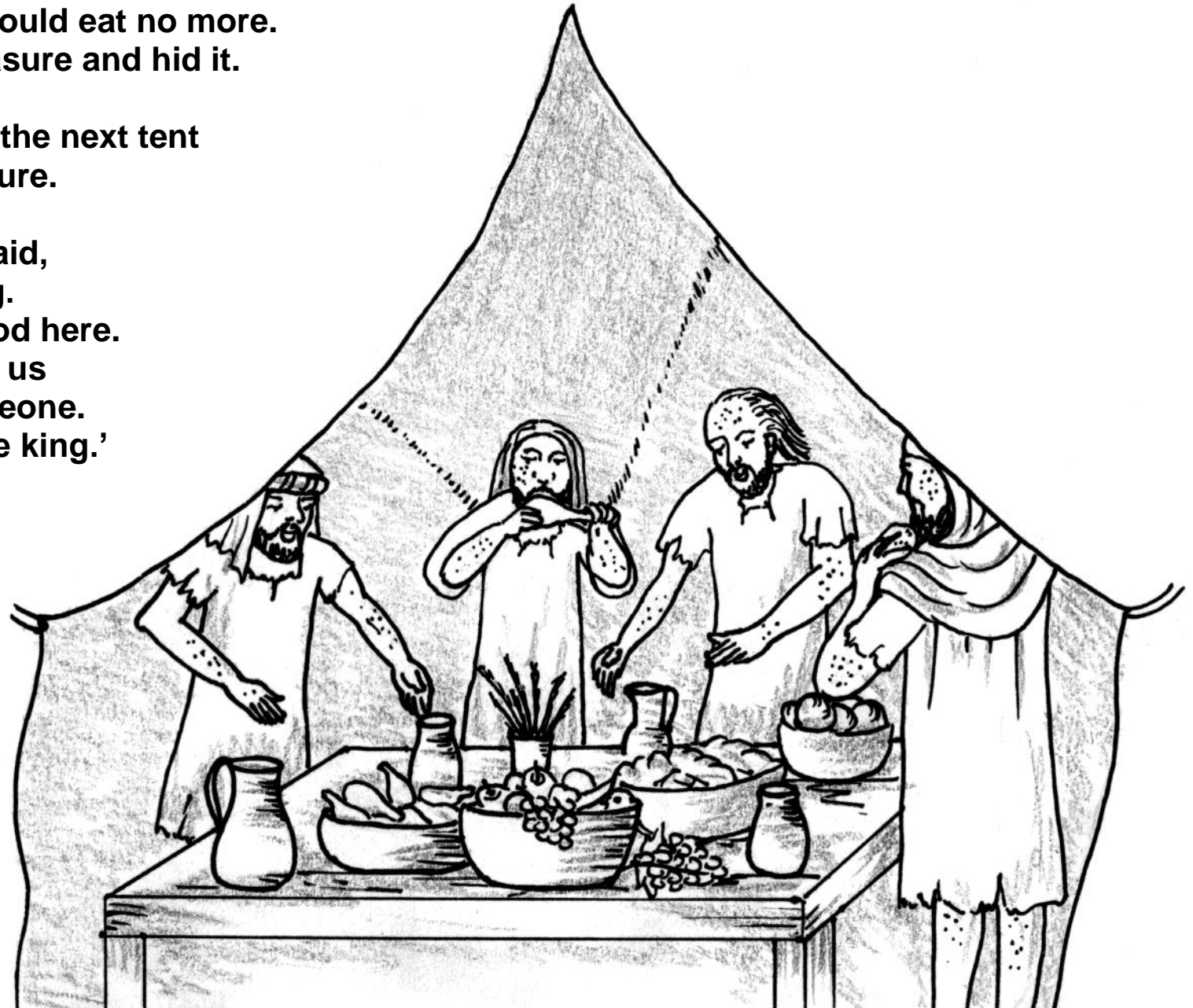
They panicked and ran away leaving everything as it was.



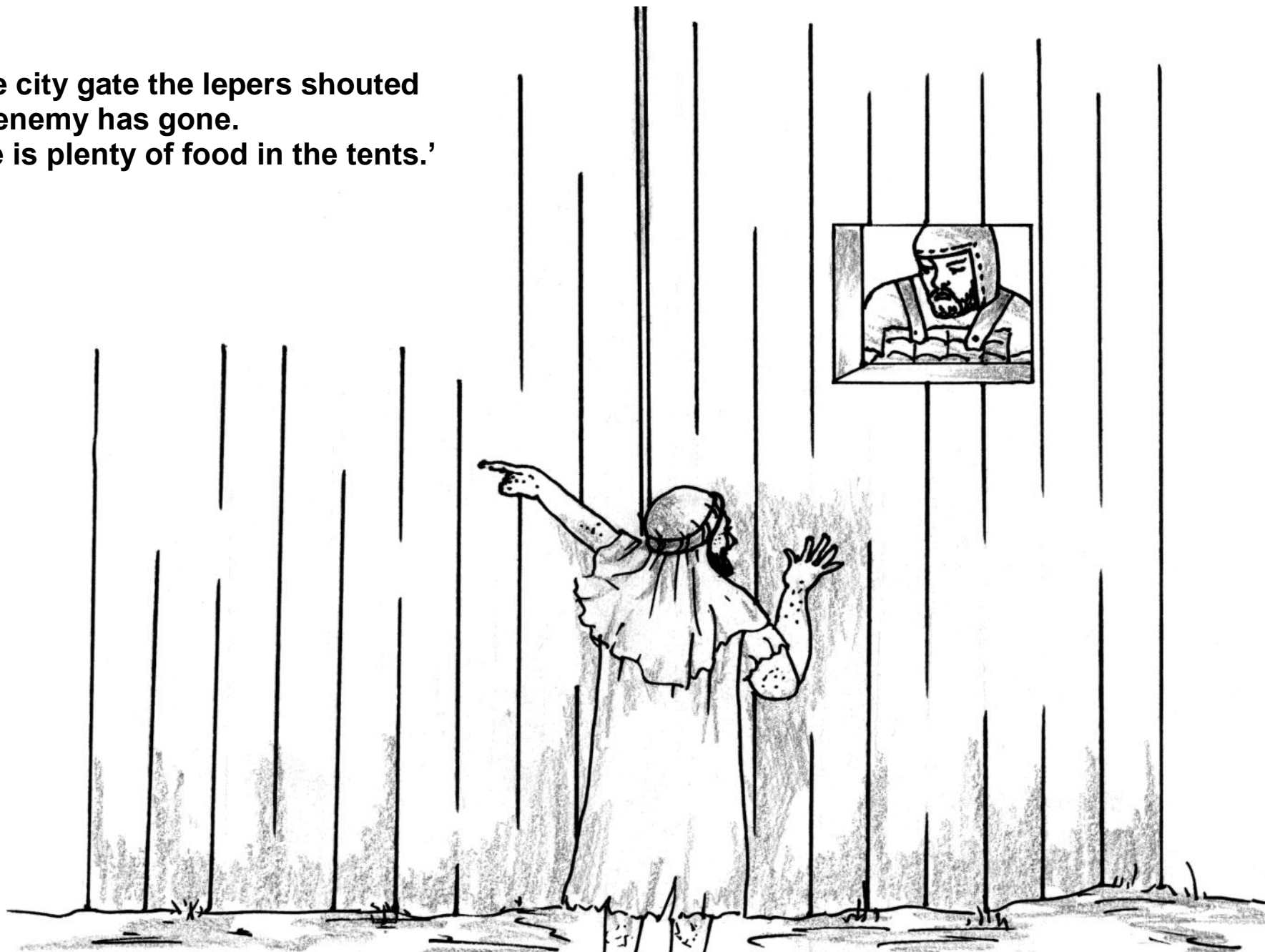
The four lepers went into the first tent.
They ate until they could eat no more.
They took some treasure and hid it.

Then they went into the next tent
and took more treasure.

They stopped and said,
'We are doing wrong.
We know there is food here.
Trouble will come to us
if we do not tell someone.
Let us go and tell the king.'



**At the city gate the lepers shouted
'The enemy has gone.
There is plenty of food in the tents.'**



**The king thought,
'The enemy might be trying to trick us.'**

**He checked it out by
sending some of his men
to chase the enemy.
It was true they had been frightened
and ran away.**

**It was now safe for God's people
to go out of their city.
When the gates were open
they rushed out to the tents
and gathered food,
silver, gold and clothes.
There was plenty for everyone.**

**God had saved His people
from their enemy.**

