Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

A PROUD TREE CUT DOWN

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Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon,
had a dream.
It frightened him.

'Tell me the meaning of
my dream,'
he demanded of his wise men.

But they could not.

Then Daniel came to the king.
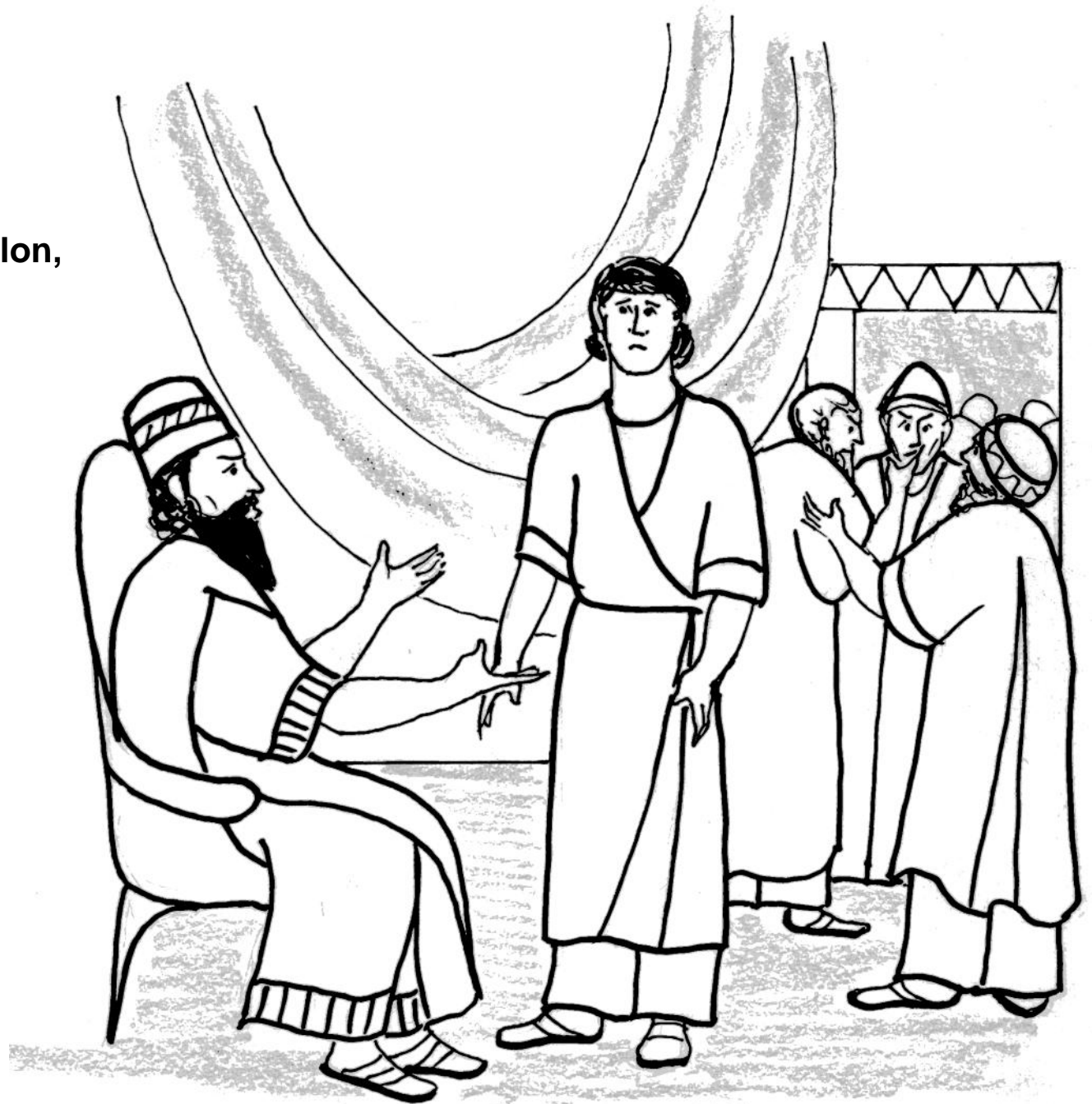
Nebuchadnezzar said to him,
'God's Holy Spirit is in you.
This is my dream.
You tell me what it means:

'I saw a very big tree
which touched the sky.
You could see it
from anywhere on earth.

'It looked beautiful
and there was plenty of fruit
for everyone.
Under the tree,
wild animals sheltered and
birds lived in its branches.

'I was looking at this
when an angel called out,
"Cut down the tree,
cut off its branches,
scatter the fruit and leaves.
Let the animals
and birds also scatter.
Leave the stump
in the ground
and put a metal band
around it.

'"Let the man live among
the grass for seven years
like the animals.
Everyone will know
that God is over everything."

'This is the end of my dream.'
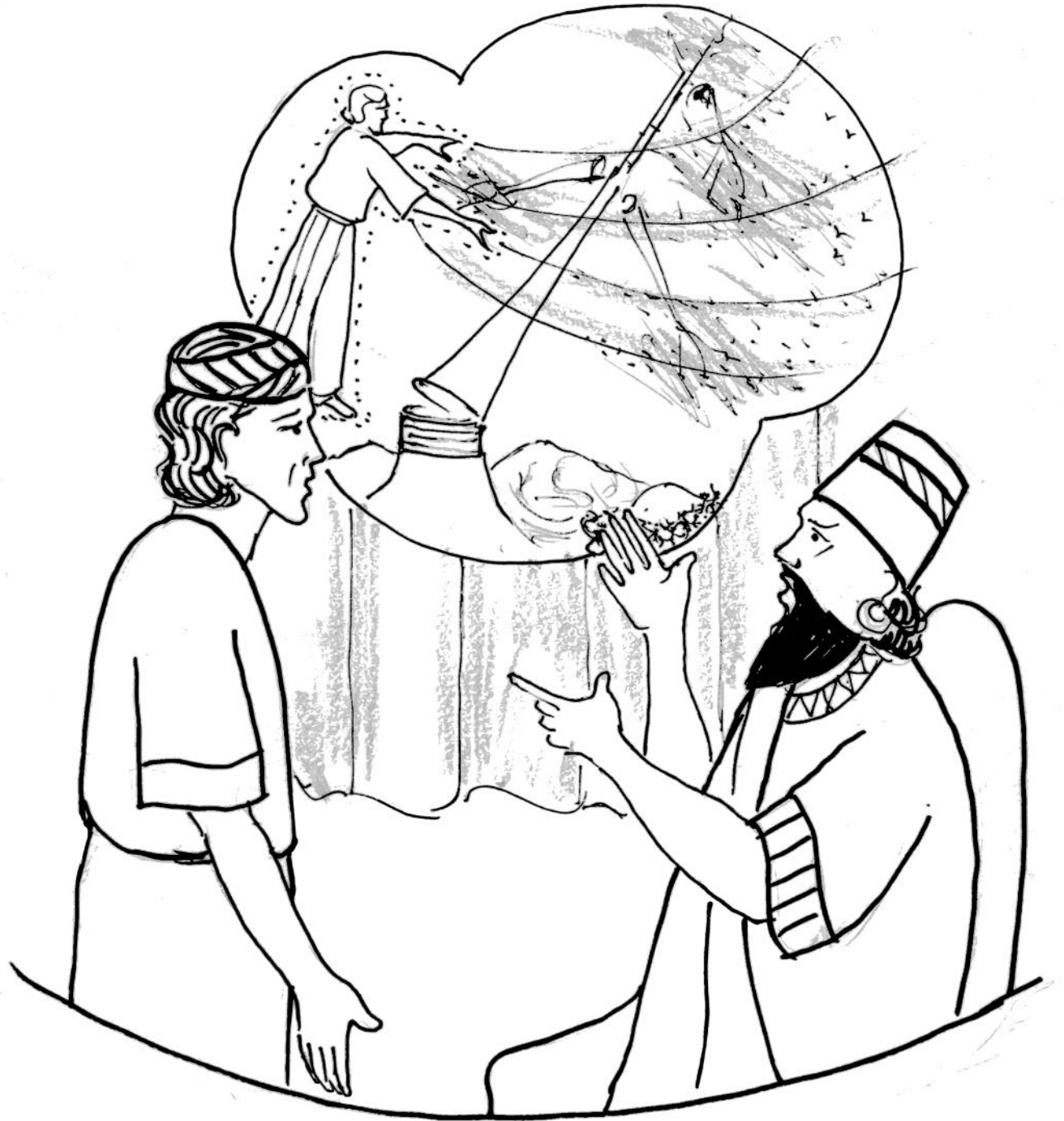
Daniel was troubled
and said to the king,
'I wish the dream was not for you.

'The tree you saw in your
dream is you.

'You have become
very great and powerful.

'Then you heard the angel say,
"Cut down the tree."

'This means that for seven years
you will be made to live
among the wild animals.
You will learn
that God Almighty
is the great Ruler over
all the earth.

'Stop sinning.
Ask God to forgive you
and do what is right
so that this will not happen
to you.'

Nebuchadnezzar did not repent.

A year later he was walking
on the roof of his palace saying,
'I am very great and powerful.
I have built this beautiful city.'

While he was speaking
a Voice from heaven said,
'Your kingly power
has been taken away.
You will be sent away
to live with the wild animals.
Seven years will go by
until you learn
that God Almighty
is the great Ruler
over all the earth.'

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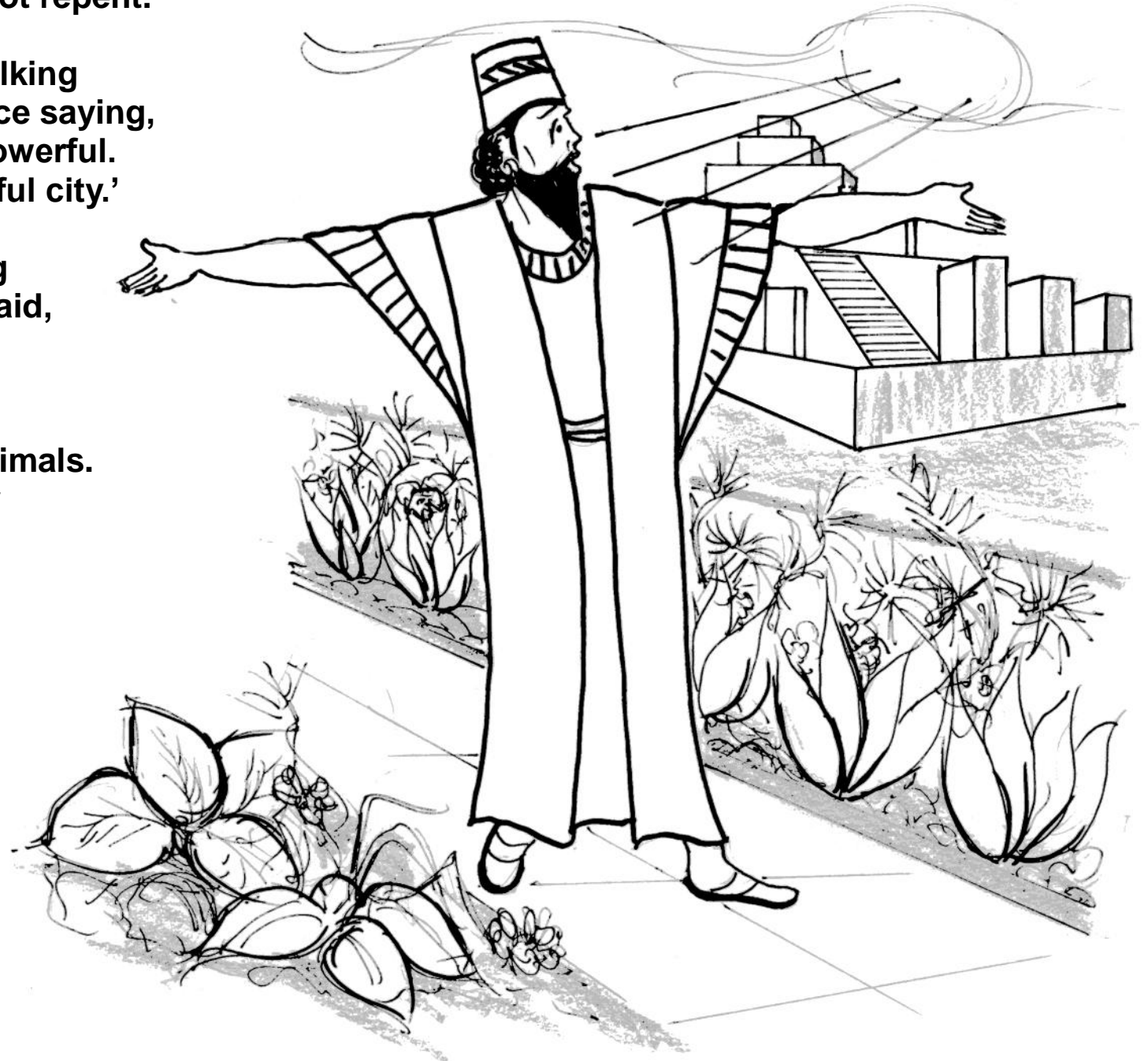
Immediately something happened
to the king's mind.
He was sent away
and he lived like the animals.

Seven years later
Nebuchadnezzar's mind
was made right again.
He knew God had done this.

He looked towards heaven and said,
'Give praise to God Almighty.
He alone is King
and His kingdom lasts forever.
He is always right and fair.
He can make proud people humble.'