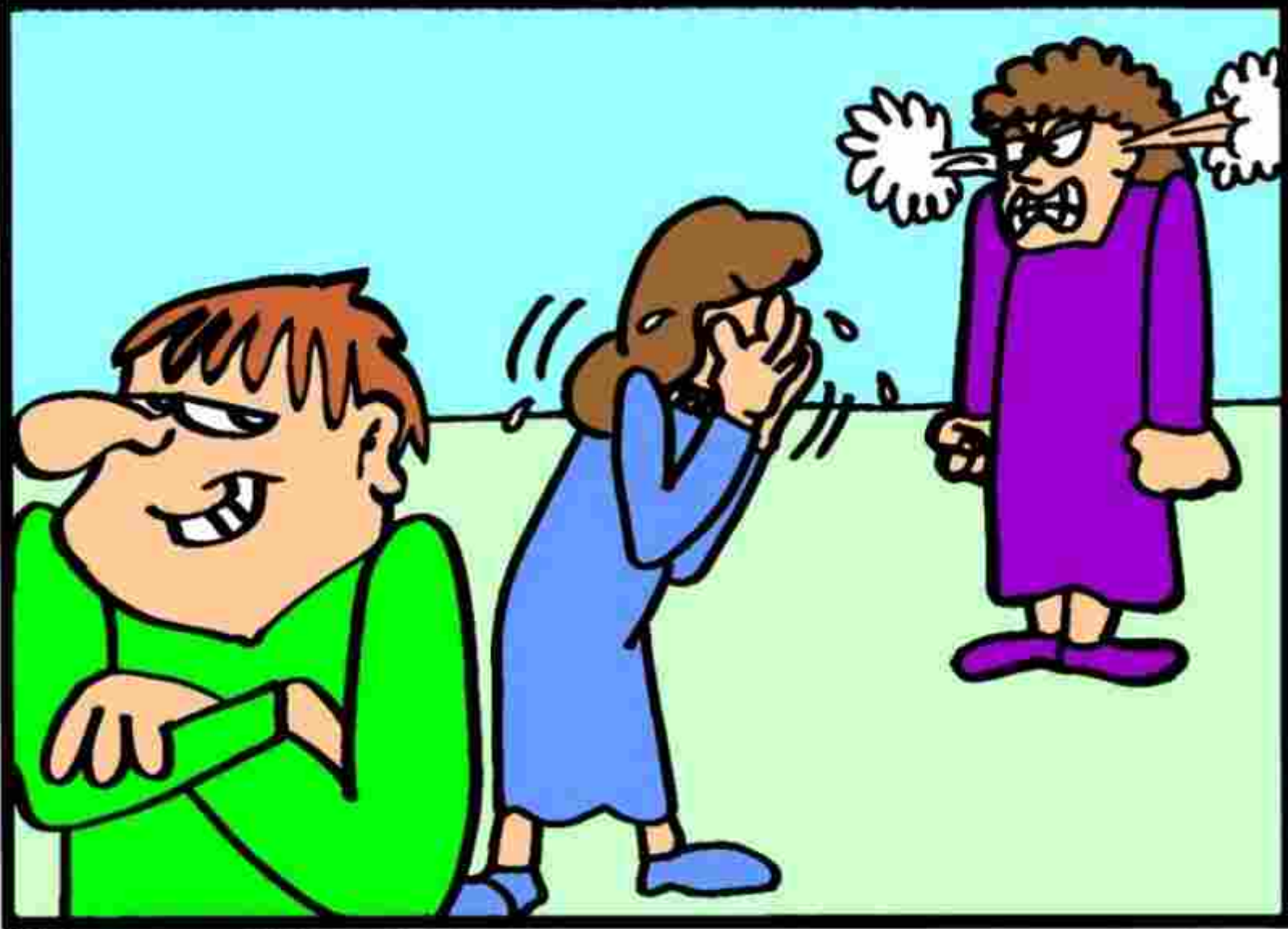


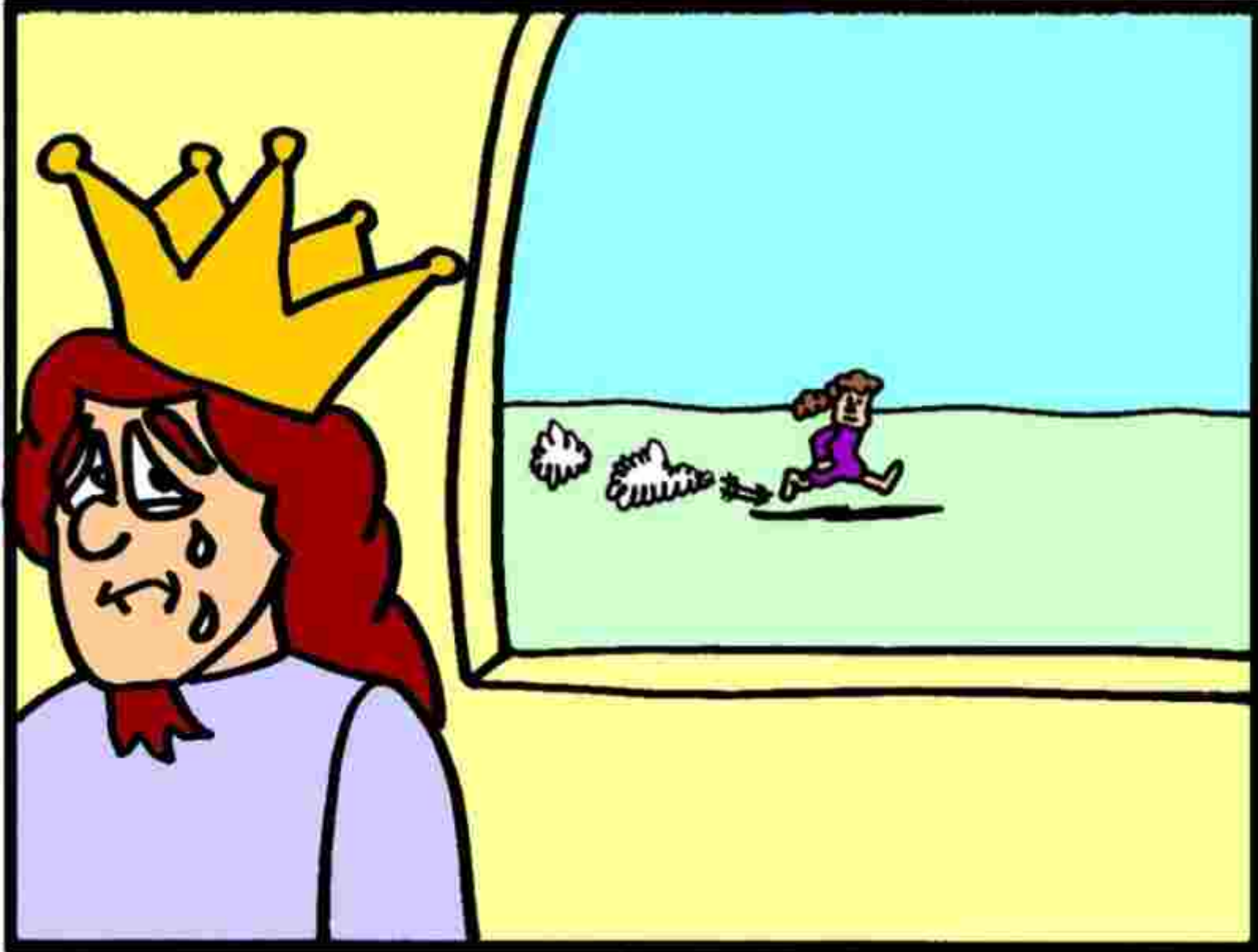
Absalom's Conspiracy

*(Based on 2 Samuel 13, 14, 16,
2 Samuel 16: 15-23, 2 Samuel 17-19)*

Copyright © 2013 Patricia Loranger



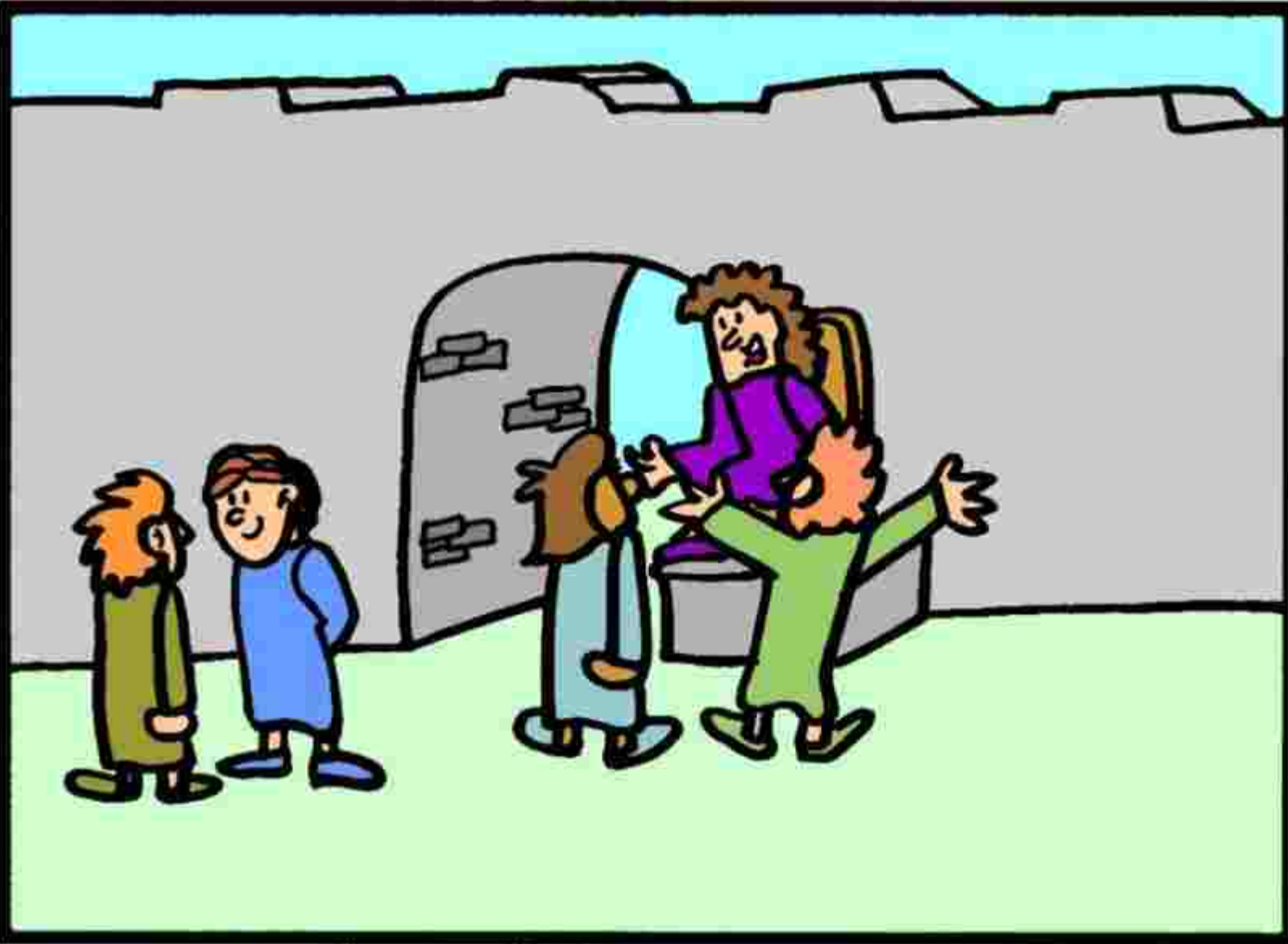
After King David had committed adultery with Bathsheba and arranged to have her husband murdered, things began to go very wrong in David's family. David's son Amnon molested his sister Tamar. Absalom, Tamar's older brother, hated Amnon because of what he had done and so he had Amnon murdered.



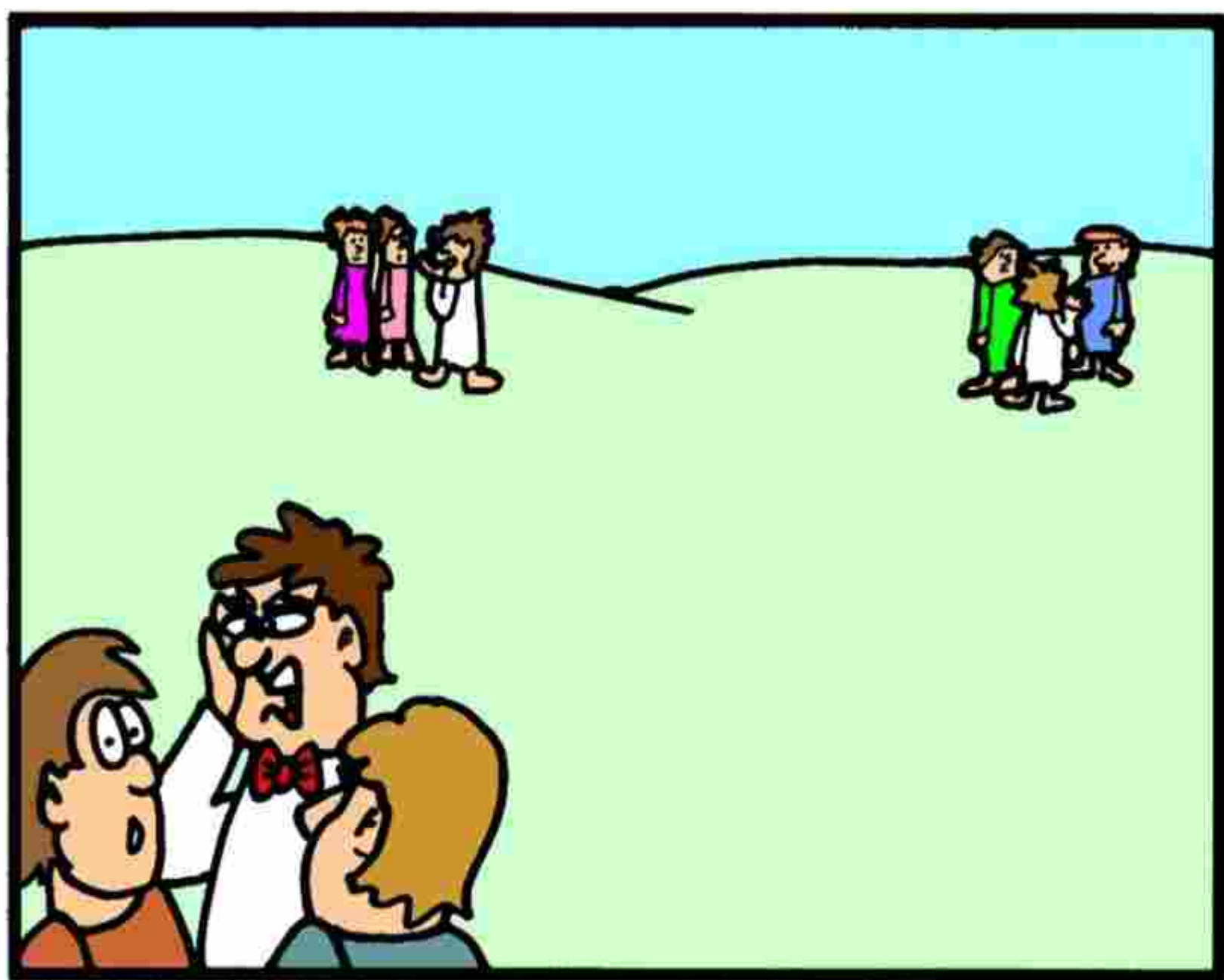
Prince Absalom ran to hide in another country. He lived there for 3 years. During that time King David stopped being sad about Amnon and he wanted very much to bring Prince Absalom home, but he didn't send for him.



Finally King David sent a message that Absalom could come back to Jerusalem. Prince Absalom was back in his home for 2 years and King David never came to visit him, not once.



Prince Absalom was very handsome. This is how he made all the people fall in love with him. He would go to the city gate and be a judge, helping people to solve their problems.



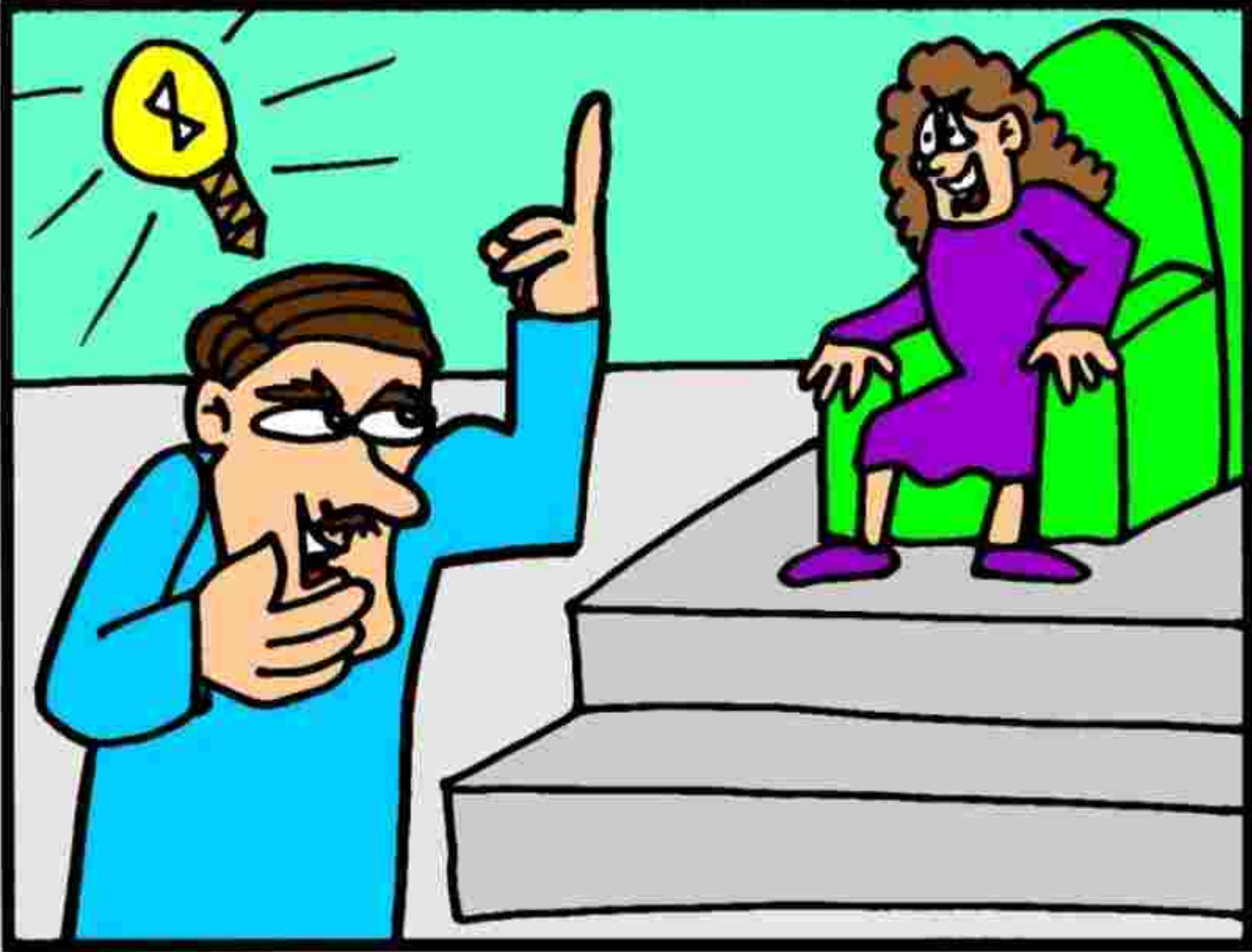
Then Prince Absalom sent spies throughout all the land of Israel. They said, “When you hear the trumpet blast, then shout Absalom is the new king!”



When King David heard what was happening he said to his servants and the people that were on his side, “Get up! Let’s get out of Jerusalem! Hurry so that Absalom doesn’t come and kill everybody in the city!”



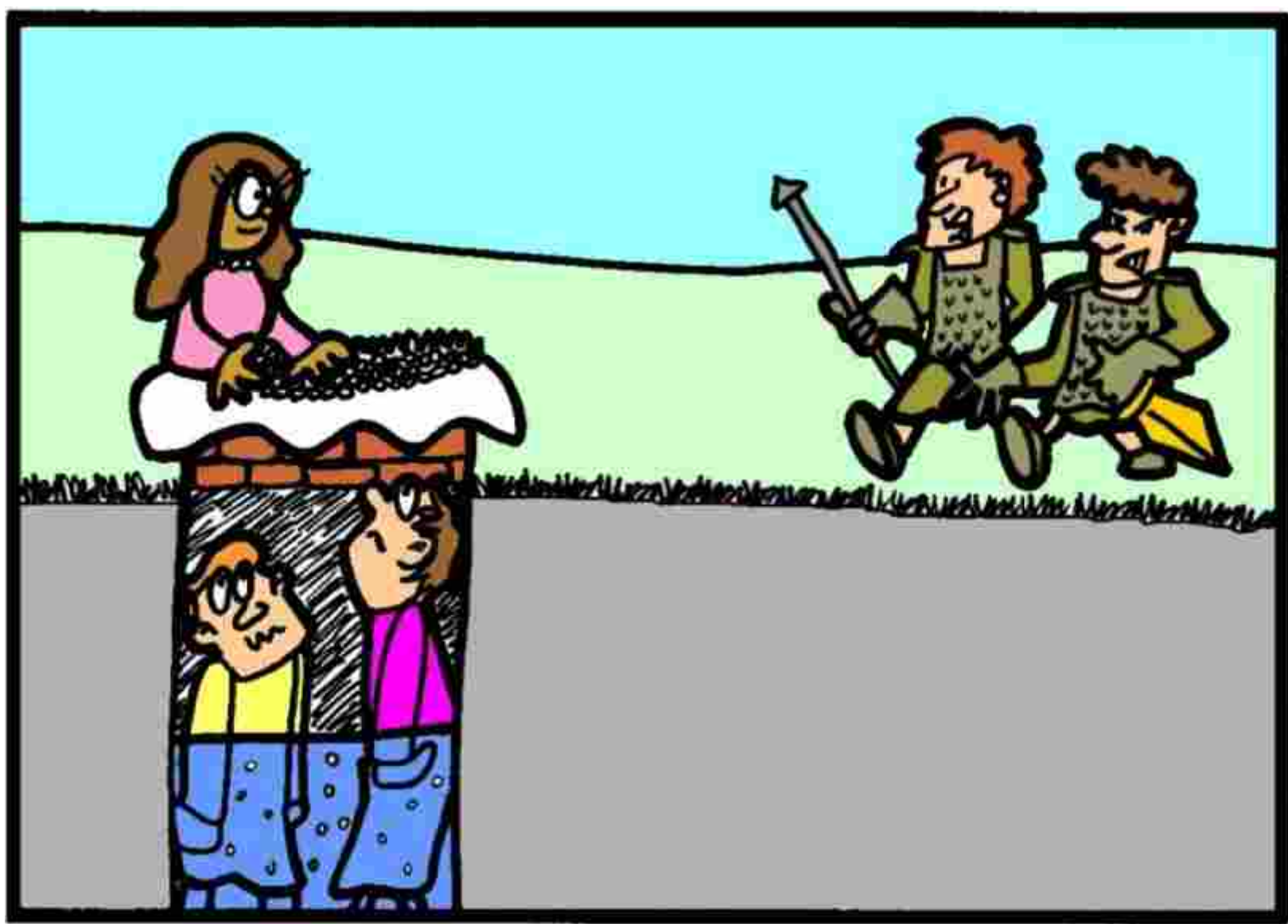
One of King David's old friends named Hushai wanted to go with him, but David sent him back to Jerusalem to be a spy for him. He pretended to be on Prince Absalom's side.



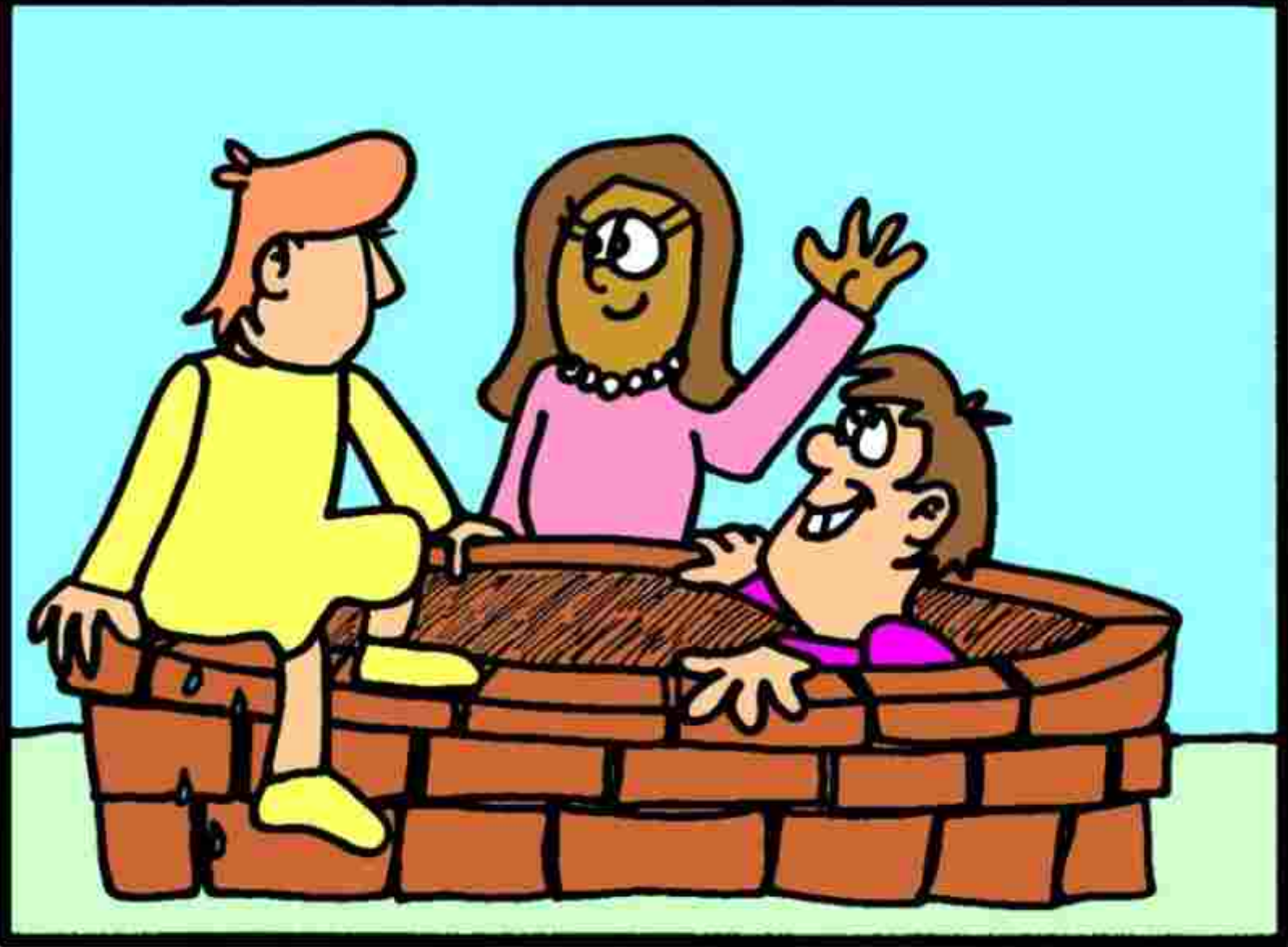
Now there was a man named Athithophel. He was so smart that people said it was like asking questions from God. He turned against King David and said that they should attack right away because King David would be tired.



Hushai said, "That's a bad idea! King David is a warrior! He is probably hiding in a pit somewhere. You should get more people on your side, then attack him." Absalom liked this idea better. When Athithophel realized Absalom wasn't going to take his advice, he went and hanged himself.



Hushai sent two messengers to King David but a boy saw them and he went and told Prince Absalom. A woman helped the messengers to hide by putting them into her well. Then she put a blanket on top and spread corn on it.



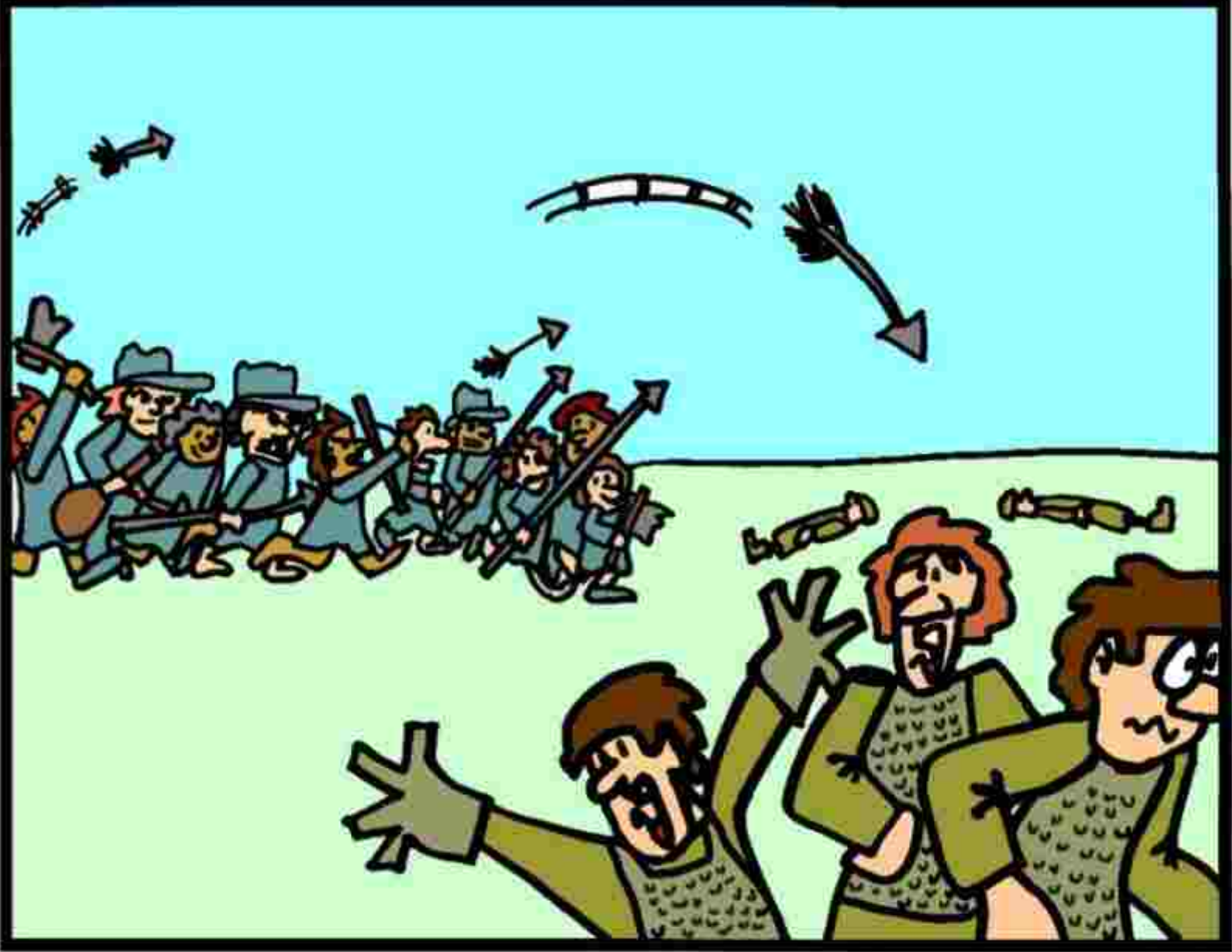
When Prince Absalom's men arrived the woman told them that the messengers had already left. After the searchers left, the two men escaped and delivered their message to King David.



Hushai's message to King David was that he should not spend the night in the wilderness but hurry up and get out of there. King David and everyone with him crossed the Jordan river.



Prince Absalom and his army came to fight against King David and his men. Before the battle though King David said to all the men on his side, “Be gentle with the young man Prince Absalom.” And everyone heard him.



King David's men won the battle. Many of Prince Absalom's men were killed.



Absalom was riding on a mule when his hair became stuck in a tree. The mule left Absalom hanging. A man found Absalom and told commander Joab. “Why didn’t you kill him?” said Joab. “I would have given you lots of money.” “No way!” answered the man. “I’m not going to disobey King David.” Joab killed Absalom with 3 darts.



The people of Israel made David their king again, but he was so sad because his son Absalom was dead.



Lord, help me to do the RIGHT thing in every family conflict. Give me courage to say how I really feel. Show me when pride is getting in the way of making peace. Help me to understand the other people in my life. AMEN.