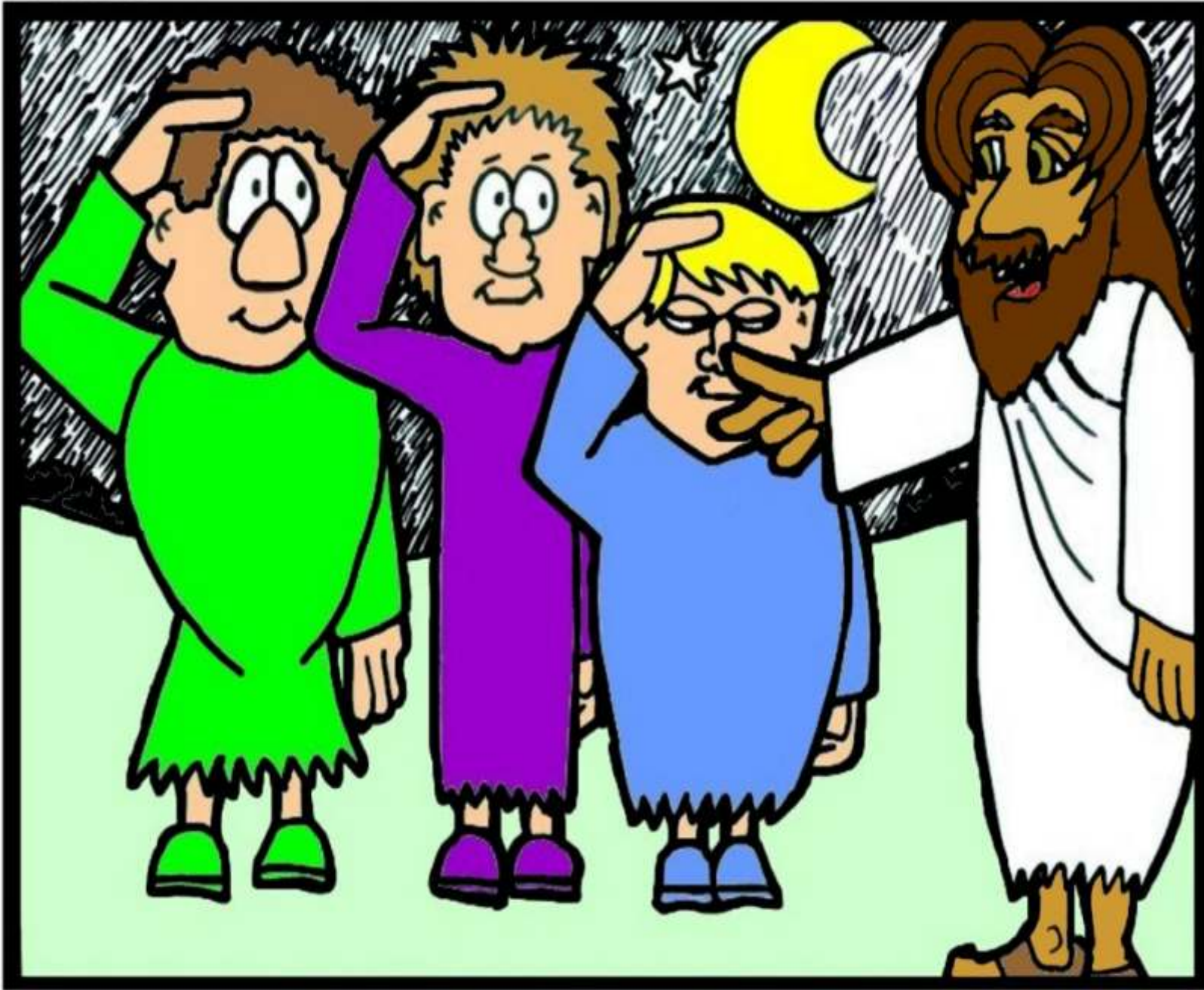


Garden of Gethsemane

(Based on Matthew 26:36-47, Mark 14:32-52,
Luke 22:39-47)

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After supper Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane. "Peter, James and John, you stay here and keep watch. I'm going over there to pray," said Jesus.



As soon as Jesus left, the three disciples sat down and fell asleep.



Jesus meanwhile was going through the worst time of his life! "Abba Daddy," said Jesus as he threw himself to the ground. "You can do anything. Please take away this cup of suffering from me. Even still, not what I want, but what you want."



Jesus returned to his disciples. "Peter!" he exclaimed. "Couldn't you stay awake for just one hour? My heart is so heavy and sad, I feel like I could die, and you guys are sleeping! Watch and pray so that you don't enter into temptation. Your spirit wants to pray but your body is weak."



The disciples fell asleep again while Jesus went to pray. "Abba Daddy," said Jesus again. "If you are willing please take away this cup of suffering from me, but not what I want, what you want."



Jesus returned to his disciples.
"Watch and pray!" insisted Jesus.



When Jesus returned to his prayer place, he was in so much agony this time that his sweat was like big drops of blood falling down.



God sent an angel from heaven to give him strength so that he could get through this very hard time.



Judas arrived with the soldiers. They had swords and weapons to arrest Jesus. Did the disciples wake up when they saw a huge mob of people with swords? You want to believe they were awake now!



They were awake and running! They all ran away and deserted Jesus. One young man was only wearing a linen cloth around his body and when someone from the mob grabbed the cloth he ran away into the darkness, bare-naked!



Lord, help me to remember that I need to spend time with you so I will be able to say “No” to temptation.