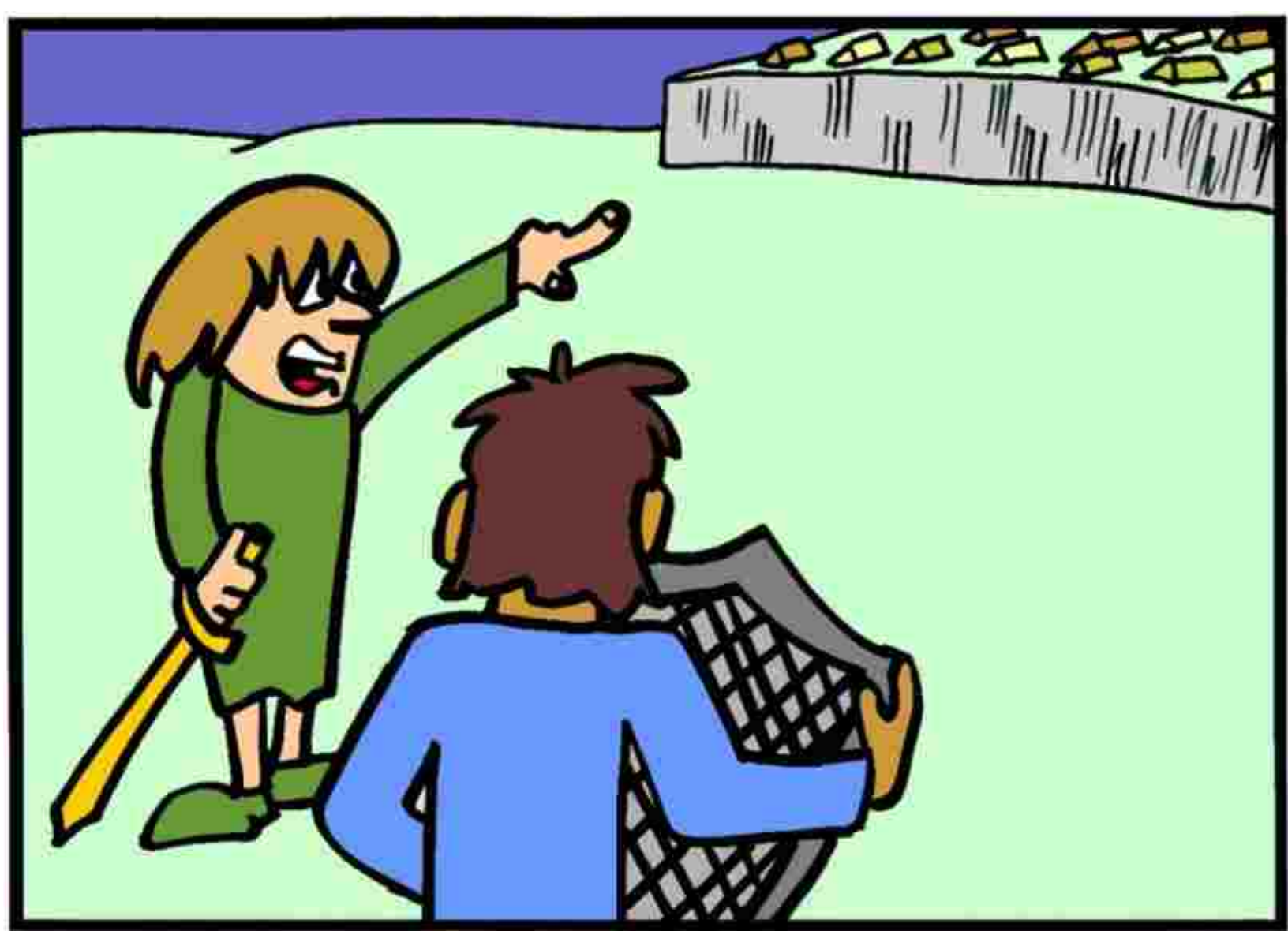


Jonathan's Bravery

(Based on 1 Samuel 13:23, 1 Samuel 14)

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The Philistines came to Mishmash and set up their camp. Jonathan, King Saul's son said to the man who carried his armour, "Let's go and attack the Philistines. Maybe God will help us. God can save with many people or with just a few."



Jonathan said, “We will show ourselves to the Philistines and if they say, ‘Wait until we come over to you,’ then we will stay still. But if they say, ‘Come up here,’ then this will be our sign from God that we will win.”



“Hi there!” yelled Jonathan and his armour-bearer to the Philistines. “Look! The soldiers from Israel are finally coming out of their hiding places!” said the Philistines. “Come up here and we’ll show you something.”



Jonathan and his armour-bearer climbed up to where the Philistines were and Jonathan fought against them. He killed twenty men.



Suddenly the earth began to quake and the Philistines made a very loud noise. “What’s going on?” asked King Saul. “Find out who went over there from our group!” (Jonathan had not told his dad where he was going.)



Finally King Saul and all his men who were hiding came to the battle and they were surprised when they saw that the Philistines had killed each other!



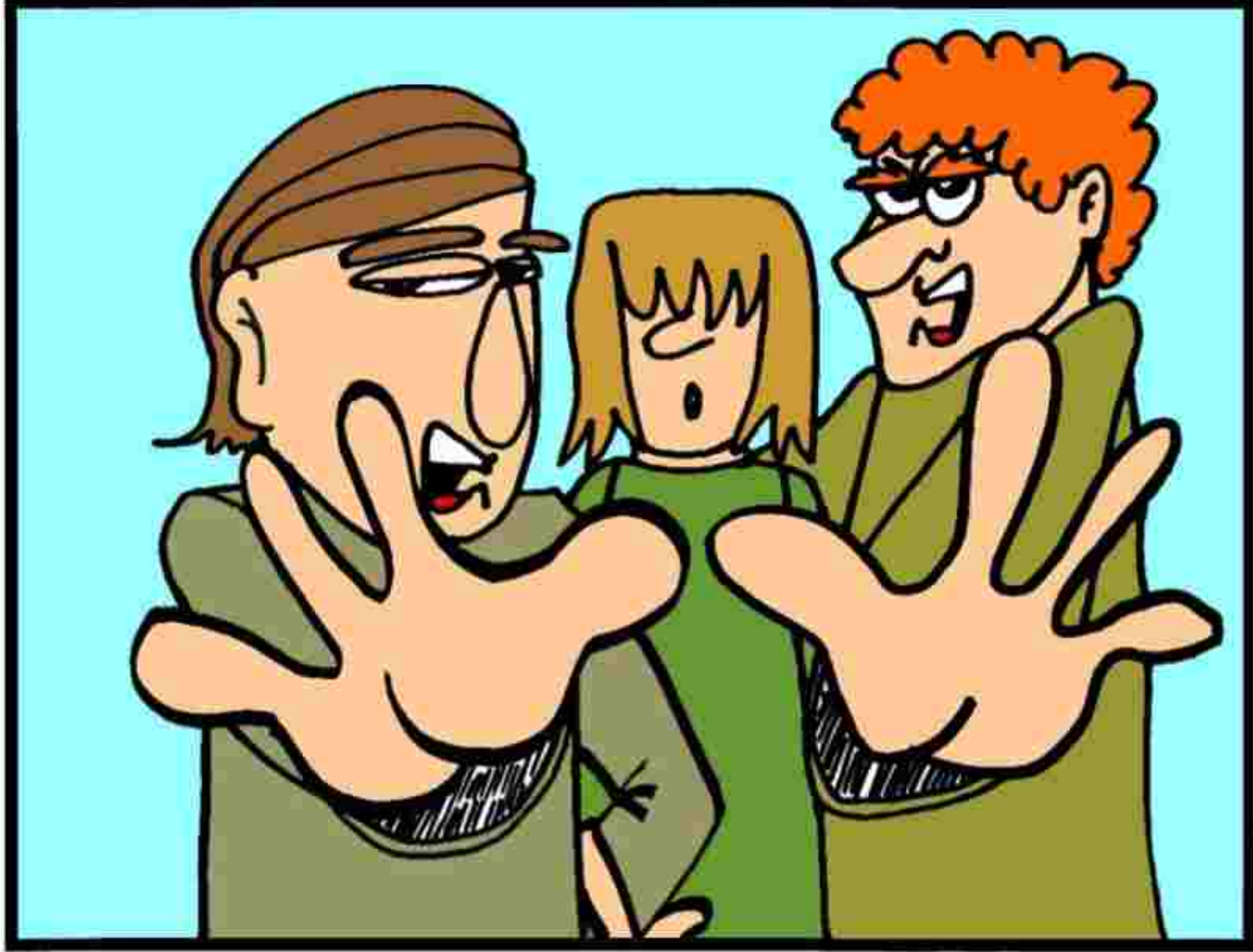
King Saul made a silly rule that no one was allowed to eat until evening because he wanted the Philistine army to be completely destroyed first. Jonathan did not know about that rule and so he ate some honey.



“Let’s attack the Philistine army all night even until morning and get rid of them,” said King Saul. The priest of the Lord said, “Let’s ask God first.” But God would not answer them.



“Someone has sinned! He must die!” said King Saul. “I ate a little bit of honey,” said Jonathan, “and I have to die!”



The people of Israel said, “Jonathan is the one who God used to bring this great victory today! He is NOT going to die!” So King Saul went home and the Philistines went to their place.



Lord, help me to remember that one person helped by God can do great things. Help me to do great things.