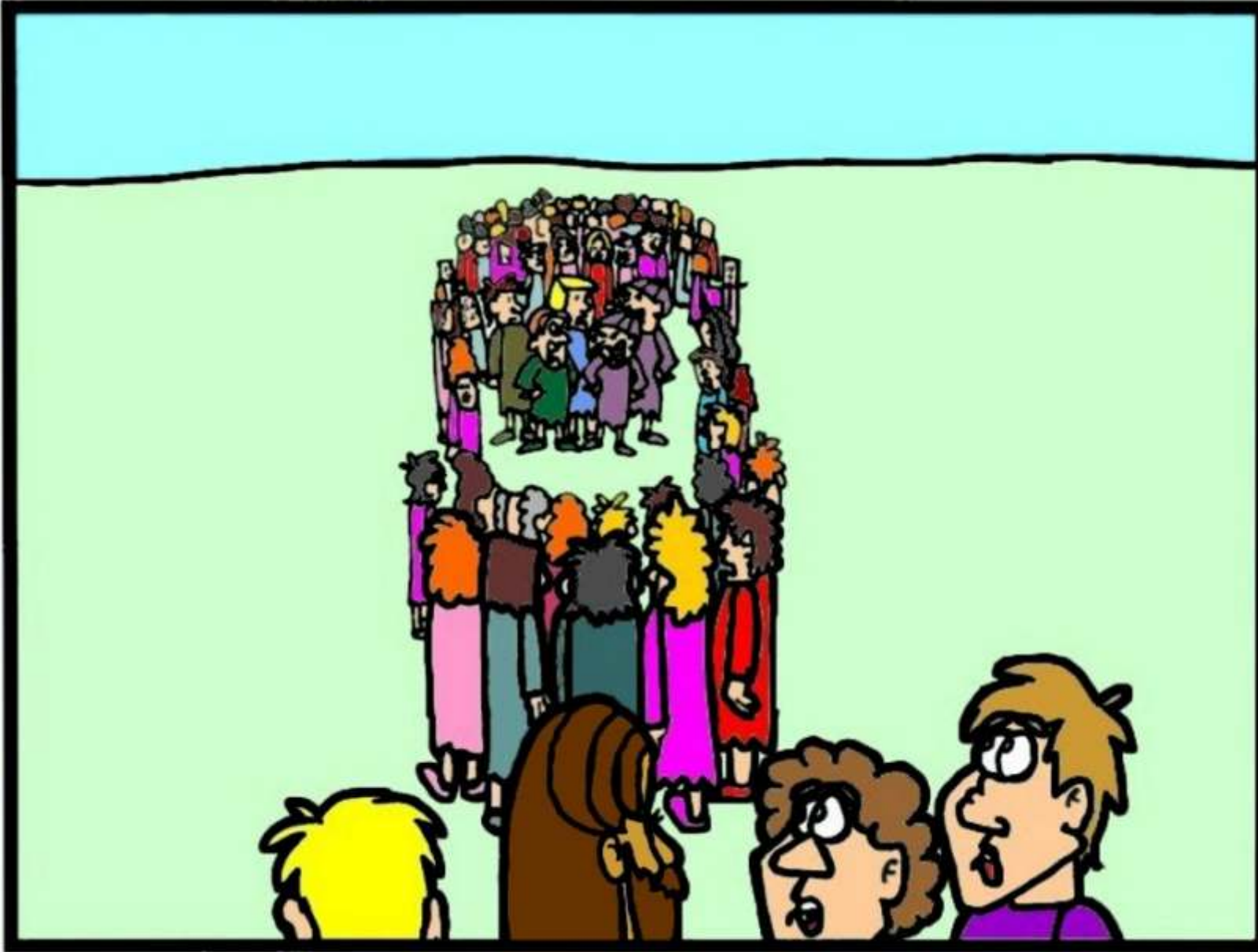


The Demon the Disciples Could Not Cast Out

(Based on Mark 9:14-29, Matthew 17:14-20, Luke 9:37-43)

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A huge crowd of people was at the bottom of the mountain waiting for Jesus. Some of Jesus' disciples were talking with the religious teachers. They were arguing.



"Hey there's Jesus!" said someone from the crowd. Everyone ran to meet Jesus. Jesus asked, "What are you talking about?"



Someone from the crowd yelled. "Master, I brought my son who has a dumb spirit. It throws him down, he grinds his teeth and foam comes out of his mouth. Your disciples can't send this evil spirit out of my son".



"You people have no faith!" answered Jesus. "How long am I going to be with you? How long will I have to put up with you? Bring him to me."



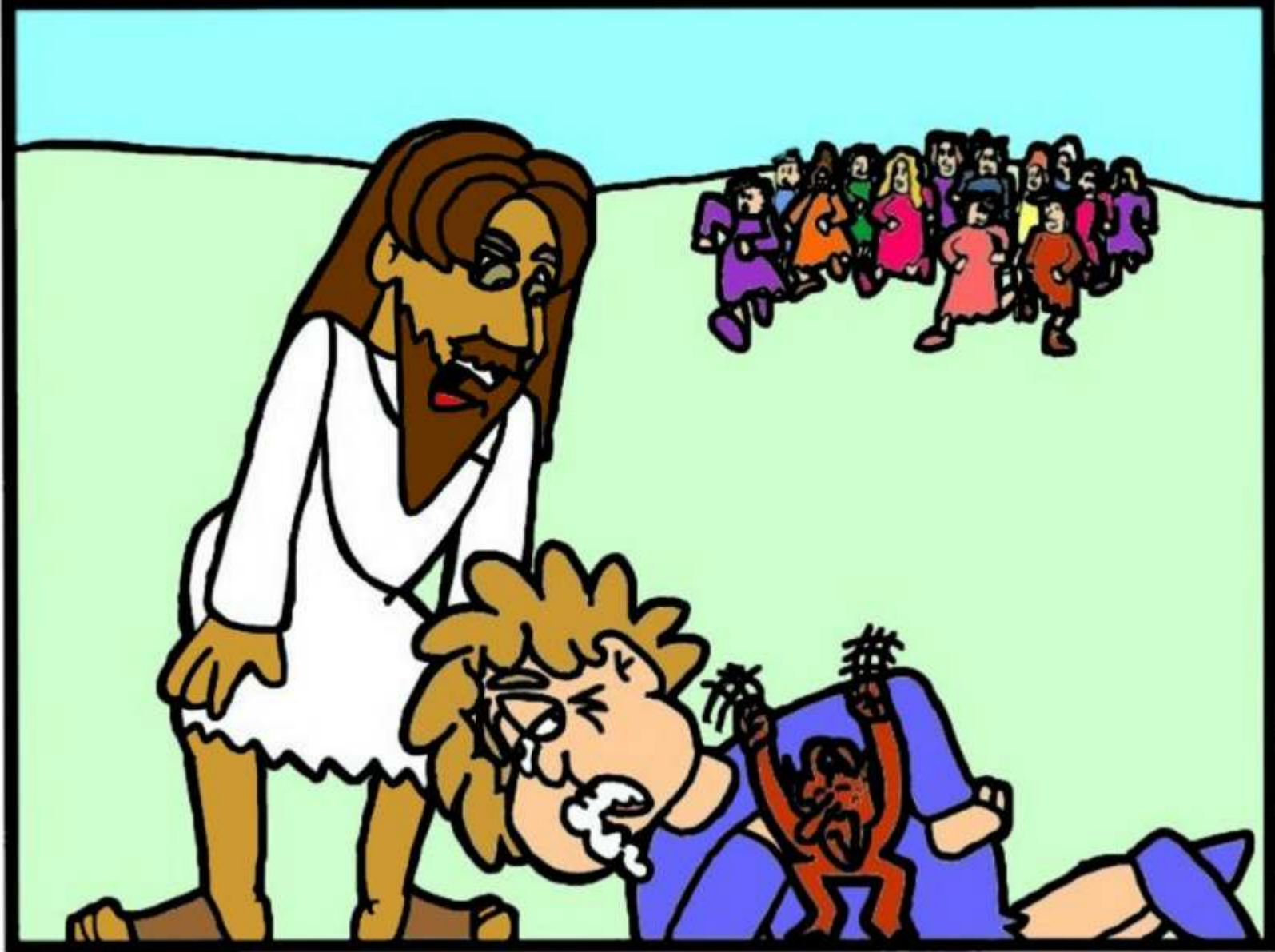
They brought the boy to Jesus and immediately the evil spirit threw the boy into convulsions. The boy fell on the ground and foam started coming out of his mouth. “How long has he been like this?” asked Jesus.



"Since he was a little child," answered the dad. "Sometimes the spirit throws him into the fire. Sometimes the spirit throws him into water trying to kill him, but if you can do anything, please have mercy on us and help us."



Jesus answered, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes." "I believe," cried the father. "Help my unbelief."



Jesus commanded, "You dumb and deaf spirit, come out of this boy and never enter again!" The evil spirit screamed as he threw the boy into a terrible convulsion, and then he came out.



The boy lay on the ground and he did not move. "He's dead!" whispered people in the crowd. Jesus took the boy by the hand and helped him to get up. The boy was cured from that time on. Everyone in the crowd was amazed.



Later Jesus explained why the disciples could not do it. "Because you had no faith! Faith can move mountains. This kind though doesn't come out except by prayer and fasting (not eating for a period of time and praying instead.)"



Lord, help me to stay in faith
and not get into doubt when I
try to figure everything out.