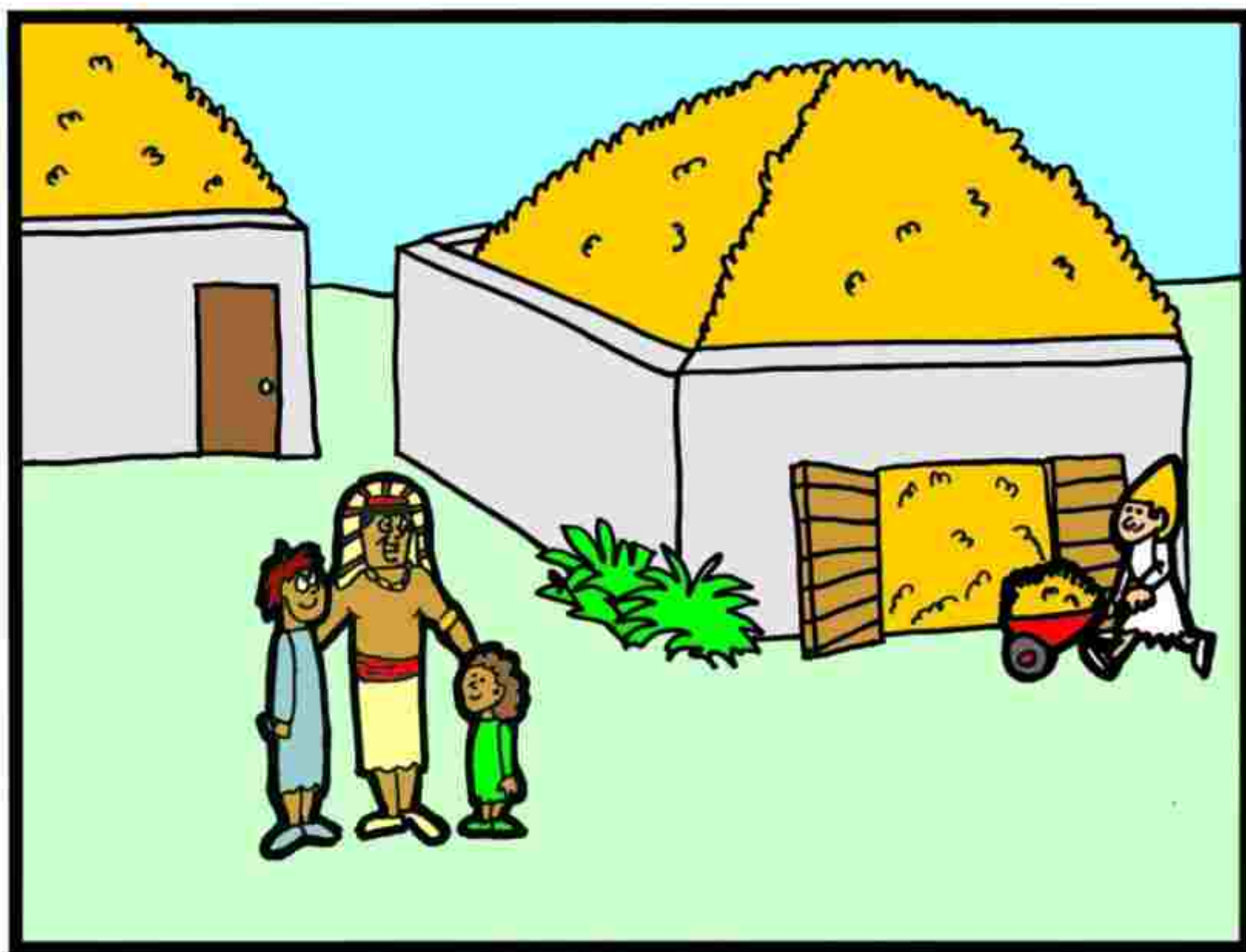


# The Famine Begins

*(Based on Gen 41:55-47:12)*

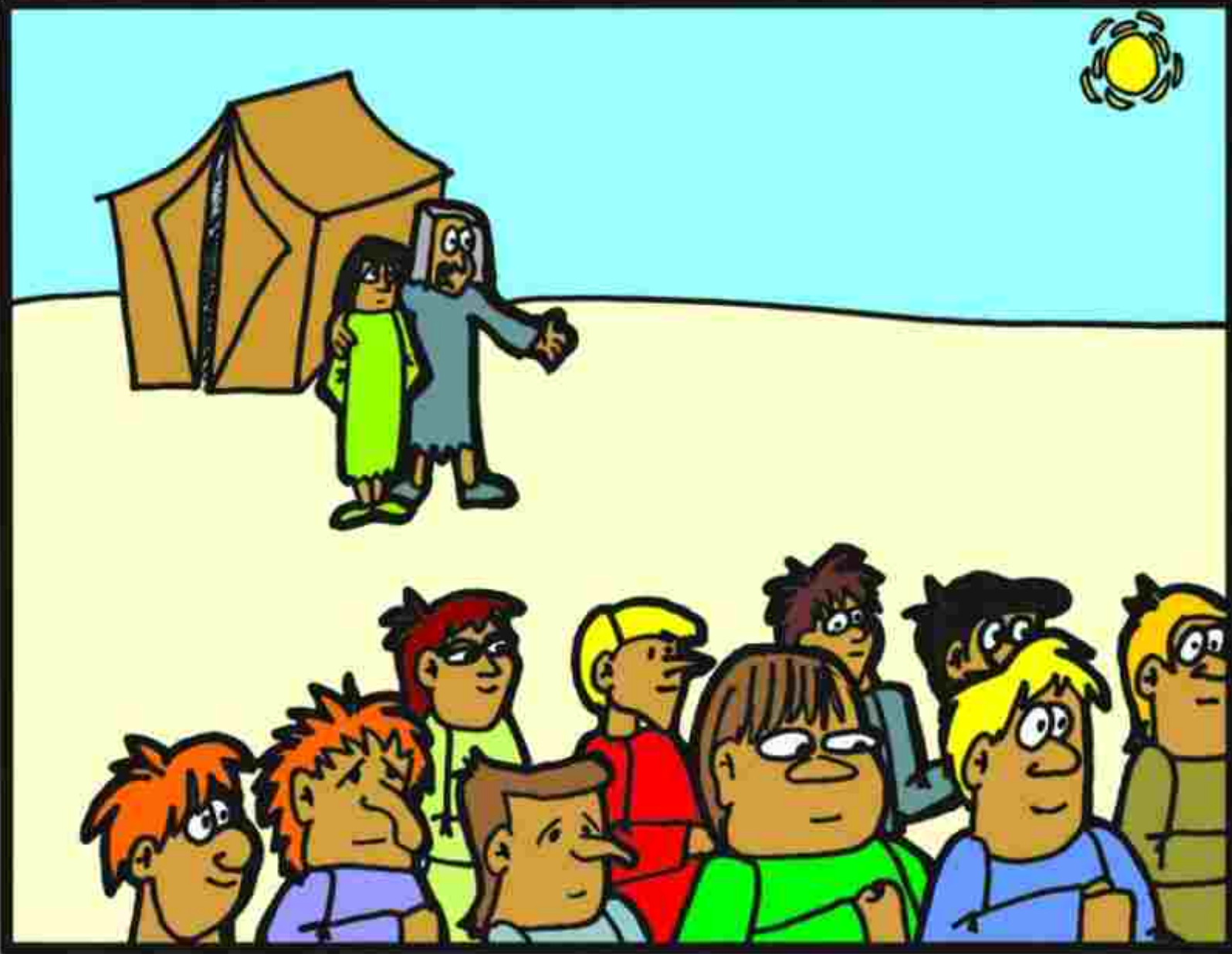
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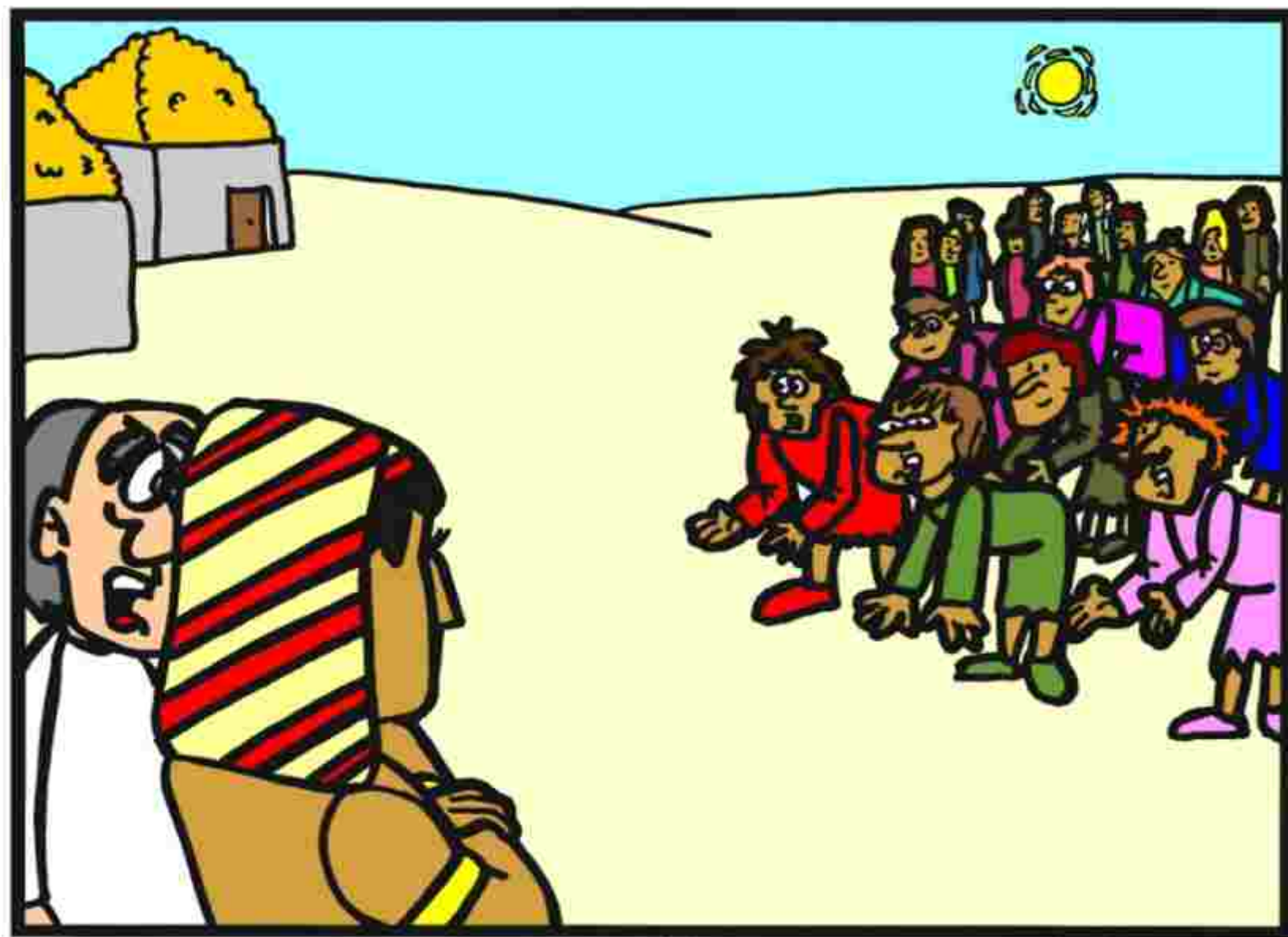
Pharoah gave Joseph a wife, and during the good years Joseph had two sons. The first he named Manasseh and the second he named Ephraim. Joseph had forgotten his sorrows and he was very happy.



The seven good years ended and the seven bad years began. Nothing would grow and the people cried out to the king for food. Pharaoh sent them to Joseph and Joseph sold grain to them. People came from many countries to buy food from Joseph.



In Canaan land nothing would grow either. Old Jacob sent his ten sons to Egypt to buy food, but he kept Benjamin, the youngest, at home because he was worried that something bad might happen to him.



When the brothers arrived in Egypt they bowed down to Joseph, the governor, but they didn't know it was him. Joseph pretended he did not know them by asking where they came from. "We came from the land of Canaan to buy food," answered the brothers.



Then Joseph remembered the dreams he had when he was seventeen years old. "You are spies!" shouted Joseph to his brothers. "Spies?!!!!!! We are not spies! We are brothers. We are honest people," answered the brothers.

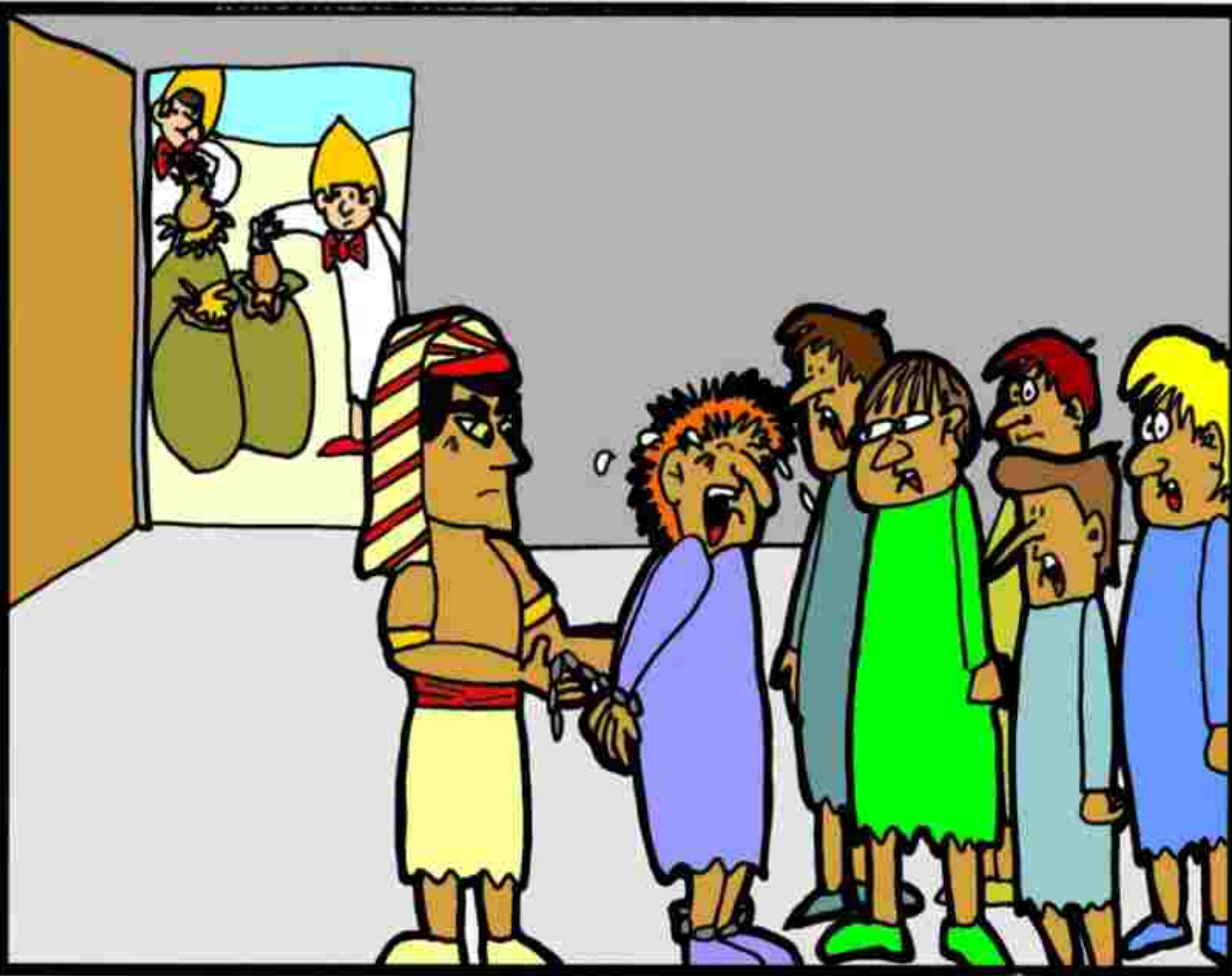


Joseph put his brothers in prison for three days. "If you are honest men then let one of you stay here in jail and the rest of you take food back home to your families. Bring your youngest brother back here so that I will know you are telling the truth and you will not die," said Joseph.



"All this trouble is coming on us because of what we did to Joseph," said the brothers. "Now we are paying for what we did to him!" They didn't know Joseph understood everything. Joseph left them to weep privately.





Joseph chained his brother Simeon and kept him in prison. The other brothers were sent home with sacks filled with grain. Secretly he had all their money put into the top of their bags.



When old Jacob heard how his sons were treated by the governor of Egypt, he was very sad. "Joseph is gone. Now Simeon is gone and you want to take Benjamin away. All these things are against me!"



Lord, help me to trust you at all times and remember that you are working all things out for good in my life.