

TOWARD THE

GOAL



CHILDREN'S BOOK

THE GOLDEN TICKET



AMBASSADORS
FOOTBALL

HELLO!

MY NAME IS FOOTY.

WELCOME TO...

TOWARD THE

GOAL

HERE'S WHERE TO FIND EVERYTHING...

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I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT!



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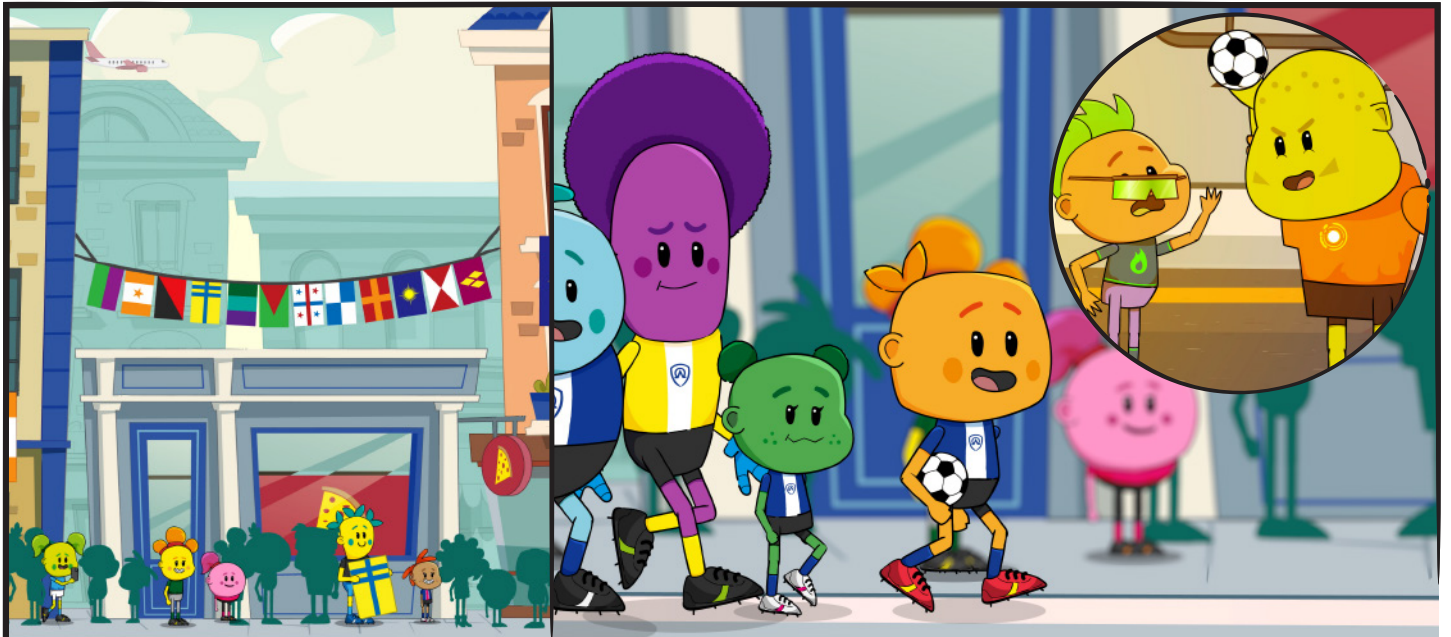
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AMBASSADORS
FOOTBALL

THE GOLDEN TICKET



THE INTERNATIONAL CUP HAS COME TO SOCCATOWN! FANS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD FILL THE STREETS. IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE FOR FOOTY AND HIS FRIENDS.

EVERY EVENING, THEY PLAY IN THE STREETS AND CHILDREN FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES JOIN IN! ONE OF THEM IS CALLED GROBB. HE'S BIG, TOUGH, AND IS ALWAYS LOOKING TO START TROUBLE. NOBODY LIKES PLAYING WITH GROBB!



JERRO CALLS FOOTY OVER. JERRO IS ONE OF THE BEST PRO PLAYERS IN THE TOWN AND THE SON OF THE STADIUM OWNER! HE GIVES FOOTY A GOLDEN TICKET - A SEAT IN THE STADIUM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CUP FINAL! FOOTY CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

JERRO SMILES, "MY FATHER OWNS THE STADIUM AND I'VE GOT SOME FREE TO GIVE OUT TO ANYONE I WANT TO!" HE WATCHES GROBB SHOVE ANOTHER CHILD OVER. "FOOTY, THE BEST PLAYERS AREN'T JUST GREAT ON THE PITCH - THEY KNOW HOW TO TREAT PEOPLE RIGHT AS WELL, EVEN THOSE WHO ARE MEAN TO THEM... YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN."



IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR KICKOFF. MOST OF THE CROWD ARE IN THEIR SEATS ALREADY - FOOTY'S RUNNING A BIT LATE, HE COULDN'T CHOOSE WHICH COLORS TO WEAR!

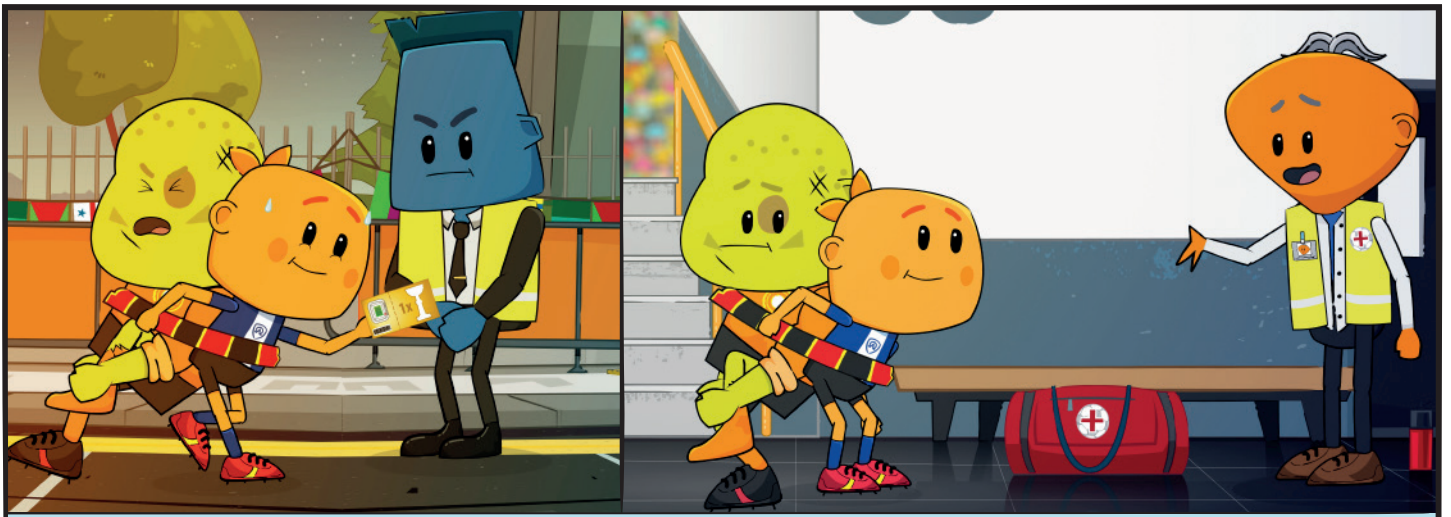
AS HE REACHES THE GATE, HE HEARS A GROAN... IT'S GROBB! AND HE'S IN BAD SHAPE. A GANG OF OLDER CHILDREN HAD BEEN PLAYING ROUGH. NOW HE'S LYING IN THE STREET WITH INJURIES TO HIS ANKLE AND HIS HEAD. FOOTY STOPS. HE LOOKS AT HIS TICKET, THEN BACK AT GROBB.



A FAMOUS OLD FOOTBALLER WALKS PAST, ON HIS WAY TO COMMENTATE ON THE GAME. "HELP..." GROBB GROANS.

"NOT MY PROBLEM, KID," HE SAYS, WALKING AWAY.

JUST THEN, A SECURITY GUARD PASSES BY. GROBB REACHES OUT A HAND. "PLEASE..." THE SECURITY GUARD FROWNS. "YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN CAUSING TROUBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE," HE MUTTERS. FOOTY LOOKS AT HIS TICKET AGAIN, THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST GAMES EVER! BUT GROBB IS HURT...

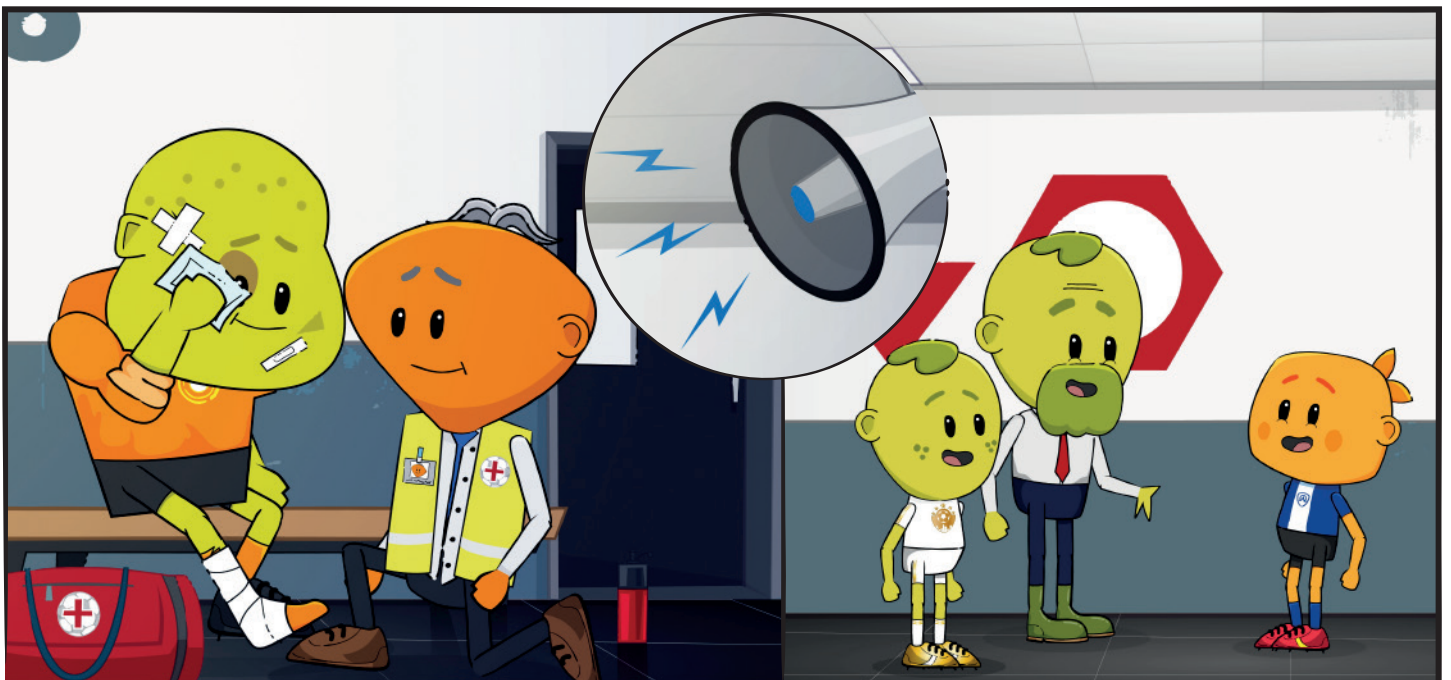


...FOOTY SIGHS. "COME ON, GROBB," HE SAYS, "LET'S GET YOU SORTED."

SHOWING HIS TICKET TO THE STAFF AT THE GATE, HE'S ABLE TO CARRY GROBB INTO THE STADIUM. GROBB IS HEAVY, AND IT TAKES FOOTY A WHILE TO CARRY HIM TO THE MEDICAL AREA. HE CAN HEAR THE CROWD REACTING TO THE MATCH - IT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT GAME! THE MEDICAL STEWARD LOOKS AT GROBB, THEN AT FOOTY. "YOU'RE MISSING THE FINAL FOR THIS BOY? I SAW HIM PUSHING YOU AROUND EARLIER..."

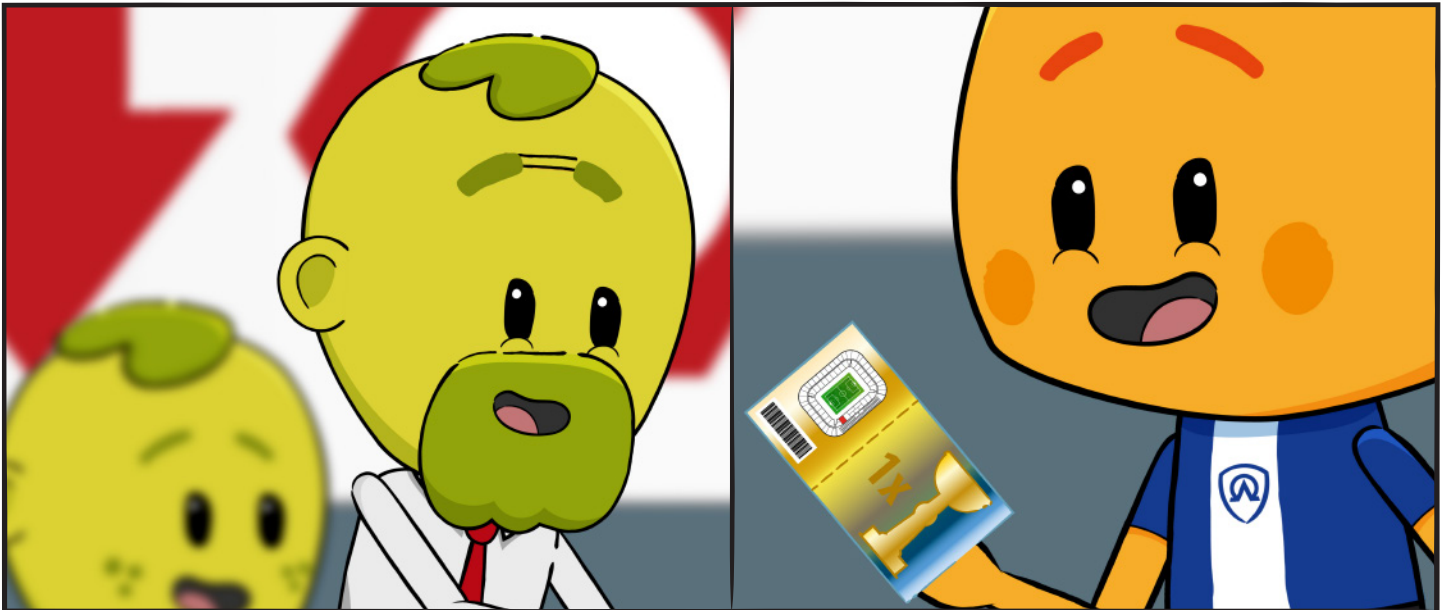
FOOTY NODS. "TH-THANK YOU, F-FOOTY..." SAYS GROBB.

"FOOTY, EH?" SMILES THE MEDIC.



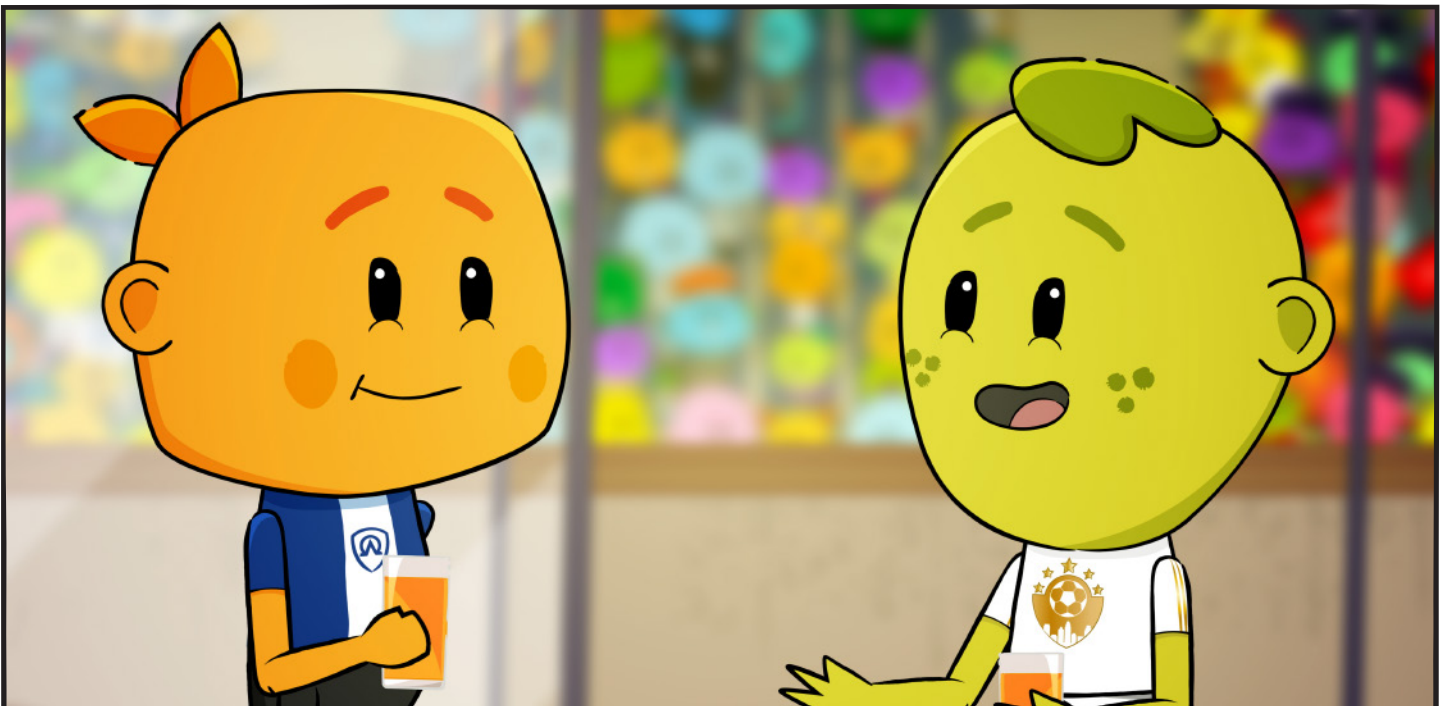
SOON AFTER, GROBB'S ANKLE IS BANDAGED UP. JUST THEN, A VOICE CRACKLES OVER THE SPEAKERS: "WOULD YOUNG FOOTY PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING POINT?"

WHAT'S GOING ON? THE STEWARD TAKES FOOTY THERE... AND HE'S SHOCKED TO SEE MR. GABBA AND HIS SON, JERRO, WAITING FOR HIM! MR. GABBA IS THE OWNER OF THE STADIUM AND THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN SOCCATOWN.



'WE HEARD WHAT YOU DID,' SMILES MR. GABBA. 'YOU GAVE UP YOUR TICKET TO HELP SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T EVEN LIKE YOU.'

HE HANDS FOOTY A BRAND-NEW TICKET. 'COME WITH ME.' IT'S A PASS TO THE VIP SECTION!



FOOTY GETS TO WATCH THE REST OF THE GAME FROM THE BEST VIEW WITH GREAT FOOD TO EAT! JERRO SMILES AT HIM. "YOU'VE SHOWN THE HEART OF A GREAT PLAYER, FOOTY. I'M PROUD OF YOU."

THE SECOND HALF IS ABOUT TO BEGIN AND IT'S THE BEST MATCH THAT FOOTY HAS EVER SEEN!

THE GOOD SAMARITAN



ONE DAY A LAWYER CAME TO JESUS AND ASKED, "TEACHER, WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?" JESUS ASKED THE MAN WHAT THE LAW - GOD'S WORD - SAID.

THE MAN ANSWERED, "LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL, MIND, AND STRENGTH AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." JESUS TOLD HIM HE WAS RIGHT. THE LAWYER, WANTING TO PROVE HIMSELF, ASKED, "AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?". HE MAY HAVE EXPECTED JESUS TO SAY FAMILY OR FRIENDS. INSTEAD, THE LORD TOLD A SURPRISING STORY...



THERE WAS ONCE A MAN TRAVELING FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICO. THIS ROAD WAS DANGEROUS, WINDING THROUGH ROCKY PLACES WHERE ROBBERS WOULD OFTEN HIDE. SURE ENOUGH, AS THE MAN WALKED, HE WAS ATTACKED!

THE BANDITS BEAT HIM BADLY, STOLE HIS BELONGINGS, AND LEFT HIM LYING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, SERIOUSLY INJURED!



SOMETIME LATER A PRIEST CAME BY - PRIESTS WORKED IN THE TEMPLE AND KNEW GOD'S LAW VERY WELL... SURELY HE WOULD HELP! BUT WHEN THE PRIEST SAW THE INJURED MAN, HE CROSSED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD AND WALKED AWAY.

NEXT CAME A LEVITE, ANOTHER RELIGIOUS MAN. HE ALSO KNEW GOD'S LAW WELL. BUT INSTEAD OF STOPPING TO HELP, HE TOO PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE! MAYBE HE WAS TOO BUSY, OR MAYBE HE WAS AFRAID - BUT EITHER WAY, HE LEFT THE MAN LYING THERE.

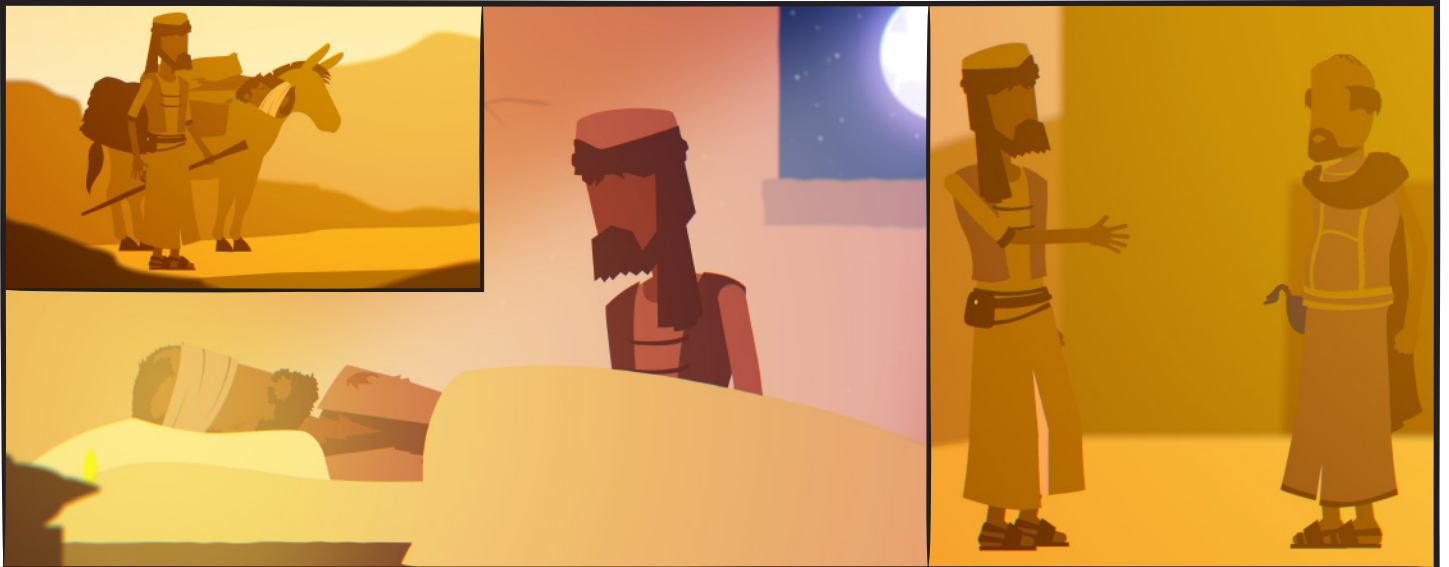


FINALLY, A SAMARITAN CAME ALONG.

SAMARITANS AND JEWS DIDN'T GET ALONG AT ALL. IN FACT, THEY WERE OFTEN ENEMIES! SURELY THE SAMARITAN WOULD IGNORE THE MAN TOO...

...NO! HE COULDN'T JUST LEAVE THE INJURED MAN THERE.

THE SAMARITAN KNELT DOWN, CLEANED THE MAN'S WOUNDS WITH OIL AND WINE, AND BANDAGED THEM.



THEN HE LIFTED THE MAN ONTO HIS DONKEY, TOOK HIM TO AN INN, AND CARED FOR HIM. THE NEXT DAY, THE SAMARITAN GAVE THE INNKEEPER MONEY AND SAID, "TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM. WHEN I RETURN, I WILL PAY YOU FOR ANY EXTRA EXPENSES."

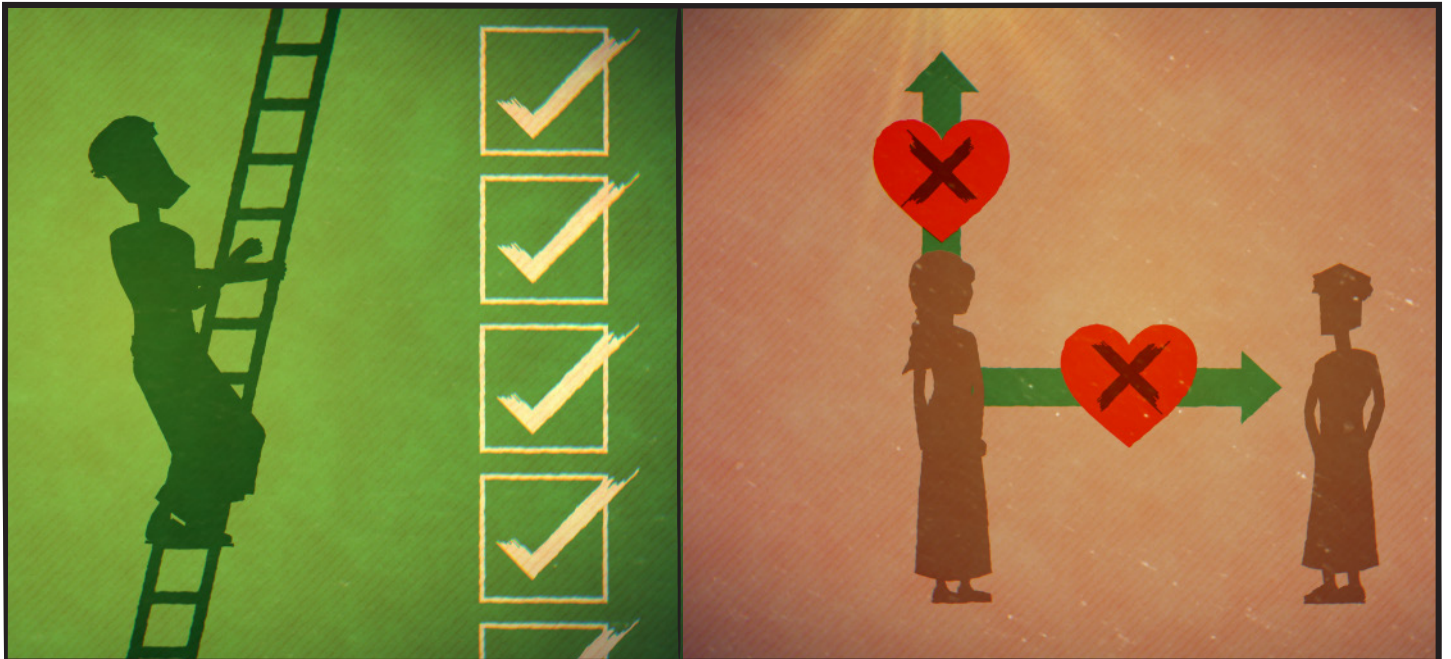
THIS WAS AMAZING KINDNESS! THE SAMARITAN DIDN'T JUST STOP AND HELP, BUT WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE SURE THE MAN WAS FULLY CARED FOR!



JESUS ASKED THE LAWYER, "WHICH OF THESE THREE MEN DO YOU THINK WAS A NEIGHBOR TO THE MAN WHO WAS HURT?"

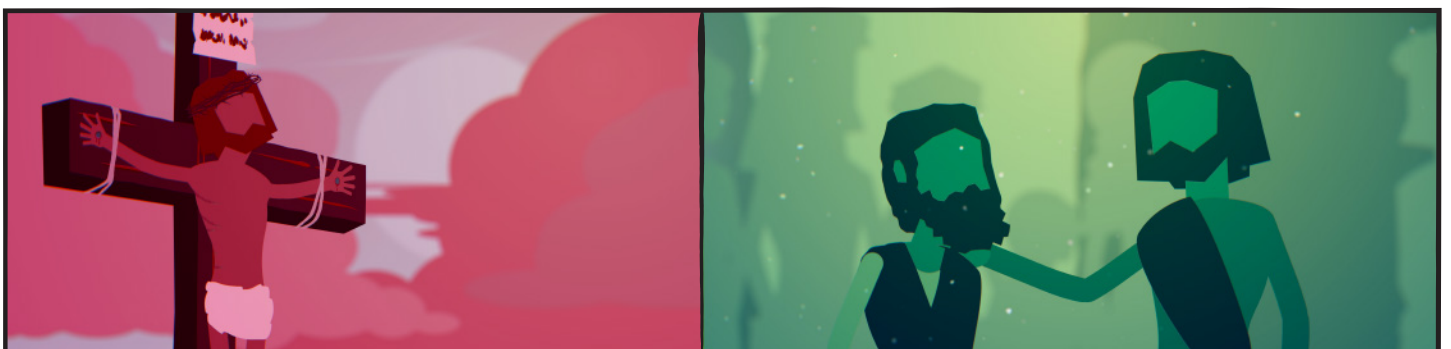
"THE ONE THAT SHOWED HIM MERCY," THE MAN REPLIED.

"GO AND DO LIKEWISE," SAID JESUS.



LIKE THIS LAWYER, MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT GETTING TO HEAVEN IS ALL ABOUT DOING ENOUGH GOOD THINGS. THEY BELIEVE THAT IF WE'RE KIND ENOUGH, HELPFUL ENOUGH, OR FOLLOW ENOUGH RULES, WE CAN EARN OUR WAY TO GOD. BUT THE TRUTH IS, NO ONE CAN EARN ETERNAL LIFE BY BEING 'GOOD ENOUGH.'

WE'VE NOT LOVED GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART, SOUL, MIND AND STRENGTH, AND WE'VE NOT LOVED OUR NEIGHBOURS AS OURSELVES! WE ARE LIKE THE INJURED MAN IN THE STORY: LOST, BROKEN, AND UNABLE TO SAVE OURSELVES...



...BUT JESUS IS LIKE THE GOOD SAMARITAN. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE SINNERS - NATURALLY HIS ENEMIES - HE LOVED US SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE US!

HE PAID THE PRICE FOR OUR SIN SO WE COULD BE FORGIVEN AND MADE RIGHT WITH GOD WHEN WE PUT OUR TRUST IN HIM! BECAUSE JESUS HAS SHOWN US SUCH AMAZING LOVE, HE CALLS US TO LOVE OTHERS TOO - EVEN PEOPLE WE MIGHT NOT GET ALONG WITH OR WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM US.

BEING A TRUE NEIGHBOR ISN'T JUST ABOUT HELPING THOSE THAT WE KNOW AND LIKE, BUT ABOUT SHOWING KINDNESS AND TAKING CARE OF ANYONE WHO NEEDS IT.

STORY MATCHUP

CAN YOU MATCH UP THE BIBLE STORY WITH THE FOOTBALL STORY?

FOOTBALL STORY

- 1 GROBB, ONE OF THE VISITING CHILDREN, IS SEVERELY INJURED.
- 2 A FAMOUS FOOTBALLER IGNORES GROBB, WALKING PAST.
- 3 A SECURITY GUARD REFUSES TO HELP GROBB, ALSO WALKING PAST HIM.
- 4 FOOTY HELPS GROBB, EVEN THOUGH GROBB WAS UNKIND TO HIM.
- 5 FOOTY SACRIFICES HIS CHANCE TO WATCH THE GAME TO GET GROBB MEDICAL HELP.
- 6 FOOTY'S SELFLESSNESS IS NOTICED BY MR. GABBA AND JERRO, AND HE IS HONORED FOR HIS KINDNESS!

BIBLE STORY

A SAMARITAN STOPS TO HELP THE TRAVELLER, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE ENEMIES OF THE ISRAELITES!

JESUS HONORS THE EXAMPLE OF THE SAMARITAN AND ENCOURAGES US TO BE LIKE HIM.

A TRAVELLER IS BEATEN AND LEFT FOR DEAD. 1

A LEVITE ALSO IGNORES THE WOUNDED MAN, CHOOSING TO WALK PAST.

THE SAMARITAN SPENDS HIS OWN MONEY AND TIME TO CARE FOR THE INJURED MAN.

A PRIEST CROSSES OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD TO AVOID THE INJURED MAN.



FOCUS STUDY 1 WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?



WARM UP

- Q** *In the football story, who walked past the injured Grobb without helping?*
- Q** *In Jesus' parable, who were the people that ignored the wounded traveller?*



TEAM TALK

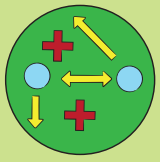
Try and tell the Football Story in one minute. Now try telling the Bible story in the same time!

What's your favorite snack? Who would you share it with? Who might you not want to share it with? It's easy to be kind to our friends and the people we love, but it's harder with those that we find annoying. Jesus says they are still our neighbor!



TRAINING - MEMORY VERSE

Mark 12:31b '...Love your neighbor as yourself.'



GOD'S GAME PLAN

1

We often notice differences, but God doesn't play favorites. Every single person is valuable to Him!

READ 1 Samuel 6:7b (NIV) 'The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'

Q *How can we learn to see people the way God sees them?*

2

Jesus made it clear that our 'neighbor' is anyone that needs help, even if they are different from us!

READ Luke 10:36, 37b (NIV) 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?... The one who had mercy on him...'

Q *Why do you think Jesus choose the Samaritan to be the true neighbor in the story?*

3

Love is more than words - it takes action.

READ 1 John 3:18 (NLT) Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

Q *What's one way you could turn words into action this week?*



Close your eyes. Think of someone that you find hard to like. Picture them sitting alone and sad. Now imagine helping them instead of walking away. That's what Jesus calls us to do - to love our neighbor and show God's love in action to those around us!



GOING FOR GOAL

PRAY: Ask God to help you see people through His eyes and to love even those you find difficult.

DO: Look for one chance this week to help or encourage someone you don't usually get along with.

TELL: I'm going to tell these stories to...



FOCUS STUDY 2 THE COST OF COMPASSION



WARM UP

- Q** What did Footy give up so Grobb could get help?
- Q** How did the Samaritan care for the injured man?
- Q** Why is it sometimes hard to give things up for others?



TEAM TALK

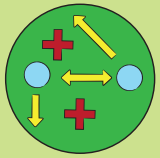
Can you think of a time when someone shared something with you, even when it cost them? This could be time, money, a toy, food, or something else.

How did it make you feel?



TRAINING - MEMORY VERSE

John 15:13 (NLT) There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.



GOD'S GAME PLAN

1

Footy gave up his golden ticket, and the Samaritan gave his time and money. Love isn't just about feelings - it's about sacrifice. That's how Jesus also showed His love for us.

READ 1 John 3:16 (NIV) This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

Q *Why is real love shown best when it costs us something?*

2

When we care for others, it means putting their needs ahead of our own.

READ Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT) Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

Q *What would it look like for you to think of others as better than yourself, and to take an interest in them?*

3

God notices every act of love for others - even the small ones!

READ Matthew 10:42 (NLT) 'And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.'

Q *What small act of kindness could you do this week that might mean a lot to someone else?*



Close your eyes. Imagine holding something you really love. Now picture giving it up so someone else can have what they need. That's hard -but that's real love. And Jesus showed us the greatest love of all.



GOING FOR GOAL

PRAY: Thank Jesus for giving up His life for you, and ask Him to help you be generous.

DO: Share something this week that's special to you.

TELL: Tell a friend that love isn't just words - it's shown in what we give and do.



FOCUS STUDY 3 JESUS, OUR GOOD SAMARITAN



WARM UP

- Q** *Can you remember where the traveller in Jesus' story was journeying from and to?*
- Q** *What animal belonged to the Samaritan?*
- Q** *Can you explain what 'sin' is? (Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God's way!)*



TEAM TALK

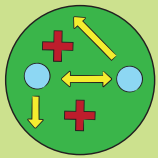
Imagine someone who is drowning in deep water. Are they able to save themselves? No! They need someone to rescue them.

Take a minute to name as many rescue jobs that you can think of...



TRAINING - MEMORY VERSE

Romans 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



GOD'S GAME PLAN

Just like the man lying on the road, we are helpless because of sin. We can't fix it on our own.

1

READ Ephesians 2:1 (NLT) Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.

Q *What do you think it means to be spiritually 'dead'?*

The Samaritan helped someone who normally would have been his enemy. Jesus did even more - He gave His life for us while we were still God's enemies.

2

READ Romans 5:10b (NLT) ...Our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies...

Q *How does it feel to know Jesus loved us even when we were against Him?*

Jesus' death opened the door for us to be God's friends...

3

READ 1 Peter 2:24 (NLT) He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.

Jesus carried our sins upon Himself so that we can go from being 'dead IN sin' to 'dead TO sin'. Jesus brings us forgiveness and life!



Close your eyes. Imagine lying on the road, unable to get up, and everyone walks past. Now picture Jesus coming, lifting you up, and carrying you to safety. That's what He did on the cross - He took our sin so we could be forgiven. If you haven't trusted Him yet, you can today: say you're sorry for your sin, thank Him for dying for you, and ask Him to be your Savior.



GOING FOR GOAL

PRAY: Thank Jesus for rescuing you from sin and giving you new life.

DO: Remember that in Jesus you are dead to sin!

TELL: Share with a friend that Jesus came to rescue us when we couldn't rescue ourselves.



FOCUS STUDY 4 GO AND DO LIKEWISE...



WARM UP

Q How was Footy honored after helping Grobb?

Q Who did Jesus tell the story to?



TEAM TALK

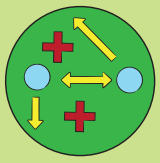
What's the nicest thing that someone has ever done for you? How did it make you feel?

What's the nicest thing you've ever done for someone else? How did they show their gratitude?



TRAINING - MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.



GOD'S GAME PLAN

1

Jesus didn't just teach love - He lived it! He washed His disciples' feet, healed the sick, forgave His enemies, and gave His life. We are called to walk in His footsteps.

READ John 13:15 (NIV) "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

Q *What are some ways Jesus showed love that we can imitate?*

2

It's easy to be kind to friends, but what about other people?

READ Luke 6:27-28 (NIV) "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you...."

Q *Why is it more powerful to love people who aren't kind to us?*

3

In the football story, Footy was honored for helping Grobb. When we love others and do good deeds, God gets the honor!

READ Matthew 5:16 (NLT) "In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

Q *Why do you think that Christ-like kindness points people to God?*



Close your eyes. Imagine holding a flashlight in a dark room. When you switch it on, the darkness disappears. That's what happens when we live with Jesus' love - our kindness shines His light into a dark world. If you know Jesus, ask Him to help you shine brightly this week. And if you don't yet, today is the day to trust Him, so His light can shine in you too.



GOING FOR GOAL

PRAY: Ask God to help you love people like Jesus, even when it's hard.

DO: Choose one person this week - maybe someone you don't normally get along with - and do something kind for them.

TELL: Share with a friend that we can love our enemies because Jesus first loved us.

MEMORY VERSE

See if you can learn this verse!

Mark 12:31b (NIV) '...Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Romans 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

LESSON KEY POINTS

- ▶ Everyone is my neighbor! God calls us to love all people, not just our friends.
- ▶ Real love costs something - true compassion means putting others before ourselves.
- ▶ Jesus is our Good Samaritan. We are helpless in sin, but He rescued us by dying in our place.
- ▶ We are called to love like Jesus. Show kindness, even to people who are hard to love.
- ▶ Our love shines His light. When we live differently, people see Jesus through us!

