

Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

POSSESSING THE LAND / CITIES OF REFUGE

by

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JOSHUA 13:1–7; 14:6–14; 17:14–18; 20:1–9

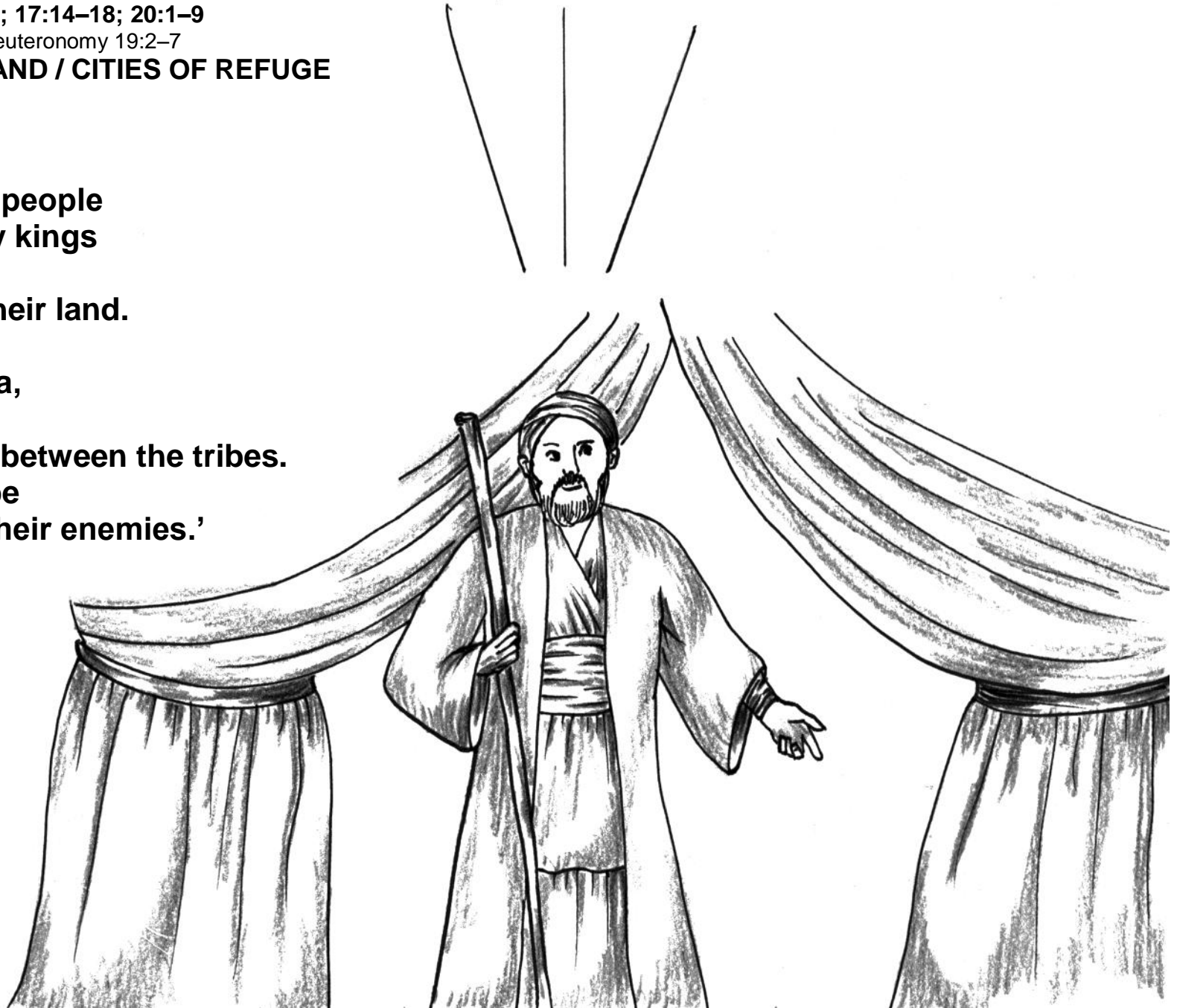
Numbers 35:1–15, 22–29; Deuteronomy 19:2–7

POSSESSING THE LAND / CITIES OF REFUGE

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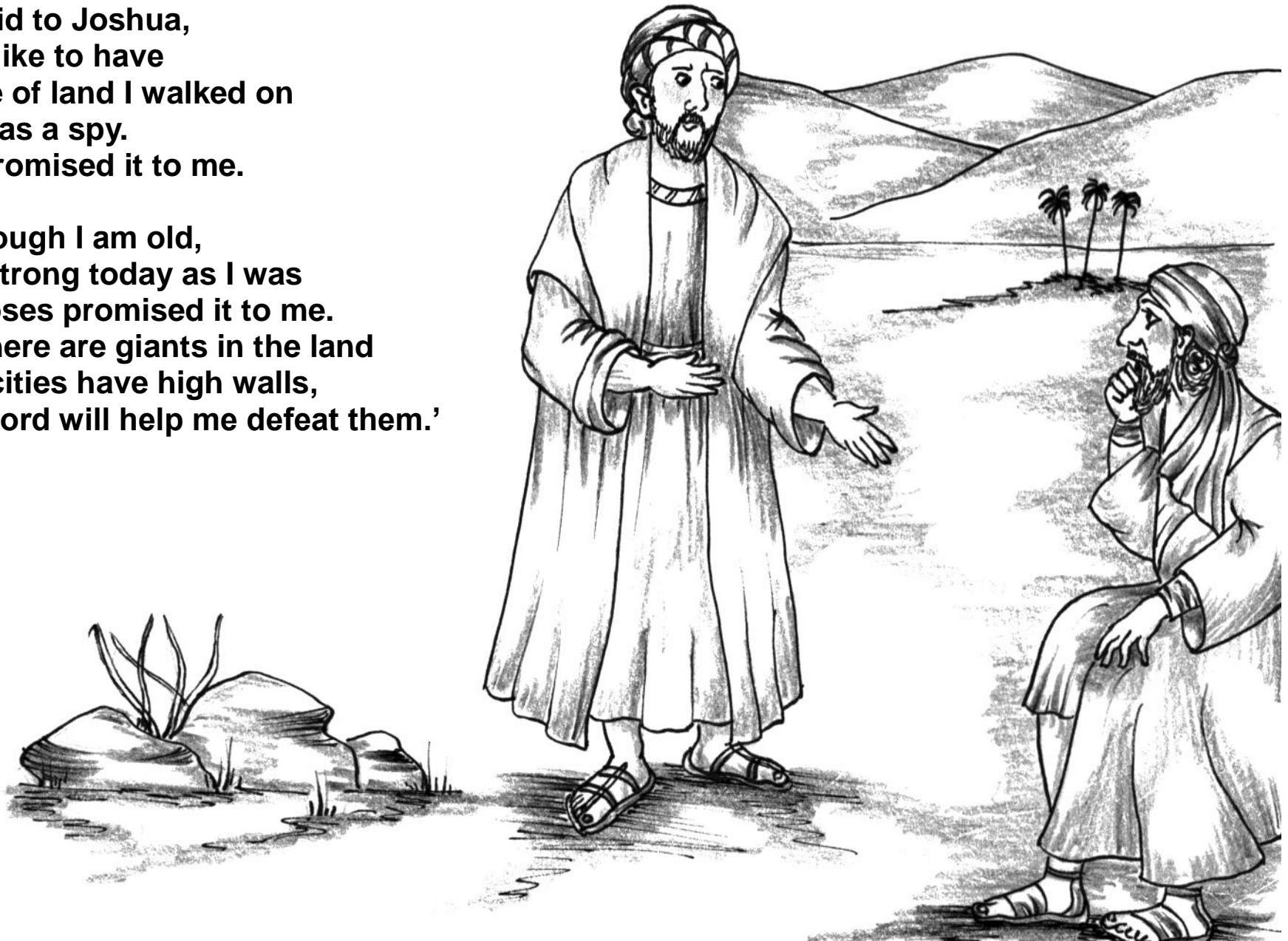
**Joshua and God's people
had defeated many kings
in just a few years.
Now they owned their land.**

**God said to Joshua,
'You are old now.
Divide up the land between the tribes.
I will help each tribe
defeat the rest of their enemies.'**

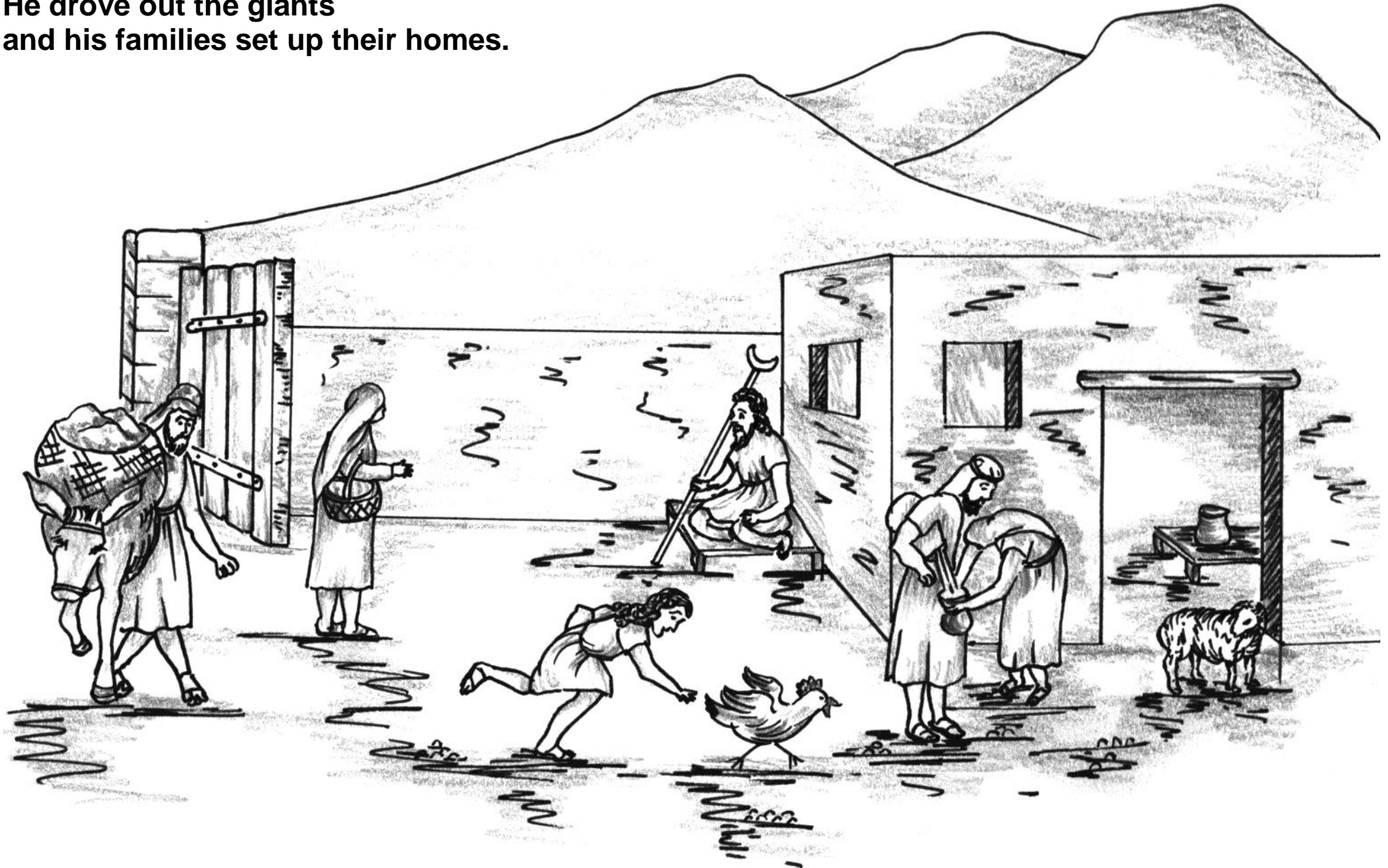


**Caleb said to Joshua,
'I would like to have
the piece of land I walked on
when I was a spy.
Moses promised it to me.**

**'Even though I am old,
I am as strong today as I was
when Moses promised it to me.
I know there are giants in the land
and the cities have high walls,
but the Lord will help me defeat them.'**



**Caleb was given the land he asked for.
He drove out the giants
and his families set up their homes.**



**The leaders of two other tribes
asked Joshua,
'Why have you given us
only one piece of land?
God has blessed us
and made us into a big family.
We need more land.'**

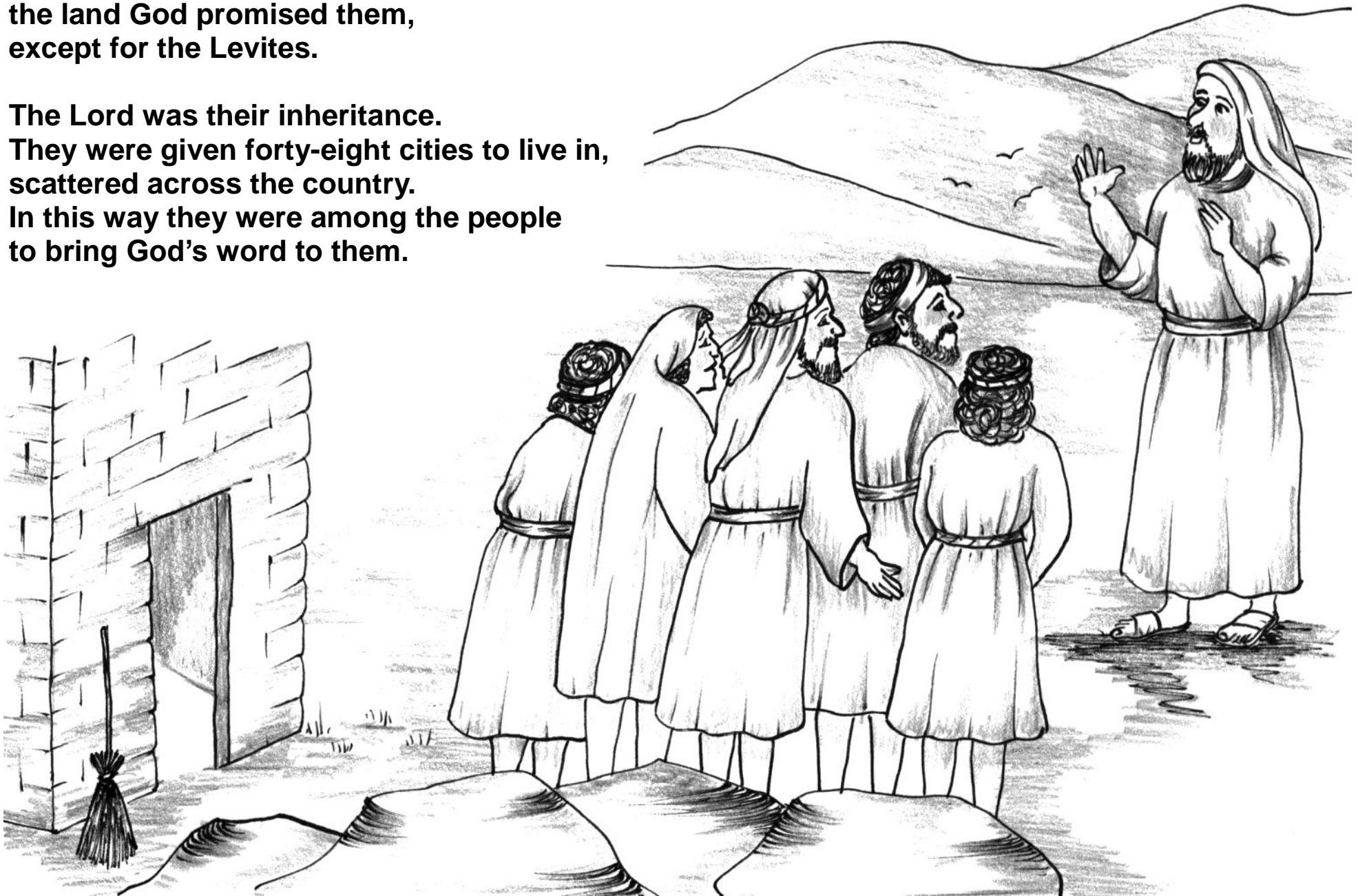
**Joshua replied,
'Yes, you are a big family.
You can have the hill country.
It is full of trees,
but you are strong
and there is a lot of you
to clear the land.'**

**'Don't be afraid of the people
you have seen in the cities.
They look strong
with their iron chariots,
but you will defeat them.'**



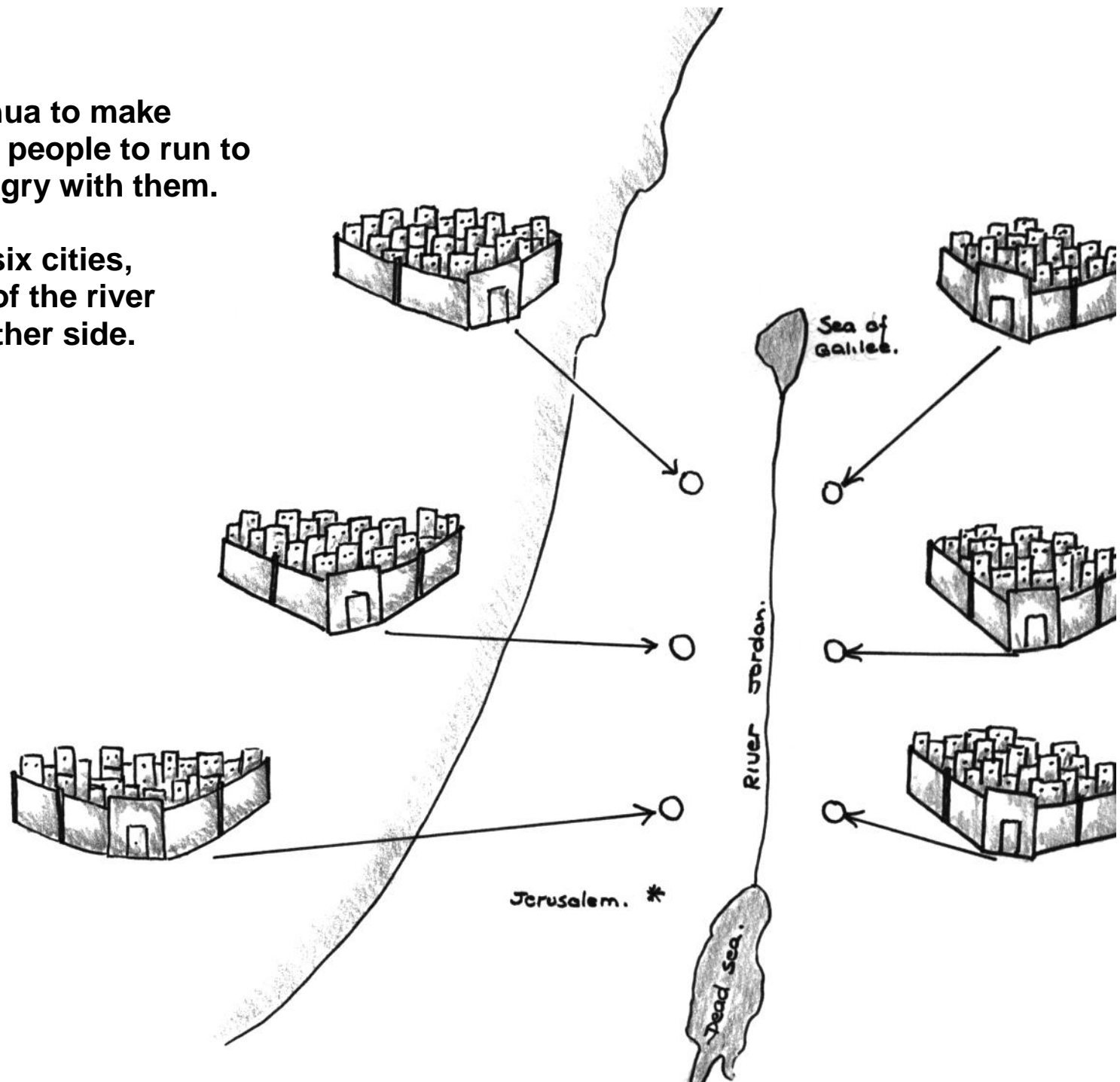
All the tribes had now been given the land God promised them, except for the Levites.

The Lord was their inheritance. They were given forty-eight cities to live in, scattered across the country. In this way they were among the people to bring God's word to them.



God also told Joshua to make safe places for His people to run to if someone was angry with them.

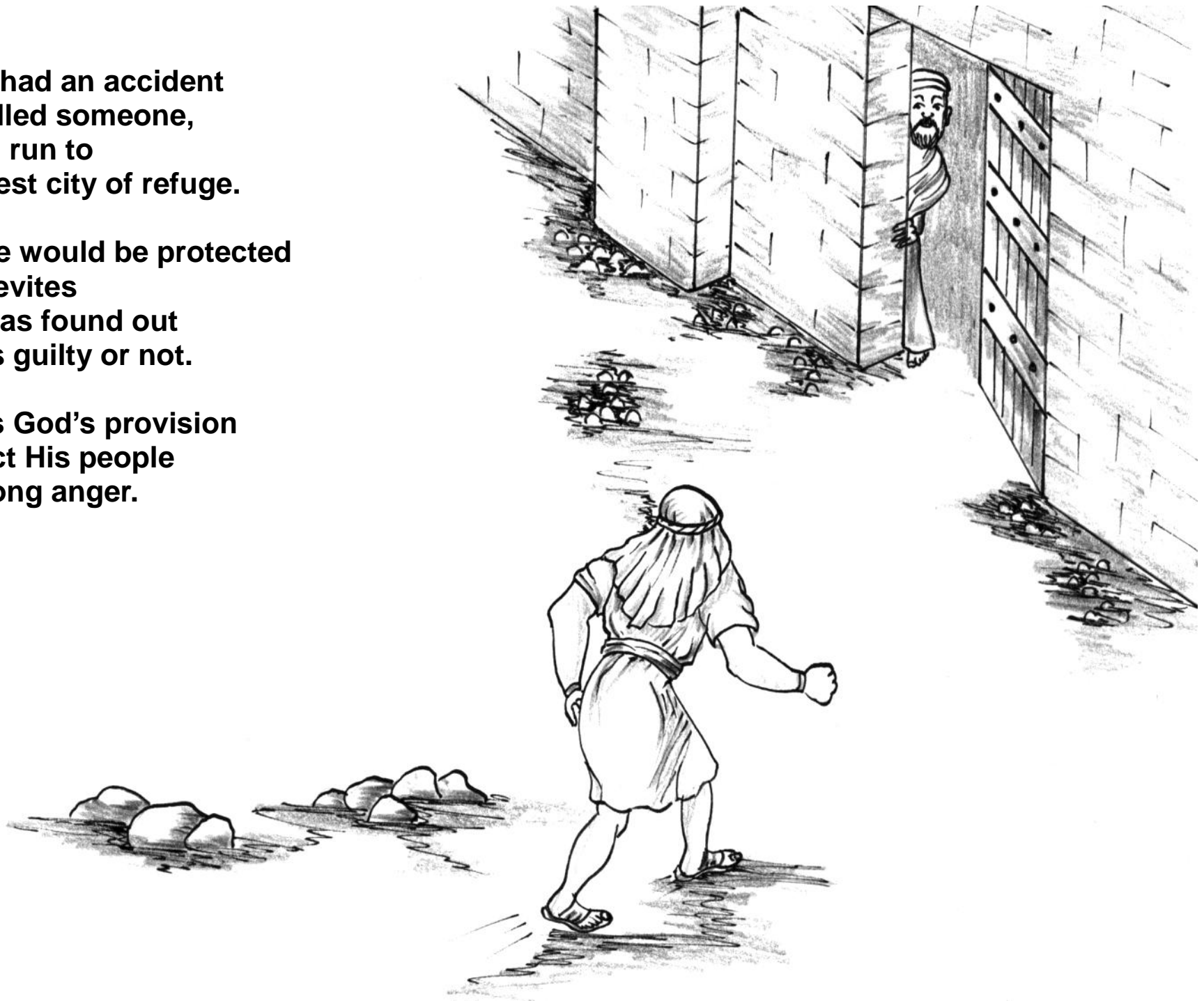
So Joshua chose six cities, three on one side of the river and three on the other side. They were called 'cities of refuge'.



**If a man had an accident
which killed someone,
he could run to
the nearest city of refuge.**

**There, he would be protected
by the Levites
until it was found out
if he was guilty or not.**

**This was God's provision
to protect His people
from wrong anger.**



***In this story
of God bringing His people
to the land He promised them,
God was showing everyone
His plan to have a family
where they would live with Him.***

***God has done this
through Jesus Christ.
He is gathering a family
of His people
and bringing them to
live with Him forever.***