

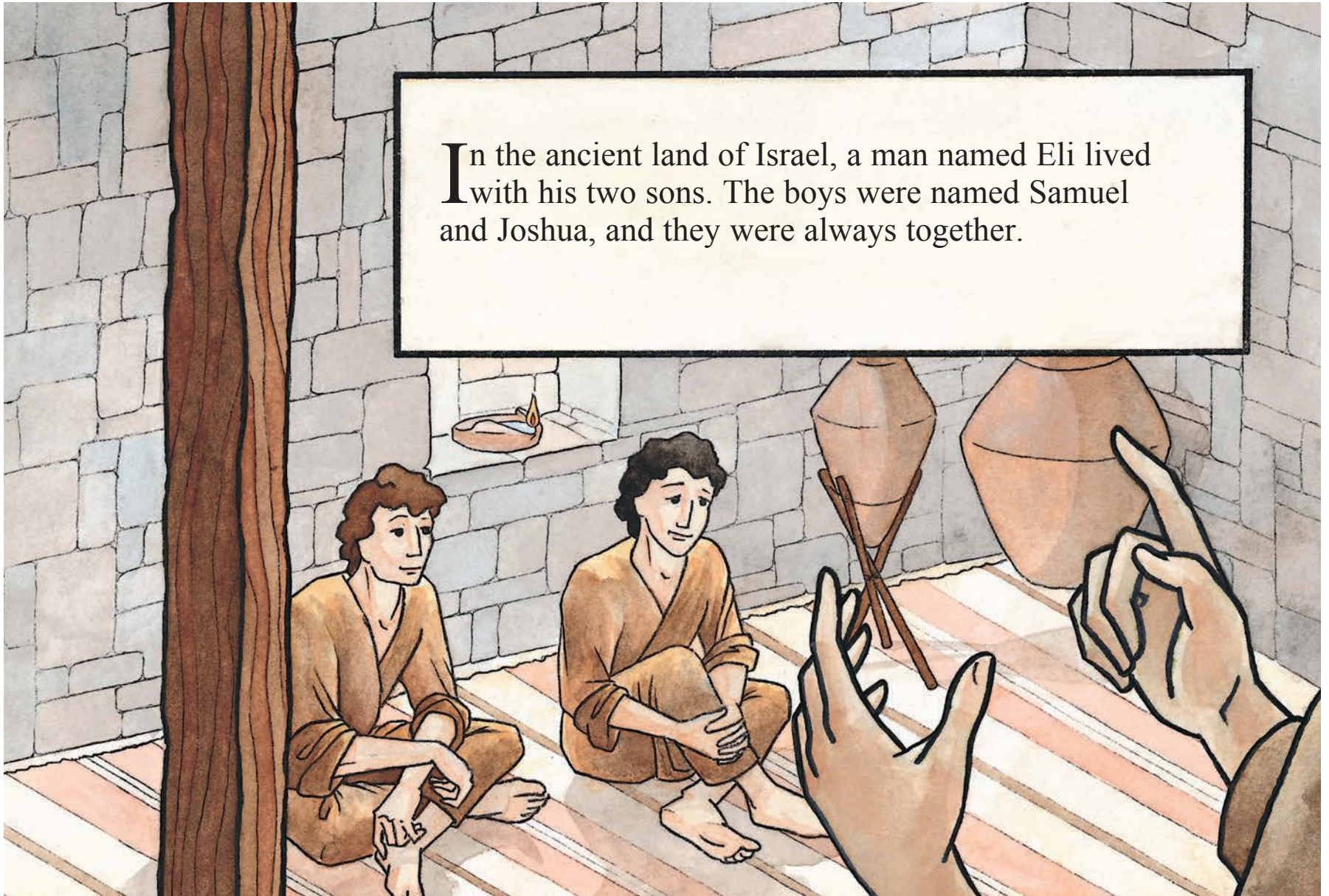
An illustration of two men in ancient-style clothing, possibly Hebrew, standing behind a stone wall. They are holding long wooden spears with multiple prongs at the top. Sparks are flying from the spears, suggesting they are being used to throw fire or sparks. The man on the left is wearing a brown tunic and a head covering, while the man on the right is wearing a brown tunic and a head covering. The background is a light blue sky. The title 'THE BROTHERS' is written in large, black, serif capital letters to the right of the men.

THE BROTHERS

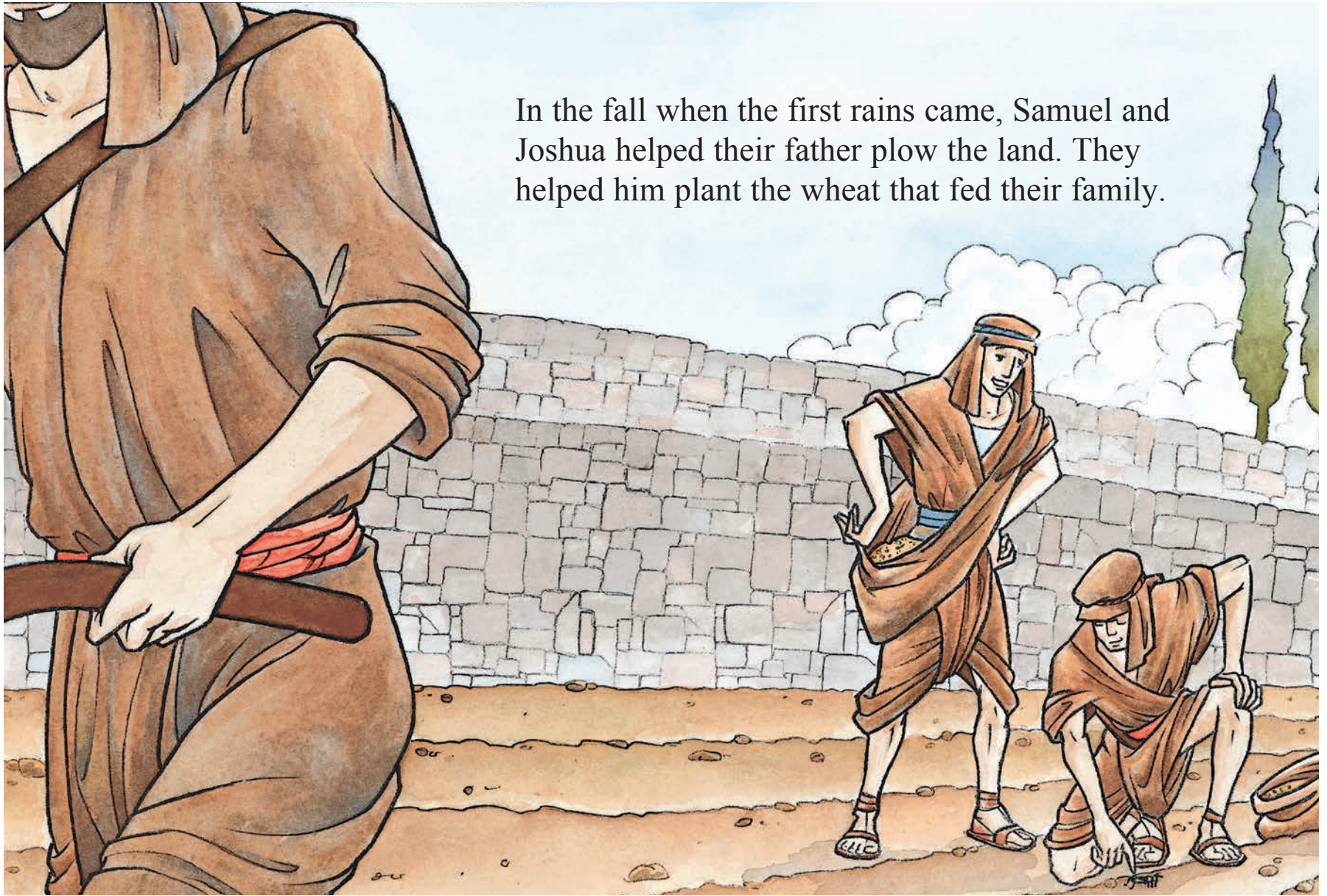
REWRITTEN BY ELIZABETH LANE

ILLUSTRATED BY BRENDEN TAYLOR

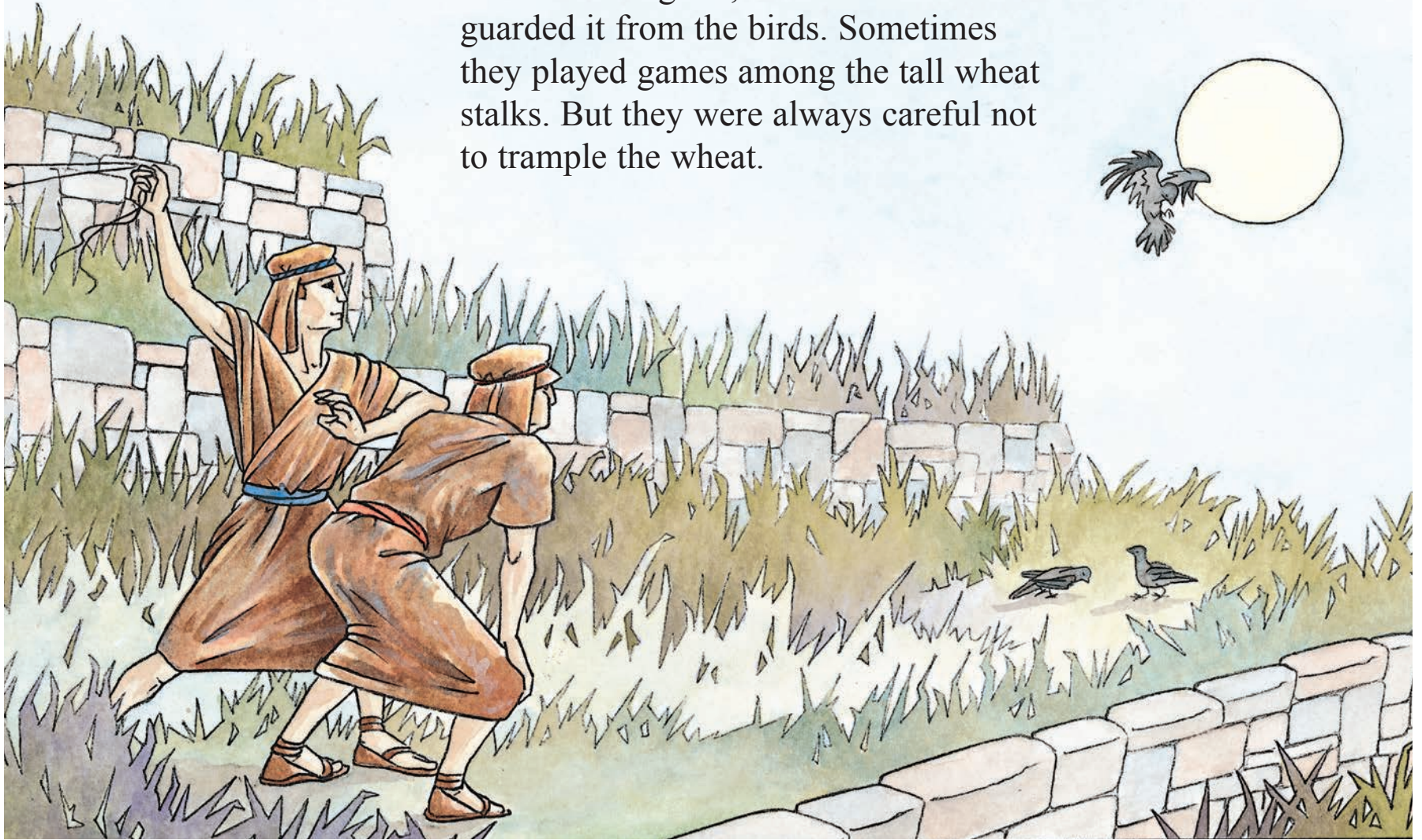
In the ancient land of Israel, a man named Eli lived with his two sons. The boys were named Samuel and Joshua, and they were always together.



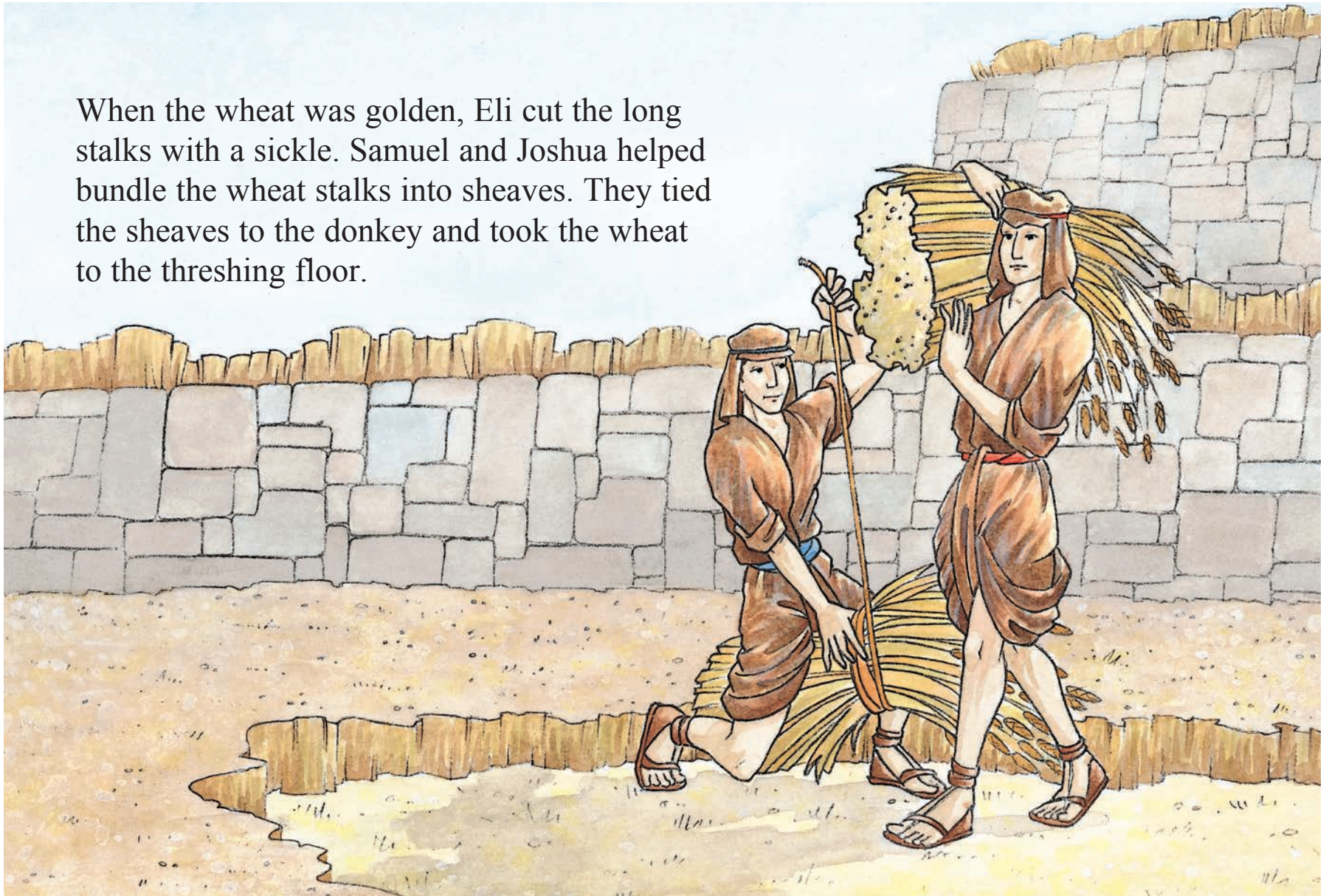
In the fall when the first rains came, Samuel and Joshua helped their father plow the land. They helped him plant the wheat that fed their family.

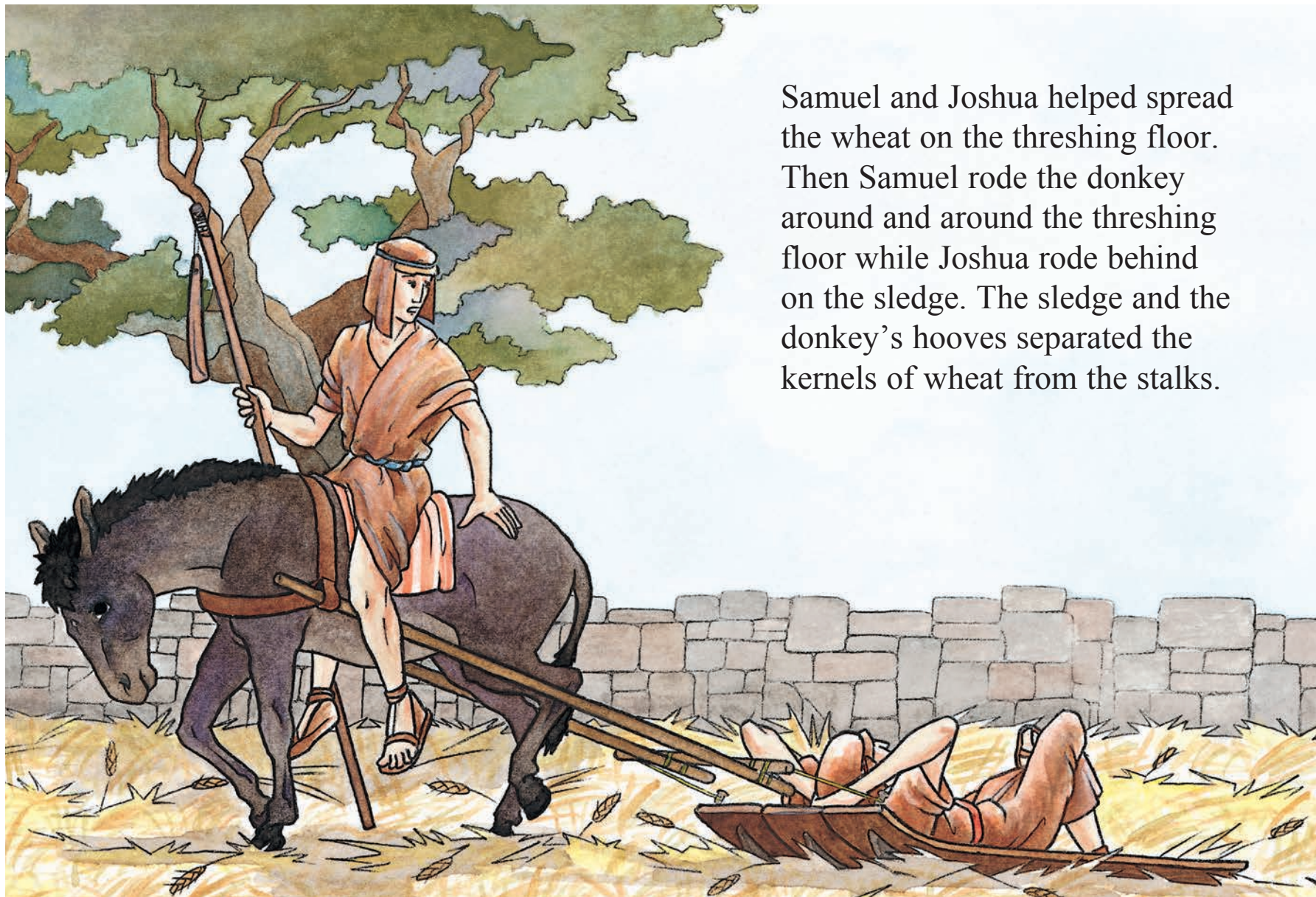


As the wheat grew, Samuel and Joshua guarded it from the birds. Sometimes they played games among the tall wheat stalks. But they were always careful not to trample the wheat.

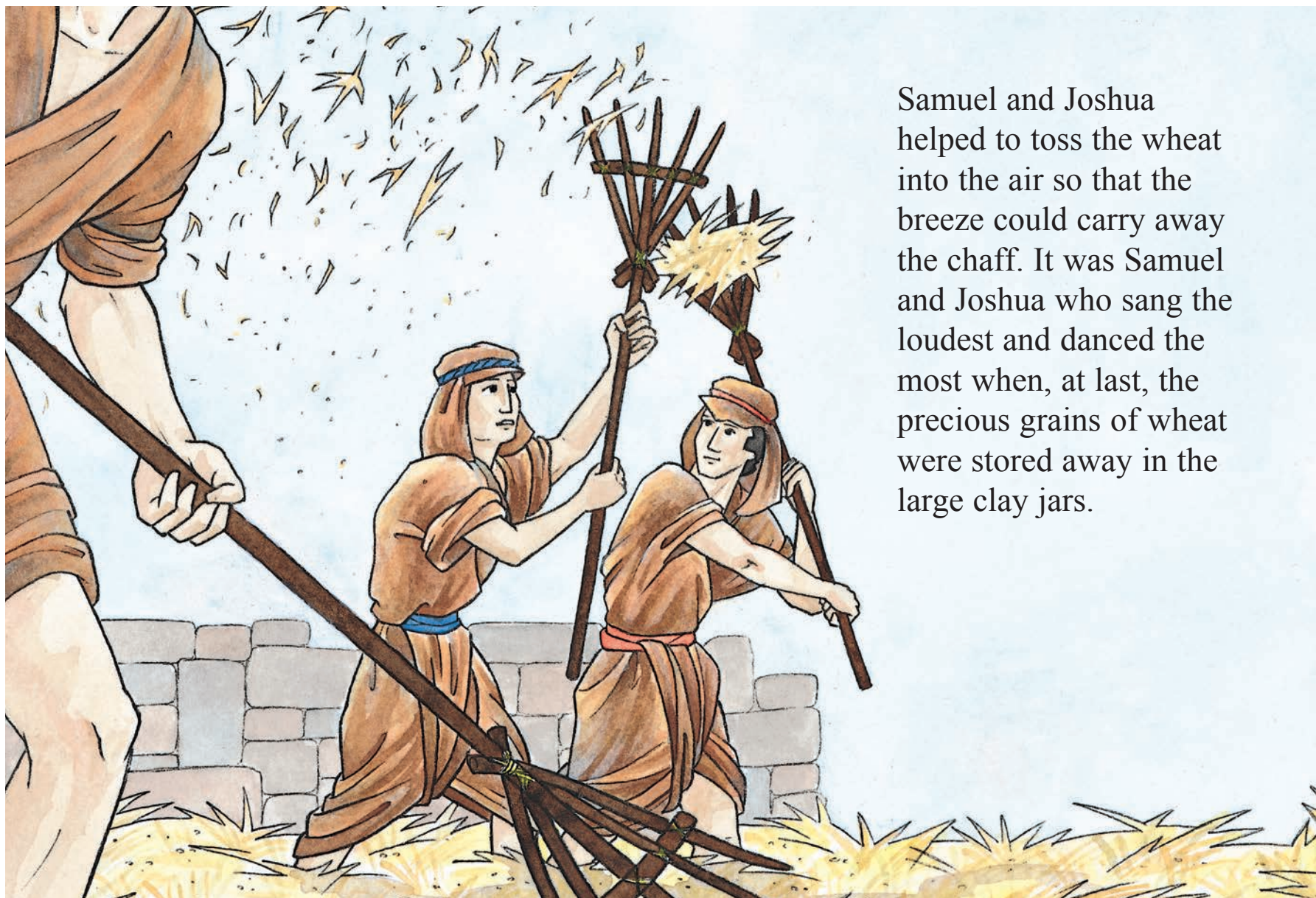


When the wheat was golden, Eli cut the long stalks with a sickle. Samuel and Joshua helped bundle the wheat stalks into sheaves. They tied the sheaves to the donkey and took the wheat to the threshing floor.

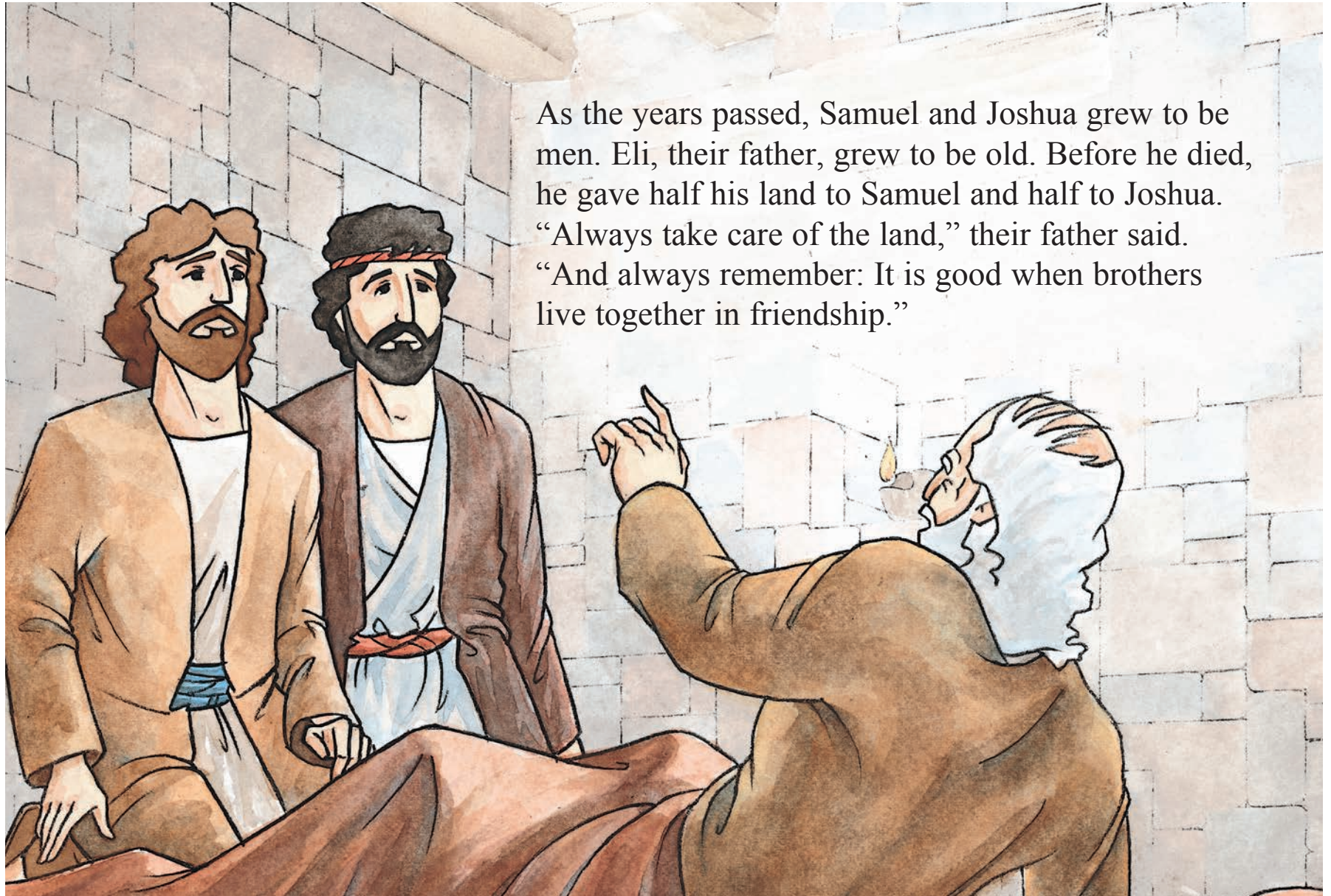




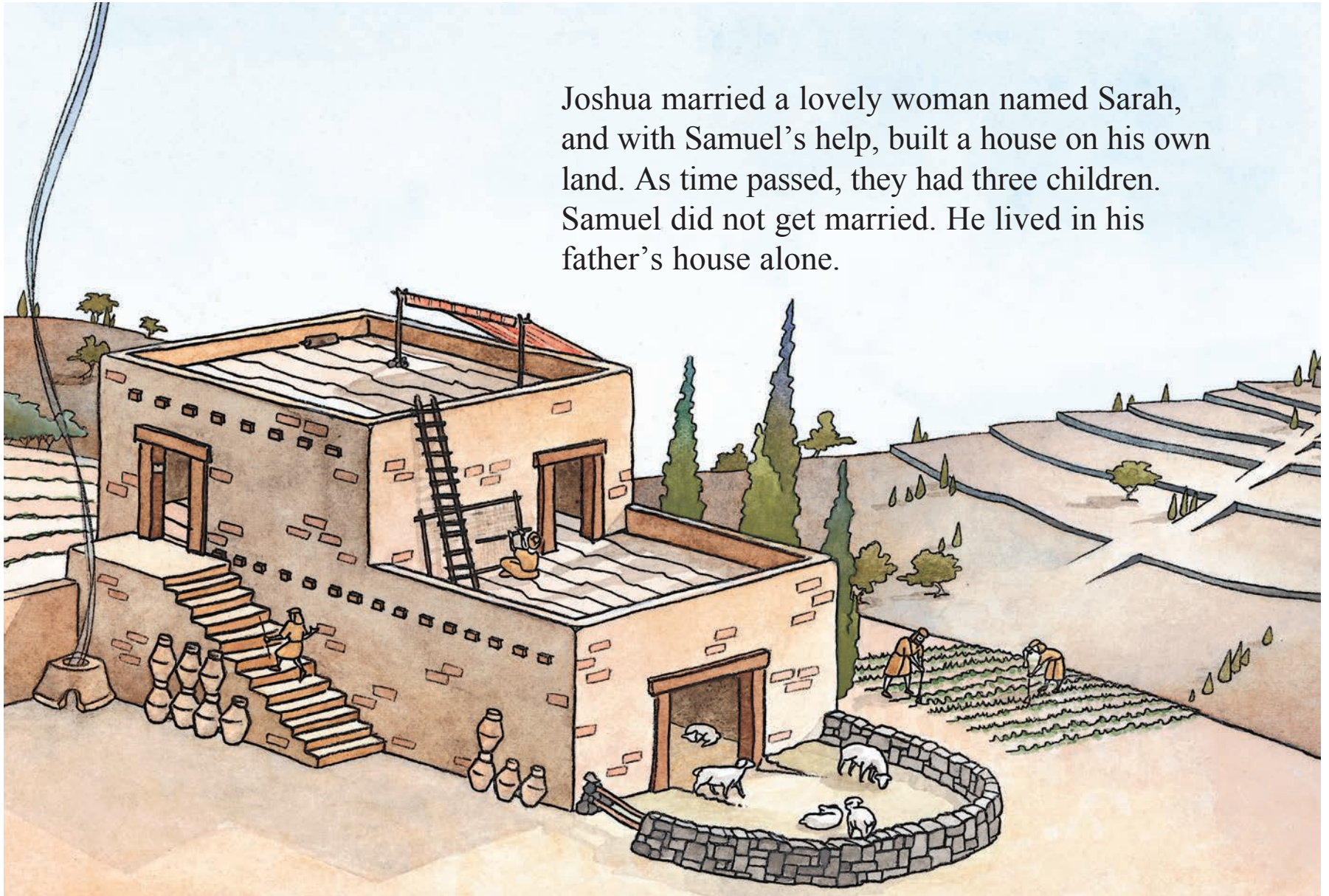
Samuel and Joshua helped spread the wheat on the threshing floor. Then Samuel rode the donkey around and around the threshing floor while Joshua rode behind on the sledge. The sledge and the donkey's hooves separated the kernels of wheat from the stalks.



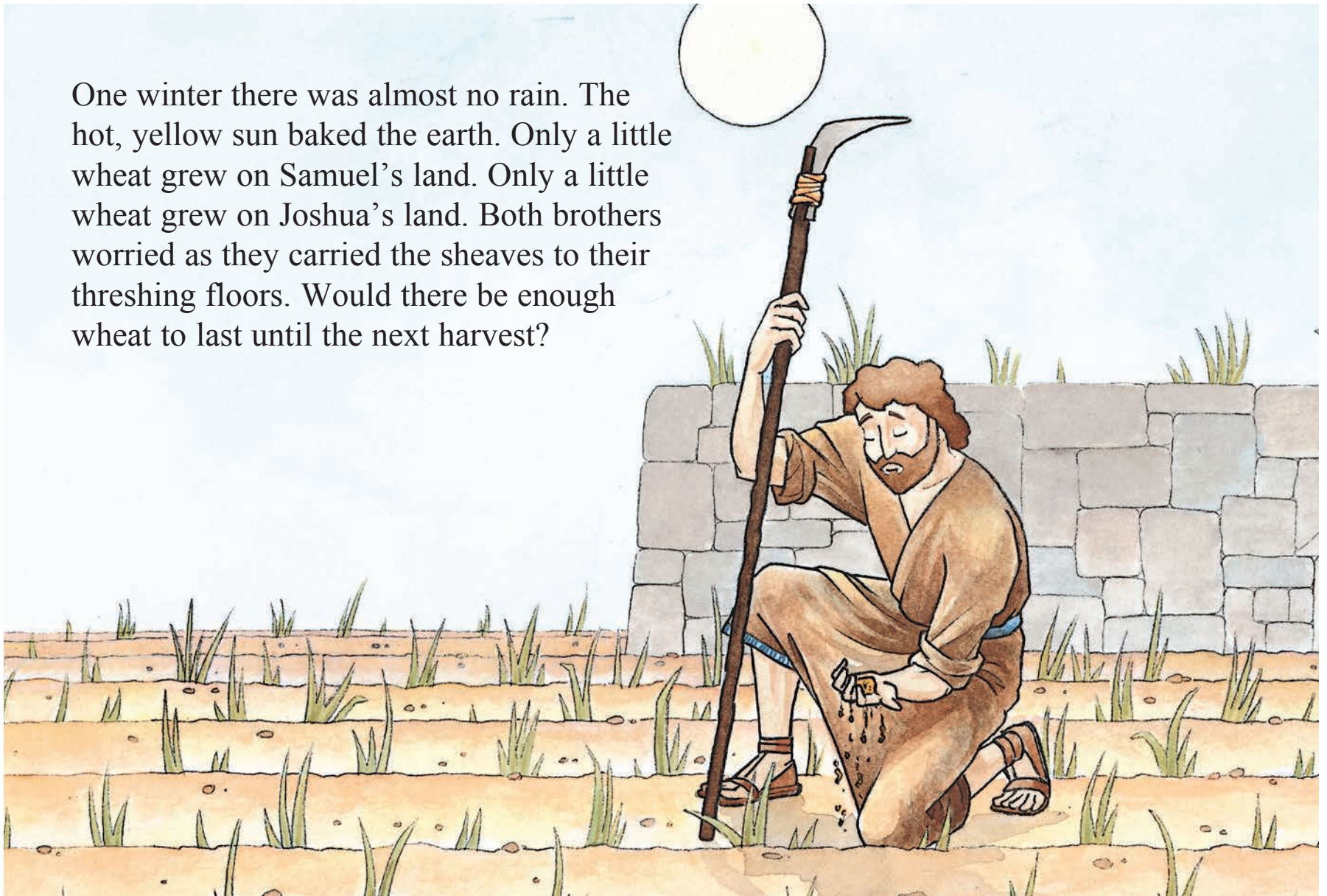
Samuel and Joshua helped to toss the wheat into the air so that the breeze could carry away the chaff. It was Samuel and Joshua who sang the loudest and danced the most when, at last, the precious grains of wheat were stored away in the large clay jars.



Joshua married a lovely woman named Sarah,
and with Samuel's help, built a house on his own
land. As time passed, they had three children.
Samuel did not get married. He lived in his
father's house alone.

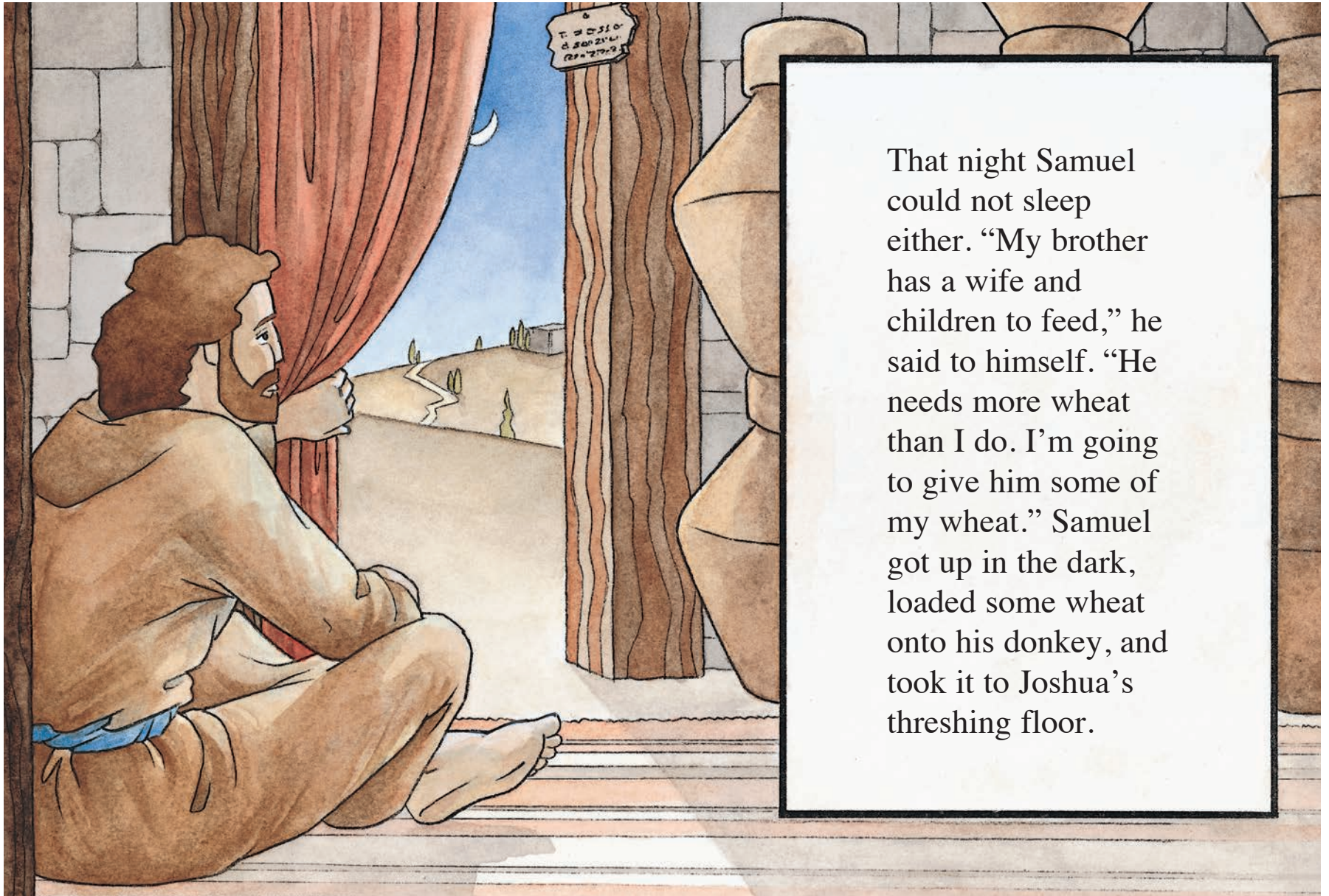


One winter there was almost no rain. The hot, yellow sun baked the earth. Only a little wheat grew on Samuel's land. Only a little wheat grew on Joshua's land. Both brothers worried as they carried the sheaves to their threshing floors. Would there be enough wheat to last until the next harvest?



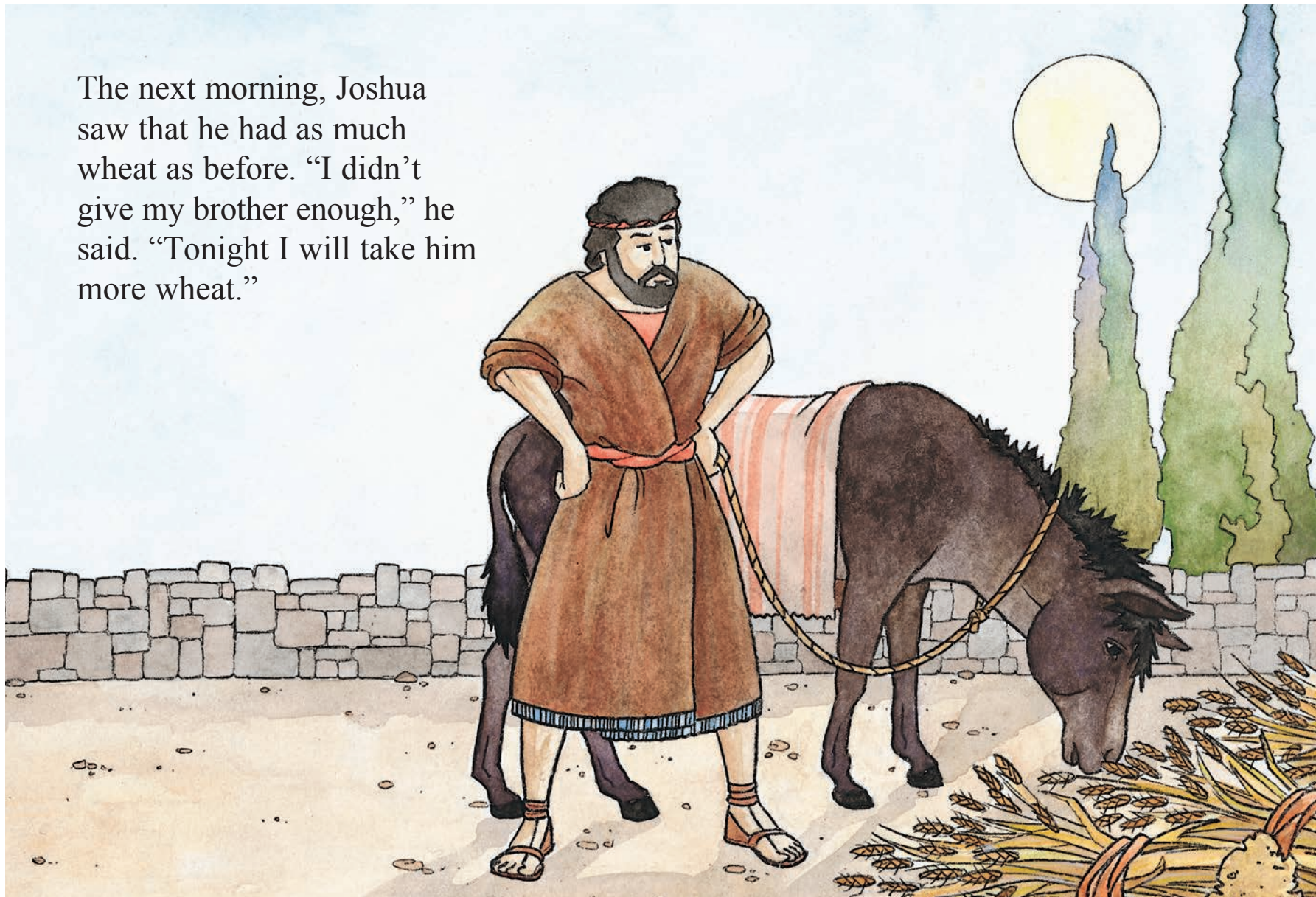


That night Joshua could not sleep. "I have a family to help me," he said to Sarah. "But Samuel is all alone. I'm going to give him some of my wheat." Joshua got up in the dark, loaded some wheat onto his donkey, and took it to Samuel's threshing floor.

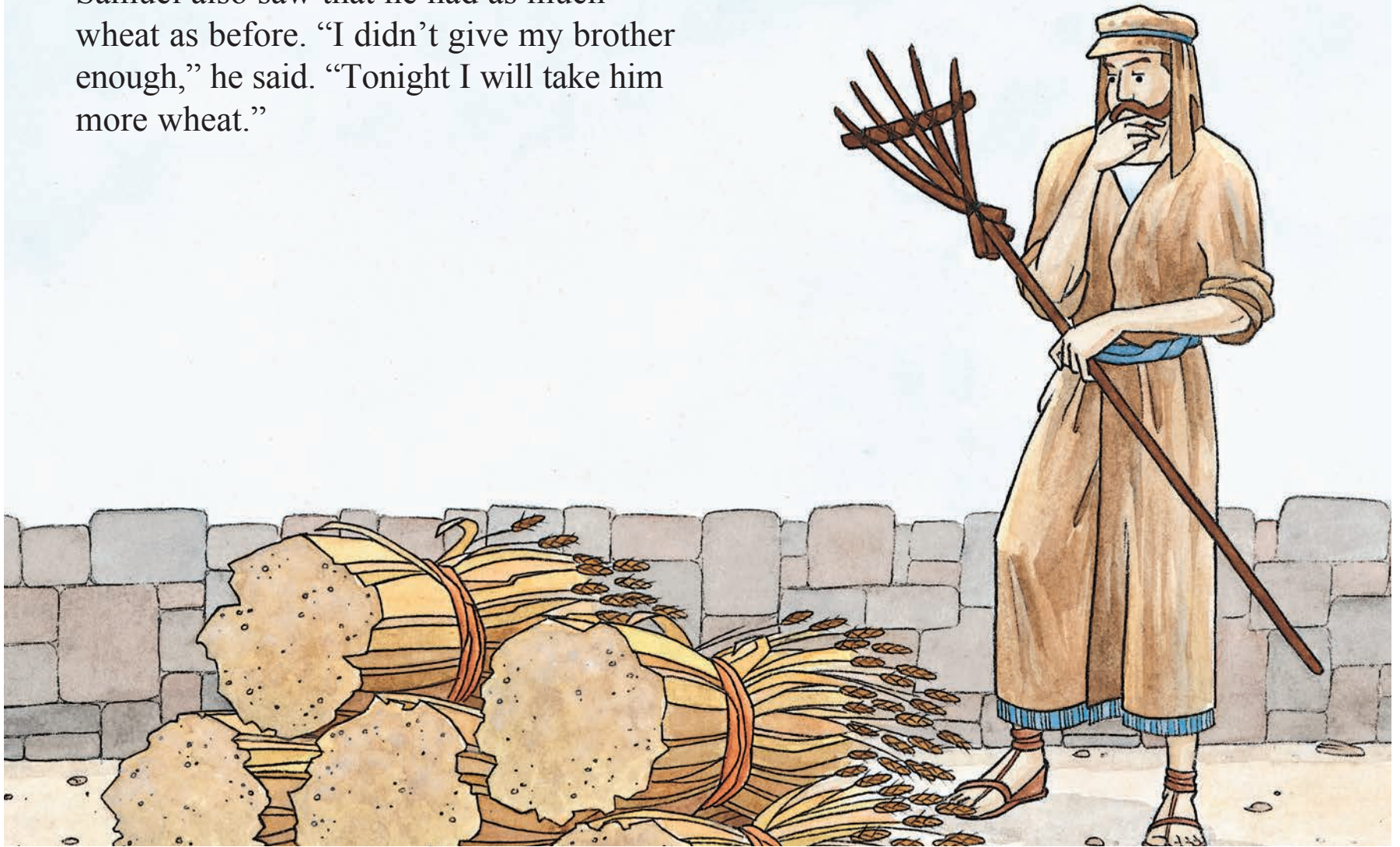


That night Samuel could not sleep either. “My brother has a wife and children to feed,” he said to himself. “He needs more wheat than I do. I’m going to give him some of my wheat.” Samuel got up in the dark, loaded some wheat onto his donkey, and took it to Joshua’s threshing floor.

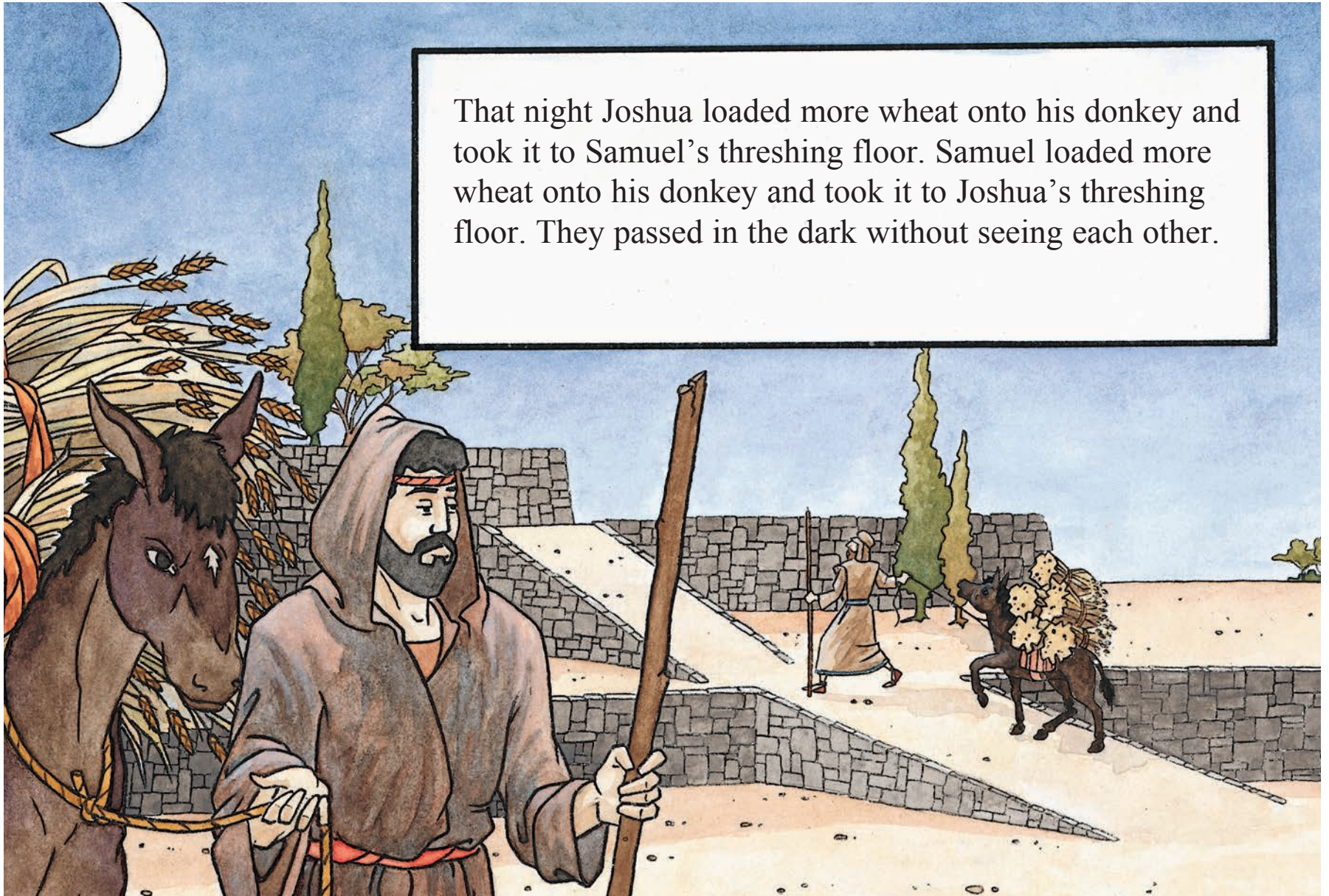
The next morning, Joshua saw that he had as much wheat as before. “I didn’t give my brother enough,” he said. “Tonight I will take him more wheat.”

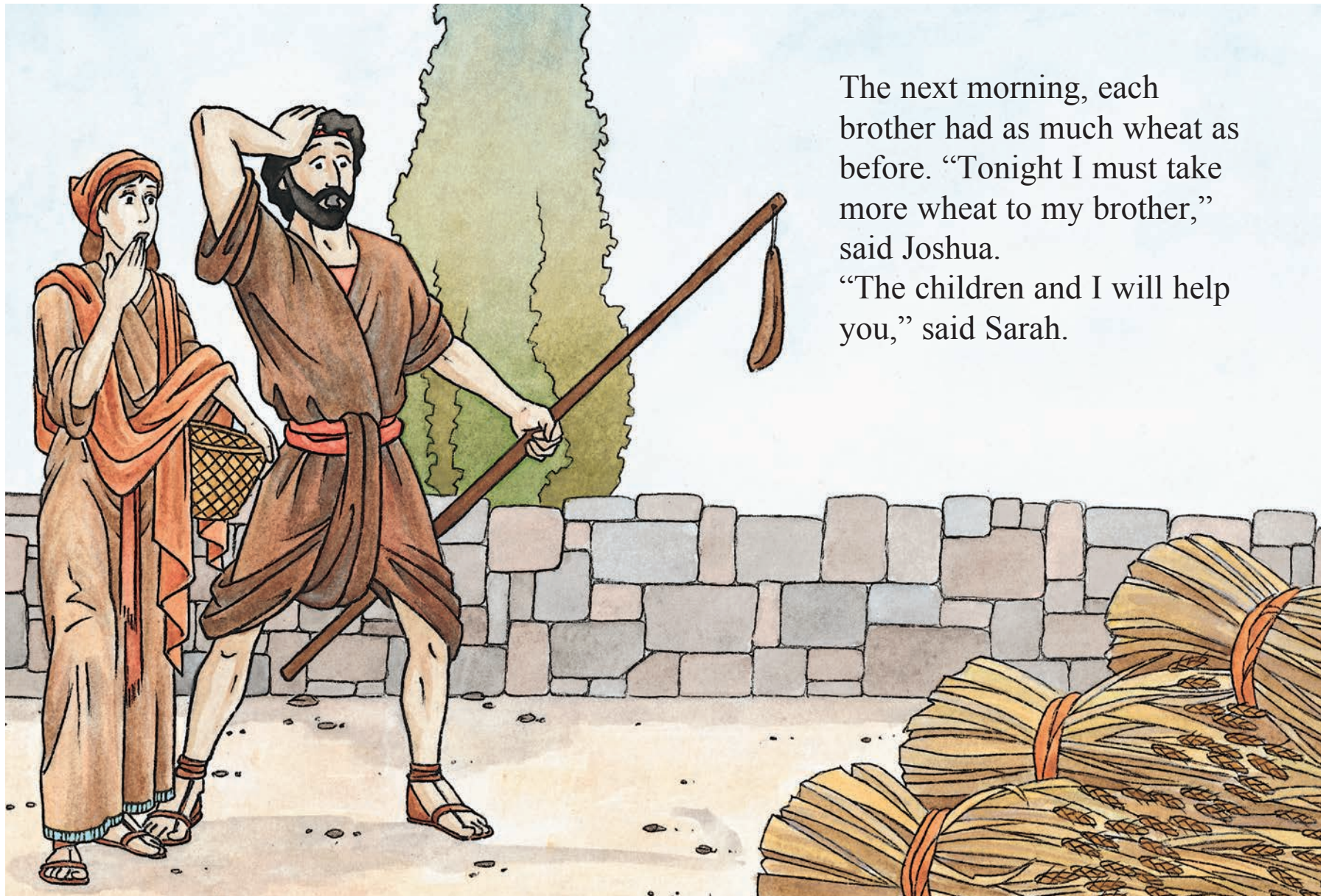


Samuel also saw that he had as much wheat as before. “I didn’t give my brother enough,” he said. “Tonight I will take him more wheat.”



That night Joshua loaded more wheat onto his donkey and took it to Samuel's threshing floor. Samuel loaded more wheat onto his donkey and took it to Joshua's threshing floor. They passed in the dark without seeing each other.



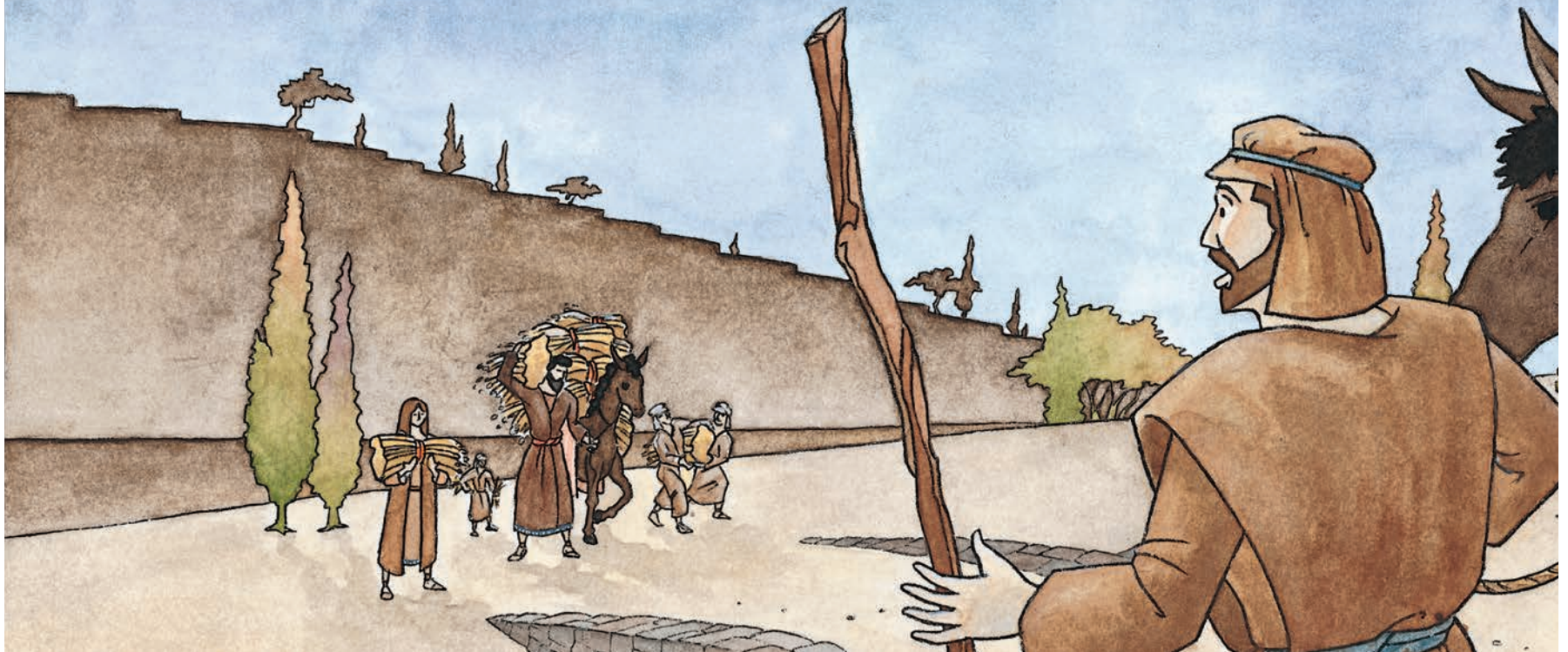


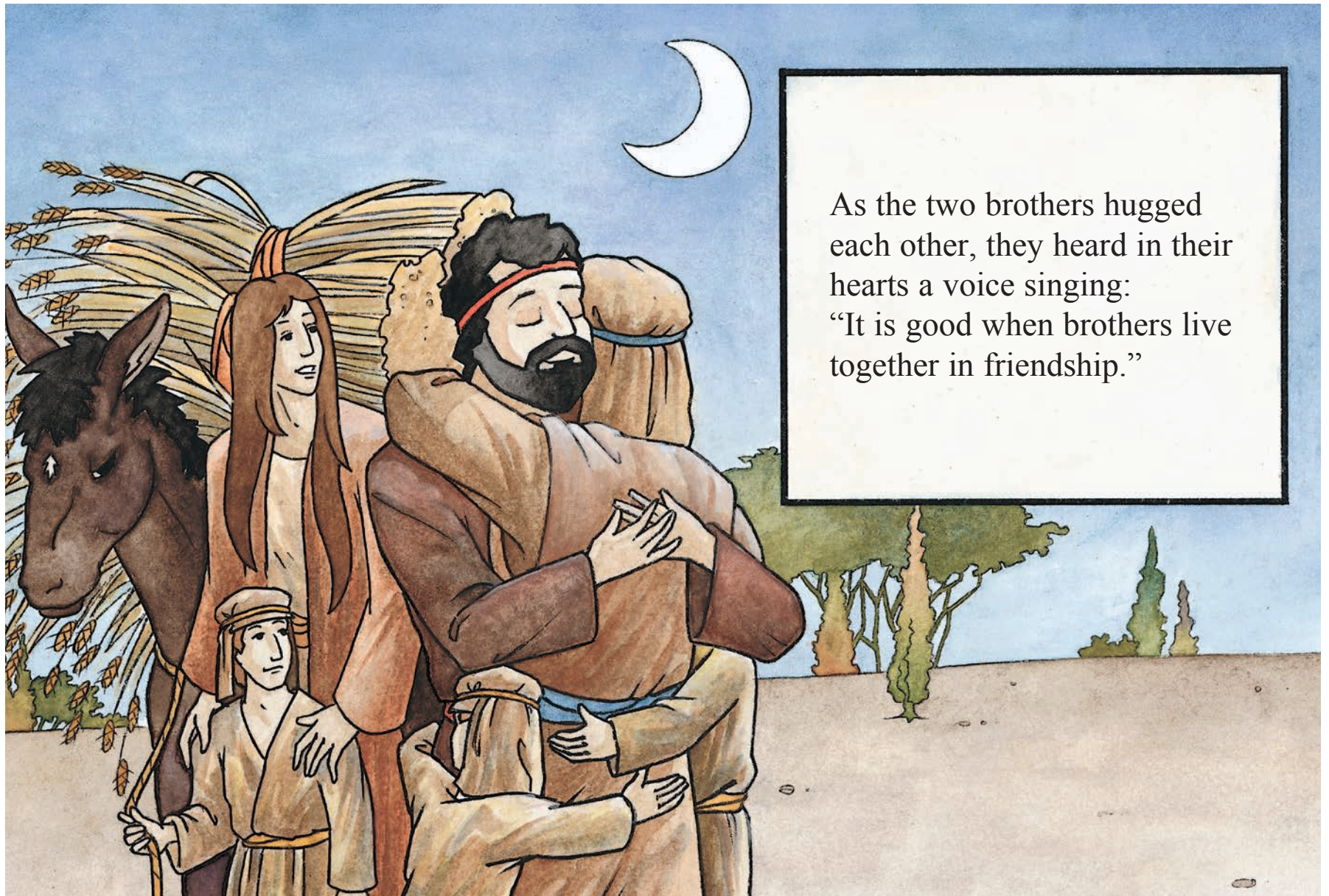
The next morning, each brother had as much wheat as before. “Tonight I must take more wheat to my brother,” said Joshua. “The children and I will help you,” said Sarah.

That night Joshua loaded his donkey with wheat. Sarah and the children gathered up all the wheat they could carry. They all set out for Samuel's threshing floor.



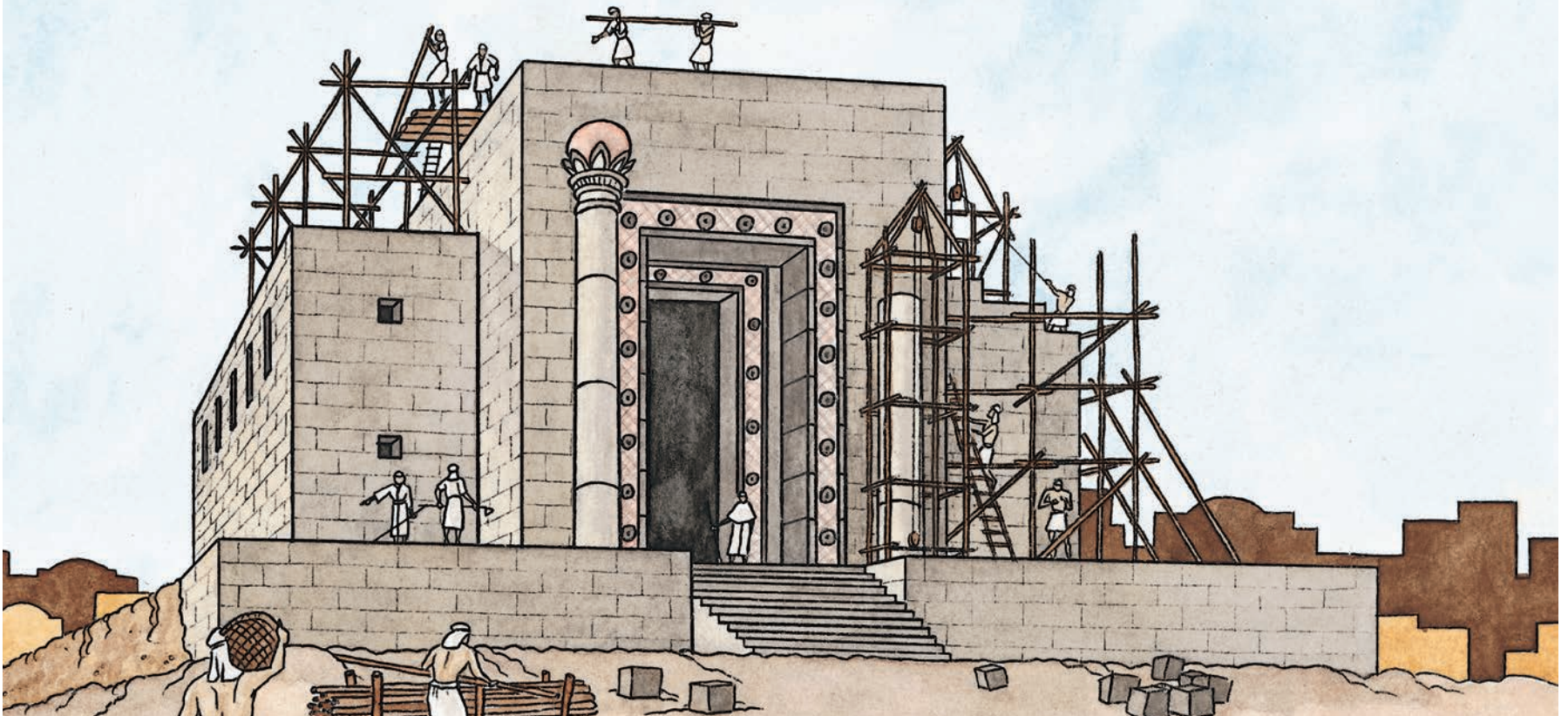
Samuel was taking more wheat to his brother when he saw Joshua's family coming across the field. He dropped the wheat and ran to meet them.



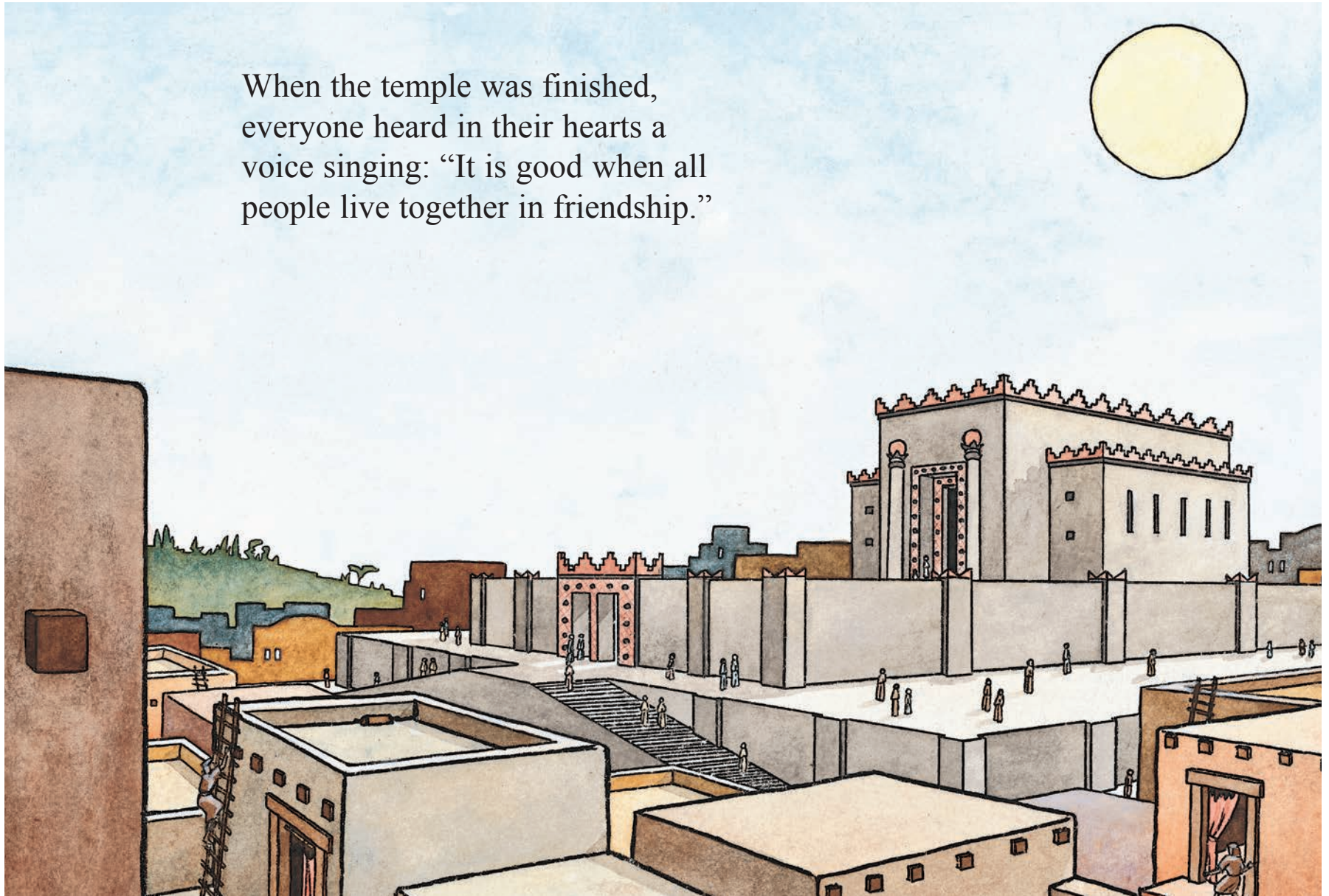


As the two brothers hugged each other, they heard in their hearts a voice singing:
“It is good when brothers live together in friendship.”

Hundreds of years passed, and where the brothers' fields used to be, a city grew up—the city of Jerusalem. On the place where the brothers had met and hugged each other in the night, King Solomon built the Holy Temple.



When the temple was finished,
everyone heard in their hearts a
voice singing: "It is good when all
people live together in friendship."



Reading

Traditional Tales are beautifully illustrated stories from around the world designed to be shared with children of all ages.

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