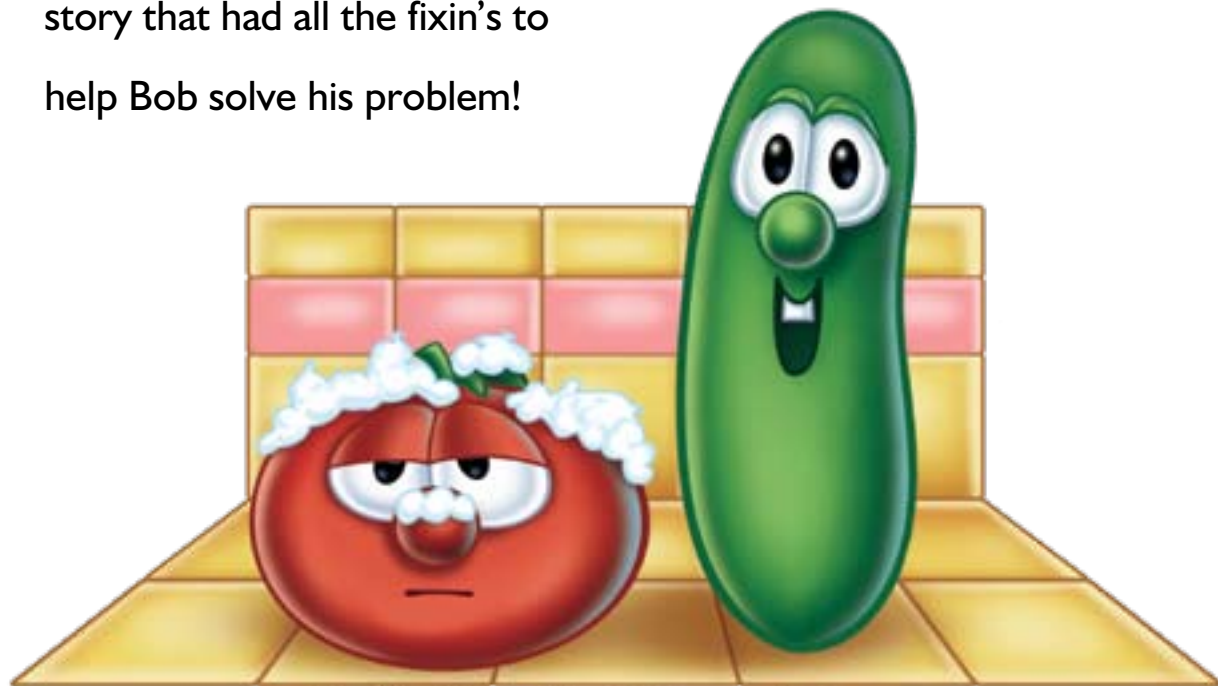


Howdy Partners!

Some folks have been teasin' and pushin' my partner, Bob the Tomato, around lately. The other day, somebody filled his mailbox with whipped cream. I thought he should sprinkle in some nuts ... add a little hot fudge ... a cherry ... and enjoy the treat!

Bob disagreed. And he really got his feelings hurt too because it's hard when things always seem to be going wrong. So I found a rootin' tootin' western Bible story that had all the fixin's to help Bob solve his problem!



The Ballad of Little Joe

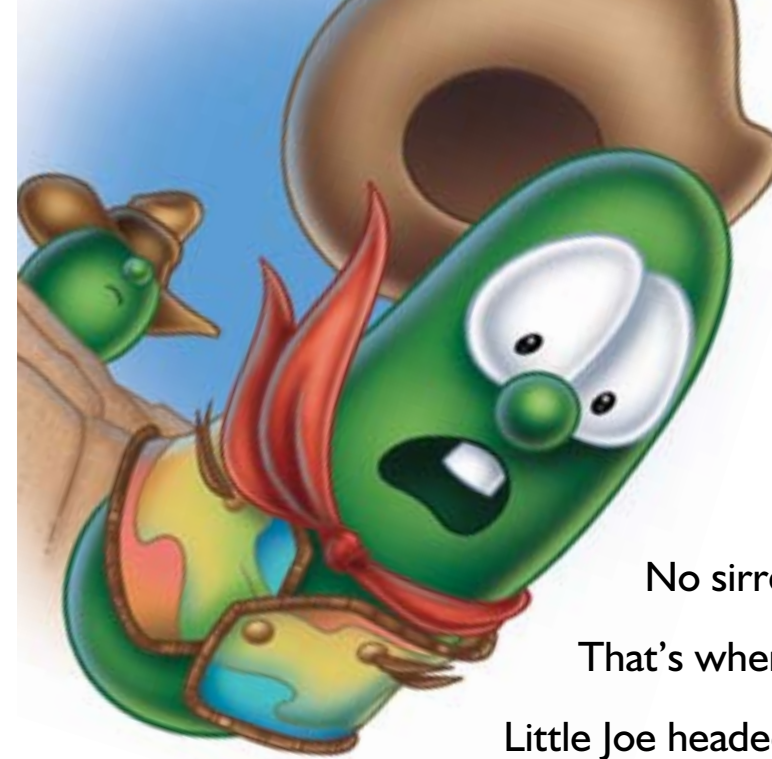
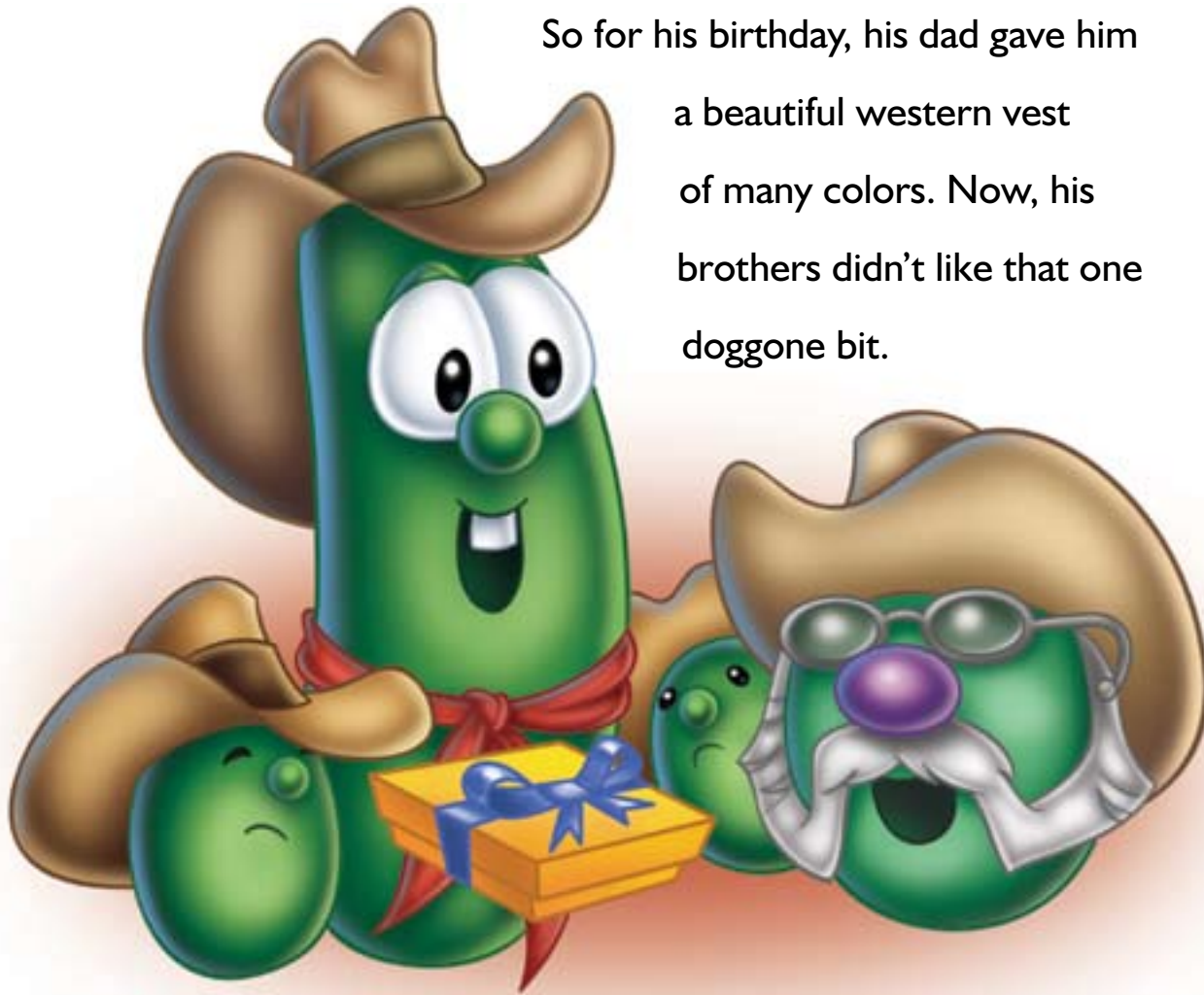


Yippee Ki
yay ki yay!
Today is a
special day!

Way out west, at the Okie Dokie Corral, lived a guy named Little Joe. He lived with his eleven cowboy brothers, all of whom had French accents.

Little Joe was his father's favorite son.

So for his birthday, his dad gave him a beautiful western vest of many colors. Now, his brothers didn't like that one doggone bit.



No sirree.

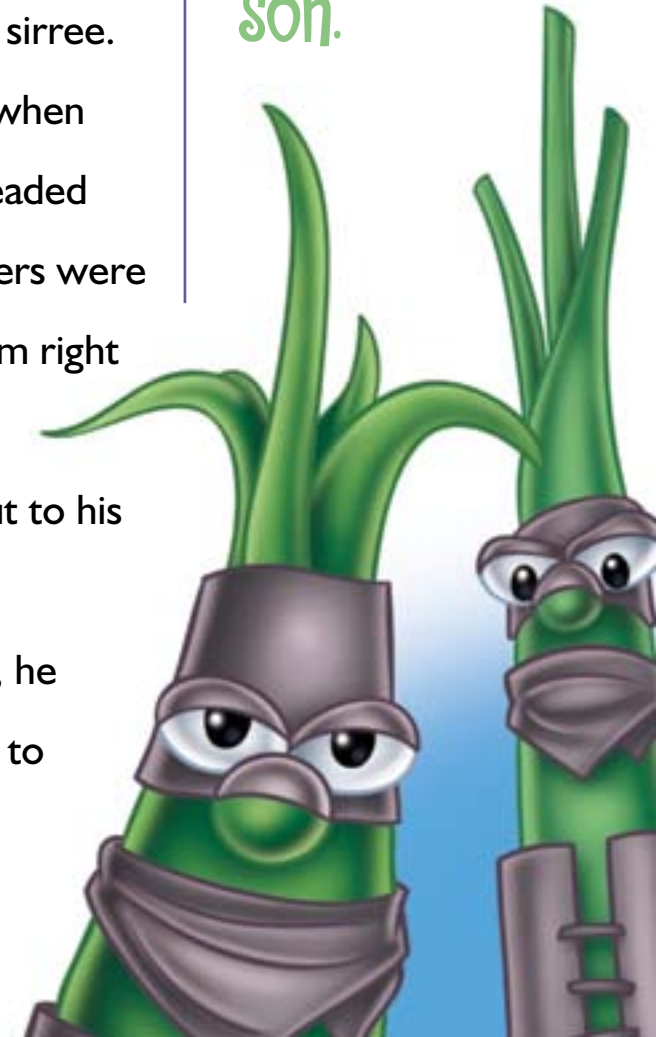
That's when
Little Joe headed

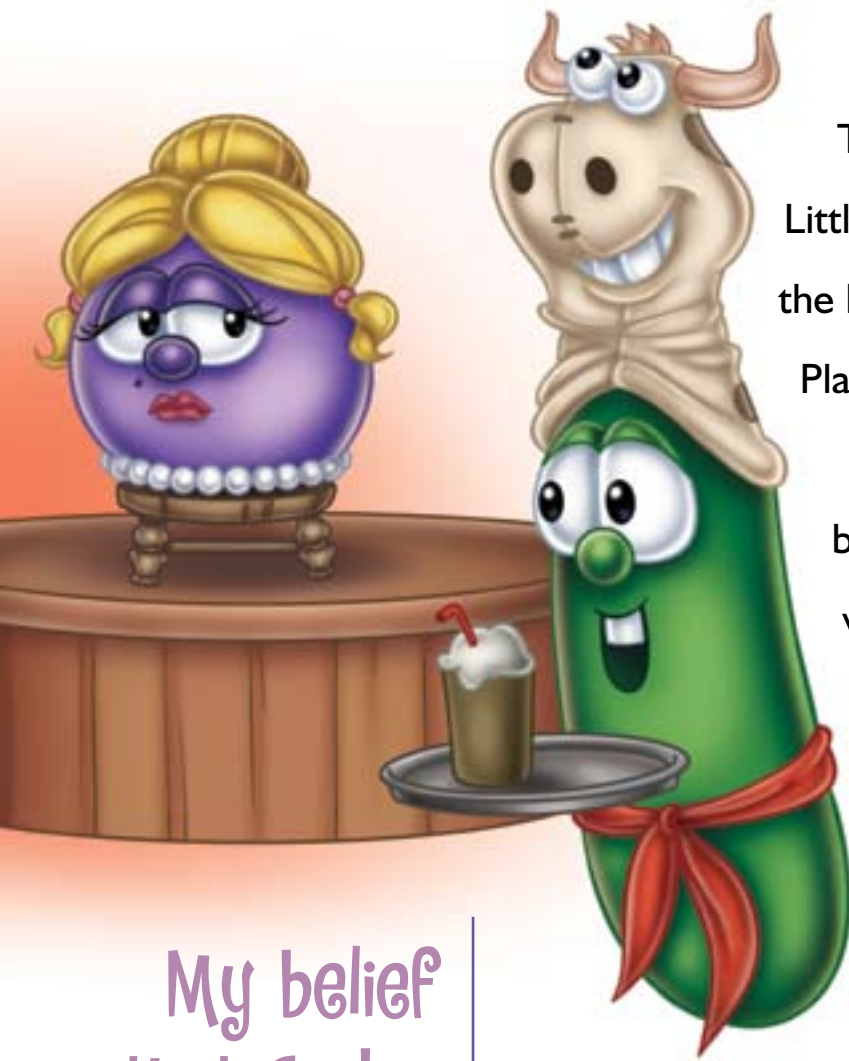
into all sorts of trouble! His brothers were so jealous, they decided to toss him right into an old mine shaft!

"Hey, Jude!" Little Joe called out to his big brother for help.

But Jude didn't answer. Instead, he convinced the rest of his brothers to hand Little Joe over to a band of desperados.

You were
always
Pa's
favorite
son.





My belief
that God is
good helps
overcome
frustration.

Rootin' Tootin' Pizza Place, burning mad.

Miss Kitty decided to get even with Little Joe. She filled his cow hat with lots of money and told everybody Little Joe had stolen it!

The desperados sold Little Joe to the owner of the Rootin' Tootin' Pizza Place in Dodge Ball City.

But Little Joe made the best of the situation. He worked so hard that he was named employee of the month!

Unfortunately, that made Miss Kitty, the waitress at the

The sheriff rounded up Little Joe and tossed him in jail. Once again he found himself in a whole lick of trouble!

“Little Joe, why is all this stuff happening to you?” asked Sheriff Bob.

“Shucks! I don't really know. But God is good,” Little Joe answered. “I reckon I just have to keep on doin' what's right.”



so I'll
keep
doin'
what is
right,
despite
incarceration.

You're not
still upset
about that
little mine
shaft joke,
are you?

One night, the mayor of Dodge Ball City had a dream. He was so upset by it, he simply had to know what it meant.


Little Joe asked God to help him explain the mayor's dream.

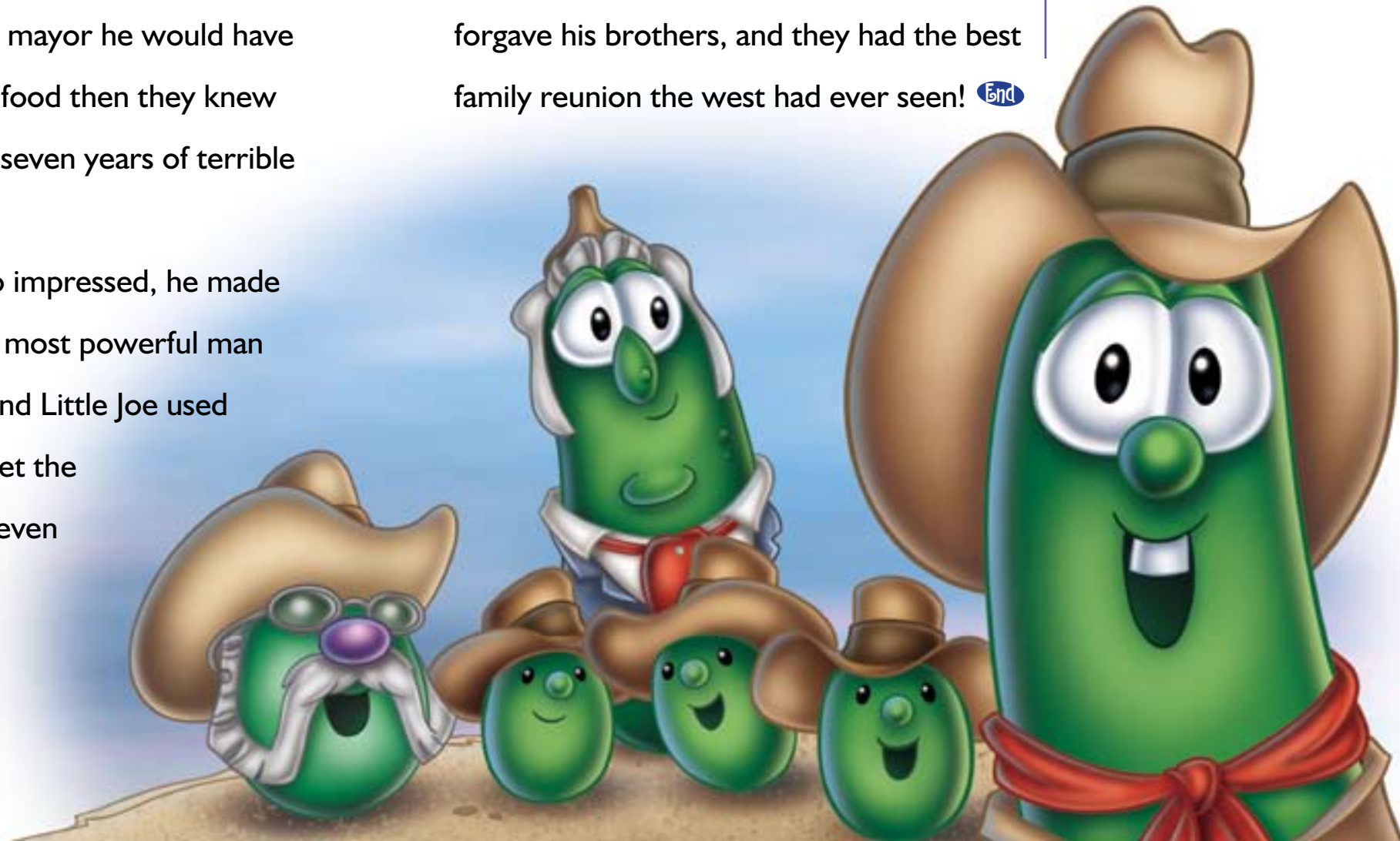
Little Joe told the mayor he would have seven years of more food than they knew what to do with and seven years of terrible famine.

The mayor was so impressed, he made Little Joe the second most powerful man in Dodge Ball City. And Little Joe used his new position to get the town ready for the seven bad years.

During those bad years, Little Joe's

family came to Dodge Ball City. They were hungry and they needed some food.

At first, Little Joe was mad at them. But he knew God had used all the bad things that had happened to him for good. So he forgave his brothers, and they had the best family reunion the west had ever seen! 





The Bible Story

Yee-ha! I sure am glad God's in charge. We can always count on God when times are bad. And that should keep us from being sad. Read all about it in the story of Joseph.

The story of Joseph

Genesis 37:1-45:8

Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons [and] made him a beautiful robe. Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them. They hated Joseph [and] threw him into [an empty] well. Then they [sold] him to some traders. The traders took him to Egypt ... and sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials. He was the captain of the palace guard.

Potiphar's wife [lied about Joseph] and so Potiphar ... put Joseph in prison.

[A few years later, Pharaoh sent for Joseph] and said, "I had a dream. No one can tell me what it means. But I've heard that when you hear a dream you can explain it." Joseph said, "God has shown Pharaoh what he's about to do. Seven years with plenty of food are coming to the whole land of Egypt. But seven years when there won't be enough food will follow them. The grain should be stored up for the country to use later."

Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the whole land.

Joseph's brothers went to buy grain there. Joseph recognized his brothers, but they didn't recognize him. Joseph said, "Come close to me. I am your brother Joseph. I'm the one you sold into Egypt. But don't be upset. And don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me ahead of you to save many lives."

**God sent me
ahead of you to
save many lives.**

So kids,

Have you ever had to deal with some double trouble in your life? Or maybe you've just been doggone sad about something?

By golly, when Bob heard about how Little Joe trusted God to make good out of the bad things that happened to him, he felt a lot better!

It sure is nice to know that God's got a plan—and he can turn bad things into something good!

That's because...
God made you special and
he loves you very much!

