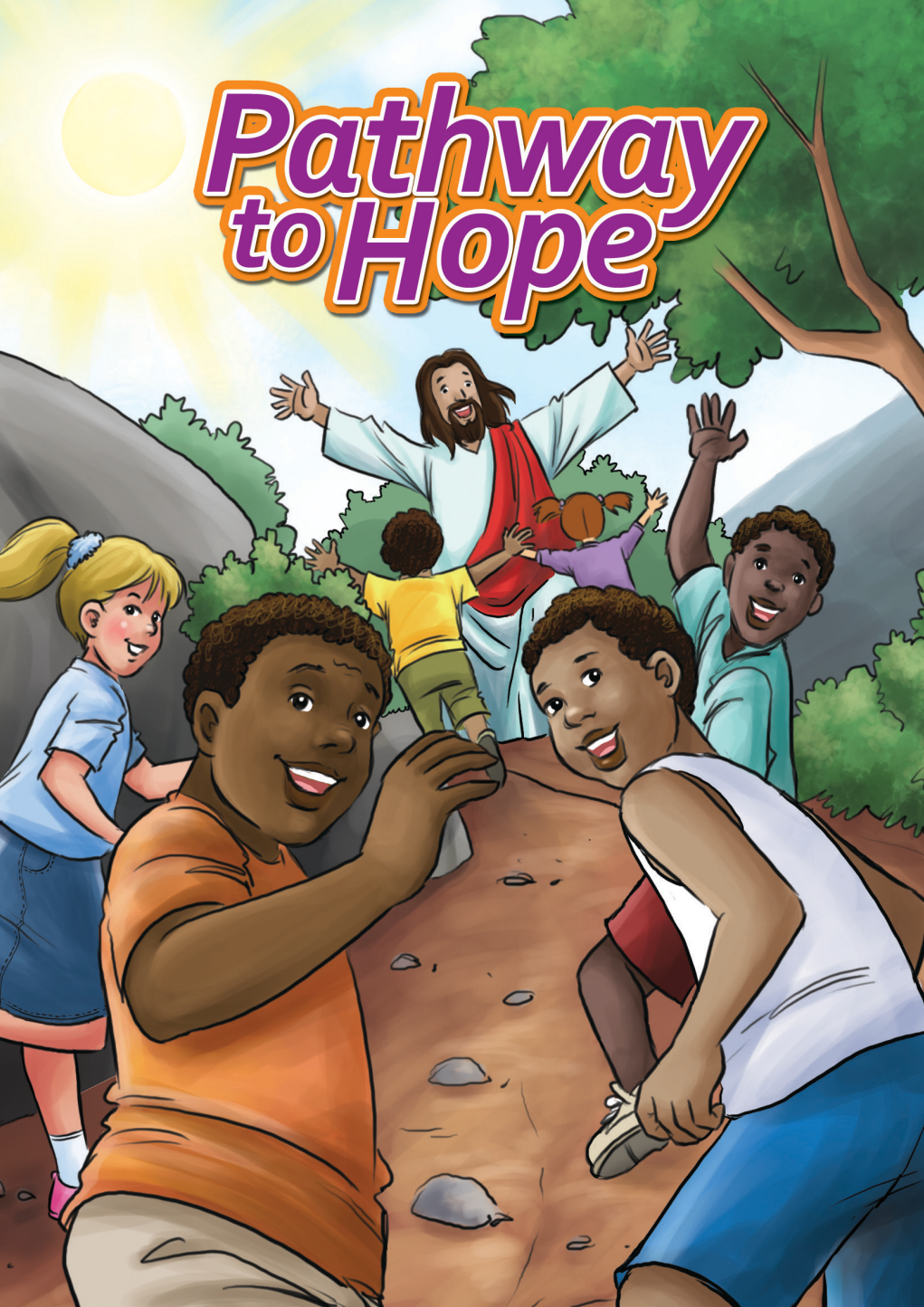


Pathway to Hope





avid and Peter were best friends. Today Peter got up early to help David finish his work at home. Now they had the whole morning to have some fun.

"I'll race you to the top of the hill!" David said as he started running.

Peter tried to catch up, but David was so fast!

"If I had new shoes like yours, I could win too!" Peter laughed, as he joined David at the top.

"Well then, Peter, I have an idea!"

"Another one of your crazy ideas?" Peter joked.

"No, you will like this one," said David. "Let's trade shoes and race to that house down at the bottom."

"You trust me to wear your new shoes?" Peter asked surprised.

"Sure! Hurry up! Let's get going!" David answered.

It was a close race, but Peter passed David just when they reached the house. Peter threw his arms up in victory and turned back to smile at David.

"Watch out!" David yelled.

Just then Peter hit something hard. He looked up to see the angry face of James staring down at him.



"Where do you think you are going so fast, little boy?" James said, making fun of Peter.

James was older, bigger, and mean.

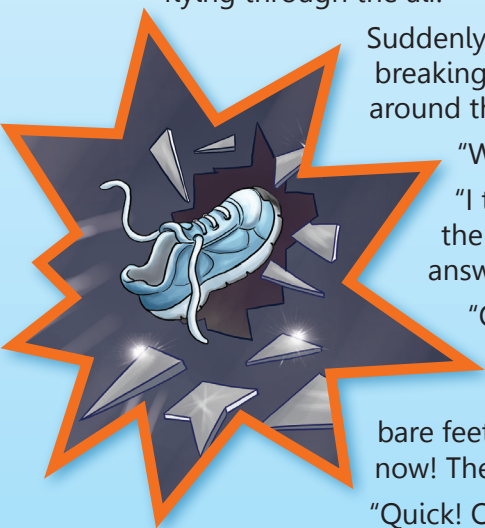
"Nice shoes," James continued. "I think they would fit my little brother."

"No! You can't have them! They are not mine!" Peter cried.

James pushed Peter to the ground and pulled the shoes right off of Peter's feet.

"Stop it!" David yelled. "Those are my shoes! Give them back!"

The boys tried to jump on James and knock the shoes from his hand. As they did, the shoes went flying through the air.



Suddenly there was the loud sound of breaking glass, and James disappeared around the corner.

"What was that?" said David fearfully.

"I think it was a shoe going through the window of that house!" Peter answered.

"Oh, no! Let's get out of here!" said David moving quickly away.

Peter followed closely behind. His bare feet were hurting, but he couldn't stop now! They had to find a place to hide!

"Quick! Over here!" called David. "We can hide between the rubbish bins behind the bakery!"