

It's Not Funny (cont.)

Within minutes, Mr. Brady tapped them each on the shoulder and motioned for them to follow him. Daniel couldn't believe they were leaving the service—and neither he nor Josh were laughing anymore.

Mr. Brady led them back to the cabin. There, he looked at them seriously and asked, "Why were you laughing during the service?"

Josh answered and explained about the mouse.

"Daniel, Josh," Mr. Brady replied, "I want you to understand something. Laughing during the service is wrong. Do you know why?"

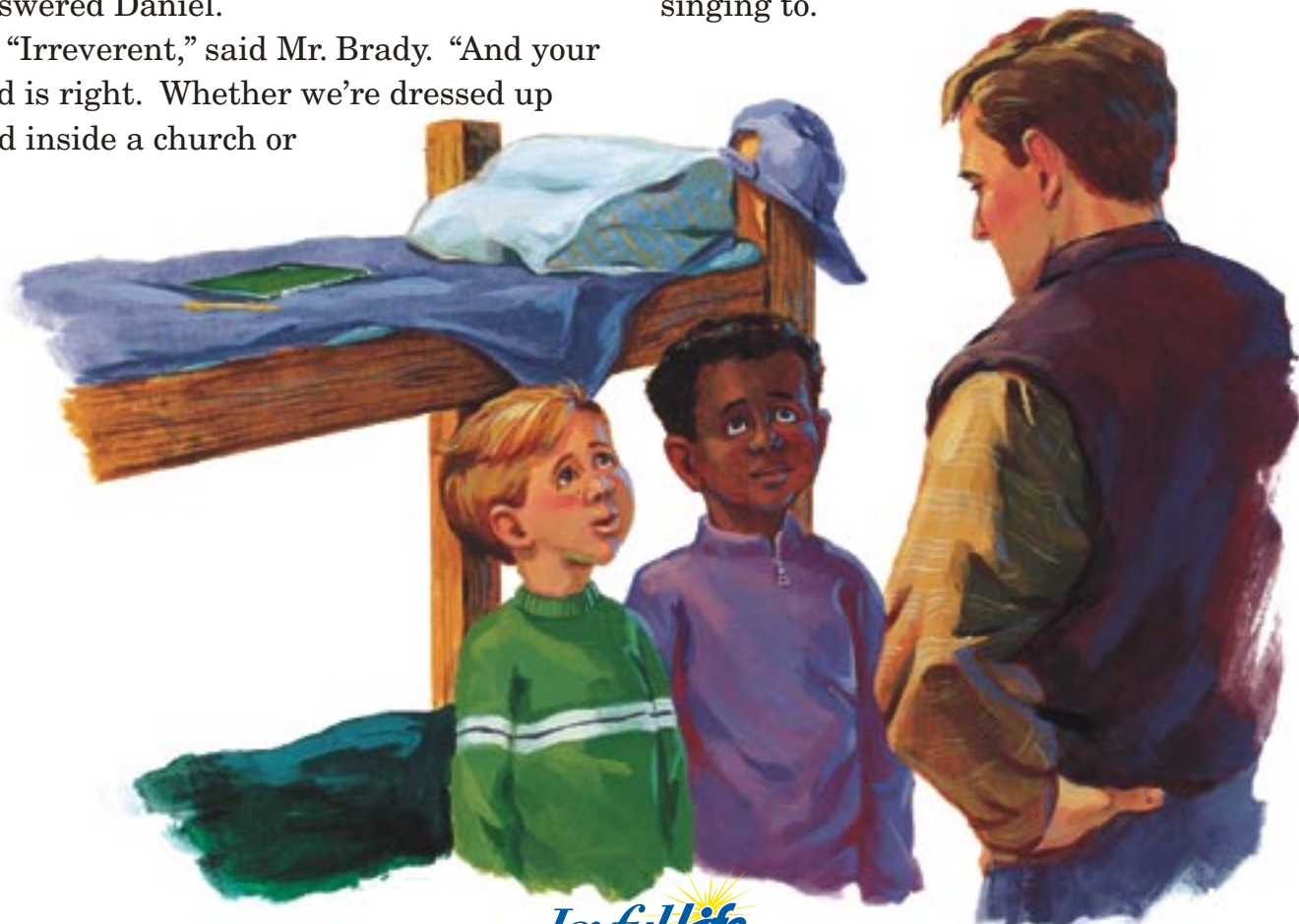
"My dad says it's irr-irr—I don't know the word—to laugh or talk during church," answered Daniel.

"Irreverent," said Mr. Brady. "And your dad is right. Whether we're dressed up and inside a church or

wearing our camp clothes at the chapel, it doesn't matter. Wherever we worship, we are to honor the presence of God. He is holy, and one of the ways we honor Him is by listening quietly to the message. Even when we're singing, we should remember Who we're singing to."

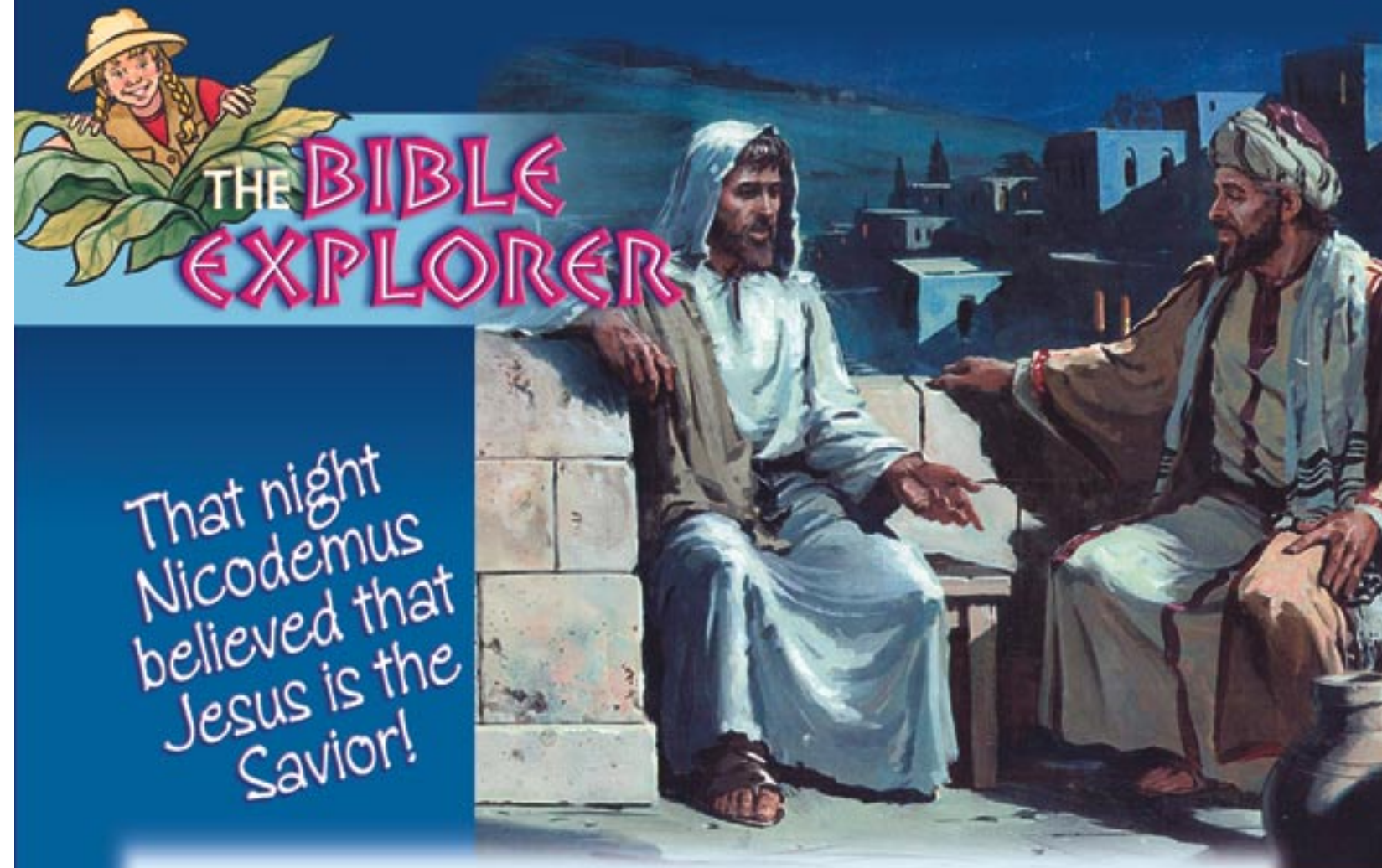
Daniel and Josh felt awful for being irreverent to God. They both prayed and asked for His forgiveness. And neither of them would forget the lesson they had learned—they would be sweeping the chapel floor that night to remind them.

After their talk, Mr. Brady hugged each of them. Then they walked back to join the other campers for song time. Daniel felt good singing around the fireplace. Somehow, the words to each song meant more as he remembered Who he was singing to.



Joyful Life

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Cleansing the Temple

Jesus went into the Temple to keep the Passover. What He saw did not please Him. Men were buying and selling animals for the sacrifices, so Jesus drove out the people who dishonored God's house.

The Pharisees didn't like what Jesus did. They asked Him who gave Him the right to make the people leave. The Pharisees didn't believe that Jesus is God.

Nicodemus

One of the Pharisees was named Nicodemus. He wanted to know more about Jesus, so he came to

Jesus at night and asked Him many questions. Jesus told Nicodemus that a man can get to heaven only one way—by being born again. Jesus was talking about a change that takes place in the heart when a person accepts Him as Savior.



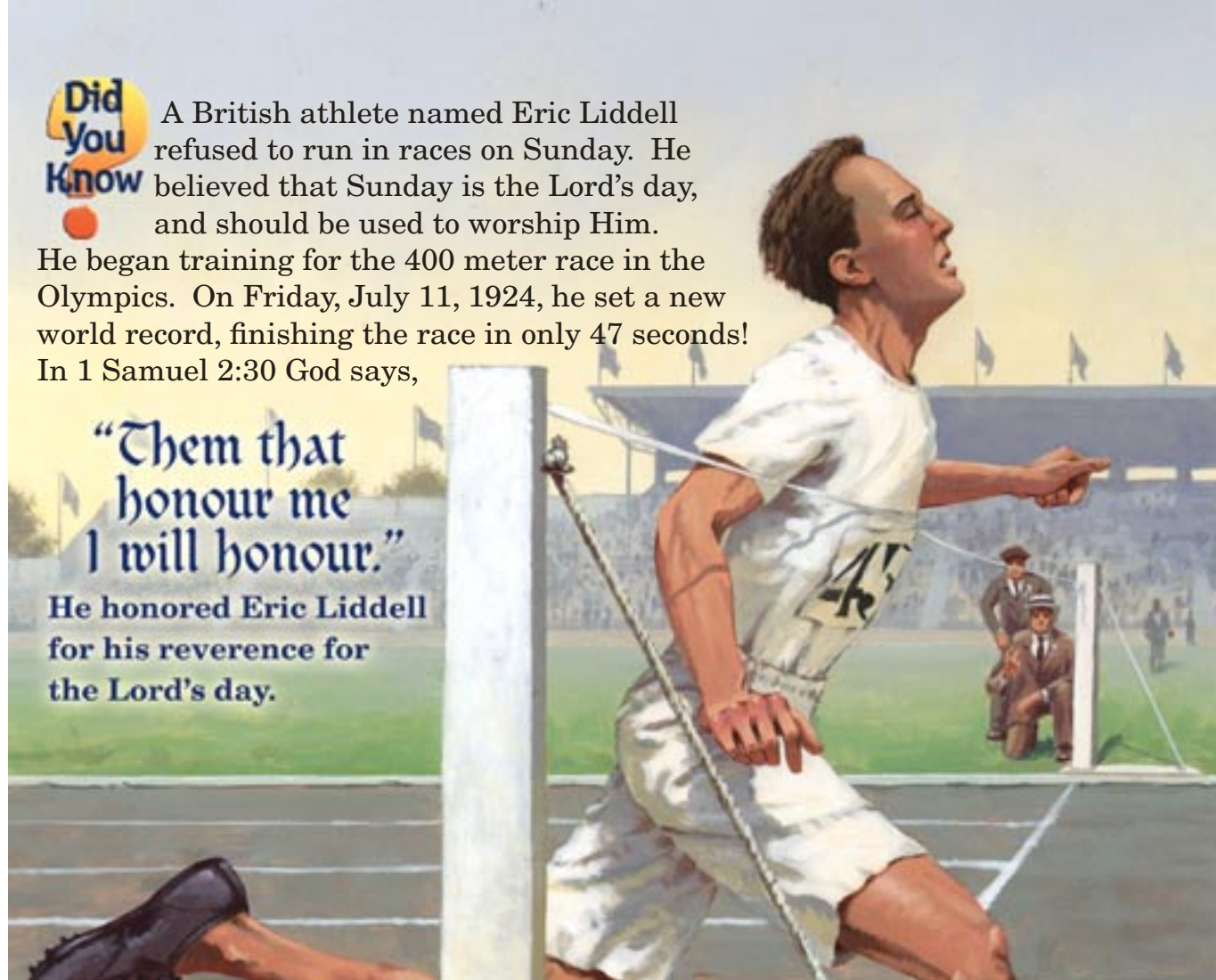
Sun—John 2:12–16
Mon—John 2:17–22
Tue—John 3:1–3
Wed—John 3:4–11
Thu—John 3:12–15
Fri—John 3:16–18
Sat—John 3:19–21

Did You Know

A British athlete named Eric Liddell refused to run in races on Sunday. He believed that Sunday is the Lord's day, and should be used to worship Him. He began training for the 400 meter race in the Olympics. On Friday, July 11, 1924, he set a new world record, finishing the race in only 47 seconds! In 1 Samuel 2:30 God says,

"Them that honour me I will honour."

He honored Eric Liddell for his reverence for the Lord's day.



It's Not Funny

Lyle Berry

Daniel and Josh were best friends. They were staying in the same cabin at Camp Eagle Ridge on the weekend of the boys' fall Sunday school retreat. Their moms had dropped them off after school on Friday for a weekend of fun and learning.

In the cabin, the two boys shared bunk beds—Josh had the top bunk and Daniel the bottom. Friday night, after hot chocolate and song time, they stayed awake talking until their Sunday school teacher Mr. Brady said, "Lights out."

Then, Mr. Brady prayed with them. Daniel and Josh had no trouble drifting off to sleep after that.

The next day at camp was full from morning until night. They had Bible study with Mr. Brady in the morning and chapel at noon. In between, they took nature walks and enjoyed the sound of leaves crunching under their feet. They played Bible games by the fireplace in the rec room. The ping-pong table was set up, too, so it seemed that there was always something fun to do.

Saturday evening as the sun was setting over the lake, all the campers gathered for vespers. They found their seats

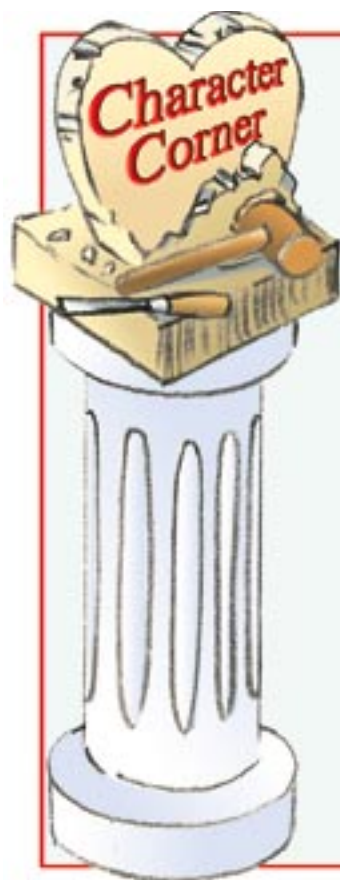


on the wooden benches in the small camp chapel.

Pastor Williams took his place before the group and began to speak. As the service went on, something terrible happened. Josh elbowed Daniel during the pastor's message. "Psst," he whispered, "look!"

Daniel looked, and there on the ground at Josh's feet darted a little mouse. Before anyone else saw the little creature, it raced into a small hole in the wall. Something about that little mouse made both boys giggle. Before they knew it, they were both shaking with laughter—the kind of laughter that is hard to stop.

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Reverence

Respect and reverence are a lot alike. We should respect our parents, our flag, and our authority. But we should have a reverence for God. Reverence is more than respect. It is **a deep love and worship for God.** We show God how much we love Him by how we act toward Him. How can you increase your reverence toward God?

