



# I'm Blessed

Ethan and Obed Discover the Joy of Giving

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***“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”***

(Luke 6:38)



PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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It's been a long day at school. It's the third subject the students were taking in a roll, and some of them were already tired and distracted.





Finally, the lunch bell pealed. The pupils hurriedly packed their pens, pencils and books from their desks and pushed them into the drawers.

Ethan smiled happily. "Oh, goodie! I can stretch my legs now and run around," he thought to himself.

"Ethan, come quickly," His best friend Obed called. "Let's get to the cafeteria ahead of everyone so we can sit by the window."

Obed was a skinny jolly boy with a blond wavy hair, blue eyes and a tanned skinned. He was much taller than everyone else in the class, including Ethan.

Ethan was quiet, confident and always seemed in control. His hair was rich like mahogany and his dark eyes were large and bold, framed with thick lashes.

Both Ethan and Obed were friends from the kindergarten. They lived in the same neighbourhood and attended the same church. They always studied together and enjoyed each other's company.

As they walked down the corridor with their lunch boxes, Obed turned to Ethan and said, "We're still playing football today, right?"

"Sure," Ethan replied.

"I came with an extra jersey for you," Obed said.

Ethan's face lit up. "I wasn't sure you'll remember to come with yours," he said. "I also brought an extra jersey for you."

They both laughed.





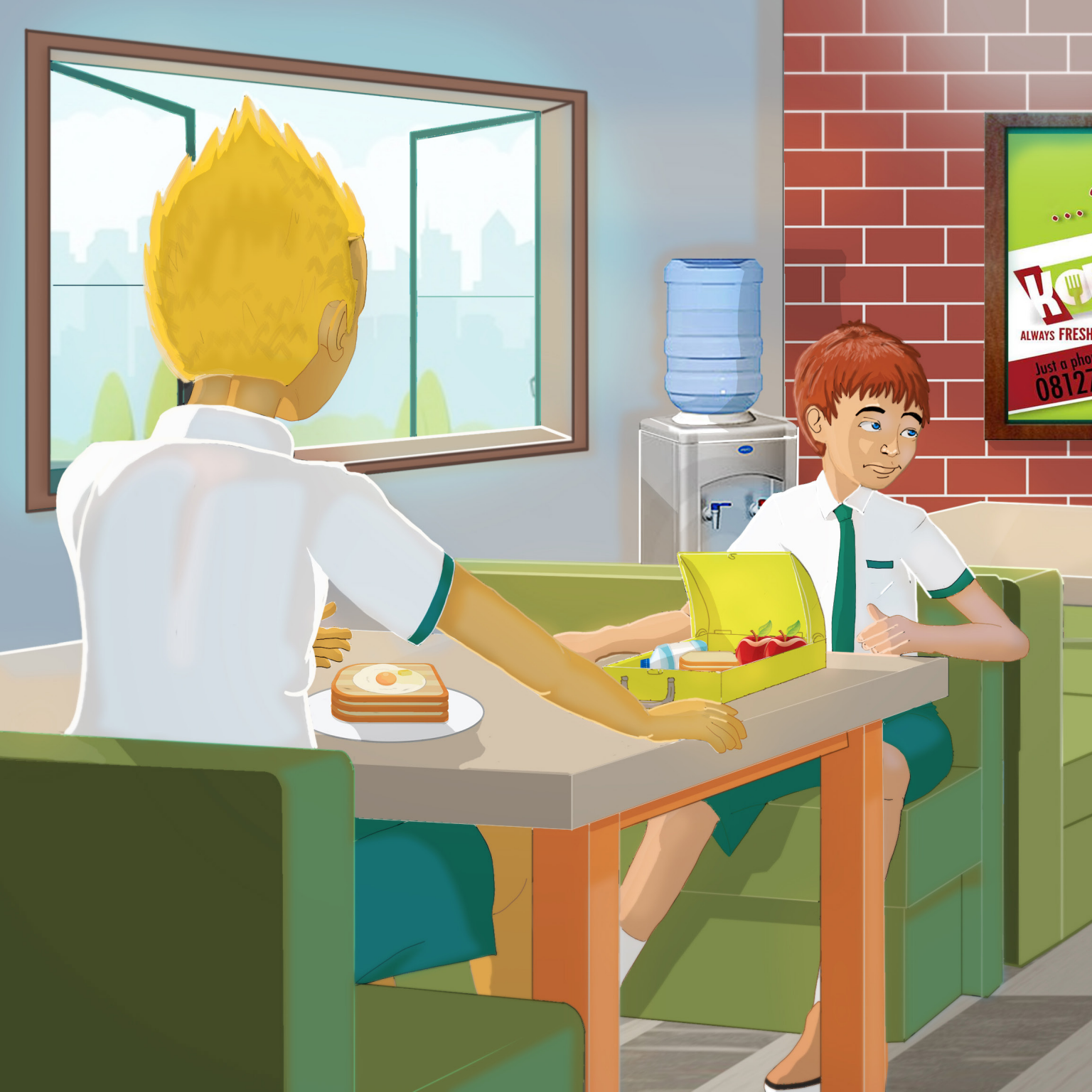
"I have an idea," Obed said. "I'll keep the extra jerseys in my sports bag for tomorrow's game."

"Oh, that's a great idea." Ethan said. "I'm cool with it."





"What do you have in your lunch box?" Obed asked.  
"Just sandwiches and a pack of orange juice," Ethan replied.  
"Cool. That's what I have too," Obed said excitedly. "Let's hurry before someone else sits on our spot."  
Everyone made their way to the cafeteria with their lunch boxes.





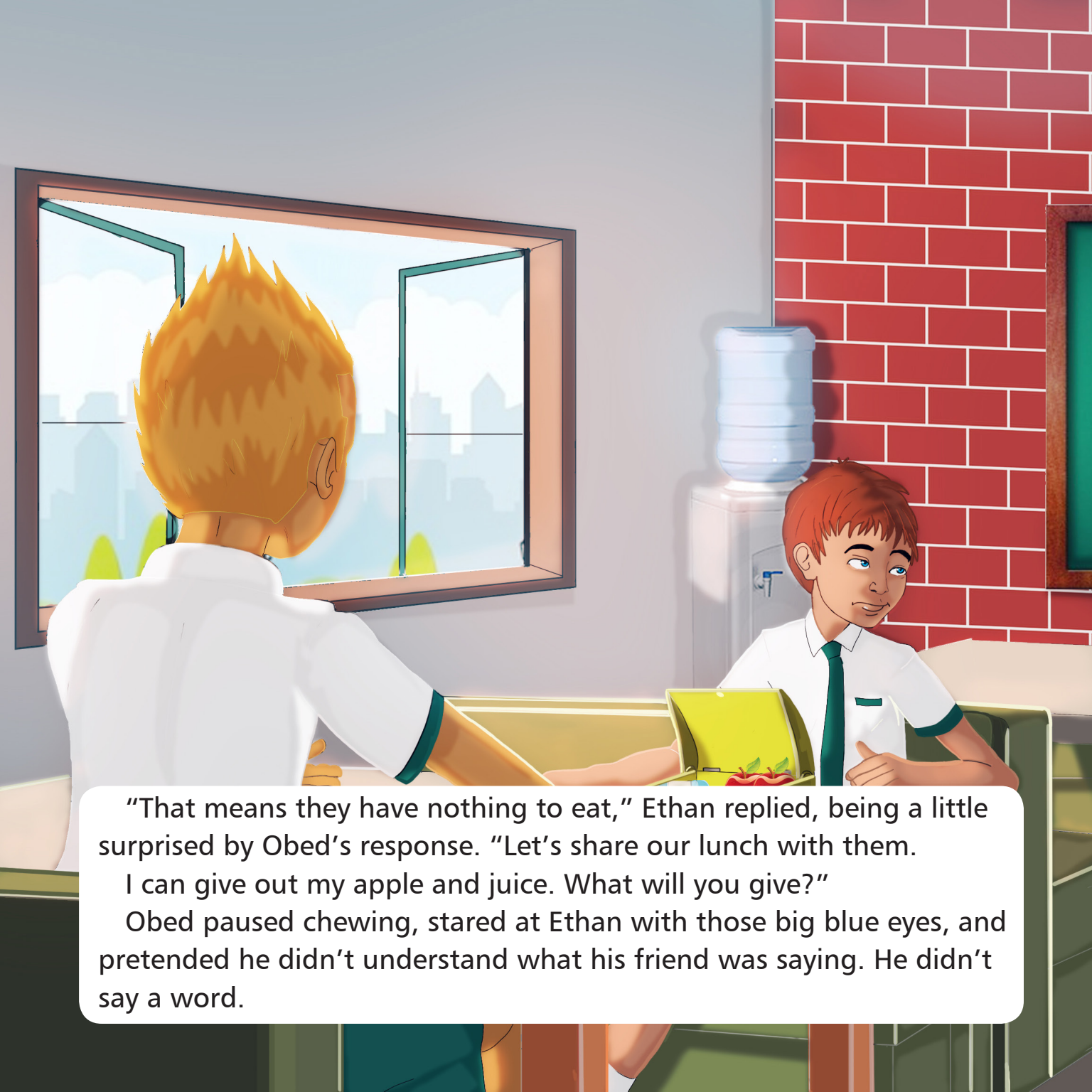
They were the first to get to the cafeteria just as they had planned. They settled down quickly at their usual spot - the first table by the window, and the cafeteria filled up very quickly with their schoolmates.

As they ate their snacks, Ethan noticed Benjy and Jones weren't in there.

“Benjy and Jones aren’t here, Obed,” Ethan said. “Everyone is here except the two of them.”

Obed shrugged his shoulders. “So, what about it?” he asked with a mouthful of sandwiches.





“That means they have nothing to eat,” Ethan replied, being a little surprised by Obed’s response. “Let’s share our lunch with them. I can give out my apple and juice. What will you give?”

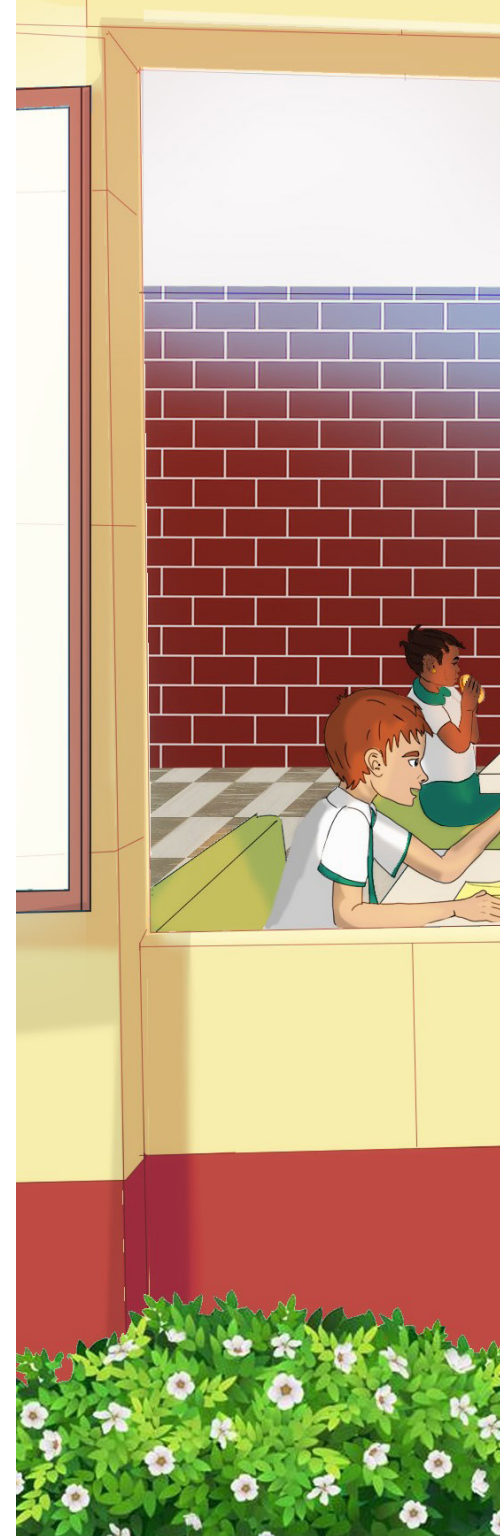
Obed paused chewing, stared at Ethan with those big blue eyes, and pretended he didn’t understand what his friend was saying. He didn’t say a word.

“Did I say something wrong?”  
Ethan asked teasingly.

“Ethan! Why?” Obed  
exclaimed after a few seconds.  
“If I give out some of my lunch,  
it won’t be enough for me.  
Should we starve because we  
want to help?”

“Relax Obed,” Ethan laughed.  
“I said so because I remembered  
what my mum taught my sister  
and me during our prayer time.”

“And what was that?” Obed  
asked, a bit curious about what  
Ethan would say.





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"She said the reason God blesses His children is so that they can be a blessing to someone else," Ethan explained. "As God's children, we're blessed to be a blessing."

"Okay Ethan," Obed said, "but we help our classmates with subjects they don't understand, and we're kind to everyone."

"You're correct," Ethan replied.

"That should be enough!" Obed said emphatically.

"We can do more," Ethan said.





"I really don't see the point why we have to give up our lunch right now?" Obed protested.

"We should help those in need whenever we have the opportunity," Ethan said. "In this case, we should help Benjy and Jones."

Obed was quiet.

"Don't you know the more we help those in need, the more of God's blessings we enjoy?" Ethan concluded.

"So, are you saying if we share our lunch, we will receive more food?" Obed asked.

Ethan nodded with a smile and said, "And a whole lot more than food."

"Sure?" Obed queried.

"Even if you get nothing in return now," Ethan said, "you will not go hungry for the rest of the day. Will you?"

Obed pondered on what his friend said, wondering if he could give it a try.





“My mum told us a story from the Bible in John chapter 6 verses 1 to 14, of a boy who gave his lunch of fish and bread to Jesus. Then, Jesus blessed it and gave it to His disciples to share to the people. Guess what? Over five thousand people ate from it and were filled, and twelve baskets were gathered as leftovers.”

“Really,” Obed said with a look of surprise.

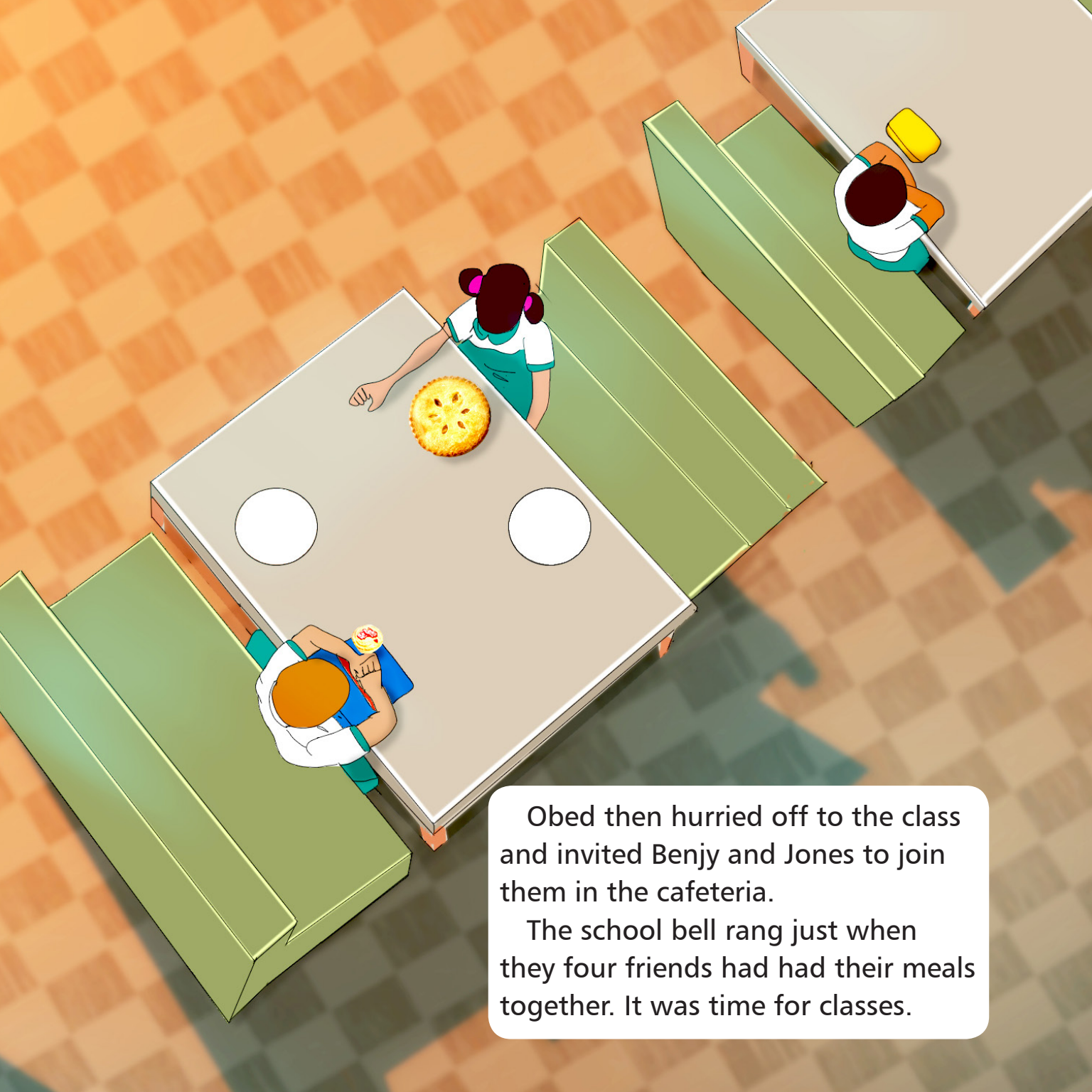
“Yes,” Ethan replied. “The little boy went home with much more than he gave.”

“Wow!!!” Obed shouted. “That makes a whole lot of sense. We are blessed when we give to others, right?”

“Right!” Ethan replied. “It also shows that we are like our heavenly Father who gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, and in return, had many sons and daughters all over the world.”

“I see,” Obed agreed. “We are just like our Father!”





Obed then hurried off to the class and invited Benjy and Jones to join them in the cafeteria.

The school bell rang just when they four friends had had their meals together. It was time for classes.





Ethan and Obed, with the other children, were in their classroom for the next two-and-half hours taking their lessons. Just as the teacher was rounding off English composition lesson, the school bell rang for the long break.

"Ethan, come let's play football!" Obed called, already wearing his jersey top.

"Okay," replied Ethan, "but we mustn't look untidy after the game."

"Come on, Ethan," Obed replied, as he pulled Ethan. "Someone might get to the pitch before we do."





"Remember what I said," Ethan cautioned. "School isn't over yet, and we mustn't look untidy."

"Yes, I know 'Mr Perfect'" Obed chuckled. "We won't get untidy, I promise. Can we go now?"

Both boys joked and laughed, as Ethan wore his jersey.





Just then, Obed turned and asked Benjy and Jones to join them.

"I can't play with you," Benjy said.

"I don't have a jersey."

"Don't worry, Benjy," Obed replied.

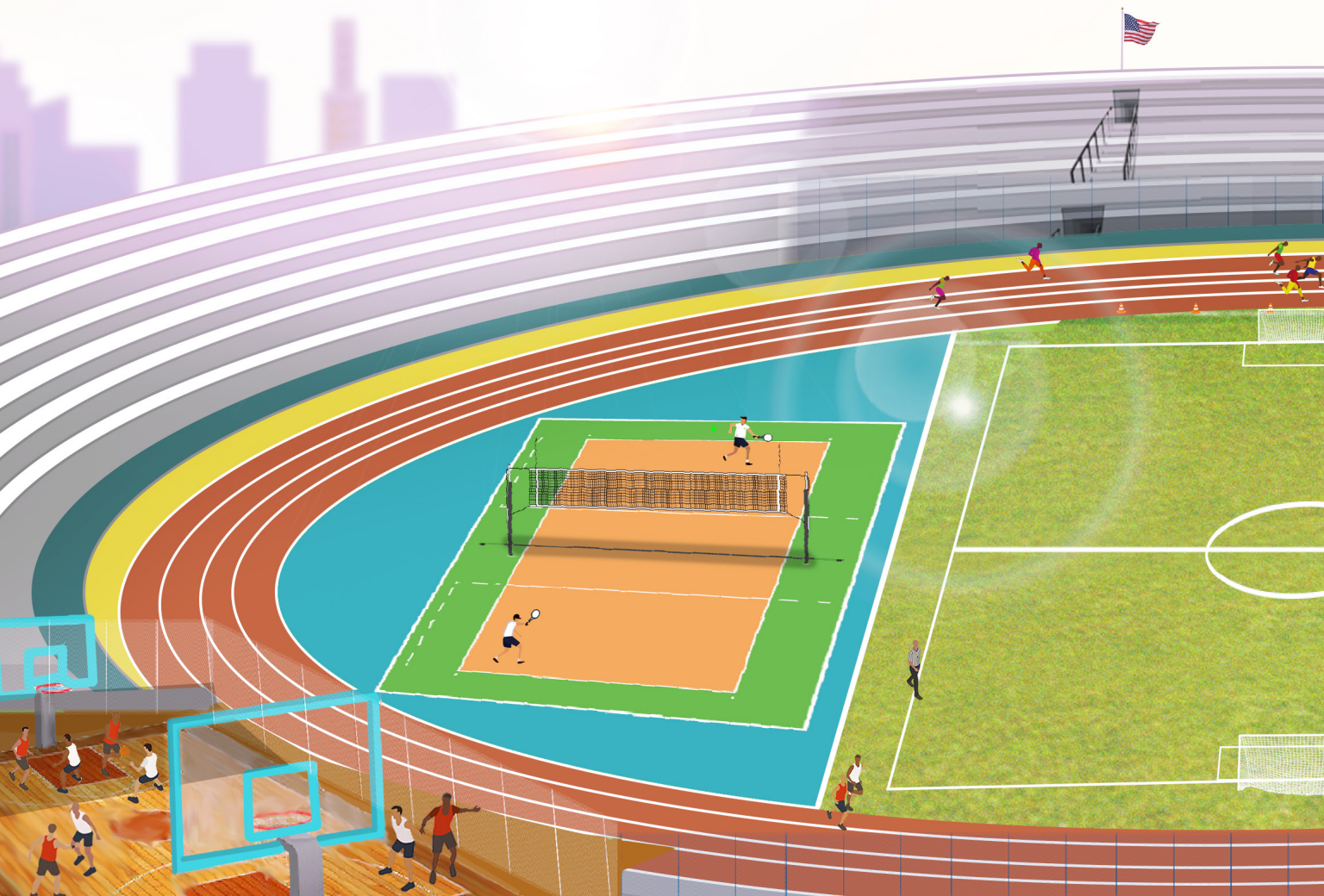
"I have extra tops for you and Jones."

"Cool!" Jones exclaimed. "Thanks, Obed."

"That's alright," Obed replied. "It's all Ethan's idea."

"Let's hurry, otherwise we'll soon run out of time," Ethan said excitedly.

The school had a big playground. The neatly mowed grasses gave it a beautiful view. There were different lines marked on the field for various games: football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, and athletics.







Ethan and Obed had fun playing football with their friends. There were excitement and anticipation in the air as other students assumed the role of team supporters, and started singing and chanting for their teams. The noise kept getting louder and louder

as other students arrived and joined in, cramming their way into every available seat.

Everyone was excited as the game got intense, both the players and their supporters. The atmosphere was electrifying; everyone was happy as they watched the dribbling and the passes, the corner-kicks and the throw-ins, the goals and the near-misses. The match came to an end with one goal apiece. It was a draw.





# ENTRANCE



The school bell rang again and it was time to get back to class.

"Ethan, guess what?" Obed said on their way back to class.

"What?" Ethan asked.

"Even though I didn't have my entire lunch, I'm glad we helped Benjy and Jones."

Ethan laughed and said, "That's the joy you have every time you do what God says."

"Yes, you're right. But I can't really explain it, Ethan," Obed said, still trying to describe how he felt. "I'm supposed to be hungry, but I'm not. I feel very satisfied."

"I was surprised too when you gave our extra jerseys to Benjy and Jones," Ethan said.

"I haven't stopped thinking about the story of the little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus," Obed said. "After listening to you, I knew God wants me to be a blessing to others too."

"It's the right thing to do," Ethan added.

They went to their classroom for their final lessons for the day.





At the close of school, Ethan and Obed were getting ready to go home when Mrs Joyce, their teacher, stopped them.

“Ethan, Obed, come here please,” Mrs Joyce said.

Mrs Joyce was a great teacher. All the children loved her. She had a way of getting the children to do their work, even if they don't want to. She was warm and kind, and loved to share jokes with the children. She's the kind of teacher every child would love for a teacher.

Ethan and Obed hurried to Mrs Joyce's office.

"Yes, Mrs Joyce," they said, eager to hear what she had to say.

Mrs Joyce sat back and smiled. "I went through all the English compositions the class submitted," she said. "Both of you had the highest scores."

Ethan and Obed were excited at the news, and hugged each other.





“I was impressed by your work,” Mrs Joyce went on. “I think you guys deserve something special.

“So, I spoke to the Principal about your performance, and we agreed that both of you should represent the school for the annual inter-school essay competition this summer.

“I’ve already sent your parents an email notifying them of the competition. Congratulations, Ethan and Obed.”



Ethan and Obed were over the moon. They could hardly contain their joy.

"We'll make the school proud, Mrs Joyce," Ethan said, his eyes sparkling with joy.

Obed just simply grinned from ear to ear.



"I'm sure you boys will," Mrs Joyce said. "Off you go. You wouldn't want the school bus to leave without you.

"By the way," Mrs Joyce stopped them and brought out two boxes just as they were about to leave. "The Principal got something for the both of you. I hope you'll like it."

She handed them a box each.

On their way from Mrs Joyce's office, they opened their boxes to see the contents. It had the same lunch items they shared with their friends, and much more!

"Ethan, I have two extra apples, 3 packs of orange juice and 4 extra sandwiches."

"Yes, that's what I have too," Ethan replied.

"Wow! Ethan, I truly understand what you mean when you said we are blessed to be a blessing." Obed said.

"Our lunch has been replenished, and we have extras," Ethan said.









"What's more, we've been chosen to represent the school for the annual essay competition," Obed said, his eyes glittering with joy. "What could be better than that?"

"I'm blessed!" Ethan shouted.

"Say it again," Obed teased.

"I'm blessed!" Ethan shouted again.

"I'm blessed too!" Obed said, "I'm blessed with health, I'm blessed with wisdom, I'm blessed with prosperity, I'm blessed with all things, and most importantly, I'm blessed because I'm a giver!"

"And in the words of Jesus," Ethan said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive, Acts 20:35."

"Let's share some of our stuffs with our friends in the bus," Obed suggested.

"Cool!" Ethan exclaimed.





Ethan and Obed walked happily to the school bus, knowing they had learnt a great lesson that day - that every time they give, they are blessed.

# What The Bible Says

(1) Daniel and his friends.

“As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.” (Daniel 1:17)

(2) Joseph

“Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “...there is no one as discerning and wise as you.” (Genesis 41:39)

(3) Peter & John

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

(4) King Solomon

“Then God said to him: “...behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.” (1 Kings 3:11-12)

(5) Moses

“And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.” (Acts 7:22)



CAFETERIA

# A Lesson For You

## God Loves a Cheerful Giver

God is the greatest giver of all time. The Bible says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Like Him, God wants all His children to be great givers too.

There is a special blessing for a cheerful giver, because God loves it when we give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7). One amazing thing about a cheerful giver is that the more he gives, the more he gets blessed.

The Lord Jesus said in Luke 6:38, ***“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom...”***

So, each time you have an opportunity to give, be excited about it. You could share your meal with a friend who has nothing to eat, teach a classmate how to solve his assignment or help your sister with the dishes. By doing that, you’re blessing others with what you have.