

**MLK**

#185

DFO

Oct. 2003

# Sapling

He's my  
good  
buddy!





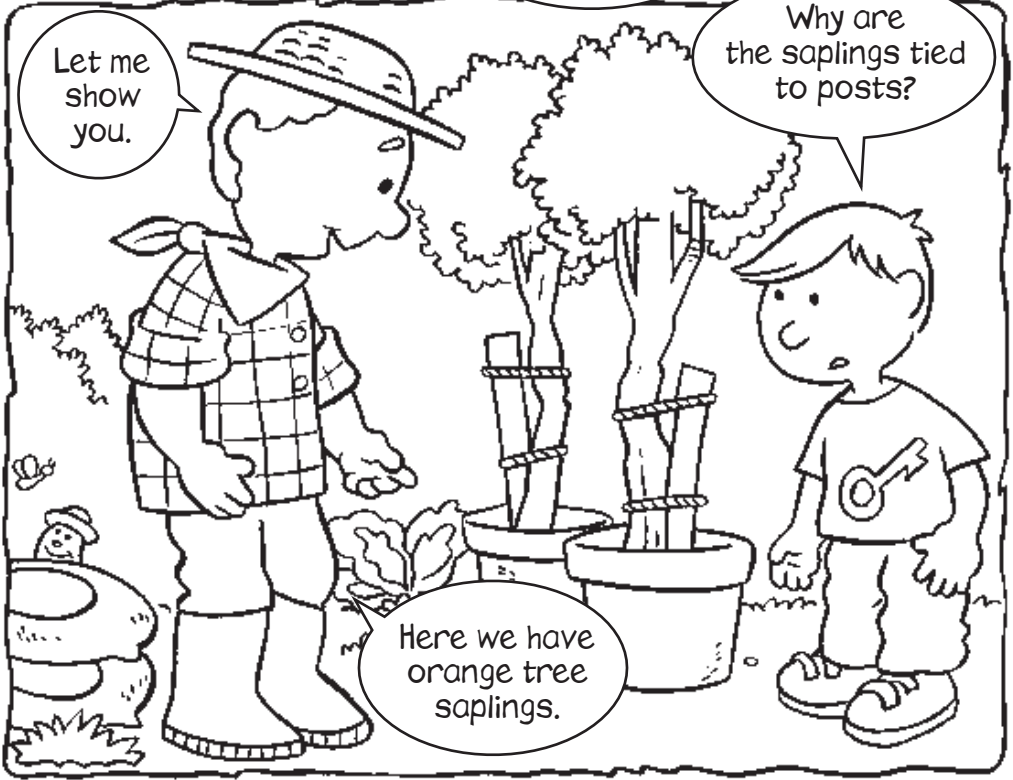


Hello!



What is a sapling, Mr. Gardener?

A sapling is a young tree with a slender trunk.



Let me show you.

Why are the saplings tied to posts?

Here we have orange tree saplings.

The post  
is to help the sapling  
grow straight and tall.  
Lots of things happen  
that can bend the  
young trees.

The wind bent  
this little sapling.  
I'm tying it to a post  
to give it support  
and help it stand  
straight.



When it gets older, and its trunk is thicker, it won't need this post to support it.

Thank you for taking good care of me!

Then its trunk will be thick and strong enough so that the wind won't be able to bend it over.

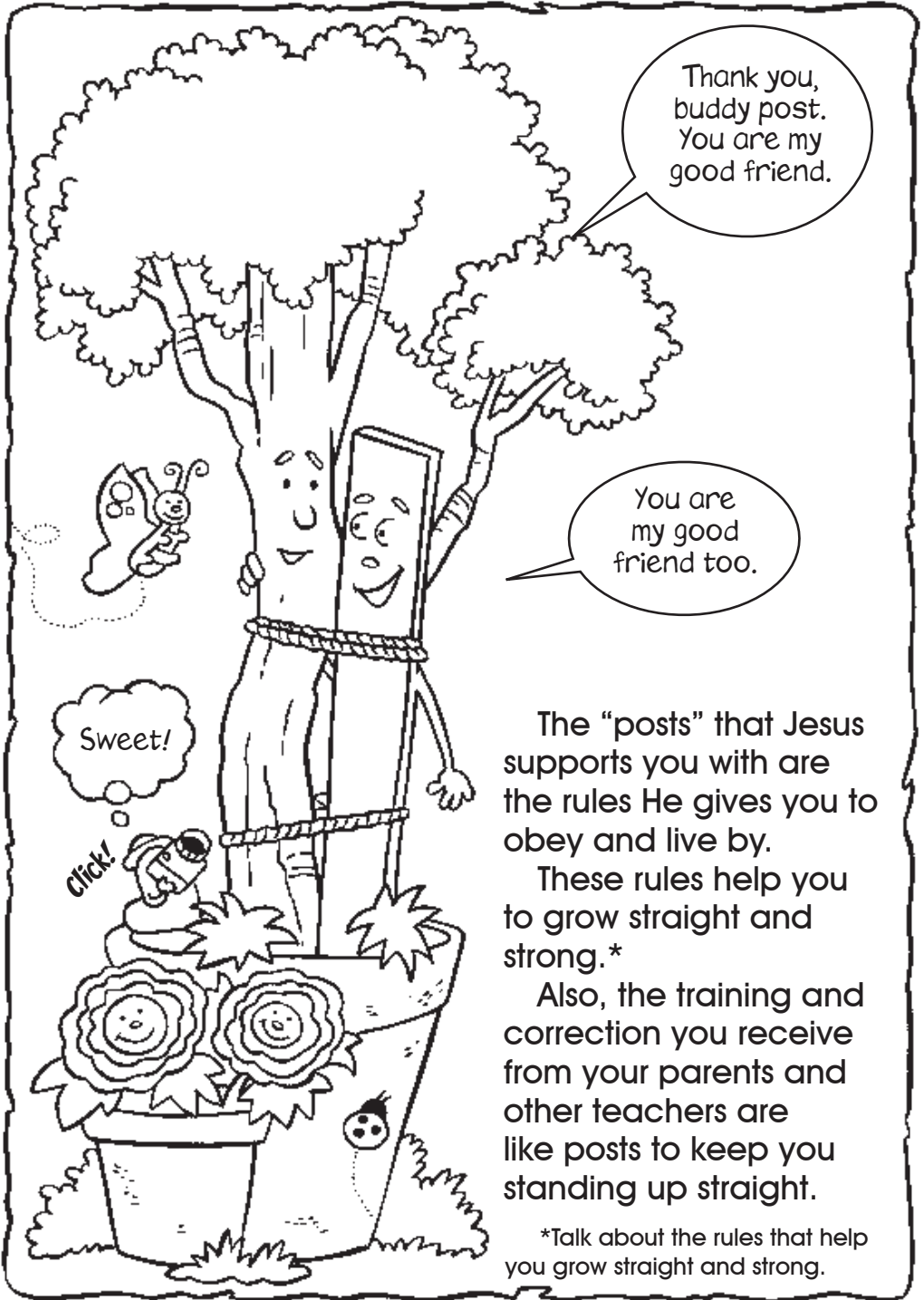




Because you are a young tree in Jesus' orchard.

Why does Jesus call me a sapling?

An orchard is a place where fruit or nut trees are grown.



Thank you, buddy post. You are my good friend.

You are my good friend too.

Sweet!

Click!

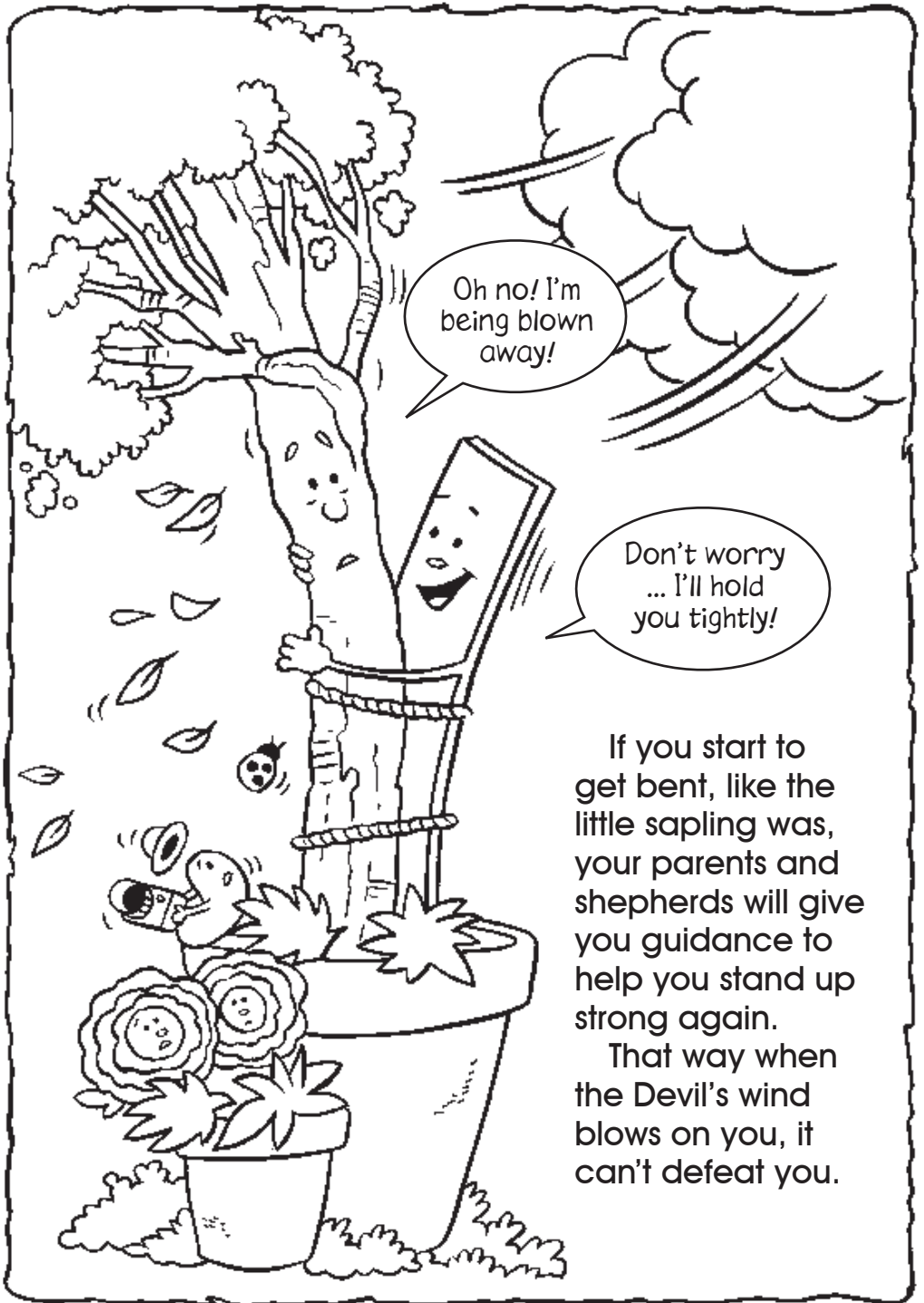
The "posts" that Jesus supports you with are the rules He gives you to obey and live by.

These rules help you to grow straight and strong.\*

Also, the training and correction you receive from your parents and other teachers are like posts to keep you standing up straight.

\*Talk about the rules that help you grow straight and strong.





If you start to get bent, like the little sapling was, your parents and shepherds will give you guidance to help you stand up strong again.

That way when the Devil's wind blows on you, it can't defeat you.



Here are some examples of rules that help you grow up straight:

You feel like being grumpy with your little sister.

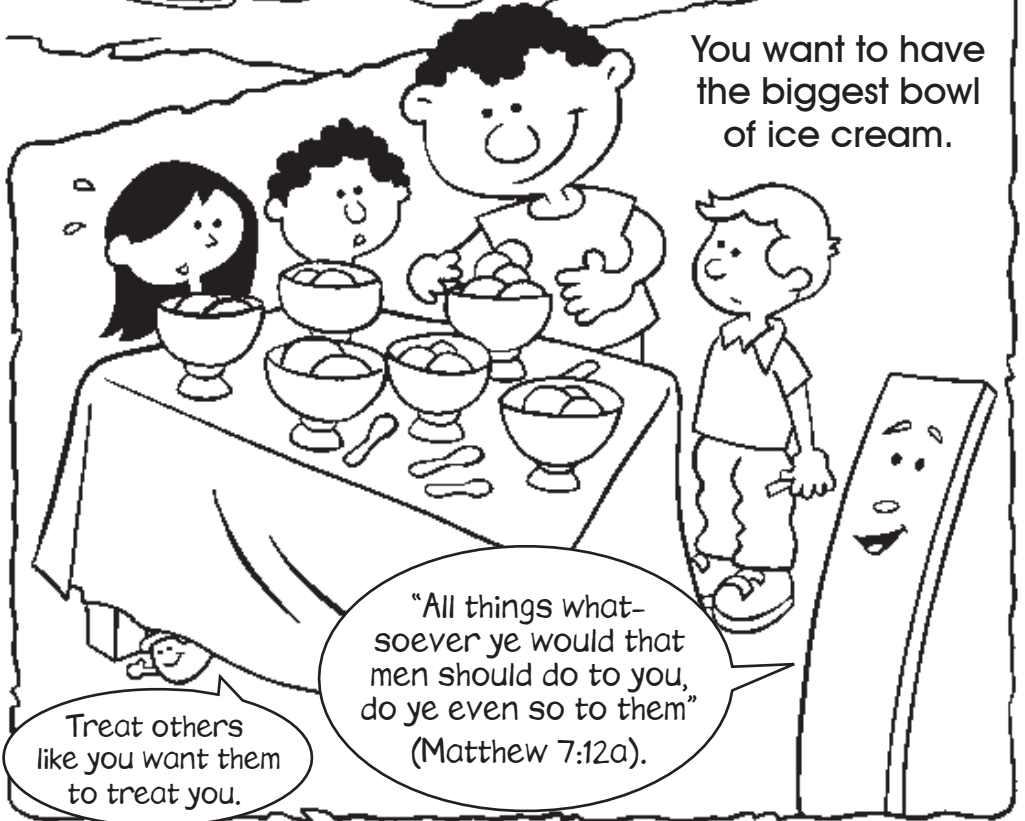
"Love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:39b).



You want to have the biggest bowl of ice cream.

"All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matthew 7:12a).

Treat others like you want them to treat you.



You don't want to share your toys.

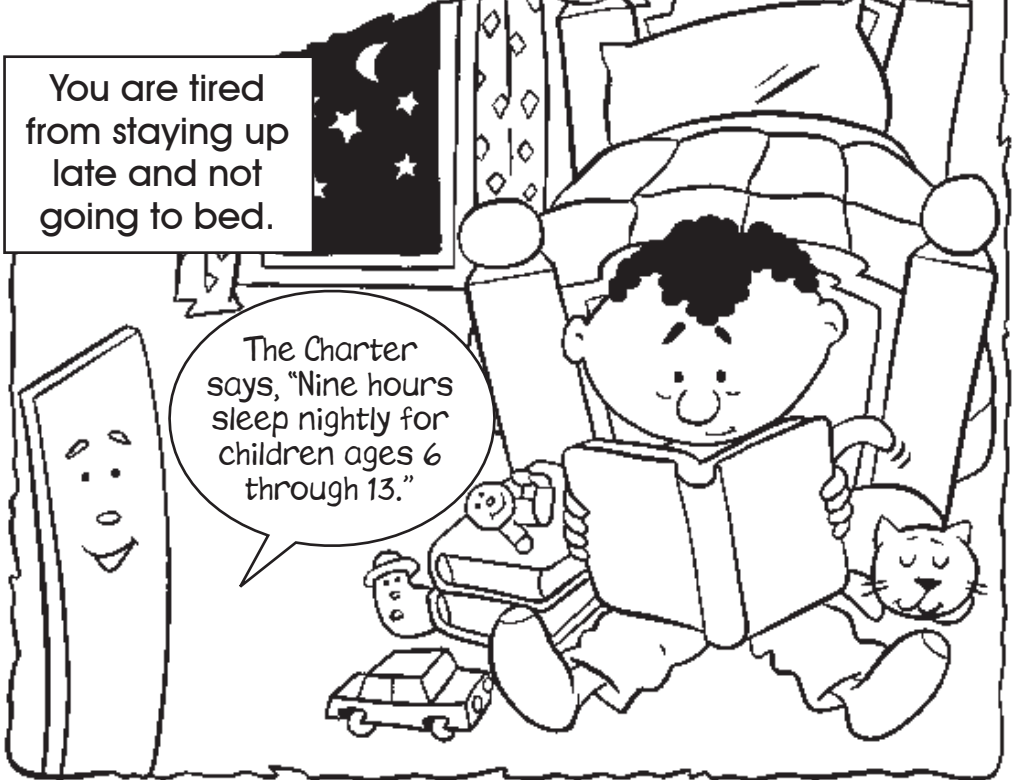
But they are MINE!


"Give and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38a).



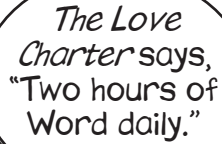
You are tired from staying up late and not going to bed.

The Charter says, "Nine hours sleep nightly for children ages 6 through 13."






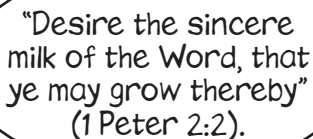
You want to play instead of having Word time or school.



*The Love Charter* says, "Two hours of Word daily."

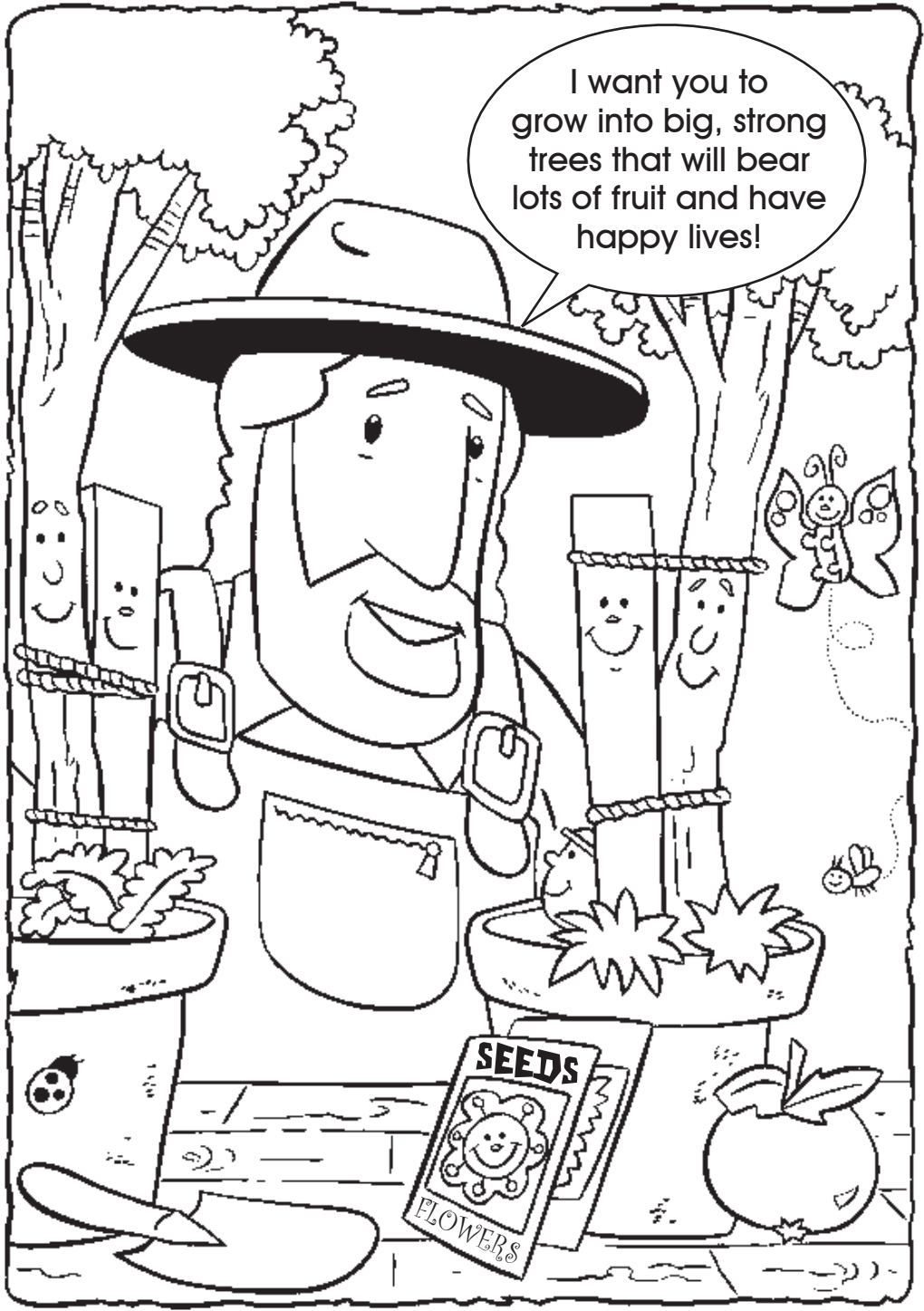


*The Love Charter* also says that children need to have enough school each week to learn to read and write, and learn math, science, social studies and other subjects and skills.



"Desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2).

*Jesus speaking:*  
The posts I place around you, My little sapling, are all placed there in love, and help you to grow straight and strong!



I want you to grow into big, strong trees that will bear lots of fruit and have happy lives!