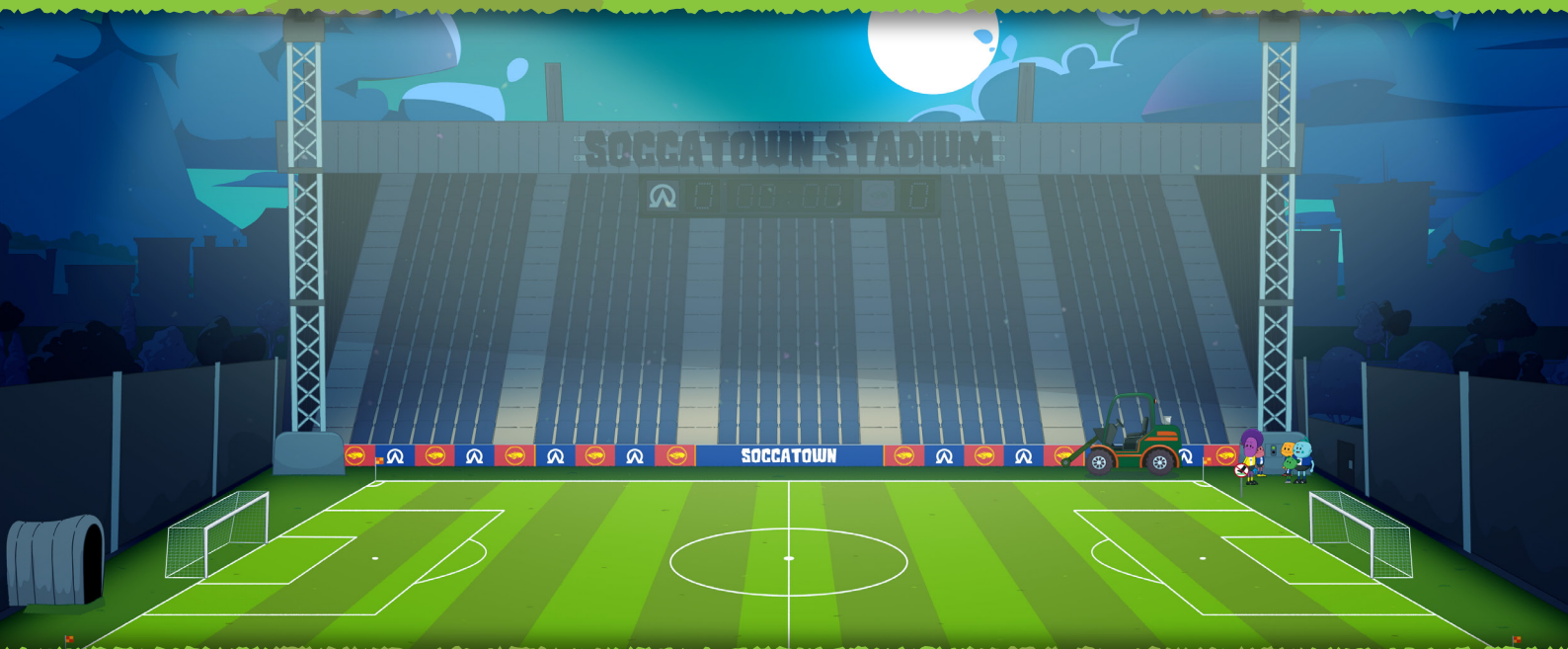


# TOWARD THE

# GOAL



BOOK 1

## THE PERFECT PITCH



AMBASSADORS  
FOOTBALL

HELLO!

MY NAME IS FOOTY.

WELCOME TO BOOK 1  
OF...

# TOWARD THE GOAL

HERE'S WHERE TO FIND  
EVERYTHING...

FOOTBALL STORY	PAGE 2
BIBLE STORY	PAGE 7
STORY MATCHUP	PAGE 12
FOCUS STUDIES	PAGE 13
ACTIVITIES	PAGE 21
NOTES	PAGE 22
MEMORY VERSES	BACK PAGE

I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT!



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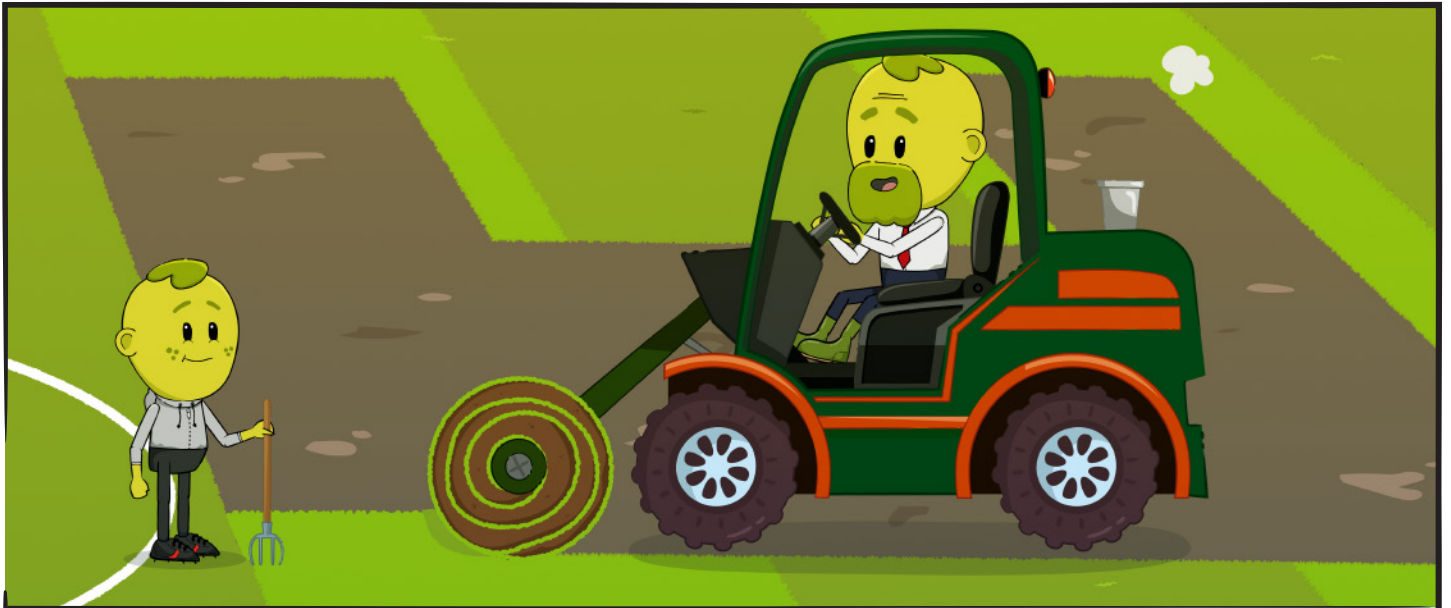
# THE PERFECT PITCH



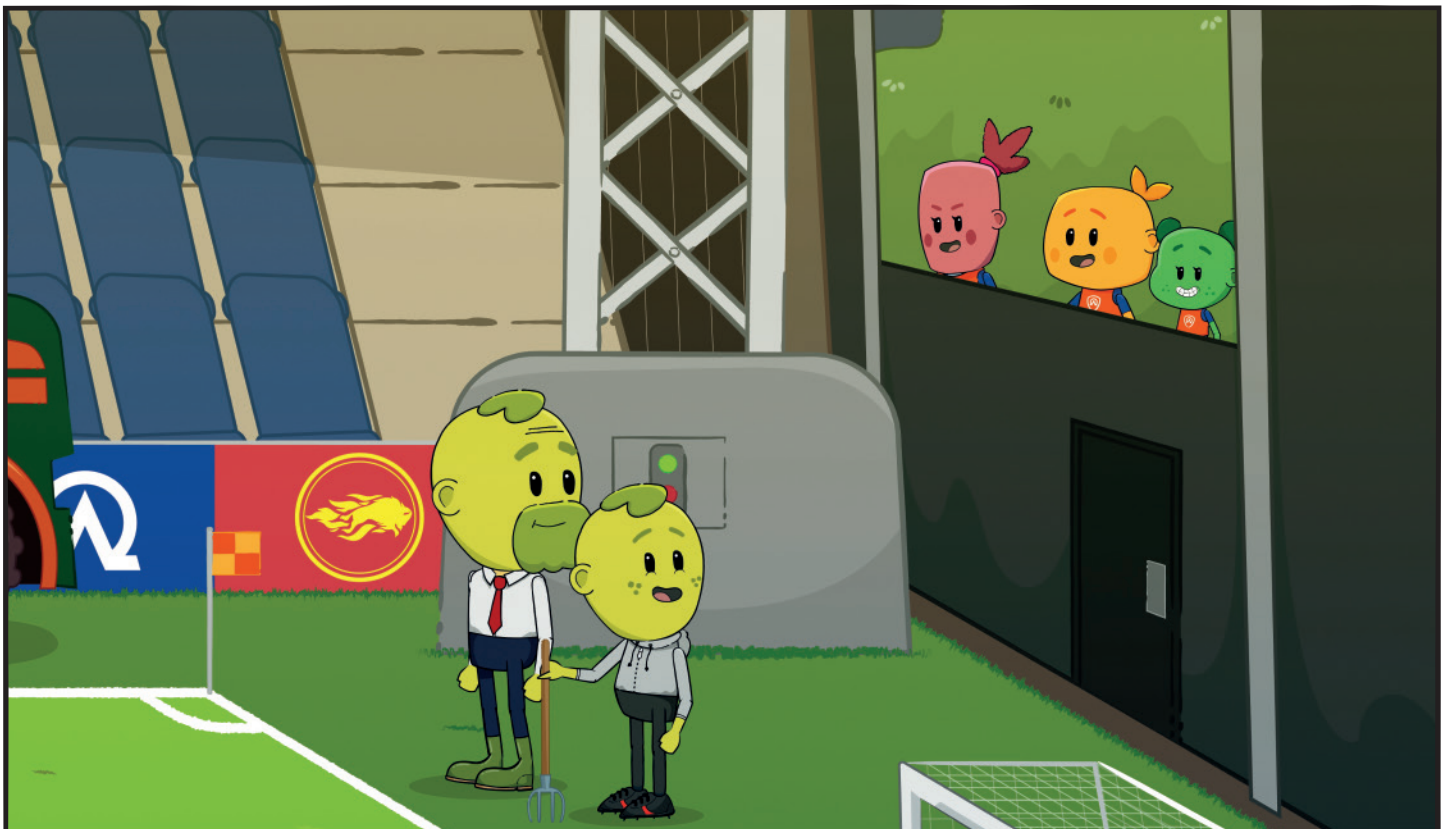
WELCOME TO SOCCATOWN - A TOWN WHERE EVERYONE LOVES FOOTBALL! THE TOWN IS VERY EXCITED BECAUSE THE TOWN STADIUM WILL HOST THE YOUTH CUP FINAL IN JUST TWO WEEKS!



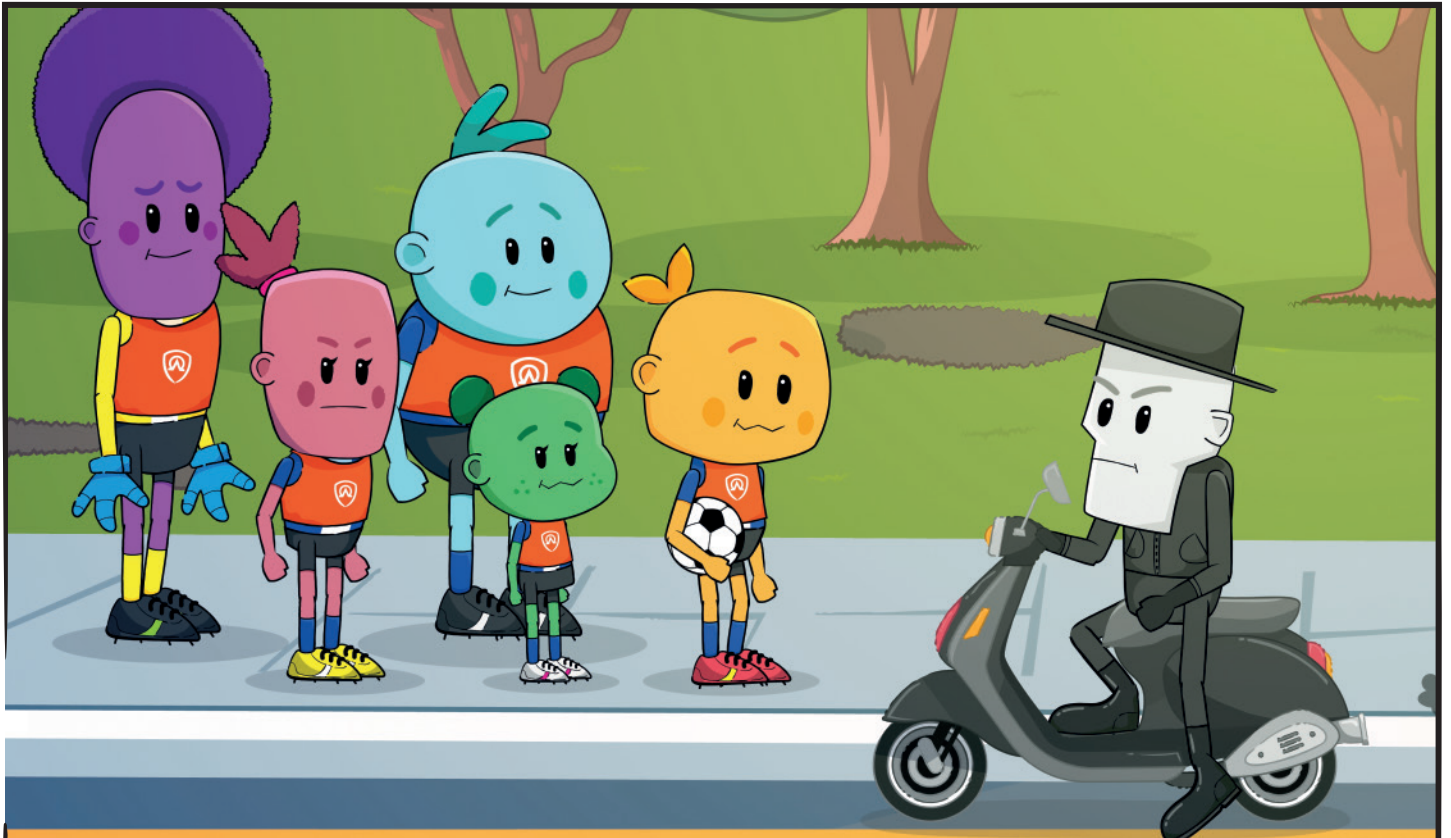
FOOTY AND THE CHILDREN FROM BLUEVILLE FC ARE PRACTISING HARD. IT'S THE FIRST TIME THEY'VE EVER REACHED THE FINAL BEFORE! FOOTY PLAYS IN MIDFIELD, AND IS PRACTISING HIS SHOOTING TODAY.



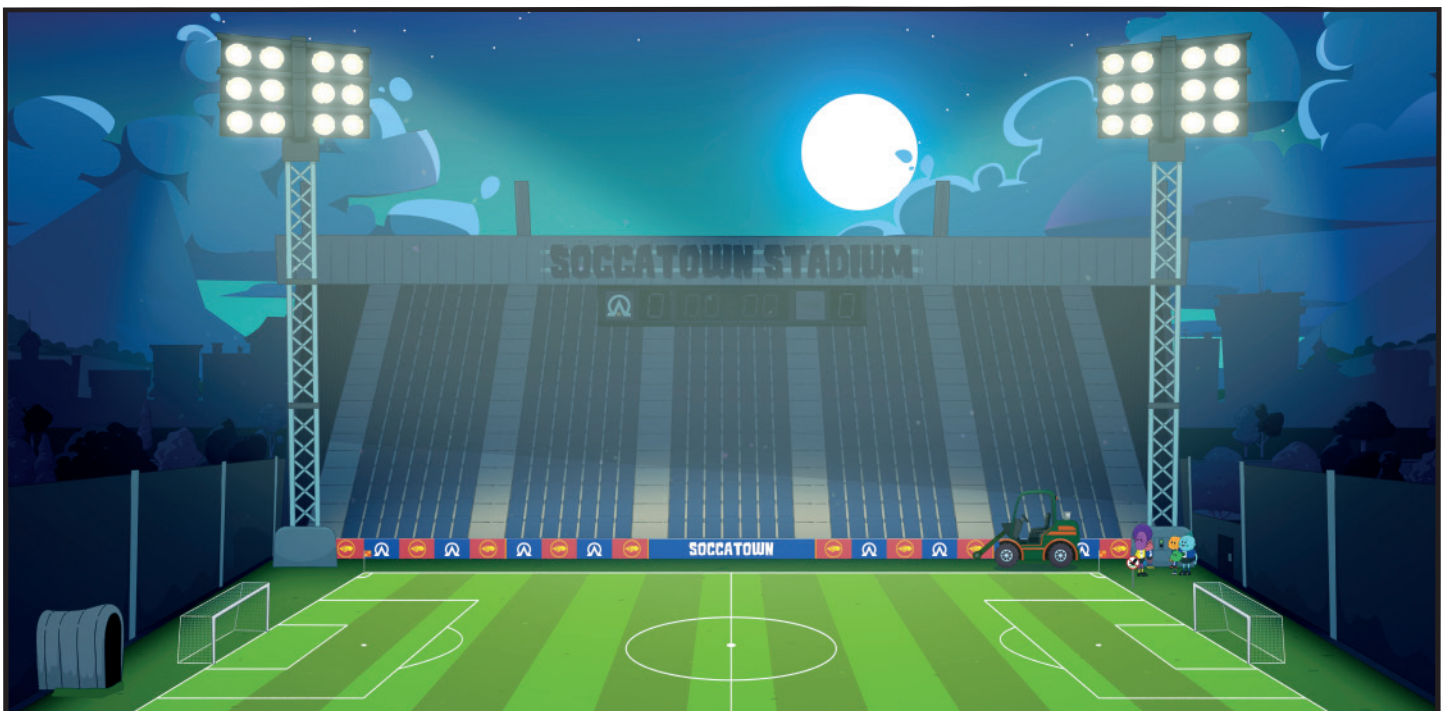
NEARBY IN THE STADIUM, MR. GABBA AND HIS SON JERRO ARE WORKING TO GET THE PITCH READY. MR. GABBA OWNS THE STADIUM, AND LOVES TO LET THE YOUTH TEAMS OF THE TOWN USE IT FOR THE FINAL!



THE CHILDREN HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PITCH; THEY ARE SO EXCITED! MR. GABBA TELLS THEM NOT TO GO ON THE PITCH UNTIL THE NEW GRASS HAS SETTLED, OTHERWISE THE FINAL WILL BE CANCELLED.



AS THE CHILDREN WALK BACK TO TRAINING, NOX DRIVES UP TO THEM. NOX HATES MR. GABBA. 'DID HE REALLY SAY DON'T GO ON THE PITCH YET?' ASKS NOX, 'THE FINAL WON'T BE CANCELLED - HE JUST WANTS YOU TO LOSE!'



THAT NIGHT, THE CHILDREN - LED BY FOOTY - JUMP OVER THE FENCE AND TURN ON THE LIGHTS. THEY ARE DISOBEYING MR. GABBA, BUT THEY DON'T CARE - THEY WANT TO PLAY FOOTBALL ON THE NEW PITCH



THE PITCH GETS RUINED! NOX IS VERY PLEASED. SUDDENLY FOOTY HEARS A CAR APPROACHING. IT'S MR. GABBA! THE CHILDREN RUN AND HIDE.



'FOOTY? KIDS? WHERE ARE YOU?', CALLS MR GABBA, 'WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?' FOOTY BLAMES HIS TEAMMATES. THEY BLAME NOX. ALL OF THEM ARE GUILTY.



THE KIDS ARE TOLD TO LEAVE THE STADIUM. THE FINAL IS CANCELLED AND THEY WILL BE STARTING THE NEXT SEASON WITH POINTS DEDUCTED. FOOTY HAS NEVER FELT SO BAD IN HIS WHOLE LIFE.



ONLY MR. GABBA AND JERRO CAN REPAIR THE DAMAGE TO THE PITCH. THEY'VE GOT A PLAN TO FIX EVERYTHING, AND HELP BLUEVILLE F.C.

# CREATION & THE FALL



IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH. HE CREATED THE SKY, THE SEA AND LAND. PLANTS AND TREES. THE SUN, MOON AND STARS. FISH, BIRDS, AND ANIMALS.



LASTLY GOD FORMED MAN AND BREATHED LIFE INTO HIM AND FROM THE MAN'S RIB THE LORD MADE WOMAN. ADAM AND EVE, THE FIRST HUMAN BEINGS - MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. GOD LOOKED AT WHAT HE HAD MADE AND SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.





GOD PUT ADAM AND EVE IN A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN IN EDEN. THEIR JOB WAS TO TAKE CARE OF IT, AND ENJOY THE DELICIOUS FRUIT FROM THE TREES THAT GREW THERE. BUT THE MOST PRECIOUS THING OF ALL WAS THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. HE LOVED THEM SO MUCH.



IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN WERE TWO SPECIAL TREES: THE TREE OF LIFE, AND THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. GOD HAD ONE COMMAND FOR ADAM: 'YOU CAN EAT FROM ANY TREE IN THE GARDEN EXCEPT THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. IF YOU EAT FROM IT, YOU WILL DIE.'



BUT THERE WAS AN ENEMY IN THE GARDEN: SATAN. TAKING THE FORM OF A SERPENT, SATAN SPOKE TO EVE AND QUESTIONED WHAT GOD HAD TOLD THEM. 'DID GOD REALLY SAY, 'YOU MUST NOT EAT FROM ANY TREE IN THE GARDEN? ... YOU WON'T DIE!' SATAN WAS TRYING TO MAKE THEM DOUBT GOD'S GOODNESS.



EVE STARED AT THE FRUIT FROM THE FORBIDDEN TREE. SHE ATE, AND THEN GAVE SOME TO ADAM, WHO ALSO ATE. AT THAT MOMENT, EVERYTHING CHANGED. ADAM AND EVE FELT SOMETHING THEY HAD NEVER FELT BEFORE... SHAME.



TO COVER THEIR NAKEDNESS, THEY MADE CLOTHES OUT OF LEAVES. SUDDENLY THEY HEARD A SOUND - GOD WAS WALKING IN THE GARDEN! ADAM AND EVE HID, BECAUSE THEY FELT ASHAMED. 'WHERE ARE YOU?' GOD CALLED OUT TO ADAM.



ADAM EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS AFRAID BECAUSE HE WAS NAKED, SO HE HID. 'WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NAKED? HAVE YOU EATEN FROM THE TREE I TOLD YOU NOT TO EAT FROM?' ANSWERED GOD. ADAM DIDN'T WANT TO FACE UP TO WHAT HE HAD DONE, OR EVEN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. INSTEAD, HE BLAMED EVE - AND EVEN GOD FOR PUTTING HER THERE WITH HIM!



ADAM AND EVE HAD DISOBEYED GOD, AND DISOBEYING GOD HAD SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES - NOT JUST FOR THEM, BUT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD. ALL OF CREATION WAS CURSED. ADAM AND EVE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE THE GARDEN AND BE SEPARATED FROM GOD. NO MORE PARADISE.



EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS PAIN AND SADNESS, GOD GAVE THEM - AND US - HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. ONE DAY, HE TOLD SATAN, SOMEONE WILL COME WHO WILL DEFEAT YOU. YOU WILL HURT HIM, BUT HE WILL CRUSH YOU. GOD WAS TALKING ABOUT JESUS, HIS SON - WHO WOULD ONE DAY BE BORN INTO THE WORLD TO DESTROY THE WORK OF SATAN.

# STORY MATCHUP

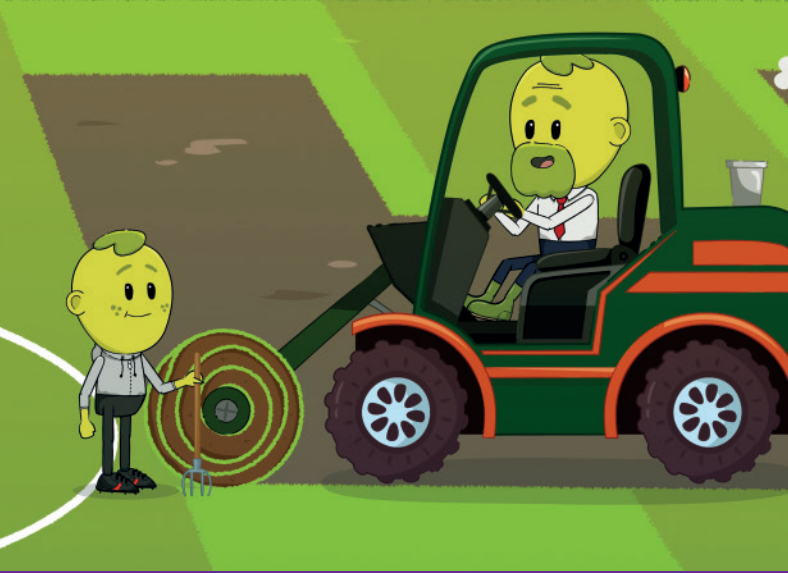
CAN YOU MATCH UP THE BIBLE STORY WITH THE FOOTBALL STORY?

## FOOTBALL STORY

- 1 MR. GABBA PREPARES A PERFECT PITCH FOR THE FINAL
- 2 THE PITCH IS FOR THE KIDS TO ENJOY
- 3 MR. GABBA TELLS THE KIDS NOT TO GO ON THE PITCH
- 4 NOX ASKS THE KIDS 'DID MR. GABBA REALLY SAY NO?'
- 5 THE KIDS SNEAK ONTO THE PITCH AND PLAY
- 6 THE KIDS HEAR MR. GABBA ARRIVE AND THEY HIDE FROM HIM
- 7 FOOTY BLAMES HIS TEAMMATES AND THEY BLAME NOX
- 8 MR. GABBA TELLS THE KIDS TO LEAVE, THE FINAL IS CANCELLED
- 9 MR. GABBA AND HIS SON JERRO PREPARE TO REPAIR THE PITCH AND FIX WHAT NOX HAS DONE

## BIBLE STORY

- GOD CURSES ADAM AND EVE - SIN AND DEATH ENTER THE WORLD
- EVE SEES THAT THE FRUIT WAS GOOD AND EATS SOME
- SATAN ASKS EVE 'DID GOD REALLY SAY DON'T EAT FROM THE TREE?'
- ADAM BLAMES EVE AND GOD, EVE BLAMES THE SERPENT
- GOD PUTS ADAM AND EVE IN THE GARDEN FOR THEM TO ENJOY
- 1 GOD MAKES THE HEAVENS AND EARTH AND IT IS GOOD
- GOD COMMANDS ADAM AND EVE NOT TO EAT FROM THE TREE
- ADAM AND EVE HEAR GOD COMING AND THEY HIDE FROM HIM
- GOD TELLS SATAN THAT ONE DAY SOMEONE (JESUS, HIS SON!) WILL CRUSH THE SERPENT



## FOCUS STUDY 1 GOD & CREATION



### WARM UP

- Q** *In the football story, who do you think Mr. Gabba represents?*
- Q** *What does the pitch represent in the story?*
- Q** *Can you name some of the things that God created?*



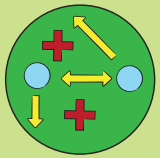
### TEAM TALK

Try and tell the Football Story in one minute. Now try telling the Bible story in the same time!



### TRAINING - MEMORY VERSE

**Genesis 1:1 (NIV)** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.



# GOD'S GAME PLAN

1

The Bible tells us about who God is. Read this...

**READ Genesis 1:1&3 (NLT)** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

**Q** *What can we learn about God from this verse?*

2

In the football story, Mr. Gabba created the perfect pitch with his son, Jerro. The Bible tells us about God's Son, Jesus, and the part He played in Creation...

**READ John 1:3 (NLT)** God created everything through Him (that's Jesus), and nothing was created except through him.

**Q** *What can we learn about Jesus from this verse?*

3

The Bible also tells us what this new world was like...

**READ Genesis 1:31a (NLT)** Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

**Q** *What good things do we see that God created?*



Close your eyes. Say something that's bad in the world today (pain, sickness, pollution, evil, death, etc.) As each word is said, pause for a second to try and imagine what life would be like without that thing.



# GOING FOR GOAL

**PRAY:** What are you going to pray for or thank God for after hearing this story?

**DO:** Every time you make something say to yourself 'God is so powerful he can create things by just speaking!

**TELL:** I'm going to tell these stories to...



## FOCUS STUDY 2 THE IMAGE OF GOD



### WARM UP

- Q** *What did God create last?*
- Q** *How did God create Adam and then Eve?*



### TEAM TALK

Think about one of your parents or friends. Have you ever seen a picture or video of them? Close your eyes and try to imagine it.

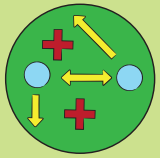
- Q** *What does that image tell you about the person?*
- Q** *What doesn't it tell you about them?*



### TRAINING - MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 1:27a (NIV) '...God created mankind in His own image...'





# GOD'S GAME PLAN

1

Human beings are different to any other living creature.

**READ Genesis 1:27 (NLT)** So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**Q** *What's different about human beings?*

2

Being in the image of God doesn't mean that we are little gods, but it does mean that we show what He is like in some ways. We can think and feel in a way that animals, birds, and fish simply can't!

**Q** *Can we think of any ways that humans show what God is like?*

3

From the smallest unborn baby to the oldest adult, we are all made in His image! If we should treat God with respect and love, how should we treat people made in His image? Jesus tells us in Mark 12:31 that we should love them like we love ourselves! They are valuable!



Close your eyes and think of some people that you know. As you think of each one, say out loud '*...made in the image of God!*' (***your favourite player / the smallest baby / your best friend / your teacher / someone who is nasty to you***)



# GOING FOR GOAL

**PRAY:** What are you going to pray for or thank God for after hearing this story?

**DO:** What are some good ways that we can treat other people to show them they are valuable?

**TELL:** I'm going to tell this story to...



## FOCUS STUDY 3 SIN & CONSEQUENCES



### WARM UP

- Q** In the football story, what was the wrong thing that Nox wanted Footy and the team to do?
- Q** In the Bible story, what was the wrong thing that Satan wanted Adam and Eve to do?

*The Bible calls these bad things 'sin'.*



### TEAM TALK

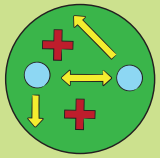
Doing wrong things, or 'sin', brings consequences.

Say out loud - what were the consequences for Footy and the team breaking into the stadium? What about the consequences for Adam and Eve eating the fruit?



### TRAINING - MEMORY VERSE

Romans 5:12 (NLT) 'When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.'



# GOD'S GAME PLAN

1

Satan wanted Adam and Eve to think that breaking God's rules would actually be good for them without any consequences for doing so! He wants us to think the same thing today. Here's what Jesus said about Satan...

**READ John 8:44b (NIV)** '...there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.'

**Q** *Is Satan truthful about sin being harmless?*

2

Because of what Adam and Eve did, sin and death came into the world. But that's not the only consequence...

**READ Isaiah 59:2a (NLT)** It's your sins that have cut you off from God.

**Q** *Why do you think sin separates us from God?*



**READ Romans 3:23 (NLT)** For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

**Pick up a ball. Try to kick or throw the ball to hit the sun (or a cloud). Did the ball even get close? No!**

That's what sin is - sin means 'missing the mark'. All of us fall far short of God's perfect standard of goodness. Next time we'll look at His plan to fix that broken relationship.



# GOING FOR GOAL

**PRAY:** Think about something you have done wrong recently - have you said sorry to God for it?

**DO:** Every time you are tempted to sin, ask yourself 'Is doing this wrong thing really good for me?'

**TELL:** I'm going to tell these stories to...



## FOCUS STUDY 4 THE SNAKE CRUSHER



### WARM UP

- Q** *In the football story, how did Mr Gabba and Jerro begin to fix what Footy and the team had done?*
- Q** *In the Bible story, what did God say was going to happen to the snake (Satan, the devil!) one day?*
- Q** *Who was God referring to when He said this?*



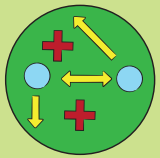
### TEAM TALK

Say or think of a time when someone helped you fix something or rescued you from a difficult situation when you couldn't do it yourself.



### TRAINING - MEMORY VERSE

1 John 3:8b (NLT) But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.



# GOD'S GAME PLAN

1

How did Jesus defeat and crush the devil, Satan?

**READ Hebrews 2:14 (NLT)** ...only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.

**Q** *What did Jesus have to do to defeat the devil?*

2

Dying seems like a strange way to win! But that's why Jesus - God's Son - became human, so that He could die!

**READ 1 Peter 2:24 (NLT)** ...He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right.

**Q** *What do you think it means by Jesus 'carrying our sins' on the cross?*

3

The Bible tells us how can we be saved from the wrong things we have done:

**READ John 3:16 (NIV)** 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

**Q** *How can someone be saved from their sins?*



Close your eyes. Imagine carrying a rock for each wrong thing you have ever done. That's a heavy pile! Then imagine someone comes along and says 'I will carry all this for you - you are free!' How would you feel about that? That is what Jesus has done with our sins! In doing this, He defeated Satan!



# GOING FOR GOAL

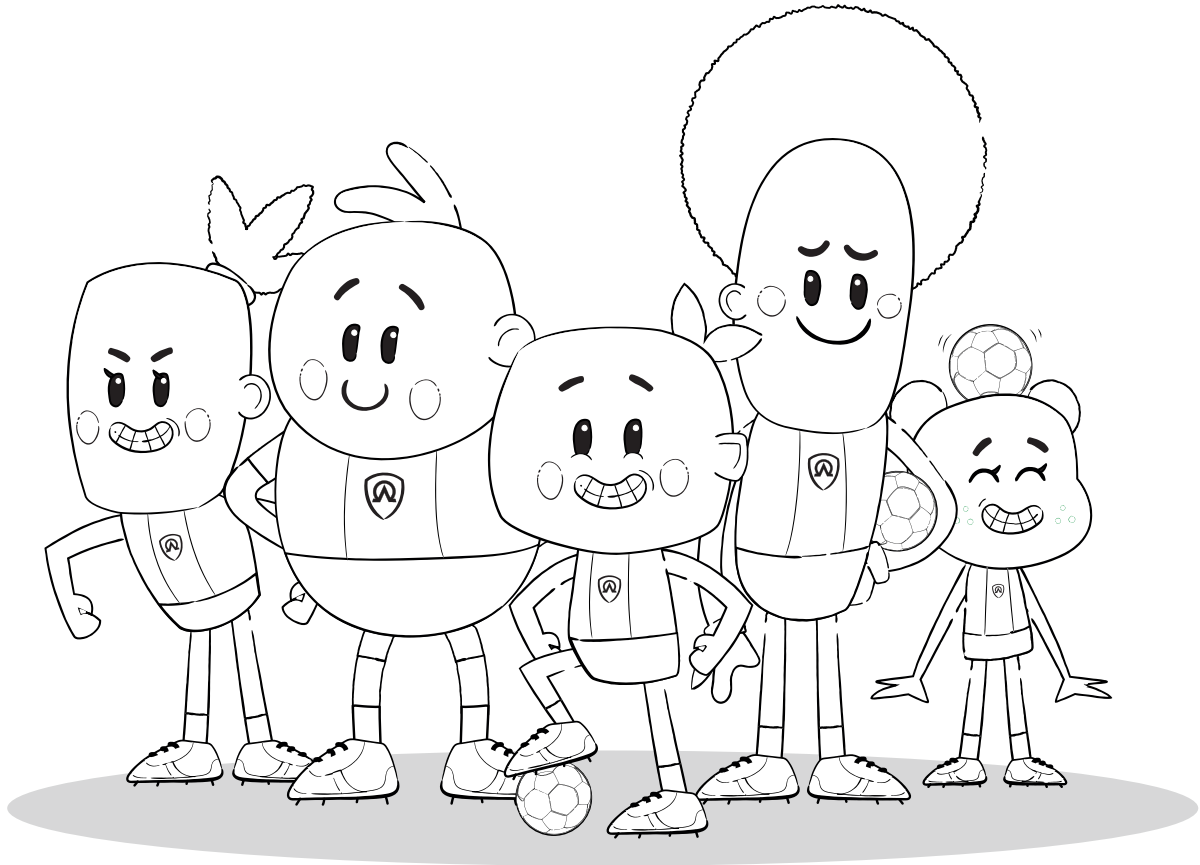
**PRAY:** I'm going to thank Jesus for paying for my sins and defeating Satan on the cross.

**DO:** I'm going to say sorry for the wrong things I've done, and put my trust in Jesus Christ...

**TELL:** I'm going to tell these stories to...

# THE BEAUTIFUL GAME...

COLOUR IN THE TEAM!



SEE IF YOU CAN DRAW FOOTY!



# NOTES...

# MEMORY VERSES

See if you can learn these verses!

**GENESIS 1:1 (NIV)** IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

**ROMANS 5:12 (NLT)** WHEN ADAM SINNED, SIN ENTERED THE WORLD. ADAM'S SIN BROUGHT DEATH, SO DEATH SPREAD TO EVERYONE, FOR EVERYONE SINNED.

# LESSON KEY POINTS

- ▶ God created everything and it was good.
- ▶ We are made in God's image.
- ▶ Sin and death entered the world through Adam's sin (sin means disobeying God).
- ▶ Sin separates us from God.
- ▶ God promised that one day someone (Jesus!) would come who would crush Satan.

