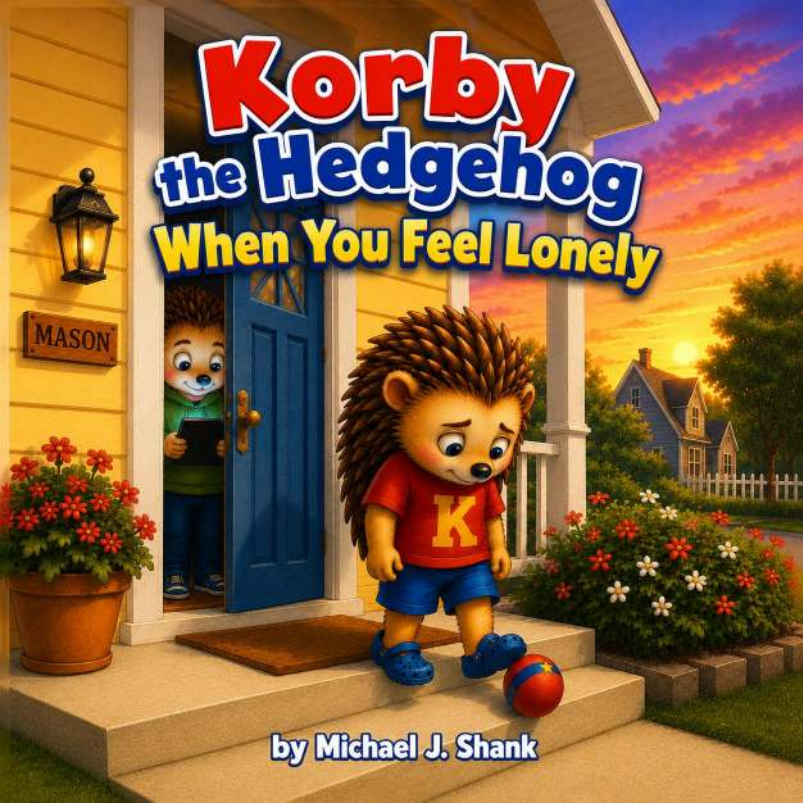


Korby **the Hedgehog** **When You Feel Lonely**



by Michael J. Shank

Korby the Hedgehog

WHEN YOU FEEL LONELY

A Korby the Hedgehog Series Story

Written by Michael J. Shank

What do we do when life gets lonely?

Korby the Hedgehog
When You Feel Lonely

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Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Holy Bible.

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The illustrations in this story were created by AI and may be somewhat inconsistent between scenes.

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Korby bounced his ball down the sidewalk. The sun was bright. The birds were singing. “I hope Mason can play today,” he said with a grin.



Korby knocked on Mason's door.
Knock knock knock.



Mason opened the door just a little.
The glow of a tablet lit his face.
“Hey, Korby,” he said without looking
up.



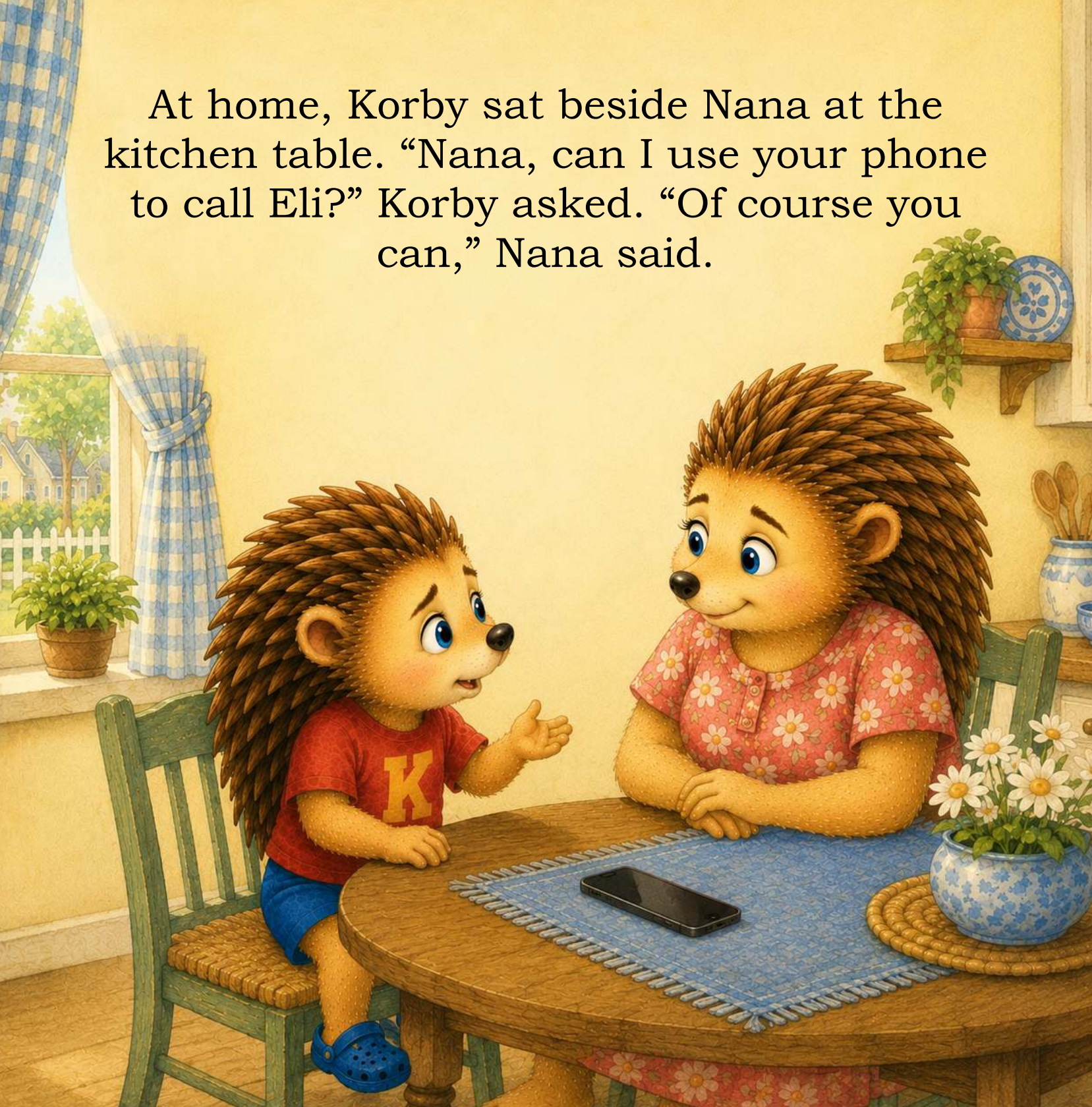
“Want to come outside and play ball?” Korby asked hopefully. Mason shook his head. “No, maybe later. I’m busy right now.”



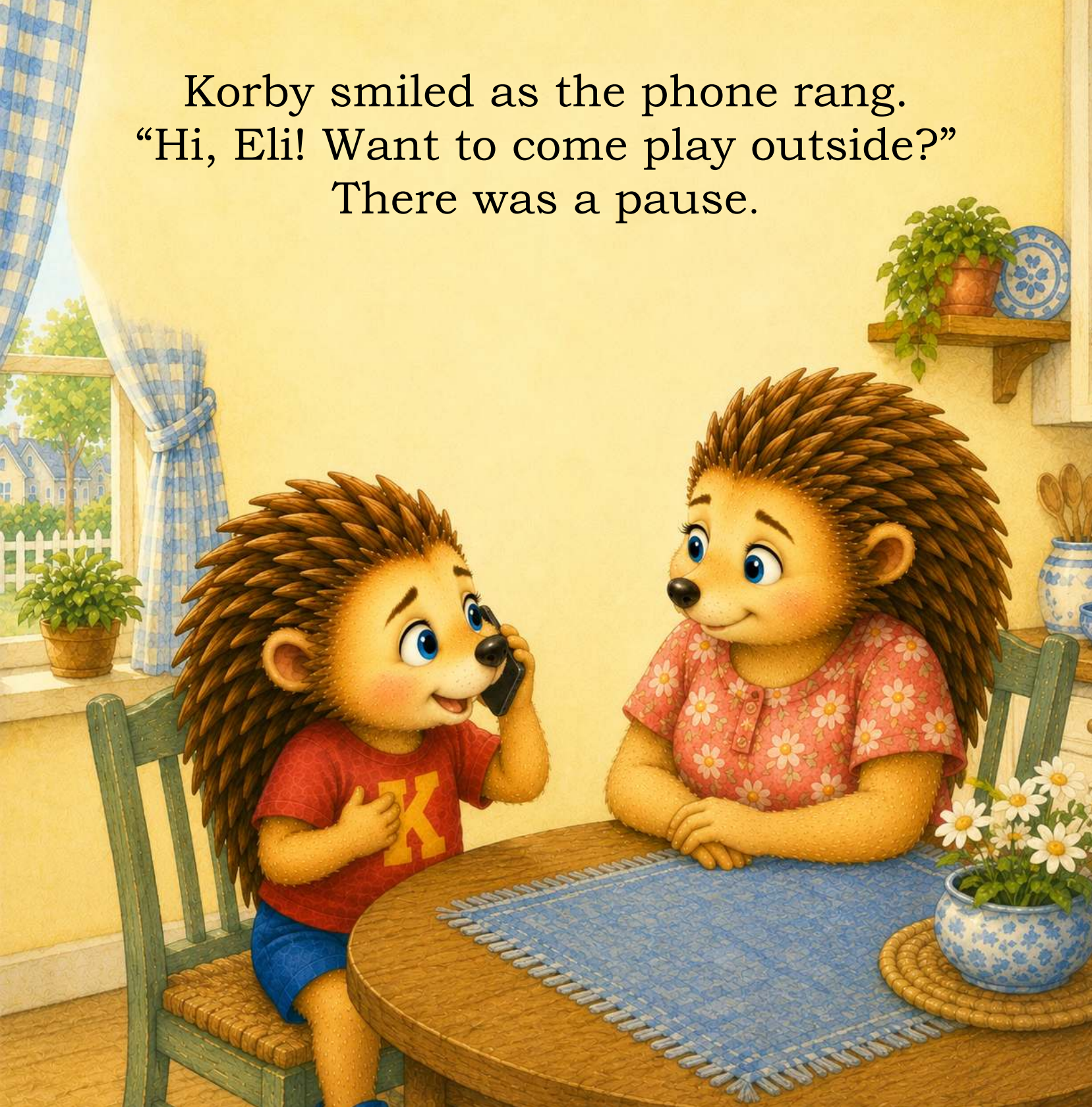
Korby looked down at his ball. “Oh... okay,” he said quietly. He turned and walked back down the porch steps.



At home, Korby sat beside Nana at the kitchen table. “Nana, can I use your phone to call Eli?” Korby asked. “Of course you can,” Nana said.



Korby smiled as the phone rang.
“Hi, Eli! Want to come play outside?”
There was a pause.



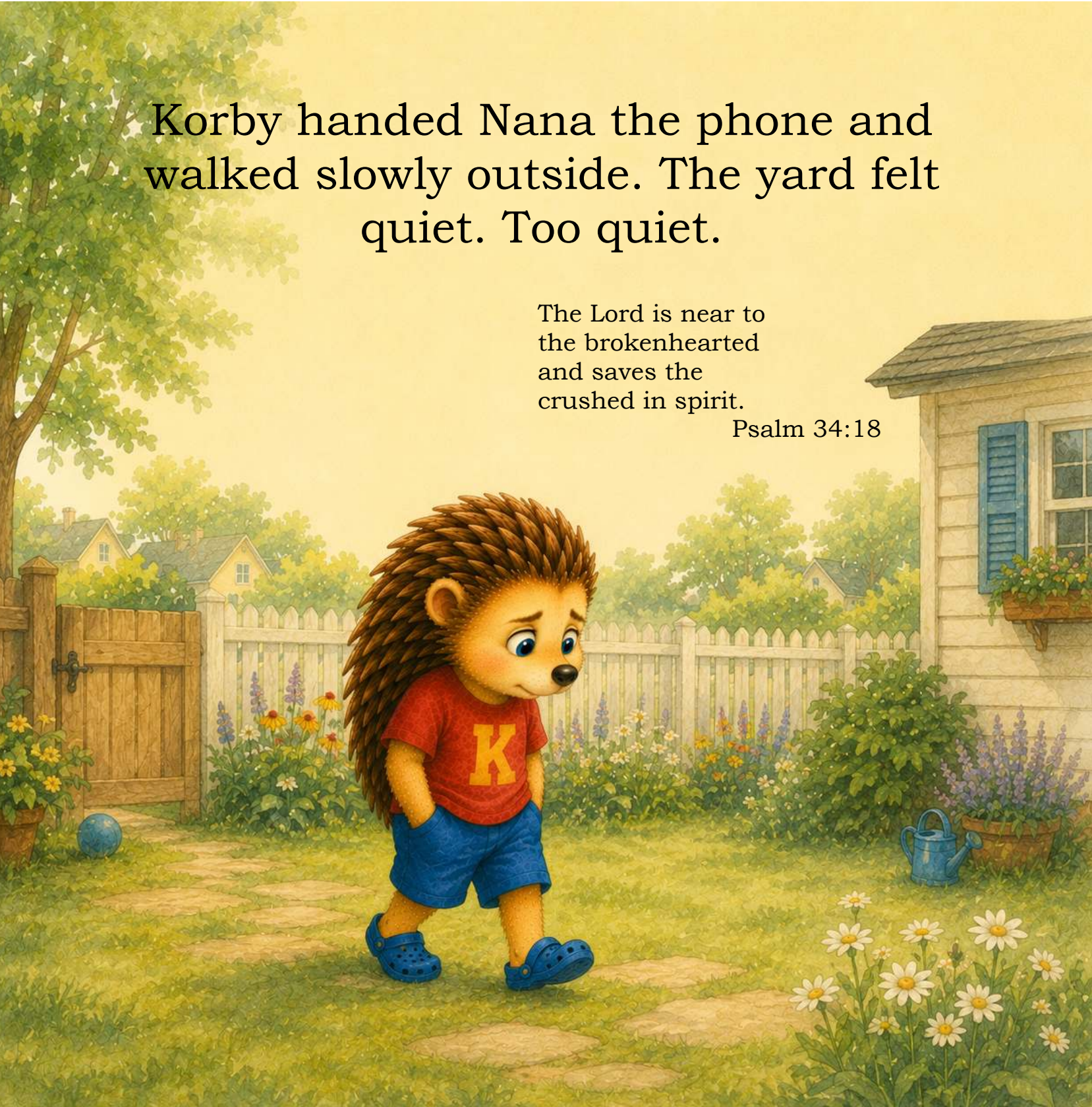
“I can’t today,” Eli answered.
“My new game just updated!”
Korby tried to smile. “Oh. Okay.”



Korby handed Nana the phone and
walked slowly outside. The yard felt
quiet. Too quiet.

The Lord is near to
the brokenhearted
and saves the
crushed in spirit.

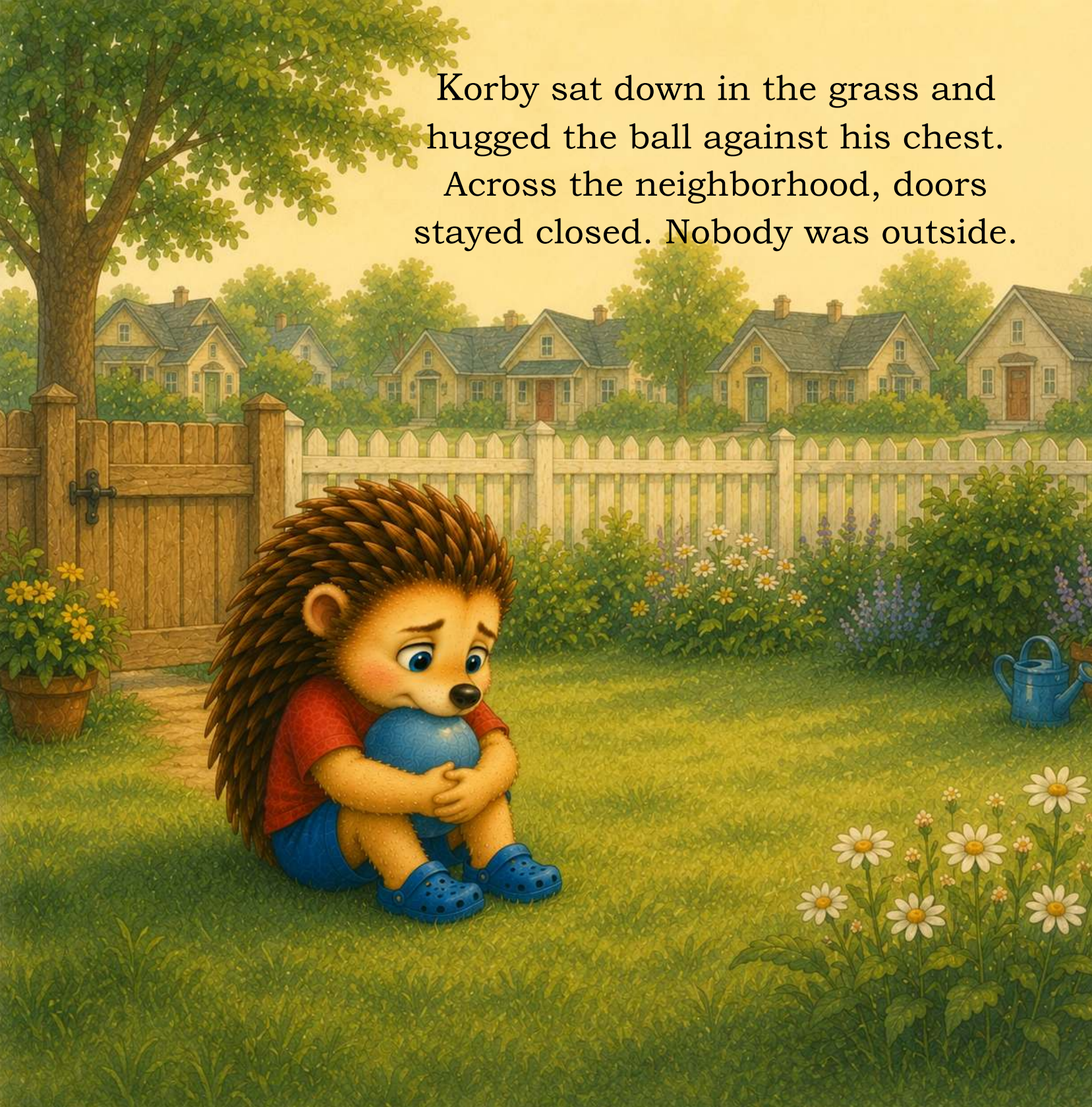
Psalm 34:18



He bounced the ball once.
Then twice.
But playing alone did
not feel fun anymore.



Korby sat down in the grass and hugged the ball against his chest. Across the neighborhood, doors stayed closed. Nobody was outside.



Papaw stepped onto the porch
and watched Korby for a
moment. Then he sat down on
the ground.

“You look lonely, Korby.”



Korby nodded. “I wanted somebody to play with.” Papaw smiled softly. “Well... I’m somebody.”

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. Ecclesiastes 4:9

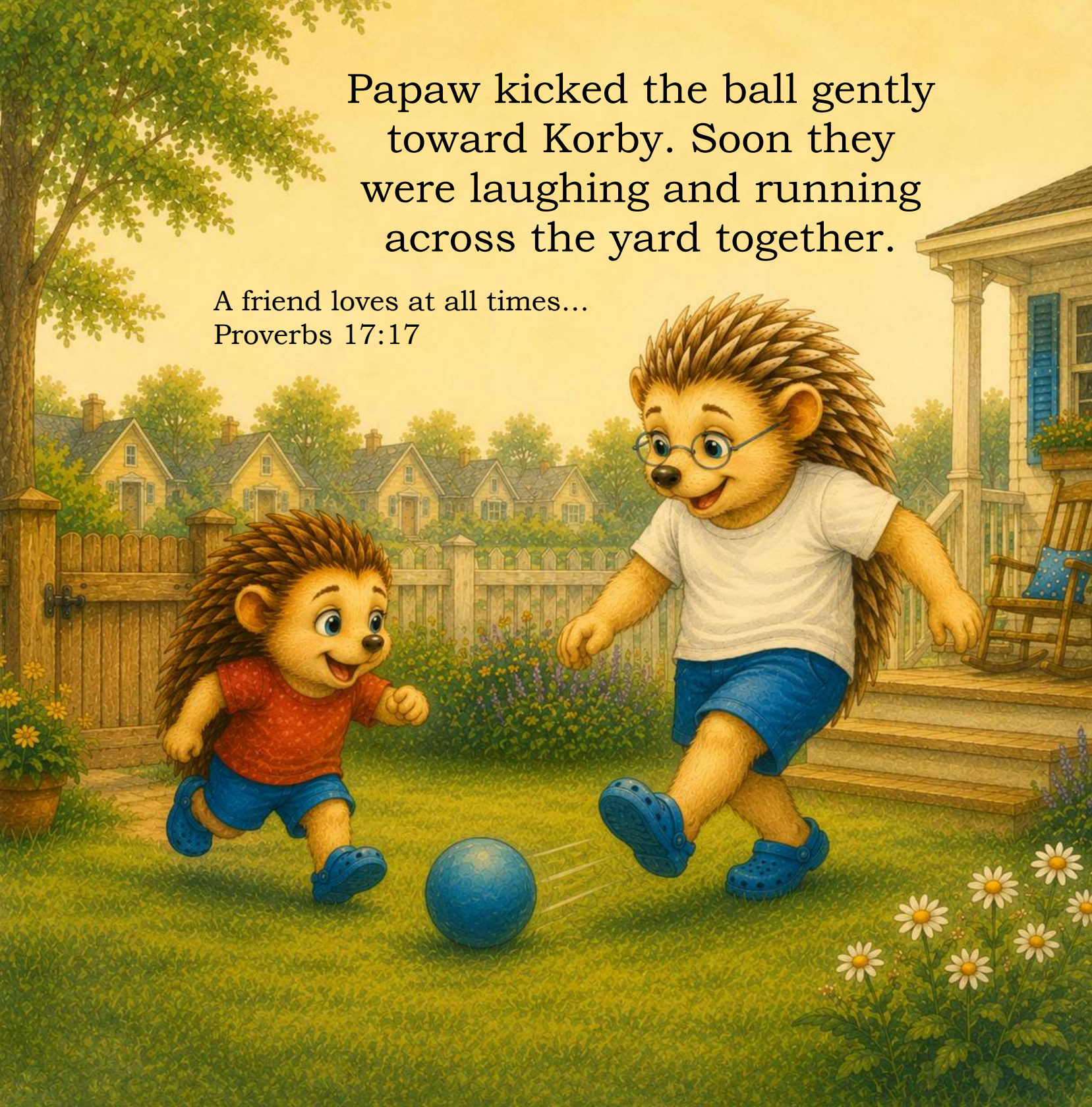


Korby looked up. “You want to play ball with me?” Papaw chuckled. “I thought you’d never ask.”



Papaw kicked the ball gently
toward Korby. Soon they
were laughing and running
across the yard together.

A friend loves at all times...
Proverbs 17:17



The lonely feeling began to shrink a little. Not because everything changed... but because Korby wasn't ever really alone.



Papaw wiped his forehead and smiled. “You know, Korby, sometimes your friend’s forget how important it is to spend time together.”

There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
Proverbs 18:24



Papaw and Korby went into the house to get a drink. Just then they heard a noise. *Knock knock knock.*



Korby turned toward the front door.
Mason stood on the porch holding a ball.
“My tablet died,” he said with a grin.
“Want to play outside now?”



Korby smiled wide. “YES!” And Korby ran out to play with Mason!

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted...
Ephesians 4:32



Story Summary

Korby was beginning to understand that lonely feelings can grow when friends spend too much time behind screens and away from each other. But Korby also learned something important... loneliness does not last forever when people choose to care, connect, and spend time together. Papaw reminded Korby that even simple moments like talking, laughing, playing ball, and being present with someone can make a lonely heart feel full again.



Discuss Together

1. Why did Korby begin to feel lonely?
2. How did Papaw help Korby feel better?
3. Have you ever felt lonely before? What helped you?
4. Why is spending time together important?
5. What are some things you can do with friends besides screens?
6. How can we be kind to someone who feels lonely?

About Korby

Korby is a 7-year-old hedgehog who lives with his papaw and nana. He loves animals, nature, campfire cookouts, double-decker hamburgers, pizza, golf, dogs and giraffes. His favorite color is blue. Most of all, Korby loves God, his family, and learning about life!

Bible Verses Used in This Story (ESV)

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

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