



The Broken Toy Truck

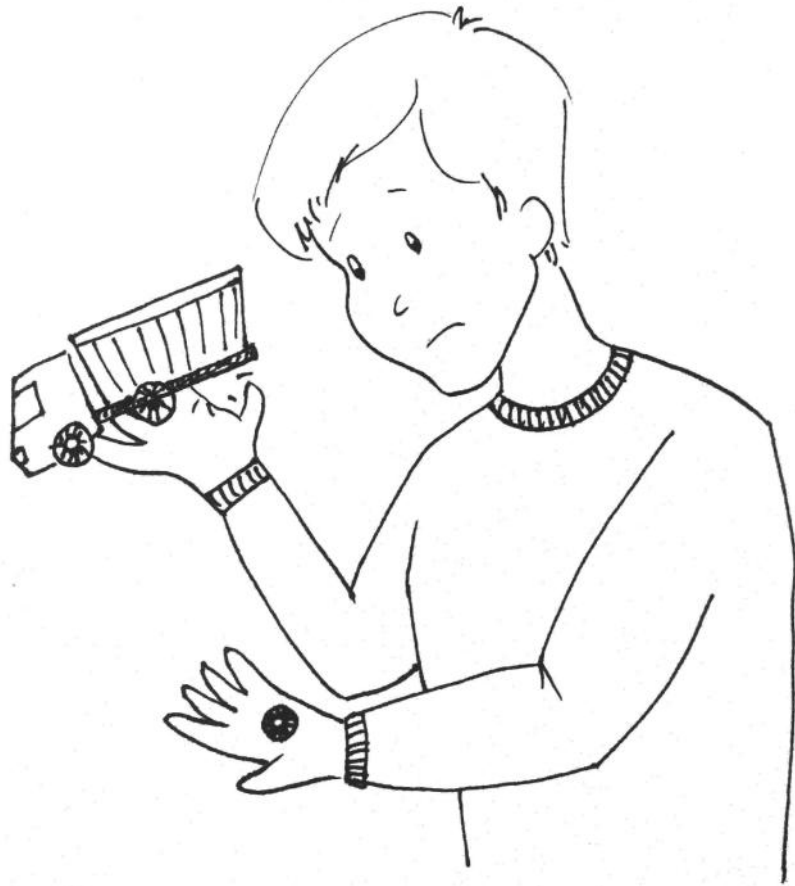
—Part 1—

The Broken Toy Truck—Part 1

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Illustrated by Fleur Celeste

Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!



“Daddy, can you please help me?”

Ned began to cry. His toy truck had broken. The wheel had come off. It seemed there were several of his toys that were weak and would fall apart easily.

It was sad and frustrating for Ned. He wanted toys that would always be nice.



“Hmmm,” Daddy thought as he looked at the broken wheel.

“I think I have just the thing that can fix it.”

Daddy was able to get it fixed for a little while, but not “forever”.

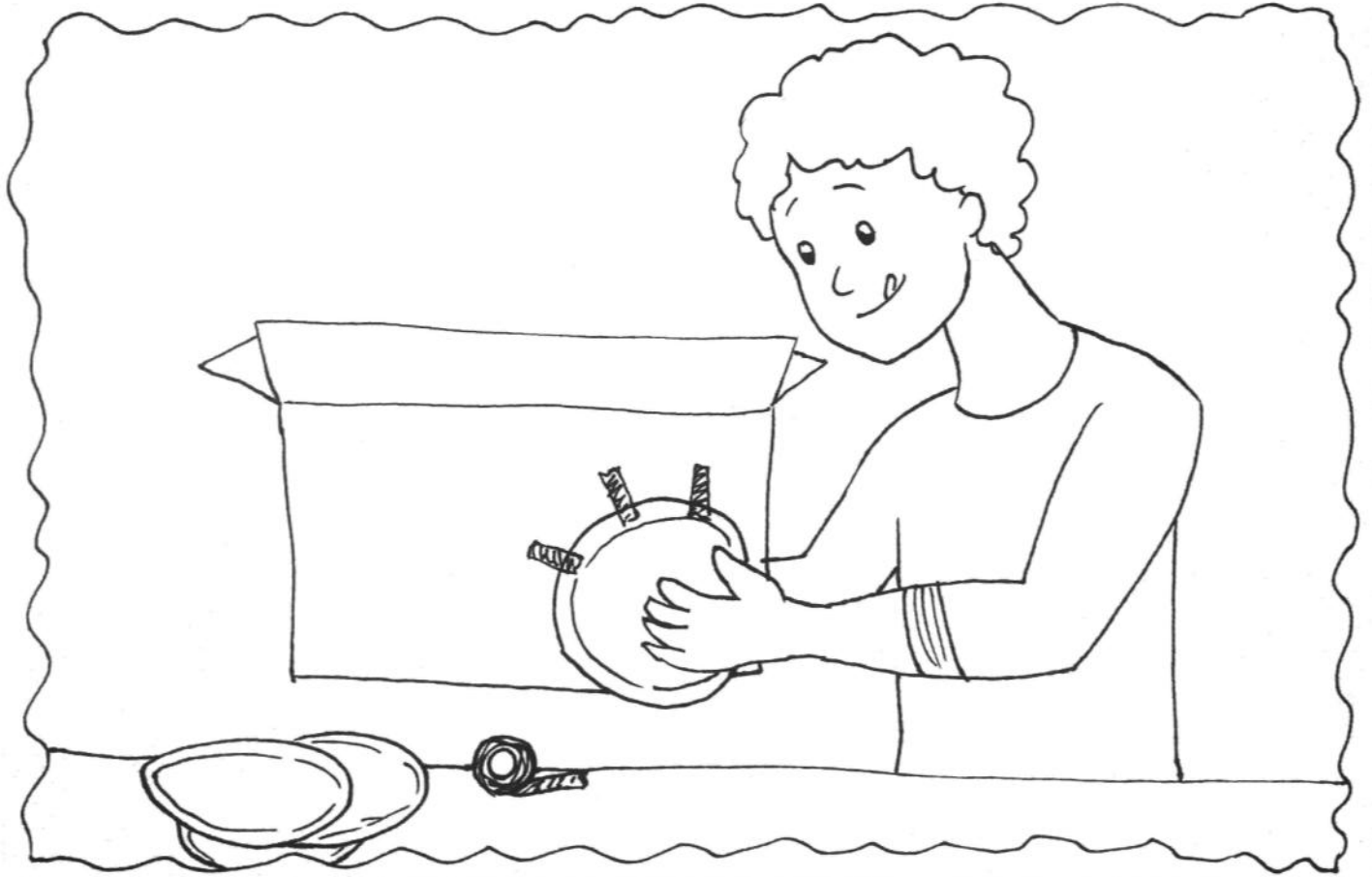
“Oh, dear. I think this toy is just a weak and easy-to-break toy, made with the wrong kind of materials,” Daddy explained.



“That reminds me of a funny story, would you like to hear it?” Daddy asked.

“Yes, can you tell it to me now, please?”
Ned was very interested.

Play time was now up, and it was time to get in bed. So Ned got ready for bed, and then Daddy’s story began.

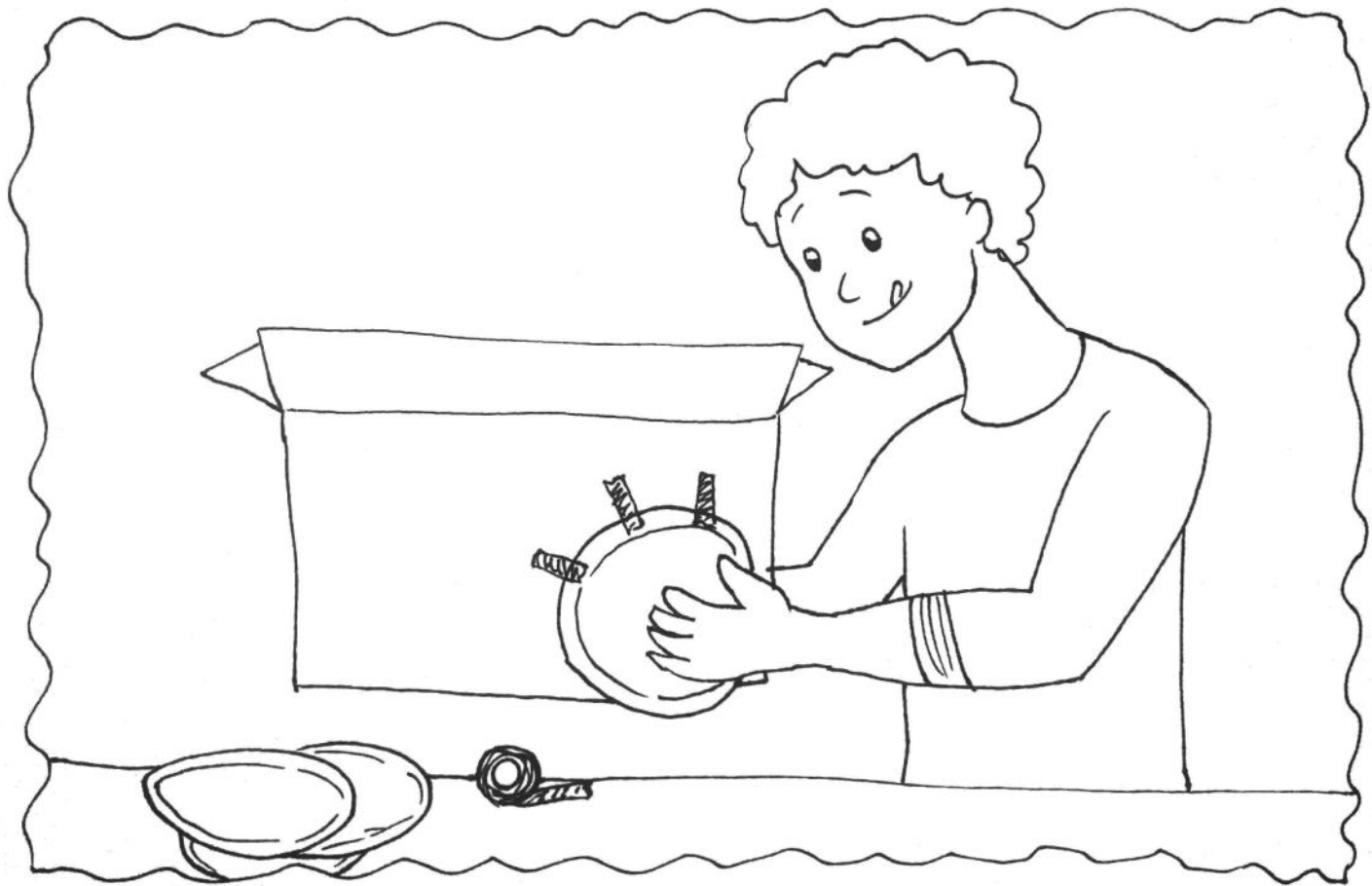


“There was once a carpenter who wanted to build a fine looking wagon, that he could use to load things up in, and use to carry heavy loads.

“However, he wanted it to be finished right away, so he didn’t want to use some strong wood. He thought it might take too long to build. Instead, he found a big cardboard box, and taped on some big round lids that he had in his shed.”

“That should be just great!” he thought. And then went to try it out.”

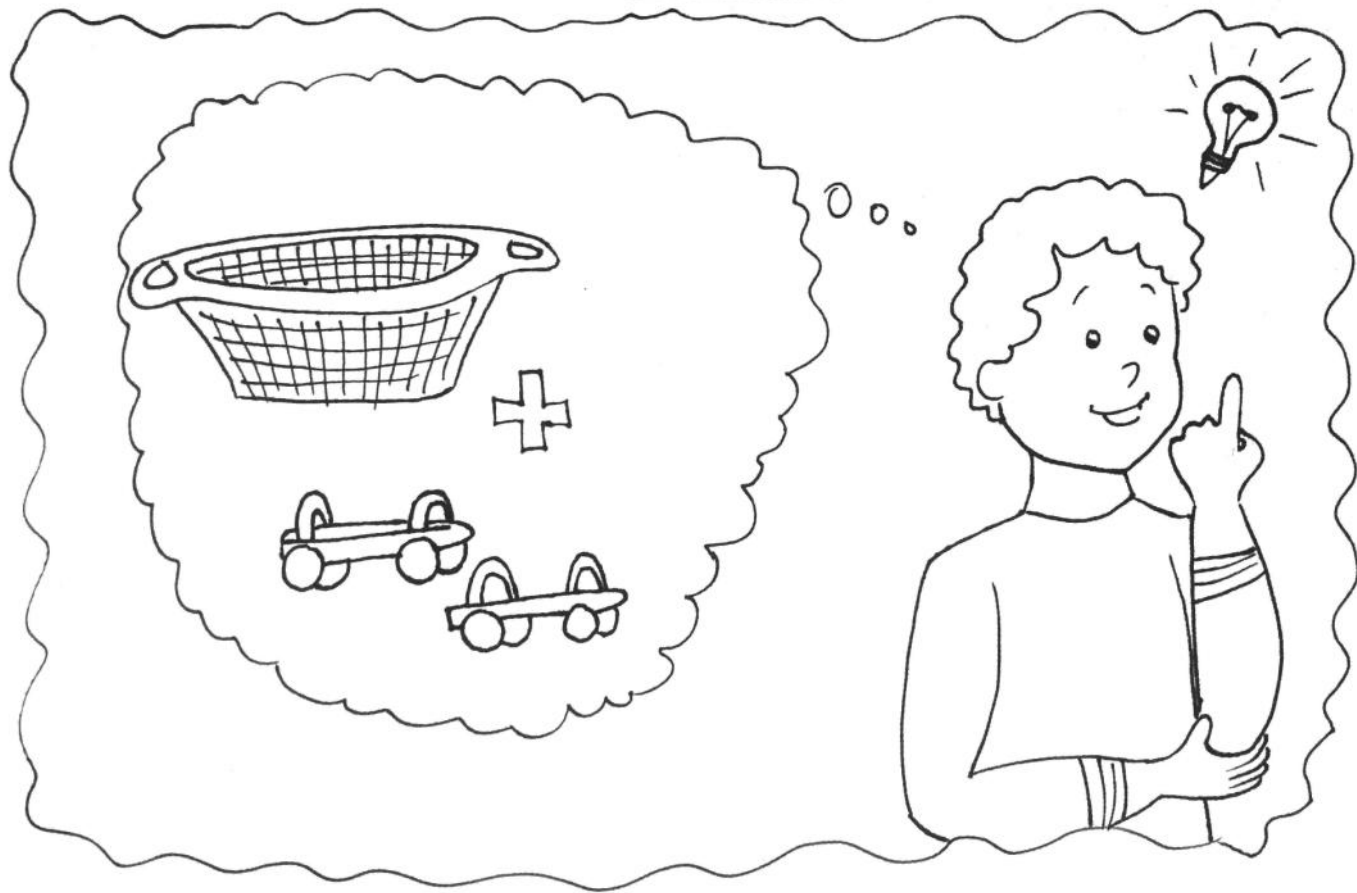
Ned started to giggle. It was a funny idea.



Daddy continued,

“The man loaded up the box wagon with some bricks. He was building a little brick house and needed to carry them. But as soon as he put them in, the box collapsed, and he just had to pull along the ground like a sled.

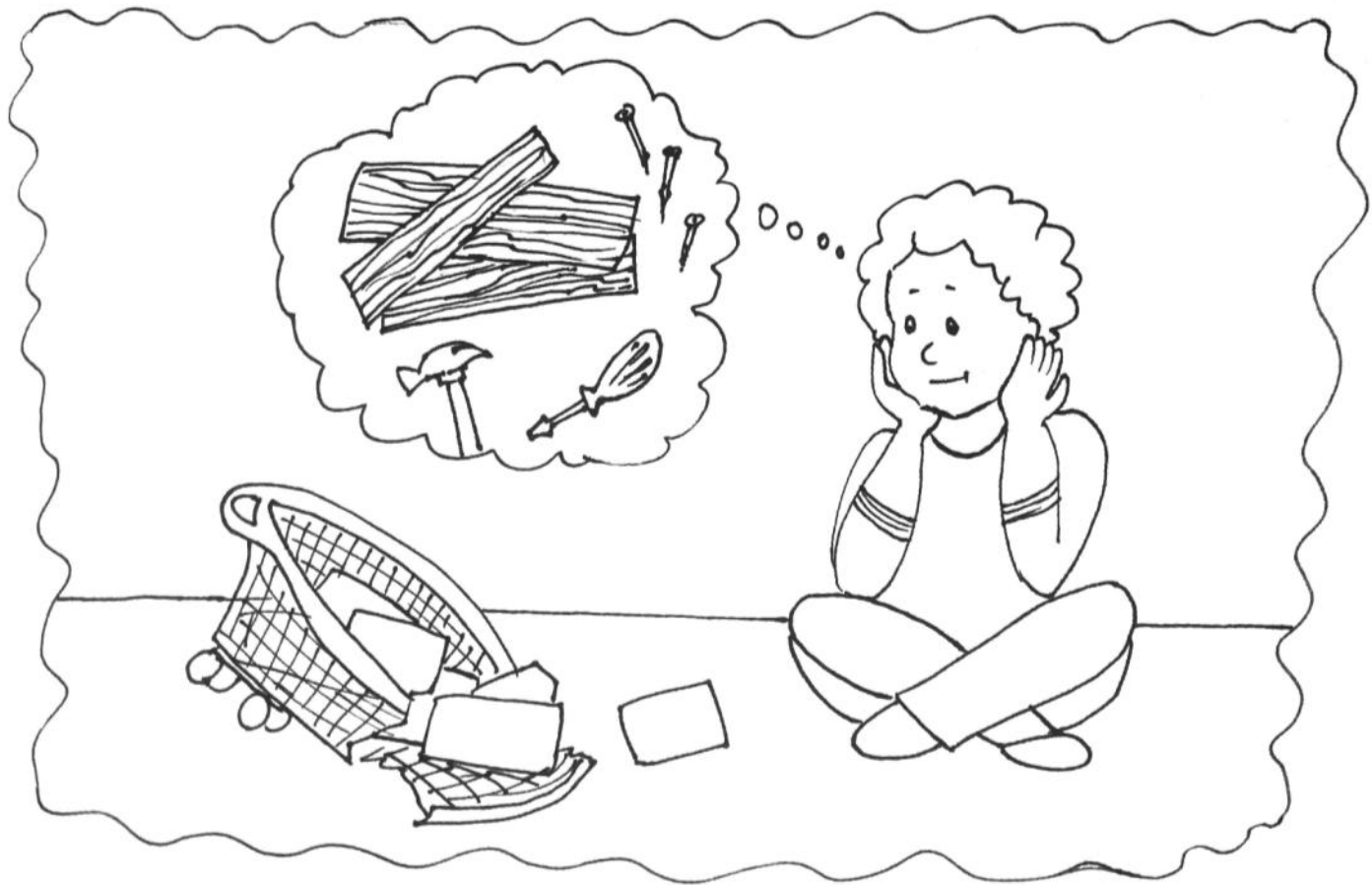
“It was very hard and he couldn’t even put that many bricks in it. He was sweaty and exhausted. It was even harder than carrying them bit by bit. He needed a better wagon plan.”



“‘Maybe if I use an old laundry basket, and then put some roller skates at the bottom of it, and tie a string on to it, then it will roll and carry my load.’ He thought, and then tried to attached the stakes to the bottom of it.”

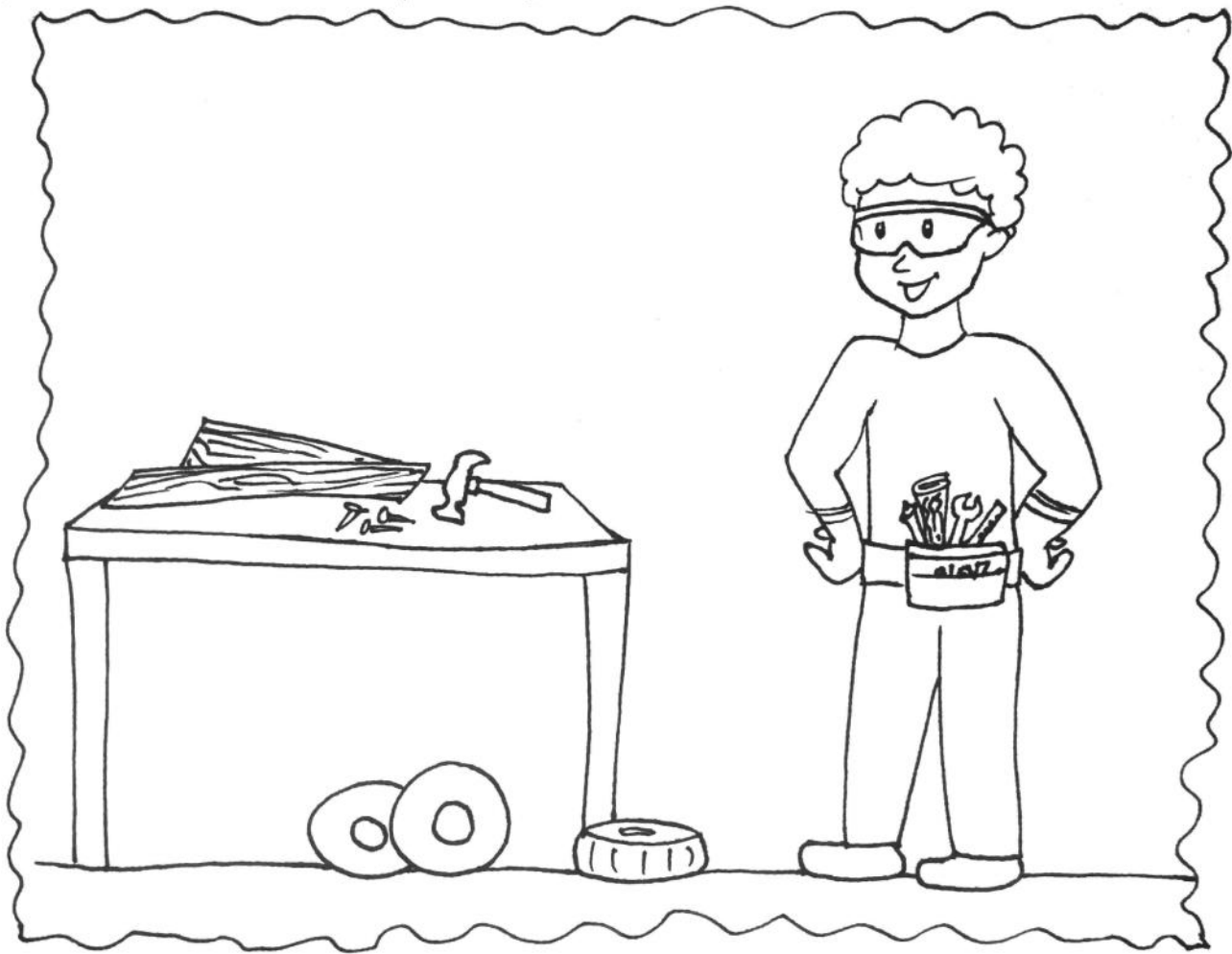
“First the carpenter tried some glue, but it wasn’t strong enough to make them stay. Then he tried to staple them on, but the stapler wouldn’t go through the thick plastic, nor metal. Then he tried tape, but that came off. With a piece of string he was able to get them to stay a little bit in place.”

Ned was really laughing now!



“‘Time to try it out,’ the carpenter said and began to load up the bricks in his new style wagon. But the weight of the bricks made it lose its balance and fell over on its side, spilling the bricks and breaking the already cracked side of the old laundry basket.”

“‘Well, it’s been fun trying new things, but I don’t want a wagon that doesn’t work. Even though it’s harder to make a good strong one from wood and nails and the right material, I think it will work better and make my work easier. —Harder to make, but easier to use.’



“So he set off to collect and get the needed items. The wagon took most of the day to make.

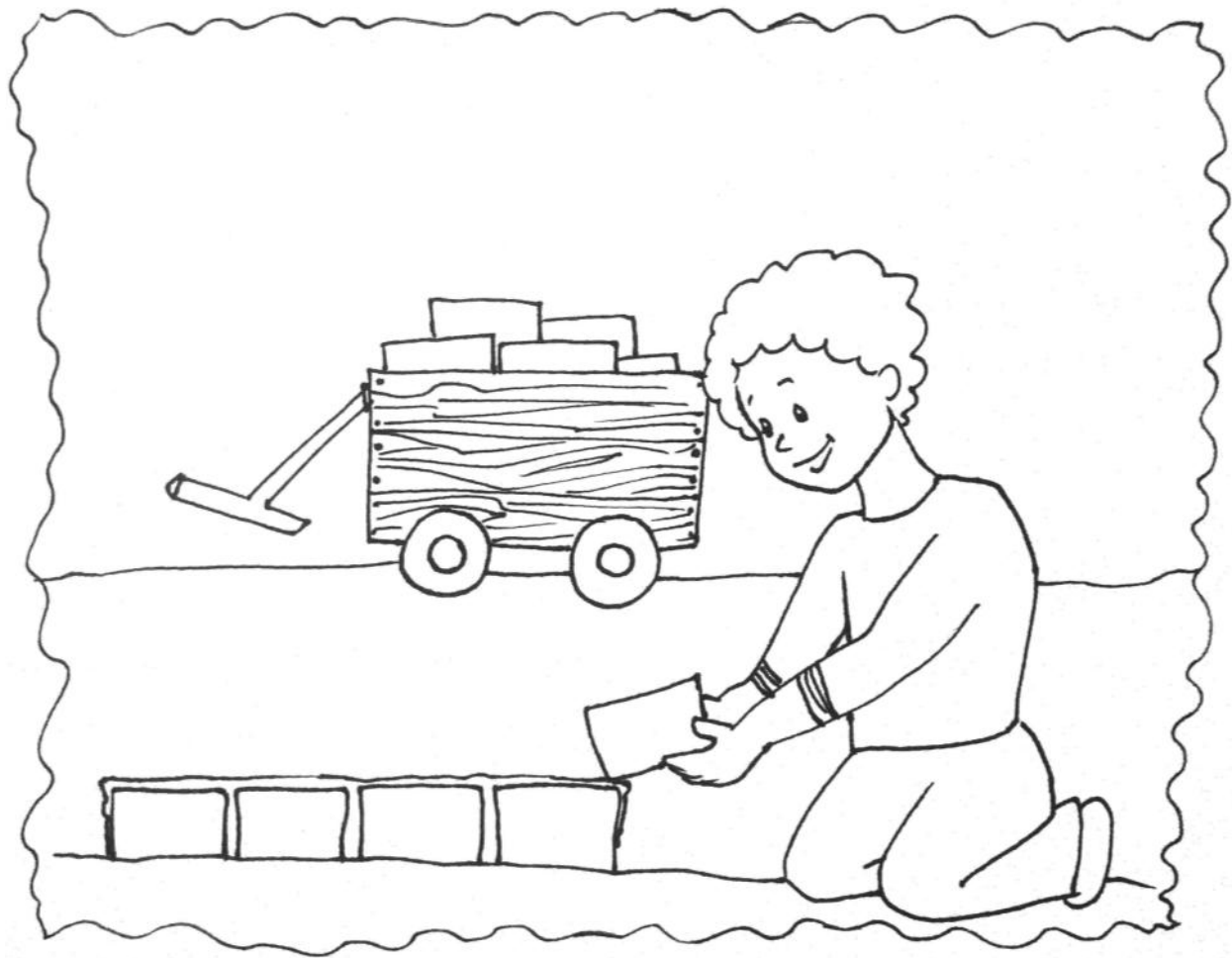
“First he had to draw a plan, and figure out just how much wood he needed, and what size and shape the wagon would be in.

“The carpenter then needed to cut the wood and nail it together. Then the wheels needed to be attached properly. The long and strong handle was put on.”



“Now he was ready to try it out. The carpenter decided to try to carry first something small and light-weight in it—a blanket. And it worked! The wheels rolled great.

“Then he tried something heavier—some wooden blocks. Still the wagon worked. It was heavier to pull, but it didn’t break.



“Lastly, he tried some bricks, but didn’t load it up too heavy. He put just enough in it. Still it pulled well.

““Wow! I’m so happy that I took the time to make it right. Now it will make my work go easier. And I’ll take care of it, and not put too many things in it, or make its load too heavy. Then it will work well and last a long time.””

(Continued in “The Broken Toy Truck—Part 2”)

