The first lesson is

The Greatest Commandment

found on page 308 of your Spark Bible

The Pharisees were a group of people who had lots and lots of laws. Altogether they had more than 600! Whew! That's a lot of rules to follow! One day one of the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Teacher, what's the greatest law?" He didn't think Jesus could possibly pick just one law out of so many. He was trying to trick Jesus!

But Jesus knew the man was trying to trick him. He looked at the man and smiled. "Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all you mind," Jesus said. "This is the greatest of all the commandments. But there's another really important one too.

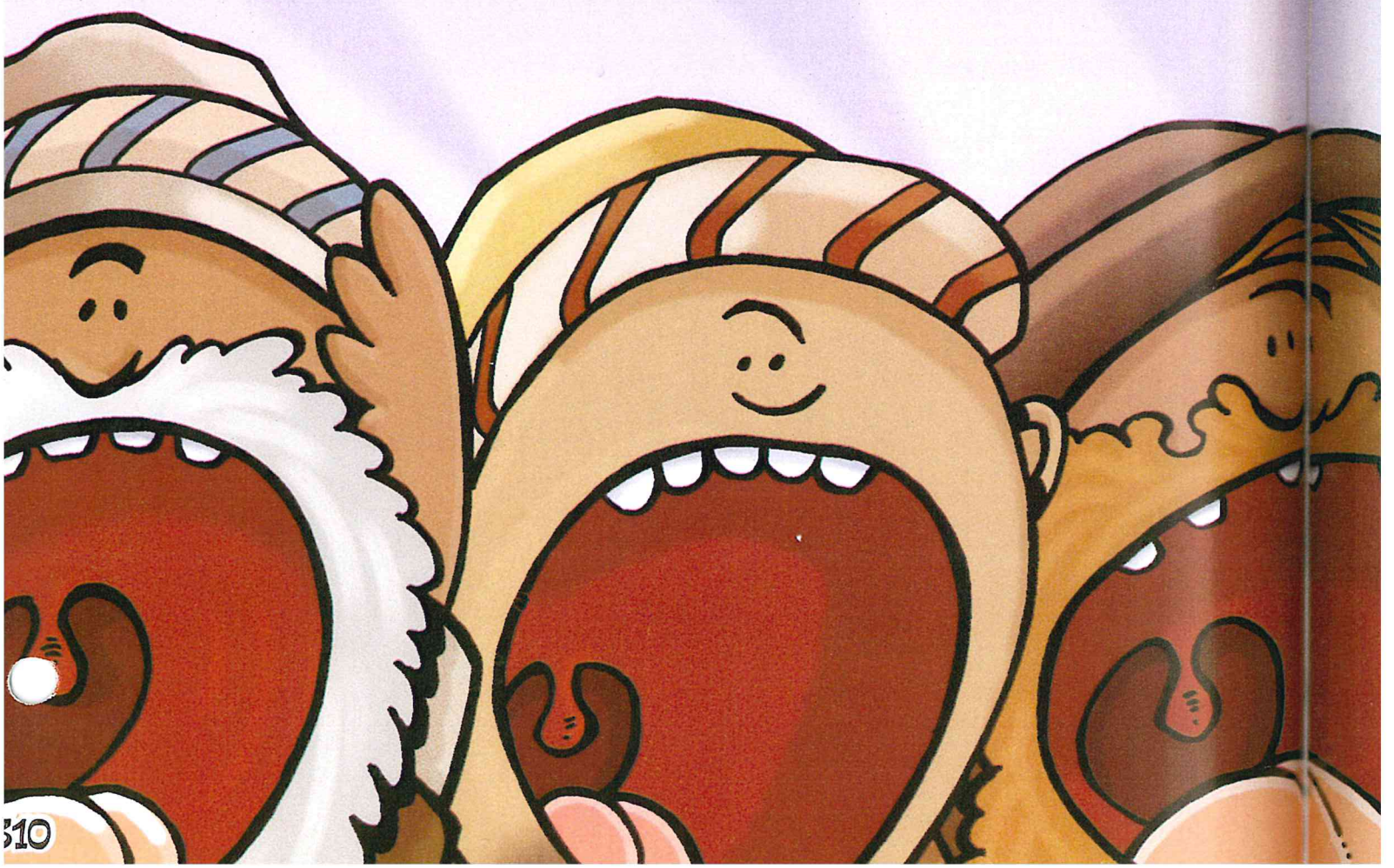


Love your neighbor as yourself. If you obey these two laws, then you obey all of the laws."



The Pharisees' jaws dropped to the floor. They were shocked to know just how smart Jesus was. They were surprised Jesus had answered their question and turned their trick around on them. They didn't know what to say.

Then Jesus had a question for them. "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose Son is he?" That was an easy question for the Pharisees. They grew up



learning in school that the Messiah came from the family of David, so that's what they told Jesus.

"Then why do all the people from the family of David praise David as the Messiah?" Jesus asked. Now that was a hard question. The Pharisees didn't have an answer. They backed away and didn't trick Jesus again.

The Word of the Lord

How would you feel if you were Jesus and a big group of people tried to trick you?

