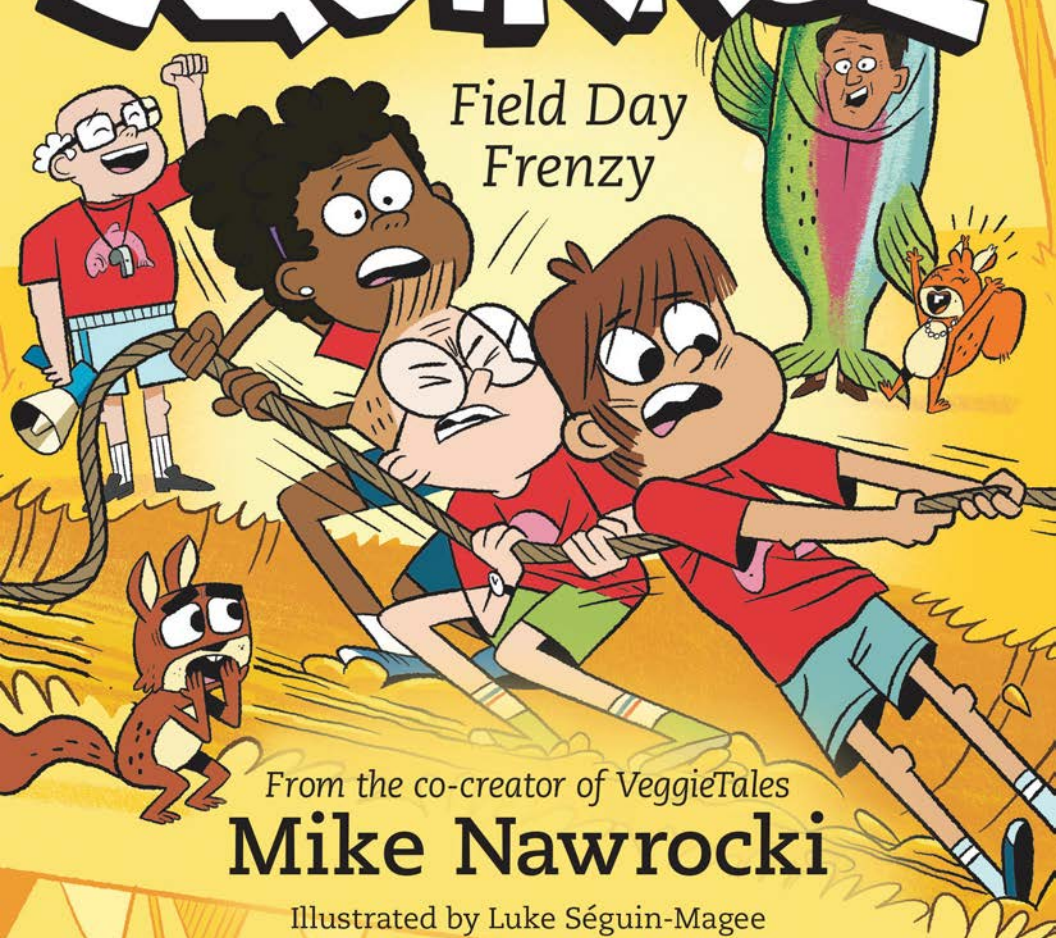


THE DEAD SEA SQUIRRELS

Field Day
Frenzy



From the co-creator of VeggieTales

Mike Nawrocki

Illustrated by Luke Séguin-Magee

The Dead Sea Squirrels Series

Squirreled Away
Boy Meets Squirrels
Nutty Study Buddies
Squirrelnapped!
Tree-mendous Trouble
Whirly Squirrelies
Merle of Nazareth
A Dusty Donkey Detour
Jingle Squirrels
Risky River Rescue
A Twisty-Turny Journey
BabbleLand Breakout
Cybersquirrels
Field Day Frenzy

The title is presented on a grey, unrolled scroll with visible stitching at the ends. The word 'THE' is in a small, black, sans-serif font. 'DEAD SEA' is in a large, white, blocky font with black outlines and internal shadows. 'SQUIRRELS' is in a very large, white, blocky font with thick black outlines and internal shadows, giving it a 3D appearance.

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Field Day Frenzy

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Field Day Frenzy

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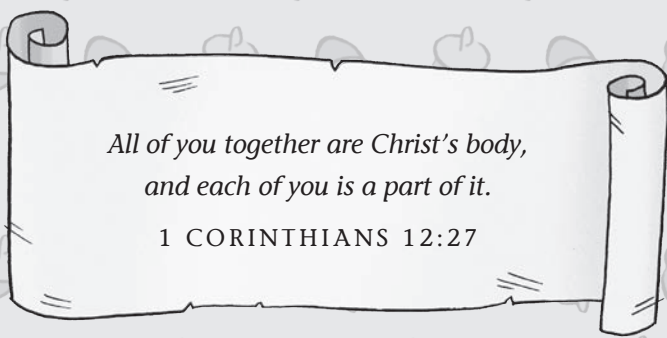
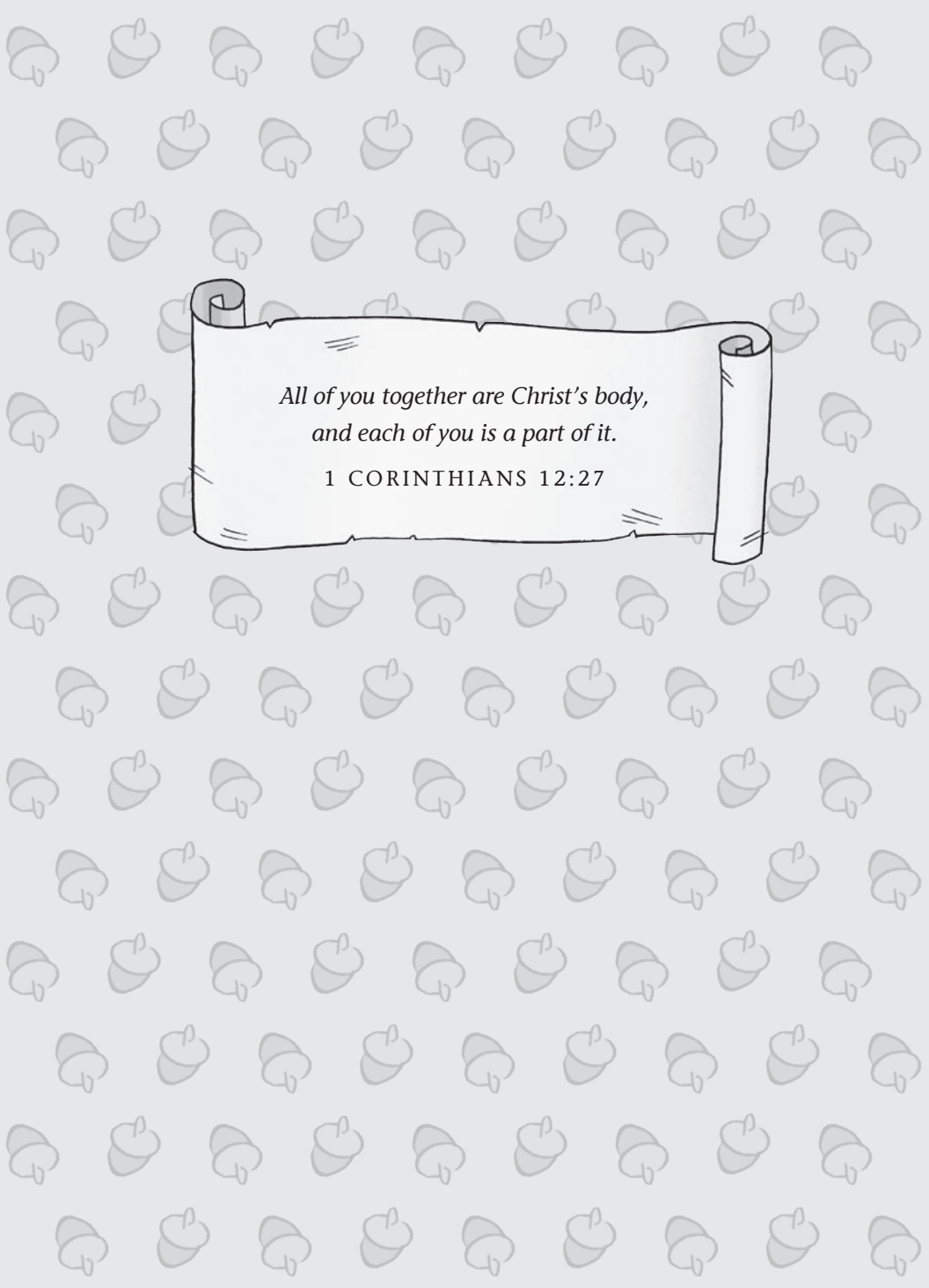
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*To Seth Worley,
crazy talented storyteller and friend.
I feel so fortunate to get to work
with you on this series. Thank you
for blessing us all with your gifts!*



*All of you together are Christ's body,
and each of you is a part of it.*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

BUT WAIT!

BEFORE WE START...

Who are the Dead Sea Squirrels?

ISRAEL,
AD 70

Merle and Pearl cruise
down the Jordan River ...



The squirrels end up at the
Dead Sea, where ...



Soon the two salty squirrels are
hot, thirsty, and desperate for
shade. Then they spot a cave.

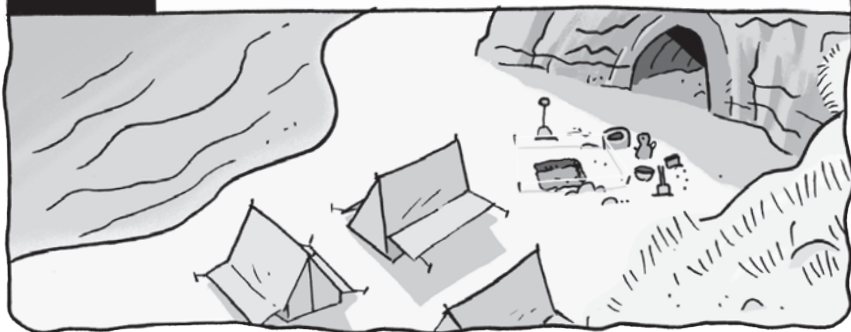


Merle's sense of adventure lures him
into the cave, despite Pearl's protests.



1,950
YEARS LATER

Ten-year-old Michael Gomez is spending the summer at the Dead Sea with his professor dad and his best friend, Justin.



While exploring a cave (without his dad's permission), Michael discovers two dried-out, salt-covered critters and stashes them in his backpack.

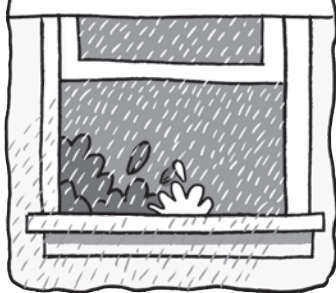


Michael sneaks
the squirrels
back home with
him to Tennessee.

He sets them up like posable action figures on his dresser—
under an open window.



While Michael is sleeping,
a thunderstorm rolls in,
and it begins to rain ...



... rehydrating the squirrels!



Up and kicking again after almost
2,000 years, Merle and Pearl
Squirrel have great stories
and advice to share
with the modern world.

They are the
Dead Sea
Squirrels!

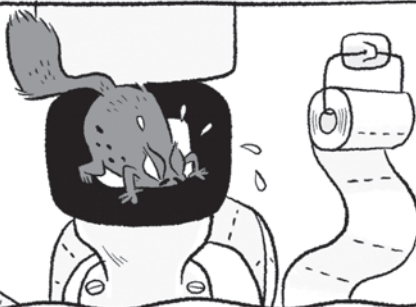


But the Dead Sea Squirrels' adventures don't end there.

Merle and Pearl soon find out that things are

a whole lot different from the first century!

For one thing, there are self-filling fresh water bowls...

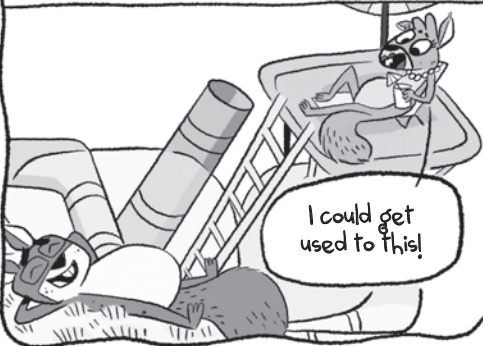


an endless supply of walnuts and chicken nuggets...



Thank you, chickens, for your nuggets!

and much fancier places to live!



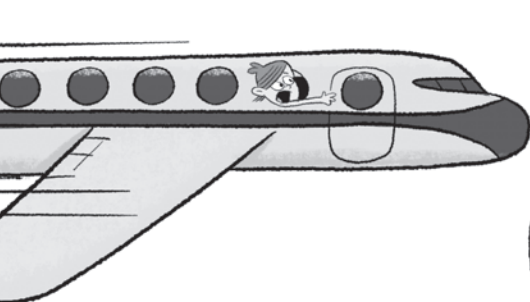
I could get used to this!

But when a mysterious man in a suit and sunglasses gets his hands on the squirrels...

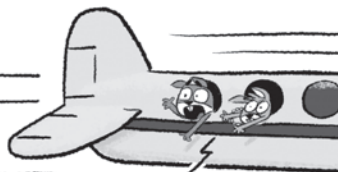
HELP!!!



... Michael and his friends head back to the Holy Land to rescue them!



MICHAEL!



It's a big game of hide-and-seek
all over Israel in many of the same towns
where Jesus once lived ...



... meeting some
unforgettable friends
along the way.

Michael and his friends save the day before
the evil Dr. Simon can imprison Merle and Pearl
in a biblically themed petting zoo!



Back in Tennessee
at last, the squirrels
are ready for
**more
adventures!**

Welcome to
FIELD DAY!





CHAPTER 1

Welcome to Field Day! read the giant banner over the road at the main entrance to Walnut Creek Elementary School. For any kid or grown-up who remembers being a kid, Field Day is the third-greatest day of the year after Christmas and your birthday. Not only is it a whole school day free from classes, but you get to hang out with all your friends, play outside and compete for prizes, and eat junk food ALL DAY LONG!

“Remind me again why we’re all wearing fish shirts?” Dr. Gomez looked less than enthused as he drove the family car beneath the Field Day

banner. Having grown up in a country where Field Day wasn't a thing, he didn't share the rest of the family's level of excitement or nostalgia for the day.

"We're the mighty golden trout, Dad. It's the school mascot," Michael replied from the back seat next to his sister, Jane. Outside, the school grounds had been transformed into a seemingly endless carnival of fun.

"*Mighty* is not the adjective I would pick," Dr. Gomez said. "I'd have gone with *slippery* or *floppy*. What about mascots like panthers or wildcats? Now, those are mighty."

"You've got to play the cards you're dealt, honey," replied Mrs. Gomez, who was sitting next to him in the front passenger seat. "As parent volunteers, it's

our job to help however we can while keeping up the school spirit!"

"Go, floppy trout!" Jane cheered, trying it out. "I like it."

"It's great being back at school," Merle Squirrel said, popping out of Michael's backpack. He and his wife,



Pearl, had spent two days at Walnut Creek earlier in the year and had barely avoided being discovered by Michael's homeroom teacher, Ms. McKay. "I assume we need to hide out in your backpack all day?"

"You do if you don't want to blow your cover," Michael replied.

"Actually, since we'll be outside all day," Dr. Gomez said, "all Merle and Pearl have to do is act like normal squirrels. If you speak, speak in squirrel, and don't get too close to anyone. Normal squirrels are afraid of people."

"I fear no man!" Merle exclaimed proudly.

"Whose is this?" Pearl asked, motioning to a second backpack.

"Mine," Jane said. "I didn't want Mr. Nemesis to be lonely."

A low growl emanated from Jane's backpack at the sound of his name.

"But cats . . ." Merle gulped nervously.
"They're a different story."

