

030 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
Stop! Please!

031 BOY 1  
(mockingly)  
Where's your man-god now?

MORE PUNCHES. NICHOLAS TRIES TO SHIELD HIMSELF.  
ONE FINAL HARD PUNCH. NICHOLAS GRUNTS IN PAIN.

032 BOY 2  
Come on, Titus, we're done here.

THE BOYS GRAB THE BALL AND LEAVE. YOUNG NICHOLAS  
SLOWLY GETS UP, SNIFFLING. FADE OUT SCENE.

6 INT. NICHOLAS' HOME - EVENING

THE LOW CRACKLE OF A FIRE. EPIPHANIUS (30S) AND  
JOHANNA (20S) SIT AT A WOODEN TABLE. THE GENTLE  
CLINK OF CERAMIC DISHES AND CUPS AS THEY FINISH  
THEIR EVENING MEAL.

**START >>>**

033 EPIPHANIUS  
The ships have returned with fine goods from Alexandria. Spices, grains, wool. God has blessed us again this season. Let us share with those in need, Johanna.

034 JOHANNA  
I was thinking of the widow Elara and her children. I heard they're having trouble finding work, even within our own community.

035 EPIPHANIUS  
Then we shall prepare a generous portion of grain and some warm clothing. We can send a cart with it tomorrow and -

THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN. YOUNG NICHOLAS ENTERS.

036 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
(sniffling)  
Good evening Mama. Papa...

JOHANNA GASPS AND RUSHES TOWARDS HIM.

037 EPIPHANIUS  
Nicholas! What happened to you?

038 JOHANNA

Come here, let me see. Sit down.

NICHOLAS SITS. WATER POURED INTO A BOWL, CLOTH  
IS WRUNG OUT.

039 JOHANNA (CONT'D)

This may sting a little.

DAMP CLOTH DABBING, WALLA: NICHOLAS WINCES.

040 EPIPHANIUS

Nicholas, who did this to you?

041 YOUNG NICHOLAS

(voice cracking)

Some boys... They wouldn't let me  
play with them.

042 EPIPHANIUS

And?

043 YOUNG NICHOLAS

(sniffling)

They said... they said Jesus isn't  
God. They said that He's just a  
man.

BRIEF PAUSE, CLOTH BEING DIPPED BACK IN WATER.

044 JOHANNA

He is both, Nicholas. Jesus is God,  
and He is a Man.

045 YOUNG NICHOLAS

I know, but why? If He's powerful,  
why become weak? Why become one of  
us?

JOHANNA KISSES YOUNG NICHOLAS' FOREHEAD.

046 JOHANNA

Because the greatest power is love.

047 YOUNG NICHOLAS

Love?

048 EPIPHANIUS

Remember what the Apostle John  
wrote: "*For God so loved the world  
that He gave His only Son, so that  
everyone who believes in him may  
not perish but may have eternal  
life.*"

**<<< END**