

*And the Lamb Spoke:
Lessons from the Gospels*

*Story and Art by
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Special thanks to...

Craig Cutler whose idea to write a children's book inspired me to write this book based on our children at Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, NY.

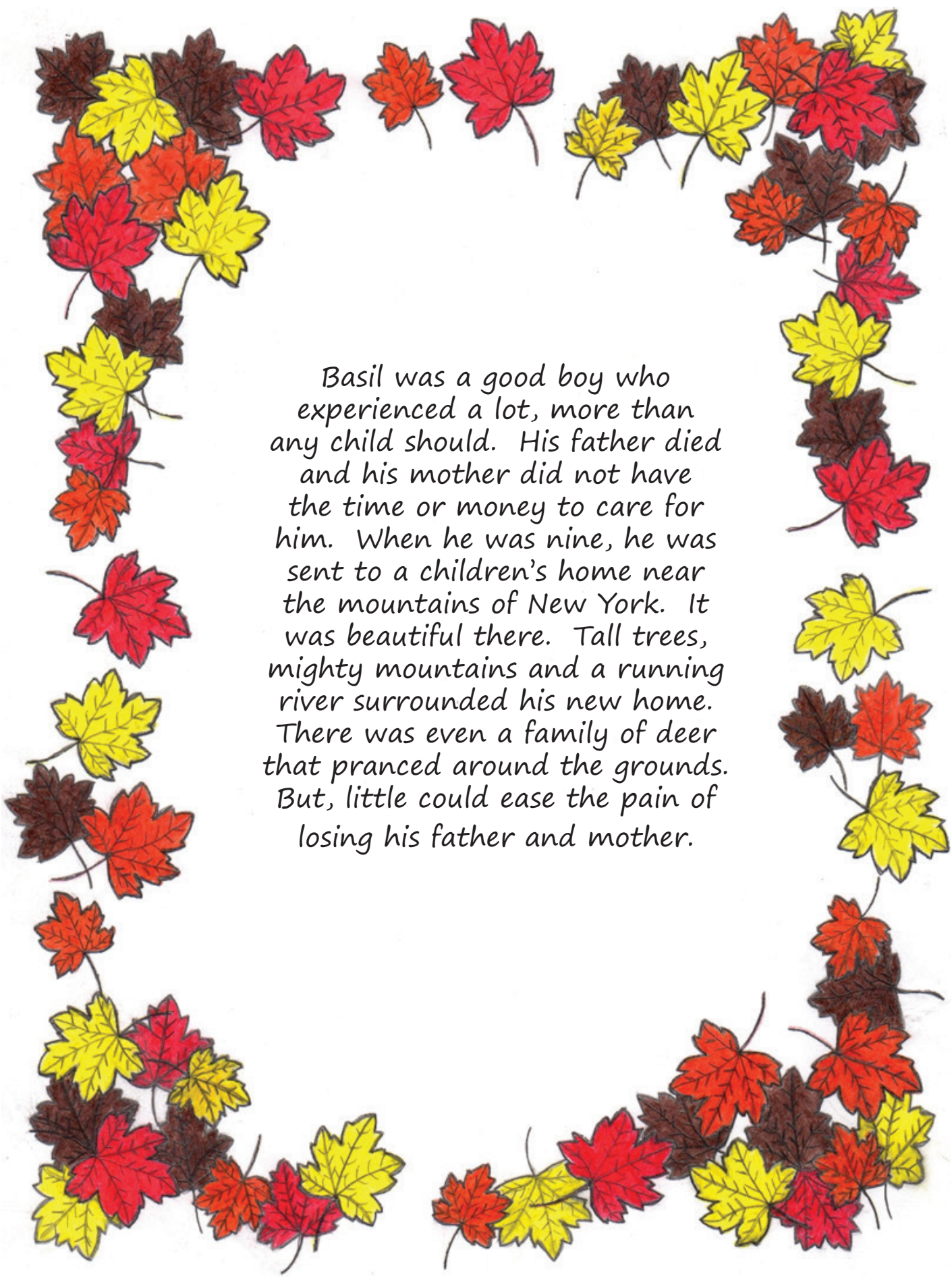
Anna Prokos who helped guide me to make the lessons more child friendly.

Christine Papavasiliou who helped me edit the book into final form.



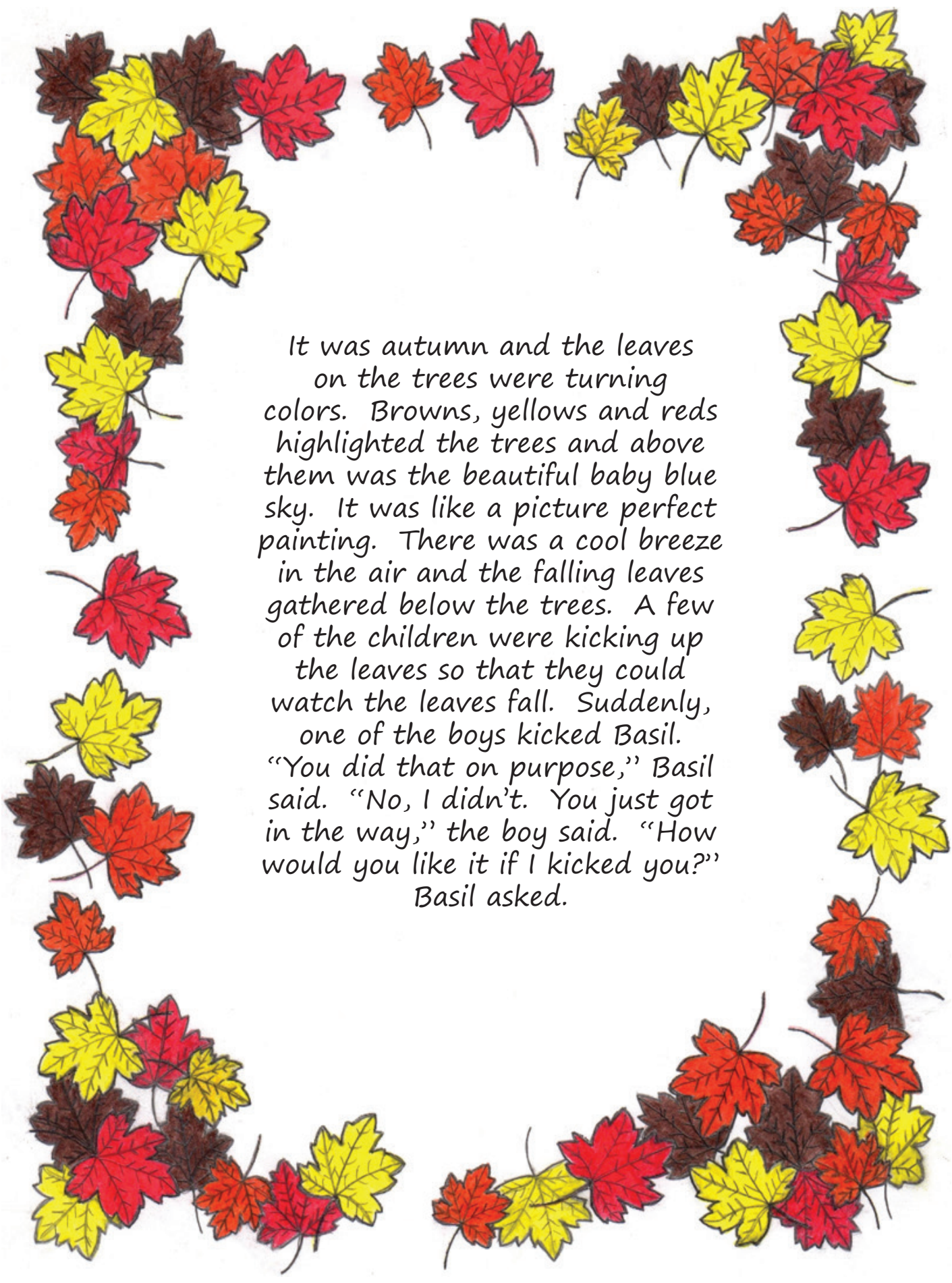
And the Lamb Spoke
About...

God
Love
Prayer
Giving
Forgiveness
Revenge
Worrying
Judging People
The Golden Rule
Generosity
My Neighbor
Overconfidence
Greatness
Wealth
A Good Life



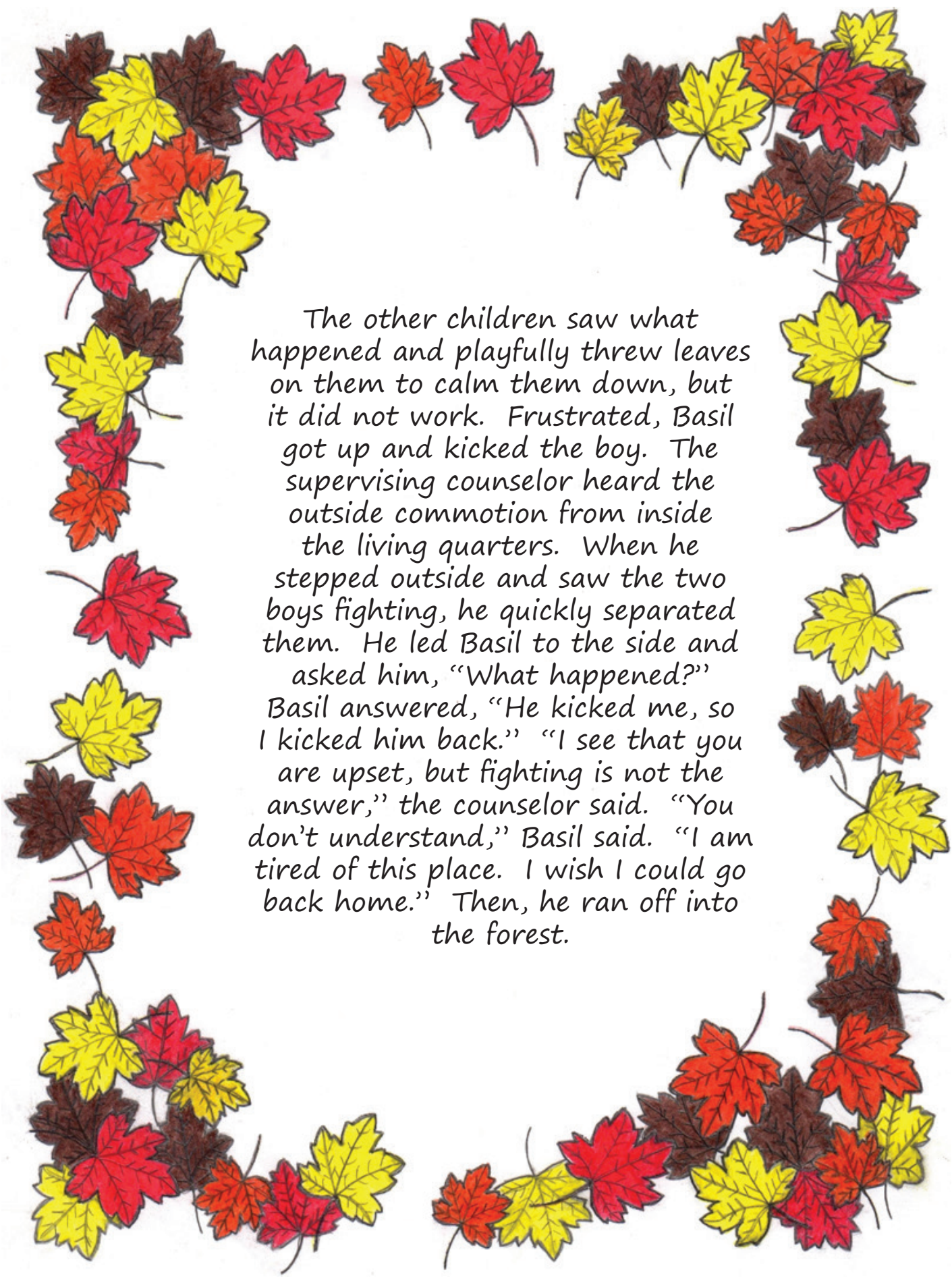
Basil was a good boy who experienced a lot, more than any child should. His father died and his mother did not have the time or money to care for him. When he was nine, he was sent to a children's home near the mountains of New York. It was beautiful there. Tall trees, mighty mountains and a running river surrounded his new home. There was even a family of deer that pranced around the grounds. But, little could ease the pain of losing his father and mother.





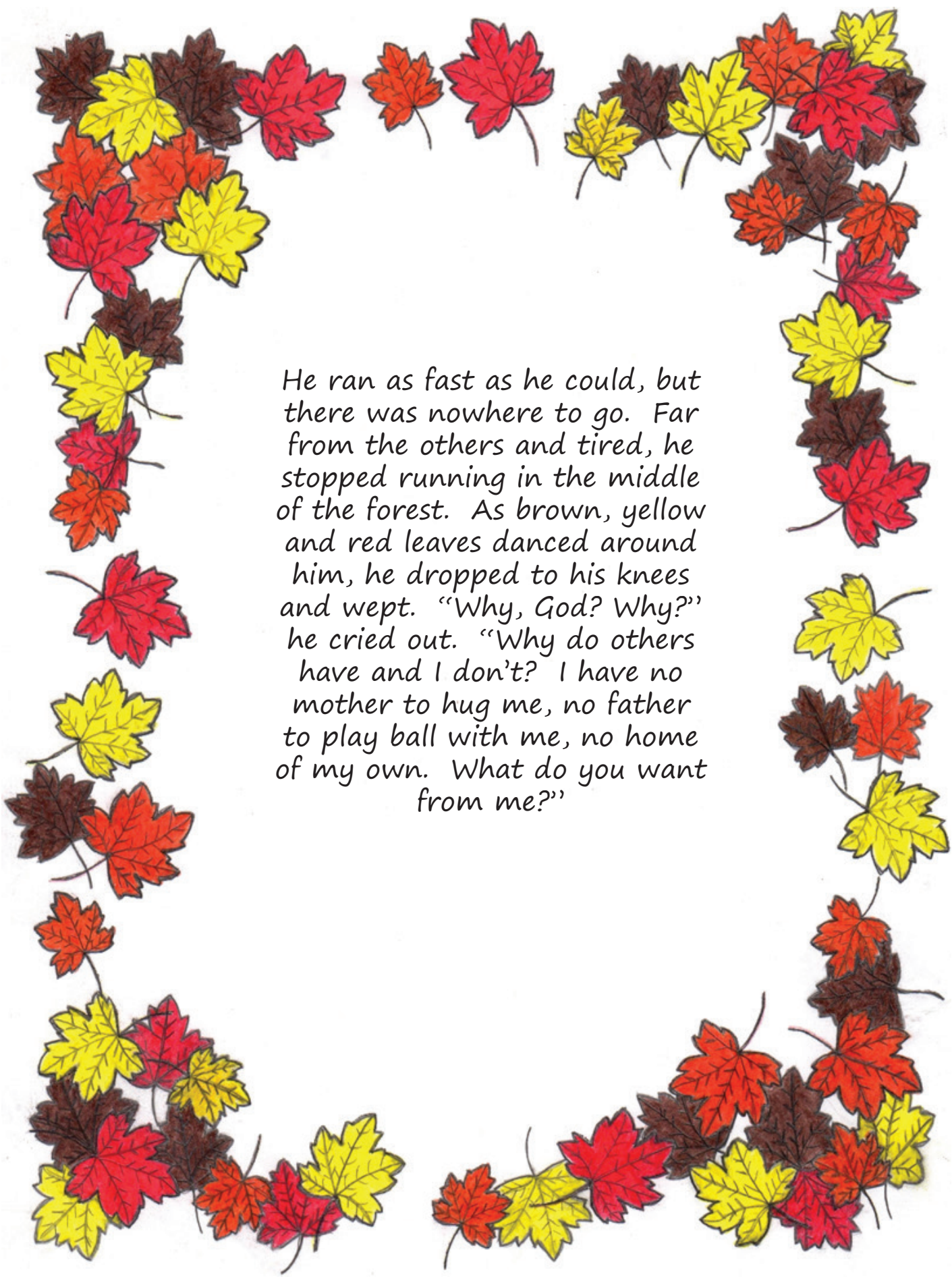
It was autumn and the leaves on the trees were turning colors. Browns, yellows and reds highlighted the trees and above them was the beautiful baby blue sky. It was like a picture perfect painting. There was a cool breeze in the air and the falling leaves gathered below the trees. A few of the children were kicking up the leaves so that they could watch the leaves fall. Suddenly, one of the boys kicked Basil. "You did that on purpose," Basil said. "No, I didn't. You just got in the way," the boy said. "How would you like it if I kicked you?" Basil asked.





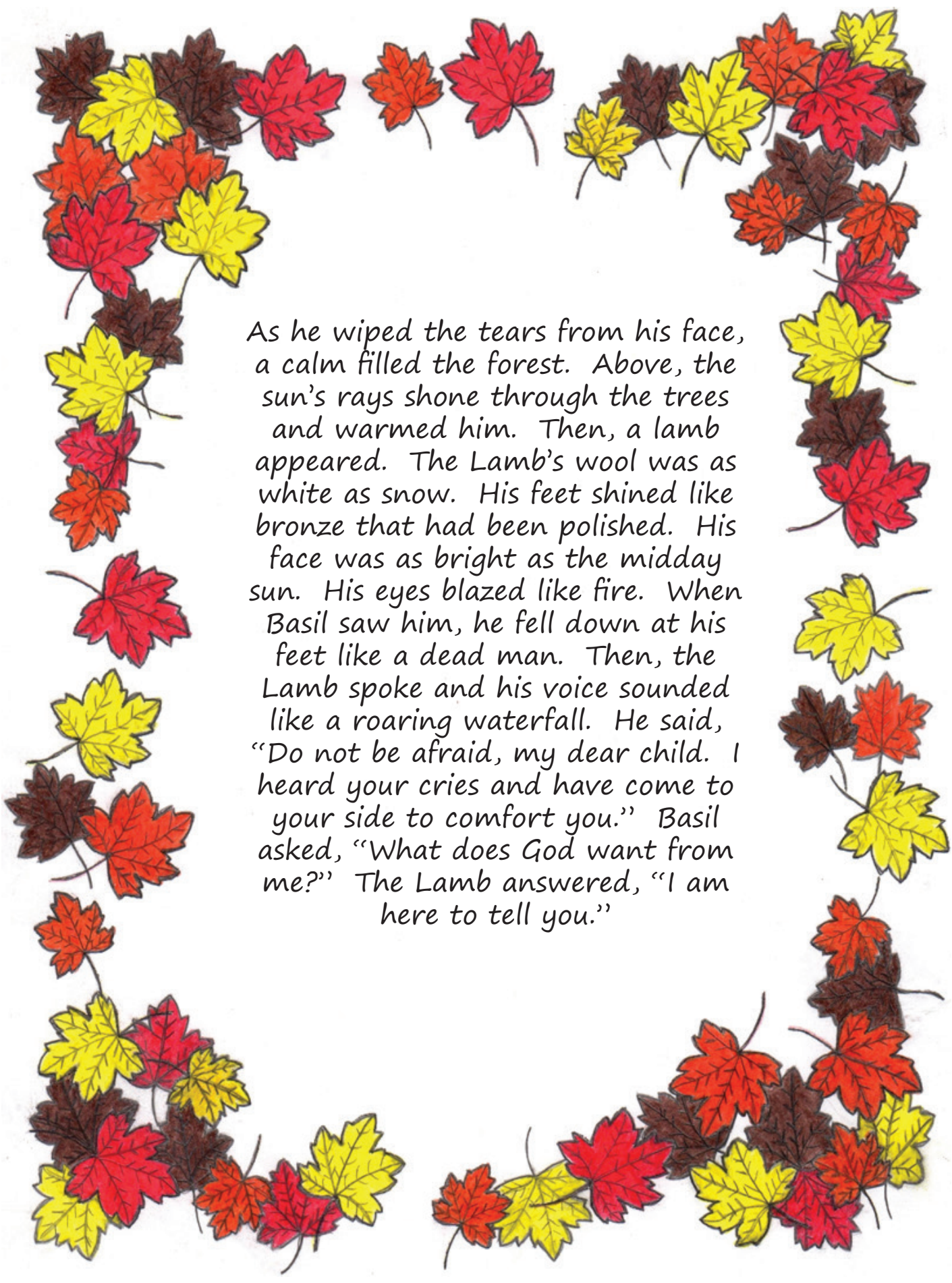
The other children saw what happened and playfully threw leaves on them to calm them down, but it did not work. Frustrated, Basil got up and kicked the boy. The supervising counselor heard the outside commotion from inside the living quarters. When he stepped outside and saw the two boys fighting, he quickly separated them. He led Basil to the side and asked him, "What happened?" Basil answered, "He kicked me, so I kicked him back." "I see that you are upset, but fighting is not the answer," the counselor said. "You don't understand," Basil said. "I am tired of this place. I wish I could go back home." Then, he ran off into the forest.



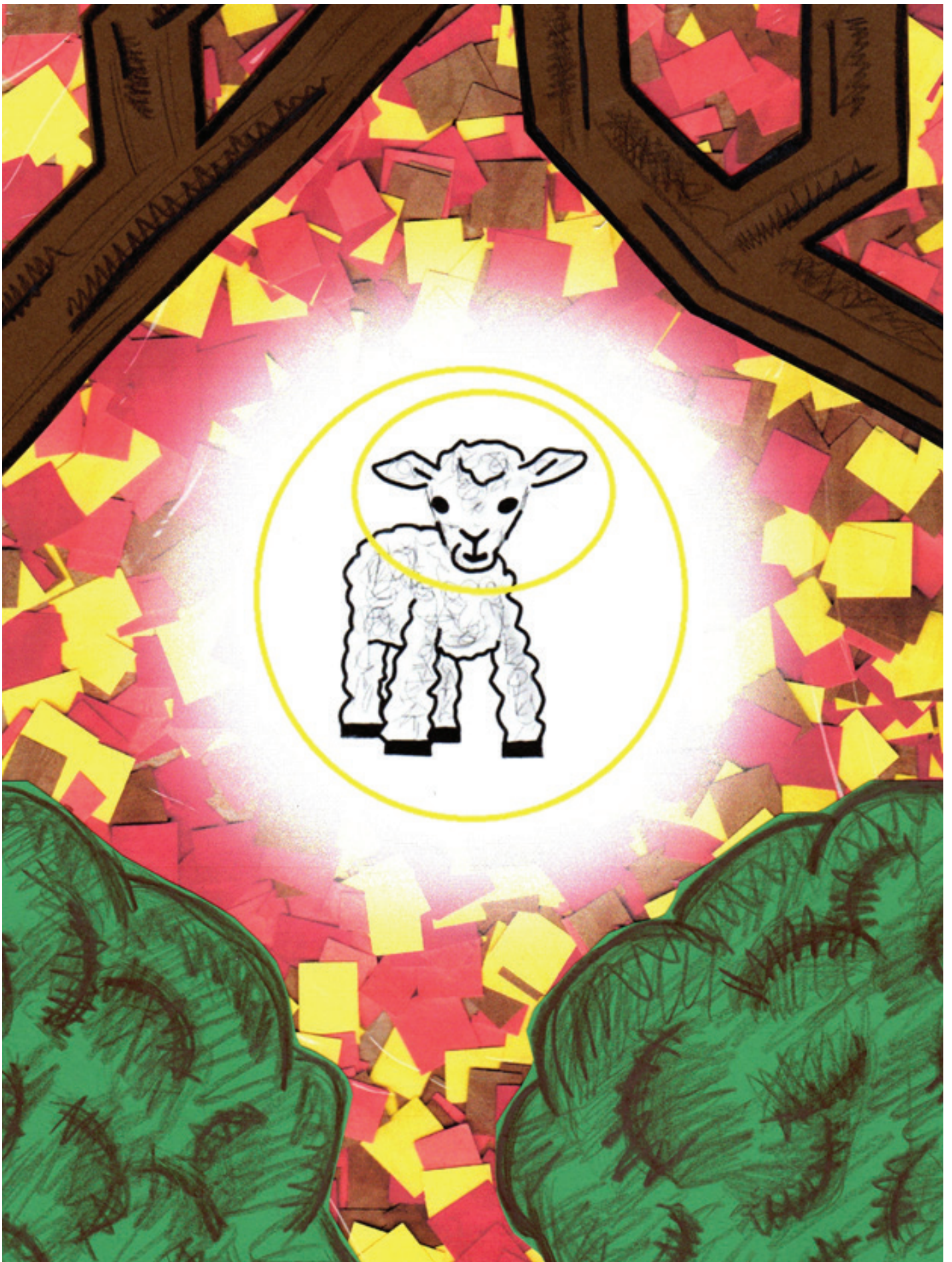


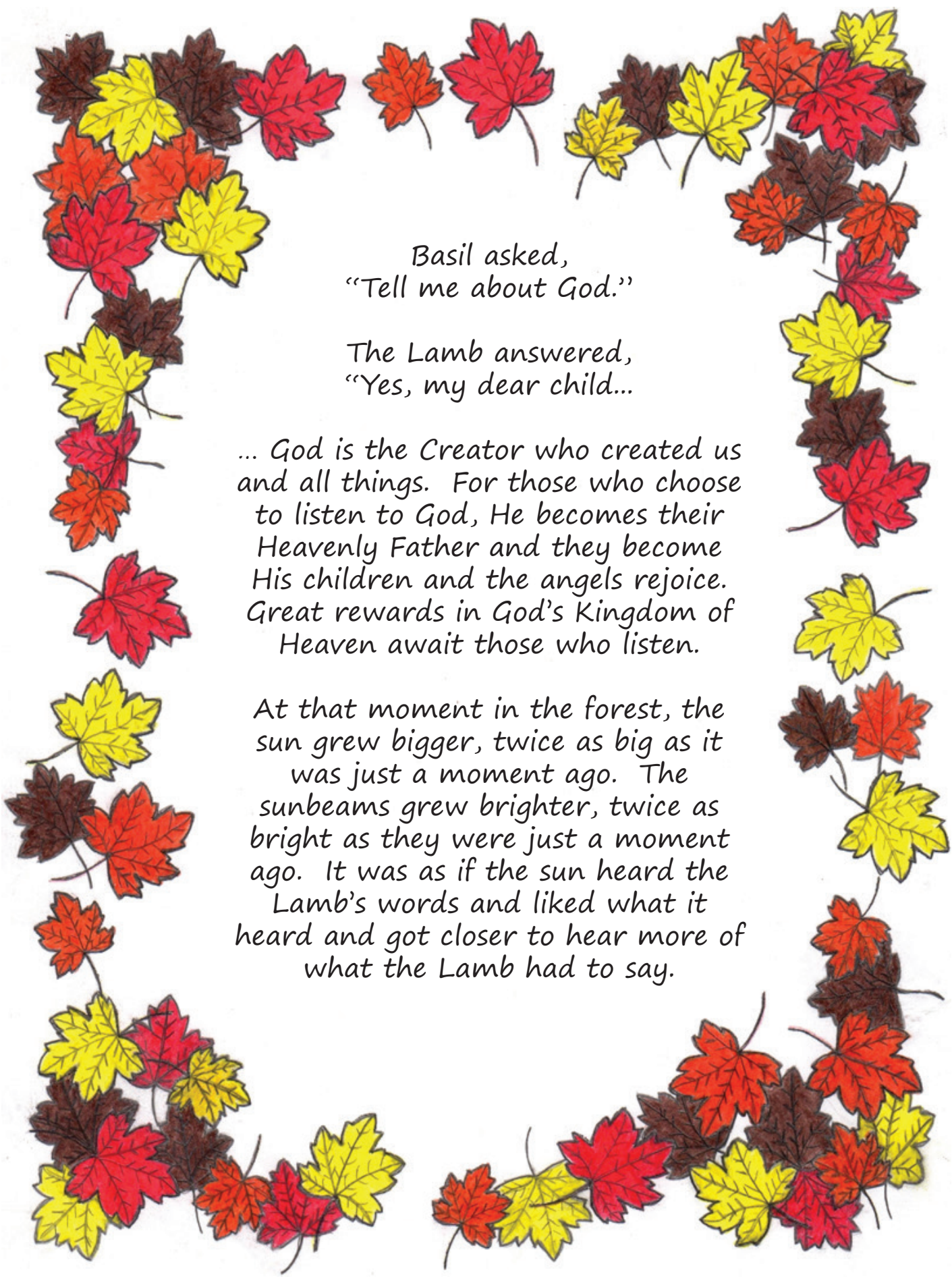
He ran as fast as he could, but there was nowhere to go. Far from the others and tired, he stopped running in the middle of the forest. As brown, yellow and red leaves danced around him, he dropped to his knees and wept. "Why, God? Why?" he cried out. "Why do others have and I don't? I have no mother to hug me, no father to play ball with me, no home of my own. What do you want from me?"





As he wiped the tears from his face, a calm filled the forest. Above, the sun's rays shone through the trees and warmed him. Then, a lamb appeared. The Lamb's wool was as white as snow. His feet shined like bronze that had been polished. His face was as bright as the midday sun. His eyes blazed like fire. When Basil saw him, he fell down at his feet like a dead man. Then, the Lamb spoke and his voice sounded like a roaring waterfall. He said, "Do not be afraid, my dear child. I heard your cries and have come to your side to comfort you." Basil asked, "What does God want from me?" The Lamb answered, "I am here to tell you."





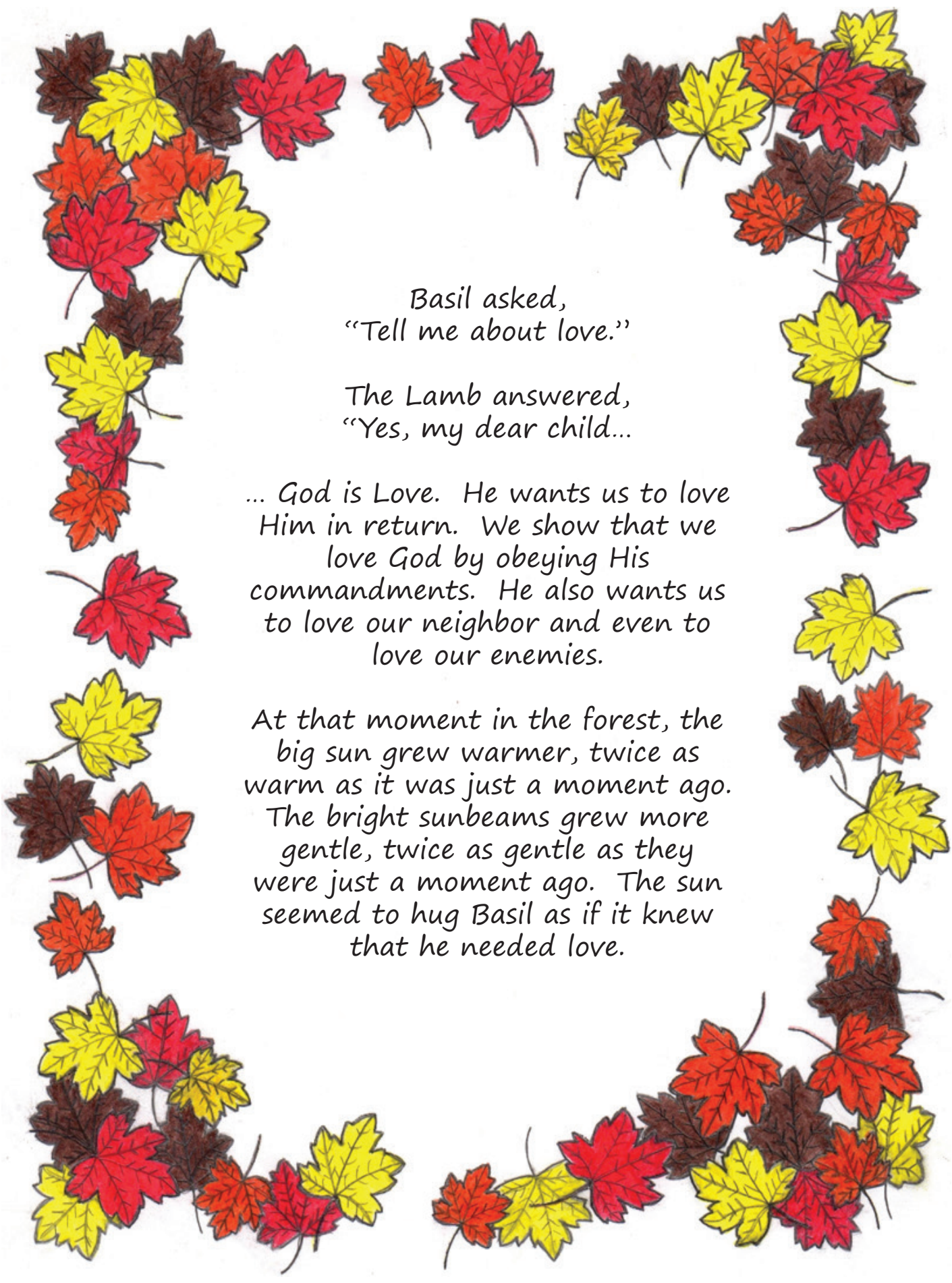
Basil asked,
"Tell me about God."

The Lamb answered,
"Yes, my dear child..."

... God is the Creator who created us and all things. For those who choose to listen to God, He becomes their Heavenly Father and they become His children and the angels rejoice. Great rewards in God's Kingdom of Heaven await those who listen.

At that moment in the forest, the sun grew bigger, twice as big as it was just a moment ago. The sunbeams grew brighter, twice as bright as they were just a moment ago. It was as if the sun heard the Lamb's words and liked what it heard and got closer to hear more of what the Lamb had to say.





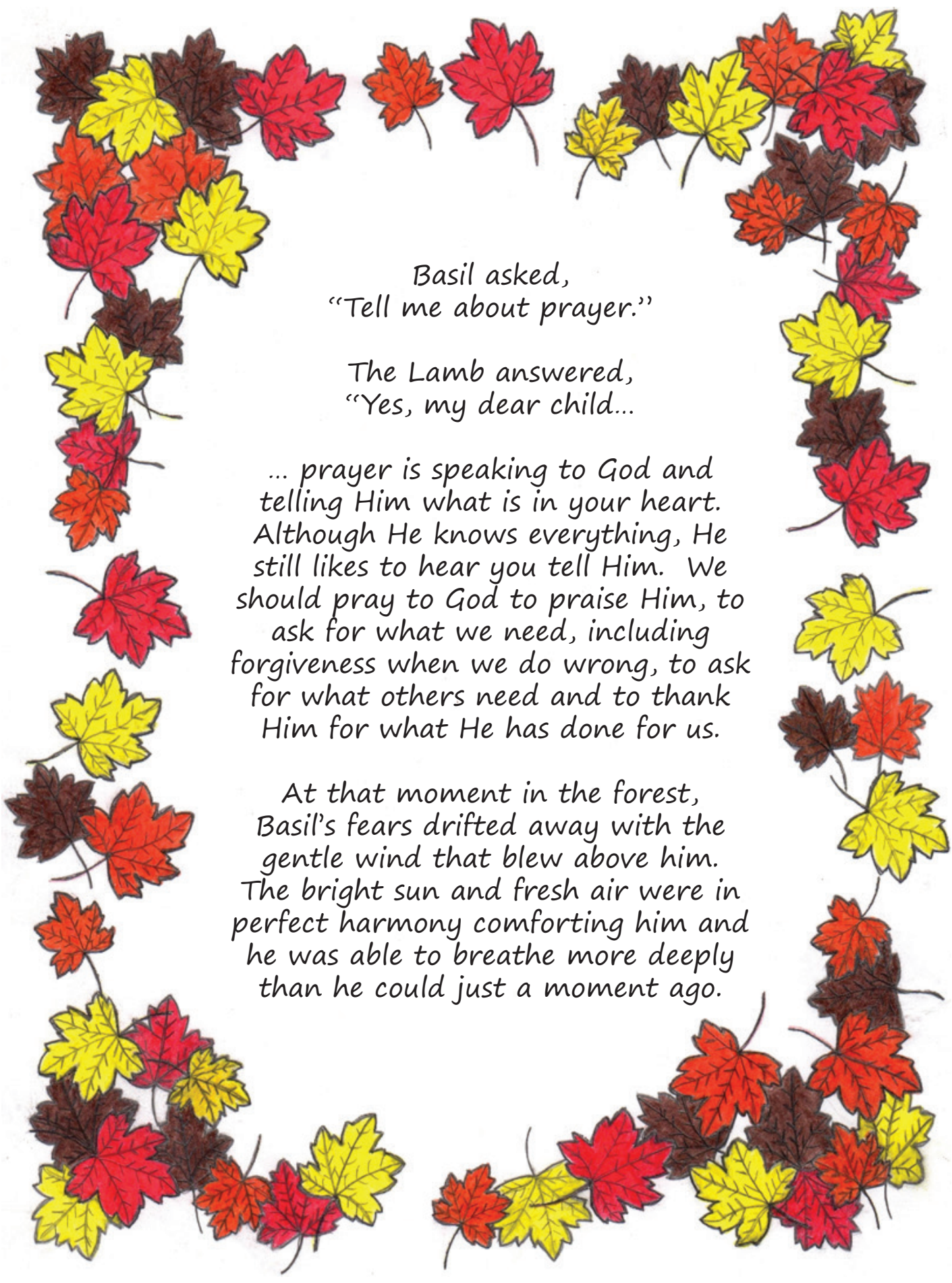
Basil asked,
"Tell me about love."

The Lamb answered,
"Yes, my dear child..."

... God is Love. He wants us to love Him in return. We show that we love God by obeying His commandments. He also wants us to love our neighbor and even to love our enemies.

At that moment in the forest, the big sun grew warmer, twice as warm as it was just a moment ago. The bright sunbeams grew more gentle, twice as gentle as they were just a moment ago. The sun seemed to hug Basil as if it knew that he needed love.





Basil asked,
"Tell me about prayer."

The Lamb answered,
"Yes, my dear child..."

... prayer is speaking to God and telling Him what is in your heart. Although He knows everything, He still likes to hear you tell Him. We should pray to God to praise Him, to ask for what we need, including forgiveness when we do wrong, to ask for what others need and to thank Him for what He has done for us.

At that moment in the forest, Basil's fears drifted away with the gentle wind that blew above him. The bright sun and fresh air were in perfect harmony comforting him and he was able to breathe more deeply than he could just a moment ago.

