

# Masterpiece

WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS

## Discovering My Unique Design through God's Word

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING

 **HERO**  
**SQUAD**  
JV EDITION

Masterpiece, Boys JV Edition, Spring Issue

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WRITE YOUR NAME ON THIS LINE:

WRITE THE NICKNAME YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY CALL YOU:

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO SHOW KINDNESS TO OTHERS?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TREAT TO BAKE?

## Lost & Found

IF SOMEONE FINDS YOUR BOOK, DO YOU WANT THEM TO RETURN IT?

☐

YES, CALL THE  
NUMBER BELOW!

☐

NO, JUST KEEP IT.

WRITE A PARENT OR ANOTHER ADULT'S PHONE NUMBER ON THIS LINE:



# **CONTENTS**

<b>What is a Masterpiece?</b>	6
<b>How to Use this Book</b>	8
<b>Tips &amp; Ideas</b>	9
<b>WEEK 1:</b> In Step with the Commander	10
<b>WEEK 2:</b> No More Separation	14
<b>WEEK 3:</b> Getting Unstuck	20
<b>WEEK 4:</b> Running through Pain	24
<b>WEEK 5:</b> Here, There, and Everywhere!	30
<b>WEEK 6:</b> Fighting Selfishness	34
<b>WEEK 7:</b> Getting through the Hard Days	40
<b>WEEK 8:</b> Figuring Myself Out	44
<b>WEEK 9:</b> From Guilty to Holy	50
<b>WEEK 10:</b> Nothing to Fear!	54
<b>WEEK 11:</b> Focus on Hope	60
<b>WEEK 12:</b> Knowing and Doing	64
<b>WEEK 13:</b> Talents to Bless	70

# WHAT IS A MASTERPIECE?

Master  
Piece

A masterpiece is a work of outstanding artistry, craftsmanship, or skill. Different types of things can be considered masterpieces, like a painting, a house, or even a car! God is the greatest masterpiece maker of all time, because he made you—his greatest creation of all.

**WRITE FIVE THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF THAT YOU'RE GRATEFUL GOD DESIGNED:**

A feature that sets apart a masterpiece is its intentional, unique, or intricate design. This devotional series will help you discover, through God's Word, the purposeful and detailed ways God designed you to be his masterpiece.

**WHAT ARE THREE THINGS YOU WANT TO LEARN FROM GOD THIS SPRING?**

*EXAMPLE: To understand God's love for me*

# How to Use this Book

This book is created especially for Military children, like you, who face unique battles in life. Follow these simple guidelines to get the most out of this book.

## 1. READ

Read the devotional each week to learn more about loving God, yourself, and other people.

## 2. REFLECT

Think about how the devotional applies to your life and what you are feeling right now.

## 3. EXPLORE

Complete the weekly “Spiritual Fitness Training” to explore how you can live out God’s Word each week.

## 4. LEARN

Look up each Bible verse in the “Keep it Going” section to learn more about God.

## 5. EXPRESS

Use the notes and doodles sections to write down any thoughts or questions you have about God or any ideas you have to live out God’s Word each week. Use these pages to express yourself in your own unique way, like the unique masterpiece you are!



# Tips & Ideas



Think about things you might want to change in your life.



Talk with your parents or siblings about what you learned and ask them to help you with live out God's Word each week.



If you don't understand something you read, don't be afraid to ask an adult to help you understand it.



Memorize the Scripture verse each week.



Have fun and mark up this book with your own thoughts and doodles!

# Called by God

WEEK ONE

## In Step with the Commander



*From far across the earth I brought you here and said,  
"You are my chosen servant. I haven't forgotten you."*

Isaiah 41:9

Watching a Military exercise can blow your mind.

Jets flying close to each other.

People marching in perfect step.

A massive ship sailing carefully into port.

For it all to happen, everyone must follow orders. Even if one person misses one instruction, it can cause the entire formation to be ruined!

Sometimes orders are difficult, sometimes scary or frustrating. Sometimes they are exciting and fun! If you have a good commander who cares about you and the mission, it is easier to follow orders.

Ultimately, God is our commander. The Military may tell your parent where to go and what to do, but God guides them through it all. He is in control of the whole world. You might think you are just along for the ride with your family, but God chose you for this place, this family, at this time. You are his recruit everywhere the Military sends you. He made you with all your likes and talents to do jobs that will help others and make a difference in this world. This week, pray and ask God how you can march in perfect step with his order.

***God chose you for this place, this  
family, at this time. Yes, you!***

Master  
Piece

# Spiritual Fitness Training

What do you think God has made you to do? One good way to find out is to look at the special skills and talents he has given you. He can use those in unique ways for his good plans! Below, write or draw things that you are really good at or simply enjoy doing!

**Draw or write here!**



**EXAMPLE:**

*I get good grades in this  
subject: \_\_\_\_\_*



**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

☐ John 10:3-5

☐ Romans 11:29

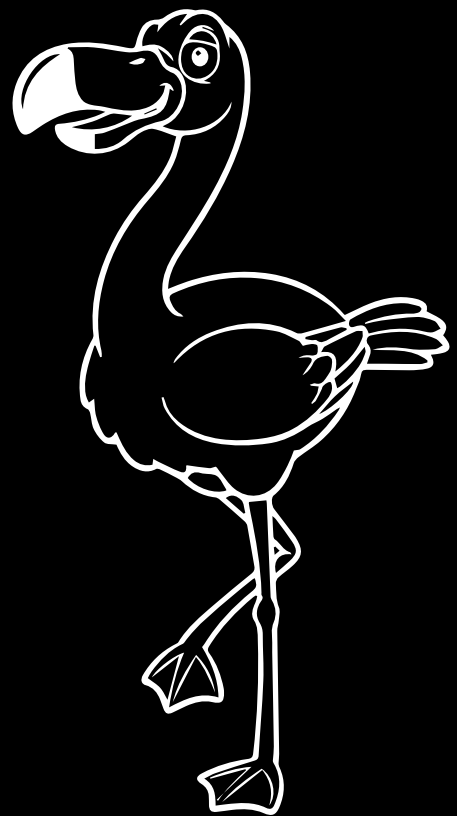
☐ John 15:16

☐ Ephesians 4:1

**Week  
One**

**Mind Blower**

The lesser flamingos in Africa can live in toxic water that would burn people. They have tougher skin and scales so they can eat and raise babies in hot, salty water. They were made for a purpose and a place!



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Lord, you direct everything! Help me  
follow your orders to join your mission.**

**Week  
One**

13

# A servant's heart

WEEK TWO

## No More Separation



*The Son of Man did not come to be a slave master, but a slave who will give his life to rescue many people.*

Mark 10:45

Imagine a bunch of Soldiers who've done everything wrong . . . on purpose. Their barracks are a pig pen. They won't report for duty. They even beat up the last sergeant who tried to tell them what to do.

Now imagine a general saying he'd take care of them. But instead of yelling at them and making them behave, he talks to them with care and teaches them the right way to do things. And when the Military still says they must be kicked out, he hands over his gold star and says, "Kick me out instead."

God created us and could have demanded we serve him. But he didn't. He let us make our own decisions. And the truth is, we chose to not follow God's ways. The punishment for this is being separated from God forever.

But God loves us so much he didn't want to be separated from us! He created heaven as a special space where we can live with him forever. But for us to go live there with him, he needed to act like the general in the story above. How? He sent his son, Jesus, to die on the cross. When he did, he took the punishment for our disobedience. And because of that, if we believe in him, we can know him and be with him forever!

Jesus loves you and wants to be close to you. Do you want that, too? Tell him!

Master  
Piece

***God loves us so much he didn't  
want to be separated from us!***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Who is the most selfless person you know . . . someone who always helps other people out even when it's hard or inconvenient? This week, ask them what inspires them to act this way. Take notes below so their inspirations can inspire you!

Write your  
notes here.



**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

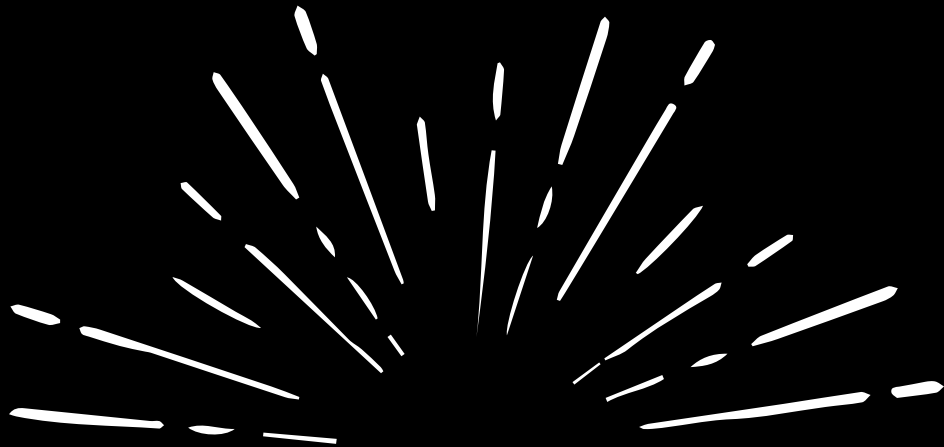
☐ Isaiah 53:10

☐ John 10:14-15

☐ Daniel 12:2

☐ Philippians 2:6-8

**Week  
Two**



"I find it is the small everyday  
deeds of ordinary folk that keep  
the darkness at bay . . . small  
acts of kindness and love."

—The character of Gandalf  
in the movie *The Hobbit*



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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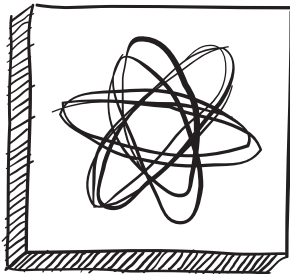
**Wow, Jesus! Thank you for giving your life  
so I could live. Help me to live for you.**

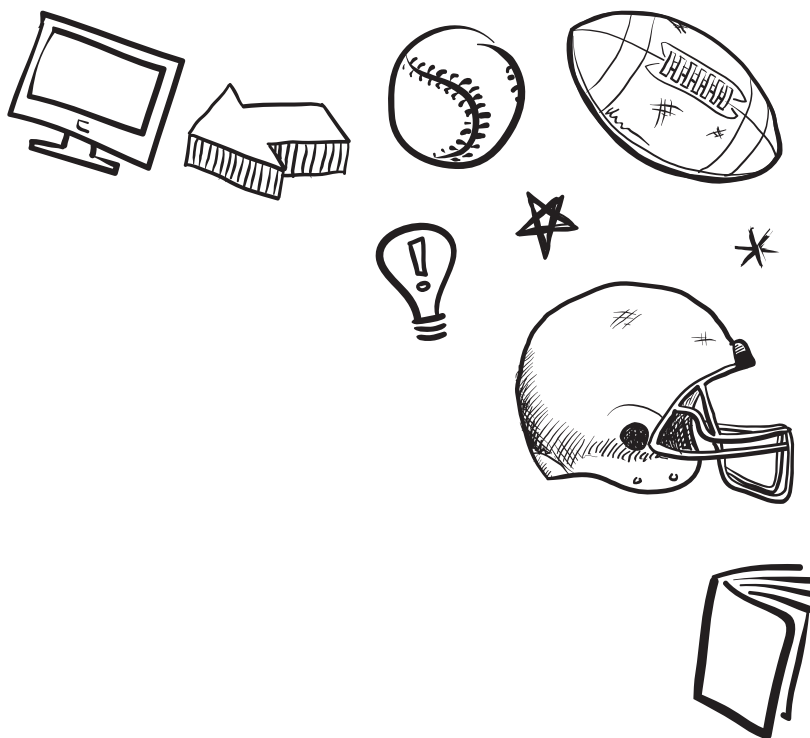
**Week  
Two**

# Doodle Space



It's so amazing to  
think about being  
with Jesus forever  
and ever. Let your  
imagination run wild  
. . . and draw what  
you think heaven will  
be like!





# Out of trouble

## WEEK THREE

### Getting Unstuck



*I patiently waited, LORD, for you to hear my prayer. You listened and pulled me from a lonely pit full of mud and mire. You let me stand on a rock with my feet firm.*

Psalm 40:1-2

Do you sometimes feel like your life is a mess?

Yes, your bedroom can get *messy* when clothes and toys are all over the floor. But the mess we're talking about this week isn't about your room or the house. It's about what happens when you *mess up*—when you make mistakes or bad choices.

When you get into trouble, you may feel like you're stuck in a muddy pit and you can't climb out. It can be a terrible feeling. You might feel like you don't know what to do!

This week's Scripture reminds you that God can help you out of any pit—no matter what you did to get there. He cares about you so much. He is near you and will listen to you when you pray to him.

You heard that right... *When you talk to God, he hears you!* In fact, he wants to talk to you all the time!

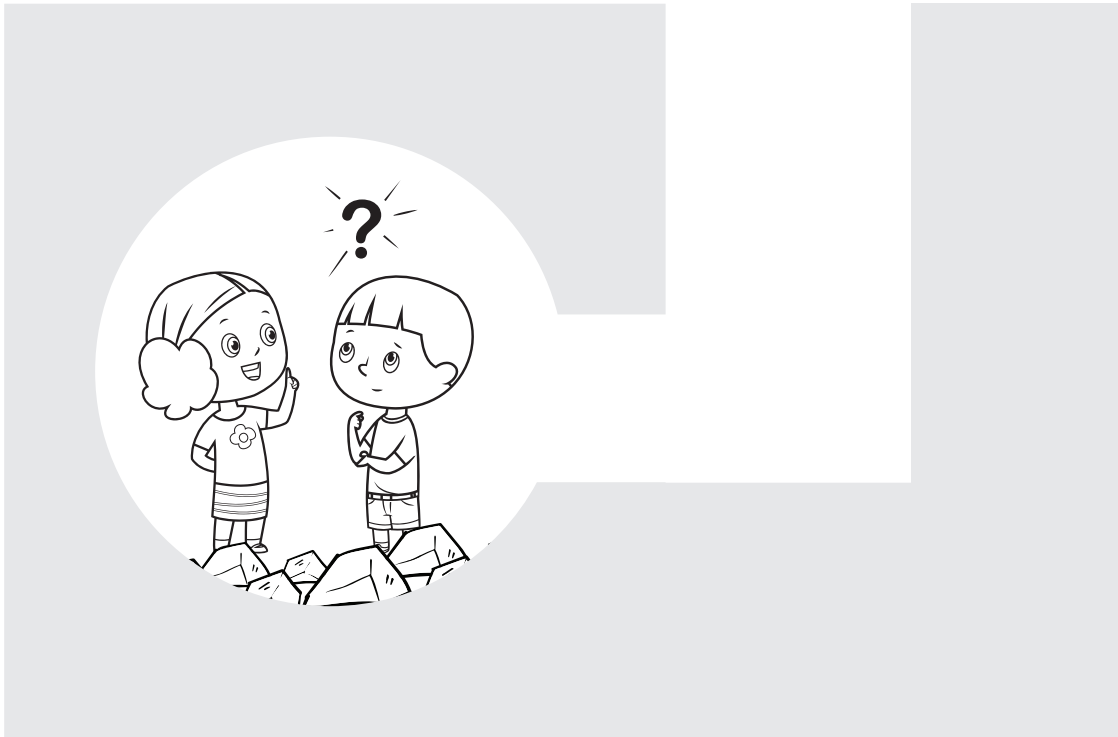
Have you messed up recently? Have you made bad choices that got you into trouble? Tell God about it. Not only will he forgive you, he will also help you get out of that stuck place. He'll help you make better choices so you can have better days.

Master  
Piece

***When you talk to God,  
he hears you!***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Oh no! Brandon and Molly fell into a dark, muddy pit. (Gross!) Can you help them get out? Use the ideas provided to think of a clever way they can get out. Sketch your plan out below! Let your solution serve as a reminder of how God can help you get out of that stuck place.



IDEAS: Ladder Rope Loud whistle Flashlight Big tree branch

**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

☐ 2 Samuel 22:17

☐ John 8:10-11

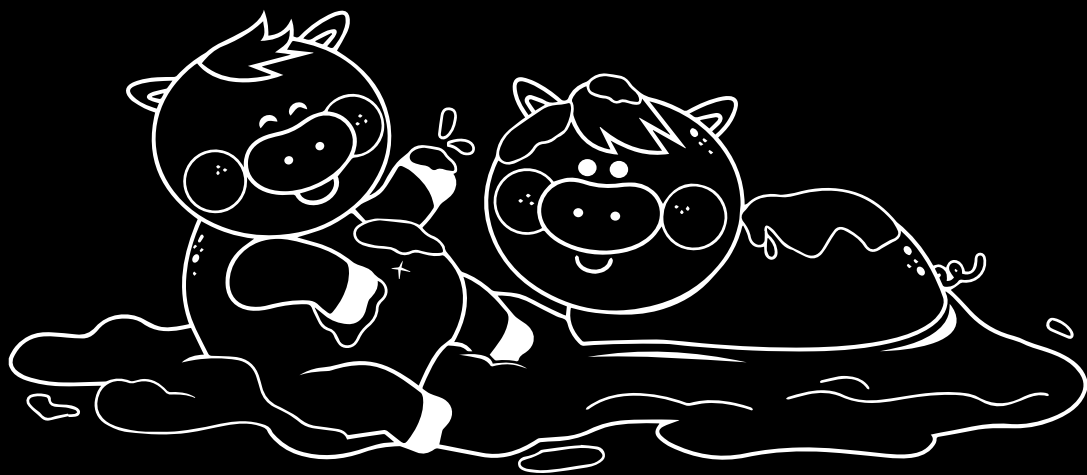
☐ Isaiah 42:1-3

☐ Jude 24-25

**Week  
Three**



People actually pay money to take baths in mud! Mud baths have existed for thousands of years, commonly in areas where hot spring water combines with volcanic ash. This mud has many health benefits!



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Lord, thank you for listening to me when I talk  
you. Help me to make wise choices every day.**

**Week  
Three**

# Keeping the faith

WEEK FOUR

## Running through Pain



*And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross, because he knew that later on he would be glad he did.*

*Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne!*

Hebrews 12:1b-2

The ballerina with sores on her feet still does a full show.  
The exhausted Navy Seal still carries a boat to the water.  
The Olympic runner trips but gets back up and finishes with a limp.  
How do they do that?

Many hard things in life make people want to quit, but winners keep going. They are more focused on the goal than on their momentary pain.

In the race of life, we need to focus on Jesus. He is the one who completely loves us. He knows even better than we do what will make us happy. Money, success, fame—none of that is any good compared to having Jesus in our lives and eventually being with him in heaven after we die.

Jesus died for you and then rose from the dead. He has made the way for you to have everlasting life. Can't get any better than that!

So when the hard times come that make you want to quit living for Jesus, remember him and the rewards he offers both in heaven, and as you live for him on earth.

***When hard times make you want to quit doing the right things, keep your eyes on Jesus.***



# Spiritual Fitness Training

Who is one of your heroes in life? It may be your parent, a professional athlete, or a teacher. Think about the hard things that person overcame in life. Use the space below to sketch about it—and remember that God will help you get through hard things, too.

MY HERO

### HARD THINGS MY HERO OVERCAME

**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-6      | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 3:13-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 3:10-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 4:7       |

**Week  
Four**

**Mind Blower**

In 1996, Olympic gymnast Kerri Strug tore ligaments in her ankle when doing a vault.

(Ouch!) She completed her second vault on the injured ankle and still won.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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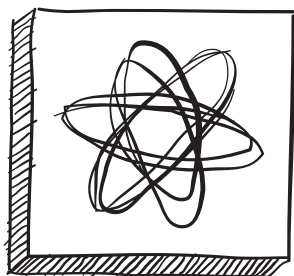
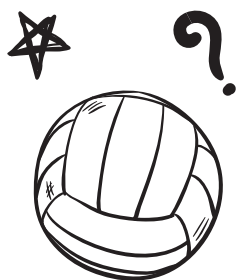
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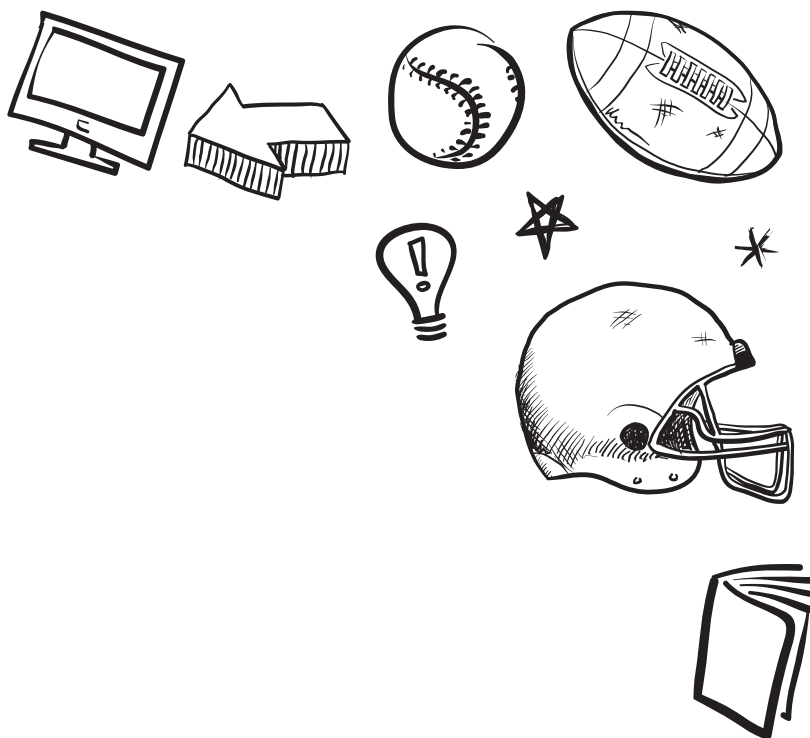
**Thank you, Jesus, for helping me get  
through hard things. I want to live for you no  
matter what happens.**

# Doodle Space



Think about one hard  
thing that Jesus helped  
you get through recently.  
Draw how strong you  
felt after you finally  
overcame it!





# Limitless

WEEK FIVE

## Here, There, and Everywhere!



*The LORD hasn't lost his powerful strength;  
he can still hear and answer prayers.*

Isaiah 59:1

Can God really be with a Soldier in Iraq, a sailor in the China Seas, and a pilot in Colorado—all at the same time? Can he really hear the prayers of Military kids in Korea and Georgia and Italy?

Yes. Yes, he can.

Does he get tired and worn out? Or grumpy? Or sick of helping us?

Nope. Never.

Well then, can he hear me? Does he even care?

Yes! He can hear you and he cares so very much! He loves you more than you could ever imagine. God hears every prayer you pray. He loves to hear from you! And he loves the people you care about. He will be with them wherever they are, whether at home or far, far away.

So you can trust him. No amount of worrying or fear... or praying or not praying... or being good or not changes how much God can do. Nothing is too difficult for God. So pray to him today knowing he is powerful and can help you in all things!

Master  
Piece

***God hears every prayer you pray.  
He loves to hear from you!***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Find these places using Google Maps or a similar app or program, and mark them on the map below by drawing a star. As you do, remember that God is everywhere at once! He is always near you, no matter where you are.

☐ Silly, Belgium

☐ Timbuktu, Mali

☐ Mooseland, Canada

☐ Batman, Turkey

☐ Where you live

☐ Where a friend or family member lives



**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

☐ Numbers 11:23

☐ Romans 8:38–39

☐ Isaiah 65:24

☐ Romans 11:35–36

**Week  
Five**

**Mind Blower**

Not everyone in the world  
nods their head for yes and  
shakes it for no, like we do in  
America. Some people do the  
opposite! Still, God hears and  
understands them all.





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Lord, I believe you are everywhere. Thank you for  
being near me and listening to my prayers.**

**Week  
Five**

# Living in Christ

WEEK SIX

## Fighting Selfishness



*I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me.*

John 15:5

Some movies show us how villains become evil. In the newer Cruella movie, viewers are given a glimpse of what Cruella was like as a little girl. When people were mean to her, she wanted to get revenge. She would do bad things to get the things she wanted.

The truth is, we all are tempted to be mean. It's natural to be selfish, thinking about yourself instead of others. But we also have the opportunity to choose what we're going to do—be kind or be selfish?

Imagine a force so powerful it can make even the meanest, most selfish people loving and kind. Jesus is like that force. When you stay connected to Jesus, he changes your selfish desires. He works on your heart to help you want to do good. You will still mess up sometimes, but he will forgive you as soon as you ask and then he will always help you try again.

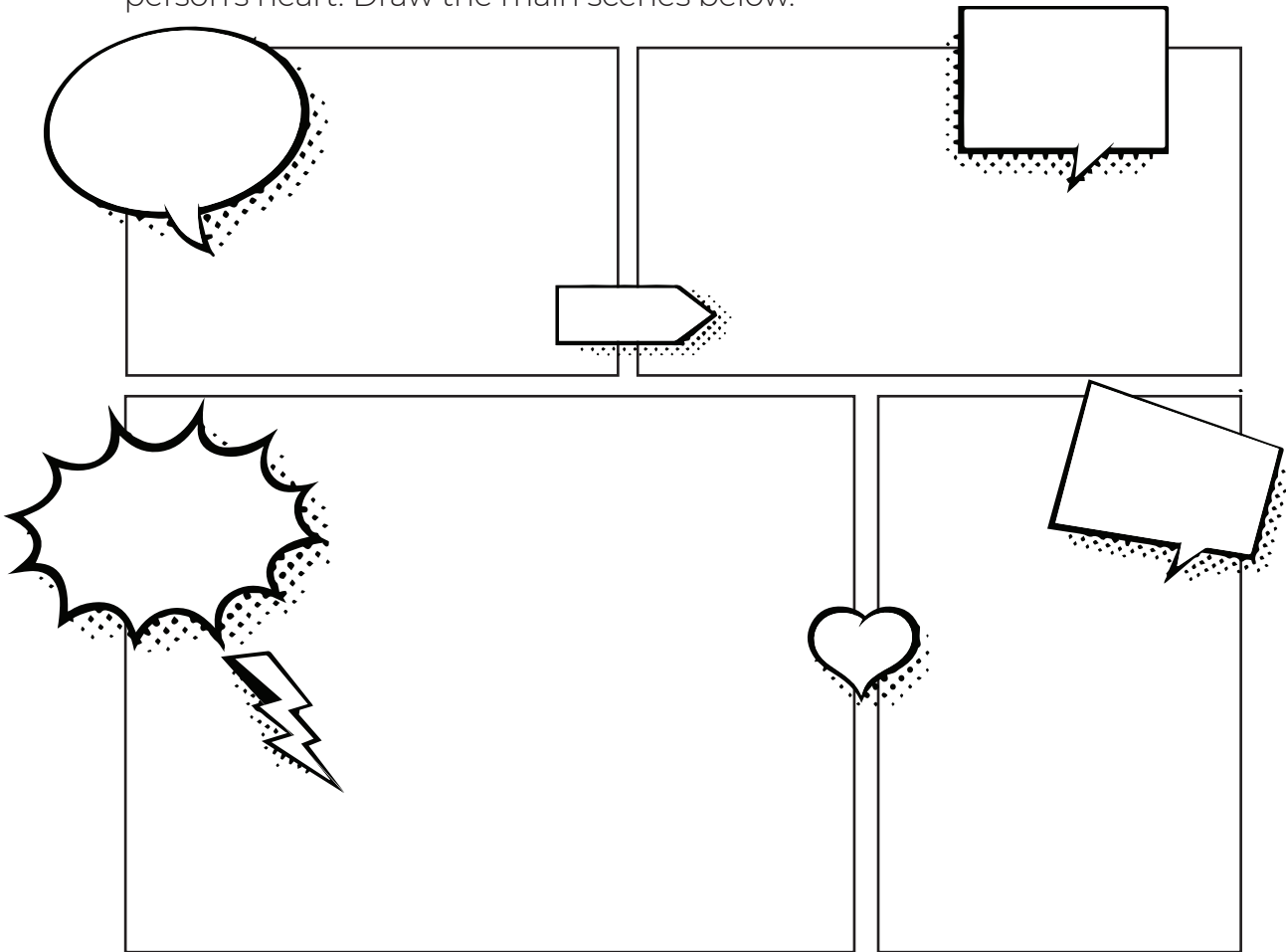
Reflecting on this week's Scripture reading: how do you, the branch, connect to Jesus, the vine? Stay close to him through reading the Bible and praying. Without him, it's impossible to please God. With him, we can do good things—*great things!*

Master  
Piece

***Jesus is so powerful he can change  
even the most selfish heart.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Think about your favorite stories or movies. What choices do the characters make between right and wrong? Create a story of the worst villain becoming a good person . . . and be sure to include how Jesus's power changes that person's heart! Draw the main scenes below.



**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

☐ Psalm 51:10

☐ John 15:13

☐ Ezekiel 36:26–27

☐ 1 Corinthians 13:3

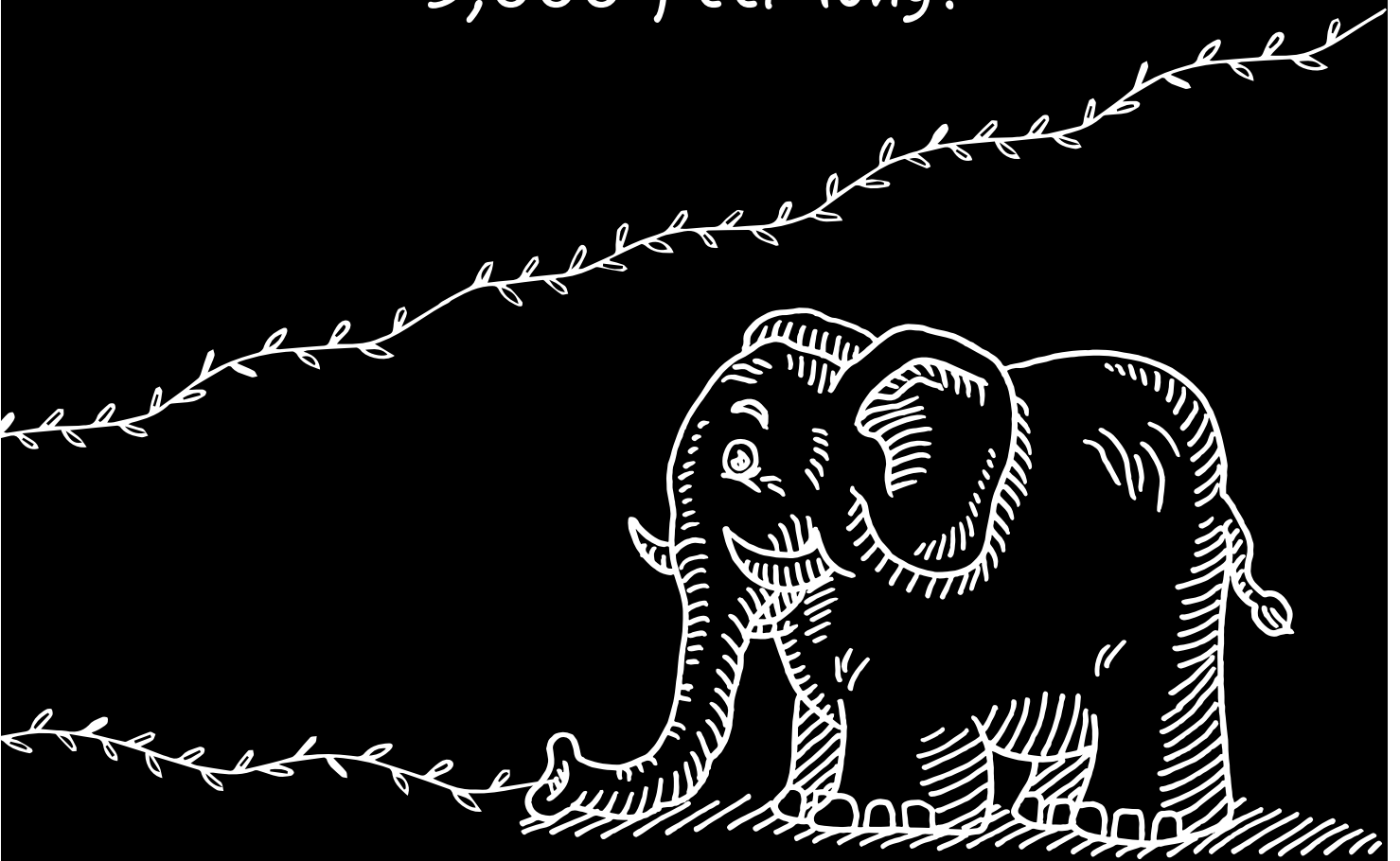
**Week  
Six**



**Mind Blower**



Native to India, the elephant  
creeper vine can grow nearly  
5,000 feet long!



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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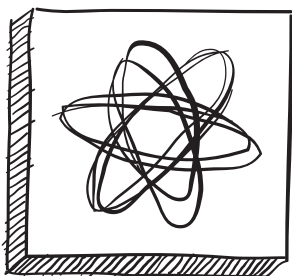
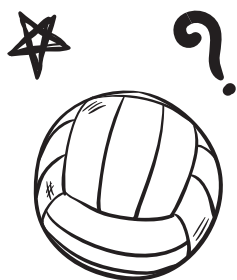
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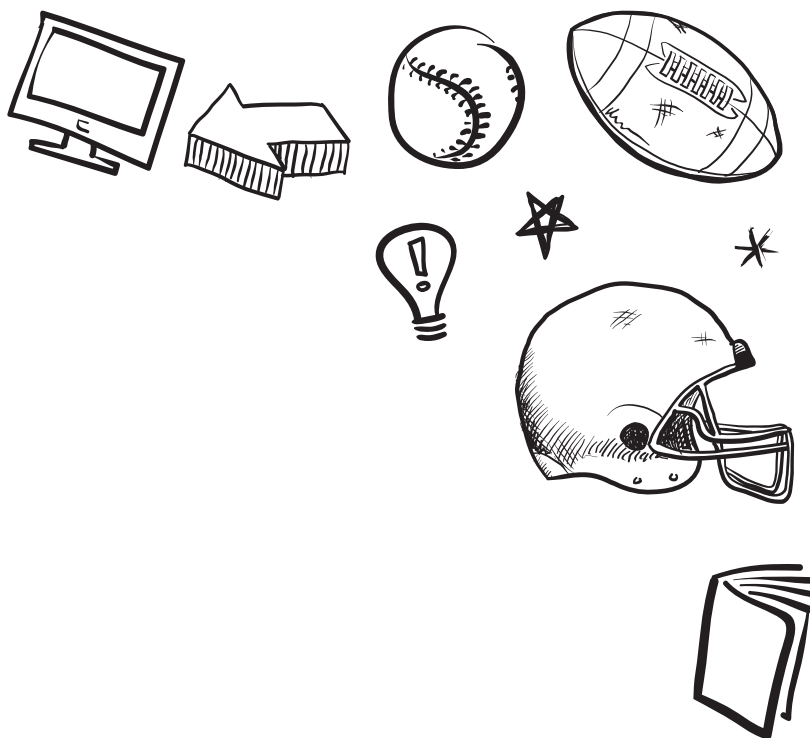
**Jesus, sometimes I only think about myself! Please  
take over my life and help me fight selfishness.**

# Doodle Space



Draw another scene  
from the story, on  
page 35, that you  
created.





# God's comfort

WEEK SEVEN

## Getting through the Hard Days



*Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble.*

2 Corinthians 1:3–4

Not every day is a good day, and sometimes bad days line up in a row feeling like one gut-punch after another. Maybe it's the dread of an upcoming school assignment, or a parent gone for so long that you are just over it, or yet another friend moving away.

Here's the thing to know: *Jesus feels your pain.* He gathers your tears and holds you when you cry. It might not seem like it because you can't see him, but, through the Holy Spirit, he is always right beside you. He promises better days are coming and he will be with you through all the bad and good.

Some people feel like the pain would stop if they hurt themselves. But that would only make things worse. Never, ever do that. Instead, find someone to talk to about your emotions. Keep looking until you find help. There are so many people out there who care about you. God often sends his help through good people around you.

The bad days won't last forever. Ask Jesus to help you feel him with you, find the good people, and see the beauty in life. Hold on until the good days come again!

Master  
Piece

***Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is  
always right beside you.***



# Spiritual Fitness Training

Human beings have so many different emotions. On good days you might feel different emotions than you do on bad days. This week, take a few minutes each day to think about the different emotions you felt that day, and color in a box next to each of the emotions you felt. On days when you are feeling down, ask Jesus to be your comfort. He is always with you!

<b>HAPPY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>EXCITED</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SILLY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>LONELY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

☐ Isaiah 49:13

☐ Psalm 56:8

☐ Psalm 42:11

☐ Revelation 7:17

**Week  
Seven**

"Don't quit, and don't give up.  
The reward is just around the  
corner. And in times of doubt or  
times of joy, listen for that still,  
small voice. Know that God has  
been there from the beginning—  
and he will be there until . . .

The End."



—Interior designer Joanna  
Gaines from her book *The  
Magnolia Story*

**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Lord, some days are pretty bad. Thanks  
for helping me get through them!**

**Week  
Seven**

## Figuring Myself Out



*You have looked deep into my heart, Lord,  
and you know all about me.*

Psalm 139:1

What if every musician in the orchestra wanted to play the flute?

What if all the teachers in your school taught only one subject—math?

What if every single kid in your town wore the same clothes every day—a black t-shirt with gray sweatpants?

That would make for a very boring world.

God made us all unique with different characteristics, desires, and talents. And he knows all those big and little things about you—the number of hairs on your head, what makes you happy or sad, and who you have a crush on! He knows what is hard for you and every bad thought you have. Even then, he still loves you and helps you.

At your age, it can be hard to understand who you are or what you are good at. Remembering that God knows everything about you will help you put your trust in him to help you figure it all out. God doesn't want you to be something you are not, or to pretend to be different from how he created you. When you're unsure of who you are, pray to your creator who knows you inside and out. Then, instead of blending in with the crowd, stand out in the unique way God made you!

# Spiritual Fitness Training

God knows everything about everyone—from our deepest challenges to our greatest potential! Draw a line from the famous person to their hardship . . . and then draw another line to their accomplishment.

THOMAS EDISON	COULDN'T READ WELL	BECAME A GENERAL WHO LED U.S. TROOPS TO VICOTRY IN WORLD WAR II
GEORGE S. PATTON	LOST HER ARM IN A SHARK ATTACK	CREATED THE LIGHT BULB
KATHERINE JOHNSON	WAS KICKED OUT OF SCHOOL	RETURNED TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN PROFESSIONAL SURFING
BETHANY HAMILTON	DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF HER RACE	CALCULATED THE ORBIT FOR NASA'S FIRST SPACEFLIGHT

## Keep It Going This Week *Find out more by reading these verses.*

- ☐ Isaiah 64:8
- ☐ Psalm 139:2–4
- ☐ Matthew 10:29–31
- ☐ Romans 8:27

Week  
Eight



**Mind Blower**

The average person  
has more than  
100,000 hairs on  
their head.

**Write Your Thoughts Here** 

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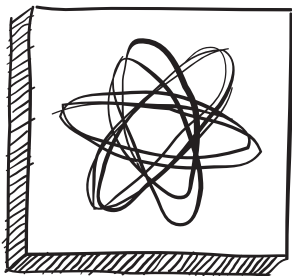
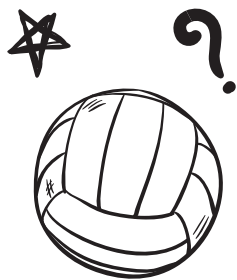
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**Lord, sometimes I feel like I don't even  
know myself. I trust you to help me  
understand ... me!**

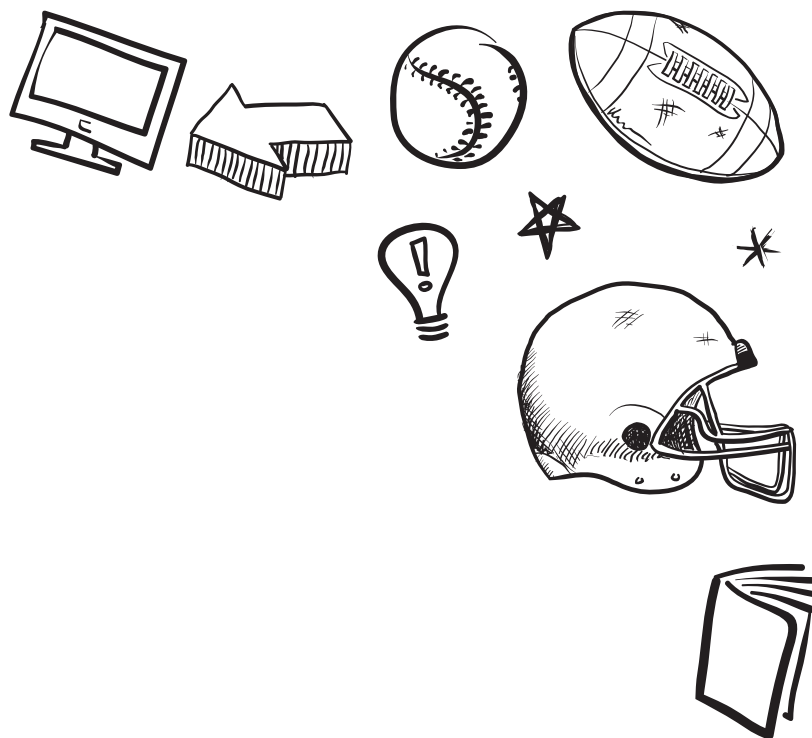
**Week  
Eight**

# Doodle Space

Draw a picture of  
something that makes  
you uniquely you!







# Holiness

WEEK NINE

## From Guilty to Holy



*Day and night they never stopped singing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, the all-powerful God, who was and is and is coming!"*

Revelation 4:8b

Dad said not to ride your skateboard near his truck, but you did it anyway. Now the door is scratched.

Your brother is annoying, and you can't stop fighting with him, so mom is mad at both of you.

Your friends at school were making fun of a friend of yours from the neighborhood and you joined in, so now she won't talk to you.

Ugh. We all act selfishly and make the wrong choices sometimes. We do what we want to do, and we end up hurting each other and ourselves. It can leave us feeling guilty.

God is the opposite. He is holy. He never does anything out of selfishness. He never does anything wrong! There seems to be a hopeless divide between a holy God and us. But God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, taking the punishment for our sin. Jesus offers to forgive us of our sins and make us holy. He doesn't leave us to feel guilty with no hope. When we ask him into our lives, we become holy like him and he changes us so we don't want to be selfish anymore.

This week's Scripture talks about how all the creatures of the world will sing forever to God, proclaiming his holiness! It is because he is so holy that we have hope to be holy, too, and to be with him forever. Take a moment to praise your holy God today!

Master  
Piece

***We are all sinners, but Jesus  
forgives us and makes us holy.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

When you stay connected to Jesus through prayer and reading Scripture, you grow closer to him and he helps you become holy. Add the words on the right to the existing words on the left, connecting them to other words when you can.

J  
E  
HOLINESS  
U  
S

GLORY

FORGIVE

PERFECT

RIGHT

CROSS

PRAY

**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

☐ Leviticus 20:26

☐ 2 Timothy 1:9

☐ Psalm 51:10–11

☐ Hebrews 12:10

**Week  
Nine**

 **Mind Blower**

In 2002, a flood in Texas in the Guadalupe River Valley was so strong it uprooted fully grown trees, a bridge, and boulders, and created a canyon almost 23 feet deep in three days.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Lord Jesus, thank you for dying for my sins.  
Please keep changing my heart.**

**Week  
Nine**

# Fearless

WEEK TEN

## Nothing to Fear!



*Don't be afraid. I am with you. Don't tremble with fear. I am your God.  
I will make you strong, as I protect you with my arm and give you victories.*

Isaiah 41:10

There's nothing to worry about!

Don't be afraid!

People say phrases like this all the time. But how can you just stop being afraid? Don't they realize there are many scary things in this world? And fear is a real thing?

God says don't be afraid. The words "do not fear" are used hundreds of times in the Bible. God also tells you why you should not be afraid. *Don't be afraid because God is with you.*

Imagine! The same God who made enormous T-Rexes is looking out for you. The strongest man on earth was made by a much bigger, stronger God. He promises in this week's verse that he will help you. And there is nothing and no one more powerful than him.

So next time you are feeling afraid, think about this week's verse. Say it out loud. Imagine the all-powerful God standing over your worry like a lion over a bug. Thank him for all he is going to do to help you get through. And then stand tall in confidence, knowing God, your lion, is defending you!

Master  
Piece

***You can beat fear by remembering  
the all-powerful God is with you.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

What are some things that make you afraid? It can be hard to talk about them. But God is listening and wants to help you. In the space below, jot down some things that bring you fear—or draw pictures to represent those things. Then pause, take a deep breath, put your hand over each thing, and pray to God. Ask him to help you trust him with that fear, and take the bad feeling of fear away.

**Write your fears here**



*My parent getting hurt*

*The dark*

*Being rejected by other kids*

**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

☐ Joshua 1:9

☐ Philippians 4:6

☐ Psalm 118:6

☐ 2 Timothy 1:7

**Week  
Ten**

"Never let your fear  
decide your future."

—Christian music artist Toby Mac





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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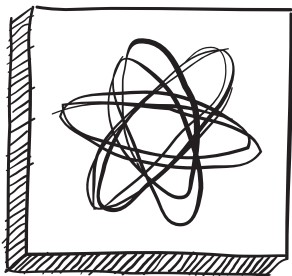
**Thank you, Lord, for helping me. I can stop  
being afraid because you are with me.**

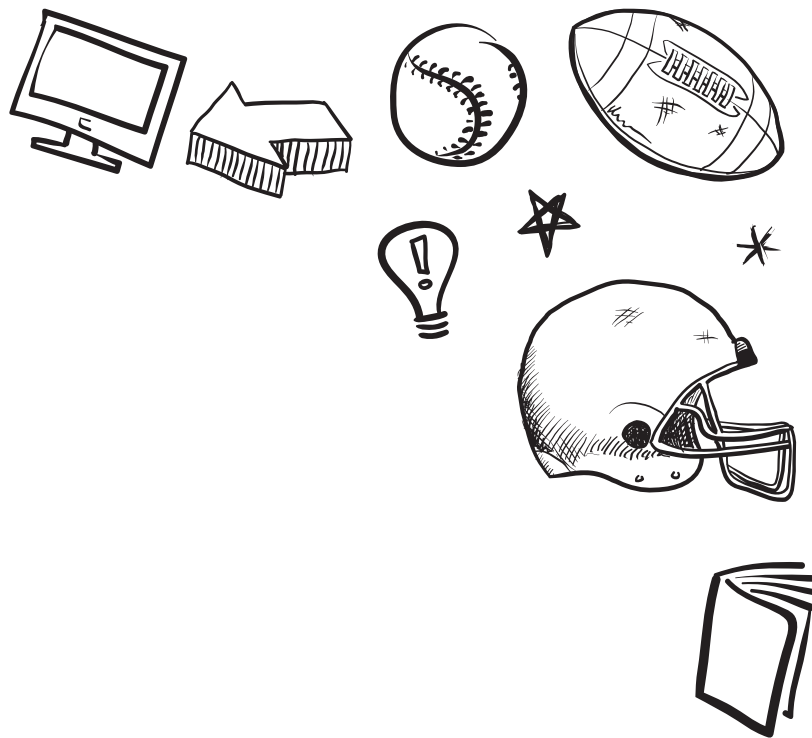
**Week  
Ten**

# Doodle Space



Draw something big  
and powerful, like a  
T-Rex, and then think  
of how much bigger  
and more powerful  
God is!





# God is greater

WEEK ELEVEN

## Focus on Hope



*I have told you this, so that you might have peace in your hearts because of me. While you are in the world, you will have to suffer. But cheer up! I have defeated the world.*

John 16:33

Bad guys. Diseases. Wars. Death.

It can be hard to believe there is good out there when most of what we see on the news or social media is really negative.

Where's the hope?

It's in God! The Bible shows us that good will conquer evil. God is bigger than all the bad things in the world. There is also a lot of good in the world around us. The amazing miracle it takes for a tree to grow, a baby to smile, or a dog to bark, shows God's love and power.

Yes, bad things do happen, and hard times do come. Good people get sick or hurt, even die. But Jesus beat death. He died and was raised to life, bringing us hope! He promises a heaven so wonderful—a place where no one ever dies and the troubles of life won't matter anymore.

The challenge for us is staying focused on the good, on God. One way to fight against the negative thoughts is by remembering the good things. Think about the good God who made them, and then read this week's verse to help you find cheer in knowing God rules over all.

Master  
Piece

***God is stronger than all the  
evil forces in the world.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

It's important to choose to focus on good things rather than negative things. Spending time with God can help you learn to do this more. Think about some of the good things you enjoy in life and connect them by drawing a line to how they remind you about God's amazing characteristics.

**FLOWERS**

**GOD IS FUN**

**FAMILY**

**GOD IS LOVING**

**BOOKS**

**GOD IS WISE**

**BASKETBALL**

**GOD IS POWERFUL**

**ICE CREAM**

**GOD IS SWEET**

**FRIENDS**

**GOD REMEMBERS ME**

**FUNNY JOKES**

**GOD IS BEAUTIFUL**

**THE SUN**

**GOD IS JOYFUL**

**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

☐ Psalm 91:14–15

☐ 1 Corinthians 15:56–57

☐ Psalm 121:7–8

☐ Romans 8:37–39

**Week  
Eleven**

**Mind Blower**

If the earth didn't turn as fast as it does, we would have longer days and nights. We would get a lot hotter during the day and a lot colder at night, so fewer plants would be able to survive, making it harder for us to live.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**God, we need your hope! Remind  
me today of your goodness.**

**Week  
Eleven**

Doing good

WEEK TWELVE

## Knowing and Doing



*If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens,  
come to me and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28

Have you ever wondered why you do wrong things sometimes?

Cheating on a test at school...

Gossiping about another kid behind their back...

Making a rude joke with your friends...

Lying to get out of getting in trouble...

In your head, you know the difference between right and wrong. But sometimes you just do what's wrong anyway.

On your own it's hard to do the good you want to do. Jesus says to come to him with all your sins, your failures, your weaknesses, your troubles. He promises to help you do what's right and handle tough times. He wants to help guide you through those tough decisions so you can choose to take the better path.

So when you are faced with the option to do what's right or wrong, turn to Jesus.

When that thought comes into your head to tell a lie or disobey or say something mean, talk to Jesus, instead.

A simple prayer is all it takes to start a conversation with him. He is there to give you rest and help you do what's right. Try him!

Master  
Piece

***When faced with the option to do what's  
right or wrong, turn to Jesus.***



# Spiritual Fitness Training

Doing the right thing can be tiring. It also can seem unfair when you do the right thing but others around you don't! The reason we choose to do right is for God, not for others. Below, there are things listed that are both good and bad choices. Take time to think about each one. Circle the good choices and cross out the bad choices. Then ask God to help you make these good decisions every day!

*Taking out the garbage to help your dad*

*Making your own snack after school*

~~*Snatching a toy from your sibling*~~

*Lying to your teacher about your homework*

*Cleaning your room without being asked*

*Rolling your eyes when your mom asks you to do your chores*

*Helping out with dinner*

*Helping your younger siblings with their homework*

**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

☐ Jeremiah 6:16

☐ Psalm 62:1

☐ Psalm 37:7

☐ Matthew 11:29–30

**Week  
Twelve**

"Knowing what's right  
doesn't mean much unless you  
do what's right."

—Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of  
the United States (1901-1909)



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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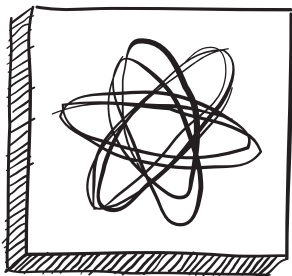
**Dear Lord, I need you to help me do the  
right thing. Thank you for guiding me.**

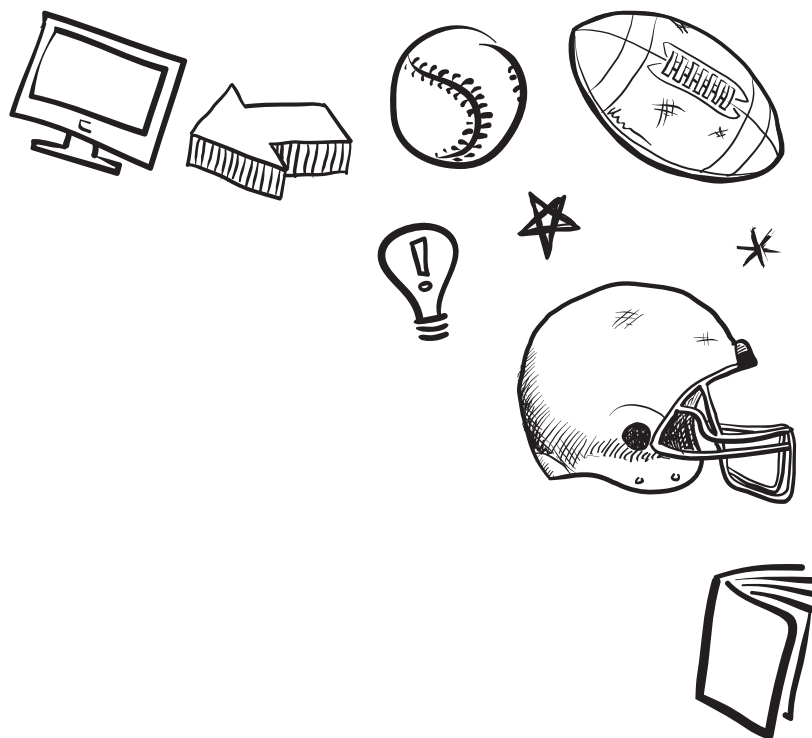
**Week  
Twelve**

## Doodle Space



We do the right thing  
because we want to bring  
God joy. But guess what?  
He loves you whether  
you do the right thing or  
not. Isn't that amazing?!  
Fill this entire page  
with happy faces of all  
different sizes. While  
you do, think about God's  
great love





# Special gifts

WEEK THIRTEEN

## Talents to Bless



*God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. This is why he sent Christ to make us what we are.*

Ephesians 2:10

What do you wish you were good at? Baseball? Math? Being funny? Painting? Have you ever felt jealous of those who are good at something you're not?

God blesses us with people who are good at things. He made Albert Einstein really smart and Maya Angelou creative with writing. He made General Eisenhower brave to win many battles, and made Martin Luther King Jr. a good communicator so he could preach and inspire. He made Simone Biles good—*well, amazing*—at gymnastics!

So where does that leave us? What if we aren't really good at anything? What if we don't even know what to work on?

Hang in there, young friend!

God will show you what you are good at as you grow up. And when you start to find something you love, you will have to practice and work at it. Until then, we can enjoy others' talents and not have to try to be better than them. You know how your teacher says "eyes on your own paper"? Well, that's the same for us with our gifts. God doesn't expect you to be like Einstein or Biles. He has you on your own journey with your own gifts—gifts that you will unwrap and discover in his time!

***You have unique talents and gifts that you will  
unwrap and discover in his time!***

Master  
Piece

# Spiritual Fitness Training

What talents do you already know God has given you? How can you practice them? How can you use them to benefit others? Write out some goals! Remember, goals don't have to be huge, scary things. They can just be one simple way you will use your special gift one day to bless someone else. An example is provided to help you out.

## SPECIAL GIFT

*Example: Play piano*

## HOW I WILL USE IT

*Example: Practice a special song to play for my grandpa on his birthday*

### Keep It Going This Week *Find out more by reading these verses.*

☐ Exodus 35:30–34

☐ 2 Samuel 22:33–35

☐ 1 Kings 4:29, 32, 33

☐ Hebrews 10:24

**Week  
Thirteen**

"I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel his pleasure."

—Eric Liddell, Olympic runner and missionary, as quoted in the movie about him called *Chariots of Fire*





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Lord, help me to appreciate the many unique gifts  
you gave others... and the gifts you gave me, too!**

**Week  
Thirteen**

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**Keep It Going!** 

Your Summer Issue of Masterpiece  
will arrive in the mail soon, so you  
can continue discovering your unique  
design through God's Word!

(Check your mailbox!)

