

# BRAVE

WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS

**Learning to be Fearless through God's Word**

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING

**★HERO  
SQUAD**  
JV EDITION

Brave, Boys JV Edition, Summer Issue

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**WRITE THE NICKNAME YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY CALL YOU:**

**WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHERO?**

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITY?**

## **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:**



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# HOW DOES GOD'S WORD MAKE US **BRAVE?**

Brave

Ever wish you could be fearless like your favorite super hero? Turns out, you can! With the out-of-this-world power that God gives, you can face the unknown and scary things in life—like a new duty station—with courage and bravery. It’s amazing what you can do with God by your side!

**WRITE THREE THINGS THAT MAKE YOU FEEL BRAVE:**

God’s Word helps you to be brave! It teaches you God is always with you and loves you. Through his strength, you can do anything! In this devotional series, you’ll be introduced to strong and courageous leaders who followed God’s Word. And you’ll discover how you can be brave with God’s help, too!

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

*EXAMPLE: To learn about how brave Jesus was*

# 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!

Jesus

WEEK FOURTEEN

## Standing on Your Own



*Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin!*

Hebrews 4:15

*“But everyone else is doing it!”*

Even if it is wrong, even if you don't really want to do something your friends are doing, sometimes you give in because you don't want to be left out. It often seems like your parents don't understand. And you wonder if Jesus understands.

Well, he does. Jesus came into the world as a human baby, born to Mary. He had an earthly father in Joseph, but he was really God's Son.

Jesus had lived in Heaven where everything was perfect. When he came to Earth, he had to be a kid and grow up, just like you. He felt pain, sadness, frustration, and all the other human emotions. And as God's Son—always talking about and doing what pleased God—he often felt like an outsider.

Through it all, he did not sin. He got his strength from God and never failed to do the right thing. He knew staying obedient to God was worth more than following the crowd.

And Jesus can help you say no to bad decisions and stand on your own, too. When it feels like everyone else is doing something wrong, turn to him. He has compassion for you and will give you the help you need to stay on the right path.

***Jesus can help you say no to bad decisions  
and stand on your own, too.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Having a game plan helps us fight temptations. When your friends want to do something wrong, what are some good behaviors you could suggest, instead?

- Board Games**
- Biking**
- Hiking**
- Helping Someone**
- Basketball**
- .....
- .....
- .....

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

- Psalm 147:5
- Luke 2:52
- Isaiah 53:2-3
- Hebrews 2:18

**Mind Blower**

"Jesus humbled himself. He went from commanding angels to sleeping in the straw. From holding stars to clutching Mary's finger. The palm that held the universe took the nail of a soldier. Why? Because that's what love does."

—Max Lucado, American author and pastor  
in San Antonio, Texas



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Jesus, thank you for understanding. Please help me do the right thing, even if I must stand alone.**

# Angelina Grimké

WEEK FIFTEEN

## Their Way vs. God's Way



*I'll tell you what it really means to worship the Lord. Remove the chains of prisoners who are bound unjustly. Free those who are abused!*

Isaiah 58:6

*"If I say anything, I will lose all of my friends."*

We've probably all had that fear, but Angelina Grimké knew it was true. When this South Carolina slave owner's daughter spoke out against slavery in the early 1800s, she lost her friends and most of her family.

Angelina had to move to Pennsylvania. There she continued to have compassion for the slaves and to speak out against slavery. She wrote letters and booklets that caused riots and book burnings. She gave speeches all over the northern states. At one talk, a mob outside threw rocks into the windows. Angelina spoke louder, saying the slaves had to endure worse things.

How did she stay so brave? She wrote a letter to a friend detailing how she was poor and defenseless in herself, "but rich and strong in the help which our Master is pleased to give." Jesus helped her! Even when she lost everything, she chose to follow Jesus and worship him with her obedience.

How about you? Are you bowing down to what others say so you can fit in? When you choose God's way, you can trust he will take care of you.

***When you choose God's way, you can trust he will take care of you.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Communication matters! When someone says something that is against what God says, it's important to stand up for what is right by letting them know what they said is wrong. God can help you find the words. Practice what you might say by writing a few responses below.

*Example: I don't agree with that.*

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

- Psalm 147:11
- Proverbs 14:31
- Matthew 25:40
- 1 John 3:17

"The only way you can serve  
God is by serving other people."

—Rick Warren, American pastor and author of  
*The Purpose Driven Life*





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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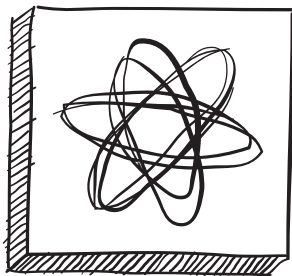
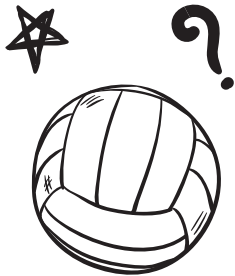
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**God, I want to choose what is right and good,  
even if it costs me. Please give me strength.**

# Doodle Space



Draw a picture of something that scares you. Then draw a picture of Jesus next to it to remind you that he makes you brave.



Brave



# Peter & John

WEEK SIXTEEN

## Being With Jesus



*Peter saw that a crowd had gathered, and he said:*

*Friends, why are you surprised at what has happened? Why are you staring at us? Do you think we have some power of our own? Do you think we were able to make this man walk because we are so religious?*

Acts 3:12

It didn't make sense. Everyone knew the man had never been able to walk, even as a baby. But now, here he was standing in front of everybody, holding on to a couple of men who had helped him. These men weren't doctors. They weren't rich guys. They weren't magicians. They were just a couple of normal guys named Peter and John.

The only thing different about them, they said, was that they knew Jesus. And that made all the difference.

Because they knew Jesus, they had compassion for this man who couldn't walk. They knew Jesus holds the power to heal. As Peter began to help the man get up, Jesus healed him.

Can people around you see that you know Jesus? The more we are changed by him, the more we can help others around us. It doesn't matter that you are young or do not know the Bible as well as others. Jesus will work through you, and people will be blessed.

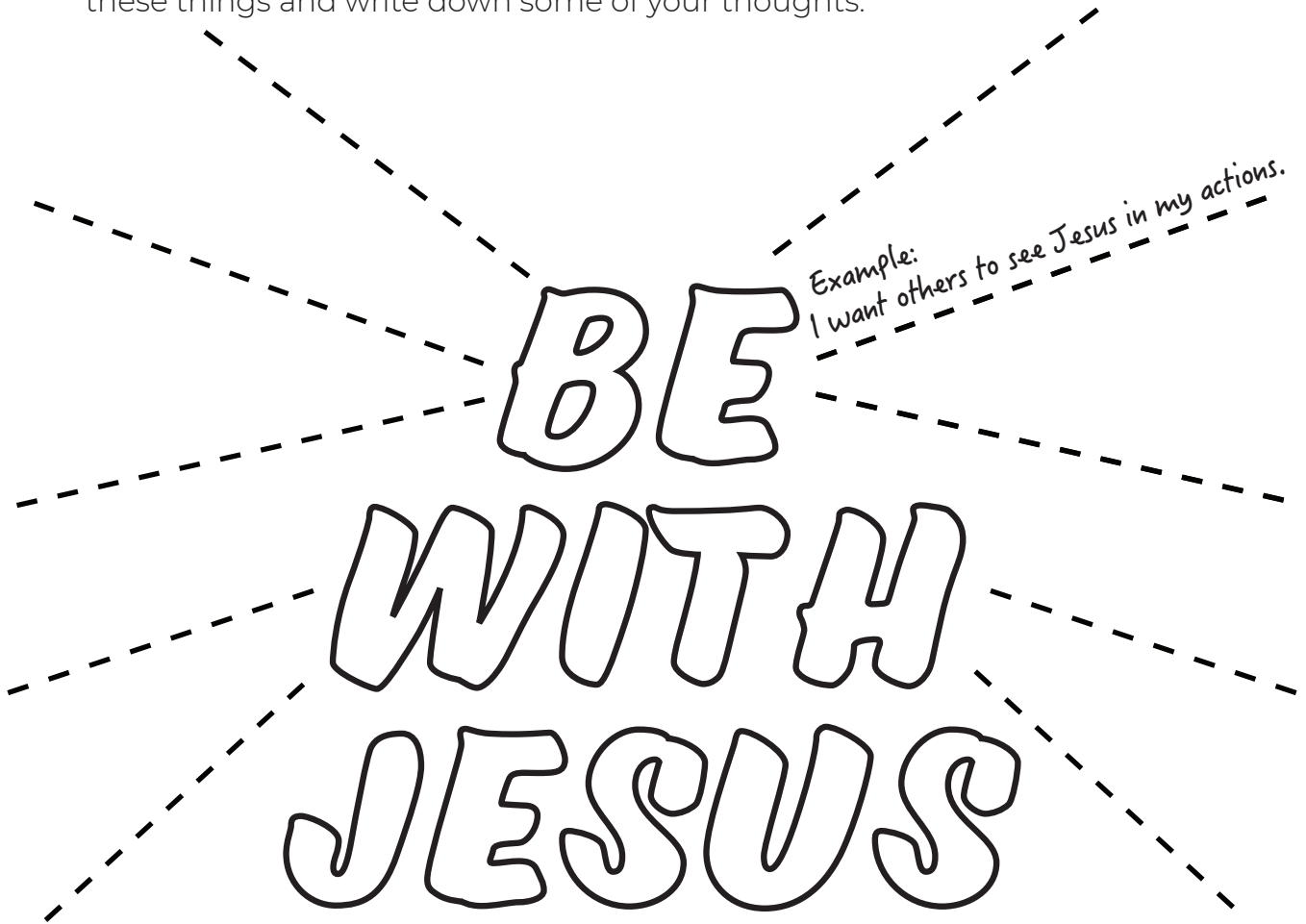
So, work hard at spending time with Jesus. Read the Bible, learn at church, pray, and praise him every day. He will change you and will work through you!

***Spending time with Jesus will change you  
and you will be able to help others.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

How would you like Jesus to change you? How would you like to affect others? What can you do to spend more time with Jesus? Think about these things and write down some of your thoughts.



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

Isaiah 53:5

Acts 3:6-7

Psalm 147:3

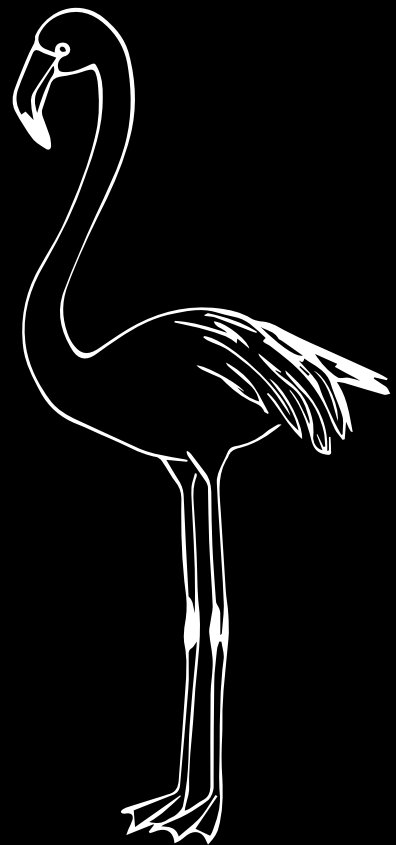
1 Corinthians 1:27

**Week  
Sixteen**

**Mind Blower**

Flamingos are pink because they eat shrimp and algae in the water. You can tell where they hang out!

(Wouldn't you like for people to see Jesus when they look at you?)



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Lord, I want to spend time with you.  
Help me to know you better.**

# King Asa

WEEK SEVENTEEN

## Turning to God First



*The Lord is constantly watching everyone, and he gives strength to those who faithfully obey him. But you have done a foolish thing, and your kingdom will never be at peace again.*

2 Chronicles 16:9

You badly want friends, so you do whatever they are doing, even if it's wrong. You're getting bad grades, so you figure out how to cheat without your parents finding out. You feel guilty and awful about yourself, so you eat too much or too little, or watch too much TV, or hide out in your room all alone—anything to quit feeling sad.

Too many times, when we find ourselves weak and vulnerable, we look to all kinds of things or people for help, even if we know they are wrong or can't make things better. We just want the problem to be over.

This is what happened to King Asa. For decades he did the right thing—following God and trusting him. He had seen God's mighty power help his army demolish invading forces many times bigger than them.

But when another king stirred up trouble for Judah, Asa didn't pray. He didn't look to God for help. Instead, he decided to fix things himself. He took his money, and God's treasures from the temple, and used them to pay off an ally to fight his enemies. While this helped him win that battle, his kingdom was always at war with others. This was the consequence he paid for not following God.

It's important to always trust God and turn to him first. We can learn from King Asa's mistake. Will you trust God to help you with the things you are going through right now?

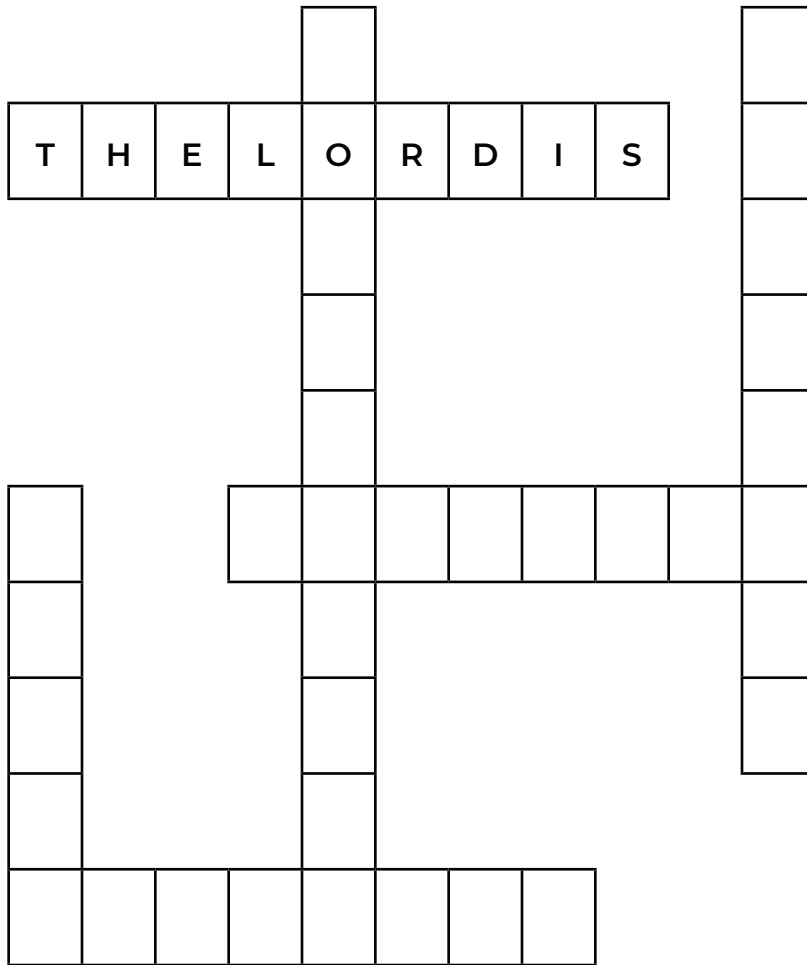
***God watches over you and cares for you.  
Turn to him first when you need help.***

Brave



# Spiritual Fitness Training

Using the word bank, fill in the words from today's verse in the puzzle below.



- 1. CONSTANTLY
- 2. WATCHING
- 3. EVERYONE
- 4. PEACE
- 5. STRENGTH

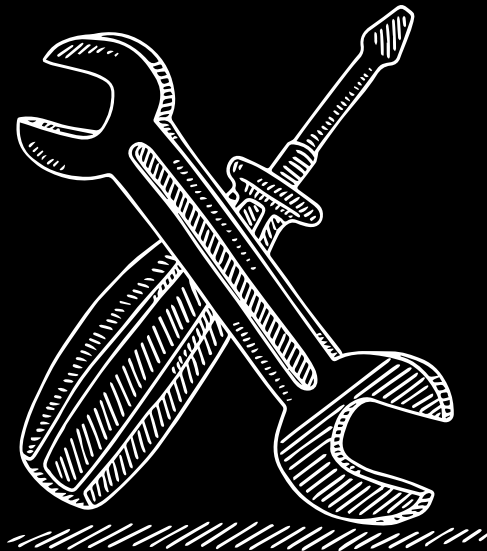
**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

- 1 Chronicles 16:11-12
- Psalm 118:5
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Philippians 4:6

**Week  
Seventeen**

"Sometimes God lets you be in a situation that only he can fix so that you can see that he is the one who fixes it. Rest. He's got it."

—Tony Evans, American author and pastor in Dallas, Texas



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



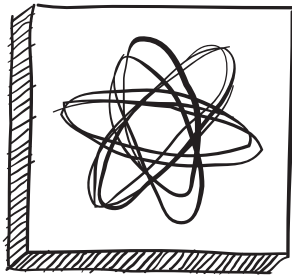
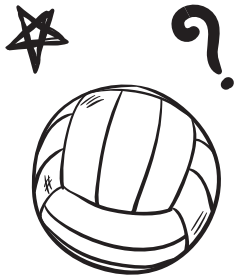
A series of ten horizontal dashed lines providing space for writing thoughts.

**God, I get in worse trouble when I try to fix things without you. Help me to trust you.**

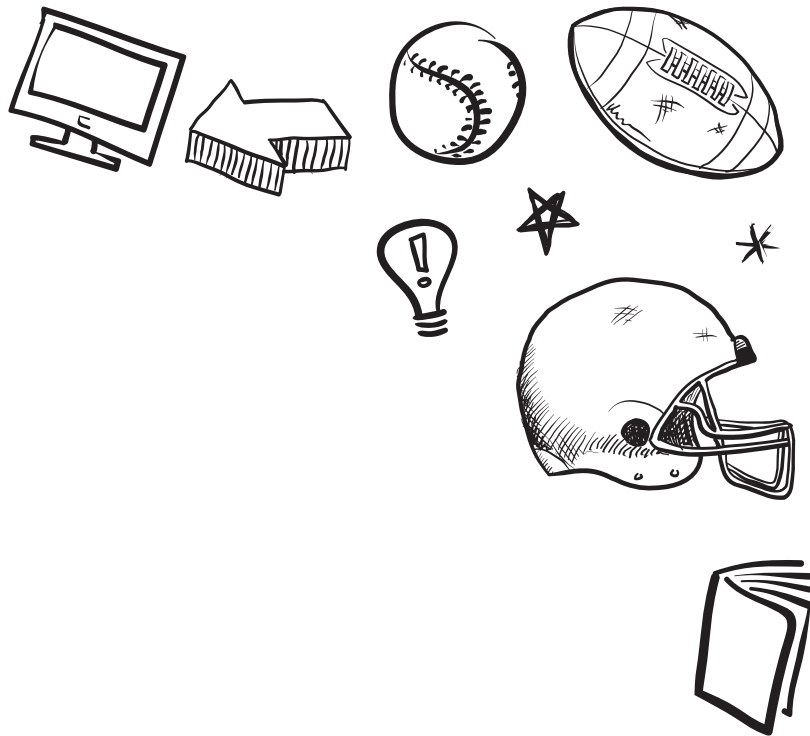
# Doodle Space



Draw a picture of a broken heart that is all patched up to remind you that people can fix things, but only God can fix hearts.



Brave



Jesus

WEEK EIGHTEEN

## Taming Temptation



*For 40 days Jesus was tested by the devil, and during that time he went without eating. When it was all over, he was hungry.*

Luke 4:2

Jesus stood on top of a hill, weak, hungry, and tired. The devil came to him, “Just take care of yourself. Waiting for God isn’t necessary.” And then, swirling before him was the whole world: riches from every kingdom, people from every nation, all the powers of the armies. “I will give it all to you, if you just . . . worship me.”

At his weakest moment, Jesus was offered everything he could possibly want. He was being tempted by the devil himself.

But Jesus knew the consequences. If he failed, the world would be lost. If he failed, he would be forever separated from his Father, God.

It is not wrong to be tempted. Jesus, the perfect human being, was tempted just like we are. Those thoughts that suddenly fill your head, the rage that blows up inside, the craving that takes a hold of you . . . Jesus felt these emotions, too. But he modeled how to say no, and he promises to help us.

In this world, you will be tempted to do wrong. Pray. Hold to the truth of the Bible. And look for the promised escape route God provides. Just like Jesus overcame temptation, you can, too.

***You can’t stay away from temptation, but you can keep it from taking a hold of you.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

What are the temptations that have been hard for you to shake? Write them down below and take some time every day this week to pray for the strength to overcome each. Return to this page at the end of the week and write down how God helped you. You will be amazed by his help and strength!

MY TEMPTATIONS	HOW GOD HELPED ME OVERCOME
• _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____	• _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____

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

Proverbs 28:10

1 Corinthians 10:13

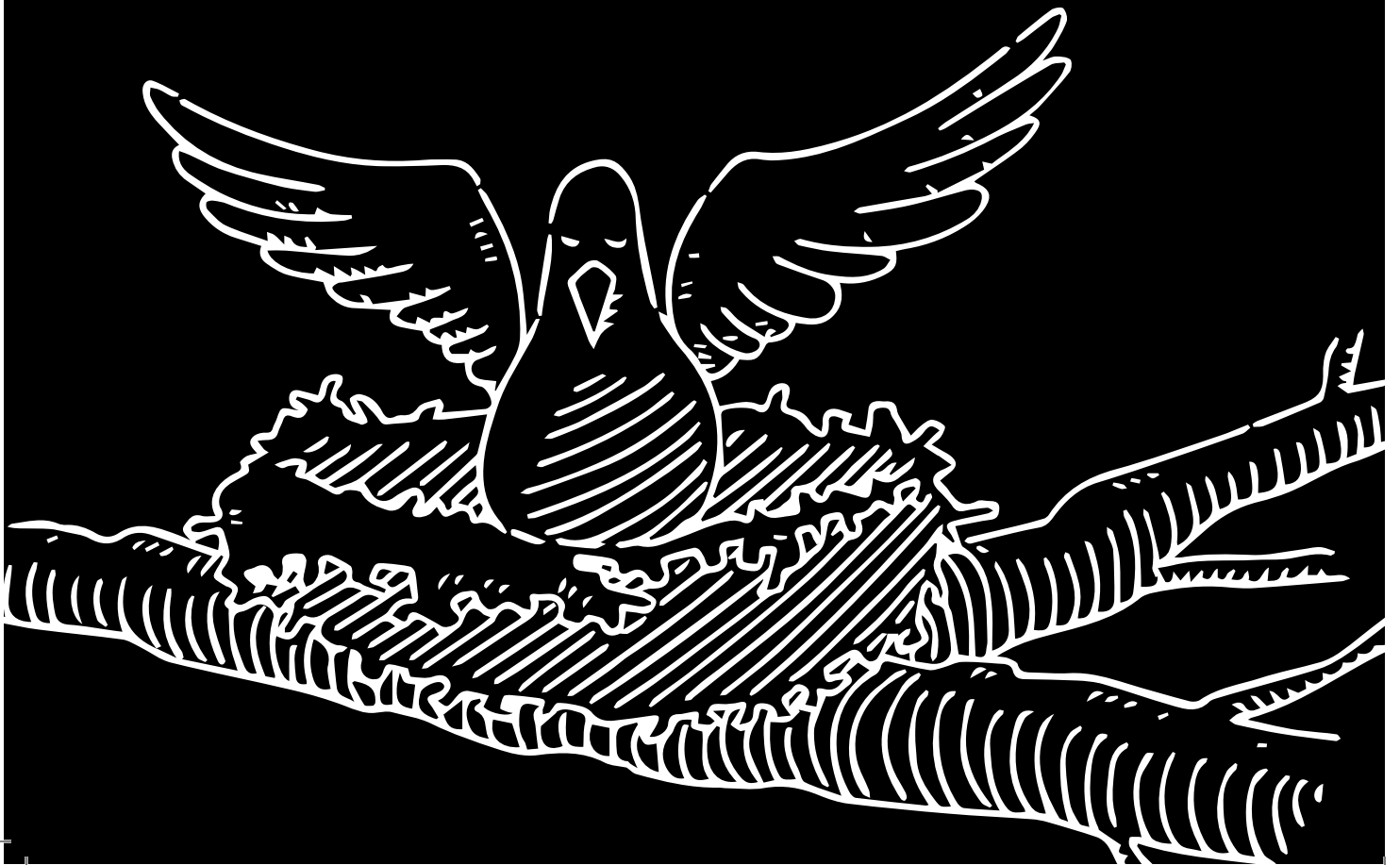
Lamentations 3:40

Hebrews 2:18

**Week  
Eighteen**

"You cannot keep birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair."

—Martin Luther, German priest  
in the early 1500s





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



A series of ten horizontal dashed lines providing a space for writing thoughts.

**Jesus, I'm sometimes tempted to do things that don't honor you. Please help me say no like you did.**

# Adam & Eve

WEEK NINETEEN

## From Failure to Forgiveness



*The Lord God called out to the man and asked, "Where are you?"*  
Genesis 3:9

Looks like you failed again. You betrayed friends. You disappointed your parents. You hurt your brother. What is it that makes us do such selfish things?

The first book of the Bible tells us where all that behavior comes from. God created us to be good. But he also gave us the freedom to choose between good and evil. And in Genesis 3, Eve, and then Adam, chose their own, selfish way. Since the beginning of time, all people have continued to do wrong—which is sin.

But God didn't leave those first people to just keep hiding. Nor did he wipe them out. Rather, in love, he called to Adam to talk. He knew where they were hiding, and why, but he opened the conversation with a question, "Where are you?" God wanted Adam to confess his sin . . . to come face to face with his wrongdoing.

God loves us even when we do bad things. He searches for us in our failures. He wants us to quit hiding from him when we sin—to own up to our faults and turn to him for help. We don't have to be afraid to turn to God because he sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can be forgiven.

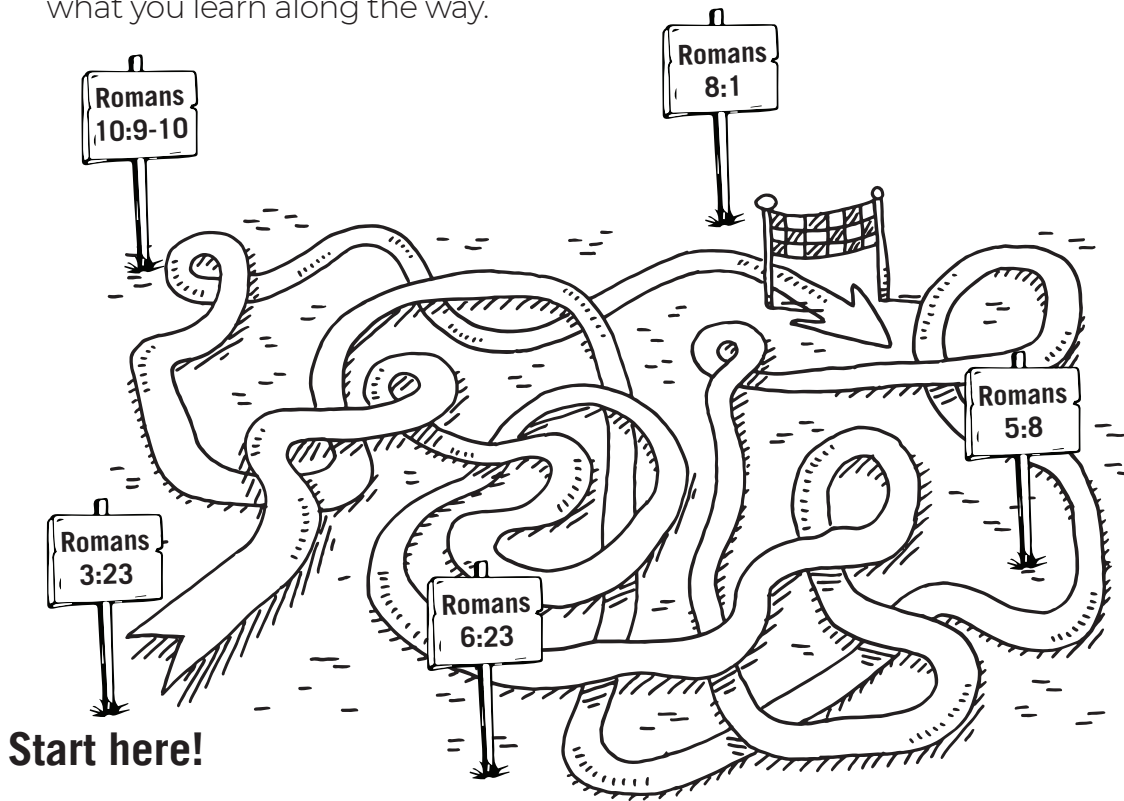
God is still asking, "Where are you?" Have you accepted his forgiveness through Jesus, or are you continuing to try to make your own way? God is calling you back!

***God is calling you to confess your sins.  
Are you still hiding?***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Several verses in Romans explain God's plan to save us from our sins. Some people call it the "Romans Road." Make your way through the maze below and, as you do, explore each of the verses you pass. Try to get through one verse each day this week! Underneath the maze, write your thoughts about what you learn along the way.



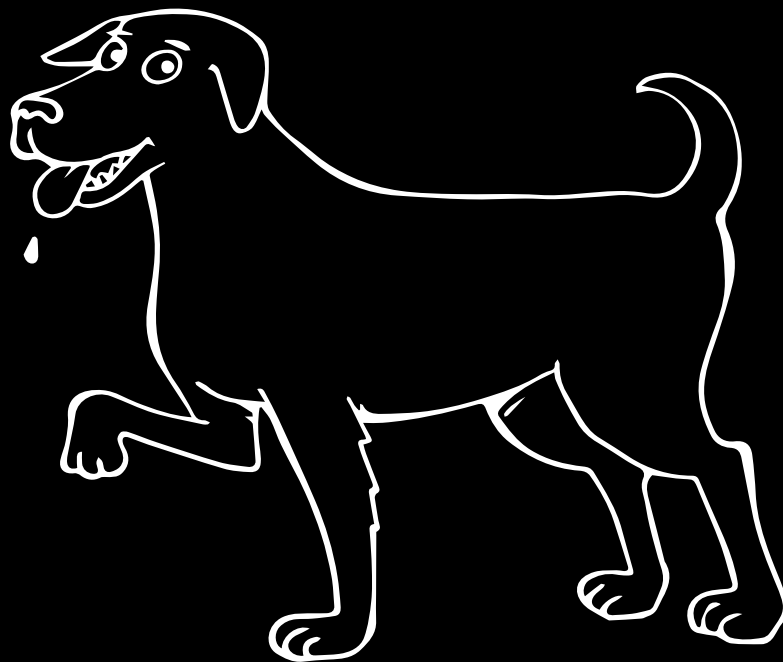
**Start here!**

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**Week  
Nineteen**

"Only one decision  
pleases God—  
obedience."

—Chuck Swindoll, American  
pastor and radio broadcaster



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



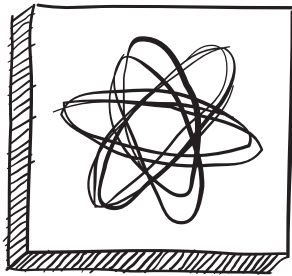
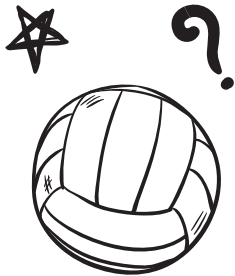
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**God, I sometimes make bad decisions and get myself into big messes. Please forgive me and help me.**

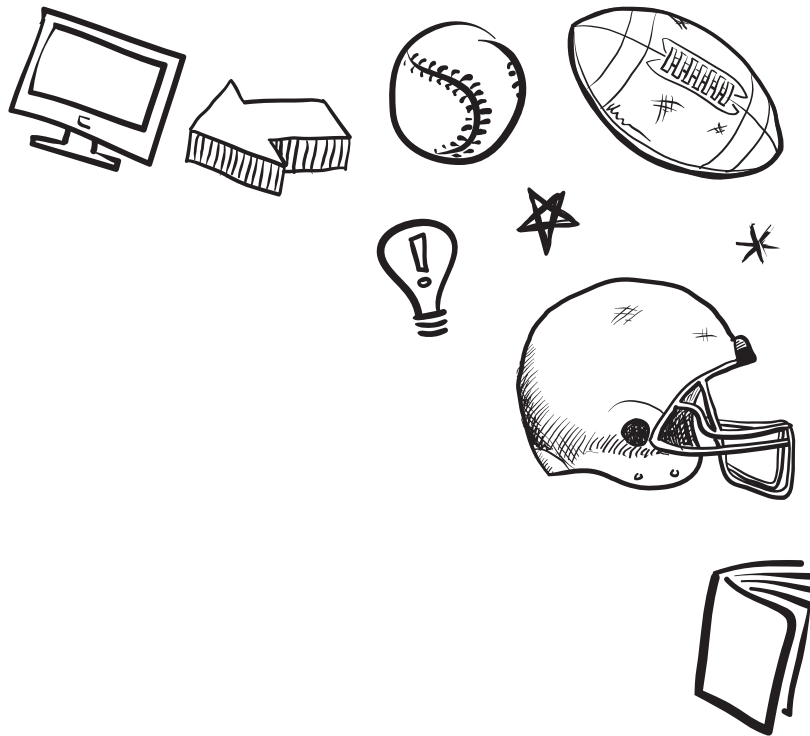
# Doodle Space



Draw a picture of an apple tree. Then write the word "forgiven" on all the apples as a reminder that God will forgive all your sins.



Brave



Paul

WEEK TWENTY

## Sharing the Good News



*So Paul stood up in front of the council and said: People of Athens, I see that you are very religious... God has done all this, so that we will look for him and reach out and find him. He isn't far from any of us, and he gives us the power to live, to move, and to be who we are. "We are his children," just as some of your poets have said.*

Acts 17:22, 27-28

In a powerful, wealthy city filled with statues and temples built to glorify all kinds of gods stood a simple man from another country talking about one, all-powerful God—a Christian named Paul. Even though he was a stranger, he came with a powerful message that caught people's attention.

Paul told the people about Jesus, about how he came back to life after being killed! On hearing this, some started laughing; others mocked. Impossible! To the well-educated people of Athens, the idea was ridiculous. They had the best teachers in the world! Did Paul think he knew better? Most shrugged and walked away. But others continued to hear him speak messages around the city. And some believed and began to follow Jesus Christ. Praise God!

When you tell others about Jesus, you can't control how they will respond. Some may act like they don't need God. Some may even make fun of you. And some may listen to your words. Just like God used Paul, he can use you to help others find him.

Will you be bold in telling others about the life-saving love of Jesus Christ? This week, ask God to show you who needs to hear this message. And then ask him for the bravery to share it!

***Be bold! Tell others about the life-saving love of Jesus Christ.***

Brave



# Spiritual Fitness Training

Be like Paul! Write a list below of the names of friends who need to be introduced to Jesus. This week, pray for each of them. Also pray that God would show you a way to start sharing with them. You can jot down ideas in the right-hand column.

<b>I want to introduce these friends to Jesus:</b>	<b>Sharing ideas:</b>
• _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____	• <i>Invite them to church</i> • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 19:1	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 1:20
<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 14:17	<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 3:7-9

**Mind Blower**

One building in Athens, the Parthenon, was built as a temple to worship a god called Athena. Several hundred years after Paul spoke in Athens, the Parthenon was converted into a Catholic church.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**God, help me to be brave! I want others  
to know about your love and grace.**

Solomon

WEEK TWENTY-ONE

## Heart and Mind



*Solomon, my son, worship God and obey him with all your heart and mind, just as I have done. He knows all your thoughts and your reasons for doing things, and so if you turn to him, he will hear your prayers. But if you ignore him, he will reject you forever.*

1 Chronicles 28:9

Imagine you are about to become the president. Your dad, who was president before you, is giving you advice. What do you want to know? How to protect the country? Help the homeless? Be popular?

This week's Bible reading tells the story of King David, who knew he was about to die. He called together all the leaders and told them his son Solomon would be the new king. Then he said to his son, "Solomon, worship God and obey him with all your heart and mind."

The most important thing David wanted to make sure Solomon understood was to put God first, to love him and obey him. David knew that if Solomon did that, he would be the kind of leader God wanted him to be for God's people.

How about you? Do you make it a priority to worship and obey God? Too often, we all get busy running our own lives, thinking everything else is more important. We think we have to study for school more than read our Bible; we want to sleep in rather than go to church; or we scroll through social media instead of praying.

David's instructions to Solomon are for us, too: with all your heart and mind, put God first. What he means is that worship is more than just a checklist of tasks, but rather it's a life of complete devotion to God.

Brave

***With all your heart and mind, put God first.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Find the words from this week's verse. As you do, think about ways you can worship God!

A X L O P H M S T R  
N P R X I H E A R T  
P O C L K R X A N U  
B R J I H A T I R R  
O S A X S X N N O N  
D P M Y G L D N I M  
Y R E Y E C A K I U  
H I B E W R S E Z O  
N O M O L O S D U V  
X U J I E U I A G O

**HEART**

**MIND**

**BODY**

**TURN**

**PRAYERS**

**SOLOMON**

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

Joshua 24:20

Matthew 22:36-37

Psalm 40:16

John 4:23-24

**Week  
Twenty  
One**

*"The whole duty of man is  
summed up in obedience to  
God's will."*

*—George Washington, first president  
of the United States*



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



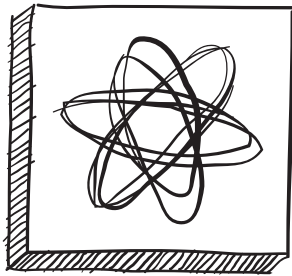
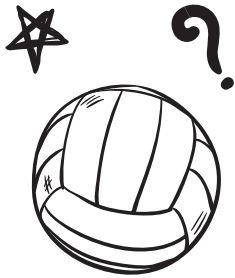
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**God, forgive me for making other things more important than you. Please help me worship you with all my heart and mind.**

# Doodle Space

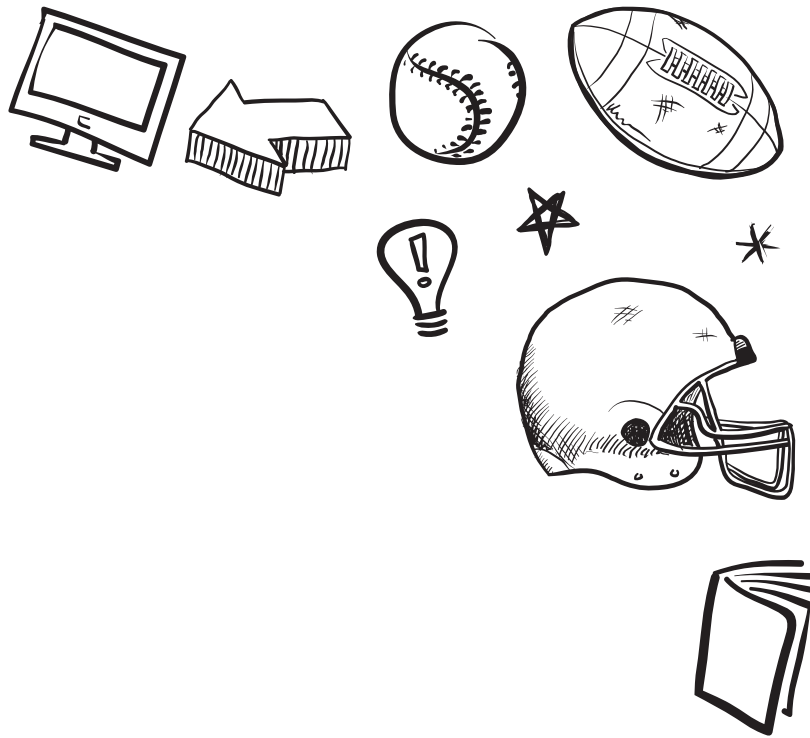


Draw a picture of a heart. Then fill in your heart with all the good things you know God wants you to do.



Brave





Jesus

WEEK TWENTY-TWO

## Stronger than Hate



*If the people of this world hate you,  
just remember that they hated me first.*

John 15:18

Everyone wants to be liked. We want people to think we're fun, admire what we can do, agree with us, and want to hang out with us.

But all of us go through times when we feel people don't like us. And when that happens, we tend to think something is wrong with us. Perhaps we don't meet the standards of the crowd. We just aren't... good enough. Or at least it feels that way.

But Jesus acknowledged and accepted that the world hated him. He was God's Son, and he always obeyed God. When he was around religious leaders, he said and did things that sometimes made them angry. When crowds gathered to listen to him, he said things that were hard to understand or seemed too hard to do. People who didn't want to obey God hated his actions and words.

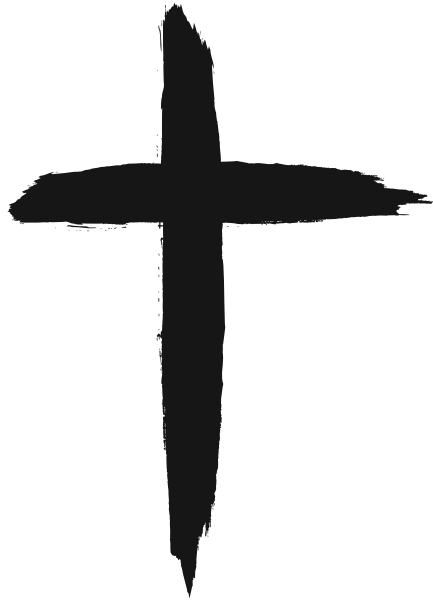
People may or may not like us for many reasons. But sometimes they will hate us simply because we love and obey God. Times may come when we will have to choose between following God or being popular. Being friends with God holds the bigger reward. Jesus was killed because of hate, but hate did not win. Through his sacrifice we can have eternal life with the God who loves us. So, try not to worry about the haters. God's got your back!

***Try not to worry about the haters.  
God's got your back!***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Have you thought about all the hard things Jesus went through for you? Jot them down around the cross. Take some time to pray and thank him for everything he did, and for his great love for you. It's because of all he did that we can live with him forever!



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

Psalm 34:21-22

John 16:33

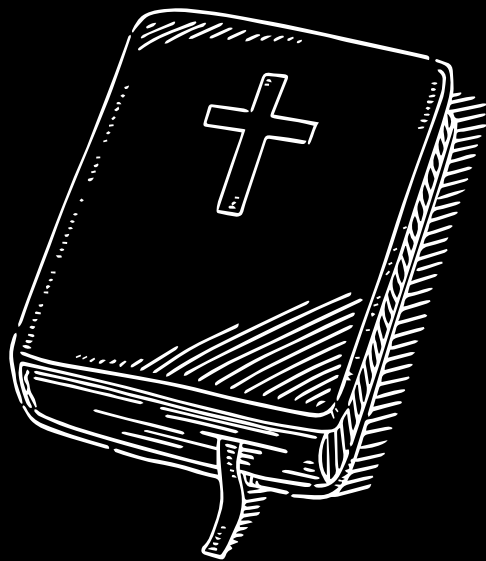
Psalm 71:24

1 John 3:12-13

**Week  
Twenty  
Two**

Mind Blower

John Wycliffe was a 14th century theologian who was persecuted for his faith. People hated him for his beliefs. But his great work lives on—he led the first translation of the Bible into English!



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Lord, help me to hold onto your love  
always! And give me bravery to show your  
love to those who hate.**

# Amos

WEEK TWENTY-THREE

## Reasonable Rules



*I created the mountains and the wind. I let humans know  
what I am thinking. I bring darkness at dawn and step over hills.  
I am the Lord God All-Powerful!*  
Amos 4:13

Rules. Shame. Punishment. No wonder Amos was not a popular speaker. Unexpectedly, this shepherd started telling people they were doing wrong, and that God was going to punish them for it. Amos must have wondered how he ended up being the messenger of such tough news. No one wanted to hear it. But the harsh words were directly from God, so Amos kept talking.

The people weren't worshipping God with their whole hearts. They weren't being kind to the poor. They had become rich by taking advantage of others.

Yet, God reminded the people of who he is. This is not some weak god who needs people's worship. This is the God of Heaven and Earth! This powerful God loved the people and assured them he would stay true to his promises, but they just needed to obey their Creator.

The words of Amos from thousands of years ago still speak to us today. God has the right to tell us what we should do. He loves us and wants us to turn away from our sin and follow his ways. When you find it hard to obey God's words, remember that God loves you and wants to keep you safe.

***Behind all the rules is a powerful God  
who knows what's best for us.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

There are some words that just make sense to obey: medical advice from your doctor, an exercise routine from a professional athlete, cooking instructions from a top chef. Why do we listen to these people? Because they are the best at what they do. They know their fields!

In an even bigger way, you can obey God's words because he is the Creator of all! His wisdom is infinite and his power is endless! Think about some areas in your life where you can obey God today. Write out your thoughts below.

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**I created the mountains and  
the wind. I let humans know  
what I am thinking. I bring  
darkness at dawn and step  
over hills. I am the Lord God  
All-Powerful!**

**AMOS 4:13**

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

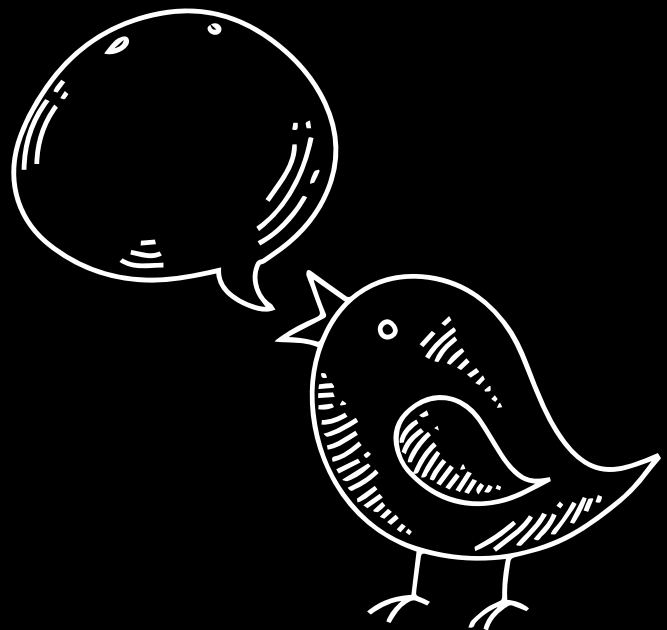
- 1 Chronicles 16:14
- Psalm 65:5-7

- Acts 17:30-31
- 2 Timothy 4:1a

**Week  
Twenty  
Three**

Mind Blower

Birds sound an alarm when a predator is in the area, and other species of birds and even rodents pay attention. It's called "mobbing" and the news can spread through the birds at 100 miles an hour.





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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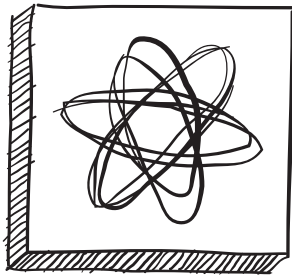
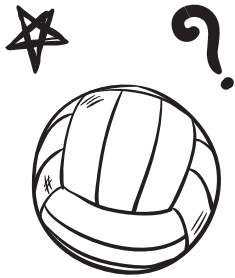
**Lord, help me to remember you are behind the rules. I can obey because I know you love me.**

**Week  
Twenty  
Three**

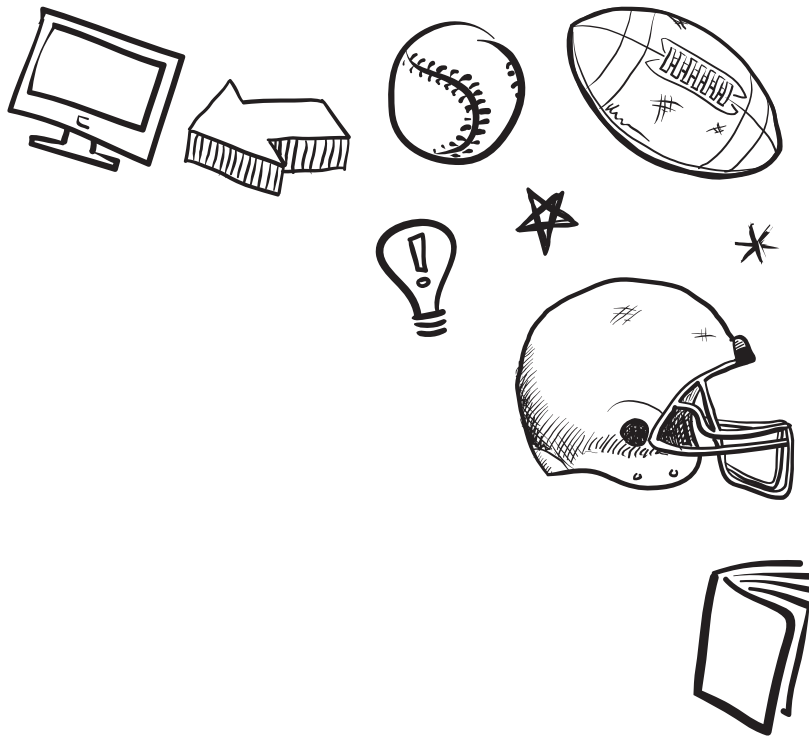
# Doodle Space



You know who's good at obeying? Dogs! Draw a picture of a dog obeying a command like "sit" or "lay down", as you remember to trust and obey God, too.



Brave



**Week  
Twenty  
Three**

Mary

WEEK TWENTY-FOUR

## Peeling Off the Labels



*God cares for me, his humble servant. From now on,  
all people will say God has blessed me.*

Luke 1:48

Young. Low-class. Jew. Female. The labels placed on Mary didn't leave much expectation for her to claim a blessed life—at least not according to the customs and traditions of her time and culture.

But she worshipped a God who sees the outcast people and who blesses those who trust and obey him. Mary said yes to God's plan for her life. And God made her the mother of Jesus, who was the Savior of the entire world!

Maybe you feel a bit like Mary. You might feel overlooked because you are young. You might feel less than because you don't have fancy clothes or live in a huge mansion. You might feel unpopular because other kids ignore you at school.

No matter how low you feel, you are never out of God's sight . . . or his plan. He looks for those who put him first and are willing to trust and obey him. He uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things! It really is amazing what he can do with a willing heart.

So, peel off those labels. Refuse to give in to the feelings of helplessness. Say yes to what God has for your life. Remember how God used Mary, and remind yourself that he can use you, too. He will bless you beyond what you can even imagine!

***God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things! Say yes to his plans.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Mary praised God for blessing her. Too often we are so worried about where we want to be, we miss the blessings God has already given us. Take a moment to be thankful for what God has given you. Write a psalm, like Mary's, praising him! (Bonus points: think of a catchy melody and sing it out loud!)

**SONG**

Psalm of \_\_\_\_\_ (your name)

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**MUSIC**

**MUSIC**

**NOTE**

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

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 138:6   | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 5:6 |

**Week  
Twenty  
Four**

“Nothing paralyzes our lives like the attitude that things can never change. We need to remind ourselves that God can change things.”

—Warren Wiersbe, author and pastor in Chicago, Illinois



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



A series of ten horizontal dashed lines providing space for writing thoughts.

**God, sometimes I don't understand why you made me this way. Help me trust you and say yes to your plans.**

# George Müller

WEEK TWENTY-FIVE

## From Thief to Giver



*The Lord forgives our sins, heals us when we are sick, and protects us from death. His kindness and love are a crown on our heads. Each day that we live, he provides for our needs and gives us the strength of a young eagle.*

Psalm 103:3-5

“Stop! Thief!”

To George Müller, it wasn't an insult. Back in the 1800s, George was just a kid and often stole from his father and others. He acted like it was a game—until he landed in jail at the age of 16. His father bailed him out. What truly changed him, though, was when he went to a Bible study and met God. George gave his life to Jesus there.

But what could Jesus do with a former thief? He could use him to save thousands! God led George to open orphanages in England. Kids who were homeless and stealing food for survival now had a place to go to be cared for and educated. George never asked people for money for the orphans, but he always asked God to provide for them. And God did! He sent people with food or money just when they needed it.

By the end of his life, George Müller had given away the equivalent of over 100 million dollars. This former thief died with very little money to his name, but thousands of people came to know Jesus through him.

God forgives and changes people that way and uses their lives for the better. There's nothing you've done, no pit you've fallen into, where God can't rescue you and then use you to do amazing things! Are you ready to change the world?

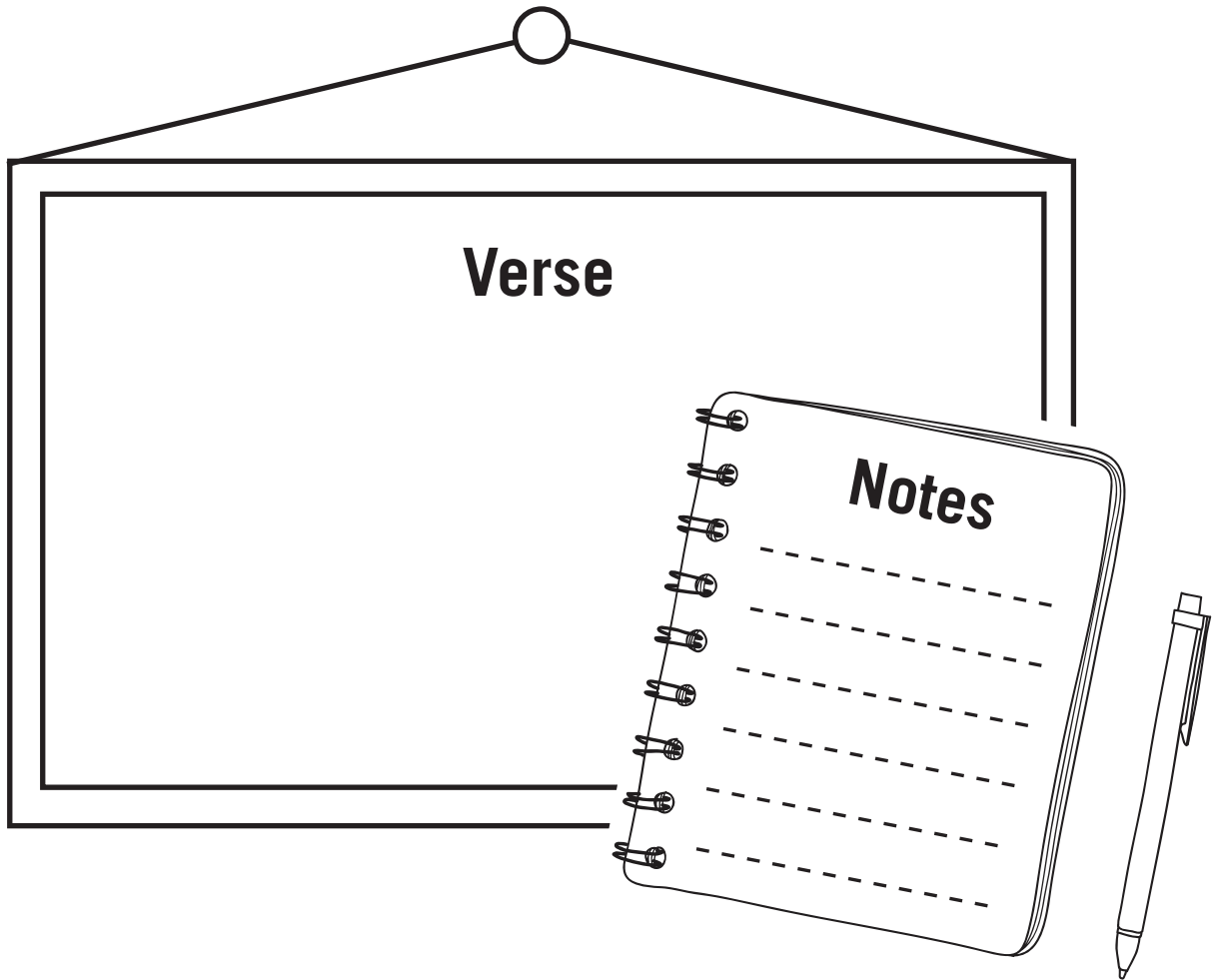
***There's no pit you've fallen into  
where God can't rescue you.***

Brave



# Spiritual Fitness Training

Which phrase from this week's Scripture passage means the most to you right now? Below, draw that phrase. Make notes about how God has done this for you, or write a prayer asking him to do it for you.



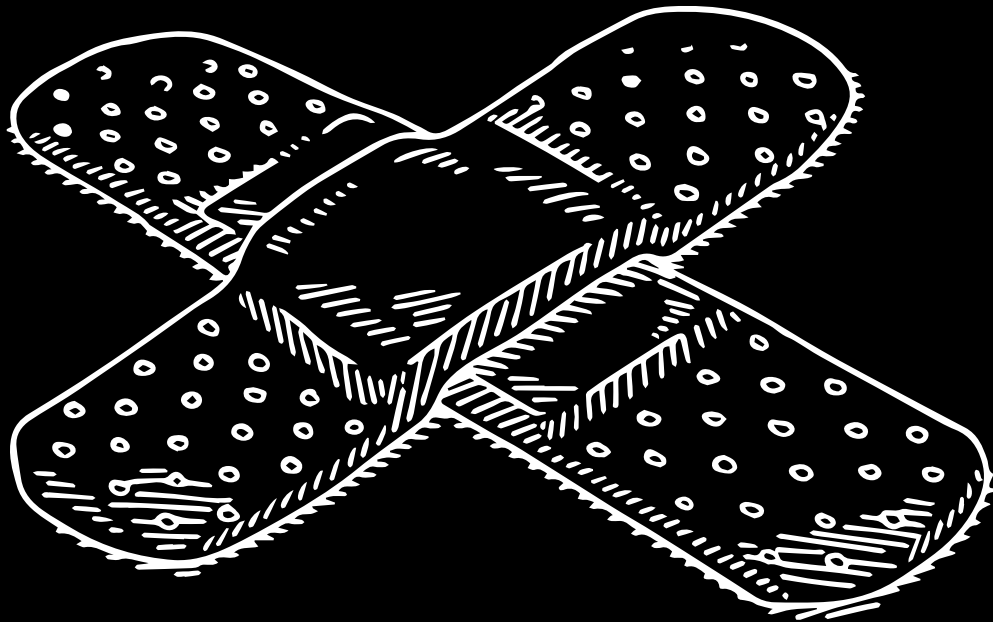
**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

- Psalm 103:9-10
- Isaiah 58:11
- 2 Corinthians 9:8
- Ephesians 3:20-21

**Week  
Twenty  
Five**

"God doesn't break things  
so he can fix them; he fixes  
broken things so he can use  
them."

—Bob Goff, lawyer and author  
of the book *Love Does*



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



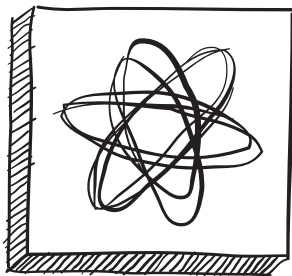
A series of ten horizontal dashed lines providing space for writing thoughts.

**God, I may make a mess of my life, but you can fix it and use it. I want to be used by you to change the world!**

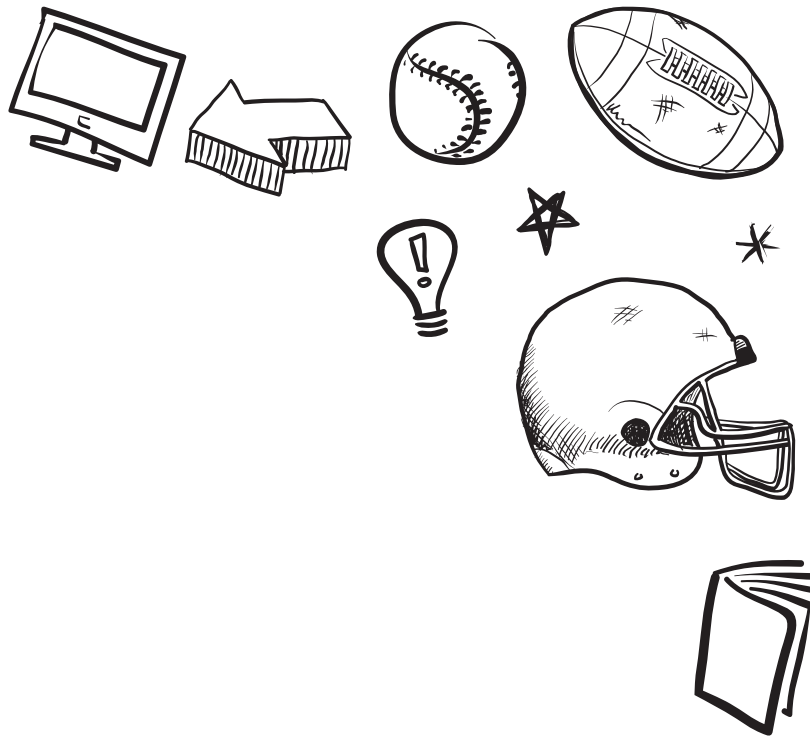
# Doodle Space



Draw a picture of yourself with a bandage.  
Then draw a picture of Jesus reaching out to help you. He will do it!



Brave



**Week  
Twenty  
Five**

Jesus

WEEK TWENTY-SIX

## The God We Need



*Jesus started crying . . .*

John 11:35

What do you need from God? Do you need him to be fair? Powerful? Able to see you at all times and know everything? How about compassion? Do you need him to care about you and the things you love?

When Jesus walked among people on Earth, he showed us all aspects of God. Maybe one of the most shocking was his compassion. Jesus cried with people.

It happened when Jesus's friend, Lazarus, died. As Jesus spoke with Lazarus's sisters and walked among the grieving people, he was overwhelmed with sadness. He loved them and hated to see their pain. He also missed his friend dearly, even though he knew he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead. He knew their tears would turn into joy very soon. Still, he felt the pain of separation.

When we go through hard times like the loneliness of losing people we love, we can remember our God is right there with us. He wipes our tears and holds us close. But he also makes the good come. He is the God who is everything we need.

On those hard days, take his hand. Let him hold you while you cry. But then watch him—trust him—while he works it all out for his amazing purpose!

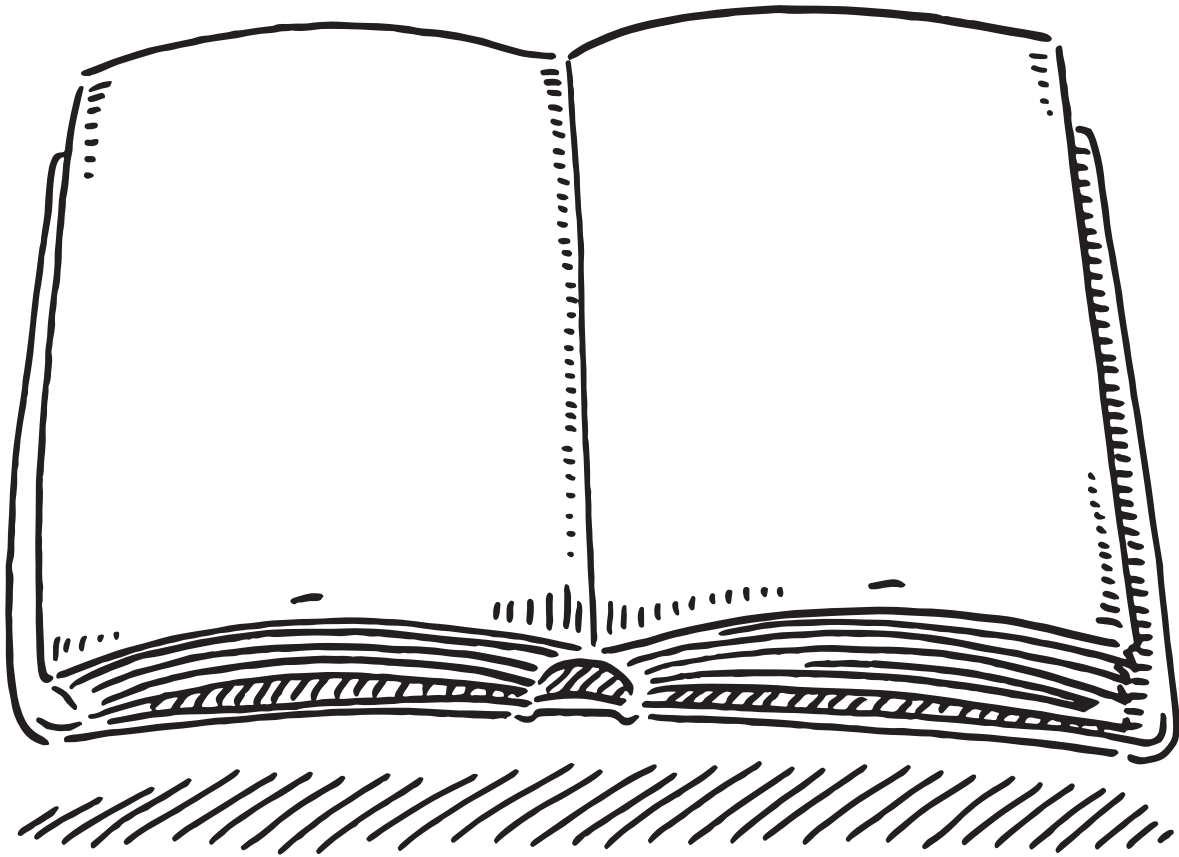
***Jesus wipes our tears and holds us close.***

***He also makes the good come.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Check out the verses for this week in the “Keep It Going” section. Which one gives you comfort? Write it below and highlight it in your Bible so you can remember it when you need it.



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

Psalm 30:5

Matthew 5:4

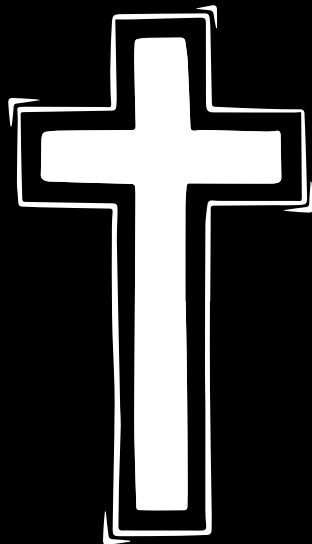
Isaiah 53:4

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

**Week  
Twenty  
Six**

*"You don't really know  
Jesus is all you need until  
Jesus is all you have."*

*—Timothy Keller, American pastor and  
author in New York City*





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**This world is hard, God! It hurts to be separated from people we love. Thank you for holding me.**













**Keep It Going!** ↘

Great job!  
Check your mailbox for  
your next book!

(It's coming soon!)

