

BRAVE

WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS

Learning to be Fearless through God's Word

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING

 **HERO
SQUAD**
VARSITY EDITION

Brave, Guys Varsity Squad Edition, Summer Issue

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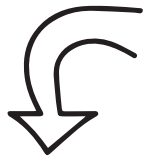
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Start Here



WRITE YOUR NAME ON THIS LINE:

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 YOUR CELL PHONE OR EMAIL ADDRESS ON THIS LINE:

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

Do you ever think that fearless people exist only in the movies? Turns out, you can be fearless in real life! With God's power, 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

The Third Culture Kid



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

Hebrews 4:15

“Everyone knew everyone and no one knew me,” were the words of a girl who lived overseas before moving back to the United States.

When a kid lives in a culture different than the one their parents grew up in, they’re called a Third Culture Kid. They’ll pick up on one culture from their parents and other cultural elements from their friends. It can be hard for them to feel at home anywhere.

Military kids often feel like Third Culture Kids, even as they move within our country. And when you feel like an outsider, it’s tempting to do anything to fit in, even if it’s wrong.

Perhaps the ultimate Third Culture Kid was Jesus, God’s Son. He purposely set aside all the goodness of Heaven to come to Earth. He was born as a helpless baby and experienced everything we do while growing up—learning lessons, feeling out of place . . . so we know he has compassion for us when we go through hard times. He knows the temptation to be like everyone else, the feeling of being misunderstood, and the longing for home.

But Jesus stayed faithful to his mission while in this foreign land. He never sinned or forgot who he was or where he came from. He lived wholeheartedly and never compromised, understanding his time here was a sacrifice.

You are also here on mission. Don’t get distracted by sin, instead remember who you belong to—Jesus. When you’re feeling out of place, Jesus understands.

You are on a mission. Don’t get distracted by sin.

Instead remember you belong to Jesus.

Spiritual Fitness Training

When you feel out of place, it's hard. But God has an important mission for you. Stay on track so you can fulfill his mission while living in a way that honors him! Use the space below to write your very own prayer to God, asking him to help you stay the course and focus on his mission for your life.

Write your
prayer here!



○ Dear God,

○

○

○

○

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

**Week
Fourteen**

"As you walk through the valley of the unknown, you will find the footprints of Jesus both in front of you and beside you."

—Charles Stanley, American author and pastor in Georgia

Write Your Thoughts Here



TALKING TO GOD
Jesus, sometimes I feel so alone.
Help me hold on to you and not sin.

Angelina Grimké

WEEK FIFTEEN

Standing with the Weak



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

Think speech class is terrifying? How about having an angry mob outside throwing rocks through the windows while you're talking?

That's what Angelina Grimké faced when she spoke. But the daughter of a South Carolina slave owner was used to people getting angry at her words. When she spoke against slavery in the early 1800s, she lost her friends, her family, and eventually her home. Her letters, books, and speeches sparked riots, book burnings, and the mob throwing rocks. Her writings about the slaves' struggles led to the writing of the book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which, it can be argued, led to the Civil War.

"We are commanded to love God with all our minds, as well as with all our hearts," she wrote, "and we commit a great sin if we forbid or prevent that cultivation of the mind in others which would enable them to perform their duty."

Angelina believed when we worship God, we must stand with him against the oppression of the weak. When she did, it cost her everything. But still, she saw the Lord keep her safe. Shortly before she died, slavery was outlawed in America!

But oppression did not end. Everywhere in this world we find people who are outcast and hurting, physically or emotionally. Like Angelina, if we worship the Lord, we must stand up for them. Ask God to help you stand strong today!

The Lord calls us to stand up for those who are hurting. God can help you do it.

Spiritual Fitness Training

So many evils exist in the world today—sex trafficking, pornography, bullying, terrorism, and so on. What issue upsets you? How might the Lord be calling you to be involved? Pray for an opportunity to stand up for the weak. Then spend a few moments in silence, meditating on God’s words and listening for his answer.

Dear God, _____

I will . . . • Pray for them
• _____
• _____

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

Psalm 147:11

Matthew 25:40

Proverbs 14:31

1 John 3:17

**Week
Fifteen**

"There are some needs only
you can see. There are some
hands only you can hold.
There are some people only
you can reach."

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

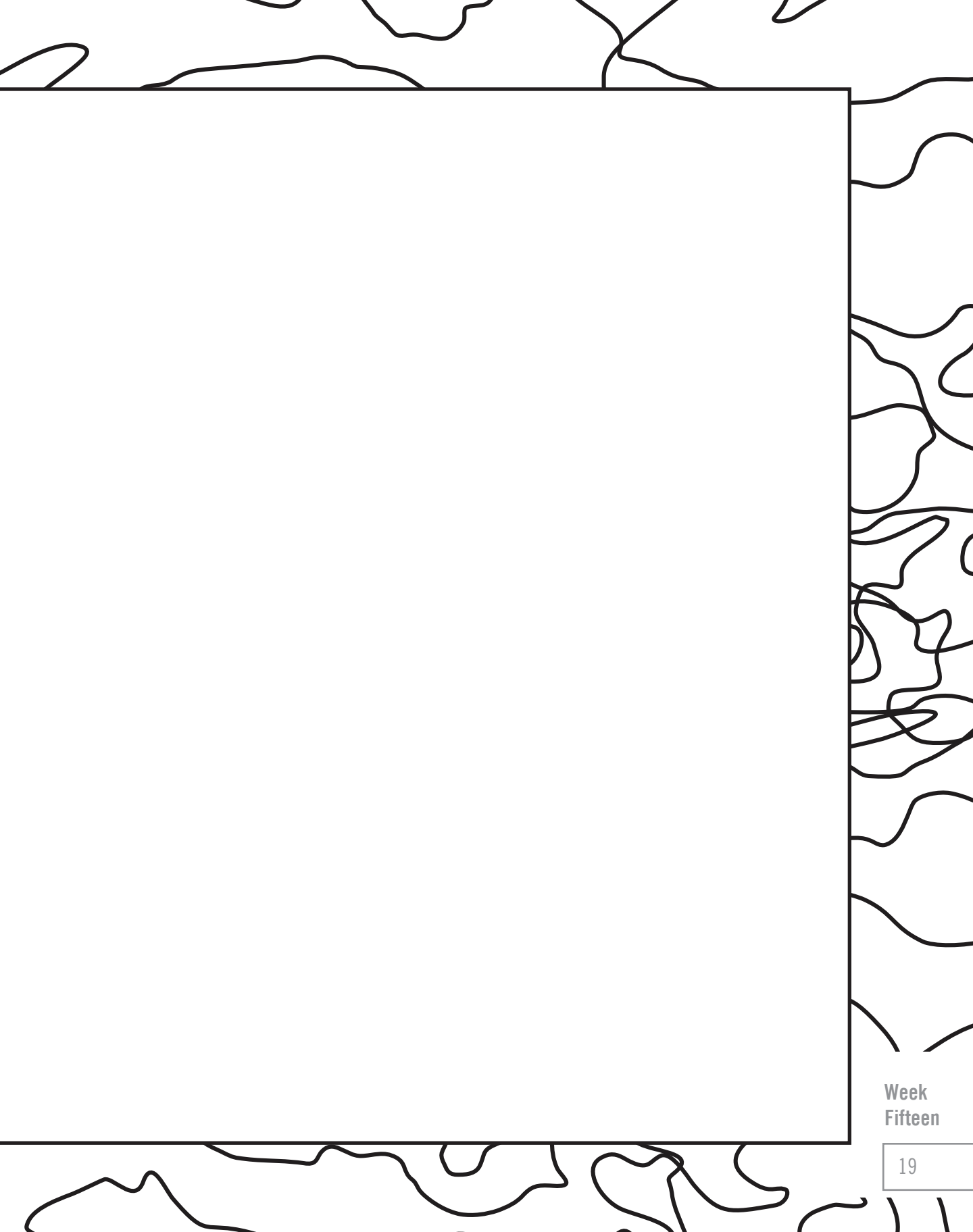
Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

Books can help us understand people’s suffering. Grimké’s work as well as *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* contributed to starting the Civil War, which helped end slavery.

Doodle Space 



Week
Fifteen

The Real Test



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

When you are in school, it seems like everything revolves around grades. When you get good grades, you get to be in sports and activities, you're on a path towards college and great things, and teachers and parents celebrate you. When you get bad grades, everybody gets on your case. Can you do anything significant if you aren't excelling in school?

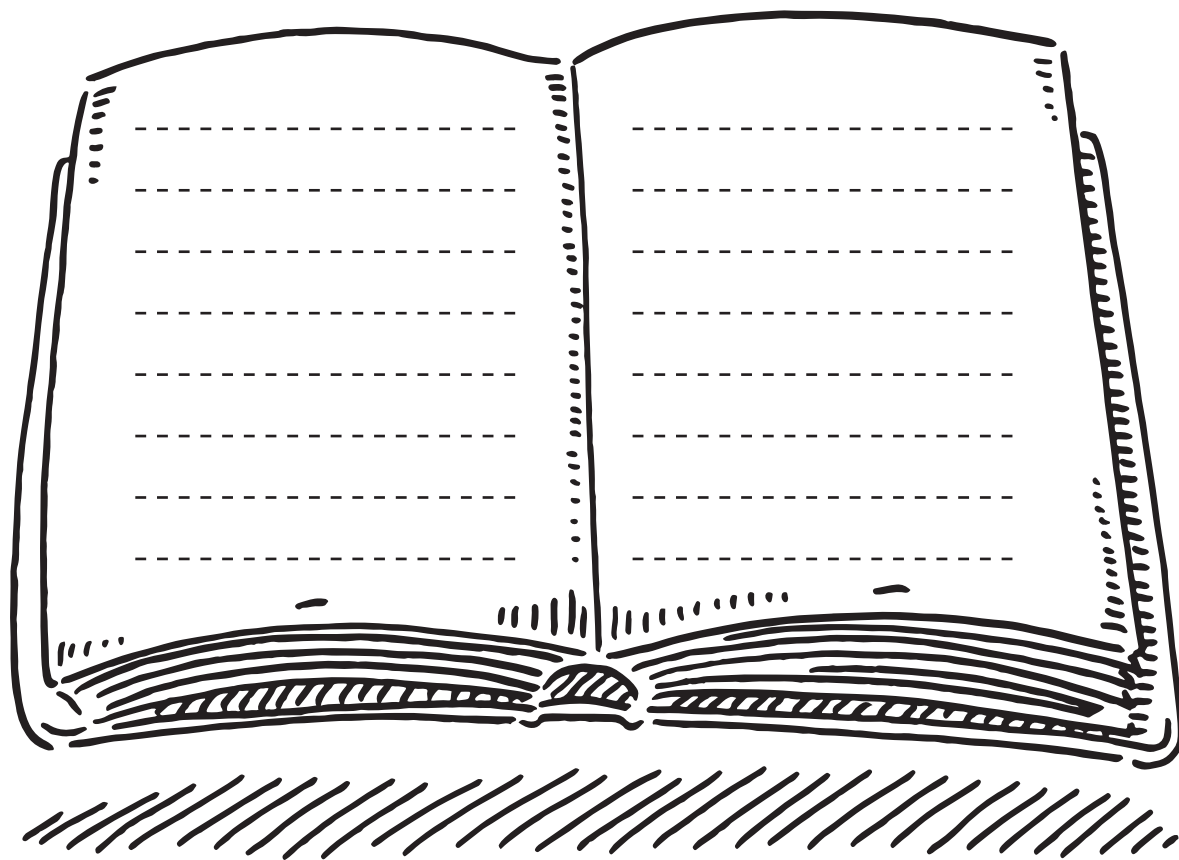
A similar question was in people's minds in this story from Acts. Peter and John were talking to a man who couldn't walk since birth. The crowd knew him as a beggar at the temple. The next thing they see, he's walking and holding on to Peter and John! The crowd was astonished. They saw nothing flashy about Peter and John. They weren't educated or wealthy. Yet suddenly they had the power to heal. The only thing the people could pinpoint was that they said they knew Jesus. Being his followers enabled these guys to heal people.

So back to you: While you should aim to do well in school, that grade doesn't define you. Your test scores will not hold you back from what God has planned. And a quiz certainly doesn't measure your worth. None of it determines what kind of an impact your life will have. *But Jesus does.* Being a Christ-follower can make you a life-changer for others. When you allow the Lord to work through you, he can use you for great things. The question now is: will you let him?

***Being a Christ-follower can make
you a life-changer for others.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Many Christians have amazing stories about how they suddenly had the courage to speak or the wisdom they needed for a situation or the power to do something God told them to do. Ask some Christians around you if they have had any such experiences. Write about them below and use them to remind and encourage yourself that God can use you, too.



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**

"All throughout Scripture we see that God is about doing improbable things for improbable people so his purposes are achieved and he gets the glory."

—Chip Ingram, American pastor and author in Ohio

Write Your Thoughts Here



TALKING TO GOD

Lord, I am amazed at your power. I will do my best and trust you to do the rest.

Out of Control



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

Grades, money, sports, friends, parents . . . long is the list of things teens are trying to keep together. Everything going well? Then it's a good day. Everything not going so well? Then your whole world may feel like it's in danger of falling apart. It can leave you feeling out of control.

King Asa knew the feeling. When he first inherited the throne as king of Judah, he kept a pretty tight ship. He ensured the people in his kingdom worshipped God. When a massive army threatened to attack Judah, Asa prayed, and God came through in an impossible victory.

But later, when another king invaded Judah, Asa couldn't sleep. He paced the halls. The solution to the problem alluded him. Maybe God didn't care anymore. Maybe he was too slow. Asa quit trusting him. He had to grasp control. He needed money—much more money than he had. So, he took what was in God's temple. Asa handed it over to another ruler to form an alliance, hoping to pressure the invading enemy. It worked. Asa won the battle.

But he lost the war. By relying on his own strategy instead of turning to God, Asa missed using God's solution. He lost the money, lost his relationship with God, and lost peace—for himself and his kingdom.

What are you trying to control without God? Where have you lost your peace? Today, you can begin to trust God first in your life. Pray to him and ask him to help you do just that.

Spiritual Fitness Training

Are you trying to control any part of your life without God's help? Prayerfully consider what you are trying to control. As you color in the reminder from today's verse below, ask God to help you trust him to handle it.

Faithfully
Obey THE
LORD

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

1 Chronicles 16:11-12

Proverbs 3:5-6

Psalm 118:5

Philippians 4:6

**Week
Seventeen**

"Nothing is a surprise to God; nothing is a setback to his plans; nothing can thwart his purposes; and nothing is beyond his control."

—Joni Eareckson Tada,
American author and artist

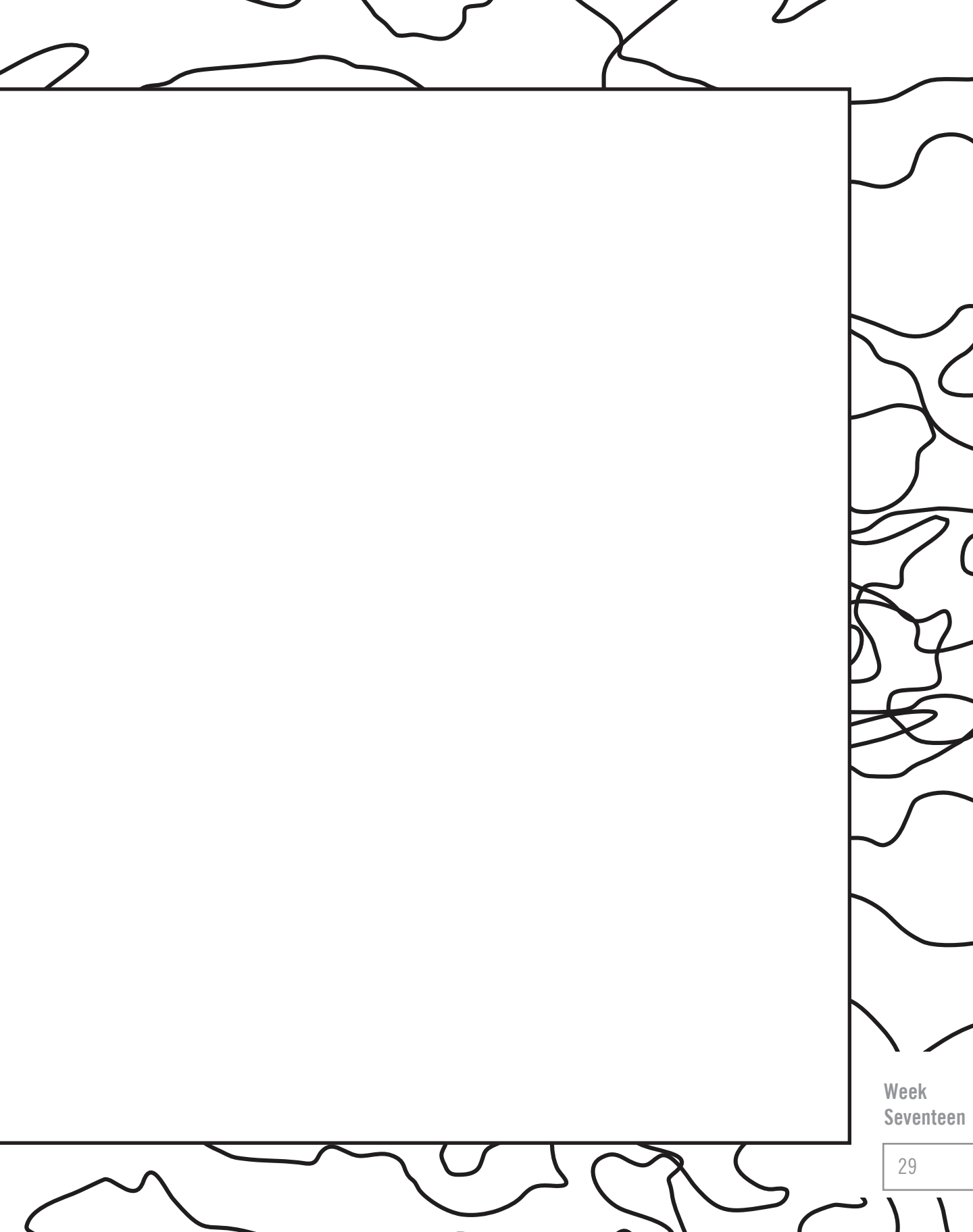
Write Your Thoughts Here



TALKING TO GOD

Lord, you know best but I'm afraid to trust you with some things. Help me quit worrying and trying to fix things on my own.

Doodle Space 



Week
Seventeen

Jesus and IG



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

You know it's not good for you. And you know you are addicted and just checked it 20 seconds ago, but . . . you pick up your phone and check your social media or text messages again. Sigh.

It's really hard to use social media and smart phones responsibly. They're built to addict people. It's too easy to make snarky, rude comments when you're hiding behind a screen. It may feed your ego briefly, but then knocks your self-esteem down when people don't respond. It can be a colossal waste of time, or even a door to soul-crushing things like porn or bullying.

But social media and smart phones in themselves are not bad. They're a way to stay connected to friends around the world. They can influence people for the good. What's a teen to do?

Obviously, Jesus didn't tell us how to deal with social media. But he did show us many principles that can be applied: like living your life with purpose, reacting to others in kindness, not being obsessed with how others view you, and resisting anything that's wrong. Jesus shows us how to fight the devil's baiting by calling out his lies and combatting them with God's truth in the Bible.

God has promised to help us escape temptation. So, if you find your social media habits are not a positive influence in your life, ask him for wisdom on what to do. He can help you take a break, block negative or crude people on your feed, or use it for good to tell people about Jesus.

Spiritual Fitness Training

Think about it! Too often we do things without thinking about the consequences or if the actions align with God's will. Pray and work through these questions.

How do you feel after you post something? _____

How do you feel after people respond— or don't respond? _____

How much of your feed is positive and encouraging? _____

How can you use it to influence your generation for good? _____



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**

"Whatever weakens your reason,
impairs the tenderness of your
conscience, obscures your sight of
God, takes from you your thirst
for spiritual things or increases
the authority of your body over
your mind, then that thing to you
is evil."

—Susanna Wesley, a minister's wife in the
early 1700s, and the mother of John and
Charles Wesley who became well-known
theologians

Adam and Eve

WEEK NINETEEN

Good Side/Bad Side



The Lord God called out to the man and asked, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3:9

Maybe you don't feel like you are all that bad. Maybe you don't care what anyone thinks, you're just going to do what you want. Or maybe, you're so ashamed and drowning in guilt you don't think anyone can help you. There are a lot of ways people try to ignore their sin and hide from God.

In the book of Genesis, we find the truth of what our Creator God says about our sin. When God first made Adam and Eve, he proclaimed them good. But because God wanted people to have freedom, he gave them the ability to choose between good and evil, otherwise known as free will. Chapter 3 reveals that the first humans chose to disobey God, to sin. That choice opened the door to evil and the struggle to obey God began.

But God didn't just let people go their own way. He didn't give up on us and leave us to destruction. Instead he called to Adam, wanting him to confess his sin. And throughout the Bible, God worked his plan to bring people out of hiding from their sin and into confession. Through Jesus, God made a way to bring humanity back to a relationship with him with a plan of forgiveness and justice.

Hiding from God doesn't deal with our sin. The only way to truly take care of it is to confess it to God, ask for his forgiveness, and rely on God's help to obey his words. God continues to call you. Will you turn to him?

***The only way to deal with sin is confession.
God keeps calling us to him!***

Spiritual Fitness Training

So, where are you right now? Are you hiding from God? Let's think it through together.

How do you view your sin?

Do you believe you are God's loved creation?
.....
.....
.....

Do you believe God is holy and just?
.....
.....
.....

Do you recognize you are a sinner?
.....
.....
.....

Do you believe God loves you and forgives you if you ask?
.....
.....
.....

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

2 Chronicles 7:14

Romans 3:23

Psalm 51:4

Romans 6:23

"The voice of sin is loud,
but the voice of forgiveness
is louder."

—Dwight L. Moody, Evangelist founder
of Moody Bible College in the 1800s

Write Your Thoughts Here

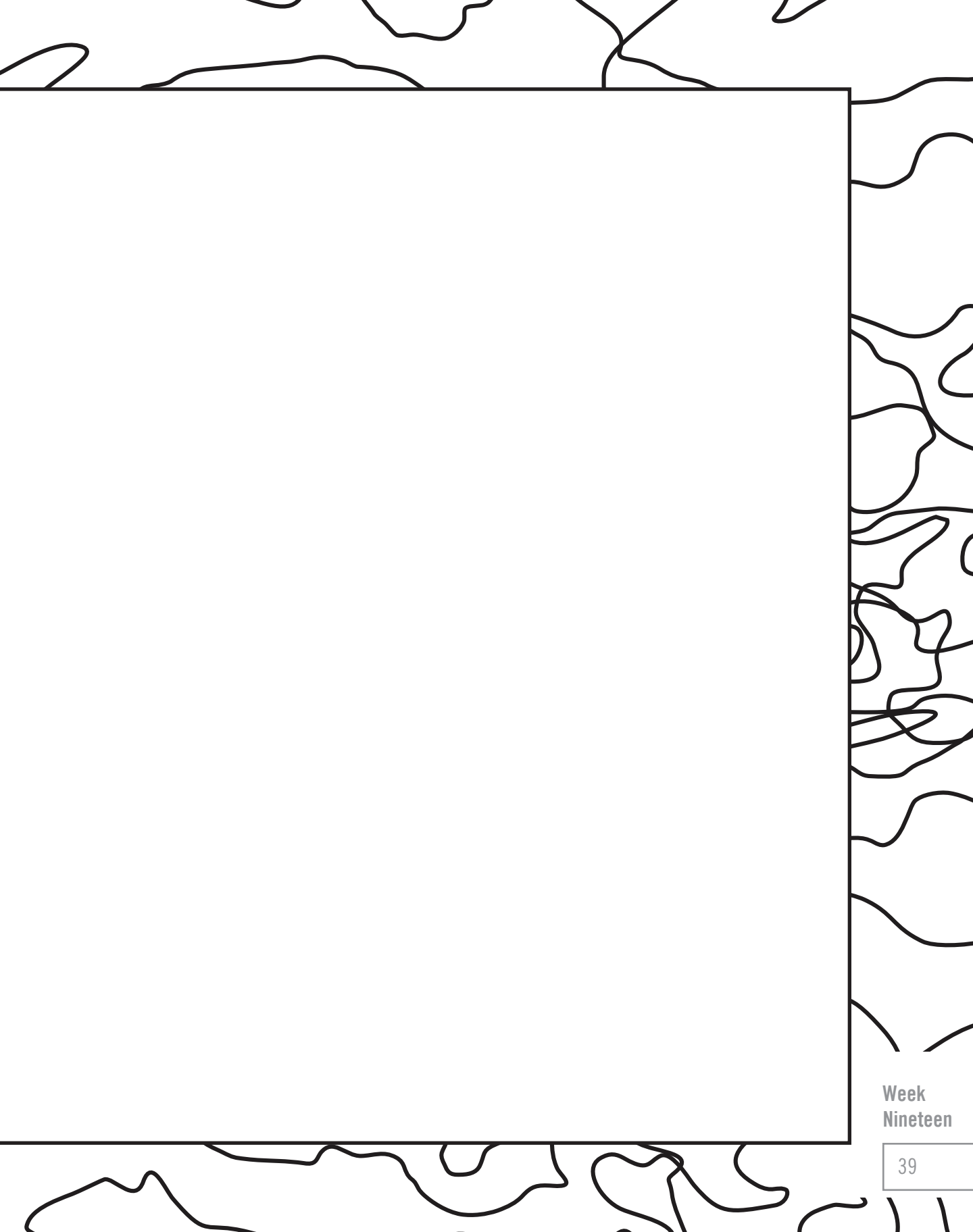


TALKING TO GOD

God, thank you for loving,
creating, and forgiving me.
Thank you for your plan to save
me from myself.

Doodle Space





Week
Nineteen

Paul

WEEK TWENTY

I Am a Messenger



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

The epitome of art, intellect, science, culture—the city of Athens, Greece, was the glistening jewel city of the time. Leaders of the world bustled through the city streets, passing sculptures and architecture admired for centuries. People gathered to hear deep ideas that influence our society even now.

God sent a Christian named Paul into all of this. Having been persecuted and on the run for his life, he probably wasn't very impressive looking. As a stranger from far away, he probably wasn't very impressive sounding either. Still, he shared God's message with others. "I see you worship an unknown god," he said. "I'm here to tell you about the one true God—the creator of all" (paraphrased).

Some people ignored Paul. Some mocked him and laughed at him. But some listened... and came to faith in Jesus Christ. This made Paul's mission to that city worth it.

How about you? Have you stood up to tell others the good news of Jesus's love and grace? Are you afraid they might ignore you, mock you, or laugh at you? Some might. But your words are planting seeds in their hearts that can grow over time. And if even one listens and comes to faith in Jesus, your mission is worth it.

Will you be bold like Paul? Ask God for bravery to tell others about him!

Brave

God speaks through his messengers and calls you. Will you answer the call?

Spiritual Fitness Training

In today's world, it's hard to be different. But God calls us to be different and stand up for the truth. How can you start sharing about your faith with others? Brainstorm some ideas below. Ask other Christians in your life for ideas, too. And then pray for boldness to follow through!

Write Your Ideas Here



Invite my friend
to youth group

Ask a friend who
is hurting if I can
pray for them

Share a Bible verse
on social media

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

Psalm 19:1

Romans 1:20

Acts 14:17

Ephesians 3:7-9

Week
Twenty

“Believing in God is as much like falling in love as it is making a decision. Love is both something that happens to you and something you decide upon.”

—Donald Miller, American author
of *Blue Like Jazz*

First Things First



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

The leaders assembled. The beloved, old king presided on his throne, but it was clear King David didn't have much longer to live. He spoke to the people, then turned to his son. What instructions would he leave on how to run a country?

“Solomon, my son, worship God and obey him with all your heart and mind, just as I have done.”

King David had established a nation's security and prosperity. He had conquered enemy after enemy. He had enjoyed success on all sides. And his advice to his son was to worship God—exactly what David had done. He loved and served the Lord faithfully. He worshiped God with his whole body and whole heart, completely unconcerned about what others thought.

To give honor to someone else is unusual for kings. And today, when it has become the norm for people to feel like we are the kings of our own lives, it sounds crazy. We are told that the secrets to success are wrapped up in self, leading us to become self-absorbed and selfish. But David tells us to recognize God for who he is... and give him all our worship.

If you do that, David says God will hear your prayers. And if the King of the Universe hears you, he will answer you and be with you always!

***When you put the worship of God first,
God will take care of you.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Worship is having complete devotion to God. How can you devote yourself to him this week? Jot down some ideas below. Then ask God to help you completely devote yourself to him this week!

Example: Read my Bible for 5 minutes each morning

Worship GOD
AND OBEY HIM
WITH ALL YOUR
heart AND mind

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

Joshua 24:20

Matthew 22:36-37

Psalm 40:16

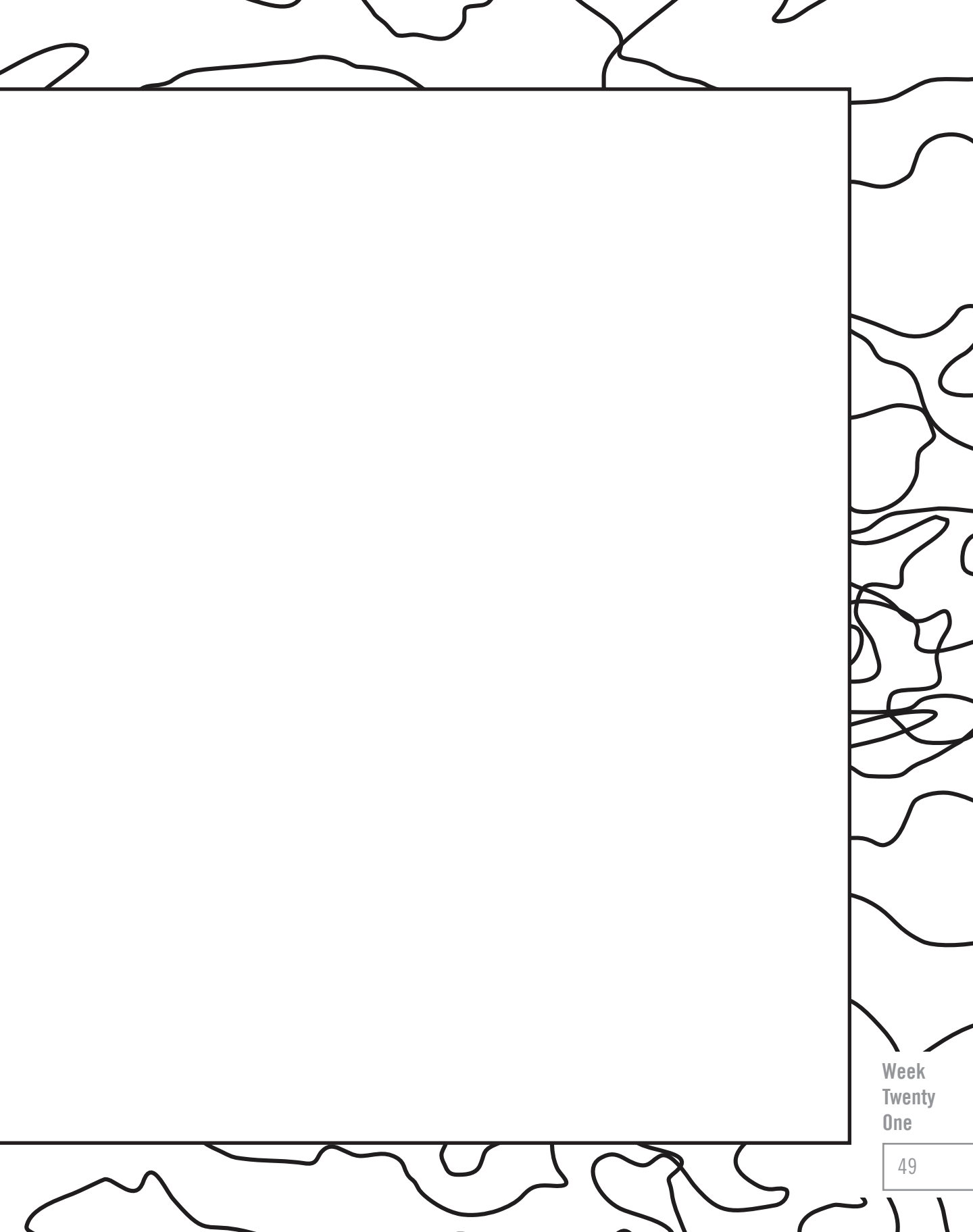
John 4:23-24

Week
Twenty
One

“Christian worship is the most momentous, most urgent, most glorious action that can take place in human life.”

—Karl Barth, Swiss theologian and a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany which opposed Nazism

Doodle Space 



Week
Twenty
One

Jesus

WEEK TWENTY-TWO

Be Reckless



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

John 15:18

If I say anything, I'll be unfriended. They will block me. They will . . . hate me.

So many things can land you in the no-friend zone. It's a battlefield out there. You have to say things that won't offend anyone. You have to dress a certain way to fit in with the crowd. You need a certain number of followers on social media to be relevant.

Jesus tended to not care about what people thought about him. He called people out when they were wrong. He upset the status quo. He didn't let people off easy. He disagreed. He made them face their sin. He exposed prejudice and hypocrisy. He didn't make it easy for people to like him.

Jesus pointed people back to God, and because they wanted to live their own way, they hated him for it. He didn't play it safe, and he ended up being killed—crucified by an angry mob.

But Jesus didn't want to live safely. His measure of success was not in how many friends he had. He was on a mission with consequences far beyond this life. He valued God's approval over people's, and through his life, he changed the world.

Safety or the number of likes you get is not the goal. Your life is worth so much more than people's temporary approval. Following Jesus is reckless according to the world's standards. Be reckless!

Spiritual Fitness Training

Think of some of the decisions you have made to gain the approval or “likes” from others. Often, these decisions aren’t in line with God’s Word. What were your motivations, and how can you avoid these patterns in the future? Using the chart below, map out a plan of attack to be reckless for God!

Decision I Made	Why I Did It
● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____	● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____
How I’ll Fix It (with God’s Help!)	
● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____	

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

"Satan hates God for his own sake, and everything that is dear to God he hates for the very reason that God loves it."

—A.W. Tozer, American pastor and author in the mid-1900s

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?
Experts think about 800,000 Christians were killed for their faith in the 2010s globally, and about 90,000 continue to be killed annually.

Brave Words



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

Amos was a shepherd whom God instructed to speak on his behalf to the people. Every one of the Israelites must have been confused, perhaps even Amos, that God would choose someone who wasn't a priest, or even a leader of any kind, for this task.

Through Amos, God accused the nation of Israel of terrible sins. They had forgotten who God is, what he expected, and what he could do. Because they ignored him, they were looking out only for themselves. They abused the poor. Their religion was just ritual without heart. They cheated, took bribes, and were unjust. They followed their leaders into all kinds of evil.

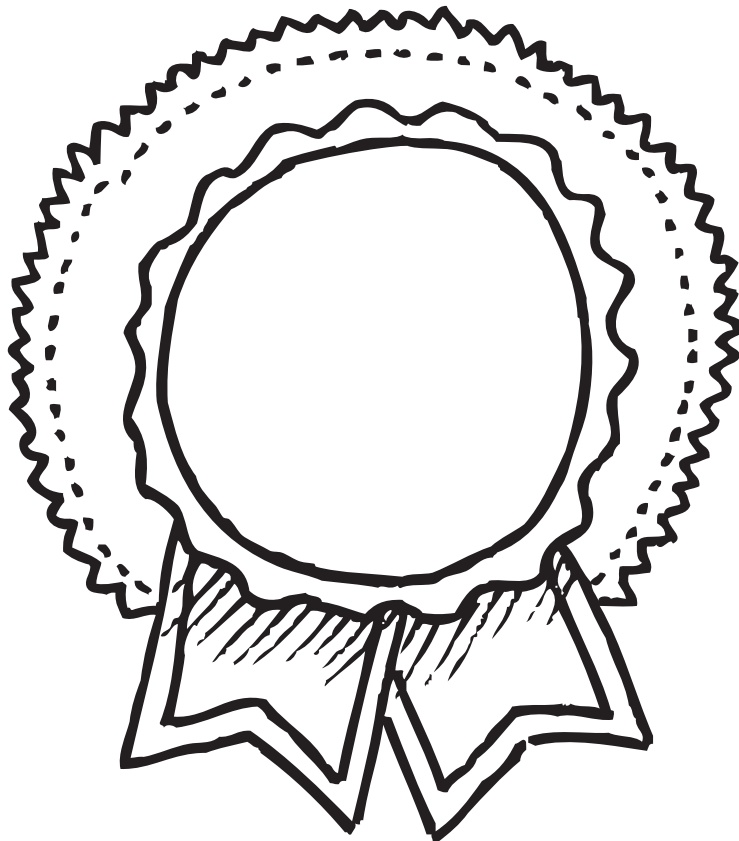
God would not ignore this. He would not let them continue to hurt others, and themselves, because he loved them too much. He sent Amos to warn them and then he carried through with his punishment.

Amos's message still rings true for us today. When we don't put God first in our lives—when we don't worship him with all our heart—we quickly sink into all kinds of sinful behaviors that hurt ourselves and others. We need to keep ourselves in check, and, when God asks us to, we need to be ready to speak out against the evils of our day. We need to love others by redirecting them from a destructive path.

***When we don't love God with all our heart,
we sink into sinful behaviors.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Think of a time when you acted selfishly recently. How would you have behaved differently had you taken time to reflect on God's Word and on his love for you? Draw a symbol representing a part of this week's verse and place it where it will remind you of God's power and love.



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

1 Chronicles 16:14

Acts 17:30-31

Psalm 65:5-7

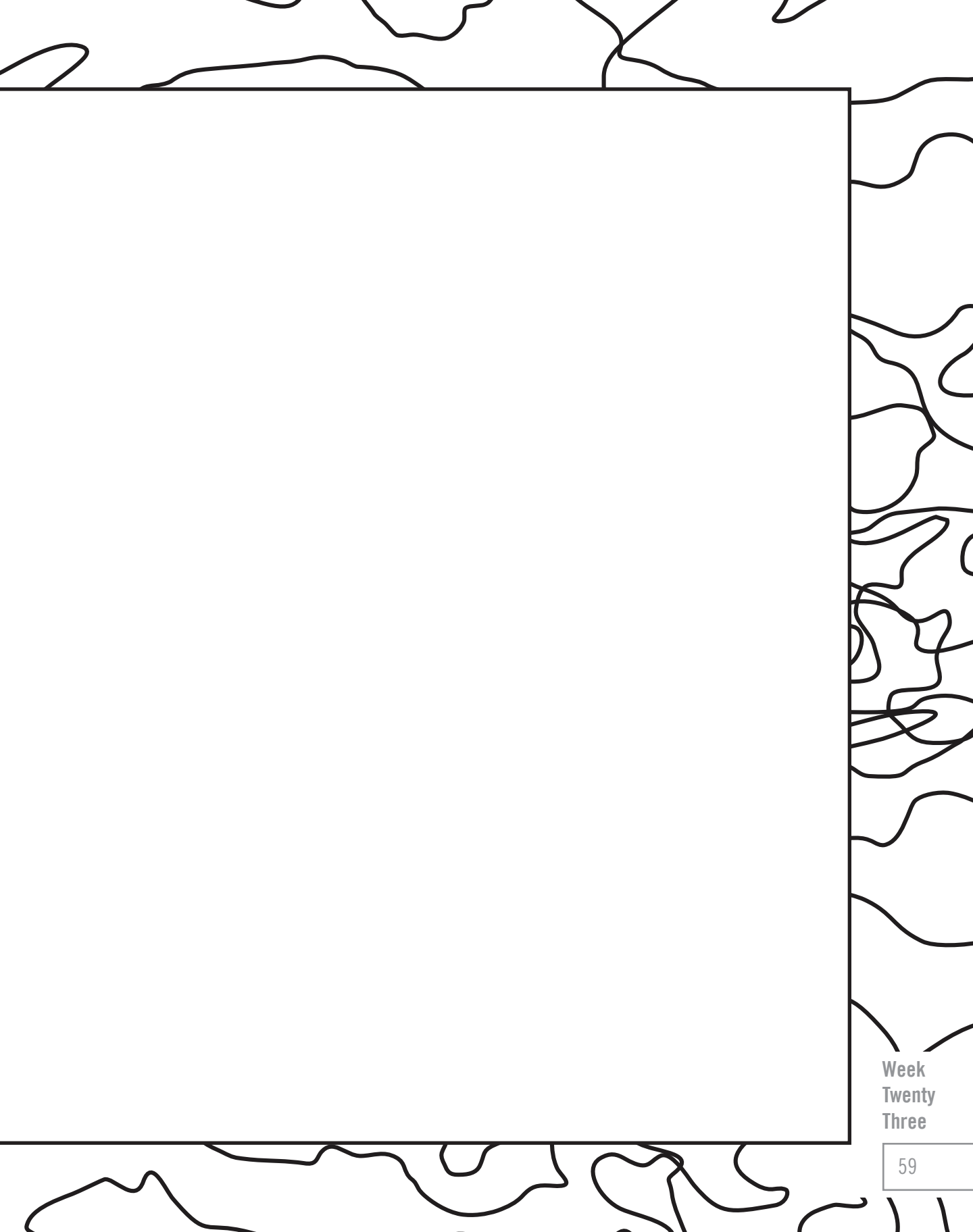
2 Timothy 4:1a

**Week
Twenty
Three**

"Deliver me, O Lord, from
that evil man, myself."

—Thomas Brooks, Puritan preacher
and author in the 1600s

Doodle Space 



Week
Twenty
Three

Mary

WEEK TWENTY-FOUR

God Uses the Humble



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

Luke 1:48

Humble. Sometimes it means poor; sometimes it means “not proud.” When we hear that someone “rose above their humble beginnings,” it means they started their life out very poor or low and have grown to do great things. That can be very inspiring!

But it can be overwhelming, too. When you are told you can go anywhere, do anything, be great, and succeed financially, it can paralyze you. How are you supposed to do something big? What should you choose to do with your life? And who believes you really can?

The Gospel of Luke introduces Mary, who was humble in both ways. She had nothing to offer God, except herself. She was a young, female Jew in a time when those classifications limited her opportunities. She came from a humble place, but she was also full of humility.

God believed in her. And Mary believed God. When the angel brought the message that she would carry God’s Son into the world, she replied, “May it be so.” To say yes to God put her in danger, as unwed mothers in her culture could be killed. But because of her faith in God’s ability, Mary gave birth to God’s only son and raised him. God used her in an incredible way!

As you consider the next step in your life—work, Military, college—avoid the pitfall of thinking you’re too insignificant to do anything special. Stay faithful and have humility. God will lead your steps. The Lord sees the humble and uses the humble for great things!

Spiritual Fitness Training

Have you given your hopes and dreams to God? Place them in his hands, trust him with them, and he will direct your steps to what is truly best. Write something below that you want to give to God today. Pray this week that your trust in him will grow.



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

Psalm 138:6

Matthew 5:5

Proverbs 3:34

1 Peter 5:6

**Week
Twenty
Four**

"God's medal-of-honor winners are made in secret because their most courageous acts occur—away from the hurricane of public opinion—up in the attic, hidden from public knowledge."

—Charles Swindoll, American pastor and author in Texas

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

According to a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey, most Americans will change jobs about 12 times in their adult life. (That's right! You don't have to have it all figured out just yet!)

George Müller

WEEK TWENTY-FIVE

Common Thief to Uncommon Hero



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

Being an orphan in England in the 1800s left very little hope. If the government found you, you'd be sent to workhouses with terrible conditions. Out on the street, you had to fight and steal to survive. And while some felt pity on these children, few people did anything to make things better for them.

That is, until an immigrant preacher came to Bristol. George Müller had grown up in Prussia (Germany) and was mostly known for being a thief. But in college he met Jesus, and his life was changed. When he took a job at a church, he saw the troubles of the orphans and he felt compassion.

The boy who once chose to steal to get what he wanted became a man who asked God for everything. He refused to ask people directly for money; instead, he prayed about each need. In this way, Müller and his wife cared for and taught thousands of orphans and gave away the equivalent of over 100 million dollars.

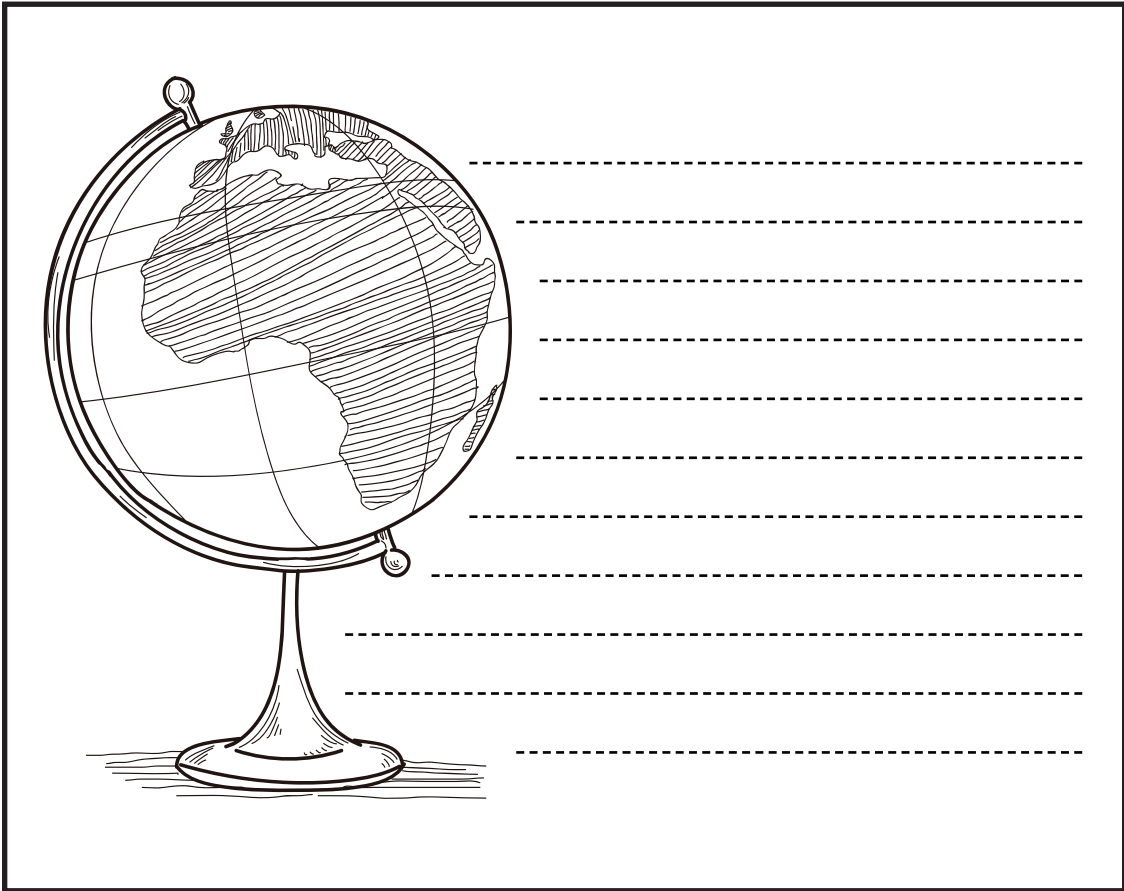
Müller's life was a living example of how the Lord forgives and changes people, and how he provides for their needs as Psalm 103 declares. Because Müller was faithful and willing to do things God's way and not force his own agenda, God used him to change the path of thousands.

How can God use you? Are you open to his plan and purpose? Whatever he's got in store for you, it's bound to be amazing!

***The Lord forgives and changes people,
and he provides for their needs.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

People in our world continue to suffer many wrongs, like poverty, homelessness, drug abuse, alcohol addiction, pornography, child labor, sex trafficking . . . and the list, sadly, goes on. Which one especially bothers you? Pray for those who are suffering in that way, and ask God to use you to help others.



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

Psalm 103:9-10

2 Corinthians 9:8

Isaiah 58:11

Ephesians 3:20-21

**Week
Twenty
Five**

"Leave the broken,
irreversible past in God's
hands, and step out into the
invincible future with him."

—Oswald Chambers, American pastor in
the early 1900s and author of the book
My Utmost for His Highest

Write Your Thoughts Here

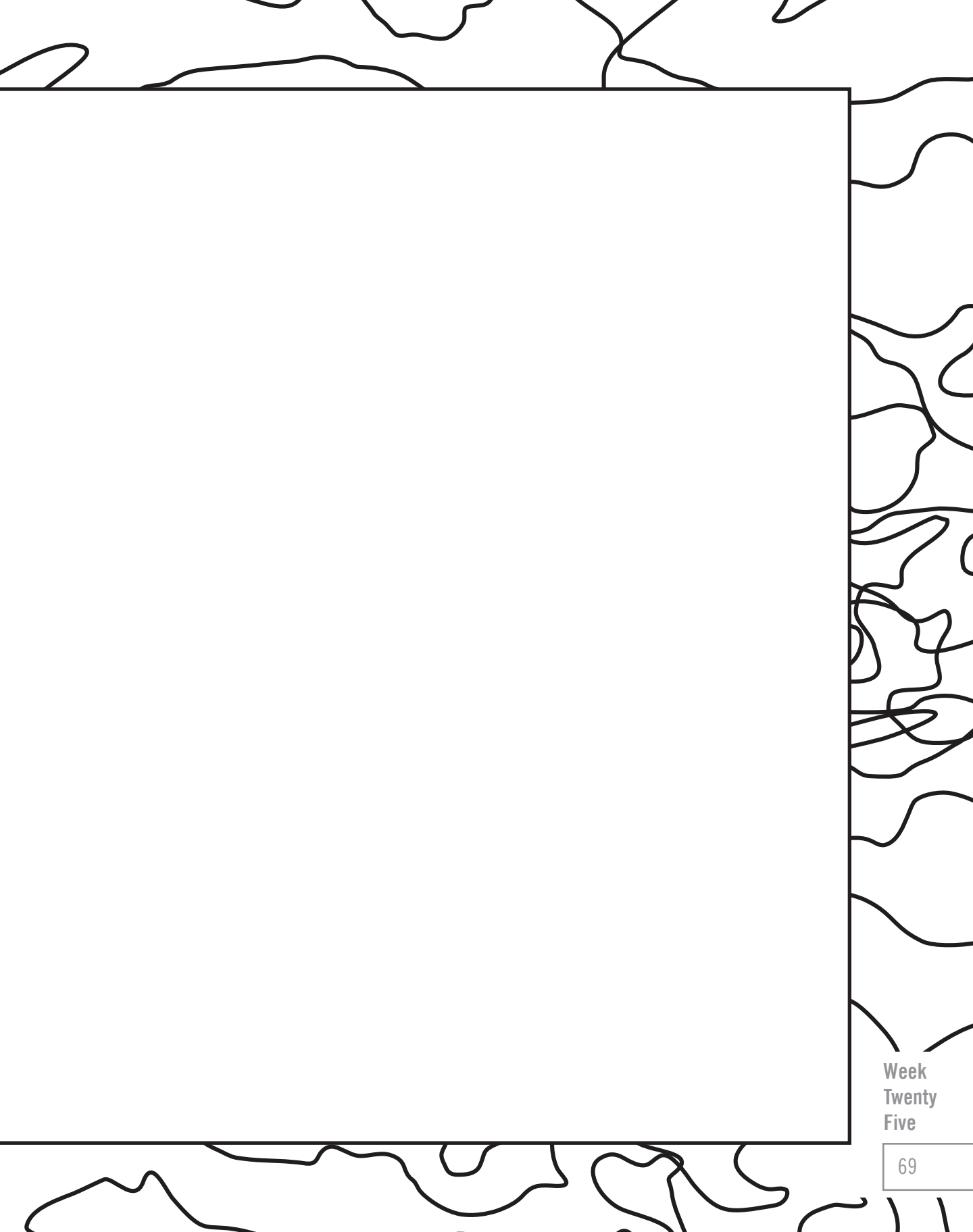


DID YOU KNOW?

In America, the most food is consumed on Thanksgiving Day. The second biggest day is Super Bowl Sunday, which tallies 28 million pounds of chips!

Doodle Space





Week
Twenty
Five

Jesus

WEEK TWENTY-SIX

Hope Over Pain



Jesus started crying . . .

John 11:35

So much pain. Pain that physically hurts in the bones, taints the taste of food, dulls the colors of the world. All people want is for it to stop. Although some seem to take comfort in going lower, deeper into depression.

But pain lies. Depression is not the cure. Hurting yourself is not the answer.

Jesus's friend Lazarus died of an illness. Even though Jesus knew he had the power to resurrect him—and would soon show that power—Jesus still cried. He cried for the suffering. The separation. The fallenness of this world. He cried because it's not the way it's supposed to be. God the Father doesn't want sadness, death, and separation for his children.

After he wept, he prayed. Then, with a simple command, Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead.

Jesus understands our pain and suffering. He hates the things that have caused all these tears. But his grief is not hopeless. And because of him, we know death and our depression and pain will be defeated! He paid that price when he died on the cross. Because of Jesus's death and resurrection, this hope is yours now, too!

Don't let your pain and grief make you feel hopeless. They won't last forever. Turn to Jesus. Know that he weeps with you, but he also points towards an everlasting hope!

***With Jesus, we know death, pain,
and depression will be defeated.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

An old saying goes “Joy shared is twice the joy. Sorrow shared is half the sorrow.” Who can you talk to about your pain? Who needs you to listen to them about their pain? Make a prayer list below, and then pray every day this week for the people on it. Take the initiative to ask someone to pray for you this week. And let the people you are praying for know that you are thinking of them as well.

My prayer requests

-
-
-
-

This week, I asked _____ to pray for me.

-
-
-
-

My prayers for others

-
-
-
-

This week, I told _____ I was praying for them.

-
-
-
-

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

- Psalm 30:5
- Isaiah 53:4
- Matthew 5:4
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

“Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendor.”

—Charles Spurgeon, English pastor and author in the 1800s

Write Your Thoughts Here



TALKING TO GOD

Jesus, thank you for caring about my life and my problems. Help me to see the hope you hold.

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A series of 18 horizontal dashed lines spanning the width of the page, intended for handwriting practice.

DID YOU KNOW?

Keeping a journal has been shown to sharpen memory, increase IQ, relieve stress, and help with decision making. Why not make journaling a daily habit?

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A series of 20 horizontal dashed lines spanning the width of the page, providing a guide for writing.

Keep It Going! ↘

Great job!

Check your mailbox for
your next book!

(It's coming soon!)

