

# BRAVE

WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS

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

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING

**★HERO  
SQUAD**  
JV EDITION

Brave, Boys JV Squad Edition, Fall Issue

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

**WHAT DOES BEING BRAVE MEAN TO YOU?**

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FALL 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 FALL?**

*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!

Moses

WEEK TWENTY-SEVEN

## The Real Promised Land



*Then Moses replied, "If you aren't going with us, please don't make us leave this place..."*

Exodus 33:15

You're hanging out with your friends. One of them shows you something on their phone that you know isn't appropriate. Sure, you're curious...

But should you look? What would God want you to do?

As you get older, you get to make more decisions, including where to be, what to watch, and who to hang out with. Some of these choices are really difficult to make, and all of your choices matter.

God's people, the Israelites, also had a choice, but they chose poorly. God had freed them from slavery, and they were headed to a wonderful promised land. But while Moses, their leader, was away, the people had a party and worshipped another god—a golden statue they had made. They betrayed the God who faithfully loved them.

God was angry and told Moses he wouldn't go with them anymore. But Moses begged God to forgive them. He didn't want to move forward on their journey without God. For Moses, God's presence was the real promised land—more important than anything else!

Are there choices you've made that seem good, but you know God doesn't like? Trust the God who faithfully loves you. Choose to stay with him, and he will reward you.

***You can trust the God who faithfully loves you.  
Choose to stay with him.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

All good things come from God. Sometimes things may look good, but if they go against God, they aren't. Think about it and write some thoughts here.

Good things in life God has for me:

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What being away from God would look like:

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

Psalm 89:15

Matthew 28:20

Psalm 139:3-5

2 Thessalonians 1:9

**Week  
Twenty  
Seven**

**Mind Blower**

“May not a single day be spent  
outside the light, love, and joy of  
God’s presence.”

—Shaneen Clarke,  
British-Indian speaker and author



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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

**Lord, sometimes I want to do things I know  
are wrong. Help me to choose you.**

**Week  
Twenty  
Seven**

peter

WEEK TWENTY-EIGHT

## From the Beginning



*God had already planned and decided that Jesus would be handed over to you. So you took him and had evil men put him to death on a cross. But God set him free from death and raised him to life. Death could not hold him in its power.*

Acts 2:23–24

Here's the plan: be nice to everyone; get good grades; do your chores; don't fight with your brother too much; go to church; and do something extra for someone once in a while. That's about it, right? Just keep yourself squared away and hopefully that's good enough for God.

That's probably what Peter thought until he met Jesus. Peter even gave up his job as a fisherman to follow Jesus. He seemed to do all the right things!

But, when his faithfulness was most important, Peter failed. When Jesus was facing harsh treatment and death, Peter pretended not to know him. He ran away to save himself.

However, that wasn't the end of the story. Jesus died and came back to life; and he forgave Peter. He prepared Peter, who acted cowardly and failed, as a leader of the newly started church.

God's plan was bigger than Peter's weaknesses. God knew before Adam and Eve's first sin that he would send Jesus to die for our sins and save us. He knows we are weak. He knows we will mess up and need forgiveness. And only he can help us do what's right in his eyes. He will forgive us when we repent of our wrongs.

***God helps us do what's right and forgives us  
when we repent of our wrongs.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

We are all tempted to make excuses for sins. But instead of making an excuse, pray! Ask Jesus to help you do what's right and to forgive you for the wrongs you have done. He will do it! Below is a sample prayer to help you know what to say.

Dear Jesus,

I'm sorry for what I did. It was not right. Forgive me and help me do what is right next time. Thank you for loving me even when I sin.

Amen

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

Psalm 34:22

Luke 22:22

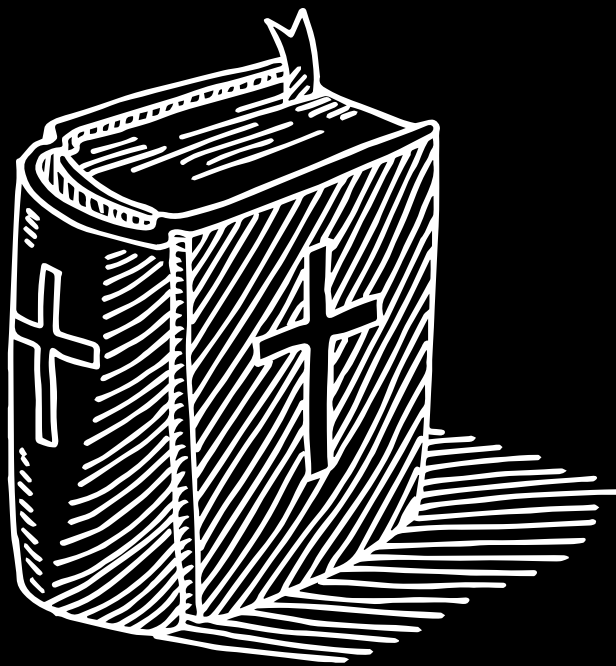
Isaiah 43:11-12

1 John 4:9-10

**Week  
Twenty  
Eight**

*"The Bible will keep you from  
sin, or sin will keep you from  
the Bible."*

*—D.L. Moody, preacher and author in the 1800s*





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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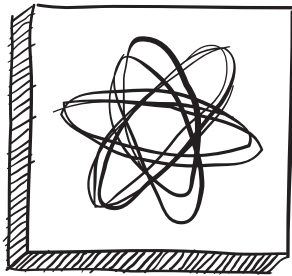
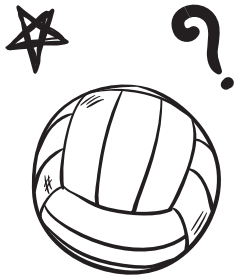
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**God, you knew I would mess up from the beginning.  
Thank you for what Jesus did so I can be forgiven.**

# Doodle Space



Draw a picture of a cross and write "God loves me" inside of it as a reminder that God always loves you, even when you sin.



Brave



# Nicky Cruz

WEEK TWENTY-NINE

## Changing Everything



*Create pure thoughts in me  
and make me faithful again.*

Psalm 51:10

Knives flashing in the dark. Cursing. Fights. Hatred because of the gang he belonged to. Nicky Cruz's life as a New York City street gang member was full of all these things.

As long as he could remember, Nicky was surrounded by violence. During his childhood in Puerto Rico, his parents abused him, practiced witchcraft, and called him a son of Satan. When he moved to New York, he decided to be the toughest on the streets.

A pastor started talking to Nicky about Jesus's love, but he didn't like it. He didn't have the courage to admit he was wrong and change his life. Instead, Nicky beat, mocked, and avoided the man. But with death all around him, he began to realize he had to change. He listened to the brave pastor who kept talking to him until one night he prayed.

Nicky knew he needed a completely new life. He needed a new heart with new desires, thoughts, and feelings. He asked Jesus to forgive him and take over his life. And Jesus did! Nicky's nightmares stopped. Joy replaced hatred. Telling people about Jesus became his new passion!

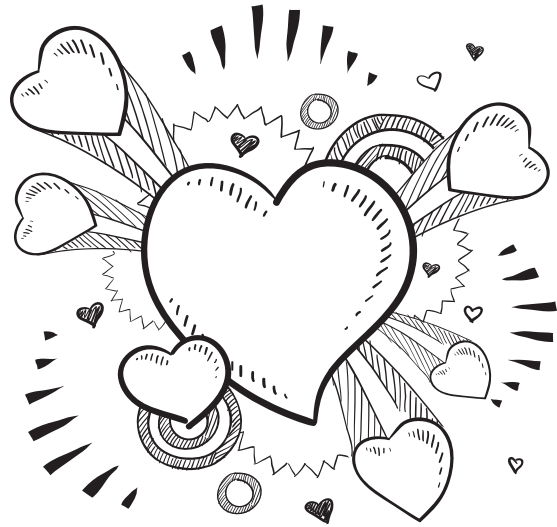
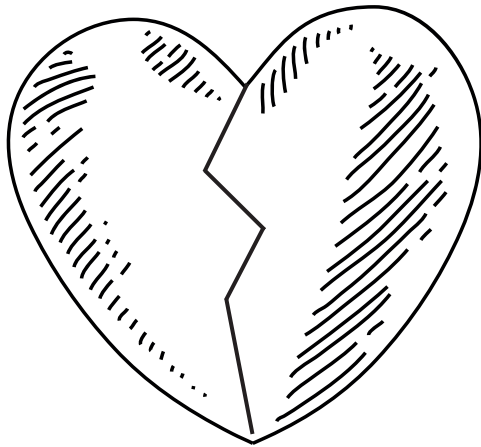
If Jesus could do it for Nicky, he can do it for you and the people you care about. Pray and ask him to help you change today.

***Jesus changed Nicky's desires, thoughts, and feelings. He can do the same for you.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

What bad thoughts, feelings, and attitudes do you struggle with? Write them below the old heart on the left. Think about what you want your heart to be filled with and write it below the new heart on the right. Ask Jesus to change your heart.



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

Psalm 51:1–2

Matthew 16:24–25

Ezekiel 18:31–32

Colossians 2:13–14

**Week  
Twenty  
Nine**

**Mind Blower**

The first heart surgery was done in Chicago by an African American doctor named Daniel Hale Williams in 1893. He operated on an actively beating heart, sewing together a gash caused by a stabbing.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Jesus, thank you for your love. Please forgive me and change me. Take control of my heart.**

Jesus

WEEK THIRTY

## The Rucksack Exchange



*Christ never sinned! But God treated him as a sinner,  
so Christ could make us acceptable to God.*

2 Corinthians 5:21

Imagine having a rucksack strapped on and everything you do wrong adds another 10 pounds to your back. Did you bite as a little kid? Add another stone. Steal crayons in elementary school? More weight. Talk back to your parent? Even more weight added.

Even one sin is more weight than you can carry, but an entire life of sin? Crushing! There's absolutely no way you can get out from under that!

Then Jesus comes along, and he has nothing on his back! He never selfishly grabbed the biggest cookie. Never said a mean thing to his brothers. Never tried to hide something from his parents. Jesus lived a perfect life.

That may be hard for you to imagine. It's in our human nature to be selfish, proud, unloving. It's impossible to be perfect. But Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven, which is what allows us to have a relationship with him and a future life in heaven.

As sinful people we could never be that way on our own. But Jesus took the blame for us when he died for our sins. He picked up our rucksack of sin, so we can be free from that burden.

So, hand over that pack. Tell Jesus you are sorry for your sins and thank him for carrying it. He will show you how to live like him.

***Jesus picked up our rucksack of sin,  
so we can be free from that burden.***

Brave



# Spiritual Fitness Training

Find the key words from today's verse below.

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

**CHRIST**  
**NEVER**  
**SINNED**  
**GOD**  
**TREATED**  
**SINNER**  
**MAKE**

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

Psalm 130:3–4

1 Peter 2:24

Isaiah 53:5–6

1 John 3:4–5

**Week  
Thirty**

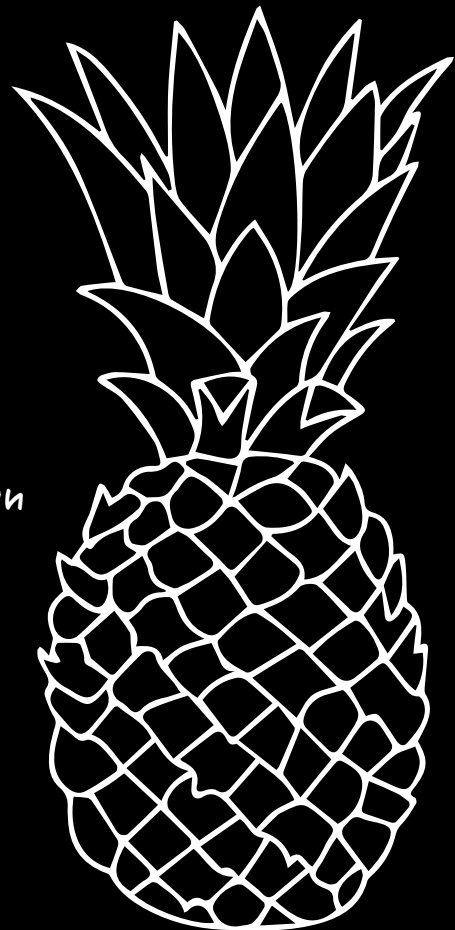
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**Mind Blower**

The scales on a pineapple are arranged in a pattern that is the same on all of them.

We can see some of God's perfect design in nature!

(Just like it was his perfect design for Jesus to die on the cross for the salvation of all his children. Praise God!)



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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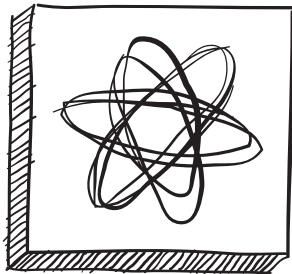
**Jesus, thank you for taking my heavy load  
of sin. Please help me live like you.**

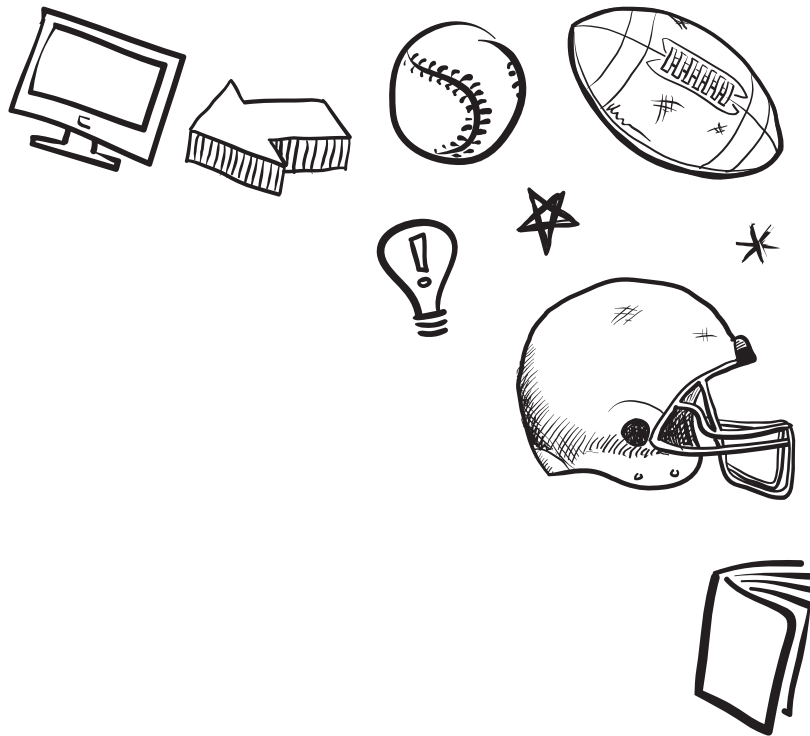
# Doodle Space



Draw a picture of a rucksack or backpack.

Next to it on one side, draw heavy things like rocks and weights. Then draw things next to it on the other side that are light, like a feather or a stick. Use this as a reminder that Jesus replaces your heavy burdens with the lightness of his love and forgiveness.





Rahab

WEEK THIRTY-ONE

## But Everyone Else Is



*I know that the Lord has given Israel this land. Everyone shakes with fear because of you. We know that the Lord your God rules heaven and earth, and we've lost our courage and our will to fight.*

Joshua 2:9, 11

We all face moments when we have to make life-changing decisions—some big, some small. For Rahab, it was a life or death decision.

In this Bible story, God's people, the Israelites, were invading the land God had promised to give them to live in safety. With God's help, the wicked people in the cities were to be cleared out. When the Israelite spies ended up in Rahab's house, she had to decide: should she go against her people, take God's side, and help them? Would these invaders and their God even accept her? She hadn't exactly lived a sin-free life. Still, she knew that taking their side was her only hope. She hid the men, then helped them escape through her window.

With God's help, the Israelites destroyed the city, but as the spies had promised, they saved Rahab and her family. She put her full trust in the Lord, and she was accepted into the Israelite community. God gave her a new life. She even became a great-great-grandmother to Jesus!

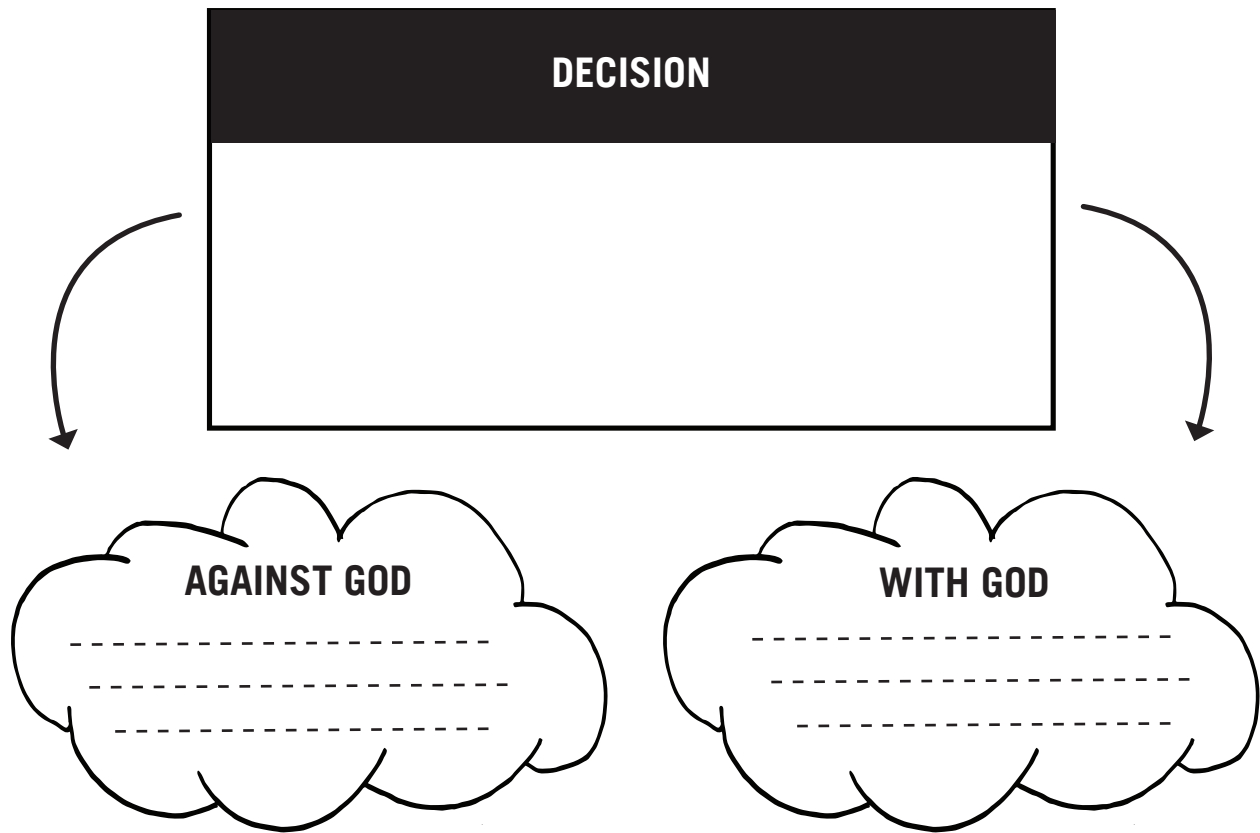
When you are surrounded by people going against God, the best decision is to be brave like Rahab and choose wisely. God rewards those who follow him.

***Choosing to be on God's side is  
always the best decision.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Often, following God means going against what everyone else is doing. What are some situations in which you find it hard to make the right choice? Talk to God about them and ask him to help you do the right thing. Write the decision in the middle, then consider what the consequences might be for choosing God's way or going against him.



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

- Joshua 6:22–23
- Psalm 20:7–8

- Hebrews 11:31
- James 2:24–25

**Week  
Thirty  
One**

*"There is no cramming for  
a test of character. It always  
comes as a pop quiz."*

*—Andy Stanley, American pastor  
and author in Georgia*





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**God, I want to be on your side. Help me make the right, brave choices, even when it's hard.**

Paul

WEEK THIRTY-TWO

## The Great and the Awful



*I have died, but Christ lives in me. And I now live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me.*

Galatians 2:20

Paul did great things. And he did awful things.

As a highly religious Jew in the first century, he had done all the right things in people's eyes. He seemed completely devoted to God. When he thought people were going against God by following Jesus, he hunted them down and put them in prison, or worse.

But Jesus stopped Paul in his tracks. He showed Paul that he was really God's Son, and Paul was hurting his people.

How could Paul make that up to God? He couldn't. Paul learned there was nothing he could do—good or bad—that would impress God. Instead, Paul needed to ask for forgiveness and accept Jesus as the new commander of his life. His old life and his old set of rules needed to go away. He needed a real change in his heart! Only his new life in Christ mattered.

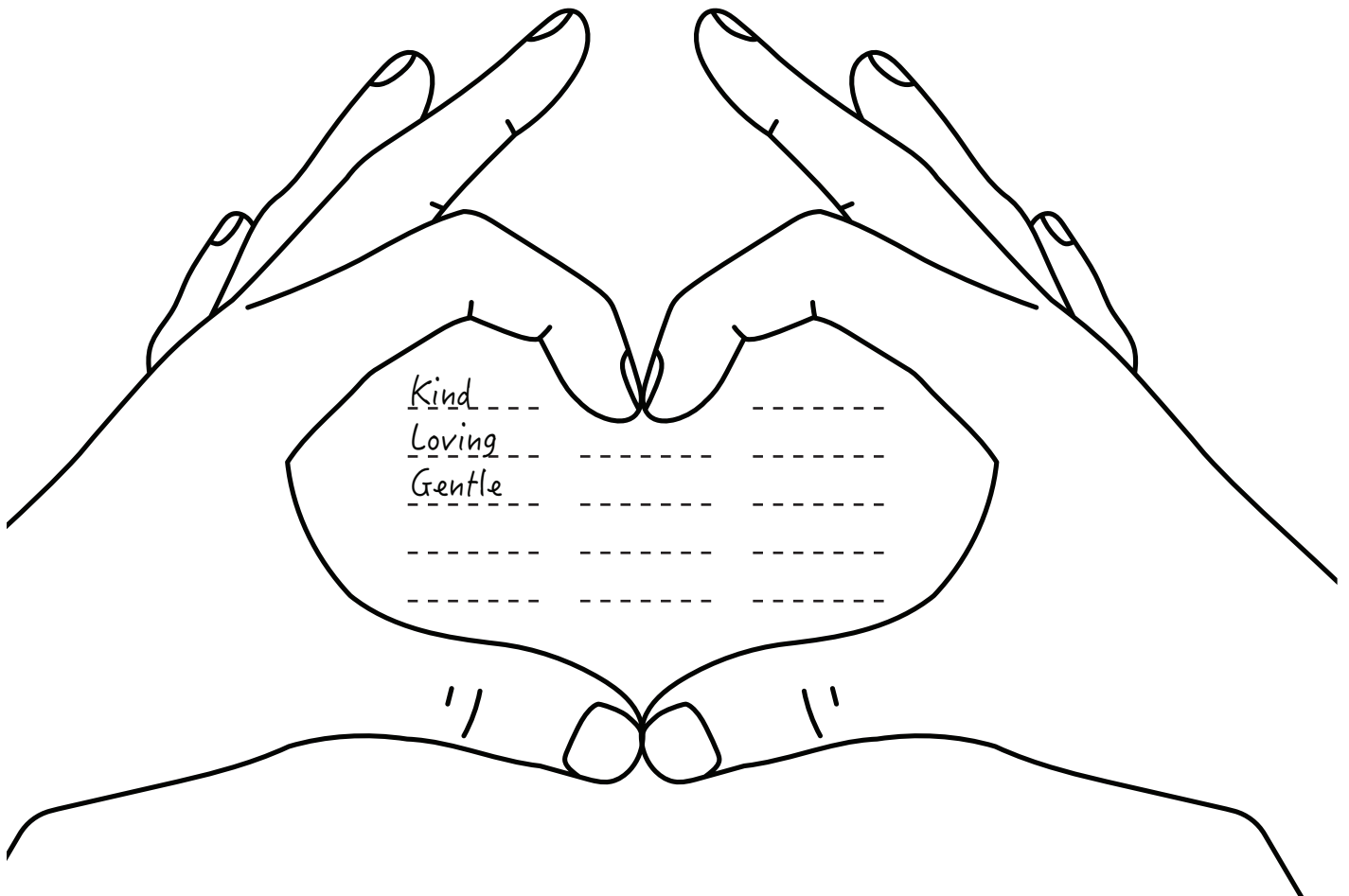
Are you trying to get to God by doing everything you think is right? Jesus wants you to have faith in him, not in yourself. He wants to lead your life. He wants you to say goodbye to your old life and begin a new life with him! All you have to do is accept the new life Jesus offers.

***Jesus wants you to say goodbye to your old life  
and begin a new life with him!***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Are you ready to say goodbye to your old life, and begin a new life with Jesus? When you ask for forgiveness, Jesus gives you a new heart. In the heart below, write the characteristics of Jesus. Then pray asking him to forgive your sin and for help to live like Jesus every day.



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

Psalm 51:1-2

Romans 6:6

Psalm 51:17

Colossians 2:20a

**Week  
Thirty  
Two**

"There is not a square inch in  
the whole domain of our human  
existence over which Christ,  
who is sovereign over all, does  
not cry: 'Mine!'"

—Abraham Kuyper, a Dutch pastor who became  
prime minister in 1901



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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

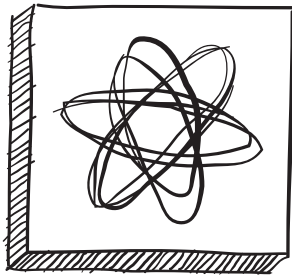
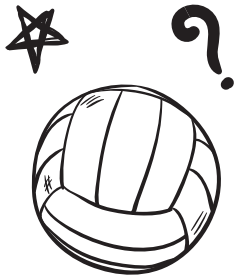
**Jesus, I want this new life in you.  
Thank you for this free gift.**

**Week  
Thirty  
Two**

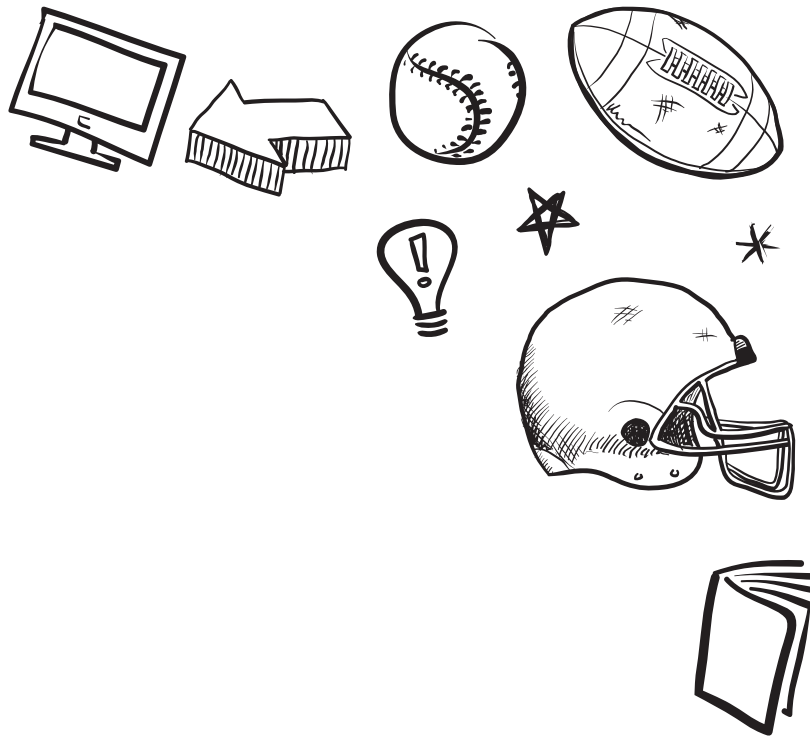
# Doodle Space



Draw a cross and decorate it with plants, a sun, or a mountain scene. As you do, think about all the amazing characteristics of Jesus. And pray for him to help you become more like him!



Brave



Betty Olsen

WEEK THIRTY-THREE

## An Attitude Adjustment



*...and you gave me a new song,  
a song of praise to you. Many will see this, and they  
will honor and trust you, the Lord God.*

Psalm 40:3

Stubborn and hot tempered, Betty Olsen just couldn't seem to get it right. She was always angry, and it often boiled over. Where did all her anger come from? She was sent far away to another country for school because her parents were missionaries. Then her mom died. Later, Betty resented that her dad remarried.

Though Betty wanted to serve God, and even be a missionary, she couldn't seem to get over her anger. But then, a pastor started to counsel her. Slowly, Betty gave God total control of her life and God helped her to stop being angry. She changed her tune and had an attitude adjustment. God has the power to change willing hearts!

Betty was sent to work at a Vietnamese hospital in 1964. When Betty and other missionaries were captured and placed in terrible conditions, Betty stayed strong and helped others. When the guards threatened to shoot them, Betty stubbornly told them only God would decide when they die. Confused, they lowered their guns.

Sadly, she died while in captivity. Still, the other missionaries remembered her kindness to everyone. That's the kind of change only God can make in someone's life!

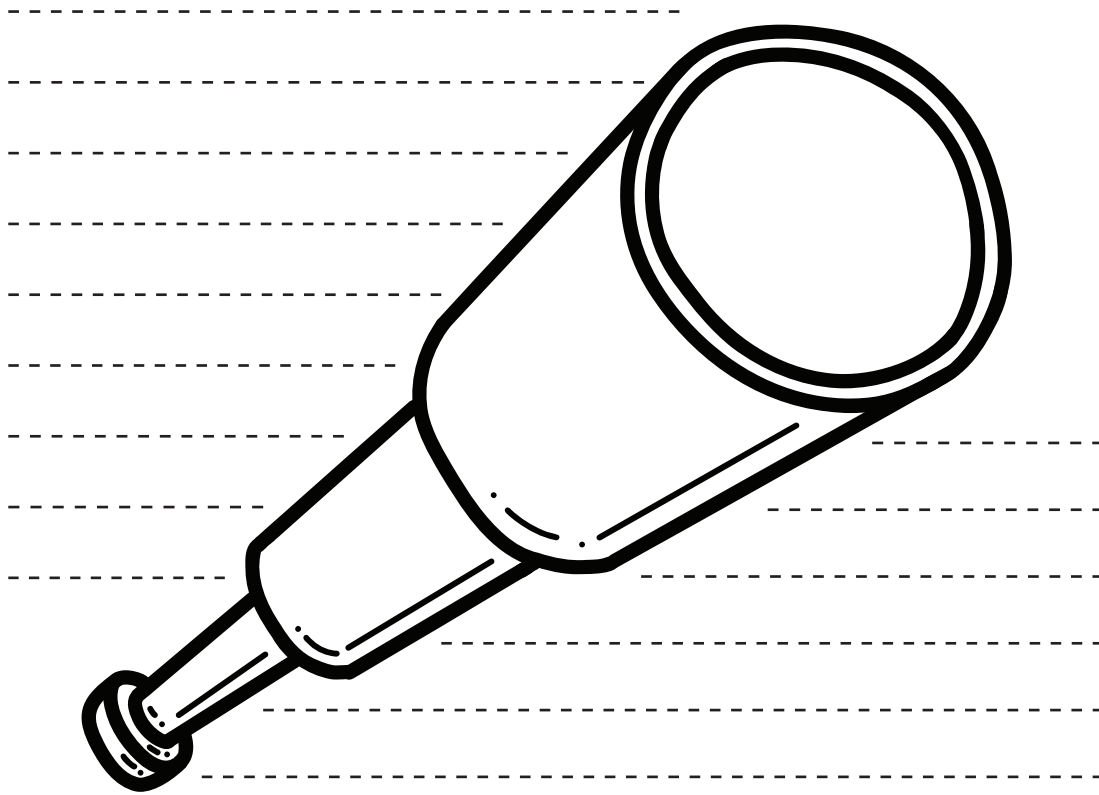
Brave

***God has the power to  
change willing hearts!***



# Spiritual Fitness Training

Go on a spy mission: Observe the people in your life. Make special note of one person who has a positive attitude. Watch how this good attitude affects others. Jot down a few notes about what you learned from their good attitude. Then pray for God to help you have an attitude adjustment where needed, too!



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

Psalm 103:10

Matthew 16:25–26

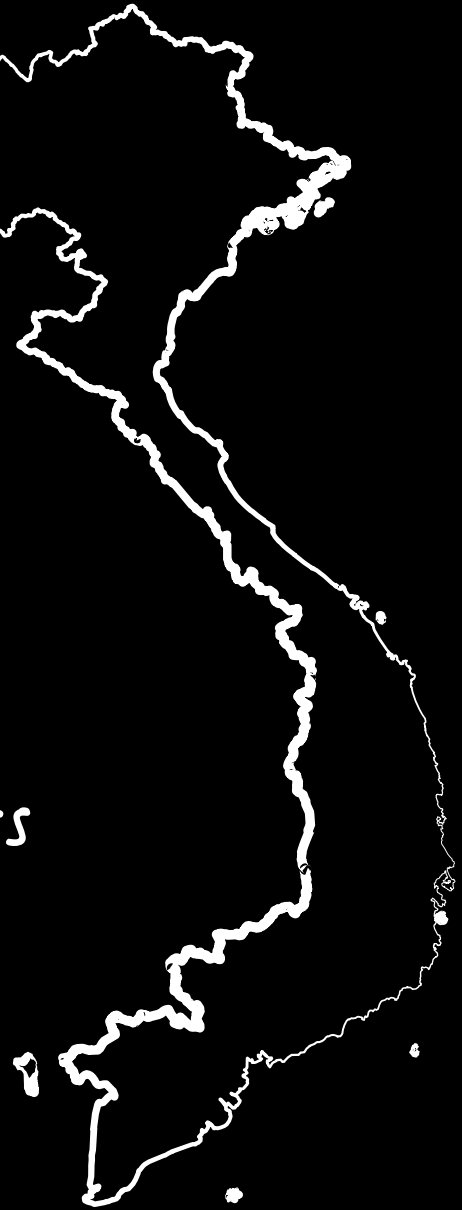
Isaiah 43:25

John 12:24–25

**Week  
Thirty  
Three**

**Mind Blower**

From elephants  
and water buffaloes  
to monkeys and over  
800 kinds of birds,  
Vietnam is rich with  
wildlife that make its  
jungles a noisy place  
to be!



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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

**God, thank you for changing people's attitudes, including mine.**

**Week  
Thirty  
Three**

Jesus

WEEK THIRTY-FOUR

## God's Volunteer Sheep



*No one takes my life from me. I give it up willingly! I have the power to give it up and the power to receive it back again, just as my Father commanded me to do.*

John 10:18

In chapter 10 of John's Gospel, Jesus talks about his people—the ones who know, understand, and follow him. He compares the people to sheep, and Jesus is the good shepherd who takes care of his sheep and even lays down his life for them.

In the Military we often joke about being “volun-told” to do something—we are told we must volunteer. But God sent his Son Jesus to die for our sins, and Jesus came to earth willingly. No one made him volunteer.

Why did Jesus choose to die for you? Because he loves his sheep! He knew if he didn't, we would die as guilty people, forever separated from a holy God. Jesus couldn't let that happen.

Are you willing to follow the good shepherd, Jesus, who died for you? You will not be “volun-told” by God to be part of his flock. He lets you decide. To be one of his sheep, we must ask for forgiveness for what we've done wrong and give him control of our life. That is the best decision we could ever make.

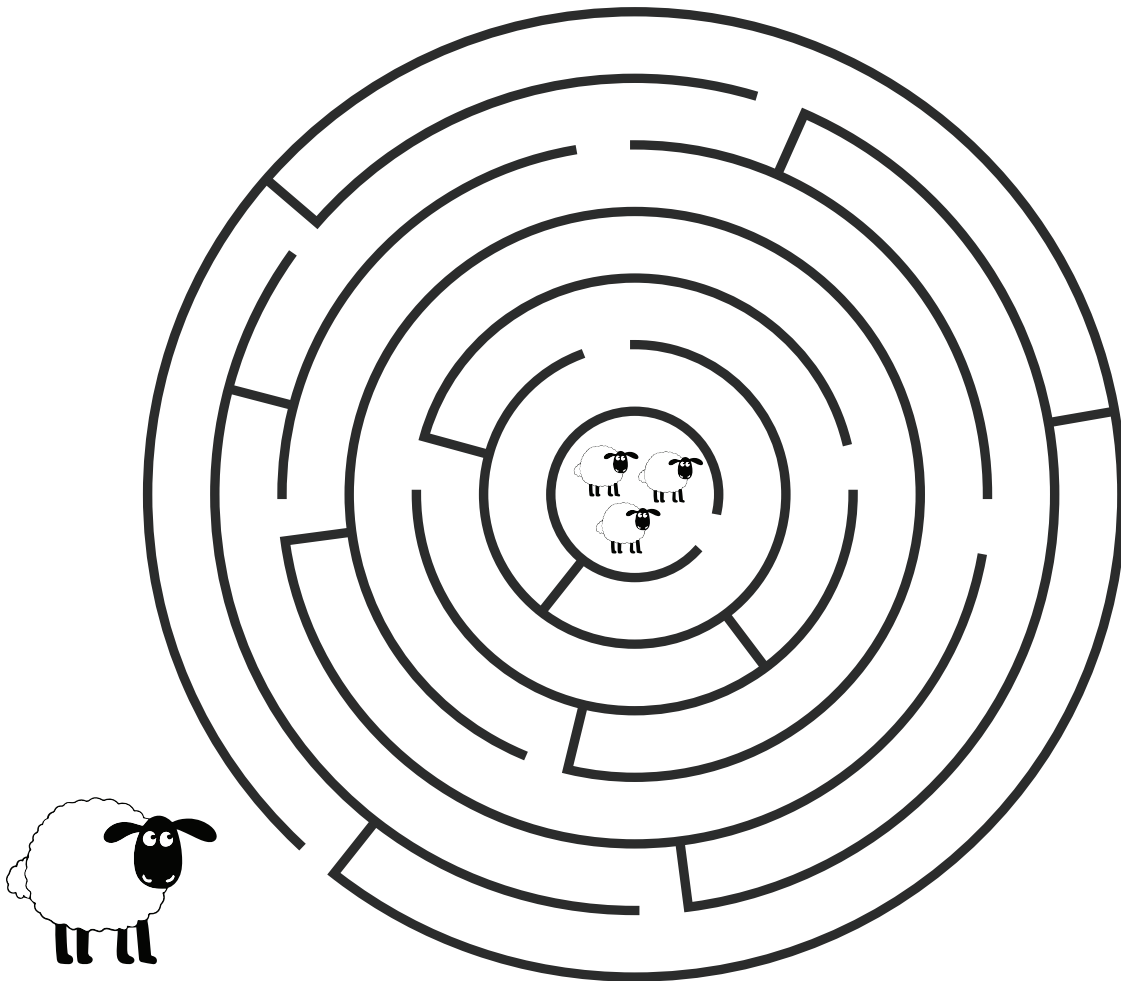
Let the good shepherd, Jesus, take care of you and watch over you. Give him your life today and become his sheep forever!

***Jesus knew if he didn't die for us, we would stay separated from God.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Imagine the sheep below made the brave decision to follow the good shepherd, Jesus! Help him find his way to the other sheep. As you do, pray for anyone you know who still needs to make the decision to follow Jesus.



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

Isaiah 53:4-6

Matthew 26:53-54

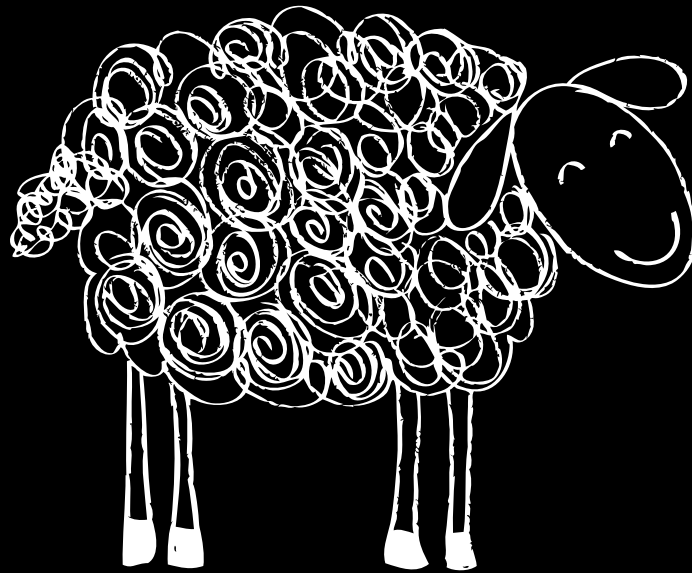
Isaiah 53:11-12

Philippians 2:6-8

**Week  
Thirty  
Four**

Mind Blower

Five million sheep are raised  
in America, with most in  
Texas. There are more than  
50 different breeds of sheep  
in the U.S.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



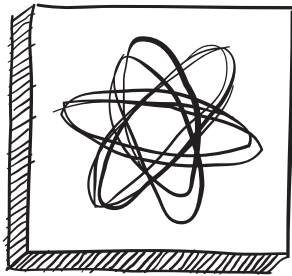
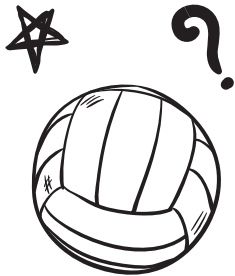
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**Jesus, thank you for volunteering to die for me. I want to be one of your sheep.**

# Doodle Space

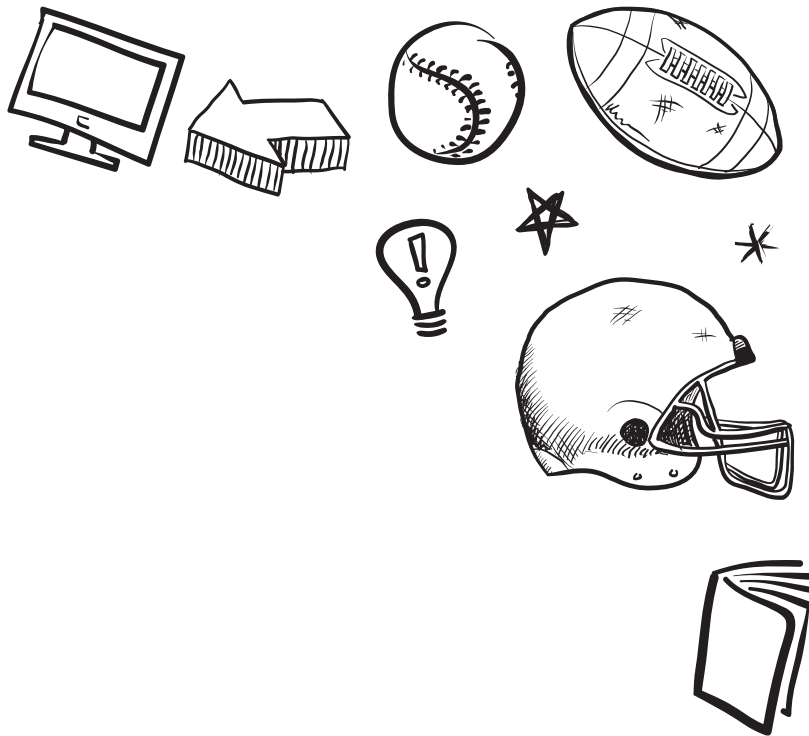


Draw a picture of a sheep. As you do, pray that God would give you bravery to volunteer to live for Jesus, your good shepherd!



Brave





Week  
Thirty  
Four

Jonah

WEEK THIRTY-FIVE

## God's Hide-and-Seek



*In that city of Nineveh there are more than 120,000 people who cannot tell right from wrong, and many cattle are also there. Don't you think I should be concerned about that big city?*

Jonah 4:11

Have you ever wondered why we need to care about foolish people? After all, they made poor choices and should suffer the consequences. Why do we need to show them God's love?

Jonah was one of God's prophets, and God sent him to preach to his enemies—the Ninevites. Jonah didn't want to give them God's message. He wanted them to be punished for the bad things they did. He certainly didn't want God to forgive them. So, Jonah ran the opposite way to a boat heading far away from Nineveh. God sent a storm that terrified the sailors. Jonah decided it would be better to die so he told them to throw him overboard. But God caused a large fish to swallow him. Once Jonah was released from the fish, he repented and preached to the Ninevites, who changed their ways.

Even then, Jonah was still upset that this all seemed unfair. Why did God care so much about such foolish people? God spoke to Jonah again, trying to get him to understand his concern for all people, including the Ninevites. The book closes with this hanging question, "Don't you think I should be concerned?"

Whether we are looking for God or trying to run, God continues to have compassion for us and wants us to repent. So, what do you need to release to God today?

***Whether we are looking for God or trying to run, he continues to have compassion.***

Brave

50

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Spiritual gut-check time! Pray and think through these questions to see if you are running from God or running toward him.

- **Is there anything you know is wrong that you refuse to stop doing?**
- **Are there people God has asked you to tell about him, but you haven't done it?**
- **Is there anyone you refuse to forgive?**



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

Exodus 34:6–7

Luke 6:36

Psalm 145:8–9

Ephesians 2:4–5

**Week  
Thirty  
Five**

**Mind Blower**

Magawa, an African giant pouch rat, was trained to detect land mines in Cambodia. He found over 100.

(God can use animals to help us!)



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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

**God, thank you that I have never gone beyond the reach of your love. Please forgive me.**

**Week  
Thirty  
Five**

# Woman at the Well

## WEEK THIRTY-SIX

### When Others Judge



*"But no one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again. The water I give will become in that person a flowing fountain that gives eternal life."*

John 4:14

Some people are going to think negative things about you. Some will never forgive. Some will cut you off and think they are better than you.

But Jesus won't turn away from you. The only perfect person to ever live loves you so much. And because of that love, he wants to help you become more like him, too!

In today's story, Jesus met a woman at a well. Her multiple marriages had ended, and she was living with a man who was not her husband. The people of the town treated her as an outcast because of the bad choices she had made. She was getting water from the well when no one else would be around. And as soon as Jesus spoke to her, she started to argue with him. She couldn't figure out why he would speak to a person like her—a sinner.

Jesus stayed patient. The forgiveness he offered could free her from sin and heal the relationship between her and God so she could spend eternity with God. With Jesus's help, she could stop sinning and become more like Jesus.

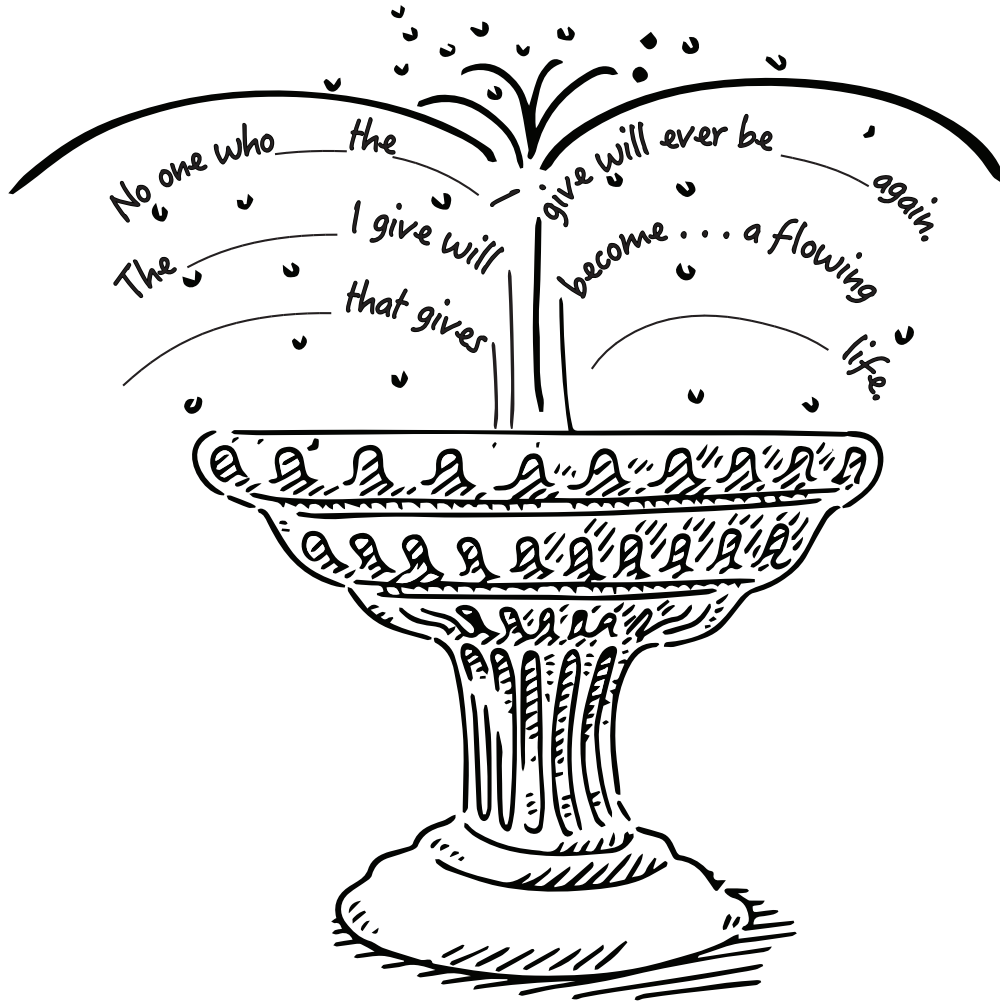
You, too, can have what Jesus gave the woman at the well. You can receive his forgiveness and eternal life! He freely gives this to those who come to him and ask. Will you ask him today?

***Jesus's forgiveness brings life and hope for eternal life with him!***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Fill in Jesus's words from this week's verse.



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

Psalm 51:1-2

John 3:17

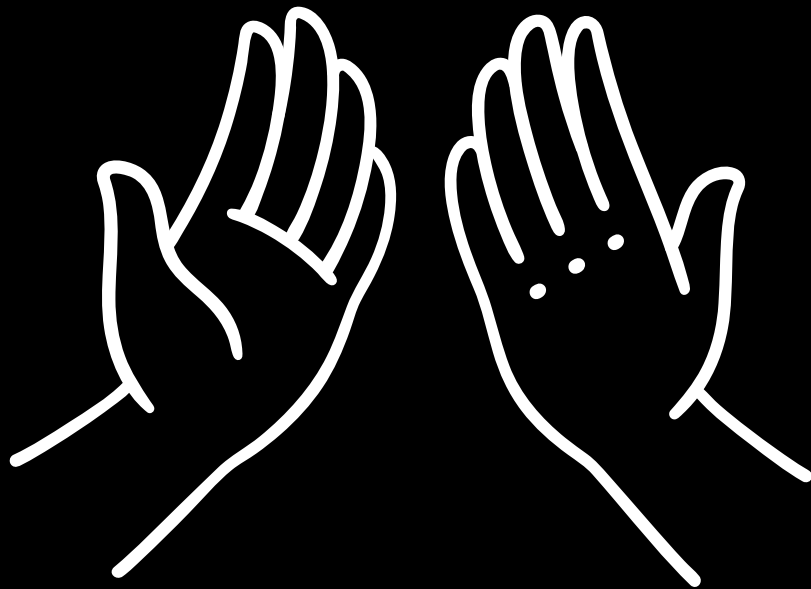
Isaiah 43:25

Romans 6:1-2

**Week  
Thirty  
Six**

*"Forgiveness is the  
giving, and so the  
receiving, of life."*

*—George MacDonald, Scottish author  
and Christian minister in the mid-1800s*





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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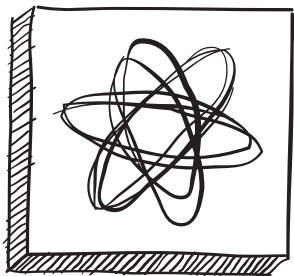
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**Thank you, God, for your forgiveness.  
Help us to forgive each other.**

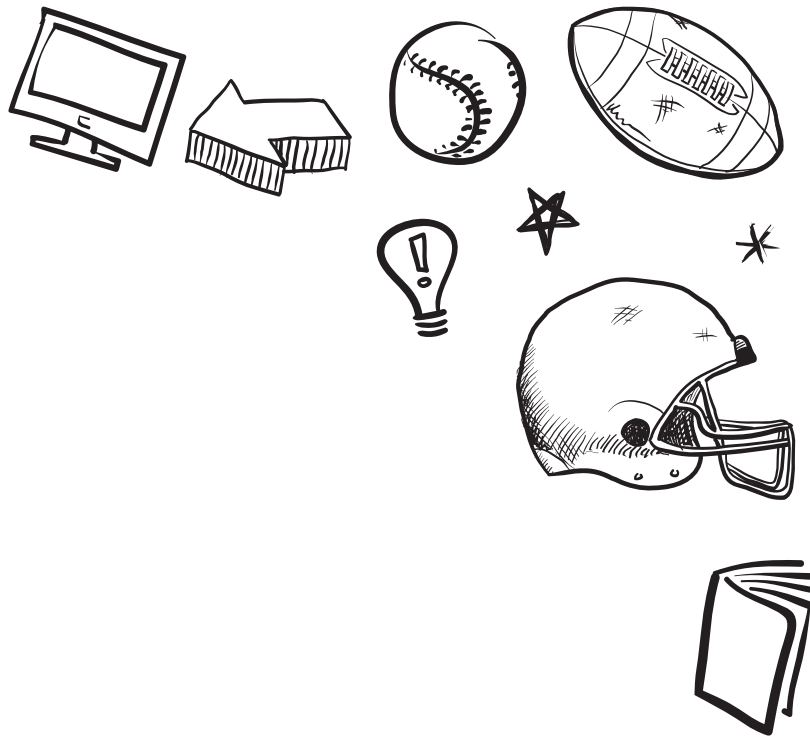
# Doodle Space



Draw a picture of a water well and write in the things Jesus has forgiven you for.



Brave



Week  
Thirty  
Six

Cain

WEEK THIRTY-SEVEN

## When Evil Strikes



*"This punishment is too hard!" Cain said. "You're making me leave my home and live far from you. I will have to wander about without a home, and just anyone could kill me." "No!" the Lord answered. "Anyone who kills you will be punished seven times worse than I am punishing you." So the Lord put a mark on Cain to warn everyone not to kill him.*

Genesis 4:13–15

Our Military members sometimes experience things that are so evil, they get wounded in their bodies and in their hearts. Sometimes they are left with crushing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

*This isn't fair*, we cry. And it isn't. It isn't right. And we often get frustrated when there's nothing we can do to make it right or even get revenge. But the Bible tells us that God will bring justice. Someday, all evil will be punished.

The problem of evil goes back to the beginning. In Genesis, we find the story of the first murder—brother on brother. Cain, the son of Adam and Eve, murders his brother Abel without regret. So why are we focusing on Cain this week, a murderer? Aren't we supposed to be learning about brave warriors?

We can still learn a lot from Cain. After what he did, God punished him. Cain was a farmer, but God sends him away from his land, never to farm again. But even in the punishment, the Lord shows mercy and concern for Cain and keeps him safe.

God wants us to love one another, not hurt each other. And unlike Cain, we should be sorry when we do wrong. God forgives those who repent. And when we get hurt, or our warriors do, the Lord helps us heal and forgive those who hurt us.

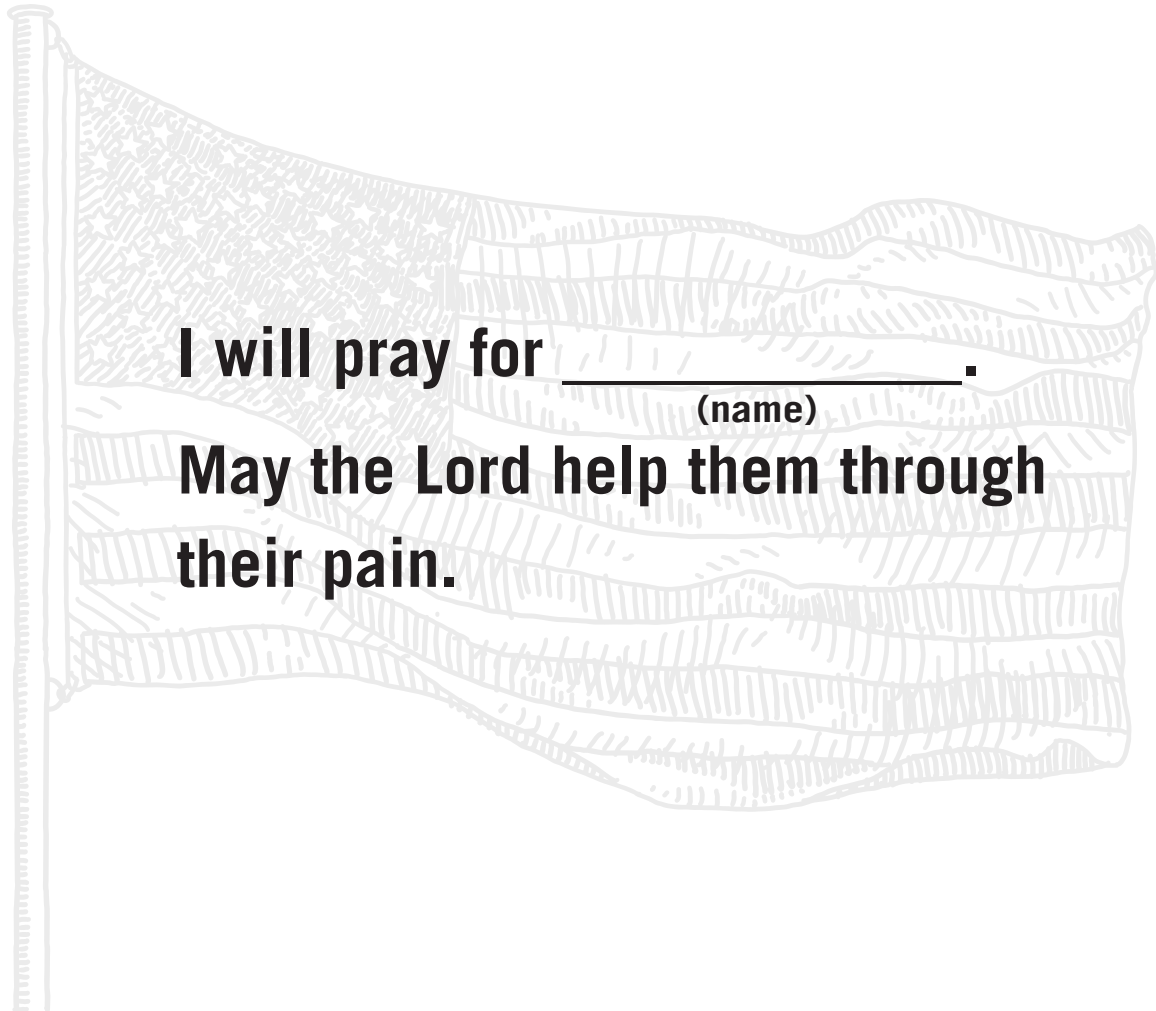
***Evil strikes. But the Lord helps the wounded.  
One day, he will make everything right.***

Brave

60

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Do you know a vet with PTSD? Commit to praying for them! Drop them a note telling them you are thankful for their service and you are thinking of them.



**I will pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (name) .**  
**May the Lord help them through their pain.**

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

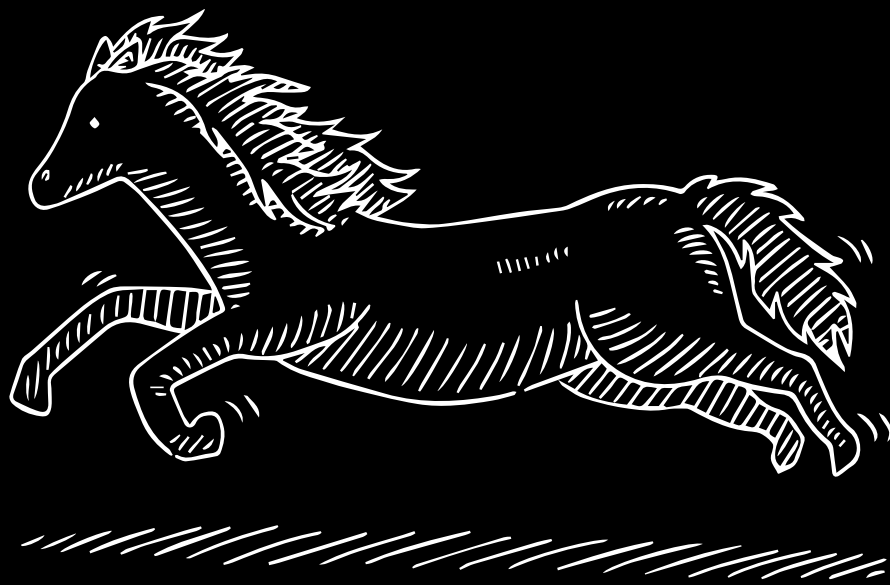
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 79:10      | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12:19        |
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**Week  
Thirty  
Seven**

**Mind Blower**

Equine therapy helps some hurting veterans. Learning to work and connect with a horse calms their fears and heals their hearts.

(Thank God for providing these horses.)



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**God, you know people keep hurting people.  
Please heal those who are hurting. We wait  
for you to make everything right.**

# Jesus & Peter

WEEK THIRTY-EIGHT

## Right at Home



*Christ died once for our sins. An innocent person died for those who are guilty. Christ did this to bring you to God, when his body was put to death and his spirit was made alive.*

1 Peter 3:18

Where do you feel most at home? As a Military kid who has probably lived in several places, that might be hard to answer. It may be some place far from where you are now. Or perhaps it isn't a place. Maybe it's when you are with a special person.

There's a deep part of us, our soul, that will only be at home when we are right with God. If we "move away" by rejecting him or rebelling by doing sinful things, our soul will be lost, alone, unsafe.

Peter experienced that. He was confident Jesus showed the way to God. Even when others walked away because Jesus's teachings were hard, Peter said, "Where else could we go?" Yet Peter also wandered away. He denied knowing Jesus, right before Jesus died. Peter knew what it was like to be lost without Jesus.

So when Peter wrote letters to God's people, he explained what Jesus really did by dying: he opened the door to bring us back into friendship with God. Jesus took our sins, forgave us, and made a way for our souls to be saved—to be at home with God.

Peter encourages us to accept Jesus's forgiveness so our souls can come home to be with God forever. Will you choose to find your home with Jesus today?

***Jesus brings us home. He forgives us.  
He brings us into friendship with God.***

Brave



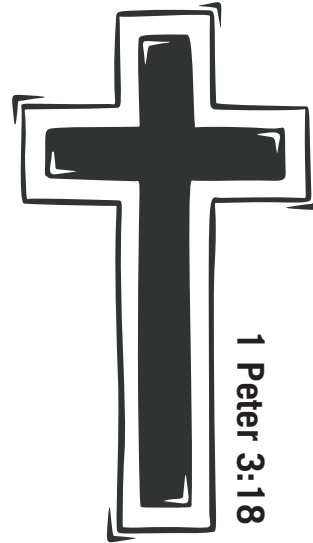
# Spiritual Fitness Training

Fill in the missing words from this week's Scripture verse. After you do, read it and thank Jesus for what he did on the cross so that you can live!

Christ \_\_\_\_\_ once for our sins.

An \_\_\_\_\_ person died  
for those who are \_\_\_\_\_.

Christ did this  
to bring you to \_\_\_\_\_,  
when his body  
was put to death  
and his \_\_\_\_\_  
was made \_\_\_\_\_.



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

Psalm 51:11

Ephesians 2:12–13

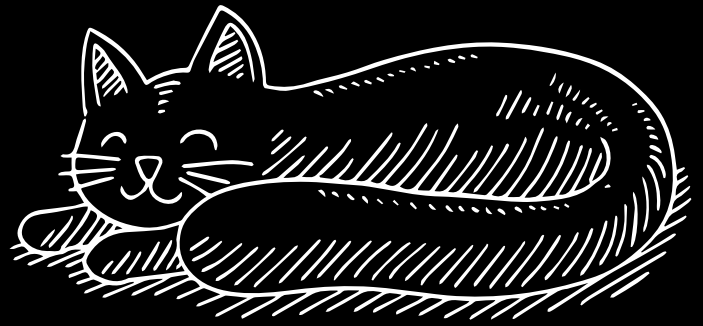
Isaiah 44:22

Colossians 1:21–22

**Week  
Thirty  
Eight**

Mind Blower

In Japan in 2011, Suika, a black cat, was separated from her owners during a tsunami. They searched for months for her but couldn't find her. Three years later, hikers found Suika in the woods and reunited her with her family.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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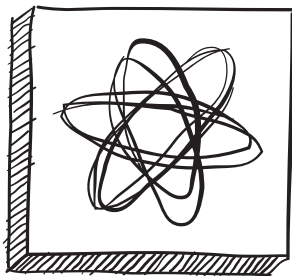
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**Jesus, don't let my soul be homeless.  
Thank you for forgiving me and bringing  
me back to God.**

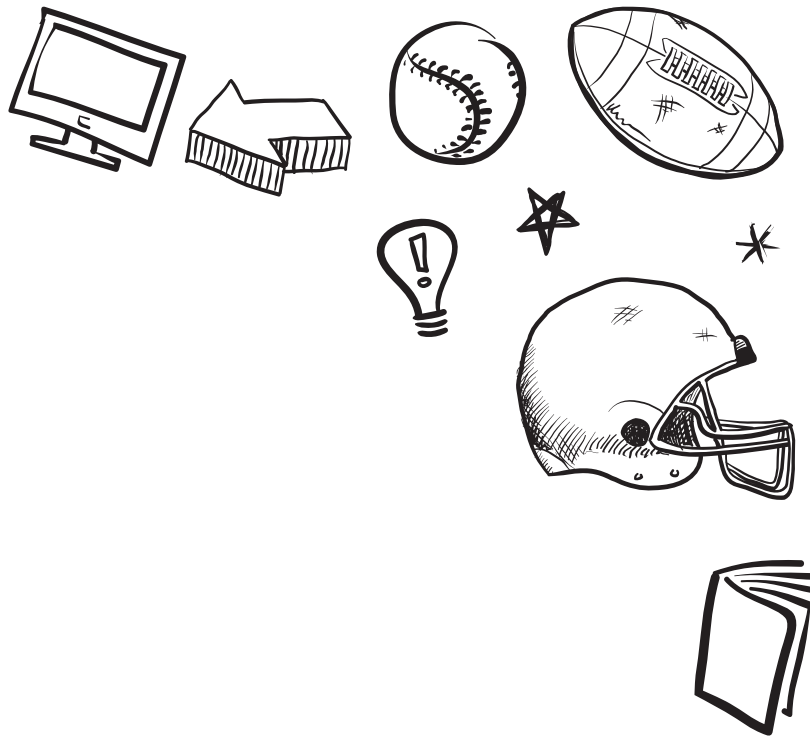
# Doodle Space



Draw a picture of the place you feel most at home. Is it a house? Your bedroom? Or in your parents' arms?



Brave



**Week  
Thirty  
Eight**

*gideon*

WEEK THIRTY-NINE

## How to Become Brave



*The angel appeared and spoke to Gideon, "The LORD is helping you, and you are a strong warrior."*

Judges 6:12

You have to be brave when your parent deploys. You have to be brave to start a new school and make new friends. But how are you supposed to do it?

In the Bible, Gideon's country was under attack, and he was in hiding. That's not particularly brave! Then an angel appeared and called him a strong warrior. Gideon didn't believe it. He even argued with the angel.

What Gideon didn't understand was the first part of the angel's message—that the Lord was helping him. How could that be when things were so terrible? But when the angel proved his power and the Lord commanded Gideon to fight, he finally believed and obeyed. He went on to win important battles and save his country.

When Gideon put his life into God's hands, the Lord made him brave, bold, and strong. On his own, he was a coward. But when he trusted God, God used him in a mighty way.

You don't have to feel brave to be brave. You don't have to find strength within yourself to fight your battles. Instead, remind yourself that God is with you. Give God control over your life and do what he tells you. Watch him make you brave!

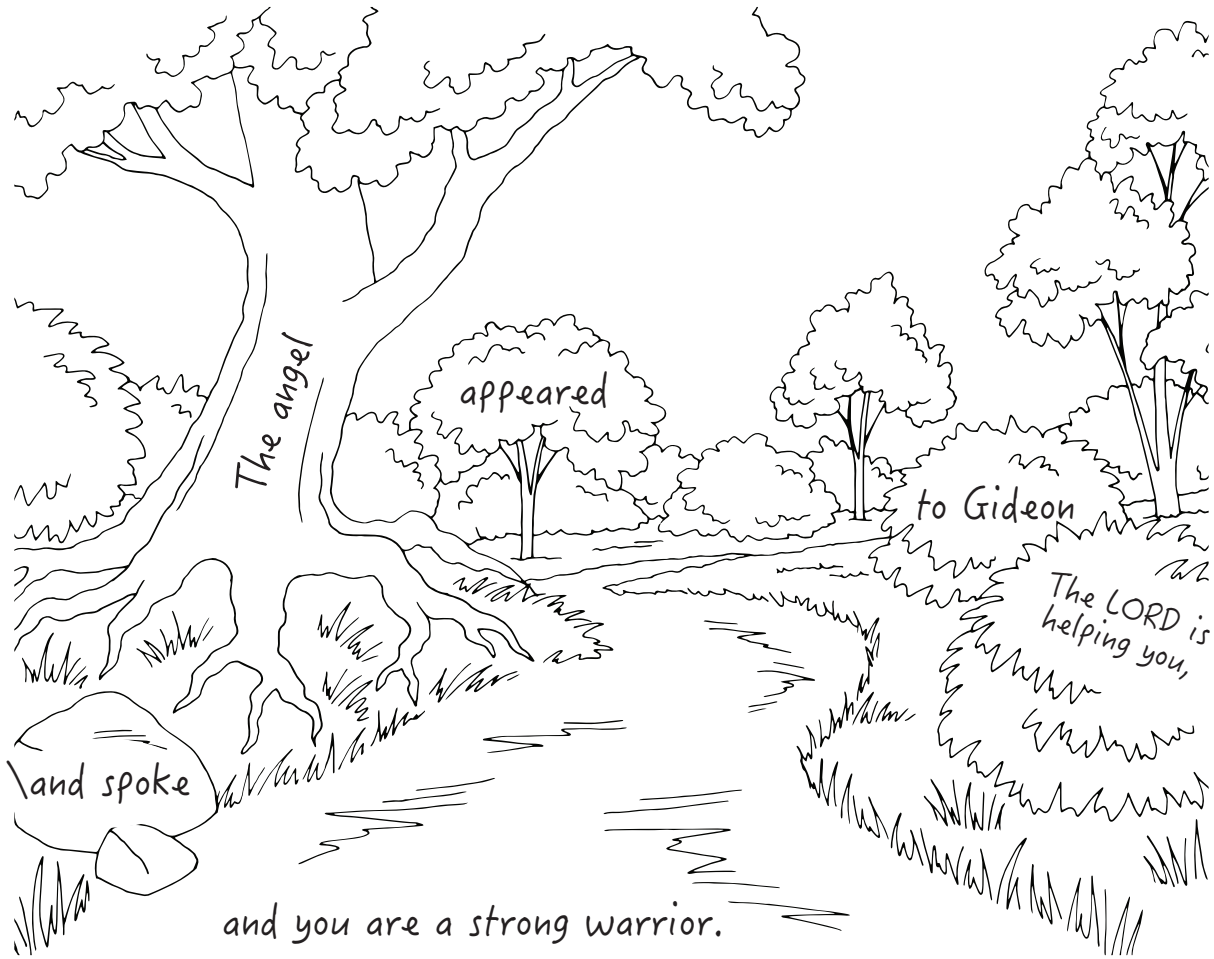
***You don't have to feel brave to be brave.***

***God will be your strength!***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Find the words of this week's verse in the picture and highlight them.  
Then color the scenery and, as you do, thank God for helping you!



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

Joshua 1:5

2 Corinthians 12:9

Judges 7:15

Hebrews 13:5b-6

**Week  
Thirty  
Nine**

Mind Blower

The Medal of Honor is given for bravery to Military service members. Since it started over 250 years ago, only 3,515 people have been awarded it.





**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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

**God, I don't know yet how you can make me  
brave, but please help me believe and obey you.**

**Week  
Thirty  
Nine**





A series of 18 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

**Brave**







**Keep It Going!** ↘

Great job, brave warrior!  
Check your mailbox for  
your next book!

(It's coming soon!)

