

BRAVE

WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS

Learning to be Fearless through God's Word

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING

**HERO
SQUAD**
VARSITY EDITION

Brave, Guys Varsity Squad Edition, Fall Issue

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Start Here

WRITE YOUR NAME ON THIS LINE:

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 YOUR CELL PHONE OR EMAIL ADDRESS ON THIS LINE:



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

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 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

Dream Turned Dead End



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

Exodus 33:15

Where will you go? As graduation looms closer, it becomes a constant question. If your family is still serving in the Military, it gets trickier to think about moving for work or school.

Moses and the Israelites celebrated leaving slavery in Egypt to go to the land God had promised them—a safe place with plenty of food where they could own their own homes and live free.

But the Israelites disobeyed God on the way. They committed the ultimate betrayal of worshipping another god (a golden statue of a calf). God told Moses to go on without him. But even with amazing promises of good land, Moses didn't want to go without God. He reminded God they were his people and that he had called Moses his friend.

God didn't need the reminder, but perhaps Moses did. And the people needed to decide they wanted God more than anything else.

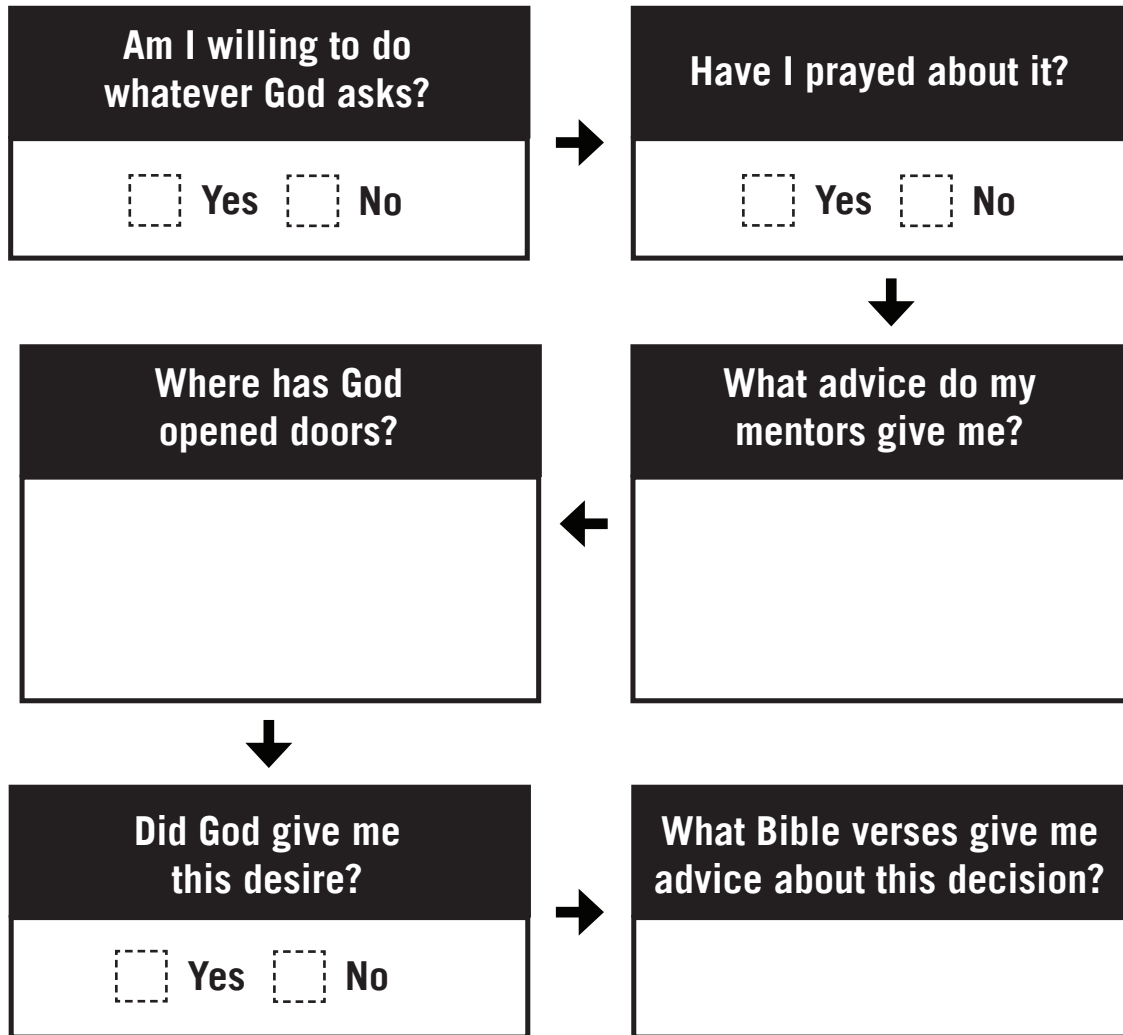
When it's finally your turn to pick where you will live and what you do, maybe you'll start planning to live out your biggest dreams. Or maybe you'll have no idea what's ahead. You're going to have to decide for yourself which is better: your idea of what's great, or God himself. Wherever the road leads you, being without God can turn even your biggest dreams into dead ends. But being with him can make the worst situations turn into the best experiences. Choose God first, and let him show you!

Brave

Wherever the road leads you... choose God first!

Spiritual Fitness Training

Making decisions can be difficult. Knowing what God wants you to do doesn't have to be, though. Think through God's plan with these questions:



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

- Psalm 89:15
- Psalm 139:3–5
- Matthew 28:20
- 2 Thessalonians 1:9

Week
Twenty
Seven

“You find that the things
you let go of while following
Jesus were the things that
were going to destroy you in
the end.”

—Francis Chan, American pastor
and author in California

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?
There are 44 towns in the world named Paradise. Twenty-seven of them are in America. In Michigan, there's also a town called Hell.

peter

WEEK TWENTY-EIGHT

The Great Comeback



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

No one could come back from this. The night before Jesus died, he was arrested and sent to various trials. One of his closest friends, Peter, followed along. But instead of defending Jesus, he denied he even knew him—three times. Peter betrayed not only his best friend, but God.

Yet when Jesus rose from the dead, he brought Peter back as his follower. He forgave him and allowed him to be the first public speaker to tell of his death and resurrection.

And when Peter spoke, he pointed out that God had this plan all along. Before the first humans sinned, God knew he would send his Son to bring salvation. Jesus would be the perfect sacrifice to take the punishment of death, which we all deserved. But death was not his end; he would be raised to life and he would have victory over all evil.

You may feel like there's no coming back from what you have done. You may have deeply hurt the people closest to you. Maybe you refused God himself. Peter's life shows us that God can wipe the slate clean for you. God isn't surprised or overwhelmed by your actions, and he is willing to save you. He can forgive you, restore your relationship with him, and help you to be faithful to him.

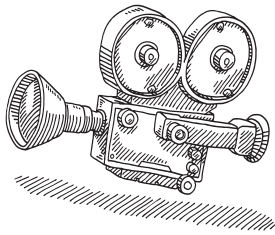
You just have to be willing. You have to accept God's plan, ask for his forgiveness, and believe he will forgive you.

***Accept God's plan, ask for his forgiveness,
and believe he will forgive you.***

Brave

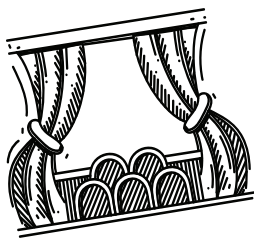
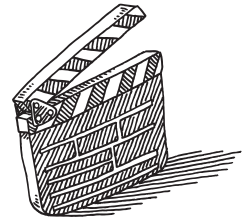
Spiritual Fitness Training

Hollywood movies are full of redemption stories—times when the hero did something bad, but then it was made right somehow. Usually, the problem is solved by the hero fixing it himself. These examples pale in comparison to the ultimate redemption plan God put into motion to restore our relationship with him. Thankfully, we didn't have to fix things ourselves—because we couldn't. God had to step in. Think about some of your favorite movie plot and about how much better God's plan of redemption is for us.



Favorite Movie: _____

Hero's Failure: _____



Hero's Redemption: _____

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**

"When we stray from his presence, he longs for you to come back . . . he throws his arms open, runs toward you, gathers you up, and welcomes you home."

—Charles Stanley,
American pastor from Georgia

Write Your Thoughts Here



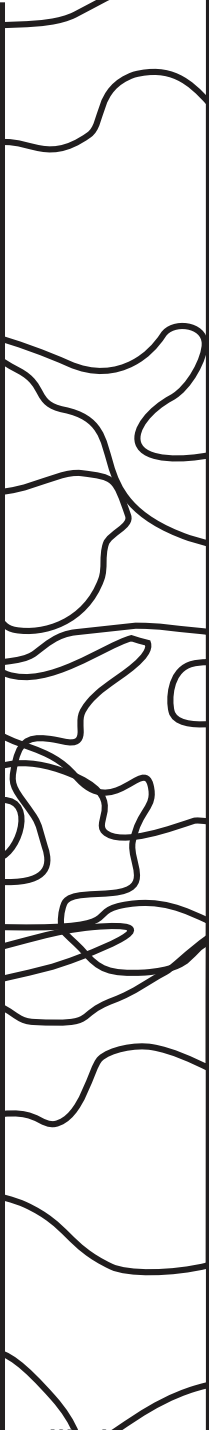
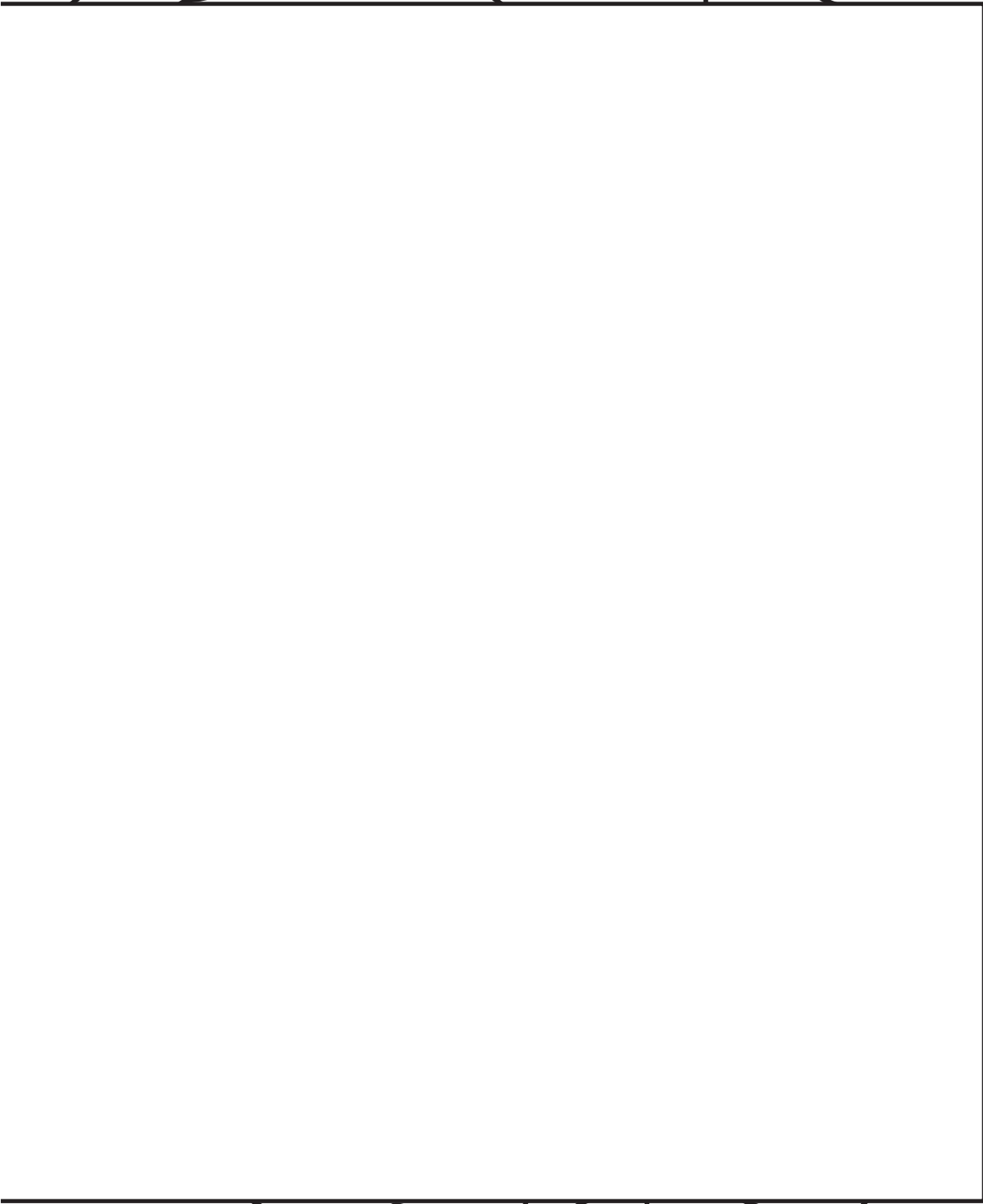
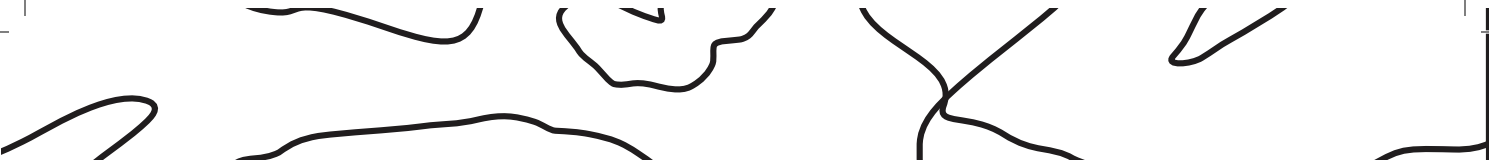
TALKING TO GOD

God, thank you for having
a plan to forgive me. Thank
you for Jesus. Please help me
follow you.

Week
Twenty
Eight

Doodle Space





Week
Twenty
Eight



Nicky Cruz

WEEK TWENTY-NINE

No Way Out



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

Psalm 51:10

Hatred. Anger. Violence. Nicky Cruz knew nothing else in his life. During his childhood in Puerto Rico, his parents practiced witchcraft and beat him. When he moved to New York City, he started a life on the streets as a teenager and soon became the leader of a vicious gang called the Mau Maus.

Fear and darkness surrounded his life and heart. It seemed there was no hope for him to leave gang life, to change what he had become.

Then a pastor started coming around, telling Nicky he could find forgiveness and a new life in Jesus. Nicky's initial reaction was to beat up the man. But the pastor was relentless in his pursuit, telling him Jesus loved him. Finally, Nicky stopped running. He repented—he turned away from his sins. And Jesus changed him!

Since then, Nicky has dedicated his life to ministry to inner-city people, telling them about Jesus, who can change the way they think and transform their hearts and minds. Through Cruz's speaking and a movie about his life called "The Cross and the Switchblade," he has reached millions of people with the Gospel of Christ.

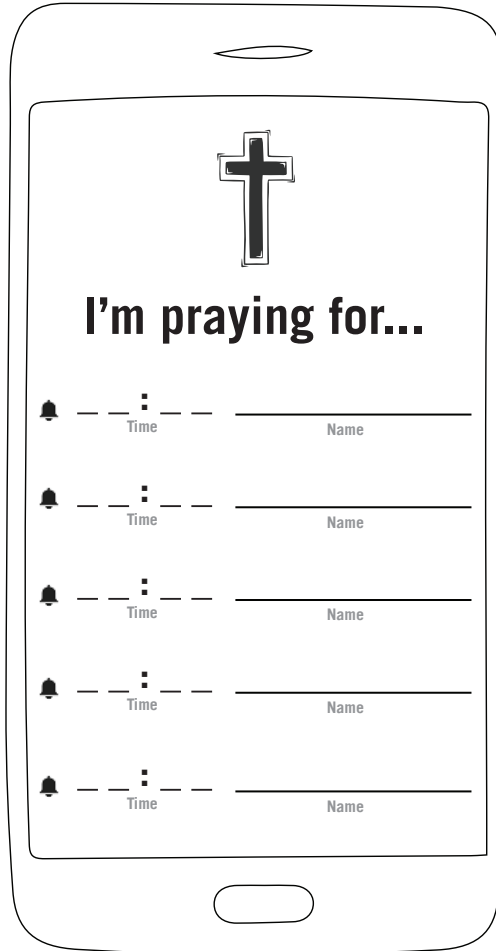
Jesus can change your heart, too. He can help you overcome sin to live a life more like him. Ask him to forgive you today. He is ready and willing to do it!

***When Jesus enters a person's life,
everything can change.***

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

Do you know anyone who needs a real heart change—new thoughts, desires, and actions? Commit to praying for them. Set an alarm on your phone to remind you to pray at a certain time each day this week.



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**

"God has given us power over darkness, power to overcome our sinful nature, power to move mountains . . . in the name of Jesus."

—Nicky Cruz

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

To date, more than 15 million copies of the book *The Cross and the Switchblade* have been distributed. It's the story of Nicky Cruz's life and heart change!

Jesus

WEEK THIRTY

A Perfect Example



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

2 Corinthians 5:21

What do we do with evil? What is the solution to obvious, hateful, cruel sin? When we can answer that, there is hope for the world.

Without that answer, we are doomed. Even within ourselves we see the tendency to sin—to lash out, to say careless and cruel things, to only take care of ourselves. No one is perfect, and so we have no way to conquer sin.

Jesus is the solution. He came to Earth and lived a sinless, perfect life. He conquered all greed, selfishness, and hate. He showed us how to love perfectly. He showed us how to be holy like God.

And thankfully, he didn't stop at just being a perfect example. When we invite him into our lives, he changes us with his power, not ours. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can desire to do good and turn from evil. He transforms our lives now, and he promises eternal rewards.

And with him in our lives, we can change the world around us. We can truly love others. We can help the hurting. Jesus can break through the despair of shame, the suffocating anxiety, the numbness of hopelessness.

Jesus is the only true hope for our world. Without him, we are drowning in evil and the consequences of it. Only he can change us and our communities. We can bravely follow a Savior like that!

Brave

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***Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can
desire to do good and turn from evil.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Imagine a world with less evil. What are some things you would like to see gone forever? Bullying? Human trafficking? Violence? Pick a topic to pray about and ask God how he wants to use you to help.

I'd like to see a world without:

----- ■

MY PRAYER



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**

"There's more grace in
God's heart than there is sin
in your past."

—Erwin W. Lutzer,
Canadian pastor, speaker,
and author

Write Your Thoughts Here

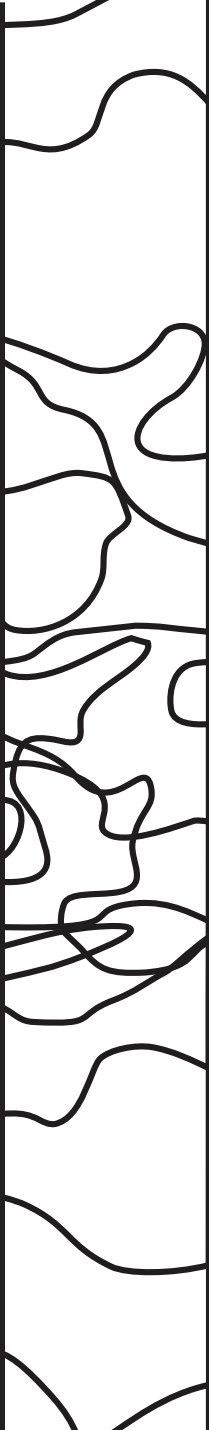
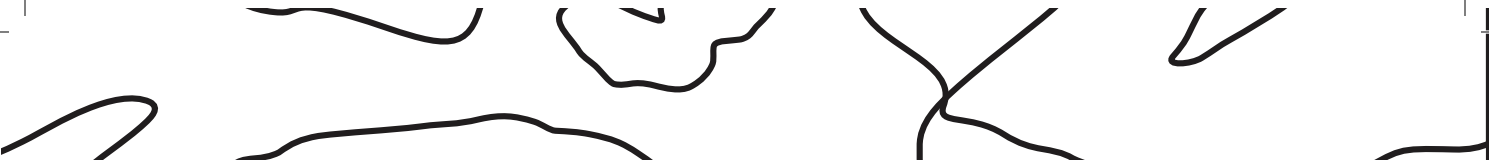


TALKING TO GOD

God, we are messed up. No one
does life right—except Jesus.
Thank you for his example,
forgiveness, and help.

Doodle Space





Week
Thirty



Rahab

WEEK THIRTY-ONE

Harlot to Heroine



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

A prostitute from an enemy country. Not the best credentials for starting a new life. But Rahab made a critical decision to jump on God's side, and it saved her.

It all happened when God was bringing his people into a land where they could live and worship him in peace. Together they would clear out their enemies as they conquered section by section. When they neared the city of Jericho, God's appointed leader, Joshua, sent spies to explore the place that God had said was so filled with sin it had to be completely destroyed.

But the spies were noticed, and the authorities came looking for them. They ducked into Rahab the harlot's home, forcing her hand. She knew an all-powerful God was with the invaders, so she risked everything and chose to trust him. She hid them, lied to her authorities, and helped them escape. Because of this, they promised she and her family would be saved.

Rahab's actions and her faith in a God she didn't know changed the course of her life. She and her family became God-followers, and she became part of the lineage of Jesus.

People are never too far gone to follow God. He pursues the furthest outcast who desires a new life in him. Sometimes, to live a godly life, we have to go against everyone around us, but faith in God and actions to serve him will be rewarded.

***God pursues the furthest outcast
who desires a new life in him.***

Brave

30

Spiritual Fitness Training

Do you feel too far gone sometimes? Do you ever feel like you're too sinful to be close to God? Tell God your desires and see how he saves you. Doodle in the space below any prayers or thoughts that come to your mind and heart as you spend quiet time with the Lord this week.

Doodle Here 

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

Joshua 6:22–23

Hebrews 11:31

Psalm 20:7–8

James 2:24–25

**Week
Thirty
One**

"The Christian does not think
God will love us because we are
good, but that God will make us
good because he loves us."

—C.S. Lewis, British author
and professor

Write Your Thoughts Here



TALKING TO GOD

God, you make brand new lives out of messed up ones. No one is too far gone. Thank you.

Paul

WEEK THIRTY-TWO

The New Standard



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

Are you embarrassed by your past or proud of it? Do you just wish you could be free of yesterday so you could live boldly today?

Paul thought he was doing everything right. He was a religious man, zealous for God. He went to the right school, was respected as a leader in the Jewish church, and followed all the rules. He even persecuted those he thought were going against God!

But then, he met Jesus. Paul realized Jesus held a different standard. Everything he had done amounted to nothing in God's eyes; he was still hopelessly unholy. His only chance was to accept Jesus's death on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for sin and be forgiven by Jesus. Jesus was the only way for Paul to be made perfect before God.

You might think, "But Paul did so much good in his life . . . doesn't that count for something?"

There are a lot of good things we can do. Go to church, volunteer, help a neighbor, serve our country, listen to our parents. But the truth is that we don't earn salvation through the good things we do. The only way to be saved is by turning over our lives to Jesus, God's one and only Son.

When you make that decision, your old life is dead and gone. Jesus comes into your heart and you begin a new life with Christ! Are you ready for that today? He is waiting for you!

We don't earn salvation through the good things we do. We are saved by faith in Jesus alone.

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

Write or draw what each of these key words in today's verse mean to you.

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

The diagram features a central text block with the verse '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.' The words 'died', 'Christ', 'lives', 'faith', 'loved', 'gave', and 'me' are circled. Arrows point from these circled words to seven thought bubbles arranged around the text. Each bubble contains three horizontal dashed lines for writing.

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

- Psalm 51:1-2
- Psalm 51:17

- Romans 6:6
- Colossians 2:20a

**Week
Thirty
Two**

"The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for his people."

—A.W. Tozer, American pastor and author in the 1950s-60s

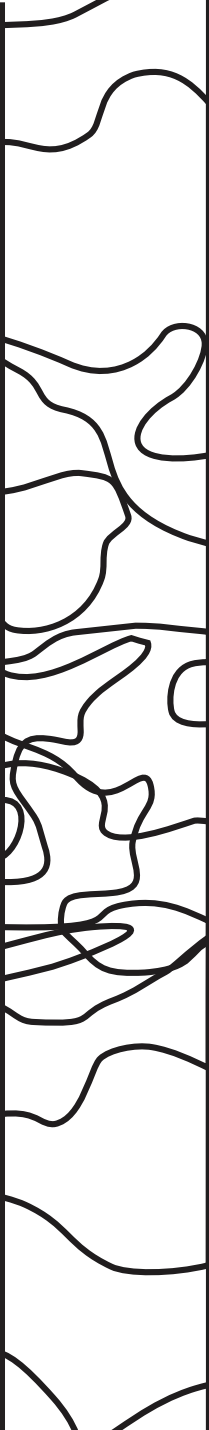
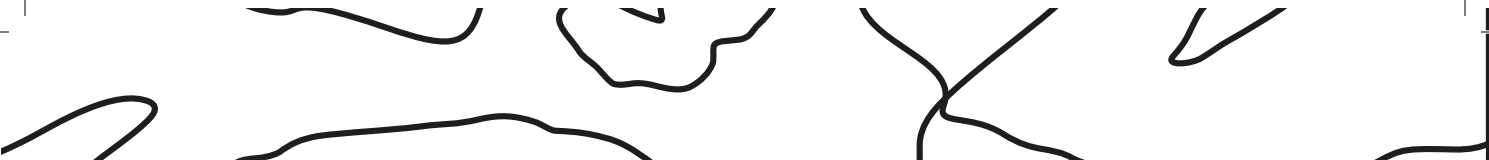
Write Your Thoughts Here



TALKING TO GOD
God, thank you for a fresh start,
a new life with Jesus. Please
take control of all I do.

Doodle Space





Week
Thirty
Two



Betty Olsen

WEEK THIRTY-THREE

Stop the Broken Record



*...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

Got a stubborn streak? Hot temper? Some other undesired trait that you just can't quit?

That was Betty Olsen's problem for much of her youth. Life had thrown her some challenges including her mother dying, leaving her angry and resentful. She needed a total change to stop the broken record of lashing out; she needed to find a new song to sing.

A pastor helped her begin to work through her issues. Through hours of prayer and Bible reading, Betty began to unpack that hurt and let go of what she felt was her right to be angry. She gave the Lord control, and he changed her!

Betty was sent to work at a Vietnamese hospital during the war. Sadly, she was captured by the enemy's army. While suffering brutal treatment, she was still kind to her captors. Other missionaries credited her courage and strength as the sole reason they were kept alive.

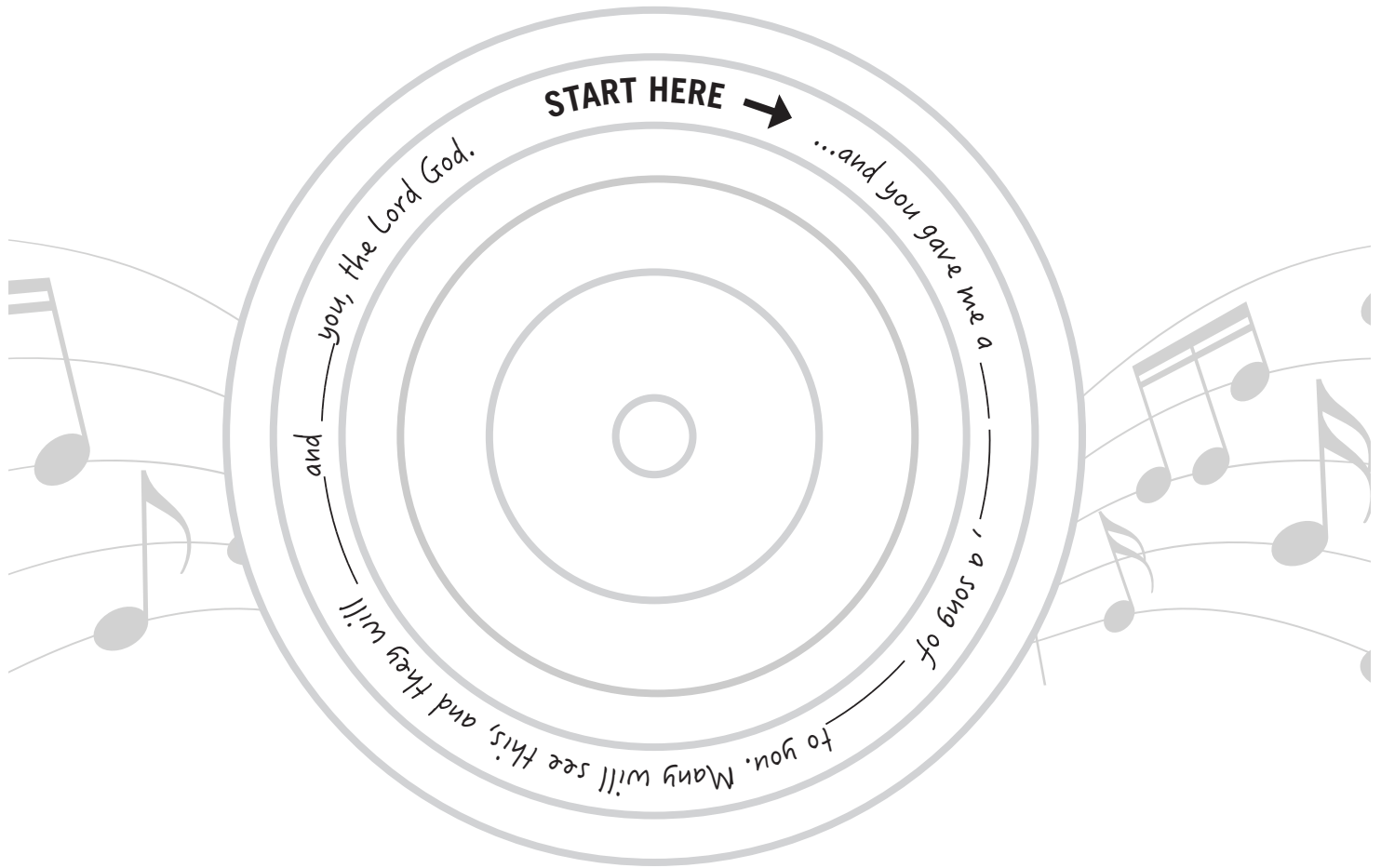
Like Betty, when you give God control of your life, he can change the ugly, angry, sinful part of you. In this week's verse, David sang a literal song to God. We're not sure if Betty sang out loud to God, but her new song shone through her Christ-like attitude. God can give you a new song, too. Just ask him!

Brave

***When you give God control, he can change your heart
and give you a new song to sing!***

Spiritual Fitness Training

What *old* song are you stuck on? What attitude keeps tripping you up? Pray about it while you copy today's verse onto the record below.



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**

"Most of the people I have told about going to Vietnam are greatly concerned, and I appreciate this; however, I am not concerned, and I am very much at peace. I know that I may never come back, but I know that I am in the center of the Lord's will and Vietnam is the place for me."

—Betty Olsen, missionary to Vietnam during the Vietnam War

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

Missionaries continue to go to war-torn countries around the world such as Ukraine, Iraq, and Sudan to preach the Gospel and help meet people's physical needs. Take a moment this week to pray for them!

Jesus

WEEK THIRTY-FOUR

The God Who Died



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

A father sacrifices his perfect son so that his other kids don't have to suffer the punishment for what they did wrong? That might seem messed up.

But that's not the full story.

Jesus tried several times to explain to his disciples what would soon happen to him. In John 10, he compares himself to a good shepherd who loves and cares for the sheep.

Jesus was not just a good man who was willing to do the right thing for the sake of others. No, Jesus and God are one—the same person. And Jesus volunteered. He decided to die for us even before he was sent to Earth.

Jesus chose to take on all the punishment for our thoughtless and rebellious sin. He put the guilt, the shame, the ugliness on himself. He died the awful death we deserved.

Why would he do such a thing? Because of a love for us that is so great, so deep, so full, so perfect. So, when we think of his death on the cross, remember it's not just a death or a tragic loss. Rather, we're watching God, as a human being, step forward to sacrifice himself and then have the power to come back from the grave. And that makes all the difference.

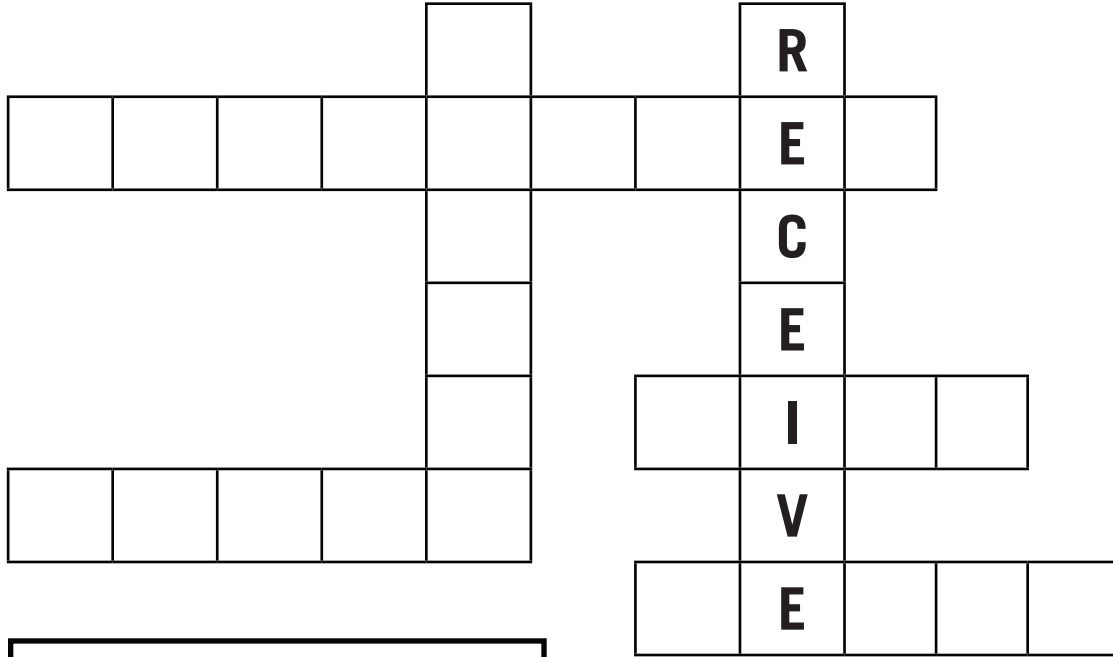
***Jesus chose to take on the punishment for
all our thoughtless and rebellious sin.***

Brave

44

Spiritual Fitness Training

Find the key words from this week's verse that fit into the puzzle below.



- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| JESUS | POWER |
| COMMANDED | RECEIVE |
| FATHER | LIFE |

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 53:4–6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 26:53–54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 53:11–12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 2:6–8 |

**Week
Thirty
Four**

"The Gospel is that Jesus
Christ came to Earth, lived
the life we should have lived
and died the death we should
have died."

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

Write Your Thoughts Here

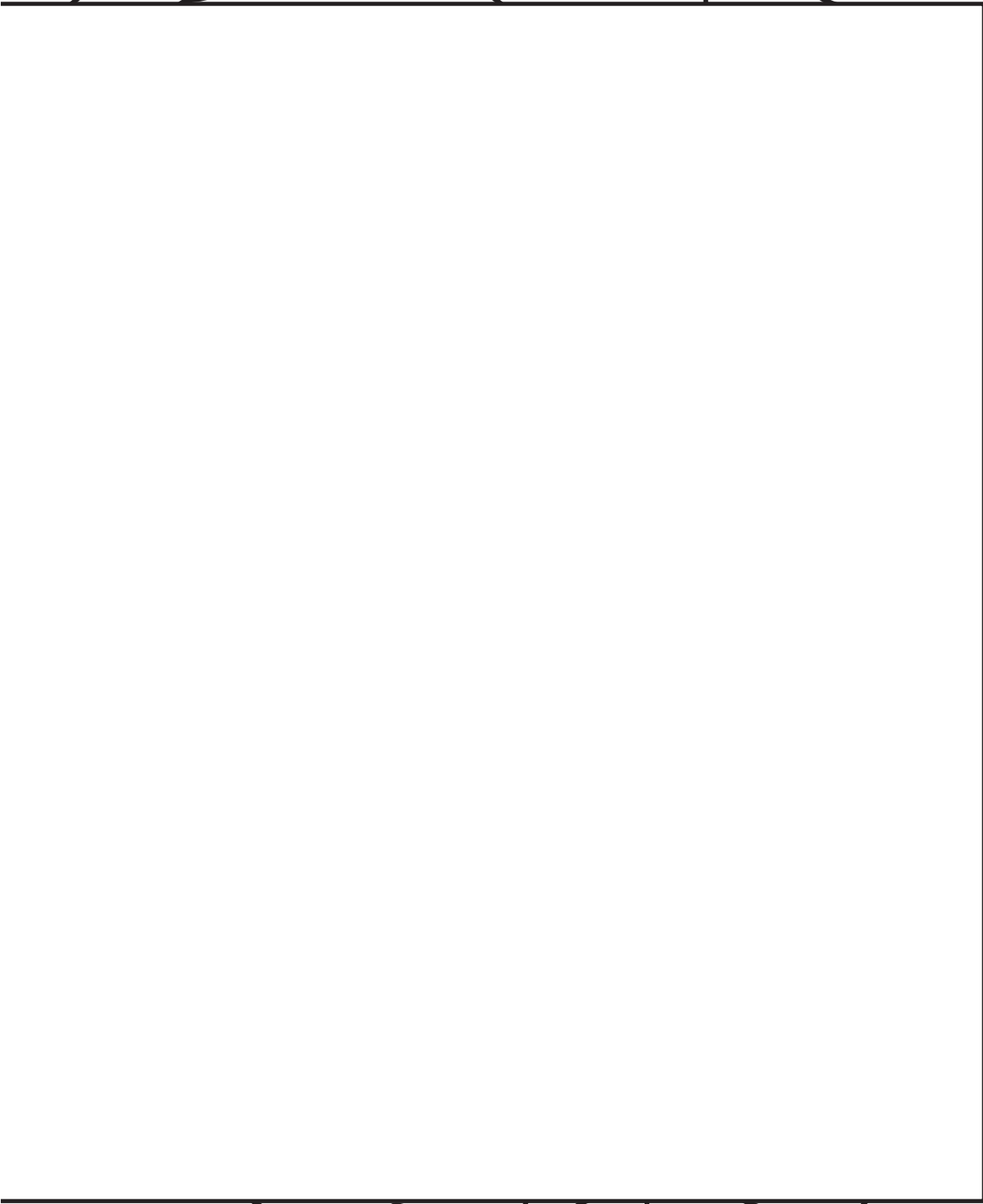
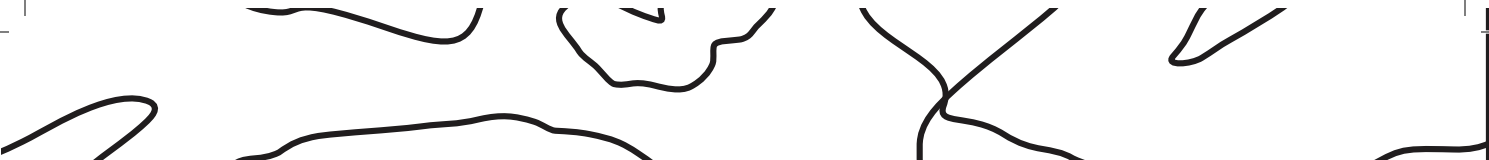


TALKING TO GOD

Jesus, thank you for volunteering
to die for me, for taking the
punishment I deserved. Help me
to live for you.

Doodle Space





Week
Thirty
Four



Jonah

WEEK THIRTY-FIVE

Concerned with Repentance



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

When pop culture portrays God, we often see two stereotypes: a harsh, angry God that can never be satisfied, or a soft, loving one who forgives everything.

Who is the real God?

In the book of Jonah, we get a clearer picture. God speaks to Jonah, a prophet in Israel living among God's chosen people, and tells him to give the people of Nineveh a message. But Jonah disobeyed. The problem in Jonah's eyes was that they were Israel's enemies—wicked people whom Jonah would rather see punished for their many sins.

Jonah tries to run away from the task, but God convinces him to do it. (Think boat in a big storm, Jonah tossed overboard, swallowed by a huge fish.) Jonah obediently preaches about God's coming wrath. The people of Nineveh repent and God forgives. But then, rather than rejoicing over God's grace, Jonah gets angry.

We're left with God's haunting question to Jonah, "Don't you think I should be concerned about them?" It hangs there still for us to consider.

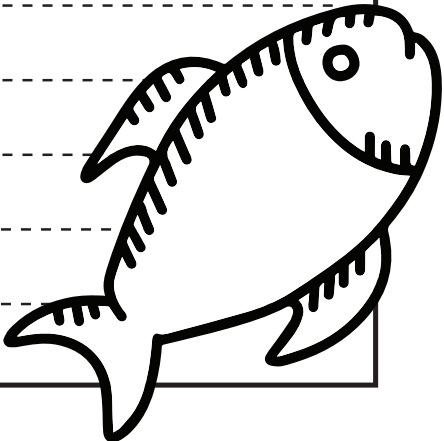
So, we see here a very involved God: one who sees the sins of many, and the heart of one. We see a just God who will not let evil continue forever. He wants everyone to repent. And we see a compassionate God who sends a storm, a big fish, and a preacher to save a city and to pursue the stubborn, unrepentant heart.

Brave

Jonah shows a compassionate God who sends a storm, a big fish, and a preacher to save a city.

Spiritual Fitness Training

Although the book of Jonah deals with serious themes, it's written in a humorous way, dripping with irony. Try reading it aloud this week! Jot down what stands out to you.



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

- Exodus 34:6-7
- Psalm 145:8-9
- Luke 6:36
- Ephesians 2:4-5

"To be a Christian means
to forgive the inexcusable,
because God has forgiven the
inexcusable in you."

—C.S. Lewis, British professor in
the mid-1900s and author of the
Narnia series

Write Your Thoughts Here



TALKING TO GOD
God, you are so patient and
forgiving. Thank you for
pursuing the rebellious heart,
including mine.

Woman at the Well

WEEK THIRTY-SIX

Forgiveness in a Cancel Culture



"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

She was cut off. Alone. She'd only go out to the community water well when no one else would be there. She had made bad choices in her life, and they shunned her for it.

Been there? Have you been or felt "cancelled" by people because of something you did? We all need mercy sometimes. Gut-wrenching forgiveness. And we often forget others need it, too.

In this Bible story, Jesus chose the right time to be at the well so he could talk to this woman. She started arguing with him immediately, wondering why he would even bother. But he patiently broke down all her walls. And he offered her a new life.

In this new life, he could forgive her. His granting of grace could make her innocent before God so she could live eternally with him. It could also give her life back in the here and now. Encountering Jesus and his love could free her from isolation and release her from the grip of sin. She could have hope for a better future—eternal life with God. And she shared the chance for a new life with others. Many of the people who heard her testimony believed in Jesus.

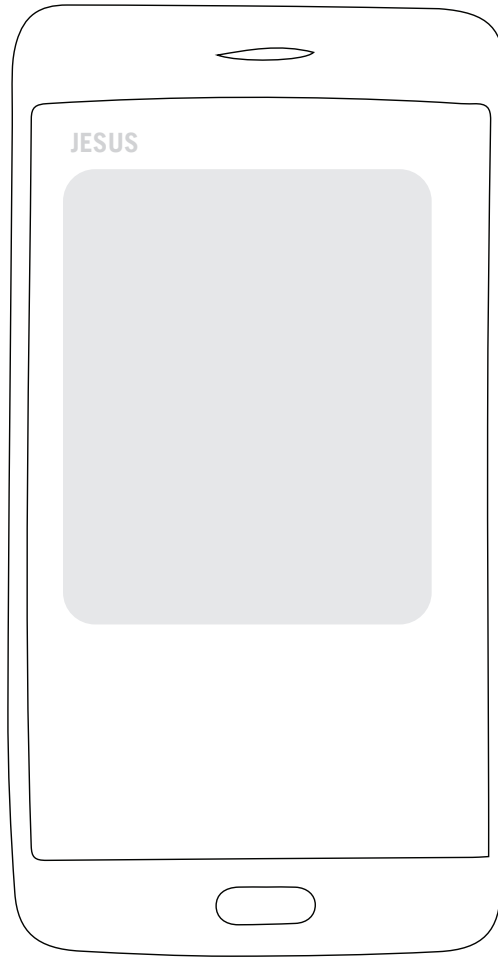
That's the forgiveness we desperately need. People might cancel us. But Jesus offers life to all who truly repent. He can give eternal life, and he can turn things around for us today.

People might cancel us. But Jesus offers life to all who truly repent.

Spiritual Fitness Training

In what ways do your peers judge each other? Is it fair? How can Jesus's perspective change the cancel culture? Look back through your social media feed to find judgmental statements. Make up a comment that Jesus might reply.

Write the
reply here!



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

"When I was young, I was sure of many things; now there are only two things of which I am sure: one is that I am a miserable sinner; and the other, that Christ is an all-sufficient Savior. He is well-taught who learns these two lessons."

—John Newton, English slave trader who became an abolitionist and a pastor in the 1700s, writer of the hymn "Amazing Grace"

Write Your Thoughts Here

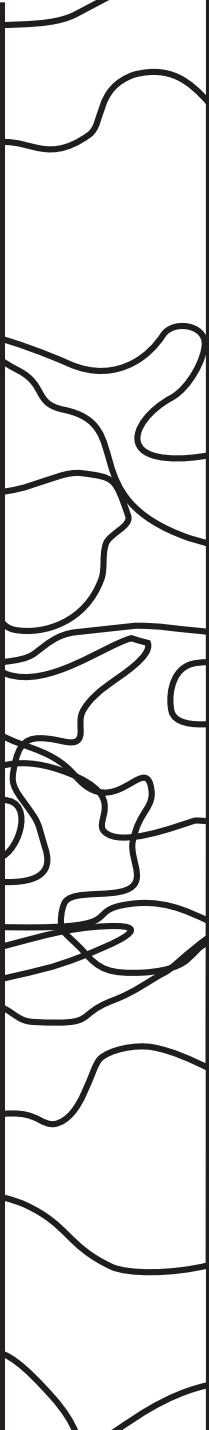
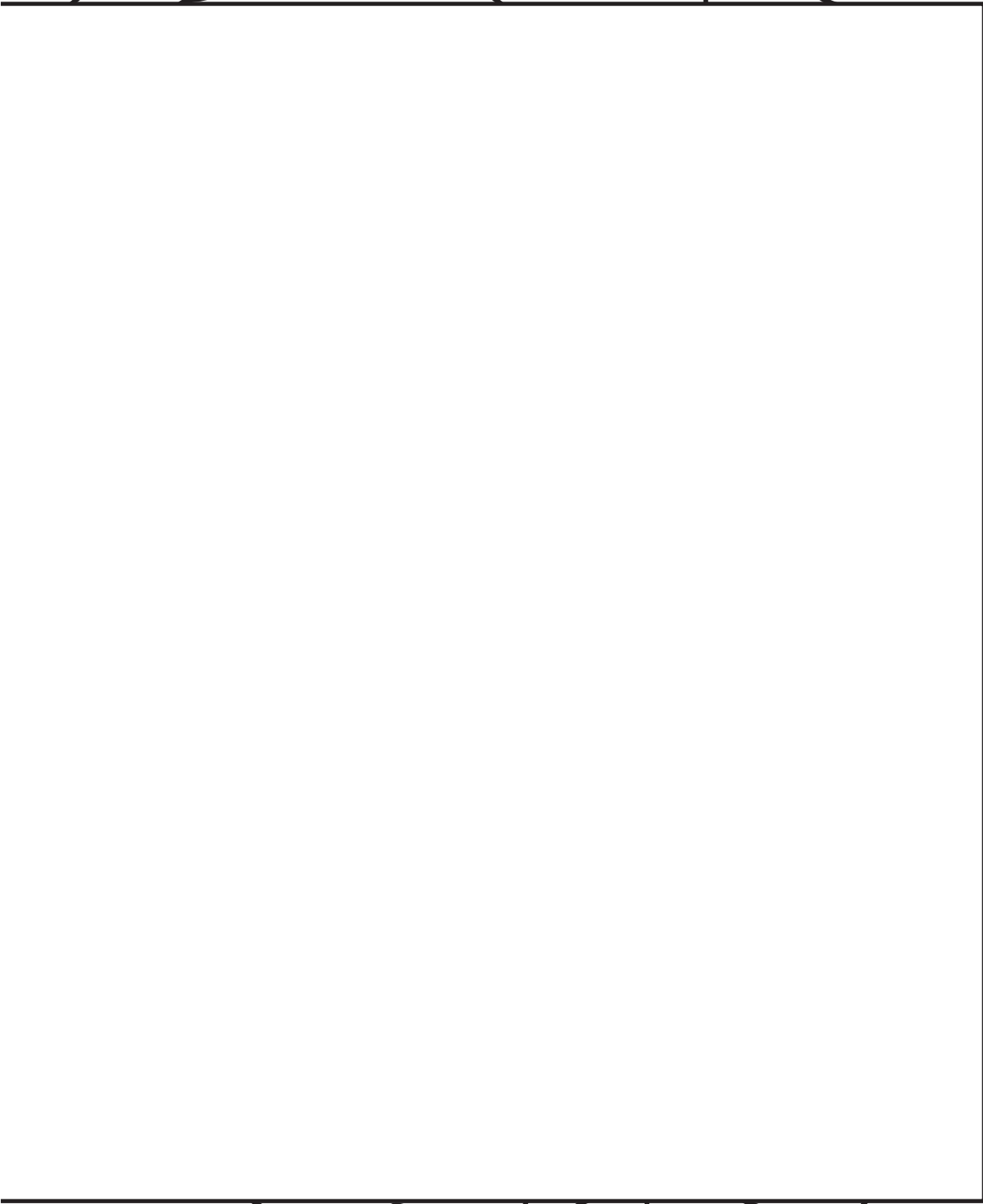
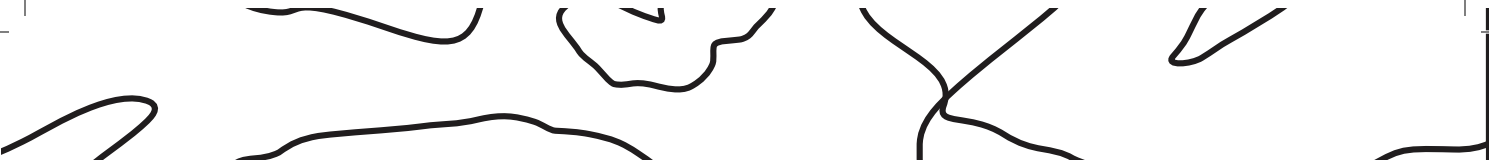


DID YOU KNOW?

When you post something on social media, you may get a little chemical shot of adrenaline in your body. And if people don't respond enough, your body may feel a chemical depressant.

Doodle Space





Week
Thirty
Six



Cain

WEEK THIRTY-SEVEN

Hope Over Evil



"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

Jealousy, anger, rage, murder—it all started in the very first generation, brother on brother, and continues today. We get angry. We fight. We kill. And the world cries for justice.

God will answer. He will not let evil go unpunished. Someday, his justice will right all wrongs. And yet, he is also merciful. We know this because of the story of the first murder. Adam and Eve's son, Cain, got mad at his brother, Abel, and killed him. When God spoke with him, Cain remained unrepentant. So why are we studying Cain this week? Seems like he's not a brave warrior that we should emulate. In God's Word, there are some stories that teach us what to do... and some that teach us what *not* to do.

God punished Cain by sending him away from his homeland. Cain felt this punishment was too hard. The murderer feared someone would murder him. So even in bringing justice, God showed mercy. He placed a mark on Cain so no one would kill him.

With so much evil in this world, it can seem hopeless, unless we look to the God who made us. We must allow him to take revenge, trust him to carry out justice one day, and thank him for his compassion in saving us from the punishment we deserve. Then we find hope.

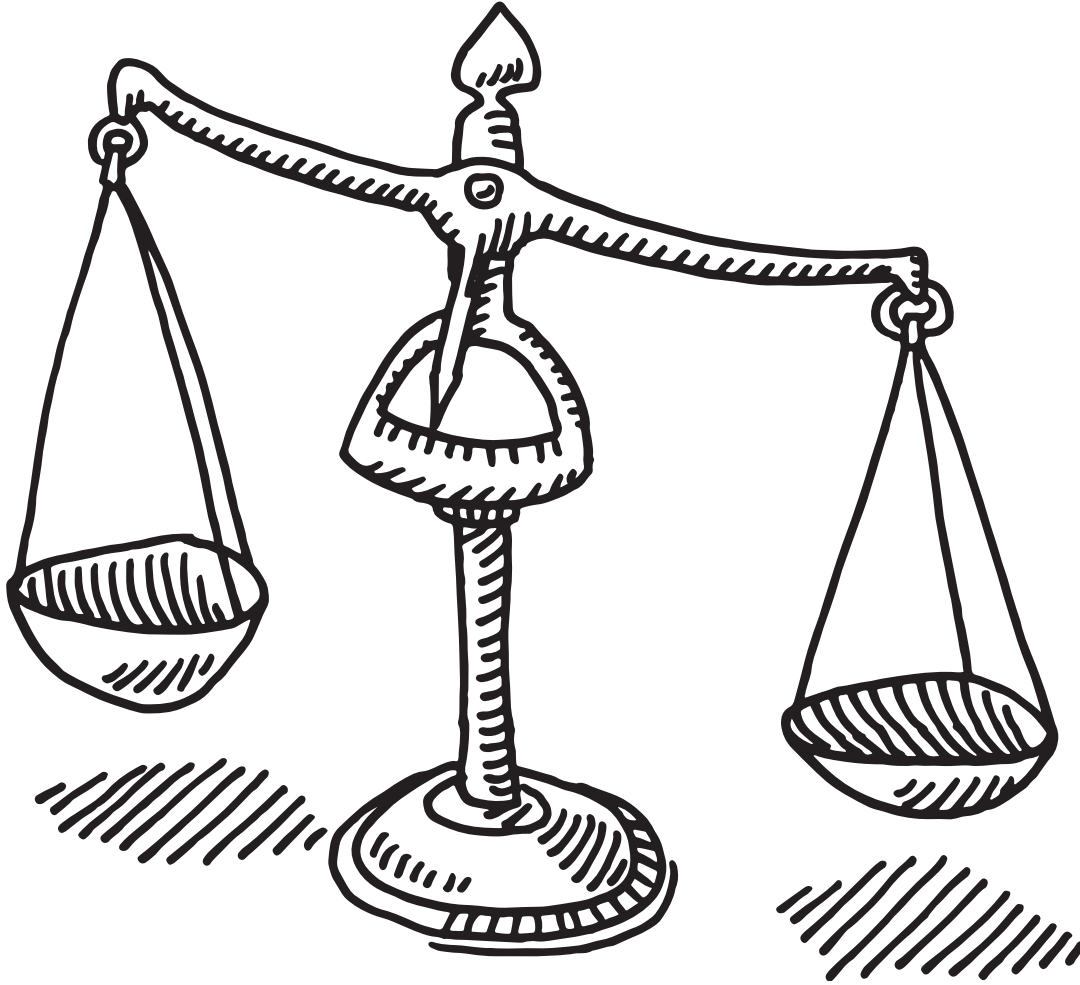
Brave

60

Trust God to carry out justice. Thank him for his mercy. Then you find hope.

Spiritual Fitness Training

God stands for justice. If you find that hard to believe, check out Exodus 14:26-28; 1 Kings 18:40; Esther 7:9-10; Acts 12:21-24. Highlight or circle what comforts you in each verse. (Yes, we can do that in our Bibles!)



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

Psalm 79:10

Romans 12:19

Jeremiah 7:13-15

Revelation 11:17-18

Week
Thirty
Seven

"If you take care of yourself and walk with integrity, you may be confident that God will deal with those who sin against you. Above all, don't give birth to sin yourself; rather, pray for those who persecute you. God will one day turn your persecution into praise."

— Warren Wiersbe, American pastor, Bible teacher, and author

Write Your Thoughts Here



TALKING TO GOD

God, I pray for all the hurting people. May they trust you for justice. Help us to love each other.

Jesus & Peter

WEEK THIRTY-EIGHT

The Unsettled Soul



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

As a Military kid, it's easy to feel kind of . . . homeless. When you move a lot, you may not really connect to any one place. You may miss things from places you've lived before. So, feeling at home might be less about being somewhere, and more about being with people who love and understand you.

Our souls find their home in God. When we wander away from God through rebellion or even apathy, our souls are lost and unsettled, whether we feel it or not. We were made to be at peace with God, loving him and being loved by him.

Peter understood this. When he was with Jesus, he was convinced Jesus was showing him the way to have friendship with God and have eternal life. When Peter messed up, in fear or in prideful rebellion, he was hopelessly homeless. Still, Jesus helped Peter find his way back to the safety of friendship with God. He offered Peter forgiveness.

Peter went on to write letters to God's people, including this week's reading, showing us how Jesus made a way for our souls to come home so we can be with God eternally.

Find your home in Jesus today. His forgiveness and friendship are there waiting. He loves you so much!

The important thing is for your soul to find its home in the arms of God.

Spiritual Fitness Training

What makes a place feel like home? What places have elements of home for you? Thank God for the experiences you've had, and that being home with him is possible because of what Jesus has done.

Favorite local restaurant:

Favorite park:

Favorite thing to do:

Favorite place to shop:

First school:

Favorite scenery:

Favorite plant:

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**

"Again, one of the qualities that makes the gospel so real and so great is that it doesn't eliminate our past but just so thoroughly deals with it. God forgives it. He changes it. He transforms all that mess into this huge mountain of grace that only takes us higher and closer to him."

—Priscilla Shirer, author, motivational speaker, and evangelist from Texas

Write Your Thoughts Here

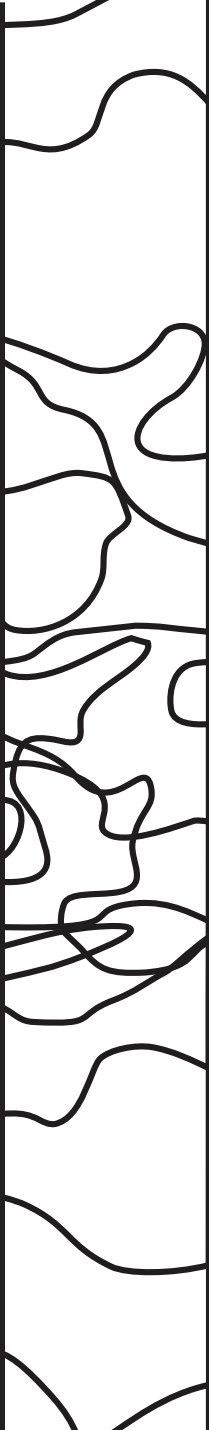
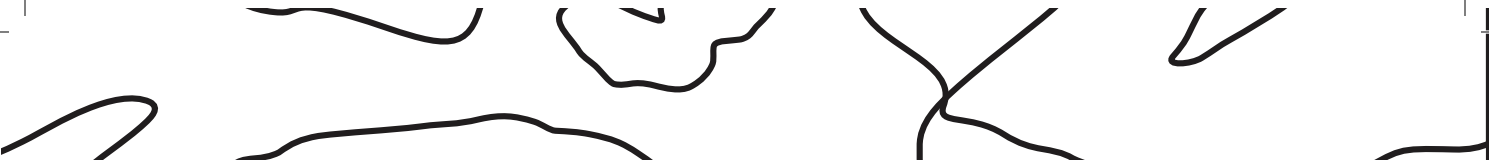


DID YOU KNOW?

A Colorado cat went missing for five years. Shockingly, she was found in New York City. Thanks to her microchip, authorities were able to find her family and return her.

Doodle Space





Week
Thirty
Eight



Gideon

WEEK THIRTY-NINE

Coward to Conqueror



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

Judges 6:12

We tend to think heroes are always brave or that somehow they were born with uncommon strength. And we feel like we are not equipped with that strength.

Gideon knew he was no hero. He was a coward in a weak country. He was trying to hide his food supplies from the enemies who were obliterating his country when an angel came to him. "The Lord is helping you, and you are a strong warrior," the angel said. Gideon's first reaction was to argue about both parts of the statement. He did not think the Lord was with him or his people. And he did not see himself as a mighty warrior.

When Gideon finally believed that the Lord was with him, he gave God control of his life. He chose obedience. In time, God used him to lead a small army into battle. They defeated their enemies because they had the Lord on their side.

As a Military kid, and as a teenager these days, you are called to be brave in many ways. You may not feel like you have enough strength. You may be overwhelmed by the hardships of your circumstances or the attacks of the world.

But God is with you. If you give him control of your life, he can give you courage to fight, from coward to conqueror. With God behind you, you got this!

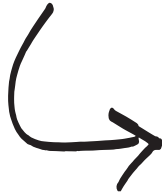
Brave

God can turn you from coward to conqueror!

Spiritual Fitness Training

Are there areas in your life where you are hiding? Do you wish you could be braver sometimes? Ask God to help you stand up for what is right. In the space below, write out a prayer to God. Tell him what you're feeling now. Ask him for a task you can do today!

Write your
prayer here!



Dear God,

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

"Today is what the Lord
has prepared you for."

—Mark Dever, contemporary
American pastor and author from
Washington, D.C.

Write Your Thoughts Here



Dashed lines for writing.

TALKING TO GOD
God, sometimes I have trouble believing you are here and that I can do this. Please help me obey you and become a conqueror!

Handwriting practice area consisting of 12 horizontal dashed lines for tracing or writing.

Brave

**Journal
Notes**

Brave

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?

Brave

**Journal
Notes**

Keep It Going! ↘

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

(It's coming soon!)

