

BRAVE

WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS

Learning to be Fearless through God's Word

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING

**★HERO
SQUAD**
JV EDITION

Brave, Boys JV Squad Edition, Winter Issue

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WRITE YOUR NAME ON THIS LINE:

WRITE THE NICKNAME YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY CALL YOU:

WHY IS BEING BRAVE IMPORTANT?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WINTER 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!

Jacob

WEEK FORTY

Wrestle Mania with God



The man said, "From now on, your name will no longer be Jacob. You will be called Israel, because you have wrestled with God and with men, and you have won."

Genesis 32:28

Maybe your parents have strong faith in God. Your siblings never seem to be afraid. Your friends don't doubt God. But you . . . wrestle. Is God really there? Does he really care about you? Can he really help in tough times?

We all must wrestle with our beliefs. We have doubts or fears to think through. We have to decide what we believe in our own hearts. The good news is, God understands and helps us through.

Jacob had his own struggle. The Lord told him to move back to his homeland. He started to obey, but he became afraid because his vengeful brother Esau was coming to meet him with an army of 400 men. Years before, the brothers had not parted on good terms, and Jacob thought Esau probably wanted to kill him. Jacob sent several gifts on ahead with his servants to try to make peace with Esau. Then he took his family to safety and left them there, choosing to wait through the night alone.

A man came and wrestled with Jacob until just before daylight. Jacob believed it was God appearing like a man. Jacob held on to the man until he blessed him. Jacob's name was changed to "Israel," which means, "a man who wrestles with God." The next day, Jacob met Esau, and everything worked out between them. God had protected him, as promised.

Jacob became the father of a nation of people. He worked through his doubts and fears about God, and he came out blessed. We can, too.

Jacob worked through his doubts and fears about God and received a blessing.

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

Think of someone you know who believes and trusts God. Ask them if they've ever doubted or been afraid that God wouldn't help them and how they got through their doubt. How can their experience help you trust God? Journal through their response in the space below.



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

Job 42:1-3

Matthew 7:7-8

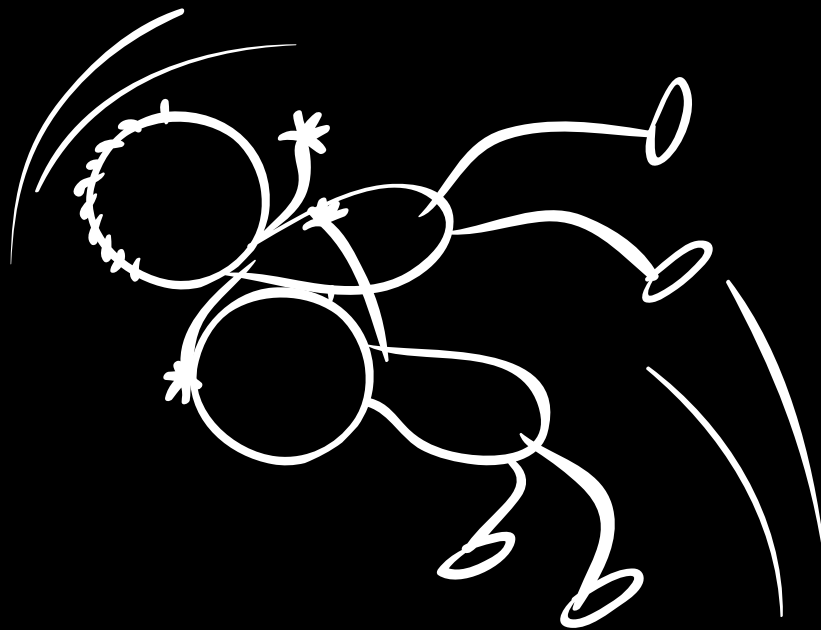
Job 42:5

Romans 8:38-39

**Week
Forty**

Mind Blower

The longest Olympic wrestling match was in 1912 between a man from Estonia and a man from Finland. It lasted over 17 hours!



Write Your Thoughts Here



A series of ten horizontal dashed lines intended for writing thoughts.

**God, please help me wrestle through my doubts
and come out believing and trusting you.**

The Woman Who Loved Jesus

WEEK FORTY-ONE

Tale of Two People



“So I tell you that all her sins are forgiven, and that is why she has shown great love. But anyone who has been forgiven for only a little will show only a little love.”

Luke 7:47

Two people interacted with Jesus: one was hosting the big dinner party, the other came without an invitation. One was known as an honorable man, the other as a sinful woman. One gave Jesus just enough, the other risked embarrassment and rejection to give the best gift she could to him. One barely cared about Jesus, the other loved him so much she gave everything.

This describes a real story from history. Jesus was at a dinner party when the woman, who had a dark and shameful past, came in, uninvited. She went to Jesus crying, washing his feet with her tears and drying them with her hair. Then she broke open a jar of perfume and poured it on his feet. It was expensive—like all your parents’ savings for a year. She could have sold the perfume for a lot of money to be used for emergencies. But she loved Jesus so much she bravely gave her all to him.

Why did she love him? Jesus said it was because she knew she had been forgiven for so much. She understood she desperately needed him but had little to offer him. She saw how much he loved her and couldn’t help but love him back.

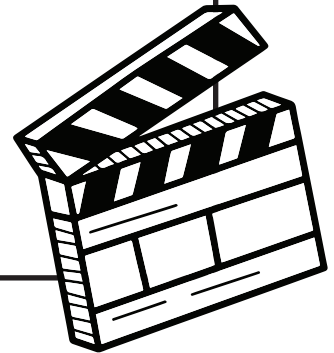
When you think of Jesus’s great love for you, do you feel overwhelmed like this woman did? He loves you so much! How can you thank him today?

When we realize how much Jesus loves us, we love him more than before.

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

There is a villain in every fairytale. In the end, good triumphs evil, and we usually see the villain fall from power. Choose your favorite fairytale and make up a new ending where the villain is forgiven. (Ursula would have a LOT of love to show if she were forgiven!) Write or draw the new ending in this storyboard!



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

Psalm 116:1

Philippians 1:9

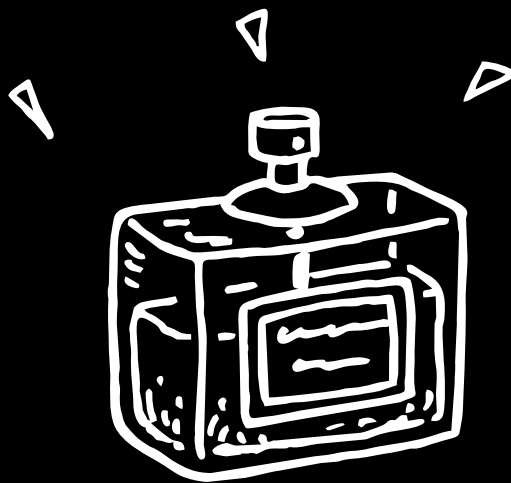
Psalm 130:3-4

1 John 4:19

**Week
Forty
One**

Mind Blower

Perfume has been used for thousands of years. Early perfume was made with things like pine resin (sap), cinnamon and other spices, and oil from dates.



Write Your Thoughts Here

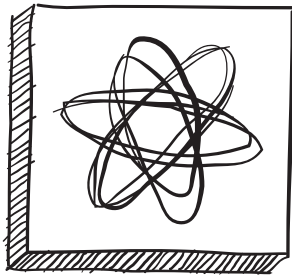
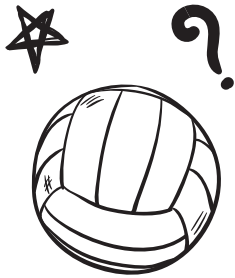


Thank you, Jesus, for loving and forgiving me. Help me to love you more!

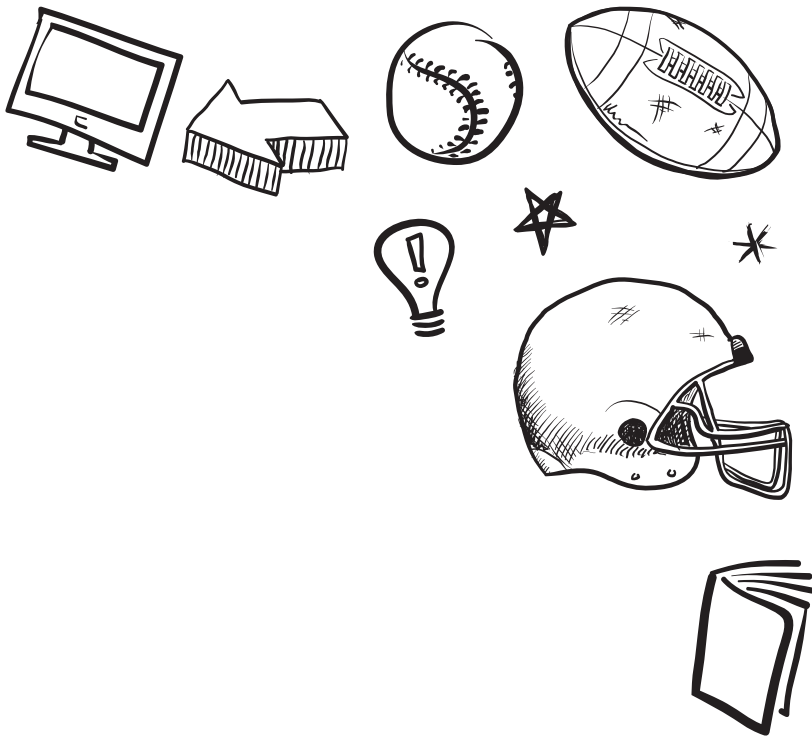
Doodle Space



*It's good to remember
that God forgives us.
Write a letter to God
thanking him for his
forgiveness to you.*



Brave



Jesus

WEEK FORTY-TWO

First, Love Jesus



"If you try to save your life, you will lose it. But if you give it up for me, you will surely find it."

Matthew 10:39

I'll give my life to Jesus . . . after I do all the things I want.
I'll get the stuff I like first . . . and then I'll help others.
I'll go to church . . . after I play with my friends.

Many people think this way. They believe being a Christ-follower means no fun, no nice things, no easy life. And truthfully, it is not easy to be a Christian. Jesus said we must be willing to give up our life—to love him more than anything and to follow him. But there's great reward in following Jesus—salvation and eternal life!

Jesus had given up his life in Heaven with all the glory, power, and beauty. He bravely came to Earth to serve us. He knew what it meant to give up everything to obey God. And as he sent out his disciples to preach about him, with no money, destination, or promise of success, he asked them to be willing to give up everything and obey him.

When Jesus did the ultimate loving thing of dying a painful death to pay for our sins, God brought him back to life and saved us through him.

And he wants us to trust him with our lives, too. The path might not look like what we want. But the reward is better than anything we could imagine.

***Jesus bravely came to Earth
to serve and save others.***

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

Circle the words from today's Scripture verse as you think about Jesus's great love for you.

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

TRY
SAVE
LIFE
LOSE
GIVE
FIND

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

- Isaiah 53:5
- Isaiah 53:12

- Romans 6:13
- 1 John 3:16

Week
Forty
Two

"Let God have your life. He can do more with it than you can."

—Dwight L. Moody, American pastor and evangelist in the late 1800s



Write Your Thoughts Here



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

Jesus, thank you for living on Earth and dying for me. Help me give my life to you.

**Week
Forty
Two**

Amy Carmichael

WEEK FORTY THREE

More than Enough



I was a nobody, but I prayed, and the Lord saved me from all my troubles.

Psalm 34:6

Preena needed help. Amy Carmichael also needed help.

It was 1901 in India. Amy had come to the country from Ireland to tell people about Jesus's love. Now, a little girl named Preena stood before her, desperate to escape from people who wanted her as a slave.

If Amy kept her, they would need protection from those wicked people—not to mention food, clothing, a home, and so much more!

At that time, as a single woman from another country, Amy didn't have much power or money. Preena had nothing. But with the Lord, these two nobodies had more than enough!

Amy was willing to do whatever God said. In the face of great danger from awful enemies, Amy rescued Preena and then hundreds more children, too. She even used coffee to stain her skin so she could blend in and go places to save more kids. The Lord kept them safe and supplied everything they needed.

Amy was brave because she knew a powerful, loving God was helping her. She was absolutely confident her God cared for these little children. She watched him help them again and again.

Maybe you feel powerless to help the nobodies in your world. Ask God to show you what you can do, and watch for great things.

Amy was brave because a powerful, loving God helped. With him, you can help others!

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

Fill in the blanks below in this week's key verse and then color in the letters to help you commit the verse to memory. As you do, ask God to show you a tangible way that you can help a nobody this week. After all, in God's eyes, they are certainly not a nobody, but they are somebody very important and loved!

I WAS A NO-_____,
BUT I ____-ED AND
THE _____-D
ME FROM ALL MY
TROUBLES.

-PSALM 34:6

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

Psalm 28:8

2 Corinthians 9:8

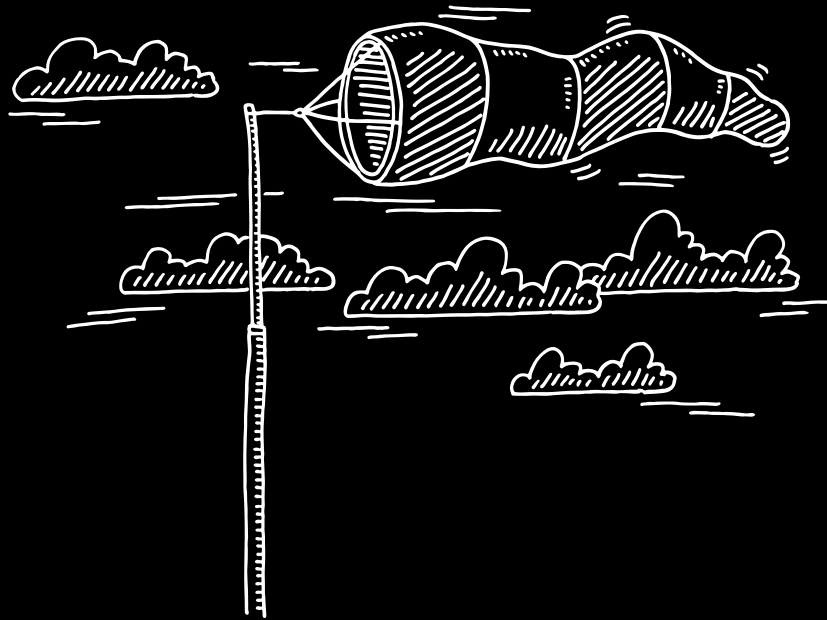
Psalm 33:17-18

Philippians 4:19

**Week
Forty
Three**

"Let us not be weaklings,
yielding to every wind that
blows, but strong in spirit
to resist."

—Amy Carmichael, Irish missionary
to India in the early 1900s



Write Your Thoughts Here



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

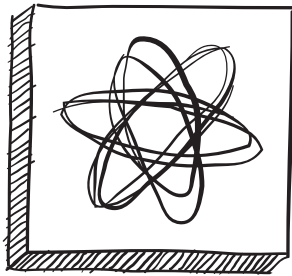
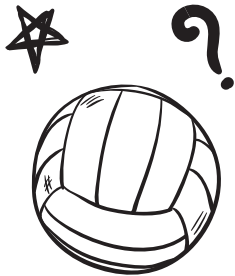
God, help me do big and small things to help others. You care for the nobodies!

**Week
Forty
Three**

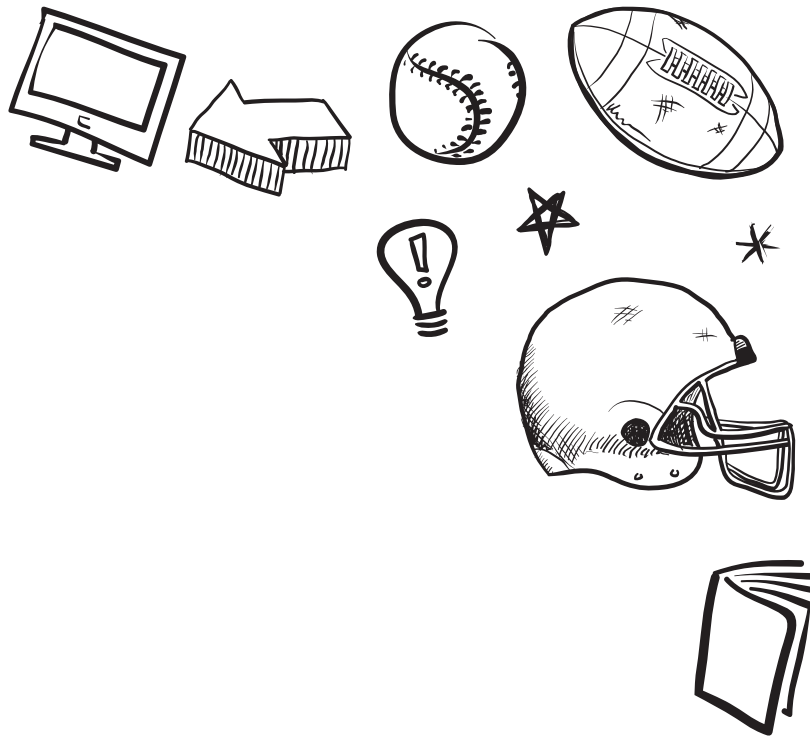
Doodle Space



Draw a picture of something that makes you feel brave. As you do, pray that God will help you to do brave things for him!



Brave



John

WEEK FORTY-FOUR

Getting the Good News Out



I am John, a follower together with all of you. We suffer because Jesus is our king, but he gives us the strength to endure. I was sent to Patmos Island, because I had preached God's message and had told about Jesus.

Revelation 1:9

What do you think Heaven is like? A flower garden? A family reunion? A jeweled castle? One man in the Bible named John got to see a glimpse of heaven's beauty—a throne, gold crowns, fantastic beings! God allowed him to have this amazing vision. When he did, he wrote all about it.

The problem was, when he wrote about this amazing place, he was on an island. He was there as punishment because he wouldn't stop telling people about Jesus. The authorities banished him to this abandoned island.

But that didn't stop God. Or John. While alone on this island, by the Spirit, John saw incredible things. God gave him messages for the churches, glimpses into the future, and instructions for generations of people to come. He did this so that Christ-followers can be encouraged and boldly follow Jesus. Millions have been encouraged by these words from God and have lived courageously for Jesus because of them. Banishing God's preacher did not stop the spread of God's Word!

You may not be exiled to an island, but your life may still be hard at times. Even in those moments, you can find ways to serve God like John did. Ask God to help you!

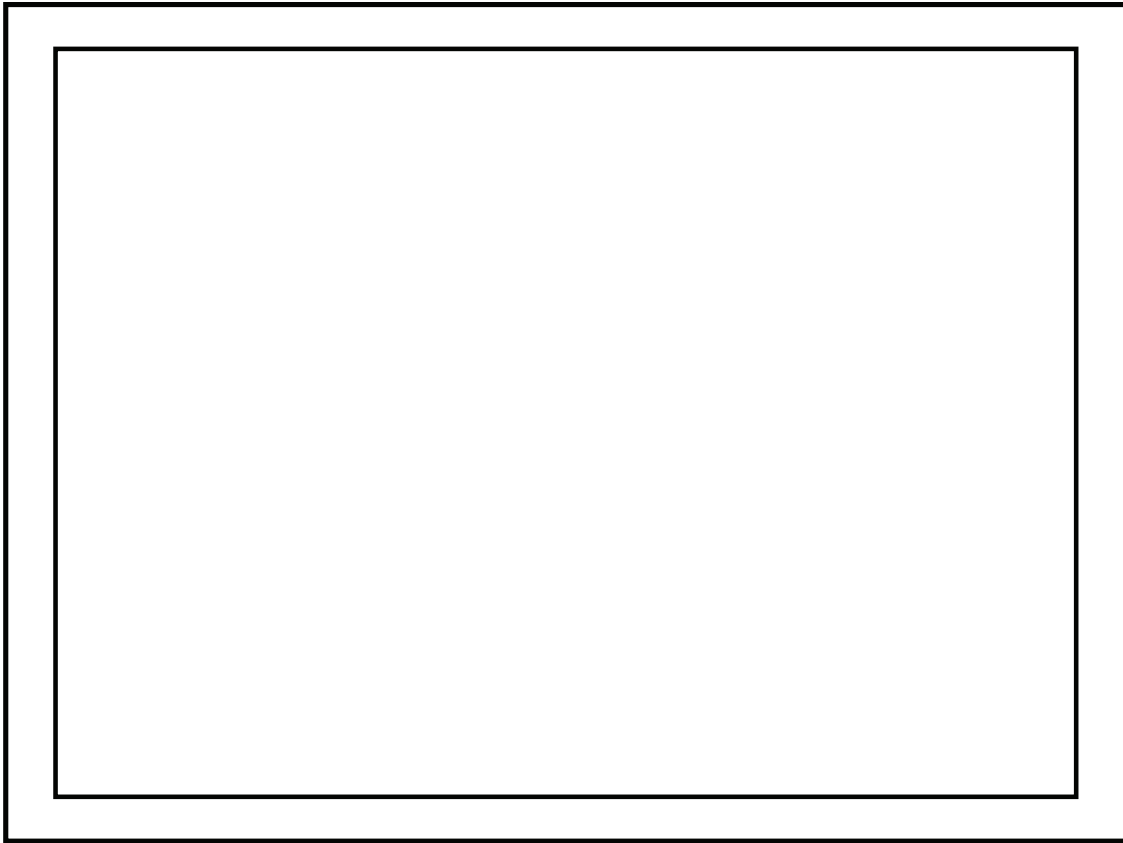
***You can't stop God from reaching his people.
And he wants to use you to do it!***

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

Check out the following verses to see what John saw in Heaven. Draw what you think one of them might look like in the space below.

**Revelation 1:12-16; Revelation 4:2-6;
Revelation 5:11-12; Revelation 7:9-10**



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

Psalm 33:13-14

Revelation 1:2

Isaiah 66:1

Revelation 1:10-11

**Week
Forty
Four**

Mind Blower

There are several stories from people who claim to have died and came back to life, including Colton Burpo who told a very detailed account of Heaven at the age of 3. His story was made into a book and movie called *Heaven Is For Real*.



Write Your Thoughts Here



**God, nothing can stop your good plan.
Use me to do your work!**

Caleb

WEEK FORTY-FIVE

How to Stare Down Giants



But my servant Caleb isn't like the others. So because he has faith in me, I will allow him to cross into Canaan, and his descendants will settle there.

Numbers 14:24

What giants are you staring down today? A math test? Trying out for the track team? Getting through another day with your parent away?

Caleb had stared down some giants. As a young man, he was one of twelve men Moses, Israel's leader, had sent to spy on the land God was going to give his people.

You wouldn't believe what they saw! There were (literal) giants inhabiting the land! When some of the leaders fearfully reported back to their people, the Israelites were terrified. But Caleb stood firm in his faith in God's promise, and encouraged his people that God is bigger than any giant.

The people were angry, and they wanted to kill their leaders. Then God stepped in and prevented it. God was not pleased, so he let them wander in the wilderness for years until all the adults died and the children grew up. Caleb and Joshua were the only older men remaining when God finally allowed them to go into the promised land.

Caleb was 85 when he went back into that place, but he was as strong as ever. He led warriors into battle and won the land that he knew God had given him.

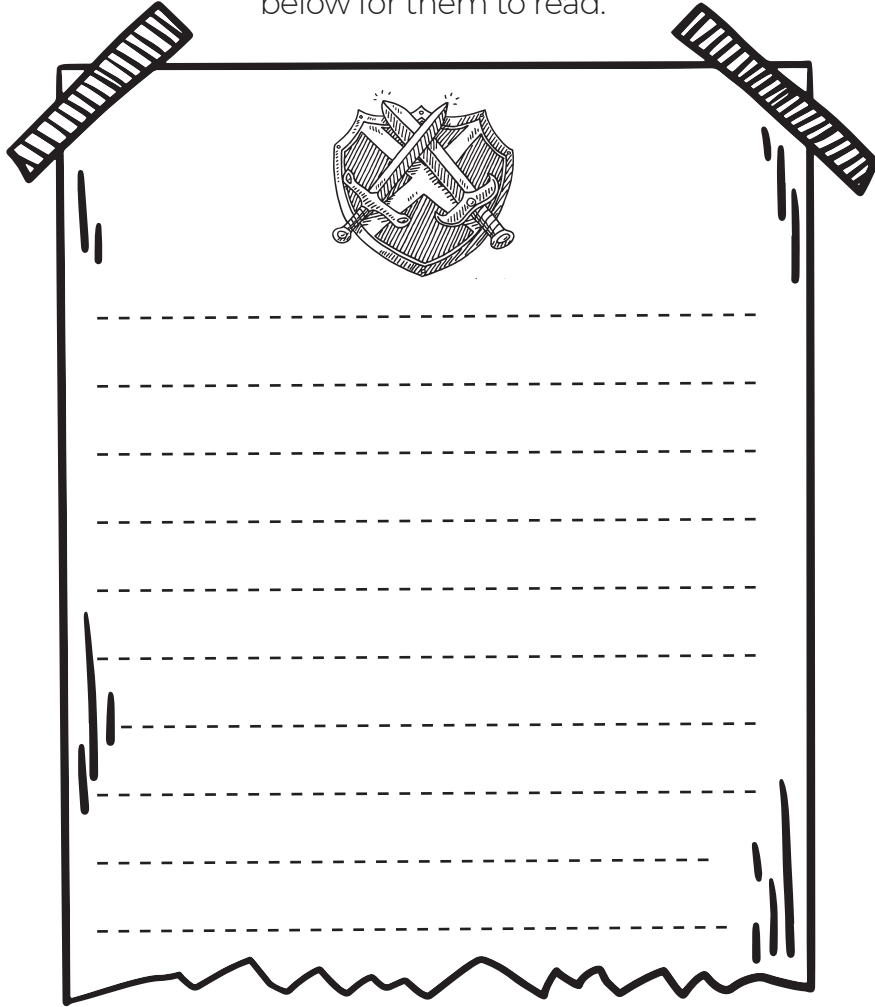
Caleb was looking at God, not the problems. When God tells you to go forward, don't look at the giants. Look at him!

When God tells you to go forward, don't look at the giants. Look at him!

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

Caleb was bold because he had seen God do mighty things. What have you seen God do? Have you told anyone about it? Write it out in the space below for them to read.



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

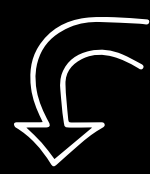
Numbers 13:30

2 Timothy 1:7

Joshua 14:11

1 John 5:4-5

**Week
Forty
Five**



Mind Blower

Robert Wadlow
was the tallest
man ever at
8 feet 11 inches.
He was American
and lived in the
1900s.



Write Your Thoughts Here



A series of ten horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for writing thoughts.

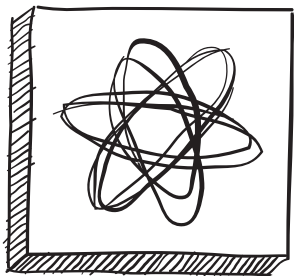
**Thank you, God, for leading Caleb . . . and me!
Help me to keep my focus on you.**

**Week
Forty
Five**

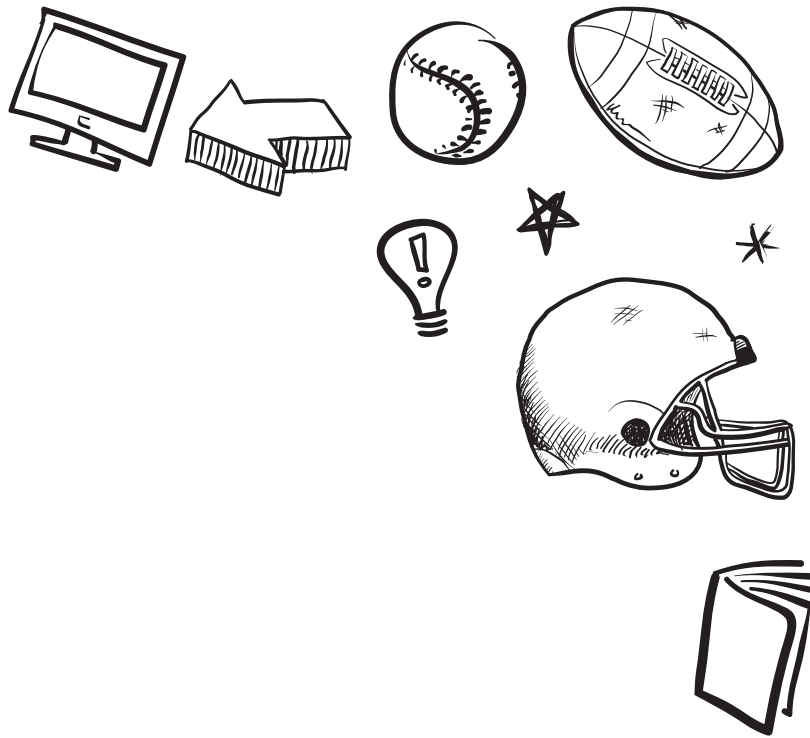
Doodle Space



Draw a picture of a big, scary giant and remember that God is even bigger and more powerful than that!



Brave



Jesus

WEEK FORTY-SIX

Who Cares?



When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them. They were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

Who cares anyway?

Sometimes it feels like no one does. Maybe your friends only want to talk about their stuff. Your parents are gone long hours and are too tired when they get home. And your siblings have their own troubles to deal with.

So, who cares about you when it seems like others don't? Jesus does. When he was on Earth, he cared for people every day. He taught and healed people and then travelled to the next town so he could do it all again. Many people didn't understand him. They made fun of him, even hated him, but still he gave his life and rose from death to save them and us. And Jesus still loves everyone—including you.

It takes courage to care. It's hard work to not worry about our own problems and be more concerned with others. That was Jesus's life's work, and he asks us to do the same. With his help, we can see people through his eyes—with compassion. That means pausing to reflect on what they are going through and trying to understand. Having compassion will help us take action to help them . . . for the right reasons.

Jesus is concerned about every detail of your life. He wants to hear your thoughts, talk about your dreams, dry your tears. And he helps us care for others in the same way.

Jesus cares about every detail of your life. And he helps us care for others like he did.

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

It's normal to want things for ourselves. But Jesus wants us to be different—to put other people before our own wants and desires. How can you do that this week? Think of some different ideas and write them in the space below. Then try them out this week and see how God uses you to care for others!

**How Will I Care
for Others?**

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

Psalm 147:3

Matthew 7:12

Isaiah 42:3

Matthew 28:20b

**Week
Forty
Six**

"God has chosen us to help
one another."

—Smith Wigglesworth,
British evangelist in the
early 1900s



Write Your Thoughts Here



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

**Jesus, help me love others more than myself.
Help me love them like you do!**

Jonathan

WEEK FORTY-SEVEN

God Brings Victory



"...But the LORD can help a few soldiers win a battle just as easily as he can help a whole army. Maybe the Lord will help us win this battle."

1 Samuel 14:6b

So, there they were: Jonathan and his young armor bearer.

They had just climbed a steep cliff, pulled themselves up, and were now surrounded by enemy soldiers. It was just the two of them against a whole garrison.

Most of their army had run away. But Jonathan and his assistant didn't give up. They scouted ahead. Jonathan encouraged his assistant that God would show them favor and win their battle for them. You can almost see him with a twinkle in his eye as he runs to the battle, excited to see what God will do.

And what God did was strengthen the two of them to kill the first 20 men coming at them. Their ferociousness sent the enemy army into chaos. Then God sent an earthquake! Jonathan's army rallied and went on the attack. The Lord gave them victory that day.

Where does that kind of courage come from? The Lord gives it when we need it. The Commander of the Heavenly Armies can send a spirit of bravery to those who follow him. Jonathan was ready to bet it all on God. He gave him his life to use however he wanted. And God rewarded his faith.

Do you trust God to bring victory in your life, even when it seems against all odds? He can do it, just like he did with Jonathan. Ask him today. God is mighty and able to help you!

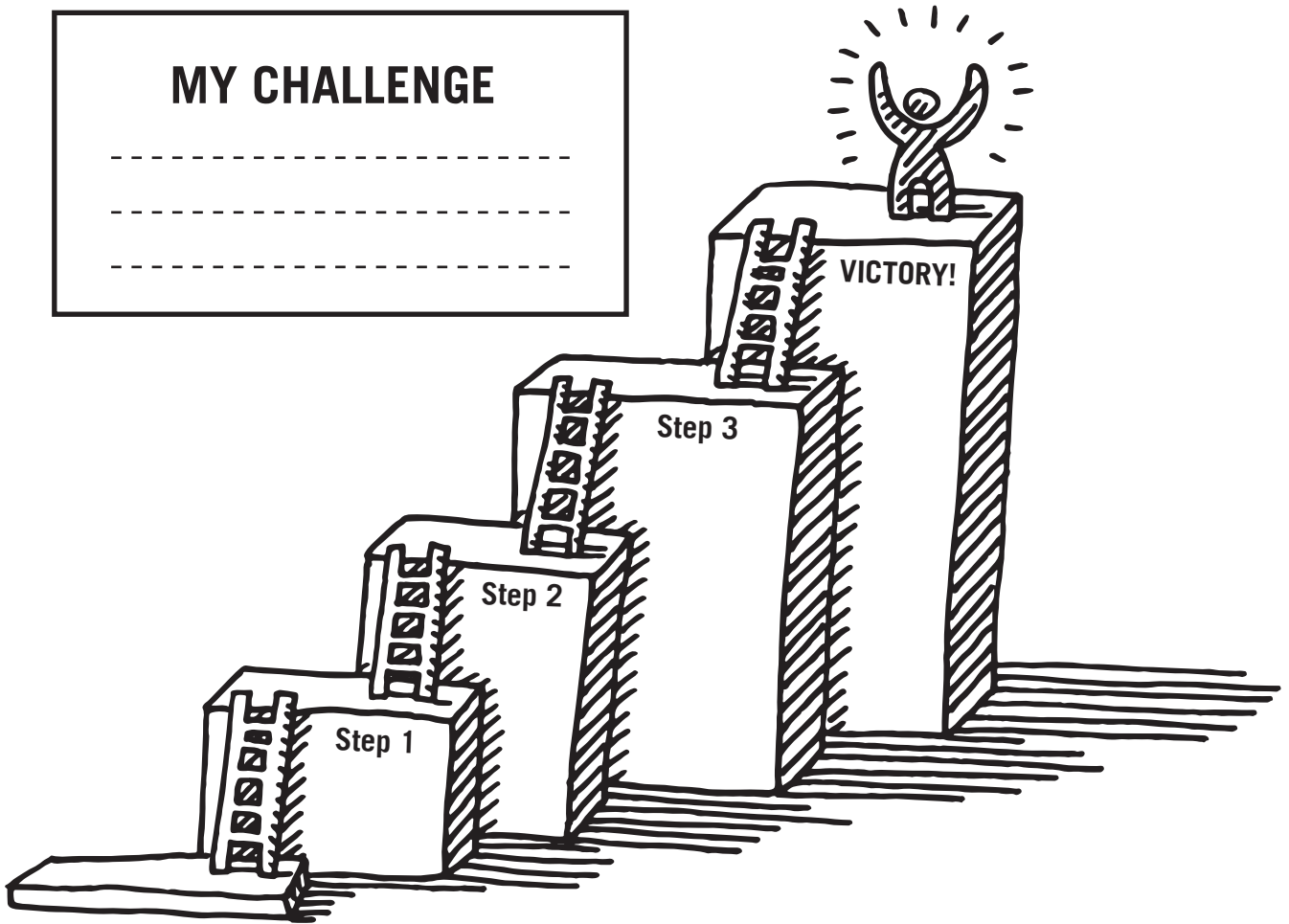
Brave

The Lord gives us courage when we need it.

Spiritual Fitness Training

Jonathan ran straight into the challenge. Are you procrastinating about something you need to face? Pray, then plan here how you will conquer it with God's help.

MY CHALLENGE



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

Psalm 23:4

Romans 14:8

Psalm 44:6-8

Philippians 1:20-21

**Week
Forty
Seven**

Mind Blower

Most rock climbers agree that the hardest climb in the world is in Flatanger, Norway. It's 45 meters (148 feet) high and requires climbers to be upside down. Only one climber has done it: Adam Ondra, in 2017.



Write Your Thoughts Here

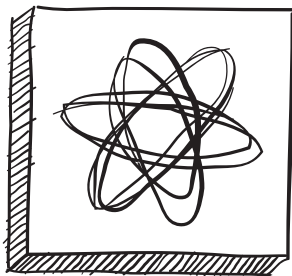


**God, I need the kind of bravery Jonathan had.
Help me trust you in all the battles I face.**

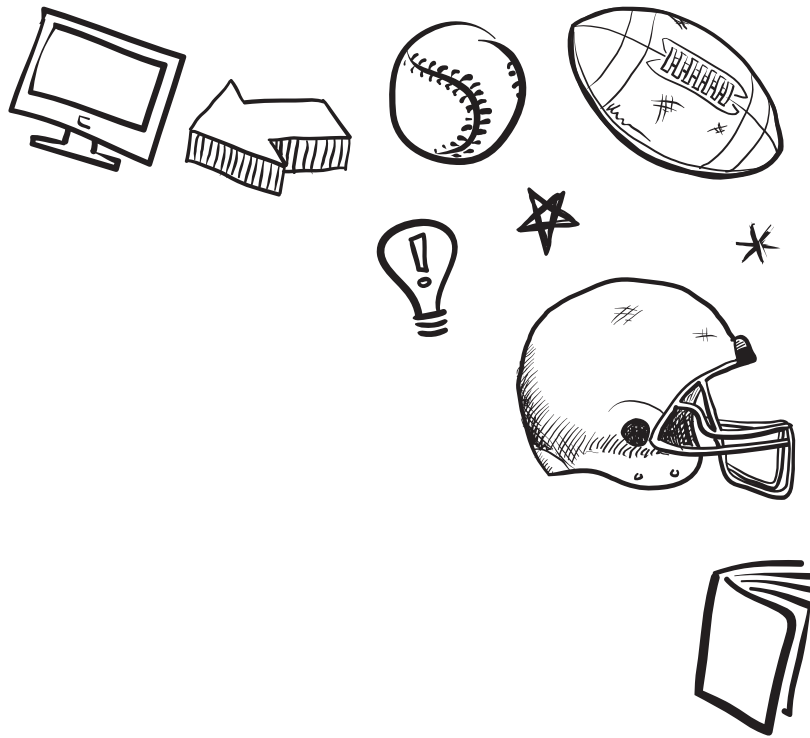
Doodle Space



Did you know the Bible refers to God as a lion protecting his people? Draw a picture of a lion and think about how God's protection can help give your courage.



Brave



Week
Forty
Seven

John the Baptist

WEEK FORTY-EIGHT

Sharing the Best Message



"In the desert someone is shouting, 'Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him.'"

Matthew 3:3b

If you knew Jesus was coming to your house, what would you do to get ready?

Back when Jesus was on Earth about to start changing people's lives, God sent a messenger to tell people to get ready. His name was John.

John was a bit . . . unusual. He lived alone in the desert, wore camel's hair clothing, and ate grasshoppers. Still, people came out to hear him. They were desperate for hope from God.

John said Jesus was coming, and that they needed to prepare for life in the kingdom of Heaven. They had to turn back from their sinful ways and ask for forgiveness. They had to start producing good fruit from their new lives. They could show everyone they were doing this by having John baptize them by dunking them in the Jordan River. It meant they were ready for a new start, leaving crooked ways behind.

John the Baptist was called to be an unusual messenger for God, but we are all supposed to tell people that Jesus can come into their lives and about the good news of his kingdom. We can help them get ready by pointing them toward freedom from their sin and rebellion against God and introducing them to Jesus—their Savior!

Being right with God is the best thing that can happen to anyone. We get to tell people about it!

Being right with God is the best thing that can happen to anyone. We get to tell people about it!

Brave

50

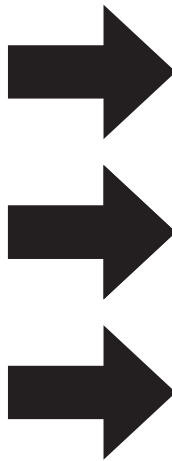
Spiritual Fitness Training

Who told you about Jesus? Thank them today!
Then pray about who you can tell.

The Person Who Introduced Me to Jesus



Me!



People I Can Tell

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

1 Chronicles 16:8

Matthew 28:19–20

Psalm 108:3–4

Acts 1:8

**Week
Forty
Eight**

Mind Blower

American evangelist Billy Graham travelled the world telling large crowds about Jesus in the 1900s. Only God knows for sure, but his organization believes 3.2 million people trusted Jesus after listening to him.



Write Your Thoughts Here



A series of ten horizontal dashed lines for writing.

God, help me brave like John and tell people the truth about you. May my friends choose to follow you.

Deborah

WEEK FORTY-NINE

The Winning Volunteer



*We praise you, LORD! Our soldiers
volunteered, ready to follow you.*

Judges 5:2

God must have messed up when he made me this way. I don't have the skills or special talents to do anything great.

Many people have felt this way. Some try to change themselves. Others give up and don't try to do anything. But some people trust God.

Deborah was one of those. In Bible times, women were not usually leaders. But Deborah willingly released complete control to God so he could equip and use her. She became a prophetess and a judge over her people.

It was a hard time for Deborah's people. For 20 years, another country had oppressed them. They lived in fear of the enemy's strong army and their 900 metal chariots.

So God gave Deborah another assignment. He told her it was time to fight back and win. Deborah relayed God's message to Barak, the commander, to assemble the troops. He refused to go into battle without her. So she went and made sure everyone knew God was fighting for them. They easily won the battle.

When you are not certain what God is doing with you, volunteer for whatever job he has. He uses the willing person and gives them exactly what they need!

***God gives us what
we need to win!***

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

Who do you admire? Ask them what problems God helped them overcome.

A person I admire is:

How God helped them:

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

Isaiah 40:29–31

2 Corinthians 12:9

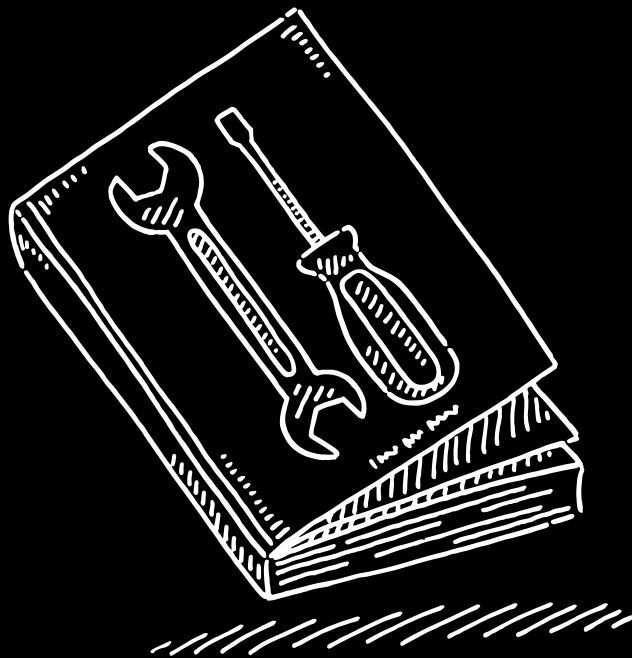
Isaiah 64:8

Philippians 4:13

**Week
Forty
Nine**

"Whenever God calls us
to a task, he will equip
us and enable us to
complete that task."

—Michael Youssef, Egyptian-American
pastor in Georgia



Write Your Thoughts Here



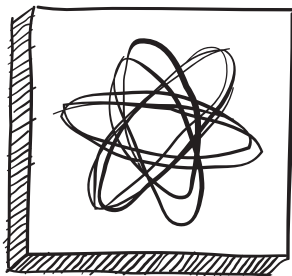
A series of horizontal dashed lines providing space for writing thoughts.

God, I don't know how you can use me. But I am willing to do whatever you ask! Please lead me today.

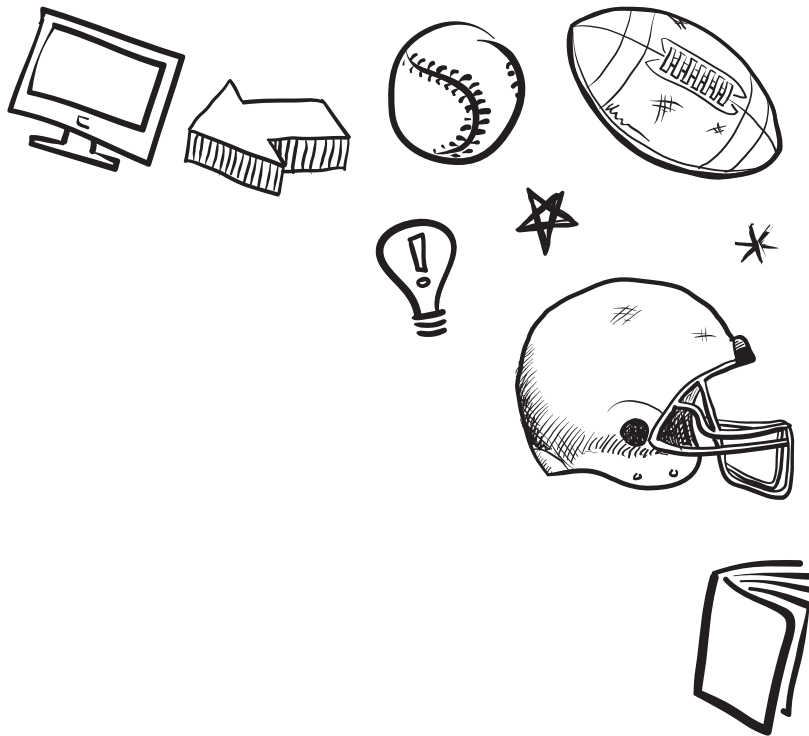
Doodle Space



Draw a picture of a
tool box full of tools.
As you do, remember
that God will give you
all the tools you need
to do what he asks you
to do.



Brave



Jesus

WEEK FIFTY

The Good Life



*I came so everyone would
have life, and have it fully.*

John 10:10b

Do you feel like being a Christian is just a bunch of rules? Do this, don't do that. And if you mess up—you are out!

That's not what Jesus said. One day, after healing a blind man, Jesus started talking about being a shepherd. A good shepherd loves and cares for his sheep. He makes sure they have food. He protects them. He helps them heal. The sheep have a great life because the shepherd is looking out for them.

Jesus said he is the good shepherd, and we are his sheep. He even gives his life for the sheep. Sure, he directs his sheep, but his instructions are for our good, like when a shepherd keeps his flock from going off a cliff or eating poisonous weeds.

The sheep who is loved is content and secure.. Life still may be hard, but they know someone is taking care of them. And that's the good life we can have as we follow our shepherd, Jesus. If we are hurt, he heals or helps us. If we are hungry, he feeds us. If we are lost or lonely, he finds us. And always, he loves us.

Now that's a good life!

***Always, Jesus loves us.
Now that's a good life!***

Brave

60

Spiritual Fitness Training

Talk to Jesus. As your good shepherd, he loves to spend time with you. As you color in the verse below, thank him for your good life and ask him to help you through any hard times you are facing.

I CAME SO
EVERYONE
WOULD HAVE
LIFE, AND HAVE
IT FULLY.
-JOHN 10:10B

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

Psalm 23:1-4

John 15:9-10

Ezekiel 34:15-16a

Revelation 7:17

**Week
Fifty**

"He never abandons anyone on whom he has set his love; nor does Christ, the good shepherd, ever lose track of his sheep."

—J. I. Packer, Canadian theologian and writer in the 1900s



Write Your Thoughts Here



**Jesus, thank you for being my shepherd.
You love and care for me every day. I'm glad
I'm your sheep!**

When God Sings



*Every day, you are kind, and at night you give me a song
as my prayer to you, the God of my life.*

Psalm 42:8

The stars surrounded her. All she could hear was the drone of her little plane, oh—and a Mexican-band radio signal crackling through her headphones at times. She banked the plane and saw the twinkling airport lights. She thanked God for this great gift and repeated over and over in her head the words from today's Bible verse: "his song is with me" (from the ESV Bible translation).

Ever since she could remember, Elizabeth Greene loved and wanted to serve God. Her second passion was flying. By the age of 16, she had saved enough money to take flying lessons. A few years later when World War II broke out, she joined the Air Force. She was placed in the WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) unit, an elite group of women who flew planes around the world to where they needed to be for battles. She was grateful for the experience, but her heart's desire was to use flying for Jesus somehow.

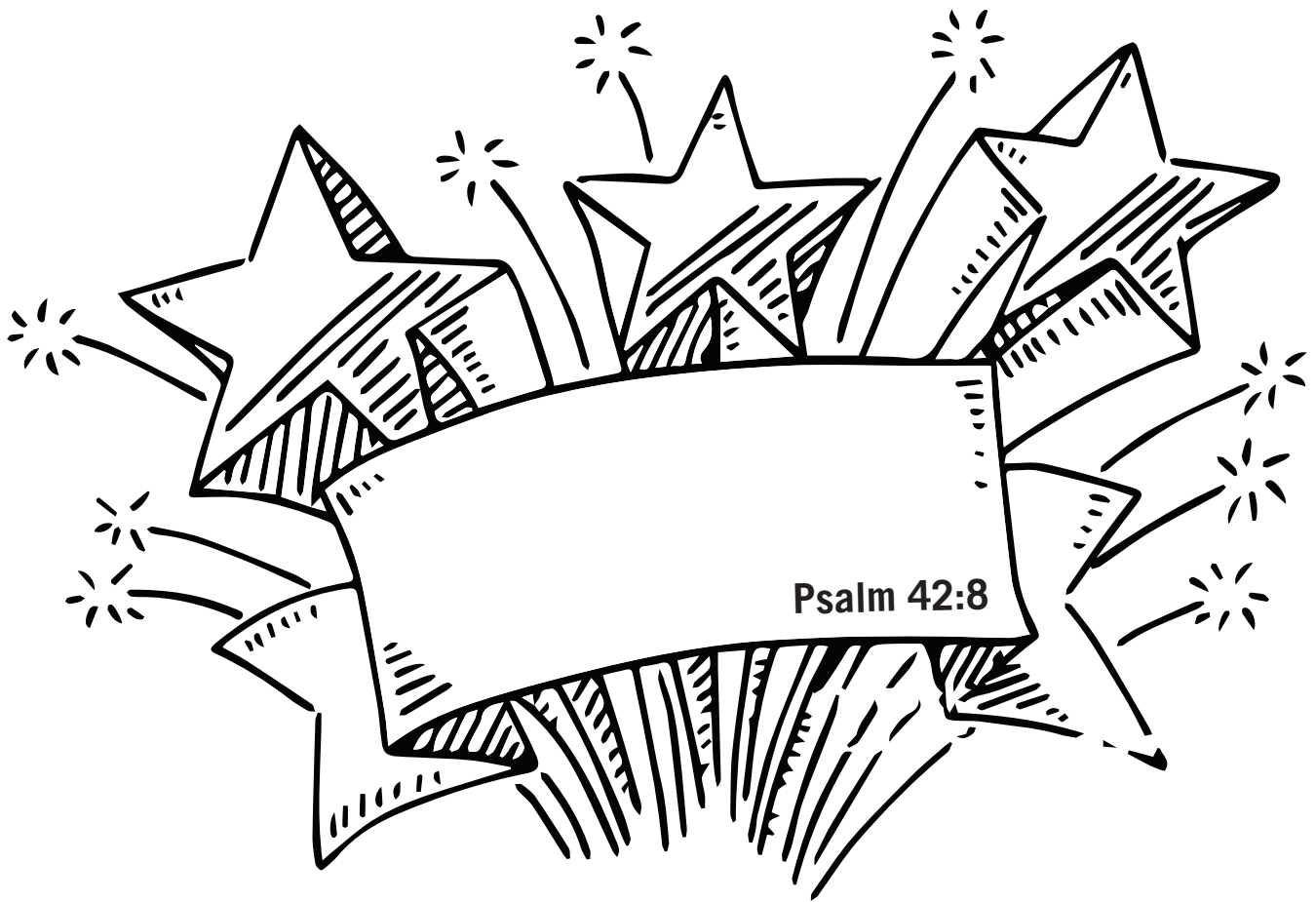
After the war, she got that chance. Elizabeth helped start an organization called Mission Aviation Fellowship. She began flying missionaries and their supplies around the world. Using her gift of flying to help spread the word about Jesus was the best life she could have dreamed.

What dream do you have for your life? With God on your side, you can do amazing things!

***Using your gift to help spread the
word about Jesus is the best life.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

When do you feel happy and close to God? Ask him to show you how to use things you love to tell others about Jesus. Write today's verse in the ribbon below.



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

Psalm 37:4

Galatians 2:20

Psalm 145:19

Ephesians 3:20–21

**Week
Fifty
One**

Mind Blower

To help them design drones, engineers studied hummingbirds and how they fly. When the first drones started flying in trials, hummingbirds chased the drones around!



Write Your Thoughts Here

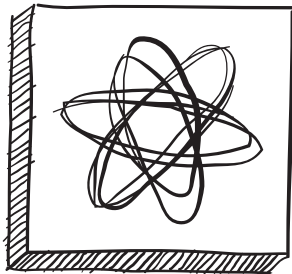
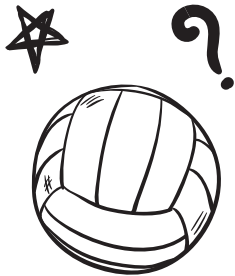


Thank you, Jesus, for giving me unique things that I'm interested in. I want to use them to shine the light of Jesus everywhere I go!

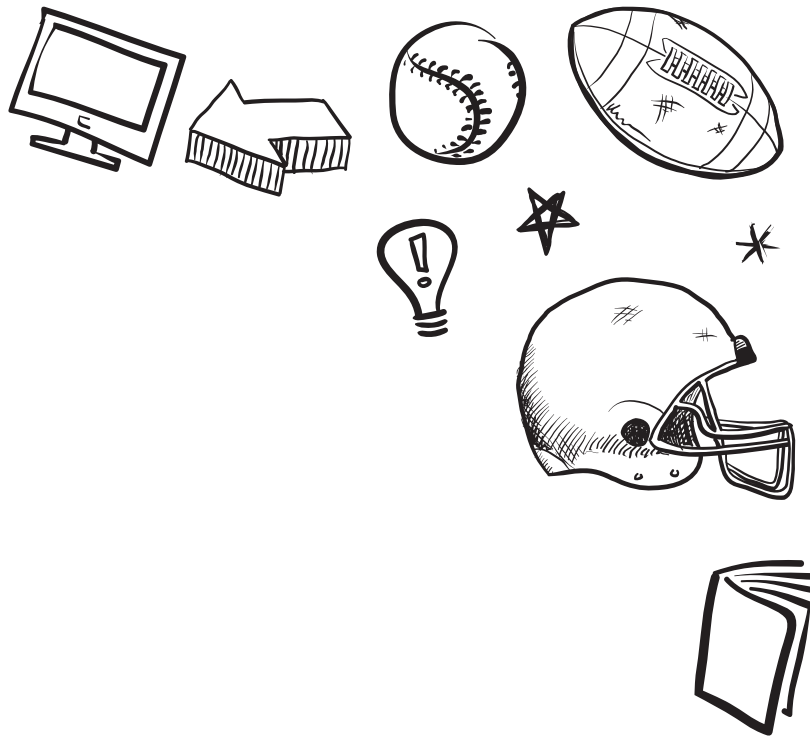
Doodle Space



Draw a picture of a cloud and write a prayer asking God to show you his dreams for your life.



Brave



Stephen

WEEK FIFTY-TWO

What is Success in Life?



But Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked toward heaven, where he saw our glorious God and Jesus standing at his right side. Then Stephen said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right side of God!"

Acts 7:55–56

What do you think a successful life looks like? Wealth, comfort, a million followers on social media? Many celebrity examples show that those things don't guarantee happiness. What about the love of family, working hard at your job, or being helpful to people?

Stephen wasn't concerned about success in the world's eyes. He gave his life to serve the Lord he loved. The church chose him to care for the needy people. God chose him to perform miracles and tell people about Jesus.

But doing the right thing doesn't guarantee popularity or wealth or comfort. Some religious leaders hated Stephen's message about Jesus—and when they tried to debate him, they lost. Stephen's message was a challenge to their authority. In court, Stephen gave a speech that outraged them.

At the end of his speech, Stephen saw into Heaven! He told the council he saw Jesus standing there, right next to God. And that made them so angry they took Stephen out and killed him. But Stephen wasn't afraid to die. He even forgave his murderers while he was dying.

Stephen was completely brave because he knew his life was in Jesus's hands, and Jesus had conquered death itself. Living with this kind of focus on God's kingdom is how to have a successful life!

***Stephen was completely brave because
his life was in Jesus's hands.***

Brave

Spiritual Fitness Training

Being in love with Jesus and knowing what he wants you to do with your life means knowing him better every day. How can you do that today?

Use the circles to check off each item you complete.

<input type="radio"/>	Prayer
<input type="radio"/>	Reading the Bible
<input type="radio"/>	Memorizing Scripture verses
<input type="radio"/>	Listening to God
<input type="radio"/>	Singing worship songs
<input type="radio"/>	Participating in church
<input type="radio"/>	Other: _____

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

Psalm 23:4

Romans 14:7–8

Psalm 31:14–15

Philippians 1:20–21

**Week
Fifty
Two**

"Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter."

—Francis Chan, American pastor and author



Write Your Thoughts Here



**Jesus, I want to give you my life. Help me
be brave and follow you in life and death.**

Keep It Going! ↘

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

(It's coming soon!)

