

# BRAVE

WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS

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

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING

**HERO  
SQUAD**  
VARSITY EDITION

Brave, Guys Varsity Squad Edition, Winter Issue

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Philadelphia, PA 19106-2155

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[herosquad@americanbible.org](mailto:herosquad@americanbible.org)

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Cover and interior design by [lindseybeharry.com](http://lindseybeharry.com)

Item 125610

IP-1250-10/23-125610

Printed in the United States of America



**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 YOUR CELL PHONE OR EMAIL ADDRESS ON THIS LINE:**



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

Brave

6

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!

Jacob

WEEK FORTY

## Finding God in the Struggle



*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

You tried to have a good attitude and trust God, but at this new duty station, you just can't seem to find friends. Or you couldn't be on the team because you missed tryouts. Or the movers lost a bunch of your stuff.

So, you get mad at the Military. At life. At God. *You wrestle.*

Jacob had his own struggle. He had heard the Lord's voice telling him to move back to his homeland, and he obeyed. But going home meant facing his brother, Esau. The last time they were together, his brother had promised to kill him. And now it looked like he was going to do it. Esau was on the way with 400 warriors—not exactly a welcoming party.

Jacob did all he could, sending ahead gifts, his flocks, to try to convince Esau to change his mind. Jacob took his family to a safe place, but he didn't stay with them. As he waited through the night, alone and anxious, a man came and wrestled with him. Jacob believed this was God appearing like a man. Jacob refused to let the man go until he blessed him, and he did. And Jacob's name was changed to "Israel" which means "a man who wrestles with God."

God blesses those who seek and obey him. He helps them work through their doubts, fears, and frustrations. Jacob's father and grandfather knew God personally, but Jacob still needed to figure his faith out for himself. He searched for God and found him. You can, too.

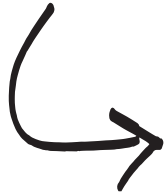
Brave

***God blesses those who seek and obey him.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

In what ways do you need the Lord's blessings? What doubts or frustrations do you wrestle with? Write them here, pray about them, then put a reminder in your phone to check back in a month. Record what the Lord has done to help you, so far.

Write your thoughts here!



<input type="radio"/>	<b>Today's date:</b>
	<b>Needs/doubts/frustrations:</b>
<input type="radio"/>	
	<b>Check in date:</b>
	<b>Update:</b>
<input type="radio"/>	
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## Keep It Going This Week *Find out more by reading these verses.*

- Job 42:1-3
- Job 42:5

- Matthew 7:7-8
- Romans 8:38-39

Week  
Forty

"There are times when God only releases his blessings on us after a season of prolonged and even painful wrestling with him."

—Jon Bloom, American author and staff writer at [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org)

# Write Your Thoughts Here



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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Wrestling is considered one of the oldest sports in the world. Cave drawings and Egyptian paintings have been found depicting it. Plato was famous for his many wrestling victories.

# The Woman Who Loved Jesus

WEEK FORTY-ONE

## The Cost of Forgiveness



*“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

She walked into a room where she wasn’t invited. She embarrassed herself. Crying over Jesus’s feet, her tears smeared the dust, making mud. No one had washed his feet before the dinner—something that was always done for an honored guest. The tears kept coming. Her hair fell around her. She used it to wipe off his feet.

With determination, she opened a perfume jar, and its scent filled the room. This, her prized possession worth a year’s wages, she poured out on Jesus’s feet. The dinner host did not approve of her actions.

But when she saw and heard Jesus’s approval, her bravery was all worth it. She would give everything to please the one who loved her and forgave her sins.

How does a person love Jesus that much? How can you get to the point where you would bravely give your most prized possession, or even your life, for him? Jesus said it was because she knew all her many sins had been forgiven.

Jesus paid a high price to forgive us our sins by dying on a cross for us. When we realize how much we’ve been forgiven, how awful the punishment we deserve, and how great his love for us, our love for him grows. We can willingly and courageously hand our life over to him.

***When we understand the cost of forgiveness  
and Jesus’s great love, our love grows.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

What are you willing to give your life for or dedicate your life to? Why? Ask a few people these questions and think about it!

**Name:** .....

**Life Dedication:** .....

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**Why:** .....

**Name:** .....

**Life Dedication:** .....

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**Why:** .....

**Name:** .....

**Life Dedication:** .....

.....

**Why:** .....

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

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 116:1   | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 1:9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 130:3–4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:19     |

Week  
Forty  
One

One of the most expensive perfumes of all time was called Shumukh. Made by a perfumer in Dubai, its bottle was adorned with diamonds, pearls, and gold. It sold for \$1.29 million.



# Write Your Thoughts Here



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**TALKING TO GOD**

God, you have given so much for me. Help me show my love for you by giving my all to you like this woman did.

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**Doodle Space**





Week  
Forty  
One



Jesus

WEEK FORTY-TWO

## What Will You Do?



*"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

So, what are you going to do with your life?

The older you get, the more you'll hear the question. It's expected you will pursue college, career, and achievements. People will even encourage you to look out for "number one," namely, yourself.

But Jesus turned that kind of thinking upside down. He said that the more you give away, the more you will receive. The more you help others, the greater your reward. And to save your life, you must first lose it.

Jesus practiced what he preached. He modeled giving up his life. Jesus bravely left Heaven and equality with God to become a human and serve people. When he sent his followers out to spread the word about him, he told them to give their life to him in order to save their life. They went without money or ways to defend themselves or other keys to success. But by living for Jesus, they changed people's lives and the future of the world.

Ultimately, Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice for us by dying on the cross. We may never face losing our physical life, but he does ask us to use our days serving him.

Giving your life to Jesus doesn't mean all your desires will be crushed. Rather, giving him control will bring a greater reward. Bravely following him is the best life and brings eternal life!

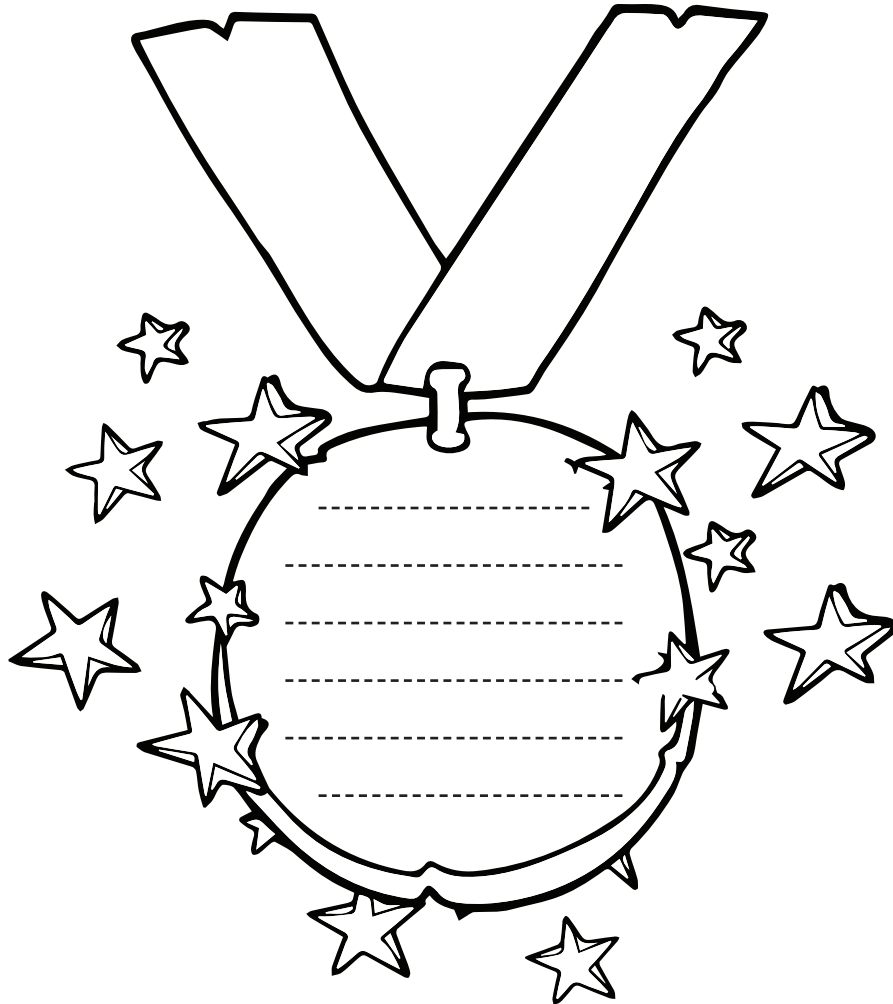
***Bravely giving Jesus control over your life brings the greatest rewards.***

Brave

20

# Spiritual Fitness Training

There are countless examples of people who have given their lives to serve others. Research or interview your Christian hero and find out what they say about the sacrifice. Write their answer in the medal below.



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

Isaiah 53:5

Romans 6:13

Isaiah 53:12

1 John 3:16

**Week  
Forty  
Two**

"God's purpose gives  
life meaning."

—Woodrow Kroll, American evangelist,  
pastor, and radio host

# Write Your Thoughts Here



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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Christianity grew from a few followers in Jesus's time to over 2 billion today. The United States has the largest number of people who say they are Christ-followers.

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# Amy Carmichael

WEEK FORTY-THREE

## The Greatest Help



*I was a nobody, but I prayed, and the  
Lord saved me from all my troubles.  
Psalm 34:6*

In a world of billions of people, who cares about one little girl?

Preena's mother had rejected her, giving her to people who would physically and sexually abuse her. She ran away, slogging through a large body of water at night, and by morning found herself in a church. It was 1901 in India. Preena begged the woman working there for help.

The lady was Amy Carmichael, a missionary from Ireland. She had little money, and even less authority or defensive strength. But she had a God who held great might and power and who cared for nobodies like her and this little, helpless girl.

Amy saved Preena and then hundreds more vulnerable children. This female foreigner even disguised herself and went into dangerous situations to find and rescue children in desperate need.

When Amy bravely offered the Lord control of her life, he used her and blessed her in ways she could never have imagined. The woman with no husband or children of her own opened a refugee school for many, many children who called her "Mother." The woman with no resources raised hundreds of children because God never failed them.

Against all odds, God provides the greatest help. He is always there when we need him. Just imagine what he can do through you when you give your life for his use? Pray today, asking God how he would like to work through a nobody like you!

Brave

***Against all odds, God provides the greatest help.  
He is always there when we need him.***



# Spiritual Fitness Training

In what ways do you feel powerless, vulnerable, forgotten? Bring it to the Lord. Then pray about how God can use you to be a miracle in someone's life today.



**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

"It is great to be faced with the impossible, for nothing is impossible if one is meant to do it. Wisdom will be given, and strength. When the Lord leads, he always strengthens."

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

# Write Your Thoughts Here



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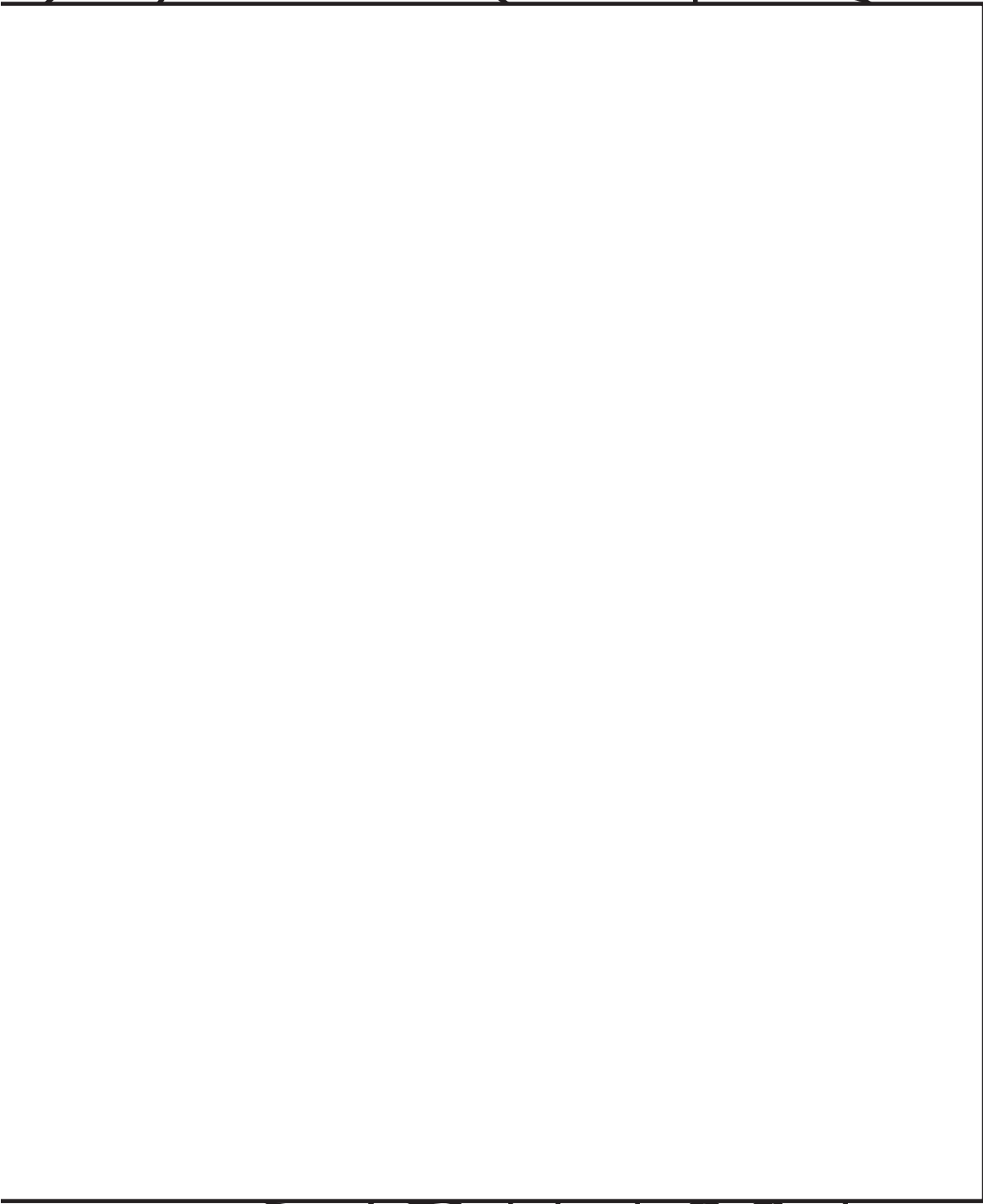
**DID YOU KNOW?**

The number of enslaved people is believed to be at an all-time high. *The Sound of Freedom* movie tells the story of one modern-day rescuer who started Operation Underground Railroad to help rescue these slaves.



**Doodle Space**





Week  
Forty  
Three



John

WEEK FORTY-FOUR

## Can't Stop, Won't Stop



*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

Feeling sidelined? Stuck? Or like there are things preventing you from doing what God has made you to do? What would get you through today, give you hope, and make you bold? How about seeing the promise of the final victory of good, a glimpse of the power of God, and words of encouragement from the Commander of the heavenly armies himself?

A man named John seemed to be out of the game. He had been preaching about Jesus to anyone and everyone. The authorities wanted to shut him up, so they banished him to an island.

But even exile will not stop God's work. God was not surprised nor did he give up on his plan to use John to spread his message. Instead, he unfolded his next step to reveal to John amazing things about the heavenly realm and the future. By the Spirit, John saw things in Heaven and wrote about them, and God used this book of Revelation to encourage billions more people than John could have told in his own lifetime.

In the book of Revelation, it's clear we serve an awesome, powerful God who will conquer all evil in the end; that he controls all things; that his plans will absolutely succeed. So, if you are feeling stuck or you are struggling to accomplish what God made you to do, remember that God is in control and will win every battle in the end. Give it over to him today!

***When you feel like you are stuck, be encouraged by God's plans and power.***

Brave

30

# Spiritual Fitness Training

What encourages you from these verses in Revelation that talk about Heaven?

1:12-18 .....

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4:2-8 .....

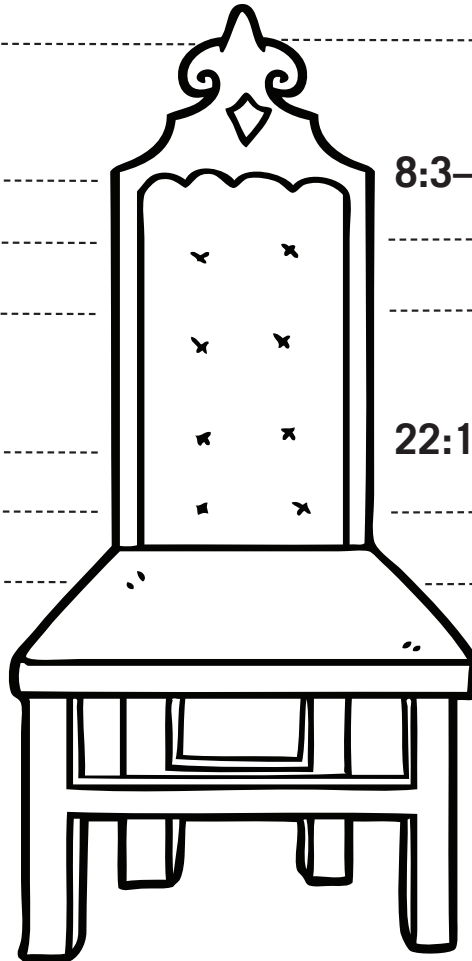
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11:16-19 .....

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**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**

"The enjoyment of him is our highest happiness and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here..."

—Jonathan Edwards, American preacher in the 1700s



# Write Your Thoughts Here



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**TALKING TO GOD**

God, you have power beyond my imagination. Your plan is good and unstoppable. Help me trust you with my life.

Caleb

WEEK FORTY-FIVE

## Trusting the Promise Maker



*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

Caleb stood on a hill, looking over the land. His eyes and heart couldn't get any bigger. Finally, his people would have a home—good land where they could live in freedom.

He had been here some forty years before. He and others had gone in to spy out the place. Amazing! They found grape clusters so big that two people had to carry each one. But when they brought the report back, the other spies cried about big warriors—giants—defending the land. Caleb attempted to talk sense into them: didn't they serve a God bigger than any man, any army? But they only tried to shut him up, and they threatened to kill their leaders.

God stepped in, saving them. The people's doubt of the Lord's promise and power was sin. Their punishment was to not receive the blessing of the land.

So, they turned back to the desert and wandered for decades. Day after day, traveling, scraping by, failing, dying, until all of Caleb's generation, except Joshua, was gone. Then, God fulfilled his promise that Caleb and all his descendants would live in the land. At the age of 85, with the strength of his youth, Caleb led the charge. His men took the hill country, and finally settled into a home. He saw his grandkids play in peace.

Does something God has promised you seem out of reach? Keep your eyes on the Lord. Let his Spirit guide you. Then hold on for his blessing.

***Keep your eyes on the Lord.  
Let his Spirit guide you.***

Brave

34

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Have you ever found yourself in a wilderness season, wandering and waiting for the Lord to guide you? Pick a day this week to go for a walk by yourself. Talk to God about all your fears, doubts, and desires. Then allow some space for the Lord to respond. He longs to hear from you and has things he wants to share with you, too..



**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**

“We like to control the map of our life and know everything well in advance. But faith is content just knowing that God’s promise cannot fail. This, in fact, is the excitement of walking with God.”

—Jim Cymbala, American author and pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City

# Write Your Thoughts Here



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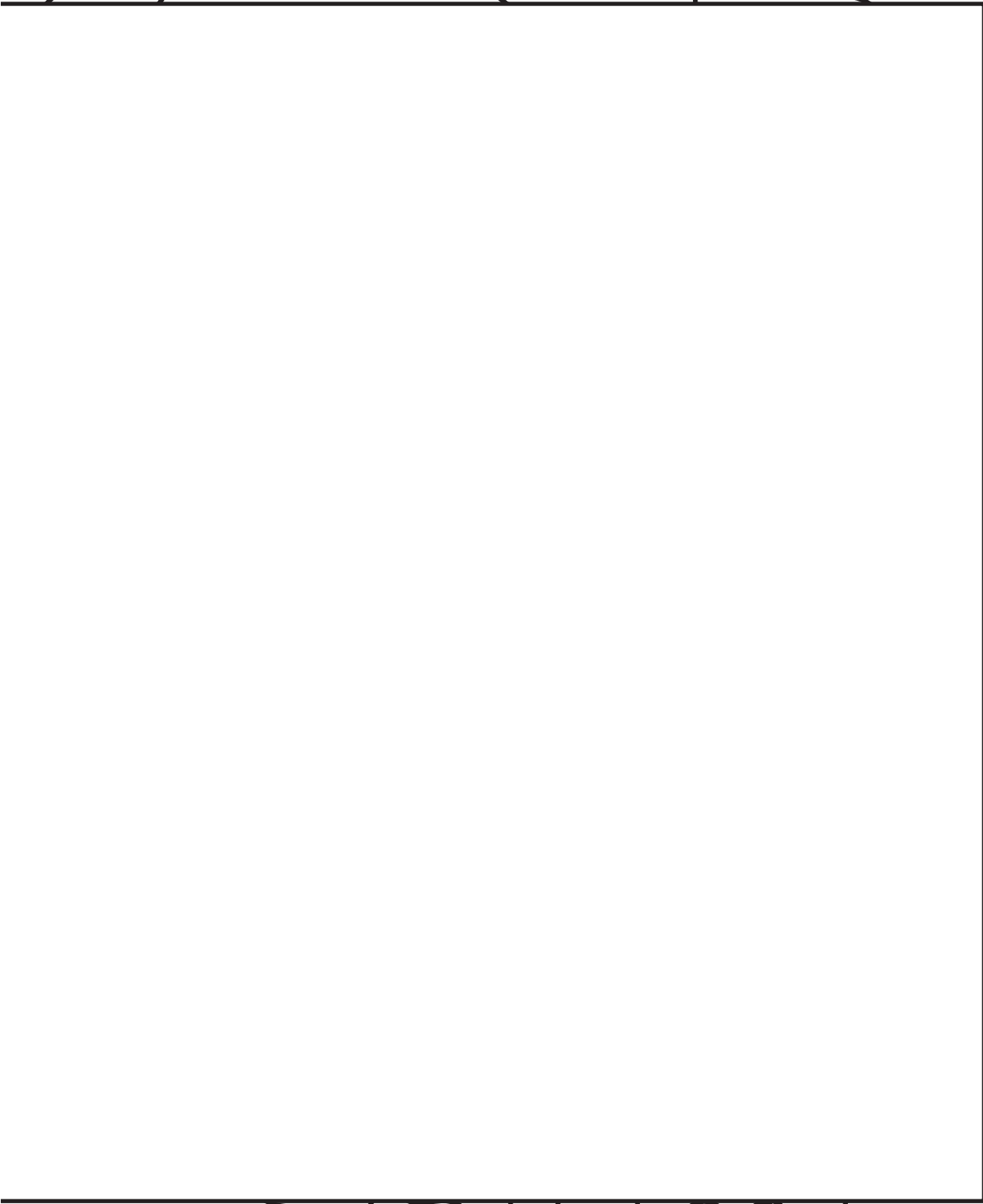
**DID YOU KNOW?**

According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the largest cluster of grapes in recent history weighed over 22 pounds. It was grown in Spain in 2018.



**Doodle Space**





Week  
Forty  
Five



Jesus

WEEK FORTY-SIX

## Strength to Care



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

Matthew 9:36

You've lived all over. But the way people act at this place is abnormal to you. You don't understand what they're talking about or why they want to do some things. And when you tell them some of your stories, they look at you like you're from another planet.

No one here gets you.

Jesus can relate. He came from a place of perfection in Heaven to live with mortals amid all their suffering and sin. He tried to tell us things, but we didn't get it. No one was like him. No one understood him. And sometimes, they treated him as if he were abnormal!

How did Jesus respond to this? He kept turning his attention to others, not himself. Day after day, he spent his time teaching, talking, healing—loving people. He worked with them and for them to the point of physical exhaustion. And when more came to see him, he had compassion for them.

Jesus knew his life's mission was to serve others. Right through the agony of the cross, he kept his focus on loving God and loving people.

And he will help us do that, too. When we're feeling like a foreigner, we can follow Jesus's example and love others. We can connect with them by finding out what is important to them, what scares them, what brings them joy. It takes courage to care like that. Jesus can help us find that strength like he did.

Brave

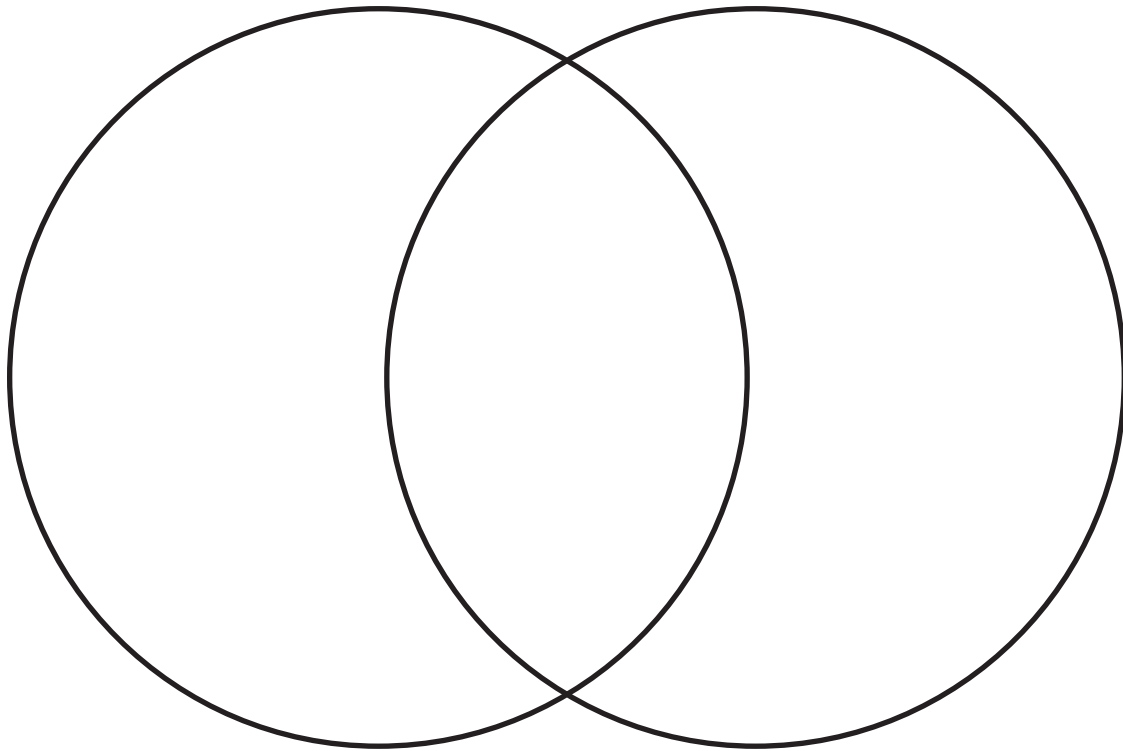
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***It takes courage to love God  
and others like Jesus does.***



# Spiritual Fitness Training

Instead of focusing on differences with people, look for ways you can say “Same!” with things you agree on. Think of a totally opposite person from you. Write their name in the left circle and your name in the one on the right. Then find things you have in common and write them in the middle, overlapping area. This is your common ground!



**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

“Believe, when you are most  
unhappy, that there is something  
for you to do in the world. As long  
as you can sweeten another’s pain,  
life is not in vain.”

—Helen Keller, American author and  
speaker in the late 1800s who was  
blind and deaf

**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**TALKING TO GOD**

Jesus, help me to use my life to  
care for others the way you did. I  
want to be like you!

Jonathan

WEEK FORTY-SEVEN

## I Need a Hero!



*"...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

Ever feel like your world is under attack, your battle buddies are in hiding, and even those who stick with you don't have any way to fight?

"Relatable!" Jonathan the prince would say. Enemies were raiding his country. His army had mostly dispersed, many going into hiding. The rest didn't have a sword among them. When there are no heroes to be found, God is giving opportunities for us to step up to be heroes. But it requires our lives.

Jonathan freely put his life at the Lord's disposal. Spying an enemy's garrison on top of a cliff, he said to his armor bearer, "Let's go see what God will do!" With courageous confidence in the Lord, the two of them scaled the cliff, then killed 20 enemies in a way that would impress any martial arts master.

When Jonathan stepped forward, betting it all on the Lord, God went before him. He made the rest of the enemy troops panic—to the point they started fighting each other. Jonathan's men rallied and pursued them until they were utterly defeated.

Jonathan trusted God so fully. What is your trust level with God today? Do you trust him all the time, or are there still things you find hard to place in his care? Pray today to ask God to help you give your life—fully and completely—to him. Then watch as he takes care of you in all of life's situations!

***When there are no heroes to be found,  
God gives you an opportunity to be one.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Jonathan's bravery came as he trusted the Lord. Next time you need to take a challenge head-on, pray first. Read this week's story in your Bible. How did Jonathan decide to put his trust in God into action? Find and highlight the hidden words from Samuel 14:12b. (Look up the verse to help you out!)



**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**

"He calls us to trust him  
so completely that we are  
unafraid to put ourselves  
in situations where we will  
be in trouble if he doesn't  
come through."

—Francis Chan, American  
pastor and author

# Write Your Thoughts Here



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**DID YOU KNOW?**

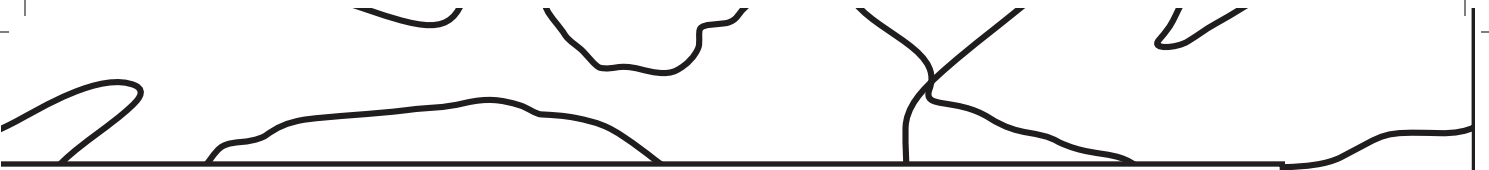
Sergeant Alvin York was credited with leading seven men to overtake 35 machine guns and 132 prisoners in World War I. A Christian, York said God was with him and instructed him.



**Doodle Space**







Week  
Forty  
Seven



# John the Baptist

WEEK FORTY-EIGHT

## Telling the Truth



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

Matthew 3:3b

Every day we face a war on truth in our culture. Everyone makes up their own rules. Many believe that each person has their own truth.

But that's not what God says. With God, there is one truth—his truth, as recorded in the Bible. During Bible times, God sent a man to proclaim the truth and tell people to get right before Jesus came. His name was John.

You could say John was a peculiar guy—living alone in the desert, wearing camel's hair clothing, eating bugs and honey. But people saw he was a prophet, and they paid attention. John boldly called people to repent—to turn away from sin and rebellious attitudes, to straighten up their lives. To show their change of heart, John would baptize them in the Jordan River—earning him the name "John the Baptist."

John's entire life was dedicated to proclaiming God's truth. He was bold about it, and ultimately he died for it. He called out even the most powerful people on their sin.

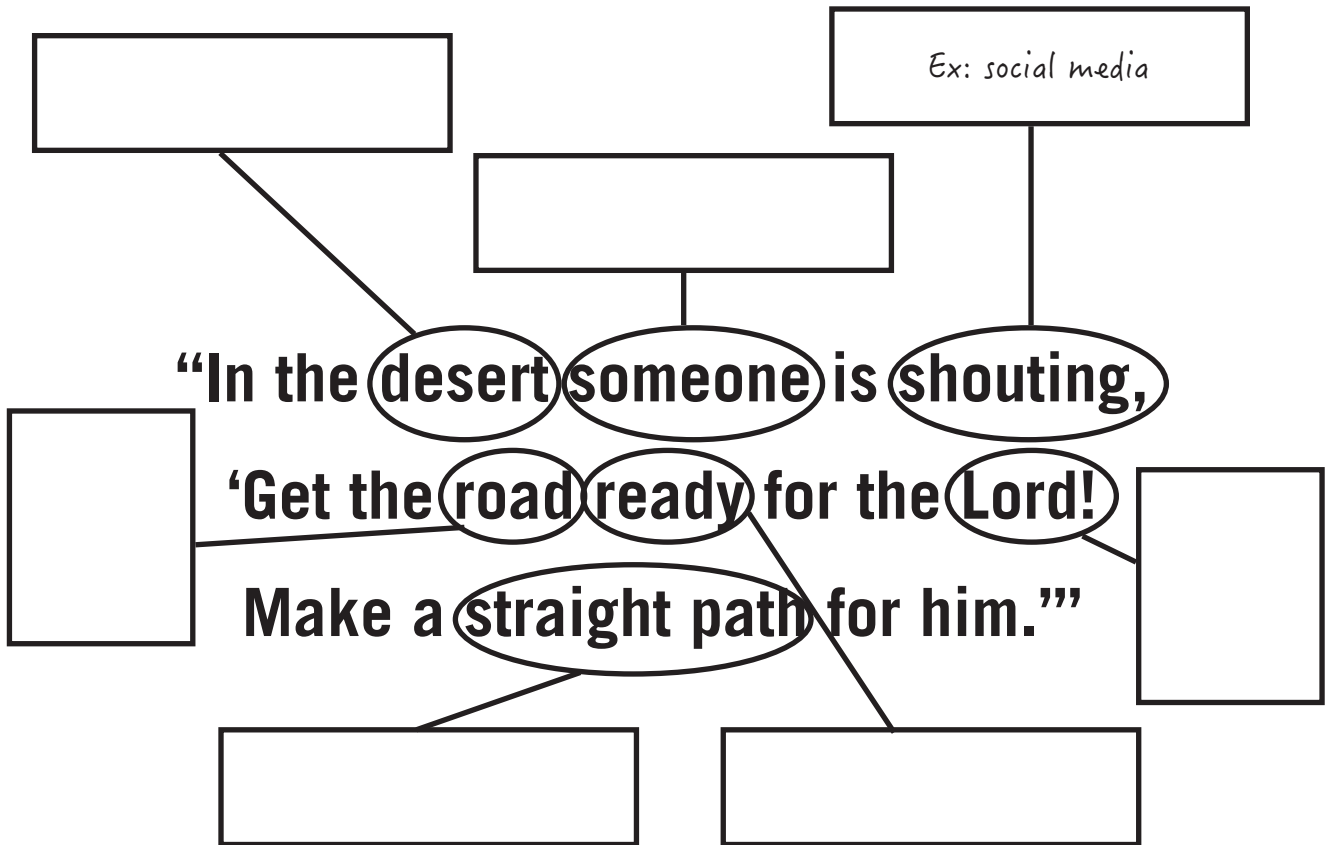
While God might not be asking us to live in the wild in isolation, he is calling us to be different. We need to speak his truth with our words ... and live out his truth through our actions.

***We need to speak God's truth with our words...  
and live out his truth through our actions.***

Brave

# Spiritual Fitness Training

What might these words from the verse mean for your life? What is God asking you to do? Look at the examples to get started.



**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

"Evangelism is just one  
beggar telling another beggar  
where to find bread."

—D. T. Niles, Ceylonese pastor  
and evangelist in the 1900s

# Write Your Thoughts Here



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**TALKING TO GOD**  
Lord, it's hard to defend the truth and to tell people about Jesus. Show me how. Make me brave.

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# Deborah

WEEK FORTY-NINE

## When Others Say You Can't



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

Judges 5:2

Not spiritual enough, smart enough, strong enough. Not an adult, not wealthy. Wrong gender. Wrong personality. Wrong status. Just ... not enough.

All of us come to obstacles in our lives that make us question ourselves. We find some excuse—or all kinds of excuses—for why we cannot succeed. Then we even get mad at God for making us this way. But what if God made you like this on purpose? What if the thing you think is a weakness is an opportunity for God to work?

Deborah faced an impossible challenge. Her people faced an army that far outmatched them. The Canaanites had 900 iron chariots, the tanks of the day. For 20 years her people had been oppressed, living in fear of attack. What could a woman do in those times? She listened to God. And she volunteered, with nothing held back.

God told her it was time to fight, that he would help them defeat the enemy. Deborah told Barak, the commander, to gather the army. But he refused to go into battle without her. So she agreed. She trusted the Lord and went to war. And God gave them success. Deborah and Barak sang the victory chant, telling everyone how God won.

What obstacle are you facing? Can't see how God can help you conquer? Volunteer. Sign over your life to him, with no holds. Then watch him use you.

***Sign over your life to God, with  
no holds. Watch him use you.***

Brave

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# Spiritual Fitness Training

That battle you are facing? Imagine for a minute how it will feel to conquer it. Now write a victory chant giving God the glory. Check out Judges 5 if you need some ideas.

Write your  
chant here!



**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**

*"Expect great things from  
God. Attempt great things  
for God."*

*—William Carey, a missionary  
from England in the early 1800s*



# Write Your Thoughts Here



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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Women who have led troops into battle include Alexander the Great's sister Cynane, the Celtic queen Boudica, Nagano Takeko and 30 other female Japanese samurai, and the Apache warrior Lozen.



**Doodle Space**





Week  
Forty  
Nine



Jesus

WEEK FIFTY

## Full Life



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

John 10:10b

We all want to be loved, cared for, and protected. We want someone powerful watching out for us. Someone who can see ahead, guiding us. Someone with resources taking care of us.

Jesus is that someone. In the Gospel according to John, after Jesus healed a man, the religious leaders questioned the man and threw him out of the assembly when they didn't like his answers. It was a power struggle; Jesus's power might make people question their authority.

When they confronted Jesus, he started talking about sheep. He said he loved his sheep, cared for them, protected them, guided them. He is the good shepherd who loves and cares for all the people who follow him. And, you guessed it, he's happy when they're healed and doesn't kick them out of the flock. He gives them the good life, the eternal life.

Anyone can become one of Jesus's sheep. Just start following him, like a sheep will follow its shepherd. Join his flock. Learn to know his voice and follow his instructions.

Life in this broken world is far from perfect for a Jesus-follower. Hard times still come, like injuries, deployments, demotions, moves, and loneliness. But to know you are loved, watched over, cared for by the great Protector—that is an amazing, full, abundant life. And the promise of eternal life means that this is only the beginning.

Brave

60

***Jesus gives his sheep the good life, the eternal life.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

How has Jesus, your good shepherd, already blessed your life? Thank him! Write down those blessings.

## FULL LIFE

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23:1-4      | <input type="checkbox"/> John 15:9-10    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 34:15-16a | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 7:17 |

Week  
Fifty

"It takes some of us a lifetime  
to learn that Christ, our  
Good Shepherd, knows exactly  
what he is doing with us. He  
understands us perfectly."

—W. Phillip Keller, Christian author  
in the late 1900s

**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**TALKING TO GOD**

Jesus, I need you for this  
life and for eternal life.  
Thank you for being my  
good shepherd.

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Elizabeth Greene

WEEK FIFTY-ONE

## Enjoying Your Work



*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

Elizabeth Greene found true happiness—heart-bursting, soul-touching, life-fulfilling joy. This was what she was made to do. On her first time to fly an airplane solo at night, God’s song filled her heart. Surrounded by the stars, as she breathed prayers of thanks, her mind repeated over and over the words of today’s verse: “his song is with me” (from the ESV Bible translation).

Ever since she was little, Elizabeth had loved Jesus and wanted to tell people about him. And she loved flying. By age 16, she had saved enough for lessons. A few years later, World War II broke out and she enlisted in the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) unit.

Still, she hoped her two passions would align more. She wanted to tell people about Jesus around the world ... and fly. But how could that happen?

When the war ended, God answered. Elizabeth met a man who shared her desire. Together they founded Mission Aviation Fellowship and began flying missionaries and their supplies to the most remote ends of the earth. Elizabeth crisscrossed the globe, telling many about Jesus.

There’s no joy like the satisfaction of being used by God while doing what you love. He gives us desires and talents that he can use to spread the good news about Jesus. No matter what you love to do, offer it up to the Lord.

***There’s no joy like being used by  
God while doing what you love.***



# Spiritual Fitness Training

Daydream a little: What do you love to do? How could God use your unique interests and talents to tell people about Jesus? Talk to God about it and listen to what he has to say. (Some people hear God speak in their thoughts while they are quiet and focused on him. Others hear God speak to them through the Bible.) Jot down your thoughts.



**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

"I find myself longing and praying that God will use the airplane not only in spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth but to help strengthen the whole Body of Christ by promoting a closer relationship and thus, more intelligent and effectual prayer."

—Elizabeth Greene, first pilot for Mission Aviation Fellowship

# Write Your Thoughts Here



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**DID YOU KNOW?**

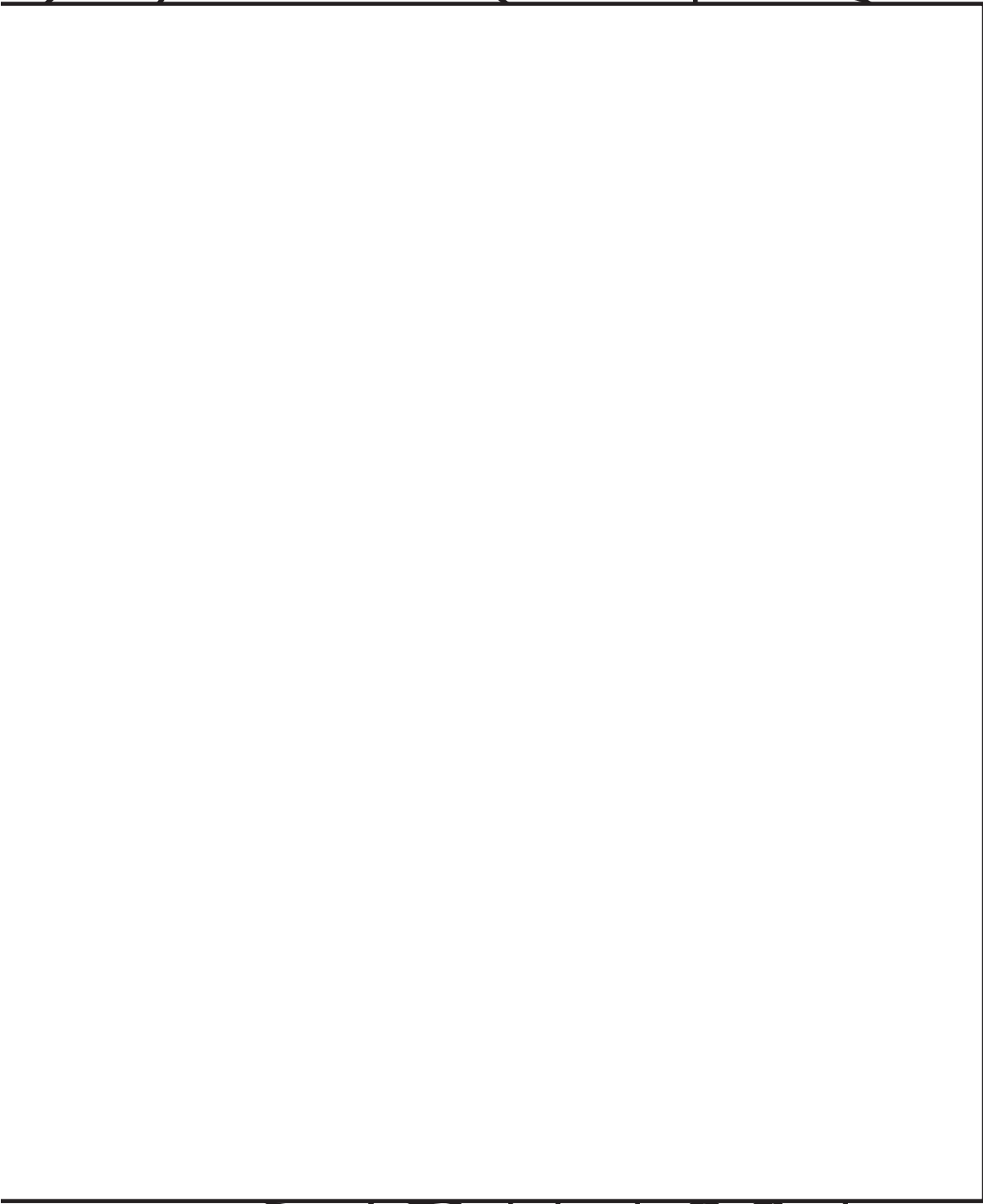
Mission Aviation Fellowship is still flying missionaries around the world today. In 2022, they flew over 16,000 flights carrying more than 52,000 passengers.

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**Doodle Space**





Week  
Fifty  
One



Stephen

WEEK FIFTY-TWO

## Fearless Faith



*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

Stephen stood out in the early church. He had been assigned to care for the widows. God was using him to tell people about Jesus and perform miracles. And when people argued with him, God gave him the wisdom to win every discussion.

So, his enemies hauled him into court. Stephen was able to deliver a long speech in his defense. He showed how the Jewish Scriptures pointed to Jesus. Listening, the religious authorities got more and more upset. At the end of his speech, God gave Stephen a gift: he was allowed to see into Heaven, and he saw Jesus standing next to God. Excitedly, he shouted for everyone to look and see it, too. That was it. The whole court rushed him outside and killed him by throwing rocks at him.

Stephen was unconcerned about what happened to him. Why? If he lived, he would find joy in serving God. If he died, he would be with Jesus Christ. This hope made him fearless. It didn't matter what people did: he would keep serving Jesus. So even as he died, Stephen called out to his Lord, and he asked Jesus to forgive his murderers.

Stephen was faithful to God and gave forgiveness to others, even when facing injustice. He stood strong and obedient to the end. Isn't that amazing? God can give you that fearless faith, too! Ask him to give you unshakeable faith today!

Brave

***True hope in Christ will make you fearless!***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit. We will have no room for the Spirit if we are full of selfish desires, busy agendas, or the world's thoughts and priorities. How can you push back some of this world's influence today and tune in to the Spirit?

## Turn Off

*Music with graphic or crude lyrics*

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## Turn On

*Worship music*

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

Psalm 23:4

Psalm 31:14–15

Romans 14:7–8

Philippians 1:20–21

Week  
Fifty  
Two

"He is no fool who gives  
what he cannot keep, to  
gain what he cannot lose."

—Jim Elliot, missionary in the  
1900s who was killed for his faith  
in Jesus



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**TALKING TO GOD**

Jesus, I give you my life. Use me to serve you and people. Fill me with hope of eternal life with you.

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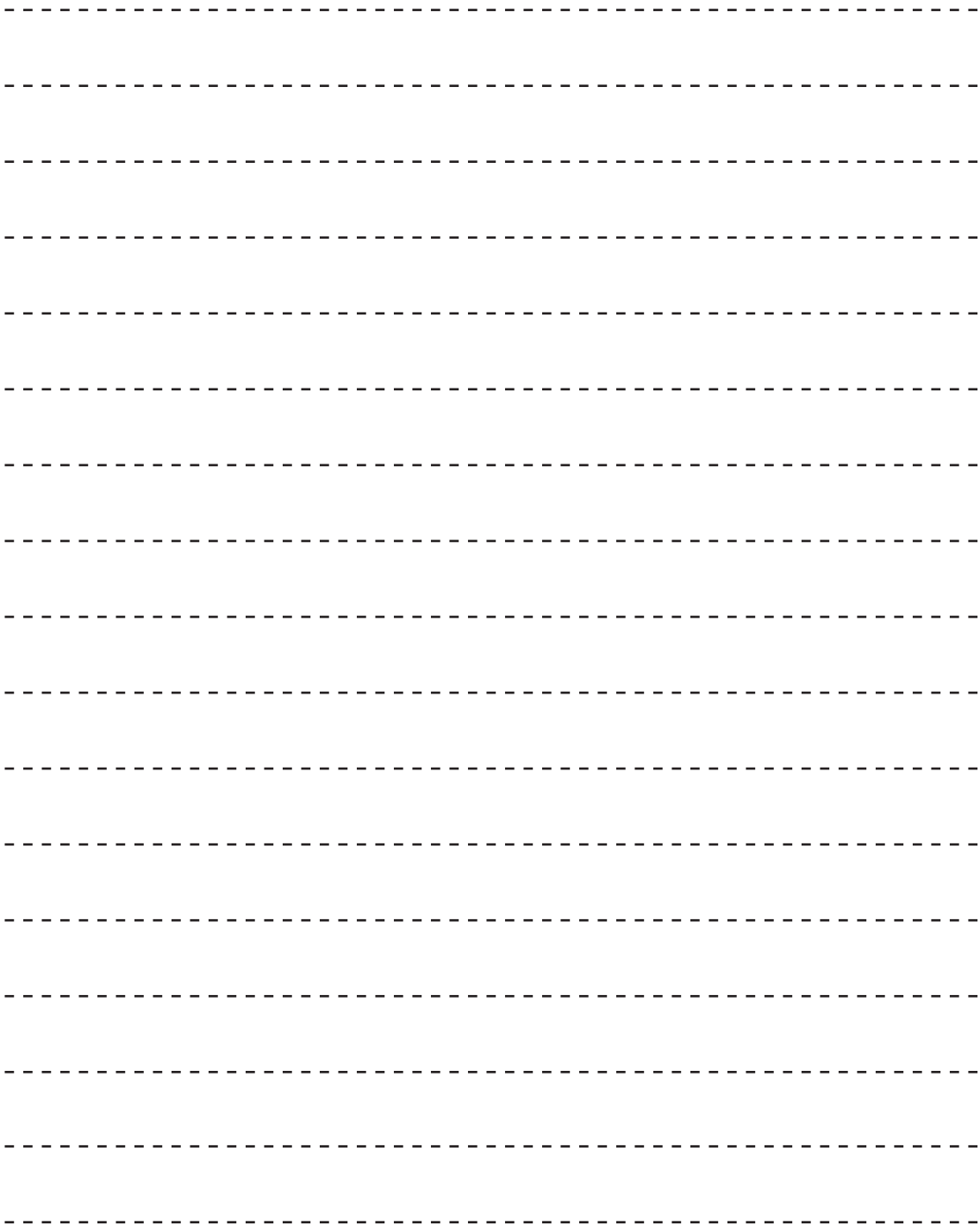
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Journal  
Notes



**Brave**

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

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

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Brave

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**Journal  
Notes**

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**Keep It Going!** ↘

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

(It's coming soon!)

