How God's Miracles Can Answer Our Biggest Questions



Embracing the Impossible Through God's Word

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING



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

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE EASTER TRADITION?

## 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 Do God's Miracles Answer Our Biggest Questions?	6
How to Use this Book	8
Tips & Ideas	9
<b>WEEK 1:</b> Is the World an Accident?	10
WEEK 2: What if God Seems Silent?	14
WEEK 3: Does God Care About Evil?	20
WEEK 4: Does God Give Up on Us?	24
WEEK 5: Does God Control My Future?	30
WEEK 6: Does God Control Military Assignments?	34
<b>WEEK 7:</b> Does God Care About the Oppressed?	40
WEEK 8: What Happens When People Encounter God?	44
WEEK 9: Does God Lead His People?	50
<b>WEEK 10:</b> Does Jesus Care about the Details?	54
WEEK 11: Will God Make a Way When I Need Him?	60
WEEK 12: Does Jesus's Care Extend to Everyone?	64
<b>WEEK 13:</b> What Does God Want Me to Do When I Lack Something?	70

# HOW DO GOD'S MIRACLES ANSWER OUR BIGGEST QUESTIONS?

Miracles

A miracle is something extraordinary that happens through God's power, not something people can do on their own. The Bible is full of stories about miracles, like when Jesus walked on water or healed the sick. Miracles show us that nothing is too hard for God and that he cares for us deeply.

#### HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED A MIRACLE? WRITE ABOUT IT:

Though we may not often see the same kind of miracles today, God still works in our lives. He answers prayers, gives us strength in hard times, and sends the right people to us when we need them. By reading about miracles in the Bible, we can recognize God's power and care in our lives and learn to trust Him no matter what.

#### WHAT ARE THREE THINGS YOU WANT TO LEARN FROM GOD THIS SPRING?

EXAMPLE: To learn about how good God is

## 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!

Miracles

## 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 to 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!

#### WEEK ONE

## Is the World an Accident?

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1.1

Before cardinals were red and could fly, before a horse's mane caught the wind, before people engineered rockets, before the taste of vanilla, there was nothing. No land with nutrients. No sun-no solar energy. No lightning strikes.

God hovered over the emptiness. Then his voice broke the silence, and immediately something appeared—light. Next came sky, and water, and dry land with mountains and fields full of minerals and nutrients. And then God commanded the earth to produce all kinds of plants, including fruit trees and grain. Then he spoke the sun, moon, and stars into existence. He designed seasons and tides and ocean boundaries and winds, setting them in motion, spinning the earth on its axis in its dance around the sun.

He spoke and filled the ocean with sea creatures and the sky with birds of every kind. He saw that everything was good so far, and then he created the animals with such varieties of size and shape and color—penguins and grasshoppers and giraffes and coyotes. God declared each of them to be good.

And then, he spoke within himself. "Now we will make humans, and they will be like us." He made both men and women to be like himself, and gave them the task of filling the earth with children and bringing order to the world.

The Creator's voice was heard again when he declared, "It is very good." The Miracreation of this world was nothing short of a miracle, and God declared it good. cles

> God's voice broke the silence, and out of nothing, everything appeared.

What difference does it make to the world's problems to know God so powerfully and lovingly created the world? What difference does it make to your problems? Compare some of your concerns with what God can do.





Prayer Corner

God, thank you for creating this world, and thank you for creating me. Remind me daily you created me and all that surrounds me with purpose.

Write	Your	Thoughts	Here	
		Thoughts		4

 DID YOU KNOW?	
 We should see the sky as violet, because it has the shortest	
 wavelength of colors. But our eyes are more sensitive to the	
 next shortest wavelength of light—blue.	
	eek Ie

#### WEEK TWO

## What if God Seems Silent?

But the angel told him: Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayers. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son, and you must name him John. Luke 1:13

No word came from God for 400 years. No life-changing miracles. No supernatural help to save the Jewish people from their enemies. No warnings or blessings from prophets.

Elizabeth felt this silence, too. She and her husband Zechariah, the priest, also had a personal wish—their prayers for a child had gone unanswered. Now, they had grown too old to conceive. Desire turned to disappointment. Still, they continued to serve a loving and powerful God.

Then came Zechariah's selection by lottery to go into the temple, close to the presence of God, to bring the incense offering. No one but a priest could go inside.

So it shocked Zechariah to find someone with him: an angel, who told him Elizabeth would have a son who would prepare people for Jesus to come. The baby was to be named John. When Zechariah stammered a confused question, because only a miracle could give them a child, the angel silenced him—for nine months. He couldn't utter a word throughout Elizabeth's extraordinary pregnancy.

When the baby came, Zechariah carefully followed the angel's orders and wrote out John's name. Immediately, Zechariah could speak again, and he erupted in praises to God. In all the years of waiting, God may have seemed silent, but he was working for the good of his children and for his glory.

Miracles

## Even in the silence, Elizabeth and Zechariah continued to serve a loving, powerful God.

What things are you wanting for yourself? For your family? For your nation and the military? Pick a verse for each category to remember God's promises. Check out the "Keep It Going" verses for possibilities.

Self	Family	Nation
Verse	Verse	Verse

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

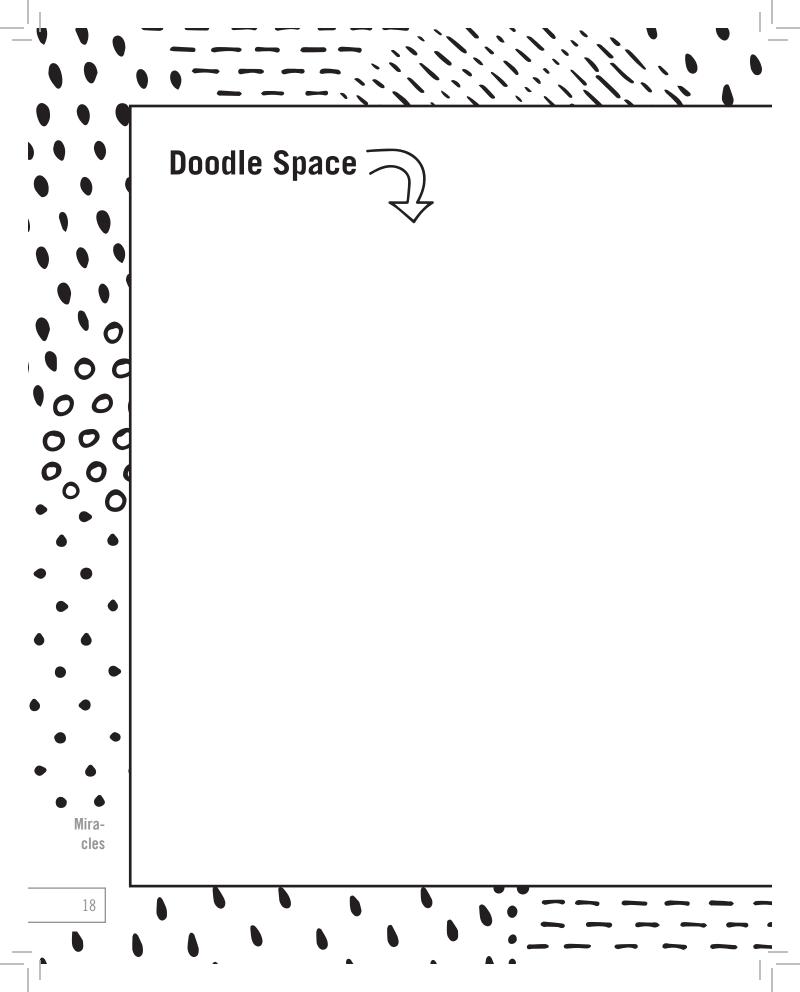
Ezekiel 12:25	🗌 1 John 5:14–15	Week
🗆 Isaiah 14:27	□ 2 Peter 3:9	Iwo

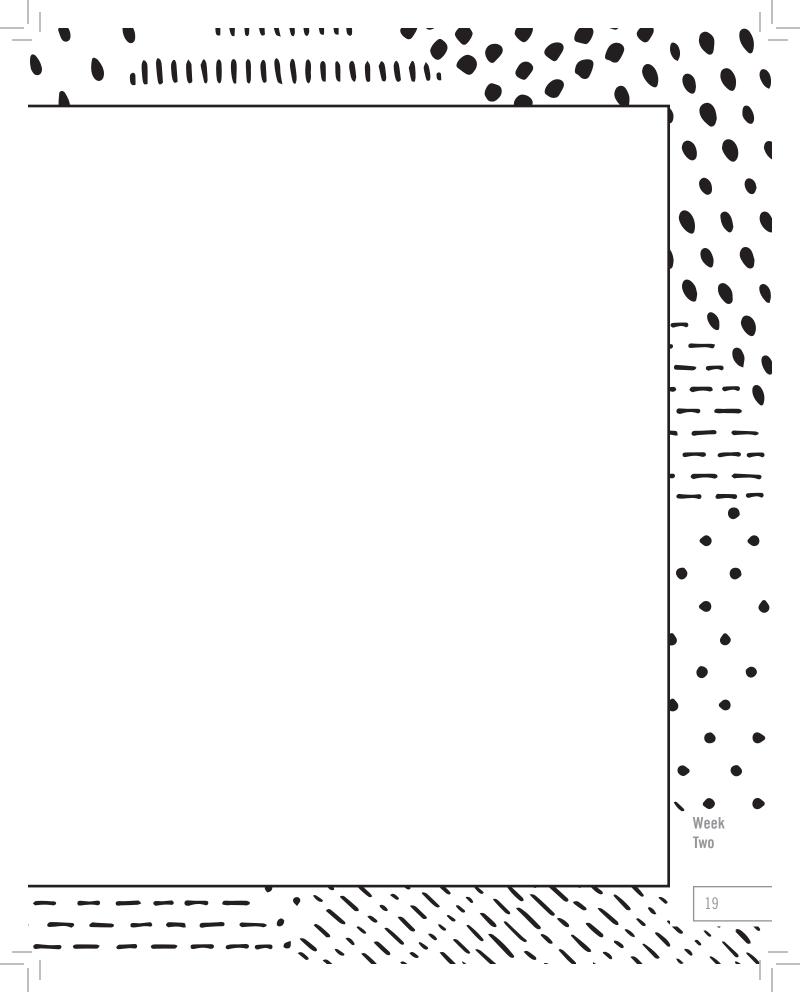
Prayer Corner

God, sometimes the waiting hurts. Help me to hear you and trust you, no matter what your answer is.

Write	Your	Thoughts	Here	
		Thoughts		44

 DID YOU KNOW?
 A baby's heart starts beating around six weeks old in
 its mother's womb, but its cardiac cells grow and pulse
 even earlier.
 Week Two





## **Does God Care About Evil?**

"I'm going to send a flood that will destroy everything that breathes! Nothing will be left alive. But I solemnly promise that you, your wife, your sons, and your daughters-in-law will be kept safe in the boat." Genesis 6:17–18

After earth's good start, people had rebelled against God. It got worse generation after generation until Noah was the only one who still loved and obeyed God. Everyone else did what they wanted—evil, cruelty, and violence.

And God was sorry he had made them. The people he had created had turned their backs on him and corrupted his world. He could not let evil continue. He decided to wipe the slate clean and start over.

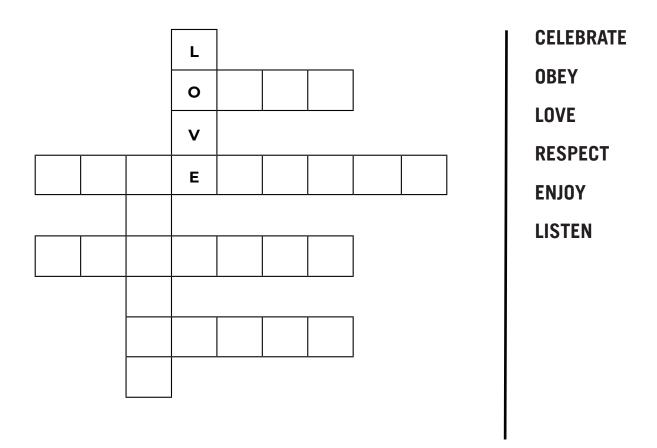
But God remembered Noah. This man walked with God, talked with him, obeyed him. So God warned him of the coming destruction. God told Noah to build an ark—a massive boat—to save him from the coming great flood. God gave him the directions but Noah had to build it. He was to bring his family into the ark. Then God told him to gather a male and a female of all the animals and bring them all into the ark, along with their food. But when Noah, his family, and the animals were inside, the Lord himself closed the door.

The rains came for 40 days. The water covered the highest mountains for 150 days, then began to recede for another 150 days. Everything was gone from the earth, except those in the boat. About a year after they were shut in, Noah and his family and the animals emerged into a fresh new world. The Lord saved them—and then he gave them a new promise. God cares about the evil that surrounds us, and he rescues us when we need him.

Miracles

> Because Noah walked with God, the Lord saved Noah and his family when he judged a corrupted world.

God creates and saves people because he wants a relationship with us. What do you think "Noah walked with God" means? Put these words from Genesis 6 into the crossword puzzle, and doodle around the puzzle any that come to your mind.





Prayer Corner

Lord, we need you. Thank you for rescuing us. Please help me to walk with you like Noah did.

Write	Your	Thoughts	Here	
		Thoughts		44

 DID YOU KNOW? The atmosphere holds nearly
 37.5 million billion gallons of water at any given time, but that is still less than 1 percent of all
 the water on earth.
 Week
 Inree

WEEK FOUR

## **Does God Give Up on Us?**

"... and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end." Luke 1:31–33

Two thousand years ago, in an obscure village, a poor young woman had a baby in a stable. No big deal. Except . . . the child's father was God.

Mary was engaged to a carpenter named Joseph. They were faithful Jews and they planned a typical life, hopefully with children. But God interrupted their plans. An angel appeared to Mary. After reassuring her, he said Mary would have a baby. Her child would be holy, God's Son and the long-awaited king. Mary said yes to God.

An angel also interrupted her fiancé Joseph in a dream. He told Joseph to call Mary's baby Jesus—"God saves"—for he would interrupt people's ways of sin, saving them from their path of self-destruction.

Nine months later, they were traveling to Bethlehem, Joseph's hometown. When they got there, the only place they could find to sleep was a stable—and that night the baby was born.

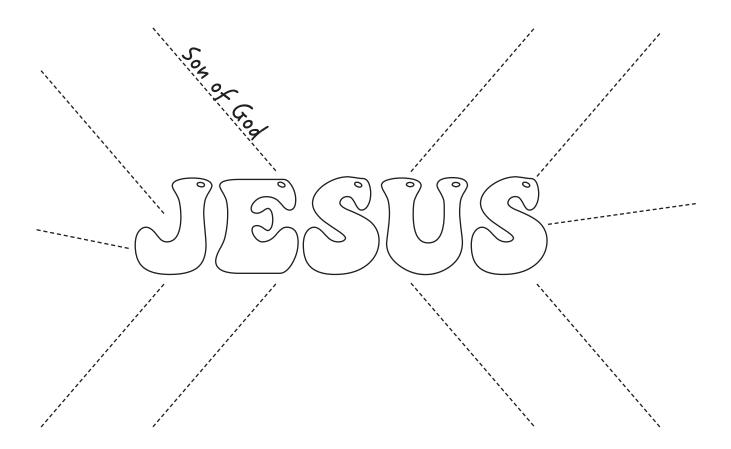
Nearby, shepherds were terrified as their night watch was interrupted. In a flash of light, the sky was full of angels praising God and telling them where to find this new baby that God had sent to save his people.

Though a long-awaited promise, God never gave up on his people and his promises, and he never will.

Miracles

Angels predicted and celebrated the birth of Jesus—God's interruption in humanity's self-destructive path.

How do you need God to interrupt your life? Are you willing to let him do it? Think about it. Find the names, descriptions, and actions the Bible says about Jesus from this week's verses, and write them on the lines below.



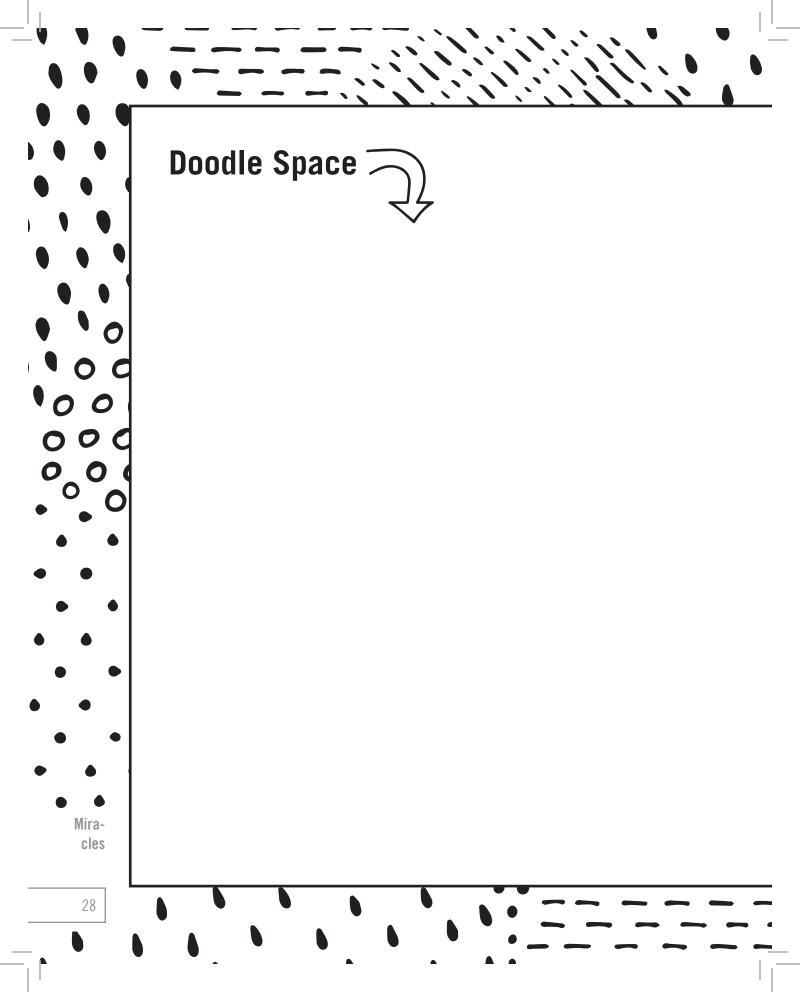


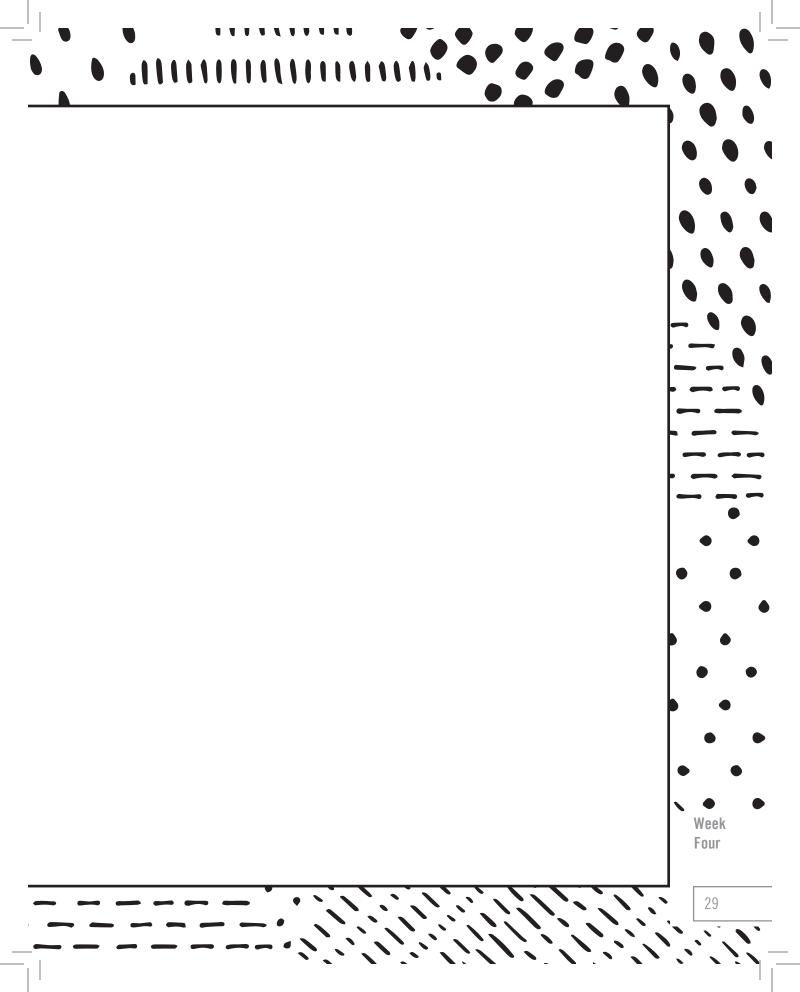
Prayer Corner

God, without you we are on a path to destruction. Thank you for sending Jesus to save us.

Write	Your	Thoughts	Here	
				74

 DID YOU KNOW?
 We see starlight from 20 quadrillion miles away and
 more. When stars appear to twinkle, it is because our
 layered atmosphere changes the way the light looks.
 Week Four





#### WEEK FIVE

### **Does God Control My Future?**

"Your Majesty," Joseph answered, "I can't do it myself, but God can give a good meaning to your dreams." Genesis 41:16

Sleep was usually a relief from the nightmare of life in an Egyptian prison. But then two of Pharaoh's imprisoned servants had unsettling dreams, and they couldn't stop talking about them. Finally, another prisoner named Joseph, a foreigner, asked why they were so upset. He said God could interpret dreams. When he heard their visions—the former assistant gathering grapes in a cup for Pharaoh, and the former baker with baskets of bread being eaten by birds—Joseph told them the assistant would go back to work for Pharaoh as a cupbearer, while the baker would be beheaded. It happened just as he said.

As a child, Joseph had had his own dream of his family bowing down to him. It seemed impossible it would ever happen now. He had been falsely accused and was still imprisoned far from home. Even the small hope that the cupbearer would remember him and put in a favorable word with the king, fizzled.

But Joseph stayed faithful to a faithful God. Two years later, Pharaoh had his own bad dreams. His assistant finally remembered Joseph the dream-interpreter, and God used Joseph to reveal a warning: The dream of skinny cows eating fat ones meant famine was coming. The former prisoner heard from God, and Pharaoh put him in charge of the country. In the following years, Joseph saved the region from starvation.

And when his family came for food, they bowed down to him. As Joseph discovered, God does control our future, and there is no one better to be in the Miradriver's seat. cles

> God used a faithful man to save a country, and his family.

If God controls climate and countries, prisoners and Pharaohs, dreams and futures, what can you trust him with today? Write down your prayer requests for the week, and your dreams for the future.

For Me		
For My Family	For My Country	

For My Family	For My Country

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

Desalm 40:5

□ Daniel 2:30

Philippians 1:6Ephesians 2:10

Week Five

Prayer Corner

God, you control circumstances, dreams, the climate—and you care about both individuals and nations. Thank you!

Write	Your	Thoughts	Here	
		Thoughts		44

 <b>DID YOU KNOW?</b> That feeling of not being able to move during a dream is in part because we dream in REM sleep when most of our muscles are shut down.	
	Week Five

WEEK SIX

## **Does God Control Military Assignments?**

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. Matthew 2:9

Though Mary and Joseph hadn't seen any more angels, God kept working miracles. He set stars and dreams in motion to guide men and shape history.

While Mary and Joseph were living quietly as a family after Jesus was born, wise men hundreds of miles away were studying skies with renewed excitement. A new star had appeared, and in their culture, that meant a new king. They may also have heard of ancient Jewish texts predicting that a ruler like a star will come from Israel. They set out to find the new king the star was heralding.

But, there was an old king in Jerusalem. King Herod was ruthless and paranoid and had already killed some of his own sons to keep his throne. When the eastern scholars arrived announcing a new king, he helped them on their way, determined to exterminate whomever they found.

The wise men followed the star until it stopped over a home. Inside, they found the young child, Jesus, and fell down to worship him and give him gifts. God warned the wise men in their dreams to thwart Herod by returning home by a different route.

Then God sent an angel in a dream to Joseph. That night, he took Mary and Jesus and they escaped into Egypt, out of Herod's grasp.

Miracles In the same way God guided the wise men and protected Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, he is involved in all aspects of life, including military assignments. He will lead you through each with great care according to His purpose.

#### The God who controls the stars, dreams, and circumstances works in your life, too.

If you hadn't lived at certain places, many things in your life would have been different. What are some of the cool things that happened at different duty stations? Star the places on the map where they happened, and document your milestones in the box to the right. Thank the Lord for working in your life, and trust him for the future!



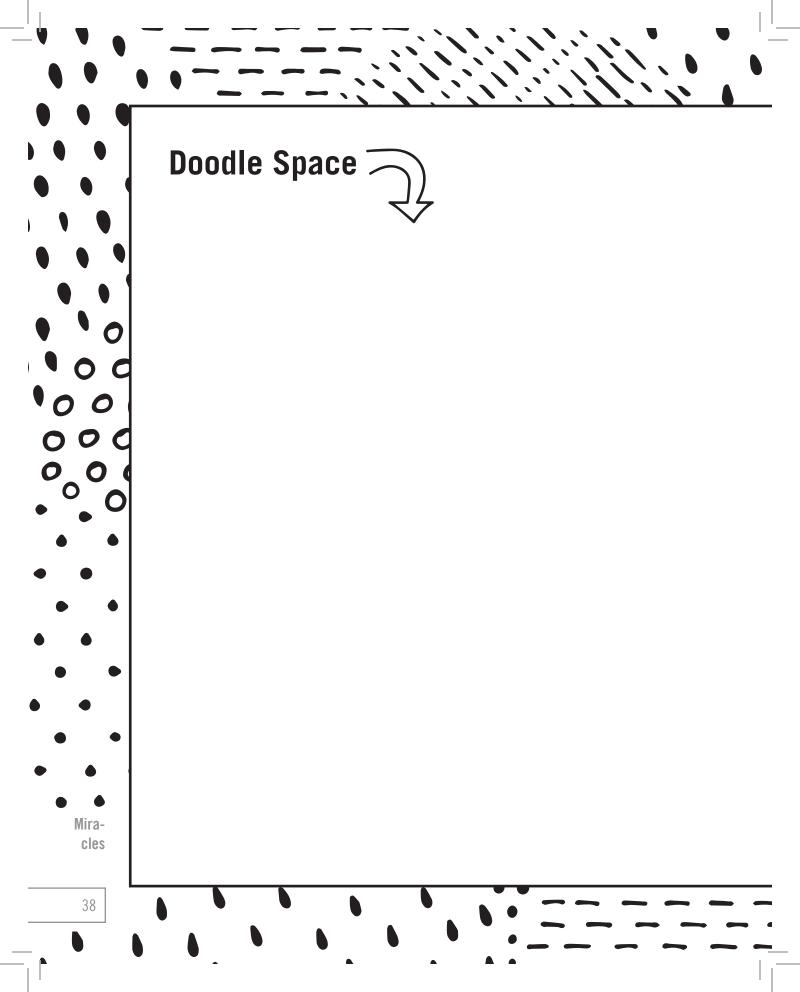


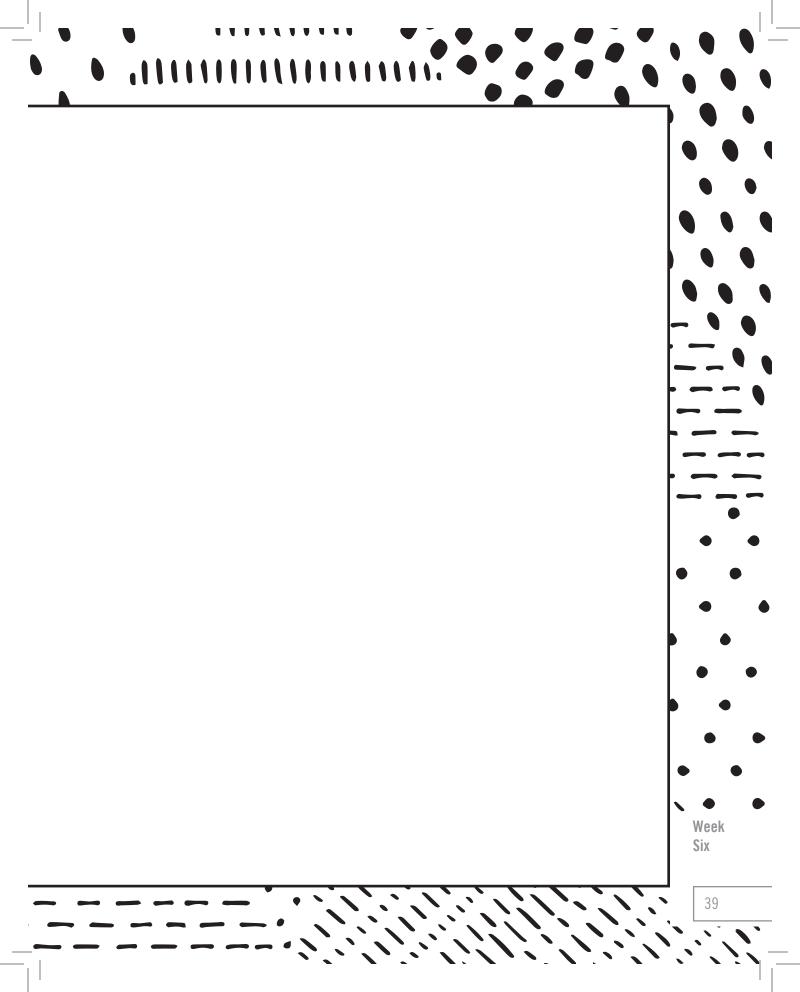
Prayer Corner

God, I don't always like where we live. But I see you work in everything. Help me trust you.

# Write Your Thoughts Here

 DID YOU KNOW?
 Through experiments, scientists found many animals who have
 learned to navigate by the stars, including harbor seals. In a
 floating planetarium, the seals identified and followed lights.
 Wee Six





#### WEEK SEVEN

#### **Does God Care about the Oppressed?**

But I will make the king so stubborn that he won't listen to you. He won't listen even when I do many terrible things to him and his nation. Then I will bring a final punishment on Egypt, and the king will let Israel's families and tribes go. When this happens, the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord. Exodus 7:3–5

What drives someone to dominate other people? For the Egyptians, it was fear. They saw God bless the Israelites who lived among them. They feared they might take over the country. So they tried to control them. They forced them to make bricks, build cities, work the fields. When the Israelites continued to flourish, the king even ordered their baby boys to be killed.

Enslaved in a foreign land, mistreated and oppressed by a people who worshiped strange gods, the Israelites cried out to their God. He heard their cries and sent Moses to free them. Step by step, God told Moses what to do before Pharaoh, the king. Moses asked for the Israelites' freedom, then threw his staff down—and it turned into a snake. Pharaoh ignored him. God turned all the water in the land to blood. Pharaoh said no. God gave him another chance by sending frogs to cover the place. Then he covered them with gnats, and then flies. The Egyptian cows died of sickness and the people got painful sores. Hail pounded the land. Locusts ate up what was left. Then utter darkness swallowed them for three days.

Finally, the Lord sent the angel of death to take the lives of all first-born males, both human and livestock. At midnight, as screams were heard across the land, Pharaoh released the Israelites. They fled in the middle of the night, finally free. God deeply cares about the oppressed. He saw the suffering of the Israelites and responded with power and justice. When you or others face injustice, remember that God sees, hears, and is always working for the good of His people. No one is forgotten by Him.

God hears the cries of the oppressed and will hold oppressors accountable.

Miracles

God uses his people to care for people who need help. Who moves your heart? Ask God to give you a heart that's sensitive to the needs of others and equip you in how to respond. Write below who you are praying for and what you might be able to do.

Who	What		7
		·····	



Prayer Corner

God, break my heart the way yours breaks for the people who need help. Show me how I can help.

Write	Your	Thoughts	Here	
				4

 DID YOU KNOW?
 Children are still enslaved for work, for the sex trade, and even to
 fight as soldiers. Several Christian agencies are working to help make and enforce laws to protect them.
(
 r

WEEK EIGHT

#### What Happens When People Encounter God?

When Simon Peter saw this happen, he knelt down in front of Jesus and said, "Lord, don't come near me! I am a sinner." Peter and everyone with him were completely surprised at all the fish they had caught. His partners James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were surprised too. Jesus told Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you will bring in people instead of fish." Luke 5:8–10

Simon's family were fishermen, making their living on the Sea of Galilee, pushing boats into it, rowing through it, battling storms. And then the heave-pull of throwing nets into the depths for hours, hoping to be rewarded with enough fish to stay ahead of the bills. There was no reward for their labor last night. Simon was left sitting on the beach in the morning sun, fixing nets, hoping and praying for a better day.

Nearby, Jesus had a crowd of people pushing towards him as he taught. When the crowd got too close, Jesus got into Simon's boat, and told him to push off into the water so he could finish teaching those on the shore. When he finished, he turned to Simon and told him to go fish. What was this? A carpenter, telling him to fish in the morning sun? Simon hesitated but obeyed.

One throw and he was overwhelmed with a net-breaking, boat-sinking mother lode. His partners brought a second boat. They filled both and headed for shore quickly—with a payday bigger than they had ever seen before. Simon knew. He was with someone who ruled the sea and forgives relentlessly. He fell on his knees before Jesus, all too aware of his sinfulness.

But, Jesus told him to not be afraid. He had a new calling—to bring in people. Immediately, Simon left it all—the fortune in fish, the family business. What else could he do? When people encounter God, everything changes. Like Simon, when you experience His power and forgiveness, you can't help but be transformed.

## Confronted with the Lord's power, Simon willingly left everything behind.

Miracles

During his earthly ministry, Jesus called a few people to give up everything for him. He still calls some to do the same today. Are you willing to give your life to whatever he calls you to do? Pray about it!









#### LURE 5:10

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

□ Job 42:5–6

□ Daniel 7:13–14

□ Matthew 28:19–20

🗌 Mark 10:28–30

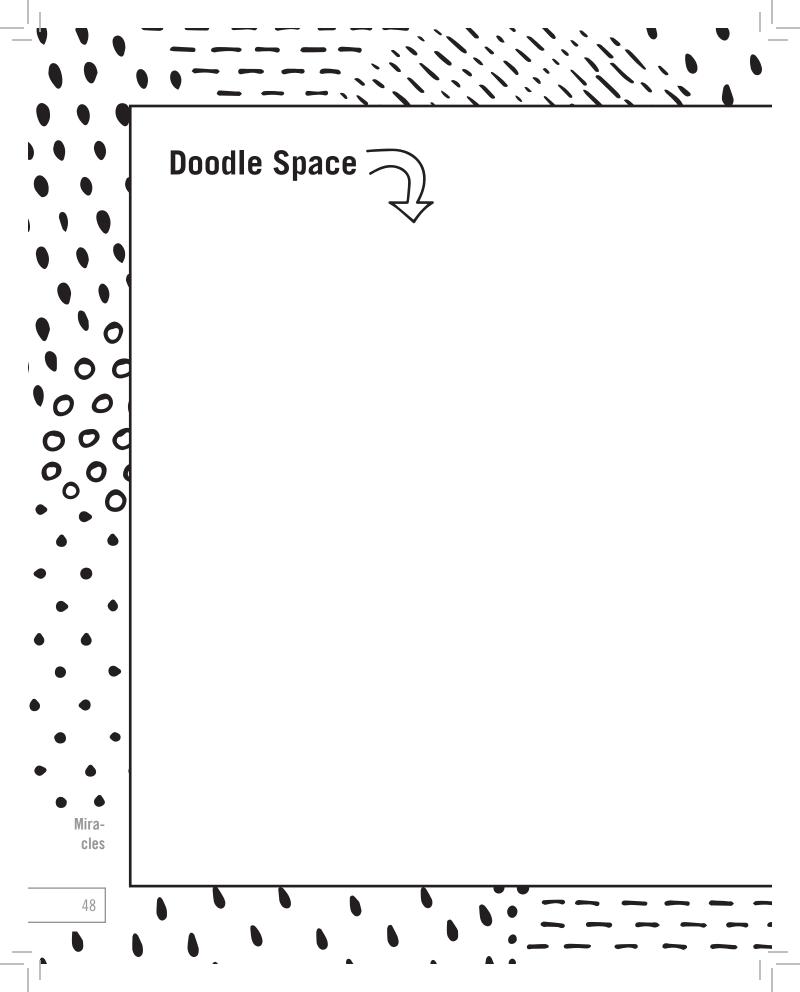
Week Eight

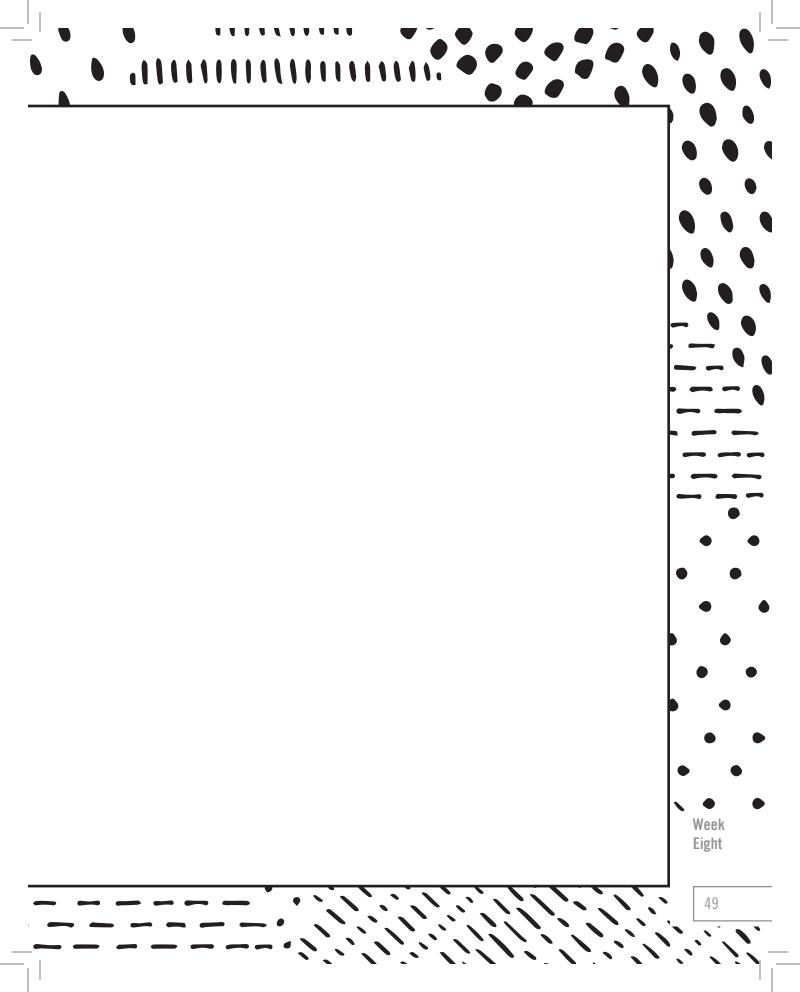
Prayer Corner

God, I see your power everywhere, and in your Bible. Help me leave what I need to and follow you.

# Write Your Thoughts Here

 _ DID YOU KNOW?
Scientists have only mapped
 - 26 percent of the ocean
floor through high-resolution
technology, and probably only
 a third of its creatures have
been discovered, according to
 NOAA Ocean Exploration.
Wee
 Eigl





#### **Does God Lead His People?**

WFFK NINF

During the day the LORD went ahead of his people in a thick cloud, and during the night he went ahead of them in a flaming fire. That way the LORD could lead them at all times, whether day or night. Exodus 13:21–22

Now what?

A people who weren't allowed to decide what to do with their days were suddenly freed from slavery. Generations of Israelites fled Egypt in the middle of the night out into the wide world.

They knew where they wanted to end up—the land promised by God to their ancestors where they could live in safety and be free to worship their God. But, they had only a vague idea of how to get there. And in between them and the promise, was a large body of water, deserts, and countries of hostile people. God knew that an attack now could be devastating to the faith of the new nation.

So, God decided to lead them around by a longer way. He had already shown his concern and power in freeing them, and he stayed close to them now, teaching them how to follow him. By day, a towering pillar of cloud went ahead of them, big and high enough for the whole nation to see and follow. And at night, even more amazingly, God went ahead of them in a pillar of fire bright enough for them to travel by.

When the cloud or fire moved, they moved. When it held steady, they set up camp. God leads His people—just like He led the Israelites through their journey. His presence is always with us, showing the way forward.

Miracles

> God led with cloud and fire a people who didn't know where to go.

Sometimes God still gives clear signs to people who seek his will, especially new believers. But most often, he leads through a combination of factors. Work through this checklist when you need to make a decision:

Г

Be reading your Bible. God still speaks in Scripture and he
will never lead you in a way that goes against his Word. He most
often speaks through verses and passages and principles and
examples to guide your decisions. Make reading the Bible a
constant part of your life. Don't expect to flip open a random
page, drop your finger on a verse, and know what to do.
<b>Pray about it.</b> Ask about your decision, and then sit silently
and wait patiently, to hear God's answer. Be willing to accept
whatever the Lord says.
<b>Get wise counsel.</b> God can speak through godly people in your
life who are in tune with him and who know you.
Check your desires. Yes, God gives you many good desires. Pay
attention to them. But don't be quick to trust them. Watch your
motives. Be willing to sacrifice your dreams for God, and see if he
gives them back to you or leads you to even more fulfilling things
that you never imagined.

Keep It Going This Week	Find out more by reading these verses.	
□ Leviticus 26:12	🗆 John 14:6	Week
🗆 Psalm 119:105	🗌 John 16:13	Nine

Prayer Corner

God, since you direct the whole world, surely you know best. Please stay close to me, lead me, and help me follow you.

Write	Your	Thoughts	Here	
				$\downarrow$

 DID YOU KNOW? Clouds can weigh over a million pounds. Even though they look light and fluffy, the water vapor inside them is heavy enough to be as much as a fully loaded jumbo jet.
 junibo jet.
 Week

#### WEEK TEN

#### **Does Jesus Care about the Details?**

This was Jesus' first miracle, and he did it in the village of Cana in Galilee. There Jesus showed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. John 2:11

Killjoy: one who spoils the fun. For example, God? That's the reputation God has in some people's minds. But that's not the God revealed in the Bible. Look at Jesus's very first miracle. Jesus has just called his first followers. Does he take these disciples away for a long lecture and pound facts into them? Does he work them to the bone?

No. They go to a wedding in a small village. But at the celebration, the host runs out of wine. That's embarrassing—a guaranteed spoiler for the party. So Jesus's mother quietly tells him about it and directs the servers to do whatever he says. He tells the servers to fill up six huge water pots—more than 150 gallons then to take out a cup and give it to the master of ceremonies. When they do, the head server tastes the best wine. An extravagant gift! An over-the-top, more-thanenough blessing. He has spared the hosts from public shame.

Imagine Jesus laughing and celebrating with the bride and groom and giving a little wink to the disciples who have seen him do it. He has revealed his true nature to them, and he teaches them by using his first public miracle as a gift, a celebration. God has come among them and loves them. When the disciples saw this, they put their trust in Jesus. God's kingdom was arriving. The celebration can go on!

Jesus cares about the details of our lives, even the ones that seem small or unimportant. He is a loving Father who wants to bless us, celebrate with us, and care for every part of our journey.

Being with Jesus is cause for celebration. He brings true joy and extravagant gifts.

Miracles

Does it seem strange to think of Jesus celebrating with you? Check out this week's verses, and pick one to copy below. Thank God for the "extras" he blesses you with.



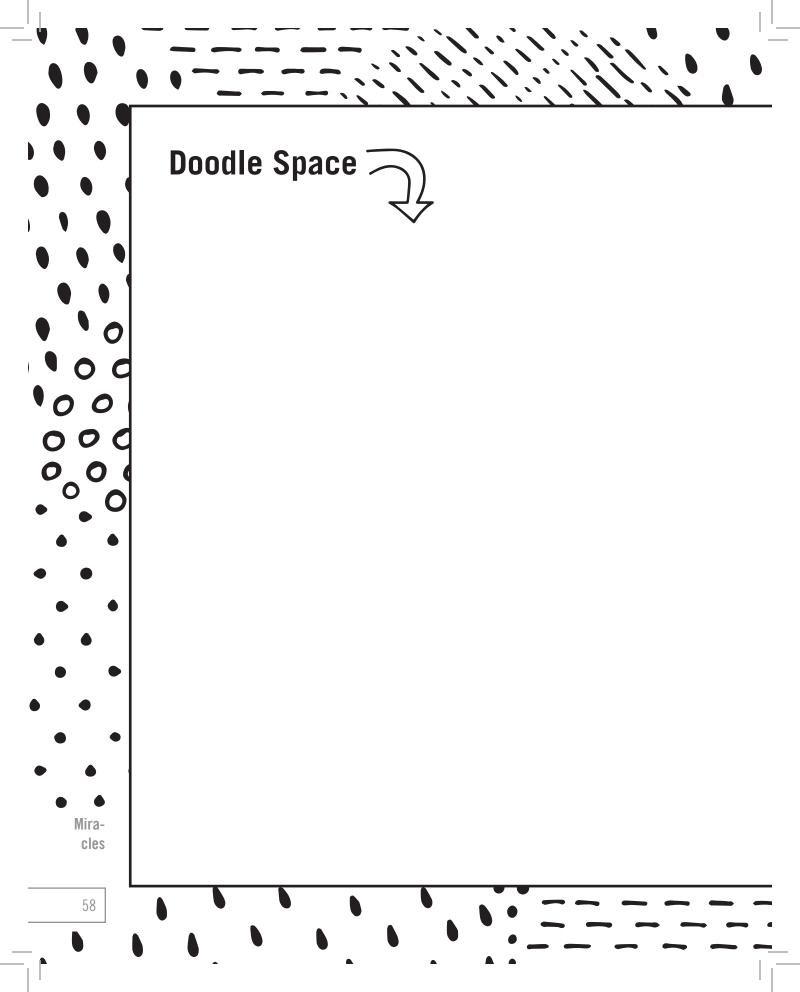


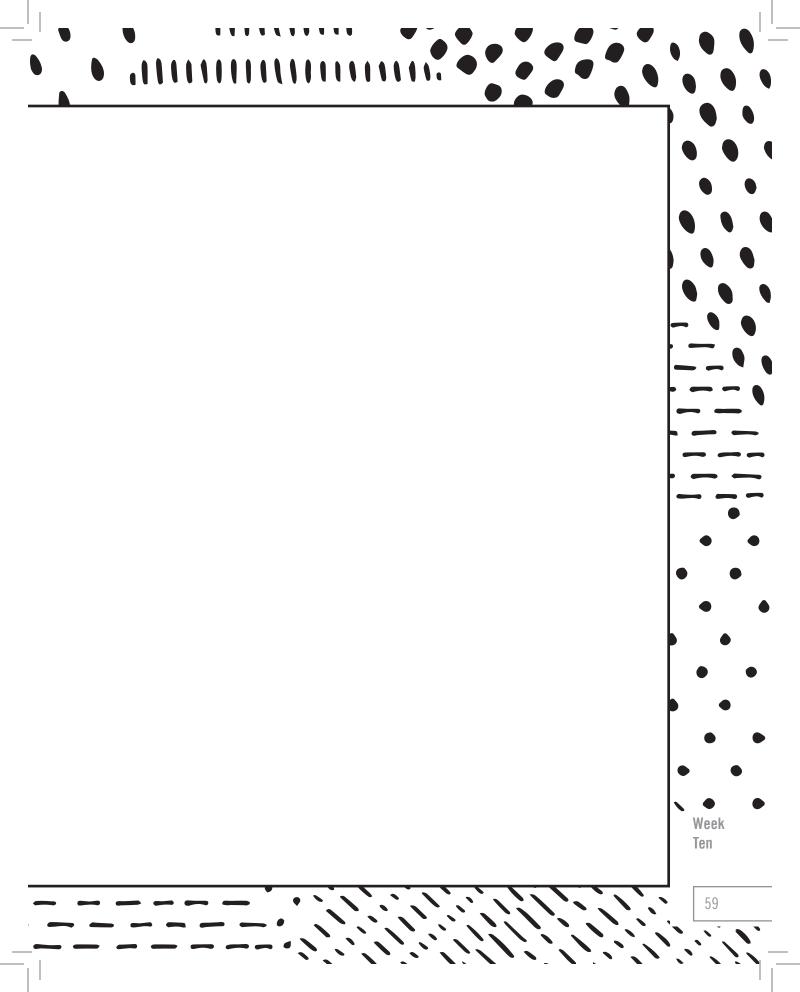
Prayer Corner

Jesus, please help me understand you and trust you more. Thank you for your extravagant gifts.

# Write Your Thoughts Here

 DID YOU KNOW?
 Paying attention to small details can actually improve your mood and
 help you feel more focused. Studies show that noticing and appreciating
 little things, like a beautiful sunset or a kind gesture, can boost
 happiness and reduce stress.
 Ten





WEEK ELEVEN

#### Will God Make a Way When I Need Him?

But the sea had made a wall of water on each side of the Israelites, so they walked through on dry land. Exodus 14:29

Enemy hooves pounding behind them. The sea in front of them. Slavery or death? The Israelites could see only two options, both bad. Have you ever felt like that? But there was so much more they (and we) could not see.

The Israelites had been released from slavery under the Egyptians and were heading to the promised land when Pharaoh changed his mind and called out his chariots. He caught them encamped by the Red Sea. A battle-hardened army descended on a defenseless people traveling with women, children, and elders.

But God was on their side. The cloud they had been following now settled between the two groups, giving light to the Israelites but darkness for the Egyptians.

Then Moses stretched out his arm over the sea. All night long the Lord sent a wind to push back the water and dry the ground. Come morning, the Israelites walked through the sea on a new road between walls of water.

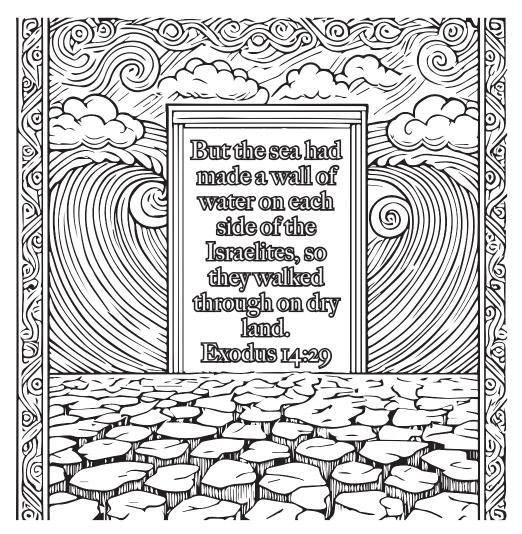
Egypt's army pursued the people into the dry seabed, but soon bogged chariot wheels led to panic in their ranks. When Moses had the last Israelite safely to the other side, he stretched his arm over the sea again. The waters returned and covered Pharaoh and his ranks. None of them escaped.

God will always make a way when you need Him! He can open doors and guide you through even the toughest situations when you trust in Him.

## When you're trapped with no possible escape, God makes a way out.

Miracles

The Red Sea continues to be a contested area, and many American forces serve there today. Pray for their safety and add some color to this page.



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

Exodus 15:2–3

□ John 16:33

🗆 Psalm 18:3

🗆 1 John 4:4

Week Eleven

Prayer Corner

God, thank you for this memory of how you saved Israel. Please make a way when I am stuck too.

Write	Your	Thoughts	Here	
		Thoughts		44

 DID YOU KNOW?
 The Suez Canal is an important shipping route that
 connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean. The Pharaohs
 first envisioned it, but it wasn't built until 1869.
 Week Eleven

WEEK TWELVE

#### **Does Jesus's Care Extend to Everyone?**

...Just say the word, and my servant will get well." Luke 7:7

Total domination. The Roman Empire spread and held its territory by brute force. A Roman soldier wielded unquestioned authority. When a commander of 100 soldiers, a centurion, was stationed in a town like Capernaum, it was not to win friends.

But one did. He came to love the Jewish people, even helping build their synagogue. So, when one of his favorite servants fell deathly ill, his concern was shared by the local Jewish leaders.

The centurion had heard of a Jewish teacher who healed the sick. When Jesus came to Capernaum, he sent his Jewish friends to ask Jesus to come and heal the servant.

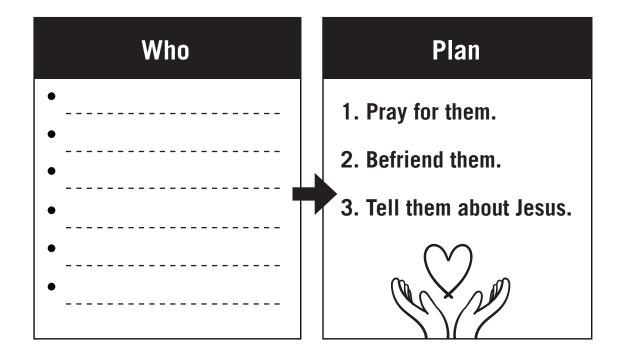
But, as they were bringing Jesus to the centurion's home, he sent another message: "You don't have to come. If I tell someone to do something, it gets done. I know that if you tell the sickness to leave, it will obey you."

Jesus was stunned. He told the crowds with him that this foreigner had more faith even than Jewish leaders. This would be the kingdom of heaven. The outsiders, the foreigners, the unexpected ones—all who put their trust in a good God would be welcomed in. When the messengers went back to the centurion's home, they found the servant fully healed.

Miracles Jesus's care extends to everyone, no matter where they come from or who they are. He welcomes all who trust in him and shows his love to people everywhere.

#### When confronted with an outsider's need, Jesus honored his faith.

Who are today's outsiders? Write down some groups or individuals and ask the Lord how you can help bring them to Jesus.



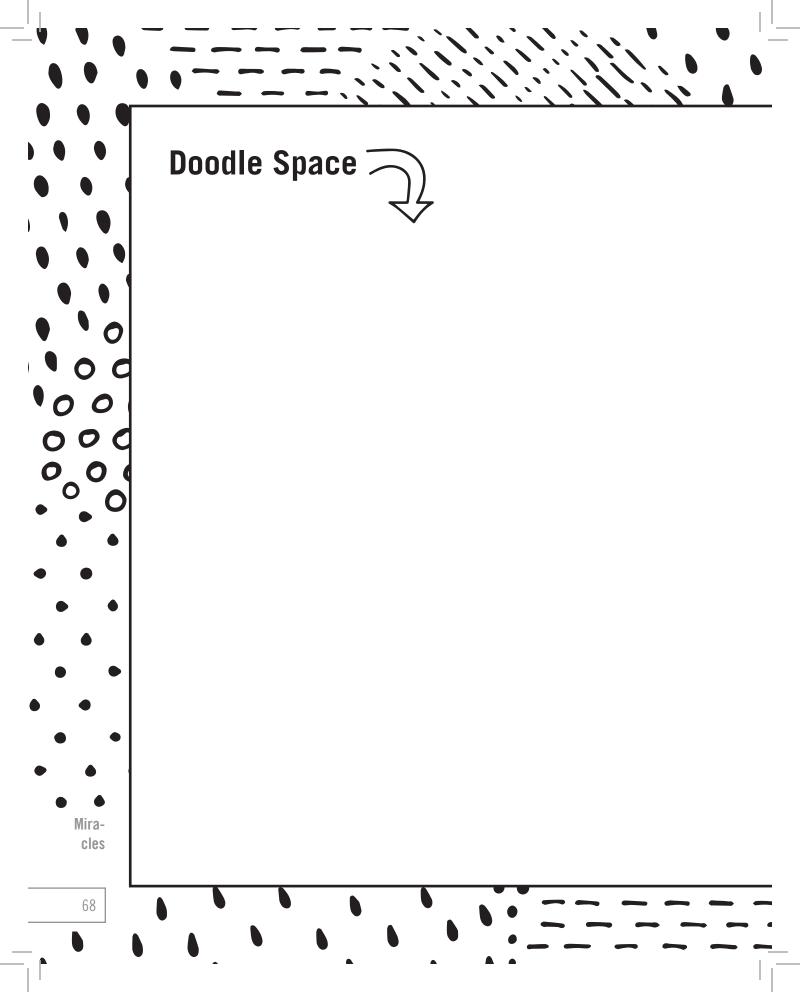


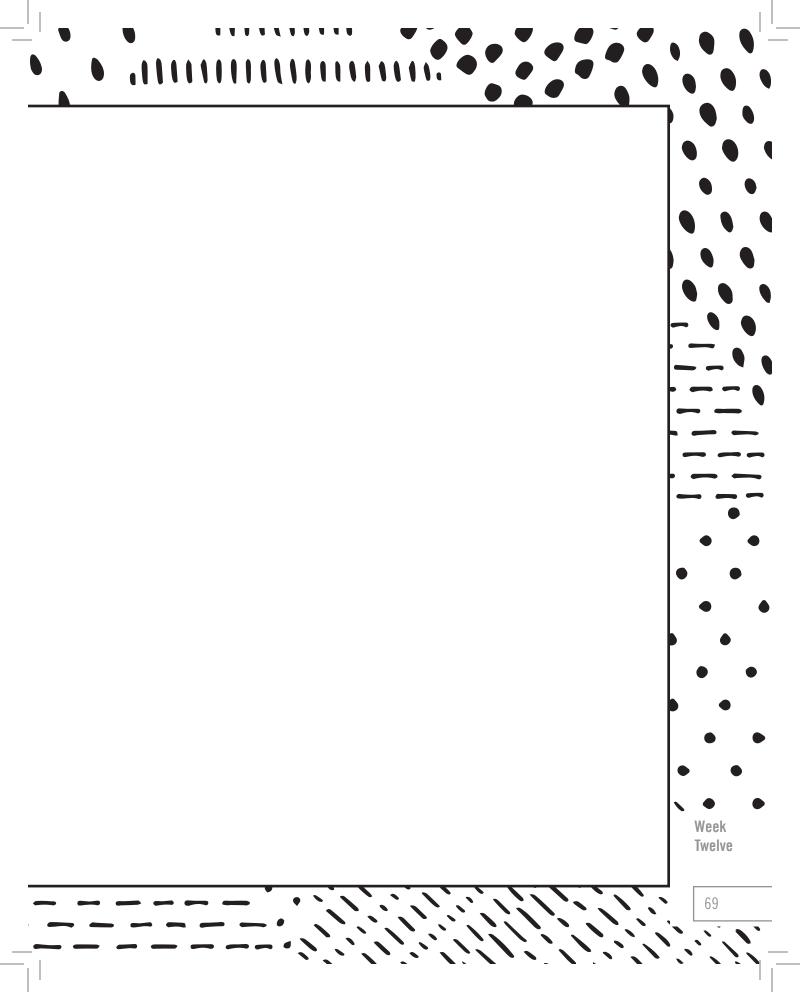
Prayer Corner

Jesus, thank you for loving the outsider. Please help me grow my faith and share it with others.

Write	Your	Thoughts	Here	
				44

 DID YOU KNOW?	
 Stress and loneliness can make you sick. They weaken your immune	
 system. Spending time with your family and hanging out with good	
 friends is healthy!	
	Veek welve





#### WEEK THIRTEEN

#### What Does God Want Me to Do When I Lack Something?

The Israelites ate manna for 40 years, before they came to the border of Canaan that was a settled land. Exodus 16:35

The Israelites experienced miracle after miracle. God freed them and brought them out of Egypt. They walked on dry ground through a sea, then watched the sea drown their enemies. They were following a pillar of cloud and fire to a new land. And then the test came, and they doubted, they worried, and they grumbled.

Thousands of people were going through a desert. Food was scarce. They were hungry, and ready to sell their freedom for a pot of stew. Instead of looking to the God of freedom, they wanted to turn back to the land of slavery. They complained, perhaps thinking God wouldn't hear them.

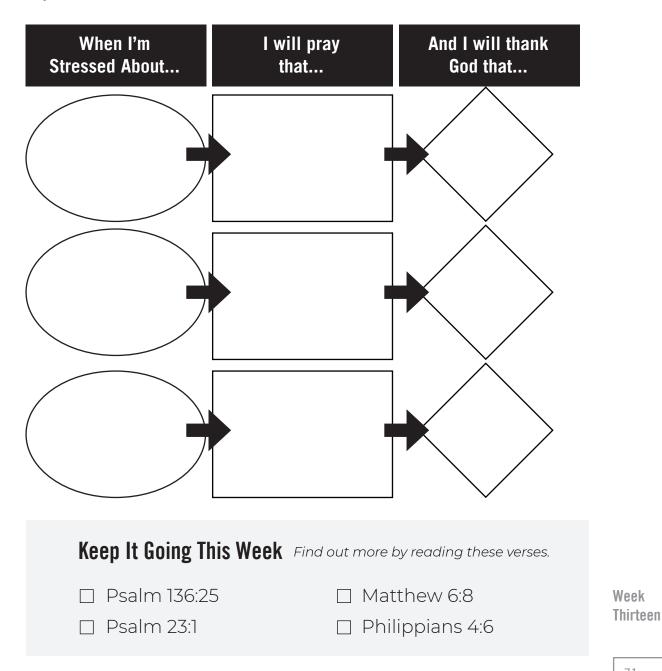
But, God was patient with them. He promised Moses there would be meat in their pots that evening, and bread in their bellies the next morning. In a way only God could orchestrate, a flock of quail landed around the camp as the sun began to set. The next morning, the people woke to find a flaky substance covering the ground like frost. What was it? It tasted like honey and could be boiled or baked. The Israelites gathered it up, around two liters per person. It was enough for the day. If they tried to hoard any extra, it spoiled. Only on the day before their day of rest, the Sabbath, could they store a double provision. Their journey to the promised land of refuge, and their journey to trusting and obeying their God, continued.

When you're lacking something, remember that God knows your needs and has a plan to provide for you—just like He did for the Israelites. Instead of doubting or complaining, trust Him and focus on what He's teaching you in the waiting. He's always faithful and will never leave you!

When faced with hunger, the Israelites forgot God's miraculous power and complained instead of praying.

Miracles

When you need something, do you complain about it? Worry about it? Talk to all kinds of people about it? Or do you remember to pray about it? Think about that as you fill out the chart below.



Prayer Corner

Thank you, God, for reminding me that you know my needs and are waiting for my prayer.

Write	Your	Thoughts	Here	
				4

 DID YOU KNOW? Americans eat 20 percent more calories than we did 50 years ago,
 according to Pew Research. That includes 29 percent more grains, like bread, at 122 pounds a year per person.
 Weel
 Thirt

## - -- - -- -\_ \_ - -- - -\_ Miracles ----

 Journal Notes

## - -- - -- -\_ \_ - -- - -\_ Miracles ----

 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?	
 	Journal Notes
	77

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## - -- - -- -\_ \_ - -- - -\_ Miracles ----

 Journal
 Notes

# Keep It Going!

## Great job! Check your mailbox for your next book!

(It's coming soon!)

