

How God's Miracles Can Answer Our Biggest Questions

MIRACLES

**Embracing the Impossible
Through God's Word**

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING

**★HERO
SQUAD**
JV EDITION

Miracles, Girls JV Squad Edition, Summer Issue

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WRITE THE NICKNAME YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY CALL YOU:

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT HAS ENCOURAGED YOUR FAITH, LATELY?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER 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 A PARENT OR ANOTHER ADULT'S PHONE NUMBER ON THIS LINE:



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

Mira-
cles

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.

WHAT PRAYERS DO YOU HAVE THAT SEEM IMPOSSIBLE THIS SEASON?

Although 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 SUMMER?

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!

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 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!

Paralyzed Man

WEEK FOURTEEN

What Can Jesus Do for People?



The man got right up. He picked up his mat and went out while everyone watched in amazement. They praised God and said, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2:12

So a man walks into a house—

No, wait. He was paralyzed.

So a paralyzed man was carried into a house—

Well, not exactly.

Actually, what happened was Jesus was in a house and the place was packed with people. No room to move. Worse than a family reunion with your cousins. No one could get in, especially not four men carrying a paralyzed guy on a mat.

But these friends were determined. They had heard about Jesus healing all kinds of people from all kinds of things. They loved their friend and they believed Jesus could heal him. So they looked at the problem and came up with a new plan: they got their friend up to the roof (not easy). They made a hole in the roof (probably didn't make the homeowner happy). Then they lowered their buddy down in front of Jesus.

Then things got even wilder. Jesus told him, "Your sins are forgiven"—as if he was God. That's when the religious leaders said, "You can't forgive people's sins!" And Jesus basically said, "Yes I can. And also, friend, you are healed, so get up and take this mat out of here."

And that's just what he did. Jesus can heal, forgive, and give us a fresh start. He loves us so much that He wants to make us whole, help us when we're hurting, and show us how to live with hope and joy every day.

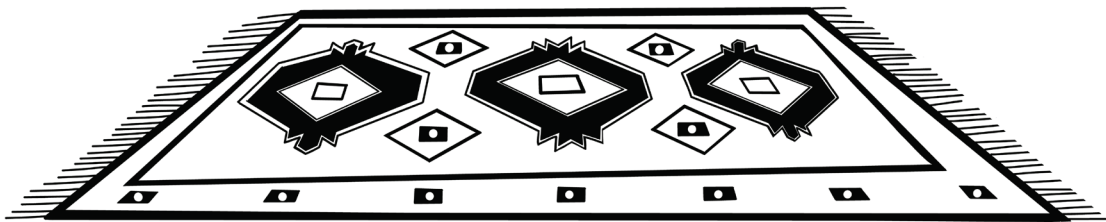
Mira-
cles

***Because Jesus is God, he can
forgive sins and heal people.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Jesus told the paralyzed man to pick up his mat, and he was healed and set free. Sin keeps us paralyzed, but Jesus sets us free. Find a mat or blanket in your house, place it on the floor, and spend some time praying. What might Jesus want to free you from today?

I AM SET FREE



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

☐ Psalm 103:3–4

☐ James 5:15

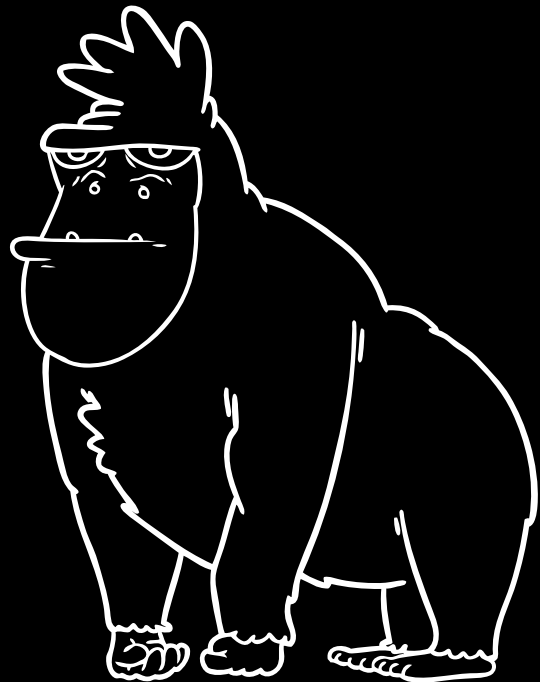
☐ Isaiah 43:25

☐ 1 Peter 1:15–16

**Week
Fourteen**

Mind Blower

In 1986, a five-year-old boy fell into a gorilla exhibit in the Jersey Zoo. A silverback gorilla named Jamba stood over him to protect him and rubbed his back until the zookeepers could get to the boy.



Write Your Thoughts Here



**Jesus, I need your forgiveness and healing.
Thank you for loving us so much.**

**Week
Fourteen**

Ten Commandments

WEEK FIFTEEN

Is God All Love and Rainbows?



When God had finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two flat stones on which he had written all his laws with his own hand.

Exodus 31:18

If God were going to meet with you, what would you expect?

Moses told the Israelites to wash up and put on clean clothes. They were expecting company—God himself. They were camped at the base of Mount Sinai. On the morning of the appointment, they woke up to a very loud trumpet blast. God came down onto the mountain. Thunder and lightning erupted in the sky. Fire and smoke covered the top of the mountain. The whole mountain shook. Not exactly a welcome mat!

But Moses and the leaders went up and saw God. They later said that God was standing on something like a pavement of jewels, like the blue sky. And they ate there in God's presence.

Then Moses went further up the mountain and God told him what he wanted from his people. He gave ten clear commands. Using his finger, God wrote them on two stones Moses could take back with him.

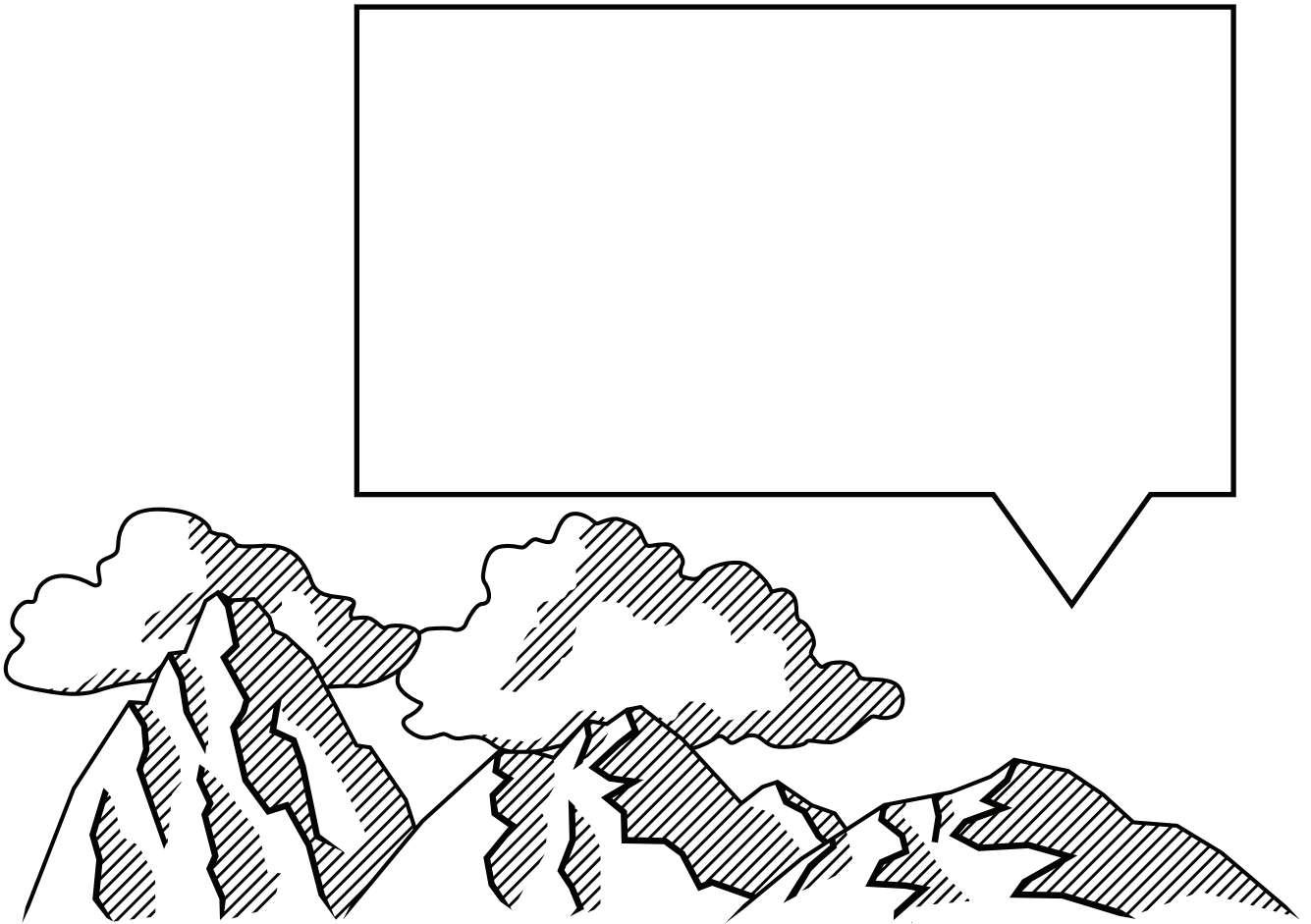
Like military orders, the message was clear: These laws were to be followed. The lightning and fire and smoke and noise emphasized God's awesome power. The Israelites were terrified, but agreed. They knew that the God who loved and saved them also expected obedience and would punish those who refused to obey. So, God is definitely love and sometimes rainbows, but he also requires our obedience.

Mira-
cles

The God who loves and saves us also expects obedience and will punish rebels.

Spiritual Fitness Training

Jesus later summarized the ten commandments into two: “love God” and “love others.” How are you doing with that? Imagine sitting down face-to-face with God and talking about it. What would you say?



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

☐ Leviticus 20:7–8

☐ Romans 3:23

☐ Psalm 51:1–2

☐ 1 John 1:9

**Week
Fifteen**

Mind Blower

Bolts of lightning strike
somewhere on the earth
every second.



Write Your Thoughts Here



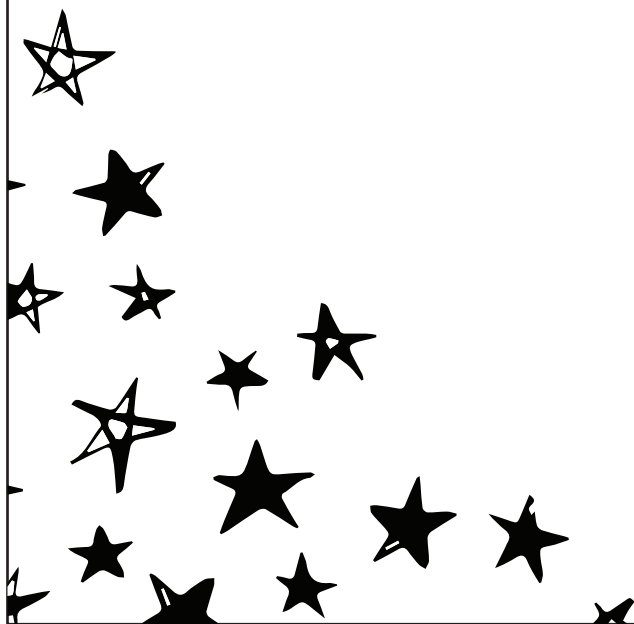
**God, you are the God of love, and holy justice.
Help me obey, and please forgive me when I sin.**

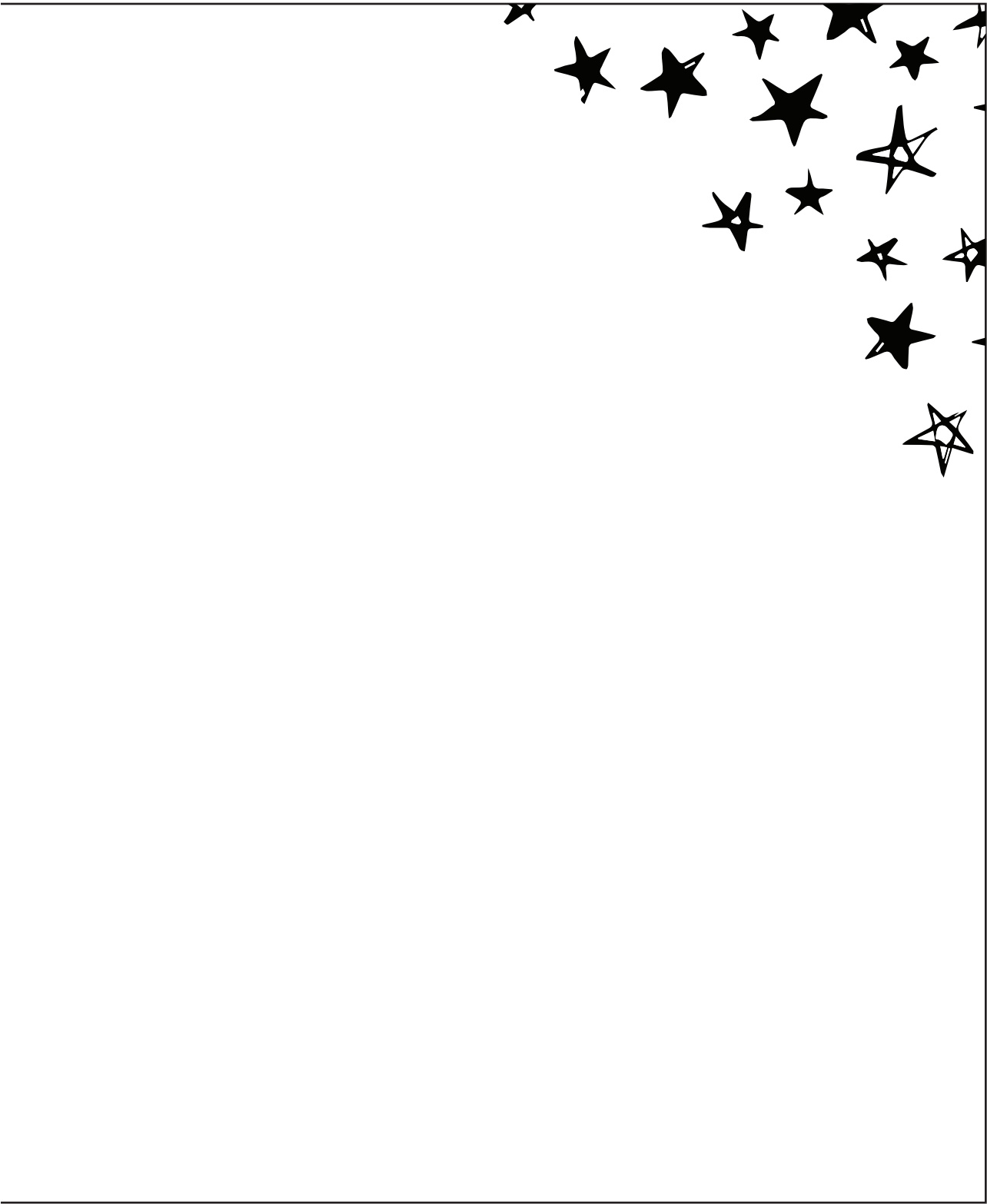
**Week
Fifteen**

Doodle Space



God wants us to love
God and love others.
Draw two boxes. Label
one "Love God" and
one "Love Others"
then write all the ways
you can show God and
others love.





**Week
Fifteen**

Widow's Son

WEEK SIXTEEN

How Do We Know Jesus is God?



*The boy sat up and began to speak. Jesus
then gave him back to his mother.*

Luke 7:15

The spark of life—the power that jumpstarts our hearts—the whisper that tells our lungs to breathe—we don’t understand it, but we can know where it comes from because of several Bible stories, including this one in Luke:

Jesus was walking with a large crowd. At the edge of a small town, they met a group of people coming the other way with a dead body. It was a funeral for a young man, his mother’s only child, headed out to bury him. This left his mother alone, since her husband had also died. She was walking with them, crying.

Instead of side-stepping this sad scene, Jesus went right to the mother. He hates sorrow and death and hopelessness. He is the God of life and love and care. When she had no hope, he interrupted her grief. “Don’t cry,” he said.

Then he touched the stretcher with the body on it so the people carrying it would stop. Most people would be afraid of getting contaminated by a dead body, but that did not worry Jesus. Then he told the young man to get up. And he did. The spark of life was back! His heart was beating again, his lungs breathing, his muscles moving. He sat up and talked. And everyone who saw it started saying, “God is with us!”

In the end, we know Jesus is God because He has the power to give life, heal the brokenhearted, and bring hope where there seems to be none.

Mira-
cles

***Jesus’s touch sparked life in the boy.
How has he sparked life in you?***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Anything that destroys life is not Jesus's desire for us. Some things are clearly bad for us, but even good things can harm us if we misuse them. Think about the things listed below. Mark the ones that you struggle with and ask the Lord to help you. Then mark the good things on the right that you can do instead.

Things I Misuse

- ☐ video games
- ☐ food
- ☐ social media
- ☐ entertainment
- ☐ negative self-talk
- ☐ other:

Good Things I Can Do

- ☐ exercise
- ☐ create art
- ☐ pray
- ☐ think about Bible verses
- ☐ help people
- ☐ learn something new

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

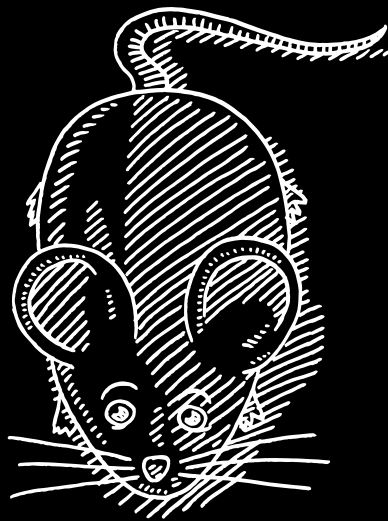
- ☐ Psalm 16:11
- ☐ John 1:3–4
- ☐ Ezekiel 37:5
- ☐ John 10:10

Week
Sixteen

Mind Blower

Mice will become obese if they have a good supply of food, but then they will start to multiply.

Taking care of babies makes them lose the extra weight.



Write Your Thoughts Here



**Jesus, you hold the power of life. Thank you for
caring about us. Help me bless people with the
life you've given me.**

**Week
Sixteen**

Balaam's Donkey

WEEK SEVENTEEN

Does God Care Which Path I Take in Life?



The angel said, "You had no right to treat your donkey like that! I was the one who blocked your way, because I don't think you should go to Moab."

Numbers 22:32

Sometimes, even a donkey can see we are going the wrong way.

When the king of Moab saw God's people conquer a neighboring country, he was terrified his land was next. He sent messengers with money to a famous prophet, asking for some solid curses to be called down on Israel.

Balaam spoke with God about the request and was told no. Still, Balaam wanted the money, so he kept toying with the idea and the messengers. He decided to go with them, even though he told them he couldn't curse Israel.

As Balaam is riding his donkey on the road to the king's house, the animal suddenly takes off into a field. He beats the donkey, and they start again.

Then the donkey walks on the side of the road, crushing Balaam's leg against a wall. The donkey gets beaten. They start again.

Finally, the donkey just lies down. Again the donkey gets beaten. But this time the animal says, "What did I do? Why are you beating me?" Suddenly Balaam can see an angel, with a sword, keeping him from going where God said not to.

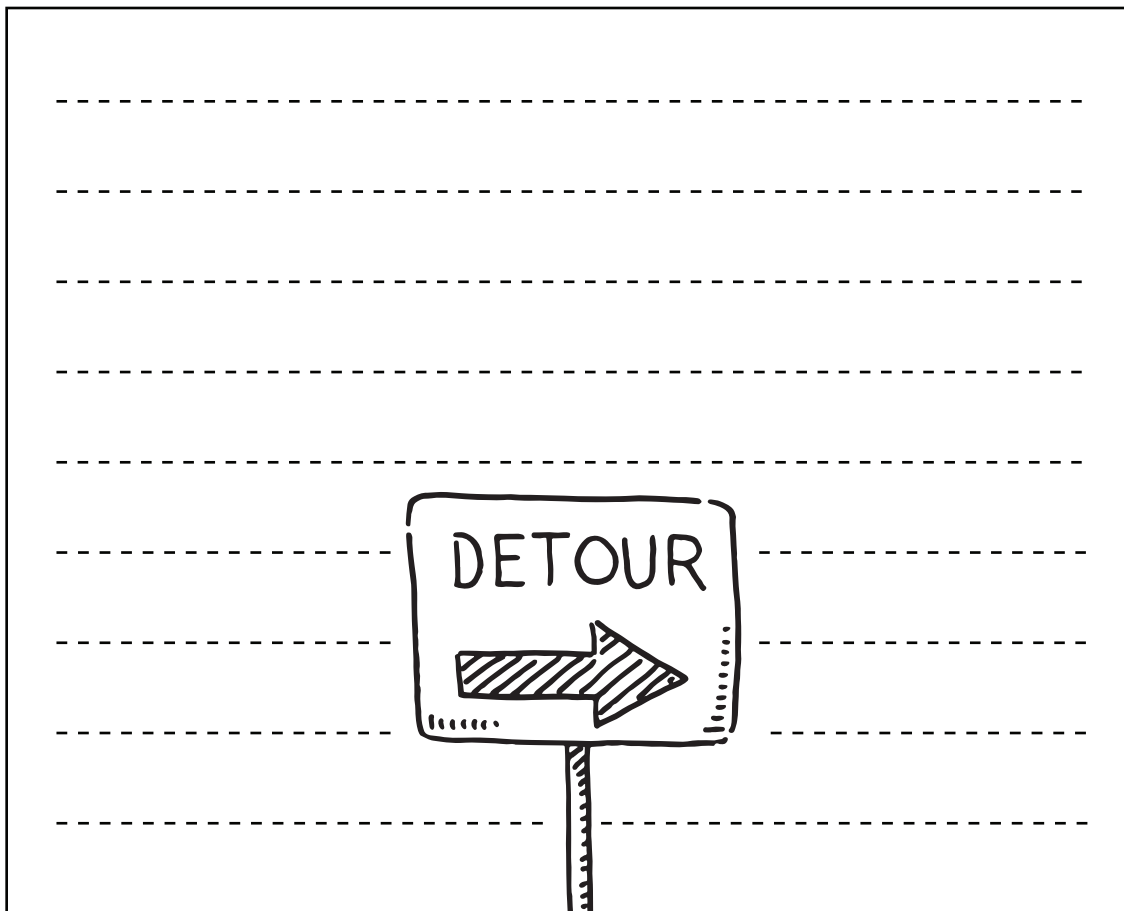
It took a talking donkey to keep Balaam out of trouble. God cares about the choices we make and wants to guide us on the right path, no matter what he has to use.

Mira-
cles

***God shows us the right path to take,
and he protects his children.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Keep an eye out for ways God detours you from dangerous or bad situations. Ask your parents and friends if they have had times where they were on a bad path and God stopped them. Write out the stories to remind you.



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

- ☐ Psalm 3:3 ☐ Matthew 6:13
- ☐ Isaiah 30:21 ☐ John 17:11

Week Seventeen

Mind Blower

A family was swimming in the ocean by New Zealand in 2004 when suddenly a pod of dolphins started herding them together and kept circling them for 40 minutes. Soon they realized the dolphins were keeping a great white shark away from them.



Write Your Thoughts Here



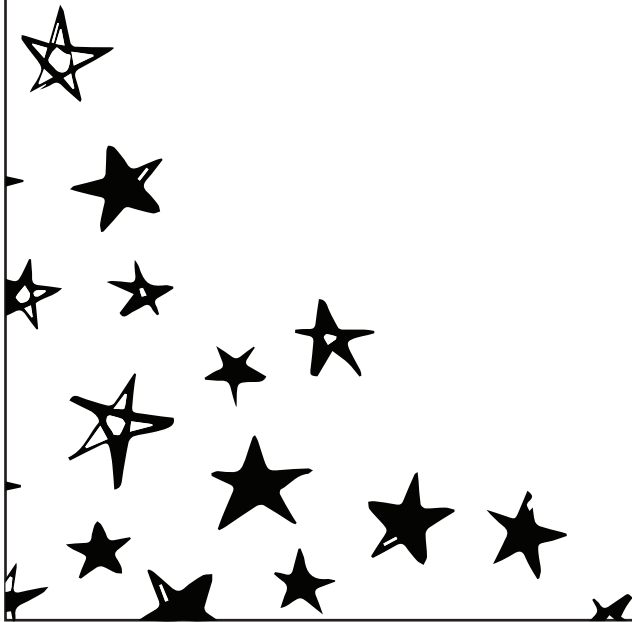
**God, help me stay on the path of pleasing you,
which is the path of life. You are good!**

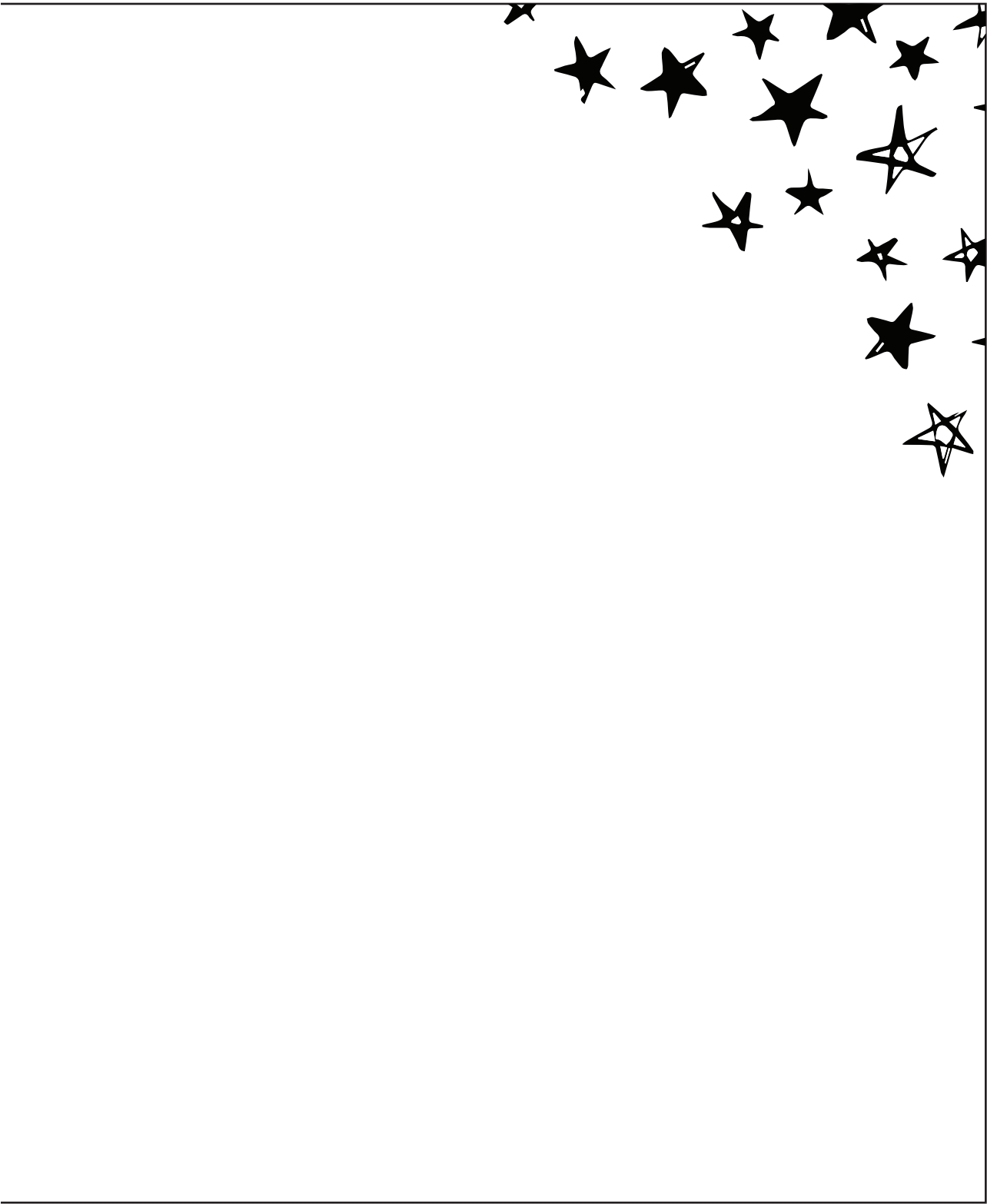
**Week
Seventeen**

Doodle Space



Draw a picture of a path. Along the path, draw a series of signs and in them write down ways you can stay on God's path. For example, "Pray" and "Read the Bible."





Man with Withered Hand

WEEK EIGHTEEN

Does Jesus Want Me Just to Follow a Bunch of Rules?



Then Jesus told the man, "Hold out your hand." The man did, and it became as healthy as the other one.

Matthew 12:13

It was a showdown! In one corner, Jesus. In the other, the Pharisees—experts in Jewish law who liked being in charge. Caught in the middle, a man with a useless hand, shriveled up like a bird's foot.

They were in the Pharisees' synagogue on the Sabbath day, the day God set aside for rest. The Pharisees were known for adding lots of extra rules to make absolutely sure people would not disobey God's law. They knew Jesus could heal people and they wanted to get Jesus into trouble. "You can't do work on the Sabbath," they growled, "not even to help someone."

"Even you would save one of your sheep on this day," Jesus shot back. "And people are worth far more than sheep. So it is right to do good on the Sabbath." Jesus knew the Pharisees were missing the point. They stared at each other. Then Jesus made his move. "Stretch out your hand," he told the man.

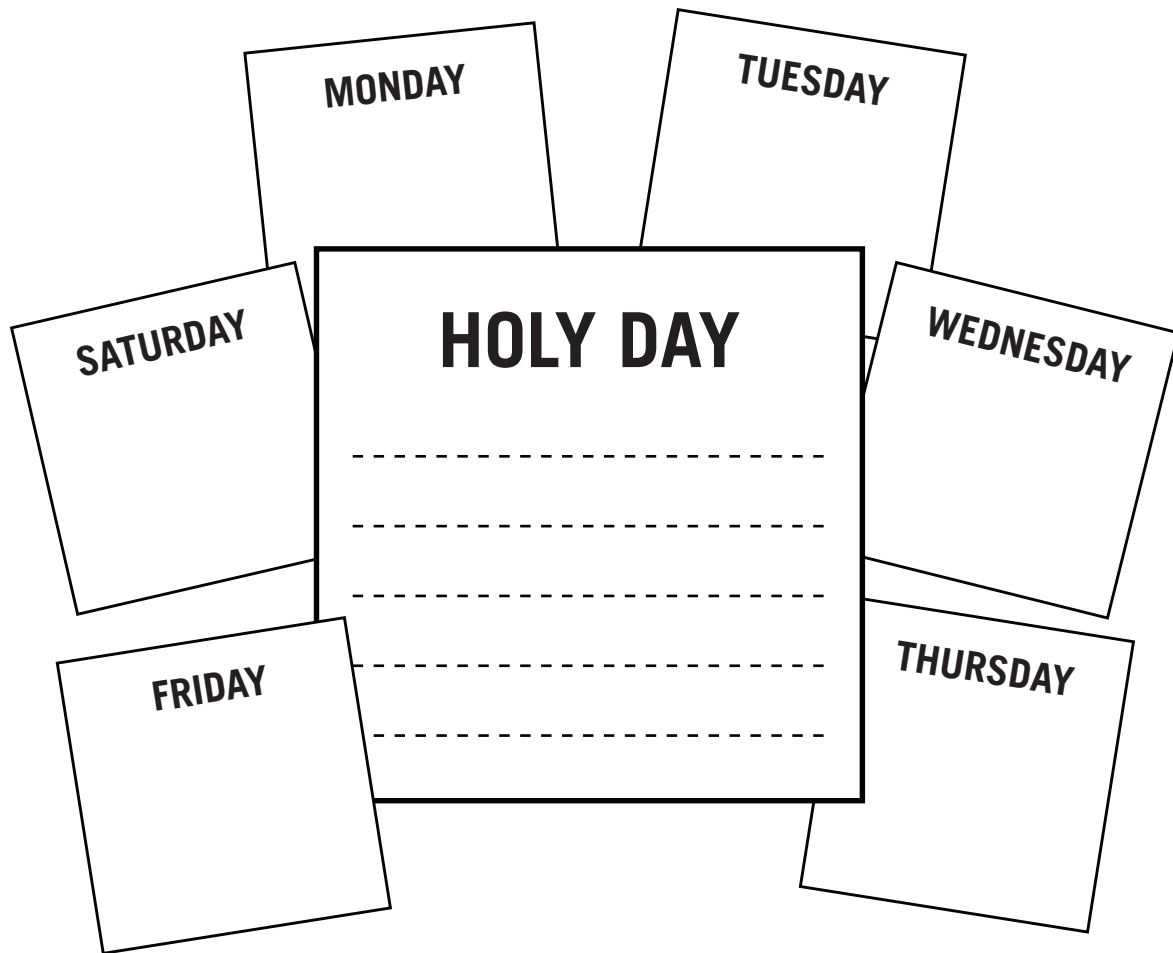
The man obeyed. And there in front of everyone his hand was healed. Did it come out whole, or did the people watch it fill and stretch and flex? Either way, it was good as new. But the Pharisees stalked out and started plotting how they could kill Jesus. Following Jesus is so much more than just following rules. His laws are for our good, but it's his love for us that transforms the way we think, what we do, and how we act.

Mira-
cles

God's laws are for our good.

Spiritual Fitness Training

The Pharisees missed the point. God wants what is best for us. One of his commandments is to set apart one day a week as a holy day, a day of rest. How can you honor God with your time?

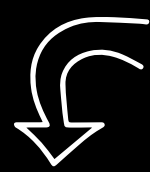


Keep It Going This Week *Find out more by reading these verses.*

- ☐ Psalm 103:3–4
- ☐ Isaiah 50:8–9

- ☐ Matthew 12:12
- ☐ Romans 8:33–34

**Week
Eighteen**



Mind Blower

Six percent of men and nearly 10 percent of women are left-handed. In the past, many teachers forced students to use their right hand for writing, even if they were left-handed.



Write Your Thoughts Here



**Thank you, God, for loving and healing us.
Your rules are for our good. Help me obey you.**

**Week
Eighteen**

Jericho

WEEK NINETEEN

Does God See the Problems I'm Facing?



The priests blew their trumpets again, and the soldiers shouted as loud as they could. The walls of Jericho fell flat. Then the soldiers rushed up the hill, went straight into the town, and captured it.

Joshua 6:20

You've probably already figured out that banging your head against a wall won't solve your problems. Thankfully, God has better ideas for how to deal with things that hold you back.

When the Israelites went to live in the land God promised them, they ran into a real wall. The town of Jericho was in the way. The town had a massive wall and was filled with evil people ready to fight for their land. How would they get past?

But God had a plan for them. He told the Israelite priests and army to march around the city carrying his sacred box, once a day for six days.

It wasn't too hard to march around the walls—well, except maybe being quiet the whole time. And patiently doing what God says when it doesn't seem to make sense isn't always easy. On the seventh day, God had the Israelites march around the city in silence seven more times. Finally, they blew their trumpets and shouted to God. Immediately, the wall fell down in a great crash. With a God like that on their side, the army easily conquered Jericho.

God sees the problems we face and has a plan to help us—sometimes all we need to do is trust him and follow his lead.

Mira-
cles

***God knows what walls you are facing.
He shows the way if you obey.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Sometimes we have to wait for our wall to come down. What should we be doing as we wait? Find the activities for our waiting from the word bank below in the word search.

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

PRAISE HIM

PREPARE

BE PATIENT

FAITH STEPS

PRAY

OBEY

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

☐ Exodus 14:14

☐ Hebrews 10:35–36

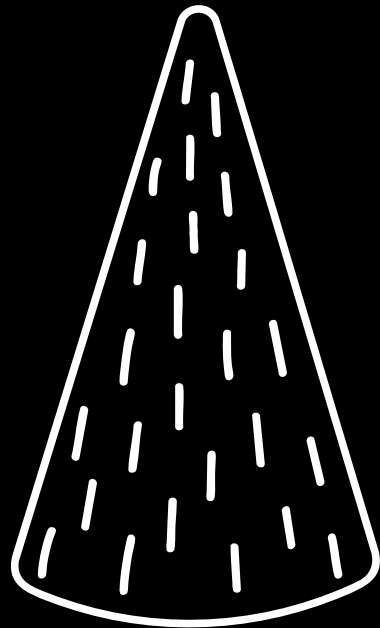
☐ Psalm 37:23–24

☐ 2 Peter 3:9

**Week
Nineteen**



In Northeast Brazil, about 200 million termite mounds cover a large area. The termites built some of them ten feet tall and they have held up for thousands of years.



Write Your Thoughts Here



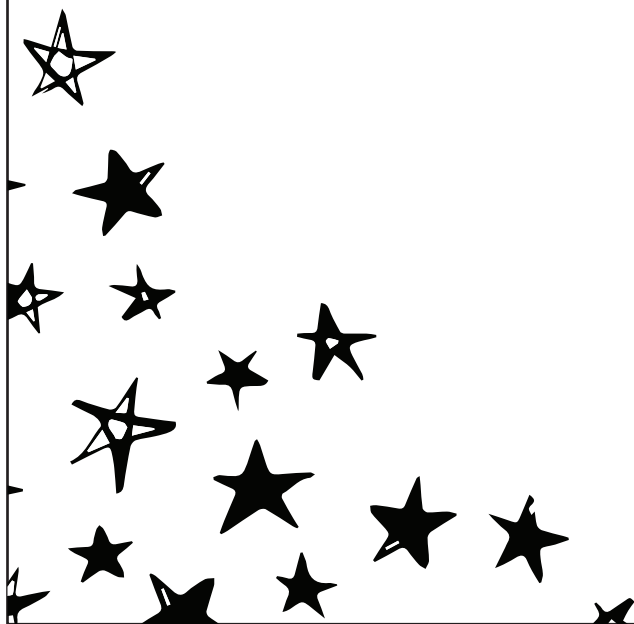
**God, I don't see a way around some walls.
Thank you for helping me do what I need to do.**

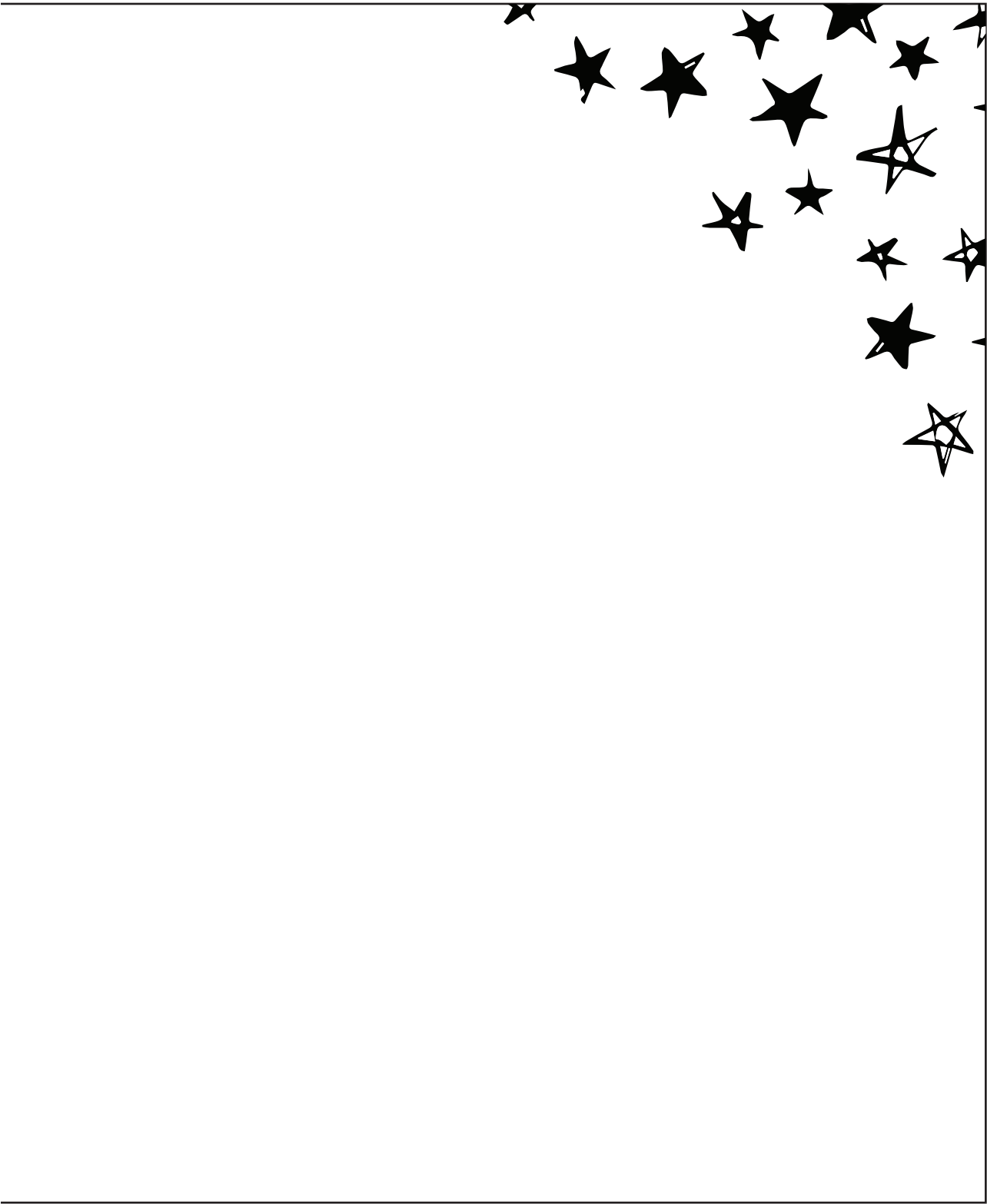
**Week
Nineteen**

Doodle Space



Draw a picture of a wall. Along the wall, write down obstacles or challenges you currently face. Next to each one, write the phrase "God's got it" to help remind you to trust God through all your struggles.





Calming the Storm

WEEK TWENTY

Where is Jesus When I Need Him?



Jesus got up and ordered the wind and the waves to be quiet.

The wind stopped, and everything was calm.

Mark 4:39

Make! It! Stop! That's all the disciples wanted. They were in a boat, caught in a sudden windstorm. Along with Jesus, they had started across a calm lake. Now, they were getting tossed around like a snow globe. The wind whipped the water up into a frenzy, pushing wave after wave into the boat. Some of the disciples were fishermen who had grown up in these boats and on this lake, but they'd lost all control.

And Jesus ... was sleeping.

The disciples were freaking out. They turned to Jesus in the back of the boat and woke him up, saying, "Don't you care?"

Jesus cared. He got up and told the wind to be quiet. And it was. The lake was calm again.

Then Jesus had some questions for the disciples: "Why are you afraid?" and "Where's your faith?" And the disciples were asking themselves: "Wait, who is this guy, really?"

Jesus is always with you, even when it feels like He's far away. He has the power to calm the storms in your life when you trust Him.

Mira-
cles

***Jesus is with us. We need to ask for
his help and believe in him.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Military life can send some storms. We often try to deal with everything by ourselves, and only when that doesn't work do we remember to pray. How can you remember to pray first in hard times? By practicing praying about everything. Fill in the blanks below while you talk to God.

God, today I'm excited about _____

I'm worried about _____

I have to _____

I will be talking to _____

My friends need help with _____

I'm thankful that you _____

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

☐ Psalm 145:18

☐ Matthew 6:25–27

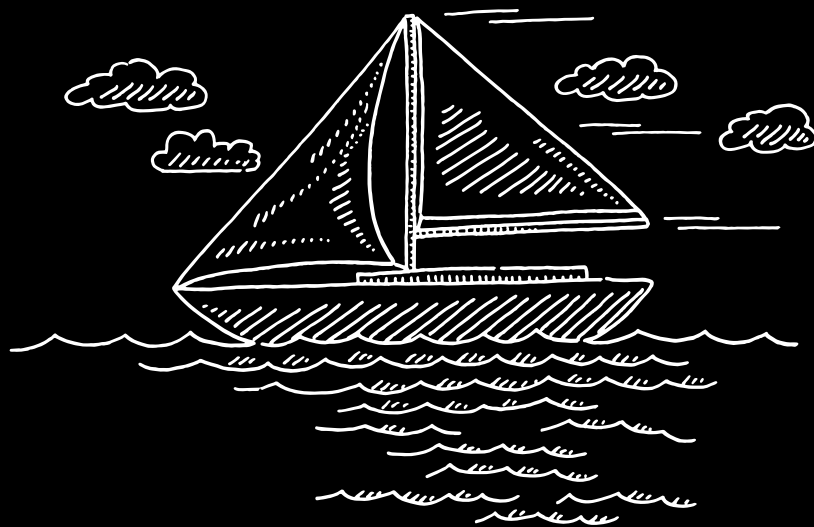
☐ Isaiah 65:24

☐ 1 Peter 5:7

**Week
Twenty**

Mind Blower

The record for fastest sailboat was set in 2012 by the "Vestas Sailrocket 2," running at 65 knots, which is over 75 miles per hour.



Write Your Thoughts Here



**God, thank you for caring and being with me.
Please help me get through this storm.**

**Week
Twenty**

sun stands still

WEEK TWENTY-ONE

Does God Help the Good Guys in Battle?



*So the sun and the moon stopped and stood still
until Israel defeated its enemies.*

Joshua 10:13a

Things fall when you drop them. The earth spins so the sun comes up in the east and goes down in the west. These are laws God made. But God can suspend his own laws, and sometimes he does to help his people.

Joshua and the Israelite army learned about an enemy encampment with five kings. Joshua asked God what they should do, and God said to attack them. He told Joshua, "I've already given you this battle."

So Joshua and the Israelites marched all night, uphill, about 15 miles. Coming into battle tired doesn't seem like the best strategy! But when they arrived, God confused the enemy and they panicked. The Israelites immediately started to kill them.

The enemy troops ran away. And God killed more of them than Joshua's army did. He rained hailstones down on these enemy troops. Still, many were escaping. Joshua realized they were going to run out of daylight, and some might escape in the dark.

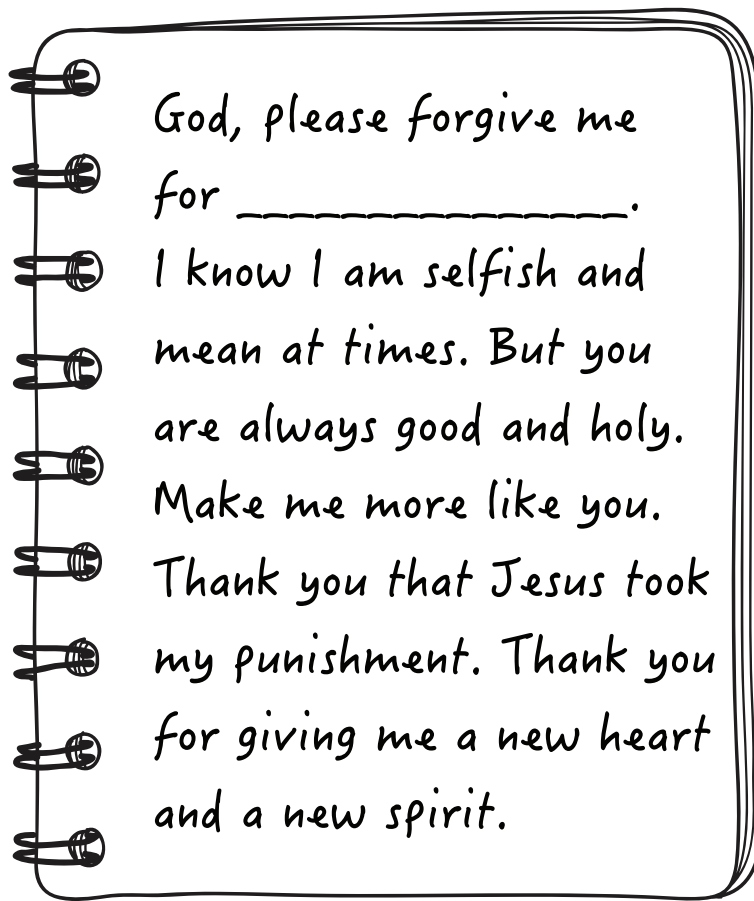
He asked God to make the day longer. And God did. He stopped the sun in its tracks to help his good guys win the war. God does help the good guys in battle, even in ways that seem impossible, because He is powerful and always ready to help those who trust in Him!

Mira-
cles

***God knows evil must be defeated for there
to be peace. He helps his warriors do it.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

When we think about God's punishment of evil, we are grateful for his justice, and grateful for his mercy and forgiveness. What do you need forgiveness for? God promises to forgive anyone who turns away from his or her sins. Pray the prayer below and then thank him for forgiveness!



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

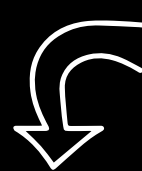
☐ Psalm 11:5

☐ Romans 12:19

☐ Isaiah 61:8

☐ 1 John 1:8–9

**Week
Twenty-
One**

 **Mind Blower**

Hippos love to soak up the sun.
God made them able to make
their own sunscreen, which they
secrete through their skin. But
they can't sweat at all.



Write Your Thoughts Here



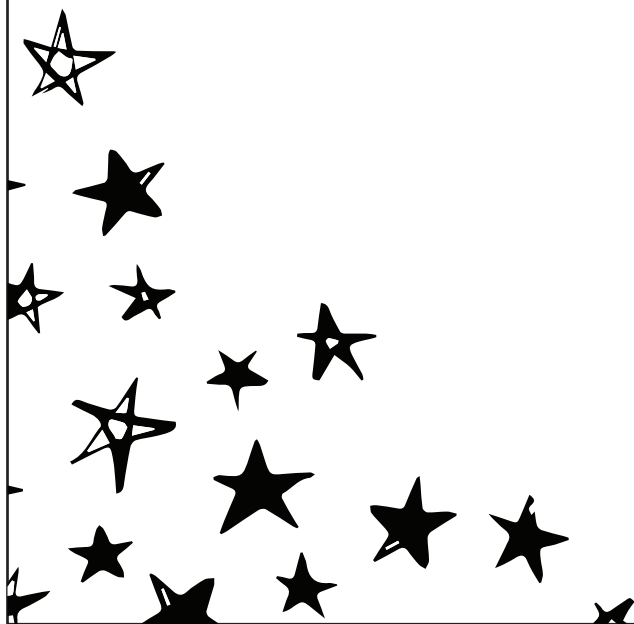
**God, you control the sun and the moon—and
you know the darkness in our hearts. Please
keep us safe.**

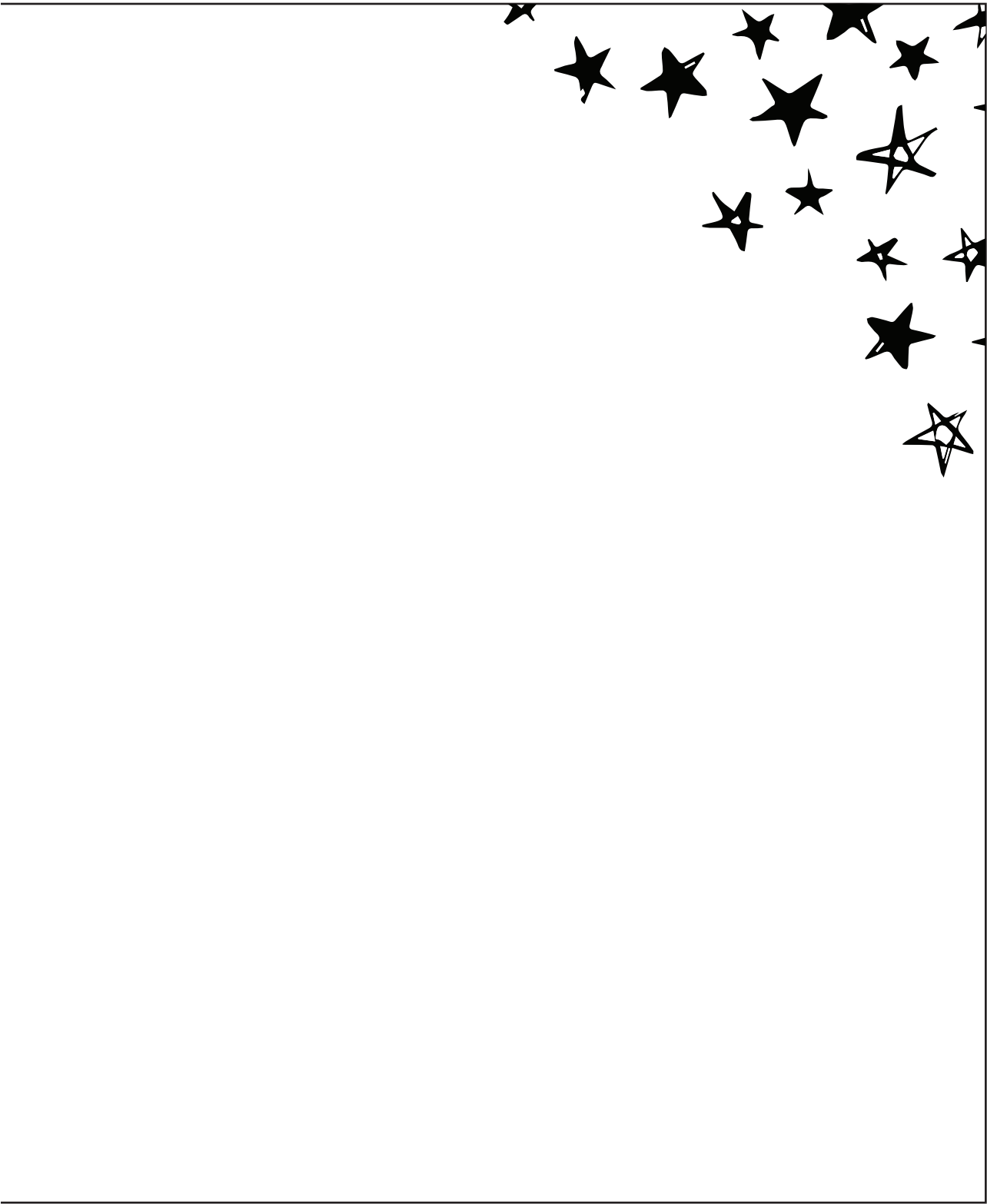
**Week
Twenty-
One**

Doodle Space



Draw several suns across the page. In each sun, write something you've seen God help you with in your life.





Demon Possessed

WEEK TWENTY-TWO

Does Jesus Have Power Over Evil?



Jesus let them go, and they went out of the man and into the pigs. The whole herd of about 2,000 pigs rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

Mark 5:13

Some stories leave us with lots of questions. Here are the facts on this one:

Jesus and his disciples crossed Lake Galilee and landed near a small town. As they started to get out of the boat, a man came roaring at them.

He was naked. Super strong. He lived in the graveyard and ran around screaming and cutting himself with stones. No one could control him—he broke all the chains they used to hold him. A real-life Hulk.

But when he saw Jesus, he fell on his knees in front of him. Jesus talked to the demons living in the man. He told them to leave. They said there were a lot of them and they wanted to go into a nearby herd of pigs instead. When Jesus gave them permission, the man shrieked and the pigs stampeded into the lake and drowned.

Then the man was calm. He got some clothes on and sat down with Jesus. But here's the super crazy part: when the townspeople found out the good thing that had happened to their wild man, they begged Jesus to leave!

There are lots of things left hanging here, but we can know two things: Jesus controls demons who want to destroy us, and he cares even for people who are out of control. He has power over evil, and we want to stay on his side!

Mira-
cles

***When Jesus encountered a large group
of demons, they had to obey.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

We don't have to be afraid of evil because Jesus is all-powerful. Match up the beginning and end of this week's verses. Thank God for his power and love.

**I may walk through
valleys as dark as death,**

**those in heaven, on
earth, and under the
earth.**

**Everyone will bow
down**

**We are fighting against
forces and authorities
and against rulers of
darkness and powers in
the spiritual world.**

**We are not fighting again
humans.**

**So at the name of Jesus
everyone will bow down,**

**but I won't be afraid.

and worship me.**

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

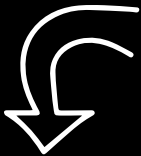
☐ Psalm 23:4

☐ Ephesians 6:10–12

☐ Isaiah 45:22–24

☐ Philippians 2:10

**Week
Twenty-
Two**

 **Mind Blower**

Dogs have the biggest
heart-to-body size ratio.
No wonder they love so big!



Write Your Thoughts Here



Whew, Jesus! You are the all-powerful God! All evil must bow to you. Please help me obey you too.

Can God Do Something Great with Me?



That night, God made the stone floor wet with dew, but he kept the sheep skin dry.

Judges 6:40

What do you call a guy who is hiding his food? Well, an angel popped up in Gideon's life and called him "strong warrior"!

As you can imagine, Gideon had a few questions. Like, where is God? He and the other Israelites were hiding food because invaders kept stealing their animals and crops. But it wasn't God who had left them. They left him to worship other gods. When they finally asked the real God for help, he sent his angel to Gideon.

God patiently told Gideon that he was to lead the Israelites to victory. Gideon asked a lot more questions. Then he brought food for the angel and placed it on a rock. When the angel touched the food with his stick, fire consumed it and the angel disappeared.

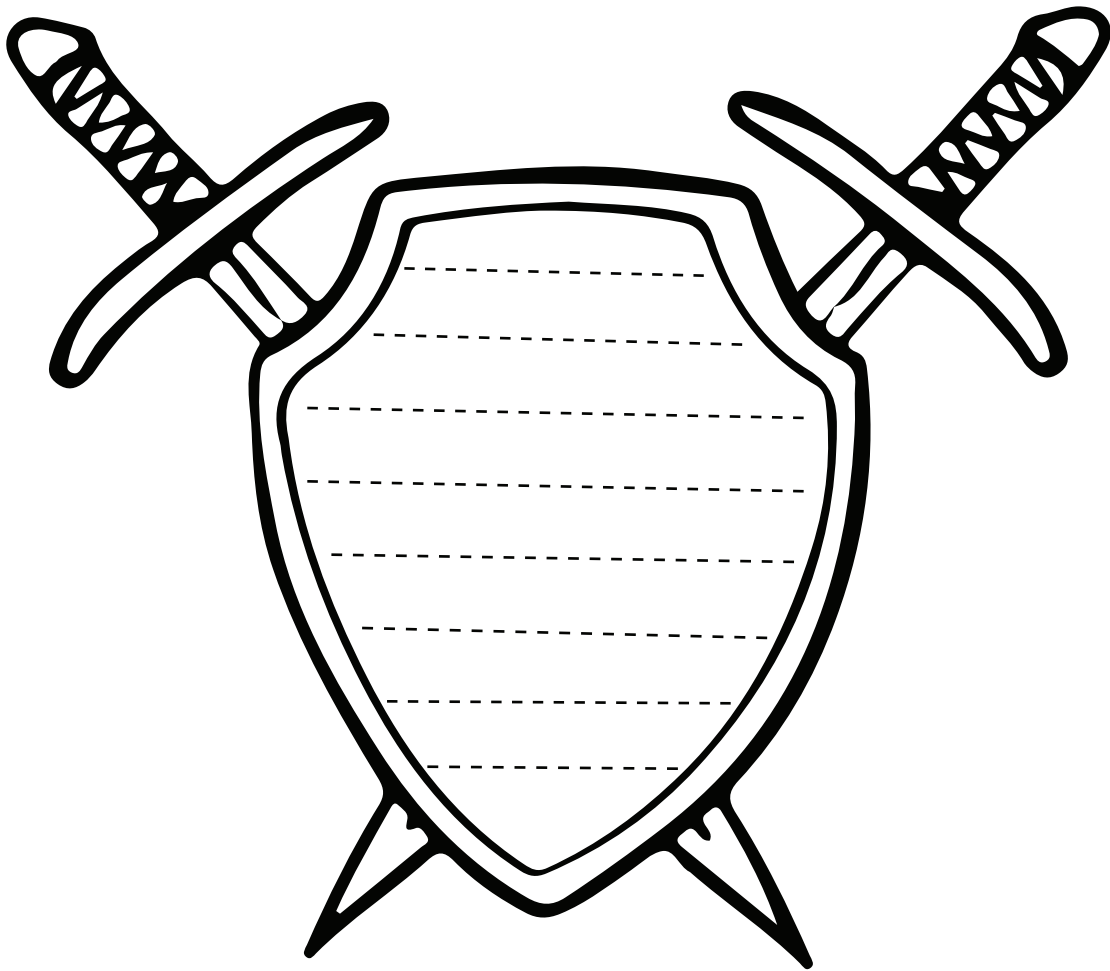
Gideon still wasn't sure about this warrior stuff, so he asked the Lord for some more signs. God made the ground dry and some fleece wet for Gideon. Then the next day he made the fleece dry and the ground wet.

Finally, Gideon took a small army up against a massive enemy, and God won the battle for him. God made Gideon into the mighty warrior the Israelites needed.

And God can do something great with you, too. He can use you for his big plans, no matter how insignificant you might feel at times.

Spiritual Fitness Training

When warriors follow their leader's commands, they are poised for victory. God is the perfect Commander, so following his commands means success. Pick one of this week's verses as your prayer and copy it below.



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

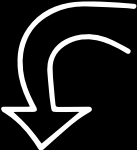
☐ Psalm 27:11

☐ John 10:4

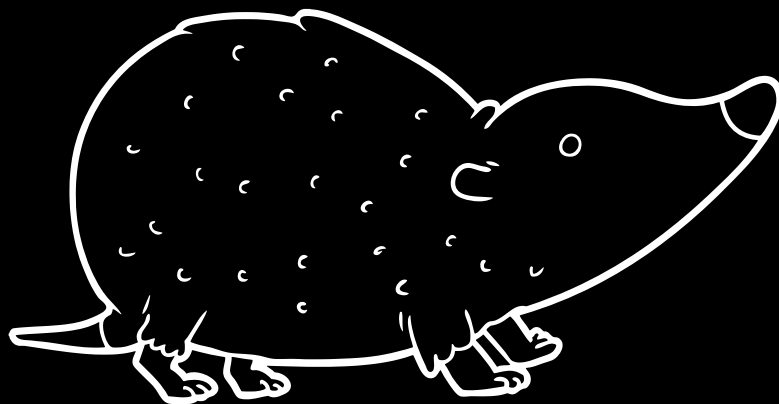
☐ Psalm 143:10

☐ Romans 8:14

**Week
Twenty-
Three**

 **Mind Blower**

Shrews have to eat every few hours, so they paralyze their prey with a bite and then store it. Sometimes the prey is comatose for weeks.



Write Your Thoughts Here



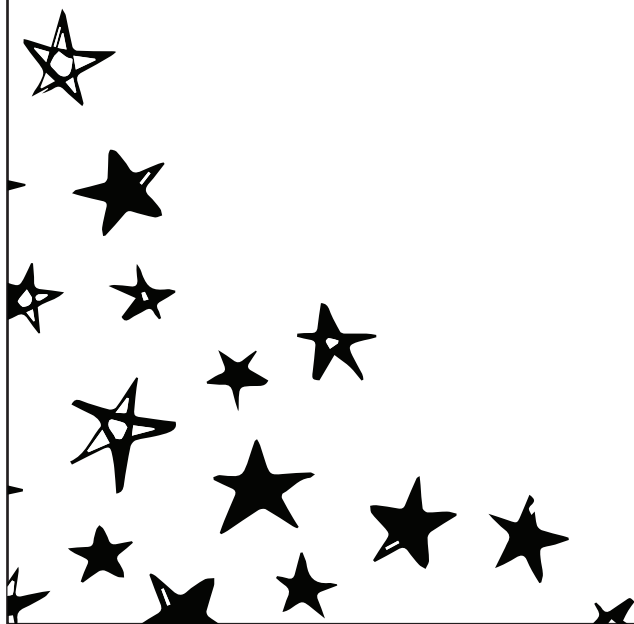
**God, I want to give you my life. Use me
to help other people. Help me follow you.**

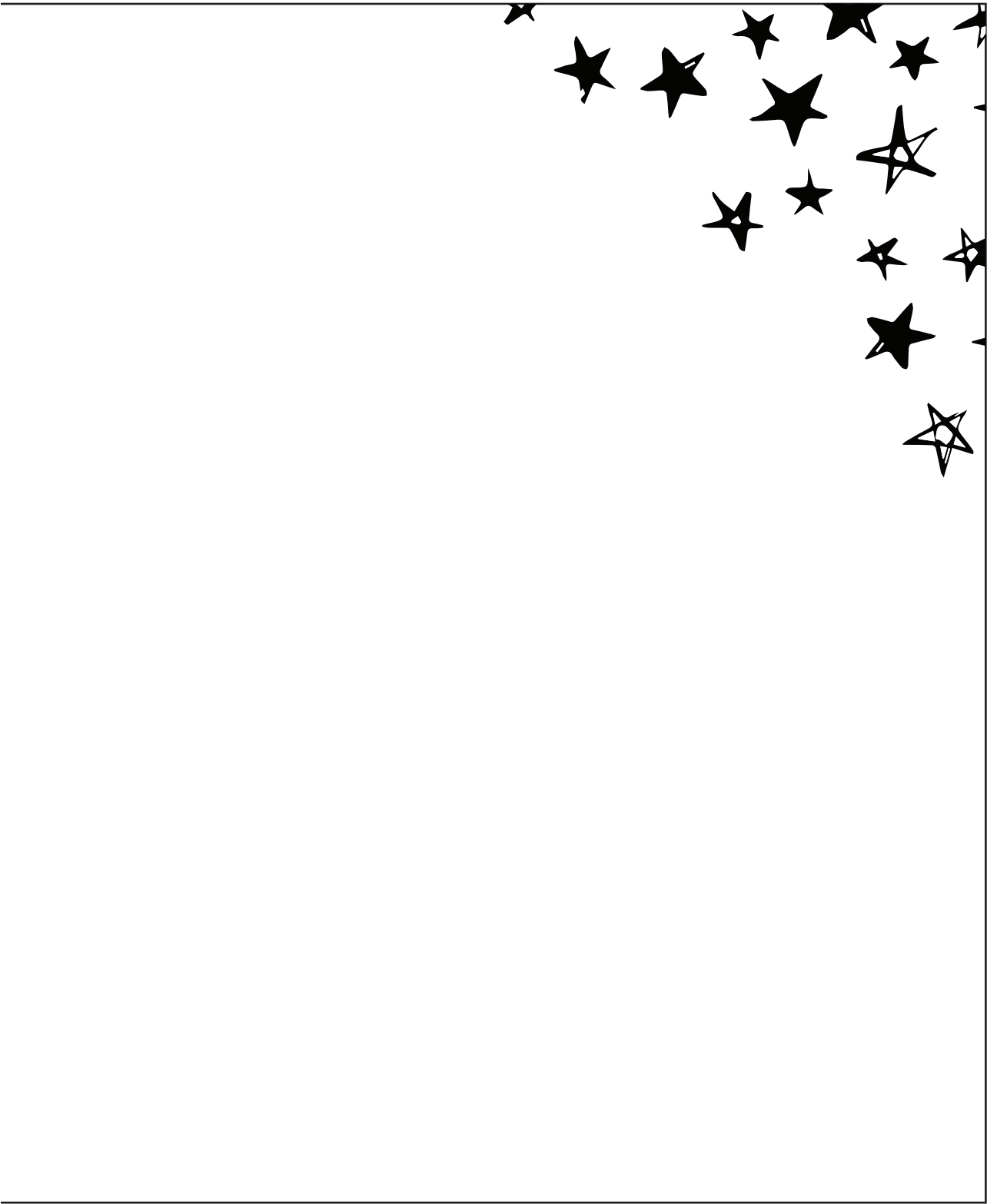
**Week
Twenty-
Three**

Doodle Space



Draw a sign the says
"Stop," a sign that says
"Wait," and a sign that
says "Go," to remind
you that God will give
you guidance in your
life.





The Woman's Healing

WEEK TWENTY-FOUR

Does God Help the Ordinary?



Jesus said to the woman, "You are now well because of your faith. May God give you peace!"

Luke 8:48

"All I need to do is touch him," she thought. A woman had been ill for 12 years, always bleeding, always tired and weak. The worst thing was that she wasn't allowed to be around people or touch them. She had spent everything she had on doctors. Nothing helped. She had just about given up.

But when she heard about Jesus, she knew he could make her well. He was coming to her town. All she had to do was get through the crowd. She couldn't touch him, but maybe she could just touch the edge of his clothes.

That's what she did, and she was healed instantly! But then came the part she hadn't thought about: Jesus stopped walking and started looking for her. He knew power had left him. "Who touched me?" he was asking.

Everyone was confused. The crowd was huge and everyone was touching him. But she knew what Jesus was asking. She came forward and fell on her knees. She was scared as she told them all what had happened. What would he do?

Jesus called her "Daughter." He reassured her that her faith—her trust in him—had made her well, both body and soul. She was God's child!

God helps the ordinary! He sees and cares for everyone, no matter how small or overlooked they may feel.

***God loves and helps all the nobodies
in the crowd who trust in him.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Sometimes we don't have faith because we don't know God well enough. The best way to get to know him is the Bible! What did you learn about God in this week's story? Check the sentences that are true.

- ☐ Jesus only had time for important people.
- ☐ Jesus hates to be interrupted.
- ☐ Jesus only helps people who do a lot of work for him.
- ☐ Jesus can help anyone who trusts him.
- ☐ Jesus paid attention to outsiders.
- ☐ Jesus is patient and kind.



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

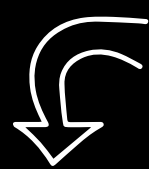
☐ 2 Chronicles 20:20b

☐ Mark 11:22–24

☐ Isaiah 30:15a

☐ Ephesians 2:8

**Week
Twenty-
Four**

 **Mind Blower**

Animals and humans can help each other heal. Retired war dogs need homes where they can relax. Veterans benefit from a dog's companionship, and the friendship can lower their rates of heart attack and ease PTSD episodes.



Write Your Thoughts Here



**God, thank you for paying attention to
people who feel like nobodies. I believe
you care and can help me.**

**Week
Twenty-
Four**

Samson

WEEK TWENTY-FIVE

What Should We Do with Gifts From God?



Then he shouted, "Let me die with the Philistines!" He pushed against the columns as hard as he could, and the temple collapsed with the Philistine rulers and everyone else still inside. Samson killed more Philistines when he died than he had killed during his entire life.

Judges 16:30

Weak, blind, in prison, all because of a woman. Sounds like a bad country song. But it was Samson's life.

Things had started well. An angel visited Samson's parents before he was born and said Samson would help save Israel from their enemies, the Philistines. But he needed to obey the angel's instructions. God gave him great strength, and Samson used it to make lots of trouble for those enemies.

But then ... the woman. One of the Philistine girls. He was in love, and she took advantage of that, pestering him until he finally gave in and told her why he was strong: He was dedicated to God, and if his hair was cut he would lose his strength.

He woke up in her arms with a bad haircut and no strength. His enemies clobbered him, gouged out his eyes, and threw him in prison.

He prayed to God for one more chance. And his hair started to regrow. Then one day the bad guys threw a big party for their god and used Samson for entertainment. He found the main support beams of the massive dining hall; he found his strength from God; and he brought the house down, collapsing the roof and killing thousands, including himself.

We should use the gifts God gives us to honor him and help others.

Mira-
cles

***God does give skills and talents which
he expects us to use for good.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Every one of us has gifts from God—talents, possessions, status, our culture, even our personality and attitude. Make a list of gifts God has given you on the dotted lines below, thank him, and ask him how you can use each one to help other people.



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

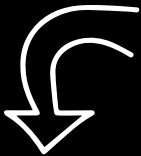
☐ Nehemiah 8:10b

☐ Colossians 2:13

☐ Psalm 130:3–4

☐ Ephesians 2:8–10

**Week
Twenty-
Five**

 **Mind Blower**

A Chinese woman has the longest hair recorded on a female at 18 feet, 5 inches. The hair of a man in India in the 1940s was reported at 26 feet long, possibly because of a disease that caused it to grow too much.



Write Your Thoughts Here



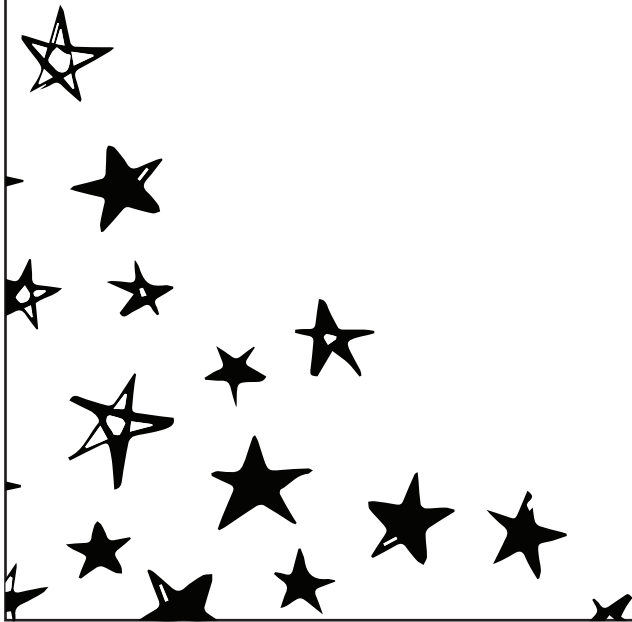
God, thank you for forgiving us when we disobey. Help me to use my gifts wisely.

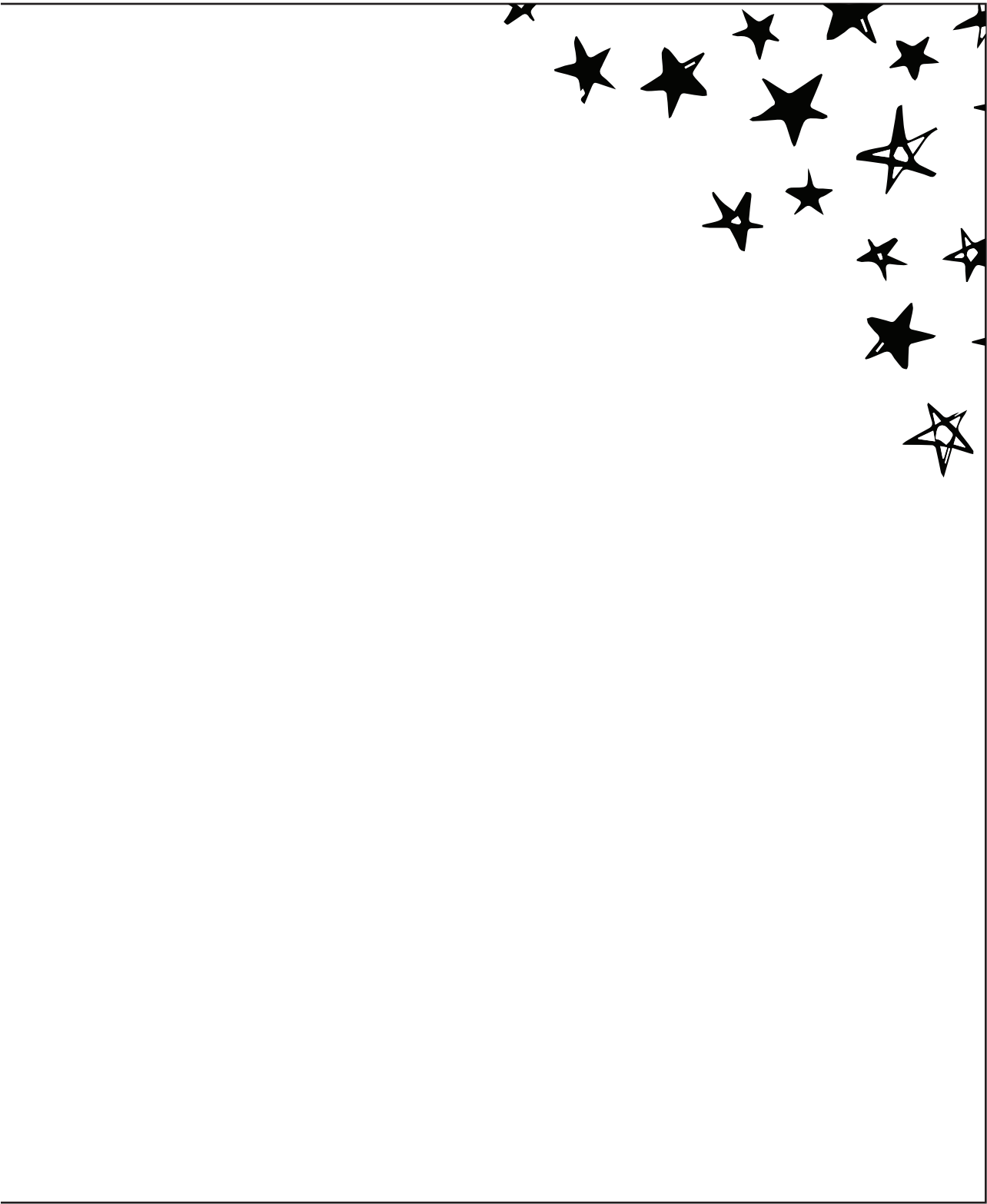
**Week
Twenty-
Five**

Doodle Space



Draw a picture of a gift
in the middle of the page.
Inside, write all ways you
can use your gifts to help
people.





**Week
Twenty-
Five**

Feeding Thousands

WEEK TWENTY-SIX

Can Jesus Do Something with What Little I Have?



*After everyone had eaten all they wanted, Jesus' disciples
picked up twelve large baskets of leftovers.*

Matthew 14:20

Order up! Fish sandwiches for at least 5,000 people!

It's one of the most famous stories about Jesus found in the four Gospel accounts. He was tired and went out into the wilderness to get a break, but people found him. Thousands of them came out looking for healing and just to see what was going on.

Jesus was sorry for them, so he healed the sick ones. That evening, he turned to his disciples and said, "Let's get these people something to eat." He knew what he wanted to do, and probably had a twinkle in his eye when he said it, but his disciples didn't catch the humor at first. They were nowhere near town. Where would they get food? Who would pay for it? Then there's all the cooking to do and...

You can picture Jesus smiling as he had everyone sit down. He thanked God for the food, and then started handing it out. And kept handing it out—more and more and more until everyone was stuffed. And they had twelve baskets left over. The disciples must have been laughing about it and shaking their heads for hours. Sure! Let's feed them a couple of fish! Order up!

Even if you feel like you have very little to offer, Jesus can do amazing things it.

Mira-
cles

***Jesus fed thousands in a wilderness with
a small lunch. He can use your gifts.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Some duty stations are pretty tough. They can feel like a wilderness. But Jesus can make a feast out of just a little. Thank Jesus for the good things you have. Ask him what you can do to help make things better at your duty station.



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

☐ Psalm 23:1

☐ Ephesians 3:20–21

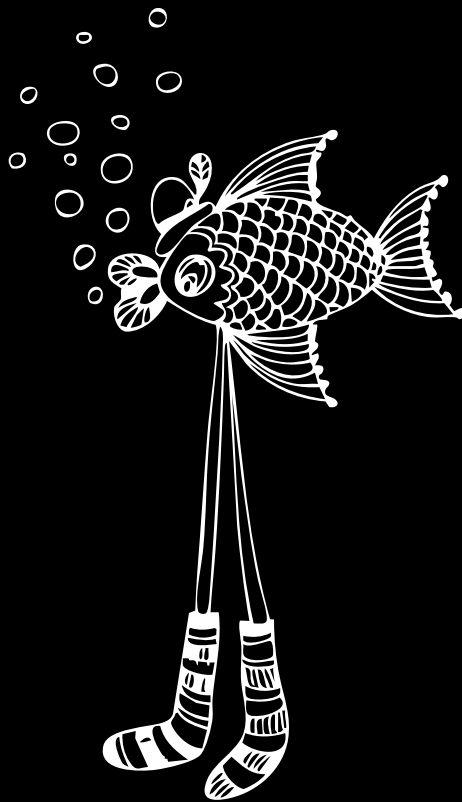
☐ Psalm 23:5

☐ John 6:5–9

**Week
Twenty-
Six**



Some fish, like the walking
catfish, can live out of the
water for several hours.



Write Your Thoughts Here



**Jesus, I don't have much, but I want to give
you what I have. Help me use it for you.**

**Week
Twenty-
Six**

Mira-
cles

Mira-
cles

Mira-
cles

Keep It Going! 

Great job!
Check your mailbox for
your next book!

(It's coming soon!)

