

How God's Miracles Can Answer Our Biggest Questions

MIRACLES

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

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING

**HERO
SQUAD**
VARSITY EDITION

Miracles, Girls Varsity Squad Edition, Fall Issue

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WRITE THE NICKNAME YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY CALL YOU:

IN WHAT WAY HAS GOD STRETCHED YOUR FAITH, LATELY?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FALL 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?

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.

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 FALL?

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 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!

The Sacred Chest

WEEK TWENTY-SEVEN

Will God Bless My Plans?



The cows went straight up the road toward Beth-Shemesh, mooing as they went. The Philistine rulers followed them until they got close to Beth-Shemesh.

1 Samuel 6:12

The nation of Israel was falling apart. The priests were corrupt. Their leader was old and wouldn't hold them to God's standards. They lost a battle against the Philistines. So, they decided to bring out the Ark of the Covenant for the next battle. This golden box symbolized God's presence and would certainly bring them victory. But, they were defeated again. The corrupt priests and their weak leader were killed, and worse, the enemy captured the ark.

The Philistines brought the ark into the temple of their god Dagon and set it in front of the statue. That night, the idol fell over. They propped it up and tried again. But the next night it fell again ... and broke.

This put the fear of God in them and they started moving the ark from town to town. Everywhere it went, people got tumors and died. Finally, the Philistines decided to "see" if the ark should go home. They devised a plan to put it on a cart and hitch it to cows who had never pulled before and who had babies they most certainly would want to go towards. They put some gifts in the cart too—gold tumors and rats.

When they let them go, the cows headed straight up the road to Israel. God brought the ark back again and everyone received the message: God was more powerful and not someone they could manipulate.

Mira-
cles

So, will God bless your plans? The better question might be, are you following His? God doesn't exist to serve our goals—we're here to follow His will, trust His power, and live His way.

***God cannot be manipulated. If we want his blessing,
we must submit our plans and ways to him.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Some things look so good but end up being bad for you: the cupcake that makes you sick, the job that beats you down, the game that becomes too obsessive, the cute date with a rebellious heart. Is there something you need to ask God about, and trust him if he says no? Write it in the cupcake and give control of it to God.



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

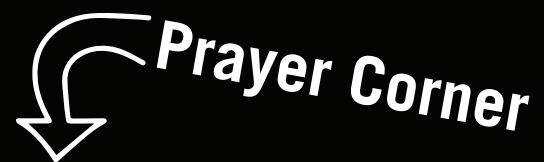
☐ Psalm 37:5

☐ Matthew 16:24–26

☐ Proverbs 3:5–6

☐ John 14:5–6

**Week
Twenty
Seven**



God, you alone know
everything, have all power,
and hold all control. Help
me to follow you.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

The cattle drives of the Old West typically went about 15 miles a day for a couple of months to move herds of cattle to the railroad stations.

Walking on Water

WEEK TWENTY-EIGHT

What If I'm Trying My Hardest but Getting Nowhere?



All of them saw him and were terrified. But at this same time he said, "Don't worry! I am Jesus. Don't be afraid." He then got into the boat with them, and the wind died down. The disciples were completely confused.

Mark 6:50–51

When you've been rowing for hours and getting nowhere . . . when the headwinds are pushing against you . . . what can you do?

The men were exhausted. The day just wouldn't end. Jesus and his disciples had tried to get away by boat to a wilderness area. But the crowds chased them down there too, so Jesus healed and taught them. When the disciples told him to send them away—for food—he fed them instead.

As it was getting dark, Jesus sent his men back without him. They took the boat across the lake while Jesus went up a mountain to pray. But they were rowing against a strong wind, and by the middle of the night they were still in the middle of the lake, still struggling. That's when Jesus saw them. All their strength and skill wasn't enough.

Not long before dawn, the disciples saw Jesus . . . walking past them . . . on the water. They thought he was a ghost! That was easier to believe than what they were actually witnessing. But when they cried out, he told them to not be afraid. He identified himself the same way God did—with the words, "I Am."

Jesus stepped into the boat with them. And the wind stopped. Once again, they saw him control nature. Once again, they were confronted with who he was.

When your strength runs out and the fear overwhelms you, Jesus steps in—bringing peace, power, and the reminder that you're never alone.

Mira-
cles

***When we ask God to be with us
in our struggles, he saves us.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Just knowing Jesus is with us helps us weather life's storms and setbacks. Sometimes, Jesus lets the hard times keep going as he calms and strengthens us. And sometimes, he calms the storms. What do Jesus's words here make you think about? Be honest! Jot down some notes and ask him to help you know he is God, and that he is with you.

“COURAGE!..

IT IS I.

DON'T BE AFRAID!”

—MARK 6:50 GNT

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

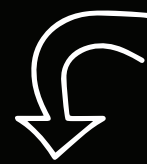
☐ Psalm 73:23–24

☐ Matthew 28:20

☐ Isaiah 40:29

☐ Hebrews 13:5–6

Week
Twenty
Eight



Prayer Corner

God, sometimes it's hard
to remember you have the
power and love to help me.
Remind me.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

A floating farm was built
in the Netherlands. Forty cows
eat on a floating meadow and are
milked in a floating barn.

Doodle Space



Mira-
cles



Week
Twenty
Eight

David Slays Goliath

WEEK TWENTY-NINE

What Difference Can One Person Make Against Evil?



When Goliath started forward, David ran toward him. He put a rock in his sling and swung the sling around by its straps. When he let go of one strap, the rock flew out and hit Goliath on the forehead. It cracked his skull, and he fell facedown on the ground.

1 Samuel 17:48–49

It's too hard. Hundreds of Israelite soldiers sized up their adversary and came to that conclusion. Even the Israelite king, a head taller than the rest and a battle-hardened warrior, was looking up in fear at this nine-foot-nine-inch foul giant, the champion of the enemy army.

So, the army who said they believed in the living God trembled in fear every time this giant Goliath stepped out to mock them and their God. For 40 days they were at a stand-off, one army on one hill, one on another, with Goliath looking for an opponent in the valley below.

It took an outsider to see the absurdity. A boy, probably a teenager, was sent to bring supplies to his brothers in the Israelite army. He arrived to witness the cursing giant spew his daily challenge, and he was shocked to see him get away with it.

Where others saw only the bully, David knew the Almighty God. David wanted to defend God's honor, and he was confident in the Lord's power. So he picked up five stones and his sling and walked into that valley.

Goliath laughed at him. But David threw one stone, hit him in the forehead, knocked him out cold, and cut off his head. David said, "I come in the name of the LORD All-Powerful." And before God, giants fall. When just one person trusts in the power of God, he can stand where others run—and bring down giants.

Mira-
cles

Even if others are afraid—even if you're afraid—God can use you in the fight against evil.

Spiritual Fitness Training

Multiple giants threaten your generation. But the Lord has given you many stones to pick up, and many skills to fight with, in his power. Step into your battle—the place God has put you—with faith.

Issues I'm Passionate About:

Lord, please help me to...



Steps I Can Take Now to Fight this Giant:



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

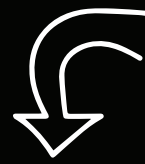
☐ Joshua 4:24

☐ 1 Corinthians 1:25

☐ Psalm 124:8

☐ 1 Peter 4:11

**Week
Twenty
Nine**



Prayer Corner

God, make me bold like
David. Help me fight
against the evil that
dishonors you.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

The Netherlands is thought to have the world’s tallest people, with an average combined height for men and women of five feet nine inches, according to an article in *Business Insider*.

Fishing for a Coin

WEEK THIRTY

Can God Really Know What I Need Before I Do?



"But we don't want to cause trouble. So go cast a line into the lake and pull out the first fish you hook. Open its mouth, and you will find a coin. Use it to pay your taxes and mine."

Matthew 17:27

You know how things are extra funny when you are supposed to be serious? Peter had one of those days with Jesus. It all started when the tax collectors came for the tax used to maintain the temple. They cornered Peter and questioned if Jesus was going to pay—again looking for ways to make trouble with Jesus. Peter quickly assured them they would get the money. Then he headed home.

He was probably worrying a bit how they could get the coin, though, since they weren't working for pay while Jesus was teaching. He stepped into his house, and before he could say anything, Jesus met him with the question: "Does a king's family have to pay taxes?" "Well, no," Peter replied. "That would be weird. The people pay taxes to the king."

"Well, we don't have to pay either," Jesus said. The point was, they are part of God's royal family and thus exempt from the tax. Mind-blowing concept. "But," Jesus continued, "we don't want to make trouble, so let's pay it."

Then came the funny part. Jesus sent Peter (a professional fisherman with boats and nets) and told him to use a single hook and catch the first fish that bit. When Peter opened up the fish's mouth, there would be a coin in it—the exact amount they needed. While most people were preoccupied about law and money, God makes a coin pop up out of nowhere. He sees the whole picture, cares about the details, and sometimes meets your needs in ways so unexpected, all you can do is laugh and trust him more.

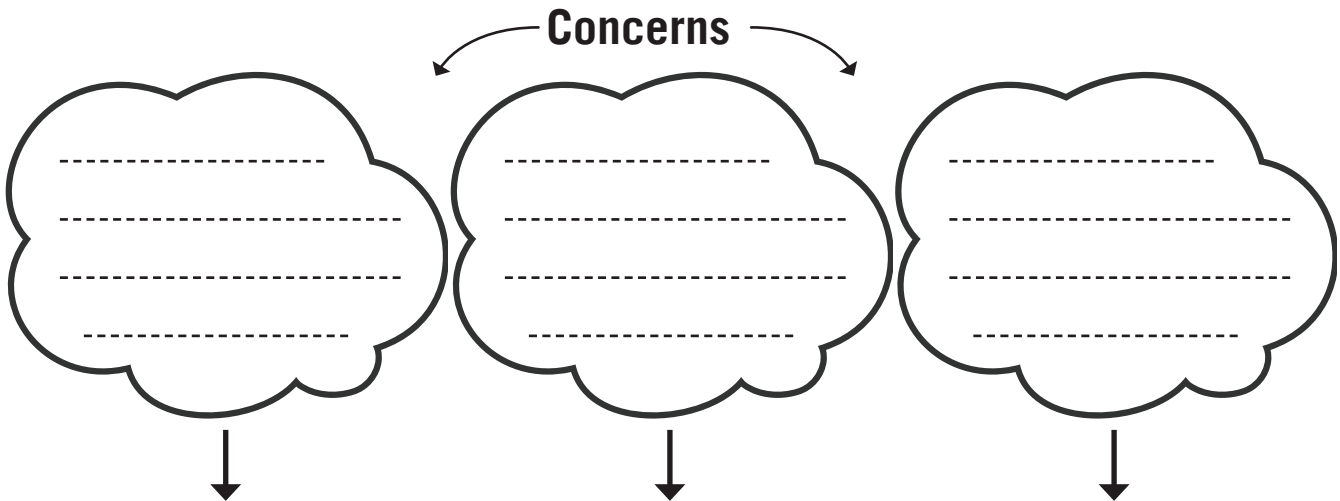
Miracles

God sent a coin to a fish; and a fish to Peter's hook. God knows.

Spiritual Fitness Training

What are some needs you might worry about, especially when you graduate? What difference does it make in your thinking, knowing you are the child of the King of the Universe? Write down some of your concerns in the clouds. Then in crowns, jot down some notes on God's abilities to take care of them.

Concerns



King's Resources

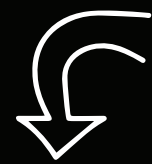


Keep It Going This Week *Find out more by reading these verses.*

- ☐ Psalm 50:10–12
- ☐ Isaiah 58:11

- ☐ Matthew 6:8
- ☐ Psalm 145:16

**Week
Thirty**



Prayer Corner

God, thanks for caring
for all of my needs in
unexpected ways. Help
me to trust you with all
of my concerns.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

One of the largest—and
oldest—minted coins was
made in China in the 1500s.
It weighs 91.5 pounds and is
over 22 inches wide.

Doodle Space



Mira-
cles



Will God Take Care of Me?



*Ravens brought him bread and meat twice a day,
and he drank water from the creek.*

1 Kings 17:6

The nation was falling into chaos and wickedness. Ahab, the new king, was rebelling against the Lord. He had married a princess from another country and built a temple for her god Baal, a regional fertility god whose worship often included child sacrifice. His queen, Jezebel, later began to massacre the priests of God. It was a bad time for those who loved God.

So, God deployed his prophet Elijah. He confronted Ahab and told him there would be no dew or rain until God allowed it—in a few years. This was a direct assault on Baal, who was known as the god of storms. And it was a threat to the people's food supply because crops would die.

Since that didn't win friends and influence people, Elijah had to go into witness protection. God told him where to hide. He sent him to a ravine in the wilderness where he could drink from the stream. Then, every morning and night, bread and meat were delivered to Elijah by winged carrier service . . . by ravens

In the face of great danger, Elijah obeyed God and God protected him in mind-blowing ways.

The God who sent ravens with dinner is the same God who sees you, knows your needs, and never forgets His own.

Mira-
cles

***God works out every detail
to care for our needs.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Each generation has its own battle against wickedness, and every follower of God will need to serve where and when God sends them. The way to be strong like Elijah is to stay close to the Lord. Spiritual food comes from God, so you need to pay attention to your supply chain. To which spiritual exercises will you commit? Make a battle plan!

	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU
Read Bible	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Memorize Verses

Spend Time with God

5mins

☐

10mins

☐

30mins

☐

☐

Pray Against Evil

Specifically, I will pray against...

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

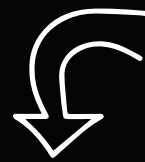
☐ Psalm 34:15-16

☐ 2 Corinthians 9:8

☐ Psalm 37:25

☐ 1 Peter 5:7

**Week
Thirty
One**



Prayer Corner

God, I can see things
happening in my nation
that spread darkness and
death. Please make me able
to stand strongly against
them, like Elijah.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

America participated in over
one million abortions in 2024.
Pray for those affected, and
pray for God to move.

Healing a Blind Man

WEEK THIRTY-TWO

Why Is Life So Hard for Some People?



After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground. He made some mud and smeared it on the man's eyes. Then he said, "Go wash off the mud in Siloam Pool." The man went and washed in Siloam, which means "One Who Is Sent." When he had washed off the mud, he could see.

John 9:6-7

Sometimes it doesn't matter what you do—people are against you anyway. Even when Jesus did amazing miracles that changed lives for good, some people refused to believe in him.

For example, one time Jesus met a man who had been born blind. His disciples wanted to know: Did he do something wrong, or did his parents? No, Jesus said, this happened to show God's mysterious work.

So Jesus spit in some dirt, formed mud, and put it on the man's eyes. Then, he told him to go wash it off in the pool called Siloam, which means "Sent" (a little symbolism intended there). God the Creator made man out of the dirt, and now here was the Son of God, re-creating a man's eyes. He was bringing light into his darkness. When the man washed off the mud, he could see!

But, some of the religious leaders refused to see the light. They called the man a liar and Jesus a hoax. But the formerly blind man simply kept asking, how is it that I can now see? So they threw him out, calling him a hopeless sinner.

Later, Jesus came to him and told him who he was. The man said he believed Jesus was Lord, and he worshiped him. Jesus told the people who would not believe that they were the blind ones, and the guilty ones. Sometimes it's through the hardest struggles that God shows up the clearest and those who hold on to faith in the dark are the ones who truly learn to see.

Mira-
cles

***Sometimes it's through the hardest struggles
that God shows up the clearest.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

What has God done for you that you need to tell others about? Speaking of God's power can help other people find spiritual sight! Think of prayers that have been answered, or good things that have come to you because of him and write them down in the large star and on the rays below. Then pray about who you need to tell—and do it!

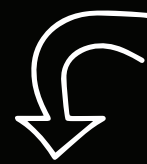


Keep It Going This Week *Find out more by reading these verses.*

- ☐ Psalm 103:2–4
- ☐ Isaiah 35:4–5

- ☐ Luke 5:17
- ☐ James 1:17

**Week
Thirty
Two**



Prayer Corner

God, help me not be
spiritually blind. Open my
eyes to see how you are
working.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

Over one million nerve fibers connect our eyeballs to our brains. Doctors can't transplant eyes because they can't reconstruct those connections.

Doodle Space



Mira-
cles



Week
Thirty
Two

Fire on the Altar

WEEK THIRTY-THREE

What If I Doubt God Will Come Through?



The LORD immediately sent fire, and it burned up the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones. It scorched the ground everywhere around the altar and dried up every drop of water in the ditch.

1 Kings 18:38

If anyone ever had the world against him, it was Elijah. The nation of Israel had turned in part to the worship of a false god named Baal. The evil queen Jezebel surrounded herself with hundreds of prophets, and had the prophets of God hunted down and slaughtered. There was a bounty on Elijah's head too.

So, it shocked the country when he stepped out of hiding to publicly challenge Jezebel's prophets. On Mount Carmel, each side would build an altar and slaughter a bull. The God who responded with fire would be the one Israel would worship.

When the 450 prophets of Baal had arranged their altar, they prayed. After no response came, they prayed harder, louder, more passionately. They even began to cut themselves to stir up their storm god to give them a spark. Still nothing. Elijah made fun of them—maybe Baal was relieving himself.

Finally, Elijah stepped up, his very life on the line. He built the altar, set the wood, laid down the sacrificial bull. Then, he had people pour water over it. Buckets came until everything was soaked and a moat of water puddled around it. The message was clear: burning this would take an act of God. Elijah calmly prayed. After a few sentences, God sent a fireball so hot it burned even the stones. The people responded the only way they could, proclaiming their allegiance to God and killing the false prophets.

**Mira-
cles**

When doubt creeps in, step forward in faith, pray honestly, and let God show that He's still the One who answers with fire.

***It's not always so dramatic, but God will
reveal himself to people who ask him.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

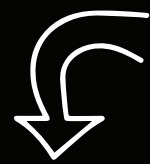
Many people have doubts at times, but God promises to be found by people who look for him. How have you seen God work? Ask some friends, too, and make a list!

A black and white line drawing of a shooting star or comet streaking across the sky, leaving a long, curved trail. Several five-pointed stars of varying sizes are scattered around the trail, and a small cluster of stars is at the end of the trail. The background is filled with horizontal dashed lines, suggesting a sky or a writing area.

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

- ☐ Proverbs 8:17 ☐ Matthew 7:7
- ☐ Isaiah 55:6 ☐ Acts 17:27–28

Week Thirty Three



Prayer Corner

God, sometimes it seems
weird to have faith. Show
me more of you. Help me
trust you.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

Most people in the world follow some religion. Christianity is still the world's largest religion, and the United States has the largest single group of Christians.

Healing 10 Lepers

WEEK THIRTY-FOUR

How Can I Show Love to Jesus?



*When one of them discovered that he was healed,
he came back, shouting praises to God.*

Luke 17:15

They had been out there for years. Outcasts. Alone together.

The ten men had leprosy, a hideous disease eating away at skin and bone. They were banned from living near—or even getting close to—other people.

So, when Jesus walked past, they kept their distance, but began to shout, asking him for mercy.

Jesus sent them to see the priests, who had the responsibility to inspect their skin so they could re-enter society. It took faith to start hobbling that way before anything happened, but as they did, new health coursed through their veins. Skin re-grew.

But, only one thought to run back and thank Jesus. He fell on his face in front of Jesus, his praise to God and his thanks to Jesus just as loud as his shouts for mercy had been.

Jesus wondered how only one man came back to say thank you. He sent the worshipper on his way, healed in body and soul.

If you want to show love to Jesus, start by remembering what He's done—and never stop running back to thank Him with your whole heart.

Mira-
cles

***Gratitude and recognition of God's glory show
love to him and change people's hearts.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

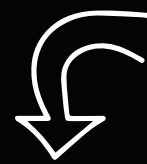
You know what it's like to feel used. Too often, people just want the gift and not a relationship with the giver. God wants our gratitude, too—not for his needs but because he knows it is best for us. He desires most a relationship of mutual love. Giving him thanks opens our hearts. What can you worship him for today? Write down some thoughts or a prayer to him, below.

A black and white line drawing of a man in a crouching position, looking down with his head bowed, suggesting a state of despair or grief. He is wearing a long-sleeved shirt and trousers. The drawing is positioned on the right side of the page, which is filled with horizontal dashed lines for writing.

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

- ☐ 1 Chronicles 16:29
 - ☐ Psalm 13:6
 - ☐ 2 Corinthians 9:15
 - ☐ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Week Thirty Four



Prayer Corner

God, you are the One who
gives all good gifts. Thank
you. I love you.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

People who read the Bible’s accounts of Jesus’s travels estimate that he walked over 3,000 miles during his three-year ministry. His walk carrying the cross was about a third of a mile.

Doodle Space



Mira-
cles



Elijah Meets God

WEEK THIRTY-FIVE

Can I Be Real with God?



*Soon the LORD'S angel woke him again and said,
"Get up and eat, or else you'll get too tired to travel."*

1 Kings 19:7

Great highs, great lows. Elijah was going through it all! But now he was done, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

He wound up lying in the dust—under a bush, in the middle of nowhere—praying God would take his life. Never mind that God had just defeated Baal through him, or that he had slaughtered 450 wicked prophets of Baal, or that he had prayed for rain and God answered, or that he had run for miles ahead of the king's chariot in that rainstorm.

All Elijah could focus on was the wicked queen's threat to his life. So he ran away. Fled the country. And now he told God he was done. He wanted to die. He fell asleep with his face in the dirt.

But an angel woke him up and fed him. He ate and slept again. The angel woke him again with more food, then sent him on his way. Elijah walked for 40 more days to the mountain where Moses had met God.

On the mountain, Elijah hid in a crevice. A windstorm came—blowing rocks around. An earthquake shook the land. A fire swept through. Still, Elijah waited for God.

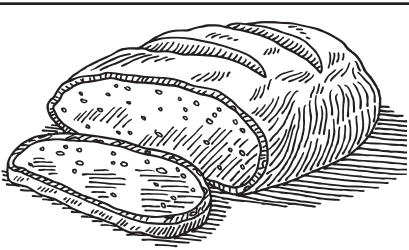
Then came a whisper. The God who is always close listened to Elijah's worries. He offered encouragement, reminding Elijah of his power and explaining some of his plan. Then he sent Elijah out again with new jobs to accomplish. You can be real with God—he's not afraid of your honesty, and he'll meet you in your mess with love and strength.

Mira-
cles

***God understands our weaknesses. He hears
our concerns. He takes care of our needs.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

When Elijah ran to God, he ate God's food, witnessed his power, and heard his whisper. In a spiritual way, we can do the same. Fill out the page below and refer to it when you feel discouraged.



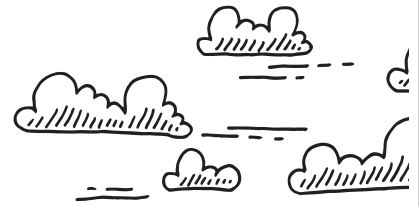
FOOD

Write a favorite verse that encourages you. (Check out this week's verses for ideas.)



POWER

Write down your favorite demonstration of God's power.



VOICE

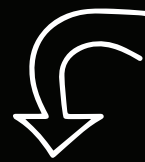
Pray, then be silent and listen. Write what God is telling you.

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

- ☐ Psalm 119:76
- ☐ Isaiah 41:10

- ☐ 2 Corinthians 1:3–4
- ☐ 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

**Week
Thirty
Five**



Prayer Corner

God, this world gets
exhausting. It is tempting
to want to check out.
Thank you for your care
and encouragement.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

The Great Chilean Earthquake in 1960 is the strongest earthquake on record. Scientists believe it measured around 9.5 on the magnitude scale. It caused tsunamis as far away as Japan.

Raising Lazarus

WEEK THIRTY-SIX

Does God Control Death?



The man who had been dead came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of burial cloth, and a cloth covered his face. Jesus then told the people, "Untie him and let him go."

John 11:44

It's not the way it's supposed to be. People were created for life, for love, for relationship. Death is separation. And death is hopeless . . . unless you know Jesus.

Jesus's friends Mary and Martha experienced that. Their brother, Jesus's friend Lazarus, had died. They were four days into the mourning when Jesus finally arrived, though they had sent for him much earlier, while Lazarus was just sick. Jesus found a scene of sorrow, confusion, even hurt. "If only you had come earlier," the sisters told him, "he wouldn't have died." Now they would never again talk with him; never laugh or hug or eat with him.

Jesus joined in their tears. Even though he knew what he was about to do, he cried for the loss of his friend, and was angry at the enemy that death is, at the sin that leads to illness, heartache, death itself.

Then, he stepped to the tomb. He called Lazarus's name, and the dead man, wrapped up like a mummy, got up and walked out. Everything changed. Crying to laughter. Disappointment to amazement. A decaying corpse to a live man. Hopelessness turned to triumph. They knew Jesus could heal diseases, but they hadn't realized Jesus held power over death itself! In the shock of it all, Jesus had to tell them to unwrap him. Many people believed then that Jesus was the One sent to bring eternal **life**. Jesus holds power over death, and he came to give us everlasting life.

**Mira-
cles**

God made us for life with him, and Jesus came to overcome sin and death.

Spiritual Fitness Training

Jesus came to overcome death. Find the word in bold on the previous page and fill it in the blank boxes below. As you do, thank Jesus for holding the power over death.

d e a t h

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

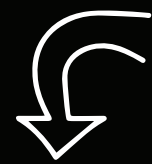
☐ Psalm 23:6

☐ John 11:25–26

☐ Daniel 12:2

☐ John 10:28

**Week
Thirty
Six**



Prayer Corner

Jesus, you understand
grief. Thank you for
making a way to eternal
life. You broke the power
of death.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

Harry Houdini was an illusionist known for “escaping death” acts including being sealed in a milk can, chained and hung upside down in a water chamber, and buried alive.

Doodle Space



Mira-
cles



How Does God's Work Continue After a Change of Command?



Elijah and Elisha were walking along and talking, when suddenly there appeared between them a flaming chariot pulled by fiery horses. At once, a strong wind took Elijah up into heaven.

2 Kings 2:11

They both knew it was coming . . . that day. The great prophet Elijah was going to be taken away to heaven. Elisha—his friend, assistant, and student—would be left to keep doing God's work.

In sorrow, anticipation, fear, awe, they started out on the journey where God was sending them. They walked for miles. Several times Elijah tried to leave Elisha behind and shield him from the coming separation. But each time Elisha insisted he would not leave him.

When they came to the Jordan River, Elijah used his cloak to part the water and they walked across on dry land. As they talked, Elijah asked if there was anything he could do for Elisha. His student asked to inherit the spirit that made the prophet able to do God's work. "If you see me being taken away," Elijah said, it would happen.

And then it happened: a chariot of fire with fiery horses came between them. And as Elisha watched, Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind!

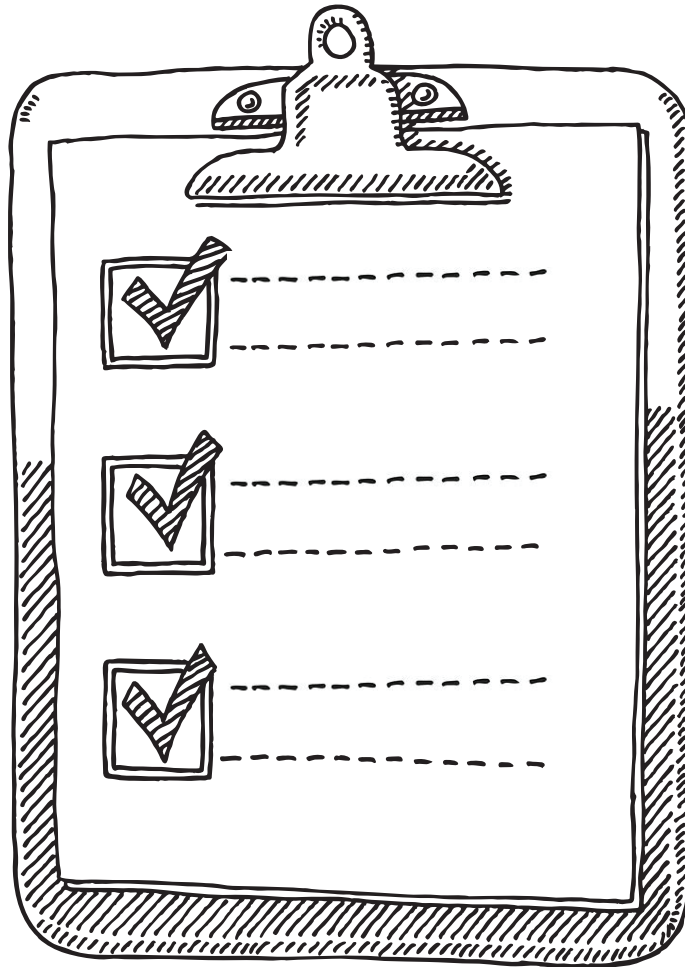
Elisha cried out. He watched till there was nothing left to see but Elijah's cloak, fallen on the ground. So, he went back to work. When he came to the river, he struck it like Elijah did, and the waters parted like they had before. The Lord had given him miraculous reasons to be confident for his future. Even when one leader's time ends, God doesn't stop working—He passes the mission on and gives the next person what they need to carry it forward.

Mira-
cles

Elisha's story gives confidence that the Lord will equip you with what you need to carry out his mission.

Spiritual Fitness Training

Spend some time thinking about a respected leader you know—maybe a pastor, a teacher, or a parent. What qualities do they hold that you respect? Jot them down below, and spend some time praying that God will give you what you need to carry out his mission for you.



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

☐ Psalm 139:7–8

☐ Philippians 1:21

☐ Isaiah 66:1

☐ 2 Timothy 4:18

**Week
Thirty
Seven**

 Prayer Corner

God, so much of life and death I don't understand, and can't control. But I can trust you. Help me trust you.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

We have evidence of chariots
as far back as 1900 BC, and
chariot racing continues today.
It was an Olympic sport, and
chariots can go over 40 miles
per hour.

Transfiguration

WEEK THIRTY-EIGHT

Was Jesus Just a Good Teacher?



The shadow of a cloud passed over and covered them. From the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Listen to what he says!"

Mark 9:7

Ever since the days when Jesus was on earth, people have doubted him. Most people liked his teaching. But even his closest disciples and friends didn't always know what to think about him. When Jesus asked Peter what he believed, he said Jesus was the Messiah, sent from God. Great! But then Jesus began talking about being killed, and Peter told him to stop. (Do you tell someone what to do if you really believe he is sent by God?) Not so great. And Jesus scolded him.

A few days later though, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a mountain. While they were praying, Jesus was changed in front of them. Even his clothes became astonishingly bright. Moses and Elijah appeared (the great lawgiver and the great prophet had both been gone for centuries) and were talking with Jesus. Then a cloud covered them all and a voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Listen to him."

The disciples were terrified. Jesus told them not to talk about this astonishing encounter yet—but after he had been killed and raised from the dead, they remembered and started to understand.

He was much more than a great teacher. They were following God's Son.

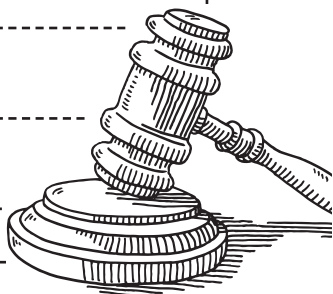
Mira-
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Jesus said he was more than just a good teacher. He is God's Son.

Spiritual Fitness Training

Author C. S. Lewis famously said that Jesus has to be either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord because of what he said about himself and the way the Bible carefully presents him as a real person who lived in a specific time and place in history. Think it through. Talk with a chaplain, a youth group leader, or a parent and consider the evidence for yourself. Who do you think Jesus was—and is? Write down your reasons, below.

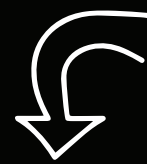
LIAR	LUNATIC	LORD



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

- ☐ Proverbs 3:5
- ☐ Philippians 3:15–16
- ☐ Isaiah 55:6–8
- ☐ Jude 22–23

Week
Thirty
Eight



Prayer Corner

God, I believe Jesus is your
Son. Please help me keep
believing and trusting you.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

Moths are attracted to light,
while other insects, like
roaches, are repelled by light.

Doodle Space



Mira-
cles



Week
Thirty
Eight

Jars of Oil

WEEK THIRTY-NINE

What If I Fall Short?



At last, she said to one of her sons, "Bring me another jar." "We don't have any more," he answered, and the oil stopped flowing from the small bottle.

2 Kings 4:6

The woman stared into her boys' eyes. Their dad had just died. The creditor was coming. And there was nothing to pay him with. In their culture, that meant her two boys were going to be taken into slavery to pay the debt.

She reached out to the only hope she had—Elisha, the man of God. Hadn't her husband been in his company of prophets? Hadn't he loved the Lord?

Elisha replied kindly, "How can I help you? What do you have in the house?" The woman thought about it and said she had nothing. Just one small bottle of olive oil.

Elisha broke into her spiraling thoughts. "Go. Borrow all the jars you can from your neighbors. As many as possible. Don't be timid. Then go in your house. Close the door. You and the boys fill the jars with your oil."

Faith is a decision. It's the determination to trust someone and to take action even when we don't yet see the outcome. The woman followed Elisha's instructions. The boys brought her jar after jar, and her supply of oil kept flowing from the bottle. When the last jar was filled, the oil stopped flowing.

They sold it all and paid off their debt, with still more left over to live on.

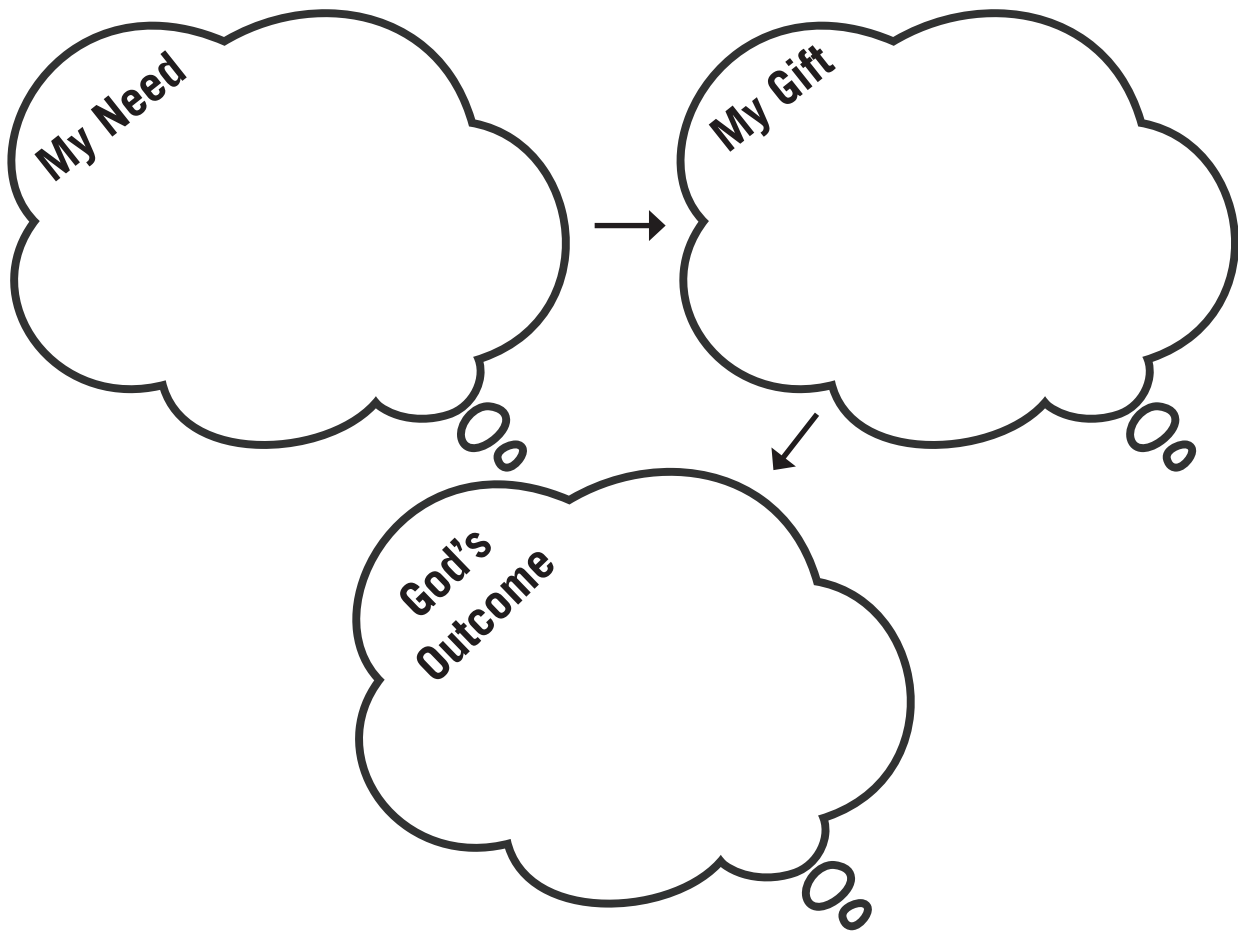
Mira-
cles

The Lord is loving, abundant, and generous. When we fall short, he is more than enough.

***When you reach your limits and ask for help,
the Lord steps in with abundance.***

Spiritual Fitness Training

Falling short? Whether it's money for college, talent to make the team, discipline to get the grades, a chance for the job, we often can't imagine how something could be possible. But God tells us to trust him, to pour out what he has given us, and watch him do great things. Think about what God has told you to do. Stay faithful in doing that while you trust him to take care of the outcome.



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

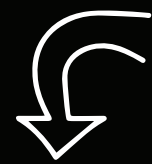
☐ Psalm 42:11

☐ 2 Corinthians 12:9

☐ Psalm 50:10–11

☐ Philippians 4:19

**Week
Thirty
Nine**



Prayer Corner

God, there are things I
need in my life and I don't
see how they can happen.
But you make a way.

Write Your Thoughts Here



DID YOU KNOW?

The United States is the richest country in the world by net worth, and fourth by per capita income. But it is not in the top 10 happiest countries.

Mira-
cles

Mira-
cles

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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cles

Keep It Going! 

Great job!
Check your mailbox for
your next book!

(It's coming soon!)

