

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, Boys JV Squad Edition, Winter Issue

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

**WHAT MIRACLE HAVE YOU FOUND TO BE THE MOST INCREDIBLE IN THE BIBLE?**

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WINTER 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:**



# **CONTENTS**

<b>How Do God's Miracles Answer Our Biggest Questions?</b>	6
<b>How to Use this Book</b>	8
<b>Tips &amp; Ideas</b>	9
<b>WEEK 40:</b> How Do We Know Christianity Is True?	10
<b>WEEK 41:</b> What Does It Mean That God Is <i>FOR</i> Me?	14
<b>WEEK 42:</b> Did Miracles Stop After Jesus?	20
<b>WEEK 43:</b> Do I Have to Stand for God?	24
<b>WEEK 44:</b> Can't I Just Go with the Flow?	30
<b>WEEK 45:</b> Why Should I Worship God?	34
<b>WEEK 46:</b> What Does It Mean to Be Baptized?	40
<b>WEEK 47:</b> Does God Control the Nations' Power?	44
<b>WEEK 48:</b> Does God Forgive <i>ALL</i> My Sins?	50
<b>WEEK 49:</b> Does It Really Pay to Be Good in the End?	54
<b>WEEK 50:</b> When Everyone Is Freaking Out, How Can I Stay Calm?	60
<b>WEEK 51:</b> Will People Get What They Deserve?	64
<b>WEEK 52:</b> What Should I Do when Everything Keeps Going Wrong?	70

# 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 WINTER?**

*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!

# Resurrection

WEEK FORTY

## How Do We Know Christianity Is True?



*The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. He isn't here! God has raised him to life, just as Jesus said he would. Come, see the place where his body was lying."*

Matthew 28:5–6

They killed him. Many people in Jesus's day refused to believe in his miracles, even when there was no other explanation. They did not want to admit he was God's Son, and they did not want to do what he said.

And so, they made up fake charges and sentenced him to death. They beat him, made fun of him, nailed his wrists and feet to a cross, and left him to die. Then they buried him, sealed the tomb with a rock, and posted soldiers to watch the grave. Done. . . or so they thought.

But they weren't as in control as they imagined. When Jesus died, there was an earthquake, mysterious darkness, and the curtain in the Temple that kept people from seeing into its holiest area was ripped open.

On his third day in the grave, he suddenly wasn't. An earthquake shook the city again. The stone in front of the grave moved. An angel appeared, making hardened soldiers run in fear. Jesus's body was gone, but the wrappings were left in a flattened pile, as if the body had been vaporized.

Soon, the people who loved Jesus saw him alive. Hundreds more reported seeing him walking, talking, eating, and breathing, and finally rising into the sky.

We know Christianity is true because Jesus rose from the dead, just like He promised.

***Because Jesus proved his power over death,  
we can know what he said was true.***

Mira-  
cles

# Spiritual Fitness Training

What difference does it make for you that Jesus has power over death? Think about that while you look for the key words from this week's verse in the puzzle.

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

ANGEL  
WOMEN  
NAILED  
CROSS  
RAISED  
BODY

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

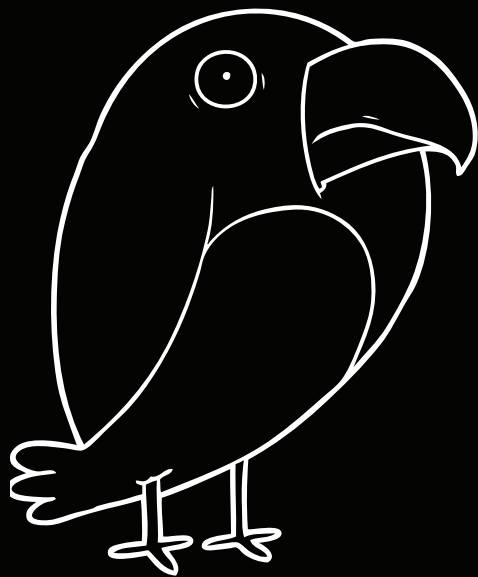
- ☐ Isaiah 43:11-12
- ☐ Isaiah 45:22

- ☐ Romans 4:25
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:14

Week  
Forty

## **Mind Blower**

When a crow dies, other crows will circle it and call for others to see the body. Researchers think they do this to warn each other that there might be something dangerous nearby.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Jesus, I believe you. You hold the power over death! Please help me to live my life for you.**

**Week  
Forty**

# Elisha's Army

WEEK FORTY-ONE

## What Does It Mean That God Is *FOR* Me?



*Then he prayed, "LORD, please help him to see." And the LORD let the servant see that the hill was covered with fiery horses and flaming chariots all around Elisha.*

2 Kings 6:17

Sometimes, the truth is even more amazing than fiction. Take, for example, Elisha's story. Elisha's country, Israel, was at war with the people of Aram. Aram's king kept trying to secretly move his troops, but the Israelites were always a step ahead of him. He thought he had a spy, but one of his soldiers said, "No, it's the Israelite named Elisha. He is a prophet of God, and he knows what you say in your bedroom."

So the king of Aram sent his best troops after Elisha. When Elisha's servant saw them coming, he was terrified. "What are we going to do?" he asked.

But Elisha was completely calm! He said it was no big deal because his army was bigger. The servant looked around. He couldn't see anything.

Then Elisha prayed, and his servant suddenly could see horses and chariots everywhere—and they were made of fire!

Elisha prayed again, this time asking God to blind the enemy. Just like that, the whole army lost its sight. Elisha led them to the Israelite king and then asked God to open their eyes again. They were surrounded.

God told the Israelites to feed their captives and then send them home. Because of God's supernatural power and Israel's kindness, the invasions stopped for a good while. God being *FOR* you means that he is always on your side, protecting you with His power even when you can't see it.

Mira-  
cles

***When you are on God's side, he does unbelievable things to help you.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

You might feel powerless to help your favorite warriors, but the most powerful thing you can do for them is pray. Write down some prayers to God for our military below.

A black and white line drawing of two police officers standing side-by-side. The officer on the left is a man wearing a short-sleeved uniform shirt, trousers, and a duty belt with a holster. He is looking slightly to his right. The officer on the right is a woman wearing a short-sleeved uniform shirt, trousers, a duty belt, and a police cap. She is looking slightly to her left. The background is plain white.

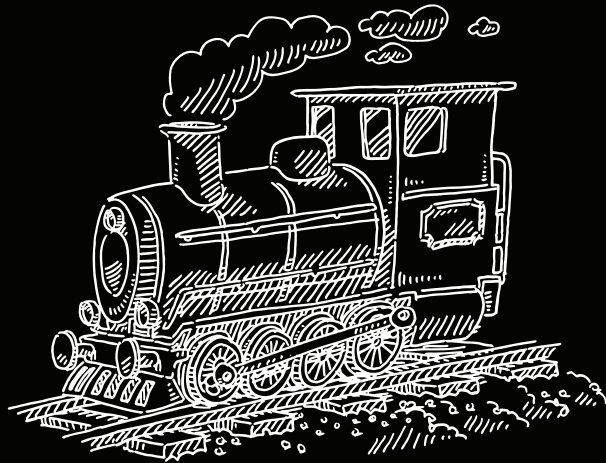
**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

- ☐ Psalm 144:1
  - ☐ Psalm 146:7b–9a
  - ☐ 2 Corinthians 5:7
  - ☐ 1 John 5:4–5

## Week Forty One

**Mind Blower**

Back in the 1700s, the creator of a new steam engine began to compare the power of his machine to the strength of ten horses. Even though his calculations of a horse's capability were not especially accurate, the term "horsepower" stuck.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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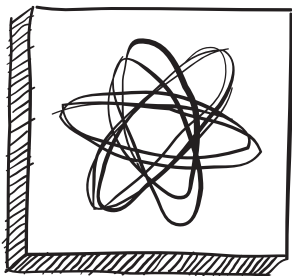
**God, I want to be in your army, on your side.  
Help me to obey your commands.**

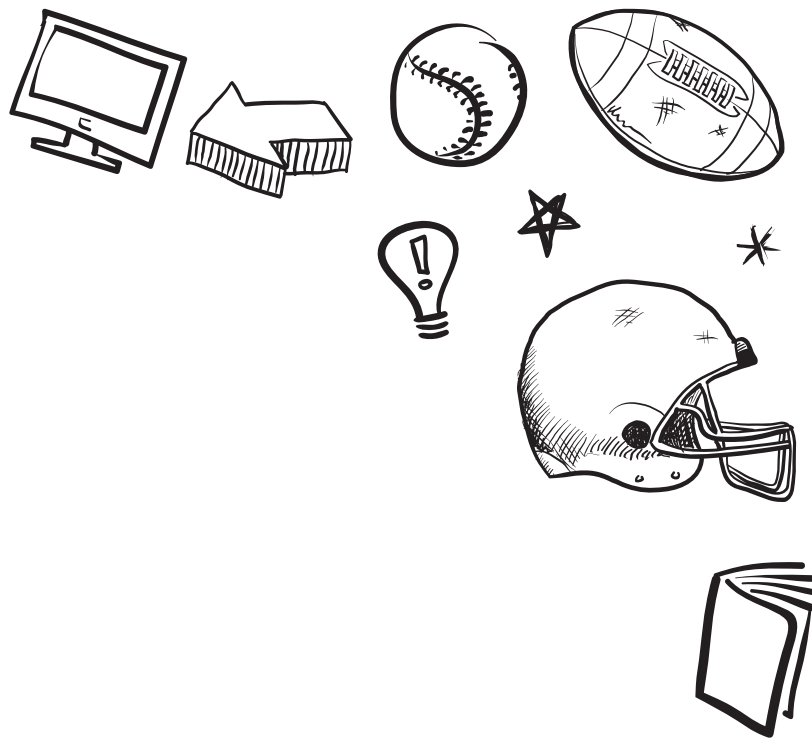
**Week  
Forty  
One**

## Doodle Space



God is always with you, even when you can't see it. Draw a scene that feels scary or overwhelming (like the enemy army in Elisha's story). Then write a prayer asking God to show you his protection and give you peace.





# Tongues of Fire

## WEEK FORTY-TWO

### Did Miracles Stop After Jesus?



*The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak.*

Acts 2:4

Suppose you're studying a foreign language in school. In that case, you might wish your brain worked like AI that could quickly download Spanish or French before your exam. Until that happens, you will need to keep studying and learning week by week.

Unless . . . God sends another miracle to you, like he did for Jesus's followers. After his death, they had seen him alive again, but they were keeping quiet and hiding in Jerusalem. They were afraid of the people who had killed Jesus. Besides, Jesus had told them to wait there.

While they were waiting together, they suddenly heard a sound like a loud wind inside the building. Then they saw what looked like tongues made of fire moving around the room and resting over everyone's heads. The Holy Spirit's power had come to them, and they weren't afraid anymore.

People from all over the city came to see what was going on. They were from many nations, but the followers of Jesus could suddenly speak all their languages. They all told the same message about Jesus. Peter (the former coward) spoke boldly to the large crowd. He said Jesus had been killed but rose again. He pleaded with them to follow Jesus. Three thousand people believed that day!

Miracles didn't stop after Jesus—His followers received the Holy Spirit, and amazing things continued to happen.

Mira-  
cles

***God sent his Holy Spirit to Jesus's followers  
with the power to do miracles.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Which of your friends needs to hear about Jesus? Ask God to give you the right words and the courage to talk to them soon.

“THEN I WILL ASK THE FATHER  
TO SEND YOU THE HOLY  
SPIRIT WHO WILL HELP YOU  
AND ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.”  
-JOHN 14:16

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

☐ Joel 2:28

☐ John 14:16

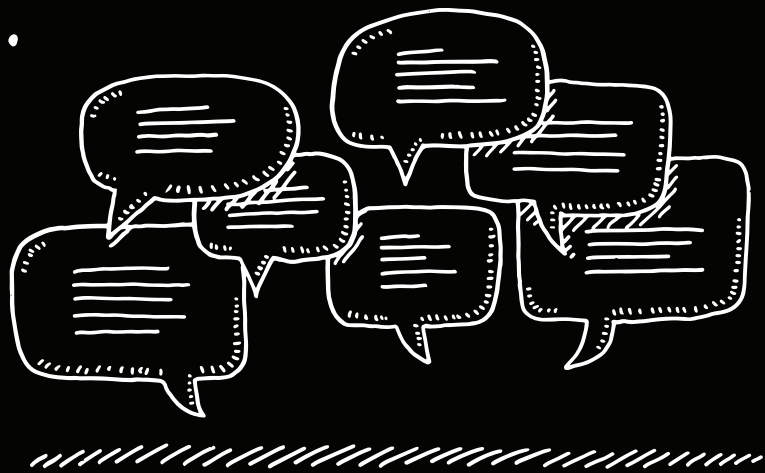
☐ Zechariah 4:6

☐ Acts 1:8

Week  
Forty  
Two

**Mind Blower**

A person who can speak many languages is called a polyglot. In the mid-1800s, a man named Sir John Bowring is believed to have been able to speak in 100 languages.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**God, I want to do your work and tell others about  
Jesus, too. Please give me your power.**

**Week  
Forty  
Two**

# Fiery Furnace

WEEK FORTY-THREE

## Do I Have to Stand for God?



*"But I see four men walking around in the fire," the king replied. "None of them is tied up or harmed, and the fourth one looks like a god."*

Daniel 3:25

Imagine that you and a couple of buddies are taken as captives to another country. Things aren't terrible at first. But then the king gets a bright idea: he's going to make a god. (How crazy is that? Make a god!) He builds a 90-foot-tall gold statue and gathers a large group of musicians to form a band. He tells everyone to bow in worship of this idol whenever the music plays.

So, what's your move? Would you bow? In ancient times, three Jewish guys—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—were forced to answer this question. They chose to not bow down.

A bunch of tattletales ran to the king and told him the news. He gave them another chance, but they refused. These young men believed that God could save them, but told the evil king, "Even if he doesn't, we still won't worship your gods and the gold statue you have set up" (Daniel 3:18).

The king got so angry, he fired up a massive furnace, tied up the three friends, and ordered his men to throw them into the flames. But when the king looked into the fire, he saw four guys walking around—and the fourth one looked like the Son of God (spoiler alert: it was).

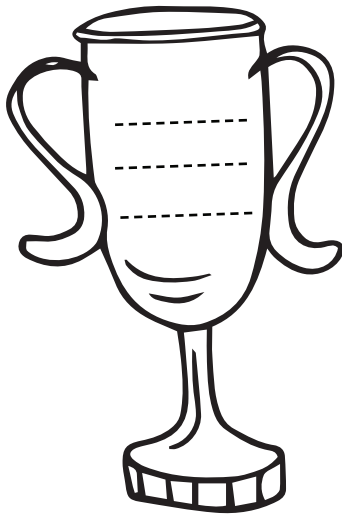
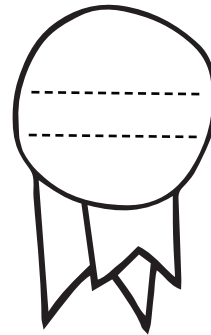
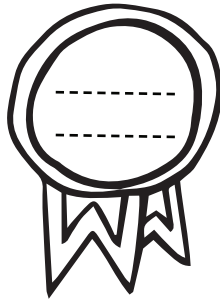
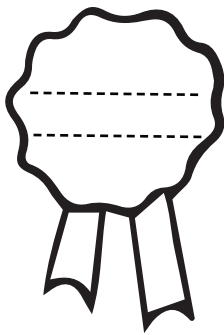
The king was stunned. He called them out of the fire and told everyone to worship their God. We have to stand for God, even when it's hard, because He is trustworthy.

Mira-  
cles

***Sooner or later, you will have to show people that you believe in God. He honors that.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Many heroes of the faith have stood up for God throughout history. Ask your parents, mentors, teachers, chaplains, or friends about someone who inspires them to be brave. Write down the names below.



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

☐ Isaiah 43:2

☐ Matthew 10:32–33

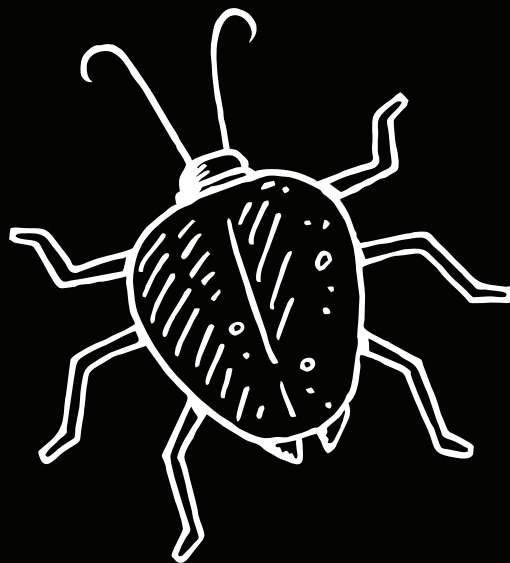
☐ Habakkuk 3:17–18

☐ 1 John 2:23

**Week  
Forty  
Three**

 **Mind Blower**

Fire beetles can detect a fire burning up to 80 miles away. They are built to withstand high temperatures, and some varieties need to lay their eggs in burnt logs.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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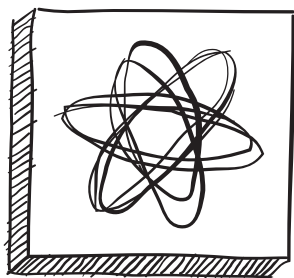
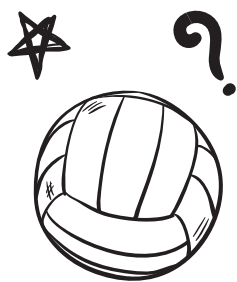
**God, you are the only true God with power  
over everything. Please help me have courage  
to stand for you.**

Week  
Forty  
Three

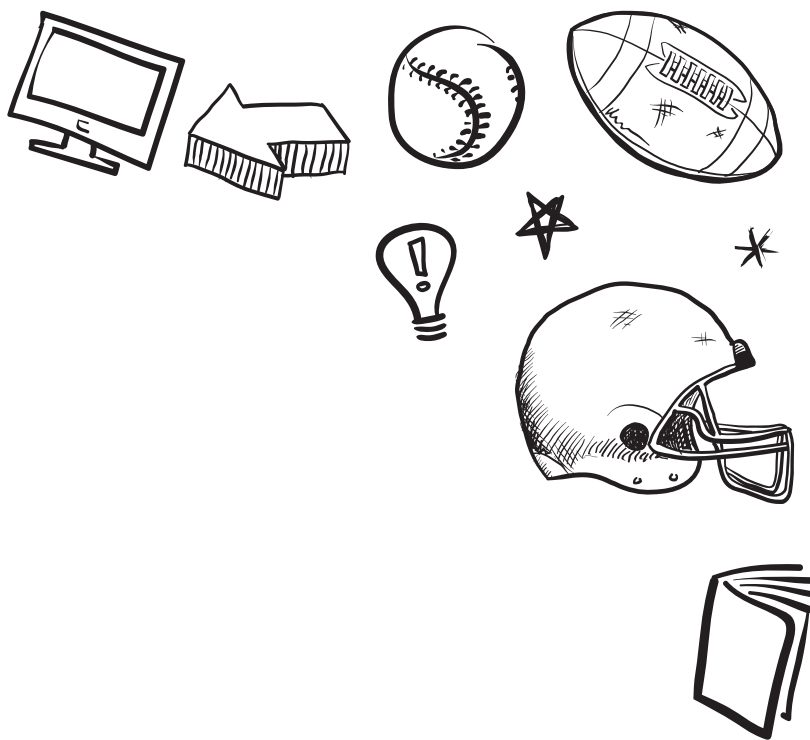
## Doodle Space



Draw a super tall statue  
Around the statue, doodle  
three friends (like Shadrach,  
Meshach, and Abednego)  
standing strong. Underneath  
the friends, write "Even if  
it's hard, I will trust God!"



Mira-  
cles



## Can't I Just Go with the Flow?



*But that night an angel from the Lord opened the doors of the jail and led the apostles out.*

Acts 5:19

Some people are so controlling. Take, for instance, when the apostles were in the streets of Jerusalem, telling everyone about Jesus. The religious leaders got mad at them. Really? For healing people and telling them to do good? Those officials didn't only want to control religion—they wanted power over everyone's lives. Plus, they didn't like being blamed for Jesus's death. So they locked up his disciples in jail.

But God let them out. Yup, an angel came in the night and released them. The next morning, when the officials looked for them, they found the doors locked and guards in place, but no one inside.

Where were the prisoners? Back out preaching. So the leaders hauled them into court again, which gave Peter a chance to preach to them. They still didn't like it. The leaders were going to kill them, but one of them said, "Leave them alone. If what they are planning is something of their own doing, it will fail" (Acts 5:38b). Little did he know: God had started a worldwide mission.

So the religious officials decided to beat up the disciples and make them promise to not preach about Jesus. The disciples said they couldn't stop doing what God told them to do. And they didn't. To them, it was better to risk being hurt because of Jesus than being safe without him. Going with the flow might be easier, but following Jesus is always worth it.

Mira-  
cles

***Following Jesus is better than following the crowd, even when people try to hurt you.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Somewhere in the world, there's a kid like you who loves Jesus but lives in a country where it's against the law to be a Christian. Pray for him or her. Look up Acts 5:29 (one of your "Keep It Going This Week" verses), and put the words in the right place for Acts 5:29 below.

**GOD • REPLIED • WE • PETER • OBEY**



**and the apostles**

**:**

**don't**

**people. We obey**

**.**

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

☐ 1 Kings 8:61

☐ Matthew 28:19–20

☐ Psalm 119:7

☐ Acts 5:29

**Week  
Forty  
Four**



The most secure prisons  
are known as "supermax"  
facilities. The original  
supermax prison is Alcatraz,  
located in the United States.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**God, you hold all power over people, times,  
and events. Help me bravely follow you no  
matter what happens.**

**Week  
Forty  
Four**

# The King's Dream

WEEK FORTY-FIVE

## Why Should I Worship God?



*This was no sooner said than done—I was forced to live like a wild animal; I ate grass and was unprotected from the dew. As time went by, my hair grew longer than eagle feathers, and my fingernails looked like the claws of a bird.*

Daniel 4:33

King Nebuchadnezzar thought highly of himself. He conquered many lands, gained much wealth, and built an incredible city. The Hanging Gardens in Babylon were one of the Wonders of the Ancient World. Sadly, he got arrogant.

One night, he had a dream that haunted him. He saw a massive tree with fruit that fed all the creatures on earth and branches that sheltered them. It reached the sky, and everyone could see it.

But then an angel came and commanded it to be cut down. The animals scattered. The heavenly messenger said, “Give [this ruler] the mind of a wild animal for seven long years” (Daniel 4:16). The dream kept bothering the great king, so he looked for someone to explain it. That was Daniel, a captive from Israel who talked with God. Daniel told the king that he was the tree, and that if he didn’t start thanking God for his many blessings, he would be cut down.

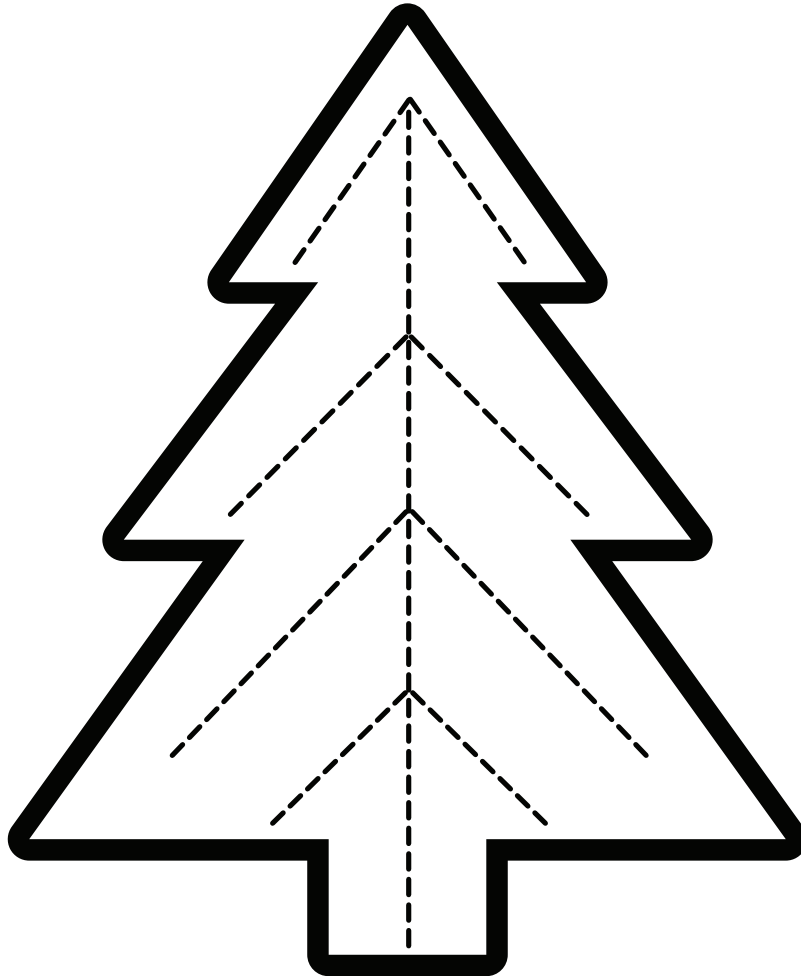
A year later, the king was looking over his city and thinking, “Look at all I have done.” Immediately, he went insane. The dream came true! He crawled around on all fours, ate grass, and lived in the wild. But just as the angel said, after a certain time, Nebuchadnezzar’s sanity returned, and he looked up to God and praised him. God gave him his throne back, and he kept thanking God. We should worship God because everything we have comes from him—and when we remember that, it keeps us thankful, humble, and close to him.

Mira-  
cles

***Every good thing comes from God. When we forget that, we can become arrogant.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Focusing on ourselves leads to a small life, but as we focus on God, we experience the best he has for us. It makes us joyful, thankful people. Fill up the tree with things you thank God for today.



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

☐ Psalm 47:6–7

☐ Hebrews 13:15

☐ Daniel 4:34–35

☐ James 1:17

**Week  
Forty  
Five**



There is tree called a kapok. It grows in the rainforest and can be nearly 200 feet tall. The kapok is home to birds, sloths, monkeys, frogs, lizards, snakes, and much more.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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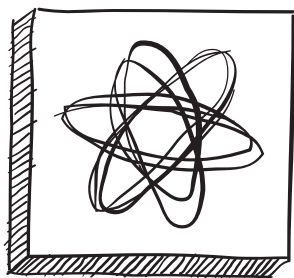
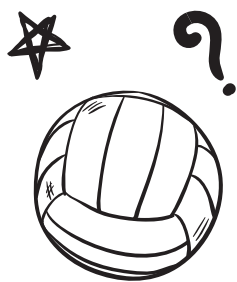
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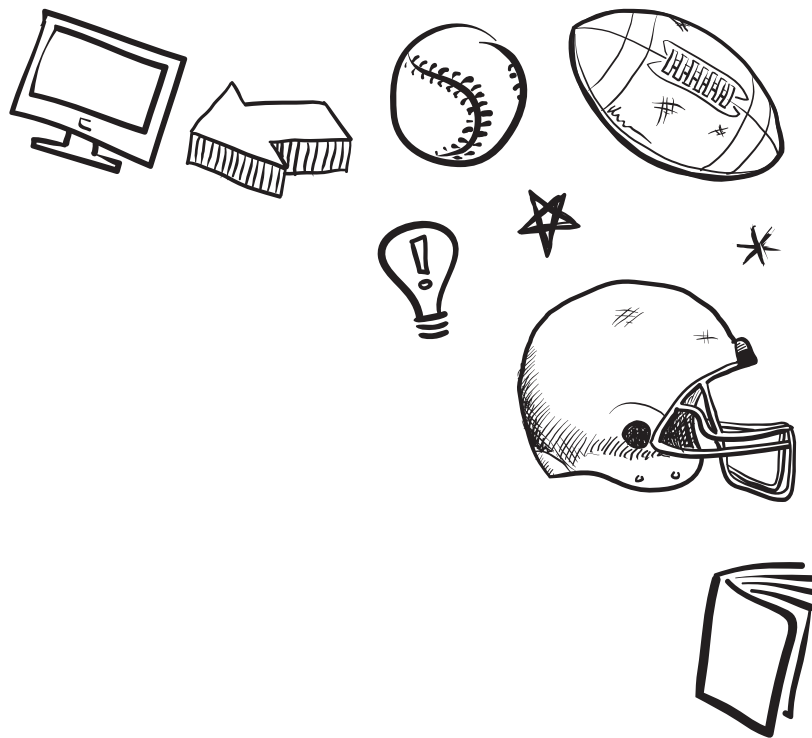
**God, forgive me for getting arrogant and forgetting you. Thank you for all you do.**

## Doodle Space



Draw a big tree with lots of fruit and animals around it (like in the king's dream). Then, doodle yourself or a small figure under the tree. Inside or around your figure, write "I will thank God for all He gives me!" as a reminder to give thanks to God.





Philip

WEEK FORTY-SIX

## What Does It Mean to Be Baptized?



*So Philip began at this place in the Scriptures and explained the good news about Jesus.*

Acts 8:35

Philip was sold out for Jesus. He was willing to go anywhere, do anything for him. And God used him in big ways.

First, Philip went to Samaria to preach. Samaritans and Jews didn't get along really well, but Philip was willing to cross that divide. Many people became followers of Jesus, and Philip was even able to heal people from diseases and demons.

Then one day, God told Philip to go to a road in the desert. There he found an Ethiopian man (who was a government official) in a fancy chariot, reading a prophecy about Jesus from the book of Isaiah. When Philip asked the man about it, he said he didn't understand what he was reading. Then he invited Philip to ride with him and teach him.

The Ethiopian decided right there to follow Jesus, too, and when they came to water, he wanted to be baptized. Philip agreed, and this man from Africa was welcomed into God's family.

Then suddenly, Philip disappeared! God picked him up and took him to another town that needed to hear the good news. The Ethiopian praised God, went home, and told people in his country about God's Son. Being baptized means showing the world that you've decided to follow Jesus—and that you're part of God's forever family.

Mira-  
cles

***Baptism shows everyone that a person has accepted God's forgiveness and will live for Jesus.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Telling others about Jesus can be as simple as explaining how much your life has changed with him in it. Like a laundry detergent commercial that shows stained clothes made like new again, talk about your life before and after Jesus. Think about it and jot down some notes in the shirts, below.



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

☐ Psalm 71:15

☐ Romans 10:14–15

☐ Jeremiah 20:9

☐ 2 Timothy 4:1b–2

**Week  
Forty  
Six**

**Mind Blower**

Ants travel over 6,000 miles  
a year. They could really  
spread the good news!



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**God, I believe in Jesus. Please forgive my sins and help me live for you, like Philip and the Ethiopian.**

**Week  
Forty  
Six**

# Writing On the Wall

## WEEK FORTY-SEVEN

### Does God Control the Nations' Power?



*Instead, you turned against him and ordered the cups from his temple to be brought here, so that you and your wives and officials could drink wine from them. You praised idols made of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone, even though they cannot see or hear or think. You refused to worship the God who gives you breath and controls everything you do.*

Daniel 5:23

Remember arrogant King Nebuchadnezzar? Well, his son, Belshazzar, didn't learn the lesson from seeing his dad go crazy and live outdoors with wild animals. When Belshazzar became king, he also became full of himself.

He threw a big party for a thousand of his friends and ordered his servants to bring the gold and silver goblets that came from the temple in Israel. While they were drinking from those cups that were dedicated to God, they were worshiping gods made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Suddenly, a hand appeared and wrote a message on the wall while the king watched. That got his attention. He was scared like a little kid. None of his wise men knew what the words meant. His mother reminded him that someone was living in the kingdom who could explain the writing: Daniel.

So Daniel came and reminded Belshazzar how God punished his father for being arrogant and refusing to worship him. Then he said that because Belshazzar was proud and worshiping false gods—and even had used God's holy cups—he would lose his kingdom.

That very night, Belshazzar was killed, and a new ruler named Darius the Mede replaced him. The writing on the wall said it all. God is the true King over all kings and nations, and He has the final say.

Mira-  
cles

***Sometimes it seems like evil people have the power, but God rules over all.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

When we are afraid of things, it's always helpful to focus on God. On the lines below, write out some things that only God can do.

**THE MOST  
HIGH GOD**

Control the weather

Be invisible

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

☐ Psalm 22:27–28

☐ Philippians 2:9–10

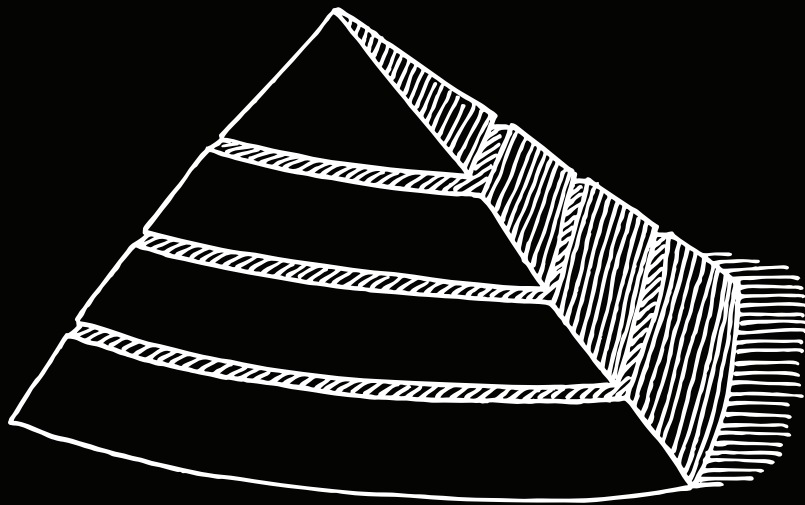
☐ Isaiah 45:7

☐ Colossians 1:16

**Week  
Forty  
Seven**

**Mind Blower**

On the walls inside of a pyramid,  
the Egyptians wrote spells and  
instructions for the dead Pharaoh to  
get to the "afterlife."



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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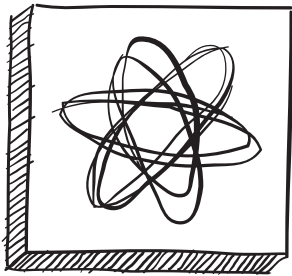
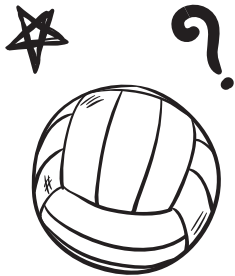
**God, some bad people have a lot of power in this world. But I trust you to make things right.**

**Week  
Forty  
Seven**

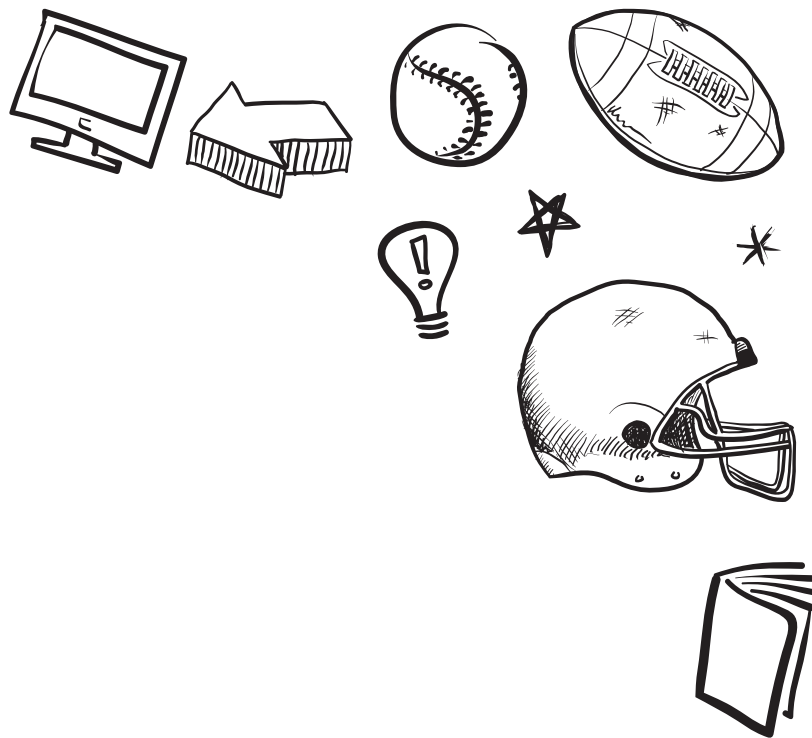
## Doodle Space



Draw a hand writing on a wall and write "God is King" on the wall as a reminder that God has the final say.



Mira-  
cles



Saul

WEEK FORTY-EIGHT

## Does God Forgive *ALL* My Sins?



*Suddenly something like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes,  
and he could see. He got up and was baptized.*

Acts 9:18

Saul was so sure he was doing the right things. God had to literally knock some sense into him. Saul believed Christians were leading people away from God, so he was going to stop it. He watched while a man named Stephen was killed for preaching about Jesus. Then he started to hunt down more Christ-followers.

He headed to a city named Damascus, but on the road, a light flashed around him and knocked him to the ground. Then a voice asked him, "Why are you persecuting me?" His friends traveling with him heard it too, but couldn't see anybody. Saul asked, "Who are you?"

Imagine how shocked he was to hear "I am Jesus." Jesus—the One he thought was dead; the One all these people were worshiping. Jesus told Saul to go into the city and wait for someone to visit him. Saul got up, but he was blinded. His friends had to lead him.

Then God told Ananias to go pray for Saul. But Ananias didn't want to. This was the guy who was jailing Christians. God said again, "Go! Saul will preach to many."

Ananias obeyed. He put his hands on Saul and prayed for him. The Holy Spirit filled Saul, and he was suddenly able to see again. If God forgave Saul, who hurt God's people, he can forgive anything we've done when we turn to him with repentant hearts.

Mira-  
cles

***Jesus forgave his enemy, Saul. He will forgive  
anyone who asks and turns from sin.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Find the words to the verse 1 John 1:9. Draw a line through the words as you find them.

1. BUT IF WE

2. CONFESS

3. OUR SINS

4. TO GOD

5. HE CAN

6. FORGIVE

7. US

BLINDED SAUL

R	B	U	T	I	F	W	E	C	H
T	I	G	E	R	O	X	O	O	E
H	E	C	A	N	T	A	T	N	N
G	D	H	E	F	G	L	E	F	E
O	O	S	M	O	O	R	A	E	B
D	G	A	Y	R	V	N	A	S	E
Y	O	U	L	G	E	A	S	S	U
L	T	S	N	I	S	R	U	O	H
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PRaising SAUL

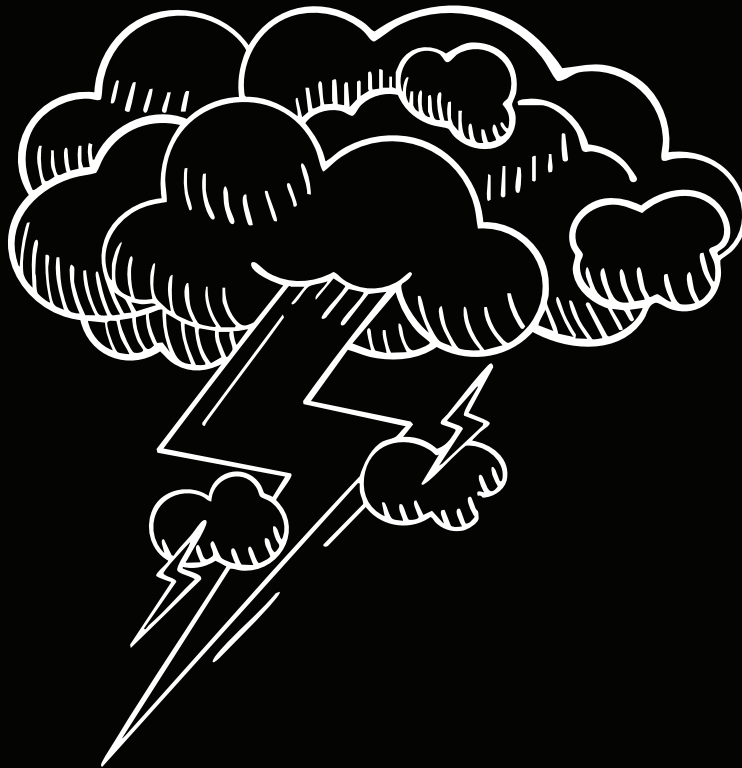
**Keep It Going This Week** *Find out more by reading these verses.*

- ☐ Psalm 51:17
- ☐ Luke 15:7
- ☐ Psalm 103:12
- ☐ 1 John 1:9

Week  
Forty  
Eight

*Mind Blower*

At 54,000 degrees Fahrenheit,  
a bolt of lightning is five times  
hotter than the sun.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**Wow Jesus! You really changed Saul. Please  
forgive me too and help me live as your child.**

**Week  
Forty  
Eight**

# Raising Lazarus

WEEK FORTY-NINE

## Does It Really Pay to Be Good in the End?



*The king was relieved to hear Daniel's voice, and he gave orders for him to be taken out of the pit. Daniel's faith in his God had kept him from being harmed.*

Daniel 6:23

Some people, like King Darius and his leaders, don't learn from history. They could have saved themselves a lot of trouble. But no, they wanted to play god.

King Darius liked Daniel. He wanted to put him in charge of everything. Good move. But that made some people jealous. Daniel's new enemies tried to find a way to get rid of him, but Daniel was "honest and faithful and did everything he was supposed to do" (Daniel 6:4b). But the bad guys knew Daniel was loyal to God and his laws above everything else. So, they came up with the bright idea to write a law that commanded everyone to worship the king alone. This plan made King Darius puff up like a peacock, and he signed it.

When Daniel heard about it, he went home and prayed. To the real God. In front of an open window. Three times a day. Those jealous opponents had him right where they wanted him. The king was horrified, realizing he'd been tricked, but there was no way out. Just before throwing Daniel into the lion's den, King Darius said to him, "You have been faithful to your God, and I pray that he will rescue you" (Daniel 6:16b).

First thing in the morning, Darius was back at the den, calling for Daniel, wondering if his God was more powerful than lions. Daniel let him know that the true God had rescued him by sending an angel to shut the lions' mouths. Then the king ordered that Daniel's enemies be thrown into the den. This time, the lions were free to eat! God sees everything, stands by those who stay faithful, and always has the last word!

Mira-  
cles

***The Lord promises victory to his people, either now or in heaven.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

While most of us will never face hungry lions, every day we are tempted to not follow God. What can help you stay on track? Try one of these things each day this week and see which ones you like. Write down your thoughts about it.

	PRACTICE	THOUGHTS
SUN	Pray every hour.	
MON	Write down a Bible verse and read it every hour.	
TUE	Talk to someone who is strong in their faith.	
WED	Ask a friend to check on how you did today.	
THUR	Spend time thinking about how much God loves you (and you love him).	
FRI	Listen to a worship song several times today.	
SAT	Choose your own act of worship.	

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

- ☐ Psalm 94:1–2
- ☐ Proverbs 3:5

- ☐ Romans 12:19
- ☐ 1 Peter 5:7

Week  
Forty  
Nine

 **Mind Blower**

Lions can wait for a week  
to eat, but then they might  
eat 100 pounds of meat!



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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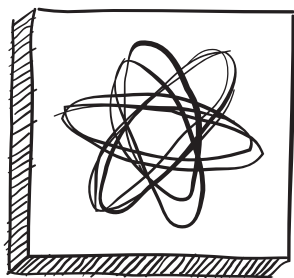
**God, help me to obey you no matter what  
others say. Please help me trust you.**

**Week  
Forty  
Nine**

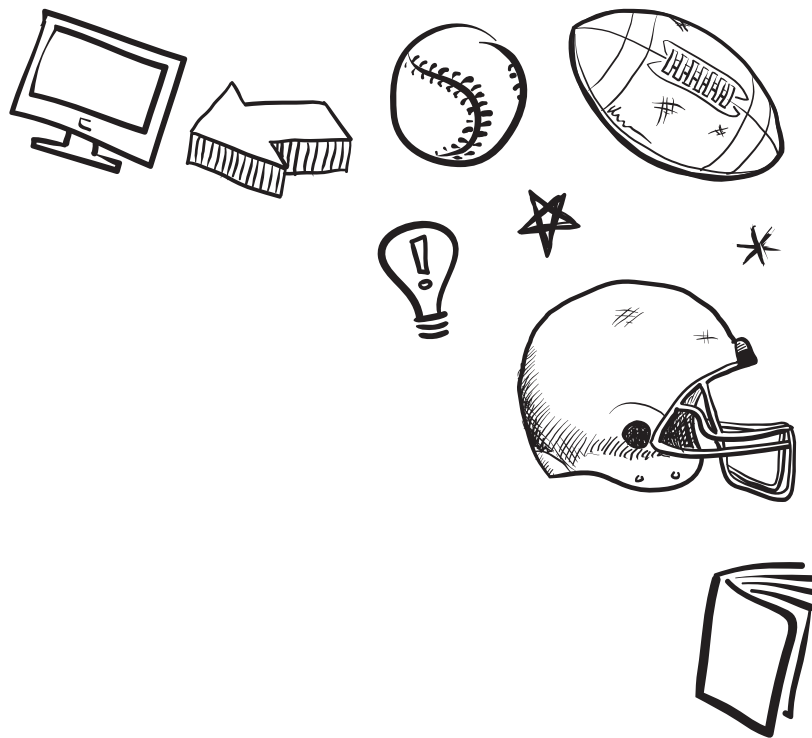
## Doodle Space



Draw a lion and write  
"God protects me"  
inside it as a reminder  
that God is always  
with those who stay  
faithful.



Mira-  
cles



## When Everyone Is Freaking Out, How Can I Stay Calm?



*Then he told the others to hold on to planks of wood or parts of the ship. At last, everyone safely reached shore.*

Acts 27:44

If you're a sailor, the last thing you need is someone who knows nothing about sailing telling you how to run your ship.

But Paul's story is different. When the ship was about to sink, the crew started listening to the guy who told them not to go in the first place. This Paul was a follower of Jesus—and a Roman prisoner—on his way to talk to Caesar (the ruler of the empire).

They had just started sailing when the wind suddenly started blowing hard. The waves beat them like a boxer and the clouds came in so thick they couldn't tell if it was night or day. For two weeks, they were helplessly pushed around. They lost all track of where they were.

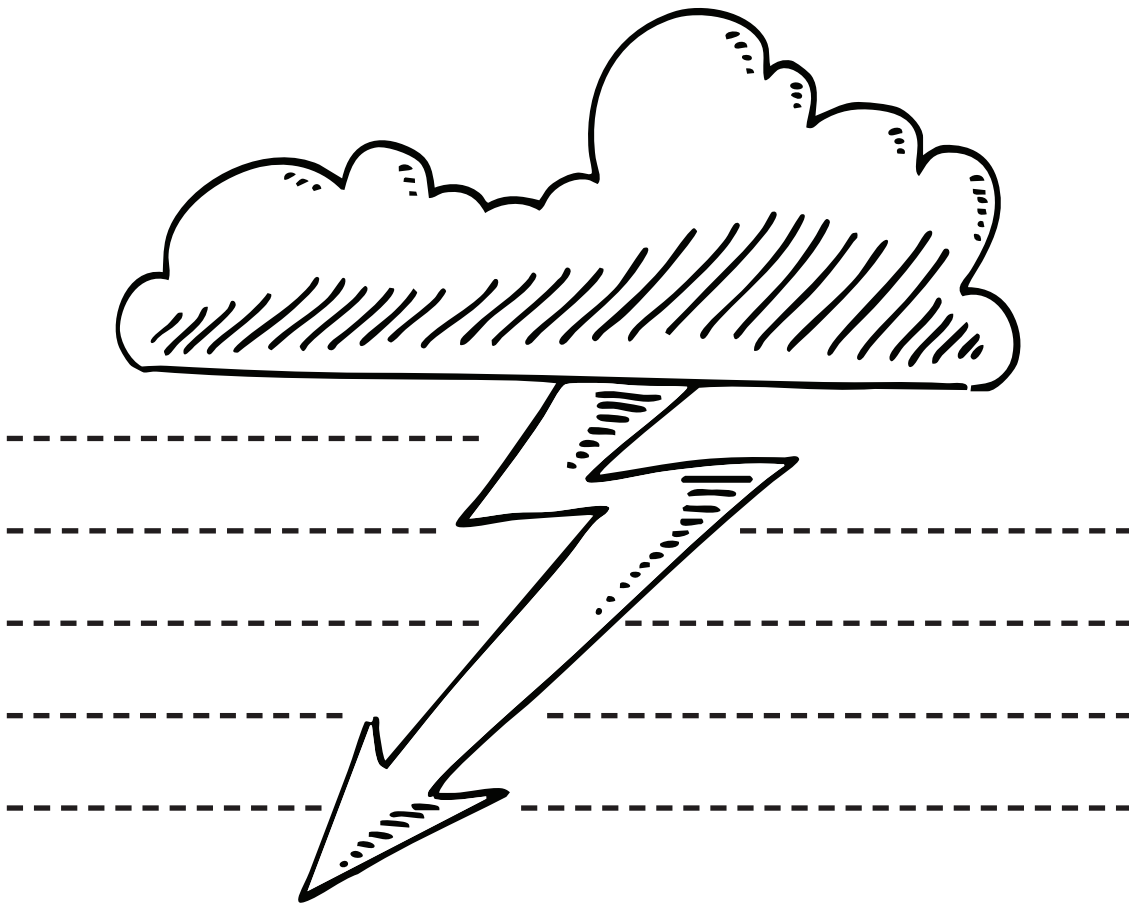
Yet during it all, this passenger named Paul stayed calm. And now he was saying God sent an angel who promised him that even though the ship would be destroyed, they were all going to survive. They weren't sure how that was possible, but his courage was contagious.

The sailors tried everything: they threw the cargo overboard, reinforced the hull with ropes, and dropped the anchors. Finally, they spotted land and aimed for a sandy shore, but the boat caught on a sandbar. Everyone started swimming as it broke apart. They all made it. Just like the man of God said. When you know God is in control and rest in that, you don't have to panic, even in the storms.

***When everyone else freaked out,  
Paul kept praying and trusting God.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Not letting our emotions control us can be difficult. Sometimes, God gives us peace we can't understand. Other times, he has us practice dealing with those emotions. Pick a verse from this week's extra verses and write it out below.



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

☐ Psalm 23:4

☐ John 14:27

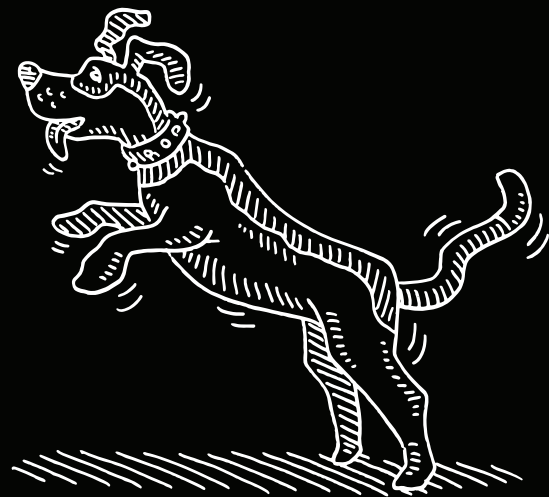
☐ Psalm 27:1

☐ Isaiah 41:10

**Week  
Fifty**

**Mind Blower**

In South Africa in 1939, a Great Dane started hanging out with British sailors. The British Navy enlisted him. He boosted morale during World War II, even if he was named "Just Nuisance."



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**God, no matter how big the storm or the problems  
in my life may be, you are bigger. I will trust you.**

Week  
Fifty

Jonah

WEEK FIFTY-ONE

## Will People Get What They Deserve?



*The LORD commanded the fish to vomit  
up Jonah on the shore. And it did.*

Jonah 2:10

“I would rather die.” This line was basically what the prophet Jonah said when God told him to go preach in the town of Nineveh. He hated the Ninevites and wanted to see God punish (not forgive!) them.

So, Jonah tried to run away . . . from God. (It’s not too smart to go against God.) He jumped on a boat going in the opposite direction and went to sleep, trying to forget the whole thing.

But you can’t run away from God or his love. He sent a storm to play with the boat for a while until the sailors were sure they were going to die. They flipped a coin to figure out who caused this problem, and it revealed Jonah! He had to admit he was running away from the God who made the sea. Then he said they should throw him overboard.

The crew tossed Jonah into the raging water, and it fixed their problem immediately. The sea went flat. But Jonah’s problem got even worse. He sank into the depths of the sea. Then God sent a big fish to swallow him whole.

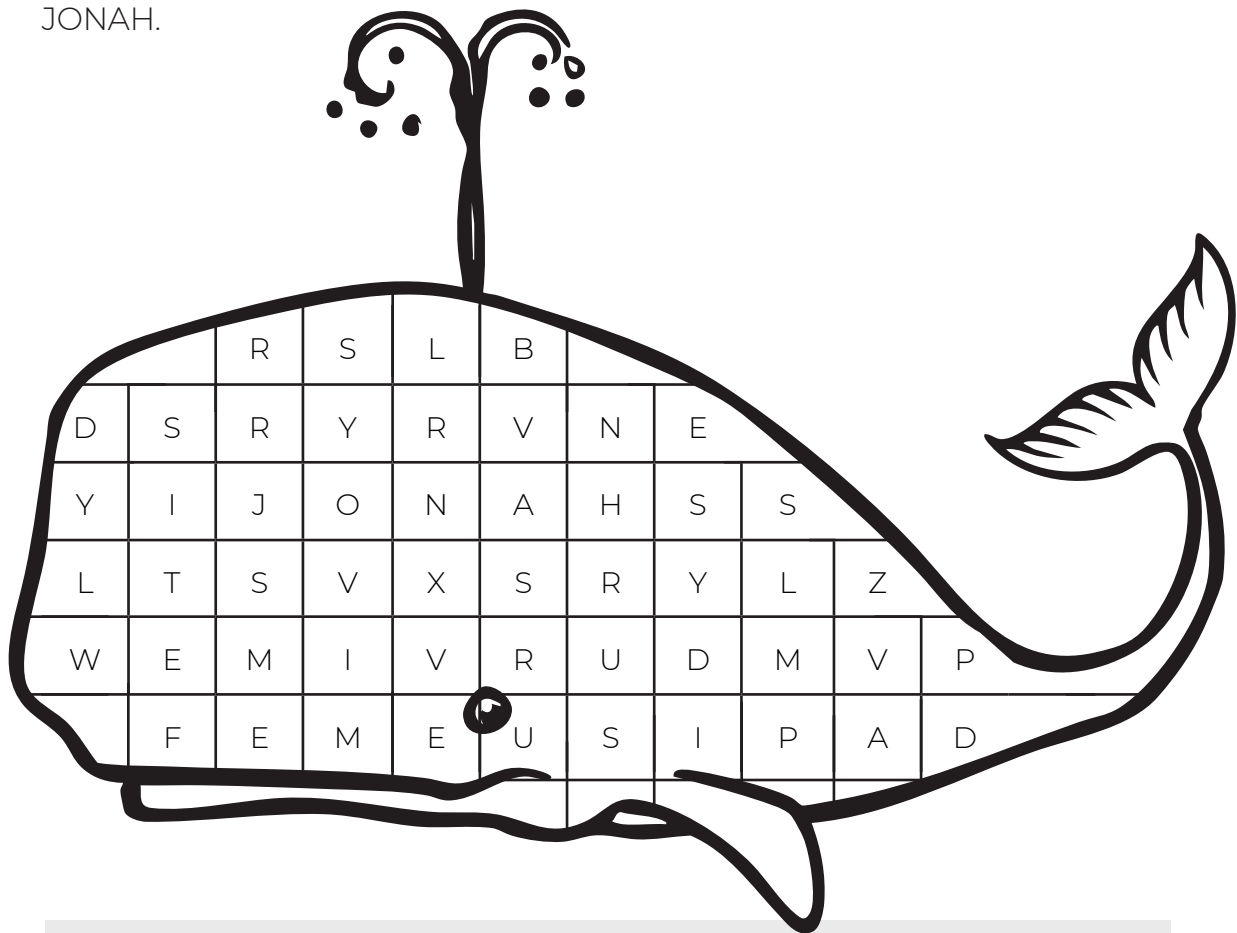
After three days sloshing around in the stomach of the beast, Jonah finally turned back to God, thanking him and promising to go to Nineveh. The Bible says that after Jonah’s change of heart, “The LORD commanded the fish to vomit up Jonah on the shore. And it did” (Jonah 2:10). People might not get what they deserve right away—but God always sees the whole story, and He gives justice and mercy at just the right time.

Mira-  
cles

***God is patient and just. He gives people time  
to change. But punishment will come.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Who would you like to see punished? Bullies? Your brother? A mean teacher? Do you want to be punished like you deserve? When we have to forgive other people, it helps to remember how much we need forgiveness. Then we can ask God to help us love others. Think about that while you blacken in each box that doesn't have a letter in the name JONAH.



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

☐ Leviticus 19:18

☐ Matthew 5:44–45

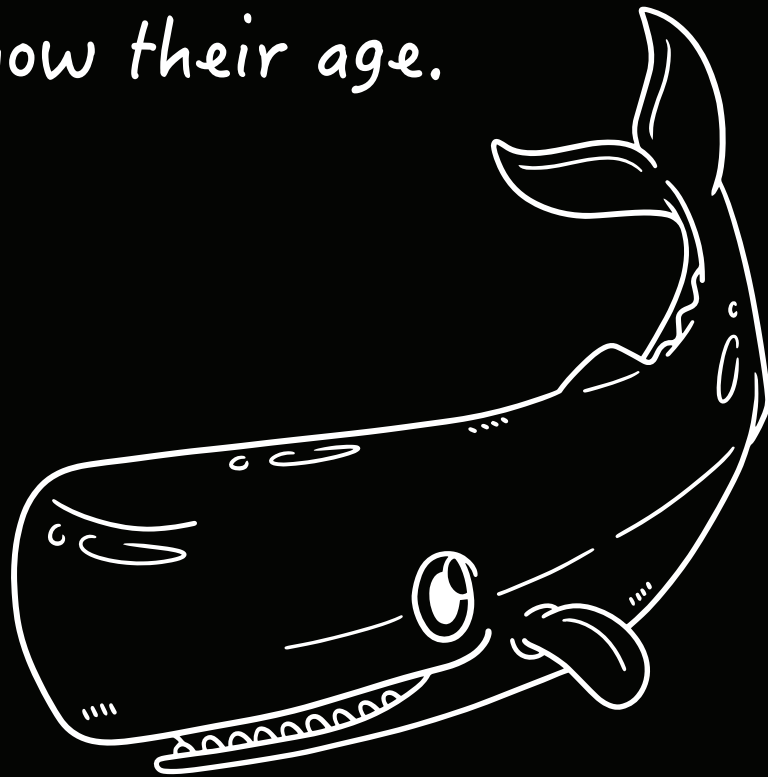
☐ Proverbs 20:22

☐ 2 Peter 3:9

**Week  
Fifty  
One**

**Mind Blower**

Blue whales grow new layers of earwax every year, kind of like tree rings, so you can count those to know their age.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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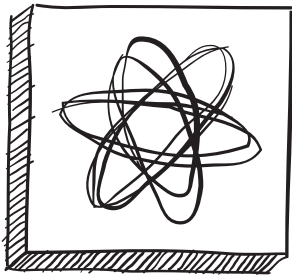
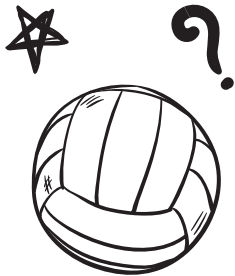
**God, you will punish people at the right  
time if they don't repent. Please help me to  
be loving and patient, too.**

**Week  
Fifty  
One**

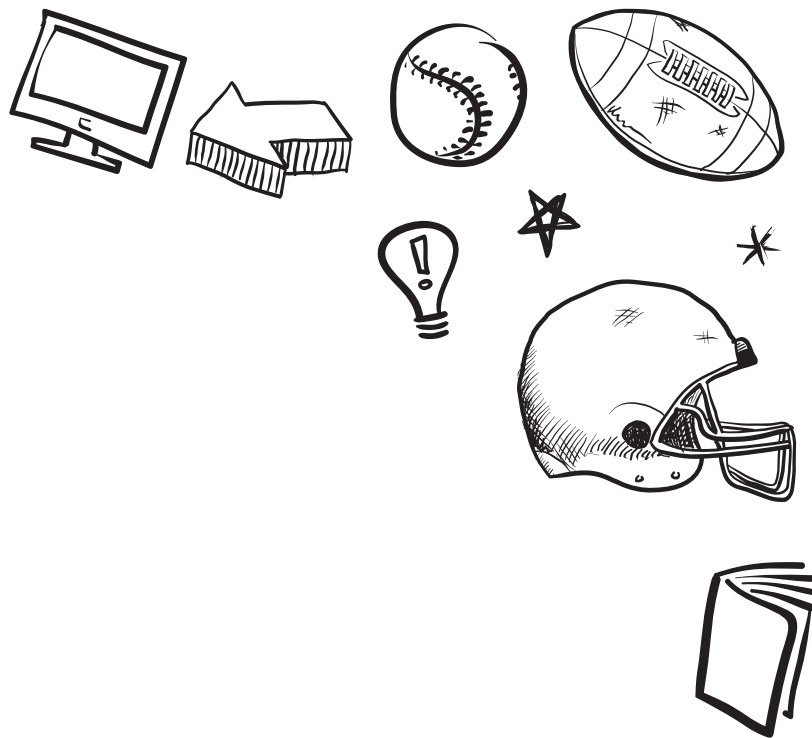
## Doodle Space



Draw a whale and write  
"God never stops caring"  
inside it as a reminder  
that God sees the whole  
story and always shows  
mercy.



Mira-  
cles



## What Should I Do when Everything Keeps Going Wrong?



*Paul shook the snake off into the fire and wasn't harmed.*

Acts 28:5

When he was shipwrecked on an island with all the other men, safely off the destroyed boat, the apostle Paul wasn't done trusting God. First off: where were they? Were the people on the island going to feed them or eat them? Was Paul ever going to get to preach in Rome as God had promised?

Well, thankfully, the islanders were friendly and helped them. The next thing they needed to do was start a fire to help them get warm and dry. Paul helped gather wood. But when he grabbed an armload of branches, a snake latched onto Paul's hand.

Everyone stared. Obviously, this prisoner was guilty, and the gods were going to take him down one way or another. First, a shipwreck, and now, a venomous snake bite!

But Paul just shook it off. Literally. The snake fell into the fire, and he kept going, unhurt. When the islanders saw God's power protect Paul, they listened to him talk about Jesus.

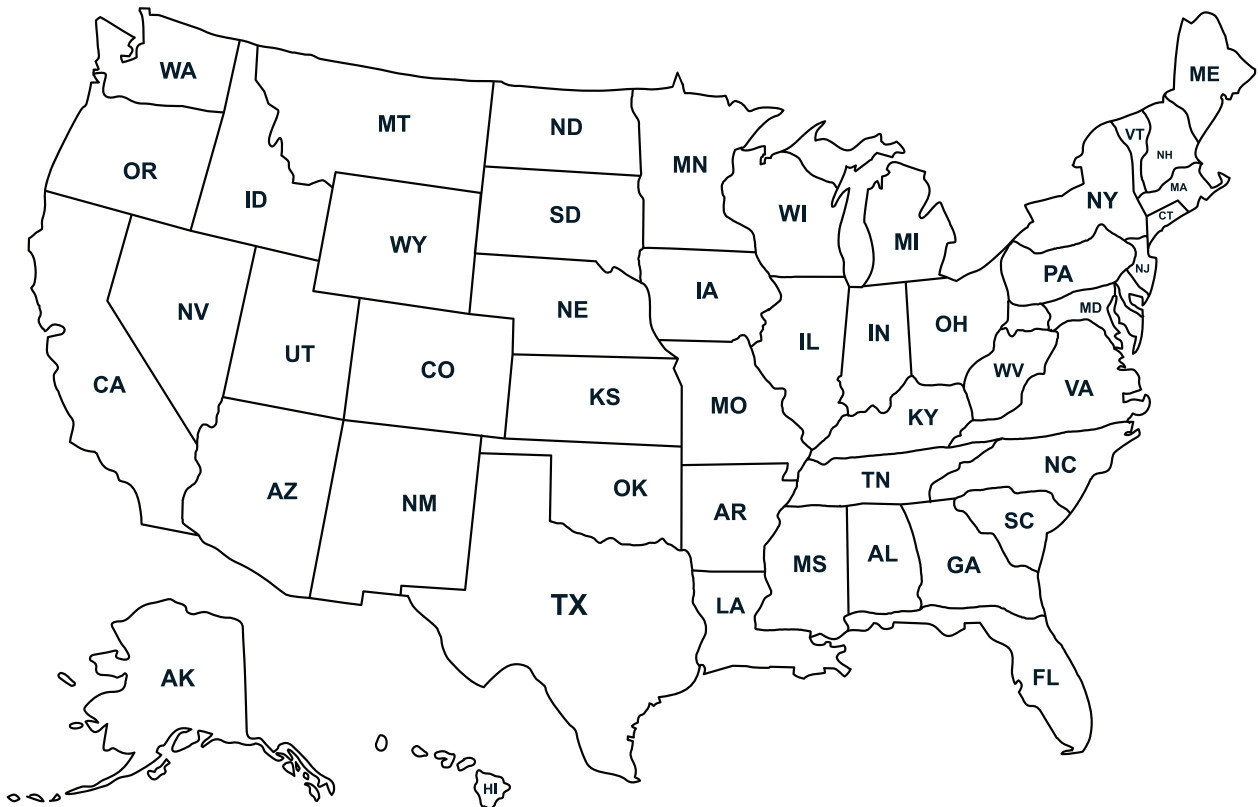
Paul stayed there for several weeks, teaching them and healing their sick or injured. Then God sent Paul on to Rome, still a prisoner. But mostly he was God's slave, willing to go anywhere so people could follow Christ. Keep trusting God, no matter how crazy things get, because he is still in control and can use it all for something good.

Mira-  
cles

***God gives his people what they need, when they need it, so they can do great things.***

# Spiritual Fitness Training

Mark the places you have lived. Write down something that God helped you learn in each place.



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

☐ Proverbs 16:9

☐ Philippians 4:13

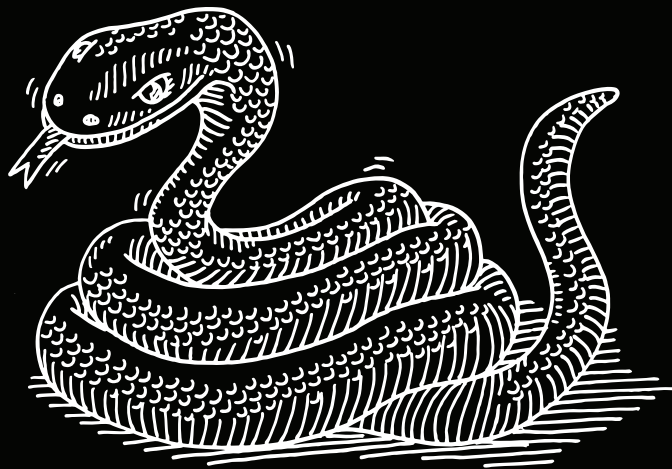
☐ Proverbs 20:24

☐ 2 Peter 1:3

**Week  
Fifty  
Two**



Many snakes look similar. The nonvenomous hognose snake will act like a venomous cottonmouth to try to scare predators. Sadly, humans frequently kill them because they think they are dangerous.



**Write Your Thoughts Here**



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**God, I can't follow Jesus without you. I trust  
you to give me what I need when I need it.**

**Week  
Fifty  
Two**

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**Keep It Going!** 

Great job!  
Check your mailbox for  
your next book!

(It's coming soon!)

