How God's Miracles Can Answer Our Biggest Questions

# MIRACIES

## Embracing the Impossible Through God's Word

BY TONIA STACEY GÜTTING



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	WRITE THE NICKNAME YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY CALL YOU:	
	WHAT MIRACLE IN THE BIBLE HAS IMPACTED YOU THE MOST?	
	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.	





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

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

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED A MIRACLE? WRITE ABOUT IT:
Though we may not often see the same kind of miracles today, God still works in our lives. He answers prayers, gives us strength in hard times, and sends the right people to us when we need them. By reading about miracles in the Bible, we can recognize God's power and care in our lives and learn to trust Him no matter what.
WHAT ARE THREE THINGS YOU WANT TO LEARN FROM GOD THIS 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!

Miracles

#### Tips & Ideas



Think about things you might want to change in your life.



Talk with your parents or siblings about what you learned and ask them to help you to live out God's Word each week.



If you don't understand something you read, don't be afraid to ask an adult to help you understand it.



Memorize the Scripture verse each week.



Have fun and mark up this book with your own thoughts and doodles!



### What Difference Does Jesus's Resurrection Make?



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

Utter darkness. Complete hopelessness. Jesus had been seized, pushed through a sham trial, beaten, mocked, whipped, and nailed to a cross. His followers hastily wrapped and buried his body. Then the officials placed a large rock over the tomb's entrance and posted soldiers to guard the corpse.

Unexpectedly, strange things started happening at his death: an earthquake, darkness at midday, and the tearing of the curtain that hid the Temple's holiest chamber. And then, there was nothing but the silence of death. Jesus's disciples cowered in hiding, afraid they'd be next.

The third day after Jesus's burial dawned with another earthquake. The rock that sealed the tomb moved supernaturally. An angel appeared, scaring away the soldiers from their post. And people began to report seeing him—alive. Eating, breathing, talking, and mysteriously appearing and disappearing. Ultimately, hundreds reported seeing him rise into the sky and vanish in the clouds. Suddenly, those frightened followers became fearless, bold preachers who announced the rising of God's Son from the dead. They declared Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice for sin, the perfect offering who broke the curse of death. They stuck with this story, often suffering violent deaths because of it. They were confident that God forgave their sins, restored their relationship with him, and conquered death with everlasting life. Jesus's resurrection changes everything because it proves He defeated sin and death, giving us hope, forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life.

Miracles

If there were no resurrection, Christianity would hold no power or hope.

Our military heroes must deal with the fear of death more than most. Ask a warrior who follows Christ how they handle it. Write down their thoughts that help you. As you do, thank Jesus for the hope the resurrection brings to death.

Keep It Going This Week	Find out more by reading these verses.
☐ Isaiah 43:11–12	☐ Romans 4:25
☐ Isaiah 45:22	☐ 1 Corinthians 15:14

Week Forty



Lord Jesus, thank you for dying for me. I believe you rose again. Please help me live for you.

#### Write Your Thoughts Here $\overline{\phantom{a}}$



 DID YOU KNOW?
Dolphins are recognized for their intelligence and social interactions. Scientists have observed them protecting the dead body of one of their own. They watched over it for a few days, keeping scavengers away. Experts suggest that these animals may believe the carcass
 can be rescued.





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, your perspective makes all the difference, as Elisha's story proves. During Elisha's time, Israel was at war with Aram (an ancient country located where much of modern-day Syria is). Everywhere the Aramean troops moved, the Israelites were a step ahead of them. The king of Aram was furious, sure that he had a spy, but his soldiers insisted it wasn't them. "It's Elisha—the prophet of God," one claimed. "He tells the Israelites what you say in your bedroom." So the king sent his best soldiers and equipment after Elisha. When Elisha's servant saw them coming, he was terrified and asked the prophet, "What are we going to do?"

But Elisha was shockingly calm and insisted they had more force with them. Then he offered a simple prayer asking the Lord to open the servant's eyes. Suddenly, the young man could see they were surrounded by horses and chariots—made of fire! God's unbeatable army was there, making the enemy's threats laughable.

Elisha prayed again, asking the Lord to strike the Aramean soldiers with blindness. Then he single-handedly walked them into the Israelites' custody. With his prisoners of war secure, Elisha asked the Lord to open their eyes. They found themselves captured. But instead of letting the Israelites finish them off, God showed mercy and told the leaders to feed them before sending them home. As you can guess, the Aramean army stopped raiding the Israelites for a while after that. God is on your side, fighting for you in ways you can't always see, but we also need to ask the question, are you on God's side?

Miracles

Choose the better question: "Is God on my side?" or "Am I on God's side?"

Where do you need God's vision or perspective? What problem seems impossible to you to solve? Write it below, then draw flames around it to remind you of God's invisible, overwhelming power.

Keep It Going This Week	Find out more by reading these verses.
☐ Psalm 144:1	☐ 2 Corinthians 5:7
☐ Psalm 146:7b–9a	☐ 1 John 5:4–5

Week Forty One

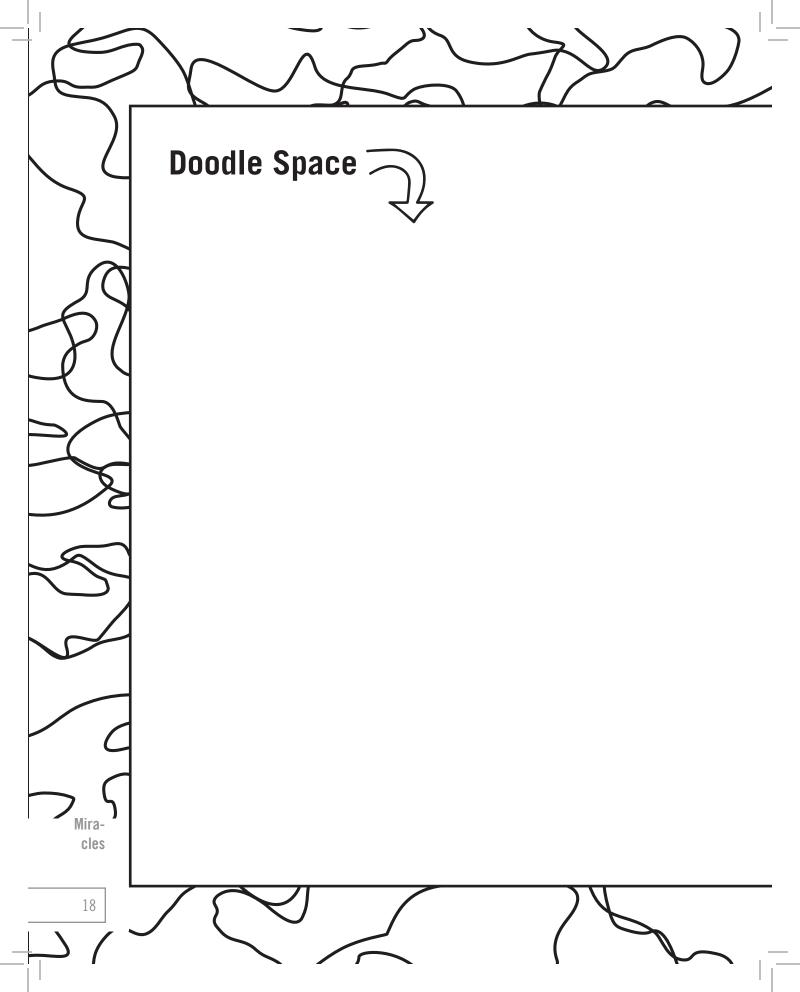


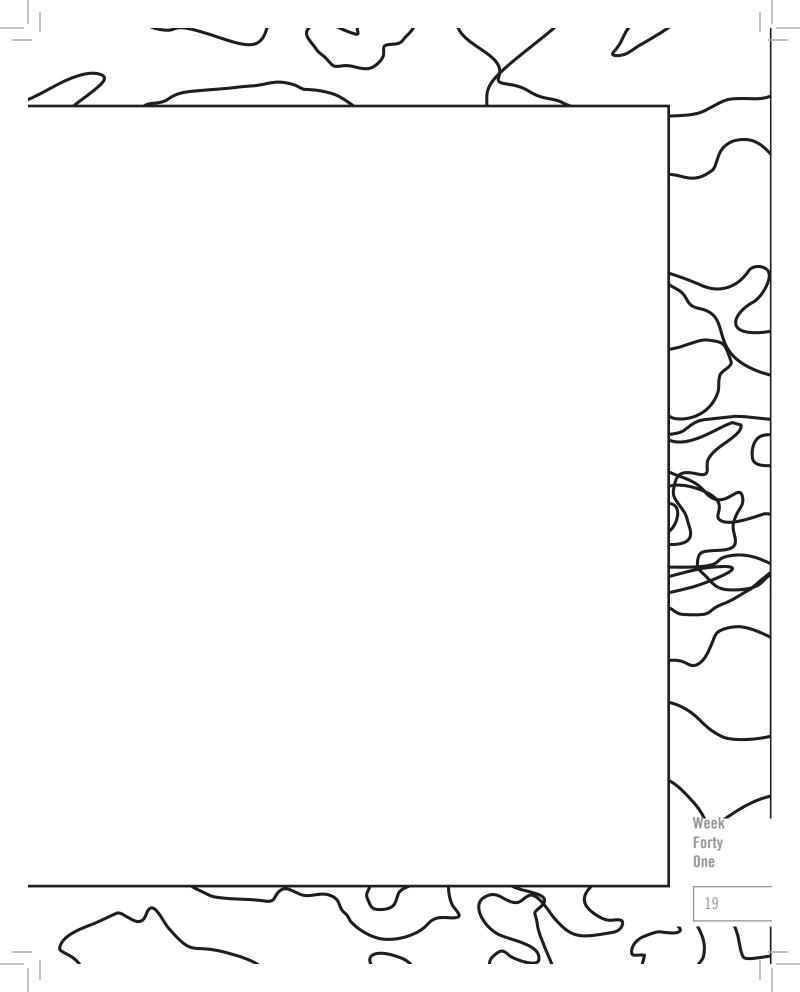
God, I get so wrapped up in the world around me that I forget your power. Help me trust you.

#### Write Your Thoughts Here $\overline{\phantom{a}}$



 DID YOU KNOW?
 A single horse can have more than one "horsepower" as the term is defined. A 2,000-pound
 draft horse, bred for pulling, can move a 6,000-pound load if it's on wheels.









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

Acts 2:4

When the leader of your movement is killed, it's hard to be brave and keep going. Especially when the leader is Jesus. The Lord's disciples had cowered in fear after his death, certain they would be next if the authorities caught them. But then they saw Jesus alive again. He promised to send them what they needed—power. Power to overcome their fears. Power to do miracles. Power to deliver his message.

They were waiting together in a building in Jerusalem, though they couldn't have guessed what was coming. A sound like a rushing wind filled the room. Then flames, like tongues, swept around and rested over each head. Suddenly, they could speak the many languages of the people in the area.

The noise and excitement drew a large crowd, and the foreigners were shocked to hear their own languages being spoken. Everyone was confused. Some said Jesus's disciples were just drunk. But Peter stood up and said to the crowd, "You are wrong to think that these people are drunk. After all, it is only nine o'clock in the morning" (Acts 2:15).

Peter then went on to bravely preach the story of Jesus being God's Son, of him dying on the cross, and then being raised to life again. Peter urged them to believe, and over 3,000 did become Christians that day. You're here to share God's love and message, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to make a difference in the world around you.

Miracles

> Jesus placed you at this duty station, with these people, to tell them about Jesus.

What do you need to complete your mission during your time at this duty station? Ask God for his Holy Spirit to fill you and give you power to do it. Fill in the blanks for the verse below.

ACTS 1:8		
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lem, Judea, ir	1	
Samaria, and	minimum.	
in the"		

Find out more by reading these verses.
☐ John 14:16
☐ Acts 1:8



God, please give me the words and the courage to make a difference in people's lives while I am here.

#### Write Your Thoughts Here $\overline{\phantom{a}}$



 DID YOU KNOW?
 J.R.R. Tolkien, the author of  The Hobbit and The Lord of the
 Rings, spoke many languages.  He created a few languages, including Quenya, which his
 elves speak.
 Week
 Forty Two



#### Will God Come Through for Me?



"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

Feel like you're the only one living for Jesus? Imagine being surrounded by nonbelievers threatening your life if you don't bow to their god. That's what three Jewish friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, faced. Israel was conquered, and they were taken hostage to the capital of Babylon. At first, they did well, rising to positions of government leadership.

But then King Nebuchadnezzar got the bright idea that he should control the nation's worship. He built a massive golden statue—90 feet tall (think nine stories high). He commanded everyone to bow down and worship it when his musicians started playing. The three young men wouldn't do it. They were hauled before the king, who gave them another chance. Perhaps they were tempted to obey the king's command and save themselves from certain death. They could make friends now and influence people later.

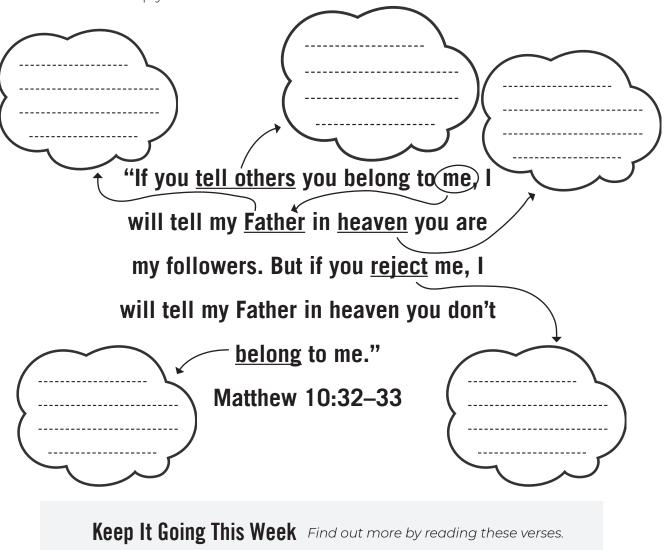
These friends were united and defiant. They refused to bow! They were convinced that their God could save them from any danger, but went on to tell the wicked king, "Even if he doesn't, we still won't worship your gods and the gold statue you have set up" (Daniel 3:18). So the king had them tied and thrown into the fire. The flames were so hot that the guards carrying out the orders died. But as he watched, only their ropes burned. They were walking around freely in the flames. Then the king noticed a fourth man with them, one who was "like the Son of God." The king was in awe. Quickly calling them out of the furnace, the king acknowledged only God had the power to save men.

Miracles

God will come through for you, even when it feels like everything's against you.

God honors those who honor him. He will reward them, even if it's in heaven.

Have you ever felt pressured to deny being a Christian? Are you able to stand boldly for God? Think about the verse below, and jot down what comes to mind. Write down some things the underlined words make you think about. Ask God to help you be faithful.



☐ Isaiah 43:2

- ☐ Habakkuk 3:17–18
- ☐ 1 John 2:23

Week Forty Three

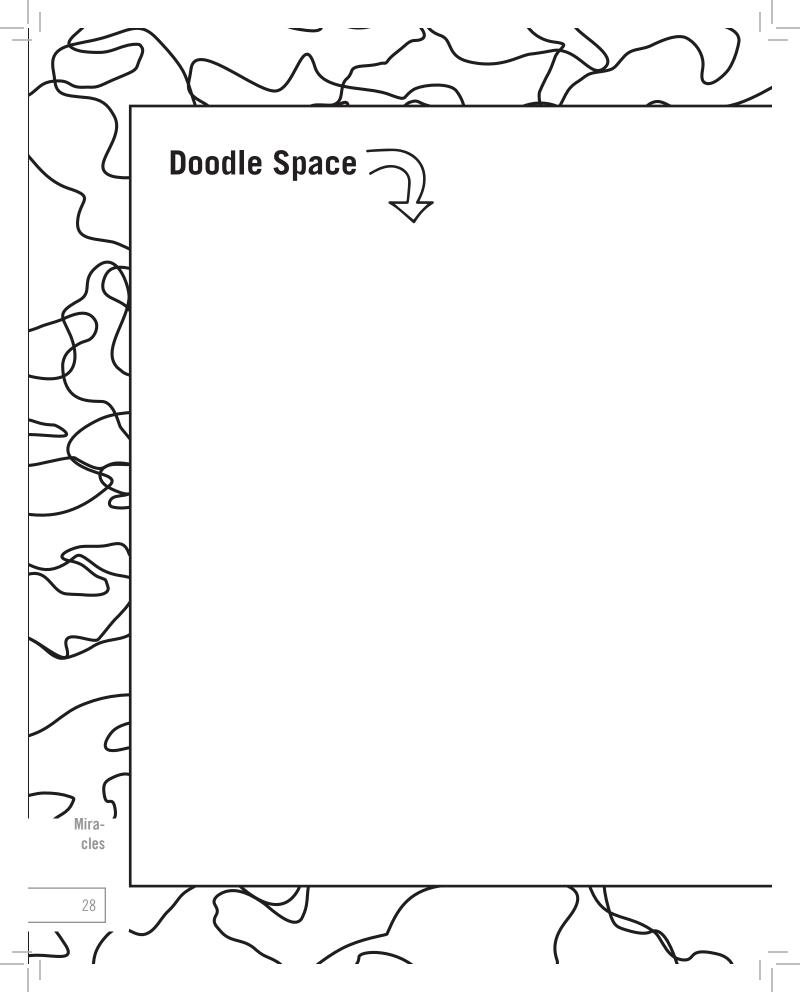


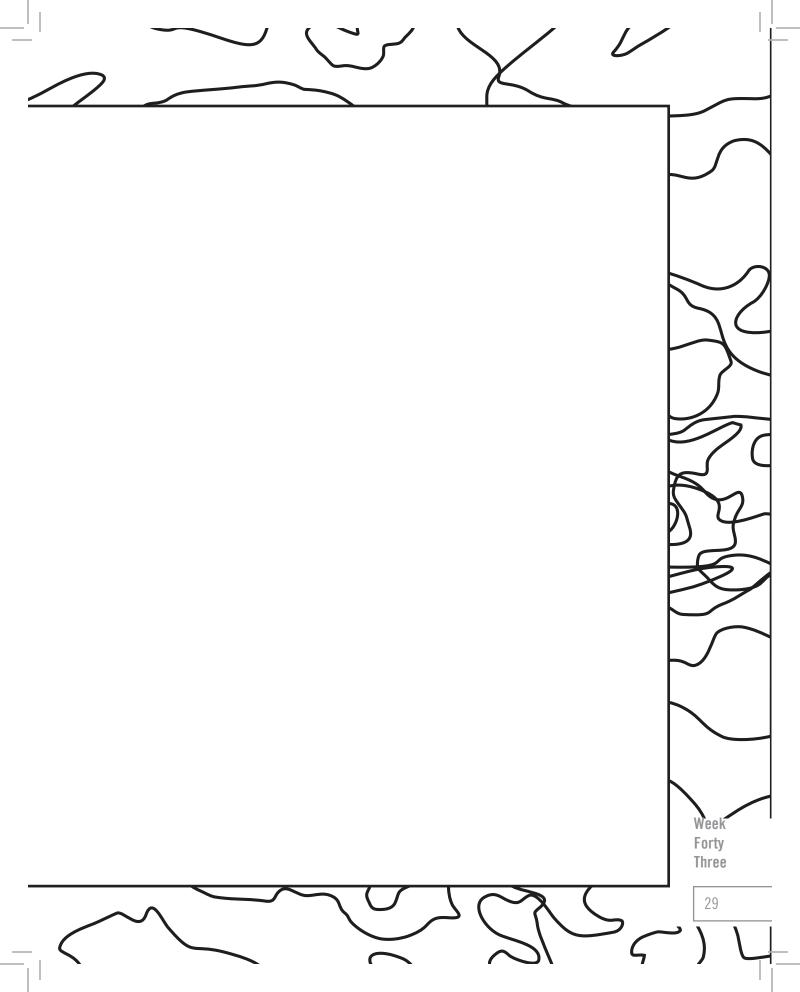
Lord, you deserve all the worship. Help me be faithful. Please give me your strength.

#### Write Your Thoughts Here $\overline{\phantom{a}}$



DID YOU KNOW?  The Australian black kite, a bird, will pick up burning sticks in a wildfire and drop them in other places to spread the flames and flush out prey.





1011 Parent

#### WEEK FORTY-FOUR

#### Who Controls My Life *Really*?



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

Acts 5:19

The streets of Jerusalem were a dangerous place in AD 35. Aside from "regular" violent people, there was an added risk: the Roman Empire controlled the country. They allowed the Jewish leaders to govern in limited ways, as long as the citizens stayed in line. The corrupt politics of Roman and Jewish officials regulated everything.

When Jesus's disciples kept telling everyone how those leaders had wrongly put him to death and that he was alive again, it ruffled some dangerous feathers. Then, they gained more followers by healing people and preaching that the religious leaders didn't control salvation. This was a problem. The Good News of the Gospel threatened the status quo. So the officials threw the disciples in jail to eliminate this threat to their power. At dawn, they found the doors locked and guards in place, but no prisoners were inside! An angel had let them out during the night.

Just then, someone reported that those jailed disciples went right back out and were preaching the same message. When they hauled them in again, Peter told them to their face: "You killed Jesus by nailing him to a cross. But the God our ancestors worshiped raised him to life" (Acts 5:30). Jesus's followers would not stop sharing this news because they had to obey God rather than human authorities. The Jewish officials were enraged and considered killing the disciples. One of the leaders talked them out of it, suggesting that the movement would die out. So they whipped them and let them go. But the community of Jesus's disciples continued to grow. You don't always get to decide who leads and controls your life—but we can choose to follow Jesus, which is the only choice that leads to real freedom.

Miracles

Choosing Jesus frees us no matter what happens.

Much of the world lives under religious persecution. Pick a country and start praying for those who are working to spread the Gospel message there today.



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



God, thank you for giving me a country with freedom of religion. Help me bravely spread the message about Jesus.

#### Write Your Thoughts Here $\overline{\phantom{a}}$



 DID YOU KNOW?
 When the Communists took over Russia, they sent people who disagreed with them to forced
 labor camps in Siberia called Gulags. By the 1930s, 1.2 million
 people were imprisoned.
 Wee





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

Arrogance. King Nebuchadnezzar had plenty of it. He had a lot of everything. Power—he controlled vast lands. Wealth—he accumulated unbelievable amounts of gold and silver. His capital was one of the greatest cities in the ancient world.

For all his power, the king couldn't control his dreams, and one haunted him. The vision showed a magnificent tree, touching the sky, feeding and sheltering all the animals. Then a heavenly messenger, an angel, came and gave orders to cut it down. Everything scattered. The stump was bound up in iron and bronze. The mysterious voice said, "Give him the mind of a wild animal for seven long years" (Daniel 4:16). The king looked for someone to interpret his dream, and he found Daniel, an exile from Israel who spoke with God.

Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that he, the king, was the tree in the vision, and that he would be cut down. He would lose his mind and live like a wild animal for a set time. Then, when he recognized God's power and gifts, he could be restored.

A year later, Nebuchadnezzar was admiring his beautiful city, praising himself, when it happened. He suddenly went insane. He crawled on all fours, ate grass, lived in the wild. After seven years, he prayed to the God of heaven, and his mind was healed. Praise replaced pride, and God restored the king's health and his throne. God isn't demanding because He needs our worship—He's demanding because He knows we need to recognize Him as the true source of our strength, or we'll end up lost in our own pride.

Miracles

God tells us to remember him for our sakes, not his. Thanking him changes us.

When we turn our focus to God and not ourselves, we will avoid being arrogant (thinking we can do it all) or terrified (thinking we can't do it all). Praising and thanking God each day will change you. Fill up the lines around this verse with things you thank him for today.

	EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GUFT	. – –
	COMES DOWN FROM THE FATHER	
	WHO GREATED ALL THE LIGHTS IN THE	
	CIEAVENS. DE IS ALWAYS THE SAME	
	AND NEVER MAKES DARK SHADOWS	
- <b></b>	BY GUANGING	
	JAMES 1817	
	Keep It Going This Week Find out more by reading these verses.	

☐ Hebrews 13:15

☐ James 1:17

□ Psalm 47:6–7

☐ Daniel 4:34–35

Week Forty

Five

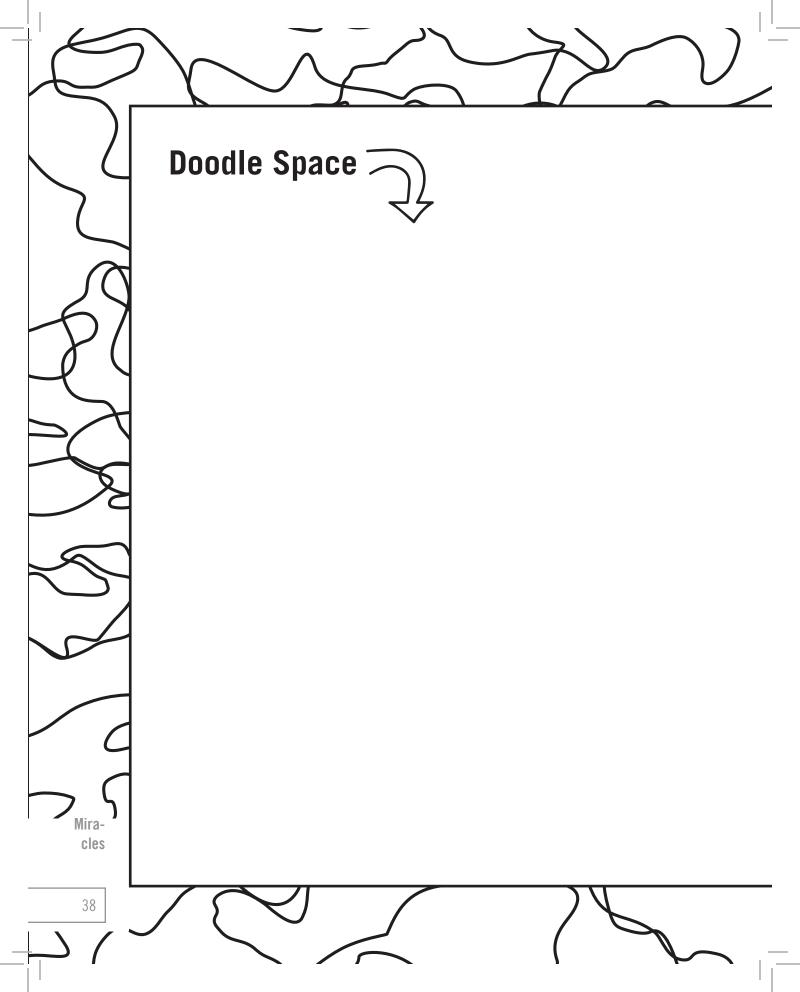


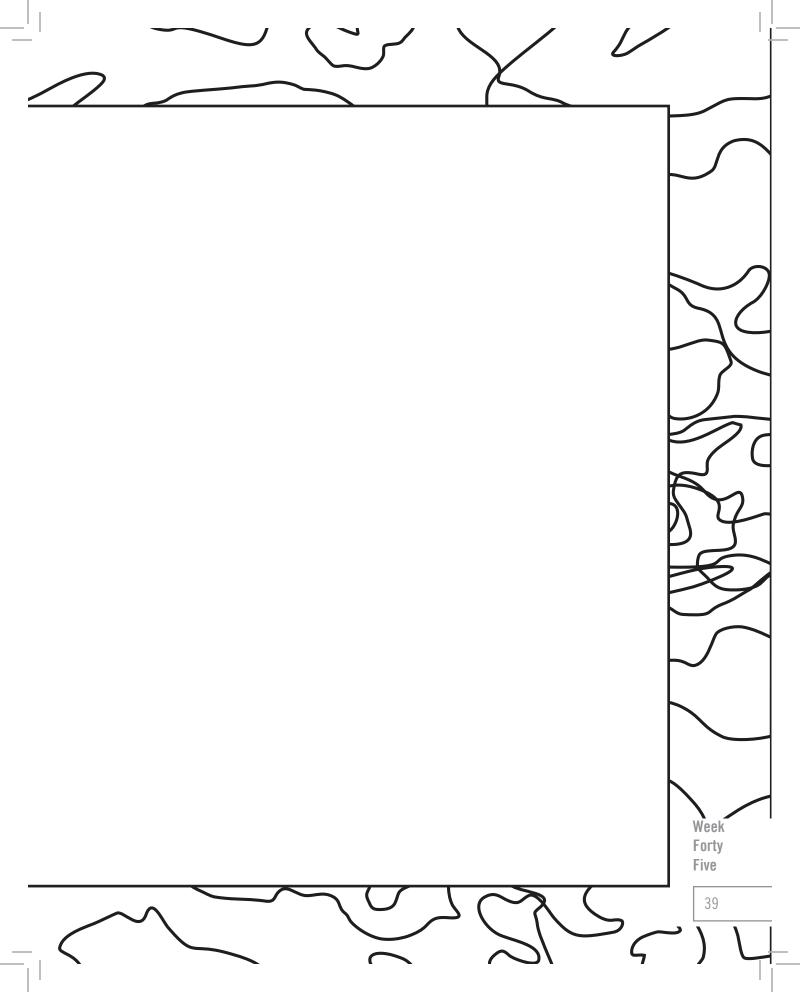
God, you are the source of everything good. Please keep me from arrogance. Thank you for all you have done.



 DID YOU KNOW?
 The Hanging Gardens of Babylon (now Iraq) were terraced around a palace. Although no archaeological evidence has
 been found for them, they are considered one of the wonders of the ancient world.

Week Forty Five







#### **WEEK FORTY-SIX**

### **Does God Care About People Being Divided?**



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

Acts 8:35

The divide between the Samaritans and the Jews was deep and centurieslong. The Samaritans had a mixed-race heritage, and they didn't worship God in Jerusalem. That's why Jesus's story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 and his interaction with the Samaritan woman in John 4 were so scandalous.

After Jesus's Ascension, God sent Philip the Evangelist to Samaria to tell the good news about him. Philip was able to heal people, cast out demons, and tell them Jesus offered forgiveness. The town was filled with joy.

Then God told Philip to head to a desert road where he found an Ethiopian official in a chariot. God's Spirit told Philip to get close, and when he ran up to the chariot, he heard the man reading one of the prophecies about Jesus from the book of Isaiah. When Philip asked him if he understood it, he said he had no one to teach him. So Philip started with that scripture and relayed the whole story of redemption through God's Son.

As they drove up to some water, the Ethiopian asked if he could be baptized, and Philip agreed. But when he came up out of the water, Philip disappeared. God physically, miraculously moved him to another town to continue telling everyone about Jesus. The Ethiopian went home rejoicing and bringing the message of hope for forgiveness from God to his people. God cares about division and breaks down every barrier so that everyone, no matter their background, can be part of His family through Jesus.

Miracles

God sends his people across divides to share the love of Jesus.

Discipleship is learning to be like Jesus. We should all be learning from someone who knows more than we do and teaching someone who knows less than we do. And we should always be ready to cross the lines of division to tell people about Jesus. Take some time to pray about who can mentor you, who you can mentor, and who you can reach out to. Ask if people are willing and make an action plan today!

Who Can Teach Me	Who Can I Teach	Who Can I Reach

# JESUS HEALS DIVIDES

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



God, please help us heal the divisions between people.

Show me how to reach out with your love.



 DID YOU KNOW?
 Hitchhiking is common in nature. The leafcutter ant will purposely have a small ant ride on the piece of leaf it is carrying so it can fend
 off predators.



### Are We Merely Helpless to Powerful People?



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

As the old saying goes, "Life is hard. It's harder when you are stupid." Not learning from other people's mistakes leads to foolishness, and Belshazzar was the poster child for this. Remember, he watched his proud father, King Nebuchadnezzar, lose his mind and live like a wild beast for seven years. Then he heard his father humbly praise God when he was restored to his throne.

But power is intoxicating. And when Belshazzar got his chance to rule the kingdom, he fell right back into his father's arrogant ways. In willful defiance of the Most High God, he had the cups from the Jewish temple brought out to be used during a banquet. He even dared to worship gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone while partying.

A mysterious hand suddenly appeared and started writing a strange message on the wall. The arrogant king turned into a whimpering coward, looking everywhere for someone who could understand the words. Belshazzar's mother had to come and remind him about Daniel, who had helped his father. Daniel confronted the king's refusal to learn from Nebuchadnezzar's ways: "You knew all of this, but you still refused to honor the Lord who rules from heaven" (Daniel 5:22). Then he read the words on the wall, telling the king that God would take the kingdom from him. That very night, Belshazzar was killed, and a man from another country—Darius the Mede—assumed the throne. Human power rises and falls, but God is never out of control, and He always has the final word.

Miracles

> Though we have no power over world rulers, God does. He is enthroned in heaven forever.

From wars on the other side of the world to people deciding whether or not you get to be on the team, we can feel like people in power control our lives. But we have a direct line of communication to the One who does. Pick a conflict or issue that concerns you and pray about it. Enlist some friends to pray with you.

### Psalm 22:27-28

Everyone on this earth/	<i>&gt;</i>
<u>Deople</u> all over fire world	
will furn and worship	
youb because you are in	
control fire ruler of all	
<b>\</b>	

<b>Keep It Going This Week</b>	Find out more by reading these verses
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- ☐ Psalm 22:27–28
- ☐ Philippians 2:9–10

□ Isaiah 45:7

☐ Colossians 1:16

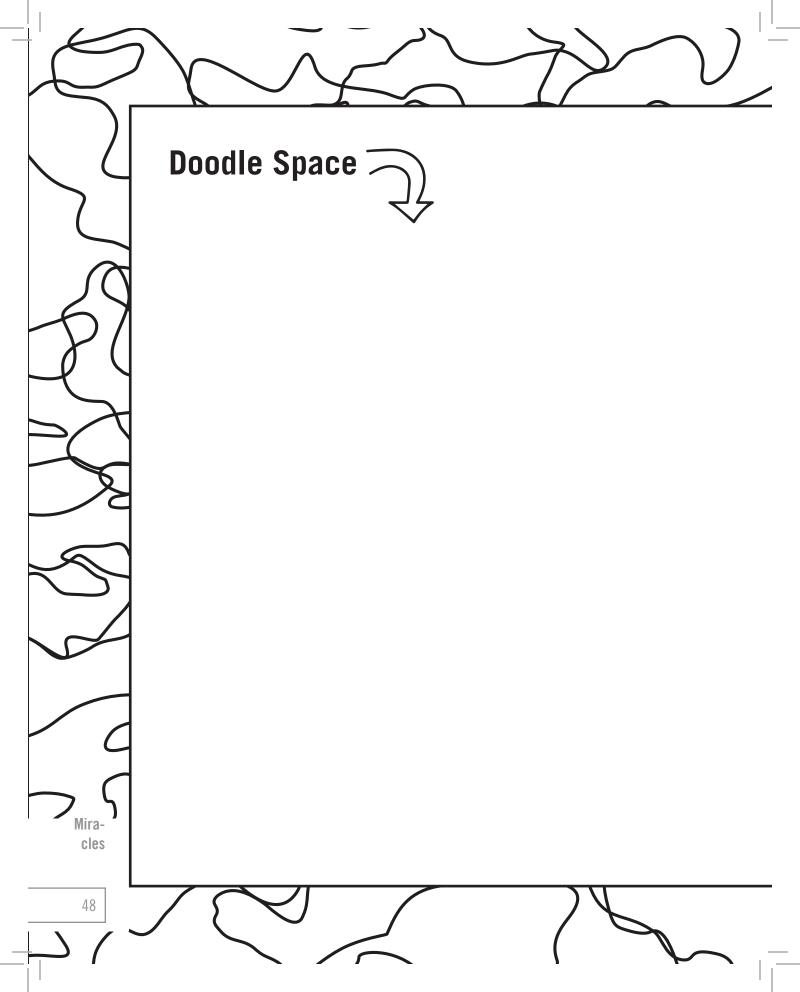
Week Forty Seven

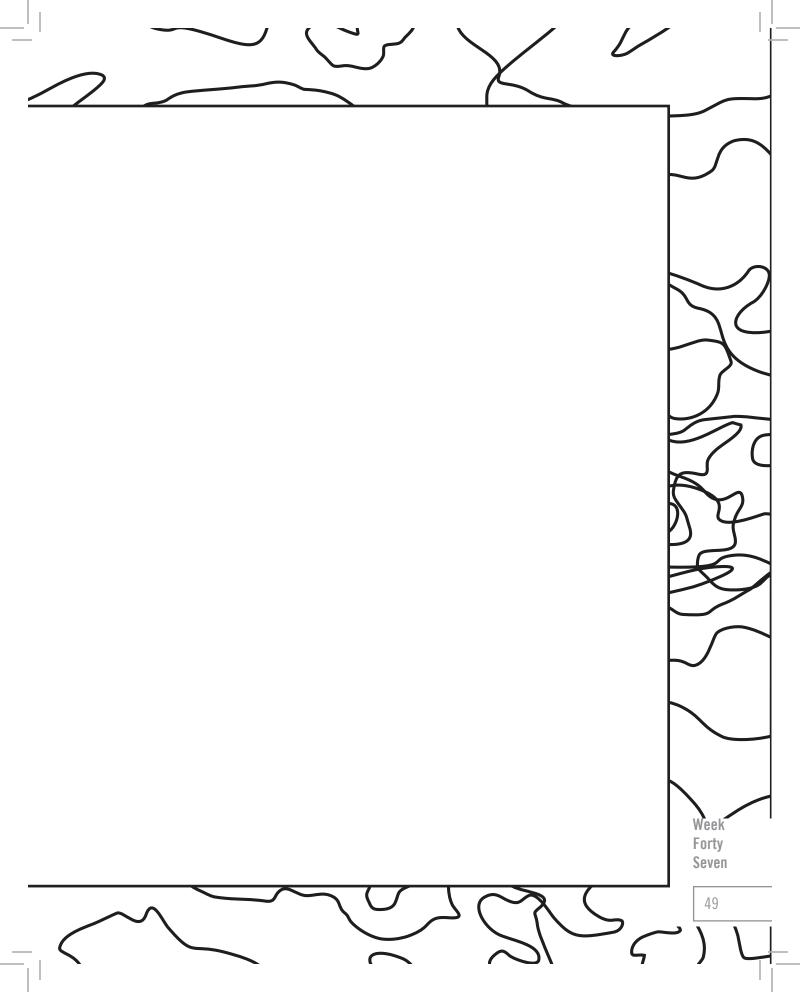


God, it often seems like the bad guys have all the power. But you reign over everything. I trust you.



 DID YOU KNOW?
 Some Roman emperors fed Christians to the
 lions for punishment and entertainment. Later,
 Constantine became emperor, converted to Christianity, and stopped the persecution.







### WEEK FORTY-EIGHT

### Is Anything Unforgivable?



Suddenly something like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see. He got up and was baptized. Acts 9:18

Unforgivable. Ananias had heard about a man from Jerusalem named Saul who had encouraged people to kill the Christian leader Stephen by stoning him. After that execution, Saul went on a rampage, imprisoning other Christians.

Saul thought those people who preached about Jesus being the Son of God were blasphemers, violating the faith of their fathers and mothers. More and more people were believing the good news that Jesus was the Messiah. But Paul was convinced that these gospel preachers were leading the people to spiritual destruction. They had to be stopped. And so, he was on his way to Damascus to hunt them down.

As Saul was about to reach the city, light flashed around him, knocking him to the ground. Then a voice surrounded him, asking, "Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul's thoughts ran to every possibility. His companions heard the voice but couldn't see the speaker.

"Who are you?" he blurted out. "I am Jesus," was the shocking response. The Lord told him to go into the city and wait for someone to come to him. He slowly found his feet, but not his sight. Saul was now blind.

In Damascus, God spoke to Ananias: "Go, place your hands on Saul, pray for him, and restore his sight." "Saul? That Saul?!" Ananias fumbled. But God was clear—he had to go. Ananias found Saul and placed his hands on him. "Jesus, who came to you on the road, sent me to you," he said. Then he prayed. The Holy Spirit filled Saul and, immediately, he could see again. If God forgave Saul—a violent enemy of Jesus—then nothing is beyond His grace when we turn to Him.

Miracles

Even though we may think things are unforgivable, the Lord does not. He wants us to repent.

Is God telling you to forgive someone? Is he waiting for you to ask for forgiveness? Nothing is more important. Choose one of this week's verses to write below, think about it, and ask for the Lord's help.

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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



God, please forgive me. Even when I try to do good things on my own, I miss the mark with you.



DID YOU KNOW?  A horse named Endo continued to train and be ridden after he lost his sight. He earned Guinness World Records for his ability to jump obstacles and weave through poles.

Week



### WEEK FORTY-NINE

# If I Do Good, Will Everything Go Right for Me?



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

Daniel had proven his skills and God's power to King Nebuchadnezzar, as well as his son Belshazzar. Now he had a chance to do it with King Darius—the new ruler of the Persian Empire. Again, the Lord made Daniel stand out, so Darius decided to put him in charge of the government, which made Daniel the target of his jealous peers. They searched for any way to accuse him, but they couldn't find anything.

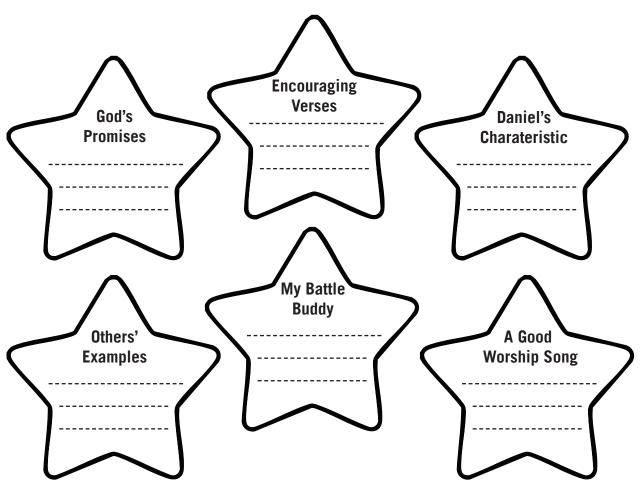
They would have to get creative. Daniel's enemies used the king's blind spot—his arrogance—to trap Daniel. They proposed a decree that everyone should pray to King Darius alone for 30 days. The punishment for disobedience was severe. "Everyone who disobeys this law must be thrown into a pit of lions" (Daniel 6:7b). Darius signed it, and their scheme worked. As soon as Daniel heard the new law, he defied it. He went home and boldly prayed to the Most High God in front of an open window. The leaders forced the king to follow through with the punishment. Daniel was thrown into the lions' den that night. But the king sent him with a prayer, "You have been faithful to your God, and I pray that he will rescue you" (Daniel 6:16b).

The king agonized through the night. At daybreak, he came to the den and called out to Daniel, hoping that there was a God greater than those lions. And there was. Daniel answered that God had sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. He was pulled out, the traitors thrown in, and the country turned to God. When you stay faithful, God stays with you, even when life doesn't go as planned.

Miracles

> We are not promised an easy life, but if we follow God faithfully, we will triumph in the end.

Following Christ is not always easy, but it is always worth it. The Lord promises to make everything right in the end. Are you facing any "lions" today because you love Jesus? What most encourages you to stay faithful? Write down some thoughts.



Keep It Going This Week	Find out more by reading these verses.
☐ Psalm 94:1–2	☐ Romans 12:19

☐ Proverbs 3:5

□ 1 Peter 5:7

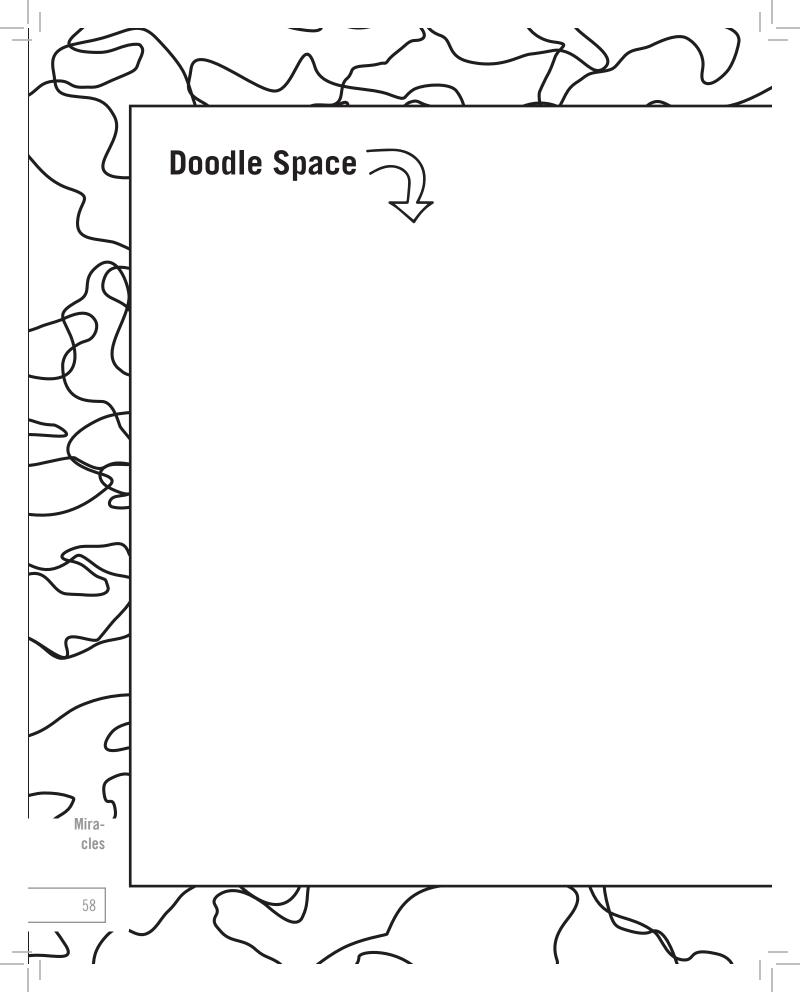
Week Forty Nine

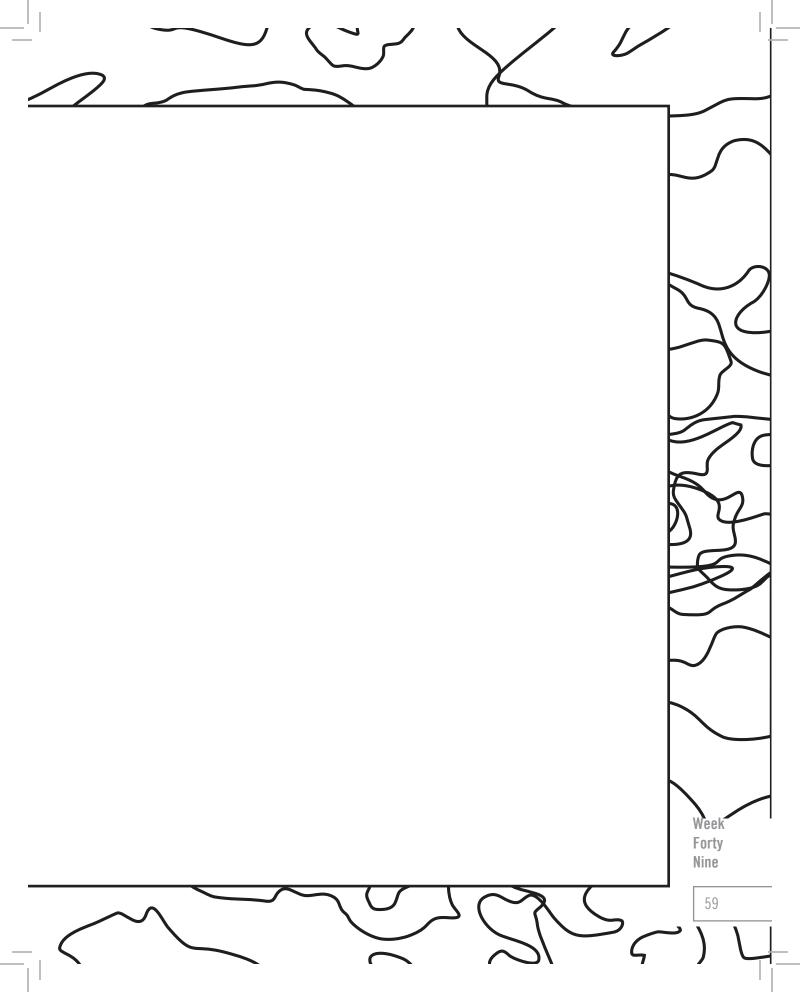


Lord, it's not always easy to follow you. Help me be faithful and courageous. Remind me of all your benefits.



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# When the World Falls Apart, What Difference Can I Make?



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

Sometimes, one person can feel so small. Now imagine being that one person (with no political power) going to speak to the Roman emperor, the most powerful man on earth! In this story, our lone figure finds himself on a small ship, being battered by the enormous sea. After two weeks of being pushed by the wind and waves, without any control over their boat, most on board had given in to hopeless terror. But one man remained calm.

This man's name was Paul, and he was on his way to Rome as a prisoner for preaching about Jesus. Before they set sail, he had warned the captain they shouldn't go. Now, even after being adrift for days, Paul was peaceful. He stood before the sailors and delivered a supernatural message: "God sent an angel to tell me he will save the lives of everyone on the ship."

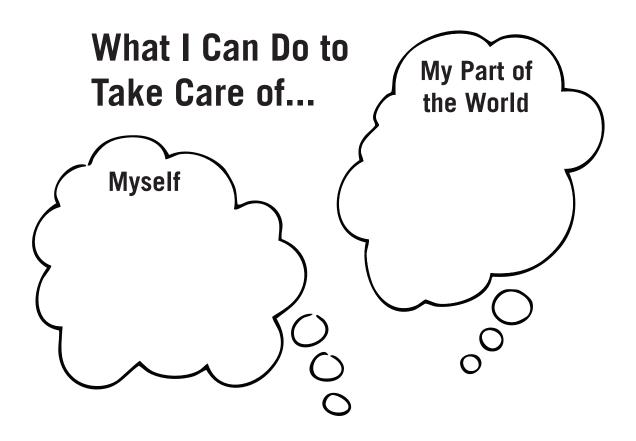
The sailors tried everything, pushing the cargo into the abyss, reinforcing the hull with ropes, and dropping the anchors. Finally, they spied a sandy shore and aimed for it, but they hit a sandbar. As the boat began to break apart in the vicious waters, the men swam for shore. Just as Paul's God had promised, the ship was destroyed, but they all survived.

Paul, the one man against the power of the empire, the sea, and the enemy's demonic forces, was now one step closer to sharing the good news of Jesus with Caesar. One small man—one mighty God! It is unlikely that everything will go right for you, but when you follow God, He'll carry you through the storms and use your faithfulness for something bigger than you can imagine.

Miracles

While you may feel small in the storm, you serve a God who is greater than the storm.

As Paul waited on God to save them, he also did what he could. He prayed. He ate. He encouraged the men. As your generation prepares to face the troubles of the world, what can you do as God's ambassador to the people around you? Write down some notes.



Keep It Going This Week Fin	nd out more by reading these verses.
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□ Psalm 23:4

□ John 14:27

□ Psalm 27:1

☐ Isaiah 41:10

Week Fifty



God, I can feel small in these big storms. Please give me courage to help others.



 DID YOU KNOW?
 In World War II, a cat lived on a German battleship until it
 sank. Rescued by the British, "Unsinkable Sam" is believed to
 have survived three shipwrecks before retiring on land.

1840h

#### **WEEK FIFTY-ONE**

### What If I Don't Want to Obey?



The LORD commanded the fish to vomit up Jonah on the shore. And it did. Jonah 2:10

Jonah's thoughts swirled, but were dominated by one feeling: hatred. He loved the God of his people, but this command was too much. The Lord had told him to go to Nineveh, his people's sworn enemies, and preach against it. Jonah could envision it: they would repent, and God would forgive them (instead of annihilating them, as he had hoped). It must have felt like God was forcing him to choose between the Ninevites and himself.

Jonah chose to run. He found a boat heading in the opposite direction from Nineveh and shut the door of his heart to the Lord.

But God's forgiving love wouldn't let him go, nor would it give up on Nineveh. He sent a storm that made seasoned sailors act like frightened kids. Convinced they were going to die, they played a game of chance to see who was responsible for this trouble, and Jonah was singled out.

"Throw me overboard," Jonah told the crew. They tried not to, but the sea's fury increased. Finally, they prayed for forgiveness and threw him into the crashing waves. The wind stopped. The water became smooth as glass. Jonah sank. But God sent a fish—that's right, a big fish—to swallow Jonah alive. He sloshed around in the beast's stomach for three days, rethinking his life choices. Finally, Jonah praised God for saving him and vowed to preach to the Ninevites. The fish then vomited the repentant prophet out onto dry land. Resisting God can lead to regret—while obedience, even when it's hard, leads to purpose, peace, and second chances.

Miracles

> When Jonah rebelled, he suffered consequences. But God's faithful love kept pursuing him.

When we can't have our way, we can become resentful. We think we know more than God and are better than others. But we must refuse to be like this. We have to trust God's wisdom and love. Think through the verses below and put a check next to the ones that you will work on.

Replace resentment. Ephesians 4:31–32
Trust God—not people. Psalm 73:28
Get God's long-term perspective. Psalm 73:17
Choose thanksgiving. Romans 1:21
Focus on God's goodness. Hebrews 12:15
Focus on God's goodness. Hebrews 12:15  Enter Your Own
Enter Your Own

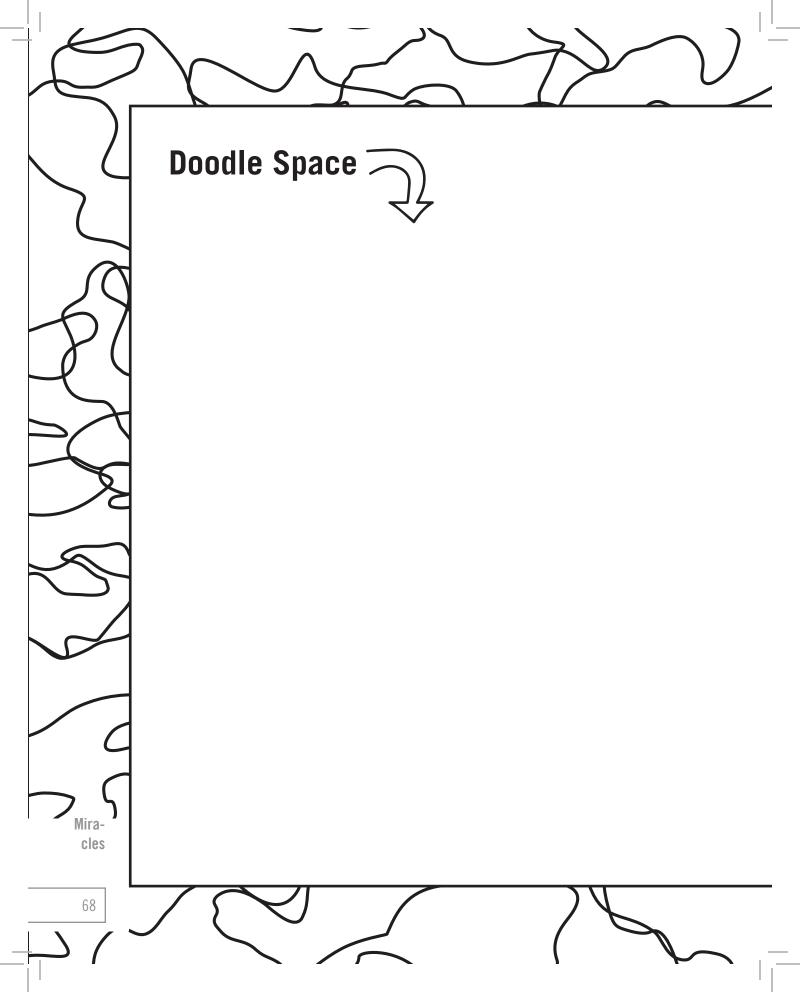
Week Fifty One

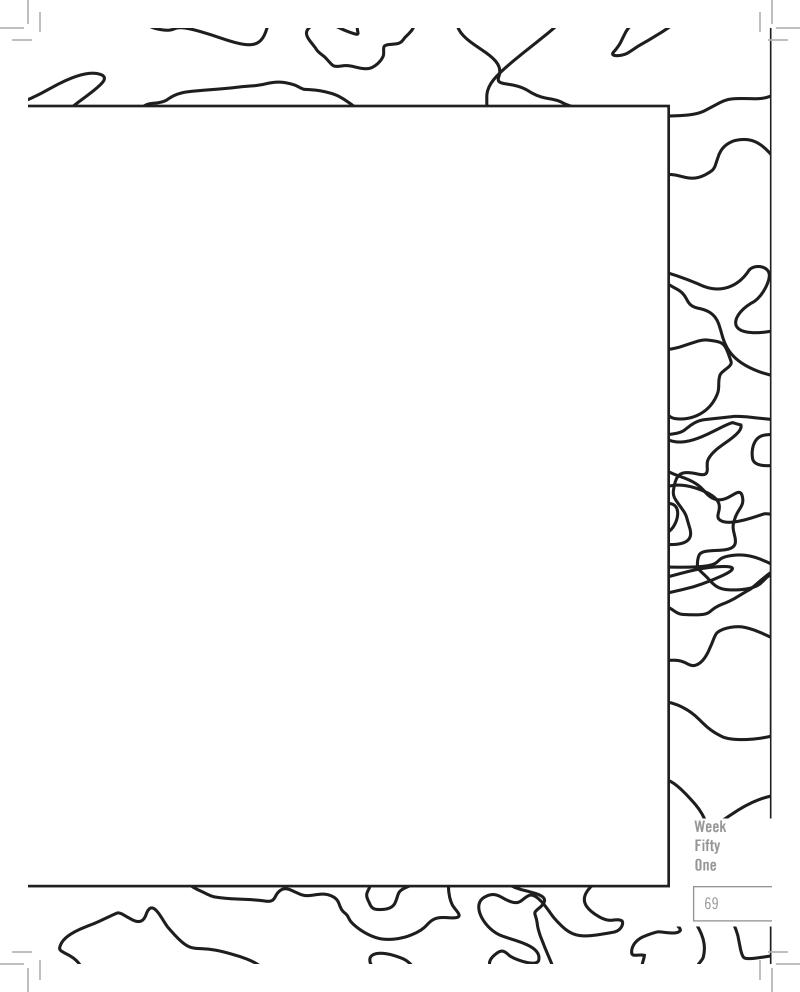


God, obedience is hard, especially in loving others. But you are God. Please help me forgive, like you forgive me.



 	DID YOU KNOW?
 	Male humpback whales' songs can last up to half an hour, with a range
 	of notes like a piano. Blue whale songs can reach 188 decibels—as
 	loud as a rocket launch!
 	Fi







# What If I Don't Know What to Do or How to Do It?



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

Acts 28:5

Cold. Wet. Lost. But right where God wanted him. Paul and the men from the boat took stock of their situation. The ship was destroyed, but they were all safe. They didn't know where they were, but the natives soon found them. Thankfully, they proved friendly and helpful.

First up: a fire to get warm and dry. Paul gathered some kindling. As he grabbed one armload, though, a venomous snake struck, latching onto Paul's hand. Everyone stopped and stared. Surely this Roman prisoner was guilty. He may have escaped a shipwreck, but the gods now got him with a deadly bite.

But Paul was unaffected. His life was in the Almighty God's hands, and it didn't matter what happened to him. He shook off the snake into the fire and kept working. Nothing happened to him, but something happened to everyone who was watching. They saw God's power in Paul.

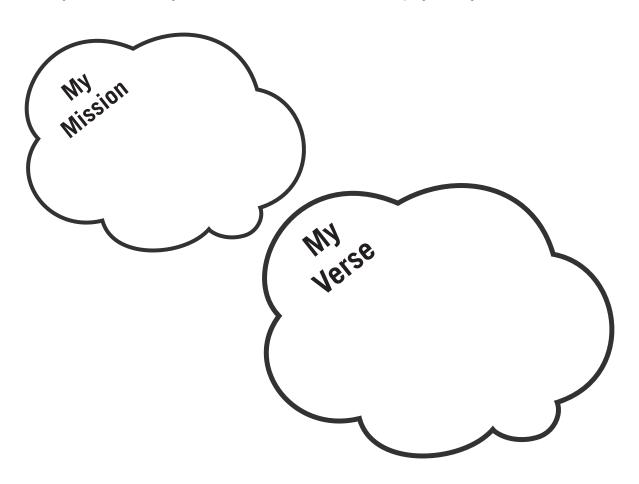
Next, a leader of the island invited them into his home. The man's father was sick in bed. Paul went in to see him, prayed, laid hands on him, and healed him.

God used that detour in Paul's life and mission to affect many. He left him on the island for several weeks. More of the islanders experienced God's healing power. Eventually, the Romans were able to take their prisoner to the capital, where he would preach to the people in the center of the empire. A Roman prisoner, yes, but more importantly, God's servant. God knows exactly how to use your life, even when you don't have it all figured out, so take one step at a time, and let Him guide you.

Miracles

God gave Paul the wisdom and courage as he needed them to do his work.

No matter what was happening in Paul's life, his mission was clear—to preach the good news about Jesus Christ. How about you? Are you ready to do God's work, no matter what it is or where you are? Write a promise to God, a declaration of how you want to live your life. Then add a verse that helps you stay faithful.



Keep It Going This Week Find out mo	ore by reading these verses.
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☐ Proverbs 16:9

- ☐ Philippians 4:13
- ☐ Proverbs 20:24
- ☐ 2 Peter 1:3

Week Fifty Two



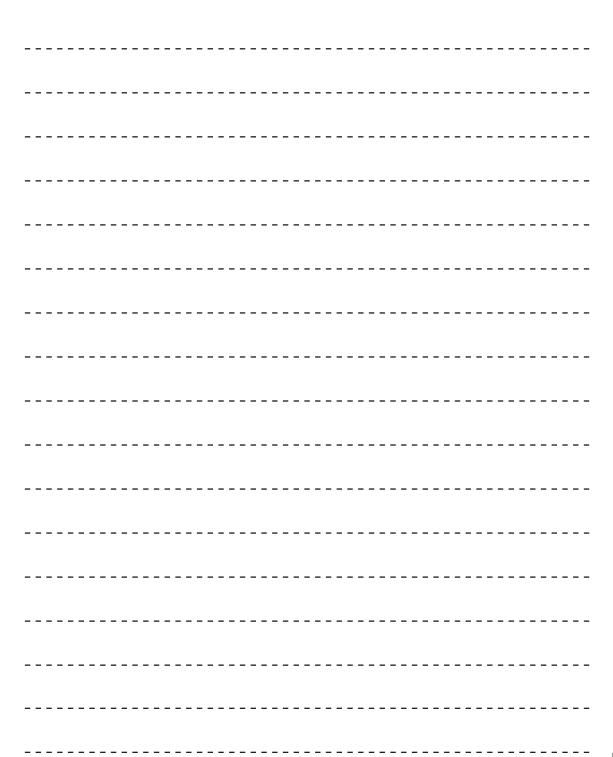
God, a lot of work needs to be done. Please give me everything I need to do what you want.



 DID YOU KNOW?
 Islands frequently have unique species not found elsewhere. The
 Galapagos Islands host the giant tortoises and marine iguanas,
 while Madagascar has lemurs, the fossa, and panther chameleons.

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Miracles



Journal Notes

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Miracles

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

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Miracles



Journal Notes

# Keep It Going!

Great job!
Check your mailbox for your next book!

(It's coming soon!)

