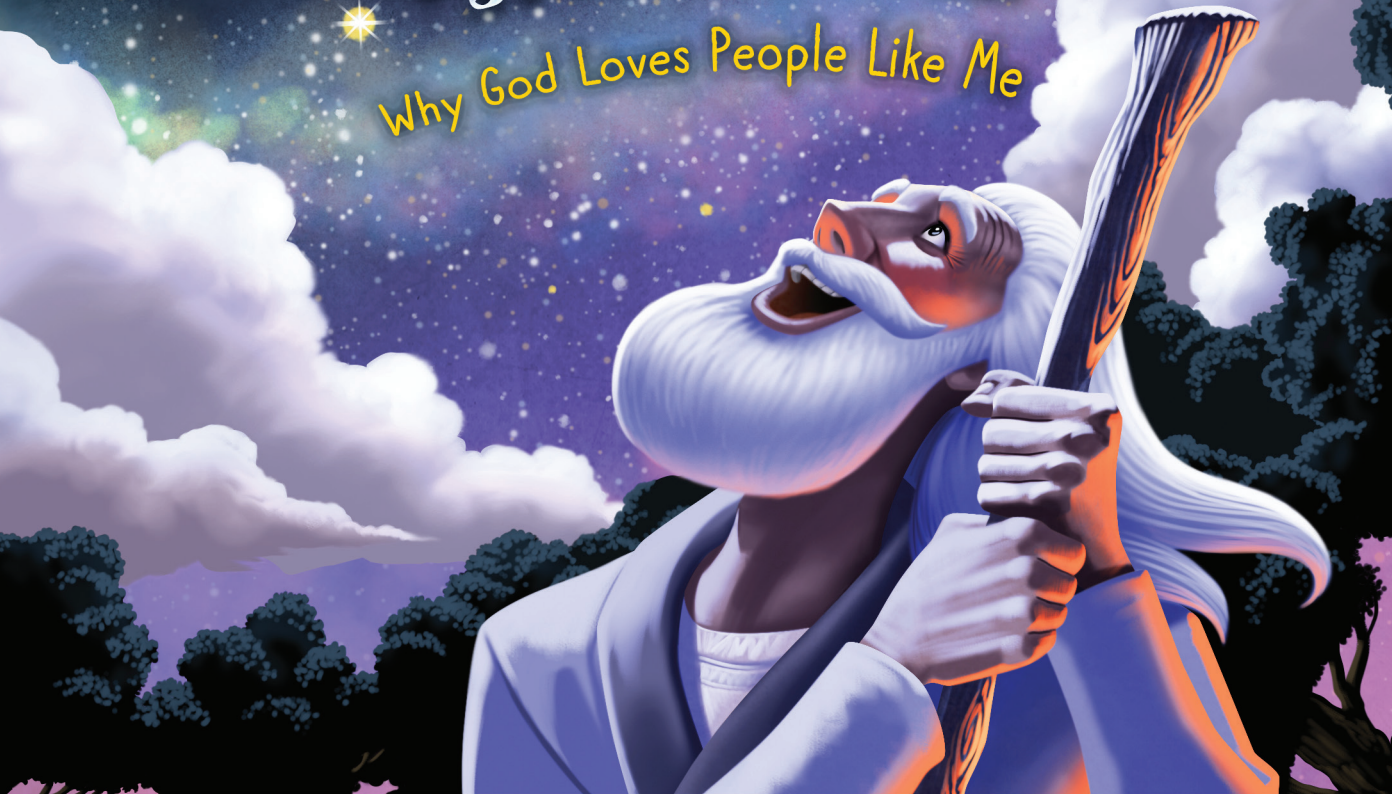


# FRIENDS WITH GOD

STORY BIBLE

Why God Loves People Like Me



WRITTEN BY Jeff White

ILLUSTRATED BY David Harrington

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*Why God Loves People Like Me*

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## Friends With God Story Bible: Why God Loves People Like Me

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## DEDICATION

**T**hank you to all the Sunday school teachers who made Bible stories come alive to me as a kid. I still remember.

Thanks to the world's greatest team: David Harrington, Jan Kershner, Michael Paustian, Stephen Caine, and Joani Schultz. You're the reasons this book is so amazing.

And thank you most of all to those I love the most: my wife, Amy, and my kids, Luke, Daisy, and Cooper. You give me my words and leave me speechless all at the same time.


J.W.

**I** want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus for his love and grace and for allowing me to work on this book, which has been a labor of love.

To my beautiful wife, Sidney, and our wonderful children, Chase, Nick, and Emma: I love you more than I could ever express in words.

D.H.

# BRING YOUR BIBLE TO LIFE WITH THE



## ADAM

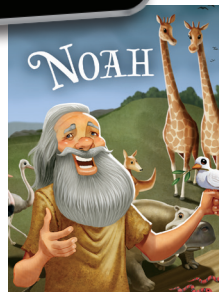
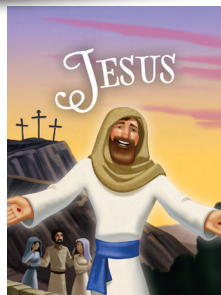
**Best known for:** Being the first human

**Hometown:** Garden of Eden

**Job:** Animal namer

**Favorite food:** Definitely NOT fruit

**Friend of God connection:** The name Adam means "man." Just like the first Adam, we all have a physical human body. And because of Jesus, we have a spiritual body, too. That's why Jesus was sometimes called the "last Adam."



# FREE FRIENDS WITH GOD APP!

Come face to face with Bible-times friends of God. Scattered throughout the pages of the *Friends With God Story Bible*, digital triggers unlock mobile games so you can win virtual collectible cards with entertaining facts about Bible characters. Plus, you'll get a devotional card with a fun idea you can talk about with your family.

► Get started in three easy steps:

1. With your parents' help, download the free app available in iTunes and Google Play.



2. When you see this icon, scan the page with your mobile device.
3. Play the games to win all of the collectible cards!
4. Visit [MyLifetree.com/Kids](http://MyLifetree.com/Kids) for more fun, faith-building stuff for kids!



## INTRODUCTION

**Y**ou've never seen a story Bible quite like this one. It has the classic narratives we've all come to know and love over the years: Noah's ark, Joshua and the battle of Jericho, Esther saving her people, and so many more.

But this book is different.

**Every story is told from the perspective of a Bible character.** Eve tells us what it was like to be tempted in the Garden of Eden. Moses talks about his nail-biting escape from Egypt and parting the Red Sea. We feel David's confidence up close as he recalls facing down one of the biggest bullies of all time.

Yet these first-person chats aren't the only thing that makes this book special. Every story reveals **God's personal relationship with people.** We get straight to the heart of each person and see firsthand how each of their lives changed through their friendship with God.

And at the end of each chapter you'll have a **face-to-face encounter** with the storyteller. He or she will reveal how God was at the center of the story, as well as how it relates to your life today.

Best of all, the *Friends With God Story Bible* will help you dig deep into what faith is really all about: **a one-on-one relationship with the One who loves you the most.**

So circle up your family and get ready to encounter God—and his beloved friends—like never before.



FRIENDS  
WITH  
GOD

STORY BIBLE

Why God Loves People Like Me






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# WOW! JUST, WOW! THE DAY GOD MADE ME

GENESIS 1-2:24

BY  
ADAM




W<sup>OW</sup>.

I mean, WOW!


I can't believe what happened to me today.

I was *created*. And it was AMAZING!

God had been very busy the last few days. First there was nothing. Then every day God made something new. Light, the ocean, the sky, the sun and moon, plants, trees, flowers, fish, birds—you name it. Everything was made for a reason, and it was good.

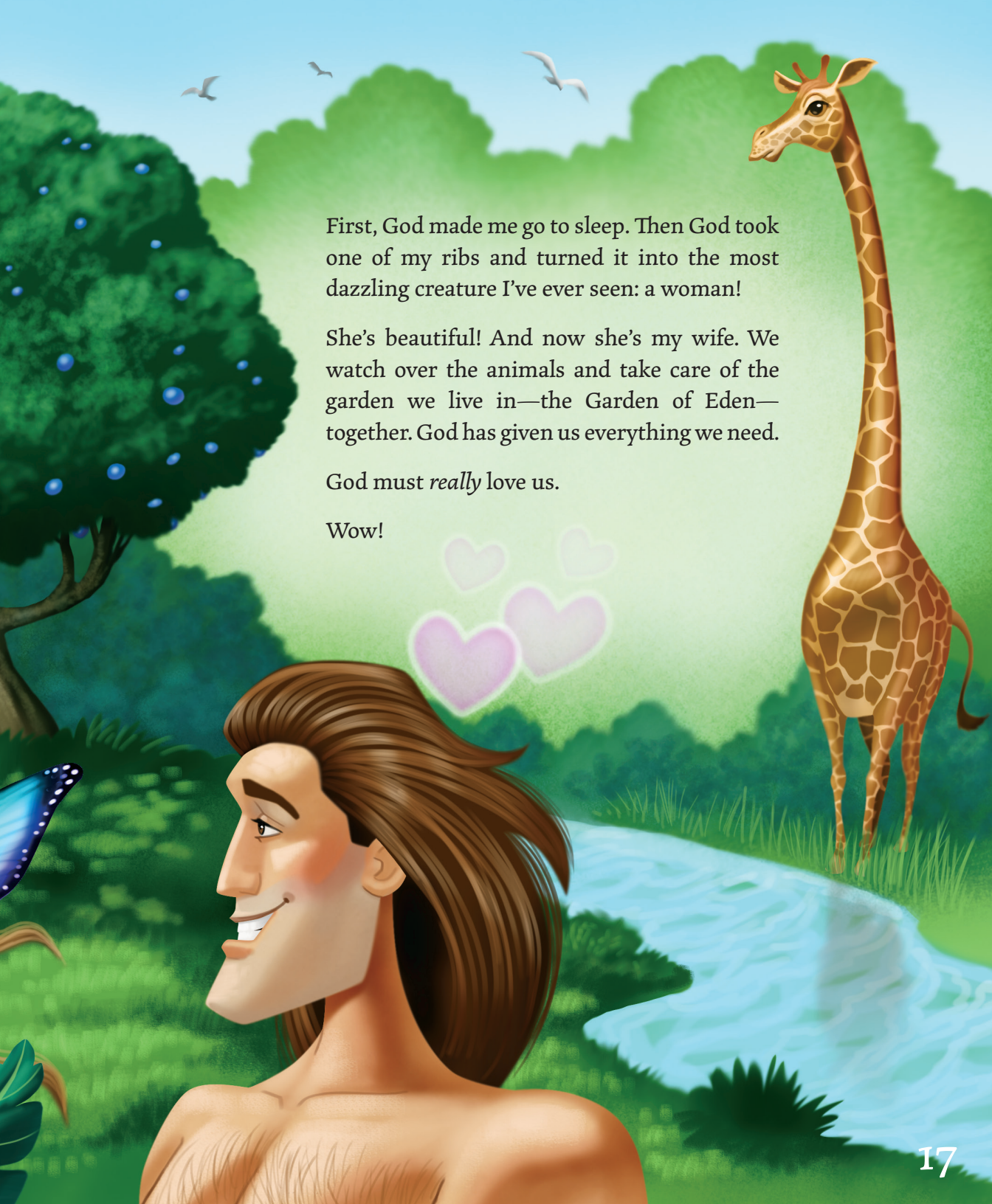


Yesterday God made these things called animals. They're wonderful creatures! Big ones and small ones. Furry ones and tough ones. Spotted ones and striped ones. Some have long necks, others have sharp teeth. Each one is unique. God is so creative!



**A**ND then God made something extra special. God made ME. God took some dirt from the ground—the freshest dirt you’ve ever seen—and shaped me into the first-ever, brand-new, pleased-to-meet-you human being!

God’s world is awesome. I love breathing the crisp air and eating the delicious fruit in the garden. But the thing I love most is what God made just for me.



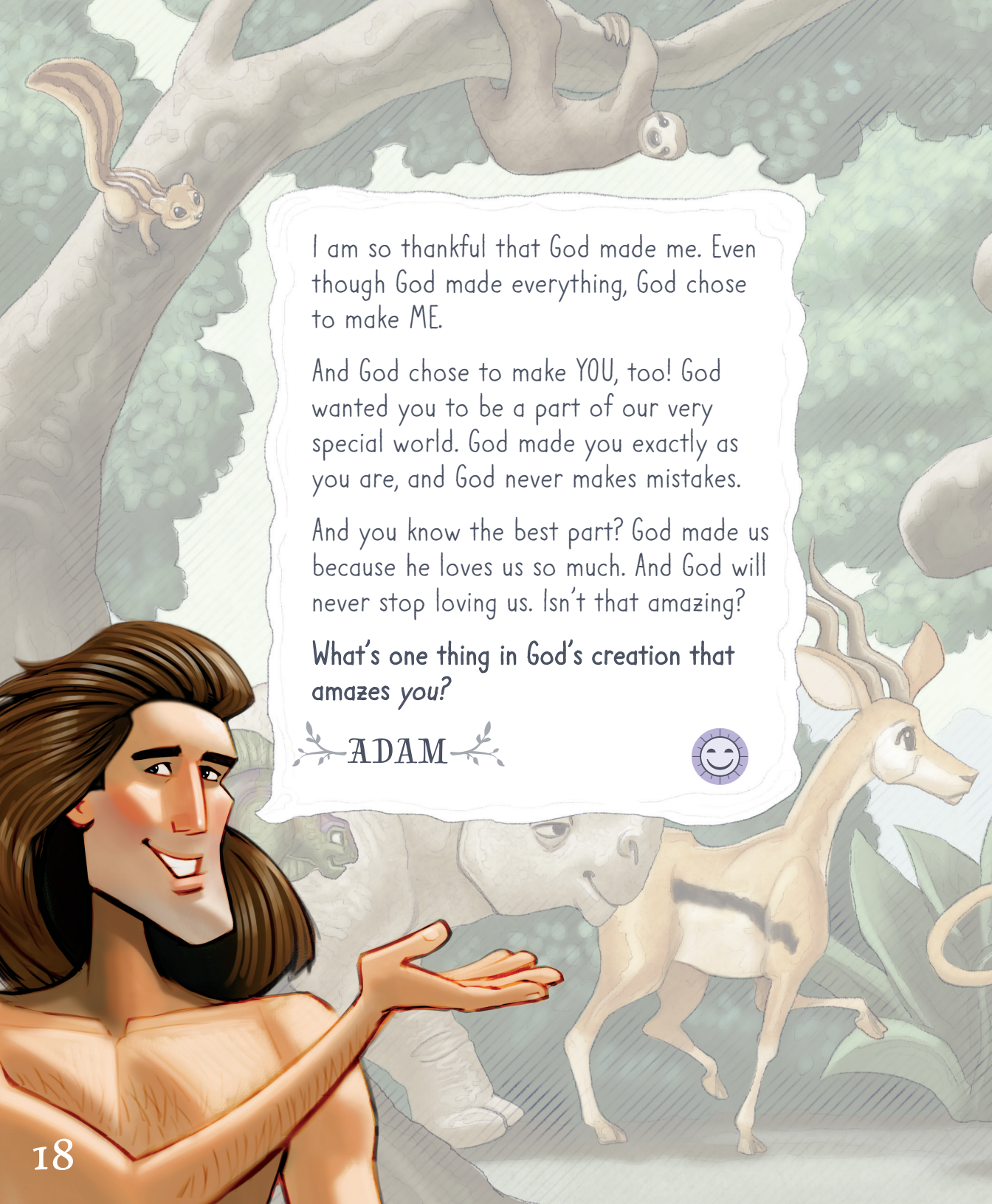
First, God made me go to sleep. Then God took one of my ribs and turned it into the most dazzling creature I've ever seen: a woman!

She's beautiful! And now she's my wife. We watch over the animals and take care of the garden we live in—the Garden of Eden—together. God has given us everything we need.

God must *really* love us.

Wow!





I am so thankful that God made me. Even though God made everything, God chose to make ME.

And God chose to make YOU, too! God wanted you to be a part of our very special world. God made you exactly as you are, and God never makes mistakes.

And you know the best part? God made us because he loves us so much. And God will never stop loving us. Isn't that amazing?

**What's one thing in God's creation that amazes you?**

— ADAM —






THE SNAKE,  
THE TREE,  
*AND* ME

GENESIS 3

BY  
EVE



**M**Y name is Eve. My husband, Adam, and I lived in this beautiful garden called Eden. It's full of lush green trees, soft grass, and lots of tasty things to eat.

It's perfect! Eden had everything I could ever need.

"Everything?" said a voice behind me.

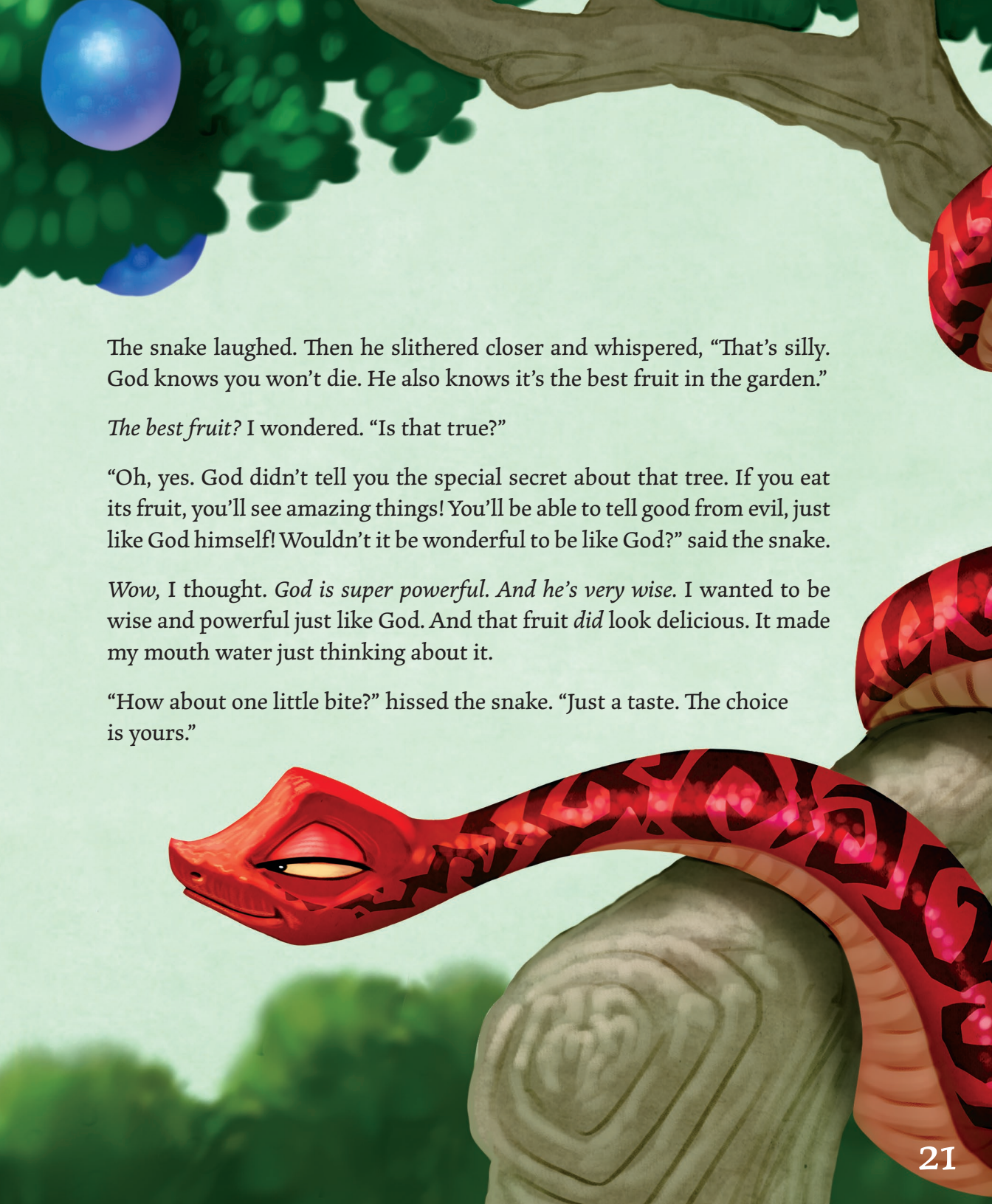
I turned and saw a snake coiled around a branch. He was a handsome creature with sharp eyes. He looked very smart.

"Pardon me for interrupting," said the snake, "but you don't have *everything* you could ever want."

I said, "I have a soft place to sleep, a man who loves me, and I never go hungry. God has given me everything I need."

"What about the big fruit tree in the middle of the garden?" the snake asked.

I got a little knot in my stomach thinking about that tree. "God said if we eat that fruit, we'll die," I said.



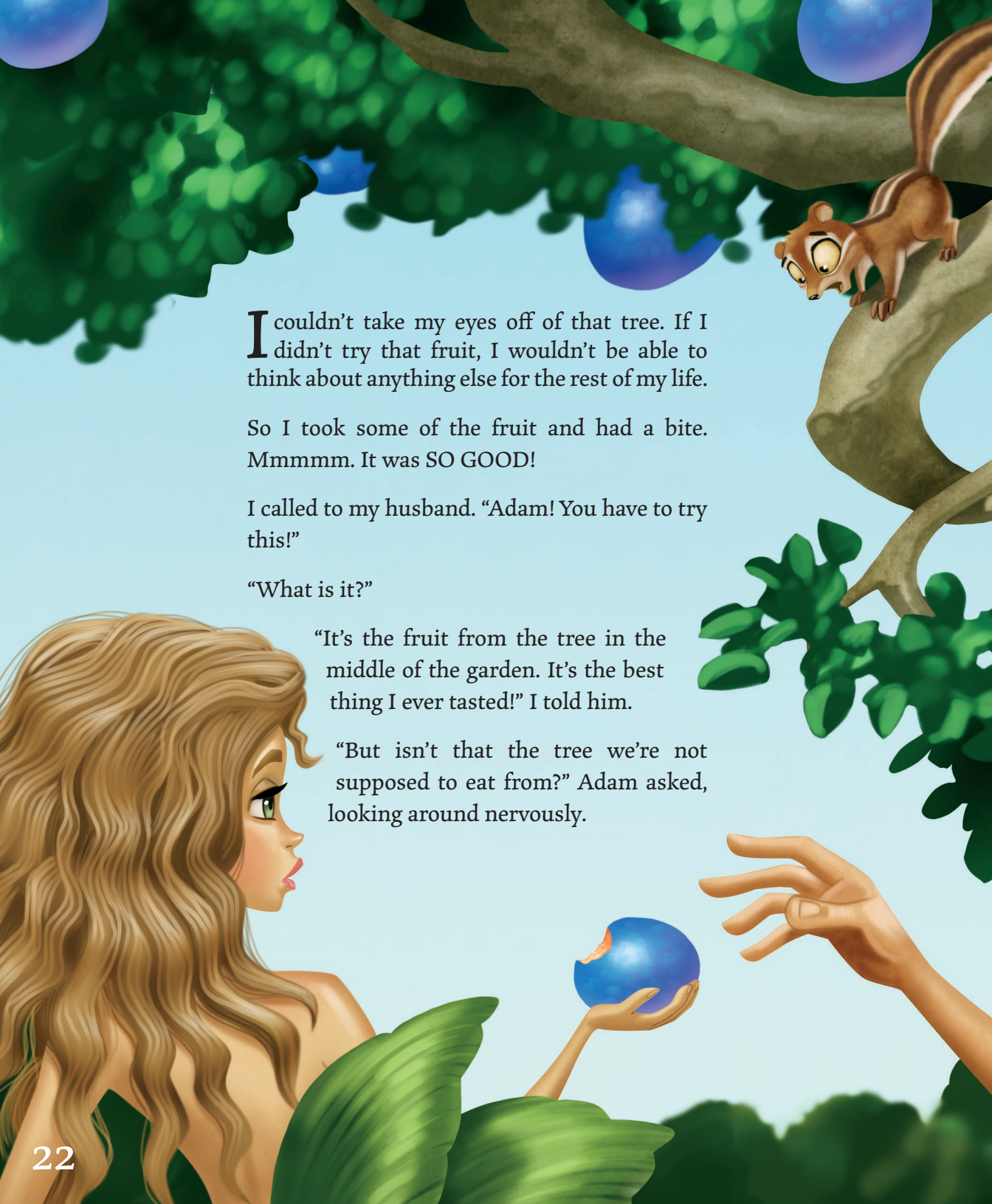
The snake laughed. Then he slithered closer and whispered, “That’s silly. God knows you won’t die. He also knows it’s the best fruit in the garden.”

*The best fruit?* I wondered. “Is that true?”

“Oh, yes. God didn’t tell you the special secret about that tree. If you eat its fruit, you’ll see amazing things! You’ll be able to tell good from evil, just like God himself! Wouldn’t it be wonderful to be like God?” said the snake.

Wow, I thought. *God is super powerful. And he’s very wise.* I wanted to be wise and powerful just like God. And that fruit *did* look delicious. It made my mouth water just thinking about it.

“How about one little bite?” hissed the snake. “Just a taste. The choice is yours.”

A squirrel with a striped tail sits on a tree branch, looking towards a woman. The woman has long, wavy blonde hair and is holding a blue fruit. A hand is also visible, reaching towards the fruit. The background is a lush green garden with trees and blue fruit hanging from the branches.

I couldn't take my eyes off of that tree. If I didn't try that fruit, I wouldn't be able to think about anything else for the rest of my life.

So I took some of the fruit and had a bite. Mmmmm. It was SO GOOD!

I called to my husband. "Adam! You have to try this!"

"What is it?"

"It's the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. It's the best thing I ever tasted!" I told him.

"But isn't that the tree we're not supposed to eat from?" Adam asked, looking around nervously.


An illustration of Adam, a man with long brown hair, looking upwards with a surprised expression. He is shirtless and positioned in a lush garden with large green leaves in the foreground and a large tree branch arching over him. The background shows a blue sky and green foliage.

“I took a bite, and I didn’t die!” I said.

So Adam closed his eyes and took a bite, too. I couldn’t wait for his reaction.

But when Adam opened his eyes, he looked afraid. He covered his face and tried to hide. In an instant, we both knew we had made the wrong choice. We felt so ashamed.

After that, God kicked us out of his beautiful garden. Even though God still cared about us, our life got really, really hard. I sure wish I had made the right choice and obeyed God.



I am so ashamed. I had everything going for me, and I blew it. I can't blame the snake. Not really. God had told me what was right and wrong, but I thought I knew better.

Sometimes our choices are fun and easy. But sometimes making the right choice *isn't* easy. I learned that the hard way.

Thankfully, God still loves me anyway. In spite of our wrong choices, God's love for us never stops.

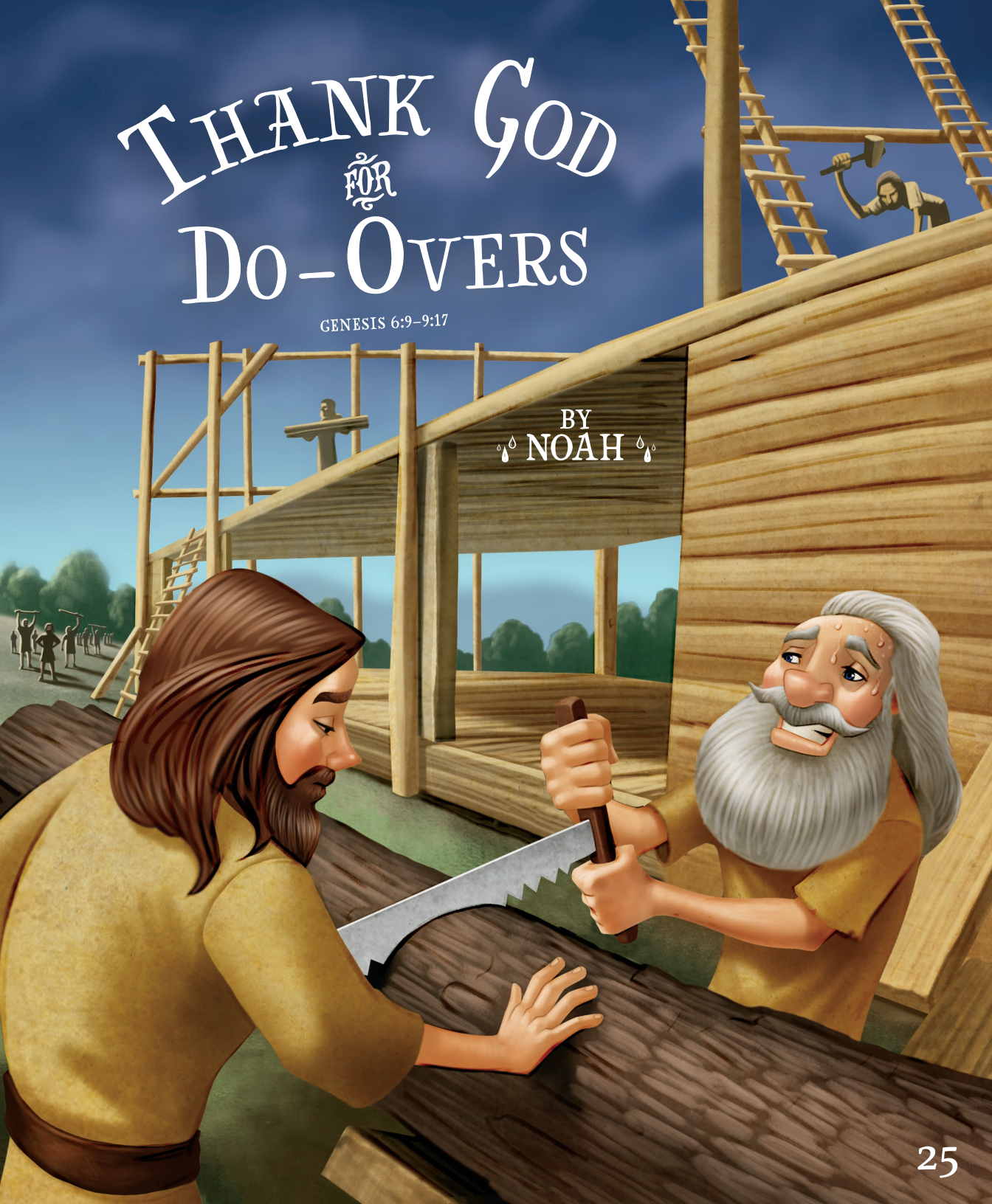
How about you? When have you made a bad choice? What happened? How would things have been different if you'd made the right choice?

❖ EVE ❖

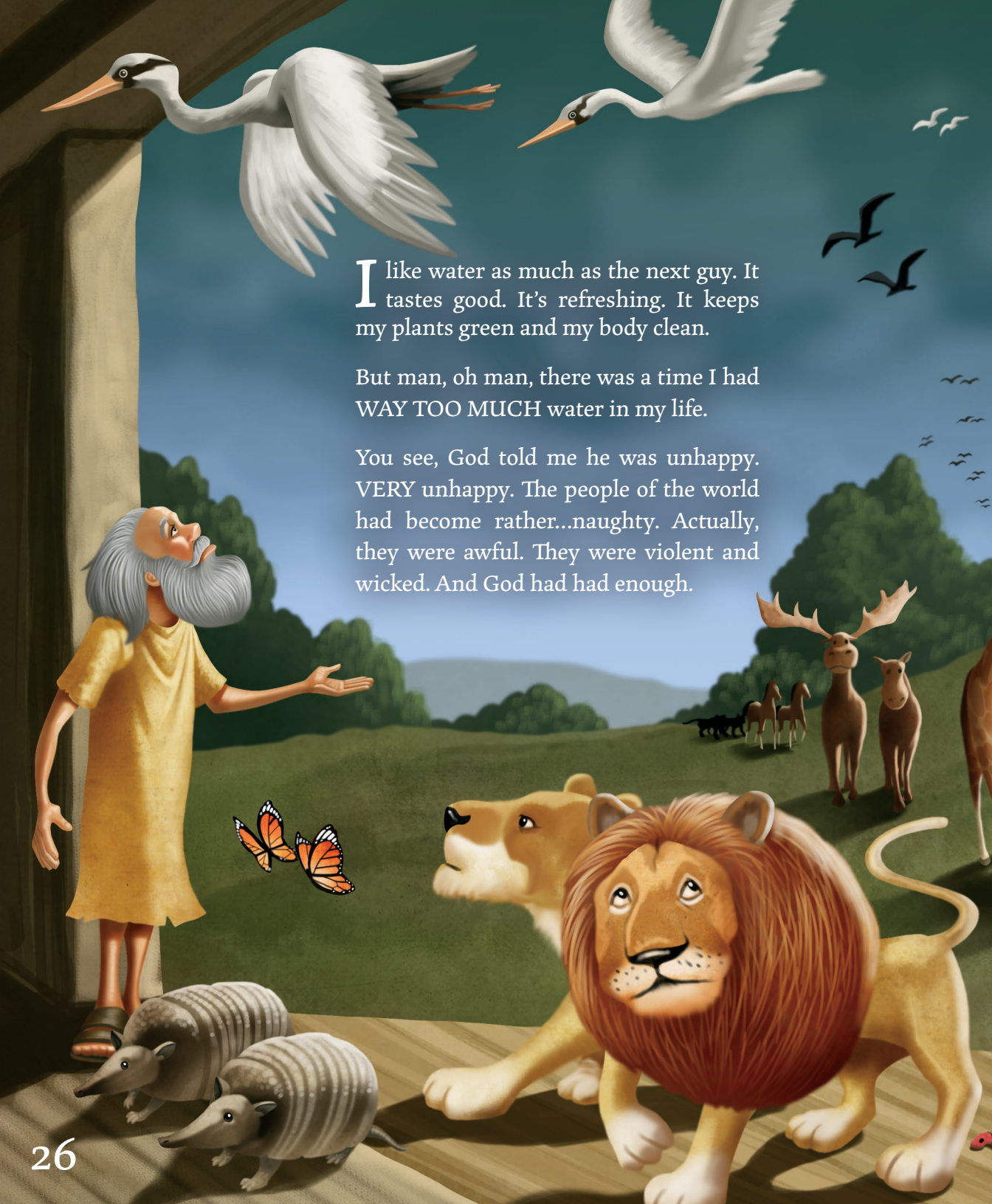
# THANK GOD FOR Do-OVERS

GENESIS 6:9-9:17

BY  
NOAH







I like water as much as the next guy. It tastes good. It's refreshing. It keeps my plants green and my body clean.

But man, oh man, there was a time I had WAY TOO MUCH water in my life.

You see, God told me he was unhappy. VERY unhappy. The people of the world had become rather...naughty. Actually, they were awful. They were violent and wicked. And God had had enough.




So God told me to build a boat.

“A boat?” I asked. “I don’t even live near the water.”


“I’ll take care of that,” God said. “I’m going to destroy every living thing on earth. But since you’re a good man, I’m going to save you and your family.”

God didn’t have to tell me twice. I got busy on that boat right away. My three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, helped, too.

A large wooden ark, built with vertical planks and a gabled roof, is shown floating on a turbulent sea. The water is a deep, dark green, with white-capped waves crashing against the base of the ark. The sky above is a dark, stormy green, with large, billowing clouds. The overall mood is one of a severe storm.

**I**T was a HUGE boat—big enough to be the largest zoo in the history of ever. God wanted me to bring along two of every kind of animal and bird, as well as enough food to feed them and my family. (We left the fish—they didn't mind the extra moisture.)

Then it rained. **HARD**. And it didn't stop for forty days and forty nights. When the storm was over, the entire planet was flooded.



Eventually the water began to drop, and finally the boat came to rest on a mountain. We had floated around for more than a year. It felt so good to get out of the boat and stretch our legs on dry land again!

But what felt even better was knowing that God had given the world a second chance. Even though God wanted to start over, God still loved us. Now my family can rebuild our world and honor God in all we do. God gave us all a do-over.

So that's me: Noah. Family man. Boat builder. Zookeeper. And most importantly, friend of God.

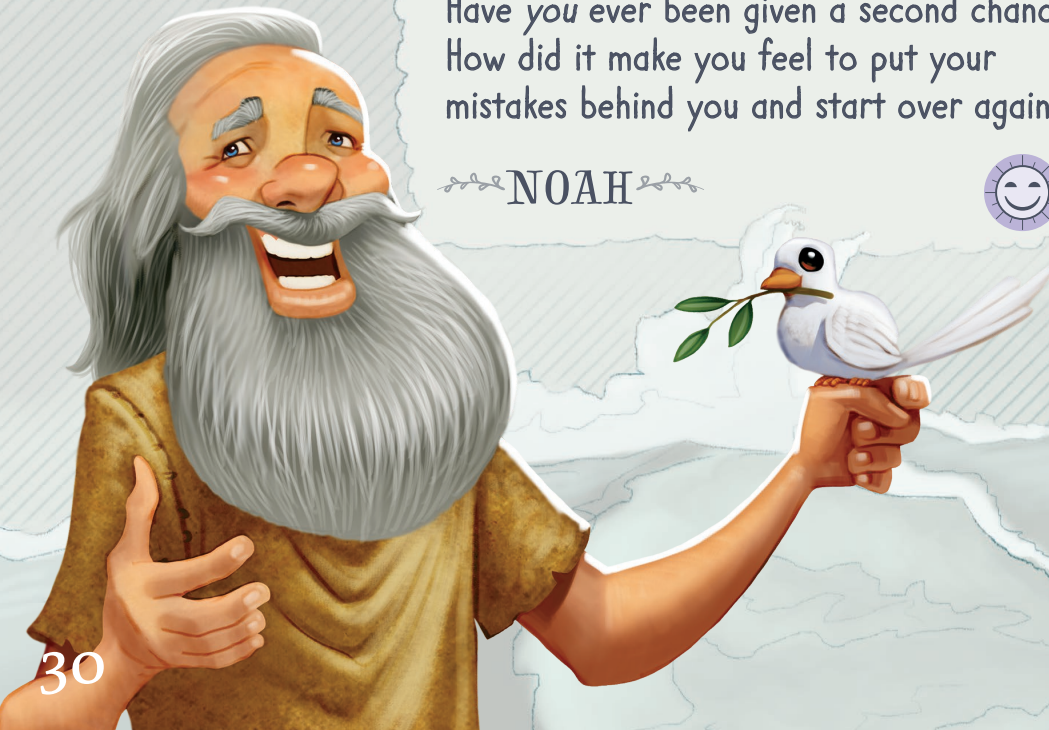
You might think I've had more than enough water in my life. But God made water to do lots of good things, too. Water gives life to all living things.

God's like that, too. God can clean all the bad stuff out of our lives. And God fills our lives with plenty of good stuff, too.

God even made a promise to never flood the earth again. The rainbow is a sign of that promise, and it reminds us that God loves us and gives us do-overs.

Have you ever been given a second chance?  
How did it make you feel to put your mistakes behind you and start over again?

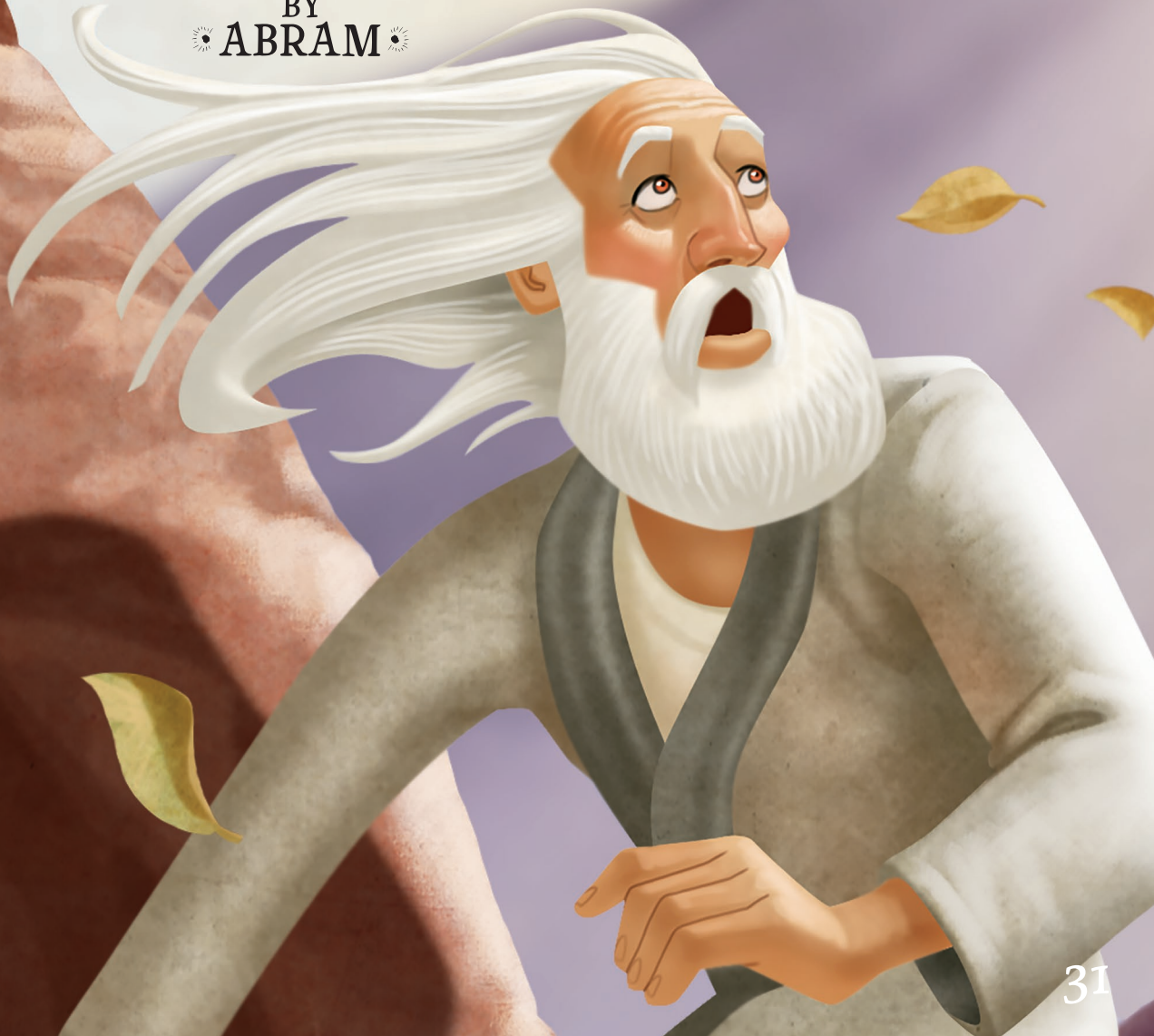
~ NOAH ~

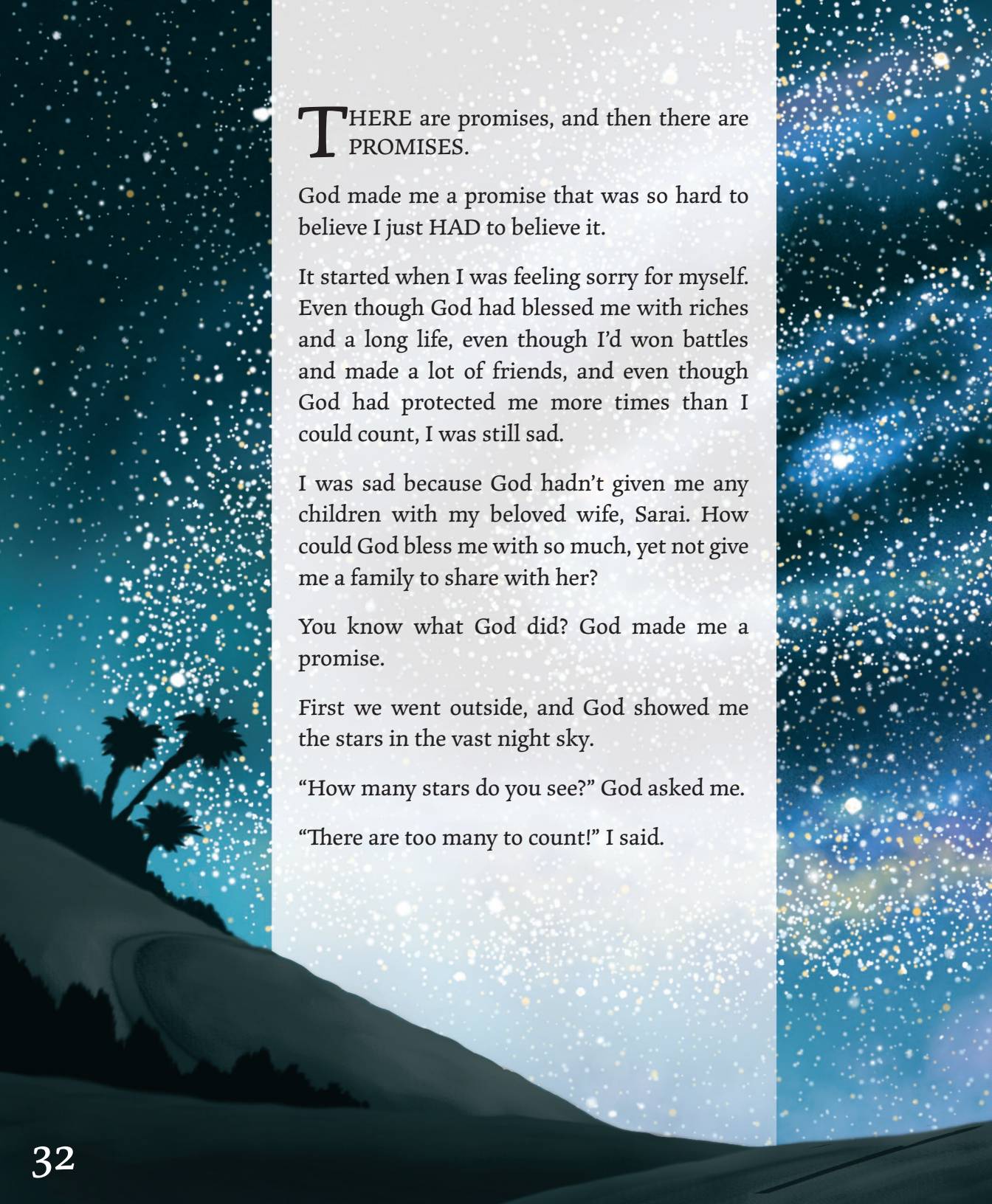


# STARS IN MY EYES

GENESIS 15

BY  
◉ ABRAM ◉





**T**HERE are promises, and then there are PROMISES.

God made me a promise that was so hard to believe I just HAD to believe it.

It started when I was feeling sorry for myself. Even though God had blessed me with riches and a long life, even though I'd won battles and made a lot of friends, and even though God had protected me more times than I could count, I was still sad.

I was sad because God hadn't given me any children with my beloved wife, Sarai. How could God bless me with so much, yet not give me a family to share with her?

You know what God did? God made me a promise.

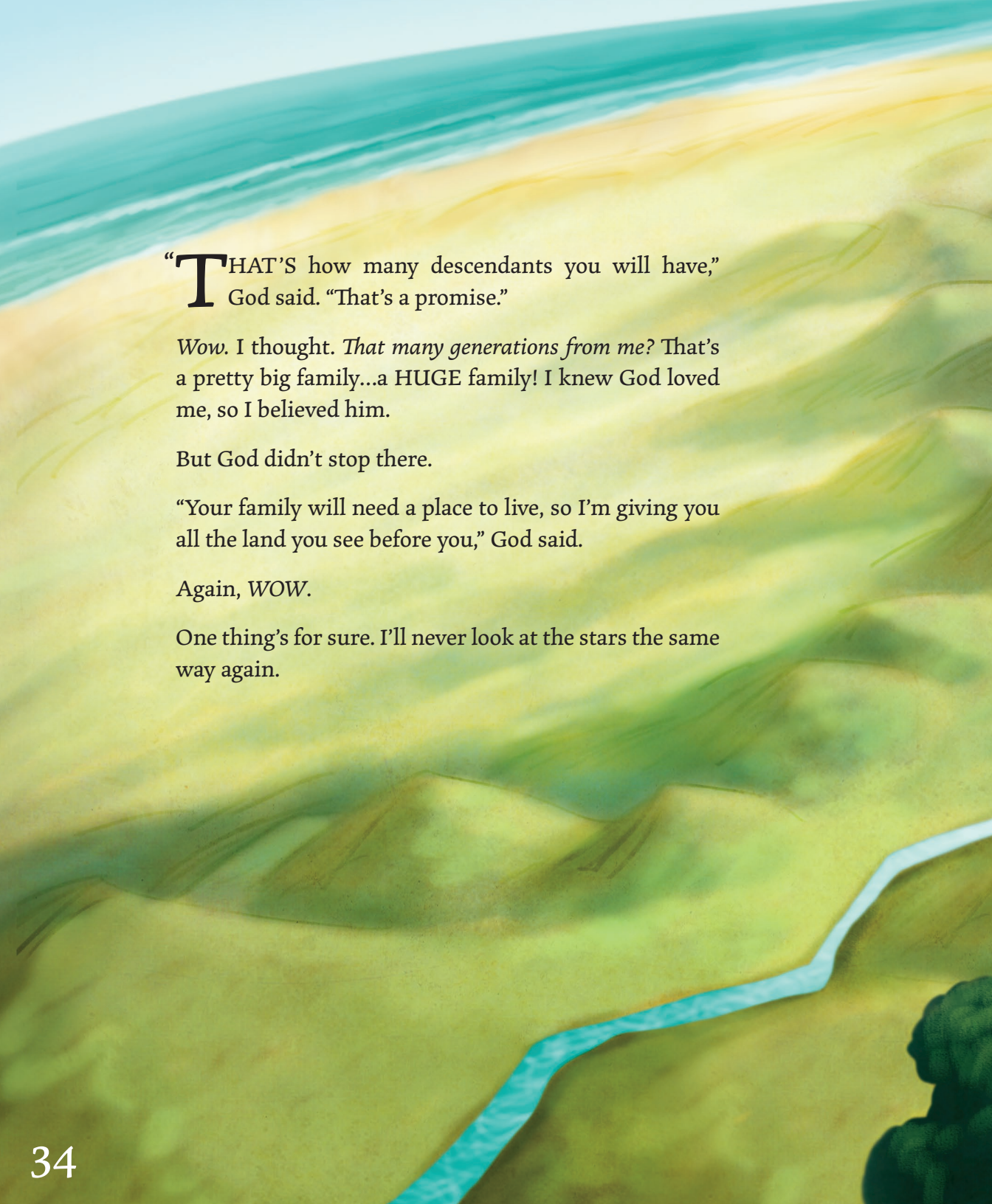
First we went outside, and God showed me the stars in the vast night sky.

"How many stars do you see?" God asked me.

"There are too many to count!" I said.







“**T**HAT’S how many descendants you will have,”  
God said. “That’s a promise.”

Wow. I thought. *That many generations from me?* That’s a pretty big family...a HUGE family! I knew God loved me, so I believed him.

But God didn’t stop there.

“Your family will need a place to live, so I’m giving you all the land you see before you,” God said.

Again, WOW.

One thing’s for sure. I’ll never look at the stars the same way again.



I think there's something really interesting about God's promises. They often come when we least expect it. Just when everything seems hopeless, God comes through with a promise to take care of us.

That's what friends do. I should know, because people call me a "friend of God."

God is your friend, too. When you pay attention to God's words, you can hear many of God's promises to you. And the biggest one of all is that God will always love you.

Have you ever made a promise to someone? What was it? Was it easy or hard to keep your promise? When God makes a promise, he **ALWAYS** keeps it!

ABRAM

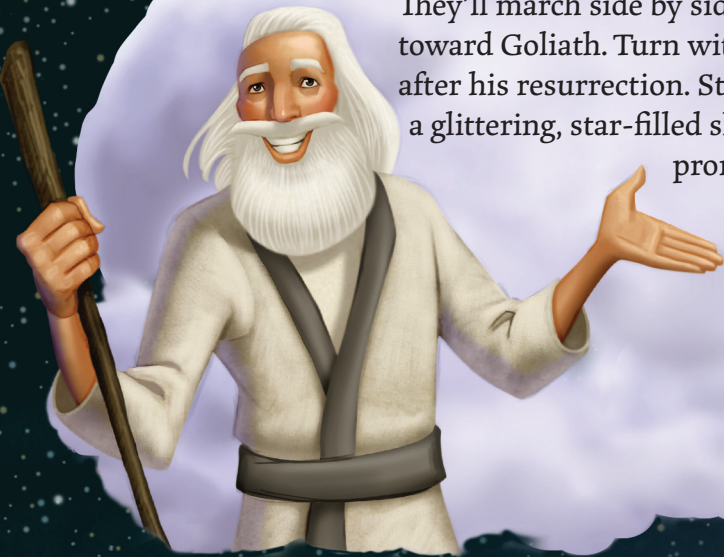


Help kids build a true friendship—with God!

Children meet Bible-times friends who share their thrilling stories, each from their own view.

They'll march side by side with David as he rushes toward Goliath. Turn with Peter to see Jesus alive after his resurrection. Stand next to Abraham under a glittering, star-filled sky, remembering impossible promises coming true.

With each stunningly illustrated page, kids' faith grows as they draw close to the God who loves them and calls them *his friend*, too.



Help kids deepen their friendship with God *even more* by pairing this story Bible with the *Friends With God Devotions for Kids!*

Free: bonus app! Look inside for details.

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