

Sampler

Makes a Great
Easter Gift!

FRIENDS WITH GOD

STORY BIBLE

Why God Loves People Like Me

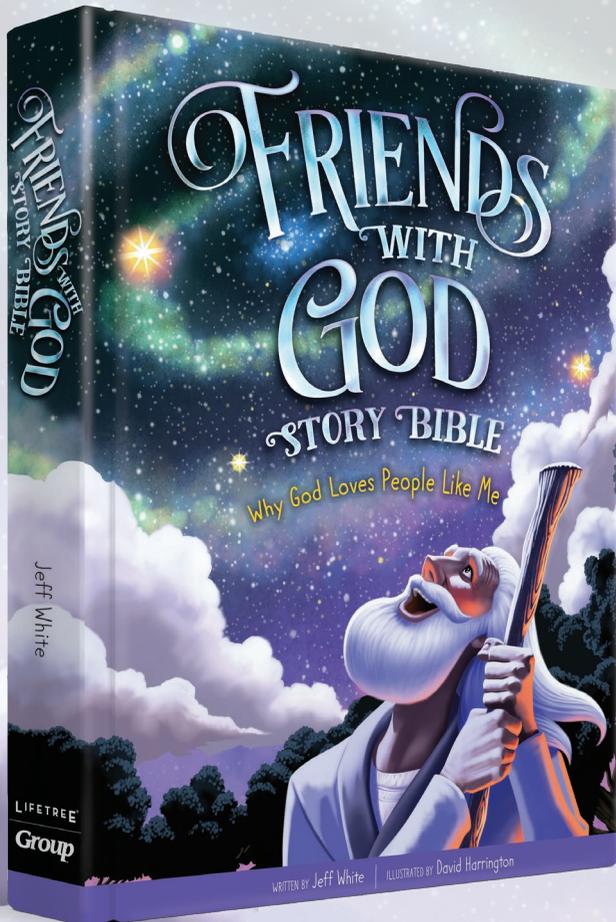


WRITTEN BY Jeff White

ILLUSTRATED BY David Harrington

LIFETREE[®]
Group

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 come true.

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

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

ISBN: 978-1-4707-4861-6

PRICE: \$19.99 USD | Canada \$27.49

SIZE: 7.25" x 8.75"

Visit your favorite Christian book provider to get your copy.

Ready to get started? Keep reading for two sample Bible stories from the *Friends With God Story Bible!*

W INTRODUCTION

You'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.



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BONUS: BRING YOUR BIBLE TO LIFE WITH THE FREE FRIENDS WITH GOD APP!

Available in iTunes and Google Play

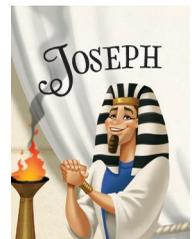
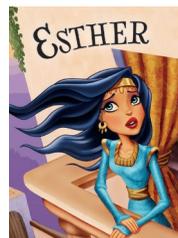
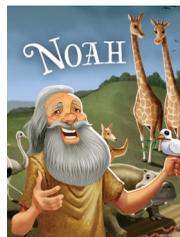
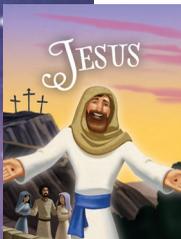


Come face-to-face with Bible-times friends of God. Scattered throughout the pages of the *Friends With God Story Bible*, digital triggers unlock mobile games so you can win virtual collectible cards with entertaining facts about Bible characters. Plus, you'll get a devotional card with a fun idea you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

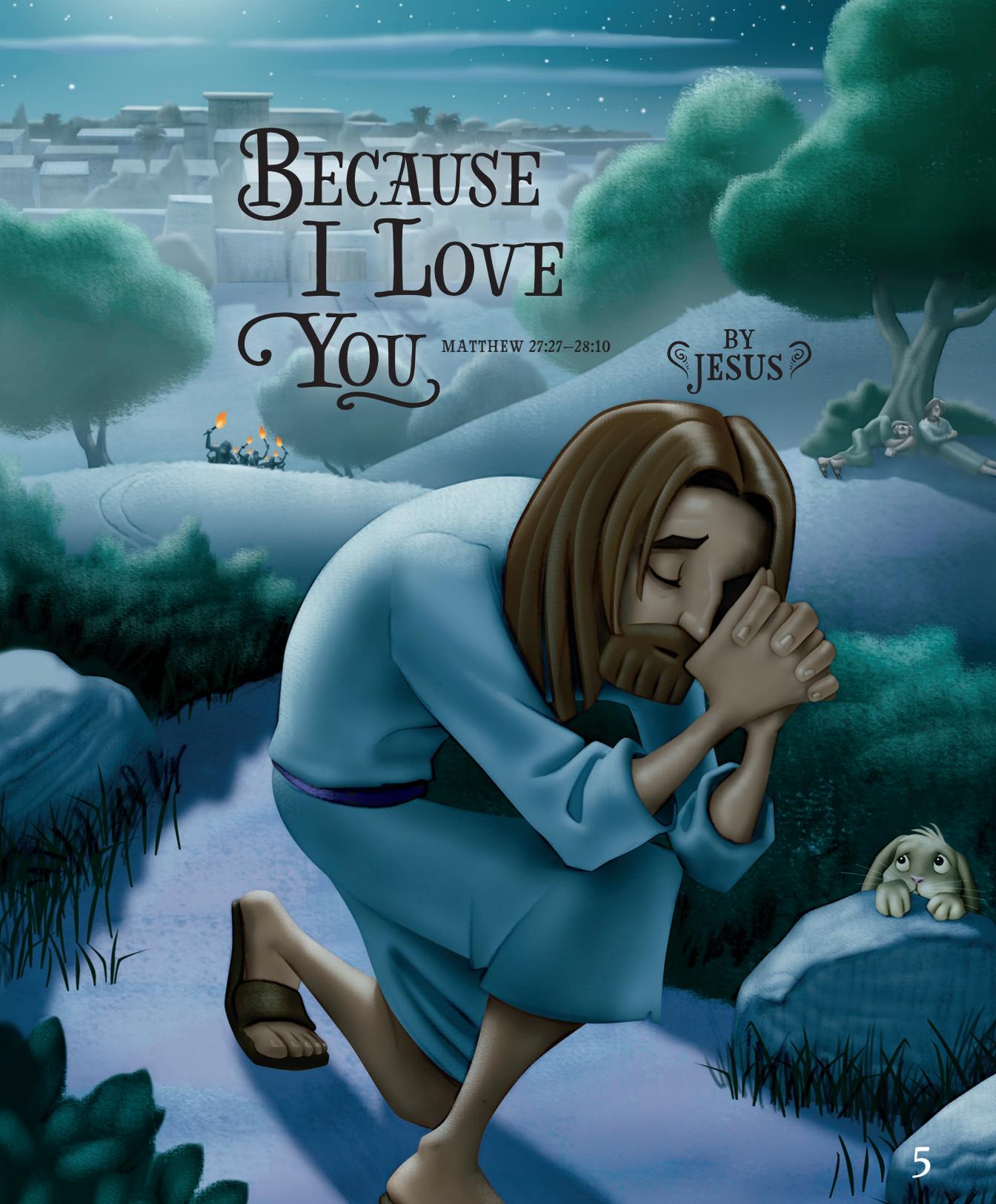
Visit MyLifetree.com/Kids for more fun, faith-building stuff for kids!



BECAUSE I LOVE YOU

MATTHEW 27:27-28:10

BY
JESUS



I'M going to tell you the most important story ever told. It won't be easy for you to hear. But I promise you this: It has the happiest ending in the history of happy endings.

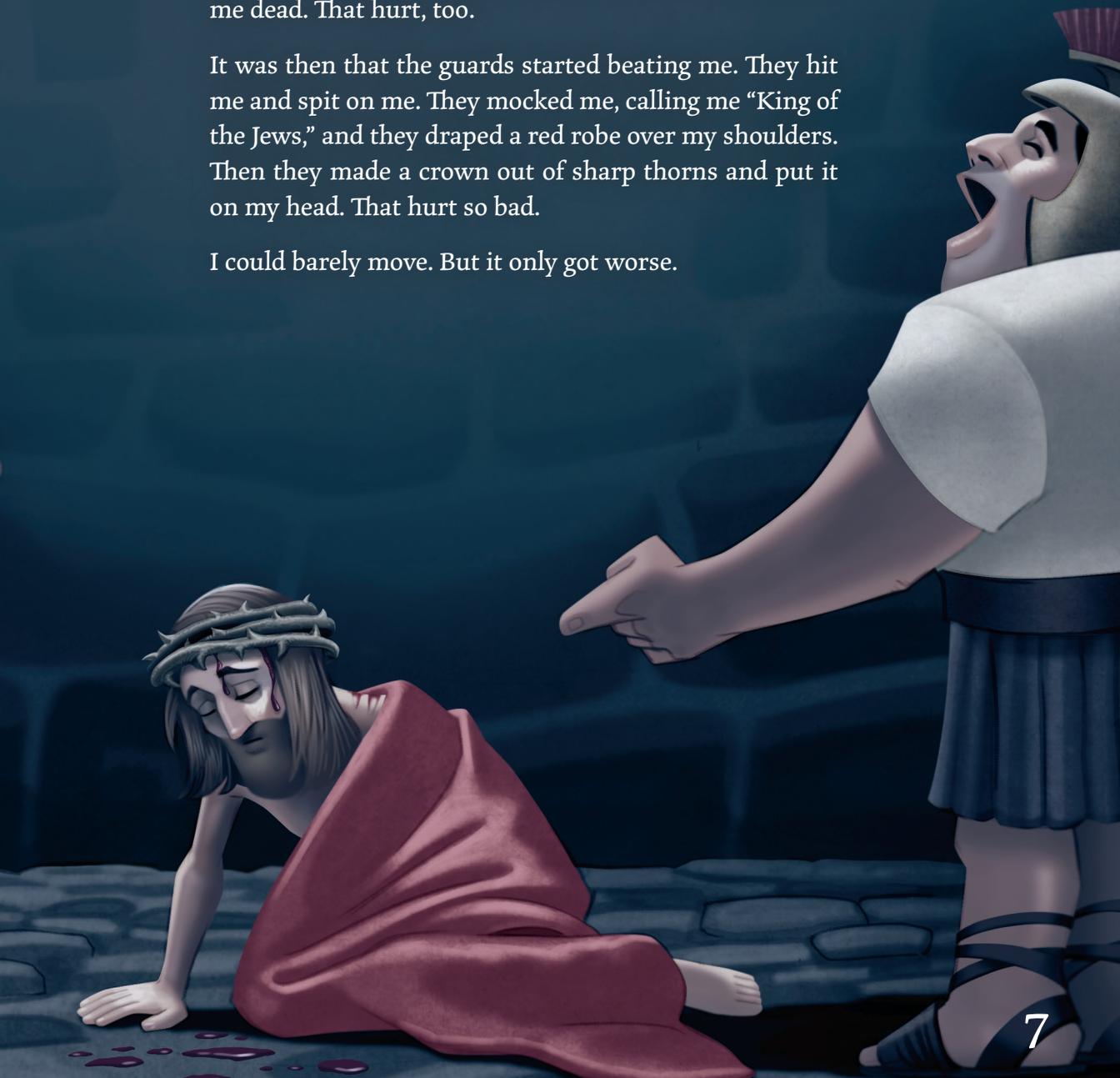
It started when the Roman soldiers arrested me while I was praying. One of my dearest friends had betrayed me to them, and all for a little bit of money. That hurt.



They took me to stand trial in front of Pontius Pilate, the local governor. The people accused me of being a traitor, although Pilate couldn't find anything I had done wrong. But the people insisted on killing me anyway. Just a week earlier they had been cheering me on! Now they wanted me dead. That hurt, too.

It was then that the guards started beating me. They hit me and spit on me. They mocked me, calling me "King of the Jews," and they draped a red robe over my shoulders. Then they made a crown out of sharp thorns and put it on my head. That hurt so bad.

I could barely move. But it only got worse.



THE guards made a big cross out of wooden beams. Even though I had no strength left, they made me carry that cross, with people along the road yelling at me. It was so heavy. Every step was torture. When I finally couldn't go any farther, they made another man carry that heavy cross for me.

They marched me up a hill to a creepy area they called the Place of the Skull. The pain was unbearable. I could barely catch my breath. The soldiers tried to give me a bitter drink to ease the pain, but I wouldn't take a sip. I needed to endure every jolt, every stab, every sting. And there were so many.

I had nothing left.

Still, they kept mocking me.

"If you're the Son of God, why don't you save yourself?" they shouted.





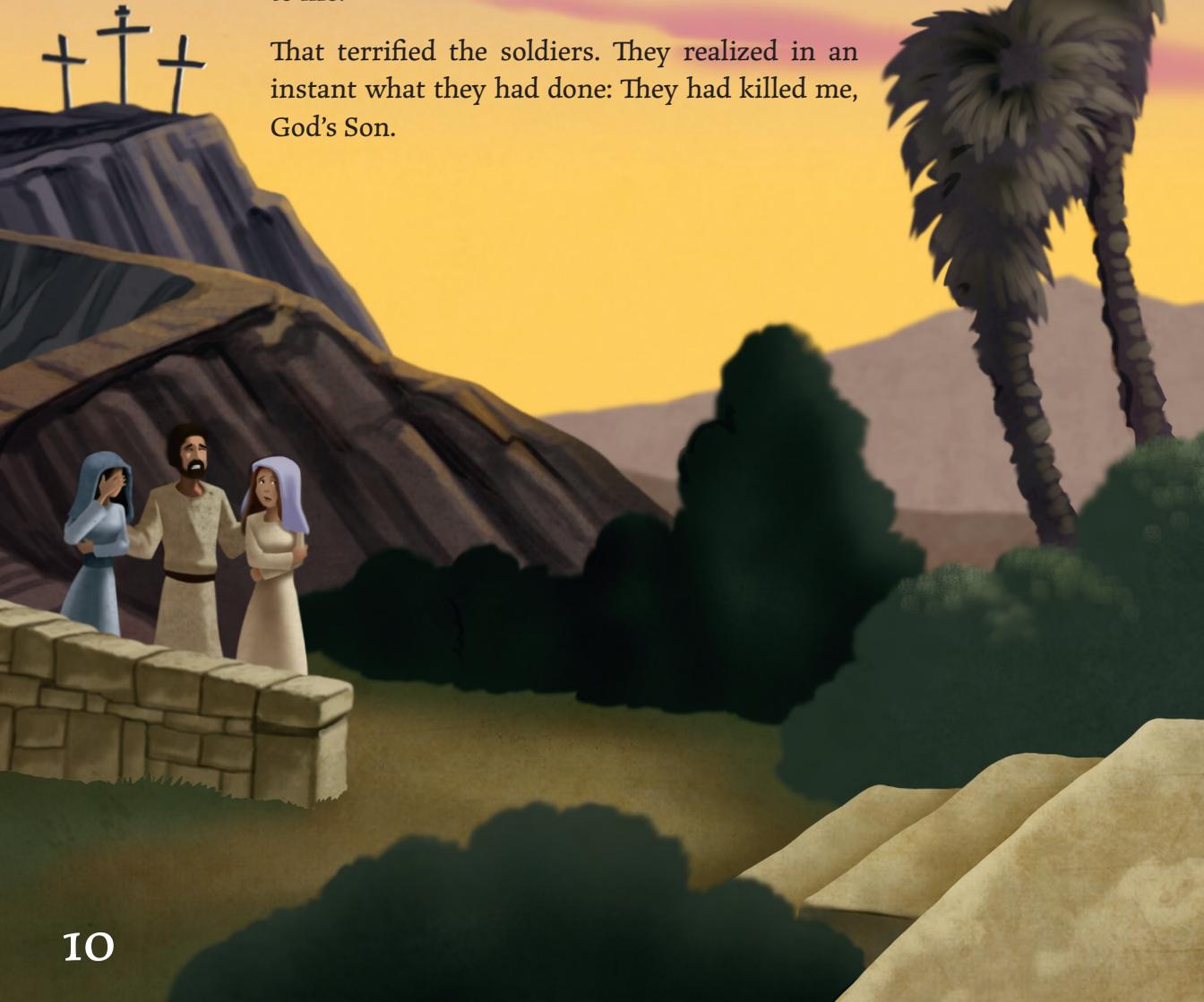
But they didn't know. They didn't understand that God wanted me to go through with this. They didn't know this was God's plan. Worst of all, they didn't realize how much I loved them. Every tear and every drop of blood was for *them*.

IT was almost the end. The sky turned black. Every breath was a struggle. I'd never felt more alone in my life.

I hung my head. I couldn't take another breath.

The moment I died, things got scary. The ground shook. Rocks split apart. People wept. The curtain in the Temple sanctuary split in half. Tombs opened up, and dead people began to come back to life.

That terrified the soldiers. They realized in an instant what they had done: They had killed me, God's Son.



Later, a rich man named Joseph took my body and wrapped it in cloths. Then he buried me in a tomb carved out of the rocks and rolled a big stone across the entrance.

Yet my killers were nervous. They'd heard me talk about coming back from the dead. They thought my followers might come to steal my body and claim I wasn't dead anymore. So they placed guards there to make sure nothing happened.

But something *did* happen.



THREE days later everything changed.

As soon as the sun cracked the morning sky, an earthquake rattled the tomb as one of God's radiant angels swept down and rolled the stone away. Then he hopped up and sat on it!

The guards were so scared they passed out.



Just then Mary Magdalene and my other friend named Mary came to visit the tomb. But when they saw the angel, their jaws dropped.

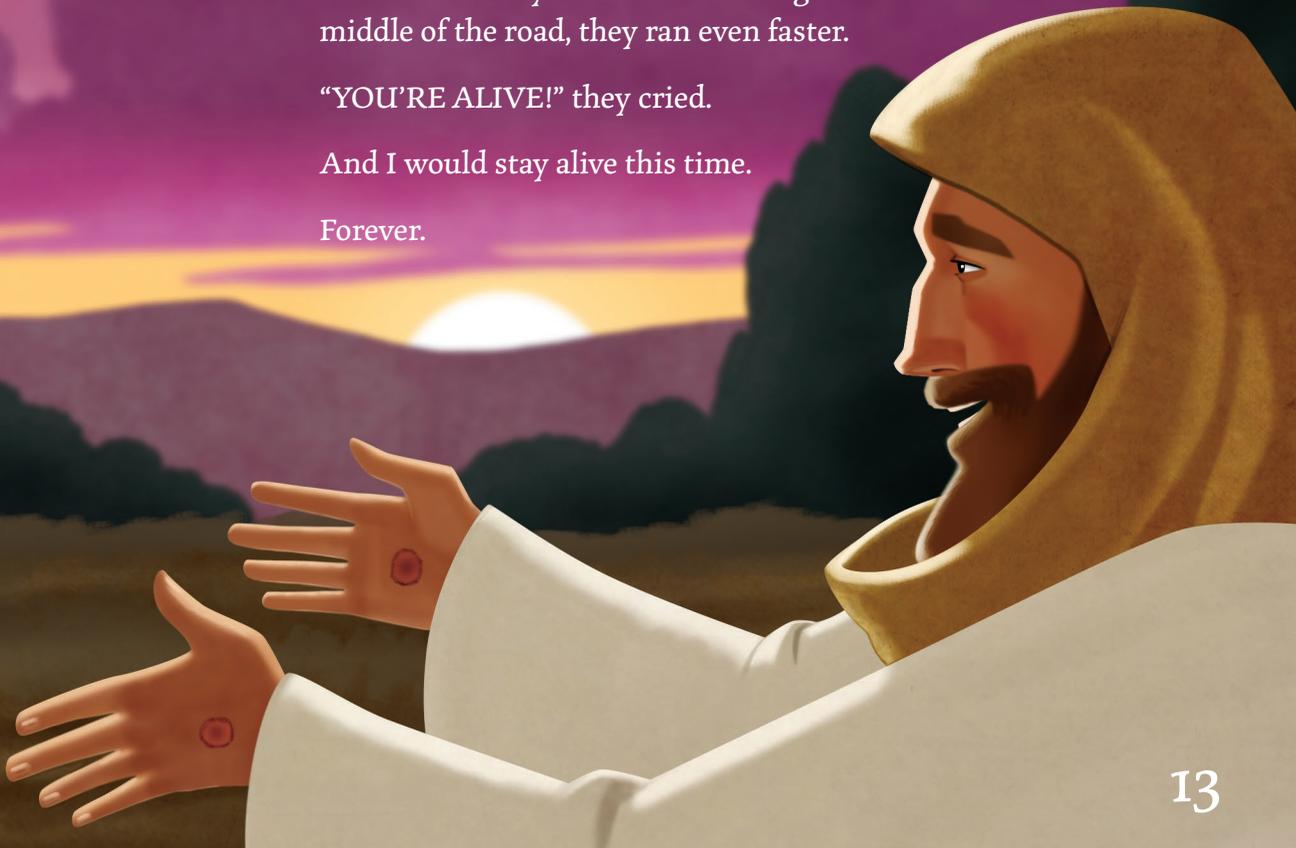
“Don’t be afraid,” said the angel. “Jesus isn’t here anymore. He’s alive again! Hurry and go tell his followers!”

Mary Magdalene and Mary took one glance at the empty tomb and started running fast! They were frightened and excited and shocked and thrilled all at the same time. And when they saw me standing in the middle of the road, they ran even faster.

“YOU’RE ALIVE!” they cried.

And I would stay alive this time.

Forever.



I didn't want to be tortured and killed. I dreaded it. Even so, I knew it was the only way to save everyone—everyone—from evil and help them find forgiveness for the wrong things they do.

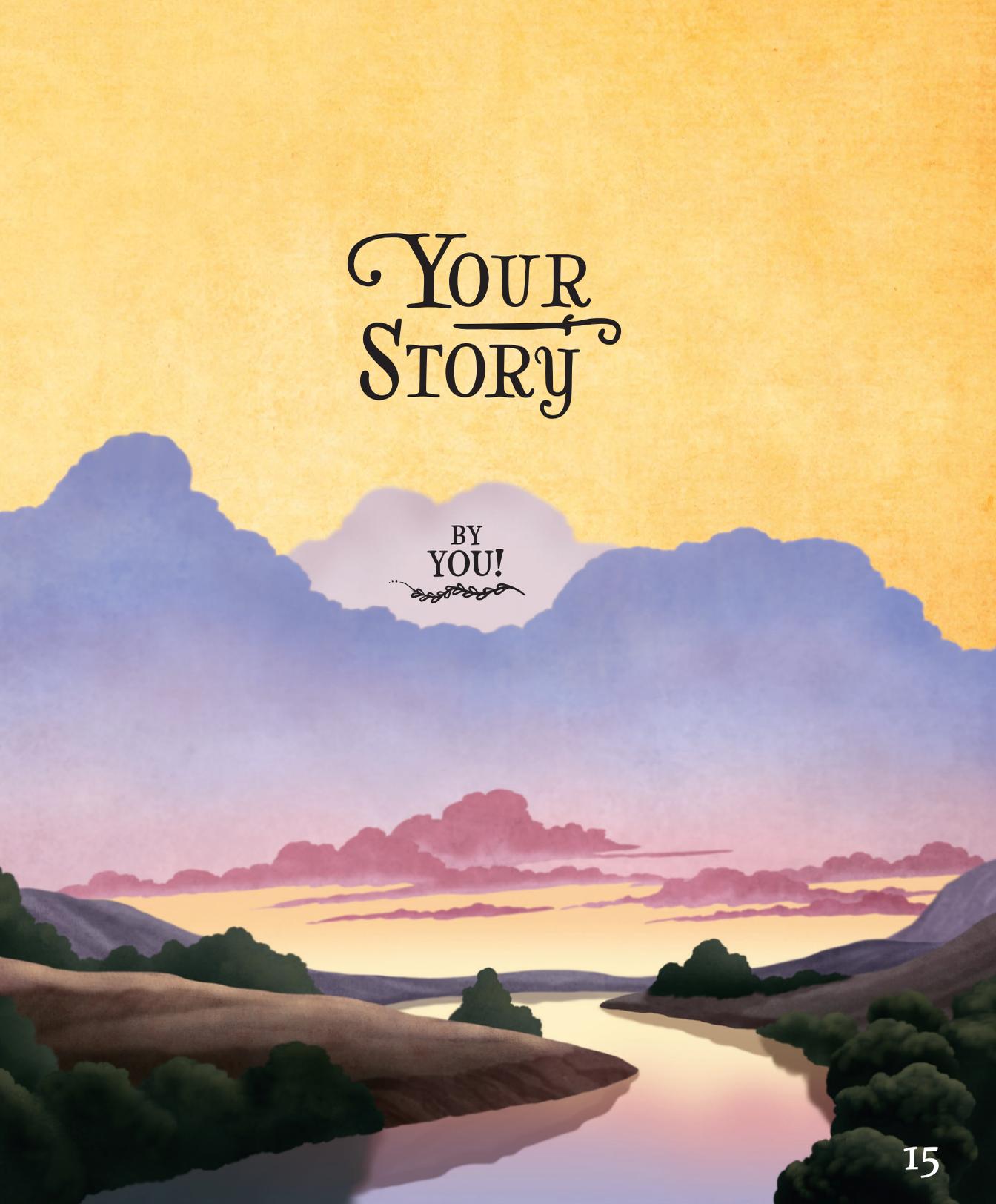
I had to do it. And I wanted to do it.

And I did it because I love you. YOU. I can't say it enough. I love YOU, my friend.

All you have to do is believe it. Tell God right now what you think about me.

JESUS





YOUR STORY

BY
YOU!



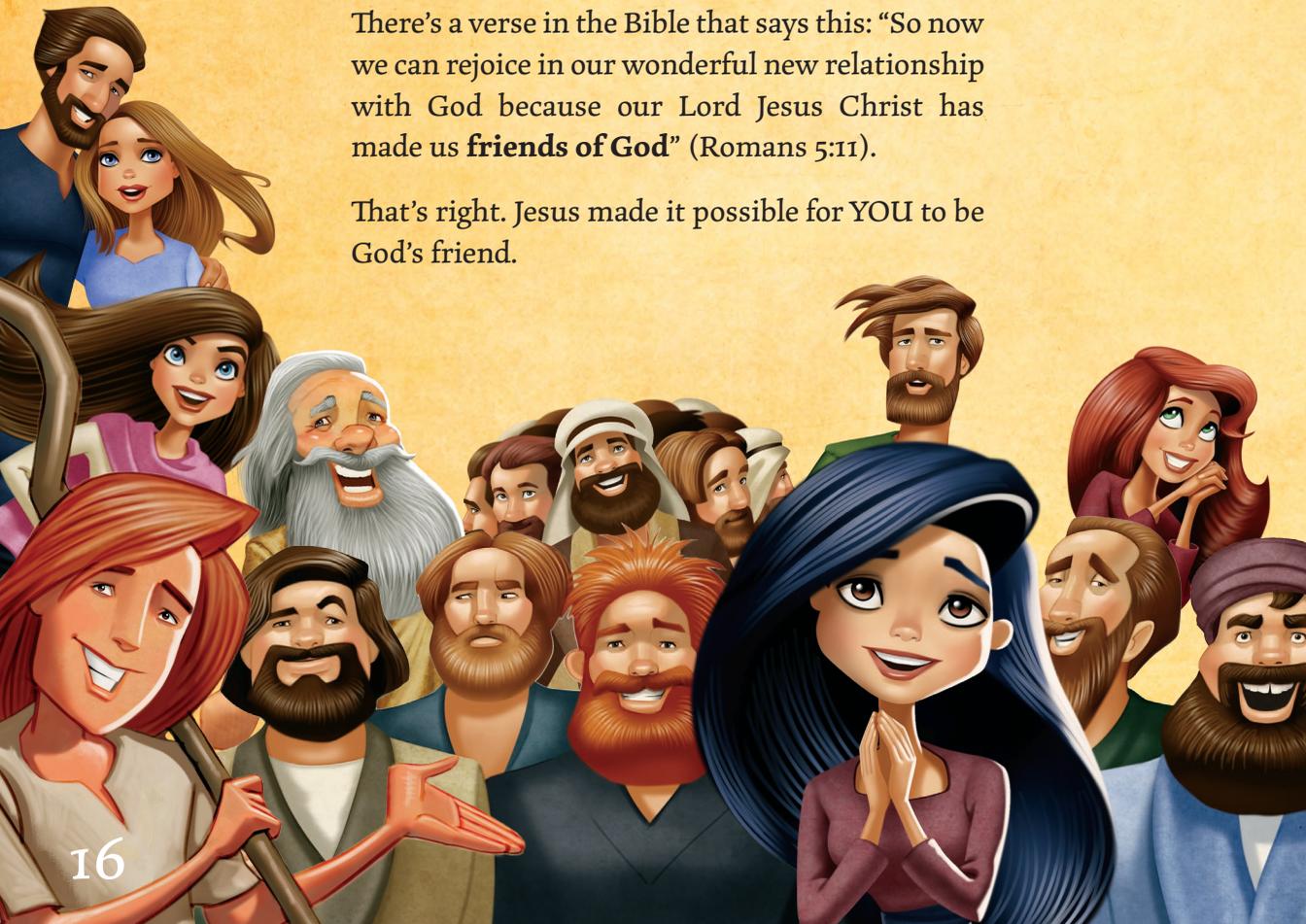
You are a living, breathing story.

Like he did for Adam and Eve, God has given you the gift of life...and the freedom to choose right or wrong. Like Joseph, your life will have countless ups and downs...and a purpose you might not yet understand. Like Thomas, you may have doubts from time to time, but Jesus can use your doubts to make your faith even stronger.

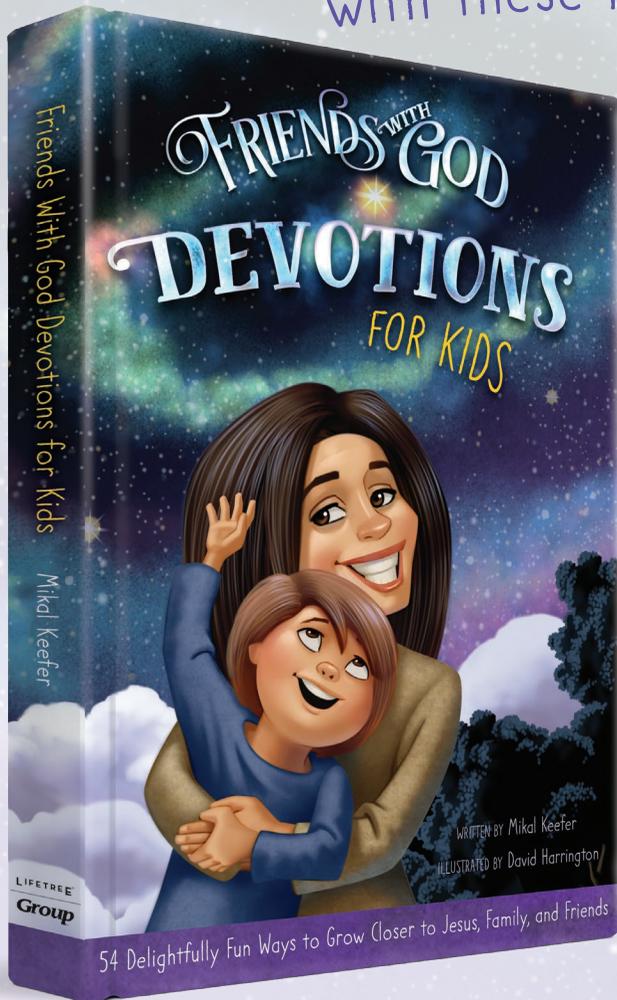
And through it all, God will be right by your side.

There's a verse in the Bible that says this: "So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us **friends of God**" (Romans 5:11).

That's right. Jesus made it possible for YOU to be God's friend.



Kids grow even closer to God
with these matching devotions!



God loves kids! He enjoys spending time with them and sharing his heart with them.

Friends With God Devotions for Kids offers 54 chances for kids to spend time with God. They'll read, draw, write, and have fun with friends and family.

Designed as a companion to the *Friends With God Story Bible*, these devotions also pair perfectly with each of the 54 people kids meet in the story Bible. Just choose your favorite Bible story and match it with the devotion to dive even deeper into a friendship with God.

Friends With God Devotions for Kids: 54 Delightfully Fun Ways to Grow Closer to Jesus, Family, and Friends

ISBN: 978-1-4707-4862-3

PRICE: \$16.99 USD | Canada \$23.49

SIZE: 5.25" x 7.25"

Visit your favorite Christian book provider to get your copy.

Keep reading for a sample devotion from *Friends With God Devotions for Kids!*

JESUS DIES... AND COMES BACK TO LIFE



It was a terrible, painful way to die.

Beaten nearly to death, found guilty in a late-night trial, bullied by Roman soldiers.

Betrayed by friends. Pushed and shoved through crowded streets to a hill outside of Jerusalem and then nailed to a cross to hang as a warning to anyone else who might call himself a “King.”

Torn. Bloody. Alone in ways no one else could begin to understand.

And then—darkness. Death. A cave covered by a heavy stone that sealed away Jesus’ body from light, from life.

Except...

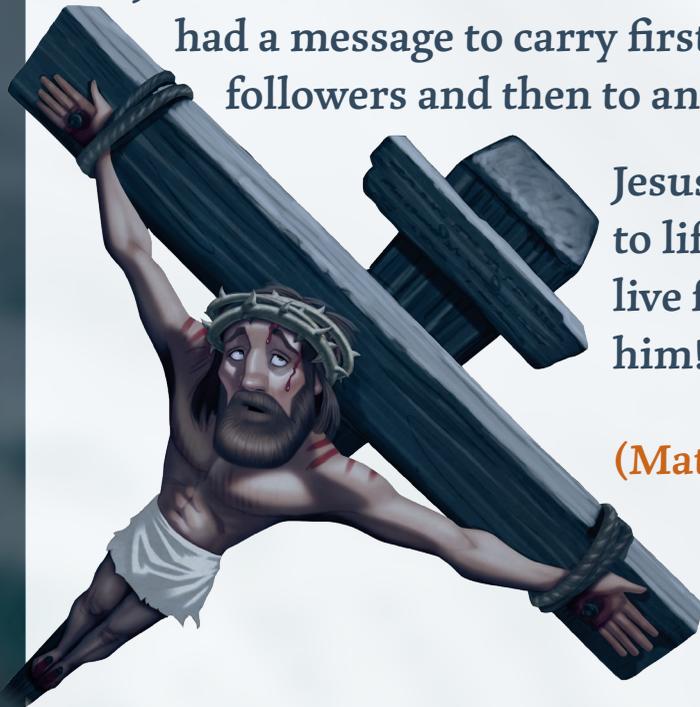
Jesus *is* life. Jesus *is* light. Jesus is God—and more powerful than death.

Early Sunday morning, just as the sun rose, women came to Jesus' tomb. What they hoped to find—Jesus' body—was nowhere to be seen. Instead, an angel greeted them with news that flooded them with hope.

Jesus had risen. He was alive. And the women had a message to carry first to Jesus' other followers and then to an entire world.

Jesus had come back to life—and we can live forever with him!

(Matthew 27 and 28)



Meanwhile, in *your* world...

Forever is...a long time. A *really* long time. Longer even than a decillion years—that’s a “1” followed by 33 zeroes. Write that number below:



1

How big is a decillion? Well, if you had every penny ever made in the United States, you’d have about 300 billion pennies—that’s a 300 with just 9 zeroes. Plus you’d have a piggy bank about the size of Nova Scotia.

There’s no number big enough to describe how many years “forever” is—but that’s how long you’ll be with God when you trust in Jesus.

You and God...

You'll be with God a very long time—so get to know him better. Find a quiet spot where you can talk out loud. Finish this sentence: “God, here’s what’s been happening lately...”

You and others...



Start a story with one line and then ask a friend to add a line. Keep going until someone’s stuck.

Friendship Nugget

When you love and follow Jesus, you don’t have to *hope* you’ll live forever with him—you can be *sure*. Your friend, God, has promised and God always keeps his promises! 



Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.”

(Matthew 28:5-6)



JEFF White is a lead content developer for Group Publishing, where he's written or co-written 15 books for church ministry and faith development. He has a passion for helping people grow their creativity, and leads creativity workshops at ministry conferences around the country. A graduate of Biola University, Jeff has also published several books for young readers, including *The Runaway Candy Cane*.

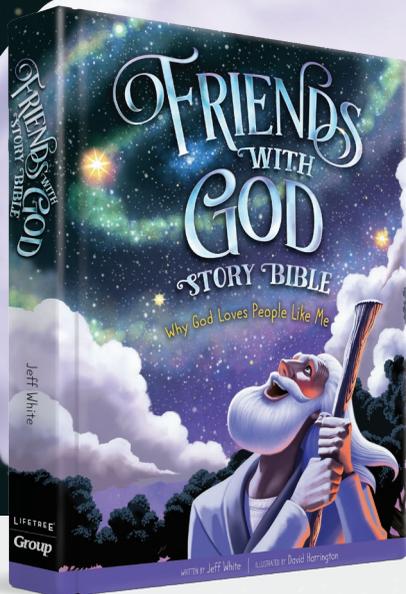


DAVID Harrington's love for art began at an early age when he drew on everything, which eventually led to a career in illustration. He graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, where he earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts with honors. David has illustrated numerous children's books and enjoys snowboarding, surfing, and spending time with his wife and children in Laguna Hills, California.

Knowing about God is good.
Knowing His heart is better.

Makes a great gift for
birthdays, holidays,
and celebrations!

Help kids realize God's true heart for them
and others in truly spectacular ways.

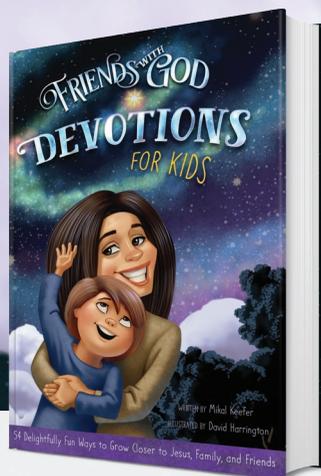


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Help kids deepen their friendship with God *even more* by pairing this story Bible with *Friends With God Devotions for Kids!*

Free: bonus app! Look inside for details.

LIFETREE®

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The whole family will love this beautifully illustrated story Bible.
Bring it home to start building memories today.