



Dear friends, little and big (and grown-ups, you can stay too, it's okay) —

Before the beginning of time God had a wonderful plan. He knew things would go wrong with his perfect world. He knew his children would run from him and break his world and his heart. Even though it was never meant to be this way. He knew, when his children ran from him, sin would come into his perfect world—and sickness and tears and dying would come. But God had a plan. He would come down and rescue his children. He would send his Great Rescuer, Jesus. And together they would pull off the greatest Rescue the world has ever known.

But just before Jesus began his Great Rescue operation where did he go?

To a university to get trained? To important leaders to get their help? To a spa to get some rest? To shop to buy some things?

No. He went out into the desert.

That seems like a bit of an odd place to go. Why did he go there?

"Jesus needed to get away by himself and be somewhere quiet and lonely. He needed to be with his heavenly Father to get ready for his new life.

In the desert, Jesus thought about the Secret Rescue Plan he had made with God. Before the foundation of the world, they both knew what would have to happen. To rescue God's children, Jesus would have to die. There was no other way. It was the reason he had come."

"Lent" is the time we remember this Secret Rescue Plan as well. And we make room for time with our Heavenly Father, too. As we read the stories of God's Great Rescue we remember important things. We remember why we needed Jesus to come. That we can't rescue ourselves. How much he loves us.

"Lent" is the time just before Easter. It's a strange word. But it comes from an old English word meaning "Spring."

Think about spring for a minute. Just before spring arrives, when it's still winter, what does it look like?

Not good.





The trees have no leaves. The flowers have all disappeared. The ground is hard as stone and the water is frozen. Most of the animals and birds have gone away. It looks like everything is dead. But spring is coming. And when it does—flowers, blossoms, rivers, leaves, life!

As we read this Great Rescue Story together, God wants us to remember: however we are feeling today, wherever we are today, whatever is happening in our lives today—however it looks, even if it looks like there is no hope at all—spring is coming. It may look like nothing is happening. It may even look like everything has died.

But...

Spring is coming!

Easter is coming!

Jesus dies —yes, but he comes alive again!

And one day death and sickness and tears—they will be no more. Because God is making the story end happily for his world—and for his children!









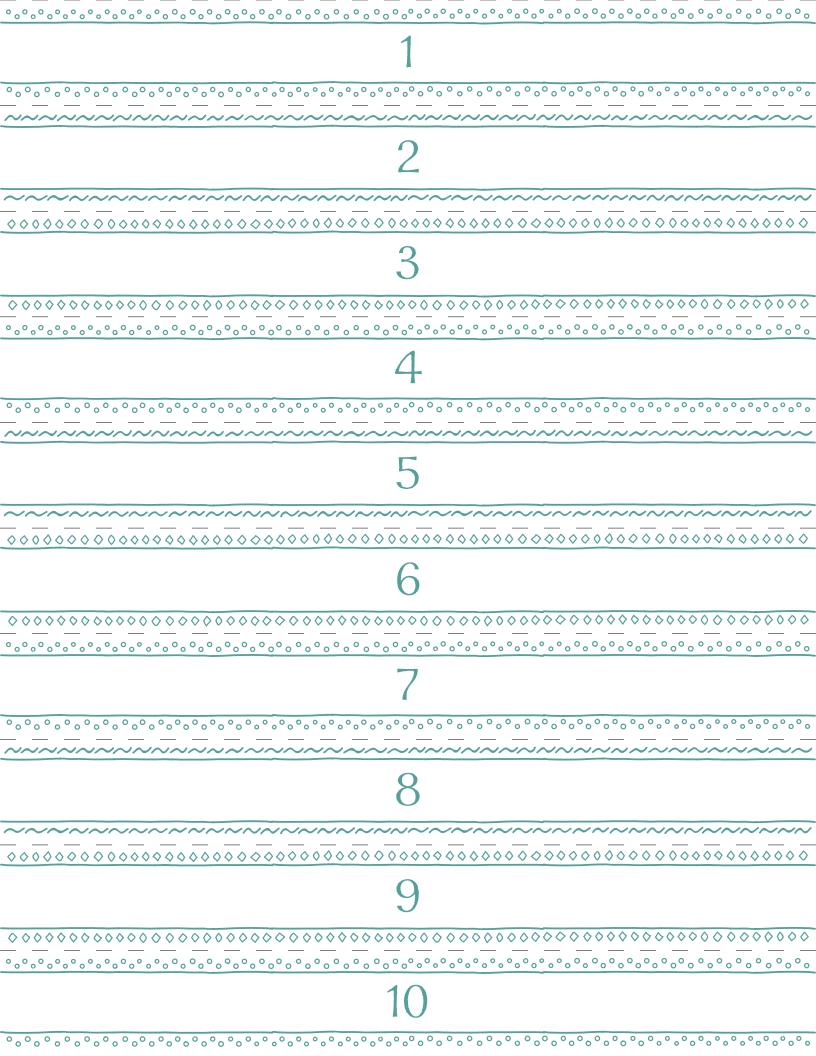
PAPER CHAIN LENT READING GUIDE

HOW TO MAKE THE READING CHAIN:

- 1. Print off this Lent Guide, making sure to print double sided!
- 2. Cut along the dotted lines to create strips of paper.
- 3. Making sure that the number side of the strip faces outward, tape, glue, or staple the far ends of one paper strip together into a ring.
- 4. Thread another strip of paper through the center of the first paper ring, then join the ends of this second strip together.
- 5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 (making sure that the chains are in numerical order) until all 40 strips of paper have been linked together, forming a chain.
- 6. For every day of reading, rip one ring off the chain starting with number 1, and read the chapter printed on the flipside of the ring.

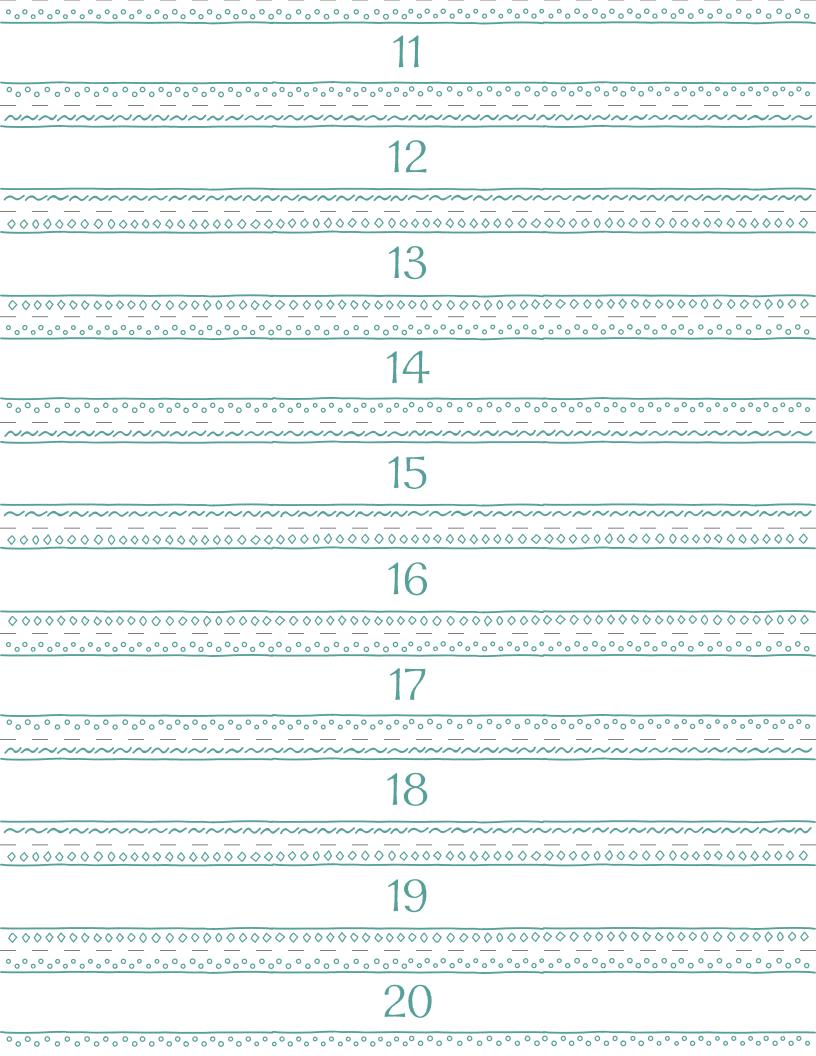


Note: Sundays are Catch Up Days, so there are no chains to open.



The Story and the Song
The Beginning: A Perfect Home
The Terrible Lie
A New Beginning
A Giant Staircase to Heaven
Son of Laughter
The Present
The Girl No One Wanted
The Forgiving Prince

God to the Rescue



God	Ma	kes	a	Way
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Ten Ways to be Perfect

The Warrior Leader

The Teeny Weenie... True King

The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant

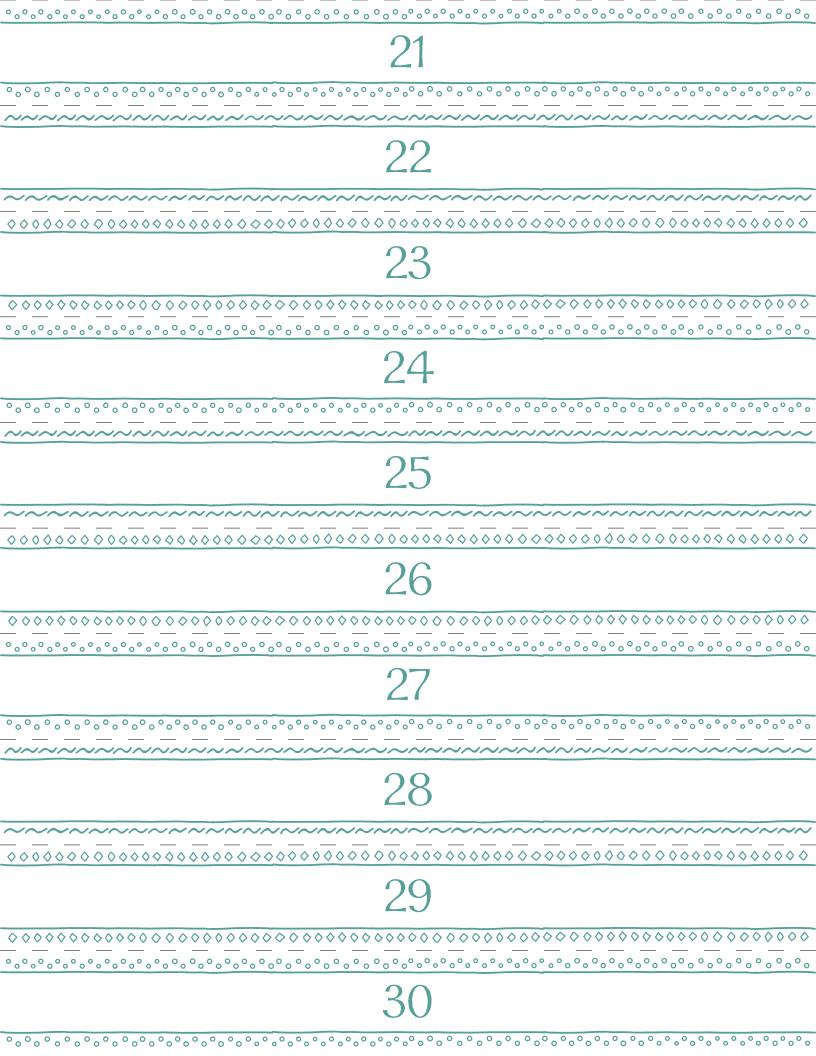
The Good Shepherd

A Little Servant Girl and the Proud General

Operation "No More Tears!"

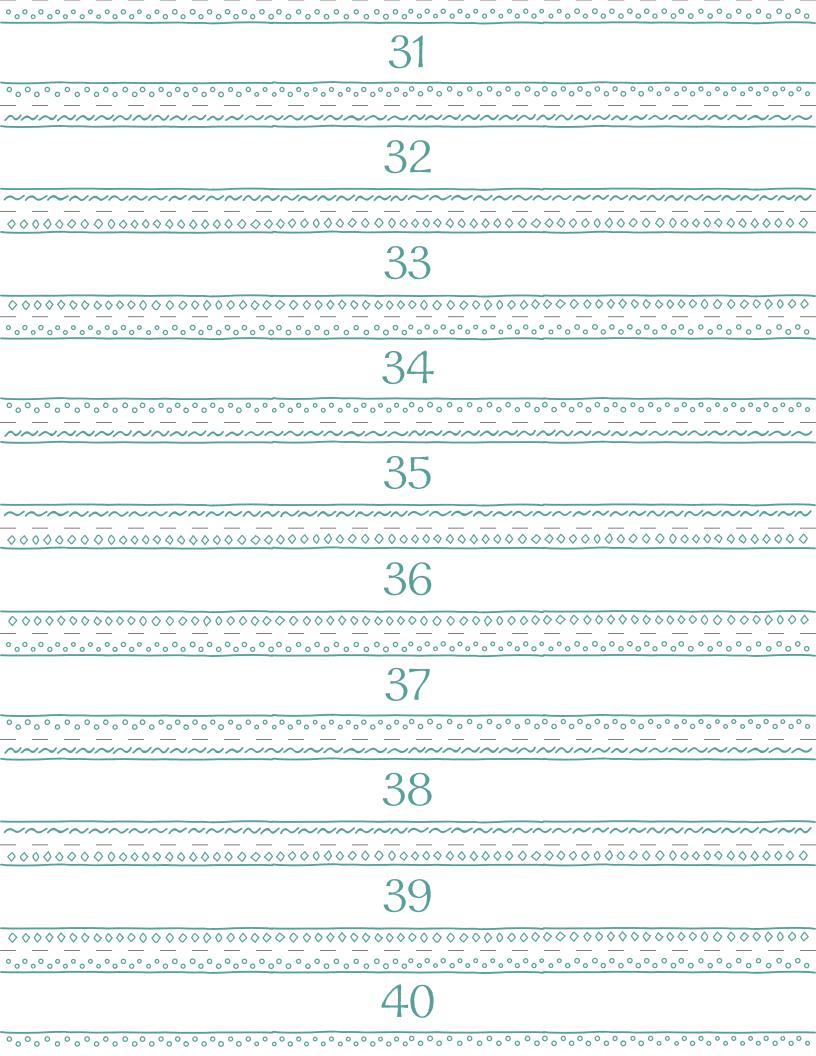
Daniel and the Scary Sleepover

God's Messenger



Get Ready!
He's Here!
The Light of the Whole World
The King of All Kings
Heaven Breaks Through
Let's Go
A Little Girl and a Poor Frail Lady
How To Pray
The Singer

The Captain of the Storm



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Treasure Hunt

The Friend of Little Children

The Man Who Didn't Have Any Friends (None)

Running Away

Washed With Tears

The Servant King

A Dark Night in the Garden

The Sun Stops Shining

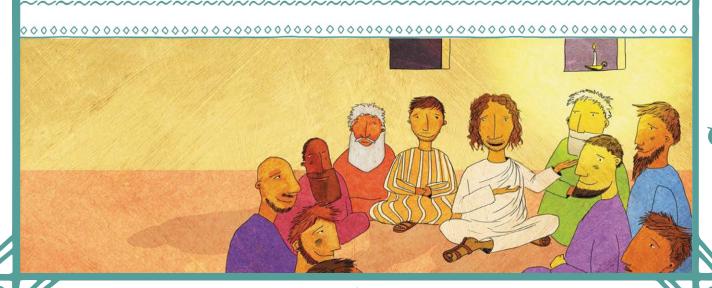
God's Wonderful Surprise



2024 Lent Calendar - Reading Guide

February 2024

		. 00	noary 20			
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	5	0	7	0	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			The Story and the Song	The Beginning: A Perfect Home	The Terrible Lie	A New Beginning
			1	2	3	4
18	19 A Giant	20	21	22	23	24
Catch Up Day	Staircase to Heaven	Son of Laughter	The Present	The Girl No One Wanted	The Forgiving Prince	God to the Rescue
	5	6	7	8	9	10
25	26	27	28	29 The		
Catch Up Day	God Makes a	Ten Ways to be Perfect	The Warrior Leader	Teeny Weenie		
	Way	Perfect 12	Leader 13	True King		
	•		13	4		



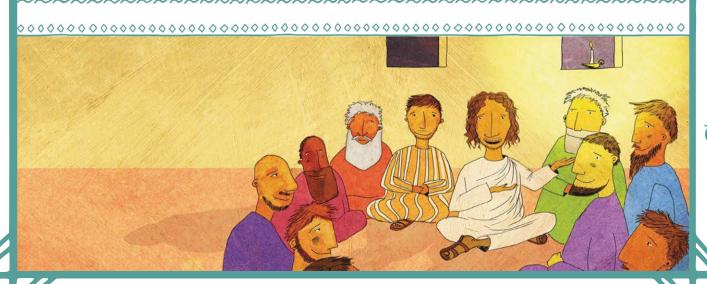




2024 Lent Calendar - Reading Guide

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues		Thurs	Fri	Sat
					The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant	2 The Good Shepherd
3 Catch Up Day	4 A Little Servant and the Proud General	5 Operation "No More Tears"	6 Daniel and the Scary Sleepover	7 God's Messenger 20	8 Get Ready	9 He's Here! 22
10 Catch Up Day	11 The Light of the Whole World	12 The King of All Kings	13 Heaven Breaks Through	14 Let's Go!	15 A Little Girl and a Poor Frail Lady 27	16 How to Pray
17 Catch Up Day	18 The Singer	19 The Captain of the Storm	20 Filled Full	21 Treasure Hunt	22 The Friend of Little Children	23 The Man Who Didn't Have Any Friends (None) 34
24 Catch Up Day	25 Running Away	26 Washed With	27 The Servant	28 A Dark Night in	29 The Sun Stops	30 God's Wonder-
³¹ Happy Easter!	35	Tears 36	King 37	the Garden	Shining 39	ful Surprise 40

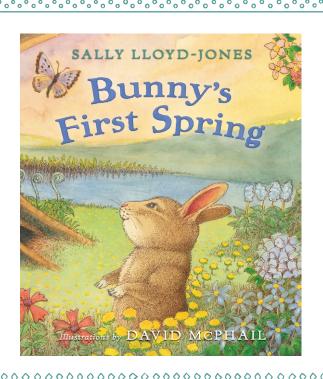




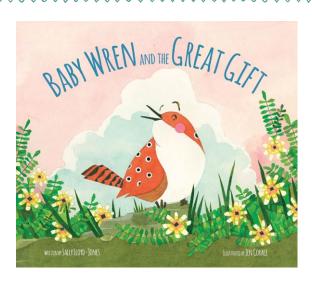




BOOKS TO READ THIS SPRING



This heartwarming picture book celebrates the Easter season and the miracle of nature's rebirth.

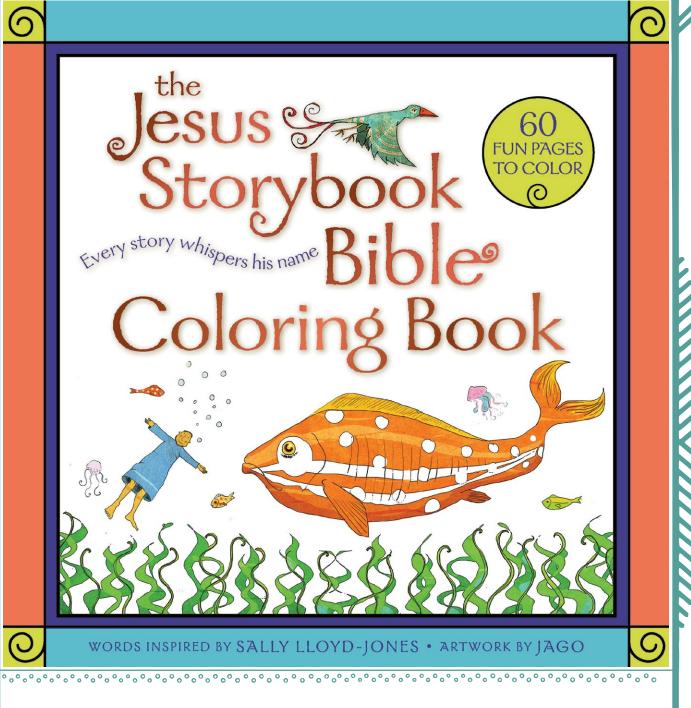


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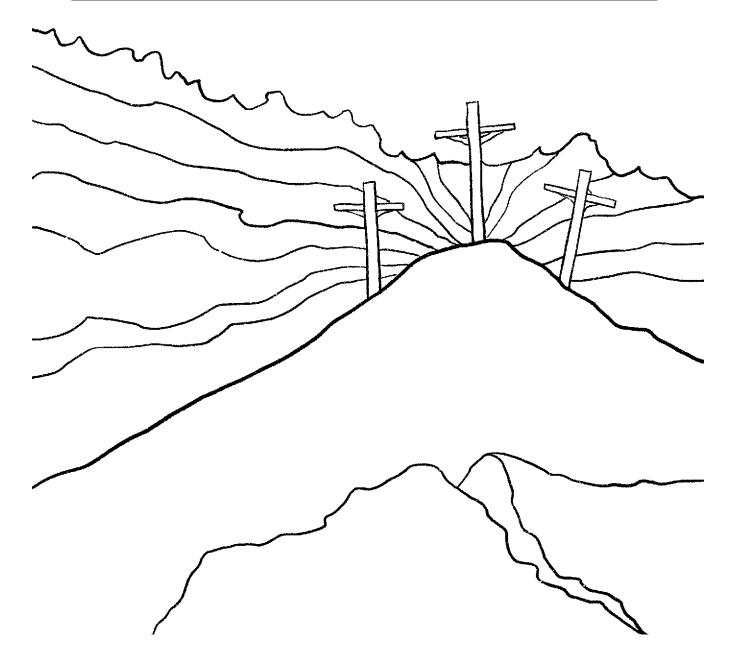
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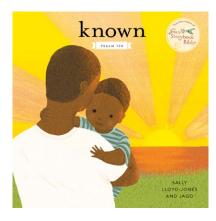
INSPIRING GIFTS FOR LITTLE ONES











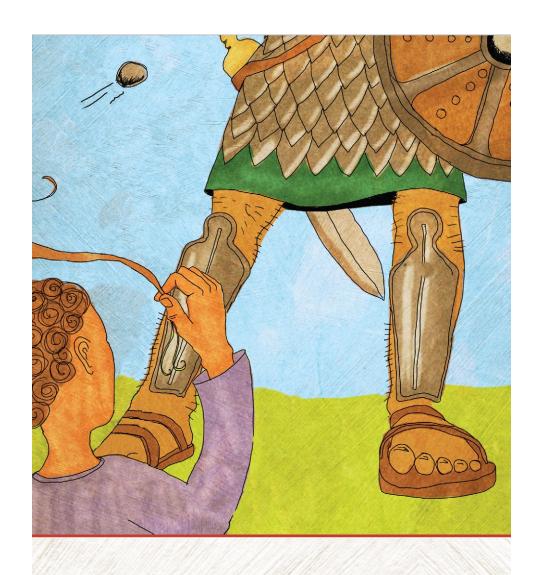




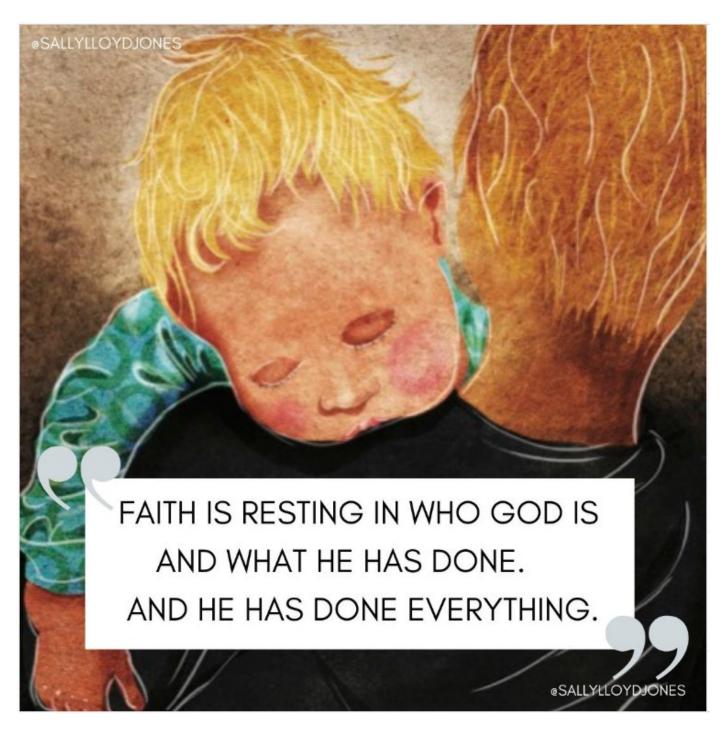
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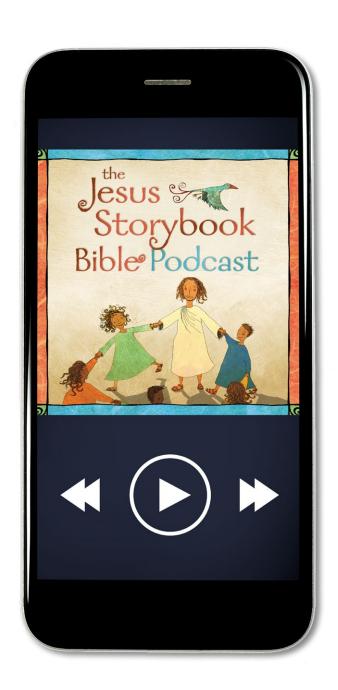


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Jesus Storybook Bible Podcast

Inspired by the many beautiful stories of hope and joy and grace which readers have shared in the 15 years since The Jesus Storybook Bible was published, the podcast is a platform where Sally invites people from of all walks of life to share about the life-transforming power of God's love in their lives. We hope you will be as encouraged by these stories of hope and joy as we have been. And be reminded that God loves you—with a Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love. This March, tune in to hear Sally's special Easter episode!

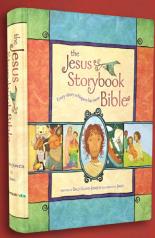
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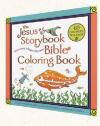
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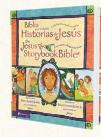
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