



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!









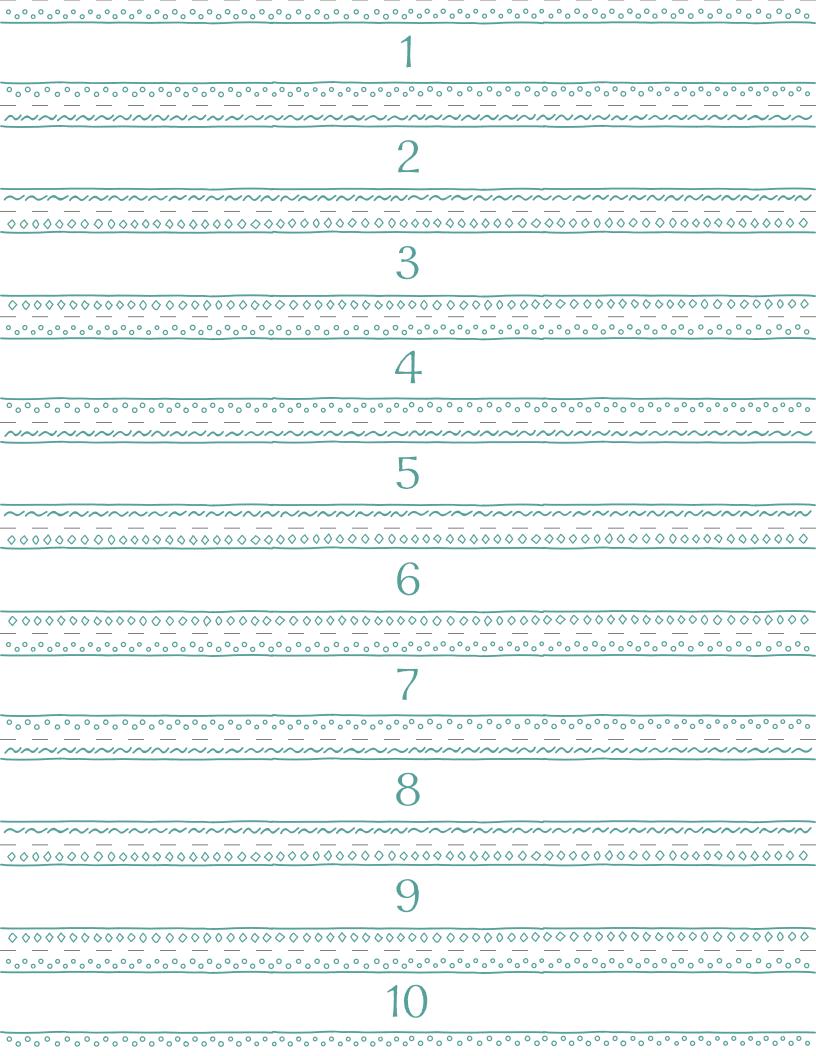
PAPER CHAIN LENT READING GUIDE

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.

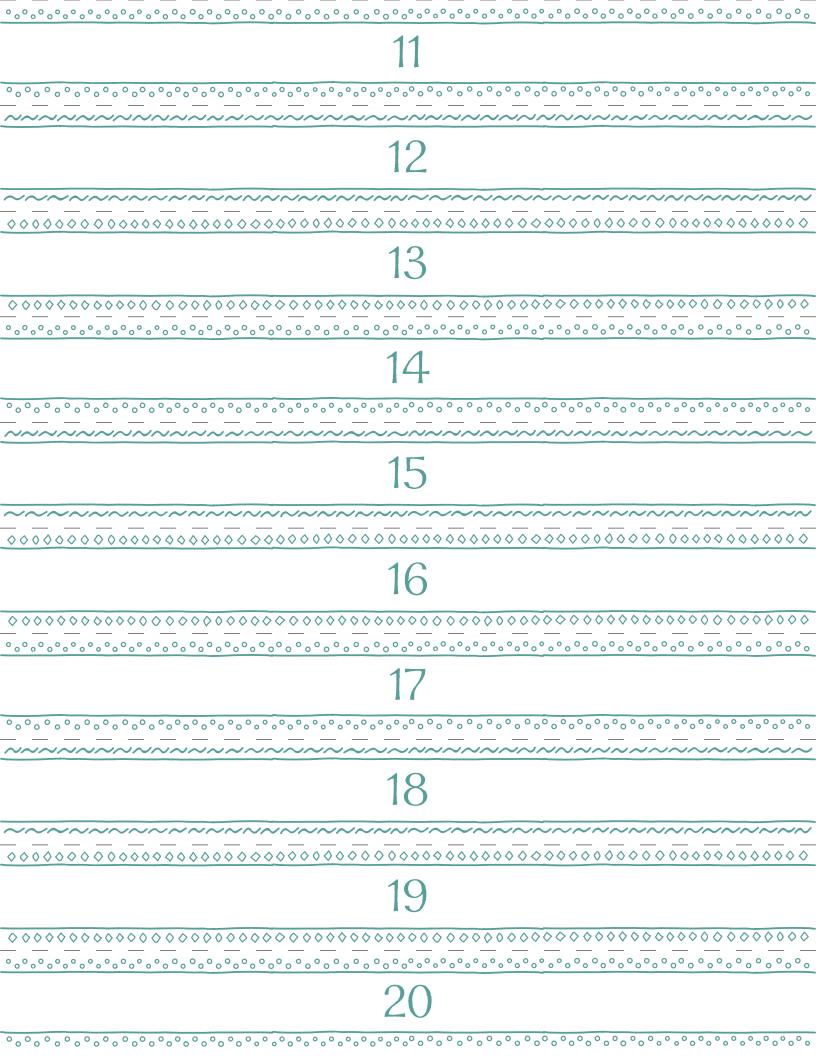


Note: Sundays are Catch Up Days, so there are no chains to open.



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	Mal	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

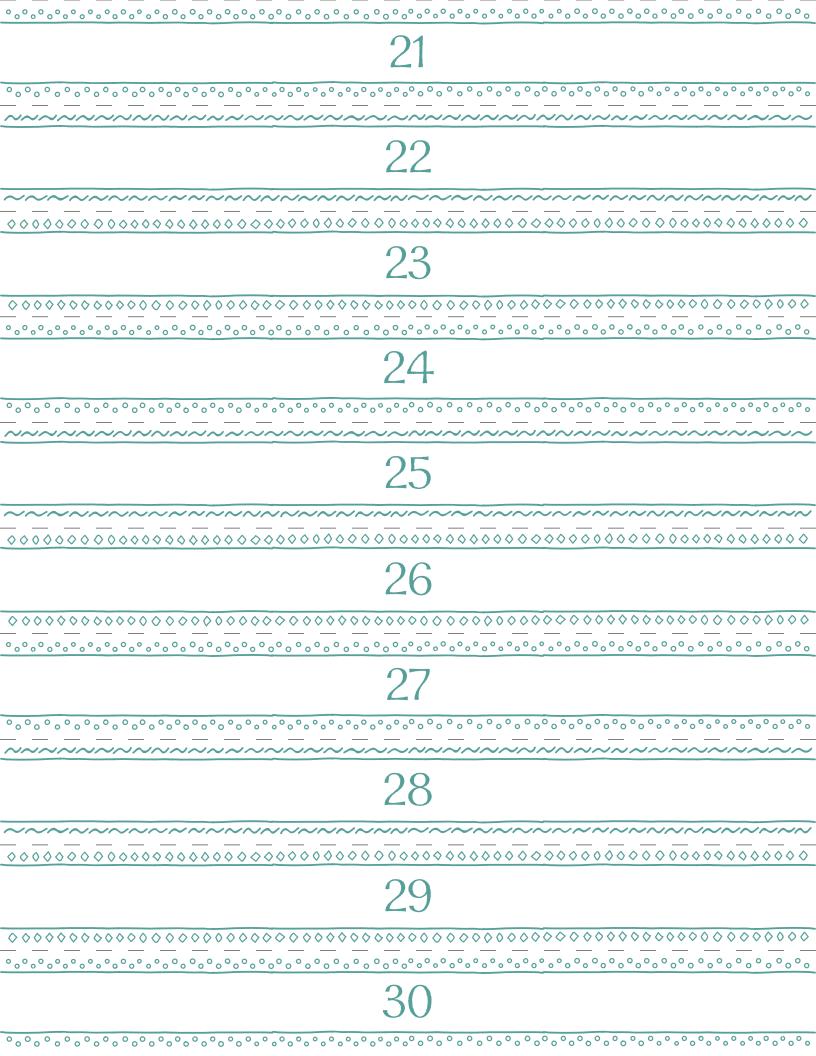
The Good Shepherd

A Little Servant Girl and the Proud General

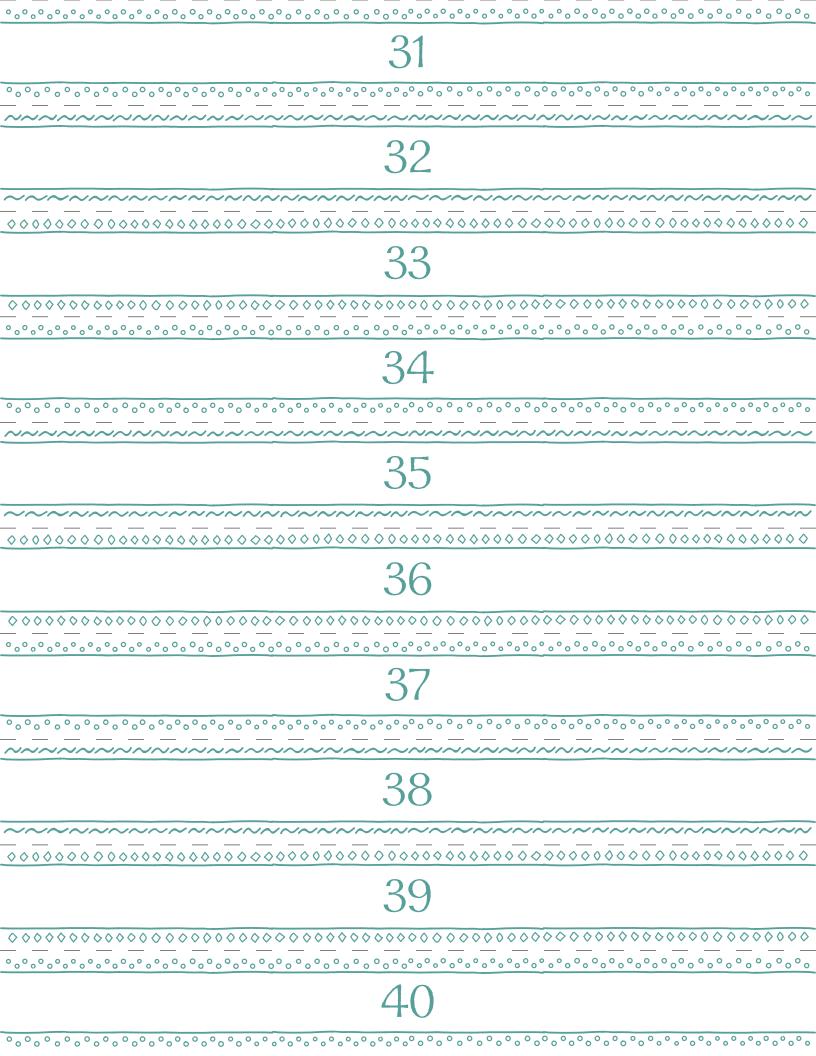
Operation "No More Tears!"

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



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

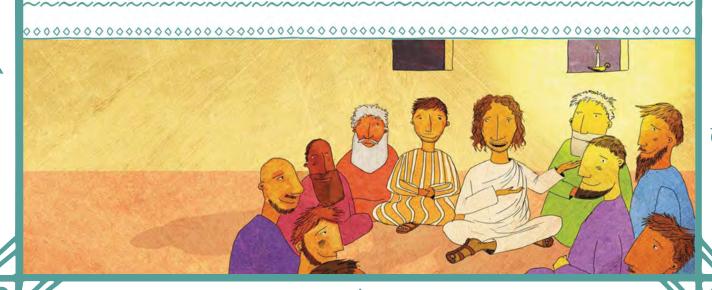
God's Wonderful Surprise



2023 Lent Calendar - Reading Guide

February 2023

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 The Story and the Song	23 The Beginning: A Perfect Home	24 The Terrible Lie	25 A New Beginning
26 Catch Up Day	27 A Giant Staircase to Heaven	28 Son of Laughter	1	2	3	4



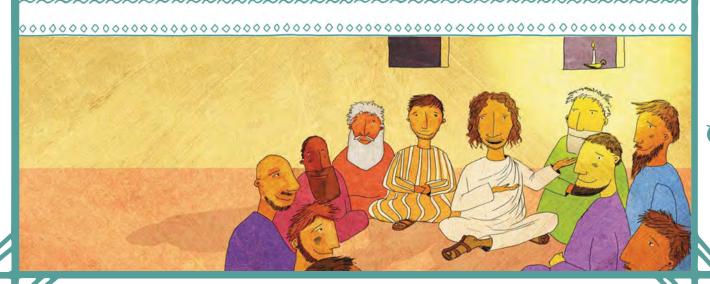




2023 Lent Calendar - Reading Guide

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
~~~~	~~~~~		1 The Present	2 The Girl No One Wanted	3 The Forgiving Prince	God to the Rescue
5 Catch Up Day	6 God Makes a Way	7 Ten Ways to be Perfect 12	8 The Warrior Leader	9 The Teeny Weenie True King	10 The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant	11 The Good Shepherd
12 Catch Up Day	13 A Little Servant and the Proud General	14 Operation "No More Tears"	15 Daniel and the Scary Sleepover	16 God's Messenger	17 Get Ready	18 He's Here! 22
19 Catch Up Day	20 The Light of the Whole World	21 The King of All Kings 24	22 Heaven Breaks Through 25	23 Let's Go!	24 A Little Girl and a Poor Frail Lady	25 How to Pray 28
26 Catch Up Day	27 The Singer	28 The Captain of the Storm	29 Filled Full	30 Treasure Hunt	31 The Friend of Little Children 33	







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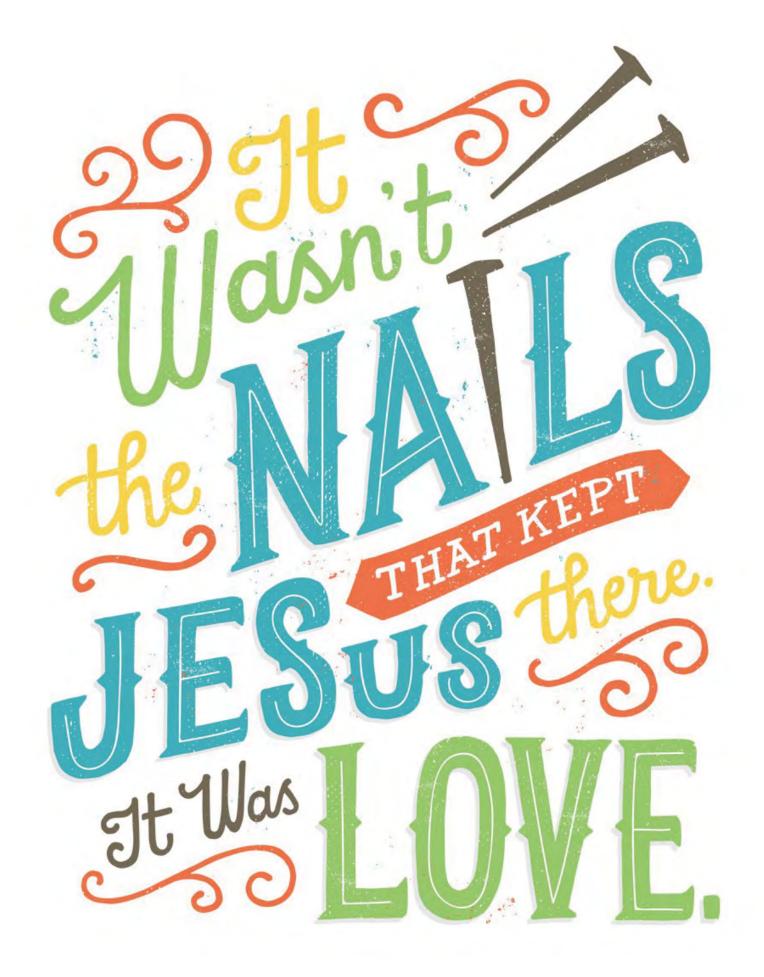
### 2023 Lent Calendar - Reading Guide

#### **April** 2023

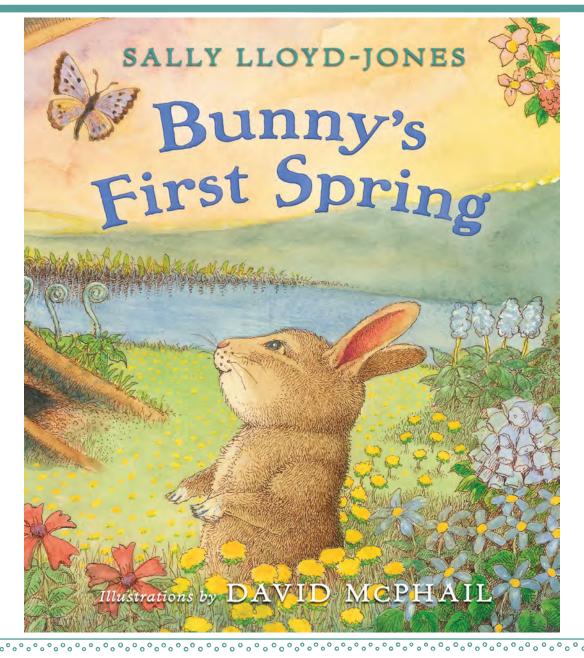
Mon	Tues		Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 The Man Who Didn't Have Any Friends (None)
3	4	5	6	7	8
Running Away	Washed With Tears	The Servant King	A Dark Night in the Garden	The Sun Stops Shining	God's Wonderful Surprise 40
10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29
	3 Running Away  35  10	Mon Tues  3 4 Running Away Washed With Tears 35 36  10 11	Mon Tues Wed  3	3	Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri  3









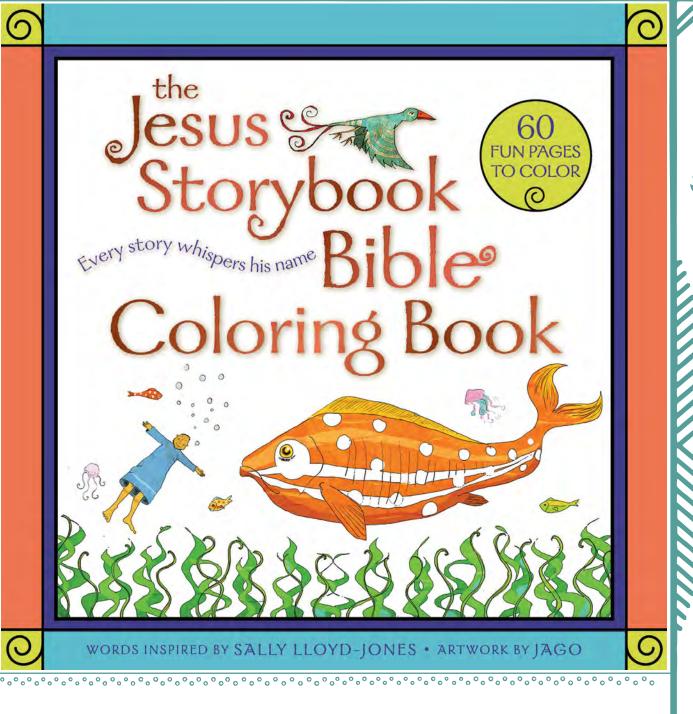


When a bunny is born in spring, he sees the world as green and new and full of hope. But as the seasons change, the bunny worries that the earth may be dying. In bestselling author Sally Lloyd-Jones' picture book celebrating the Easter season and rebirth, nature speaks to the bunny, assuring him of something more. Award-winning artist David McPhail's whimsical illustrations reflect the beauty of the world around us as Lloyd-Jones' inspirational text prompts readers to celebrate the changing seasons and the miracle of nature's rebirth.

AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE BOOKS ARE SOLD







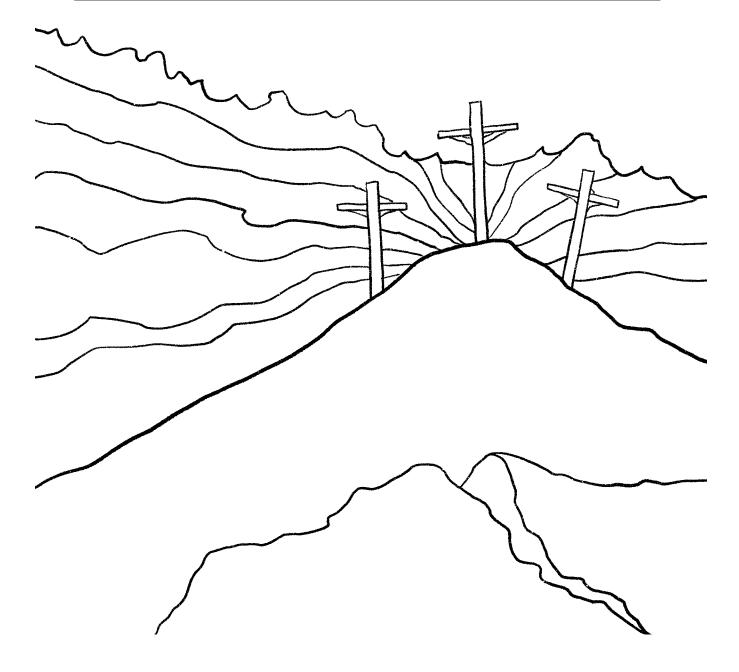
With over 60 pages of coloring fun, little ones will delight in experiencing *The Jesus Storybook Bible* as never before, unleashing their creativity as they absorb the words that whipser the Lord's name in this one-of-a-kind coloring book.

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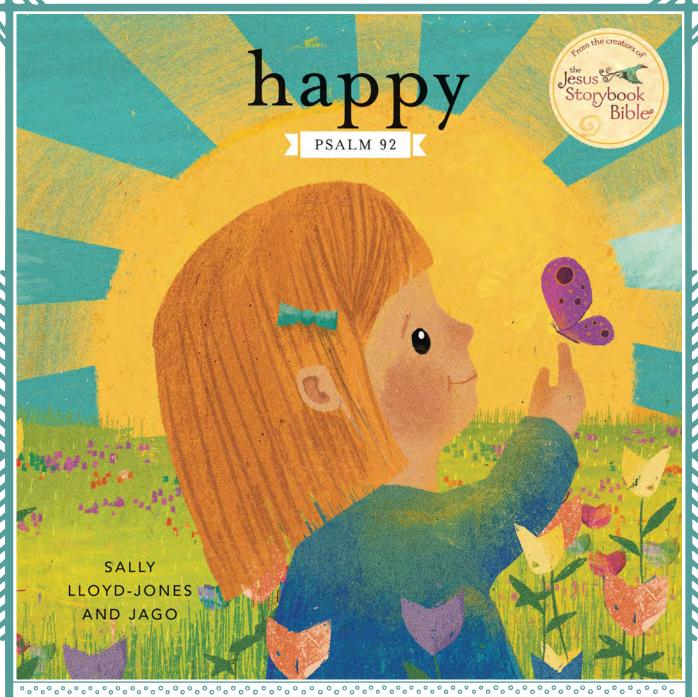


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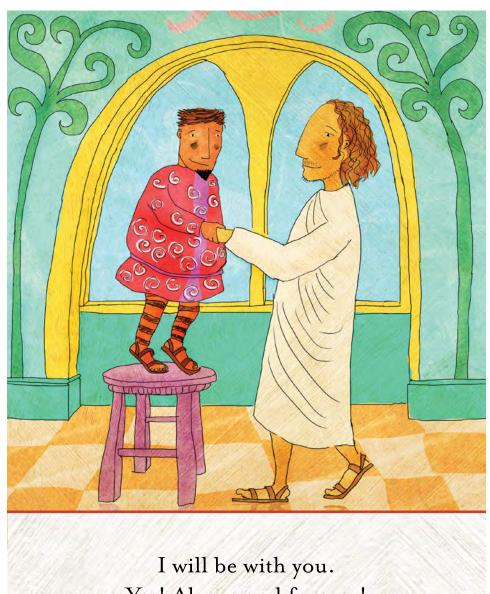


#### All through the day I give my happy songs to you.

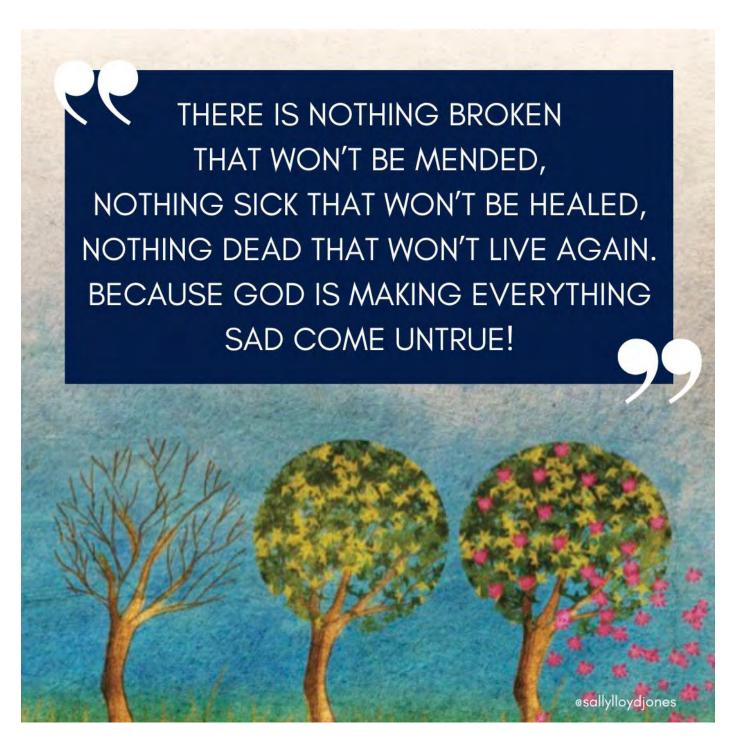
Inspired by Psalm 92, Happy's lyrical text celebrates all that God gives his children and the joy found in giving him gratitude.

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I will be with you.
Yes! Always and forever!
- The Jesus Storybook Bible



From the creators of The Jesus Storybook Bible, Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing is 101 Devotions About God's Love For You.

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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 April, tune in to hear Sally read five Easter stories on the podcast!

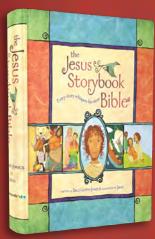
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# Storybook Bible

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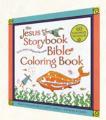
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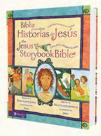
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