

Sampler

# FRIENDS WITH GOD

## STORY BIBLE

*Why God Loves People Like Me*



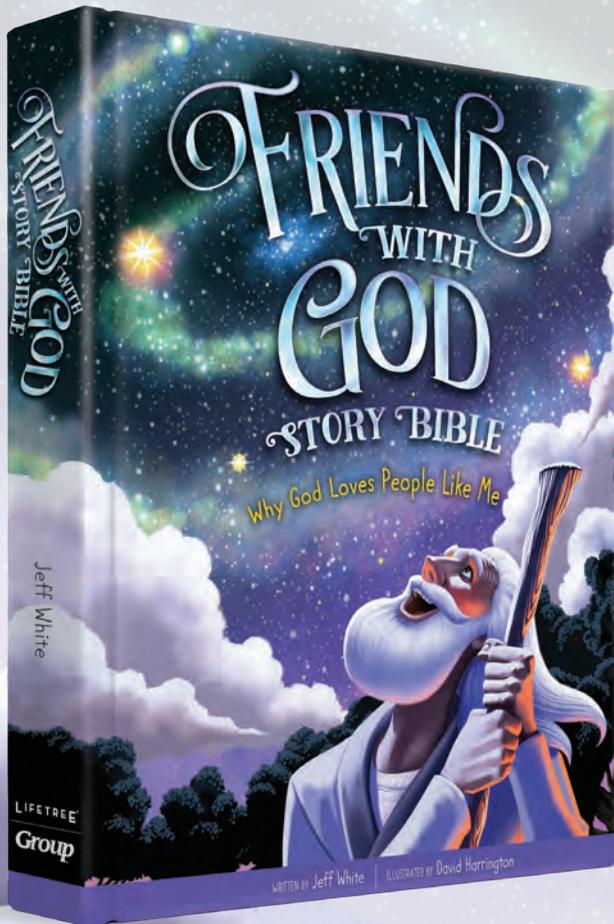
WRITTEN BY Jeff White

ILLUSTRATED BY David Harrington

LIFETREE<sup>®</sup>

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!*

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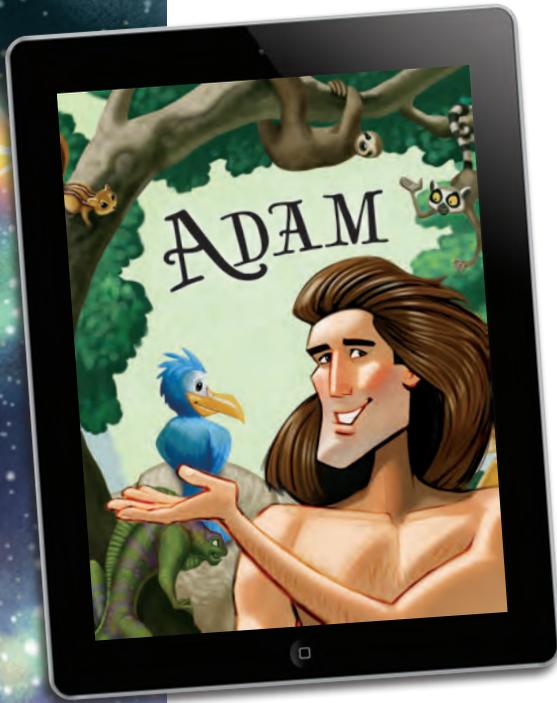
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# BONUS: BRING YOUR BIBLE TO LIFE WITH THE FREE FRIENDS WITH GOD APP!

Available in iTunes and Google Play

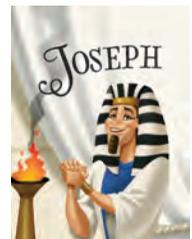
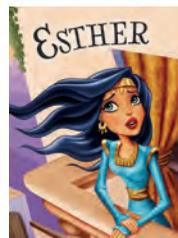
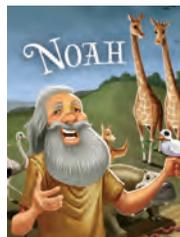
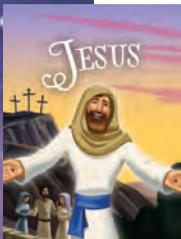


Come face-to-face with Bible-times friends of God. Scattered throughout the pages of the *Friends With God Story Bible*, digital triggers unlock mobile games so you can win virtual collectible cards with entertaining facts about Bible characters. Plus, you'll get a devotional card with a fun idea you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

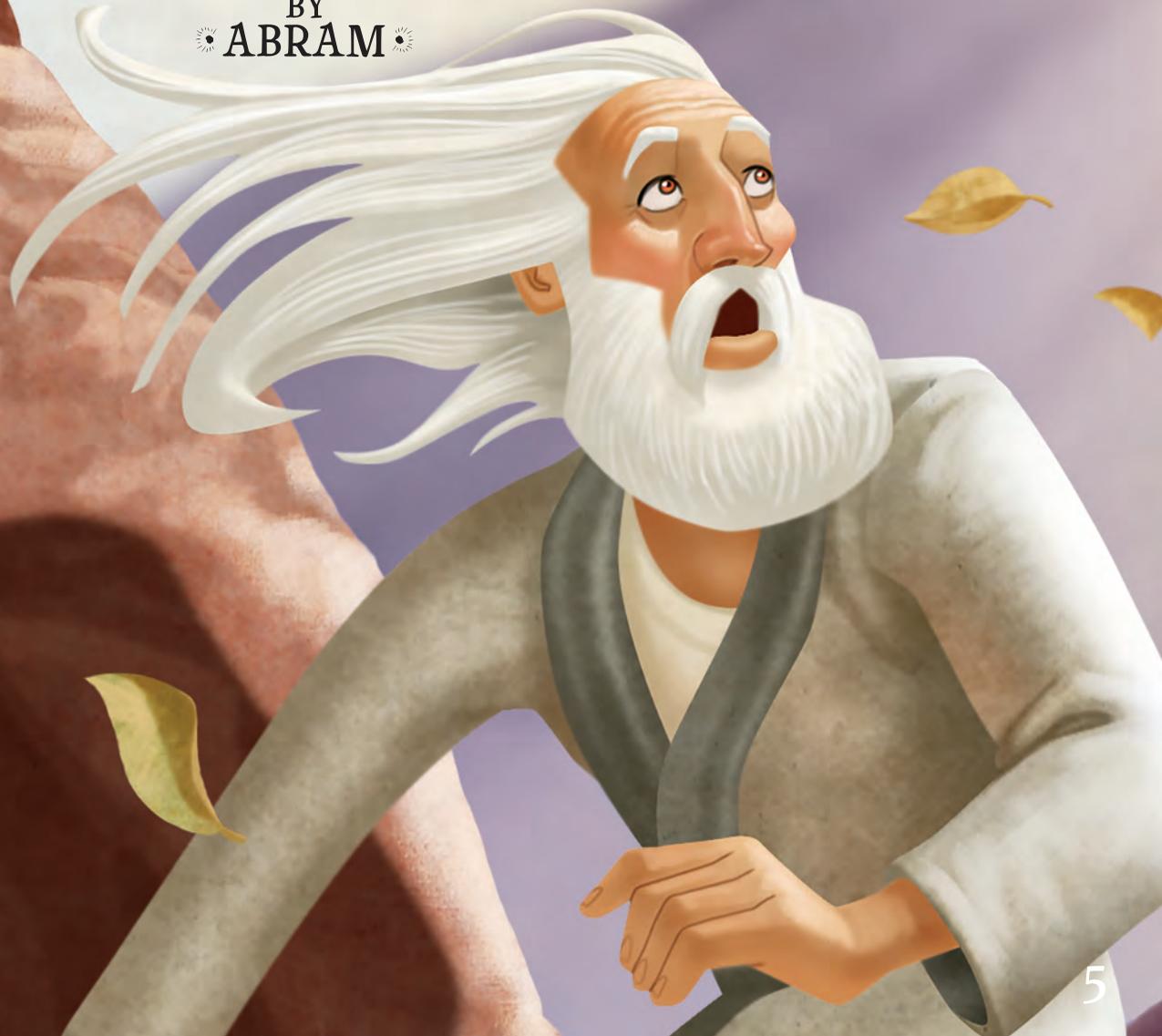
Visit [MyLifetree.com/Kids](http://MyLifetree.com/Kids) for more fun, faith-building stuff for kids!



# 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?

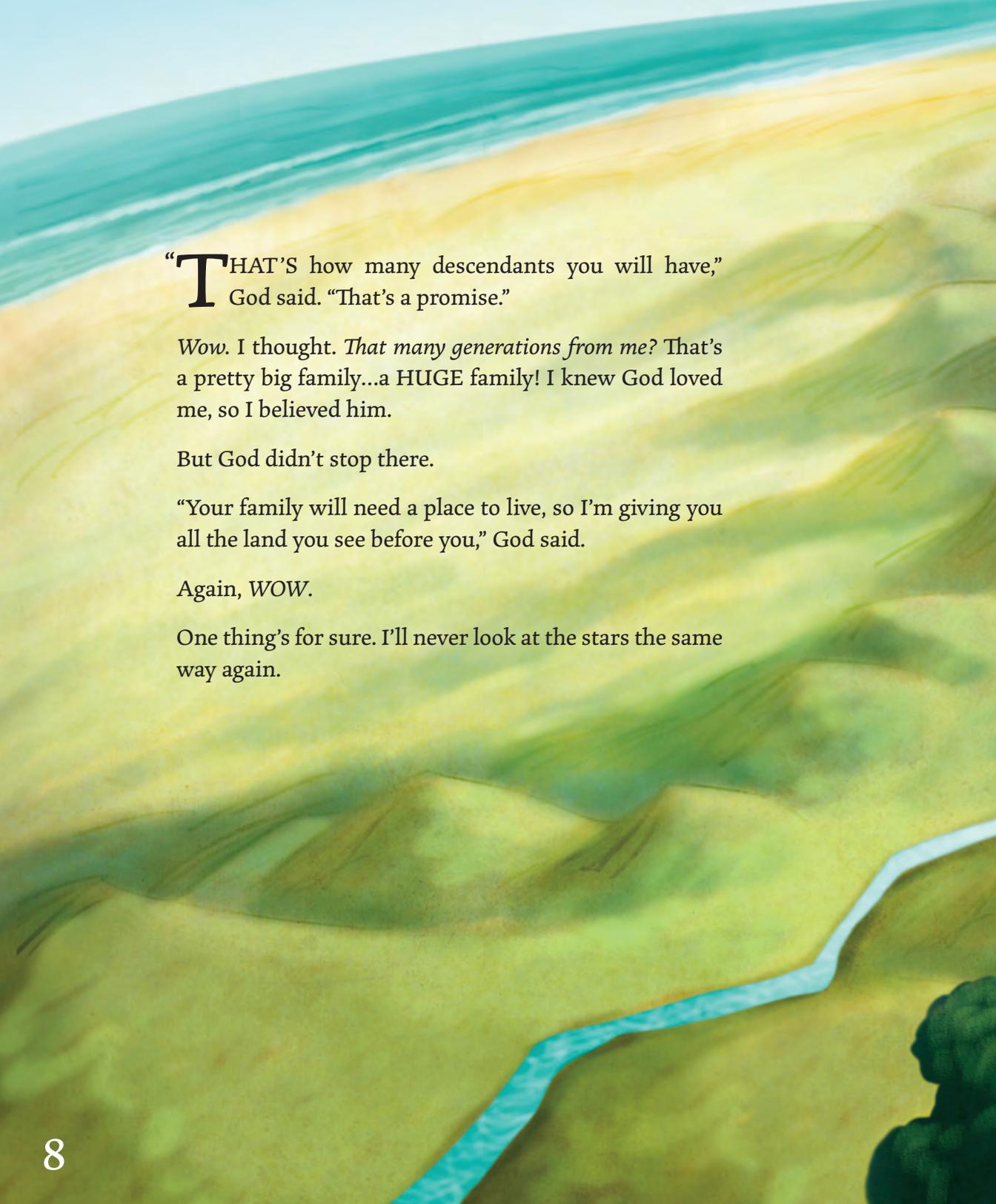
You know what God did? God made me a promise.

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!

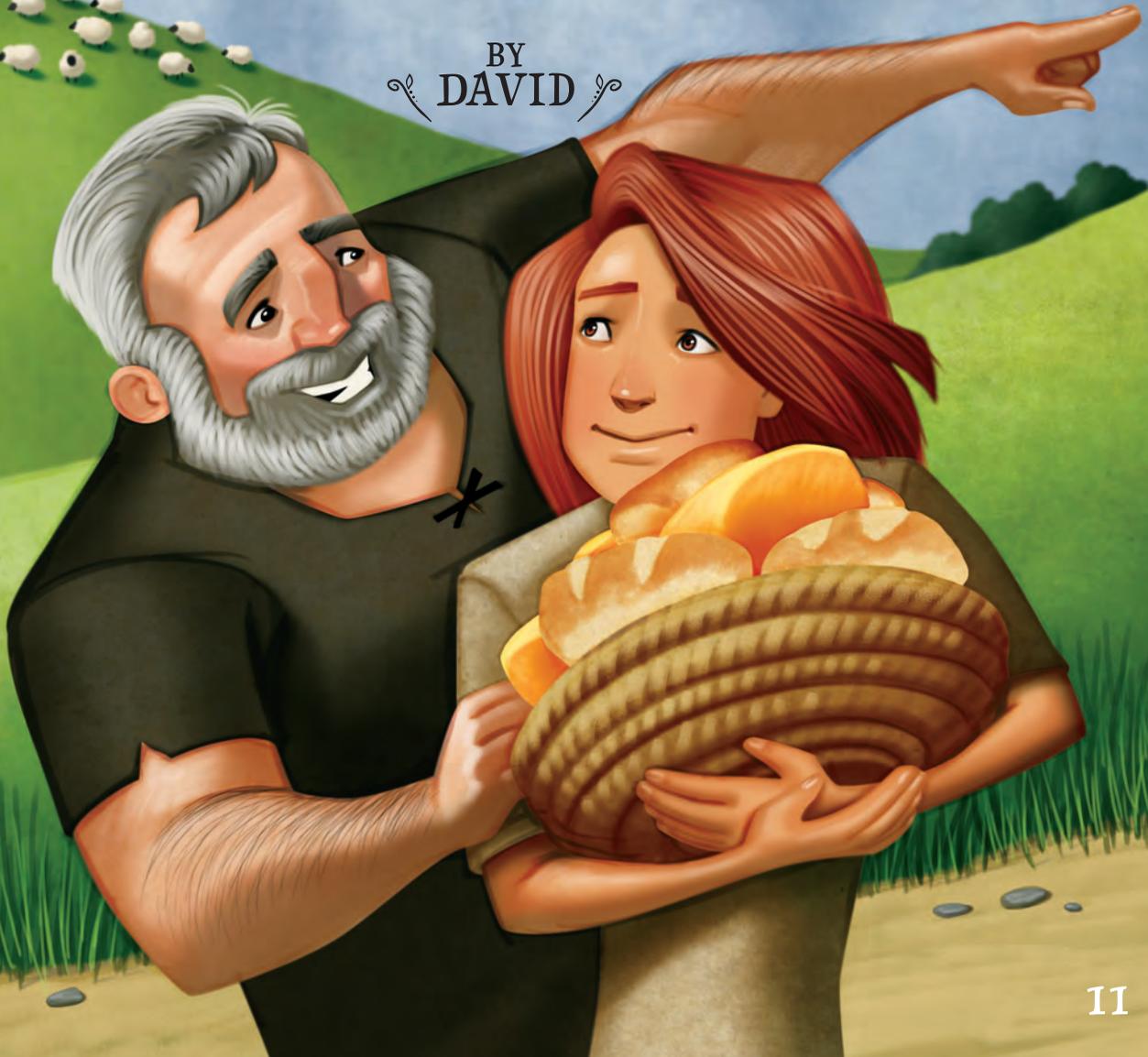
ABRAM



# GOD'S ON MY SIDE!

1 SAMUEL 17

BY  
DAVID





**I**T'S not easy being the youngest in the family. While my older brothers all get to go on exciting adventures, I get left behind doing the boring stuff like watching the sheep. Sheep don't do much; they just stand around eating grass all day long. Boring.

That's why I was excited when my dad asked me to take some bread and grain to my brothers. They were soldiers in Saul's army, facing an enemy called the Philistines. The Philistines bragged about their fierce warrior named Goliath—he was over nine feet tall. That's HUGE!

Every day he challenged our mightiest fighters to a battle, but no one was brave enough to face him. Even King Saul was afraid of that big bully.



My dad loaded up the bread and grain and said, “David, take this food to your brothers. Then come back here and tell me how they’re doing.” He sounded very worried.

When I got to my brothers, they were scared to death. In fact, every soldier in our army was terrified. For the fortieth day in a row, Goliath taunted us and defied our God. Our army just quivered in their boots.

I couldn’t believe it. No one was stronger than God! God would give us the strength to fight.

**S**O I went straight to King Saul and told him I would fight Goliath.

“No way!” said Saul. “You’re just a shrimpy kid. That bully will squash you like a bug!”

But I wasn’t afraid. I knew God was on our side. Saul gave me his own heavy armor for protection, but I didn’t need it. God would be my armor.

I grabbed my sling and a few smooth stones from the stream. Then I marched out to face the giant. Up close, he was even gianter than I imagined. Just one of his legs was taller than my whole body!

Still, I wasn’t afraid.





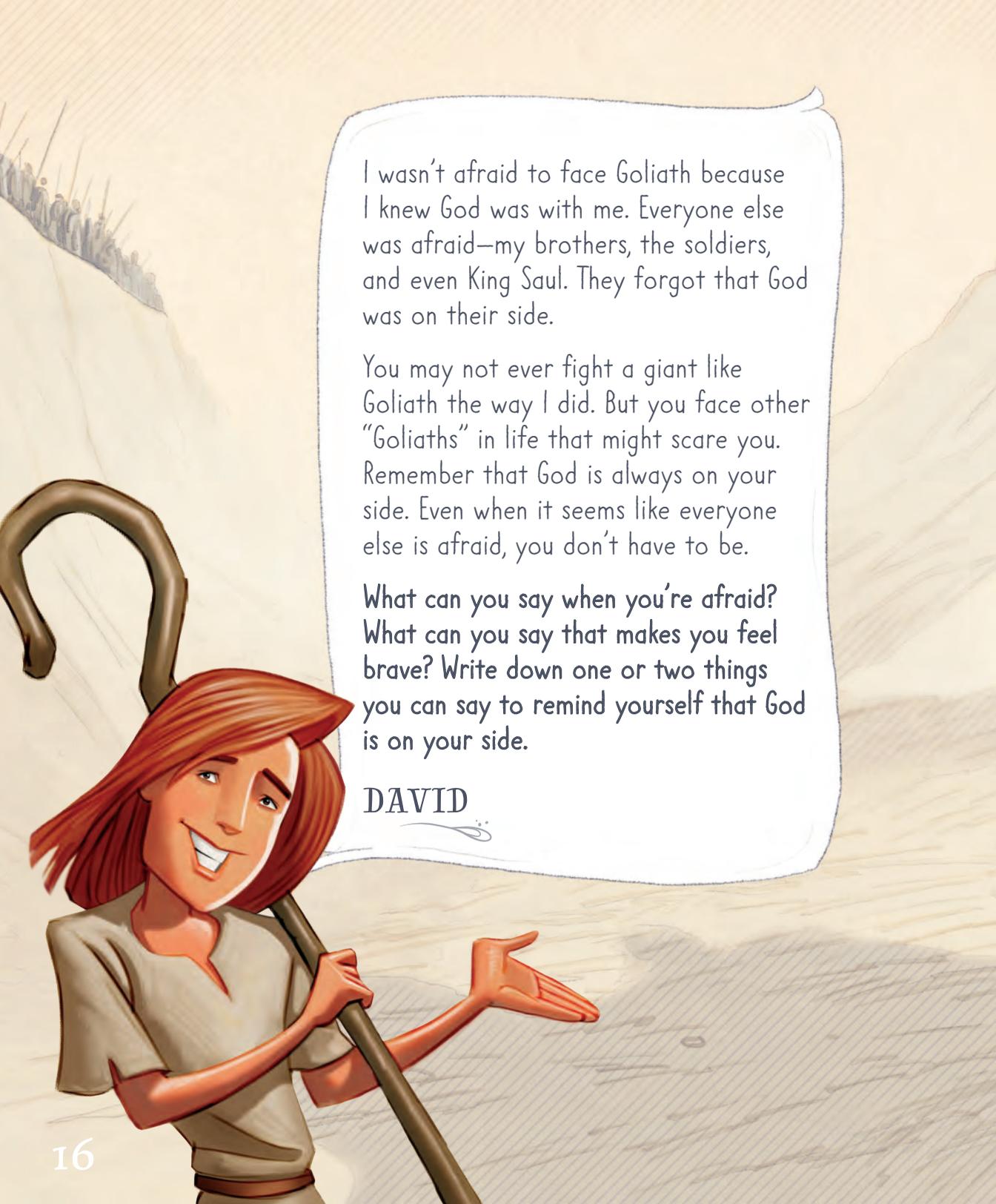
Goliath laughed at me. He sneered at me. He mocked me and told me he would feed me to the birds.

But I glared up at the giant and shouted, “I come to you in the name of the Lord, the God of Israel! God is on my side! And I will beat you, because this is the Lord’s battle!”

Never once did I doubt that God would help me. So I put a stone in my sling and wound it up. My sling twirled faster and faster, swish, swish, swish. I let the stone fly, and it smacked Goliath on the forehead—and that was the end of him.

The Philistine soldiers ran away like a flock of scared pigeons. We had won!

Even though I was just a kid, God helped me defeat that giant bully. And now the whole world knows that God is on our side.

A cartoon illustration of a young man with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a simple tan tunic and a brown sash. He is smiling and holding a large, curved wooden slingshot. In the background, a line of soldiers with spears is visible on a hillside under a bright, hazy sky.

I wasn't afraid to face Goliath because I knew God was with me. Everyone else was afraid—my brothers, the soldiers, and even King Saul. They forgot that God was on their side.

You may not ever fight a giant like Goliath the way I did. But you face other "Goliaths" in life that might scare you. Remember that God is always on your side. Even when it seems like everyone else is afraid, you don't have to be.

What can you say when you're afraid? What can you say that makes you feel brave? Write down one or two things you can say to remind yourself that God is on your side.

**DAVID**

# YOUR STORY

BY  
YOU!



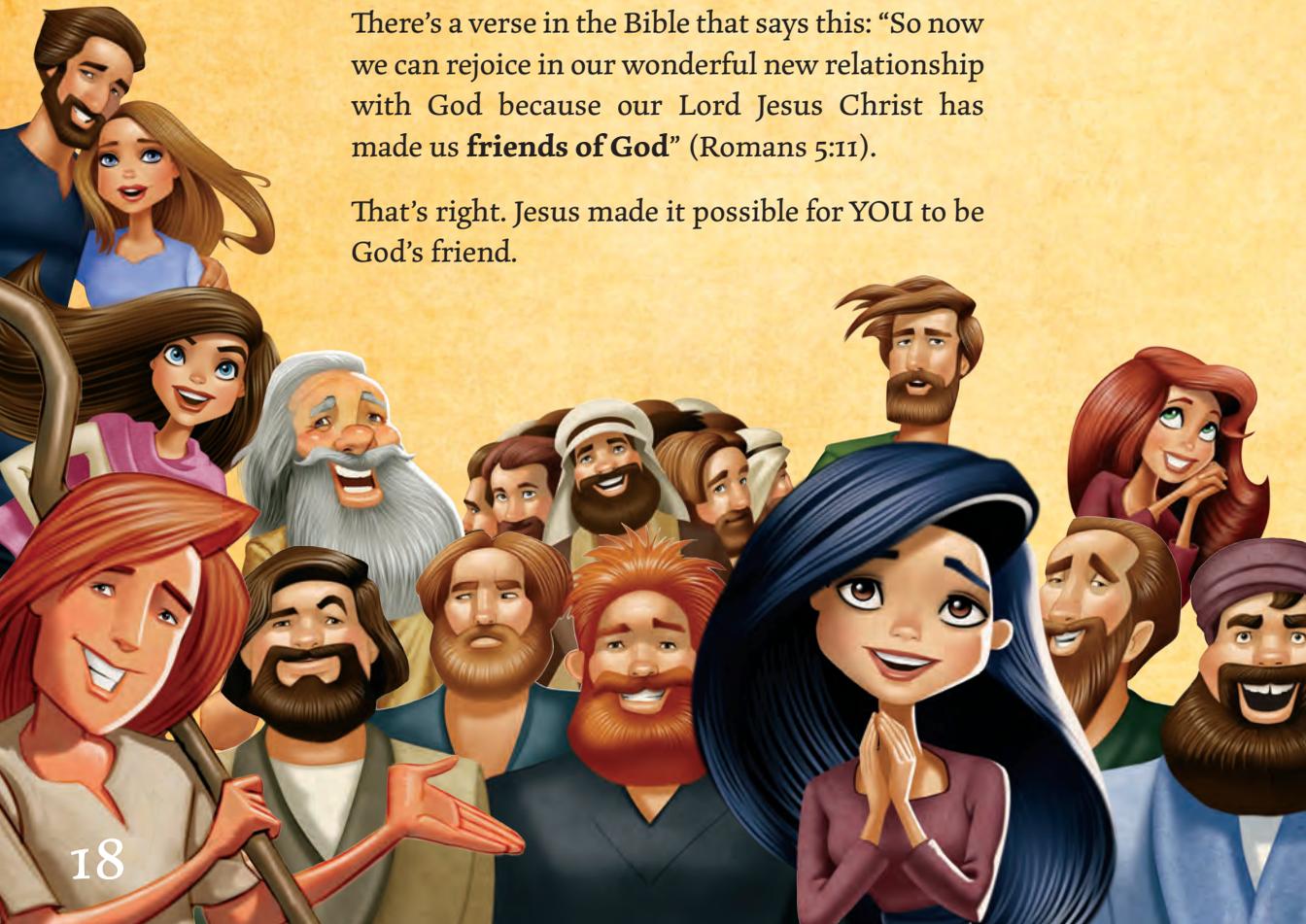
**Y**ou are a living, breathing story.

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.

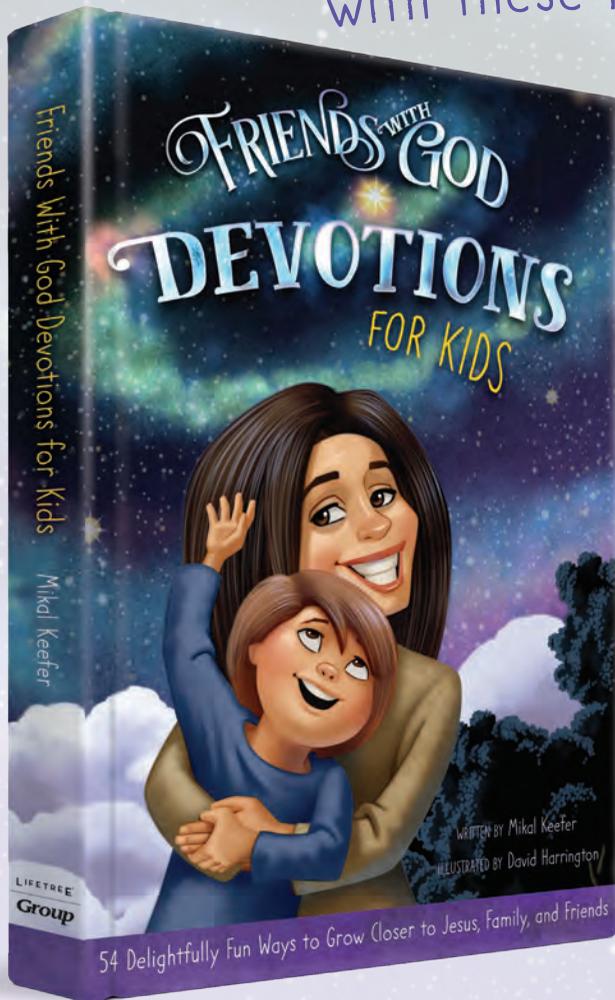
And through it all, God will be right by your side.

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!



**G**od 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

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

# GOD PROMISES ABRAM A SON



God came to Abram in a vision and told him, “I’ll protect you, and your reward will be great.”

Abram was thankful but told God what he *really* wanted was a child. What good were blessings and money without the pitter-patter of little feet in the tent? Without anyone to pass the blessings to when Abram passed away?

God nudged Abram to step outside and look up at the stars glittering overhead in the quiet night sky. “That’s how many descendants you’ll have,” God said. And Abram believed God’s promise.

God also promised that Abram’s descendants would live in their own homeland. Not that their lives would be easy—God never promised *that*. In fact, God told Abram a time was coming when his descendants would become slaves.

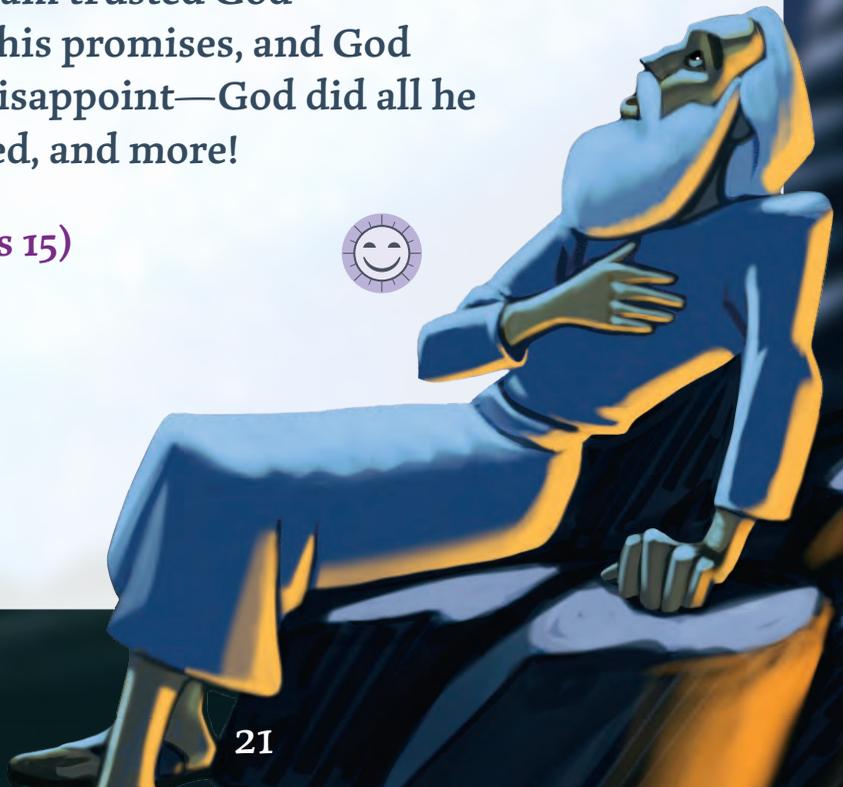
But Abram trusted God to keep his promises, and God didn’t disappoint—God did all he promised, and more!

(Genesis 15)



### What’s a “descendant”?

*You’re* a descendant! Your parents and grandparents are your ancestors, so you’re their descendant. Your children and grandchildren will be *your* descendants.



## Meanwhile, in *your* world...

Write about a promise someone made to you that the person kept—and it mattered a lot to you. What was the promise, and who made it?



## You and God...

If the person who kept that promise to you is still around, how about texting the person with a “thank you”? Remind the person that his or her actions are a reminder to you that you want to keep your promises, too. That’ll be a cool text to receive. And if God’s made a promise to you that you’re glad God kept, send a text God’s direction, too. How? Well, that’s up to you...but definitely write it!

## You and others...

Gather a few friends and play a game of If I'm Elected, I Promise... The goal is to get yourself elected Prime Minister of Everything by making promises of what you'll do if people vote for you. Take turns seeing who can make the biggest whopper-promises that might swing the vote their way!

P.S. If you're elected you're gonna be in so much trouble...



## Friendship Nugget

If you always keep your promises to friends, you'll be the sort of friend people always want to keep. 

Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" (Genesis 15:5)



**J**EFF 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*.



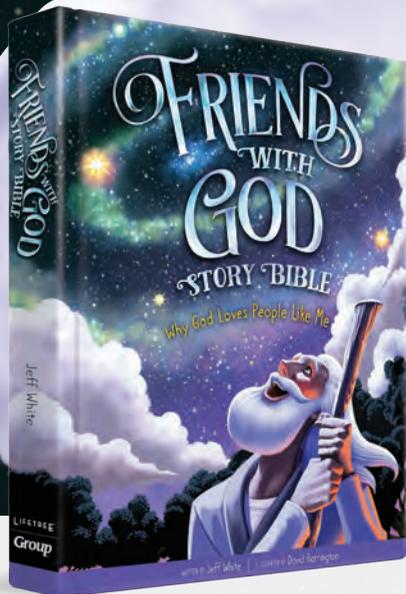
**D**AVID Harrington's love for art began at an early age when he drew on everything, which eventually led to a career in illustration. He graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, where he earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts with honors. David has illustrated numerous children's 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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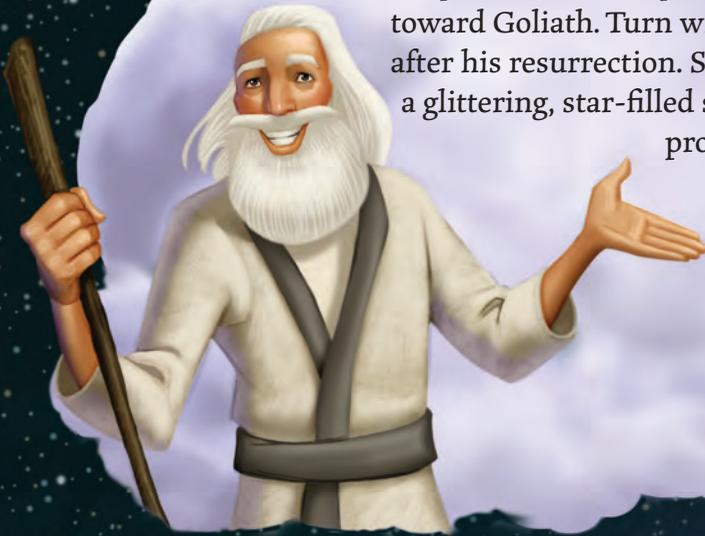
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Help kids deepen their friendship with God *even more* by pairing this story Bible with *Friends With God Devotions for Kids!*

Free: bonus app! Look inside for details.

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SAMPLER

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