

# David's Day

*David's Anointing: 1 Samuel 16:1-13*

When Samuel was all grown up, God had a very special job for him to do.

"Samuel," God said, "I want you to go to Jesse's house and ask to see his eight sons. I have chosen one of them to be the next king. When you find him, pour some oil on his head to anoint him, so that everyone will know he is the one I have chosen."

"That's easy," Samuel thought to himself. "I will know the new king right away. He's sure to be tall and handsome, strong and smart. He'll probably be wearing fine, beautiful clothes. I know what a king looks like!"

Sure enough, when Samuel arrived at Jesse's house, out strode Eliab, the eldest son, looking exactly like Samuel had imagined. He was tall and handsome, strong and smart, and he was wearing beautiful clothes that looked like a king's! But just as Samuel was about to anoint Eliab, God gently whispered in Samuel's ear, "No Samuel, he is not the one." Now Samuel was a little confused.

"Are you sure you're not mistaken, God?" Samuel asked. "That young man really did look like a king to me." But God smiled and said, "Samuel, I am not looking at how tall, or handsome, or strong he is. I am not looking for someone with fine clothes. I am looking for someone who has a good heart."

So Samuel, who always listened to God, called for the next son, and the next, and the next, to see if he could find which one God had chosen. But even though each one looked like a king to Samuel, the answer was always the same. As the six strong sons marched by, God whispered, "No, no, no, no, no, no."



Finally, out came the last, the eighth son. He was just a small boy. He had been working out in the fields, taking care of the sheep, and his clothes were smelly and torn. God gently whispered in Samuel's ear, "Yes, Samuel. Anoint him. He is the one."

And so it was that young David knelt down at Samuel's feet and was anointed with oil in front of his seven brothers. God had chosen David, the shepherd boy, the boy with the good heart. And one day, that little boy would grow up to be a king.



God's Wonderful Words  
to You  
I have chosen you,  
(Isaiah 41:9)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Do you know why I chose David to be king? Was it because he looked like a king? No. It was because he had a good heart, just like you do. So never worry about how tall you are or how strong you are or how smart you are. Just remember that I have chosen you—just like I chose David. And even though you may never be a king or queen, you are wonderful just as you are and very, very special to me.

With All My Love,  
**GOD**





# The Stone That Struck the Giant

*David and Goliath: 1 Samuel 17*

Goliath was a very ugly, very scary, very big giant. He was as tall as a house. His eyes were as big as baseballs. His legs were as thick as tree trunks. Everyone was afraid of Goliath. Everyone, that is, except little David.

Now David and Goliath were very different. David was small; Goliath was huge. David was quiet; Goliath was noisy. David was kind; Goliath was mean. David sang like a bird; Goliath roared like a lion. David ate porridge for breakfast; Goliath ate squirrels. But the most important difference between David and Goliath was David knew God; Goliath did not.

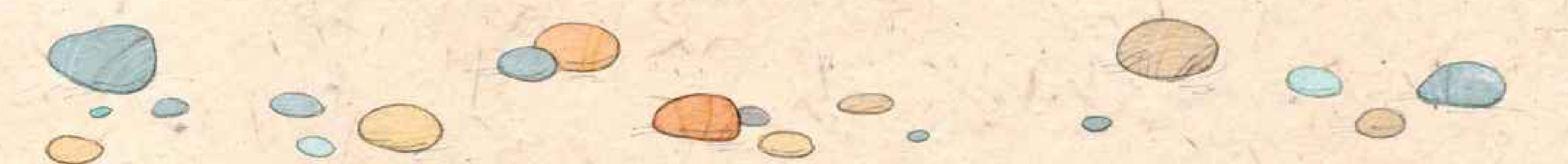
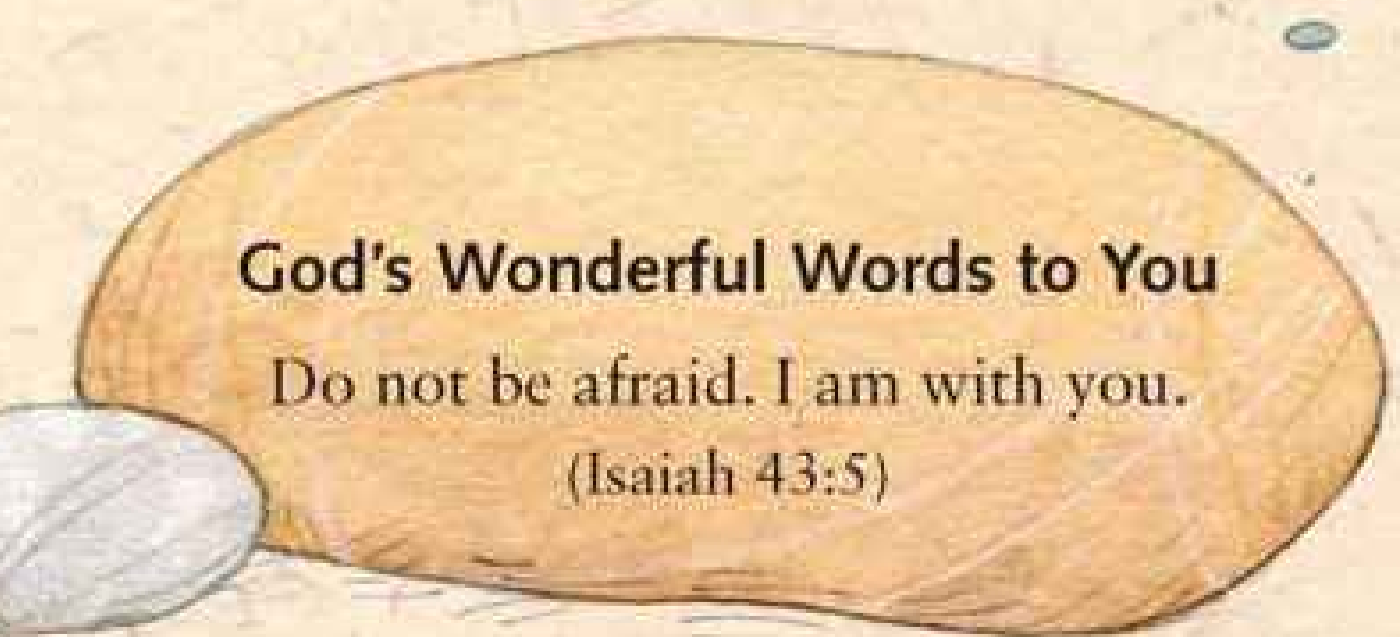
David knew that God was bigger than Goliath; Goliath thought *he* was bigger than anyone. David knew God was strong; Goliath thought *he* was stronger. David knew when it was time for him to fight that huge giant, God would be fighting with him. Goliath thought that when it was time for him to fight that little boy, *he* could do it alone.

Out onto the battlefield marched Goliath. Out onto the battlefield tiptoed David. "I am going to squash you flat!" roared Goliath in a huge voice.

"My God is so big, so strong, and so mighty," sang David in a quiet voice. Goliath lifted his huge sword. David lifted his small sling. Round and round and round David swung that small sling. Out shot

one smooth stone. It flew through the air faster than a speeding rocket. *Kaboom!* It hit Goliath right in the middle of his big forehead. Goliath dropped his huge sword. He rocked backwards and forwards and then fell with a mighty thump to the ground.

Little David ran happily home to have his porridge; Goliath never got to eat another squirrel.





# The Lions Who Lost Their Lunch



*Daniel in the Lions' Den: Daniel 6*

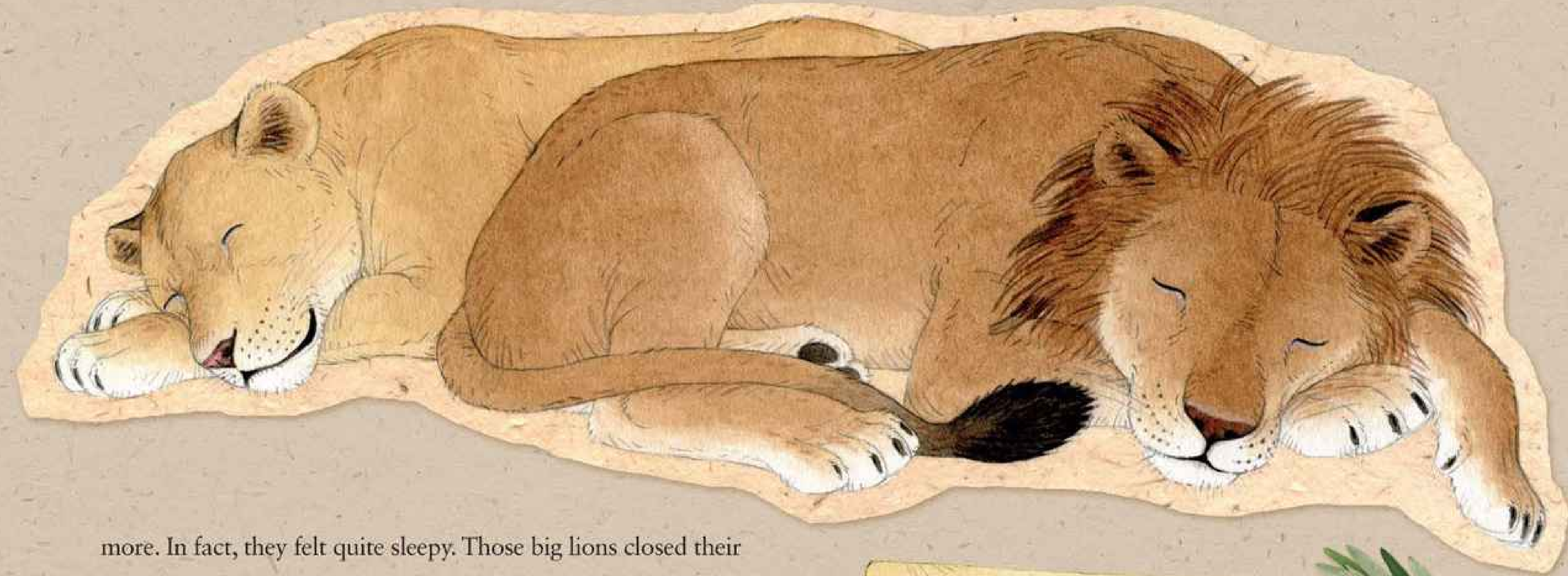
It was an exciting day for the hungry lions as they lay in their den by the king's palace. They had not eaten for days and boy, were they hungry. But today they would get to eat Daniel—the man who was going to be thrown into their den because he would not stop praying to his God. The hungry lions could hardly wait. Their big tummies rumbled as they heard the guards marching with Daniel toward their den. Suddenly, Daniel was falling, falling, falling, down, down, down, into the den. *Bump!* Daniel landed right in front of the hungry lions. Their long

whiskers twitched and quivered in delight as they looked at their lunch. Oh my, how good he smelled!

Just then, Daniel rolled over, got to his knees, put his hands together, and closed his eyes. What on earth was he doing? Daniel was talking ever so quietly. Who could he be talking to?

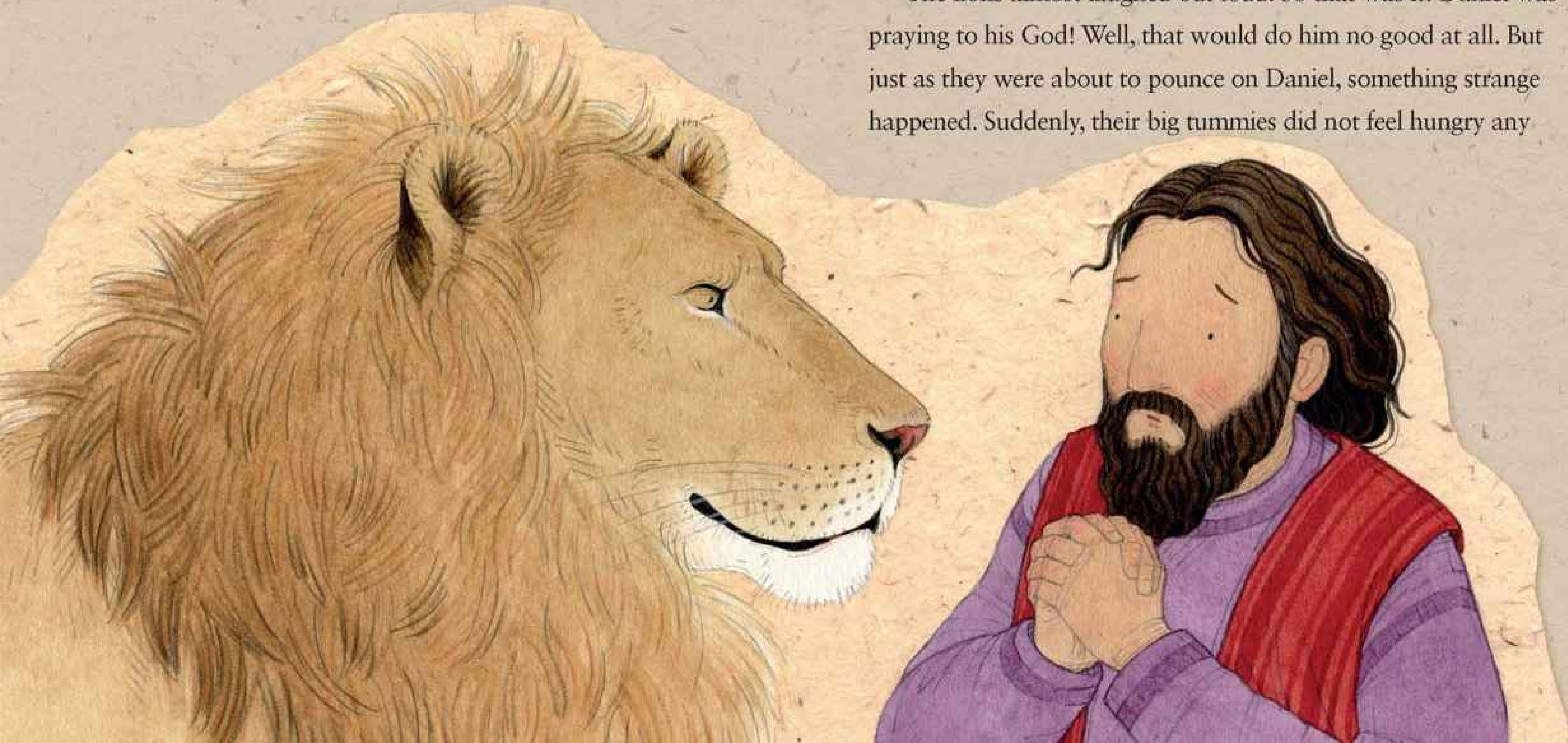
"Dear God," Daniel whispered. "I know you watch over me wherever I go. I know you are watching over me right now. Save me, I pray, from these hungry lions."

The lions almost laughed out loud. So that was it! Daniel was praying to his God! Well, that would do him no good at all. But just as they were about to pounce on Daniel, something strange happened. Suddenly, their big tummies did not feel hungry any



more. In fact, they felt quite sleepy. Those big lions closed their big mouths, closed their big eyes, and fell into a deep, deep sleep. And when they woke up the next morning, their lovely lunch was gone. God had saved Daniel after all!

Although the hungry lions lost their lunch that day, they learned an important lesson. They knew, without a doubt, that the God who Daniel loved was watching over all God's children—through scary times or happy times, while they were asleep or awake. God was watching over every single one of them every single minute of every single day. And those lions knew that Daniel's God must be a very wonderful God indeed.



Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know who made the lions go to sleep that day? It was me! And do you know what is so funny about that? I never, ever go to sleep. In fact, I never, ever close my eyes. That is why I am able to watch over you—wherever you go, whatever you do. I will be watching over you every single minute of every single day, watching over you forever, just like I watched over Daniel.

With So Much Love,  
**GOD**



## God's Wonderful Words to You

I will watch over you everywhere you go.  
(Genesis 28:15)



# The Super-Duper Picnic

*Feeding 5,000: John 6*

Nathan was so excited! He ran along the street with his little picnic basket swinging on his arm. He was going to see Jesus today, and he had a yummy lunch to take with him. Nathan checked his basket. Hiding underneath his picnic blanket were one, two, three, four, five little loaves of bread and two fresh fish. His dad had caught those fish in Lake Galilee that very morning. His picnic was going to taste so good.

Soon, Nathan reached the hillside where Jesus was going to teach everyone. There were a lot of people already there. Grandmas and grandpas, moms and dads, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews. It seemed like every family in the world was there waiting for Jesus. When he spoke, everyone stopped talking and started listening. Even the birds stopped singing so they could listen. All day long, Nathan sat with the crowd and listened to Jesus. But at the end of the day, everyone started to get hungry. No one had brought any food. No one except Nathan.

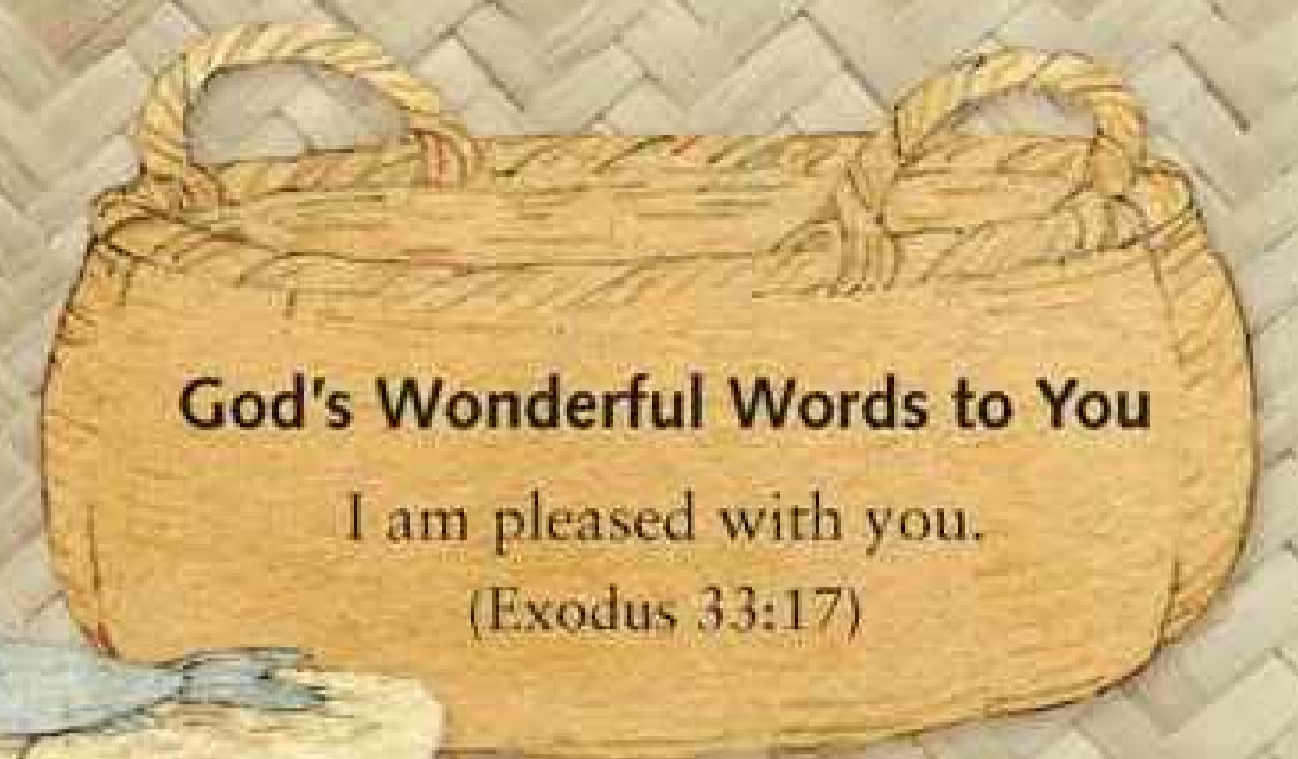
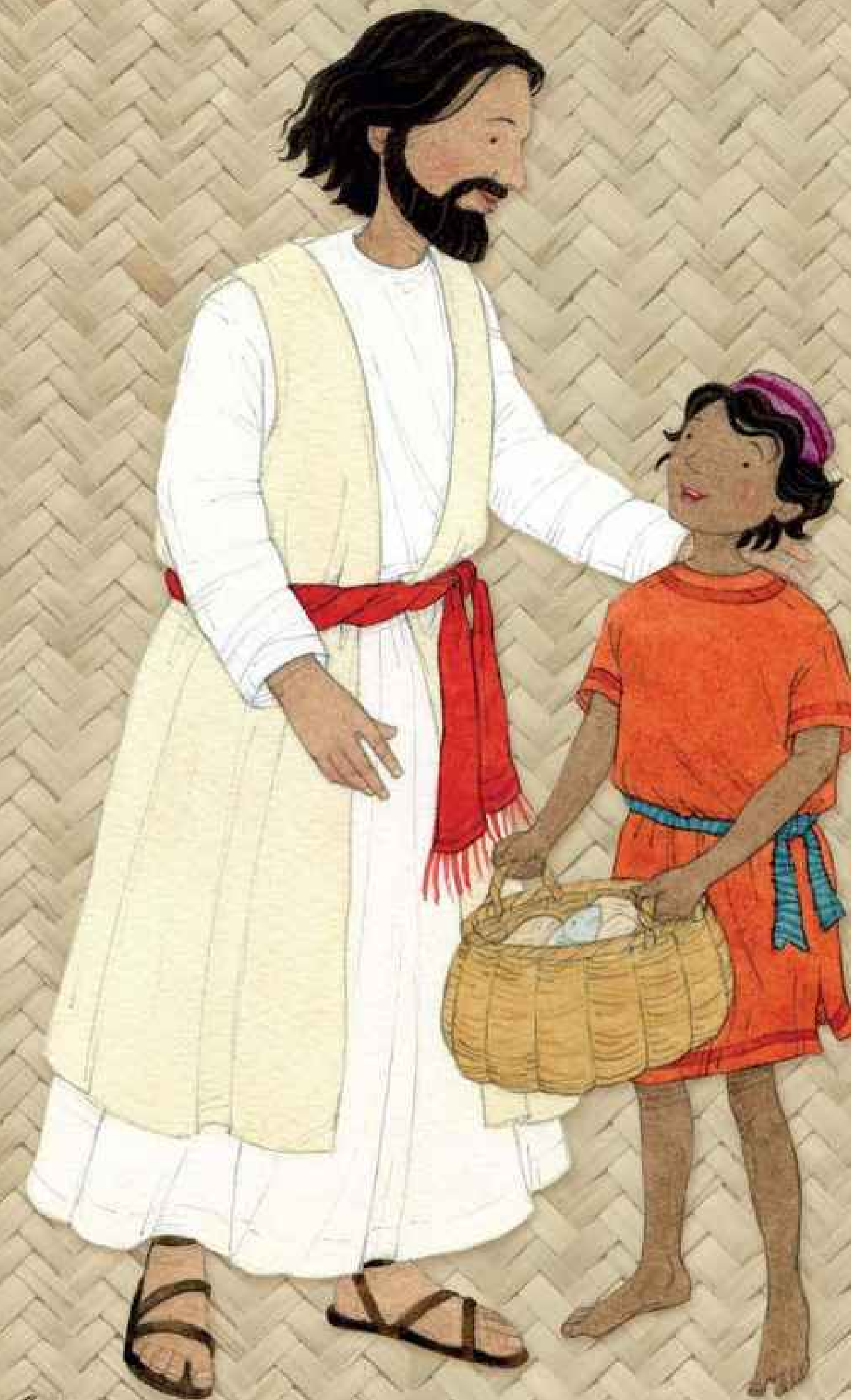
“Is there anyone here with a picnic to share?” Jesus asked.

“Well, I could share my five small loaves of bread and two fresh fish,” Nathan said. “But I don’t think there’s enough for everyone.”

Jesus gave Nathan a big, wonderful smile that said, “I am pleased with you.”

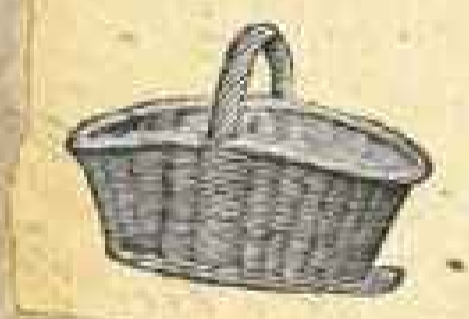
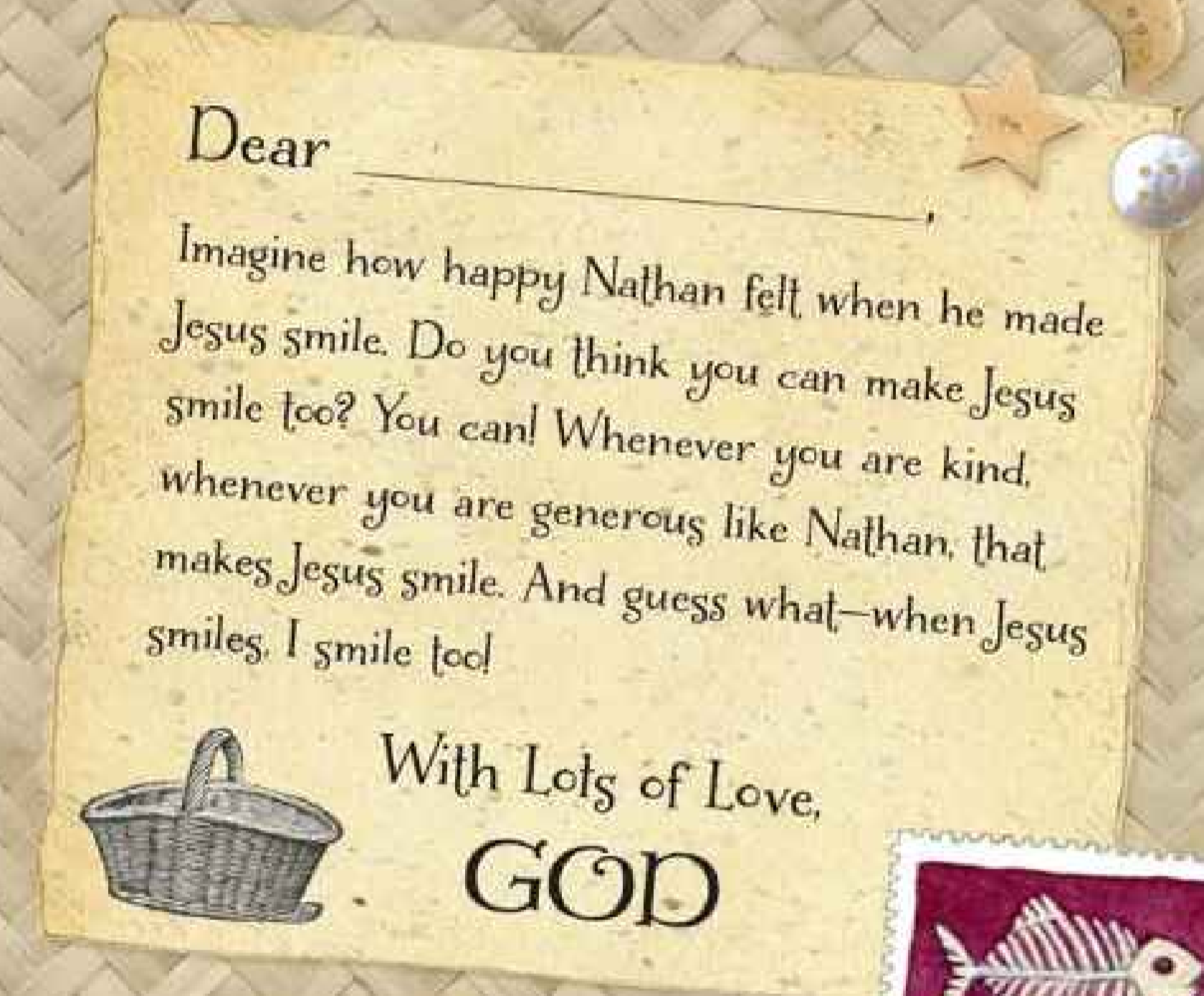
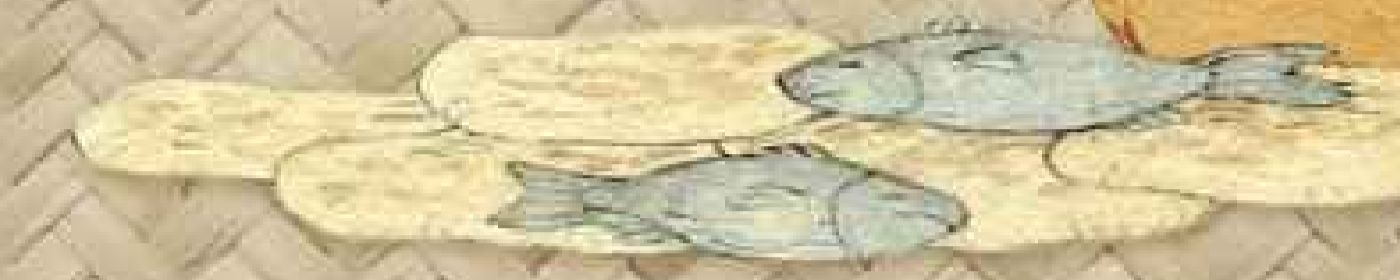
Then, the most amazing thing happened. Jesus took that bread and fish, said thank you to God, and as he passed it around, more and more bread and fish appeared. Every single family on that hillside had some of Nathan’s picnic. Every grandma and grandpa, every mom and dad, every sister and brother, every aunt and uncle, every niece and nephew. Everyone had enough to eat. It was a miracle!

As Nathan ran home with his empty basket, he was so glad he had shared his lunch. Just think, Jesus had taken Nathan’s five little loaves and his two fresh fish and turned them into a super-duper picnic. It had been a meal that Nathan would never, ever forget!



God’s Wonderful Words to You

I am pleased with you.  
(Exodus 33:17)





## Wind and Waves

*Storm on the Lake: Mark 4:35–41*

It was a beautiful day on Lake Galilee. Golden sunlight danced on the water. A gentle breeze whispered softly in the air.

Small waves rippled quietly across the water. In the little boat, the disciples rested after a busy day's work. Jesus put his head on a comfy cushion and closed his eyes. All was peaceful, quiet, and calm.

Then, as if from nowhere, great gray clouds marched across the sky and pushed the sun out of the way. The gentle breeze turned into a mighty rushing wind. Those small rippling waves became big, bouncing waters. In the little boat, the disciples were scared. What was happening? An enormous clap of thunder

boomed above, and the heavens opened as a bolt of lightning streaked down toward the little boat. Now the disciples were terrified! Their little boat rocked up and down as the mighty waves jumped over the deck. They were going to drown! Where was Jesus? Surely he could save them!

Above the noise of the storm, the disciples thought they heard another, quieter sound. That couldn't possibly be the sound of someone snoring, could it? But it was! Jesus was fast asleep on that comfy cushion, and he was snoring—snoring while that mighty storm was raging all around them!

“Jesus! Jesus!” the disciples cried. “Save us, save us!”

Jesus woke up, stood in that little boat, and held his hand out over the raging waters. He said two tiny words:

“Be still.”

And an amazing thing happened. Those crashing, thundering waters became small waves again. That mighty, rushing wind turned back into a gentle breeze. Those great gray clouds scurried away and the sun slid back where it belonged. The storm had stopped.

The disciples were amazed. Who was this man who could calm the wind and stop the waves? This man was Jesus, the Son of God.

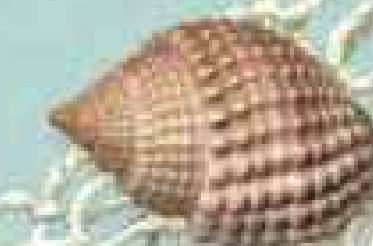
### God's Wonderful Words to You

I will take hold of your hand.  
(Isaiah 42:6)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Wow! How scary for those disciples to be in that little boat, in the middle of a storm. Are you ever afraid of storms, or of the dark, or of being alone? Do you remember in that story how Jesus held out his hand over the water? If you are ever scared, I want you to imagine Jesus holding out his hand to you. Even though his hand might be invisible, it will still be right there, holding onto yours. He will hold tight and never let go. When you are afraid, remember—Jesus will be holding your hand.

Love,  
**GOD**



# The Little Lost Lamb

*The Lost Sheep: Luke 15*

There was once a good shepherd who had one hundred sheep. He loved each of his sheep very much and knew all of their names. Every day, he would lead them to green pastures where they could eat the best fresh grass. On their way home, he would lead them to still, cool waters where they could drink. Every evening, at bedtime, the good shepherd would count his sheep to make sure they were all safely in their pen.

One night, the shepherd began to count his sheep ... 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99—Oh no! Little Fluffy was missing! Now what do you suppose the good shepherd did? Did he lie down and go to sleep, hoping that Fluffy would come back the next day? No! Did he say to himself, *Oh well, never mind, I still have 99 sheep?* No! Did he sit down and cry? No! He got right up and went out to search for his little lost lamb.



## God's Wonderful Words to You

You are the sheep  
belonging to my flock.  
(Ezekiel 34:31)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Did you know Jesus is just like that good shepherd? Did you know you are just like one of his sheep? Jesus loves you so much that he never, ever wants you to leave him. But even if you do, remember that Jesus will search high and low for you and never give up until he finds you. And when he does, with a heart full of love he will bring you back home to be with him forever.

Love Always,  
**GOD**



That good shepherd marched back through the meadows, hiked over the hills, and splashed through the streams. He burrowed under the bushes, thrashed through the thicket, and fought his way around the forests, shouting, "Fluffy, Fluffy, where are you?" Then, he heard the faintest little cry, "Baa, baa, baa."

"Fluffy!" the shepherd cried as he happily scooped her up into his arms. "I'm so glad I found you!"

And with his heart full of love, the good shepherd lifted her ever so gently, put her high on his shoulders, and carried her carefully all the way back home. Fluffy nuzzled her head into his warm, strong shoulder and decided that she would never, ever leave the good shepherd again.

