

***Dear Parent:***

***Your child's love of reading starts here!***

Every child learns to read in a different way and at his or her own speed. Some go back and forth between reading levels and read favorite books again and again. Others read through each level in order. You can help your young reader improve and become more confident by encouraging his or her own interests and abilities. From books your child reads with you to the first books he or she reads alone, there are I Can Read Books for every stage of reading:



**SHARED READING**

Basic language, word repetition, and whimsical illustrations, ideal for sharing with your emergent reader



**BEGINNING READING**

Short sentences, familiar words, and simple concepts for children eager to read on their own



**READING WITH HELP**

Engaging stories, longer sentences, and language play for developing readers



**READING ALONE**

Complex plots, challenging vocabulary, and high-interest topics for the independent reader

**I Can Read Books** have introduced children to the joy of reading since 1957. Featuring award-winning authors and illustrators and a fabulous cast of beloved characters, I Can Read Books set the standard for beginning readers.

A lifetime of discovery begins with the magical words **“I Can Read!”**

*Visit [www.icanread.com](http://www.icanread.com) for information  
on enriching your child's reading experience.*

*Visit [www.zonderkidz.com/icanread](http://www.zonderkidz.com/icanread) for more faith-based  
I Can Read! titles from Zonderkidz.*

I sought the Lord, and he answered me;  
he delivered me from all my fears.

—*Psalm 34:4*

ZONDERKIDZ

*The Berenstain Bears® Do Not Fear, God is Near*  
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**An I Can Read Book**

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*The Berenstain Bears*®

**Do NOT Fear, God is Near**



Story and Pictures By  
Stan & Jan Berenstain with Mike Berenstain



When Sister Bear was little  
she was afraid of lots of things.

She was afraid of bugs.



She was afraid of birds.



She was afraid of dogs



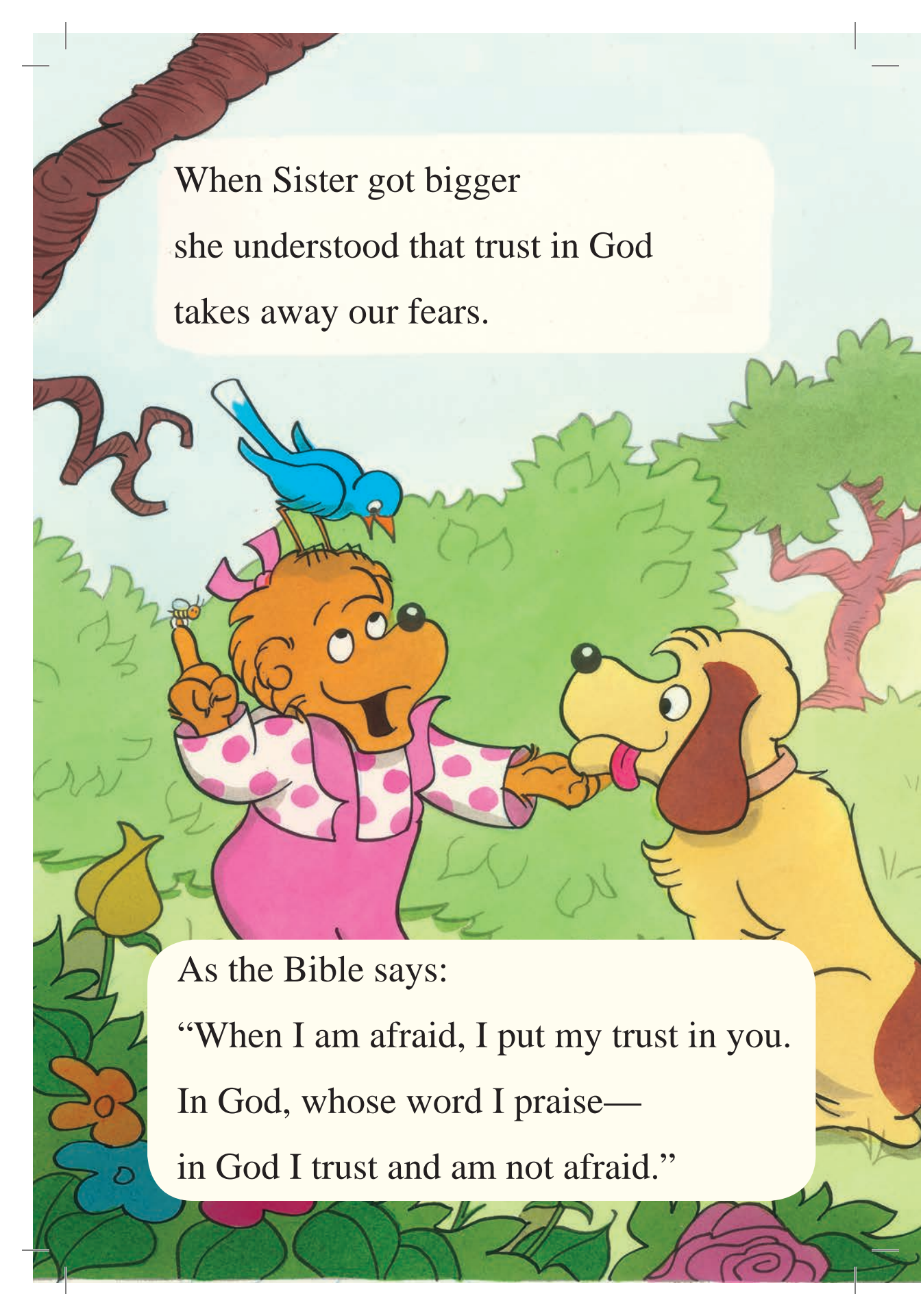
and thunder and lightning.



But Sister was most afraid  
of spooky shadows.







When Sister got bigger  
she understood that trust in God  
takes away our fears.

As the Bible says:

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise—

in God I trust and am not afraid.”



She was not even afraid  
of thunder and lightning!

But Sister was still afraid of  
spooky shadows.

“You know, Sister,” Mama told her,  
“God is always near you,  
even when things seem scary.”

