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ZONDERKIDZ

I Wonder: Exploring God's Grand Story
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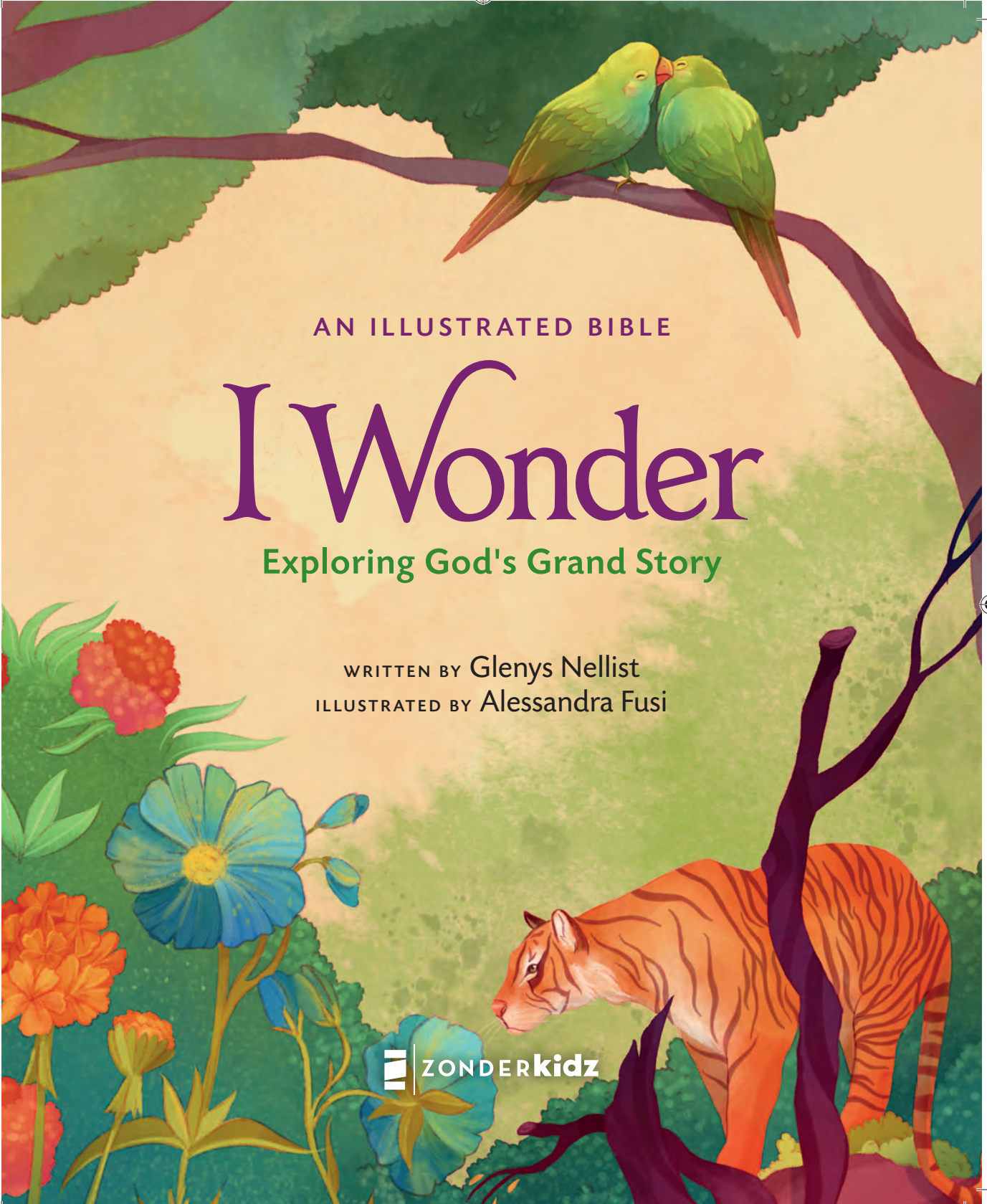
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AN ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

I Wonder

Exploring God's Grand Story

WRITTEN BY Glenys Nellist
ILLUSTRATED BY Alessandra Fusi

 ZONDERkidz



This book is dedicated in memory of Linda Greenham, along with all the faithful Sunday school teachers who have taught beside me over the years, and helped so many children wonder about God ... Wendy, Marion, Debi, Susan, Schelle, Pam, Nancy, Sheila, Julie, Bruce, Diane, Karin, Roger, Marge, Jen, Liz, Molly, Carol, Nichea, Sue, Mary-Lyn, Sarah, and Tracy ... thank you for being part of my story.

I see God in you.

—GN



To all my favorite creatures: my parents, my sister, my husband, and my dearest human and feline friends.

—AF

A Note from the Author

The Bible truly is a “wonder-full” book. From the first page to the last, the Bible is filled with stories of ordinary people who encountered an extraordinary God. Some stories are hard to understand; some make us scratch our heads; some make us laugh or cry; but *all* of them make us wonder. As you read about God’s activity and presence in the lives of these ordinary people, I invite you to pause and ask such questions as:

I wonder who God is ...

I wonder where God is ...

I wonder what God looks like ...

I wonder what God’s voice sounds like ...

I wonder what God wants me to do in the world ...

As you ponder these deep questions, the most important one to ask is:
I wonder how I am part of God’s great story ... because you are.

Glenys Nellist

—Glenys Nellist ♡



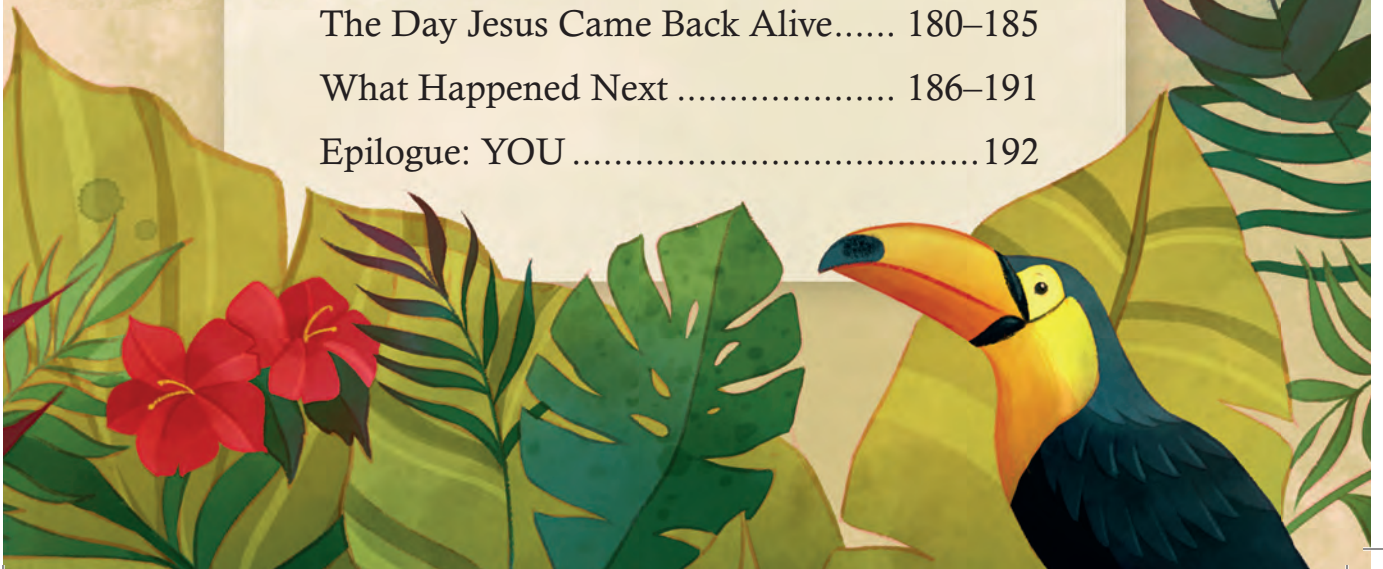
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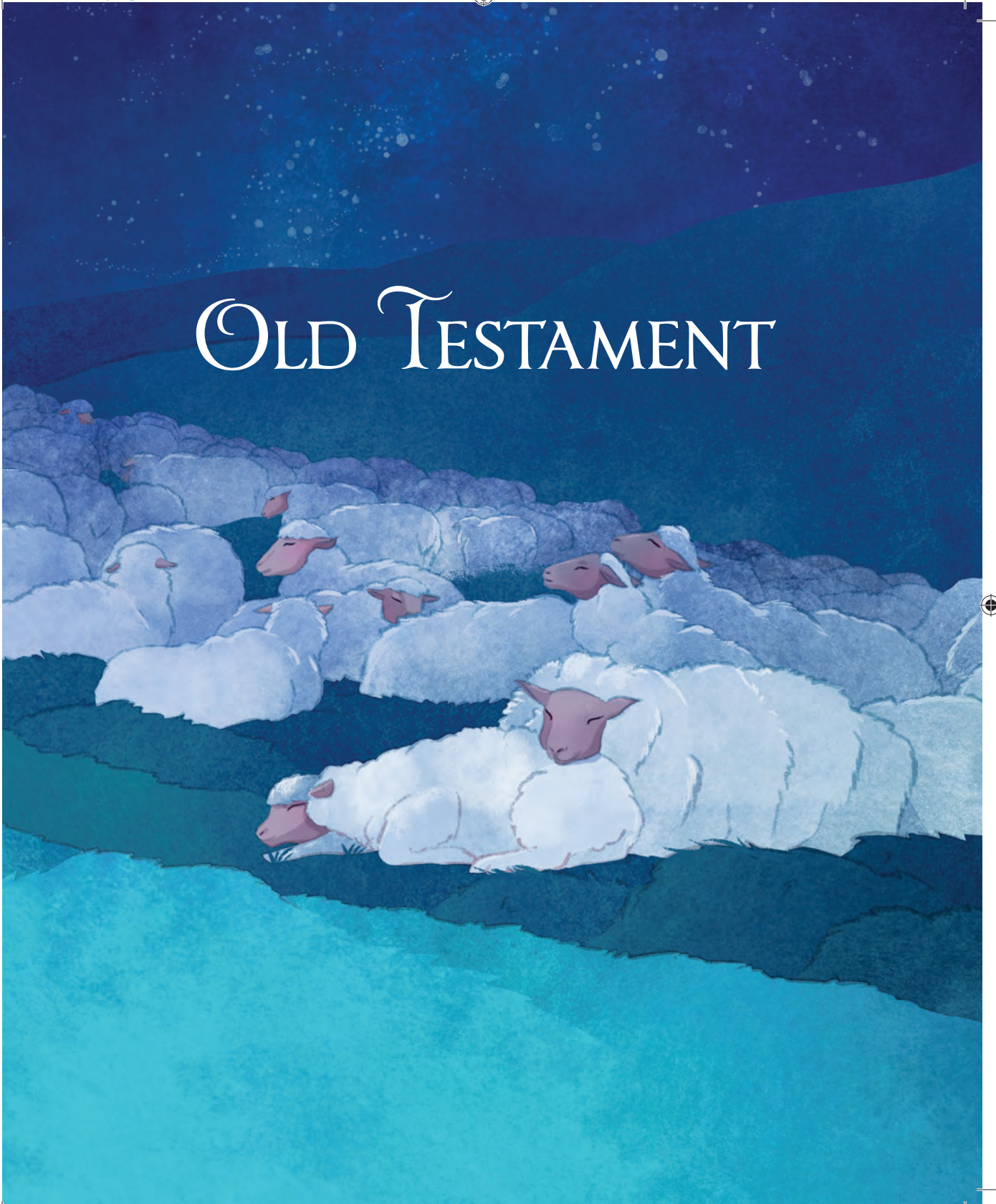
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OLD TESTAMENT



I wonder about
CREATION

Genesis 1:1–27 and 2:7

No one heard the Word. The birds didn't hear it. The trees didn't hear it. The mountains didn't hear it ... because they had not been created yet. The Word came soft, like a whisper when there was nothing. The Word came into an empty world where it hovered and hung over the darkness of the deep. And just for a moment, there was nothing but silence. And when the time was just right, God's voice echoed into the silence and whispered the world into being.

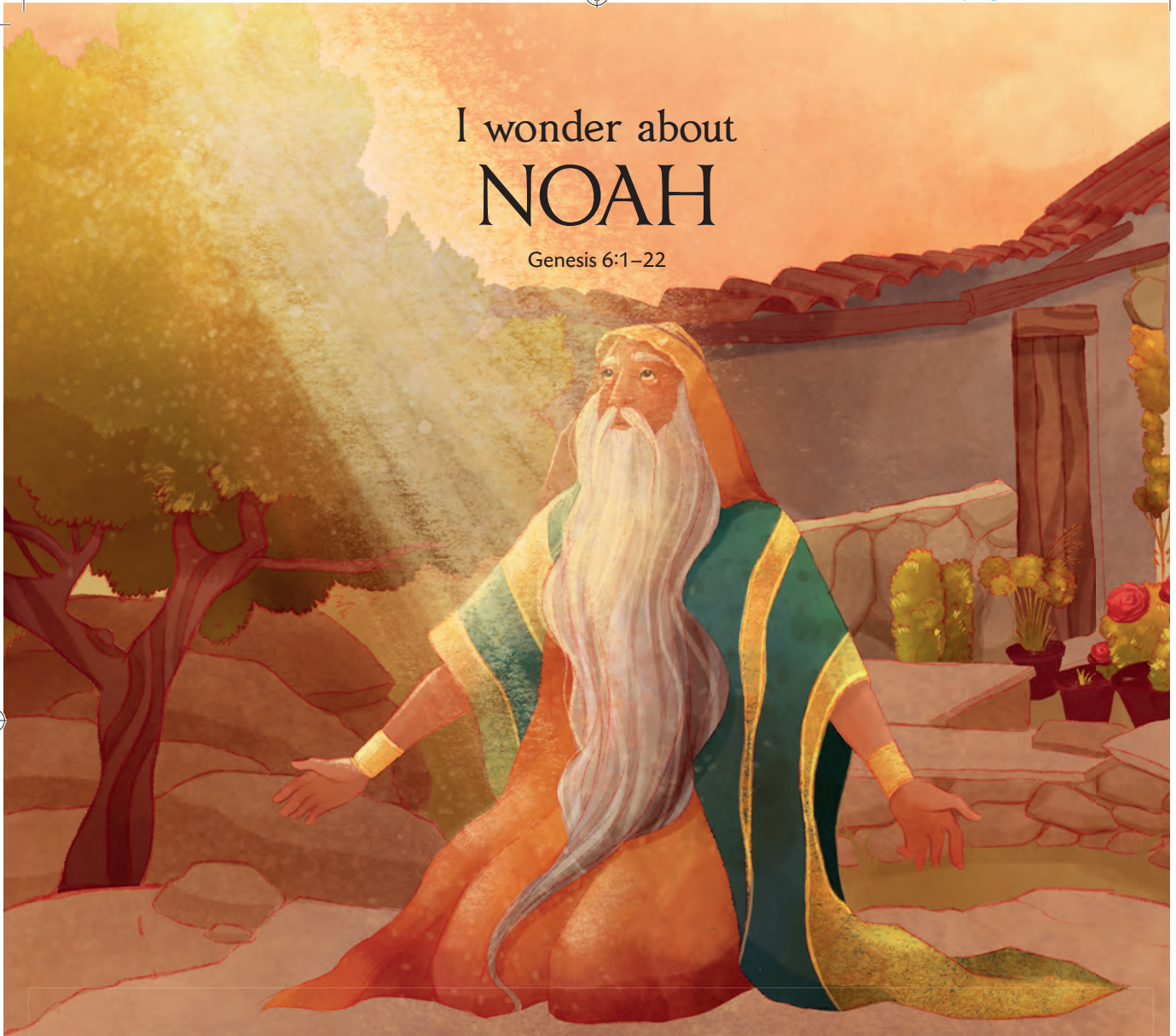
“Let there be light.”
And an amazing thing happened.
The light was listening. The light heard the Word.
And the light came. The light came—flooding and
leaping and dancing into the darkness, chasing away all the
shadows and shining into every corner. And it was *so* good!



After that, there was no stopping God! At the sound of God's voice, the sky spread her wide wings and flew into place. The oceans roared as they rushed and ran and filled the valleys with churning foam. The mountains groaned and jostled and heaved as they pushed their tips upward and pierced the clouds. And down below, grass became green and trees grew tall and strong.

I wonder about NOAH

Genesis 6:1–22



Hundreds of years passed. Since the time Adam and Eve had left the garden and ventured out into the world, their family had grown and grown. Their children had children, grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren. But people were *still* making the wrong choices. Every day, God's heart grew more and more sad as the people on earth hurt each other. They chose hatred instead of love, and meanness instead of kindness. But God was watching someone special. His name was Noah. Noah was good and kind, and most of all, Noah loved God.



One day, God decided that the only way to fix the earth was to start all over again. And Noah was just the man to help.

“Noah,” God said. “Listen carefully. I want you to build an ark, a huge boat, one that’s big and strong enough to carry you, your family, and two of each kind of animal. It’s going to rain for forty days. A flood will cover the whole earth and make it clean. And when the rain stops, and the water goes down, there will be a new home for you, your family, and all the animals.”



Noah didn't know what to think. But he trusted God, and so he set to work, first gathering all the wood he could find. Day after day was spent cutting, carrying, hammering, sawing, sanding, and nailing—until finally, the huge boat was finished.

Noah gathered two of every kind of animal. They ran and scampered and waddled and soared and galloped until they were all safely settled inside the ark.



Noah and his family watched as huge, dark clouds swallowed up the sky and the rain began to fall.



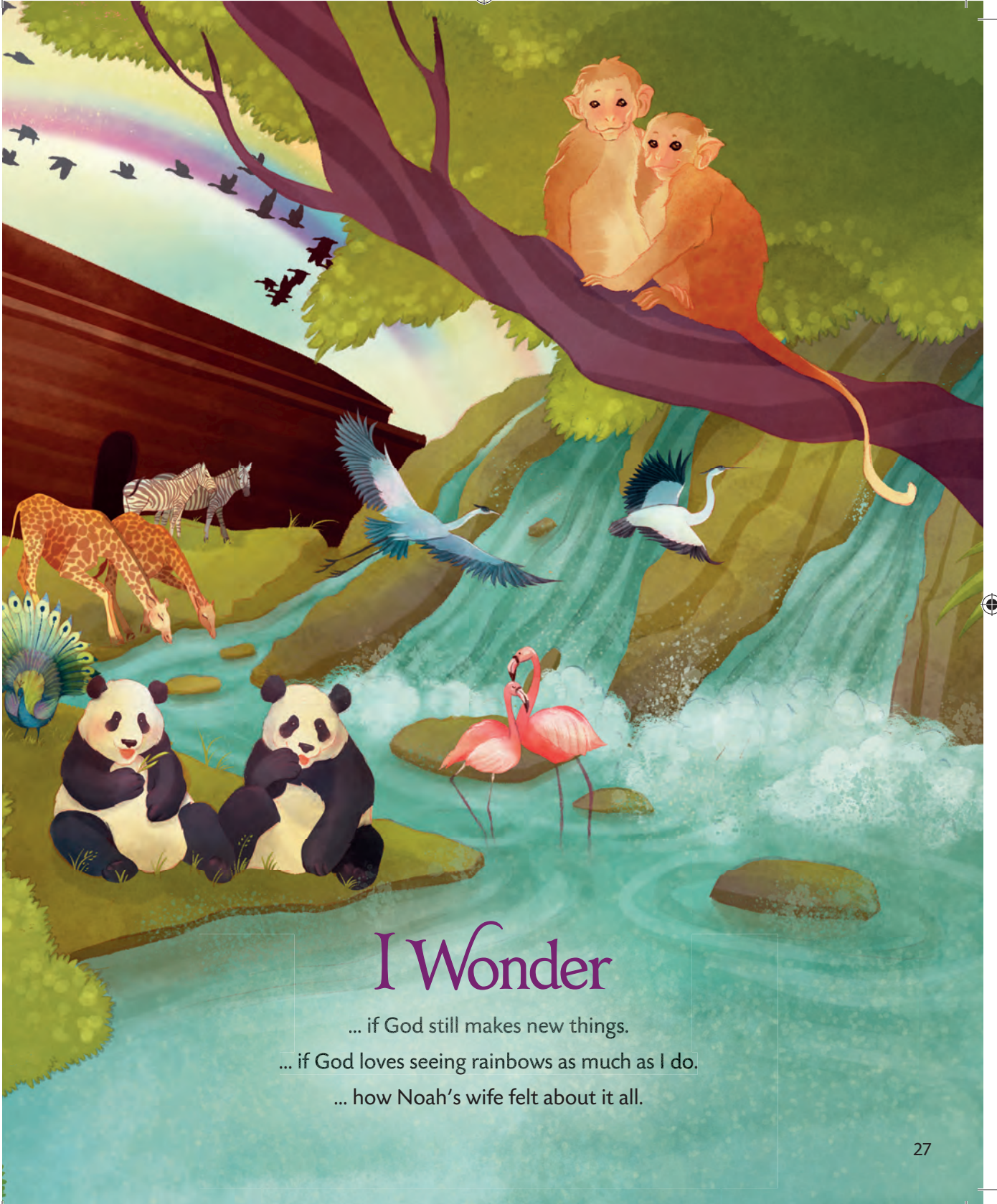


But after forty days and forty nights afloat, the pitter-patter of rain stopped, the waters went down, and the ark came to rest on dry land.

Noah opened the door and all the animals rushed out, ready to find a new home. Noah stepped down from the boat and looked up into the sky. The clouds had gone. And in their place was a shining rainbow that stretched over the whole earth, as far and as high and as wide as Noah could see.

“You don’t need to worry, Noah,” God said. “There’ll never be another flood like that again. This is our new start. Today is a new day. This is a new earth. And we have new hope.”

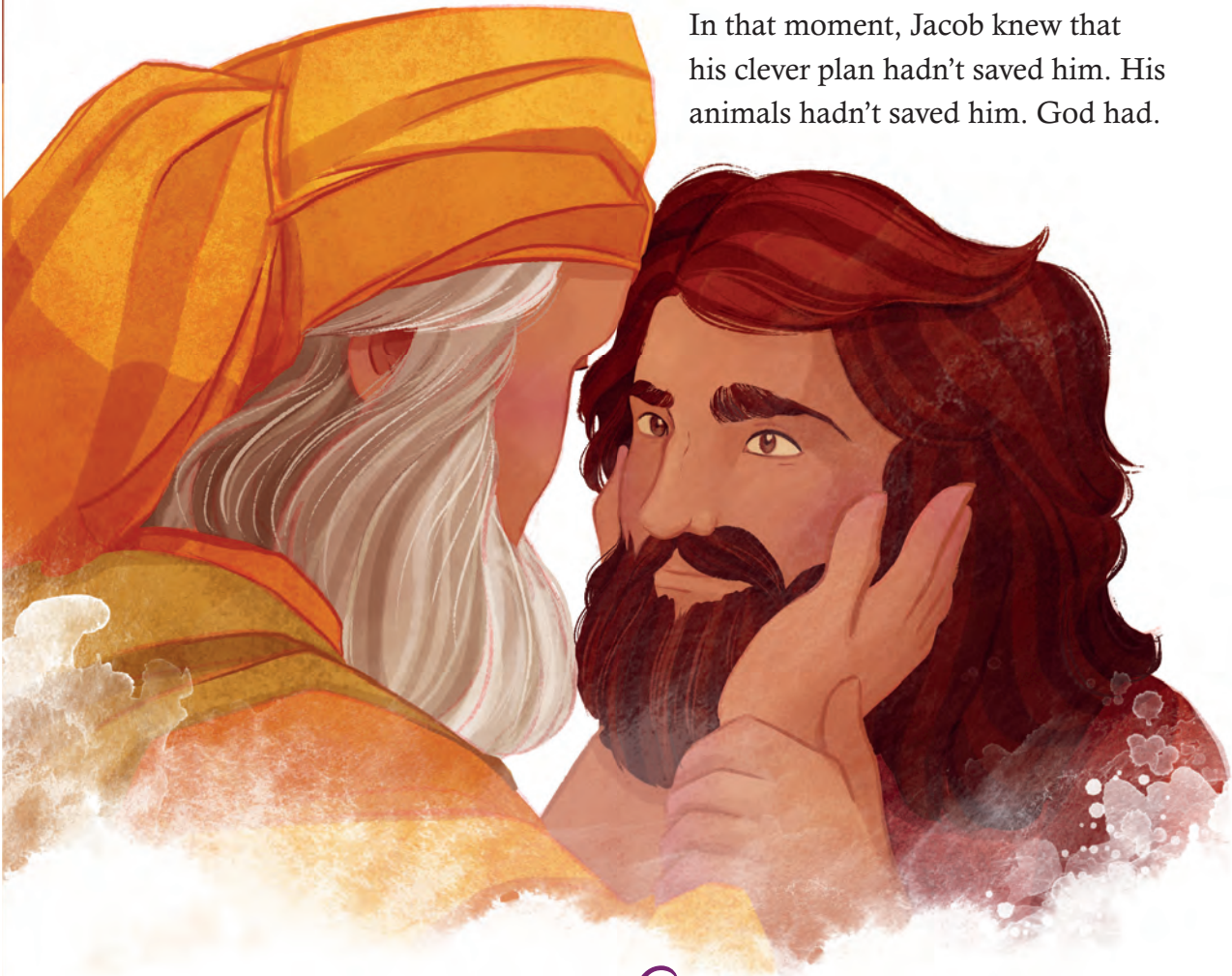
As Noah fell asleep that night under a cloudless, starlit sky, he knew that God was with him—God, who was making all things new.



I Wonder

... if God still makes new things.
... if God loves seeing rainbows as much as I do.
... how Noah's wife felt about it all.

Jacob couldn't believe it! He cupped Esau's face in his hands and looked into his brother's eyes as they filled with tears. And as he looked into Esau's face, Jacob thought he saw the face of God. In that moment, Jacob knew that his clever plan hadn't saved him. His animals hadn't saved him. God had.




I Wonder

- ... if I can see God's face in others.
- ... if others see God's face when they look at me.
- ... if God still makes promises.

I wonder about JOSEPH

Genesis 37–45



In the bottom of a deep, dark well, Joseph sat and hugged his knees. He was cold and wet, and he shivered in fright. Why had his brothers thrown him down here? Why had they stolen the beautiful new coat that Jacob, his father, had made for him? Why did his brothers hate him so much? But Joseph already knew the answer to *that* question. His brothers were jealous of him. He was their father's favorite, and he was the only one who could understand dreams and tell people what they meant.



Joseph thought back to the dream he'd had only a few nights before, when the sun and the moon and eleven stars had bowed down in front of him. Maybe he shouldn't have told his eleven brothers what it meant—that one day they would all bow down to him. But it was too late now. Joseph closed his eyes and prayed. It was all he could do. He knew that no matter how bad things were, God was with him.



When he heard voices above his head, Joseph scrambled to his feet. Perhaps they had just been teaching him a lesson, and now he could go home. But as they pulled him out of the pit, Joseph heard one of his brothers talking to some men. “Here. You can have him for twenty shekels of silver. Take him with you to Egypt.”

Joseph closed his eyes and prayed as the traders dragged him away. It was all he could do.