

LEVI LUSKO
WITH TAMA FORTNER

ROAR

LIKE A LION

90 DEVOTIONS TO A COURAGEOUS FAITH

ILLUSTRATED BY CATHERINE PEARSON



An Imprint of Thomas Nelson



Roar Like a Lion

© 2021 Levi Lusko

Tommy Nelson, PO Box 141000, Nashville, TN 37214

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, scanning, or other—except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Published in Nashville, Tennessee, by Tommy Nelson. Tommy Nelson is an imprint of Thomas Nelson. Thomas Nelson is a registered trademark of HarperCollins Christian Publishing, Inc.

Published in association with the literary agency of Wolgemuth & Associates.

Tama Fortner is represented by Cyle Young of C.Y.L.E. (Cyle Young Literary Elite, LLC), a literary agency.

Tommy Nelson titles may be purchased in bulk for educational, business, fund-raising, or sales promotional use. For information, please email SpecialMarkets@ThomasNelson.com.

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked ICB are taken from the International Children's Bible®. Copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked NCV are taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.® Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation. Copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-1-4002-2556-9 (audiobook)

ISBN 978-1-4002-2433-3 (eBook)

ISBN 978-1-4002-2436-4 (HC)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Lusko, Levi, author. | Fortner, Tama, 1969- author. | Pearson, Catherine, illustrator.

Title: Roar like a lion : 90 devotions to a courageous faith / Levi Lusko with Tama Fortner ; illustrated by Catherine Pearson.

Description: Nashville, Tennessee, USA : Thomas Nelson, [2021] | Audience:

Ages 6-10 | Summary: "Popular author and pastor Levi Lusko brings key ideas from his bestselling book *Through the Eyes of a Lion* into these motivating devotions for kids, encouraging them to move toward their everyday challenges with powerful, God-inspired bravery"--Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021011606 (print) | LCCN 2021011607 (ebook) | ISBN 9781400224364 (hardcover) | ISBN 9781400224333 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Children--Prayers and devotions--Juvenile literature. | Courage--Prayers and devotions--Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC BV265 .L87 2021 (print) | LCC BV265 (ebook) | DDC 242/.62--dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021011606>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021011607>

Written by Levi Lusko with Tama Fortner

Illustrated by Catherine Pearson

Printed in Korea

21 22 23 24 25 SAM 6 5 4 3 2 1

Mfr: SAM / Seoul, Korea / August 2021 / PO #9589884

*For Lenya Avery Lusko, aka Lenya Lion.
Thank you for teaching me how to roar.
I miss you fiercely and can't wait
to see you in heaven!*



CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	8
1. Roar Like a Lion	10
2. So You Want to Be Brave	12
3. You Do You?	14
4. Scared <i>and</i> Brave.	16
5. Wannabe Lion	18
6. Not the End	20
7. Just Passing Through	22
8. Who Made It Possible?	24
9. Happy Times Are Coming	26
10. In the News	28
11. Courage in the Dark	30
12. But God	32
13. What-Ifs and What Is	34
14. IDK Is OK.	36
15. Speak Up!	38
16. What God Sees	40
17. Quiet Courage	42
18. Dare to Dream.	44
19. Pardon the Interruption	46

20. Stand Out!	48
21. Game Over	50
22. A Fresh Start	52
23. When the Winds Blow	54
24. Get Away with God	56
25. What Are You Waiting For?	58
26. Don't Forget Your Warm-Up!	60
27. Goofs, Mistakes, and Mess-Ups.	62
28. I'm Sorry	64
29. The Courage to Forgive	66
30. Use the Mic!	68
31. Who You Really Are	70
32. Like a Lamb	72
33. Better Together	74
34. Pretty Radical	76
35. Turn Off the Dark	78
36. Alone in a Crowd	80
37. Courage to Fail	82
38. You've Got a Purpose	84
39. That's a Promise!	86
40. You Want Me to Do What?!	88
41. Was That a Squirrel?	90
42. You're Surrounded!.	92
43. Courage and Faith	94
44. Family vs. Friends.	96

45. Serious Snoozing	98
46. With All Your Heart	100
47. Dare to Live	102
48. A Fishing Mission	104
49. Sneak Attack	106
50. Trusted with Trouble	108
51. Prickly People	110
52. Run Toward the Roar	112
53. Pick Up Your Sword!	114
54. You've Gotta Try This!	116
55. Knocked Down	118
56. Hello, Neighbor!.	120
57. I Can Do It Myself!	122
58. Just a Little Sin	124
59. The Sunshine Times	126
60. <i>Supernatural</i>	128
61. Different, But Same.	130
62. Stop, Look, and Listen	132
63. The Anchor	134
64. Take Some Time	136
65. Hide-and-Seek	138
66. Everywhere You Go	140
67. Look for the People Who Care	142
68. You've Got to Do Something	144
69. Through Thick and Thin	146

70. Stuck	148
71. Everything You Need.	150
72. Stronger Than Any Storm	152
73. Don't Hold Back.	154
74. Proof in Creation	156
75. Not-So-Cool Schooldays.	158
76. Be a Barnabas.	160
77. Warning! Warning!	162
78. Lead the Way!	164
79. A Good Plan.	166
80. Crazy Fear.	168
81. Reach Out	170
82. Eyes on the Son.	172
83. It's Okay to Not Be Okay.	174
84. Turn It Around	176
85. Praying Brave	178
86. Never Too Tired.	180
87. Seeing God	182
88. Nothing Is Wasted	184
89. The Way It's Supposed to Be	186
90. Your Roar Story	188
<i>About the Author & Illustrator.</i>	191
<i>How Many Anchors Did You Find?.</i>	192


INTRODUCTION

LOVE LIONS. THEY'RE FIERCE, regal, and strong—and just incredibly amazing. So when Jesus is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah, it's a *huge* compliment!

Not too long ago, I went on a mini safari in South Africa where I learned all kinds of cool things about lions. Did you know that adult lions are *apex predators*? That means they're at the top of the food chain. No other animals mess with or hunt an apex predator! Lions also stick together. They're the only members of the cat family that live in groups, called *prides*. These prides can have as many as fifteen or more lions, all working together to hunt and raise their young.

The way lions hunt is really cool too. They're the only cats with tasseled tails, and they use them to “talk” to other lions while they're out on a hunt. Lions also walk on their tiptoes, kind of like a ballerina or a boxer! This makes them light on their feet, helping an adult lion run up to fifty miles an hour. (That's as fast as a car!) And they can jump as much as thirty-six feet in a single bound. (Imagine laying a wooden telephone pole on the ground and jumping from one end to the other—that's what lions can do!) A lion's eyesight is six times better than ours, especially in the dark. It's like they're wearing night-vision binoculars all the time.

Lions don't start out super-tough and strong. When it's born, a lion cub is completely blind and has to stay close to its parents and the pride for protection. In fact, lion cubs spend the first two years of their lives growing and learning all they need to know to survive in the wild.



Just like a lion cub, you'll spend the first few years of your life growing and learning the things you need to know to survive in this wild world. One of the reasons I wrote *Roar Like a Lion* was to help you do just that.

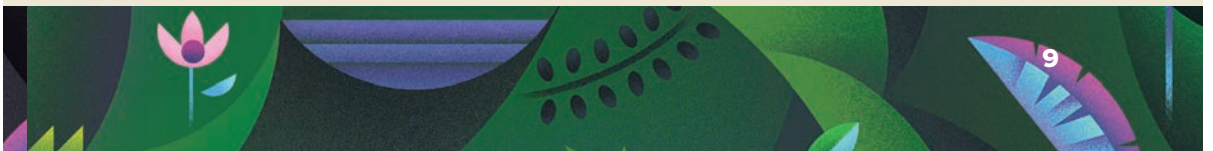
There are ninety devotions in this book. Each starts off with a Bible verse—what could be better? Then there's a devotion about God and how amazing He is. In "Did You Know?" you'll learn super-cool stuff from history (my favorite subject!). And in "Get Ready to Roar!" I'll be giving you a few missions to build up your courage and your "roar" in this world. Each day's devotion finishes up with a prayer to connect your heart to God.

Roar Like a Lion was written in honor of my daughter Lenya. She lives with Jesus now, but she roared through this life like an amazing little lion—just like I know she's roaring through heaven now. Lenya was curious about everything, and I hope that *Roar Like a Lion* will jump-start your curiosity and encourage you to dig deeper into God's Word.

My prayer is that as you journey through this book—whether at bedtime, during a meal, or even as a part of your school lesson—*Roar Like a Lion* will anchor your heart to heaven and grow your love for Jesus, the real lion King!

—Levi

P.S. Speaking of anchors, be on the lookout! Anchors are hidden all throughout the illustrations in this book. Why? Because anchors are one of the coolest pictures of what it looks like to have Jesus as your Savior and Friend. (Check out "The Anchor" on page 134 to find out why.) There are twenty anchors in all. How many can you find? The answers are on page 192.



1

ROAR LIKE A LION



God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid. He gave us a spirit of power and love and self-control.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7 ICB

HAVE YOU HEARD THE saying “as brave as a lion”? We compare being brave to being like a lion because, well, lions aren’t really afraid of much. Not buffalos, rhinos, elephants, or even crocodiles. They weigh up to five hundred pounds, which is like fifty house cats in one big pile. Together, their weight, strength, and fearlessness make them one powerful force in the wild.

The Bible says, “Good people are as brave as a lion” (Proverbs 28:1 ICB).

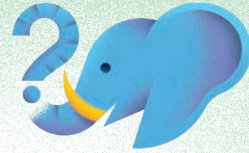
They have the courage to do what God says is good and right. Even if everyone else is doing wrong. Their lives “roar” with the goodness of God.

Now, if you’ve ever heard a lion roar—whether at the zoo or in a movie—you know it’s a sound so big and loud that everyone stops and takes notice. And that’s exactly what God wants your life to do. He wants it to roar so loud that everyone stops and takes notice.

How can your life roar? Well, it has nothing to do with your vocal cords and everything to do with daring to live differently from the rest of the world. Your life roars when you have the courage to follow God no matter what. Being “as brave as a lion” doesn’t mean you’re never afraid. But it *does* mean you choose to do the good and right thing anyway. That kind of courage doesn’t come from inside you or from your own strength. It can only come from the Spirit and power of God.

So go ahead and roar like a lion. Let the whole world know how awesome and amazing and powerful your God is!

LORD, HELP ME ROAR LIKE A LION SO THAT I CAN TELL THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT YOU. AMEN.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the wild, lions roar for three reasons: to let other lions know where they are, to show how powerful they are, and to scare off an enemy. Your life should roar for the same reasons: to let other believers know where you are and that they aren’t alone, to show how powerful God is, and to scare off your enemy, the devil. Because when you roar with the power of God, the devil runs away (James 4:7).

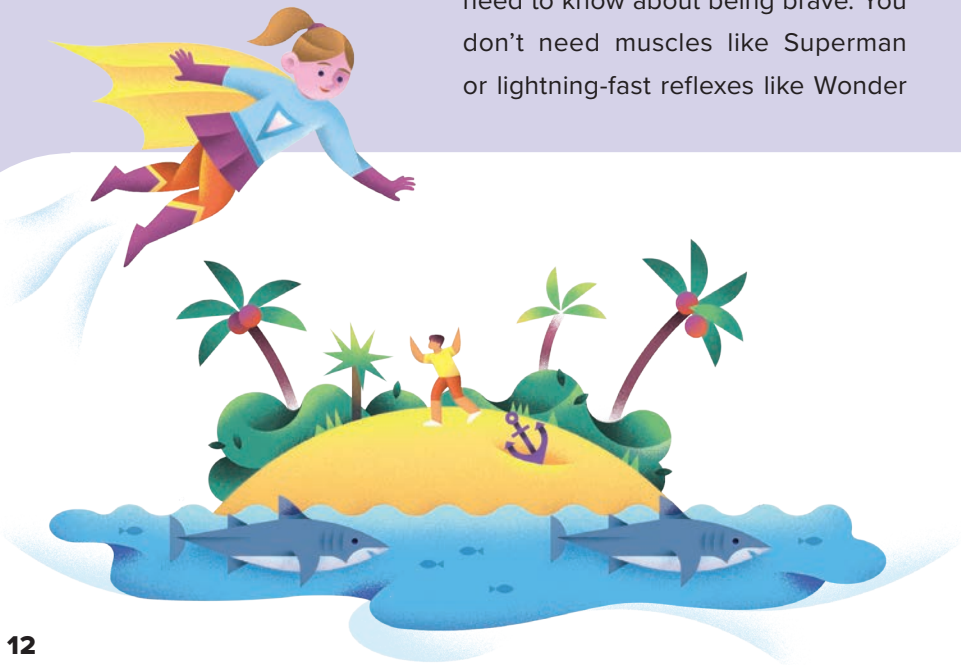
2

SO YOU WANT TO BE BRAVE

On the day I called to you, you answered me. You made me strong and brave.

PSALM 138:3 NCV

SO YOU WANT TO be brave. You want to stand up for what's right, help the hopeless, and fight evil. You want to shine the light of God's love and truth into this dark world. You want to fly through the air and swoop down to rescue someone in the nick of time. Okay, maybe not that last one. (But wouldn't that be so cool?) To do those things, you need to be brave. Well, here's what you need to know about being brave: You don't need muscles like Superman or lightning-fast reflexes like Wonder

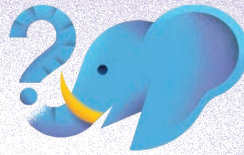


Woman. You don't need to climb walls like Spider-Man or talk to dolphins like Aquaman. You don't need Captain America's shield or Iron Man's iron suit. (But again, wouldn't that be so cool?) Truth is, there's only one thing you need to be brave.

God.

Because God has *all* the superpowers. He soars on the wind to rescue His people (Psalm 18:10). He commands the thunder and the lightning (Psalm 18:14). No enemy can stand up to Him! And when you believe He is who He says He is and that He'll do what He says He'll do—when you love, trust, and obey Him—God will pour His power into you (Ephesians 1:19–20). He will help you be brave enough to do what is right. And *that's* what makes a real superhero.

LORD, I WANT TO BE BRAVE—NOT SO THAT I CAN BE LIKE A SUPERHERO BUT SO I CAN TELL THE WORLD HOW SUPER-AMAZING YOU ARE. AMEN.



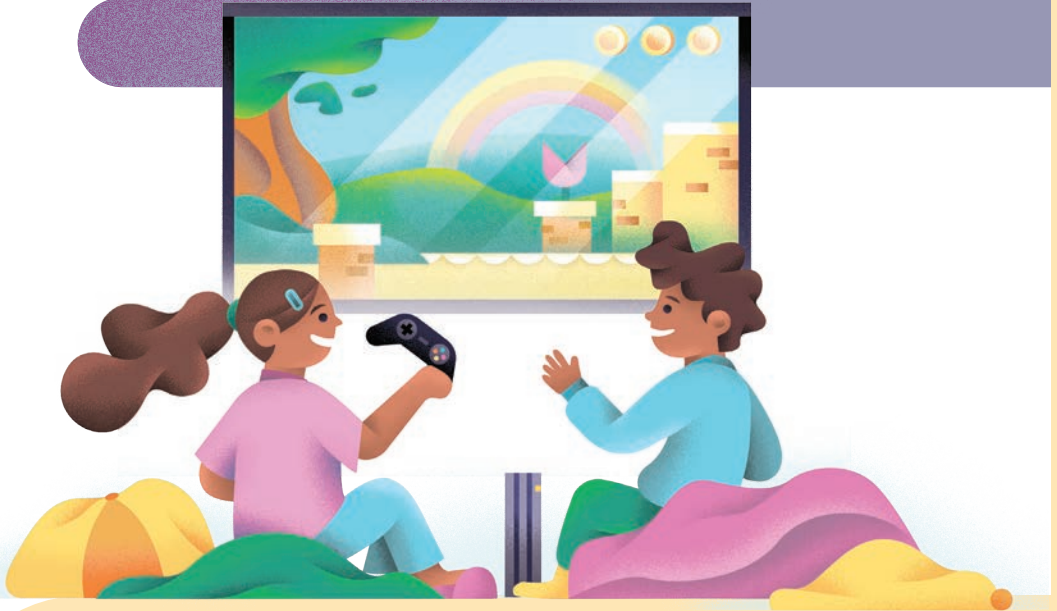
DID YOU KNOW?

The super-est superheroes aren't found in movies or comic books.

They're the real-life ones, like Harriet Tubman. Harriet was born a slave in Maryland sometime around 1820. She was beaten, and often she was fed only scraps. In 1849, Harriet used the Underground Railroad—a network of people who hid slaves trying to escape—to get to Pennsylvania and to freedom. But that wasn't enough for Harriet. She became a conductor on the Underground Railroad and helped more than three hundred slaves escape. Harriet became known as “Moses” because, like Moses in the Bible, she led her people to freedom.

3

YOU DO YOU?



Do what is right to other people. Love being kind to others. And live humbly, trusting your God.

MICAH 6:8 ICB

HAVE YOU HEARD THE saying “You do you”? It’s pretty popular these days. It means you should do your own thing—whatever makes you happy. Of course, that also means that everyone else should be free to do their own thing—whatever makes them happy. Sounds good, right?

What if the thing that makes you happy makes someone else unhappy? Or whatever makes someone else happy leaves you feeling hurt? That definitely



GET READY TO ROAR!

Micah 6:8 gives us three ways to live for God.

Today, let's work on kindness. Who can you be extra-kind to today? Maybe include your little brother or sister in a game with your friends, or let them ride in the best seat in the car—even if you already called it. Offer to bring in the mail for an older neighbor. Or be kind to your community by picking up litter. How many kind things can you do today?

doesn't sound so good. God has a much better plan. Instead of *you do you*, God says you should *do what's right for others*.

What does that mean? An awesome verse in the little book of Micah sums it up for us: "Do what is right to other people. Love being kind to others. And live humbly, trusting your God" (6:8 ICB). Because, as it turns out, living the way God wants you to isn't about *you* at all. It's about God, and it's about others. You see, God created you to show everyone around you how amazing and full of love He is. The best way to do that is to treat everyone the way God treats you—with lots of love and kindness.

So instead of ignoring your brother, let him play the video game with you. Instead of interrupting your friends to talk about what *you* want to talk about, listen and show interest in what they care about. Help your dad put away the groceries, and offer to help your mom make dinner.

Get out there and show the world how awesome God really is!

**LORD, TEACH ME TO BE WHO YOU CREATED ME TO BE SO I CAN DO
WHAT IS RIGHT, BE KIND, AND TRUST IN YOU. AMEN.**

4

SCARED AND BRAVE



The LORD your God will go ahead of you and fight for you.

DEUTERONOMY 1:30 NCV

WHEN IT COMES TO trouble, a lot of times you can avoid it by making good choices. For example, if you tell the truth, you won't get in trouble for lying. If you keep your eyes on your own test, no one will think you're a cheat. If you are kind and helpful, you won't get in trouble for being a jerk.

But there are some kinds of trouble we can't avoid, no matter how good our choices are. Things like getting sick, hearing our parents fighting, or losing

someone we love. Nobody chooses for those kinds of things to happen, but sometimes, well, they just do.

When trouble comes, it can be scary. And it's okay to be scared. But you don't have to be stuck feeling afraid. You can be scared *and* brave at the same time. How? By calling out to God in prayer. He's never scared, and He's always ready to help.

God starts answering your prayers even before you finish praying (Isaiah 65:24). And He never leaves you to fight your way through a jungle of troubles on your own. God doesn't just fight by your side either. No, He goes ahead of you and starts fighting *for* you. He clears the way and makes sure you have everything you need to get through to the other side.

The next time trouble finds you, call out to God—and then watch to see how He answers you.

GOD, THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS HEARING AND ANSWERING ME. I TRUST YOU TO ALWAYS FIGHT FOR ME. AMEN.



DID YOU KNOW?

Corrie ten Boom was working in her family's watch shop when the Nazis invaded Holland. The Nazis began rounding up Jews and sending them to concentration camps where millions of people died. Corrie wasn't Jewish, so she could have ignored what was happening around her. Instead, she bravely risked her life by hiding Jewish people in a secret room in her house. When the Nazis found out, she and her family were arrested and taken to a camp. She survived, and later—with God's help—she was even able to forgive those who hurt her in the camp.

5

WANNABE LION



Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

1 PETER 5:8 NLT

T HE LION CROUCHES IN the grass, not moving a muscle or making a sound. He's watching his prey—the prey that doesn't even know the enemy is there. And he's waiting, just waiting for the perfect moment to . . . *pounce!*

It's easy to see how dangerous a lion is when he's stalking his prey, but the devil is even more dangerous. The Bible says he's like a lion—crouching and

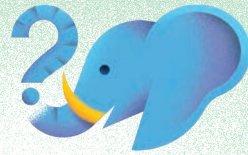
hiding, prowling around, waiting for the perfect moment to pounce! Now, the devil doesn't want to munch on your legs or toes. Instead, he wants to eat up your peace, joy, and trust in God. Those are his favorite snacks.

But the devil is only *like* a lion. He's a wannabe who wishes he could be as powerful as the real Lion. It's like he's roaring from inside a lion costume.

Who's the real Lion? Jesus, the Lion of Judah! When you trust Jesus and believe He's God's own Son, He comes to stand between you and the devil. And no wannabe lion can get past Him.

In the wild, you can spot a lion by looking for animals that are upset, worried, and scared. That's a pretty good way to spot the devil too. If you're upset, worried, or scared, ask God to show you what lies the devil might be roaring at you. Then take a look at what the Bible says is true. Like the fact that not even a wannabe lion can take away God's love and care for you (Romans 8:38–39).

LORD, WHEN THE DEVIL ROARS AT ME, HELP ME REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN HE COULD EVER BE! AMEN.



DID YOU KNOW?

Why is Jesus called “the Lion of Judah”? Well, the lion is the “king of all beasts,” while Jesus is the “King of all kings.” That’s why Jesus is sometimes compared to a lion. The Judah part comes from a guy named Judah. He was one of Jacob’s twelve sons (Genesis 49). Judah was also the great-great-great-*whole bunch of greats*-granddad of Jesus, which makes Jesus from the family of Judah. That’s why Jesus is called the Lion of Judah. And when He roars, that wannabe lion named Satan runs away like a scaredy-cat!

NOT THE END

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”

JOHN 11:25 NIV

WHEN SOMEONE WE LOVE dies, it's often called “losing someone.” I guess that's because we've lost the gift of spending more time with that person. What's left behind is this big, ugly hole of emptiness where there used to be hugs and smiles and laughter. And it hurts. Boy, does it hurt. It's hard to get up and keep going. Sometimes it takes every scrap of courage we have just to face the everyday stuff of life.



But I've got to tell you something that's so important: *losing someone you love isn't the end of the story*. It's just a curve in the road. When we love and trust God, death is just the beginning—the beginning of a whole new life in heaven that's more wonderful and more real than anything we could ever imagine. That person you love is singing, dancing, and loving their new life with Jesus. And one day, you'll be with them again—singing, dancing, and loving your new life with Jesus too.

Until then, yeah, there's going to be some sad times and some tears. But it *will* get easier. And you need to know that it's okay to be happy again. You can still show love and honor to the person you lost by dancing, laughing, and remembering all the wonderful things about that person. And if you need to cry, that's okay too.

One day, all our hurt will end forever, and we'll find the ones we lost waiting for us in heaven.

LORD, EVEN WHEN I AM HURTING, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE DEATH ISN'T THE END, AND I'LL SEE MY SPECIAL PERSON AGAIN. AMEN.



GET READY TO ROAR!

When you lose someone you love, the hurt can be so huge that it blocks out everything else. Ask God to fill your thoughts with good and special memories of that person—all the things that make you smile. That might happen a little bit at a time, so start a collection. Write them in a journal and paste in favorite pictures to remind you of times you shared together. And when the hurt gets huge, look back through your collection, remember the happy times, and know that it's okay to smile.

7

JUST PASSING THROUGH



“There are many rooms in my Father’s house. . . .
I am going there to prepare a place for you.”

JOHN 14:2 ncv

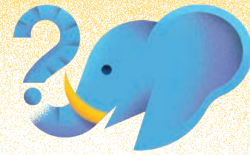
TEMPORARY. IT MEANS THAT something will last only for a time. That’s what life here on earth is: temporary. We’re just passing through. If you’re a follower of Jesus, that’s actually very good news. Because you’re just passing through on your way to heaven—a place so wonderful that words can’t describe it. And here’s some even better news: You’re not just

headed for heaven. You're headed for a place that Jesus has prepared *just for you*. He's painted and polished and put your name on the door.

Why is that important? Because when you're up against a problem—whether it's a little one or a mountain-size one—you can know it's only temporary too. Knowing there will be an end to that problem can give you the courage to keep getting up and facing it.

So if you are struggling with something—your best friend moved away, you or someone you love is sick, or your parents are splitting up—don't let the hugeness of that problem stop you in your tracks. This life is like a journey, and trouble is just a part of that journey. But you're passing through on the way to someplace wonderful. Keep putting one foot in front of the other. Keep doing the next thing you know is right, and then the next. Sure, it takes courage. But you can do this. Because God is on your side, and you're just passing through.

GOD, WHEN TROUBLES SEEM LIKE THEY'LL NEVER GO AWAY, HELP ME REMEMBER THAT I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH. AMEN.



DID YOU KNOW?

Everything on earth is temporary. Just ask the dinosaurs! Dinosaurs may be extinct, but we know a lot about them. How? People have found the fossils of their bones. Dinosaur bones were first found back in the 1820s by Dr. Gideon Mantell. But it was Dr. Richard Owen who gave dinosaurs their name, calling them *Dinosauria*, which means “terrible lizard.”