

FRIENDS WITH GOD

STORY BIBLE

Why God Loves People Like Me



WRITTEN BY Jeff White

ILLUSTRATED BY David Harrington

FRIENDS WITH GOD STORY BIBLE

Why God Loves People Like Me

Written by Jeff White



Illustrated by David Harrington

LIFETREE®

Group

MyLifetree.com



Visit MyLifetree.com/Kids for more fun, faith-building stuff for kids!

Friends With God Story Bible: Why God Loves People Like Me

Copyright © 2017 Group Publishing, Inc./0000 0001 0362 4853
Lifetree™ is an imprint of Group Publishing, Inc.

Visit our website: group.com

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher, except where noted in the text and in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, visit group.com/permissions.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2007, 2013, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Credits

Author: Jeff White
Editor: Jan Kershner
Illustrator: David Harrington
Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz
Creative Director: Michael Paustian
Lead Designer: Stephen Caine
Assistant Editor: Becky Helzer

PRINT ISBN 978-1-4707-4861-6 | EPUB ISBN 978-1-4707-5015-2
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17

Printed in Malaysia.

001 MALAYSIA 0617



DEDICATION

Thank you to all the Sunday school teachers who made Bible stories come alive to me as a kid. I still remember.

Thanks to the world's greatest team: David Harrington, Jan Kershner, Michael Paustian, Stephen Caine, and Joani Schultz. You're the reasons this book is so amazing.

And thank you most of all to those I love the most: my wife, Amy, and my kids, Luke, Daisy, and Cooper. You give me my words and leave me speechless all at the same time.


J.W.

I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus for his love and grace and for allowing me to work on this book, which has been a labor of love.

To my beautiful wife, Sidney, and our wonderful children, Chase, Nick, and Emma: I love you more than I could ever express in words.

D.H.

BRING YOUR BIBLE TO LIFE WITH THE



ADAM

Best known for: Being the first human	Hometown: Garden of Eden
Job: Animal namer	Favorite food: Definitely NOT fruit

Friend of God connection: The name Adam means "man." Just like the first Adam, we all have a physical human body. And because of Jesus, we have a spiritual body, too. That's why Jesus was sometimes called the "last Adam."



FREE FRIENDS WITH GOD APP!

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!
4. Visit MyLifetree.com/Kids for more fun, faith-building stuff for kids!



W INTRODUCTION

You'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

Why God Loves People Like Me




CONTENTS

- 8... Introduction
- 12... Wow! Just, Wow! The Day God Made Me—by Adam
- 19... The Snake, the Tree, and Me—by Eve
- 25... Thank God for Do-Overs—by Noah
- 31... Stars in My Eyes—by Abram
- 37... Laughing Matters—by Sarah
- 43... A Surprise Ending—by Jacob
- 49... Ups & Downs and Ups & Downs and Ups & Downs—by Joseph
- 59... Up the River Without a Rattle—by Miriam
- 65... The Great Escape—by an Israelite Family
- 75... Better Safe Than Sorry—by Moses
- 81... Following the Crowd—by Aaron
- 87... I Am NOT Afraid!—by Caleb
- 93... Now You're Talking—by Balaam
- 99... Unlikely but not Unloved—by Rahab
- 105... Our Blood Runs Bold—by Joshua
- 111... Girl Power—by Deborah
- 117... Who, Me?—by Gideon
- 123... Keeping It Together—by Ruth and Naomi
- 129... A Prayer and a Promise—by Hannah
- 133... Through God's Eyes—by Samuel

- 139...God's on MY Side!—by David
- 145...Stop the Madness!—by Abigail
- 151...Just One Wish—by Solomon
- 157...As Real as It Gets—by Elijah
- 163...Let It Flow, Let It Flow,
Let It Flow—by Elisha
- 167...Lost and Found—by Josiah
- 173...Home at Last—by Ezra
- 179...Up Against the Wall—
by Nehemiah
- 185...For Such a Time as This—
by Esther
- 191...As Bad as It Gets—by Job
- 197...Just Like a Shepherd—by David
- 201...You're the One—by Jeremiah
- 207...All Fired Up—by Shadrach,
Meshach, and Abednego
- 213...Hear Me Roar—by Daniel
- 219...In Deep Water—by Jonah
- 225...Right Where We Belong—
by the Shepherds
- 231...Fly by Moonlight—by Mary
- 237...Here He Comes—by John the
Baptist
- 243...Ask Me Anything—
by Nicodemus
- 249...Do as I Do—by Matthew
- 255...You Can't Buy Forever—
by the Rich Man
- 261...A Gang of Snakes—
by the Pharisees
- 267...The Best for the Best—by Mary
- 273...Because I Love You—by Jesus
- 283...Benefit of the Doubt—
by Thomas
- 289...That's the Spirit!—
by Early Christians
- 295...Walking the Talk—by Peter
- 301...Eyes on Heaven—by Stephen
- 307...Stop, Look, and Listen—
by Philip
- 313...Bad Guy Gone Good—by Saul
- 319...Shaken but not Forsaken—
by Silas
- 329...My To-Do List for God—
by Timothy
- 335...You've Got Talent—by Aquila
and Priscilla
- 341...The End That's Also the
Beginning—by John
- 347...Your Story—by You!







WOW! JUST, WOW! THE DAY GOD MADE ME

GENESIS 1-2:24

BY
ADAM




W^{OW}.

I mean, WOW!


I can't believe what happened to me today.

I was *created*. And it was AMAZING!

God had been very busy the last few days. First there was nothing. Then every day God made something new. Light, the ocean, the sky, the sun and moon, plants, trees, flowers, fish, birds—you name it. Everything was made for a reason, and it was good.

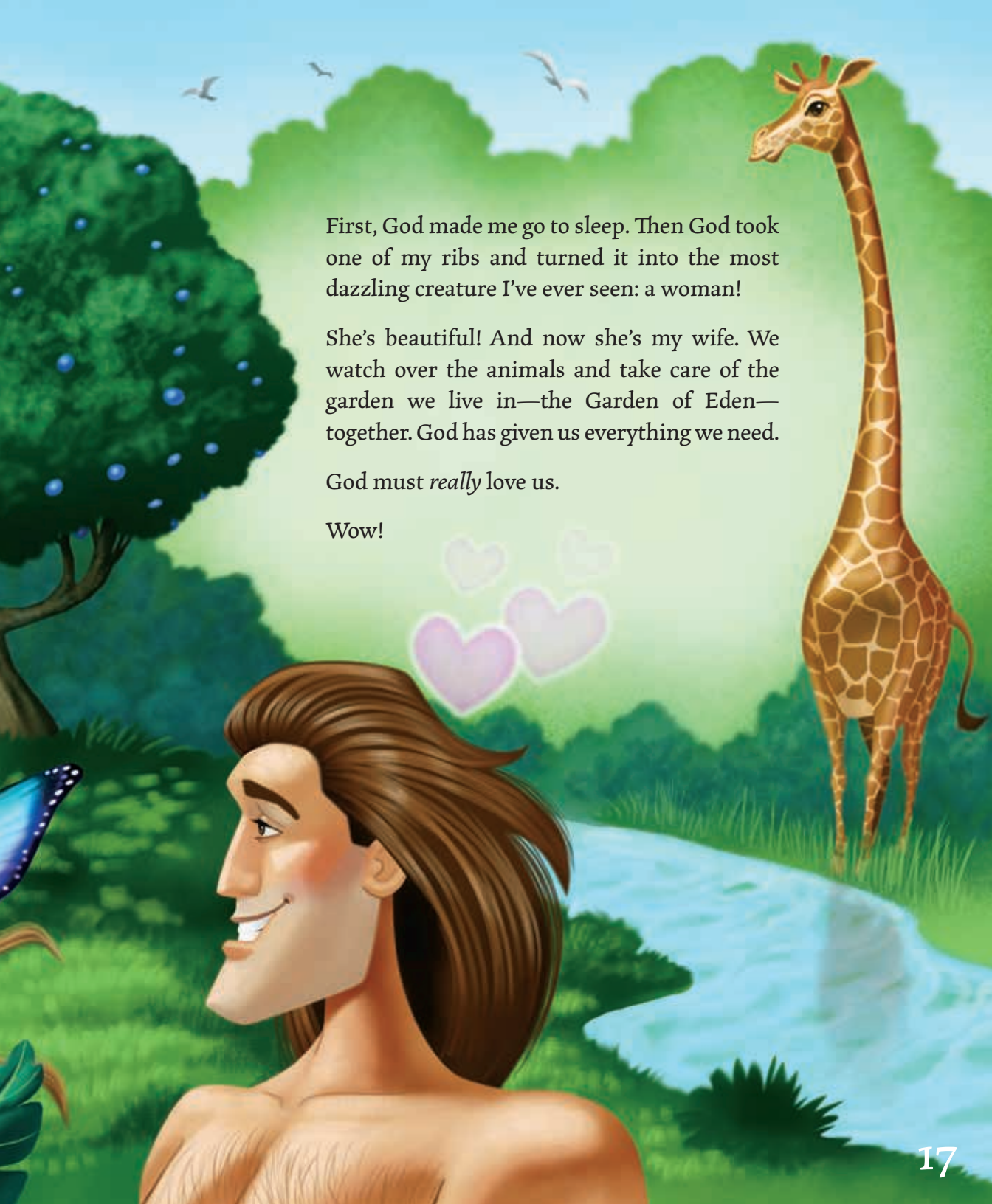


Yesterday God made these things called animals. They're wonderful creatures! Big ones and small ones. Furry ones and tough ones. Spotted ones and striped ones. Some have long necks, others have sharp teeth. Each one is unique. God is so creative!



AND then God made something extra special. God made ME. God took some dirt from the ground—the freshest dirt you’ve ever seen—and shaped me into the first-ever, brand-new, pleased-to-meet-you human being!

God’s world is awesome. I love breathing the crisp air and eating the delicious fruit in the garden. But the thing I love most is what God made just for me.

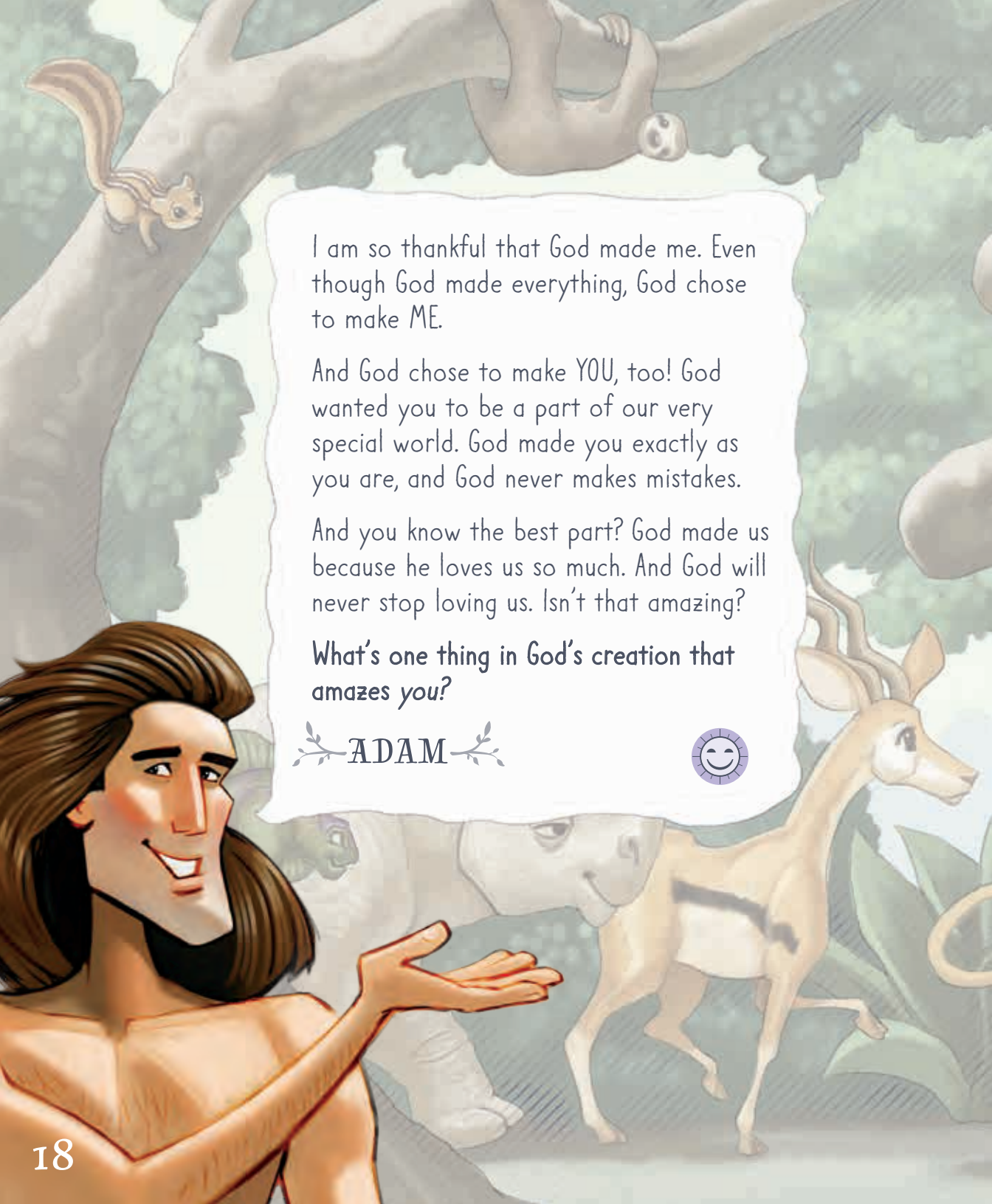


First, God made me go to sleep. Then God took one of my ribs and turned it into the most dazzling creature I've ever seen: a woman!

She's beautiful! And now she's my wife. We watch over the animals and take care of the garden we live in—the Garden of Eden—together. God has given us everything we need.

God must *really* love us.

Wow!



I am so thankful that God made me. Even though God made everything, God chose to make ME.

And God chose to make YOU, too! God wanted you to be a part of our very special world. God made you exactly as you are, and God never makes mistakes.

And you know the best part? God made us because he loves us so much. And God will never stop loving us. Isn't that amazing?

What's one thing in God's creation that amazes you?

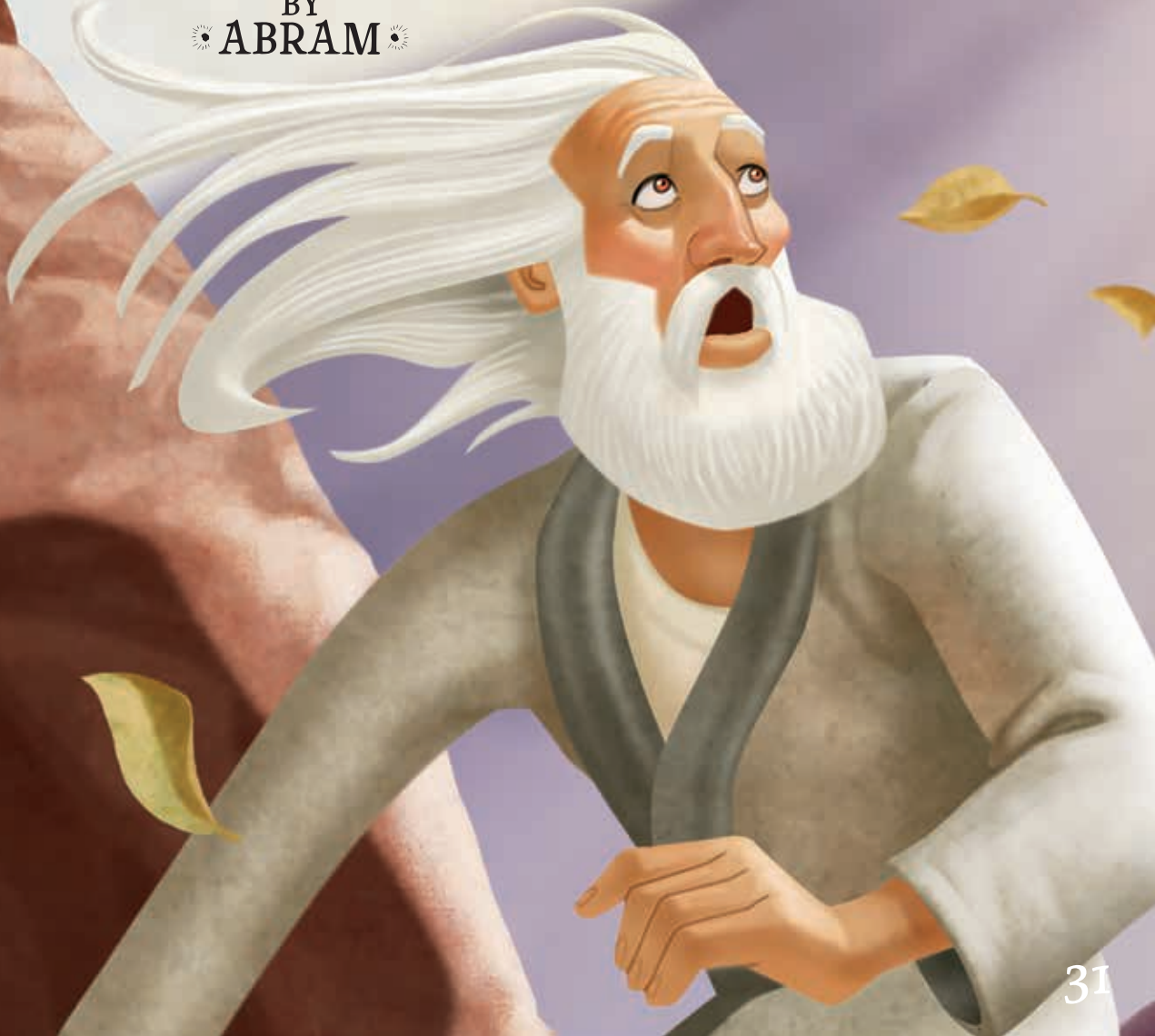
— ADAM —

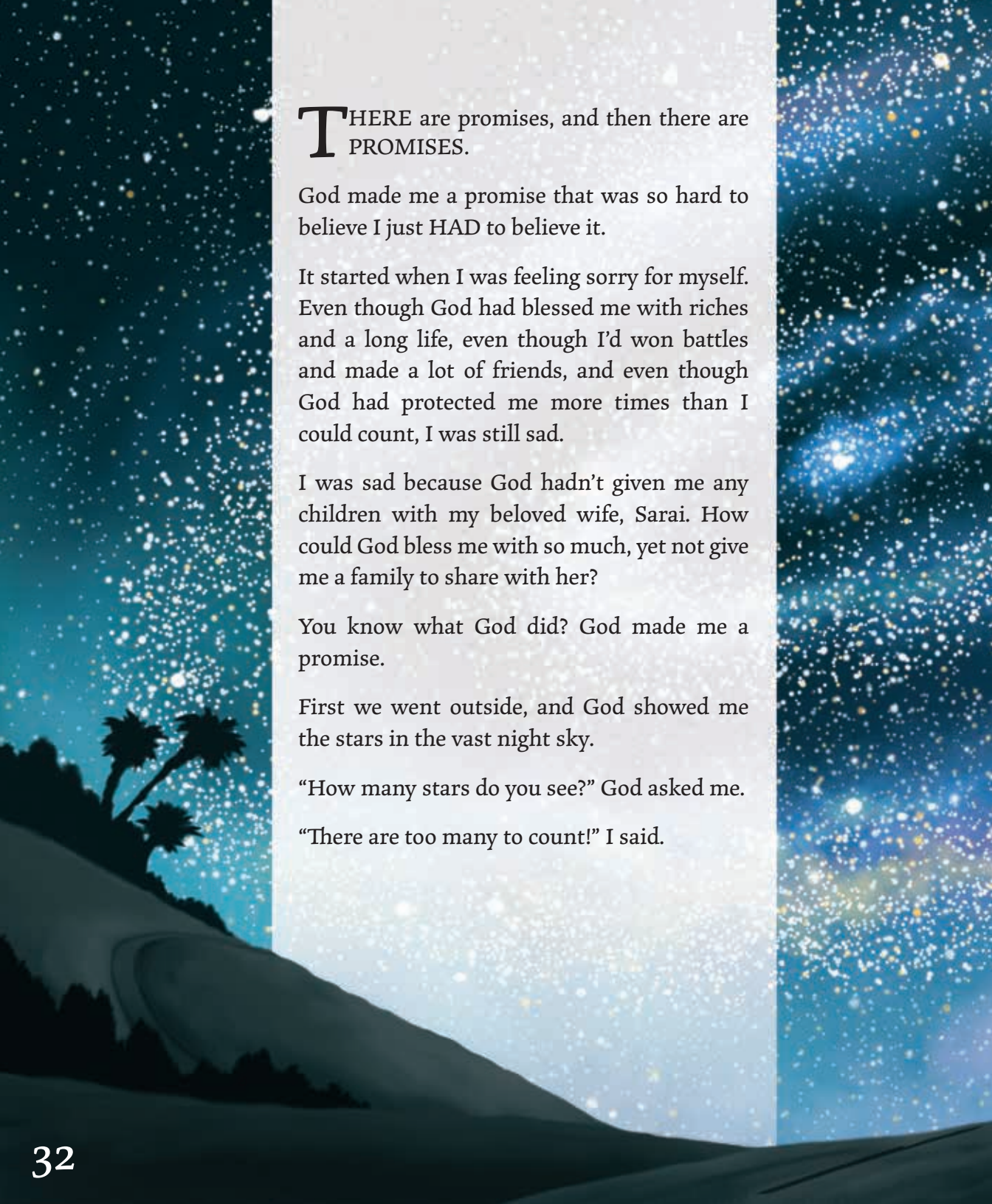


STARS IN MY EYES

GENESIS 15

BY
◉ ABRAM ◉





THERE 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?

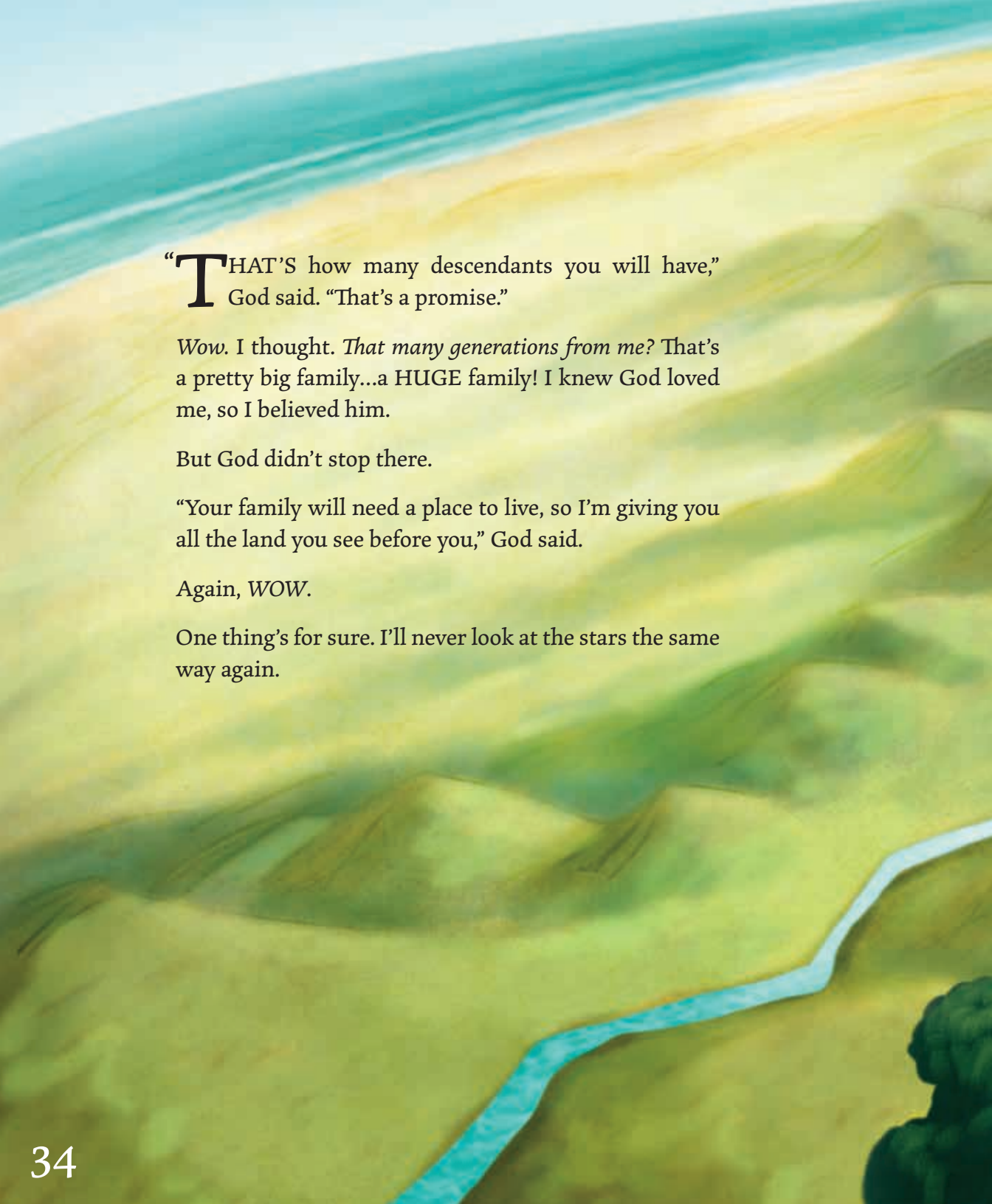
You know what God did? God made me a promise.

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



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

ESTHER 5:1-8; 8:1-17

BY
ESTHER

