

LOVING GOD AND OTHERS

The Bible tells us that God is love, and his love is in us. God shows his love for us in many ways, such as by providing for us, protecting us, and guiding us through each day. When we follow God, his love for us starts to flow out of us and into other people through acts of kindness that we do for them.



CONTENTS:

BIBLE STORIES

Naomi and Ruth	1-2
Isaiah	3-4
Sharing God's Word Reading Plan	5
Love Passage for Kids	6

DEVOTIONALS

Action Word	7
God Is Love	8
Love: Just Do It!	9

COLORING PAGE

You Will Be My People	10-13
-----------------------------	-------

ACTIVITIES

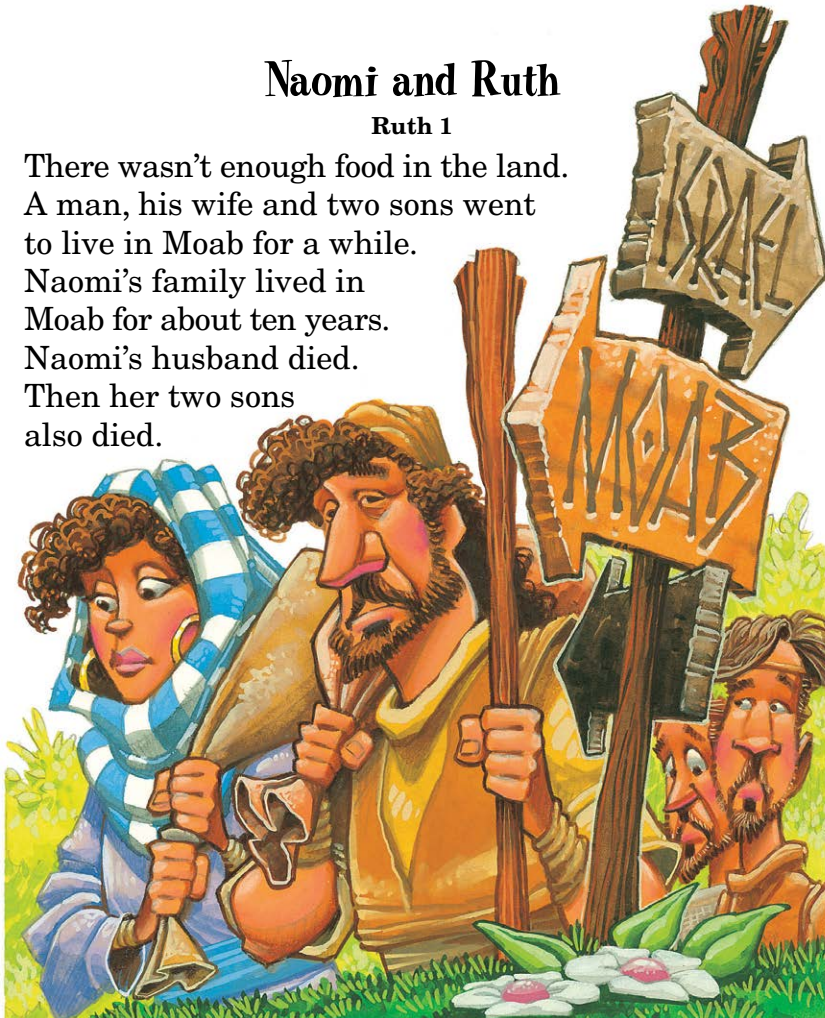
Song of Songs	14-20
• Read About It	
• Think About It (with answer key)	
• Finding Jesus in Song of Songs	
• Write About It	
• Pray About It	
• Do Something About It	
Grain and Straw	21
Kindness Charades	22
Kindness Counts	23

Read this story about how Ruth showed kindness to Naomi.

Naomi and Ruth

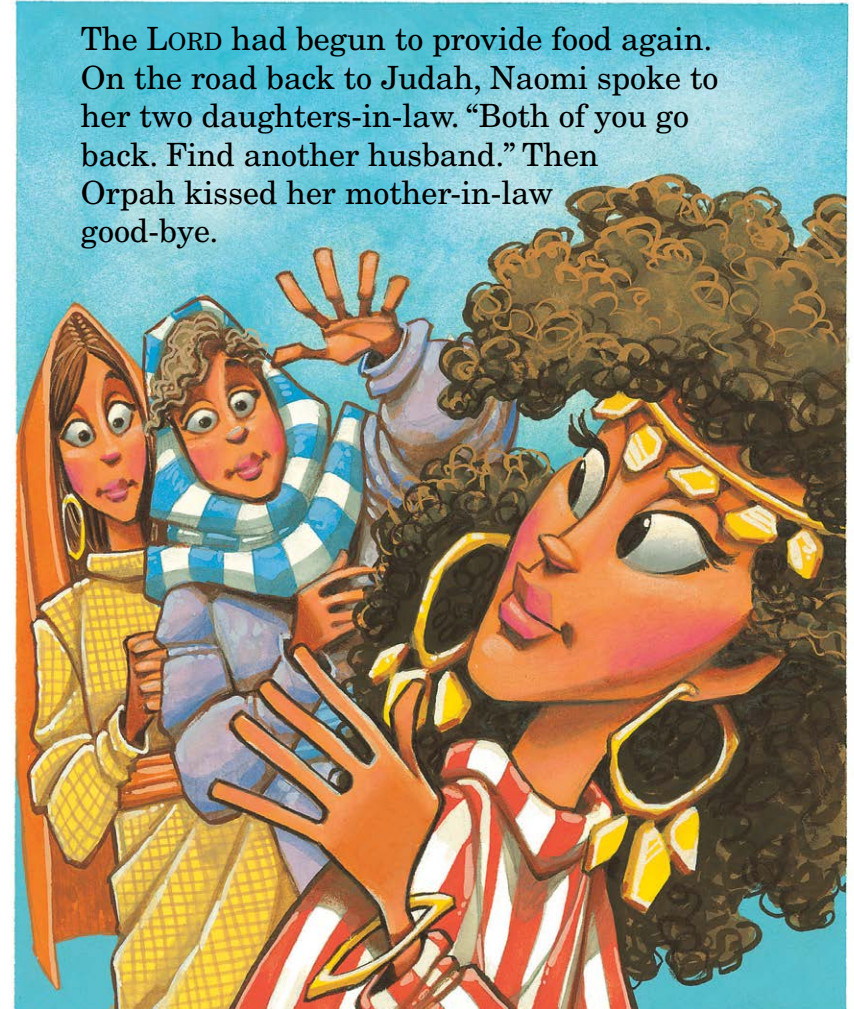
Ruth 1

There wasn't enough food in the land. A man, his wife and two sons went to live in Moab for a while. Naomi's family lived in Moab for about ten years. Naomi's husband died. Then her two sons also died.



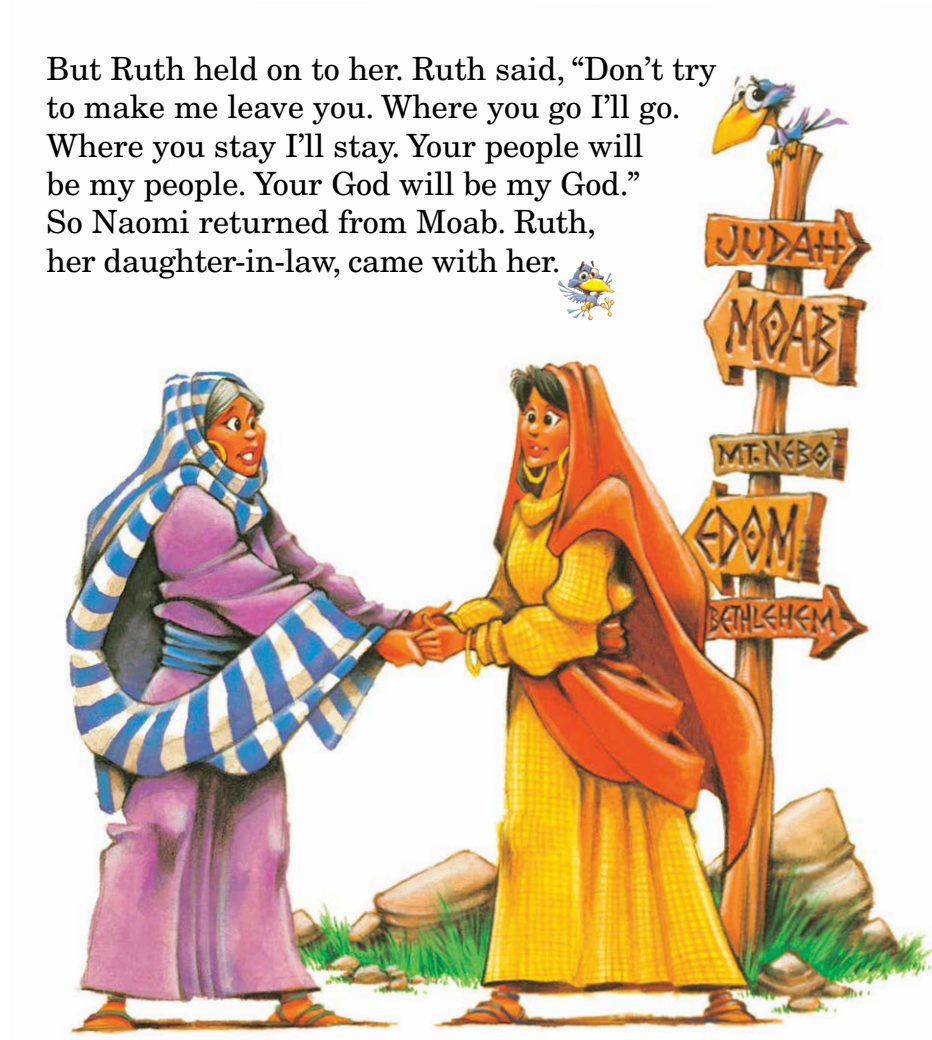
164

The LORD had begun to provide food again. On the road back to Judah, Naomi spoke to her two daughters-in-law. "Both of you go back. Find another husband." Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye.



165

But Ruth held on to her. Ruth said, “Don’t try to make me leave you. Where you go I’ll go. Where you stay I’ll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God.” So Naomi returned from Moab. Ruth, her daughter-in-law, came with her.



Read Luke 55 and the Power Surge feature to learn more about God’s love. Because he loves us so deeply, God watches over us and protects us, and he forgives us when we confess our sins.

836

Isaiah 54–55

you are now all alone.
 But you will have more children
 than a woman who still has a
 husband,”
 says the LORD.
 2 “Make a large area for your tent.
 Spread out its curtains.
 Go ahead and make your tent wider.
 Make its ropes longer.
 Drive the stakes down deeper.
 3 You will spread out to the right and the
 left.
 Your children after you will drive out
 the nations that are now living
 in your land.
 They will make their homes in the
 deserted cities of those nations.
 4 “Do not be afraid. You will not be put to
 shame anymore.
 Do not be afraid of being dishonored.
 People will no longer make fun of
 you.
 You will forget the time when you
 suffered as slaves in Egypt.
 You will no longer remember the
 shame
 of being a widow in Babylon.
 5 I made you. I am now your husband.
 My name is the LORD Who Rules Over
 All.
 I am the Holy One of Israel.
 I have set you free.
 I am the God of the whole earth.
 6 You were like a wife who was deserted.
 And her heart was broken.
 You were like a wife who married young.
 And her husband sent her away.
 But now I am calling you to come
 back,” says your God.
 7 “For a brief moment I left you.
 But because I love you so much, I will
 bring you back.
 8 For a moment I turned my face away
 from you.
 I was very angry with you.
 But I will show you my loving concern.
 My faithful love will continue
 forever,”
 says the LORD. He is the one who set
 you free.
 9 “During Noah’s time I made a promise.
 I said I would never cover the earth
 with water again.
 In the same way, I have promised not to
 be angry with you.
 I will never punish you again.
 10 The mountains might shake.
 The hills might be removed.

But my faithful love for you will never
 be shaken.
 And my covenant that promises
 peace to you will never be
 removed,”
 says the LORD. He shows you his
 loving concern.
 11 “Suffering city, you have been beaten by
 storms.
 You have not been comforted.
 I will rebuild you with turquoise stones.
 I will rebuild your foundations with
 lapis lazuli.
 12 I will line the top of your city wall with
 rubies.
 I will make your gates out of
 gleaming jewels.
 And I will make all your walls out of
 precious stones.
 13 I will teach all your children.
 And they will enjoy great peace.
 14 When you do what is right,
 you will be made secure.
 Your leaders will not be mean to you.
 You will not have anything to be
 afraid of.
 You will not be terrified anymore.
 Terror will not come near you.
 15 People might attack you. But I will not
 be the cause of it.
 Those who attack you will give
 themselves up to you.
 16 “I created blacksmiths.
 They fan the coals into flames of fire.
 They make weapons that are fit for their
 work.
 I also created those who destroy
 others.
 17 But no weapon used against you will
 succeed.
 People might bring charges against you.
 But you will prove that they are
 wrong.
 Those are the things I do for my
 servants.
 I make everything right for them,”
 announces the LORD.

**The LORD Invites Thirsty People to
 Come to Him**

SS “Come, all you who are thirsty.
 Come and drink the water I offer
 to you.
 You who do not have any money, come.
 Buy and eat the grain I give you.
 Come and buy wine and milk.
 You will not have to pay anything
 for it.



Isaiah 55–56

837

- ² Why spend money on what is not food?
 Why work for what does not satisfy
 you?
 Listen carefully to me.
 Then you will eat what is good.
 You will enjoy the richest food there is.
- ³ Listen and come to me.
 Pay attention to me.
 Then you will live.
 I will make a covenant with you that
 will last forever.
 I will give you my faithful love.
 I promised it to David.
- ⁴ I made him a witness to the nations.
 He became a ruler and commander
 over them.
- ⁵ You too will send for nations you do not
 know.
 Even though you do not know them,
 they will come running to you.
 That is what I will do. I am the LORD
 your God.
 I am the Holy One of Israel.
 I have honored you.”
- ⁶ Turn to the LORD before it’s too late.
 Call out to him while he’s still ready
 to help you.
- ⁷ Let those who are evil stop doing evil
 things.
 And let them quit thinking evil
 thoughts.
 Let them turn to the LORD.
 The LORD will show them his tender
 love.
 Let them turn to our God.
 He is always ready to forgive.
- ⁸ “My thoughts are not like your
 thoughts.
 And your ways are not like my ways,”
 announces the LORD.
- ⁹ “The heavens are higher than the earth.
 And my ways are higher than your
 ways.
 My thoughts are higher than your
 thoughts.
- ¹⁰ The rain and the snow
 come down from the sky.
 They do not return to it
 without watering the earth.
 They make plants come up and grow.
 The plants produce seeds for farmers.
 They also produce food for people to
 eat.
- ¹¹ The words I speak are like that.
 They will not return to me without
 producing results.
 They will accomplish what I want them to.
 They will do exactly what I sent them
 to do.

POWER SURGE



FORGIVING F
and
LOVING ❤️

Let those who are evil
 stop doing evil things.
 And let them quit
 thinking evil thoughts. Let
 them turn to the LORD.
 The LORD will show them
 his tender love. Let them
 turn to our God. He is
 always ready to forgive.

Isaiah 55:7

- ¹² “My people, you will go out of Babylon
 with joy.
 You will be led out of it in peace.
 The mountains and hills
 will burst into song as you go.
 And all the trees in the fields
 will clap their hands.
- ¹³ Juniper trees will grow where there used
 to be bushes that had thorns on
 them.
 And myrtle trees will grow where
 there used to be thorns.
 That will bring me great fame.
 It will be a lasting reminder of what I
 can do.
 It will stand forever.”

**The LORD Will Save Those Who
 Come to Him**

56 The LORD says,
 “Do what is fair and right.
 I will soon come and save you.
 Soon everyone will know that what I
 do is right.

² Blessed is the person who does what I
 want them to.
 They are faithful in keeping the
 Sabbath day.



One of the best ways to share God's love with others is by telling them about him and his Word.
This reading plan includes Bible passages that teach us how to do that.

SHARING GOD'S WORD

- DAY 1 1 Peter 3:13-22 **Be Prepared to Give an Answer**
- DAY 2 Matthew 5:1-16 **Let Your Light Shine**
- DAY 3 Luke 24:13-49 **Spreading the News of the Resurrection**
- DAY 4 Acts 2 **Pentecost**
- DAY 5 Acts 8:26-40 **Philip and the Ethiopian**
- DAY 6 Acts 19 **Paul in Ephesus**
- DAY 7 Isaiah 6:1-13 **Here Am I. Send me!**

This passage from 1 Corinthians tells us what it looks like to love others as God loves us.

Love Passage for Kids

Based on 1 Corinthians 13

If I can speak beautifully and sing like an angel but don't love others, I sound like a child banging on a piano or a screeching radio. If I'm very smart—almost a genius—but don't love others, I am nothing.

Love will stand in line and wait its turn.

Love looks for the good in others.

Love doesn't always want what others have, and it doesn't brag about what it does have.

Love is polite, even when the other person is rude.

Love doesn't have to be first.

Love doesn't get angry over small things, and it doesn't remember one reason after another to be hurt.

Love isn't happy when someone else fails but is happy with the truth.

Love will always protect others, especially those who are often picked on or teased.

Love always believes the best about others and is steady and true.

Love never gives up.

*The three most important things to have
are faith, hope, and love.
But the greatest of them is love.*

This devotional reminds that love is something we do, and we should actively share God's love with others.

March 4

Action Word

On the television the children looked so hungry and sick. Abby turned to her dad. "They shouldn't go hungry just because of a war. It isn't their fault. It isn't fair."

Her dad peered over his reading glasses. "What are you going to do about it?"

"Me?" Abby blinked. "Me? I'm just a kid. What can I do?"

"That's not a very good excuse. What do you think you can do?"

Abby thought about it. "I could use some of my babysitting money to help sponsor a family that needs help."

"Tell you what." He put down his book, "If you give half, I'll pay the other half."

"I tell *you* what," Abby stuck her hand out. "I'll sponsor one child all by myself, and you sponsor another child."

"Deal!" They shook hands.

It isn't enough to want to see things get better in the world. You have to become part of what changes the world. That's called *love in action*. Don't just talk about helping others—*Do it*.

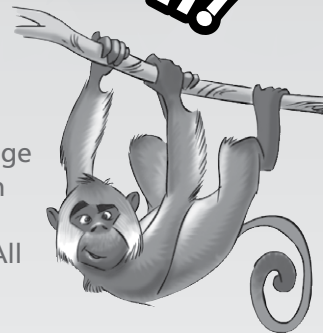
Words to Treasure

Dear children, don't just talk about love. Put your love into action. Then it will truly be love.

1 John 3:18

Live It!

Did you know that 400 kids went to the United Nations to talk to world leaders about how to change the world for the better? Think about ways you can get involved to help your community or the world. Adults are waiting to help you make a difference. All you need to do is get involved.



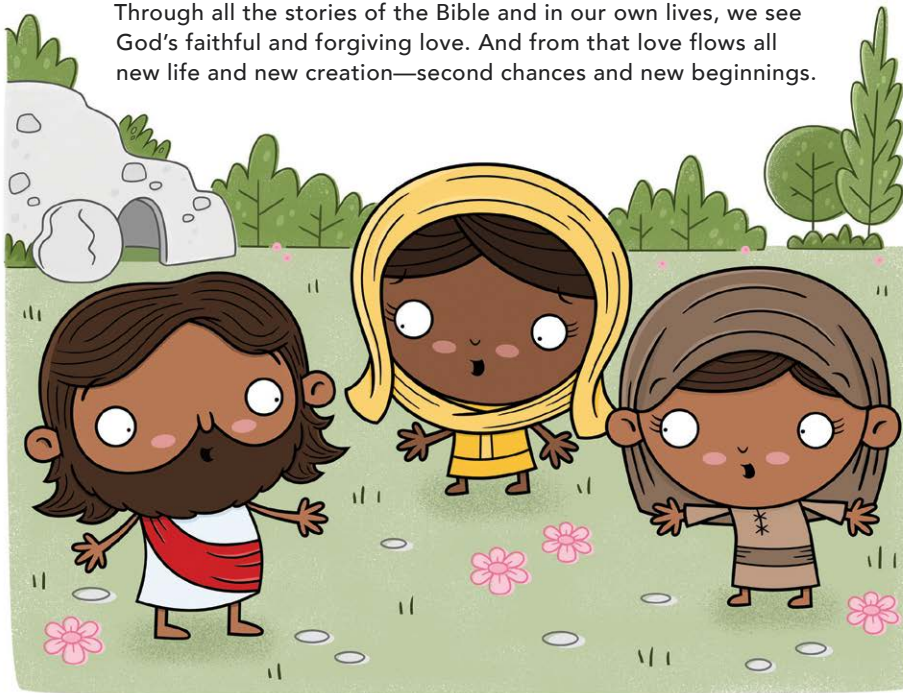
63

What does it mean that God is love? This devotional helps us to understand God’s love and what it means for us.

GOD IS LOVE

The Psalms tell us that God’s love is higher than the heavens. His holiness is as great as the height of the highest mountains. He is as honest as the oceans are deep. He cares for people and animals. God’s faithful love is priceless, and it will never fail or change. There is nothing in all of creation that is more valuable or precious than God’s love for us. Love is who God is. It’s not just at the heart of who he is, it IS who he is!

Through all the stories of the Bible and in our own lives, we see God’s faithful and forgiving love. And from that love flows all new life and new creation—second chances and new beginnings.



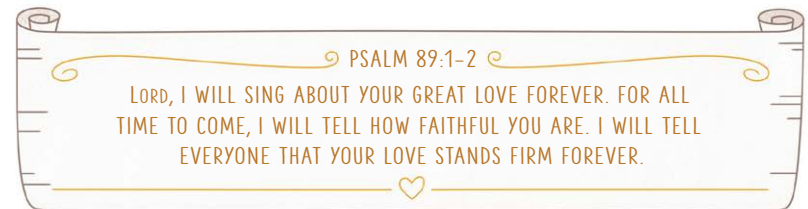
- 70 -

The great story of the Bible tells us who God is, and it also tells us who we are. God made us to be close to him—to love and be loved. That’s what we are made for!



Always remember who you are and who God truly is.

God is love!



- 71 -

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–7 in your Bible and then read this devotion that helps us understand that love is something we do.

1 CORINTHIANS 14

1423

before should do. They should pray that they can explain what they say. ¹⁴ If I pray in another language, my spirit prays. But my mind does not pray. ¹⁵ So what should I do? I will pray with my spirit. But I will also pray with my understanding. I will sing with my spirit. But I will also sing with my understanding. ¹⁶ Suppose you are praising God in the Spirit. And suppose there are visitors among you who want to know what’s going on. How can they say “Amen” when you give thanks? They don’t know what you are saying. ¹⁷ You are certainly giving thanks. But no one else is being built up.

¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in other

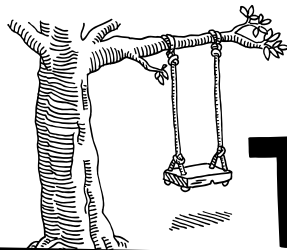
languages more than all of you do. ¹⁹ In the church, I wouldn’t want to speak 10,000 words in an unfamiliar language. I’d rather speak five words in a language people could understand. Then I would be teaching others.

²⁰ Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. Be like babies as far as evil is concerned. But be grown up in your thinking. ²¹ In the law it is written,

“With unfamiliar languages and through the lips of outsiders I will speak to these people.

But even then they will not listen to me.” *(Isaiah 28:11,12)*

That is what the Lord says.



THURSDAY

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud (1 Corinthians 13:4).

TODAY’S BIBLE READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1–7

LOVE: JUST DO IT!

You have a friend who comes over every day. When she is late, you yell at her. When she gets a new toy, you want one too. But when you get a new toy, you won’t share.

Do you love your friend? It sure doesn’t seem like it!

Love is not just a warm, fuzzy feeling. Love is *doing*! And sometimes it is hard work. But the more love you give, the more love comes back to you.

If you really love your friend, you will be patient. You will be kind. You will be happy when she has a new toy. And you will not brag about what you have. Learn to love. Just *do* it!

I have read this devotion.

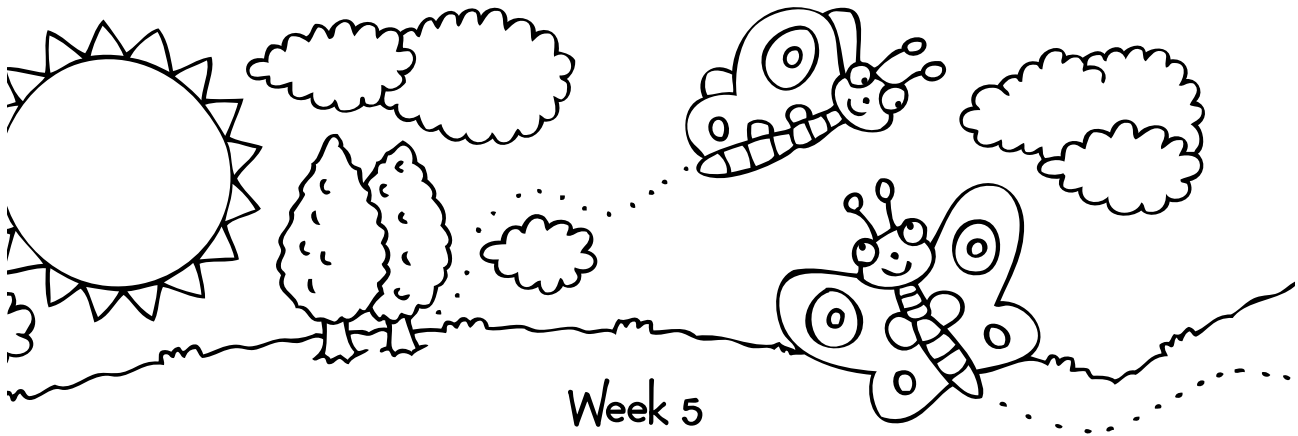
For your next reading, turn to page 1426. If you want to read more, see 1 John 3:11–18 on page 1563.

ASK

YOURSELF

What is love? How can you show love to your friends and family?

God created us for his pleasure, and he loves us very much. He will always be there to guide, comfort, and strengthen us with his love.



Week 5

You Will Be My People

The LORD says,

“I will bless Jacob’s people with great success again.

I will show tender love to Israel.

Jerusalem will be rebuilt where it was destroyed.

The palace will stand in its proper place.

From those places the songs of people giving thanks will be heard.

The sound of great joy will come from there.

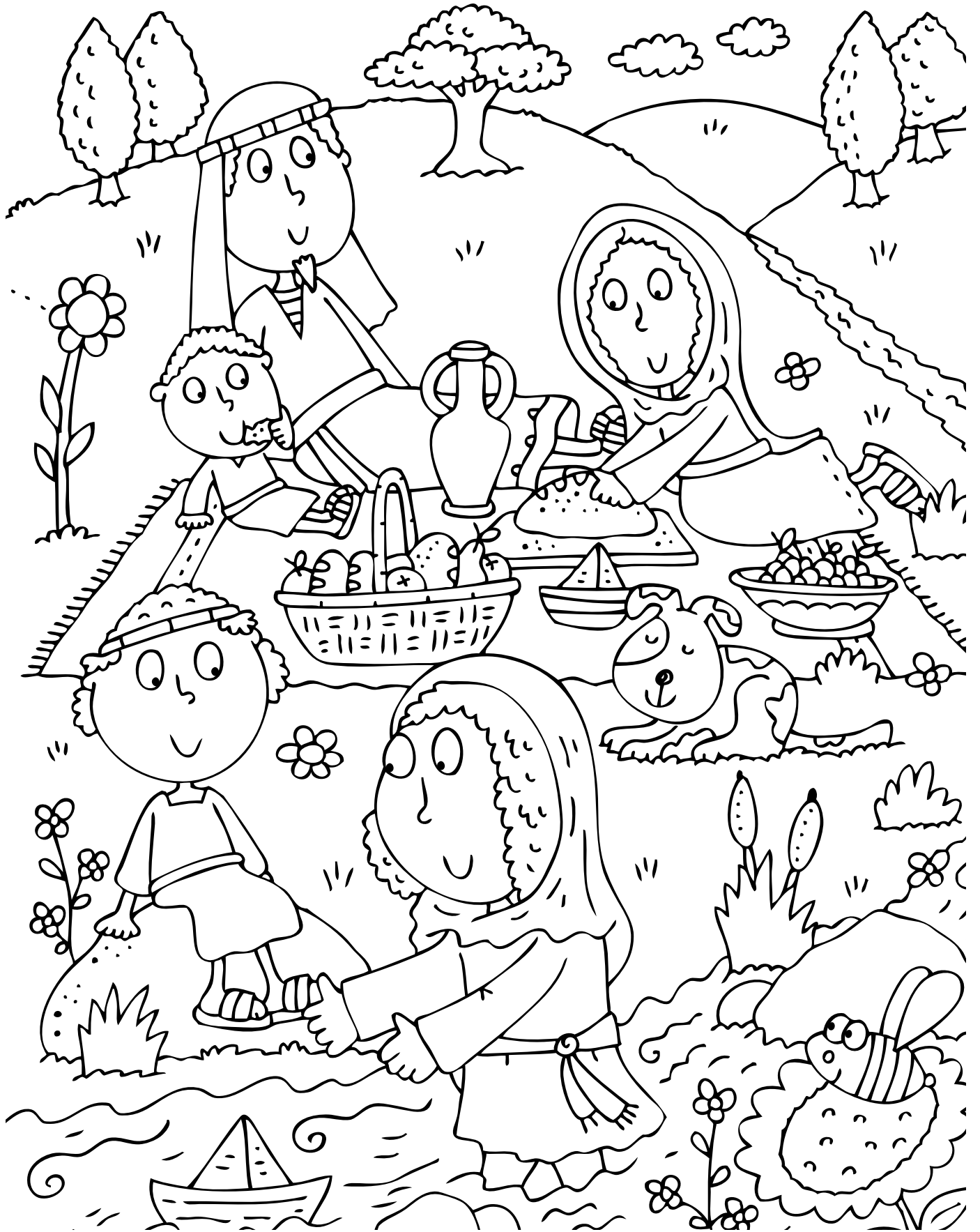
I will cause there to be more of my people.

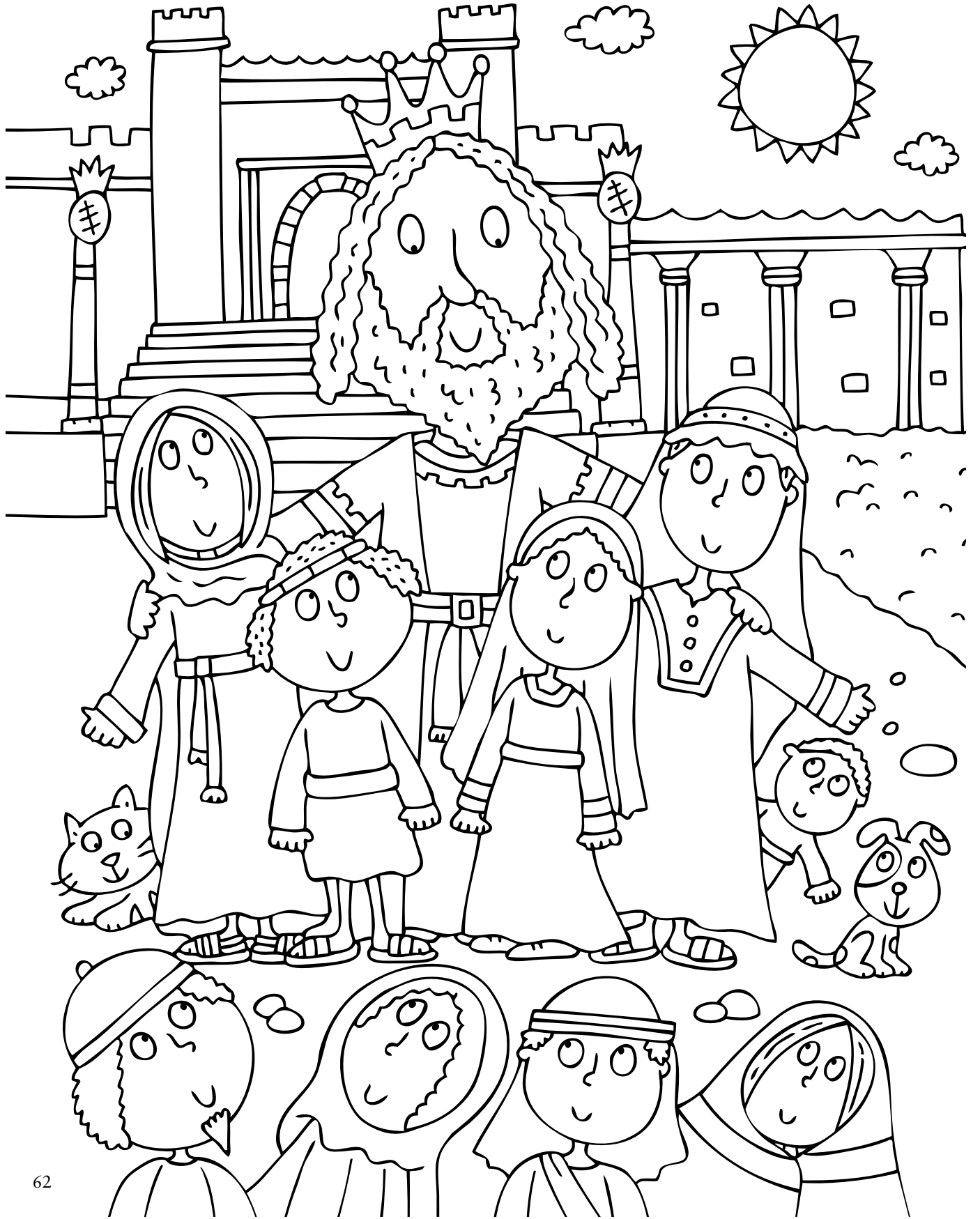
There will not be fewer of them.

I will bring them honor.

People will have respect for them.

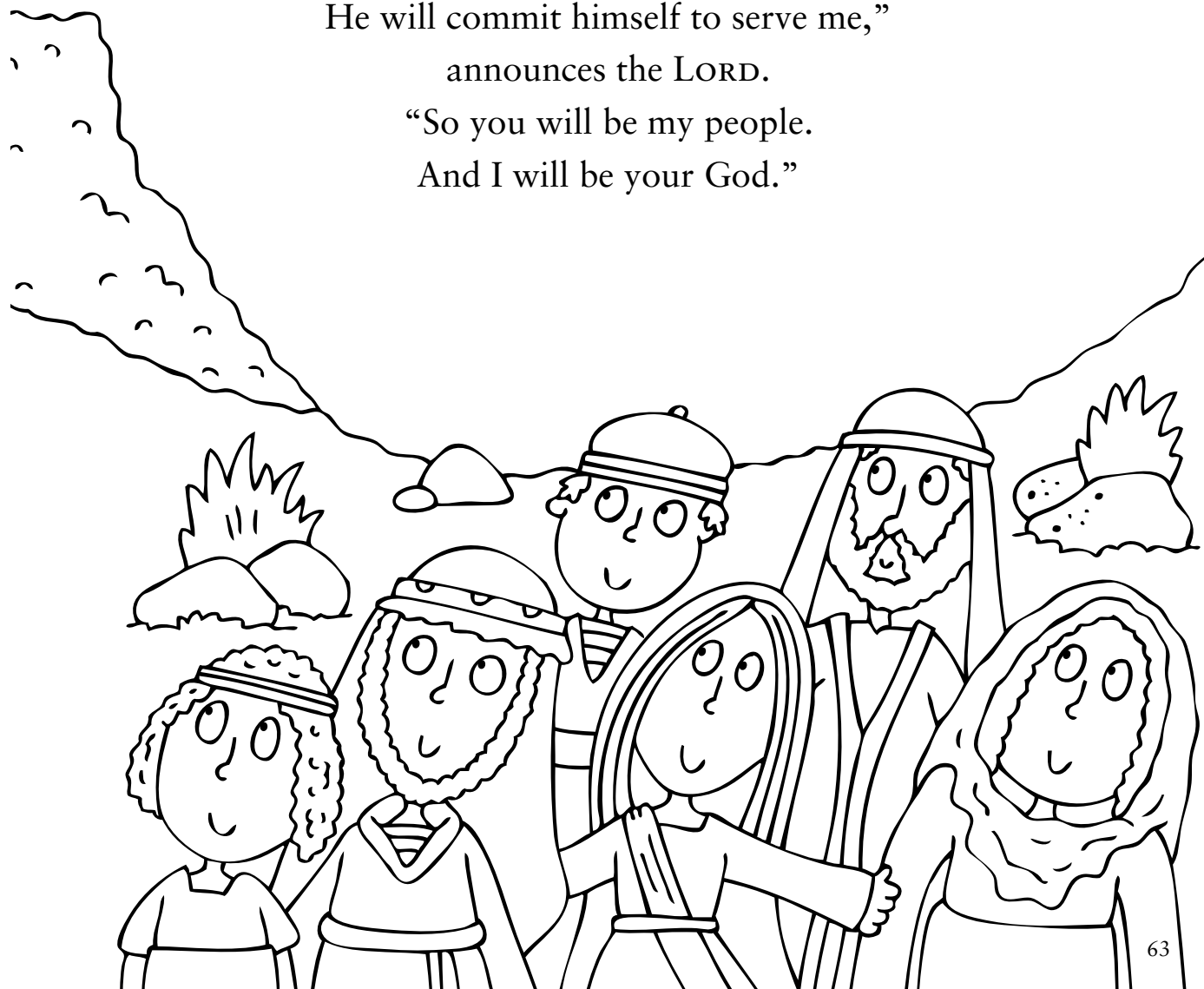






62

“Things will be as they used to be for Jacob’s people.
 I will make their community firm and secure.
 I will punish everyone who treats them badly.
 Their leader will be one of their own people.
 Their ruler will rise up from among them.
 I will bring him near.
 And he will come close to me.
 He will commit himself to serve me,”
 announces the LORD.
 “So you will be my people.
 And I will be your God.”



There is an entire book in the Bible that is dedicated to helping us learn about God’s love for us. This section includes a devotion and activities about Song of Songs, which is a poem about God’s love.

SONG OF SONGS

Week 19, Day 1

Read About It

God shows us how human love can tell us about his love for us.



Do you love baseball? Maybe. Do you love your parents? Of course! These kinds of love are not the same. And there is a love that is even bigger and greater and more amazing than either of these. That’s the love that God has for us!

Song of Songs is a love poem. And there’s a reason why God put this love poem in the Bible. He wants us to have a picture of his love for us. He does that by showing us the wonderful love between a husband and a wife! The husband and wife only want what is best for each other. They love each other completely. Their love for each other is amazing! It’s the best love human beings can have for each other. And God wants us to know that his love for us is even greater than that!

God is honest and faithful to us. He wants to take care of us. He wants to be with us and do things for us. He only wants what is best for us. He loves us completely! His love for us is amazing! So, the love described in Song of Songs is a picture of God’s love for us. And God wants us to love him this way too!

116





Week 19, Day 2
Think About It

SONG OF SONGS

Unscramble the underlined words to complete each sentence. These sentences tell what God’s love for you is like! If you get stuck, read Song of Songs 8:6–7.

Love is like a gzlibna rfei.

Love burns like a gitmyh melfa.

No amount of rwtae can put it out.

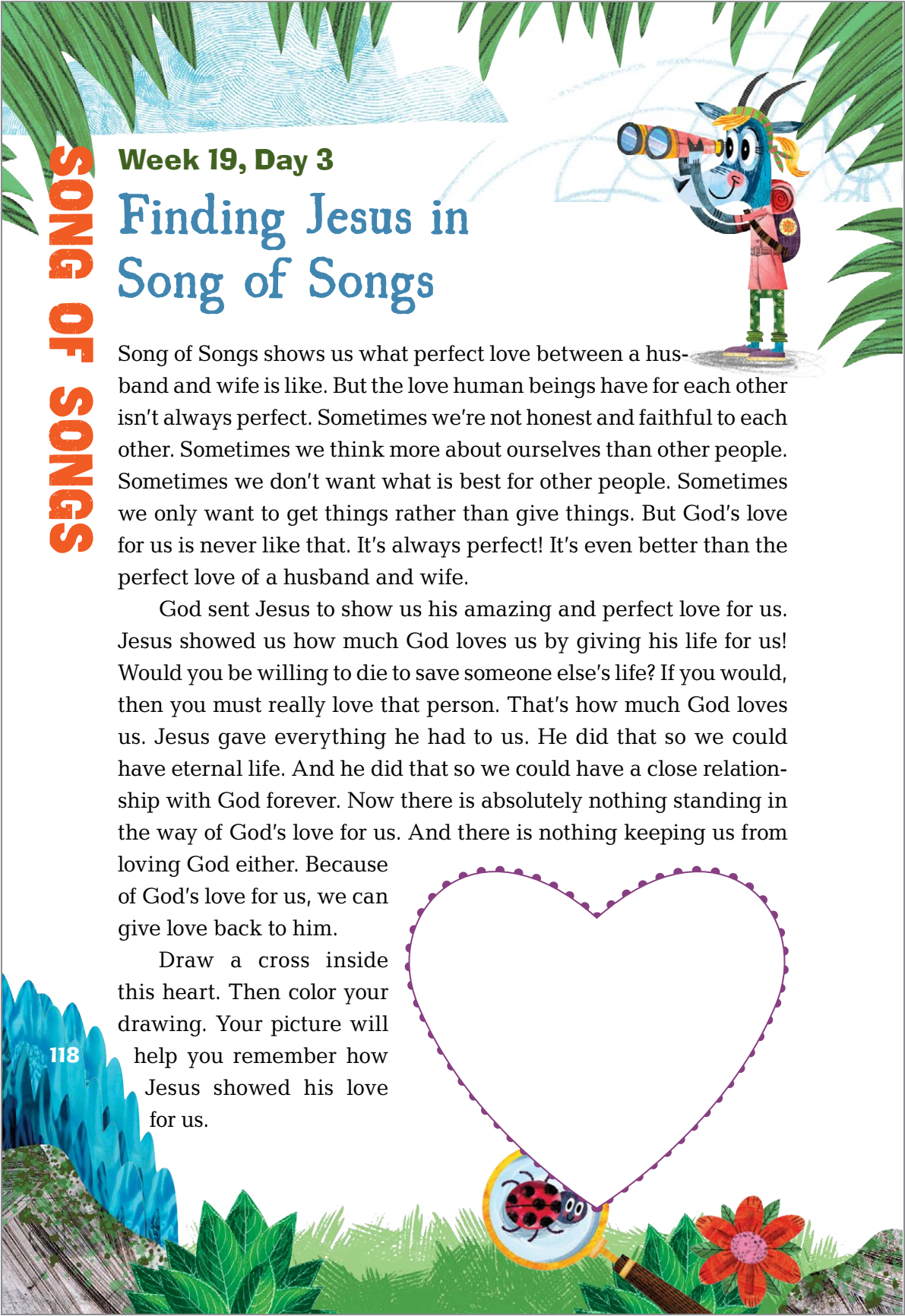
iRrves can’t ewesp it away.

Suppose someone offers all their latehw to buy vole.

That won’t even moce oselc to being hneugo.

117





SONG OF SONGS

Week 19, Day 3

Finding Jesus in Song of Songs

Song of Songs shows us what perfect love between a husband and wife is like. But the love human beings have for each other isn't always perfect. Sometimes we're not honest and faithful to each other. Sometimes we think more about ourselves than other people. Sometimes we don't want what is best for other people. Sometimes we only want to get things rather than give things. But God's love for us is never like that. It's always perfect! It's even better than the perfect love of a husband and wife.

God sent Jesus to show us his amazing and perfect love for us. Jesus showed us how much God loves us by giving his life for us! Would you be willing to die to save someone else's life? If you would, then you must really love that person. That's how much God loves us. Jesus gave everything he had to us. He did that so we could have eternal life. And he did that so we could have a close relationship with God forever. Now there is absolutely nothing standing in the way of God's love for us. And there is nothing keeping us from loving God either. Because of God's love for us, we can give love back to him.

Draw a cross inside this heart. Then color your drawing. Your picture will help you remember how Jesus showed his love for us.



118



Week 19, Day 4

Write About It

SONG OF SONGS

Song of Songs tells us about God's great love. It tells us that God's love is beautiful and amazing. It tells us that nothing in the whole world can separate us from God's great love! When you believe in Jesus, God's great love is yours! Write how knowing this makes you feel.

.....
.....
.....

Think about some things you could do to show God's love to other people. Write a few of those of those things here.

.....
.....
.....





SONG OF SONGS

Week 19, Day 5

Pray About It

Dear God,

Your love for me is amazing! Thank you for loving me so much! I know that you will never stop loving me no matter what happens. I know this because you sent Jesus so that I could have a relationship with you. Now nothing can break my relationship with you. Thank you for loving me so much! Help me to love you more and more. I pray this because I believe in Jesus.

Amen.

Who are you having a hard time loving? Write the name of that person here.

.....

Write five ways you can show Jesus' love to this person. This might be hard but it will be worth it!

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

120



Week 19, Day 6

Do Something About It

SONG OF SONGS

Love is a beautiful gift from God! God showed us his love by sending his son, Jesus Christ, to earth. Here's something you can do that will help you talk to other people about God's love. For this exploration, you will need an envelope and a pencil or marker. You'll also need a letter opener or scissors.

Carefully open all the flaps of the envelope so it lays open and flat. Use the letter opener or scissors to help you, but don't cut it.

In the center of the opened envelope, write the word LOVE. On the opened flaps, write words that tell what love means. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 for some ideas.

Then fold the flaps to close up the envelope. Write JESUS across the closed flaps. That's because Jesus shows us what God's love looks like.

Use this envelope to remind yourself of God's love. When the envelope is open, you see God's love at the center. And when you believe in Jesus, God's love is at the center of your life. All the actions you wrote describe what God's love is like. These actions should be a part of your everyday life too. Pray to God every day and ask him to help you do these things. God wants to hear from you because he loves you!



Answer key for Think About It scrambled word puzzle.

ANSWER KEY

Song of Songs, Day 2

Love is like a blazing fire.

Love burns like a mighty flame.

No amount of water can put
it out.

Rivers can't sweep it away.

Suppose someone offers
all their wealth to buy love.

Read Ruth 2:1–23 and complete the activity to learn more about the kindness Boaz showed to Ruth.

GRAIN AND STRAW

STUFF YOU NEED:

- Generous amounts of two kinds of items to separate, such as two shapes of pasta or two colors of paper cut into small pieces
- Bowls or small tubs, baskets

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Mix up the two different pasta shapes or two colors of paper pieces in one tub.
2. Share that in the Bible story they just read about, Ruth separated the grain from the straw. We're going to play a separating game today.
3. For a noncompetitive game version:
 - a. Have children work in pairs, or a parent and child can work together.
 - b. Have one child search for one shape or color, and the other search for the second shape or color.
 - c. Transfer what they find to baskets.
4. For a competitive version:
 - a. Assign children to teams and prepare a tub and basket for each team.
 - b. Tell each team which shape to find.
 - c. Each player runs to the tub, finds five pieces, and brings them back to the team's basket.
 - d. Play for a specified amount of time then see which team has filled their basket the fullest.
5. Once finished, ask the children the following questions:
 - a. How did Ruth show kindness to Naomi?
 - b. How did Boaz show kindness to Ruth?
 - c. Share together some ways you can show kindness to other people.
 - d. Explain how Boaz and Ruth are good examples of being kind to others. We please God when we are kind.

Read Ruth 3:1–18 to learn about how Boaz showed kindness to Ruth when he found that she and Naomi didn't have anyone to care for them. Then do the activity to think of ways you can show kindness to others.

KINDNESS CHARADES

STUFF YOU NEED:

- Index cards or scrap paper
- Markers
- Basket

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Share with your children that the Bible story was about people who showed kindness to others. In this activity each of us are going to think of ways to show kindness and then we're going to see if we can guess what ideas others came up with.
2. Have your children think of ways to show kindness and write them on index cards. If your child is too young to write easily, have them whisper their ideas in your ear and you write them down.
3. Fold the cards at least in half and put them in a basket.
4. Have children take turns drawing a card from the basket and miming the action on the card for others to guess. If you'd like, you can assign children to teams and have one team act while the other guesses.
5. After you've completed the game, discuss the following questions:
 - a. Which of these kindness ideas do you think you could do for someone?
 - b. When do you think you can show kindness to others?
6. Share that Boaz and Ruth showed kindness on regular days in their regular lives. That's what God wants us to do. We please him when we are kind.

Because God loves us, we should share that love with others. This activity encourages you to think about how you can show God's love to the people around you.

KINDNESS COUNTS

Think about something kind that you have done. Draw a cartoon story about it. Use all six boxes.

1

2

3

4

5

6