

FRIENDS^{WITH} GOD



DISCOVER

HOW TO PRAY

WRITTEN BY Jeff White

ILLUSTRATED BY David Harrington



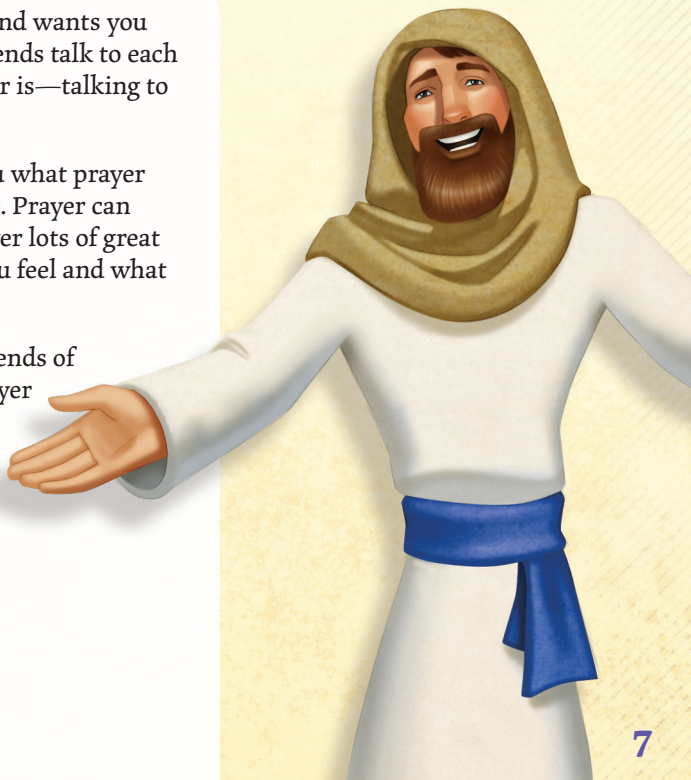
LET'S TALK WITH GOD!

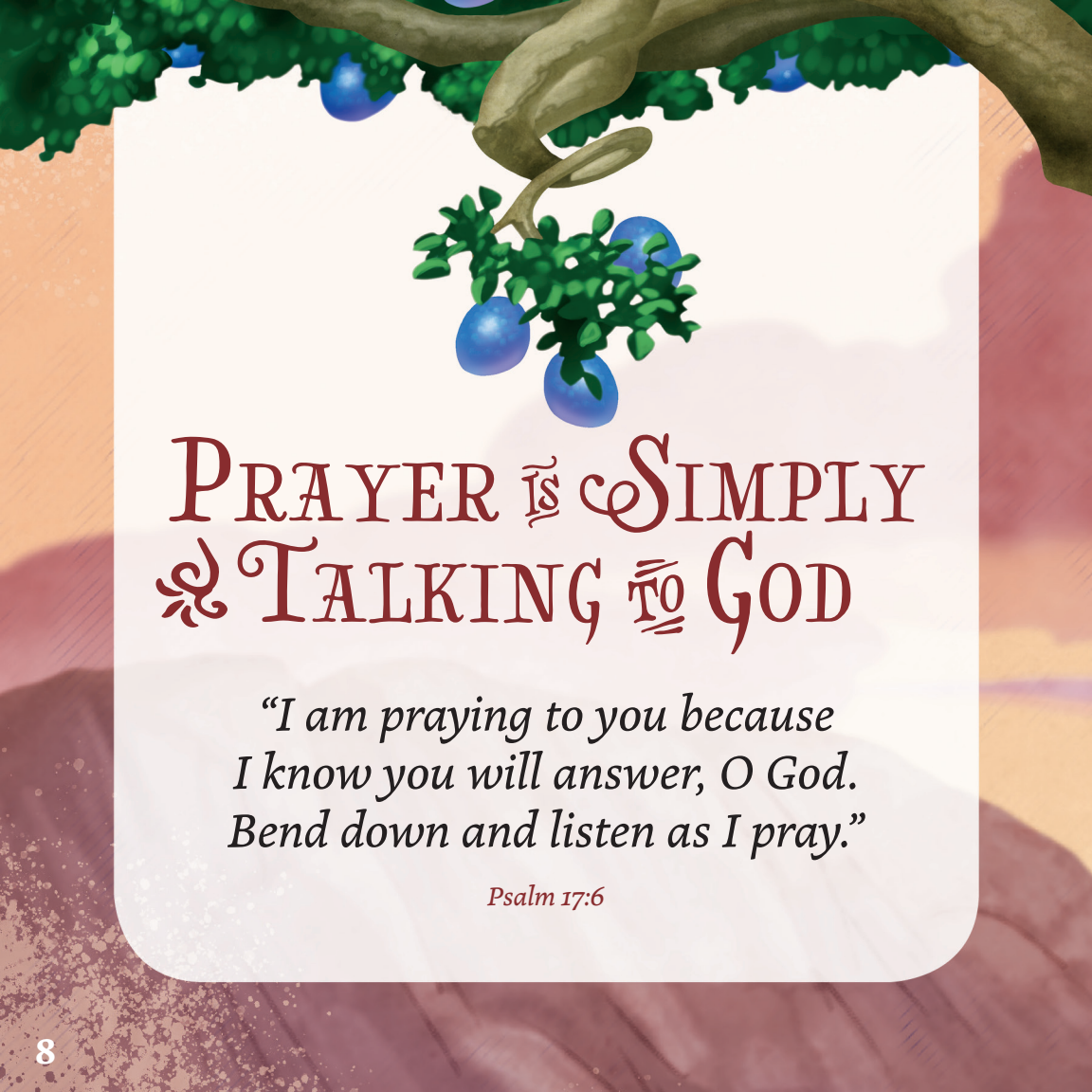
God loves you *so much* and wants you to be his friend. And friends talk to each other. That's what prayer is—talking to God, your friend.

This book will show you what prayer is and how you can do it. Prayer can be fun, and you'll discover lots of great ways to tell God how you feel and what you're thinking about.

So join me and other friends of God to discover how prayer can make you happier, smarter, and kinder. It's going to be fun!

Your friend,
Jesus





PRAYER IS SIMPLY & TALKING TO GOD

*“I am praying to you because
I know you will answer, O God.
Bend down and listen as I pray.”*

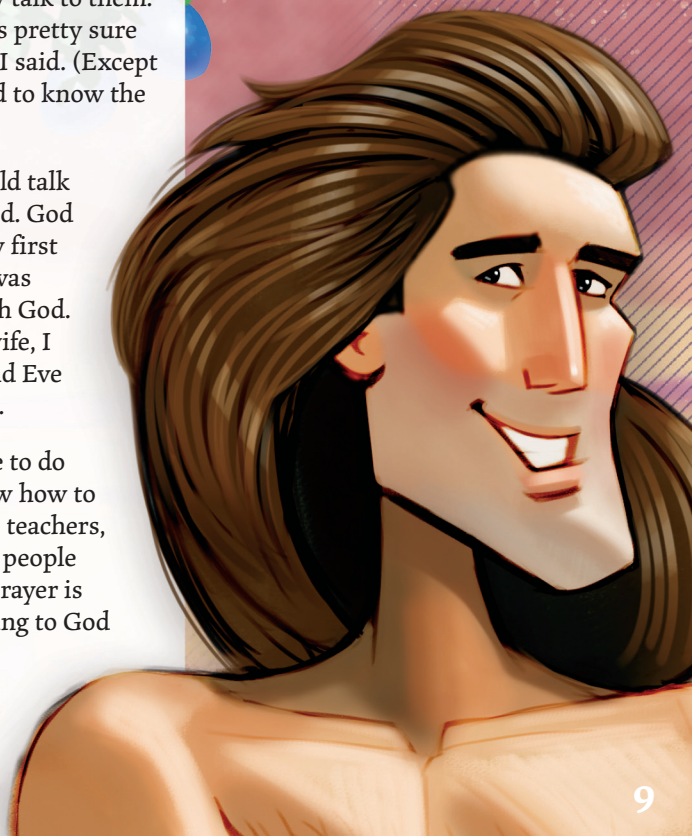
Psalms 17:6

ADAM

When I was in the Garden of Eden, all my neighbors were animals. They came in all shapes, colors, and sizes, and I gave every one of them a name. But as beautiful as all those creatures were, I couldn't really talk to them. They didn't talk back, and I was pretty sure they didn't understand a word I said. (Except maybe the dog. The dog seemed to know the word *treat* really well!)

But there was one person I could talk to: God. God listened. God cared. God even talked back. I was the very first person to pray to God, since I was also the first person to talk with God. And after God made Eve, my wife, I found that talking with God and Eve were just about the same thing.

Praying isn't hard. All you have to do is talk to God. You already know how to talk with your friends, parents, teachers, brothers and sisters, and other people in your life. Easy, right? Well, prayer is talking, too. You're simply talking to God instead of people.



Let's Pray

Talk to God about what you're going to do today.

Here's an example of what it's like to talk to God:

"God, today I'm taking a test at school, and I'm not very excited about it. But I am looking forward to seeing my friends again. Amen."



Write your own prayer here.

A large, empty white rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for writing a personal prayer.

*You just talked to God! Wasn't that easy?
Let's do it again soon!*

GOD WANTS YOU TO PRAY

“When you pray, I will listen.”

Jeremiah 29:12

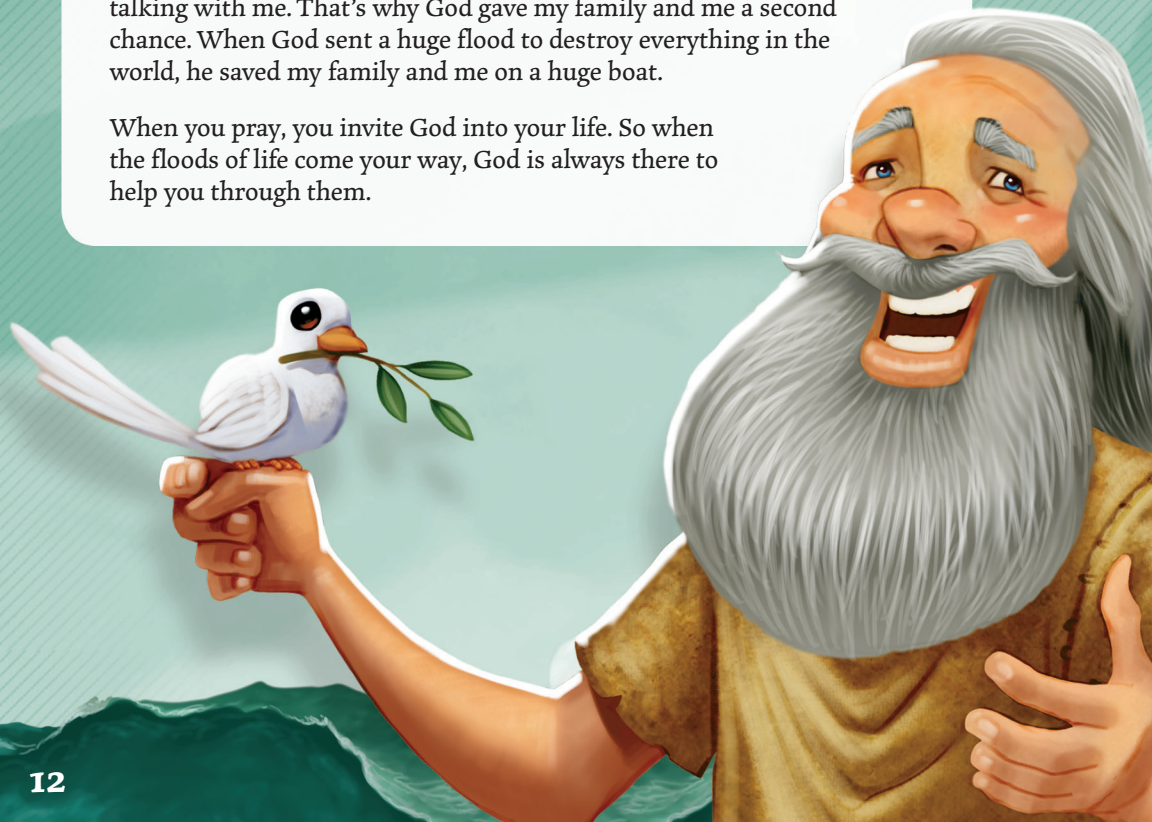


NOAH

God loved making the world and all the people in it. But after a while, many of those people stopped caring about God. They wanted to do their own thing and ignore God. They didn't listen to him.

But not me. I listened to God. I loved talking with him, and he loved talking with me. That's why God gave my family and me a second chance. When God sent a huge flood to destroy everything in the world, he saved my family and me on a huge boat.

When you pray, you invite God into your life. So when the floods of life come your way, God is always there to help you through them.



Let's Pray

Tell God about one thing that overwhelms you, something that feels too big for you to handle by yourself.

Here's an example of what you can say to God today:

"God, I'm so glad that you're bigger than my math problems. That makes me happy, and I love you for that."



Write your own prayer here.

Sweet! God loves hearing from you!

YOU CAN PRAY ANYTIME

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”

Ephesians 6:18



ABRAHAM

It would have been easy for me to think it was too late to pray to God. When I was 100 years old, my wife and I still didn't have any children. Even though God had promised us a big family—a HUGE family—we thought we were too old to have kids. I thought God might have forgotten.

But you know what? I kept praying. I told God I still wanted children. I talked to God about his promise to give me a family. I knew God was my friend, and I knew God always keeps his promises. In his own time, God answered my prayers.

It's never too early or too late to pray. You can't pray too long, and you can't pray too short. Anytime is a great time to pray—day or night, when you're young or old, happy or sad.

It's *always* a good time to talk to God.



Let's Pray



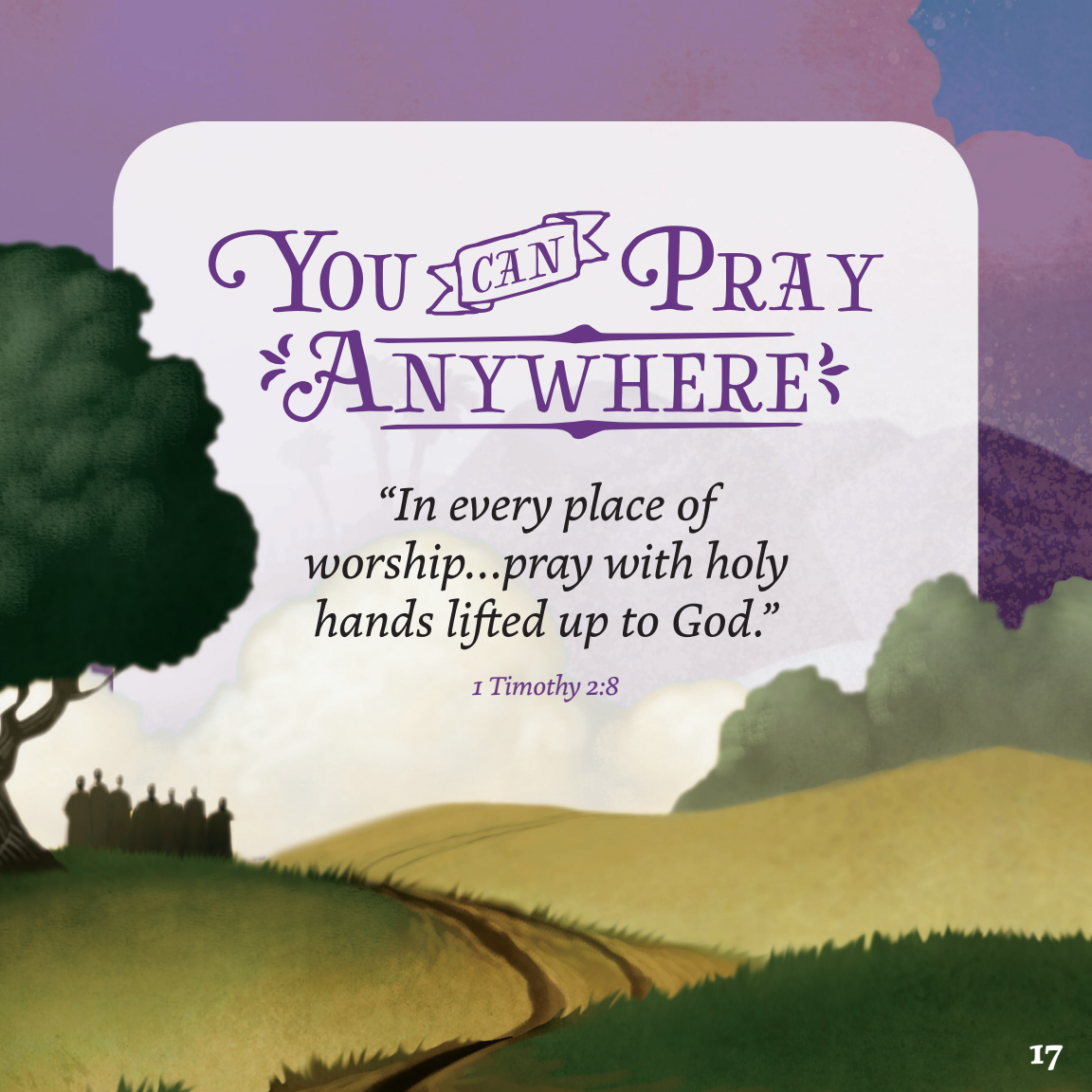
Write your prayer here.

Take a moment, right now, to pray to God. Maybe you can tell God about your day.

Here's an example of what you might say to God today:

"God, today I played outside with my friends, and I had a lot of fun. Even though I didn't talk to you then, I knew you were with me. I'm glad I can talk to you anytime. Amen."

***Great job! Don't forget—
you can pray anytime,
day or night.***



YOU CAN PRAY ANYWHERE

*“In every place of
worship...pray with holy
hands lifted up to God.”*

1 Timothy 2:8

JOSEPH

Ever since I was a kid, I've always been on the move. I was thrown down a hole, I was sold as a slave, I traveled to a foreign country, I was tossed in a prison, and I even served alongside a king. And everywhere I went, I talked to God.

No matter where we are, God is always there. And God is always ready to listen to our prayers.

You can talk to God inside, outside, and upside down. You can pray at home, at church, at school, or at a restaurant. You can talk to God whether you're alone or with other people. God will listen to you anywhere you are.



Let's Pray

Find a spot you've never prayed before.
Take a moment to tell God how you're feeling today.

Try praying in your backyard,
in your family's car, or in a store.



Write your prayer here.

A large, empty white rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for writing a prayer.

*Wasn't that cool?
You can pray anywhere you want.*