

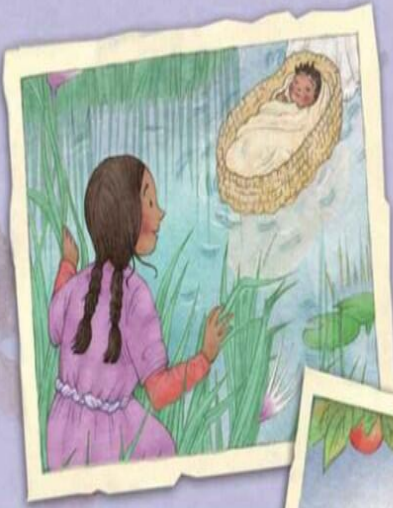
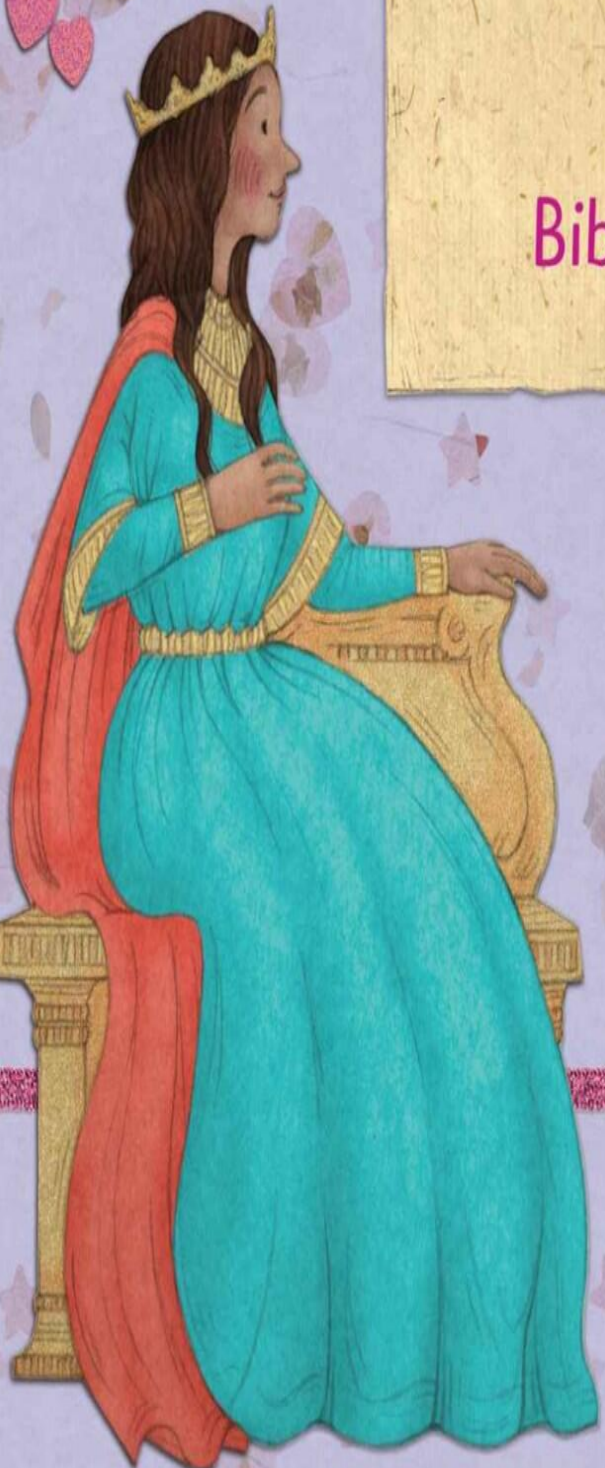
A LIFT-THE-FLAP BOOK



# Love Letters from God

Bible Stories for a Girl's Heart

Written by  
**Glenys Nellist**  
Illustrated by  
**Rachel Clowes**





*This book is dedicated to my sisters:  
Pam, Pauline, and Angela—  
The Encouraging Girls. I love you.  
—G.N.*



*To Ben, Samuel, Patrick and Harry with love  
—R.C.*



ZONDERKIDZ

*Love Letters from God: Bible Stories for a Girl's Heart*  
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Eve

# The First Girl

Genesis 3

God clapped his hands in delight at what's the one fruit God told us not to eat. Eve opened her eyes for the very first time. She was wonderful! After six days of creating the world—painting the skies, stirring the seas, and filling the earth with life—here was God's masterpiece, his glorious finishing touch to the world. Here was Eve, made by God's own hand. And she was good.

“Oh my goodness!” The serpent laughed. “You don't have to eat the whole thing! Surely God won't mind if you just try it?”

Eve took the fruit. She had never held, smelled, or seen a more delicious fruit.

God smiled as Eve rose to her feet. She grabbed Adam's hand, and ran barefoot through the garden. But someone else was watching Eve too. He was hiding quietly in the grass, watching and waiting for his chance to steal Eve's happiness. And one day, he made his move.

But before she left, God had a surprise for her. He was waiting at the gates to cover her with new, warm clothes.

“Good morning, Eve,” the slimy serpent whispered. “I'm going to try this delicious fruit for breakfast. Would you like some?”

“No,” replied Eve. “I'm hungry, but






Miriam

## The Trusting Girl

Exodus 2:1-10



Miriam was hiding. As quiet as a mouse, she suddenly Miriam heard voices. She crouched crouched, peeping through the tall reeds that down lower in the reeds and saw the king's grew on the bank of the Nile River. Miriam daughter walking by the river. Oh no! What if kept her eyes fixed on the little basket that she wanted to harm all the baby boys too? But bobbing up and down at the water's edge. Guess what? The king's daughter loved babies! was scared ... because in that little basket, she scooped that little baby up out of the basket in the water, her baby brother lay fast asleep and cuddled him. "I will take care of you," she said. "But who will help me?"

Miriam knew the river was the best place to hide him from the wicked king who wanted to "My mom will, my mom will!" shouted hurt all the baby boys, but she was still scared Miriam, as she ran out from her hiding place. What if something terrible happened? Suppose that is exactly what happened. Miriam the little basket sank? No—Miriam's mom laughed as she ran to tell her mom that they made that basket super strong. It would not could help take care of their own little boy! And sink. Suppose the waves splashed over the edge she ran, she thought about all the things she of the little basket? No—the water was calm had been afraid of at the riverbank. The wicked today. Miriam squeezed her eyes shut tight and had not come. The waves had not come. tried to remember what her mom had told her. But God had come. God had come and saved "Miriam," her mom had said. "We have to let our baby brother. "Thank you, God," Miriam go of all the things we're scared of. We have whispered, "for helping me let go of my fears trust that God will take care of our baby." and trusting you instead."

But it was hard to let go. Could Miriam do that?



Your Love Letter  
from God





Rahab

## The Brave Girl

*Joshua 2*

Rahab knew trouble was coming. She peered out from her window and scanned the horizon to see if she could see the Israelite army. Everyone knew God's people would soon march into Jericho, and no one could stop them. The God of the Israelites was strong and powerful and mighty. Everyone heard the rumors of how he made a path through the Red Sea so his people could escape from Egypt. Rahab wanted to know a God like that. If he could take care of his people in such a wonderful way, maybe he would take care of her too. Rahab was ready for a new start. She had made some bad choices. Was it too late for her to change, or could this God save her?



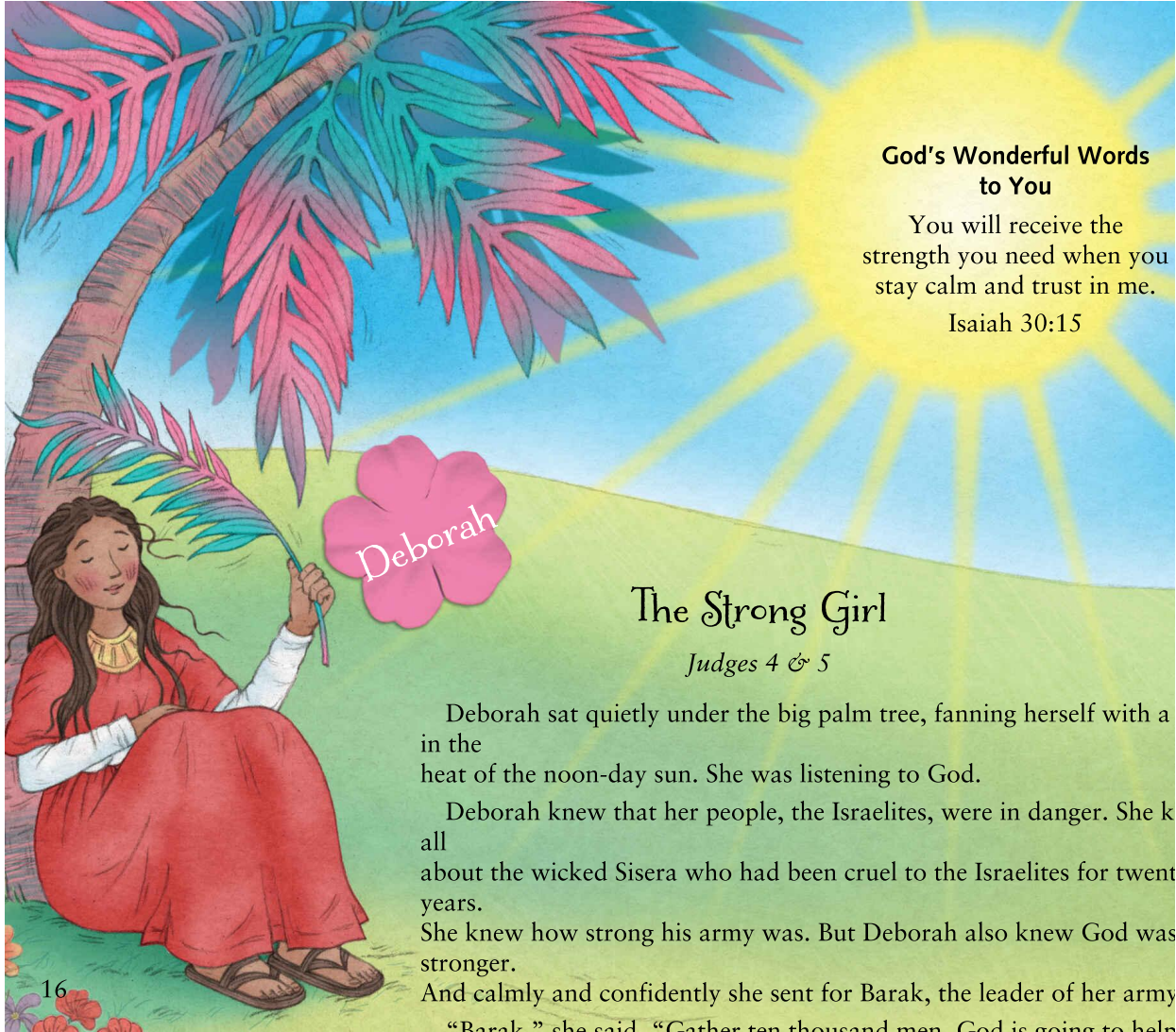
**God's Wonderful Words to You**

I will take good care of you.

Isaiah 46:4







**God's Wonderful Words  
to You**

You will receive the  
strength you need when you  
stay calm and trust in me.

Isaiah 30:15

**The Strong Girl**

*Judges 4 & 5*

Deborah sat quietly under the big palm tree, fanning herself with a palm frond in the heat of the noon-day sun. She was listening to God.

Deborah knew that her people, the Israelites, were in danger. She knew all about the wicked Sisera who had been cruel to the Israelites for twenty years.

She knew how strong his army was. But Deborah also knew God was stronger.

And calmly and confidently she sent for Barak, the leader of her army

“Barak,” she said. “Gather ten thousand men. God is going to help defeat Sisera.”





## The Hopeful Girl

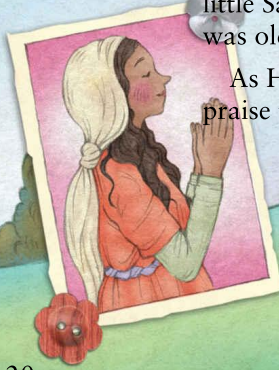
1 Samuel 1:9-2:2 & 19

More than anything else in the whole world, Hannah wanted a son. Every day she dreamed of holding her own baby boy, of cuddling him and singing to him; but it was just a dream. Years came and years went, and still, Hannah had no son. But even in her darkest days, hope was living in Hannah's heart. God had planted it there. Hannah held on to hope. And Hannah kept praying.

"Please, God, please," cried Hannah in the temple. "Would you give me a baby boy? you will answer my prayer, I promise to give my son back to you. I will bring him here, the temple, and he will be your servant."

And what do you think happened? One day, Hannah had her own baby boy! Hannah held little Samuel; she cuddled him and sang to him, just like she had dreamed. And when Samuel was old enough, Hannah took him to live in the temple, just as she had promised.

As Hannah blew her son a kiss goodbye and set off for home, she began to sing a song of praise to God, who had heard her prayers and kept hope alive in her heart.



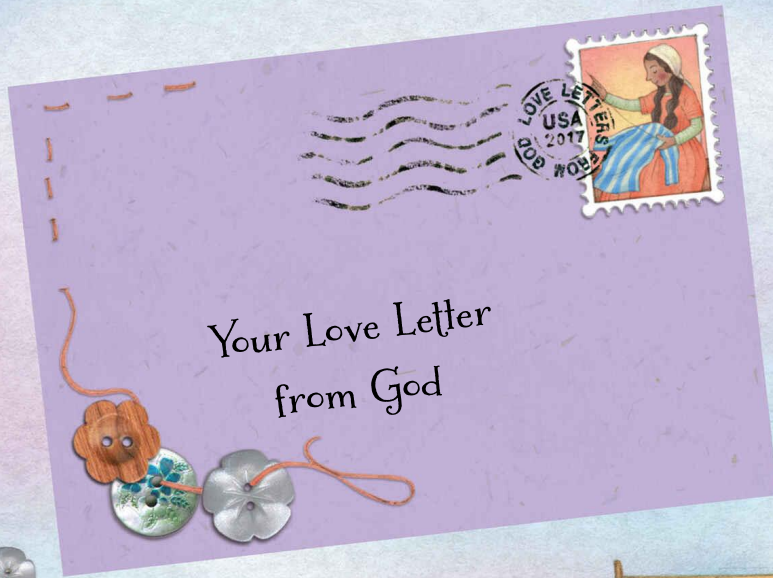
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**God's Wonderful Words to You**

I will give you hope.

Jeremiah 29:11



Your Love Letter  
from God



22



Naaman's  
Servant  
Girl

## The Servant Girl

2 Kings 5:1-15

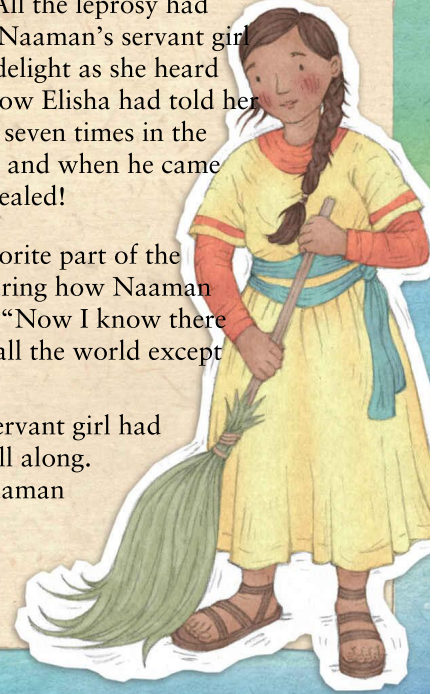
Sometimes, when the stars shone brightly, her chores—make the beds, clean the house—but all was quiet, Naaman's servant girl would all the time she wondered, would her master be close her eyes as she lay on her little mat and die? Would God take his leprosy away? dream of the home she had left behind. She missed Israel. She missed her family. But even though she had been carried far away to this strange land to become a servant, she did not lose her faith in God; she did not feel sorry for herself. Instead, she felt sorry for her master, Naaman.

Naaman had a horrible skin disease. And though he had a very important job in the army and even though he was very rich, his power and money could not help. No medicine or cream could cure his leprosy. No doctor had ever been able to take that horrible skin disease away.

But her favorite part of the story was hearing how Naaman had shouted, "Now I know there is no God in all the world except in Israel!"

"Mistress," the little servant girl said. "If only my master would travel to Israel and ask to see Elisha. Elisha knows God. I'm sure that with God's help, he will be able to heal my master."

And so Naaman set out for Israel. It seemed as if he was gone for many days and many nights. Every morning the little servant girl would do







Esther

## The Prayerful Girl

*Esther 2-8*

Esther trembled as she looked at her reflection in the mirror. Her silver crown sparkled in the sun. The golden beads in her dress danced like diamonds. Here she was, sitting in the royal palace, the wife of King Xerxes, the Queen of Persia. But inside her heart, she was still that young, frightened Jewish girl with a big decision to make.

Haman, the king's wicked advisor, had somehow managed to convince her husband that all the Jews should be killed. Esther had a choice. She could stay quiet and hope King Xerxes would not find out she was a Jew herself; or she could be brave and try to save the lives of all her people. It was a rule in the palace that no one was allowed to talk to the king unless he invited them to do so. If Esther approached his royal throne uninvited, she might be killed!

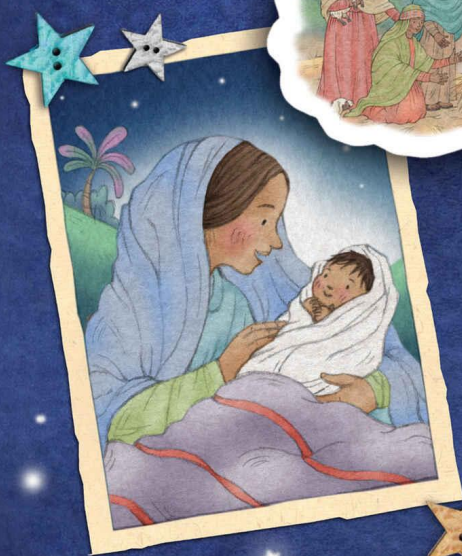
In her heart, Esther already knew what she had to do.

Esther wrote a note and gave it to her handmaid. "Take this letter to my cousin, Mordecai, who is waiting for my decision. I will go to the king. But first, Mordecai must gather all our people together. They must eat nothing for three days, and they must pray, pray, pray. Tell him I will be doing the same."





Mary,  
the Mother  
of Jesus



## The Young Girl

*Luke 1:28-38; 2:1-20*

In the stillness of a Bethlehem night, a lullaby rang out soft and clear under the starlit sky. In the darkness, a young girl was singing to her newborn baby. The girl was Mary, and her son was Jesus.

In the little stable, Joseph was sleeping. The donkey, the cows, and the sheep were all sleeping too. But Mary was wide awake, holding her tiny treasure in her arms and thinking about everything that had happened.

She would never forget that night, just nine months ago, when an angel told her she had been chosen to be the mother of God's Son. She remembered how afraid she was and how she didn't understand what it meant. And now here she was, holding her little boy.

**God's Wonderful Words to You**

You are in my hand.

Jeremiah 18:6





# The Thirsty Girl

John 4:4-28

The Samaritan woman sank down by the well in the heat of the noonday sun. She was tired, thirsty, and unhappy. Her troubles felt as heavy as the water jar on her shoulder. She dropped it in the sand where it fell with a loud thud. Was there no rest for her? How could it be that with all her searching she could not find love? Why did her heart feel so dry inside, like a big, thirsty hole that needed to be filled?

“Look at this water,” Jesus said softly. “One day, this well will dry up and all the water will be gone. But did you know the love God has for you will never run dry? His love will last forever. He is the one who can fill your heart with love, hope, rest, and peace.”

“Could you get me a drink?” a voice called out. The Samaritan woman was so wrapped up in her own thoughts that she did not see Jesus sitting by the well. She was shocked. Why was he talking to her?

“Sir,” she replied, “you are not from my town. Why are you asking me for water? You don’t know me.”

“But I do know you,” said Jesus. “I know everything about you. I know you are unhappy.”

The woman sprang to her feet. Suddenly, she did not feel tired anymore. She felt as if Jesus had lifted that heavy load from her heart. She smiled, and with a lightness in her step, she ran back into town, shouting to all who would listen, “Come, come! Meet the man who knows me and knows you!” And by the well, where Jesus sat, the Samaritan woman left her heavy water jar and all her unhappiness behind.

## God’s Wonderful Words to You

Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you

Matthew 11:28



Woman  
caught in  
sin

# The Forgiven Girl

John 8: 1-11

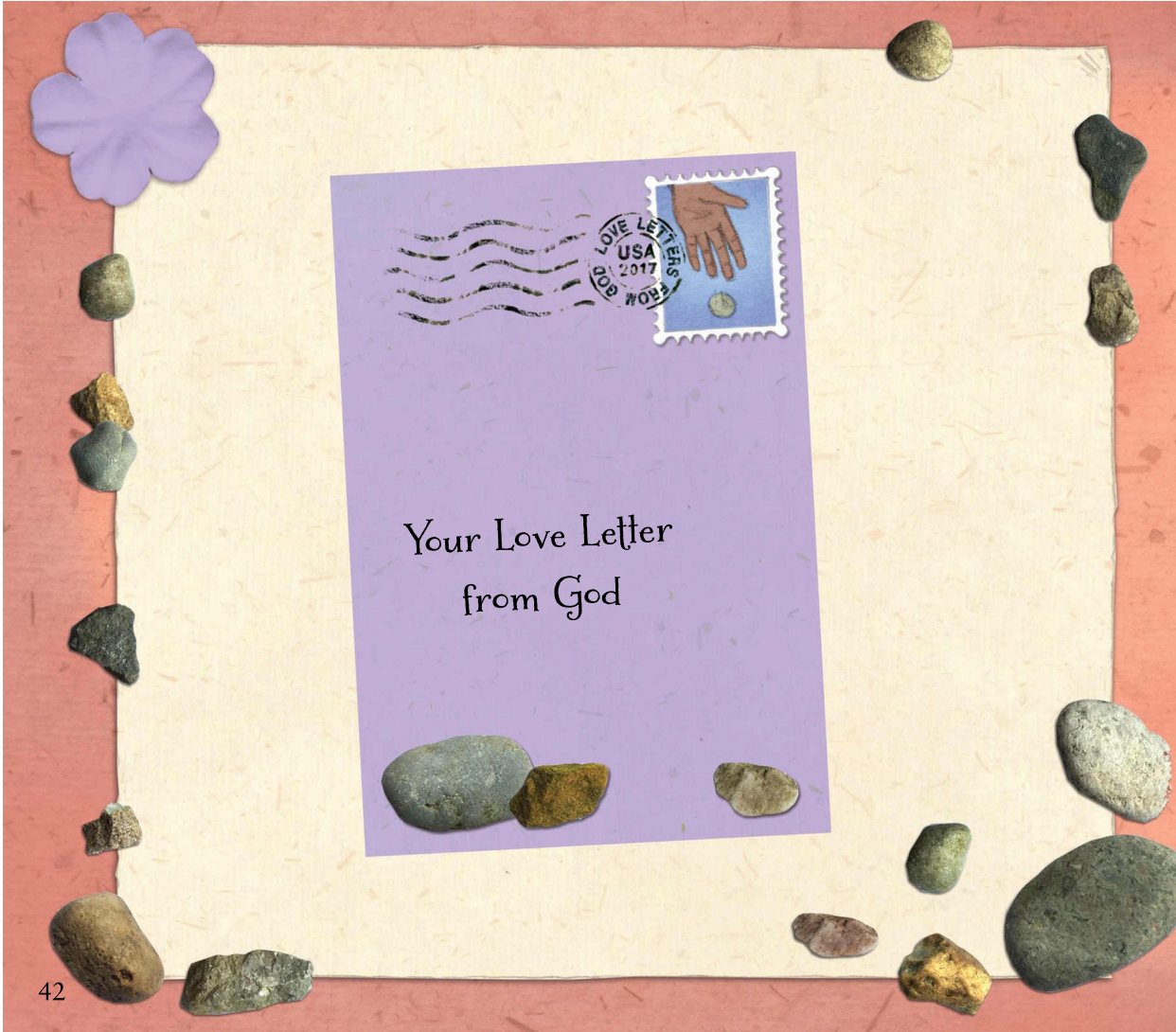
Everything was quiet. The men all looked at her arms tightly as they pushed her in front of each other. Then they looked down. The oldest Jesus. "Jesus!" the teachers of the law shouted. "Look at this woman. We caught her sinning. Our law says that she should be stoned. What do you think?"

Jesus looked up at the angry men. Each one held a large stone in his hand. The woman was looking down, crying. Her tears fell quietly onto the dusty floor where they made small pools of sadness. Jesus knelt down and

began to write in the sand with his finger, and everyone waited to see what would happen. What was he writing? No one knew.

Jesus stood up. He wasn't thinking about the law that these men followed. He was thinking about Eve, the first woman who God made, and how God had covered her with love and forgiveness.

"Is there anyone here who has never done anything wrong? If there is, he can throw the first stone."



Your Love Letter  
from God





# The Busy Girl

Luke 10:38-41

There was not a moment to waste. Martha quickly straightened the curtains as she peered through the window down the street. Any minute now, Jesus would arrive with his disciples. Martha had been busy all day. She had swept every step, cleaned every cupboard and dusted every doorknob. What else did she need to do?

Martha quickly checked her long to-do list. Had she forgotten anything? Roll the bread, check; wash the grapes, check; dust the furniture, check; set the table, check. Wait! She still needed to make sure the fire was hot enough to bake the little bread rolls she made earlier that morning. Martha scurried to the kitchen, quickly flung her apron over her head, and got to work.

A few moments later, Jesus arrived. Martha hurriedly put the bread to bake and ran to greet him at the door. "Jesus, Jesus!" she cried, as she hugged him. "We're so glad you're here. Take a seat. I've made a delicious meal and it's almost ready."

Martha ran back to the kitchen, lifted the bread from the fire, and arranged it neatly on a plate.

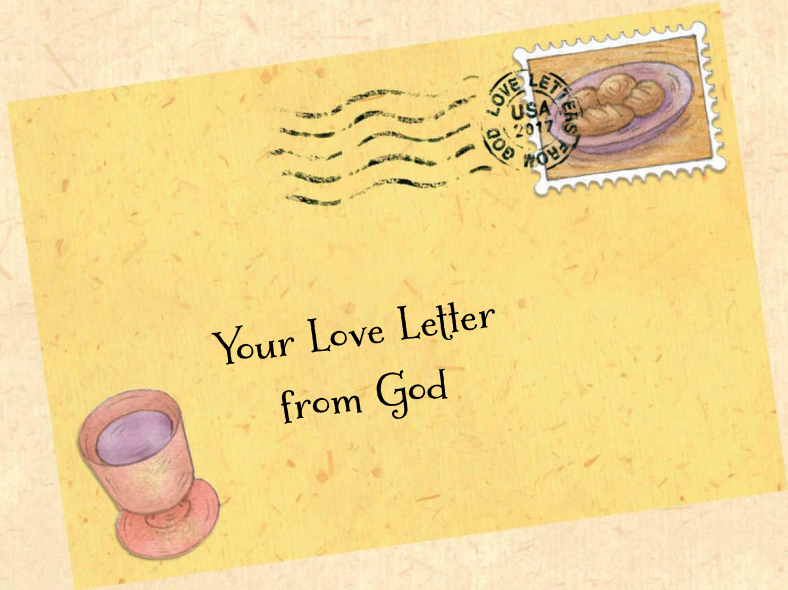
She cleaned the cups, poured the water, filled the dishes with fruit, and began to carry everything to the table. Wait! There were not enough cushions now, everyone to sit on as they ate. She would have to run to the neighbor's house to borrow some, and she still needed to polish the plates! It was all too much. How could she do everything all by herself? And where was her sister, Mary, when she needed her the most? And then Martha saw Mary, sitting quietly at Jesus' feet, doing nothing. How lazy! Martha marched into the living room. "Jesus!" she cried. "I'm so busy getting everything ready. Please tell my sister to help me."

Jesus smiled. "Martha, Martha," he said kindly. "You are worried about many things. But Mary is not being lazy. She is listening to me, and that is always a good choice."

For the first time that day, Martha stopped. She thought about what Jesus said. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus was right. Perhaps being busy was not always best.







## The Generous Girl

Luke 21:1-4

In her little room, the poor widow shook her bank to see how much money she had saved. Two tiny copper coins fell into the palm of her hand. The widow sighed. Should she give it all to the church? Yes—it was not much, but it was all she had. She put the two small coins in her pocket and set off.

In his big palace, the rich man picked up his treasure box to see how much money he had saved. Wow! It was so heavy! All the gold coins sparkled as he peeked inside. The rich man smiled. Should he give it all to the church? No—half would be enough. Then he would have half left for himself. He put the gold coins in his pocket and set off.

At the temple, the rich man was first in line. He proudly stomped up to the offering box and threw his gold coins one at a time. The heavy coins clinked loudly as they bounced in the box. Good! The rich man hoped that everyone was watching. Then they would all know how rich he was.

Next in line was the poor widow. She quietly tiptoed up to the offering box, took the two tiny copper coins out of her pocket, and slipped them in. The two little pennies dropped with hardly a sound. Good! The poor widow hoped that nobody was watching. Then no one would know how poor she was.

But someone *was* watching. Someone was sitting in the corner. He had seen the rich man. He had seen the poor widow. Jesus had seen everything. “Who do you think gave the most?” Jesus asked his disciples. “Was it the rich man, or the poor widow?”

“Oh, the rich man, of course,” the disciples replied. But Jesus shook his head.

“No,” he said quietly. “That poor widow gave far, far more than the rich man, because she gave everything she had. She might not have lots of money, but she has lots and lots of love. And Jesus smiled, because to be rich in love is the most wonderful thing in the world.”





## The Grateful Girl

*John 12:1-8; Matthew 26:10-13*

Mary of Bethany was worried. She knew something terrible was going to happen to Jesus. Everyone in Jerusalem knew it. You only had to shop in the marketplace or walk in the streets to hear the whispers and lies people were telling about him. Jesus had enemies. And one day soon, Mary knew that Jesus would die.

What could she do? What could Mary give to Jesus to show how much she loved him? And then, Mary saw it. The big, beautiful alabaster jar that was full of expensive perfume. She would give that to Jesus!

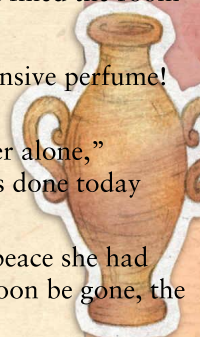
Mary peeked through the open door where Jesus sat at the table having dinner with his disciples. Carefully, she carried the jar and crept quietly into the room. Without a sound, she knelt on the floor and poured the perfume over Jesus' feet. A wonderful scent rose in the air. It traveled over the table, curled around the curtains, and filled the room like a whisper of love.

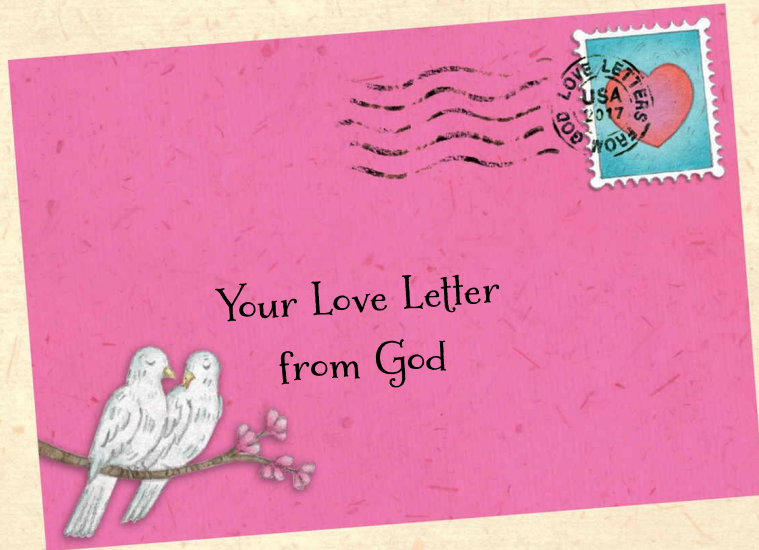
"What are you doing?" the men around the table cried. "That is expensive perfume! What a waste!"

But Jesus smiled at Mary as she dried his feet with her hair. "Leave her alone," Jesus said softly. "Mary has done a beautiful thing for me. What she has done today will always be remembered."

In that moment, Mary's worries disappeared. Her heart filled with a peace she had never known before. And even though the scent of the perfume would soon be gone, the peace that Jesus brought to her heart would last forever.

Mary had poured out her perfume. Jesus had poured out his peace.





Mary  
Magdalene  
at the  
Resurrection

## The Happy Girl

John 20

Mary Magdalene thought her heart might burst with joy as she ran through the streets of Jerusalem. It was early in the morning, but the whole world was awake—every bird singing high in the treetops, every flower dancing in the wind seemed to know that this was no ordinary day.

The disciples would never believe what just happened. Mary could hardly believe it herself. Could it *really* be true that she had just been talking to Jesus? Everyone knew he died three days earlier. Every day she saw him hanging on that cruel cross with those nails through his hands

and his feet. Everyone knew his body had been carried away to that quiet cave on the hillside. But only Mary knew the cave was now empty. Jesus was alive! He had spoken to her! And when he called her name, and reached out his arms in love, Mary's fears flew away.

Mary picked up her skirt and ran without stopping until she reached the little house where the disciples were hiding in the room upstairs.

She took the stairs two at a time and burst through the door. Out of her breath, her eyes shining with tears, Mary shouted out her unbelievable news, "I have seen the Lord!"

They were the greatest words the world would ever hear. The cave was empty. But Mary's heart was full.



God's Wonderful Words to You  
Perfect love drives away fear.  
1 John 4:18







## My Love Letter to God

If you could write a letter  
And put it in God's hand  
You know that God would read it,  
And truly understand—  
Everything you're feeling  
Every word you'd say,  
You're God's precious  
daughter—  
Write to God today...





Your Love Letter  
from God

ZONDERKIDZ

Ages 4-8