**WEEK #50**

*Jude 1:21*

*“and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God’s love.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Mrs. Twiggenbotham Goes to Town

#### By Emily King

To keep oneself in the love of God is to have a personal relationship with our heavenly Father. It is a blessing to wake up each day and it is a joy to devote our day each morning to the honor and glory of our Savior. Just as Jesus, we all should be about our Father’s business. The sweet old lady, Mrs. Twiggenbotham always carried the love of God with her everywhere she went. As she traveled into town each day, she was continually doing good things for other people. Through her kind words and her gentle spirit everyone knew she had the biggest heart in all of Smithville. She always considered every day a lovely day “because God had made it so” and she carried the love of God with her wherever she went.

Thought: Keep the love of God with you through the day.

**WEEK #48**

*1 Peter 3:4*

*“You should clothe yourself instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is so precious to God.” (NLT)*

*(Also: 1 Samuel 16:7 “The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Gorgeous Georgia

#### By Hunter D. Darden

There is an old saying that says “Beauty is only skin deep.” The Bible also tells us that God doesn’t look at outward appearances. *(The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”-1 Samuel 16:7.)* We often judge and sum up another’s personality and character by the way they look. Gorgeous Georgia the giraffe thought she was the most beautiful creature in the world. She boasted of her slender neck, long blue tongue, long legs, and her dazzling, dark, brown spots, She strutted and brag about her beauty but couldn’t understand why she was so lonely. She thought her friends were probably just jealous of her great beauty, when in fact, they simply didn’t like the way she judged and made fun of the other animals. Through her own misfortune of having a great fall and winding up with a big ugly scar on her neck, Georgia came to realize that outward appearances were not the most important thing. She discovered not only her own inner beauty but also came to realize that the other animals were beautiful friends as well. God doesn’t judge us by the way we look. He desires that we love everyone and accept them just the way he created them.

Thought: True beauty lives within our hearts.

**WEEK #47**

*James 3:18*

*“And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### The Story of Ferdinand

#### By Munro Leaf

Peace is a gift of the Holy Spirit and those who accept this gift are truly blessed. We often find ourselves worrying about this or fretting over that or having confrontations with people; however, the Bible makes it very clear that as Christians we should always strive to live in peace and harmony with one another. The blessing of peace in our lives comes from accepting that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. We are set free from the bondage of sin and He remains in control. We don’t have to worry. We can rest peacefully in the simple truth that God loves us and will never leave nor forsake us. Just like Ferdinand the bull, we don’t have to compete with one another or prove ourselves worthy. We should strive to get along with one another and avoid conflict with one another. Butting heads gets neither bulls nor people anywhere in life. Instead be kind, loving, and patient with one another, meeting one another wherever they are in their spiritual journey. Be strong but humble in your beliefs and in so doing others will see and learn from you. You will plant seeds of peace in a troubled world.

Thought: Those who stop and smell the flowers will find much peace and contentment there.

**WEEK #46**

*Hebrews 10:24*

*“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### The Curious Garden

#### By Peter Brown

It is our responsibility as Christians to love and encourage one another in our individual spiritual walks. Often we think it is more important to judge one another in an attempt to encourage our vision of what is right. The Jewish people were still struggling with their new faith since the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Change can be hard. We must always be willing to meet our brothers and sisters at the place they are in their journey of faith and at that point encourage them, rather than discourage them. Just like Liam, we can awaken a human curiosity in our fellow man. By seeing the works of our faith, they too may desire to know more about Jesus and His love. Just as many gardens popped up in the city as a result of Liam’s first garden. We should encourage the growth of Christian love in our world.

Thought: Blooms awaken the spirit of others.

**WEEK #45**

*Philemon 1:16*

*“He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Ain’t Nobody a Stranger to Me

#### By Ann Grifalconi

Slavery seems like an outdated term we read about in history books; however, people can still be held captive to sin in their lives. By not allowing the love of God to control our human nature to prejudice and hatred, one can be held in bondage. We should treat all people with love, respect, and friendship. No one should ever be a stranger to us. The Bible tells us that by entertaining strangers, we could be entertaining angels. *Hebrews 13:2 says “Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it.”* Slavery is no longer a social issue in today’s world, even though the walls of prejudice have never been totally destroyed. But, just like Grandpa, who escaped via the Underground Railroad many years ago, we can all carry seeds of hope in our pocket that one day we can all love one another with unconditional love. Our hearts will be freed from the bondage of judgmental love. We can all be free of sin and able to proclaim that nobody is a stranger to us. Just like Grandpa, we can then plant those seeds of love for all and watch friendship and the love of God blossom.

Thought: In Christ, we are all one family.

**WEEK #43**

*2 Timothy 3:14a*

*“But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Mortimer’s First Garden

#### By Karma Wilson

Gardens teach us valuable lessons about faithfulness and patience. Planting a seed requires watering, waiting, and weeding. It doesn’t happen overnight. In today’s busy world of technology beyond our wildest imagination, we often expect to see results instantaneously. Mortimer, just like many of us became discouraged when his sunflower seed took so long to grow into something green. The Bible tells us many truths and contains the promises God gives to each believer. We have been taught these things from our youth or have discovered them by reading from God’s word. We must remain faithful to these words and never give up on their promises. Just like Mortimer, we must continue to plant seeds of God’s love and pray often over their germination into the hearts and minds of others. We just might see a green sprout coming up but even when we don’t see the results, we must continue to believe that it only takes the planting of one seed to make many more.

Thought: It’s a good day to plant seeds.

**WEEK #41**

*1 Timothy 4:12*

*“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Horton Hears a Who

#### By Dr. Seuss

Power without love is only a force called control; however, love is at the heart of great leadership. Often people appear to be in power because of their physical size or political position. Small people are often viewed as weak and insignificant; however, Horton the elephant helps us understand that “a person’s a person, no matter how small.” He hears a tiny little voice on a flower and discovers an entire tiny city living on one flower. Despite the criticism of his peers, he saves the day. We often look down on little children and people of small stature, but in truth, we should honor and respect these people. The Bible tells us that unless we become as little children, we will not enter the gates of heaven *(Matthew 18:3)*. Leadership in any situation comes from loving ALL people, even the apparently small and insignificant ones.

Thought: “A person’s a person, no matter how small.”

**WEEK #40**

*2 Thessalonians 3:10*

*Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: “Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.” (NLT)*

*(Also: Proverbs 10:5 “…one who sleeps during harvest is a disgrace.”)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### The Little Red Hen

As a child I remember this favorite story being told to me by my mother. As a young adult, I witnessed the truth of its message through my humble upbringing. With two hard working parents, we never went without the necessities of life. The Bible reminds us that hard work coupled with a belief in the promise of Jesus Christ, is a valuable key to a happy and successful life. Nothing worth having is easy to obtain. The things of greatest worth are those things which we have labored for. Just like the little red hen, we should always be willing to work hard. We will always encounter those who are lazy and those who are unwilling to do their share, but we should set an example otherwise. A person should have an attitude of always doing their share and a willingness to pitch in and help out as best they can. (*“..one who sleeps during harvest is a disgrace.” Proverbs 10:5).* We can share from our gardens, but the greatest gift of the garden is to teach others how to make a garden for themselves. Nourishment and satisfaction comes from knowing how to plant seeds and harvest blessings.

Thought: All things are accomplished by diligence and labor.

**WEEK #40**

*1 Thessalonians 5:21*

*“Hold on to what is good.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Pennies From Heaven

#### By Molly Schaar Idle

We often hear the expression “Is your glass half full or half empty?” It’s important to always remain positive in any circumstance. Meditate on what is good and right *(“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable; if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.” Philippians 4:8).* There are two sides to everything just like a coin and we should keep our trust in the Lord no matter what circumstances we must endure. *(“Trust in the Lord, and do good.” Psalm 37:3).* In conclusion to our doubts andin answer to the question, “Why do stinky things happen in this world,” we must always remember that we are still surrounded by blessings but we have to know where to look. You can’t have a heads without a tail (to a coin). The next time you pick up a penny remember to flip it over and read “In God We Trust.”

Thought: “Good and bad are two sides of the same coin; we are surrounded by blessings but you have to know where to look.”

**WEEK #38**

*Philippians 4:9*

*“Keep putting into practice all that you learned and received from me – everything you heard from and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.” (NLT)*

*(Also: Matthew 7:7 and Hebrews 12:1)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Leo the Lightning Bug

#### By Eric Drachman

“Time and practice” is the advice of many parents who try to teach their children the lessons of patience and endurance. We fall many times before we learn how to walk and we continue to stumble and fall in our spiritual journeys in life. Nevertheless, the Bible reminds us to be persistent in our effort *(Matthew 7:7 “….keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”)* and faithful in our endurance *(Hebrews 12:1 “….run with endurance the race God has set before us.”).* God has a special plan for each one of us and His determined will perseveres over all boundaries or limitations we might think are present in our lives. Leo, the lightning bug was born with a special light even though it took him a long time and a lot of practice to make his light shine for others to see. He had to overcome the ridicule of friends and his own personal discouragement; however, with time and practice, he became “The King-of-the Lightning-Bugs.” Once he received the confidence he needed from the storm, he was able to make his light shine bright. Our confidence comes from the knowledge that God loves us and it is through His gift of the Holy Spirit that we can do all things. Through practice and faith and encouragement from friends, we can all become the creatures that God created us to be, always bringing glory and honor to our Creator.

Thought: Practice makes perfect peace.

**WEEK #37**

*Ephesians 6:10-11*

*“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Will – God’s Mighty Warrior

#### By Sheila Walsh

“We often think of the world as a playground rather than a battleground.” (David Jeremiah “Spiritual Warfare-Are We Really in a War?”). We pray for worldly peace but the truth of the matter is that true Christianity is a struggle, a fight, and a constant battle between good and evil. Christians are soldiers in God’s army and must prepare themselves for battle each and every day. It is not anything we can do in our own selves; God offers us a special strength and protection, through His armor: 1.)belt of truth (accepting Jesus Christ as the living son of God), 2.)breastplate of righteousness (we are made worthy through His death on the cross), 3.)shoes of peace (the confidence that the war is already won even though we must continue to fight), 4.)shield of faith (removal of all doubt and trusting in the promises of His word), 5.)helmet of salvation (asking for and receiving wisdom from Christ) 6.)sword of the spirit (power through His Spirit) God promises that He will uphold believers in His loving grasp (Psalms 18:35). Most little boys love to dress up like super heroes, complete with cape, sword, and shield; however, God has His own special armor of protection, for all believers. Let us all raise our mighty swords and proclaim, “I am able to right wrongs, defend the weak, and squish all things evil!” Let us go to battle as God’s mighty warriors wearing His complete armor.

Thought: “Even though you feel small, you are mighty in God’s eyes.”

**WEEK #36**

*Galatians 5:26*

*“Let us not become conceited or provoke one another or be jealous of one another.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Miss Penny and Mr. Grubbs

#### By Lisa Capbell Ernst

I remember as a child the yearning to produce the first tomato of the season. There was a certain competitive spirit as gardens were planted each year. You were deemed a great gardener if you had a large ripe tomato for the Fourth of July Picnic and family reunion. We experience this same competitive spirit as Miss Penny’s garden always grew enormous vegetables and Mr. Grubb’s garden did not. We should remember to never compare ourselves nor our accomplishments with others. We should never become bitter in our hearts when another person seems to produce quicker and better results in any life endeavor. As for the gardens of Miss Penny and Mr. Grubbs in our story, the competitive spirit grew to the point of evil schemes planned against another. Mr. Grubbs introduced rabbits into Miss Penny’s garden and ruined her vegetable garden that summer. God never intended for us to compete with one another. Instead He desires us to model our thoughts and actions after Jesus Christ.

Thought: Make lemonade and share it with the person who gave you the lemons.

**WEEK #35**

*2 Corinthians 5:10*

*“For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### David Gets in Trouble

#### By David Shannon

We make excuses for our mistakes and we blame our parents, our circumstances, or just our human nature. Just like David, who was always getting in trouble, making excuses doesn’t help us to grow in our faith. The Corinthians faced many trails and temptations, but Paul admonished them and encouraged them to do better. We all need to stop making excuses for our sins and fall to our knees in prayer. Just like a child, who sits in timeout, we need to put ourselves in a personal timeout with the Lord. We need to humble ourselves and ask for forgiveness and ask the Holy Spirit to help us overcome our weaknesses. Every morning when you wake up, it’s wise to pray, “Father, today I’m totally Yours. I can’t live the Christian life on my own, but I pray that You will live through me.” (Charles Stanley, Morning Light, October 8, 2012) We are accountable for our actions and even with forgiveness; we must accept the consequences for bad or poor choices. We will all be called to give an account for all our actions one day. But we should never become discouraged, for God will cause all things to work for the good, if we are trying to serve the Lord with all our heart and mind and soul.

Thought: Don’t make excuses for bad behavior.

*2 Corinthians 4:18*

*“While we do not look at things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things* *which are not seen are eternal.” (NKJV)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Dora’s Eggs

#### By Julie Sykes

We often get wrapped up in material possessions and the things which we can see with our eyes and hold in our hands. However, the most important things in life are the things which are not seen. Just like Dora who was so proud of her egg, we are proud and excited to be able to take ownership of our stuff and even our children at times. The Bible tells us that we should never put emphasis on the things we see with our eyes. What matters the most is those things we experience with our heart and mind. It isn’t the picture of the mother and the child that we see with our eyes but instead the love we witness and experience. For Dora, the egg was nice but the chicks were much nicer. The egg was something to look at for a while, but the chicks were something she could love forever. Likewise, it isn’t the seed but the hope that lies inside the seed that matters the most.

Thought: It is not what you hold in your hands but what you have in your heart.

*2 Corinthians 13:11*

*“Strive for full restoration, encourage each other, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Holey Moley

By Marcus Pfister

God intended Christians to work together in harmony to build up his church and spread the gospel into the world. He gave each of us different talents and abilities as well as a heart of love towards doing certain things. Sometimes we allow our differences from one another to drive us apart, but instead we should consider how our differences can complement one another for an even greater work. We should encourage one another rather than discourage each other. Paul in his letters to the Corinthians encouraged them to understand and accept their differences but accept that they all could be children of God. And, if they worked together, they could build up the church. So it was true of Tim and Matt, the two moles who each had different talents and skills…….they allowed these differences to destroy their friendship in the beginning. Each went his separate way: one to dig a hole and the other to build a mountain. Tim soon realized that every time he dug a hole, he created a mountain with the left over dirt. Matt also soon realized that every time he built a mountain, he created a hole from the dirt he dug up. They had both built exactly the same thing. Just like Tim and Matt, if we work together and put all our energy and talents into the same work for the Lord, we can accomplish so much more.

Let us live together in harmony and peace with one another.

Thought: You can build mountains out of mole holes if you work together in harmony

**WEEK #34**

*1 Corinthians 3:7*

*“It is not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What is important is that God makes the seed grow.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Fran’s Flower

#### By Lisa Bruce

It is such a humbling experience to grasp the total concept of the power of God over the universe. As the creator and sustainer of everything, He is in absolute control over every living thing. It is hard to wrap our human understanding around that. As I plant the tiniest of seeds, it never ceases to amaze me that there is life inside each of those tiny specks. We can plant a seed and water and nourish it, but God alone has the power and strength behind its growth. Just like Fran we can’t make anything happen through our human reasoning. She thought the flower would flourish by providing it with some of her favorite foods such as pizza, spaghetti, and strawberry ice cream. Our thoughts might not seem quite as absurd as this; however, I am reminded often of how very little I do understand. As I grow older, God has provided me with more and more understanding but I will never totally understand and comprehend the mind and miracles of God. As humans we try to place our limited reasoning to all life but as Christians we know that God alone understands and is in control. Just like Fran who threw her efforts out the back door, only when we turn our lives totally over to God’s power, does He work His miracles.

Thought: Earthly matters will not nourish our souls. Only God gives life and helps it grow.

*1 Corinthians 13:4b*

*“Love is not jealous or boastful or proud.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Sidney and Norman – A tale of two pigs

#### By Phil Vischer

God wants us to be good but He does not want us to have pride in our good works. Sometimes being good comes easier to some people. We can never truly know another’s circumstances until we walk in their shoes. Just like Norman the pig, who did everything good and right, we often think our goodness is why God loves us. We can become puffed up with pride in ourselves. Norman made others around him uncomfortable with his pride in himself and judgment of others. On the other hand, Sidney wasn’t so good. “Rules and systems and schedules” came hard to him. He was always late and always seemed to be getting in trouble at school. After both of the pigs were invited to God’s home, they both realized that God’s love for them didn’t depend on how good they were. We can never be good enough for God. It is only through Him and by His grace that we are saved. We should always strive to live good and Christian lives, but we should never allow ourselves to become prideful of our goodness. “The opportunity for us to be children of God is possible only because Jesus Christ opened up that door for us.” It was His goodness and sacrifice that made our salvation possible. It is up to us to follow His example of goodness, but never to claim ownership of our own goodness. *(John 8:28 when speaking of Jesus says, “I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught me.)*

Thought: We are all broken. There is no such thing as a good pig.

**WEEK #33**

## *Romans 12:6*

## *“In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well…….”*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Legend of Ninja, Cowboy, Bear

By: David Bruins and Hilary Letung

In my early years, I wasn’t really faced with the idea of diversity. Pretty much everyone in my environment looked the same and acted the same. As our world has grown and changed, we have been forced to address the issue of prejudice and have wisely announced to the world that being prejudice is very un-Christian behavior. Today I live in a very diverse world and unlike my earliest years, I am reminded daily of my differences from the people around me. It’s not only that people look different, but with so much opportunity and choice, we all think and reason differently. God created a very diverse world but it has only been within the last 40-50 years that we are made more and more aware of these differences mostly in part because of the internet. Because of this, competition has grown to new heights and instead of teaching our children humility and dependence on God, we are instilling in their young minds that they are wonderful and that they can do anything they put their mind to. We strive to “be the best” in all walks of life. Just like the Ninja, the Cowboy, and the Bear………we often boast of our greatness. What we have put behind us is our humility and dependence on God. We are still called to give ALL glory and honor to God who created us. Secondly, we need to recognize and accept our differences. We are different because God created us to be different. But, we are all special in our own unique ways. Each one of us has been gifted with certain qualities and attributes. We are to use these individual gifts to glorify God not to strive to outdo our brothers and sisters.

Thought:

No one has to be the best.

*Romans 12:1a*

*“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### A Heart for Jesus

#### By Juanita Bynum

When we profess our belief in Christ Jesus and are saved, we become new creations – we are different in our thoughts and actions. Another way to explain salvation is to say that we invite Jesus to live in our hearts or that we give our heart away to Jesus. All of these different expressions of salvations all mean the same thing – we give up our control of our lives and allow Him to lead us. We develop a personal relationship with God and make Him the center of our lives. It seems confusing to think that we must give up our feelings, our thoughts, our ideas, and our wishes. But, after you give up your feelings and thoughts, He feels and thinks with and for you. After you give up your ideas and wishes, He provides a way to make those wishes come true. By giving away your old heart and your old way of thinking, we gain a whole new attitude and insight into life. When you give away your heart, you give also give away your whole bodies and you become the hands and feet of Jesus with a desire to serve Him.

Thought: God gives you a new heart.

**WEEK #32**

## *Acts 1:8a*

## *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### The Big Red Tractor

#### By Francis Chan

Whenever we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, He begins to live in our hearts. We receive the Holy Spirit and are able to do things that we wouldn’t otherwise be able to do. We accomplish things through His power and strength. Just like the farmers who pushed and pulled the tractor all over the garden trying to plow up the garden, we might work hard to do wonderful things on our own, but without His word and His guidance, we are nothing. We need to develop intentional Bible study in our daily lives and a passion for reading the Bible every day. Once the farmers read the instructional manual to that old tractor, they discovered that it actually ran on its own. They were able to do wonderful things by relying on the teachings they discovered. We are like that old tractor and the Bible is like our instruction book. By reading His word and accepting His guidance on a daily basis, we can be filled with a special power and strength that comes only from the Holy Spirit.

Thought: God wrote the owner’s manual and He knows how you work best.

## *Acts 4:32*

## *“All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.”(NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### A Tale of Two Goats

#### By Tom Barber

How silly we can be at times with the visible and invisible walls we build between ourselves and others. Our small or big differences and our selfish pride often separate us from one another. As Christians; however, we should be united in our hearts and minds, and this union should be reflected in our daily living. Just like Farmer Jones and Farmer Cole, we spend so much of our time mending the fences that separate us instead of mending our relationships and fellowship with one another. God intended for us to be different from one another and each of us bears different gifts from the Father in order to perform His will for our lives. God placed the desire to grow turnips in some of us, while in others He placed a desire to grow cabbage. It’s okay for a turnip farmer to love a cabbage farmer. While the friendship of their two goats, Myrtle and Muriel, exemplified the great love that all believers should have for one another, they taught the farmers the valuable lesson of unselfishly accepting individual differences and living in harmony with one another.

Thought: As a community of believers, we are to tear down the walls of greed and selfishness that separate us from one another.

**WEEK #31**

## *John 16:33*

## *“…Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrow…But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”*

Tiny Seed Book:

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

By Judith Viort

When we think about having those “not so good days” or “not so good seasons” in our life, we are reminded that it is through those valleys, that we grow stronger as Christians. It only makes us stronger to experience one of those “I’m not going to get out bed days” or a time when we stumble and fall and fine ourselves in a midst of trouble. God didn’t promise any of us that life would always be easy and as my mother would smile and say, “He didn’t promise us a rose garden” or “some days are just like that.” Life can be hard at times, either because of our own poor and tired attitudes or because trouble seems to fall in our laps. Hold on to the truth that all those “terrible, no good, very bad” times in our life are God’s way of making us stronger. If you love God, He will work things out for the good (*Romans 8:28*). Always be happy in the truth that the goodness of God has defeated all evil. Though we cannot experience earthly happiness at every moment, we can have the joy and peace of knowing Christ within our hearts. Get out of bed each day and suit up with the armor of God.*(Ephesians 6:11)*

“Tomorrow is a new day”

## *John 15: 1, 5*

## *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener…Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### The Gardener and the Vine

#### Created by Andrew McDonouch

The process of grafting requires one tree with strong roots and another tree which can produce healthy fruit. After making a shallow cut in the truck of the rootstock, a branch from the other fruit bearing tree is placed into the cut and bound together with tape or string. The two varieties hopefully will grow to become one strong tree producing much healthy fruit. When Jesus talked about the gardener and the vine in John, He was explaining in a parable that we have to be bound into a relationship with Jesus Christ in order to have a fruitful life. We can’t rely on our heritage or our culture to be saved. (Just because we claim to have faith or just because we were born into a faithful family, doesn’t make us saved Christians) In the Old Testament we learn that the descendants of Abraham were the “chosen people”. The Jewish faith is the root of our faith; however, when Jesus came into the world He changed the way we understood things. The Jews and the Gentiles were like two separate kinds of grapevines. The descendants of Abraham (the Jews) were the original strong roots but the Gentiles were also offered salvation through belief in Jesus Christ and His resurrection. Both Jews and Gentiles could now be Christians (through the cleansing blood of Christ) and so the Gentiles were grafted onto the original Jewish vine to create one living faith. The Jews who accepted this were left on the vine, but the Jews who refused to accept Jesus Christ were cut off completely. Jesus originally explained about the gardener and the vine and later Paul (in Romans 11) applied it to the explanation of our relationship with others. It is important to understand that all people are welcomed into the family of God. God has planned specific tasks for each of us and designed them with individual personalities, talents, abilities, and spiritual gifts. We each have a responsibility to fulfill these tasks and produce fruit…..otherwise we will be pruned back or cut off completely.

Thought: We belong to God.

## *John 12:24*

## *“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

Tiny Seeds Book:

Sophie’s Squash

By Pat Zietlow Miller

Jesus compared His life on earth to a grain of wheat which died and was planted alone in the soil. He explained how His separation and death was a necessary part of God’s plan. His detachment from the world provided the promise of more life. Likewise, a grain of wheat when separated and planted into the ground will produce more kernels of wheat. We often get attached to people and things and hate to experience their deterioration, detachment and death; however, this is the natural process of God’s creation and His plan for continuity and growth.

Sophie’s Squash is a whimsical example of love, friendship, and these evitable changes in life. In childlike behavior, she befriended a common garden squash and soon became attached and involved in a very unlikely friendship. Just as most young children can latch on to random playthings, she decided that this produce would make a great companion and baby for her. “It was just the right size to love.” However, with time the inevitable happened and her squash baby began to show signs of aging and rotting. She came to understand that the best way to continue to love her friend was to plant it in a bed of soft soil in the back yard and wait for healing through the winter months.

Detachment from something or someone you love is emotional hard; however, we must always accept change and death with an optimistic willingness to let go of people and things we love. The disciples didn’t want to let Jesus go and Sophie was saddened to separate herself from the friendship of her friend Bernice the Squash; however, both separations allowed for growth and produced even more love. By planting the seeds of the rotting squash plant, Sophie wound up with two tiny new squash sprouts. Likewise through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the world received redemption and the eternal growth of the church.

Thought: Detachment from someone you love can allow for growth.

**WEEK #29**

## *Mark 4:14*

## *“The farmer plants seed by taking God’s word to others.”*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Parable of the Sower

#### By Helen Caswell

The parables that Jesus taught had hidden meanings. The Parable of the Sower isn’t teaching us how to be a farmer, but rather, it is teaching us how to read or listen to the Word of God and apply it to our lives. Just like the seeds that fall in different places, people receive (or listen) to the Word of God in different ways too. Some people just don’t listen and the words never reach their ears (seed that the birds eat). Some people hear the words but are just too full of themselves to really understand. Their hearts are hardened (seeds that fall on rock). Some people listen and get excited for a while but then go back to their old way of doing things (seeds that fall among the weeds). Lastly there are the people who hear the Word of God and accept Him as their Lord and Savior. These are the people who surrender their lives to God and develop a servant’s heart, willing to wake up each morning with a desire to do what is right, helping others see the love of God which shines through them. As we plow through the scripture, may we listen with our heart and mind as well as our ears, and discover how the principles of His word works in our world today, and apply it properly to our lives.

Thought: Listen with your heart and mind.

## *Mark 10:45*

## *“I came to serve and to give.”*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### The Rainbow Fish

#### By Marcus Pfister

It’s a good thing to like who you are and one must understand that in order to love others, we first have to love ourselves. However, being “the most beautiful fish in the entire ocean” can easily lead one to self-pride in themselves. Just like the Rainbow fish, we must all be reminded that true beauty comes from the inside out. I once heard someone say in a joking way, “That’s just what ugly people say” (quote of Jim Carey from the movie “Liar, Liar”); however, we all must somberly admit the truth that our outer appearances is sincerely not what creates a beautiful person. Perhaps this is true if we consider the world’s viewpoint, but nothing could be farther from the truth, in the eyes of God. Nothing is more beautiful than a kind, humble, and giving heart. Those who give freely of their time and talents are beautiful children of God. The Rainbow fish found friendship and happiness by learning the valuable lesson of sharing his most prized possession – his beautiful shining scales. He learned that he was far happier and a much more beautiful friend, by loving others as much as he loved himself.

Thought: True friendship and love means giving unselfishly of yourself.

**WEEK #28**

## *Matthew 6:9-14 (The Lord’s Prayer)*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Lord’s Prayer

1.Older book by Mary Alice Jones

2. Newer book by Richard Jesse Watson

(commendary by Rick Warren)

The Lord’s Prayer is one of the most beloved prayers of the Christian faith and certainly a part of every Christian child’s religious heritage. Sometimes because of the nature of memorizing these words, we often fail to absorb and understand their real meaning. Jesus first gave His disciples this prayer and it is certainly one that every child should know and cherish their entire life. It is our responsibility as parents to not only teach this prayer but to also share its meaning.

Thought:

1. Jesus taught us how the pray.

2. Pray with your children.

**WEEK #27**

## *Nahum 1:3b*

## *“He displays his power in the whirlwind and the storm. The billowing clouds are the dust beneath his feet.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Thunder-Boomer

#### By Shutta Crum

God rules over the earth and controls everything. He even controls the lives of those who do not accept Him as their Lord and Savior. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge His omnificent powers in the world and demonstrate a confidence in His almighty control. The storms of life just like a thunder storm on a hot muggy day may approach any of us without much warning but there is never a need to be afraid as long as you trust in God. Just like the fast approaching storm on the farm, we can often find the winds of change upon us and find ourselves right smack in the middle of a frightening storm in our life. Sometimes the wind seems to blow endlessly and disruption of our otherwise “normal” life seems to never subside. I remember the many times I huddled as a child waiting for the thunder storm to end and I also remember those valleys of hard times in my life that seemed to linger forever. Sometimes bad storms come into our lives and sometimes bad things happen to teach us lessons but we must remember that there is always a blessing at the end of each storm. Nothing can compare to the beauty that comes after the storm. Let us always remember who is in control and through His power alone we are saved and become better people for the journey and experience. Whether it is the City of Nenevah or just a country farm, God is now and forever the ruler of the universe.

Thought: God controls the storm.

## *Micah 6:8*

## *“No, O people, the Lord has told what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Martha doesn’t say sorry!

#### By Samantha Berger

We all fall short of God’s glory and find ourselves humbled by the knowledge that we are born into a world of sin. We are saved by the pure grace of God. We must continue to fall to our knees and repent each and every moment we are sorry, and ask for God’s great mercy in our lives. Our God is a God of love who desires for us to repent, but at the same time he hates sin. He loves the sinner so much that he gives us countless opportunities to repent, just as he gave the Israelites numerous chances to repent and turn to Him. Furthermore, in our story about Martha, we learn the importance of being humble ourselves through our words. It is most important to be sorry in our hearts, but it helps our relationships with one another to humbly and publicly confess to others our transgressions against them.

Thought: Apologizing isn’t that bad.

## *Amos 5:14*

## *“Do what is good and run from evil that you may live! Then the Lord God of Heaven’s Armies will be your helper, just as you have claimed.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Hear No Weevil (A Story of Temptation)

#### By Matt Whitlock

“There’s a creepy bug you’d better fear. He’s living deep inside your ear.” Just like a music worm that compels you to keep singing a familiar tune over and over again, the devil is very much alive and takes every opportunity he can to get inside our thoughts. I remember a song by Jiminy Cricket as a child, where the one small character sat on one of his shoulders and whispered good thoughts into one ear at the same time that a second character sat on the other shoulder and whispered bad thoughts into the other ear. The struggle between good and evil was created since the sin of Adam and Eve and continues throughout history. Always turn a deaf ear to any evil thoughts and run away from the temptations of the devil so that you can experience eternal life through our Savior Jesus Christ. When times are difficult and the evil voice seems to outshout the quiet still voice of God, pray for strength and guidance, for He is surely our helper and His strength and might are far greater than any evil power. Tell the devil to leave you alone and be gone from your life.

Thought: Evil thoughts can lead you astray, but a little prayer can chase them away.

**WEEK #26**

## *Lamentations 1:20*

## *“Lord, see my anguish! My heart is broken and my soul despairs, for I have rebelled against you.” (NLT)*

*(Also: Proverbs 28:13)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### “It Was Me, Mom” Miko

#### By Brigitte Weninger

Sometimes we all have a bit of selfish rebellion inside of us. There are times when a bit of meanness gets inside us. We get carried away with the moment and think only of what we want at that particular moment. We don’t consider the consequences nor heed any previous warning or instruction. Then when something bad happens, we are full of anguish and disappointment in ourselves. Miko wanted to know if his new rubber ball could bounce high enough to reach the ceiling and he didn’t obey his mother’s rule of not playing ball in the house. Just like Miko, we often rebel or do not do those things we know are right and sometimes bad things happen to us. God understands our rebellious nature as humans and even though it makes Him sad, He always forgives us and helps turn our mistakes into a valuable lesson for us. It is wise to always confess your mistakes. *(Proverbs 28:13 “People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.”)* Learn to forgive yourself, just as God will forgive us.

Thought: God uses disappointments and mistakes to realign our thoughts.

## *Obadiah 1:3a*

## *“You have been deceived by your own pride…” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Dandelion

#### By Don Freeman

It is said that pride always goes before a fall. Our security should never be in ourselves, but instead in the love of God. He is always full of love and mercy and we should always place our trust in Him. He is our security for He promises to judge those who bring harm to His people. This is exemplified in the Book of Obadiah when he destroyed those who were harassing and looting His people. He brought justice upon the people who were full of pride in themselves and lived in defiance of God. Maybe we don’t consider ourselves defiant of God, but it is very easy for us to become proud of ourselves and our accomplishments sometimes. We must always remember that everything we are and have belongs to God and we should always strive to be humble and obedient to God. After Jesus Christ, God’s holy nation became those who trusted Christ for their salvation. We are God’s adopted children and He promises always to protect us. We should never be prideful neither in our power or our appearances. It is deceitful to think these things. Dandelion was deceived by his own pride at first. He thought if he could make himself look better or dandier with a new hair style. He deceived himself and others to the point that no one even recognized who he was and he wasn’t invited into the party. Always be yourself, the way God made you. He loves us just the way you are. He accepts your sinful nature and He accepts your frizzy and fuzzy manes. It isn’t a matter of being invited to neither a party nor how elegantly you think you look. Instead it about living a humble life and trusting God and inviting Him into your heart.

Thought: Humble yourself and always come as you are.

## *Malachi 3:6a*

## *“I am the Lord, and I do not change.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### The Little House

#### By Virginia Lee Burton

My mother always told me that changes are inevitable from the time of our birth until the time of our death. We must be content in the knowledge that God will always remain our one and only constant. As children of God, we can still believe in His word and promises as found in the scriptures. Even though we change physically and even though we experience many changes in the world around us, God remains the same forever, as do His commandments. He is the same God He has always been. The God of the Old Testament is still the God of our present world. Just as he called the Old Testament people to repent, he still calls us today to repent of our sins. The Little House in this story experienced so much change around her. At first she experienced only the changes of the seasons, but later saw even greater changes in her life with the advancement of transportation and “big city” life. She became intrigued by all the wonderful changes and soon lost sight of the things that mattered the most. She began to focus on the changes instead of the one constant in her life – a close relationship with God and nature. Just like the people in the Old Testament and just like the little house, we need to keep our focus on the Lord our God, not on the things of this world that are happening around us. Accept the reality that God hasn’t changed and even though we change and the world around us changes, we still have a need to daily repent of our sins and worship and follow God’s will in our lives.

Thought: “From the time one is born until the time they leave this ‘ole world, there will always be changes.”

**WEEK #25**

## *Ezekiel 34:16a*

## *“I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safety home again..” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### One Lost Bear

#### By Karen Hayles

Jesus told the story about the man who had a hundred sheep and one of them got lost. His parable tells how he went our searching for the one that was lost and rejoiced when it was found, returning it to the fold. (Luke 15:3-7) Also, in the Old Testament after the fall of Jerusalem, the people strayed and became scattered from one another. Being alone and lost, away from our family of faith is not something that God desires for our lives. He gives us friends to help search us out when we are lost, just like the nine bears in this story who worried and called out for their one lost friend. He encourages fellowship and unity of His church and teaches us to foster loving communities of love. Just as he promised to reunite the exiles and rebuild Jerusalem, he also seeks us out as individuals in our faith. He is our one and only King and shepherd. When we are lost, God always seeks us out and brings us back home.

Thought: Friends help friends when they are lost.

## *Hosea 10:12a*

## *“Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Strega Nona’s Harvest

#### By Tomie dePaola

Strega Nona was a good person and she always strived to be perfect in every way. The rows in her garden were nice and straight and she worked hard, planted many seeds, prayed to God, and harvested a good harvest to replenish her pantry. Big Anthony on the other hand, wasn’t so perfect. Just like his garden which grew like a jungle, he wasn’t the neatest gardener. God faithfully loves all people. He blessed Strega Nona’s garden but He also blessed Big Anthony’s garden. Strega Nona’s garden fulfilled her own selfish needs; however, Big Anthony’s garden helped many people. God uses the mistakes of imperfect people to help others. Its okay to strive to be perfect, but we should never forget that no one has ever been perfect but Christ Jesus himself. If there is anything good and right in our lives, it comes from God. He is the only one who grows a perfect garden.

Thought: God grows a perfect garden.

## *Jonah 2:9b*

## *“For my salvation comes from the Lord alone.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Jonah and The Great Fish

#### Retold by Warwick Hutton

God is the only one who can rescue us from the wages of sin. Though we are tossed about by the storms in life, many of which we bring on ourselves by disobedience, God promises to forgive us of our mistakes and restore us if we humbly pray and sincerely confess. It is possible to drown in sin and only God alone can rescue and save us.

**WEEK #24**

## *Daniel 6:22*

## *“My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths..” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Daniel and the Lion’s Den

#### By Zonderkidz

What a beautiful thought to know that God is always watching over us with a hedge of protection. Charles Stanley talks about a painting he has in his office. This painting depicts the image of Daniel in the lions’ den from the story we read in the Bible. In this picture we see many large lions with their mouths shut and apparently no interest in Daniel. Usually when you see a pack of lions, they are growling with their mouths open ready to devour their prey. Next, our eyes focus on Daniel – a man standing in the midst of these lions starring at a small light that is shining through a crack. He seems to be mesmerized by the light which shines down upon him. Just like Daniel, those who keep their eyes and focus on God will be protected from harm. That doesn’t mean that nothing bad will ever happen to good people…..it simply means that God is greater than any evil powers. Sometimes in life we feel like we have been thrown into a den of lions with no escape when we find ourselves living in the midst of non-Christian behavior. At these times keep your thoughts directed towards Godly thoughts and you will get through whatever evil seemingly surrounds you. King Darius and Daniel were good friends, but only His relationship and friendship with God was able to protect Him from the dangers of the lions’ den.

Thought: God is our friend and will protect us when we feel that we have been thrown into a den of lions.

## *Zechariah 4:6*

## *“…It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit…” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### The Legend of Jelly Bean and the Unbreakable Egg

#### By Joe Troiano

Sometimes we view strength in terms of physical abilities. We have all heard the expressions “survival of the fittest” or “only the strong survive.” We have to stop and ask ourselves, “From where does our strength come?” Do we really need to be tough and harsh to make it in the world or tackle and solve a problem? I have experienced the lives of people who find it a daily challenge to humble themselves down before others. It somehow makes them feel weak and helpless and less responsible as a child of God. They go out in the morning with clinched fists, believing that they have to be strong and tough in order to accomplish God’s will for their lives. Though it is true that we must be strong in our faith, that doesn’t mean we need physical, nor even mental strength. Just like the exiles who were tired, discouraged and poor, we need reminders that all of our strength and hope comes from the Spirit. Just like the little eggs in this story who tried to peck, poke, whack………..and even beg, plead and shout, the unbreakable egg didn’t hatch until they gave up on believing it was through their own doing. We should never trust our own strength or abilities. Color your world with the good news about the power that comes from the Holy Spirit. That’s the best way to tackle any problem or crack any egg.

Thought: “There’s more than one way to crack an egg.”

**WEEK #23**

## *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

## *“To every [thing there is] a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.”*

Tiny Seeds Book:

#### God Gave Us Seasons

#### By: Carolyn Muller Wolcott

#### Illustrated by Meg Wohlberg

I was always happy in live in North Carolina where there are so many visible signs of the changing seasons. We always managed to enjoy beautiful snowfalls in the winter, happy days on the beach in the spring, gardening in the summer, and the majestic color of the changing leaves in the winter. Seasons can also apply to our lives as we are born, grow up, and mature until our eventual death. God created seasons like a never ending circle that comes and goes every year.

Thought:

God gave us seasons.

**WEEK #22**

## *Proverbs 1:19*

## *“So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.” (NKJV)*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Very Greedy Bee

### By Steve Smallman

The greedy bee spent the day slurping the nectar from the hive. Always thinking only of his own hungry desires, he never shared with anyone. He gobbled down the nectar all by himself. He was so greedy, that even when he found a huge field of flowers with plenty of nectar for many bees, he kept it to himself, gorging from the juicy flowers. Soon however, he over slurped and became so fat that he could no longer fly back to his home. The difficult and long journey home on foot would have been too much for him and would have done him in without the help of friends. Just like the bee, so often it is a temptation to be selfish and only think about our own wants and needs. We want to keep our blessings all to ourselves. However, in the end, our selfishness only takes away from ourselves – it takes away the joy and happiness that come from freely giving to others and it often even takes away from our own salvation. God clearly tells us in His word to love our neighbor as much as we love our own self (*Matthew 22:39*) and to treat others the way we want to be treated (*Matthew 7:12*). Always learn to share, even if it means you will go without. When you do these things you are pleasing God and adding His blessings to your life.

Thought: Discipline the temptation to keep your sweetest possessions to yourself

## *Proverbs 3:29-30*

## *“Don’t plot harm against your neighbor, for those who live nearby trust you. Don’t pick a fight without reason, when no one has done you harm.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Millie Waits for the Mail

### By Alexander Steffgensmeier

Millie, the farm cow, absolutely loved to scare the mail carrier every day. From the time she woke up, she searched for new hiding places and ways to chase the mailman away. Her bad behavior only created problems for everyone who received the damaged and broken packages. Her fun finally ended when her own special package became crushed along with the mail carrier’s bicycle. She began to see how her own selfish behavior was affecting others. Just like Millie, we often think too much of ourselves. I can’t imagine the evil minds of those who purposely plot evil against others, even though I know there are certain people like this in the world. But, I have experienced how sometimes people delight in other’s failures. How sad that anyone would enjoy seeing another person stumble and fall, for any reason. Whatever are they thinking? The Bible reminds us that it is far more wise and loving to plot ways to help people, rather than celebrate in their shortcomings. Don’t pick a fight with anyone and never celebrate his or her failure or faults. Always love and work hard to help your neighbors. Wake up in the morning, just as Millie learned, looking forward to doing something good for someone.

Thought: Look forward to doing good, not plotting evil.

## *Proverbs 17:17*

## *“A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Otis

### By Loren Long

The Bible doesn’t talk a lot about friendship aside from respect and loving all people. However, God didn’t intend for us to be alone and His creation planned for companionship. True friends are like angels, messengers from God, who come into our lives for a season or a lifetime. They are always there for us, even during our times of need. Friends are irreplaceable and nothing can fill the shoes or take the place of a loyal friend. Otis was a special red tractor who befriended a beautiful baby calf. Otis helped the calf to overcome his fear and their friendship soon grew and grew. Nothing could take the place of their time together playing leap frog and ring around the rosy on the farm. Just as our scripture reminds us, friends help out in times of need. Just like Otis came out of retirement to pull his lifelong friend out of the muddy waters, friends rescue us from many predicaments and help us get back on our feet, both physically and spiritually.

Thought: Nothing can replace true friendship.

**WEEK #21**

## *Psalm 145:18a*

## *“The Lord is near to all who call on him.”*

Tiny Seeds Book:

#### Dear God, It’s Me!

#### By Lynn Hodges & Sue Buchanan

To wake up every morning and turn that day over to God is an awesomely rewarding experience. Let the first thoughts of the day be your conversation with God. When you put your feet on the floor, first thing in the morning, just remember to say, “Good Morning God! Here I am!! What is Your intention for this day and how do You wish me to conduct myself?” God promises in His word many times to never leave us and to always be with us. From those first moments in the morning until those waning last minutes of the day, God watches over us. But, we must first call on Him. With a song in his heart, this little elephant demonstrates this simple truth. “Before your feet touch the floor, ask God to show you what he has in store.”

Thought:

Connect with God in prayer

*Psalm 36:5-6*

*“Your unfailing love, O LORD, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths”*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Boy and the Ocean

### By Max Lucado

It was always a wonderful blessing to grow up geographically in the middle of the state of North Carolina. We could drive three hours and be in the mountains or we could drive three hours and be on the coast. Our omnipresent God can show up anywhere, even in our own back yards, but it is often the breath-taking beauty of the mountains or the coastline that seem to draw us into a peaceful presence of the Lord. No matter where we establish our earthly home beneath the sky, we are always surrounded by God’s big and never-ending special love for us.

Thought: “It’s always here. It’s always big. It never ends. God’s love is special.

**WEEK #20**

## *Psalm 18:28*

## *“You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge

By Hildegarde H. Swift

It seemed like the Little Red Lighthouse near New York City would always be the proud “Master of the River”. It was a familiar sight to all the boats on the river from the great big steamers to the small canoes and even to the friendly tugboats. It felt very useful and important as it stood alone on the banks of the Hudson River year after year, keeping the boats safe from the rocks with its flashing beacon that lighted up the darkness. All was well until one day it seemed that everything would change when he had to share the banks of the river with another structure. Construction brought forth a big and powerful great stone bridge, which spanned from shore to shore. It was topped with great beams of light, which flashed from the top of its tower. All of a sudden the little red lighthouse felt very small and unimportant with its small beam of light. But one day a great storm came and the little lighthouse came to understand the truth and power of each beacon of light. They worked together as The Great Gray Bridge reminded him, “I call to the airplanes…but you are still master of the river. Each to his own place.” We all need to let our lights shine in the place and for the purpose God has intended. The light of God shines through each of us in a different way. Some lights are bigger than others, but no light shines brighter. Even the smallest of lights becomes a great beacon when there is darkness. Go into the world and let God’s light shine through you for others to see and be saved.

Thought: A little light becomes a great beacon in the darkness.

## *Psalm 30:11a*

## *“You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing.”(NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Giraffes Can’t Dance

By Giles Andreae

Gerald the giraffe had a desire to dance and participate in the annual Jungle Dance in Africa. Whenever he tried his knees always buckled underneath him and he couldn’t dance like the other animals. Unlike the warthogs, rhinos, and lions, his dancing skills were very bad. Even the chimps and baboons were able to be a part of this annual event. We all can be just like Gerald at times when we feel inadequate or not able to fulfill the dream that is in our hearts. We often freely give up those dreams because we can’t imagine it ever coming true. Everything about us comes from the Almighty God and He has the strength and power to do anything. Don’t give up on those desires in your heart. If you want to sing………sing. If you want to dance………..dance. God desires to hear our thoughts and wants us to be happy and feel fulfilled here on Earth. Our wishes might not be exactly the way we envisioned them, but they could very possibly come true as long as they fit into His determined will. Dance to the music of your heart even though it is different from someone else. When you turn to God with your hopes and dreams, He will turn your sadness and tears into songs of happiness.

Thought: Dreams do come true when you wish upon God’s stars.

## *Psalm 146:5*

## *“But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in The Lord their God.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

The “Reel” Thing

### By Hunter D. Darden

The most fun part of going fishing is the anticipation of what one might catch. As fisher people, we always dream of catching “the big one”. There is always that spark of hope that renews us and helps us rise early in the morning and prepare ourselves for the big fishing day ahead of us. The little boy, Charlie, was a fisherman too. He dreamed of catching Madame Mossback, which was the biggest fish in the community pond. Everyone knew about this fish and everyone had tried to catch him many times. Unfortunately, with time many people had given up hope and had simply quit fishing. They grew tired with the thought that they would never catch anything. Just like Charlie, as children, we show and express enthusiasm in our faith, but with time, sometimes this spiritual excitement ends and we resort to just rushing around with our busy schedules. We start analyzing the problems of the world instead of enjoying the simple joy of each new day. We are all fishers of men and have a need to go into each new day with happy and hopeful hearts. Those who see us will yearn to be like us. Charlie’s family and friends learned that it’s not always about the things we accomplish in our busy lives, but instead it is about the attitude that we carry in our minds. We all need to stop and slow down and let God renew our minds. We can be fishers of men and catch “reel” things by displaying an attitude of childlike enthusiasm, joy, and hope with each new day. Don’t grow stale in your faith and don’t ever stop fishing. Who knows, tomorrow you just might catch “the big one.”

Thought: Hope is what renews and strengthens us.

**WEEK #19**

## *Psalm 19:1*

## *“The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Rachel’s Rainbow

By Sharon L. Morphew

God desires to have a relationship with us. He speaks to us through His word, the Bible, but also through signs and experiences that occur in nature. “God shows up in nature to reveal Himself for the purpose of encouraging us, enabling us, energizing us, informing us, and warning us.” (Charles Stanley) These things proclaim His presence, His great glory, and His great love for us. People often struggle to hear the voice of God and discern His will, but in order to hear one has to first believe and secondly expect to hear. Sometimes God speaks to us through natural signs and/or occurrences around us. They have been called Godstops, signs, or just moments in our life where we immediately felt the presence of God. To see and receive these precious moments, one has to be watching, waiting, and expecting. Rachel’s rainbow didn’t appear in the sky as one might expect, but instead her rainbow appeared from the things in her basket: the bright red apple, the fiery orange maple leaf, the sunny yellow butterfly, the emerald green four-leaf clover, the two baby blue robin’s eggs, and the royal purple violets.

Thought: Spectacular experiences occur in nature as a valuable form of communication from God.

## *Psalm 118:1*

## *“O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good. His faithful love endures forever.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Rumpoles and The Barleys

### By Karen Hunt

Eustace and Prunella were two rather spoiled mice children. In their attic mansion, they had access to all the sorts of delicious tidbits. Instead of being grateful for all their many blessings they complained about having to eat vegetables and not having enough dessert. It is so easy to take the gifts like food, clothing, and shelter for granted. The mice children were reminded of the importance of their blessings when they ran away from the mansion and spent some precious time with the Barley Family, who lived in very humble surroundings. Their pride turned into dreadful shame for their former unthankful attitudes. “It’s hard to be miserable when you’re thankful,” Mrs. Barley reminded them. Starting and ending our day with praise and thanks for the simple things we take for granted helps us to renew our attitudes. It is a gift to wake up in the morning and be able to put our feet on the floor. It is a gift to have something to make those hunger pains go away. It is a gift to have a roof over our heads. We may be tempted to be miserable with the circumstances of our life, but we must always remember the goodness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. In all things and at all times in our life, God is good.

Thought: God is good all the time and all the time God is good.

## *Psalm 24:1*

## *“The earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness.”*

Tiny Seeds Book:

Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!

By Candace Fleming

Are you an intruder or a defender in life? Many people spend a great deal of time guarding the fences of their lives while others spend an equal amount of time conveniently intruding upon their fellow man, whether it be their personal space or their earned accomplishments. Everything we have in life belongs to God; however, there should be a healthy balance between helping those in need and being able to reap the joys of hard work.

We often see this happening in our own backyard gardens. Gardeners work hard to till the soil and tend their gardens; however, their efforts often suffer by the invasion of hungry critters. Just like those nibbling bunnies in Mr. McGreely’s garden, it is a temptation for some to freely take away from the efforts of others, rather than allowing them the privilege and joy of sharing. Bunnies need to eat too, but it seems unfair that they only secretly show up for the harvest during the dark hours. It seems that the bunnies spent way too much time at night secretly stealing food, while Mr. McGreely spends too much effort during the daylight mending his fences and devising new ways to keep the bunnies out. Only when we come together in harmony, are they able to find a satisfying balance between security and convenience.

Walls aren’t bad things and I believe its okay to use some forms of keeping order, whether it be in our backyard gardens or in our world; however, perhaps we should spend an equal amount of time on dealing with the problem, rather than isolating ourselves from the problem. There are no overnight solution to the assumption there will always be those with and those without; however, I believe that both the attitudes of the intruder and the defender are incorrect. The earth and all its wonderful fullness belong to God and everyone is required to do their share and reap their share. Treat one another with respect and love our neighbor as you love yourself; however never be lazy nor take advantage of those who work hard.

Thought: Everything belongs to God.

**WEEK #18**

## *“For there is hope for a tree, If it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And that its tender shoots will not cease.”(NKJV)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Dilly Duckling

By Claire Freeman

The Book of Job is probably one of the greatest stories of hope. A man who lost everything he had, including his own family and his health, was restored with twice his former wealth. When things were lost, he continued in his faith. Dilly the little yellow duck also lost something very dear to him -his beautiful downy feather! Try as he might to catch it, the feather flew far away from his reach. Just like the friends of Job, Dilly’s friends also tried to come to his rescue and help him. Spike, the hedgehog, pitter-pattered after the feather and Nibble, the little mouse, climbed up the cornstalk to retrieve the feather. But the feather was flown farther away and was truly lost. Dilly Duck eventually came to accept the lost of his big fluffy feather as he returned home to his mother. With her great wisdom, she explained to him that soon this feather would be replaced with many other beautiful white grown up feathers. She planted the good news of hope in his heart. Without hope there is nothing. With hope there is everything.

Thought: “Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul.” (Emily Dickinson)

**WEEK #17**

## *Esther 4:14b*

## *“Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”(NKJV)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Queen Esther the Morning Star

By Mordicai Gerstein

The Biblical story of Esther teaches us much about the perfect timing of God. The message truly emphasizes that God is the one in control of our lives and the circumstances therein. The beautiful Esther who was a Jew herself became the Queen of Persia at the exact time that there would be a proclaimed execution of the Jewish people. As the beautiful and beloved Queen, she was able to reveal the wickedness of Hamen and convinces King Ahasuerus to find a way to save the Jews. She was able to save herself and her Jewish people because of the perfect timing of God. God is almighty and He is in total control of each of our lives and His determined will is flawlessly timed for His divine purpose. We should always strive to keep our lives within the will of God through prayer and faith in God’s direction. We might find ourselves outside our comfort zones but with a committed trust in Him, we will come to accept that we are **where** we are **when** we are because that is where God wants us to be to fulfill His divine purpose and will for our lives.

Thought: There is a right time and a right place to be used by God.

**WEEKS 15 and 16 (combined)**

## *Ezra 8:21*

## *“…humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him, the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.” (NKJV)*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Scarecrow’s Dance

By Jane Yolen

Just as God was faithful in His promise to restore his people to their land, He faithfully helps us to understand our individual responsibility to follow His will for our lives. It’s not about dancing and expression of our own individual freedoms, but rather discovering where God wants us to be and what He wants us to do. The scarecrow became excited when he found himself free from bondage or rules. He danced delighted under the moon. He thought he was happy until he once again heard the voice of God through the prayers of a tiny child. He re-discovered the song of faith and duty. He was a scarecrow, a servant of God. It was his responsibility to watch over and keep the fields free even if it meant he was to give up his own freedoms. From then on, he lived a selfless life to protect others. He was happy in the knowledge that “anyone can dance, but only I can keep the fields free.”

Thought: God will restore those who wander away from His wil

**WEEK #14**

## *2 Chronicles 7:14*

## *“Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their lands.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

God Bless America

Words by Irving Berlin

After the events of September 11, the American people began to worry about their beautiful land of America. This country was founded on Christian morals with a genuine trust in God. In the Old Testament, there was a similar story about people who had wandered away from the principals of Godly living. The book of Chronicles was written during a dark age for God’s people as they tried to re-unite themselves after captivity. This scripture tells us that if anyone humbles himself or herself to pray and seek the face of God, He will hear their prayers from heaven and He will re-establish their lands. We as Americans must examine our individual lives and be accountable for our actions and the morals and scruples of our leaders. We must come together united as a one nation under God, and He will restore what has been taken away and will bless our country. It is our duty and responsibility to pray for America. (Also: in Deuteronomy there is a promise to “set you high above all nations on earth” and again in Psalms 33:12 we read, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”)

Thought: Always pray for America.

**WEEK #13**

## *1 Chronicles 4:10*

## *“On, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil that I may not cause pain. So God granted him what he requested.”*

Tiny Seeds Book:

#### The Prayer of Jabez

### By Bruce Wilkinson and Rob Suggs

It seems hard sometimes to think about asking God to give us possessions or to enlarge our territory, but the Bible tells us through this story, that God desires to give to us and to bless us. It’s our responsibility to use those blessing in ways that will honor Him and help to spread His love. In the same breath that we ask for these things, we should also pray for guidance and protection. We should yearn for guidance in ways to use these things for the glory of God and protection from falling into the pits of pride and selfishness. There is an old saying that reminds us to be careful what you ask for because, you just might receive those things. It is important to always seek the will of God to ask only for those things, which will enable you to fulfill the will of God for your life. We should always be thankful for the things we have and the blessing we have already received in our lives, but it is okay and acceptable to pray for continued blessings. There are blessing in heaven waiting to be dispersed, but first we must ask with a pure heart and receive with thankful hearts

Thought:

“Throw open those vaults where His blessings are stored.”

*1 Chronicles 16:34b*

*“His faithful love endures forever.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Blue Burt and Wiggles

By Derek Anderson

Blue Burt and his worm buddy, Wiggles were the best of friends. They didn’t think anything would ever separate them. They spend all of their time together. But everyone knows that God made the worms different from the birds. There are times in both of their lives when they must go their separate ways for a while. Worms crawl deep into the ground in the winter and blue birds fly to warmer climates. Worms can’t fly and birds can’t live under the ground. Blue Burt and Wiggles thought that being away from one another would spoil their friendship; however, they realized that winter was on its way. They decided to try and prevent the winter from coming so that they could stay together forever. They thought if they could paint their world green and paste the leaves back on the trees, the winter would never come and they would never have to leave one another. But even the best of their efforts couldn’t prevent the changing of the seasons. Sometimes circumstances in our lives forces us to leave our loved ones for a short while or for a long time. If the love is real, the friendship will endure those times of separation. Faithful love lasts forever and endures all things. This is the kind of love that God has for us. He promises to never leave us, but during those times when we feel estranged from him, we must always remember His faithful promise to always love us. Seasons come and go but true love from God and friends lasts forever.

Thought: God will always be there through all the seasons of your life.

## *Psalm 136:26*

## *“Give thanks to the God of heaven. His faithful love endures forever.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Love You Until…..

By Lisa McCourt

There are different words in the Bible to describe God’s love – it is faithful, it is unfailing, it is eternal, it is endless. The list goes on and on. It’s really hard to find a word that describes the kind of love that we as humans most likely can’t even conceive of. Another word we often hear is the word, unconditional. I once searched for this word in the Bible, but much to my surprise and dismay, couldn’t locate it. I still find myself using all these words in my attempts to talk about the love of God that has no boundaries; I try to give thanks to the God whose love will never leave me no matter where I go or no matter what I do. We often try and compare the love between a parent and child as the kind of love between our Heavenly Father and ourselves, but if the truth be known, even that doesn’t quite measure up. The little boy, Mike and his mother in this book, compete back and forth about their love for one another. Just like the love of God, they discover that there really aren’t enough words to describe their feelings. Be thankful each day for the unfailing love of God and allow Him to surround you with this love, even though you can’t fully grasp just how great it is.

Thought: “The language of love has no boundaries.”

**WEEK #11**

## *1 Kings 19:11-12*

## *“There was a great and mighty wind, splitting mountains and shattering rocks by the power of God; but God was not in the wind. After the wind an earthquake; but God was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake – fire; but God was not in the fire. After the fire – a still small voice.”*

Tiny Seed Book:

God In Between

By Sandy Eisenbery Sasso

There were no windows in the homes and no roads in the small poor village. Their houses were “closed up like boxes sealed with tape. They could never look out and their neighbors could never look in.” Without roads in their town, they wandered aimlessly alone and around the village, seeing nothing and going nowhere. They did not see nor feel the presence of God. One day they gathered together and one villager spoke up saying, “I have heard there is a God, and when people find God, God solves all their problems.” Two of the villagers decided to go out and look for God. A woman went to the top of the mountain and set sail on a ship that went far out into the ocean, but she didn’t find God. A man traveled in the dessert and inside a cave but he did not see God either. All of these things were made and controlled by God, but that is not where God lived. As they sat down they consoled each other in their sadness about not finding God. Soon they came to realize that God was right there with them all along. Just like Elijah, the prophet from the Old Testament, we must understand that God’s voice is often heard as only a quiet whisper. It is not always found in big and miraculous places but often seen in a quiet and humble heart. The Holy Spirit lives within all of those who believe in God and His love is very much alive. It is expressed in our relationships with one another. The village came to understand how to open up their houses by putting windows in every room and building roads between their houses. They understood that in doing these things they were opening up their hearts and letting God come into and in between their lives. God’s power can be seen in the wind and in the earthquakes and in the fire, but He lives within and between us.

Thought: “God is found with all of us and the relationships between us.”

**WEEK #10**

## *2 Samuel 23:4*

## *“ is like the light of morning at sunrise, like a morning without clouds, like the gleaming of the sun on new grass after rain.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Lemon Drop Jar

By Christine Widman

My mother often said that on cloudy days or days when spirits were down that we “would have to make the sun shine”. Every day is a gift from God and every new morning we should remind ourselves to rejoice and give thanks. As long as we have the love of God in our hearts, it is like a brilliance of pure joy shining through us. It is pure joy rather than simple happiness that makes a gloomy or cloudy day or a sad moment turn from darkness into light. In this scripture from 2 Samuel, David spoke of a righteous ruler. He described in his prophecy what the coming of this Savior would be like. His prophesy was fulfilled through the birth and resurrection of Jesus. We have much to celebrate and be thankful for because of the life of Christ. We can experience peace and joy, even during sad moments or cloudy days. Just like Great Aunt Emma’s jar filled with lemon drops, which she brought out and placed on the kitchen window’s ledge on gloomy days, we need to invite the Son into our hearts as well. We need to make the sun shine by reminding ourselves of the love of God and by spreading this love to others. By allowing His love to shine through us, we can each be like a lemon drop jar. We can allow the Son to shine in and through our lives.

Thought: Those who love God can always make the sun shine.

**WEEK #9**

## *1 Samuel 17:45*

## *“David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies – the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

David and Goliath

David was too young to go into battle with his brothers and fight against the enemy, the Philistines. He had been told, “You are not old enough to be a soldier”. But David was restless and could not stay away from the battlefield. As he brought food and water to the soldiers, he heard about the giant Philistine warrior, Goliath that everyone was afraid to challenge. Unlike the soldiers, he understood that his real strength in life came from God. Even though he wasn’t a soldier in the king’s army, he valiantly appeared before the enemy with nothing more than a few stones and a slingshot. He proclaimed “I come to you in the name of God.” With a single stone he struck Goliath in the forehead and was able to kill him. A mere shepherd boy had done what all the soldiers in the army could not do because he trusted on the strength and courage of God. If we turn to God and give Him all our problems and battles in life instead of being afraid to try, there will always be victory through Christ.

Thought: Trust in God to give you the strength and courage to fight all of life’s battles.

*1 Samuel 16:7b*

*“For the Lord does not see as man sees; man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Little Quack’s New Friend

#### By Lauren Thompson

It remains a lifelong challenge to accept people and things that are different from us: people who look different, people who act different and even people who think and reason different from us. It even remains a challenge for people of the same faith to accept and love one another. Our worlds, our churches, and even our homes can become a setting and environment for gathering of friends. Who do we invite into our circle of friends? Just like the family of ducks and the one lonely frog, sometimes there is someone who “just doesn’t seem to fit in somehow.” There is that one person who looks different, acts different, and thinks different. We often shun them or at least shy away from them. The frog was certainly different from Widdle, Waddle, Piddle, Puddle and Little Quack but somehow Little Quack was able to see beyond his outside appearance and befriended him. They soon decided that it was okay if he was tiny. It was okay if he was green. It was even okay if he couldn’t quack. It was okay from him to be a frog and still be their friend.

Thought: “It’s not easy being green.” (Kermit from Sesame Street)

**WEEK #8**

## *Ruth 1:16b*

## *“Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Ruth and Naomi

By

One of the greatest stories of friendship comes from the Biblical story of Ruth and Naomi. This story can also be applied to our lives today. Nothing will ever interfere with true friendship. Some people move in and out of our lives but the truest friends stay forever a part of our lives. Even though we change, move away, get married, and even have children…. a true friendship will last forever. Ruth and Naomi had shared many struggles and changes together but even when Ruth got married and had a son, they still remained friends in spite of everything that had happened. They both remained loyal to God as well as each other and God blessed them both.

Thought: The bond of true Christian friendship last forever, no matter where life takes you.

## *Ruth 2:12*

## *“May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done.”(NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Snow Angel

By Christine Leeson

Daisy and Sam were two little field mice. They woke up one Christmas morning to a beautiful blanket of snow. They hurriedly received their gifts of berries and nuts from their mother and ran outside to play. As they joyfully played in the snow, they suddenly looked up and saw a Christmas angel falling out of the sky. Unbeknown to them, it was actually a beautiful white goose whose feathers glittered from the ice and snow. The goose was lost in the snowstorm away from her friends and she was very hungry and tired. Because everything was frozen, they had no food to offer. That is, except for the berries and nuts that the mice had received as gifts from their mother earlier that Christmas morning. Because of their unselfish sharing of their gifts, they discovered a great truth about giving to others. As the goose regained her strength from the food that the mice gave to her, she was soon able to fly away. As she took flight, there appeared a huge shower of beautiful white feathers in the air. Excitedly the mice gathered them up and carried them home to use as a soft bed. Through their own selfless giving they had received a blessing in return.

Thought: You receive much more in your unselfish giving to others.

**WEEK #7**

## *Judges 17:6*

## *“In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.”*

Tiny Seed Book:

Where the Wild Things Are

By Maurice Sendak

Max was full of mischief and often didn’t think about the consequences of his actions or how he might be hurting others and disappointing his parents. His mother called him “wild thing” and punished him by sending him to his room to help him to calm down. While there, Max imagined a wonderful wild world where he was his own boss and did pretty much everything he wanted to do. There were no rules and no consequences. In the land of the wild things, he imagined that he was the king and boss of all the wild animals. It was great fun…………but only for a short while. He soon felt lost, lonely, and hungry. Being king of your own actions wasn’t as much fun as he thought it would be. Just like Max, the Israelites drifted away from God and His commandments over and over after they entered into the Promised Land. They become selfish and only thought about themselves. Over and over God forgave them and welcome them back as children. True love and fulfillment comes from accepting the love of God and obeying the degrees, regulations, instructions and commands that He has given us. And the best place to start is at home with our parents.

Thought: “Being king of a land with “no rules’ lacks fulfillment.

**WEEK #6**

## *Joshua 1:9*

## *“This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (NLT)*

## 

Tiny Seed Book:

Courage

By Bernard Waber

What exactly is courage? We might think that courage is related to being a hero but in truth, courage is an individual personal ability to face a situation without fear. Courage comes in many forms. Simply stated there is awesome courage and everyday courage. There are different kinds of courage ranging from our moral and intellectual courage to our physical strength and stamina. Having courage involves the absence of fear and the willingness to try again. The Bible mentions more than anything else the lesson of “fear not”. We often call the heroes from the Bible such as Joshua as courageous leaders. A hero isn’t someone who isn’t afraid but instead is someone who trusts in God at all times and in all circumstances. As the Israelites finally prepared themselves to enter into the Promised Land, God commanded their leader, Joshua, to be strong and courageous. Joshua did not focus on the enemy but instead kept his focus on God. Everyone, especially our leaders, need encouragement in their efforts to move the church and the love of Jesus Christ forward in today’s world.

Thought: Courage is something we can give to each other.

## *Isaiah 7:14*

## *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign, Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Donkey’s Dream

By Barbara Helen Berger

**Can you even imagine how exhausting the journey to Bethlehem must have been for Mary and Joseph? And, can you fathom how tired the poor donkey was who carried his heavy burden for many days across the dessert. I can imagine that in their exhaustion, that Mary, Joseph, and the donkey daydreamed of the possibilities of what was ahead of them and what had been prophesized by Isaiah. As the donkey dreamed, perhaps he envisioned that he was carrying a city on his back and within the city he heard a child was crying. Perhaps he dreamed he was carrying a ship that rocked on the sea like a cradle. As his journey continued, maybe he dreamed he was carrying a fountain from which sprang a garden. And, lastly, his dreams might have brought to mind that surely he was carrying a beautiful rose. All of these were symbols and signs of the Virgin Mary and the birth of Jesus Christ. Upon his back was the future Immanuel. Just as was predicted by the Prophet Isaiah, a virgin would conceive in a city and would lie in a manger. From his birth and the living waters, the hope of eternal life for all mankind, spring up like a well-watered garden. Our faith rests upon the story of the virgin birth and the Holy Child born from the Virgin Mary, a precious rose without thorns. How beautiful our dreams can be! How beautiful will be the promises of a God who loves us.**

Thought: Dream of the possibilities of God’s promises to each of us.

## *Proverbs 12:25*

## *“Anxiety weighs down the heart but a kind word cheers it up.” (NIV)*

Tiny Seed Book:

A Wish to Be a Christmas Tree

### By Colleen Monroe

More often than we may realize our words to one another can be very harmful. The Bible tells us to gently teach and admonish one another but too often men judge one another and bring each other down and put stumbling blocks in their spiritual pathways. The power of friendship and encouragement cannot be measured for it is far more valuable than any spiritual counsel or advice we think we can offer. The Bible clearly tells us to love one another and encourage with the truth. This little pine tree felt lonely and rejected because he was never picked to be the family Christmas tree. The animals of the forest however recognized his sorrow and helped him to understand the truth about his great worth and beauty. The squirrels and birds reminded him of how his branches kept them safe and warm. The deer reminded him of how his pine needles provided a soft bed to lie down and rest. To help their friend the animals helped make his dream come true as they adorned him with acorns and berries. They reminded the little tree how special he was. Always love and encourage one another.

Thought: Always remember to tell others how special they are.

**WEEK #5**

## *Deuteronomy 7:9*

## *“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.” (NIV)*

Tiny Seed Book:

I Love You More Than Rainbows

By Susan Crites

**After God sent the flood that destroyed everything on earth except for Noah and his family, he placed a rainbow in the sky. With this rainbow came His promise never to destroy the earth with a flood again. In Genesis 9:13 it is written, “*I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is a sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth.”* God promises to always love us unconditionally and faithfully forever and ever. His covenant of love will last from generation to generation. When you think about all the beautiful things you enjoy in life and how much you love them, just remember that God loves you more than any of these things. God loves His world and everything in it, but He especially loves you more than you can ever imagine.**

Thought: Nothing can compare to the promise of God’s love.

## *Deuteronomy 31:8a*

## *“Do not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord will go ahead of you.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Katy and the Big Snow

By Virginia Lee Burton

In this book, Katy was a big and strong tractor who made and repaired roads. After the summer months were over, she became a snowplow. Virginia Burton tells the story of one winter when a really big blizzard came to the City of Geoppolis. The snow was piled up so high that no one could do his or her normal jobs. When the people called out for help, Katy was there to help them and she always said, “Follow me.” She plowed through the snow, made new roads, and saved the city. Just like Katy, God’s help is always there for us. He reminds us to follow Him and He will prepare a path for us. Nothing is too big for Him to handle and no storm is too great that He will not see us through it.

Thought: Call upon God’s help and follow the path He has prepared for you. He is big and strong – no storm is too great for Him.

**WEEK #4**

## *Numbers 14:23*

*“Not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.”*

Tiny Seeds Book:

The Bad Seed

By Jory John

Have you ever goggled how far off you are from your destination? How many times have you heard kids complain, “Are we there yet?” If the Israelites had been able to pull this information up on their phones, they would have seen an estimate of about two years. So why do we hear about the Israelites wandering for forty years? The answer is simple. Because of their unfaithfulness, God did not allow them to enter into the Promised Land. He declared that they would not be able to enter into the land promised to them, but that another generation of people, who were redeemed, would move forward and claim the land.

In our gardens, we often experience seasons of good crops and seasons of bad crops. Sometimes we attribute it to the weather or to bad seed. Bad seed just like bad behaviors can prolong a good harvest. The people of Israel became like bad seed as they continued to grumble and be defiant in their attitudes towards God’s expectations of their behavior. God could have destroyed them, but once again he showed his great patience and allowed them to live. He forced them to wander for another 40 years in the wilderness but through their struggles, they decided to change their way of living. For the Israelites it took a whole new generation. Let’s hope we can be like the bad seed and change our bad behaviors in a more timely fashion.

Sanctification is a life-time process, but only good seeds reap a good harvest. No one treating God with contempt will ever enter into God’s kingdom. Live a good and righteous life – be a good seed who is producing a bountiful harvest.

Thought: Bad seed often robs us of seasons of growth.

## *Numbers 20:6*

## *“But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not trust me enough to demonstrate my holiness to the people of Israel, you will not lead them into the land I am giving them.”*

Tiny Seeds Book:

Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns to Listen

By Howard Binkow

I have often heard the words, “You aren’t listening!!” My initial response is usually a defensive one…. “Yes I am.” However, the truth of the matter more often than not, is that my full attention isn’t being given to the one on the other end of the conversation. How easy it is to become distracted or to just not give the issue at hand our full attention and meditation. Listening is a special part of obedience and can be encouraged at a very early age. All too often, we as parents think we can multi-task and still listen to our children’s conversation. Unfortunately, we all too often teach them by our own poor example that one can listen and do other things. Listening requires full attention. In the Old Testament, we read the story about Moses and how God instructed him to speak to the rock and it would pour our water for the people. Moses obviously didn’t listen very well and instead of speaking to the rock, he instead struck the rock. Caught up in the moment, he disobeyed God and took the credit for himself. Likewise, Howard B. Wigglebottom didn’t know how to listen either and he was always in trouble at school. Just like Moses lost the privilege of leading the people into the Promised Land because he didn’t listen and trust God, Howard also had privileges taken away from him. It is important to be a good listener. Listen first and then trust and obey.

Thought: Learn to listen and obey.

## *Psalm 150:6*

## *“Let everything that breaths sing praises the Lord! Praise the Lord.” (NLT)*

*(Also: Psalm 46:10)*

Tiny Seed Book:

In November

### By Cynthia Rylant

It seems fitting to end the book of Psalms with this special scripture and thought. Just as we begin to end another year, we begin to slow down and reflect during this special time of the year. God is almighty and His perfect holiness deserves our praise for He has brought us through another year. What better time to feel the presence of God and His holiness than with the changing of the seasons. In November we experience great change but we gather to celebrate our blessings and praise to God. In November, the earth grows quiet and still as the air grows chilly. Many animals sleep while others prepare for the cold times ahead. Some of the animals pile up in the corners of the barn or under logs. It is a time to be still and feel the presence of God *(Psalm 46:10)*. In November we gather as families to give thanks for each other and the blessing we have been given. The world “has tucked her children in, with a kiss on their heads”. Let everything in nature and in its own way praise God.

Thought: Be thankful for the rhythm of nature

**WEEK #3**

## *Leviticus 19:18*

## *“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.”*

Tiny Seeds Book:

The Forgiving Lion

By Efrat Haddi

God desires his children to remain holy in their personal relationships with one another. It’s one thing to love a neighbor who is different from you, but it is another and often harder thing to love those who hurt or threaten you.

The very first time that the word “forgive” is mentioned in the Bible is in the Book of Genesis. Joseph’s father pleaded with his son to forgive his brothers for their harsh treatment of him. *“Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did you – for their sin in treating you so cruelly.” (Genesis 50:17).* The second mention comes from the old laws of Moses. *Leviticus 19:18* says*, “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite…”*

Jesus continues to talk about loving our neighbor and not holding on to grudges. *Mark 11:25* says *“Forgive anyone who you are holding a grudge against”* and the Lord’s Prayer encourages us to *“forgive others of their trespasses against us.” (Luke 11:4)*

What seems like an easy commandment can often turn into a selfish attitude and personal struggle to prove ourselves strong. Just like Leo the Lion who wished to be the best hunter and leader of his pack, he soon learned that a “true leader must also know how to forgive others and not become so angry. Everyone makes mistakes and we all fall short of living a sinless life. Some would say that getting angry help one compete better; however, there is wisdom in understanding “the spirit of the game” vs harboring bitter arrogance in our heart, off the court. Sometimes it take more courage and bravery to forgive.  
 Grudges are never a good thing and only hurt the ones who carry them. Jus t like Leo who would up with no friends, we often find ourselves holding on to bitterness which becomes the root of other future problems.

Sometimes forgiveness involves a difference in our personal moral compass and other times it is just a matter of getting our feelings hurt. We should always stand up for Jesus and the truth in His word; however, we should never be unforgiving or think too highly of our personal emotions.

Thought: “Let your hands be so full of catching blessings that you can’t hold a grudge.” (Live Life Happy)

## *Leviticus 19:34*

*“The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.” (NKJV)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Stellaluna

By Janell Cannon

After the people were saved from evil and even from their own sins and mistakes in Exodus, they received more rules and duties which would help them to remain holy in their living. Holy living involves having an attitude of being humble, pure, and righteous in the sight of God. The rules in Leviticus went far beyond the simple guidelines of the Ten Commandments and touched on intricate details of their day to day living. One part of these rules involved the people’s attitudes towards other people and their relationships with one another. They were taught to conduct their personal lives with love and respect for all people, even those who were different from themselves. Jesus in the New Testament also emphasized this when He said that the second greatest commandment was to love your neighbor as yourself.

Stellaluna was a baby bat that was lost from her mother when she fell from her grasp, while she was carrying her. She fell through the air and eventually landed in a nest with three baby birds. She didn’t look like they did, but they did have a couple of things in common – they were unable to fly and they were hungry. Stellaluna was accepted by the mother bird, who raised her as one of her own, even to the point of teaching her how to fly. It is important to love everyone and to help even the strangers.

Thought: Be a friend to everyone, even those who are different.

*Ephesians 5:20*

*“And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.”*

Tiny Seed Book:

I’m Thankful For So Many Things

By P.K. Hallinan

When we think of a relationship with God, we are reminded to pray each day with a heart of praise, remorse for our short-coming, and thanksgiving. We often make our prayer time, a laundry list of desires and wishes. To begin each day and each prayer with humble hearts full of praise and thanksgiving, is a good and right thing. We all have so much to be thankful for……….things that we often take for granted. Just to wake up in the morning is a gift from God. To see, to feel, to hear all the wonders of nature around us are all things to be thankful for. To have friendships to share with and a heavenly Father who walks with us and watches over us each and every day………..is a blessing. Always, remember to **first give thanks** and then make your requests know to God.

Thought:

“Be thankful for living.”

**WEEK #2**

## *Exodus 3:17*

## *“I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt.”*

Tiny Seed Book:

I Promise

By David McPhail

A promise is defined as a “declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing”. We all understand that sometimes things don’t happen as we thought and sometimes those promises or expectations aren’t met. Politicians are notorious for making promises, often of which many do not materialize. God made over 7,000 promises to mankind in the Bible; however, unlike us, these promises will always be fulfilled. One of the earliest promises to Abraham was reiterated when he said, ‘I am who I am’. God always keeps His promises. So, where does that leave us in our trail of broken promises to one another? First, we should be careful in our promises to one another about a specific outcome or turn of current events. Secondly, God knows our heart and He can judge whether our intentions were pure. Just like Mother Bear in our story, we can only promise with assurance our love for one another and that we will do our very best. Anything beyond that often leads to brokenness. God’s promises on the other hand give ‘meaning and direction to our lives.’

Thought: “God didn’t promise day without pain, laughter without sorrow, or sun without rain. But he did promise strength for the day, comfort for the pain, and light for the way.”

## *Exodus 20:1-7*

## *“Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Honor thy father and thy mother. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor, Thou shalt not covet.*

Tiny Seeds Book:

#### The Ten Commandments for Children

#### By: Mary Alice Jones

Exodus records the deliverance of those who had been oppressed in the land of Egypt and is probably most noted for its reference to the Ten Commandments. These are often referred to as God’s guidelines to the Israelites and a moral standard for their lives. Even today, we are still often taught these simples rules as a child; however, during the course of our adult lives we might begin to re-evaluate their application in today’s world. Sadly, these simple family values almost seem to be fading away in today’s busy society and are often deemed outdated. The fact that this simple book was discarded by the public library exhibits a certain trend and brings sadness to my heart. In the same way that God desired to lead the people many years ago in the right direction, He still desires that each of us possess a moral compass for our lives. Ultimately, God knows our heart, but I believe we should continue to mediate on the truth of these commands even today. Even though the most precious principals of God are not found in the ‘thou shall’ and the ‘thou shall not’ verses of the Bible, we should each carefully examine our lives in light of the lives of people like Moses who were some of God’s greatest servants.

Thought:

God gave us spiritual and moral guidelines many year ago. Do you apply these to your life today?

*Galatians 6:4*

*“Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else.” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### Gooseberry Goose

#### By Claire Freedman

How easy it is to compare our thoughts and actions to someone else’s. We sometimes find ourselves judging other people because we don’t understand the reasoning behind their actions. We don’t see eye to eye on what seems to be important at any particular moment and our personal philosophies and attitudes just don’t line up with one another. It is important for us to understand that each Christian has their special and personal relationship with God and each Christian was created to look and act differently. The beauty of life isn’t that we are all in unison with our thoughts and actions, but rather the blending of many things together with one common purpose. All the animals had one goal – to prepare for winter. But each animal had their own personal priorities on how to best prepare themselves. Beaver had to finish his dam, squirrel had to bury his acorns, mouse had to find something warm to make a nest, and rabbit had to clean out his den and make it cozy. They all seemed to have different ways of preparing themselves for the winter. That’s because God created each of them to be different and they each responded differently. Just like Goose, we often worry too much about what our neighbor is doing or thinking. Instead, we should never compare ourselves to others. As we live our lives and prepare ourselves to be good and responsible Christians, let us bear in mind that God created us all to be different. And when it seems as though we are doing it one way and everyone else seems to be doing it a different way, it is okay. Even when we don’t realize it, the Holy Spirit is leading us in the direction we need to go and guiding our actions to best prepare us for what is ahead of us. Always pray for guidance and concentrate more on what you are doing….rather than spending time worrying about what your neighbors are doing.

Thought: Don’t worry so much about what your neighbor is doing.

## WEEK #1

## *Genesis 1:11*

*“Then God said, ‘Let the land sprout with vegetation-every sort of seed-bearing plant, and the trees that grow seed-bearing plant. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came. And that is what happened.”(NLT)*

Tiny Seeds Book:

Little Apple Goat

By Caroline Jayne Church

There once was a little goat that preferred to eat fruit from the orchard rather than munching on oats or grass or laundry. She would spend her days in the orchard waiting for the fruit to drop. Every evening she would go back home spitting out the seeds from the fruit she had eaten. One day a terrible storm destroyed the orchard and all the animals were very sad. What would they do without the fruit from the trees to eat each day? God had a divine plan when He created seeds, for all those seeds that the goat spit out came back as wonderful new trees. A whole new orchard grew where the old orchard had once been. God who created the world, also created a plan for things to continue to grow so that nothing could ever destroy His beautiful world. Because of God’s plan and the goat who faithfully planted those seeds, nothing was lost. What a wonderful plan God has for the world – He created it and planned for its continued growth.

Thought: God, who created the seed, also provides the growth.

## *Genesis 1:27*

# *“So God created human beings in his own image…” (NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

The Dreamer

By Cynthia Rylant

The Almighty God created the world and everything in it. He started from nothing more than a dream. He imagined stars and a heaven and then He created them. He formed the earth, full of bumps and chunks, and ridges. He created the water, the grass, the trees, and populated the earth with animals. Finally, he made man in His own image. Like God, man became a dreamer – with a mind to think, reason, and create. Just like God made His dreams come true, so God wants us to imagine a better world and believe in the dreams that He gives to us through His word.

Thought: Believe in the dreams that God gives you through His word.

## *Genesis 6:22*

*“So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.”(NLT)*

Tiny Seed Book:

Noah’s Ark

### By Jerry Pinkney

There was once a time when God was not happy with the way people on earth were living. He decided that the world needed to be washed clean of its evil ways, so He sent a heavy rain that would last for forty days and forty nights. There was one good man (Noah) that God was pleased with, so he warned him about the flood and told him to build a boat for his wife and family. Because Noah was obedient to God, he built a huge ark. He put two of every kind of animal on the boat with him. Just as he was told, the floods came and washed away everything except what was in the boat. Because he was a good man and he loved the Lord, he and his family were saved and continued to live an abundant life. Even though God promised never to destroy the earth again with water, we can always remember the importance of loving God and the peace that comes from obeying His word.

Thought: There is peace through obedience and submission to God’s will for our individual lives.

*Hebrews 11:6*

*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (NKJV)*

Tiny Seed Book:

#### The Little Yellow Leaf

#### By Carin Berger

We are all somewhat frightened by the unknown journey that lies ahead of us. However, we learn how to trust in God and the knowledge that no matter what waits around the next corner of our spiritual walks, God promises to be beside us. He will never leave nor forsake us. We must believe in a God who has made this promise to all of us and we must encourage those whose faith waivers. Just like the little yellow leaf who clung to the tree and watched with fear as the other fiery leaves tumbled to the ground. “I’m not ready yet.” “Still not ready.” It was the encouragement of a second little scarlet leaf that gave him the courage to let go and dance to the ground. Together they took the leap of faith that allowed them to soar. In much this same way, we should encourage one another. But first, we ourselves must truly believe that God will be with us always on every step of our spiritual journey. We are never alone.

Thought: Friends help friends to get ready to take a leap of faith.