



# Guide<sup>®</sup>

## The Invisible Church

The stranger's arrival filled Diego's heart with fear.



**ALSO INSIDE**

4 Pretty Amazing Animals

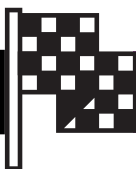
# Guide®



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## STARTING LINE

# FIST- FIGHT IN THE NIGHT

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"For this God is our God for ever and ever;  
he will be our guide even to the end"  
(Psalm 48:14, NIV).





Find the  
**digital pen**  
hidden in this issue.

**W**ould you like a beer?" José\* invited. He and his friends had started drinking early that night.

Fifteen-year-old Elena shook her head and sat quietly with her friend.

A little later an argument between two drunk guys quickly turned into a fistfight. The guys threw plates, glasses, and anything they found at each other. Surrounding friends took cover.

Suddenly a piece of glass flew in Elena's direction and slashed her eye. "Aaah!" Elena screamed. Blood gushed. This put an end to the fight, and they rushed her to the hospital. Someone called her parents. Emergency room personnel connected her to an IV, bandaged her eye, and gave her painkillers.

After what seemed like a lifetime, the doctor gave Elena and her parents, who stood at her bedside, a report. "We did our best, but I can't promise that Elena will see out of that eye."

Mom gulped and choked back tears. Dad wrapped his arm around her. "Thank you, Doctor."

"You're welcome." The doctor turned and stepped out of the room.

*"I WASN'T  
DRINKING!"*

"I wasn't drinking! I was just sitting with a friend!" Elena cried in one breath.

Mom took a deep breath. "Whom we hang out with matters. We may not make poor choices for ourselves, but if those around us do, their actions can affect us."

"We love you," Dad said.

"We'll always be here for you."

Elena remembered how much they had discouraged her from attending the party. It was comforting to see that despite her poor choice, they were still there for her.

*Laura*

Laura Sámano, MANAGING EDITOR

\*Names have been changed.

# The Kidney Transplant “Angel”

Khloe went into action at  
a very special place.

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BY TANYA KITCHEN  ILLUSTRATED BY MEREDITH FERN MESSINGER

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**W**e’re here!” Khloe announced. The family had been on the road since 3:00 A.M. Dad pulled their car into the parking garage of the university’s hospital transplant center.

This was a familiar routine for Khloe’s family. Khloe’s dad had recently had kidney transplant surgery.

“OK, do we have everything?” Dad asked Mom and Khloe as he locked the car.

“Yes, dear,” Mom replied. “I have breakfast in this bag and your appointment materials in a special bag.”

Khloe smiled up at her father.

“I have my bag too, Dad,” she reported.

“Then let’s head in,” he responded, leading the way. Dawn was just breaking, and the air was cool and crisp. Tiny birds fluttered by, talking and singing, as if welcoming them.

“Make sure your mask fits snugly on your face, Khloe,” Mom reminded. “The infectious illness rates are up, and we need to take extra precautions. After all, Dad is especially vulnerable.”

Khloe nodded.

As they reached the laboratory area, Khloe and Mom looked around for a place to sit.



Meanwhile, Dad checked in for his lab work. Surprisingly there were a lot of people waiting at 7:00 A.M. to get their lab work done. While the family waited, Khloe looked around as Dad worked from his phone.

“Kitchen,” the lab technician called at last.

“That’s us!” Khloe said as she jumped up from her seat.

Once in the laboratory Khloe asked what she could help with this time. Mrs. Bink loved Khloe’s curiosity and helpful hands. “Well, what would you like to help with today?” Mrs. Bink asked Khloe with a smile.

“Whatever you need help with,” the girl responded.

“All right then, after I draw your dad’s blood, I want you to put these labels on the tubes,” Mrs. Bink instructed. Khloe, confident and grinning, quickly handled the task.

“Now you can go put those tubes in the blue container, grab one of those wipes, a specimen cup, and give them to your dad,” Mrs. Bink said.

“While we’re waiting, you can help me label some other tubes.”

“All done,” Khloe said a few minutes later. “I like helping you, Mrs.

**Khloe  
put  
labels  
on  
Dad’s  
tubes.**





## Khloe chatted with the man until his name got called.

Bink,” she added.

“Well, thank you for your help, Miss Khloe,” the woman responded.

“We have lots of follow-up appointments,” Khloe said, “so I can help you again sometime.”

“Sounds good,” Mrs. Bink replied.

Now that Dad had finished up, Khloe and her family went to the cafeteria to eat the breakfast they’d packed. After

they finished, they went to the waiting room. Dad’s next appointment would be with a kidney doctor.

As Khloe looked around, she had an idea. “Mom, Dad, may I go over there and say hi to that man who’s sitting all by himself?” she asked.

“I think that would be OK,” Mom responded, knowing her daughter’s friendly personality. “It’s just across the room, and

we'll be right here."

Khloe made her way over to the man. "Hi, my name is Khloe."

"My name is Edward," the man responded. "Did you have a kidney transplant too?"

"No, but my dad did," Khloe said, pointing toward her parents.

Khloe chatted with the man until his name got called.

Back at her parents' side, Khloe saw another opportunity. "May I go say hi to that man in the wheelchair?" she asked her parents.

Mom smiled. "Sure, that will be fine."

Khloe walked over and introduced herself. She laughed and talked with the man. As she did so, a woman walked up and knelt beside her.

"You know, I've seen you all over this transplant center, and I want you to know that you brighten every room you walk into. You're like an angel, touching the lives of so many with your love and care."

Khloe smiled, said thank you, and looked over at her parents. Mom and Dad thanked the woman for her kind words. With that, the woman stood and walked away.

**Continued on p. 30**



## Daily Devotions for Guide Readers

# MORNING WATCH

### "THANKFULNESS"

#### November

2	Psalms 75:1	Thankful for God's works
3	Psalms 92:1, 2	Thank God morning and night
4	Psalms 105:1	Thankfulness displays faith
5	Psalms 106:47	Being saved brings thankfulness
6	Psalms 119:62	Psalmsist thanked God at midnight
7	Psalms 140:13	God's people are thankful
8	Psalms 118:29	Thankful for God's mercy

# 4 *Pretty* AMAZING ANIMALS

By INÉS CARVALLO

God fashioned some beautiful fur coats to adorn many of His creatures. Here are four of them.



## **Pretty in Black**

Zebras are black with white stripes. If you were to shave zebras, they'd be completely black! —britannica.com



## Spots for Tots

Baby giraffes get features of their spot patterns from their moms. —psu.edu



## Floral Pattern

A leopard's spots are called rosettes because they are similar to the pattern of a rose. Thanks to this pattern they can move camouflaged through trees and grass. —kids.nationalgeographic.com



## Fast and Fashionable

This fastest mammal's coat can be a light tan to a deep gold with solid black spots. They feature noticeable black "tear stripes" that run from their eyes to their mouths. —cheetah.org



Next time you think of these animals or their coat's patterns, remember that the amazing God who created them also created you. Fashionable or not, you're His beautiful creation!

# PUPPY CORE

You may not be able to have a giraffe or zebra as a pet, but puppies are a wonderful part of God's creation. Here are some great tips to help keep the little rascals safe and healthy!



Keep cupboard doors closed.



Put the ironing board and iron away.



Puppies can pull out electrical cords from the sockets.



Close laundry hampers.



Keep laundry detergents and bleaches out of reach.



Store cleaning and pest control products safely.



Hide clothespins, buttons, and other small items.



Keep puppies away from cat litter (puppies will eat cat feces).



Hide electrical cords.



Secure cords for curtains and blinds away from puppies.



Store brooms, vacuum cleaners, mops, and buckets in a closet or other safe location.



As panic swirled inside him,  
Diego glanced up and froze.



# The INVISIBLE BLE

## Part 2 of 3: Unspoken Threat

# Church

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By ESTHER ESPINOZA  ILLUSTRATED BY STE JOHNSON

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***The story so far:*** Diego and his family have fled their war-torn country and are living in a shed behind their church. One night there is a knock on their door. A stranger appears, asking if he can stay the night. Suddenly Diego notices something strapped to the man's ankle: a gun!

Diego's breath caught in his throat. He tried to look away, but now his eyes were drawn to a lumpy bulge under the man's T-shirt. Diego blinked, his heart pounding, as the man scratched his side. In that brief moment, Diego spotted the cause of the bulge. It was a recording device, its red light blinking faintly. The stranger was recording their conversation!

Diego's mind raced. Fear surged through him as the realization struck like lightning. This man wasn't just a traveler—he was a spy, looking for them because they had fled their country!

As panic swirled inside him, Diego glanced up and froze. The

man's piercing green eyes had locked onto his. The unspoken threat hit Diego like a slap, and terror gripped him so tightly he felt as if he couldn't breathe. The man's gaze burned with a quiet menace before he finally turned his attention back to Diego's father.

Javier stepped forward, his expression firm, and shook his head. “*No, discúlpeme, pero no tenemos lugar.*” He spread his hands to emphasize that there was no room for the man.

Their guest, Pastor Roger, relayed their response. “We’re sorry, but we have no room here.”

The man's face hardened, his

**Continued on p. 31**

🤪 SERIOUS 😄

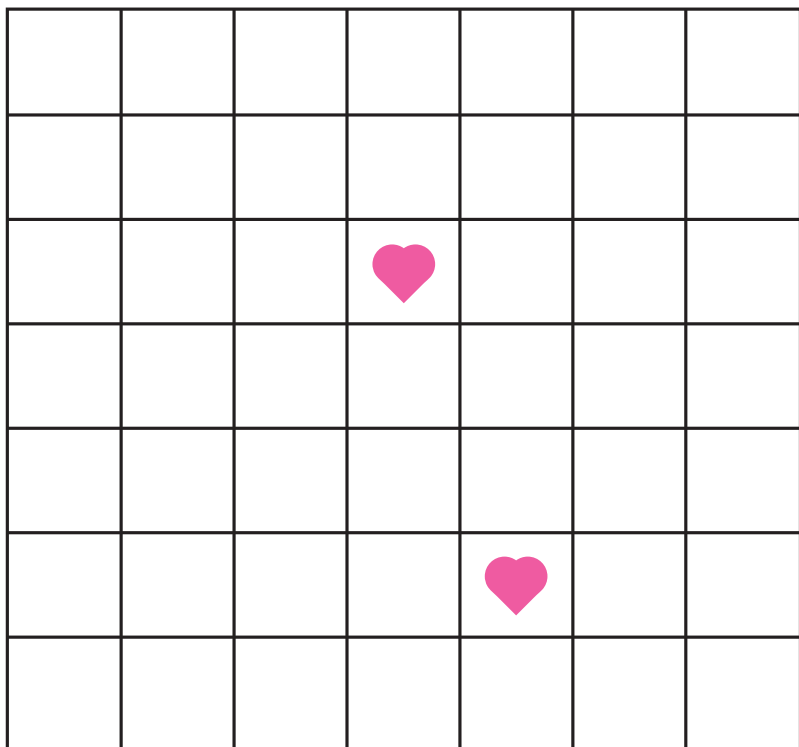
**FUN**

# A HEARTFELT PUZZLE

**By Melissa Yeagle**

Many Bible verses encourage us to love one another, including 1 John 4:7: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

Hearts can remind us of love. The goal of this puzzle is to add five more hearts on the board. The catch? You can't put two hearts on the same line up, down, across, or diagonally. There's more than one correct answer, but a solution is shown in the answers section.



# THE MYSTERIOUS NEPHEW

By Michael Andrews

Having extended family members can be fun. If you're a boy, you may be someone's nephew. Of course, boy or girl, someday you may have a nephew of your own. Here's a little challenge designed to put your extended family knowledge to the test.

Uncle Armando came to visit his sister, Maria. As they passed the local hospital, Uncle Armando said, "I'd like to run in and visit my sick nephew in that hospital."

Maria responded, "That's fine. He's not my nephew, but I'll visit him too."



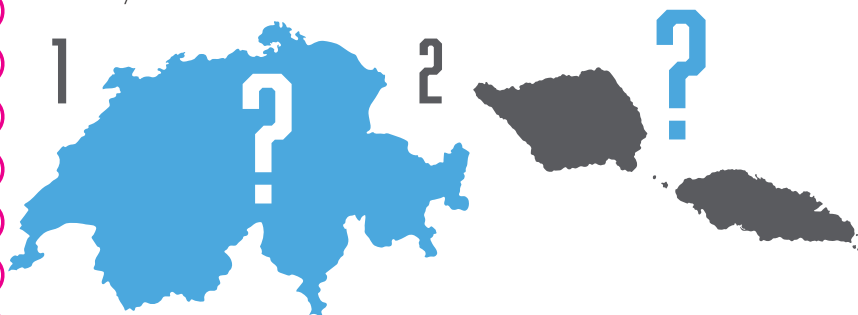
**What is at least one explanation about Maria's relationship to the nephew?**

Adapted from Sam Loyd's *Cyclopedia of 5000 Puzzles*. Sam Loyd is a registered trademark of The Sam Loyd Company and is used by permission.

# ON THE GO

By Alejandro Ruiz

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). Can you name these two countries?



Collect and Trade  
**Thumbuddies!**

Thumbuddies is an online **e-card collecting activity** featuring dozens of funny characters. Some of them know Jesus, but others don't. Each Thumbuddy has background info to help you learn more about the character. You get Thumbuddies by entering **secret claim codes** found in *Guide* magazine and elsewhere. (We'll always give you a hint where that "elsewhere" might be!)

**Start or grow your online Thumbuddy collection today!**

Three cartoon Thumbuddies characters. One is a man with a large nose and a blue headband, another is a man with glasses and a purple shirt, and the third is a woman with a pink flower in her hair.

This week's secret claim code: **sweet768**

More fun and stories at  
**GuideMagazine.org!**





# WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

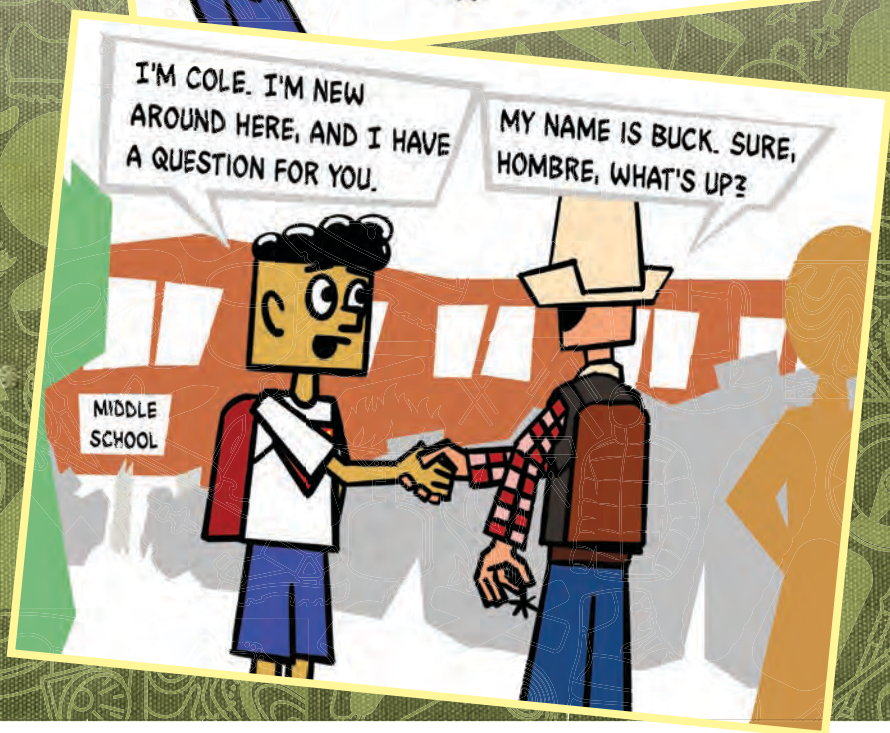


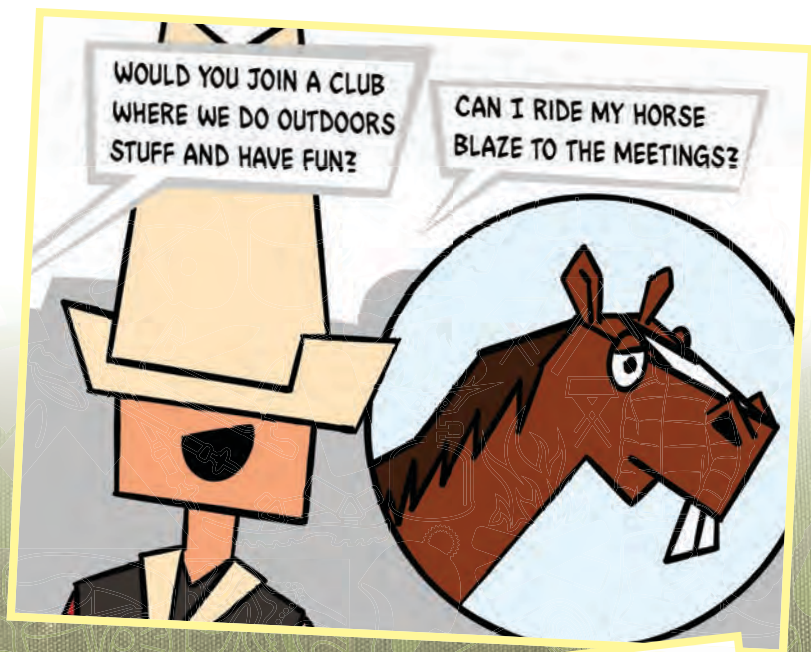
**Instructions:** List all the words in the boxes with the number 1. Then do the same thing for the words in the boxes numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Finally, write each list of words as a phrase; all the phrases (in order) make up a Bible verse. Learn that even when things go wrong, we can trust God.

<sup>7</sup> the	<sup>2</sup> are	<sup>3</sup> olive	<sup>8</sup> God	<sup>1</sup> fig
<sup>8</sup> my	<sup>4</sup> fields	<sup>1</sup> does	<sup>2</sup> there	<sup>8</sup> joyful
<sup>1</sup> the	<sup>7</sup> LORD,	<sup>8</sup> will	<sup>1</sup> not	<sup>8</sup> Savior.
<sup>7</sup> will	<sup>5</sup> no	<sup>1</sup> Though	<sup>3</sup> though	<sup>8</sup> in
<sup>5</sup> the	<sup>3</sup> the	<sup>6</sup> stalls,	<sup>2</sup> the	<sup>4</sup> the
<sup>1</sup> tree	<sup>4</sup> flood,	<sup>5</sup> there	<sup>8</sup> be	<sup>2</sup> no
<sup>6</sup> and	<sup>8</sup> I	<sup>7</sup> in	<sup>5</sup> though	<sup>4</sup> and
<sup>4</sup> produce	<sup>3</sup> crop	<sup>6</sup> cattle	<sup>7</sup> rejoice	<sup>1</sup> bud
<sup>2</sup> and	<sup>6</sup> the	<sup>5</sup> are	<sup>3</sup> fails	<sup>2</sup> on
<sup>4</sup> no	<sup>6</sup> in	<sup>2</sup> grapes	<sup>5</sup> pen	<sup>7</sup> yet
<sup>5</sup> sheep	<sup>6</sup> no	<sup>5</sup> in	<sup>2</sup> vines,	<sup>7</sup> I

The World's  
**STRANGEST**  
PATHFINDER CLUB

4





**READ PART 5  
NEXT WEEK!**



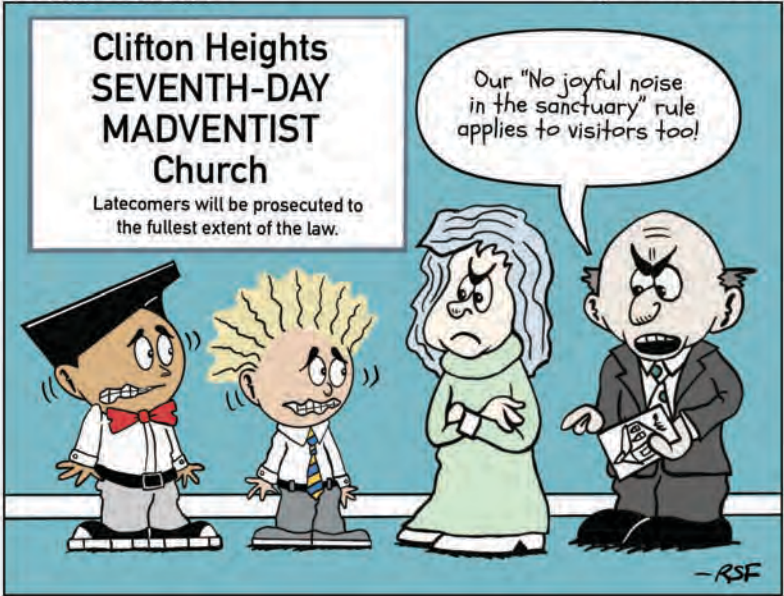
BIBLE Q&A

By Michael Andrews



TUCKER BARNES

By Randy Fishell



# BIBLE SKETCHES

A Visual Introduction to the Sabbath School Lesson

Lesson 6: November 1-7, 2025 | Written by Tompaul Wheeler + Illustrated by Mariano Santillan

GOD'S MESSAGE THAT BABYLON WILL SOON CONQUER JUDAH TERRIFIES ITS PEOPLE.

THE PROPHET HABAKKUK POURS OUT HIS HEART TO GOD, REMEMBERING HOW GOD HAD LED THEM IN TIMES PAST.

Lord, I've heard all about You! I stand in awe.

You split the earth with rivers. The mountains saw You and trembled.

The deep roared and lifted its hands on high.

The sun and moon stood still at the glint of Your flying arrows.\*

\*When Joshua fought five Amorite kings.

You trampled the sea with Your horses, through the surging of mighty waters.

Though the fig tree does not bud and our crops fail—

though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls—

still I will rejoice in the Lord, I will take joy in God my Savior.

**MORE  
NEXT  
WEEK!**



To listen to this week's Sabbath School lesson, go to [juniorpowerpoints.org](http://juniorpowerpoints.org).

See Habakkuk 3.



The prophet wanted God to explain why He allowed what was happening.

# HABAKKUK'S SONG

*God showed Himself in a vision.*

*You have always had questions. Why? Why? Why? Your parents may even have told you they didn't want to hear the word "why" again. Habakkuk had questions too. When He asked God his questions, he found good reasons to trust Him.*



**H**abakkuk the prophet was troubled. It seemed as if God was allowing the Babylonian enemies to conquer Judah. And they were more wicked than Judah was. Habakkuk couldn't understand, so he asked God to explain what was happening.

God let Habakkuk know that things were going to get worse. He was allowing the wicked nation of Babylon to rise in power and capture not only Judah, but Egypt and Assyria as well. But God would make sure that justice was done in the end.

Then God gave Habakkuk a glorious picture in a vision. And Habakkuk discovered a new picture of God—a God patient with his questions, a God who was his friend and companion in all circumstances. Moved by his new image of God, Habakkuk wrote:

“God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran.

His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth.

His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden” (Habakkuk 3:3, 4, NIV).

Habakkuk remembered the writings of Moses about the power and glory of God displayed on Mount Sinai, when the newly formed nation of Israel was beginning its

journeys to the Promised Land. But he had also been shown Christ returning at the end of time for His people to take them out of all the pain, sorrow, and sin of this life on earth.

In the beautiful vision Habakkuk had seen a glorious sky. The most magnificent music of praise had filled his heart, as if it were coming from every direction at once. Christ appeared in the glory of the sunrise. Rays of light flashed from His hands, right from the places where the nails would hold Him to the cross one day.

Habakkuk continued to write: “He stood, and shook the earth; he looked, and made the nations tremble.

The ancient mountains crumbled and the age-old hills collapsed—but he marches on (verse 6, NIV).

Habakkuk understood now that when God was ready, no mighty nation would stand in His way as He delivered His people—the people who trusted Him and waited for Him to act for them.

Habakkuk wrote again:

“You uncovered your bow, you called for many arrows. You split the earth with rivers; the mountains saw you and writhed.

Torrents of water swept by; the deep roared



and lifted its waves on high.  
“Sun and moon stood still in  
the heavens

at the glint of your flying  
arrows, at the lightning of your  
flashing spear. . . .”

“You came out to deliver your  
people, to save your anointed  
one. . . .”

“You trampled the sea with  
your horses, churning the great  
waters”

(verses 9-11, 13, 15, NIV).

Habakkuk now knew that  
troubled times were not over,  
but God was in control. He  
would take care of Babylon at  
the right time, and He would  
take care of the world’s sin  
problem at the right time.

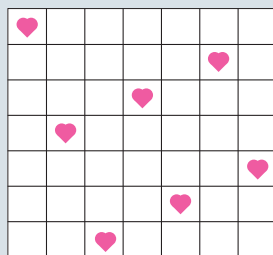
Habakkuk finished his song  
with words of trust for a God he  
now knew was worthy of that  
trust.

“Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,  
I will be joyful in God my

Savior.

“The Sovereign Lord is my  
strength; he makes my feet like  
the feet of a deer, he enables me  
to tread on the heights” (verses  
18, 19, NIV).

**Answers: Hidden digital pen:** p. 8.  
**Serious Fun, pp. 14-17: A Heartfelt  
Puzzle:** (see below). **The Mysterious  
Nephew:** the nephew is Maria’s son. **On  
the Go:** 1. Switzerland, 2. Samoa. **What a  
Friend We Have in Jesus:** “Though the  
fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes  
on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the  
fields produce no food, though there are no  
sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet  
I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God  
my Savior” (Habakkuk 3:17, 18, NIV).



### ▶ SABBATH

- Do this week's activity on page 17.

### ▶ SUNDAY

- Read Habakkuk 3:1, 2 and this week's story, "Habakkuk's Song."
- Begin to learn the power text.
- Ask Jesus to be your best friend. Tell Him that you want to trust Him in every situation.

### ▶ MONDAY

- Read Habakkuk 3:3-6.
- Sing a song that tells you of God's mighty power.
- On a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest), how would you rate yourself right now on "rejoicing in the Lord"? Why? Circle the number: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- Review the power text.
- Thank God for patiently guiding even though you don't understand some of the things in your life.

### ▶ TUESDAY

- Read Habakkuk 3:7-10.
- Think of two Bible characters who experienced discouraging times and God delivered them from their troubles.
- Write these names in your Bible study journal.
- What can you learn from their experiences?
- Review the power text.
- Ask God for hope when you face discouragement.

### ▶ WEDNESDAY

- Read Habakkuk 3:11-13.
- In your Bible study journal, write about a few difficult times you felt Jesus especially close to you.
- Tell someone about the times Jesus lifted you up.
- Compose a short prayer or poem (four to six lines) thanking God for sustaining you through the dark hours of your life.
- Say your power text from memory.
- Tell God the prayer or poem you composed.

### ▶ THURSDAY

- Read Psalm 121.
- Ask an adult to share a difficult time during which they chose to trust God to lead them.
- Tell how God has helped you through tough times.
- Review the power text.
- Thank God for always being there for you.

### ▶ FRIDAY

- Read Psalm 95.
- At family worship, read your favorite word pictures of God from the Bible.
- Together, create your family's description of God's might and power in words, or some other creative way.
- Say the power text aloud from memory.
- Pray together, expressing your gratitude for God's awesome love.

### KEY REFERENCES

Habakkuk 3; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 381-391; *Our Beliefs*, nos. 18, 10, 22.

### POWER POINT

God is our friend  
and companion in all  
circumstances.

### POWER TEXT

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior" (Habakkuk 3:17, 18, NIV).



# WHO'S IN THE MIRROR?

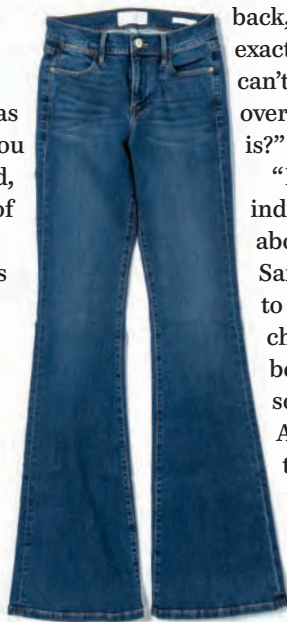
*Hopefully you always see your reflection as a child of God.*

Sara and her mom were cleaning out the basement, getting ready to pack their stuff before moving. “Hey, look at all the old clothes in here!” Sara said, throwing open the lid of a dusty trunk.

Her mom looked over her shoulder, laughing. “Hey, that’s my stuff from high school!” she said. “Haven’t seen that in a while.”

Sara pulled out two tie-dyed T-shirts. “These are pretty cool.” Underneath was a pair of jeans. “What did you do to your jeans?” she asked, seeing the bright triangles of color that ran up both legs.

Sara’s mom took the jeans from her. “This was very stylish in 1977, I’ll have you know!” she said. “We used to buy jeans with the widest possible legs—bell-bottoms, they were called. Then we’d cut up the seams and sew in extra pieces of fabric to make them even wider.”



“It certainly is—eye-catching,” Sara admitted.

“I thought wide-legged jeans were back in style now,” her mom teased. “You could wear these to school.”

“Uh, thanks but no thanks,” Sara said, continuing to look through her mother’s old clothes. “Isn’t that funny, though? Old styles come back, but they never come back exactly the same way, so you can’t actually wear old stuff over again. I wonder why that is?”

“Because the fashion industry is concerned only about making money,” Sara’s mom said. “They have to keep things constantly changing so we’ll always be discontented and want something different. Advertisers don’t want you to stay feeling good about your clothes or your look or yourself—they want to keep you a little off balance, wanting to buy

something new and different.”

Sara glanced at herself in the mirror, holding the bell-bottom jeans against herself as if trying them on. “You make it sound as if they’re out to get us!”

“Well, out to get your money, anyway. What matters are the things

that don’t change—the qualities inside a person.” She came and stood next to Sara in the mirror, putting her arm around her daughter. “Whom do you see in the mirror? I hope you see a child of God, someone precious and loved and valuable—no matter what style she’s wearing.”

## LESSON 6: FASHION AND SELF-IMAGE

■ **SABBATH** READ THE *REAL-TIME FAITH* STORY ON PAGES 26 AND 27.

**Memory Text:** “Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God” (1 Peter 3:3, 4).

**Our Beliefs, no. 22, Christian Behavior:** “While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit.”

Read Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 95-98.

■ **SUNDAY** READ 1 SAMUEL 16:7.

You don’t get as much clothes-shopping money as your friends do because your family isn’t as well off. So you buy generic-brand jeans and shirts instead of the more expensive name brands. You don’t think anyone will notice or care, and most people don’t. But one of your friends starts making some comments about your “bargain store” look. Up till this point, you really haven’t cared, but her comments hurt your feelings. What do you say?

■ **MONDAY** READ ROMANS 12:1, 2; EPHESIANS 5:1; 1 JOHN 2:6.

What we wear is of less importance than who we are. What is important to God is the character we are building. God will provide for our daily needs. Our focus needs to be on letting God help us become more like Him and putting on the robe of His righteousness, which covers our sins and allows us to attend God’s wedding feast.

How does your life reflect the character you are building?

\_\_\_\_\_

In what ways can you grow to become more like Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blanks.

“Therefore I say to you, do not \_\_\_\_\_ about your \_\_\_\_\_, what you will \_\_\_\_\_ or what you will \_\_\_\_\_; nor about your \_\_\_\_\_, what \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ . Is not \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_ ? Look at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the air, for they neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ into barns; yet \_\_\_\_\_ .”

Are \_\_\_\_\_ not of \_\_\_\_\_ than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So \_\_\_\_\_? Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ of the field, how they \_\_\_\_\_: they neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_; and yet I say to you that even \_\_\_\_\_ in all his \_\_\_\_\_ was not \_\_\_\_\_ like one of these. Now if God so \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the field, which \_\_\_\_\_ is, and \_\_\_\_\_ is thrown into the oven, will He not much more \_\_\_\_\_ you, O you of little faith? Therefore \_\_\_\_\_, saying, ' \_\_\_\_\_?' or ' \_\_\_\_\_?' or ' \_\_\_\_\_?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ things. But \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and all these things shall be \_\_\_\_\_ to you" (Matthew 6:25-33, NKJV).

## ■ TUESDAY READ HEBREWS 13:8.

Styles change, but God does not. What was important to God yesterday is just as important to Him today. And what is important to God is you! He doesn't care about the clothes you wear or what style is the coolest. He cares about you becoming His child, growing to be loving, caring, honest, and a reflection of Him.

You may be a trendsetter or a trend follower, or you may march to a different drum and wear only what you like, but what really matters is if you are wearing the robe of Christ's righteousness.

People follow trends because they like to fit in and look as if they belong to the group. But a Christian's focus should be more on Christ than what's hot on the fashion runways.

As followers of Jesus, we know we belong to Him. We're part of God's family, citizens of His kingdom. Our sense of belonging shouldn't come from a designer label, but from the label of our Designer, pinned to our hearts. We are God's. God made us, Jesus saved us, the Holy Spirit lives inside us. When you're tempted to feel that you're nobody unless you're wearing the latest styles, remember that you're always somebody in God's eyes.

## ■ WEDNESDAY BIBLE INSIGHTS

You will find a list of texts and a group of words below. Match each text with the group of words that best reflects its meaning.

A. Ephesians 6:13-17

B. 1 Samuel 16:7

C. Hebrews 13:8

D. Jeremiah 31:3

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Everlasting, love, loving-kindness

2. Armor, God, salvation, firm, stand

3. Lord, man, outward, heart

4. Jesus, forever, yesterday, same

## ■ THURSDAY READ EPHESIANS 6:13-17. REVIEW THE MEMORY TEXT.

Check your closet. What's your attitude toward fashion? What do the clothes you wear say about you? Why do you choose the clothes you do? Looking nice and put together is great, but are you choosing your clothes so you feel good about yourself? If so, maybe you need to find a more solid basis for your self-esteem.

Today's fashions will change—probably by next spring! But some things never change. God never changes. His love for you, and the value He places on you, won't change. And the special work He has for you to do within His kingdom doesn't change. He challenges you to suit up in the "armor of God."

Of course, you still have to make choices about style and fashion. But those choices shouldn't come from a need to be accepted or liked because of the clothes you wear. Instead, your choices should spring from a rock-solid foundation that says, "God loves me. He fashioned and designed me! I'm special just the way I am!"



## ■ FRIDAY READ MATTHEW 6:25.

Make a list of your top five favorite pieces of clothing. Next to each one, write why you like it. Look back over your answers. Do you like the things you like because of comfort, your own tastes, or what others think? Does this list tell you anything about your values? Now think about why you value yourself as a person. Remember, you're not just this season's fad—you're here for eternity!

### TOP FIVE CLOTHING ITEMS

### WHY I LIKE THEM

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

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### WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL IN GOD'S EYES?

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## “The Kidney Transplant ‘Angel,’” from p. 7

During the appointment Khloe thanked her dad’s surgeon, Dr. Baker, for doing such a good job.

“Thank you,” Dr. Baker responded. “By the way, where do you go to school?”


Khloe looked at her mom and smiled. “I’m homeschooled,” she informed the surgeon.

Dr. Baker smiled and said, “I can tell. Good job, Mom and Dad. “Not only is your daughter bright, but she’s full of love

and care for all those around her. She has touched so many patients’ lives around here.”

After the appointment was over, Khloe and her family loaded up the car and drove off.

“Dad, I really like us all going to your appointments,” Khloe said. “They’re a lot of fun—well, at least for me!”

Mom and Dad looked at each other and smiled. Then Dad simply said, “We love you and are so proud of you, Khloe.” 

# “By the way, where do you go to school?”



## **“The Invisible Church,” from p. 13**

eyes narrowing slightly. Without another word he turned on his heel and stormed out.

Diego remained frozen in place until the man disappeared down the backyard path and onto the street. Finally Diego stood, his voice trembling as he described what he had seen. The room fell silent, and everyone stared at him in shock. His mother pulled him close, her hands shaking as she whispered a prayer under her breath. Diego glanced at his father, whose jaw was clenched tightly. Though the man tried to appear calm, the tension in his shoulders betrayed his fear.

“Do you think this man was sent to track us down?” Mercedes, Diego’s older sister, asked hesitantly.

Their father ran a hand through his hair and began pacing the small room. He paused, turning to face Mercedes. “Yes, I believe so.”

Rosa exhaled shakily and sank into the nearest chair. “It’s not safe to stay here anymore. We need to leave.”

“But Mama, where will we go?” Diego exclaimed, his voice cracking with worry.

“Please do not panic,” Pastor Roger interjected, his voice calm and steady. “Remember that we have a God who is more powerful than anything. If He has brought you this far, I believe He will

continue to take care of you.”

The tension in the room eased slightly as everyone nodded in agreement. The pastor was right—God was more powerful than any threat.

That evening, just before Pastor Roger left, the family gathered around their small wooden table. The flickering candlelight cast soft shadows on their anxious faces. Pastor Roger led them in prayer, his voice steady and full of faith, even as unease hung in the air like a thick fog. Together, they entrusted their fears to God, believing that the same God who had guided them to safety before would not abandon them now.

When bedtime came, everyone felt more at peace, and Diego fell asleep almost immediately, confident that God was near.

Two days later, on a bright Monday afternoon, his sister Mercedes burst through the shed door, her excitement spilling over. Her wide eyes sparkled like big plates, and her curly brown hair was wild, with the ribbon she usually wore having slipped out.

“What’s wrong, Mercedes?” Diego asked, hurrying to her side.

“Come quickly! You all need to hear this!” she exclaimed, motioning for everyone to gather.

*(Read the amazing conclusion in next week’s Guide!)*

# The FACTORY



## Gone but Not Forgotten

A seashell is the abandoned exoskeleton of a mollusk, left over after its death. Unlike crustaceans, which regularly grow new, bigger shells, mollusks keep their shells throughout their lives and gradually expand them. —discoverwildlife.com



## Up and Over

The earliest written record of someone flying a kite is in China in 200 B.C., when General Han Hsin flew a kite over the walls of a city. This was to see how far his army would have to tunnel to get past the interior defensive lines. —kite.org

## Super Tube

Lava tubes are caves formed when a volcano erupts. The deepest cave in the United States is Kazumura Cave, a lava tube on the Big Island of Hawaii. The cave has been mapped to a depth of 3,614 feet (1,102 meters). —nps.gov



## Sappy Treat

The ancient Mayans of Mexico and Central America chewed a natural gum called chicle, which oozed out of sapodilla trees when cut with a knife. In the mid-1800s a New Jersey inventor named Thomas Adams boiled chicle down, dried it, and cut it into pieces. He soon invented a machine for manufacturing chewing gum. —seriousseats.com



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