

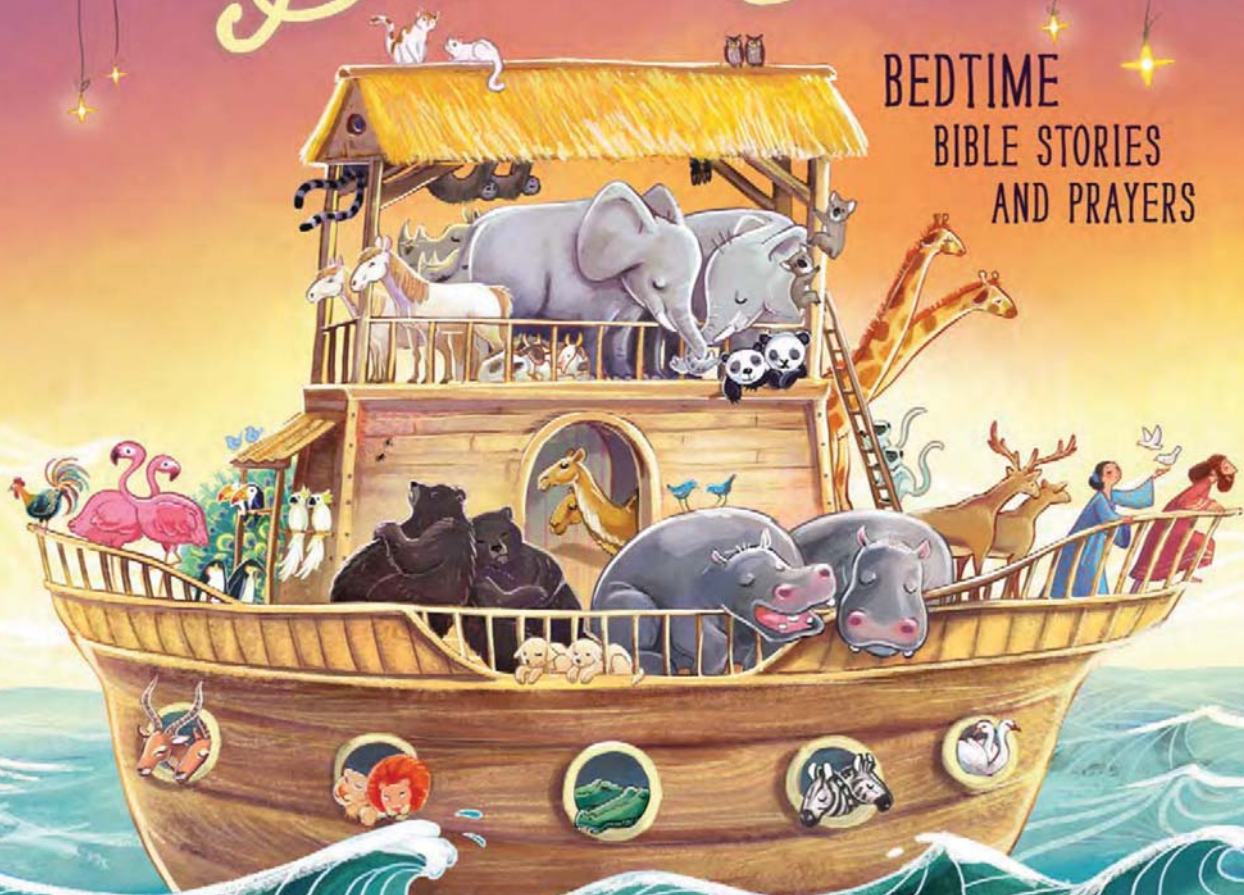
FROM THE AUTHOR OF *THE SWEETEST STORY BIBLE*

Diane Stortz

Illustrated by Diane Le Feyer

# WORDS TO *Dream* ON

BEDTIME  
BIBLE STORIES  
AND PRAYERS



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# Words to Dream On

## Bedtime Bible Stories and Prayers

By Diane Stortz

### Start a bedtime Bible story tradition with your little ones tonight!

Young children thrive on routine and rituals, and a Bible story at bedtime is one of the best routines to establish! A combination Bible storybook and book of prayers, *Words to Dream On* is the perfect bedtime storybook for young children, with a “once upon a time” voice that is also true to God’s Word. Over 50 stories—from the Old and New Testaments—create an overview of the entire story arc of the Bible. Stories are selected and retold for young children with a focus on God’s love, care, protection, trustworthiness, and power.

Each story includes: an engaging title, a Bedtime Blessing (a short summary thought), Words to Dream On (a brief Bible verse), and a Sleepy Time Prayer (a good-night prayer tied to the theme of the story). The book also includes a short introductory letter to parents that includes tested ideas for establishing a good bedtime routine with young children and tips for reading aloud to children at bedtime.

### Consumer Benefits:

- Over 50 stories give children many nights to learn new Bible stories while settling down at bedtime
- Parents will love that each story includes a blessing, Scripture, and prayer to leave children with peaceful words to dream on before they turn out the light
- Diane Stortz is the bestselling author of *The Sweetest Story Bible* with more than 200,000 copies sold
- Gorgeous, vibrant art from popular children’s illustrator Diane Le Feyer
- A letter to parents with helpful tips on establishing bedtime routines and reading aloud with children

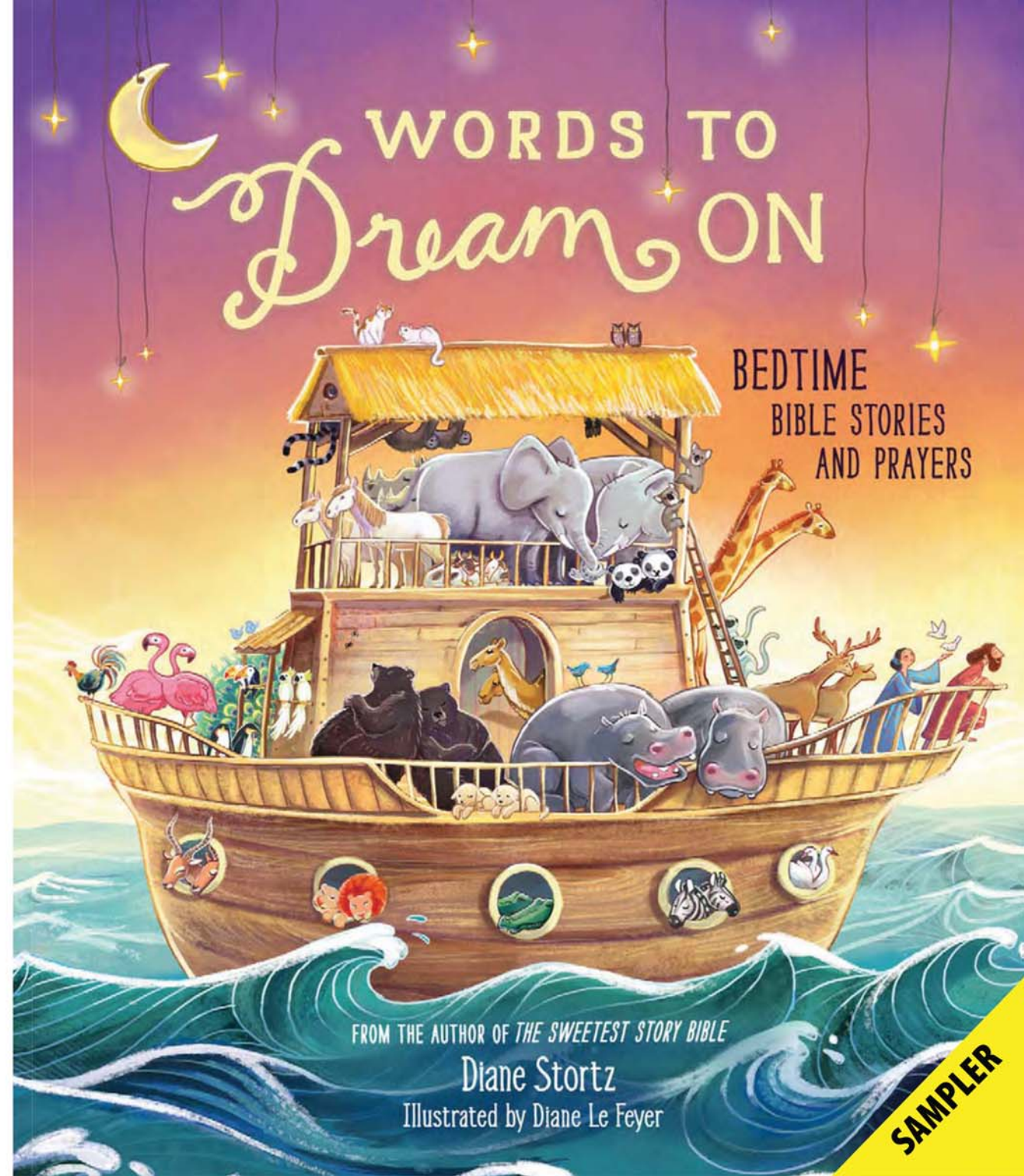


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# In the Beginning, God

Genesis 1-2

## WORDS TO DREAM ON

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. —Genesis 1:1 ESV

Make-believe stories often begin “Once upon a time . . .” But God’s *true* story starts like this: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

Out of nothing, God made everything. No one else could do that!

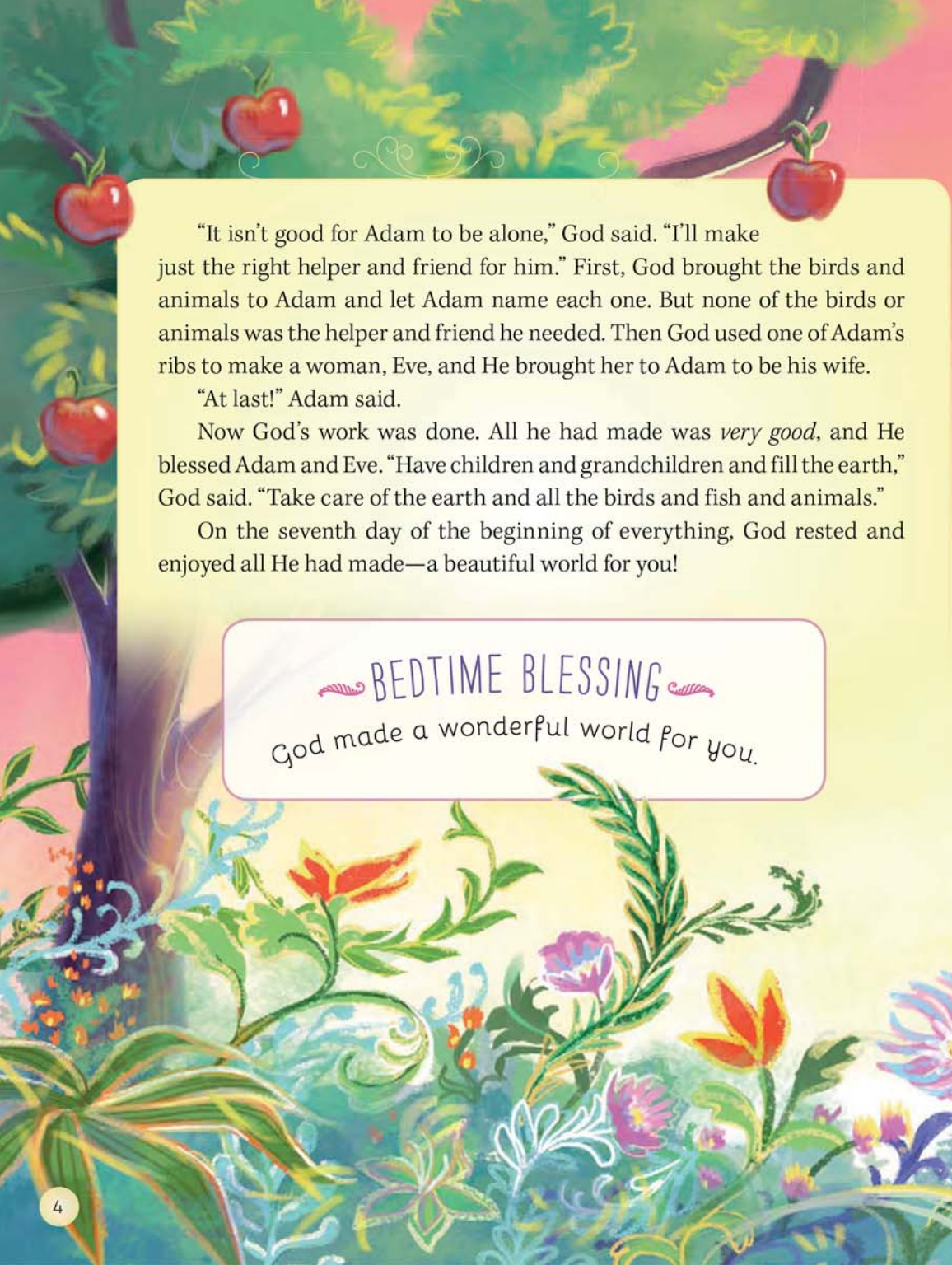
On the first five days of the beginning of everything, God created light and darkness, the sea and the sky, and the land. He made tall trees and bright, beautiful flowers pop up on the land. With a *plink, plink, plink*, He hung the sun, the moon, and the stars—more stars than you could *ever* count, and He knows each one by name! He filled the air with soaring birds and the seas with fish and whales, dolphins and snails. Then He formed animals of every kind to make their homes on the land, from the small bouncing bunny to the huge hippopotamus.

God liked what He made. He saw that it was good. But God still wasn’t finished. He had saved the best for last.

On the sixth day, God said, “It’s time! Time to make people in our image. They will care for all the fish in the sea and the birds of the air and the animals of the land.”

From the ground, God picked up some dust and used the dust to make the first man. He breathed life into the man and named him Adam. Then God planted a garden in a place called Eden. The garden was Adam’s new home.

But God *still* wasn’t finished.



"It isn't good for Adam to be alone," God said. "I'll make just the right helper and friend for him." First, God brought the birds and animals to Adam and let Adam name each one. But none of the birds or animals was the helper and friend he needed. Then God used one of Adam's ribs to make a woman, Eve, and He brought her to Adam to be his wife.

"At last!" Adam said.

Now God's work was done. All he had made was *very good*, and He blessed Adam and Eve. "Have children and grandchildren and fill the earth," God said. "Take care of the earth and all the birds and fish and animals."

On the seventh day of the beginning of everything, God rested and enjoyed all He had made—a beautiful world for you!

### BEDTIME BLESSING

God made a wonderful world for you.



### SLEEPY-TIME PRAYER

Dear God, Thank You for making our wonderful world and everything in it. Thank You for making me and all the people I love. Good-night, God! Amen.

# Safe in a Big Boat

Genesis 6-9

## WORDS TO DREAM ON

If you trust the Lord, you will be safe. —Proverbs 29:25 ICB

Adam and Eve had children, and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and soon God's world was full of people. But only Noah loved God and did what is right

"Build a boat, Noah," God said. "Build it BIG, with rooms, a roof, a window, and a door. I'll tell you how. I'm sending a flood! But I will keep you, your family, and every kind of bird and animal safe and dry in the BIG boat."

So Noah measured. He sawed. He pounded. He painted. He stored food on the boat for his family and the animals.

When the work was done, God said, "Go into the boat with your wife and your sons and their wives too, and take in the animals and birds I send to you."

Then pairs of every kind of bird and animal came to the boat and went inside with Noah and his family. When everyone was on board, God closed the door.

Noah, his family, and the birds and animals waited. But not for long!



*Drip . . . drip. Drip, drip, drip! Splish-splash, pitter-patter, drip-drip-drop!* For forty days, the rain poured down. Noah's BIG boat began to float. Water covered all the land. But inside the boat, everyone stayed safe and dry, just as God had promised.

When the rain stopped, Noah sent out a dove. The dove brought back an olive leaf—a sign the land was drying out! Soon God told Noah, “Go out of the boat with your wife and your sons and their wives and all the birds and animals I sent to you.”

Everyone came out of the boat and stood on the good, dry land. Noah built an altar to thank God for taking care of them during the flood.

“Start new homes all over the earth,” God said. “Have children and grandchildren. I will never send another flood like this one. And every rainbow in the sky will remind you of My promise.”

### ❧ SLEEPY-TIME PRAYER ❧

Dear God, Thank You for keeping me safe,  
day and night! Thank You for Your rainbow  
promise. Good-night, God! Amen.

### ❧ BEDTIME BLESSING ❧

You are always safe with God.

# Good News for All People

Luke 2

## WORDS TO DREAM ON

I bring you good news of great joy.

—Luke 2:10 ESV

On the night Jesus was born, sleepy shepherds watched over their sheep near Bethlehem. Suddenly, an angel came to talk to them, and the dark night sky turned bright with light. What could be happening?

“Don’t be afraid!” the angel said. “I have good news!”

Good news for shepherds? Why would God have good news for them? Shepherds got dirty and smelly and couldn’t take many baths. People made fun of them.



"I have good news of great joy for *all* people!" the angel said. "Today in Bethlehem a Baby has been born. He is the Savior, the one God promised to send! Go to see Him! You will find Him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

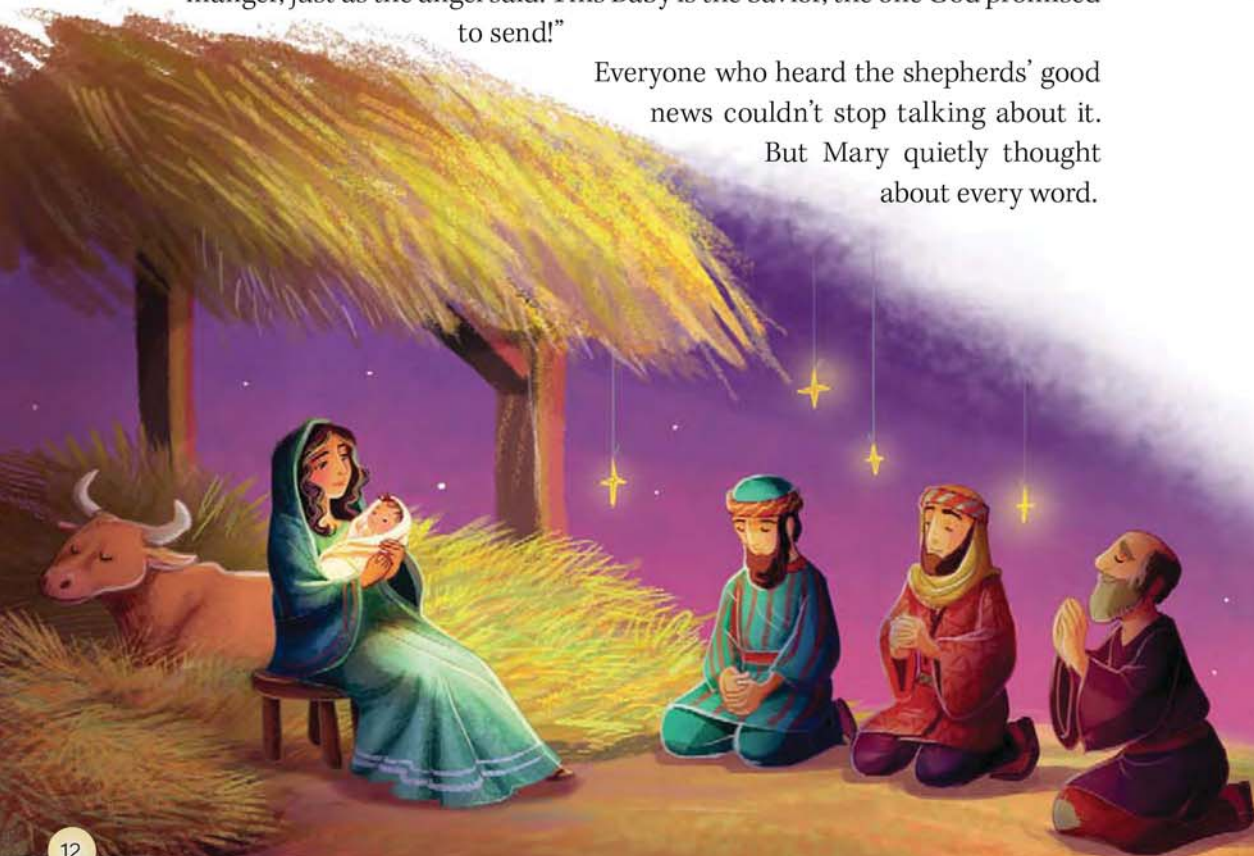
Then the sky filled with angels—all the angels of heaven—praising God for sending Jesus. "Glory to God!" they said. "Peace to people on earth!" What a beautiful sound those shepherds must have heard!

The angels left, and the sky was quiet. "Let's go find the Baby!" the shepherds said. They hurried into Bethlehem and searched until they found Mary and Joseph and the Baby, resting among the animals.

"It's Him!" the shepherds said. "He is wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger, just as the angel said. This Baby is the Savior, the one God promised to send!"

Everyone who heard the shepherds' good news couldn't stop talking about it.

But Mary quietly thought about every word.



## BEDTIME BLESSING

The good news about Jesus is for everyone—and for you.



The shepherds went back to their sheep, thanking God for everything they had seen and heard. And far away, wise men from the East noticed a new star in the sky. "Look!" they said. "It's the star of the newborn King!" They wanted to see the Baby too. So they saddled up their camels and set out on a long journey, following the star.

## SLEEPY-TIME PRAYER

Dear God, Thank You the good news about Jesus is for all people, including me.  
I love You, God. Good-night!



A vibrant illustration of a wooden boat filled with people, likely Jesus and his disciples, navigating a turbulent sea. The boat is tilted as it rides a large, curling wave. The sea is depicted with deep blues and greens, with white foam on the waves. The sky is a dark, swirling blue. The overall mood is dramatic and powerful.

# Wind and Sea Obey Him

Matthew 8, Mark 4, Luke 8

## WORDS TO DREAM ON

God's power is very great for us who believe.

—Ephesians 1: 19 ICB

Wherever He went, Jesus taught about God and how God wants us to live. "What a good teacher Jesus is!" said the people who heard Him teach. "We learn so much about God. Jesus seems to really know what He is talking about."

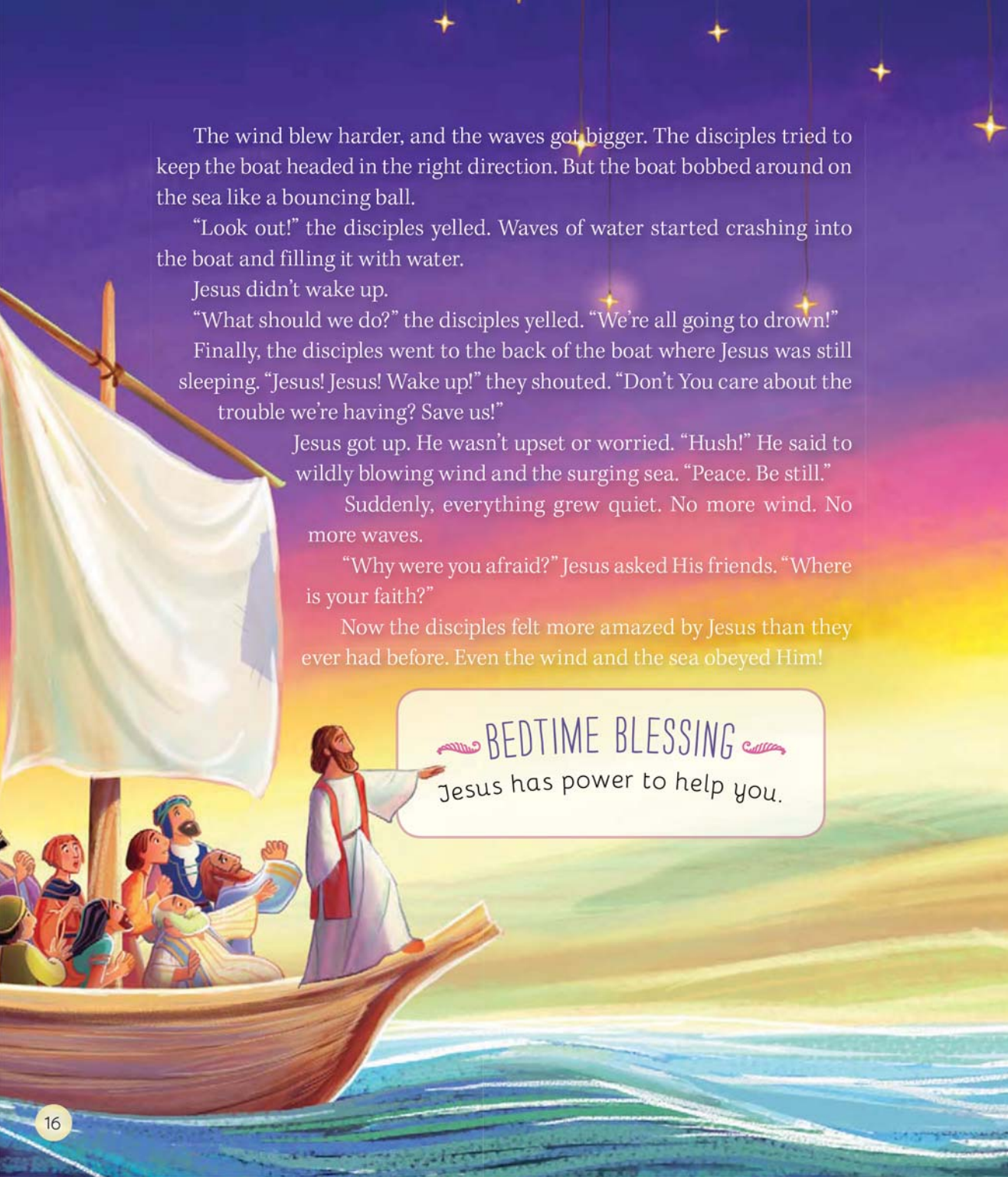
And, of course, He really did.

One day after teaching a long time, Jesus got into a boat on the Sea of Galilee with his twelve disciples. "Let's go across to the other side," He said.

Jesus felt tired. He lay down on a cushion at the back of the boat, and soon He was fast asleep.

The sea got stormy. Gusts of wind blew against the boat—*whoo, whoo, whoosh!* The boat rocked on its side as the wind got stronger. Big waves of water knocked against the boat too.

Jesus didn't wake up.



The wind blew harder, and the waves got bigger. The disciples tried to keep the boat headed in the right direction. But the boat bobbed around on the sea like a bouncing ball.

“Look out!” the disciples yelled. Waves of water started crashing into the boat and filling it with water.

Jesus didn’t wake up.

“What should we do?” the disciples yelled. “We’re all going to drown!”

Finally, the disciples went to the back of the boat where Jesus was still sleeping. “Jesus! Jesus! Wake up!” they shouted. “Don’t You care about the trouble we’re having? Save us!”

Jesus got up. He wasn’t upset or worried. “Hush!” He said to wildly blowing wind and the surging sea. “Peace. Be still.”

Suddenly, everything grew quiet. No more wind. No more waves.

“Why were you afraid?” Jesus asked His friends. “Where is your faith?”

Now the disciples felt more amazed by Jesus than they ever had before. Even the wind and the sea obeyed Him!

 **BEDTIME BLESSING**   
Jesus has power to help you.