7

Don't Be Shy!

Key References: Daniel 9:1-19; Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10-14; *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 45, pp. 555, 556; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 66-70; Our Beliefs, nos. 10, 14, 11.



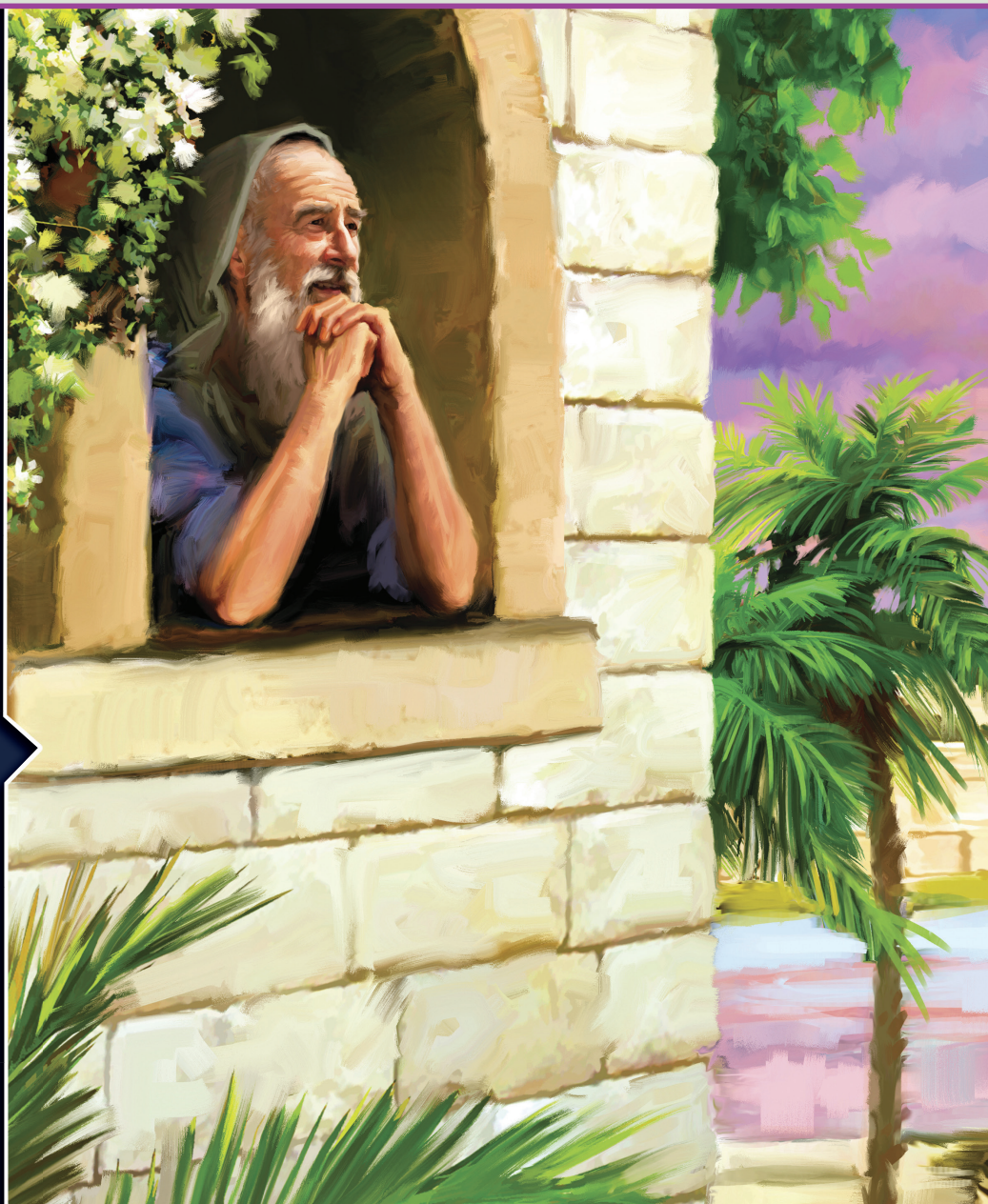












power**text**

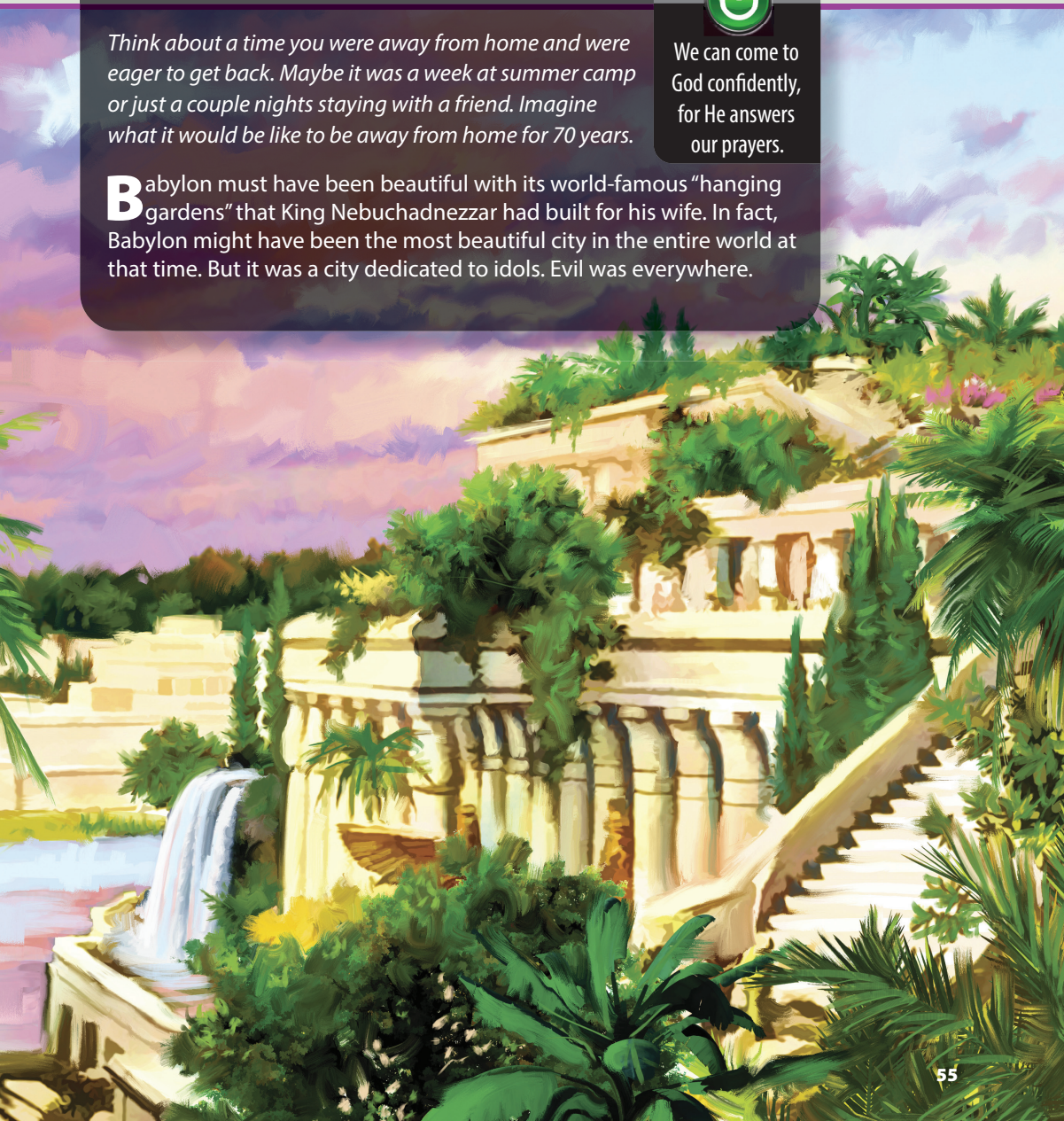
"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16, NIV).

power**point**

We can come to God confidently, for He answers our prayers.

Think about a time you were away from home and were eager to get back. Maybe it was a week at summer camp or just a couple nights staying with a friend. Imagine what it would be like to be away from home for 70 years.

Babylon must have been beautiful with its world-famous "hanging gardens" that King Nebuchadnezzar had built for his wife. In fact, Babylon might have been the most beautiful city in the entire world at that time. But it was a city dedicated to idols. Evil was everywhere.



Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 60.

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Sunday

READ Read Daniel 9:1-3 and this week's story, "Don't Be Shy!"

MAKE On a large piece of paper, draw a window like the one you think Daniel knelt beside every day. Write the power text in the window frame and put the paper where you can see and review it daily.

PRAY Ask God with confidence for His Holy Spirit.

Monday

READ Read Daniel 9:4-19.

THINK Why do you think Daniel prayed, "We do not make requests of you because we are righteous" (Daniel 9:18, NIV) although he was a man of God?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write what you think Daniel knew about God's "great mercy" (verse 18, NIV).

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for the faith and humility of Daniel.

Tuesday

READ Read Daniel 9:20-22.

THINK Daniel's prayer begins with a reference to the "great and awesome" God (verse 4). How has God been awesome in your life?

LIST In your Bible study journal, make a list of the ways God has blessed you.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His "great and awesome" actions.

Daniel lived in Babylon, but he was not at home there. Daniel knelt by his window to pray. How many years now had he knelt at this same window? It had been nearly 70 years since he had been taken away as captive from his homeland. Seventy bittersweet years. It had to be a terrible experience for him to be taken from his home and his family and led away in chains as a captive to the court of a heathen king! But once he had accepted the fact that this was God's will for his life, there had been sweetness too.

Daniel was becoming an old man and longed to be home. There had been no place on earth like Jerusalem, the holy city of God's people! God's Temple was there. Daniel's heart had never left it, and he longed to be back there again.

Daniel reviewed the words he had read the previous night—words written by the prophet Jeremiah. "For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive'" (Jeremiah 29:10-14).



Daniel's heart probably leaped for joy at the thought. Seventy years of captivity were almost over. It was almost time for God to take them home! Yet he was reminded of the grave consequences of worshipping idols. How long would God have to extend His patience until His people would return to Him and obey His law faithfully?

Daniel set his face toward the Lord, to intercede on behalf of his people, by prayer and supplication, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. Mourners and captives wore sackcloth. That's probably what Daniel felt like. He might have been an honored member of the king's court, but he was a captive in a foreign land.

"O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. . . ."

7

Wednesday

READ Read Psalm 86:6, 7.

REVIEW Review the power text.

FIND Identify six persons or groups of people for whom you would like to pray this week.

PRAY Ask God to bless these people because of His "great mercy."

Thursday

READ Read James 5:16.

THINK Have you ever asked God to forgive the sins of someone else? For what sin do you need to be forgiven?

REVIEW Review the power text.

TALK Phone or talk to a friend. Make things right if you have had a disagreement. Offer to pray with your friend.

PRAY Make an agreement with your friend to pray for each other regularly.

Friday

READ Read Philippians 4:6, 7.

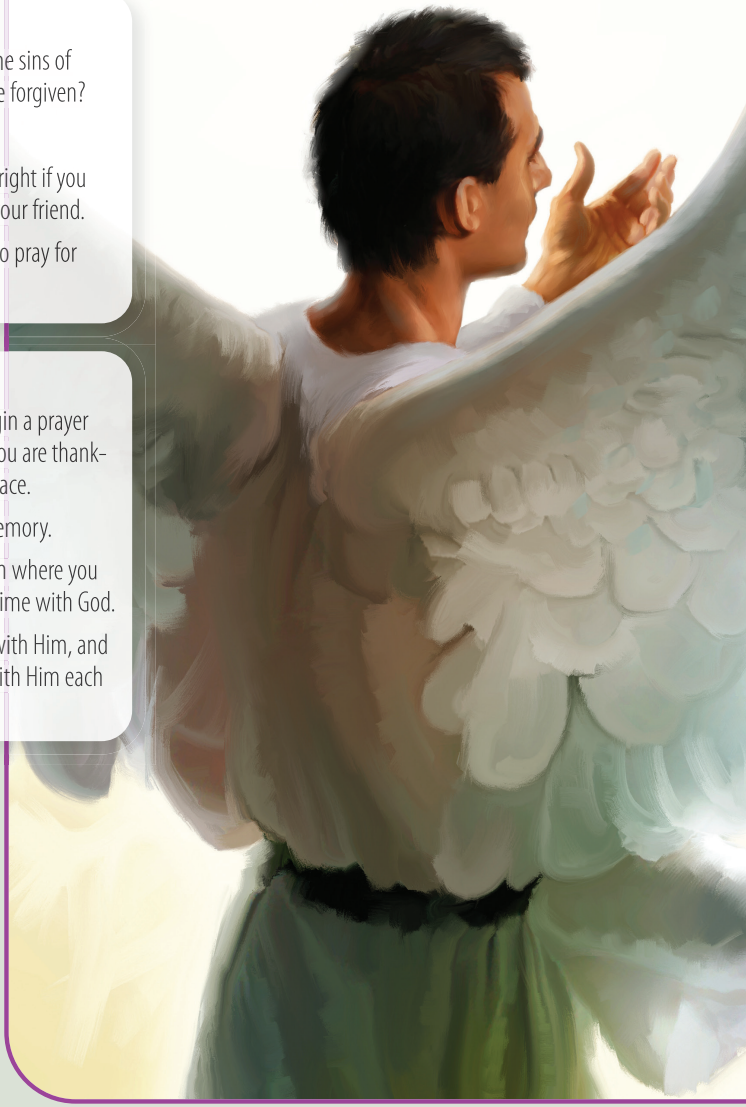
JOURNAL If you haven't already done so, begin a prayer journal. In it, record: (1) blessings for which you are thankful; (2) experiences in which you feel God's grace.

REPEAT Repeat your power text aloud by memory.

FIND Try to find a special place—away from where you will be interrupted—to spend quiet quality time with God.

PRAY Ask God to bless the time you spend with Him, and make a commitment to spend quality time with Him each day.

". . . Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our



supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name" (Daniel 9:4-6, 17-19).

While Daniel was still speaking, praying, and confessing his sins and the sins of his people Israel, the angel Gabriel, whom he had seen in vision at the beginning, appeared to him in the evening. After Daniel ended his prayer, the angel Gabriel said, "At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision" (verse 23). Daniel was overwhelmed with gratitude as he worshipped the awesome God who heard his humble prayer. He recognized once again that God is full of grace and mercy, keeping His promises to His children.



PUZZLE 7

GOD IS GOOD

Instructions: Below is a Bible verse on tiles. Part of the verse has been taken out and put above. Can you place the tiles in their proper places and spell out the Bible verse? Use each tile only once, and no tile will be left over.

