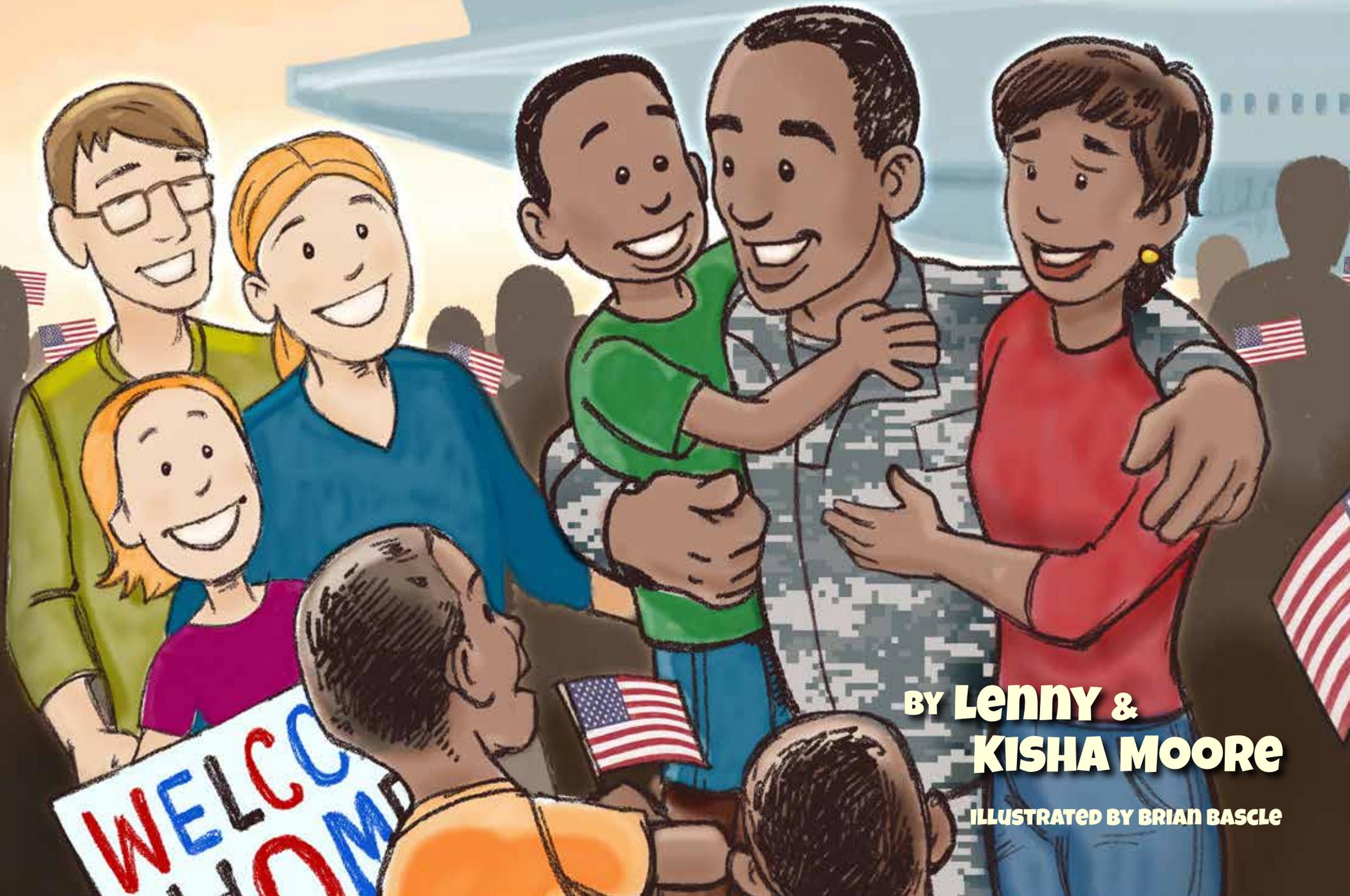


BOBBY'S HOMECOMING ADVENTURE



BY **Lenny &
KISHA MOORE**

ILLUSTRATED BY BRIAN BASCLE

**BOBBY'S
Homecoming
ADVENTURE**

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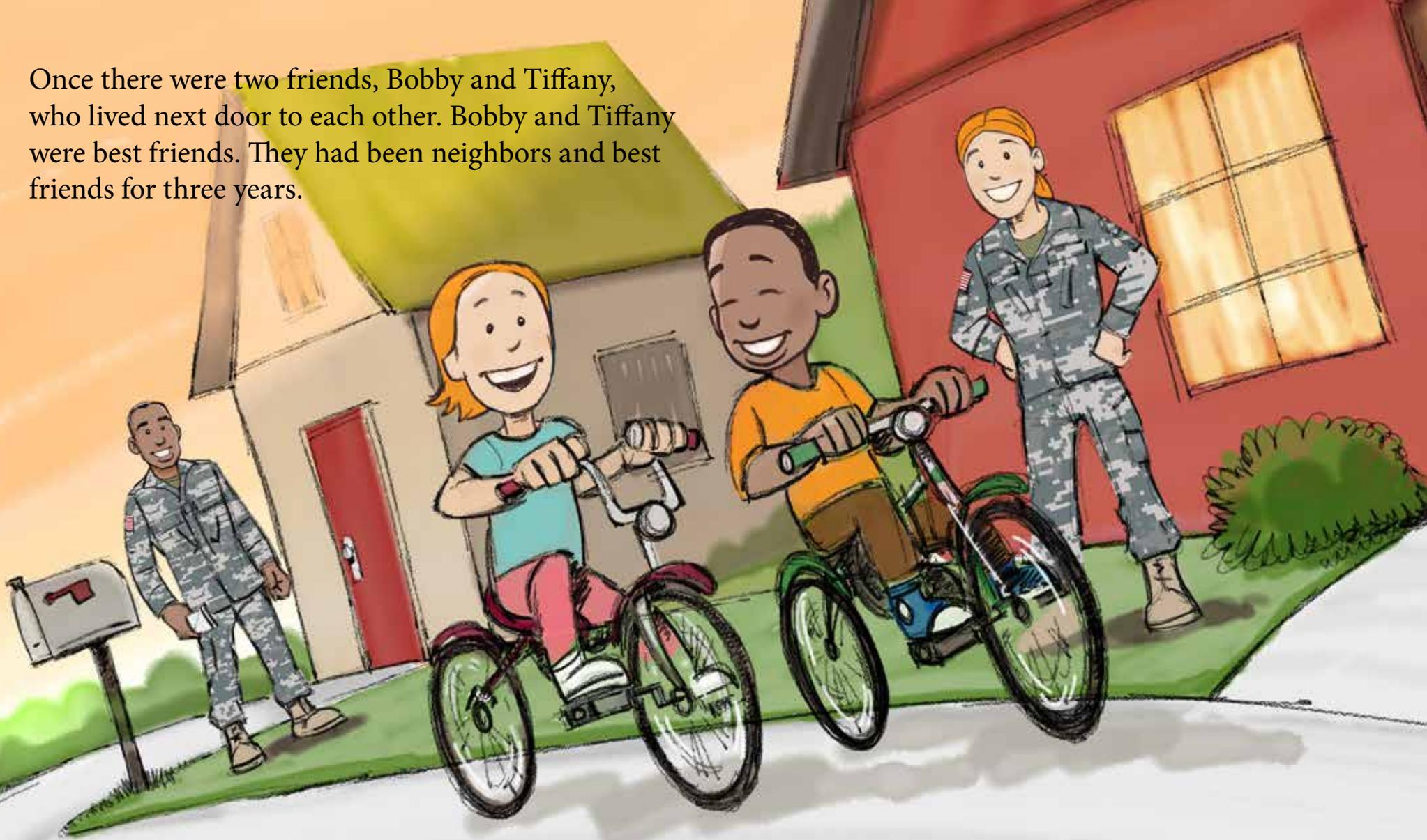
FORWARD //

This book was written for all military families who are navigating the all-too-familiar deployment season. Many times, a deployment can be most difficult on children who do not understand politics, just war ethics, or military contracts. They only understand that mommy or daddy is not home. The unknown can cause fear or worry to creep into a child's life and rob them of their joy. Our desire is to give parents a resource to help them teach their children how to trust God in the uncertain times.

My family and I would like to thank all military families for your sacrifices. We hope this book is a blessing to your family.

— Lenny & Kisha Moore

Once there were two friends, Bobby and Tiffany, who lived next door to each other. Bobby and Tiffany were best friends. They had been neighbors and best friends for three years.

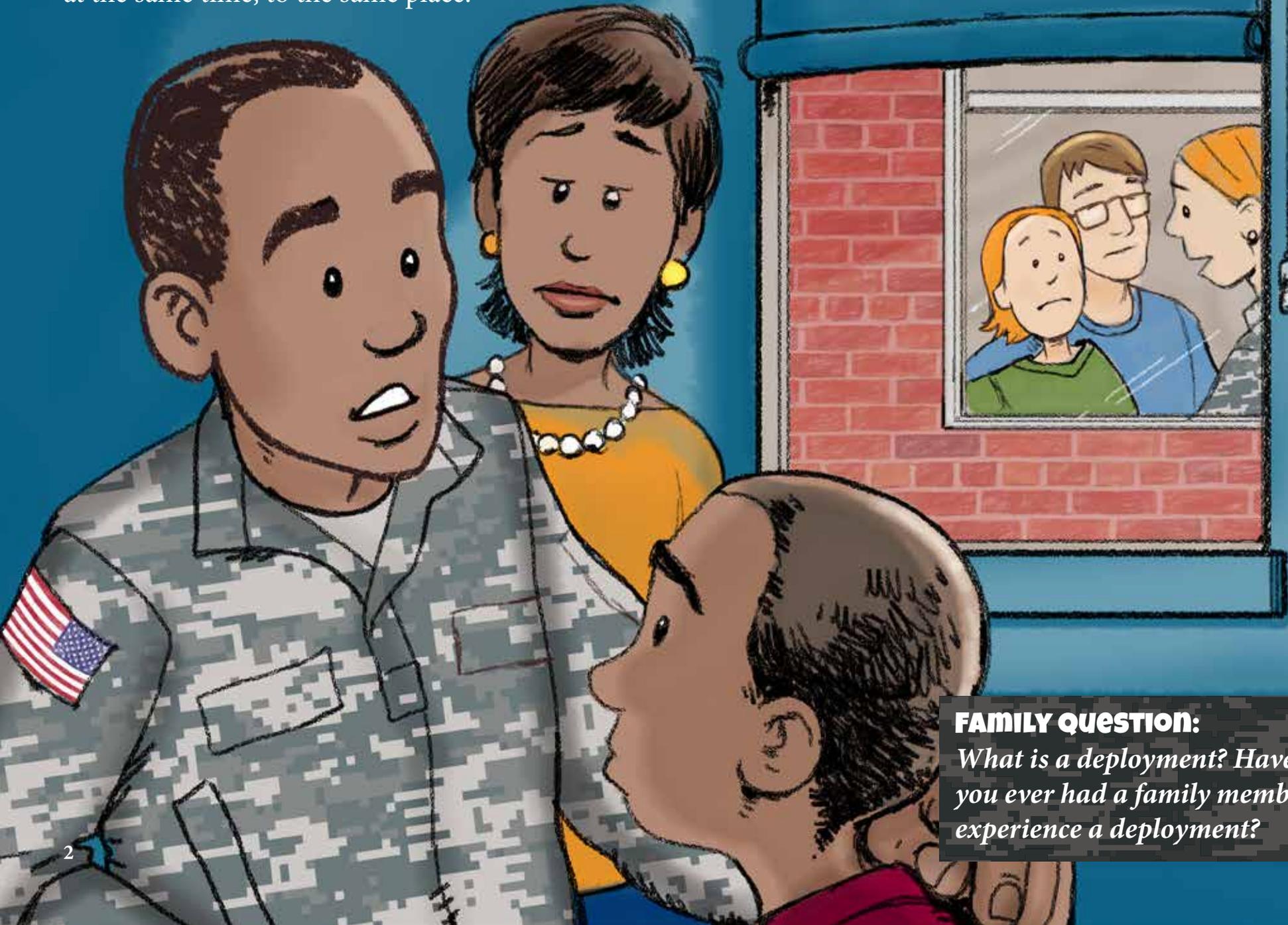


They did everything together. They rode bikes together, played soccer together, went to school together, and were in the same small group together. Tiffany's mom and Bobby's dad even worked together because they both are in the military.

FAMILY QUESTION:

Who are some of your good friends? Why are they your friends?

One day, Bobby and Tiffany found out that their parents would be deploying together, at the same time, to the same place.



FAMILY QUESTION:

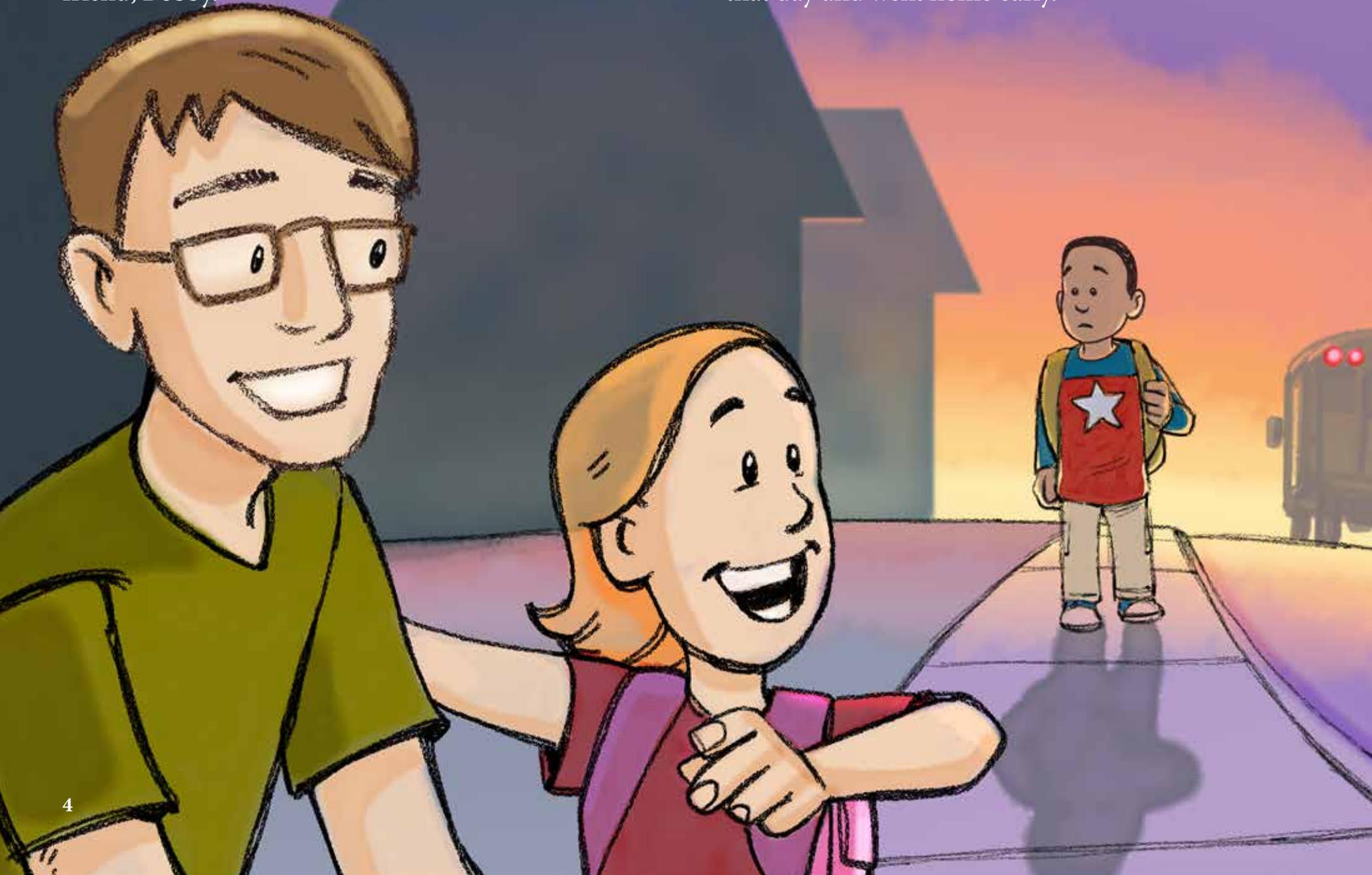
What is a deployment? Have you ever had a family member experience a deployment?

Throughout their parent's deployment, Bobby and Tiffany still did everything together. They still rode their bikes together, played soccer together, went to school together, and were in the same small group together. At church, they would talk about how they missed their mom and dad and couldn't wait for them to come home.



One day after school, Tiffany's dad told her some good news, "Your mom is coming home early!" Tiffany was very excited. She ran to tell her best friend, Bobby.

But Bobby was not as excited as Tiffany was. "Why isn't my dad not coming home early, also?" Bobby wondered. Bobby did not want to play soccer that day and went home early.



While sitting in his room, Bobby began wondering, “Why isn’t my dad not coming home early like Tiffany’s mom? I miss my dad the same way that she does! Did he do something wrong? Is everything ok?” Pretty soon, Bobby’s wondering turned into worry and he began to cry.



FAMILY QUESTION:

*Have you ever felt this way?
What are some things that
you worry about?*

The next day, it was time to go to church. Bobby and Tiffany still went to church together, but Bobby could not stop worrying about whether his dad was OK and when he would be coming home.

Bobby missed his dad terribly. Bobby's mom asked Mrs. Britney, the small group leader at church, if they could talk together about Bobby's feelings. Bobby loved Mrs. Brittney and trusted her.



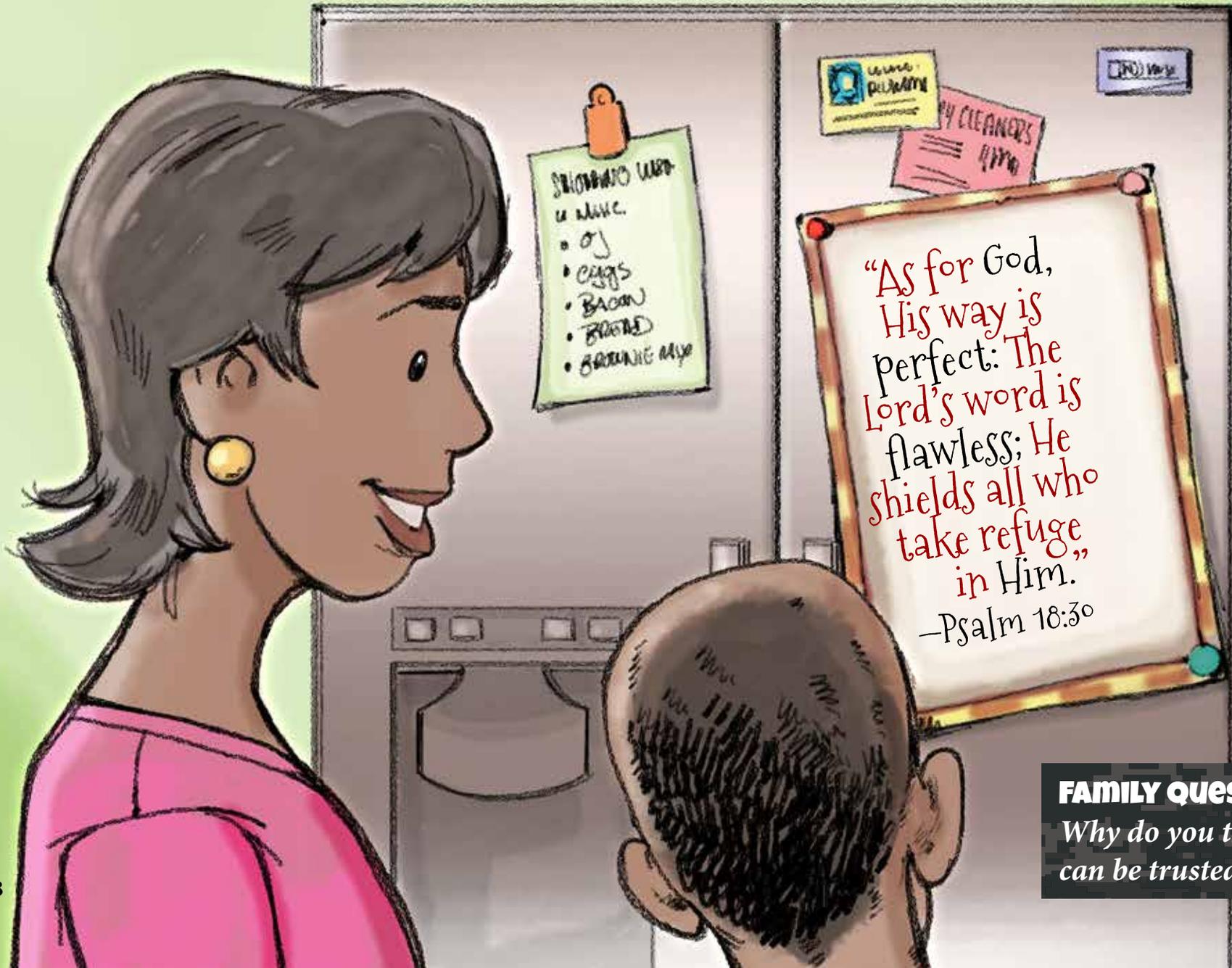
After hearing why Bobby was upset, Mrs. Brittney wrote something on the board for Bobby to remember.



We can trust God
because He **LOVES** you
enough to **KNOW** what is
best for you and is
POWERFUL enough to
make it happen.

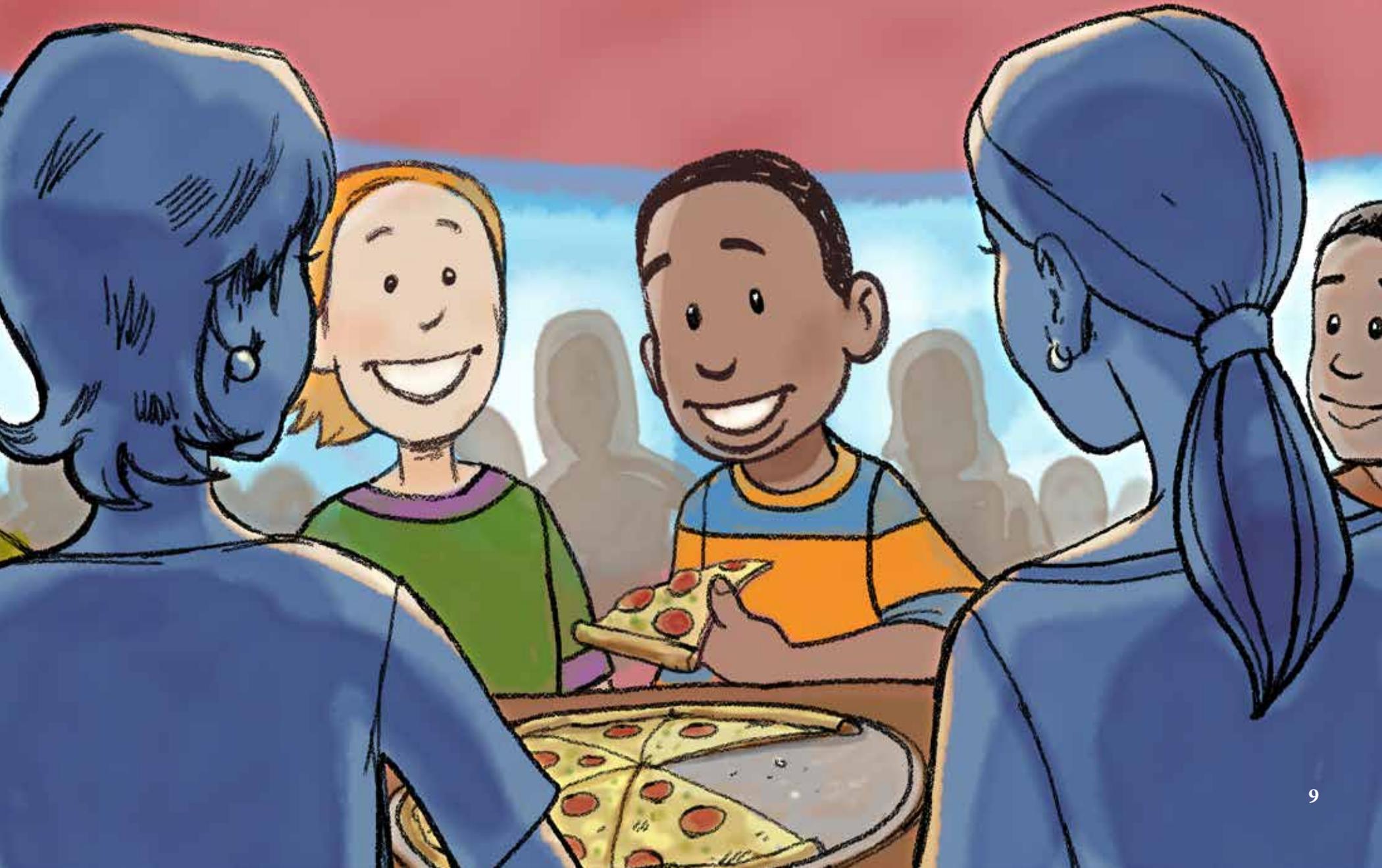
“Even though we may not know when your daddy is coming home, we don’t have to be sad or scared, because God loves you so much that He knows what is best for you and your daddy. God does not want us to worry about things we can’t control. He wants us to trust Him,” Mrs. Brittney said.

After small group, Bobby's mom reminded him of Psalm 18:30, a Bible verse that they posted on the refrigerator.



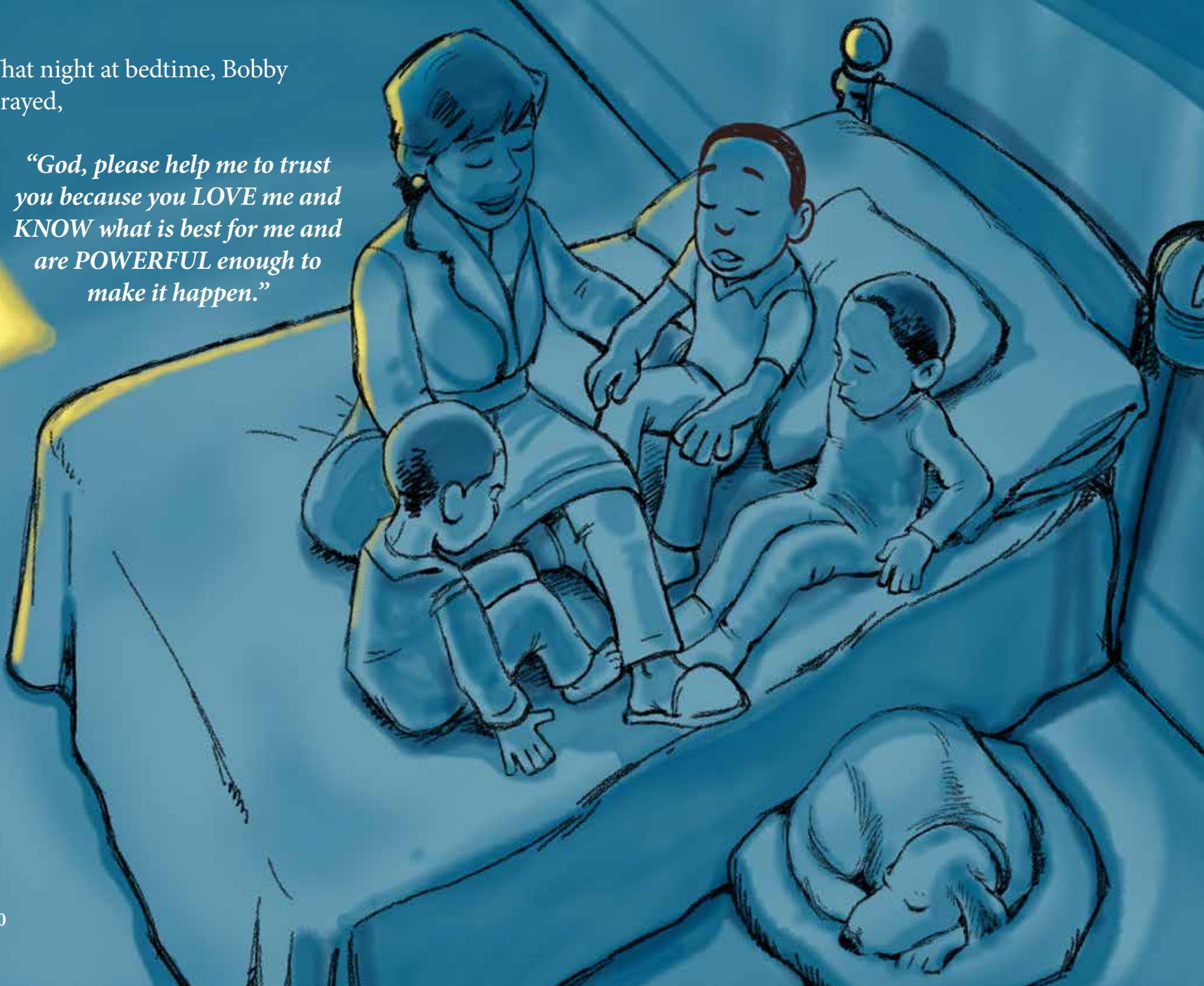
FAMILY QUESTION:
Why do you think God can be trusted?

After church, Bobby and Tiffany's families went out to eat together at their favorite restaurant. Bobby told Tiffany's mom how he was trying to be brave and trust God although his dad wasn't home yet.



That night at bedtime, Bobby
prayed,

*“God, please help me to trust
you because you LOVE me and
KNOW what is best for me and
are POWERFUL enough to
make it happen.”*



Trusting God was difficult for Bobby, but he did not give up. For the next three weeks, Bobby and his brothers read Psalm 18:30 and the phrase that Mrs. Britney said to remind themselves that they can trust God no matter what happens. Bobby also talked with his small group about how he was learning to trust God.



FAMILY QUESTION:
*How did Bobby learn
to trust God?*

Bobby and Tiffany continued to do everything together even though her mommy was home and his dad was not. They rode their bikes together, played soccer together, went to school together, and went to small group together.



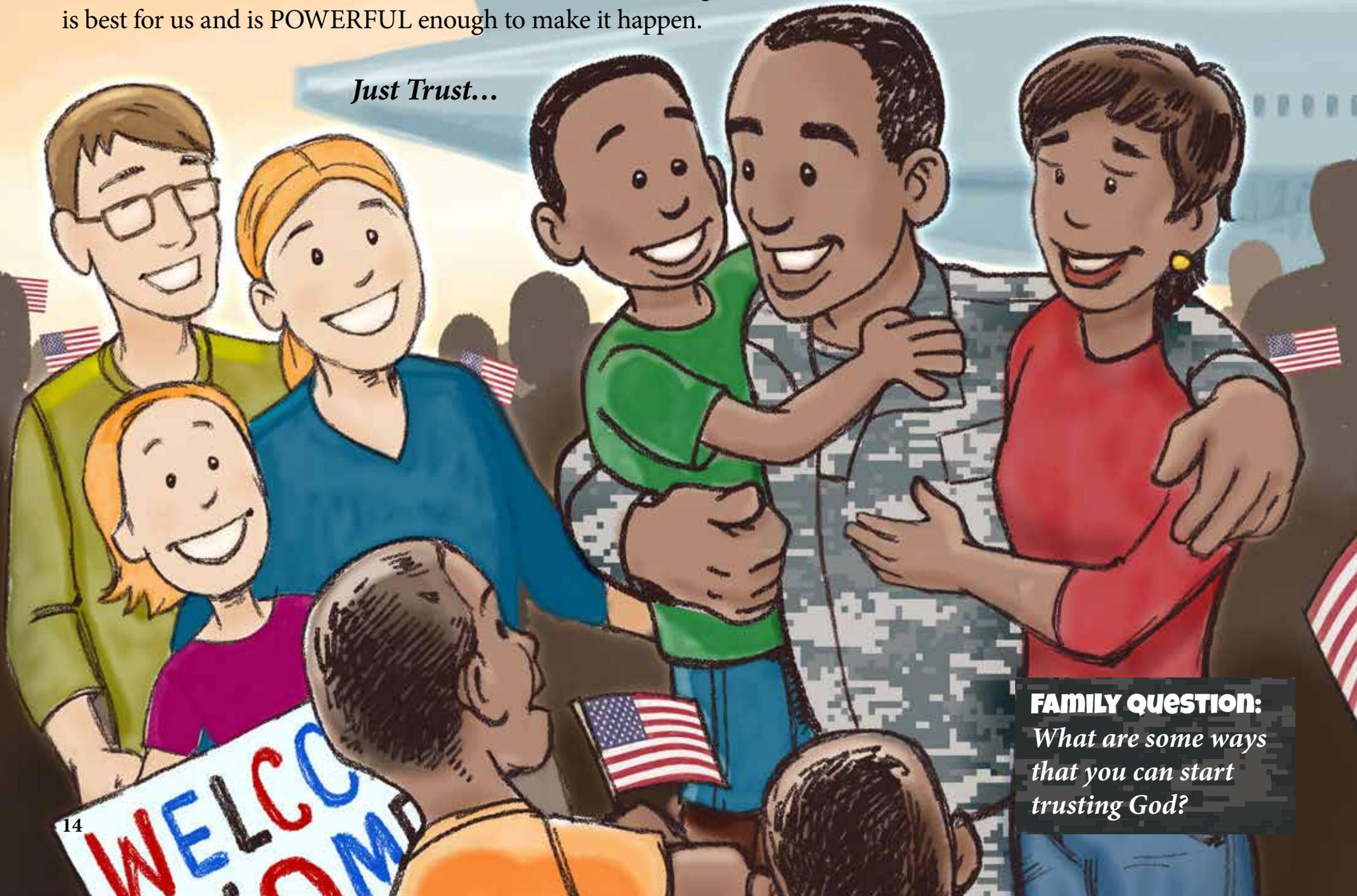
Then, one day, Bobby and Tiffany did something special together. They made homecoming signs together for Bobby's dad because the next day Bobby's dad was *coming home!*



Bobby was so excited he could hardly sleep that night.

The next day, Bobby's family and Tiffany's family went to see Bobby's dad come home at just... the...right...time, because it was God's plan. In the end, Bobby learned that he could trust God because He LOVES us enough to KNOW what is best for us and is POWERFUL enough to make it happen.

Just Trust...



FAMILY QUESTION:
*What are some ways
that you can start
trusting God?*

THE END



PARENT TALK //

This section is to help parents dive a little deeper into trusting God. We have included some helpful tips on how to teach kids to trust God during any season of life. We have also included a FAQ section in case your child asks you a question that you may not feel equipped to answer.

5 WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN TRUST IN GOD DURING UNCERTAIN SEASONS:

- 1. Regular Family Devotions & Prayer Time.** There are many great options to choose from. Our church recommends the Parent Cue App because it helps reinforce the truths that kids are learning in their small groups on the weekends. We believe that the more kids learn about the love of Jesus, the more they will be able to trust Him.
- 2. Be Involved in a Gospel-Centered Church That Values Your Family.** As parents, we are grateful for our son's small group leaders who influence weekly. No matter what kind of week he has had at school, they remind him that he is loved beyond his wild-est imagination. A gospel centered church is essential in helping children rightly understand God's love and might.
- 3. Memorize Scripture Together.** The more our children know about God's word, more they will trust Him. Here are a few verses that are helpful to memorize. Display them on your child's dresser, bathroom mirror, or on the refrigerator. *1 John 1:9, Psalm 33:4, 1 Chronicles 16:11, Isaiah 41:10.*
- 4. Model Scripture.** The more our children see us as parents keep our promises, the greater their potential will be to trust God's promises. Try making some simple promises to your child to buy them ice cream or take them on a bike ride. Whatever promises you make, be sure to follow through and remind them that just like you kept your promise so does God.
- 5. Do Something Fun.** Set aside 15-30 minutes to play a fun game or activity that encourages children to trust God. Here are a few ideas: play The Blind Walk or Bat and Moth. At the end of the games discuss why it's important to listen to God. A fun activity is to read the story of Noah (*Gen. 7-9*) together. Spread out a piece of butcher paper or cardboard and draw a huge rainbow. As you are drawing have someone in your family tell a story of when they saw a rainbow. Hang the picture up as a reminder that because God keeps His promises we can trust Him.

HOW CAN I LEARN TO TRUST GOD IN MY OWN LIFE?

- 1. Be involved in a Gospel centered church that loves your family.** God never intended for you to parent your kids alone. Yes, parents should be the primary spiritual providers of their kids, but we don't believe they should be the only voice in the life of a child. We believe that amazing things can happen when the church and family collide in disciplining the next generation.
- 2. Be involved in a Small Group.** God never intended for you to live life alone. As believers, we are to live our Christian lives in a biblical community (*Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Eph. 4:15-16*).
 - a) **Lead your family spiritually.** Sometimes the best encouragement for a person is leading. Often times in my own life, I find that when I sit down to lead our family devotions, God speaks more to me than to them. I would have missed these moments if I would not have led our family.
 - b) **Read Trusting God by Jerry Bridges.** This is by far the best resource on overcoming fear and worry that I have experienced. I would also recommend purchasing the workbook to help you navigate the study.

HOW DO I TALK WITH MY CHILDREN ABOUT TRAGEDY IN A WAY THEY WILL UNDERSTAND?

Undoubtedly, our children will be faced with the unfortunate circumstance of living in a fallen world. It should be our desire to parent them in a manner that teaches them to not fear those moments but to trust in the sovereignty of God. These are very difficult conversations that every parent will face. I think there are some things that we can do as parents to prepare our children to handle tragedy in a way that honors God when it strikes. Here are a few of mine...

Be Honest: Children can handle the truth and they can tell when we are making things up. A few years ago, I had the honor of officiating my grandfather's funeral. He was one of the most incredible men that I have ever known. As I was preparing for the funeral, my oldest son (4) asked "What are you doing?". This moment gave me the opportunity to have an honest conversation with him about sin, death, and God's love for all people. Be honest. They will respect you more in the long run.

On Their Level: Have honest conversations that they can understand and relate with. As parents, we must protect our children from certain realities of this fallen world until they are matured enough to handle them. Use wisdom and trust in the Holy Spirit to guide your conversations.

Big Truths In Small Amounts: Fight the temptation to explain everything when tragedy strikes. Focus on helping them understand big truths in small amounts over time.

Leverage: I always TRY to leverage sensitive conversations with my children for the glory of God. Use the immediate situation to leverage a greater conversation about the Gospel and God's love. Help them to see the bigger picture in the midst of hurt and tragedy. The picture that we paint for them today will hopefully be the world they live in tomorrow.

Model the Message: Children observe more than they hear. How you respond to tragedy will shape how they respond to tragedy. Your trust in God during difficult times can be the greatest classroom for your children to experience a sovereign God.

Pray: Sounds simple—but always pray over the situations that you are facing. Prayer over time teaches (us *and* them) that we are not in control. Prayer helps our children to know that they have a loving God that is ready to receive their request.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT //

Our lives, as well as this book, have been heavily inspired by Jerry Bridge's work, *Trusting God*. Even our bottom line was influenced by Bridge's statement:

*“God in His love always wills what is best for us.
In His wisdom, He always knows what is best, and
in His sovereignty, He has the power to bring it about.”*

