

God Gave Us the Bible

45 Favorite Stories
for Little Ones



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by Lisa Tawn Bergren art by David Hohn

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For Ava and Wrenna.



May you realize more and more how
loved you are by God. You're part of
the ongoing Story too!

GOD GAVE US THE BIBLE

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Hardcover ISBN 978-0-7352-9190-4
eBook ISBN 978-0-7352-9191-1

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Cover design by Mark D. Ford; cover illustration by David Hohn

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Published in the United States by WaterBrook, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, New York.

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Bergren, Lisa Tawn, author.

Title: God gave us the Bible : forty-five favorite stories for little ones / Lisa Tawn Bergren.

Description: First Edition. | Colorado Springs : WaterBrook, 2019.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018051009 | ISBN 9780735291904 (hardcover) | ISBN 9780735291911 (electronic)

Subjects: LCSH: Bible stories, English.

Classification: LCC BS551.3 .B473 2019 | DDC 220.95/05—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018051009>

Printed in the United States of America
2019—First Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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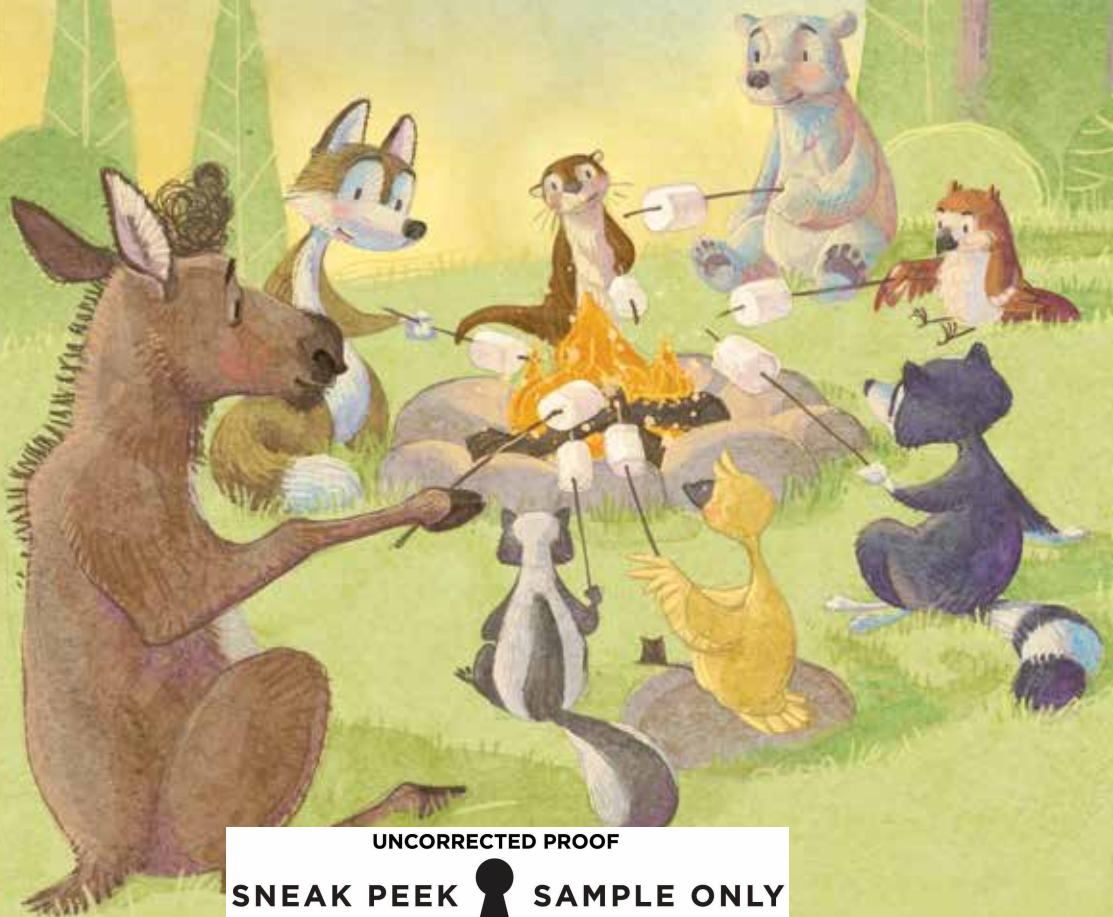


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Introduction

It was a big day . . . the first day of summer.
And Little Cub was having a sleepover! After
playing outside, the children ate dinner on
the porch and then roasted marshmallows.





Later Mama Bear said, “Come into the house, kiddos.
I want to share a story with you. The best story ever!”

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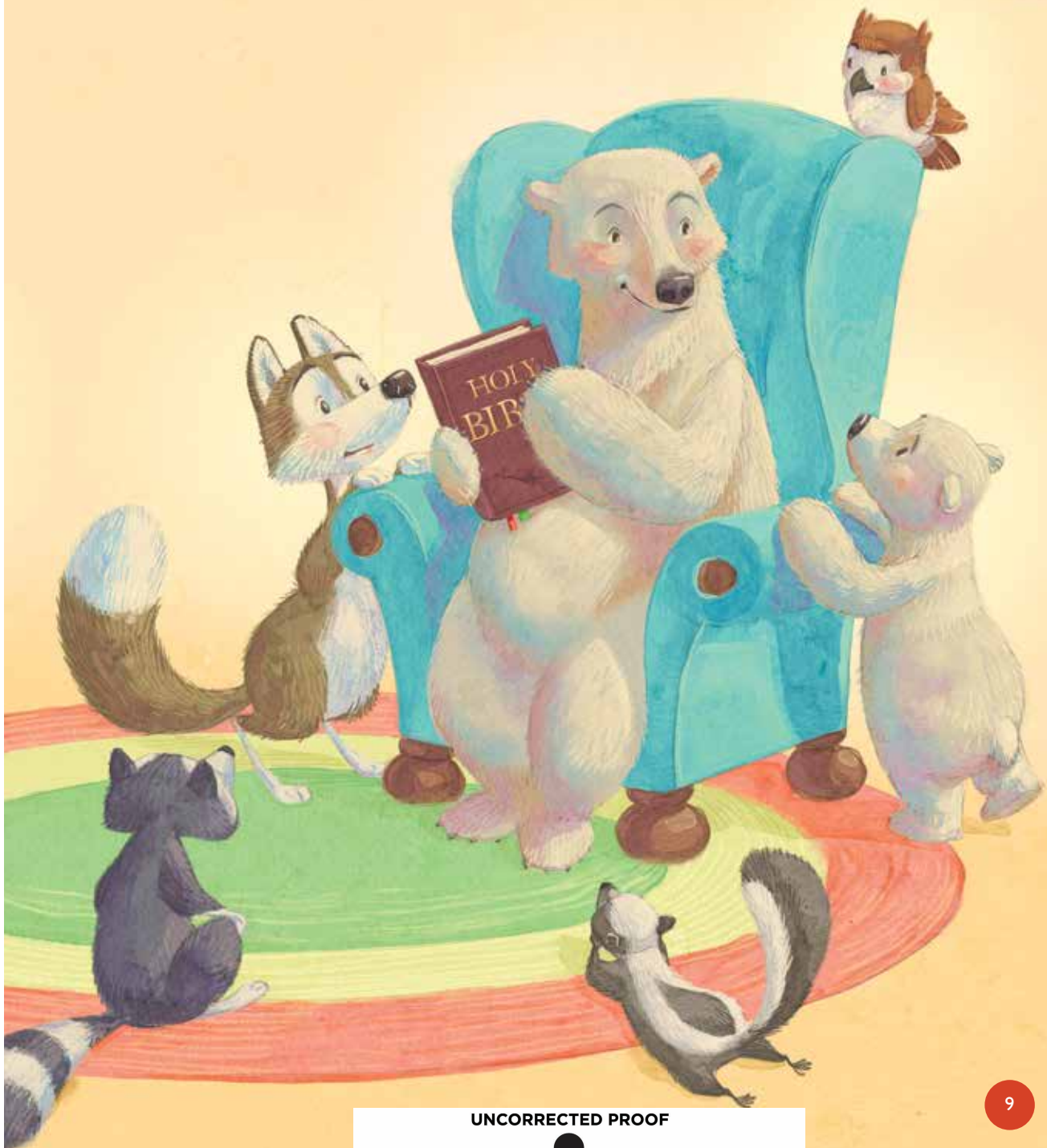
The kids came in and gathered around her.

“This is the story God gave us,” she said, lifting her Bible. “It’s really our story.”

“Our story?” Little Pup said. “How can it be *our* story? Isn’t it about a bunch of people who lived a long time ago?”

“God loved those people who lived a long time ago,” she said. “Just as he loves us now. He wants us to know him better. That’s why God gave us the Bible. Now, let’s see,” she said, turning the first page. “It all starts with Genesis . . .”

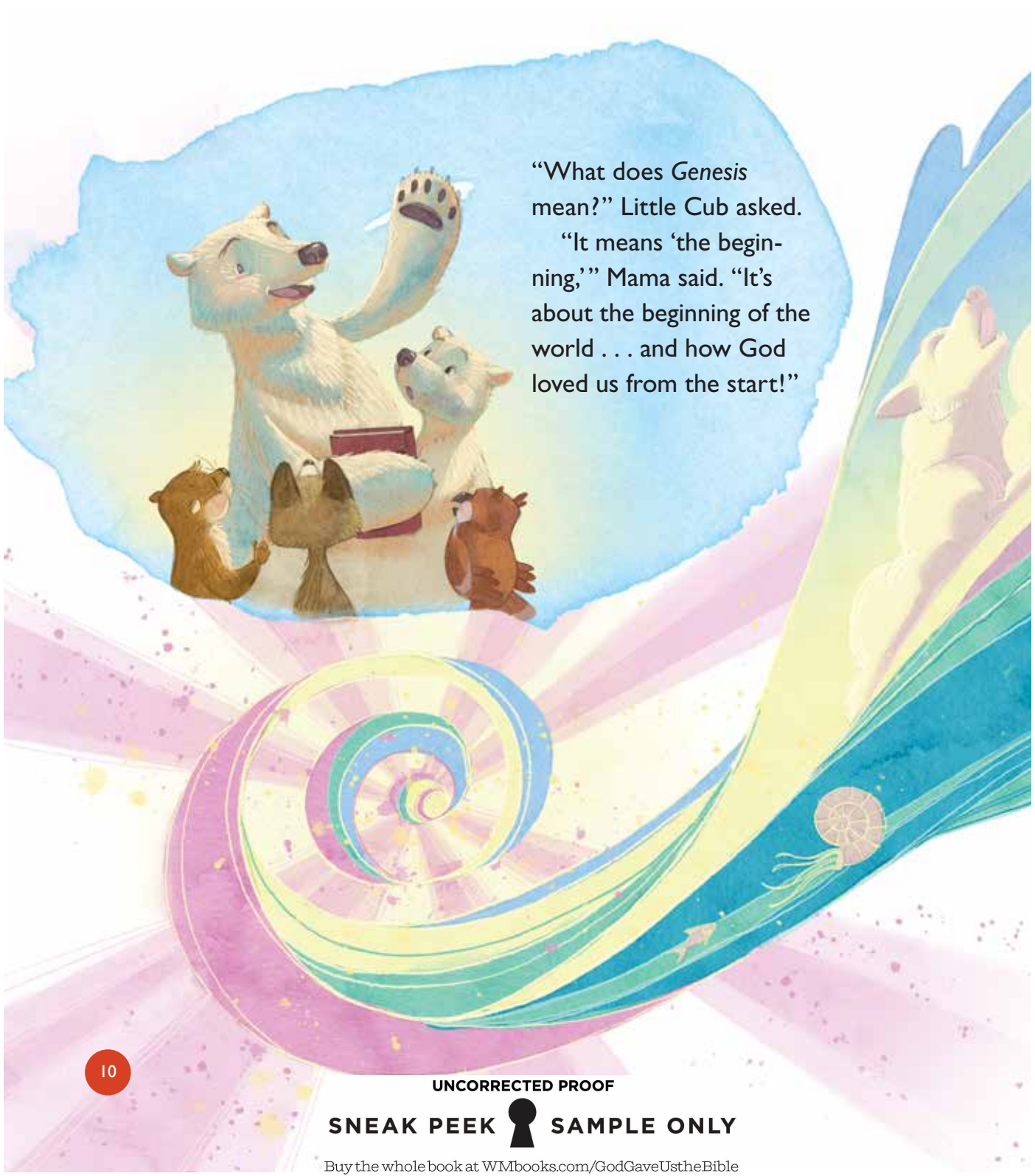




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“What does *Genesis* mean?” Little Cub asked.

“It means ‘the beginning,’” Mama said. “It’s about the beginning of the world . . . and how God loved us from the start!”



The Creator Creates

Genesis 1

God is our creator, the reason everything exists. He began with nothing; then he separated light from dark, he made water and land, and then he made all kinds of animals and plants to fill it all!

Imagine what it must've been like to see the first stars streaking across the night sky. To watch a jungle springing to life, full of every flower you've ever smelled and every fruit you've ever tasted! Or to see the first whale slapping his gigantic tail in the sea!

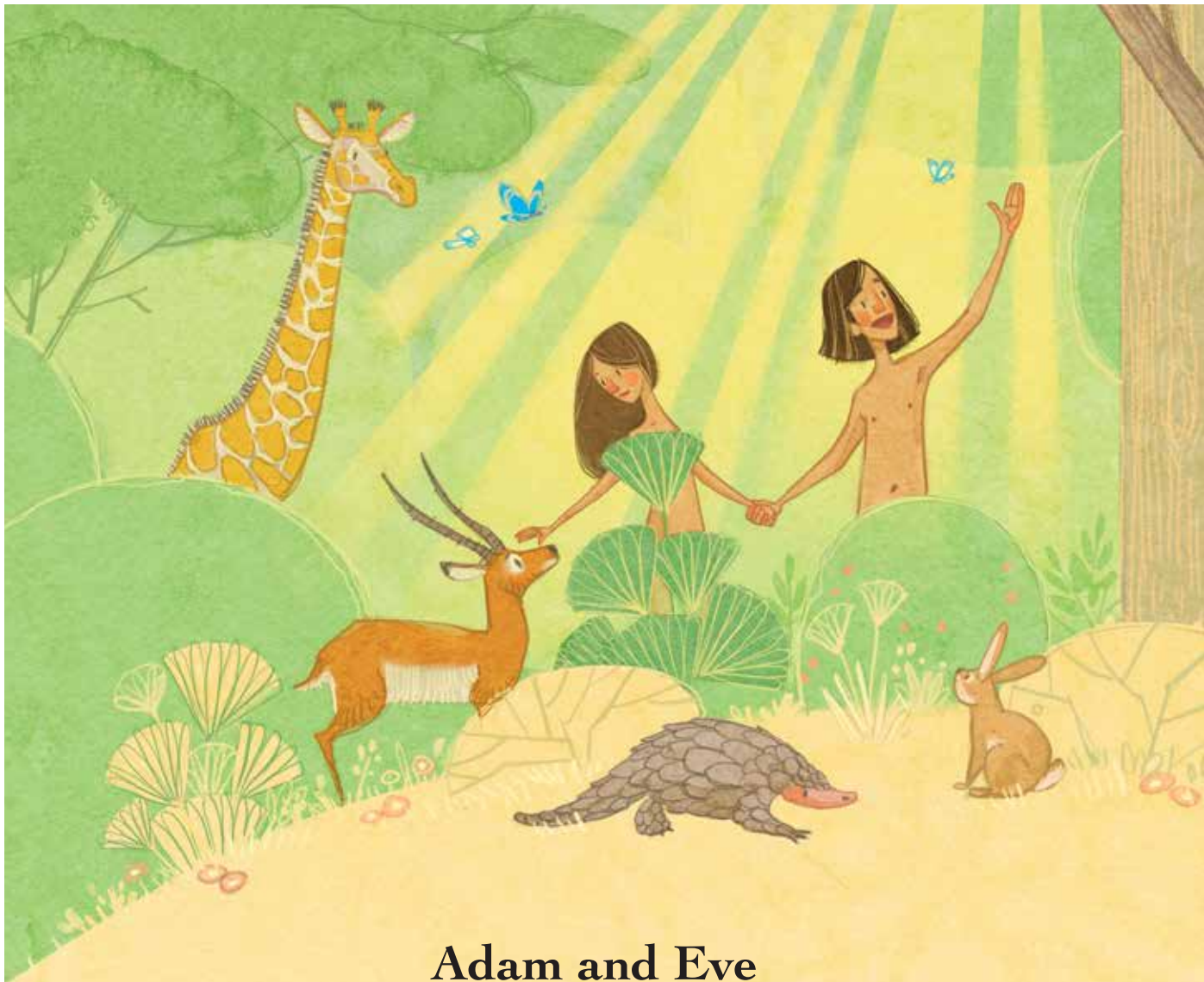
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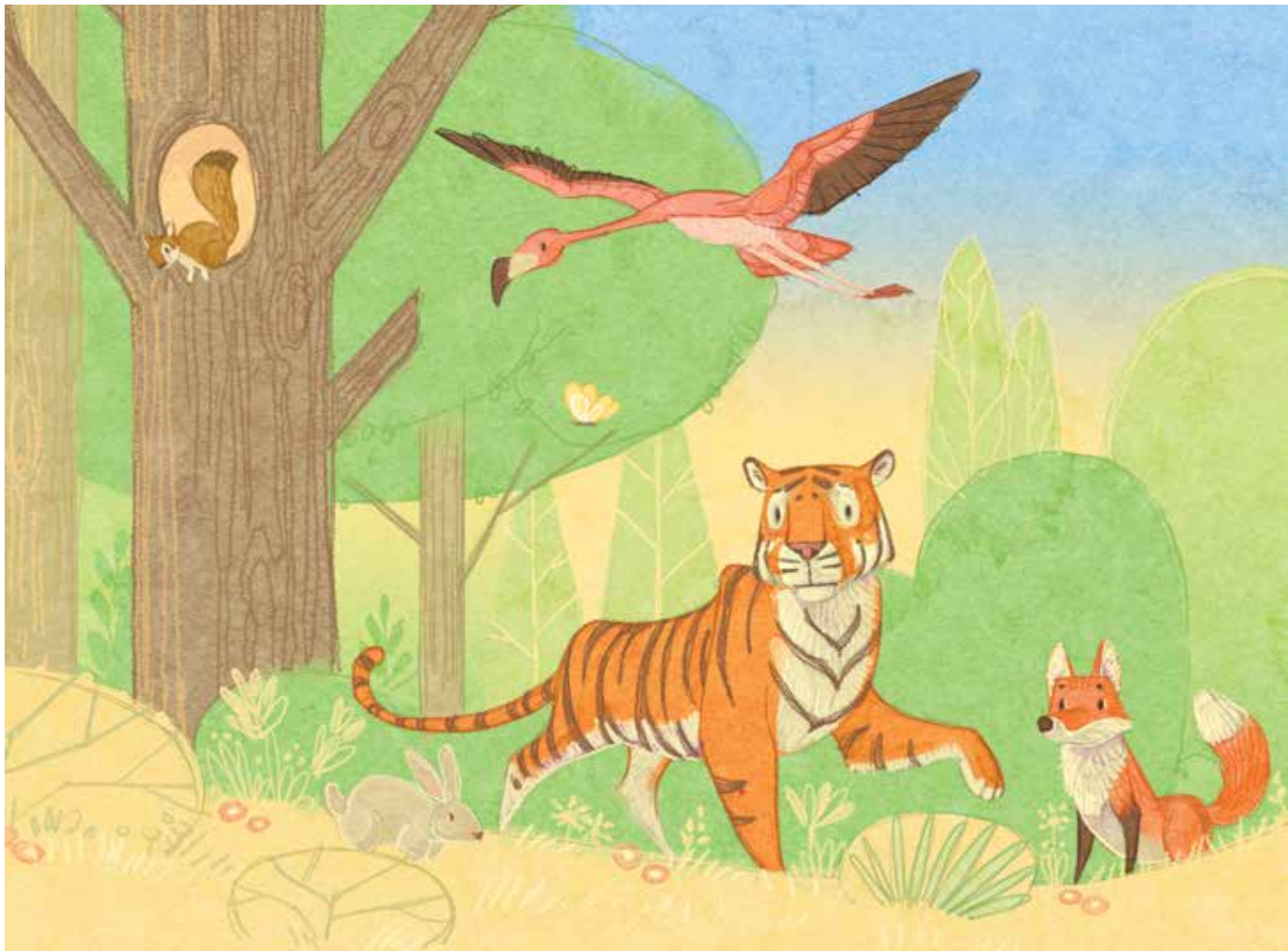


Adam and Eve

Genesis 1–2

But he didn't stop there. Because God had a special plan . . . to create children he could love! So he breathed life into Adam and Eve. Adam got to name all the animals, and he





and Eve lived in a very special place called the Garden of Eden.

Everything was good, *so* good. Adam and Eve spent their days hanging out with God and enjoying his creation. They didn't have to worry about a thing!

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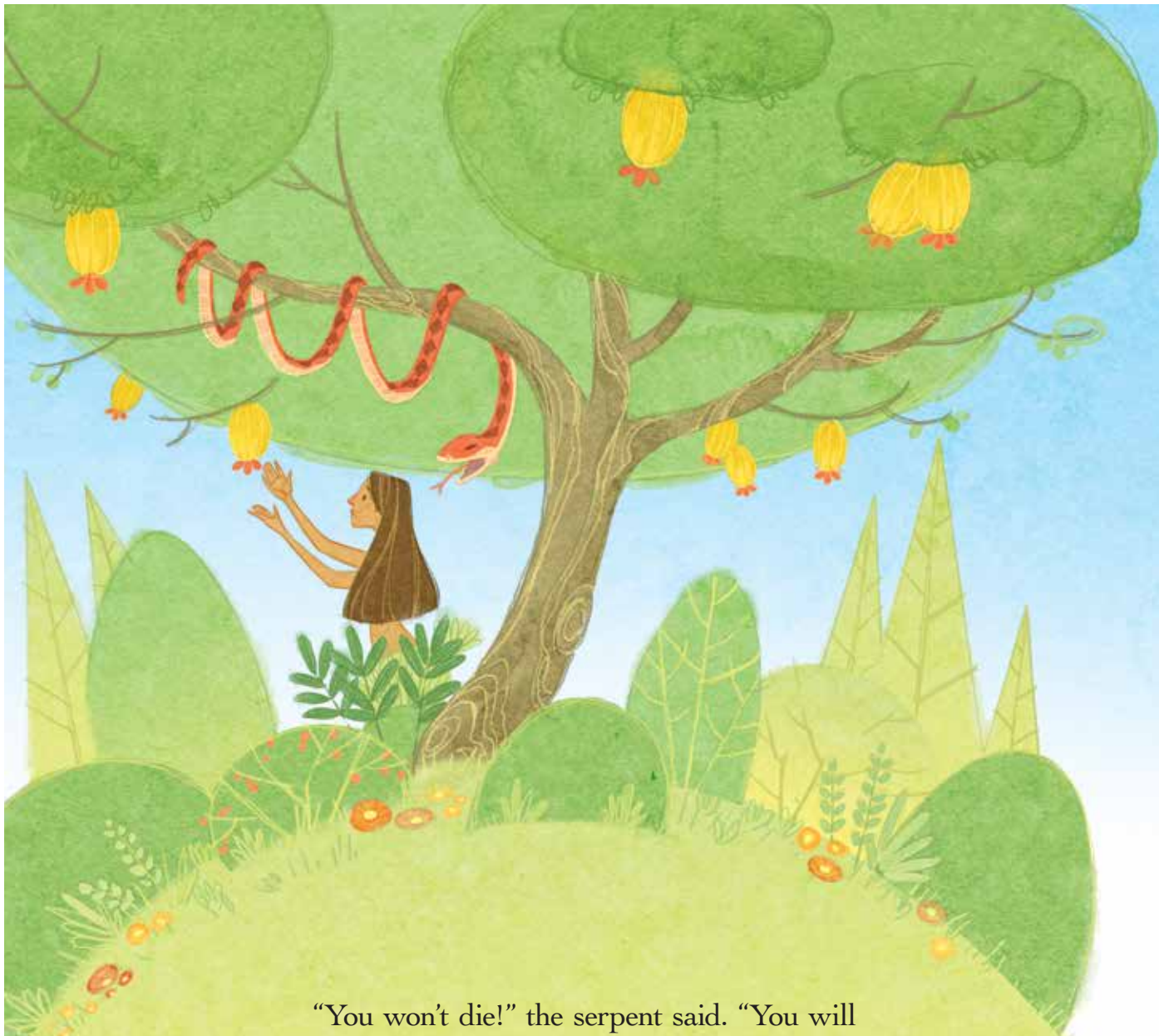
Leaving the Garden

Genesis 3

It was all good until a serpent said to Eve, “Did God *really* say not to eat any fruit in the garden?” Now, this was tricky, because God didn’t say such a thing!

Eve said, “We can eat fruit from any tree, but God told us not to eat from this one. If you eat from it, you will die.”





“You won’t die!” the serpent said. “You will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Be like God? Eve thought. What could be wrong with that?

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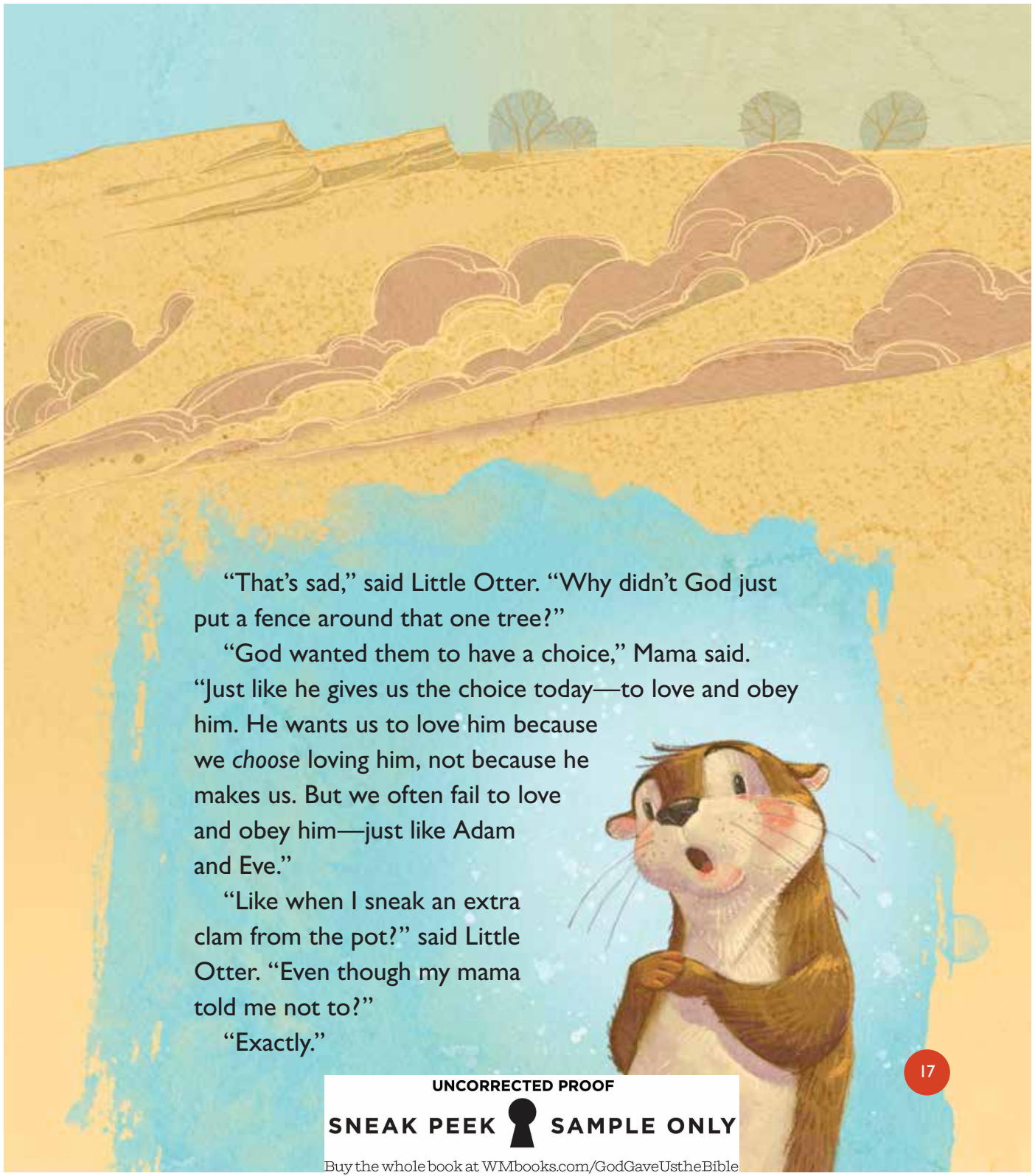
So Eve plucked the nearest fruit and took a big bite of it. And when Adam came near, she convinced him to do the same.

At first it probably tasted as delicious as it looked. But as they ate, it might have started tasting bitter or sour. Because they were committing sin—doing what God said not to do.

They knew they'd done wrong, so Adam and Eve got scared and hid from God, the one who loved them more than anyone could!

But because of their decision, God sent them out of the garden and into the world, where they would discover hard things. The world wasn't beautiful and peaceful like the garden. Yet even then, God was only beginning to write our story.





“That’s sad,” said Little Otter. “Why didn’t God just put a fence around that one tree?”

“God wanted them to have a choice,” Mama said. “Just like he gives us the choice today—to love and obey him. He wants us to love him because we *choose* loving him, not because he makes us. But we often fail to love and obey him—just like Adam and Eve.”

“Like when I sneak an extra clam from the pot?” said Little Otter. “Even though my mama told me not to?”

“Exactly.”



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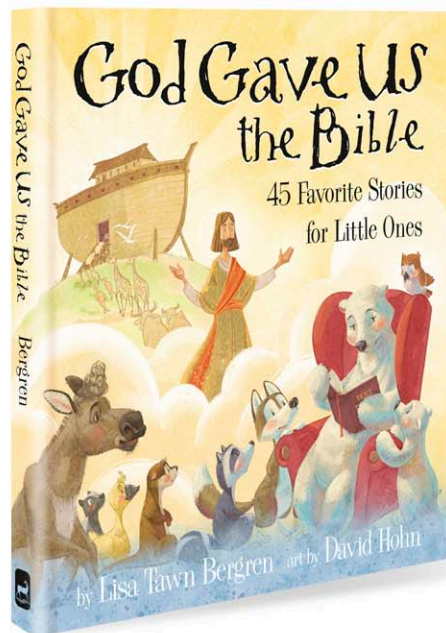
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