

FINDING THE TREASURE OF GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

PROOF

LINDSEY BLAIR

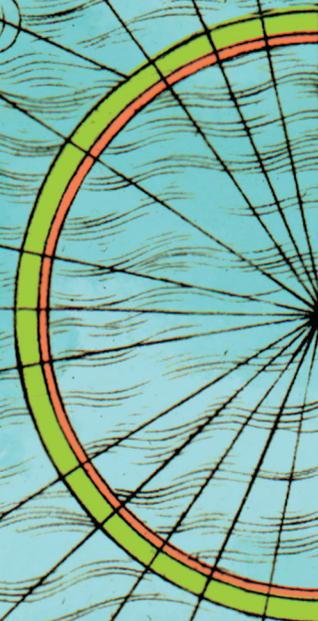
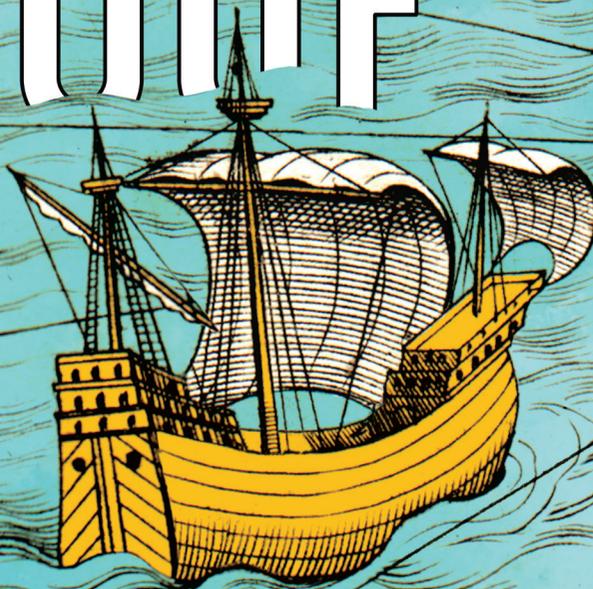
TIMOTHY PAUL JONES

JONAH SAGE

PIRATES

◆ FAMILY ◆
DEVOTIONAL

ILLUSTRATED BY TESSA JANES



PROOF PIRATES

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GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

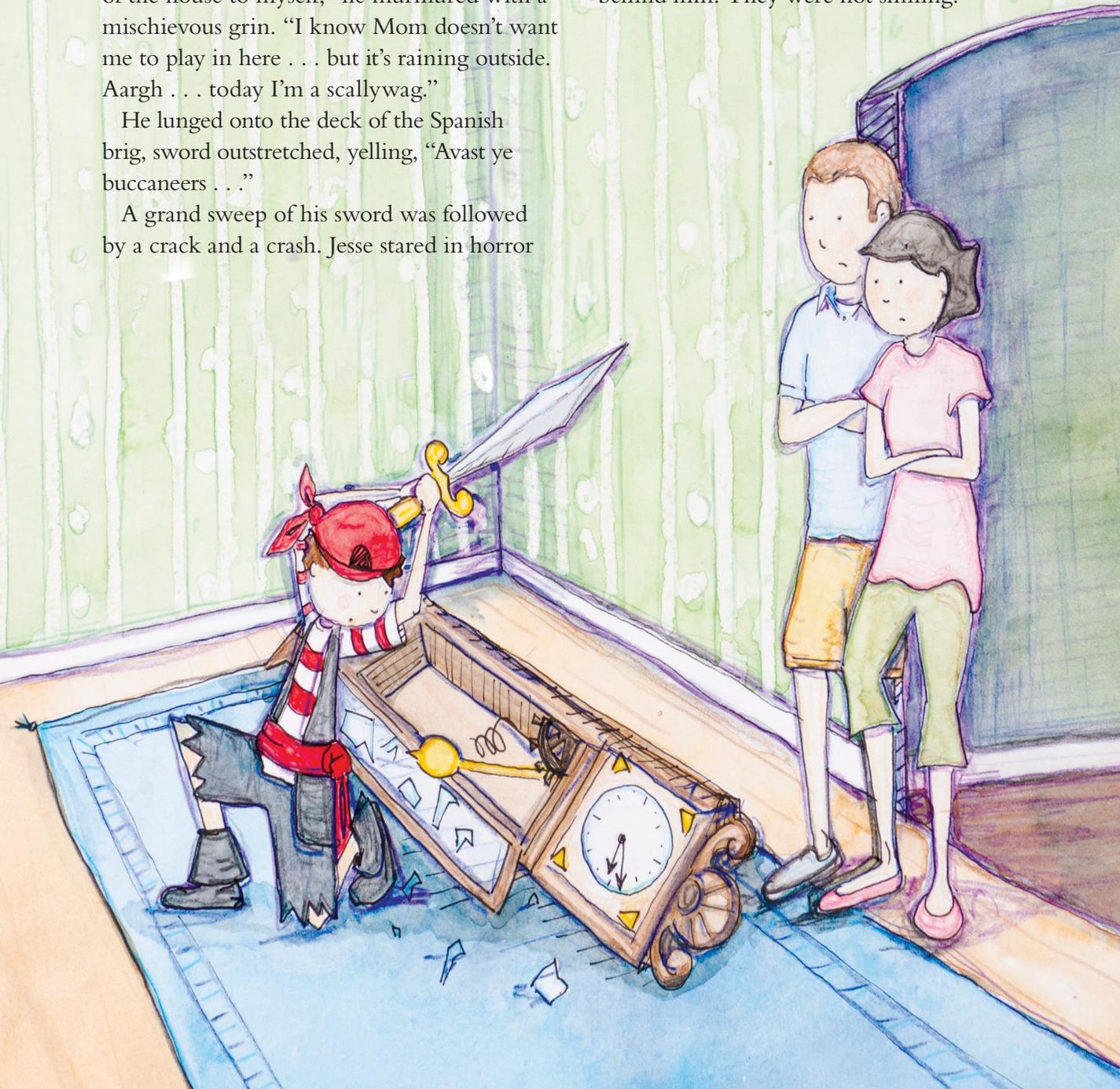
Jesse, sword in hand, stepped
into the living room. . .

With its big open space in the middle and the ocean blue rug, it was a tempting place to play pirate. He stopped and listened carefully; all was quiet. "Shiver me timbers, I have this part of the house to myself," he murmured with a mischievous grin. "I know Mom doesn't want me to play in here . . . but it's raining outside. Aargh . . . today I'm a scallywag."

He lunged onto the deck of the Spanish brig, sword outstretched, yelling, "Avast ye buccaneers . . ."

A grand sweep of his sword was followed by a crack and a crash. Jesse stared in horror

at Mom's precious clock in pieces on the floor. He had disobeyed, and now the clock was broken! Jesse heard a gasp, and turned to see Mom and Dad standing in the archway behind him. They were not smiling.





Jesse apologized to his parents and asked for their forgiveness, but his disobedience still had consequences—an early bedtime. Jesse knew his parents had forgiven him. But he still felt awful.

As Jesse lay in bed, he opened his favorite pirate book. He thought, “I loved the idea of being a pirate, sword-fighting, and pretending to be a scallywag. It seemed

like it would be fun. But now I’m suffering the consequences of BEING a scallywag. I disobeyed Mom and Dad—and now Mom’s clock is broken. I feel really bad. Why am I always doing the wrong thing? Maybe there’s no hope for me to be anything BUT a scallywag.” Closing the book and turning off the light, Jesse closed his eyes, and prayed that tomorrow would be a better day.

The next morning, when Jesse came down for breakfast, Mom smiled and said, “Jesse, how would you like to go on a treasure hunt today?”

“Yes, yes, yes!” Jesse exclaimed jumping up and down in excitement.

Dad said, “Get ready by putting on your pirate costume.”

Placing a gentle hand on Jesse’s arm, his father continued, “Son, one more thing: Just remember that we are all sinners—parents too. Even though we sometimes choose to disobey, God still loves us and has given us a gift to save us and help us.

This hunt will help you learn more about that gift. It will give you proof of God’s love and grace.”

Jesse flew downstairs to the costume box in the family room. Mom and Dad were not far behind.

Once downstairs, Jesse opened the costume box, grabbed his pirate costume

and quickly put it on. Bending down to pick up his bandanna, he noticed a folded sheet of paper rolled up inside it. Wondering what it could be, he removed the paper and carefully opened it.

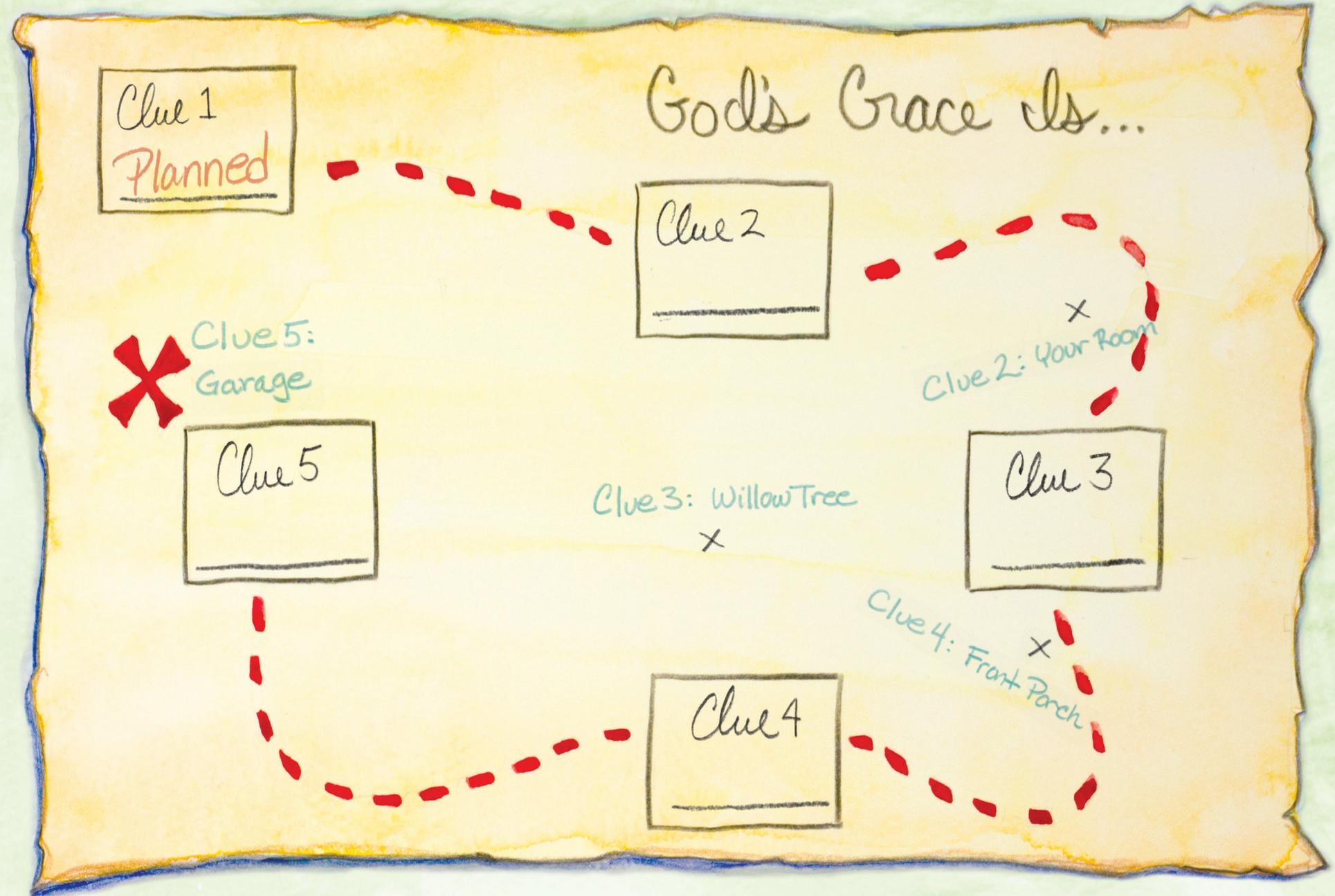


It was a treasure map—a map of his house and yard! The title read “God’s Grace Is . . .” Jesse examined the map and noticed scattered on it, five boxes. One box was labeled Clue 1, another box was labeled Clue 2, and so on for Clues 3, 4, and 5. The first box had a word already written in it: “Planned.”

Mom, pointing to the title, read, “God’s Grace Is . . . Do you see this blank space, Jesse? As you fill in the missing clues in the clue boxes, you can add the clue word to the title to find out more about God’s grace.” Then pointing to the “Clue 1” box she continued, “See Jesse, God’s grace is *planned*. Before God created the heavens and earth, he had a plan. God mapped out salvation for us.” After a pause, Mom continued, “Jesse, look at the map. Where will you find Clue 2?”

Jesse studied the map. “It looks like Clue 2 is somewhere in my room,” he said.

“OK, let’s go see,” Dad said.



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 1: WAKE UP TO GRACE!

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8

God's love is amazing. He loved us when we were sinners, when we were his enemies. God didn't wait for us to clean ourselves up. He showed his love by sending Jesus to die for us.

Work it out: Find a buried treasure.

Take something your children would be excited about (a toy, piece of candy, etc.) and bury it somewhere in your yard. (If it's a piece of food, make sure to put in a secure container.) Create a simple treasure map for your children. If you're feeling especially creative, put some costumes on and then go hunt for the treasure. When you find the treasure, it will be covered with dirt. Take time to wash the treasure (or its container). After it is washed, enjoy it.

Read it: Read Luke 15:1–10.

Talk about it:

Do you ever feel like a failure?

What does the Bible tell us we were like when God chose to love us?

Do we have to make ourselves clean before God will love us?

How does God show that he loves us?

Hide it in your heart: Memorize Romans 5:8 (at the top of the page); memorize the following question/answer.

Question: What is God's grace?

Answer: God's grace is his love freely given to us in Jesus.

Pray: Father, thank you for loving us when we were still sinners. Thank you for sending Jesus to find us when we were lost. Amen.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 2: PLANNED GRACE

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world. . . In love, he predestined us.

EPHESIANS 1:4–5a

Before God made the heavens and the earth, he had a plan. God mapped out salvation for the people he loves. That's what the word predestined means. God picked out whom he would save, and he decided just how he would save them. God's plan was fully accomplished when Jesus died on the cross.

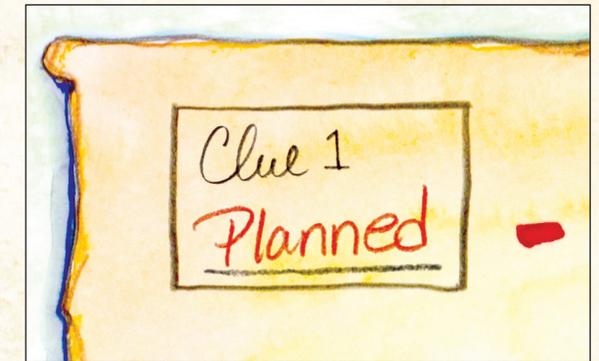
Work it out: Build a pirate ship!

Start with a large appliance box, which can be found at a hardware or appliance store. Remove one long side from the box and set it on the ground. Work with your kids to paint or draw a ship on the side of the box with markers. Finally, cut a triangle out of an old sheet or t-shirt, and tape it to a broom handle or stick. Attach that to the box. When your ship is complete, go on board your homemade vessel for your adventure at sea. Feel free to spray each other with water bottles, or use buckets to "bail out" the ship. (If possible, save the ship to use in a later lesson.)

Read it: Read Acts 27:13–44.

Talk about it:

Why wasn't Paul worried for his safety?



What does it take to make a plan? Hint: think about how you plan to go grocery shopping.

Who is the best planner?

How does it make you feel that God loves you and has a plan for you?

Hide it in your heart: Memorize Ephesians 1:4–5a (at the top of the page); memorize the following definition and question/answer.

Planned Grace: God mapped out salvation for his people.

Question: When did God choose to love and save his people?

Answer: God planned to love and save his people before the creation of the world.

Pray: Father, thank you for loving us and making a plan to save your people before the world began. Amen.