

The earth is the  
Lord's, and the  
fulness thereof...

PSALM 24:1a (KJV)

# NEEDED PROTECTION

READ: EPHESIANS 6:10-17

**W**hile visiting his grandparents, Baram woke up one morning to a thick blanket of snow outside the window. He had never seen snow before, and he could hardly wait to play in it. He jumped out of bed and ran to the kitchen. “Grandma!” he yelled. “It snowed! Can I go outside?”

“Right after breakfast,” replied Grandma, “but you need to dress warmly.”

Baram ate and got dressed quickly, then headed for the front yard where Grandpa was busy shoveling. Snow was piled everywhere. “Want to make a snowman?” Grandpa asked when the walks were cleared.

“Yeah!” exclaimed Baram, and they quickly got to work.

Baram had a great time learning how to roll the snow into big balls for the body and a smaller one for the head. He learned how to stack them on top of each other and mark a mouth, nose, and eyes. He ran into the house, and Grandma gave him an old scarf and hat for the snowman.

When Baram and Grandpa came in later, Grandma was sitting by the fireplace, reading her Bible. “Are you cold?” she asked as she got up to fix them a snack.

Baram shook his head. “Good,” said Grandma. She watched as he peeled off his warm winter clothes. “You remind me of something I just read in the Bible.”

“What was that?” asked Baram.

“Your hat, mittens, coat, and boots protect you from the cold and wind,” Grandma began.

Baram grinned at his grandmother. “I didn’t know that was in the Bible.”

Grandma laughed. “It isn’t, but the point is that you needed plenty of clothing for protection against the weather, and Christians need the armor of God to protect them from the devil. Just like your hat protects your head and your gloves keep your hands warm, each piece of God’s armor protects us in a different way against the lies Satan tries to get us to believe. We need it to help us remember that we belong to Jesus and to not give in to temptation.” Grandma put two steaming cups of cocoa on the table, then picked up her Bible. “Why don’t we read about God’s armor while you two drink your hot chocolate?”

Baram nodded, then picked up his mug and took a big slurp. ♥ JOSIE SCOTT

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## WEAR GOD’S ARMOR

**KEY VERSE:** PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD SO THAT YOU CAN STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL. EPHESIANS 6:11 (CSB)

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Are you putting on the whole armor of God? As you read today's Bible passage, think about each item. God compares truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God to various pieces of armor soldiers needed. You need God's armor to protect you from Satan's lies. Each day, ask God to help you put on His armor and use it to stand against Satan.





# THE BOOMERANG EFFECT

READ: PSALM 103:12; EPHESIANS 4:31-32; 1 JOHN 1:5-9

It's my turn for show-and-tell tomorrow," said Natasha as she and her younger brother, Eric, cleared the dinner table. "I searched my room, but I don't have anything interesting to bring."

"Your seashells from the cottage are pretty," said Mom. "They're downstairs in a jar on top of the bookshelf."

"I'll get them," offered Dad, rising from his seat.

"But everyone will think my seashells are boring after Marie's presentation," said Natasha. "She brought a boomerang from her trip to Australia!"

"What's a boomerang?" asked Eric.

"It's a hunting tool shaped like a V," replied Natasha. "Now it's mostly used for sport. It can turn around and come back to you after you throw it."

"Cool!" exclaimed Eric.

Natasha rolled her eyes. "That's what everyone said! Marie always has the coolest stuff. It's not fair!"

Dad returned with the jar of shells. He opened it and spilled the delicate contents on the table.

"How can these seashells compete with Marie's boomerang?" asked Natasha.

"Remember when you found this one?" asked Eric, lifting up a large, flat pink shell shaped like a fan. "You saw it sticking out of the sand when we were eating ice cream."

"Oh yeah!" Natasha touched the shell's ridges, smiling. "I caught my first fish that day too."

"See? Your shells are tied to wonderful memories," said Mom.

"Right. I'll have lots to tell. I guess being jealous of Marie for having a boomerang was silly."

"I'm glad you think so," remarked Dad. "Jealousy works the same way as Marie's boomerang—it comes back and hurts you instead of sticking to the target."

"But God's forgiveness is like a boomerang too," said Mom. "Jesus will always forgive you no matter how far away your sins may fling you. You can confess your sin and turn to Him to help you love others and do what's right. You can come back to Him—like a boomerang returning to its owner."

"I was wrong to get mad," Natasha said. "From now on, I'll remember the boomerang effect when I start to feel jealous and turn to Jesus for help and forgiveness." ♥ ELENA DEE

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## TURN TO JESUS

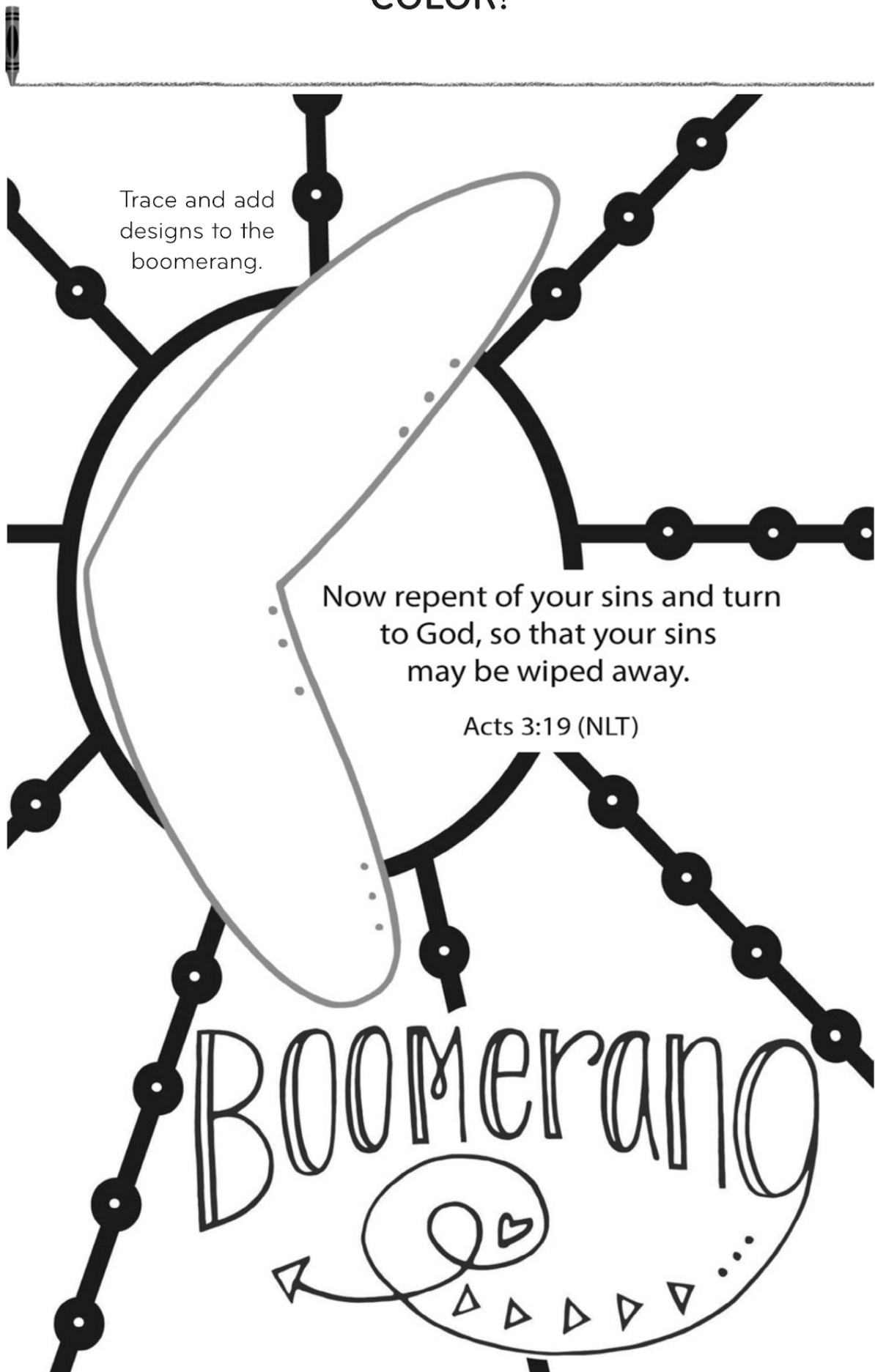
**KEY VERSE:** NOW REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND TURN TO GOD,  
SO THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE WIPED AWAY. ACTS 3:19 (NLT)

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Are there times when you feel jealous of others? Or say mean things behind their backs? Or to their faces? We all do wrong things sometimes, and our sinful deeds can hurt us and make us feel like we're far away from God. But Jesus died to save us from sin, and He'll always forgive us. You can turn away from sin and back toward Jesus. Confess your sin to Him and trust Him to forgive you.



COLOR!



Trace and add designs to the boomerang.

Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.

Acts 3:19 (NLT)

BOOMERANO

# HEY ZACH!

TOPIC: ENCOURAGEMENT



**Hey, kids!** I'm Zach, host of the *Keys for Kids* radio program. This week, I want to ENCOURAGE you to encourage others! But what's the big deal? Why do Christians talk about encouraging each other so much? The Bible tells believers to "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV). God didn't create us to face hard times on our own. He designed us for community—a community that loves and cares for one another. When we encourage each other, we remind one another that God loves us and that we're not alone. t

**Answer the questions below, and think about your answers over the next five days as we learn more about encouragement.**

Think of a time someone lifted you up with encouragement. What did they say or do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are some different ways you could encourage your family and friends? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How does knowing Jesus encourage you when you're facing tough times? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who can you go to when you're in need of some encouragement? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



ZACH

Think about the questions you answered as you learn more about encouragement on the following pages, and be sure to send me a question on our next topic. You'll get a prize for sending in your question, and you may even see it in the next issue of *Keys for Kids!*

Go to **KeysForKids.org/HeyZach**

Listen to Zach on the *Keys for Kids* radio program at **keysforkids.net**

## ENCOURAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Below is a list of scenarios where someone is in need of encouragement. How could you encourage them? Look at the verses on the right. Which ones could you use to encourage someone in each situation? As you read your Bible and *Keys for Kids* stories, write down any other verses you come across that could help encourage others.

- A friend's home life is very rocky, and she can't understand why God put her in a family that doesn't get along.  
"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."  
(1 Chronicles 16:34, NLT)
- A friend is sad or feeling down.  
"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."  
(Romans 10:13, NIV)
- A friend's father lost his job.  
"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you."  
(1 Peter 5:7, NLT)
- A friend's brother is deployed overseas.  
"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."  
(Psalm 46:1, NLT)
- A friend is struggling with an illness or disability.  
"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."  
(Psalm 139:14, NIV)
- A friend's grandparent is dying.  
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding."  
(Proverbs 3:5, NLT)
- A friend is afraid he won't go to heaven when he dies.  
"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God."  
(Isaiah 41:10, CSB)
- A friend feels insecure about how she looks.  
"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."  
(Revelation 21:4, NLT)

Do you know someone facing a situation similar to one listed above? Perhaps you could encourage them by sharing a verse that would remind them of God's love and help them feel His peace and comfort. Depending on the situation, you may also want to encourage them to talk to a trusted adult about what they're going through.

Your friend,

*Zach*

EXPRESS YOURSELF

**HEY ZACH!**

[KeysForKids.org/HeyZach](https://KeysForKids.org/HeyZach)





## TOGETHER IS BETTER

READ: ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

Hey, Dad, did you know emperor penguins can survive in temperatures of minus 76 degrees with the wind chill?” Wynter asked. She had been reading a nature magazine that had just come in the mail. “I can barely survive half an hour outside when it’s in the single digits! I wonder how they do it?” Wynter’s family lived in a little town up north that had its fair amount of cold, snowy weather. She knew all too well what it was like to feel so cold her toes hurt.

Dad looked up from his laptop. “Why don’t you keep reading. I bet the article explains how they adapt to the intensely cold climate of Antarctica.”

Wynter kept reading and soon found the answer. “It says here the penguins all huddle together in a big circle. The penguins on the inside are protected from the wind and get warm from the other penguins’ body heat. They take turns moving to the inside of the circle to get warm.”

“A single penguin probably wouldn’t survive outside the group,” Dad said. “You know, God made us a little like penguins.”

Wynter started strutting around the room. “Do I look like a penguin or something?”

Dad laughed. “Well, maybe a little. But what I meant is that we need each other for support and encouragement. When Mom was sick last year, I don’t know what we would have done without our friends and neighbors bringing us meals and helping with transportation. They surrounded us with their love so we could get through a very hard time in our family.”

Wynter nodded. “Mrs. Carney even cleaned our house for a couple of months until Mom got better.”

“Right!” Dad said. “God created us to have community with others, and when our Christian friends and neighbors helped us during that hard time, they showed us the love and encouragement of Jesus and reminded us He was with us. Now *we* can look for ways to help other people in need.”

“I’ve helped Mom make cheer baskets for people in the hospital,” said Wynter. “She said now that she’s better, she wants to share God’s love and encouragement with the patients there.”

Dad nodded. “We need each other’s support, just like the penguins!” ♥ KENDRA ANGLE

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### TOGETHER IS BETTER!

**KEY VERSE:** TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE...IF ONE FALLS DOWN,  
HIS FRIEND CAN HELP HIM UP. ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10 (NIV)

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Have you ever been lonely or hurting and someone gave you a kind word or a gentle hug? Didn’t you feel better knowing you had a friend who cared? Jesus wants us to support and encourage one another, especially in the hard times. We can remind each other of His love and that He’s always with us. Look for ways you can be an encouragement to someone who needs a friend!

# COLOR!



Trace and color the penguins,  
then add more snowflakes to the scene.

Two are better than one . . .  
if one falls down,  
his friend can help him up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)



# ACTIVITY

## Memory Verse Holder

Do you find it hard to memorize verses? A good way to put them in your mind is to go over them again and again. Here's a fun activity to help you do that! Make this holder to display new Bible verses you are learning and to remind you how important it is to put God's Word in your heart.

### Things you'll need:

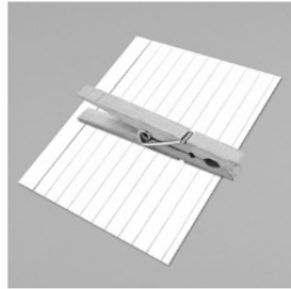
- 3" x 5" colored index cards
- scissors (fancy-cut blades work well)
- markers
- stickers
- clothespin
- glue
- small magnet strip with adhesive back (or use glue)

### What you'll need to do:

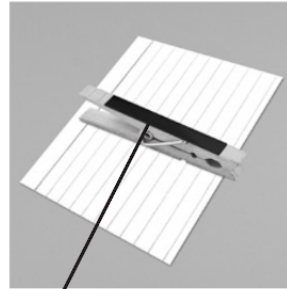
1. Use scissors to zigzag or scallop the edges of an index card all the way around.
2. Write the Key Verse from March 6 on the card.
3. Decorate the card with markers or small stickers.
4. Glue the clothespin to the back of the verse card, leaving the end exposed at the bottom center (see below).
5. Attach the magnet strip to the other side of the clothespin (see below).



GLUE



CLOTHESPIN GLUED TO INDEX CARD



MAGNET



EXPOSED END FOR ATTACHING NEW VERSE

When you're done, put the verse holder on the refrigerator door. Whenever you have a verse to memorize, write it on a new index card and clip it to the bottom of the clothespin. After attaching the new verse, read it out loud every time you walk past the refrigerator and see it. After a while, try covering the second half of the verse with your hand and see if you can finish it without looking.

### Bonus Round

When you feel ready, flip the verse card over so the blank side is facing out. Whenever you walk by and see the blank card, recite your verse out loud from memory.



# FOLLOW YOUR HEART...MAYBE NOT

READ: PROVERBS 3:5-6; ISAIAH 53:6; HEBREWS 8:10

Let's see the animals!" Kaylee was excited to spend the weekend at Emma's house. She only had a Chihuahua at her family's apartment.

"Okay, hold on!" Emma said, laughing.

The girls skipped along the path, serenading the goats and pigs as they passed their pens. They had just finished a movie about a girl who followed her dream to become a famous singer.

"You can do anything you want, be anyone you want, and be a star...if you only follow your heart!" the girls sang loudly as they danced and spun around the hay bales.

"Wait!" Emma raced to the sheep pen. "Oh no! The gate is open!" She quickly counted the sheep, then glanced around the pen. "Fluffy is gone!"

After Emma closed the gate, the girls raced around the farm to find Fluffy. Suddenly, they heard a loud horn from the main road. To their dismay, Fluffy was standing right at the edge of the busy highway.

"Fluffy!" Emma and Kaylee walked quietly so they wouldn't startle the frightened animal. Gently, Emma guided the trembling lamb back to safety.

"Wow, that was crazy," said Kaylee breathlessly.

"Yeah, sheep aren't that bright. They don't always make the wisest choices. That's why they need us to help them," explained Emma.

"Sounds like our Sunday school lesson from last week. Remember?" Kaylee said thoughtfully. "Jesus calls us His sheep because we often get led astray. We can easily make wrong choices if we don't look to Him for guidance."

"Yeah, and we know how much God wants to help us. Just think about how He sent His only Son to die for our sins. Now *that's* being a Good Shepherd!"

As she brushed Fluffy's soft wool, Emma began to hum the movie's theme song.

Kaylee joined in, singing, "You can be a star, if you only follow your—" She stopped abruptly. "You know, Emma, the words of that song aren't really true. The Bible says we can't trust our hearts unless they've been changed by Jesus. We need to follow Him and trust Him to guide us as our Good Shepherd."

"You got that right!" Emma smiled as she hugged her wooly friend. "We don't want to walk a dangerous road like Fluffy!" ♥ EMILY RUDOLPH

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## FOLLOW JESUS

**KEY VERSE:** FLEE THE EVIL DESIRES OF YOUTH AND PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITH, LOVE AND PEACE, ALONG WITH THOSE WHO CALL ON THE LORD OUT OF A PURE HEART. 2 TIMOTHY 2:22 (NIV)

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Have you ever heard someone say, "Follow your heart"? Maybe you've seen that message on a T-shirt or heard it in a movie. It may sound nice, but in practice following your heart will lead you astray if done apart from God. Instead, look to Jesus for guidance and trust Him to put His desires in your heart. He tells us in John 10:11, "I am the Good Shepherd." Follow Him.

# COLOR!



Trace the T-shirt and create a new design.



Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue  
righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with  
those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV)

# PRAYER POWER



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I would really like it if you will pray for me that God will show me what he has planned for me and help me to help others. – Dayton

Please pray that there are no bullies at my new school. – Norah

I would like a prayer for my grandma who is in the hospital and I'm really worried about her. She is not a Christian but I'm hoping she will get to know Jesus soon. – Bianca

I have Lyme disease...I am taking medicine twice a day like I'm supposed to. Just pray the Lyme disease will go away soon and I will survive it. – Emily

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

ENCOURAGEMENTS, TESTIMONIES, PRAYER REQUESTS

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**Send us your prayer requests.**

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