# Have No Fear!

READ: PSALM 23

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS STORY'S SUBJECT MATTER MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.

Hazel anxiously glanced around her bedroom. The night was clear and quiet, and the glowing moonlight shone through her window. Yet something still bothered her.

Her school had recently had a code red lockdown, which meant someone dangerous had gotten in. She and the rest of Mrs. Thompson's class had hidden in cupboards and behind desks, turned on their sides. What had only lasted eight minutes felt like an eternity. Finally the police arrived and took the person away.

Hazel was now very worried that someone bad would come back into her school and try to hurt people again. Or even worse, try to come into her own house! She heard a strange sound and dove underneath the covers.

Hazel sniffed and then started to cry. She wished she still shared a room with her older sister, Amber. Then she heard her door creak open. Hazel froze.

"Hazel?" A familiar, soothing voice filled Hazel's ears. "Honey, are you okay?"

"Mom?" Hazel threw back the covers and looked into the loving eyes of her mother. She tried to stop the tears and assure Mom she was okay, but she couldn't.

"What's wrong, Hazel?" Mom asked. "Is this about the lockdown?" Hazel hiccupped and said yes.

Mom thought for a moment. "Do you remember when Isaac was born?" Hazel nodded, remembering when her baby brother had been born with a serious heart defect. It was scary, and Hazel had been afraid he might die. But Isaac had gotten the heart transplant he needed and was now a happy baby.

"I remember how scary it was," Hazel replied, clutching her stuffed flamingo, Pinky.

Mom smiled and stroked Hazel's chestnut-colored hair. "But God took care of us and comforted us, even though we didn't know what was going to happen with Isaac, didn't He?" Hazel nodded. "Jesus saved us, and He promises to always be with us, even when we experience things that are scary or hard," said Mom. "You don't have to be afraid." She picked up Hazel's Bible. "Let's read Psalm 23. It's about how Jesus takes care of us, and I think it will help you sleep." After they read it together, Hazel snuggled under the covers and soon fell asleep. ❤ TAYLOR F. CAREY

---

## JESUS IS ALWAYS WITH YOU
### KEY VERSE
THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL; FOR YOU ARE WITH ME.  PSALM 23:4

---

## HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED IN YOUR LIFE THAT'S MADE YOU AFRAID?

Sometimes the world is a scary place. But if you trust Jesus as your Savior, you don't have to be afraid—He will always be with you and take care of you. He doesn't want you to be afraid, even when bad things happen. Instead, trust Him to take care of you in every situation and give you peace.

# Journal It!

**N**ow that you've spent the last few days learning about conquering fear, take some time to answer the questions below.

What are some things the characters learned about conquering fear this week? What is one thing you learned about it this week? _____
_____
_____

Read Exodus 3:10-12. What did God say when Moses was afraid he couldn't do what God had called him to do? _____
_____
_____

What are things that are making you afraid right now? What scares you the most about them? Talk to God about them in the space below. _____
_____
_____

What are ways God has taken care of you in the past? How is He taking care of you today? _____
_____
_____

Just like Mr. Bryant in "Becoming Friends," God gives us Christian friends so we can encourage each other when we're afraid. Who is a special friend like that to you? Who could you be that kind of friend to? _____
_____
_____

What verses about conquering fear from this week were your favorites? Which of these "peace verses" might help you remember to go to God during scary times?
_____
_____

If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are at peace with God. That means you have access to God's peace through the power of His Holy Spirit, who has come to be with and live within you always (Romans 5:1-5; John 14:16-17). The Holy Spirit gives you wisdom and strength in hard and scary situations (Luke 12:11-12; John 14:26; Ephesians 3:16).