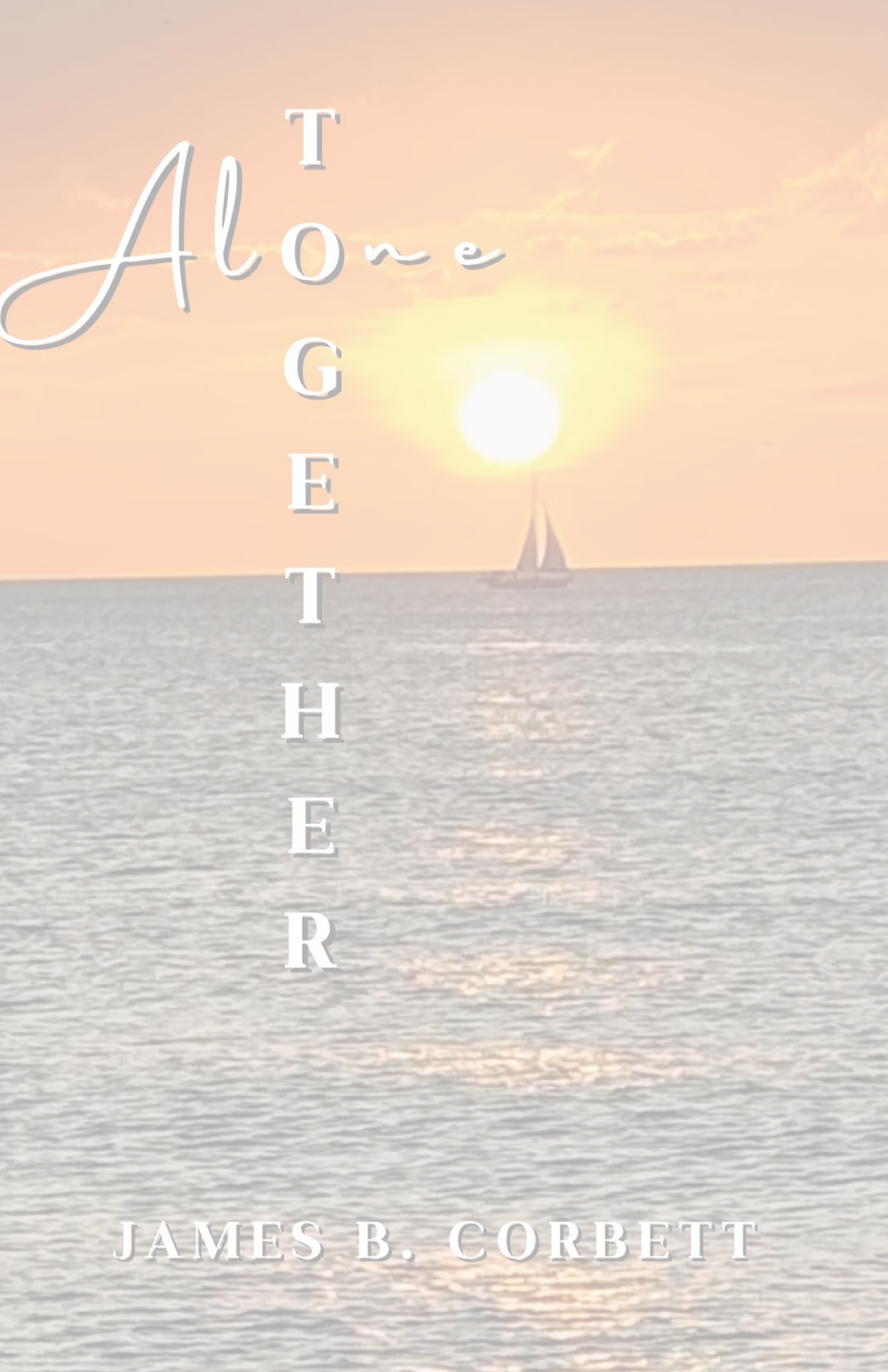
The background of the cover is a photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper right quadrant, casting a shimmering path of light across the dark, rippling water. A small sailboat is visible on the horizon line, positioned to the right of the center. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with some light clouds.

*Alone*

T  
O  
G  
E  
T  
H  
E  
R

JAMES B. CORBETT

A serene sunset scene over a vast ocean. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the center of the sky, casting a shimmering path of light across the water's surface. A small sailboat is visible on the horizon line, its sails catching the light. The sky is a mix of warm orange and yellow tones, with some light clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

*Alone*

T  
O  
G  
E  
T  
H  
E  
R

JAMES B. CORBETT

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Acknowledgment / Introduction

(John 12:24, Matthew 13:10-11)

## **SECTION 1**

### **LIFE**

Chapter 1 REJECTION

Chapter 2 VISITATIONS

Chapter 3 KINDMAN

Chapter 4 DR. LUKAS

## **SECTION 2**

### **LEARN**

Chapter 5 CHANGE

Chapter 6 MESSAGE

Chapter 7 APPOINTMENT

Chapter 8 DISCOVERY

## **SECTION 3**

### **LEAD**

Chapter 9 SAMUEL

Chapter 10 DRIVER

Joel 2:32/Luke 9:3-6

Pack Light Poem

Thoughts to Ponder

Closing

PRINTED BY  
888.473.6870



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

To Susan, my wife, thank you for your love, support, prayers and suggestions. Thank you, Glory to God team, Jamie, Wannetta, and Hannah for your encouragement. Lanita Boyd, whose many corrections and suggestions keep us credible, thank you. D.J. my son, whose suggestions, opinions and encouragement I respect greatly. The addition of Three Strands Solution, LLC and their representative Hannah Dilanchyan have made this project joyful.

**This vignette points to one Parable, with many tentacles:  
“Is Jesus enough?”**



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **John 12:24, NKJV**

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

### **Matthew 13:10-11, NIV**

The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.”

A parable for the remnant:

Alone = Set apart

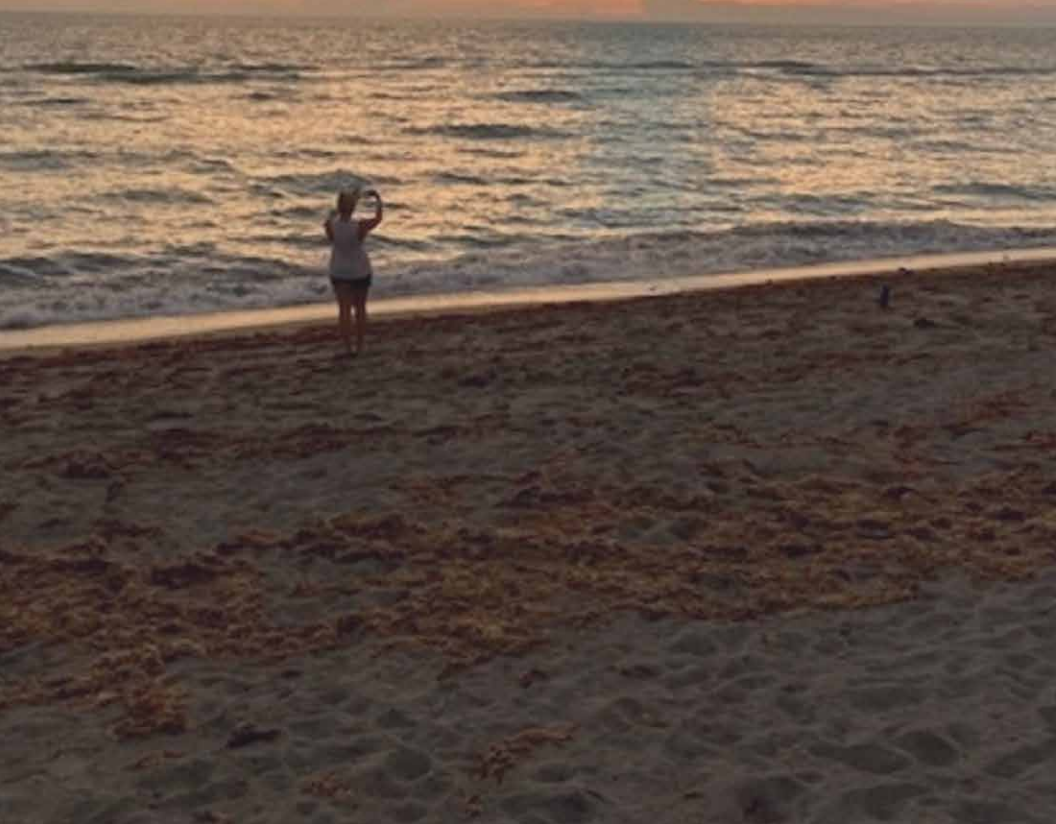
Together = Union





# Section 1

## Life



## **CHAPTER 1**

### **REJECTION**

“Terminate it, Hannah! This pregnancy is going to ruin our lives,” said the father.

Hannah whispered softly, “I can't do that!”

“What?” he said. “Hannah, I don't want anything to do with this baby if you go forward with this pregnancy. I'll pay for the termination and that's all.”

Hannah replied, “Good. Remember your words—nothing. You have nothing to do with this baby boy!” Hannah had known this would be the father's reaction. She had made a mistake six months ago, allowing herself to be in a compromising situation. She didn't want to believe it could lead to more than just a bad decision.

But she skipped one period, then another. She started having unusual sensations and went for a pregnancy test. The positive result left her speechless and sick to her stomach. Another month rolled by, and she made an appointment in another town with a pregnancy center to verify what she already knew. The child's vital signs were good, as were hers.

The pregnancy was entering the fifth month. Pregnant Hannah was in a fog mentally. How would she manage? More time passed and she felt the child's slight rotations and kicks. By the time the encounter with the biological father had taken place, she knew the baby was a boy and named him Samuel. At close to seven months, in the amniotic fluid of the embryonic phase, Samuel heard the words: "terminate it."

He felt stress on his mother's body and began to resist the rejection associated with being unwanted. Hannah placed her hands on her stomach and began humming a love song to her rejected son.

As the final months hastily moved by, both mother and son experienced being alone yet always together. Hannah was a very capable young professional woman with a determined resolve. It seemed Samuel would adopt many of her characteristics. Early on they became an intuitive pair, realizing that being alone is not always loneliness. They had an amniotic bond that allowed them to manage the rejection together. On a cold winter night in February, Samuel entered the birthing canal, never to return. Now Hannah and Samuel were alone together in a new way as the journey began.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **VISITATIONS**

Hannah found a way to balance her professional life as a human resource director with being a new mom. The company offered onsite childcare once Samuel was three months old. The maternity leave and some personal time carried them through those first few months. Both Samuel and Hannah were healthy and adjusting to their routine. Samuel was a normal baby boy; all his medical protocols were normal. All signs indicated that a healthy child had come into the world.

Midway through Samuel's fifth year, he started having periodic nightmares, suddenly waking and screaming, having difficulty catching his breath. It was sporadic at first but extreme when it happened. Hannah noticed Stickmen-like figures on Samuel's art papers from kindergarten. The episodes were infrequent at first and everyone said that some kids go through these things. Hannah even recalled her parents mentioning something similar in her childhood. This slowed down as Samuel was turning six.

Then they began again with more regularity. Samuel would be terrified, unable to breathe due to his fright. He was so frightened he couldn't even speak.

The artwork from school was presenting stick-like figures weekly. Samuel was also drawing lights around the figures. Hannah decided she was going to schedule an appointment with their pediatrician to review the art sheets and characteristics of the episodes, hoping to obtain a referral to a specialist.

Dr. Lukas was very attentive to Hannah and reviewed all the papers and written notes Hannah had put together. He said to Hannah, “Sometimes these nightmares come to children around this age. There is very little scientific study in this area. They really don’t know why it occurs in a relatively small percentage of children.

“The good news,” Dr. Lucas said, “is that all the cases I’ve monitored have outgrown it. Meaning,” he added, “we wait, only prescribing medication if necessary.” He suggested keeping a journal of all the artwork and comments Samuel made about the visits.

Hannah asked Dr. Lukas, “Is there any evidence that any of this activity is really happening?”

Dr. Lukas replied, “Not to my knowledge.”

Hannah kept the journals faithfully and began recording all Samuel’s comments. They got to a place where Hannah could question Samuel, and he would answer her very

matter-of-factly. Hannah would ask, “Samuel, did the Stickmen visit you?”

He would respond, “Yes.”

Hannah would ask what they were doing. Samuel would usually say, “Just looking at me. Sometimes poking at me, but I can’t move!”

“Samuel,” she asked, “what are they like?”

“Like Dr. Lukas. Looking over me!”

Hannah was startled as she began to realize it seemed like a medical evaluation of some kind. Something made her think that perhaps when a prodigy or servant arrives, they are identified somehow! Then she scolded herself for being silly.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **KINDMAN**

The visitations took a new direction as Samuel's sixth birthday drew near. Samuel never brought up the encounters, but Hannah would ask about them. One Saturday after Samuel was in his room for a quiet time, he came out while Hannah was baking in the kitchen.

Samuel said, "The Kindman said he knows you!" Hannah looked at Samuel and asked, "What Kindman?"

Samuel replied, "The one in my room who made the Stickmen go away." "What does the Kindman look like, Samuel?" she asked.

He walked into his room and brought out a drawing he made for his mom. "I never saw his front or his face. He was in a cloud!"

"What did he want, Samuel?"

"He was kind, nice, and asked the Stickmen to go away, and they did. He said they wouldn't come back. I am so happy he came and spoke to them. I'm not frozen with fear when the Kindman is around."

Hannah asked Samuel, "Did the Kindman mention what he wanted?"

"Yes," Samuel said, "he wants to be our friend! He has a message for you, Mommy! He said he can't stay long. Do you know him, Mommy? He's so kind and strong. I'm sure you must remember him."

"Remember him?" Hannah said.

"Yes, he said he visited you when you were my age! Do you remember?"

Hannah's mind was racing. What is going on with my beautiful baby boy? I barely remember those childhood dreams. Kindman? Stickmen? We need to go back to Dr. Lukas and share this new development.



## **CHAPTER 4**

### **DOCTOR LUKAS**

It took a few weeks to get an appointment to see Dr. Lukas. Hannah was ready for the appointment with detailed notes, Samuel's sketches, and a timeline of when Samuel's encounters occurred. The Stickmen's visitations were totally random, but the Kindman always came during quiet time in the afternoon. Samuel welcomed the Kindman's visits and hadn't spoken of the scary Stickmen again.

"It's almost like the Kindman is an imaginary friend for Samuel," Hannah told Dr. Lukas. "He's very comfortable talking about their short visits. You can tell Samuel enjoys his imaginary friend. He's not so alone!"

Dr. Lukas was very attentive to everything Hannah presented. He was especially interested in the transition from the Stickmen to the Kindman. The office ran all Samuel's vital signs, and they were perfect. They also ran a blood profile that revealed a slightly elevated enzyme panel. It was only a borderline elevation that would normally not be a cause for immediate action. Dr. Lukas shared the findings with Hannah. He mentioned that normal protocol would be to monitor the

condition every six months.

The next step would be a scan of Samuel's skull to look for any tumors. The enzyme was a marker for this possibility. Since Samuel was not quite seven, he was rather young to run this test. However, with the longevity of Samuel's visitation imagery, Dr. Lukas felt it to be a healthy next step. It would take a month or so to get that scheduled. Until then, it was business as usual for Hannah, Samuel, and his new friend. As they waited for the appointment to come, Hannah kept journaling and collecting Samuel's sketches.

# Section 2

## Learn

---



## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CHANGES**

Shortly after Samuel's seventh birthday, the scan was completed. The appointment with Dr. Lukas was set for the following week to review the findings.

Once they arrived, the nurses took all the normal vital signs and measurements. Then they took Hannah and Samuel to Dr. Lukas's office rather than his examination room. Dr. Lucas arrived with his nurse and another doctor. He asked Samuel to go with his nurse to the playroom while he had time with his mother. This was not unusual as many conversations over the years were between them with Samuel enjoying the toy box in the playroom.

Once things settled down, Dr. Lukas introduced Dr. Melissa Todd, a specialist in pediatric brain medicine. The mood in the room changed instantly with the introduction. "Hannah, I've asked Dr. Todd to assist in what was found in the report on Samuel's brain scan. There is evidence of a tumor in the hindbrain of Samuel's scan. It is located right where the brainstem connects to the spinal cord, also close to the cerebellum.

“Hannah, I've asked Dr. Todd to join me as she specializes in this area of medicine. First, Hannah, this is a lot, so please help us move at a pace you are comfortable with.”

Hannah was numb, speechless, and confused. She said, “Dr. Todd, what does this really mean?”

Dr. Todd said, “Hannah, Samuel has a significant tumor in an area of the brain that is virtually impossible to get to. Any number of things can go very wrong going into this part of the brain. I hesitate even to biopsy the tumor for fear of nicking the spinal cord. This part of the brain controls many automatic functions which Samuel is having no issues with presently. The tumor is positioned in a spot which doesn't leave room for growth. It's up against the top of the spine and not a candidate for surgical removal. All other chemotherapies and radiation protocols would also be very risky and could cause collateral damage to Samuel's quality of life. Without a biopsy, we cannot determine if the tumor is benign or malignant. Hannah, if the tumor is malignant or becomes so and metastasizes, the survival prognosis is 3 to 6 months.”

This was a complete bloodbath of information!

Hannah started to weep as the doctors held back their own tears. Hannah asked for a few moments to gather her

thoughts. After a short while, she asked Dr. Todd, “Where do we go from here?”

“Hannah, Samuel shows no signs that the tumor is invasive presently. He’s a normal, active seven-year-old boy. He loves being in the ballfields with his neighborhood friends. He’s showing no signs of premature fatigue or loss of muscle faculties. My suggestion is to allow Samuel his childhood. Let him play and do all his usual activities. You are doing a wonderful job, journaling his activities and collecting his sketches. Keep it going and let’s increase his examination frequency to every four months, understanding that if anything unusual begins to present, we get him in right away.

“Hannah, what I’m suggesting is that we allow Samuel as much of a normal childhood as possible. We pray the tumor stays benign forever and does not metastasize and grow. Samuel getting out and bumping around with his friends won’t have any impact on the tumor or genetic makeup. So allow Samuel to have his childhood and imaginary friends for as long as possible. If the tumor begins to grow, we can discuss some radiation protocols at that time, assessing the risk or reward matrix if necessary.”

Everyone was silent after Dr. Todd’s comments. What can anyone say when this kind of gut punch comes into your life?

Hannah wanted to scream out in anger, but she knew that would only make things harder.

In her mind, she was asking, *What kind of world lays this massive load on such a sweet child?* Surely the doctors must have been thinking their own versions of the same question.

A child unwanted from inception, bringing such joy to a resolute mother. Now they carry this threat forward through life. Once again, Hannah is left facing reality alone together with her boy!

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **MESSAGE**

Samuel loves playing baseball with neighborhood boys. He also loves his periodic visits from his imaginary Kindman. The day after his tumor diagnosis, Samuel was having his quiet time while Hannah was fixing their lunch. Once everything was set, she gave Samuel another 30 minutes or so to rest. Then she called him to the kitchen.

Samuel came right out with his great big smile. He was unusually happy and full of energy. Hannah asked Samuel why he was so happy. He said, "My friends are playing baseball this afternoon. Can I go?"

"Of course," Hannah replied.

"Our Kindman was waiting for me in the room today. He said I was a fine baseball player, and he loves seeing all us boys playing in the field. He said I was an excellent hitter!"

Hannah said, "Well, he's right, Samuel. You are a good batter."

"Mom, the Kindman left you a note on the desk in my room. I'm going to ride over to the field now, okay? Bye, Mom!"



A note for me? As soon as Samuel disappeared down the long, inclined driveway, Hannah made a direct path to Samuel's room. Sure enough, right in the middle of his little desk was a note on Samuel's coloring paper. It said,

**“TRUST THE CURRENCY, HANNAH.”**

Hannah sat down on his little bed, looking at the note, realizing it was clearly not Samuel's handwriting. She started getting frightened, thinking a real person was in her home. A quick check set her at ease. She simply sat at the kitchen table looking at the note, wondering what it could mean. *How did it get there? Trust what currency? About what?* Then Hannah flipped the page on the sketchpad, and there was another handwritten note.

**“JESUS IS THE CURRENCY FOR ETERNAL LIFE.”**

**“TRUST THE CURRENCY, HANNAH.”**

This imaginary friend, the Kindman, is talking to me, Hannah realized.

Hannah wasn't well-versed in religion, but she sensed he was talking to her about Samuel's diagnosis. Is he saying Jesus is the "Currency" for eternal life for my son? That I should trust him?

This is so strange and unreal for Hannah. She instantly began wondering how to begin to understand these strange notes.

**"TRUST THE CURRENCY, HANNAH."**

**"JESUS IS THE CURRENCY FOR ETERNAL LIFE."**

**"TRUST THE CURRENCY, HANNAH."**

Then she recalled a statement Dr. Todd made during their time together the day before. "Allow Samuel as much normal childhood as possible. We pray the tumors stay benign forever and never grow."

Perhaps Dr. Todd is religious. Maybe she can explain this message or give an opinion of what it means, Hannah thought. She immediately called to set a time to discuss this message with her. The appointment was set the week before Samuel's eighth birthday.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **APPOINTMENT**

Hannah arranged for Samuel to stay at a neighbor's house to play with his friend Oscar while she went to the meeting with Dr. Todd. Samuel loved being with Oscar. They would play army, joining all their army men together for these elaborate battles. Many times, they took over most of the basement living area as a battleground. Hannah knew she didn't have to hurry as Samuel would stay with Oscar all day if he could.

Upon her arrival, Hannah was taken right in to see Dr. Todd. They greeted warmly and got down to business. They had met for the first time three weeks earlier at Dr. Lukas's office to review Samuel's tumor diagnosis. Hannah began by thanking Dr. Todd for coming in early to facilitate their meeting, also showing appreciation for her compassion during their last meeting.

"Dr. Todd, I am here today to see if you can help me make sense of something that happened with Samuel the day after our last meeting. After we returned home, we fell back into our normal Saturday routine. I was in the kitchen while Samuel had some quiet time in his room before lunch. After lunch, he

and his friends always play baseball at the neighborhood field if it's not raining.

As Samuel was heading to the game, he mentioned his imaginary friend Kindman left me a note in his room. So of course, once Samuel left on his bike, I went into his room to check it out.

“Sure, enough. On his coloring pad was this note. Not in Samuel's handwriting!” Hannah handed the pad to Dr. Todd so she could review the note.

It read: “Trust the currency, Hannah. Jesus is the currency for eternal life. Trust the currency, Hannah.”

As Dr. Todd gazed at the note, she was clearly taken aback by it! “This is obviously not Samuel's handwriting,” Dr. Todd said. “What do you think it means, Hannah?”

Hannah replied, “I was hoping you could help me with that question, Dr. Todd. I am not a religious person. When we were together at Dr. Lukas's office, you mentioned ‘praying’ for the tumor to stay benign and not grow. Are you religious, Dr. Todd? Can you explain how this note got on Samuel's coloring pad addressed to me?”

Dr. Todd sat back in her office chair, looked directly into Hannah's eyes, paused a moment, and said, “Yes!

“While I don't consider myself religious, I am a believer in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Yes, again, I do have an opinion on how this note came to you, Hannah.

“I am sharing with you now my personal convictions, not as a surgeon at this hospital. Hannah, this word, ‘CURRENCY,’ is a means of exchange. The note is telling you, ‘Jesus is the means of exchange for eternal life.’

“Biblically, we learn that Jesus was fully God and became fully man for the purpose of an exchange—to freely exchange his human life for our human sin and to open the gates of heaven for eternity for all who believe. Hannah, you and Samuel have been granted an immeasurable gift. Your son's Kindman is a messenger from heaven, offering you both an opportunity for eternity. The only question left, Hannah, is will you accept your gift? Will you lead Samuel to his?”

Now Hannah's mind felt like it was exploding. What does this mean? “Dr. Todd, I don't even know what questions to ask. What should I do from here?”

After a brief pause, Dr. Todd replied, “Hannah, you've had a lot come at you in a short period of time. My suggestion is to take some time to ponder and review all these events. Perhaps take an hour at home before retrieving Samuel and just sit quietly and consider all these coincidences.

"I ask you also to listen from your heart and disengage your intellect. There are so many things in life that we don't know intellectually. Yet it's important to understand that 'I don't know,' at times, is the only acceptable answer. If you ask why these things are happening to you and Samuel, I sincerely do not know! However, we have evidence that someone or something does.

"This Kindman is offering an answer. Can we trust the exchange for eternal life with Jesus and his kind army? Hannah," Dr. Todd continued, "your intellect alone without your heart will hinder your discovery. Open your heart as well as your mind and consider our Kindman's offer.

"Now that you know the parable of the currency, consider the exchange and what it can mean in your life and in Samuel's. Please see me as a resource for questions and guidance on your discovery journey.

"My closing request is this: You go home from here and invest an hour in the calm of your home, asking this Jesus you're not sure about to help you discover the truth about him for you and Samuel. Ask him to help you disconnect your intellect-only mindset and open your spiritual heart.

"An hour can be a long time, Hannah, so please be patient and persevere.

Remember to listen with your heart more than talking in your mind."

"Hannah, I want to give you something. Here is a Bible as my gift to you on your journey. It's a version I believe you will enjoy, and I've put my card at the beginning of the book of Matthew. After your quiet time and your afternoon with Samuel, once Samuel is asleep, read the section written by Matthew to begin your discovery of this exchange. Please keep in mind I'm available to help you on your journey.

"Hannah, I also feel it's critical that I make you mindful of busyness and distractions. This is your moment, Hannah, so be very intentional about your pursuit of truth."

As Dr. Todd walked Hannah out of her office, Hannah knew their life was about to change.

## CHAPTER 8

### DISCOVERY

Hannah did exactly as Dr. Todd suggested. She went home, started the tea pot, and quietly investigated Samuel's room, where the Kindman encounters occurred.

Once the water started to whistle, Hannah made her tea, then settled down in her favorite chair. *Okay, Jesus, your turn! What do I need to know? What do I need to do? When do I need to do it?* Then she began the most difficult task—to listen. Hannah was surprised at the peace she felt as she sat in her chair. It was noticeable to her, even though nothing specific came to her. She was very content just being in that place. She began seeing all the coincidences that had happened to them over the past eight years.

*Was this Jesus being anonymous like the Kindman?* She questioned. *How much of this should she share with eight-year-old Samuel, if any?* The tumor diagnosis put an urgency on almost everything she considered for Samuel.

Hannah broke her silence and said, “Please help me, Jesus, to do right by Samuel.”



The hour seemed to evaporate so quickly. Soon it was time to retrieve Samuel from the neighbors and prepare dinner.

Samuel was sorry his playtime was finished, but he always cooperated when his mom said it was time to go. He was elated at all the fun he had with Oscar. No one would know this child had a tumor in his brain.

Once home, Hannah served dinner and she and Samuel sat down to eat. Samuel asked, “Mom, who is Jesus?”

Hannah almost choked on her food. She said, “Why do you ask, Samuel?”

“We had lunch while you were gone, and Oscar’s mom thanked Jesus for our food. I looked all around, and we were the only people there. The lunch was great, and I wanted to thank him too! So, who is Jesus?”

“Samuel,” Hannah replied, “I’m not sure, but let’s learn more about him together, okay?”

“That would be fun, Mom. He makes a great hamburger!” Samuel said.

Samuel and Hannah had a nice time together after dinner, talking about his day and all the fun he had visiting Oscar. Once Samuel went to bed, Hannah pulled out her gift from Dr. Todd to start reading. As she opened the Bible, she recalled

her opening thought during her quiet time.

*Okay, Jesus, your turn!*

Then she remembered her closing request. *Please help me Jesus, to do right by Samuel.* Then out of nowhere, Samuel asked, “Who is Jesus?” A coincidence, or Jesus being anonymous?

As Hannah completed reading the book of Matthew, she realized the entire story stressed that Jesus is God with us. Because he is with us in the person of Jesus, we have the assurance that we can face anything in life as we wholeheartedly serve him. The book gives each of us a call to proclaim the good news to all people. *Just as Dr. Todd has done for us!*

Hannah felt like a guiding presence had been with her ever since she left the appointment with Dr. Todd. She gleaned from the reading of Matthew the triune God concept—God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. *Was this Holy Spirit guiding this journey?* Hannah wondered how the Kindman friend Samuel had might relate to this Holy Spirit. So much to ponder! *Well, Hannah concluded, if God's my guide, what can hinder?*

# Section 3

## Lead



## **CHAPTER 9**

### **SAMUEL**

Samuel and Hannah stayed diligent to their pledge to learn about Jesus together. They even attended church with their neighbors a few times. Samuel loved the children's church class with Oscar. He would draw and play and listen to lessons about Jesus.

Hannah was also learning and reading and asking questions of Dr. Todd periodically. One evening after dinner, Samuel told his mom, "The Kindman came by today. It has been a while since his last visit, and it was great to see him."

He said the Kindman was so full of joy and smiles, even more than he normally was. "He is so excited that we are learning all about Jesus! He said heaven is jumping with joy, seeing our enthusiasm and dedication. They are so happy for us, and I am too. Mom, we want to be in heaven together someday, right?"

Hannah replied, "Yes, we sure do, Samuel."

"Mom, the Kindman said there is a place for us there and it's beautiful.

Mom, can we live with Jesus and the Kindman someday?”

“Oh, Samuel, you bet! Let's ask Jesus right now to hold our spot. How's that sound?”

“Great, Mom,” Samuel said.

Hannah held Samuel's hands and asked Jesus to be their king for eternal life. She said, “My son Samuel and I wish to be in your kingdom forever together, Jesus. Don't we, Samuel?”

Samuel said, “Oh, yes, and Jesus, can Mom and I live close to our Kindman?”

He is awesome!”

Tears of joy rolled down Hannah's face as they concluded their prayer. Samuel asked, “Are you okay, Mom?”

Hannah replied, “More than okay, Samuel. Today I feel like we've done right by each other.”

As the summer continued to roll by, Hannah started noticing that Samuel was sleeping later in the mornings. *Well, that happens as children grow*, she thought. Then a few weeks later she noticed he started leaving his ball glove and bat at the field after the neighborhood games. This happened a few times, so Hannah decided to schedule an appointment

with Dr. Todd to discuss these new findings and have Samuel examined.

Once Hannah called and explained her reason for the call, they fit them in the next Monday right after Hannah got off work.

Hannah and Samuel had Friday plans to have dinner at their neighbor's house. Saturday was Samuel's day to ride to the ballfield and play baseball after lunch. Samuel and Hannah had a wonderful evening with their neighbors. The grown-ups stayed at the dining table having coffee while the boys hit the basement for an "All-Madden video game."

Saturday was another beautiful day for neighborhood baseball. Samuel hustled up all his chores, so he was ready to go after lunch. As was customary, Samuel ate lunch quickly and asked permission to ride his bike to the ballfield.

"Of course, Son," Hannah said. As Hannah was rinsing off the dishes, she could see Samuel sitting on his bike, looking down the long driveway to the road, as he had so many times in the past. He had his huge baseball smile. The crooked ball cap and ball glove hung on the handlebars of his bike.

Hannah noticed an unusual stare in Samuel's eyes as he looked down the driveway. She turned to see what it was and noticed a small cloud at the end of the driveway. It didn't look

like fog as it was full of a soft white light and was only in that one spot. She heard Samuel shout, “Is it time?”

And he took off down the driveway, disappearing into the cloud. A second later, the horror of screeching car tires sent the message every parent fears.

Samuel was gone!

As Hannah ran to the end of the driveway, she saw her son lying in a grassy patch right next to his bike. He was on his back, arms resting slightly over his head. There was not a scratch on him anywhere. A beautiful joyous smile shone on his face. There was no sign of any damage to his bike or the car that screeched to a halt several feet from Samuel and Hannah.

The driver, a mother herself, was alone and visibly devastated. Hannah continued to kneel over her boy. She began to realize that he was not struck by the car. His little body was perfect with no sign of any impact. As the driver and Hannah knelt over Samuel, they didn’t have to say anything to each other. They embraced and wept over the loss.

The paramedics later described in their report that there was no visible sign of physical impact anywhere on Samuel’s body or the bicycle. “It’s as if he just left us.”

Hannah's neighbors came, and once the paramedics completed their work ushered her back to her home. The entire neighborhood was with her, yet all she could see was Samuel's smile, ball cap and glove still on his handlebars. Then she thought about the Kindman and his message:

**“TRUST THE CURRENCY, HANNAH.”**

**“JESUS IS THE CURRENCY FOR ETERNAL LIFE.”**

**“TRUST THE CURRENCY, HANNAH.”**

As the paramedics were preparing to depart, Hannah asked them to please contact Dr. Todd's office and inform them about Samuel. She then thanked all her kind neighbors and asked for the rest of the evening to be by herself with her thoughts.



## CHAPTER 10

### DRIVER

Dr. Todd was in her office when the paramedics notified her about Samuel. She immediately asked her staff to notify Dr. Lukas's office. She then asked them to get the coroner's office on the phone for her. Dr. Todd was a highly respected children's brain doctor in the area and knew the coroner well. She wanted to get a biopsy of Samuel's tumor as soon as possible. The coroner told Dr. Todd that due to the lack of any visible trauma on Samuel, they were planning to conduct an autopsy for determination later that day. They asked if she'd like to collect her specimen during their procedure.

Dr. Todd said, "Yes, I can be there by 4 o'clock this afternoon if that works for you." Hannah's earlier disclosure of Samuel's forgetfulness and lethargy had already raised several red flags for Dr. Todd. She wanted to get the pathology of her samples processed quickly to share with Hannah.

This past year of learning about Jesus with Samuel brought Hannah into a nightly routine of sitting in her comfortable chair after Samuel went to bed, simply being with Jesus.

Tonight, they will truly be: **"Alone • Together."**

The pain of being apart from Samuel for the first time in eight years was massive. Hannah wept over the void, crying out to Jesus, "Is my Samuel well?" She closed her eyes for a short minute but dozed off. In the haze of rest, she saw Samuel holding hands with his Kindman, and the Kindman was carrying a baseball glove for Samuel.

The next day she went into the garage to look at Samuel's bike. The hat was on the handlebars, but the baseball glove was gone. Hannah looked and smiled and said, "Samuel is better than well!"

About the time Hannah was walking back into the house, Dr. Todd pulled into her driveway. They locked eyes, no words needed. Dr. Todd hugged Hannah for the longest time, repeating, "You did well for Samuel! You did very well, my sister."

Once they sat down, Dr. Todd told Hannah she had some news to share.

"Hannah, the coroner's office was kind enough to allow me to obtain a biopsy of Samuel's tumor. We took it to the lab for immediate testing. The tumor was growing up the brain stem. It was malignant and was positioning for aggressive growth. Hannah, within a month or less Samuel would not have been able to ride his bike, hit a ball, or play with his friends.

“Hannah, it was clear from the autopsy Samuel was not hit by the vehicle. He had absolutely no trauma to his body, and all his organs were normal. Your son walked into eternity with his Kindman by his side. No signs of pain, only joy on his face!”

After Dr. Todd completed her report, there were tears of joy. Surely the physical absence of Samuel will ache for a time. But knowing the **exchange** allowed Samuel his dignity ahead of the destruction was riveting for both Hannah and Dr. Todd.

Hannah was so thankful to Dr. Todd for all she had done. She told Dr. Todd she had one more important thing to do.

Hannah asked the driver to visit her at her home later that evening. She wanted the driver to know about Samuel's cancer condition, the prognosis, and what she had learned from Dr. Todd. She wanted the driver to know it was God's mercy that carried her son to eternity, and that her vehicle had nothing to do with Samuel's death. She explained that while she will desperately miss her son's physical presence, God's mercy did not allow his tumor to rob Samuel of one minute of his dignity.

That evening at Hannah's dinner table, she also shared how she and Samuel came to learn about Jesus and the **exchange** that leads to eternal life. The driver was so thankful to Hannah for everything she shared.

Hannah ended their time together where the story really began:

**“ALONE • TOGETHER!”**

For eternity

~ The End ~

## **“TRUST THE CURRENCY”**

And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

Joel 2:32 NKJV

## **“PACK-LIGHT”**

He told them: Take nothing for the journey – No staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.

Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.

So, they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

Luke 9:3-6,NIV

# PACK - LIGHT

## POEM

As the waters move the reeds,  
So the Lord is moving me.

Pack light!

As one wanders through this life,  
Bondage wants to tether tight.

Pack light! Pack light!

Only by intentionality,  
Can we shed our tendencies.

Pack light!

It is time to cry out,  
Free from bondage, free from fright.

Pack light! Pack light!

On this journey for our soul,  
We discover His ultimate goal.

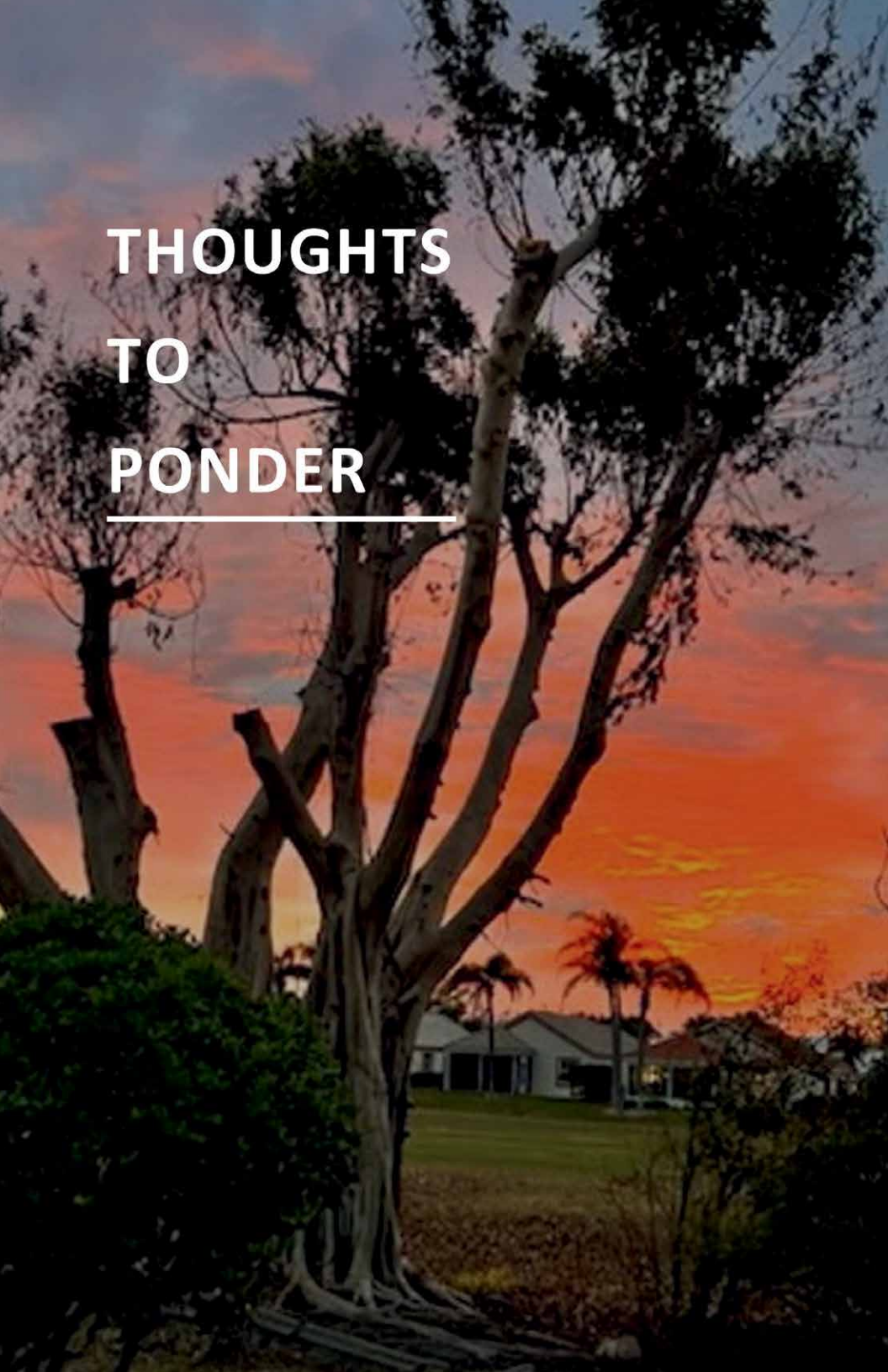
Pack light!

All we need we have in Him,  
The blood of Jesus covers our sin.

Pack light! Pack light!

It seems so simple yet it's not,  
Until we surrender all that we've got.

Pack light!

A large, gnarled tree with thick, light-colored bark stands in the foreground, its branches reaching upwards. The background features a vibrant sunset sky with orange and pink hues. In the distance, a white house with a dark roof is visible on a grassy hill, surrounded by palm trees and other vegetation. The overall scene is serene and contemplative.

**THOUGHTS  
TO  
PONDER**

---

## Section 1 Review

1) Have you ever felt alone, due to a decision?

What was that like for you?

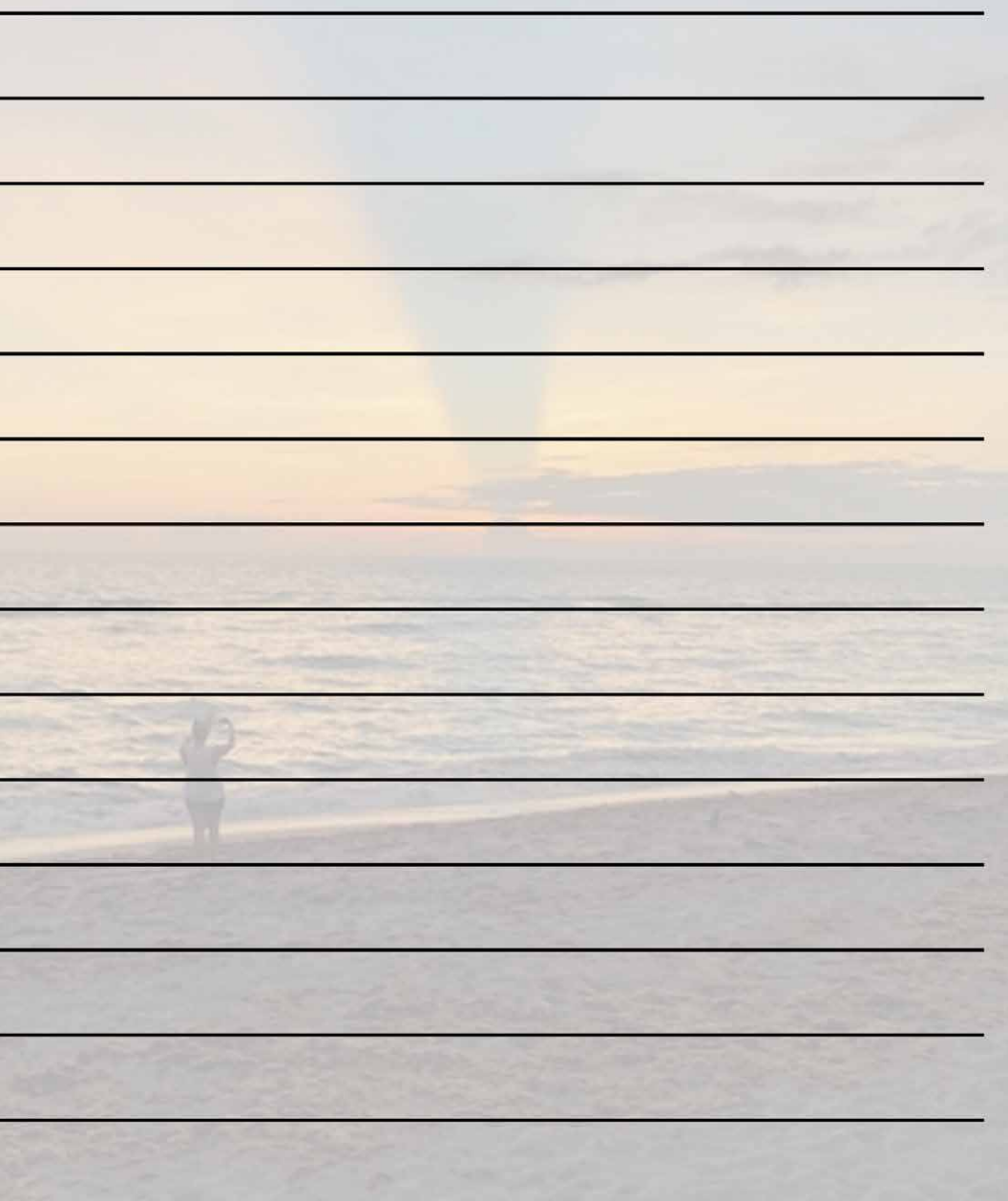
2) What are some benefits of being alone? (Set apart).

3) Is being alone, loneliness?

4) Have you met your kindman? Mr. or Mrs. Coincidence?



# Personal Notes



## Section 2 Review

1) What does “trust the currency” mean to you?

2) Are you living “forgiven” because of the “exchange?”

3) How can being Alone • Together build trust in the eternal exchange?

4) Jesus is the “currency” for eternal life. Have you accepted your gift from him? (Currency = A means of exchange)



## Section 3 Review

1) Is Jesus enough?

2) Alone = Set apart

Together = Union

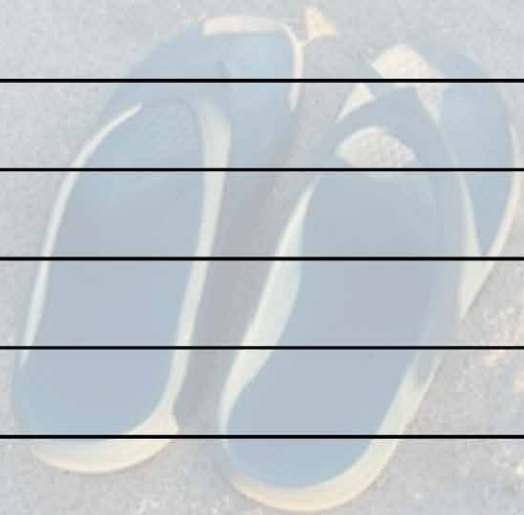
Do you see yourself set apart for an eternal union?

3) Are you flowing in the currency?

Living • Learning • Leading

4) "Pack - Light." What does that mean to you?

# Personal Notes



# CLOSING COMMENTS

---

PARABLE  
E  
M  
N  
A  
ALONE  
TOGETHER

---

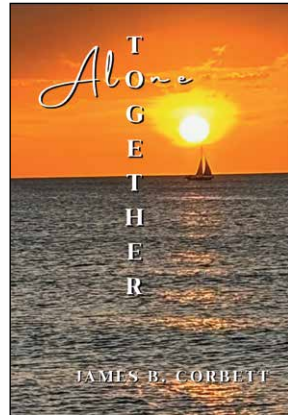
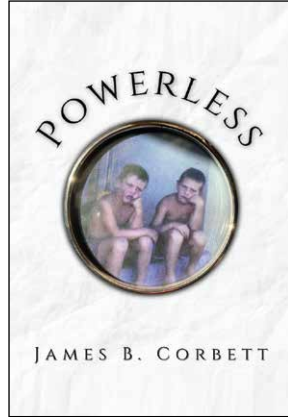
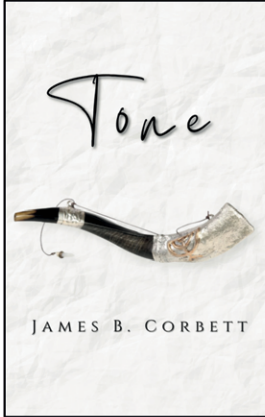
“SET APART FOR AN ETERNAL UNION”

---

IS JESUS ENOUGH?

# CONTACT INFORMATION

We hope you enjoyed Hannah's story. We are grateful to share this complimentary book from Glory to God International Ministries. Visit our website to read more books written by Jim Corbett: [www.GTGIM.org](http://www.GTGIM.org).



---

A printable PDF is available online at [www.GTGIM.org/AloneTogether](http://www.GTGIM.org/AloneTogether)  
Comments and Connections Welcome

