

# made

a way from dirt to something beautiful



Written by Kimberly Amos • Paintings by Givean Thomu

This book is dedicated to Scottie,  
the little brother who always helped me see  
Jesus in the room through blind eyes.



God made light  
in the dark.

This light is in us,  
yet we are like  
clay jars.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

All scripture references in this book are paraphrased, not quoted.

*Holy Bible: World English Bible.* (2000). Colorado.  
Rainbow Missions.

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This book was **made** with love for

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*your name here*

Written by Kimberly Amos  
Paintings by Givean Thomu

Before I made  
you, I knew  
you.

Jeremiah 1:5



## Visual Teaching

*Made* is a message of God's love that can be shared with or without words. Every picture and color in this book is used to reveal something beautiful.



The dirt or clay signifies us as people who each have the ability to transform as we grow closer to God and each other.



The gold in every heart and in every broken part of us is a way of sharing that God is in our hearts and our hurts.

Aa

The same font is used for both the scripture passages and characters' bubble talk to show that our human story is a critical part of God's eternal story.



The stars connecting the gold pages where God's word is to the character pages show us a connection from heaven to earth . . . from God to each one of us.



The vine under every verse slowly comes into focus more and more as the character transforms. When the characters begin to realize that they would like to help others who hurt like them, a caterpillar appears on the vine. The caterpillar slowly moves down the vine until he makes his way to the plant that the three jars grew together. This plant is now a safe place for the caterpillar to rest and transform. This is a way to teach that God is like the vine and always provides a way to love and serve each other as we become more like Christ.

God made us  
from dust and  
gave us life.

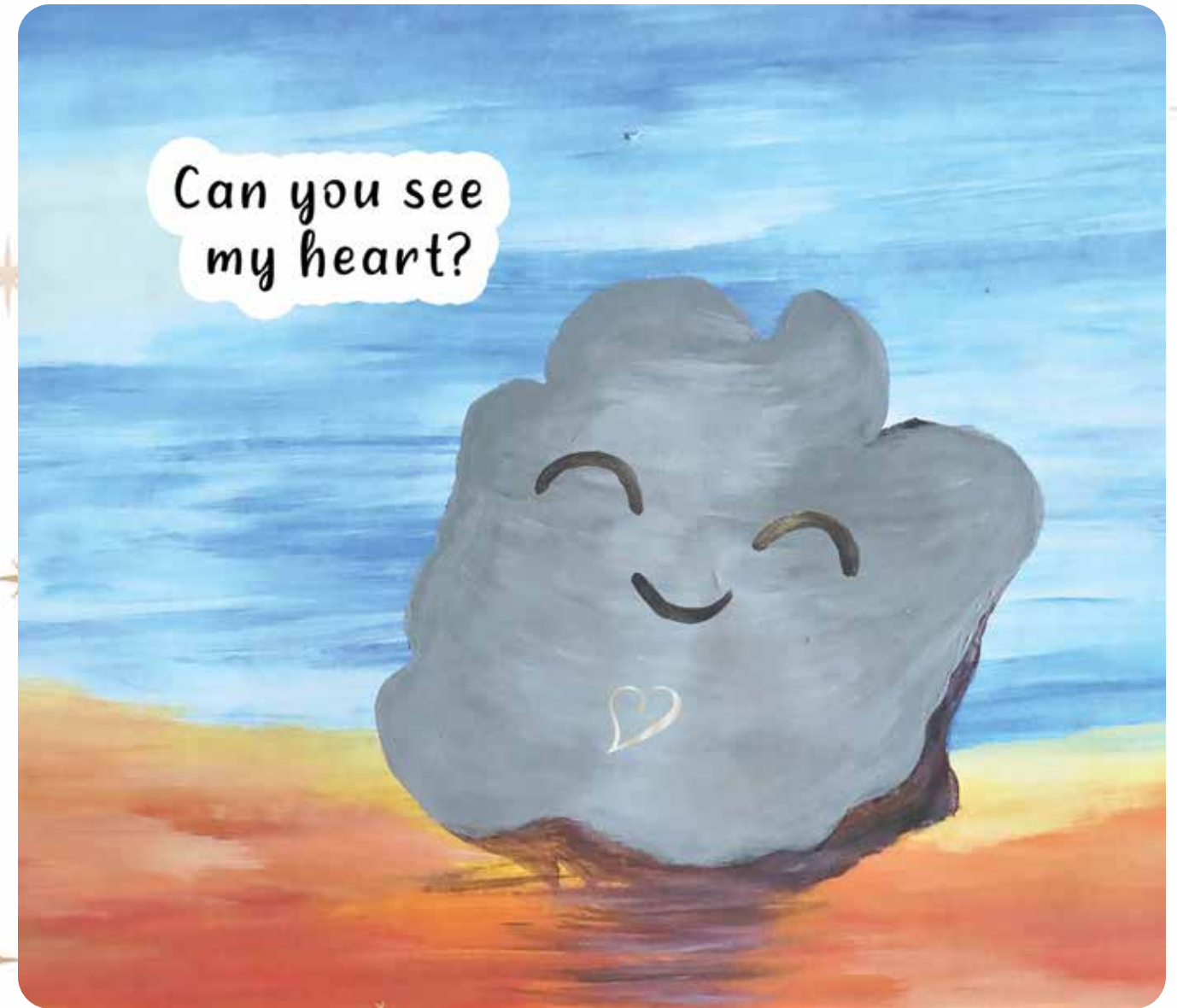
Genesis 2:7



At first, you might think I'm just a ball of dirt.

God lives in us.  
His love makes  
us whole.

1 John 4:12



Come closer and you will find something beautiful inside of me. It's inside of you too!

God's spirit is  
in you. He will  
guide you.

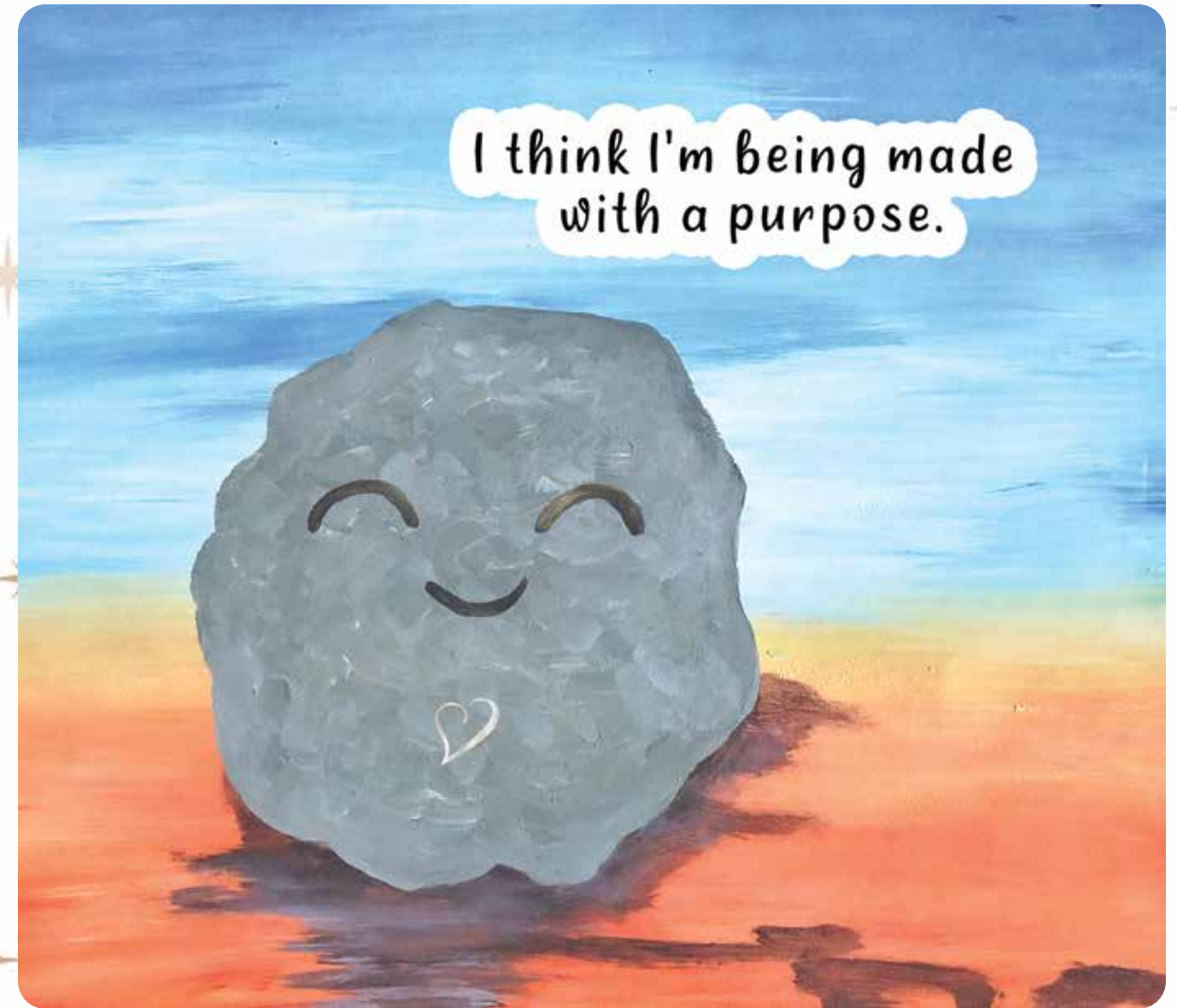
Galatians 5:16



God made each one of us with  
his love for a reason.

God chose  
us to be part  
of his family.

Ephesians 1:5



He created us to love us,  
no matter what shape we are in.



When we make  
space for God, we  
start to see who  
we really are.

Matthew 16:25

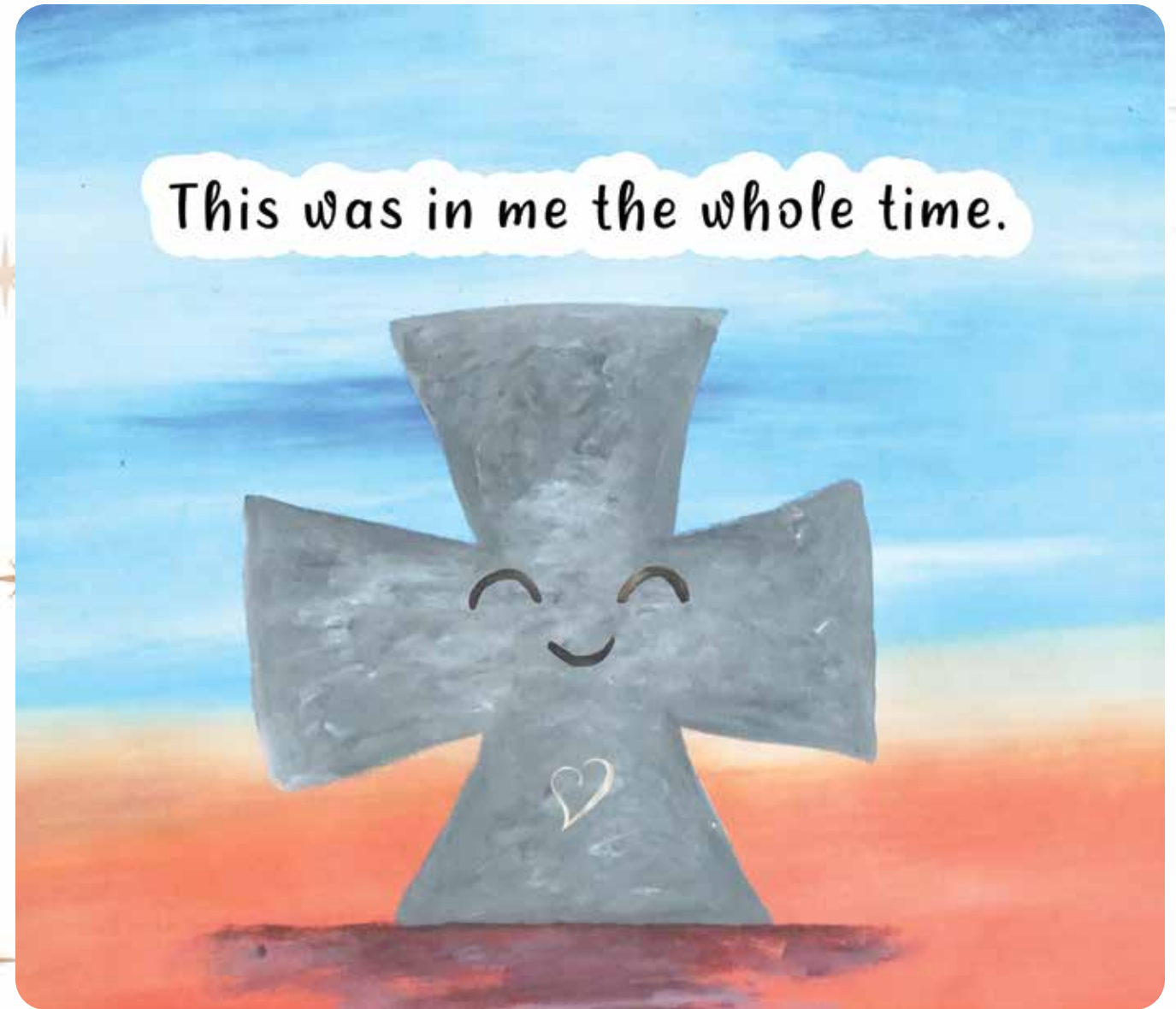


We may need to let go of things  
as he works in our lives.

God made his  
children to be  
like Jesus.

Romans 8:29

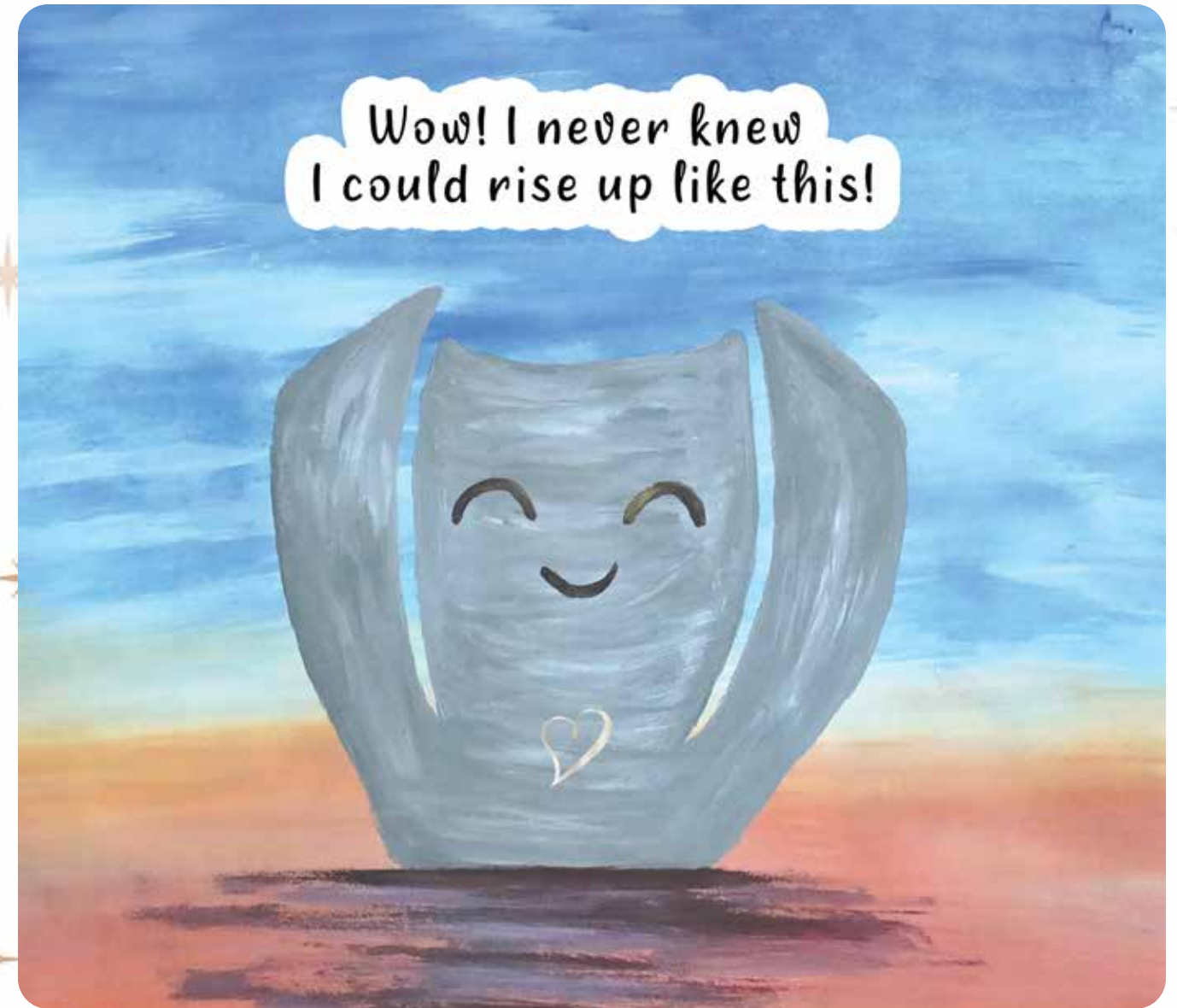
This was in me the whole time.



As we allow God to form us,  
we will begin to look more like him.

We were made to  
grow closer  
to God.

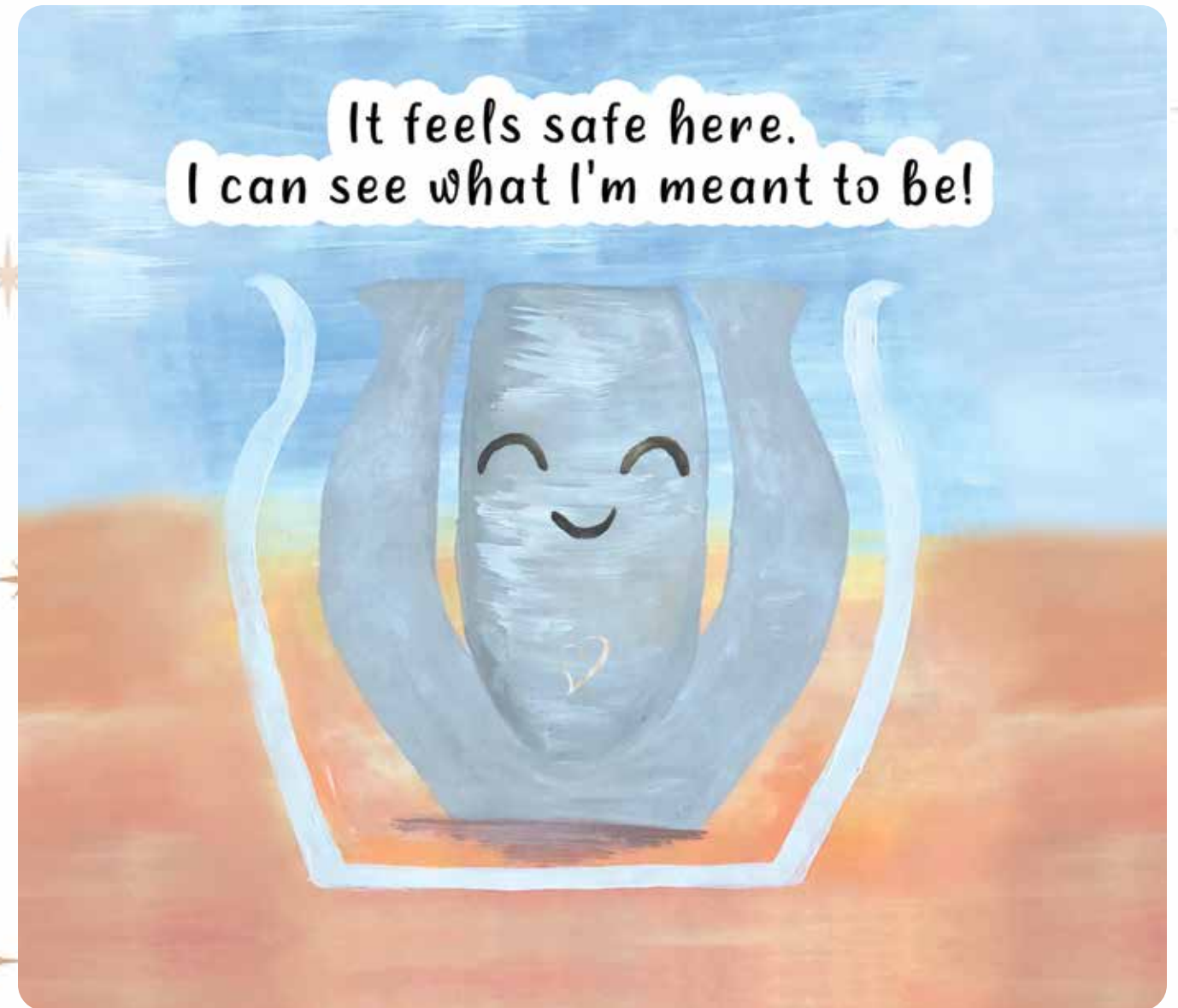
Hebrews 10:22



Drawing closer to him helps us become  
who we were created to be.

God knows who  
we are inside  
and out.

Psalms 139:13-17



God molds us from his image.  
I am in him, and he is in me.

Stay with me and  
trust me, this  
will make you  
strong.

Isaiah 30:15

It's hard to wait,  
but I'm getting stronger.



It's good to be still with God  
as we get firm in who we are.

Sometimes our  
pain brings us  
closer to God.

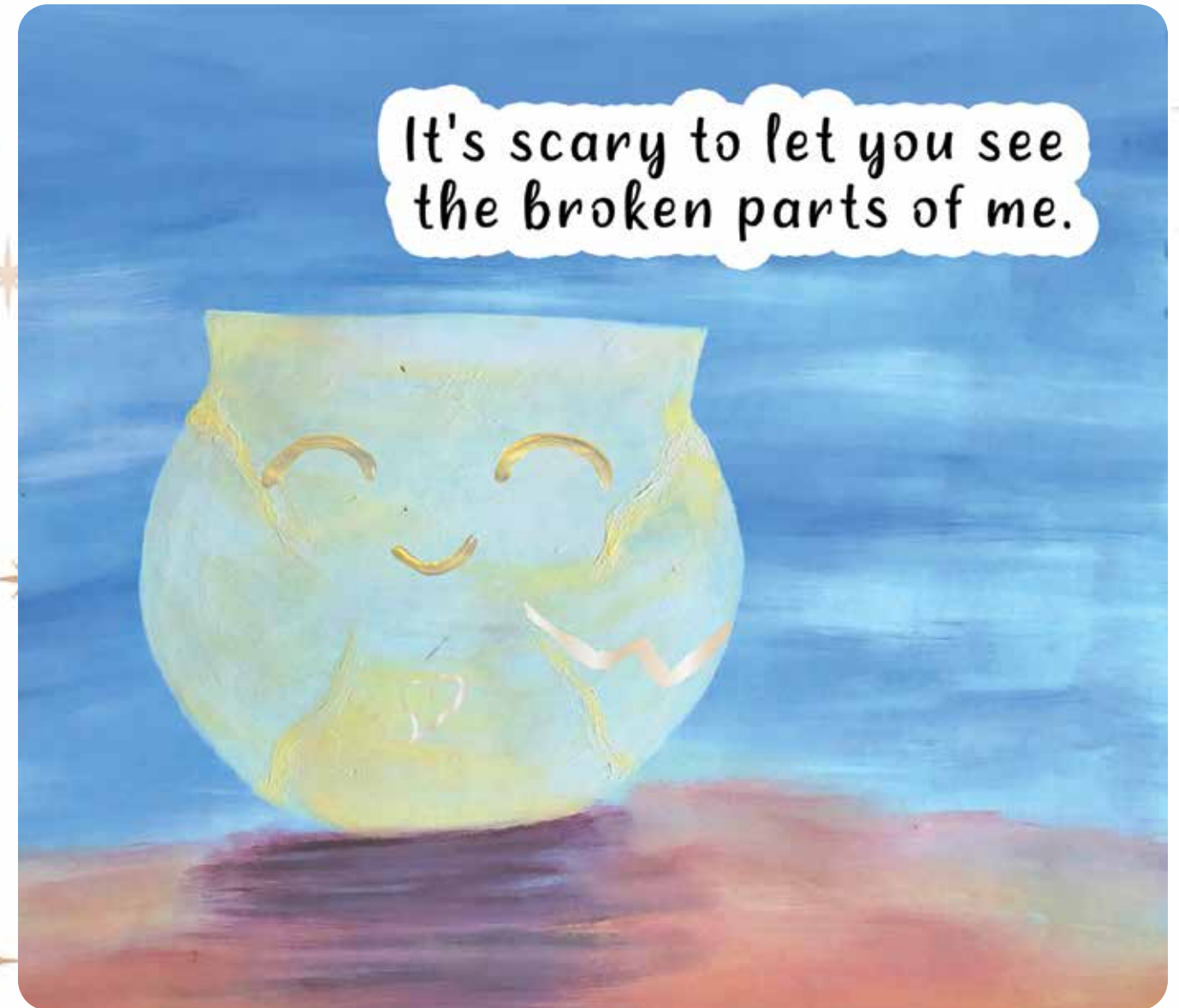
1 Peter 1:7



He is with us, no matter how bad it gets.

God's power  
shines through  
weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:8



God might ask us to stop hiding  
the parts of our story that hurt the most.

God gave his son  
to be with us  
forever.

John 3:16

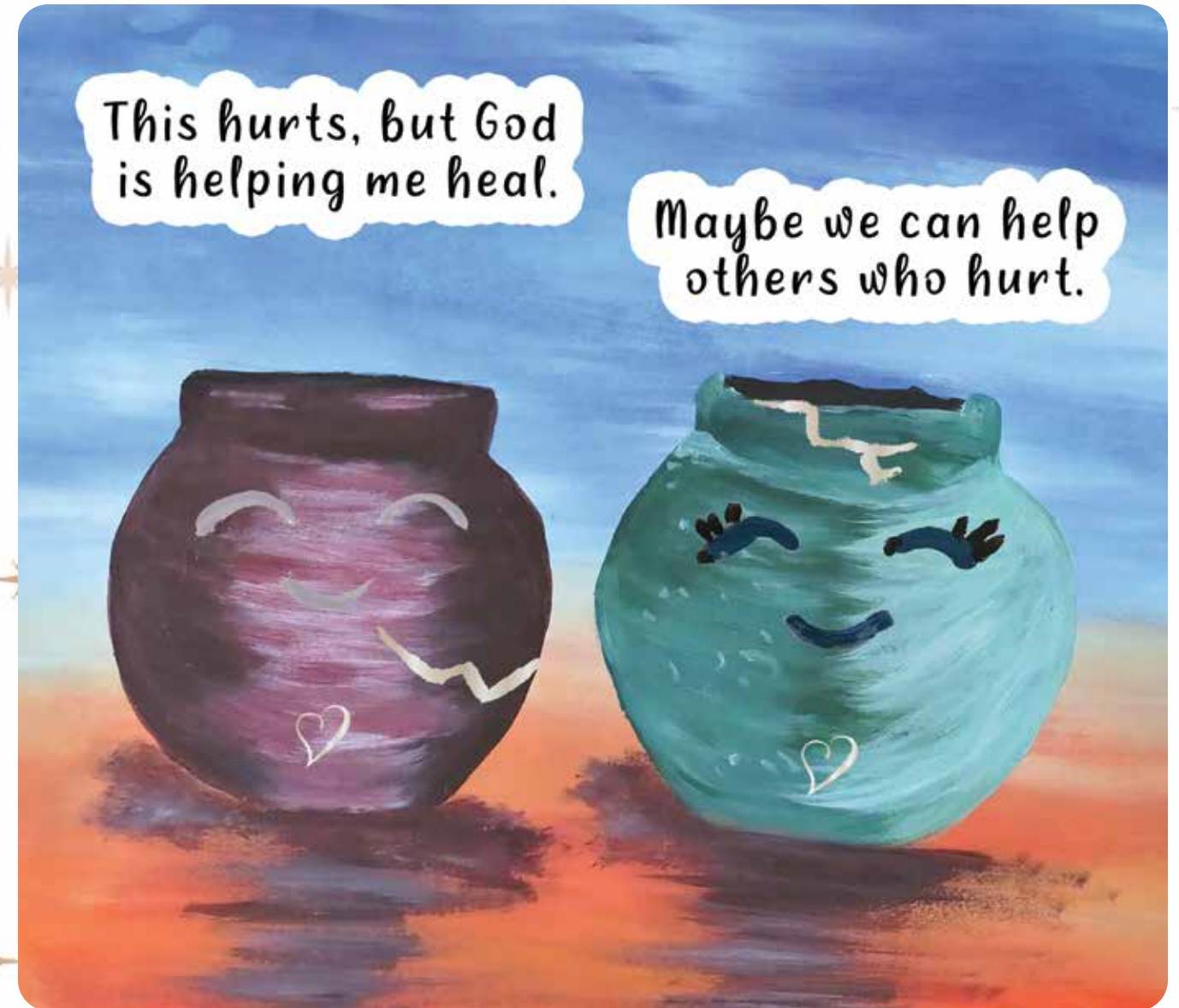


We all have something in our hearts to share.



Love God  
and each other.

Matthew 22:36-39



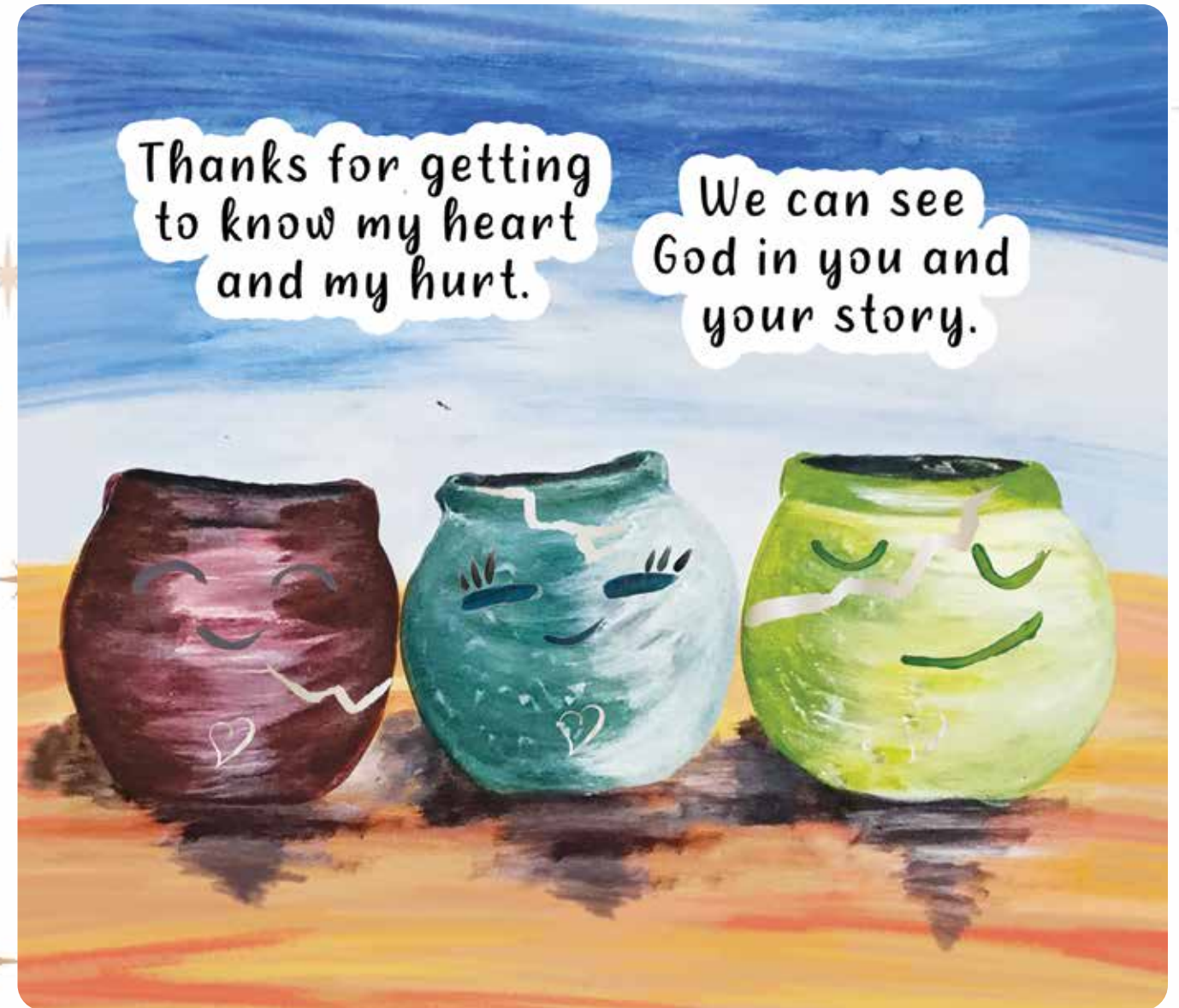
This hurts, but God  
is helping me heal.

Maybe we can help  
others who hurt.

When we listen to God and each other,  
love makes a way.

As we choose  
to see truth, God  
lights the way.

1 John 1:7



Our walk will get dark, but as we accept each other, it's easier to see. Trust reveals truth.

God is working  
through us as we  
pour out the love  
in our hearts.

John 14:10-14



It's fun to explore what each one  
has on the inside.

All are made  
to love and grow  
together as  
a family.

Ephesians 4:1-16



Our hearts and our hurts can be used to grow  
something beautiful on earth . . .  
as it is in heaven.

Mary used a jar of precious oil to anoint Jesus before he died on the cross and was raised again.

She used what she already had to love him, and it was enough.

John 12:2-3

How will you use  
your jar?

We are like vessels  
made of clay.

God uses our  
hearts as we grow  
closer to him.

2 Timothy 2:20-21

## Dirt to Use

God made us from **dirt** to love us and to be part of his family. We all have different experiences of God's love in our lives, which **forms** and shapes us.

Our way will not always be easy. In fact, sometimes it will hurt a lot. Yet, as we **set** ourselves apart with God, we begin to heal and get stronger in who we are.

Our lives take on a new **color**, and God wants us to explore our stories of his love together.

As we get to know what each one has on the inside, we can **use** our hearts and hurts to grow together.

This little book summarizes a teaching called "Dirt to Use," which is shared with parents, pastors, and other leaders around the world.

The message describes a transformational process that **starts with our hearts**. Every heart contains a seed, something we care deeply about that can be used to love others.

The "Dirt to Use" vision is that as we grow in our understanding that everyone is made with God's love to share, we will unite to employ every heart!

This sounds like a big task, you say . . . agreed! That's one of the reasons we wanted to break the message down into a fun story for all ages, cultures, and hearts.

For those of us who learn best by getting our hands dirty, this story can be shared in a different way. As our friend made of dirt transforms from a ball of clay into a jar with purpose, we can too! Grab some dirt and let's see how.

The simple jar-making process taught in this book begins with a clump of dirt. All dirt is created equal.

The dirt or clay is then squeezed and softened into a circular shape.

Four sections of the clay are trimmed out, and the new cross form is placed in a jar mold.

Two hands cupped together can also be used as a mold. As the clay is pressed together in the mold or hands, it begins to take on a jar shape.

The raw clay jar is then set aside and waits to get firm. If there's a kiln involved, the jar is then fired so that impurities can be removed and weak spots can be strengthened.

After the jar sets/cool, it can be painted/glazed a new color with other jars.

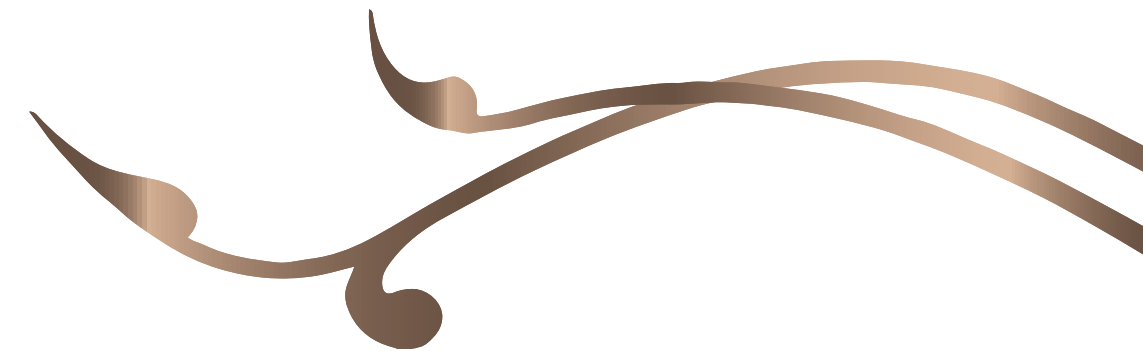
The completed jars can then use what is placed on the inside to grow something beautiful together.

It may sound silly to build your own jar as the story unfolds, but some of us learn better this way.

These imperfect little jars can serve as a visual reminder that we are all

made with something beautiful to share.

Let's keep exploring creative ways to learn, work, and grow differently together.



God's family  
is made different  
on purpose.

We need every  
heart to be  
whole.

1 Corinthians 12:14

**Author:** Kimberly wrote this book to share God's love for us in a simple way. Her hubby and four uniquely cool kiddos fill her heart and life every single day. Kim's background is in international education administration and social work. She gets to be friends with creative leaders around the world who are loving, teaching and employing others.



**Artist:** Givean is a talented artist living in Zimbabwe. Due to a childhood accident, he lost both of his arms. This is a part of Givean's story which resides in his heart along with a love for painting. Givean found a way with others to use what he has on the inside. He creates powerful paintings using his mouth. You've got to get to know this guy! Check out his work on Instagram and Facebook.

When Kim was looking for an artist to illustrate this book, God led her to Givean. It was not always easy for Kim and Givean to communicate and get things right, but that wasn't the point anyway! They ended up learning a ton together and having fun. This imperfect little book was made because they found a new way to learn, work, and grow together.



# Kim's Dirt to Use

"It's hard to share this part of me," says the jar.

This page of the book gets me every time. It's not easy to allow others to see your hurts. Yet sometimes the most broken parts of our story are where God's love can shine the brightest.

I'm going to be honest. My childhood - heck, even the start of my adult life - was not filled with rainbows and butterflies. It was hard. My little brother Scottie was diagnosed with cancer at age three. As a result of one of his brain surgeries, he became developmentally delayed, which in his case eventually impacted him pretty badly physically.

It was hard to see Scottie in pain growing up. I loved him so much that his hurt became my hurt, and it resides in my heart to this day.

Now for the embarrassing part... There's hurt that comes from things that happen to and around us, and there's hurt we create ourselves.

I had a very damaging season of life that consisted of drinking, doing drugs, and even getting into fights. Don't get me wrong. I pretty much held it together to pass as someone who was doing okay, but I wasn't. "I'm smiling, but this really hurts!"

Although it's the jar who says this in the book, it's my hurt on the page.

For years, I tucked away the pain I felt from not experiencing a father's love, from being the kid on welfare, or simply from feeling lost and alone.

I never wanted to be a burden because my mom had so much to handle on her own. I just tried to be a ghost, to not need anything or make any mistakes.

Well, that all changed as I became an adult and lost my grip on life. I'm not proud of the things I did during this time, but I know firsthand what relentless grace feels like, and this gift will not go unused.

So far, I've shared a lot of the cracks in my story, but there's also a ton of joy in my heart to use.

My mom taught me to love Jesus and to share this love with others. I also learned not to give too much weight to what people's lives look like on the outside because they could have something pretty amazing going on in their hearts.

As embarrassing as it is to open up, I know that if I want to use my hurts for something beautiful, I have to be vulnerable and real with you.

I once heard a local pastor say, "Don't hide what God wants to heal."

This is hard but powerful, and I hope that I get the chance to hear your story one day too. "Thanks for getting to know my heart and my hurts." — Kim

We are all broken in some way because we live in a world that is also hurting. Sometimes our hearts break because of something we experience personally, and other times it's something we see happening in the world around us. Together, we can use our hearts and our hurts to grow something beautiful.

When a grain falls  
into the dirt and dies,  
new seeds are  
made.

John 12:24

"Oh brother"



This book was made from  
the seeds you left in our hearts.

