



▶ GET TOGETHER

Have fun reading about and sharing which flea abilities you wish you had.

- Fleas can jump over 150 times their own size (approximately 30cm high). That's like you jumping the length of a football field!
- When a flea jumps, it accelerates 50 times faster than a space shuttle.
- A flea can jump 30,000 times without stopping.
- Fleas can pull 160,000 times their own weight, which is the same as you pulling 2,679 double-decker buses!

▶ GET TALKING

Read today's **Big Idea** and about the life of Corrie ten Boom, then use the questions to get everyone talking. Work on memorizing the **Bible Verse** together.

***Note to Parents:** Encourage everyone to share because everyone's story is important, but depending on the age and personality of your family members, you may not get much of a response. Give your family time to let the question "soak in" and the space to respond when they are ready. You can guide the conversation and be the first one to share.

BIG IDEA When I am afraid, I will remember that God is good and He is always with me. Because God is good, He wants what is best for me and I can be thankful for the good things He has given me.

Read the story of Corrie ten Boom aloud on page 2.
(Excerpt from Corrie's book *The Hiding Place*)

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CORRIE TEN BOOM

Corrie ten Boom was a watchmaker in the Netherlands. During World War II, the Nazis invaded and began to arrest Jewish people. In her book, *The Hiding Place*, Corrie tells the story of how she and her family, who were Christians, created a hiding place in their home, saving the lives of hundreds of Jewish people.

But Corrie and her sister, Betsie, were sent to a concentration camp, where conditions were unbearable. Their barracks were crowded, cold, and infested with fleas.

"Fleas!" I cried. Betsie, the place is swarming with them! How can we live in such a place?"

"Corrie!" she said excitedly. "He's given us an answer! Before we asked, as He always does! In the Bible this morning. Where was it? Read that part again."

I glanced down the long dim aisle to make sure no guard was in sight, then drew the Bible from its pouch. "It was 1 Thessalonians", I said. "Here it is: 'Comfort the frightened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus'."

"That's it, Corrie! That's His answer. 'Give thanks in all circumstances!' That is what we can do. We can start right now to thank God for every single thing about this new barracks!"

I stared at her, then around me at the dark, foul-aired room. "Such as?" I said.

Betsie and Corrie took turns sharing what they were thankful for—being together, for their Bible, and for the crowded barracks that provided heat and gave more people the opportunity to hear the Bible—and even the fleas!

Later, Corrie and Betsie learned the reason why the guards never came into their barracks and they were able to freely study the Bible and pray. It was the fleas!

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Use these questions to talk about Corrie ten Boom and God's goodness.

- How would you feel if you were Corrie?
- Where do you see God's goodness in Corrie's life?
- What is the hardest thing for you to be thankful for today?

BIBLE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

ISAIAH 41:10

Here is an idea for having fun as you read the Bible verse out loud.

- Make up motions to help you remember the verse. Use your motions and say the verse together.

GET GOING

Make a list (or draw a picture) of 5 things you are thankful for. Use whatever you have on hand at home (Post-its, index cards, paper, fabric, pencils, crayons, markers, pens, etc.). When everyone is finished, share the lists and put them up where you can see them as a reminder of God's goodness.

