

Note to Parents:

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this Special Edition of **Motivated for Kids**. In this magazine you will find a combination of stories, activities, and coloring pages that we hope will be an inspiration in your children's lives.

The stories in this issue will focus on safety and protection, and the coloring pages and other activities will provide some fun for your little ones, also reinforcing positive values.

The content of this magazine is generally geared toward children between the ages of 5 and 8, but may also be suitable for children who are a bit younger.

It's our hope that this magazine will provide you with fun and meaningful things to read and do together as a family!

Your **Motivated Family**

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Motivated for Kids
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ADVENTURE IN THE FOREST!

What an exciting day this is for Ruba and Sami!—Their parents have taken them out for a fun day in the countryside! After the two families have finished a delicious picnic together, Sami asks his parents if he and Ruba can go play in the nearby fields, meadows, and olive groves.

"Yes, you may," his father answers, "just don't go too far away!"

"And be careful not to get too close to the lake!" Ruba's mother warns.

Soon Ruba and Sami are having so much fun running and skipping through the fields that they forget their parents' warning and have wandered much further away from the picnic area than they should have!

"I have an idea, Ruba!" Sami exclaims, "Let's play Hide-and-Seek!"

"Oh, that sounds like fun, Sami!" she answers, "I'll hide first!"

"Alright!" he agrees, as he closes his eyes and begins counting out loud as fast as he can.

"No peeking, Sami!" Ruba shouts as she runs to some nearby bushes that she hides behind. Soon Sami cries out, "Ready or not, here I come!" To her surprise, in only a minute or two Sami has found her!

Then it's her turn to close her eyes while Sami runs away



stump and says to herself, "Ha! Sami will never find me here!"

While resting on the stump, Ruba is amazed at how beautiful the forest is! Scattered throughout the grass and moss that carpet the ground are countless brightly colored wild flowers! "Oh, how pretty! I'll gather a bunch of them for Mommy!" she thinks, as she rises and merrily skips around, picking the flowers.

Ruba is having so much fun gathering flowers that she forgets all about her "Hide-and-Seek" game! But after a while, when she has as many pretty flowers as she can possibly hold, she suddenly remembers Sami and the game, and thinks, "Oh my!—I'd better get back to the lakeside!" But as she looks all around her, she can't tell which direction she came from!—All the trees and bushes surrounding the stump look the same!

"Maybe I came from that direction," she

and hides!—But when she's finished counting and begins looking for him, she can't find him anywhere! After searching for over 10 minutes, she finally gives up and calls, "Sami, come out from wherever you are!—I give up! I can't find you!" Sami then jumps out from behind some distant trees laughing gleefully.

"Sami, that's not fair! You went too far away!" she complains.

"Well, we didn't say how close the person who is hiding has to stay!" he answers.

"Okay, Sami, it's my turn to hide again," she says.

As soon as Sami begins counting, Ruba runs as fast as her feet can carry her, straight down to the edge of the nearby lake! She runs along its bank all the way to its end and around its other side, and then disappears into the thick forest behind it. She keeps running deeper and deeper into the woods until finally, tired and out of breath, she sits down on a big round tree



wonders. "If so, it should only take me a few minutes to find the lake.—I'll go see!" But after running through the forest for some time, the lake is nowhere in sight!

"I'd better go back to the stump," she thinks. "Then I'll try another direction to find the lake!" But after wandering for a few minutes she is now unable to find her way back to the stump!

"Oh no!—I'm lost!" she suddenly realizes! As she looks around at the forest, it somehow doesn't seem so pretty anymore, for now she feels scared!

As she pauses for a moment, she thinks she hears something moving in the distant woods, and asks herself, "I wonder if there are any dangerous animals in these woods!?"—Oh, I've just got to get back to Sami and Mommy and Daddy!"

Ruba begins running as fast as she can, hoping that somehow she'll find the lake! But after a while she is as lost as ever and realizes that she might even be running further away in the wrong direction! So she tries calling her friend, "Sami! Sami!" she cries at the top of her

voice. But she hears no answer.

Now so afraid and sad, poor Ruba drops her flowers, falls to her knees and bursts into tears, feeling so alone and scared! A cool breeze sweeps through the forest and she realizes that the sun is beginning to set. "Oh no! What if nobody finds me and I'm left out here all alone in the dark for the whole night!" Ruba now feels more frightened than she's ever felt in her entire life!

Then



suddenly a thought comes to her and she remembers something that she has learned from her parents!—That God loves her and is always there to help her! So Ruba prays and asks God to please forgive her for disobeying her parents' instructions and running off alone like this!—And to protect her from any wild beasts or dangers, and help her find her way back to Sami and to her Mommy and Daddy!

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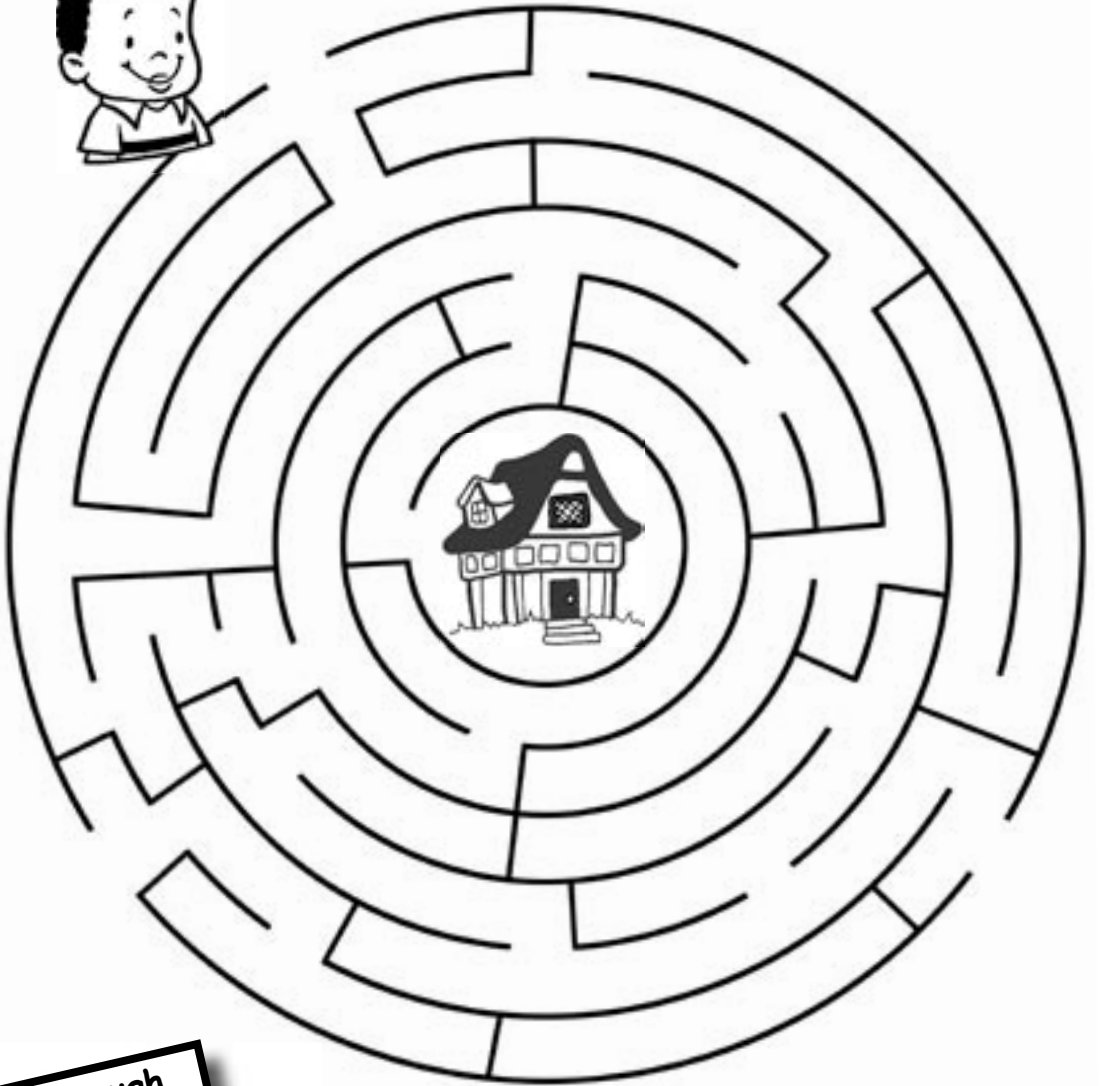
Birds and Bees
flowers and trees,

Sun and moon
and sea,

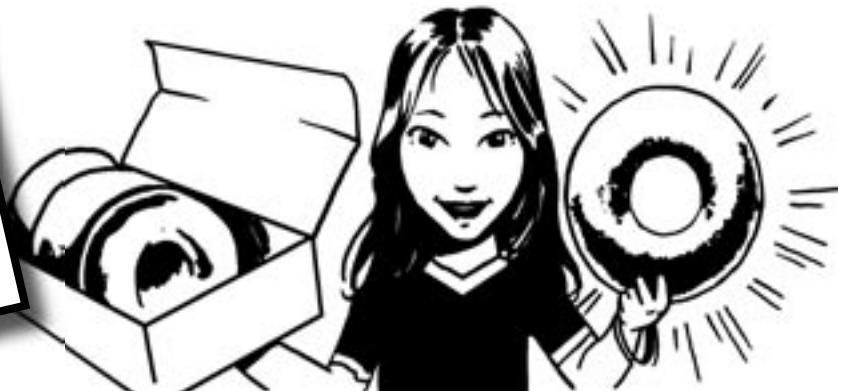
Rain and snow
and winds that
blow,

All are beautiful
to me!

**HELP THE LITTLE BOY WHO IS
LOST FIND HIS WAY HOME.**



All through
life,
my friend,
If you'd be a
happy soul,
Keep your eyes
upon the
donut
and not upon
the hole!



Continued from page 5

All of a sudden Ruba feels much better! She stands up, quietly looks around her, and has a feeling that she should begin walking in a certain direction! It's almost as if someone is calling or leading her, and helping her not to be afraid.

In just a few minutes she finds herself out of the woods and back on the lakeside!—And there on the other side is Sami! "Ruba! I've been looking everywhere for you!" he calls across the water.

"Oh Sami, I was lost!" she answers. "I'm so happy to see you again! But how can I get back to the side of the lake that you're on?"

"Look!" Sami says, pointing towards a narrow part of the lake that leads to a small stream, "You can cross that little bridge!"

Ruba runs to the bridge, but finds that it is very old and broken-down. "Oh Sami, it looks so dangerous!—And there's a big hole in the middle of it!" But she

remembers how God helped her to find her way back, and as she steps onto it, she is not afraid.

Sami also reaches out his arms to help her. "Oh Sami!" she exclaims, "I'm so sorry for running away! It's so good to be with you again! I've got to tell you what happened!" •



Angels lovingly watch over and care for us, and never leave our side! They are always with us to guide us and to try to help us make the right decisions and choices. Of course, when we make a bad choice, like Ruba did when she disobeyed her parents and went too far away and played too close to the lake, we usually get ourselves into trouble, just like she did! But as soon as she asked God to forgive and help her, He sent an angel to lead her back to safety!



HANAN AND THE

Hedge of Butterflies

By Mama Souad

As Mama Souad walked down the stairs after tucking her children in bed for the night, she was stopped by the stifled sound of sobbing that came from Nisrin's room. Walking back upstairs, she softly opened the door and poked her head in. "Nisrin, are you alright?" At that the sobbing became louder. Mama Souad sat down on the edge of her bed, putting her arms around her little girl to comfort her. "Now, now, it can't be that bad", she gently whispered. "Why don't you tell me about it?"

Nisrin threw her arms around her Mama's neck and blurted out, "When is Daddy coming back, Mama? He's been gone for so long now! Nora told me today he may never come back, like some of the daddies of my friends at school. I'm so afraid, Mama!"

Mama Souad hugged her little girl closer. "I know it's hard sometimes not to be afraid, darling, but we must not forget that God will take care of Daddy. Come, let me settle you back in your blankets and tell you a story about a girl just like you, who was also worried about her daddy", she said.

Nisrin's sobbing stopped and her eyes brightened. A story! She loved it when Mama Souad told her stories. It always cheered her up. Nestled back in her pillows and blankets, she expectantly looked up at Mama...



Hanan was waiting for Daddy to come home from his trip, Mama began. It had been 2 weeks that he'd been gone, and every time she heard a knock on the door, Hanan ran to the door thinking it was her sweet Daddy, only to find out it was one of the relatives, or just an unusual noise.

Hanan couldn't help but think that Daddy could be in trouble at any time. The daily news didn't escape her keen ears. She had heard the sad news from other children at school. All of them longed to play and run outside, but often they were afraid to and sometimes not allowed for the time being. It was just too dangerous.

At night, Hanan went to bed thinking, "Dear God, I'm afraid for Daddy. Please, dear God, keep him safe and help him to be protected by your guardian angels. Please keep all the dear mommies and daddies wherever they are and help me not to be afraid!"

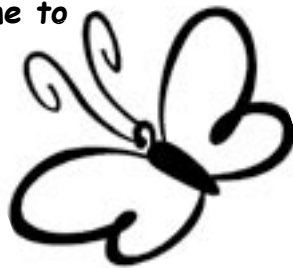
Then Hanan dreamt a dream. She was walking by the river. The river was raging and fuming. She thought she'd never seen the river in such fury before. A sudden fear gripped her heart, but then she noticed a beautiful, colorful butterfly fluttering its wings. It whispered to her, "Hanan, come this way and you will not fear."

Hanan followed the beautiful mysterious butterfly that could talk, and as she followed it she noticed the river had calmed down, that its foaming in fury had only been for a moment. The butterfly had called its friends, and they formed a lively hedge around the river. They were all fluttering their wings and their colors were so pretty!

Somehow the butterflies' blended colors that reflected on the river, and their fluttering wing-to-wing in a giant circle of colors, had calmed it down. Looking at those beautiful colorful butterflies gave Hanan a feeling of love and peace. Then she woke up...

Hanan couldn't stop thinking about the beautiful dream she had. "The butterflies were so beautiful" she thought. "They calmed down that raging river right away, and they helped me to not be afraid."

Then she had an idea! "I will do something special with my friends," she decided. "I will tell them that our prayers, just like the butterflies, can form a hedge of protection and love around our daddies, and that when fear comes knocking at our door, we can picture a hedge of love to shut it out!"



Mama Souad looked down on Nisrin, whose sleepy eyes looked dreamily up at her. That was so beautiful, Mama. I will remember the butterflies when I am afraid, and I will pray for Daddy's safe return, too.

Giving her daughter a loving kiss on her curly hair, Mama Souad smiled. Her eyes had already closed and Nisrin was drifting off to sleep. Tiptoeing out of the room, Mama Souad looked back over her shoulder. Was it just her imagination, or did she, just for a moment, hear the fluttering of butterfly wings? •

My Beautiful Butterfly

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

color pencils
black marker
needle and thread
scissors
glue



Use a black pen to list things you can do to help you not be sad when you are worried about something.

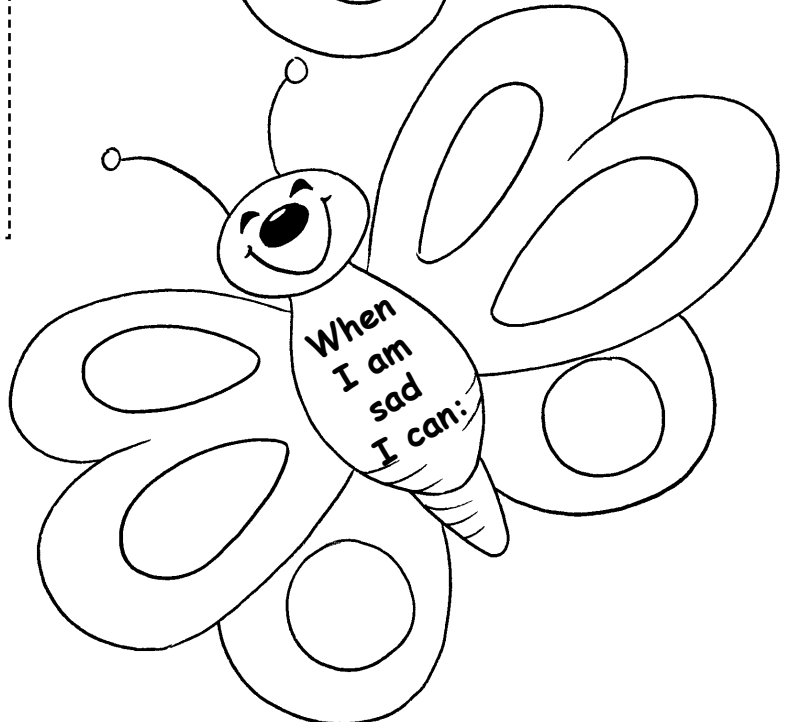
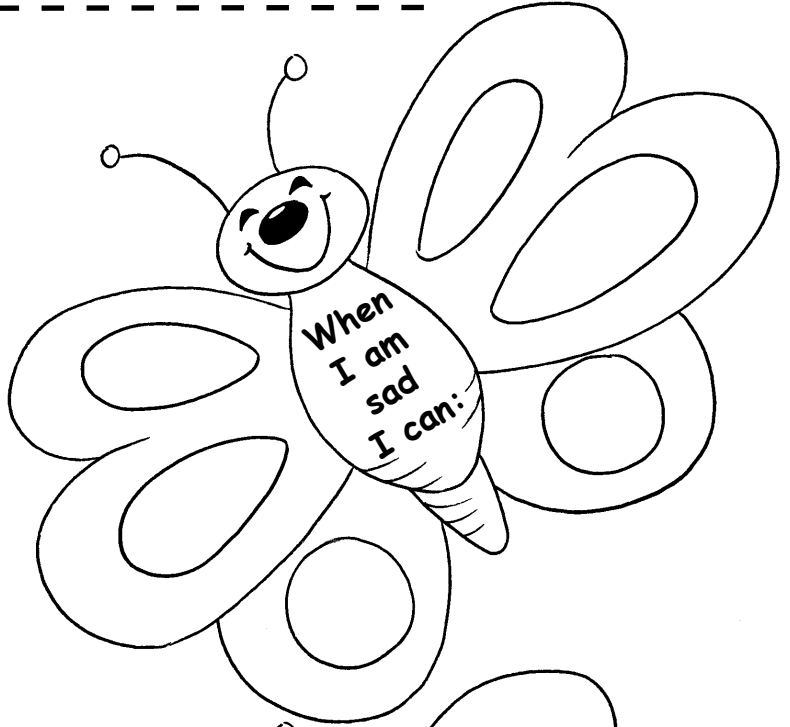


Color the butterflies.



Cut out the butterflies and glue them back to back.

● Attach a thread to the butterfly head and hang it from your bedroom ceiling.



Flutter by,
Butterfly,
Floating flower
in the sky.

Kiss me with your
Petal wings—
Whisper secrets,
Tell of spring.

— Author Unknown

