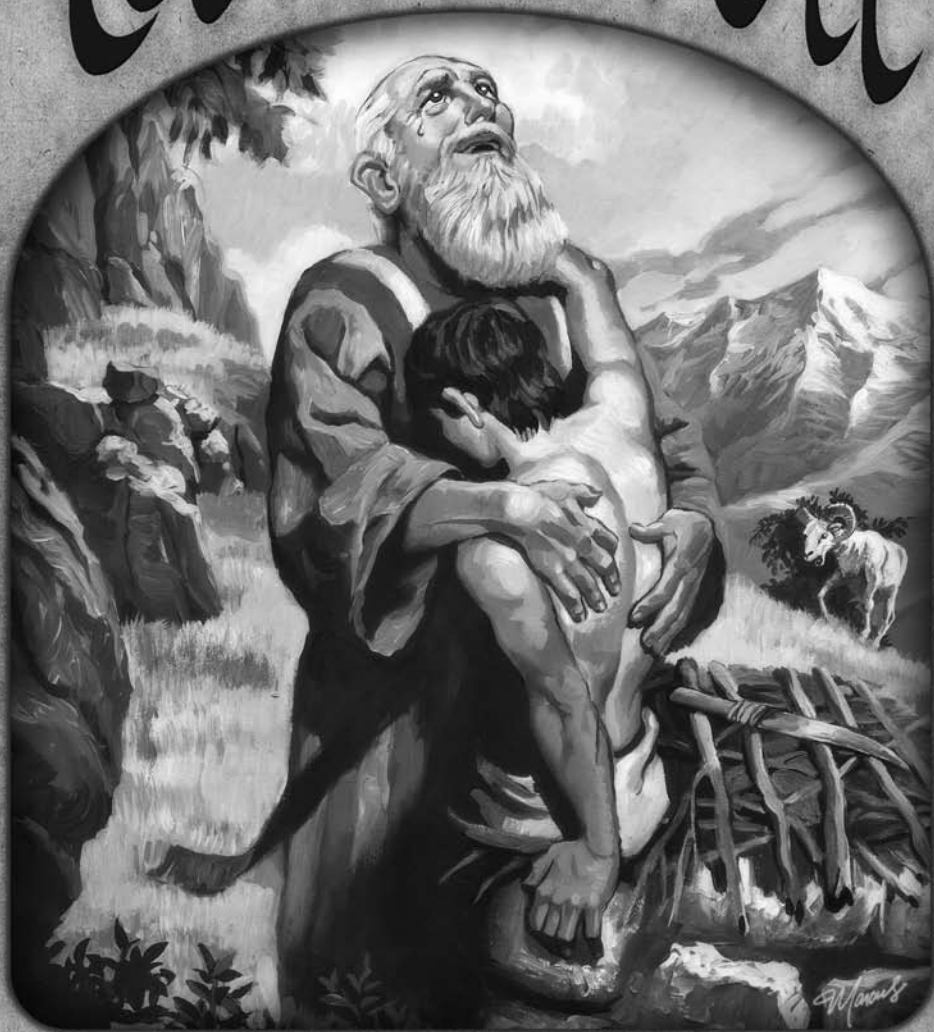


The Lamb Scrou



CHAPTER
1

A Chat With Grandpa Wesley

Paul sat at the computer in the early morning light. He always seemed to wake before his brother and sister. He was the oldest, so maybe that was why. He liked having some time to himself when he could just do his own thing without being interrupted.

He decided he would go online and see if Grandpa Wesley was there. Grandpa lived on the East Coast—a long way from where Paul lived on the West Coast—and sometimes Grandpa was online this early. Where Grandpa Wesley lived, it was already the middle of the morning, and he had told Paul once that he liked to check his e-mail after he ate breakfast and took a walk. The instant message program loaded up, and two names appeared on the screen: “Paul” and “GpaWesley” (which is what the computer called Grandpa Wesley). He was there!

Paul clicked on GpaWesley and typed, “Hi Gpa, it’s Paul.”

GpaWesley: Hi Paul. How’s my buddy?
Paul: Doing great, Gpa.
Paul: Hey Gpa, thanks for the Bible!
GpaWesley: You’re welcome, Paul. Have you read any of it yet?
Paul: Kinda.
GpaWesley: What do you mean?
Paul: Well, it’s not like a normal book.

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- GpaWesley:** That's true. It's a Bible—a special Book.
- Paul:** Um . . . it's not even a normal Bible.
- GpaWesley:** Why?
- Paul:** It pulled us in.
- GpaWesley:** Pulled you in? Really?
- Paul:** Yeah, we found a red word and touched it, and then we got sucked into the Bible.
- GpaWesley:** We?
- Paul:** Yeah, James and Hannah and me.
- GpaWesley:** Wow! I never took anyone with me.
- Paul:** What? You've been pulled in too?
- GpaWesley:** Sure! Every true student of the Bible gets pulled in a time or two!
- Paul:** For real?
- GpaWesley:** For real.
- Paul:** How come Mom and Dad don't know about it?
- GpaWesley:** Well, that is a special Bible, like you said.
- Paul:** What do you mean?
- GpaWesley:** It helps those with good imaginations explore the Bible more closely.
- Paul:** More closely? It seemed REAL!
- GpaWesley:** Well, in a way, it is real.
- Paul:** But, God told us we *weren't* seeing the real places or people, only the story that was on the pages.
- GpaWesley:** That's right. When you explore the Bible, you can't go back in time, but you can read between the lines.
- Paul:** Is that what we were doing? Reading between the lines?
- GpaWesley:** That's the best way I can think to describe it. You're adding your imagination to what is written there.
- Paul:** That must be why it was *sooo* vivid, because we had all three of our imaginations working at once.
- GpaWesley:** Good point. You probably had a very exciting time!
- Paul:** We sure did!

A Chat With Grandpa Wesley

- Gpa Wesley:** What scroll card did you explore first?
- Paul:** The Serpent Scroll.
- Gpa Wesley:** Oh, that was a good one. I particularly liked the prophecy bit.
- Paul:** Yeah! James called it a prophecy vortex.
- Gpa Wesley:** Leave it to James to come up with that. I like it!
- Paul:** The dragon was really scary!
- Gpa Wesley:** Not was, *is*.
- Paul:** Yeah. True. He is still attacking God's people, right?
- Gpa Wesley:** He sure is.
- Gpa Wesley:** So which scroll will you explore next?
- Paul:** Dunno. Can I actually choose? The last one kind of chose itself.
- Gpa Wesley:** Yes. You have to touch the red word in the Bible to activate the card.
- Paul:** Yeah! That's what I did. It was an accident.
- Gpa Wesley:** My first trip was an accident too. It's kind of fun that way.
- Paul:** Yeah. It was really cool getting "into the Bible"!
- Gpa Wesley:** Just wait until you get stuck in the Bible. That's a real challenge.
- Paul:** Stuck?
- Gpa Wesley:** Hmmm . . . Maybe I've said too much!
- Paul:** What do you mean, "stuck"?
- Gpa Wesley:** You'll find out.
- Paul:** Tell me! Is it dangerous?
- Gpa Wesley:** No, not dangerous. But it can take longer getting back home.
- Paul:** Could I get stuck there forever?
- Gpa Wesley:** No. Things become clear when you are there for a while. But you need to pay attention.
- Paul:** To what?
- Gpa Wesley:** To everything! Read between the lines.
- Paul:** OK. I get it. You want us to explore for ourselves.

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- GpaWesley:** That's what Bible study is all about!
- Paul:** Thank you so much for this Bible, Gpa.
- GpaWesley:** You are very welcome, Paul. I knew you were the right boy for the Book.
- Paul:** Thanks.
- Paul:** Hey Gpa, if I can choose my next trip, which one do you think I should do next?
- GpaWesley:** You've just done the Serpent Scroll, you said?
- Paul:** Yes.
- GpaWesley:** Then why not try the Lamb Scroll?
- Paul:** The Lamb Scroll?
- GpaWesley:** Yes. It follows quite nicely from the Serpent Scroll.
- Paul:** Where will I find the red word *lamb*?
- GpaWesley:** It shouldn't be far from where you found *serpent*.

Paul quickly reached over to his bookshelf and pulled down *The Prophet Kids' Bible*. He opened it to Genesis 3, where he had found the word *serpent*. He scanned the rest of the page but saw no other red words. He turned to the next page, and there, in verse 4 of chapter 4, he saw it: "Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn *lamb* from his flock." The word *lamb* was red!

Paul dared not touch the word . . . not yet. He turned back to the computer.

- Paul:** I found it! Gen. 4:4.
- GpaWesley:** Well done! Enjoy your next trip into the Bible!
- Paul:** I will!
- Paul:** Thank you so much for this Bible, Gpa.
- GpaWesley:** You're welcome! Happy birthday!
- Paul:** Thanks! Love you, Gpa.
- GpaWesley:** Love you too, Paul.

Paul looked down at the page in the Bible again. It was definitely red—*lamb*—as red as red could be. He turned to the front of the Bible and fished in the envelope stuck to the inside of the cover. There were three cards inside. He pulled them out.

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He looked through the cards. All three were blank. He slowly studied each card. Even though they appeared blank, there was a hint of writing on them—as if it had faded or been scrubbed out years ago. He knew that once he touched the red word *lamb*, one of the three remaining cards would become his next scroll card—the Lamb scroll card.

Paul set the blank cards down on the Bible and reached in his pocket to pull out the scroll card that had just taken him and his two siblings on an amazing journey through the Bible. He lifted it up in his hand and studied the words. Across the top of the card in fancy writing, it said, “The Serpent Scroll.” What an amazing ride that had been! He tucked the four cards into the envelope on the inside cover of *The Prophet Kids’ Bible*. Then he shut the Bible.

He would wait for James and Hannah. They would all look very carefully at the theme of *lamb* before putting their fingers on the page. They didn’t want to get stuck in there! He still wondered what Grandpa Wesley had meant by that.

How could you get stuck in the Bible?

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Thought Questions: Chapter 1

1. What do you think Grandpa Wesley means by getting “stuck in the Bible”?
2. What stories can you think of that talk about lambs in the Bible?
3. What is your favorite way to use your imagination?
4. What does it mean to “read between the lines”? Do you do this?

CHAPTER
2
The Torn
Page

James yawned loudly from his bed and propped himself up on his elbows. “Hiya, Paul!” he said in a singsong voice, as he stared across the room at his brother. Paul glanced over at James and raised an eyebrow.

“Your hair looks like a bomb went off in your head,” Paul said, not really surprised. “You need a shower.”

James flopped back on the bed and let out a yelp, “Ouch!” James reached under the blanket and pulled out a Rubik’s Cube. “That hurt,” he grunted. He turned a couple of sides on the cube.

James suddenly sat up and pointed past Paul at the computer. “Why is the computer on?” he asked suspiciously. “You’ve been playing games before everyone wakes up! I’m gonna tell. You know we aren’t—”

Paul cut his little brother off, “I wasn’t playing games. I was chatting with Grandpa Wesley about the Bible he gave me.”

James jumped off of his bed and rushed across the room in leopardlike bounds. He slammed the Rubik’s Cube into the wall next to Paul’s head to stop himself.

Paul flinched and ducked at the same time. “You nearly ran into me! Chill out!”

“What did Grandpa Wesley say?” James asked. “Did you tell him we got sucked in? Did he believe you?”

“Calm down,” Paul insisted. “You’re going to have a heart attack! One question at a time.”

The Lamb Scroll

"OK," James said. "Just tell me what you both said."

Paul turned to the computer as he said, "Here, I'll let you read our chat." He loaded the instant message program, right clicked on "GpaWesley," and then clicked on "View Past Conversations."

James, bored with the repeated clicking, tried to spin the Rubik's Cube on his finger like a basketball. It was a miserable failure, and the toy fell to the floor. James dropped to one knee and retrieved the cube.

Paul chose the most recent chat file and double clicked on it. The conversation he had just finished with Grandpa popped into view. "Here it is," he said. "You can read our conversation if you want to."

James scrolled through the conversation slowly. As he read silently, he couldn't help making a comment when something grabbed his attention. The first thing he said was "*He knew!* He knew!" Then he turned to Paul and asked, "Did Grandpa ever get pulled into the Bible like we did?"

"Just keep reading," Paul answered.

James refocused his attention on the screen, scrolling down slowly. As he read, James muttered, " 'Reading between the lines'? What does he mean by that?"

Paul didn't answer. James kept reading. "Oh," James exhaled slowly. "Oh, I get it—imagination—read between the lines. Yeah, that makes sense."

Finally, James finished reading and looked directly from the screen into Paul's gray eyes. "Stuck in the Bible? What does he mean by that?"

"I'm not really sure," Paul answered. "But I think we will find out when we explore the Lamb scroll."

"I'm not going back in that," James pointed at the open Bible on the desk, "if I'm gonna get locked in there forever!"

Paul shook his head. "No! Grandpa Wesley said we won't get lost or locked in or whatever. I think it will just be more difficult to move from place to place. We will need to be more observant—really explore the environment around us. Then we will find our way out!"

James glanced at the screen. "Genesis chapter four, verse four. That's our next starting verse?"

"Yep," Paul said confidently.

The Torn Page

James tossed the Rubik's Cube into the air, making its corners spin in a blur. "Show me," he said.

Paul watched the cube until it landed back in James's hand. James was really good with throwing and catching, but Paul still got nervous when James threw stuff in the house—especially when it was close to him!

"Can you please stop throwing that thing near me?" Paul asked as calmly as he could. "It makes me nervous."

James looked confused, then he looked at the Rubik's Cube. "Oh!" he said in realization. "You mean this?" he said, holding the cube out. "Sorry. I didn't even realize I was throwing it." James grasped the cube firmly with both hands.

"Thank you," Paul said with relief.

"Yup. OK," James answered. "Won't happen again! So, what were you gonna show me? Oh yeah, Genesis chapter four, verse four—about the lambs."

"Yeah," Paul said, pulling the Bible closer to him, "if you read verses two, three, and five as well, you get the big picture." Paul read aloud, "'When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, but He did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.'"

As Paul read, James began juggling the Rubik's Cube. He was listening so closely, he didn't realize what his hands were doing. Before long the cube was leaping from hand to hand. As Paul got to the end of the passage, James missed a catch. The cube caught the edge of James's thumb and started to spin toward the floor. Reflexively, James swatted at the spinning cube. He caught it with the tips of three fingers and propelled the cube at high speed into the wall above the computer screen.

The Rubik's Cube slammed into the wall directly in front of Paul. Paul jumped in surprise. Then the cube bounced back from the wall and plummeted toward Paul's new Bible. It all happened so fast, there was nothing Paul or James could do. The cube, in a wild spin, slammed into the open Bible. The corner of the Rubik's Cube drilled into the page. Then the force of the spinning, falling cube propelled it off of the desk and onto the floor.

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Everything went deathly quiet. James started to speak, "I . . . uh . . . I." But he didn't know what to say.

Paul ran his finger gently over the Bible where the cube had struck. There was a very deep dent in the page. Paul reached for the corner of the page and slowly lifted it. When the separating page reached the dent, it stuck. Paul gave a gentle tug, and the stuck part came loose. And that's when they both saw it. It was ever so small. But it was a hole.

Paul spun around in his chair, "You ruined my Bible!" he yelled. Paul had owned the Bible for only one day! Yesterday had been his eleventh birthday—and this was his favorite gift.

"I'm sorry," James said as he began to back away.

Paul stood. His face was turning red. His fists clenched in anger. James turned and bolted out the door, yelling over his shoulder, "It was an accident!"

Paul ran after him, yelling, "I'm gonna kill you!"

The Torn Page

Thought Questions: Chapter 2

1. When Paul said he was going to kill James, what did he really mean?
2. Has someone ever damaged something of yours that you really liked?
How did you respond?
3. What do you do to control your anger? Can you stop yourself from reacting harmfully?