

COMPLETE GUIDE TO

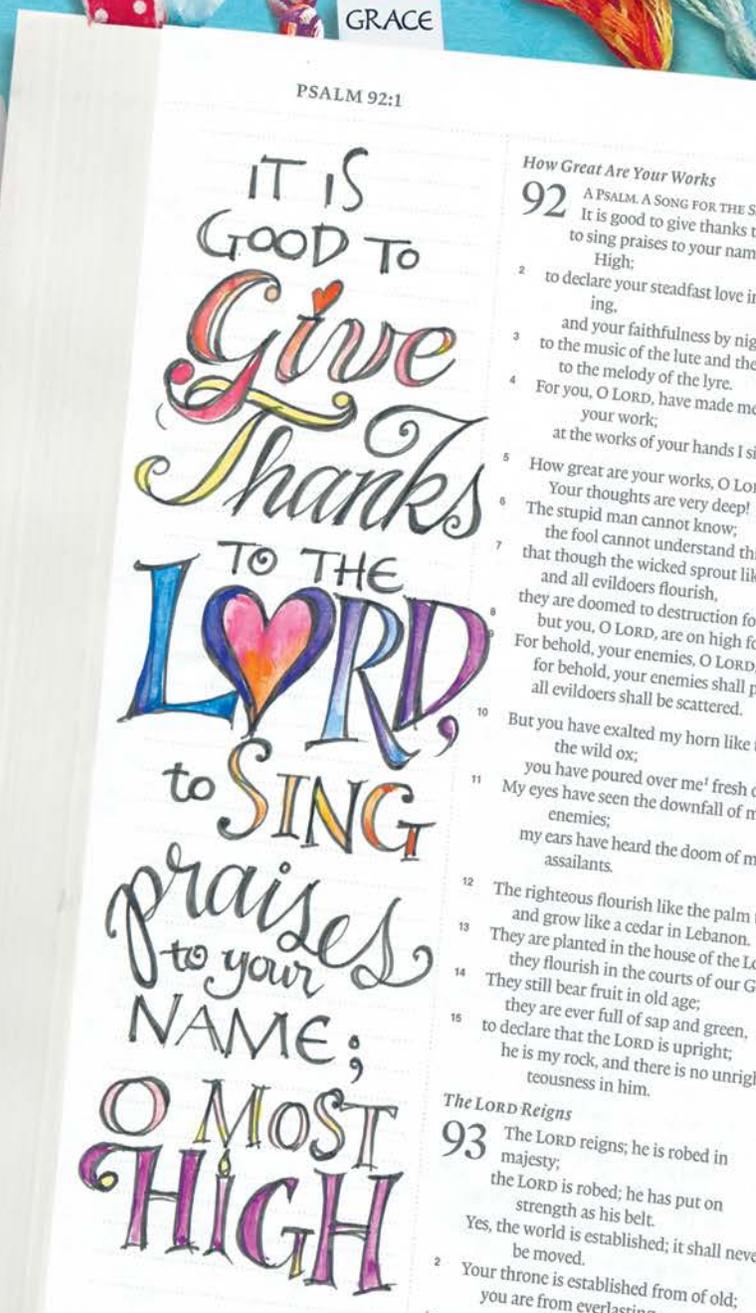
# Bible Journaling

CREATIVE TECHNIQUES TO EXPRESS YOUR FAITH

JOANNE FINK & REGINA YODER

**BONUS!**

**400+**  
STICKERS,  
TABS,  
& MORE!





32



20



30

## GETTING STARTED

- 8 | What Is Bible Journaling?
- 9 | How to Begin
- 10 | Choosing a Bible

## TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

- 14 | Tracing, Drawing, and Patterning
- 18 | Painting Backgrounds with Stamp Pads
- 20 | Stencils
- 22 | Colored Pencils
- 24 | Watercolors
- 28 | Page Prep
- 30 | Acrylic Paint
- 32 | Washi Tape
- 34 | Stickers and Die Cuts
- 36 | Rubber Stamps
- 40 | Lettering
- 46 | Layout Techniques



# ARTIST PROFILES

- 54 | Shanna Noel
- 60 | Karla Domacher
- 64 | Valerie Sjodin
- 68 | Sephra Travers
- 72 | Valerie Wieners-Massie
- 76 | Rebecca Rios
- 80 | Tai Bender
- 84 | Krista Hamrick
- 88 | Jennifer Rydin
- 92 | Rebekah R Jones
- 96 | Christina Lowery

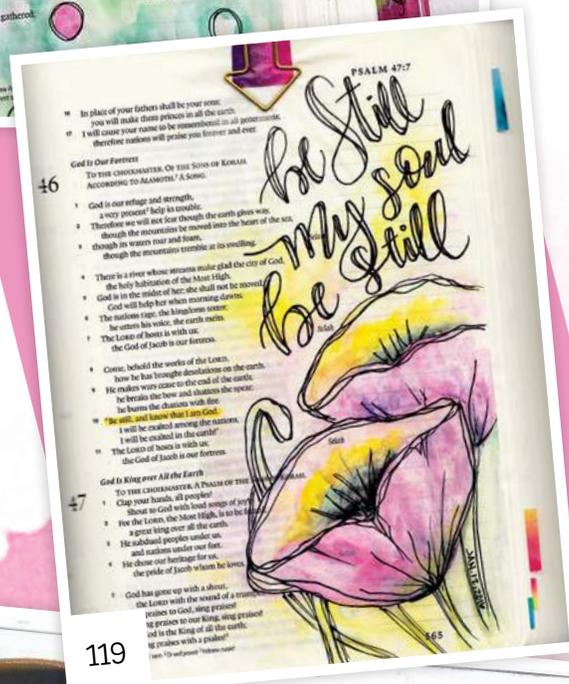
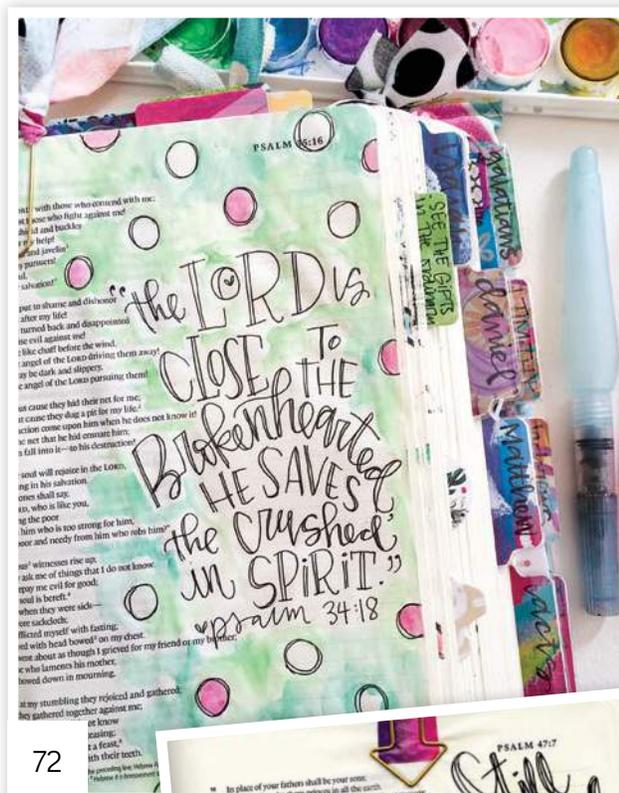
# GALLERY

- 102 | Outside the Bible
- 108 | Trust in the Lord
- 112 | Graphic
- 114 | Patterning
- 116 | Watercolor Effects
- 117 | Colored Pencils
- 118 | Floral
- 120 | Linework
- 122 | Brights

# 124 | RESOURCES AND INDEX

# BONUS SECTION

- 129 | Journaling Designs
- 145 | Stickers and Tabs
- 161 | Vellum Designs



# WHAT IS BIBLE JOURNALING?

## Welcome to the wonderful world of Bible journaling!

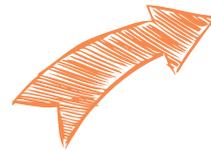
In its simplest definition, Bible journaling is a way to express your faith creatively. Putting pen to paper is a great way to remember and record biblical concepts that are meaningful and relevant to your life. Whether you are drawing, coloring, and writing right inside your Bible—the most commonly understood definition—or writing and illustrating scripture verses in a separate book or on paper alongside your Bible, the essential thing to understand is that Bible journaling is about creating while reflecting on God’s Word.

This book consists of four sections that will fully introduce you to the joy of Bible journaling as well as to the growing community of people who find meaning by expressing their faith in this creative way. There is a how-to **techniques section**, chock-full of lettering, drawing, painting, and crafting techniques you can use to bring God’s Word to life, as well as information on tools appropriate for Bible journaling. There is an **artist profile section**, where eleven of the world’s leading Bible journaling artists share the stories of their personal faith journeys. There is a **gallery** full of inspiring examples of journaling God’s Word both inside and outside the Bible. Lastly, there is a **bonus section** full of **instantly useable content**—including traceable designs, stickers, and Bible book tabs—to help you get started in Bible journaling right away!

As you explore the different sections of this book, take note of the variety of styles and techniques shown. Which ones appeal to you the most? It is always a good idea to test new tools and techniques—and even page layouts—before actually using them in your Bible. Many Bibles have an extra page or two at the back that you can use for this purpose.

It is also helpful to connect with others in the Bible journaling community. Several of the artists in the artist profile section have Facebook groups, and there are other groups you can join included in the resources section at the back of the book. For inspiration, video tutorials, and more, visit [www.biblejournalingjumpstart.com](http://www.biblejournalingjumpstart.com).

These three interpretations of Proverbs 3:5 exemplify the three major styles of Bible journaling:



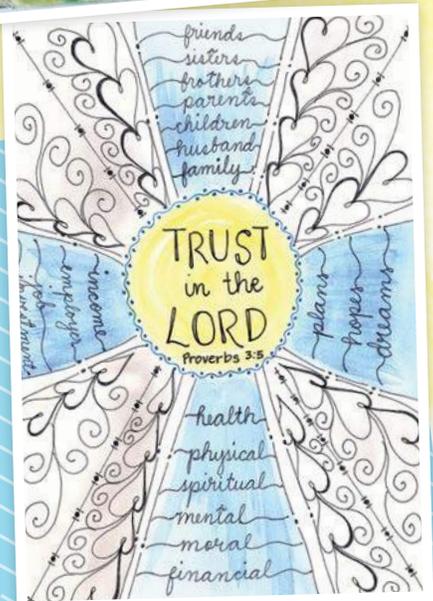
Journaling in the margins of the Bible (example by Sue Kemnitz)



Journaling all over the Bible page (example by Christy Fae)



Journaling outside the Bible (example by Hannah Ballesteros)



# STICKERS AND DIE CUTS

REGINA YODER

There is a wide array of stickers with different features available on the market. Some are good for writing on, some have words that you can add to your page instantly, and others are letters that you can use to spell out any word you want. Stickers also come printed on either a clear or an opaque background. Both are useful for different things; you just need to consider if you want your Bible page background to show through or not. Sometimes, if you've created a colorful background, then a clear sticker on top might be hard to see because the background shows through and interferes with the clarity of the sticker design. If you are adding a clear sticker on top of a white area, though, it will stand out beautifully.

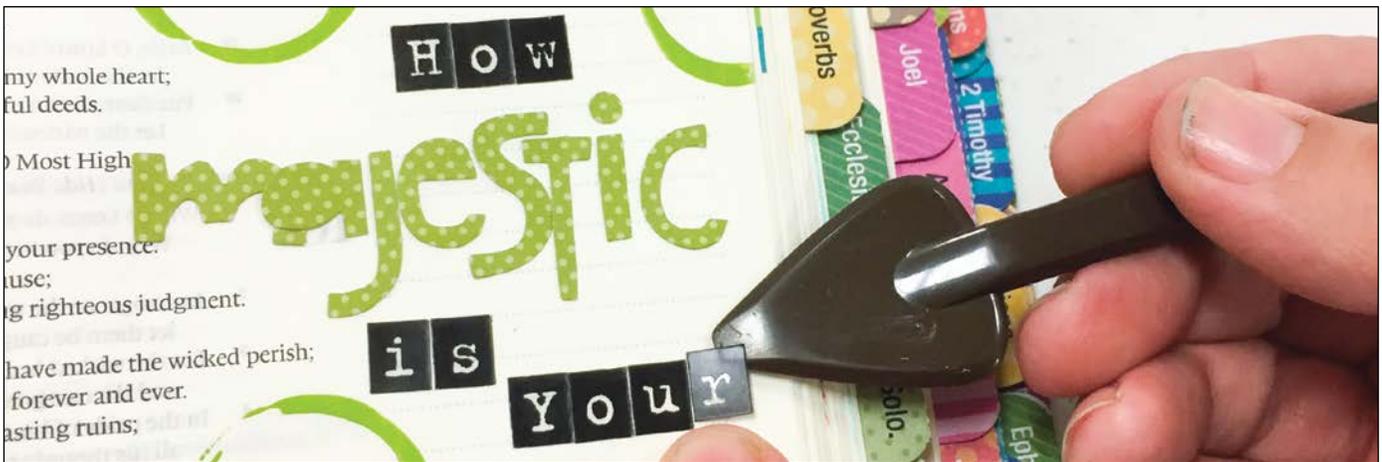
CHECK OUT THE  
READY-TO-USE  
STICKERS IN THE  
BONUS SECTION  
AT THE BACK OF  
THIS BOOK!



## ALPHABET STICKERS

Alphabet stickers are an effective way to create a customized message on your Bible page. Plan your design to ensure that what you want to express will fit in the available space. (A sticker placer tool or pair of tweezers is helpful for placing small

stickers.) Before placing the stickers, think about how they will look with the other elements you plan to add to the page. You can emphasize certain words and create a contemporary layout by using different styles and sizes of alphabet stickers.



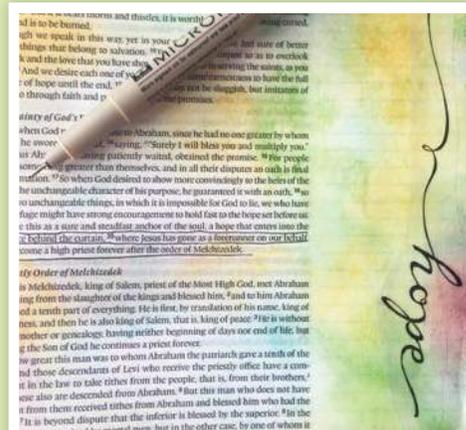
## WORD STICKERS

Word stickers are great because the letters flow together in a way you can't easily achieve with individual alphabet stickers. They also work well

when you want to make a quick note or reminder of what a passage is about, but don't want to take a lot of time to do a more complicated design yourself.



- 1. Place.** Color the background if desired, then place the word sticker where you'd like it, smoothing it down to remove air bubbles and wrinkles.



- 2. Underline.** Underline the verse you'd like to remember to accompany the sticker.

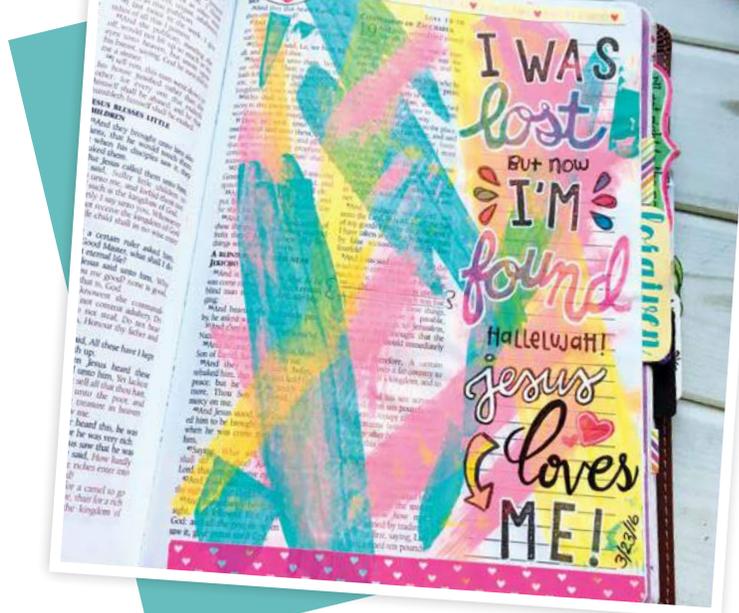
# ACRYLIC PAINT

REGINA YODER

Acrylics are an opaque, water-based paint that dries quickly and can be watered down for a more translucent look. Acrylic paints come in both bottles and tubes and are available in a wide array of colors.

## PAINTING EASY STRIPES

You can make stripes quickly and easily using this simple method!



Korin Sutherland



1. **Add paint.** Add a tiny blob of paint to a sticker placer tool or the very end of a used gift card. A sticker placer will give you skinny color layers, and a card will give you wider color layers.

2. **Wipe.** Hold the tool at a 45-degree angle and drag a thin layer of paint across the Bible page. Repeat with the colors of your choice.



3. **Add words.** After the paint has dried, add alphabet stickers or letter your desired text by hand.

4. **Embellish.** Add additional embellishments if desired.

# LETTERING

JOANNE FINK

Since the heart of Bible journaling involves writing God's Word, it is helpful to know some simple hand-lettered styles and how to use them. On the next few pages, you'll find several easy-to-learn lettering styles that work well on their own or can be combined to enhance and emphasize the message you are trying to convey.

## SIMPLE MONOLINE CAPS

A B C D E F G H I J K L M  
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

VARY THE HEIGHT OF THESE  
LETTERS TO ADD INTEREST.

## Simple Monoline Mix

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii  
Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr  
Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

THIS STYLE LOOKS BEST WHEN A  
MIX OF CAPITAL AND LOWERCASE LETTERS  
ARE USED IN THE SAME WORD, AND WHEN  
SOME OF THE LETTERS "BOUNCE" ON THE  
BASELINE, OR ARE STRETCHED VERTICALLY.

# Karla Dornacher

## JOURNALING TO RECONNECT WITH HER PASSION AND HER FAITH

“My very first memories as a child are of making art,” says Karla Dornacher, who grew up along the Mississippi River in western Illinois. “I wanted to be an artist when I grew up, but I put my art supplies away when I became a wife and a mom, and for years I focused my creativity on my home, gardens, and crafting.”



Surrounded by the beauty of the Pacific Northwest, Karla enjoys life with her husband and their two silly kitties in Vancouver, Washington.

Once upon a time, though, Karla was college-bound on a full scholarship to study art at Southern Illinois University. But weeks before her first semester, she met and fell in love with her future husband, and her life took a new direction. Soon she was married and starting a family. She and her young family moved first to the Pacific Northwest, then to Alaska for four adventurous years, and then back to Washington again. Along the way, she found another passion: her faith. In her spare time, she practiced calligraphy, using scripture as her source material.

Then, one day, something happened that brought everything together. “I was so excited the day I painted my first watercolor painting that didn’t turn to mud!



I was forty years old,” Karla recalls. “Combining my new love for color and my hand-lettered verses, I started my own faith-based art business, which [eventually] opened a door for me to write and illustrate more than eighteen books. Today, in some ways, I’ve come full circle by drawing and designing coloring books similar to those I once loved as a child, only now for the little girl that lives within us all.”

A visual artist once again as well as an experienced scripture calligrapher, Karla remembers vividly the next turning point in her faith journey: discovering Bible journaling on social media in January 2015. “I was smitten!” she says. “I believe my heart skipped a beat and immediately did a happy dance! I ordered [a journaling Bible] right away; I love it because it gives me another good reason to really read and delight in God’s Word and another avenue to worship Him and share Him with others.”

For Karla, there’s something special about her Crossway ESV Single Column Bible: it provides the



His  
Workmanship  
Created  
in



trespasses, made us alive together  
raised us up with him and seated us  
7 so that in the coming ages he might  
kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.  
And this is not your own doing,  
one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his  
which God prepared beforehand

One in Christ

<sup>11</sup>Therefore remember that at one time  
circumcision" by what is called the cross,  
<sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time  
commonwealth of Israel and strangers  
and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now  
have been brought near by the blood of Christ,  
abolishing the law of commandments expressed  
himself one new man in place of the two, so  
both to God in one body through the cross, there  
and preached peace to you who were far off and  
through him we both have access in one Spirit to the  
strangers and aliens, <sup>1</sup> but you are fellow citizens with  
household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the  
himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole  
grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you all  
dwelling place for God by <sup>2</sup> the Spirit.

The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed

<sup>3</sup> For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus  
<sup>2</sup> assuming that you know me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the  
briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you will know that  
<sup>5</sup> which was not made known to me by  
been revealed to his holy apostles and messengers  
the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same  
in Christ Jesus through the gospel.  
<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister  
was given me by the grace of his power,  
the saints, this grace of his power,  
Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring forth to all men  
for ages in <sup>4</sup> God who works all things  
wisdom of God might be made known to  
heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This mystery is hidden  
in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> through  
through our faith in him, <sup>13</sup> to the  
for you, which is your glory.

Prayer for Spiritual Strength

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees  
heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that  
you to be strengthened with power through  
Christ may dwell in your hearts through  
in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend  
<sup>1</sup> Or sojourners <sup>2</sup> Or in <sup>3</sup> The words This mystery is are inferred from verse 14  
<sup>4</sup> Or by <sup>5</sup> Or fatherhood; the Greek word



space to interact with the words artistically, which draws her in time and again. “Rather than just read and walk away, it gives me a good reason to spend more time in one passage or one verse, meditating on it and sometimes even memorizing it, which encourages my faith and draws me closer in my walk with God.”

## “BIBLE JOURNALING PROVIDES A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY ARTIST—FROM BEGINNER TO ADVANCED.”

Karla enjoys Bible study because she loves to dig deep into the stories and meanings—she says it feeds her mind. But she loves Bible journaling because it feeds her soul. “I tend to be a very visual person and often ‘hear’ God speak to me in pictures and imagery, so the art of Bible journaling has given me another new and wonderful way for me to express His Word in my own personal and

unique way,” she says. “I take great joy and delight in Bible journaling and illustrating scripture and am so thankful for how He has used His Word to truly transform my heart and give purpose and meaning to my life.” Though she doesn’t have as much time to work in her Bible as she would like, she is thankful for what time she does get, typically a few days a week. She sticks to a simple toolkit consisting of a light pencil for sketching, a pen for inking, and colored pencils for coloring.

To people just beginning to get into Bible journaling, she says, “Just be you, and don’t worry about being perfect, because nothing is perfect apart from God!” She cautions journalers to not compare themselves to others, but to develop their own style and process. For example, she can be inspired by someone’s scrapbook-style Bible journaling work, but she wouldn’t imitate it because it’s not her own personal style—she doesn’t even own stamps! “But the great thing is that there is no single style that is better than another,” she says. “Bible journaling provides a wonderful opportunity for every artist—from beginner to advanced—to learn and grow and develop her own skills and style [while] creatively connecting with the Lord.”

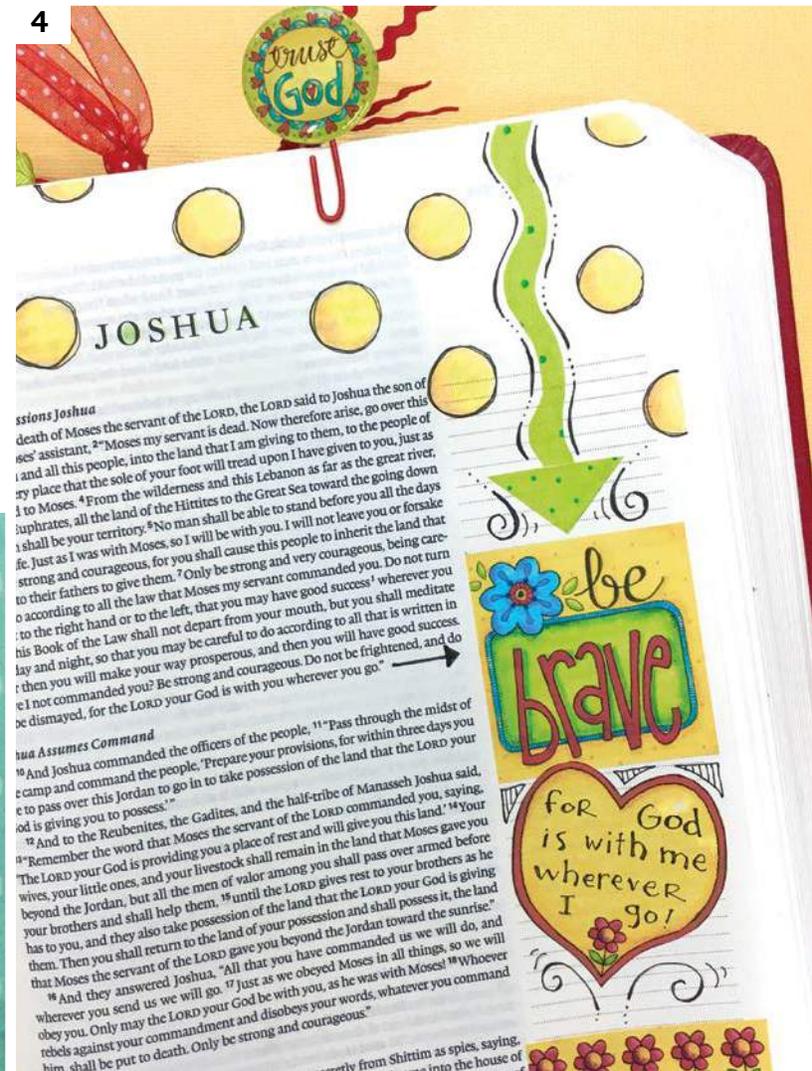


To get tips from Karla, check out her website, [www.karladorner.com](http://www.karladorner.com), her Instagram, [@karladorner](https://www.instagram.com/karladorner), or her other social media sites!

Karla created this Fruit of the Spirit design by tracing a portion of one of her coloring book pages, then sprinkling the list of “fruits” among the branches.



1. Many of Karla's designs are drawn freehand in her Bible, but she often prefers to sketch her design on paper first, ink it, and then trace it in her Bible. Check out the extensive line of Bible journaling "margin" bookmarks in Karla's Etsy shop.
2. "I love to hand-letter!" Karla shares, which is evident in the rich diversity of lettering styles she incorporated into this charming design. As is true with most of her designs, she did the line work with an 005 Micron pen and finished it with Prismacolor Premier colored pencils.
3. "I always try to creatively express the emotion of a verse whenever possible through color, letter styles, and adding hand-drawn elements," Karla says. "It's like the joy of the Lord fills the page in both word and art."
4. Karla often creates stickers from her printable art. "God has used Joshua 1:9 so many times in my life to encourage me to be brave that I knew it was the perfect verse to use my 'be brave' art and washi tape sticker collection. It's bold and fun and I love it!" she says.



3

# Discover New Ways to Express Your Faith

Bible journaling is the powerful and popular new way to engage with scripture through art. *Complete Guide to Bible Journaling* is your go-to guide to the latest lettering, drawing, painting, and crafting techniques for bringing God's Word to life.

Learn all about the different types of tools that today's Bible journalers use to connect their faith with creativity. Discover wonderful ways to express your spirit by tracing, drawing, and patterning. Get tips on using stencils, colored pencils, watercolors, acrylic paints, rubber stamps, washi tape, and much more. Meet some of the world's leading Bible journaling artists who share the stories of their personal faith journeys.

A colorful gallery offers inspiring examples of journaling both inside and outside the Bible. A bonus section—worth more than \$50 retail—provides hundreds of exciting stickers, index tabs, vellum overlays, and illustrations to trace and color.



## Inside You'll Find:

- Simple ways to hand-letter and illustrate your favorite verses
- Tips and techniques for using stencils, colored pencils, watercolors, acrylic paints, rubber stamps, washi tape, and more
- Personal profiles of leading Bible journaling artists
- Gallery of inspiring examples from more than 40 talented artists
- Hundreds of bonus stickers, tabs, overlays, and icons to trace and color



\$19.99 US | \$25.99 CAN | £14.99 RRP UK



**DESIGN ORIGINALS**

an Imprint of Fox Chapel Publishing  
www.d-originals.com

