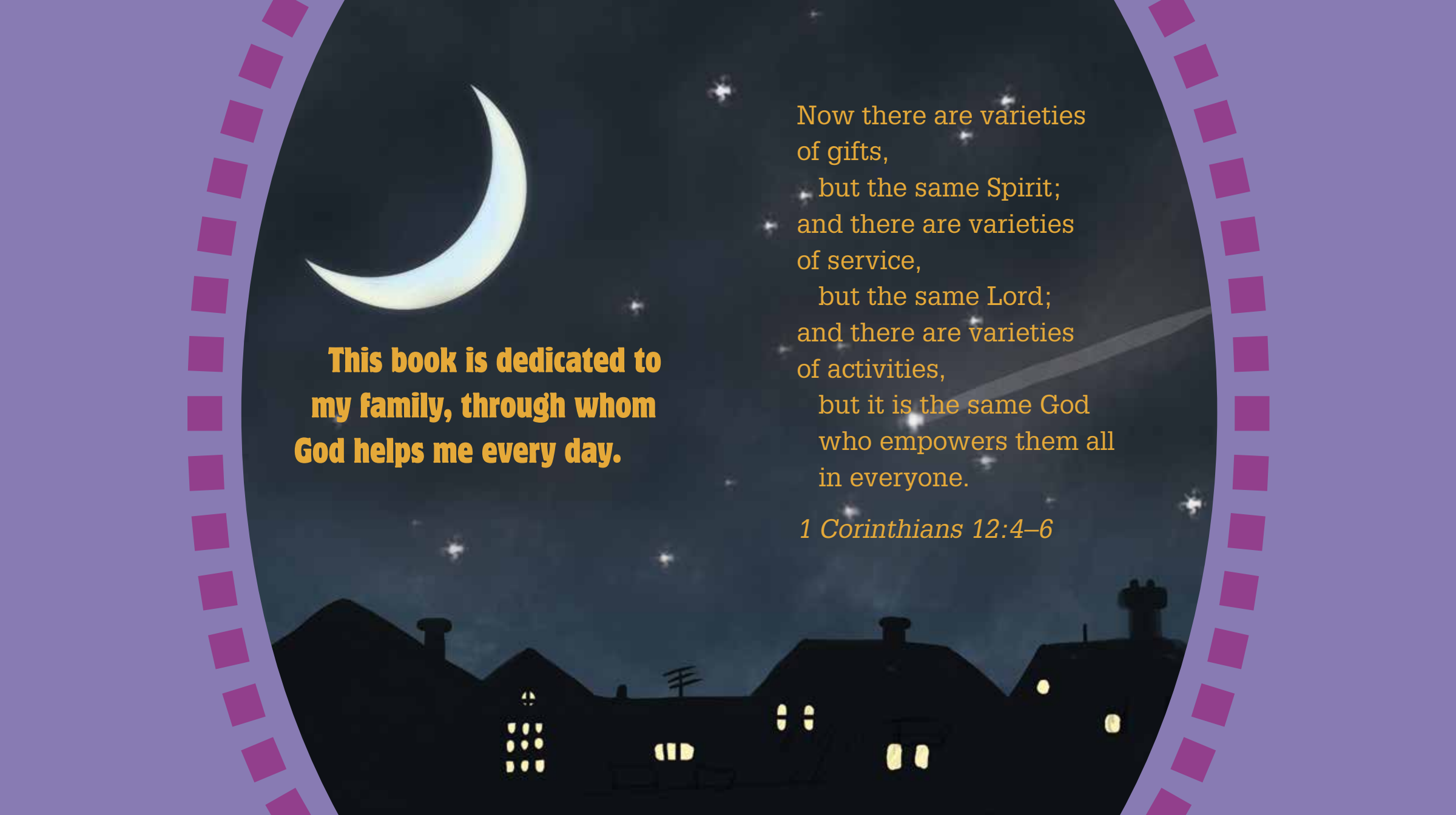




This book is for _____

from _____.



**This book is dedicated to
my family, through whom
God helps me every day.**

Now there are varieties
of gifts,

but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties
of service,

but the same Lord;
and there are varieties
of activities,

but it is the same God
who empowers them all
in everyone.

1 Corinthians 12:4–6

How Can I Help?


GOD'S CALLING FOR KIDS

By Mary J. Moerbe
with Gene Edward Veith



Illustrated by
Jennifer Zivoin



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For Parents

Being a child is a vocation, a calling from God.

When we hear the word *vocation*, we think about jobs and how we make our living, but the word literally means “calling.” St. Paul said it this way: “Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him” (1 Corinthians 7:17).

We are called by the Gospel, something that first happens in Baptism. God “assigns” us to different spheres of life and “calls” us throughout all of our lives. Christians have multiple vocations:

- in the workplace as employees and employers,
- in the church as in “called and ordained” pastors and other church workers,
- in society as citizens; and
- in the family as spouses, parents, siblings, and children.

The purpose of every vocation is to love and serve our neighbors. Our relationship with God is based solely on His love for us in Christ, but then He sends us out into our everyday callings to love and to help the people He brings into our lives (1 John 4:7–21).

This applies to children too. They serve in church (going to Sunday School and worship services), in society (being well-behaved in public), in their future workplace (developing talents and beginning their education), and in their family (honoring their parents and getting along with others).

Theologian Martin Luther taught that God is present in all vocations, and they are grounded in Him (marriage manifests Christ and the Church, parenthood is grounded in our heavenly Father, childhood rests in the Son of God). Furthermore, God Himself works through vocation. He gives us our daily bread through farmers and bakers. He heals us through doctors and nurses. He protects us through police officers and firefighters. He creates and cares for children through mothers and fathers.

God is present in children and works through them as well!

We parents know how much God blesses us through our children, how they pull love out of us, force us into responsibility, and turn us into adults. Part of the vocation of being a parent is to help our children grow up into callings of their own. This book is designed to help with that. It is written by my daughter. How happy she makes me that God is working through her in her callings as deaconess, wife, mother, and writer!

Because everyone has been born, being a child is the only vocation everyone has. Although children grow up, they will always be sons or daughters of their parents. Those vocations are permanent. And as Christians, we are all permanently God’s children.

Parents are called to love and serve their children; children are called to love and serve their parents. Both will be asking each other all of their lives, “how can I help?”

Gene Edward Veith



God is the
greatest helper.

He is so great
He never
needs help!





God may not
need help,
but I do.

God gives
me people
in my life
so we can
share His
gifts.

God gives us
our daily
bread,
but my
mom and dad
help me
to receive it.

