

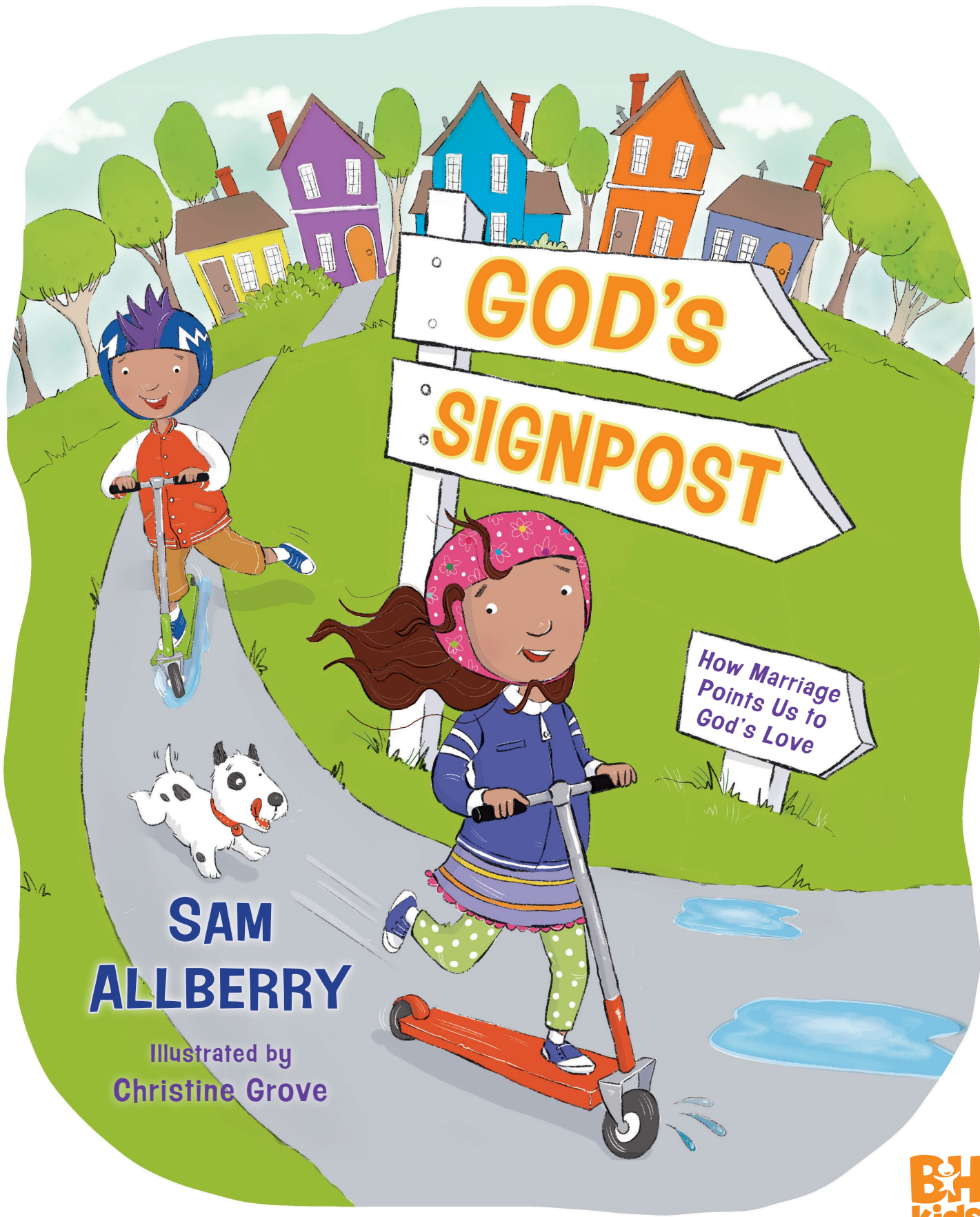


# GOD'S SIGNPOST

How Marriage  
Points Us to  
God's Love

**SAM  
ALLBERRY**

Illustrated by  
**Christine Grove**



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*To Dimitri Alldridge,  
for twenty-five years of faithful  
friendship and encouragement*



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**E**than and Lila were excited.



They were always thrilled when they were on their way to visit Pop and Nanna, who lived in the town of Midhaven.





As always, Pop would give them bear hugs and Nanna would have a delicious cake waiting. Not just a *normal* cake . . . her famous triple-layer raspberry tower cake.

The kids cheered when they saw the Midhaven signpost—they were almost there!

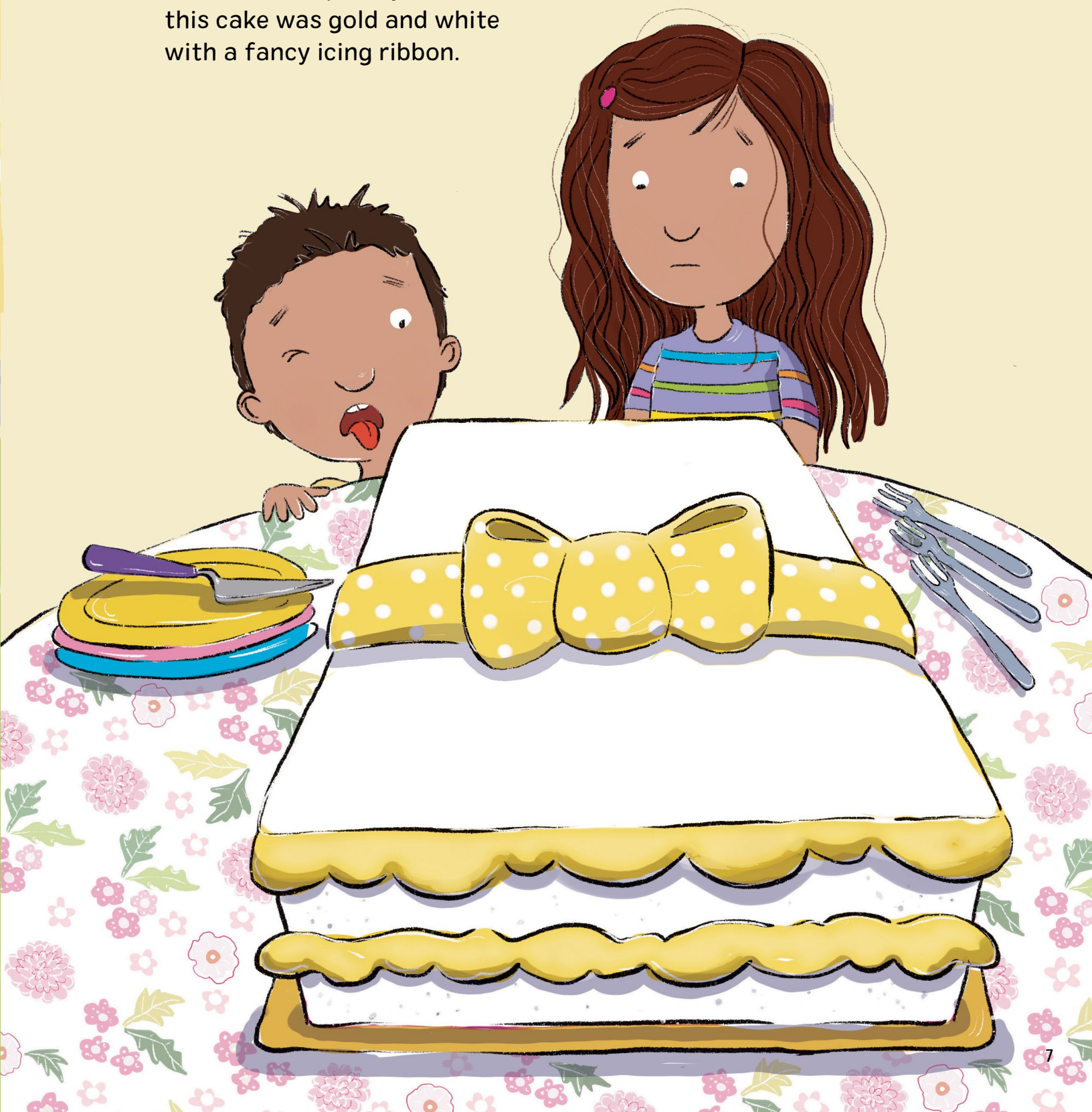
Welcome to  
**MIDHAVEN**

But when they arrived,  
things looked different.



Why were people bringing presents? It wasn't Pop or Nanna's birthday. And why was everyone saying congratulations? Pop and Nanna hadn't started new jobs, and they definitely didn't have a new baby.

Even the cake was different.  
Instead of raspberry tower cake,  
this cake was gold and white  
with a fancy icing ribbon.





“Nanna, why is there a big party?” asked Lila.

“Well, today is exactly fifty years since Pop and I were married!” answered Nanna.

“Fifty years!” said Ethan.  
“That’s forever! Were there cars and TV back then?”



“Yes! We’re not *that* old!” said Nanna with a smile. “But we have been married a long time. So we’re having a party because our marriage is a very special signpost.”



“A signpost? How are you and Pop a sign?”  
asked Ethan.

“Well,” explained Nanna, “when you drive to  
visit us, you get excited the first time you  
see the signpost to Midhaven, don’t you?”



“Yes!” said Lila. “Then we know we are getting close to seeing you . . . and your raspberry tower cake!”



**This way  
to Nanna's  
house**

**This way  
to cake**

“Why do you think we need signs like that?”  
said Nanna.

“So people know where to go?” asked Ethan.

“That’s right,” said Nanna. “Signs help us find all  
sorts of places and things so that we don’t miss  
them. What else did you see signs for this week?”



“Restrooms!” said Lila. Yesterday she had really  
needed to find one while shopping at the mall.



“The park!” said Ethan. He’d wanted to go and play there instead of shopping.



## READ:

Ephesians 5:32 is the big clue that human marriage is about more than the husband and wife. This is the main lesson Nanna is teaching the children: marriage points to God's love for us in Christ. This is why marriage is based on a promise. It is also why wedding anniversaries can be so special: anyone can make a promise, but the ongoing faithfulness to those promises reminds us beautifully of Christ's ongoing and perfect faithfulness to us. Earthly marriage is a good thing, but what it points to is the best thing.

Read Revelation 19:7. When Jesus comes back, the Church will join in marriage with Jesus—the relationship to which every marriage on earth points. It will be perfect—no more arguments, anger, sickness, or death. There will be no grudge-holding or manipulation. As part of God's church, we will get to be with Jesus forever. What a happy ending!

## THINK:

1. What are some signs or signposts you see each week?  
Do some of them point to more important things or places?
2. Think of someone you know who has been married or remained friends with someone for a really long time. Do you think that relationship was always easy? Why or why not?
3. In this story, what did Lila and Ethan learn about Nanna and Pop's marriage?
4. How does marriage point to God's love?
5. Why do you think God's love is so much better than any other love we can experience?

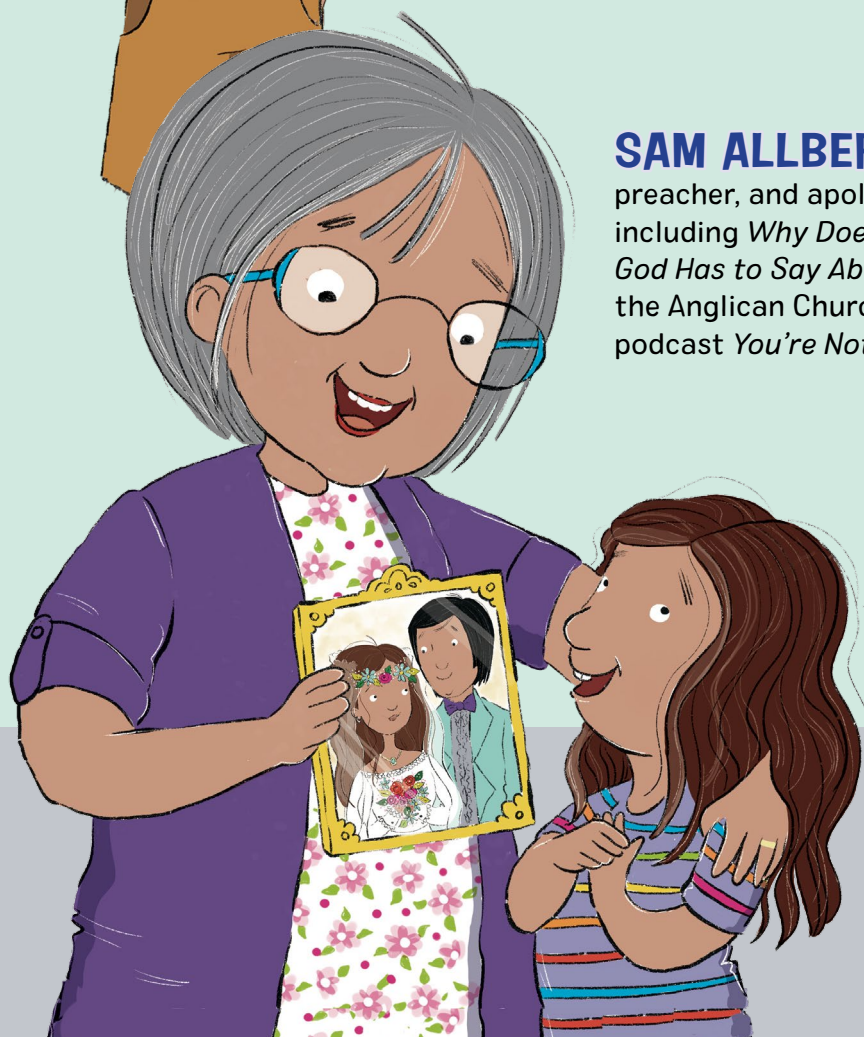


# How do we know what God's love is like?



**What is marriage?** Is it sharing a home? Is it being in love? Is it a promise? Author Sam Allberry shows us that marriage is much more than these things. Join siblings Lila and Ethan as they celebrate their grandparents' wedding anniversary and discover that marriage is a special sign that points to God's unique love for us—the kind of love that keeps on going, no matter what.

**SAM ALLBERRY** speaks around the world as a pastor, preacher, and apologist. He is the author of several books, including *Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?* and *What God Has to Say About Our Bodies*. A canon theologian for the Anglican Church in North America, Sam also cohosts the podcast *You're Not Crazy: Gospel Sanity for Young Pastors*.



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