

engage  
Kids

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NOW & LATER



**A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**



# A MOVE A MINISTRY AND A MISSION

**Hey, there! Louie here—reporting in.** If you've been following our journey, you will remember our chat with Ethan Susan. That led to conversations with the rest of his family. Did you know...wait. Of course, you don't. So I'll tell you!

After much prayer, Scott and Sarah Susan moved in 2022 to a new city and ministry with their four children. Thinking about the move was a bit scary for the kids, but once they arrived, they fell completely in love with everything—the food, the people, and the ministry center where their parents work.

The ministry center is a bustle of energy with the activities they offer to the Middle Eastern community of their town. The center is a great place for young people and children to interact and develop friendships while their parents are taking classes to learn English.

What do you think the goal of the ministry center is? If you said something like building relationships so that they can share the gospel with the people, you'd be right! That is happening daily, and the Susans are in the middle of it all, loving people to Jesus. Now...let me tell you about the three Susan kids you've not yet met.



Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid,  
for you are close beside me. *Psalm 23:4*



**Land:** ARAB COMMUNITY  
**Square:** NAVY BLUE  
**Candy:** SOUR GUMMIES

**Quiet and polite twelve-year-old Alex** is the reader of the Susan family. He has read his favorite book, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, over a dozen times. He can do that easily because he reads 392 words per minute, understanding it all just fine! That should make seventh grade a breeze for him.

Alex plays both guitar and trumpet. I wonder if he can whistle too. If so, we *might* catch him whistling his favorite song, “Jesus Loves Me.” But that’s not all Alex can do. He is very helpful and dependable and often assists his dad with handyman projects at the ministry center. His interest in technology, science, and space makes him dream of becoming an astronaut someday.

Alex feels honored to be part of his family’s ministry. He thinks learning about Middle Eastern culture is a unique privilege. And he loves the food! He’d be content with a meaty shish kabob in one hand and a book in the other. He also enjoys traveling to places like Florida and the Middle East.

One of Alex’s good friends from the community is Ali.\* Once, Ali went to a youth camp with Alex. He has asked a lot of questions about God and is bravely standing up for what he is learning. Will you pray for Ali?



*\*not his real name*



**Land:** ARAB COMMUNITY  
**Square:** SPARKLY RED  
**Candy:** TOFFEE

**With one look at Xena (*Zee-na*),** I could tell this ten-year-old was ready for mischief...uh, I mean ACTION. Fiercely competitive, she has played ball with broken fingers. Board games are her specialty. Xena's name means "beauty" in Arabic which seems fitting for her love of art: drawings, craft projects, and homemade slime. Her creativity sometimes spills over into the kitchen with baking or cooking.

Xena loves color, style, the clothing of the Middle East, and... cats! Animals really respond to her, earning her the title of "animal whisperer." If not creating something, Xena is probably talking to a friend or cousin on the phone, playing her violin, or topping a piece of toast with Nutella®. It is reported that she collects...everything but especially miniature toys.

Xena fills her hours at the ministry center with babysitting for the mothers who attend classes and helping her siblings clean and prep the facility for the next day. She, too, is Ali's friend and was excited to hear him once pray over a meal...in Jesus' name!

Xena adored her mother's birthday party given by her Arab students! Sitting on a fancy carpet, the guests all used bread or a spoon to dip from any one of twenty-some plates of food. After changing from casual to fancy clothes, the ladies presented the cake with great fanfare. Xena loves the Arab people and wishes they could all know the truth of her favorite song—"The Gospel Changes Everything."



**Land:** ARAB COMMUNITY  
**Square:** SOFT PINK  
**Candy:** CAKE BALLS

**Spoiled and adored by her siblings** (and maybe picked on just a little), bouncy seven-year-old Lexi is rarely seen without Cubbles, a stuffed bear from her grandma. Lexi is a “connector,” quickly pushing past shyness to make new friends by sharing stories about her life. For instance she was excited to tell me all about her favorite candy at Hashem’s store (hard on the outside, chewy on the inside), the chocolate cake balls at Shatila’s, and Jerusalem Market’s cheese bread.

Lexi and her siblings all love Christmas! Laser tag, time with cousins, and the Shepherd on the Shelf are some of Lexi’s Christmas favorites. I’d love to hear her rendition of “Silent Night” on the piano, wouldn’t you?

Lexi *loves* the ministry center and wants to work there when she grows up, but God is using her now! She cleans and babysits at the center, but there’s more. Due to a seizure, Lexi must now take medicine and visit doctors. Recently, God used Lexi’s situation to open the door for her doctor to listen as the Susans witnessed to him—for over an hour!

Several circumstances have caused Lexi fear, but God has helped her be brave. She is also deeply compassionate. When she first started school in the new town, she met a girl with a facial deformity that frightened Lexi deeply. People prayed, and God answered. Lexi’s fear melted, and she was able to greet her friend and tell her she is beautiful!

# CHECK YOUR COMPREHENSION

Though siblings who live in the same house and attend the same school, the Susan children are unique individuals with different personalities. Without looking back, can you match each of the Susan children with their favorite things and activities or their age?

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1. What word describes Alex?
  2. I love Shepherd on the Shelf.
  3. What word describes Lexi?
  4. Alex went hunting for this animal.
  5. How old is Xena?
  6. I love to read.
  7. What word describes Xena?
  8. How old is Alex?
  9. This is Lexi's favorite stuffed animal.
  10. I love to make homemade slime.
  11. How old is Lexi?
  12. Xena loves this animal.
- 

Alex  
Compassionate  
Bear  
Lexi  
12 years old  
Deer  
Competitive  
Cat  
Xena  
Dependable  
10 years old  
7 years old

Now, look back over the stories.  
Did you get them all right?





# Louie's treehouse Lain



## Overcoming Fear

“Different” often causes fear, but God can help you with that fear just like He helped the Susans. Their fear over the move to a new community has been replaced by many wonderful blessings: experiences, opportunities, and relationships.

One way to fight off fear is by praising God for things He has already done. Share with us your story about a time God helped you push through fear to discover a special blessing on the other side.



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