

Every time the thunder crashed,
Rufus's whole body trembled.

He looked at his friends.





“How can you play right now?”
he asked. “Aren’t you afraid of the storm?”

“I’m not afraid of storms,” said Ava. “But I’m afraid of other things. Like crossing the stream. I don’t want to fall in and get wet!”





“Me too,” Jo said. “I don’t like climbing up high. I’m afraid to fall!”

“I’m afraid of noisy storms,” Rufus admitted.
He was so ashamed. He wanted his friends to
think he was big and brave.

But Ava and Jo didn’t make fun of him.





“It’s okay to feel afraid, Rufus,” Ava said.
“Everyone gets scared sometimes.
But God watches over us when we’re afraid.
We can trust God!”

Rufus inched to the edge
of the stable and looked outside.





Dear God,

*Sometimes I get afraid. Please help me to trust you
when I'm scared.*

Amen.

Rufus opened his eyes and looked at his friends. He felt a little better. Then he saw something leaning in the corner of the stable, and he got an idea.





“Look what I can do!” he said.

“Wow!” said Ava and Jo.

Rufus felt like the bravest puppy
in the world again!



ABOUT THE STORY

Rufus likes to think he's a brave puppy, but a loud storm scares him. His friends and a prayer help him learn that it's okay to be afraid, and that God is with him when he's scared.

DELIGHT IN READING TOGETHER

As you read, use an expressive voice to convey Rufus's transition from bravery to fear, and back to bravery again! When Rufus's friends share their different fears, ask your child what they're afraid of. The answers may surprise you!

ABOUT YOUNG CHILDREN AND FEAR

Fear can be a surprising and unpredictable emotion. Children might be unfazed by something we expect to scare them, while something we think is no big deal sends them running. Whatever your child's unique fears, don't shame or push them. Let them know that it's okay to be afraid—and then gently assure them that they're safe.

A FAITH TOUCH

Fear is a normal part of life. But we have a God who is with us in our fear, and who wants to keep us safe!

***When I am afraid
I will trust in you.***

Psalms 56:3

SAY A PRAYER

Say the prayer Rufus said when he was feeling afraid.

Dear God,

***Sometimes I get afraid. Please
help me to trust you when I'm scared.***

Amen.

