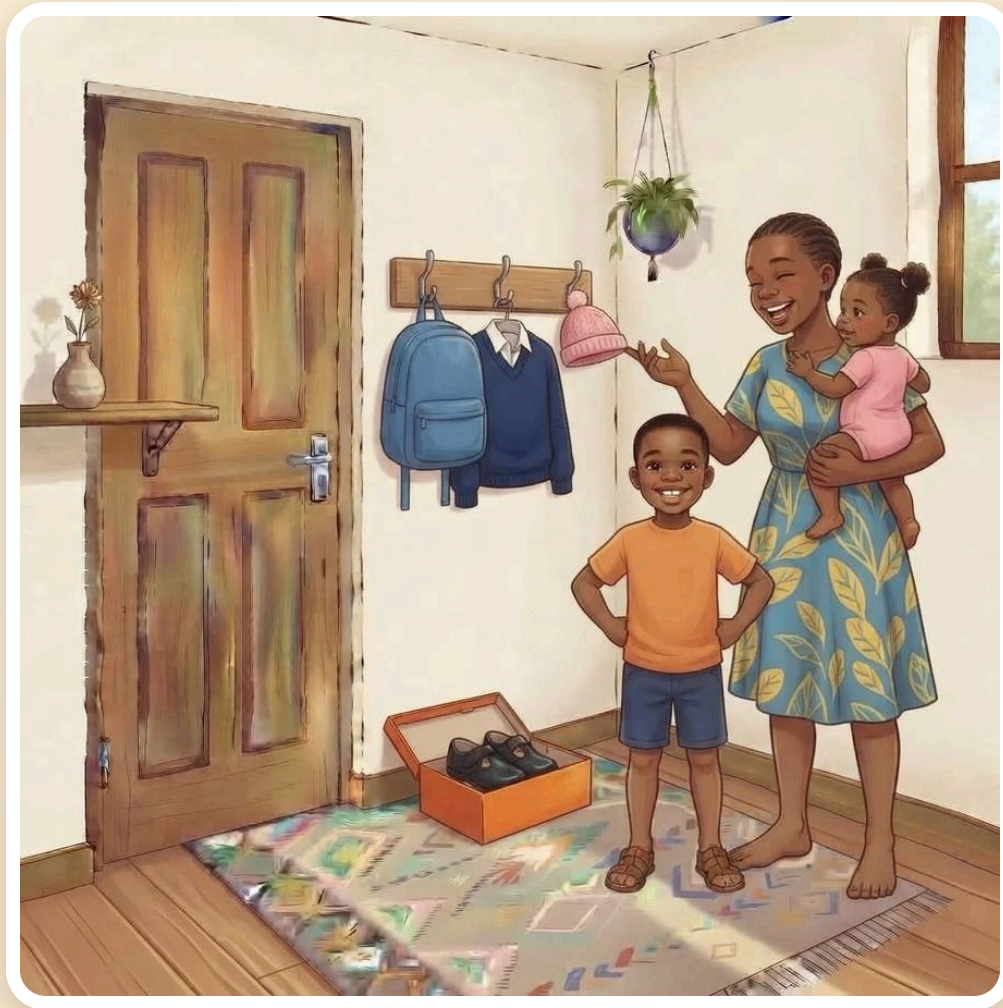


Strong & Courageous

LITTLE WARRIORS



Ages
6-8

Noah's Hammer

GRAHAM KASINDO

Strong & Courageous

LITTLE WARRIORS

Ages 6-8



STORY 2

Noah's Hammer

A WORD TO PARENTS

Why This Book Exists

In recent years, much good and necessary work has gone into lifting up the girl child. But along the way, many of our boys have been quietly left behind. Too many are growing up unsure of who they are, slow to take initiative, and quick to believe they don't really matter.

A boy does not become a good man by accident. He becomes one when someone shows him the way: what a man is, what a man does, and Whose he is.

Strong & Courageous is a series that walks with a boy from the age of six all the way to manhood. Each stage builds on the last, rooted in the Bible and its timeless principles: responsibility, honour, perseverance, self-control, focus and courage. Along the way, readers grow up with Baraka, an ordinary Kenyan boy learning to become an extraordinary man.

Little Warriors plants the first seed. Read it together. Talk about it. Do the missions. And speak blessing over the boy beside you, because the words he hears today shape the man he becomes tomorrow.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9 (NIV)



This book belongs to

a Little Warrior, made by God on purpose

Age: _____

Monday morning was always a rush.

“Baraka! Shoes on! Bag on! We leave in five minutes!” Mum called from the kitchen, with Neema on her hip and the kettle whistling.

Baraka had one shoe on. Just one.

He hopped around the sitting room on one foot.

“Where is my other shoe?”

He looked under the table. He looked behind the curtain. He even looked in the bread basket, just in case.

No shoe.

And where was his school bag?



“Neema took it!” Baraka shouted. “She always takes my things!”

Neema was sitting on the mat, chewing her rattle. She giggled.

Mum put down her cup. She walked straight to Baraka’s bed, bent down, and pulled out one black school shoe, grey with dust.

Then she reached behind the sofa and pulled out his school bag, right where Baraka had dropped it on Friday.

Mum didn’t say anything. She just looked at him.

Baraka’s ears felt hot. Neema had not taken anything at all.



They hurried down the road, Neema tied on Mum's back in a kanga, Baraka running beside them.

But when they reached the school, the green gate was already closed. Through the bars, Baraka could hear the whole school singing at assembly.

Mwalimu Achieng stood at the gate with the late children.

“Good morning, Baraka,” she said kindly. “You will wait here until assembly ends.”

Baraka stood by the gate with his dusty shoe and his crumpled bag. He did not sing a single song that morning.



That evening, Baraka sat close to Mum on the sofa. “Mum, can you tell me a story?”

Mum smiled. “Let me tell you about Noah.

“God gave Noah a very big job: build a boat, bigger than our whole block of flats. So every day, Noah picked up his hammer. *Knock, knock, knock*. One plank. Then another. Then another.

“It took a very, very long time. But Noah did not leave his job for someone else. He did not say, ‘Somebody else will do it.’ He just kept knocking, day after day.

“And when the rain came, everyone inside the ark was safe, because Noah had done his job.”



Baraka was quiet. Then he said, “Mum, I don’t have a big boat to build.”

“No,” said Mum. “But you have two shoes and one school bag. They are your job. Not mine. Not Neema’s. Yours.”

“Even if they’re small?”

“*Especially* if they’re small,” said Mum. “God gives big jobs to people who do their small jobs well.”

Baraka thought about Noah and his hammer.

“Mum,” he said slowly, “can I have a hammer too?”



On Saturday morning, Mum came home with an old wooden board, a small hammer and three big hooks.

“Every ark needs a captain,” she said. “Captain Baraka, where should your things live?”

Baraka pointed to the wall beside the front door.

Mum hammered the first nail. Then she held the board steady while Baraka held the hammer with both hands, just the way she showed him.

Knock... knock... KNOCK.

He missed the first time. And the second. But on the third try, the nail went in straight and strong.



Then Mum found an old shoe box, and Baraka coloured it orange, like his favourite T-shirt.

One hook for his school bag. One hook for his sweater.

“And this one is for Neema’s little hat,” said Baraka. “She can share my ark.”

Mum laughed.

Baraka stood back and looked at his work. It was not as big as Noah’s ark. But it was his.



On Monday morning, Mum came out of her room, ready to call, “Baraka! Shoes on!”

But Baraka was already standing by the door. Shoes on. Both of them. Bag on his back. Sweater on.

Mum’s mouth fell open. “Who is this boy?”

“It’s Captain Baraka,” he said with a grin.

Then he spotted Neema’s little sock on the floor. He picked it up and gave it to Mum. Captains look after everyone on the ark.



Before they left, Baraka knelt down beside Neema. “Neema, I’m sorry I said you took my shoe. It was my job, not yours.”

Neema grabbed his nose and giggled. Baraka decided that meant yes.

That morning, they reached the green gate before it even opened. Mwalimu Achieng smiled.

“Good morning, Baraka. You’re early!”

And at assembly, Baraka sang the loudest of all.



That night, Baraka put his shoes side by side in the orange box. He hung his bag on its hook.

Knock, knock, he tapped the wall softly, just like Noah.

“Goodnight, ark,” he whispered.

Mum tucked him in. “I’m proud of you, Captain.”

Baraka smiled sleepily. “Mum? Tomorrow can I learn to wash my own plate?”

Mum laughed. “One job at a time, Noah. One job at a time.”



BIBLE HERO

Noah: “He Did His Job”

Long ago, the world was full of people who had forgotten God. But one man still loved God and listened to Him. His name was Noah.

God said, “Noah, I have a job for you. Build a big boat, an ark, for your family and for the animals. A great flood is coming.”

The ark had to be enormous. It took a very long time to build. But Noah did not complain, and he did not give the job to somebody else. He worked day after day, doing exactly what God told him.

Then the animals came, two by two. Noah’s family went inside, and God shut the door. The rain fell and fell, but everyone inside the ark was safe.

When the flood was over, God put a rainbow in the sky as a promise. Noah had done his job, and God had kept His word.

Retold from Genesis 6–9. “Noah did everything just as God commanded him.” (Genesis 6:22)



MY BRAVE WORDS



**“My things are my job.
I do my small jobs well.”**

MEMORY VERSE

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Say it together three times: once in a whisper, once in your normal voice, and once in your **loudest captain voice!**

TALK TOGETHER

Let's Talk

1

Why was Baraka late for school? Whose job was it to look after his shoes and bag?

2

Baraka blamed Neema. How do you think she felt? What did Baraka do to make it right?

3

Noah had a big job from God. What small job *can you* do well every day?

LITTLE MISSION

This Week's Mission

Make a “home” for your shoes and school bag with a grown-up. Then every night this week, put them in their home before bed.

My Star Chart

Colour a star each night your things are in their home.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						

Little Warrior: _____

Grown-up: _____

FOR PARENTS

Note for Parents

Responsibility doesn't begin with big tasks. It begins with a boy owning his own small things. This story shows two halves of responsibility: **doing his job** (shoes and bag) and **owning his mistake** (apologising to Neema instead of blaming her).

- **Give his things a home.** A hook, a box, a shelf at his height. Children can't be tidy without a place to be tidy *to*.
- **Let small consequences teach.** Rescuing him every morning teaches him that someone else will always cover for him. Waiting at the gate taught Baraka more than any lecture.
- **Turn blame into ownership.** When he says "She did it!", gently ask "Whose job was it?", then help him say sorry.
- **Let him use real tools, with you beside him.** A boy who helps build something, with your hands guiding his, learns that his effort matters.

Monday morning. One shoe on. One shoe... **somewhere**. And Baraka is sure it's his baby sister's fault.

After a morning at the school gate, Mum tells him about Noah and his hammer. Soon Captain Baraka is building an “ark” of his very own.

“My things are my job.”

A warm Kenyan read-aloud story about responsibility: doing your own small jobs well and owning your mistakes.



INSIDE THIS BOOK

- ★ A read-aloud story with 10 full-colour illustrations
- ★ Bible Hero: Noah
- ★ Brave Words and a memory verse
- ★ Talk Together questions
- ★ A weekly mission and star chart
- ★ A note for parents

Strong & Courageous is a Bible-rooted series that grows with your son from age 6 to manhood. Enjoyed this book? A coffee helps bring the next one to life.

Little Warriors • Brave Boys • Young Men in the Making • Rising Men • Men of Honour



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