

HERE  
I AM!  
series

# AUGUSTINE of HIPPO

The  
Doubter  
Who Became  
a Church Father

*narrated by Hudson the Hippo*

**Joshua D. Chatraw**

illustrated by Cinzia Battistel







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**BH**  
**kids**  
Brentwood TN





*For Addison and Hudson.  
May your hearts rest in the Lord.*

Augustine wrote about a  
“burning” love for God in  
his books. Find eight more  
flaming hearts like this one  
hidden in the illustrations.

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Dewey Decimal Classification: CB  
Subject Heading: AUGUSTINE, SAINT, BP. OF HIPPO \ CHRISTIANITY \ CHURCH  
Printed in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China, December 2024  
1 2 3 4 5 6 • 29 28 27 26 25





Hi!

My name is Hudson, and I have a story for you about a boy named Aurelius Augustinus. (That's a mouthful—even for a hippo!) He would grow up to be a great teacher, pastor, and writer known as Augustine of Hippo.

*Augustine lived from 354–430. He wasn't a hippo like me, but he became a leader of the church in a city called Hippo Regius.*



Augustine grew up in a time long before big screens, basketballs, or bikes. Yet in some ways, he wasn't much different from you. He went to school, played with his friends, and tried to please his parents.





Augustine's mom, Monica, was a Christian, but his dad wasn't. As a young boy, Augustine would go to church with his mom. But, like his dad, Augustine would soon begin to search for **everlasting love** in other places.

This was Augustine's big problem: He looked for everlasting love in all the wrong places. He loved God's gifts—things like school, games, and friends—as if they were the most important things. This made his heart restless.



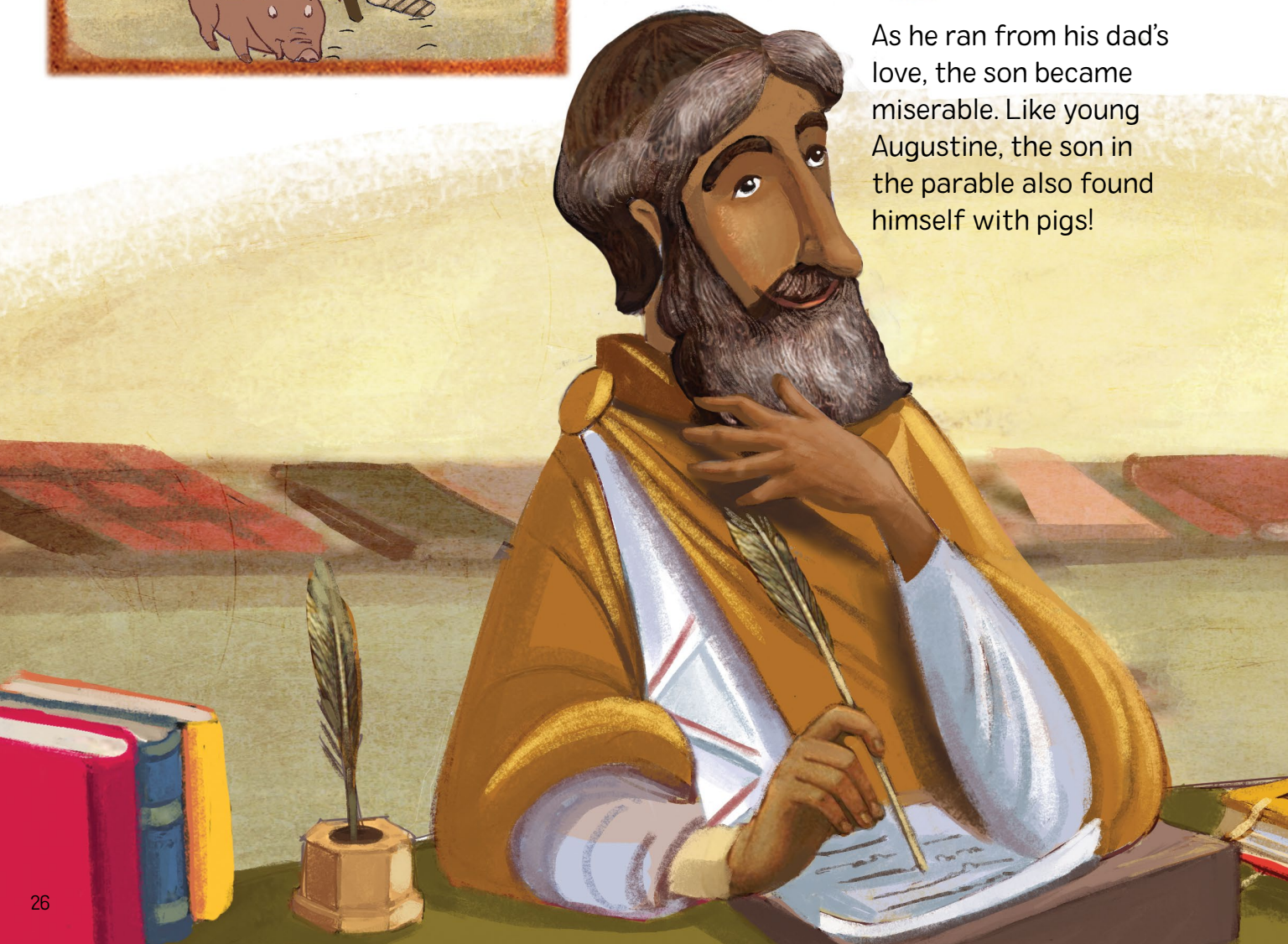
*The harder we try to be happy our way instead of God's way, the more tired our hearts become.*



Augustine also wrote many important books. In his most famous book, **Confessions**, Augustine wrote how his story was like Jesus's parable of the prodigal son, who left his home in search of love that only his father could give him.



As he ran from his dad's love, the son became miserable. Like young Augustine, the son in the parable also found himself with pigs!







In both stories, the lost son went down the wrong path, loving the father's stuff more than the father. In both stories, the son was welcomed back into everlasting love.





# A prodigal son and his search for everlasting love

**D**iscover how a boy who ran away from God became one of the most important men in church history. This biographical picture book, narrated by an insightful hippo, tells the story of Augustine—the last person anyone thought would become a leader of the church. Augustine rejected his mother’s plea to follow Jesus and chased after fame and fortune instead.

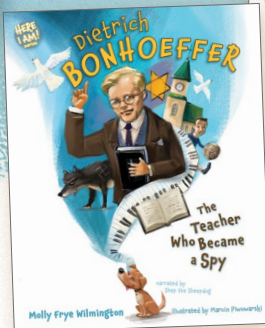


Augustine’s brilliant mind and eloquent words carried him to the biggest stages in the world. But the more popular he became, the more restless his heart grew. Had he been running the wrong way all his life? Travel along with one of the greatest thinkers to ever live as he discovers that the everlasting love he chased after all his life can only be found by trusting in Jesus.

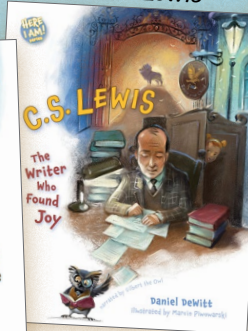
**HERE I AM!**  
series



Dietrich Bonhoeffer



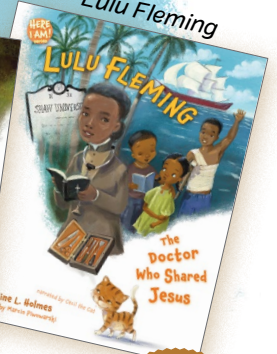
C. S. Lewis



Lottie Moon



Lulu Fleming



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**Joshua D. Chatraw** is the Beeson Divinity School Billy Graham Chair for Evangelism and Cultural Engagement at Samford University and an author of books like *The Augustine Way*, *Surprised by Doubt*, and *Telling a Better Story*. Dr. Chatraw lives with his wife and kids in Birmingham, Alabama. When he’s not in his study or in a lecture hall, you will likely find him on a soccer field, on running trails, or in his living room with family and friends.

JUVENILE NONFICTION / Biography & Autobiography / Historical Printed in China  
ISBN 979-8-3845-0590-7 USD \$14.99

