

The Mind Muddler

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About this book:

Welcome to The Mind Muddler. In the next few pages we're going to explore a really big problem. We'll see how sin plays havoc with our thinking. It affects how we think about God, ourselves, and the world in which we live. Drawing heavily from Genesis 3 and Romans 1:18-32, it exposes the faulty thinking behind our sinful behaviours.


As we turn the pages, we're going to see something wonderful. In contrast to the darkness of our fallenness we'll see the great light of the gospel - forgiveness found in Jesus. We will also briefly touch on the idea of renewed minds and our future hope.

For parents:

We long for meaningful gospel conversations with our children, but more often than not the opportunities for having them pop up in the full flow and chaos of family life. The more tools we have to help us to use these opportunities the better. My prayer is that The Mind Muddler will simply add another arrow to our quiver as we aim for more of those priceless conversations over the years.

At the end of the book, you will find a section entitled: Unpacking The Mind Muddler. This is for older children and parents to explore the themes of the book further.






In the
beginning our
thinking was
straight.

"God is so GOOD,
his Commands
are so GREAT!"

A stylized illustration of a landscape. On the left, a large blue tree with dark leaves and several red apples stands on a dark trunk. A sign on a post in front of the tree reads "DANGER DO NOT EAT God, your loving father and maker." To the right, a white, glowing figure with a crown-like headpiece stands amidst colorful, stylized plants in shades of red, yellow, and blue. The background is a warm orange with a subtle pattern of small white dots. A green vine with leaves arches across the upper middle of the scene.

Our thoughts weren't
muddled when it all began:

"God is the King, so
the king isn't man!"



God's enemy hated us
thinking so straight:
he wanted us thinking,
"Wow - we're so great."

Wow! I'm
so great!

He pointed our thoughts
down a dangerous route:
"God's just being mean!
We'll love this great fruit."



God made our minds
to run on his track

but instead we
chose the track that
was cracked.

The light of
God's truth once
shone all about,
but we listened
and ate and the
lights went...

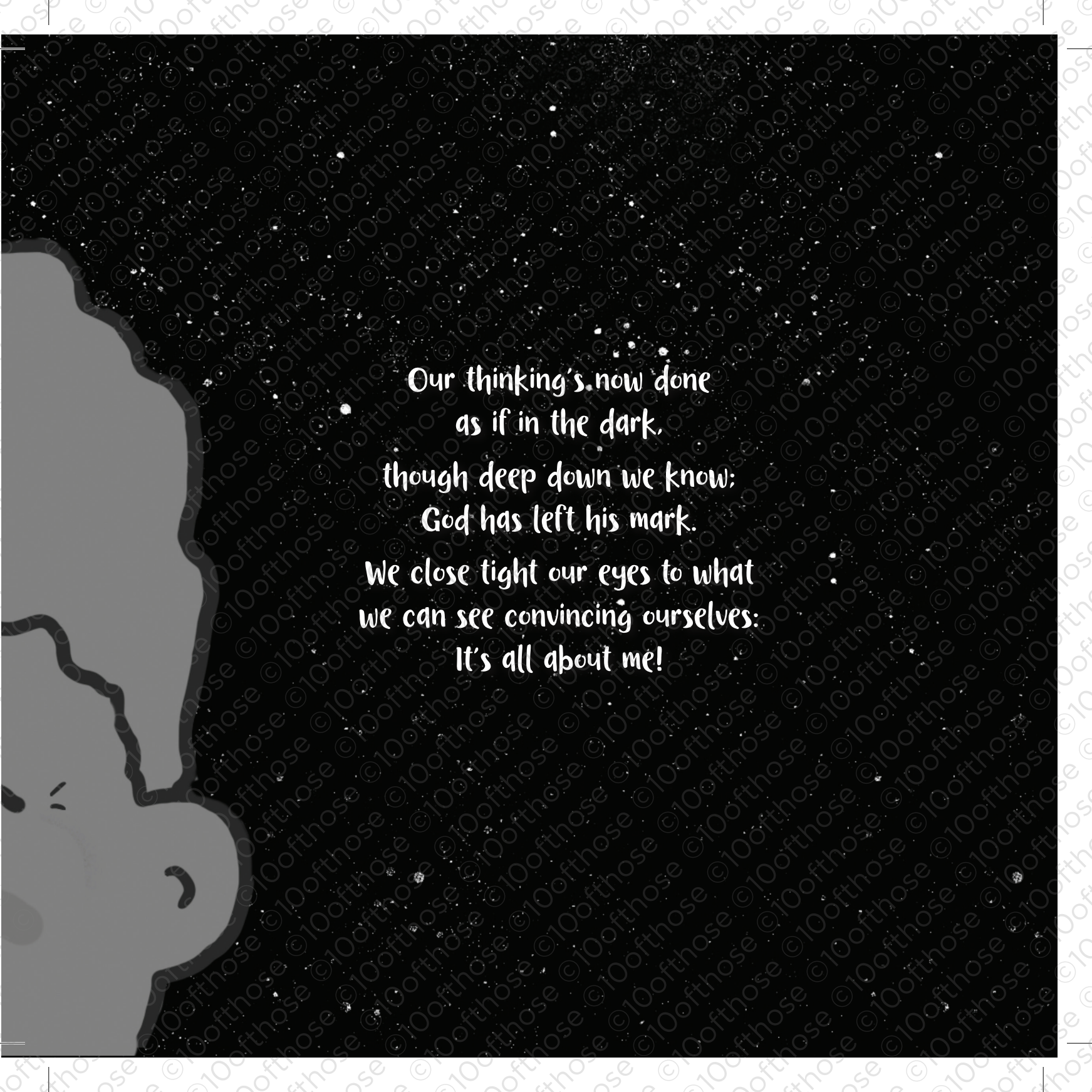
OUT



Like fools we live in a tunnel of lies;
and fools without God can never be wise.

A black and white cartoon illustration of a person's face. The person has a large, dark, wavy hairdo on the left side. Their eyes are closed in a squint, and their mouth is a simple downward curve. A dark, irregular speech bubble is positioned above the person's head, containing the text "It's all about me!". The background is a dark, starry space.

It's all about
me!



Our thinking's now done
as if in the dark,

though deep down we know:
God has left his mark.

We close tight our eyes to what
we can see convincing ourselves:
It's all about me!



Thanking our God? Well of
course that's no fun.

We'd rather pretend it was
us all along.

We've tied up our thinking
in so many knots -
the true and the false have
done a big swap.

Now things that are
rubbish we call 'GREAT!'
We trade what is lasting for
things that will break.