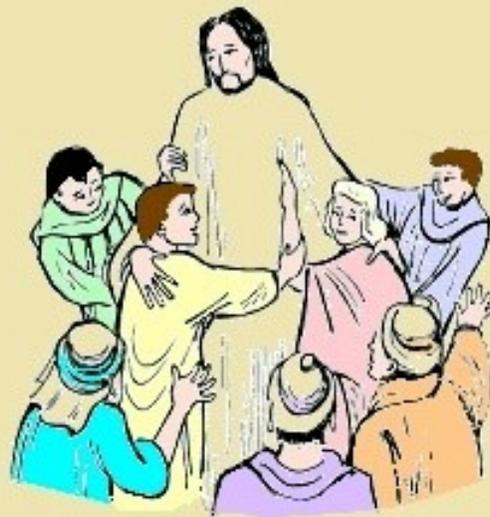


The Story of Jesus



FOR CHILDREN - ILLUSTRATED

Harold A. Lerch, Sr
Word to the World Ministries

Other Children's Books by Harold Lerch:

- *The Forever God*
- *Adventure at Hidden Mountain* (for teenagers)

Author and Word to the World Ministries

Harold A. Lerch, Sr., is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, College of Engineering, and is a Professional Engineer. He is retired from the field of construction administration and management for a major corporation. Prior, he was Special Projects Manager for the same corporation, specializing in food manufacturing and material handling.

The author founded Word to the World Ministries, Web: <https://word2world.com>, an organization that publishes and distributes complimentary witnessing resources.

Harold and his wife, Jeanne, reside near Middleburg, Pa., USA.

Mission Statement

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations. (Deuteronomy 7:9).

The author's overall concern is for the salvation of lost souls. God has provided The Way to all-to all that will accept His grace and Jesus Christ, the Messiah and LORD. This book has been written to proclaim that the universe as created by God, not by time, chance, struggle, and death.

Word to the World is a ministry founded by Harold Lerch to distribute, at no cost, witnessing materials, and biblically based information. We invite you to visit our website and download free tracts and books.

We thank Mariah for her help.

Dedication

I dedicate this book to Jeanne, my wife of the past half-century. Jeanne's gifts to me include two children and eight grandchildren. Blessings upon blessings! Jeanne is my best friend.

I wish to honor my parents, the late Mrs. Pearl Lerch and Ralph H. Lerch. Without my parents' prayers and direction, my soul might be lost.

Randy and Maria Lerch continue to inspire.

Bible References

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Note to Parents

The scripture references at the bottom of each page may be paraphrased by parents, depending on the child's understanding level. As the child becomes a better reader, he or she can read the scriptures all by themselves!

Promise of Jesus

Long ago, God promised that He would send a Messiah to save us from our sins. Because Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, people had to give sacrifices to God. The Messiah, Jesus, would become the sacrifice for our sins.

God keeps His promises. His best promise was the Messiah. We read in the Bible that the Messiah, Jesus, did come. He loved children. He healed sick people. He taught us lessons. And He died so we could be saved from our sins. Then He arose from the dead and went to live in Heaven with God, His Father. He is making a home in Heaven for each of us.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:6-7 RSV.

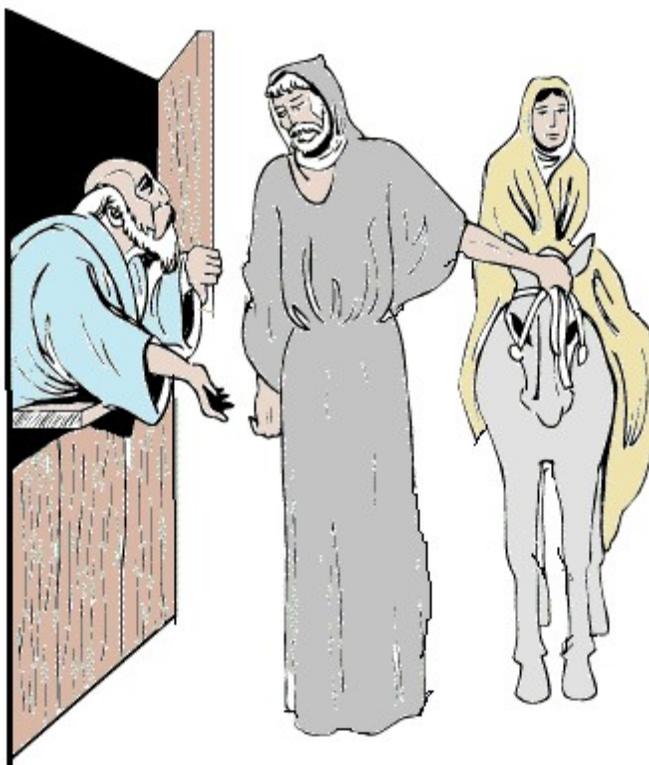
In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you! Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "for God has decided to bless you! You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the baby born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's already in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true." And then the angel left. Luke 1:26-38 NLT



Jesus was born in a manger

Jesus's mother, Mary, was going to marry a man named Joseph. She had to go with Joseph to his home town of Bethlehem to register for a tax census. Jesus was not born yet, but he was expected to come soon.

When they got to Bethlehem, there was no room for them at the Hotel, called an inn. Mary and Joseph had to sleep where the animals were kept.



At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was obviously pregnant by this time. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn. Luke 2:1-7 NLT

Jesus is the son of God

Jesus was born one night while Joseph and Mary were staying in the stable with the animals. When Jesus was born, his mother wrapped him in clean pieces of cloth and laid him in a manger. The manger is where the animals ate their hay.

Angels appeared to shepherds, who were guarding their flocks of sheep at night. The angels told them, do not be afraid. We came to give you great news. The Savior has been born in Bethlehem.



That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terribly frightened, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David! And this is how you will recognize him: You will find a baby lying in a manger, wrapped snugly in strips of cloth!" Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God. Luke 2:8-11 NLT

Jesus always was

Jesus came to us as a baby on earth. But the Bible tells us that He always has been. He was first with God the Father in Heaven. Jesus is God. God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Bible also tells us that Jesus made all things.

Jesus came to earth because He loves us so much! He came as a baby, because that is the only way He could grow up to be a man to teach us and help us.

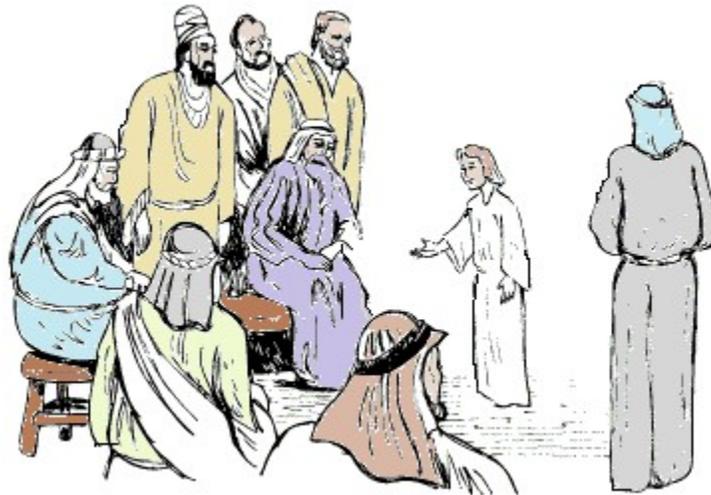


Christ, the Eternal Word: In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and he was God. He was in the beginning with God. John 1:1-2 NLT

Jesus amazed the teachers

When Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple in Jerusalem. The temple was their main church building. Jesus spoke to the teachers and asked them hard questions. Jesus told them things that amazed them. Jesus knew things that the teachers did not know. The teachers were surprised that just a boy knew so much.

Mary and Joseph could not find Jesus and went looking for him. They found him in the temple and growled Him. Jesus said, "Did you not know I would be in my Father's House?" God was His father, and the temple was the House of God.



Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, because they assumed he was with friends among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. Three days later they finally discovered him. He was in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, discussing deep questions with them. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. His parents didn't know what to think. "Son!" his mother said to him. "Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere." "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "You should have known that I would be in my Father's house." But they didn't understand what he meant. Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them; and his mother stored all these things in her heart. So, Jesus grew both in height and in wisdom, and he was loved by God and by all who knew him. Luke 2:41-52 NLT

John the Baptist

God sent someone to lead the way for Jesus. God sent John the Baptist. He was born to older people that never had children before. John told the people to repent from their sins. He said someone greater than him would come. John said, I am preparing the way for him.

That person would be Jesus. John baptized people in the river when they repented of their sins. That is why he was called the Baptist.



But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! For God has heard your prayer, and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son! And you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice with you at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or hard liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. And he will persuade many Israelites to turn to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah, the prophet of old. He will precede the coming of the Lord, preparing the people for his arrival. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will change disobedient minds to accept godly wisdom." Luke 1:13-17 NLT

God sent John the Baptist to tell everyone about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was only a witness to the light. John 1:6-8 NLT

John baptized Jesus

When Jesus grew up, it was time to start His ministry. We think he was about 30 years old and had been working with his earthly father, Joseph for many years.

The first thing Jesus did was to go see John and be baptized. When John saw Jesus, he knew right away that Jesus was the special one he was preparing the people for. John said, you should baptize me, because he knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus told John, we must do it right. You must baptize me. This pleased God.

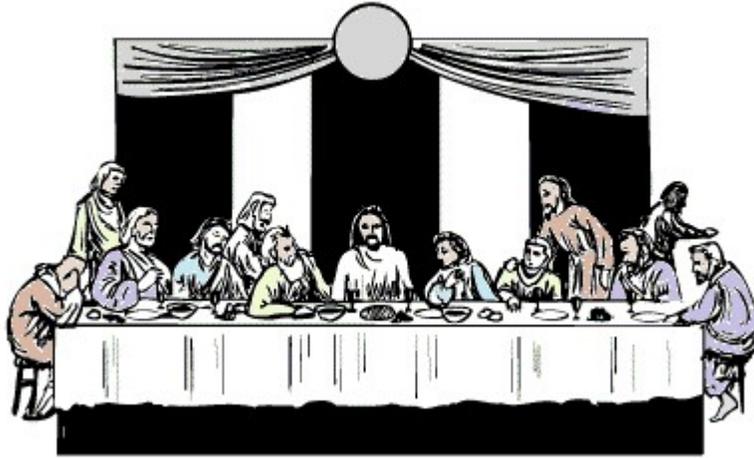


Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John didn't want to baptize him. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" But Jesus said, "It must be done, because we must do everything that is right. " So, then John baptized him. Matthew 3:13-15 NLT

He announced: "Someone is coming soon who is far greater than I am-so much greater that I am not even worthy to be his slave. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!" One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and he was baptized by John in the Jordan River. And when Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens split open and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with you." Mark 1:7-11 NLT

Jesus got helpers to follow him

Since Jesus came to earth as a man, he needed helpers. Many people followed him. From all of those, He selected twelve men who would be His close helpers. They were called disciples. He taught them how to preach. After Jesus returned to heaven, these men would go all over to teach people about God.



Jesus and the disciples eating "The Last Supper"

One day as Jesus was walking along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother, Andrew, fishing with a net, for they were commercial fishermen. Jesus called out to them, "Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and went with him. A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat mending their nets. He called them, too, and immediately they left their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men and went with him. Mark 1:16-20 NLT

Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. Then he selected twelve of them to be his regular companions, calling them apostles. He sent them out to preach, and he gave them authority to cast out demons. These are the names of the twelve he chose:

Simon (he renamed him Peter),

James and John (the sons of Zebedee, but Jesus nicknamed them "Sons of Thunder").

Andrew, Philip, and Bartholomew.

Matthew and Thomas.

James (the son of Alphaeus).

Thaddaeus and Simon (the Zealot).

And Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him). Mark 3:13-19 NLT

Jesus taught us

Jesus taught many interesting lessons. Often, He taught lessons by telling a parable. Parables are stories He made up to help us understand things better. One day, people were angry with Jesus because He ate dinner with some bad people. Jesus answered and told them that bad people need Him more than good people. He used the example of how happy a shepherd would be to find a lost sheep.



"If you had one hundred sheep, and one of them strayed away and was lost in the wilderness, wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine others to go and search for the lost one until you found it? And then you would joyfully carry it home on your shoulders. When you arrived, you would call together your friends and neighbors to rejoice with you because your lost sheep was found.

In the same way, heaven will be happier over one lost sinner who returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away! Luke 15:3-7 NLT

The Sermon on the Mount

A famous lesson taught by Jesus is called the Sermon on the Mount. A mount is a hill. Jesus gave this lesson to teach that God will bless people who are kind, share, and treat others nicely.

Some day in Heaven, God will reward you for the good things you do.



One day as the crowds were gathering, Jesus went up the mountainside with his disciples and sat down to teach them. This is what he taught them:

- ✓ God blesses those who realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them.
- ✓ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ✓ God blesses those who are gentle and lowly, for the whole earth will belong to them.
- ✓ God blesses those who are hungry and thirsty for justice, for they will receive it in full.
- ✓ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- ✓ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.
- ✓ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.
- ✓ God blesses those who are persecuted because they live for God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
- ✓ God blesses you when you are mocked and persecuted and lied about because you are my followers.
- ✓ Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted, too. Matthew 5:1-12 NLT

Love your enemies

Jesus came to save us from our sins. He also came to teach us lessons about how we should behave. He told us that we should be kind even to our enemies.

Jesus was teaching new ideas. When He came to earth as the Son of God, He changed the rules. Jesus said that we should treat others the same way as we would want them to treat us.

We call this the Golden Rule, and usually recite it as, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow. "You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too. Matthew 5:42-45 NLT

So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. Matthew 7:12 RSV

Jesus loves children

Children are often kinder than grownups. Children love others more easily than grownups do. Children love Jesus, and He loves them. One day, grownups were growling people for bothering Jesus by bringing their children to Him. Jesus told them to let the children come to Him. Jesus held the children and blessed them.

Jesus loves children. Jesus loves you!



About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Which of us is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" Jesus called a small child over to him and put the child among them. Then he said, "I assure you, unless you turn from your sins and become as little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me. Matthew 18:1-5 NLT

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus, so he could touch them and bless them, but the disciples told them not to bother him. But when Jesus saw what was happening, he was very displeased with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you, anyone who doesn't have their kind of faith will never get into the Kingdom of God." Then he took the children into his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them. Mark 10:13-16 NLT

Jesus loves the poor

Jesus was kind to the poor. The poor people loved Jesus, too. Sometimes Jesus helped the poor, and they were thankful.

Some of the rich people did not love Jesus. Because they had lots of money, they thought they did not need anything more. They thought they did not need Jesus.

Do you see that Jesus loves the little ones, the poor, and the sick the most? It is because they need Him the most and love Him the most.



Jesus went over to the collection box in the Temple and sat and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two pennies. He called his disciples to him and said, "I assure you, this poor widow has given more than all the others have given. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has." Mark 12:41-44 NLT

Jesus loves sinners, too

One day Jesus went to the home of a tax collector. In those days, tax collectors were not liked very much. People thought the tax collectors were mean and dishonest. Jesus went to the home of a tax collector to eat a meal. The people criticized Jesus for doing that. Jesus explained that bad people need him more than good people.



Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax-collection booth. "Come, be my disciple!" Jesus said to him. So, Levi got up, left everything, and followed him. Soon Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi's fellow tax collectors and other guests were there. But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus' disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with such bad people?" Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor-sick people do. I have come to call sinners to turn from their sins, not to spend my time with those who think they are already good enough." Luke 5:27-32 NLT

He taught us to pray

We can talk to God. He hears us. This is called “prayer.” We can even pray inside our head, silently, and God will hear us.

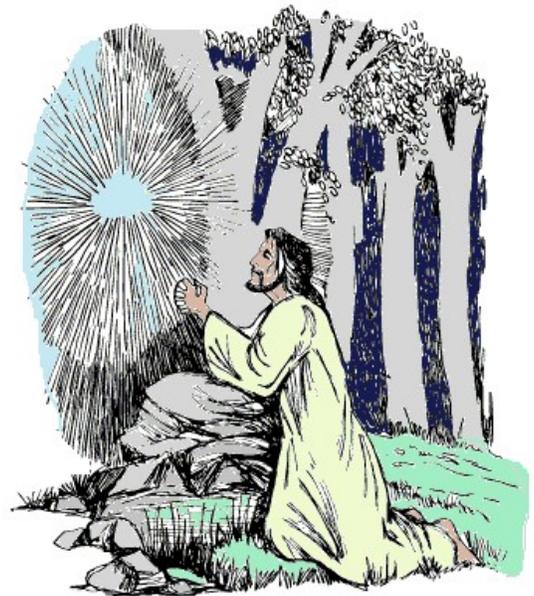
Jesus taught us how to pray. He said that God likes us to pray when we are alone, so it is just between you and God. Sometimes we pray in groups, too, like at church or when we ask the blessing before a meal. That is called a group prayer.

You can pray, for example, “Dear God, please keep all my family safe today and please give us our food and shelter. Thank you, God, for hearing my prayer. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.”

"And now about prayer. When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I assure you, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father secretly. Then your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you. "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered only by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, because your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. Give us our food for today, and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. And don't let us yield to temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:5-15 NLT



Jesus praying to His Father

Jesus wants us to forgive others

When we do something wrong, we can pray to God and ask Him to forgive us. He will forgive us! If we ask our parents to forgive us when we do something bad, they will forgive us, too.

God wants us to forgive people, too. If your friend is mean to you, and later is sorry, then you should forgive him or her. We would want our friend to forgive us.

Jesus said that, if we do not forgive others, then God will not forgive us.



If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14-15

And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have (a grudge) against anyone: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. Mark 11:25-26 KJV

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. Luke 6:37 KJV

Jesus is our Savior

Why do we call Jesus “the Savior?” it is because He can save us from our sins. It is why He died on the cross for us. If we accept Jesus as our Savior, and if we confess our sins, he will forgive us.

When Jesus saves us from our sins, it means someday we can go to Heaven to be with Him and our loved ones who are saved, too.



God sent John the Baptist to tell everyone about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was only a witness to the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was going to come into the world.

But although the world was made through him, the world didn't recognize him when he came. Even in his own land and among his own people, he was not accepted.

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn! This is not a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan-this rebirth comes from God. So, the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. John 1:6-14 NLT

Jesus is the Creator

At the very beginning of the Bible, there is a story about how God made everything—the earth, the sky, the sun, stars, planets, oceans, and all the animals. God also made a man and a woman and put them in a beautiful garden. God told the man to name all the animals.

In the stories about Jesus called the Gospels, we are told that Jesus was the Creator. Jesus knows everything. He sees everything. And He has the power to do anything. We are lucky that he loves us so much!



But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we exist for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life. 1 Corinthians 8:6 NLT

He created everything there is. Nothing exists that he didn't make. Life itself was in him, and this life gives light to everyone. The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. John 1:3-5 NLT

Jesus has the power to heal

Jesus could heal sick people. He could tell the wind and the water to do what He commanded. In the picture below, Jesus healed a little girl who died. He brought her back to life. Jesus never refused to heal a sick person. It showed that he is God and has all power.



And there was a woman in the crowd who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal from many doctors through the years and had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she was worse. She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched the fringe of his robe. For she thought to herself, "If I can just touch his clothing, I will be healed." Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel that she had been healed!

Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and told him what she had done. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. You have been healed." Mark 5:25-30. NLT

Another time, someone was healed just because she touched his clothes, because she believed in him.

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Jesus has power over nature

Jesus could command the wind to be still and the sea to be calm. He could walk on the water. He even helped fisherman catch a full net of fish. This showed that he knows everything and has all power over everything that He made.



One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." So, they got into a boat and started out. On the way across, Jesus lay down for a nap, and while he was sleeping the wind began to rise. A fierce storm developed that threatened to swamp them, and they were in real danger. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" So, Jesus rebuked the wind and the raging waves. The storm stopped, and all was calm! Then he asked them, "Where is your faith?" And they were filled with awe and amazement. They said to one another, "Who is this man, that even the winds and waves obey him?" Luke 8:22-25 NLT

That evening his disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn't come back, they got into the boat and headed out across the lake toward Capernaum. Soon a gale swept down upon them as they rowed, and the sea grew very rough. They were three or four miles out when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified, but he called out to them, "I am here! Don't be afraid." Then they were eager to let him in, and immediately the boat arrived at their destination! John 6:16-21 NLT

Jesus is God

The people had trouble understanding that Jesus is God. He told them, and they just did not get it. Until then, they just thought of God as one being. God is one, but He is also three. God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God the Son is Jesus.

An egg is one egg. It is one cell. But it is also a shell, a yolk, and an egg white. It is one thing, but it is three things. That can be very hard to understand.

Jesus said, "I and the Father are One." The only thing that can mean is that Jesus is God. Jesus told us that he existed even before Abraham, which is His way of telling us that He always has been.



Jesus answered, "The truth is, I existed before Abraham was even born!"
John 8:58 NLT

The Jewish leaders surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is what I do in the name of my Father. But you don't believe me because you are not part of my flock. My sheep recognize my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. So, no one can take them from me. The Father and I are one." John 10:24-30 NLT

Jesus had to die

If Jesus is God, how could He die? Why did He have to die?

He did it for us. As God, He could not die, so He became a man so that He could die. On the cross, he accepted the sins of all men and women against Himself. As a perfectly innocent man, He accepted the sin of Man against God and the unfairness of Man against Man.

When God made the world, He made everything perfect. He gave us the gift of choice. Sadly, we chose to sin which brought death into the world. Jesus was willing to die for us because He loves us.



For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us. God was being entirely fair and just when he did not punish those who sinned in former times.

Romans 3:23-25 NLT

Jesus lives again

Some people got angry with Jesus. They did not believe that He was the Son of God. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. We call that day Good Friday.

Jesus died on the cross. His blood ran from His body. His blood ran just like the animal sacrifices people made before Him. His blood was shed to wash our sins away.

Did you ever have a pet that died? Did you bury it? When things die, and we bury them, that is the end of them. It was not the end for Jesus. Jesus had promised He would rise from the dead. On the third day He did arise from the dead. We call that day Easter.

Jesus is alive!



Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to see the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, because an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples he has been raised from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember, I have told you." The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to find the disciples to give them the angel's message. And as they went, Jesus met them. "Greetings!" he said. And they ran to him, held his feet, and worshiped him. Matthew 28:1-9 NLT

Jesus went to Heaven

After Jesus was resurrected from the grave on Easter, he stayed on earth for 40 days to teach to His people. Then, one day he said he was leaving but will come back some-day. He will come back to take those who love Him to Heaven. When it was time for Him to go, He lifted His hands toward heaven. He rose up and disappeared.

His disciples saw this, and they took great joy in telling others about the happy thing they witnessed.

Heaven is beautiful. Jesus is in Heaven right now. He rules with God the Father. Jesus is called the Lamb of God because His blood was shed to wash away our sins, just as people sacrificed lambs many long ages ago.



Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. And they spent all their time in the Temple, praising God. Luke 24:50-53 NLT

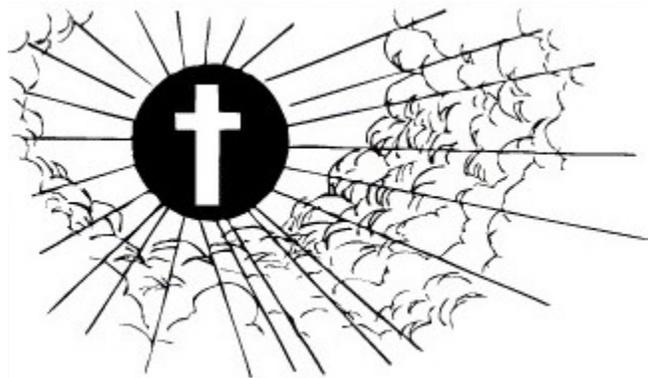
And the angel showed me [in Heaven] a pure river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, coursing down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. No longer will anything be cursed. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. Revelation 22:1-3 NLT

Jesus will come again

Jesus promised that he will come again someday. We do not know when. He tells us to be ready.

Jesus promised that He has made a place in Heaven for us. That means he will come for us.

Is there a way to know if you will go to heaven? Yes, there is a way. Jesus said, "I am the Way." You can ask Jesus to save you. Please read the next page to find out how.



But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take these weak mortal bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer everything, everywhere. Philippians 3:20-21 NLT

Do not be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. John 14:1-3 NLT

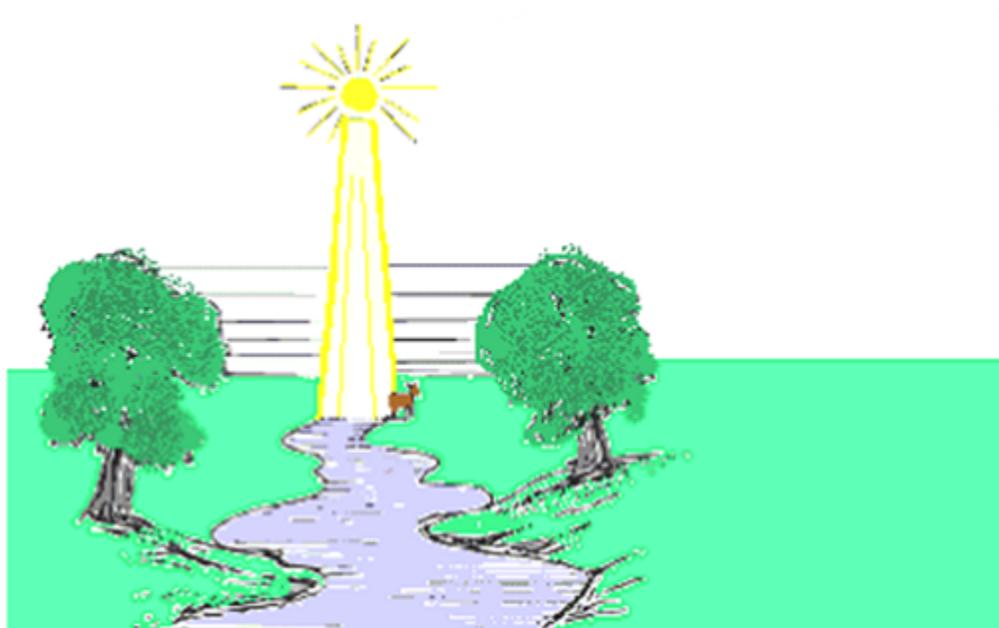
Can you go to Heaven someday?

Yes! You can go the Heaven someday! Jesus promised that we could one day go to Heaven. He said we could be with Him and God. We could be with everyone who Jesus saved. Everyone who believes on Jesus will be saved.

Did you ever hear grownups say that the best things in life are free? Jesus will save you for free. You cannot spend money to get to Heaven. You cannot get to Heaven by doing good things. Jesus did it all. Jesus can save you. He wants to save you.

You can be saved if you accept Jesus as your Savior. You can go to heaven if you accept Jesus as your Savior. To do this, pray:

Dear God, I am sorry that sometimes I do bad things. I know that Jesus can save me from my sins. Jesus, please come into my heart and be my Savior. Please help me try to be good. I know that sometimes I might do bad things. But I know you will forgive me when I ask you to. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

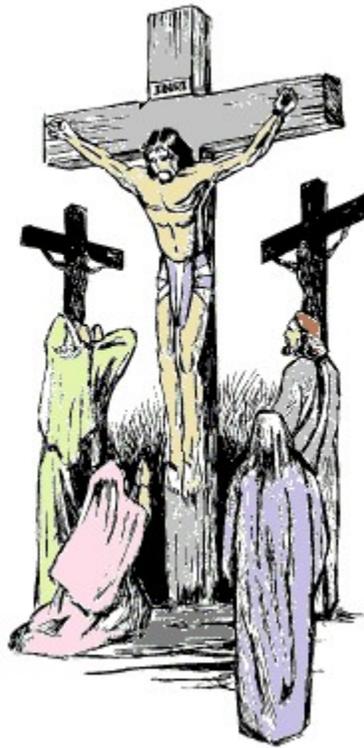


For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. John 3:16-17 NLT

Can bad people go to Heaven?

When Jesus was on the cross, there were two thieves hanging on other crosses because they were bad. One of the thieves mocked Jesus and said told Him to get down off the cross and save all of them if He was really the Son of God. Jesus could have done that, but that was not part of His plan. The other thief growled the first thief and said, we deserve to die but this man did nothing wrong.

The second thief was sorry. He asked Jesus to remember him. Jesus told him, because he believed in Jesus, that today he would be in Heaven with Jesus.



One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself-and us, too, while you're at it!" But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you are dying? We deserve to die for our evil deeds, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise [heaven]." Luke 23:39-43

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:7 RSV.

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