

GOD'S SPECIAL PLAN FOR CHILDREN



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GOD CREATED YOU. YOU ARE SPECIAL. NO ONE ELSE IS EXACTLY LIKE YOU.

God loves you very much and has a special plan for your life. God says in the Bible, “I know the plans I have for you ... I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come” (Jeremiah 29:11).

God’s plan for you includes asking His Son, Jesus, into your life to be your Lord and Savior so you can live forever with Him in heaven. What does this mean? Let’s draw a picture to help explain.

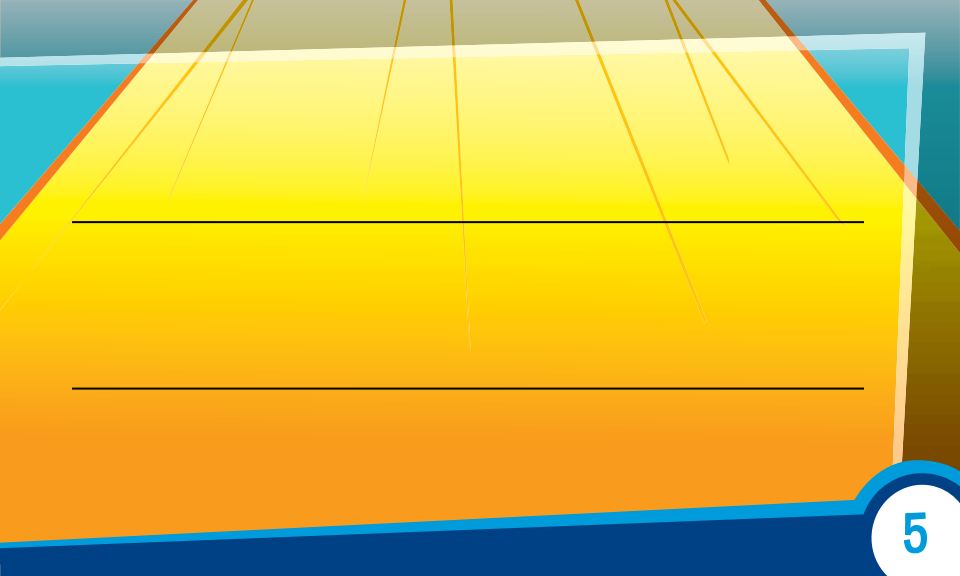
LET'S IMAGINE THIS PICTURE IS HEAVEN.

WHO LIVES IN HEAVEN?

God and Jesus live in heaven. Write their names on the two lines.

WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

Heaven is a perfect place. It is perfect because God and Jesus live there. There are no bad things in heaven.



LET'S IMAGINE THAT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PICTURE IS OUR WORLD.

WHO LIVES ON EARTH?

We do.

IS OUR WORLD PERFECT?

No. Our world is not perfect because of sin.



GOD JESUS

**THE BIBLE SAYS, "EVERYONE HAS SINNED.
NO ONE MEASURES UP TO GOD'S GLORY" (ROMANS 3:23).**

WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is an action or thought that God does not like. We sin when we disobey God. God tells us in the Bible the things we should not do.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS PEOPLE DO THAT GOD DOES NOT LIKE?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

HAVE YOU EVER DONE ANYTHING THAT GOD DOES NOT LIKE?

The Bible verse above tells us that everyone, including you and me, has done bad things. Write the word *sin* on the line on page 9.

GOD JESUS



HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT YOUR SIN?

He does not like it. Because of your sin, you are separated from God. The Bible says, “But your sins have separated you from your God. They have caused him to turn his face away from you. So he won’t listen to you” (Isaiah 59:2). Notice in the picture that sin has come between you and God.

CAN GOD LET SIN INTO HEAVEN? WHY OR WHY NOT?

No. Sin would ruin a perfect heaven. Therefore, *you* cannot go to heaven the way you are because you have sin in your life.

BUT DOES GOD STILL LOVE YOU? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Yes! He loves you very much. The Bible says, “God loved the world so much ...” (John 3:16).

GOD JESUS SIN



GOD LOVES YOU SO MUCH THAT HE DID NOT WANT YOU TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIM. HE MADE A WAY FOR YOUR SINS TO BE FORGIVEN SO YOU CAN ONE DAY LIVE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.

The Bible says, “But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Jesus left heaven, came to earth, and died on the cross to take the punishment for your sins.

Draw an arrow from Jesus to the cross. He loves you so much He was willing to die so you could live forever with Him in heaven.

GOD JESUS SIN



THE BIBLE SAYS, “WHEN YOU SIN, THE PAY YOU GET IS DEATH. BUT GOD GIVES YOU THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE BECAUSE OF WHAT CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD HAS DONE” (ROMANS 6:23).

We deserve to die and be forever separated from God because of our sin; however, Jesus died to provide a way for us to go to heaven.

DOES JESUS’ DEATH ON THE CROSS MEAN THAT EVERYONE AUTOMATICALLY GOES TO HEAVEN? WHY OR WHY NOT?

No! God’s gift to us is eternal life, but knowing about the gift is not enough. We must each accept this gift. Part of God’s special plan for your life is that you receive His gift of eternal life through His Son, Jesus.

GOD JESUS
SIN



HOW DO YOU ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE? YOU MUST:

1. **BELIEVE**—You must believe that Jesus died for you and is alive today. You must also believe that Jesus is the only way for you to get to heaven. The Bible says, “Some people did accept him. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).
2. **REPENT**—You must understand that you sin (disobey God), and you must turn from your sin. To repent, tell God you have sinned, ask Him to forgive you and to help you obey and please Him. The Bible says, “So turn away from your sins. Turn to God. Then your sins will be wiped away” (Acts 3:19).
3. **RECEIVE**—You must invite Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Savior. By inviting Him, you are promising to obey Him in all areas of your life.

GOD JESUS
SIN



YOU CAN ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT BY PRAYING A SINGLE PRAYER. WHEN YOU DO THIS, GOD FORGIVES AND REMOVES THE SIN THAT HAS SEPARATED YOU FROM HIM. THEN JESUS COMES TO LIVE IN YOU AS SAVIOR AND LORD. YOU BECOME PART OF GOD'S FAMILY.

The Bible says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

THEN WHEN YOU DIE, WHERE WILL YOU GO?

You will go to heaven to be with Jesus. Draw an arrow from you to heaven.

GOD JESUS





NOW I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

1. ARE YOU CLOSE TO GOD OR ARE YOU SEPARATED FROM GOD BECAUSE OF YOUR SIN?

If you are separated from God because of your sin, write the word *sinner* beside the picture of the child. If you are close to God, write your name on the line.

2. IF YOU WERE TO DIE TODAY, WOULD YOU GO TO BE WITH GOD IN HEAVEN?

Circle your answer and tell why you circled it. **yes** **no**

3. WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE TO DO RIGHT NOW TO BE CLOSE TO GOD AND GO TO HEAVEN WHEN YOU DIE?

There are three things. Use the picture to help you explain.

4. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU SHOULD DO RIGHT NOW?

God lets you decide whether or not you receive His free gift of eternal life.



IF THE CHILD EXPRESSES A DESIRE TO PRAY TO RECEIVE JESUS AND YOU FEEL THE CHILD UNDERSTANDS THE COMMITMENT, THEN CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE.

IF THE CHILD DOES NOT DESIRE TO PRAY OR YOU FEEL THE CHILD DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THIS COMMITMENT, THEN TURN TO PAGE 31 AND CONTINUE.

IF YOU TRULY WANT TO DO THIS WITH ALL YOUR HEART, THEN PRAY THIS PRAYER OR ONE LIKE THIS IN YOUR OWN WORDS TO GOD.

DEAR GOD, Thank You that You love me. I believe Jesus died for me and is alive today. I know Jesus is the only way for me to get to heaven. I know that I sin, and that my sin is against You. I want to turn from my sin. Please forgive me of all my sins. Help me to obey and please You the rest of my life. Jesus, I invite You to come into my life to be my Lord and Savior. I choose to live for You instead of myself. Thank You for hearing me and answering this prayer. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

DID YOU MEAN THAT PRAYER WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART?

Circle your answer. **yes** **no**

WHERE IS JESUS NOW?

Jesus lives in you now as your Lord and Savior. A Christian is a person who has Jesus living in him or her.

WHAT ARE YOU NOW?

A Christian!

IF YOU WERE TO DIE TODAY WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

Heaven!

Draw your face on the picture of the child. Write your name on the line beside the child.

GOD JESUS



**AS A REMINDER OF THIS TIME, WRITE YOUR NAME AND THE DATE BELOW.
THIS WILL BE YOUR SPIRITUAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE.**

I, _____
name

accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior

on _____ .
date

God says in the Bible, "I'm writing these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. I'm doing it so you will know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

WILL JESUS EVER LEAVE YOU?

No! He has promised He will always be with us. Jesus says in the Bible, “And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end” (Matthew 28:20).

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE A CHRISTIAN?

Forever! The Bible says, “Anyone who believes in him [Jesus] will not die but will have eternal life” (John 3:16). How long is eternal life? It is forever!

When God saves you, He saves you completely! The Bible also says, “And he is able to save them completely and for all time” (Hebrews 7:25).

WILL YOU EVER SIN AGAIN?

Yes, you will. Being a Christian does not mean you will be perfect. However, now when you disobey God, His Spirit, who now lives in you, will make you feel sorry. When this happens, you must tell God you are sorry and promise Him you will try not to do it again. This is called confessing your sins to God. The Bible says, “But God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure” (1 John 1:9).

WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY!

Here are three facts you need to know.

1. YOU ARE NOW A CHILD OF GOD.

The Bible says, "How great is the love the Father has given us so freely! Now we can be called children of God" (1 John 3:1).

2. GOD'S SPIRIT NOW LIVES IN YOU TO HELP YOU LIVE FOR HIM.

Jesus says in the Bible, "But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26).

3. NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD'S LOVE.

The Bible says, "I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can do that. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can do that. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done" (Romans 8:38-39).

BAPTISM

Baptism is another part of God's special plan for you. Baptism is when a minister places you gently under water and quickly lifts you back up. This does not make you a Christian, but it is important for two reasons.

1. OBEDIENCE

Baptism shows the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus was obedient to God in dying for the sins of the world. Baptism is also a demonstration of our obedience to Jesus. Jesus told us in the Bible to be baptized (see Matthew 28:19), and we must obey our Lord.

2. IDENTIFICATION

Baptism identifies us with Jesus. It is the first way you tell people that you love Jesus. Baptism also identifies us with the church. You are part of God's family in the church.

NOW THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN, GOD'S SPECIAL PLAN FOR YOU INCLUDES:

- 1. BEING BAPTIZED.** Write the date you plan to be baptized. _____
- 2. TELLING OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.** Write the name of a person you will tell about Jesus.

- 3. GOING TO CHURCH.** Write the name of the church you will attend.

- 4. READING YOUR BIBLE AND PRAYING.** Write the time of day that will be best for you to do this. _____
- 5. ATTENDING A CLASS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS, IF AVAILABLE.** Write the date and time of your first class. _____

“Grow in the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Get to know him better” (2 Peter 3:18).

FOR THE CHILD MAKING A STEP TOWARD GOD

GOD loves you very much! He is now helping you understand things about Himself and His Son Jesus, and He wants you to learn more. Go to Sunday School, church, and participate in other church activities. Pray and read your Bible. As you do, God will teach you more and more. You have made a step toward God, however, there are more things God wants you to learn. As you have more questions, come to me, the pastor, your Sunday School teacher, or another Christian so we can answer them for you. Let's pray and ask God to continue to teach you about Himself and also ask Him to help you learn.



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