

My  
RELATIONSHIP  
with JESUS

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# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CHRISTIAN?

That's a big question, and that's why we made this book; to help you explore the answer. We want to help you love your relationship with Jesus. Maybe you just started one. Maybe you and God have been together as long as you can remember. Maybe you've been a Christian for 15 months, 10 days, and 4 hours. No matter what, this book will help you understand what it means to be a Christian. Here's how it's going to happen. Ready?

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# GOD LOVES YOU

## GOD LOVES YOU. LET'S START THERE.

Let's start there because God started there. He created us and He created love. God is love.

He created us because of love. We are God's creation. We belong to Him. God loves you!

That's got to make you happy, right? It is good to enjoy God's love. That's what God wants. Enjoying God's love is a huge part of being a Christian!

Let's do something. Before you turn the page, you should actually say "God loves me" out loud. That would be awesome. Let's do it . . .

"God loves me!"

Well done. That was nice.

God's love is so big that there's even a special prayer in the Bible asking God to help people understand His love. It's a great prayer to get this book started.

As you read, underline or circle the words in the verse that show you the huge-ness of God's love.

**And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

**Ephesians 3:17-19**



*Now that you've been prayed for, let's relive the story that shows God's wide and long and high and deep love for us. As you read the story that's on the following pages, put a star next to sentences that show God's love.*

In the beginning, God created the earth and people and everything. He showed humans some big time love when He gave Adam and Eve the freedom to choose to follow Him. He knew that freedom was the only way to make their friendship real. That's all God wanted from Adam and Eve, for them to love Him enough to trust and follow Him.

However, they decided to trust a talking snake instead of God. That was a not-so-good choice that put sin between them and God. But God didn't give up on them. He sought them out, forgave them, and continued to love them and lead them. That was just God's style.

He kept loving and leading people. But because Adam and Eve pushed God away, it became much harder for people to be with God where they belonged. Sin kept getting in the way. It's like they put up a wall between themselves and God. Sometimes people would trust and follow Him, sometimes they wouldn't. But no matter what, God kept at it.

God rescued the Israelites and stayed with them as they traveled through the desert to their new home. He gave them the commandments so they would

know God's way of living. He stayed as close as they would let Him, but people had a hard time letting God get too close.

Just like back in the day of the talking snake, people were still trusting just about anything but God. They just couldn't believe God knew what He was talking about. So they kept trying to do things their own way, convinced they knew what was best.

That's when God decided to show His love in a fantastic way. God sent His son, Jesus, to live on earth and do something we couldn't do for ourselves. Jesus overpowered sin and brought God to us. He came to us. Jesus lived to reach everyone, to lead everyone, and to love everyone.

Out of pure love, Jesus let himself die on the cross so God could live even closer to us, closer than He had ever been before. When Jesus rose up from the dead, alive again, it was proof that God's love was stronger than anything on earth, even death.

We would no longer be alone. Even when Jesus went back to heaven, He promised that the Holy Spirit would stay on earth to lead and encourage us. People

all over the world began to let God get close again. They began to believe and trust that God's love was big enough to be enough. It was enough to change everyone, and it is enough to change you. When we let God's love fill us up, that's when new life begins.

## THREE WAYS GOD LOVES US



SAVIOR



KING



FRIEND

God loves us as a Savior, King, and Friend. Let's make it personal. Let's focus on God's love for *you*. God loves you as your Savior, King, and Friend. Over the next few pages, let's focus on how God loves you in these three ways.





# HOW DOES GOD LOVE YOU AS SAVIOR?

## HE FORGIVES YOU.

God's love is bigger than anything we do wrong. Ever. Just ask, and He forgives. His love helps you turn away from sin. It's like you have a brand new life!

## HE SACRIFICED FOR YOU.

Jesus gave up heaven to come to earth. Then He gave up His life so that you could be with Him. His sacrifice was the only way to make it possible. His sacrifice brings us back to God where we belong. He's the only one who could make this happen.

**Let this cross remind you of God's love for you as your Savior. Spend some time enjoying His love for you as Savior.**

**Here are some ideas to get you started:**

- Color the cross as you think about ways Jesus has forgiven you.
- Write Jesus a note around the cross thanking Him for loving you.

