

FRIENDS^{WITH} GOD

DEVOTIONS

FOR KIDS




WRITTEN BY Mikal Keefer

ILLUSTRATED BY David Harrington

54 Delightfully Fun Ways to Grow Closer to Jesus, Family, and Friends

JESUS DIES... *AND* COMES BACK TO LIFE



It was a terrible, painful way to die.

Beaten nearly to death, found guilty in a late-night trial, bullied by Roman soldiers.

Betrayed by friends. Pushed and shoved through crowded streets to a hill outside of Jerusalem and then nailed to a cross to hang as a warning to anyone else who might call himself a “King.”

Torn. Bloody. Alone in ways no one else could begin to understand.

And then—darkness. Death. A cave covered by a heavy stone that sealed away Jesus’ body from light, from life.

Except...

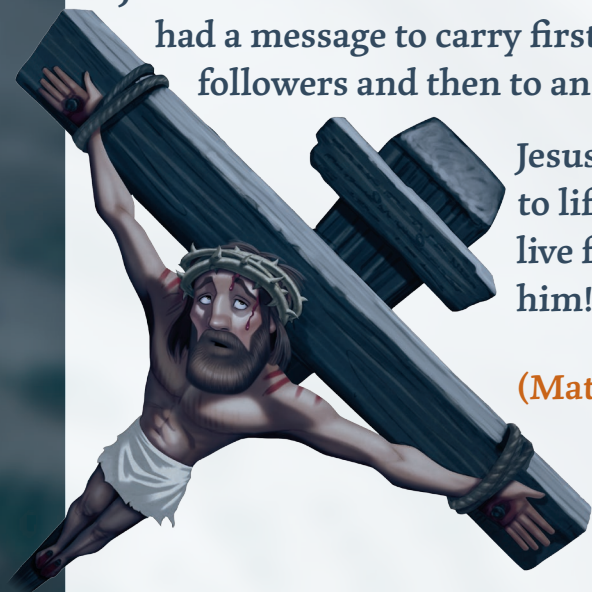
Jesus is life. Jesus is light. Jesus is God—and more powerful than death.

Early Sunday morning, just as the sun rose, women came to Jesus' tomb. What they hoped to find—Jesus' body—was nowhere to be seen. Instead, an angel greeted them with news that flooded them with hope.

Jesus had risen. He was alive. And the women had a message to carry first to Jesus' other followers and then to an entire world.

Jesus had come back to life—and we can live forever with him!

(Matthew 27 and 28)



Meanwhile, in *your* world...

Forever is...a long time. A *really* long time. Longer even than a decillion years—that's a "1" followed by 33 zeroes. Write that number below:



1

How big is a decillion? Well, if you had every penny ever made in the United States, you'd have about 300 billion pennies—that's a 300 with just 9 zeroes. Plus you'd have a piggy bank about the size of Nova Scotia.

There's no number big enough to describe how many years "forever" is—but that's how long you'll be with God when you trust in Jesus.


You and God...

You'll be with God a very long time—so get to know him better. Find a quiet spot where you can talk out loud. Finish this sentence: “God, here’s what’s been happening lately...”

You and others...

Start a story with one line and then ask a friend to add a line. Keep going until someone’s stuck.

Friendship Nugget

When you love and follow Jesus, you don’t have to *hope* you’ll live forever with him—you can be *sure*. Your friend, God, has promised and God always keeps his promises! 



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 is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.”

(Matthew 28:5-6)

PETER HEALS A CRIPPLED BEGGAR



Peter and John were in Jerusalem and, as usual, in a hurry. The 3 o'clock prayer service at the Temple was starting soon, and they'd only made it as far as the Temple gate.

That's where they saw a lame beggar—one who'd been there day after day. The man asked Peter and John for money and was happy to see the two men pause.

But then Peter said something the beggar had never heard before.

"Look, we don't have any money to give you," Peter said. "But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk."



Peter took the beggar's hand and pulled him up—and at once the beggar's withered legs were healed.

People nearby went nuts. Had they just *seen* this? INCREDIBLE!

Peter knew the men who'd killed Jesus were nearby. It was dangerous to draw attention, to stay there in the middle of a quickly growing crowd.

But God helped Peter be bold, so Peter raised a hand for quiet. “People, this wasn’t us!” he shouted. “It was the power of Jesus—who you had killed. But God raised him from the dead and we know that to be true. What you just saw proves it!”

Peter boldly preached about Jesus even as he saw the Temple guards closing in, pushing through the crowd like wolves circling in for the kill.

(Acts 3)



Meanwhile, in *your* world...

Describe a time you were bold. How'd it turn out for you?



You and God...

Man, were Peter and John *bold*! They said they knew Jesus where everyone could hear. Ask Jesus if that's something he wants you to do, too. See what he says.

You and others...

Boldly show your emotions—and see if anyone can figure out what you're doing! Using your face and no hands, show these emotions

one at a time and see if anyone can guess what you're showing: mad, sad, glad, scared, nervous, surprised, sleepy, embarrassed, proud, impatient, grumpy, kind, and silly.

Even better: Whisper one emotion word to each of your friends or family members and have them take turns showing those emotions. See who can guess!

Friendship Nugget

It's easier to be bold when you've got a friend by your side! ➡



FRIENDS WITH GOD

54 Delightfully Fun Ways
to Grow Closer to Jesus,
Family, and Friends

DEVOTIONS FOR KIDS

God likes kids—a lot!

These 54 devotions help kids discover a truth that changes their lives forever: God not only loves them, he *likes* them, too. And he wants to be their friend!

As children meet God's Bible-times friends, they glimpse who God is... how he treats his friends...and how eager God is to know *all* his children!



Makes a *perfect* companion
devotional for the *Friends
With God Story Bible!*

Free: bonus app!
Look inside for details.

Printed in China

LIFETREE

Group

MyLifetree.com

ISBN 978-1-4707-4862-3 USD \$16.99



9 781470 748623

JUVENILE NONFICTION/Religious/
Christian/Devotional & Prayer