

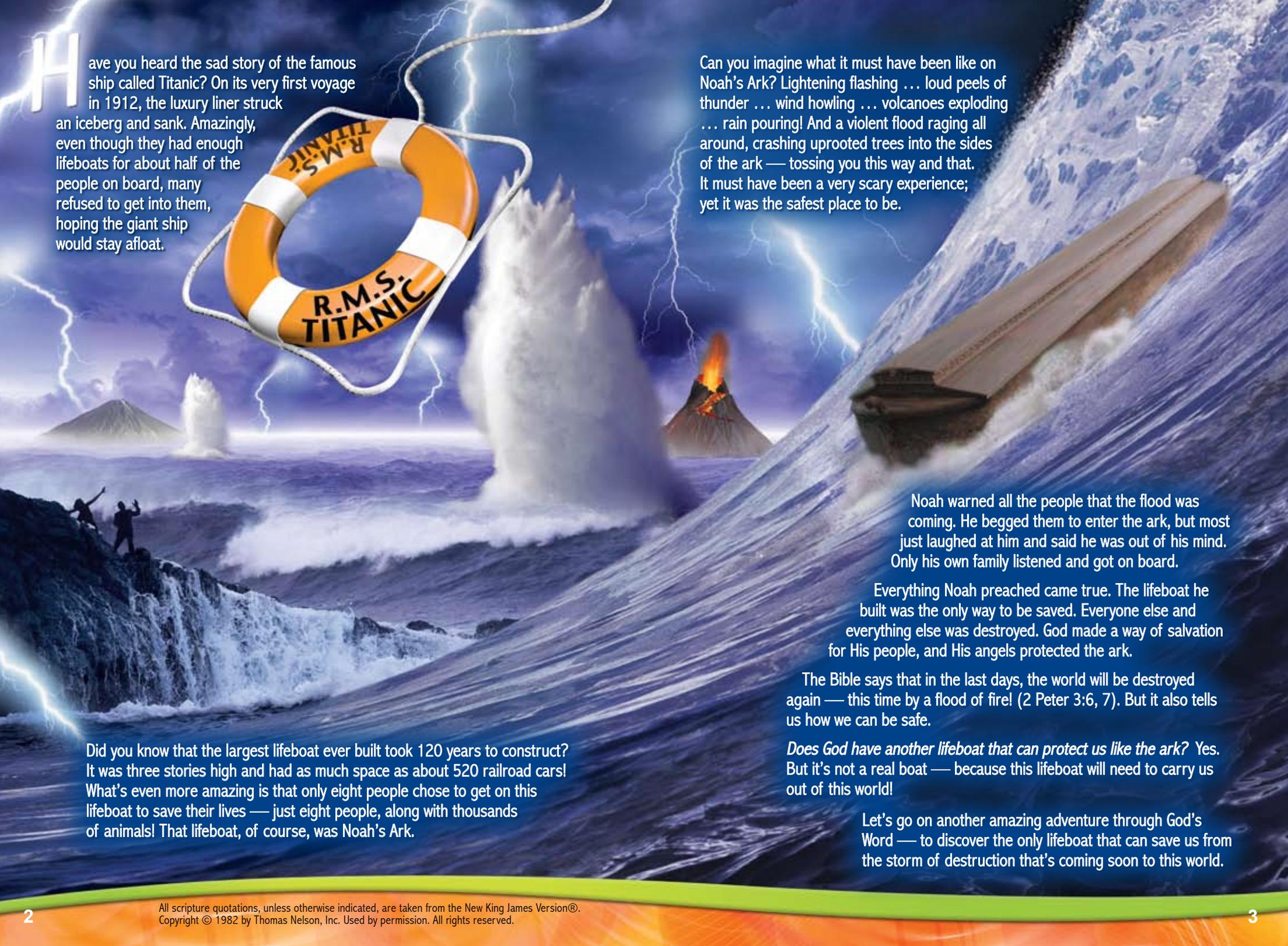


The **ONLY**
Lifeboat



**AMAZING
ADVENTURE**

Bible Guides

A dramatic scene of a stormy sea. In the foreground, a large, turbulent wave is crashing. In the background, a ship is sinking into the water. A lifeboat with the text "R.M.S. TITANIC" is floating in the water. In the distance, a volcano is erupting, and lightning is striking the sea. The sky is dark and stormy.

Have you heard the sad story of the famous ship called Titanic? On its very first voyage in 1912, the luxury liner struck an iceberg and sank. Amazingly, even though they had enough lifeboats for about half of the people on board, many refused to get into them, hoping the giant ship would stay afloat.

Can you imagine what it must have been like on Noah's Ark? Lightning flashing ... loud peels of thunder ... wind howling ... volcanoes exploding ... rain pouring! And a violent flood raging all around, crashing uprooted trees into the sides of the ark — tossing you this way and that. It must have been a very scary experience; yet it was the safest place to be.

Noah warned all the people that the flood was coming. He begged them to enter the ark, but most just laughed at him and said he was out of his mind. Only his own family listened and got on board.

Everything Noah preached came true. The lifeboat he built was the only way to be saved. Everyone else and everything else was destroyed. God made a way of salvation for His people, and His angels protected the ark.

The Bible says that in the last days, the world will be destroyed again — this time by a flood of fire! (2 Peter 3:6, 7). But it also tells us how we can be safe.

Does God have another lifeboat that can protect us like the ark? Yes. But it's not a real boat — because this lifeboat will need to carry us out of this world!

Let's go on another amazing adventure through God's Word — to discover the only lifeboat that can save us from the storm of destruction that's coming soon to this world.

Did you know that the largest lifeboat ever built took 120 years to construct? It was three stories high and had as much space as about 520 railroad cars! What's even more amazing is that only eight people chose to get on this lifeboat to save their lives — just eight people, along with thousands of animals! That lifeboat, of course, was Noah's Ark.



First, let's say a prayer asking God to teach us and help us understand His Word. You might say,

"Dear God, Thank you for providing a lifeboat to save people from the flood. Please help me to find out what will keep me safe the next time you cleanse the world from sin. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."



What has God done to make a lifeboat for us?

ANSWER: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).*

What will keep us from perishing or dying forever?

B _____ in God's Son, Jesus.

So what or who is the lifeboat?

J _____

Jesus is not only our lifeboat, He is our "life preserver" too!

The Bible says we are *"preserved in Jesus Christ" (Jude 1:1).*

Each letter of "everlasting" starts another word that describes God's love. Draw a line from the first letter to the rest of the word. The first one is done for you.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| E | mmortal |
| V | imitless |
| E | bounding |
| R | aving |
| L | ast |
| A | rue |
| S | ternal |
| T | edeeming |
| I | verywhere |
| N | entle |
| G | everending |

John Griffeth's job was controlling a railroad drawbridge that spanned the Mississippi River. One summer day in 1937, he took his young son Greg to work with him. Wide-eyed and full of questions, Greg watched his father raise the bridge to let ships pass and also lower it so that trains could cross. At noon, John put the bridge up and sat down with Greg on the observation platform to eat lunch. They were deep in thought when suddenly, John heard the shrill of a distant train whistle. The Memphis Express, loaded with 400 passengers, was racing toward the bridge!

John jumped to his feet and climbed up to the control room. He looked up and down the river to see if any ships were coming. Then he glanced below — and what he saw filled him with terror. Greg had fallen down into the massive gears of the bridge! To lower the bridge now for the train would mean certain death for his son. John trembled; he had to make a terrible decision. More than anything, he wanted to save his son, but the train did not have time enough to stop. If he did save Greg, hundreds of people on the train would plunge into the river and perish!

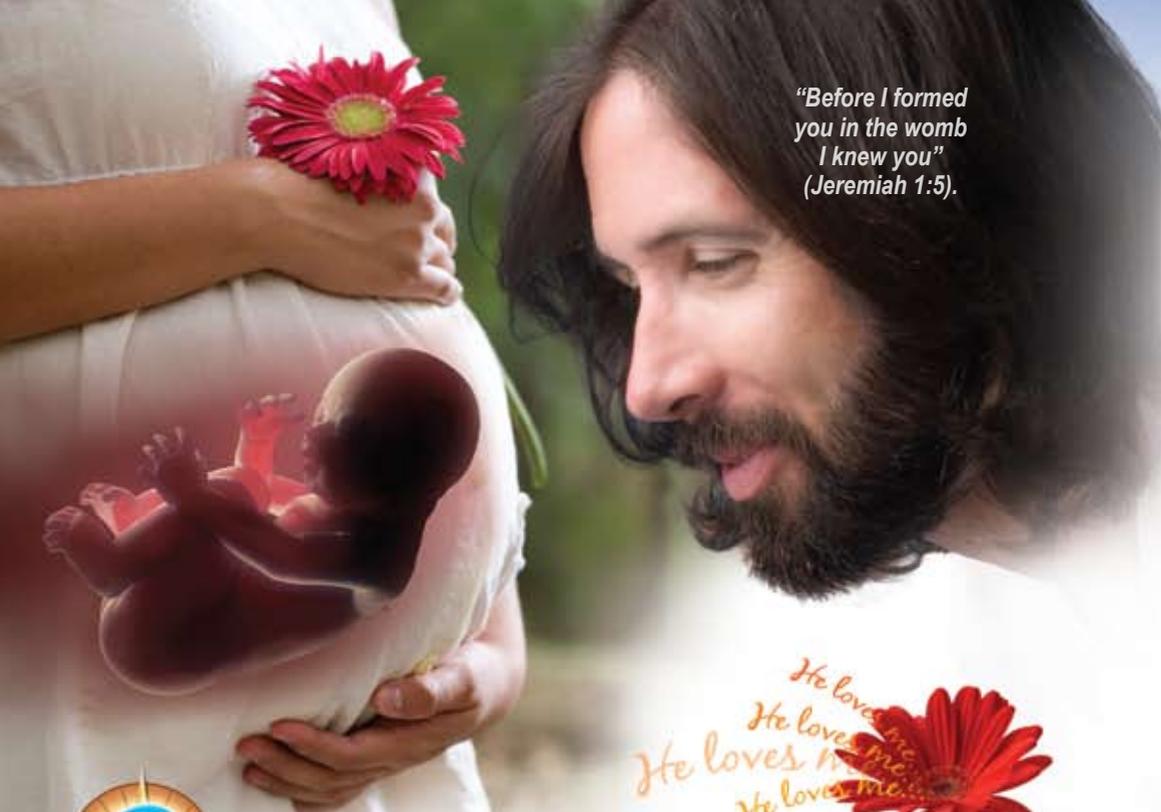
The shrill of the train whistle was now alarmingly close. Overwhelmed with grief, John bowed his head, covered his eyes, and pulled back on the lever. The bridge lowered just in time for the train to go roaring across. John sacrificed the life of his own son to save the lives of many others. What a difficult thing to do!

FAST FACT

On November 23, 1942, a Chinese man named Pooh Lim jumped overboard when his ship was torpedoed by a German submarine. He climbed into a small life raft and floated across the Atlantic Ocean surviving on fish, seagulls, and rain water. Finally, after 4 months and 13 days, Pooh Lim was rescued — setting the world record for floating alone at sea!

This is like the sacrifice God made for you! The Bible says, *"The Father Himself loves you" (John 16:27)*. He gave His Son, Jesus, to die for your sins so that you can be forgiven and saved. And Jesus willingly offered Himself in death so that we could live (Matthew 20:28). You are that special to God! He wants you to be with Him forever in heaven. Think about it . . . **WOW!** God's love is amazing.





"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5).

He loves me
He loves me
He loves me



How could Jesus love us that much? Does He really love me?

ANSWER: "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Jesus answers, "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). "You were precious in My sight" (Isaiah 43:4).

Jesus does love you. The Bible says He has an e_____ love for you and that you are very precious to Him!

Sometimes friends don't always get along. They might be nice to each other one day, but mean the very next day. But that is not the way it is with Jesus; He is always kind and true. He loves you when you are good *and* when you are bad — even though it makes Him sad. Jesus died for you so that you can be forgiven and have a home in heaven.

Here's a question for you: **Who knew about you a few months before you were born?** Your parents, of course — and just maybe your grandparents and a few family friends too.

Okay. Now, who knew you more than 100 years before you were born? In the Bible, God says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5, *emphasis added*).

"Thus says the LORD, who created you ... 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are mine'" (Isaiah 43:1, *emphasis added*).

Emperor penguins are the tallest and heaviest of all penguin species. But they are best known for their amazing sacrificial devotion to their young. After the female lays a single egg, the father keeps it warm and protected while "mom" walks as much as 75 miles to the sea for food. During the coldest Antarctic months, the "dads" endure bitter storms and great hardships (without eating!) to protect the egg. When the mother finally returns, both parents take turns tenderly caring for their chick until the young penguin is strong enough to make the long journey to the sea.



FAST FACT

Have you ever done something that you don't want anyone else to know about? Perhaps you feel that if your friends knew, they might not like you anymore. The good news is that Jesus knows *everything* about you, good and bad, and He still loves you. He knew your name even before you were born, and He has a special place in His heart just for you. Jesus wants you to choose to be His — called by His name — "Christian," a follower of Christ. He wants you to be redeemed (saved from sin).

What do you want to be when you grow up? A doctor, teacher, farmer, or firefighter? Maybe you don't know yet. But Jesus knows, and He has a special work for you that will be a blessing not only to yourself — but to others as well.

What else does Jesus know about you? The Bible says God knows you so well that He even knows the number of hairs of your head (Matthew 10:30)! He also knows your address: "I know your dwelling place, Your your going out and your coming in" (Isaiah 37:28).

Jesus really does know everything about us, doesn't He?

How many _____ we have on our head ... and when we _____ out and _____ in. **Wow!** (Do you know the number of hairs on your head?) A best friend is someone who knows everything about you and still loves you. Well, Jesus wants to be your best friend! He knows you better than you know yourself — and He won't stop loving you.

127,495



Fill in the missing words in this little poem.

Whether it's blond, red, brown or black
Curly or straight, spiked up, tied _____

God has the scoop of what's on top
Your shiny mane, your curly _____

How do we know that God knows us?
How do we know if we can _____?

Yes, Jesus sees us, and He cares
For, lovingly, He counts our _____



FAST FACT

The world's longest hair belongs to Xie Qiuping from China. Her hair was more than 18 feet long when measured on May 8, 2004. She has been growing her hair since 1973, when she was just 13 years old!

ANSWER: back, mop, trust, hairs



What did Jesus come to do for me?

ANSWER #1: "God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [atoning sacrifice] for our sins" (1 John 4:9, 10). "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Jesus gave His life so "we might _____ through Him." We have sinned, and the results are that we will die and never live again. But God is offering the gift of eternal _____. Jesus was the sacrifice for our sins that makes this all possible.

Suppose one day you were throwing a baseball — and you broke a very expensive store window! You're in really big trouble, because it costs a lot to fix it and you don't have enough money. The store owners decide to take your parents to court ... but then a good friend, who heard about your problem, gives all the money he has to pay for a new window. How would you feel about a friend like that? *Would you keep on throwing the baseball so carelessly?* Or would you show your appreciation to your friend by never being careless again?

The truth is that we all owe a big debt, which is impossible for us to pay. We have all sinned; we are all guilty of breaking God's law, the Ten Commandments. The penalty for this is not simply paying a fine or going to bed without supper — it's much more serious than that! The punishment is *death!* If it wasn't for Jesus' willingness to accept our punishment, we would all be doomed to die.



"He [Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities [sins]" (Isaiah 53:5). "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Jesus took upon Himself the punishment we all deserve — but we must accept His gift!

ANSWER #2: Let's look at another wonderful thing Jesus has done for us: **"You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).**

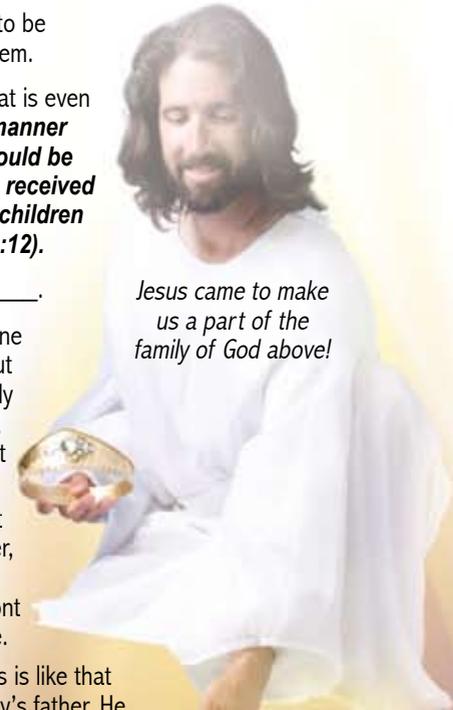
Jesus saves us from our _____. We don't have to be stuck in our bad habits. He will help us to overcome them.

ANSWER #3: And here's another thing Jesus does that is even more wonderful — if that's possible! **"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1). "As many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12).**

If we believe in Jesus, He calls us His _____.

A small boy kept coming late to the dinner table. One day, his parents carefully warned him to be on time. But he arrived later than ever! He found his parents already seated at the table, about to start eating. Very hungry, he quickly sat at his place. But he noticed what was set before him — a slice of bread and a glass of water.

There was a long, sad silence as the boy sat staring at his plate. Then his father reached over, picked up his plate, and set it before himself. Then his dad put his own plate full of food in front of his son, smiling warmly as he made the trade.



Jesus came to make us a part of the family of God above!

Jesus is like that small boy's father. He is willing to exchange our sins for His perfect obedience. *That boy was never late for dinner again!*

There are many different kinds of boats in the world — all of which will save us from drowning! Look in this word search and find the words in the list below by going down, sideways, or diagonally.

- Raft
- Submarine
- Yacht
- Catamaran
- Houseboat
- Rowboat
- Canoe
- Kayak
- Ship
- Barge



F R O W B O A T N O D
 E A J G S A F A A S R
 R F E D U K R C R H I
 R T S W B A R G K I M
 Y B U C M Y K R E P S
 S O S A A A S E Y T U
 M E T N R K A T A A R
 P A A O I P I A C O F
 C M N E N T L W H L N
 H O U S E B O A T F E
 J Q S A I L I N G V K

Wow!

Jesus wants to do a lot for us! He came to give you life, to save you from sin, and to make you God's child — all of this, if you believe in Him and ask Him.

4

How do I accept Jesus and truly show that I believe in Him?

ANSWER: "We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). "The goodness of God leads you to repentance" (Romans 2:4). "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9).

We can get in the salvation lifeboat by believing in Jesus. "From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

When we understand how much Jesus loves us, it creates love in our own hearts for Him. If we see that we have done things that have hurt Him, we will ask Him for forgiveness because we feel sorry.

Jesus loves you and has promised to forgive you if you confess your sins (1 John 1:9). **Why not go to Jesus now and ask Him to forgive you?** You can have peace in your heart today — knowing that everything is right between you and God.

How many butterflies can you find?

Did you know that a caterpillar grows to about 27,000 times the size it was when it first emerged from its egg? If a human baby weighed 9 pounds at birth and grew at the same rate as a caterpillar, it would weigh 243,000 pounds when fully grown!

FAST FACT

ANSWER: 21 butterflies

There are many happy words from the Bible on this page. Unscramble these letters to make the words. Below the words, you will find a message from Satan. His sad words are pale, though, and you can write the happy words of Jesus over them.

yoj jecoire gilthde
cepae reech lluf thnegrts

You will have **sorrow**, and will **mourn** with **despair** as your life overflows with **turmoil** and **sadness**. Your heart will be **empty** and your soul will be full of **weakness**!

5

Will my life change when I give it to Jesus and join His family? What does Jesus help me do?

ANSWER: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away ... all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

Just as a fat caterpillar can change into a beautiful new butterfly, God's love can change us into beautiful new people. His love casts away our old desires and gives us new ones. We want to give love back to Jesus by not doing selfish, sinful things. We want to keep God's commandments, which show love to God and other people, who are His children too. We can ask Jesus now to change our lives and help us to live like He does. That is what will really make Him happy now!

"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

There was once a boy named Johnny whose little sister needed a blood transfusion to save her life. The doctor explained that her only chance for recovery was a transfusion from her brother ... who had the same rare blood type. Johnny was the ideal donor!

"Would you give your blood to Mary?" the doctor asked. Johnny hesitated — his lower lip started to tremble.

Finally, he nodded and said, "Sure, for my sister."



Soon the two children were wheeled into the hospital room: Mary, thin and pale; Johnny, robust and healthy. Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny smiled.

As the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, Johnny became very serious. He watched the blood flow through the tube.

With the ordeal almost over, his shaky voice broke the silence. "Doctor, when do I die?"

Only then did the doctor realize why Johnny had hesitated when he had agreed to donate his blood. He thought he was giving all his blood away to his sister and that he would die. In that brief moment, he'd made his great decision.

Johnny, fortunately, didn't have to die to save his sister. Each one of us, however, has a condition far more serious than Mary's illness — and it required Jesus to give not just His blood but His life too.



Will I be happier when I accept Jesus?

ANSWER: Jesus says, "These things I have spoken to you ...that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). "I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Habakkuk 3:18). "I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).

Jesus comes to bring us true joy. And these Bible writers sound happy, don't they? Some people think it is hard to be a Christian because there are so many things you can't do anymore. Let's see — we can't swear, steal, be mean to others, or be selfish! Do we really want to do those kinds of things if we love Jesus? No, even though Satan might tempt us — either through peer pressure or our own desires — to do those things again. Jesus' way gives us peace in our hearts and a clear, happy conscience with no regrets.

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

To find a message from Jesus, take a crayon and color in all the squares that have the following letters:

C F H J K N P Q R S T U W X Z

C	F	K	K	S	C	S	U	T	H
P	U	X	I	X	G	A	V	E	J
X	T	R	T	P	U	Z	N	J	K
H	K	W	A	L	L	Q	F	P	R
X	R	H	Q	X	C	S	W	T	C
H	T	N	M	Y	K	J	J	Z	N
W	F	Q	N	F	U	X	N	P	T
R	N	K	B	L	O	O	D	W	Q
Z	R	X	N	C	C	P	S	W	H
R	H	Z	F	J	H	U	T	F	J

ANSWER: I gave all my blood.



Do you see how much Jesus loves you?

Do you want to accept Jesus and start living a new life with Him? _____

How can I always remember
how much Jesus loves me?

1. TALK TO HIM EVERY DAY IN PRAYER.

When you're happy or sad, when you need something, or when you want someone to talk to — send a little thought to Jesus. Since He knows everything about you, Jesus can even hear your thoughts! *Isn't that awesome?!*

2. READ YOUR BIBLE.

Be like those who **"searched the Scriptures daily"** (Acts 17:11). Read about Jesus in the four Gospels. **"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith"** (Hebrews 12:2). Jesus writes His love in our hearts — and if we keep looking at His love, we get a perfect faith in Him. Then we're ready to live with Him.

3. TELL SOMEONE ELSE.

"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart, ... you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). Sharing your love for Jesus and the things He has done for you actually makes your decision and your love for Him stronger! It makes Jesus happy when you share Him with others. Then He can see that you really do love Him.

Did you enjoy this exciting lesson?

We surely hope so! Now do the questions on the **SUMMARY SHEET**.



Notes

SUMMARY SHEET

Please read the Bible Guide before answering the questions. Fill in the circles of ALL that are correct. Hint: The number of correct answers for each question is in blue.

1. This is what God gave to save us: (1)

- a) a lot of money
- b) this earth
- c) His only Son
- d) an angel

2. What does Jesus know about us? (3)

- a) not much more than our name
- b) how many hairs we have on our heads
- c) everything about us
- d) nothing
- e) everything we've ever done

3. Which did Jesus come to do? (6)

- a) give us life
- b) show us God's love
- c) give us a million dollars
- d) forgive our sins
- e) die to set us free from Satan
- f) make us free to do whatever we want
- g) give us joy
- h) make us miserable
- i) change our lives for the better

4. When I love Jesus, what things do I want to do? (5)

- a) my own thing
- b) whatever makes Him happy
- c) show Him I appreciate His sacrifice
- d) go to Hawaii
- e) keep His commandments
- f) care about others
- g) turn away from sin

5. The lifeboat for the end times is: (1)

- a) the ark
- b) a bigger ship
- c) Jesus
- d) a whale



YOUR COMMENTS:

6. What new things have you discovered in this lesson?

7. Do you want to tell Jesus that you love Him and give Him your life right now? _____

8. Do you want to live for Him and tell others how much He loves them too?

- ANSWER:**
1. This is what God gave to save us:
c) His only Son
 2. What does Jesus know about us?
b) how many hairs we have on our heads
c) everything about us
e) everything we've ever done
 3. Which did Jesus come to do?
a) give us life
b) show us God's love
d) forgive our sins
e) die to set us free from Satan
g) give us joy
j) change our lives for the better
 4. When I love Jesus, what things do I want to do?
b) whatever makes Him happy
c) show Him I appreciate His sacrifice
e) keep His commandments
f) care about others
g) turn away from sin
 5. The lifeboat for the end times is:
c) Jesus



P.O. Box 909
Roseville, CA 95678-0909

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