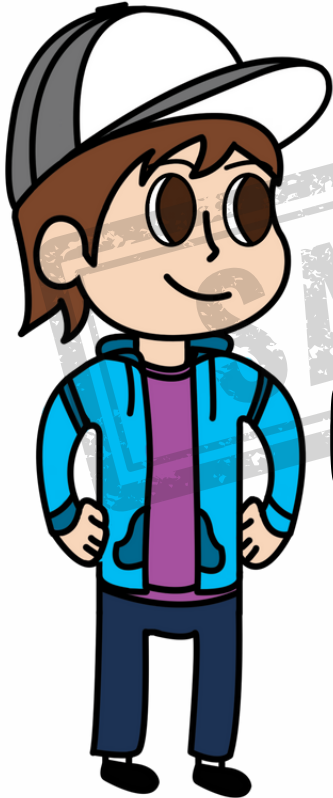


# My Brand New Life With My Best Friend, Jesus

WRITTEN BY DEBBIE RHOADS  
ILLUSTRATED BY CAMERON ECCLES



**My  
Brand New  
Life  
With My  
Best Friend,  
Jesus**



My Brand New Life With My Best Friend, Jesus  
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Illustrated by Cameron Eccles



**Today I began  
my relationship  
with Jesus.**

**It's my brand new life!**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_



**Jesus wants to be MY best  
friend?**

**WHY?**



**He created you.**

**He loves you.**

**He wants to have a relationship with you.**

# What does it mean to be saved?

Some people call it getting saved.

Some people call it asking Jesus in your heart.

Others call it becoming a Christian.

Basically, it's a **RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS**, a brand new life with Him!





**God loves us  
so much!**

**SAMPLE**

**He created us!  
He wants to have a relationship with us so we  
can spend eternity in Heaven with Him!**

**What do we have to do to have a relationship  
with Jesus?**

**First, we must realize that we have sinned.**



# What is sin?

**Sin is all the bad stuff we do.  
The Bible says that ALL of us have sinned.**

**Maybe you are saying, “WAIT! I’m just a kid! I don’t sin...much.”**

**When you were a little kid, did your mom or dad sit you down and say, “This is how you throw a fit”?**

**NO, of course not! We learned that all on our own.**

**We have a sin nature. We are born that way.**

**Sin is sin! Big sin, little sin—it’s all the same to God.**


**What does the Bible say?**

- **Romans 3:10**
- **Romans 3:23**

# Examples of Sin:



- \* Talking back to your parents
- \* Being mean to your siblings
- \* Cheating
- \* Stealing
- \* Being disobedient to your parents or teachers
- \* Fighting
- \* Throwing a fit when you don't get your way
- \* Bullying someone



**Can I still go to heaven  
even though I am a sinner?**

**Heaven is an amazing and perfect place.**

**Imagine the most beautiful,  
amazing place you have ever seen.**

**Heaven is WAY more beautiful  
and WAY more amazing!**

**One great thing about heaven  
is that it is a place with NO sin.**

**WHOA! If there is no sin in heaven,  
does that mean I can never go  
because I'm a sinner?**

**No! God loves us so much  
that he sent His Son, Jesus, to  
die on the cross for us. He  
makes a way for us to go to  
heaven, even though we sin.**



Whenever we do something wrong, we have to pay for our wrongdoing.

Examples:

\*If we disobey our parents, we are grounded or punished.

\*If we speed in our car, we receive a ticket.

\*If we commit a crime, we go to jail.

What does the Bible say?

- John 3:16
- Romans 6:23

The Bible says the payment  
for our sin is death.

Because of our sin we should  
go to hell.

**HOWEVER**, God offers each  
of us a gift...a **FREE** gift!

God gave His Son, Jesus, to  
die on the cross for us, to  
pay for our sin so we  
wouldn't have to.

**JESUS TOOK OUR PLACE!!!**




Here's a story to help you understand what Jesus did for us:

# The Meanest Sister In The World

This story is true. I have the meanest sister in the world. Yes, even meaner than yours! One day when I was seven years old, I was playing with my Barbie dolls. I spent a lot of time dressing them up, brushing their hair, and making them beautiful. I took very good care of my dolls. However, my sister, Casey, did not take care of her Barbie dolls. She would cut their hair and draw on them with markers. Her dolls were ugly!

As I was playing with my dolls that day, Casey decided that she wanted to play with MY dolls instead of HERS. I didn't want her to play with my dolls. I was afraid that she would ruin my dolls like she had ruined hers. I told her, "No." This made Casey mad!

Even though Casey is younger than me, she's mean. I was standing up and holding my dolls in the air so she couldn't reach them. She grabbed hold of my long blonde hair and pulled it so hard that my head came down close to hers. She then reached up and bit my cheek, not letting go!



It hurt so badly, and I couldn't get her to stop. I was yelling and screaming loudly for my mom to come and get Casey off my face.

Mom came rushing into the room, but my sister still wouldn't unclench her teeth. Mom had to pry my sister's mouth off of my face.

My face hurt, but I was glad that Mom was there. My sister was in trouble for being so mean to me, and I was happy about it. Mom would now take my sister into the other room and punish her. She deserved to be punished. She hurt me.

What if, as my mom was about to punish my sister, I burst into the room and said, "No mom, don't punish Casey! Punish me instead." Do you think I would do that? No way! That's crazy! My sister was mean and deserved to be punished.

However, Jesus did that for us. We sin all the time, and our sin hurts others and God. Even though He didn't commit the sin, He said He would take the punishment instead. He loves us so much He paid for our sin. This is His gift to us.



**Is God's gift for me, too?**



**YES! God's gift is for EVERYONE!**

What does the Bible say?

- Romans 10:13

No matter who you are,  
no matter what you have done,

**GOD LOVES YOU!**

His gift of salvation is for

**YOU!**

He wants a relationship with

**YOU!**

**How can I receive God's  
free gift?**

**I want to have a  
relationship with Him so  
I can be in heaven  
forever.**

**I want to be saved!**



**Some people think if they are really good and do good deeds, they can earn God's gift and be saved. Doing good deeds is great, but we can't earn our way into heaven.**

**Other people think if they give a lot of money to the church and the poor, they can buy their way into heaven. While giving money to the church and the poor is awesome, we cannot buy our way into heaven.**

**There are also people who think if they go to church all the time, they will have a relationship with God and be able to go to heaven. Going to church is wonderful, and we should go, but going to church does not save you.**

The only thing we have to do is **ACCEPT** God's gift of salvation. If someone gives you a gift, are you going to throw it off to the side? **No!** You are going to accept the gift and open it so you can accept it.

God's gift is waiting for each of us.  
If we accept it,  
we can begin our relationship  
with God and enjoy our brand new life!

**We must realize that we are a sinner and Jesus died to pay for our sins. He took our place! He did this so we can live in heaven forever! This is a gift for us, and we only have to accept it.**



**God's word says you must believe in your heart that Jesus died for you. Tell God that you want to accept His free gift of salvation. It's that easy! It's as simple a prayer. A prayer like this:**

**What does the Bible say?**

- **Romans 10:9-10**

**A prayer to begin a brand new life with  
Jesus as your best friend.**





**Dear Jesus,**

**I know that I am a sinner.**

**I believe You died for me on the cross  
to take away my sin.**

**Please forgive my sin.**

**I ask You to come into my life  
so I can have a relationship  
with You forever in heaven.**

**I accept Your gift of salvation.  
Thank You for my brand new life.**

**Amen.**





**SAMPLE**

**Now what do I do?**



**It's time to grow in your relationship with Jesus.**

# How do I grow in my brand new life?

We can grow in our relationship with Jesus by-

## **GOING TO CHURCH**

At church we learn about Jesus by listening to teaching and lessons from God's Word. We can sing and celebrate God and our brand new life! We can get to know others who have accepted Christ.

## **READING OUR BIBLE**

The Bible is God's Word. It's where we go to find the answers we need in life. The Bible teaches us how to live and gives us the encouragement we need.

### **PRAYING**

Prayer is talking to God. God is **ALWAYS** available to listen to us. We can talk to Him about anything! You don't have to use big, fancy words. Talk to God as you would talk to your best friend.

### **WORSHIPPING**

We have an amazing God who deserves all of our praise! Even if you can't sing well, you can still worship God.

### **SERVING**

God has given each of us a talent. As you grow in Him, He wants you to use that talent for Him.

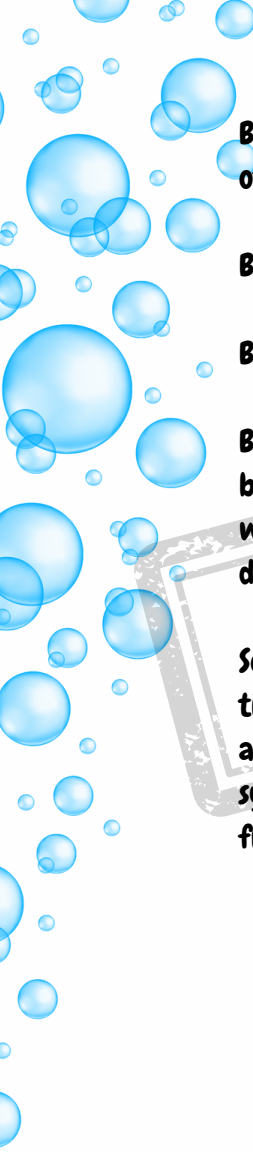
# Why should I be baptized?

## Do I have to do this to be saved?



**No.**

**Getting baptized does not save you. Baptism is a step of obedience to take AFTER you have accepted Jesus as your Savior.**



**Baptism says that we are not ashamed of Jesus. It is a picture to others of your brand new life!**

**Baptism says we want to be like Jesus and we are on His team!**

**Baptism says we want to be obedient.**

**Baptism is a picture of what Jesus did for us. He died, was buried, and then rose again. We are fully submerged in the water and then raised up to represent that Jesus rose from the dead.**

**Some people use baptism as a picture of rededication. At one time they began a relationship with Jesus, but they have turned away from Him. Now they want to come back to God. Baptism symbolizes that they are getting rid of their past and starting a fresh, new life with Jesus once again.**

**What does the Bible say?**

- **Matthew 28:19**
- **Matthew 10:32**
- **Acts 2:38**



# Will I still sin?



**Yes!**

You may be saved, but you are still human. Remember, we are all sinners. However, having Jesus as part of our life and staying close to Him helps us choose not to sin. When we do sin, we can ask God to forgive us and He will cleanse us from that sin.

**What does the Bible say?**

• I John 1:9

# If I sin, do I have to get saved again?

**No!**

**Once you have accepted Jesus as your Savior,  
He will be with you**

**FOREVER!**

**He knows we aren't perfect.**

**What does the Bible say?**

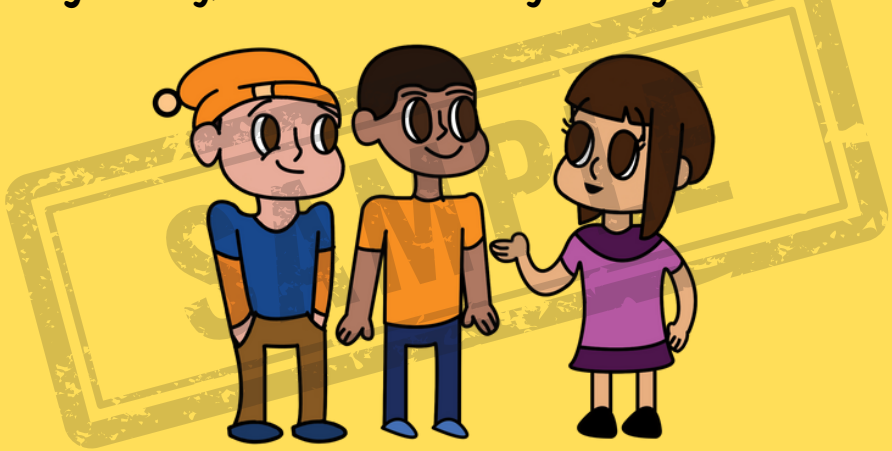
- **John 5:24**
- **Revelation 3:5**



# Can I lose my salvation?

**No!**

**God gave you the gift of salvation. He doesn't take that gift away, and no one can take you away from God!**



**What does the Bible say?**

- **John 10: 28-29**

# Can I sin as much as I want?

It is a fact that God will always forgive us.  
**HOWEVER**, we need to remember that:

Sin hurts God.  
Sin brings us shame.  
Sin always has a consequence.  
Sin hurts other people.  
Sin keeps us from being close to God.

S  
I  
N



# Will God ever kick me out of His family?

**No!**

**God loves you! We are His children.**

**No matter what we do,  
no matter how far away we go,  
God NEVER kicks us out of his family.  
He is always there for us!**

**What does the Bible say?**

**John 6:37**

# What if I don't feel saved?

Salvation is based on a decision, not a feeling. People do experience a difference in the way they feel when they are close to Jesus.

They feel a peace that they have been longing for.

Sometimes people feel a distance between themselves and Jesus. If this ever happens to you, simply ask yourself if you have moved away from Jesus in your thoughts and actions. He never moves away from us, EVER!



What does the Bible say?

- I John 5:13



## **NOTE TO PARENTS**

**Congratulations! This is an exciting time in your child's life. It is precious to watch them as they realize what God did for them. We can learn a lot from our children as we see their faith grow.**

**For some children, wanting a relationship with Jesus is a process. They may not understand at first. I want to encourage you to allow them to work through this process. Don't be embarrassed if your child "accepts Christ" multiple times. Here are some ways to help your child:**




**Use this book as a reference.**


**Have your child reread it, and read it with them.**



**Allow them to ask questions, even if they ask the same ones over and over. Patiently answer their questions.**

 **Have your child speak with a leader in the Children's Ministry or a church staff member.**


 **Have them tell you what they know about salvation. This will help you gauge how well they understand their relationship with Jesus.**

 **Encourage them as they make steps to grow in their relationship with Jesus.**

 **Pray with your child.**

 **Encourage them to take the next step and be baptized.**

 **If you have any questions, please contact a church leader.**

 **Mom & Dad, if YOU do not have a relationship with Jesus, this book is for you too.**

**SAMPLE**

**Do you have questions about what it means to have a relationship with Jesus? This book takes real questions that were asked by real kids and answers them based on what the Bible says. Questions include:**

- **What does it mean to be saved?**
- **Can I still go to heaven even though I sin?**
- **Is God's gift for me too?**

**Now that I have a relationship with Jesus:**

- **What do I do now?**
- **Will I still sin?**
- **Why should I be baptized?**
- **If God forgives me, can I sin as much as I want?**
- **Will God ever kick me out of His family?**

**This book is perfect for a child that is trying to understand salvation...and perfect for once they begin their relationship with Jesus to guide them in next steps.**

