



Jesus, the Son of God

and how he changes sad people
into happy people

A 'STORY TALK' BOOK

Jesus, the Son of God © Steve Sherwood 2023

A 'Story Talk' Book for children and parents

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1. The Good Father and his children

[Based on Genesis chapters 1 & 2; John 1: 1-13 & 8:27-29]

WHO MADE YOU? You were once a very tiny baby inside your mother. Did she make you grow into you? Did you make yourself? No! *God* made you. He made you grow inside your mother.

God has a wonderful purpose for every man and woman, boy and girl - you could never guess how wonderful it is. Do you know *why* God made you?

God tells us about it in the Bible in Genesis chapter 1 and chapter 2. God made the world and everything in it. Last of all God made the first man and the first woman. Their names were Adam and Eve.



When we know why God made the first man and the first woman, we'll know why he made each one of us.



In some ways Adam and Eve were like the animals. They had bodies with heads and eyes and ears. They had lungs to breathe with and legs to walk with...

But they were not animals. God made Adam and Eve much more special. He made them like God himself!

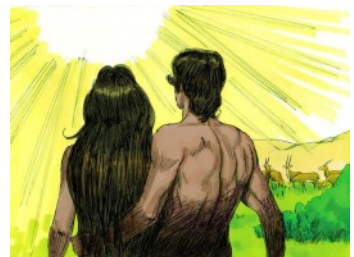
The Bible says God created them 'in his own image'. What this means is that Adam was God's first created son. And Eve was his first created daughter. God was their Father.

Before the world was made, before Adam and Eve were made, God the Father already had a Son - *his one and only Son*. God's one and only Son of God was not created. The one and only Son of God has always been with his Father. 'God the Father' and 'God the Son' are in heaven. God the Son did not have a body like us. (We call God the Son, 'Jesus' now, but he was not called that at the beginning.)

God the Father loved his one and only Son (Jesus) and his Son loved him. They were so happy and filled with joy. If we had asked the Son, "What is the purpose of your life?" He would have said, "My purpose is to please my Father. Because I love him, I always do exactly what my Father tells me to do. That makes me so happy and joyful." And when the Father saw his Son doing exactly what he told him, how full of joy and happiness the Father was!

The Bible tells us that God the Father and God the Son made the world and everything in it.

God breathed his breath into Adam's body and Eve's body. They started to breathe and they became a living man and a living woman. They could hear God speak to them. They could understand Him. They knew how to speak. They could talk to God and ask him questions. They knew God was their Father. They loved their Father and their Father loved them! What purpose did their Father have for Adam and Eve do you think?



God the Father wanted his son and daughter to do the best, thing in the whole world:

to do what his *one and only Son* does.

What is God's purpose for you?

He loves you so much that he wants you to do the best, the most wonderful thing in the whole world. What is that?

God wants you to love him and do what he tells you to do.

That's what his one and only Son does.

Adam and Eve were very happy. Adam was a very good husband for Eve. He was wise, handsome and strong. Eve was just the sort of wife that Adam needed. She was beautiful and loving and kind. They loved each other and helped each other. They worked together in the wonderful new world that God had created. They loved all the amazing animals in the big, beautiful garden which their heavenly Father had given them, the Garden of Eden.



But who did they love the most?

Imagine that you are Adam and Eve.

There you are in the garden and a beautiful deer comes to see you.

Wow, what a beautiful animal! Who would Adam love more than the deer? Who do you think?

Eve of course. She was lovelier than all the animals! And who would Eve love more than the animals? Adam of course.

Question: Who did Adam love more than Eve? And who did Eve love more than Adam?

2. The two happy children

[Based on Genesis chapter 2 & Luke 3:37]

THE FIRST STORY started off with some very happy people, Adam and Eve. They were a grown up man and woman but they were God's children. God was their Father.

Remember the question? The question was: who did Adam love more than Eve? And who did Eve love more than Adam?

Answer: God, their Father, of course.

Adam and Eve were *so* happy! Adam would say, "Thank you for choosing me to be the first created son of God."

Eve would say, "Thank you for choosing me to be the first created daughter of God."

Adam would say, "Thank you, heavenly Father, for my wife Eve. She's so beautiful because you made her beautiful. And you made her so wise, kind and loving."

Eve would say, "Thank you heavenly Father, because you made my husband, Adam, so handsome and so wise, strong and loving."

The more they loved God the more they loved each other. The more Adam and Eve loved each other, the more they loved God their Father. They loved him the most, because he was their Creator; he was their God and they were his children.

Why were they so happy? They had a loving heavenly Father and he had given them the best job in the whole world:

Their job was amazing! It was to please God their Father and do the things he told them to.

God wanted them to look after the Garden of Eden and the lovely plants and animals that were in it.

He wanted them to have many children and grandchildren who would spread out into all the world.

They would discover and enjoy the great gifts God had put in the world. He wanted them to be

happy and thankful as he showed

them the millions of amazing things that he had created on the land, in the sky and in the sea.



Like God's one and only Son (Jesus), they were very glad to be doing the wonderful things he told them to do. But who was the happiest of all? God himself. It made him feel so pleased to see his son and daughter enjoying the work he had given them.

Do you know, that was also God's purpose for making you?

He wanted you to do the best, most enjoyable thing in the world. He wanted *you* to be happy, like his Son in heaven, loving God and doing all the good things he has for you to do.

Adam and Eve were perfectly happy; they never had a quarrel. Adam never upset Eve and Eve was always kind to Adam. There was no sadness, no crying, nobody getting hurt, nobody getting sick. Nothing to worry about or make them afraid. Nobody was going to die, not even the animals were going to die. Adam and Eve were going to live happily for ever.

But is the world like that now? Do you never get sick; never feel sad; never cry; never have arguments; never get hurt? What went wrong?

3. The two sad children

[Based on Genesis 3; John 8:44; 1 John 3:10]

WHAT WENT WRONG? Well, something terrible happened. It was the saddest day in the whole world. The worst thing happened that ever could happen. It will probably make you sad to hear what happened. But there can be a happy ending. *Remember that.*

God tells us what happened in Genesis chapter 3. You can read more about it there.

ONE DAY Adam and Eve met someone else in the garden. A new person. He was pretending to be their friend. But he was a liar; he was the devil! He began to put *different* ideas into their mind, not what their heavenly Father had told them.



What is the best thing to do in the whole world? To try to please God like God's one and only Son does.



But the devil said, "*That's* not the best thing in the world! You listen to me; *I'll* tell you the best thing in the world." He said, "The best thing in the world is *not* to please God. That will make you miserable and unhappy. God doesn't really love you. **I** love you, just listen to me!" *He was telling lies.*

The devil said, "You want to know the best thing in the world? I'll tell you. The best thing in the world is to please *yourself*, not God. Don't listen to God. Do what *you* want to do. Then you'll be happy!"

But that was a big lie. The devil was deceiving them. He was pretending to love them. But really he hated them. He hated God. When the devil saw that Adam and Eve were always pleasing God their Father, he thought, "I'll spoil Adam and Eve so that they can never please God again."



Well, Adam and Eve listened to the devil. They believed his lie. They were thinking, "We don't want to do what *God* says. We want to do what *we* say!"

It was the saddest day in the world. Just think! God's first son and God's first daughter were saying to God, "We don't want to please you anymore!" They stopped behaving like God's one and only Son. They spoiled themselves.

Adam and Eve ruined their life. They couldn't live near God anymore. They didn't even want to. Now, they didn't *want* the best thing in the world.

They said, "We don't want God to tell us what to do. We want to please ourselves. That's the best thing in the world. That will make us happy."

But they found that it didn't make them happy. It made them very sad, very very unhappy. And they couldn't get back to what they were before. There was no way back! They had to leave the Garden of Eden. They couldn't be God's children any more. It was so bad that nothing could stay the same in all God's creation. The whole world was changed.

4. The selfish children

[Based on Genesis 3 & 4; Romans 5:12-20, 8:18-25; James 4:1,2]

ADAM AND EVE didn't love each other as they did before. They had quarrels and arguments. Adam wanted to please *himself* and Eve wanted to please *herself*. They would argue with each other.

They began to be afraid; they were now afraid of God who loved them. They were afraid of many of the animals. Some animals became fierce and some animals could even kill you. Adam and Eve sometimes got ill. They had accidents and got hurt and sometimes they had great pain.



Not only that, Adam and Eve found that their *children* were also spoiled. Their children didn't want to please God either. Too late they found out that a spoiled man and a spoiled woman can't have unspoiled children. Their children were badly behaved, disobedient children.

And there was one big change that seemed worse than everything else. Death came. Animals died, birds died and even men and women would die.



A very sad thing is that the world today is still like that. We too have pain and sadness and crying and sickness and, worst of all, we have death. This is very sad. We just think it's 'normal' but it isn't.

God didn't want us to have death, but as you know, everyone grows old and dies in the end.

The worst thing is we are all spoiled - everyone, including you and me. We say to ourselves, "I don't have to listen to what God says, I want to please myself. That is the way to be happy." When we say that, God calls it SIN.



I'll show you one way this can happen. God still wants children to love and please him. God says in the Bible, "Children obey your parents because this pleases God." (Colossians 3 verse 20)

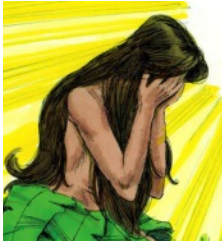
But do you know what often happens? Imagine you are at home one evening and you are enjoying playing one of your favourite games. Mum or Dad says, "Stop now and go upstairs. It's time to get ready for bed."

You hear but you just carry on playing. You know what you start thinking: "Why do I always have to do what my mum says? Doing what **I** want makes me happy. I want to go to bed in my time, not her time!"

God gave you your mum to look after you. God wants you to do as she tells you. You may not think about it, but every time you don't do as your mum says, you are not just disobeying her. You are disobeying God who made you. You are sinning against God! He can hear you even though you only say it in your head: "I don't need to do what you say. Pleasing *myself* will bring me happiness, not pleasing you!"

Sin makes this world a very sad place. God's first children were spoiled. And you and I are spoiled as well because of our sin against God.

The saddest thing is that we can never, never, make ourselves good like



God's one and only Son again.
It's impossible!



That could have been the end of the story. What a sad ending – and it's true!

BUT, *remember!* What did I tell you to remember?

There can be a happy ending!

Just before God had to send them away from the Garden, Adam and Eve heard God speaking.

He was speaking to the devil. Remember the devil? It was the devil who wanted to spoil Adam and Eve and all the rest of us. Now the devil was thinking, "I've won! I have spoiled men and women and boys and girls. They can never be good like God's one and only Son again."

But God said something to the devil that was so good that it seemed too good to be true.

God was saying something about a plan he had. And his plan was *Very Good!*

Do you know what God said? You'll have to wait for the next story.

5. The bad news changes to Good News

[Based on Genesis 3;15 & Galatians 4:4-7]

THE LAST STORY was very sad wasn't it? But it is true. We haven't made it up; God tells us about it in the Bible.

Do you feel sad? Well, we should be sad when we hear such bad news. But today's story is about really happy news.

Remember how the story ended last time. I said BUT... Why?

What did I tell you to remember?

There can be a happy ending!

Just before God had to send them away from the Garden. Adam and Eve heard God speaking.

He was speaking to the devil.
The devil wanted to spoil
Adam and Eve and all of us.
He wanted to spoil everything
God had made.
The devil was thinking, "Good!
have spoiled men and women
and boys and girls. They can
never be like God's Son now!"



I

But then God said something to the devil that was so good that it seemed too good to be true. But it was true!

As Adam and Eve listened, God was saying something about the devil but also about Eve! It was amazing.

This is what God said:

"One day a special baby who comes from Eve will be born."

Notice, he didn't say, "a baby who comes from Adam and Eve". Why didn't God mention Adam? Usually, when we talk about babies we talk about their father and mother. Well, just remember that. God had a very good reason for only talking about Eve.

God didn't tell Eve what the baby's name would be.

God said, "The baby will grow up to be a strong man. The devil will be his enemy and this special man will be the devil's enemy. He will fight against the devil and the devil will fight back but God's man will win and destroy the devil."

God also promised that as he destroyed the devil, the special man would be *hurt* very very much. (See if you can remember that.)

Adam and Eve wondered who the baby would be.

And Eve thought, "He's going to come from me!"

After a while, Eve began to realise that 'coming from me' meant that the baby would come from her like this: she would have a daughter, and her daughter would have a daughter and she would have a daughter on and on for many many years and this special baby would be born to one of her great, great, great... granddaughters!

But it was still from Eve, wasn't it? Eve was the *ancestor* of the baby.

Perhaps Adam and Eve thought, "If this special man will destroy the devil, will he be able to make us God's children again? Will we be able to call God our Father again?"

"Will the special one be able to save us from our sins against God? Oh, it is so sad not being God's children any more!"

They began to feel sad about being sinners. What about you? You know that you are a sinner don't you? We are all sinners; we all like pleasing ourselves instead of God. Do you want to be made one of God's children? - so you can love God and please him like his one and only Son?

6. At last! - time for the special Baby

[Based on Luke 1:26-38 & Matthew 1:8-25]

IT WAS A LONG TIME to wait - thousands of years! God kept telling his people to be ready for the special man to come. At last, it was the time for him to be born. Who was the special baby? What was his name?

It was God's one and only Son!

THERE WAS A MAN called Joseph and a woman called Mary and they



were engaged to be married. They weren't married yet; they were just engaged.

One day, while Mary was in her house, she saw somebody else in the house! She was very frightened. It looked like a man but it was not a man. It was an angel of God!

(Angels are very strong and powerful. They live in heaven with God. God created the angels. And they love him and always do exactly as God says.)

This angel's name was Gabriel. God had told Gabriel: "Go down from heaven into the world to Mary's house and speak to Mary."

Gabriel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is going to do something wonderful for you. You are going to have a baby boy!"

Mary thought, "But I am not yet married. When I'm married to Joseph, then I may have a baby."

The angel said, "No, you'll have a baby living inside you *before* you are married to Joseph!"

"Joseph will not be his father, God will be his Father. God is already his Father!" Gabriel was talking about God's one and only Son!

God's promise to Eve was coming true! This baby was coming from one of Eve's great, great, great, granddaughters. He would not have a man as his father. Joseph would not be his father. God was his Father. Gabriel was telling Mary that God the Father would send his one and only Son from heaven to be a tiny baby inside her!

Gabriel said to Mary, "The baby boy that you will have will be the *Son of God!*"*

"And you are to call his name *Jesus*."

If you can't understand it, don't worry. Mary found it very difficult to understand. But she said, "If that is what God says, it will happen. I want to obey him. Thank you God for choosing me to be the mother of Jesus."



* Literally: 'the Son of the Most High'

7. The Baby comes

[Based on Matthew 1:8-2:12 & Luke 2:1-20]

OF COURSE, MARY TOLD JOSEPH about what the angel had said. "I am going to have a baby boy," she said.



Joseph couldn't understand it at all. He was very upset! "How can Mary have a baby inside her? We are not married yet! A horrible thing must have happened. It's not like Mary at all. Mary must have got another husband, secretly and she didn't tell me! And now she's going to have a baby!"

Joseph said to himself, "I thought that Mary loved me! But she must have been loving another man instead of me, when I didn't know it!"

"Oh I'm so upset! Oh this is so sad!"

Joseph was wondering what to do and was asking God about it.

"Please help me God, I don't know what to do. What shall I do?"

He fell asleep.

Then he had a dream – a special dream, sent by God. In the dream, an angel of God came to him and said, "Joseph, don't be afraid; don't be worried. Mary hasn't married somebody else.



She does love you and she will marry you. The baby inside her is from heaven. The baby boy is God's one and only Son! When the baby is

born you are to give him the name Jesus." The name 'Jesus' means, "*He will save his people from their sins*"



When Joseph woke up, he was so happy! Now he knew that Mary was telling the truth. She did love him after all! And best of all, Mary was going to be the mother of Jesus, the Saviour!

And I think you know the story. Baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem. God's angels sang and the shepherds came to see him and then the wise men came as well.



Jesus grew into a strong boy and then into a man. When he was 30 years old,

he started his special work. That is why God, his Father, sent him from heaven. What was his special work?

God sent Jesus from heaven to save people from their sins.

If he rescues us from our sins we will be God's children again. We can be like God's Son!

Do you want to be saved from your sins? Listen: the name 'Jesus' means, "*He will save his people from their sins*".

Ask the Lord Jesus to make you one of his people and save you.

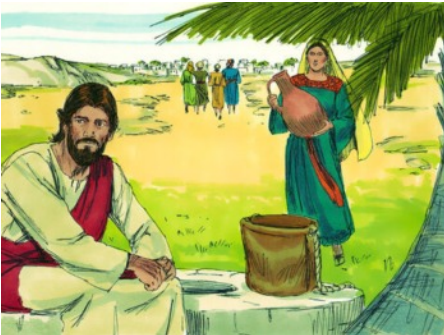
8. The sad woman's surprise

[8. and 9. based on John chapter 4]

WHEN JESUS GREW UP and became a man, he started saving people from their sins.

There was once a very sad woman who lived in a place called Samaria. She was not a happy woman. She tried to be happy but she was trying to be happy the devil's way. Remember what the devil says: "Don't listen to God. The best thing in the world is to please *yourself*." So she tried to get happy by doing what *she* thought was best. She didn't think listening to God would make her happy. But in her heart she knew she was not happy. In fact, she was very sad.

Jesus knew this woman. But she had never seen him before! How could he know her? Because he is the Son of God. The Son of God knows everything about us. He knows about you and me as well.

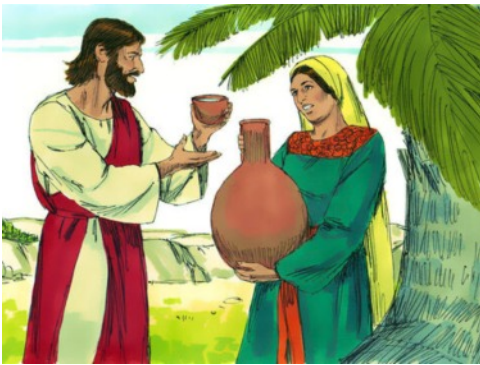


Jesus wanted to help the woman, so he went to Samaria to find her. (The people who lived in Samaria were called Samaritans.) There was a well of water there. Jesus was tired from his journey so he sat down by the well.

Just then, a woman came along. It was the sad woman who Jesus wanted to help! She was carrying a big jar, to get water from the well. Jesus said to her, "Please will you give me a drink."

The woman looked at Jesus in surprise. She said to him, "This is strange! You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan. How can you ask me for a drink?"

The reason she was so surprised was that Jews and Samaritans didn't usually have anything to do with each other. They didn't like each other. A Jewish man would never be seen speaking to a Samaritan woman – but Jesus was not like that. He would speak to anyone, no matter what they were like.



Jesus answered her, "If you knew who I am, you would have asked me and I would have given you something much better than this water."

The woman knew that she had to keep coming to the well every day to get water. "Water keeps me alive," she thought, "We'll die if we don't have enough water to drink."

Jesus was telling her that water will only keep you alive for a short time. In just a few years we all grow old and die.

He said, "I can make you alive for ever. I can give you *eterna*/life." (If you have eternal life, when you die and leave your body behind in this world, you will go to heaven to live with God for ever.)

Jesus was saying to the woman, "If you knew who I am, you would ask me and I would give you something much better than water. If you ask me, I will give you eternal life."

9. The sad woman surprised again and AGAIN

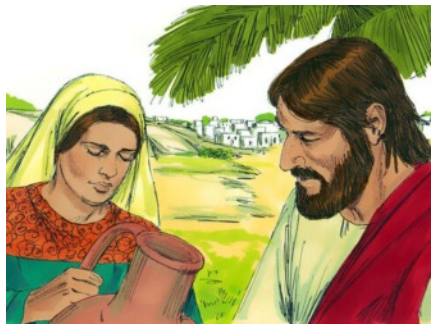
THE WOMAN didn't really understand what Jesus was telling her. Then Jesus said, "Go and call your husband and come back."

"I have no husband," she said.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The truth is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

That was a shock for the woman. How did Jesus know all about her life? Because he is the Son of God. The Son of God knows all about my life and all about your life – even the things we have forgotten about. And even the things we don't want anyone to know about.

Jesus reminded the woman of her sins against God. How many husbands was she supposed to have? One - but Jesus knew that she had had five.



Jesus knows my sins against God as well. And he knows your sins. If Jesus reminded me of some of my sins I would be very ashamed. And I am sure there are sins against God which would make you ashamed as well if Jesus told you about them. He knows them!

The woman felt very uncomfortable that Jesus knew the bad way she had behaved. "Sir," the woman said, "let's talk about something else."

Then she began talking about the places where people prayed to God in those days.

She said, "Some people pray to God in Samaria and some people pray to God in Jerusalem - which is better?"

Jesus said, "It doesn't matter *where* you pray to God. When you pray to God make sure you really, truly speak to him in your heart. That is what God is looking for."

We are also like the woman: "Don't remind me that I have sinned against God! Let's talk about something else."

Remember that Jesus, the Son of God, can see us now. He says the same to us as he said to the woman.

He says: "What are you like in your heart? Do you truly believe in God in your heart? Do you really, truly want to talk to him? God is looking for men and women, boys and girls who will *really want* to obey him. Not people who pretend that they love God.



The woman said, "I know that one day the Son of God* will come into this world. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus said, "The man who is speaking to you is the Son of God.

I am the Son of God!"*

What a thing to hear! When she heard that she was amazed.

*Literally: 'the Messiah.'

That was the best thing she had ever heard in her life.

"The Son of God is here, standing in front of me!"

Now she knew why Jesus knew all about her. And it was so wonderful!

She didn't realise what was happening. But, at that very moment, Jesus was saving her from her sins. And he was giving her eternal life!

Then, the woman left her water jar, and she hurried back to town and said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. I'm sure this is the Son of God!"* They came out of the town to see Jesus for themselves.

Then they said to Jesus, "Please stay with us!" So he stayed two whole days. Because of his words, many more people believed in Jesus.

They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said. We have now heard for ourselves. We know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.

He can save us from *our sins!*"



What about you?

Do you know Jesus is the Saviour of the world? Do you want him to save you from your sins?

Jesus says "I am the Son of God: *If you know who I am, ask me and I will give you eternal life.*"

* 'Is not this the Christ? (KJV)

10. Jesus and the sad man

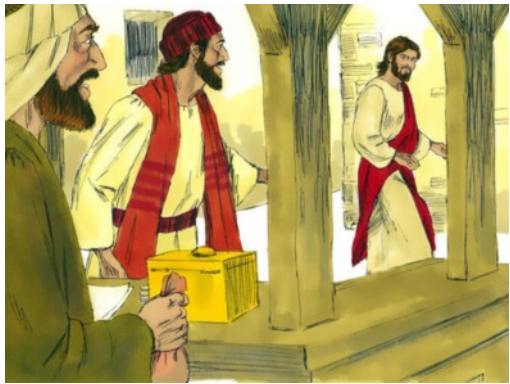
[Based on Mark 2:13-2:17]

ONE DAY Jesus went out for a walk. A large crowd came to him. He began to teach them about God, his Father. As he walked along he saw a man called Levi. Levi was a tax collector.

Levi worked for the Roman government. The Romans ruled Israel, where Jesus lived. Levi collected taxes for the Romans. Many people didn't like the Romans and they hated paying taxes to them. Often, tax collectors would not just collect money for the Romans; they would collect *extra* for themselves. The people didn't like tax collectors.

"You work for the Romans." people would say, "You are a traitor and a cheat!" So Levi was a sad man.

Jesus knew that people hated Levi. But Jesus loved him. "Follow me," Jesus told him. Levi got up from where he was sitting and followed Jesus.



Levi invited Jesus home for a meal. So Jesus had dinner at Levi's house. Many tax collectors and people who were bad sinners were eating with him and his friends.

Some teachers of the law were there. (These men used to read the Bible a lot. They were supposed to teach people about God. But they didn't really, truly love God. They pretended to love God. But really

they loved *themselves*, not God.)

The teachers of the law saw Jesus eating with sinners and tax collectors. They asked Jesus's friends, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"



The teachers of the law thought to themselves, "Look at all those sinners eating with Jesus. Everybody knows how bad these sinners are. We would never eat with such bad people. How terrible! How disgusting! Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners!"

Jesus heard what they said. So he said to them, "If you are not sick you don't need a doctor. Sick people need a doctor. I have not come to call people who think they are good. I have come to call sinners."

The teachers of the law thought they were good enough for God. "We are not sinners," they thought. They thought they didn't need Jesus to save them from their sins.

But Levi knew he was a sinner. And Jesus saved him from his sins. Levi was so happy! Levi stopped cheating people and followed Jesus instead.

Do you know that you are a sinner? Jesus is calling you too! He doesn't call people who think they are good enough; he calls sinners.

Be careful that you don't grow up to be a man or woman who thinks, "I am good enough by myself. I don't need Jesus."

11. The wicked plan

[Based on Mark 3:6; 10:32-34]

THE TEACHERS OF THE LAW and their friends, the chief priests, were very angry. They knew Jesus could see that they were only *pretending* to love God. When they prayed, they didn't really, truly pray in their hearts.



"How dare Jesus say that we are not good enough for God!" they said. "We must get rid of Jesus! We don't want him here any more!" Then they decided to do the worst thing that had ever been thought of – to kill the Son of God!

Someone was very pleased about this. The devil was pleased. He wanted to kill the Son of God and he would help the men to do it. Remember what God said to Adam and Eve about the special baby?

God said, "The baby will grow up to be a strong man. The devil will be his enemy and this special man (Jesus) will be the devil's enemy. He will fight against the devil and the devil will fight back but God's man will win and destroy the devil." God also promised that as he destroyed the devil, the special man (Jesus) would be *hurt very very much*.

Jesus knew this would happen, just as God, his Father had said.

ONE DAY Jesus was walking along the road with his friends. (Jesus's friends were called his 'disciples'.) He said to his disciples, "We are going to Jerusalem." (Jerusalem was the capital city of Israel.)

"The teachers of the law and the chief priests will take me away," said Jesus.

"They will say I should be put to death. Then people will make fun of me, and spit at me. They'll whip me and kill me. Then, three days later, I will come back from the dead. I'll be alive again!"

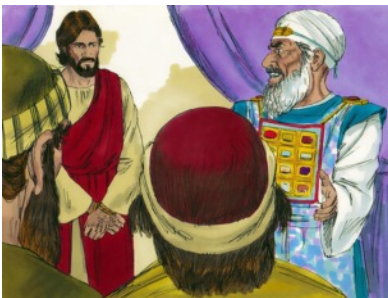
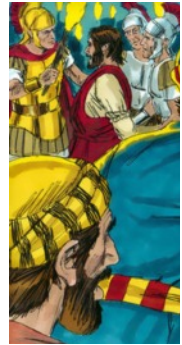
Jesus knew that all these terrible things would happen to him. So why didn't he just turn round and not go to Jerusalem? Why didn't he escape?

It was because he knew that God, his Father wanted Jesus to *save his people from their sins*. There was only way this could happen. His friends didn't understand it. Jesus knew that unless he was killed, his people could not be saved from their sins.

12. Jesus is taken away

[12. to 15. based on Matthew 26 & 27; Mark 14 & 15; Luke 22 & 23; John 18 & 19]

JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES went to the big city of Jerusalem. One dark night, Jesus was with his friends in a garden near the city. Then the teachers of the law and chief priests, sent some soldiers to the garden. The soldiers got hold of Jesus and took him away. Jesus just let them do it! They took Jesus to the teachers of the law and the chief priests.



The teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Are you the Son of God then? Tell us if you are the Son of God."

Jesus said, "You are right. I am the Son of God."

Then the *high* priest was very upset. He ripped his clothes. He said, "How shocking! Jesus has spoken against God. No man can say that he is the Son of God. Jesus is lying!"
(But was it evil? Was Jesus telling lies?)

"You have all heard him! What do you think, everybody?" said the high priest.

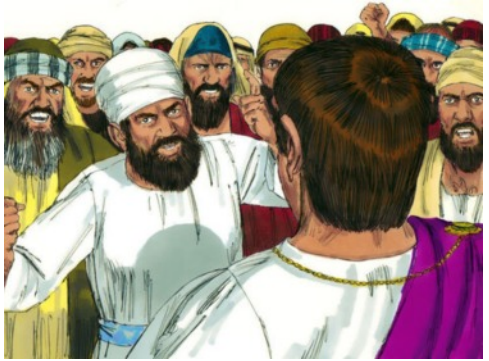
"He must die!" they all answered.

They spat in his face and hit him with their fists.

Others slapped him. Then they tied Jesus up and led him away.



They took him to a man called Pilate. Pilate was the Roman governor. The priests and teachers of the law wanted to kill Jesus but they had to ask the governor to *allow* him to be killed. They told Pilate that Jesus was a criminal.



Pilate asked Jesus lots of questions to see if Jesus really was an evil man.

By this time outside the governor's palace, there was a large crowd of people.



Then Pilate came out. He said to the people, "Look, I am bringing Jesus out to you. I find that he has not done anything wrong. Then Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

When the chief priests and the people saw Jesus they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" ('Crucify' means: 'Hang him on a big wooden cross until he dies.')

Pilate answered, "Why? Jesus has done nothing wrong!"

The people shouted, "He has done a terrible thing. He said that he is the Son of God! He must die! Crucify him!"

In the end, because the people were shouting so much, Pilate gave in to them. He told his soldiers to take Jesus outside the city and crucify him.

13. Jesus has no-one to help him

PILATE TOLD HIS ROMAN SOLDIERS to take Jesus outside the city and nail his hands and feet to a cross of wood. Then they lifted the cross up so Jesus was hanging on it.



People watching shouted at Jesus and made fun of him. They said, "Save yourself! Come down from the cross IF you are the Son of God!"

In the same way, the chief priests, and teachers of the law mocked him. "He saved other people," they said. "But he can't save him-

self! Let him come down *now* from the cross. Then we will believe him! Let God rescue Jesus now if God wants him. Jesus is the man who said, 'I am the Son of God!'"

At the middle of the day, darkness covered the whole land. It was dark for a long time - three hours. At three o'clock in the afternoon, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you left me all on my own?"

In the darkness, the worst thing that could ever happen to anyone was happening to Jesus. God left him on his own! God the Father left him! He was on his own, with no-one to help him, not even his Father!

Why did God, his Father, leave him? Because Jesus was saving his people from their sins. He knew that his people were sinners. They deserved to be punished by God for their sins.

Jesus, the Son of God, loved his people so much that he came from heaven all the way to the cross – to be left on *his own* and punished instead of his people!

Because he was on his own, his people will never be on *their own*. He saves them from their sins.



(Those who still don't want God even after Jesus has done all that, will have to be punished by God. God will one day have to leave them on *their own* with no-one to help them for ever!)

After the three hours of darkness were over, Jesus said "It is finished!"

God his Father came back again to Jesus; he was no longer on his own. Then he was full of joy and said to his Father with a loud voice, "Father I am coming to you!"* Then he bowed his head and died.

A Roman soldier was standing there in front of Jesus. He heard him say this. He saw how Jesus died. Then he said, "This man really was the *Son of God!*"

Jesus did all this to save his people from their sins. Would you really like to be one of Jesus's people? It is the best thing in the world to be one of his people. Would you like to be saved from your sins?

The next story is very surprising. It starts off with somebody who was a very bad person. But Jesus changed him. He made him into one of his own people and saved him from his sins. Straight away! If Jesus could do it for him, he can do it for you.

* Literally: 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.'

14. The man Jesus changed

[Based on Luke 23:39-43]

WHO WAS THE MAN that Jesus saved from his sins?

Well, two robbers were crucified with Jesus. There were three crosses.



Jesus was hanging on the middle cross. On each side of Jesus a robber was hanging on a cross.

One of the robbers hanging there shouted at Jesus. He said, "If you are God's Son, save yourself! And save us!" But the other robber told him off: "We are being punished because we deserve it. We have been violent; we've robbed people of their money. But this man hasn't done anything wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, *remember me* after you have died and come to God's kingdom."*

Jesus answered him, "I am telling you the truth. Today you will be with me in heaven!"

The robber was hanging on a cross of wood. He knew that in a few hours he would be dead. But Jesus was saying, "When you die you will go straight to heaven and be with me! I will save you from your sins."

After Jesus had spoken to the robber, the three hours of darkness came. At the end, Jesus said "It is finished!" He said to his Father with a loud voice, "Father I am coming to you!" Then he died.

* Literally, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

What happened next? Jesus's body stayed there on the cross. It was a dead body now – not moving or breathing. Later, some men came and got the nails out of his hands and feet. They wrapped the body up in special white cloths. Then they buried it in a tomb.



But where was Jesus? He was not in his body, was he?

Remember, just before he died, Jesus said: "Father I am coming to you."

Where was his Father? In heaven, of course. In heaven!

As soon as Jesus's body died, he went to be with his Father in heaven.

So Jesus died and went to heaven. But what about the robber?

He saw Jesus die. Then, an hour or two later, the robber died. Like Jesus, the robber's body was on a cross. The soldiers took the body down.

Was the robber still in his body? No.

Where was the robber? Do you believe what Jesus said?

Jesus said, "*Today* you will be with me in heaven."

The robber had gone straight to heaven!

When Jesus welcomed him into heaven do you think the robber was sad? No, he was filled with great joy. And he still is today!

Do you want to go to be with Jesus when you die? If Jesus saves you from your sins, you will go straight to heaven to be with him when you die – just like that robber.

You can say, "Lord Jesus, please remember me. Please save me from my sins."

15. The people who were very sad

ON THAT DAY there were some very sad people. They were Jesus's friends, his disciples. They were so sad that they thought they would never be happy again.

Did the disciples think that the robber had gone to heaven? No!

Did they think that Jesus had gone to heaven? No!



They heard Jesus say, "Today you will be with me in heaven." But did they believe it? No! Everything seemed to have gone wrong! They didn't know what had happened to Jesus. They thought, "It looks like the devil has won after all. The devil has won!" They had seen Jesus die in front of their own eyes. They were so very, very sad.

They had forgotten what Jesus had told them. Remember, what Jesus had said:

"People will make fun of me, and spit at me. Then they'll whip me and kill me. *Then three days later I will come back from the dead. I'll be alive again!*"

God the Father knew that it was very hard for the disciples to believe that Jesus would come back from the dead and be alive again. God was going to show them in front of their eyes that Jesus had won the battle and defeated the devil!



His disciples had seen Jesus die with their own eyes.

His disciples had seen him buried in the tomb with their own eyes.

The tomb was like a cave and there was a very big stone rolled over the doorway. Jesus's body was lying wrapped up in cloths inside the tomb.

God was going to show the disciples that Jesus was alive. They would see it with their very own eyes!

Jesus was going to come back from heaven into his body in the tomb. Then he would come out of the tomb and show himself to his disciples. They would see that he really, truly had come back from the dead and was alive again!



16. Jesus comes back!

[Based on Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20 & 21; 1 Corinthians 15]

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED: On the third day after Jesus died on the



cross, it was very early in the morning, still dark. Suddenly, there was a big earthquake. The ground began to shake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb and rolled back the stone.

Now the tomb was ready for people to see that Jesus was not there. He was not dead but alive!

Soon after this, two men, two of Jesus's disciples, Peter and John came to the tomb. They saw the stone was rolled away and looked inside the tomb. When they looked inside they were very surprised. They expected to see a dead body wrapped in white cloths. But there was no body! They saw the cloths but there was no Jesus!

Why? Because Jesus had come back into his body. He had risen from the dead. He was in his body again and his body was new! But he was nowhere to be seen. Peter and John didn't see Jesus so they went home.



But very soon, Jesus started to *show* his friends that he was really, truly alive. He was in his new body, risen from the dead.

First, he came to see a woman called Mary, who was very very upset. She was crying and crying but when she saw Jesus she was overjoyed! Next, he came to see some other women. The women told the men that they had seen Jesus. But the men would not believe them.



Then Jesus came, first to one of the men and then to eleven of them.

And then to two other men and then to thirteen of them.

After this, he came to seven of the men when they were out in a boat fishing on a big lake.

This went on for 40 days - about 6 weeks. During this time, Jesus came to see many of his disciples, both men and women. One time, he came to 500 of his friends at once!

For some of them it seemed too good to be true. They took a long time to believe that Jesus was really alive from the dead. But in the end they knew it *was* true and they were no longer sad.

They were full of joy!

17. Jesus goes into heaven

[Based on Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11; 1 John 3:1-3; John 3:1-21; Revelation 21 & 22]

IT WAS TIME for Jesus to go back into heaven. He said to his disciples, "I am going back to heaven very soon. But although I am in heaven, I will also be with you always, even to the end of the world."

(Jesus could be in heaven and in the world at the same time because he is God. Jesus promised that he would be with us through his Holy Spirit. It is too hard for us to understand but it has happened. All his people have him with them always. They will never be left on their own.)

Soon after this, Jesus took his disciples to a place near Jerusalem. As his disciples were watching, Jesus was taken up from the ground into heaven. They watched until he went into a cloud and they couldn't see him anymore.



While he was going up, they kept on looking into the sky. Suddenly, two men dressed in white clothes stood beside them. They were two angels. They said, "Why are you standing here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken up from you into heaven. One day he will come back in the same way you saw him go."

Do you think the disciples were sad to see him go? No! They were filled with joy and happiness because they knew Jesus was alive for ever. They knew he would always be with them even to the end of the world. They went out and told people all over the world about Jesus, the Son of God who came from heaven to save us from our sins.

Did that mean the disciples would never feel sad again? No. They had a lot of troubles - especially when they were telling people about Jesus. Many people didn't want to hear about Jesus and they tried to stop the disciples speaking about him. They even put some of them in prison and killed some of God's people.

But Jesus was with them and helped them all their lives until it was time to die. And what happened when they died? They went to be with Jesus in heaven. And are they happy now? Yes, they are full of happiness and joy for ever.

In this book we've heard how Jesus, the Son of God makes sad people happy. I hope you know that the Lord Jesus is still making sad people happy. Here are the most famous words Jesus spoke:

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever** believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

"Whoever believes" means **anyone** who believes, even you!

One day, Jesus will come back to this world and make everything new. There will be no more sin, no more death, no more crying, no more pain! God's people shall all be like God's one and only Son - God's Children.

The Lord Jesus says "**Be ready! I am coming soon!**"

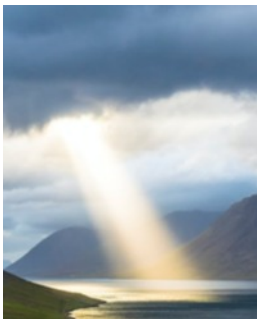
A 'STORY TALK' BOOK

Jesus, the Son of God

and how he changes sad people into happy people

These stories, based on the Bible, are for children and their parents. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10 NKJV

That is the truth – whether told to children or adults. That is why what is written in this booklet is good news for every one of us, no matter what our age.



'STORY TALK' BOOKS'

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