

Jesus Loves You!

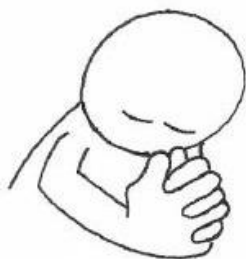
Devotional for 4-5 year olds

(...or 3-6 year olds, or 45 year olds!)

Peter Walker

www.1peter1three.weebly.com

'Faith comes through hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.'
(Romans 10:17)



Thanks to Daniel Walker for these great drawings! Color them in, and add things to them, if you want!

A note for the 'Reader'

This little devotional is for young kids – and for you, the 'reader'.

There are 20 devotional entries. They can be read to the child – or children – whenever it works for you. Maybe in the morning, before the day really gets going, or at bedtime...

My hope is that this booklet is simple to read, fun to color in and discuss, and that it plants God's most important truths in the hearts and mind of children. The extra scriptures in the footnotes are just for you, the reader, when you have a little extra time to yourself.

Thank you for reading this to the children!

'These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.'
(Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

Day 1 (day/date: _____)

Jesus is your friend!

Jesus is the King of the world – and he is your friend!¹ **Can you believe that?!** It is true!

You can't see Jesus right now with your eyes, but he is always with you. He is invisible right now, but one day you will see him!

He is with you, and he loves you. You can always talk to him, and tell him how you feel. He is your very best friend!

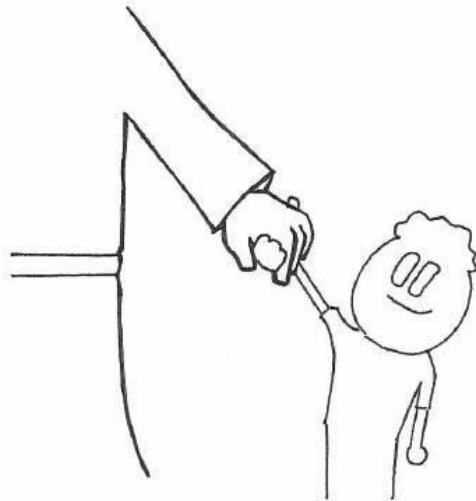
Here's a verse from the bible for you to read, and a little activity to do:

'Jesus said, 'I am with you always!'
(Matthew 28:20)

¹ Look up John 15:15, a very special verse!

Activity:

Praying is just talking to God. Why don't you close your eyes, and maybe fold your hands, and pray to Jesus for a moment. Just thank him for being your friend, and ask him to help you have a good day – or a good sleep.



Day 2 (day/date: _____)

Jesus loves you!

Jesus loves you the most! You will have some people that love you – like family, or friends – but Jesus loves you the MOST!

Jesus smiles over you. Jesus loves to listen to your stories, your ideas, and how you are feeling. He never leaves you out. He always wants you around. He thinks you are beautiful and special.

In the bible – which is God’s book about life and truth – it says this:

‘If you believe in Jesus, he makes you part of his family!’²

What do you think of that? You are a child of God, in Jesus’ family!

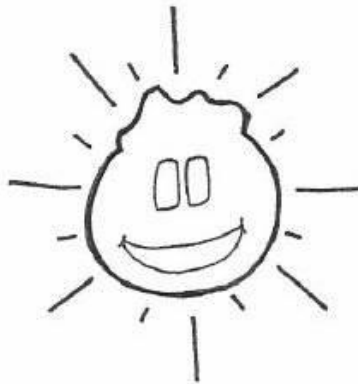
² If you, the reader, have a little extra time today, look up these verses just for you! John 1:12, Matthew 12:48-50; John 6:40, 1 John 5:1

Activity:

Can you say this verse and 'reference' a few times, to try to learn it by heart?

'Everyone who believes in Jesus is a child of God!'

(John 1:12 – “John one twelve”)



Day 3 (day/date: _____)

I am NOT afraid!

Sometimes we can be afraid, or a little scared. Do you get scared sometimes?

Do you remember this verse from a couple days ago? – **‘Jesus said, ‘I am with you always!’** (Matthew 28:20) Well, the reason we don’t have to be afraid is because Jesus is with us ALWAYS!

Jesus is with us during the day, and he is with us in the dark night. Yes! Actually, Jesus *made* the darkness. Darkness was not meant to be scary; darkness is supposed to be peaceful! So if Jesus made the darkness, and if Jesus is with you ALWAYS, you don’t have to be scared!

Activity:

Get some help to write out this verse, and stick it up somewhere near your bed:

'I trust in God. I am not afraid!'

(Psalm 56:3)³



³ Some powerful verses for you, the reader, to look up: Psalm 139:12, 2 Samuel 22:29, John 1:1-5,9, John 8:12, Matthew 5:14, Revelation 22:1-5 (and what about that verse 5!)

Day 4 (day/date: _____)

Jesus keeps you safe!

I like to be safe! Do you? When we are 'safe', it means everything is OK!

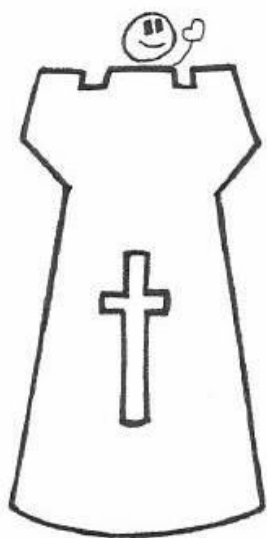
Jesus keeps you safe! Sometimes there is danger around. But you can pray to Jesus, and say, '*Dear Jesus, please keep me safe!*' And he will! He will take care of you!

Here is a great verse!

'When there is trouble, God keeps me safe!' (Psalm 27:5)

Activity:

There are 2 things to do today. First, pray and thank Jesus for being with you, and keeping you safe. And secondly, think of a friend or family member that you can tell this to. When you get a chance, just say, '*Did you know that Jesus can keep you safe?*'



Day 5 (day/date: _____)

The Story of Jesus

We've talked a lot about Jesus, and how he loves you. Here is the story about the life of Jesus:

God – the maker of the whole world – decided to become a human, like you and me. God became a man. And when he was born, he was named Jesus.

Jesus was a child – like you – and grew up to be a man. He did lots of amazing things, like teaching us to be kind to one another, and even doing 'miracles', which means impossible things. One time he even walked on water!

One time when Jesus was a man, people were mean to Jesus, and said they did not believe he was God. The people became so angry at Jesus, that they killed him. It was the saddest day ever!

But do you know what Jesus did? The most amazing thing! He came alive again!

Yes, 3 days after he died, he became alive again. And here is what he said to everybody – even to you and me! ***He said that he would forgive people for being mean to him, and he would forgive people for bad things they did.***

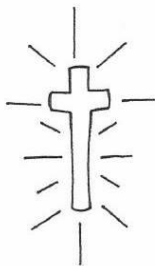
Jesus said he still loved everyone in the world. He said we could be friends again with God, and live with him forever, if we want to.

Do you want to?

Activity:

If you want to be friends with Jesus forever, it is so easy! You just need to tell him that *you are sorry* for the bad things you do, and that *you believe he is God*. Do you want to pray now, and ask Jesus to be your friend forever? Here's a way to say it:

*'Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me. I want you to be my friend forever. I am sorry about the bad things I do. Please forgive me. I believe you are God! Amen.'*⁴



⁴ Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:1-7, Matthew 1:23, Colossians 1:15-20.
For a free, PDF booklet called, 'Who Is Jesus?', please visit:
www.1peter1three.weebly.com

Day 6 (day/date: _____)

You are special!

One day Jesus did a special miracle. A guy named, Nathanael, walked up to Jesus and had never met him before, or seen him before. But Jesus said to him, ***'I actually already know you, and saw you, when you were all alone sitting under a fruit tree.'*** Jesus also said to him, ***'And you are a really special person!'***⁵

You might feel alone sometimes, or that you are not special. But just like Nathanael, you are SO special, and Jesus sees you and loves even when you are sitting alone.

Jesus created just one of you! You are so special in this world!

⁵ John 1:47-48 (And look up these amazing verses: Psalm 139:14 and Luke 12:6-7)

Activity:

Next time you are alone, maybe sitting under a tree like Nathanael, remember 2 things:

1. You are not alone, Jesus is with you. And...
2. You are SO special!



Day 7 (day/date: _____)

You have special powers!

One day some people said to Jesus: 'Wow! You do amazing things!' And Jesus said to them: '***If you believe in me, and follow me, you also can do amazing things!***'⁶

The most amazing thing that Jesus actually did was to help people believe in God.⁷ You also have this special power to help people believe in God!

How can you help people believe in God? Well, in 3 ways. You...

- 1. Believe in Jesus**
- 2. Pray for people to believe in Jesus**
- 3. Talk to your friends about Jesus**

⁶ John 14:12-14; John 1:47-51

⁷ Luke 5:20-24

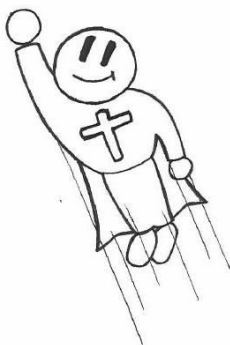
For more on your 'special powers', read Matthew 16:19, John 20:23 and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

If *you* believe in Jesus, and follow him, that is the very best way to share Jesus with people. Then we can pray for people. And sometimes we can actually talk to people about Jesus!

Activity:

Pray to Jesus and thank him that you can help people believe. This is a special mission and you have special power to do it!

After you pray and thank Jesus that you are part of this mission, and have special power to help, just look again at points 1-3 above, because this is **'HOW'** we do it!



Day 8 (day/date: _____)

Kind Words

Do you like when people say kind things to you? What are some kind things that people say?

Saying something kind or nice, can actually make a sad person happy, or help a mad person calm down. Look at this amazing verse in the bible:

‘A gentle answer makes anger go away, but a mean word makes people upset.’ (Proverbs 15:1)

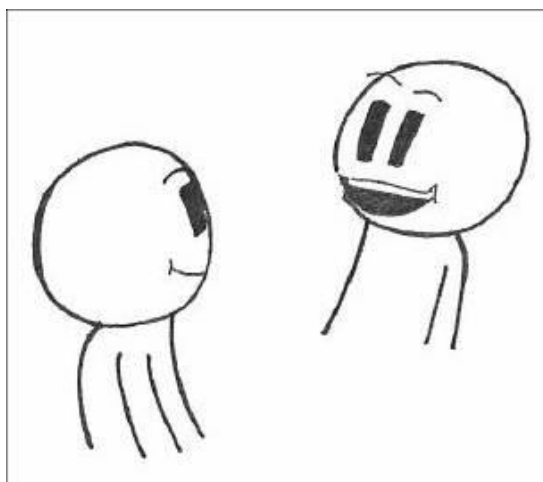
As a person who believes in Jesus, and follows him, we need to practice saying kind things to people. This makes God happy!⁸

⁸ Proverbs 18:21, Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 5:19, James 3:1-12

Activity:

What are some kind things you can say to people? For example, can you say, *'That's a nice toy you have!'* or *'Good job!'*

Think of some people you know, and some kind things you might say.



Day 9 (day/date: _____)

From Sad to Happy

Have you ever felt sad? Have you ever been sad, but then somebody makes you happy? Somebody makes you laugh or smile, and the sadness goes away?

Did you know that Jesus loves to make people happy? One verse in the bible tells us this:

***‘Jesus turns our sadness into joy!
Jesus makes our brokenness into a
beautiful crown of gold!’⁹***

When you feel alone or sad, Jesus is with you. When you feel that something is broken or lost, Jesus can turn that situation into happiness and fun. He can make you laugh and be glad again.

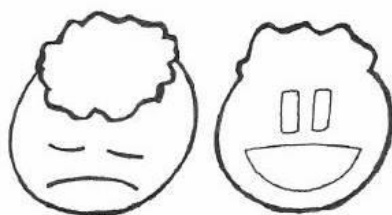
⁹ See Isaiah 61:1-3, speaking about Jesus, which he himself claims in Luke 4:18

Next time you feel sad or alone, or like something has been lost forever, whisper to Jesus, and say, ***'Jesus, please change everything, and make my heart happy!'***

Activity:

Here is a verse, that maybe you can copy down on a piece of paper, and then draw yourself as a king or a queen, with a beautiful, sparkling crown!

'The Lord turns my sadness into joy!'
(Isaiah 61:3)



Day 10 (day/date: _____)

Tree House

My neighbor just built a tree house. It's really cool. It has a ladder, a roof, and even some chairs and things inside. The kids love it!

The special thing about a tree house – or actually, any house or shelter – is that it makes us feel safe. We are safe inside, away from wind, rain, and danger.

Listen carefully to this amazing verse in the bible:

'The name of the Lord is a strong tower. People run in there and are safe!' (Proverbs 18:10)

How can a 'name' be a strong tower?
How can you be safe inside a 'name'?

Well, actually, the name of Jesus is not just a word. Jesus is a person who keeps us safe. He puts his arms around us –

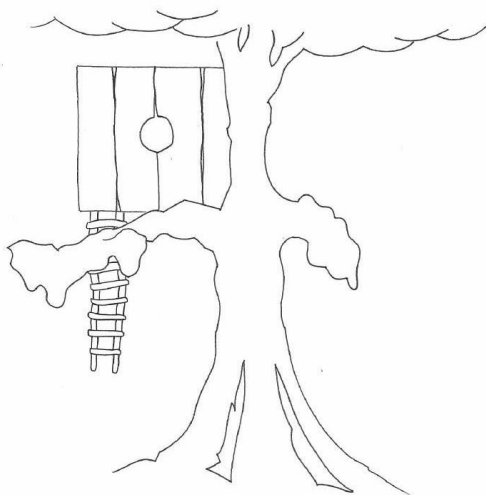
like the walls of a house or a castle – and he keeps us safe inside his Spirit.

So even if you are outside, and there are no walls around you, Jesus is a strong wall around you! You are inside the walls of Jesus, when you believe in him!

Activity:

Try to say outloud a few times, and learn by heart, today's verse – **Proverbs 18:10.**

While you're practicing it, color in this tree house!



Day 11 (day/date: _____)

That's OK!

Has anybody ever said 'Sorry!' to you? If it is a **sincere** 'Sorry!', it is good to say, '***That's OK!***', or '*I forgive you!*'¹⁰

You know, Jesus forgives us when we say 'sorry' to him. He truly forgives us. He says to us, '*That's OK!*' Jesus was a generous forgiver! What I mean is, he would really make you feel good when he forgave you – he would hug you, smile, and say, '*Don't worry about it anymore!*'

We need to be 'generous forgivers', also. When someone is truly sorry, we need to not just say it's OK, but to actually make them **feel** it's OK. Not bring it up again, and not remind them about it...

¹⁰ The word 'Sorry' does not, in itself, cut it! Talk is not necessarily a walk. So be released to be reserved! Check out these powerful scriptures: Hosea 5:4,6; Isaiah 29:13; Proverbs 1:24-28; Matthew 3:7-10; Galatians 6:7-8

Look at this amazing verse!

'Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and **leaves no regret**...'
(2 Corinthians 7:10)

Activity:

Today was about forgiving people, right?

Forgiving people when they say, 'Sorry' sincerely. And forgiving them 'generously'.

If someone says, 'Sorry' to you, how could you make them feel better?



Day 12 (day/date: _____)

Thank you!

It is so important to say, *'Thank you!'*

One day Jesus healed 10 people, but only 1 came back to him and said, *'Thank you!'* And do you know what Jesus said? He said,

'Did I not heal 10 of you? Where are the other 9?' (Luke 17:17)

Jesus expects people to say, *'Thank you'*, when something has been given to them, or something nice has been done.

Do you say *'Thank you'* to people? It is really important to practice this **A LOT!** Look them in the eye, smile and say, *'Thank you!'*

Activity:

'Grateful' means that you say *'thank you'* a lot. We need to thank people for things, but we also need to thank Jesus. Here are 2 questions for you to think and talk about for a few minutes:

1. What are some things you are thankful to people for?
2. What are some things you are thankful to Jesus for?



Day 13 (day/date: _____)

Sorry!

We have already talked about saying, 'Thank you', but there is another word that is really important. This word is, 'Sorry!' Do you know what 'sorry' means?

If we are not kind to someone, or have said something that is not nice, we need to say, 'Sorry!' Jesus told us we need to say 'sorry' to people, and he told us we need to say 'sorry' to God as well.¹¹

Now here is the good news! If you have done wrong, and you say 'sorry' to Jesus, He forgives you completely! He doesn't want you to feel bad. He forgives you, and you can now forget about it, and be happy and 'free'!¹²

¹¹ Matthew 5:23-24; Luke 15:18

¹² A key verse about this 'release' is 2 Corinthians 7:10. Please look it up!

Activity:

Two Questions to chat about, and one prayer:

1. Do you say, 'sorry', to people when you have not been nice?
2. Do you find it hard to say, 'sorry'?

Pray a very simple prayer, but an honest prayer, and ask Jesus to help you say 'sorry' when you need to.



Day 14 (day/date: _____)

The Bible

The bible is a book, with God's words in it. It tells us the truth about God and about Jesus Christ. It is the most important book in the world!

When we read lots of stories in the bible, it helps us know more about God.

But guess what? **The most important story in the bible is about Jesus being alive!** The bible is a book that helps us know Jesus in our hearts.

One day Jesus told the people that the bible is not just a story book, but it is supposed to help us believe in Jesus!¹³

¹³ Read and ponder these 2 passages: John 5:39-40 and Matthew 22:29

So when you close the bible, God is still with you! When you close the bible, Jesus is still in your heart! It is like a book that comes alive!

Activity:

Do you know any stories from the bible? Talk about one of those stories... What do we learn about God from that story?



Day 15 (day/date: _____)

Praying

‘Praying’ means talking to God. So when people say, ‘*Let’s pray!*’ they mean, ‘*Let’s talk to God, now.*’

Do you remember when we talked about Jesus being your friend?¹⁴ Well, one of the best things about having a friend is talking to them. Right? It is the same with Jesus. ***When you talk to Jesus, and listen to Jesus, you are praying!***

Jesus used to find quiet places to pray and talk to God.¹⁵ You can do this, too! When you’re alone in your room, or just lying awake in bed at night... You can whisper to Jesus, or even just talk to him in your thoughts!

Jesus said, ‘I am your friend!’
(John 15:15)

¹⁴ Devotional #1

¹⁵ Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16

Activity:

Sometime soon (maybe now?) copy down the verse above, John 15:15, and draw a picture or put some nice colors on it.

Stick this picture or poster up beside your bed somewhere, so you can read it at night, and then pray or talk to Jesus.



Day 16 (day/date: _____)

Where are you from?

What do you say when people ask you, 'Where are you from?'

Well, I sometimes say where my house is, or I say my country. I might say, 'I'm from Ireland!' or 'I live on this street with my family!'

One day Jesus was asked where he was from. And guess what he said? He said, **'I'm not from this world. I'm from heaven!'**¹⁶

Here's the amazing thing. If you believe in Jesus, you become part of his family, his world. You also come from heaven, because you have a home there!

¹⁶ John 18:36

Activity:

You have a home in heaven, and you are from heaven! You are in Jesus' family!

You live here on earth, but you are from heaven!

Can you copy this verse down on a sheet of paper, and stick it up somewhere in the kitchen?

'If you believe in Jesus, you are a child of God!' (John 1:12)



Day 17 (day/date: _____)

Rules

Rules are supposed to help us. Rules help games go well, and help cars drive safely. Rules are a bit like fences around a field of horses or cows. The fence helps the animals not get lost, or get hurt.

Do you know any rules?

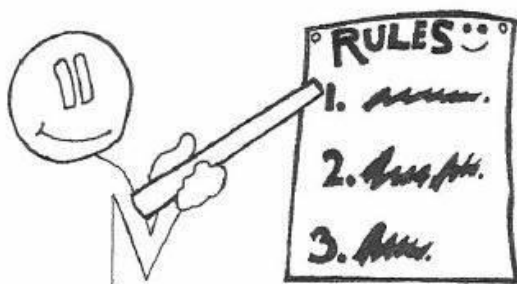
Sometimes rules don't feel 'fun', but 'good' rules should make life more fun. God wants us to enjoy life. Look at this verse:

'God gives us everything to enjoy!'
(1 Timothy 6:17)

Activity:

It is more fun to play in a clean room, than a messy room. Right? So next time you are asked to do a 'chore' by your parents, try to do it without complaining! Because, actually, it is so that you can have more fun!

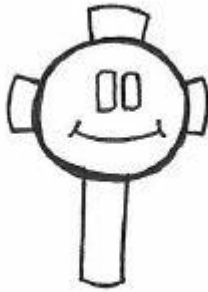
Sometime soon tell this to a friend, or brother or sister: **Rules are so we can have fun!**¹⁷



¹⁷ We ALL have 'good reasons' for our rules, but sometimes our spirit is not right. We might be a little bound up by rules or 'legalism'. If you struggle with this, you are not alone! Maybe read – carefully and prayerfully – the book of Galatians. Start there, and keep fighting for spirit-freedom in Jesus...

Day 18 (day/date: _____)

Children are extra-special to Jesus!



Jesus loves children! Actually, Jesus said that children are extra-special to God!

One day little kids were trying to come see Jesus, but big people were getting in the way and blocking them. Jesus said to everybody:

'Let the children come to me, and don't get in their way!' (Matthew 19:14)

This is true about you, too! You are extra-special to Jesus, and he does not want anyone or anything to block you coming to him!

Activity:

We come to Jesus by talking to him. We come to Jesus by reading his book, the bible, and listening to his voice.¹⁸

Make a nice, colorful poster with this title, and then these 3 words on it:

Title: **Be Close to Jesus**

Words: **Read. Talk. Listen.**

¹⁸ John 10:27, 2 Timothy 3:15-16, 1 Peter 5:7

Day 19 (day/date: _____)

Brand New!

Do you like brand new toys? Me too!
They are so exciting!

After a while, however, new toys become a little old, or maybe they break. Toys don't stay new forever. Do you have a toy like that?

But guess what? ***People are different!***
When we believe in Jesus, he makes us new forever! In fact, we are getting 'newer' each day. Even if some sad things have happened to us, ***Jesus makes us brand new***, and perfect, like a brand new toy still in the box! Jesus makes us new as if nothing bad had ever happened!

Sad things can't stop Jesus and his power in our hearts, minds and bodies!

Here are 2 amazing verses!

***'Everyone in Jesus is a new creation.
The old is gone, the new has come!'***
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

***'Your life in Jesus gets brighter and
brighter all the time, until you finally
arrive in heaven!'***
(Proverbs 4:18)

Activity:

Jesus makes all things new – all the time!
In a way, every morning when you wake
up, you are brand new again! This is a
special power that Jesus puts in you by
his Holy Spirit! You are ALWAYS brand
new!

Today make a poster that says: ***In Jesus
I am brand new – all the time!***¹⁹



¹⁹ Revelation 21:5; Ezekiel 36:26; Lamentations 3:23; Joel 2:25; Isaiah 1:18; Romans 8:38-39

**Note to Reader: This truth about God's power to 'redeem' is so important! Please, when you can, look up the verses in the footnote. God's power to restore, heal and redeem is ALWAYS greater than the power of the devil to hurt, humiliate and destroy. Not even death can stop the 'life' march of the Holy Spirit in your life, in Jesus Christ, now and forevermore! For more on this challenging topic, please check out my booklet, called, 'This Side of Evil', free on my website in PDF:*

www.1peter1three.weebly.com

Day 20 (day/date: _____)

Together Forever!

God made the world.²⁰ It is big and beautiful. What are your favorite things in this world? Like, maybe, trees, or mountains or the ocean?

Did you know that God is making a new world for us? It is called 'heaven'.

Jesus is the 'door' to this new world. When we believe in Jesus, we go through the door to heaven. You will go there when you are very old, and you are finished with this world. Listen to what Jesus says about heaven:

'I am going to heaven to prepare it for you... There is a big house there with many, many rooms, and one is for you!' (John 14:2)

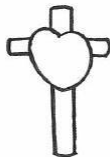
²⁰ You might be asked if God made the houses and cars, too. Check out this amazing verse: Hebrews 3:4

The bible also tells us that heaven has rivers and trees and amazing light – which comes from God, not the sun! And heaven has streets made out of sparkling gold!²¹

So if someone asks you, *‘How can I go to heaven?’* You can say, *‘Believe in Jesus. Jesus is the door to heaven!’*

Activity:

What do you want there to be in heaven? Waterfalls, toys, friends and family? It is OK to think and dream about heaven – even Jesus did that!²² It is real, and it is wonderful! Try to think about heaven more often. Maybe soon, draw a picture of your house and world in heaven!



²¹ Revelation 21:1-5 and the next chapter, too: Revelation 22:1-5. These are incredible descriptions of heaven!

²² Hebrews 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Philippians 3:13-14

Note to the Reader:

This is the end of this brief devotional. I hope you enjoyed it!

Maybe try to get a kids' bible and keep up your reading together. **Instead of this devotional, you can use a bible.** You simply read a short passage of the bible together, chat about it briefly, and pray together!

Bless you! Thank you! For more devotionals and free resources, please visit:

www.1peter1three.weebly.com