

Treasures of the Kingdom

Casting Up a Highway for the Children of This Generation

READY... or NOT?





*Be ye therefore ready also:
for the Son of man cometh at an hour
when ye think not.*

- Luke 12:40



Think About It: Being Found Blameless

The Bible teaches us that we will one day give account of our lives before God. It is easy to forget that we won't always be living on this earth. But someday you and I will die—or Jesus will return—and then this life will be over. We don't know when it will happen. But there is one thing we do know. Jesus wants you to be ready, so you are glad when you see Him.

We all have ideas of what a good life is, but it is God's Word that we will be measured by. How can you be sure that you are doing what God says is right? By humbling yourself to receive Jesus. You see, God gave us His Son Jesus so that we can live right through Him. How do you do that? Instead of trying to please yourself, or to make others do right, Jesus calls you to be His servant. That means, listening to what He tells you each day and obeying Him. In the cover comic, who did that?

Have you tried obeying Jesus and it doesn't seem worth it? Is it time to give up and just do what seems best to you, like Paul in the cover story? What happened next? Yes, and Jesus is coming back, too. 2 Peter 3:14 encourages us to live so that we "may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless." *Blameless* means without fault. You can only live that way by giving up your own ideas and trusting Jesus with everything. Even if others aren't behaving. Even when it seems like your job is too big. Or too boring. Guess what? If Jesus wants you to do it, you can ask Him for everything you need! Then you will be glad when Jesus shows up, because you are doing just what He wants you to do (1 John 4:17).



Here are my favorite quotes that I have been really enjoying recently, - Isabella, age 15

Live everyday as if it were your last and someday you'll be right.



If Christ isn't all to you, He is nothing to you. He will never go into a partnership as a part Savior of men. If He be something, He must be everything; and if He is not everything, He is nothing to you.

Jesus came to pay a debt He didn't owe, because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.



Stars can't shine without darkness. (Love that one!)



While you are waiting for God to open a door, praise Him in the hallway!

May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering!

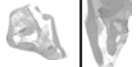


A man can never be overcome unless he surrenders his will.

Faith is trusting in advance what only makes sense in reverse.

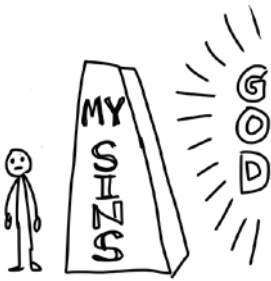


The King's daughter is all glorious within.



God's Word in My Life:

Why JESUS is the WAY to God



In our devotions one morning we were talking about why Jesus is the way to God. "Why?" I asked my children. "Because God is holy and we are sinful," I explained. "Since Adam and Eve sinned we all deserve death and not life. But **Jesus**, who became human, lived holy and pure all of His earthly life. Jesus had power to heal the sick and made the blind see



again. He even raised the dead to life! But best of all, Jesus **washed** us from our **sins** by shedding His blood on the cross.

"Jesus is the only **way** to God, because He came not to judge us, but to save us. Remember the woman who had been caught in sexual sin with another man, although she was married?" I asked. "Do you remember what Jesus said to the people who wanted to punish her? 'If any of you didn't sin, you may throw the first stone at the woman.'" But realizing their sins in their heart, each



dropped their stones and left. Only Jesus and the woman remained. And Jesus asked the woman, 'Didn't anyone punish you?' Did someone punish the woman?" I asked.

"No," my children said.

"And Jesus said, 'Neither do I. Go and sin no more.' Jesus didn't punish her, although He had the right to do it. Isn't that amazing? No judge can let wrongdoing



go unpunished and remain pure at the same time, can they? But Jesus bore the punishment for us. When we '**confess** our sins,' as the Scripture says, He will **forgive** us and purify our hearts.

"Satan wants us to feel comfortable in hiding our sins. But can we hide from God? No. The Bible says that Jesus is the **truth**. He knows everything about us: our struggles, weakness, and the darkness inside us. We don't need to be ashamed to come to Him, because He is willing to take our sin, which separates us from God. Just think—Jesus was not ashamed to bear our sins for us, when He was crucified on the cross! Even then He was full of love and forgiveness. That's why He is the only Way for us to come to God.



"I believe also that Jesus is the only **life**. He made us and is the only One who can bring us to heaven, as we live by faith in Him. Surely Jesus loves you and me!

"These words," I said, "can be found in the Word of God. Let's go through some of them and see what He has said." (See next page)



Using the bold words from the lesson, fill in the blanks in these verses:

"But if we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just to _____ us." 1 John 1:9

"_____ ... loved us, and _____ us from our _____ in his own blood." Rev. 1:5

Jesus said, "I am the _____, the _____, and the _____." John 14:6



My personal prayer:

Dear Jesus, there is no way to heaven, except through You. My sins separate me from God. For I'm sinful and He is holy.

I believe that You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus, thank you, that You came here on earth, to live among us, to heal us and to forgive us. Thank you that I can come to You with all my heart and that You won't reject me.

I ask You to forgive all my sins. It was not pleasing to God that I loved to follow my sinful desires. Help me now to live for You, holy and pleasant to You. Make me new and erase my past. I ask You to come into my heart and change my life from the inside out. Free me from the desire of sin, and may You bless me with Your saving grace.

I believe that I cannot bring my own way, with all my good efforts, deeds and trying to be a good person, to heaven. Please save me and be the Shepherd of my soul, from now on and forever. Amen.

—Beth, a mother

GOD

(start)
YOU

How can YOU get to GOD?

Let Me Tell You...

Rosie's Great Idea

Rosie looked over at her sisters playing. Katy was handing little sister Jane one of her special doll clothes to dress her baby in. They giggled together.

Rosie sighed. She felt left out of the fun. "Auntie," she said, "how come I never get special time with Jane?"

"What do you mean?" questioned Auntie. "You can play with her right now if you want to."

"I mean special time just with her—she's always is having time just with Katy."

"I see," mused Auntie. "Possibly we can work that out—we'll see."

The next day Rosie had just finished making the salad for lunch. "This would be a great time to play with Jane, Rosie," Auntie announced. "Katy needs to set the table, so you can plan something special to do with Jane."

Rosie finished her job quickly. A pretend camping trip would be just the thing to do with Little Sister.



"Jane!" she called. "Get your stuffed puppy and I'll help you pack some dolly clothes for her in this bag!"

Little Sister didn't even look up from her coloring. "No," she mumbled. "I'm going to help Katy set the table." And with that, she jumped up and darted for the kitchen.

Rosie grabbed Little Sister by the arm. Little Sister started to yell, trying to run away. "Jane, listen!" Rosie said loudly, over her yelling. "You're going to have special time with me. We're going to have

FUN! I even have your bag all ready."

"Nooooo! Let me go!" Little Sister screamed. Auntie came to see what all the fuss was about.

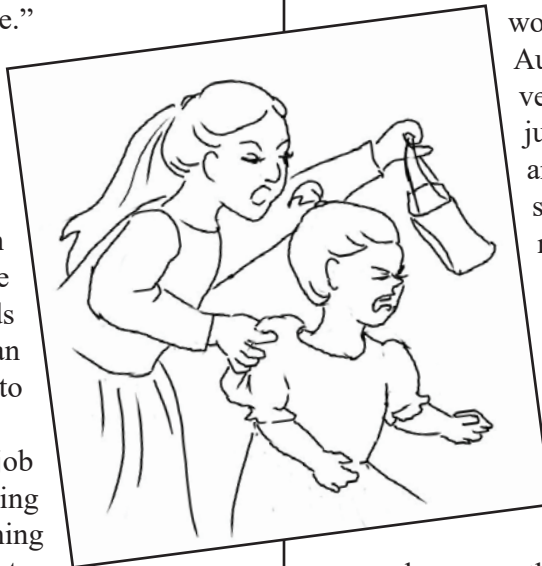
Rosie felt desperate. "She won't come, Auntie!"

"Maybe ask her what she would like to do," suggested Auntie. But that didn't work very well either. Little Sister just wouldn't cooperate, and when Katy was done setting the table, they both ran off together again.

"Auntie, why doesn't Jane like to play with me?" Rosie asked later.

Auntie thought a while. "Maybe because you're often bossy, and push her away

when you think she's going to ruin



what you are doing. I've noticed that Katy tries to include her, and gives her something else to do when she's getting into things she shouldn't. Maybe that's why."

Rosie was making salad again when she thought of an idea. "Jane," she called. "Do you want to make salad with me? You can have some little crispy lettuce pieces." Little Sister really did love to eat crispy lettuce pieces.

"Yes," said Jane, bouncing merrily into the kitchen.

"Get a stool," directed Rosie, trying to make her voice sound like Mommy's, "and you can help me chip it up." Even though Little Sister was only two, she was actually pretty good at chipping lettuce, but now she was eating an awful lot of it, too! Oh, well, at least she was helping.

Then the carrot needed to be grated. "Get one out of the fridge, Jane, and I'll get the grater," Rosie said.

"I want to do it by myself," Little Sister insisted, when the hand crank grater was set up on the counter.

"Honey, it's a little bit too hard for you," Rosie began. "But you can hold this bottom part, and we'll turn the handle together," she added quickly. Jane giggled as they turned the crank together and the grated carrots spun out onto the salad.



two, and handed one piece to Little Sister. Jane smiled up at her. She looked adorable even with carrot juice on her cheeks.

"What a special big sister you are, Rosie," Auntie whispered in her ear, as she passed by.

Rosie felt warm inside. It was fun to make Little Sister happy!

—Shared by
Rosie's
auntie

Read about what other children have had trouble with—and how God has helped them. Maybe you don't have kittens or angry neighbors, but I know God has a treasure for you!

Buried Treasures

I HOPE WE CAN PRINT
YOUR STORY
NEXT!

Do you have an experience to tell?
I will send an email notice* before the next issue. I hope to hear from you!

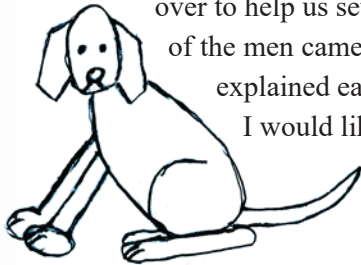
*email us if you aren't included

Love
Courage
Gentleness
Trust
Kindness
Faith

Patience
Meekness
Truth
Goodness
Peace
Joy

Puppy Problems

For my [8th] birthday I got a nice puppy from a friend in town. I named her Tally, and we had her for six months. Then she died—we don't know how she died. Then one of the girls in the village brought us a black puppy—I named him Sammy. He turned out to be a bad dog, and was always biting and was not playful. We tried getting rid of him, but he kept coming back. So we started praying about it, and then a crew came over to help us set up our water tank. The men left and Sammy followed them. One of the men came back with Sammy, and asked Dad if he could have him (Dad had explained earlier the problems we were having) and of course Dad said, "yes."



I would like prayer for another good puppy.—Judah, age 8 ½

Update: God answered my prayer for a puppy. Our friend Elvis gave me Tally's half sister. She is very sweet.—Judah, age 9

Cleaning Windows

My challenge is to help clean the house. I have to wipe the windows as high as I can reach on Mondays. It was hard, but I tried to do it by myself without crying. It was kind of fun, but the outside was not very fun. I kept working. Mama said that I did a good job. —Emily, 4 ½

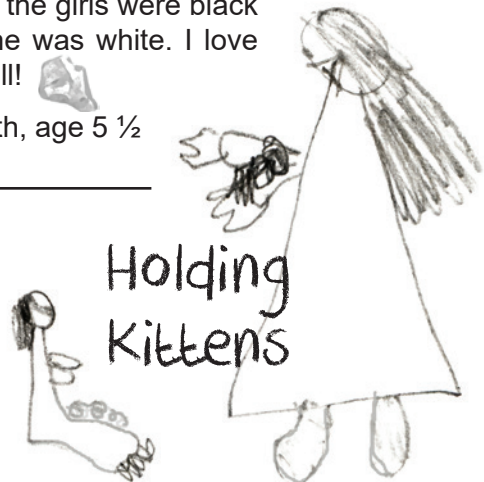


FINDING THE KITTENS

Once upon a time there was three girls. They had two cats. One was Raindrop and one was Tulip. One belonged to Judith and one belonged to Lillian. One day the girls found some kittens under the boards in their yard. Lillian thought it was her kittens. But then it was actually Judith's kittens. But everyone could hold them, because Judith shared her kittens.

There was one boy and three girls. I named the boy "Blockie." Two of the girls were black and one was white. I love them all!

—Judith, age 5 ½

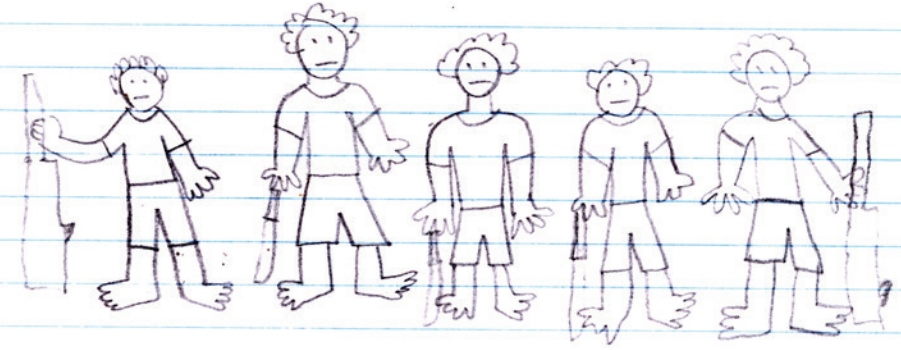


Holding Kittens

Evangeline really wanted to hold the kittens. But she was too scared. She was scared of their claws. We kept on telling her that kittens weren't scary. Finally she was able to hold them in her lap. - Lillian, age 8

One day we were drawing. We saw a bunch of guys. Two of them had guns, and the rest of them had machetes. They were wanting to kill three of the guys in the village. Me and my brothers and my mom went in the room and prayed, and Dad went out to talk to them. God answered our prayers and no one got hurt.

-Josiah, age 6



God Defends Us

LIGHTNING

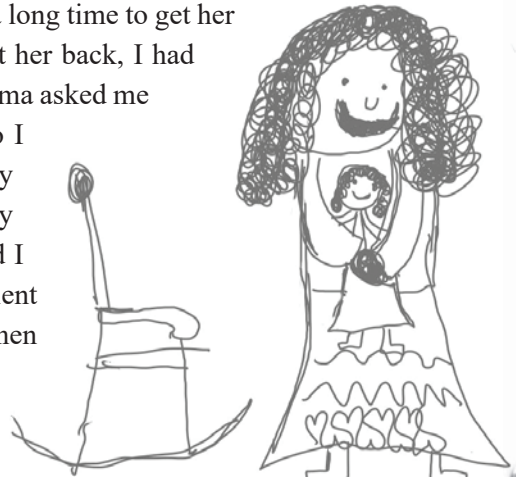
I had a kitten named Lightning. He ate something bad and some people had to throw him in the ocean (so he would swallow sea water and throw up). He didn't die. I prayed for my kitty, and God kept it alive. —Berean, age 4 ½



Learning to be Thankful

A long time ago I was wanting and wanting an Addy doll. I kept asking AutumnGrace if I could hold her American Girl doll, and lots of times she said "no." I had a hard time not throwing a fit when she said, "no." And then a little bit later, when I had my adoption birthday, then I got an American Girl doll for my adoption birthday. I was really thankful after that. Then a few days later Mama had to take her away, because I wasn't thankful about anything. And it took a long time to get her back. Then Mama said that before I could get her back, I had to prove that I would be thankful. One day Mama asked me to tell her some things I was thankful for. So I said that I was thankful for her making yummy food, and for Papa working hard to earn money for beds and blankets for us. Then Mama said I could have my doll back if I was being obedient and respectful. It was really hard to do. But then one night I got her back! I was very happy. And I still want prayer for thankfulness.

—Ellianna, age 9



Love
Courage
Gentleness
Trust
Kindness
Faith

Patience
Meekness
Truth
Goodness
Peace
Joy

Do you know that God cares?

Whether our needs are big or small, God wants us to talk to Him and ask for His help. When good things happen, it pleases God that we are thankful. Let's remember to pray for each other!

A Place for Prayer

REQUESTS AND THANKSGIVINGS

I am grateful that Daddy had enough energy to take us on the lake trail to explore. We were able to go as a family without a whole bunch of people following us.

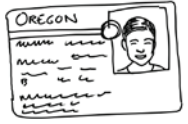
—Judah, 8 ½



I have kittens! I have four kittens. I'm excited because I have kittens. I was praying for Siamese kittens because I thought they were kind of cute. Then my mama cat had kittens!

But they were under the house. Then we went under the house to find them. There were three Siamese kittens and a plain white kitten! They are nice. Please pray that they will be healthy. —Lillian, age 8

I had sore eyes (pinkeye) for kind of a long time. They got better. God helped them. —Berean, age 4 ½



I am very thankful that I passed my permit test for driving. I sure prayed hard and I only failed one question! —Isabella, age 15

Please pray that I will do my chores without whining. —Emily, age 4 ½



Please pray that I won't get so angry inside when things don't go the way I want. —AutumnGrace, age 14

I am very thankful that our dear calf, Charlotte, was born safely! —Ellianna, age 9

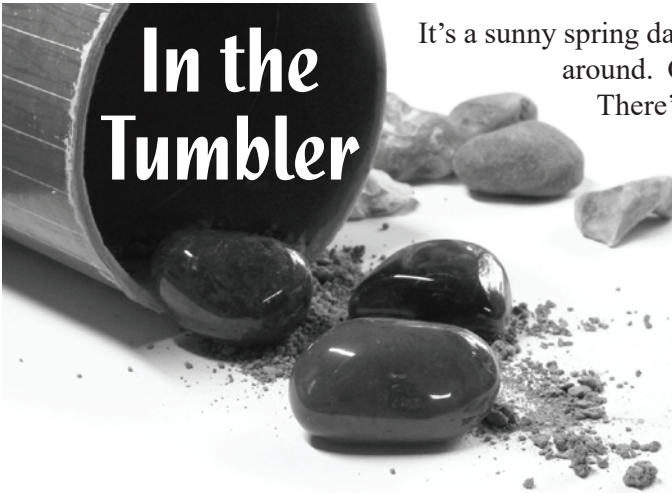


Please pray for India Gospel work with the remote tribal villages. —Paramjyothi, a pastor

Please pray for the family of Emerson, a 10-year-old boy in Kenya who recently got sick and died. Those who knew him said that he was a good boy who loved to testify of God's goodness. His grandfather says Emerson's death has helped him draw closer to God. But his father is a bitter man that has given himself to drinking. His mother and younger brother and sister need to receive Jesus into their lives, too.

Also, please pray for the Lord to send workers to minister to the needy people that have come to meetings near Malindi, Kenya, recently. One day there were over 60 sick children who showed up. When a lady started to pass out rolls, they scrambled for them! They are starving for food. They don't have families to care for them, but we know Jesus loves them and wants them to find hope and peace in Him!





In the Tumbler

It's a sunny spring day, so let's go outside on the patio. Look around. Can anyone find something beautiful?

There's some flowers... there is a bird in that tree. *Look! I found some pretty rocks!* you say. *Can I keep them?* We all

admire the colorful shiny stones that you found in the rock garden.

"I want some pretty rocks, too!" your younger brother says. *But I found them first,* you argue.

I think we should enjoy them together. Can you imagine that these polished rocks use to be rough and

dull? *How did they get so smooth and pretty?* you ask. By being tossed over and over with sand and water until all their rough edges were rubbed off. *Like sandpaper?* you say, rubbing your fingers over the smooth stones. Sort of. Would you like to make your own polished rock? "Yes!" Everyone shouts.

First let's look at the gravel for some stones you like. *But they mostly are all gray and rough,* you say. *Oh, here's one with white spots!* It would be beautiful if it was polished. *And this one has some stripes in it. Can I polish it, too?* you ask. Yes, everyone can polish their favorites.

Back inside I bring out the rock tumbler. First we must fill this barrel half full with rocks. *Here are mine!* you say. Add them in. "Mine is little and red," one of the younger children says. *Isn't it too small?* you ask. Not at all! Actually we need small rocks to help polish the big rocks. Hmm—sounds like a good lesson for us bigger people. God knows we need little brothers and sisters (with their little annoying behaviors) to help rub off our rough edges, don't you think? *I guess so,* you say.

Well, you see, this tumbler is like our lives. We are the rough rocks that God wants to polish into something beautiful. So He puts us into families (other rough rocks) and gives us trials and problems that rub on us. *Is this sand?* you ask, picking up a small bag. It is called "coarse grit," and we will need two scoops. Now we'll add some water. "Is that to get them clean?" your little brother asks. No, actually, it will help the rocks and grit mix together right. Just like how we need love and humility in our trials, so instead of getting mad and irritated with each other, we can help one another.

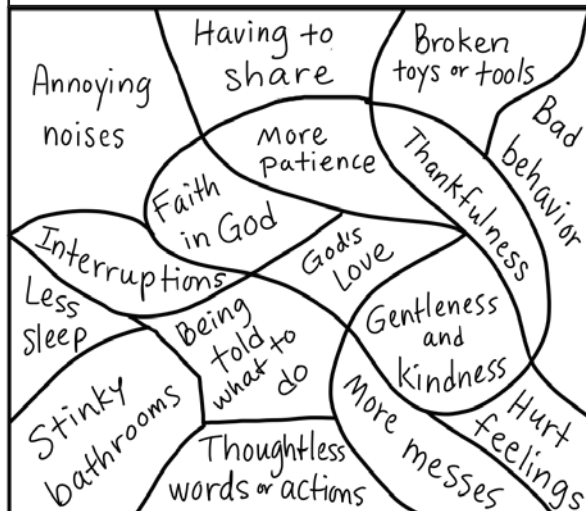
Now we will screw on the lid and turn the tumbler on. *It's noisy!* Yes, because the rocks are all bumping around in there. Rubbing off the rough edges will take awhile. *Like a whole day?* you ask. Actually, we have to wait seven days before we check them. *That's a long time!* you say. Then they will be covered with gray mud and we'll have to rinse them off and put them back in-

side with more grit. *And then we'll have to wait longer?* Yes, it will probably take 3 or 4 weeks... that is, if you want your rock to be really smooth and shiny. *I do!* you say.

And that just what Jesus wants with us. The next time you feel like asking Him to take your problems (or problem-causing brother or sister) away, remember that He is working on you. Think about it. The reason we put our rocks in this tumbler is because we wanted their rough edges rubbed off so that they could be beautiful and shiny. Does Jesus see some rough edges of pride or selfishness in you? Isn't it wonderful that He knows just what kind of rocks and grit to put in your life so that you can be made to shine with His praise and goodness?

What's in this Tumbler?

Color all the trying things gray.
Color all the virtues in beautiful shiny colors.



DEFENSIVE OR DEFENDED?

Question: *Why do I get in trouble for trying to defend what is right?*


Example: *Jody was playing outside with her little brother and sister. Polly started jumping on the trampoline and Jerry wanted to get on. "Stop jumping!" he called out several times, but Polly didn't listen. So Jody climbed onto the trampoline and grabbed Polly to make her stop. That made Polly mad and she started to scream. Then Jody got in trouble because she wasn't playing peacefully. But it was all Polly's fault!*



Has this ever happened to you? Maybe you wonder why you always seem to get in trouble when you are just trying to defend what is right.

The trouble is that when you react to a problem with anger or selfishness—like yelling or grabbing—you are doing wrong, too. Maybe your outburst solves the problem. But

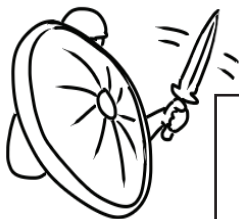
then there is another wrong-doer that needs to be corrected—you! The Bible says that “the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” (James 1:20) That’s because God isn’t just interested in your sister sharing the trampoline. He wants you to respect each other because you love and care for each other. He wants your attitude to be right on the inside. (1 Tim. 1:5)



But bad things will keep happening if I don't do something!

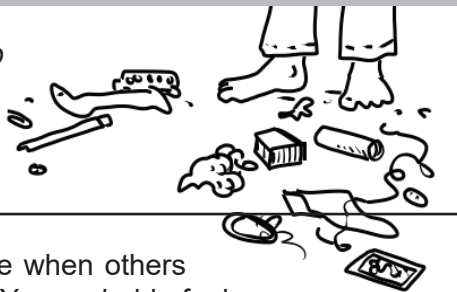
If someone is doing something wrong and they don't listen when you talk to them peacefully, there is something you can do. Go to the person in charge.

Your parents, for example. If it seems like they might not be noticing the problem, tell them about it and ask them for help. Your part is to trust them and obey.



Question: *What should I do when I'm feeling defensive?*

Example: *What a mess! I hate it when others don't clean up after themselves.... They need to do their own picking up instead of expecting me to!*



I've felt the same way. It is easy to get defensive when others don't respect the things that seem important to you. You probably feel like complaining or pointing out the problem to them. But is that the attitude you should be having? When you are thinking about someone else being selfish, who are you really concerned about?

Yourself!



But it's not my mess!

Maybe not. But now it's your job. So stop thinking about the other person's problems. Focus on your own attitude. Jesus said to bless those that curse us—not complain about them. Remember, He cares more about us having a clean attitude than having a clean floor.



A clean attitude? I didn't think of that.

Yes, and I'm glad that Jesus wants to help us clean up! Like this: "Here are some of my dirty complaints and hard feelings that need to go in the trash, Jesus. Wanting things my own way made me forget that other people need love and care, too. Please help me to show them that I love them!"

Please help me to show them that I love them!"

God's System of Justice

1. **GOD** is the judge that makes sure justice happens. He is the only one wise enough and big enough to take care of protecting what is right and punishing what is wrong. And guess what? He has promised to do that.



2. **PROTECTING** what is right is really important. God created you to be pure and good, but the devil wants to ruin you with sin and evil. That is why God has planned a way for you to be defended. It starts with your parents, who are given the responsibility to protect and teach you what is right. But they can't protect you from everything that is wrong—especially sinful thoughts. Only God sees all the problems and dangers (even the ones you don't know about!). Best of all, He has really good plans for



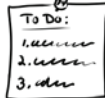
your life. That's why Jesus came to save you from sin and give you His power to live right!

3. **VENGEANCE** is a big word for making sure bad behavior is punished, or "getting revenge." And God takes that job really seriously (Deut. 32:35). The reason He doesn't let us do the revenging (and He actually tells us to do good to the bad people, instead—Rom. 12:19-21) is because He wants to protect us from evil. When we try to get revenge, we end up doing wrong ourselves. And since wrong-doers will be punished in an eternal lake of fire, God wants to keep us far away



from that! Only by turning away from evil and receiving God's power of forgiveness and love can we be saved from that awful punishment.

4. So what is **YOUR JOB**? No, it's not making others behave. But you can humble yourself and ask for help to change your own behavior. Ask yourself: have I done something wrong or hurt someone else? What is the right thing for me to do right now? If it seems too hard to do, remember God is ready to help you!



What about when bad things keep on happening?

Question:

Example:

Mom said to not eat any more cookies. But when she is gone your brother grabbed some. And its not just that—he always is lying or cheating, and he hardly ever gets punished. Something should be done!



What can you do? You can take the problem to God. He certainly sees the things that are going wrong—and He wants to help you do what is right. Do you believe that God is your defender and that He cares about you?



I guess so... but it is easy to forget.

That's why we need to fill our mind with God's promises!

Here are a few to look up in your Bible:

...when you feel afraid

Psalm 27:1; 56:3;

Isaiah 12:2; 41:10

...when you feel worried

Isaiah 26:3; John 14:1;

Phil. 4:6-7

...when you feel stressed

Matt. 5:44-45; 1 Peter 5:6-7

...when someone is

doing wrong

Psalm 37; Rom. 12:17-21;

1 Peter 3:9

Ask God to help you do your part. Remember, that means having the right attitude yourself, and trusting God to take care of the problems.

Many songs remind us of the peace and hope we have because God cares for us. Sing them! When we thank God for caring for us and our problems, we are doing two important things at once—we are giving Him the problem and filling up our minds with His goodness!

So when things go wrong, how can you stay on the right side of the problem? Remember that God is your defense and obey Him! Wrong-doers are always trying to defend themselves. Those who put their trust in the Lord and His power are really the only ones that are safe. Which one are you going to be?

The **SHIELD** of My Defense

Write down a problem that bothers you:

Now copy one of God's promises to take care of it:

What part does He want you to do?

Finish with a song or prayer of thanks to God, because He cares for you!

Treasures of the Kingdom

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Dear Reader,

The Lord has been blessing us in the midst of our trials. As we share the treasures He has been giving us, I hope you will be blessed, too!

Do you have something to share or questions to ask? We are glad to receive your letters and emails.

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In the King's service,
The Editors

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SEND TO:

*How many rocks can you find?
There should be 113 including this one:*



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