

Treasures of the Kingdom

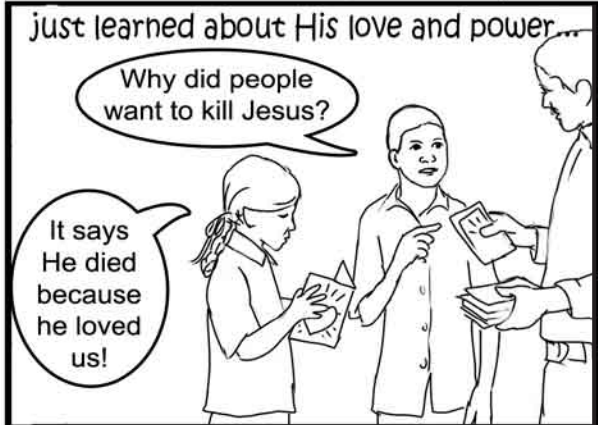
Casting Up a Highway for the Children of This Generation

Dave and Jessica **Who Knows JESUS?** Monika and Simon

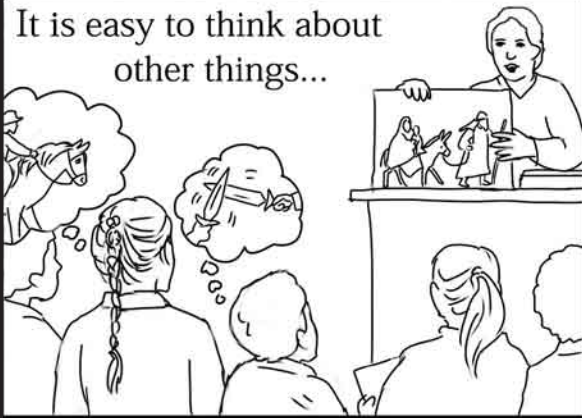
know all about Jesus...



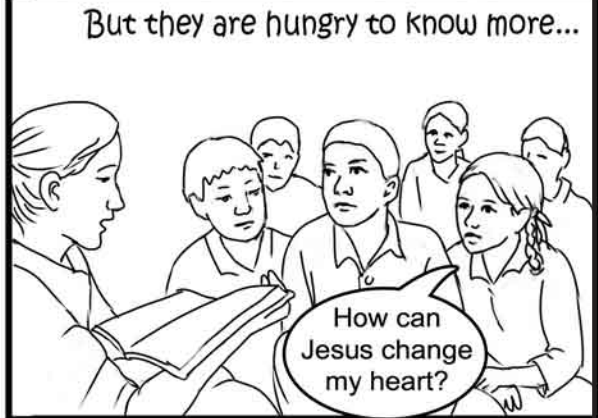
just learned about His love and power.



It is easy to think about other things...



But they are hungry to know more...



And fuss about what they want...



And beg God to help them live right...

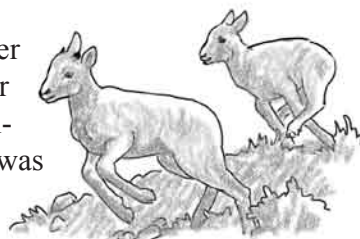




BIGHORN

Little ram ran along the mountain slope and jumped high in the air. The other bighorn lambs skipped after him in a wild game of “follow-the-leader.” Little ram liked to be the leader. He was especially proud of his new horn nubs. When he butted his head at the other lambs, they backed off. Mother sheep just nibbled grass and walked higher up the hill. Little ram tossed his head and strutted. Then he had to run and catch up—Mother bighorn was leading the herd up a steep slope.

Little ram grew stronger and bigger. He could climb higher and run faster than all the others now. Even Mother moved over when he pressed his growing horns into her side. He was learning about trouble, too. One day a coyote surprised him when he was eating at the base of a cliff. The rest of the herd climbed up the



But they know how to share...

It's my turn now.

I'm done anyway. Now I can use the new markers!

How happy they are to give their best...

I'm trying to get milk for the sick baby, but the goat keeps kicking.

I'll hold her still for you.

And try to get along with everyone.

We're not allowed to--

Shhhh! We need to be polite.

And tell others what Jesus can do for them!

We don't believe in Jesus. How can he help?

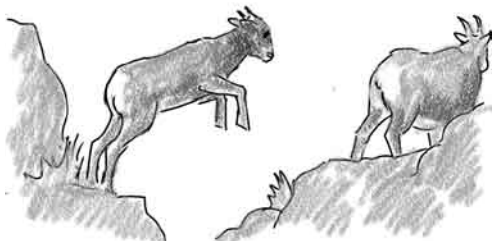
Thank you that you love us! Please heal the baby.

Dave and Jessica know all about being Christians —but does Jesus know them?

Monika and Simon might not know much —but they want to love God with all their hearts!

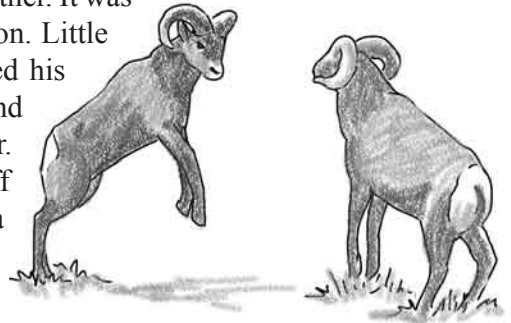
“But whosoever loves God is known by God.” 1 Corinthians 8:3



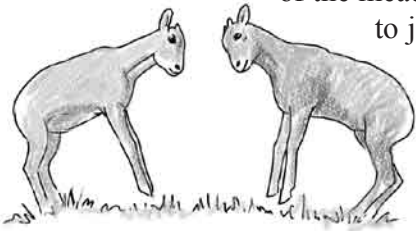


rocks to safety, but little ram was in danger. He raced up a rocky slope with the coyote close behind. Only by quickly darting around a rock and leaping across a crevice did he escape. After that he kept an eye out for danger and ate on the higher slopes.

With the cold winds of fall, more bighorn sheep began joining the herd. Many of them were bigger than Mother, with great curving horns that crowned their heads. Little ram watched as they stood on their hind legs and challenged each other. In a moment their great horns would clang together. It was exciting to see which would win and be the champion. Little ram stepped up to one of his playmates and lowered his head. The other young ram took up the challenge and soon they were both standing and crashing together. Little ram's head swelled with pride as he butted off each of the other young rams. Then he leapt onto a rock to watch the big rams battling again.

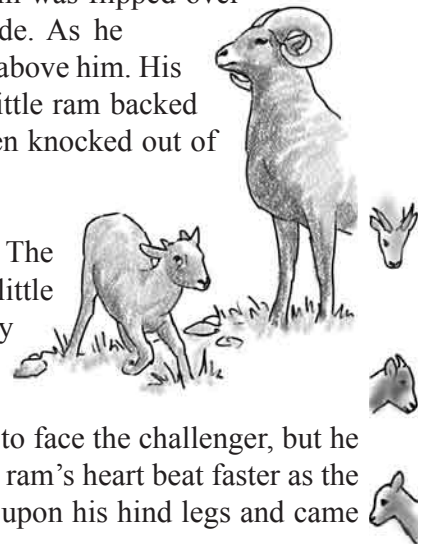


One great ram, called Bighorn, kept apart from the others. His horns curved into a perfect circle and he stood at the top of the meadow with Mother and a few others. Little ram ran up the hill to join them. When he skipped up the ridge, the younger sheep moved out of his way. Little ram felt quite strong and wonderful. He tossed his horns at Mother and then nodded his head toward Bighorn.



The next moment little ram was flipped over backward on the rocky hillside. As he scrambled to his feet, he looked up to see the great ram standing above him. His head was held high and he stared off far across the meadow. Little ram backed away, shaking his ears in surprise. All the foolish pride had been knocked out of him and he soon settled down to eating grass.

Little ram kept a respectful distance from Bighorn after that. The force of those mighty horns still filled him with awe. All his little battles were but lamb-play compared to the strength of the mighty Bighorn. He stopped nibbling to watch as another ram came up the slope. His curling horns were almost as long as Bighorn's, but his body wasn't so thick and strong. The great sheep turned to face the challenger, but he did not move as the smaller ram backed up for the charge. Little ram's heart beat faster as the challenger plunged forward. But Bighorn simply lifted himself upon his hind legs and came



down with a mighty crash. The next moment Bighorn raised his nose and the other ram turned to go. As simple as that, the matter was settled. Bighorn was the victor and the sheep went back to grazing on the steep slope. Little ram sighed in satisfaction.

Snow began falling on the mountains and the bighorn sheep were kept busy finding cleared patches to eat. Little ram was still growing and he always felt hungry. But he had learned a lesson from the great Bighorn. Instead of shoving for the best grass or tossing his horns at the other sheep, the young ram kept to himself. He used his strength to climb up steep crevices and get the tasty patches that the others couldn't reach.

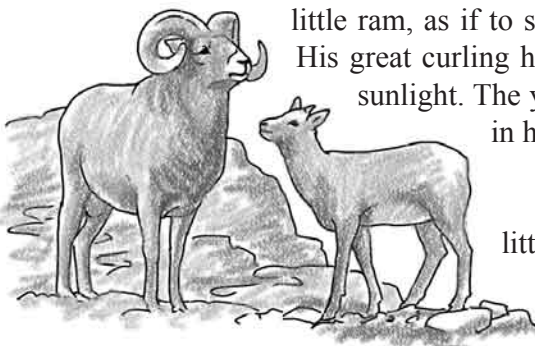
One afternoon he scrambled over some boulders and found Bighorn on a rocky ledge. The great ram stood like a king overlooking the valley below, and little ram knew better than disturb him. He jumped down to nibble a tuft of grass between two rocks. Suddenly he heard Bighorn stomp his foot sharply. Every sheep in the herd came to attention, and in a moment they were scrambling up the steep bank. Little ram got a glimpse of a gray shape dashing along the rocks as he scrambled after Bighorn. A coyote! The great ram had already reached the end of the ledge and was springing across a crevice to another rocky slope. It took all little ram's strength to leap after Bighorn, and he was panting when he reached the crest. But they weren't out of danger yet.



As he joined Bighorn, a second gray form appeared around a rock. In panic, little ram sprang backward and almost slipped down the bank. As he scrambled to get his footing, the coyote darted toward him. Suddenly Bighorn stepped between them and lowered his head. The coyote stopped in surprise. Never had a sheep challenged him before! Little ram froze in terror, but the great sheep did not move. The hungry coyote made a dash forward and Bighorn tossed his great horns. He caught his enemy squarely in the shoulder. With a yelp the coyote tumbled down the rocky slope and out of sight.



Bighorn raised his head to the sky, and then looked calmly down at little ram, as if to say, "didn't you know that I would defend you?" His great curling horns seemed like a golden crown in the evening sunlight. The younger ram stepped forward and tipped his head in humble gratitude.



As he followed Bighorn up the mountainside, little ram knew that he'd found his champion. Bighorn was to be respected as a mighty warrior. But he was also to be trusted as a faithful friend.



Think About it: A TRUE CHAMPION

In the story, little ram learned why Bighorn was a champion. First of all, he

realized that the great ram wasn't someone to play around with. His horns were powerful and he knew how to win every time. That made little ram respect him, didn't it? It also gave little ram an example of how to use his own strength and ability. Did you notice how he began to admire Bighorn and tried to be like him?

Who is your champion? What is the power you respect the most? Think about it. I don't know of anything stronger or wiser than God. After all, He is the Creator and Ruler above everything else! Do you think that God can be fooled around with? Can you make Him do what you want? Read Psalm 2. When you realize just how high and holy God is, then it's time to humble down, like little ram did, and pay attention to what He is doing.

How does God use His strength and power? How does He always win? God always does what is right—and punishes what is wrong. He is a good Judge who deals fairly with us and our problems. You see, if you get in trouble for having a bad attitude (or a sassy one, like little ram), that's good for you. It is good for robbers to stop stealing and liars to stop making up stories. That's because doing wrong causes trouble—and all wrong-doers are going to be cast into hell fire, Jesus said. If we don't respect God's judgment now and do what is right, we will find ourselves in a lot worse trouble later!

It is good to be afraid of doing what is wrong. But that's not enough to keep you safe. Remember the times you tried to do right and failed? Maybe you couldn't escape from the bad thoughts and attitudes, just like little ram got trapped by the coyote. But what did little ram learn about Bighorn then? He realized that he was a friend who was strong enough to conquer his enemies. That is the wonderful truth about God. He is not only a powerful ruler, but He also cares about us and our problems! He is the only Friend we have that can get rid of the sin in our lives. Just like when Bighorn stepped in to defend little ram, Jesus died on the cross to save you. It wasn't because you are so good or smart, but because of God's mercy. (Titus 3:5) He knows all about your problems and fears, and He wants to be your Champion and lead you to victory!

Have you trusted Jesus to be your savior from sin? Do you know that God loves you and will help you do right every time? When you do, the adventure has just begun. Are you ready to follow your Champion on the mountains of victory?

Jesus wears this royal crown, and He wants you to have one, too. Can you fill in the missing words by unscrambling the letters by each number?

1. wheesd (an old word for "showed")
2. dogo (opposite of bad)
3. ROLD (ruler of all)
4. stujly (fair and right)
5. yercm (being kind when others don't deserve it)
6. bulmhy (not stubborn or proud)

He has 1. _____ thee, O man, what is 2. _____; and what doth the 3. _____ require of thee? But to do 4. _____, and to love 5. _____, and to walk 6. _____ with thy God. (Micah 6:8 KJV)



Fire Power



Are you ready to help clean out some rabbit cages? See, this one is covered with fur and sticky droppings. I wouldn't want to live in a place like that, would you? *Yuck!* you say. *I don't like to get dirty!*

That's why I'm using a propane torch. I tried to clean them with a brush and water one time—what a mess! The fur stuck everywhere and I couldn't scrub them clean. But watch what happens when I turn on the torch. Whoosh! It bursts into flame. Smoke rises as I move the torch back and forth over the cage. *The fur looks like it is melting!* you say. Now let's clean off the dirty parts. Hold the torch underneath while I use this scraper. Scritch, scratch, scritch—see, the

droppings fall right off. *Wow, this torch is really great! you say. I didn't know fire was so useful.*

Fire is useful and powerful—not something to play with. Do you know that God's Spirit is like fire? The Bible tells us that Jesus came to baptize us with fire and burn up all the chaff in our lives. (Luke 3:16-17) Chaff is sort of like the fur in the rabbit cage. What happens when fire burns it? *It disappears,* you say. And that's how God deals with sin and wrong things. We can't change our hearts by trying to be good, just like I couldn't scrub the cage clean. We need to let God's Spirit come with His torch and burn up the wrong things in our lives, just like we burned the rabbit cage. Then God can fill you up with good things!

Now this cage is clean, but do you think it will stay that way? *No—the rabbit will get it dirty again.* That's right. But the fire of God's Spirit is able to do more than clean us up. The Bible says that whoever abides (stays) in God will not sin (1 John 3:4). That means nothing evil can stick to you if God's fire is burning inside. You will have power to always win against the devil's attacks! Here is an example of how it works. Maybe it seems like selfish "get out of my way" fuzz often sticks to you. But if you ask God's Spirit to fill your heart, He will warn you when you start to feel upset: "Selfish attack!" Quickly give those selfish feelings to God and He will burn them up. Maybe the fire feels hot because you have to give up things that seem important to you, but it is always worth it. If you humble yourself, God will make your life shine with His love and kindness instead of that selfish fuzz!

Do you want to be useful to God? Ask His Spirit to clean you and fill you up. Instead of wanting to have your own way, you will want God's way. Instead of worry or anger controlling you, you will let the peace of God rule in your heart. The Spirit of God fills us with goodness, because we are filled up with Him!

Follow the maze: First cross out the problem, then use the letters in the flames to fill in the blanks!

What can God's Fire Power do for You?

When you feel...



power and _____ (2 Tim 1:7)

wisdom and _____ ing (Isa 11:2)

inner _____ (Eph 3:16)

joy, _____, and _____ (Rom 15:13)



My Box House

Our family was getting ready to move. One day we made houses out of boxes.

I got all my toys and put them in my house and then I played with them. My house had a door and two windows. I had a door that I could open and close. One time my sister, who is two-years-old, came up and opened the door. She came in my house and she stayed in, because I let her. And then she played with me for a little while. And then the next time she came in and ruined my window. I yelled at her and said, "No!" I pushed her out and she cried. Then Daddy had to discipline me and he said I needed to forgive her. After I forgave her, it was easy to share with her!

By Jack, almost 5 



The Piano I Prayed For

I had been praying for a piano for a long time. Then one day a man told me that he knew someone with an extra piano. So the man called that person, but they never responded, so I figured that God would provide in His time. Then one night we got a call and the men brought the piano to our front door, and put it in our kitchen. It plays very nicely and is perfectly tuned. Praise God!

—Niki, age 13

Are you learning how to trust God? Do you have troubles with others and need to forgive them?

Read the stories that other children have shared. God has treasures to give you, too!

Buried Treasures

I HOPE WE CAN PRINT
YOUR STORY
NEXT!

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

*email us if you aren't included



Patience
Meekness
Truth
Goodness
Peace
Joy

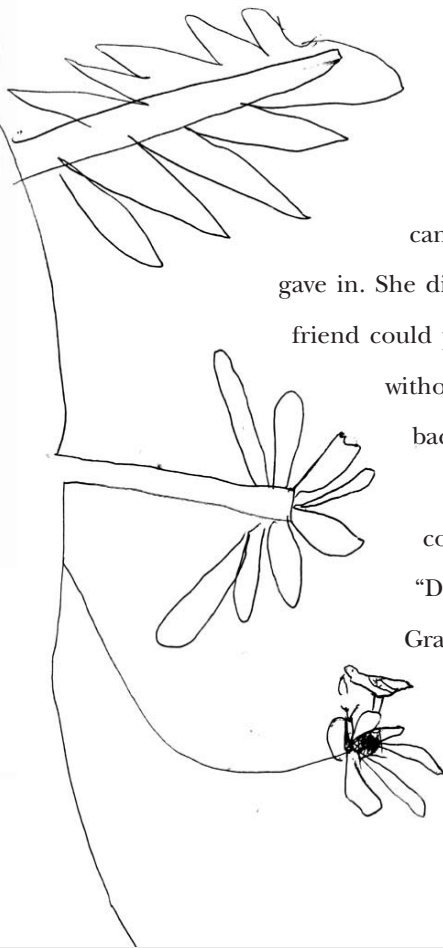
The Baby Robins

When my mom was young, she was down in the garden with her friend picking raspberries. There was a robin nest in the garden and my Grandpa Steve told her to not touch the baby robins. But her friend said, "How about we just touch them real gentle?" My mom said, "No, let's not. My dad said not to." Her friend kept saying, "We can probably touch them just really gentle." At last my mom gave in. She didn't want to touch them, but she held a bowl out so her friend could put the baby robins in. The baby robins looked very ugly without their feathers, but they gently petted them and put them back afterwards.

A few days later my Grandpa called my mom, "Kendra, come here. I have something to talk to you about." He said, "Did you touch the baby robins?" She said, "yeah." Then Grandpa said, "They are dead now. The mama didn't feed them because they smelled like people."

My mom started crying. She learned that she must obey her dad even if she didn't understand why.

—By Judah, age 6



Let me tell you...

How John Used His Sword

Do you have a sword? John does, but it isn't made of shiny metal. It is the "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." You see, even though John is only twelve, he knows there are spiritual enemies to fight and he needs to be prepared. One day he defended his whole family from attack when—but wait! I am getting ahead of my story.

Life isn't easy for John's family since their father left many years ago. Mother has to work hard to take care of the six children, but she trusts God to help them. "I am thankful that I have work," she told them. "Many people can't find jobs right now."

Each day John and his sisters knelt to pray when Mother left for work. John knew that he had a heavenly Father who cared for them, and that made him feel happy. One day he read Jesus' words in Mark 11:34: "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." "This is a wonderful promise," John realized. "I want to trust God just like Jesus did." He decided to memorize the verse. Soon it was tucked in his heart, ready for any problems that would come. It wasn't long before he would need it.



One morning, as usual, Mother left the house early so that she could get to the field on time. When John knelt with his sisters to pray, his mind filled up with all the good things God had done for them. "Be with Mother today and bless her in her work," he prayed. He remembered his memory verse, and smiled. "I believe that You know how to take good care of us!"

It was late morning when the door opened and Mother came in. "What happened?" John's sister asked in surprise. "Why are you home so early?" "Someone else took my job," Mother said sadly. "I got to the field on time, but it was no use." The children gathered around and her shoulders sagged in discouragement. "I don't know what we'll eat tonight—there is no money to buy food!" As the spirit of gloom filled the room, John took out his sword. He knew that Jesus would defend them. It was time to fight!



"Don't be worried, Mother," he said quickly. "We prayed for you and I know God heard us. Remember that Jesus said, 'believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.'"

"I suppose so," Mother said slowly. "But I don't know where I could get another job." She still was discouraged, but John wouldn't give up. Out came the 'believe and receive' sword again. "We'll just ask the Lord to show you where to go, and He'll give you a job," he said, confidently. "God knows where all the jobs are."



This time Mother smiled. "You are right, son. It may be late in the day, but God can do anything." John was right. The spirit of gloom couldn't stand before the shining sword of God's promises. As Mother headed out to look for work, he tucked his weapon away and smiled. He wasn't surprised when she came home that night rejoicing. "God gave me a new job, children! It was the first house I went to, just like John said." "Believe and receive," John repeated. "That's God's promise."



Love
Courage
Gentleness
Trust
Kindness
Faith

Patience
Meekness
Truth
Goodness
Peace
Joy

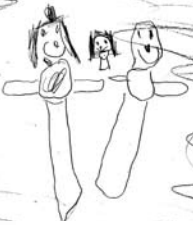
Do you know that God cares?

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

Pray for my mama and the new baby [picture on left].
- Becca, age 5



Pray that I will have more grace to trust God. - Niklanna, age 13 1/2

Also pray that our cow will not kick while we milk.
- Bella and Niki, ages 11 & 13 1/2



Pray so that I can love work, and cleaning the chick water and food [picture on right]. - Elijah, age 8



Please pray that I am changed into a new creature. - Isabella, age 11

Please pray that our move to Texas will be safely accomplished [picture on right]. - Emma, age 8

THANKSGIVING



Please thank God that He made me looove math. I also thank God that He provided me a wonderful piano. - Niki, age 13 1/2

I am thankful that my goat shed got finished. - AutumnGrace, age 11



God blessed me with a rabbit! [picture on left] - Paulina, age 9



I used to hate doing dishes [washing them], and God made me love doing them. It is one of my favorite kitchen chores. Math was my least favorite subject and God made me like it more, and I enjoy doing it more then I did before. Praise the Lord! - Isabella, age 11

Do you want to have something good to share, too? Then it is time to ask God about it! Here is what Jesus told His disciples when He was going to leave them:

“Hitherto [before this] have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” (John 16:24)

Jesus has promised to give us joy if we ask for things in His name! To ask “in Jesus’ name” means that we are asking for what He wants to give us. Then we know He will give it!

Do you know something that Jesus wants to give you?



A terrible sin snake had been living in Mariann's heart, but now Jesus had come inside and crushed it...

Chapter Three: A New Friend

Mariann stared at the snake lying at her feet. Was it really dead? She held tightly to Jesus' hand and felt the power of His presence beside her. The snake couldn't bother her any more, because Jesus had destroyed it. Then she saw the two piercing fang-marks in Jesus' feet.

Tears filled Mariann's eyes. Jesus had suffered to save her from the terrible sin snake! How could she thank Him? As she looked up into Jesus' face, she saw a glorious crown of love sparkling on His head. Falling to her knees she whispered, "Lord, thank You for saving me!"

Jesus, the Snake-Destroyer, smiled tenderly. "Dearest Mariann, I have delivered you from the power of sin so that you can be Mine." Reaching down, He grasped the snake by its tail. "Are you ready to throw out this snake and its evil works forever?"

Mariann looked at the black creature dangling in her Savior's hand. How big and ugly it was! "Yes, I want to do right from now on," Mariann said. "I will tell others that I'm sorry for the things I've done wrong. I want to be a true Christian girl."

With a mighty swing of His arm, Jesus flung the snake out of her heart and life.

No longer would Mariann be controlled by its slithering coils. Jesus had set her free!

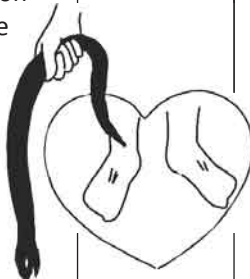
It was a wonderful feeling to fall asleep that night. Mariann had never felt so peaceful inside before. No snake was squeezed away in a jar, waiting for its chance to get out. Mariann never wanted to have sin control her again. She wanted to love and please Jesus now.

The first thing, of course, was to do what she had promised Him. As soon as she could, Mariann talked to her grandpa. It wasn't easy to tell him about hiding the thing she had broken. But when he smiled and forgave her, how happy Mariann was! When Mariann saw Bertha again, she told her that she was sorry for the bad games they had played together. "I'm not going to live that way any more," she said. Each time Mariann confessed the things she had done wrong and asked forgiveness, she could feel Jesus' hug around her heart. How much better it felt than all the shivery coils of the snake!

For the next couple months Mariann enjoyed being a happy Christian girl. On the outside she seemed just about the same as before, but inside her heart everything was different. The best part was when she went aside to some quiet place and Jesus came to visit. Mariann would thank Him for caring for her and being her Friend. Jesus had many wonderful promises to show her in the Bible, and Mariann tried very hard to obey. But sometime she had problems, and she had to ask Him for help.

The Story of Mariann's Heart

Part 2



Chapter Four: Snake Attacks

One of the problems Mariann discovered outside her heart door one evening. “Hey, remember me?” a voice hissed. “I have some good ideas to talk over with you.” Mariann shivered at the sound and it seemed she could almost feel the snake coiling around her. But how could that be? Jesus had crushed the sin snake and thrown it out, remember?

Mariann heard the slithering of snake scales and her heart began to pound. “Go away!” she cried, but suddenly she felt weak all over. “Help me, Jesus!” she called. In a moment the snake was gone and Mariann could hear the familiar step of Jesus outside.



When she opened the door, Mariann felt ashamed. She knew Jesus hated snakes and one had almost come in her heart! Was He angry with her? No. His voice was gentle when He said, “I heard you call for help. Why were you afraid?” So Mariann told Him about hearing the old familiar hiss at the door.



“I thought that there wasn’t any sin snake left,” she said sadly. Jesus looked serious. “Mariann, there are many sin snakes left in the world. It was the one in your heart that I destroyed. But the devil, the father of all sin snakes, will be sure to send more snakes to come and tempt you. They want to come in and take over your heart again.”



“Oh, dear!” cried Mariann. “What can I do to get rid of them? They are too strong for me!” Jesus looked at her and smiled. “Are they too strong for Me?” Mariann shook her head. She knew what He meant. If she called for His help, He would chase away the temptations when they came. Jesus could keep her safe from sin snakes.



Mariann learned that she often had to call for Jesus’ help. Sometimes she waited too long and the temptation snakes would sneak in for an attack. They seemed to know just when she was feeling lazy or hadn’t spent time with Jesus for awhile. Then one would curl up by her door and try to distract her. “You don’t have to obey your mom right now,” it might whisper. “You need to finish that book.” Or it might remind her of the dark snake holes and try to get her thinking about something wrong. If Mariann didn’t call for Jesus right away, the old poison in her mind would make her weak. Before she realized it she would be opening her heart to the temptation and a sin snake would slip inside.

When Mariann felt the slithery scales begin to wrap around her mind again, she tried to push it away. Of course, the snake was stronger than her. Suddenly Mariann realized she was overpowered and she felt terrible. “I don’t want to listen to you!” she would cry. “Please, Jesus, help!”

Usually just the sound of footsteps outside was enough to make the snake let go. When the mighty Snake-Destroyer appeared, Mariann felt ashamed. She knew He was disappointed in her. “Why didn’t you call sooner? I was waiting for you,” He asked quietly, after he had thrown the snake out. Mariann hung her head. “I will try to do better next time,” she whispered.

Mariann tried to keep away from snakes—especially the big bad ones. But sin snakes are tricky creatures. Often,

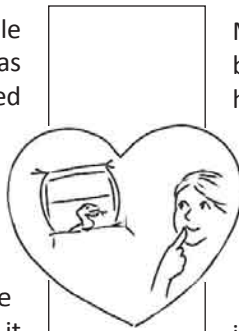
when she wasn't paying attention, a little "I think best" snake would whisper ideas through her heart window. "You need to make your sister behave, because she isn't doing what Mom said," it would say. Or "You are really good at drawing, so you should show your friends what you can do." It was hard for Mariann to ignore the friendly little creature and often she would listen to it instead of asking Jesus. But it got her into trouble more than once.

"I didn't know that little white thing was a snake!" she said in surprise, when Jesus warned her about the selfishness snake. "It looks so gentle and nice." "Sin snakes are very sneaky," Jesus replied. "They know just how to slip through the cracks and get your attention. You must watch and pray."

Other snake attacks were much more scary. Sometimes at night dark pictures would appear on Mariann's heart wall. "This is what will happen to you!" an evil voice hissed. Mariann's heart pounded with fear and she felt weak all over. Maybe if she kept away from scary places those evil snake-pictures wouldn't show up so much. Of course, if she kept close to Jesus they wouldn't come at all. But Mariann was used to doing things her own way, and so she tried hard to manage without too much help. When would she learn that she needed a stronger power to keep her safe?

Chapter Five: The King Inside

It was on Mariann's fourteenth birthday that she began to see what was the matter. It was one of those days that everything goes wrong. Like most girls,



Mariann wanted to feel important on her birthday. But she knew Jesus didn't want her to be selfish, so she tried very hard to be nice, even when things didn't go her way. "It is really too bad you had to give up your plans," a white snake whispered after awhile, "now your day won't be much fun." As Mariann listened, she began to feel quite grumpy inside. "What an attitude!" a golden snake scolded then. "You must not love Jesus very much since you are so selfish." Yes, it was a bad day. Mariann didn't feel like a happy birthday girl at all!

After it was all over, Mariann talked to Jesus about it. "Why did I ruin everything?" she moaned. "I wanted to have a good day. What went wrong?" When Jesus asked if her heart window had been left open, she nodded slowly.

"That selfish snake isn't staying so little," Jesus told her. "What can I do about it?" asked Mariann. "You can shut the window when it starts talking," Jesus said. Mariann hung her head. "I don't seem to remember very well," she said at last, with a sigh. "And I can't keep the other sneaky snakes away either!" Mariann didn't see Jesus smile. He had been waiting for her to admit it. "That's right," He agreed. "You can't keep your heart snake-free. But I can."

Mariann looked up at Jesus' face. What was He trying to tell her? She knew He hated sin snakes and didn't want her to listen to them. She also knew He would chase away the snakes when she called Him. But there was something in His earnest look that made her almost afraid. He stood so strong and commanding. What did He want?



"I love you and want to please you, Jesus," Mariann said softly. She knelt and touched the scars in His feet, remembering the day He had delivered her from the snake in her heart. Why did He care so much about her? Because He wanted her, Mariann suddenly realized. He wanted her heart—not just as a place to visit and help, but to reign in it. He wanted to be her King.



The crown of love on Jesus' head suddenly looked very bright and terrible, and Mariann felt very small. Why did she tremble? She wanted to be loved and safe, but something inside was afraid. What would this King want? Would He tell her to do things she didn't like? One thing Mariann knew, if Jesus was the King of her heart then she couldn't be the boss any more.



Mariann had always liked to be the boss. She felt very responsible and tried to manage everything as she thought best. Since the snake inside had been destroyed, she had been trying to keep her heart in order, and she didn't like anyone else to mess with it. Now, at last, she was beginning to see it wasn't working. But could she trust Jesus to take care of everything for her?

Of course Jesus could take care of everything. Mariann knew *that*. But could she really give up her heart to Him? Oh, Mariann! If she could have seen how trashed everything was with old snake-skins and cracks in the walls, I think she would have asked the King to come sooner. But she couldn't see what He did. She didn't know the wonderful plans and blessings He wanted to fill her heart with. Instead,



she wondered if she could trust Him. How patient and kind Jesus was to such a foolish girl!

Mariann made her surrender at last. Her very own heart room, every dream and idea of how to manage herself, and the fearful pictures and worries, too - all was laid before Jesus. "I don't know how to take care of my heart. Please take over," she said, kneeling before Him. "I am going to trust You from now on to be my Lord and Master, my King." And even though she didn't know really what she was saying, the King of Love knew what she meant. Quietly He stepped into her heart and held out His golden scepter.

As Mariann touched it, quiet peace filled the room. "Here I am, my Lord. All is Yours." A beautiful smile lighted Jesus' face. "You have given Me My heart's desire, Dearest," He whispered, lifting her up to stand beside Him. Mariann's heart glowed with a joy she had never known before. Whatever the problems or troubles ahead, she would face them holding Jesus' hand.

Epilogue

It has been over 18 years since Jesus became King of Mariann's heart. Though He has changed and rearranged many of her plans and dreams, Mariann has never been sorry for the choice she made that day. She has learned that Jesus knows her heart perfectly and His way is always best. Yes, there have been troubles and trials—even a few snake attacks—but Mariann has learned to trust her Defender. Today she says that she still holds the hand of her dearest friend, the King of her heart.

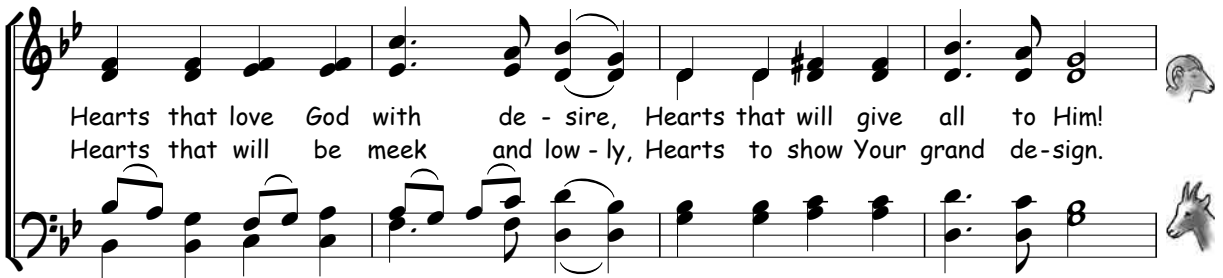


Wanted Hearts


There are many who will talk and sing about loving God. But who will give Him their heart and live to show His power and love? That's what God is looking for! (Matthew 15:8; 22:37)



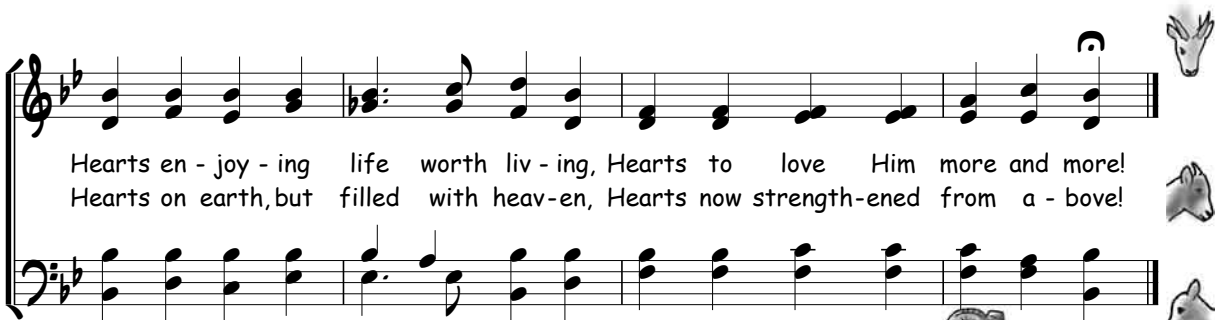
1. Want - ed: hearts made clean by fire, Hearts with no dark spot of sin;
2. Want - ed: hearts like Yours, Lord, ho - ly, Hearts that with Your beau - ty shine;




Hearts that love God with de - sire, Hearts that will give all to Him!
Hearts that will be meek and low - ly, Hearts to show Your grand de-sign.



Hearts made self-less and for-giv-ing, Hearts like Je - sus gone be-fore;
Hearts for ser-vice to You giv-en, Hearts em-pow'ered with grace and love;



Hearts en - joy - ing life worth liv - ing, Hearts to love Him more and more!
Hearts on earth, but filled with heav-en, Hearts now strength-ened from a - bove!





Dear Reader,

Do you know Jesus? Do you love Him? After reading the cover comic, I hope you will be challenged to love God more. Loving God isn't just about thinking or saying good things. It is about knowing Him as our Savior and King, and living to please Him more than ourselves or anyone else.



Do you have something to share or questions to ask?

I'm glad to receive your letters and emails. You can also call by phone. Dial 503-769-7567 and ask for "Miss Laura."



For older ones who want to be challenged and encouraged in Christian living, *Foundation Truth* is published for youths and adults. Online issues and other literature are available at timelesstruths.org.



We are a God-fearing family that includes Rick and Krista Erickson, and their daughters still at home: Laura, Kara, and Amanda. The publishing of *Treasures of the Kingdom* is mainly done by Laura and Amanda, as we look to the Lord to provide content and direction.



The paper is freely sent to those that request it. You will be kept on our mailing list unless you request otherwise. If the Lord leads you to send anything, please note that since we are not a business we cannot cash checks made out to *Treasures of the Kingdom*.



In the King's service,
The Editors



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Number 59

Winter 2013

<i>Comic Story</i>	1
- Who Knows Jesus?	
<i>A Parable</i>	2
- Bighorn	
<i>Think About It</i>	5
- A True Champion	
<i>Lessons from Life</i>	6
- Fire Power	

Buried Treasures	- My Box House	<i>middle section</i>
	- The Piano I Prayed For	
	- The Baby Robins	
	<i>Let Me Tell You...</i>	
	- How John Used His Sword	
	<i>A Place for Prayer</i>	

<i>A Parable</i>	7
- The Story of Mariann's Heart (Part 2)	
<i>Song</i>	11
- Wanted Hearts	

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*How many bighorn sheep can you find?
There should be 104 including this one:*



SEND TO: