

How to Join



God's Family

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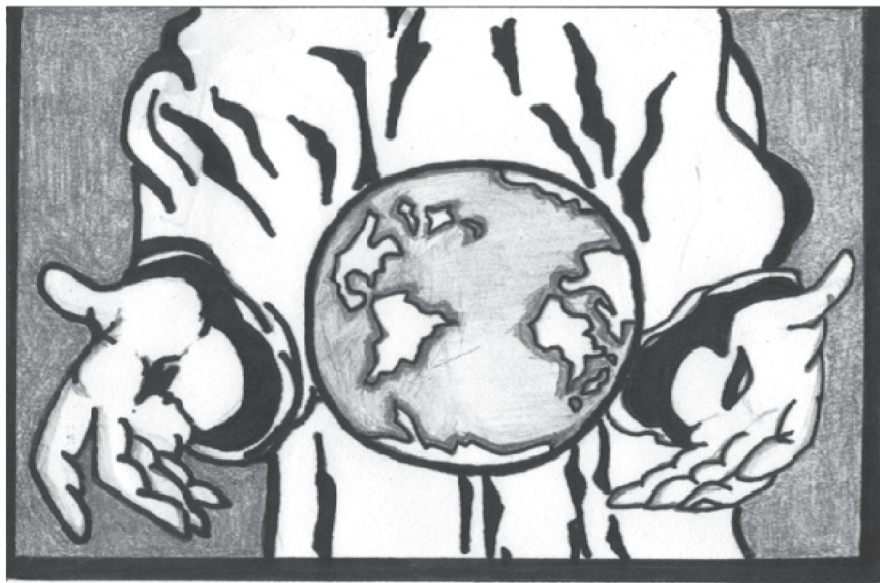
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A long time ago, even before the world began - God was thinking about you.

God is amazing. God created everything, so He's the boss of everything. God knows everything and God sees everything. God is big and super powerful.

God is Holy. That means that He is perfect. Everything He says, everything He does and everything He thinks is right - all of the time. God never ever does anything wrong.

God may be big and super powerful, but He is also the kindest, most loving person there is.

He is always fair and you can trust Him with everything. God will never let you down. God is good.



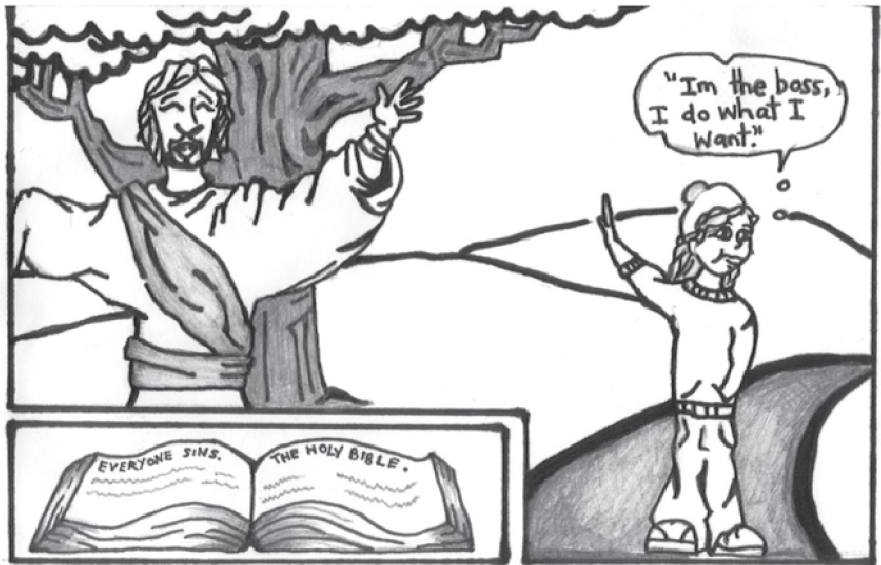
The happiest, most exciting and fun place to be is Heaven. God loves us and when we die He wants us to enjoy being there with Him forever.

The best way to live your life is to stay close to God.

But there's a problem. Something gets in the way and stops us being close to God.

What is it? The Bible calls it sin.

Sin is the bad things we do. Things like lying, cheating, being rude, mean or unkind. Taking things that don't belong to us, hurting, hitting or kicking people, doing something we've been told not to do, or using God or Jesus' name as a swear word.



Sin is also the good things we don't do. Sometimes someone asks us to help them, but we can't be bothered. Maybe we pretend we haven't heard and just carry on playing or watching TV. Sometimes someone needs us to be their friend, but we leave them on their own.

Some people ignore God and pretend He doesn't exist. They want to be the boss of their lives and do what they want all the time. That is a sin too.

The Bible tells us that everyone sins.

Maybe you think the bad things you do aren't that bad. Maybe you know someone who is meaner, or who gets into trouble more than you.



But the Bible tells us that all of our sins matter to God. When we do bad things we make other people feel sad, including God.

But there's another reason too. God is the boss of the whole world and loves everyone. However, God is holy and he hates sin. There is no sin in God's perfect home, Heaven.

We can't feel close to God when we sin.

If we tell only one lie, steal only one biscuit or say something unkind to one person we cannot be in heaven (the happiest, most fun and exciting place ever) and we cannot be with God (the kindest and most loving person ever).

God says sin must be punished. The punishment is to be separated from God's love and kindness for ever in a place called Hell (not a nice place to be).



Think of it this way. If you robbed a bank or attacked someone it would be very serious. You would go to court and the judge would punish you and send you to prison.

We might think that our sins don't matter that much, but in God's eyes they are a serious crime.

The amazing thing is that God wants to take your prison sentence away from you for all the wrong things you have done. He doesn't want you to go to Hell (prison).

God did this by sending Jesus to live a perfect life. He never lied, was never rude, impatient or unkind and always obeyed His parents.

Jesus chose to take your punishment for you. He did this when He died on the cross — this is His gift for you.



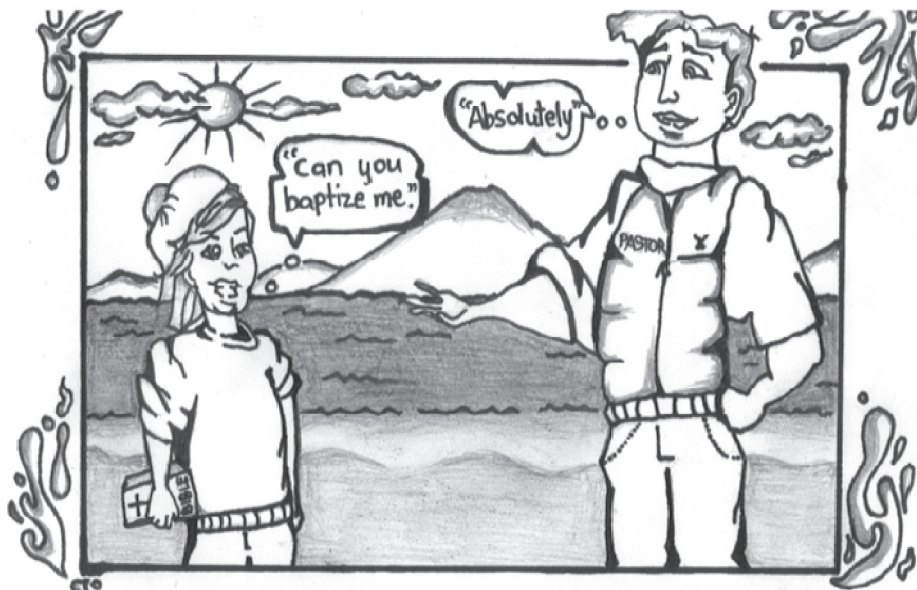
Like any gift it has to be opened. It's not enough just to know there is a gift. You need to open it to enjoy it.

One of Jesus' best friends Peter said that in order to open your gift you need to believe in who Jesus is and what He has done for you.

He also said you need to say sorry for the bad things that you can remember doing. Saying sorry to God (and really, really meaning it) means you will be forgiven for those sins forever.

You need to live your life differently now, turn away from what is wrong and do what Jesus wants you to do.

Next, he said we must be baptized under water to make us completely clean and to become part of God's family.



Anyone who believes in Jesus, has said sorry and wants to live for Him can be baptized.

Simply ask your Children's program leader or Pastor to baptize you (or ask the person who gave you this book).

The day you are to be baptized invite your friends. Come dressed ready for baptism (e.g. shorts and t-shirt) and bring a change of clothes and a towel.

The person baptizing you will usually ask you the question:
"_____ (your name) have you decided to stop being the boss of your life and make Jesus the Boss, to live His way from now on?"

You can just say 'yes' to this question, but you could also say more about what God means to you if you want. You can



write it down if that helps (people love to hear what you are going to say).

Lots of people say they can feel God's love come on them powerfully when they are baptised. Other Christians, your new brothers and sisters, will cheer as you come up out of the water because you are now part of God's family (God's family is the biggest and best family in the whole world).

The person baptizing you will usually pray for you before you get changed into dry clothes.

You will have a gift and a baptismal certificate to take home. People will write the special things God has said to you on the back of the certificate.

Once Baptised, you are a Christian and you belong to God; you are His child. In a way you are like a little kauri tree that's just been planted. If you want to grow into a big strong kauri tree, or a big strong Christian who God can use



to do miracles, the following things will really help.

1. Say sorry quickly if you do something wrong and quickly forgive others if they do you wrong.
2. Let God change you on the inside so you are more like Him (reading your Bible will really help you with this).
3. Spend lots of time with God's family (other Christians).
4. At Church there are children's Bible studies (just ask the Pastor or the Children's Leader). Take one book home at a time, you will enjoy them and learn more about God.
5. Talk to God about everything and listen for what He wants to say to you. This might be a feeling, a picture or a thought He drops in your mind. If you get a strong feeling that you should help somebody, then do it.
6. See what you can do for God at home and at church.
7. Tell other people about Jesus - He loves them to.

Always remember God loves you, so love Him back every day, in the good times and the bad. He's your best friend and He will always be there for you, He will never leave you. ☺

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