

Bible adventures

for young readers

14



God
loves me
28 ways



GOD'S WORD FOR ME

"This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith."
Ephesians 4:13



STORY TIME

Allen and his dad walked down the aisle of the department store. They were in the auto supply section, and Allen enjoyed looking at all the different products for making cars and trucks look and drive better. "I want to find new tires that will help us drive in the snow this coming winter," Dad said to the salesperson.

"No problem," the salesperson answered with a smile. "We have just the tire you're looking for." He pointed to a display by the window. "Here we are. Our best snow tires."

"They look great," Dad said. "I'll take two, please."

"Yes sir," the salesman said, writing information on a pad of paper. "I'll have someone bring them to your car. Then, when winter begins, you bring them here to our store, and we'll put them on your car. You'll be able to drive through deep snow without any problem."

After they got home, Allen helped Dad pull the new tires out of the trunk and



then sat down on one of them to rest. "Tires are heavy," he said.

Dad looked at him and laughed. "Now, don't go driving away. It's almost suppertime."

Allen blinked. "Drive away? Dad, you can't drive just one tire!"

"Really?" Dad asked. "What else do you need?"

Allen thought for a moment. "Well, you need a motor and a seat and a steering wheel and brakes and gasoline and lots of other stuff."

"Kinda reminds me of a church," Dad said.

"A church?" Allen gasped. "How does a car remind you of a church?"

"Well, in a church, you have to have many parts, too. You can't have just a preacher. You have to have someone to play the organ or piano, someone to welcome visitors, someone to take up the offering, someone to tell the children's story, someone to give Bible studies to new members. Oh, and you certainly want people sitting in the pews. A church needs lots of different kinds of people to be a church, just like a car needs lots of different parts to be a car."

Dad smiled down at his son. "What would happen if you took some parts out of a car?"

Allen grinned. "If you took the engine out, it wouldn't run. If you took the tires away, it wouldn't go anywhere. If you took the steering wheel out, you couldn't make the car go where you want to go."

"That's right," Dad said. "And if people decide they don't want to be a part of God's family and leave the church, that church doesn't run as well as it can. It can't do so many helpful things for the community. You see, it takes all the parts of the church working together to share God's love with the world. That means you and I are important to God's church."

Allen smiled. "I'm glad I'm part of God's family. I'm glad I'm part of our church."

"Me, too," Dad said. "Now let's go have supper. Mom makes the most delicious parts of a meal that I've ever tasted."

FUN FACTS

BEEP! BEEP!

- The first cars did not have steering wheels. Drivers steered with a lever.
- Most American car horns beep in the key of F.
- The first car radio was invented in 1929.

A SINGLE CAR:

- The average car has about 30,000 parts, counting every part down to the smallest screws.

Resources: <http://www.herveystire.com/carfacts/htm>; <http://www2.toyota.co.jp/en/kids/faq/entry/6203.php>.





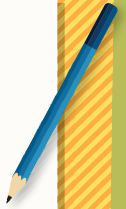
MY BIBLE ADVENTURE

Jesus wanted something special to happen to the members of His church. Jesus even mentioned it in a prayer He offered to God the Father right before He was arrested and sent to die on the cross. Unscramble the letters to find out what Jesus said. (Try unscrambling the letters without looking up the text in the "Library" section. But if you get stuck, look it up.)

"Father, I (yapr) _____ that all (leoppe) _____ who (iveeble) _____ in me can be (neo) _____" (John 17:21).

The apostle Paul wrote that God's church needs something important to happen before it can do its best work. Unscramble the letters to discover what he had in mind.

"There is one (yobd) _____ and one (irtpiS) _____.
And God called you to have one (ohep) _____. There is one (rdLo) _____, one (hitfa) _____, and one (msitpab) _____. There is one (oGd) _____ and (taFehr) _____ of everything" (Ephesians 4:4-6).



How are God's people supposed to become one? Unscramble the letters in this text to find out.

"And I pray that God will (pehl) _____ you all (reaeg) _____ with each other the way Christ Jesus wants. Then you will all be (doijne) _____ together, and you will give (lgyor) _____ to God the (rehtaF) _____ and our (oLdr) _____ Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:5, 6).





MY PRAYER

Thank You, Jesus, for inviting me to be a part of Your church. Please help us all to be like You and love each other so we can work together. Amen.



LIBRARY

- “Father, I pray that all people who believe in me can be one” (John 17:21).
- “There is one body and one Spirit. And God called you to have one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. There is one God and Father of everything” (Ephesians 4:4–6).
- “And I pray that God will help you all agree with each other the way Christ Jesus wants. Then you will all be joined together, and you will give glory to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 15:5, 6).



MY FRIEND ELLEN WROTE

“God’s people are one body. God has a people whom He is leading, teaching, and guiding, that they may teach and lead and guide others. ... He expects them to grow up as a holy temple unto the Lord” (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 20, p. 369).

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PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Think about different car parts and how they all work. Now think about the church and list as many “parts” as you can. (e.g., pastor, leader ...)

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