

Bible adventures



for young readers



God
loves me
28 ways

11



GOD'S WORD FOR ME

"In your lives you must think and act like Jesus Christ." *Philippians 2:5*

STORY TIME

Whom do you look like? Your mom? Your dad? Your grandfather? People tell me I look like my dad, and that's OK with me. Dad has brown hair. I have brown hair. Dad has a big nose. I have a big nose. Dad has little, pointy ears. I have little, pointy ears.

But there's something else about my dad that I want to be like. Dad smiles a lot. I mean, a LOT! He smiles at the people where he works. He smiles at the garbage collector. He smiles at the police officer on the corner. He even smiles at people who frown at him.

The other day we were walking along the sidewalk and an old woman was sitting on a bench in front of a flower shop. "Hello," my dad called with a smile.

The old woman just frowned and looked away.

My dad stopped, thought for a moment, and then went inside the store. Soon he came back out with a pretty flower in his hand. He went over to where the frowning

woman was sitting and said to her, "Hello. My son and I would like for you to have this pretty flower. I hope it reminds you of a happy time in your life—maybe when you were a little girl." Then he handed the surprised woman the flower. "Goodbye," Dad said. Then we walked away.

I looked back to see what the woman would do. Do you know what? She wasn't frowning anymore. She was sitting there smelling the pretty flower and smiling a great, big smile.

Yes, that's my dad. He wants everyone to be happy—including grumpy old ladies sitting in front of flower shops. Do you know what? I want to bring happiness to people too—even people I don't know. Since look like my dad, I may as well act like him, too.



When I asked Dad about why he smiles so much and why he does nice things to people, he said something interesting. He said, "I'm a Christian. I want to act like Jesus. And Jesus was always smiling at people, helping people, and making them feel better. When I have Jesus in my heart, I think I should act differently from everyone else."

Well, that makes perfect sense to me. My dad is my dad. He— along with my mom—made me. So, I want to act like him.

Maybe you don't want to look or act like your dad. That's OK. Some dads haven't invited Jesus into their hearts yet. But you can act like your heavenly Father. You can be kind and loving, helpful and respectful. And you can make people happy.

By the way, the next time we walked by that flower shop, that same old lady was sitting on the same bench. But there was something different. She was smiling.

FUN FACTS

SMILE MORE!

- Even if you're in a bad mood, you can instantly lift your spirits by forcing yourself to smile.
- Scientists have discovered that your body has to work harder and use more muscles to frown than it does to smile.

A UNIVERSAL SIGN OF HAPPINESS:

- While handshakes, hugs, and bowing all have different meanings across cultures, smiling is known around the world and in all cultures as a sign of happiness and acceptance.



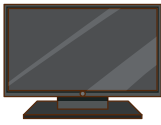


MY BIBLE ADVENTURE

When you want to grow a healthy plant, you make sure it receives certain things. Circle the items that will help a plant grow big and strong.



When YOU want to grow up acting like Jesus, you make sure you receive certain things. Circle the items that will help you grow up to be like Jesus.



Jesus did a lot of thinking before He did anything. He wanted to make sure that whatever He did would please His Father in heaven. What did Jesus think about? The apostle Paul gives us a hint. Look up Philippians 4:8 in the "Library" section and fill in the missing letters in the following words. Remember, this is what someone who wants to be like Jesus thinks about.

Paul says we should think about what is:

G _ _ D

W _ _ TH _ OF P _ _ _ SE

T _ _ E

H _ N _ R _ B _ E

R _ _ _ T

P _ R _

B _ _ _ T _ F _ L

R _ _ _ E _ _ ED





MY PRAYER

Thank You, Jesus, for inviting me to be like You. Sometimes it's not easy, but You have shown me how I should live. I know You will help me each step of the way. Amen.



LIBRARY

- “Brothers, continue to think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected” (Philippians 4:8).



MY FRIEND ELLEN WROTE

“Under the training of Christ the disciples had been led to feel their need of the Spirit... Christ filled their thoughts. ... In mind and character they had become like their Master” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 45).



PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

What are some things you like to think about that make you happy?

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