

# Bible adventures



for young readers



God  
loves me  
28 ways

24



## GOD'S WORD FOR ME

"We do have a high priest who sits on the right side of God's throne in heaven."

*Hebrews 8:1*

## STORY TIME

"Does God hate me?" Samantha asked.

Mother looked up from her laundry. "Hate you? God? Where did you get that idea?"

Samantha thought for a moment. "Because the preacher last week said that God hates sin. And sometimes I sin. I can't help myself. Then I feel terrible and think that God hates me."

Mother left her washing and sat down beside her daughter.

"Let me tell you a story from the Bible, and then you can decide how God feels about people who sin, OK?"

"OK," Samantha said. She always liked it when Mom told a Bible story.

"One day," Mother began, "Jesus was traveling through a town called Jericho. Many people came out to see Him because they'd heard about how He healed

the sick and raised the dead. They wanted to catch a glimpse of this amazing Person.

“One of the people waiting to see Jesus was a man named Zacchaeus. Now Zacchaeus wasn’t an honest man. He worked for the government that ruled the land and forced everyone to pay taxes—lots of taxes. Zacchaeus went around collecting those taxes and usually took more than he should. Poor people suffered because of his dishonesty. In other words, Zacchaeus was a sinner.

“He was also very short. So when Jesus was coming, he couldn’t see over the shoulders of all the other people waiting to see Him. So Zacchaeus decided to climb a tree so he could see everything clearly. Up he went.

“Everything was fine. He could see Jesus coming, and no one was standing in his way. Then, as Jesus was passing below the tree, He stopped and looked right up at Zacchaeus.” Mother paused. “Now, remember, Zacchaeus was a sinner—a bad sinner who stole money from poor people. And there’s Jesus looking right up at him. What do you think Jesus did?”

Samantha frowned. “He told him that he was bad and terrible and that he was going to die and that he better get out of that tree and go hide in a cave!”

Mother shook her head. “No. That’s not what Jesus said to the sinner. He said, ‘Zacchaeus, please come down from that tree because I’d like to go to your house for lunch.’ ”

“What?” Samantha gasped. “Didn’t Jesus know he was a bad person?”

“Yes, He did,” Mother said. “Jesus hates sin. But—and you must always remember this—Jesus loves sinners. That day, Zacchaeus and Jesus ate lunch together and had a great time.

Old Zacchaeus even promised to pay back all the money he’d stolen from the people—not because Jesus told him to, but because he knew it would make Jesus proud of him.”

Mother smiled down at Samantha. “So, when you sin, Jesus doesn’t hate you. He’s just waiting for you to stop doing that sin so He can be proud of you for doing what you know to be right. The Bible says Jesus is planning to take us to Heaven. All we have to do is accept His invitation—just like Zacchaeus accepted His invitation to have lunch with Him.”

“I’m so glad Jesus loves me,” Samantha said with a smile. “And I’m going to try very hard to be friends with Him.”



Zacchaeus, please come down.



## MY BIBLE ADVENTURE

Look up the texts in the “Library” and fill in the blanks to answer the questions.

When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the desert, God wanted to live with them. So He asked them to build Him something. What was it?

- “The people must build a \_\_\_\_\_ for me. Then I can live among them” (Exodus 25:8).

**In this place, there were men who did a special work.**

**What were they called and what did they do?**

- “Every \_\_\_\_\_ has the work of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God” (Hebrews 8:3).

**When Jesus lived on this earth, He did something for us. What did He do?**

- “Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us—he was a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God” (Ephesians 5:2).
- “Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_ one time to take away the \_\_\_\_\_ of many people” (Hebrews 9:28).

**Now, Jesus is in Heaven. He’s doing a very important work for us.**

**What is He doing?**

- “Jesus is the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ that we need. He is \_\_\_\_\_” (Hebrews 7:26).
- “We do have a \_\_\_\_\_ who sits on the right side of God’s throne in heaven. Our high priest serves in the \_\_\_\_\_ He serves in the true place of \_\_\_\_\_ that was made by \_\_\_\_\_, not by \_\_\_\_\_” (Hebrews 8:1, 2).

In Heaven, Jesus is both our High Priest and our Sacrifice! Don’t think of Him as someone who wants to make us feel guilty when we sin. No! He’s our High Priest, who has given Himself as a sacrifice so our sins can be forgiven. Like with Zacchaeus, if Jesus catches us hiding up in a tree—or in our bedroom—because we feel guilty about something, He’s not going to punish us. He’s going to ask to come to lunch with us—or take a walk in the woods with us, or sit beside our bed at night. If you are feeling guilty about something, it’s because you haven’t invited Jesus into your heart. When you do, guilt and fear go away. What a wonderful, loving High Priest we have! Why not bow your head and ask Jesus to come into your heart right now.



## MY PRAYER

Thank You, thank You, thank You, Jesus, for loving me so much that You became both my High Priest and my Sacrifice. I will never fear You again. Please come into my heart and help make me happy again. Amen.



## LIBRARY

- “The people must build a holy place for me. Then I can live among them” (Exodus 25:8).
- “Every high priest has the work of offering gifts and sacrifices to God” (Hebrews 8:3).
- “Christ gave himself for us—he was a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:2).
- “Christ was offered as a sacrifice one time to take away the sins of many people” (Hebrews 9:28).
- “Jesus is the kind of high priest that we need. He is holy” (Hebrews 7:26).
- “We do have a high priest who sits on the right side of God’s throne in heaven. Our high priest serves in the Most Holy Place. He serves in the true place of worship that was made by God, not by men” (Hebrews 8:1, 2).



## MY FRIEND ELLEN WROTE

“Christ as the great high priest, making a perfect atonement for sin, stands alone in divine majesty and glory” (Review and Herald, March 17, 1903).

The word atonement means “forgiveness.” Only Jesus, our High Priest in heaven, can forgive our sins. He’s just waiting to do just that right now.

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## PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

How can you share with others the good news that Jesus is your Friend?

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