

Bible adventures

for young readers

23



God
loves me
28 ways



GOD'S WORD FOR ME

"Love never ends." *1 Corinthians 13:8*

STORY TIME

Jeremy looked out the window of the van and saw a strange sight. Up ahead, near a pond, a large Canada goose was standing straight and tall right in the middle of the road. "Look at that!" Dad said as he took his foot off the accelerator and tapped the brake pedal, bringing the van to a halt. "Why is that goose in the middle of the road? And why doesn't he move away? I'm sure he sees us."

Suddenly, another goose stepped from the tall grasses and began moving across the road, behind the first goose. It was immediately followed by a line of baby geese, all stumbling and bumping into each other as they tried to keep up with their leader.

"Now I know why that big goose is standing there," Dad said with a smile. "He's the daddy. And that's his family behind him. He's standing in the road so that the mother goose and all those baby geese can get across safely. Isn't that amazing?"

Jeremy nodded. "Just think," he said. "That daddy goose, who is a lot smaller

than our car, is standing there protecting his family. He's very brave!"

As the group of geese continued their journey across the road, Dad grew serious. "He's more than brave," Dad said. "He's in love."

"In love?" Jeremy chuckled. "How can a goose be in love?"

Dad pointed. "That goose is just as much in love with his family as I am with mine. And we both learned how to love from the same God. Satan wants us to hate people—to hurt them and make them sad. But when we protect and care for each other, we're showing true love that is more powerful than hate."

By now, all the baby geese and the mother goose were safely across the road. The big daddy goose waited until his family was hidden in the tall grasses, and then he turned and waddled after them, leaving the road open once again. "Wow!" Jeremy said. "That was amazing. That daddy goose never left his place in the road, even though our large, heavy van was coming straight at him. He was willing to die to protect his family."

As Dad pressed on the accelerator and guided the van down the road past the pond, he smiled over at Jeremy. "The family was created by God to be the most powerful thing on this earth. When a man marries a woman, God promises to help them face any problems that come along. He'll make them strong and brave as they share love with each other and with their children. Those geese showed us just how powerful that love is. Don't ever forget what you saw today, Jeremy. You saw God's love in action. You saw a family depending on that love to get them all safely to the other side of the road."

When Jeremy and Dad reached home, Mother came out to greet them. "Hi guys," she said. "Did you have a good trip?"

"Quack, quack," Jeremy said with a smile.

Dad chuckled as he took his wife in his arms. "I'll explain that later. But first, let me give my favorite mother goose a great big hug."





MY BIBLE ADVENTURE

What does Jesus say happens when a man marries a woman? Look for the letter bank in the "Library" section and write the words of Jesus below. Be sure to follow the directions carefully.

Begin with the letter in the letter bank directly under the black arrow, and then choose every other letter after that. Write them down here to create the words of Jesus. The first three letters are filled in for you.

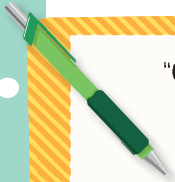
"So a _____

_____'
_____ " (Mark 10:7).

Begin with the letter in the letter bank directly under the white arrow, and then choose every other letter after that. Write them down here to create the words of Jesus. The first three letters are filled in for you.

"God _____

_____ " (Mark 10:9).

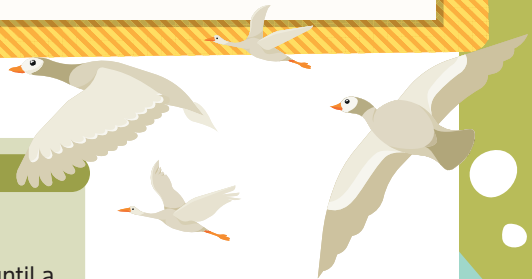


FUN FACTS

GEESE

- The female goose lays one egg each day, until a full nest of about five eggs is obtained.
- Geese always fly in the shape of a "V."*

* Resources: <http://www.facts-about.org.uk/facts-about-geese.html>





MY PRAYER

Thank You, Jesus, for creating marriage and families. Thank You for creating the love that helps marriages and families grow stronger and stronger every day. Amen.



LIBRARY

LETTER BANK



S G O O A D M H A A N S W J I O L I L N L E E D
 A T V H E E H T I W S O F P A E T O H P E L R E A T
 N O D G M E O T T H H E E R R S A O N N D O B O E
 N U E N S I H T O E U D L W D I S T E H P H A I R
 S A W T I E F T E H A E N M D L T O H V E E T I W
 S O A P G E I O F P T L F E R W O I M L G L O B
 D E T C H O A M N E K O Y N O E U B J O E D S Y U



MY FRIEND ELLEN WROTE

“Christian courtesy is the golden clasp which unites the members of the family in bonds of love, becoming closer and stronger every day”
(The Adventist Home, p. 423).

The word courtesy means “kindness.”
Love is always kind.

Scripture taken from the International Children’s Bible®.
Copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.



PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

What are some ways you can show kindness to the members of your family?

.....

.....

.....

All rights reserved. Permission is granted to reproduce, print, or distribute this publication for personal use, in small group settings, and for educational and religious purposes. Any other reproduction, storage in a retrieval system, or distribution in any form or by any means, including electronic, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, requires prior written permission from the copyright holder.