

GOD WANTS YOU IN HIS FAMILY!

Do you know that God has chosen you to be part of His family? Listen closely to what the Bible says:

*“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! “
1 John 3:1 NIV*

God wants you to know Him as your Heavenly Father. He wants your life on earth to be fulfilling and exciting. He also wants you to spend eternity in Heaven with Him. Unfortunately, you have done something that keeps you from enjoying that special relationship.

*“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear.
But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”
Isaiah 59:1-2 NIV*

All People

God

SINFUL

Sin keeps you
from God

PERFECT



Sin is _____ .
You sin by doing the wrong thing.
You sin by not doing the right thing.

What Happens When You Sin?

What does God want us to do? What is the “mark” that God wants us to “hit”? One time a man asked Jesus that question.

*“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’
All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”
Matthew 22:37-40 NIV*

The most important thing is _____ .

The next most important thing is _____ .

PROBLEM #1 - You are guilty of breaking God’s law.

Even though we try our best to be loving, we all fail at times. That’s why the Bible says:

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23 NIV



PROBLEM #2 – You have earned the penalty of death.

What would happen if you were arrested for breaking several laws? You would receive a punishment, wouldn't you? They say crime doesn't pay, but the Bible says sin pays! Here's what it says:

“For the wages of sin is death” Romans 6:23 NIV

PROBLEM #3 – You cannot enter heaven.

Sin causes us to die physically and spiritually. One day our bodies will die and we will be separated from this life. Because of sin, we will also be separated from God and His love forever. That's spiritual death. If you disconnected a sick person from an oxygen machine, he would die in a matter of minutes. When you are cut off from God because of sin, you are cut off from the source of life.

Look at the list below and put a check by the actions that do not show love to God or to other people:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ lying | _____ stealing | _____ giving to others |
| _____ talking back to parents | _____ praying | _____ hating |
| _____ being kind | _____ fighting | _____ reading the Bible |
| _____ swearing | _____ being jealous | _____ cheating |
| _____ killing | _____ honoring parents | _____ teasing |

Are you guilty of breaking God's command by sinning? _____

What punishment do you earn for your sins? _____

If you stay this way, can you ever enter Heaven? _____

The Lost Son

Luke 15:13-31

Jesus told us a story about a boy who received some inheritance money from his father. He spent all his money on wild living. He came to his senses and decided to go back home and work for his father. When his father saw him returning home, he told the servants to prepare a feast. The father exclaimed:

*“For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”
So they began to celebrate.” Luke 15:24 NIV*

Jesus also said:

“I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” John 3:3 NIV

Write your name in the blanks.

_____ is guilty of breaking God's law by not loving God and other people all the time. _____ has sinned and earned death. Unless _____ is born again, _____ cannot go to Heaven.



WHO CAN HELP YOU?

See what God did for you!

*"This is good and pleases God our Savior who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time."
1 Timothy 2:4-6 NIV*

All People

God

SINFUL

PERFECT

*"Surely He took up our Infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed."
Isaiah 53:4-5 NIV*

JESUS DIED IN YOUR PLACE!

Jesus willingly took your punishment upon himself so you could be free to live with Him forever. Why did God do that for you? He did it because He loves you!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16 NIV

We were separated from God because of something we have done, but we are brought together with God because of something Jesus did!

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23 NIV*

Since eternal life is a gift, it cannot be earned. It can only be received. When you receive Jesus Christ and trust Him as your Lord and Savior, you become part of God's family and receive eternal life!

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" John 1:12 NIV

Write your name in the blanks:

God loved _____ so much that He gave His one and only Son, that by believing in Him, _____ will not die, but will live forever. By receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, _____ has the right to become a child of God.

JOINING GOD'S FAMILY

We have learned three important facts:

- 1 - _____
- 2 - _____
- 3 - _____

There is nothing you can do to make up for the bad things you have done. That's why we need Jesus as our Savior. The Bible says:

“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.” Titus 3:5 NIV

The only thing you can do to become part of God's family is to trust Jesus!

TRUSTING JESUS

You can only be forgiven by trusting Jesus. Listen to God's promise:

“But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:21-24 NIV

God accepts you, no matter how good or bad you have been, when you trust Jesus Christ to take away your sins. To trust means more than just believing – it means putting your life in God's hands.

Do you believe that if you were falling over that I am strong enough to catch you?

A story of trust



The newspaper told a story about a family that awoke one night to find their house on fire. The family escaped from the burning home – all except for the 10 year old son named Tommy. The noise of the fire engines caused him to wake up, but the fire had spread too far for him to run downstairs. Tommy walked out onto the second-floor balcony. His only way to safety was to jump, yet all he could see below him was smoke.

Tommy then heard a voice urging him to jump. It was his dad. “Jump!” his father yelled. Tommy cried, “How can I jump, Dad? I can't even see you!”

His father answered, “I can see you, Tommy. Jump! I promise I'll catch you!” Then Tommy hesitated for a moment. He thought about his dad's love for him. He knew his dad would keep his word, so he jumped safely into his dad's arms.

You can trust God because He loves you more than anyone and will always ask you to do what's best for you. Let's look at three things God asks you to do to show you trust Jesus.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6 NIV

Do you believe that God exists and that He has good things planned for you?

TURN AWAY FROM SIN

When you become a Christian, you hate sin because it separates you from God. So, you choose to do things that please God. God is pleased when you turn away from sin and follow His ways! The Bible calls this “repentance.”

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” Acts 3:19 NIV

Repentance is making a U-turn with your life.



When you accept Jesus as your Lord, you accept the things He values, like love, honesty, patience, and obedience. When Jesus is your Lord, you live to please Him. The Bible says,

“You were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:20 NIV



TELL OTHERS THAT JESUS IS YOUR LORD

When you claim Jesus as your Lord, you are willing to let others know. Have you ever been to a wedding? In a wedding, a man and woman tell everyone in the audience that they have chosen to put the other person first in their life. It is important that they speak their promises. In a similar way, God wants us to be proud enough to tell others that Jesus is first in your life. The Bible says:

“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” Romans 10:9 NIV

BE BAPTIZED

When you trust Jesus and are willing to turn away from sin, you are ready to be baptized. To be baptized means to be “dipped” or “immersed” in water. The Bible tells us that you should be baptized when you accept Jesus.



These are some examples of people who were baptized:

Acts 2 - On the day the church began, 3,000 people who believed in Jesus were baptized.

Acts 8 - The Samaritan men and women believed Philip’s message and were baptized.

Acts 8 - After the Ethiopian official heard about Jesus, he asked to be baptized.

Acts 10 - Cornelius, his relatives and friends were ordered to be baptized after they believed and received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 16 - A jailer and his family were baptized because they had come to believe in Jesus.

Acts 19 - Some of John the Baptist’s disciples were baptized because they believed in Jesus.

Baptism is a symbol of the commitment you make to God in becoming a Christian. You are “buried” in water - representing the fact that your sins and old way of life are put to death. Then, you are “raised” from the water - just as Jesus was raised from the dead, so that you may live a new life for God. The Bible puts it this way:

“We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Romans 6:4 NIV

When you give your life to God, He washed your soul clean of sin and fills you with His Spirit, making you His child. You look the same on the outside, but you are new on the inside. The Bible promises:

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV*

LIVING IN GOD'S FAMILY

GOD LIVES FOR YOU!

When you join God's family you are called by a new name: **CHRISTIAN**. A Christian has a special relationship with God. God is your Heavenly Father, and you are His child. The Bible says,

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"
1 John 3:1 NIV

God gives many promises to His children!

1. He _____ all of your sins.

"All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." Acts 10:43 NIV

2. He gives you the gift of the _____.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" Acts 2:38 NIV

3. You can know that you have _____.

"I write these things to you who believe in the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life" 1 John 5:13 NIV

4. Jesus will be with you _____.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

5. He _____ your prayers.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us- whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him." 1 John 5:14-15 NIV

6. He helps you when you are _____.

"Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted." Hebrews 2:18 NIV

YOU LIVE FOR GOD!

As a member of God's family, you continually let God work in you and through you to help others come to join God's family. One Christian says,

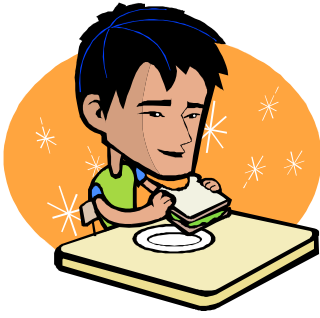
"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NIV

So you allow Jesus to reach the world through you!

First, let God work IN you to make you more like Jesus.

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:"
Philippians 2:5 NIV

Even though you aren't perfect, God wants you to try your best to be like Jesus.



What Would Jesus Do?

Suppose each day in the lunchroom at school a certain boy sits all by himself. The other kids always ignore him or tease him. What do you think Jesus would do if He came into the room?

It's always good to ask yourself: "What would Jesus do?" and then do the same!

What are a couple of ways you could become more like Jesus?

1. _____
2. _____

The Holy Spirit lives in you to give you power to live for God. As you grow closer to God and obey His will for you, you will begin to produce fruit – the fruit of the Spirit.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

God changes you from the inside out! The more you grow as a Christian, the more loving, joyful, and peaceful – the more Christ-like you become!

Second, let God work THROUGH you to help others join God's family.

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.'" Mark 16:15 NIV

God wants each member of His family to share the message of Christ so others can join God's family too!

Pretend that everyone in the world was infected with cancer. Within a few years, everyone will die. You work to develop a cure for the disease. What will you do with the cure once you've found it?

Here are some ways you can help others know about Jesus:

- inviting friends and relatives to church
- praying for those who are not yet Christians
- supporting missionaries with prayers and money
- telling others about what Jesus has done for you

God wants us to let everyone know about Jesus!

List some people you know who need to know Jesus: _____

Four Important Questions

Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God, and that He died for your sins and rose from the dead?

Are you sorry for disobeying God and are you willing to turn from your ways and follow God's ways?

Are you willing to confess Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

Are you ready to be baptized and live as a member of God's family?