

2020
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take heart.

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THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE

FOLLOW UP PACK

YOU WERE CREATED WITH LOVE AND FOR A PURPOSE.

God made every tree, shaped every star, formed every animal, and decided the world still needed you. Your existence is not a mistake.

***BUT THERE'S EVEN MORE: GOD LOVES YOU
AND WANTS TO HAVE A FRIENDSHIP WITH YOU.***

We call this Good News.

THE STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

The Bible is written by people who were inspired by God.

Think of the Bible as a library — filled with all different genres of books, including poetry, history, wisdom literature, prophecy, parables, and more. Every single book of the Bible speaks to the overarching theme of humanity which goes something like this: relationship, separation, rescue, then restoration. (The more you read and study the Bible, the more you'll see this narrative repeat over and over.)

The first book, Genesis, explains the very beginning of heaven and earth, along with the earliest stages of people. On Page 1, we see God creating everything: the sky, the stars, broccoli, kale, elephants, sea turtles, golden retrievers. And then he made his favourite part of all: people. Genesis specifically shows how God was friends with the first two people, Adam and Eve. Together, they walked and talked and laughed.

God set up the world in a certain way, and part of that included something called “free will”. Free will is a fancy way to say that God gives us choices. God didn't make us robots. Think of a vacuum robot — it is perfectly programmed to clean the carpet and doesn't get a choice in the matter. But God didn't make you that way. He made you with a body, mind, heart, and soul, and included in that is free will. God gives people the choice to accept his love and friendship, or the choice to reject him and do our own thing.

Both Adam and Eve disobeyed God, choosing to reject him. They thought their way was better than God's way. When they disobeyed God, their relationship with him was severed, and they began to experience pain and suffering because of the consequences of their choices.

Adam and Eve's choices affected us too. We often choose our own way instead of God's way. And because of some of our choices, we often experience pain and suffering — either because of our own consequences or because of the consequences brought on by someone else.

BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS: GOD HAS NEVER GIVEN UP ON US. THIS ALONE SHOWS THE CHARACTER OF GOD: HE IS LOVING, SLOW TO ANGER, RICH IN COMPASSION, AND OVERFLOWING WITH GOODNESS. GOD PURSUES US RELENTLESSLY BECAUSE HIS DREAM IS TO HAVE A FRIENDSHIP WITH US ONCE AGAIN.

And God made a way for that to happen, through his Son, named Jesus.

THE STORY OF SIN AND THE GOAL OF ETERNAL LIFE

The choice to live life without God is what we call sin — doing something that is wrong in God’s eyes. Sin is what causes separation from God, and is the source of all pain. Adam and Eve sinned and their relationship with God was broken.

But God’s original design was for us to live life to its very fullest.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Son of God. Meaning, Jesus is fully human and at the same time fully God. Jesus came from heaven to earth. He was a good man and a great teacher. He was kind and smart and loving. But he wasn’t only a great guy. He was God with skin on, and he had a plan in motion to save the world from their sins.

IN ROMANS 6:23, THE WRITER TALKS ABOUT HOW, “THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.”

Jesus chose to be murdered on a wooden cross to pay the price for our sin so that we — the people he loves so much — could live forever with him. Three days after Jesus was killed, he even defeated death itself, and rose from the dead. Jesus is restoring our lives to the very fullest.

Jesus is alive, and there will be a day when he will return back to the earth and restore everything once again. Revelation 21:4 says that Jesus will “will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

***WHEN JESUS RETURNS AGAIN, THERE
WILL BE NO MORE PAIN. NO MORE
DEATH. PAIN AND SUFFERING HAVE AN
EXPIRY DATE.***

BECOMING A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

Jesus wants to have a friendship with you. He loves you beyond anything you can imagine — this love was proven for you by what he did on the cross.

When you decide to follow Jesus, your life is saved.

“THIS IS HOW GOD LOVED THE WORLD: HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.” - JOHN 3:16

Deciding to follow Jesus might be the best and hardest decision of your life. God has been pursuing you all the days of your life. He has seen every moment, every painful decision, every heartbreak, every victory.

Jesus himself said that choosing to follow him is going to be hard. He says in Luke 9:23-24, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”

FOLLOWING JESUS MAY BE HARD, BUT IT WILL BE WORTH IT. JESUS WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU OR ABANDON YOU. JESUS SAID HE WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN UNTIL THE END OF TIME.

BECOME GOD'S FRIEND TODAY

"THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR ONE'S FRIENDS. YOU ARE MY FRIENDS IF YOU DO WHAT I COMMAND." JOHN 15:13-14

Today you can be God's friend. If you have never started a relationship with God, this is your invitation.

ADMIT your sins and ask for forgiveness.

BELIEVE that God loves you and that Jesus came from heaven to earth. Believe that he died on the cross and that he rose again to conquer death and provide eternal life.

CHOOSE to follow him, and choose to trust him. Decide that Jesus is Lord of your life, and that the plans he has for you are better than what you have for yourself. Because of the love Jesus has for you, now you need to show that same love to others. Your actions should change because of how Jesus changed your life.

When you do this, your life will be transformed as you live in your relationship with God.

Will you pray to God and commit your life to him?

DEAR JESUS, I AM A SINNER AND TODAY I ASK YOU TO FORGIVE ME AND HELP ME TO STOP SINNING. I BELIEVE THAT YOU DIED FOR MY SIN AND THAT YOU ROSE FROM THE DEAD SO I MIGHT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. I CONFESS TODAY THAT FROM THIS POINT ON, I MAKE YOU THE LORD OF MY LIFE AND WILL ATTEMPT TO LIVE AS YOU WOULD WANT ME TO LIVE. I KNOW YOU LOVE ME UNCONDITIONALLY AND THAT NOTHING COULD EVER TAKE YOUR LOVE AWAY. AMEN.

THE NEW STORY OF YOUR LIFE

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

LOVE GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT.

In Jesus' Kingdom he gives a new command — a command to love. First we are called to love God which we can do through the following ways...

- *Talking to God in prayer and listening for his voice.*
- *Reading the Bible to learn more about God.*
- *Live a life that pursues obedience to God's Word.*
- *Acknowledge and thank him for all he has done for you.*
- *Hang out with other Christians who will help you grow in your relationship with God.*

LOVE OTHERS AS YOURSELF

We are called to love others in the way we would like to be treated. Jesus paid the ultimate price for all people, which means we should want to show others God's love by our actions toward them. Before we can love others we need to remember that we are important to God and take care of ourselves as well. Here are some ideas...

- *Pray that others would experience God's love and commit to love him in return.*
- *Find ways to serve the needs of others and their interests.*
- *Stay healthy physically, mentally and emotionally so you can help others.*

SHARE THE GREAT NEWS

God wants to use you to help him spread this message to everyone everywhere. This is great news! Here are some tips on how to share the love of Jesus...

- *Pray and look for opportunities with the people around you.*
- *Share your personal story.*
- *Show them how they can start a relationship with God by using this or other tools.*
- *Answer their questions.*
- *Ask them if they want to become a follower of Christ as well and walk them through the steps.*

HELP OTHERS GROW WITH GOD

Now that you have helped someone become a Christian you need to help them grow in their relationship with God. This is really simple, all you have to do is be committed to help them...

- *Love God with everything they got.*
- *Love others as themselves.*
- *Share the great news!*
- *Help others to grow with God.*

FIND A CHURCH

If you don't belong to a church then you need to find one that will help you stay committed to your faith, grow in your knowledge, and help provide support to you as you serve and support others.

If you need help finding a church, feel free to contact Canadian Youth Network. We would love to help you find one.

INFO@CANADIANYOUTH.NET
WWW.CANADIANYOUTH.NET

ADDITIONAL VERSES

ALL VERSES ARE IN NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God’s Good News. ‘The time promised by God has come at last!’ he announced. ‘The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!’” Mark 1:14, 15

“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.” James 2:14-17

