



## BASIC TRUTH

**JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.**

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## BOTTOM LINE

**YOU CAN BELIEVE IN JESUS.**

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## BIBLE WORDS

**"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."  
John 20:31, NLV**

## IN THE BOOKS Activity

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Board books about Jesus

**WHAT YOU DO:** Sit together and look at board books about Jesus. Talk about all the amazing things He did.

**WHAT YOU SAY:** "Come sit with me. Look at all these books! All of these books talk about a very special person! They talk about Jesus and the amazing things He did. Let's look for Jesus. There He is! *(Talk about the miracles Jesus performed.)* We can believe in Jesus because people knew Him and wrote down all the things He did. They told us all about Him. We can read about Him in the Bible."

## HEART STICK Activity

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Heart Stick" Activity Page; cardstock, one piece per child; crayons; large heart stickers, one per child

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Print the "Heart Stick" activity page.

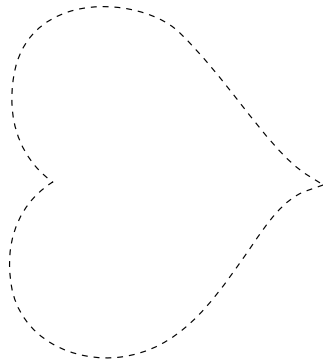
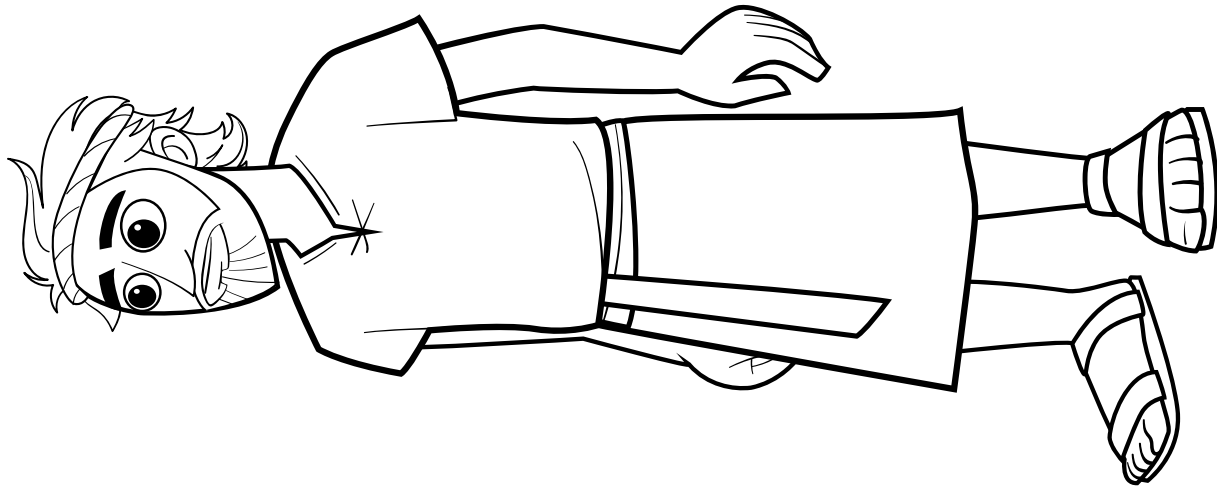
**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give your child a "Heart Stick" page and a heart sticker or crayon. Help your child color or place the heart sticker into the heart outline between Peter and Jesus. Allow your child to color the picture.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, in our Bible story, Jesus was Peter's friend, even when he made bad choices. Jesus loves us no matter what!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus loved Peter, no matter what! Let's color or put a heart sticker in the heart outline. *(Point and do activity.)* Nice job! The heart shows love, and Jesus loves us, no matter what. Let's color Jesus and Peter to finish our picture."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus wants to be our friend forever, no matter what! We can always believe in Jesus. **Who can believe in Jesus? I can believe in Jesus!**"



I can believe in Jesus.  
Peter's Denial • Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19; Ephesians 2:8-9

ACTS 17:16-34

Paul tells the people in Athens about the God who made everything, and how He gave us His Son, Jesus.

**SAY THIS:**

Who can believe in Jesus?  
**YOU CAN BELIEVE IN JESUS.**

 **DO THIS:**



**MORNING TIME**

When you go into your child's room, say, "Good morning! (Pick your child up and hold them at the window.) I see a tree God made. I see a flower God made. I see a bird God made. I see the sun God made. (Look at your child.) And I see a person God made. You! God made you!" (Give your child a big hug.)



**DRIVE TIME**

As you drive, take turns saying, "God made (name something you see through the window)." End your drive by saying, "God made the whole world and everything in it!"



**CUDDLE TIME**

Cuddle with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, I ask that [child's name] grows up believing that You made the whole world and everything in it. I ask that [he/she] believes in You as their Creator. I ask that [he/she] believes that You love [him/her] so much that You gave us your only Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. In Jesus' name, amen."



**BATH TIME**

Add 5-10 star shapes and a plastic cup to bath time this month. (Cut stars out of new yellow kitchen sponges or use plastic toy stars.) Encourage your child to line the stars up along the edge of the tub, count the stars, and let the stars float as they "catch" them with a cup. As you play with the stars, say, "God made the stars and everything in the world. That means God made you!"

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**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FUTURE THERAPIST OF MY CHILDREN**

By Jon Acuff

Dear therapist who, may one day be counseling my children,

There are two things I need to say right out of the gate:

1. I tried my best
2. I hope you have a sound machine

The second point is more of a personal preference rather than a revelation. Having gone to counseling myself, I appreciate when a therapist has some sort of sound machine that makes you feel like you're at the beach. Gentle electronic waves lapping against the shore tend to help you forget you're actually in a strip mall off the highway. The second point is easy to address. The first point is a little more detailed.

I did try my best as a parent, but I know my kids are going to have many, many things to tell you about someday. They will sit on a couch and regale you with stories from their childhoods. Some will make you laugh. We put a high price on humor in our family, and laughter often filled the halls of our home.

Some stories will be gross. Ask them about the time we thought a squirrel had died within our walls. Turns out it was a year-old ostrich egg that had cracked undetected in a decorative bowl. The smell was like getting punched in the face by a vengeful bird from another continent.

Other stories will not be as funny, and you will quickly discover something I had to

admit a few years into the adventure of parenting. I am not perfect. I tried to be for the first few years. I promise I did. But all too often . . .

I was impatient with my kids. I lost my temper over things that didn't really matter.

I discouraged when I should have encouraged, or encouraged when I should have been more realistic.

I gave them bad advice. I took some things too seriously and others too casually.

I chased after my work instead of after them. I was on the road traveling for business, trying to be somebody when I already was somebody . . . A dad. A father. And in this case, a launch pad for some therapist's new boat.

Tell my kids I love them. That I'm so proud I got to be their dad. Tell them parenting involves a lot of mistakes, and forgiveness, and messiness, and laughter. Tell them I'll pick up the bill for your work—which I assume might be high, depending on the quality of sound machine you've got.

Sincerely,

A not-so-perfect parent.



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**WEEK ONE**

**LUKE 22:54-62; JOHN 21:15-19; EPHESIANS 2:8-9**

Jesus still loves Peter, even though Peter denies even knowing Jesus when he is asked about Him.



**REMEMBER THIS:**

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.”  
**JOHN 20:31, NLV**



**SAY THIS:**

Who can believe in Jesus?  
**I CAN BELIVE IN JESUS.**



**DO THIS:**



When you go into your child’s room, say, “Good morning! I see some (color) hair. I see some (color) eyes. I see a cute nose. I see a beautiful smile. I see a ticklish tummy (give a little tickle). I see someone Jesus loves, and He wants to be [his/her] friend forever. Who could it be? (Smile.) Yes! Jesus loves YOU and wants to be YOUR friend forever!”

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**3 HOUSEHOLD RULES I NEVER KNEW I NEEDED**

By Jennifer Walker

Having three kids under the age of five had bested me, yet again, and I was trying to get Sharpie marker off the couch, the wood furniture and the kids. Quick backstory . . . I was in the bathroom for two minutes, which was all it took for my living room to become a coloring book. I was done and started to cry out in desperation, “There has got to be a better way. Please Lord, teach me what I need to do. I am at the end of me, and I need You.”

And that night, after my somewhat de-Sharpified kids went to sleep (it takes a few days to fully come off of human faces, apparently), I began to write. And that is how the Moms On Call Toddler Book was born.

Here is an excerpt from the book:

Often in our households, we have so many rules that the toddler cannot remember and categorize them all.

- Don’t touch the stove.
- Don’t disturb anyone when they are on the phone.
- Don’t run into the road.
- Don’t throw your toys.
- Don’t pee in the Home Depot parking lot.
- (And just for parents of boys like ours) Don’t hit your own self in your own head with your own foot! (Long car ride—enough said.)

There are just too many rules. We can keep track, but they cannot. They are

just trying to sort out a few colors and put together a sentence! So, we want to narrow the list to three rules that they can understand and those are:

- Obey daddy and mommy.
- Do not hurt yourself.
- Do not hurt others.

This is simple and all of the other rules can fit into one of these categories. The time that we place this in the heart of our child is right before bed or what we like to call “between awake and asleep.”

We like to say it like this:

“We have three rules in this house and they are:

Obey daddy and mommy, do not hurt yourself and do not hurt others because we are Walkers and Walkers are good to people.”

Insert your own name into that scenario and choose a character trait that defines your family. Go over these rules each night, right before bed. And this will help those behaviors that may seem permanent, gradually disappear, just like that Sharpie marker did all those years ago.



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**JULY 2020**  
Memory Verse Motions



**"These are written**



**so that you**



**may believe**



**that Jesus is the Christ,**



**the Son of God."**



**John 20:31**

**ISPY**