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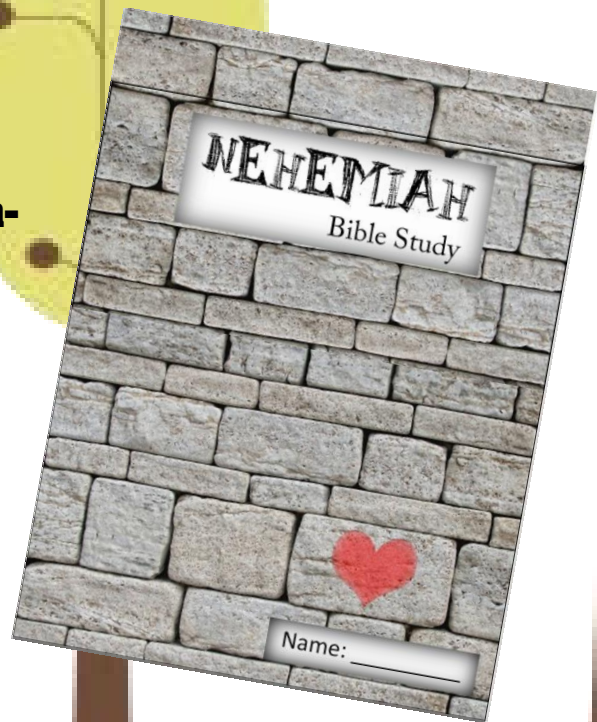
Bible Study for preteens

growing deeper roots by studying God's Word

Colossians 2:6-7



**With a second
cover option**
Also includes cover with-
out the heart for boys



Kathy Hutto

NEHEMIAH

a Bible Study for preteens



Kathy Hutto

NEHEMIAH

a Bible Study for preteens

Bible Studies for preteens are a great first in-depth Bible Study for this age-group. They take readers through a portion of the Bible, leaving them with a feeling of success and training them how to study their Bibles. The reading passages are divided into manageable and content appropriate chunks. Each Bible study includes word checks with definitions to aid in understanding. Each also includes relevant and thoughtful questions throughout. Short answer responses verses long writing assignments are utilized to make the study fun and not overwhelming.

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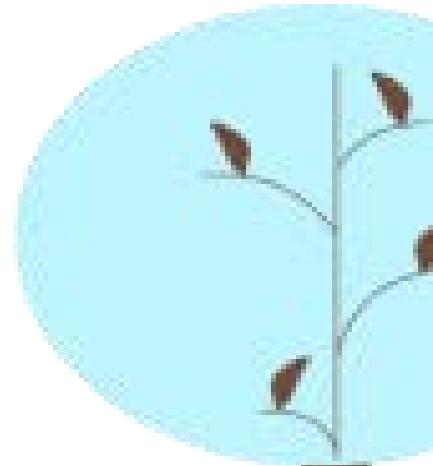
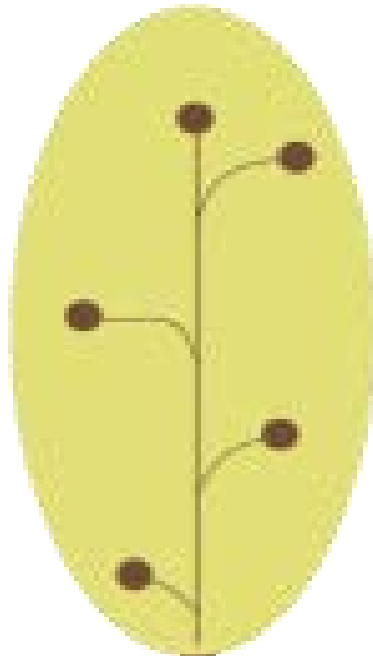
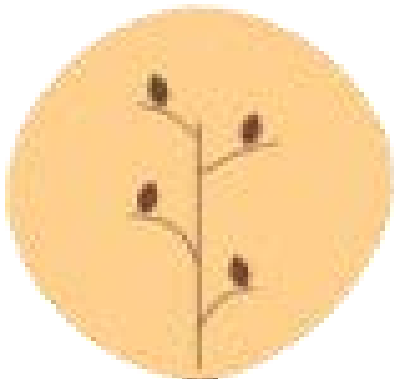
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NEHEMIAH

Bible Study



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Who was Nehemiah?

Before we begin a study about Nehemiah, we will first need to have some background information.

When King David died, his son Solomon became the next king. God loved Solomon and gave him great wisdom. But, as Solomon grew older, he began to forget God. He even offered sacrifices to false gods and caused many of the Israelites to follow his bad example.

Then, God chose men called prophets to be His spokesmen. One by one, the prophets warned the people and tried to get them to turn back to God. They told the people that if they didn't turn from their evil ways, that other nations would come and conquer them. God had given the Israelites such good land to live in. What a shame to see them lose it!

But, despite the prophets' warnings, the Israelites didn't obey. So, God allowed other nations to come in. Their capital city, Jerusalem, was destroyed. Many of the people were once again taken away to be slaves, this time to a place called Babylon instead of Egypt.

The Jews were slaves in Babylon for about 70 years. It was during those years that Nehemiah was born.

At the end of those 70 years, the kingdom of Persia conquered Babylon and allowed the Jews to return to their homeland and rebuild their temple. (Ezra 2:1) The following year Nehemiah asked about the city.

Where were you born? _____

Do you still live there?

Yes

No

Do most of your relatives live there too?

Yes

No

If not, where do they live? _____

Nehemiah Cared About Others

Read Nehemiah 1: 1-3

Word Checks:

Chisleu – the Hebrew name for the month which would be around November or December on our calendar

Shushan - the winter home of Persian kings

remnant – the small number of people left in an area

Who was Hanani? Nehemiah's _____.

What did Nehemiah want to know about?

What did they tell Nehemiah? The people who survived the exile are in great

_____ and _____.

The wall of Jerusalem is _____ and its gates

_____ with _____.

Read Nehemiah 1:4



Nehemiah was so sad at this news. What did he do?

Circle one.

- A.** He didn't do anything.
- B.** He wept and mourned for many days.
- C.** He immediately went and told the king.

Have you ever heard about something bad that had happened to someone? How did it make you feel when you heard about it?

Nehemiah Prayed First

Re-read Nehemiah 1:4

At the end of that verse, what does it say Nehemiah was doing?

_____ and _____

Word Check:

fasting – going without something for a period of time so you can be reminded to focus on God (could be food, television, phone, etc.)

When you are faced with a problem, who do you usually talk to first?

Nehemiah prayed first. He knew that prayer was more important than trying to figure out what to do on his own.

Let's take a look at Nehemiah's prayer. **Read Nehemiah 1:5-11**

Nehemiah started his prayer with what name:

- LORD
- Father
- Jesus

Look back in your Bible and notice that LORD is written with all capital letters. It's the name God used to refer to Himself and it carries with it His character and mission.

God of Heaven (verse 5)

Nehemiah understood God isn't just a person, He is the Creator of the universe with unlimited power. Do you see why he wanted to pray first?

Great and Awesome God (verse 5)

God is awesome. Look at the sky, or think about the mountains or the beach. God made all that! What reminds you of how awesome God is: _____

Day and Night (verse 6)

Nehemiah prayed more than once about his problem. In fact, he prayed night and day for days! If God doesn't answer your prayer right away, keep praying. He heard you the first time, but He may be working some things out so He can answer at just the right moment.

Confess Sin (verse 6)

Whose sins did Nehemiah confess? _____

Confession means to tell the truth about something. We each need to confess the things that we do wrong to God and ask Him to forgive us.

Remember (verses 8-9)

Nehemiah used Scripture from the Old Testament in his prayer. We can do the same! (Read more about this on the Session 3 Prayer Journal page.)

God Made a Way

Re-read Nehemiah 1:11 (just the last line)

At the end of that verse, what does it say about Nehemiah? He was the king's

What exactly is a _____?

He was someone who worked for the king. His job was to serve the drinks at the king's table. There were constant plots against the king, so he had to guard against poison in the king's cup. Sometimes he would have to swallow some of the drink before serving it – just to be sure it was safe for the king to drink!

Would you want to have this job? Write Y or N (for yes or no) _____

Read Nehemiah 2:1-3

Nehemiah worked for King Artaxerxes Longimanus. He reigned for forty years in B.C. 464-425. He was quite a character! He had his older brother put to death and when his younger brother rebelled against him, he stripped him of any position in the kingdom! Can you understand why Nehemiah was afraid? (verse 2)

Read Nehemiah 2:4-9

What did the king ask Nehemiah? (verse 4)

- What are you wearing?
- Can you bring me more drink?
- What do you request?

What did Nehemiah do just before answering the king? (verse 4)

- He cleared his throat.
- He prayed.
- He cried and said, "Please don't kill me for looking sad!"

What did Nehemiah ask the king to let him do?

Did the king allow him to go? Write Y for yes or N for no _____

What did Nehemiah say was the reason the king allowed him to go? (verse 8)



Nehemiah Waited for the Right Time

Read Nehemiah 2:11-16

When Nehemiah had been in Jerusalem for three days, what did he do?

What time of day was it?

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Night

Instead of coming right into the city and telling all the people what his plan was, Nehemiah chose to wait until the right time. He saw the terrible mess the wall was in. What a big job this was going to be! But, he knew that God was the one responsible for his being there and that God would help him accomplish the task.

God had caused the king and queen to allow him to go. God would make a way to rebuild the wall and the city. This was all part of God's plan and His plans always work out the way they are suppose to.

Did you know that rebuilding the wall and city was part of God's even bigger plan? Think about it...

Many years later, Jesus would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey. You may have heard the story about His triumphal entry. (John 12:12-16) It had been prophesied that He would do this. (Zechariah 9:9) Soon after, He would be taken just outside the gates and crucified for our sins. For all that to happen, the city had to be rebuilt. See the end of this book if you want to know more about why Jesus had to die.

Read Nehemiah 2:17-18

Nehemiah told the people all about what had happened to him. He told them how the king had let him go with his blessing and a military escort!

How did the Israelites respond? (verse 18) They said...

Circle the letter beside the correct answer.

- A.** Let us rise up and build.
- B.** Go back where you came from.
- C.** We don't want to help you build.

The Wall is Halfway Built

Read Nehemiah 3:28-32

Where does it say each man made repairs? In front of his own _____

Everyone was working together to build his or her piece of the wall.

Have you ever been on a team or had to work together to do something? Did the task get done faster when everyone helped? List any examples you can think of.

Read Nehemiah 4:1-3

Word Check:

mock – to insult or make fun of

Leaders of neighboring areas mocked the Israelites. What animal did they say could climb on it and make it fall down? (verse 3)

a _____

Read Nehemiah 4:4-5

Nehemiah responded to the mocking by praying. Have you figured out yet that Nehemiah really believes that prayer works?

When someone is mean to you, what do you usually do first?

Read Nehemiah 4:6

The entire wall was joined together up to _____ its height.

Do you find it interesting that Nehemiah prayed but then kept right on working to do what God had told him to do? Nehemiah kept his focus on what he knew he should be doing and not on what others were saying.

The Lord will Fight for You

Read Nehemiah 4: 7-8

Here they go again! When the leaders of those nearby nations heard that the gaps in the walls were beginning to close, they became very _____ .(verse 7)

Read Nehemiah 4:9

What did Nehemiah and the people do? Unscramble these letters and write the answer on the line.

r e p y d a _____



Read Nehemiah 4:13-15

Nehemiah positioned the people around the walls and gave them weapons. He also gave the people a pep talk.

Nehemiah said, “Do not be _____ of them.” (verse 14)

What two adjectives did he use to describe the Lord? (verse 14)

_____ and _____

In the end, God had bought their enemies plot to nothing and the people returned to their work on the wall.

Read Nehemiah 4:17-20

The people were working on the part of the wall in front of their own houses and some of the houses were spread far apart. Nehemiah told the people that if there was trouble, someone would blow a trumpet and they should all rally together.

Who did Nehemiah say would fight for them? (verse 20)

_____ and _____

The people prayed and trusted God and they stood ready to defend themselves. Sometimes we have to stand up for ourselves when we know we are right. Has that ever happened to you? Have you ever had to stand up for yourself? (Example: A teacher accused you of cheating. After class, you went to her and told her that you had not cheated.)

Doing the Right Thing

Read Nehemiah 5: 1-5

There was an outcry of the people against whom?

Jewish b_____

This time, Nehemiah wasn't having to deal with problems from people outside the wall. Instead, he had to deal with problems from his own people inside the wall!

It seems some of the Jews (another name for Israelites) weren't treating each other fairly.

The people came to Nehemiah with three complaints:

1. We need grain to eat. (verse 2)
2. We have mortgaged our fields to buy grain for food. This meant they had made an agreement with someone so that in exchange for money to buy food, the other person would have control over their land and harvest. (verse 3)
3. in order to pay the King of Persia's high taxes , we have borrowed money from other Jews. To pay that debt and the high interest on it, we have had to give our children over as slaves. (verses 4-5)

Read Nehemiah 5:6

How did Nehemiah react to this news?

He was _____!

Read Nehemiah 5:7

Instead of letting his temper get the best of him, Nehemiah took some time to think about what to do.

Read Nehemiah 5:8-13

When Nehemiah talked to the people, did they agree to stop doing the wrong thing and start doing the right thing?

_____ yes _____no

What reason did Nehemiah give for wanting them to do right? (verse 9)

To prevent the _____ (or insults) of other nations *

Nehemiah's Good Example

Read Nehemiah 5: 14

Nehemiah had been appointed as...

Check one:

- Governor
- President
- Senator

How many years did he have this job? _____ years

Read Nehemiah 5:15

During all that time, Nehemiah had not asked for a food allowance even though he could have. Others before him certainly had!

Read Nehemiah 5:16-19

Nehemiah had worked hard on the wall right alongside the others. He had used his own money to feed how many men, Jews, officials, and visitors from other nations?

_____ (verse 17)

Nehemiah certainly “practiced what he preached.” He was a good example to the people. He chose to do the best thing for others – even at his own expense.

Look back at Session 8 and find the star. Circle it and re-read what is written beside it.

Think about it....

Why do you think Nehemiah didn't want to give the other nations any reasons to insult them? Do you think God would have been glorified if the nations saw how wrongly the people were behaving?

How about you...

Are there times when you behave in a way that doesn't bring God glory? We all do sometimes. But, we can use these letters to help us remember to choose to do right things.

W W P G - stands for What Would Please God ?

Stop and ask yourself that question when facing a decision about how to behave. If you blow it, remember, God is quick to forgive when we ask Him. 😊

The Wall is Completed in Just 52 Days!

Read Nehemiah 6:15-16

The wall was completed in how many days? _____ days

The work of completing this huge wall was finished so quickly, even their enemies admitted they had help from whom? (verse 16)

Sometimes, things that seem impossible to people are very possible with God. He can do anything!

You can imagine what Nehemiah's enemies did when they heard about the wall. They were up-set!



Read Nehemiah 6:19

Fill in the blank: Tobiah sent letters to make Nehemiah _____.

Have you ever believed you were doing the right thing only to have someone come along and try to make you afraid? Here's an example, just to get you thinking. In the movie *Mercy Rule* with Kirk Cameron, the city is trying to take over his business and are not being honest. When he tries to take a stand against them, another character in the movie threatens him with lawsuits and fines. He tries to make Kirk's character afraid so he will stop trying to stand against them.

Remember, if God has put something in your heart to do, you don't have to be afraid. God will fight for you!

Read Deuteronomy 3:22 and write it below. Try to memorize it.

Ezra Reads the Law

Read Nehemiah 8:1-3

Who had gathered to hear Ezra read Scriptures? Both men and women and all who could _____ (Hint: starts with a u)

The Bible has already listed men and women, so who else do you think this verse is referring to?

The answer is spelled backwards. Write it correctly on the line.

n e r d l i h c _____

Any child old enough to understand, was invited to hear the Scriptures being read. Isn't it neat that God chose to include children in this story? Children are very important to Him. **Read Mark 10:13-16.**

Look back at Nehemiah 8:3. How long did Ezra read the Scriptures?

From _____ until _____

Read Nehemiah 8:5-6

What did the people do when Ezra opened the book to read.

- sat down
- stood up
- got sleepy

Read Nehemiah 8:9

What did the people do when they heard the words read?

- cried
- laughed
- did nothing

Read Nehemiah 8:10

Why do you think the people did this?

Nehemiah told the people not to be sad. He said,

“The _____ of the _____ is your strength.”

The Feast of Booths

Read Nehemiah 8:14-17

Word Check:

booths – tents (another word used for this is tabernacles)



How did the people know they were suppose to have a Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles)? Hint: look back at verse 14



When the people found out what they should be doing, they didn't waste any time obeying.

God had instructed the Israelites way back during Moses' time that they were to remember the things He had done for them. One of the ways they would remember, was to have a yearly feast – kind of like how we remember how God helped the Pilgrims every year at Thanksgiving.

Look back at the end of verse 17. What were the people doing?

_____ (Hint: stars with r)

The feast (also known as the Feast of Tabernacles) lasted for 7 days. During those 7 days, the people camped out! They lived in tents. Does that sound like fun to you? Check one:

- Yes, I love camping!
- No! Are you kidding? Sleeping on the ground and getting bit by mosquitoes is not my thing!
- Maybe, but only with a five star tent and an air mattress!

Read Nehemiah 8:18



What did Ezra do every day? _____

Find and circle the 3 keys on this page.

Remember these 3 important things you should do:

- (1) Read the Bible to find out how you should live.
- (2) Don't waste any time obeying what it says.
- (3) Read it every day.

The People Confess and Praise

Read Nehemiah 9:1-3

Fasting with sackcloth and dust on your head was an outward show of deep sorrow. When Ezra read the Scriptures and the people understood they had not been obeying, they were sad.

Fill in the blank from verse 2: They stood and c_____ their sin. To confess your sins means that you tell God you are sorry for what you've done wrong.

Read Nehemiah 9:5-6

The people praised God.

Read Nehemiah 9:8

What kind of heart did God find in Abraham? Unscramble the letters to find out:

l a f t f i u h _____

The rest of Nehemiah 9 is all about the people remembering what God had done since the time of Abram.

When you pray, maybe you could use Nehemiah and the Israelites' prayer to help you think of what to say.

They...

Confessed

Praised

Thanked God for His blessings

What things do you usually include in your prayers?

Remember, praying is simply talking to God. We don't have to use fancy words. In fact, He doesn't want us to! God wants us to talk to Him just as we would a friend.

Read more about this on your Session 13 Prayer Journal page.

Nehemiah Dedicates the Wall

Read Nehemiah 12:27

The people celebrated the dedication of their new wall with gladness and with...

t_____ and s_____.

Name one instrument they used? _____

Do you play an instrument? What kind? _____

Read Nehemiah 12:31

Where did Nehemiah bring the leaders? Check one.

- beside the wall
- to the temple
- on the wall



This must have been one thick wall! In fact, it was probably about 8 feet wide. (If you are wondering how they got up there, read Nehemiah 12:37.)

Who else did Nehemiah bring on the wall? two _____

Read Nehemiah 12:38

Nehemiah _____ them. (Hint: starts with an f)

Nehemiah went with one choir and they headed north. Ezra went with the second choir and they headed south. As they marched, there was singing and instruments playing. This sounds like a parade! They made their way around the whole city.

Read Nehemiah 12:40 & 43

Eventually, they ended up where? at the _____ (starts with a t)
to conclude the dedication ceremony by offering great sacrifices.

They were making a joyful noise and it was heard where? (verse 43)

Use Pig Latin to find out (If you don't know how to read Pig Latin, you simply move the first letter in the word to the end of the word and add letter a after it)

ar fa way aa _____

Write your first and last name using Pig Latin.

Wrap Up

Have you enjoyed learning about Nehemiah? ____ yes ____no

He's a pretty neat guy. Here are highlights of the things we've learned about him. Feel free to write in your own descriptions.

NEHEMIAH

- cupbearer to King Artaxerxes
- cared about others
- prayer first
- obeyed God
- good leader
- determined

- _____

- _____

God put something in Nehemiah's heart to do and he followed through. When others tried to scare him into quitting, he didn't let that stop him. Instead, he prayed. God did an amazing thing and the wall was finished in just _____ days! (See Session 8 if you need a reminder.)

Is there something God has put in your heart to do? Remember to pray first and keep praying. God will continue to direct your path.

Write any final thoughts you have below:

Just for fun...

Look back through each Session and try to find 5 hidden knee pictures! "Ne"-hemiah was pretty interesting and there are lots of other stories like his in the Bible. Be sure to read your Bible every day!



PRAYER JOURNAL



Prayer Journal

Do you have friends or family members who need prayer?

List their names here and beside their names, write specific things you can pray for them.

For example...

Grandmother – sick

Sister – big test coming up

Prayer Journal

Look back at the end of your Session 2 Bible Study page. You were to write about something bad that had happened to someone? You could pray for that person now if the event happened recently.

Prayer Journal

God has made many promises to us in the Bible. When you pray, you can remind God of His promises as a part of your prayer. God already knows what they are, but He loves hearing that you know too!

For example...

If you are having trouble sleeping, read Matthew 11:28. It reads, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Your prayer could sound something like this...

"Dear God, I am tired. In the Bible, You said that we can come to You and You will give us rest. Please give me rest tonight. Help me to be able to sleep. Thank you. In Jesus name, Amen."

Prayer Journal

Nehemiah 's job was to be a cupbearer.

What do you want to be when you grow up? _____

Did you know that you can begin right now asking God to show you what He wants you to do when you grow up? Often, He gives you an interest in something that relates to the career you will have one day. For example, someone who loves animals might grow up to be a veterinarian. Remember to be open to what God wants you to do – even if it isn't the plan you made for yourself. We will never be our happiest apart from His will for our lives.

Prayer Journal

Nehemiah had great self-control! It's tempting to rush ahead and say things that we are thinking. But, Nehemiah kept silent until he was sure it was the right time to tell the people what he was doing.

Ask God to give you self-control.

Prayer Journal

Are you on a team or in a group? Take some time to pray for your team and mention each team-member by name. You could pray for your children's group at church and also for your family.

Prayer Journal

During your prayer today, try to list some adjectives that describe God.

For example,

Dear God,

You are great and awesome...

Prayer Journal

Spend some time praying that God would help you make good choices and treat others fairly.

Prayer Journal

Find the smiley face on the Session 8 Bible Study page. Underline the sentence right in front of it.

Can you remember what WWPG stands for?

W - _____

W - _____

P - _____

G - _____

Are there things that you need to ask God to forgive you for? You can list those things here. Next, pray and tell God you are sorry for doing those things. Ask Him to help you remember to choose to do things that please Him.

Prayer Journal

Is there something that God has put in your heart to do, but you are afraid?

Pray and confess God's promise to you which is found in Deuteronomy 3:22. Look back at Day 10 in your Bible Study and use that verse in your prayer. It might sound like this...

Dear God,

I am afraid about _____. Help me to remember that I don't have to fear; that you will fight for me...

Prayer Journal

The people stood when Ezra began to read Scripture. They knew this was God's Word and they wanted to show respect. When you pray today, think about where you are and what you're doing. Are you sitting on the couch or on your bed. Maybe you're outside on your porch or sitting at the kitchen table.

If you are somewhere with lots of distractions, try to move to a quiet place. You may want to kneel down to pray today. God hears you no matter where you are or what you're doing, but this would be a sign of respect.

Prayer Journal

Take some time to think about some of the things God has helped you through. Be sure to thank Him.

Prayer Journal

When you pray, do you ever think about who you're talking to?

Try this...

When you pray, think about God. Try to think about what He looks like. We are made in His image, so we know He looks human. But, He looks so much more amazing than any human being!

Read Revelation 4:1-5

John wrote this book of the Bible. God allowed him to see into His throne room and John wrote down what he saw. Remember, John was using his own vocabulary to describe God. I bet it was hard to find words good enough to describe the awesome-ness of God.

John wrote...

God's skin was so beautiful that it reminded him of jewels.

There was a rainbow around the throne.

There were flashes of lightning and thunder around the throne.

In front of the throne was a sea so clear that it looked like glass or a crystal sea.

Next time you pray, try to visualize that image of God in your mind. You are actually talking to the God described in those verses!

Prayer Journal

Write a song of praise to the Lord.

Prayer Journal

Is there something God has put in your heart to do? Remember to pray first and keep praying. God will continue to direct your path.

Have you ever wondered why Jesus had to die on the cross?

When God created the very first people, He made a garden for them to live in. He would visit them there and actually walk with them. (Genesis 3:8)

Later, God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle? The very name means “dwelling place.” God wanted to be with people.

He wants to spend time with us here on earth, but He doesn’t want it to end there...

God loves us and He wants us to live with Him in Heaven forever when we die.

God gave people some rules so we could know the right things to do. Those rules are known as the Ten Commandments. When we break one of these rules or commandments, we sin. The consequence or price we must pay for sinning is death and separation from God. (Romans 6:23) That means when we die, we won’t be able to live in Heaven with Him. Heaven is a perfect place and sin cannot be there. Instead, the place we will be sent to is a place called hell and it is a terrible place.

But, remember, God loves you so much. He wants you to live in Heaven with Him.

He had a plan. He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sin. (John 3:16)

Jesus died on a cross. Three days later, He arose. There was no reason for Him to stay dead. He had paid in full. It was finished!

If you believe this and are moved to accept this special thing that Jesus did for you, you need talk to Him and tell Him. Your prayer could sound something like this...

Dear God, I realize that I have sinned and I am sorry. I know that Jesus died to pay the price for my sins. I trust in Him now as my Lord and Savior. I know He’s the only way for me to be able to live in Heaven.

Tell your parent that you prayed this prayer. They will be so happy!

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