



Kids' Version

I Said “Yes!”

SECOND EDITION

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You said, “Yes!” to Jesus! Congratulations!

It can take a lot of courage to pray in front of someone else to choose Jesus as the leader of your life. We are so proud of you! The Bible says there is a party in heaven happening right now, just for you.

You've started a great adventure with the most powerful Being in the universe! He loves you more than you could ever know. As you get to know Him, you'll realize how amazing He is.

I want you to understand something super important. Are you ready for this? Going to heaven is not about how good you are. Sometimes, people think if they do all the right things and don't do bad stuff, they'll earn a place in heaven.

But there's a problem with that.

You see, the Bible tells us that, *“all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 3:23) We have all done things that are wrong. We have made choices that go against what God has asked us to do. That's called sin. The Bible tells us that, *“The wages of sin is death...”* (Romans 6:23) Uh oh! That doesn't sound good does it?

Because we have sinned, death is what we deserve.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE! The second part of that Bible verse says, *“...But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23)

We deserved death, but Jesus gives us eternal life! YAY!

Jesus has done something awesome for us.

How did He do that? Jesus was perfect and never sinned – not even once! He didn't deserve death, but chose to take the punishment for our sin instead. Jesus took our place when He died on the cross. When we say, “Yes!” to Jesus, our sins are forgiven. We get to go to heaven forever because of what Jesus did for us. He offers heaven to us as a gift we simply need to receive. In other words, we need to say, “Yes!” and Jesus is our friend forever!

That's why we think this is the best day ever! You said, “Yes” to the forgiveness of Jesus and asked Him to come into your heart forever. I have a special guide for you this week that will be fun and helpful as you discover how much Jesus loves you!

So, get ready for a great adventure alongside your parents. They will ask you some questions based on the lessons you read and help you along the way. As you walk through this together, you'll grow in your friendship with Jesus.

Let's get started!

DAY 1

BIG IDEA

Jesus is excited to connect with you and be your friend forever.

Read

Revelation 3:20

What It Means

Do you love having friends? I bet you do. Friends make life more exciting and meaningful. These important people give you someone to talk to, count on and share tons of fun experiences and memories with.

Friends have been really important in my own life over the years. They have been there to support me when I've been sad or frustrated and to celebrate some of the greatest moments I've had. The bottom line is, friends have made my life better.

Think about this for a second: the entire universe was created by Jesus and He wants to connect with you as a friend! He wants to talk with you, cry with you and give you a chance to know all kinds of awesome things about Him.

Jesus is there for you no matter what. You never have to be alone again. This is incredible news! Over the next few days, we're going to talk about how you can grow in your friendship with Jesus. But first, it's important for you to understand that He is super excited to be your friend!

What does it mean to be friends with someone? A good friendship happens when you:

- know things about each other
- talk to each other often
- trust each other
- are there for each other
- will stand by each other, even if you mess up.

Jesus is amazing at all those things and more. He is the perfect friend!

Bible Story

Read about the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32.

Points to Remember from this Bible story

- The younger brother wanted half of his father's money.
- He took the money and wasted it in a faraway land.
- During a famine, he had nothing left.
- He came home and asked his father for forgiveness.
- His father forgave him and welcomed him back into a relationship with him.

Activity

List the people you would be most excited to be in a relationship with. Who in the world would you love to meet and why? Understand that Jesus is even **more excited** to connect with you than you are with your favorite hero or celebrity! You should be excited to get to know Him as well.

Wrap up

Jesus is excited that you said, "Yes!" He is the perfect friend and wants your relationship to grow. He wants to connect with you in very real ways, just like a friend from school or church.

Over the next few days, we're going to learn how to grow your friendship with Jesus. See you tomorrow!

DAY 2

BIG IDEA

Jesus wants to talk with you to help you grow.

Read

Hebrews 4:16

What It Means

It's important to have good communication with our best friends. In fact, it's one of the big things that makes someone your friend! You can't really be friends with someone whom you never talk to or spend time with, right?

Jesus wants to talk with you just like a friend! When you talk to Him, it's called prayer. Some people pray with their eyes closed and head bowed. Others pray when they're walking or riding in the car. Some people kneel on the ground, while others lie in their beds. What you do with your hands or eyes is not the most important part. What IS important is that you do it!

While Jesus was on earth, He spent a lot of time talking to His Father in heaven. Sometimes He would go to a quiet place and pray ALL NIGHT! Can you imagine doing that? Praying must be really important to God!

Here are some reasons why it's good to pray every day.

- You get to know more about how awesome Jesus is.
- Jesus can help you make good decisions in your life.
- You can ask for Jesus' help with problems you're facing and that others are facing.
- You can say sorry for things you've done wrong and receive forgiveness.
- You get to say thank you for the wonderful things He's done in your life.

Some of you may be wondering: How do I pray? Here is one pattern you can use. It's not the only way to pray but it can give you a good place to start. It uses the acronym P.R.A.Y.

P stands for Praise. It's a time to **tell God how amazing He is and thank Him for all the good things He has given to us.** We all have so many wonderful things in our lives. Maybe it's your family, health, the house you live in or that you get to go to heaven someday. No one is more incredible than God. Spend a little time every day giving thanks! (Psalm 150:1-6)

R stands for Repent. That means we **talk about our sins and ask God to forgive us**. It can be hard to admit when you do things wrong but Jesus promises to forgive you immediately when you ask. (1 John 1:9)

A stands for Ask. **Ask God for help**. We all have problems in our lives and, like a good friend, Jesus wants to help! Take some time to ask God to help you and your family. No problem is too big for God to handle and no problem is too small for God to care about. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Y stands for Yes. **Say yes to following God's directions and plans**. Listen to what God says in the Bible and pray you can follow Him. Ask Him to show you how to love your family and friends, and help others. (Luke 11:28)

Bible Story

Peter was facing a big problem. Read how the prayers of Peter and his friends were answered in Acts 12:5-17.

Points to Remember from this Bible story

- Peter needed help because he was in jail.
- Peter and others talked to God about their problem.
- Peter was freed from prison by an angel.
- Peter said yes to following God's directions.
- Everyone was excited when they saw that God answered their prayer!

Activity

Think about times in your life when you're sad, hurt or happy. Whom do you most want to talk with during those times (mom and dad, brother or sister, grandparent, friend)? Why do you like to talk with them?

Wrap Up

Jesus is the most trustworthy, loyal and powerful friend you could ever have! He is big enough to take care of the whole world and also big enough to care about every detail of your life. Pray to Jesus every day — and just talk! He is excited to hear from you.

Wow! Great job today learning all about how to talk to God. I can't wait to see you again tomorrow!

DAY 3

BIG IDEA

Jesus wants to help you grow through reading His Word, the Bible.

Read

2 Timothy 3:16-17

What It Means

Listening to stories about someone's life is one of the best ways to get to know him or her. Our favorite books have stories that help us get to know the characters. Our parents tell us stories about others. In fact, they have probably even told some stories about you! The stories from our lives make us who we are. When we learn how people have treated others and dealt with past challenges, we get a good idea of how they will act toward us in the future.

The Bible tells the story of God. We learn how God created us and came to rescue us from sin. We see God's incredible love, faithfulness, compassion, power, mercy and grace.

When we read the Bible we get to learn all about God so that we can understand what He thinks about us, what He wants us to do and how we can count on Him.

You may be wondering: What's the best way to read my Bible?

When you read the Bible, try this:

First, pick a section of the Bible to read. This could be an entire story, a chapter or just a few verses. You can always ask your parents for help! We recommend starting in the New Testament with Mark or Luke. These books tell you the story of Jesus' life on earth and are a great place to get to know God.

After you read, ask yourself the following questions:

- What do these verses teach me about God?
- What do these verses teach me about myself?
- What is God asking me to do?

This will help you learn more about God, make good choices and follow His plan for your life!

Bible Story

Read about Jesus being tempted in Matthew 4:1-11.

Points to Remember from this Bible story

- Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days.
- The devil tempted Jesus three different times.
- Every time Jesus was tempted, He was able to quote God's Word to defeat the devil.
- Then, the devil left Jesus alone.

Activity

Ask your parents to talk about some favorite memories from when they were kids. What was school like? What did they do for fun? What were some fun trips they took? Keep talking and get creative with other questions to ask!

Wrap Up

You probably learned more about your mom or dad's life through the stories you heard — and some life lessons too!

Reading God's Word helps you learn how amazing God is. You can experience God's incredible power, love and faithfulness through the stories in the Bible. This creates more excitement to follow Jesus and live your life for Him. God also teaches helpful lessons about how to live as you grow up. Reading God's Word every day will make your life better!

Great job today, my friend! I'm so proud of the way you're sticking to it this week. See you tomorrow!

DAY 4

BIG IDEA

Jesus wants you to be more like Him so you can serve others.

Read

Ephesians 5:1-2

What It Means

Have you ever played “Follow The Leader?” When the leader turns left, so do you. When the leader stops, you stop, too. In fact, if you say you’re following someone and then choose to walk in the opposite direction, people will give you some funny looks!

Jesus is the only perfect person to ever walk this earth. EVERYONE has sinned and made wrong turns, but not Jesus! He made the right choice every single time. He always said the right words, made the right choice and did the right thing. Wow!

Since Jesus is perfect, He is the best person to follow. He will never lead you onto a wrong path. When you follow Jesus closely, it helps you love others, make good choices and change the world around you — just like He did.

It’s not always easy to follow Jesus. Sometimes He asks us to do things we don’t want to do. Other times, He asks us to give up things we don’t want to let go of. But one thing’s for sure: Jesus always asks us to do things that are **best for us**. Let’s ask Jesus to help us be more like Him as we grow in our faith.

Bible Story

Read the story of Jesus calling some of His disciples to follow Him in Matthew 4:18-22.

Points to Remember from this Bible story

- Peter, Andrew, James and John were busy working like any other day.
- Jesus called them to follow Him.
- They left all their things behind to follow Jesus.

Activity

Play “Simon Says” with a parent or sibling. Notice how hard you are trying to follow everything he or she is doing. When we pray to God and read His Word, we can see the things Jesus did and learn how God wants us to live.

Wrap Up

Jesus called these fisherman to follow Him. It was probably hard for them to walk away from everything they had known their entire lives. Because they chose to go with Jesus, their lives were never the same! They learned to do the things Jesus did and treat people the way He treated them. These men helped change the whole world because they were willing to follow Jesus.

What a powerful story about Jesus today! Our final lesson is coming up tomorrow, and it's one of my favorites. See you then!

DAY 5

BIG IDEA

Jesus wants us to tell others about Him.

Read

Matthew 28:18-10

What It Means

Think about the last time you were excited about something. I bet you couldn't wait to tell people about all about it! Everyone loves to share good news!

When I was 6 years old, my mom and dad sat me down and told me some exciting news. I was the youngest of three kids. They explained to me that, in just a few months, I would be getting a baby brother!

I was excited about this great news. I began to think about all the fun we would have together — the games we would play and the adventures we would go on. The more I thought about my baby brother, the more pumped up I got. Within a few minutes of hearing this announcement, I couldn't take it anymore. I had to tell someone! Without letting anyone know, I ran out of our house and down to my neighbor's home as quickly as I could. I pounded on the door and exclaimed in a loud voice to my neighbor, "I'm going to be a big brother!" I ran into their house until I found the rest of my neighbor's family. I eagerly told them the news as well. I'm sure they were shocked that this little 6-year-old boy was so bold!

That's how Jesus wants us to be with the Good News of the Bible. When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He did something incredible for us. No one else could have accomplished what He did. We can spend forever with Jesus! There's no better news than that!

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus gives us a command. He tells us to *"go and make disciples of all nations."* He wants as many people as possible to start a relationship with Him. It's our job to introduce people to Jesus whenever we can!

Bible Story

Read the story of Jesus' instructions to His disciples in Acts 1:1-11 and Acts 2:1-12.

Points to Remember from this Bible story

- Jesus told His disciples they would go around the world telling people about Him.
- The disciples were waiting in Jerusalem just like Jesus told them to.
- The Holy Spirit came to them in a powerful way.
- The disciples boldly told people about the Good News of what Jesus did for them.

Activity

List several pieces of good news you've had in your lifetime. These could include times you won an award, made a sports team or earned a good grade in school. Think about how excited you were to share that good news. That's how excited we should be to tell others about what God has done for us!

Wrap Up

Jesus has done amazing things for us. He wants the world to know the Good News of the Bible — that Jesus died and rose again so we all can be forgiven of our sins and live forever with God. Now that you're a follower of Jesus, He's asking you to tell this amazing story to your friends, family and neighbors. We can tell that story in lots of ways. Sometimes that means actually talking about our faith in Jesus or inviting someone to church. Other times that means treating people the way Jesus would. Look for opportunities in your life to share God's amazing love with everyone around you!

WHAT'S NEXT?

Way to go! You finished all 5 days of this "I Said Yes" book. We sure learned a lot this week together. We're so proud of you!

This is just the beginning of your journey with Jesus. At Wooddale, we're excited to help you keep growing closer to Jesus. You can follow these simple steps to keep growing in your friendship with Him.

Remember:

- Talk to God through prayer every day.
- Read the Bible at least a little bit every day
- Learn how to be more like Jesus so you can impact those around you and live the life God wants you to live.
- Tell others about how Jesus wants to be their friend too!
- Use the other videos and resources from your "I Said, 'Yes!'" gift.

We encourage you to connect with us at Woods Kids (Wooddale Church's children's ministries) each week. We have fun-filled programs that teach you tons about who God is and how much He loves you. As you continue to grow up, we also have fantastic student ministries! Email childrens@wooddale.org to learn more!

We look forward to watching you grow in your relationship with Jesus. God has humongous plans for you to connect with Him while impacting the world around you. We're praying for you as you begin this exciting journey of faith!



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