

Bible adventures



for young readers



God
loves me
28 ways

10



GOD'S WORD FOR ME

"Jesus went everywhere doing good. He healed those who were ruled by the devil, for God was with Jesus." *Acts 10:38*



STORY TIME

Nathan rubbed his tummy and moaned. "I don't feel very well," he told his mother. Mom touched his forehead. "You don't have a fever," she said thoughtfully.

"My stomach hurts," Nathan said between moans. "Not my head."

"Oh, I see," Nathan's mother said with a nod. "Maybe we should go visit the doctor. There's a lot of sickness going around the neighborhood. Maybe you caught a nasty bug." That afternoon, Doctor Kim smiled down at Nathan. "What seems to be the problem, young man?" he asked. "My stomach hurts," Nathan said.

The doctor felt the boy's forehead. "You don't seem to have a fever."



Nathan rolled his eyes. "My stomach. My stomach! There's nothing wrong with my head." Doctor Kim laughed. "I know it may be a little strange for me to see if you have a fever when your stomach hurts, but if your stomachache is caused by an infection, then your body heats up to fight the bugs and makes you have a fever. Do you understand?" Nathan nodded slowly. "Yes. That's why you feel my forehead, right?"

"Right. I'm looking for something called 'symptoms.' Symptoms—like pain or fever or bumps on your arm—can help me figure out what's making you sick. Then, when I know what's making you sick, I can give you the right medicine or treatment to make you well again."

Nathan smiled. "OK. I'll tell you all the symptoms that I have, even though they may not be in my stomach."

Sin is like a disease. It can cause many different kinds of symptoms. For instance, some boys and girls say that if they tell a lie, their tummy hurts. Some say that if they are unkind to someone, they begin to feel very sad. Others say that if they steal something at the store, the food they eat that night doesn't taste good and they can't sleep. These are symptoms of the sin disease. Is there a cure? Yes! When Jesus died on the cross, He took all the symptoms of sin with Him. He took all the sorrow and guilt and sadness that sin causes, and forced them to die right beside Him.

Now, when we make a mistake and sin, we can ask Jesus to forgive us, and the symptoms vanish. When we ask Jesus to forgive us for lying, our tummy stops hurting. When we say "I'm sorry" to the person to whom we were unkind, our sadness goes away. When Jesus helps us return something we've stolen, our food tastes good again and we sleep all night long. Sin is gone from our lives and so are the symptoms. Now that's good medicine!

Remember Zacchaeus up in the tree? He was a sinful man. But when he met Jesus, he changed forever. He was healed of his sin disease. Jesus wants to heal you, too. Just ask Him.



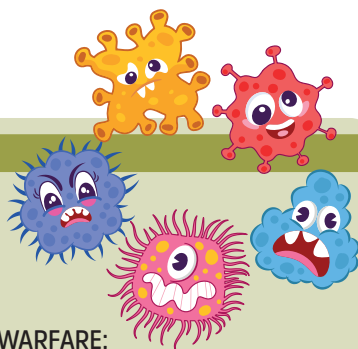
FUN FACTS

GERMS:

- Bacteria are found everywhere—in air, water, soil, animals, people, and food. They are very small living things. It takes one million to cover a pinhead, so you need to look at them through a microscope.

GERM WARFARE:

- The four major types of germs are bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa.*





MY BIBLE ADVENTURE

Look up these texts in the "Library" section and fill in the missing words.

- "When someone _____, he _____ what sin pays— _____ . But God _____ us a free _____ —life _____ in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).
- "The Lord _____ me for _____ my _____ . He _____ all my _____ " (Psalm 103:3).
- "These are the _____ things in the world: wanting things to please our _____ selves, wanting the _____ things we see, being too _____ of the things we _____ And everything that people want in the world is _____ . But the person who does what _____ wants lives _____ " (1 John 2:16, 17).

Draw a box around the words that describe how you sometimes feel —your symptoms— when you disobey God and do something you know you shouldn't do. Then draw a circle around the words that describe how you feel when you ask forgiveness and choose to obey God.

Joyful

Confused

Angry

Sad

Brave

Afraid

Content

EXCITED

HAPPY

Guilty



MY PRAYER

Thank You, Jesus, for inviting me to be like You. Sometimes it's not easy, but You have shown me how I should live. I know You will help me each step of the way. Amen.



LIBRARY

- “Brothers, continue to think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected” (Philippians 4:8).



MY FRIEND ELLEN WROTE

“Under the training of Christ the disciples had been led to feel their need of the Spirit... Christ filled their thoughts. ... In mind and character they had become like their Master” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 45).



PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

What are some things you like to think about that make you happy?

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