

Bible adventures



for young readers



God
loves me
28 ways

28



GOD'S WORD FOR ME

"The saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever." *Daniel 7:18, NIV*

STORY TIME

Alex and his dad sat down in the shade of a green tree. They were both very tired because they'd been walking and walking and walking. But it was a happy tired, and Alex didn't want their adventure to end.

From their hilltop perch, they could look down on rows of stone buildings, flower-lined paths, and many, many cages surrounded by metal bars. "This is fun," Alex said.

Dad was silent for a long moment, and then he turned to face his son. "Alex, what do you see down there?"

Alex frowned. "I see a zoo, Dad. Isn't that what you see?"

Dad chuckled. "Well, yes. But I see something else. Hidden in that zoo is a picture of heaven."

"Heaven?" Alex gasped. "Does God keep His animals in cages?"

"No," Dad responded with a chuckle. "That's why the picture is hidden. If you

take away all the cages, and all the metal bars, and all the buildings with thick glass in the windows, what do you have left?"

Alex squinted down at the scene, trying to imagine what it would look like with all of those things gone. "You'd have a bunch of animals standing around saying, 'Hey, where did my house go?'"

Dad laughed. "Maybe you're right. But, there's one more thing that will be missing in heaven. And it's the reason why those zoo animals are in cages."

"I know, I know!" Alex said with a smile. "Those animals are afraid of each other. The antelope in that cage knows that the lion in that cage over there would kill and eat it. Right?"

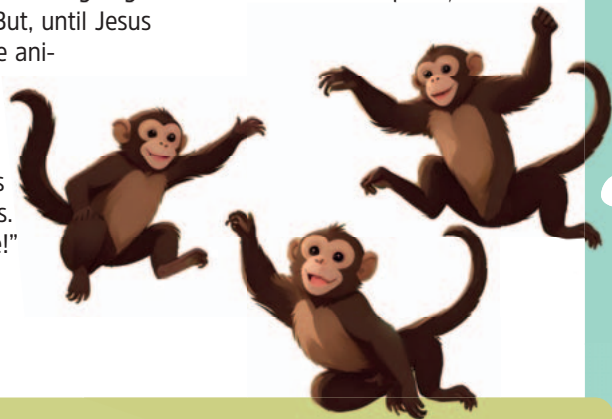
"That's right," Dad said. "All of those animals live in fear—even the lions. People kill lions, you know. So, they don't mind having those walls to protect them. But in heaven, nothing hunts or kills anything. Animals don't need walls and cages and stone buildings. The antelope and lions will hang out together. The hawks and gophers will be best friends. The wolves and the lambs will drink water from the same stream at the same time, and nothing bad will happen."

Alex thought about what his dad had said. It sounded almost too good to be true. Then he looked past the zoo and out over the city. All he saw were more walls—walls around houses, walls around businesses, walls around schools and churches, and walls around prisons. Walls everywhere. "If no one is afraid in heaven," he asked his dad, "will all walls go away?"

Dad nodded. "The only reason you'll need one in heaven is if you want to hang a picture on it."

The two burst out laughing. "Heaven is going to be such a wonderful place," Alex said. "I can hardly wait to go there! But, until Jesus comes, we can enjoy visiting the animals in the zoo. Come on, Dad. We haven't seen the monkeys yet!"

Dad nodded as he stood to his feet. "Monkeys without walls. Now that's an interesting picture!" The two hurried down the hill, eager to continue their visit.



MY BIBLE ADVENTURE

When Satan and sinners are gone, God will create a brand-new world for us to enjoy. **What will that world look like?** Create a gallery of pictures to show what you think it will look like. You can draw the pictures or cut and paste them from a magazine. But first, find the texts in the "Library" and fill in the missing words. Then draw a picture of what that text describes. Use lots of color because Heaven will be filled with color.

"The _____ showed me the _____ of the _____ of _____. The river was _____ like _____. ... The _____ of _____ was on each side of the river"
(Revelation 22:1, 2)



"Then _____ will live in _____ with _____. And _____ will lie down to rest with _____. _____, _____ and young _____ will _____ together. And a little _____ will lead them"
(Isaiah 11:6).

"_____ will eat _____ as _____ do. A _____ will be able to _____ near a _____ hole" (Isaiah 11:7, 8).

Remember, in the Garden of Eden, snakes were beautiful creatures and not scary. That's why Satan made himself look like one before talking to Eve. Make your heavenly snake beautiful, maybe with fur and wings. Notice that, in the text, it doesn't even scare a baby!



"They will not _____ or _____ each other on all my _____ mountain" (Isaiah 11:9). Instead of hunting animals, what will people do with them in Heaven? Draw what you think they will do.





LIBRARY

- “All your children will be taught by the Lord. And they will have much peace” (Isaiah 54:13).
- “Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).
- “I leave you peace. ... Don’t be afraid” (John 14:27).
- “I will bring back your health. And I will heal your injuries” (Jeremiah 30:17).



MY FRIEND ELLEN WROTE

When Ellen White was a little girl, she wanted to learn all she could about God. So, she asked Jesus to come into her heart and be her Teacher. Through the books that Ellen wrote after she became an adult, that helped to start the Seventh-day Adventist Church, God has been able to teach other people about Himself, too.

Here is what Ellen wrote about the Bible, God’s Holy Book:

“In childhood, youth, and manhood, Jesus studied the Scriptures. As a little child He was daily at His mother’s knee taught from the scrolls of the prophets. In His youth the early morning and the evening twilight often found Him alone on the mountainside or among the trees of the forest, spending a quiet hour in prayer and the study of God’s word” (*Education*, p. 185).



IDEA

Why not choose a quiet place in your house to spend a few moments each day thinking about God? You could read or listen to a story about Him too.



FUN FACTS

THE AMAZING BRAIN:

The average brain can produce 70,000 thoughts ... per day! *

*Source: http://www.brainhealthandpuzzles.com/fun_facts_about_the_brain.html.

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PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

What do you think about God?

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