

# Godly Youth

*Young in Age, Strong in Heart*

## Does God Always Love Me?

Sometimes when we do something we know we should not do, we might ask ourselves, "Does God still love me even though I did this?" Some people who are feeling lonely might ask, "Does God love me?"

We should never doubt God's love for us. He loved us so much that He sent Jesus to teach us how to live right and then to die a terrible death so we could go to heaven. If God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us, we can be sure that He will not stop loving us.

However, God does not love the wrong that we do sometimes. When we are disobedient to our parents, even though

God told us to obey them (Ephesians 6:1), God loves us but He wants us to apologize to Him and decide to obey our parents like He commanded. God does not love sin but He loves the sinner and wants the sinner to change his life and be like Jesus.

In the end, God will punish all the people who would never obey Him and those who knew His law but chose to disobey it. God does not want to punish anyone but wants everyone to repent and serve Him (2 Peter 3:9). But He is not going to make people obey Him. If people choose to disobey Him, they will be punished.

But those who love God and obey His law will be able to live with Him forever in heaven. Just think of that! We can live with God in a place where there are no bad people, no one dies, no one is ever sad about anything, and the devil cannot tempt us. That is a place where I want to go. I hope you do to.

We must make sure that we do what God commands us to do and try to be like Jesus. When we disobey His law, we must quickly pray to God and tell Him we are sorry and try our best not to disobey His law again. God will give us help to obey because He loves us and wants us to live with Him in heaven.

## What Can Young People Do? -Nightly Devotional

In Psalm 63:6, David said that he thought about God when he went to sleep. We should begin and end each day thinking about God.

A good way to think about God before going to bed is to meet as a family and study the Bible. The lesson does not have to be long, five or ten minutes is usually good.

Spend time discussing a story or passage from the Bible. Study the life of Jesus or study through the whole Bible.

Our family used to study one story the whole week. At the end of the week, the older children could tell the story.

You might want to sing a song like the "Books of the

Bible" or the Apostles.

Conclude this special period with prayers to God. In our family each of the children says their prayers out loud.

This is a special way to close the day as a family. Ask your family to study with you before bedtime.

See what you can do!

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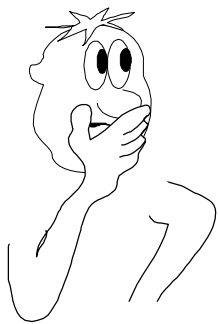
*"[They]  
searched the  
Scriptures daily  
to find out  
whether these  
things were so."*

*Acts 17:11*



### Lessons from Jeremiah

- God loves His people very much and is very sad when they disobey Him
- Eventually God will punish His people if they do not repent
- Sometimes people will not listen to God's word but we must still teach
- Sometimes people are mean to God's teachers



***“Know what you will do in a situation before that situation arises.”***

## Meeting the Prophets: Jeremiah

We often study about God's people, the Israelites. You may remember that after King Solomon died, the kingdom divided in two. Ten tribes became Israel and were unfaithful to God. The two remaining tribes, called Judah would obey God some of the time and disobey God at other times. God would punish both Israel and Judah when they worshipped idols and did not obey His laws. Finally, God allowed the nation of Assyria to take the tribes of Israel away from their homes and live in another country. God warned the nation of Judah to be faithful or they would also be taken from their homes.

God warned his people through prophets. One of the prophets sent to the people of Judah when they were wicked was a man named Jeremiah. Some people call him the weeping prophet because he was sad

about the way the people of Judah were disobeying God. He also wrote a book called Lamentations, a sad look at the city of Jerusalem after God allowed the enemies to destroy the city when the people would not repent.

God told Jeremiah to tell the people to repent of their sins so God would not destroy Jerusalem. The people would not listen to Jeremiah. Sometimes they made fun of him. A couple of times they put him in jail for teaching God's word. One of the times he was put in a large pit that was filled with mud and left to die. Finally, some people begged the king to let them rescue Jeremiah. When he began to preach, God told Jeremiah that most people would not listen to him. However, He wanted Jeremiah to keep preaching to them so that when God's punishment came upon them, they would know why it happened.

Though God punished His people by letting another nation take them from their homes and destroying the city of Jerusalem, He loved His people very much. He wanted them to love Him and keep His law. God told Jeremiah to tell the people that He would allow them to come back to their homes after they had lived in the other nation for seventy years. After the seventy years God would bring the people back and take care of them. The people learned their lesson because they did not serve idols any more.

Jeremiah also prophesied about Jesus many hundreds of years before He was even born. He talked about Jesus coming to be a king over His people and bringing salvation to all people. Of course, Jesus does have a kingdom—the church and because He died for our sins, we can be saved. We can learn much from Jeremiah.

### What Would You Do?

Your best friend Jeremy is worried. Today is a big math test and he did not study last night because he had a baseball game and just didn't feel like studying when he got home. He is really happy because you sit beside him in school. He wants you to write your answers bigger than you usually do and tilt your paper to where he can see your answers so he can copy them.

You don't want Jeremy to get a bad grade. After all, he's the one cheating on the test, not you. Yet you feel deep inside that this attitude is wrong.

What do you think you should do?

### Who Am I?

1. I came to Jesus one night to learn more about Him and the kingdom.
2. I was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews.
3. When Jesus died, I brought some spices to help prepare His body for burial.
4. Jesus told me that I had to be born again (baptized) if I wanted to be in the kingdom of God.

*Do you know who I am? (Answer below)*

*I am Nicodemus!*

## Word Search “Life of Jesus”

G T D S A P O S T L E S U H M G A L I L E E A D P  
 S J O H N S W E T F J N M H O O L F V C D J S S A  
 A R A G O S D E T S R N T E X S P I Q D F O N B R  
 E P H A R I S E E S Y M R A R P O P T G H S R D A  
 C H T S E S G B A R V A L V P E T E R E L E R S B  
 R E S P I L A T E T M R B E N L P I L D E P H Y L  
 O M R E S S R D U V T Y O N E S N O P E P H E R E  
 S S T K I N G D O M J E R U F X A S P O F D R I S  
 S R Y E S M S T A P H I M R E S S U R E C T I O N  
 A J O H N T H E B A P T I S T M A Z T S O I T A R  
 B I J K A E R S T S T H O L Y S P I R I T U I L M  
 J E R U S A L E M I L U Q A S B M I R A C L E S E

### Terms to Find

APOSTLES	MIRACLES	RESURRECTION
MARY	CROSS	PETER
JOHN THE BAPTIST	PARABLES	JOHN
JOSEPH	KINGDOM	PILATE
PHARISEES	JERUSALEM	HOLY SPIRIT
GOSPELS	GALILEE	HEAVEN

### Memory Verse: Romans 8:31

“What shall we say to these things?  
 IF God is for us, who can be against us?”

I have always found this verse to be very comforting. No matter what people may say about us and God, they can never be more powerful than God. They may seem strong, but God is stronger.

If God is on our side, who could win against us? Remember David was a young man and did not know how to fight with a sword and armor, but he knew that he could beat Goliath with his sling and some small stones because God was with him.

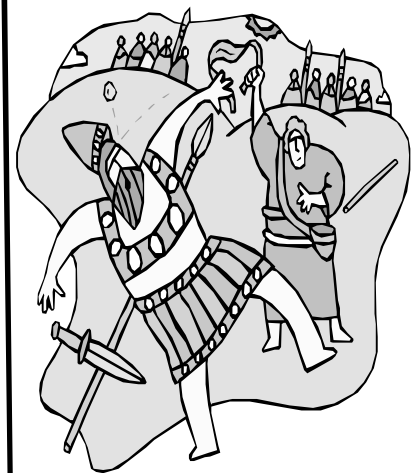
When we put our trust in God, we know that He will take care of us. We may have to suffer many things while we live on this earth, but our suffering makes us stronger. People might make fun of us for serving God, but they will have to stand before God in judgment and answer for their meanness.

Since God is on our side, He gives us strength to do what is right. From His word we learn how to do what is right. When we obey God, He will

try to help us get to heaven.

The devil is a strong enemy. He uses mean people and false teachers to try to get us to quit following God. Since God is stronger than the devil, God will not allow us to be tempted more than what we can handle, 1 Cor. 10:13. Also, the devil cannot overpower God and take us out of His hands, John 10:28.

Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ unless we allow it. Do not leave God, He will not leave you.



## Sometimes I Don't Understand

As a young person I know you often have many questions. Sometimes your parents may roll their eyes when you ask questions. But it is important to learn about your world and especially about God and His word.

Sometimes we have questions that we have a hard time answering. Adults will often do things that you do not understand. You may ask why they are doing what they are doing only to hear, "When you are older you will understand." There are many things that you will not understand until you get older and have many more experiences, learn more about God's word, learn more about people, and learn how to see things as other people see them. Be patient with yourself. Also, be patient with the adults. Sometimes they are wrong but often they know things that you do not know in making their decisions.

Sometimes things happen in our lives that we do not understand. When a loved one dies we often ask, "Why did they have to die?" Death is such a mystery. We may not understand why a person that we loved died but we can trust that God is taking care of them. I know this myself because my Dad died when I was

five years old. I often wondered why he had to die while I was so young. I wondered why he could not be with me every day.

I realized that the Devil brought death into the world with sin. I also realized that God did not take away my father; he died because all people will die sooner or later. I also realized that in heaven no one will die, suffer, or be sad any more. Though I understood these things, I would still get sad when I thought about how much I missed my father. But I am happy that I have some thoughts of him and pictures to remember. When I keep him in my heart, he never really goes away.

Sometimes I do not understand what is going to happen to me. When I was in school I wondered what I would do when I grew up. I would also wonder what would happen with my family and friends. Of course, we never will know what is going to happen but we can trust that God is in control and that even when we don't understand why things are happening that God understands and is taking care of things. We must realize that He can make all things work for our best if we trust and obey Him.

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Return mail to:

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JUST FOR YOU!

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