

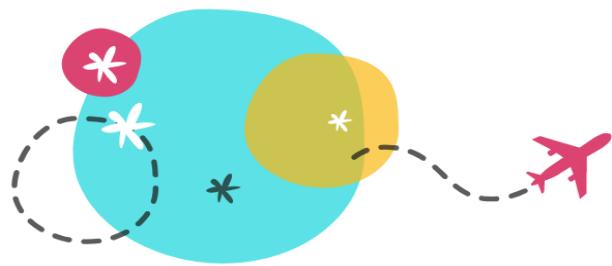
The Greatest Adventure

A Simple Way to Share
Christ with Your Child



Sara Jane Kehler



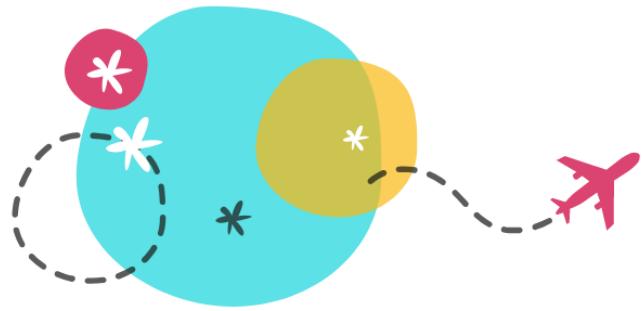


The Greatest Adventure

A Simple Way
to Share Christ With Your Child

Sara Jane Kehler
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Published by www.saralivingfree.com

Dedicated to Moms, Living Free

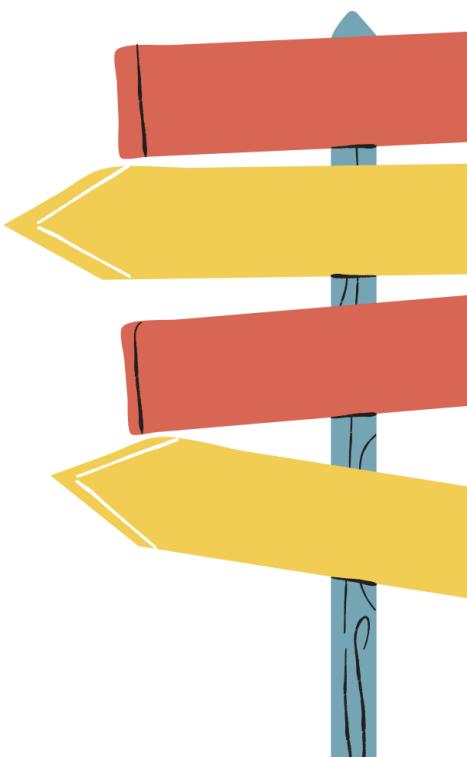
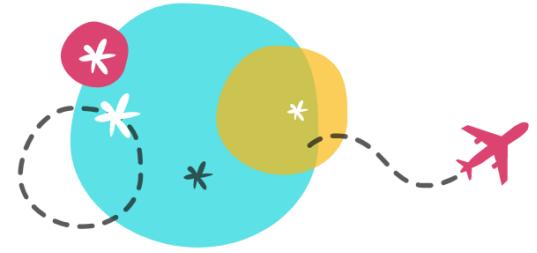


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Introduction

Dear Parents,

Thank you for picking up this book. I already know we have something wonderful in common: **We love our kids.**

I believe one of the most important responsibilities of Christian parents is to share Christ with our children.

*“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God,
the LORD alone.^[a] ⁵ And you must love the LORD your God with all
your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ And you must
commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am
giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children.
Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the*

road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up."

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NLT)

God cares so much about the hearts of our children that he gave us these commands. Even so, he understands that **we don't always know how to carry out them out.**

This is why I'm so thankful that God knows you and me perfectly; He knows how we think, how we're made, and how he made our child. **He will help us!** God is gracious to give us words when we don't know what to say, to encourage us when we're losing hope, and to provide us with fresh ideas when we're running low.

*There are as many unique ways
to share Christ with our children
as there are families in the world;
this book is simply one of them.*

And, just to be clear, **this book is meant for ALL children.** Those who've never heard about Christ, those who've been told many times and still haven't received Christ, and those who've already accepted Christ as their Savior.

Pray with Me

Before you read this book with your child, please pray with me:

Dear Father in Heaven,

You are the perfect parent. I am not. But, oh, I love my child. Please help me to be a good example.

Please draw my child closer to your heart by revealing the Son to them in a special way. Give them the faith to believe unto salvation, and grace them with the desire to surrender their lives to you.

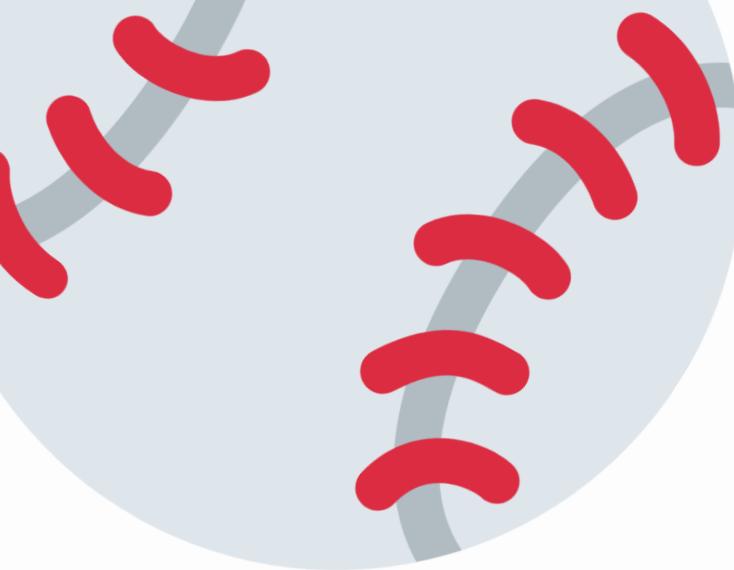
Bless us as we read this book together. Thank you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Now, grab this book and your child, find a cozy place to snuggle, and get reading!

With love,

Sara Jane Kehler



The Bat, the Ball, and the Broken

Imagine you're in your backyard with your bat and ball. You're just playing around. You chuck the ball up in the air, grip the bat, and swing. Hear the satisfying **smack** of aluminum colliding with the ball. The ball shoots through the air - even faster than you hoped it would – and your heart leaps.

What a hit!

Then, **CRASH!**

Butternuts. Your ball just flew straight through the neighbor's window!

Did anyone see?

But even as you look around, you know the truth: your bat, your ball, your fault – your responsibility.

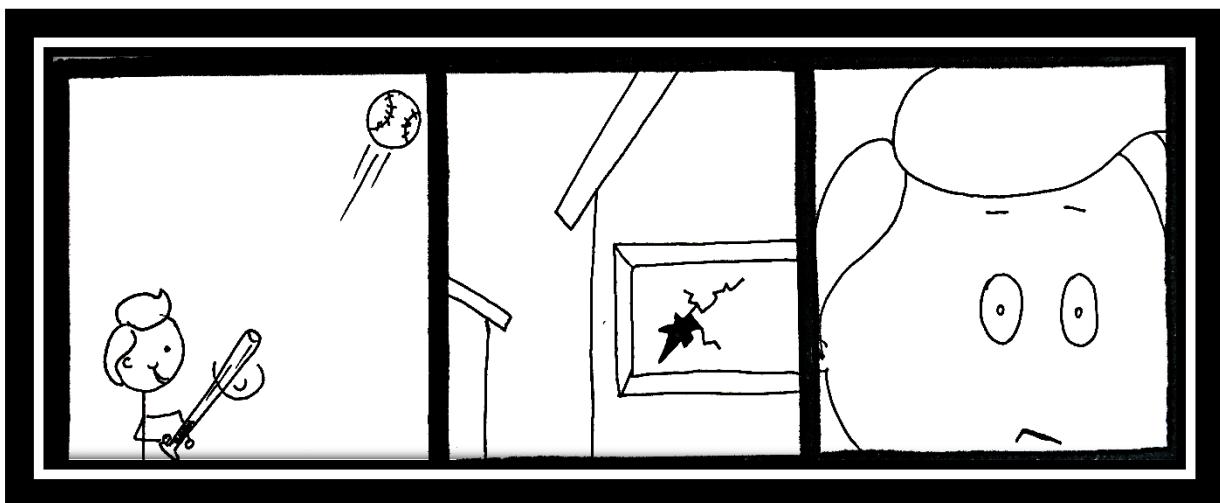
What will you do?

Big Trouble

Even if you talk to the neighbor to take responsibility (and you should), your heartfelt apology still won't fix the broken window.

And you're just a kid! You don't have enough money to fix it, never mind the fact that it wasn't just *any* window. It was a rare, jewel-encrusted crystal pane. Even if you earned a ton of money and worked super hard your whole life, you could never earn enough to replace the precious window.

With a hopeless heart, you knock on the neighbor's door to confess. You feel yuck and heavy, knowing that you're in big, big, big, big, **big trouble**. You wait with your head low.



Good News

The door opens. Your heart hammers as you tell the neighbor what happened. When your sorry tale is told, you look up and see that the neighbor is... smiling?

"Good news, my friend! My son has already agreed to pay your debt," the neighbor says. "Would you like to come in for some iced tea?"

Wha—?

You're stumped. Why would his son do that? Why would he set you free from your bazillion-dollar debt?





The Son Has a Posse

Feeling skeptical yet intrigued, you agree to go inside. Besides, you're crazy thirsty and iced tea sounds awesome. Inside the neighbor's house, you meet the Son. The three of you sit at the kitchen table, sipping iced tea. Then, the Son says he wants to be your friend.

Really? First, he pays your debt for you (a debt you could never repay), and now he wants to be friends? *Hmmm... What is it about this guy?*

You take another long sip, staring at him while he talks. As if he hasn't surprised you enough already, the Son starts dropping the "L" word.

Loyalty

He says he thinks you're fairly awesome and would love to hang out with you more often. He even says he'll bail you out ANY time you make a mistake in the future – for FREE.

He just asks for one thing in return: your loyalty.

"Wait a minute," you interrupt. "I thought you said you'd do it for FREE!!"

"Yes," he says. But he also wants to have a relationship with you, and relationships are give-and-take. Not only that, but in addition to being your friend, he's also requesting to be your King. The Main Man. The Boss.

Not a Mob Boss

Don't worry. The Son isn't asking for your loyalty like a mob boss would.

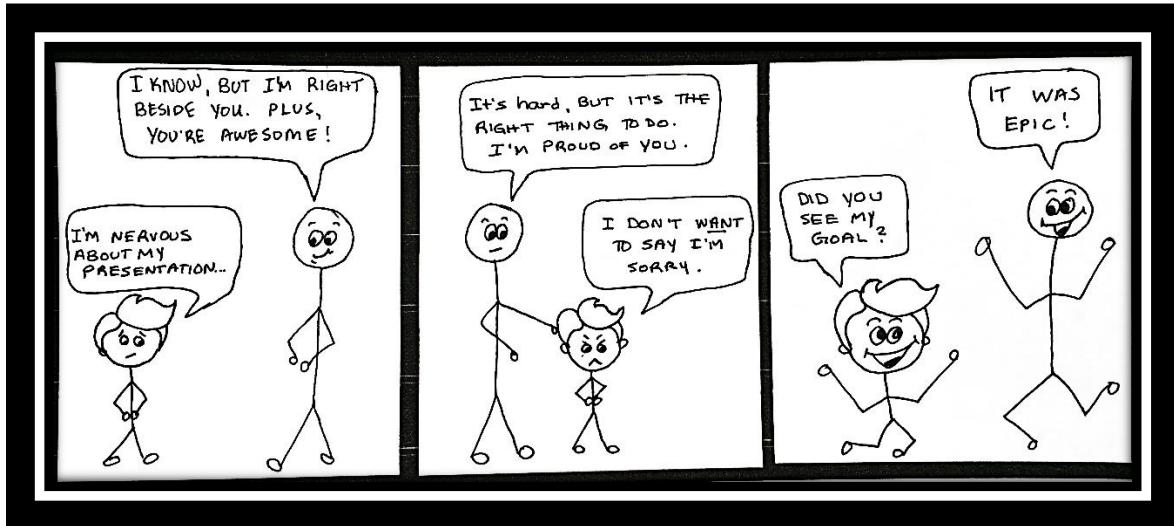
The Son is **good**. He promises that he will always look out for your best interests, never ask you to do anything evil, and will faithfully send you his posse of protectors (otherwise known as angels).

"But what does loyalty mean, anyway? What if I mess up again? What if I make more mistakes?"

"If?" he says. "There is no if, only when."

It's a good thing loyalty doesn't mean perfection.

Loyalty means staying faithful to the Son, telling him when you mess up, asking him for help, submitting to him when even when you don't feel like it, and trusting that he'll rescue you when you fail.



Loyalty is sticking to the Son, and the Son sticking to you.

The life you'll live alongside Jesus will be hard sometimes, but he will never leave you on your own, and there will be joy and laughter along the way. It's basically, **The Greatest Adventure** you'll ever have!





Who is this Mystery Son?

Well, first, who is the neighbor?

The neighbor is **God**. (Not literally. Ask your parents what an allegory is.)

God made you. God loves you. God wants you to know him and trust him so that he can take care of you. Basically, God wants to save you, just like he wants to save everyone.

And **we all need saving** because we're all – well, we're all messes. We're wonderfully made and perfectly loved, but we're not perfect.

God, however, *is* perfect. He is very, very, very, very, very perfect – more perfect than we can imagine – and he has never made, nor will ever make, a mistake. In other words, **God is holy**.

Humans are not. Holy, that is. We make a ton of mistakes, even when we don't mean to. In other words, **we sin**. Um... a lot.

God knows all about us and our sin, and he wants to help us. That's why he sent his **only and holy Son** Jesus to earth to pay the penalty for all the mistakes we humans make.

(Just to be clear, Jesus came to earth willingly because, like God, **he loves us!**)

Through Jesus, our sins can be forgiven (covered, paid for, wiped clean, etc.), which sets us free to have an adventurous relationship with God.

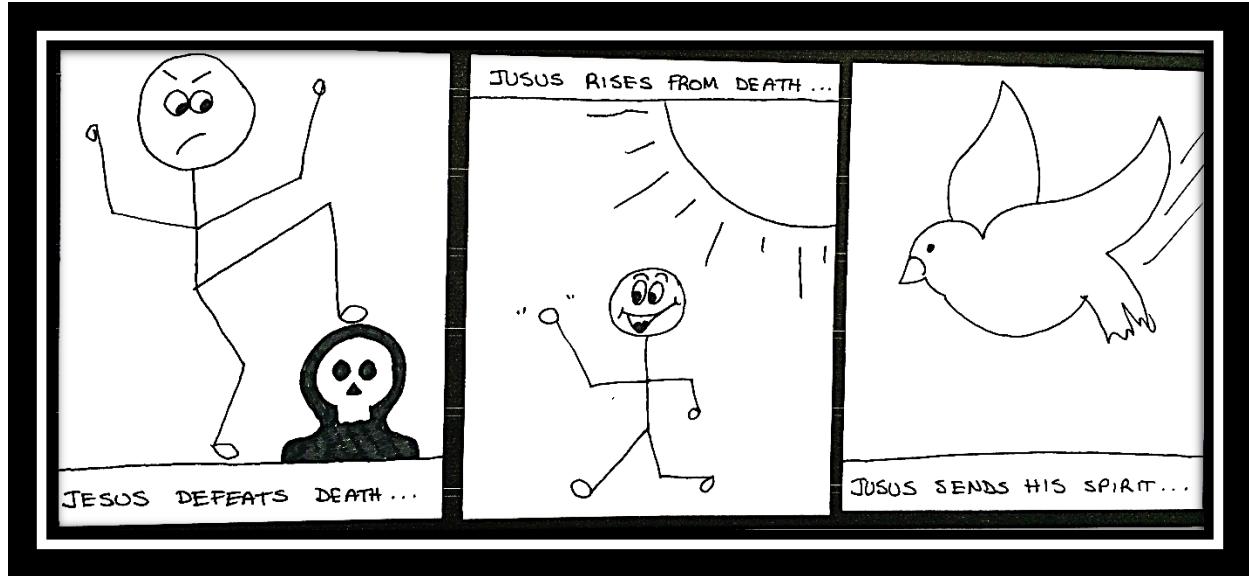
How does this work?

Jesus Rules

Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sins because, just like the gem-encrusted billion-dollar window, there's no way you could ever pay for your sins yourself.

But that's not all Jesus did.

Next, he rose from the dead because, let's face it, he's amazing and there's no way that death could keep him dead....



But Jesus didn't stop there.

Then, Jesus returned to the Father (God) in heaven to intercede on your behalf (“intercede” is just a fancy way of saying that Jesus is talking with God about you all the time – good things, always good things – and rooting for you).

But wait – there's more!

Finally, Jesus sent his own Spirit (the Holy Spirit) to live inside everyone who believes in him. His Spirit - **his Holy, Perfect Spirit** - allows us to go directly to God the Father to talk about anything and everything. We can confess our mistakes, and because Jesus paid for our sins, God will gladly forgive us.

A Free Gift

Jesus paid for our sins for free. FREE! And when we believe in him, we are saved. Our salvation is a free gift. FREE! **So... what do you think?**

Would you like to accept God's free gift of salvation through his Son Jesus Christ?

- If yes, hop over to the next chapter: [Are You Ready? \(page 21\)](#)
- If you just aren't sure yet, don't worry. Flip to [But, What if...? \(page 23\)](#) and keep reading!
- If you already know Jesus as your Savior, skip on over to [The Greatest Adventure \(page 25\)](#) to continue your epic adventure with Jesus!





Are you ready? All you need to do to accept God's free gift of salvation is pray. The words you pray are not as important as what you choose to *believe in your heart*.

If you're not sure where to start, go ahead and pray the prayer below; then, afterward, you could try telling God what you're feeling and thinking in your own words.

God **loves** when you talk with him!

Dear God,

I don't know how this all works, but I want to be your child.

Please forgive all my sins and help me to obey you from now on.

*Jesus, thank you for loving me so much that you paid the price
for my mistakes.*

*Holy Spirit, please come live inside me and teach me how to love
God and obey Him.*

Thank you.

In Jesus' name, amen.

I'm so excited for you!

Now, **ZOOM** over to **The Greatest Adventure (page 25)** to find out how you can grow this new faith and continue your epic adventure with Jesus!





But, What if...?

What if I want to believe all this stuff about Jesus, but I just don't?

Well, I have great news for you: **God Knows you perfectly**. He knows what's in your heart and your mind and your thoughts. He knows you want to believe but you don't yet, **and he love, love, loves you!**

If this is where you're at right now, **I have two ideas you can try:**

1. You can simply pray this:

Dear Jesus, I want to believe but I don't yet. Please forgive my unbelief, and help me to truly believe. Amen.

... and **then zoom** over to **The Greatest Adventure on page 25** to find out how you can get to know Jesus and grow in faith.

OR

2. **Pray the prayer on page 21** (whether you think you believe it or not.)

Then, trust that God give you the faith to believe the words that you prayed. All faith comes from God, anyway. He is able to help you believe more and more as you grow and get to know him.

... and **then zoom** over to **The Greatest Adventure on page 25** to find out how you can get to know Jesus and grow in faith.





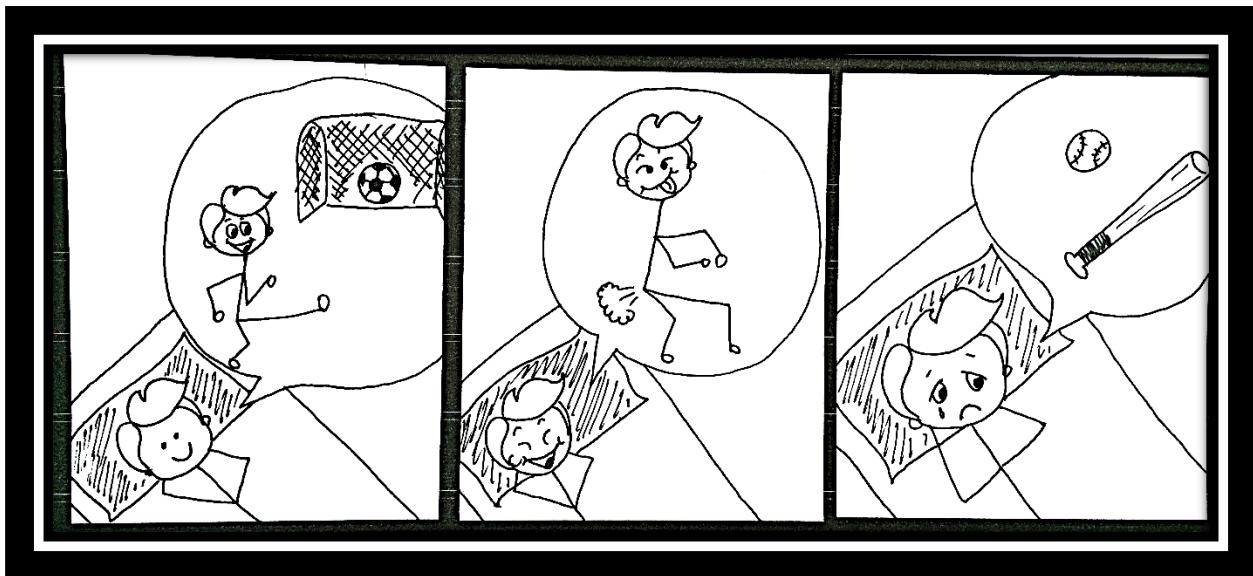
The Greatest Adventure

Jesus already knows you perfectly, but how well do you know him?

Getting to know Jesus is the best part of *The Greatest Adventure*. Here are some simple ideas for getting to know your friend and King:

1. **Talk to him.**
 - a. Tell God your funny stories. And your best **fart jokes**. (He's the one who created the fart function, after all.)
 - b. Thank him for the good weather you had for your soccer game last night.
 - c. Ask him what his plans are for your life.

- d. Tell God when you've messed-up and ask him how you can make things better.
- e. Maybe keep a journal – writing to God is praying, too!
- f. Talk to him about **anything** (but don't feel guilty if you forget and don't ever feel like a topic is off limits.)



2. **Listen to his voice.**

God talks to us in lots of different ways. As you get to know him better over the years, **you'll recognize his voice and how he specifically talks to you**, more and more. In the meantime, you can:

- a. read your Bible (it's like a letter from him to you),
- b. go to church or listen to messages online,
- c. find a quiet place and just be with God,

- d. or read a book – yes, even a fiction book – and see if God reveals anything special to you while you’re reading it.

3. **Do what he says.**

I know. That doesn’t sound like much fun, much less like **The Greatest Adventure**. But try to remember: God is always looking out for you. He’s not trying to spoil your fun. If he makes a rule, it’s always for your benefit.

Not convinced? Then...

I think it's time for:





The Caramel-Crusted Drumstick

Imagine you crave ice cream on a hot summer day. You have just enough money in your wallet to buy a caramel-crusted drumstick from the convenience store, but you need permission to buy one.

But your dad, who is now trying to nap on the hammock in the back yard, said no to your desperate plea. Apparently, he decided that the cake you ate for dessert after lunch was enough sugar for one day.

But the **heat!**

Sweat drips down the side of your face. You're certain you will die from heat exhaustion any minute if you can't cool off with that caramel-goodness.

You decide to go – with or without permission.

Change jingles in your pocket as you walk. Every clink brings you closer to the sweet and salty relief of vanilla ice cream and salted peanuts and gooey caramel, all wrapped up in a chocolate-lined waffle cone.

Three minutes later, you have it!

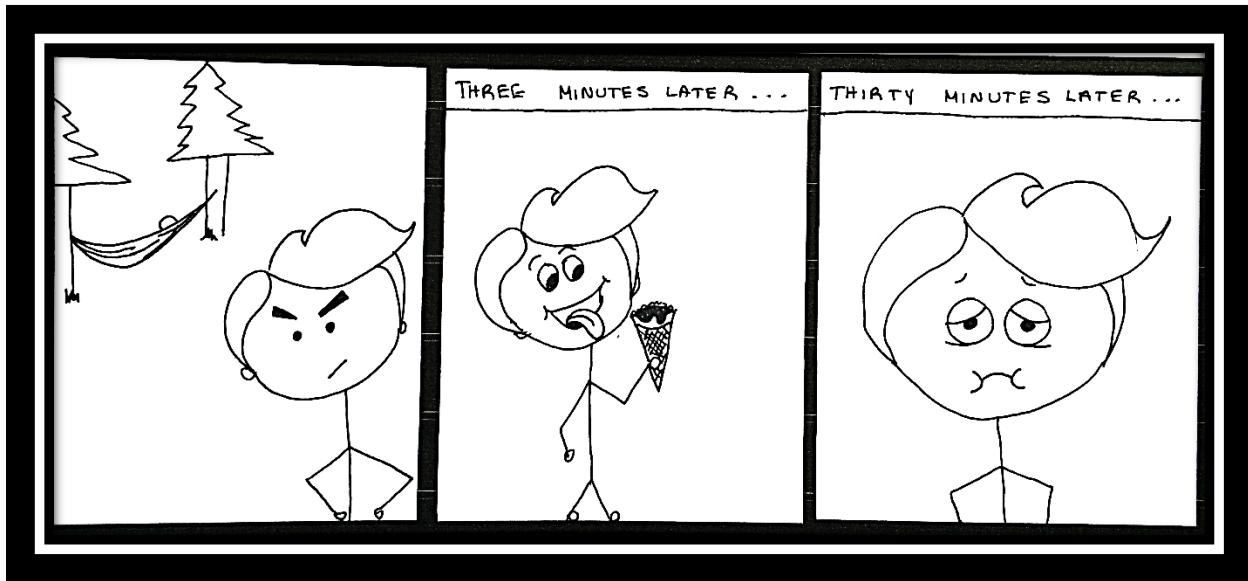
And it is **GOOD.**

You walk home slowly, so that by the time you're coming up the driveway you're licking the last crumbs of cone and milky drips from your lips.

Stealthy - **like a ninja** - you peek into the back yard. Dad is still snoring under the trees.

Sweet success!

Yet, thirty minutes later, you find yourself lying face-down on the couch with a throw pillow propped under your bloated stomach.



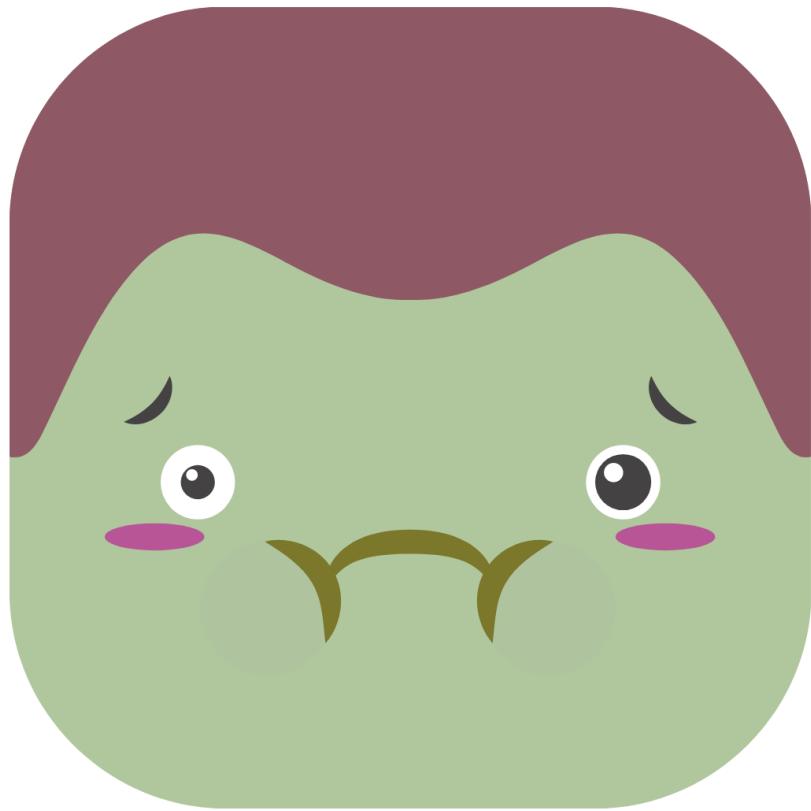
Dad, groggy and wearing a sun-glasses tan, comes inside for a drink of water and finds your sorry-self groaning in the living room. He frowns.

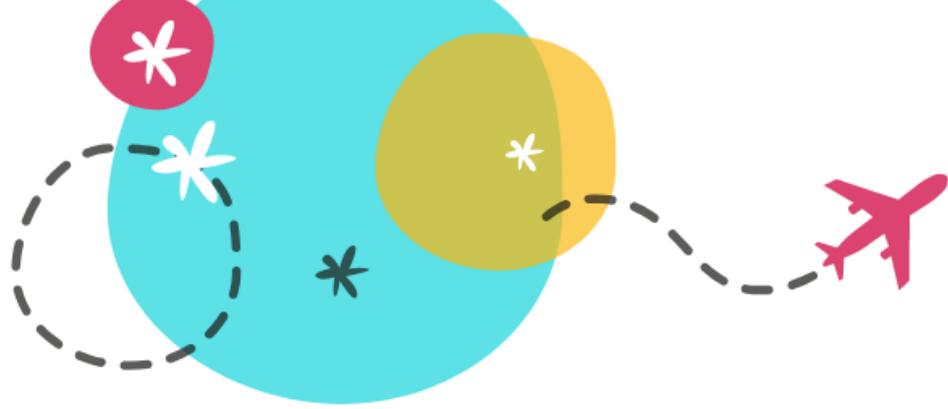
He Knows.

A “yuck” feeling rises inside you; it’s almost as painful as the gas and cream roiling in your belly.

Your father sits beside you and rubs your back.

You confess, and as you do so, your heart feels lighter; yet, although your disobedience is forgiven, you’re still stuck inside with a belly-ache. Turns out Dad wasn’t being a fuddy-duddy, after all. **He just knew what was best for you and was trying to spare you some pain.**





Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

So, remember: **God** is a *perfect* Father – he loves you, knows what is best for you, and is always ready to forgive you when you ask.

Jesus, God's Son, is the *way* to the Father – he gave himself to be a sacrifice to pay for your sins and set you free.

Holy Spirit is Jesus' Spirit – your *helper* – and lives inside you, teaching you God's ways and growing you into the person God made you to be.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are **ONE God** in THREE PERSONS (like how you have a mind, body, and spirit, but you're still just one human being.)

Big Plans

God has big plans for you. **So, what are you waiting for?** Go have **The Greatest Adventure!**

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plants to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:11-13)



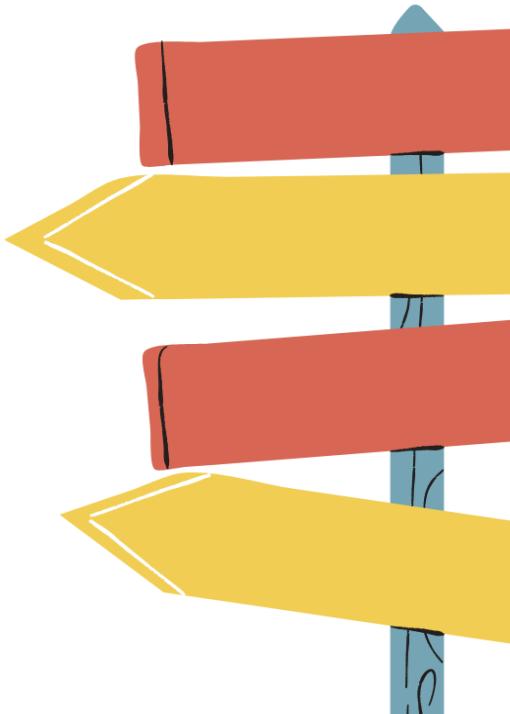
Afterward

This book is meant to be used as a tool to encourage conversation between you and your child. Yet, at best, it will only be one moment in their journey with Christ. So, **continue the conversation** as God continues to lead you and provide you with new tools to teach your children!

And remember... **God is infinitely creative!** Keep asking him to show you other ways to disciple your children. **He is faithful and will do it!**

With love,

Sara Jane Kehler



About the Author

SARA JANE KEHLER grew up in rural Manitoba as the youngest - and loudest - of seven children. She finds inspiration for her writing from daily life. In 2017, she wrote *The Rocket Ship* as a gift to her children and is currently working on a second middle-grade novel. Sara is especially passionate about sharing the message that all people, especially children, are unique and treasured. In her free time, she loves to read, write, and spontaneously organize. Sara lives with her husband, three children, and a hopeless black thumb in the glamorous province of Manitoba.

If this book was helpful, Sara would love to hear from you!

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