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ISBN: 978-1-933753-60-7

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Printed in the USA by Carlisle Printing of Walnut Creek



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Dear Child,

Jesus Loves Me is written to help you during a very sad time in your life. The first part of this book helps you understand—

Why am I sad? (Page 3)

What is death? (Page 4)

The second part of this book is written by many people who experienced death of a loved one when they were children. They hope that God will use their thoughts and struggles about death to help you know that other people cry. Other people have questions that are not answered. And like you, God helps us through painful things.

Katie Weber

A note to big people,

The sharing of these children's thoughts and experiences about death will help you understand the heart and needs of a child who faces death. And... just maybe, reading these short "essays" will help you develop a tenderness and honesty about your own journey of grief.

Why Am I Sad?

I feel sad. What is sad? When we are sad, we are not happy. When we are sad, we do not feel like laughing.

Someone that I loved has died. I can no longer talk with them. I cannot play with them. We had happy times together; now they are no longer here.

Jesus loves me. He helps me. When I am sad, He cares for me. Jesus never goes away. He will stay with us all the time. Jesus cares about all of us. He can help us all at the same time. He is never too busy to help us.

Sometimes when I am so sad I feel like crying. I wonder, is it okay to cry? Yes, it is okay to cry when someone dies. Even big people cry when someone dies. In the Bible we can read that Jesus cried when his friend Lazarus died. Jesus knows how it is to feel sad because someone dies. I do not know if I can ever be happy again, but yes, later on I can be more happy again. Jesus helps me to be happy. Our friends help us too. ♦

What Is Death?

It hurts when someone I love dies. Why does God let someone die?

We do not always understand God's ways. He has plans and purposes which we cannot fully understand. He does not have someone die to be mean to us. No, He cares that we hurt. He loves us and cares about our hurts. He did not let someone die to punish us for things that we did that were wrong. No, as soon as we are born, God already knows when we will die.

If there is an accident, could God not have kept it from happening? Yes, God can keep anything from happening. He can do whatever He wants to do. Sometimes He allows things to happen that we do not understand. God let people nail Jesus to the cross. He loved Jesus very much, but He let the people hurt Jesus. God loves us too, even if He allows things to happen to us. He let Jesus be nailed on the cross and hang there and die. Jesus died so that we may be in heaven with Him when we die. This was God's plan for Jesus. He did not plan it this way to be cruel, but so that we may all go to heaven. God also has a plan for each of us. Some people die while they are still a baby. Some die when they are very old. We do not know what God has planned for us. No matter how old we are when we die, God has a plan. He loves us and cares about us. He knows that the ones who are left behind will be sad, but He will help us in our sadness.

Does it hurt to die?

No, to die is nothing to fear. People who die cannot feel it when they are buried in the ground.

How can people get to heaven if they are buried in the ground?

When we are born, we have a body. We have a head and arms and legs. We also have a soul. The soul is something that no one can see. When a person dies, the soul returns to God. The body, the part that we loved and could see and touch, is left over. There is no more life in it. It is like an empty shell. The heart has stopped beating and no blood is moving through the veins. The person stops breathing. The body becomes cold. The part that we can see is buried in the ground. We don't need this body in heaven. God will give us a new body. Just how this body looks or how God does it, we do not know. God can do so many things which we do not understand. We do not have to understand. It is enough to know that He loves us and cares for us.

If we try to obey Him and believe in Jesus, then we can be with Him in heaven. Yes, He has everything planned and ready for us. We want to remember that He always knows what is best, even if we do not understand. ♦



Dear Child,

In the pages that follow you can read how other children who had a loved one die felt when they went through the same thing you are going through.

You will learn that not everyone feels the same. God made us all different.

You will also learn that everyone is the same. Everyone struggles with questions like—Why is everyone sad? What will happen to me now? Where did the person I loved go?

Wherever there is this symbol a new person shares his thoughts.

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It was special to us to sing songs about heaven. It was comforting to know that our loved one is with Jesus.

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It always made me feel sad when other little boys said what their daddy is doing or talked about the things he can do. I wished I could talk about my daddy too. I felt they were bragging about their daddy. God had taken my daddy away and I hardly remembered what life was like to have a daddy.