

INCLUDE JESUS

Jesus can be involved in every part of your life and included in your everyday activities. The Bible says: "The Lord your God is with you. ... He will show how much he loves you and how happy he is with you. He will laugh and be happy about you."¹

Whatever you are doing—reading God's Word, studying, doing projects or household chores, and even enjoying times of fun—you can make Jesus a greater part and this will help you to know Him as a closer friend. When you ask Jesus to help you with something, He will be there.

Thanking Jesus for the answers to your prayers is also a way to draw closer to Him. Jesus takes pleasure in those who honor Him and put their trust in His constant love.²

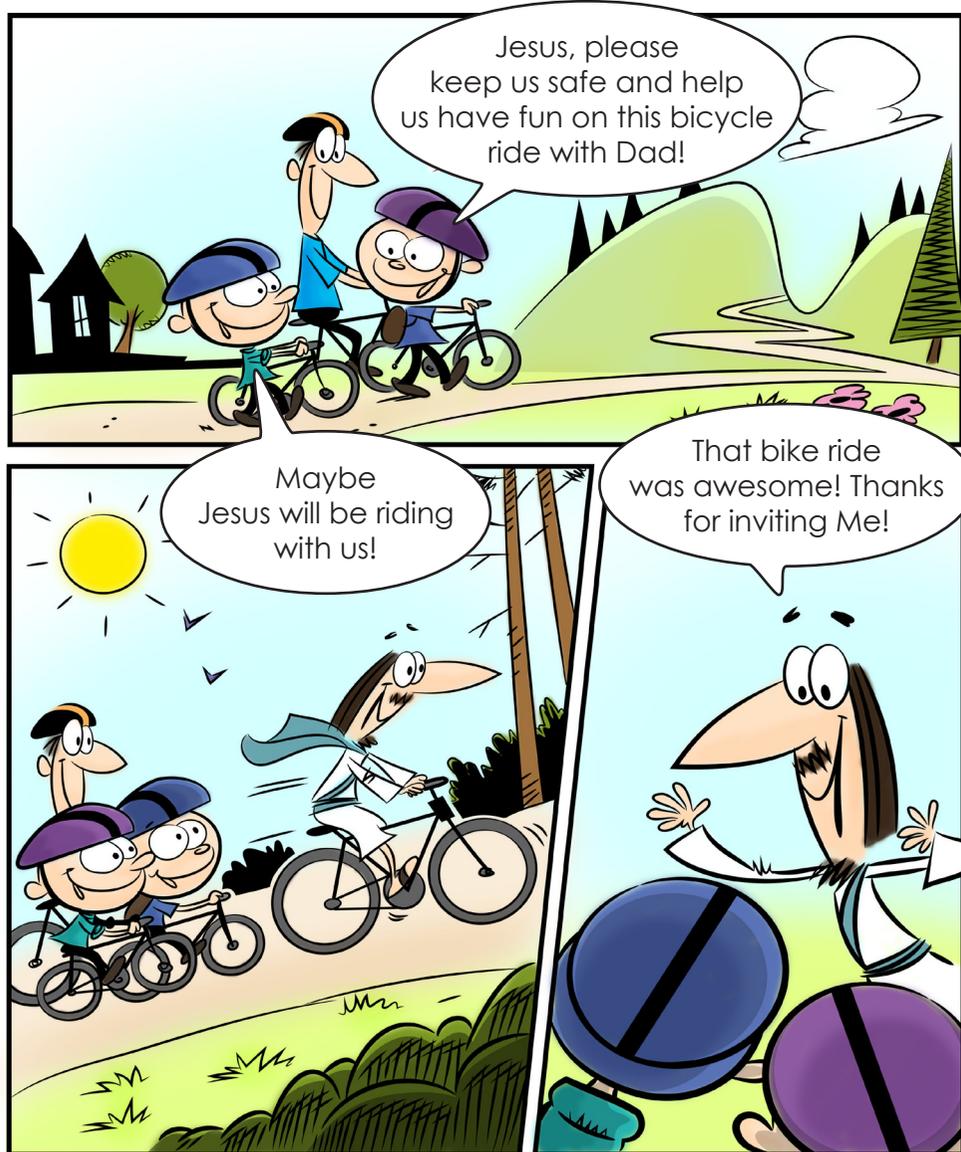
Can you think of ways you can include Jesus throughout your day?

"Trust the Lord completely, and don't depend on your own knowledge. With every step you take, think about what he wants, and he will help you go the right way" (Proverbs 3:5-6 ERV).



¹ Zephaniah 3:17 ERV
² See Psalm 147:11.

Think of some of the things you do throughout your day. Now think of ways you can make Jesus a part of your activities. For example, if you're going on a bike ride, pray and ask Jesus to be there with you. No matter what you are doing, you can seek His presence and go to Him for help.³



³ See 1 Chronicles 16:11.



By including Jesus in every area of your life, you can spend more time with Him. And the more time you spend with Jesus, the more like Jesus you'll become! You will begin to think more like Jesus and to act more like Him. When you come closer to God, He becomes closer to you too.⁴ You will become much closer friends with Jesus, and that friendship will give you more security and happiness!



⁴ See the first sentence of James 4:8.

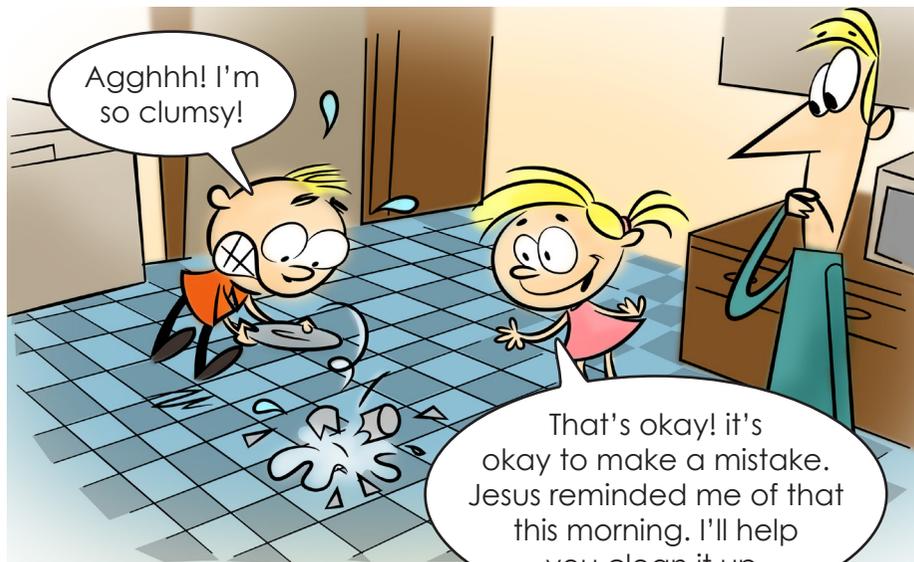


I just love playing outside!

Me too!

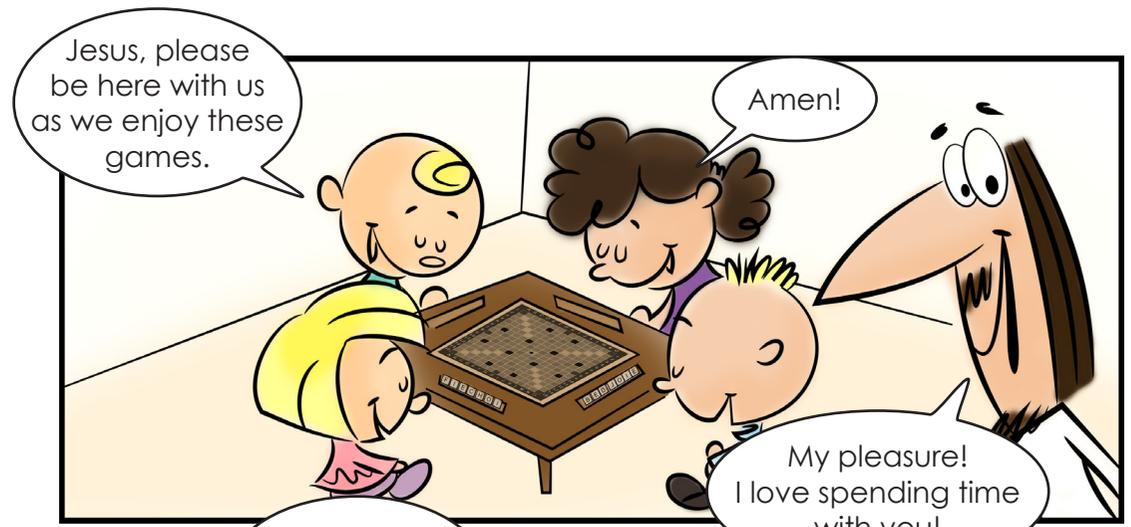
Yay!

Jesus can be a part of your fellowship with your friends. When you do things together and make Jesus a part of your time together, this strengthens your unity. It can bring more love and happiness for you to enjoy.



Agghhh! I'm so clumsy!

That's okay! it's okay to make a mistake. Jesus reminded me of that this morning. I'll help you clean it up.



Jesus, please be here with us as we enjoy these games.

Amen!

My pleasure! I love spending time with you!

Later ...

Humph! I'm behind by 50 points!



In My eyes you win by having fun in unity with your friends!

Finally!



I won!

Good for you! I had a great time!

This was fun!

Yay!

I enjoyed helping them all to enjoy this time with each other!

When you make Jesus a part of whatever you do, He will give the activity the extra zest and zing of His Spirit! It's always better when you include Jesus! So, enjoy yourself, enjoy each other, and enjoy Jesus' presence most of all. He has loads of happiness and care to give you!

"Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:6 NLT).

