

CHAPTER 1

“Are you scared?”

“Are you scared?” wide-eyed Pablo asked his big sister.

“A little bit,” Paloma admitted, but didn’t show it.

“Do you think there are evil spirits around here?” The eight-year-old continued with his questions.

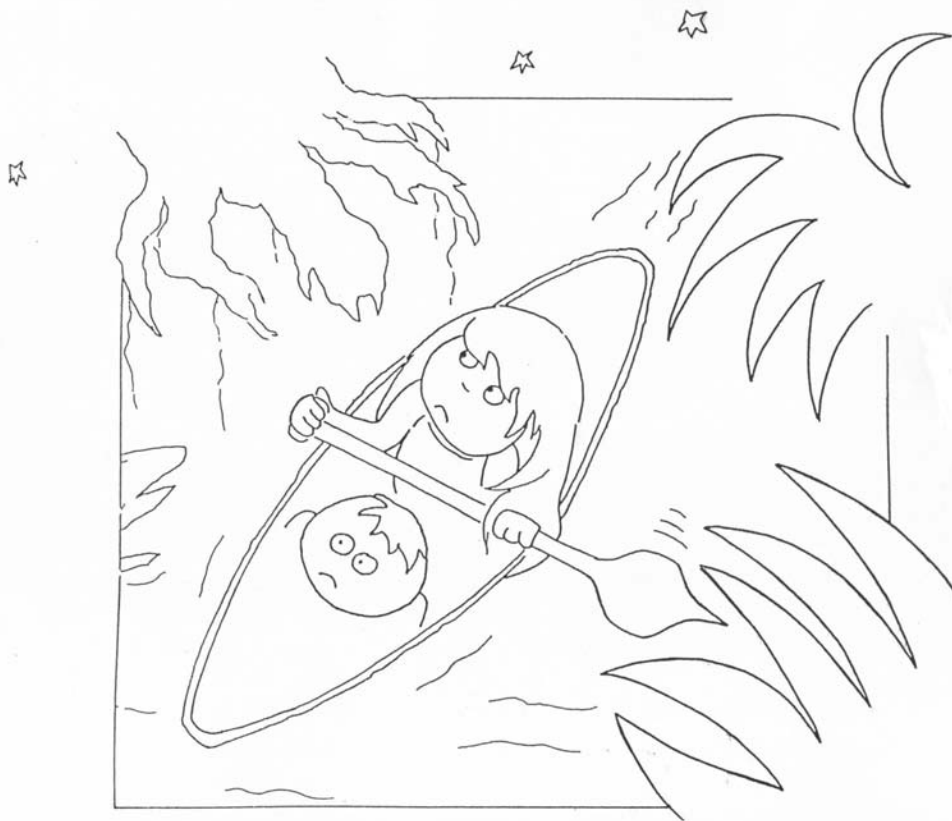
“I don’t know, maybe, I guess,” she answered, hoping to not find out.

It was already evening, as 12-year old Paloma expertly paddled the dugout canoe down the quiet river. It had taken them longer to catch fish for dinner than she had expected. As the wind picked up, the clouds covered the moon, making the sky darker than usual. Pablo was feeling more afraid by the moment. Paloma didn’t feel real secure either!

Pablo saw a mysterious shape overhead. “I think I see something!” Then it vanished. “Was that an evil spirit?” he asked, his voice shaking.

“I don’t know. I can’t say for sure,” responded Paloma. She tried to sound brave though she didn’t feel all that brave. The two children were a long ways away from the village.

Pablo whispered loudly, “Do you remember the stories grandfather told us about all the evil spirits in the jungle?”



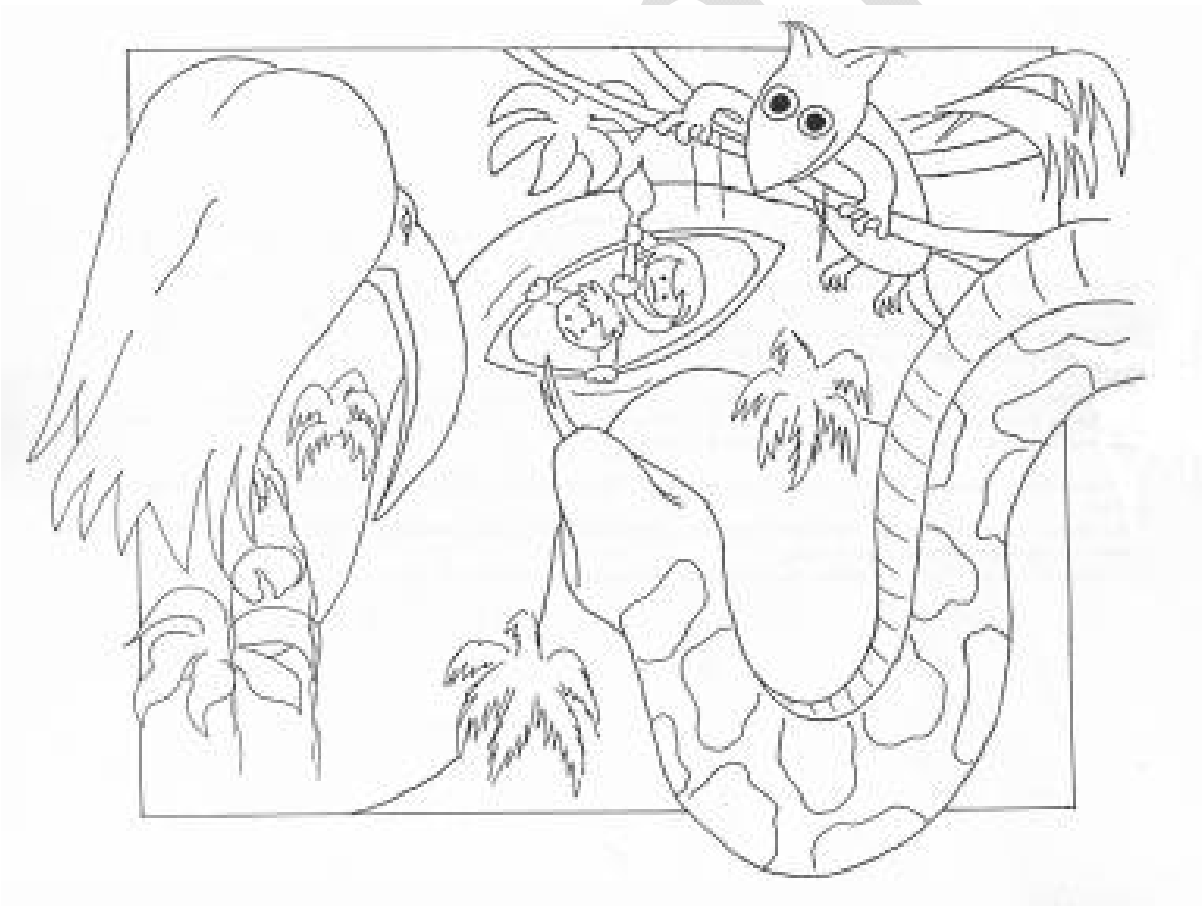
Pablo didn't wait for Paloma to respond, for he knew the stories all too well himself.

“Remember, Grandfather told us about evil spirits living in the jungle: evil spirits in snakes, in the fish, in the birds, in the dolphins? Remember what he said about evil spirits living in the big trees? How at night when you pass under a large tree an evil spirit can reach down and grab you and pull you right up? You are never seen or heard from again. Never found...”

“Stop talking about all that,” Paloma snapped. “You will only make yourself more scared.” Pablo's words were making Paloma more scared too, as she certainly remembered grandfather's frightening stories. She tried to focus on paddling.

All of a sudden Pablo screamed. “Look, there, up ahead! A ghost in the water!!” “Where?” Paloma shouted looking in the direction Pablo was pointing. “Over there in those tree branches in the water!” She gasped as she too saw it: some type of phantom! And it was slowly coming out of the branches! Paloma pushed her paddle hard against the water, trying to bring the dugout to a quick stop but the dugout still moved forward a little.

The phantom was all wispy, with strange, boney fingers. Its narrow evil eyes looked right at them as it drew the small boat in. Horrified, Pablo covered his eyes, threw his head back, and screamed as loud as he could...



“Hey, wait!” Paloma yelled out. “Look Pablo, look, it’s not a ghost!” Her burst of laughter echoed loudly through the jungle. Pablo slowly uncovered his eyes. “Look,” said Paloma, “it’s nothing but a big old plastic bag caught on the branches. It’s not a ghost! See?”

Pablo nodded his head, indicating that yes, he could see it. “Go ahead, touch it,” said Paloma, as she laughed. “It’s okay; it’s just a plastic bag!” Pablo did not want to touch it. As they pushed past by, Paloma knocked the bag down with her paddle, smiling as it floated away.

After a full minute of silence, Pablo spoke again, “I don’t like being out here when it gets so dark and you see things. What about evil spirits?”

Oh no, thought Paloma, *he’s going to start up again*. What could she say? How could she help him to not be so scared of evil spirits? For the truth was, Paloma was often quite scared of evil spirits herself!

Suddenly, she had a wonderful idea:

“I know what we should do. As soon as we get back to the village, let’s go visit Tío Miguel!”

“Yeah,” said Pablo, “let’s ask Tío Miguel! He knows all about these things!”



Even in the dark, Paloma was able to paddle back to the village. The two children got out of the dugout and scrambled up the bank, and then ran for home.

“Hi mom, here’s the fish. We need to go and visit Tío Miguel in the school house before he leaves,” Paloma said, all in one breath. Mom just smiled, nodded her approval, and threw the fish over the fire. “I’ll cook the fish for Dad and me and have some waiting for you when you get back she said,” as the children ran off.

As they headed for the school Paloma said to Pablo, “You know what we’ll find Tío Miguel doing this late at night.” “Of course,” said Pablo with a smile. “He will be making one of his huge drawings on the blackboard for the Bible story he’ll teach in the morning.”

Now, everyone in the village loved Tío Miguel. God had blessed him with many talents. He was both the spiritual leader of the village and the school teacher. Years ago, he studied at a Bible institute outside of the village. There were two things everyone knew about Tío Miguel: One, he is an excellent teacher and always talks about the Savior Jesus. He has an extraordinary understanding of the one true religion based on the Bible.

Secondly, Tío Miguel is famous for making giant blackboard drawings to go with Bible stories he teaches. But, not only does he make huge drawings, sometimes Miguel stands in front of his drawing, gets all dramatic, and talks and acts like one of the characters from the Bible. It’s absolutely terrific and interesting to see!

CHAPTER 2

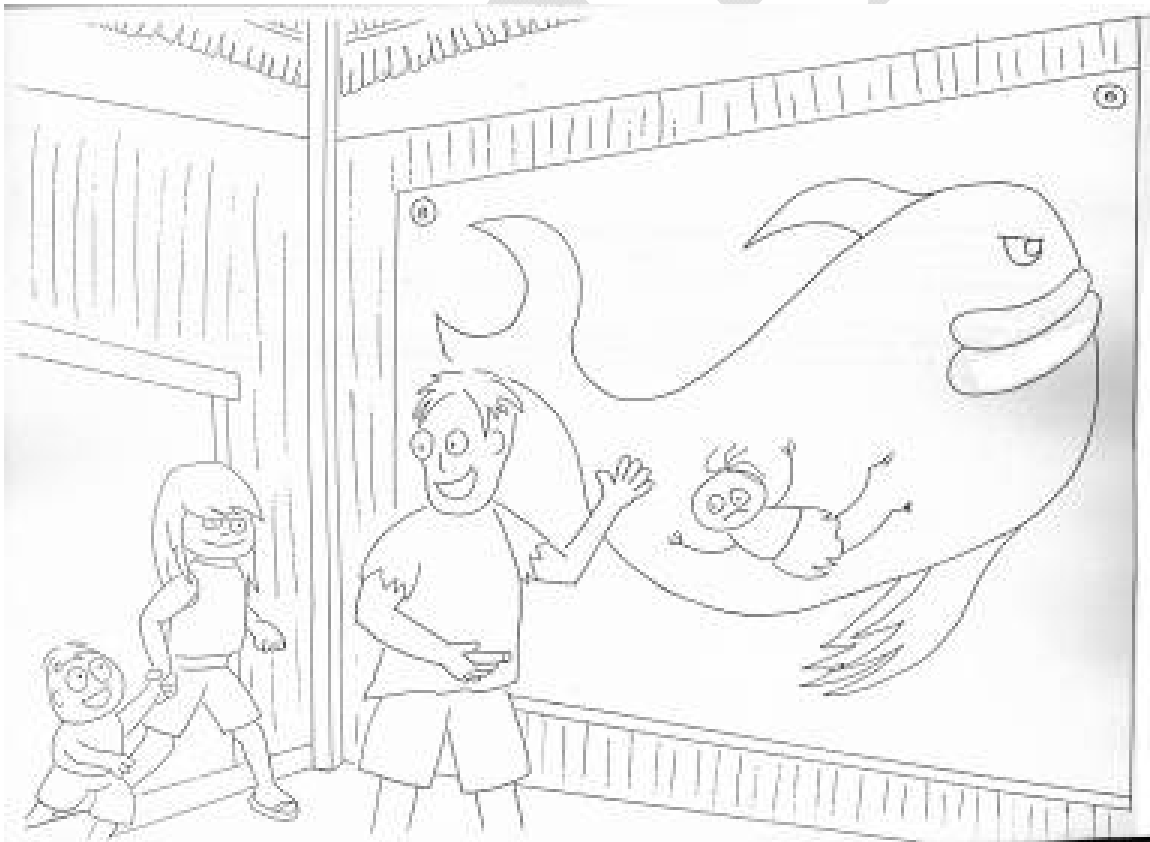
“He knows all about these things.”

The children crossed the yard and burst into the school. And, just as they expected, there was Tío Miguel, with his chalk in one hand and his Bible close by, putting the finishing touches on a huge drawing for his religion class in the morning.

“Tío Miguel, we’ve come to see you. We’ve got questions,” Paloma announced, all out of breath. Pablo jumped in: “We got really scared tonight; scared of the spirits in the dark. We thought we saw ghosts in the jungle, although one was a plastic bag. We want to know what can happen to us. What can real evil spirits do to us? Can you help us?”

Tío Miguel smiled that beautiful, reassuring smile of his that immediately had the children feeling better. “Of course I can help you my dear friends,” said Miguel.

“Thanks be to God, the Bible tells us some things about evil spirits and the spirit world. We can trust all the information we have in the Bible! Why can we trust it?” Tío Miguel, always the teacher, was asking the children a direct question. “Because the Bible is the true word of God!” Paloma and Pablo yelled back. “All right little friends, lets get started,” said Miguel, who didn’t even hesitate to erase his fine drawing of Jonah and the big fish. I have a Bible story about evil spirits to tell you. With huge smiles, the two children sat down in front of Miguel and the blackboard, eagerly awaiting the story.



Tío Miguel immediately began to fill the board with a huge drawing of a person. The person appeared to be in some type of agony, terrible pain. Miguel spoke as he drew:

“This is the story of a man who lived in a very strange place. He didn’t live in the jungle. Actually there wasn’t any jungle around. There was a town but he didn’t live in town. In fact, the man didn’t even live in a house. Instead, he lived in caves. These caves were outside of town and used as tombs, a place to put the dead in.” Miguel’s drawings helped the children understand.

This man, along with at least one other man living out there, suffered from a terrible condition. It was such an extremely horrible problem that the two men could not live normal lives. Everyone in the village was afraid of them. What kind of condition would be so terrible that a person would end up living a life separated from all others, separated from his community...?”

The children had no idea why everyone feared the poor men who lived out among the tombs! How strange! What was wrong with the men? But Miguel just left the mysterious question hanging there, unanswered. His huge drawing of the agonized man finished, Miguel turned away, and put his chalk down...



Then, without warning, Miguel jumped in front of the huge drawing of the agonized man. Miguel stood there and looked as if he were inside the man! Miguel's face was hideous! His hands were raised, and he spoke in such a frightful voice that the children jumped back in fear:

"A demon lives inside this man!" Miguel hissed. "I and many other demons have taken possession of this man."

How terrible! Paloma and Pablo clearly understood why the townspeople were afraid. So, Miguel stepped away from the drawing, no longer acting the part of a demon that possessed the poor man.

"Our story is just getting started," Miguel continued, back in his normal voice and appearance. "Things get real interesting real quick. For you see, one day someone very special happened to walk by the possessed men living out in the tombs. Oh yes, someone very, very special, someone you know. This special person had just come across the sea in a boat, and when he got out of the boat, he immediately encountered these poor, possessed men. This special person was ready to take action against the horrible evil spirits! Just who do you think he was?"



Paloma and Pablo could hardly control themselves: “Jesus!” they yelled out! “It had to be Jesus!”

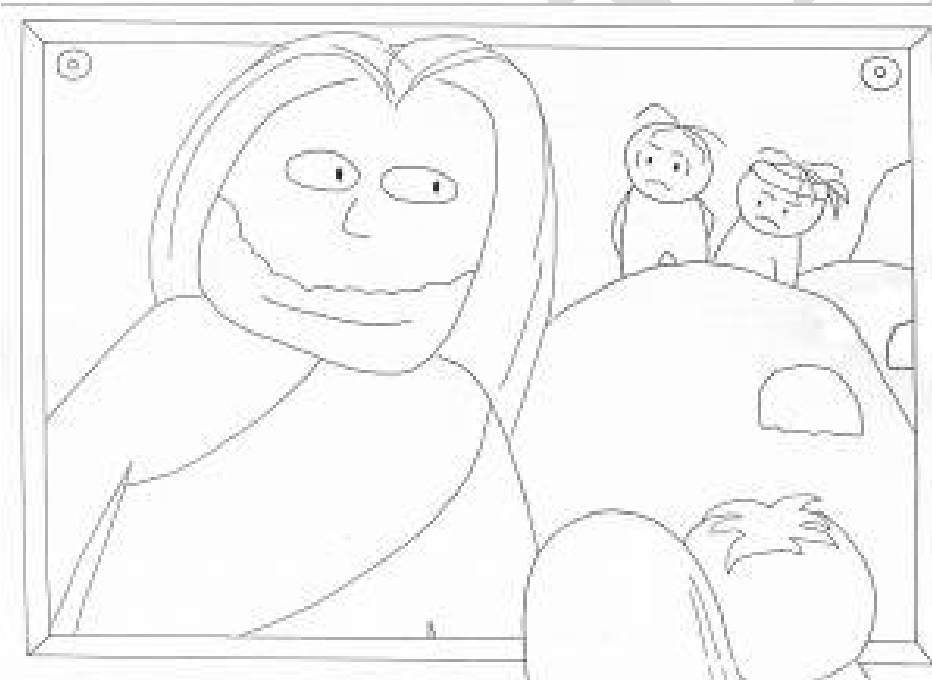
“Who is Jesus?” Miguel asked, with a smile. “The Son of God!” the children yelled back. (Obviously they knew what questions were coming!) “What did he do for us?” “Died on the cross to save us from our sins!” “What is the most important thing in your lives?” “Faith in Jesus!” “Very good, Paloma and Pablo,” said Miguel. Now, on with our story!” Miguel took his Bible in hand, opened it to the book of Mark, and began to read:

“When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet Him.” (Mark 5:2) Looking up from the Scriptures, Tío Miguel tried to explain.

“Imagine this, children. We are about to have a man, who has evil spirits living in him, come right up and encounter Jesus the Son of God, true God himself! The demons are the terrible enemies of God. They work with the Devil, the leader of all the evil spirits. The Devil and the demons were once good spirits, but they were cast out of heaven when they started a rebellion against God. Now, the demons roam this earth, trying to destroy people. More than anything else, they want to destroy people’s faith in Jesus and keep them from entering Heaven!”

“So,” Miguel tilted his eyebrow, “how would you expect these horrible, evil spirits to react, with Jesus now standing right in front of them? What would they say? It’s Jesus, their hated enemy, Jesus the Son of God. He’s right there!”

The children tried to picture it, but the teacher saw that they might need help.



He grabbed the eraser and began to change the drawing on the blackboard. Miguel drew a picture of Jesus intensely looking right at the man possessed with evil spirits. “What an incredible moment,” Miguel went on. “A direct confrontation between Jesus and the evil spirits. The Bible tells us the exact words that were spoken between them!”

Oh wow! What a moment! Miguel would play the part of the evil spirit again, now in a live confrontation with Jesus!!

Miguel knew that the Bible said the demons actually SHOUTED when they saw Jesus. Filled with fear and dread, the evil spirit / Miguel screamed out:

“What do you want with us, Son of God?” Have you come here to torture us before our appointed time?” (Matthew 8:29)

The demon, as portrayed by Miguel, was shaking with fear! The demon looked so completely scared in the presence of Jesus, that Paloma and Pablo started to laugh! They weren't so afraid of him now!

Miguel stepped away from the blackboard (no longer playing the demon) and broke into a smile too. “Now, listen carefully Paloma and Pablo,” Miguel said. Those words that the demon just spoke tell us quite a lot about what evil spirits are really like! The words of the demon tell us:

- Every evil spirit knows who Jesus is: Jesus is the true Son of God. The demons actually call Jesus “Son of God!” They know Jesus is true God in human form! They know Jesus came to the world in order to save every person from sin, death, and the power of the Devil!
- Every evil spirit knows that Jesus has complete power over it! They know they must do whatever He commands. They are powerless before Him. The demons, terrified in the presence of Jesus ask him, “Have you come to torture us...?”
- The evil spirit asked this question because: Every evil spirit knows that when this world ends, it will be banished to Hell! Jesus had confronted others before. Each evil spirit has a “time” when he will be cast into Hell. In Hell, the evil spirits will be “tortured” and punished forever.

Paloma and Pablo were amazed at all these facts about evil spirits. Pablo then asked the obvious question: “So what happened to the evil spirit that talked to Jesus?” “The Bible tells us,” Miguel went on, reading directly from the book

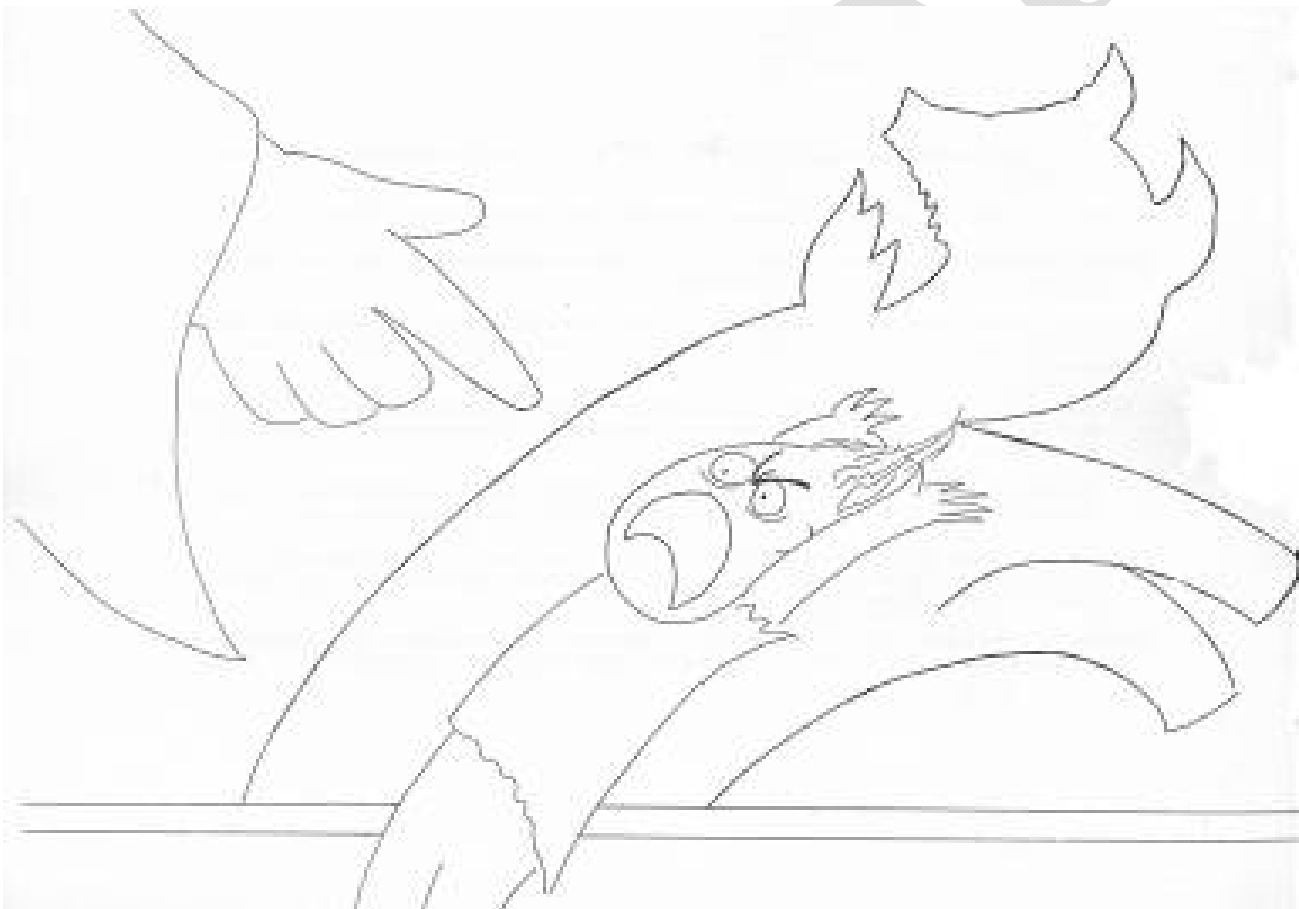


“Some distance from them (Jesus and the two men with evil spirits) a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, ‘If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.’ He said to them, ‘Go!’ (Matthew 8:30-32a). Miguel, once again playing the part of the evil spirit, was immediately thrown out of the possessed man!

Miguel explained: “Remember, the evil spirits knew Jesus had power over them. They knew Jesus could drive them out of the poor man they had been torturing. The spirits didn’t want to go to their eternal punishment in Hell yet so they begged Jesus to send them into the pigs nearby.

With just one simple word, “go,” Jesus, using His divine power, commanded the evil spirits to come out of the man and they immediately left him. No one – nothing –certainly not evil spirits, can resist the power of Jesus! What happened next tells us even more about the nature of evil spirits!”

Miguel had even more information straight from the Bible. He quickly read on...



“Verse 32” Miguel read: “He (Jesus) said to them (the evil spirits) ‘Go!’ So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. The whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.” (Matthew 8:32-34)

The teacher paused to explain: “The people of the town immediately came out but, sadly enough, they didn’t understand who Jesus was! They didn’t know he was the Son of God who had come to earth to save them. The people did know that Jesus had amazing power over evil spirits, from the report of the men who knew the evil spirits had come out of the possessed men and destroyed the pigs. The people of the village were apparently so afraid of a man (Jesus) with such supernatural power that they pleaded with Jesus to just leave. How sad! They could have gotten to know their Lord and Savior Jesus!

“But why?” asked Pablo, “Did the evil spirits destroy the herd of pigs?” “The Bible does not inform us,” Miguel replied. “I think it just shows us, again, the nature of evil spirits. Evil spirits are so horrible, so vicious, so bitter and furious, that all they want to do is go around and destroy anything and everything. They are pure evil.

Always remember: More than anything else, evil spirits want to separate us from our trust and faith in Jesus! And yet, as this Bible story demonstrates, Jesus has complete power over the evil spirits!”

“So what happened in the end to the men whom Jesus cast the evil spirits out of?” Paloma asked. “Glad you asked,” said Miguel, picking up his Bible again.

“In the book of Luke this very same account of Jesus and the demon-possessed men is recorded. Luke adds some extra, very special details for us to learn from.” Miguel quickly flipped over a few pages.

“Now, we only know what happened to one of the men. We have some words from the conversation that took place between Jesus and he after the evil spirits had been cast out and Jesus was getting ready to leave:

“The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him (Jesus), but Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Return home and tell how much God has done for you.’ So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him. (Luke 8:38-39)

Miguel looked at the children, “What a wonderful conversation! The man who had been healed ‘begged’ Jesus to let him go with him! He wanted to be with his Savior! I’m sure that you and I would also have asked Jesus if we could go with him!

However, Jesus had an important assignment for the healed man. Jesus told the man to go home and tell people what He (Jesus) had done for him. When the people of the town would hear the man talk about Jesus, hopefully they would want to know more about their Savior. The Holy Spirit could start to work in the hearts of the people hearing the story, to bring people to saving faith in Jesus!



CHAPTER 3

Jesus, the Devil, and You

“So, Jesus got in the boat and left,” Miguel continued. “Jesus still had much work to do! Remember, Jesus had come to earth for the special purpose of saving us from our sins! How could Jesus save everyone, including you and me, from our sins and give us eternal life? Jesus had to do two things:

“First, Jesus had to live a perfect life and never sin – never do one thing wrong His whole life. Of course the Devil and the evil spirits fought hard against Jesus. They tempted him, they troubled him, and they tried to make him do something wrong. For if Jesus sinned even once he could not be the perfect sacrifice for the world. He could no longer take our place and pay for our sins.”

But Jesus never sinned. He never once gave in to the Devil’s constant temptations. Jesus never did a single thing wrong. He was the perfect God-man. God the Father was very, very pleased with his Son Jesus.

Secondly, Jesus had to die in order to pay for the sins of all the people. God required a blood sacrifice to pay for sins. And the blood He required was that of His very own son, the God-man Jesus. Jesus chose to take the horrible punishment of death that each of us deserve for our sins. When Jesus, God’s own son, died, God said the debt had been paid. God tells us that if we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus he will forgive us all our sins. Through faith in Jesus, after we die we can go to live with God and all believers in paradise forever!

“What an amazing story,” Paloma nearly interrupted, “Jesus, never did anything wrong, and yet he died for us!”

“That’s exactly right,” said Miguel. “Jesus willingly sacrificed himself in order to save his precious people. He died for us simply because of His great love for us. It is the greatest love the world has ever seen!”

Pablo was taking this all in, but the young boy had a burning question: “But what happened to the Devil?”

Miguel sat down next to Pablo, “Let me go backwards before we go forwards. You remember the story of Adam and Eve – the first two people on earth? The Devil tempted them and led them to sin against God. Because they sinned, they brought death and eternal punishment upon themselves and the whole world. But God, in his great love, told Adam and Eve that he would send a Savior from sin – Jesus.

“Well, God told the Devil that a Savior would come to destroy him and all his evil works someday. Jesus would come to save the entire human race. Since all people are descendents of Adam and Eve, everyone is born with a sinful nature and deserves death and eternal punishment. If Jesus, the Son of God came and lived a perfect life and then died in our place, God could offer forgiveness and save all the people!

“As Jesus traveled around, He taught His Good News about how people could be saved through faith in him. On several occasions, as in our story tonight, Jesus cast evil spirits out of people, healing them. Jesus constantly battled the Devil and the demons which were always tempting him.”

“Remember, the evil, furious Devil is extremely clever but he can also become confused. Mistakenly, he thought that if Jesus was to die, evil would win. Obviously the Devil didn’t understand how God’s plan for our salvation worked. Jesus knew He must die in order to pay for our sins.

“The Devil worked in the hearts of evil men. They executed the innocent man Jesus like a criminal on the cross. But God had planned for this to happen all along and everything was under His control. The Devil didn’t take Jesus’ life. Jesus willingly gave up his life in order to save us.”

Miguel stood up, “Get ready children. I will now play the part of the Devil, and show you what happened three days after the death of Jesus. You see, the Devil thought he had finally destroyed Jesus, gotten him killed, and ruined God’s plan to save the people...”

Miguel started to draw, but the children interrupted, erupting with enthusiasm:

“I know, I know what happened,” Pablo raised his hand, but then saw that his sister was about to scream the answer, so they screamed together:

“Jesus rose from the grave!”

Miguel, now playing the part of the Devil himself, looking completely shocked, dumbfounded, and horrified, as he stood in front of Jesus’ empty tomb. The children cheered!

Miguel went on to explain: “All the Devil’s efforts to destroy the work of Jesus had completely failed. Jesus had taken our place and died on the cross. By raising Jesus from the dead, God declared that he accepted Jesus sacrifice as payment for everyone’s sins! Because Jesus lives again, you and I will also be raised up after death to live again! With our sins forgiven through faith in Jesus, we will go straight to Paradise right after our death. We will live in paradise forever with God and all believers. The Bible clearly tells us so:

“As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” I Corinthians 15:22

“Because I live, ye shall live also.” John 14:19

Miguel walked away from the blackboard. “Understand this well children: It’s one thing to get frightened by an evil spirit in the jungle. But again, scaring children is not the evil spirits’ main work. More than anything else, evil spirits want to separate you from your love and trust in Jesus, from your faith in Jesus for forgiveness.

How do the evil spirits do this? All kinds of ways: they try to influence your thoughts. They tell people ‘hey you’re not really such a bad person; you don’t really need Jesus as your Savior.’ They say, “You can really do pretty much whatever you want.” They try and guide you to not care about God’s will and doing right. They tempt you to do bad things, until little by little you don’t care much about God at all and your faith is destroyed. Look all around you: How many people in the village care about Jesus?



Obviously we have a lot of work to do to teach others!”

Miguel knew the children still had a few questions about evil spirits, but it was getting late. “Let me mention a few final things for you to remember about those horrible, trouble-causing evil spirits, before you go back out in the dark to go home!”

CHAPTER 4

“The Lord upholds him with His hand”

“Now, I have some wonderful thoughts for you to keep in mind the next time you are out at night and get scared,” Miguel said. He began to draw a scene of Pablo and Paloma in their canoe. “...things for you to remember based on what God teaches us in the Bible. Knowing these Bible truths, you’ll see that you never need to be scared of those evil spirits again! And I do mean never!”

“First, the Bible clearly teaches us that evil spirits are real, that they do exist. Of course, you already knew that. The evil spirits work for the Devil and battle against God and everything that is good. More than anything else, evil spirits will try and destroy your faith in Jesus. God’s Word tells us:

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 6:12

Miguel reached for his stool, stood on it, and acted like he was an evil spirit crouching in a tree!

“Sometimes the evil spirits come around. Remember, they mostly do lots of little things to try to get you to do wrong and ultimately destroy your faith. But they do other things too. They also want people to think that they are so powerful that they can do anything against you. The evil spirits do like to scare people. Listen carefully to this: Evil spirits even tempt people to go to shamans to obtain some type of extra protection (charms, amulets) against... evil spirits!

Does that sound crazy? Actually it isn’t! Evil spirits can be very smart. They know that if people also trust in magic or witchcraft for protection, they are not putting all their trust in Jesus. Little by little witchcraft draws you away from your faith and trust in Jesus!

The evil spirits try and confuse you about the great love and concern God has for you! They try and



make you doubt that Jesus is always close by, ready to help. Evil spirits want you to believe that Jesus is not really paying that much attention to you; that He doesn’t really love and care that much for you. What lies the evil spirits are always telling you! But the Bible teaches us the truth: Jesus loves us very, very much and Jesus never forgets about you for even a moment!

Where is Jesus every day of your life? What is really going on when you are out in the dark, and an evil spirit is nearby?”

Miguel added a few lines to his drawing to reveal the children in the dugout being held in the hands of Jesus. Jesus had his eyes on the children! Miguel explained:

“Jesus has you right in the palm of His hand!” Jesus said, “And surely, I am with you always.” (Matthew 28:20)

“When little Pablo has times of trouble or danger?” Miguel went on, “the Bible tells us ‘the Lord upholds him with His hand.’” (Psalm 37:24) What a beautiful image to keep in your heart! Over and over the Bible tells us that Jesus is always with you! Whether you are at home, walking in the jungle or out in a dugout at night! Jesus is watching over you!

Miguel picked up his chalk. “I will write down some Bible verses for you to remember on the board! These verses give you a variety of beautiful images of Jesus’ love for you. They will remind you that Jesus is always with you! When you begin to feel scared or tempted by evil spirits, remember God’s truths.

I’ll write these fabulous verses in three categories to make it easier for you to remember. Miguel began to write as he explained:

“These are what I call my “Three Never, Never, Never Statements,” Miguel explained. “Look at this fabulous Statement Number 1. Remember well, children, if you start to feel afraid...”



CHAPTER 5

TRUTH #1: Jesus Is Always With You: You Are NEVER Alone!

“Do you think Jesus might forget about you, even for one moment?” Miguel was looking right at the children! They quickly shook their heads no! “Of course not!” Miguel thundered, as he then turned to write. “Consider...

1. “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has born? Though she may forget, I will never forget you!” (Isaiah 49:15)

“In other words,” Miguel explained, “it would be more likely that a mother would forget her child than God would forget you!” “But a mother would never forget her child! My mom always thinks of us!” Paloma exclaimed. “That’s the point,” said Miguel. “God would never forget about you for even a single moment!

God also uses the image of the love of a father for his children to describe His love for you:

2. “As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear (respect) Him.” (Psalm 103:13)

“Think of the love your mother has for you: Jesus love you like that, even more! Think of the love your father has for you: Jesus loves you like that, even more!”

God uses all kinds of simple pictures to help you understand how much He loves and cares for you! Have you ever seen how careful the jungle birds are with their baby chicks? Have you seen a huge mother bird gather the tiny baby chicks under her great wings to protect them? How completely safe those little chicks must feel! God wants us to think of him in that same way and feel safe with Him.

3. “He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge ...” (Psalm 91:4)
Jesus himself told a story about a man who cared for little animals, called sheep. The person who cares for them is called a shepherd. The sheep represent us, while Jesus represents the shepherd. When one of His flock wanders off and gets lost, Jesus searches for the lost sheep until he finds it! “And when he finds it...
4. “He joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home.” (Luke 15:5)

“I just love that image of us with Jesus,” Miguel exclaimed. You and I, like little lost animals, being found and then carried to safety by Jesus. Now, this is a picture to remember when we feel scared or alone. How much does Jesus love you? Jesus compares his love for you to the shepherd who loves his little animals this much: He says:

5. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me...and I lay down my life for the sheep.”
(John 10: 14-15)

This is, of course, the greatest of all the images of His love for us, because it describes exactly what He did: Jesus went and willingly died a horrible death on the cross in order to save us from our sins. No one will ever love and care for you as much as Jesus does. For as God reminds us:

6. “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)
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REVIEW OF TRUTH #1:

Jesus is always with you: You are NEVER alone!

1. Surely I am with you always. Matthew 28:20
 2. The Lord upholds him with his hand. Psalm 37:24
 3. Can a mother forget the baby at her breast? Isaiah 49:15
 4. As a father has compassion on his children... Psalm 103:13
 5. Under his wings you will find refuge. Psalm 91:4
 6. ...he (Jesus) joyfully puts it (the little animal) on his shoulders... Luke 15:5
 7. I am the good shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:14-15
 8. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life... John 15:13
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CHAPTER 6

TRUTH #2: Since Jesus Is Always With You, You Need NEVER Be Afraid!

Miguel immediately wrote the second of his three NEVER statements on the board. He began to explain: Over and over again in the Bible, God tells us, do not be afraid. He is always with us. God tells us not to be afraid of anything. That includes not being afraid of evil spirits! And with that, Miguel began rapidly writing Bible verses on the board, explaining each one:

1. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.” (Isaiah 41:10)

I think we forget that God is right there with us when we are scared. Because, why would we be afraid with almighty God himself, the Creator of the Universe standing with you, protecting you? He tells us over and over: the reason to not be afraid is that he is always right there with you!

2. “He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.”
(Psalm 40:2)

What a wonderful picture God gives us here: We all know what it is like to get stuck in the mud. Sometimes little children can't even get out! In comparison, our God is like a rock. Solid! Strong! We are secure in him just like standing on a rock! More than 20 times in the Bible God tells us he is just like a rock. What a wonderful image to put in your heart!

3. “As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people both now and forevermore.” (Psalm 125:2)

Look at those big hills that surround the jungle. The Lord is of course bigger and mightier than the hills! Here he tells us that he surrounds us just like those huge hills and protects us. It seems so ridiculous to live in fear of some evil spirits compared to our great, almighty God!

4. “For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.” (Psalm 91:11)

Don't forget children, we also have God's warriors, the good spirits called the Angels to keep us safe from the evil spirits. Under God's command, the angels are protecting us all the time!

5. “You will not fear the terror of night.” (Psalm 91:5)

God knows you may be especially afraid at night, so he especially mentions the nighttime here! You do not need to be afraid of anything in the night! The Bible says that darkness is the same as light to Him.

6. “I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.” (Psalm 34:4)

He delivered me from ALL my fears, every last one of them! – That certainly includes any threat from the evil spirits!

7. “Do not be anxious about anything.” (Philippians 4:6)

Could God speak to us any clearer? We are not to worry or be afraid of anything!

REVIEW TRUTH #2:

Since Jesus Is Always With You, you Need NEVER Be Afraid!

1. “So do not fear, for I am with you...” Isaiah 41:10.
 2. “He lifted me... out of the mud and mire... and gave me a firm place to stand Psalm 40:2
 3. “As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people. Psalm 125:2
 4. “For he will command his angels... to guard you in all your ways.” Psalm 91:11
 5. “You will not fear the terror of night.” Psalm 91:5
 6. “He delivered me from all my fears.” Psalm 34:4
 7. “Do not be anxious about anything.” Philippians 4:6
-

“I know it’s getting late,” Miguel said, “but I want to take our discussion of Statement # 2, “You need NEVER be afraid!” one more step!” Why? Because God takes the topic of fear one step further! God is very serious about wanting you to live without fear! Without fear of evil spirits, without fear of anything. In order to convince you not to be afraid of anything, God uses extreme images to make his point! Just listen to what he says!!... I put these verses under the heading: “God goes extreme to extinguish your fears.” And with that, Miguel erased the board again and started to write:

CHAPTER 7

God Goes Extreme To Extinguish Your Fears!



“God says don’t let anything scare you – not a single thing! Why? Because He controls everything in the world! God gives us outrageous pictures to convince us that we need never be afraid! Talk about extreme examples! Listen carefully”

1. God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam and the mountains quake

with their surging. (Psalm 46:1-3)

“Even if you see the ground split open, the mountains falling down and the waters of the river roaring, you still need not be afraid! Why? Because your heavenly Father has it all under His control. Nothing ever happens without His permission!

How about another extraordinary example: Imagine yourself in the scariest place possible. Maybe it would be late at night, deep in the jungle, feeling like there were evil spirits creeping up on you from all over...”

“One of God’s writers of the Bible, King David, put into words his inspired description of the scariest place possible. It was a valley. And the valley was so scary and creepy that it felt like death could come out of the dark at any moment and grab him. Listen to his brief description. More importantly, listen to David describe his feelings when he was walking through such a frightening place!”

2. “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” (Psalm 23:4)

“That is one scary place; the valley of the shadow of death itself! But David has no fear at all and he bluntly tells us why: “for you (God) are with me!” David obviously had a very strong faith and confidence in God! We can pray to God that he would give us a strong faith like David’s!

And one more extreme point! Don’t ever doubt how deeply concerned God is for you. Just how much does God love you and care about you? He is watching over you so closely he even knows how many hairs there are on your head! What? That’s right, the Creator and Controller of the entire universe is watching over you that closely! You are that precious to him! Listen to Jesus speak to you!”

3. “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs on your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” (Matthew 12:6-7)

REVIEW:

God Goes Extreme To Extinguish Your Fears

1. We Will Not Fear: Even should the ground split open, mountains fall, and the sea roar! (Psalm 46:1-3)
 2. We Will Not Fear: Even if we walk through the valley of the shadow of death! (Psalm 23:4)
 3. We Will Not Fear: Knowing God is so concerned about me he knows how many hairs are on my head! (Matthew 12:6-7)
-

Pablo suddenly broke in with another question: “Then why are so many people in our village, including the adults, afraid of so many things? They are afraid of evil spirits, afraid of witchcraft, afraid of curses, afraid of all kinds of things.”

“Remember,” Miguel smiled, “many people don’t know these fabulous Bible teachings. Many don’t know that through faith in Jesus they can become the children of God. And some who are children of God forget who they are and the precious truths we have here before us.

“Now, we have come to my last point,” said Miguel, “the last of my NEVER, never, never statements. It is a point that is not only important but also exhilarating to think about!” Miguel began writing the theme on the board along with wonderful Bible verses:

Sample

CHAPTER 8

TRUTH #3: NEVER Forget Who You Are: God's own Child!

1. "You were bought at a price." (I Corinthians 7:23)

Miguel explained: "Never forget that Jesus came to earth and died on the cross to save you. That is how much he loves you. Jesus "bought" you; paid for your sins with His life, and through faith made you God's own child!

2. "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"
(I John 3:1)

Children of God! God says it and then says it again: "And that is what we are"! Just imagine what all that means; children of the King! Be confident! Be secure!

3. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39)

Actually, quite another extreme statement from God. It is impossible to separate us from his love! Take that, you horrible evil spirits!

4. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31b)

That is, what could stand against us? – Nothing! God is on our side and there is nothing more powerful than God!

5. "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." (II Timothy 1:7)

Wow! No reason to act timid, God is reminding us, as His children! He has blessed us with a spirit of power!

6. "Do not be afraid little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32)

You can live without fear, because you know that God will one day bring you to live with him forever in Paradise!

REVIEW TRUTH #3:
NEVER forget who you are: God's own Child!

1. "You were bought at a price." I Corinthians 7:23
 2. "...children of God... that is what we are!" I John 3:1
 3. "...nor anything in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:39
 4. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31b
 5. "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power." II Timothy 1:17
 6. "Do not be afraid little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32
-

"Like you said earlier Pablo, there are so many in the village that live with fear," Miguel explained. "Paloma and Pablo, you two can be powerful examples to the community. Do not be timid! Fear nothing! Live as "shining stars" in the community, as God calls His children! Listen: Don't worry if you seem different from many of the others. With your confidence and lack of fear you are different! The Bible makes that very clear:"

"Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened. But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."
(I Peter 3:14b-15)

Always be ready to tell others about your Savior Jesus and why you can live confident lives without any fear.

Pablo knew Miguel was about to end, so he quickly spoke: "I see now why I do not need to be afraid of anything. But I know one day the evil spirits will still come and try and scare me. What exactly should I do, Tío Miguel?!"

Miguel started to erase his final board. "So what should you do when evil spirits come around to try and scare you? I'm glad you asked. Let me respond to your question with one final story

CHAPTER 9

“So what should I do when evil spirits come around and try and scare me?”

“A long time ago there lived a very wise Christian leader named Martin Luther. Sometimes evil spirits, even the Devil himself, would come at night and bother Martin, trying to scare him. They were no doubt furious at Martin because he was teaching many people the saving message of Jesus. Martin wrote about those unwanted nighttime visits by the Devil:”

The devil has often raised a racket in the house and has tried to scare me, but I appealed to my calling and said: I know that God has placed me into this house to be Lord (in charge) here... I well know that you are not lord (in charge) here and you belong in a different place – down in Hell. And so I fell asleep again and let him be angry, for I well knew that he could do nothing to me.

“What a fabulous reaction to the miserable, bitter Devil! He tried to scare Martin at night, but Martin knew he was a Christian who lived every moment under the protection of God himself! Martin wasn’t scared at all, he was irritated! “Let the devil be angry,” Martin said, I need to get some sleep! Thanks be to God for Martin and his excellent response to the devil! We can do the same!

Don’t ever forget: We are God’s very own children. He saved us; he bought us through the death of his son Jesus! Never be afraid of anything!”



It was now very late and time for the children to go. Pablo turned and looked out the door. He could just barely see their dugout tied up at the edge of the river. “You know,” said Pablo, “I might never look at that dugout the same way. Now, I don’t just see a dugout, I see the hand of Jesus, and me riding right in it! I feel so much better. I know I am never out of Jesus’ sight! So why should I be afraid of anything?” “You have that exactly right,” Paloma agreed, gazing out at the dugout and imagining the hand of Jesus.

The two children turned to the good teacher, “Thank you so much Tío Miguel,” we will never forget what you taught us tonight,” said Paloma. “The information was here all the time in the Bible. It was only a matter of you asking,” said Miguel in a gentle voice. “Next time we won’t wait so long,” Pablo said with a long sigh, as if a great weight had been lifted from his little shoulders. Indeed a great weight had been lifted. The children realized they had nothing to fear in their lives, nothing at all. And with that, the two children ran out the door into the jungle night towards home.

