

My Clean Heart

Written and Illustrated by Sharman Slye



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Story 1 - Where is my Spirit?

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Story 3 - Smell the Chocolate

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Parent to Parent

"He's Big! How does He live in Me?"

Throughout your toddler's years you'll be reading them picture books about all the wonderful things Jesus did when He was here on earth as a man. You'll tell them how much He loves us and helps us every day and about how He comes to live in our hearts if we ask Him to.

Children under a certain age think in very concrete terms. My own daughter was three when she asked Jesus into her heart standing in front of the bathroom mirror. As she raised her shirt I asked her what she was doing. "I'm making room so he can get in."

At some point your child will realize Jesus is big and they are small. "How can He live in my heart, Mom? This brings up the questions 'What is my spirit? Where is my spirit?' What do we tell our kids?

Here is one possible approach..

Where is my Spirit?



Billy was kneeling on the bed as Mom peeked through the doorway and said,

"Are you ready for bed?"

"Uh-huh," answered Billy.

"Which book shall we read tonight, son?"

"The new one about Jesus in our heart," he said.



"All right. This one starts with the part of the Bible called Eph. 3:16-17. 'I pray that He may make you strong and powerful through His Spirit in your inner being so that Jesus may live in your hearts thru faith. And I...

"STOP!" said Billy suddenly.

What's wrong?" asked Mom in surprise.

"Nothing, but does that mean that He can live in my heart?"

"Sure, He lives in my heart." Mom pointed to her chest.

"But Mom, He can do that because He's big and you're big. I'm little! He won't fit inside me!

"Is that your question, Billy, how can he do it?" asked Mom.

"Yes, how could he do that?"

"Well," Mom explained, "When Jesus comes to live in our hearts, it's not with His hands and arms and fingers and toes like He had when He was on earth, but it's with His Spirit. He dwells (lives) in our spirit."



"Is it right here? Where my blood pumper is?" Billy asked.

"Somewhere close by," she said, and then she went on. "Where is your belly button?"

"Right Here!"



Parent to Parent

At this point in the conversation ask your child where his belly button is. He'll point to it. Now ask him to point out his eye, his elbow, his nose. Next take his little hand in yours and ask him what it is. He'll look at you curiously and say "It's my hand Mommy." Then you say, "This is the part of your body that touches things, right?" Then point to their nose. "this is the part of your body that smells things." "This is the part that hears Mom's voice. Right?" Then ask "where is the part of you that loves mommy?" When you ask they may look confused, or they may open their arms offering to hug you. Or they may say "ALL of me loves you Mommy." Then you tap their chest and say the words on the next page under the hearts.

Billy pointed as Mom asked each question.

"Where is your eye?"

"Now can you put your finger on your elbow?"

"What is this?" Mom asked.

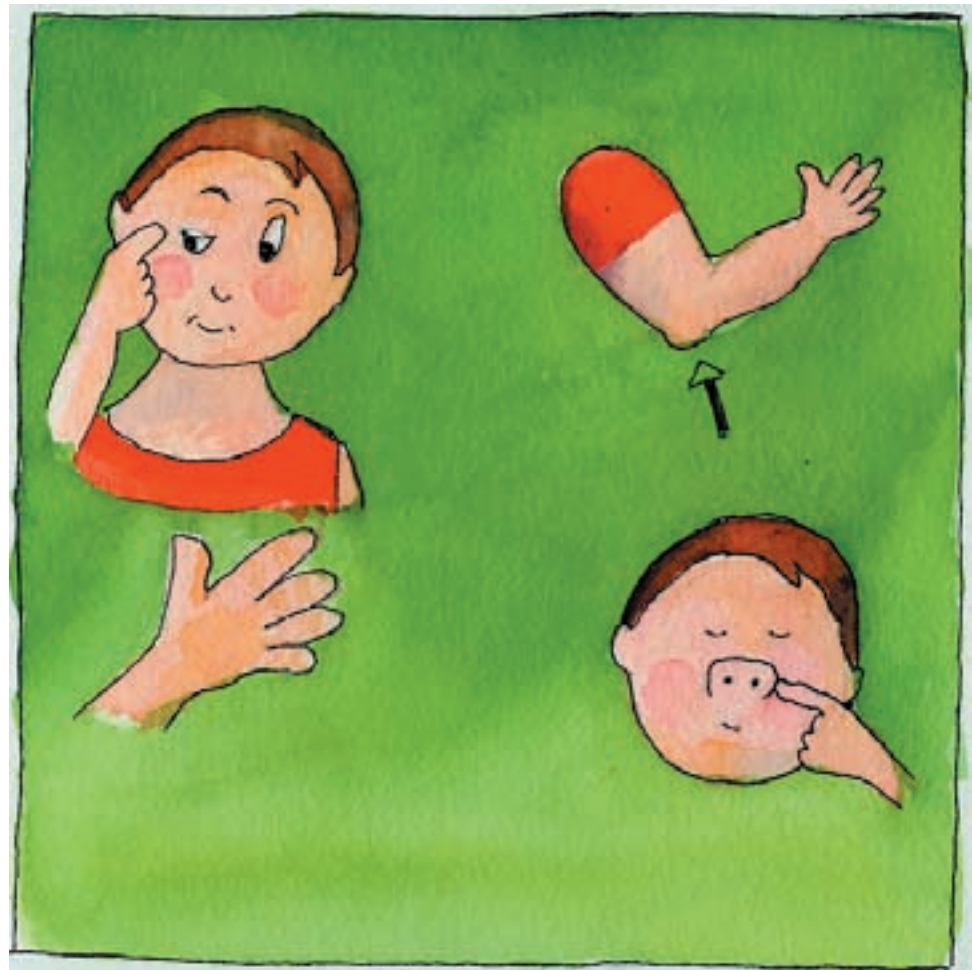
"My hand," said Billy.

"Right" she smiled. "This is the part of your body that touches and feels things."

"Uh-huh," he agreed.

"And your nose is the part of your body that smells things?"

"Yep." said Billy



[Read this part slowly]

"Your ear is the part of you that hears Mommy's voice, but where is the part of you that loves Mommy?"

Billy shrugged his shoulders.

"There is a part of you that loves Mommy, isn't there?"

Billy nodded and smiled.

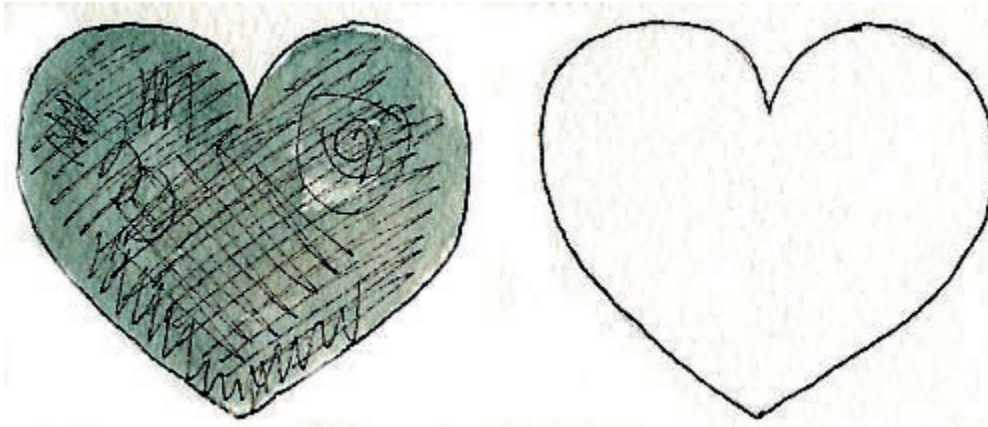
"The same part of you that loves Mommy can love Jesus," Mom continued. That's the part where Jesus comes to live with his Holy Spirit. The part of you that loves Mommy is your spirit. It's hidden inside you someplace and can't ever be seen, even with an operation. Only God can see it and touch it, and that's where Jesus can live, not with his fingers and toes, but with His Spirit. It's very special. God calls that your heart too, but it's not the same as your blood pumper. Do you understand now Billy?"

"I think so." he said.



Parent to Parent

In Psalm 51:6,7,10 King David clearly asks God to give him a clean heart. "Wash me," he says, "and I will be whiter than snow," showing that he understood that sin made his heart dark/dirty and he needed to be purified. So he asks!



A heart dirty with "Badthings"
[Sin]

A clean heart 'Whiter than snow'

"Good," Mom continued, "because there's more. You have lighter skin than mine and when you play in the dirt it sticks to you and is easy to see - so we wash it off. Before Jesus comes to live in our heart, our heart is dark/dirty with the "Badthings" we've done. But when Jesus comes to live there He washes away all the 'BADTHINGS' [sins] we've ever done and makes our heart clean and white as snow."

"When Jesus lives in us do we stop doing sins [BADTHINGS] ?" Billy asked hopefully.

"No, not entirely," answered Mom sadly, "even though we try."

"Then how do we keep our heart clean?" Billy really wanted to know.

"Ah - that's a good question. Why don't you come out in the backyard tomorrow morning when I'm doing laundry and I'll show you how to keep your heart clean. Okay?"

"Okay Mom. G'night."

" Good night Son."

Parent To Parent

Bad boy/girl or Bad behavior

Have you heard the expression 'you're a bad boy or girl'? Decide right now that this will not come out of your mouth 'to', 'about', or 'within the hearing of' your children. We must not label them in their own minds and give them a bad name to live up to. We must be extra careful not to tear them down in front of others by telling everyone their failings, especially, **other parents**. Instead we support our children's **value** to us, not on the basis of their behavior, but simply because they are ours. We give them the unconditional love that our Heavenly Father offers to us.

'Badthings'

Does this mean we ignore bad behavior hoping it will go away on its own if we show them enough love. Let me say a resounding **DON'T BE SILLY!** But instead of calling them names we tell them they have done 'a BADTHING'. The beauty of this approach is that it allows us to deal directly with the sin of a very young child and have them understand perfectly, yet not be afraid of admitting their fault. **This helps train them not to lie to get out of trouble.** We tell them when we sin we have done a 'BADTHING' by choosing to do anything God says not to do -or not doing what He says to do. Example: Not picking up our room when told to OR going outside the gate when told not to. Active and passive choices are both covered in the command "Children obey your parents in the Lord" and "Honor thy Father and mother." When we do "BADTHINGS" it makes Jesus, **who loves us so much**, sad because doing 'BADTHINGS' will hurt us. He loves us so much He doesn't want to see us hurt. It will also hurt us because it puts distance between Him and us.

Clean or dirty?

We teach our children the concept of dirty vs. clean early in life. "That's dirty, don't pick it up." "Don't play in the gutter." "Wash your hands before you eat or you can get sick." We explain that dirt has its place: to play mud pies, build sand-castles, grow seeds in a cup and flowers in the garden. But it does not belong on our hands when we're finished playing in it - or in our mouths at any time. We wash ourselves to get rid of the dirt. We link staying dirty with something that is not okay, and even though dirt has its place, its place is not on us. So we wash it off with soap and water. Think back about what we said about **being** a 'bad boy' or 'bad girl' as opposed to **did** a BADTHING. You **can't get rid of who you are** but you can get rid of a 'BADTHING' if Jesus washes it away. The next story shows how 'BADTHINGS' make our hearts dirty.

Story 2

My Clean Heart



"What are you doing with your new white sheet, Mom?" asked Billy the next day.

"I'm going to make it dirty. Want to help?"

"Sure!"

"Son, show me the dirtiest dirt you can think of?"

Billy thought for a moment. "The pond in the field by the school has green stuff floating on it. That's pretty dirty."

"That's slimy alright." Mom agreed.

"How about the greasy car parts Dad has in the garage?"

"That's good." Mom said. "What else?"

"The bottom of the garbage pail is pretty dirty."

"You're right," she said. "Let's go get some gunk."

"This will be fun, Mom, but what about the sheet?"

"You'll see..." she said as she picked up a bucket and they walked towards the field.



"Phew this stuff is so dirty it even smells bad!" said Billy looking into the bucket.

"Sin is even dirtier than that," said Mom, "And God says it smells bad too. To the Lord the 'BADTHINGS' we do smell even worse than the murky goo in this pail."

"What exactly is a sin?" he asked Mom.

"Billy, a 'BADTHING' is choosing to do anything that God tells us not to do. Telling a lie is a 'BADTHING'. Hurting others on purpose is a 'BADTHING'. Taking things that don't belong to us is a 'BADTHING'. Disobeying Mom or Dad is a 'BADTHING'."

"Like when you tell me to get ready for bed, but I keep playing because I don't want to go to bed yet?" he asked.

"Mm-hum."

"Oh....." said Billy very quietly. "But what about your white sheet?"

"I'm glad you asked," said Mom. "I want you to throw handfuls of this muck onto the white sheet and rub it in."

"Why?????????" gasped Billy.

"Because when we do a 'BADTHING' its like throwing dirt on our clean white heart."

"But it will hurt your sheet!"

"I know," she said. "But do it anyway."

"O-o-ka-ay," Billy said doubtfully as he stuck his hand into the bucket.



"Wow! My heart looks like that when I do a 'BADTHING'?" asked Billy with a surprised look.

"Yep," said Mom.

"So how do I get it clean again?" he asked looking up at her.

Mom put her arm around Billy's shoulder. "If we've asked Jesus to come live in our heart, then when we ask Him to forgive our 'BADTHINGS' He washes our heart clean again. We can start out each day with a heart 'white as snow'. During the day, each time we do a 'BADTHING' we throw dirt up on it again. That's when we need to stop and talk to Jesus and get clean again."

"Does it make Jesus mad at me when I do a 'BADTHING'?" he worried.

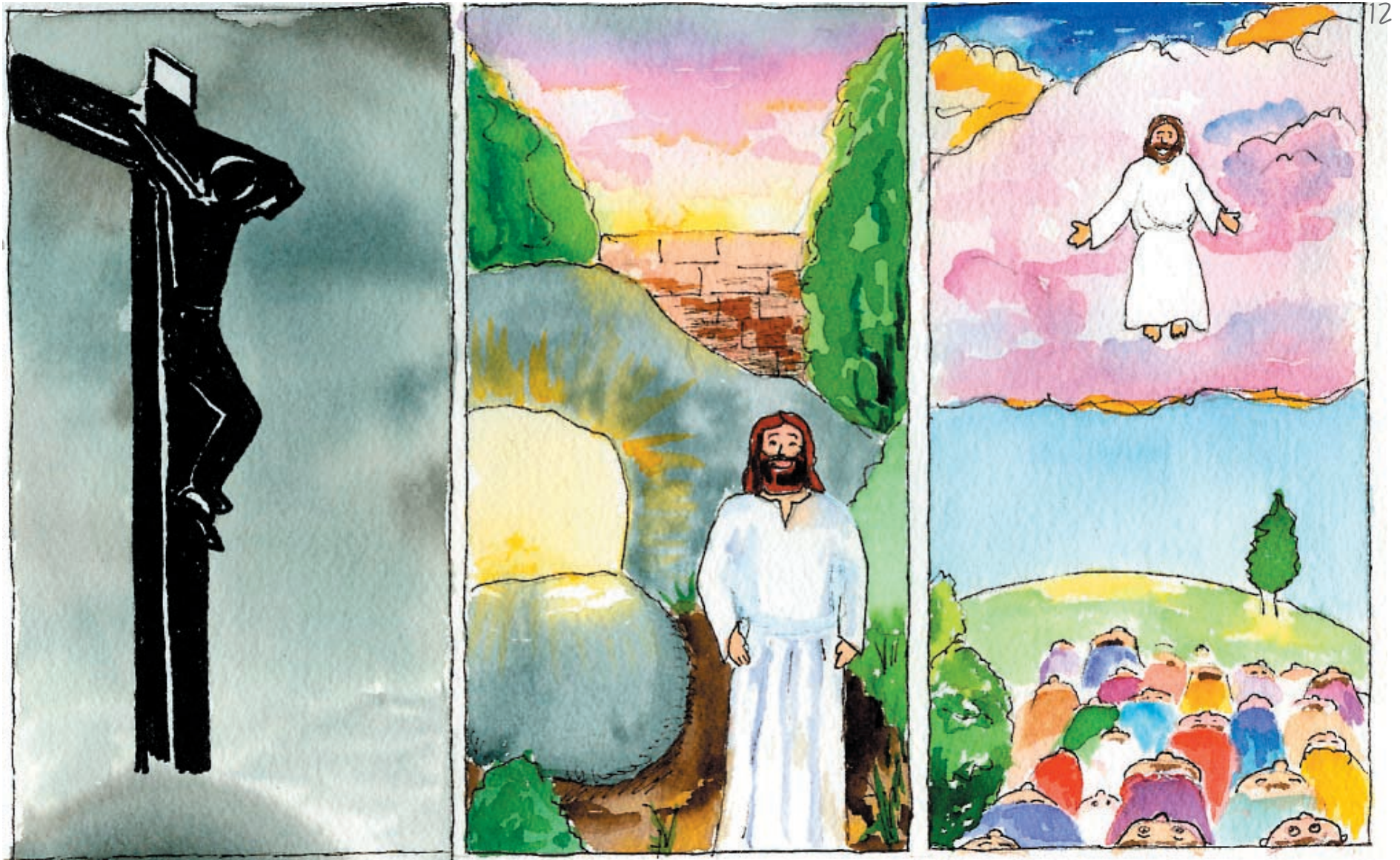
"No," Mom explained, hugging him tightly. "It makes Him sad because when we do things our own way instead of His way, it puts distance between us and Him. But when He lives in our hearts He is always willing to forgive us if we are truly sorry and ask to be forgiven and washed clean."

"So all I have to do is 'SAYSORRY'?" he asked.

"Jesus knows what you're thinking all the time. If you just 'SAYSORRY' but aren't really sorry in your heart, Jesus knows that and He doesn't forgive you. You must be truly sorry for the 'BADTHINGS' you have done."

Billy thought for a moment. "Mom, I've loved Jesus for a long time but didn't know I could ask him to live in my heart and be with me forever. I am truly sorry when I do 'BADTHINGS', uh- sin. Can I ask Jesus to live in my heart so He can clean me up?"





Mom looked Billy straight in the eye, smiled and asked, "Do you believe that Jesus died for your sins and that God raised Him back alive?"

"Yes" he answered.

"Then all you have to do is tell Him that you know you do bad things and need to be forgiven," she explained. "Then ask Him to come live in your heart and be your boss forever. Do you want to do that?" she asked.

"Yes, right now!" he said. Billy clasped his hands and began to pray.

"Dear Jesus, I do love you and I do believe that you died on the cross and rose again so I could get forgiven. I know I do 'BADTHINGS' all the time and I need you to forgive me. Help me choose to do things your way instead of my own way and be truly sorry in my heart. Please come and live in my heart and stay with me forever. Amen"

When he finished praying he looked up at Mom and said "Am I all clean now Mom?"

Mom smiled, "Yes, Jesus just made you ALL CLEAN!!! Do you know where He is living right now?" she asked.

"IN MY HEART!" shouted Billy.

"How do you know that for sure?" she questioned.

"Because the Bible said He would dwell - live - in my heart thru faith - and I believe!! And He'll never leave!"

"That's right," she said. "Because everything the Bible says is true."



Parent to Parent

If you're coming to this book in the middle then let me ask you to go back and start at the beginning. The first story gives a complete and detailed picture of our 'Badthings'

Dealing Day-to-day with "Badthings"

One way to begin is by taking a 'matter of fact' attitude/manner toward 'badthings'[no hand wringing or pleading], holding firmly to your household rules, lovingly administering firm discipline, and occasionally re-explaining to our child that each time we do a 'Badthing' it makes Jesus sad. Don't try to guilt them or scare them into obedience. We must not make our Loving Savior King into a ferocious bogeyman by telling our children their 'badthings' make him angry. Our Prince of Peace is saddened when we choose to go our own way because it separates us; it puts distance between us and Him. But **IF** *He lives in our hearts* He is always ready to accept our heartfelt repentance, and our request to be forgiven and washed clean. He's always willing to wash a child's heart clean when the child, no matter the age, comes to Him, acknowledges He's the Boss (Master) of everyone (even Mommy and Daddy), and humbly asks for forgiveness. (If your child is 'the boss' in your home this will be more difficult because he will not have learned the concept of submission to authority.)

A note about telling lies.

We used a 'time-out' chair and a kitchen timer as a discipline tool for most offenses - even if we had to stand there the whole time to keep them in. If we don't take the discipline seriously and invest the time to follow thru then they will not take it seriously either. Remember that obedience does not mean that they do it the third or fourth time we tell them with yelling and pleading in between. Sluggish obedience may cost your child his life. Be sure he respects you enough to give you instant attention when you require it.

We define spanking as 3 quick swats, (from your wrist, not your shoulder) with a balsa like lightweight paint stick (from the hardware store) to bare thigh or buttocks this stings but doesn't harm. For dangerous things like: (1) Going into the street alone, (2) defiant acts of disobedience when we told them not to do a certain thing and they immediately did it anyway - that's the 'Badthing' - challenging our authority and (3) telling a lie. **ESPECIALLY** if it was **LYING TO GET OUT OF TROUBLE!** We always explained that if they had just told the truth they probably would have had to only go to 'time out', and we're very sorry, **BUT WE HAD TO SPANK THEM.** Afterwards we always held them close, wiped their tears, prayed with them and then rejoiced with a loud "All CLEAN!!!" and didn't mention it again. You may not agree with our position or method of spanking, but we offer it to you for consideration. **REMEMBER - never spank when angry!**

Story 3

Smell the Chocolate

"Temptation"

For the believing child sin usually follows a progression of steps which are illustrated and labeled in these pages:

A clean heart to start with

A limit set by an adult or the Lord

Temptation

Holy Spirit speaks to their heart

The decision - choosing to sin

The confrontation with adult

including identification of specific sin

and 'You didn't do what Mama said'

The excuses

Re-instruction

Confession /consequences-if a lie or other spanking offense has occurred

and a spanking is necessary (see pg 6) it may be wise to do it

before they ask Jesus for forgiveness

AND is always followed by a lengthy loving embrace

Confession, then Repentance, then Restoration

Consequence for NON-SPANKING offenses: 'Time-out' chair with timer, # of days

without the toy that was fought over or not shared with a visitor, no Sesame Street or other T.V. show for the day, can't go to friend's house tomorrow after all. As a rule, once a consequence is set it must be stuck to, so **BE CAREFUL** what you choose!

Mom was setting out the dessert for Grandma & Grandpa's visit.

She looked down at Billy who was gazing longingly at the candy and said, "I'm serving your favorite chocolates for dessert tonight and I bought enough for everyone to have five pieces."

Mom took Billy's hand and they walked out of the room together.

"They'll be here in a few minutes," said Mom
"Don't eat any before dinner, okay?"

"I'll wait for dessert," Billy promised.

The Temptation

Billy walked back into the room alone a few moments later.

"I can smell that chocolate from here," he said aloud.

"Mmmmmm...smells so good!" he sniffed deeply.
"Just one piece won't spoil my dinner," he thought.



" But Mom said not to..."



"Just one piece..mmm..." he said as he popped one into his mouth.

"BILLY!" Mom said loudly.

"Uh-oh." he mumbled through the chocolate on his tongue.



[Identify the limit]
[Admission of guilt]
[Identify sin]
[Admission of guilt]
[A chance to explain]

"Son, I told you no candy before dinner."
"Yes Ma'am," Billy agreed.
"But you ate one anyway?" she asked.
"Yes Ma'am," he answered truthfully.
"Can you tell me why?" she asked.



[Self-justification/excuse]

[Restatement of limits]

[Self-justification]

[Identify sin]

[Confession with repentance]

[You are loved]

[Teaching]

"It's my favorite," he said as he pointed to the bowl, "and it looked so good..."

"But I specifically told you not to eat any before dinner, right?" reminded Mom.

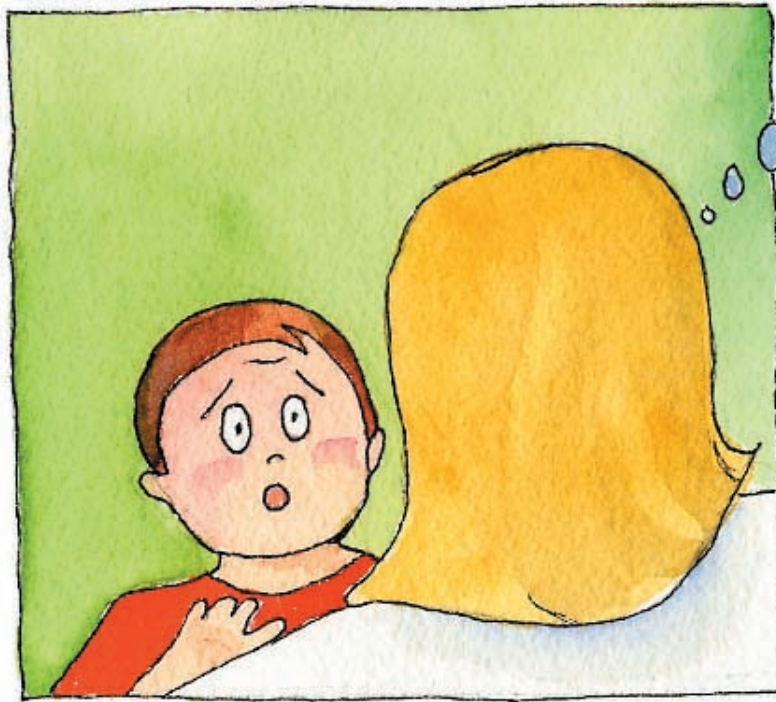
Billy tried to make an excuse. "Yeeess, but I could smell it and..."

"So you didn't do what Mama said," interrupted Mom.

"No Ma'am, I disobeyed you. I'm sorry."

"Billy, I know you love that candy, that's why I bought it, because

I love you. But if you're tempted to disobey me just to eat some, maybe I shouldn't buy it anymore."



LORD, I'm
angry — help me
discipline in
love. Amen

'NO MOM!' 'Don't do That!' Billy said in surprise.

"I won't eat it when I shouldn't. I PROMISE!"

"You promised before," said Mom.

"How can I trust you? Why should I believe you?"

"I don't know." answered Billy sadly.

"Maybe I can help you **resist temptation**," offered Mom.

"RESIST TEMPTATION?" Billy asked. "What's that?"

"Well," Mom said carefully, "that means you choose to do the right thing when you really, really, really, want to do the wrong thing."

"You mean not eat candy when you tell me not to?" he asked.

"Yes," she answered, "and how to always choose to do things God's way. Maybe we can practice."





"Practice?" Billy asked.

"Sure," she said, taking him onto her lap.

"You know that your baseball coach makes you practice throwing and catching so you do it well. You know that Daddy practices shooting baskets and hitting a golf ball. And you had to practice tying your shoes, right?" Mom explained

"In that same way we can practice doing the right thing, choosing God's way instead of our own way."

"But how?" asked Billy.

"Let's go back to the table with the candy," she said as she slid him off her lap.



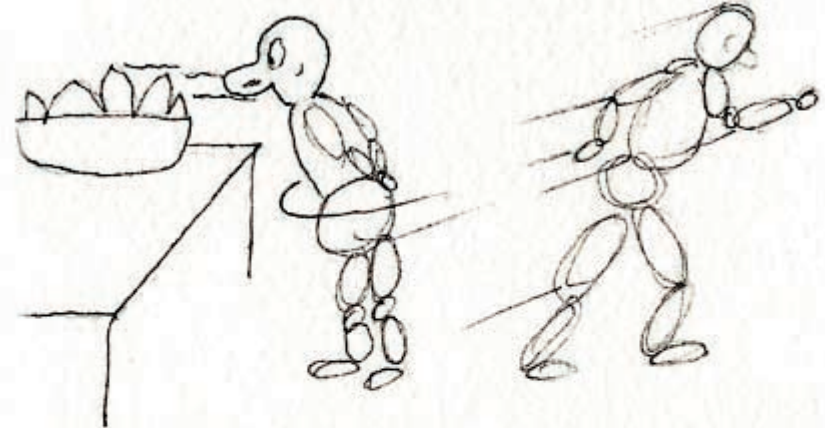
[Teaching and Practice]

"Can you smell it," asked Mom?

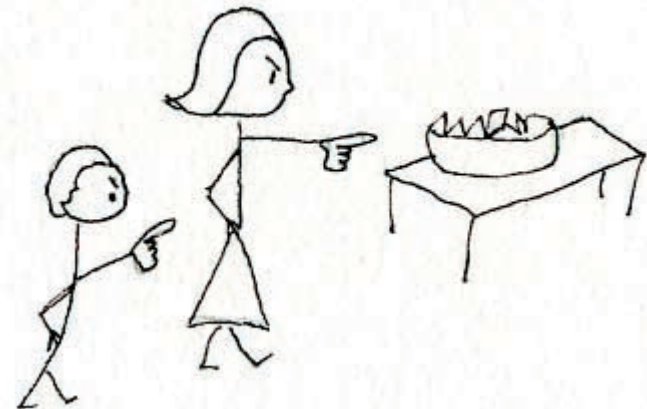
"Yeah. That smells good - but now I want it even more!" Billy said feeling hungry.

"Right! Now you can CHOOSE to go God's way instead of your own way," Mom explained, "by choosing not to eat it even though you want to really, really, really badly. Being truly sorry for your 'BADTHINGS,'" she said, "means turning around and walking away from that sin." Mom stood up and put one hand on her hip. "Try this," she said. "Shake your finger at the candy and then say 'no! No! NO NO!' and then walk out of the room."

"Really?" questioned Billy.



SKILLS DRILLS





[Role Playing]
[Practicing to Resist]

"Sure!" Mom said, standing up. "Let's practice together and get tough on sin. We can say:
"I'll choose God's way."
OR "I'll choose to obey mom"
OR 'You can't trick me you old 'BADTHING!'
OR "I'm walking away from you temptation - I'll eat candy later."

"Mom! That's a lot to say!" objected Billy.

Mom laughed. "You don't have to say it all," she said. "Pick one!"

Billy thought for a moment. "Okay....I pick... 'you can't trick me you old BADTHING, I'm walking away!'"

"Well done Son!" Then her voice rose gradually as she said "I choose 'no, No, NO, **NO!** I'll choose God's way not my own!"



[The Consequence]

"Mama, I can still have candy after dinner, right?" Billy asked.
 "Not tonight, Son. You didn't do what Mama told you when you chose to eat one before dinner. But I'll save the other four pieces for tomorrow - Okay?"

"Okay," he said a little sadly. "I understand."

Ding-dong!

"There's Grandma and Grandpa. Do you want to open the door for them?" Mom asked.

"Sure," Billy said. "Oh, WAIT! We forgot something!"

"What?" asked Mom curiously.

"To talk to Jesus! Could you let Gram and Grandpop in so I can get a clean heart?"

"I'd be happy to." Mom smiled and walked towards the door.

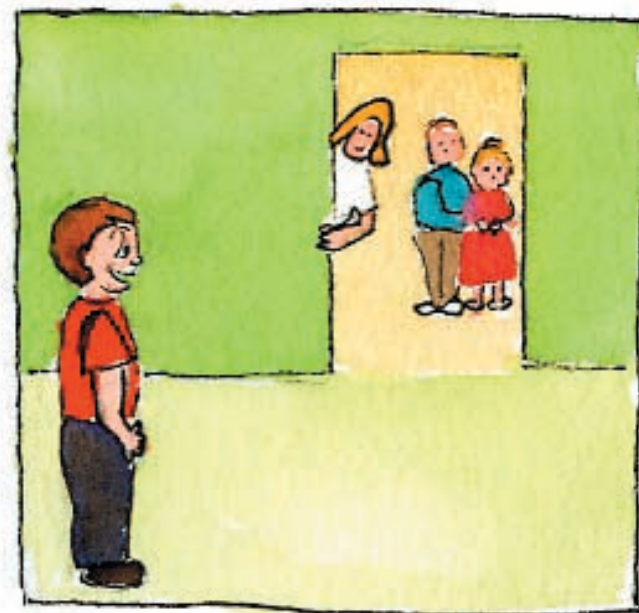




[Confession/Repentance/Restoration]

Billy folded his hands knowing he needed to talk to God.

"Dear Jesus,
I'm really sorry I ate candy when Mom told me not to. Please help me to choose
Your way and not my own by doing what Mom tells me. Please forgive me and
wash me clean. Amen."



"Are you all done praying" Mom asked.

"Uh-huh."

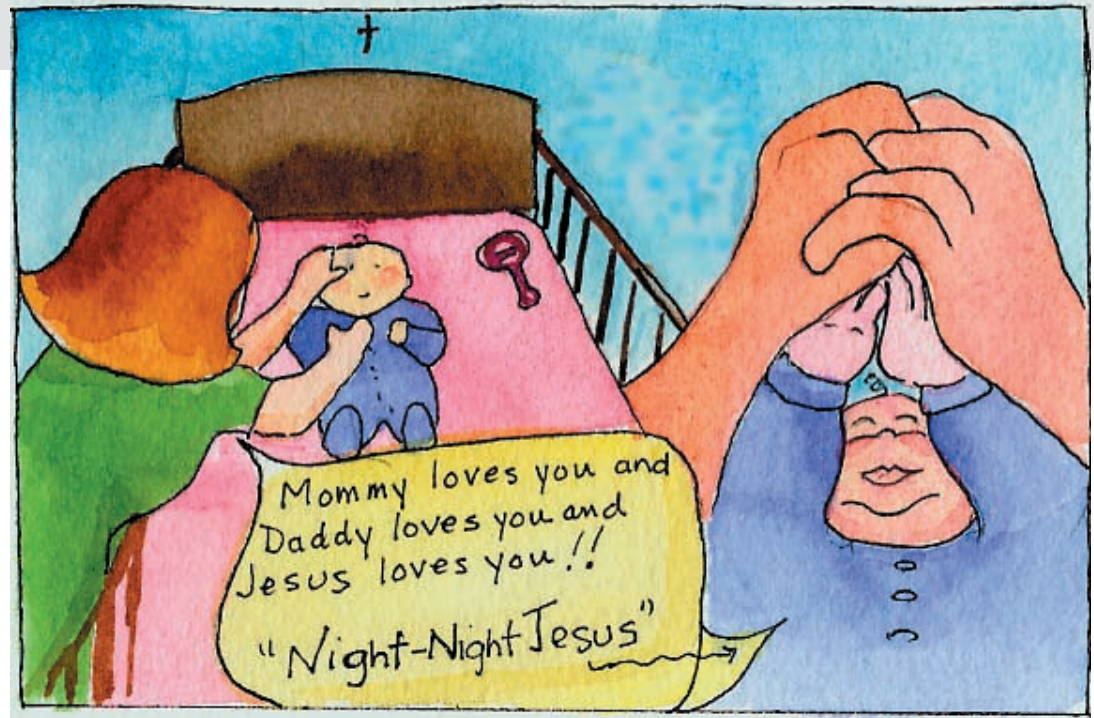


A last word to parents - about first things.

How do I make Jesus real to my child?

The most important thing you will ever teach your child is that your God is real. So how will you treat your wonderful Savior in your daily life to make Him real to your kids?

Smile every time you speak of Him. Thank Him aloud throughout your day for the little things that bless you. Like their school friends getting to come over and play, a special meal out, or that great parking place at the mall on a busy day. In this way you establish that you consider Jesus, even though He's invisible, to be real and present in your space. By your actions you either show love for Him or indifference to His presence. Even if it's just a simple 'Thank you, Jesus,'



Eventually they'll ask you what you're thanking the Lord for. Then you'll have a chance to tell them. We must make it clear that HE is here with us because He loves us and wants to watch over us, to take care of us. Don't use Him as the 'heavy' who stays around to 'catch' us or punish our bad thing, saying 'Jesus will get you for what you did', or 'Jesus doesn't like what you did.' Just tell them it makes Him sad (when they do bad things.)

Ask yourself if your prayers are spoken in formal language and tones - or as to a dear friend standing near. Do you speak to Him only at meals and bedtime or have your children witnessed you praying on the freeway for the stranded motorist or the accident victims. If a fire engine goes by could you pray together for the men on the truck; that they save the people in trouble and don't get hurt themselves.

Starting around age 5 months, when you put your baby to bed in the crib and you're standing there stroking his forehead while he looks up at you, say "Mommy loves you, and Daddy loves you, and Jesus loves you." This identifies Jesus as a real person just like Mommy and Daddy. If you want your children to consider Jesus as a real person you must speak of Him and act as tho He is truly in the room looking on, even though He cannot be seen. Then put your child's tiny hands together in front of Him, bow your head, close your eyes and say "Night-Night Jesus." When your child is older, tho still in the crib, and you have done this routine nightly, you ask them when you put them to bed, "Who loves you?"

They will smile up at you and answer "Mommy loves me."

"Who else loves you?"

"Daddy loves me."

"Who else?"

"Jesus loves me."

"That's right darlin'. He sure does."

Other Stuff For Jesus' Family

Put Jesus back in Christmas

"Waiting for Christmas"

A 1 hour presentation on how to put Jesus back into your kids Christmas. Appropriate for Mom's groups/Retreats/Parent Education Classes Speaker Information call 760.726.7405

'Waiting for Christmas' the Book

Designed for use with kids 3-11, it is 25 nights of devotions to put Jesus into your Christmas celebration. The book includes a scaled down version of the 'talk' mentioned above. To order call 760.726.7405 \$7.52 + shipping.

Family Rapture Legacy

www.famrapturelegacy.com



After the Rapture...

...we hope those left on earth will find this treasure on the wall of your home or office, open it and find out the biblical truth about the worldwide disappearances, not the opinions they'll get on the evening news. The enemy will lie to confuse those poor souls who will endure or die in what's left of the Tribulation. Leave evidence for the truth of Christ's return and a way to reach out to those who will say 'mountains, fall on us' because of their despair. Enclosed in each kit is a tri-fold ricepaper folder containing a letter to those left behind explaining exactly what happened to all of us on the day everyone disappeared, and a Scripture list/Salvation Question sheet.

[\[Download free kit from website\]](#)

Until Then...

...we hope its presence and the letter under the glass will spark conversation and get them to ask you "What's all this about disappearing?" This is an interactive evangelism tool. If you see the signs of Christ's return and you have a heightened sense of urgency in your need to bring your friends and loved ones to Jesus, we believe this tool will help. (Download free kit from **www.famrapturelegacy.com**. Enclosed tract information used with the permission of Evangelism Explosion International.)

Leave Something Behind