

A Gift of Faith Book

8

Part 1



Jesus Loves Us Children

Jesus Loves Us Children

By Charles (5), Liam (7), Mummy Chariane,
and other story contributors

Cover art: Barbara Meinel Jacobs

Photos by: Chariane Quille

—True stories of how Jesus showed His love to children.

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The Coconut

(By Liam, 7)

We prayed to have a fun time outside, and we also needed food for a snack.

At the small beach where we went to play we found a coconut. We opened it, and it was good inside!

It had lots of milk and coconut meat. It was a miracle because they don't grow in that country. Even the coconuts that were sold in the shops were usually old and bad. This coconut that Jesus brought to us, that we found on the beach, was fresh and delicious! It was heavenly imported!

The Yellow Car

(By Mummy Chariane)

We drove to a musical instrument shop. It was far away. We saw pianos, guitars, drums, violins, and many more types of instruments. It was very interesting.

Liam had a new, yellow toy car. It was his favourite. He took it everywhere he went.

He brought it on this trip, and he carried it into the shop. Then he left it at the shop by mistake. When we got home Liam didn't have his yellow car.

We prayed for a miracle to get it back again. Daddy phoned the shop, because it was far away. The man at the shop found the car and said he would keep it for us.

The next day our friend said he would be driving on the road past that shop on his way to our house.

So as he drove the next day he stopped by that shop to go and get the yellow car, then brought it home to us.

Praise the Lord! Now we have the special car again.



The Zoo

(By Liam, 7, and Charles, 5)

The day we wanted to go to the Zoo the weather report said it was supposed to be cold, but the sun shone and it was a beautiful day.

We prayed that we would get to see all the fun animals at the right times when we passed by their areas at the Zoo.

We prayed they would be easy for us to see, as some of the animals had very large places to live. And then it happened!

As soon as we walked into the Zoo there was a snow leopard in his area and he was sleeping behind the glass, right near the walkway.



Most people didn't get to see him when they came to the zoo that day, as he later moved away, but we got to see him right away.

All the other animals were easy to spot also; the giraffes for example. They could have been anywhere in their large area. However, when we passed by them they were eating right next to the fence.

Their faces were so close to where we were standing that we could nearly touch them. It was very special to see them.

And when we went to see the tigers, it was right at the time when they were being fed.

The koalas were asleep when we first saw them, but later we got to see them awake and eating their favourite snack—eucalyptus leaves. Koalas sleep most of the time, both during the day and at night, so it was very rare to get to see them when they were awake.

We enjoyed it so much! It was a perfect day.





The Last Apple

(By Mummy Chariane)

We have an apple tree in our yard and it's mostly a bird feeder, really, as the apples that grow on it are filled with bugs and worms. It has been this way every year. However, something special happened this last year.

All the apples were gone—eaten by the cockatoos as usual. But there was one last apple left on the tree. It grew and grew, and no birds ate it. It was fully ripe, and growing in a low spot where we could pick it.

So one day we picked it and cut it open. To our surprise, it was a very good apple with no bugs at all. That was the only apple that had fully ripened without the birds eating it, and it was without bugs. That was Jesus' special apple treat for us!

The Stretching Cereal

(By Liam, 7, and Charles, 5)

We had moved to a new country and didn't have too much money, but we had what we needed. Then one morning Jesus did something fun to encourage us.

We used to eat oatmeal for breakfast, and we always ate every last bit that was left in the pot!

One morning as Mummy was cooking, she added the oats to the boiling water, and for some reason it thickened, and was thicker than it normally should be, as if too many oats had been poured in. So she added more water.

Still that thickened again, and more water was added. And it just kept thickening, but she had not added any extra oats.

She didn't put too much in, just the normal small amount. It was very unusual. Finally, more and more water was added until the pot was completely full.

That morning we all had not just enough, but we ate seconds, and continued eating until we were filled, and still there were leftovers for later!

Jesus made extra cereal for us that morning, nearly twice the amount as usual. It was amazing. "He hath filled the hungry with good things." (Luke 1:53)



Amazing Bike Skill

(By Charles, 5)

The training wheels on my bike were broken, and I didn't know how to ride without training wheels.

One day we heard that our friends were going on a trip for six weeks. We planned to go to the bike park with them the next day, before they would leave for their trip.

We wanted to spend time playing and riding bikes with them. When thinking about the bike park trip the next day, I got on my bike in the backyard.

I was going to try out my bike without the training

wheels to see what it was like. With Jesus' help, I rode across our yard without falling over!

When we went the next day with our friends to the bike park, I could just ride and ride without falling!

I rode on my bike here and there, back and forth, up hills and down slopes. I knew immediately how to ride!

It felt fun. Jesus knew I would have been sad if I wasn't able to ride a bike well for our fun time with our friends, so He did a miracle.

Jesus gave me the faith to try and the skill to do it, instantly, and He protected me from any accidents.

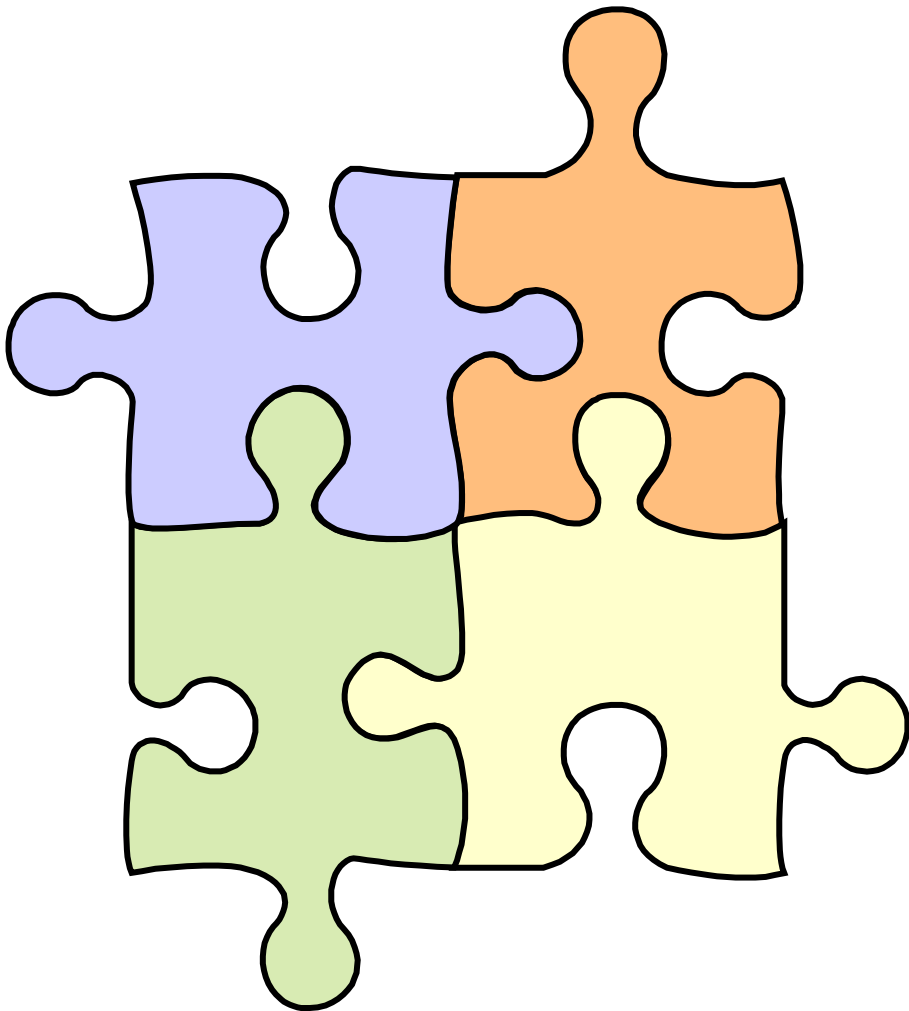
The Car Puzzle

(By Liam, 7)

I have a puzzle of a car that I like. One time most of the pieces got scattered and it took a couple of days to find as many of the puzzle pieces as we could.

Mummy kept finding a few here and there, adding them to the box, but we never found all of them. There were one or two pieces still missing.

We didn't make the puzzle for a long time, as it's not much fun to do a puzzle that is missing a piece or two. Mummy looked around a lot to try to find the missing pieces, but never did find them all.



On Mother's Day this year I remembered about that puzzle, and wanted to do it again. Daddy, my brother and I put the puzzle together.

To our surprise every piece was there! Jesus had helped all the pieces to be in the box.



Water Surprise

(By Liam, 7, and Charles, 5)

When we were travelling with Mummy by an aeroplane, and changing planes, we were thirsty and needed some water.

There were three of us travelling—Mummy and us two boys. There was a machine that gives water bottles if you put in coins. It would give one bottle of water for each Euro coin put in the machine. We only had two Euro coins left, but we needed three bottles of water.

We only put in the two coins, but by a miracle, three bottles of water came out. Thank You, Jesus!

Blue Pen Lid

(By Liam, 7, and Charles, 5)

For a few days we had been looking for the lid to a light blue marker. We didn't want the marker to get dried out, but the lid just seemed to disappear one day when we used it.

We had just gotten new bicycle helmets and read about bicycle safety. We wanted to ride our bikes and use our new helmets, so we drove to a place that was especially for riding bikes.

We hadn't been there for a long time, and we had a good time riding around. It started to sprinkle a little bit, but we prayed, and the rain didn't come down full blast until we got home. So that was nice.

When we were at the bike park, Mummy looked down at the grass in the bike playground area, and was so surprised to see, guess what?

A light blue marker lid—to just the same kind of pens that we have. It was exactly what we needed.

It had some dirt on it, and it seemed to have been there for a little while. We brought it home and happily placed it on our pen!

Jesus is so amazing.

He knows what we are thinking, and just what we need and want too. Jesus always loves us!



The Plum

(By Mummy Chariane)

I was caring for these two toddlers during the day in a hot and dry country. There wasn't much fresh fruit available there, and the children really liked fruit.

There was this plum tree in the back yard. It was a very small tree and it didn't look like it had many plums on it.

One day the two children and I noticed there were two plums growing on it.

Every day when I took the children outside we would check on the plums. One plum disappeared, but for some reason, the last plum stayed there.

No birds ate it, and none of the other older children even noticed it. Every day the little children and I would check on it.

Finally, the plum we had been checking on most that was on a very low branch, right within their reach, was still there and was fully ripe!

Not one person had noticed it or picked it. So with great joy the two toddlers and I picked it and the children got to taste it for their snack.

It was very special. We knew it was a gift from Jesus!



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Olives

(By Mummy Chariane)

A three-year-old girl and a two-year-old boy really wanted some olives so I prayed with them that they would get some.

A few days later, while playing with the children in the garden, we heard the noise of a chainsaw.

The neighbours were pruning and cutting huge branches off their olive tree—with very ripe olives on it. The branches fell over the fence, right into our yard, unwanted by the neighbours.

The children and I had great fun picking the olives off! With the branches on the ground they were just the right height for the children to happily pick the olives.

Before we could eat them we had to have patience, until they were ready and had been prepared in salt water, to make them taste better.

It was a fun way to see our prayer answered! We had enough olives for a long while after that.

Amazing Milk

(By Liam, 7)

When Mummy was a missionary, one morning there were 15 children that needed milk for breakfast, and she only had a little pitcher of milk.

But she remembered the story of the two fish and five loaves of barley bread, and how Jesus made it enough for everyone who was there.

So she prayed and asked Jesus to make the little bit of milk stretch to be enough for all the children.

Then Mummy took the little pitcher of milk, set out the cups and began to fill them by faith.

She poured the milk into the cups, and just kept on pouring.

The pitcher only ran out of milk after every cup was filled. All the children were so happy to have a nice glass of milk that morning.



A Bird and the Frog

(By Mummy Chariane)

When Liam was two years old, his daddy wasn't able to be there for his birthday. He had been gone for awhile on a trip. Then Jesus did something to encourage Liam.

For the first time ever, a little bird flew into our dining area. We lived in an eight-story apartment building and the bird just flew in—a cute little bird.

Liam really liked it. Eventually it was able to fly out again. It was just a special thing to have happened on his birthday.

Later that day, when someone was with him outside they found a frog in the garden. The garden was

more like a courtyard. It was just a cement area with some plants growing in the corner of it.

They found this frog and brought it upstairs to show everybody. Liam was so happy with this little frog that was found. We let him go later on, but it was fun that it happened on his birthday.

The Lord brought some nature to him in a place where it wasn't really possible to enjoy much nature.



The Elephant

(By Mummy Chariane)

When I was a teenager I went to a fair. There was this place that had a throwing contest. If you won you could get a stuffed animal.

There was a very large stuffed elephant available, and I wanted it for the children I helped care for.

I thought about how much they would like a very big stuffed animal, but in order to win it you'd have to do the very challenging test.

There were three "olden-days" milk jugs placed at the back of the stall and baseballs had to be thrown into the holes of the jugs.

The holes of the jugs were made extra small. Actually, it seemed that the ball would barely fit in. I was not good at throwing, but I was chosen to be the one to do it. The person throwing would have three chances, and had to get the ball into the jugs at least twice out of the three throws.

It seemed impossible, but we prayed because I wanted that elephant for the children. I took a ball in my hand and I threw the first ball, and missed.

I only had two chances left, and I had to get them both in the jugs. We prayed and I threw the next ball. It almost seemed like it was guided mysteriously as it went in!

The lady at the stall was somewhat surprised, but not nearly as surprised as when on my last throw the ball also went in the hole!

It was amazing. It wasn't something I could have done on my own, even if I had tried many times.

Happily we got the huge elephant and were able to give it to the children and they were very happy also. Jesus just made the balls go in, to answer our prayer and make some children glad.

The Bright Moon

(By Charles, 5)

It was a cloudy night, but we could tell by the bright spot behind the clouds that the moon was big and round and nearly full.

I really wanted to see the moon, but couldn't because the clouds were in the way.

As I went to sleep I prayed for Jesus to take the clouds away so I could see the moon.

The next night the clouds were gone, and the moon was perfectly visible. It was completely full, and big and bright. I could see it perfectly!





Playground

(By Liam, 7)

We walked to a playground that belonged to a Hotel. It was a very special playground and there were not many of them around where we used to live.

We really wanted to play there, but there was a gate and only special guests were allowed to go in—those who were staying at the hotel.

We walked there and prayed that we would be allowed to play there. The man at the gate said, “Yes!” when we asked him if we could enter. He let us come in and play. We had a wonderful time!

The Colour Red

(By Mummy Chariane)

Patrick, who was two years old, was really wishing to see a certain song on a website, but our year's subscription had run out, which meant we couldn't see the song right then. The main spot he wanted to see was the song about the colour red.

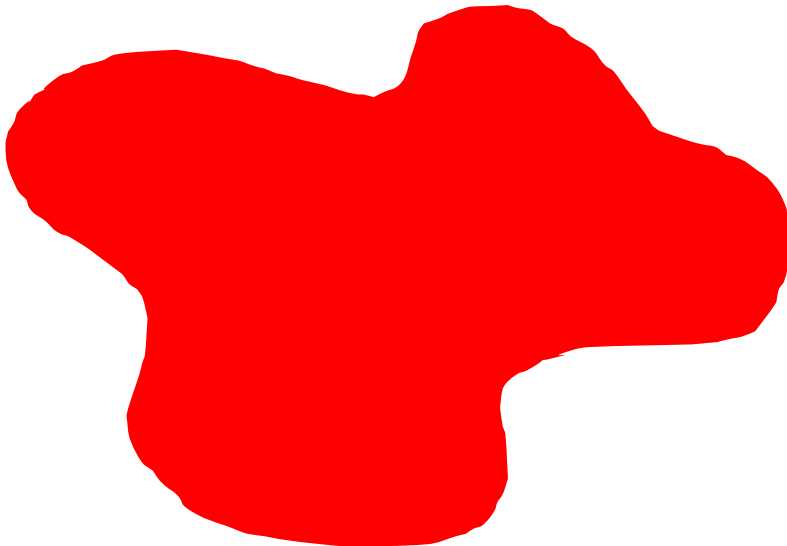
It has a cute little bear with a fire engine. He wanted it so much.

I prayed and said, "Lord, can you do a miracle somehow and help us to be able to see that song?"

I decided to take a step of faith, and I clicked on the website just in case, by some miracle, we got to see it anyway.

When I opened it up, the website had some free samples of what was on it. And believe it or not, one of the samples they chose was the very spot that Patrick wanted to see, about the colour red!

He was so happy, and I was so encouraged by Jesus' love to make his wish come true.



Lego Visor Helmet

(By Liam, 7)

One time I was playing with my Lego aeroplane and its Lego man that had a motorcycle-type of helmet. It wasn't very often that I found that kind of helmet. I took it outside to pretend to fly it around, but the helmet fell off and got lost. Then after looking for a while, Daddy was able to find it.

I was so glad!

I took it outside again, and when I went to bring it inside from the sandbox where I was playing, the visor helmet was missing again.

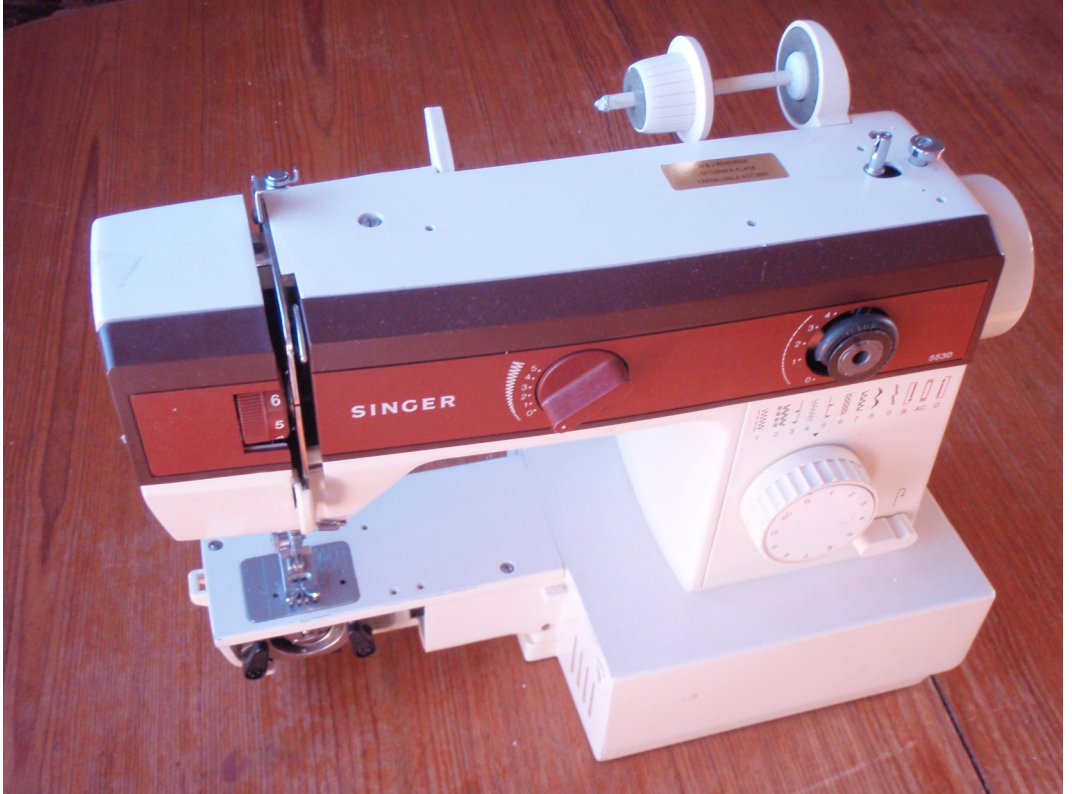
I was so sad, and realised that I should not take Lego outside to play with.

Mummy went to look for it many times, but since our yard has lots of grass it would be nearly impossible to find it.

Mummy and I prayed to find it.

Then one day when I felt I needed some encouragement, an amazing thing happened. When Mummy was getting some socks out of the sock drawer, there was the visor helmet—right in the drawer!

It really cheered me up and made me feel Jesus' love and care for me. He knew just how to make me happy.



Sewing Sets

(By Liam, 7, and Charles, 5)

We had wanted to use the cloth that someone gave us to make some matching sets of clothes.

One morning we needed something to cheer us up and Mummy got the idea to pull out the cloth and to try to make the new clothes for us.

She hadn't been able to use the sewing machine for a long while, as the last time she used it something was wrong with it. It would only sew backwards, and sometimes the thread would get tangled, and the machine would not work right.



Mummy wanted to do something fun for us, so she was just going to sew the clothes anyway, even if the machine would only sew backwards.

Then a miracle happened! When she got everything ready and started to use the machine it worked, right at the start! Jesus had fixed it for us.

Mummy, who didn't really know how to make clothes, thought of good ideas of how to do it, when she prayed. Each of us got a new set of clothes! It was a miracle project.

Colours

(By Liam, 7, and Charles, 5)

We wanted to make a nice Christmas display of the story of Jesus' birth.

We needed plenty of crayons and colours to do it, as there was a lot of colouring to be done.

Daddy went to the shop to see if he could find any. Before he left we prayed for him to be able to find some good colours.

At the shop, he picked a small package off the shelf that was available.

However, when he went to pay for it, the cashier remembered that there was a very big and fancy package of all sorts of colours on sale that day.

There were no more on the shelf, so he went to the storage part of the shop and got the big package for us. It was real cheap and had tons of colours in it.

We know it happened because we prayed, and Jesus answered by telling the man to let us know about it and to look for it for us!



Splinter

(By Mummy Chariane)

Seven-year-old Liam came into the house yesterday to get help. He had gotten a wooden splinter in his little finger.

I took my tweezers and tried to pull it out, but that didn't work, as it was under the skin.

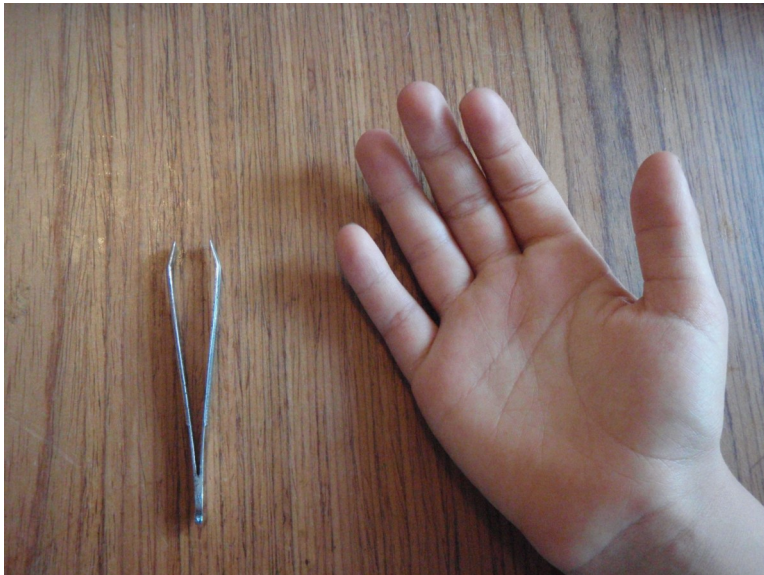
Then I tried other ways to get it out, but it wasn't working. Liam didn't want to wait for it to come out naturally, as it hurt and he wanted it out right then.

I prayed aloud while pausing and not touching it, "Jesus, with Your Heavenly power, please release it!"

When I opened my eyes after praying I was so surprised and laughed at what I saw!

The splinter was completely out and barely sitting on his little finger tip.

I brushed it away and we praised Jesus for that amazing miracle, right before our eyes!



Continued in Part 2