

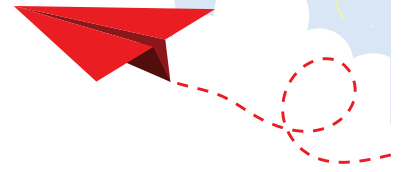
My Place in God's World



GOTTA HAVE GOD

**52-WEEK DEVOTIONAL
FOR BOYS AGES 6-9**

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Week 11: Jesus Died So We Can Live

1

Pulling Plants

"You'll have to pull some of the plants out," said Mommy as she looked at Jordan's planter full of small, green seedlings. Jordan had planted a handful of parsley and basil seeds in the pot of dirt, and now they were about an inch tall.

"No," cried Jordan. "I don't want to pull any of them out. They'll die."

"But if you don't pull them out," said Mommy, "then all of them will die. There isn't enough room for them all to grow."

"I don't want the plants to die," Jordan said sadly. "Why can't they all live?"

"If people never died," said Mommy, "and more and more babies kept being born, we would run out of food and houses and everything!"

"Yeah, I guess so," Jordan answered.

"Well, the plants are the same way," said Mommy. "Unless some of them are pulled out, there won't be enough dirt and food for them. They will all die. But if we pull out some of the plants, then the rest will grow."

"You know," Mommy continued, "what Jesus did for us is kind of like that. He died for us so that we can live. Because he faced death for us, we can live with him forever in Heaven."

"So it's a good thing if I take some of these plants out?" Jordan asked, looking at the pot of dirt.

"It sure is," his mom assured him. "God continually reminds us of what he did for us through his creation. Isn't that amazing? Now, let me help you get started on those plants."

*[Jesus said]
"Everyone who
lives in me and
believes in me will
never ever die."*

John 11:26



1

2

Your Turn

Why did Jordan need to pull out some of the plants?

Read John 11:26. Who died so that you can live? How does that make you feel?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for dying so I can live. Thank you for taking care of me and for reminding me of your goodness every day. In Jesus' name, amen.



Personal Terrarium

Most people don't realize how easy it is to have a personal terrarium. We've had one for several years sitting on our windowsill and we've only had to water it twice in all that time. You can make your own today!

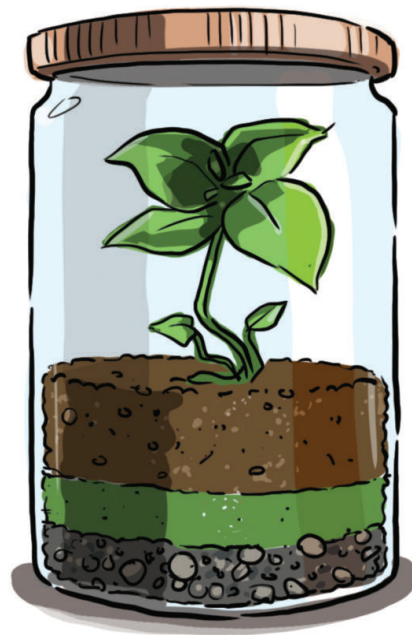
What You'll Need

- Large glass container with lid
- Gravel
- Carbon (you can buy small amounts like for aquarium filters)
- Dirt
- Plants (small, slow-growing is best)
- Water

What You'll Do

1. Place a layer of gravel, carbon and dirt (see image) in the glass container.
2. Place your plant inside.
3. Add a little water and put the cap on tightly.
4. Place your terrarium in a sunny spot where it can stay and be undisturbed for months or years. Watch it closely each day for about a week.
5. When it looks too foggy inside, open the lid for fifteen minutes. If too dry, water just a few drops and close it again.

It only takes a few days for the inner climate to adjust and then you won't have to touch it again for months or perhaps even years. Just enjoy it and watch it grow!



The Wonderful Gift

Megan and Joshua were friends. One day, they were swinging at recess when the school counselor asked Joshua if he could come to her office. When Joshua didn't come back for the rest of the day, she started to worry.

Later, after Megan's mom picked her up from school, she asked her to sit down and explained what happened.

"Megan," her mom said, "I have some very sad news about your friend Joshua. His dad died suddenly this morning."

Megan didn't know Joshua's dad, but she started to cry. "Is that why he left school early?" she asked.

"Yes, honey. You probably won't see him at school for the next couple of days, but we can go to his father's funeral later this week to support Joshua," her mom said. "In the meantime, we can pray for Joshua together."

Megan went with her mom to the funeral home where Joshua and his family had gathered to say goodbye to Joshua's dad.

After the service, they walked to the front of the room where everyone stood talking. She noticed the large box at the front, which her mom said was a casket. "Why is Joshua's daddy in there?" she asked.

"He's not really in there, honey," her mother answered. "When a person dies, his soul still lives. Joshua's daddy is in Heaven now because he loved Jesus. All that's in that big box is the body he used to live in while he was here with us. It's not really him."

Once they were back in the car, Megan's mom continued to explain. "We can go to Heaven because Jesus died for us. Even when sad things happen, like Joshua's daddy dying, there's still hope because of what Jesus did for us."

Megan thought about that for a long time. Megan liked thinking that Joshua would see his daddy again when his soul went to Heaven, too.

[Jesus said] "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."

John 11:25



Week 11: Jesus Died So We Can Live



Your Turn

What are some questions you have about death?

John 11:25 says that "anyone who believes in [God] will live, even after dying." What does that mean?

Prayer

Dear God, sometimes life is hard. Death isn't easy to understand. Help me to be loving to those around me and to remind others of the sacrifice you made. In Jesus' name, amen.



Love Cards

When your friends or family are grieving it's good to show them that you care. Today, write letters or draw a picture for the people you love. They don't have to be going through a hard time to know that you love them.

What You'll Need

- Construction paper
- Crayons
- Glue
- 2 buttons (per card)
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Optional: glitter or lace doilies

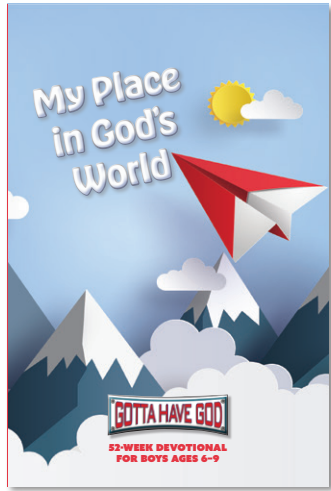


What You'll Do

1. Fold a piece of construction paper in half.
2. Fold it in half again to form a card.
3. Decorate the card any way you like with crayons, glue, or glitter. Another option is to use lace doilies to form shapes or use it as edging.
4. Glue a button onto the front of the card. Glue another on the back of the card.
5. Cut a piece of yarn about 3-inches long. Gently wrap an end around beach button.

Now the person to whom you give your card has to unwrap the yarn, just like unwrapping a gift!





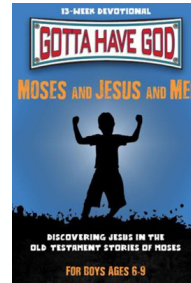
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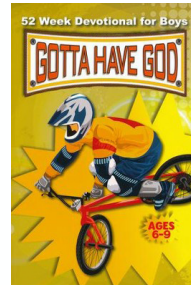


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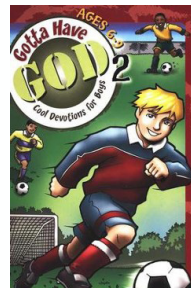
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