

Christmas Eve is here, and
Harvey and his friends have
gathered together to celebrate!

“But why do we celebrate
Christmas?” Nutty wonders.

Harvey tells the amazing, true
Christmas story.

The Christmas Story



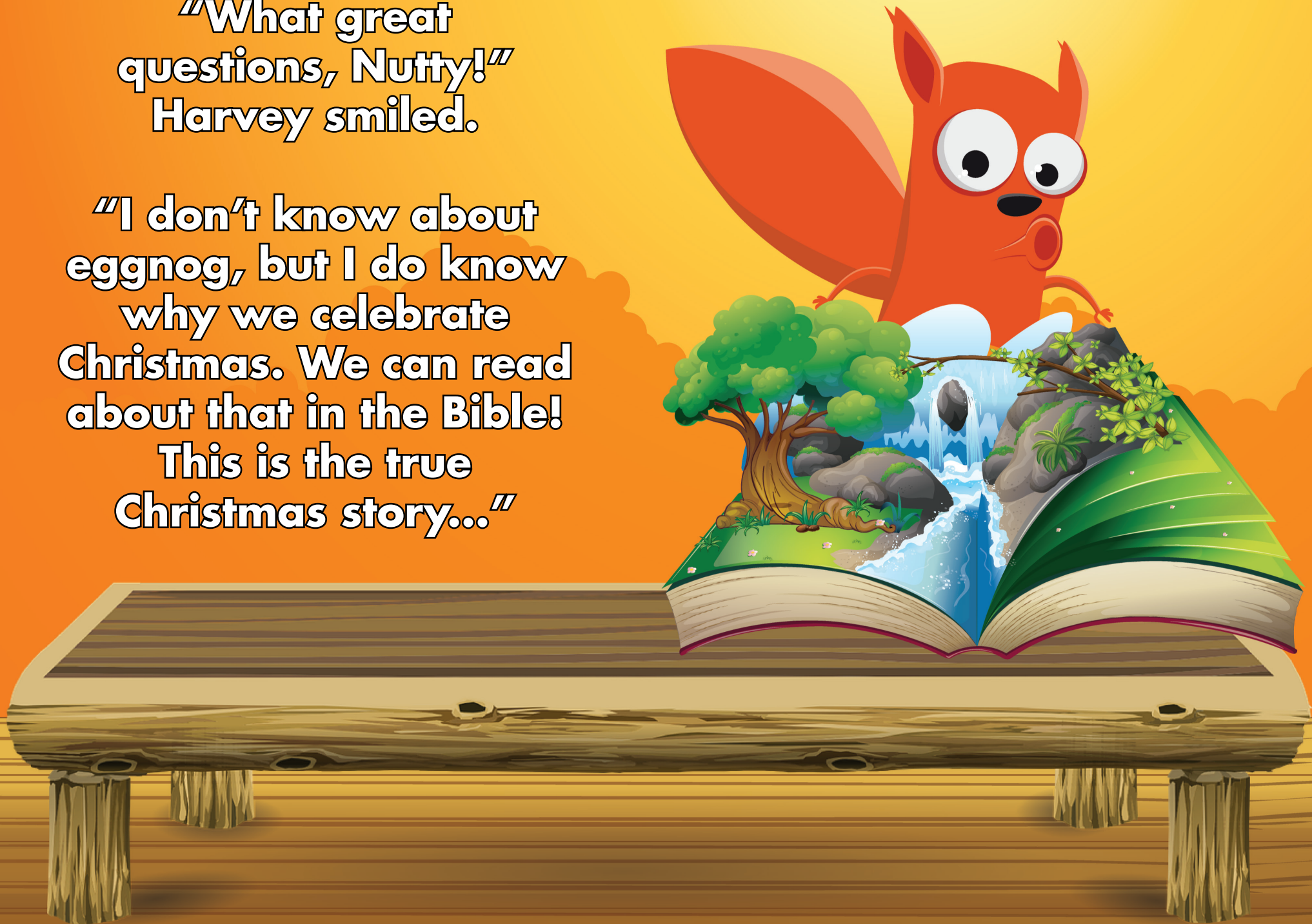
**One cold Christmas Eve,
Harvey and his friends
gathered together to
celebrate. Nutty was
bursting with even more
energy than usual!**

**“What’s under the
Christmas tree? Why does
it snow? What is eggnog?
Is there real egg in it? That’s
gross. And why do we
celebrate Christmas?” she
asked.**



**“What great
questions, Nutty!”
Harvey smiled.**

**“I don’t know about
eggnog, but I do know
why we celebrate
Christmas. We can read
about that in the Bible!
This is the true
Christmas story...”**



Over two thousand years ago, in the land of Israel, a poor couple lived in a little town called Nazareth. Their names were Mary and Joseph, and they were engaged to be married.

During this time in Israel, a powerful country called Rome had taken over. The rulers of Rome did not treat the people of Israel kindly.





One day, an angel suddenly appeared to Mary!

The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. You will give birth to a son. He will be a very great King!"

Mary was confused, because she wasn't married. She didn't know how this could happen! The angel explained this baby would be a miracle. That meant God would make something impossible happen: this baby would be God Himself!



**"Oh! I like this story!"
Nutty grinned. "I can guess
what happens next. The
poor girl Mary becomes
a princess. And the baby
becomes a famous king in a
castle! And..."**

**Harvey held up his hooves
and laughed.**

**"Hold on, Nutty! You are
getting ahead of yourself!**

**Let's keep going with the
story. You will see."**

**Next, the angel visited
Joseph.**

**The angel told Joseph that
Mary was going to have a
miracle baby!**

**He said, "Joseph, take
Mary as your wife. The
child in her is God.**

**You are to name Him
Jesus, for He will save His
people..."**



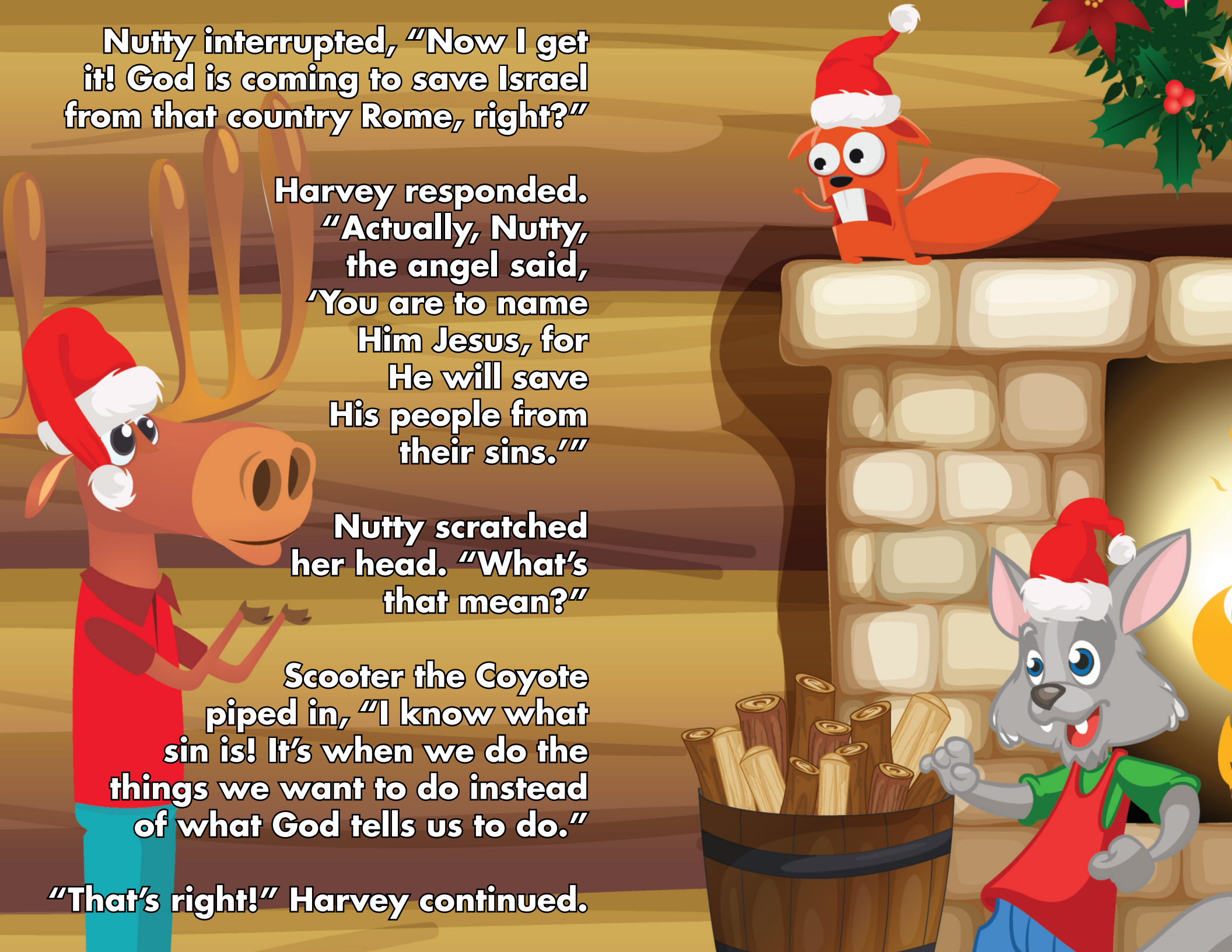
Nutty interrupted, "Now I get it! God is coming to save Israel from that country Rome, right?"

Harvey responded.
"Actually, Nutty,
the angel said,
'You are to name
Him Jesus, for
He will save
His people from
their sins.'"

Nutty scratched
her head. "What's
that mean?"

Scooter the Coyote
piped in, "I know what
sin is! It's when we do the
things we want to do instead
of what God tells us to do."

"That's right!" Harvey continued.



Sin keeps us from being with God. But God loves us so much, He had a plan to save us. All of this is part of God's wonderful plan.

Now, the Roman rulers forced everyone in Israel to travel to a certain place and pay them money.

So Mary and Joseph traveled a long way from their little hometown in Nazareth, all the way to another little town called Bethlehem.



While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Jesus to be born.

But Jesus wasn't born in a palace, like you may expect for a Savior or a King.

In fact, since there was no room for them anywhere else, Mary and Joseph had to put the baby in a manger - a place where animals eat.



A king being born in a stable isn't the only surprise in this story! The angel appeared again, this time to some shepherds.

The angel said, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today a Savior has been born!"

The angel told the shepherds this baby was God, and He was a gift for the whole world!



After the angel left, the shepherds hurried to see this great thing. When they found the baby, they praised God! Then they told everyone they could find about Him.

It seems unlikely that the first people to hear about the Savior would be shepherds, but this shows that the Savior, Jesus, is for everyone!



**Another surprising group
of people came to see
the baby Jesus, too.
Some kings from another
country heard about the
birth of the new King and
followed a star hundreds
of miles to give Him gifts.**



**The shepherds and kings
knew God had come to
Earth for everyone.**

**Jesus is the King over all
other kings. He is the Savior
of shepherds, and of all the
world. That is the story of
Christmas.**

**And that's only the
beginning! Jesus grew into
a man and lived a perfect
life. He took the punishment
for our sin by dying in our
place, but then He came
back to life! That is what
the angel meant when he
said Jesus would save His
people from their sins.**



Nutty was so excited! She finally understood why Christmas was important. She gave Harvey the biggest hug her little arms could manage.

"Thank you so much for telling me this amazing Christmas story!

Now I am definitely ready to celebrate the wonderful gift of Jesus... God, who became human to be our Savior and King!"





Hey, Harvey friends!

I hope you're just as thankful for Jesus as I am after hearing all about the Christmas story! Jesus came to save us from our sins, but we have to accept that gift from Him. To learn how, check out the ABC's on the next page.

Also, check out more Christmas fun on the website!

I hope to see you soon. Remember, God loves you and we do, too! Merry Christmas!

Your pal,
Nutty the Squirrel



ABC's of Salvation



A

Admit to God that you have sinned (done wrong things) and disobeyed Him. Our sin (the wrong things we've done) separates us from God because He is good and perfect. *In your Bible: Romans 3:23*

B

Believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again. The punishment for sin is death, but Jesus took that punishment in our place. He rose from the dead and is alive in Heaven, and we can live with Him there forever! *In your Bible: John 3:16*

C

Choose to trust Jesus alone for the forgiveness of your sins. When you trust in Jesus Christ alone to save you, God forgives you! You become His child, and He promises you a home in Heaven forever! *In your Bible: Romans 10:13*

If you need a Bible, have a parent email us at kids@youthhaven.org and we'll send you one!