

DAVID

Ellen G. White's  
*Classic Steps to Christ*  
Adapted for Children

ASKS WHY



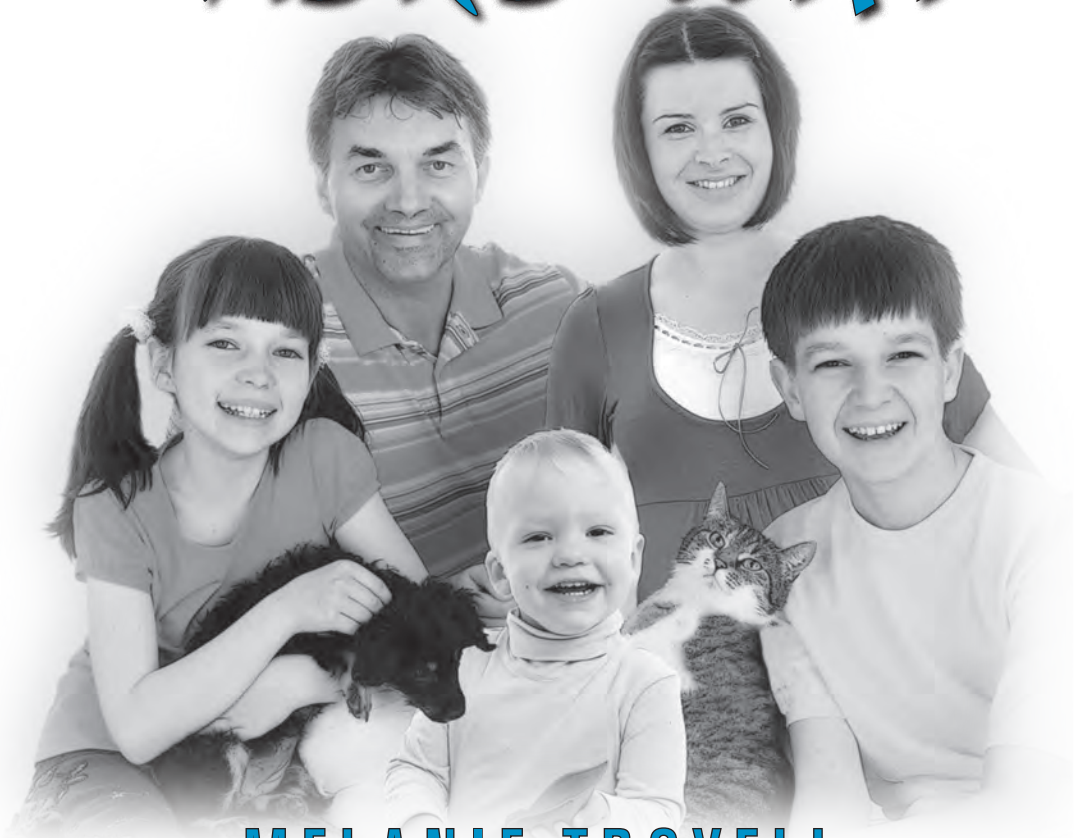
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# Dedication

To my boys, Jonathan, Christian, and Noah,  
and to every other little child who wants to know  
Jesus better!

# Acknowledgments

I want to say thank you to my husband, Mike, for being my best friend and my fan club.

I want to say thanks especially to my mom for watching my kids during my sickness and helping me complete this book, and for her constant assistance with ideas and editing.

# Contents

Chapter 1	God Loves Me .....	9
Chapter 2	I Need Jesus.....	17
Chapter 3	Saying You're Sorry .....	24
Chapter 4	Admitting What You Did.....	40
Chapter 5	Sticking With It.....	45
Chapter 6	Believe and Receive.....	53
Chapter 7	Figuring Out if You're a Christian.....	60
Chapter 8	Growing Up in Jesus .....	72
Chapter 9	Your Job, Your Life .....	84
Chapter 10	Knowing God.....	92
Chapter 11	We Can Pray! .....	101
Chapter 12	What to Do When You Doubt.....	116
Chapter 13	Being Happy in Jesus.....	128







### A Brand-New Heart

**D**avid crept quietly into the room and along the side of the big bed.

“Rrrrrr!” he screamed. This was his most convincing lion’s roar. He flew through the air and crashed onto the pile of pillows that his mother was sitting against. She wrinkled up her nose and grabbed his head, stuffing his face into a pillow. Then she grabbed him up in a hugful of tickles.

“Mommy, are you *done* on the computer yet? I want to go outside!”

He had asked many times already, but Mrs. Peppers was not feeling well. The weather was too cold for her to get excited about a walk in the woods.

She sighed and then smiled, setting her computer and books aside.

“OK, let me get your sister up, and then we’ll get ready to go.”

After bundling up in warm clothes, David, Christy, and their mother headed for the woods. Several times they stopped to notice interesting sticks and strange-looking rocks. Christy found a little yellow flower. She especially liked the bugs on the trail. She stopped

## DAVID ASKS WHY

and watched a fat beetle scurrying along the path. Christy poked it with a weed. When the beetle turned around to fight, she laughed.

A while later, they came back inside the house. Mrs. Peppers began to fix a warm drink for the boy and girl. While they waited, David discovered something he had not seen before. He saw a stack of computer paper in a folder on the kitchen table.

“What is in there?” he asked.

Mrs. Peppers smiled and set the warm drinks in front of her two children. She sat down and opened the folder. “Listen,” she said. “I’ll read it to you.”



Do you like to go outside? The beautiful things God has made show you just how much He loves you. The Bible is full of stories to tell you of His love.

Think about the many things God has made. He created our world with everything you need to make you happy and healthy. The sunshine and the rain, the trees and water and grass are all special presents that God has given to you! God loves to help you grow and be happy.

King David says, “We are filled with hope and trust in God. We know that He will give us the food that we need. We are sure that He will give us our desires” (Psalm 145:15, 16).

When God made Adam and Eve, people were always good and happy; and the beautiful world was perfect, with no rottenness or death. But now there are many bad things in our world. Plants and animals and people get old and die. But even though people are hurting, we can still see God’s love around us.

Sometimes our lives are hard. Sometimes we get hurt, and when we work, we get tired. But these troubles can help us learn and grow. Sometimes things go wrong, of course, but if we will just go outside, we will see all sorts of living things in nature that

## God Loves Me

give us hope and comfort. We will find lovely roses among the thorns, and flowers among the prickles.

You can see God's love in the tiny opening flower buds and in every little piece of grass. The birds fill the air with their pretty songs, and the flowers smell delicious. The trees make the world seem alive with bright green. All of these teach us that God is a tender, loving Father, and He loves to make us happy.

## What Did Jesus Do?

**A**ll week long, David had been looking forward to going to the Allstons' house for prayer meeting. He had always liked Mr. and Mrs. Allston because they paid attention to him and talked to him as though he understood. He had a hard time sitting through all the talking. But he enjoyed the popcorn and juice, and he tried to listen.

David had heard the grown-ups talking about why Jesus came to earth, and he didn't understand it. On the way home, he asked, "Dad, why *did* Jesus come here? I don't think I would have liked to leave heaven and my family very much."

To help him understand, Mr. Peppers pulled the folder of papers out of Mrs. Peppers's bag and began to read.



The Bible tells us all about God. That's where He tells us about His love and kindness. Many years ago, Moses asked God to show him His glory. God told him about just how good He is. People talk a lot about God's glory, but what does that mean? God's glory is His goodness.

The Lord told Moses, "I am kind, and I love to give you gifts that you don't deserve. I am patient with you and full of goodness. I cannot lie. I am kind to everyone, and I love to forgive sins" (Exodus 34:6, 7).

## DAVID ASKS WHY

God uses many wonderful gifts to teach us to love Him. Do you love your family? Do you love your friends? This love is one way that God teaches us how great He is!

Even though God has shown us how much He loves us in many ways, some people still don't understand that He loves them. Satan has made people afraid of God. He has made people think God is mean and bad. The people think that God wants to hurt us and take everything good away from us. Satan has made people think that God likes it when people make a mess of things and that He wants to punish them. But that is not true! To teach us how much He really loves us, God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to be born as a baby. Jesus came down from heaven to show us what God is like.



Have you ever seen God? The Bible says that no one has seen Him except for Jesus (John 1:18; Matthew 11:27). Would you like to see God, your Father in heaven? When we learn about Jesus, we are seeing a lovely picture of God (John 14:8, 9).

Why did Jesus come to earth? He came to preach good news to poor, sad people. He came to make sad hearts happy and to free people from their sinful habits (Luke 4:18). He did good things for everyone He met and healed many sick people. In everything He did, Jesus was loving and kind. He loves people very much.

Jesus became a little child, and then a man, just so He could understand what we need. Even poor people and shy people were never afraid of Him. Little children loved Jesus—they loved to sit on His lap and look into His friendly eyes.

## God Loves Me

Jesus always told the truth, but was always kind when He did it. Jesus was thoughtful as He spoke to people and was never, ever rude. He didn't like the bad things people did, but He loved the people, so He taught them not to do those bad things. And He taught them to believe in their Father in heaven.

Sometimes Jesus cried when people did evil deeds because He felt pity for them. He was not afraid to say, very clearly, what a sin is. People were often mean to Him and didn't believe in Him, but He still loved them. He was never selfish, and He cared about every person on earth. He wanted to help everyone go to heaven.

## Jesus Instead of Me

**T**he Peppers family had spent a wonderful afternoon at the state park. They had not visited the park for a long time, and everyone was having fun. They had climbed to the top of the highest point in the park and felt the wind almost blow them off the little mountain.

The way back down seemed rougher and steeper, and the thorns seemed to scratch everyone when they weren't looking. Mr. Peppers was holding David's and Christy's hands to keep them steady. Suddenly, Christy noticed a big rock, and she pulled away to climb it. Her father hurried over just in time to catch her by the foot as she started to slide down over the six-foot drop on the other side of the rock.

Christy was scared, but she had not seen the real danger she was in. David and his parents knew



## DAVID ASKS WHY

how scary it really was. At the bottom of the rock was a pile of stones and thorns that could have hurt Christy badly. David's heart was pounding in his ears. He loved his little sister and felt glad that she was safe. While his mother was checking Christy over, his father was holding up his left hand, looking at it carefully. David scooted over the steep trail on his bottom to where his father was squatting and asked to see his hand.

"Oh! It's bleeding! Are you OK, Daddy?"

"I'm OK. I'm just glad Christy is all right. That was really scary!"

That evening at home, Mrs. Peppers called everyone to come for a story. She pulled out the folder full of papers and began to read.



Jesus was kind and good, and so is God, His Father. Jesus had a hard life and died a very sad death, but He did it all so we wouldn't have to die. He wants us to be happy with Him in heaven forever. That is why Jesus came to this earth and became a human being like us.

Jesus lived and suffered and died to save you and me from sin and death. He took away our sadness so we could be happy forever. God let His precious Son, Jesus, come from a wonderful, glorious home in heaven down to our sad, dark earth. There is no death in heaven, but Jesus came to earth where sin and death are all around. He was willing to be insulted and hated for our sake. Because He was punished for our sin and died, we can be free and holy (Isaiah 53:5).

Think about the time when Jesus was alone in the desert. Think about Him praying tenderly for you in the Garden of Gethsemane. Think about Him dying on the cross! Jesus was perfect, and He took our sins on Himself. Jesus and His Father had been one, and when He died on the cross, Jesus felt very lonely. His heart hurt terribly, and before He died, He cried out, "My God, why have You left Me all alone?" (Matthew 27:46).

## God Loves Me

Sin is such a bad thing—it hurts God very much. Because of sin, Jesus felt very far from God, His Father. The awfulness of sin and the loneliness for His Father killed Jesus, because it broke His heart.

Did Jesus die so that God would begin to love you? No, no! God has always loved you. He showed us how much He loved us by giving Jesus to die for us (John 3:16). While Jesus was hurting so much on the cross, God the Father was hurting too. Sin is always bad, and it must always be punished. God took the punishment for us by allowing Jesus to die instead of us.

God loves you so much that His love for Jesus grew even greater when Jesus died to save you (John 10:17). When someone sins, there must be a punishment. And so Jesus made things right and fair by letting Himself be punished for our sins.

Only Someone who knew God very well could save us from having to die for our own sins. Well, Jesus *is* God, so He *could* save us. Jesus knows the Father so well that He was able to teach us just how great God's love is. Jesus gave everything He had, and He even died, so that people could go to heaven and be with Him.

God loved us so much that He gave Jesus to live on earth and then to die for us (John 3:16). People are naturally sinful and do bad things, but God sent Jesus to make us good and pure again. Jesus became a man so that He could show us that He understands what we need. When Jesus became a human being, He became one forever—so we could always know that He is our Brother (Hebrews 2:11). Jesus did all of this so that we would no longer have to be sinful and rebellious—so that we could become loving and holy like God.

## A Child of the King

**D**avid grabbed Christy's special blanket and started to run. Christy burst out crying. Mrs. Peppers came in to see what



## DAVID ASKS WHY

was wrong. She called David, sat down in a big chair, and pulled David into her lap.

“David, that was a mean thing to do. You know I don’t like it when you do things to upset your sister. No one likes it when you’re selfish and hurt other people. You know I still love you, but you must learn to be kind.”

David stuck out his lower lip and frowned.

His mother sighed and called Christy to her. “OK, guys, maybe a story will help.” By this time, the pages from her folder were tied up in a homemade book. Mrs. Peppers pulled this out to read to her children.



Think about how terrible it was for Jesus to die on the cross. He loves you so much that He was willing to be hurt and killed so that you wouldn’t have to hurt and die. Our God’s love is so deep and wide that we cannot completely understand it. Because of this big love, you can be sure that God will make you good and happy and holy.

God’s love is so good and so big that it will make your heart very happy and full of love for Him. We are God’s greatest treasure.

When you believe that Jesus has saved you from your sins, He will make you His own child. He will make you good and holy and righteous. And He will be really proud of you.

Isn’t it wonderful? God’s love is great. You can be a child of the King. What a lovely promise! Think about it—He loved you before you loved Him. The more you think and learn about God and His love, the more you will understand that His love is like a mother’s love for her child, even when her child has done something wrong.