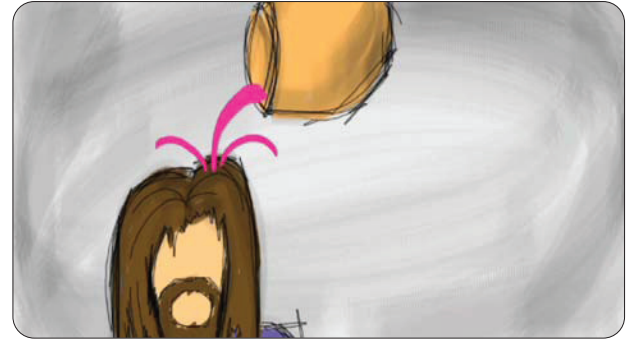
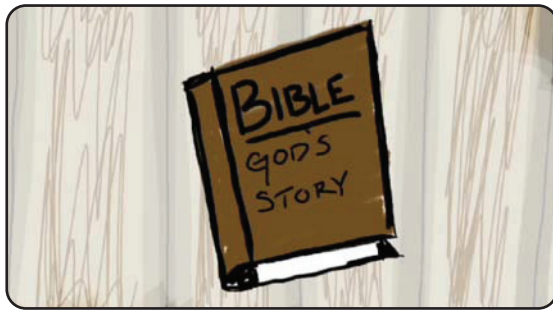


GOD'S STORY





Part of God's story is about a lady named Mary Magdalene. It begins like this:

When Mary Magdalene met Jesus, she had a few problems. She had made some bad choices. The Bible doesn't tell us exactly what her bad choices were, but they must have been pretty awful because nobody liked Mary at all. But when Jesus came along, he loved her and accepted her. Jesus wanted to be friends with Mary even when nobody else did. Mary was so thankful that she stopped making bad choices and started following Jesus.

Jesus will love and accept everybody. No matter what. He wants everybody in the whole world to follow him.

Mary Magdalene also wanted to do something special to show Jesus that she loved him. It's really nice to tell somebody you love them, but sometimes it's even better to do things that show them.

Mary decided to buy a special present for Jesus. The present she picked out was a jar of really nice perfume. Yep, that's right: perfume. Mary was so excited about giving Jesus the perfume that she decided to give it to him at their friend Simeon's house, where they were having dinner with lots of Jesus' other friends. Mary didn't just wrap up the perfume with a pretty bow and give it to Jesus. She opened the perfume and poured it on His head like it was shampoo. I hope she didn't get it in His eyes!

That probably sounds pretty weird to you. That's because today we don't walk around pouring perfume on people's heads to be nice. That would be weird. But you know how sometimes when we want to do something nice for somebody if they are feeling sick or having a special day like a birthday, we might give them candy or balloons or good-smelling flowers? Back then, if somebody was sick or God had something special for them to do, it was normal to rub some oil or perfume on their head. It was called being anointed.

Times change, kids. Nobody will be too happy if you pour perfume all over their head. Just give them a nice flower or hug.

A lot of Jesus' friends complained about Mary's present for Jesus and thought it was silly. Not because it was perfume or because she poured it on Jesus' head. They complained because they thought she spent WAY too much money on that perfume and that she should have given it to poor people.

Sometimes when you show Jesus how much you love him, other people don't like it or think you're silly. That's okay. Jesus knows everything about us, every teeny tiny thought, so he knows when we do things JUST because we want to say, "I love you."

When Mary gave Jesus her present, he loved it! He told everybody there that Mary's gift was special to him. Remember how sometimes people put oil on their heads if God wanted them to do something special? Well, Jesus knew he was going to die on the cross soon. Now He had a gift from Mary and was ready to do this special thing God had asked him to do.

Not much later, Jesus did die on the cross. This was a really awful, ouchy way to die. Mary and some of her friends stayed with Jesus. Even though it would have been really sad and even scary to watch, they loved Jesus so much and didn't want him to be alone.

Have you ever stayed around to help somebody when they got hurt?

Mary was so sad when Jesus died. Jesus knew how much Mary loved him and when he came back to life, she got to see him first.

After this, Mary went and told EVERYONE that Jesus was alive. Mary still had to say goodbye to Jesus when he went up to Heaven, but she followed Jesus for the rest of her life. And she lived to show Jesus she loved him.

And THAT'S a part of God's story.

Check out the video at CrossroadsKidsClub.net or the Crossroads Kids' Club Facebook page.



Family Challenge: Celebrate and give thanks

Play a game of High/Low during dinner (or in the car as you're riding along). Encourage everyone to share the high from the day and then the low part of the day. Think back on where you've been as a family--what has been difficult? Fun? What can you celebrate together? How have you seen God's goodness in your family?

Record your answers and make a plan to look back at this list sometime in the near future.

Tip

Find a permanent place at home to record stuff to celebrate. Maybe it's a whiteboard on the fridge or a wall leading to the basement where you can draw pictures or write down things to celebrate.

Writing it down in a visible place helps you remember the ways God has been good to you.

Check out the video on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/crdschurchnkc