

The Story of the Resurrection

Taken from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

The Story People Waving Palms to Jesus – the Triumphal Parade

As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem He asked two of his disciples to go ahead of Him. He said, "When you get to the town, you will see a donkey tied up. Untie it, and bring it to me. If anyone asks you about taking the donkey, just tell them, 'The Lord needs it and He will bring it back as soon as He's done with it.'" So the disciples did as Jesus asked. They soon found the donkey tied at a doorway. As they were untying it, some people were standing nearby visiting and they didn't recognize the men and asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying the donkey?" They answered just as Jesus had told them too. Explaining that the Lord needed it and the people let them go.



When they brought the donkey to Jesus some of the disciples took off their coats and laid them on the donkey's back. They did this out of respect for Jesus. Then Jesus rode on the donkey towards Jerusalem. As He was traveling, some people saw Jesus coming and came running towards Him. They had heard He might be coming and they wanted to see Him, because He had just helped a dead man, Lazarus, come back to life. One by one they laid their coats on the ground for the donkey to step on. Even the people that weren't wearing coats ran to the fields and trees nearby and cut palm branches and laid them down.

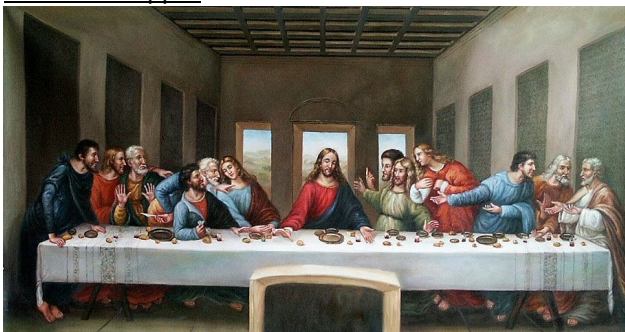
Some of these people knew that Jesus was the Messiah and were praising Him for that but some thought He was coming to release them from the Roman rule, which was the government of the time. But these people had it all wrong. They wanted freedom from the Romans but that's not why Jesus was here. It was like when a King or Queen comes to town, and people roll out a red carpet for them to step on. They thought He was going to overthrow the Roman government and free them. So both groups had their reasons for saluting Him that day by laying down their coats and branches for Him. Only one group had it right. You know which group, don't you?

As they got even closer to the town more and more people noticed Jesus. A crowd surrounded Him and started to shout praises to Him for all the miracles He had done. "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, Hosanna!" The word Hosanna means *save us or deliver us*. They said this because some of them knew that Jesus was the promised Messiah and had come to bring salvation to the them and He was helping them and doing amazing things. They wanted to praise Him, and they wanted Him to keep helping them.

Some Pharisees (these were the religious men of that time who believed all their good works would get them into Heaven and they thought that they were important, and a lot of the religious people listened to them). They heard the crowd praising God, and they said to Jesus, "Teacher, why don't you tell these people to stop praising you as if you were God?" As you can see they didn't believe in Him!! The Pharisees thought that Jesus was getting too much attention from the people. They wanted all the attention and be the most important, but everyone was listening to Jesus instead. Jesus answered, "If they were quiet now, even the rocks would cry out!" Even the rocks knew that He was God; after all, Jesus did make the rocks.

Now Jesus could see Jerusalem and it made Him very sad. He came to help His people, but most didn't realize that He was the promised Messiah and God, and they didn't accept Him.

The Last Supper



were kept safe.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread or Passover, the disciples asked Jesus, "Where would you like us to plan for you to eat the Passover feast?" Jesus answered to them, "Go into the city and you will find a man, and tell him that we would like to come to his house for Passover." First of all, what is the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and what is the Passover? These are actually the same things. The Jews celebrated the Passover ever since the time of Moses, when the Lord saved all the Israelite babies from being killed by putting the sacrificed Lambs' blood on their doors so the death angel would pass them by. This was when the Lord 'passed over' their houses, and they

During the time of the Passover celebrations the people didn't eat bread or have any bread in their homes that had yeast in it. Yeast is what makes the bread all big and puffy. Without yeast the bread is flat, and that is called

unleavened bread. Yeast represents sin and the bread represented the sinless Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world...Jesus is the Lamb that takes away the sins. That's why there was no yeast in the bread. Jesus was sinless.

The disciples did just as Jesus asked, and they found a place and got ready for the Passover. The evening came, and Jesus and the twelve disciples sat to eat the meal. The disciples were eating quietly; they had a lot on their minds. They were worried because some people, mostly the Pharisees and Scribes and Priests wanted to kill Jesus because he was getting so popular. They hated him. They were blind because they were arrogant!

The disciples took their time eating and enjoying the supper with Jesus because they enjoyed talking with Jesus and asking Him questions. However, during the meal the devil already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God rose from the supper table and went to a different part of the room. He took off his everyday clothes, and put a large towel around him, making himself look like a servant. After that, he poured water into a large bowl and began to wash the disciples' feet. Then he dried them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.



First of all, Jesus is a King...He's the King of King's! By washing the disciple's feet He was doing something that only a servant would do. This would be like if someone famous came to your house and started to clean your room, even getting down on their hands and knees to clean under your bed! It probably would never happen. When it was Peter's turn to get his feet clean he said to Jesus, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You don't understand what I am doing, but you will later." "No," said Peter, "you will never wash my feet." He said this because he didn't feel right having Jesus wash his feet. He knew Jesus was very special. Jesus answered him, "If I don't wash your feet, you cannot be with me." "Then, Lord, 'Peter said, "don't just wash my feet but wash my hands and head too." Jesus then explained "The one who has bathed (who is saved by believing in Jesus) does not need to wash, except for his feet, because he is already clean (saved). And you are clean, but not every one of you." When Jesus had finished washing all of the disciples' feet, he put his everyday clothes back on and returned to the table. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" Jesus asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and that is who I am. And now that I have washed your feet, you can also wash one another's feet." This is an example of how you should love one another. You don't have to actually wash other people's feet, but by doing nice things to other's, putting others' needs before your own, and acting like a servant for Jesus who loves us is what He wants you to do...love one another. If you do these things you will glorify Jesus and God the Father.

Jesus could see the disciples were worried. He said to them quietly, "I tell you the truth, one of you here will betray me." The disciples looked at each other in shock, and some of them asked Jesus, "It isn't me, is it Lord?" Jesus answered, "The one who dips his bread into the bowl with me will betray me. I will die, just as it is written, but the man who betrays me will feel sorry forever. Then Judas, with his head down spoke quietly to Jesus, "It isn't me, is it?" Jesus answered, "Yes, you are the one." Judas' head went down even lower; he had hoped that the other disciples had not heard what Jesus said because they were paying more attention to Jesus breaking apart the bread. Jesus told him to leave and do that which he had to do and do it quickly.

After that Jesus thanked God for the bread, broke it (a picture of his body broken and bruised) and shared it with the disciples teaching them and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my (perfect) body which is given for you". They ate the bread. Then he took a full cup of the wine, thanked God for it and said, "This cup is my blood (His spiritual death on the cross), which will be poured out for many people so their sins may be forgiven." Then they all took a sip from the cup. This was the first communion ritual the very same ritual that we follow today. We are going to celebrate the Lord today by remembering Him in communion in our class.

Jesus Prays

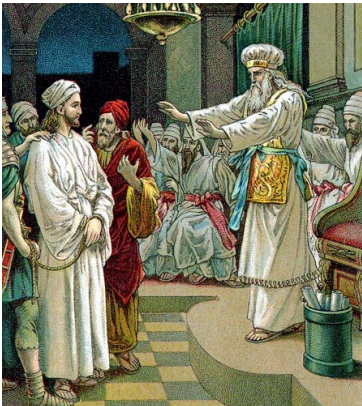
After singing a song at the Passover meal Jesus and his disciples left and went to a garden called Gethsemane. It was getting quite late in the evening, so everyone was whispering. Jesus was especially quiet, and walked a bit ahead of the rest of the group. He looked as if He was sad and upset about something. He stopped and whispered to some of the disciples, "Sit here, while I pray." Then with Peter, James, and John walked just a little bit further and told them, "My heart feels heavy, and I feel very sad. Please stay here and keep watch, I need some company close by." The disciples looked at each other; they had never seen Jesus like this before. Then Jesus walked a bit further by himself, next to a big tree he knelt down with his face to the ground and began to talk to God. He prayed, "My Father, I know that I am about to go through some horrible things, I wish I wouldn't have to. But it doesn't matter what I want, I will do whatever you want."



When He had finished praying he went back to where the disciples were and they had fallen asleep on the ground. Jesus woke them and said to them, "Couldn't you have stayed awake for me for just a little while, you should also pray that you would continue to do what God wants." The disciples felt bad, and tried to keep their eyes open. But when they started praying, they fell asleep. Two more times Jesus went off to pray the same prayer as before, and when he was finished He came back to his friends disappointed. They had fallen asleep again. The third time Jesus woke them saying, "Are you sleeping again? Enough! It is time to go, here comes the man who is about to give me up to the people who want to kill me." Jesus had to be alone in His suffering before the cross.

While He was still speaking, Judas, the one who betrayed Jesus' was coming towards them. He was followed by a very large crowd of Roman soldiers who were carrying swords and clubs. Judas walked right up to Jesus and gave Him a kiss on the cheek. This was a sign to the soldiers that this was Jesus, and that he was the man that they wanted to arrest. Jesus let them take him. But one of Jesus disciples (Peter) didn't like what was happening; he wanted to stick up for Jesus. He took out his sword and cut off the ear of a one of the soldiers named Malchus. Immediately, before the situation got more out of hand Jesus spoke firmly, "Enough!" He reached up to the man whose ear had been hurt and healed it instantly.

Then Jesus spoke to all those around him. "If I wanted I could pray to my Father for help, and He would send angels to protect me, and stop this. But I know this needs to happen in order to fulfill the prophecy about me in the Bible." The disciples didn't know what to do. They were afraid that they might be arrested for being with Jesus so they quickly ran away, leaving Jesus to be arrested alone. Peter was the only disciple that followed Jesus. He was careful to follow at a distance, because he was afraid. He wanted to see what would happen to Jesus.



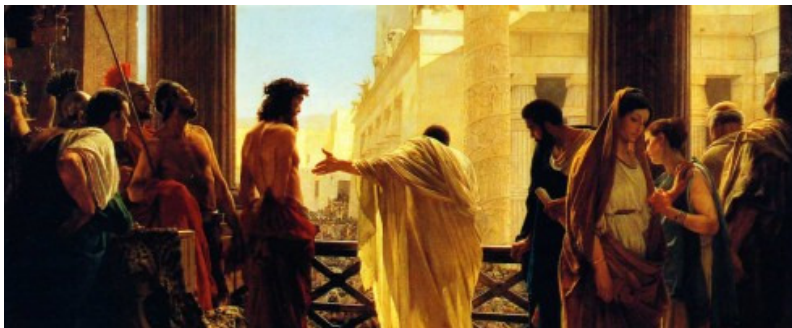
They took Jesus to the man named Caiaphas; he was the high priest (Head of the Pharisees and priests). This is where all the so called 'important' people had gathered. They were trying to find a reason to arrest Jesus and have him killed but He had never done anything wrong. People made up bad stuff about Jesus and they knew it wasn't true. The deliberately lied to get their way.

Finally Caiaphas asked Jesus, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?" When Jesus said that He was the Son of God Caiaphas couldn't believe it. He even tore his clothes because he thought what Jesus was saying was untrue. Remember they didn't believe He was the Messiah...the Savior of the world. They were blind in their arrogance. These people didn't believe Jesus and they were hard hearted and that's when they decided that they must kill him.

Meanwhile, Peter was just outside the building where they had taken Jesus. A servant girl saw Peter and had recognized him and asked, "Weren't you with that man named Jesus?" But Peter lied and said, "You don't know what you're talking about." Peter started to walk away, but the girl spoke louder so the other people who were around could hear, "I'm sure you are one of the men that is friends with Jesus." Again Peter said, "No, I don't know what you're talking about." After a while more people asked Peter the same thing, and Peter started to get upset by this, and he said in a loud voice, "I don't know the man you are talking about; I've never talked to him." Right after Peter said this a rooster crowed, and Peter remembered something Jesus had said to him. "Before the rooster crows, you will turn your back on me three times." When Peter remembered this he was very sad...crushed in his soul. Peter was one of Jesus closest friends, and now he had lied and said he didn't even know him. Peter started to sob. How could he have done this to Jesus?

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Very early in the morning, the soldiers brought Jesus to Pilate, the governor at the time. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Yes, I am." This upset the chief priests because they were jealous of Him and the friends He had made with the Jews. Pilate listened to the complaints of the people that brought Jesus, but he couldn't find any reason to punish Him. Pilate questioned Jesus, but Jesus didn't stick up for Himself (He knew that they wouldn't listen anyway and God's plan had to be fulfilled). He had done nothing wrong. Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people and said to them, "I have talked to Jesus, and I find no reason to kill Him."



After they heard that all the people shouted, "Away with this man (Jesus), and release Barabbas instead!" Barabbas had been in jail because he had killed someone, and the people wanted him to be free, and Jesus to be punished. (It sounds strange but it was like peer pressure. The chief priests went around telling people lies about Jesus, so that they would be afraid of Him, and want to kill Him). The crowd was in a frenzy...crazy.

Pilate didn't like this one bit. He wanted to let Jesus go, so he tried to talk to the people but they didn't let him. They just kept shouting, "**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**" Pilate tried again, yelling, "**What has Jesus done wrong? I can punish Him but then I must let Him go, He doesn't deserve to die!**" But the people just shouted louder and louder to crucify Jesus and Pilate wanted to please the crowd so he freed Barabbas and sent Jesus to die.

The soldiers led Jesus into the palace and tortured Him for hours, punching Him and whipping Him. They beat Him so much that afterward His face didn't look like a man anymore. Then they made Him put on an old royal robe and they twisted together a crown of thorns to put on His head. Then they made fun of Him and said, "**Hail, king of the Jews.**" They didn't understand that He was the real King of the Jews that's why they made fun of Him. Next the soldiers led Jesus toward a hill called Golgotha. He was weak after the beatings and torture. They made Him carry the cross on His back, but Jesus couldn't carry it the whole way, he fell down. The soldiers had whipped His back and it hurt so much that Jesus couldn't handle the weight of the cross on His shoulders and back because His skin was raw. A man named Simon happened to be near Jesus when He fell, and the soldiers grabbed him, and made him carry the cross the rest of the way. The soldiers offered Jesus wine mixed with myrrh, which would have made the pain not be so bad but Jesus refused to have any.

When they reached the top of the hill they nailed Jesus to the cross. There were three crosses, Jesus was in the middle and there was a criminal on His right and on His left. Pilate made a sign to be put on the cross. It read what He was being punished for. The sign read: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews". The soldiers watched Jesus and made fun of Him. They gambled for His robe and even divided up His clothes. They were very cruel...they didn't know who He was. Jesus said "**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.**"

And some people walked by and shouted, "**You saved others, why can't you save Yourself?**" Jesus could have saved Himself, but He chose not to, He wanted to save us instead. Jesus ignored the people, but He did see His mother and some other women He knew. Jesus felt bad for His mother, she was so sad to see her son die (just like your parents feel when you get hurt).



It was now the sixth hour (noon) and it became pitch black all over the whole land until the ninth hour (3:00 PM) while the sun's light failed and the curtain or veil in the temple tore in two. This deep darkness was so the people who murdered Him could not see His excruciating pain from taking on the penalty for our sins. At this time when Jesus was pierced through His body by the sins of the entire world and He kept screaming, "**Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is, My God, my God why have you gone away from me?**" All the human torture He endured could not be compared to the terrible pain of being separated from God the Father and God the Holy Spirit while our sins were pouring through Him for three hours. He was suffering the pain of the Lake of Fire in our place. Oh how He loves us.

After he paid the price for our sins, He said, "**I thirst.**" One of the soldiers ran and took a sponge and filled it with vinegar and put it on a reed and gave Him a drink.

Then Jesus saw one of his disciples close to his mother, and he said, "**Mother here is your son, and friend here is your mother.**" Jesus couldn't say too much, he was very weak. But he wanted His friend, the disciple to be like a son to His mother, and take care of her. And from that day on the Apostle John did take care of Mary.

Then when all the prophesies had been fulfilled about His death, Jesus said "**It is finished.**" Salvation was completed. That is when Jesus bowed His head and called out in a loud voice and said, "**Father, into your hands I give you my spirit.**" Then He breathed His last and His spirit went to Heaven.

One of the Roman soldiers that had wanted Jesus to die and took part in His torture saw all of this and he said, "**Surely this man was the Son of God!**" He realized he had been wrong about Jesus and he believed and was saved.

It seems like a really sad story, but its one of the greatest stories of all! Jesus died knowing that you and I would sin...do wrong things that you're not supposed to...like not obeying your parents, saying something mean to your sister or brother, or not telling the truth. There are many more sins. But He knew what you and I would do when He died 2000 years ago. Jesus died for everybody's sins. He took care of the sin issue. That's right He forgets what sins we do! Now that doesn't mean we should go on doing the same sins all the time, because now we need to be grateful that we are no longer slaves to our sin nature. We are free in our new nature that God gave us. So now we study His Word to become more like Jesus and use the power of the Holy Spirit so He can guide us to make good decisions from the Word in our souls instead of wrong ones. So next time you do something you're not supposed to, remember that was forgiven on the cross and change your mind...make good decisions instead and walk in a way that please God!

Jesus is Alive!

After Jesus died a man named Joseph (from a place called Arimathea) put Jesus in his tomb that nobody had ever used. The tombs they used then were cut out of rock, almost like a cave; they weren't buried deep in the ground like people are today. Before Joseph left, he and some men rolled a large heavy stone in front of the tomb to seal it.

Mary and Mary Magdalene had waited a day to see Jesus, because they couldn't go to see Him on Saturday the Sabbath. They made spices and oils to put on His body in the grave as a sign of respect to Jesus. They arrived very early on Sunday morning to go see Jesus' body. As they were just about at the tomb the earth suddenly shook and an angel came down from heaven. He sat on top of the rolled away stone. The women looked at each other and rubbed their eyes, they couldn't believe what they had seen, plus it was very early in the morning, and they were still a little sleepy. The angel was so bright, almost as bright as lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. There had been Roman guards watching the tomb so no one would steal Jesus' body. The Pharisees and religious leaders were afraid the apostles would steal Jesus' body to say He was resurrected. The Pharisees didn't believe any of it. When the ladies saw the angel they fell over and they couldn't move or speak because they were so afraid. Then the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who has died. But He isn't here; He has risen just as He said He would! Come and see for yourself, the tomb is empty."



The women were confused. How could this happen? They were sure Jesus had died, and now He was alive? They looked in the tomb and the funeral cloths Jesus was wrapped in were lying on the ground, and the tomb was empty. Then the angel spoke again, "If you want to find Jesus He's on His way to Galilee." So the women hurried away, they were laughing and crying at the same time. They didn't know what to feel, they had been so sad that Jesus was dead and now they were so excited He was alive! They just knew they had to find Jesus, and they had to tell the Apostles the good news. As they were running down the path they turned a corner, and there was Jesus. "Greetings," He said. The ladies fell at His feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my disciples to come to Galilee. That is where they will see me."

The disciples came to Galilee, and had heard by this time that Jesus was alive. They were sitting around talking about it, when Jesus walked into the room and said to them, "Peace be with you." The disciples immediately stopped talking. Even though they had heard He was alive, they were shocked to see Him standing there with them. They couldn't believe their eyes. Jesus said to them, "Why do you look at me like you've just seen a ghost? Why don't you believe what you're seeing? Look at the scars in my hands and feet. It is really me! Touch me and see I am not a ghost but a real person." The disciples' mouths were open in amazement because they still didn't know what to think. They were so full of joy, and yet it was so impossible. Jesus understood what they were thinking, so He said, "This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen that has already been written in the Bible." He fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies about His death, burial and resurrection.

Jesus had told the disciples all about it several times and especially at their Last Supper together. They took the bread at communion and Jesus said, 'this is my body which I have given to you...' but the disciples hadn't understood what it really meant because they did not have the Holy Spirit living inside their bodies as yet. But soon they would because Jesus told them, "You have seen these things that have happened, so stay in the city and soon I am going to give you what God has promised you, the Holy Spirit."

When we become Christians Jesus automatically gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. The Holy Spirit teaches us God's Word which is the mind of Jesus and he guides our lives as we learn how to be like Jesus and makes us know when we have done something wrong. He makes our conscience realize when we sin so we can stop it and make good choices instead. We might feel sick to our stomach, or just get a bad feeling, that is the Holy Spirit reminding us that we are doing something wrong and that we need to stop and instead walk by His power.

The story is almost done, but Jesus had one more person to see. His name was Thomas, and he was one of the Apostles that wasn't there when Jesus met with them. Thomas had also heard that Jesus was alive, but would not believe it until he saw Jesus with his own eyes. A week later when Thomas finally saw Him, Jesus said to him, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas finally believed because he saw the scars on Jesus. But Jesus continued, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; but it is more amazing for those who have never see me, and believe anyway." It's really neat, but Jesus is actually talking to us when He said this. If you believe in Him, without seeing Him He thinks you're very special! That is exactly what faith is, believing in God even though you can't see Him. Without faith we cannot please God.

Jesus Loves You



Jesus appeared several times to the disciples after He rose from the dead. This is a story of one of those times...

Peter said to some of the other disciples, "I think I'm going to go fishing." The disciples that were there said, "Wait up, we'll go with you." It was getting dark outside but the disciples thought they would catch more fish at this time of day. They got into the boat and went out onto the water, and were out there for a long time. The time passed and it was almost morning and they still hadn't caught any fish. Jesus knew where His disciples were and went out to meet them. He was standing on shore, but the disciples didn't realize who it was. Jesus called to them, "Friends, haven't you caught any fish?" "No," they answered. So Jesus told them, "Throw your net on the other side of the boat and you will catch some." What happened next was amazing. The disciples, who had been fishing all night without catching anything, threw the net over to the other side and within minutes the net was overflowing with fish. Then one of the disciples realized who had been talking to them, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Peter heard this he jumped out of the boat to go to Jesus. (They weren't that far from shore). The other disciples stayed in the boat, and worked hard to tow all the fish to shore. When they met up with Jesus, there

was a fire started with some bread laying close by. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have caught, we'll have breakfast together." Peter helped the rest of the disciples to get the fish out of the boat. There were so many fish and they were all so big that they all needed to lift together to get the fish out of the boat because it was so heavy. Then they all sat together in front of the warm fire and Jesus took the bread and the fish and gave it to them. This was the third time Jesus had met with the disciples since He rose from the dead.

After breakfast Jesus asked Peter some important questions. He asked him, "Peter do you love me more than your parents and all your friends?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Again Jesus said, "Peter do you truly love me, no matter what?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Then Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" Peter's feelings were hurt because Jesus kept asking him, but he replied, "Lord, you know the answer, you know that I love you." "Then follow me," Jesus said. We must do the same...we must follow Jesus and bring the Good News about Jesus to others so they can go to heaven and live with Jesus too, just like us.

We've learned that Jesus died on the cross because He loves us no matter what bad things we do! Now we need to love Jesus no matter what. Here are some questions to think about.

Would you still love and follow Jesus if...?

- you or your mom or dad got very sick
- you had no friends
- you became blind, or couldn't walk anymore
- everything was going wrong around you
- you had to move away from all your friends
- you were poor and never got any Christmas presents

Some kids just like you have these problems, and much worse and they still love Jesus! We need to remember that no matter what happens to us here on earth, **Jesus loves us**, and **He will never, ever stop loving us!** Sometimes things happen that we don't understand, but Jesus knows everything and He will help us if we ask Him to. This life is a VERY short life compared to eternity. Don't lay up treasures here on earth...LAY THEM UP IN HEAVEN. Learn the Word of God and live it. Use His power...Jesus loves it when you do that.

Close in prayer