

I WANT BE



YOUR FRIEND!

Hello!

I want to be your friend! Do you have a lot of really good friends?

I have the best friend anybody could ever want! When I have problems or I'm feeling sad, I know I can always talk to Him—He is always there. He wants to be your friend too.

Let me tell you something about my friend. I know that you will want to be His friend too.

My friend's name is **Jesus**.

He was born about 2,000 years ago in a little town called Bethlehem. His mother's name was Mary and her husband was a carpenter named Joseph. But Jesus was really the Son of God.

Growing up, He obeyed His parents and never did anything wrong. When He was about 30 years old, Jesus went out for three years, through many villages and cities in His country, and taught the people about God. Wherever Jesus went, He helped the poor, healed the sick with a touch of His hand, brought joy to the sad ones, and gave strength to the weak. When

people tried to keep the children from bothering Him, Jesus told them: "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them."

During those three years, my friend Jesus told all the people who came to hear Him that their heavenly Father loved them and to ask Him to forgive them if they had been bad in any way.

When His work on earth was over, Jesus died on the cross. It was not because He did something wrong, but because He loved you and me. Somebody had to receive the punishment for all the bad things that people do. So my friend said that He would take the punishment for His friends. I am one of those friends and you can be one too!

The Bible says: "**For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**" (John 3:16)

This means that Jesus died so that we could be forgiven for the bad things we have done—but Jesus didn't stay dead! Three days after His death Jesus rose from the tomb—**Alive!** Many people saw Him.

After spending some time with His friends, He went back to Heaven, where He lives now and watches over us. Only His friends can live in heaven with Jesus.

Do you want to be Jesus' friend?

To be His friend, you have to believe in Him and do what He says—you can start by praying the following:

*Dear Jesus, I'm sorry for all the bad things I've done, please forgive me and help me to be more like You. I give You my heart right now and I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You Jesus for being my friend.
Amen.*

If you believed what you prayed, you are now a true Christian and **a friend of Jesus**. Talk to Him everyday, read what He says in the Bible and never forget Him.

-A friend